

Package ‘pgenlibr’

June 25, 2025

Type Package

Title PLINK 2 Binary (.pgen) Reader

Version 0.5.3

Date 2025-06-24

Description A thin wrapper over PLINK 2’s core libraries which provides an R interface for reading .pgen files. A minimal .pvar loader is also included. Chang et al. (2015) [doi{10.1186/s13742-015-0047-8}](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13742-015-0047-8).

Encoding UTF-8

License LGPL (>= 3)

Copyright This package includes sources of the libdeflate library owned by Eric Biggers, sources of the SIMDe library owned by Evan Nemerson, sources of the Zstd library owned by Meta Platforms, Inc., and sources of the pgenlib library owned by Christopher Chang.

BugReports <https://github.com/chrchang/plink-ng/issues>

Imports Rcpp (>= 1.0.1)

LinkingTo Rcpp

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Christopher Chang [aut, cre],
Eric Biggers [ctb, cph] (Author of included libdeflate library),
Yann Collet [ctb] (Author of included Zstd library),
Meta Platforms, Inc. [cph] (Zstd library),
Evan Nemerson [ctb, cph] (Author of included SIMDe library),
Przemyslaw Skibinski [ctb] (Author of included Zstd library),
Nick Terrell [ctb] (Author of included Zstd library)

Maintainer Christopher Chang <chrchang@alumni.caltech.edu>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-06-25 12:20:16 UTC

Contents

pigenlibr-package	2
AlleleCodeBuf	4
BoolBuf	4
Buf	5
ClosePgen	5
ClosePvar	6
GetAlleleCode	6
GetAlleleCt	7
GetMaxAlleleCt	7
GetRawSampleCt	8
GetVariantChrom	8
GetVariantCt	9
GetVariantId	9
GetVariantPos	10
GetVariantsById	10
HardcallPhasePresent	11
HasSparse	11
HasSparseHardcalls	12
IntAlleleCodeBuf	12
IntBuf	13
NewPgen	13
NewPvar	14
Read	14
ReadAlleles	15
ReadHardcalls	15
ReadIntList	16
ReadList	17
ReadSparse	17
ReadSparseHardcalls	18
VariantScores	18

Index	20
--------------	-----------

pigenlibr-package *PLINK 2 Binary (.pgen) Reader*

Description

A thin wrapper over PLINK 2's core libraries which provides an R interface for reading .pgen files. A minimal .pvar loader is also included.

Details

NewPvar and NewPgen initialize the respective readers. Then, you can either iterate through one variant at a time (Read, ReadAlleles) or perform a multi-variant matrix load (ReadIntList, ReadList). When you're done, ClosePgen and ClosePvar free resources.

Author(s)

Christopher Chang <chrchang@alumni.caltech.edu>

References

Chang, C.C. and Chow, C.C. and Tellier, L.C.A.M. and Vattikuti, S. and Purcell, S.M. and Lee J.J. (2015) Second-generation PLINK: rising to the challenge of larger and richer datasets. *Gigascience* 4:7. doi:10.1186/s1374201500478.

Examples

```
# This is modified from https://yosuketanigawa.com/posts/2020/09/PLINK2 .
library(pgenlibr)

# These files are subsetted from downloads available at
#   https://www.cog-genomics.org/plink/2.0/resources#phase3_1kg .
# Note that, after downloading the original files, the .pgen file must be
# decompressed before use; but both pgenlibr and the PLINK 2 program can
# handle compressed .pvar files.
pvar_path <- system.file("extdata", "chr21_phase3_start.pvar.zst", package="pgenlibr")
pgen_path <- system.file("extdata", "chr21_phase3_start.pgen", package="pgenlibr")

pvar <- pgenlibr::NewPvar(pvar_path)
pgen <- pgenlibr::NewPgen(pgen_path, pvar=pvar)

# Check the number of variants and samples.
pgenlibr::GetVariantCt(pgen)
pgenlibr::GetRawSampleCt(pgen)

# Get the chromosome, position, and ID of the first variant.
GetVariantChrom(pvar, 1)
GetVariantPos(pvar, 1)
GetVariantId(pvar, 1)

# Read the 14th variant.
buf <- pgenlibr::Buf(pgen)
pgenlibr::Read(pgen, buf, 14)

# Get the index of the variant with ID "rs569225703".
var_id <- pgenlibr::GetVariantsById(pvar, "rs569225703")

# Get allele count.
pgenlibr::GetAlleleCt(pvar, var_id)

# It has three alleles, i.e. two ALT alleles.
# Read first-ALT-allele dosages for that variant.
pgenlibr::Read(pgen, buf, var_id)

# Read second-ALT-allele dosages.
pgenlibr::Read(pgen, buf, var_id, allele_num=3)

# Read a matrix with both variants. Note that, for the multiallelic variant,
```

```
# the dosages of both ALT alleles are summed here.
geno_mat <- pgenlibr::ReadList(pgen, c(14, var_id))

pgenlibr::ClosePgen(pgen)
pgenlibr::ClosePvar(pvar)
```

