

# Package ‘echogram’

July 22, 2025

**Version** 0.1.3

**Title** Echogram Visualisation and Analysis

**Date** 2025-04-13

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Description** Easily import multi-frequency acoustic data stored in 'HAC' files (see <[doi:10.17895/ices.pub.5482](https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5482)> for more information on the format), and produce echogram visualisations with predefined or customized color palettes. It is also possible to merge consecutive echograms; mask or delete unwanted echogram areas; model and subtract background noise; and more important, develop, test and interpret different combinations of frequencies in order to perform acoustic filtering of the echogram's data.

**Depends** R (>= 3.0.0)

**License** GPL-3

**URL** <https://github.com/hvillalo/echogram>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/hvillalo/echogram/issues>

**Imports** geosphere, readHAC, pals

**Author** Héctor Villalobos [aut, cre] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6424-4050>>)

**Maintainer** Héctor Villalobos <[hvillalo@ipn.mx](mailto:hvillalo@ipn.mx)>

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-04-13 21:50:02 UTC

## Contents

add.echogram . . . . .	2
bottom.hac . . . . .	3
echo.noise . . . . .	4
echogram . . . . .	5
join.echogram . . . . .	6

mask.echogram . . . . .	7
match.echogram . . . . .	8
mergeSvmat . . . . .	10
navigation.hac . . . . .	10
noise.echogram . . . . .	11
palette.echogram . . . . .	12
position.hac . . . . .	13
read.echogram . . . . .	15
sample.echogram . . . . .	16
trim.echogram . . . . .	17

## Index 19

---

add.echogram	<i>Add two echograms</i>
--------------	--------------------------

---

### Description

This function allows addition or subtraction of Sv data matrices of corresponding echograms from two frequencies in the linear or logarithmic domain.

### Usage

```
add.echogram(echogram1, echogram2, operator = c("plus", "minus"),
             domain = c("linear", "dB"))
```

### Arguments

echogram1	an object of class “echogram” as returned by <a href="#">read.echogram</a> .
echogram2	an object of class “echogram” from a different acoustic frequency than echogram1 above.
operator	a string indicating addition (“plus”) or subtraction (“minus”). May be abbreviated.
domain	a string indicating the domain where the operation will be performed (see details).

### Details

Corresponding echograms refers to data acquired at the same time with different acoustic frequencies. In order to add echograms, the Sv data matrices must have the same dimensions. If they don't, [match.echogram](#) can be used for this purpose. It is also important to mask undesired echoes beforehand, as those belonging to the bottom and below. When domain = “dB” (the default), the Sv matrices are added as they are. When domain = “linear”, the Sv values are transformed with  $10^{(Sv/10)}$  before addition, and the result (X) is then back transformed to dB ( $10*\log_{10}(X)$ ).

### Value

An object of class “echogram” where the Sv component is the result of the performed operation.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

**See Also**[match.echogram](#), [mask.echogram](#)**Examples**

```
# import 38 and 120 kHz data from an HAC file
hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202500.hac", package = "echogram")
echo2.038 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 1)
echo2.120 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 2)

## Not run:
# attempting to add the two frequencies with unequal number of pings gives an error
add.echogram(echo2.038, echo2.120, "plus", "dB")

## End(Not run)

# running match.echogram() solves this
tmp <- match.echogram(echo2.038, echo2.120)
str(tmp) # both frequencies are in a list, need to split
echo2.038 <- tmp$echogram1
echo2.120 <- tmp$echogram2

# we don't want to add bottom echoes, mask bottom and surface from both frequencies
echo2.038m <- mask.echogram(echo2.038, surf.off = 2, bott.off = 0.2)
echo2.120m <- mask.echogram(echo2.120, surf.off = 2, bott.off = 0.2)

# adding Sv values and plot result
echo.sum <- add.echogram(echo2.038m, echo2.120m, "plus", "dB")
Min <- min(as.vector(echo.sum$Sv), na.rm=TRUE) # useful to set Sv threshold
echogram(echo.sum, Svthr=floor(Min), scheme = "EK500")

# subtract 38 from 120 kHz
echo.minus <- add.echogram(echo2.120m, echo2.038m, "minus", "dB")
Min <- min(as.vector(echo.minus$Sv), na.rm=TRUE)
echogram(echo.minus, Svthr=floor(Min), scheme = "EK500")
```

---

bottom.hac

---

*Read detected bottom range from an HAC file*


---

**Description**

This function imports, for a given acoustic channel, the detected bottom range stored in the ping tuple of an HAC file.

