

# Package ‘spanner’

February 3, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Utilities to Support Lidar Applications at the Landscape,  
Forest, and Tree Scale

**Version** 1.0.2

**Date** 2026-01-19

## Description

Implements algorithms for terrestrial, mobile, and airborne lidar processing, tree detection, segmentation, and attribute estimation (Donager et al., 2021)

<[doi:10.3390/rs13122297](https://doi.org/10.3390/rs13122297)>, and a hierarchical patch delineation algorithm 'PatchMorph' (Girvetz & Greco, 2007) <[doi:10.1007/s10980-007-9104-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-007-9104-8)>. Tree detection uses rasterized point cloud metrics (relative neighborhood density and verticality) combined with RANSAC cylinder fitting to locate tree boles and estimate diameter at breast height. Tree segmentation applies graph-theory approaches inspired by Tao et al. (2015) <[doi:10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2015.08.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2015.08.007)> with cylinder fitting methods from de Conto et al. (2017) <[doi:10.1016/j.compag.2017.07.019](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2017.07.019)>. PatchMorph delineates habitat patches across spatial scales using organism-specific thresholds. Built on 'lidR' (Roussel et al., 2020) <[doi:10.1016/j.rse.2020.112061](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2020.112061)>.

**URL** <https://github.com/biom3trics/spanner>

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**RdMacros** mathjaxr

**LinkingTo** lidR, RcppArmadillo, Rcpp (>= 1.0.13), RcppEigen, BH,

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 1.0.13), conicfit, FNN, RANN, cppRouting, sf, terra,  
sfheaders, Rfast, geometry, dplyr, mathjaxr, data.table

**Depends** R (>= 4.0.0), lidR (>= 4.2.0),

**Suggests** testthat (>= 3.0.0), magick, rgl, rstac

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Author** Andrew Sanchez Meador [aut, cre, ctb] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4238-8587>),  
 Jonathon Donager [aut, ctb] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9448-1703>),  
 Blackburn Ryan [aut, ctb] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2952-0865>),  
 Cannon Jeffery [ctb] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8436-8712>),  
 Tiago de Conto [ctb, cph] (Author of included TreeLS code),  
 Keith O'Hara [ctb, cph] (Author of included OptimLib code)

**Maintainer** Andrew Sanchez Meador <Andrew.SanchezMeador@nau.edu>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-02-03 10:30:02 UTC

## Contents

colorize_las . . . . .	2
create_rotation_gif . . . . .	4
cylinderFit . . . . .	6
download_naip_for_las . . . . .	7
eigen_metrics . . . . .	8
get_raster_eigen_treelocs . . . . .	10
las2xyz . . . . .	12
merge_las_colors . . . . .	13
plot_raster_by_name . . . . .	14
process_rasters_patchmorph . . . . .	15
process_tree_data . . . . .	16
segment_graph . . . . .	18
spanner_pal . . . . .	21
sum_rasters_by_suitability . . . . .	22

**Index** **24**

---

colorize_las	<i>Colorize a LAS object using multiple methods</i>
--------------	---

---

## Description

Colors a LAS object using one of three methods: attribute-based coloring, raster-based RGB coloring, or PCV (Portion de Ciel Visible) ambient occlusion.

## Usage

```
colorize_las(
  las,
  method = "attr",
  attribute_name = NULL,
```

```

palette = c("black", "white"),
raster_path = NULL,
radius = 1,
num_directions = 60,
kernel_size = 5,
pixel_size = 0.1,
num_samples = 16,
ncpu = 4
)

```

## Arguments

<code>las</code>	LAS object to colorize
<code>method</code>	Character string specifying the coloring method: "attr" for attribute-based, "rgb" for raster-based, or "pcv" for ambient occlusion. Default is "attr".
<code>attribute_name</code>	Character string specifying the attribute name (required for method="attr"). The attribute must exist in the LAS data.
<code>palette</code>	Character vector of at least two colors for the color ramp (used with method="attr", "pcv", or "ssao"). Colors can be hex codes (e.g., "#FF0000") or named colors (e.g., "red"). Default is grayscale.
<code>raster_path</code>	Character string or vector of paths to raster files (required for method="rgb"). Can be a single RGB raster or three separate rasters for R, G, and B channels.
<code>radius</code>	Numeric radius for neighborhood search in PCV calculation (method="pcv"). Default is 1.0.
<code>num_directions</code>	Integer number of directional rays for PCV calculation (method="pcv"). Default is 60.
<code>kernel_size</code>	Integer kernel size in pixels for SSAO sampling (method="ssao"). Default is 5.
<code>pixel_size</code>	Numeric resolution of the depth map in spatial units (method="ssao"). Default is 0.1.
<code>num_samples</code>	Integer number of samples per point for SSAO (method="ssao"). Default is 16.
<code>ncpu</code>	Integer number of CPUs to use for parallel processing (method="pcv" or "ssao"). Default is 4.

