

# Package ‘ForestGapR’

October 4, 2021

**Type** Package

**Title** Tropical Forest Canopy Gaps Analysis

**Version** 0.1.6

**Depends** R (>= 3.4.0)

**Imports** raster, igraph, VGAM, sp, graphics, stats, viridis, rgeos,  
spatstat.core, spatstat.geom, poweRlaw

**Description** Set of tools for detecting and analyzing Airborne Laser Scanning-derived Tropical Forest Canopy Gaps. Details were published in Silva et al. (2019) <[doi:10.1111/2041-210X.13211](https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13211)>.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.2

**Author** Carlos Alberto Silva [aut, cph, cre],  
Ekena Rangel Pinagé [aut] (Reviews the documentation),  
Midhun Mohan [aut] (Reviews the documentation),  
Danilo Roberti Alves de Almeida [aut] (Reviews the documentation),  
Eben North Broadbent [aut] (Reviews the documentation),  
Wan Shafrina Wan Mohd Jaafar [aut] (Reviews the documentation),  
Daniel de Almeida Papa [aut] (Reviews the documentation),  
Adrian Cardil [aut] (Reviews the documentation),  
Ruben Valbuena [cph, aut],  
Toby Jackson [aut],  
Caio Hamamura [aut] (Maintenance and review),  
Carine Klauberg [aut] (Reviews the documentation)

**Maintainer** Carlos Alberto Silva <[carlos\\_engflorestal@outlook.com](mailto:carlos_engflorestal@outlook.com)>

**Repository** CRAN

**Repository/R-Forge/Project** forestgapr

**Repository/R-Forge/Revision** 22

**Repository/R-Forge/DateTimeStamp** 2021-10-02 18:18:11

**Date/Publication** 2021-10-04 08:30:17 UTC

**NeedsCompilation** no

**R topics documented:**

ALS_CHM_CAU_2012 . . . . .	2
ALS_CHM_CAU_2014 . . . . .	3
ALS_CHM_DUC . . . . .	4
GapChangeDec . . . . .	5
GapSizeFDist . . . . .	6
GapSPDF . . . . .	7
GapsSpatPattern . . . . .	8
GapStats . . . . .	9
getForestGaps . . . . .	11

<b>Index</b>	<b>13</b>
--------------	-----------

---

ALS_CHM_CAU_2012	<i>ALS-derived CHM - Fazenda Cauaxi 2012</i>
------------------	--

---

**Description**

The Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS)-derived Canopy Height Model - (CHM) provided as an example dataset collected in 2012 at Fazenda Cauaxi in the Paragominas Municipality of Pará State, Brazil, in the eastern Amazon.

**Usage**

```
data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2012)
```

**Format**

The format is: 'RasterLayer'

**Details**

The 1-m ALS-CHM was generated using Lastools software (Isenburg 2016)

**Source**

ALS data were acquired with support from USAID and the US Department of State with the technical assistance of the Brazilian Corporation for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) and the US Forest Service Office of International Programs via the Sustainable Landscapes Brazil Project (Keller, M. 2018).

**References**

Keller, M. 2018. Available online: <https://www.paisagenslidar.cnptia.embrapa.br/webgis/>

Isenburg, M. LAsTools—Efficient Tools for Lidar Processing. 2018. Available online: <http://www.cs.unc.edu/~isenburg/lastools/> (accessed on 3 October 2018).

**Examples**

```
library(raster)

data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2012)
plot(ALS_CHM_CAU_2012)
```

---

ALS\_CHM\_CAU\_2014

*ALS-derived CHM - Fazenda Cauaxi 2014*

---

**Description**

The Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS)-derived Canopy Height Model - (CHM) provided as an example dataset collected in 2014 at Fazenda Cauaxi in the Paragominas Municipality of Pará State, Brazil, in the eastern Amazon.

**Usage**

```
data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2014)
```

**Format**

The format is: 'RasterLayer'

**Details**

The 1-m ALS-CHM was generated using Lastools software (Isenburg 2016)

**Source**

ALS data were acquired with support from USAID and the US Department of State with the technical assistance of the Brazilian Corporation for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) and the US Forest Service Office of International Programs via the Sustainable Landscapes Brazil Project (Keller, M. 2018).

