



# PuffinPlot User Manual

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Version R:1c41ca5b, 12 June 2022

# Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
2. Installation .....	2
2.1. Requirements .....	2
2.2. Obtaining and installing PuffinPlot .....	2
3. Basic usage .....	4
3.1. Opening a file .....	4
3.2. A tour of the main window .....	5
3.3. Data model .....	6
3.4. Main window features .....	7
4. Detailed usage .....	10
4.1. Catalogue of functions .....	10
4.2. Features .....	22
4.3. Plots and other data displays .....	26
4.4. The preferences window .....	30
4.5. Annotations .....	35
4.6. Exporting graphics .....	35
4.7. Running PuffinPlot from the command line .....	37
4.8. Scripting .....	38
4.9. Creating a data bundle .....	40
5. PuffinPlot file format .....	42
5.1. General information .....	42
5.2. Sections .....	42
5.3. Treatment step fields .....	42
5.4. Required fields .....	44
5.5. Suite lines .....	45
5.6. Site lines .....	45
5.7. Sample lines .....	46
6. Acknowledgements .....	47
6.1. Libraries .....	47
6.2. Other software .....	47
6.3. People .....	47
6.4. Icon .....	48
7. Future development and bug reporting .....	49
7.1. How to report a bug .....	49
8. Citing PuffinPlot .....	50
8.1. BibTeX citation records .....	50
8.2. RIS citation records .....	51
9. Release notes .....	53

9.1. Next release .....	53
9.2. PuffinPlot 1.4.1 release notes .....	53
9.3. PuffinPlot 1.4 release notes .....	53
9.4. PuffinPlot 1.03 release notes .....	56
10. Bibliography .....	59

# Chapter 1. Introduction

This manual gives a practical guide to the usage of the PuffinPlot palaeomagnetic data analysis program. Note that it does not elucidate the principles of the analysis techniques themselves, and a working knowledge of palaeomagnetic procedures is assumed. For excellent introductions to palaeomagnetic analysis, see [Tauxe et al. \(2010\)](#) or [Butler \(1992\)](#).

If you use PuffinPlot in the creation of published work, please cite the PuffinPlot paper ([Lurcock & Florindo, 2019](#)). See [Chapter 8](#) for further details.

PuffinPlot is free software, distributed under the GNU General Public License. Please see the LICENCE file in the PuffinPlot archive for details. PuffinPlot is copyright 2012–2020 by Pontus Lurcock. The PuffinPlot website is located at <http://talvi.net/puffinplot>.

## Chapter 2. Installation

This section describes the hardware and software requirements for running PuffinPlot, and gives instructions for installing and running it.

### 2.1. Requirements

PuffinPlot runs on the Java platform (version 8 or later), which is preinstalled or freely available for a variety of operating systems, including Windows, Linux, and Mac OS X. Java is generally easy to install, but detailed instructions for installing it are beyond the scope of this manual; please consult the documentation for your operating system or visit <http://www.java.com/> for details. (If you are constrained to use an older version of Java on your system, you may still be able to run an old version of PuffinPlot: version 1.03 of PuffinPlot works on Java 7, version 1.02 on Java 6, and version 1.01 on Java 5.)

### 2.2. Obtaining and installing PuffinPlot

You may download the latest version of PuffinPlot from <https://github.com/pont-us/PuffinPlot/releases>. PuffinPlot is distributed as a single zip archive file containing the program itself (in two different variants, as detailed below) and documentation. The documentation consists of this manual (in both HTML and PDF format) and a JavaDoc folder, containing documentation for PuffinPlot's source code. The JavaDoc is only of interest to users wishing to write scripts which interface directly with PuffinPlot's internal data structures (see [Section 4.8](#)). [Table 1](#) lists the contents of the PuffinPlot archive. After downloading the archive, move it to the folder where you would like PuffinPlot installed and extract its contents there.

*Table 1. The contents of the PuffinPlot archive file*

File	Description
README	A text file briefly describing the archive.
PuffinPlot.jar	The PuffinPlot program (suitable for all operating systems)
PuffinPlot.app	The PuffinPlot program (tailored for Mac OS X)
Manual	Folder containing this manual in PDF and HTML format
JavaDoc	Folder containing internal documentation for PuffinPlot
Examples	Folder containing example data files and scripts
LICENCE	The licence under which PuffinPlot is distributed

#### 2.2.1. All operating systems

The file PuffinPlot.jar in the archive is the PuffinPlot program itself, as a cross-platform jar (Java archive) file. This file is recommended for Linux, Windows, and other non-Mac operating systems; it will also run on Mac OS X, but the specific Mac OS X version described below is usually preferable. The details of starting PuffinPlot vary between

operating systems, but double-clicking on the file `PuffinPlot.jar` is the most common method. In some cases it may be necessary to right-click on the file and select *Open with Java runtime* or some similar text from a menu. PuffinPlot can also be started from a terminal prompt by setting the current folder to the one containing PuffinPlot, and typing `java -jar PuffinPlot.jar`.

**Note for Windows users.** Under Windows, other programs may occasionally interfere with the Java platform; if you have the Java platform installed on Windows but are still unable to run jar files such as `PuffinPlot.jar`, the situation can usually be fixed by running the `jarfix` program. At the time of writing, `jarfix` may be downloaded from <http://johann.loefflmann.net/en/software/jarfix/>.

### 2.2.2. Mac OS X

The PuffinPlot archive also contains a special variant of the program for Mac OS X. This variant is packaged as a standard OS X application and conforms more nearly to OS X user interface standards than the cross-platform version described in the previous section. It is named ‘`PuffinPlot.app`’, although the extension ‘.app’ is usually hidden by Mac OS X.

In the extracted archive contents, the PuffinPlot application is shown as an icon depicting a puffin (specifically, the Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*). This application may be dragged into the Applications folder, or any other convenient place.

PuffinPlot is started by double-clicking on its application icon. Recent versions of Mac OS X include a security feature called ‘Gatekeeper’, which may prevent PuffinPlot from running. The Apple support note at <http://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT202491> gives instructions for configuring Gatekeeper to allow the execution of an ‘unidentified’ application such as PuffinPlot.

## Chapter 3. Basic usage

This section gives a brief introduction to the PuffinPlot data model and to the features of its main window.



### *A note on keyboard shortcuts*

PuffinPlot provides a large number of keyboard shortcuts for its various capabilities; most of them involve holding down the Ctrl key while pressing another key. On Mac OS X, these shortcuts use the command key rather than the Ctrl key, in accordance with Apple user interface guidelines. Throughout this manual, keyboard shortcuts will be given as (for example) Ctrl-A. Users of Mac OS X should read these shortcuts as command-A, etc.

### 3.1. Opening a file

To open a file, select ‘Open...’ from the File menu. This will allow you to choose one or more files to open from a standard file selection window. You may also select an entire folder; in this case every file within the folder will be opened and combined into a single suite. (On Mac OS X, you can’t choose a folder in the normal ‘Open file’ dialog; you have to select the ‘Open folder...’ menu item instead.) You can also open a file, folder, or group of files by dragging them onto the main PuffinPlot window.



### *Opening multiple files at once*

If you open multiple files or a whole folder, they must have the same file type, the same treatment type (thermal, alternating-field, etc.), and the same sample type (discrete or continuous). Opening, for example, a mixture of Caltech and IAPD files, or a mixture of discrete and continuous files, may result in errors during file reading.

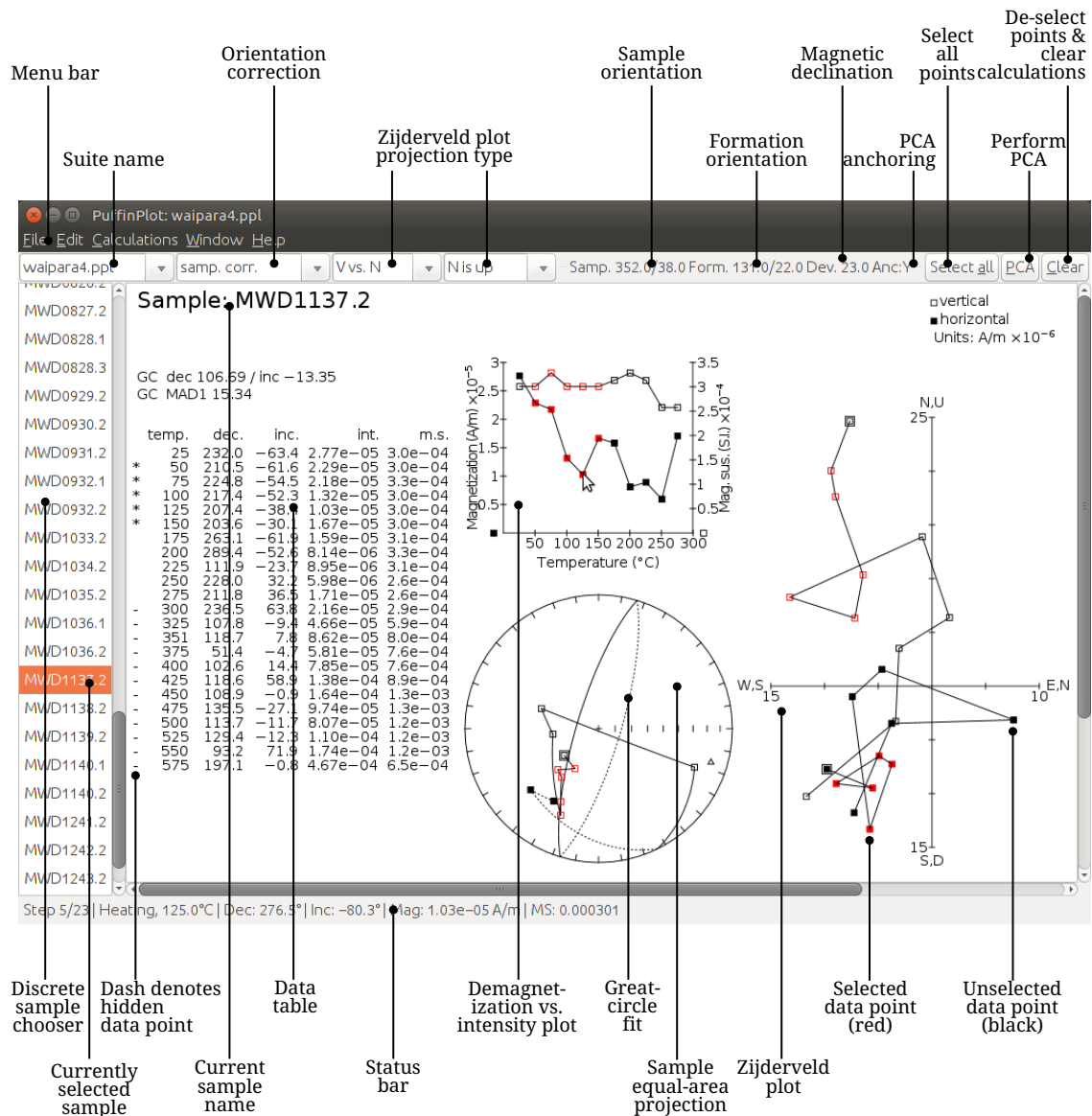


Figure 1. The main window of PuffinPlot with a discrete file loaded, showing the default data plot layout. Data plots, information displays, and controls are annotated. Note that several other data plots are available, but are not shown by default, and that the layout may be freely rearranged by the user. Data points above the 275 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  demagnetization step have been hidden.

## 3.2. A tour of the main window

Figure 1 shows an annotated screenshot of PuffinPlot's main window with a discrete sample data file open. The bulk of the window is devoted to the data display itself, and shows the four most popular data display methods for palaeomagnetic data: a table, a Zijderveld plot, an equal-area projection, and a demagnetization-intensity biplot (which also shows an overlaid magnetic susceptibility plot). The plots are interactive, in that individual data points may be selected by clicking or by dragging a rectangle with the mouse. The plot layout is configurable: the sizes and positions of the plots can be changed, and plots can be added to and removed from the display.

To the left of the main plot display area is the sample chooser, which shows a complete



list of the samples within the suite, with the currently selected sample highlighted. Multiple samples may be selected at once allowing functions such as PCA calculation to be performed *en masse*. If a long core data file is loaded, the sample chooser is shown as a vertical slider indicating depth rather than a list of sample names.

Above the main plot area is the toolbar, which gives convenient access to some of the most frequently used facilities of the program. From left to right, these are: choosers for the currently displayed data suite, the orientation correction, and the Zijderveld projection type; displays of the sample and formation orientations and magnetic declination; and buttons for three of the most commonly performed actions.

At the top of the window is the menu bar, providing access to all the program's functions in a hierarchical manner. On Mac OS, the menu bar is at the top of the screen rather than the top of the window, and includes an extra menu at the left, entitled PuffinPlot.