AlleleCodeBuf

Returns an empty two-row numeric matrix that ReadAlleles() can load to.

Description

Returns an empty two-row numeric matrix that ReadAlleles() can load to.

Usage

```
AlleleCodeBuf(pgen)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
------	-------------------------------

Value

Numeric matrix with two rows, and appropriate number of columns for ReadAlleles().

BoolBuf

Returns a bool buffer that ReadAlleles() can load phasing information to.

Description

Returns a bool buffer that ReadAlleles() can load phasing information to.

Usage

```
BoolBuf(pgen)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
------	-------------------------------

Value

Logical vector with appropriate length for ReadAlleles().

Buf	<i>Returns a numeric buffer that Read() or ReadHardcalls() can load to.</i>
-----	---

Description

Returns a numeric buffer that Read() or ReadHardcalls() can load to.

Usage

Buf(pgen)

Arguments

pgen Object returned by NewPgen().

Value

Numeric vector with appropriate length for Read() and ReadHardcalls().

ClosePgen	<i>Closes a pgen object, releasing resources.</i>
-----------	---

Description

Closes a pgen object, releasing resources.

Usage

ClosePgen(pgen)

Arguments

pgen Object returned by NewPgen().

Value

No return value, called for side-effect.

ClosePvar

Closes a pvar object, releasing memory.

Description

Closes a pvar object, releasing memory.

Usage

```
ClosePvar(pvar)
```

Arguments

pvar Object returned by NewPvar().

Value

No return value, called for side-effect.

GetAlleleCode

Look up an allele code.

Description

Look up an allele code.

Usage

```
GetAlleleCode(pvar, variant_num, allele_num)
```

Arguments

pvar Object returned by NewPvar().
variant_num Variant index (1-based).
allele_num Allele index (1-based).

Value

The allele_numth allele code for the variant_numth variant. allele_num=1 corresponds to the REF allele, allele_num=2 corresponds to the first ALT allele, allele_num=3 corresponds to the second ALT allele if it exists and errors out otherwise, etc.

GetAlleleCt	<i>Returns the effective number of alleles for a variant. Note that if no pvar was provided to the NewPgen() call, this function may return 2 even at multiallelic variants, since the .pgen may not store allele-count information.</i>
-------------	--

Description

Returns the effective number of alleles for a variant. Note that if no pvar was provided to the NewPgen() call, this function may return 2 even at multiallelic variants, since the .pgen may not store allele-count information.

Usage

```
GetAlleleCt(pvar_or_pgen, variant_num)
```

Arguments

- pvar_or_pgen Object returned by NewPvar() or NewPgen().
variant_num Variant index (1-based).

Value

`max(2, <number of alleles the variant_numth variant is known to have>)`. Note that if no

GetMaxAlleleCt	<i>Returns the maximum GetAlleleCt() value across all variants in the file.</i>
----------------	---

Description

Returns the maximum GetAlleleCt() value across all variants in the file.

Usage

```
GetMaxAlleleCt(pvar_or_pgen)
```

Arguments

- pvar_or_pgen Object returned by NewPvar() or NewPgen().

Value

Maximum GetAlleleCt() value across all variants.

GetRawSampleCt	<i>Returns the number of samples in the file.</i>
----------------	---

Description

Returns the number of samples in the file.