**References**

Keller, M. 2018. Available online: <https://www.paisagenslidar.cnptia.embrapa.br/webgis/>

Isenburg, M. LASTools—Efficient Tools for Lidar Processing. 2018. Available online: <http://www.cs.unc.edu/~isenburg/lastools/> (accessed on 3 October 2018).

**Examples**

```
library(raster)

data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2014)
plot(ALS_CHM_CAU_2014)
```

---

ALS\_CHM\_DUC

*ALS-derived CHM - Adolpho Ducke Forest Reserve 2012*

---

### **Description**

The Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS)-derived Canopy Height Model - (CHM) provided as an example dataset collected in 2012 at the Adolpho Ducke Forest Reserve in Municipality of Manaus of State of Amazonas, Brazil, in central Amazon.

### **Usage**

```
data(ALS_CHM_DUC)
```

### **Format**

The format is: 'RasterLayer'

### **Details**

The 1-m ALS-CHM was generated using Lastools software (Isenburg 2016)

### **Source**

ALS data were acquired with support from USAID and the US Department of State with the technical assistance of the Brazilian Corporation for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) and the US Forest Service Office of International Programs via the Sustainable Landscapes Brazil Project (Keller, M. 2018).

### **References**

Keller, M. 2018. Available online: <https://www.paisagenslidar.cnptia.embrapa.br/webgis/>

Isenburg, M. LASTools—Efficient Tools for Lidar Processing. 2018. Available online: <http://www.cs.unc.edu/~isenburg/lastools/> (accessed on 3 October 2018).

### **Examples**

```
library(raster)
data(ALS_CHM_DUC)

plot(ALS_CHM_DUC)
```

---

GapChangeDec

*Forest Gaps Change Detection*

---

## Description

This function detects forest canopy gap changes across two forest gap `raster::RasterLayer` objects

## Usage

```
GapChangeDec(gap_layer1, gap_layer2)
```

## Arguments

`gap_layer1` ALS-derived gap as an `raster::RasterLayer` object at time 1. (output of `getForestGaps()` function).

`gap_layer2` ALS-derived gap as an `raster::RasterLayer` object at time 2. (output of `getForestGaps()` function).

## Value

A `raster::RasterLayer` object representing forest gap change area

## Author(s)

Carlos Alberto Silva.

## Examples

```
#
# Loading raster and viridis libraries
library(raster)
library(viridis)

# ALS-derived CHM from Fazenda Cauxi - Brazilian tropical forest
data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2012)
data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2014)

# set height thresholds (e.g. 10 meters)
threshold <- 10
size <- c(1, 10^4) # m2

# Detecting forest gaps
gaps_cau2012 <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_CAU_2012, threshold = threshold, size = size)
gaps_cau2014 <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_CAU_2014, threshold = threshold, size = size)

# Detecting forest gaps changes
Gap_changes <- GapChangeDec(gap_layer1 = gaps_cau2012, gap_layer2 = gaps_cau2014)
```

```
# Plotting ALS-derived CHM and forest gaps
oldpar <- par(mfrow = c(1, 3))
plot(ALS_CHM_CAU_2012, main = "Forest Canopy Gap - 2012", col = viridis(10))
plot(gaps_cau2012, add = TRUE, col = "red", legend = FALSE)

plot(ALS_CHM_CAU_2014, main = "Forest Canopy Gap - 2014", col = viridis(10))
plot(gaps_cau2014, add = TRUE, col = "red", legend = FALSE)

plot(ALS_CHM_CAU_2014, main = "Forest Gap Changes Detected", col = viridis(10))
plot(Gap_changes, add = TRUE, col = "orange", legend = FALSE)
par(oldpar)
```

---

GapSizeFDist

*Forest Canopy Gap-size Frequency Distributions*


---

## Description

This function quantifies forest canopy gap size-frequency distributions and estimates power-law exponent ( $\lambda$ ) from the Zeta distribution.

