# Package: weathercan (via r-universe)

August 15, 2024

```
Type Package
Title Download Weather Data from Environment and Climate Change Canada
Description Provides means for downloading historical weather data
     from the Environment and Climate Change Canada website
     (<https://climate.weather.gc.ca/historical_data/search_historic_data_e.html>).
     Data can be downloaded from multiple stations and over large
     date ranges and automatically processed into a single dataset.
     Tools are also provided to identify stations either by name or
     proximity to a location.
License GPL-3
Language en-CA
BugReports https://github.com/ropensci/weathercan/issues/
LazyData TRUE
URL https://docs.ropensci.org/weathercan/,
     https://github.com/ropensci/weathercan/
Depends R (>= 3.3.0)
Imports dplyr (>= 1.0.0), httr (>= 1.4.2), lubridate (>= 1.7.1),
     memoise (>= 2.0.0), methods (>= 3.2.2), purrr (>= 0.3.4), rlang
     (>= 0.1.4), readr (>= 2.0.0), rvest (>= 0.3.4), stringi (>=
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Suggests devtools, ggplot2, htmltools, knitr, leaflet, lutz, mockery,
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VignetteBuilder knitr
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Config/testthat/edition 3
```

2 weathercan-package

Repository https://steffilazerte.r-universe.dev

RemoteUrl https://github.com/ropensci/weathercan

RemoteRef HEAD

**RemoteSha** f90bb103ee2b817ef314559aeb15ad863016e7f9

# **Contents**

| weath |                     | Easy do<br>Change |      | g oj | f we | eathe | er d | ata . | fron | Env | viron | men | t and | l Cli | imat | e   |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|------|-----|
| Index |                     |                   |      |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 22  |
|       | weather_interp      |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 20  |
|       | weather_dl          |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 18  |
|       | stations_search     |                   |      |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      |     |
|       | stations_meta       |                   |      |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      |     |
|       | stations_dl         |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 15  |
|       | stations            |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 13  |
|       | pg                  |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 12  |
|       | normals_measuremen  | nts               | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 11  |
|       | normals_dl          |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 9   |
|       | kamloops_day        |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 8   |
|       | kamloops            |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 7   |
|       | glossary_normals    |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 6   |
|       | glossary            |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 6   |
|       | flags               |                   |      |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      |     |
|       | finches             |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 5   |
|       | codes               |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | 4   |
|       | check_eccc          |                   |      |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      |     |
|       | weathercan-package. |                   | <br> |      |      |       |      |       |      |     |       |     |       |       |      | - 2 |

## **Description**

weathercan is an R package for simplifying the downloading of Historical Climate Data from the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) website (https://climate.weather.gc.ca)

#### **Details**

Bear in mind that these downloads can be fairly large and performing repeated, large downloads may use up Environment Canada's bandwidth unnecessarily. Try to stick to what you need.

There are four main aspects of this package:

- 1. Access stations lists
  - stations (a data frame listing stations)
  - stations\_search() identify stations by name or proximity to a location

weathercan-package 3

- stations\_dl() re-download/update stations data
- 2. Download weather data
- weather\_dl()
- 1. Merge weather data into other data sets through interpolation over time
- weather\_interp()
- 1. Download climate normals data
- normals\_dl()

We also include several practice data sets:

- finches
- kamloops
- kamloops\_day
- pg

As well as several vignettes:

- General Usage: vignette("usage")
- Merging and Interpolating: vignette("interpolation")
- Flags and Codes: vignette("flags")
- Weather Data Glossary: vignette("glossary")
- Climate Normals Glossary: vignette("glossary\_normals")

Online we also have some advanced articles:

- Using weathercan with tidyverse (here)
- Mapping weather data (here)

#### References

Environment and Climate Change Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change.html

```
Glossary of terms https://climate.weather.gc.ca/glossary_e.html
```

ECCC Historical Climate Data: https://climate.weather.gc.ca/

4 codes

check\_eccc

Check access to ECCC

# Description

Checks if whether there is internet access, weather data, normals data, and eccc sites are available and accessible, and whether we're NOT running on cran

# Usage

```
check_eccc()
```

# Value

FALSE if not, TRUE if so

## **Examples**

```
check_eccc()
```

codes

Meaning of climate normal 'codes'

# Description

A reference dataset containing codes matched to their meaning. Data downloaded using the normals\_dl() function contains columns indicating code. These are presented here for interpretation.