### 3.3. Data model

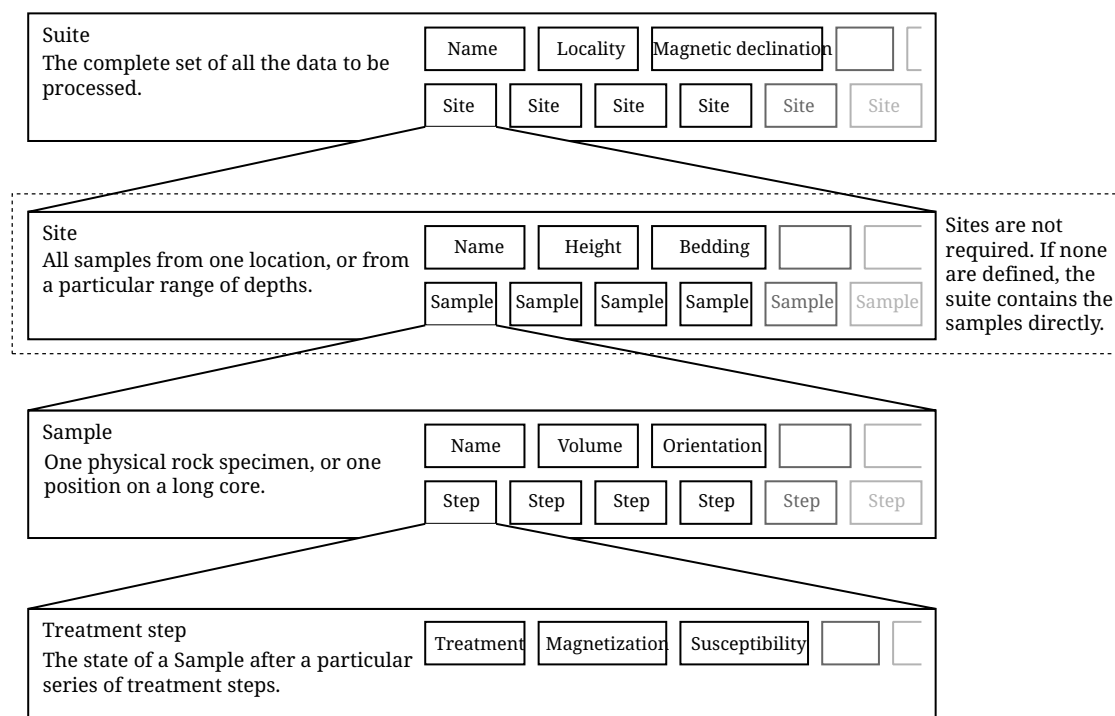


Figure 2. PuffinPlot's hierarchical data model. Each layer (except the lowest) contains multiple instances of the following layer.

PuffinPlot uses a hierarchical data structure, with higher levels containing multiple instances of each lower level. The structure is summarized in Figure 2. At the top is the *suite*, which contains all the data to be analysed as part of a particular study. For a discrete specimen study, this will typically correspond to a section in the field; for a long core study, it will correspond to a core. A suite is initially created by opening one or more data files from a magnetometer; it is saved as a file in PuffinPlot's own format. A suite can contain multiple *sites*. A site corresponds to a set of samples taken from one spot in a section (or from a particular range of depths). A site's associated data can include such things as bedding attitude and stratigraphic height, as well as calculated parameters such as the mean palaeomagnetic direction for all the samples at the site. Sites are not

required: if no sites have been defined, samples are contained directly within the suite.

Each site (or, if no sites are defined, the suite) contains multiple *samples*. A sample corresponds to a small physical volume of rock. For a discrete study, this will usually be a typical palaeomagnetic 25mm cylinder or IODP cube sample. For long cores, it is the portion of the core at a particular depth. The data associated with a sample consists of information specific to this physical unit which does not change with the application of demagnetization techniques — for example, a sample code or name (or, for long cores, a depth), the field orientation of the sample, and its volume. For discrete samples this data can also include a tensor representing anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility, which is imported separately from an Agico kappabridge datafile and collated with the magnetization data by matching the sample names. The sample can also contain calculated parameters, such as a direction fitted by principal component analysis, or a best-fitting great circle.

Each sample contains multiple *demagnetization steps*. A *step* represents a sample at a particular point during the treatment protocol. Its associated data thus includes details of the treatment: the type (thermal, AF, IRM, etc.) and parameters (temperature, field strength, etc.). The data also includes the state of the sample itself — most importantly, the measured magnetization vector. For thermal studies, the magnetic susceptibility is usually also recorded after every heating cycle, and is also stored as part of the step.

## 3.4. Main window features

This section describes the parts and functions of the main PuffinPlot window, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

### 3.4.1. Plot area

The plot area is the largest part of the window, and plots the data for the current sample using various plots. By default, four plots are shown: a demagnetization-intensity biplot, a Zijdeveld plot, an equal-area projection, and a table of demagnetization steps. The plots can be moved and resized (see [Section 4.3.2](#)). Other plots are also available, and the preferences window can be used to control which plots are displayed (see [Section 4.4](#)).

### 3.4.2. Sample chooser

The sample chooser sits at the leftmost edge of the main window, and allows you to change the current sample (the one for which data is plotted) and the set of selected samples (most of PuffinPlot's functions operate on the currently selected samples). Often, the set of selected samples will consist only of the current sample.

The sample chooser takes two forms, depending on whether the current suite of data is for discrete samples or for a continuous long core measurement.

#### Using the discrete sample chooser

The discrete sample chooser shows the names of the samples in the current suite. The selected sample or samples are highlighted in a different colour. The selected sample is

the current sample, and its data is displayed in the main plot area. If more than one sample is selected, the first of the selected samples is the current sample.

To select a single sample, click on its name. To select a contiguous range of samples, click at one end of the range, then hold down Shift while clicking at the other end of the range. To select multiple, non-contiguous samples, hold down Ctrl while clicking. To select all samples, press Ctrl-A.

### Using the continuous sample chooser

The continuous sample chooser is a vertical grey bar representing the total length of the measured core, striped with horizontal white lines representing the individual measurements at each depth. (If there are too many measurements for all the requisite white lines to be displayed, they are omitted.) A black triangle and line show the current depth; this is the depth for which the data is displayed in the main window. If there are selected samples, they are highlighted in red on the sample chooser.

To select a single depth, click on the appropriate part of the sample chooser. To scroll rapidly through a range of samples, click and drag the mouse along the sample chooser. To select a range of samples, hold down Shift, then click, drag, and release the mouse on the chooser.

### Keyboard shortcuts for sample selection

Use Ctrl-B and Ctrl-N to change the current sample. Use Ctrl-A to select all the samples in the current suite. You can also use the up and down arrow keys to change the sample.

## 3.4.3. Toolbar

The toolbar displays various data and provides several controls. From left to right, these are:

### Suite chooser

This shows the name of the current suite of data. If more than one suite of data has been opened, the suite chooser allows you to switch between them.

### Orientation correction chooser

This chooser allows you to choose whether data is displayed in laboratory co-ordinates (uncorrected), in field co-ordinates, corrected for sample orientation (samp. corr.), or in tectonic co-ordinates, corrected for both sample orientation and bedding orientation (form. corr.).

### Zijderveld vertical projection ('V vs. ...')

This chooser controls the vertical projection used in the Zijderveld plot. The y axis always corresponds to the vertical direction; the chooser controls the x axis, which may correspond to North (V vs. N) or East (V vs. E). The third option, V vs. H, projects each data point separately, in the plane containing itself and the origin; this is sometimes referred to as a 'modified Zijderveld' plot.

**Zijderveld horizontal projection ('N is up'/'W is up')**

This chooser controls the horizontal projection used in the Zijderveld plot. The upward direction on the plot can correspond to either north or west.

**Sample orientation**

(Samp). The first number is the azimuth of the sample orientation; the second is its either its dip angle or its hade, depending on the current setting in the user preferences (see [Section 4.4.4](#)). By default, PuffinPlot uses dip angle rather than hade. For a long core, the azimuth and dip will usually be 0 and 90 respectively throughout the core.

**Formation orientation**

(Form). The first number is either the azimuth of the dip for the bedding, or its strike; the second is the dip angle. By default PuffinPlot uses the dip azimuth rather than the strike, but this can be changed in the preferences window (see [Section 4.4.4](#)).

**Magnetic declination**

(Dev). This is the angle between magnetic north and true north at the sampling site. (It is abbreviated 'Dev' (for 'deviation') to avoid any possible confusion with the declinations of sample magnetizations.)

**Select all**

selects all the treatment steps in the current sample.

**PCA**

performs principal component analysis for the selected points of all the selected samples.

**Clear**

de-selects all the points in all the selected samples, and clears the results of any calculations done on them, such as PCA or great-circle analysis.

# Chapter 4. Detailed usage

This section gives a methodical account of PuffinPlot's features.

## 4.1. Catalogue of functions

This section lists all the items in PuffinPlot's menus, giving a brief description of the functionality associated with each one.

### 4.1.1. File menu

This menu contains functions connected with opening, closing, and saving files.

#### **File → Open...**

reads one or more files of demagnetization data into PuffinPlot as a new suite. See [Section 4.2.1](#) for details of supported filetypes.

#### **File → Open folder...**

reads a whole folder of data files into PuffinPlot. This menu item only appears on OS X; on other operating systems, the 'Open...' menu item also allows selection of entire folders.

#### **File → Open recent file**

is a submenu which contains the names of the last eight files which have been opened in PuffinPlot, allowing them to be opened again with a single click.

#### **File → Save**

saves the current suite as a PuffinPlot file. If the suite was opened from a PuffinPlot file or if it has been previously saved as a PuffinPlot file, it will immediately be saved to that file. If no PuffinPlot file is associated with this suite yet, a standard 'save file' dialog box will prompt you for a file name and location.

#### **File → Save as...**

allows you to save the current suite to a different filename or location.

#### **File → Close**

closes the current suite, removing it from PuffinPlot's data display.

#### **File → Export data**

is a submenu allowing the export of various kinds of data to CSV files.

#### **File → Export data → Export sample calculations...**

saves a file containing all the data associated with individual samples. [Table 2](#) describes the fields which make up the file.

*Table 2. List of fields in exported sample data file. Note that, in addition to the predefined fields, any custom user annotations (see [Section 4.5](#)) will also be exported in this file.*

Field name	Description
Suite	Suite name
Sample	Sample name (only present in discrete files)
Depth	Depth in core (only present in long core files)
NRM intensity (A/m)	NRM intensity in A/m
MS jump temp. (degC)	For thermal demagnetization, the temperature step at which the first jump in magnetic susceptibility occurs. A jump is defined as a susceptibility of at least 2.5 times the previous value.
Steps	Number of treatment steps for this sample
PCA dec. (deg)	Declination of PCA direction (°)
PCA inc. (deg)	Inclination of PCA direction (°)
PCA MAD1	The Maximum Angle of Deviation for the planar PCA fit; the smaller the value, the more coplanar the points. See <a href="#">Section 4.3.1</a> for more details.
PCA MAD3	The Maximum Angle of Deviation for the linear PCA fit; the smaller the value, the more collinear the points. See <a href="#">Section 4.3.1</a> for more details.
PCA anchored	‘Y’ if the PCA fit was anchored; ‘N’ if not
PCA equation	The Cartesian equation of the PCA best-fit line
PCA start (degC or mT)	Field (in mT) or temperature (in C) of first demagnetization step used for PCA analysis
PCA end (degC or mT)	Field (in mT) or temperature (in C) of last demagnetization step used for PCA analysis
PCA contiguous	‘Y’ if all steps between the first and last were selected for PCA; ‘N’ if any were omitted
GC dec (deg)	the declination of the pole to the fitted great circle, if any
GC inc (deg)	the inclination of the pole to the fitted great circle, if any
GC strike (deg)	the strike of the plane of the fitted great circle, if any
GC dip (deg)	the dip of the plane of the fitted great circle, if any
GC MAD1	the MAD1 value for the great circle fit, indicating goodness of fit (smaller is better). See <a href="#">Section 4.3.1</a> for more details.
GC npoints	the number of points used for the great-circle fit
MDF half-intensity (A/m)	half of the NRM (in A/m)
MDF demagnetization (degC or mT)	the treatment level at which the intensity of the sample’s remanence was reduced to half the NRM (in C or mT). If half-intensity was not reached, this column contains 0.
MDF midpoint reached	‘Y’ if magnetization intensity reached half the NRM intensity during demagnetization; ‘N’ otherwise

Field name	Description
Fisher dec.	Mean declination of treatment step directions (°)
Fisher inc.	Mean inclination of treatment step directions (°)
Fisher a95	$\alpha_{95}$ of mean treatment step direction (°)
Fisher k	$k$ -value of mean treatment step direction
Fisher nDirs	number of directions used to calculate mean
Fisher R	length of sum of directions used to calculate mean
AMS dec1	declination of major axis of AMS tensor
AMS inc1	inclination of major axis of AMS tensor
AMS dec2	declination of intermediate axis of AMS tensor
AMS inc2	inclination of intermediate axis of AMS tensor
AMS dec3	declination of minor axis of AMS tensor
AMS inc3	inclination of minor axis of AMS tensor
Initial MS	magnetic susceptibility at the first treatment step
[ <i>annotations</i> ]	Any user-defined annotations are also exported as part of the sample export file. See <a href="#">Section 4.5</a> for details.

#### File → Export data → Export site calculations...

saves a file containing all the data associated with sites. [Table 3](#) describes the fields which make up this file.