## Usage

```
GapSizeFDist(gaps_stats, method, ...)
```

## Arguments

gaps_stats	A data.frame containing basic statistics of forest gaps. Output of <code>GapStats()</code> function.
method	If method='Asner_2013' the $\lambda$ is computed following the method described Asner et al. (2013) and if methods='Hanel_2017' the $\lambda$ is computed following the method described in Hanel et al. (2017)
...	Supplementary parameters for <code>[graphics::plot()]</code> .

## Value

A log-log plot of gap-size Frequency Distributions and a list containing: i)  $\lambda$ , ii) the gap-size Frequency Distributions and ii) method used. The  $\lambda$  parameter is derived for the Zeta distribution using a maximum likelihood estimator. See details section.

## References

Hanel, R., Corominas-Murtra, B., Liu, B., Thurner, S. (2013). Fitting power-laws in empirical data with estimators that work for all exponents, PLoS one, vol. 12, no. 2, p. e0170920. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0170920>

Asner, G.P., Kellner, J.R., Kennedy-Bowdoin, T., Knapp, D.E., Anderson, C. & Martin, R.E. (2013). Forest canopy gap distributions in the Southern Peruvian Amazon. PLoS One, 8, e60875. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0060875>

White, E.P., Enquist, B.J., Green, J.L. (2008) On estimating the exponent of powerlaw frequency distributions. Ecology 89,905-912. <https://doi.org/10.1890/07-1288.1>

## Examples

```
# Loading raster library
library(raster)

# ALS-derived CHM over Adolpho Ducke Forest Reserve - Brazilian tropical forest
data(ALS_CHM_DUC)

# set height thresholds (e.g. 10 meters)
threshold <- 10
size <- c(1, 10^4) # m2

# Detecting forest gaps
gaps_duc <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_DUC, threshold = threshold, size = size)

# Computing basic statistics of forest gap
gaps_stats <- GapStats(gap_layer = gaps_duc, chm_layer = ALS_CHM_DUC)

# Gap-size Frequency Distributions
GapSizeFDist(
  gaps_stats = gaps_stats, method = "Hanel_2017", col = "forestgreen", pch = 16, cex = 1,
  axes = FALSE, ylab = "Gap Frequency", xlab = as.expression(bquote("Gap Size" ~ (m^2)))
)
axis(1)
axis(2)
grid(4, 4)
```

---

GapSPDF

*Forest Canopy Gaps as Spatial Polygons*

---

## Description

This function converts forest canopy gaps as `raster::RasterLayer` to `sp::SpatialPointsDataFrame` objects

## Usage

```
GapSPDF(gap_layer)
```

## Arguments

`gap_layer` ALS-derived gap layer (output of `getForestGaps()` function). An object of the class `RasterLayer`.

## Value

A `sp::SpatialPointsDataFrame` object of the forest canopy gaps. The output file can be exported as a ESRI shapefile using `rgdal::writeOGR()` function in the `rgdal` package.

**Author(s)**

Carlos Alberto Silva.

**Examples**

```
# Loading raster and viridis libraries
library(raster)
library(viridis)

# ALS-derived CHM over Adolpho Ducke Forest Reserve - Brazilian tropical forest
data(ALS_CHM_DUC)

# set height thresholds (e.g. 10 meters)
threshold <- 10
size <- c(1, 10^4) # m2

# Detecting forest gaps
gaps_duc <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_DUC, threshold = threshold, size = size)

# Converting raster layer to SpatialPolygonsDataFrame
gaps_spdf <- GapSPDF(gap_layer = gaps_duc)

# Plotting ALS-derived CHM and forest gaps
plot(ALS_CHM_DUC, col = viridis(10), xlim = c(173025, 173125), ylim = c(9673100, 96731200))
plot(gaps_spdf, add = TRUE, border = "red", lwd = 2)

# Populating the attribute table of Gaps_spdf with gaps statistics
gaps_stats <- GapStats(gap_layer = gaps_duc, chm_layer = ALS_CHM_DUC)
gaps_spdf <- merge(gaps_spdf, gaps_stats, by = "gap_id")
head(gaps_spdf@data)
```

