

Lecture 25

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Rcpp

The Rcpp package integrates R and C++ via R functions and a (header-only) C++ library.

All underlying R types and objects, i.e., everything a SEXP represents internally in R, are matched to corresponding C++ objects. This covers anything from vectors, matrices or lists to environments, functions and more. Each SEXP variant is automatically mapped to a dedicated C++ class. For example, numeric vectors are represented as instances of the Rcpp::NumericVector class, environments are represented as instances of Rcpp::Environment, functions are represented as Rcpp::Function, etc ...

From "Extending R with C++: A Brief Introduction to Rcpp":

R has always provided an application programming interface (API) for extensions. Based on the C language, it uses a number of macros and other low-level constructs to exchange data structures between the R process and any dynamically-loaded component modules authors added to it. With the introduction of the Rcpp package, and its later refinements, this process has become considerably easier yet also more robust. By now, Rcpp has become the most popular extension mechanism for R.

C++ Types

Туре	Size	Description	Value Range
bool	1*	Logical value: true or false	true or false
char	8	Character (ASCII or UTF8)	± 127
short int	16	Small integers	$\pm 3.27 \cdot 10^4$
int	32	Medium integers	$\pm 2.14 \cdot 10^9$
long int	64	Large integers	$\pm 9.22 \cdot 10^{1}8$
float	32	Small floating point value	$\pm 10^{-38} \text{ to } \pm 10^{38}$
double	64	Large floating point value	$\pm 10^{-308}$ to $\pm 10^{308}$

⁺ many many more

R types vs C++ types

All of the basic types in R are vectors by default, in C++ the types we just discussed are all scalar. So it is necessary to have one more level of abstraction to translate between the two. Rcpp provides for this with several built in classes:

C++ type (scalar)	Rcpp Class	R type (typeof)
int	Rcpp::IntegerVector	integer
double	<pre>Rcpp::NumericVector</pre>	numeric
bool	Rcpp::LogicalVector	logical
<pre>std::string</pre>	<pre>Rcpp::CharacterVector</pre>	character
char	Rcpp::RawVector	raw
<pre>std::complex<double></double></pre>	<pre>Rcpp::ComplexVector</pre>	complex
	Rcpp::List	list
	Rcpp::Environment	environment
	Rcpp::Function	function
	Rcpp::XPtr	externalptr
	Rcpp::S4	S4

Trying things out

Rcpp provides some helpful functions for trying out simple C++ expressions (evalCpp), functions (cppFunction), or cpp files (sourceCpp). It is even possible to include C++ code in Rmd / qmd documents using the Rcpp engine.

```
1 evalCpp("2+2")
[1] 4

1 evalCpp("2+2") |> typeof()

[1] "integer"

1 evalCpp("2+2.") |> typeof()

[1] "double"
```

What's happening?

```
1 evalCpp("2+2", verbose = TRUE, rebuild = TRUE)
```

```
Generated code for function definition:
#include <Rcpp.h>
using namespace Rcpp;
// [[Rcpp::export]]
SEXP get value(){ return wrap( 2+2 ) ; }
Generated extern "C" functions
#include <Rcpp.h>
#ifdef RCPP USE GLOBAL ROSTREAM
[1] 4
```

C++ functions as R functions

```
cppFunction('
double cpp_mean(double x, double y) {
   return (x+y)/2;
}
')
```

Using sourceCpp

This allows for an entire .cpp source file to be compiled and loaded into R. This is generally the preferred way of working with C++ code and is well supported by RStudio (i.e. provides syntax highlights, tab completion, etc.)

