

# Package ‘BiocParallel’

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**Type** Package

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**Author** Martin Morgan and contributions from  
Ryan Thompson <rct@thompsonclan.org>, Michel Lang <michellang@gmail.com>

**Maintainer** Bioconductor Package Maintainer <maintainer@bioconductor.org>

**Description** This package provides modified versions and novel  
implementation of functions for parallel evaluation, tailored to use with Bioconductor objects.

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BiocParallel-package    *Bioconductor facilities for parallel evaluation*

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**Description**

This package provides modified versions and novel implementation of functions for parallel evaluation, tailored to use with Bioconductor objects.

**Details**

This package uses code from the [parallel](#) package,

**Author(s)**

Author: Martin Morgan and contributions from Ryan Thompson <rct@thompsonclan.org>, Michel Lang <michellang@gmail.com>

Maintainer: Bioconductor Package Maintainer <maintainer@bioconductor.org>

---

BatchJobsParam-class *Enable parallelization on batch systems*

---

### Description

This class is used to parameterize scheduler options on managed high-performance computing clusters.

### Usage

```
BatchJobsParam(workers, catch.errors = TRUE, cleanup = TRUE,
  work.dir = getwd(), stop.on.error = FALSE, seed = NULL,
  resources = NULL, conffile = NULL, cluster.functions = NULL,
  progressbar = TRUE, ...)
```

### Arguments

workers	integer(1) Number of workers on with Multicore and SSH backend which defaults here to all workers available. On managed HPC workers defaults to NA but can be set to control chunking of jobs. See argument n.chunks in <a href="#">chunk</a> and <a href="#">submitJobs</a> for more information.
catch.errors	logical(1) Flag to determine in apply-like functions (see e.g. <a href="#">bplapply</a> ) whether to quit with an error as soon as one application fails or encapsulation of function calls in <a href="#">try</a> blocks which triggers a resume mechanism (see <a href="#">bpresume</a> ). Defaults to TRUE.
cleanup	logical(1) BatchJobs creates temporary directories in the work.dir. If cleanup is set to TRUE (default), the directories are removed from the file systems automatically. Set this to FALSE whenever it might become necessary to utilize any special functionality provided by BatchJobs. To retrieve the registry, call <a href="#">loadRegistry</a> on the temporary directory.
work.dir	character(1) Directory to store temporary files. Note that this must be shared across computational nodes if you use a distributed computing backend. Default is the current working directory of R, see <a href="#">getwd</a> .
stop.on.error	logical(1) Stop all jobs as soon as one jobs fails (stop.on.error == TRUE) or wait for all jobs to terminate. Default is FALSE.
seed	integer(1L) Set an initial seed for the RNG. See <a href="#">makeRegistry</a> for more information. Default is NULL where a random seed is chosen upon initialization.
resources	list() List of job specific resources passed to <a href="#">submitJobs</a> . Default is NULL where the resources defined in the configuration are used.
conffile	character(1) URI to a custom BatchJobs configuration file used for execution. Default is NULL which relies on BatchJobs to handle configuration files.
cluster.functions	ClusterFunctions Specify a specific cluster backend using one of the constructors provided by BatchJobs, see <a href="#">ClusterFunctions</a> . Default is NULL where the default cluster functions defined in the configuration are used.

progressbar      logical(1) Suppress the progress bar used in BatchJobs and be less verbose. Default is FALSE.  
 ...                Addition arguments, currently not handled.

### BatchJobsParam constructor

Return an object with specified values. The object may be saved to disk or reused within a session.

### Methods

The following generics are implemented and perform as documented on the corresponding help page: [bpworkers](#), [bpstart](#), [bpstop](#), [bpisup](#), [bpbackend](#), [bpbackend<-](#)

### Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

### See Also

`getClass("BiocParallelParam")` for additional parameter classes.  
`register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.

