Package 'Brobdingnag'

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Type Package

Title Very Large Numbers in R

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Description Handles very large numbers in R. Real numbers are held using their natural logarithms, plus a logical flag indicating sign. The package includes a vignette that gives a step-by-step introduction to using S4 methods.

LazyLoad yes

License GPL

Repository CRAN

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R topics documented:

`Brobdingnag-package` *Very Large Numbers in R*

Description

Handles very large numbers in R. Real numbers are held using their natural logarithms, plus a logical flag indicating sign. The package includes a vignette that gives a step-by-step introduction to using S4 methods.

Details

The DESCRIPTION file:

Package:	Brobdingnag
Type:	Package
Title:	Very Large Numbers in R
Version:	1.2-6
Date:	2018-08-08
Author:	Robin K. S. Hankin
Depends:	R (>= 2.13.0), methods
Maintainer:	Robin K. S. Hankin <hankin.robin@gmail.com>
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URL:	https://github.com/RobinHankin/Brobdingnag.git

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`Re`	`Real and imaginary manipulation`
`[.brob`	`Extract or Replace Parts of brobs or glubs`

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Real numbers are represented by two objects: a real, holding the logarithm of their absolute values; and a logical, indicating the sign. Multiplication and exponentiation are easy: the challenge is addition. This is achieved using the (trivial) identity $\log(e^x + e^y) = x + \log(1 + e^{y-x})$ where, WLOG, $y < x$.

Complex numbers are stored as a pair of brobs: objects of class glub.

The package is a simple example of S4 methods.

However, it *could* be viewed as a cautionary tale: the underlying R concepts are easy yet the S4 implementation is long and difficult. I would not recommend using S4 methods for a package as simple as this; S3 methods would have been perfectly adequate. I would suggest that S4 methods should only be used when S3 methods are *demonstrably* inadequate.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Maintainer: Robin K. S. Hankin <hankin.robin@gmail.com>

References

R. K. S. Hankin 2007. "Very Large Numbers in R: Introducing Package Brobdingnag". R News, volume 7, number 3, pages 15-16

Examples

```
googol <- as.brob(10)^100

googol
googol + googol/2

1/(googol + 1e99)

(1:10)^googol
```

```
googolplex <- 10^googol

googolplex

googolplex * googol  # practically the same as googolplex (!)
```

`Arith-methods` *Methods for Function Arith in package Brobdingnag*

Description

Methods for Arithmetic functions in package Brobdingnag: `+`, `-`, `*`, `/`, `^`

Note

The unary arithmetic functions (viz "+" and "-") do no coercion.

The binary arithmetic functions coerce `numeric` <op> `brob` to `brob`; and `numeric` <op> `glub`, `complex` <op> `brob`, and `brob` <op> `glub`, to `glub`.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
x <- as.brob(1:10)
y <- 1e10

x+y

as.numeric((x+y)-1e10)

x^(1/y)
```

`as.numeric` *Coerces to numeric or complex form*

Description

Coerces an object of class `brob` to numeric, or an object of class `glub` to complex

Arguments

`x`	Object of class `brob` or `glub`
`...`	Further arguments (currently ignored)

Details

Function `as.numeric()` coerces a `brob` to numeric; if given a `glub`, the imaginary component is ignored (and a warning given).

Function `as.complex()` coerces to complex.

Note

If $|x|$ is greater than `.Machine$double.xmax`, then `as.numeric(x)` returns `Inf` or `-Inf` but no warning is given.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
a <- as.brob(1:10)
a <- cbrob(a, as.brob(10)^1e26)
a
as.numeric(a)

as.complex(10i + a)
```

brob *Brobdingnagian numbers*

Description

Create, coerce to or test for a Brobdingnagian object

Usage

```
brob(x = double(), positive)
as.brob(x)
is.brob(x)
```

Arguments

x	Quantity to be tested, coerced in to Brobdingnagian form
positive	In function brob(), logical indicating whether the number is positive (actually, positive or zero)

Details

Function as.brob() is the user's workhorse: use this to coerce numeric vectors to brobs.

Function is.brob() tests for its arguments being of class brob.

Function brob() takes argument x and returns a brob formally equal to e^x; set argument positive to FALSE to return $-e^x$. Thus calling function exp(x) simply returns brob(x). This function is not really intended for the end user: it is confusing and includes no argument checking. In general numerical work, use function as.brob() instead, although be aware that if you really really want e^{10^7}, you should use brob(1e7); this would be an **exact** representation.

Note

Real numbers are represented by two objects: a real, holding the logarithm of their absolute values; and a logical, indicating the sign. Multiplication and exponentiation are easy: the challenge is addition. This is achieved using the (trivial) identity $\log(e^x + e^y) = x + \log(1 + e^{y-x})$ where, WLOG, $y < x$.

Complex numbers are stored as a pair of brobs: objects of class glub.

The package is a simple example of S4 methods. However, it *could* be viewed as a cautionary tale: the underlying R concepts are easy yet the S4 implementation is long and difficult. I would not recommend using S4 methods for a package as simple as this; S3 methods would have been perfectly adequate. I would suggest that S4 methods should only be used when S3 methods are *demonstrably* inadequate.

