

# Package ‘vntrs’

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**Title** Variable Neighborhood Trust Region Search

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**Description** An implementation of the variable neighborhood trust region algorithm Bierlaire et al. (2009) ``A Heuristic for Nonlinear Global Optimization" <[doi:10.1287/ijoc.1090.0343](https://doi.org/10.1287/ijoc.1090.0343)>.

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**License** GPL-3

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|                |                        |
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| check_controls | <i>Check controls.</i> |
|----------------|------------------------|

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### Description

This function checks the input controls for the vntrs package.

### Usage

```
check_controls(controls)
```

### Arguments

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| controls | <p>Either NULL or a named list with the following elements. Missing elements are set to the default values in parentheses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>init_runs</code> (5): The number of initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>init_min</code> (-1): The minimum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_max</code> (1): The maximum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_iterlim</code> (20): The number of iterations for the initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>neighborhoods</code> (5): The number of nested neighborhoods.</li> <li>• <code>neighbors</code> (5): The number of neighbors in each neighborhood.</li> <li>• <code>beta</code> (0.05): A non-negative weight factor to account for the function's curvature in the selection of the neighbors. If <code>beta = 0</code>, the curvature is ignored. The higher the value, the higher the probability of selecting a neighbor in the direction of the highest function curvature.</li> <li>• <code>iterlim</code> (1000): The maximum number of iterations to be performed before the local search is terminated.</li> <li>• <code>tolerance</code> (1e-6): A positive scalar giving the tolerance for comparing different optimal arguments for equality.</li> <li>• <code>time_limit</code> (NULL): The time limit in seconds for the algorithm.</li> </ul> |
|----------|--|

### Value

The checked and filled list controls.

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|         |                 |
|---------|-----------------|
| check_f | <i>Check f.</i> |
|---------|-----------------|

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### Description

This function checks the input f for the vntrs package.

### Usage

```
check_f(f, npar, controls)
```

**Arguments**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| f        | A function that computes value, gradient, and Hessian of the function to be optimized and returns them as a named list with elements value, gradient, and hessian.  |
| npar     | The number of parameters of f.  |
| controls | Either NULL or a named list with the following elements. Missing elements are set to the default values in parentheses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>init_runs</code> (5): The number of initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>init_min</code> (-1): The minimum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_max</code> (1): The maximum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_iterlim</code> (20): The number of iterations for the initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>neighborhoods</code> (5): The number of nested neighborhoods.</li> <li>• <code>neighbors</code> (5): The number of neighbors in each neighborhood.</li> <li>• <code>beta</code> (0.05): A non-negative weight factor to account for the function's curvature in the selection of the neighbors. If <code>beta = 0</code>, the curvature is ignored. The higher the value, the higher the probability of selecting a neighbor in the direction of the highest function curvature.</li> <li>• <code>iterlim</code> (1000): The maximum number of iterations to be performed before the local search is terminated.</li> <li>• <code>tolerance</code> (1e-6): A positive scalar giving the tolerance for comparing different optimal arguments for equality.</li> <li>• <code>time_limit</code> (NULL): The time limit in seconds for the algorithm.</li> </ul> |

**Value**

No return value, called for side-effects.

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|            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| initialize | <i>Initialize VNTRS.</i> |
|------------|--------------------------|

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**Description**

Function that initializes the variable neighborhood trust region search.

**Usage**

```
initialize(f, npar, minimize, controls)
```

**Arguments**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| f    | A function that computes value, gradient, and Hessian of the function to be optimized and returns them as a named list with elements value, gradient, and hessian. |
| npar | The number of parameters of f.   |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| minimize | If TRUE, $f$ gets minimized. If FALSE, maximized.   |
| controls | <p>Either NULL or a named list with the following elements. Missing elements are set to the default values in parentheses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>init_runs</code> (5): The number of initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>init_min</code> (-1): The minimum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_max</code> (1): The maximum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_iterlim</code> (20): The number of iterations for the initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>neighborhoods</code> (5): The number of nested neighborhoods.</li> <li>• <code>neighbors</code> (5): The number of neighbors in each neighborhood.</li> <li>• <code>beta</code> (0.05): A non-negative weight factor to account for the function's curvature in the selection of the neighbors. If <math>\beta = 0</math>, the curvature is ignored. The higher the value, the higher the probability of selecting a neighbor in the direction of the highest function curvature.</li> <li>• <code>iterlim</code> (1000): The maximum number of iterations to be performed before the local search is terminated.</li> <li>• <code>tolerance</code> (1e-6): A positive scalar giving the tolerance for comparing different optimal arguments for equality.</li> <li>• <code>time_limit</code> (NULL): The time limit in seconds for the algorithm.</li> </ul> |

### Value

A list of

- the list  $L$  of identified optima which contains lists with
  - value and
  - argument
 of each identified optimum.
- best initial point  $x_{\text{best}}$ .

