

Package ‘RcppBigIntAlgos’

May 7, 2026

Type Package

Title Factor Big Integers with the Parallel Quadratic Sieve

Version 1.1.0

Maintainer Joseph Wood <jwood000@gmail.com>

Description Features the multiple polynomial quadratic sieve (MPQS) algorithm for factoring large integers and a vectorized factoring function that returns the complete factorization of an integer. The MPQS is based off of the seminal work of Carl Pomerance (1984) <[doi:10.1007/3-540-39757-4_17](https://doi.org/10.1007/3-540-39757-4_17)> along with the modification of multiple polynomials introduced by Peter Montgomery and J. Davis as outlined by Robert D. Silverman (1987) <[doi:10.1090/S0025-5718-1987-0866119-8](https://doi.org/10.1090/S0025-5718-1987-0866119-8)>. Utilizes the C library GMP (GNU Multiple Precision Arithmetic). For smaller integers, a simple Elliptic Curve algorithm is attempted followed by a constrained version of Pollard's rho algorithm. The Pollard's rho algorithm is the same algorithm used by the factorize function in the 'gmp' package.

License GPL (>= 2)

Encoding UTF-8

SystemRequirements gmp (>= 4.2.3)

Imports gmp

LinkingTo cpp11

Suggests testthat, numbers, RcppAlgos

NeedsCompilation yes

URL <https://github.com/jwood000/RcppBigIntAlgos>, <https://gmplib.org/>,
<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/QuadraticSieve.html>,
https://micsymposium.org/mics_2011_proceedings/mics2011_submission_28.pdf,
<https://www.math.colostate.edu/~hulpke/lectures/m400c/quadsievex.pdf>,
[https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/devdev/2006/06/19/
factoring-large-numbers-with-quadratic-sieve/](https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/devdev/2006/06/19/factoring-large-numbers-with-quadratic-sieve/)

BugReports <https://github.com/jwood000/RcppBigIntAlgos/issues>

RoxygenNote 7.1.0

Author Joseph Wood [aut, cre],
 Free Software Foundation, Inc. [cph],
 Mike Tryczak [ctb]

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2023-08-16 12:34:37 UTC

Contents

divisorsBig	2
primeFactorizeBig	4
quadraticSieve	5
stdThreadMax	7
Index	8

divisorsBig	<i>Vectorized Factorization (Complete) with GMP</i>
-------------	---

Description

Quickly generates the complete factorization for many (possibly large) numbers.

Usage

```
divisorsBig(v, namedList = FALSE, showStats = FALSE,
            skipPolRho = FALSE, skipECM = FALSE, nThreads = NULL)
```

Arguments

v	Vector of integers, numerics, string values, or elements of class bigz.
namedList	Logical flag. If TRUE and the length(v) > 1, a named list is returned. The default is FALSE.
showStats	Logical flag for showing summary statistics. The default is FALSE.
skipPolRho	Logical flag passed to primeFactorizeBig for skipping the extended pollard rho algorithm. The default is FALSE.
skipECM	Logical flag passed to primeFactorizeBig for skipping the extended elliptic curve algorithm. The default is FALSE.
nThreads	Number of threads to be used for the elliptic curve method and the quadratic sieve. The default is NULL.

Details

Highly optimized algorithm to generate the complete factorization after first obtaining the prime factorization. It is built specifically for the data type that is used in the gmp library (i.e. `mpz_t`).

The main part of the algorithm that generates all divisors is essentially the same algorithm that is implemented in `divisorsRcpp` from the `RcppAlgos` package. A modified `merge sort` algorithm is implemented to better deal with the `mpz_t` data type. This algorithm avoids directly swapping elements of the main factor array of type `mpz_t` but instead generates a vector of indexing integers for ordering.

The prime factorization is obtained using `primeFactorizeBig`, which attempts trial division, Pollard's rho algorithm, Lenstra's elliptic curve method, and finally the quadratic sieve.

See this [stackoverflow post](#) for examples and benchmarks : [R Function for returning ALL factors](#).

See [quadraticSieve](#) for information regarding `showStats`.

Value

- Returns an unnamed vector of class `bigz` if `length(v) == 1` regardless of the value of `namedList`.
- If `length(v) > 1`, a named/unnamed list of vectors of class `bigz` will be returned.

Author(s)

Joseph Wood

References

[Divisor](#)

See Also

[divisorsRcpp](#), [divisors](#)

Examples

```
## Get the complete factorization of a single number
divisorsBig(100)

## Or get the complete factorization of many numbers
set.seed(29)
myVec <- sample(-1000000:1000000, 1000)
system.time(myFacs <- divisorsBig(myVec))

## Return named list
myFacsWithNames <- divisorsBig(myVec, namedList = TRUE)

## Get the complete factorization for a large semiprime
big = gmp::prod.bigz(gmp::nextprime(gmp::urand.bigz(2, size = 65, seed = 3)))
divisorsBig(big)
```

primeFactorizeBig *Vectorized Prime Factorization with GMP*

Description

Quickly generates the prime factorization for many (possibly large) numbers, using trial division, [Pollard's rho algorithm](#), [Lenstra's Elliptic Curve method](#), and finally the [Quadratic Sieve](#).

Usage

```
primeFactorizeBig(v, namedList = FALSE, showStats = FALSE,
                 skipPolRho = FALSE, skipECM = FALSE, nThreads = NULL)
```

Arguments

v	Vector of integers, numerics, string values, or elements of class bigz.
namedList	Logical flag. If TRUE and the <code>length(v) > 1</code> , a named list is returned. The default is FALSE.
showStats	Logical flag for showing summary statistics. The default is FALSE.
skipPolRho	Logical flag for skipping the extended pollard rho algorithm. The default is FALSE.
skipECM	Logical flag for skipping the extended elliptic curve algorithm. The default is FALSE.
nThreads	Number of threads to be used for the elliptic curve method and the quadratic sieve. The default is NULL.