**Usage**

```
bottom.hac(hac, channel = NULL, plot = FALSE, maxDepth = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

hac	name of an HAC file.
channel	acoustic channel number.
plot	logical. if TRUE a plot is produced.
maxDepth	maximum depth (in m) represented in the plot.

**Details**

The acoustic channel is an integer, normally between 1 and  $n$ , where  $n$  is the number of frequencies used during data acquisition. When `channel = 1`, data from the lowest acoustic frequency is imported, while `channel = n` refers to the highest frequency present in the HAC file. By default, the function finds out the smallest channel number, because in some HAC files `channel = 0`. When a graphical representation is desired (`plot = TRUE`), the maximum displayed in the echogram depth can be provided as a negative integer with argument `maxDepth`.

**Value**

A data frame with two variables where every row represents one emitted ping:

pingTime	time of emitted ping.
detBottom	detected depth range in m.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

**Examples**

```
hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202221.hac", package="echogram")
bottom.hac( hacfile )
bottom.hac( hacfile, plot = TRUE )
```

---

echo.noise

*Sample echogram data (120 kHz)*

---

**Description**

Echogram for background noise estimation.

**Usage**

```
data("echo.noise")
```

## Details

For this echogram, recording range (500 m) has been set above the sea bottom, and there is no evident presence of biological scatters in order to facilitate the background noise estimation.

## Examples

```
data("echo.noise")
echogram(echo.noise)
```

---

echogram

*Echogram visualisation*

---

## Description

This function allows to produce echogram visualisations from imported hac data. The user can define the visualisation Sv threshold and select between two built-in color schemes or define a custom scheme.

## Usage

```
echogram(echogram, Svthr = -70, Svmax = 0, col.sep = NULL, col.nb = NULL,
         scheme = NULL, depth.grid = NULL, x.grid = NULL,
         x.ref = c("pings", "nmi", "seconds"), seabed = FALSE,
         depth.max = NULL, ping.ini = NULL, ping.max = NULL, colbar=TRUE,
         main = NULL, tformat = "%H:%M", ...)
```

## Arguments

echogram	an object of class “echogram” as returned by <a href="#">read.echogram</a> .
Svthr	Sv visualisation threshold, in decibels (dB).
Svmax	maximum Sv visualisation value, in dB.
col.sep	separation between colors. Defaults to 1 dB.
col.nb	number of colors.
scheme	color scheme for echogram, “parula” (the default), “EK500”, or “echov”. It can also be a vector of valid color names, or a function generating color names.
depth.grid	spacing between depth labels (in m).
x.grid	spacing between labels in the horizontal dimension according to x.ref.
x.ref	horizontal reference in echogram: “pings” (the default), “nmi” or “seconds”.
seabed	logical. When TRUE and data on detected bottom is present, a line is added to the echogram.
depth.max	maximum depth to visualise.
ping.ini	initial ping to visualise.
ping.max	last ping to visualise.

colbar	logical. If TRUE a color bar is added to the echogram.
main	the acoustic frequency, by default.
tformat	time format for annotating when horizontal dimension when x.ref = 'seconds'.
...	other options to image.

### Details

Besides the two built-in color schemes, the user can define its own by specifying a vector of valid color names (see examples). This function uses `imageScale` function from `sinkr` package by Marc Taylor.

### Author(s)

Héctor Villalobos

### See Also

[palette.echogram](#).

### Examples

```
# import hac file
hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202500.hac", package = "echogram")
echo2.038 <- read.echogram(hacfile)

