Package ‘elfgen’

October 13, 2022

Title Ecological Limit Function Model Generation and Analysis Toolkit
Version 2.3.3
Maintainer Joseph Kleiner <joseph.d.kleiner@gmail.com>
Description A toolset for generating Ecological Limit Function (ELF) models and evaluating potential species loss resulting from flow change, based on the ‘elfgen’ framework. ELFs describe the relation between aquatic species richness (fish or benthic macroinvertebrates) and stream size characteristics (streamflow or drainage area). Journal publications are available outlining framework methodology (Kleiner et al. (2020) <doi:10.1111/1752-1688.12876>) and application (Rapp et al. (2020) <doi:10.1111/1752-1688.12877>).
Imports utils, stringr, quantreg, stats, ggplot2, testit, scales, sqldf, curl, sbtools, nhdplusTools
License MIT + file LICENSE
URL https://github.com/HARPgroup/elfgen
RoxygenNote 7.1.2
Suggests testthat (>= 2.1.0)
NeedsCompilation no
Author Joseph Kleiner [aut, cre] (<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4837-7678>)
Repository CRAN
Date/Publication 2022-08-23 09:10:02 UTC

R topics documented:

bkpt_pwit .................................................. 2
bkpt_ymax .................................................. 3
clean_vahydro ............................................. 3
elfchange .................................................. 4
elfdata ................................................... 5
elfdata_vahydro .......................................... 6
elfgen .................................................... 7
richness_change .......................................... 8

Index 10
**Description**

This applies the Piecewise Iterative elfgen method. This approach uses an iterative algorithm to identify shifts in the relation between maximum richness and stream size. A user specifies a "quantile" for isolating an upper subset of the data. A user also identifies a bounding range between two x-values ("blo" = "bound low", "bhi" = "bound high") in which the upper subset of data is believed to contain a breakpoint. (Note: Small datasets may not contain a breakpoint)

**Usage**

`bkpt_pwit(watershed.df, quantile, blo, bhi)`

**Arguments**

- `watershed.df`: A dataframe of sites with ecological and hydrologic data
- `quantile`: Specified value for the quantile of interest - 0.95 refers to the 95th percentile
- `blo`: A "bound low" value, or the lower bound of the piecewise range
- `bhi`: A "bound high" value, or the upper bound of the piecewise range

**Details**


**Value**

Breakpoint value is returned

**Examples**

```r
# We don't run this example by R CMD check, because it takes >10s
watershed.df <- elfdata(watershed.code = '0208020104', ichthy.localpath = tempdir())
bkpt_pwit(watershed.df, 0.85, 100, 300)
```
Identify breakpoint location with Ymax

**Description**

This applies the Ymax elfgen method. This approach treats the maximum observed species richness value as the breakpoint. This function begins by locating the point with the highest y-value in the full dataset, then utilizing the associated x-value as the breakpoint.

**Usage**

\[
\text{bkpt}_\text{ymax}(\text{watershed}.\text{df})
\]

**Arguments**

- **watershed.\text{df}**
  A dataframe of sites with ecological and hydrologic data

**Value**

Breakpoint value is returned

**Examples**

# We don't run this example by R CMD check, because it takes >10s

\[
\text{watershed}.\text{df} \leftarrow \text{elfdata}(\text{watershed.code} = '0208020104', \text{ichthy.localpath} = \text{tempdir})
\]

\[
\text{bkpt}_\text{ymax}(\text{watershed}.\text{df})
\]

---

**Clean dataset of ecological and hydrologic data**

**Description**

Given a dataframe of flow metric and richness metric data (Typically retrieved from the DEQ VAHydro database), removes all sites where the ratio of Drainage Area:Mean Annual Flow is greater than 1000, also aggregates to the maximum richness value at each x-metric value

**Usage**

\[
\text{clean}_\text{vahydro}(\text{watershed}.\text{df})
\]

**Arguments**

- **watershed.\text{df}**
  A dataframe of sites with ecological and hydrologic data
elfchange

Value

A cleaned dataframe of sites with ecological and hydrologic data

Examples

# We don't run this example by R CMD check, because it takes >10s

# Retrieve dataset of interest
watershed.df <- data.frame(
  MAF = c(100, 200, 300, 400, 526, 600, 700, 800, 400, 900, 1000, 100, 100),
  NT.TOTAL.UNIQUE = c(10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 40, 30, 20, 50, 10, 10, 99999, 87),
  watershed.code = "test_testcode",
  hydrocode = c("t1","t2","t3","t4","t5","t6","t7","t8","t9","t10","t11","t12","t13"),
  DA_SQMI = c(110, 220000, 280, 360, 530, 604, 712, 698, 40000, 905, 1087, 98, 87),
  x.metric = c(100, 200, 300, 400, 526, 600, 700, 800, 400, 900, 1000, 100, 100)
)

# Clean the dataset
clean_vahydro(watershed.df)

elfchange

Plot percent richness change for various percent flow reductions

Description

Calculates and plots percent richness change resulting from streamflow reductions

Usage

elfchange(stats, yaxis_thresh, xlabel = FALSE, ylabel = FALSE)