## Usage

codes

#### **Format**

A data frame with 4 rows and 2 variables:

code Code

meaning Explanation of the code

finches 5

finches

RFID Data on finch visits to feeders

# Description

RFID Data on finch visits to feeders

## Usage

finches

#### **Format**

An example dataset of finch RFID data for interpolation:

bird\_id Bird ID number

time Time

feeder\_id feeder ID

species Species

lat Latitude of station location in degree decimal format

lon Longitude of station location in degree decimal format

flags

Meaning of coded 'flags'

# Description

A reference dataset containing 'flags' matched to their meaning. Data downloaded using the weather\_dl() function contains columns indicating 'flags' these codes are presented here for interpretation.

# Usage

flags

#### **Format**

A data frame with 16 rows and 2 variables:

code Flag code

meaning Explanation of the code

6 glossary\_normals

glossary

Glossary of units and terms

#### **Description**

A reference dataset matching information on columns in data downloaded using the weather\_dl() function. Indicates the units of the data, and contains a link to the ECCC glossary page explaining the measurement.

## Usage

glossary

#### **Format**

A data frame with 77 rows and 5 variables:

interval Data interval type, 'hour', 'day', or 'month'.

ECCC\_name Original column name when downloaded directly from ECCC

weathercan\_name R-compatible name given when downloaded with the weather\_dl() function using the default argument format = TRUE.

units Units of the measurement.

ECCC\_ref Link to the glossary or reference page on the ECCC website.

glossary\_normals

Glossary of terms for Climate Normals

## **Description**

A reference dataset matching information on columns in climate normals data downloaded using the normals\_dl() function. Indicates the names and descriptions of different data measurements.

#### Usage

glossary\_normals

## **Format**

A data frame with 18 rows and 3 variables:

ECCC\_name Original measurement type from ECCC

**weathercan\_name** R-compatible name given when downloaded with the normals\_dl() function **description** Description of the measurement type from ECCC

kamloops 7

kamloops

Hourly weather data for Kamloops

## **Description**

Downloaded with weather(). Terms are more thoroughly defined here https://climate.weather.gc.ca/glossary\_e.html

## Usage

kamloops

#### **Format**

An example dataset of hourly weather data for Kamloops:

station\_name Station name

station\_id Environment Canada's station ID number. Required for downloading station data.

prov Province

lat Latitude of station location in degree decimal format

lon Longitude of station location in degree decimal format

date Date

time Time

year Year

month Month

day Day

hour Hour

qual Data quality

weather The state of the atmosphere at a specific time.

hmdx Humidex

hmdx\_flag Humidex data flag

pressure Pressure (kPa)

pressure\_flag Pressure data flag

rel\_hum Relative humidity

rel\_hum\_flag Relative humidity data flag

temp Temperature

temp\_dew Dew Point Temperature

temp\_dew\_flag Dew Point Temperature flag

visib Visibility (km)

visib\_flag Visibility data flag

8 kamloops\_day

```
wind_chill Wind Chill
wind_chill_flag Wind Chill flag
wind_dir Wind Direction (10's of degrees)
wind_dir_flag wind Direction Flag
wind_spd Wind speed km/hr
wind_spd_flag Wind speed flag
elev Elevation (m)
climate_id Climate identifier
WMO_id World Meteorological Organization Identifier
TC_id Transport Canada Identifier
```

# Source

https://climate.weather.gc.ca/index\_e.html

kamloops\_day

Daily weather data for Kamloops

# Description

Downloaded with weather(). Terms are more thoroughly defined here https://climate.weather.gc.ca/glossary\_e.html

#### Usage

kamloops\_day

#### **Format**

An example dataset of daily weather data for Kamloops:

```
station_name Station name
station_id Environment Canada's station ID number. Required for downloading station data.
prov Province
lat Latitude of station location in degree decimal format
lon Longitude of station location in degree decimal format
date Date
year Year
month Month
day Day
cool_deg_days Cool degree days
cool_deg_days_flag Cool degree days flag
```

normals\_dl 9

```
dir_max_gust Direction of max wind gust
dir_max_gust_flag Direction of max wind gust flag
heat_deg_days Heat degree days
heat_deg_days_flag Heat degree days flag
max_temp Maximum temperature
max_temp_flag Maximum temperature flag
mean_temp Mean temperature
mean_temp_flag Mean temperature flag
min_temp Minimum temperature
min_temp_flag Minimum temperature flag
snow_grnd Snow on the ground (cm)
snow_grnd_flag Snow on the ground flag
spd_max_gust Speed of the max gust km/h
spd_max_gust_flag Speed of the max gust flag
total_precip Total precipitation (any form)
total_precip_flag Total precipitation flag
total_rain Total rain (any form)
total_rain_flag Total rain flag
total_snow Total snow (any form)
total_snow_flag Total snow flag
elev Elevation (m)
climate_id Climate identifier
WMO_id World Meteorological Organization Identifier
TC_id Transport Canada Identifier
```