Usage

```
GetRawSampleCt(pgen)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
------	-------------------------------

Value

Number of samples.

GetVariantChrom	<i>Retrieve chromosome ID for given variant index.</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Retrieve chromosome ID for given variant index.

Usage

```
GetVariantChrom(pvar, variant_num)
```

Arguments

pvar	Object returned by NewPvar().
variant_num	Variant index (1-based).

Value

Chromosome ID for the variant_numth variant.

GetVariantCt	<i>Returns the number of variants in the file.</i>
--------------	--

Description

Returns the number of variants in the file.

Usage

```
GetVariantCt(pvar_or_pgen)
```

Arguments

pvar_or_pgen Object returned by NewPvar() or NewPgen().

Value

Number of variants.

GetVariantId	<i>Convert variant index to variant ID string.</i>
--------------	--

Description

Convert variant index to variant ID string.

Usage

```
GetVariantId(pvar, variant_num)
```

Arguments

pvar Object returned by NewPvar().

variant_num Variant index (1-based).

Value

The variant_numth variant ID string.

<code>GetVariantPos</code>	<i>Retrieve POS (base-pair coordinate on a chromosome) for given variant index.</i>
----------------------------	---

Description

Retrieve POS (base-pair coordinate on a chromosome) for given variant index.

Usage

```
GetVariantPos(pvar, variant_num)
```

Arguments

<code>pvar</code>	Object returned by <code>NewPvar()</code> .
<code>variant_num</code>	Variant index (1-based).

Value

POS for the `variant_num`th variant.

<code>GetVariantsById</code>	<i>Convert variant ID string to variant index(es).</i>
------------------------------	--

Description

Convert variant ID string to variant index(es).

Usage

```
GetVariantsById(pvar, id)
```

Arguments

<code>pvar</code>	Object returned by <code>NewPvar()</code> .
<code>id</code>	Variant ID to look up.

Value

A list of all (1-based) variant indices with the given variant ID.

HardcallPhasePresent *Returns whether explicitly phased hardcalls are present.*

Description

Returns whether explicitly phased hardcalls are present.

Usage

```
HardcallPhasePresent(pgen)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
------	-------------------------------

Value

TRUE if the file contains at least one phased heterozygous hardcall, FALSE otherwise.

HasSparse *Returns whether dosages for the variant_numth variant and given allele are represented in a sparse manner that is supported by ReadSparse(), under the current sample subset.*

Description

Returns whether dosages for the variant_numth variant and given allele are represented in a sparse manner that is supported by ReadSparse(), under the current sample subset.

Usage

```
HasSparse(pgen, variant_num, allele_num = 2L)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
variant_num	Variant index (1-based).
allele_num	Allele index; 1 corresponds to REF, 2 to the first ALT allele, 3 to the second ALT allele if it exists, etc. Optional, defaults to 2.

Value

True iff the (variant, allele) pair has a sparse representation that can be returned by ReadSparse().

<code>HasSparseHardcalls</code>	<i>Returns whether hardcalls for the variant_numth variant and given allele are represented in a sparse manner that is supported by ReadSparseHardcalls().</i>
---------------------------------	--

Description

Returns whether hardcalls for the variant_numth variant and given allele are represented in a sparse manner that is supported by `ReadSparseHardcalls()`.

Usage

```
HasSparseHardcalls(pgen, variant_num, allele_num = 2L)
```

Arguments

<code>p</code> gen	Object returned by <code>NewPgen()</code> .
<code>variant_num</code>	Variant index (1-based).
<code>allele_num</code>	Allele index; 1 corresponds to REF, 2 to the first ALT allele, 3 to the second ALT allele if it exists, etc. Optional, defaults to 2.

Value

True iff the (variant, allele) pair has a sparse representation that can be returned by `ReadSparseHardcalls()`.

<code>IntAlleleCodeBuf</code>	<i>Returns an empty two-row integer matrix that <code>ReadAlleles()</code> can load to.</i>
-------------------------------	---

Description

Returns an empty two-row integer matrix that `ReadAlleles()` can load to.

Usage

```
IntAlleleCodeBuf(pgen)
```

Arguments

<code>p</code> gen	Object returned by <code>NewPgen()</code> .
--------------------	---

Value

Integer matrix with two rows, and appropriate number of columns for `ReadAlleles()`.

IntBuf	<i>Returns an integer buffer that ReadHardcalls() can load to.</i>
--------	--

Description

Returns an integer buffer that ReadHardcalls() can load to.

Usage

```
IntBuf(pgen)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
------	-------------------------------

Value

Integer vector with appropriate length for ReadHardcalls().