*Table 3. List of fields in exported site data file*

Field name	Description
Site	Name of site
Samples	Number of samples at this site
Fisher dec.	Mean declination of sample directions (°)
Fisher inc.	Mean inclination of sample directions (°)
Fisher a95	$\alpha_{95}$ of mean sample direction (°)
Fisher k	$k$ -value of mean sample direction
Fisher nDirs	number of directions used to calculate site mean
Fisher R	length of sum of unit direction vectors
GC valid	‘Y’ if the great-circle fit is valid, ‘N’ otherwise. See <a href="#">Section 4.4.4</a> for details on the validity test and how it may be customized.
GC dec. (deg)	Declination of great-circle direction (°)
GC inc. (deg)	Inclination of great-circle direction (°)
GC a95 (deg)	$\alpha_{95}$ for great-circle direction (°)
GC k	$k$ -value for great-circle direction

Field name	Description
GC N	Number of great circles used in great-circle fit
GC M	Number of PCA directions used in great-circle fit
GC R	length of sum of direction vectors in great-circle fit
GC min points	the smallest number of treatment steps used to define any of the great circles fitted at this site
T1min	See note below
T1max	See note below
T2min	See note below
T2max	See note below
Lat (deg)	Site latitude
Long (deg)	Site longitude
VGP lat (deg)	VGP latitude
VGP long (deg)	VGP longitude
VGP dp (deg)	$dp$ , the first semi-axis of the VGP confidence ellipse
VGP dm (deg)	$dm$ , the second semi-axis of the VGP confidence ellipse



*A note on T1min, T1max, T2min, and T2max*

These four parameters give the ranges of demagnetization steps used to fit the circles. T1 denotes the first (lowest) demagnetization step in a circle path for an individual sample, and T2 the last (highest). T1min is the minimum of the T1 values across all the circles for the site, and T1max the maximum. Similarly, T2 denotes the last step used in a single circle, and T2min–T2max is the range of its values across all the samples at a site.

**File → Export data → Export suite calculations...**

saves a CSV file containing the Fisherian parameters for mean directions calculated across the entire suite; see the documentation for the ‘Calculate → Suite means’ menu item ([Section 4.1.3](#)) for details.

**File → Export data → Export multi-suite calculations...**

saves a CSV file containing the Fisherian parameters for mean directions calculated across all the currently open suites; see the documentation for the ‘Calculate → Multi-suite means’ menu item ([Section 4.1.3](#)) for details.

**File → Export data → Export IRM data...**

saves files containing IRM acquisition data. It produces a folder of files, one for each sample in the suite. Each file is in tab-delimited text format, and each line within the file contains the IRM field strength and the magnetization intensity of the sample after application of that field.



**File → Export data → Create bundle...**

creates a *data bundle* from the current suite. This is a zip archive containing the suite data and analysis parameters, calculation results, and other files useful for exploring or reproducing the results. Data bundles are described in more detail in [Section 4.9](#).

**File → Export graphics**

is a submenu with various options for exporting the plots for the current and selected samples. See [Section 4.6](#) for full details.

**File → Import data**

is a submenu with functions to import additional data into the current suite.

**File → Import data → Append more palaeomagnetic data...**

reads a palaeomagnetic data file, like the ‘Open...’ function in the main File menu. The difference is that this function will append the data to the current suite, rather than creating a new suite for it.

**File → Import data → Import site locations...**

imports co-ordinates (latitude and longitude) for sites in the suite. These co-ordinates are used to calculate virtual geomagnetic poles from site directions. The location file should be in CSV (comma-separated value) format with no header line. Column 1 contains the site name, column 2 the latitude (degrees north from equator, negative for southern hemisphere), and column 3 the longitude (degrees east of Greenwich).

**File → Import data → Import AMS...**

imports AMS data from a file and adds it to the current suite. The file must be in the .ASC format produced by the SAFYR and SUSAR programs distributed with AGICO kappabridges. (AMS import has been tested with data from SAFYR versions 1.5 and 2.6 and SUSAR version 4.0.) The AMS data is assigned to the appropriate samples within the suite by matching the sample names specified in the ASC file with the sample names for the demagnetization data. If the AMS file contains data for samples not in the suite, these samples will be created and added to the suite. PuffinPlot reads the sample correction from the ASC file; it also reads the F1 (‘foliation 1’) orientation and uses it as the formation correction. If ASC data is being imported for existing samples, you can choose either to keep the pre-existing sample and formation corrections, or to replace one or both of them with the values read from the ASC file. AMS data is not displayed by default; the equal-area plot of AMS data can be activated from the Preferences window.

**File → Page Setup...**

opens a window allowing you to change the paper size, orientation, and margins for printing.

**File → Print...**

opens a window allowing you to print the selected samples. Note that *only* the selected samples will be printed, so if you wish to print the whole suite use ‘Edit → Select all’ first. On most systems this will also allow you to print to a PDF file; Windows users may need to install a virtual PDF printer, such as CutePDF Writer or Bullzip PDF Printer, in order to produce PDF files.

**File → Print suite EA window...**

prints the contents of a separate window showing an equal-area plot of sample/site directions through the suite; see [Section 4.1.4](#) for more details.

**File → Print site EA window...**

prints the contents of a separate window showing an equal-area plot of directions at the current site; see [Section 4.1.4](#) for more details.

**File → Run JavaScript script...**

runs a user-specified external script written in the JavaScript programming language. See [Section 4.8](#) for details.

**File → Run Python script...**

runs a user-specified external script written in the Python programming language. See [Section 4.8](#) for details.

**File → Preferences...**

opens the preferences window. See [Section 4.4](#) for details. On Mac OS X, this item is found on the PuffinPlot menu to the left of the File menu, rather than on the File menu.

**File → Quit**

terminates PuffinPlot. On Mac OS X, this item is found on the PuffinPlot menu to the left of the File menu, rather than on the File menu.

## 4.1.2. Edit menu

The Edit menu contains functions related to the manipulation of data.

**Edit → Edit layout**

allows you to reposition and resize the plots in the main display area. See [Section 4.3.2](#) for details.

**Edit → Reset layout**

resets the sizes and positions of all the plots to their default values.

**Edit → Treatment steps**

is a submenu containing editing functions related to treatment steps within a sample.

**Edit → Treatment steps → Select all steps**

selects all the treatment steps in all the selected samples, excluding treatment steps which have been hidden (see Hide steps below).

**Edit → Treatment steps → Clear step selection**

de-selects all the treatment steps in all the selected samples.

**Edit → Treatment steps → Copy step selection**

copies the selected treatment steps for the current sample to an invisible 'clipboard'. The selection can be pasted from the clipboard to other samples (see Paste point

selection), selecting the same demagnetization steps in those samples. This is useful for selecting the same treatment steps in a large number of samples without having to manually select them for each sample.

#### **Edit → Treatment steps → Paste step selection**

takes the selected treatment steps from the clipboard (see Copy step selection) and selects the corresponding treatment steps in all the selected samples.

#### **Edit → Treatment steps → Hide steps**

hides all the selected treatment steps in all the selected samples. This removes them from all the graphical plots (which will be rescaled to avoid unnecessary blank space), but not from the data table in the main plot window; on the data table, hidden treatment steps are marked with a dash symbol (–) to their left. Hidden steps can be restored using the Show all steps menu item.

#### **Edit → Treatment steps → Show all steps**

restores all hidden treatment steps in all the selected samples.

#### **Edit → Treatment steps → Merge duplicate steps**

A treatment step is considered a duplicate of another if they are both in the same sample and have the same treatment type and level. This function will replace each group of duplicate steps within the selected samples with a single step. The magnetic moment of the replacement step is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the moments of the duplicate steps. Other treatment step data, such as magnetic susceptibility, is taken from the first step in each group of duplicates.

#### **Edit → Treatment steps → Treatment step ranges...**

lets you type in one or more ranges of treatment levels and perform an operation (e.g. selection or hiding) on all the levels in these ranges in all the selected samples. You can specify a range using a hyphen and multiple ranges with commas, e.g. 1-10,50-100 or 10-20,30-40,50-60.

#### **Edit → Samples**

is a submenu containing editing functions related to whole samples.

#### **Edit → Samples → Edit sample parameters...**

opens a window which allows you to change the sample volume, sample orientation, formation orientation, and local magnetic declination for all the selected samples. Each parameter type can be individually changed without affecting the values of the others. For convenience, sample orientation can be specified using either dip angle or hade; it is possible but pointless to enter values for both of these parameters, since one will overwrite the other. Similarly, formation orientation can be specified using either dip azimuth or strike.

#### **Edit → Samples → Set treatment type...**

opens a window which allows you to change the treatment type for the selected samples. Normally, the treatment type will be automatically determined on opening a data file. If the file does not specify the treatment type, PuffinPlot will attempt to guess it. Set treatment type allows you to set the treatment type explicitly in cases

where PuffinPlot guesses wrong, or where the wrong treatment type is given in the data file.

**Edit → Samples → Rotate/invert samples**

is a submenu allowing the demagnetization data from the selected samples to be rotated 180 around a selected axis. Such functionality is rarely required but can be useful, for example, when it is found that a sample has been incorrectly oriented during measurement, or when converting between different orientation conventions.

**Edit → Samples → Rotate/invert samples → Flip samples around X axis**

rotates the magnetic moment values for all selected samples 180 around the X axis.

**Edit → Samples → Rotate/invert samples → Flip samples around Y axis**

rotates the magnetic moment values for all selected samples 180 around the Y axis.

**Edit → Samples → Rotate/invert samples → Flip samples around Z axis**

rotates the magnetic moment values for all selected samples 180 around the Z axis.

**Edit → Samples → Rotate/invert samples → Invert sample directions**

Inverts every magnetization vector in every selected sample. (Each of the x, y, and z co-ordinates of each vector is negated; this corresponds to a point reflection through the origin.)

**Edit → Samples → Rotate/invert samples → Align core section declinations...**

operates on continuous suites made up of core sections with no absolute azimuthal alignment. The alignment is carried out using PCA directions, which must be calculated before carrying out the alignment. The top core section is rotated so that the PCA direction at the top aligns with a specified reference direction; for each core section below the top section, the section is rotated so that the PCA direction at its top aligns with the PCA direction at the bottom of the core section above it. The number of samples averaged at the core ends to produce the 'top' and 'bottom' directions can be specified.

**Edit → Samples → Remove samples by depth...**

removes from the current suite all the samples outside a specified depth range.

**Edit → Samples → Remove samples by treatment type...**

removes from the current suite all the selected samples with a specified treatment type. A sample will be removed if *any* of its treatment steps is of the specified type.

**Edit → Samples → Merge duplicate samples...**

combines any selected samples that have the same name or depth. Each merged sample will contain all the treatment steps in all the duplicate samples; if any of the treatment steps are duplicated, they will be merged as described for the Merge duplicate treatment steps function.

**Edit → Samples → Rescale susceptibility...**

scales all the magnetic susceptibility values for the suite by a specified factor. This is useful since magnetic susceptibility meters typically do not report values in standard

S.I. units. Note that, unlike many PuffinPlot operations, the scaling is applied to the *entire suite*, not just the selected samples.

### **Edit → Sites**

is a submenu allowing site names to be modified for samples in various ways.

#### **Edit → Sites → Set site name...**

allows a single site name to be set for all the selected samples.

#### **Edit → Sites → Set sites from sample names...**

sets site names for the selected samples by taking specified characters from the sample names. The characters to use are specified by a list of comma-separated numbers and number ranges; for example, entering 1,3,5-8 would give each selected sample a site name composed of the first, third, and fifth to eighth characters of the sample name, so that a sample with the name FFQB0529.1 would get the site name FQ0529. The table below gives some further examples.

Sample name	Character selection	Resulting site name
FFQB0529.1	1,3,5-8	FQ0529
FFQB0529.1	4-6	B05
CiLpA-10-53	1-2,5,7-8	CiA10
CiLpA-10-53	3-4,9-11	Lp-53

#### **Edit → Sites → Set sites by depth...**

sets site names in continuous suites using the depths of the individual samples. PuffinPlot asks for a thickness value, and groups the samples within the core into sites of that thickness, effectively ‘slicing’ the core into equally thick sites. Each site is named after the shallowest depth within it.

#### **Edit → Sites → Clear sites**

removes all site names in the current suite.

### **Edit → Suite**

is a submenu of functions which affect the whole suite.

#### **Edit → Suite → Edit custom flags...**

allows you to add or remove user-defined flags for the suite; see [Section 4.5](#) for details.

#### **Edit → Suite → Edit custom notes...**

allows you to add or remove user-defined note categories for the suite; see [Section 4.5](#) for details.

#### **Edit → Suite → Discrete to continuous...**

lets you convert a discrete suite to a continuous one by replacing each sample name with an associated depth. Selecting this item brings up a dialog which lets you choose

a CSV file to open. The CSV file must consist of two columns. The first column contains sample names, and the second column contains the associated depths. The CSV file must contain a row for every sample in the suite.

### 4.1.3. Calculations menu

The calculations menu provides facilities for calculating magnetic parameters and directions. Note that most calculations operate on all the selected samples, not just the current sample.

#### Calculations → Calculate PCA

calculates a best-fitting line to all the selected points in all the selected samples, using principal component analysis ([Kirschvink, 1980](#)). The PCA direction is projected onto the Zijdeveld plot. If the 'PCA anchored' menu item (below) is ticked, the resulting PCA fit line will be anchored to the origin; if 'PCA anchored' is not ticked, the PCA fit will be unanchored.

