

# Package ‘BiocParallel’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Bioconductor facilities for parallel evaluation

**Version** 1.43.4

**Description** This package provides modified versions and novel implementation of functions for parallel evaluation, tailored to use with Bioconductor objects.

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**Enhances** Rmpi

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 BiocParallel-package    *Bioconductor facilities for parallel evaluation*


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**Description**

This package provides modified versions and novel implementation of functions for parallel evaluation, tailored to use with Bioconductor objects.

**Details**

This package uses code from the [parallel](#) package,

**Author(s)**

See `packageDescription("BiocParallel")`.

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 BatchtoolsParam-class    *Enable parallelization on batch systems*


---

**Description**

This class is used to parameterize scheduler options on managed high-performance computing clusters using batchtools.

`BatchtoolsParam()`: Construct a `BatchtoolsParam`-class object.

`batchtoolsWorkers()`: Return the default number of workers for each backend.

`batchtoolsTemplate()`: Return the default template for each backend.

`batchtoolsCluster()`: Return the default cluster.

`batchtoolsRegistryargs()`: Create a list of arguments to be used in batchtools' `makeRegistry`; see `registryargs` argument.

**Usage**

```
BatchtoolsParam(
  workers = batchtoolsWorkers(cluster),
  cluster = batchtoolsCluster(),
  registryargs = batchtoolsRegistryargs(),
  saveregistry = FALSE,
  resources = list(),
  template = batchtoolsTemplate(cluster),
  stop.on.error = TRUE, progressbar = FALSE, RNGseed = NA_integer_,
  timeout = WORKER_TIMEOUT, exportglobals=TRUE,
  log = FALSE, logdir = NA_character_, resultdir=NA_character_,
  jobname = "BPJOB"
)
batchtoolsWorkers(cluster = batchtoolsCluster())
batchtoolsCluster(cluster)
batchtoolsTemplate(cluster)
batchtoolsRegistryargs(...)
```

**Arguments**

workers            integer(1)

Number of workers to divide tasks (e.g., elements in the first argument of `bplapply`) between. On 'multicore' and 'socket' backends, this defaults to `multicoreWorkers()` and `snowWorkers()`. On managed (e.g., slurm, SGE) clusters workers has no default, meaning that the number of workers needs to be provided by the user.

cluster            character(1)

Cluster type being used as the backend by `BatchtoolsParam`. The available options are "socket", "multicore", "interactive", "sge", "slurm", "lsf", "torque" and "openlava". The cluster type if available on the machine registers as the backend. Cluster types which need a template are "sge", "slurm", "lsf", "openlava", and "torque". If the template is not given then a default is selected from the batchtools package.

registryargs      list()

Arguments given to the registry created by `BatchtoolsParam` to configure the registry and where it's being stored. The `registryargs` can be specified by the function `batchtoolsRegistryargs()` which takes the arguments `file.dir`, `work.dir`, `packages`, `namespaces`, `source`, `load`, `make.default`. It's useful to configure these option, especially the `file.dir` to a location which is accessible to all the nodes on your job scheduler i.e master and workers. `file.dir` uses a default setting to make a registry in your working directory.

saveregistry      logical(1)

Option given to store the entire registry for the job(s). This functionality should only be used when debugging. The storage of the entire registry can be time and space expensive on disk. The registry will be saved in the directory specified by `file.dir` in `registryargs`; the default location is the current working directory. The saved registry directories will have suffix "-1", "-2" and so on, for each time the `BatchtoolsParam` is used.

resources          named list()

Arguments passed to the `resources` argument of `batchtools::submitJobs` during evaluation of `bplapply` and similar functions. These name-value pairs are used for substitution into the template file.

template           character(1)

Path to a template for the backend in `BatchtoolsParam`. It is possible to check which template is being used by the object using the getter `bpbackend(BatchtoolsParam())`. The template needs to be written specific to each backend. Please check the list of available templates in the batchtools package.

stop.on.error      logical(1)

Stop all jobs as soon as one jobs fails (`stop.on.error == TRUE`) or wait for all jobs to terminate. Default is `TRUE`.

progressbar       logical(1)

Suppress the progress bar used in `BatchtoolsParam` and be less verbose. Default is `FALSE`.

RNGseed            integer(1)

Set an initial seed for the RNG. Default is NULL where a random seed is chosen upon initialization.

timeout            list()

Time (in seconds) allowed for worker to complete a task. If the computation exceeds timeout an error is thrown with message 'reached elapsed time limit'.

exportglobals    logical(1)

Export base::options() from manager to workers? Default TRUE.

log                logical(1)

Option given to save the logs which are produced by the jobs. If log=TRUE then the logdir option must be specified.

logdir            character(1)

Path to location where logs are stored. The argument log=TRUE is required before using the logdir option.

resultdir        logical(1)

Path where results are stored.

jobname          character(1)

Job name that is prepended to the output log and result files. Default is "BPJOB".

...                name-value pairs

Names and values correspond to arguments from batchtools [makeRegistry](#).

### BatchtoolsParam constructor

Return an object with specified values. The object may be saved to disk or reused within a session.

### Methods

The following generics are implemented and perform as documented on the corresponding help page: [bpworkers](#), [bpnworkers](#), [bpstart](#), [bpstop](#), [bpisup](#), [bpbackend](#).

[bplapply](#) handles arguments X of classes derived from `S4Vectors::List` specially, coercing to `list`.

### Author(s)

Nitesh Turaga, <mailto:nitesh.turaga@roswellpark.org>

### See Also

`getClass("BiocParallelParam")` for additional parameter classes.

`register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.

The batchtools package.

**Examples**

```

## Pi approximation
piApprox = function(n) {
  nums = matrix(runif(2 * n), ncol = 2)
  d = sqrt(nums[, 1]^2 + nums[, 2]^2)
  4 * mean(d <= 1)
}

piApprox(1000)

## Calculate piApprox 10 times
param <- BatchtoolsParam()
result <- bplapply(rep(10e5, 10), piApprox, BPPARAM=param)

## Not run:
## see vignette for additional explanation
library(BiocParallel)
param = BatchtoolsParam(workers=5,
                        cluster="sge",
                        template="script/test-sge-template.tmpl")
## Run parallel job
result = bplapply(rep(10e5, 100), piApprox, BPPARAM=param)

## bpmapply
param = BatchtoolsParam()
result = bpmapply(fun, x = 1:3, y = 1:3, MoreArgs = list(z = 1),
                  SIMPLIFY = TRUE, BPPARAM = param)

## bpvec
param = BatchtoolsParam(workers=2)
result = bpvec(1:10, seq_along, BPPARAM=param)

## bpvectorize
param = BatchtoolsParam(workers=2)
## this returns a function
bpseq_along = bpvectorize(seq_along, BPPARAM=param)
result = bpseq_along(1:10)

## biterate
ITER <- function(n=5) {
  i <- 0L
  function() {
    i <- i + 1L
    if (i > n)
      return(NULL)
    rep(i, n)
  }
}

param <- BatchtoolsParam()
res <- biterate(ITER=ITER(), FUN=function(x,y) sum(x) + y, y=10, BPPARAM=param)

## save logs
logdir <- tempfile()
dir.create(logdir)
param <- BatchtoolsParam(log=TRUE, logdir=logdir)

```

```

res <- bplapply(rep(10e5, 10), piApprox, BPPARAM=param)

## save registry (should be used only for debugging)
file.dir <- tempfile()
registryargs <- batchtoolsRegistryargs(file.dir = file.dir)
param <- BatchtoolsParam(saveregistry = TRUE, registryargs = registryargs)
res <- bplapply(rep(10e5, 10), piApprox, BPPARAM=param)
dir(dirname(file.dir), basename(file.dir))

## End(Not run)

```

---

BiocParallel-defunct    *Defunct Objects in Package ‘BiocParallel’*

---

### Description

These functions and objects are defunct and no longer available.

### Details

Defunct functions are: bprunMPIslave().

Defunct classes: BatchJobsParam.

---

BiocParallel-deprecated

*Deprecated Functions in Package ‘BiocParallel’*

---

### Description

There are currently no deprecated functions in ‘BiocParallel’.

---

BiocParallelParam-class

*BiocParallelParam objects*

---

### Description

The BiocParallelParam virtual class stores configuration parameters for parallel execution. Concrete subclasses include SnowParam, MulticoreParam, BatchtoolsParam, and DoparParam and SerialParam.

## Details

BiocParallelParam is the virtual base class on which other parameter objects build. There are 5 concrete subclasses:

SnowParam: distributed memory computing  
 MulticoreParam: shared memory computing  
 BatchtoolsParam: scheduled cluster computing  
 DoparParam: foreach computing  
 SerialParam: non-parallel execution

The parameter objects hold configuration parameters related to the method of parallel execution such as shared memory, independent memory or computing with a cluster scheduler.

## Construction

The BiocParallelParam class is virtual and has no constructor. Instances of the subclasses can be created with the following:

- SnowParam()
- MulticoreParam()
- BatchtoolsParam()
- DoparParam()
- SerialParam()

## Accessors

**Back-end control:** In the code below BPPARAM is a BiocParallelParam object.

bpworkers(x), bpworkers(x, ...): integer(1) or character(). Gets the number or names of the back-end workers. The setter is supported for SnowParam and MulticoreParam only.

bpnworkers(x): integer(1). Gets the number of the back-end workers.

bptasks(x), bptasks(x) <- value: integer(1). Get or set the number of tasks for a job. value can be a scalar integer > 0L, or integer 0L for matching the worker number, or NA for representing an infinite task number. DoparParam and BatchtoolsParam have their own approach to dividing a job among workers.

We define a job as a single call to a function such as bplapply, bpmapply etc. A task is the division of the X argument into chunks. When tasks == 0 (default), X is divided by the number of workers. This approach distributes X in (approximately) equal chunks.

A tasks value of > 0 dictates the total number of tasks. Values can range from 1 (all of X to a single worker) to the length of X (each element of X to a different worker); values greater than length(X) (e.g., .Machine\$integer.max) are rounded to length(X).

When the length of X is less than the number of workers each element of X is sent to a worker and tasks is ignored. Another case where the tasks value is ignored is when using the bpiterate function; the number of tasks are defined by the number of data chunks returned by the ITER function.

bpstart(x): logical(1). Starts the back-end, if necessary.

bpstop(x): logical(1). Stops the back-end, if necessary and possible.

bpisup(x): logical(1). Tests whether the back-end is available for processing, returning a scalar logical value. bp\* functions such as bplapply automatically start the back-end if necessary.



`bpbackend(x)`, `bpbackend(x) <- value`: Gets or sets the parallel bpbackend. Not all back-ends can be retrieved; see `methods("bpbackend")`.

`bplog(x)`, `bplog(x) <- value`: Get or enable logging, if available. `value` must be a `logical(1)`.

`bpthreshold(x)`, `bpthreshold(x) <- value`: Get or set the logging threshold. `value` must be a `character(1)` string of one of the levels defined in the `futile.logger` package: "TRACE", "DEBUG", "INFO", "WARN", "ERROR", or "FATAL".

`bplogdir(x)`, `bplogdir(x) <- value`: Get or set an optional directory for saving log files. The directory must already exist with read / write ability.

`bpresultdir(x)`, `bpresultdir(x) <- value`: Get or set an optional directory for saving results as 'rda' files. The directory must already exist with read / write ability.

`bptimeout(x)`, `bptimeout(x) <- value`: `numeric(1)` Time (in seconds) allowed for worker to complete a task. This value is passed to `base::setTimeLimit()` as both the `cpu` and `elapsed` arguments. If the computation exceeds `timeout` an error is thrown with message 'reached elapsed time limit'.

`bpexportglobals(x)`, `bpexportglobals(x) <- value`: `logical(1)` Export `base::options()` from manager to workers? Default TRUE.

`bpexportvariables(x)`, `bpexportvariables(x) <- value`: `logical(1)` Automatically export the variables which are defined in the global environment and used by the function from manager to workers. Default TRUE.

`bpprogressbar(x)`, `bpprogressbar(x) <- value`: Get or set the value to enable text progress bar. `value` must be a `logical(1)`.

`bpRNGseed(x)`, `bpRNGseed(x) <- value`: Get or set the seed for random number generation. `value` must be a `numeric(1)` or `NULL`.

