

# Package ‘aylmer’

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**Type** Package

**Title** A generalization of Fisher’s exact test

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**Depends** methods, Brodningnag, partitions

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**Description** A generalization of Fisher’s exact test that allows for structural zeros.

**License** GPL-2

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aylmer-package      *A Generalization of Fisher's exact test*

---

## Description

A Generalization of Fisher's exact test

## Details

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Version: 1.0  
Date: 2007-10-11  
License: GPL-2

## Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin (R) and Luke G. West (C++)

Maintainer: <r.hankin@noc.soton.ac.uk>

## References

- Ronald Aylmer Fisher 1955. *Statistical methods for research workers*, Oliver and Boyd
- G. H. Freeman and J. H. Halton 1951. *Note on an Exact Treatment of Contingency, Goodness of Fit and Other Problems of Significance*. *Biometrika*, 38(1-2):141-149
- A. W. Ghent 1972. *A Method for Exact Testing of  $2 \times 2$ ,  $2 \times 3$ ,  $3 \times 3$ , and Other Contingency Tables, Employing Binomial Coefficients*. *American Midland Naturalist*, 88(1):15-27
- R. K. S. Hankin 2007. *Very Large Numbers in R: Introducing Package Brobdignag*. *R News* 3(3):15-16

## Examples

```
data(chess)
aylmer.test(chess)
```

allboards

*Various board functionality***Description**

A *board* is a matrix with non-negative integer elements. It represents a contingency table; NA entries specify structural zeros. Function `allboards()` takes a matrix `x`, coerces it to a board, then enumerates all boards with identical marginal totals, and zeros at the same locations as the structural zeros of `x`.

**Usage**

```
no.of.boards(x, n = 1e5)
allboards(x, n = 1e5, func=NULL)
allprobs(x, n = 1e5, normalize=TRUE, give.log=FALSE, use.C=TRUE)
is.1dof(x)
maxlike(x)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	Matrix, coerced to integer. Usually with one or more NA entries
<code>n</code>	Integer specifying how many boards to return. See details section
<code>use.C</code>	In function <code>allprobs()</code> , Boolean with default <code>TRUE</code> meaning to use the C routine, and <code>FALSE</code> meaning to use an R routine
<code>func</code>	In function <code>allboards()</code> , argument to specify the function returned; default <code>NULL</code> means to return the whole board
<code>normalize</code>	In function <code>allprobs()</code> , Boolean with default <code>TRUE</code> meaning to normalize the returned values so they sum to one (and thus correspond to probabilities <i>conditional</i> on the marginal totals and structural zeros)
<code>give.log</code>	Boolean specifying whether to return the log of the probabilities

**Details**

Function `no.of.boards(x)` returns the number of boards with non-negative entries that have the same marginal totals as `x` and structural zeros where `x` has NA entries (that is, *permissible boards*). Function `allboards()` enumerates such boards.

Function `prob(x)` returns a number proportional to the probability of observing `x`, given the structural zeros and marginal total.

Function `is.1dof(x)` returns `TRUE` if and only if `x` is of the same form as `gear`, and thus has only one degree of freedom. Note that there exist other configurations which have only one degree of freedom (such as any permutation of the rows and columns of `gear`).

Function `maxlike(x)` returns the entry of `allboards()` that has the highest probability of occurring. Compare `best()`.

In functions `no.of.boards()` and `allboards()`, argument `n` is the maximum number of boards (or maximum count) returned, except for special value 0, which means to return (or count) all possible boards.

(Actually, if there are more than `n` permissible boards, the first `n+1` boards are returned by `allboards()`, and `n+1` is returned by `no.of.boards()`. This is because the C code checks for the last board having a successor).

**Warning** Many frequently-encountered boards have a very large number of possible configurations, and if called with `n=0`, these functions will iterate for a **very** long time before stopping.

### Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin (R); Luke G. West (C++)

### See Also

[marginals](#), [aylmer.test](#), [best](#)

### Examples

```
data(chess)
allboards(chess)
maxlike(chess)

data(frogs)

x <- matrix(c(28, 2, 9, 7, 3, 1, 14, 34, 9, 8, 6, 2), ncol=2)
## Not run: no.of.boards(x) # Should be 339314 according to Gail and Mantel

data(iqd)
f <- function(x){x[1,1]}
table(allboards(iqd, 1000, f))
```

---

as.pairwise

*Convert a results matrix to a board*

---

### Description

Given a square matrix giving the results of pairwise comparisons, return a board object whose rows show the results of the comparisons.

### Usage