#### Source

https://climate.weather.gc.ca/index\_e.html

| normals_dl | Download climate normals from Environment and Climate Change |
|------------|--|
|            | Canada   |

#### **Description**

Downloads climate normals from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) for one or more stations (defined by climate\_ids). For details and units, see the glossary\_normals data frame or the glossary\_normals vignette: vignette("glossary\_normals", package = "weathercan")

10 normals\_dl

## Usage

```
normals_dl(
  climate_ids,
  normals_years = "1981-2010",
  format = TRUE,
  stn = NULL,
  verbose = FALSE,
  quiet = FALSE
)
```

#### **Arguments**

climate\_ids Character. A vector containing the Climate ID(s) of the station(s) you wish to

download data from. See the stations data frame or the stations\_search

function to find Climate IDs.

normals\_years Character. The year range for which you want climate normals. Default "1981-

2010".

format Logical. If TRUE (default) formats measurements to numeric and date accord-

ingly. Unlike weather\_dl(), normals\_dl() will always format column headings as normals data from ECCC cannot be directly made into a data frame

without doing so.

stn DEFUNCT. Now use stations\_dl() to update internal data and stations\_meta()

to check the date it was last updated.

verbose Logical. Include progress messages

quiet Logical. Suppress all messages (including messages regarding missing data,

etc.)

#### Details

Climate normals from ECCC include two types of data, averages by month for a variety of measurements as well as data relating to the frost-free period. Because these two data sources are quite different, we return them as nested data so the user can extract them as they wish. See examples for how to use the unnest() function from the tidyr package to extract the two different datasets.

The data also returns a column called meets\_wmo this reflects whether or not the climate normals for this station met the WMO standards for temperature and precipitation (i.e. both have code >= A). Each measurement column has a corresponding \_code column which reflects the data quality of that measurement (see the 1981-2010 ECCC calculations document or the 1971-2000 ECCC calculations document for more details)

Climate normals are downloaded from the url stored in option weathercan.urls.normals. To change this location use: options(weathercan.urls.normals = "your\_new\_url").

#### Value

tibble with nested normals and first/last frost data

normals\_measurements 11

## **Examples**

```
# Find the climate_id
stations_search("Brandon A", normals_years = "current")
# Download climate normals 1981-2010
n <- normals_dl(climate_ids = "5010480")</pre>
# Pull out last frost data
library(tidyr)
f <- unnest(n, frost)</pre>
# Pull out normals
nm <- unnest(n, normals)</pre>
# Download climate normals 1971-2000
n <- normals_dl(climate_ids = "5010480", normals_years = "1971-2000")</pre>
# Note that some do not have last frost dates
n$frost
# Download multiple stations for 1981-2010,
n \leftarrow normals_dl(climate_ids = c("301C3D4", "301FFNJ", "301N49A"))
# Note, putting both into the same data set can be done but makes for
# a very unweildly dataset (there is lots of repetition)
nm <- unnest(n, normals)</pre>
f <- unnest(n, frost)</pre>
both <- dplyr::full_join(nm, f)</pre>
both
```

## **Description**

A data frame listing the climate normals measurements available for each station.

#### Usage

```
normals_measurements
```

12 *pg* 

# **Format**

```
A data frame with 113,325 rows and 5 variables:
```

prov Province
station\_name Station Name
climate\_id Climate ID

normals Year range of climate normals

measurement Climate normals measurement available for this station

pg

Hourly weather data for Prince George

# Description

Downloaded with weather(). Terms are more thoroughly defined here https://climate.weather.gc.ca/glossary\_e.html

#### Usage

pg

#### **Format**

An example dataset of hourly weather data for Prince George:

station\_name Station name

station\_id Environment Canada's station ID number. Required for downloading station data.