Make sure to include the Rcpp header

```
1 #include <Rcpp.h>
```

If you hate typing Rcpp:: everywhere, include the namespace

```
1 using namespace Rcpp;
```

Specify any desired plugins with

```
1 // [[Rcpp::plugins(cpp11)]]
```

Prefix any functions that will be exported with R with

```
1 // [[Rcpp::export]]
```

Testing code can be included using an R code block:

```
1 /*** R
2 # This R code will be run automatically Sta 523 - Fall 2023
```

Example

The following would be avaiable as a file called mean.cpp or similar.

```
1 #include <Rcpp.h>
 2
   //[[Rcpp::plugins(cpp11)]]
 4
   //[[Rcpp::export]]
   double cpp_mean(double x, double y) {
     return (x+y)/2;
 8
 9
   /*** R
   x <- runif(1e5)
   bench::mark(
13
    cpp mean(1, 2),
14
     mean(c(1, 2))
15
16 */
```

for loops

In C & C++ for loops are traditionally constructed as,

```
1 for(initialization; end condition; increment) {
2  //...loop code ..
3 }
```

```
#include <Rcpp.h>

//[[Rcpp::export]]

double cpp_mean(Rcpp::NumericVector x) {

double sum = 0.0;

for(int i=0; i != x.size(); i++) {

    sum += x[i];

}

return sum/x.size();

}
```

```
1 cpp_mean(1:10)
```

[1] 5.5

Range based for loops (C++11)

Since the adoption of the C++11 standard there is an alternative for loop syntax,

```
#include <Rcpp.h>
 2 //[[Rcpp::plugins(cpp11)]]
 3
   //[[Rcpp::export]]
   double cpp11 mean(Rcpp::NumericVector x) {
     double sum = 0.0;
     for(auto v : x) {
       sum += v;
 9
10
     return sum/x.size();
11
12
```

```
1 cpp11_mean(1:10)
```

[1] 5.5

11

Available plugins?

Rcpp Sugar

Rcpp also attempts to provide many of the base R functions within the C++ scope, generally these are referred to as Rcpp Sugar, more can be found here or by examining the Rcpp source.

```
#include <Rcpp.h>
//[[Rcpp::plugins(cpp11)]]

//[[Rcpp::export]]

double rcpp_mean(Rcpp::NumericVector x) {
   return Rcpp::mean(x);
}
```

```
1 rcpp_mean(1:10)
[1] 5.5
```

Edge cases

```
1 \times = c(1:10,NA)
                                         1 \times = c(1:10,NA\_real\_)
                                                                                1 y = c(1:10, Inf)
  2 typeof(x)
                                         2 typeof(x)
                                                                                2 typeof(y)
                                       [1] "double"
                                                                              [1] "double"
[1] "integer"
                                         1 mean(x)
                                                                                1 mean(y)
  1 \text{ mean}(x)
[1] NA
                                       [1] NA
                                                                              [1] Inf
  1 cpp_mean(x)
                                         1 cpp_mean(x)
                                                                                1 cpp_mean(y)
[1] NA
                                       [1] NA
                                                                              [1] Inf
  1 cpp11_mean(x)
                                         1 cpp11_mean(x)
                                                                                1 cpp11_mean(y)
                                       [1] NA
[1] NA
                                                                              [1] Inf
  1 rcpp_mean(x)
                                         1 rcpp_mean(x)
                                                                                1 rcpp_mean(y)
[1] NA
                                       [1] NA
                                                                              [1] Inf
```

Integer mean

```
1 #include <Rcpp.h>
   //[[Rcpp::plugins(cpp11)]]
 3
   //[[Rcpp::export]]
   double cpp imean(Rcpp::IntegerVector x) {
     double sum = 0.0;
 6
     for(int i=0; i != x.size(); i++) {
       sum += x[i];
 8
 9
1.0
     return sum/x.size();
11
12 }
13
   //[[Rcpp::export]]
15 double cpp11_imean(Rcpp::IntegerVector x) {
     double sum = 0.0;
16
17
     for(auto v : x) {
18
       sum += v;
19
20
     return sum/x.size();
21
22 }
23
```

