

# Package ‘patternator’

May 9, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Feature Extraction from Female Brown Anole Lizard Dorsal  
Patterns

**Version** 0.1.0

**Date** 2017-06-12

**Author** Seong Hyun Hwang, Rachel Myoung Moon

**Maintainer** Seong Hyun Hwang <krshh1412@gmail.com>

**Description** Provides a set of functions to efficiently recognize and clean the continuous dorsal pattern of a female brown anole lizard (*Anolis sagrei*) traced from 'ImageJ', an open platform for scientific image analysis (see <<https://imagej.net>> for more information), and extract common features such as the pattern sinuosity indices, coefficient of variation, and max-min width.

**Depends** R (>= 3.3.0)

**Imports** data.table (>= 1.10.0), graphics

**Suggests** plyr (>= 1.8.0)

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**URL** <https://github.com/stathwang/patternator>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 6.0.1

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2017-06-12 15:54:39 UTC

## Contents

anole . . . . .	2
clean_patterns . . . . .	2
extract_features . . . . .	4

<b>Index</b>	<b>6</b>
--------------	----------

---

anole	<i>Dorsal pattern image of a female brown anole lizard</i>
-------	--

---

### Description

A sample dorsal pattern pixel image of a female brown anole lizard traced from the ImageJ software.

### Usage

```
anole
```

### Format

A data.table with 1675 rows and 2 variables:

**x** x-coordinate of a pixel

**y** y-coordinate of a pixel

### References

Moon and Kamath (2016), Examining the Ecological, Morphological, and Behavioral Correlates of Dorsal Pattern Variations in Female Brown Anole Lizards (*Anolis sagrei*).

---

clean_patterns	<i>Automatically recognize, clean and label the pixels of a dorsal pattern image traced from ImageJ</i>
----------------	---

---

### Description

The function `clean_patterns` implements a k-means clustering-based automatic cleaning of the continuous dorsal pattern of a female brown anole lizard traced from the ImageJ software.

### Usage

```
clean_patterns(data, kmeans = TRUE, seed = 123, outliers = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

<code>data</code>	a data.table or data.frame: an input data should have two columns <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> in that order, indicating the x-coordinates and the y-coordinates, respectively. The columns should be of type "numeric".
<code>kmeans</code>	logical, whether to use k-means clustering to eliminate a reference pixel, if any. Defaults to TRUE. See the details below.
<code>seed</code>	a single value, interpreted as an integer with the default set to 123.
<code>outliers</code>	logical, whether to eliminate potential outliers in the x-coordinate even after removing the 1cm reference line with k-means clustering. Defaults to TRUE.

## Details

clean\_patterns implements a k-means clustering-based automatic cleaning of the continuous dorsal pattern of a female brown anole lizard, *Anolis sagrei*, traced from ImageJ, an open source image processing program designed for scientific multidimensional images. The function efficiently

- eliminates the 1cm reference pixel and possible outliers in the x direction,
- randomly chooses a mid-dorsal axis if there exist more than one,
- chooses the largest x-coordinate if multiple x-coordinates are given per y-coordinate,
- manages left or right dorsal pattern that heavily crosses over the mid-dorsal axis by first removing the mid-dorsal axis and then regrouping left and right pattern,
- removes pixels through which left or right pattern crosses over since empirically it has little impact on the values of the extracted features, see extract\_features function,
- handles left or right dorsal pattern broken with a gap

## Value

Returns a data.table object with the following three columns:

x, y the xy-coordinate of a pixel; type "numeric"

loc the location label of a pixel, one of LEFT, RIGHT, MID; type "character"

## Author(s)

Seong Hyun Hwang, Rachel Myoung Moon

## Examples

```
# load the sample dorsal pattern image
data(anole)

# plot of the pattern shows it contains the reference pixel
plot(anole$x, anole$y)

# remove the reference pixel, possible outliers and ambiguities
cleaned <- clean_patterns(anole)

# check the plot again
plot(cleaned$x, cleaned$y)
```

---

extract_features	<i>Extract quantitative features from the continuous dorsal pattern of a female brown anole lizard</i>
------------------	--

---

### Description

The function `extract_features` efficiently extracts various features such as the pattern sinuosity indices, coefficient of variation, and max-min width from the output of `clean_patterns`.

### Usage

```
extract_features(data)
```

### Arguments

<code>data</code>	a <code>data.table</code> or <code>data.frame</code> object with three columns <code>x</code> , <code>y</code> , and <code>loc</code> in that order, indicating the x-coordinate, the y-coordinate, and the location of a pixel (LEFT, RIGHT, or MID), respectively, preferably from an output of <code>clean_patterns</code> . The xy-coordinates should be of type "numeric", whereas the location should be of type "character" and capitalized.
-------------------	---

### Details

`extract_features` efficiently extracts common features from the continuous dorsal pattern of a female brown anole lizard, *Anolis sagrei*, such as the pattern sinuosity indices, coefficient of variation, and max-min width. The input data should either be a `data.table` or `data.frame` object with the columns indicating the xy-coordinates and the location of the pixels.

### Value

Returns a `data.table` object with the following columns:

`lt_psi`, `rt_psi` left/right pattern sinuosity index (PSI), computed as  $lt\_len / md\_len$  and  $rt\_len / md\_len$ , respectively

`av_psi` average pattern sinuosity index (PSI),  $(ls\_ind + rs\_ind) / 2$

`lt_pcv`, `rt_pcv` left/right pattern coefficient of variation (PCV), computed by dividing the standard deviation of the distance values between mid-dorsal axis and left/right pattern by the average distance.

`av_pcv` average pattern coefficient of variation (PCV),  $(lt\_pcv + rt\_pcv) / 2$

`max_width`, `min_width` the maximum and the minimum width between the left and the right pattern

`av_width` average width between the left and the right pattern

`pmm` pattern max-min width (PMM),  $(max\_width - min\_width) / av\_width$

`pasy` pattern asymmetry index (PASY), computed by first subtracting the distance between mid-dorsal axis and left pattern from the corresponding distance between mid-dorsal axis and right pattern and then taking the average of the resulting differences; the closer to zero it is, the more symmetric the dorsal pattern is on average

`lt_len`, `rt_len`, `md_len` the length (the count of pixels) of the left pattern, the right pattern, and the mid-dorsal axis, respectively

**Author(s)**

Seong Hyun Hwang, Rachel Myoung Moon

**Examples**

```
# load the sample dorsal pattern image
data(anole)

# clean the dorsal pattern and extract quantitative features
features <- extract_features(clean_patterns(anole))
```

# Index

\* **datasets**

  anole, [2](#)

anole, [2](#)

clean\_patterns, [2](#)

extract\_features, [4](#)