## Details

The function supports four coloring methods:

**attr** Attribute-based coloring: normalizes attribute values and maps them to colors using the palette.

**rgb** Raster-based coloring: extracts RGB values from georeferenced raster(s) that align with the point cloud. Requires matching CRS between LAS and raster. Can use a single 3-band RGB raster or three separate rasters.

**pcv** PCV (Portion de Ciel Visible): computes 3D ambient occlusion by calculating sky visibility for each point. Based on the algorithm from Duguet & Girardeau-Montaut (2004). More accurate but slower than SSAO.

**ssao** SSAO (Screen Space Ambient Occlusion): fast ambient occlusion using 2D depth map techniques. Projects points to a depth buffer and calculates occlusion based on depth differences. Much faster than PCV.

**Value**

A LAS object with updated R, G, and B fields based on the selected method.

**Examples**

```
LASfile <- system.file("extdata", "ALS_Clip.laz", package="spanner")
las <- readLAS(LASfile, select = "xyz")

# Attribute-based coloring
las_colored <- colorize_las(las, method="attr", attribute_name="Z",
                           palette=c("blue", "green", "yellow", "red"))

# Raster-based coloring with RGB file
rgb_file <- system.file("extdata", "UAS_Clip_RGB.tif", package="spanner")
las_colored <- colorize_las(las, method="rgb", raster_path=rgb_file)

# PCV ambient occlusion (slow, high quality)
las_colored <- colorize_las(las, method="pcv", radius=1.0,
                           num_directions=30, palette=c("black", "white"))

# SSAO ambient occlusion (faster alternative to PCV)
las_colored <- colorize_las(las, method="ssao", pixel_size=0.1,
                           kernel_size=5, num_samples=16, palette=c("black", "white"), ncpu=8)
```

---

create\_rotation\_gif    *Create animated GIF of rotating 3D point cloud*

---

**Description**

Generates a 360-degree rotating animation of a LAS point cloud using rgl and saves it as an animated GIF.

**Usage**

```
create_rotation_gif(
  las,
  output_path = "pointcloud_rotation.gif",
  duration = 12,
  rpm = 5,
  background = "white",
  axis = "z",
  show_axis = TRUE,
  show_legend = TRUE,
  screen_size = c(800, 600),
  overwrite = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

las	LAS object to visualize. Should have R, G, B fields for color.
output_path	Character string specifying output GIF file path. Default is "pointcloud_rotation.gif".
duration	Numeric duration of the animation in seconds. Default is 12.
rpm	Numeric rotations per minute for the spin. Default is 5.
background	Character string specifying background color. Default is "white".
axis	Character specifying rotation axis: "z" for vertical rotation (default), "x" for horizontal rotation, "y" for front-to-back rotation.
show_axis	Logical whether to show axes. Default is TRUE.
show_legend	Logical whether to show legend. Default is TRUE.
screen_size	Numeric vector of length 2 specifying window dimensions as c(width, height). Default is c(800, 600).
overwrite	Logical whether to overwrite existing output file. Default is FALSE.

**Details**

This function creates a smooth 360-degree rotation animation by:

- Plotting the point cloud using lidR's plot function with RGB colors
- Using rgl's movie3d and spin3d to create smooth rotation
- Saving the result as an animated GIF

The rotation speed is controlled by the rpm (rotations per minute) parameter. The total duration determines how long the animation will be.

Requires the rgl package and lidR for plotting.

**Value**

Character string of the output file path (invisible)

**Examples**

```
# Load example LAS file
LASfile <- system.file("extdata", "ALS_Clip.laz", package="spanner")
las <- readLAS(LASfile)

# Create basic rotation GIF with attribute coloring
las_colored <- colorize_las(las, method="attr", attribute_name="Z")
create_rotation_gif(las_colored, output_path=tempfile(fileext = ".gif"))

# High quality with specific settings
create_rotation_gif(las_colored,
  output_path=tempfile(fileext = ".gif"),
  duration=15,
  rpm=10,
  background="black",
  show_axis=FALSE,
```

```

        show_legend=FALSE)

# Rotate around X axis for side-to-side view
create_rotation_gif(las_colored, output_path=tempfile(fileext = ".gif"), axis="x")

```

---

cylinderFit	<i>Point cloud cylinder fitting as per de Conto et al. 2017 as implemented here: <a href="https://github.com/tiagodc/TreeLS">https://github.com/tiagodc/TreeLS</a></i>
-------------	--

---

### Description

Fits a cylinder on a set of 3D points.

### Usage

