

# Package ‘FactChar’

May 7, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Characterization and Diagnostic Tools for Factorial Block Designs

**Version** 1.0

**Maintainer** Sukanta Dash <sukanta.iasri@gmail.com>

**Description** Description: Provides comprehensive tools for analysing and characterizing mixed-level factorial designs arranged in blocks. Includes construction and validation of incidence structures, computation of C-matrices, evaluation of A-, D-, E-, and MV-efficiencies, checking of orthogonal factorial structure (OFS), diagnostics based on Hamming distance, discrepancy measures, B-criterion,  $E_s^2$  statistics, J2-distance and J2-efficiency, Phi-p optimality, and symmetry conditions for universal optimality. The methodological framework follows foundational work on factorial and mixed-level design assessment by Xu and Wu (2001) <doi:10.1214/aos/1013699993>, and Gupta (1983) <doi:10.1111/j.2517-6161.1983.tb01253.x>. These methods assist in selecting, comparing, and studying factorial block designs across a range of experimental situations.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** MASS, Matrix

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Sukanta Dash [aut, cre],  
Vankudoth Kumar [aut],  
Sunil Kumar Yadav [aut],  
Anil Kumar [aut],  
Med Ram Verma [aut]

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-12-12 21:40:02 UTC

## Contents

FactChar . . . . .	2
<b>Index</b>	<b>4</b>

---

FactChar	<i>Comprehensive Analysis of Factorial Block Designs</i>
----------	----------------------------------------------------------

---

### Description

FactChar() performs an extensive diagnostic and characterization of mixed-level factorial designs arranged in blocks.

### Usage

```
FactChar(factor_levels, blocks, verbose = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

factor_levels	Integer vector giving the number of levels of each factor, in order. For example, factor_levels = c(3, 4) means factor 1 has 3 levels coded 0, 1, 2 and factor 2 has 4 levels coded 0, 1, 2, 3.
blocks	A named list of blocks. Each element is a character vector of treatment labels. A treatment label is a string of digits, one digit per factor, using 0-based coding that matches factor_levels. Example: blocks <- list(B1 = c("00", "10", "20"), B2 = c("01", "11", "21"), B3 = c("02", "12", "22"), B4 = c("03", "13", "23"))
verbose	Logical; if TRUE (default) a detailed summary is printed to the console. If FALSE, all informational output is suppressed and only the result object is returned (invisibly).

### Details

The function computes, among other things: - incidence matrices - C-matrix and its eigenstructure - A-, D-, E-, and MV-efficiencies - balance checks for model effects - OFS (Orthogonal Factorial Structure) checks - Hamming distance based measures - discrepancy indices (DD) - B-criterion - Es<sup>2</sup> (Xu and Wu) for mixed-level designs - J2-distance and J2-optimization - Phi<sub>p</sub> optimality values - symmetry checks for universal optimality

The function validates the user-supplied blocks so that all treatment combinations are consistent with the supplied factor\_levels.

Internally, the function: - builds the treatment list implied by factor\_levels - validates that all user-specified treatments in blocks are compatible with factor\_levels - builds the incidence matrix N - computes the C-matrix and its eigenvalues and rank - evaluates estimability and balance of factorial effects - computes OFS (Orthogonal Factorial Structure) measures - computes various discrepancy and distance measures (Hamming distance, discrete discrepancy DD) - computes MMA (Moment Matrix Analysis: K-vector) - computes MA or GMA measures (A-vector) - computes Es<sup>2</sup> for

mixed-level designs - computes J2-distance, J2-based efficiencies, and a lower bound - computes Phi\_p values, trace(C^2), and distance from equal eigenvalues - checks symmetry conditions that are sufficient for universal optimality

The implementation includes helper routines based on methods from Das, Dean, Stufken, Wu, Hamada, Xu, Wu, Cheng, and Mukerjee, among others.

### Value

Invisibly returns a list containing the main diagnostic objects: incidence structure, C-matrix and eigenvalues, efficiency measures, OFS summary, discrepancy and distance measures, J2-criteria, Phi\_p values, and symmetry diagnostics. If verbose = TRUE, a detailed summary is printed to the console.

### Input validation

If factor\_levels = c(s1, s2, ..., sm), then each treatment label inside the blocks list must: - be a character string of length m - use digits 0, 1, ..., s\_i - 1 in position i - match one of the prod(s\_i) possible treatment combinations

If the user enters any treatment combination that does not match factor\_levels, the function stops with the message:

```
"treatment combination is not match with your factor_levels"
```

### References

Xu, H. and Wu, C. F. J. (2001). Generalized minimum aberration for asymmetrical fractional factorial designs. *Annals of Statistics*, 29, 1066-1077.

Qin, H. and Ai, M. (2007). A note on the connection between uniformity and generalized minimum aberration. *Statistical Papers*, 48, 491-502.

Gupta, S. C. (1983). Some new methods for constructing block designs having orthogonal factorial structure. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B (Methodological)*, 45, 297-307.

### Examples

```
## A valid 3 x 4 factorial in 4 blocks
factor_levels <- c(3, 4)

blocks <- list(
  B1 = c("00", "10", "20"),
  B2 = c("01", "11", "21"),
  B3 = c("02", "12", "22"),
  B4 = c("03", "13", "23")
)

out <- FactChar(factor_levels, blocks, verbose = FALSE)
str(out)
```

# Index

FactChar, [2](#)