

Setting Up a pbdR Environment

Installing MPI, R, and pbdR

Version 1.0

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1 Quick Introduction

In this guide, we will detail the necessary steps for how to set up a pbdR environment. What follows in the remaining sections is a very lengthy list of installation instructions; however, most users should find the process fairly straight-forward, and may not need (or want) all of the details we will provide unless something goes wrong. In any case, the short version for setting up a pbdR environment is to:

1. install R (and Rtools for Windows); see <http://cran.r-project.org/>
2. install an MPI library; <http://www.open-mpi.org/>, or <http://www.mpich.org/> for Windows
3. install the pbdR packages; see <http://r-pbd.org/>

Items 1 and 2 are interchangeable, and so if you already have R (and additionally Rtools for Windows) and/or an MPI library installed, then merely skip this/these step(s); there is no need to reinstall anything.

1.1 Installing R

This should be fairly painless. R has binary packages for every operating system you have heard of (and some you haven't), and the install should go fine. Of course, since R is open source, you are free to compile it yourself, should have have reason or need to do so. You can find both the source as well as binaries at the R project's main site: <http://cran.r-project.org/>.

Additionally, you may wish to customize your R build by compiling from source. For example, you may wish to link R with a high performance linear algebra library, such as MKL. See the *R Installation and Administration Manual* at <http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-admin.html> for full details.

1.2 Installing MPI

Windows users should install MPICH2, available from <http://www.mpich.org/>.

1.3 Installing pbdR Packages

All released pbdR packages are available from <http://cran.r-project.org/> which is the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN). This is similar to the CPAN for perl or CTAN for L^AT_EX, although with many improvements and benefits over its competitors.

It is also possible to link pbdR with high performance linear algebra libraries, such as MKL. Figure 1

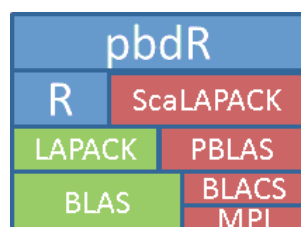


Figure 1: pbdR Relationships to Libraries

offers some insight into the package organization. See the pbdSLAP vignette for more details.

2 Windows

Officially, the pbdR team does not support gaming consoles. However, it is possible to install pbdR packages on Windows.

The instructions and screenshots for this document are for version 2.15.1 of R, but later versions should be very similar, if not identical.

2.1 R

1. Download R: <http://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/>
2. Open the saved file from 1 above to begin the installation. At the first setup screen, click 'Next' to continue.
3. When prompted with the license, click 'Next' to continue.
4. When prompted for the location to install R, we strongly encourage you to use the default. When you have made your decision, click 'Next'.
5. When prompted with the components to install, you should select a 'User installation'. Then click 'Next'.
6. When prompted with the option to alter the startup options, we suggest selecting No (accept defaults). When you have made your decision, click 'Next'.
7. When prompted with the start menu folder options, make your choice and then click 'Next'.
8. When prompted with the additional tasks options, we suggest making sure that **Save version number in registry** and **Associate R with .RData files** are both **checked**. When you have made your decisions, click 'Next'.
9. To complete the R installation, select 'Finish'.

Once R is finished installing, you need to install the [rlecuyer](#) package. To install it from an interactive R session, simply start an R session and issue the command

```
1 install.packages("rlecuyer")
```

2.2 Rtools

1. Download Rtools: <http://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/>
2. Open the saved file from 1 above to begin the installation. At the first setup screen, click 'Next' to continue.
3. When prompted with the license, click 'Next' to continue.
4. When prompted for the location to install R, we strongly encourage you to use the default. When you have made your decision, click 'Next'.
5. When prompted with the components to install, you should select a 'User installation'. Then click 'Next'.
6. When prompted with the option to alter the startup options, we suggest selecting No (accept defaults). When you have made your decision, click 'Next'.

7. When prompted with the start menu folder options, make your choice and then click 'Next'.
8. To complete the Rtools installation, select 'Finish'.

2.3 MPICH2

Before proceeding, please be aware that this installation requires **administrative privileges**.

1. Download both the 32-bit [mpich2-1.4.1p1-win-i32.msi](http://www.mpich.org/) and the 64-bit [mpich2-1.4.1p1-win-x86-64.msi](http://www.mpich.org/) installers from: <http://www.mpich.org/> .
2. Open the saved file from 1 above to begin the installation. At the first setup screen, click 'Next' to continue.
3. When prompted with the system requirements, click 'Next' to continue.
4. When prompted with the license, click "I agree" and then click 'Next' to continue.
5. When prompted with the 'Process Manager setup' screen, choose a passphrase and then click 'Next' to continue.
6. At the 'Select Installation Folder' screen, we recommend you keep the default folders. By default, the 32-bit application will be installed in `C:\Program Files (x86)\MPICH2\` and the 64bit application will be installed in `C:\Program Files\MPICH2\`.