```

cylinderFit(
  las,
  method = "ransac",
  n = 5,
  inliers = 0.9,
  conf = 0.95,
  max_angle = 30,
  n_best = 20
)

```

### Arguments

las	LAS normalized and segmented las object.
method	method for estimating the cylinder parameters. Currently available: "nm", "irls", "ransac" and "bf".
n	number of points selected on every RANSAC iteration.
inliers	expected proportion of inliers among stem segments' point cloud chunks.
conf	confidence level.
max_angle	used when method == "bf". The maximum tolerated deviation, in degrees, from an absolute vertical line ( $Z = c(0,0,1)$ ).
n_best	estimate optimal RANSAC parameters as the median of the n_best estimations with lowest error.

### Value

vector of parameters

**Examples**

```

# Define the cylinder attributes
npts = 500
cyl_length = 0.5
radius = 0.2718

# Generate the X,Y,Z values
Z=runif(n = npts, min = 0, max = cyl_length)
angs = runif(npts, 0, 2*pi)
X = sin(angs)*radius
Y = cos(angs)*radius

# Creation of a LAS object out of external data
cloud <- LAS(data.frame(X,Y,Z))

# Fit a cylinder and retrun the information
cyl_par = spanner::cylinderFit(cloud, method = 'ransac', n=5, inliers=.9,
                              conf=.95, max_angle=30, n_best=20)

```

---

download\_naip\_for\_las *Download NAIP Imagery for LiDAR Extent*

---

**Description**

Downloads NAIP (National Agriculture Imagery Program) imagery from Microsoft Planetary Computer STAC API for the extent of a LAS/LAZ point cloud.

**Usage**

```

download_naip_for_las(
  las,
  output_path = NULL,
  year_range = c("2018-01-01", "2023-12-31"),
  buffer = 0,
  overwrite = FALSE
)

```

**Arguments**

las	A LAS object or path to a LAS/LAZ file
output_path	Character string specifying output file path for the downloaded imagery. If NULL, creates a file named based on the input LAS file.
year_range	Character vector of length 2 specifying date range for NAIP imagery in format c("YYYY-MM-DD", "YYYY-MM-DD"). Default is c("2018-01-01", "2023-12-31").
buffer	Numeric value to buffer the extent in meters. Default is 0.
overwrite	Logical, whether to overwrite existing output file. Default is FALSE.

**Details**

This function queries the Microsoft Planetary Computer STAC API to find and download NAIP imagery that overlaps with the extent of the input LAS file. The imagery is automatically cropped to match the LiDAR extent and saved as a GeoTIFF.

NAIP imagery is typically 4-band (RGB + NIR) with 0.6m or 1m resolution, collected annually or biannually across the continental United States.

Requires the `rstac` package for STAC API access.

**Value**

Character string of the output file path, or NULL if download failed.

**Examples**

```
# Load example LAS file
LASfile <- system.file("extdata", "ALS_Clip.laz", package="spanner")
las <- readLAS(LASfile)

# Download NAIP for a LAS file
naip_path <- download_naip_for_las(las, output_path = tempfile(fileext = ".tif"))

# Download with buffer and specific year range
naip_path2 <- download_naip_for_las(las, buffer = 10,
                                   output_path = tempfile(fileext = ".tif"),
                                   year_range = c("2020-01-01", "2023-12-31"))

# Then use with colorize_las
las_colored <- colorize_las(las, method = "rgb", raster_path = naip_path)
```

---

eigen_metrics	<i>Calculates eigen decomposition metrics for fixed neighborhood point cloud data</i>
---------------	---

---

**Description**

This function calculates twelve (plus the first and second PCA) for several point geometry-related metrics (listed below) in parallel using C++ for a user-specified radius.

**Usage**

