

# Package: readdst (via r-universe)

October 22, 2024

**Title** Convert Distance for Windows projects to R analyses

**Version** 0.0.6.9003

**Description** Take projects built using Distance for Windows and create R scripts which duplicate the analysis. Optionally build a test suite that checks analysis results from Distance with the equivalent R results.

**Depends** R (>= 3.2.0)

**License** GPL

**LazyData** true

**Imports** Hmisc, RODBC, stringr, magrittr, mrds, testthat, plyr

**Suggests** knitr, testthat, rmarkdown

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.1

**Repository** <https://distancedevelopment.r-universe.dev>

**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/distanceDevelopment/readdst>

**RemoteRef** HEAD

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|--------------|-----------|

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|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| readdst-package | <i>Convert Distance for Windows analyses to R code</i> |
|-----------------|--|

---

## Description

This package read data and model definitions from a Distance for Windows project (.dst and .dat files) and converts models to run in the R package [mrds](#).

## Details

Usually, a workflow will look something like that below, centred around the functions [convert\\_project](#) and [run\\_analysis](#). See also the vignette shipped with the package for example output.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
library(readdst)
# load the golftees sample project and convert it
project <- system.file("Golftees-example", package="readdst")
project <- paste0(project, "/Golftees")
converted <- convert_project(project)

# run the first analysis in the project and look at model summary
```

```
analysis_1 <- run_analysis(converted[[1]], debug=TRUE)
summary(analysis_1)

## End(Not run)
```

---

build\_layer\_hierarchy *Work out the layer hierarchy in the Distance database*

---

### Description

Use the DataLayers table to work out the hierarchy of the tables and layers in the database held by Distance.

### Usage

```
build_layer_hierarchy(data_file)
```

### Arguments

data\_file        a data file to load the database from

### Author(s)

David L Miller

---

converted\_distance\_analyses  
*Converted analysis objects*

---

### Description

Once [convert\\_project](#) has been run on a project, two types of object are created: first an object of class converted\_distance\_analyses, which is just a list of converted\_distance\_analysis objects.

### Details

converted\_distance\_analysis contain all the information necessary to run a Distance for Windows model in R. Each object has the following elements:

- call string with the call to [ddf](#) to build and run the model
- aic.select maximum number of terms to select by AIC if AIC term selection has been enabled (for key plus adjustment terms models only)
- status what the status of this model was in Distance for Windows (see "Status" below)

- `env` an environment that contains data needed to run the model (data containing entire dataset in flatfile form, `obs.table` containing the observation table, `sample.table` is the sample table, `reg.table` is the region table and `units` is a matrix describing conversion factor of distance measures (effort and detection distance) to areal measurements (for density))
- `filter` string used to subset the data to get the same filter as in Distance for Windows
- `group_size` describes how size bias adjustment is conducted, and the level of hierarchy at which E(s) is computed
- `detection_by` level of design hierarchy at which detection function is computed (e.g. pooled across strata)
- `gof_intervals` if binning is done for GOF testing, cutpoints are provided here
- `estimation` what sort of weighted average is used to compute region-level density estimate
- `name` the name for this analysis, as used in Distance for Windows
- `ID` the ID number for this analysis, as used in Distance for Windows

### Status

The status code is taken from Distance for Windows to indicate whether the analysis has been run yet and what the outcome was. Status codes are as follows:

- 0 analyses has not been run in Distance for Windows yet
- 1 analysis ran without errors or warnings
- 2 analysis ran with warnings
- 3 analysis ran with errors

Note that an analysis that runs with error in Distance for Windows may run fine in R and an analysis that runs fine in Distance for Windows may not work in R. In the latter case, please consider submitting this a a bug to [github.com/distancedevelopment/distance-bugs](https://github.com/distancedevelopment/distance-bugs).

---

converted\_distance\_data

*Converted distance data*

---

### Description

If `convert_project` has been run on a project, but there are no analyses present in the project, then a list of the data will be returned. The list has one element for each data filter which was present in the project. Each element of the list has the following tables in it:

---

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| convert_project | <i>Convert a Distance for Windows project to be run in R</i> |
|-----------------|--|

---

## Description

Take each analysis in a Distance for Windows project and convert the model definition to an mrds model, data and data filters are also extracted and associated with the relevant models.

## Usage

