

# Package ‘sugarbag’

July 23, 2025

**Title** Create Tessellated Hexagon Maps

**Version** 0.1.6

**Description** Create a hexagon tile map display from spatial polygons. Each polygon is represented by a hexagon tile, placed as close to it's original centroid as possible, with a focus on maintaining spatial relationship to a focal point. Developed to aid visualisation and analysis of spatial distributions across Australia, which can be challenging due to the concentration of the population on the coast and wide open interior.

**URL** <https://srkobakian.github.io/sugarbag/>,  
<https://github.com/srkobakian/sugarbag>

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.0), dplyr (>= 1.0.0)

**Imports** geosphere (>= 1.5), progress (>= 1.2.2), purrr (>= 0.3.4),  
rlang (>= 1.0.4), rmapshaper (>= 0.4.6), sf (>= 1.0-8), tibble  
(>= 3.1.7), tidyr (>= 1.2.0)

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.1

**Suggests** ggplot2 (>= 3.3.6), knitr, pkgdown, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 2.1.0)

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2022-11-09 10:50:02 UTC

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|          |                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| allocate | <i>Allocate polygon centroids to hexagons in a grid</i> |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|

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Description

Chooses a hexagon centroid for each polygon in the shape file, from a grid spanning the longitudes and latitudes in the expanded bounding box.

Usage

```
allocate(  
  centroids,  
  hex_grid,  
  sf_id = names(centroids)[1],  
  hex_size,  
  hex_filter,  
  focal_points = NULL,  
  order_sf_id = NULL,  
  width = 30,  
  verbose  
)
```

Arguments

- |           |                                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| centroids | a data frame with centroids of non empty polygons               |
| hex_grid  | a data frame containing all possible hexagon points             |
| sf_id     | a string to indicate the column to identify individual polygons |

|              |                                                                                                                   |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| hex_size     | a float value in degrees for the diameter of the hexagons                                                         |
| hex_filter   | amount of hexagons around centroid to consider                                                                    |
| focal_points | a data frame of reference locations when allocating hexagons, capital cities of Australia are used in the example |
| order_sf_id  | a string to indicate the column used to order polygons                                                            |
| width        | a numeric indicating the angle used to filter the hexagon grid                                                    |
| verbose      | a boolean to indicate whether to show polygon id                                                                  |

**Value**

a data frame of all allocated hexagon points

**Examples**

```
# Create centroids set
centroids <- create_centroids(tas_lga, sf_id = "lga_code_2016")
# Smaller set for faster example
centroids <- centroids[1:10,]
# Create hexagon location grid
data(capital_cities)
grid <- create_grid(centroids = centroids, hex_size = 0.2, buffer_dist = 1.2)
# Allocate polygon centroids to hexagon grid points
hex_allocated <- allocate(
  centroids = centroids,
  hex_grid = grid,
  hex_size = 0.2, # same size used in create_grid
  hex_filter = 3,
  focal_points = capital_cities,
  width = 30,
  verbose = TRUE
)
# NEXT:
# create a set of hexagon points for plotting
# using fortify_hexagon, and
# plot the hexagons with geom_polygon, see vignette
```

---

|                |                                                          |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| capital_cities | <i>The point locations of Australian capital cities.</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

A dataset containing the longitude and latitude values of Australian capital cities.

**Usage**

```
capital_cities
```

**Format**

A data frame with 8 rows and 3 variables:

**points** name of cities

**longitude** location of point in longitude degrees

**latitude** location of point in latitude degrees

---

|                     |                                                                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| closest_focal_point | <i>For the polygon provided, find the closest focal point in the set provided</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

For one row of an sf data frame, calculate the distance to the closest focal point. Return the name of the focal point, and the angle between focal point and centroid.