```
eigen_metrics(las = las, radius = 0.1, ncpu = 8)
```

**Arguments**

las	LAS Normalized las object.
radius	numeric the radius of the neighborhood
ncpu	integer the number of cpu's to be used in parallel for the calculation



**Value**

A labeled data.table of point metrics for each point in the LAS object

**List of available point metrics**

- eLargest: first eigenvalue,  $\lambda_1$
- eMedium: second eigenvalue,  $\lambda_2$
- eSmallest: third eigenvalue,  $\lambda_3$
- eSum: sum of eigenvalues,  $\sum_{i=1}^{n=3} \lambda_i$
- Curvature: surface variation,  $\lambda_3 / \sum_{i=1}^{n=3} \lambda_i$
- Omnivariance: high values correspond to spherical features and low values to planes or linear features,  $(\lambda_1 * \lambda_2 * \lambda_3)^{1/3}$
- Anisotropy: relationships between the directions of the point distribution,  $(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3) / \lambda_1$
- Eigentropy: entropy in the eigenvalues,  $-\sum_{i=1}^{n=3} \lambda_i * \ln(\lambda_i)$
- Linearity: linear saliency,  $(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) / \lambda_1$
- Verticality: vertical saliency,  $1 - \text{abs}(\langle (0, 0, 1), e_3 \rangle)$
- Planarity: planar saliency,  $(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3) / \lambda_1$
- Sphericity: spherical saliency,  $\lambda_3 / \lambda_1$
- Nx, Ny, Nz: 3 components of the normal vector (smallest eigenvector)
- SurfaceVariation: surface variation (change of curvature), same as Curvature
- ChangeCurvature: alternative name for surface variation
- SurfaceDensity: 2D point density using circle area,  $k / (\pi R^2)$
- VolumeDensity: 3D point density using sphere volume,  $k / (\frac{4}{3} \pi R^3)$
- MomentOrder1: 1st order moment from CloudCompare, projection onto 2nd eigenvector,  $m_1^2 / m_2$
- NormalChangeRate: normal change rate, same as Curvature,  $\lambda_3 / \sum_{i=1}^{n=3} \lambda_i$
- Roughness: distance from query point to fitted plane,  $|\vec{d} \cdot \vec{n}|$
- MeanCurvature: mean curvature from quadric surface fitting,  $H = \frac{(1+f_x^2)f_{xx} - 2f_x f_y f_{xy} + (1+f_y^2)f_{yy}}{2(1+f_x^2+f_y^2)^{3/2}}$
- GaussianCurvature: Gaussian curvature from quadric surface fitting,  $K = \frac{f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2}{(1+f_x^2+f_y^2)^2}$
- PCA1: eigenvector projection variance normalized by eigensum,  $\sigma_{PC1}^2 / \sum_{i=1}^{n=3} \lambda_i$
- PCA2: eigenvector projection variance normalized by eigensum,  $\sigma_{PC2}^2 / \sum_{i=1}^{n=3} \lambda_i$
- NumNeighbors: number of points in the spherical neighborhood,  $k$

**Examples**

```
LASfile <- system.file("extdata", "MixedConifer.laz", package="lidR")
las <- readLAS(LASfile)
eigen = eigen_metrics(las, radius=2, ncpu=4)
```

---

```
get_raster_eigen_treelocs
```

*Obtain tree information by rasterizing point cloud values of relative neighborhood density and verticality within a slice of a normalized point cloud*

---

## Description

get\_raster\_eigen\_treelocs returns a data.frame containing TreeID, X, Y, Z, Radius and Error in the same units as the .las

## Usage

```
get_raster_eigen_treelocs(
  las = las,
  res = 0.05,
  pt_spacing = 0.0254,
  dens_threshold = 0.2,
  neigh_sizes = c(0.333, 0.166, 0.5),
  eigen_threshold = 0.6666,
  grid_slice_min = 0.6666,
  grid_slice_max = 2,
  minimum_polygon_area = 0.025,
  cylinder_fit_type = "ransac",
  max_dia = 0.5,
  SDvert = 0.25,
  n_best = 25,
  n_pts = 20,
  inliers = 0.9,
  conf = 0.99,
  max_angle = 20
)
```

## Arguments

las	LAS Normalized las object.
res	numeric Pixel width of rasterized point cloud metrics.
pt_spacing	numeric Subsample spacing for graph connections.
dens_threshold	numeric Minimum point density in raster cell to be considered as potential tree bole.
neigh_sizes	numeric Vector for verticality and relative density (small and large neighborhoods) calculations
eigen_threshold	numeric Minimum average verticality in raster cell to be considered as potential tree bole.

grid_slice_min	numeric	Lower bound of point cloud slice in normalized point cloud.
grid_slice_max	numeric	Upper bound of point cloud slice in normalized point cloud.
minimum_polygon_area	numeric	Smallest allowable polygon area of potential tree boles.
cylinder_fit_type	character	Choose "ransac" or "irls" cylinder fitting.
max_dia	numeric	The max diameter (in m) of a resulting tree (use to eliminate commission errors).
SDvert	numeric	The standard deviation threshold below which polygons will be considered as tree boles.
n_best	integer	number of "best" ransac fits to keep when evaluating the best fit.
n_pts	integer	number of point to be selected per ransac iteration for fitting.
inliers	integer	expected proportion of inliers among cylinder points
conf	numeric	confidence level
max_angle	numeric	maximum tolerated deviation, in degrees, from vertical.

## Details

For terrestrial and mobile lidar datasets, tree locations and estimates of DBH are provided by rasterizing individual point cloud values of relative neighborhood density (at 0.3 and 1 m radius) and verticality within a slice of the normalized point cloud around breast height (1.34 m). The algorithm then uses defined threshold values to classify the resulting rasters and create unique polygons from the resulting classified raster. These point-density and verticality polygons were selected by their intersection with one another, resulting in a final set of polygons which were used to clip out regions of the point cloud that were most likely to represent tree boles. A RANSAC cylinder fitting algorithm was then used to estimate the fit of a cylinder to individual bole points. Cylinder centers and radius were used as inputs to an individual tree segmentation

## Value

sf A sf object containing the following tree seed information: TreeID, Radius, and Error in the same units as the .las, as well as the point geometry

## Examples

