

# Package ‘trafficCAR’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Bayesian CAR Models for Road-Segment Traffic

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**Description** Tools for simulating and modeling traffic flow on road networks using spatial conditional autoregressive (CAR) models. The package represents road systems as graphs derived from 'OpenStreetMap' data <<https://www.openstreetmap.org/>> and supports network-based spatial dependence, basic preprocessing, and visualization for spatial traffic analysis.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

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**LazyDataCompression** xz

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augment_roads	<i>Augment roads with predicted traffic quantities</i>
---------------	--

---

### Description

Adds predicted traffic outcomes (e.g. speed or volume) and relative congestion measures to a road network.

### Usage

```
augment_roads(fit, roads, probs = c(0.025, 0.975), keep_geometry = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

fit	a ‘traffic_fit’ object from ‘fit_traffic()’.
roads	an sf object or data.frame with a segment id column.
probs	length-2 numeric for equal-tail intervals.
keep_geometry	logical; if FALSE drops sf geometry.

**Value**

roads with added columns: predicted\_mean, predicted\_lo, predicted\_hi, relative\_congestion

---

build_adjacency	<i>Build segment adjacency from segment geometries</i>
-----------------	--

---

**Description**

Constructs an undirected adjacency matrix 'A' where segments are neighbors if they share a node (endpoint). Intended to be used after 'roads\_to\_segments()'.

**Usage**

```
build_adjacency(segments, crs_m = 3857, tol = 0, verbose = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

segments	An 'sf' with LINESTRING geometries and (optionally) 'seg_id'.
crs_m	Metric CRS used when 'segments' is lon/lat (for robust node keys). Default 3857.
tol	Nonnegative numeric tolerance for snapping node coordinates (in meters if projected). If 0, uses exact coordinates. Default 0.
verbose	Logical; emit simple messages. Default FALSE.

**Details**

Isolates (degree 0) are kept (all-zero rows/cols). Connected components are returned for ICAR sum-to-zero centering per component.

**Value**

A list with:

**A** Sparse symmetric adjacency matrix ('dgCMatrix').

**components** Integer vector component id (length n). Isolates are their own components.

**isolates** Logical vector (length n).

---

build_network	<i>Build a road network graph from sf LINESTRING data</i>
---------------	---

---

### Description

Build a road network graph from sf LINESTRING data

### Usage

```
build_network(  
  roads_sf,  
  crs_out = 3857,  
  node_intersections = FALSE,  
  snap_tol = 0,  
  simplify = TRUE  
)
```

### Arguments

roads_sf	An sf object with LINESTRING geometry
crs_out	Integer EPSG code for projected CRS
node_intersections	Logical; if TRUE, "node" the linework by splitting at interior intersections/junctions (via 'sf::st_union()'), so that crossings and T-junctions become graph nodes even when they are not endpoints. This may increase the number of edge segments.
snap_tol	Nonnegative numeric; optional snapping tolerance (in projected CRS units) used to merge nearly identical endpoints. Use 0 to disable.
simplify	Logical; if TRUE, remove self-loops and parallel edges.

### Value

A list with components:

- roads: cleaned sf object
- nodes: sf POINT object with node\_id
- edges: sf LINESTRING object with from, to, length
- graph: igraph object
- A: sparse adjacency matrix

---

car_precision	<i>CAR precision matrix from an adjacency matrix</i>
---------------	--

---

**Description**

Constructs the precision matrix for an intrinsic CAR (ICAR) or proper CAR model:

$$Q = \tau(D - \rho A), \quad D = \text{diag}(A\mathbf{1}).$$

**Usage**

```
car_precision(
  A,
  type = c("icar", "proper"),
  rho = 0.99,
  tau = 1,
  symmetrize = FALSE,
  check = TRUE
)
```

**Arguments**

A	Square adjacency/weight matrix (base matrix or a ‘Matrix’ sparse type). Diagonal entries are ignored (set to 0).
type	Either “icar” or “proper”.
rho	Spatial dependence parameter for proper CAR. Ignored for ICAR.
tau	Positive scalar precision multiplier.
symmetrize	If ‘TRUE’, replaces ‘A’ by ‘(A + t(A))/2’ before construction.
check	If ‘TRUE’, performs basic validation and warnings.