```
convert_project(project)
```

## Arguments

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| project | a path to a project (path to the dst file with ".dst" removed from the end of the path) |
|---------|---|

## Value

an object of class `converted_distance_analyses` (if there are analyses defined), an object of class `converted_distance_data` (if no analyses are present in the project). Either way an attribute called "flatfile" is also returned with a flat version of the data.

## Details

Only CDS/MCDS/MRDS analyses are supported.

Model names are as they are in Distance for Windows (so if you have nonsensical names in Distance for Windows they will be the same in R).

## Author(s)

David L Miller

## See Also

`converted_distance_analyses` `readdst-package`

---

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| create_bins | <i>Create bins from a set of binned distances and a set of cutpoints.</i> |
|-------------|---|

---

### Description

This is an internal routine and shouldn't be necessary in normal analyses.

### Usage

```
create_bins(data, cutpoints)
```

### Arguments

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| data      | data.frame with at least the column distance. |
| cutpoints | vector of cutpoints for the bins              |

### Value

data data with two extra columns distbegin and distend.

### Author(s)

David L. Miller

---

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| db_get | <i>Get data from the Distance project database</i> |
|--------|--|

---

### Description

This function is a wrapper around either calls to [RODBC](#) (on Windows) or [mdb.get](#) (on Unix-a-like systems). Given a database file name it will return either the contents of the table (as `data.frame`), if `table=NULL` then it will return all tables and if `table=TRUE` then it will return a character vector of table names.

### Usage

```
db_get(file, table = NULL)
```

### Arguments

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| file  | the path to the database file to access   |
| table | the table to extract (if <code>NULL</code> all tables are extracted, if <code>TRUE</code> a list of tables names are extracted) |

**Value**

a `data.frame` with the contents of a database table

**Note**

Currently not implemented on Windows systems.

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <code>filter_data</code> | <i>Filter the data</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|

---

**Description**

Take the "data filters" applied by Distance for Windows to the data and use them to subset the data.

**Usage**

```
filter_data(data, data_filter)
```

**Arguments**

`data` the data to be filtered

`data_filter` a data filter to be parsed (output from [parse\\_definition.data\\_filter](#))

**Value**

a list with two elements, the data and the filter string

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| get_data | <i>Extract data from a Distance database</i> |
|----------|--|

---

**Description**

Extracts the relevant tables from the Distance for Windows database to build data that can be used with mrds or Distance.

**Usage**

```
get_data(data_file)
```

**Arguments**

data\_file      the path to a DistData.mdb file.

**Value**

a "flatfile" compatible data.frame containing all of the information necessary to make a stratified abundance/density estimate.

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| get_definitions | <i>Extract definition information from tables</i> |
|-----------------|---|

---

**Description**

Takes the "Definition" column from a table, converts it to character and puts each row in a list with names as the corresponding ID of that row.

**Usage**

```
get_definitions(file, table)
```

**Arguments**

file            the name of the .mdb file  
table          which table to extract the "Description" column from

**Value**

a list of definitions, each element of which is a character vector.



**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| get_stats | <i>Extract saved statistics for analyses</i> |
|-----------|--|

---

**Description**

At the moment only extracts the AIC and likelihood

**Usage**

```
get_stats(project_file, stats_table)
```

**Arguments**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| project_file | path to project file                        |
| stats_table  | a data.frame containing possible statistics |

**Details**

Codes used to determine the meanings of statistics are given at <https://github.com/DistanceDevelopment/readdst/wiki/distance-results-codes>.

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| get_unit_conversion | <i>Get the unit conversions for the data</i> |
|---------------------|--|

---

**Description**

Obtain a list of conversion to SI units from the units that the measurements in a Distance for Windows project are in.

**Usage**

```
get_unit_conversion(data_file)
```

**Arguments**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| data_file | Distance for Windows project data file |
|-----------|--|

**Value**

a `data.frame` with columns `Variable`, `Units` and `Conversion`, giving the variable name, the units it is measured in and the conversion factor to SI units.

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| group_size_est | <i>Estimate group size</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------|

---

**Description**

Distance for Windows includes a few different methods for accounting for group (or cluster) size (at the abundance/density estimation stage). These include using the mean group size for all observations or using a regression of size against distance or log size against distance.

**Usage**

