

# Package ‘RcppArmadillo’

September 8, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** 'Rcpp' Integration for the 'Armadillo' Templated Linear Algebra Library

**Version** 15.6.0-1

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**Description** 'Armadillo' is a templated C++ linear algebra library aiming towards a good balance between speed and ease of use. It provides high-level syntax and functionality deliberately similar to Matlab. It is useful for algorithm development directly in C++, or quick conversion of research code into production environments. It provides efficient classes for vectors, matrices and cubes where dense and sparse matrices are supported. Integer, floating point and complex numbers are supported. A sophisticated expression evaluator (based on template meta-programming) automatically combines several operations to increase speed and efficiency. Dynamic evaluation automatically chooses optimal code paths based on detected matrix structures. Matrix decompositions are provided through integration with LAPACK, or one of its high performance drop-in replacements (such as 'MKL' or 'OpenBLAS'). It can automatically use 'OpenMP' multi-threading (parallelisation) to speed up computationally expensive operations.

The 'RcppArmadillo' package includes the header files from the 'Armadillo' library; users do not need to install 'Armadillo' itself in order to use 'RcppArmadillo'.

Starting from release 15.0.0, the minimum compilation standard is C++14.

Since release 7.800.0, 'Armadillo' is licensed under Apache License 2; previous releases were under licensed as MPL 2.0 from version 3.800.0 onwards and LGPL-3 prior to that; 'RcppArmadillo' (the 'Rcpp' bindings/bridge to Armadillo) is licensed under the GNU GPL version 2 or later, as is the rest of 'Rcpp'.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**LazyLoad** yes

**Depends** R (>= 3.3.0)

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 1.1.1), stats, utils, methods

**Suggests** tinytest, Matrix (>= 1.3.0), pkgKitten, reticulate, slam

**URL** <https://github.com/RcppCore/RcppArmadillo>,  
<https://dirk.eddelbuettel.com/code/rcpp.armadillo.html>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/RcppCore/RcppArmadillo/issues>  
**RoxygenNote** 6.0.1  
**Encoding** UTF-8  
**VignetteBuilder** Rcpp  
**NeedsCompilation** yes  
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|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| RcppArmadillo-package | <i>R and Armadillo Integration</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|

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Description

The package brings the power of Armadillo to R.

Armadillo

Armadillo is a C++ linear algebra library, aiming towards a good balance between speed and ease of use.

It provides efficient classes for vectors, matrices and cubes, as well as many functions which operate on the classes (eg. contiguous and non-contiguous submatrix views).

Various matrix decompositions are provided, and an automatic expression evaluator (via template meta-programming) combines several operations to increase efficiency.

The syntax (API) is deliberately similar to Matlab. It is useful for algorithm development directly in C++, or quick conversion of research code into production environments.

Armadillo has been primarily developed at NICTA (Australia) by Conrad Sanderson, with contributions from around the world.

## RcppArmadillo

RcppArmadillo acts as a bridge between Rcpp and Armadillo, allowing the programmer to write code using Armadillo classes that integrate seamlessly with R via Rcpp.

## Using RcppArmadillo

The simplest way to get started is to create a skeleton of a package using RcppArmadillo. This can be done conveniently by the `RcppArmadillo.package.skeleton` function.

## Threading

The Armadillo library can take advantage of OpenMP to execute computations in parallel via multi-threaded code. The number of cores uses can be set (or retrieved) explicitly via helper functions `armadillo_get_number_of_omp_threads()` and `armadillo_set_number_of_omp_threads()`. A default value is stored at package startup; it recognises R option value `Ncpus` and environment variable `OMP_THREAD_LIMIT`. Additional helper functions `armadillo_throttle_cores()` and `armadillo_reset_cores()` are available to (temporarily) lower the number of cores uses and to reset to the package default value set at startup.

## Author(s)

For RcppArmadillo: Dirk Eddelbuettel, Romain Francois, Doug Bates and Binxiang Ni

Maintainer: Dirk Eddelbuettel <edd@debian.org>

For Armadillo: Conrad Sanderson

## References

Armadillo project: <https://arma.sourceforge.net/>

Conrad Sanderson and Ryan Curtin. [Armadillo: a template-based C++ library for linear algebra](#). Journal of Open Source Software, Vol. 1, pp. 26, 2016.

Dirk Eddelbuettel and Conrad Sanderson, "RcppArmadillo: Accelerating R with high-performance C++ linear algebra", Computational Statistics and Data Analysis, 2014, 71, March, pages 1054-1063, doi:[10.1016/j.csda.2013.02.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csda.2013.02.005).