`bpjobname(x)`, `bpjobname(x) <- value`: Get or set the job name.

`bpforceGC(x)`, `bpforceGC(x) <- value`: Get or set whether 'garbage collection' should be invoked at the end of each call to FUN.

`bpfallback(x)`, `bpfallback(x) <- value`: Get or set whether the fallback `SerialParam` should be used (e.g., for efficiency when starting a cluster) when the current `BPPARAM` has not been started and the worker number is less than or equal to 1.

**Error Handling:** In the code below `BPPARAM` is a `BiocParallelParam` object.

`bpstopOnError(x)`, `bpstopOnError(x) <- value`: `logical()`. Controls if the job stops when an error is hit.

`stop.on.error` controls whether the job stops after an error is thrown. When TRUE, the output contains all successfully completed results up to and including the error. When `stop.on.error == TRUE` all computations stop once the error is hit. When FALSE, the job runs to completion and successful results are returned along with any error messages.

## Methods

**Evaluation:** In the code below `BPPARAM` is a `BiocParallelParam` object. Full documentation for these functions are on separate man pages: see `?bpmapapply`, `?bplapply`, `?bpvec`, `?bpiterate` and `?bpaggregate`.

- `bpmapapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE, BPPARAM=bpparam())`
- `bplapply(X, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())`
- `bpvec(X, FUN, ..., AGGREGATE=c, BPPARAM=bpparam())`
- `bpiterate(ITER, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())`
- `bpaggregate(x, data, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())`

**Other:** In the code below `BPPARAM` is a `BiocParallelParam` object.

- `show(x)`

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan and Valerie Obenchain.

**See Also**

- [SnowParam](#) for computing in distributed memory
- [MulticoreParam](#) for computing in shared memory
- [BatchtoolsParam](#) for computing with cluster schedulers
- [DoparParam](#) for computing with foreach
- [SerialParam](#) for non-parallel execution

**Examples**

```
getClass("BiocParallelParam")

## For examples see ?SnowParam, ?MulticoreParam, ?BatchtoolsParam
## and ?SerialParam.
```

---

bpaggregate

*Apply a function on subsets of data frames*


---

**Description**

This is a parallel version of [aggregate](#).

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'formula,BiocParallelParam'
bpaggregate(x, data, FUN, ...,
            BPRED0=list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())

## S4 method for signature 'data.frame,BiocParallelParam'
bpaggregate(x, by, FUN, ...,
            simplify=TRUE, BPRED0=list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())

## S4 method for signature 'matrix,BiocParallelParam'
bpaggregate(x, by, FUN, ...,
            simplify=TRUE, BPRED0=list(),
            BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())
)

## S4 method for signature 'ANY,missing'
bpaggregate(x, ..., BPRED0=list(),
            BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	A <code>data.frame</code> , matrix or a formula.
<code>by</code>	A list of factors by which <code>x</code> is split; applicable when <code>x</code> is <code>data.frame</code> or matrix.
<code>data</code>	A <code>data.frame</code> ; applicable when <code>x</code> is a formula.
<code>FUN</code>	Function to apply.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments for <code>FUN</code> .
<code>simplify</code>	If set to <code>TRUE</code> , the return values of <code>FUN</code> will be simplified using <a href="#">simplify2array</a> .
<code>BPPARAM</code>	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation.
<code>BPRED0</code>	A list of output from <code>bpaggregate</code> with one or more failed elements. When a list is given in <code>BPRED0</code> , <code>bpok</code> is used to identify errors, tasks are rerun and inserted into the original results.
<code>BPOPTIONS</code>	Additional options to control the behavior of the parallel evaluation, see <a href="#">bpoptions</a> .

**Details**

`bpaggregate` is a generic with methods for `data.frame` matrix and formula objects. `x` is divided into subsets according to factors in `by`. Data chunks are sent to the workers, `FUN` is applied and results are returned as a `data.frame`.

The function is similar in spirit to [aggregate](#) from the stats package but [aggregate](#) is not explicitly called. The `bpaggregate` formula method reformulates the call and dispatches to the `data.frame` method which in turn distributes data chunks to workers with `bplapply`.

**Value**

See [aggregate](#).

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>.

**Examples**

```
if (interactive() && require(Rsamtools) && require(GenomicAlignments)) {

  f1 <- system.file("extdata", "ex1.bam", package="Rsamtools")
  param <- ScanBamParam(what = c("flag", "mapq"))
  gal <- readGAlignments(f1, param=param)

  ## Report the mean map quality by range cutoff:
  cutoff <- rep(0, length(gal))
  cutoff[start(gal) > 1000 & start(gal) < 1500] <- 1
  cutoff[start(gal) > 1500] <- 2
  bpaggregate(as.data.frame(mcols(gal)$mapq), list(cutoff = cutoff), mean)

}
```

bpiterate

*Parallel iteration over an indeterminate number of data chunks***Description**

bpiterate iterates over an indeterminate number of data chunks (e.g., records in a file). Each chunk is processed by parallel workers in an asynchronous fashion; as each worker finishes it receives a new chunk. Data are traversed a single time.

When provided with a vector-like argument `ITER = X`, bpiterate uses bpiterateAlong to produce the sequence of elements `X[[1]]`, `X[[2]]`, etc.

**Usage**

```
bpiterate(
  ITER, FUN, ...,
  BPRED0 = list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions()
)

## S4 method for signature 'ANY,ANY,missing'
bpiterate(
  ITER, FUN, ...,
  BPRED0 = list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions()
)

## S4 method for signature 'ANY,ANY,BatchtoolsParam'
bpiterate(
  ITER, FUN, ..., REDUCE, init, reduce.in.order=FALSE,
  BPRED0 = list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions()
)

bpiterateAlong(X)
```

**Arguments**

X	An object (e.g., vector or list) with ‘length()’ and ‘[[’ methods available.
ITER	A function with no arguments that returns an object to process, generally a chunk of data from a file. When no objects are left (i.e., end of file) it should return NULL and continue to return NULL regardless of the number of times it is invoked after reaching the end of file. This function is run on the master.
FUN	A function to process the object returned by ITER; run on parallel workers separate from the master. When BPPARAM is a MulticoreParam, FUN is ‘decorated’ with additional arguments and therefore must have ... in the signature.
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation, or a list of BiocParallelParam instances, to be applied in sequence for nested calls to bpiterate.
REDUCE	Optional function that combines (reduces) output from FUN. As each worker returns, the data are combined with the REDUCE function. REDUCE takes 2 arguments; one is the current result and the other is the output of FUN from a worker that just finished.

<code>init</code>	Optional initial value for REDUCE; must be of the same type as the object returned from FUN. When supplied, <code>reduce.in.order</code> is set to TRUE.
<code>reduce.in.order</code>	Logical. When TRUE, REDUCE is applied to the results from the workers in the same order the tasks were sent out.
<code>BPREDO</code>	An output from <code>bpiterate</code> with one or more failed elements. This argument cannot be used with <code>BatchtoolsParam</code>
<code>...</code>	Arguments to other methods, and named arguments for FUN.
<code>BPOPTIONS</code>	Additional options to control the behavior of the parallel evaluation, see <a href="#">bpoptions</a> .

## Details

Supported for `SnowParam`, `MulticoreParam` and `BatchtoolsParam`.

`bpiterate` iterates through an unknown number of data chunks, dispatching chunks to parallel workers as they become available. In contrast, other `bp*apply` functions such as `bplapply` or `bpmapply` require the number of data chunks to be specified ahead of time. This quality makes `bpiterate` useful for iterating through files of unknown length.

ITER serves up chunks of data until the end of the file is reached at which point it returns NULL. Note that ITER should continue to return NULL regardless of the number of times it is invoked after reaching the end of the file. FUN is applied to each object (data chunk) returned by ITER.

`bpiterateAlong()` provides an iterator for a vector or other object with `length()` and `[[` methods defined. It is used in place of the first argument ITER=

## Value

By default, a list the same length as the number of chunks in `ITER()`. When REDUCE is used, the return is consistent with application of the reduction. When errors occur, the errors will be attached to the result as an attribute `errors`

## Author(s)

Valerie Obenchain <mailto:vobencha@fhcrc.org>.

## See Also

- [bpvec](#) for parallel, vectorized calculations.
- [bplapply](#) for parallel, lapply-like calculations.
- [BiocParallelParam](#) for details of BPPARAM.
- [BatchtoolsParam](#) for details of BatchtoolsParam.

## Examples

```
## A simple iterator
ITER <- bpiterateAlong(1:10)
result <- bpiterate(ITER, sqrt)
## alteernatively, result <- bpiterate(1:10, sqrt)
unlist(result)

## Not run:
if (require(Rsamtools) && require(RNAseqData.HNRNPC.bam.chr14) &&
    require(GenomicAlignments) && require(ShortRead)) {
```

```

## -----
## Iterate through a BAM file
## -----

## Select a single file and set 'yieldSize' in the BamFile object.
fl <- RNAseqData.HNRNPC.bam.chr14_BAMFILES[[1]]
bf <- BamFile(fl, yieldSize = 300000)

## bamIterator() is initialized with a BAM file and returns a function.
## The return function requires no arguments and iterates through the
## file returning data chunks the size of yieldSize.
bamIterator <- function(bf) {
  done <- FALSE
  if (!isOpen( bf))
    open(bf)

  function() {
    if (done)
      return(NULL)
    yld <- readGAlignments(bf)
    if (length(yld) == 0L) {
      close(bf)
      done <-< TRUE
      NULL
    } else yld
  }
}

## FUN counts reads in a region of interest.
roi <- GRanges("chr14", IRanges(seq(19e6, 107e6, by = 10e6), width = 10e6))
counter <- function(reads, roi, ...) {
  countOverlaps(query = roi, subject = reads)
}

## Initialize the iterator.
ITER <- bamIterator(bf)

## The number of chunks returned by ITER() determines the result length.
bpparam <- MulticoreParam(workers = 3)
## bpparam <- BatchtoolsParam(workers = 3), see ?BatchtoolsParam
bpiterate(ITER, counter, roi = roi, BPPARAM = bpparam)

## Re-initialize the iterator and combine on the fly with REDUCE:
ITER <- bamIterator(bf)
bpparam <- MulticoreParam(workers = 3)
bpiterate(ITER, counter, REDUCE = sum, roi = roi, BPPARAM = bpparam)

## -----
## Iterate through a FASTA file
## -----

## Set data chunk size with 'n' in the FastqStreamer object.
sp <- SolexaPath(system.file('extdata', package = 'ShortRead'))
fl <- file.path(analysisPath(sp), "s_1_sequence.txt")

## Create an iterator that returns data chunks the size of 'n'.

```

```

fastqIterator <- function(fqs) {
  done <- FALSE
  if (!isOpen(fqs))
    open(fqs)

  function() {
    if (done)
      return(NULL)
    yld <- yield(fqs)
    if (length(yld) == 0L) {
      close(fqs)
      done <-< TRUE
      NULL
    } else yld
  }
}

## The process function summarizes the number of times each sequence occurs.
summary <- function(reads, ...) {
  ShortRead::tables(reads, n = 0)$distribution
}

## Create a param.
bpparam <- SnowParam(workers = 2)

## Initialize the streamer and iterator.
fqs <- FastqStreamer(fl, n = 100)
ITER <- fastqIterator(fqs)
bpiterate(ITER, summary, BPPARAM = bpparam)

## Results from the workers are combined on the fly when REDUCE is used.
## Collapsing the data in this way can substantially reduce memory
## requirements.
fqs <- FastqStreamer(fl, n = 100)
ITER <- fastqIterator(fqs)
bpiterate(ITER, summary, REDUCE = merge, all = TRUE, BPPARAM = bpparam)

}

## End(Not run)

```

---

bplapply

*Parallel lapply-like functionality*


---

## Description

bplapply applies FUN to each element of X. Any type of object X is allowed, provided length, [, and [[ methods are available. The return value is a list of length equal to X, as with [lapply](#).