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|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| interruption | <i>Interrupt local search.</i> |
|--------------|--------------------------------|

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### Description

This function checks if the local search can be interrupted prematurely.

### Usage

```
interruption(f, point, L, minimize)
```

**Arguments**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| f        | A function that computes value, gradient, and Hessian of the function to be optimized and returns them as a named list with elements value, gradient, and hessian.  |
| point    | The current location of the local search.   |
| L        | A list of identified optima which contains lists with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• value and</li> <li>• argument</li> </ul> of each identified optimum. |
| minimize | If TRUE, f gets minimized. If FALSE, maximized.   |

**Value**

TRUE for premature interruption, FALSE if not.

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|       |   |
|-------|---|
| local | <i>Perform trust region local search.</i> |
|-------|---|

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**Description**

Function that links to [trust](#).

**Usage**

```
local(f, parinit, minimize, controls, L)
```

**Arguments**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| f        | A function that computes value, gradient, and Hessian of the function to be optimized and returns them as a named list with elements value, gradient, and hessian.   |
| parinit  | Passed on to <a href="#">trust</a> .   |
| minimize | If TRUE, f gets minimized. If FALSE, maximized.  |
| controls | Either NULL or a named list with the following elements. Missing elements are set to the default values in parentheses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>init_runs</code> (5): The number of initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>init_min</code> (-1): The minimum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_max</code> (1): The maximum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_iterlim</code> (20): The number of iterations for the initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>neighborhoods</code> (5): The number of nested neighborhoods.</li> <li>• <code>neighbors</code> (5): The number of neighbors in each neighborhood.</li> </ul> |

- `beta (0.05)`: A non-negative weight factor to account for the function's curvature in the selection of the neighbors. If `beta = 0`, the curvature is ignored. The higher the value, the higher the probability of selecting a neighbor in the direction of the highest function curvature.
- `iterlim (1000)`: The maximum number of iterations to be performed before the local search is terminated.
- `tolerance (1e-6)`: A positive scalar giving the tolerance for comparing different optimal arguments for equality.
- `time_limit (NULL)`: The time limit in seconds for the algorithm.

L A list of identified optima which contains lists with

- `value` and
- `argument`

of each identified optimum.

### Value

A list of

- `success`: A boolean, determining whether the local search successfully converged.
- `value`: The value at the point where the local search terminated.
- `argument`: The point where the local search terminated.

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|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <code>select_neighbors</code> | <i>Select neighbors.</i> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|

---

### Description

Function that selects neighbors around a given point `x`.

### Usage

```
select_neighbors(f, x, neighborhood_expansion, controls)
```

### Arguments

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <code>f</code>                      | A function that computes value, gradient, and Hessian of the function to be optimized and returns them as a named list with elements <code>value</code> , <code>gradient</code> , and <code>hessian</code> .   |
| <code>x</code>                      | A point in the domain of <code>f</code> .  |
| <code>neighborhood_expansion</code> | A scaling factor, specifying the expansion of the neighborhood.  |
| <code>controls</code>               | Either <code>NULL</code> or a named list with the following elements. Missing elements are set to the default values in parentheses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>init_runs (5)</code>: The number of initial searches.</li> </ul> |

- `init_min` (-1): The minimum argument value for the random initialization.
- `init_max` (1): The maximum argument value for the random initialization.
- `init_iterlim` (20): The number of iterations for the initial searches.
- `neighborhoods` (5): The number of nested neighborhoods.
- `neighbors` (5): The number of neighbors in each neighborhood.
- `beta` (0.05): A non-negative weight factor to account for the function's curvature in the selection of the neighbors. If `beta = 0`, the curvature is ignored. The higher the value, the higher the probability of selecting a neighbor in the direction of the highest function curvature.
- `iterlim` (1000): The maximum number of iterations to be performed before the local search is terminated.
- `tolerance` (1e-6): A positive scalar giving the tolerance for comparing different optimal arguments for equality.
- `time_limit` (NULL): The time limit in seconds for the algorithm.