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armadillo\_get\_number\_of\_omp\_threads

*Report (or Set) Maximum Number of OpenMP Threads*

---

## Description

Report (or Set) Maximum Number of OpenMP Threads

**Usage**

```
armadillo_get_number_of_omp_threads()

armadillo_set_number_of_omp_threads(n)
```

**Arguments**

n                      Number of threads to be set

**Value**

For the getter, and on a system with OpenMP, the maximum number of threads that OpenMP may be using and on systems without it, one. The setter does not return a value.

---

```
armadillo_set_seed_random
```

*Set the Armadillo Random Number Generator to given or random value*

---

**Description**

Setter functions for the internal Armadillo random number generator

**Usage**

```
armadillo_set_seed_random()

armadillo_set_seed(val)
```

**Arguments**

val                      The seed used to initialize Armadillo's random number generator.

**Details**

Armadillo can switch between two random number generator implementations depending on the compilation standard used. Under normal circumstances RcppArmadillo will connect Armadillo to the R random number generator which also implies that `set.seed()` should be used from R. To use this function, one also needs to undefine `ARMA_RNG_ALT` so that the Armadillo generators are used.

**Value**

The function is invoked for its side effect and has no return value.

**Note**

This has been found to not work as expected in **RStudio** as its code also uses the system RNG library. You may have to either not run within **RStudio** or change your code to use a different RNG such as the one from R.

**See Also**

The R documentation on its RNGs all of which are accessible via **Rcpp**.

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armadillo\_throttle\_cores

*Throttle (or Reset) (Rcpp)Armadillo to Two Cores*


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**Description**

Helper functions to throttle use of cores by RcppArmadillo-internal code on systems with OpenMP. On package load, the initial value is saved and used to reset the value.

**Usage**

```
armadillo_throttle_cores(n = 2)
```

```
armadillo_reset_cores()
```

**Arguments**

n                      Integer value of desired cores, default is two

---

armadillo\_version

*Report the version of Armadillo*


---

**Description**

Report the version of Armadillo

**Usage**

```
armadillo_version(single)
```

```
armadillo_version_typed()
```

**Arguments**

single                  A logical vector indicating whether a single return values is requested, or a named vector with three elements major, minor and patch.

**Details**

The version is defined by Armadillo in the header arma\_version.hpp.

**Value**

Depending on the value of `single`, either a single number describing the Armadillo version or a named vector with three elements `major`, `minor` and `patch`. The function `armadillo_version_typed` returns an S3 object of classes `'package_version'` and `'numeric_version'` which offer comparison and formatting operators.

**See Also**

Armadillo header file `arma_version.hpp`.

---

|        |                                                 |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|
| fastLm | <i>Bare-bones linear model fitting function</i> |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

`fastLm` estimates the linear model using the `solve` function of Armadillo linear algebra library.

**Usage**

```
fastLmPure(X, y)

fastLm(X, ...)
## Default S3 method:
fastLm(X, y, ...)
## S3 method for class 'formula'
fastLm(formula, data = list(), ...)
```

**Arguments**

|                      |                                                               |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>y</code>       | a vector containing the explained variable.                   |
| <code>X</code>       | a model matrix.                                               |
| <code>formula</code> | a symbolic description of the model to be fit.                |
| <code>data</code>    | an optional data frame containing the variables in the model. |
| <code>...</code>     | not used                                                      |

**Details**

Linear models should be estimated using the `lm` function. In some cases, `lm.fit` may be appropriate.

The `fastLmPure` function provides a reference use case of the Armadillo library via the wrapper functions in the **RcppArmadillo** package.

The `fastLm` function provides a more standard implementation of a linear model fit, offering both a default and a formula interface as well as `print`, `summary` and `predict` methods.

Lastly, one must be careful in timing comparisons of `lm` and friends versus this approach based on Armadillo. The reason that Armadillo can do something like `lm.fit` faster than the functions

in the stats package is because Armadillo can use different solvers, including fast / approximate ones. Older versions of Armadillo could therefore either fail or, worse, produce completely incorrect answers on rank-deficient model matrices whereas the functions from the stats package will handle them properly due to the modified Linpack code. Newer Armadillo version pivot (with warning) to an approximate solutions. This behavior can be controlled with options to the solve function, see the Armadillo documentation.

An example of the type of situation requiring extra care in checking for rank deficiency is a two-way layout with missing cells (see the examples section). These cases require a special pivoting scheme of “pivot only on (apparent) rank deficiency” which is not part of conventional linear algebra software.

