

Package ‘GA’

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Title Genetic Algorithms

Description An R package for optimization using genetic algorithms.

The package provides a flexible general-purpose set of tools for implementing genetic algorithms search in both the continuous and discrete case, whether constrained or not. Users can easily define their own objective function depending on the problem at hand. Several genetic operators are available and can be combined to explore the best settings for the current task. Furthermore, users can define new genetic operators and easily evaluate their performances.

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binary2decimal	<i>Binary encoding of decimal numbers and viceversa.</i>
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Description

Functions for computing binary to decimal conversion of numbers and viceversa.

Usage

```
decimal2binary(x, length)
binary2decimal(x)
```

Arguments

- x input value.
- length an optional value giving the length of binary string to return.

Details

decimal2binary converts a numerical value (which is forced to be an integer) to a binary representation, i.e. a vector of 0s and 1s. For real numerical values see the example below.

binary2binary converts a binary value, i.e. a vector of 0s and 1s, to a decimal representation.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also[binary2gray](#)**Examples**

```
# for integer values
dval <- 12
(bval <- decimal2binary(dval))
binary2decimal(bval)

# for real values
dval <- 12.456
# use
(bval <- decimal2binary(dval*1000))
binary2decimal(bval)/1000
```

binary2gray*Gray encoding for binary strings*

Description

Functions for computing Gray encoding from/to binary strings.

Usage

```
binary2gray(x)
gray2binary(x)
```

Arguments

x the string to be evaluated

Details

Gray encoding allows to obtain binary strings not affected by the well-known Hamming cliff problem. With Gray encoding the number of bit differences between any two consecutive values is one, whereas in binary strings this is not always true.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also[binary2decimal](#)

Examples

```
# Consider a five-bit encoding of values 15 and 16 using the standard
# binary coding
decimal2binary(15, 5)
decimal2binary(16, 5)
# Moving from 15 to 16 (or viceversa) all five bits need to be changed,
# but using Gray encoding the two binary strings differ by one bit one bit.
binary2gray(decimal2binary(15, 5))
binary2gray(decimal2binary(16, 5))
```

ga

Genetic Algorithms

Description

Maximization of a fitness function using genetic algorithms.

Usage

```
ga(type = c("binary", "real-valued", "permutation"),
  fitness, ...,
  min, max, nBits,
  population = gaControl(type)$population,
  selection = gaControl(type)$selection,
  crossover = gaControl(type)$crossover,
  mutation = gaControl(type)$mutation,
  popSize = 50,
  pcrossover = 0.8,
  pmutation = 0.1,
  elitism = base::max(1, round(popSize*0.05)),
  monitor = gaMonitor,
  maxiter = 100,
  run = maxiter,
  maxfitness = -Inf,
  names = NULL,
  suggestions,
  seed)
```

Arguments

type	the type of genetic algorithm to be run depending on the nature of decision variables. Possible values are: "binary" for binary representations of decision variables; "real-valued" for optimization problems where the decision variables are floating-point representations of real numbers; "permutation" for problems that involves reordering of a list.
fitness	the fitness function, any allowable R function which takes as input an individual string representing a potential solution, and returns a numerical value describing its "fitness".

...	additional arguments to be passed to the fitness function. This allows to write fitness functions that keep some variables fixed during the search.
min	a vector of length equal to the decision variables providing the minimum of the search space in case of real-valued or permutation encoded optimizations.
max	a vector of length equal to the decision variables providing the maximum of the search space in case of real-valued or permutation encoded optimizations.
nBits	a value specifying the number of bits to be used in binary encoded optimizations.
population	an R function for randomly generating an initial population.
selection	an R function performing selection, i.e., a function which generates a new population of individuals from the current population probabilistically according to individual fitness.
crossover	an R function performing crossover, i.e., a function which forms offsprings by combining part of the genetic information from their parents.
mutation	an R function performing mutation, i.e., a function which randomly alters the values of some genes in a parent chromosome.
popSize	the population size.
pcrossover	the probability of crossover between pairs of chromosomes. Typically this is a large value and by default is set to 0.8.
pmutation	the probability of mutation in a parent chromosome. Usually mutation occurs with a small probability, and by default is set to 0.1.
elitism	the number of best fitness individuals to survive at each generation. By default the top 5% individuals will survive at each iteration.
monitor	an R function which takes as input the current state of the ga object and show the evolution of the search. By default, the function gaMonitor prints the average and best fitness values at each iteration. If set to plot these information are plotted on a graphical device. Other functions can be written by the user and supplied as argument.
maxiter	the maximum number of iterations to run before the GA search is halted.
run	the number of consecutive generations without any improvement in the best fitness value before the GA is stopped.
maxfitness	the upper bound on the fitness function after that the GA search is interrupted.
names	a vector of character strings providing the names of decision variables.
suggestions	a matrix of solutions string to be included in the initial population.
seed	an integer vector containing the random number generator state. This argument can be used to replicate the results of a GA search.