```
# Set the number of threads to use in lidR
set_lidr_threads(8)

LASfile = system.file("extdata", "TLS_Clip.laz", package="spanner")
las = readTLAS(LASfile, select = "xyzcr", "-filter_with_voxel 0.01")
# Don't forget to make sure the las object has a projection
sf::st_crs(las) <- 26912

# Pre-process the example lidar dataset by classifying the ground and noise points
# using lidR::csf(), normalizing it, and removing outlier points
# using lidR::ivf()
```

```

# las = classify_ground(las, csf(sloop_smooth = FALSE,
#                               class_threshold = 0.5,
#                               cloth_resolution = 0.5, rigidity = 1L,
#                               iterations = 500L, time_step = 0.65))
# las = normalize_height(las, tin())
# las = classify_noise(las, ivf(0.25, 3))
# las = filter_poi(las, Classification != LASNOISE)

# Plot the non-ground points, colored by height
# plot(filter_poi(las, Classification != 2), color = "Z")

# find tree locations and attribute data
myTreeLocs = get_raster_eigen_treelocs(las = las, res = 0.025, pt_spacing = 0.0254,
                                     dens_threshold = 0.25,
                                     neigh_sizes = c(0.25, 0.15, 0.66),
                                     eigen_threshold = 0.75,
                                     grid_slice_min = 1,
                                     grid_slice_max = 2,
                                     minimum_polygon_area = 0.005,
                                     cylinder_fit_type = "ransac",
                                     max_dia = 1,
                                     SDvert = 0.33,
                                     n_pts = 20,
                                     n_best = 25,
                                     inliers = 0.9,
                                     conf = 0.99,
                                     max_angle = 20)

# Plot results if trees were found
if (!is.null(myTreeLocs) && nrow(myTreeLocs) > 0) {
  plot(lidR::rasterize_canopy(las, res = 0.2, p2r()))
  symbols(sf::st_coordinates(myTreeLocs)[,1], sf::st_coordinates(myTreeLocs)[,2],
         circles = myTreeLocs$Radius^2*3.14, inches = FALSE, add = TRUE, bg = 'black')
} else {
  message("No tree locations were found. Try adjusting the parameters.")
}

```

---

las2xyz

---

*Convert LAS object to XYZ matrix*


---

### Description

Extracts the X, Y, and Z coordinates from a LAS object and returns them as a matrix.

### Usage

```
las2xyz(las)
```

**Arguments**

las                    LAS object to convert

**Value**

A numeric matrix with three columns (X, Y, Z) containing the point coordinates

**Examples**

```
LASfile <- system.file("extdata", "MixedConifer.laz", package="lidR")
las <- readLAS(LASfile)
xyz_matrix <- las2xyz(las)
head(xyz_matrix)
```

---

merge\_las\_colors                    *Merge RGB colors from two colorized LAS objects*

---

**Description**

Blends the RGB values from two LAS objects to create a new composite coloring. Useful for combining different coloring methods (e.g., ambient occlusion with raster RGB).

**Usage**

```
merge_las_colors(las1, las2, alpha = 0.5, method = "alpha")
```

**Arguments**

las1                    First LAS object with R, G, B fields

las2                    Second LAS object with R, G, B fields (must have same number of points as las1)

alpha                    Numeric value between 0 and 1 controlling the blend ratio. 0 = all las1 colors, 1 = all las2 colors, 0.5 = equal blend. Default is 0.5.

method                    Character string specifying blend method: "alpha" for alpha blending, "multiply" for multiplicative blending, "screen" for screen blending, "overlay" for overlay blending. Default is "alpha".

**Details**

Blending methods:

**alpha** Simple linear interpolation:  $(1-\text{alpha})\text{las1} + \text{alpha}\text{las2}$

**multiply** Multiplicative blend (darkens):  $(\text{las1} * \text{las2}) / 255$

**screen** Screen blend (lightens):  $255 - ((255-\text{las1}) * (255-\text{las2})) / 255$

**overlay** Overlay blend: combines multiply and screen based on base color

Common use cases:

- Combine ambient occlusion (PCV/SSAO) with aerial RGB for realistic shading
- Blend attribute coloring with terrain colors
- Overlay multiple visualization layers

### Value

A LAS object (copy of las1) with merged R, G, and B fields

### Examples

```
# Load example LAS file
LASfile <- system.file("extdata", "ALS_Clip.laz", package="spanner")
las <- readLAS(LASfile)

