Package ‘TSP’

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Description Basic infrastructure and some algorithms for the traveling
salesperson problem (also traveling salesman problem; TSP).
The package provides some simple algorithms and
an interface to the Concorde TSP solver and its implementation of the
Chained-Lin-Kernighan heuristic. Concorde
itself is not included in the package and has to be obtained separately

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R topics documented:

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Class ATSP – Asymmetric traveling salesperson problem

Description

Constructor to create an instance of the asymmetric traveling salesperson problem (ATSP) and some auxiliary methods.

Usage

```r
## constructor
ATSP(x, labels = NULL)
```

```r
## coercion
as.ATSP(x)
```

```r
## methods
## S3 method for class 'ATSP'
n_of_cities(x)
## S3 method for class 'ATSP'
image(x, order, col = gray.colors(64), ...)
## S3 method for class 'ATSP'
labels(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'ATSP'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

- `x`, object: an object (a square matrix) to be converted into an ATSP or, for the methods, an object of class ATSP.
- `labels`: optional city labels. If not given, labels are taken from `x`.
- `col`: color scheme for image.
- `order`: order of cities as an integer vector or an object of class TOUR.
- `...`: further arguments are passed on.
Details

Objects of class ATSP are internally represented by a matrix (use \texttt{as.matrix()} to get just the matrix).

Value

\texttt{ATSP()} returns \texttt{x} as an object of class ATSP.

\texttt{n_of_cities()} returns the number of cities in \texttt{x}.

\texttt{labels()} returns a vector with the names of the cities in \texttt{x}.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

See Also

\texttt{TOUR, insert_dummy, tour_length, solve_TSP}.

Examples

```r
data <- matrix(runif(10^2), ncol = 10, dimnames = list(1:10, 1:10))

atsp <- ATSP(data)
atsp

## use some methods
n_of_cities(atsp)
labels(atsp)

## calculate a tour
tour <- solve_TSP(atsp, method = "nn")
tour
tour_length(tour)
image(atsp, tour)
```

Using the Concorde TSP Solver

Description

The Concorde TSP Solver package contains several solvers. Currently, interfaces to the Concorde solver (Applegate et al. 2001), one of the most advanced and fastest TSP solvers using branch-and-cut, and the Chained Lin-Kernighan (Applegate et al. 2003) implementation are provided in \texttt{TSP}.

The Concorde TSP Solver package is freely available for academic research and has to be obtained separately from the Concorde web site (see details).
Usage

```r
## set path for executables
concorde_path(path)

## obtain a list of command line options for the solvers
concorde_help(exe = NULL)
linkern_help(exe = NULL)
```

Arguments

- **exe**
  - an optional character string containing the whole path to the executable (including the executable's name).
  - Other options are (1) to use `concorde_path()` to set the path to the directory containing the executables for concorde and linkern, or (2) to put the executables somewhere in the search path.

- **path**
  - path to the directory where the executables are stored.

Details

The code of the Concorde TSP package is not included in this package and has to be obtained separately from the Concorde web site (see references). Either download the precompiled executables and place them in a suitable directory (either in the search path, or you have to use `concorde_path()`) and make them executable, or you can get the source code and compile it on your own.

To get a list of all available command line options which can be used via the `clo` option for `solve_TSP` use `concorde_help()` and `linkern_help()`. Several options (`'-x'`, `'-o'`, `'-N'`, `'-Q'`) are not available via `solve_TSP` since they are used by the interface.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

References


See Also

`solve_TSP`
cut_tour

---

**cut_tour**  
*Cut a tour to form a path*

---

**Description**

Cuts a tour at a specified city to form a path.

**Usage**

```r
cut_tour(x, cut, exclude_cut = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

- `x`: an object of class `tour`.
- `cut`: the index or label of the city to cut the tour.
- `exclude_cut`: exclude the city where we cut? If `FALSE`, the city at the cut is included in the path as the first city.

**Author(s)**

Michael Hahsler

**See Also**

`tour`.

