

# Package ‘gaselect’

July 22, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Genetic Algorithm (GA) for Variable Selection from  
High-Dimensional Data

**Version** 1.0.23

**Date** 2025-04-14

**Description** Provides a genetic algorithm for finding variable subsets in high dimensional data with high prediction performance. The genetic algorithm can use ordinary least squares (OLS) regression models or partial least squares (PLS) regression models to evaluate the prediction power of variable subsets. By supporting different cross-validation schemes, the user can fine-tune the tradeoff between speed and quality of the solution.

**URL** <https://github.com/dakep/gaselect>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/dakep/gaselect/issues>

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Biarch** true

**Depends** R (>= 3.0.2), methods (>= 2.10.0)

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 0.10.5)

**LinkingTo** Rcpp (>= 0.10.5), RcppArmadillo (>= 0.9.800.4)

**Collate** 'Evaluator.R' 'GenAlgControl.R' 'formatSegmentation.R'  
'evaluate.R' 'fitness.R' 'genAlg.R' 'getEvalFun.R' 'subsets.R'  
'toCCControlList.R' 'validData.R'

**Suggests** chemometrics

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**Author** David Kepplinger [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** David Kepplinger <david.kepplinger@gmail.com>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-04-14 16:20:06 UTC

## Contents

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| evaluate                  | 2         |
| evaluatorFit              | 3         |
| evaluatorLM               | 4         |
| evaluatorPLS              | 5         |
| evaluatorUserFunction     | 7         |
| fitness                   | 8         |
| fitnessEvolution          | 9         |
| formatSegmentation        | 10        |
| genAlg                    | 11        |
| GenAlg-class              | 12        |
| genAlgControl             | 13        |
| GenAlgControl-class       | 15        |
| GenAlgEvaluator-class     | 16        |
| GenAlgFitEvaluator-class  | 16        |
| GenAlgLMEvaluator-class   | 16        |
| GenAlgPLSEvaluator-class  | 17        |
| GenAlgUserEvaluator-class | 17        |
| getEvalFun                | 18        |
| subsets                   | 18        |
| toCControlList            | 19        |
| trueFitnessVal            | 20        |
| validData                 | 21        |
| <b>Index</b>              | <b>22</b> |

---

|          |                                                 |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| evaluate | <i>Evaluate the fitness of variable subsets</i> |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

Evaluate the given variable subsets with the given Evaluator

## Usage

```
evaluate(object, X, y, subsets, seed, verbosity)

## S4 method for signature
## 'GenAlgEvaluator,matrix,numeric,matrix,integer,integer'
evaluate(object, X, y, subsets, seed, verbosity)

## S4 method for signature
## 'GenAlgEvaluator,matrix,numeric,logical,integer,integer'
evaluate(object, X, y, subsets, seed, verbosity)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgEvaluator,matrix,numeric,ANY,missing,integer'
evaluate(object, X, y, subsets, seed, verbosity)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgEvaluator,matrix,numeric,ANY,integer,missing'
evaluate(object, X, y, subsets, seed, verbosity)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgEvaluator,matrix,numeric,ANY,missing,missing'
evaluate(object, X, y, subsets, seed, verbosity)
```

### Arguments

|           |                                                                     |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| object    | The GenAlgEvaluator object that is used to evaluate the variables   |
| X         | The data matrix used to for fitting the model                       |
| y         | The response vector                                                 |
| subsets   | The logical matrix where a column stands for one subset to evaluate |
| seed      | The value to seed the random number generator before evaluating     |
| verbosity | A value between 0 (no output at all) and 5 (maximum verbosity)      |

---

evaluatorFit

*Fit Evaluator*


---

### Description

Creates the object that controls the evaluation step in the genetic algorithm

### Usage

```
evaluatorFit(
  numSegments = 7L,
  statistic = c("BIC", "AIC", "adjusted.r.squared", "r.squared"),
  numThreads = NULL,
  maxNComp = NULL,
  sdfact = 1
)
```

### Arguments

|             |                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| numSegments | The number of CV segments used to estimate the optimal number of PLS components (between 2 and 2 <sup>16</sup> ).                                       |
| statistic   | The statistic used to evaluate the fitness (BIC, AIC, adjusted R <sup>2</sup> , or R <sup>2</sup> ).                                                    |
| numThreads  | The maximum number of threads the algorithm is allowed to spawn (a value less than 1 or NULL means no threads).                                         |
| maxNComp    | The maximum number of components the PLS models should consider (if not specified, the number of components is not constrained)                         |
| sdfact      | The factor to scale the stand. dev. of the MSEP values when selecting the optimal number of components. For the "one standard error rule", sdfact is 1. |

## Details

The fitness of a variable subset is assessed by how well a PLS model fits the data. To estimate the optimal number of components for the PLS model, cross-validation is used.