## Usage

```
bplapply(X, FUN, ..., BPRED0 = list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())
```

**Arguments**

X	Any object for which methods <code>length</code> , <code>[]</code> , and <code>[[</code> are implemented.
FUN	The function to be applied to each element of X.
...	Additional arguments for FUN, as in <a href="#">lapply</a> .
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation, or a list of <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instances, to be applied in sequence for nested calls to <b>BiocParallel</b> functions.
BPREDO	A list of output from <code>bpapply</code> with one or more failed elements. When a list is given in BPREDO, <code>bpok</code> is used to identify errors, tasks are rerun and inserted into the original results.
BPOPTIONS	Additional options to control the behavior of the parallel evaluation, see <a href="#">bpoptions</a> .

**Details**

See `methods{bpapply}` for additional methods, e.g., `method?bpapply("MulticoreParam")`.

**Value**

See [lapply](#).

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>. Original code as attributed in [mclapply](#).

**See Also**

- [bpvec](#) for parallel, vectorized calculations.
- [BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of BPPARAM.

**Examples**

```
methods("bpapply")

## ten tasks (1:10) so ten calls to FUN default registered parallel
## back-end. Compare with bpvec.
fun <- function(v) {
  message("working") ## 10 tasks
  sqrt(v)
}
bpapply(1:10, fun)
```

**Description**

The functions documented on this page are primarily for use within **BiocParallel** to enable SNOW-style parallel evaluation, using communication between manager and worker nodes through sockets.



## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'lapply'
bploop(manager, X, FUN, ARGS, BPPARAM, BPOPTIONS = bpoptions(), BPRED0, ...)

## S3 method for class 'iterate'
bploop(manager, ITER, FUN, ARGS, BPPARAM, BPOPTIONS = bpoptions(),
        REDUCE, BPRED0, init, reduce.in.order, ...)
```

## Arguments

manager	An object representing the manager node. For workers, this is the node to which the worker will communicate. For managers, this is the form of iteration – lapply or iterate.
X	A vector of jobs to be performed.
FUN	A function to apply to each job.
ARGS	A list of arguments to be passed to FUN.
BPPARAM	An instance of a BiocParallelParam class.
ITER	A function used to generate jobs. No more jobs are available when ITER() returns NULL.
REDUCE	(Optional) A function combining two values returned by FUN into a single value.
init	(Optional) Initial value for reduction.
reduce.in.order	(Optional) logical(1) indicating that reduction must occur in the order jobs are dispatched (TRUE) or that reduction can occur in the order jobs are completed (FALSE).
BPRED0	(Optional) A list of output from bplapply or bpiterate with one or more failed elements.
...	Additional arguments, ignored in all cases.
BPOPTIONS	Additional options to control the behavior of the parallel evaluation, see <a href="#">bpoptions</a> .

## Details

Workers enter a loop. They wait to receive a message (R list) from the manager. The message contains a type element, with evaluation as follows:

**“EXEC”** Execute the R code in the message, returning the result to the manager.

**“DONE”** Signal termination to the manager, terminate the worker.

Managers under lapply dispatch pre-determined jobs, X, to workers, collecting the results from and dispatching new jobs to the first available worker. The manager returns a list of results, in a one-to-one correspondence with the order of jobs supplied, when all jobs have been evaluated.

Managers under iterate dispatch an undetermined number of jobs to workers, collecting previous jobs from and dispatching new jobs to the first available worker. Dispatch continues until available jobs are exhausted. The return value is by default a list of results in a one-to-one correspondence with the order of jobs supplied. The return value is influenced by REDUCE, init, and reduce.in.order.

**Author(s)**

Valerie Obenchain, Martin Morgan. Derived from similar functionality in the **snow** and **parallel** packages.

**Examples**

```
## These functions are not meant to be called by the end user.
```

---

bpmapply

*Parallel mapply-like functionality*


---

**Description**

bpmapply applies FUN to first elements of ..., the second elements and so on. Any type of object in ... is allowed, provided length, [, and [[ methods are available. The return value is a list of length equal to the length of all objects provided, as with [mapply](#).

**Usage**

```
bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE,
         BPRED0=list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())

## S4 method for signature 'ANY,missing'
bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE,
         USE.NAMES=TRUE, BPRED0=list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())

## S4 method for signature 'ANY,BiocParallelParam'
bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL,
         SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE, BPRED0=list(),
         BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())
```

**Arguments**

FUN	The function to be applied to each element passed via ....
...	Objects for which methods length, [, and [[ are implemented. All objects must have the same length or shorter objects will be replicated to have length equal to the longest.
MoreArgs	List of additional arguments to FUN.
SIMPLIFY	If TRUE the result will be simplified using <a href="#">simplify2array</a> .
USE.NAMES	If TRUE the result will be named.
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance defining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation.
BPRED0	A list of output from bpmapply with one or more failed elements. When a list is given in BPRED0, bpok is used to identify errors, tasks are rerun and inserted into the original results.
BPOPTIONS	Additional options to control the behavior of the parallel evaluation, see <a href="#">bpoptions</a> .

**Details**

See `methods{bpmapply}` for additional methods, e.g., `method?bpmapply("MulticoreParam")`.

**Value**

See [mapply](#).

**Author(s)**

Michel Lang . Original code as attributed in [mclapply](#).

**See Also**

- [bpvec](#) for parallel, vectorized calculations.
- [BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of BPPARAM.

**Examples**

```
methods("bpmapply")

fun <- function(greet, who) {
  paste(Sys.getpid(), greet, who)
}
greet <- c("morning", "night")
who <- c("sun", "moon")

param <- bpparam()
original <- bpworkers(param)
bpworkers(param) <- 2
result <- bpmapply(fun, greet, who, BPPARAM = param)
cat(paste(result, collapse="\n"), "\n")
bpworkers(param) <- original
```

---

bpok

*Resume computation with partial results*


---

**Description**

Identifies unsuccessful results returned from `bplapply`, `bpmapply`, `bpvec`, `bpaggregate` or `bpvectorize`.

**Usage**

```
bpok(x, type = bperrorTypes())

bperrorTypes()

bpresult(x)
```

**Arguments**

x	Results returned from a call to bp*apply.
type	A character(1) error type, from the vector returned by bperrorTypes() and described below

**Details**

bpok() returns a logical() vector: FALSE for any jobs that resulted in an error. x is the result list output by bplapply, bpmapply, bpvec, bpaggregate or bpvectorize.

bperrorTypes() returns a character() vector of possible error types generated during parallel evaluation. Types are:

- bperror: Any of the following errors. This is the default value for bpok().
- remote\_error: An R error occurring while evaluating FUN(), e.g., taking the square root of a character vector, sqrt("One").
- unevaluated\_error: When \*Param(stop.on.error = TRUE) (default), a remote error halts evaluation of other tasks assigned to the same worker. The return value for these unevaluated elements is an error of type unevaluated\_error.
- not\_available\_error: Only produced by DoparParam() when a remote error occurs during evaluation of an element of X – DoparParam() sets all values after the remote error to this class.
- worker\_comm\_error: An error occurring while trying to communicate with workers, e.g., when a worker quits unexpectedly. when this type of error occurs, the length of the result may differ from the length of the input X.

bpresult() when applied to an object with a class of one of the error types returns the list of tasks results.

**Author(s)**

Michel Lang, Martin Morgan, Valerie Obenchain, and Jiefei Wang

**See Also**

[tryCatch](#)

**Examples**

```
## -----
## Catch errors:
## -----

## By default 'stop.on.error' is TRUE in BiocParallelParam objects. If
## 'stop.on.error' is TRUE an ill-fated bplapply() simply stops,
## displaying the error message.
param <- SnowParam(workers = 2, stop.on.error = TRUE)
result <- tryCatch({
  bplapply(list(1, "two", 3), sqrt, BPPARAM = param)
}, error=identity)
result
class(result)
bpresult(result)
```

```

## If 'stop.on.error' is FALSE then the computation continues. Errors
## are signalled but the full evaluation can be retrieved
param <- SnowParam(workers = 2, stop.on.error = FALSE)
X <- list(1, "two", 3)
result <- bpttry(bplapply(X, sqrt, BPPARAM = param))
result

## Check for errors:
fail <- !bpok(result)
fail

## Access the traceback with attr():
tail(attr(result[[2]], "traceback"), 5)

## -----
## Resume calculations:
## -----

## The 'resume' mechanism is triggered by supplying a list of partial
## results as 'BPRED0'. Data elements that failed are rerun and merged
## with previous results.

## A call of sqrt() on the character "2" returns an error. Fix the input
## data by changing the character "2" to a numeric 2:
X_mod <- list(1, 2, 3)
bplapply(X_mod, sqrt, BPPARAM = param , BPRED0 = result)

```

bpoptions

*Additional options to parallel evaluation*

## Description

This function is used to pass additional options to `bplapply()` and other functions function. One use case is to use the argument `BPOPTIONS` to temporarily change the parameter of `BPPARAM` (e.g. enabling the progressbar). A second use case is to change the behavior of the parallel evaluation (e.g. manually exporting some variables to the worker)

## Usage

```

bpoptions(
  workers, tasks, jobname, log, logdir, threshold, resultdir,
  stop.on.error, timeout, exportglobals, exportvariables, progressbar,
  RNGseed, force.GC, fallback, exports, packages, ...
)

```

## Arguments

<code>workers</code>	integer(1) or character() parameter for <code>BPPARAM</code> ; see <a href="#">bpnworkers</a> .
<code>tasks</code>	integer(1) parameter for <code>BPPARAM</code> ; see <a href="#">bptasks</a> .
<code>jobname</code>	character(1) parameter for <code>BPPARAM</code> ; see <a href="#">bpjobname</a> .
<code>log</code>	logical(1) parameter for <code>BPPARAM</code> ; see <a href="#">bplog</a> .
<code>logdir</code>	character(1) parameter for <code>BPPARAM</code> ; see <a href="#">bplogdir</a> .

threshold	A parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bpthreshold</a> .
resultdir	character(1) parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bpresultdir</a> .
stop.on.error	logical(1) parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bpstopOnError</a> .
timeout	integer(1) parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bptimeout</a> .
exportglobals	logical(1) parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bpexportglobals</a> .
exportvariables	A parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bpexportvariables</a> .
progressbar	logical(1) parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bppprogressbar</a> .
RNGseed	integer(1) parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bpRNGseed</a> .
force.GC	logical(1) parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bpforceGC</a> .
fallback	logical(1) parameter for BPPARAM; see <a href="#">bpfallback</a> .
exports	character() The names of the variables in the global environment which need to be exported to the global environment of the worker. This option works independently of the option exportvariables.
packages	character() The packages that needs to be attached by the worker prior to the evaluation of the task. This option works independently of the option exportvariables.
...	Additional arguments which may(or may not) work for some specific type of BPPARAM.

**Value**

A list of options

**Author(s)**

Jiefei Wang

**See Also**

[BiocParallelParam](#), [bplapply](#), [bpiterate](#).

**Examples**

```
p <- SerialParam()
bplapply(1:5, function(x) Sys.sleep(1), BPPARAM = p,
         BPOPTIONS = bpoptions(progressbar = TRUE, tasks = 5L))
```

---

bpschedule

---

*Schedule back-end Params*


---

**Description**

Use functions on this page to influence scheduling of parallel processing.

**Usage**

```
bpschedule(x)
```

**Arguments**

**x** An instance of a BiocParallelParam class, e.g., [MulticoreParam](#), [SnowParam](#), [DoparParam](#).  
 x can be missing, in which case the default back-end (see [register](#)) is used.

**Details**

bpschedule returns a logical(1) indicating whether the parallel evaluation should occur at this point.

**Value**

bpschedule returns a scalar logical.

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>.

**See Also**

[BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of x.

**Examples**

```
bpschedule(SnowParam())           # TRUE
bpschedule(MulticoreParam(2))     # FALSE on windows

p <- MulticoreParam()
bpschedule(p)                     # TRUE
bplapply(1:2, function(i, p) {
  bpschedule(p)                   # FALSE
}, p = p, BPPARAM=p)
```

---

bptry

*Try expression evaluation, recovering from bpererror signals*


---

**Description**

This function is meant to be used as a wrapper around bplapply() and friends, returning the evaluated expression rather than signalling an error.

**Usage**