Details

Genetic algorithms (GAs) are stochastic search algorithms inspired by the basic principles of biological evolution and natural selection. GAs simulate the evolution of living organisms, where the fittest individuals dominate over the weaker ones, by mimicking the biological mechanisms of evolution, such as selection, crossover and mutation.

The **GA** package is a collection of general purpose functions that provide a flexible set of tools for applying a wide range of genetic algorithm methods.

Value

Returns an object of class `ga-class`.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

References

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- Sivanandam S, Deepa S (2007). *Introduction to Genetic Algorithms*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin Heidelberg.
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See Also

`summary`, `ga-method`, `plot`, `ga-method`, `ga-class`, `ga_Population`, `ga_Selection`, `ga_Crossover`, `ga_Mutation`, `gaControl`.

Examples

```
# 1) one-dimensional function
f <- function(x) abs(x)+cos(x)
curve(f, -20, 20)

fitness <- function(x) -f(x)
GA <- ga(type = "real-valued", fitness = fitness, min = -20, max = 20)
summary(GA)
plot(GA)

curve(f, -20, 20)
abline(v = GA@solution, lty = 3)

# 2) one-dimensional function
```

```

f <- function(x) (x^2+x)*cos(x) # -10 < x < 10
curve(f, -10, 10)

# write your own tracing function
monitor <- function(obj)
{
  curve(f, -10, 10, main = paste("iteration =", obj@iter))
  points(obj@population, obj@fitness, pch = 20, col = 2)
  rug(obj@population, col = 2)
  Sys.sleep(0.2)
}
## Not run:
GA <- ga(type = "real-valued", fitness = f, min = -10, max = 10, monitor = monitor)

## End(Not run)
# or if you want to suppress the tracing
GA <- ga(type = "real-valued", fitness = f, min = -10, max = 10, monitor = NULL)
summary(GA)

monitor(GA)
abline(v = GA@solution, lty = 3)

# 3) two-dimensional Rastrigin function

Rastrigin <- function(x1, x2)
{
  20 + x1^2 + x2^2 - 10*(cos(2*pi*x1) + cos(2*pi*x2))
}

x1 <- x2 <- seq(-5.12, 5.12, by = 0.1)
f <- outer(x1, x2, Rastrigin)
persp3D(x1, x2, f, theta = 50, phi = 20)
filled.contour(x1, x2, f, color.palette = jet.colors)

GA <- ga(type = "real-valued", fitness = function(x) -Rastrigin(x[1], x[2]),
  min = c(-5.12, -5.12), max = c(5.12, 5.12),
  popSize = 50, maxiter = 100)
summary(GA)
plot(GA)

```

ga-class

Class "ga"

Description

An S4 class for genetic algorithms

Objects from the Class

Objects can be created by calls to the [ga](#).

Slots

call
type
min
max
nBits
names
popSize
iter
run
maxiter
suggestions
population
elitism
pcrossover
pmutation
fitness
best
mean
fitnessValue
solution

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also

[ga](#)

gaControl

A function for setting or retrieving defaults genetic operators

Description

Default settings for genetic operators used in the GA package.

Usage

gaControl(...)

Arguments

... no arguments, a single character vector, or a named list with components.