Integer edge cases

```
1 \times = c(1:10,NA)
                                         1 \times = c(1:10,NA\_real\_)
                                                                                 1 y = c(1:10, Inf)
  2 typeof(x)
                                         2 typeof(x)
                                                                                 2 typeof(y)
[1] "integer"
                                       [1] "double"
                                                                               [1] "double"
                                                                                 1 mean(y)
  1 \text{ mean}(x)
                                         1 \text{ mean}(x)
[1] NA
                                       [1] NA
                                                                               [1] Inf
  1 cpp_imean(x)
                                         1 cpp_imean(x)
                                                                                 1 cpp_imean(y)
[1] -195225781
                                       [1] -195225781
                                                                               [1] -195225781
  1 cpp11 imean(x)
                                         1 cpp11_imean(x)
                                                                                 1 cpp11 imean(y)
[1] -195225781
                                       [1] -195225781
                                                                               [1] -195225781
                                          1 rcpp imean(x)
                                                                                 1 rcpp imean(y)
  1 rcpp imean(x)
[1] NA
                                       [1] NA
                                                                               [1] NA
```

Missing values - C++ Scalars

From Hadley's Adv-R Rcpp chapter,

```
#include <Rcpp.h>

// [[Rcpp::export]]

Rcpp::List scalar_missings() {

int int_s = NA_INTEGER;

Rcpp::String chr_s = NA_STRING;

bool lgl_s = NA_LOGICAL;

double num_s = NA_REAL;

return Rcpp::List::create(int_s, chr_s, lgl_s, num_s);
}
```

```
1 scalar_missings() |> str()
```

```
List of 4
$ : int NA
$ : chr NA
$ : logi TRUE
$ : num NA
```

Missing values - Rcpp Vectors

```
#include <Rcpp.h>

// [[Rcpp::export]]

Rcpp::List vector_missing() {
    return Rcpp::List::create(
        Rcpp::NumericVector::create(NA_REAL),
        Rcpp::IntegerVector::create(NA_INTEGER),
        Rcpp::LogicalVector::create(NA_LOGICAL),
        Rcpp::CharacterVector::create(NA_STRING)

);

// [Rcpp::characterVector::create(NA_STRING)]

//
```

```
1 vector_missing() |> str()
```

```
List of 4
$ : num NA
$ : int NA
$ : logi NA
$ : chr NA
```

Performance

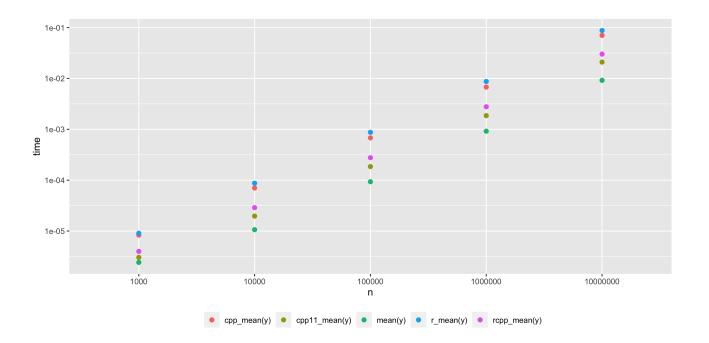
```
1 r_mean = function(x) {
2    sum = 0
3    for(v in x) {
4        sum = sum + v
5    }
6    sum / length(x)
7 }
```

```
1  y = seq_len(1e6)
2  bench::mark(
3   mean(y),
4   cpp_mean(y),
5   cppl1_mean(y),
6   rcpp_mean(y),
7   r_mean(y)
8  )
```

```
# A tibble: 5 \times 6
  expression
                     min
                           median `itr/sec` mem alloc `gc/sec`
                                      <dbl> <bch:byt>
  <br/><bch:expr> <bch:tm> <bch:tm>
                                                         <dbl>
1 mean(y)
                 1.83ms
                          1.86ms
                                       535.
                                                   0B
                                                           0
2 cpp mean(y) 7.27ms
                          7.43ms
                                       134.
                                            7.63MB
                                                          27.4
                                                          90.3
3 cpp11 mean(y)
                1.06ms
                          1.53ms
                                       645. 7.63MB
4 rcpp mean(y)
                  1.98ms
                          2.47ms
                                       405.
                                            7.63MB
                                                          40.2
5 r mean(y)
                  9.65ms
                          9.74 \mathrm{ms}
                                       102.
                                             23.47KB
                                                           0
```

bench::press

```
1 b = bench::press(
     n = 10^c(3:7)
 3
       y = sample(seq_len(n))
       bench::mark(
         mean(y),
 6
         cpp_mean(y),
         cpp11_mean(y),
 8
         rcpp_mean(y),
 9
         r_mean(y)
10
11
12
13 )
```