---

GapsSpatPattern

*Spatial Pattern Analysis of Forest Canopy Gaps*

---

**Description**

This function computes second order statistics of forest canopy gaps ([raster::RasterLayer](#)) to [sp::SpatialPointsDataFrame](#) objects

**Usage**

```
GapsSpatPattern(gap_SPDF_layer, chm_layer)
```

**Arguments**

`gap_SPDF_layer` A [sp::SpatialPointsDataFrame](#) object of the forest canopy gaps. Output of [GapSPDF\(\)](#) function. An object of the class [sp::SpatialPointsDataFrame](#)

`chm_layer` ALS-derived Canopy Height Model (CHM) ([raster::RasterLayer](#)) object. An object of the class [raster::RasterLayer](#).



**Value**

A plot with Ripley's K- and L-functions. Value of Clark-Evans index (R) and test for randomness (R=1), aggregation (R<1) or uniform distribution (R>1).

**Author(s)**

Ruben Valbuena and Carlos Alberto Silva.

**References**

[spatstat](#) package, see [Lest\(\)](#), [Kest\(\)](#), and [clarkevans.test\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
# This takes > 5 seconds!

# Loading raster and viridis libraries
library(raster)
library(viridis)

# ALS-derived CHM from Fazenda Cauxi - Brazilian tropical forest
data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2012)
data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2014)

# set height thresholds (e.g. 10 meters)
threshold <- 10
size <- c(1, 1000) # m2

# Detecting forest gaps
gaps_cau2012 <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_CAU_2012, threshold = threshold, size = size)
gaps_cau2014 <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_CAU_2014, threshold = threshold, size = size)

# Converting raster layers to SpatialPolygonsDataFrame
gaps_cau2012_spdf <- GapSPDF(gap_layer = gaps_cau2012)
gaps_cau2014_spdf <- GapSPDF(gap_layer = gaps_cau2014)

# Spatial pattern analysis of each year
gaps_cau2012_SpatPattern <- GapsSpatPattern(gaps_cau2012_spdf, ALS_CHM_CAU_2012)
gaps_cau2014_SpatPattern <- GapsSpatPattern(gaps_cau2014_spdf, ALS_CHM_CAU_2014)
```

---

GapStats

*Forest Canopy Gaps Stats*

---

**Description**

This function computes a series of forest canopy gap statistics

**Usage**

```
GapStats(gap_layer, chm_layer)
```

**Arguments**

gap_layer	ALS-derived gap as <code>raster::RasterLayer</code> object (output of <code>getForestGaps()</code> function). An object of the class <code>RasterLayer</code> .
chm_layer	ALS-derived Canopy Height Model (CHM) <code>raster::RasterLayer</code> used in <code>getForestGaps()</code> function. An object of the class <code>raster::RasterLayer</code> .

**Value**

A data.frame containing forest canopy gap statistics

**List of forest gaps statistics:**

- gap\_id: gap id
- gap\_area - area of gap (m2)
- chm\_max - Maximum canopy height (m) within gap boundary
- chm\_min - Minimum canopy height (m) within gap boundary
- chm\_mean - Mean canopy height (m) within gap boundary
- chm\_sd - Standard Deviation of canopy heights (m) within gap boundary
- chm\_gini - Gini Coefficient of canopy heights (m) within gap boundary
- chm\_range - Range of canopy heights (m) within gap boundary

**Author(s)**

Carlos Alberto Silva.

**Examples**

```
# Loading raster library
library(raster)

# ALS-derived CHM over Adolpho Ducke Forest Reserve - Brazilian tropical forest
data(ALS_CHM_CAU_2012)

# set height thresholds (e.g. 10 meters)
threshold <- 10
size <- c(5, 10^4) # m2

# Detecting forest gaps
gaps_duc <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_DUC, threshold = threshold, size = size)

# Computing basic statistics of forest gap
gaps_stats <- GapStats(gap_layer = gaps_duc, chm_layer = ALS_CHM_DUC)
```

---

getForestGaps                      *Forest Canopy Gap Detection*

---

### Description

This function detects forest canopy gaps on Airborne Laser Scanning(ALS)-derived Canopy Height Model (CHM).

### Usage