```
group_size_est(data, group_size, model)
```

**Arguments**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <code>data</code>       | the data for this analysis                                |
| <code>group_size</code> | the <code>group_size</code> element of an analysis object |
| <code>model</code>      | a fitted model  |

**Value**

estimated cluster sizes (numeric vector of length `nrow(data)`), or `NULL` if there were no instructions on how to estimate group/cluster size

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| make_analysis | <i>Make an analysis</i> |
|---------------|-------------------------|

---

**Description**

This function calls [make\\_model](#) to create the call to [ddf](#) it also creates an environment with the data necessary to perform the call.

**Usage**

```
make_analysis(this_analysis, model_definitions, data_filters, data, transect)
```

**Arguments**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <code>this_analysis</code>     | an analysis from <a href="#">Distance</a>   |
| <code>model_definitions</code> | a list of model definitions   |
| <code>data_filters</code>      | a list of data filters  |
| <code>data</code>              | the data to use with the model (see <a href="#">get_data</a> and <a href="#">unflatfile</a> ) |
| <code>transect</code>          | the transect type   |

**Value**

a list with the following elements: a character string specifying a call to [ddf](#), an environment to run it in, the name of the analysis and it's ID.

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| make_control | <i>Make the control element of a call to ddf</i> |
|--------------|--|

---

**Description**

Build the control options for a [ddf](#) call.

**Usage**

```
make_control(md)
```

**Arguments**

|                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| <code>md</code> | model definition data to parse |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|

**Value**

character string describing the control list

---

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| make_dsmodel | <i>Build a dsmodel call</i> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|

---

**Description**

From a model definition build the dsmodel part of the model.

**Usage**

```
make_dsmodel(md)
```

**Arguments**

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| md | a model definition |
|----|--------------------|

**Value**

a character string starting with "dsmodel=" or NULL if no dsmodel component in this model

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| make_formula | <i>Build a dsmodel or mrmodel formula</i> |
|--------------|---|

---

**Description**

Build a formula, ensuring that the correct terms are factors

**Usage**

```
make_formula(md_formula, md_factors)
```

**Arguments**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| md_formula | "Formula" data from a model definition |
| md_factors | "Factors" data from a model definition |

**Value**

a character string specifying a formula, starting with "formula=~"

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| make_meta.data | <i>Build the model meta.data</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------------|

---

**Description**

From a model definition build the dsmodel part of the model.

**Usage**

```
make_meta.data(df, transect, data)
```

**Arguments**

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| df       | a data filter object       |
| transect | type of transect           |
| data     | the data used in the model |

**Value**

a character string starting with meta.data=

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| make_model | <i>Build a distance sampling analysis</i> |
|------------|---|

---

**Description**

Reproduce the corresponding call to ddf to reproduce an analysis from Distance for Windows.

**Usage**

```
make_model(this_analysis, model_definitions, data_filters, transect, data)
```

**Arguments**

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| this_analysis     | an analysis from Distance   |
| model_definitions | a list of model definitions |
| data_filters      | a list of data filters      |
| transect          | the transect type           |
| data              | the data                    |

**Value**

a character string specifying a call to ddf

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| make_mrmodel | <i>Build a mrmodel call</i> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|

---

**Description**

From a model definition build the mrmodel part of the model.

**Usage**

```
make_mrmodel(md)
```

**Arguments**

md                    a model definition

**Value**

a character string starting with "mrmodel=" or NULL if there is no mrmodel component in this model.

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| merge_results | <i>Merge results from stratified analyses</i> |
|---------------|---|

---

**Description**

In Distance for Windows, one can choose to estimate the detection function by stratum. In this case more than one detection function is returned when [run\\_analysis](#) is used to run the analysis. In order to test the statistics stored in the Distance for Windows project, one must first combine the resulting models (and their corresponding abundance and density estimates). This function performs these operations.

**Usage**

```
merge_results(models, analysis)
```

**Arguments**

- models            a list of model (ddf/ds objects)
- analysis        an analysis specification (to inform us on the stratification to be used).

**Value**

a list including the "combined" model, summary and density/abundance estimates (dht output). Note that these are almost definitely not valid objects for their respective classes, they are only to be used to test statistics.

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

*model\_description*        *Make a user-readable model description string*

---

**Description**

This takes a fitted mrdp model object and returns a string that describes the detection function fitted and the fitted model's AIC.

**Usage**

