

# NAG C Library Function Document

## nag\_smooth\_spline\_estim (g10acc)

### 1 Purpose

nag\_smooth\_spline\_estim (g10acc) estimates the values of the smoothing parameter and fits a cubic smoothing spline to a set of data.

### 2 Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nagg10.h>

void nag_smooth_spline_estim(Nag_SmoothParamMethods method, Integer n,
    const double x[], const double y[], const double weights[],
    double yhat[], double coeff[], double *rss, double *df, double res[],
    double h[], double *crit, double *rho, double u, double tol,
    Integer maxcal, NagError *fail)
```

### 3 Description

For a set of  $n$  observations  $(x_i, y_i)$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , the spline provides a flexible smooth function for situations in which a simple polynomial or non-linear regression model is not suitable.

Cubic smoothing splines arise as the unique real-valued solution function,  $f$ , with absolutely continuous first derivative and squared-integrable second derivative, which minimises:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n w_i \{y_i - f(x_i)\}^2 + \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \{f''(x)\}^2 dx,$$

where  $w_i$  is the (optional) weight for the  $i$ th observation and  $\rho$  is the smoothing parameter. This criterion consists of two parts: the first measures the fit of the curve and the second the smoothness of the curve. The value of the smoothing parameter  $\rho$  weights these two aspects; larger values of  $\rho$  give a smoother fitted curve but, in general, a poorer fit. For details of how the cubic spline can be fitted see Hutchinson and de Hoog (1985) and Reinsch (1967).

The fitted values,  $\hat{y} = (\hat{y}_1, \hat{y}_2, \dots, \hat{y}_n)^T$ , and weighted residuals,  $r_i$ , can be written as:

$$\hat{y} = Hy \quad \text{and} \quad r_i = \sqrt{w_i}(y_i - \hat{y}_i)$$

for a matrix  $H$ . The residual degrees of freedom for the spline is  $\text{trace}(I - H)$  and the diagonal elements of  $H$  are the leverages.

The parameter  $\rho$  can be estimated in a number of ways.

- (1) The degrees of freedom for the spline can be specified, i.e., find  $\rho$  such that  $\text{trace}(H) = \nu_0$  for given  $\nu_0$ .
- (2) Minimise the cross-validation (CV), i.e., find  $\rho$  such that the CV is minimised, where

$$\text{CV} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \frac{r_i}{1 - h_{ii}} \right]^2.$$

(3) Minimise the generalised cross-validation (GCV), i.e., find  $\rho$  such that the GCV is minimised, where

$$\text{GCV} = \frac{n^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i} \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n r_i^2}{\left( \sum_{i=1}^n (1 - h_{ii}) \right)^2} \right].$$

nag\_smooth\_spline\_estim requires the  $x_i$  to be strictly increasing. If two or more observations have the same  $x_i$  value then they should be replaced by a single observation with  $y_i$  equal to the (weighted) mean of the  $y$  values and weight,  $w_i$ , equal to the sum of the weights. This operation can be performed by nag\_order\_data (g10zac).

The algorithm is based on Hutchinson (1986).

## 4 Parameters

- 1: **method** – Nag\_SmoothParamMethods *Input*  
*On entry:* indicates whether the smoothing parameter is to be found by minimization of the CV or GCV functions, or by finding the smoothing parameter corresponding to a specified degrees of freedom value.  
 If **method** = Nag\_SmoothParamCV, cross-validation is used.  
 If **method** = Nag\_SmoothParamDF, the degrees of freedom are specified.  
 If **method** = Nag\_SmoothParamGCV, generalized cross-validation is used.  
*Constraint:* **method** = Nag\_SmoothParamCV, Nag\_SmoothParamDF or Nag\_SmoothParamGCV.
- 2: **n** – Integer *Input*  
*On entry:* the number of observations,  $n$ .  
*Constraint:*  $n \geq 3$ .