#### Calculations → PCA anchored

is a menu item which may be toggled on or off. When it is on, a tick mark appears next to it, and PCA analyses are constrained to pass through the origin. In general, it is appropriate to anchor the PCA if the analysed points are known to represent the final demagnetization component – that is, they are trending directly towards the origin, and deviations from this path are known to be due to measurement noise rather than an offset in the true magnetization vectors. Leaving PCA unanchored allows analysis of a non-final component, provided that it is sufficiently well separated from other components.

#### Calculations → Fisher by site

calculates a Fisherian mean direction for each selected site using the PCA directions of its samples.

#### Calculations → Fisher on sample

calculates a direction for each selected sample using the Fisherian mean of the directions for the selected treatment steps. PCA is almost always preferable for establishing a reliable sample direction, but this technique can sometimes be useful for determining a polarity from very noisy data. Note that, at present, Fisherian sample directions are *not* saved as part of the PuffinPlot file, although they can easily be recalculated if the selected demagnetization points are not changed. The Fisherian mean and associated parameters are, however, included in exported sample data files (see [Table 2](#)).

#### Calculations → Suite means

calculates Fisherian means across all the selected samples. Two sets of means are actually calculated: one set is calculated from the PCA directions of individual samples, and the other from the site mean directions (if any have been computed). Note that, if there are site means computed by great-circle intersection, only those considered valid are used; see [Section 4.4.4](#) for details of the validity test. If a site has both a valid great-circle direction and a Fisherian direction calculated from PCAs, the great-circle direction will be used. Each set of means consists of an overall mean and

individual means for the upper and lower hemisphere, to cater for data sets containing reversals. Corresponding VGPs are also calculated. All these means can be exported as a CSV file using the ‘File → Export Data → Export suite calculations...’ menu item. The overall means and VGPs (but not the individual upper/lower hemisphere means) are also shown in the Suite table plot if it is active. Note that (like most PuffinPlot functions) this feature operates on all the *selected* samples; to calculate means for the entire suite you must first select all the samples.

#### **Calculations → MDF**

calculates the Median Destructive Field (or, for thermal demagnetization, the Median Destructive Temperature) of the selected samples. This is the field (or temperature) at which the intensity of the sample’s remanence has been reduced to half of its initial value. Once calculated, it is displayed on the demagnetization-intensity plot, and can be saved as part of the exported sample data. If the sample never reaches half-intensity during treatment, the MDF is undefined; in this case, it is not shown on the plot, and an MDF value of 0 is used in the exported sample data file.

#### **Calculations → Clear sample calculations**

de-selects all the points in all the selected samples, and clears the results of any calculations done on them, such as PCA or great-circle analysis.

#### **Calculations → Clear sample PCAs**

clears any PCA calculations for the currently selected samples.

#### **Calculations → Clear sample GC fits**

clears any great-circle fits on them for the currently selected samples.

#### **Calculations → Fit great circle**

calculates and displays a best-fitting great circle for all the selected points in all the selected samples.

#### **Calculations → Great circles**

calculates a best-fitting direction for all the great circles fitted at the sites corresponding to the currently selected samples, using the algorithm of [McFadden & McElhinny \(1988\)](#). For any sample which has a PCA direction but no fitted great circle, the PCA direction will be used as an endpoint. The great-circle fit is shown both in the Equal-area (site) plot in the main window (if this plot has been activated in the preferences), and in a separate window which is opened automatically.

#### **Calculations → Clear site calculations**

clears the results of any calculations associated with the selected *sites* (as opposed to samples); at present, this amounts to clearing the best-fit great-circle direction for each selected site.

#### **Calculations → Multi-suite means**

calculates Fisherian means across all the samples in *all* the currently opened suites. the results are not plotted, but they are shown in a pop-up window and can be saved using the ‘File → Export data → Export multi-suite calculations...’ menu item.

**Calculations → AMS**

is a submenu containing various functions for AMS calculation. PuffinPlot can show the results of statistical calculations on AMS tensors, giving mean directions and confidence ellipses for the principal axes by one of three methods; at present, however, these calculations cannot be performed by PuffinPlot itself. Instead, it makes use of two Python scripts from the PmagPy suite (Tauxe et al., 2010), `bootams.py` and `s_hext.py`. In order to calculate AMS statistics, these scripts must first be installed on the computer running PuffinPlot, and the folder containing them must be specified in the Preferences window. The PmagPy programs may be obtained from <http://earthref.org/PMagPy/>. All AMS calculations operate on the currently selected samples, except for ‘Clear AMS’, which operates on the entire suite. Tauxe et al. (1998) and chapter 13 of Tauxe et al. (2010) give more details of tensor statistics, particularly with regard to the application of bootstrap methods.

**Calculations → AMS → Calculate bootstrap AMS**

calculates bootstrap statistics using the `bootams.py` program, producing Kent error ellipses which are shown on the AMS plot in the main window.

**Calculations → AMS → Parametric bootstrap AMS**

calculates bootstrap statistics using the `bootams.py` program, producing Kent error ellipses which are shown on the AMS plot. It differs from the previous function in employing a parametric bootstrap, which can provide more realistic confidence intervals for small numbers of samples on the (often reasonable) assumption that measurement uncertainties are normally distributed across the selected samples.

**Calculations → AMS → Calculate Hext on AMS**

calculates Hext (1963) statistics using the `s_hext.py` program and displays the mean directions and error ellipses on the AMS plot.

**Calculations → AMS → Clear AMS calculations**

Clears any previously done bootstrap and Hext calculations.

**Calculate RPI...**

calculates relative palaeointensity using two open suites. One suite provides the NRM, the other provides the normalizing value from ARM or magnetic susceptibility. RPI calculations are saved directly to a CSV file; the RPI estimate can also be shown in the RPI plot.

**4.1.4. Window menu**

This menu allows you to open or close auxiliary windows.

**Window → Data table**

opens (or closes) a window showing all the demagnetization data for the current sample as a table. This table is far more extensive than the brief table displayed in the main window, and allows data to be selected and copied to the clipboard so that it can be pasted into a spreadsheet or text editor. Right-clicking on a row in the table selects or deselects the corresponding treatment step for analysis, much like clicking on a line in the treatment step table in the main window.



**Window → Site equal-area plot**

opens (or closes) a window containing an equal-area plot for the current site; the plot is created by selecting the ‘Calculations → Fisher by site’ or ‘Calculations → Great circles’ menu items, and may be printed using the ‘File → Print site EA window...’ menu item. Note that the main display area provides a similar plot; this window can be useful for a quick inspection of site data at a larger scale without editing the main plot layout.

**Window → Suite equal-area plot**

opens (or closes) a window containing an equal-area plot of sample or site directions across the whole suite; the plot is created by selecting the ‘Calculations → Suite means’ menu item, and may be printed using the ‘File → Print suite EA window...’ menu item. Note that the main display area provides a similar plot; this window can be useful for a quick inspection of suite data at a larger scale without editing the main plot layout.

## 4.1.5. Help menu

**Help → PuffinPlot website**

opens the PuffinPlot website using the default web browser.

**Help → Cite PuffinPlot...**

opens a window containing information on the PuffinPlot papers ([Lurcock & Wilson, 2012](#); [Lurcock & Florindo, 2019](#)) and how to cite them.

**Help → About PuffinPlot**

displays some brief information about PuffinPlot, including the version. On Mac OS X, this item is also present on the PuffinPlot menu.

## 4.2. Features

This section presents PuffinPlot’s features in moderate detail.

### 4.2.1. Supported file types

PuffinPlot can read a number of commonly used palaeomagnetic data formats:

**PuffinPlot**

(filename suffix **pp1**): PuffinPlot’s own file format.

**Old PuffinPlot format**

(filename suffix **pp1**): an earlier version of the PuffinPlot format, produced by older releases of the program.

**2G**

(filename suffix **dat**): files produced by the ‘Long Core’ program used with 2G Enterprises cryomagnetometers.

**Caltech (CIT)**

(filename suffix **sam**, with associated data files in same folder): format used at the Caltech Paleomagnetism Laboratory and supported by the ‘Paleomag’ program of [Jones \(2002\)](#).

**IAPD**

(filename suffix **dat**): format used by the IAPD program and its successors, developed by T. H. Torsvik et al. and used at the Geological Survey of Norway. IAPD files contain an ‘a95’ value for each treatment step which gives an indication of the measurement’s reliability. PuffinPlot does not import these values, but will show a warning if any of them has a value of 5 or greater.

**PMD (Enkin)**

(filename suffix **pmd**): a text-based format used by the PMGSC program of R. Enkin et al., and supported by other paleomagnetic software including Paleomac and Remasoft. Not to be confused with the binary PMD format native to Paleomac.

**UC Davis (old)**

A format used for 2G cryomagnetometer measurements at UC Davis during the 1990s.

**Zplot**

(filename suffix **txt**): format used by the ‘Zplot’ program developed by Steve Hurst at Woods Hole.

**JR6**

(filename suffix **jr6**): a format developed by AGICO and supported by the REMA6W and Remasoft programs, among others.

**Sample directions**

(filename suffix **txt**): a file of sample-level directional data. This lets you use PuffinPlot to analyse directions even when no demagnetization data is available (or when the data is not palaeomagnetic in origin). Input files must contain three fields per line, with no header lines: sample name or depth; declination in degrees; and inclination in degrees. Fields are separated by commas, tabs, or space characters.

**Custom formats**

This option imports data from a file format freely defined by the user, within certain limits. Custom formats allow PuffinPlot to read a large variety of textual, tabular data formats. See [Section 4.2.2](#) for details.

Note that there are different ways to read 2G data files: users are encouraged to read [Section 4.4.2](#) and ensure that the preferences are correctly set for their needs. (In particular, **magnetization vectors may be read incorrectly from 2G long core files if the wrong import settings are used**, so it is important to check the settings before importing data.)

In general, support for other file formats is straightforward to add, and most tabular textual file formats can be opened using the ‘File → Import data...’ function.

### 4.2.2. Importing data in a custom format

When you open a file and select the Custom format filetype, PuffinPlot opens a dialog box allowing you to describe a text-based, tabular file format; once you have specified a format, you can choose one or more files in that format, which PuffinPlot will then open. The file is assumed to contain one magnetic measurement per line. The file format specification consists of two parts: *General settings* and *Column definitions*.

#### General settings

This part describes parameters relating to the file as a whole, rather than individual columns.

##### Number of header lines to skip

Data files may include extra data ('header lines') at the start of the file, most often a line containing textual descriptions of the columns. This field lets you specify how many lines PuffinPlot should ignore at the start of the file, letting it skip over them.

##### Measurement type

This specifies whether the files contain discrete or long core measurements.

##### Treatment type

This specifies the type of treatment applied to the samples – thermal, AF, IRM, etc.

##### Column separator

For files which do not use fixed-width columns (for example, CSV files), this drop-down lets you select the character used to separate the columns. If 'Use fixed-width columns' is selected, the column separator is not used.

##### Use fixed-width columns

Tabular text files usually use one of two conventions for separating columns: either the columns have widths which differ from line to line, and are separated with a special character such as a comma or tab; or the columns have the same width in every line, and are padded out to this width with space characters when the contents are shorter than the column width. Select this tick box to specify that the file format has fixed-width columns. In this case, the column separator will be ignored and you must specify the widths of the columns (see below). If this box is not selected, the column widths are ignored.

##### Column widths

If your file format uses fixed-width columns, you must specify them here as a list of numbers separated by commas. For example, if you have six columns, with the first being ten characters wide and the rest eight characters wide, you would enter 10,8,8,8,8,8 in this box. If your file format does not use fixed-width columns, this box is ignored.

##### Column definitions

This part gives the column number for each item of measurement data to be read.

**Column no.**

This is the number of the column to read; columns are numbered from left to right, starting at 1.

**Column contents**

This is the data to read from the specified column. Note that not all data types need to be specified for a file format; at minimum, it is sufficient to specify the demagnetization step and the three components of the magnetization vector (either as X, Y, and Z moments, or as declination, inclination, and magnetization). For any other data types, PuffinPlot will set reasonable default values if they are not specified in the file format.

**4.2.3. Selecting points**

For most of PuffinPlot's functions, the data points of interest must be selected before anything can be done to them. You can select data points simply by clicking on them; if you click on a selected point it will be de-selected. Selected points are drawn in red to distinguish them from the black unselected points. Note that the notional data point itself is the thing being selected, not the visual representation that you click on. Thus, if you click on a point in one plot, the corresponding point in all the visible plots will also turn red, since they are visual representations of the same treatmentStep.

Since data points are relatively small, clicking accurately on them can be inconvenient. PuffinPlot offers two alternative selection methods to alleviate this problem. Firstly, by holding down the Shift key, you can select a point simply by left-clicking near it; holding Shift and right-clicking will de-select nearby points instead. Secondly, you can left-click, hold the button, and drag the pointer across the graph, creating a rectangle. Every point within the rectangle will be selected. Dragging a rectangle with the right button will instead de-select every point within the rectangle.

**4.2.4. Working with multiple samples**

Since most PuffinPlot operations are automatically applied to all the selected samples, repetitive analysis work can often be done automatically using the 'Copy point selection' feature. For example, if you wish to apply a PCA to the 100–250°C demagnetization range of a series of 50 samples, it can be done in four quick steps:

1. For the first sample, select the points corresponding to the 100–250°C demagnetization range.
2. Select the 50 samples using the sample chooser, keeping the first sample as the current one.
3. Use Copy point selection on the Edit menu (or press Ctrl-Shift-C to select the corresponding points in all the selected samples).
4. Select PCA from the Calculations menu, or press Ctrl-R.