## Value

Returns an S4 object of type `GenAlgFitEvaluator` to be used as argument to a call of `genAlg`.

## See Also

Other GenAlg Evaluators: `evaluatorLM()`, `evaluatorPLS()`, `evaluatorUserFunction()`

## Examples

```
ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 200, numGenerations = 30, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)
evaluator <- evaluatorFit(statistic = "BIC", numThreads = 1)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

result <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluator, seed = 123)

subsets(result, 1:5)
```

---

evaluatorLM

*LM Evaluator*

---

## Description

Create an evaluator that uses a linear model to evaluate the fitness.

## Usage

```
evaluatorLM(
  statistic = c("BIC", "AIC", "adjusted.r.squared", "r.squared"),
  numThreads = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

|                         |                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>statistic</code>  | The statistic used to evaluate the fitness                                                                     |
| <code>numThreads</code> | The maximum number of threads the algorithm is allowed to spawn (a value less than 1 or NULL means no threads) |

## Details

Different statistics to evaluate the fitness of the variable subset can be given. If a maximum absolute correlation is given the algorithm will be very slow (as the C++ implementation can not be used anymore) and multithreading is not available.

## Value

Returns an S4 object of type `GenAlgLMEvaluator`

## See Also

Other GenAlg Evaluators: `evaluatorFit()`, `evaluatorPLS()`, `evaluatorUserFunction()`

## Examples

```
ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 200, numGenerations = 30, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)
evaluator <- evaluatorLM(statistic = "BIC", numThreads = 1)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

result <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluator, seed = 123)

subsets(result, 1:5)
```

---

evaluatorPLS

*PLS Evaluator*

---

## Description

Creates the object that controls the evaluation step in the genetic algorithm

## Usage

```
evaluatorPLS(
  numReplications = 30L,
  innerSegments = 7L,
  outerSegments = 1L,
  testSetSize = NULL,
  numThreads = NULL,
  maxNComp = NULL,
  method = c("simpls"),
  sdfact = 1
)
```

## Arguments

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| numReplications | The number of replications used to evaluate a variable subset (must be between 1 and $2^{16}$ )                                                                                                                                              |
| innerSegments   | The number of CV segments used in one replication (must be between 2 and $2^{16}$ )                                                                                                                                                          |
| outerSegments   | The number of outer CV segments used in one replication (between 0 and $2^{16}$ ). If this is greater than 1, repeated double cross-validation strategy (rdCV) will be used instead of simple repeated cross-validation (srCV) (see details) |
| testSetSize     | The relative size of the test set used for simple repeated CV (between 0 and 1). This parameter is ignored if outerSegments > 1 and a warning will be issued.                                                                                |
| numThreads      | The maximum number of threads the algorithm is allowed to spawn (a value less than 1 or NULL means no threads)                                                                                                                               |
| maxNComp        | The maximum number of components the PLS models should consider (if not specified, the number of components is not constrained)                                                                                                              |
| method          | The PLS method used to fit the PLS model (currently only SIMPLS is implemented)                                                                                                                                                              |
| sdfact          | The factor to scale the stand. dev. of the MSEP values when selecting the optimal number of components. For the "one standard error rule", sdfact is 1.                                                                                      |

## Details

With this method the genetic algorithm uses PLS regression models to assess the prediction power of variable subsets. By default, simple repeated cross-validation (srCV) is used. The optimal number of PLS components is estimated using cross-validation (with innerSegments segments) on a training set. The prediction power is then evaluated by fitting a PLS regression model with this optimal number of components to the training set and predicting the values of a test set (of either testSetSize size or  $1 / \text{innerSegments}$ , if testSetSize is not specified).

If the parameter outerSegments is given, repeated double cross-validation is used instead. There, the data set is first split into outerSegments segments and one segment is used as prediction set and the other segments as test set. This is repeated for each outer segment.

The whole procedure is repeated numReplications times to get a more reliable estimate of the prediction power.

## Value

Returns an S4 object of type [GenAlgPLSEvaluator](#) to be used as argument to a call of [genAlg](#).

## See Also

Other GenAlg Evaluators: [evaluatorFit\(\)](#), [evaluatorLM\(\)](#), [evaluatorUserFunction\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 100, numGenerations = 15, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)

evaluatorSRCV <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 7, testSetSize = 0.4,
  numThreads = 1)

evaluatorRDCV <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 5, outerSegments = 3,
  numThreads = 1)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

resultSRCV <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluatorSRCV, seed = 123)
resultRDCV <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluatorRDCV, seed = 123)

subsets(resultSRCV, 1:5)
subsets(resultRDCV, 1:5)
```