The package has poor handling of NA and NaN. Currently, as.brob(1) + as.brob(c(1,NA)) returns an error.

Author(s)

Robin K. S, Hankin

See Also

glub

Examples

```
googol <- as.brob(10)^100
googolplex <- 10^googol

(googolplex/googol) / googolplex
#  Thus googolplex/googol == googolplex (!)


# use cbrob() instead of c() when Brobdingnagian numbers are involved:
cbrob(4,exp(as.brob(1e55)))
```

---

brob-class *Class "brob"*

Description

The formal S4 class for Brobdingnagian numbers

Objects from the Class

Objects *can* be created by calls of the form `new("brob", ...)` but this is not encouraged. Use functions `brob()` and, especially, `as.brob()` instead.

Slots

`x`: Object of class `"numeric"` holding the log of the absolute value of the number to be represented

`positive`: Object of class `"logical"` indicating whether the number is positive (see Note, below)

Extends

Class `"swift"`, directly.

Note

Slot `positive` indicates non-negativity, as zero is conventionally considered to be "positive".

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

See Also

glub-class,swift-class

Examples

```
new("brob",x=5,positive=TRUE)  # not intended for the user

as.brob(5)  # Standard user-oriented idiom
```

---

cbrob *Combine Brobdingnagian vectors*

Description

Combine Brobdingnagian or Glubdubbdribian vectors through concatenation

Usage

```
cbrob(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	Brobdingnagian vector
...	Other arguments coerced to brob form

Details

If any argument has class glub, all arguments are coerced to glubs. Otherwise, if any argument has class brob, all arguments are coerced to brobs.

Function cbrob() operates recursively, calling .cPair() repeatedly. Function .cPair() uses S4 method dispatch to call either .Brob.cpair() or .Glub.cpair() according to the classes of the arguments.

Note

As of R-2.4.0, it is apparently not possible to use S4 methods to redefine c() to coerce to class brob form and concatenate as expected. This would seem to be a reasonable interpretation of c() from the user's perspective.

Conceptually, the operation is simple: concatenate the value slot and the positive slot separately, then call brob() on the two resulting vectors. When concatenating glub objects, the real and imaginary components (being brobs) are concatenated using .Brob.cpair()

The choice of name—cbrob()—is not entirely logical. Because it operates consistently on brob and glub objects, it might be argued that cSwift() would be a more appropriate name.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin; original idea due to John Chambers

Examples

```
a <- as.brob(2)^1e-40
cbrob(1:4,4:1,a)
cbrob(1:4,a,1i)
```

Compare-methods *Methods for Function Compare in Package Brobdingnag*

Description

Methods for comparision (greater than, etc) in package Brobdingnag

Note

As for `min()` and `max()`, comparison is not entirely straightforward in the presence of `NA`s.

The low-level workhorses are `.Brob.equal()` for equality and `.Brob.greater()` for 'strictly greater than'. All other comparisons are calculated by combining these two.

Comparison [function `.Brob.compare()`] explicitly tests for a zero length argument and if given one returns `logical(0)` to match base behaviour.

Examples

```
a <- as.brob(10)^(0.5 + 97:103)
a < 1e100
```

Complex *Real and imaginary manipulation*

Description

Get or set real and imaginary components of `brobs` or `glubs`.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'glub'
Re(z)
## S4 method for signature 'glub'
Im(z)
## S4 method for signature 'glub'
Mod(z)
## S4 method for signature 'glub'
Conj(z)
## S4 method for signature 'glub'
Arg(z)
Re(z) <- value
Im(z) <- value
```

Arguments

z	object of class glub (or, in the case of Im<-() or Im(z) <- value, class brob)
value	object of class numeric or brob

Value

Functions Re() and Im() return an object of class brob; functions Re<-() and Im<-() return an object of class glub

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
a <- cbrob(1:10,brob(1e100))
Im(a) <- 11:1
a
```

Extract.brob *Extract or Replace Parts of brobs or glubs*

Description

Methods for "[" and "[<-", i.e., extraction or subsetting of brobs and glubs.

Arguments

x	Object of class brob or glub
i	elements to extract or replace
value	replacement value

Value

Always returns an object of the same class as `x`.

Note

If `x` is a numeric vector and `y` a brob, one might expect typing `x[1] <- y` to result in `x` being a brob. This is impossible, according to John Chambers.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
a <- as.brob(10)^c(-100,0,100,1000,1e32)

a[4]

a[4] <- 1e100

a
```

`getP` *Get and set methods for brob objects*

Description

Get and set methods for brobs: sign and value

Usage

```
getP(x)
getX(x)
sign(x) <- value
```

Arguments

`x`	Brobdingnagian object
`value`	In function `sign<-()`, Boolean specifying whehter the brob object is positive

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

See Also

`brob`

Examples

```
x <- as.brob(-10:10)
sign(x) <- TRUE
```

`glub` *Glubbdubdribian numbers: complex numbers with Brobdingnagian real and imaginary parts*

Description

Create, coerce to or test for a Glubbdubdribian object

Usage

```
glub(real = double(), imag = double())
as.glub(x)
is.glub(x)
```

Arguments

`real, imag`	Real and imaginary components of complex number: must be Brobdingnagian numbers
`x`	object to be coerced to or tested for Glubbdubdribian form

Details

Function `glub()` takes two arguments that are coerced to Brobdingnagian numbers and returns a complex number. This function is not really intended for the end user: it is confusing and includes no argument checking. Use function `as.glub()` instead.