```
model_description(model)
```

**Arguments**

- model            a fitted model

**Value**

a string describing the model

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| model_selection | <i>Model selection for key plus adjustment models</i> |
|-----------------|---|

---

### Description

Run model selection for a given analysis. The returned object is exactly as if the model has been run using [ddf](#), so anything that can normally be done with a ddf object can be done with the return.

### Usage

```
model_selection(analysis, debug = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| analysis | a converted analysis   |
| debug    | display the call and name of the model before it is run, print AIC selection details |

### Details

Model selection is performed via AIC.

### Value

fitted [ddf](#) object

### Author(s)

David L Miller

---

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| parse_definition.data_filter | <i>Parse a Definition of a data filter</i> |
|------------------------------|--|

---

### Description

Given a data filter "Definition", pre-processed by [get\\_definitions](#), extract the useful information from it.

### Usage

```
parse_definition.data_filter(df)
```

### Arguments

|    |              |
|----|--------------|
| df | a definition |
|----|--------------|



**Value**

named list of defintions

**Details**

A definition consists either of a key=value pair or a name then key=value pairs separated by \ and terminated with ;.

Note that this function should be called for a single definition, usually using [lapply](#).

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

`parse_definition.model`

*Parse a Definition*

---

**Description**

Given data from a "Definition", pre-processed by [get\\_definitions](#), extract the useful information from it.

**Usage**

```
parse_definition.model(df)
```

**Arguments**

`df` a definition (vector of character strings)

**Value**

a list of lists

**Details**

See the "MCDS Command Language" section of the Distance manual for more information.

Note that this function should be called for a single definition, usually using [lapply](#).

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

```
print.converted_distance_analyses  
    Converted distance analyses table
```

---

**Description**

Prints a table of the analyses that have been converted and their status from Distance for Windows.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'converted_distance_analyses'  
print(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| x   | converted distance analyses                 |
| ... | unused additional args for S3 compatibility |

---

```
print.converted_distance_analysis  
    Print a converted distance analysis
```

---

**Description**

Prints details of an analyses that has been converted.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'converted_distance_analysis'  
print(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| x   | converted distance analyses                 |
| ... | unused additional args for S3 compatibility |

---

```
print.distance_stats_table
```

*Print tested statistics*

---

**Description**

This is simply a print method to nicely output the results of [test\\_stats](#).

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'distance_stats_table'  
print(x, ..., digits = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x                    the result of a call to [test\\_stats](#)

**Value**

just prints the results

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

---

```
run_analysis                    Run a converted distance sampling analysis
```

---

**Description**

Take a single converted analysis and run the model contained therein.

**Usage**

```
run_analysis(analysis, debug = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

analysis            a converted analysis  
debug                display the call and name of the model before it is run, print AIC selection details

**Details**

A previous call to [convert\\_project](#) will return a list of projects. Only one analysis at a time can be run with `run_analysis`. If you wish to run all the analyses in the project, see the code below using [lapply](#).

If an analysis needs to select the number of adjustment terms (for key plus adjustment detection functions) by AIC, then that selection is done at this stage.

**Value**

fitted `ddf` object

**Author(s)**

David L Miller

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
library(readdst)

# load and convert the golftees project
project <- system.file("Golftees-example", package="readdst")
project <- paste0(project, "/Golftees")
converted <- convert_project(project)

# run the first analysis
analysis_1 <- run_analysis(converted[[1]], debug=TRUE)

# look at the resulting model output
summary(analysis_1)

# run all the analyses in a project
all_analyses_run <- lapply(converted, run_analysis)

## End(Not run)
```

---

set\_covar\_names

*Set column names in data to be as in formulae*

---

**Description**

Set column names in data to be as in formulae

**Usage**

```
set_covar_names(data, covnames)
```

**Arguments**

`data` a `data.frame` of the data to be modelled  
`covnames` the covariates that are factors

---

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| stats_table | <i>Generate table of possible statistics to test</i> |
|-------------|--|

---

### Description

To use `get_stats` we need a set of statistics to test. We also require their codes (to look up in the Distance for Windows database) and their equivalent values in `mrds` (or how to calculate those values). This function provides such a table.