**Examples**

```r
data("USCA50")

tsp <- insert_dummy(USCA50, label = "cut")
tour <- solve_TSP(tsp)

## cut tour into path at the dummy city
path <- cut_tour(tour, "cut")

labels(path)
```
Class ETSP – Euclidean traveling salesperson problem

Description

Constructor to create an instance of a Euclidean traveling salesperson problem (TSP) represented by city coordinates and some auxiliary methods.

Usage

```r
## constructor
ETSP(x, labels = NULL)

## coercion
as.ETSP(x)

## methods
## S3 method for class 'ETSP'
n_of_cities(x)
## S3 method for class 'ETSP'
image(x, order, col = gray.colors(64), ...)
## S3 method for class 'ETSP'
plot(x, y = NULL, tour = NULL, tour_lty = 2, tour_col = 1, ...)
## S3 method for class 'ETSP'
labels(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'ETSP'
print(x, ...)```

Arguments

- `x`, object: an object (data.frame or matrix) to be converted into a ETSP or, for the methods, an object of class ETSP.
- `labels`: optional city labels. If not given, labels are taken from `x`.
- `col`: color scheme for image.
- `order`: order of cities for the image as an integer vector or an object of class TOUR.
- `tour`, `y`: a tour to be visualized.
- `tour_lty`, `tour_col`: line type and color for tour.
- `...`: further arguments are passed on.

Details

Objects of class ETSP are internally represented as a matrix objects (use `as.matrix()` to get the matrix object).
insert_dummy

Value

ETSP() returns x as an object of class ETSP.
n_of_cities() returns the number of cities in x.
lables() returns a vector with the names of the cities in x.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

See Also

TOUR, insert_dummy, tour_length, solve_TSP.

Examples

x <- data.frame(x = runif(20), y = runif(20), row.names = LETTERS[1:20])

## create a TSP
etsp <- ETSP(x)
etsp

## use some methods
n_of_cities(etsp)
lables(etsp)

## plot ETSP and solution
tour <- solve_TSP(etsp)
tour

plot(etsp, tour, tour_col = "red")

Description

Inserts dummy cities into objects of class TSP or ATSP. A dummy city has the same, constant distance (0) to all other cities and is infinitely far from other dummy cities. A dummy city can be used to transform a shortest Hamiltonian path problem (i.e., finding an optimal linear order) into a shortest Hamiltonian cycle problem which can be solved by a TSP solvers (Garfinkel 1985).

Several dummy cities can be used together with a TSP solvers to perform rearrangement clustering (Climer and Zhang 2006).

Usage

insert_dummy(x, n = 1, const = 0, inf = Inf, label = "dummy")
Arguments

- **x**: an object of class TSP or ATSP.
- **n**: number of dummy cities.
- **const**: distance of the dummy cities to all other cities.
- **inf**: distance between dummy cities.
- **label**: labels for the dummy cities. If only one label is given, it is reused for all dummy cities.

Details

The dummy cities are inserted after the other cities in `x`.

A `const` of 0 is guaranteed to work if the TSP finds the optimal solution. For heuristics returning suboptimal solutions, a higher `const` (e.g., `2 * max(x)`) might provide better results.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

References


See Also

TSP, ATSP

Examples

```r
## make runs comparable
set.seed(4444)

data("iris")
tsp <- TSP(dist(iris[-5]))