### Examples

```
p <- BatchJobsParam()
bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)

## Not run:
register(BatchJobsParam(catch.errors = FALSE), default=TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

BiocParallelParam-class

*Virtual classes (for developer reference)*

---

### Description

These classes are primarily relevant to developers.  
 BiocParallelParam is a virtual class on which all parameter classes extend. It has no slots.

### Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

### Examples

```
getClass("BiocParallelParam")
```

---

**bpaggregate***Apply a function on subsets of data frames*

---

**Description**

This is a parallel version of [aggregate](#).

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature formula,BiocParallelParam
bpaggregate(x, data, FUN, ..., BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature data.frame,BiocParallelParam
bpaggregate(x, by, FUN, ..., simplify=TRUE, BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,missing
bpaggregate(x, ..., BPPARAM)
```

**Arguments**

x	A data frame or a formula.
by	A list of factors. Data frame x will be split according to the factors.
data	A data frame.
FUN	Function to apply.
...	Additional arguments for FUN.
simplify	If set to TRUE, the return values of FUN will be simplified using <a href="#">simplify2array</a> .
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation.

**Value**

See [aggregate](#).

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>.

bpcontrols

*Control (start, stop, query) back-end Params***Description**

Use functions on this page to start, stop, and query the ‘back-ends’ that perform a parallel evaluation.

**Usage**

```
bpworkers(x, ...)

bpstart(x, ...)
bpstop(x, ...)
bpisup(x, ...)

bpbackend(x, ...)
bpbackend(x, ...) <- value
```

**Arguments**

x	An instance of a BiocParallelParam class, e.g., <a href="#">MulticoreParam</a> , <a href="#">SnowParam</a> , <a href="#">DoparParam</a> . x can be missing, in which case the default back-end (see <a href="#">register</a> ) is used.
...	Additional arguments, perhaps used by methods.
value	Replace value for back-end.

**Details**

bpworkers reports the number of workers in the back-end as a scalar integer with value  $\geq 0$ .

bpstart starts the back-end, if necessary. For instance, MulticoreParam back-ends do not need to be started, but SnowParam back-ends do. bp\* functions like bplapply will automatically start the back-end if necessary.

bpstop stops the back-end, if necessary and possible.

bpisup tests whether the back-end is available for processing, returning a scalar logical value.

bpbackend retrieves an object representing the back end, if possible. Not all back-ends can be retrieved; see showMethods("backend").

bpbackend<- updates the back end, and is only meant for developer use.

**Value**

bpworkers returns a scalar integer  $\geq 0$ .

bpisup returns a scalar logical.

bpstart, bpstop return an updated x, invisibly.

bpbackend, bpbackend<- return or accept back end-specific objects.

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>.

**See Also**

[BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of x.

**Examples**

```
bpworkers(SerialParam())

## Not run:
p <- SnowParam(2L)
bpworkers(p)          # 2 local nodes, communicating via sockets
bpstart(p)            # start cluster
bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)
bpstop(p)             # stop cluster

p <- SnowParam(4L)
bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p) # automatically start / stop cluster

## End(Not run)
```

---

bplapply

*Parallel lapply-like functionality*

---

**Description**

bplapply applies FUN to each element of X. Any type of object X is allowed, provided length, [, and [[ methods are available. The return value is a list of length equal to X, as with [lapply](#).

**Usage**

```
bplapply(X, FUN, ..., resume = getOption("BiocParallel.resume", FALSE),
         BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,ANY
bplapply(X, FUN, ..., resume = getOption("BiocParallel.resume", FALSE),
         BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,missing
bplapply(X, FUN, ..., resume = getOption("BiocParallel.resume", FALSE),
         BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,BiocParallelParam
bplapply(X, FUN, ..., resume = getOption("BiocParallel.resume", FALSE),
         BPPARAM)
```

## Arguments

X	Any object for which methods <code>length</code> , <code>[</code> , and <code>[[</code> are implemented.
FUN	The function to be applied to each element of X.
...	Additional arguments for FUN, as in <a href="#">lapply</a>
resume	Flag to determine if a previous partially successful run should be resumed. See <a href="#">bpresume</a> for details.
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation.

## Details

When BPPARAM is missing, `bplapply` uses `registered()[[1]]`, i.e., the default mechanism for parallel evaluation.

See `showMethods{bplapply}` for additional methods, e.g., `method?bplapply("MulticoreParam")`.

## Value

See [lapply](#).

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>. Original code as attributed in [mclapply](#).

## See Also

[bptest](#) for parallel, vectorized calculations.

[BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of BPPARAM.