**Usage**

```
closest_focal_point(centroid, focal_points)
```

**Arguments**

**centroid** a data frame describing one centroid

**focal\_points** a data frame of the longitude and latitude values

**Value**

data frame containing the name and location of the closest focal

**Examples**

```
# Create a set of polygon centroids
centroids <- create_centroids(tas_sa2, "sa2_5dig_2016")

# Find the closest capital city for the first centroid
closest_focal_point(centroids[1, ], capital_cities)
```

---

|               |                                                               |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| create_buffer | <i>Expand points to extend beyond the outermost centroids</i> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Called from within create\_grid function, this function takes the bounding box of a group of polygons, or a specific table of minimum and maximum longitudes and latitudes to create points for each polygon to be allocated to that will tessellate into hexagons.

### Usage

```
create_buffer(centroids, grid, hex_size, buffer_dist, verbose = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

|             |                                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| centroids   | data frame of centroids to be allocated                   |
| grid        | data frame of hexagon centroids                           |
| hex_size    | a float value in degrees for the diameter of the hexagons |
| buffer_dist | distance to extend beyond the geometry provided           |
| verbose     | a boolean to indicate whether to show function progress   |

### Value

data frame of hexagon centroids

### Examples

```
lga_centroids <- create_centroids(sugarbag::tas_lga, "lga_code_2016")
lga_grid <- create_grid(lga_centroids, hex_size = 0.2, buffer_dist = 1.2)
```

---

|                  |                                                                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| create_centroids | <i>Create a data frame of longitude and latitude centroids of each polygon.</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Create a data frame of longitude and latitude centroids of each polygon.

### Usage

```
create_centroids(shp_sf, sf_id, largest = TRUE, verbose = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

|         |                                                                                                                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| shp_sf  | an sf object, a data set with a simple feature list column                                                                        |
| sf_id   | a string to indicate the column to identify individual polygons                                                                   |
| largest | logical; for st_centroid: if TRUE, return centroid of the largest subpolygon of a MULTIPOLYGON rather than the whole MULTIPOLYGON |
| verbose | a boolean to indicate whether to show function progress                                                                           |

**Value**

a tibble containing longitude and latitude

**Examples**

```
centroids <- create_centroids(tas_lga, "lga_code_2016")
```

---

|             |                                                                              |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| create_grid | <i>Create a grid of evenly spaced points to allow hexagons to tessellate</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This function takes the output from the create\_centroids function, or a set of centroids in a table with the columns latitude and longitude

**Usage**

```
create_grid(
  centroids,
  hex_size,
  buffer_dist,
  latitude = "latitude",
  longitude = "longitude",
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

|             |                                                                                                                     |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| centroids   | data frame of centroids to be allocated, this should have columns for longitude and latitude value of centroids, as |
| hex_size    | a float value in degrees for the diameter of the hexagons                                                           |
| buffer_dist | distance to extend beyond the geometry provided                                                                     |
| latitude    | the column name for the latitude values of the centroids                                                            |
| longitude   | the column name for the longitude values of the centroids                                                           |
| verbose     | a boolean to indicate whether to show function progress                                                             |

**Value**

grid

**Examples**

```
# Create a set of centroids for grid to overlay
centroids <- create_centroids(tas_lga, "lga_code_2016")
# Create the grid
grid <- create_grid(centroids = centroids, hex_size = 0.2, buffer_dist = 1.2, verbose = FALSE)
```

create\_hexmap

*Create a tessellated hexagon map from a set of polygons***Description**

Allocates each polygon in a shape file to a grid point to create a map of tessellated hexagons. The spatial relationships of areas are preserved while the geographic shape of each area is lost.

**Usage**

```
create_hexmap(
  shp,
  sf_id,
  hex_size = NULL,
  buffer_dist = NULL,
  hex_filter = 10,
  f_width = 30,
  focal_points = NULL,
  order_sf_id = NULL,
  export_shp = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

|              |                                                                                                                   |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| shp          | a shape file, if class is SPDF, will be converted to sf                                                           |
| sf_id        | name of a unique column that distinguishes areas                                                                  |
| hex_size     | a float value in degrees for the diameter of the hexagons                                                         |
| buffer_dist  | distance in degrees to extend beyond the geometry provided                                                        |
| hex_filter   | amount of hexagons around centroid to consider                                                                    |
| f_width      | the angle used to filter the grid points around a centroid                                                        |
| focal_points | a data frame of reference locations when allocating hexagons, capital cities of Australia are used in the example |
| order_sf_id  | a string name of a column to order by for allocating                                                              |
| export_shp   | export the simple features set                                                                                    |
| verbose      | a boolean to indicate whether to show function progress                                                           |

