

# Package: thinr (via r-universe)

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**Title** Binary Image Thinning Algorithms

**Version** 0.2.0

**Description** Thinning (skeletonization) algorithms for binary raster images. Provides seven algorithms behind a single dispatching function: Zhang-Suen (Zhang and Suen 1984) <[doi:10.1145/357994.358023](https://doi.org/10.1145/357994.358023)>, Guo-Hall (Guo and Hall 1989) <[doi:10.1145/62065.62074](https://doi.org/10.1145/62065.62074)>, a 2-D adaptation of Lee (Lee, Kashyap, and Chu 1994) <[doi:10.1006/cgip.1994.1042](https://doi.org/10.1006/cgip.1994.1042)>, K3M (Saeed, Tabedzki, Rybnik, and Adamski 2010) <[doi:10.2478/v10006-010-0024-4](https://doi.org/10.2478/v10006-010-0024-4)>, the parallel form commonly attributed to Hilditch (1969, in 'Machine Intelligence 4'), OPTA / SPTA (Naccache and Shinghal 1984), and Holt and colleagues (1987) <[doi:10.1145/12527.12531](https://doi.org/10.1145/12527.12531)>. Also provides the medial axis transform (Blum 1967) and a distance transform implementation following Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher (2012) <[doi:10.4086/toc.2012.v008a019](https://doi.org/10.4086/toc.2012.v008a019)>. The drop-in thinImage() matches the signature of thinImage() in the 'EBImage' package on Bioconductor so existing code can switch parsers without changes. The wider thin() API selects the algorithm by name.

**License** LGPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Depends** R (>= 4.2)

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**Imports** Rcpp

**Suggests** bench, covr, knitr, lintr, rmarkdown, styler, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**RoxygenNote** 8.0.0

**URL** <https://github.com/humanpred/thinr>,  
<https://humanpred.github.io/thinr/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/humanpred/thinr/issues>

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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**Repository** <https://cran.r-universe.dev>

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distance_transform	<i>Distance transform of a binary image</i>
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## Description

Compute the distance from each foreground pixel to the nearest background pixel, under one of three standard metrics.

## Usage

```
distance_transform(image, metric = c("euclidean", "manhattan", "chessboard"))
```

## Arguments

image	A binary image: a matrix where non-zero values are foreground and zero values are background. Logical, integer, and numeric inputs are accepted.
metric	Distance metric. One of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"euclidean" (default) — exact L2 distance, via Felzenszwalb &amp; Huttenlocher (2012) linear-time separable algorithm.</li> <li>"manhattan" — L1 distance via two-pass forward + backward sweep (Rosenfeld &amp; Pfaltz 1968).</li> <li>"chessboard" — L_infinity (Chebyshev) distance via the same two-pass sweep with 8-connected propagation.</li> </ul>

**Value**

A numeric matrix of the same shape as `image`. Background pixels are 0; foreground pixels carry their distance to the nearest background pixel.

**References**

Felzenszwalb, P. F., & Huttenlocher, D. P. (2012). Distance transforms of sampled functions. *Theory of Computing*, 8(19), 415-428. doi:10.4086/toc.2012.v008a019

Rosenfeld, A., & Pfaltz, J. L. (1968). Distance functions on digital pictures. *Pattern Recognition*, 1(1), 33-61. doi:10.1016/00313203(68)900137

**Examples**

```
# A 5x5 image with a single background pixel in the corner.
m <- matrix(1L, nrow = 5, ncol = 5)
m[1, 1] <- 0L
distance_transform(m, metric = "manhattan")
distance_transform(m, metric = "chessboard")
round(distance_transform(m, metric = "euclidean"), 3)
```

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medial_axis	<i>Medial axis transform</i>
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**Description**

Return the medial axis of a binary image: the locus of foreground pixels that are local maxima of the (squared) Euclidean distance transform in at least one of the four principal directions (horizontal, vertical, NW-SE diagonal, NE-SW diagonal). Each skeleton pixel carries width information via the distance value at that point.