**prov** Province

lat Latitude of station location in degree decimal format

lon Longitude of station location in degree decimal format

date Date

time Time

year Year

month Month

day Day

hour Hour

qual Data quality

weather The state of the atmosphere at a specific time.

hmdx Humidex

hmdx\_flag Humidex data flag

pressure Pressure (kPa)

stations 13

```
pressure_flag Pressure data flag
rel_hum Relative humidity
rel_hum_flag Relative humidity data flag
temp Temperature
temp_dew Dew Point Temperature
temp_dew_flag Dew Point Temperatureflag
visib Visibility (km)
visib_flag Visibility data flag
wind_chill Wind Chill
wind_chill_flag Wind Chill flag
wind_dir Wind Direction (10's of degrees)
wind_dir_flag wind Direction Flag
wind_spd Wind speed km/hr
wind_spd_flag Wind speed flag
elev Elevation (m)
climate_id Climate identifier
WMO_id World Meteorological Organization Identifier
TC_id Transport Canada Identifier
```

#### **Source**

https://climate.weather.gc.ca/index\_e.html

| stations | Access Station data downloaded from Environment and Clima | ite |
|----------|---|-----|
|          | Change Canada   |     |

## **Description**

This function access the built-in stations data frame. You can update this data frame with stations\_dl() which will update the locally stored data.

#### Usage

stations()

14 stations

#### **Format**

```
A data frame:
prov Province
station_name Station name
station_id Environment Canada's station ID number. Required for downloading station data.
climate_id Climate ID number
WMO_id Climate ID number
TC_id Climate ID number
lat Latitude of station location in degree decimal format
lon Longitude of station location in degree decimal format
elev Elevation of station location in metres
tz Local timezone excluding any Daylight Savings
interval Interval of the data measurements ('hour', 'day', 'month')
start Starting year of data record
end Ending year of data record
normals Whether current climate normals are available for that station
normals_1981_2010 Whether 1981-2010 climate normals are available for that station
normals_1971_2000 Whether 1981-2010 climate normals are available for that station
```

#### Details

You can check when this was last updated with stations\_meta().

A dataset containing station information downloaded from Environment and Climate Change Canada. Note that a station may have several station IDs, depending on how the data collection has changed over the years. Station information can be updated by running stations\_dl().

#### Source

```
https://climate.weather.gc.ca/index_e.html
```

## **Examples**

```
stations()
stations_meta()
library(dplyr)
filter(stations(), interval == "hour", normals == TRUE, prov == "MB")
```

stations\_dl 15

| stations_dl | Get available stations |  |
|-------------|------------------------|--|
|             |                        |  |

#### **Description**

This function can be used to download a Station Inventory CSV file from Environment and Climate Change Canada. This is only necessary if the station you're interested was only recently added. The 'stations' data set included in this package contains station data downloaded when the package was last compiled. This function may take a few minutes to run.

## Usage

```
stations_dl(skip = NULL, verbose = FALSE, quiet = FALSE)
```

#### **Arguments**

skip Numeric. Number of lines to skip at the beginning of the csv. If NULL, auto-

matically derived.

verbose Logical. Include progress messages

quiet Logical. Suppress all messages (including messages regarding missing data,

etc.)

#### **Details**

The stations list is downloaded from the url stored in the option weathercan.urls.stations. To change this location use options(weathercan.urls.stations = "your\_new\_url").

The list of which stations have climate normals is downloaded from the url stored in the option weathercan.urls.stations.normals. To change this location use options(weathercan.urls.normals = "your\_new\_url").

Currently there are two sets of climate normals available: 1981-2010 and 1971-2000. Whether a station has climate normals for a given year range is specified in normals\_1981\_2010 and normals\_1971\_2000, respectively.

The column normals represents the most current year range of climate normals (i.e. currently 1981-2010)

#### **Examples**

```
# Update stations data frame
stations_dl()
# Updated stations data frame is now automatically used
stations_search("Winnipeg")
```

stations\_search

stations\_meta

Show stations list meta data

# Description

Date of ECCC update and date downloaded via weathercan.

# Usage

```
stations_meta()
```

## **Examples**

```
stations_meta()
```

stations\_search

Search for stations by name or location

## **Description**

Returns stations that match the name provided OR which are within dist km of the location provided. This is designed to provide the user with information with which to decide which station to then get weather data from.