# echogram by default
echogram(echo2.038)

# using alternative color schemes
echogram(echo2.038, Svthr = -70, col.sep = 1.5, scheme = "EK500")
echogram(echo2.038, Svthr = -70, col.sep = 3, scheme = c("white", "blue", "grey", "black"))
```

---

join.echogram

*Merge echograms*

---

### Description

This function allows to join two echograms.

### Usage

```
join.echogram(echogram1, echogram2)
```

### Arguments

echogram1	an object of class "echogram" as returned by <a href="#">read.echogram</a> .
echogram2	an object of class "echogram", preferentially contiguous in space and time with echogram1 above.

**Details**

This function is designed to join echograms of the same acoustic frequency, giving an error if frequencies differ. Desirably, echograms should be contiguous in space and time, but as this is not verified, it is possible to join non-contiguous echograms.

**Value**

An object of class “echogram” resulting from the merging operation.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

**Examples**

```
# import 38 kHz data from two consecutive HAC files
hacfile1 <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202221.hac", package = "echogram")
echo1.038 <- read.echogram(hacfile1, channel = 1)

hacfile2 <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202500.hac", package = "echogram")
echo2.038 <- read.echogram(hacfile2, channel = 1)

# join into one echogram
echo.038 <- join.echogram(echo1.038, echo2.038)
str(echo.038)
echogram(echo.038)
```

---

mask.echogram

*Mask an echogram*

---

**Description**

This function creates, and optionally applies, a mask by “blanking” portions of the Sv data matrix of an echogram.

**Usage**

```
mask.echogram(echogram, surf.off = NULL, bott.off = NULL, mask = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

echogram	an object of class “echogram” as returned by <a href="#">read.echogram</a> .
surf.off	surface offset in m defining the upper layer (referred to the surface) to be masked.
bott.off	bottom offset in m defining the bottom layer (referred to the bottom) to be masked.
mask	logical. If FALSE, the function returns a masking matrix. If TRUE (the default), the function returns a masked echogram (see details).

**Details**

The masking process consists in producing a matrix of the same dimensions as the original Sv data matrix with NA's in the masked portion and 1's otherwise. The product of both matrices gives the masked echogram.

**Value**

When mask = FALSE, a masking matrix is returned. When mask = TRUE (the default), an object of class "echogram" with the mask applied.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

**Examples**

```
# import 38 kHz data from HAC file
hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202500.hac", package = "echogram")
echo2.038 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 1)

# make a copy of the original echogram
tmp <- echo2.038

# Create a mask, which is a matrix with 1's and NA's
mask <- mask.echogram(tmp, surf.off = 1, bott.off = -1, mask = FALSE)
image(t(mask[nrow(mask):1, ]))

# Apply mask to echogram
tmp$Sv <- tmp$Sv * mask
echogram(tmp)

# By default, the function returns the masked echogram
echo2.038mask <- mask.echogram(echo2.038, surf.off = 2, bott.off = 0.2)
echogram(echo2.038mask)
```

---

match.echogram

*Match ping times from two echograms*

---

**Description**

This function verifies ping times between corresponding echograms from two frequencies, eliminating non-matching and duplicated pings.

**Usage**

```
match.echogram(echogram1, echogram2)
```



**Arguments**

- echogram1      an object of class “echogram” as returned by [read.echogram](#).
- echogram2      an object of class “echogram” from a different acoustic frequency than echogram1 above.

**Details**

Corresponding echograms refers to data acquired at the same time with different acoustic frequencies. Unmatching pings, i.e. those present in only one frequency, and duplicated pings, are identified by it's associated time and subsequently eliminated.