This will immediately perform PCA on all 50 selected samples.

## 4.3. Plots and other data displays

### 4.3.1. Available plot types

This section lists and briefly describes the available plot types in PuffinPlot. Some of them are not displayed by default, but these may be activated via the preferences window (see [Section 4.4](#)). Note that the term ‘plot’ is used rather loosely in this manual to refer to any movable element displaying data within the main window. Thus, the ‘plots’ listed below include textual elements such as legends and tables.

#### AMS

is a lower-hemisphere equal-area plot of AMS data, if any has been imported. Maximum, intermediate, and minimum anisotropy axes are shown as squares, triangles, and circles respectively. If AMS statistics have been calculated (see [Section 4.1.3](#)), the mean directions and confidence ellipses are also shown.

#### Data table

is a table in which each row represents one demagnetization step for the current sample. The columns, from left to right, give the demagnetization step, declination, inclination, intensity, and magnetic susceptibility. Selected points are denoted by an asterisk (\*) to their left; hidden points are denoted by a dash (–) to their left.

#### Demag.

is a plot of treatment level (in mT or C) versus intensity of magnetization (in A/m), shown as a line of filled points. If magnetic susceptibility measurements have been taken, they are overlaid on the same plot as unfilled points, with the scale shown on the right of the graph. If PuffinPlot cannot find any data describing the demagnetization treatment (i.e. AF field strength or temperature), the X axis will be labelled ‘measurement number’, and the X values will correspond to the sequence of the data in the file.

#### Equal-area (sample)

is a Lambert azimuthal equal-area projection showing the directions of the current sample’s magnetization vectors. Successive points are connected by great-circle segments. Points in the upper hemisphere are shown as unfilled (white) and connected by solid lines; points in the lower hemisphere are filled (black) and connected by dashed lines. If a great circle fit has been calculated for the sample, it is shown on this plot, and the pole to the great circle is shown as a triangle.

#### Equal-area (site)

shows all the great circles fitted at the current sample’s site, along with a best-fit direction calculated by the method of [McFadden & McElhinny \(1988\)](#). On this plot, the calculated site direction is shown as a circle. Any sample PCA directions are shown as diamonds. Demagnetization steps used for the great-circle fits are shown as squares. Poles to the great circles are shown as triangles.

#### Equal-area (suite)

shows all the site means for the suite, and a Fisherian mean and 95% confidence

interval for them. If two polarities are present in the suite, two means are calculated and shown. If no sites are defined, individual sample PCA directions and their means are plotted instead. Note that, for site means calculated by great-circle analysis, only valid means are shown. See [Section 4.4.4](#) for details on how validity is determined.

### **NRM Histogram**

shows a histogram of NRM intensities across the whole suite.

### **RPI Plot**

plots the current RPI estimate (if any) against depth.

### **Sample parameters**

shows the results of PCA and/or great-circle fits for data in the current sample. If neither of these calculations has been done, this plot is invisible. When visible, it shows the inclination and declination of the first principal component, which corresponds to a least-squares linear fit. It also shows the maximum angular deviation (MAD) values MAD1 and MAD3, which function as goodness-of-fit parameters (smaller is better). The MAD1 value gives an indication of how nearly the points lie in a single plane; the MAD3 value gives an indication of how nearly they lie along a single line. PCA analysis and MAD values are explained in [Kirschvink \(1980\)](#) and in section 9.7 of [Tauxe et al. \(2010\)](#). The plot also show the Cartesian equation of the PCA best-fit line. For the great-circle fit, the plot gives the inclination and declination of one of the great circle's poles, and the MAD1 value indicating the goodness of fit of the great circle. (Note that this may be different from the MAD1 for the PCA fit, since different sets of points may be used for the two fits.)

### **Sample parameter table**

shows a summary of parameters for each sample within the current site: declination, inclination, and type of analysis ('PCAa' and 'PCAu' for anchored and unanchored PCA respectively, and 'GC' for great circle). For PCA analysis, the declination and inclination give the first principal component; for great-circle analysis, they give the pole to the circle. Clicking on a line within this table will show the corresponding sample's data – in effect it works as an extra sample chooser. If no sites are defined, this table shows the sample parameters for the entire suite (or as many of them as will fit within the table's current dimensions).

### **Site parameter table**

shows a summary of parameters for each site within the current suite. The columns are:

#### **Site**

the name or identifier of the site

#### **n**

the number of samples at the site

#### **PCA**

the number of PCA analyses for samples at the site

**GC**

the number of great circles fitted for samples at the site

**dec.**

the declination of the site mean direction

**inc.**

the inclination of the site mean direction

**a95**

the  $\alpha_{95}$  value of the site mean direction

**R**

the total length of the sum of the direction unit vectors

**type**

the type of analysis used: 'Fshr' for [Fisher \(1953\)](#) analysis on PCA directions; 'GC' for great-circle analysis ([McFadden & McElhinny, 1988](#)). 'GC' is suffixed with either 'v' for valid or 'i' for invalid. See [Section 4.4.4](#) for details on the validity test and how it may be customized.

If both a valid great-circle direction and a Fisherian direction exist for a site, only the great-circle direction will be shown. Clicking on a line within the site parameter table will jump to the first sample of the corresponding site.

**Site parameters**

shows the site mean direction as calculated either by Fisher statistics or by the great-circle technique of [McFadden & McElhinny \(1988\)](#). It gives the mean inclination and declination and the  $\alpha_{95}$  and  $k$  parameters. If no site mean direction has been calculated for the current site, this plot is invisible.

**Suite table**

is a table showing suite-level mean direction and VGP data. See the entry on Site parameter table for explanations of the Fisher parameters associated with each mean direction. The directions shown are: 'Site dir', the mean direction calculated from site mean directions; 'Sample dir', the mean direction calculated from sample mean directions; 'Site VGP', the mean of the VGPs of sites; and 'Sample VGP', the mean of the VGPs corresponding to individual sample directions. As with most PuffinPlot operations, the parameters shown are calculated using only the samples and sites selected at the time the calculation is done.

**Ternary demag.**

is an experimental ternary plot designed to display data from triaxial IRM demagnetization experiments conducted according to the method of [Lowrie \(1990\)](#). The position of a point on the plot reflects the relative strengths of the three axes of magnetization, which in turn correspond to high, medium, and low coercivity components. The path produced by points at successive demagnetization steps thus shows the relative effects of thermal unblocking (and possibly thermal alteration) on these components.

**Title**

shows the name of the current sample and the current site, for a discrete suite. For a continuous (long core) suite, it shows the current depth. This plot also shows suite-level Fisher statistics calculated over samples and over sites, if these are available (see the Calculate → Suite means function in [Section 4.1.3](#)).

**VGP map**

is a world map (using a Mollweide projection) showing the locations of virtual geomagnetic poles (VGPs) for each site in the current suite. VGPs can only be calculated for sites whose location has been set; See *Import site locations...* in [Section 4.1.1](#) for details on reading site locations from a CSV file.

**VGP table**

is a table showing virtual geomagnetic pole (VGP) data for each site in the current suite. The columns are: site name,  $\phi$  (site latitude),  $\lambda$  (site longitude), VGP  $\phi$  (VGP latitude), VGP  $\lambda$  (VGP longitude), dp (first semi-axis of VGP confidence ellipse), and dm (second semi-axis of VGP confidence ellipse). VGPs can only be calculated for sites whose location has been set; See *Import site locations...* in [Section 4.1.1](#) for details on reading site locations from a CSV file.

**Zplot**

is a Zijderfeld plot, overlaying an orthographic projection in the horizontal plane with an orthographic projection in a chosen vertical plane. The vertical plane can be controlled using the chooser on the toolbar; see [Section 3.4.3](#) for details. The horizontal projection is shown with filled points, and the vertical projection with unfilled points. If a PCA fit has been calculated for this sample, the two projections of the PCA lines are overlaid on the plot in blue. (If the V vs. H vertical projection is selected, only the horizontal projection of the PCA line is shown, since V vs. H effectively uses a different vertical projection for each point.) The appearance of the PCA lines can be changed using the ‘Preferences’ dialog (see [Section 4.4.4](#)).

**Zplot key**

is a legend for the Zijderfeld plot, showing the interpretations of the filled and unfilled points and giving the units in which the axes are calibrated.

**4.3.2. Arranging the plots**

PuffinPlot allows the plots to be freely rearranged and resized within the display area; they can also be switched on and off as required (see [Section 4.4](#)). To arrange the plots, select ‘Edit layout’ from the ‘Edit’ menu. This puts PuffinPlot temporarily into a special mode where plots become moveable. A tick appears next to the menu item, and the plots are overlaid by pale orange rectangles, allowing you to manipulate them. Each plot is also annotated with its name, which helps to identify plots that are not currently displaying any data (e.g. the ‘PCA directions’ display if no PCA has been performed). To resize a plot, click and hold on an edge or corner of its rectangle, then drag it to the desired size. To move a plot, click and hold in its central area and drag it to the desired location. Plots may be overlapped freely. When you click in an area where two or more plots overlap, the smallest plot is treated as the ‘topmost’, and this is the one which will be moved or resized.



Once the plots are arranged to your satisfaction, click 'Edit layout' on the 'Edit' menu again to untick the menu item and resume normal operation.

The plot layout is saved with your other preferences, and will be retained if PuffinPlot is closed and restarted. You can restore the original layout using the 'Reset layout' menu item.

Sometimes it can be useful to save and restore different plot layouts. This can be done using the 'Export' and 'Import' buttons in the preferences window (see [Section 4.4](#)).

## 4.4. The preferences window

The preferences window is divided into three tabs, with four action buttons at the bottom.

### 4.4.1. The action buttons

#### **Clear**

clears all changed preferences, resetting them to their default values.

#### **Import**

sets your preferences from a file saved using the 'Export' button. See the description of the 'Export' button for details.

#### **Export**

saves your current preferences to a file. In conjunction with the 'Import' button, this allows you to transfer your preferences from one computer to another. It also allows you to keep multiple sets of preferences and switch between them as needed. Probably the most useful application is to save different plot layouts for different sets of data.

#### **Close**

closes the preferences window.

### 4.4.2. The 2G import tab

This tab contains options connected with reading data from .DAT files produced by the 2G 'Long Core' software.

#### **Read magnetization from.**

This setting controls whether PuffinPlot reads a sample's magnetic moment from the fields giving the Cartesian components of the magnetization vector (X/Y/Z) or whether it reads the polar representation (the declination, inclination, and intensity fields). The Cartesian components are stored to higher precision in the file, so using them is preferable when possible. However, if the Cartesian components are used when reading a long-core file, they must usually be corrected for the effective sensor lengths (see below). If the sensor lengths are unknown, reading data from the polar fields can be a useful fallback. When reading a file using the 'X/Y/Z' setting, PuffinPlot

first looks for the ‘X corr’, ‘Y corr’, and ‘Z corr’ fields to determine the magnetization vector. If these are not present, it falls back to ‘X mean’/‘Y mean’/‘Z mean’, then to ‘X intensity’/‘Y intensity’/‘Z intensity’.

### SQUID sensor lengths.

As described above, the Cartesian magnetization components in long core files are not corrected for effective sensor length, which is determined by the response function of each SQUID and must be determined empirically when setting up the machine. To produce a magnetization vector for long core files when using the ‘X/Y/Z’ setting, PuffinPlot corrects the SQUID readings for these configured sensor lengths when opening the file.

### Protocol

gives the measurement protocol used in taking the readings. A protocol is a particular sequence of empty tray measurements and sample measurements in defined orientations, undertaken for each set of measured samples. The tray and sample measurements are combined by PuffinPlot as it reads the file, providing a more accurate, corrected moment measurement for each sample. (Magnetic susceptibility measurements, if present, are also automatically associated with the preceding magnetic moment measurement or measurements.) [Table 4](#) describes the available protocols.



*Warning: incorrectly set sensor lengths can produce erroneous data!*

The sensor lengths are frequently not written to the 2G file, so they *must* be correctly set in PuffinPlot’s preferences before importing 2G long core data from the X/Y/Z vector components. (When importing discrete data, or reading from the polar fields in the 2G file, sensor lengths are not required.) If the sensor lengths are not known, use the ‘Dec/Inc/Intensity’ setting in the 2G import tab. Failing to correct for sensor length is particularly dangerous because the deviations from the correct vectors are often small enough not to be immediately obvious. See Section 3 of [Roberts \(2006\)](#) for a fuller discussion of sensor response functions.

*Table 4. Measurement protocols for 2G data files*

Protocol	Description
NORMAL	No extra tray or sample measurements are made. Each measurement run consists simply of measuring the samples once in their normal orientation.
TRAY_NORMAL	Before each sample-measurement run, an empty tray measurement run is made. The input file thus consists alternately of empty-tray lines and sample-measurement lines. Each tray measurement is used to correct the subsequent sample measurement.
NORMAL_TRAY	As TRAY_NORMAL, but the tray measurement is made after the sample measurement rather than before it.