Details

If the function is called with no arguments returns the current default settings, i.e., a list with the following default components:

- "binary"
 - population = "gabin_Population"
 - selection = "gabin_lrSelection"
 - crossover = "gabin_spCrossover"
 - mutation = "gabin_raMutation"
- "real-valued"
 - population = "gareal_Population"
 - selection = "gareal_lsSelection"
 - crossover = "gareal_laCrossover"
 - mutation = "gareal_raMutation"
- "permutation"
 - population = "gaperm_Population"
 - selection = "gaperm_lrSelection"
 - crossover = "gaperm_oxCrossover"
 - mutation = "gaperm_simMutation"
- "eps" = the tolerance value used by the package functions. By default set at `sqrt(.Machine$double.eps)`.

The function may be called with a single string specifying the name of the component. In this case the function returns the current default settings.

To change the default values, a named component must be followed by a single value (in case of "eps") or a list of component(s) specifying the name of the function for a genetic operator. See the Examples section.

Value

If the argument list is empty the function returns the current list of values. If the argument list is not empty, the returned list is invisible.

Note

The parameter values set via a call to this function will remain in effect for the rest of the session, affecting the subsequent behaviour of the functions for which the given parameters are relevant.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also[ga](#)**Examples**

```
# get and save defaults
defaultControl <- gaControl()
print(defaultControl)
# get current defaults only for binary search
gaControl("binary")
# set defaults for selection operator of binary search
gaControl("binary" = list(selection = "gabin_tourSelection"))
gaControl("binary")
# set defaults for selection and crossover operators of binary search
gaControl("binary" = list(selection = "ga_rwSelection",
                           crossover = "gabin_uCrossover"))

gaControl("binary")
# restore defaults
gaControl(defaultControl)
gaControl()
```

gaMonitor

*Monitor genetic algorithm evolution***Description**

A function which prints the average and best fitness values at each iteration of GA search.

Usage

```
gaMonitor(object, digits = getOption("digits"), ...)
```

Arguments

object	an object of class "ga", usually resulting from a call to function ga .
digits	minimal number of significant digits.
...	further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Value

This function prints a summary of GA steps on the console.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also[ga](#)

Description

Functions implementing crossover genetic operator.

Usage

```
ga_spCrossover(object, parents, ...)

gabin_spCrossover(object, parents, ...)
gabin_uCrossover(object, parents, ...)

gareal_spCrossover(object, parents, ...)
gareal_waCrossover(object, parents, ...)
gareal_laCrossover(object, parents, ...)
gareal_blxCrossover(object, parents, ...)

gaperm_cxCrossover(object, parents, ...)
gaperm_pmxCrossover(object, parents, ...)
gaperm_oxCrossover(object, parents, ...)
gaperm_pbxCrossover(object, parents, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class "ga", usually resulting from a call to function ga .
parents	A two-rows matrix of values indexing the parents from the current population.
...	Further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Value

Return a list with two elements:

children	a matrix of dimension 2 times the number of decision variables containing the generated offsprings;
fitness	a vector of length 2 containing the fitness values for the offsprings. A value NA is returned if an offspring is different (which is usually the case) from the two parents.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also

[ga](#)

Description

Functions implementing mutation genetic operator.

Usage

```
gabin_raMutation(object, parent, ...)

gareal_raMutation(object, parent, ...)
gareal_nraMutation(object, parent, ...)
gareal_rsMutation(object, parent, ...)

gaperm_simMutation(object, parent, ...)
gaperm_ismMutation(object, parent, ...)
gaperm_swMutation(object, parent, ...)
gaperm_dmMutation(object, parent, ...)
gaperm_scrMutation(object, parent, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class "ga", usually resulting from a call to function ga .
parent	A vector of values for the parent from the current population where mutation should occur.
...	Further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Value

Return a vector of values containing the mutated string.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also

[ga](#)

ga_Population*Population initialization in genetic algorithms*

Description

Functions for creating a random initial population to be used in genetic algorithms.