NewPgen	<i>Opens a .pgen or PLINK 1 .bed file.</i>
---------	--

Description

Opens a .pgen or PLINK 1 .bed file.

Usage

```
NewPgen(filename, pvar = NULL, raw_sample_ct = NULL, sample_subset = NULL)
```

Arguments

filename	.pgen/.bed file path.
pvar	Object (see NewPvar()) corresponding to the .pgen's companion .pvar; technically optional, but necessary for some functionality. In particular, at multiallelic variants, all ALT alleles may be collapsed together when .pvar information is not available.
raw_sample_ct	Number of samples in file; required if it's a PLINK 1 .bed file, otherwise optional.
sample_subset	List of 1-based positions of samples to load; optional, all samples are loaded if this is not specified.

Value

A pgen object, which can be queried for genotype/dosage data.

NewPvar	<i>Loads variant positions, IDs, and allele codes from a .pvar or .bim file (which can be compressed with gzip or Zstd).</i>
---------	--

Description

Loads variant positions, IDs, and allele codes from a .pvar or .bim file (which can be compressed with gzip or Zstd).

Usage

```
NewPvar(filename, omit_chrom = FALSE, omit_pos = FALSE)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| filename | .pvar/.bim file path. |
| omit_chrom | Whether to skip CHROM column. |
| omit_pos | Whether to skip POS column. |

Value

A pvar object, which can be queried for variant IDs and allele codes.

Read	<i>Loads the variant_numth variant, and then fills buf with numeric dosages in [0, 2] indicating the dosages of the first ALT (or user-specified) allele for each sample, with missing values represented by NA.</i>
------	--

Description

This function treats the data as diploid; divide by 2 to obtain haploid dosages.

Usage

```
Read(pgen, buf, variant_num, allele_num = 2L)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| pgen | Object returned by NewPgen(). |
| buf | Buffer returned by Buf(). |
| variant_num | Variant index (1-based). |
| allele_num | Allele index; 1 corresponds to REF, 2 to the first ALT allele, 3 to the second ALT allele if it exists, etc. Optional, defaults to 2. |

Value

No return value, called for buf-filling side-effect.

ReadAlleles	<i>Loads the variant_numth variant, and then fills acbuf with integer allele codes, where each column of the buffer corresponds to a sample. An allele code of 0 corresponds to the REF allele, 1 to the first ALT, 2 to the second ALT, etc. Missing hardcalls are represented by a pair of NA codes.</i>
-------------	--

Description

This function treats the data as diploid. If it's really haploid, you may want to compare the two rows, and then treat samples where the allele codes differ as missing values.

Usage

```
ReadAlleles(pgen, acbuf, variant_num, phasepresent_buf = NULL)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
acbuf	Buffer returned by AlleleCodeBuf() or IntAlleleCodeBuf().
variant_num	Variant index (1-based).
phasepresent_buf	Buffer returned by BoolBuf(). Optional; if provided, elements are set to true when the sample has known phase. Most of these values will be TRUE even when the raw data is unphased, because homozygous genotypes always have known phase. (Missing genotypes are considered to have unknown phase.)

Value

No return value, called for acbuf-filling side-effect.

ReadHardcalls	<i>Loads the variant_numth variant, and then fills buf with {0, 1, 2, NA} values indicating the number of copies of the first ALT (or user-specified) allele each sample has.</i>
---------------	---

Description

This function treats the data as diploid; you can divide by 2, and then treat 0.5 as NA, if it's actually haploid.

Usage

```
ReadHardcalls(pgen, buf, variant_num, allele_num = 2L)
```

Arguments

<code>pgen</code>	Object returned by <code>NewPgen()</code> .
<code>buf</code>	Buffer returned by <code>Buf()</code> or <code>IntBuf()</code> .
<code>variant_num</code>	Variant index (1-based).
<code>allele_num</code>	Allele index; 1 corresponds to REF, 2 to the first ALT allele, 3 to the second ALT allele if it exists, etc. Optional, defaults to 2.

Value

No return value, called for buf-filling side-effect.

ReadIntList

Load hardcalls for multiple variants as an integer matrix.

Description

This function treats the data as diploid; you can divide by 2, and then treat 0.5 as NA, if it's actually haploid.

Usage