```
bptry(expr, ..., bplist_error, bpererror)
```

**Arguments**

**expr** An R expression; see [tryCatch](#).

bplist_error	<p>A ‘handler’ function of a single argument, used to catch bplist_error conditions signalled by <code>expr</code>. A bplist_error condition is signalled when an element of <code>bplapply</code> and other iterations contain a evaluation that failed. When missing, the default retrieves the “result” attribute from the error, containing the partially evaluated results.</p> <p>Setting <code>bplist_error=identity</code> returns the evaluated condition.</p> <p>Setting <code>bplist_error=stop</code> passes the condition to other handlers, notably the handler provided by <code>bperror</code>.</p>
bperror	<p>A ‘handler’ function of a single argument, use to catch bperror conditions signalled by <code>expr</code>. A bperror is a base class to all errors signaled by <b>BiocParallel</b> code. When missing, the default returns the condition without signalling an error.</p>
...	<p>Additional named handlers passed to <code>tryCatch()</code>. These user-provided handlers are evaluated before default handlers <code>bplist_error</code>, <code>bperror</code>.</p>

### Value

The partially evaluated list of results.

### Author(s)

Martin Morgan <[martin.morgan@roswellpark.org](mailto:martin.morgan@roswellpark.org)>

### See Also

[bpok](#), [tryCatch](#), [bplapply](#).

### Examples

```
param = registered()[[1]]
param
X = list(1, "2", 3)
bptry(bplapply(X, sqrt)) # bplist_error handler
result <- bptry(bplapply(X, sqrt), bplist_error=identity) # bperror handler
result
bpresult(result)
```

---

bpvalidate	<i>Tools for developing functions for parallel execution in distributed memory</i>
------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

---

### Description

bpvalidate interrogates the function environment and search path to locate undefined symbols.

### Usage

```
bpvalidate(fun, signal = c("warning", "error", "silent"))
```



## Arguments

fun	The function to be checked. <code>typeof(fun)</code> must return either "closure" or "builtin".
signal	character(1) matching "warning", "error", "silent" or a function with signature <code>(..., call.)</code> to be invoked when reporting errors. Using "silent" suppresses output; "warning" and "error" emit warnings or errors when fun contains references to unknown variables or variables defined in the global environment (and hence not serialized to workers).

## Details

bpvalidate tests if a function can be run in a distributed memory environment (e.g., SOCK clusters, Windows machines). bpvalidate looks in the environment of fun, in the `NAMESPACE` exports of libraries loaded in fun, and along the search path to identify any symbols outside the scope of fun.

bpvalidate can be used to check functions passed to the `bp*` family of functions in `BiocParallel` or other packages that support parallel evaluation on clusters such as `snow`, `Rmpi`, etc.

**testing package functions** The environment of a function defined inside a package is the `NAMESPACE` of the package. It is important to test these functions as they will be called from within the package, with the appropriate environment. Specifically, do not copy/paste the function into the workspace; once this is done the `GlobalEnv` becomes the function environment.

To test a package function, load the package then call the function by name (`myfun`) or explicitly (`mypkg::myfun`) if not exported.

**testing workspace functions** The environment of a function defined in the workspace is the `GlobalEnv`. Because these functions do not have an associated package `NAMESPACE`, the functions and variables used in the body must be explicitly passed or defined. See examples.

Defining functions in the workspace is often done during development or testing. If the function is later moved inside a package, it can be rewritten in a more lightweight form by taking advantage of imported symbols in the package `NAMESPACE`.

NOTE: bpvalidate does not currently work on Generics.

## Value

An object of class `BPValidate` summarizing symbols identified in the global environment or search path, or undefined in the environments the function was defined in. Details are only available via `'show()'`.

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan.bioc@gmail.com> and Valerie Obenchain.

## Examples

```
## -----
## Interactive use
## -----

fun <- function()
  .__UNKNOWN_SYMBOL__
bpvalidate(fun, "silent")

## -----
```

```

## Testing package functions
## -----

## Not run:
library(myPkg)

## Test exported functions by name or the double colon:
bpvalidate(myExportedFun)
bpvalidate(myPkg::myExportedFun)

## Non-exported functions are called with the triple colon:
bpvalidate(myPkg:::myInternalFun)

## End(Not run)

## -----
## Testing workspace functions
## -----

## Functions defined in the workspace have the .GlobalEnv as their
## environment. Often the symbols used inside the function body
## are not defined in .GlobalEnv and must be passed explicitly.

## Loading libraries:
## In 'fun1' countBam() is flagged as unknown:
fun1 <- function(f1, ...) {
  countBam(f1)
}
v <- bpvalidate(fun1)

## countBam() is not defined in .GlobalEnv and must be passed as
## an argument or made available by loading the library.
fun2 <- function(f1, ...) {
  Rsamtools::countBam(f1)
}
v <- bpvalidate(fun2)

## Passing arguments:
## 'param' is defined in the workspace but not passed to 'fun3'.
## bpvalidate() flags 'param' as being found '.GlobalEnv' which means
## it is not defined in the function environment or inside the function.
library(Rsamtools)
param <- ScanBamParam(flag=scanBamFlag(isMinusStrand=FALSE))

fun3 <- function(f1, ...) {
  Rsamtools::countBam(f1, param=param)
}
v <- bpvalidate(fun3)

## 'param' is explicitly passed by adding it as a formal argument.
fun4 <- function(f1, ..., param) {
  Rsamtools::countBam(f1, param=param)
}
bpvalidate(fun4)

## The corresponding call to a bp* function includes 'param':
## Not run:
bpapply(files, fun4, param=param, BPPARAM=SnowParam(2))

```

```
## End(Not run)
```

---

bpvec	<i>Parallel, vectorized evaluation</i>
-------	----------------------------------------

---

## Description

bpvec applies FUN to subsets of X. Any type of object X is allowed, provided length, and [ are defined on X. FUN is a function such that length(FUN(X)) == length(X). The objects returned by FUN are concatenated by AGGREGATE (c() by default). The return value is FUN(X).

## Usage

```
bpvec(X, FUN, ..., AGGREGATE=c, BPRED0=list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())
```

## Arguments

X	Any object for which methods length and [ are implemented.
FUN	A function to be applied to subsets of X. The relationship between X and FUN(X) is 1:1, so that length(FUN(X, ...)) == length(X). The return value of separate calls to FUN are concatenated with AGGREGATE.
...	Additional arguments for FUN.
AGGREGATE	A function taking any number of arguments ... called to reduce results (elements of the ... argument of AGGREGATE from parallel jobs. The default, c, concatenates objects and is appropriate for vectors; rbind might be appropriate for data frames.
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation, or a list of <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instances, to be applied in sequence for nested calls to <b>BiocParallel</b> functions.
BPRED0	A list of output from bpvec with one or more failed elements. When a list is given in BPRED0, bpok is used to identify errors, tasks are rerun and inserted into the original results.
BPOPTIONS	Additional options to control the behavior of the parallel evaluation, see <a href="#">bpoptions</a> .

## Details

This method creates a vector of indices for X that divide the elements as evenly as possible given the number of bpworkers() and bptasks() of BPPARAM. Indices and data are passed to bplapply for parallel evaluation.

The distinction between bpvec and bplapply is that bplapply applies FUN to each element of X separately whereas bpvec assumes the function is vectorized, e.g., c(FUN(x[1]), FUN(x[2])) is equivalent to FUN(x[1:2]). This approach can be more efficient than bplapply but requires the assumption that FUN takes a vector input and creates a vector output of the same length as the input which does not depend on partitioning of the vector. This behavior is consistent with parallel::pvec and the ?pvec man page should be consulted for further details.

**Value**

The result should be identical to `FUN(X, ...)` (assuming that `AGGREGATE` is set appropriately).

When evaluation of individual elements of `X` results in an error, the result is a `list` with the same geometry (i.e., `lengths()`) as the `split` applied to `X` to create chunks for parallel evaluation; one or more elements of the list contain a `bpererror` element, indicating that the vectorized calculation failed for at least one of the index values in that chunk.

An error is also signaled when `FUN(X)` does not return an object of the same length as `X`; this condition is only detected when the number of elements in `X` is greater than the number of workers.

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>.

**See Also**

[bplapply](#) for parallel lapply.

[BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of `BPPARAM`.

[pvec](#) for background.

**Examples**

```
methods("bpvec")

## ten tasks (1:10), called with as many back-end elements are specified
## by BPPARAM. Compare with bplapply
fun <- function(v) {
  message("working")
  sqrt(v)
}
system.time(result <- bpvec(1:10, fun))
result

## invalid FUN -- length(class(X)) is not equal to length(X)
bpttry(bpvec(1:2, class, BPPARAM=SerialParam()))
```

---

bpvectorize

*Transform vectorized functions into parallelized, vectorized function*

---

**Description**

This transforms a vectorized function into a parallel, vectorized function. Any function `FUN` can be used, provided its parallelized argument (by default, the first argument) has a `length` and `[]` method defined, and the return value of `FUN` can be concatenated with `c`.

**Usage**

```
bpvectorize(FUN, ..., BPRED0=list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())

## S4 method for signature 'ANY,ANY'
bpvectorize(FUN, ..., BPRED0=list(), BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'ANY,missing'
bpvectorize(FUN, ..., BPRED0=list(),
            BPPARAM=bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions())
```

## Arguments

FUN	A function whose first argument has a length and can be subset [, and whose evaluation would benefit by splitting the argument into subsets, each one of which is independently transformed by FUN. The return value of FUN must support concatenation with c.
...	Additional arguments to parallization, unused.
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation.
BPRED0	A list of output from bpvectorize with one or more failed elements. When a list is given in BPRED0, bpok is used to identify errors, tasks are rerun and inserted into the original results.
BPOPTIONS	Additional options to control the behavior of the parallel evaluation, see <a href="#">bpoptions</a> .

## Details

The result of bpvectorize is a function with signature ...; arguments to the returned function are the original arguments FUN. BPPARAM is used for parallel evaluation.

When BPPARAM is a class for which no method is defined (e.g., [SerialParam](#)), FUN(X) is used.

See methods{bpvectorize} for additional methods, if any.

## Value

A function taking the same arguments as FUN, but evaluated using [bpvec](#) for parallel evaluation across available cores.

## Author(s)

Ryan Thompson <mailto:rct@thompsonclan.org>

## See Also

[bpvec](#)

## Examples

```
psqrt <- bpvectorize(sqrt) ## default parallelization
psqrt(1:10)
```

## Description

Functions documented on this page are meant for developers wishing to implement BPPARAM objects that extend the BiocParallelParam virtual class to support additional parallel back-ends.

## Usage

```
## class extension

.prototype_update(prototype, ...)