Creating a list

```
#include <Rcpp.h>

// [[Rcpp::export]]

Rcpp::List make_list(int n) {

return Rcpp::List::create(

Rcpp::Named("norm") = Rcpp::rnorm(n, 0, 1),

Rcpp::Named("beta") = Rcpp::rbeta(n, 1, 1),

Rcpp::IntegerVector::create(1,2,3,4,5, NA_INTEGER)

);

}
```

```
1 make_list(10)
$norm
[1] 0.4342609 0.1187385 0.7161429 0.2072892 0.8214279 -0.4126329
[7] -0.8157099 0.9734178 -0.1661491 -1.7505177
$beta
[1] 0.5024912 0.9213784 0.2657788 0.3112546 0.4953165 0.7907118 0.9054457
[8] 0.9877503 0.9416044 0.9399458
[[3]]
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 NA
```

Creating a data.frame

```
#include <Rcpp.h>

// [[Rcpp::export]]

Rcpp::DataFrame make_df(int n) {

return Rcpp::DataFrame::create(

Rcpp::Named("norm") = Rcpp::rnorm(n, 0, 1),

Rcpp::Named("beta") = Rcpp::rbeta(n, 1, 1)

);

);

)
```

```
1 make_df(10)
```

```
norm beta

1 0.7791048 0.2971766

2 -0.9973964 0.6712688

3 -0.4340436 0.1910884

4 0.7137004 0.3068889

5 1.4607811 0.7413501

6 -0.5584205 0.2499945

7 1.0849409 0.9776007

8 -0.1681364 0.9966878

9 1.1149094 0.7950116

10 -2.4585033 0.3791364
```

Creating a tbl

```
#include <Rcpp.h>

// [[Rcpp::export]]

Rcpp::DataFrame make_tbl(int n) {

Rcpp::DataFrame df = Rcpp::DataFrame::create(

Rcpp::Named("norm") = Rcpp::rnorm(n, 0, 1),

Rcpp::Named("beta") = Rcpp::rbeta(n, 1, 1)

);

df.attr("class") = Rcpp::CharacterVector::create("tbl_df", "tbl", "data.frame");

return df;

return df;

}
```

```
1 make_tbl(10)
```

Printing

R has some weird behavior when it comes to printing text from C++, Rcpp has function that resolves this, Rcout

```
#include <Rcpp.h>

// [[Rcpp::export]]

void n_hello(int n) {

for(int i=0; i!=n; ++i) {

    Rcpp::Rcout << i+1 << ". Hello world!\n";
}

</pre>
```

```
1 n_hello(5)
```

```
    Hello world!
    Hello world!
```

- 3. Hello world!
- 4. Hello world!
- 5. Hello world!

Printing NAS

```
1 #include <Rcpp.h>
2
3 // [[Rcpp::export]]
4 void print_na() {
5    Rcpp::Rcout << "NA_INTEGER : " << NA_INTEGER << "\n";
6    Rcpp::Rcout << "NA_STRING : " << NA_STRING << "\n";
7    Rcpp::Rcout << "NA_LOGICAL : " << NA_LOGICAL << "\n";
8    Rcpp::Rcout << "NA_REAL : " << NA_REAL << "\n";
9 }</pre>
```

```
1 print_na()
```

```
NA_INTEGER : -2147483648
NA_STRING : 0x12f012400
NA_LOGICAL : -2147483648
NA_REAL : nan
```