```
as.pairwise(x)
```

### Arguments

`x` A square matrix

**Details**

With  $x$  an  $n$ -by- $n$  square matrix, the rows and columns each correspond to one of  $n$  “competitors”. The  $(i, j)$ -th entry the number of times competitor  $i$  beats competitor  $j$  (the leading diagonal holds NAs because a competitor can’t play himself).

Function `as.pairwise()` turns this into a  $n(n-1)/2$ -by- $n$  matrix whose rows each correspond to a pairwise comparison. Any row has exactly two non-NA entries, in columns  $i$  and  $j$ , that correspond to elements  $(i, j)$  and  $(j, i)$  of  $x$ . Thus the entry in column  $i$  is the number of times competitor  $i$  beats competitor  $j$ ; and the entry in column  $j$  is the number of times competitor  $j$  beats competitor  $i$ .

**Author(s)**

Robin K. S. Hankin

**See Also**

[aylmer.test](#)

**Examples**

```
a <- matrix(rpois(25,4),5,5)
rownames(a) <- letters[1:5]
colnames(a) <- letters[1:5]
as.pairwise(a)
```

---

aylmer.test

*A Generalization of Fisher’s exact test*

---

**Description**

A generalization of Fisher’s exact test; much of the documentation and R code is inspired by `fisher.test()`

**Usage**

```
aylmer.test(x, alternative = "two.sided", simulate.p.value = FALSE,
n = 1e5, B = 2000, burnin = 100, use.brob = FALSE)
aylmer.function(x, func, simulate.p.value = FALSE, n = 1e5, B = 2000,
burnin=100, use.brob=FALSE, DNAME=NULL)
prob(x, give.log=TRUE, use.brob = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

$x$  A matrix, possibly with some NA entries, coerced to integer (an object of class `board`)

alternative	Indicates the alternative hypothesis. If not a function, it must be one of “two.sided”, “greater” or “less”. You may specify just the initial letter. Only used in cases with one degree of freedom. If a function, then control is passed to <code>aylmer.function()</code> , for which <code>aylmer.test()</code> is a wrapper
simulate.p.value	Boolean, with default <code>FALSE</code> meaning to return the results of an exact (combinatorial) test, and <code>TRUE</code> meaning to compute p-values by Monte Carlo simulation
n	Integer specifying the maximum number of boards to list if <code>simulate.p.value</code> is <code>FALSE</code> ; passed to <code>allprobs()</code> and thence <code>no.of.boards()</code> . This argument has a finite default value to prevent infinite looping
B	Integer specifying the number of replicates used in the Monte Carlo version of the test
burnin	Integer specifying the length of burn in. See details section
use.brob	Boolean, with default <code>FALSE</code> meaning to use IEEE arithmetic and <code>TRUE</code> meaning to use Brobdingnagian arithmetic
give.log	In function <code>prob()</code> , Boolean with default <code>TRUE</code> meaning to return the logarithm of the answer and <code>FALSE</code> meaning to return the value
func	In function <code>aylmer.function()</code> , the test function used. The p-value returned is the probability that a random permissible board has a test function less than that of argument <code>x</code>
DNAME	In function <code>aylmer.function()</code> , the name of the dataset to be specified; default value of <code>NULL</code> means to use standard construction

### Details

If `simulate.p.value` is `TRUE`, a vector of random probabilities is used instead of the full enumeration. A total of `B+burnin` boards are generated of which the first `burnin` are discarded.

### Value

An object of class “htest”

### Note

Function `prob()` gives a number that is proportional to the probability of observing a board.

The probability of observing a board  $B$  with no NAs, conditional on its being permissible is, obvious notation,

$$p(B) = \sum_{\text{permissible boards}} \frac{\prod_{i=1}^r n_{i.}! \cdot \prod_{j=1}^c n_{.j}! / N!}{\prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^c (n_{ij})!}$$

The numerator is the same for any permissible board so is not calculated.

If `simulate.p.value` is `TRUE`, the default value for `B` of 2000 is likely to be low, especially for large tables, or tables with large entries. Bear in mind that the Markov chain has high sequential correlation.

If `simulate.p.value` is `FALSE`, enumerative techniques are used. In this case, the default value for `n` ( $10^5$ ) is also likely to be low: a p-value of 1 is returned because the first few boards all have a probability much much smaller than that of the data.

### Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin (R); Luke J. West (C++); an anonymous JSS referee who suggested the approach used in `aylmer.function()`

### References

- Ronald Aylmer Fisher 1955. *Statistical methods for research workers*, Oliver and Boyd
- G. H. Freeman and J. H. Halton 1951. *Note on an Exact Treatment of Contingency, Goodness of Fit and Other Problems of Significance*. *Biometrika*, 38(1-2):141-149
- A. W. Ghent 1972. *A Method for Exact Testing of 2x2, 2x3, 3x3, and Other Contingency Tables, Employing Binomial Coefficients*. *American Midland Naturalist*, 88(1):15-27
- R. K. S. Hankin 2007. *Very Large Numbers in R: Introducing Package Brobdingnag*, *R news* 3(3):15-16
- M. J. Silvapulle and P. K. Sen 2005. *Constrained statistical inference*. Wiley (page 326 for a special case of the tests performed by `aylmer.function()`)

### See Also

[fisher.test](#), [randomprobs](#)

### Examples

```
data(iqd)

aylmer.test(iqd)

## Not run: aylmer.test(iqd, simulate.p.value=TRUE)

data(frogs)
prob(frogs)
prob(frogs, use.brob=TRUE)
```

---

 best

---

*Optimize a board using simulated annealing*


---

### Description

Uses simulated annealing to find the ‘best’ permissible board, using any objective function

### Usage

```
best(x, func = NULL, n = 100, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	A board
func	The objective function, with default NULL meaning to use <code>-prob(x)</code>
n	Maximum number of attempts (passed to <code>candidate()</code> )
...	Further arguments passed to <code>optim()</code>

### Details

The help page for `optim()` gives an example of simulated annealing being used to solve the travelling salesman problem and `best()` uses the same technique in which the `gr` argument specifies a function used to generate a new candidate point (`candidate()`).

### Note

Function `randomprobs()` also takes a `func` argument and can be used to find an optimal board, by generating random permissible boards and finding the best one. But these two functions are very different: `best()` uses `optim()` which incorporates highly specific optimization algorithms to find a global maximum, while `randomprobs()` creates a Markov chain and reports the board with the most desirable objective function.

### Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

### See Also

[optim,prob](#)

### Examples

```
a <- matrix(0,5,5)
diag(a) <- NA
a[cbind(1:5 , c(2:5,1))] <- 4
## Not run:
best(a,control=list(maxit=10)) ## Answer should be all ones except the diagonal
## End(Not run)
```

```
# Now a non-default function; SANN should be able to get func(x) down to
# zero pretty quickly:
## Not run:
  best(a,func=function(x){x[1,2]},control=list(maxit=100))
## End(Not run)
# The 'dontrun' is needed because sometimes the method needs a bigger n
```

---

chess

*Chess playing dataset*

---

## Description

A tally of wins and losses for games between three chess players: Topalov, Anand, Karpov

## Usage

```
data(chess)
```

## Details

The players are:

- Grandmaster Veselin Topalov. FIDE world champion 2005-2006; peak rating 2813
- Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand. FIDE world champion 2000-2002, 2008; peak rating 2799
- Grandmaster Anatoly Karpov. FIDE world champion 1993-1999; peak rating 2780

Observe that Topalov beats Anand, Anand beats Karpov, and Karpov beats Topalov (here, “beats” means “wins more games than”).

The games thus resemble a noisy version of “rock paper scissors”.

## References

- <http://www.chessbase.com/>

## See Also

[rps](#)

## Examples

```
data(chess)
allboards(chess)
```

---

`frogs`*Mating preference of frogs*

---

## Description

A matrix with 9 columns representing different mating calls, and 36 rows, representing the results of repeated pairwise preference tests.

## Usage

```
data(frogs)
```

## Details

Dataset `frogs.matrix` is a 9-by-9 matrix with rows and columns corresponding to 9 stimuli presented to a female frog. Entry  $(i, j)$  corresponds to the number of times the frog preferred stimulus  $i$ .

Dataset `frogs` is a 36-by-9 matrix with each row corresponding to a pair of distinct stimuli [ $36 = 9 * (9 - 1) / 2$ ]; if a row has non-NA columns  $i$  and  $j$ , the its entries show the number of times the frog preferred stimulus  $i$  or stimulus  $j$ .

The first form may be converted to the second using function `as.pairwise()`. Note that the square matrix may have NA entries off the main diagonal (some pairs did not meet).

See `purum.Rd` for another type of mating preference dataset.

## Source

- Kirkpatrick M, Rand AS, Ryan MJ (2006). “Mate Choice Rules in Animals”, *Animal Behaviour*, **71**, 1215–1225
- Ryan MJ, Rand AS (2003). “Sexual Selection in Female Perceptual Space: How Female Tungara Frogs Perceive and Respond to Complex Population Variation in Acoustic Mating Signals” *Evolution*, **57**(11), 2608–2618

## See Also

[purum](#)

## Examples