## manager interface

.send_to(backend, node, value)
.recv_any(backend)
.send_all(backend, value)
.recv_all(backend)

## worker interface

.send(worker, value)
.recv(worker)
.close(worker)

## task manager interface(optional)
.manager(BPPARAM)
.manager_send(manager, value, ...)
.manager_recv(manager)
.manager_send_all(manager, value)
.manager_recv_all(manager)
.manager_capacity(manager)
.manager_flush(manager)
.manager_cleanup(manager)

## supporting implementations

.bpstart_impl(x)
.bpworker_impl(worker)
.bplapply_impl(
  X, FUN, ..., BPRED0 = list(),
  BPPARAM = bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions()
)
.bpiterate_impl(
  ITER, FUN, ..., REDUCE, init, reduce.in.order = FALSE, BPRED0 = list(),
  BPPARAM = bpparam(), BPOPTIONS = bpoptions()
)
.bpstop_impl(x)
```

```
## extract the static or dynamic part from a task
.task_const(value)
.task_dynamic(value)
.task_remake(value, static_data = NULL)

## Register an option for BPPARAM
.registerOption(optionName, genericName)
```

## Arguments

prototype	A named list of default values for reference class fields.
x	A BPPARAM instance.
backend	An object containing information about the cluster, returned by <code>bppbackend(&lt;BPPARAM&gt;)</code> .
manager	An object returned by <code>.manager()</code>
worker	The object to which the worker communicates via <code>.send</code> and <code>.recv</code> . <code>.close</code> terminates the worker.
node	An integer value indicating the node in the backend to which values are to be sent or received.
value	Any R object, to be sent to or from workers.
X, ITER, FUN, REDUCE, init, reduce.in.order, BPRED, BPPARAM	See <code>bplapply</code> and <code>bpiterate</code> .
...	For <code>.prototype_update()</code> , name-value pairs to initialize derived and base class fields. For <code>.bplapply_impl()</code> , <code>.bpiterate_impl()</code> , additional arguments to <code>FUN()</code> ; see <code>bplapply</code> and <code>bpiterate</code> . For <code>.manager_send()</code> , this is a placeholder for the future development.
static_data	An object extracted from <code>.task_const(value)</code>
BPOPTIONS	Additional options to control the behavior of parallel evaluation, see <a href="#">bpoptions</a> .
optionName	character(1), an option name for BPPARAM. The named options will be created by <a href="#">bpoptions</a>
genericName	character(1), the name of the S4 generic function. This will be used to get or set the field in BPPARAM. The generic needs to support replacement function defined by <a href="#">setReplaceMethod</a> .

## Details

Start a BPPARM implementation by creating a reference class, e.g., extending the virtual class `BiocParallelParam`. Because of idiosyncracies in reference class field initialization, an instance of the class should be created by calling the generator returned by `setRefClass()` with a list of key-value pairs providing default parameter arguments. The default values for the `BiocParallelParam` base class is provided in a list `.BiocParallelParam_prototype`, and the function `.prototype_update()` updates a prototype with new values, typically provided by the user. See the example below.

BPPARAM implementations need to implement `bpstart()` and `bpstop()` methods; they may also need to implement `bplapply()` and `bpiterate()` methods. Each method usually performs implementation-specific functionality before calling the next (`BiocParallelParam`) method. To avoid the intricacies of multiple dispatch, the bodies of `BiocParallelParam` methods are available for direct use as exported symbols.

- `bpstart, BiocParallelParam`-method (`.bpstart_impl()`) initiates logging, random number generation, and registration of finalizers to ensure that started clusters are stopped.
- `bpstop, BiocParallelParam`-method (`.bpstop_impl()`) ensures appropriate clean-up of stopped clusters, including sending the DONE semaphore. `bpstart()` will usually arrange for workers to enter `.bpworker_impl()` to listen for and evaluate tasks.
- `bplapply, ANY, BiocParallelParam`-method and `bpiterate, ANY, BiocParallelParam`-method (`.bplapply_impl()`, `.bpiterate_impl()`) implement: serial evaluation when there is a single core or task available; BPREDO functionality, and parallel lapply-like or iterative calculation.

Invoke `.bpstart_impl()`, `.bpstop_impl()`, `.bplapply_impl()`, and `.bpiterate_impl()` after any BPPARAM-specific implementation details.

New implementations will also implement `bpisup()` and `bpbackend()` / `bpbackend<-(())`; there are no default methods.

The *backends* (object returned by `bpbackend()`) of new BPPARAM implementations must support `length()` (number of nodes). In addition, the backends must support `.send_to()` and `.recv_any()` manager and `.send()`, `.recv()`, and `.close()` worker methods. Default `.send_all()` and `.recv_all()` methods are implemented as simple iterations along the `length(cluster)`, invoking `.send_to()` or `.recv_any()` on each iteration.

The task manager is an optional interface for a backend that wants to control the task dispatching process. `.manager_send()` sends the task value to a worker, `.manager_recv()` returns a list with each element being a result received from a worker. `.manager_capacity()` instructs how many tasks values can be processed simultaneously by the cluster. `.manager_flush()` flushes all the cached tasks(if any) immediately. `.manager_cleanup()` performs cleanup after the job is finished. The default methods for `.manager_flush()` and `.manager_cleanup()` are no-op.

In some cases it might be worth-while to cache some objects in a task and reuse them in another task. This can reduce the bandwidth requirement for sending the tasks out to the worker. `.task_const()` can be used to extract the objects from the task which are not going to change across all tasks. `.task_dynamic()` preserve only the dynamic components in a task. Given the static and dynamic task objects, the complete task can be recovered by `.task_remake()`. When there is no static data can be extracted(e.g. a task with no static component or a task which has been extracted by `.task_dynamic()`), `.task_const()` simply returns a NULL value. Calling `.task_remake()` is no-op if the task haven't been extracted by `.task_dynamic()` or the static data is NULL.

The function `.registerOption` allows the developer to register a generic function that can change the fields in BPPARAM. The developer does not need to register the fields that are already defined in `BiocParallel`. `.registerOption` should only be used to support new fields. For example, if the developer defines a BPPARAM which has a field `worker.password`, the developer may also define the getter / setter `bpworkerPassword` and `bpworkerPassword<-`. Then by calling `.registerOption("worker.password", "bpworkerPassword")`, the user can change the field in BPPARAM by passing an object of `bpoptions(worker.password = "1234")` in any apply function.

## Value

The return value of `.prototype_update()` is a list with elements in prototype substituted with key-value pairs provided in ...

All `send*` and `recv*` functions are endomorphic, returning a cluster object.

The return value of `.manager_recv()` is a list with each element being a result received from a worker, `.manager_capacity()` is an integer. The return values of the other `.manager_*` are not restricted



**Examples**

```
##
## Extend BiocParallelParam; `.A()` is not meant for the end user
##

.A <- setRefClass(
  "A",
  contains = "BiocParallelParam",
  fields = list(id = "character")
)

## Use a prototype for default values, including the prototype for
## inherited fields

.A_prototype <- c(
  list(id = "default_id"),
  .BiocParallelParam_prototype
)

## Provide a constructor for the user

A <- function(...) {
  prototype <- .prototype_update(.A_prototype, ...)
  do.call(.A, prototype)
}

## Provide an R function for field access

bpid <- function(x)
  x$id

## Create and use an instance, overwriting default values

bpid(A())

a <- A(id = "my_id", threshold = "WARN")
bpid(a)
bpthreshold(a)
```

---

DoparParam-class

*Enable parallel evaluation using registered dopar backend*


---

**Description**

This class is used to dispatch parallel operations to the dopar backend registered with the foreach package.

**Usage**

```
DoparParam(stop.on.error=TRUE,
  RNGseed = NULL)
```

## Arguments

`stop.on.error` `logical(1)`

Stop all jobs as soon as one jobs fails (`stop.on.error == TRUE`) or wait for all jobs to terminate. Default is `TRUE`.

`RNGseed` `integer(1)` Seed for random number generation. The seed is used to set a new, independent random number stream for each element of `X`. The `ith` element receives the same stream seed, regardless of use of `SerialParam()`, `SnowParam()`, or `MulticoreParam()`, and regardless of worker or task number. When `RNGseed = NULL`, a random seed is used.

## Details

`DoparParam` can be used for shared or non-shared memory computing depending on what backend is loaded. The `doSNOW` package supports non-shared memory, `doParallel` supports both shared and non-shared. When not specified, the default number of workers in `DoparParam` is determined by `getDoParWorkers()`. See the `foreach` package vignette for details using the different backends:

<http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/foreach/vignettes/foreach.pdf>

## DoparParam constructor

Return a proxy object that dispatches parallel evaluation to the registered `foreach` parallel backend.

There are no options to the constructor. All configuration should be done through the normal interface to the `foreach` parallel backends.

## Methods

The following generics are implemented and perform as documented on the corresponding help page (e.g., `?bpisup`): `bpworkers`, `bpnworkers`, `bpstart`, `bpstop`, `bpisup`, `bpbackend`, `bpbackend<-`, `bpvec`.

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

## See Also

`getClass("BiocParallelParam")` for additional parameter classes.

`register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.

`foreach`-package for the parallel backend infrastructure used by this param class.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# First register a parallel backend with foreach
library(doParallel)
registerDoParallel(2)

p <- DoparParam()
bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)
bpvec(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)

## set DoparParam() as the default for BiocParallel
```

```
## register(DoparParam(), default=TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

ipcmutex

*Inter-process locks and counters*

---

## Description

Functions documented on this page enable locks and counters between processes on the *same* computer.

Use `ipcid()` to generate a unique mutex or counter identifier. A mutex or counter with the same `id`, including those in different processes, share the same state.

`ipcremove()` removes external state associated with mutex or counters created with `id`.

`ipclock()` blocks until the lock is obtained. `ipctrylock()` tries to obtain the lock, returning immediately if it is not available. `ipcunlock()` releases the lock. `ipcllocked()` queries the lock to determine whether it is currently held.

`ipcyield()` returns the current counter, and increments the value for subsequent calls. `ipcvalue()` returns the current counter without incrementing. `ipcreset()` sets the counter to `n`, such that the next call to `ipcyield()` or `ipcvalue()` returns `n`.

## Usage

## Utilities

`ipcid(id)`

`ipcremove(id)`

## Locks

`ipclock(id)`

`ipctrylock(id)`

`ipcunlock(id)`

`ipcllocked(id)`

## Counters

`ipcyield(id)`

`ipcvalue(id)`

`ipcreset(id, n = 1)`

**Arguments**

id	character(1) identifier string for mutex or counter. <code>ipcid()</code> ensures that the identifier is universally unique.
n	integer(1) value from which <code>ipcyield()</code> will increment.

**Value**

Locks:

`ipclock()` creates a named lock, returning TRUE on success.

`trylock()` returns TRUE if the lock is obtained, FALSE otherwise.

`ipcunlock()` returns TRUE on success, FALSE (e.g., because there is nothing to unlock) otherwise.

`ipclocked()` returns TRUE when `id` is locked, and FALSE otherwise.

Counters:

`ipcyield()` returns an integer(1) value representing the next number in sequence. The first value returned is 1.

`ipcvalue()` returns the value to be returned by the next call to `ipcyield()`, without incrementing the counter. If the counter is no longer available, `ipcyield()` returns NA.

`ipcreset()` returns `n`, invisibly.

Utilities:

`ipcid()` returns a character(1) unique identifier, with `id` (if not missing) prepended.

`ipcremove()` returns (invisibly) TRUE if external resources were released or FALSE if not (e.g., because the resources has already been released).

**Examples**

```
ipcid()

## Locks

id <- ipcid()

ipclock(id)
ipctrylock(id)
ipcunlock(id)
ipctrylock(id)
ipclocked(id)

ipcremove(id)

id <- ipcid()
system.time({
  ## about 1s, .2s for each process instead of .2s if no lock
  result <- bplapply(1:2, function(i, id) {
    BiocParallel::ipclock(id)
    Sys.sleep(.2)
    time <- Sys.time()
    BiocParallel::ipcunlock(id)
    time
  }, id)
})
ipcremove(id)
```

```

diff(sort(unlist(result, use.names=FALSE)))

## Counters

id <- ipcid()

ipcyield(id)
ipcyield(id)

ipcvalue(id)
ipcyield(id)

ipcreset(id, 10)
ipcvalue(id)
ipcyield(id)

ipcremove(id)

id <- ipcid()
result <- bplapply(1:2, function(i, id) {
  BiocParallel::ipcyield(id)
}, id)
ipcremove(id)
sort(unlist(result, use.names=FALSE))

```

---

MulticoreParam-class    *Enable multi-core parallel evaluation*

---

## Description

This class is used to parameterize single computer multicore parallel evaluation on non-Windows computers. `multicoreWorkers()` chooses the number of workers.

## Usage

```

## constructor
## -----

MulticoreParam(workers = multicoreWorkers(), tasks = 0L,
               stop.on.error = TRUE,
               progressbar = FALSE, RNGseed = NULL,
               timeout = WORKER_TIMEOUT, exportglobals=TRUE,
               log = FALSE, threshold = "INFO", logdir = NA_character_,
               resultdir = NA_character_, jobname = "BPJOB",
               force.GC = FALSE, fallback = TRUE,
               manager.hostname = NA_character_, manager.port = NA_integer_,
               ...)