**Value**

A list with the two matched echograms.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos and Violeta E. González-Maynez

**See Also**

[add.echogram](#)

**Examples**

```
# import 38 and 120 kHz data from an HAC file
hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202221.hac", package = "echogram")
echo1.038 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 1)
echo1.120 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 2)

# Sv matrices have different number of pings
dim(echo1.038$Sv); dim(echo1.120$Sv)

# Apply match ping times
tmp <- match.echogram(echo1.038, echo1.120)

# split the list in the two echograms
echo1.038 <- tmp$echogram1
echo1.120 <- tmp$echogram2

# number of pings and ping times are now the same for both frequencies
dim(echo1.038$Sv); dim(echo1.120$Sv)
```

---

mergeSvmat	<i>Merge unequal Sv data matrices</i>
------------	---------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Internal function called by `read.echogram` and `merge.echogram`.

**Usage**

```
mergeSvmat(m1, m2)
```

**Arguments**

m1	First Sv data matrix.
m2	Second Sv data matrix.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

---

navigation.hac	<i>Compute bearing, navigated distance and speed</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

This function computes navigation course (bearing), navigated distance, time difference and navigation speed between GPS fixes in position data imported from an HAC file.

**Usage**

```
navigation.hac(pos)
```

**Arguments**

pos	geographic position data from an HAC file, as imported with <code>position.hac</code> .
-----	---

**Details**

The bearing and navigated distance are computed with functions `bearingRhumb` and `distVincentyEllipsoid` from package `geosphere`. This function is intended to be called inside `read.echogram`, rather than being used directly.

**Value**

A data frame with seven variables:

time.cpu	date and time from the computer CPU during data acquisition.
lon	longitudes.
lat	latitudes.
bearing	navigation course between two consecutive GPS fixes.
navdist	navigated distance between two consecutive GPS fixes.
time.dif	time difference between two consecutive GPS fixes.
navspeed	navigation speed between two consecutive GPS fixes.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

**See Also**

[position.hac](#), [bearingRhumb](#), [distVincentyEllipsoid](#).

**Examples**

```

hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202221.hac", package="echogram")
pos <- position.hac( hacfile )
pos
pos2 <- navigation.hac(pos)
pos2

```

---

noise.echogram

*Modelling ambient noise in echograms*

---

**Description**

This function allows to estimate a model of the background noise in an echogram by fitting the equation proposed by De Robertis and Higginbottom (2007).

**Usage**

```
noise.echogram(echogram, ping = NULL, dB1m = NULL, alpha = NULL, plot = TRUE, out = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

echogram	an object of class "echogram".
ping	ping number for which the Sv values are to be modeled.
dB1m	noise level at 1m from the face of the transducer.
alpha	absortion coefficient of sound in sea water for echogram's frequency.
plot	logical. If TRUE (the default) a plot of the data and adjusted model is produced.
out	logical. If TRUE an echogram with the modeled noise is returned.

### Details

The estimation of an ambient noise model for a particular acoustic frequency, eventually allows the “cleaning” of echograms by subtracting this noise.

### Value

When `plot = TRUE` and `out = FALSE` (the default), only a plot is produced. With `out = TRUE`, the function returns an object of class “echogram” with the noise modelled.

### Author(s)

Héctor Villalobos

### References

De Robertis, A. and I. Higginbottom. 2007. A post-processing technique to estimate the signal-to-noise ratio and remove echosounder background noise 64:1282–1291.

### Examples

```
# load echogram for noise estimation at 120 kHz (deep waters, no scatterers)
data("echo.noise")
attr(echo.noise$Sv, "frequency")
echogram(echo.noise, xref = "ping")

# a first look to the Sv values at ping 2
noise.echogram(echo.noise, ping = 2)

# To better adjust the model, we need to provide the absorption coefficient for 120 kHz and adjust
# the dB1m parameter. For this example, using data from a nearby CTD profile, alpha was calculated
# as being 0.03550554, while -131 dB is chosen for dB1m
noise <- noise.echogram(echo.noise, ping = 2, dB1m = -131, alpha = 0.03550554, out = TRUE)
echogram(noise)
```

---

palette.echogram

*Design color palettes for echograms*

---

### Description

This function allows to design and visualise color palettes to be used in echograms.

### Usage

```
palette.echogram(Svthr, Svmax, col.sep = NULL, col.nb = NULL, scheme = NULL, visu = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

Svthr	lower visualisation limit in decibels (dB).
Svmax	upper visualisation limit in dB.
col.sep	separation between colors in dB.
col.nb	number of colors.
scheme	color scheme for echogram, “parula” (the default), “EK500”, or “echov”. It can also be a vector of valid color names, or a function generating color names.
visu	logical. If TRUE, a visual representation of the palette is created.