# Combine SSAO ambient occlusion with aerial RGB
las_ao <- colorize_las(las, method="ssao", palette=c("black", "white"))
rgb_file <- system.file("extdata", "UAS_Clip_RGB.tif", package="spanner")
las_rgb <- colorize_las(las, method="rgb", raster_path=rgb_file)
las_merged <- merge_las_colors(las_ao, las_rgb, alpha=0.3, method="multiply")

# Blend attribute coloring with RGB at 50/50
las_height <- colorize_las(las, method="attr", attribute_name="Z",
                          palette=c("blue", "red"))
las_merged <- merge_las_colors(las_height, las_rgb, alpha=0.5)
```

---

plot\_raster\_by\_name *Plot a raster by its name*

---

### Description

plot\_raster\_by\_name plots a raster from a list of rasters based on the provided raster name.

### Usage

```
plot_raster_by_name(rasters, raster_name)
```

### Arguments

rasters            list A list of rasters.  
raster\_name        character The name of the raster to be plotted.

### Value

NULL This function does not return a value. It plots the raster if found.

## Examples

```
# Define input parameters
las <- lidR::readLAS(system.file("extdata", "MixedConifer.laz", package="lidR"))
input_raster <- lidR::rasterize_canopy(las, res = 1, lidR::pitfree(c(0,2,5,10,15), c(0, 2)))
suitList <- c(0, 2, 32)
gapList <- seq(1, 8, by = 1)
spurList <- seq(1, 8, by = 1)

# Process the rasters
processed_rasters <- process_rasters_patchmorph(input_raster, suitList, gapList, spurList)

# Plot a raster by its name
plot_raster_by_name(processed_rasters, "suit_2_gap_2_spur_6")
```

---

process\_rasters\_patchmorph

*Process rasters based on suitability, gap, and spur parameters*

---

## Description

process\_rasters\_patchmorph processes an input raster by reclassifying it based on suitability levels, and then applying gap and spur distance transformations to generate a list of processed rasters.

## Usage

```
process_rasters_patchmorph(input_raster, suitList, gapList, spurList)
```

## Arguments

input_raster	RasterLayer	The input raster to be processed.
suitList	numeric	A vector of suitability levels for reclassification.
gapList	numeric	A vector of gap distances for processing.
spurList	numeric	A vector of spur distances for processing.

## Value

list A list of processed rasters with names indicating the suitability, gap, and spur parameters used.

## Examples

```
# Define input parameters
las <- lidR::readLAS(system.file("extdata", "MixedConifer.laz", package="lidR"))
input_raster <- lidR::rasterize_canopy(las, res = 1, lidR::pitfree(c(0,2,5,10,15), c(0, 2)))
suitList <- c(0, 2, 32)
gapList <- seq(1, 8, by = 1)
```

```

spurList <- seq(1, 8, by = 1)

# Process the rasters
processed_rasters <- process_rasters_patchmorph(input_raster, suitList, gapList, spurList)

# Plot the first processed raster
plot(processed_rasters[[1]])

```

---

process\_tree\_data      *Obtain tree information by processing point cloud data*

---

### Description

process\_tree\_data processes the output of get\_raster\_eigen\_treelocs and segment\_graph to add information about the height, crown area, and diameter for each unique TreeID. It also has an optional parameter to return an sf object representing the convex hulls for each tree.

### Usage

```
process_tree_data(treeData, segmentedLAS, return_sf = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

treeData	An sf object containing the following tree information: TreeID, X, Y, Z, Radius, and Error, output from the get_raster_eigen_treelocs function.
segmentedLAS	A LAS object that is the output from segment_graph.
return_sf	logical: If TRUE, returns an sf object representing the convex hulls for each tree.

### Details

For terrestrial and mobile lidar datasets, tree locations and estimates of DBH are provided by rasterizing individual point cloud values of relative neighborhood density (at 0.3 and 1 m radius) and verticality within a slice of the normalized point cloud around breast height (1.34 m). The algorithm then uses defined threshold values to classify the resulting rasters and create unique polygons from the resulting classified raster. These point-density and verticality polygons were selected by their intersection with one another, resulting in a final set of polygons which were used to clip out regions of the point cloud that were most likely to represent tree boles. A RANSAC cylinder fitting algorithm was then used to estimate the fit of a cylinder to individual bole points. Cylinder centers and radius were used as inputs to an individual tree segmentation.



**Value**

sf object An updated sf object with the original columns plus:

**height** numeric: Height of the highest point for each TreeID.

**crown\_area** numeric: Area of the convex hull for each TreeID.

**crown\_base\_height** numeric: Height to the base of the live crown for each TreeID.

**crown\_volume** numeric: Volume of the convex hull for the crown of each TreeID.

**diameter** numeric: Diameter of the tree, calculated as twice the Radius.

If return\_sf is TRUE, returns an sf object where the geometry is the convex hulls for each tree.

If return\_sf is FALSE, returns an sf object with point geometries using treeData.