## detect workers
## -----

multicoreWorkers()

```

**Arguments**

workers	integer(1) Number of workers. Defaults to the maximum of 1 or the number of cores determined by <code>detectCores</code> minus 2 unless environment variables <code>R_PARALLELLY_AVAILABLECORES_FALLBACK</code> or <code>BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER</code> are set otherwise.
tasks	integer(1). The number of tasks per job. value must be a scalar integer $\geq 0$ .  In this documentation a job is defined as a single call to a function, such as <code>bplapply</code> , <code>bpmapply</code> etc. A task is the division of the <code>X</code> argument into chunks. When <code>tasks == 0</code> (default, except when <code>progressbar = TRUE</code> ), <code>X</code> is divided as evenly as possible over the number of workers.  A <code>tasks</code> value of $> 0$ specifies the exact number of tasks. Values can range from 1 (all of <code>X</code> to a single worker) to the length of <code>X</code> (each element of <code>X</code> to a different worker).  When the length of <code>X</code> is less than the number of workers each element of <code>X</code> is sent to a worker and <code>tasks</code> is ignored.  When the length of <code>X</code> is less than <code>tasks</code> , <code>tasks</code> is treated as <code>length(X)</code> .
stop.on.error	logical(1) Enable stop on error.
progressbar	logical(1) Enable progress bar (based on <code>plyr::progress_text</code> ). Enabling the progress bar changes the <i>default</i> value of <code>tasks</code> to <code>.Machine\$integer.max</code> , so that progress is reported for each element of <code>X</code> .
RNGseed	integer(1) Seed for random number generation. The seed is used to set a new, independent random number stream for each element of <code>X</code> . The <i>i</i> th element receives the same stream seed, regardless of use of <code>SerialParam()</code> , <code>SnowParam()</code> , or <code>MulticoreParam()</code> , and regardless of worker or task number. When <code>RNGseed = NULL</code> , a random seed is used.
timeout	numeric(1) Time (in seconds) allowed for worker to complete a task. This value is passed to <code>base::setTimeLimit()</code> as both the <code>cpu</code> and <code>elapsed</code> arguments. If the computation exceeds <code>timeout</code> an error is thrown with message 'reached elapsed time limit'.
exportglobals	logical(1) Export <code>base::options()</code> from manager to workers? Default <code>TRUE</code> .
log	logical(1) Enable logging.
threshold	character(1) Logging threshold as defined in <code>futile.logger</code> .
logdir	character(1) Log files directory. When not provided, log messages are returned to <code>stdout</code> .
resultdir	character(1) Job results directory. When not provided, results are returned as an R object (list) to the workspace.
jobname	character(1) Job name that is prepended to log and result files. Default is "BPJOB".
force.GC	logical(1) Whether to invoke the garbage collector after each call to <code>FUN</code> . The value <code>TRUE</code> , explicitly call the garbage collection, can slow parallel computation, but is necessary when each call to <code>FUN</code> allocates a 'large' amount of memory. If <code>FUN</code> allocates little memory, then considerable performance improvements are gained by the default setting <code>force.GC = FALSE</code> .
fallback	logical(1) When <code>TRUE</code> , fall back to using <code>SerialParam</code> when <code>MulticoreParam</code> has not been started and the number of worker is no greater than 1.
manager.hostname	character(1) Host name of manager node. See 'Global Options', in <a href="#">SnowParam</a> .

`manager.port` integer(1) Port on manager with which workers communicate. See 'Global Options' in [SnowParam](#).

`...` Additional arguments passed to [makeCluster](#)

## Details

MulticoreParam is used for shared memory computing. Under the hood the cluster is created with `makeCluster(..., type = "FORK")` from the `parallel` package.

See `?BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER` to control the default and maximum number of workers.

A FORK transport starts workers with the `mcfork` function and communicates between master and workers using socket connections. `mcfork` builds on `fork()` and thus a Linux cluster is not supported. Because FORK clusters are Posix based they are not supported on Windows. When MulticoreParam is created/used in Windows it defaults to `SerialParam` which is the equivalent of using a single worker.

**error handling:** By default all computations are attempted and partial results are returned with any error messages.

- `stop.on.error` A logical. Stops all jobs as soon as one job fails or wait for all jobs to terminate. When FALSE, the return value is a list of successful results along with error messages as 'conditions'.
- The `bpok(x)` function returns a `logical()` vector that is FALSE for any jobs that threw an error. The input `x` is a list output from a `bp*apply` function such as `bplapply` or `bpmapply`.

**logging:** When `log = TRUE` the `futile.logger` package is loaded on the workers. All log messages written in the `futile.logger` format are captured by the logging mechanism and returned in real-time (i.e., as each task completes) instead of after all jobs have finished.

Messages sent to `stdout` and `stderr` are returned to the workspace by default. When `log = TRUE` these are diverted to the log output. Those familiar with the `outfile` argument to `makeCluster` can think of `log = FALSE` as equivalent to `outfile = NULL`; providing a `logdir` is the same as providing a name for `outfile` except that `BiocParallel` writes a log file for each task.

The log output includes additional statistics such as memory use and task runtime. Memory use is computed by calling `gc(reset=TRUE)` before code evaluation and `gc()` (no reset) after. The output of the second `gc()` call is sent to the log file.

**log and result files:** Results and logs can be written to a file instead of returned to the workspace. Writing to files is done from the master as each task completes. Options can be set with the `logdir` and `resultdir` fields in the constructor or with the accessors, `bplogdir` and `bpresultdir`.

**random number generation:** For `MulticoreParam`, `SnowParam`, and `SerialParam`, random number generation is controlled through the `RNGseed =` argument. `BiocParallel` uses the L'Ecuyer-CMRG random number generator described in the `parallel` package to generate independent random number streams. One stream is associated with each element of `X`, and used to seed the random number stream for the application of `FUN()` to `X[[i]]`. Thus setting `RNGseed =` ensures reproducibility across `MulticoreParam()`, `SnowParam()`, and `SerialParam()`, regardless of worker or task number. The default value `RNGseed = NULL` means that each evaluation of `bplapply` proceeds independently.

For details of the L'Ecuyer generator, see `?clusterSetRNGStream`.

**Constructor**

`MulticoreParam(workers = multicoreWorkers(), tasks = 0L, stop.on.error = FALSE, tasks = 0L, progressbar = FALSE)`  
 Return an object representing a FORK cluster. The cluster is not created until `bpstart` is called. Named arguments in ... are passed to `makeCluster`.

**Accessors: Logging and results**

In the following code, `x` is a `MulticoreParam` object.

`bpprogressbar(x), bpprogressbar(x) <- value`: Get or set the value to enable text progress bar. value must be a `logical(1)`.

`bpjobname(x), bpjobname(x) <- value`: Get or set the job name.

`bpRNGseed(x), bpRNGseed(x) <- value`: Get or set the seed for random number generation. value must be a `numeric(1)` or `NULL`.

`bplog(x), bplog(x) <- value`: Get or set the value to enable logging. value must be a `logical(1)`.

`bpthreshold(x), bpthreshold(x) <- value`: Get or set the logging threshold. value must be a character(1) string of one of the levels defined in the `futile.logger` package: "TRACE", "DEBUG", "INFO", "WARN", "ERROR", or "FATAL".

`bplogdir(x), bplogdir(x) <- value`: Get or set the directory for the log file. value must be a character(1) path, not a file name. The file is written out as `LOGFILE.out`. If no `logdir` is provided and `bplog=TRUE` log messages are sent to `stdout`.

`bpresultdir(x), bpresultdir(x) <- value`: Get or set the directory for the result files. value must be a character(1) path, not a file name. Separate files are written for each job with the prefix `JOB` (e.g., `JOB1`, `JOB2`, etc.). When no `resultdir` is provided the results are returned to the session as `list`.

**Accessors: Back-end control**

In the code below `x` is a `MulticoreParam` object. See the `?BiocParallelParam` man page for details on these accessors.

- `bpworkers(x)`
- `bpnworkers(x)`
- `bptasks(x), bptasks(x) <- value`
- `bpstart(x)`
- `bpstop(x)`
- `bpisup(x)`
- `bpbackend(x), bpbackend(x) <- value`

**Accessors: Error Handling**

In the code below `x` is a `MulticoreParam` object. See the `?BiocParallelParam` man page for details on these accessors.

- `bpstopOnError(x), bpstopOnError(x) <- value`



**Methods: Evaluation**

In the code below BPPARAM is a MulticoreParam object. Full documentation for these functions are on separate man pages: see ?bpmapply, ?bplapply, ?bpvec, ?bpiterate and ?bpaggregate.

- bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE, BPPARAM=bpparam())
- bplapply(X, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())
- bpvec(X, FUN, ..., AGGREGATE=c, BPPARAM=bpparam())
- bpiterate(ITER, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())
- bpaggregate(x, data, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())

**Methods: Other**

In the code below x is a MulticoreParam object.

show(x): Displays the MulticoreParam object.

**Global Options**

See the 'Global Options' section of [SnowParam](#) for manager host name and port defaults.

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org> and Valerie Obenchain

**See Also**

- register for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.
- [SnowParam](#) for computing in distributed memory
- [DoparParam](#) for computing with foreach
- [SerialParam](#) for non-parallel evaluation

**Examples**

```
## -----
## Job configuration:
## -----

## MulticoreParam supports shared memory computing. The object fields
## control the division of tasks, error handling, logging and
## result format.
bpparam <- MulticoreParam()
bpparam

## By default the param is created with the maximum available workers
## determined by multicoreWorkers().
multicoreWorkers()

## Fields are modified with accessors of the same name:
bplog(bpparam) <- TRUE
dir.create(resultdir <- tempfile())
bpresultdir(bpparam) <- resultdir
bpparam
```

```

## -----
## Logging:
## -----

## When 'log == TRUE' the workers use a custom script (in BiocParallel)
## that enables logging and access to other job statistics. Log messages
## are returned as each job completes rather than waiting for all to finish.

## In 'fun', a value of 'x = 1' will throw a warning, 'x = 2' is ok
## and 'x = 3' throws an error. Because 'x = 1' sleeps, the warning
## should return after the error.

X <- 1:3
fun <- function(x) {
  if (x == 1) {
    Sys.sleep(2)
    sqrt(-x)          ## warning
    x
  } else if (x == 2) {
    x                  ## ok
  } else if (x == 3) {
    sqrt("FOO")        ## error
  }
}

## By default logging is off. Turn it on with the bplapply() setter
## or by specifying 'log = TRUE' in the constructor.
bpparam <- MulticoreParam(3, log = TRUE, stop.on.error = FALSE)
res <- tryCatch({
  bplapply(X, fun, BPPARAM=bpparam)
}, error=identity)
res

## When a 'logdir' location is given the messages are redirected to a file:
## Not run:
bplogdir(bpparam) <- tempdir()
bplapply(X, fun, BPPARAM = bpparam)
list.files(bplogdir(bpparam))

## End(Not run)

## -----
## Managing results:
## -----

## By default results are returned as a list. When 'resultdir' is given
## files are saved in the directory specified by job, e.g., 'TASK1.Rda',
## 'TASK2.Rda', etc.
## Not run:
dir.create(resultdir <- tempfile())
bpparam <- MulticoreParam(2, resultdir = resultdir, stop.on.error = FALSE)
bplapply(X, fun, BPPARAM = bpparam)
list.files(bpresultdir(bpparam))

## End(Not run)

## -----

```

```

## Error handling:
## -----

## When 'stop.on.error' is TRUE the job is terminated as soon as an
## error is hit. When FALSE, all computations are attempted and partial
## results are returned along with errors. In this example the number of
## 'tasks' is set to equal the length of 'X' so each element is run
## separately. (Default behavior is to divide 'X' evenly over workers.)