## Usage

```
stations_search(
  name = NULL,
  coords = NULL,
  dist = 10,
  interval = c("hour", "day", "month"),
  normals_years = NULL,
  normals_only = NULL,
  stn = NULL,
  starts_latest = NULL,
  ends_earliest = NULL,
  verbose = FALSE,
  quiet = FALSE
)
```

stations\_search 17

## **Arguments**

| name          | Character. A vector of length 1 or more with text against which to match. Will match station names that contain all components of name, but they can be in different orders and separated by other text.  |
|---------------|---|
| coords        | Numeric. A vector of length 2 with latitude and longitude of a place to match against. Overrides 1at and 1on if also provided.  |
| dist          | Numeric. Match all stations within this many kilometres of the coords.  |
| interval      | Character. Return only stations with data at these intervals. Must be any of "hour", "day", "month".  |
| normals_years | Character. One of NULL (default), current, 1981–2010, or 1971–2000. current returns only stations from most recent normals year range. Default NULL does not filter by climate normals. Specific year ranges return stations with normals in that period. See Details for more specifics. |
| normals_only  | DEPRECATED. Logical. Return only stations with climate normals?   |
| stn           | DEFUNCT. Now use stations_dl() to update internal data and stations_meta() to check the date it was last updated.   |
| starts_latest | Numeric. Restrict results to stations with data collection beginning in or before the specified year.   |
| ends_earliest | Numeric. Restrict results to stations with data collection ending in or after the specified year.   |
| verbose       | Logical. Include progress messages  |
| quiet         | Logical. Suppress all messages (including messages regarding missing data, etc.)  |

## **Details**

To search by coordinates, users must make sure they have the sp package installed.

The current, most recent, climate normals year range is 1981-2010.

#### Value

Returns a subset of the stations data frame which match the search parameters. If the search was by location, an extra column 'distance' shows the distance in kilometres from the location to the station. If no stations are found withing dist, the closest 10 stations are returned.

# **Examples**

```
stations_search(name = "Kamloops")
stations_search(name = "Kamloops", interval = "hour")

stations_search(name = "Ottawa", starts_latest = 1950, ends_earliest = 2010)

stations_search(name = "Ottawa", normals_years = "current")  # 1981-2010
stations_search(name = "Ottawa", normals_years = "1981-2010")  # Same as above stations_search(name = "Ottawa", normals_years = "1971-2000")  # 1971-2010
```

18 weather\_dl

```
if(requireNamespace("sf")) {
   stations_search(coords = c(53.915495, -122.739379))
}
```

weather\_dl

Download weather data from Environment and Climate Change Canada

## **Description**

Downloads data from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) for one or more stations. For details and units, see the glossary vignette (vignette("glossary", package = "weathercan")) or the glossary online https://climate.weather.gc.ca/glossary\_e.html.

# Usage

```
weather_dl(
   station_ids,
   start = NULL,
   end = NULL,
   interval = "hour",
   trim = TRUE,
   format = TRUE,
   string_as = NA,
   time_disp = "none",
   stn = NULL,
   encoding = "UTF-8",
   list_col = FALSE,
   verbose = FALSE,
   quiet = FALSE
)
```

# Arguments

| station_ids | Numeric/Character. A vector containing the ID(s) of the station(s) you wish to download data from. See the stations data frame or the stations_search function to find IDs. |
|-------------|---|
| start       | Date/Character. The start date of the data in YYYY-MM-DD format (applies to all stations_ids). Defaults to start of range.  |
| end         | Date/Character. The end date of the data in YYYY-MM-DD format (applies to all station_ids). Defaults to end of range.   |
| interval    | Character. Interval of the data, one of "hour", "day", "month".   |
| trim        | Logical. Trim missing values from the start and end of the weather dataframe.  Only applies if format = TRUE  |

weather\_dl 19

| format    | Logical. If TRUE, formats data for immediate use. If FALSE, returns data exactly as downloaded from Environment and Climate Change Canada. Useful for dealing with changes by Environment Canada to the format of data downloads. |
|-----------|---|
| string_as | Character. What value to replace character strings in a numeric measurement with. See Details.  |
| time_disp | Character. Either "none" (default) or "UTC". See details.   |
| stn       | DEFUNCT. Now use stations_dl() to update internal data and stations_meta() to check the date it was last updated.   |
| encoding  | Character. Text encoding for download.  |
| list_col  | Logical. Return data as nested data set? Defaults to FALSE. Only applies if format = TRUE   |
| verbose   | Logical. Include progress messages  |
| quiet     | Logical. Suppress all messages (including messages regarding missing data, etc.)  |

#### **Details**

Data can be returned 'raw' (format = FALSE) or can be formatted. Formatting transforms dates/times to date/time class, renames columns, and converts data to numeric where possible. If character strings are contained in traditionally numeric fields (e.g., weather speed may have values such as "< 30"), they can be replaced with a character specified by string\_as. The default is NA. Formatting also replaces data associated with certain flags with NA (M = Missing).

