Package ‘doRNG’

January 27, 2020

Type Package
Title Generic Reproducible Parallel Backend for ‘foreach’ Loops
Version 1.8.2
Encoding UTF-8
Description Provides functions to perform reproducible parallel foreach loops, using independent random streams as generated by L’Ecuyer’s combined multiple-recursive generator [L’Ecuyer (1999), <DOI:10.1287/opre.47.1.159>]. It enables to easily convert standard %dopar% loops into fully reproducible loops, independently of the number of workers, the task scheduling strategy, or the chosen parallel environment and associated foreach backend.
License GPL (>= 2)
LazyLoad yes
URL https://renozao.github.io/doRNG
BugReports http://github.com/renozao/doRNG/issues
VignetteBuilder knitr
Depends R (>= 3.0.0), foreach, rngtools (>= 1.5)
Imports stats, utils, iterators
Suggests doParallel, doMPI, doRedis, rbenchmark, devtools, knitr, bibtex, testthat, pkgmaker (>= 0.31)
RoxygenNote 7.0.2
NeedsCompilation no
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Repository CRAN
Date/Publication 2020-01-27 06:30:14 UTC
doRNG-package

Generic Reproducible Parallel Backend for foreach Loops

Description

The doRNG package provides functions to perform reproducible parallel foreach loops, using independent random streams as generated by L’Ecuyer’s combined multiple-recursive generator [L’Ecuyer (1999)]. It enables to easily convert standard independently of the number of workers, the task scheduling strategy, or the chosen parallel environment and associated foreach backend. It has been tested with the following foreach backend: doMC, doSNOW, doMPI.

Author(s)

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References


See Also

doRNG, RNGseq

Examples

```r
# register parallel backend
library(doParallel)
c1 <- makeCluster(2)
registerDoParallel(c1)

## standard %dopar% loop are not reproducible
set.seed(123)
r1 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar%{ runif(1) }
set.seed(123)
r2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar%{ runif(1) }
identical(r1, r2)
```
## %dorng% loops are reproducible

```r
set.seed(123)
r1 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dorng%{ runif(1) }
set.seed(123)
r2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dorng%{ runif(1) }
identical(r1, r2)
```

# alternative way of seeding
```
set.seed(123)
a1 <- foreach(i=1:4, .options.RNG=123) %dorng%{ runif(1) }
a2 <- foreach(i=1:4, .options.RNG=123) %dorng%{ runif(1) }
identical(a1, a2) && identical(a1, r1)
```

## Sequences of %dorng% loops are reproducible

```r
set.seed(123)
s1 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dorng%{ runif(1) }
s2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dorng%{ runif(1) }
identical(s1, r1) && !identical(s1, s2)
```

```r
set.seed(123)
s1.2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dorng%{ runif(1) }
s2.2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dorng%{ runif(1) }
identical(s1, s1.2) && identical(s2, s2.2)
```

## Non-invasive way of converting %dopar% loops into reproducible loops

```r
registerDoRNG(123)
s3 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar%{ runif(1) }
s4 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar%{ runif(1) }
identical(s3, s1) && identical(s4, s2)
```

stopCluster(cl)

---

**doRNGversion**

**Back Compatibility Option for doRNG**

**Description**

Sets the behaviour of %dorng% foreach loops from a given version number.

**Usage**

```
doRNGversion(x)
```
Arguments

x  version number to switch to, or missing to get the currently active version number, or NULL to reset to the default behaviour, i.e. of the latest version.

Value

a character string If x is missing this function returns the version number from the current behaviour. If x is specified, the function returns the old value of the version number (invisible).

Behaviour changes in versions

1.4 The behaviour of doRNGseed, and therefore of %dorng% loops, changed in the case where the current RNG was L’Ecuyer-CMRG. Using set.seed before a non-seeded loop used not to be identical to seeding via .options.RNG. Another bug was that non-seeded loops would share most of their RNG seed!

1.7.4 Prior to this version, in the case where the RNG had not been called yet, the first seeded %dorng% loops would not give the identical results as subsequent loops despite using the same seed (see https://github.com/renozao/doRNG/issues/12). This has been fixed in version 1.7.4, where the RNG is called once (sample(NA)), whenever the .Random.seed is not found in global environment.