Protocol	Description
TRAY_NORMAL_YFLIP	As TRAY_NORMAL, but adding an extra sample measurement as a third step. In the extra measurement, the sample is rotated 180 around its y axis, so that the x and z measurements are inverted. Combining these readings improves not only the precision but also the accuracy of the magnetic moments measured on the x and z axes, since any systematic bias should be cancelled out by the inversion. For the y axis, accuracy is not affected but precision is improved by averaging the two measurements.
TRAY_FIRST	This is the simplest tray correction: the tray is measured once at the start, and all subsequent measurements are sample measurements. PuffinPlot corrects each sample measurement using the initial tray measurement.
TRAY_NORMAL_IGNORE	This option reads a file measured using the TRAY_NORMAL protocol, but (like TRAY_FIRST) makes all sample corrections using the initial tray measurement, and ignores all subsequent tray measurements. The main intended use for this option is to allow direct comparison between the TRAY_FIRST and TRAY_NORMAL protocols, to avoid the extra work of using the TRAY_NORMAL protocol on sample suites for which it is unnecessary.

### 4.4.3. The Plots tab

This tab shows a list of plots which PuffinPlot can display. You can control which plots are shown by ticking and unticking the boxes next to the plot names. The plot types are detailed in [Section 4.3.1](#).

### 4.4.4. The Misc. tab

#### Label equal-area plots

If this box is ticked, the equal-area plots (sample, site, suite, and AMS) will be shown with text labels at the bottom right, making them easier to distinguish from one another.

#### Label treatment steps

If this box is ticked, each point on the demagnetization plots (Zijderveld and equal-area) will be labelled with the appropriate treatment step (AF intensity or temperature).

#### Label samples in site plots

If this box is ticked, sample directions (PCA or Fisher) will be labelled with the sample's name or depth in the site equal-area plot.

**Label points in suite plots**

If this box is ticked, sample and site directions will be labelled with the appropriate name or depth in the suite equal-area plot.

**Highlight current sample/site**

If this box is ticked, the current sample and site data will be shown in red on the site and suite equal-area plots and on the sample and site parameter tables. This feature makes it easier to pick out the current sample and site in the context of larger-scale analyses, and is useful for exploring data, particularly in conjunction with the ability to jump to a sample or site by clicking on its line in a parameter table.

**Show site  $\alpha_{95}$ s on suite plot**

If this box is ticked, any site direction shown on the suite equal-area plot will be plotted along with a projected small circle denoting the  $\alpha_{95}$  interval. The site  $\alpha_{95}$  circles are plotted in blue, to distinguish them from the suite  $\alpha_{95}$ s (plotted in black).

**Bedding is vs. magnetic north.**

If this box is ticked, the bedding azimuth for formation orientation correction is assumed to be relative to magnetic north, and a correction is applied for local magnetic deviation. (The sample azimuth is always assumed to be relative to magnetic north; if it is relative to geographic north, a magnetic declination of zero can be specified.)

**Demag. y-axis label**

allows to you customize the text which labels the y axis of the demagnetization-intensity plot.

**PmagPy folder**

sets the location of the PmagPy programs. If you wish to do calculations of AMS statistics within PuffinPlot, it is necessary to have the PmagPy programs `bootams.py` and `s_hex.py` installed (see [Section 4.1.3](#) for details). This box allows you to specify to PuffinPlot the folder in which the programs are installed.

**Font**

allows you to change the font used in the plots: enter a font family name into the box. PuffinPlot must be restarted for the change to take effect. If the specified font cannot be found, a default fallback font is used.

**Look and feel**

controls the appearance of PuffinPlot's windows and menus. (It has no effect on the functionality of the program.) *Native* gives an appearance intended to harmonize with other programs on the operating system on which PuffinPlot is running. *Metal* and *Nimbus* are cross-platform appearances which will look the same on any operating system. *Default* will use the default appearance for Java programs on the current operating system; in most cases this will be the same as *Native* for Mac OS X and Windows, and *Metal* for Linux. Changes to this option will not take effect until PuffinPlot is restarted.

**GC validity**

allows you to customize the conditions under which a site mean calculated by great-circle intersection is considered valid. The validity test is used in several ways:

- When site data is exported to a CSV file, one of the exported columns gives the result of the validity test.
- Only valid site mean directions are shown on the suite equal-area plot.
- Only valid site mean directions are used when calculating the overall mean direction for a suite.

The validity test takes the form of a logical expression in the syntax of the JavaScript programming language, involving the following variables:

**M**

the number of stable endpoints (PCA directions) used in the fit

**N**

the number of great circles used in the fit

**a95**

the  $\alpha_{95}$  value (semiangle of the 95% confidence region)

**k**

the  $k$ -value (estimate for  $\kappa$ )

The most useful components for constructing validity expressions are the comparison operators `<`, `<=`, `>=`, `>`, the logical operators `&&` and `||` (corresponding to ‘and’ and ‘or’ respectively), and parentheses. A typical expression might be

```
a95<3 && k>5 && (M>=3 || N>=5)
```

which means that a great-circle fit will be considered valid if it has an  $\alpha_{95}$  below 3, a  $k$  above five, and either at least three endpoints or at least five circles. The default value of this setting is `true`, which causes all great-circle fits to be considered valid. If there is an error in the expression (i.e. if it isn’t a valid JavaScript expression, or if it doesn’t produce a true/false value), it will be evaluated as false.

**Zplot PCA display**

controls the manner in which PCA directions are shown on the Zijderfeld plot (see [Section 4.3.1](#)). The available settings are as follows.

**Full**

PCA lines will extend right to the edges of the Zijderfeld plot.

**Long**

PCA lines will be shortened by 10% from the ‘Full’ length.

**Short**

PCA lines will only extend through the points used to calculate the PCA.

**None**

No PCA lines will be shown.

**Sample orientation**

controls how sample orientation is displayed at the top of the main window: it can be shown either as azimuth and dip angle, or as azimuth and hade (the complement of the dip angle).

**Formation orientation**

controls how formation orientation is displayed at the top of the main window: it can be shown either as dip azimuth and dip angle, or as strike and dip angle.

**Main display size**

sets the size of the display area in the main PuffinPlot window in pixels. It is given as a width and a height separated by a comma, e.g. **1200,800**. PuffinPlot must be restarted in order for changes in the display size to take effect.

## 4.5. Annotations

Annotations are a feature allowing short, categorized notes to be added to each sample in a suite. The categories can be freely chosen. Annotations come in two varieties, *custom flags* and *custom notes*. Custom flags embody a true/false value and are intended to record whether a sample fulfils some criterion – for example, ‘messy’, ‘low-temperature alteration’, or ‘multiple components’. Custom notes are intended for adding short items of information which are not automatically inferred by PuffinPlot – for example, ‘number of components’ or ‘behaviour type’.

**Adding annotation categories**

Annotations categories are defined by selecting the ‘Edit custom flags...’ or ‘Edit custom notes...’ item from the Edit menu. This will show a window allowing you to add, rearrange, or remove the annotation categories. If an annotation category is removed, all annotations made within that category will be lost.

**Using annotations**

When custom flags or notes have been defined, an extra panel appears at the right-hand side of the main window. For each custom note category there is a text box into which text may be typed. For each custom flag category there is a tick box which may be selected or de-selected.

Annotations are saved with the rest of the data in the PuffinPlot file; they are also exported in the sample data CSV file produced by the File → Export data → Export sample calculations menu item.

## 4.6. Exporting graphics

### 4.6.1. Introduction

PuffinPlot can export the displayed plots in several ways, for printing, incorporation into documents, and editing by other programs. Two formats are supported:

#### **SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics)**

is a widely supported format for the display and editing of vector graphics data. SVG files can be opened and edited by vector graphics programs such as Inkscape and Adobe Illustrator, and can be incorporated into documents by a variety of programs. The chief limitation of the SVG files exported by PuffinPlot is that they can only contain one page, corresponding to the currently displayed data.

#### **PDF (Portable Document Format)**

is a popular format for on-screen display and printing of all kinds of documents. PuffinPlot can produce multi-page PDF documents with one page for each selected sample. Many vector graphics programs can import PDF files, but since PDF is a format designed primarily for display rather than editing, the results may be inferior to those produced with SVG.

Both these formats are formally standardized; however, they are also large and complex, and they are supported to varying extents by a huge number of programs. For these reasons, compatibility problems can sometimes occur. It is difficult to produce a file which will be guaranteed to work well with any program on any operating system. PuffinPlot attempts to mitigate this problem by offering a range of different graphics export options, as detailed in the next section.

### 4.6.2. Graphics export options

All of these export functions may be found in the Export graphics submenu of the File menu, except for the 'Print to PDF' option.

#### **Export SVG (Batik)**

saves the current contents of the main data display as an SVG file using the Batik software library.

#### **Export SVG (FreeHEP)**

saves the current contents of the main data display as an SVG file using the FreeHEP software library.

#### **Export PDF (iText)**

produces PDF file using the iText software library. The resulting PDF file will use the current graph layout and will contain one page for each of the selected samples.

#### **Export PDF (FreeHEP)**

produces a PDF file using the FreeHEP software library. The resulting PDF file will use the current graph layout and will contain one page for each of the selected samples.

#### **Print to PDF**

is another way of producing a PDF file. Select 'Print...' from the File menu, and select

PDF as the destination printer. If the PDF option is not available, you will first have to install a PDF printer driver; please see your operating system documentation for details.

These options are to some extent redundant: SVG files produced using the two menu items should appear practically identical, as should the three varieties of PDF file. However, the internal structures of the files are different, which is useful in improving compatibility with other programs. If, for example, you find that another program has trouble reading the SVG file produced using the Batik option, you may find that if FreeHEP option produces better results.

## 4.7. Running PuffinPlot from the command line

In addition to its graphical user interface, PuffinPlot has a simple command line interface, allowing some operations to be performed from a text-based console or automated script. In summary, PuffinPlot's available command-line arguments are:

```
usage: java -jar PuffinPlot.jar <options>
  -help                print this message
  -installjython        download and install Jython
  -process <file>      process given ppl file and save results
  -script <file>       run specified script
  -scriptlanguage <language> language for script (javascript or python)
  -withapp             create a Puffin application (script mode only)
```

### **-help**

prints a summary of the available command-line arguments, as seen above

### **-installjython**

downloads the Jython package and installs it locally, allowing PuffinPlot to run scripts written in Python

### **-process <file>**

specifies a PuffinPlot (.ppl) file. The file is opened in PuffinPlot and all standard sample, site, and suite calculations are performed on the data. The results are automatically saved as CSV files into the folder containing the original PuffinPlot file.

### **-script <file>**

runs the specified Python or JavaScript script. See [Section 4.8](#) for more details.

### **-scriptlanguage**

can only be used in conjunction with **-script**, and specifies the language in which the script was written. Allowed values are **python** and **javascript**. The default value is **python**.



**-withapp**

can only be used in conjunction with `-script`. If this argument is provided, a PuffinPlot object will be created and assigned to a variable named `puffin_app`.

## 4.8. Scripting

PuffinPlot's graphical desktop interface is intended to be the primary way to interact with the program. However, it is often useful to be able to control a program using a scripting language, in order to extend its capabilities, integrate it conveniently with other programs, or process large amounts of data without manual intervention. The Java platform upon which PuffinPlot is built supports a number of scripting languages which can easily interface with PuffinPlot. Perhaps most usefully, an implementation of the Python programming language – named Jython ([Juneau et al., 2009](#)) – has been developed for the Java platform. Since Python is widely used in scientific programming and scripting, and familiar to a large number of scientists, this provides a convenient route for anyone wishing to integrate PuffinPlot with other data processing steps. Using Jython, PuffinPlot can be controlled either from a pre-written script, or interactively from a command shell which accepts and executes commands one at a time from the user. Jython scripts can also be run from within PuffinPlot itself, making it easy to perform scripted operations on currently open data suites. Jython is not distributed with PuffinPlot, but PuffinPlot will automatically download and install it the first time it is required. In addition to Python, PuffinPlot directly supports scripting in JavaScript.

Scripting allows you to extend the functionality of PuffinPlot without modifying the main program – for example, to perform extra processing on your data. It also allows you to reuse parts of PuffinPlot as a convenient library for other programs.

There are three basic ways to control PuffinPlot with scripting:

1. Save a script as a file, and use 'Run Python script...' or 'Run JavaScript script...' from the 'File' menu to run it. This will give your script access to any data which has already been loaded into PuffinPlot.
2. Save a script as a file and run PuffinPlot from the command line, specifying the name of the script as a parameter using the following syntax: `java -jar PuffinPlot.jar -script MyScriptName.py`, where `MyScriptName.py` is the filename of the script you wish to run. In this case, the script will be run as soon as PuffinPlot starts. A JavaScript script can be run in a similar way by specifying the language using another command-line argument: `java -jar PuffinPlot.jar -script MyScriptName.js -scriptlanguage javascript`,
3. Use a scripting language interpreter separate from PuffinPlot. In this case, you must download and install the language yourself. This approach lets you use any language available for the Java platform, not just Python or JavaScript. Additionally, many languages (including Jython) provide an interactive console, allowing you to control PuffinPlot by typing commands one at a time, rather than executing a whole pre-written file.

For the first two techniques – when the script is run by PuffinPlot itself – a variable called `puffin_app` is created, which represents the currently running instance of PuffinPlot.