Details

This function should be preferred in most situations and is identical to [quadraticSieve](#) when both `skipECM` and `skipPolRho` are set to TRUE.

It is optimized for factoring big and small numbers by dynamically using different algorithms based off of the input. It takes care to not spend too much time in any of the methods and avoids wastefully switching to the quadratic sieve when the number is very large.

See [quadraticSieve](#) for information regarding `showStats`.

Value

- Returns an unnamed vector of class bigz if `length(v) == 1` regardless of the value of `namedList`.
- If `length(v) > 1`, a named/unnamed list of vectors of class bigz will be returned.

Note

Note, the function `primeFactorizeBig(n, skipECM = T, skipPolRho = T)` is the same as `quadraticSieve(n)`

Author(s)

Joseph Wood

References

- Gaj K. et al. (2006) Implementing the Elliptic Curve Method of Factoring in Reconfigurable Hardware. In: Goubin L., Matsui M. (eds) Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems - CHES 2006. CHES 2006. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 4249. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg. https://doi.org/10.1007/11894063_10
- Integer Factorization

See Also[primeFactorize](#), [primeFactors](#), [factorize](#), [quadraticSieve](#)**Examples**

```
## Get the prime factorization of a single number
primeFactorizeBig(100)

## Or get the prime factorization of many numbers
set.seed(29)
myVec <- sample(-1000000:1000000, 1000)
system.time(myFacs <- primeFactorizeBig(myVec))

## Return named list
myFacsWithNames <- primeFactorizeBig(myVec, namedList = TRUE)
```

`quadraticSieve`*Prime Factorization with the Parallel Quadratic Sieve*

Description

Get the prime factorization of a number, n , using the [Quadratic Sieve](#).

Usage

```
quadraticSieve(n, showStats = FALSE, nThreads = NULL)
```

Arguments

<code>n</code>	An integer, numeric, string value, or an element of class <code>bigz</code> .
<code>showStats</code>	Logical flag. If TRUE, summary statistics will be displayed.
<code>nThreads</code>	Number of threads to be used. The default is NULL.

Details

First, **trial division** is carried out to remove small prime numbers, then a constrained version of **Pollard's rho algorithm** is called to quickly remove further prime numbers. Next, we check to make sure that we are not passing a perfect power to the main quadratic sieve algorithm. After removing any perfect powers, we finally call the quadratic sieve with multiple polynomials in a recursive fashion until we have completely factored our number.

When `showStats = TRUE`, summary statistics will be shown. The frequency of updates is dynamic as writing to `stdout` can be expensive. It is determined by how fast smooth numbers (including partially smooth numbers) are found along with the total number of smooth numbers required in order to find a non-trivial factorization. The statistics are:

MPQS Time The time measured for the multiple polynomial quadratic sieve section in hours `h`, minutes `m`, seconds `s`, and milliseconds `ms`.

Complete The percent of smooth numbers plus partially smooth numbers required to guarantee a non-trivial solution when **Gaussian Elimination** is performed on the matrix of powers of primes.

Polynomials The number of polynomials sieved

Smooths The number of **Smooth numbers** found

Partials The number of partially smooth numbers found. These numbers have one large factor, F , that is not reduced by the prime factor base determined in the algorithm. When we encounter another number that is almost smooth with the same large factor, F , we can combine them into one partially smooth number.

Value

Vector of class `bigz`

Note

- `primeFactorizeBig` is preferred for general prime factorization.
- Both the extended Pollard's rho algorithm and the elliptic curve method are skipped. For general prime factorization, see `primeFactorizeBig`.
- Safely interrupt long executing commands by pressing `Ctrl + c`, `Esc`, or whatever interruption command offered by the user's GUI. If you are using multiple threads, you can still interrupt execution, however there will be a delay up to 30 seconds if the number is very large.
- Note, the function `primeFactorizeBig(n, skipECM = T, skipPolRho = T)` is the same as `quadraticSieve(n)`

Author(s)

Joseph Wood

References

- Pomerance, C. (2008). Smooth numbers and the quadratic sieve. In *Algorithmic Number Theory Lattices, Number Fields, Curves and Cryptography* (pp. 69-81). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Silverman, R. D. (1987). The Multiple Polynomial Quadratic Sieve. *Mathematics of Computation*, 48(177), 329-339. doi:10.2307/2007894
- Integer Factorization using the Quadratic Sieve
- From <https://codegolf.stackexchange.com/> (Credit to user primo for answer) P., & Chowdhury, S. (2012, October 7). Fastest semiprime factorization. Retrieved October 06, 2017

See Also

primeFactorizeBig, [factorize](#)

Examples

```
mySemiPrime <- gmp::prod.bigz(gmp::nextprime(gmp::urand.bigz(2, 50, 17)))
quadraticSieve(mySemiPrime)
```

stdThreadMax

Max Number of Concurrent Threads

Description

Rcpp wrapper of `std::thread::hardware_concurrency()`. As stated by [cppreference](#), the returned value should be considered only a hint.

Usage

```
stdThreadMax()
```

Value

An integer representing the number of concurrent threads supported by the user implementation. If the value cannot be determined, 1L is returned.

See Also

[detectCores](#)

Examples

```
stdThreadMax()
```

Index

`detectCores`, [7](#)

`divisors`, [3](#)

`divisorsBig`, [2](#)

`divisorsRcpp`, [3](#)

`factorize`, [5](#), [7](#)

`primeFactorize`, [5](#)

`primeFactorizeBig`, [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [6](#)

`primeFactors`, [5](#)

`quadraticSieve`, [3–5](#), [5](#)

`stdThreadMax`, [7](#)