```
ReadIntList(pgen, variant_subset)
```

Arguments

<code>pgen</code>	Object returned by <code>NewPgen()</code> .
<code>variant_subset</code>	Integer vector containing 1-based indexes of variants to load.

Value

Integer matrix, where rows correspond to samples, columns correspond to `variant_subset`, and values are in {0, 1, 2, NA} indicating the number of hardcall ALT allele copies. For multiallelic variants, all ALT alleles are combined.

ReadList

Load dosages for multiple variants as a numeric matrix.

Description

This function treats the data as diploid; divide by 2 to obtain haploid dosages.

Usage

```
ReadList(pgen, variant_subset, meanimpute = FALSE)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
variant_subset	Integer vector containing 1-based indexes of variants to load.
meanimpute	Optional; if true, missing values are mean-imputed instead of being represented by NA.

Value

Numeric matrix, where rows correspond to samples, and columns correspond to variant_subset. Values are in [0, 2] indicating ALT allele dosages, or NA for missing dosages. For multiallelic variants, all ALT alleles are combined.

ReadSparse

If HasSparse() is true, returns a sparse representation for the (variant, allele) pair. If HasSparse() is false, the function fails.

Description

If HasSparse() is true, returns a sparse representation for the (variant, allele) pair. If HasSparse() is false, the function fails.

Usage

```
ReadSparse(pgen, variant_num, allele_num = 2L)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
variant_num	Variant index (1-based).
allele_num	Allele index; 1 corresponds to REF, 2 to the first ALT allele, 3 to the second ALT allele if it exists, etc. Optional, defaults to 2.

Value

An object where "sample_nums" is an increasing sequence of positive integers listing which samples have the allele, and "dosages" is a vector listing the dosages (on a 0-2 scale) for those samples.

ReadSparseHardcalls	<i>If HasSparseHardcalls() is true, returns a sparse representation for the (variant, allele) pair. If HasSparseHardcalls() is false, the function fails.</i>
---------------------	---

Description

If HasSparseHardcalls() is true, returns a sparse representation for the (variant, allele) pair. If HasSparseHardcalls() is false, the function fails.

Usage

```
ReadSparseHardcalls(pgen, variant_num, allele_num = 2L, return_ints = FALSE)
```

Arguments

pgen	Object returned by NewPgen().
variant_num	Variant index (1-based).
allele_num	Allele index; 1 corresponds to REF, 2 to the first ALT allele, 3 to the second ALT allele if it exists, etc. Optional, defaults to 2.
return_ints	Whether to make the "counts" component of the return value an IntegerVector instead of a NumericVector; defaults to false.

Value

An object where "sample_nums" is an increasing sequence of positive integers listing which samples have the allele, and "counts" is a vector listing the allele counts for those samples.

VariantScores	<i>Compute variant scores.</i>
---------------	--------------------------------

Description

This function treats the data as diploid; divide by 2 to obtain scores based on a haploid dosage matrix.

Usage

```
VariantScores(pgen, weights, variant_subset = NULL)
```

Arguments

- `pgen` Object returned by `NewPgen()`.
`weights` Sample weights.
`variant_subset` Integer vector containing 1-based indexes of variants to include in the dosage matrix. Optional; by default, all variants are included.

Value

Numeric vector, containing product of sample-weight vector and the specified subset of the dosage matrix.

Index

* **package**
 pgenlibr-package, 2

AlleleCodeBuf, 4

BoolBuf, 4
Buf, 5

ClosePgen, 5
ClosePvar, 6

GetAlleleCode, 6
GetAlleleCt, 7
GetMaxAlleleCt, 7
GetRawSampleCt, 8
GetVariantChrom, 8
GetVariantCt, 9
GetVariantId, 9
GetVariantPos, 10
GetVariantsById, 10

HardcallPhasePresent, 11
HasSparse, 11
HasSparseHardcalls, 12

IntAlleleCodeBuf, 12
IntBuf, 13

NewPgen, 13
NewPvar, 14

pgenlibr (pgenlibr-package), 2
pgenlibr-package, 2

Read, 14
ReadAlleles, 15
ReadHardcalls, 15
ReadIntList, 16
ReadList, 17
ReadSparse, 17
ReadSparseHardcalls, 18

VariantScores, 18