```
data(frogs)
frogs.matrix
```

---

gear

*Dataset of subjective judgement of gear teeth*

---

### Description

A gear (cog wheel) with seven teeth is taken out of service and teeth examined for wear. Only adjacent pairs of teeth may be compared, but any given pair may be compared by a number of people, each of whom indicates which tooth they believe to be more worn.

The dataset is of the form of a seven-by-seven matrix, one column for each tooth. Each row consists of precisely two non-NA entries, say in columns A and B. The entries indicate the number of times an observer “prefers” (that is, judges to be more worn) tooth A and tooth B.

The board has a single degree of freedom.

### Usage

```
data(gear)
```

### Details

The null hypothesis is that there exist  $p_1, \dots, p_7$  with  $\sum p_i = 1$  such that the probability of preferring tooth  $i$  to tooth  $j$  is  $p_i/(p_i + p_j)$ . Alternative hypotheses might be that the comparison has some sort of handedness in the sense that the clockwise tooth might be preferred more frequently than might be expected by chance.

### Source

Data kindly supplied by A. G. S. Hankin

### Examples

```
data(gear)
is.l dof(gear)
aylmer.test(gear)
aylmer.test(gear, alternative="less")
```

---

glass

*British social mobility data*

---

### Description

Classification of son-father status

### Usage

```
data(glass)
```

## Details

Data collected by Glass: social status of son cross-classified with status of father.

Dataset `glass.al` includes all the original data; dataset `glass` has the diagonal set to `NA`, thus restricting the sample to those pairs where the father's status is different from that of the son's.

This dataset has ordered factors: social status is ordered from 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest).

An example of a test only possible where the factors are ordered is given below. The alternative is a function, `f()`, that sums the counts in the lower triangular region of the matrix: the son has higher status than the father. If `f(glass)` is large, then this suggests that upward social mobility occurs more often than downward mobility.

Note that, because the test is conditioned on the marginal totals, a significant result would imply that downward mobility, when it occurs, involves a more extreme fall than the (more common) upwardly mobile case.

## Source

- Bishop WMV, Fienberg SE, and Holland PW 1975. *Discrete multivariate analysis*. MIT Press

## Examples

```
f <- function(x){sum(x[lower.tri(x)])}

# First a toy example:
a <- matrix(0,5,5)
diag(a) <- NA
a[cbind(c(2:5,1),1:5)] <- 3

# Thus 'a' has 12 social climbers and 3 fallers.  Chance?

aylmer.test(a , alternative=f)

# No!

# Now the real dataset:
data(glass)
aylmer.test(glass , alternative=f, simulate.p.value=TRUE , B=100)

# p-value of about 0.975 means that most boards have f(random.board) >
# f(observed.board).  In this case, f() is the number of climbers.  The
# test shows that the number of climbers is less than expected: those
# who do climb, climb further than the fallers fall.

# See how one needs to be careful about one-sided and two-sided tests.
```

---

`good`*Approximate number of contingency tables*

---

**Description**

Approximate number of contingency tables with specified marginal totals.

**Usage**

```
good(x, method = "D", ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	An integer-valued matrix (with no NA entries)
<code>method</code>	The method to use; one of A, B, C, D. See details section
<code>...</code>	Further arguments (notably <code>n</code> ), passed to <code>no.of.boards()</code>

**Details**

All formulae and terminology taken from Good 1976. The letters A-D are from the approximations given on pages 1167 and 1168.

**Note** This function will accept matrices with any NA entries, but a warning is given. The number of permissible boards will be less than the number of permissible contingency tables considered by Good.

The approximations are intended to provide rough-and-ready upper bounds for boards that have a few NAs.

**Note**

Method “A” is the exact answer, given by `no.of.boards()`. Do not use this on large matrices!

Methods “B”, “C”, and “D” give (according to Good) increasingly accurate approximations to the exact answer.