SEXP Conversion

Rcpp attributes provides a bunch of convenience tools that handle much of the conversion from R SEXP's to C++ / Rcpp types and back. Some times it is necessary to handle this directly.

```
#include <Rcpp.h>

// [[Rcpp::export]]

SEXP as_wrap(SEXP input) {

Rcpp::NumericVector r = Rcpp::as<Rcpp::NumericVector>(input);

Rcpp::NumericVector rev_r = Rcpp::rev(r);

return Rcpp::wrap(rev_r);

}
```

```
1 as_wrap(1:10)

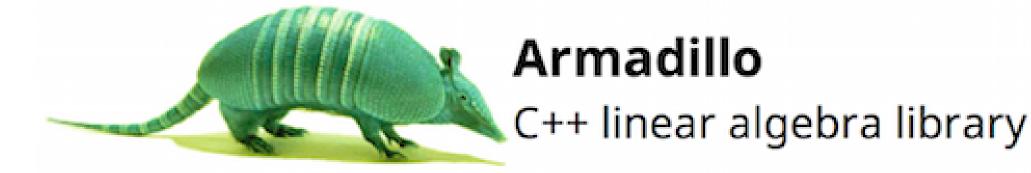
[1] 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

[1] as_wrap(c("A","B","C"))

Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos): Not compatible with requested type: [type=character; target=double].
[1] 3 2 1
```

RcppArmadillo

Armadillo



- Developed by Dr. Conrad Sanderson and Dr Ryan Curtin
- Template based linear algebra library with high level syntax (like R or Matlab)
- Heavy lifting is (mostly) handled by LAPACK (i.e. benefits from OpenBLAS)
- Supports vectors, matrices, and cubes in dense or sparse format
- Some builtin expression optimization via template meta-programming
- Header only or shared library versions available

Basic types

Armadillo has 4 basic (dense) templated types:

```
1 arma::Col<type>,
2 arma::Row<type>,
3 arma::Mat<type>,
4 arma::Cube<type>
```

These types can be specialized using one of the following data types:

```
1 float, double,
2 std::complex<float>, std::complex<double>,
3 short, int, long,
4 unsigned short, unsigned int, unsigned long
```

typedef Shortcuts

For convenience the following typedefs are defined:

Vectors:

```
= arma::colvec
                               = arma::Col<double>
arma::vec
arma::dvec = arma::dcolvec
                            = arma::Col<double>
arma::fvec = arma::fcolvec
                                  arma::Col<float>
arma::cx vec = arma::cx colvec =
                                  arma::Col<cx double>
arma::cx dvec = arma::cx dcolvec =
                                  arma::Col<cx double>
arma::cx fvec = arma::cx fcolvec =
                                  arma::Col<cx float>
                                  arma::Col<uword>
arma::uvec
             = arma::ucolvec
arma::ivec = arma::icolvec
                                  arma::Col<sword>
```

Matrices

```
1 arma::mat = arma::Mat<double>
2 arma::dmat = arma::Mat<double>
3 arma::fmat = arma::Mat<float>
4 arma::cx_mat = arma::Mat<cx_double>
5 arma::cx_dmat = arma::Mat<cx_double>
6 arma::cx_fmat = arma::Mat<cx_float>
7 arma::umat = arma::Mat<uword>
8 arma::imat = arma::Mat<sword>
```

Sta 523 - Fall 2023

31

RcppArmadillo

- Written and maintained by Dirk Eddelbuettel, Romain Francois, Doug Bates and Binxiang Ni
- Provides the header only version of Armadillo along with additional wrappers
 - Wrappers provide easy conversion between Rcpp types and Armadillo types
 - Enables use of Rcpp attributes and related tools
- Requirements include the following in your C++ code

```
1 // [[Rcpp::depends(RcppArmadillo)]]
2 #include <RcppArmadillo.h>
```

Example Program

```
// [[Rcpp::depends(RcppArmadillo)]]
// [[Rcpp::export]]
arma::mat test_randu(int n, int m) {
   arma::mat A = arma::randu<arma::mat>(n,m);
   return A;
}
```

```
1 test randu(4,5)
                                              1 test randu(3,1)
         [,1] [,2] [,3]
                                                       [,1]
[,4] [,5]
                                             [1,] 0.1684176
[1,] 0.1577529 0.0382616 0.3023270
                                            [2,] 0.5633584
0.9149072 0.4035437
                                             [3,] 0.4817050
[2,] 0.5399527 0.9434623 0.7391348
0.2271576 0.1917691
[3,] 0.3861921 0.4927827 0.4735173
0.8359659 0.7627058
[4,] 0.1284495 0.4712720 0.9821821
0.8227405 0.0347355
```