## insert 2 dummy cities
tsp_dummy <- insert_dummy(tsp, n = 2, label = "boundary")

## get a solution for the TSP
tour <- solve_TSP(tsp_dummy)

## plot the distance matrix
image(tsp_dummy, tour)

## draw lines where the dummy cities are located
abline(h = which(labels(tour)="boundary"), col = "red")
```
reformulate_ATSP_as_TSP

abline(v = which(labels(tour) == "boundary"), col = "red")

reformulate_ATSP_as_TSP

Reformulate a ATSP as a symmetric TSP

Description

A ATSP can be formulated as a symmetric TSP by doubling the number of cities (Jonker and Volgenant 1983). The solution of the TSP also represents the solution of the original ATSP.

Usage

reformulate_ATSP_as_TSP(x, infeasible = Inf, cheap = -Inf)

Arguments

x an ATSP.

infeasible value for infeasible connections.

cheap value for distance between a city and its corresponding dummy city.

Details

To reformulate the ATSP as a TSP, for each city a dummy city (e.g. for 'New York' a dummy city 'New York*') is added. Between each city and its corresponding dummy city a negative or very small distance with value cheap is used. This makes sure that each cities always occurs in the solution together with its dummy city. The original distances are used between the cities and the dummy cities, where each city is responsible for the distance going to the city and the dummy city is responsible for the distance coming from the city. The distances between all cities and the distances between all dummy cities are set to infeasible, a very large value which makes the infeasible.

Value

a TSP object.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

References


See Also

ATSP, TSP.
Examples

data("USCA50")

## set the distances towards Austin to zero which makes it a ATSP
austin <- which(labels-USCA50) == "Austin, TX"
atsp <- as.ATSP-USCA50
atsp[, austin] <- 0

## reformulate as a TSP
tsp <- reformulate_ATSP_as_TSP(atsp)
labels(tsp)

## create tour (now you could use Concorde or LK)
tour_atsp <- solve_TSP(tsp, method="nn")
head(labels(tour_atsp), n = 10)
tour_atsp

## Note that the tour has a length of -Inf since the reformulation created
## some -Inf distances

## filter out the dummy cities (we specify tsp so the tour length is
## recalculated)
tour <- TOUR(tour_atsp[tour_atsp <= n_of_cities(atsp)], tsp = atsp)
tour

---

### solve_TSP

#### TSP solver interface

**Description**

Common interface to all TSP solvers in this package.

**Usage**

solve_TSP(x, method = NULL, control = NULL, ...)

**Arguments**

- **x**: the TSP given as an object of class TSP, ATSP or ETSP.
- **method**: method to solve the TSP (default: arbitrary insertion algorithm with two_opt refinement).
- **control**: a list of arguments passed on to the TSP solver selected by method.
- **...**: additional arguments are added to control control.
Details

Treatment of NAs and infinite values in x: TSP and ATSP contain distances and NAs are not allowed. Inf is allowed and can be used to model the missing edges in incomplete graphs (i.e., the distance between the two objects is infinite). Internally, Inf is replaced by a large value given by max(x) + 2range(x). Note that the solution might still place the two objects next to each other (e.g., if x contains several unconnected subgraphs) which results in a path length of Inf.

All heuristics can be used with the control arguments repetitions (uses the best from that many repetitions with random starts) and two_opt (a logical indicating if two_opt refinement should be performed). If several repetitions are done (this includes method "repetitive.nn") then foreach is used so they can be performed in parallel on multiple cores/machines. To enable parallel execution an appropriate parallel backend needs to be registered (e.g., load doParallel and register it with registerDoParallel()).

ETSP are currently solved by first calculating a dissimilarity matrix (a TSP). Only concorde and linkern can solve the TSP directly on the ETSP. Currently the following methods are available:

"identity", "random" return a tour representing the order in the data (identity order) or a random order.

"nearest_insertion", "farthest_insertion", "cheapest_insertion", "arbitrary_insertion"