---

evaluatorUserFunction    *User Defined Evaluator*

---

## Description

Create an evaluator that uses a user defined function to evaluate the fitness

## Usage

```
evaluatorUserFunction(FUN, sepFUN = NULL, ...)
```

## Arguments

|        |                                                       |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| FUN    | Function used to evaluate the fitness                 |
| sepFUN | Function to calculate the SEP of the variable subsets |
| ...    | Additional arguments passed to FUN and sepFUN         |

## Details

The user specified function must take a the response vector as first and the covariates matrix as second argument. The function must return a number representing the fitness of the variable subset (the higher the value the fitter the subset) Additionally the user can specify a function that takes a [GenAlg](#) object and returns the standard error of prediction of the found variable subsets.

## Value

Returns an S4 object of type [GenAlgUserEvaluator](#)

**See Also**

Other GenAlg Evaluators: [evaluatorFit\(\)](#), [evaluatorLM\(\)](#), [evaluatorPLS\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 100, numGenerations = 10, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)

# Use the BIC of a linear model to evaluate the fitness of a variable subset
evalFUN <- function(y, X) {
  return(BIC(lm(y ~ X)));
}

# Dummy function that returns the residuals standard deviation and not the SEP
sepFUN <- function(genAlg) {
  return(apply(genAlg@subsets, 2, function(subset) {
    m <- lm(genAlg@response ~ genAlg@covariates[, subset]);
    return(sd(m$residuals));
  }));
}

evaluator <- evaluatorUserFunction(FUN = evalFUN, sepFUN = sepFUN)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

result <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluator, seed = 123)

subsets(result, 1:5)
```

---

fitness

*Get the fitness of a variable subset*

---

**Description**

Get the internal fitness for all variable subsets

**Usage**

```
fitness(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            The [GenAlg](#) object returned by [genAlg](#)

**Details**

This method is used to get the fitness of all variable subsets found by the genetic algorithm.



**Value**

A vector with the estimated fitness for each solution

**Examples**

```
ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 100, numGenerations = 15, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)

evaluator <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 7, testSetSize = 0.4,
  numThreads = 1)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

result <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluator, seed = 123)

fitness(result) # Get fitness of the found subsets

h <- fitnessEvolution(result) # Get average fitness as well as the fitness of the
  # best chromosome for each generation (at raw scale!)

plot(h[, "mean"], type = "l", col = 1, ylim = c(-7, -1))
lines(h[, "mean"] - h[, "std.dev"], type = "l", col = "gray30", lty = 2)
lines(h[, "mean"] + h[, "std.dev"], type = "l", col = "gray30", lty = 2)
lines(h[, "best"], type = "l", col = 2)
```

---

|                  |                                         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| fitnessEvolution | <i>Get the evolution of the fitness</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Get the fitness of the best / average chromosomes after each generation

**Usage**

```
fitnessEvolution(
  object,
  what = c("mean", "best", "std.dev"),
  type = c("true", "raw")
)
```

**Arguments**

object            The [GenAlg](#) object returned by [genAlg](#)

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| what | can be one ore more of "best" (to return the fitness of the best chromosome for each generation), "mean" (to return the arithmetic mean fitness during each generation), and "std.dev" (for the standard deviation of the fitness values in each generation).                                 |
| type | one of "true" or "raw". <i>raw</i> means the raw fitness value used within the GA, while <i>true</i> tries to convert it to the standard error of prediction (like <a href="#">fitness</a> ). If the standard deviation (what = "std.dev") is requested, the type will always be <i>raw</i> . |

### Details

Returns the progress of the fitness of the best or average chromosome.