## Examples

```
showMethods("bplapply")

## ten tasks (1:10) so ten calls to FUN default registered parallel
## back-end. Compare with bptest.
system.time(result <- bplapply(1:10, function(v) {
  message("working") ## 10 tasks
  sqrt(v)
}))
result
```



---

bpmapply *Parallel mapply-like functionality*

---

## Description

bpmapply applies FUN to first elements of ..., the second elements and so on. Any type of object in ... is allowed, provided length, [, and [[ methods are available. The return value is a list of length equal to the length of all objects provided, as with [mapply](#).

## Usage

```
bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE,
         resume=getOption("BiocParallel.resume", FALSE), BPPARAM)
```

```
## S4 method for signature ANY,ANY
```

```
bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE,
         resume=getOption("BiocParallel.resume", FALSE), BPPARAM)
```

```
## S4 method for signature ANY,missing
```

```
bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE,
         resume=getOption("BiocParallel.resume", FALSE), BPPARAM)
```

```
## S4 method for signature ANY,BiocParallelParam
```

```
bpmapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs=NULL, SIMPLIFY=TRUE, USE.NAMES=TRUE,
         resume=getOption("BiocParallel.resume", FALSE), BPPARAM)
```

## Arguments

FUN	The function to be applied to each element passed via ...
...	Objects for which methods length, [, and [[ are implemented. All objects must have the same length or shorter objects will be replicated to have length equal to the longest.
MoreArgs	List of additional arguments to FUN.
SIMPLIFY	If TRUE the result will be simplified using <a href="#">simplify2array</a> .
USE.NAMES	If TRUE the result will be named.
resume	Flag to determine if a previous partially successful run should be resumed. See <a href="#">bpresume</a> for details.
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation.

## Details

When BPPARAM is missing, bpmapply uses registered()[[1]], i.e., the default mechanism for parallel evaluation.

See `showMethods{bplapply}` for additional methods, e.g., `method?bplapply("MulticoreParam")`.

**Value**

See [lapply](#).

**Author(s)**

Michel Lang . Original code as attributed in [mclapply](#).

**See Also**

[bpvec](#) for parallel, vectorized calculations.

[BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of BPPARAM.

**Examples**

```
showMethods("bplapply")

## ten tasks (1:10) so ten calls to FUN default registered parallel
## back-end. Compare with bpvec.
system.time(result <- bplapply(1:10, function(v) {
  message("working") ## 10 tasks
  sqrt(v)
}))
result
```

---

bpresume

*Resume computation with partial results*

---

**Description**

Resume partial successful calls to [bplapply](#) or [bpmapply](#)

**Usage**

```
bplasterror()
bpresume(expr)
```

**Arguments**

expr            expression A expression which calls either [bplapply](#) or [bpmapply](#).

## Usage

The resume mechanism is triggered if the argument `catch.errors` of the `BiocParallelParam` class is set to `TRUE`. The methods `bplapply` and `bpmapply` then store the current state of computation. Recalling the call directory with argument `resume` set to `TRUE` will then only compute the missing parts of the previous call and merge the results.

Alternatively, if the call to `bplapply` and `bpmapply` is inside a function not accessible directly by the user, the last call can be embedded into `bpresume` which sets an option accordingly to enable the resume feature down in the call stack.

The function `bpLasterror` returns a `LastError` object containing the partial results and errors to investigate.

Note that nested calls of the apply functions can cause troubles in some scenarios.

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

---

bpschedule

*Schedule back-end Params*

---

## Description

Use functions on this page to influence scheduling of parallel processing.

## Usage

```
bpschedule(x, ...)
```

## Arguments

x	An instance of a <code>BiocParallelParam</code> class, e.g., <code>MulticoreParam</code> , <code>SnowParam</code> , <code>DoparParam</code> . x can be missing, in which case the default back-end (see <code>register</code> ) is used.
...	Additional arguments, perhaps used by methods.

## Details

`bpschedule` returns a `logical(1)` indicating whether the parallel evaluation should occur at this point.

## Value

`bpschedule` returns a scalar `logical`.

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>.

**See Also**

[BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of `x`.

