

# Package ‘fastkmedoids’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Faster K-Medoids Clustering Algorithms: FastPAM, FastCLARA, FastCLARANS

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**Description** R wrappers of C++ implementation of Faster K-Medoids clustering algorithms (FastPAM, FastCLARA and FastCLARANS) proposed in Erich Schubert, Peter J. Rousseeuw 2019 <doi:10.1007/978-3-030-32047-8\_16>.

**Depends** methods

**License** GPL (>= 2)

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**NeedsCompilation** yes

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fastkmedoids-package *Faster K-Medoids Clustering Algorithms: FastPAM, FastCLARA, FastCLARANS*

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## Description

This package provides R wrappers of C++ implementation of Faster K-Medoids clustering algorithms (FastPAM, FastCLARA and FastCLARANS) proposed in Erich Schubert and Peter J. Rousseeuw 2019.

## Details

The C++ Faster K-Medoids clustering algorithms (FastPAM, FastCLARA and FastCLARANS) are ported from ELKI project (see <http://elki-project.github.io/>). To generate identical results, the random number generator, specifically the xorshift+ generator, is also ported. The results between this fastkmedoids R package should be the same with ELKI if using same initial seed for random number generator.

Besides FastPAM, FastCLARA and FastCLARANS, the classic algorithms, including PAM, CLARA and CLARANS, are also implemented. If interested in writing wrappers for these algorithms, please use the github repository: <https://github.com/lixun910/fastkmedoids>

All three algorithms take the distance matrix (lower triangular part, column wise storage) as input, which can be computed using `dist()` function in R (see the examples below). If using a pre-computed distance matrix, please transform it (lower triangular part, column wise storage) to a 1-dimensional array.

All three algorithms takes the same parameters as in ELKI. If the explanation of the input paramters is not clear, please refer to ELKI :

FastPAM: <https://elki-project.github.io/releases/current/javadoc/de/lmu/ifi/dbs/elki/algorithm/clustering/kmeans/KMedoidsF>

FastCLARA: <https://elki-project.github.io/releases/current/javadoc/de/lmu/ifi/dbs/elki/algorithm/clustering/kmeans/FastCLA>

FastCLARANS: <https://elki-project.github.io/releases/current/javadoc/de/lmu/ifi/dbs/elki/algorithm/clustering/kmeans/FastC>

The C++ code is a part of GeoDa (<https://github.com/geodacenter/geoda>) and libgeoda. If you are interested in a GUI version of this C++ implementation. You can download and use the free and cross-platform GeoDa software from <https://geodacenter.github.io>. The lab note of using K-Medoids in GeoDa is here: [https://geodacenter.github.io/workbook/7c\\_clusters\\_3/lab7c.html#k-medoids](https://geodacenter.github.io/workbook/7c_clusters_3/lab7c.html#k-medoids).

## Author(s)

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## References

Erich Schubert, Peter J. Rousseeuw "Faster k-Medoids Clustering: Improving the PAM, CLARA, and CLARANS Algorithms" 2019 <[doi:10.1007/978-3-030-32047-8\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-32047-8_16)>

## See Also

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.05691>

**Examples**

```

# We use the demo data sets "USArrests"
data("USArrests")
df <- scale(USArrests)
dv <- as.vector(dist(df)) # compute distance matrix (lower triangular part)
n <- nrow(df)

# PAM
clusters <- pam(dv, n, k=3)
clusters

# FastPAM (use "LAB" initializer by default)
clusters1 <- fastpam(dv, n, k=3)
clusters1

# FastPAM, specify "BUILD" as initializer
#clusters2 <- fastpam(dv, n, k=3, initializer="BUILD")
#clusters2

# FastCLARA
#clusters3 <- fastclara(dv, n, k=3, numsamples = 5, sampling=0.25)
#clusters3

# FastCLARANS
#clusters4 <- fastclarans(dv, n, k=3, numlocal=2, maxneighbor=0.025)
#clusters4

```

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fastclara

*FastCLARA*


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**Description**

Clustering Large Applications (CLARA) with the improvements, to increase scalability in the number of clusters. This variant will also default to twice the sample size, to improve quality. (Schubert and Rousseeuw, 2019)

**Usage**

```

fastclara(
  rdist,
  n,
  k,
  maxiter = 0L,
  initializer = "LAB",
  fasttol = 1,
  numsamples = 5L,
  sampling = 0.25,
  independent = FALSE,
  seed = 123456789L
)