- 3: **x[n]** – const double *Input*  
*On entry:* the distinct and ordered values  $x_i$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .  
*Constraint:*  $x[i - 1] < x[i]$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ .
- 4: **y[n]** – const double *Input*  
*On entry:* the values  $y_i$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- 5: **weights[n]** – const double *Input*  
*On entry:* **weights** must contain the  $n$  weights, if they are required. Otherwise, **weights** must be set to the null pointer (double\*) 0.  
*Constraint:* if **weights** are required, then **weights**[ $i - 1$ ] > 0.0, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- 6: **yhat[n]** – double *Output*  
*On exit:* the fitted values,  $\hat{y}_i$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- 7: **coeff[(n-1)\*3]** – double *Output*  
*On exit:* the spline coefficients. More precisely, the value of the spline approximation at  $t$  is given by  $((\text{coeff}[(i-1) \times (n-1) + 2] \times d + \text{coeff}[(i-1) \times (n-1) + 1]) \times d + \text{coeff}[(i-1) \times (n-1)]) \times d + \hat{y}_i$ , where  $x_i \leq t < x_{i+1}$  and  $d = t - x_i$ .

- 8: **rss** – double \* Output  
*On exit:* the (weighted) residual sum of squares.
- 9: **df** – double \* Output  
*On exit:* the residual degrees of freedom. If **method** = **Nag\_SmoothParamDF**, this will be  $n - \mathbf{crit}$  to the required accuracy.
- 10: **res[n]** – double Output  
*On exit:* the (weighted) residuals,  $r_i$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- 11: **h[n]** – double Output  
*On exit:* the leverages,  $h_{ii}$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- 12: **crit** – double \* Input/Output  
*On entry:* if **method** = **Nag\_SmoothParamDF**, the required degrees of freedom for the spline. If **method** = **Nag\_SmoothParamCV** or **Nag\_SmoothParamGCV**, **crit** need not be set.  
*Constraint:*  $2.0 < \mathbf{crit} \leq \mathbf{n}$ .  
*On exit:* if **method** = **Nag\_SmoothParamCV**, the value of the cross-validation, or if **method** = **Nag\_SmoothParamGCV**, the value of the generalized cross-validation function, evaluated at the value of  $\rho$  returned in **rho**.
- 13: **rho** – double \* Output  
*On exit:* the smoothing parameter,  $\rho$ .
- 14: **u** – double Input  
*On entry:* the upper bound on the smoothing parameter. See Section 6 for details on how this parameter is used.  
*Constraint:*  $\mathbf{u} > \mathbf{tol}$ .  
*Suggested value:*  $\mathbf{u} = 1000.0$ .
- 15: **tol** – double Input  
*On entry:* the accuracy to which the smoothing parameter **rho** is required. **tol** should be preferably not much less than  $\sqrt{\epsilon}$ , where  $\epsilon$  is the *machine precision*.  
*Constraint:*  $\mathbf{tol} \geq \mathbf{machine\ precision}$ .
- 16: **maxcal** – Integer Input  
*On entry:* the maximum number of spline evaluations to be used in finding the value of  $\rho$ .  
*Constraint:*  $\mathbf{maxcal} \geq 3$ .  
*Suggested value:*  $\mathbf{maxcal} = 30$ .
- 17: **fail** – NagError \* Input/Output  
The NAG error parameter (see the Essential Introduction).

## 5 Error Indicators and Warnings

### NE\_INT\_ARG\_LT

On entry, **n** must not be less than 3: **n** = <value>.

On entry, **maxcal** must not be less than 3: **maxcal** = <value>.

**NE\_BAD\_PARAM**

On entry, parameter **method** had an illegal value.

**NE\_REAL**

On entry, **crit** = *<value>*.

Constraint: **crit** > 2, if **method** = **Nag\_Smooth\_Param\_DF**.

**NE\_REAL\_INT\_ARG\_CONS**

On entry, **crit** = *<value>* and **n** = *<value>*.

These parameters must satisfy **crit** ≤ **n**, if **method** = **Nag\_Smooth\_Param\_DF**.

**NE\_REAL\_MACH\_PREC**

On entry, **tol** = *<value>*, *machine precision*(X02AJC) = *<value>*.

Constraint: **tol** ≥ *machine precision*

**NE\_2\_REAL\_ARG\_LE**

On entry, **u** = *<value>* while **tol** = *<value>*.