Usage

```
gabin_Population(object, ...)
```

```
gareal_Population(object, ...)
```

```
gaperm_Population(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class "ga", usually resulting from a call to function ga .
...	Further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Details

`gabin_Population` generates a random population of `object@nBits` binary values;

`gareal_Population` generates a random (uniform) population of real values in the range [`object@min`, `object@max`];

`gaperm_Population` generates a random (uniform) population of integer values in the range [`object@min`, `object@max`].

Value

Return a matrix of dimension `object@popSize` times the number of decision variables.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also

[ga](#)

Description

Functions implementing selection genetic operator.

Usage

```
ga_lrSelection(object, r = 2/(object@popSize * (object@popSize - 1)),
               q = 2/object@popSize, ...)
ga_nlrSelection(object, q = 0.25, ...)
ga_rwSelection(object, ...)
ga_tourSelection(object, k = 3, ...)

gabin_lrSelection(object, r = 2/(object@popSize * (object@popSize - 1)),
                  q = 2/object@popSize, ...)
gabin_nlrSelection(object, q = 0.25, ...)
gabin_rwSelection(object, ...)
gabin_tourSelection(object, k = 3, ...)

gareal_lrSelection(object, r = 2/(object@popSize * (object@popSize - 1)),
                   q = 2/object@popSize, ...)
gareal_nlrSelection(object, q = 0.25, ...)
gareal_rwSelection(object, ...)
gareal_tourSelection(object, k = 3, ...)
gareal_lsSelection(object, ...)
gareal_sigmaSelection(object, ...)

gaperm_lrSelection(object, r = 2/(object@popSize * (object@popSize - 1)),
                   q = 2/object@popSize, ...)
gaperm_nlrSelection(object, q = 0.25, ...)
gaperm_rwSelection(object, ...)
gaperm_tourSelection(object, k = 3, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class "ga", usually resulting from a call to function ga .
r	A tuning parameter for the specific selection operator.
q	A tuning parameter for the specific selection operator.
k	A tuning parameter for the specific selection operator.
...	Further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Value

Return a list with two elements:

population	a matrix of dimension object@popSize times the number of decision variables containing the selected individuals or strings;
fitness	a vector of length object@popSize containing the fitness values for the selected individuals.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also

[ga](#)

jet.colors

Jet Colors Palette

Description

Create a vector of n colors beginning with dark blue, ranging through shades of blue, cyan, green, yellow and red, and ending with dark red.

Usage

```
jet.colors(n)
```

Arguments

n a numerical value specifying the number of colors in the palette.

Details

This function creates a palette of colors beginning with dark blue, ranging through shades of blue, cyan, green, yellow and red, and ending with dark red.

Value

Returns vector of n color names.

See Also

[colors.](#)

Examples

```
jet.colors(5)

palette(jet.colors(21))
pie(rep(1,21), col = 1:21)
```

numericOrNA-class	<i>Virtual Class "numericOrNA" - Simple Class for subassignment Values</i>
-------------------	--

Description

The class "numericOrNA" is a simple class union ([setClassUnion](#)) of "numeric" and "logical".

Objects from the Class

Since it is a virtual Class, no objects may be created from it.

Examples

```
showClass("numericOrNA")
```

parNames-methods	<i>Parameters or decision variables names from an object of class ga-class.</i>
------------------	---

Description

A method for obtaining the names of parameters or decision variables from an object of class [ga-class](#).

Usage

```
parNames(object, ...)
## S4 method for signature 'ga'
parNames(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class "ga", usually resulting from a call to function ga .
...	Further arguments, currently not used.

Value

A list of character values providing the names of parameters or decision variables.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also[ga](#)

persp3D

*Perspective plot with colour levels***Description**

This function draws a perspective plot of a surface with different levels in different colors.

Usage