**Details**

For ICAR, set ‘type = “icar”’ (internally uses  $\rho = 1$ ). For proper CAR, set ‘type = “proper”’ and choose ‘rho’ so that  $D - \rho A$  is positive definite (no automatic spectral checks are performed).

**Value**

A symmetric sparse precision matrix ‘Q’ (class “dsCMatrix”).

**Examples**

```
A <- matrix(0, 4, 4)
A[1,2] <- A[2,1] <- 1
A[2,3] <- A[3,2] <- 1
A[3,4] <- A[4,3] <- 1
Q_icar <- car_precision(A, type = "icar", tau = 1)
Q_prop <- car_precision(A, type = "proper", rho = 0.9, tau = 2)
```

---

fetch_osm_roads	<i>Fetch road geometries from OpenStreetMap</i>
-----------------	---

---

### Description

Convenience wrapper around `'osmdata'` to download road geometries and return an `'sf'` object that can be passed into `'roads_to_segments()'`.

### Usage

```
fetch_osm_roads(
  place,
  key = "highway",
  value = NULL,
  extra_tags = NULL,
  layer = c("osm_lines", "osm_multilines", "osm_polygons", "osm_multipolygons"),
  quiet = TRUE,
  ...
)
```

### Arguments

place	A character place name (passed to <code>'osmdata::getbb()'</code> ) or a bounding box object accepted by <code>'osmdata::opq()'</code> .
key	OSM feature key to query. Default is <code>"highway"</code> .
value	Optional character vector of OSM feature values. For example, <code>c("primary", "secondary")'</code> .
extra_tags	Optional named list of additional tags passed to <code>'osmdata::add_osm_feature()'</code> .
layer	Which OSM layer to return. Defaults to <code>"osm_lines"</code> .
quiet	Logical; suppress osmdata messages. Default TRUE.
...	Additional arguments passed to <code>'osmdata::osmdata_sf()'</code> .

### Value

An `'sf'` object with road geometries.

fit\_car

*Fit Gaussian CAR / ICAR regression via Gibbs sampling***Description**

Fits a Gaussian regression with a CAR/ICAR latent effect:  $y = X\beta + x + \epsilon$  with  $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I)$  and  $x \sim N(0, Q^{-1})$ , where  $Q = \tau(D - \rho A)$  and  $D = \text{diag}(A1)$ . For ICAR,  $\rho = 1$ .

**Usage**

```
fit_car(
  y,
  A,
  X = NULL,
  type = c("icar", "proper"),
  rho = 0.99,
  tau = 1,
  n_iter = 2000,
  burn_in = floor(n_iter/2),
  thin = 1,
  beta_init = NULL,
  x_init = NULL,
  sigma2_init = NULL,
  b0 = NULL,
  B0 = NULL,
  a0 = 2,
  b0_sigma = 1,
  center_icar = TRUE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

y	Numeric response vector of length n.
A	Square n x n adjacency/weight matrix (base matrix or Matrix). Diagonal entries are ignored.
X	Optional n x p design matrix. If NULL, no regression is fit.
type	Either "icar" or "proper".
rho	Spatial dependence parameter for proper CAR. Ignored for ICAR.
tau	Positive scalar precision multiplier.
n_iter	Total MCMC iterations.
burn_in	Number of initial iterations to discard.
thin	Keep every thin-th draw after burn-in.
beta_init	Optional initial $\beta$ (length p).

x_init	Optional initial latent field $x$ (length $n$ ).
sigma2_init	Optional initial $\sigma^2$ (positive scalar).
b0	Prior mean for $\beta$ (length $p$ ). Default is zero vector.
B0	Prior covariance for $\beta$ ( $p \times p$ ). Default is large diagonal.
a0	Shape parameter for inverse-gamma prior on $\sigma^2$ .
b0_sigma	Scale parameter for inverse-gamma prior on $\sigma^2$ .
center_icar	Logical; if TRUE and type="icar", center $x$ to sum-to-zero within each connected component.
verbose	Logical; print coarse progress updates.

### Details

The sampler updates  $x$ ,  $\beta$  (if  $X$  is provided), and  $\sigma^2$  using Gibbs steps.

### Value

A list of class "trafficCAR\_fit" with elements:

draws List with MCMC draws  $x$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\sigma^2$ .

keep Iteration indices that were saved.

type, rho, tau Model hyperparameters used.

$y = X\beta + x + \epsilon$

---

fit_traffic	<i>Fit a Gaussian CAR traffic model (speed or travel time)</i>
-------------	--

---

### Description

This is a thin wrapper around `fit_car()` that: 1) preprocesses the outcome (log/per-distance options), 2) fits the Gaussian CAR model, 3) returns a traffic-flavored object that can be augmented back onto roads.

### Usage