**Examples**

```
bpschedule(SnowParam()) # TRUE
bpschedule(MulticoreParam(2)) # FALSE on windows

p <- MulticoreParam(recursive=FALSE)
bpschedule(p) # TRUE
bplapply(1:2, function(i, p) {
  bpschedule(p) # FALSE
}, p = p, BPPARAM=p)
```

---

 bpvec

*Parallel, vectorized evaluation*


---

**Description**

bpvec applies FUN to subsets of X. Any type of object X is allowed, provided length, [, and c methods are available. The return value is a vector of length equal to X, as with FUN(X).

**Usage**

```
bpvec(X, FUN, ..., AGGREGATE=c, BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,ANY
bpvec(X, FUN, ..., AGGREGATE=c, BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,BiocParallelParam
bpvec(X, FUN, ..., AGGREGATE=c, BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,missing
bpvec(X, FUN, ..., AGGREGATE=c, BPPARAM)
```

**Arguments**

X	Any object for which methods length, [, and c are implemented.
FUN	The function to be applied to subsets of X.
...	Additional arguments for FUN.
AGGREGATE	A function taking any number of arguments ... called to reduce results (elements of the ... argument of AGGREGATE from parallel jobs. The default, c, concatenates objects and is appropriate for vectors; rbind might be appropriate for data frames.
BPPARAM	A optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation.

**Details**

When BPPARAM is missing, bpvec uses `registered()[[1]]`, i.e., the default mechanism for parallel evaluation.

When BPPARAM is an instance of a class derived from `BiocParallelParam` for which no other method applies, this method creates a vector of indexes and uses these in conjunction with `bplapply` to arrange for parallel evaluation.

When BPPARAM is a class for which no method is defined (e.g., [SerialParam](#)), `FUN(X)` is used.

See `showMethods{bpvec}` for additional methods, e.g., `method?bpvec("MulticoreParam")`.

**Value**

The result should be identical to `FUN(X, ...)` (assuming that `AGGREGATE` is set appropriately).

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>. Original code as attributed in [pvec](#).

**See Also**

[bplapply](#) for parallel lapply.

[BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of BPPARAM.

**Examples**

```
showMethods("bpvec")

## ten tasks (1:10), called with as many back-end elements are specified
## by BPPARAM. Compare with bplapply
system.time(result <- bpvec(1:10, function(v) {
  message("working") ## 10 tasks
  sqrt(v)
}))
result
```

---

bpvectorize

*Transform vectorized functions into parallelized, vectorized function*

---

**Description**

This transforms a vectorized function into a parallel, vectorized function. Any function `FUN` can be used, provided its parallelized argument (by default, the first argument) has a `length` and `[` method defined, and the return value of `FUN` can be concatenated with `c`.

## Usage

```
bpvectorize(FUN, ..., BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,ANY
bpvectorize(FUN, ..., BPPARAM)

## S4 method for signature ANY,missing
bpvectorize(FUN, ..., BPPARAM)
```

## Arguments

FUN	A function whose first argument has a length and can be subset <code>[]</code> , and whose evaluation would benefit by splitting the argument into subsets, each one of which is independently transformed by FUN. The return value of FUN must support concatenation with <code>c</code> .
...	Additional arguments to parallelization, unused.
BPPARAM	An optional <a href="#">BiocParallelParam</a> instance determining the parallel back-end to be used during evaluation.

## Details

The result of `bpvectorize` is a function with signature `...;` arguments to the returned function are the original arguments FUN. BPPARAM is used for parallel evaluation.

When BPPARAM is missing, `bpvectorize` uses `registered()[[1]]`, i.e., the default mechanism for parallel evaluation.

When BPPARAM is a class for which no method is defined (e.g., [SerialParam](#)), `FUN(X)` is used.

See `showMethods{bpvectorize}` for additional methods, if any.

## Value

A function taking the same arguments as FUN, but evaluated using `bpvec` for parallel evaluation across available cores.

## Author(s)

Ryan Thompson <mailto:rct@thompsonclan.org>

## See Also

`bpvec`

## Examples

```
psqrt <- bpvectorize(sqrt) ## default parallelization
psqrt(1:10)
```

---

DoparParam-class	<i>Enable parallel evaluation using registered dopar backend</i>
------------------	--

---

## Description

This class is used to dispatch parallel operations to the dopar backend registered with the foreach package.