**Author(s)**

Robin K. S. Hankin

**References**

- I. J. Good 1976. *On the Application of Symmetric Dirichlet Distributions and Their Mixtures to Contingency Tables*. The Annals of Statistics 4(6):1159–1189

**See Also**

[no.of.boards](#)

**Examples**

```
a <- matrix(1,15,15)

good(a, "B")
good(a, "C")
good(a, "D") #identical to answer given by method "C"
```

---

 icons

---

*Responses to climate change icons*


---

**Description**

A matrix of nine rows and six columns, one column for each of six icons relevant to climate change. The matrix entries show the number of respondents who indicated which icon they found most concerning. The nine rows show different classes of respondents who were exposed to different subsets (of size four) of the six icons

**Usage**

```
data (icons)
```

**Details**

The six icons were used in this study were:

**PB** polar bears, which face extinction through loss of ice floe hunting grounds

**NB** The Norfolk Broads, which flood due to intense rainfall events

**LF** London flooding, as a result of sea level rise

**THC** The Thermo-haline circulation, which may slow or stop as a result of anthropogenic modification of the hydrological cycle

**OA** Oceanic acidification as a result of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide

**WAIS** The West Antarctic Ice Sheet, which is calving into the sea as a result of climate change

**Source**

Data kindly supplied by Saffron O'Neill of the University of East Anglia

**References**

- S. O'Neill 2007. *An Iconic Approach to Communicating Climate Change*, University of East Anglia, School of Environmental Science (in prep)
- I. Lorenzoni and N. Pidgeon 2005. *Defining Dangers of Climate Change and Individual Behaviour: Closing the Gap*. In *Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change* (conference proceedings), UK Met Office, Exeter, 1-3 February

**Examples**

```
data (icons)
```

---

iqd

*Industrial quality control dataset*

---

**Description**

A factory has four machines A, B, C, D. The quality control process identifies defects from each machine.

The `iqd` dataset has four columns, one per machine; entries correspond to the numbers of defects produced by each machine. The `NA` entries in a row indicate that a particular machine is switched off.

The null hypothesis would be that there exist four non-negative numbers  $p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4$  with sum 1 such that the probability of a defect arising from machine  $i$  is proportional to  $p_i$  if it is switched on, and zero otherwise.

It is suspected that machine D is causing some sort of interference with machine A; machine A produces very few defects when D is switched off.

The `shifts` dataset includes only three machines, A, B, C. There are three columns, one per machine; and three rows, one per operator (S1, S2, S3). On S1's shift, machine C was out of commission.

**Usage**

```
data (iqd)
```

**Source**

Data kindly supplied by Acme Corporation (widget division)

**Examples**

```
data (iqd)
```

```
aylmer.test (iqd)  
aylmer.test (shifts)
```

---

`marginals`*Marginals of a board*

---

**Description**

Various utilities to calculate the marginal totals of a board.

**Usage**

```
marginals(x)
dof(x)
is.board(x)
as.board(x)
.Cargs(x)
```

**Arguments**

`x` A matrix, usually including one or more NA entries, coerced to integer (a “board”); see details section

**Details**

Function `marginals()` takes a matrix and returns a list holding the marginal totals and the coordinates of blank squares.

Function `dof()` takes a board and returns the number of degrees of freedom present.

Function `.Cargs()` takes a matrix and coerces it to a list suitable for calling the C++ routines; it is not really intended for the end-user. This function uses formal S4 methods to coerce a matrix to an object of class `board` (checking for non-integer entries, etc), as do the functions documented in `allboards.Rd`.

**Author(s)**

Robin K. S. Hankin

**See Also**

[allboardprobs](#)

**Examples**

```
data(icons)
marginals(icons)
```

---

odds.ratio                    *or*

---

### Description

The generalized odds ratio is a measure of the handedness of a cyclic competition graph.

### Usage

```
odds.ratio(x)
```

### Arguments

`x`                    matrix with one degree of freedom, coerced to a board

### Details

The generalized odds ratio is the product of the odds ratios of the edges in a cyclic competition graph.

In the two-by-two case, the maximum likelihood estimator of the odds ratio is just  $\frac{a_{11}a_{22}}{a_{12}a_{21}}$ . The generalization to larger boards with exactly one degree of freedom is immediate: it is just the product of the entries on the diagonal, divided by the product of the off-diagonal elements.

Ranking permissible tables in order of increasing odds ratio thus orders the sample space and allows one to perform one-sided tests.