```
fit_traffic(
  data,
  roads = NULL,
  A = NULL,
  segment_id_col = "segment_id",
  outcome = c("speed", "travel_time"),
  outcome_col = NULL,
  distance_col = NULL,
  per_distance = FALSE,
  transform = c("log", "identity"),
  X = NULL,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

data	data.frame with at least 'segment_id' and the outcome column.
roads	optional; an sf object or similar that contains adjacency info already used by your 'fit_car()' pipeline (depends on your package design).
A	adjacency matrix or object accepted by 'fit_car()' (recommended explicit).
segment_id_col	character; column in 'data' used to join back to roads.
outcome	character; one of "speed" or "travel_time".
outcome_col	optional character; if NULL uses 'outcome'.
distance_col	optional character; used only for travel_time when per_distance=TRUE.
per_distance	logical; only for travel_time.
transform	character; "log" or "identity".
X	optional design matrix; if NULL, uses intercept-only.
...	passed to 'fit_car()' (e.g., type="proper"/"icar", rho, priors, n_iter, burn, etc.)

**Value**

An object of class 'traffic\_fit' containing the underlying fit and transform metadata.

---

icar\_sum\_to\_zero      *Apply sum-to-zero constraint to ICAR precision*

---

**Description**

Projects onto the subspace orthogonal to the constant vector.

**Usage**

icar\_sum\_to\_zero(Q)

**Arguments**

Q                      ICAR precision matrix

**Value**

Constrained precision matrix

---

intrinsic\_car\_precision

*Intrinsic CAR (ICAR) precision matrix*


---

### Description

Constructs the intrinsic CAR precision matrix

$$Q = \tau s(D - A),$$

where  $s$  is a scaling constant chosen so that the geometric mean of the marginal variances equals 1.

### Usage

```
intrinsic_car_precision(
  A,
  tau = 1,
  scale = TRUE,
  symmetrize = FALSE,
  check = TRUE
)
```

### Arguments

A	Square adjacency/weight matrix.
tau	Positive scalar precision multiplier.
scale	Logical; if 'TRUE', applies Besag scaling.
symmetrize	If 'TRUE', replaces 'A' by '(A + t(A))/2'.
check	If 'TRUE', performs basic validation and warnings.

### Details

The resulting precision matrix is singular with rank deficiency equal to the number of connected components.

### Value

A symmetric sparse precision matrix ("dsCMatrix").

### References

Sørbye, S. H. and Rue, H. (2014). Scaling intrinsic Gaussian Markov random field priors.

---

map\_roads\_interactive *Interactive map of road-segment traffic measures*

---

### Description

Displays standard traffic quantities such as predicted speed, predicted volume, or relative congestion on an interactive map.

### Usage

```
map_roads_interactive(  
  sf_aug,  
  value = c("predicted_speed", "predicted_volume", "relative_congestion"),  
  engine = "leaflet"  
)
```

### Arguments

sf_aug	An 'sf' object returned by 'augment_roads()'.
value	Character scalar. One of: "predicted_speed", "predicted_volume", "relative_congestion".
engine	Currently only "leaflet" is supported.

### Value

A leaflet widget.

---

map\_roads\_interactive\_layers  
*Interactive map with multiple standard traffic layers*

---

### Description

Interactive map with multiple standard traffic layers

### Usage

```
map_roads_interactive_layers(  
  sf_aug,  
  values = c("predicted_speed", "relative_congestion")  
)
```

### Arguments

sf_aug	sf object with road geometries
values	Character vector of traffic measures to include.

**Value**

leaflet widget

---

moran_residuals	<i>Moran's I for trafficCAR residuals</i>
-----------------	---

---

**Description**

Computes Moran's I statistic for model residuals using the model adjacency.