Nearest, farthest, cheapest and arbitrary insertion algorithms for a symmetric and asymmetric TSP (Rosenkrantz et al. 1977).

The distances between cities are stored in a distance matrix D with elements d(i, j). All insertion algorithms start with a tour consisting of an arbitrary city and choose in each step a city k not yet on the tour. This city is inserted into the existing tour between two consecutive cities i and j, such that

\[ d(i, k) + d(k, j) - d(i, j) \]

is minimized. The algorithms stops when all cities are on the tour.

The nearest insertion algorithm chooses city k in each step as the city which is nearest to a city on the tour.

For farthest insertion, the city k is chosen in each step as the city which is farthest to any city on the tour.

Cheapest insertion chooses the city k such that the cost of inserting the new city (i.e., the increase in the tour’s length) is minimal.

Arbitrary insertion chooses the city k randomly from all cities not yet on the tour.

Nearest and cheapest insertion tries to build the tour using cities which fit well into the partial tour constructed so far. The idea behind behind farthest insertion is to link cities far away into the tour first to establish an outline of the whole tour early.

Additional control options:

start index of the first city (default: random city).

"nn", "repetitive.nn" Nearest neighbor and repetitive nearest neighbor algorithms for symmetric and asymmetric TSPs (Rosenkrantz et al. 1977).

The algorithm starts with a tour containing a random city. Then the algorithm always adds to the last city on the tour the nearest not yet visited city. The algorithm stops when all cities are on the tour.
Repetitive nearest neighbor constructs a nearest neighbor tour for each city as the starting point and returns the shortest tour found.

Additional control options:

- **start** index of the first city (default: random city).

- **"two_opt"** Two edge exchange improvement procedure (Croes 1958).
  
  This is a tour refinement procedure which systematically exchanges two edges in the graph represented by the distance matrix till no improvements are possible. Exchanging two edges is equal to reversing part of the tour. The resulting tour is called 2-optimal.
  
  This method can be applied to tours created by other methods or used as its own method. In this case improvement starts with a random tour.

  Additional control options:

  - **tour** an existing tour which should be improved. If no tour is given, a random tour is used.
  - **two_opt_repetitions** number of times to try two_opt with a different initial random tour (default: 1).

- **"concorde"** Concorde algorithm (Applegate et al. 2001).
  
  Concorde is an advanced exact TSP solver for only symmetric TSPs based on branch-and-cut. The program is not included in this package and has to be obtained and installed separately (see Concorde).

  Additional control options:

  - **exe** a character string containing the path to the executable (see Concorde).
  - **clo** a character string containing command line options for Concorde, e.g., `control = list(clo = "-B -v")`. See concorde_help on how to obtain a complete list of available command line options.
  - **precision** an integer which controls the number of decimal places used for the internal representation of distances in Concorde. The values given in x are multiplied by $10^{\text{precision}}$ before being passed on to Concorde. Note that therefore the results produced by Concorde (especially lower and upper bounds) need to be divided by $10^{\text{precision}}$ (i.e., the decimal point has to be shifted `precision` places to the left). The interface to Concorde uses write_TSPLIB (see there for more information).

  
  The Lin-Kernighan (Lin and Kernighan 1973) heuristic uses variable k edge exchanges to improve an initial tour. The program is not included in this package and has to be obtained and installed separately (see Concorde).

  Additional control options: see Concorde above.

**Value**

An object of class ` TOUR`.

**Author(s)**

Michael Hahsler
solve_TSP

References

Concorde home page, http://www.tsp.gatech.edu/concorde/


See Also

TOUR, TSP, ATSP, write_TSPLIB, Concorde.

Examples