```
getForestGaps(chm_layer, threshold=10, size=c(1,10^4))
```

### Arguments

chm_layer	ALS-derived Canopy Height Model (CHM) ( <code>raster::RasterLayer</code> ) object. An object of the class <code>raster::RasterLayer</code> .
threshold	Height threshold for gap detection. Default is 10 m.
size	A vector containing the minimum and maximum gap size - area (m2). Gaps with area < size[1] or area > size[2] are not considered. Default is 1 m2 and 1ha.

### Value

Forest Gaps. An object of the class `RasterLayer`.

### Author(s)

Carlos Alberto Silva.

### Examples

```
# =====#
# Importing ALS-derived Canopy Height Model (CHM)
# =====#
# Loading raster and viridis libraries
library(raster)
library(viridis)

# ALS-derived CHM over Adolpho Ducke Forest Reserve - Brazilian tropical forest
data(ALS_CHM_DUC)

# Plotting chm
plot(ALS_CHM_DUC, col = viridis(10), main = "ALS CHM")
grid()
# =====#
# Example 1: Forest Gap detection using a fixed canopy height thresholds
# =====#
```

```

# set height thresholds (e.g. 10 meters)
threshold <- 10
size <- c(1, 10^4) # m2

# Detecting forest gaps
gaps_duc <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_DUC, threshold = threshold, size = size)

# Plotting gaps
plot(gaps_duc, col = "red", add = TRUE, main = "Forest Canopy Gap", legend = FALSE)

# =====#
# Example 2: Gap detection using multiple canopy height thresholds
# =====#

# set the height thresholds
nthresholds <- c(10, 15, 20, 25)
size <- c(1, 10^4) # m2

# creating an empty raster stack to store multiple gaps as RasterLayers
gaps_stack <- stack()

# Gap detection
for (i in nthresholds) {
  gaps_i <- getForestGaps(chm_layer = ALS_CHM_DUC, threshold = i, size = size)
  names(gaps_i) <- paste0("gaps_", i, "m")
  gaps_stack <- stack(gaps_stack, gaps_i)
}

# plot gaps
oldpar <- par(no.readonly = TRUE)
par(mfrow = c(2, 2))
plot(ALS_CHM_DUC, col = viridis(10), main = "Height threshold 10m")
plot(gaps_stack$gaps_10m, col = "red", add = TRUE, legend = FALSE)

plot(ALS_CHM_DUC, col = viridis(10), main = "Height threshold 15m")
plot(gaps_stack$gaps_15m, col = "red", add = TRUE, legend = FALSE)

plot(ALS_CHM_DUC, col = viridis(10), main = "Height threshold 20m")
plot(gaps_stack$gaps_20m, col = "red", add = TRUE, legend = FALSE)

plot(ALS_CHM_DUC, col = viridis(10), main = "Height threshold 25m")
plot(gaps_stack$gaps_25m, col = "red", add = TRUE, legend = FALSE)
par(oldpar)

```

# Index

- \* **ALS\_CHM\_CAU\_2012**
  - ALS\_CHM\_CAU\_2012, [2](#)
- \* **ALS\_CHM\_CAU\_2014**
  - ALS\_CHM\_CAU\_2014, [3](#)
- \* **ALS\_CHM\_DUC**
  - ALS\_CHM\_DUC, [4](#)

ALS\_CHM\_CAU\_2012, [2](#)  
ALS\_CHM\_CAU\_2014, [3](#)  
ALS\_CHM\_DUC, [4](#)

clarkevans.test(), [9](#)

GapChangeDec, [5](#)  
GapSizeFDist, [6](#)  
GapSPDF, [7](#)  
GapSPDF(), [8](#)  
GapsSpatPattern, [8](#)  
GapStats, [9](#)  
GapStats(), [6](#)  
getForestGaps, [11](#)  
getForestGaps(), [5](#), [7](#), [10](#)

Kest(), [9](#)

Lest(), [9](#)

raster::RasterLayer, [5](#), [7](#), [8](#), [10](#), [11](#)  
rgdal::writeOGR(), [7](#)

sp::SpatialPointsDataFrame, [7](#), [8](#)  
spatstat, [9](#)