## Usage

```
DoparParam(catch.errors = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

`catch.errors` `logical(1)` Flag to determine in apply-like functions (see e.g. [bplapply](#)) whether to quit with an error as soon as one application fails or encapsulation of function calls in `try` blocks which triggers a resume mechanism (see [bpresume](#)). Defaults to TRUE.

## DoparParam constructor

Return a proxy object that dispatches parallel evaluation to the registered foreach parallel backend.

There are no options to the constructor. All configuration should be done through the normal interface to the foreach parallel backends.

## Methods

The following generics are implemented and perform as documented on the corresponding help page (e.g., `?bpisup`): [bpworkers](#), [bpstart](#), [bpstop](#), [bpisup](#), [bpbackend](#), [bpbackend<-](#), [bpvec](#).

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

## See Also

`getClass("BiocParallelParam")` for additional parameter classes.

`register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.

[foreach-package](#) for the parallel backend infrastructure used by this param class.

## Examples

```
# First register a parallel backend with foreach
library(doParallel)
cl <- makeCluster(2)
registerDoParallel(cl)
```

```

p <- DoparParam()
bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)
bpvec(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)

stopCluster(cl)
## Not run:
register(DoparParam(), default=TRUE)

## End(Not run)

```

---

MulticoreParam-class *Enable multi-core parallel evaluation*

---

### Description

This class is used to parameterize single computer multicore parallel evaluation on non-Windows computers.

### Usage

```

MulticoreParam(workers = detectCores(), catch.errors = TRUE,
  setSeed = TRUE, recursive = TRUE, cleanup = TRUE,
  cleanupSignal = tools::SIGTERM, verbose = FALSE, ...)

```

### Arguments

workers	integer(1) Number of workers on with Multicore and SSH backend which defaults here to all workers available. On managed HPC workers defaults to NA but can be set to control chunking of jobs. See argument n.chunks in <a href="#">chunk</a> and <a href="#">submitJobs</a> for more information.
catch.errors	logical(1) Flag to determine in apply-like functions (see e.g. <a href="#">bplapply</a> ) whether to quit with an error as soon as one application fails or encapsulation of function calls in <a href="#">try</a> blocks which triggers a resume mechanism (see <a href="#">bpresume</a> ). Defaults to TRUE.
setSeed	logical(1), as described in <code>parallel::mcp</code> argument <code>mc.set.seed</code> .
recursive	logical(1) indicating whether recursive calls are evaluated in parallel; see <code>parallel::mclapply</code> argument <code>mc.allow.recursive</code> .
cleanup	logical(1) indicating whether forked children will be terminated before <code>bplapply</code> returns, as for <code>parallel::mclapply</code> argument <code>cleanup</code> . If TRUE, then the signal sent to the child is <code>cleanupSignal</code> .
cleanupSignal	integer(1) the signal sent to forked processes when <code>cleanup=TRUE</code> .
verbose	logical(1) when TRUE echo stdout of forked processes. This is the complement of <code>parallel::mclapply</code> 's argument <code>mc.silent</code> .
...	Additional arguments passed to <a href="#">mclapply</a>



### **MulticoreParam constructor**

Return an object with specified values. The object may be saved to disk or reused within a session.

### **Methods**

The following generics are implemented and perform as documented on the corresponding help page (e.g., `?bpisup`): [bpworkers](#), [bpstart](#), [bpstop](#), [bpisup](#), [bpschedule](#), [bpbackend](#).

### **Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

### **See Also**

`getClass("BiocParallelParam")` for additional parameter classes.

`register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.

### **Examples**

```
p <- MulticoreParam()
bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)
bpvec(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)

## Not run:
register(MulticoreParam(), default=TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

register

*Maintain a global registry of available back-end Params*

---

### **Description**

Use functions on this page to add to or query a registry of back-ends, including the default for use when no BPPARAM object is provided to functions..

### **Usage**

```
register(BPPARAM, default=TRUE)
registered(bpparamClass)
```

**Arguments**

BPPARAM	An instance of a BiocParallelParam class, e.g., <a href="#">MulticoreParam</a> , <a href="#">SnowParam</a> , <a href="#">DoparParam</a> .
default	Make this the default BiocParallelParam for subsequent evaluations? If FALSE, the argument is placed at the lowest priority position.
bpparamClass	When present, the text name of the BiocParallelParam class (e.g., “MulticoreParam”) to be retrieved from the registry. When absent, a list of all registered instances is returned.