### Value

A vector with the best or average fitness value after each generation

### Examples

```
ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 100, numGenerations = 15, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)

evaluator <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 7, testSetSize = 0.4,
  numThreads = 1)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

result <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluator, seed = 123)

fitness(result) # Get fitness of the found subsets

h <- fitnessEvolution(result) # Get average fitness as well as the fitness of the
  # best chromosome for each generation (at raw scale!)

plot(h[, "mean"], type = "l", col = 1, ylim = c(-7, -1))
lines(h[, "mean"] - h[, "std.dev"], type = "l", col = "gray30", lty = 2)
lines(h[, "mean"] + h[, "std.dev"], type = "l", col = "gray30", lty = 2)
lines(h[, "best"], type = "l", col = 2)
```

---

|                    |                                                                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| formatSegmentation | <i>Format the raw segmentation list returned from the C++ code into a usable list</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Format the raw segmentation list returned from the C++ code into a usable list

**Usage**

```

formatSegmentation(object, segments)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgPLSEvaluator,list'
formatSegmentation(object, segments)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgUserEvaluator,list'
formatSegmentation(object, segments)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgLMEvaluator,list'
formatSegmentation(object, segments)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgFitEvaluator,list'
formatSegmentation(object, segments)

```

**Arguments**

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| object   | The Evaluator object.      |
| segments | The raw segmentation list. |

**Value**

A list of the form replication -> outerSegment -> (calibration, validation, inner -> (test, train))

---

|        |                                                        |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| genAlg | <i>Genetic algorithm for variable subset selection</i> |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

A genetic algorithm to find "good" variable subsets based on internal PLS evaluation or a user specified evaluation function

**Usage**

```
genAlg(y, X, control, evaluator = evaluatorPLS(), seed)
```

**Arguments**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| y         | The numeric response vector of length n                                                                                                                                               |
| X         | A n x p numeric matrix with all p covariates                                                                                                                                          |
| control   | Options for controlling the genetic algorithm. See <a href="#">genAlgControl</a> for details.                                                                                         |
| evaluator | The evaluator used to evaluate the fitness of a variable subset. See <a href="#">evaluatorPLS</a> , <a href="#">evaluatorLM</a> or <a href="#">evaluatorUserFunction</a> for details. |
| seed      | Integer with the seed for the random number generator or NULL to automatically seed the RNG                                                                                           |

## Details

The GA generates an initial "population" of `populationSize` chromosomes where each initial chromosome has a random number of randomly selected variables. The fitness of every chromosome is evaluated by the specified evaluator. The default built-in PLS evaluator (see [evaluatorPLS](#)) is the preferred evaluator. Chromosomes with higher fitness have higher probability of mating with another chromosome. `populationSize / 2` couples each create 2 children. The children are created by randomly mixing the parents' variables. These children make up the new generation and are again selected for mating based on their fitness. A total of `numGenerations` generations are built this way. The algorithm returns the last generation as well as the best elitism chromosomes from all generations.

## Value

An object of type [GenAlg](#)

## Examples

```
ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 100, numGenerations = 15, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)

evaluatorSRCV <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 7, testSetSize = 0.4,
  numThreads = 1)

evaluatorRDCV <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 5, outerSegments = 3,
  numThreads = 1)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

resultSRCV <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluatorSRCV, seed = 123)
resultRDCV <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluatorRDCV, seed = 123)

subsets(resultSRCV, 1:5)
subsets(resultRDCV, 1:5)
```

---

GenAlg-class

*Result of a genetic algorithm run*

---

## Description

Return object of a run of the genetic algorithm `genAlg`

## Slots

`subsets` Logical matrix with one variable subset per column. The columns are ordered according to their fitness (first column contains the fittest variable-subset).