### Usage

```
stats_table(engine = "CDS")
```

### Arguments

`engine` which engine do we need to compute stats for?

### Value

a `data.frame` with statistics Distance for Windows collects that have equivalents in `mrds`. The `data.frame` has three columns: `Code`, the numeric code for the statistic (as used in the Distance for Windows database); `Name`, the short name for this statistic; `MRDS`, the operation required to obtain the equivalent statistic in `mrds`; `Description`, a short description of the statistic.

### Details

Data for this table (numeric code and descriptions) is from the `DistIni.mdb` which is shipped with Distance for Windows. See also <https://github.com/distancedevelopment/readdst/wiki/distance-results-codes>.

### Additional notes

Note that the Cramer-von Mises p-value as recorded in Distance for Windows is only recorded to the nearest 0.1.

### Author(s)

David L Miller

---

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| test_stats | <i>Test to see if Distance for Windows and R get the same results</i> |
|------------|---|

---

### Description

Tests the results stored in the Distance for Windows project file against those generated from running the same analysis in R.

### Usage

```
test_stats(analysis, statuses = 1, tolerance = 0.01)
```

### Arguments

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| analysis  | a converted (but not run) analysis   |
| statuses  | for which statuses should tests be run? See "Status", below (Defaults to 1: analysis that ran without error or warning in Distance for Windows). |
| tolerance | the tolerance of the test (default 0.01)   |

### Details

A previous call to [convert\\_project](#) will return a list of projects. Only one analysis at a time can be run with `test_stats`. If you wish to run all the analyses in the project, you can use [lapply](#).

### Value

a `data.frame` with five columns: `Statistic`, a description of the tested statistic; `Distance_value` the value of the statistic stored by Distance for Windows; `mrds_value` the value of the statistic calculated by `mrds`; `Difference` the proportional difference between the previous two columns (computed using [all.equal](#)); `Pass` a series of ticks, indicating that the value in the `Difference` column is less than `tolerance`.

### Status

The status code is taken from Distance for Windows to indicate whether the analysis has been run yet and what the outcome was. Status codes are as follows:

- 0 analyses has not been run in Distance for Windows yet
- 1 analysis ran without errors or warnings
- 2 analysis ran with warnings
- 3 analysis ran with errors

If an analysis has a status of 0 or 3 there will usually not be any statistics attached to the analysis, so no tests will be run.

Note that an analysis that runs with error in Distance for Windows may run fine in R and an analysis that runs fine in Distance for Windows may not work in R. In the latter case, please consider submitting this a bug to [github.com/distancedevelopment/distance-bugs](https://github.com/distancedevelopment/distance-bugs).

**Note**

Tests all available statistics.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
library(readdst)
# load the golftees sample project and convert it
project <- system.file("Golftees-example", package="readdst")
project <- paste0(project, "/Golftees")
converted <- convert_project(project)

# run tests for analysis 1
test_stats(converted[[1]])

## End(Not run)
```

---

unflatfile

*Take a flatfile data.frame and make dht-compatible data.frames*


---

**Description**

Given distance sampling survey data in flatfile format, convert it to the four tables required by [dht](#).

**Usage**

```
unflatfile(data)
```

**Value**

list of the four data.frames described in "Details".

**Details**

- region.table data.frame with two columns: Region.Label, label for the region; Area, area of the region. region.table has one row for each stratum. If there is no stratification then region.table has one entry with Area corresponding to the total survey area.
- sample.table data.frame mapping the regions to the samples (i.e. transects). There are three columns: Sample.Label, label for the sample; Region.Label, label for the region that the sample belongs to.; Effort, the effort expended in that sample (e.g. transect length).
- obs.table data.frame mapping the individual observations (objects) to regions and samples. There should be three columns: object, the observation ID; Region.Label, label for the region that the sample belongs to; Sample.Label, label for the sample.
- data a data.frame containing at least a column called distance. NOTE! If there is a column called size in the data then it will be interpreted as group/cluster size.

**Note**

Based on checkdata from package Distance.

**Author(s)**

David L. Miller

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units\_table

*Generate table of unit conversions*

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**Description**

Returns a table of conversions between the units used in Distance for Windows. This is extracted from the DistIni.mdb default database.

**Usage**

```
units_table()
```

**Author(s)**

David L Miller



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