**Details**

Registering a back-end provides a configuration for parallel evaluation. Only one instance of a particular BiocParallelParam class present in the registry. Except when default=FALSE, the most recently registered BiocParallelParam instance becomes the default for subsequent parallel evaluation.

**Value**

register returns, invisibly, a list of registered back-ends.

registered returns the back-end of type bpparamClass or, if bpparamClass is missing, a list of all registered back-ends.

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>.

**See Also**

[BiocParallelParam](#) for possible values of BPPARAM.

**Examples**

```
registered()
```

---

SerialParam-class      *Enable serial evaluation*

---

**Description**

This class is used to parameterize serial evaluation, primarily to facilitate easy transition from parallel to serial code.

**Usage**

```
SerialParam(catch.errors = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

`catch.errors` `logical(1)` Flag to determine in apply-like functions (see e.g. [bplapply](#)) whether to quit with an error as soon as one application fails or encapsulation of function calls in `try` blocks which triggers a resume mechanism (see [bpresume](#)). Defaults to TRUE.

## SerialParam constructor

Return an object to be used for serial evaluation of otherwise parallel functions such as [bplapply](#), [bpvec](#).

## Methods

The following generics are implemented and perform as documented on the corresponding help page (e.g., `?bpworkers`): [bpworkers](#), [bpisup](#), [bpstart](#), [bpstop](#), are implemented, but do not have any side-effects.

## Author(s)

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

## See Also

`getClass("BiocParallelParam")` for additional parameter classes.  
`register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.

## Examples

```
p <- SerialParam()
simplify2array(bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p))
bpvec(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)

## Not run:
register(SerialParam(), default=TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

SnowParam-class

*Enable simple network of workstations (SNOW) parallel evaluation*

---

## Description

This class is used to parameterize simple network of workstations (SNOW) parallel evaluation on one or several physical computers.

**Usage**

```
SnowParam(workers = 0L, type, catch.errors = TRUE, ...)

## invoke as(cl, "SnowParam")
## S4 method for signature SOCKcluster,SnowParam
coerce(from, to)
```

**Arguments**

workers	integer(1) Number of workers on with Multicore and SSH backend which defaults here to all workers available. On managed HPC workers defaults to NA but can be set to control chunking of jobs. See argument n.chunks in <a href="#">chunk</a> and <a href="#">submitJobs</a> for more information.
type	character(1) type of cluster to use, as described in <a href="#">clusterMap</a> argument type.
catch.errors	logical(1) Flag to determine in apply-like functions (see e.g. <a href="#">bplapply</a> ) whether to quit with an error as soon as one application fails or encapsulation of function calls in <a href="#">try</a> blocks which triggers a resume mechanism (see <a href="#">bpresume</a> ). Defaults to TRUE.
...	Additional arguments passed to <a href="#">makeCluster</a>
from, to	(N.B. Use <code>as(from, "SnowParam")</code> to coerce from a cluster created with, e.g., <code>parallel::makeCluster</code> . <code>from</code> is a <code>SOCKcluster</code> or derived instance (e.g., <code>from parallel::makeCluster</code> ), to be coerced to a <code>SnowParam</code> instance.

**SnowParam constructor**

Return an object representing a SNOW cluster. The cluster is not created until `bpstart` is called.

`bpstart` creates the cluster by invoking `makeCluster` with arguments `spec=workers`, `type`, and other arguments passed to `...` in `SnowParam`.

Use `as(cl, "SnowParam")` to coerce a cluster created directly by `parallel::param` to a `SnowParam` instance. Instances created in this way cannot be started or stopped.

**Methods**

The following generics are implemented and perform as documented on the corresponding help page (e.g., `?bpisup`): [bpworkers](#), [bpstart](#), [bpstop](#), [bpisup](#), [bpbackend](#), [bpbackend<-](#), [bpvec](#).

**Author(s)**

Martin Morgan <mailto:mtmorgan@fhcrc.org>

**See Also**

`getClass("BiocParallelParam")` for additional parameter classes.

`register` for registering parameter classes for use in parallel evaluation.

**Examples**

```
p <- SnowParam(2L)
bplapply(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)
bpvec(1:10, sqrt, BPPARAM=p)

## Not run:
register(SnowParam(2L), default=TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

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