`rawFitness` Numeric vector with the raw fitness of the corresponding variable subset returned by the evaluator.  
`response` The original response vector.  
`covariates` The original covariates matrix.  
`evaluator` The evaluator used in the genetic algorithm.  
`control` The control object.  
`segmentation` The segments used by the evaluator. Empty list if the evaluator doesn't use segmentation.  
`seed` The seed the algorithm is started with.

---

|                            |                                                        |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>genAlgControl</code> | <i>Set control arguments for the genetic algorithm</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

The population must be large enough to allow the algorithm to explore the whole solution space. If the initial population is not diverse enough, the chance to find the global optimum is very small. Thus the more variables to choose from, the larger the population has to be.

## Usage

```

genAlgControl(
  populationSize,
  numGenerations,
  minVariables,
  maxVariables,
  elitism = 10L,
  mutationProbability = 0.01,
  crossover = c("single", "random"),
  maxDuplicateEliminationTries = 0L,
  verbosity = 0L,
  badSolutionThreshold = 2,
  fitnessScaling = c("none", "exp")
)
  
```

## Arguments

`populationSize` The number of "chromosomes" in the population (between 1 and  $2^{16}$ )  
`numGenerations` The number of generations to produce (between 1 and  $2^{16}$ )  
`minVariables` The minimum number of variables in the variable subset (between 0 and  $p - 1$  where  $p$  is the total number of variables)  
`maxVariables` The maximum number of variables in the variable subset (between 1 and  $p$ , and greater than `minVariables`)

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| elitism                      | The number of absolute best chromosomes to keep across all generations (between 1 and $\min(\text{populationSize} * \text{numGenerations}, 2^{16})$ )                                                                                                                                       |
| mutationProbability          | The probability of mutation (between 0 and 1)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| crossover                    | The crossover type to use during mating (see details). Partial matching is performed                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| maxDuplicateEliminationTries | The maximum number of tries to eliminate duplicates (a value of 0 or NULL means that no checks for duplicates are done).                                                                                                                                                                    |
| verbosity                    | The level of verbosity. 0 means no output at all, 2 is very verbose.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| badSolutionThreshold         | The worst child must not be more than badSolutionThreshold times worse than the worse parent. If less than 0, the child must be even better than the worst parent. If the algorithm can't find a better child in a long time it issues a warning and uses the last found child to continue. |
| fitnessScaling               | How the fitness values are internally scaled before the selection probabilities are assigned to the chromosomes. See the details for possible values and their meaning.                                                                                                                     |

## Details

The initial population is generated randomly. Every chromosome uses between minVariables and maxVariables (uniformly distributed).

If the mutation probability (mutationProbability) is greater than 0, a random number of variables is added/removed according to a truncated geometric distribution to each offspring-chromosome. The resulting distribution of the total number of variables in the subset is not uniform anymore, but almost (the smaller the mutation probability, the more "uniform" the distribution). This should not be a problem for most applications.

The user can choose between single and random crossover for the mating process. If single crossover is used, a single position is randomly chosen that marks the position to split both parent chromosomes. The child chromosomes are then the concatenated chromosomes from the 1st part of the 1st parent and the 2nd part of the 2nd parent resp. the 2nd part of the 1st parent and the 1st part of the 2nd parent. Random crossover is that a random number of random positions are drawn and these positions are transferred from one parent to the other in order to generate the children.

Elitism is a method of enhancing the GA by keeping track of very good solutions. The parameter elitism specifies how many "very good" solutions should be kept.

Before the selection probabilities are determined, the fitness values  $f$  of the chromosomes are standardized to the z-scores ( $z = (f - \mu) / \sigma$ ). Scaling the fitness values afterwards with the exponential function can help the algorithm to faster find good solutions. When setting fitnessScaling to "exp", the (standardized) fitness  $z$  will be scaled by  $\exp(z)$ . This promotes good solutions to get an even higher selection probability, while bad solutions will get an even lower selection probability.

## Value

An object of type [GenAlgControl](#)

**Examples**

```

ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 100, numGenerations = 15, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)

evaluatorSRCV <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 7, testSetSize = 0.4,
  numThreads = 1)

evaluatorRDCV <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 5, outerSegments = 3,
  numThreads = 1)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

resultSRCV <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluatorSRCV, seed = 123)
resultRDCV <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluatorRDCV, seed = 123)

subsets(resultSRCV, 1:5)
subsets(resultRDCV, 1:5)

```

---

GenAlgControl-class      *Control class for the genetic algorithm*

---

**Description**

This class controls the general setup of the genetic algorithm

**Slots**

**populationSize** The number of "chromosomes" in the population (between 1 and  $2^{16}$ ).

**numGenerations** The number of generations to produce (between 1 and  $2^{16}$ ).

**minVariables** The minimum number of variables in the variable subset (between 0 and  $p - 1$  where  $p$  is the total number of variables).