Examples

```r
## Seeding when current RNG is L'Ecuyer-CMRG
RNGkind("L'Ecuyer")
doRNGversion("1.4")
# in version >= 1.4 seeding behaviour changed to fix a bug
set.seed(123)
res <- foreach(i=1:3) %dorng% runif(1)
res2 <- foreach(i=1:3) %dorng% runif(1)
stopifnot( !identical(attr(res, "rng")[2:3], attr(res2, "rng")[1:2]) )
res3 <- foreach(i=1:3, .options.RNG=123) %dorng% runif(1)
stopifnot( identical(res, res3) )

# buggy behaviour in version < 1.4
doRNGversion("1.3")
res <- foreach(i=1:3) %dorng% runif(1)
res2 <- foreach(i=1:3) %dorng% runif(1)
stopifnot( identical(attr(res, "rng")[2:3], attr(res2, "rng")[1:2]) )
res3 <- foreach(i=1:3, .options.RNG=123) %dorng% runif(1)
stopifnot( !identical(res, res3) )

# restore default RNG
RNGkind("default")
# restore to current doRNG version
doRNGversion(NULL)
```
registerDoRNG  

Registering doRNG for Persistent Reproducible Parallel Foreach Loops

Description

registerDoRNG registers the doRNG foreach backend. Subsequent %dopar% loops are then performed using the previously registered foreach backend, but are internally performed as %dorng% loops, making them fully reproducible.

Usage

registerDoRNG(seed = NULL, once = TRUE)

Arguments

seed  
a numerical seed to use (as a single or 6-length numerical value)

once  
a logical to indicate if the RNG sequence should be seeded at the beginning of each loop or only at the first loop.

Details

Briefly, the RNG is set, before each iteration, with seeds for L’Ecuyer’s CMRG that overall generate a reproducible sequence of statistically independent random streams.

Note that (re-)registering a foreach backend other than doRNG, after a call to registerDoRNG disables doRNG – which then needs to be registered.

See Also

%dorng%

Examples

```r
library(doParallel)
cl <- makeCluster(2)
registerDoParallel(cl)

# One can make reproducible loops using the %dorng% operator
r1 <- foreach(i=1:4, .options.RNG=1234) %dorng% { runif(1) }
# or convert %dopar% loops using registerDoRNG
registerDoRNG(1234)
r2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar% { runif(1) }
identical(r1, r2)
stopCluster(cl)

# Registering another foreach backend disables doRNG
cl <- makeCluster(2)
```
registerDoParallel(cl)
set.seed(1234)
s1 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar% { runif(1) }
set.seed(1234)
s2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar% { runif(1) }
identical(s1, s2)

# doRNG is re-enabled by re-registering it
registerDoRNG()
set.seed(1234)
r3 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar% { runif(1) }
identical(r2, r3)
# NB: the results are identical independently of the task scheduling
# (r2 used 2 nodes, while r3 used 3 nodes)

# argument 'once=FALSE' reseeds doRNG's seed at the beginning of each loop
registerDoRNG(1234, once=FALSE)
r1 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar% { runif(1) }
r2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar% { runif(1) }
identical(r1, r2)

# Once doRNG is registered the seed can also be passed as an option to %dopar%
r1.2 <- foreach(i=1:4, .options.RNG=456) %dopar% { runif(1) }
r2.2 <- foreach(i=1:4, .options.RNG=456) %dopar% { runif(1) }
identical(r1.2, r2.2) && !identical(r1.2, r1)

stopCluster(cl)

---

%doRng%

**Reproducible Parallel foreach Backend**

**Description**

%doRng% is a foreach operator that provides an alternative operator %dopar%, which enable reproducible foreach loops to be performed.

**Usage**

```
obj %doRng% ex
```

**Arguments**

- **obj**: a foreach object as returned by a call to `foreach`.
- **ex**: the R expression to evaluate.
Value

%dorng% returns the result of the foreach loop. See %dopar%. The whole sequence of RNG seeds is stored in the result object as an attribute. Use attr(res, 'rng') to retrieve it.

Global options

These options are for advanced users that develop ‘foreach backends:

* 'doRNG.rng_change_warning_skip': if set to a single logical 'FALSE/TRUE', it indicates whether a warning should be thrown if the RNG seed is changed by the registered parallel backend (default=FALSE). Set it to ‘TRUE’ if you know that running your backend will change the RNG state and want to disable the warning. This option can also be set to a character vector that specifies the name(s) of the backend(s) for which the warning should be skipped.

See Also

foreach, doParallel, registerDoParallel, doMPI

Examples

```r
library(doParallel)
cl <- makeCluster(2)
registerDoParallel(cl)

# standard %dopar% loops are _not_ reproducible
set.seed(1234)
s1 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar% { runif(1) }
set.seed(1234)
s2 <- foreach(i=1:4) %dopar% { runif(1) }
identical(s1, s2)

# single %dorng% loops are reproducible
r1 <- foreach(i=1:4, .options.RNG=1234) %dorng% { runif(1) }
r2 <- foreach(i=1:4, .options.RNG=1234) %dorng% { runif(1) }
identical(r1, r2)
# the sequence of RNG seed is stored as an attribute
attr(r1, 'rng')

# stop cluster
stopCluster(cl)
```

# More examples can be found in demo 'doRNG'

## Not run:
demo('doRNG')

## End(Not run)
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