(When running a script directly from the command line, the `-withapp` argument must be specified to create this variable.) This variable can be used, for example, to gain access to any data already loaded into PuffinPlot.

Below is a simple script demonstrating the use of PuffinPlot from within an external Jython interpreter (although it can also be run directly from within PuffinPlot). The script opens a data file, calculates the mean NRM, and produces a file containing a PCA direction for each sample. Note that virtually all of PuffinPlot's data and functionality is available to the Python script, so far more complex examples are possible.

```
### Import the required libraries.
from net.talvi.puffinplot.data import Suite
from net.talvi.puffinplot.data import Correction
from java.io import File

### Create a Suite and read a data file into it.
input_file = File("example.ppl") # Specify an input file
suite = Suite("Example script") # create a new Suite
suite.readFiles([input_file])    # Read the data into a Suite object
samples = suite.getSamples()     # Get a list of the Samples in the Suite

### Calculate and display the mean NRM.
total_nrm = sum([sample.getNrm() for sample in samples])
print total_nrm / suite.getNumSamples()

### Perform a PCA calculation for each sample.
for sample in samples:          # do this for each sample:
    sample.selectAll()           # select all points in the sample
    sample.useSelectionForPca()   # and mark them for use in PCA
suite.doSampleCalculations(Correction.NONE) # perform PCA for each
sample

### Save the results of the PCA calculation.
output_file = File("example-results.csv")
suite.saveCalcsSample(output_file)
```

The following script is designed to be run from PuffinPlot's GUI in order to operate on the currently displayed data suite.

```
# This script goes through all the data in the current suite.
# For any treatment step that doesn't have a magnetic susceptibility
# measurement, it sets the magnetic susceptibility to zero.

suite = puffin_app.getCurrentSuite()      # Find the current suite.

for sample in suite.getSamples():          # For every sample in the
suite,
    for step in sample.getTreatmentSteps(): # and for every step in the
sample,
        if not step.hasMagSus():          # if it doesn't have a m.s.
value,
            step.setMagSus(0)              # set the mag. sus. to 0.
```

### Internal documentation for PuffinPlot

To write scripts interacting with PuffinPlot, some knowledge of its internals is of course necessary. PuffinPlot comes with complete documentation (JavaDoc) for all its accessible data structures. If more detail is required, the source code is also freely available.

## 4.9. Creating a data bundle

PuffinPlot can export a suite as a data bundle, intended mainly as an aid to reproducible research. It provides a straightforward way to package up all the relevant data and analysis parameters. Using the contents of a data bundle both the data and analysis techniques can be browsed in PuffinPlot, and calculation results can be reused as they are or regenerated from scratch. The data bundle is useful both for personal storage of research results, and for public archiving or distribution, for example as supporting material submitted with a manuscript for publication.

The data bundle is a zip archive containing the following files:

#### PuffinPlot data file

This is simply a copy of the current .ppl data file, containing palaeomagnetic measurements and analysis parameters such as site definitions and demagnetization steps selected for PCA.

#### Sample, site, and suite calculations

exported as CSV files. If no sites are defined for the suite, the site calculations are omitted.

#### Calculation scripts

which can be used to run PuffinPlot to process the data file and reproduce the calculations automatically.

#### PuffinPlot jar file.

This is a software archive containing the PuffinPlot program itself. Including this file

in the bundle means that only a Java environment is necessary to re-run or modify the calculations. However, its inclusion significantly increases the size of the bundle, so it may optionally be omitted.

**README file**

describing the contents of the archive and explaining how the data can be inspected and used.

# Chapter 5. PuffinPlot file format

## 5.1. General information

PuffinPlot files use a text-based format in UTF-8 encoding. The line separator is a single newline (character number 10). Fields within a line are separated by tabs (character number 9). At the time of writing, PuffinPlot uses version 3 of its file format. Versions 1 and 2 were only used in pre-release versions of PuffinPlot, and may therefore be safely ignored.

The main part of the PuffinPlot file is a sequence of lines containing treatment step data, one step to a line. The sequence of data fields is not fixed; rather, it is defined by a header line at the start of the treatment step section.

## 5.2. Sections

1. The file identifier line, consisting of the exact string `PuffinPlot file. Version 3`
2. The header line, containing a tab-separated sequence of field identifiers. This line defines the interpretation of the treatment step lines which follow.
3. Any number of treatment step lines. These must contain the same number of fields as the header line. The interpretation of each field is determined by the field identifier string in the corresponding position in the header line.
4. A blank line, indicating the end of the treatment step section.
5. A sequence of lines containing sample, site, and suite data. There may be any number of these (including zero), and they may occur in any order.

## 5.3. Treatment step fields

Treatment step fields are detailed in [Table 5](#).

*Table 5. Treatment step fields in the PuffinPlot file format*

Identifier	Type / Unit	Default	Description
DISCRETE_ID	string	UNSET	The discrete sample identifier (sample name).
DEPTH	unspecified	null	The depth of this sample in a core. Note that PuffinPlot does not assume any explicit unit for depth: any saved or exported data will simply use the same depth values without any attempt to interpret them in a unit system.

Identifier	Type / Unit	Default	Description
RUN_NUMBER	integer	-1	The sequential number of the magnetometer run which measured this treatment step.
TIMESTAMP	string	UNSET	The time at which this measurement was made. PuffinPlot doesn't process this field, so the format is undefined.
SLOT_NUMBER	integer	-1	For discrete measurements on a multi-sample tray, the number of the tray slot containing the sample.
MEAS_TYPE	string	UNSET	Measurement type. Must be <b>DISCRETE</b> or <b>CONTINUOUS</b> . This field is required.
X_MOMENT	A/m	0	The x component of the sample's magnetic dipole moment per unit volume in the uncorrected sample co-ordinate system.
Y_MOMENT	A/m	0	The y component of the sample's magnetic dipole moment per unit volume in the uncorrected sample co-ordinate system.
Z_MOMENT	A/m	0	The z component of the sample's magnetic dipole moment per unit volume in the uncorrected sample co-ordinate system.
MAG_SUS	unspecified	NaN	The sample's magnetic susceptibility at this treatment step. PuffinPlot does not specify any unit for susceptibility and treats it as a relative value.
VOLUME	cm <sup>3</sup>	10.8	The volume of a discrete sample.
AREA	cm <sup>2</sup>	4	The cross-sectional area of a long core sample.
SAMPLE_AZ	°	NaN	The azimuth (i.e. down-dip direction) of a sample's field orientation.
SAMPLE_DIP	°	NaN	The dip of a sample's field orientation.
FORM_AZ	°	NaN	The azimuth (i.e. down-dip direction) of the formation from which the sample was taken.
FORM_DIP	°	NaN	The dip of the formation from which the sample was taken.
MAG_DEV	°	0	The magnetic declination at the sampling site, i.e. the declination of the magnetic field direction relative to geographic north.
TREATMENT	string	UNKNOWN	The type of treatment applied to the sample. Must be one of <b>NONE</b> , <b>DEGAUSS_XYZ</b> , <b>DEGAUSS_Z</b> , <b>ARM</b> , <b>IRM</b> , or <b>THERMAL</b> .

Identifier	Type / Unit	Default	Description
AF_X	tesla	NaN	The x component of an alternating magnetic field treatment.
AF_Y	tesla	NaN	The y component of an alternating magnetic field treatment.
AF_Z	tesla	NaN	The z component of an alternating magnetic field treatment.
TEMPERATURE	°C	NaN	The peak temperature of a thermal treatment.
IRM_FIELD	tesla	NaN	The intensity of an applied IRM treatment.
ARM_FIELD	tesla	NaN	The intensity of the DC field in an ARM treatment.
ARM_AXIS	string	UNKNOWN	The axis along which an ARM was applied. Must be one of <b>AXIAL</b> , <b>NONE</b> , or <b>UNKNOWN</b> .
PP_SELECTED	boolean	false	Whether this step is selected in PuffinPlot.
PP_ANCHOR_PCA	boolean	false	Whether PCA calculations for this step should be anchored.
PP_HIDDEN	boolean	false	Whether this step is hidden in the PuffinPlot GUI.
PP_ONCIRCLE	boolean	false	Whether this step is included in great-circle fits.
PP_INPCA	boolean	false	Whether this step is included in PCA fits.

## 5.4. Required fields

The only required treatment step field in a PuffinPlot file is MEAS\_TYPE. The minimal valid PuffinPlot file is thus:

```
PuffinPlot file. Version 3
MEAS_TYPE
```

(Here, `\n` represents the newline character.) This file contains no lines beyond the header line, and therefore no data. The minimal file containing data is:

```
PuffinPlot file. Version 3
MEAS_TYPE
DISCRETE
```

This file contains a single treatment step, which specifies no data except that the sample is discrete. Loading this file into PuffinPlot will create a suite with a single discrete treatment step with all other fields set to their default values.

## 5.5. Suite lines

A suite line has SITE as the first field and follows one of the following formats:

### **SUITE MEASUREMENT\_TYPE** <type>

The measurement type of this suite. Must be one of DISCRETE or CONTINUOUS.

### **SUITE CUSTOM\_FLAG\_NAMES** <flag-name> ...

A list of names for user-defined flags containing sample information. Each sample can store a true/false value for each flag.

### **SUITE CUSTOM\_NOTE\_NAMES** <note-name> ...

A list of names for user-defined notes containing sample information. Each sample can store a string value for each note.

### **SUITE CREATION\_DATE** <date>

The date and time at which the suite was created. The format is ISO-8601 with date, time, milliseconds, and timezone, e.g. 2019-03-12T16:17:34.347+01:00.

### **SUITE MODIFICATION\_DATE** <date>

The date and time at which the suite was last modified. Format is as for CREATION\_DATE.

### **SUITE ORIGINAL\_FILE\_TYPE** <string>

The type of the file(s) from which the data for this suite was originally read. Must be one of TWOGEE, ZPLOT, PUFFINPLOT\_OLD, PUFFINPLOT\_NEW, CALTECH, IAPD, UCDAVIS, DIRECTIONS, CUSTOM\_TABULAR, PMD\_ENKIN, JR6, or UNKNOWN.

### **SUITE ORIGINAL\_CREATOR\_PROGRAM** <string>

The name and version of the program which originally created the suite.

### **SUITE SAVED\_BY\_PROGRAM** <string>

The name and version of the program which saved this file.

(For convenience, fields are shown separated with spaces in this listing; in reality they are separated with tab characters.)

## 5.6. Site lines

A site line has SITE as the first field and a site identifier string as the second field. The line follows one of the following formats:

### **SITE** <site-id> **HEIGHT** <height>

A decimal number representing the height of the site. Units are unspecified.

### **SITE** <site-id> **LOCATION** <latitude> <longitude>

Two decimal numbers giving the latitude and longitude of the site in degrees.



(For convenience, fields are shown separated with spaces in this listing; in reality they are separated with tab characters.)

## 5.7. Sample lines

A sample line has `SAMPLE` as the first field and a sample identifier (discrete sample name or depth in a continuous core). The line follows one of the following formats:

**`SAMPLE <sample-id> CUSTOM_FLAGS <flag-value> ...`**

The values of any custom flags defined for this suite. The number of values must match the number of custom flags defined in the `SUITE CUSTOM_FLAG_NAMES` line. Possible values are true and false.

**`SAMPLE <sample-id> CUSTOM_NOTES <note-content> ...`**

The values of any custom note defined for this suite. The number of values must match the number of custom note defined in the `SUITE CUSTOM_NOTE_NAMES` line.

**`SAMPLE <sample-id> SITE <site-id>`**

The identifier of the site which contains this sample.

**`SAMPLE <sample-id> IMPORTED_DIRECTION <declination> <inclination>`**

The palaeomagnetic direction of this sample. In most cases this direction is not explicitly stored, but recalculated from the treatment step data when PuffinPlot loads the file. Using an `IMPORTED_DIRECTION` line allows PuffinPlot to deal with samples that have defined directions but lack treatment step data.

(For convenience, fields are shown separated with spaces in this listing; in reality they are separated with tab characters.)

# Chapter 6. Acknowledgements

## 6.1. Libraries

PuffinPlot makes use of several software libraries generously released under liberal terms:

- Apache Batik for SVG export.
- Apache Commons for mathematical operations, command-line argument processing, and compression.
- AppBundler to package PuffinPlot as a Mac OS X application.
- FreeHEP for graphics export.
- iText for PDF export.
- JAMA for matrix calculations.
- JUnit and Mockito for unit testing.
- Jython for scripting.
- OrangeExtensions for an improved user interface on Mac OS X.

## 6.2. Other software

PuffinPlot was created with the assistance of a cornucopia of free and open source software; among the more significant tools are the Java language and platform (along with many third-party Java libraries), NetBeans, Ant, Ivy, Emacs, LaTeX (plus many LaTeX packages), TeX4ht, the Gimp, Inkscape, Maven, IntelliJ IDEA, AsciiDoctor, and the Ubuntu operating system. I thank all who contributed to these projects.

