

Package ‘logStirling2’

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Title Fast Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind

Version 0.2.0

Description Provides efficient tools for calculating Stirling numbers of the second kind and their logarithms. Includes an exact arbitrary-precision implementation using 'gmp' that avoids numerical cancellation, a fast C++ backend with internal caching for log-scale calculations, and Temme's asymptotic approximation for very large inputs.

License GPL (>= 3)

Encoding UTF-8

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Depends R (>= 4.1.0)

Imports gmp, Rcpp

LinkingTo Rcpp

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get_state_data	<i>Download and Cache Stirling State Data</i>
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Description

Downloads the pre-computed long-double state blocks from GitHub and saves them to the user's local data directory. Once downloaded, `logStirling2` will automatically detect and use these states for accelerated calculations.

Usage

```
get_state_data(force = FALSE)
```

Arguments

force	Logical; if TRUE, re-downloads the data even if it already exists locally.
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Value

Invisible TRUE on success.

logStirling2	<i>Logarithms of Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind</i>
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Description

Calculates the natural logarithm of Stirling numbers of the second kind, $S(n, k)$, which represent the number of ways to partition a set of n elements into k non-empty subsets.

Usage

```
logStirling2(n, k = NULL, as.matrix = TRUE, ones = TRUE)
```

```
logStirling2Temme(n, k = NULL, as.matrix = TRUE, ones = TRUE, twoterms = TRUE)
```

Arguments

n	Integer vector of set sizes. Coerced to natural numbers (floor).
k	Integer vector of subset sizes. Coerced to natural numbers (floor). If NULL, returns all available k for each n .
as.matrix	Logical; if TRUE, returns a matrix where rows correspond to n and columns to k . If FALSE, returns a flat vector.
ones	Logical; if FALSE, excludes the trivial cases where $k = 1$ and $k = n$ (where $S(n, k) = 1$). This is automatically set to TRUE if <code>as.matrix</code> is TRUE, k is explicitly provided, or if <code>any(n < 3)</code> is TRUE.
twoterms	Logical; if TRUE, uses Temme's two-term approximation. If FALSE, uses the one-term approximation.

Details

The function dispatches to one of three C++ routines (Row_C, All_C, or Mult_C) depending on the sparsity of the input vector n .

For systems supporting 16-byte long double precision, if $n \geq 1000$, the function automatically searches for pre-computed state blocks. If found in the user's data directory (`tools::R_user_dir`), these blocks are used to dramatically accelerate calculations. If missing, the full table is computed on-the-fly. If unsupported (e.g., Apple Silicon/ARM64), the full table is computed using standard double precision.

`logStirling2Temme` provides a high-speed asymptotic approximation based on Temme's method, which is functionally identical in interface but trades exactness for performance at very large n .

Value

A numeric matrix or vector containing $\ln(S(n, k))$. For $k > n$, values are returned as `NA_real_`.

References

Temme, N. M. (1993). Asymptotic estimates of Stirling numbers. *Studies in Applied Mathematics*, 89(3), 233-243.

Examples

```
# 1. Matrix output for specified n and k
logStirling2(n = 5:8, k = 2:5, as.matrix = TRUE)

# 2. Vector output with 'ones' filtered
# This returns only the "non-trivial" values (1 < k < n)
logStirling2(n = 8:10, k = NULL, as.matrix = FALSE, ones = FALSE)

# 3. Full row with large n
s <- logStirling2(n = 1e3, as.matrix = FALSE)
length(s)
s[10:13]

# 4. Temme's asymptotic approximation - fast even for very large n
s <- logStirling2Temme(n = 1e5, as.matrix = FALSE)
s[1000:1003]
```

stirling2direct

Stirling Numbers of the Second Kind (Exact)

Description

Calculates the exact value of $S(n, k)$ using bigz integers.

Usage

```
stirling2direct(n, k)
```

Arguments

n	Positive integer set size.
k	Integer subset size in 1:n.

Details

Implements the explicit formula for positive arguments:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S(n, k) &= \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} j^n \\
 &= \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{j=1}^k \binom{-(j+1)}{k-j} j^n
 \end{aligned}$$

This is a "direct" calculation similar to `gmp::Stirling2(method = "direct")`, but without cancellation errors for "large" n.

Value

A bigz object.

See Also

[logStirling2](#) for log-scale calculations accepting vectors for n and k.

Examples

```
# Basic usage
stirling2direct(5, 3)

# Comparison with the log version
mapply(\(k) log(stirling2direct(200, k)), 10:20)
logStirling2(200, 10:20)
```

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