**maxVariables** The maximum number of variables in the variable subset (between 1 and  $p$ , and greater than **minVariables**).

**elitism** The number of absolute best chromosomes to keep across all generations (between 1 and  $\min(\text{populationSize} * \text{numGenerations}, 2^{16})$ ).

**mutationProbability** The probability of mutation (between 0 and 1).

**badSolutionThreshold** The child must not be more than **badSolutionThreshold** percent worse than the worse parent. If less than 0, the child must be even better than the worst parent.

**crossover** The crossover method to use

**crossoverId** The numeric ID of the crossover method to use

**maxDuplicateEliminationTries** The maximum number of tries to eliminate duplicates

**verbosity** The level of verbosity. 0 means no output at all, 2 is very verbose.

---

GenAlgEvaluator-class *Evaluator Base Class*

---

### Description

Virtual base class of all available evaluators

---

GenAlgFitEvaluator-class  
*Fit Evaluator*

---

### Description

Fit Evaluator

### Slots

numSegments The number of CV segments used in one replication.

numThreads The maximum number of threads the algorithm is allowed to spawn (a value less than 1 or NULL means no threads).

maxNComp The maximum number of components to consider in the PLS model.

sdfact The factor to scale the stand. dev. of the MSEP values when selecting the optimal number of components. For the "one standard error rule", sdfact is 1.

statistic The statistic used to evaluate the fitness.

statisticId The (internal) numeric ID of the statistic.

---

GenAlgLMEvaluator-class  
*LM Evaluator*

---

### Description

LM Evaluator

### Slots

statistic The statistic used to evaluate the fitness.

statisticId The (internal) numeric ID of the statistic.

numThreads The maximum number of threads the algorithm is allowed to spawn (a value less than 1 or NULL means no threads).



---

`GenAlgPLSEvaluator-class`*PLS Evaluator*

---

**Description**

PLS Evaluator

**Slots**

`numReplications` The number of replications used to evaluate a variable subset.

`innerSegments` The number of inner RDCV segments used in one replication.

`outerSegments` The number of outer RDCV segments used in one replication.

`testSetSize` The relative size of the test set (between 0 and 1).

`sdfact` The factor to scale the stand. dev. of the MSEP values when selecting the optimal number of components. For the "one standard error rule", `sdfact` is 1.

`numThreads` The maximum number of threads the algorithm is allowed to spawn (a value less than 1 or NULL means no threads).

`maxNComp` The maximum number of components to consider in the PLS model.

`method` The PLS method used to fit the PLS model (currently only SIMPLS is implemented).

`methodId` The ID of the PLS method used to fit the PLS model (see C++ code for allowed values).

---

`GenAlgUserEvaluator-class`*User Function Evaluator*

---

**Description**

User Function Evaluator

**Slots**

`evalFunction` The function that is called to evaluate the variable subset.

`sepFunction` The function that calculates the standard error of prediction for the found subsets.

---

|            |                                                               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| getEvalFun | <i>Get the evaluation function from a GenAlgUserEvaluator</i> |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

This method returns the correct evaluation function from a GenAlgUserEvaluator that can be used by the C++-code as callback or NULL for any other evaluator

### Usage

```
getEvalFun(object, genAlg)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgUserEvaluator,GenAlg'
getEvalFun(object, genAlg)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgUserEvaluator,matrix'
getEvalFun(object, genAlg)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgEvaluator,GenAlg'
getEvalFun(object, genAlg)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgEvaluator,matrix'
getEvalFun(object, genAlg)
```

### Arguments

|        |                                                                    |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| object | The evaluator (an object of type <a href="#">GenAlgEvaluator</a> ) |
| genAlg | The <a href="#">GenAlg</a> object                                  |

---

|         |                                         |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| subsets | <i>Get the found variable subset(s)</i> |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Get a list of variable indices/names of the found variable subsets.