## Value

fastLmPure returns a list with three components:

|              |                                                                          |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| coefficients | a vector of coefficients                                                 |
| stderr       | a vector of the (estimated) standard errors of the coefficient estimates |
| df.residual  | a scalar denoting the degrees of freedom in the model                    |

fastLm returns a richer object which also includes the residuals, fitted values and call argument similar to the `lm` or `rlm` functions.

## Author(s)

Armadillo is written by Conrad Sanderson. RcppArmadillo is written by Romain Francois, Dirk Eddelbuettel, Douglas Bates and Binxiang Ni.

## References

Armadillo project: <https://arma.sourceforge.net/>

## See Also

`lm`, `lm.fit`

## Examples

```
data(trees, package="datasets")

## bare-bones direct interface
flm <- fastLmPure( cbind(1, log(trees$Girth)), log(trees$Volume) )
print(flm)

## standard R interface for formula or data returning object of class fastLm
flmmod <- fastLm( log(Volume) ~ log(Girth), data=trees)
summary(flmmod)

## case where fastLm breaks down
dd <- data.frame(f1 = gl(4, 6, labels = LETTERS[1:4]),
                 f2 = gl(3, 2, labels = letters[1:3]))[-(7:8), ]
```

```

xtabs(~ f2 + f1, dd)      # one missing cell
mm <- model.matrix(~ f1 * f2, dd)
kappa(mm)                 # large, indicating rank deficiency
set.seed(1)
dd$y <- mm %*% seq_len(ncol(mm)) + rnorm(nrow(mm), sd = 0.1)
summary(lm(y ~ f1 * f2, dd)) # detects rank deficiency
summary(fastLm(y ~ f1 * f2, dd)) # fits all coefficients via approx solution

```

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RcppArmadillo.package.skeleton

*Create a skeleton for a new package that intends to use RcppArmadillo*

---

## Description

RcppArmadillo.package.skeleton automates the creation of a new source package that intends to use features of RcppArmadillo.

It is based on the [package.skeleton](#) function which it executes first.

## Usage

```

RcppArmadillo.package.skeleton(name = "anRpackage", list = character(),
  environment = .GlobalEnv, path = ".", force = FALSE,
  code_files = character(), example_code = TRUE, author = "Your Name",
  maintainer = if (missing(author)) "Your Name" else author,
  email = "your@email.com", githubuser = NA_character_,
  license = "GPL (>= 2)")

```

## Arguments

|              |                                                                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| name         | See <a href="#">package.skeleton</a>                                  |
| list         | See <a href="#">package.skeleton</a>                                  |
| environment  | See <a href="#">package.skeleton</a>                                  |
| path         | See <a href="#">package.skeleton</a>                                  |
| force        | See <a href="#">package.skeleton</a>                                  |
| code_files   | See <a href="#">package.skeleton</a>                                  |
| example_code | If TRUE, example c++ code using RcppArmadillo is added to the package |
| author       | Author of the package.                                                |
| maintainer   | Maintainer of the package.                                            |
| email        | Email of the package maintainer.                                      |
| githubuser   | GitHub username for URL and BugReports, if present.                   |
| license      | License of the package.                                               |

## Details

In addition to [package.skeleton](#) :

The ‘DESCRIPTION’ file gains a Depends line requesting that the package depends on Rcpp and RcppArmadillo and a LinkingTo line so that the package finds Rcpp and RcppArmadillo header files.

The ‘NAMESPACE’, if any, gains a useDynLib directive.

The ‘src’ directory is created if it does not exist and a ‘Makevars’ file is added setting the environment variable ‘PKG\_LIBS’ to accommodate the necessary flags to link with the Rcpp library.

If the `example_code` argument is set to TRUE, example files ‘rcpparma\_hello\_world.h’ and ‘rcpparma\_hello\_world.cpp’ are also created in the ‘src’. An R file ‘rcpparma\_hello\_world.R’ is expanded in the ‘R’ directory, the `rcpparma_hello_world` function defined in this file makes use of the C++ function ‘rcpparma\_hello\_world’ defined in the C++ file. These files are given as an example and should eventually be removed from the generated package.

## Value

Nothing, used for its side effects

## References

Read the *Writing R Extensions* manual for more details.

Once you have created a *source* package you need to install it: see the *R Installation and Administration* manual, [INSTALL](#) and [install.packages](#).

## See Also

[package.skeleton](#)

## Examples

```
## Not run:  
RcppArmadillo.package.skeleton( "foobar" )  
  
## End(Not run)
```

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