```r
## solve a simple Euclidean TSP (using the default method)
etsp <- etsp(data.frame(x = runif(20), y = runif(20)))
tour <- solve_TSP(etsp)
tour
tour_length(tour)
plot(etsp, tour)

## compare methods
data("USCA50")
USCA50
methods <- c("identity", "random", "nearest_insertion",
"cheapest_insertion", "farthest_insertion", "arbitrary_insertion",
"nn", "repetitive_nn", "two_opt")

## calculate tours
tours <- lapply(methods, function(m) solve_TSP(USCA50, method = m))
names(tours) <- methods

## use the external solver which has to be installed separately
## Not run:
tours$concorde <- solve_TSP(USCA50, method = "concorde")
tours$linkern <- solve_TSP(USCA50, method = "linkern")

## End(Not run)

## register a parallel backend to perform repetitions in parallel
## Not run:
library(doParallel)
```
registerDoParallel()

## End (Not run)

## add some tours using repetition and two_opt refinements
tours$'nn+two_opt' <- solve_TSP(USCA50, method="nn", two_opt=TRUE)
tours$'nn+rep_10' <- solve_TSP(USCA50, method="nn", rep=10)
tours$'nn+two_opt+rep_10' <- solve_TSP(USCA50, method="nn", two_opt=TRUE, rep=10)
tours$'arbitrary_insertion+two_opt' <- solve_TSP(USCA50)

## show first tour
tours[[1]]

## compare tour lengths
opt <- 14497 # obtained by Concorde
tour_lengths <- c(sort(sapply(tours, tour_length), decreasing = TRUE),
                  optimal = opt)
dotchart(tour_lengths/opt*100-100, xlab = "percent excess over optimum")

---

TOUR

Class TOUR – Solution to a traveling salesperson problem

Description

Class to store the solution of a TSP. Objects of this class are returned by TSP solvers in this package. Essentially, an object of class TOUR is a permutation vector containing the order of cities to visit.

Usage

## constructor
TOUR(x, method=NA, tsp=NULL)

## coercion
as.TOUR(object)

## methods
## S3 method for class 'TOUR'
print(x, ...)

Arguments

x an integer permutation vector or, for the methods an object of class TOUR.
object data (an integer vector) which can be coerced to TOUR..
method character string; method used to create the tour.
tsp TSP object the tour applies to. If available then the tour will include the tour length. Also the labes of the cities will be available in the tour (otherwise the labels of x are used).
... further arguments are passed on.
Details

Since an object of class TOUR is an integer vector, it can be subsetted as an ordinary vector or coerced to an integer vector using as.integer(). It also contains the names of the objects as labels. Additionally, TOUR has the following attributes: "method", "tour_length".

For most functions, e.g., tour_length or image, the TSP/ATSP object used to find the tour is still needed, since the tour does not contain the distance information.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

See Also

TSP, ATSP, tour_length, image.

Examples

TOUR(1:10)

## calculate a tour
data("USCA58")
tour <- solve_TSP(USCA58)
tour

## get permutation vector
as.integer(tour)

## get tour length directly from tour
attr(tour, "tour_length")

## show labels
labels(tour)

---

tour_length  Calculate the length of a tour

Description

Calculate the length of a tour given a TSP and an order.

Usage

tour_length(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'TOUR'
tour_length(x, tsp = NULL, ...)

Arguments

- `x`: an object of class `TOUR`.
- `tsp`: a TSP object of class TSP, ATSP or ETSP.
- `...`: further arguments are currently unused.

Details

If no `tsp` is given, then the tour length stored in `x` as attribute "tour_length" is returned. If `tsp` is given then the tour length is recalculated.

If a distance in the tour is infinite, the result is also infinite. If the tour contains positive and negative infinite distances then the method returns `NA`.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

See Also

`TOUR`, `TSP`, `ATSP` and `ETSP`.

Examples

```r
data("USCA50")