arma class attributes

Attribute	Description
■n_rows	number of rows; present in Mat, Col, Row, Cube, field and SpMat
.n_cols	number of columns; present in Mat, Col, Row, Cube, field and SpMat
.n_elem	total number of elements; present in Mat, Col, Row, Cube, field and
	SpMat
.n_slices	number of slices; present in Cube and field

```
1 // [[Rcpp::depends(RcppArmadillo)]]
  2 #include <RcppArmadillo.h>
  3
    // [[Rcpp::export]]
    void test attr(arma::mat m) {
      Rcpp::Rcout << "m.n rows = " << m.n rows << "\n";</pre>
  6
      Rcpp::Rcout << "m.n cols = " << m.n cols << "\n";</pre>
      Rcpp::Rcout << "m.n elem = " << m.n elem << "\n";</pre>
  9 }
 1 test attr(matrix(0, 3, 3))
                                             1 test attr(1:10)
m.n rows = 3
                                            Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos):
                                            Not a matrix.
m.n cols = 3
m.n elem = 9
                                             1 test attr(as.matrix(1:10))
 1 test attr(matrix(1, 4, 5))
                                           m.n rows = 10
                                           m.n cols = 1
m.n rows = 4
m.n cols = 5
                                           m.n elem = 10
m.n elem = 20
```

Sta 523 - Fall 2023 35

Element access

For an arma::vec v,

Call	Description
v(i)	Access the i-th element with bounds checking
v.at(i)	Access the i-th element without bounds checking
v[i]	Access the i-th element without bounds checking

For an arma::mat m,

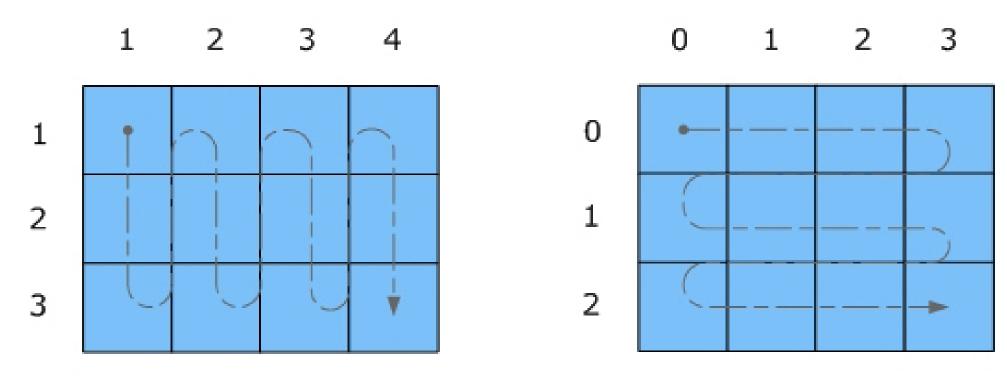
Call	Description	
m(i)	Access the i-th element, treating object as flat and in column major order	
m(i,j)	Access the element in i-th row and j-th column with bounds checking	
m.at(i,j)	Access the element in i-th row and j-th column without bounds checking	

Element access - Cubes

For an arma::cube c,

Call	Description	
c(i)	Access the i-th element, treating object as flat and in column major order	
c(i,j,k)	Access the element in i-th row, j-th column, and k-th slice with bounds checking	
c.at(i,j,k)	Access the element in i-th row, j-th column, and k-th slice without bounds checking	

Data Organization



A: Column-major order (Fortran-style)

B: Row-major order (C-style)