**Value**

a data set containing longitude and latitude of allocated hexagon points for each non null geometry passed in the shape file

**Examples**

```
data(tas_lga)
# Smaller set for faster example
tas_lga_sub <- tas_lga[1:10,]
data(capital_cities)
hexmap <- create_hexmap(
  shp = tas_lga_sub,
  sf_id = "lga_code_2016",
  hex_filter = 3,
  focal_points = capital_cities,
  verbose = TRUE)
```

---

|                    |                                                                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| filter_grid_points | <i>Filter full set of grid points for those within range of original point</i> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Takes only the closest available gridpoints as possible hexagon centroids to allocate polygons.

**Usage**

```
filter_grid_points(
  f_grid,
  f_centroid,
  focal_points = NULL,
  f_dist = filter_dist,
  angle_width = width,
  h_size = hex_size
)
```

**Arguments**

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| f_grid       | complete grid of hexagon centroids                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| f_centroid   | the longitude and latitude values for the current centroid                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| focal_points | a tibble of focal locations, an optional argument that allows allocation of polygons to hexagon centroids in ascending order of the distance to the closest focal point. It also filters the grid points to those within a 30 degree range of the angle from focal point to centroid. The default "capitals" uses the locations of the Australian capital cities as focal points. |
| f_dist       | a distance in degrees, used as a boundary to filter the hexagon centroids considered for each polygon centroid to be allocated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



angle\_width      a numeric used to filter the hexagon grid  
 h\_size            a float value in degrees for the diameter of the hexagons

**Value**

a tibble of filtered grid points

---

|                 |                                                                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| fortify_hexagon | <i>Creates the points that define a hexagon polygon for plotting</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Creates the points that define a hexagon polygon for plotting

**Usage**

```
fortify_hexagon(data, sf_id, hex_size)
```

**Arguments**

data              a data frame created by the allocate function  
 sf\_id            a string to indicate the column to identify individual polygons  
 hex\_size        a float value in degrees for the diameter of the hexagons

**Value**

a data frame of the seven points used to draw a hexagon

**Examples**

```
# same column is used in create_centroids
fortify_hexagon(data = tas_lga_hexctr, sf_id = "lga_code_2016", hex_size = 0.2)
```

---

|             |                                                                 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| fortify_sfc | <i>Convert a simple features tibble to tibble for plotting.</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This will contain individual points for plotting the polygon, indicating the longitude and latitude, order of points, if a hole is present, the piece, id and group.

**Usage**

```
fortify_sfc(sfc_df, keep = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

sfc\_df            a simples features data set  
 keep             ratio of points to keep

**Value**

a tibble point of long lat points used to plot polygons

---

|      |                                                                                                                                    |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| fp19 | <i>2019 Australian Federal election data: First preference votes for candidates (House of Representatives) in each electorate.</i> |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

A dataset containing first preference vote counts, candidate names, and other results for the House of Representatives from the 2016 Australian federal election. The data were obtained from the Australian Electoral Commission, and downloaded from <https://results.aec.gov.au/24310/Website/Downloads/HouseFirstPrefsByPartyDownload-24310.csv>

**Usage**

fp19

**Format**

A data frame with the following variables:

- StateAbAbbreviation for state name
- UniqueIDnumeric identifier that links the electoral division with Census and other election datasets.
- DivisionNmElectoral division name
- BallotPositionCandidate's position on the ballot
- CandidateIDCandidate ID
- SurnameCandidate surname
- GivenNmCandidate given name
- PartyAbAbbreviation for political party name
- PartyNmPolitical party name
- ElectedWhether the candidate was elected (Y/N)
- HistoricElectedWhether the candidate is the incumbent member
- OrdinaryVotesNumber of ordinary votes cast at the electorate for the candidate
- PercentPercentage of ordinary votes for the candidate

---

|          |                                                                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| homeless | <i>The amount of homeless people in each Statistical Area at Level 2 in 2016.</i> |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

A data frame of the Statistical Area at Level 2 names and amount of homeless

**Usage**