Arguments

stats A dataframe of ELF statistics

yaxis_thresh Value used for specifying y-axis max limit

xlabel Used to overwrite default x-axis label

ylabel Used to overwrite default y-axis label

Value

Plot of percent decreases in richness from flow reductions
Examples

# We don't run this example by R CMD check, because it takes >10s

# Generate plot of percent richness change for various percent flow reductions
watershed.df <- elfdata(watershed.code = '0208020104', ichthy.localpath = tempdir())
breakpt <- 500
elf <- elfgen(
  "watershed.df" = watershed.df,
  "quantile" = 0.95,
  "breakpt" = breakpt,
  "xlabel" = "Mean Annual Flow (ft3/s)",
  "ylabel" = "Fish Species Richness"
)
elfchange(elf$stats, "yaxis_thresh" = 25)

elfdata

Retrieve and format data for ELF generation

Description

Given a HUC code, provides a dataframe of all contained nhdplus segments and their individual NT Total and Mean Annual Flow MAF values

Usage

elfdata(watershed.code, ichthy.localpath)

Arguments

watershed.code  Hydrologic unit code, either HUC6, HUC8, HUC10, or HUC12 (e.g. HUC10 code '0208020101').
ichthy.localpath  Local file path for storing downloaded ichthy data. Defaults to a temp directory.

Value

A dataframe of nhdplus segments containing species richness data (NT Total values) and mean annual flow (MAF) data.

Examples

# We don't run this example by R CMD check, because it takes >10s

# Retrieve dataset of interest
# You may enter either a 6, 8, 10, or 12-digit HUC code.
# By default the ichthy dataset is downloaded to a temp directory, however this may be overridden by
elfdata_vahydro

Retrieve data from DEQ VAHydro database and format data for ELF generation. Contact Virginia DEQ Office of Water Supply to request access to the VAHydro database.

Description

Given a set of VAHydro input parameters, outputs a dataframe of flow metric and richness metric data for hydrologic unit supplied

Usage

elfdata_vahydro(
  watershed.code,
  watershed.bundle,
  watershed.ftype,
  x.metric,
  y.metric,
  y.sampres,
  datasite,
  EDAS.localpath = tempdir()
)

Arguments

watershed.code Hydrologic unit code, either HUC6, HUC8, HUC10, or HUC12 (e.g. HUC10 code '0208020101').

watershed.bundle dH bundle of hydrologic unit

watershed.ftype dH ftype of hydrologic unit

x.metric x-metric, i.e. streamflow or drainage area

y.metric y-metric, most commonly species richness

y.sampres Sample resolution of y.metric (e.g. 'species')

datasite VAHydro database URL

EDAS.localpath Local file path for storing downloaded EDAS data. Defaults to a temp directory.

Value

A dataframe of sites containing species richness data (NT Total values) and mean annual flow (MAF) data.
elfgen

Examples

# We don't run this example by R CMD check, because it takes >10s

# Retrieve dataset of interest
watershed.df <- elfdata_vahydro(
  'nhd_huc8_02080201',
  'watershed',
  'nhd_huc8',
  'nhdp_drainage_sqmi',
  'aqbio_nt_total',
  'species'
)
elfdata_vahydro(watershed.df)

elfgen
Generate Ecological Limit Function (ELF)

Description

Generate ELF models by supplying a dataframe of richness and stream size data (streamflow or drainage area), a quantile for evaluating the ecological limit, and a breakpoint threshold.

Usage

elfgen(
  watershed.df,
  quantile,
  breakpt,
  yaxis_thresh,
  xlabel = FALSE,
  ylabel = FALSE
)

Arguments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argument</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>watershed.df</td>
<td>A dataframe of sites with ecological and hydrologic data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quantile</td>
<td>A specified value for the quantile of interest - 0.95 equals the 95th percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breakpt</td>
<td>A breakpoint - either user-supplied fixed value or derived using elfgen breakpoint functions bkpt_pwit() or bkpt_ymax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yaxis_thresh</td>
<td>Value used for specifying y-axis max limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xlabel</td>
<td>Used to overwrite default x-axis label</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ylabel</td>
<td>Used to overwrite default y-axis label</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
value

Object containing plot image and dataframe of ELF statistics

Examples

# We don't run this example by R CMD check, because it takes >10s

watershed.df <- elfdata(watershed.code = '0208020104', ichthy.localpath = tempdir())
breakpt <- 500
elfgen(
  "watershed.df" = watershed.df,
  "quantile" = 0.80,
  "breakpt" = breakpt,
  "xlabel" = "Mean Annual Flow (ft3/s),
  "ylabel" = "Fish Species Richness"
)

richness_change

Calculate change in richness resulting from a percent reduction in flow

Description

Calculates absolute or percent richness change from streamflow reduction

Usage

richness_change(stats, pctchg, xval = FALSE)

Arguments

stats A dataframe of ELF statistics
pctchg Decrease in flow as a percent (e.g. 10 equals 10 percent reduction in flow).
xval x-axis value for assessing percent change in richness. When supplied, the function will calculate percent change in richness at a specific stream size (e.g. 50 equals a stream size with mean annual flow of 50 cfs).

Value

Richness change value is returned
Examples

# We don't run this example by R CMD check, because it takes >10s

watershed.df <- elfdata(watershed.code = '0208020104', ichthy.localpath = tempdir())
breakpt <- 500
elf <- elfgen(
  "watershed.df" = watershed.df,
  "quantile" = 0.95,
  "breakpt" = breakpt,
  "xlabel" = "Mean Annual Flow (ft3/s)",
  "ylabel" = "Fish Species Richness"
)
# Calculate absolute richness change
richness_change(elf$stats, "pctchg" = 10)
# Calculate percent richness change at a specific stream size
richness_change(elf$stats, "pctchg" = 10, "xval" = 50)
Index

bkpt_pwit, 2
bkpt_ymax, 3

clean_vahydro, 3
elfchange, 4
elfdata, 5
elfdata_vahydro, 6
elfgen, 7

richness_change, 8