**Examples**

```
# Set the number of threads to use in lidR
set_lidr_threads(8)

LASfile = system.file("extdata", "TLS_Clip.laz", package="spanner")
las = readTLAS(LASfile, select = "xyzcr", "-filter_with_voxel 0.01")
# Don't forget to make sure the las object has a projection
sf::st_crs(las) <- 26912

# Pre-process the example lidar dataset by classifying the ground and noise points
# using lidR::csf(), normalizing it, and removing outlier points
# using lidR::ivf()
# las = classify_ground(las, csf(sloop_smooth = FALSE,
#                               class_threshold = 0.5,
#                               cloth_resolution = 0.5, rigidity = 1L,
#                               iterations = 500L, time_step = 0.65))
# las = normalize_height(las, tin())
# las = classify_noise(las, ivf(0.25, 3))
# las = filter_poi(las, Classification != LASNOISE)

# Plot the non-ground points, colored by height
# plot(filter_poi(las, Classification != 2), color = "Z")

# Find individual tree locations and attribute data
# find tree locations and attribute data
myTreeLocs = get_raster_eigen_treelocs(las = las, res = 0.025, pt_spacing = 0.0254,
                                     dens_threshold = 0.25,
                                     neigh_sizes = c(0.25, 0.15, 0.66),
                                     eigen_threshold = 0.75,
                                     grid_slice_min = 1,
                                     grid_slice_max = 2,
                                     minimum_polygon_area = 0.005,
                                     cylinder_fit_type = "ransac",
                                     max_dia = 1,
                                     SDvert = 0.33,
                                     n_pts = 20,
                                     n_best = 25,
```

```

        inliers = 0.9,
        conf = 0.99,
        max_angle = 20)

# Plot results if trees were found
if (!is.null(myTreeLocs) && nrow(myTreeLocs) > 0) {
  plot(lidR::rasterize_canopy(las, res = 0.2, p2r()))
  symbols(sf::st_coordinates(myTreeLocs)[,1], sf::st_coordinates(myTreeLocs)[,2],
         circles = myTreeLocs$Radius^2*3.14, inches = FALSE, add = TRUE, bg = 'black')
} else {
  message("No tree locations were found. Try adjusting the parameters.")
}

# Segment the point cloud
# For areas with interlocking crowns and trees of different sizes,
# enable metabolic scaling to prevent height overestimation
myTreeGraph = segment_graph(las = las, tree.locations = myTreeLocs, k = 50,
                           distance.threshold = 0.5,
                           use.metabolic.scale = FALSE,
                           ptcloud_slice_min = 1,
                           ptcloud_slice_max = 2,
                           subsample.graph = 0.1,
                           return.dense = TRUE)

# Plot it in 3D colored by treeID
plot(myTreeGraph, color = "treeID", pal=spanner_pal())

# Process the data
processed_data <- process_tree_data(myTreeLocs, myTreeGraph, return_sf = TRUE)

# Print the processed data
print(processed_data$data)
# Print the sf object if return_sf is TRUE
if (!is.null(processed_data$sf)) {
  print(processed_data$sf)
}

```

---

segment\_graph

*Segment a terrestrial point cloud using graph theory.*


---

## Description

segment\_graph returns a .las object with a new column "treeID".

## Usage

```

segment_graph(
  las,

```

```

    tree.locations,
    k = 50,
    distance.threshold = 0.33,
    use.metabolic.scale = FALSE,
    ptcloud_slice_min = 0.5,
    ptcloud_slice_max = 2,
    metabolic.scale.function = NULL,
    subsample.graph = 0.1,
    return.dense = FALSE
)

```

### Arguments

<code>las</code>	LAS normalized las object.
<code>tree.locations</code>	sf object sf object containing the following tree information: TreeID, X, Y, Z, Radius, and Error, output from the <code>get_raster_eigen_treelocs</code> function.
<code>k</code>	integer Number of nearest neighbors to be used in processing ( $k \geq 50$ suggested)
<code>distance.threshold</code>	numeric Maximum distance (in the same units as the .las) under which two points are connected in the graph object (greater than point spacing). Two points with a greater distance than this threshold are not connected in the graph for processing.
<code>use.metabolic.scale</code>	bool Use of weights in the assignment of points to a given treeID. Useful when interlocking crowns are present and trees are of different sizes.
<code>ptcloud_slice_min</code>	numeric Lower bound of point cloud slice in normalized point cloud used for treeID matching.
<code>ptcloud_slice_max</code>	numeric Upper bound of point cloud slice in normalized point cloud used for treeID matching.
<code>metabolic.scale.function</code>	string Supply your own function for defining segmentation weights based on a function of estimated tree diameter (e.g. <code>metabolic.scale.function = 'x/2'</code> ). <code>use.metabolic.scale</code> must be set to TRUE. If not supplied, defaults to metabolic scale function from Tao et al., 2015.
<code>subsample.graph</code>	numeric The subsampled point spacing to use during processing. Note: processing time increases quickly with smaller point spacing with negligible returns in accuracy.
<code>return.dense</code>	bool Decision to return the subsampled point cloud or assign treeIDs back to points in the input dense point cloud.