```
persp3D(x, y, z, theta = 30, phi = 20, d = 5, expand = 2/3,
        xlim = range(x, finite = TRUE), ylim = range(y, finite = TRUE),
        zlim = range(z, finite = TRUE), levels = pretty(zlim, nlevels),
        nlevels = 20, color.palette = jet.colors, border = NA,
        ticktype = "detailed", xlab = NULL, ylab = NULL, zlab = NULL,
        ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x, y</code>	locations of grid lines at which the values in <code>z</code> are measured. These must be in ascending order. By default, equally spaced values from 0 to 1 are used. If <code>x</code> is a list, its components <code>x\$x</code> and <code>x\$y</code> are used for <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> , respectively.
<code>z</code>	a matrix containing the values to be plotted (NAs are allowed).
<code>theta, phi</code>	angles defining the viewing direction. <code>theta</code> gives the azimuthal direction and <code>phi</code> the colatitude.
<code>d</code>	a value which can be used to vary the strength of the perspective transformation.
<code>expand</code>	a expansion factor applied to the <code>z</code> coordinates.
<code>xlim, ylim, zlim</code>	<code>x</code> -, <code>y</code> - and <code>z</code> -limits for the axes.
<code>levels</code>	a vector of values specifying the levels to be used for plotting the surface with different colors.
<code>nlevels</code>	a value specifying the number of levels to be used for plotting. This value is used if <code>levels</code> argument is not specified.
<code>color.palette</code>	the color palette used for plotting.
<code>border</code>	the color of the line drawn around the surface facets. By default is set to <code>NA</code> so no borders are drawn.
<code>ticktype</code>	a character specifying the type of axes tickmarks. By default "detailed" ticks are drawn.

xlab, ylab, zlab
character strings specifying the titles for the axes.

... Further arguments passed to the function [persp](#).

Details

This function enhances the default perspective plot for drawing 3-dimensional surfaces.

Value

Return a list with the following elements:

persp the viewing transformation matrix (see [link{persp}](#));

levels a vector of values giving the levels used for plotting the surface;

colors a vector of strings giving the color used for plotting the surface.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also

[link{persp}](#)

Examples

```
y <- x <- seq(-10, 10, length=60)
f <- function(x,y) { r <- sqrt(x^2+y^2); 10 * sin(r)/r }
z <- outer(x, y, f)
persp3D(x, y, z, theta = 30, phi = 30, expand = 0.5)
persp3D(x, y, z, color.palette = heat.colors, phi = 30, theta = 225,
        box = TRUE, border = NA, shade = .4)

x1 = seq(-3,3,length=50)
x2 = seq(-3,3,length=50)
y = function(x1, x2) sin(x1)+cos(x2)
persp3D(x1, x2, outer(x1,x2,y), zlab="y", theta = 150, phi = 20, expand = 0.6)
```

plot.ga-method

Plot of Genetic Algorithm search path

Description

The plot method for [ga-class](#) objects gives a plot of best and average fitness values found during the iterations of the GA search.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'ga'
plot(x, y, ylim, cex.points = 0.8,
     col = c("green3", "dodgerblue3"), pch = c(20, 17), lty = c(1,2),
     grid = graphics::grid, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class "ga".
y	Not used.
ylim	A vector of two values specifying the limits on the y-axis.
cex.points	The magnification to be used for points.
col	The colors to be used for best and average fitness values.
pch	The type of points to be used for best and average fitness values.
lty	The type of lines to be used for best and average fitness values.
grid	A function for grid drawing of NULL to avoid drawing one.
...	Further arguments, currently not used.

Details

Plot best and average fitness values at each iteration of GA search.

Value

The method invisibly return a list with the following components:

iter	a vector of values for each iteration.
fitnessBest	the best value of fitness function at each iteration.
fitnessMean	the mean value of fitness function at each iteration.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also

[ga](#), [ga-class](#).

summary.ga-method	<i>Summary for Genetic Algorithms</i>
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Description

Summary method for class "GA".

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'ga'
summary(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.ga'
print(x, digits = getOption("digits"), ...)
```

Arguments

object	an object of class ga-class .
x	an object of class <code>summary.ga</code> .
digits	number of significant digits.
...	further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Value

The summary function returns an object of class `summary.ga` which can be printed by the corresponding print method. The function also returns invisibly a list with the information from the genetic algorithm search.

Author(s)

Luca Scrucca

See Also

[ga](#)

Examples

```
f <- function(x) abs(x)+cos(x)
GA <- ga(type = "real-valued", fitness = function(x) -f(x), min = -20, max = 20)
out <- summary(GA)
print(out)
str(out)
```

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