These parameters must satisfy **u** > **tol**.

**NE\_REAL\_ARRAY\_CONS**

On entry, **weights**[*<value>*] = *<value>*.

Constraint: **weights**[*i*] > 0, for *i* = 0, 1, ..., *n* - 1.

**NE\_NOT\_STRICTLY\_INCREASING**

The sequence **x** is not strictly increasing: **x**[*<value>*] = *<value>*, **x**[*<value>*] = *<value>*.

**NE\_G10AC\_DF\_RHO**

**method** = **Nag\_Smooth\_Param\_DF** and the required value of **rho** for specified degrees of freedom > **u**. Try a larger value of **u**.

**NE\_G10AC\_DF\_TOL**

**method** = **Nag\_Smooth\_Param\_DF** and the accuracy given by **tol** cannot be achieved. Try increasing the value of **tol**.

**NE\_G10AC\_ACC**

A solution to the accuracy given by **tol** has not been achieved in **maxcal** iterations. Try increasing the value of **tol** and/or **maxcal**.

**NE\_G10AC\_CG\_RHO**

**method** = **NagSmoothParamCV** or **Nag\_SmoothParamGCV** and the optimal value of **rho** > **u**. Try a larger value of **u**.

**NE\_ALLOC\_FAIL**

Memory allocation failed.

**NE\_INTERNAL\_ERROR**

An internal error has occurred in this function. Check the function call and any array sizes. If the call is correct then please consult NAG for assistance.

## 6 Further Comments

The time to fit the spline for a given value of  $\rho$  is of order  $n$ .

When finding the value of  $\rho$  that gives the required degrees of freedom, the algorithm examines the interval 0.0 to  $\mathbf{u}$ . For small degrees of freedom the value of  $\rho$  can be large, as in the theoretical case of two degrees of freedom when the spline reduces to a straight line and  $\rho$  is infinite. If the CV or GCV is to be minimised then the algorithm searches for the minimum value in the interval 0.0 to  $\mathbf{u}$ . If the function is decreasing in that range then the boundary value of  $\mathbf{u}$  will be returned. In either case, the larger the value of  $\mathbf{u}$  the more likely is the interval to contain the required solution, but the process will be less efficient.

Regression splines with a small ( $< n$ ) number of knots can be fitted by `nag_1d_spline_fit_knots` (e02bac) and `nag_1d_spline_fit` (e02bec).

### 6.1 Accuracy

When minimising the cross-validation or generalised cross-validation, the error in the estimate of  $\rho$  should be within  $\pm 3 \times (\mathbf{tol} \times \mathbf{rho} + \mathbf{tol})$ . When finding  $\rho$  for a fixed number of degrees of freedom the error in the estimate of  $\rho$  should be within  $\pm 2 \times \mathbf{tol} \times \max(1, \mathbf{rho})$ .

Given the value of  $\rho$ , the accuracy of the fitted spline depends on the value of  $\rho$  and the position of the  $x$  values. The values of  $x_i - x_{i-1}$  and  $w_i$  are scaled and  $\rho$  is transformed to avoid underflow and overflow problems.

### 6.2 References

Hastie T J and Tibshirani R J (1990) *Generalized Additive Models* Chapman and Hall

Hutchinson M F (1986) Algorithm 642: A fast procedure for calculating minimum cross-validation cubic smoothing splines *ACM Trans. Math. Software* **12** 150–153

Hutchinson M F and de Hoog F R (1985) Smoothing noisy data with spline functions *Numer. Math.* **47** 99–106

Reinsch C H (1967) Smoothing by spline functions *Numer. Math.* **10** 177–183

## 7 See Also

`nag_1d_spline_fit_knots` (e02bac)

`nag_1d_spline_fit` (e02bec)

`nag_order_data` (g10zac)

## 8 Example

The data, given by Hastie and Tibshirani (1990), is the age,  $x_i$ , and C-peptide concentration (pmol/ml),  $y_i$ , from a study of the factors affecting insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in children. The data is input, reduced to a strictly ordered set by `nag_order_data` (g10zac) and a spline with 5 degrees of freedom is fitted by `nag_smooth_spline_estim`. The fitted values and residuals are printed.

### 8.1 Program Text