### Details

Performs Individual tree segmentation following ecological principles for “growing” trees based on these input locations in a graph-theory approach inspired by work of Tao and others (2015).



```

        eigen_threshold = 0.75,
        grid_slice_min = 1,
        grid_slice_max = 2,
        minimum_polygon_area = 0.005,
        cylinder_fit_type = "ransac",
        max_dia = 1,
        SDvert = 0.33,
        n_pts = 20,
        n_best = 25,
        inliers = 0.9,
        conf = 0.99,
        max_angle = 20)

# Plot results if trees were found
if (!is.null(myTreeLocs) && nrow(myTreeLocs) > 0) {
  plot(lidR::rasterize_canopy(las, res = 0.2, p2r()))
  symbols(sf::st_coordinates(myTreeLocs)[,1], sf::st_coordinates(myTreeLocs)[,2],
         circles = myTreeLocs$Radius^2*3.14, inches = FALSE, add = TRUE, bg = 'black')
} else {
  message("No tree locations were found. Try adjusting the parameters.")
}

# Segment the point cloud
# For areas with interlocking crowns and trees of different sizes,
# enable metabolic scaling to prevent height overestimation
myTreeGraph = segment_graph(las = las, tree.locations = myTreeLocs, k = 50,
                           distance.threshold = 0.5,
                           use.metabolic.scale = FALSE,
                           ptcloud_slice_min = 1,
                           ptcloud_slice_max = 2,
                           subsample.graph = 0.1,
                           return.dense = TRUE)

# Plot it in 3D colored by treeID
plot(myTreeGraph, color = "treeID", pal=spanner_pal())

# Optional: Use a custom metabolic scaling function
# myTreeGraph = segment_graph(las = las, tree.locations = myTreeLocs, k = 50,
#                             #
#                             distance.threshold = 0.5,
#                             #
#                             use.metabolic.scale = TRUE,
#                             #
#                             metabolic.scale.function = '1/((2*x)^(1/8))',
#                             #
#                             ptcloud_slice_min = 1,
#                             #
#                             ptcloud_slice_max = 2,
#                             #
#                             subsample.graph = 0.1,
#                             #
#                             return.dense = TRUE)

```

**Description**

Returns a named vector of colors for use in spanner visualizations. The palette includes 10 distinct colors suitable for categorical data visualization.

**Usage**

```
spanner_pal()
```

**Value**

A named character vector of hex color codes

**Examples**

```
# Get the palette
colors <- spanner_pal()

# Use in a plot
barplot(1:10, col = spanner_pal(), names.arg = names(spanner_pal()), las = 2)
```

---

sum\_rasters\_by\_suitability  
*Sum rasters by suitability level*

---

**Description**

sum\_rasters\_by\_suitability sums rasters from a list based on their suitability levels.

**Usage**

```
sum_rasters_by_suitability(rasters, suitList)
```

**Arguments**

rasters	list A list of rasters.
suitList	numeric A vector of suitability levels.

**Value**

list A list of summed rasters for each suitability level.

**Examples**

```
# Define input parameters
las <- lidR::readLAS(system.file("extdata", "MixedConifer.laz", package="lidR"))
input_raster <- lidR::rasterize_canopy(las, res = 1, lidR::pitfree(c(0,2,5,10,15), c(0, 2)))
suitList <- c(0, 2, 32)
gapList <- seq(1, 8, by = 1)
spurList <- seq(1, 8, by = 1)

# Process the rasters
processed_rasters <- process_rasters_patchmorph(input_raster, suitList, gapList, spurList)

# Sum rasters by suitability level
summed_rasters <- sum_rasters_by_suitability(processed_rasters, suitList)

# Call the plot_raster_by_name function to plot the raster named "suit_2_sum"
plot_raster_by_name(summed_rasters, "suit_2_sum")
```

# Index

colorize\_las, [2](#)  
create\_rotation\_gif, [4](#)  
cylinderFit, [6](#)  
  
download\_naip\_for\_las, [7](#)  
  
eigen\_metrics, [8](#)  
  
get\_raster\_eigen\_treelocs, [10](#)  
  
las2xyz, [12](#)  
  
merge\_las\_colors, [13](#)  
  
plot\_raster\_by\_name, [14](#)  
process\_rasters\_patchmorph, [15](#)  
process\_tree\_data, [16](#)  
  
segment\_graph, [18](#)  
spanner\_pal, [21](#)  
sum\_rasters\_by\_suitability, [22](#)