```

**Arguments**

<code>rdist</code>	The distance matrix (lower triangular matrix, column wise storage)
<code>n</code>	The number of observations
<code>k</code>	The number of clusters to produce
<code>maxiter</code>	The maximum number of iterations (default: 0)
<code>initializer</code>	Initializer: either "BUILD" (used in classic PAM) or "LAB" (linear approximative BUILD)
<code>fasttol</code>	Tolerance for fast swapping behavior (may perform worse swaps). Default: 1.0, which means to perform any additional swap that gives an improvement. When set to 0, it will only execute an additional swap if it appears to be independent (i.e., the improvements resulting from the swap have not decreased when the first swap was executed).
<code>numsamples</code>	Number of samples to draw (i.e. iterations). Default: 5
<code>sampling</code>	Sampling rate. Default value: $80 + 4*k$ . (see Schubert and Rousseeuw, 2019) If less than 1, it is considered to be a relative value. e.g. $N*0.10$
<code>independent</code>	NOT Keep the previous medoids in the next sample. Default: FALSE
<code>seed</code>	Seed for random number generator. Default: 123456789

**Value**

KMedoids S4 class

**References**

Erich Schubert, Peter J. Rousseeuw "Faster k-Medoids Clustering: Improving the PAM, CLARA, and CLARANS Algorithms" 2019 <https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.05691>

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<code>fastclarans</code>	<i>FastCLARANS</i>
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**Description**

A faster variation of CLARANS, that can explore  $O(k)$  as many swaps at a similar cost by considering all medoids for each candidate non-medoid. Since this means sampling fewer non-medoids, we suggest to increase the subsampling rate slightly to get higher quality than CLARANS, at better runtime. (Schubert and Rousseeuw, 2019)

**Usage**

```
fastclarans(rdist, n, k, numlocal = 2L, maxneighbor = 0.025, seed = 123456789L)
```

**Arguments**

<code>rdist</code>	The distance matrix (lower triangular matrix, column wise storage)
<code>n</code>	The number of observations
<code>k</code>	The number of clusters to produce.
<code>numlocal</code>	Number of samples to draw (i.e. restarts). Default: 2
<code>maxneighbor</code>	Sampling rate. If less than 1, it is considered to be a relative value. Default: 2 * 0.0125, larger sampling rate than CLARANS (see Schubert and Rousseeuw, 2019)
<code>seed</code>	Seed for random number generator. Default: 123456789

**Value**

KMedoids S4 class

**References**

Erich Schubert, Peter J. Rousseeuw "Faster k-Medoids Clustering: Improving the PAM, CLARA, and CLARANS Algorithms" 2019 <https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.05691>

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<code>fastpam</code>	<i>FastPAM</i>
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**Description**

FastPAM: An improved version of PAM, that is usually  $O(k)$  times faster. Because of the speed benefits, we also suggest to use a linear-time initialization, such as the k-means++ initialization or the proposed LAB (linear approximative BUILD, the third component of FastPAM) initialization, and try multiple times if the runtime permits. (Schubert and Rousseeuw, 2019)

**Usage**

```
fastpam(  
  rdist,  
  n,  
  k,  
  maxiter = 0L,  
  initializer = "LAB",  
  fasttol = 1,  
  seed = 123456789L  
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>rdist</code>	The distance matrix (lower triangular matrix, column wise storage)
<code>n</code>	The number of observations
<code>k</code>	The number of clusters to produce.
<code>maxiter</code>	The maximum number of iterations (default: 0)
<code>initializer</code>	Initializer: either "BUILD" (used in classic PAM) or "LAB" (linear approximative BUILD) Because of the speed benefits, "LAB" is suggested, and one can try multiple times if the runtime permits.
<code>fasttol</code>	Tolerance for fast swapping behavior (may perform worse swaps). Default: 1.0, which means to perform any additional swap that gives an improvement. When set to 0, it will only execute an additional swap if it appears to be independent (i.e., the improvements resulting from the swap have not decreased when the first swap was executed).
<code>seed</code>	Seed for random number generator. Default: 123456789

**Value**

KMedoids S4 class

**References**

Erich Schubert, Peter J. Rousseeuw "Faster k-Medoids Clustering: Improving the PAM, CLARA, and CLARANS Algorithms" 2019 <https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.05691>

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`KmedoidsResult-class` *An S4 class to represent the result of kmedoids clustering*

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**Description**

An S4 class to represent the result of kmedoids clustering

**Slots**

`cost` The cost value of kmedoids clustering  
`medoids` The medoids of kmedoids clustering  
`assignment` The assignment of which cluster each observation belongs to of kmedoids clustering

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pam	<i>PAM (Partitioning Around Medoids)</i>
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**Description**

The original Partitioning Around Medoids (PAM) algorithm or k-medoids clustering, as proposed by Kaufman and Rousseeuw; a largely equivalent method was also proposed by Whitaker in the operations research domain, and is well known by the name "fast interchange" there. (Schubert and Rousseeuw, 2019)

**Usage**

```
pam(rdist, n, k, maxiter = 0L)
```

**Arguments**

rdist	The distance matrix (lower triangular matrix, column wise storage)
n	The number of observations
k	The number of clusters to produce
maxiter	The maximum number of iterations (default: 0)

**Value**

KMedoids S4 class

**References**

L. Kaufman, P. J. Rousseeuw "Clustering by means of Medoids" Information Systems and Operational Research 21(2)

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