## original order
tour_length(solve_TSP(USCA50, method="identity"))

## length of a manually created (random) tour
tour <- TOUR(sample(seq(n_of_cities(USCA50))))
tour
tour_length(tour)
tour_length(tour, USCA50)
```

---

TSP

*Class TSP – Symmetric traveling salesperson problem*

Description

Constructor to create an instance of a symmetric traveling salesperson problem (TSP) and some auxiliary methods.
TSP

Usage

## constructor
TSP(x, labels = NULL)

## coercion
as.TSP(x)

## methods
## S3 method for class 'TSP'
n_of_cities(x)
## S3 method for class 'TSP'
image(x, order, col = gray.colors(64), ...)
## S3 method for class 'TSP'
labels(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'TSP'
print(x, ...)

Arguments

x, object an object (currently dist or a symmetric matrix) to be converted into a TSP or, for the methods, an object of class TSP.

labels optional city labels. If not given, labels are taken from x.

col color scheme for image.

order order of cities for the image as an integer vector or an object of class TOUR.

... further arguments are passed on.

Details

Objects of class TSP are internally represented as dist objects (use as.dist() to get the dist object).

Value

TSP() returns x as an object of class TSP.
n_of_cities() returns the number of cities in x.

labels() returns a vector with the names of the cities in x.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

See Also

TOUR, insert_dummy, tour_length, solve_TSP.
Examples

data("iris")
d <- dist(iris[-5])

## create a TSP

tsp <- TSP(d)
tsp

## use some methods

n_of_cities(tsp)
labels(tsp)
image(tsp)

TSPLIB

Read and write TSPLIB files

Description

Reads and writes TSPLIB format files. TSPLIB files can be used by most TSP solvers. Sample instances for the TSP in TSPLIB format are available on the TSPLIB homepage (see references).

Usage

write_TSPLIB(x, file, precision = 6, inf = NULL, neg_inf = NULL)
read_TSPLIB(file, precision = 0)

Arguments

x

an object of class TSP, ATSP or ETSP. NAs are not allowed.

file

file name or a connection.

precision

controls the number of decimal places used to represent distances (see details). If x is already an integer, this argument is ignored and x is used as is.

inf

replacement value for Inf (TSPLIB format cannot handle Inf). If inf is NULL, a large value of max(x) + 2range(x) (ignoring infinite entries) is used.

neg_inf

replacement value for -Inf. If no value is specified, a small value of min(x) − 2range(x) (ignoring infinite entries) is used.

Details

In the TSPLIB format distances are represented by integer values. Therefore, if x contains double values (which is normal in R) the values given in x are multiplied by 10^{precision} before coercion to integer. Note that therefore all results produced by programs using the TSPLIB file as input need to be divided by 10^{precision} (i.e., the decimal point has to be shifted precision places to the left).

Currently only the following EDGE_WEIGHT_TYPES are implemented: EXPLICIT, EUC_2D and EUC_3D.
Value

read_TSPLIB returns an object of class TSP or ATSP.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

References

TSPLIB home page, http://www.iwr.uni-heidelberg.de/groups/comopt/software/TSPLIB95/

Examples

```r
## Drilling problem from TSP
drill <- read_TSPLIB(system.file("examples/d493.tsp", package = "TSP"))
drill
tour <- solve_TSP(drill, method = "nn", two_opt = TRUE)
tour
plot(drill, tour, cex=.6, col = "red", pch = 3, main = "TSPLIB: d493")

## Write and read data in TSPLIB format
x <- data.frame(x=runif(5), y=runif(5))

## create TSP, ATSP and ETSP (2D)
tsp <- TSP(dist(x))
atsp <- ATSP(dist(x))
etsp <- ETSP(x[,1:2])

write_TSPLIB(tsp, file="example.tsp")
#file.show("example.tsp")
r <- read_TSPLIB("example.tsp")
r

write_TSPLIB(atsp, file="example.tsp")
#file.show("example.tsp")
r <- read_TSPLIB("example.tsp")
r

write_TSPLIB(etsp, file="example.tsp")
#file.show("example.tsp")
r <- read_TSPLIB("example.tsp")
r

## clean up
unlink("example.tsp")
```
Description

The USCA312 dataset contains the distances between 312 cities in the US and Canada as an object of class TSP. USCA50 is a subset of USCA312 containing only the first 50 cities.

The USCA312_map dataset contains spatial data of the 312 cities.

Usage

data("USCA312")
data("USCA312_map")
data("USCA50")

Format

USCA312 and USCA50 are objects of class TSP. USCA312_map contains in USCA312_coords the spatial coordinates of the 312 cities and in USCA312_basemap a part of the map of North America.

Details

For USCA312_map several packages for geographic data are needed (see Examples section).

We want to thank Roger Bivand for his help with plotting the map.

Author(s)

Michael Hahsler

Source

John Burkardt, CITIES – City Distance Datasets, Florida State University, Department of Scientific Computing

Examples

data("USCA312")
data("USCA312_map")

## calculate a tour
tour <- solve_TSP(USCA312)
tour

## load map tools
library("maps")
library("sp")
library("maptools")
## plot map
plot(as(USCA312_coords, "Spatial"), axes=TRUE)
plot(USCA312_basemap, add=TRUE, col = "gray")

## plot tour and add cities
```r
tour_line <- SpatialLines(list(Lines(list(
  Line(USCA312_coords[c(tour, tour[11], ID="1"))
)
```
plot(tour_line, add=TRUE, col = "red")
points(USCA312_coords, pch=3, cex=0.4, col="black")
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