```
homeless
```

**Format**

A data frame with 545 rows and 2 variables:

**homeless** amount of homeless people

**sa2\_name\_2016** name of the Statistical Area at Level 2

---

|            |                                            |
|------------|--------------------------------------------|
| read_shape | <i>Read in the shape file as sf object</i> |
|------------|--------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

```
read_shape
```

**Usage**

```
read_shape(shp_path, simplify = TRUE, keep = 0.1)
```

**Arguments**

|          |                                                                                              |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| shp_path | character vector location of shape file, extension .shp                                      |
| simplify | a boolean to decide whether to simplify the shape file using rmapshaper, keeping all shapes. |
| keep     | ratio of points to keep                                                                      |

**Value**

an sf data frame, with a column of non null geometries

**Examples**

```
# Example of how a shape file is read
shape <- read_shape(shp_path = file.choose())
```

---

 tas\_lga

*The polygons of Tasmanian Local Government Areas in 2016.*


---

### Description

A simple features dataset containing the polygons for all Australian LGAs in 2016.

### Usage

tas\_lga

### Format

A simple features data frame with 39 rows and 6 variables:

**lga\_code\_2016** code for the Local Government Area

**lga\_name\_2016** name of the Local Government Area

**ste\_code\_2016** code for the state containing the Local Government Area

**ste\_name\_2016** name of the state containing the Local Government Area

**areasqkm\_2016** area contained in the polygon

**geometry** describes where on Earth the polygon is located

---

 tas\_lga\_hexctr

*The hexagon centres for polygons of Tasmanian Local Government Areas in 2016.*


---

### Description

A tibble dataset containing the processed data for all Australian LGAs in 2016. Each point corresponds to hexagon centre.

### Usage

tas\_lga\_hexctr

### Format

A simple features data frame with 39 rows and 6 variables:

**lga\_code\_2016** code for the Local Government Area

**longitude, latitude** polygon centroid

**points, focal\_longitude, focal\_latitude, focal\_dist, focal\_angle** Focal point (capital city) information used for each polygon/hexagon

**rownumber** row number, in case it can be useful

**hex\_long, hex\_lat, hex\_id** hexagon centre and id

tas\_sa2

*The polygons of Tasmanian Statistical Areas in 2016.***Description**

A simple features dataset containing the polygons for all Tasmanian SA2s in 2016.

**Usage**

```
tas_sa2
```

**Format**

A simple features data frame with 99 rows and 15 variables:

**sa2\_main\_2016** complete code of the Statistical Area

**sa2\_5dig\_2016** simple code for the Statistical Area

**sa2\_name\_2016** name of the Statistical Area

**sa3\_code\_2016** code for the SA3 containing the Statistical Area

**sa3\_name\_2016** name of the SA3 containing the Statistical Area

**sa4\_code\_2016** code for the SA4 containing the Statistical Area

**sa4\_name\_2016** name of the SA4 containing the Statistical Area

**gcc\_code\_2016** code for the Greater Capital City region containing the Statistical Area

**gcc\_name\_2016** name of the Greater Capital City region containing the Statistical Area

**ste\_code\_2016** code for the state containing the Statistical Area

**ste\_name\_2016** name of the state containing the Statistical Area

**areasqkm\_2016** area contained in the polygon

**id** distinguishes SA2 regions

**population** amount of people living within the region

**sa2\_code\_2016** code of the Statistical Area

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