Function `as.glub()` is the user's workhorse: use this to coerce numeric or complex vectors to Glubbdubdribian form.

Function `is.glub()` tests for its arguments being Glubbdubdribian.

Note

Function `glub()` uses recycling inherited from `cbind()`.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

See Also

`brob`

Examples

```
a <- as.glub(1:10 + 5i)
a^2 - a*a

f <- function(x){sin(x) +x^4 - 1/x}
as.complex(f(a)) - f(as.complex(a))   # should be zero (in the first
                                      # term, f() works with glubs and coerces to
                                      # complex; in the second, f()
                                      # works with complex numbers directly)
```

---

glub-class *Class "glub"*

Description

Complex Brobdingnagian numbers

Objects from the Class

A glub object holds two slots, both brobs, representing the real and imaginary components of a complex vector.

Slots

real: Object of class "brob" representing the real component

imag: Object of class "brob" representing the imaginary component

Extends

Class "swift", directly.

Methods

.cPair signature(x = "brob", y = "glub"): ...

.cPair signature(x = "ANY", y = "glub"): ...

.cPair signature(x = "glub", y = "glub"): ...

.cPair signature(x = "glub", y = "ANY"): ...

.cPair signature(x = "glub", y = "brob"): ...

Im<- signature(x = "glub"): ...

Re<- signature(x = "glub"): ...

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

See Also

brob-class,swift-class

Examples

```
a <- as.brob(45)
new("glub",real=a, imag=a)

as.brob(5+5i)   # standard colloquial R idiom
```

---

length-methods *Get lengths of brobs and glubs*

Description

Get lengths of brob and glub vectors

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'brob'
length(x)
## S4 method for signature 'glub'
length(x)
```

Arguments

x	vector of class brob or glub

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
x <- as.brob(-10:10)
length(x)
```

Logic *Logical operations on brobs*

Description

Logical operations on brobs are not supported

Note

The S4 group generic "Logic" appeared in R-2.4.0-patched.

Carrying out logical operations in this group will call `.Brob.logic()`, which reports an error.

Negation, "`!`", is not part of this group: attempting to negate a brob will not activate `.Brob.logic()`; an "invalid argument type" error is given instead.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
## Not run:
!brob(10)

## End(Not run)
```

Math *Various logarithmic and circular functions for brobs*

Description

Various elementary functions for brobs

Arguments

`x`	Object of class `brob` (or sometimes `glub`)
`base`	In function `log()`, the base of the logarithm

Details

For `brobs`: apart from `abs()`, `log()`, `exp()`, `sinh()` and `cosh()`, these functions return `f(as.numeric(x))` so are numeric; the exceptional functions return `brobs`.

For `glubs`: mostly direct transliteration of the appropriate formula; one might note that `log(z)` is defined as `glub(log(Mod(x)),Arg(x))`.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
exp(as.brob(3000))  #exp(3000) is represented with zero error
```

---

plot *Basic plotting of Brobs*

Description

Plotting methods. Essentially, any brob is coerced to a numeric and any glub is coerced to a complex, and the argument or arguments are passed to `plot()`.

Usage

```
plot(x, y, ...)
```

Arguments

`x,y`	Brob or glub
`...`	Further arguments passed to `plot()`

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
plot(as.brob(1:10))
```

Print *Methods for printing brobs and glubs*

Description

Methods for printing brobs and glubs nicely using exponential notation

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'brob'
print(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'glub'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class brob or glub
...	Further arguments (currently ignored)

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

Examples

```
a <- as.brob(1:5)
dput(a)
a
```

---

sum *Various summary statistics for brobs and glubs*

Description

Various summary statistics for brobs and glubs

Arguments

x,...	Objects of class brob or, in the case of sum() and prob(), class glub
na.rm	Boolean, with default FALSE meaning to interpret NAs literally and TRUE meaning to ignore any such elements

Details

For a brob object, being NA is not entirely straightforward. The S4 method for is.na is too "strict" for some of the functions considered here. Consider max(a) where a includes only positive, fully specified, elements, and elements with known negative sign and exponents that include NA values. Here, max(a) is unambiguously determined.

Similar logic applies to min() and, by extension, range().

Note

Function prod() is *very* slow for long glub vectors. It has to compute four Brobdingnagian products and two Brobdingnagian sums per element of its argument, and this takes a long time.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

See Also

is.na

Examples

```
a <- as.brob(1:10)
max(cbrob(1:10,brob(NA,FALSE)))
```

`swift-class` *Class "swift"*

Description

A (virtual) class that extends `brob` and `glub` objects

Objects from the Class

A virtual Class: No objects may be created from it.

Methods

No methods defined with class "swift" in the signature.

Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

See Also

`brob-class`,`glub-class`

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