**Usage**

```
moran_residuals(
  fit,
  type = c("raw", "structured", "unstructured"),
  nsim = 199,
  method = c("analytic", "permutation")
)
```

**Arguments**

fit	A 'traffic_fit' object.
type	Residual type: "raw" or "unstructured".
nsim	Number of permutations for permutation test.
method	"analytic" or "permutation".

**Value**

An object of class 'traffic\_moran'.

---

plot_mcmc_diagnostics	<i>MCMC diagnostic plots</i>
-----------------------	------------------------------

---

**Description**

MCMC diagnostic plots

**Usage**

```
plot_mcmc_diagnostics(fit)
```

**Arguments**

fit	traffic_fit
-----	-------------

**Value**

A list with components:

**plot** A 'ggplot' object of diagnostic summaries.

**summary** A data frame with columns 'parameter' and 'ess', giving the effective sample size for each parameter..

---

plot\_observed\_fitted *Plot observed vs predicted traffic values*

---

**Description**

Plot observed vs predicted traffic values

**Usage**

```
plot_observed_fitted(fit, data)
```

**Arguments**

fit	traffic_fit
data	data.frame

**Value**

ggplot

---

plot\_predicted *Plot predicted traffic outcome on road network*

---

**Description**

Plot predicted traffic outcome on road network

**Usage**

```
plot_predicted(fit, roads)
```

**Arguments**

fit	traffic_fit
roads	sf with segment_id

**Value**

ggplot

plot\_relative\_congestion

*Plot relative congestion on road network*

---

### Description

Shows systematic deviations after accounting for covariates.

### Usage

```
plot_relative_congestion(fit, roads)
```

### Arguments

fit	traffic_fit
roads	sf

### Value

ggplot

---

plot\_roads\_static

*Static map of road-segment traffic measures*

---

### Description

Static map of road-segment traffic measures

### Usage

```
plot_roads_static(  
  sf_aug,  
  value = c("predicted_speed", "predicted_volume", "relative_congestion")  
)
```

### Arguments

sf_aug	sf object with road geometries
value	One of "predicted_speed", "predicted_volume", or "relative_congestion"

### Value

ggplot object

---

plot\_traffic\_map      *Quick map helper for augmented roads*

---

**Description**

Plots road geometries colored by an augmented numeric column (e.g., posterior mean predictions or relative congestion).

**Usage**

```
plot_traffic_map(roads_aug, fill = c("predicted_mean", "relative_congestion"))
```

**Arguments**

roads\_aug      An 'sf' object returned by [augment\_roads()].

fill            Character scalar. Which column of 'roads\_aug' to map. One of "predicted\_mean" or "relative\_congestion".

**Value**

An invisible copy of 'roads\_aug', returned as an 'sf' object with the augmented columns. The function is called for its plotting side effect.

---

ppc\_summary      *Posterior predictive checks for trafficCAR fits*

---

**Description**

Computes simple posterior predictive checks comparing observed statistics to replicated data: mean, variance, and tail probabilities.

**Usage**

```
ppc_summary(fit, stats = c("mean", "var", "tail"), probs = c(0.05, 0.95))
```

**Arguments**

fit            A 'traffic\_fit' object.

stats         Statistics to compute: "mean", "var", "tail".

probs         Tail probabilities for "tail" statistic.

**Value**

An object of class 'traffic\_ppc'.

---

residuals.traffic\_fit *Residuals for trafficCAR fits*

---

### Description

Computes raw, structured (spatial), or unstructured residuals from a fitted trafficCAR model.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'traffic_fit'
residuals(object, type = c("raw", "structured", "unstructured"), ...)
```

### Arguments

object	A 'traffic_fit' object.
type	Residual type: "raw", "structured", or "unstructured".
...	Unused.

### Value

Numeric vector of residuals.

---

roads\_datasets *Example road network datasets*

---

### Description

A collection of example road network datasets provided as 'sf' objects. These datasets are intended for demonstration, testing, and benchmarking.

### Format

An object of class sf.

### Details

Each dataset contains LINESTRING road geometries suitable for use with roads\_to\_segments() and related functions.

Included datasets:

**roads\_small** Small example road network.

**roads\_cstat** Road network for College Station, TX.

---

roads_to_segments	<i>Convert road geometries to modeling segments</i>
-------------------	---

---

### Description

Takes an 'sf' object of LINESTRING/MULTILINESTRING road geometries and returns a segment-level 'sf' with stable segment IDs and metric lengths.

### Usage