### Value

A list points in the domain of `f` which neighbors of `x`.

---

`unique_optimum`

*Check new optimum for uniqueness.*

---

### Description

This function checks if a new optimum argument is not yet contained in `L`.

### Usage

```
unique_optimum(L, argument, tolerance)
```

### Arguments

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <code>L</code>         | A list of identified optima which contains lists with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>value</code> and</li> <li>• <code>argument</code></li> </ul> of each identified optimum. |
| <code>argument</code>  | The argument of a candidate optimum.  |
| <code>tolerance</code> | A non-negative numeric value. For an identified optimum and a candidate optimum, if all coordinate differences are smaller than <code>tolerance</code> , they are considered as equal.        |

### Value

A boolean. If `TRUE`, `argument` is not contained in `L`. If `FALSE`, `argument` is already contained in `L`.

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|       |   |
|-------|---|
| vntrs | <i>Variable neighborhood trust region search.</i> |
|-------|---|

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### Description

This function performs variable neighborhood trust region search.

### Usage

```
vntrs(f, npar, minimize = TRUE, controls = NULL, quiet = TRUE, seed = NULL)
```

### Arguments

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| f        | A function that computes value, gradient, and Hessian of the function to be optimized and returns them as a named list with elements value, gradient, and hessian.   |
| npar     | The number of parameters of f.   |
| minimize | If TRUE, f gets minimized. If FALSE, maximized.  |
| controls | <p>Either NULL or a named list with the following elements. Missing elements are set to the default values in parentheses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>init_runs</code> (5): The number of initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>init_min</code> (-1): The minimum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_max</code> (1): The maximum argument value for the random initialization.</li> <li>• <code>init_iterlim</code> (20): The number of iterations for the initial searches.</li> <li>• <code>neighborhoods</code> (5): The number of nested neighborhoods.</li> <li>• <code>neighbors</code> (5): The number of neighbors in each neighborhood.</li> <li>• <code>beta</code> (0.05): A non-negative weight factor to account for the function's curvature in the selection of the neighbors. If <code>beta = 0</code>, the curvature is ignored. The higher the value, the higher the probability of selecting a neighbor in the direction of the highest function curvature.</li> <li>• <code>iterlim</code> (1000): The maximum number of iterations to be performed before the local search is terminated.</li> <li>• <code>tolerance</code> (1e-6): A positive scalar giving the tolerance for comparing different optimal arguments for equality.</li> <li>• <code>time_limit</code> (NULL): The time limit in seconds for the algorithm.</li> </ul> |
| quiet    | If TRUE, progress messages are suppressed.   |
| seed     | Set a seed for the sampling of the random starting points.   |

### Value

A data frame. Each row contains information of an identified optimum. The first `npar` columns "p1", ..., "p<npar>" store the argument values, the next column "value" has the optimal function values and the last column "global" contains TRUE for global optima and FALSE for local optima.



## References

Bierlaire et al. (2009) "A Heuristic for Nonlinear Global Optimization" doi: [10.1287/ijoc.1090.0343](https://doi.org/10.1287/ijoc.1090.0343).

## Examples

```
rosenbrock = function(x) {
  stopifnot(is.numeric(x))
  stopifnot(length(x) == 2)
  f = expression(100 * (x2 - x1^2)^2 + (1 - x1)^2)
  g1 = D(f, "x1")
  g2 = D(f, "x2")
  h11 = D(g1, "x1")
  h12 = D(g1, "x2")
  h22 = D(g2, "x2")
  x1 = x[1]
  x2 = x[2]
  f = eval(f)
  g = c(eval(g1), eval(g2))
  h = rbind(c(eval(h11), eval(h12)), c(eval(h12), eval(h22)))
  list(value = f, gradient = g, hessian = h)
}
vntrs(f = rosenbrock, npar = 2, seed = 1, controls = list(neighborhoods = 1))
```

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