### Author(s)

Robin K. S. Hankin

### See Also

[pval.1dof](#)

### Examples

```
data(gear)
odds.ratio(gear)

aylmer.test(gear)
aylmer.test(gear, alternative="less")
aylmer.test(gear, alternative="greater")
```

---

purum

*Classification of Purum marriages*

---

### Description

Data for 128 Purum marriages from a census (purum) and 30 marriages from Khulen village.

### Usage

data (purum)

### Details

The Purums are an isolated tribe in the interior of India, divided into five “sibs”: Marrim, Makan, Parpa, Thao, and the Kheyang.

Marriages between persons of the same sib are forbidden, as are persons from certain pairs of sibs; note the lack of symmetry in the structural zeros implying a gender asymmetry (the single Kheyang-Kheyang marriage has special dispensation).

### Source

- White HC 1963. *An anatomy of kinship*, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Prentice-Hall; Figure 3.12, p136 for khulen and Table 3.2, p138 for purum
- Das 1945. *The Purums: an old Kuki tribe of Manipur*. Calcutta, University of Calcutta
- Bishop WMV, Fienberg SE, and Holland PW 1975. *Discrete multivariate analysis*. MIT Press

### Examples

```
data (purum)
aylmer.test (purum , simulate.p.value=TRUE , B=100)

aylmer.test (khulen)
aylmer.test (khulen , alternative=function (x) {max (abs (x-t (x)) , na.rm=TRUE) })
```

---

randomprobs

*Probabilities of random boards*

---

### Description

Probabilities of a random Markov chain of boards, chosen by the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm

### Usage

```
randomprobs(x, B=2000, n=100, burnin = 0, use.brob=FALSE, func=NULL)
candidate(x, n = 100, give = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	Matrix, coerced to class <code>board</code> : the start point
<code>B</code>	Number of samples to take
<code>burnin</code>	Number of samples to discard at the beginning
<code>use.brob</code>	Boolean, with default <code>FALSE</code> meaning to use IEEE arithmetic and <code>TRUE</code> meaning to use Brobdingnagian arithmetic
<code>n</code>	The number of times to try to find a candidate board with no non-negative entries; special value 0 means to search until one is found
<code>func</code>	In function <code>randomprobs()</code> , the statistic to return; default of <code>NULL</code> interpreted as <code>prob()</code>
<code>give</code>	In function <code>candidate()</code> , Boolean with default <code>FALSE</code> meaning to return a permissible board, and <code>TRUE</code> meaning to return instead the number of attempts made to find a permissible board (zero meaning no board was found). See details section below

**Value**

Returns a vector of length `B` with entries corresponding to the probabilities of the boards encountered

**Note**

Argument `n` of function `candidate()` specifies how many times to search for a board with no non-negative entries. The special value `n=0` means to search until one is found.

Boards with a large number of zeros may require more than the default 100 attempts to find a permissible board. Set the `give` flag to see how many candidates are generated before a permissible one is found.

**Warning:** a board with at most one entry greater than zero is the unique permissible board and the algorithm will not terminate if `n=0`

A board that requires more than 100 attempts is probably well-suited to the exact test as permissible boards will likely be enumerable using `allboards()`.

To find the permissible board that maximizes some objective function, use `best()`, which applies the bespoke optimization routines of `optim()`

**Author(s)**

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**References**

- N. A. Metropolis and others 1953. *Equation of State Calculations by Fast Computing Machines*. Journal of Chemical Physics, 21:1087–1092

**See Also**

[aylmer.test](#), [best](#)

**Examples**

```
data(chess)
aylmer.test(chess)

a <- matrix(1,9,9) # See Sloane's A110058
plot(randomprobs(a,1000),type="b",main="Importance of burn-in")

set.seed(0)
b <- diag(rep(6,6))
plot(randomprobs(b,B=1000,n=1000), type="b",main="Importance of burn-in, part II")
```

---

rps

*A matrix showing who wins in rock-paper-scissors (RPS)*

---

**Description**

A matrix showing the outcome of RPS. Each row shows the winner of a single round of RPS between the non-NA choices.

**Usage**

```
data(rps)
```

**Details**

The venerable game of rock-paper-scissors is the archetypal intransitive relationship. Rock beats (smashes) scissors; scissors beat (cut) paper; paper beats (wraps up) rock.

**References**

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock\\_paper\\_scissors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_paper_scissors)

**Examples**

```
data(rps)
allboards(rps) # just two (of course!)

allboards(rps*3) # four now.
```

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