```
roads_to_segments(
  roads,
  crs_m = 3857,
  keep_attrs = NULL,
  drop_zero = TRUE,
  split_at_intersections = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

### Arguments

roads	An 'sf' object with LINESTRING or MULTILINESTRING geometries.
crs_m	Metric CRS used for length calculation (and intersection splitting) when 'roads' is lon/lat. Default 3857. For best accuracy, pass a local UTM EPSG.
keep_attrs	Optional character vector of non-geometry columns to keep. If 'NULL', keeps all attributes.
drop_zero	Logical; drop segments with non-positive length. Default TRUE.
split_at_intersections	Logical; if TRUE, split lines at all intersections. Implemented via GEOS nodding ('sf::st_union' + 'sf::st_cast') Default FALSE.
verbose	Logical; emit simple messages about dropped rows. Default FALSE.

### Details

v1 behavior: \* Drops Z/M dimensions \* Casts MULTILINESTRING -> LINESTRING (one row per linestring) \* Optionally splits at intersections (nodding) when 'split\_at\_intersections=TRUE' \* Computes 'length\_m' in meters (projects if lon/lat) \* Drops empty and (optionally) zero-length segments

### Value

An 'sf' with columns: \* 'seg\_id' integer 1..n \* 'length\_m' numeric meters \* geometry LINESTRING plus kept attributes.

---

sample\_proper\_car      *Gibbs sampler for a proper CAR latent Gaussian model*

---

### Description

Model:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y \mid x, \tau &\sim N(x, \tau^{-1}I) \\
 x \mid \kappa &\sim N(0, (\kappa Q)^{-1}), \quad Q = D - \rho A \text{ (proper CAR)} \\
 \tau &\sim \text{Gamma}(a_\tau, b_\tau) \quad \text{(shape-rate)} \\
 \kappa &\sim \text{Gamma}(a_\kappa, b_\kappa) \quad \text{(shape-rate)}
 \end{aligned}$$

### Usage

```

sample_proper_car(
  y,
  A,
  rho = 0.99,
  n_iter,
  burn = 0L,
  thin = 1L,
  a_tau = 1,
  b_tau = 1,
  a_kappa = 1,
  b_kappa = 1,
  init = NULL,
  symmetrize = FALSE,
  check = TRUE
)

```

### Arguments

y	Numeric vector of observations (length n).
A	Adjacency matrix (dense or sparse). Diagonal ignored.
rho	Proper CAR dependence parameter (must satisfy car_precision checks).
n_iter	Integer number of iterations.
burn	Integer burn-in iterations to drop (default 0).
thin	Integer thinning interval (default 1).
a_tau, b_tau	Gamma(shape, rate) prior for tau.
a_kappa, b_kappa	Gamma(shape, rate) prior for kappa.
init	Optional list with elements x, tau, kappa.
symmetrize	Passed to car_precision().
check	Passed to car_precision().

**Value**

List with x (matrix), tau, kappa, and settings.

---

simplify_network	<i>Simplify a built network object by removing parallel edges (and loops)</i>
------------------	---

---

**Description**

Simplify a built network object by removing parallel edges (and loops)

**Usage**

```
simplify_network(net, keep_edge = c("first", "shortest"))
```

**Arguments**

net	A network list returned by [build_network()].
keep_edge	Which edge to keep when multiple edges connect the same unordered node pair. One of "first" or "shortest".

**Value**

A network list with updated 'edges', 'graph', and 'A' (and the same 'nodes').

---

weights_from_adjacency	<i>Construct spatial weights matrix</i>
------------------------	---

---

**Description**

Construct spatial weights matrix

**Usage**

```
weights_from_adjacency(
  A,
  style = c("binary", "row-standardized"),
  symmetrize = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

A	Adjacency matrix.
style	One of "binary" or "row-standardized".
symmetrize	Passed to adjacency coercion.

**Value**

Sparse weight matrix.

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