## 6.3. People

PuffinPlot was initially developed at the Otago Palaeomagnetic Research Facility at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. Several colleagues provided valuable testing and feedback during PuffinPlot's early development; in particular I thank Christian Ohneiser, Faye Nelson, Claudio Tapia, and Bethany Fox for their time and effort. Further improvements were made during revision of the first PuffinPlot paper, in response to thoughtful suggestions from Gary Acton and an anonymous reviewer. Since its initial release, PuffinPlot has benefited from bug reports and suggestions from Bill Phillips, Jonathan M. Glen, Fabio Florindo, Eric Horsman, Terence Day, Yoichi Usui, Adrian Muxworthy, Russ Burmester, Andrei Kosterov, Luca Lanci, Radchagrit Supakulopas, Cyril Okpoli, Bugra Cavdar, Jay Shah, Kuo-Hang Chen, Ashleigh Murszewski, Robert Coe, Ana Paula de Martini de Souza, Sébastien Wouters, Gillian Turner, Agathe Lise-Pronovost, and many others.

## 6.4. Icon

PuffinPlot's icon, and the frontispiece for this manual, are from an illustration by the Finnish artist Wilhelm von Wright (1810–1887), published in *Svenska fåglar, efter naturen och på sten ritade* (2nd ed., 1929).

# Chapter 7. Future development and bug reporting

PuffinPlot continues to be developed, albeit slowly and sporadically now that its main functionality is complete and stable. Bugs in existing functionality are fixed as quickly as possible when they are reported, and new features are added as time permits. The PuffinPlot project, including links to downloadable packages of all released versions and the complete source code, is hosted at <http://talvi.net/puffinplot>. Bug reports, feature suggestions, and feedback of all kinds are always very welcome. Please send them to [puffinplot@gmail.com](mailto:puffinplot@gmail.com). You can also submit bug reports and feature requests via the online issue tracker at <https://github.com/pont-us/PuffinPlot/issues>.

## 7.1. How to report a bug

If you are reporting a bug, please be as specific and detailed as you can. Try to include as many as possible of the following:

- The actions that triggered the bug.
- What you expected to happen.
- What actually happened (i.e. the unexpected or buggy behaviour).
- The PUFFIN-ERROR.txt error report file, if PuffinPlot crashed and wrote one.
- A file containing your PuffinPlot preferences; you can produce this file by opening the Preferences window from the File menu and clicking the Export button at the bottom.
- A copy of the data file(s) you were working on when the bug appeared.
- If PuffinPlot produced incorrect output in a file, include a copy of that file.
- If PuffinPlot shows incorrect output on the screen, include a screenshot.
- The version of PuffinPlot that you're using.
- The operating system and Java version that PuffinPlot is running on.

The more detail you include, the easier it will be to find and fix the bug quickly.

## Chapter 8. Citing PuffinPlot

PuffinPlot was introduced and described in a 2012 paper published in *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*. A [2019 follow-up paper](#) in the same journal described improvements made since the initial release. If you make use of PuffinPlot in published work, please use the 2019 paper as the preferred citation:

Lurcock, P. C., & Florindo, F. (2019). New developments in the PuffinPlot paleomagnetic data analysis program. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 20(11), 5578–5587. doi:10.1029/2019GC008537, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GC008537>

Optionally, you may also cite the 2012 publication:

Lurcock, P. C., and G. S. Wilson (2012), PuffinPlot: A versatile, user-friendly program for paleomagnetic analysis, *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 13, Q06Z45, doi:10.1029/2012GC004098, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2012GC004098>

The 2012 paper is open access, and can be read online or downloaded by visiting <https://doi.org/10.1029/2012GC004098>. Under the AGU's rolling free access policy, the 2019 paper should become freely available at <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GC008537> from late 2021.

For convenience, citation data for both papers is provided below in two formats commonly used by bibliography management software.

### 8.1. BibTeX citation records

```
@article{lurcock2019new,
  author = {Lurcock, Pontus Conrad and Florindo, Fabio},
  title = {New developments in the {PuffinPlot} paleomagnetic data
    analysis program},
  year = {2019},
  volume = {20},
  number = {11},
  pages = {5578--5587},
  month = oct,
  day = {30},
  journal = {Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems},
  doi = {10.1029/2019GC008537},
  url = {https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GC008537}
}
```

```
@article{lurcock2012puffinplot,
  author = {Lurcock, P. C. and Wilson, G. S.},
  title = {PuffinPlot: A versatile, user-friendly program for
    paleomagnetic analysis},
  journal = {Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems},
  year = {2012},
  month = {Jun},
  day = {26},
  publisher = {AGU},
  volume = {13},
  pages = {Q06Z45},
  issn = {1525-2027},
  doi = {10.1029/2012GC004098},
  url = {https://doi.org/10.1029/2012GC004098}
}
```

## 8.2. RIS citation records

TY - JOUR  
T1 - New Developments in the PuffinPlot Paleomagnetic Data Analysis Program  
AU - Lurcock, P. C.  
AU - Florindo, F.  
PY - 2019  
DO - 10.1029/2019GC008537  
JO - Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems  
SP - 5578  
EP - 5587  
VL - 20  
IS - 11  
SN - 1525-2027  
UR - <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GC008537>

TY - JOUR  
T1 - PuffinPlot: A versatile, user-friendly program for paleomagnetic analysis  
A1 - Lurcock, P. C.  
A1 - Wilson, G. S.  
Y1 - 2012/06/26  
JO - Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems  
VL - 13  
SP - Q06Z45  
SN - 1525-2027  
UR - <http://dx.doi.org/10.1029/2012GC004098>  
DO - 10.1029/2012GC004098  
PB - AGU

# Chapter 9. Release notes

## 9.1. Next release

- Demagnetization plot: include a tick and label at 0 on the x axis. If there is no magnetic susceptibility data to plot, include a tick and label at 0 on the y axis too.

## 9.2. PuffinPlot 1.4.1 release notes

This is a minor release which fixes some bugs in version 1.4 and adds two new plot types.

### 9.2.1. Data manipulation

- Declination realignment can now align to a mean declination as well as to a top declination.

### 9.2.2. Graphing and data display

- Added a VGP map plot.
- Added an RPI/depth plot.

### 9.2.3. Calculations

- PuffinPlot no longer calculates an MDF values for samples which never reach half-intensity, since the MDF is undefined in this case.

### 9.2.4. Data import

- Added support for more PMD file format variants.

### 9.2.5. Bug fixes

- Fixed a bug which prevented the Mac OS X app from starting.
- Re-enabled section numbering in the manual (accidentally disabled in version 1.4).
- Deleting the current sample previously caused an error; now fixed.

## 9.3. PuffinPlot 1.4 release notes

The release numbering scheme changed with the 1.4 release: 1.4 is the immediate successor of 1.03.



### 9.3.1. Installation requirements

- PuffinPlot now requires Java 8 or higher.

### 9.3.2. Data manipulation

- ‘Discrete to continuous’ feature implemented, allowing conversion of discrete suites to continuous suites using a supplementary CSV file containing a sample-to-depth map.
- Automatic realignment of declination data, allowing reconstruction of a continuous declination record for continuous suites in which the core sections are not azimuthally oriented with respect to each other.
- Allow user to remove samples outside a specified depth range.
- Allow user to remove samples with a specified treatment type.

### 9.3.3. Calculations

- RPI calculation implemented, using normalization to ARM, IRM, or magnetic susceptibility.
- Arason-Levi inclination-only statistics implemented, but currently only accessible via the API, not the GUI.

### 9.3.4. Scripting

- The Jython package is no longer bundled as part of PuffinPlot, dramatically reducing the download size. PuffinPlot still retains Python support: Jython is downloaded and installed automatically if and when it is required.
- PuffinPlot now supports scripting in JavaScript as well as Python.
- The user-defined great circle validity check now uses Javascript rather than Python. In practice, this only means a slight change in syntax.
- Some classes and methods in the PuffinPlot API have been renamed to be clearer and more descriptive. This has no effect on users who only use the graphical interface, but scripts written for older PuffinPlot versions may have to be updated to work with the new API.

### 9.3.5. User interface

- Files can now be opened by dragging them to the main window.
- Current suite name and ‘unsaved’ indicator added to the title bar.
- When saving files, PuffinPlot now defaults to the last-used folder.
- Status bar added to main window. When the mouse pointer is over a data point representing a demagnetization step, the status bar shows details of this step.
- The ‘Edit’ menu has been divided into more submenus to more conveniently accommodate the newly added functions.

### 9.3.6. Graphing and data display

- Per-sample Fisher statistics are now shown in the sample parameters legend.
- R parameter now shown to 4 decimal places in site and suite parameter tables.

### 9.3.7. Data import

- PuffinPlot can now import the text-based PMD format developed by R. Enkin and supported by several palaeomagnetic programs including PMGSC, Paleomac, and Remasoft.
- PuffinPlot can now import the JR6 format developed by AGICO and supported by programs including REMA6W, Remasoft, and Paleomac.
- When importing from a custom file format, PuffinPlot now sets default values for the sample and formation corrections if these are not specified in the file.
- When importing AMS data from an Agico ASC file, PuffinPlot can now read a formation correction from the file. All possible orientation conventions are now supported on ASC file import; if necessary, orientations are converted to PuffinPlot's conventions using the orientation parameters stored in the file. Optionally, existing sample and formation corrections can be overwritten with values read from the ASC file.
- Import from Caltech (CIT) files has been improved: demagnetization levels for thermal treatment are now read correctly, as is the 'NRM' treatment code.

### 9.3.8. Data export

- Degree signs in exported data replaced with 'deg', to accommodate software that has trouble with non-ASCII character sets.
- Precision of exported parameters increased to four decimal places.
- PuffinPlot can now export a bundle containing both data and a processing script, allowing analyses to be reproduced automatically.
- In exported site data, field strengths for minimum and maximum great-circle steps are written in millitesla rather than tesla.

### 9.3.9. Miscellaneous bug fixes

- Custom flags and notes are now included in exported sample data.
- PDF export no longer produces an extra page.
- Display is now updated automatically when sites are edited.
- Formatting of PCA equations in exported CSV files is now locale-independent, so will always use '.' rather than ',' as the decimal separator.
- Custom file import used to ignore the sample volume field; it now makes use of it if present, and defaults to a volume of 1 cm<sup>3</sup> if it is not present.
- In demagnetization / intensity plots with AF treatment type, data points for magnetic

susceptibility measurements (if present) could sometimes be plotted with an incorrect x position. This has now been corrected.

### 9.3.10. Developer notes

- The build process now uses the Ivy dependency manager to download required libraries automatically.
- Several hundred unit tests have been added, mainly for the data and calculation classes. This helps to verify the correctness of PuffinPlot's data processing, and to avoid the introduction of bugs during future development.
- PuffinPlot's version control has been migrated from Mercurial to Git, and the main repository from Bitbucket to GitHub. (The Bitbucket repository has been retained as a mirror.)

## 9.4. PuffinPlot 1.03 release notes

### 9.4.1. Calculations

- Virtual geomagnetic pole calculation.
- Fisher-by-site calculations can be done on continuous data sets.
- Fisher analysis of demagnetization steps.
- PCA and GC fits can be cleared individually.
- R added to the available Fisher statistical parameters.

### 9.4.2. Data plotting

- Horizontal projection in Zplot supports west-upward orientation.
- Data points can be labelled with treatment step.
- Equal-area plots can be labelled to avoid confusion.
- Site equal-area plots now distinguish PCAs, demag steps, GC poles, and site means.
- Current site and sample are highlighted in the relevant data tables and plots.
- Sample directions can be annotated with their names in the site equal-area plot.
- a95 added to site parameter table.
- More compact default plot layout.
- Treatment steps can be labelled with the treatment level.
- Added suite parameter table for mean directions and VGPs.
- Site alpha-95s can be shown in the suite equal-area plot.

### 9.4.3. Data import

- Selectable units for custom data import.

- More variants of the AGICO AMS file can now be imported.
- Direct import of sample directions.
- IAPD file import.
- Caltech file import.
- Better guessing of measurement type in 2G files.
- Site location data import (for use with VGP calculation).
- More palaeomagnetic data can now be appended to an existing suite.

#### 9.4.4. Data export

- *n* and *a95* are listed in sample parameter file.
- Great circle strikes and dips are included in exported data.

#### 9.4.5. Bug fixes

- Exporting FreeHEP SVG graphics no longer disables anti-aliasing.
- PuffinPlot no longer crashes if an incorrect 2G protocol is specified.
- PuffinPlot will not save its own file over the original data file.
- Cleared PCA directions no longer reappear.
- Fixed potential crash during suite parameter export.
- Measurement types now checked for consistency when opening a file.

#### 9.4.6. Documentation

- All new features are fully documented in the updated user manual.

#### 9.4.7. Miscellaneous new features

- Site calculations automatically update when sample calculations change.
- Site directions cleared automatically when all their sample directions are cleared.
- Warning when closing a file or quitting with unsaved data.
- Clearer error messages and warnings when reading corrupted files.
- Treatment type can be set manually.
- Site definitions can be cleared.
- Treatment steps can be deselected by dragging a box.
- PuffinPlot will ask for confirmation before overwriting files.
- Native file open dialog is now used on Mac OS X.
- Added 'invert sample moment' feature.
- 'Open file' dialogs now remember the last used folder.

- Sample volume can be edited.

#### **9.4.8. Other notes**

- PuffinPlot now requires Java 7 or higher.
- PuffinPlot is now hosted on BitBucket, due to the imminent demise of Google Code.

No release notes are available for PuffinPlot versions prior to 1.03.

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