### Usage

```
subsets(object, indices, names = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

|         |                                                                        |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| object  | The GenAlg object returned by <a href="#">genAlg</a> .                 |
| indices | The indices of the subsets or empty if all subsets should be returned. |
| names   | Should the names or the column numbers of the variables be returned.   |

**Details**

This method is used to get the names or indices of the variables used in specified variable subsets.

**Value**

A logical matrix where each column represents a variable subset

**Examples**

```
ctrl <- genAlgControl(populationSize = 200, numGenerations = 15, minVariables = 5,
  maxVariables = 12, verbosity = 1)

evaluator <- evaluatorPLS(numReplications = 2, innerSegments = 7, testSetSize = 0.4,
  numThreads = 1)

# Generate demo-data
set.seed(12345)
X <- matrix(rnorm(10000, sd = 1:5), ncol = 50, byrow = TRUE)
y <- drop(-1.2 + rowSums(X[, seq(1, 43, length = 8)]) + rnorm(nrow(X), 1.5));

result <- genAlg(y, X, control = ctrl, evaluator = evaluator, seed = 123)

subsets(result, names = TRUE, indices = 1:5) # best 5 variable subsets as a list of names
result@subsets[, 1:5] # best 5 variable subsets as a logical matrix with the subsets in the columns
```

---

toCControlList

*Transform the object to a list*


---

**Description**

Get the control list for the C++ procedure genAlgPLS from the object

**Usage**

```
toCControlList(object)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgPLSEvaluator'
toCControlList(object)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgFitEvaluator'
toCControlList(object)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgUserEvaluator'
toCControlList(object)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgLMEvaluator'
toCControlList(object)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgControl'
toCControlList(object)
```

### Arguments

object            The object

### Value

A list with all items expected by the C++ code

---

|                |                                           |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| trueFitnessVal | <i>Get the transformed fitness values</i> |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Transform the given fitness values according to the GenAlgEvaluator class

### Usage

```
trueFitnessVal(object, fitness)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgPLSEvaluator,numeric'
trueFitnessVal(object, fitness)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgUserEvaluator,numeric'
trueFitnessVal(object, fitness)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgLMEvaluator,numeric'
trueFitnessVal(object, fitness)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgFitEvaluator,numeric'
trueFitnessVal(object, fitness)
```

### Arguments

object            The used evaluator, an object with type or with a subtype of [GenAlgEvaluator](#)  
 fitness           A numeric vector of fitnesses

### Details

This method is used to calculate the true fitness given the GenAlgEvaluator class (as they use different internal fitness measures)

### Value

A vector with the true fitness values

---

|           |                                                     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| validData | <i>Check if the data is valid for the evaluator</i> |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This method checks if the covariates matrix is valid for the evaluator

**Usage**

```
validData(object, genAlg)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgPLSEvaluator,GenAlg'
validData(object, genAlg)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgFitEvaluator,GenAlg'
validData(object, genAlg)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgLMEvaluator,GenAlg'
validData(object, genAlg)