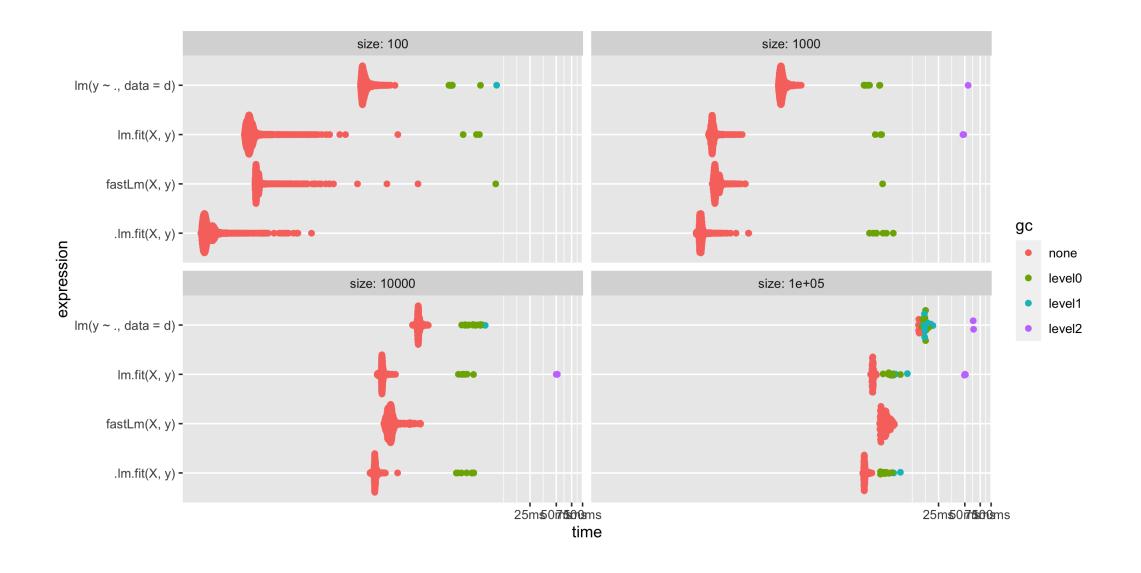
```
1 // [[Rcpp::depends(RcppArmadillo)]]
 2 #include <RcppArmadillo.h>
 3
    // [[Rcpp::export]]
    void test order(arma::mat m) {
      for(int i=0; i!=m.n_elem; ++i) {
 6
        Rcpp::Rcout << m(i) << " ";</pre>
 8
      Rcpp::Rcout << "\n";</pre>
 9
10 }
 1 m = matrix(1:9, 3, 3)
                                                  1 c(t(m))
 1 c(m)
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
                                                [1] 1 4 7 2 5 8 3 6 9
 1 test_order(m)
                                                  1 test_order(t(m))
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
                                                1 4 7 2 5 8 3 6 9
```

fastLm example

```
1 // [[Rcpp::depends(RcppArmadillo)]]
 2 #include <RcppArmadillo.h>
 3
   // [[Rcpp::export]]
   Rcpp::List fastLm(const arma::mat& X, const arma::colvec& y) {
       int n = X.n rows, k = X.n cols;
 6
       arma::colvec coef = arma::solve(X, y);  // fit model y ~ X
 8
       9
10
      // std.errors of coefficients
11
12
       double s2 = std::inner product(res.begin(), res.end(), res.begin(), 0.0)/(n - k);
13
14
       arma::colvec std err = arma::sgrt(s2 * arma::diagvec(arma::pinv(arma::trans(X)*X)
15
16
       return Rcpp::List::create(
        Rcpp::Named("coefficients") = coef,
17
        Rcpp::Named("stderr") = std err,
18
19
        Rcpp::Named("df.residual") = n - k
```

```
1 library(dplyr)
 2 n=1e5
 3 d = tibble(
     x1 = rnorm(n),
     x2 = rnorm(n),
    x3 = rnorm(n),
 6
     x4 = rnorm(n),
 8
     x5 = rnorm(n),
9 ) %>%
10
     mutate(
11
     y = 3 + x1 - x2 + 2*x3 - 2*x4 + 3*x5 - rnorm(
12
```

```
1 res = bench::press(
     size = c(100, 1000, 10000, 100000),
       d = d[seq len(size),]
       X = model.matrix(y \sim ., d)
       y = as.matrix(d$y)
       bench::mark(
         lm(y\sim., data=d),
 9
10
         lm.fit(X,y),
       .lm.fit(X,y),
11
12
     fastLm(X,y),
         check = FALSE
13
14
15
16)
```



Sta 523 - Fall 2023 42

MVN Example