**Details**

This function is mainly intended to be called by `plot.echogram`, however it is possible to use it directly in order to have a first impression of a custom color palette.

**Value**

A list with two elements

palette	a vector of colors
breaks	a vector of color breaks

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

**See Also**

[echogram](#)

**Examples**

```
palette.echogram()  
palette.echogram(Svthr=-75, col.sep=1.5, scheme="EK500", visu=TRUE)  
palette.echogram(Svthr=-81, col.sep=3, scheme=c("white", "blue", "black"), visu=TRUE)
```

---

position.hac

*Read geographic position data from an HAC file*

---

**Description**

This function imports time and geographic positions recorded by a GPS in an HAC file during data acquisition.

**Usage**

```
position.hac(hac)
```

**Arguments**

hac                    name of an HAC file

**Details**

The function looks for the Position tuple (20) in the HAC file, and if found, imports the time, latitude and longitude of GPS fixes stored in the digital echogram, as well as the CPU time of the acquisition PC.

**Value**

A data frame with four variables:

time.gps	date and time from the GPS during data acquisition.
time.cpu	date and time from the computer CPU during data acquisition.
lon	longitudes.
lat	latitudes.

**Note**

If during acoustic data acquisition the PC clock is set to UTC time, as recommended, time.gps and time.cpu will be approximately equal, because a fraction of a second is added to time.cpu to obtain a precision of 0.0001 s.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

**References**

ICES, 2005. Description of the ICES HAC Standard Data Exchange Format, Version 1.60. Technical Report 278, ICES Cooperative Research Report.

**See Also**

[navigation.hac](#)

**Examples**

```
hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202221.hac", package="echogram")
pos <- position.hac( hacfile )
pos
```

---

read.echogram	<i>Read echogram data from an HAC file</i>
---------------	--

---

### Description

This function imports from different tuples in the HAC file, the necessary information to visualise and analyse an echogram in R.

### Usage

```
read.echogram(hac, channel = NULL)
```

### Arguments

hac	name of an HAC file.
channel	acoustic channel number.

### Details

This function calls internally other echogram's functions (`postion.hac`, `navigation.hac` and `bottom.hac`) to import data from an HAC file. The acoustic channel is an integer, normally between 1 and  $n$ , where  $n$  is the number of frequencies used during data acquisition. When `channel = 1`, data from the lowest acoustic frequency is imported, while `channel = n` refers to the highest frequency present in the HAC file. By default, the function finds out the smallest channel number, because in some HAC files `channel = 0`. A text string with the frequency value (in kilohertz) is stored as an attribute of the `Sv` matrix (see examples below).

### Value

An object of class "echogram" (a list) with components:

depth	a vector of mean sample depth (in m) of length $p$ .
Sv	a $p$ by $k$ matrix of sampled values, currently the mean volume backscattering strength (Sv, in dB).
pings	a $k$ by four data frame with ping time, detected bottom depth, vessel speed and cummulated traveled distance.

### Note

Currently, `read.echogram` has been successfully tested importing HAC data from the following ping tuples: 10000 (U-32); 10030 (U-16) and 10040 (C-16).

### Author(s)

Héctor Villalobos

## References

ICES, 2005. Description of the ICES HAC Standard Data Exchange Format, Version 1.60. Technical Report 278, ICES Cooperative Research Report.

## Examples

```

hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202221.hac", package = "echogram")
echo1 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 1)
class(echo1)
str(echo1)
attr(echo1$Sv, "frequency")
echogram(echo1)

```

---

sample.echogram	<i>Select and sample data values from an echogram</i>
-----------------	---

---

## Description

This function allows to select individual pixels from an echogram and returns the Sv value, ping time and depth of the sampled pixel.