Start and end date can be specified, but if not, it will default to the start and end date of the range (this could result in downloading a lot of data!).

For hourly data, timezones are always "UTC", but the actual times are either local time (default; time\_disp = "none"), or UTC (time\_disp = "UTC"). When time\_disp = "none", times reflect the local time without daylight savings. This means that relative measures of time, such as "night-time", "daytime", "dawn", and "dusk" are comparable among stations in different timezones. This is useful for comparing daily cycles. When time\_disp = "UTC" the times are transformed into UTC timezone. Thus midnight in Kamloops would register as 08:00:00 (Pacific time is 8 hours behind UTC). This is useful for tracking weather events through time, but will result in odd 'daily' measures of weather (e.g., data collected in the afternoon on Sept 1 in Kamloops will be recorded as being collected on Sept 2 in UTC).

Files are downloaded from the url stored in getOption("weathercan.urls.weather"). To change this location use options(weathercan.urls.weather = "your\_new\_url").

Data is downloaded from ECCC as a series of files which are then bound together. Each file corresponds to a different month, or year, depending on the interval. Metadata (station name, lat, lon, elevation, etc.) is extracted from the start of the most recent file (i.e. most recent dates) for a given station. Note that important data (i.e. station name, lat, lon) is unlikely to change between files (i.e. dates), but some data may or may not be available depending on the date of the file (e.g., station operator was added as of April 1st 2018, so will be in all data which includes dates on or after April 2018).

#### Value

A tibble with station ID, name and weather data.

20 weather\_interp

## **Examples**

weather\_interp

Interpolate and add weather data to a dataframe

## Description

When data and the weather measurements do not perfectly line up, perform a linear interpolation between two weather measurements and merge the results into the provided dataset. Only applies to numerical weather columns (see weather for more details).

#### Usage

```
weather_interp(
  data,
  weather,
  cols = "all",
  interval = "hour",
  na_gap = 2,
  quiet = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

data Dataframe. Data with dates or times to which weather data should be added.

weather Dataframe. Weather data downloaded with weather which should be interpo-

lated and added to data.

cols Character. Vector containing the weather columns to add or 'all' for all relevant

columns. Note that some measure are omitted because they cannot be linearly

interpolated (e.g., wind direction).

weather\_interp 21

interval What interval is the weather data recorded at? "hour" or "day".

na\_gap How many hours or days (depending on the interval) is it acceptable to skip over

when interpolating over NAs (see details).

quiet Logical. Suppress all messages (including messages regarding missing data,

etc.)

#### **Details**

**Dealing with NA values** If there are NAs in the weather data, na\_gap can be used to specify a tolerance. For example, a tolerance of 2 with an interval of "hour", means that a two hour gap in data can be interpolated over (i.e. if you have data for 9AM and 11AM, but not 10AM, the data between 9AM and 11AM will be interpolated. If, however, you have 9AM and 12PM, but not 10AM or 11AM, no interpolation will happen and data between 9AM and 12PM will be returned as NA.)

## **Examples**

```
# Weather data only
head(kamloops)

# Data about finch observations at RFID feeders in Kamloops, BC
head(finches)

# Match weather to finches
finch_weather <- weather_interp(data = finches, weather = kamloops)</pre>
```

# **Index**

```
* datasets
    codes, 4
    finches, 5
    flags, 5
    glossary, 6
    {\tt glossary\_normals}, {\color{red} 6}
    kamloops, 7
    kamloops_day, 8
    normals\_measurements, 11
    pg, 12
add_weather (weather_interp), 20
check_eccc, 4
codes, 4
finches, 3, 5
flags, 5
glossary, 6
glossary_normals, 6, 9
kamloops, 3, 7
kamloops_day, 3, 8
normals_dl, 9
normals_dl(), 3
normals_measurements, 11
pg, 3, 12
stations, 2, 10, 13, 18
stations_dl, 15
stations_dl(), 3
stations_meta, 16
stations_search, 10, 16, 18
stations_search(), 2
weather, 7, 8, 12, 20
weather (weather_dl), 18
weather_dl, 18
```

```
\begin{tabular}{ll} we ather\_dl(), $3$ \\ we ather\_interp, $20$ \\ we ather\_interp(), $3$ \\ we ather can (we ather can-package), $2$ \\ we ather can-package, $2$ \\ \end{tabular}
```