## S4 method for signature 'GenAlgEvaluator,GenAlg'
validData(object, genAlg)
```

**Arguments**

|        |                                            |
|--------|--------------------------------------------|
| object | The evaluator                              |
| genAlg | The GenAlg object the evaluator is used in |

# Index

- \* **GenAlg Evaluators**
  - evaluatorFit, [3](#)
  - evaluatorLM, [4](#)
  - evaluatorPLS, [5](#)
  - evaluatorUserFunction, [7](#)
- evaluate, [2](#)
- evaluate, GenAlgEvaluator, matrix, numeric, ANY, integer, missing-method
  - (evaluate), [2](#)
- evaluate, GenAlgEvaluator, matrix, numeric, ANY, missing, integer-method
  - (evaluate), [2](#)
- evaluate, GenAlgEvaluator, matrix, numeric, ANY, missing, missing-method
  - (evaluate), [2](#)
- evaluate, GenAlgEvaluator, matrix, numeric, logical, integer, integer-method
  - (evaluate), [2](#)
- evaluate, GenAlgEvaluator, matrix, numeric, matrix, integer, integer-method
  - (evaluate), [2](#)
- evaluatorFit, [3](#), [5](#), [6](#), [8](#)
- evaluatorLM, [4](#), [4](#), [6](#), [8](#), [11](#)
- evaluatorPLS, [4](#), [5](#), [5](#), [8](#), [11](#), [12](#)
- evaluatorUserFunction, [4–6](#), [7](#), [11](#)
- fitness, [8](#), [10](#)
- fitnessEvolution, [9](#)
- formatSegmentation, [10](#)
- formatSegmentation, GenAlgFitEvaluator, list-method
  - (formatSegmentation), [10](#)
- formatSegmentation, GenAlgLMEvaluator, list-method
  - (formatSegmentation), [10](#)
- formatSegmentation, GenAlgPLSEvaluator, list-method
  - (formatSegmentation), [10](#)
- formatSegmentation, GenAlgUserEvaluator, list-method
  - (formatSegmentation), [10](#)
- GenAlg, [7–9](#), [12](#), [18](#)
- GenAlg (GenAlg-class), [12](#)
- genAlg, [4](#), [6](#), [8](#), [9](#), [11](#), [18](#)
- GenAlg-class, [12](#)
- GenAlgControl, [14](#)
- GenAlgControl (GenAlgControl-class), [15](#)
- genAlgControl, [11](#), [13](#)
- GenAlgControl-class, [15](#)
- GenAlgEvaluator, [18](#), [20](#)
- GenAlgEvaluator
  - (GenAlgEvaluator-class), [16](#)
- GenAlgEvaluator-class, [16](#)
- GenAlgFitEvaluator, [4](#)
- GenAlgFitEvaluator
  - (GenAlgFitEvaluator-class), [16](#)
- GenAlgFitEvaluator-class, [16](#)
- GenAlgLMEvaluator, [5](#)
- GenAlgLMEvaluator
  - (GenAlgLMEvaluator-class), [16](#)
- GenAlgLMEvaluator-class, [16](#)
- GenAlgPLSEvaluator, [6](#)
- GenAlgPLSEvaluator
  - (GenAlgPLSEvaluator-class), [17](#)
- GenAlgPLSEvaluator-class, [17](#)
- GenAlgUserEvaluator, [7](#)
- GenAlgUserEvaluator
  - (GenAlgUserEvaluator-class), [17](#)
- GenAlgUserEvaluator-class, [17](#)
- getEvalFun, [18](#)
- getEvalFun, GenAlgEvaluator, GenAlg-method
  - (getEvalFun), [18](#)
- getEvalFun, GenAlgEvaluator, matrix-method
  - (getEvalFun), [18](#)
- getEvalFun, GenAlgUserEvaluator, GenAlg-method
  - (getEvalFun), [18](#)
- getEvalFun, GenAlgUserEvaluator, matrix-method
  - (getEvalFun), [18](#)
- subsets, [18](#)
- toCControlList, [19](#)
- toCControlList, GenAlgControl-method
  - (toCControlList), [19](#)
- toCControlList, GenAlgFitEvaluator-method
  - (toCControlList), [19](#)

toCControlList, GenAlgLMEvaluator-method  
    (toCControlList), [19](#)  
toCControlList, GenAlgPLSEvaluator-method  
    (toCControlList), [19](#)  
toCControlList, GenAlgUserEvaluator-method  
    (toCControlList), [19](#)  
trueFitnessVal, [20](#)  
trueFitnessVal, GenAlgFitEvaluator, numeric-method  
    (trueFitnessVal), [20](#)  
trueFitnessVal, GenAlgLMEvaluator, numeric-method  
    (trueFitnessVal), [20](#)  
trueFitnessVal, GenAlgPLSEvaluator, numeric-method  
    (trueFitnessVal), [20](#)  
trueFitnessVal, GenAlgUserEvaluator, numeric-method  
    (trueFitnessVal), [20](#)  
  
validData, [21](#)  
validData, GenAlgEvaluator, GenAlg-method  
    (validData), [21](#)  
validData, GenAlgFitEvaluator, GenAlg-method  
    (validData), [21](#)  
validData, GenAlgLMEvaluator, GenAlg-method  
    (validData), [21](#)  
validData, GenAlgPLSEvaluator, GenAlg-method  
    (validData), [21](#)