## All results along with error:
bpparam <- MulticoreParam(2, tasks = 4, stop.on.error = FALSE)
res <- bpttry(bplapply(list(1, "two", 3, 4), sqrt, BPPARAM = bpparam))
res

## Calling bpok() on the result list returns TRUE for elements with no error.
bpok(res)

## -----
## Random number generation:
## -----

## Random number generation is controlled with the 'RNGseed' field.
## This seed is passed to parallel::clusterSetRNGStream
## which uses the L'Ecuyer-CMRG random number generator and distributes
## streams to members of the cluster.

bpparam <- MulticoreParam(3, RNGseed = 7739465)
bplapply(seq_len(bpnworkers(bpparam)), function(i) rnorm(1), BPPARAM = bpparam)

```

---

register

---

*Maintain a global registry of available back-end Params*


---

## Description

Use functions on this page to add to or query a registry of back-ends, including the default for use when no BPPARAM object is provided to functions.

## Usage

```

register(BPPARAM, default=TRUE)
registered(bpparamClass)
bpparam(bpparamClass)

```

## Arguments

BPPARAM	An instance of a BiocParallelParam class, e.g., <a href="#">MulticoreParam</a> , <a href="#">SnowParam</a> , <a href="#">DoparParam</a> .
default	Make this the default BiocParallelParam for subsequent evaluations? If FALSE, the argument is placed at the lowest priority position.
bpparamClass	When present, the text name of the BiocParallelParam class (e.g., “MulticoreParam”) to be retrieved from the registry. When absent, a list of all registered instances is returned.

## Details

The registry is a list of back-ends with configuration parameters for parallel evaluation. The first list entry is the default and is used by `BiocParallel` functions when no `BPPARAM` argument is supplied.

At load time the registry is populated with default backends. On Windows these are `SnowParam` and `SerialParam` and on non-Windows `MulticoreParam`, `SnowParam` and `SerialParam`. When `snowWorkers()` or `multicoreWorkers` returns a single core, only `SerialParam` is registered.

The `BiocParallelParam` objects are constructed from global options of the corresponding name, or from the default constructor (e.g., `SnowParam()`) if no option is specified. The user can set customizations during start-up (e.g., in an `.Rprofile` file) with, for instance, `options(MulticoreParam=quote(MulticoreParam))`.

The act of “registering” a back-end modifies the existing `BiocParallelParam` in the list; only one param of each type can be present in the registry. When `default=TRUE`, the newly registered param is moved to the top of the list thereby making it the default. When `default=FALSE`, the param is modified ‘in place’ vs being moved to the top.

`bpparam()`, invoked with no arguments, returns the default `BiocParallelParam` instance from the registry. When called with the text name of a `bpparamClass`, the global options are consulted first, e.g., `options(MulticoreParam=MulticoreParam())` and then the value of `registered(bpparamClass)`.

## Value

`register` returns, invisibly, a list of registered back-ends.

`registered` returns the back-end of type `bpparamClass` or, if `bpparamClass` is missing, a list of all registered back-ends.

`bpparam` returns the back-end of type `bpparamClass` or,

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>.

## See Also

`BiocParallelParam` for possible values of `BPPARAM`.

## Examples

```
## -----
## The registry
## -----

## The default registry.
default <- registered()
default

## When default = TRUE the last param registered becomes the new default.
snowparam <- SnowParam(workers = 3, type = "SOCK")
register(snowparam, default = TRUE)
registered()

## Retrieve the default back-end,
bpparam()

## or a specific BiocParallelParam.
bpparam("SnowParam")
```

```
## restore original registry -- push the defaults in reverse order
for (param in rev(default))
  register(param)

## -----
## Specifying a back-end for evaluation
## -----

## The back-end of choice is given as the BPPARAM argument to
## the BiocParallel functions. None, one, or multiple back-ends can be
## used.

bplapply(1:6, sqrt, BPPARAM = MulticoreParam(3))

## When not specified, the default from the registry is used.
bplapply(1:6, sqrt)
```

---

SerialParam-class	<i>Enable serial evaluation</i>
-------------------	---------------------------------

---

## Description

This class is used to parameterize serial evaluation, primarily to facilitate easy transition from parallel to serial code.

## Usage

```
SerialParam(
  stop.on.error = TRUE,
  progressbar = FALSE,
  RNGseed = NULL,
  timeout = WORKER_TIMEOUT,
  log = FALSE,
  threshold = "INFO",
  logdir = NA_character_,
  resultdir = NA_character_,
  jobname = "BPJOB",
  force.GC = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

stop.on.error	logical(1) Enable stop on error.
progressbar	logical(1) Enable progress bar (based on <code>plyr:::progress_text</code> ).
RNGseed	integer(1) Seed for random number generation. The seed is used to set a new, independent random number stream for each element of X. The <i>i</i> th element receives the same stream seed, regardless of use of <code>SerialParam()</code> , <code>SnowParam()</code> , or <code>MulticoreParam()</code> , and regardless of worker or task number. When <code>RNGseed = NULL</code> , a random seed is used.

timeout	numeric(1) Time (in seconds) allowed for worker to complete a task. This value is passed to <code>base::setTimeLimit()</code> as both the <code>cpu</code> and <code>elapsed</code> arguments. If the computation exceeds <code>timeout</code> an error is thrown with message 'reached elapsed time limit'.
log	logical(1) Enable logging.
threshold	character(1) Logging threshold as defined in <code>futile.logger</code> .
logdir	character(1) Log files directory. When not provided, log messages are returned to <code>stdout</code> .
resultdir	character(1) Job results directory. When not provided, results are returned as an R object (list) to the workspace.
jobname	character(1) Job name that is prepended to log and result files. Default is "BPJOB".
force.GC	logical(1) Whether to invoke the garbage collector after each call to <code>FUN</code> . The default (FALSE, do not explicitly call the garbage collection) rarely needs to be changed.

## Details

`SerialParam` is used for serial computation on a single node. Using `SerialParam` in conjunction with `bplapply` differs from use of `lapply` because it provides features such as error handling, logging, and random number use consistent with `SnowParam` and `MulticoreParam`.

**error handling:** By default all computations are attempted and partial results are returned with any error messages.

- `stop.on.error` A logical. Stops all jobs as soon as one job fails or wait for all jobs to terminate. When FALSE, the return value is a list of successful results along with error messages as 'conditions'.
- The `bpok(x)` function returns a `logical()` vector that is FALSE for any jobs that threw an error. The input `x` is a list output from a `bp*apply` function such as `bplapply` or `bpmapply`.

**logging:** When `log = TRUE` the `futile.logger` package is loaded on the workers. All log messages written in the `futile.logger` format are captured by the logging mechanism and returned real-time (i.e., as each task completes) instead of after all jobs have finished.

Messages sent to `stdout` and `stderr` are returned to the workspace by default. When `log = TRUE` these are diverted to the log output. Those familiar with the `outfile` argument to `makeCluster` can think of `log = FALSE` as equivalent to `outfile = NULL`; providing a `logdir` is the same as providing a name for `outfile` except that `BiocParallel` writes a log file for each task.

The log output includes additional statistics such as memory use and task runtime. Memory use is computed by calling `gc(reset=TRUE)` before code evaluation and `gc()` (no reset) after. The output of the second `gc()` call is sent to the log file.

**log and result files:** Results and logs can be written to a file instead of returned to the workspace. Writing to files is done from the master as each task completes. Options can be set with the `logdir` and `resultdir` fields in the constructor or with the accessors, `bplogdir` and `bpresultdir`.

**random number generation:** For `MulticoreParam`, `SnowParam`, and `SerialParam`, random number generation is controlled through the `RNGseed =` argument. `BiocParallel` uses the L'Ecuyer-CMRG random number generator described in the `parallel` package to generate independent random number streams. One stream is associated with each element of `X`, and used to seed the

random number stream for the application of FUN() to X[[i]]. Thus setting RNGseed = ensures reproducibility across MulticoreParam(), SnowParam(), and SerialParam(), regardless of worker or task number. The default value RNGseed = NULL means that each evaluation of bplapply proceeds independently.

For details of the L'Ecuyer generator, see ?clusterSetRNGStream.

### Constructor

SerialParam(): Return an object to be used for serial evaluation of otherwise parallel functions such as `bplapply`, `bpvec`.

### Methods

The following generics are implemented and perform as documented on the corresponding help page (e.g., ?bpworkers): `bpworkers`, `bpisup`, `bpstart`, `bpstop`, are implemented, but do not have any side-effects.

### Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

### See Also

`getClass("BiocParallelParam")` for additional parameter classes.  
`register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.

### Examples

```
p <- SerialParam()
simplify2array(bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p))
bpvec(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)
```

---

SnowParam-class	<i>Enable simple network of workstations (SNOW)-style parallel evaluation</i>
-----------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

---

### Description

This class is used to parameterize simple network of workstations (SNOW) parallel evaluation on one or several physical computers. `snowWorkers()` chooses the number of workers.

### Usage

```
## constructor
## -----

SnowParam(workers = snowWorkers(type), type=c("SOCK", "MPI", "FORK"),
  tasks = 0L, stop.on.error = TRUE,
  progressbar = FALSE, RNGseed = NULL,
  timeout = WORKER_TIMEOUT, exportglobals = TRUE, exportvariables = TRUE,
  log = FALSE, threshold = "INFO", logdir = NA_character_,
  resultdir = NA_character_, jobname = "BPJOB",
```

```

    force.GC = FALSE, fallback = TRUE,
    manager.hostname = NA_character_, manager.port = NA_integer_,
    ...)

## coercion
## -----

## as(SOCKcluster, SnowParam)
## as(spawnedMPIcluster, SnowParam)

## detect workers
## -----

snowWorkers(type = c("SOCK", "MPI", "FORK"))

```

## Arguments

workers	integer(1) Number of workers. Defaults to the maximum of 1 or the number of cores determined by detectCores minus 2 unless environment variables R_PARALLELLY_AVAILABLECORES_FALLBACK or BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER are set otherwise. For a SOCK cluster, workers can be a character() vector of host names.
type	character(1) Type of cluster to use. Possible values are SOCK (default) and MPI. Instead of type=FORK use MulticoreParam.
tasks	integer(1). The number of tasks per job. value must be a scalar integer >= 0L.  In this documentation a job is defined as a single call to a function, such as bplapply, bpmapply etc. A task is the division of the X argument into chunks. When tasks == 0 (default), X is divided as evenly as possible over the number of workers.  A tasks value of > 0 specifies the exact number of tasks. Values can range from 1 (all of X to a single worker) to the length of X (each element of X to a different worker).  When the length of X is less than the number of workers each element of X is sent to a worker and tasks is ignored.
stop.on.error	logical(1) Enable stop on error.
progressbar	logical(1) Enable progress bar (based on plyr:::progress_text).
RNGseed	integer(1) Seed for random number generation. The seed is used to set a new, independent random number stream for each element of X. The ith element receives the same stream seed, regardless of use of SerialParam(), SnowParam(), or MulticoreParam(), and regardless of worker or task number. When RNGseed = NULL, a random seed is used.
timeout	numeric(1) Time (in seconds) allowed for worker to complete a task. This value is passed to base::setTimeLimit() as both the cpu and elapsed arguments. If the computation exceeds timeout an error is thrown with message 'reached elapsed time limit'.
exportglobals	logical(1) Export base::options() from manager to workers? Default TRUE.
exportvariables	logical(1) Automatically export the variables which are defined in the global environment and used by the function from manager to workers. Default TRUE.



<code>log</code>	logical(1) Enable logging.
<code>threshold</code>	character(1) Logging threshold as defined in <code>futile.logger</code> .
<code>logdir</code>	character(1) Log files directory. When not provided, log messages are returned to <code>stdout</code> .
<code>resultdir</code>	character(1) Job results directory. When not provided, results are returned as an R object (list) to the workspace.
<code>jobname</code>	character(1) Job name that is prepended to log and result files. Default is "BPJOB".
<code>force.GC</code>	logical(1) Whether to invoke the garbage collector after each call to <code>FUN</code> . The default (FALSE, do not explicitly call the garbage collection) rarely needs to be changed.
<code>fallback</code>	logical(1) When TRUE, fall back to using <code>SerialParam</code> when <code>SnowParam</code> has not been started and the number of worker is no greater than 1.
<code>manager.hostname</code>	character(1) Host name of manager node. See 'Global Options', below.
<code>manager.port</code>	integer(1) Port on manager with which workers communicate. See 'Global Options', below.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed to <a href="#">makeCluster</a>

## Details

`SnowParam` is used for distributed memory computing and supports 2 cluster types: 'SOCK' (default) and 'MPI'. The `SnowParam` builds on infrastructure in the `snow` and `parallel` packages and provides the additional features of error handling, logging and writing out results.

See `?BIOCParallel_WORKER_NUMBER` to control the default and maximum number of workers.

**error handling:** By default all computations are attempted and partial results are returned with any error messages.

- `stop.on.error` A logical. Stops all jobs as soon as one job fails or wait for all jobs to terminate. When FALSE, the return value is a list of successful results along with error messages as 'conditions'.
- The `bpok(x)` function returns a `logical()` vector that is FALSE for any jobs that threw an error. The input `x` is a list output from a `bp*apply` function such as `bplapply` or `bpmapply`.