Additionally, you should make the selection for whether or not MPICH2 should be available to all users of this system or just yourself. When you are ready to proceed, click 'Next'.

7. When prompted to confirm the installation, click 'Next' to proceed.
8. To complete the MPICH2 installation, select 'Close'.

2.4 pbdR

1. To help simplify things, we offer a simple [install script](#) which makes managing the PATH slightly simpler. By default, this is for R version 2.15.3 and **pbdMPI** version 0.1-6. If you have a different version of R or want to install a different version of **pbdMPI**, simply change lines 4 and/or 5 of the install script to match your needs.
2. Open a command prompt either from the start menu, or by entering the command **Windows key** then **R**, and then entering **cmd** in the "run" dialog box.
3. Before proceeding further, it is probably a good idea to test the installation of MPICH2. The following commands utilize MPICH2 to do some fairly trivial things (do not copy **SHELL>** if you are copying and pasting from the lines below):

```
SHELL> C:\PROGRA~1\MPICH2\bin\mpiexec -np 2 hostname.exe
SHELL> C:\PROGRA~1\R\R-2.15.1\bin\R --vanilla --slave -e "ls()"
SHELL> C:\PROGRA~1\R\R-2.15.1\bin\Rscript --vanilla --slave -e "ls()"
```

4. Download the [source](#) for **pbdMPI** package. Put it in the same directory as your **build_pbdMPI.bat** file, and then execute **build_pbdMPI.bat** from the command prompt to install the package.
5. If the process is done without errors, you can see the binary package is installed.

3 Installation Problems

During the course of installation, you may run into unrecoverable issues. The pbdR team does not support MPI libraries or R core, so if you have problems during that portion of the installation phase, we probably can not directly help you. However, there are still many great resources at your disposal, maintained by those individual projects.

3.1 R and MPI

If you have problems installing or customizing R, see the *R Installation and Administration Manual* at <http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-admin.html> for help.

If you are having trouble installing an MPI library, you should see that library's official documentation. For OpenMPI, see <http://www.open-mpi.org/community/help/> and for MPICH, see <http://www.mpich.org/documentation/guides/>.

For the remainder, we will be addressing installation issues with pbdR packages.

3.2 pbdR

This is a quick list of potential problems you could encounter when installing pbdR packages. For additional troubleshooting or installation options, each package has a vignette which may offer additional useful information.

- **When compiling pbdMPI from source**, you may be required to pass a configure argument at compile time. So for example, if you have OpenMPI installed and were installing from the command line, then you would issue the command:

```
R CMD INSTALL pbdMPI_0.1-6.tar.gz \
  --configure-args='--with-Rmpi-type=OPENMPI'
```

or if installing from R:

```
1 install.packages("pbdMPI", configure.args='--with-Rmpi-type=
  OPENMPI')
```

- **If you are installing on a cluster** where you must install on the login node which can not load the packages, then pass the install option `--no-test-load`. So for example, if installing from the command line, then you would issue the command:

```
R CMD INSTALL pbdMPI_0.1-6.tar.gz --no-test-load
```

or if installing from R:

```
1 install.packages("pbdMPI", INSTALL_opts='--no-test-load')
```

4 Running pbdR Scripts

This information is covered in *much* more detail in the [pbdDEMO](#) vignette, and should not be considered a substitute. However, there are two key points one needs to understand in order to use pbdR tools. Namely,

- pbdR codes are written in Single Program/Multiple Data style
- pbdR codes are executed in batch

For full details, see the pbdDEMO package vignette.

Below is a simple pbdR script. This will help you know if things are installed properly or not. To understand what the script is doing, or to learn how to do much more substantial things, you should see the pbdDEMO package vignette.

```
1 library(pbdMPI, quiet = TRUE)
2 init()
3
4 x <- comm.rank()
5
6 comm.print(x, all.rank = TRUE)
7
8 finalize()
```

To run the script, you must do so in batch (i.e., non-interactively). First save its contents to the file `my_script.r`, and then open a command prompt. On Windows, you should execute the command:

```
mpiexec.exe -np 2 Rscript my_script.r
```