## Usage

```
sample.echogram(echogram, plot = TRUE, coords = NULL, col = "black")
```

## Arguments

echogram	an object of class “echogram” as returned by <a href="#">read.echogram</a> .
plot	logical. If TRUE (the default), the echogram to be sampled is plotted.
coords	(x, y) coordinates (in plot units) of the desired samples. They could result from previous sampling of another frequency.
col	color for the sampled points pixels.

## Details

The selection of pixels to sample can be done by clicking on the echogram or by passing the coordinates of the desired pixels to the function. The coordinates should be in plot units, and therefore, these typically come from a previous selection by clicking on another frequency’s echogram (see examples).

sample.echogram makes use of locator function, and therefore it only works in devices supported by the latter, such as X11, windows and quartz.



**Value**

A data frame with seven variables:

id	pixel id.
x	x coordinate in plot units.
y	y coordinate in plot units.
d	distance in plot units from the selected location to a valid pixel.
pingTime	time of sampled ping.
depth	depth of the sample.
Sv	Sv value.

**Author(s)**

Héctor Villalobos

**Examples**

```
# import 38 and 120 kHz data from an HAC file
hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202500.hac", package = "echogram")
echo2.038 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 1)
echo2.120 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 2)

# plot 38 kHz echogram
echogram(echo2.038)

## Not run:
# select points coordinates with the mouse
# click to select several locations and escape when done
pts038 <- sample.echogram(echo2.038)
pts038

# plot 120 kHz echogram
echogram(echo2.120)

# use the points previously selected for 38 kHz
pts120 <- sample.echogram(echo2.120, coords = pts038[, 2:3])
pts120

## End(Not run)
```

---

trim.echogram

*Trim an echogram vertically or horizontally*

---

**Description**

This function allows to trim an echogram by depth or ping number by actually trimming the underlying data matrices and vectors.

## Usage

```
trim.echogram(echogram, depth.max = NULL, ping.ini = 1, ping.end = NULL)
```

## Arguments

echogram	an object of class “echogram” as returned by <a href="#">read.echogram</a> .
depth.max	maximum depth to keep in the echogram.
ping.ini	start ping to keep.
ping.end	end ping to keep.

## Details

This function has been conceived to discard undesired data below a given depth (e.g. the sea bottom), therefore, the initial depth is always the surface, so the vertical trimming is limited to select the maximum depth.

## Value

An object of [class](#) “echogram”.

## Author(s)

Héctor Villalobos

## Examples

```
# import 38 kHz data from an HAC file
hacfile <- system.file("hac", "D20150510-T202500.hac", package = "echogram")
echo2.038 <- read.echogram(hacfile, channel = 1)

# echogram by default
echogram(echo2.038)

# trim the echogram
echo.tmp <- trim.echogram(echo2.038, depth.max = 70, ping.end = 250)
echogram(echo.tmp)
```

# Index

## \* IO

bottom.hac, 3  
position.hac, 13  
read.echogram, 15

## \* array

add.echogram, 2  
mergeSvmat, 10

## \* color

palette.echogram, 12

## \* datasets

echo.noise, 4

## \* hplot

echogram, 5

## \* manip

join.echogram, 6  
mask.echogram, 7  
match.echogram, 8  
navigation.hac, 10  
noise.echogram, 11  
sample.echogram, 16  
trim.echogram, 17

add.echogram, 2, 9

bearingRhumb, 11

bottom.hac, 3

class, 18

distVincentyEllipsoid, 11

echo.noise, 4

echogram, 5, 13

join.echogram, 6

mask.echogram, 3, 7

match.echogram, 2, 3, 8

mergeSvmat, 10

navigation.hac, 10, 14

noise.echogram, 11

palette.echogram, 6, 12

position.hac, 11, 13

read.echogram, 2, 5–7, 9, 15, 16, 18

sample.echogram, 16

trim.echogram, 17