**Usage**

```
medial_axis(image, return_distance = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

`image` A binary image: a matrix where non-zero values are foreground and zero values are background. Logical, integer, and numeric inputs are accepted.

`return_distance` Logical. If FALSE (default), return only the binary skeleton in the same storage mode as `image`. If TRUE, return a list with elements `skeleton` (the binary skeleton) and `distance` (a numeric matrix of Euclidean distances from each foreground pixel to the nearest background pixel, with 0 on background pixels).

### Details

This is different from `thin()`: classical thinning algorithms produce a connected, 1-pixel-wide skeleton without width information. The medial axis transform (Blum 1967) produces a skeleton **with** width information, useful for shape analysis where local thickness matters.

### Value

Either a matrix (when `return_distance = FALSE`) or a `list(skeleton, distance)` (when `return_distance = TRUE`).

### References

Blum, H. (1967). A transformation for extracting new descriptors of shape. In *Models for the Perception of Speech and Visual Form* (pp. 362-380). MIT Press.

Felzenszwalb, P. F., & Huttenlocher, D. P. (2012). Distance transforms of sampled functions. *Theory of Computing*, 8(19), 415-428. doi:10.4086/toc.2012.v008a019

### Examples

```
# A 7x9 solid rectangle: the medial axis is the middle row.
m <- matrix(0L, nrow = 7, ncol = 9)
m[3:5, 3:7] <- 1L
medial_axis(m)

# Returning width information alongside the skeleton.
result <- medial_axis(m, return_distance = TRUE)
result$skeleton
round(result$distance, 3)
```

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thin	<i>Thin (skeletonize) a binary image</i>
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### Description

Reduce a binary image to its one-pixel-wide skeleton using one of the supported thinning algorithms.

### Usage

```
thin(
  image,
  method = c("zhang_suen", "guo_hall", "lee", "k3m", "hilditch", "opta", "holt"),
  max_iter = 1000L
)
```

**Arguments**

image	A binary image: a matrix or array where non-zero values are foreground and zero values are background. Logical, integer, and numeric inputs are all accepted. The image is treated as a 2-D matrix; arrays with more than two dimensions are not yet supported.
method	Algorithm to use. One of "zhang_suen" (default, matches EImage::thinImage), "guo_hall", "lee" (2-D adaptation of Lee, Kashyap & Chu 1994), "k3m" (Saeed et al. 2010), "hilditch" (Hilditch 1969), "opta" (Naccache & Shinghal 1984), or "holt" (Holt et al. 1987). See vignette("choosing-a-method") for guidance on which to pick.
max_iter	Maximum number of passes. Default 1000. Real binary images of typical sizes converge well under 50 passes; the limit is a safety bound against pathological inputs.

**Value**

A matrix of the same shape and storage mode as image, with foreground pixels marking the thinned skeleton and the rest set to background.

**Examples**

```
# A 3x3 solid square thins to a single foreground pixel.
m <- matrix(c(0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
              0, 1, 1, 1, 0,
              0, 1, 1, 1, 0,
              0, 1, 1, 1, 0,
              0, 0, 0, 0, 0),
            nrow = 5, byrow = TRUE)
thin(m, method = "zhang_suen")
thin(m, method = "guo_hall")
thin(m, method = "hilditch")
```

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thinImage

*Drop-in replacement for EImage::thinImage*


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**Description**

Applies Zhang-Suen thinning to a binary image. Provided as a signature-compatible alternative to EImage::thinImage() so callers can switch from EImage to thinr by changing the namespace prefix only.

**Usage**

```
thinImage(x)
```

**Arguments**

`x` A binary image. Same constraints as `thin()`'s image argument.

**Details**

For access to the other algorithms (Guo-Hall, and eventually Lee / K3M), use `thin()`.

**Value**

The thinned skeleton in the same storage mode as `x`.

**Examples**

```
m <- matrix(c(0, 1, 1, 1, 0,
              0, 1, 1, 1, 0,
              0, 1, 1, 1, 0),
            nrow = 3, byrow = TRUE)
thinImage(m)
```

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