**logging:** When `log = TRUE` the `futile.logger` package is loaded on the workers. All log messages written in the `futile.logger` format are captured by the logging mechanism and returned real-time (i.e., as each task completes) instead of after all jobs have finished.

Messages sent to `stdout` and `stderr` are returned to the workspace by default. When `log = TRUE` these are diverted to the log output. Those familiar with the `outfile` argument to `makeCluster` can think of `log = FALSE` as equivalent to `outfile = NULL`; providing a `logdir` is the same as providing a name for `outfile` except that `BiocParallel` writes a log file for each task.

The log output includes additional statistics such as memory use and task runtime. Memory use is computed by calling `gc(reset=TRUE)` before code evaluation and `gc()` (no reset) after. The output of the second `gc()` call is sent to the log file.

**log and result files:** Results and logs can be written to a file instead of returned to the workspace. Writing to files is done from the master as each task completes. Options can be set with the `logdir` and `resultdir` fields in the constructor or with the accessors, `bplogdir` and `bpresultdir`.

**random number generation:** For `MulticoreParam`, `SnowParam`, and `SerialParam`, random number generation is controlled through the `RNGseed =` argument. `BiocParallel` uses the L’Ecuyer-CMRG random number generator described in the `parallel` package to generate independent random number streams. One stream is associated with each element of `X`, and used to seed the random number stream for the application of `FUN()` to `X[[i]]`. Thus setting `RNGseed =` ensures reproducibility across `MulticoreParam()`, `SnowParam()`, and `SerialParam()`, regardless of worker or task number. The default value `RNGseed = NULL` means that each evaluation of `bplapply` proceeds independently.

For details of the L’Ecuyer generator, see `?clusterSetRNGStream`.

NOTE: The `PSOCK` cluster from the `parallel` package does not support cluster options `scriptdir` and `userScript`. `PSOCK` is not supported because these options are needed to re-direct to an alternate worker script located in `BiocParallel`.

## Constructor

`SnowParam(workers = snowWorkers(), type=c("SOCK", "MPI"), tasks = 0L, stop.on.error = FALSE, progress = TRUE)`  
 Return an object representing a SNOW cluster. The cluster is not created until `bpstart` is called. Named arguments in `...` are passed to `makeCluster`.

## Accessors: Logging and results

In the following code, `x` is a `SnowParam` object.

`bpprogressbar(x), bpprogressbar(x) <- value`: Get or set the value to enable text progress bar. `value` must be a `logical(1)`.

`bpjobname(x), bpjobname(x) <- value`: Get or set the job name.

`bpRNGseed(x), bpRNGseed(x) <- value`: Get or set the seed for random number generation. `value` must be a `numeric(1)` or `NULL`.

`bplog(x), bplog(x) <- value`: Get or set the value to enable logging. `value` must be a `logical(1)`.

`bpthreshold(x), bpthreshold(x) <- value`: Get or set the logging threshold. `value` must be a `character(1)` string of one of the levels defined in the `futile.logger` package: “TRACE”, “DEBUG”, “INFO”, “WARN”, “ERROR”, or “FATAL”.

`bplogdir(x), bplogdir(x) <- value`: Get or set the directory for the log file. `value` must be a `character(1)` path, not a file name. The file is written out as `BPLOG.out`. If no `logdir` is provided and `bplog=TRUE` log messages are sent to `stdout`.

`bpresultdir(x), bpresultdir(x) <- value`: Get or set the directory for the result files. `value` must be a `character(1)` path, not a file name. Separate files are written for each job with the prefix `TASK` (e.g., `TASK1`, `TASK2`, etc.). When no `resultdir` is provided the results are returned to the session as `list`.

## Accessors: Back-end control

In the code below `x` is a `SnowParam` object. See the `?BiocParallelParam` man page for details on these accessors.

- `bpworkers(x), bpworkers(x) <- value, bpnworkers(x)`
- `bptasks(x), bptasks(x) <- value`
- `bpstart(x)`
- `bpstop(x)`
- `bpisup(x)`
- `bpbackend(x), bpbackend(x) <- value`

**Accessors: Error Handling**

In the code below `x` is a `SnowParam` object. See the `?BiocParallelParam` man page for details on these accessors.

- `bpstopOnError(x)`, `bpstopOnError(x) <- value`

**Methods: Evaluation**

In the code below `BPPARAM` is a `SnowParam` object. Full documentation for these functions are on separate man pages: see `?bpmapply`, `?bplapply`, `?bpvec`, `?bpiterate` and `?bpaggregate`.

- `bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE, BPPARAM=bpparam())`
- `bplapply(X, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())`
- `bpvec(X, FUN, ..., AGGREGATE=c, BPPARAM=bpparam())`
- `bpiterate(ITER, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())`
- `bpaggregate(x, data, FUN, ..., BPPARAM=bpparam())`

**Methods: Other**

In the code below `x` is a `SnowParam` object.

`show(x)`: Displays the `SnowParam` object.

`bpok(x)`: Returns a `logical()` vector: `FALSE` for any jobs that resulted in an error. `x` is the result list output by a `BiocParallel` function such as `bplapply` or `bpmapply`.

**Coercion**

`as(from, "SnowParam")`: Creates a `SnowParam` object from a `SOCKcluster` or `spawnedMPIcluster` object. Instances created in this way cannot be started or stopped.

**Global Options**

The environment variable `BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER` and the the global option `mc.cores` influences the number of workers determined by `snowWorkers()` (described above) or `multicoreWorkers()` (see [multicoreWorkers](#)).

Workers communicate to the master through socket connections. Socket connections require a hostname and port. These are determined by arguments `manager.hostname` and `manager.port`; default values are influenced by global options.

The default manager hostname is "localhost" when the number of workers are specified as a numeric(1), and `Sys.info()[["nodename"]]` otherwise. The hostname can be over-ridden by the environment variable `MASTER`, or the global option `bphost` (e.g., `options(bphost=Sys.info()[["nodename"]])`).

The default port is chosen as a random value between 11000 and 11999. The port may be over-ridden by the environment variable `R_PARALLEL_PORT` or `PORT`, and by the option `ports`, e.g., `options(ports=12345L)`.

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan and Valerie Obenchain.

**See Also**

- `register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.
- `MulticoreParam` for computing in shared memory
- `DoparParam` for computing with `foreach`
- `SerialParam` for non-parallel evaluation

**Examples**

```
## -----
## Job configuration:
## -----

## SnowParam supports distributed memory computing. The object fields
## control the division of tasks, error handling, logging and result
## format.
bpparam <- SnowParam()
bpparam

## Fields are modified with accessors of the same name:
bplog(bpparam) <- TRUE
dir.create(resultdir <- tempfile())
bpresultdir(bpparam) <- resultdir
bpparam

## -----
## Logging:
## -----

## When 'log == TRUE' the workers use a custom script (in BiocParallel)
## that enables logging and access to other job statistics. Log messages
## are returned as each job completes rather than waiting for all to
## finish.

## In 'fun', a value of 'x = 1' will throw a warning, 'x = 2' is ok
## and 'x = 3' throws an error. Because 'x = 1' sleeps, the warning
## should return after the error.

X <- 1:3
fun <- function(x) {
  if (x == 1) {
    Sys.sleep(2)
    log(-x)                ## warning
  } else if (x == 2) {
    x                      ## ok
  } else if (x == 3) {
    sqrt("F00")           ## error
  }
}

## By default logging is off. Turn it on with the bplog()<- setter
## or by specifying 'log = TRUE' in the constructor.
bpparam <- SnowParam(3, log = TRUE, stop.on.error = FALSE)
tryCatch({
  bplapply(X, fun, BPPARAM = bpparam)
}, error=identity)
```

```

## When a 'logdir' location is given the messages are redirected to a
## file:
## Not run:
dir.create(logdir <- tempfile())
bplogdir(bpparam) <- logdir
bplapply(X, fun, BPPARAM = bpparam)
list.files(bplogdir(bpparam))

## End(Not run)

## -----
## Managing results:
## -----

## By default results are returned as a list. When 'resultdir' is given
## files are saved in the directory specified by job, e.g., 'TASK1.Rda',
## 'TASK2.Rda', etc.
## Not run:
dir.create(resultdir <- tempfile())
bpparam <- SnowParam(2, resultdir = resultdir)
bplapply(X, fun, BPPARAM = bpparam)
list.files(bpresultdir(bpparam))

## End(Not run)

## -----
## Error handling:
## -----

## When 'stop.on.error' is TRUE the process returns as soon as an error
## is thrown.

## When 'stop.on.error' is FALSE all computations are attempted. Partial
## results are returned along with errors. Use bpttry() to see the
## partial results
bpparam <- SnowParam(2, stop.on.error = FALSE)
res <- bpttry(bplapply(list(1, "two", 3, 4), sqrt, BPPARAM = bpparam))
res

## Calling bpok() on the result list returns TRUE for elements with no
## error.
bpok(res)

## -----
## Random number generation:
## -----

## Random number generation is controlled with the 'RNGseed' field.
## This seed is passed to parallel::clusterSetRNGStream
## which uses the L'Ecuyer-CMRG random number generator and distributes
## streams for each job

bpparam <- SnowParam(3, RNGseed = 7739465)
bplapply(seq_len(bpnworkers(bpparam)), function(i) rnorm(1),
         BPPARAM = bpparam)

```

workers

*Environment control of worker number***Description**

Environment variables, global options, and aspects of the computing environment controlling default and maximum worker number.

**Details**

By default, BiocParallel Param objects use almost all (`parallel::detectCores() - 2`) available cores as workers. Several variables can determine alternative default number of workers. Elements earlier in the description below override elements later in the description.

`_R_CHECK_LIMIT_CORES_`: Environment variable defined in base R, described in the 'R Internals' manual (`RShowDoc("R-ints")`). If defined and not equal to "false" or "FALSE", default to 2 workers.

`IS_BIOC_BUILD_MACHINE`: Environment variable used by the Bioconductor build system; when defined, default to 4 workers.

`getOption("mc.cores")`: Global R option (initialized from the environment variable `MC_CORES`) with non-negative integer number of workers, also recognized by the base R 'parallel' package.

`BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_MAX`: Environment variable, non-negative integer number of workers. Use this to set both the default and maximum worker number to a single value.

`BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER`: Environment variable, non-negative integer number of workers. Use this to set a default worker number without specifying `BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_MAX`, or to set a default number of workers less than the maximum number.

`R_PARALLELLY_AVAILABLECORES_FALLBACK`: Environment variable, non-negative integer number of workers, also recognized by the 'parallelly' family of packages.

A subset of environment variables and other aspects of the computing environment also *enforce* limits on worker number. Usually, a request for more than the maximum number of workers results in a warning message and creation of a 'Param' object with the maximum rather than requested number of workers.

`_R_CHECK_LIMIT_CORES_`: Environment variable defined in base R. "warn" limits the number of workers to 2, with a warning; "false", or "FALSE" does not limit worker number; any other value generates an error.

`IS_BIOC_BUILD_MACHINE`: Environment variable used by the Bioconductor build system. When set, limit the number of workers to 4.

`BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_MAX`: Environment variable, non-negative integer.

**Number of available connections:** R has an internal limit (126) on the number of connections open at any time. 'SnowParam()' and 'MulticoreParam()' use 1 connection per worker, and so are limited by the number of available connections.

**Examples**

```
## set up example
original_worker_max <- Sys.getenv("BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_MAX", NA_integer_)
original_worker_n <- Sys.getenv("BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER", NA_integer_)
Sys.setenv(BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_MAX = 4)
Sys.setenv(BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER = 2)

bpnworkers(SnowParam()) # 2
bpnworkers(SnowParam(4)) # OK
bpnworkers(SnowParam(5)) # warning; set to 4

## clean up
Sys.unsetenv("BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_MAX")
if (!is.na(original_worker_max))
  Sys.setenv(BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_MAX = original_worker_max)
Sys.unsetenv("BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER")
if (!is.na(original_worker_n))
  Sys.setenv(BIOCPARALLEL_WORKER_NUMBER = original_worker_n)
```

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