```
/* nag_smooth_spline_estim (g10acc) Example Program.
 *
 * Copyright 2000 Numerical Algorithms Group.
 *
 * Mark 6, 2000.
 */

#include <stdio.h>
#include <nag.h>
#include <nag_stdlib.h>
```

```

#include <nagg10.h>

int main (void)
{
    char method[2], weight[2];
    double *coeff=0, crit, df, *h=0, *res=0, rho, rss, tol, u, *weights=0, *wtptr;
    double *wwt=0, *x=0, *xord=0, *y=0, *yhat=0, *yord=0;
    Integer i, maxcal, n, nord;
    Integer exit_status=0;
    NagError fail;
    Nag_SmoothParamMethods method_enum;

    INIT_FAIL(fail);
    Vprintf("g10acc Example Program Results\n");

    /* Skip heading in data file */
    Vscanf("%*[^\\n]");

    Vscanf("%ld", &n);
    if (!(x = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
        || !(y = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
        || !(weights = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
        || !(yhat = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
        || !(coeff = NAG_ALLOC((n-1)*3, double))
        || !(res = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
        || !(h = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
        || !(wwt = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
        || !(yord = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
        || !(xord = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)))
    {
        Vprintf("Allocation failure\n");
        exit_status = -1;
        goto END;
    }

    Vscanf(" %s %s ", method, weight);

    if (*method == 'C')
        method_enum = Nag_SmoothParamCV;
    else if (*method == 'G')
        method_enum = Nag_SmoothParamGCV;
    else if (*method == 'D')
        method_enum = Nag_SmoothParamDF;
    else
        method_enum = (Nag_SmoothParamMethods)-999;

    if (*weight == 'U')
    {
        for (i = 1; i <= n; ++i)
            Vscanf("%lf %lf", &x[i - 1], &y[i - 1]);
        wtptr = 0;
    }
    else
    {
        for (i = 1; i <= n; ++i)
            Vscanf("%lf %lf %lf", &x[i - 1], &y[i - 1], &weights[i - 1]);
        wtptr = weights;
    }
}

```

```

Vscanf("%lf %lf %ld %lf", &u, &tol, &maxcal, &crit);
/* Sort data, removing ties and weighting accordingly */
g10zac(n, x, y, wtptr, &nord, xord, yord, wwt, &rss, &fail);
if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
{
    Vprintf("Error from g10zac.\n%s\n", fail.message);
    exit_status = 1;
    goto END;
}
/* Fit cubic spline */
g10acc(method_enum, nord, xord, yord, wwt, yhat, coeff, &rss,
&df, res, h, &crit, &rho, u, tol, maxcal, &fail);
if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
{
    Vprintf("Error from g10acc.\n%s\n", fail.message);
    exit_status = 1;
    goto END;
}

/* Print results */
Vprintf("\n");
Vprintf("%s%10.2f\n", " Residual sum of squares = ", rss);
Vprintf("%s%10.2f\n", " Degrees of freedom = ", df);
Vprintf("%s%10.2f\n", " rho = ", rho);
Vprintf("\n");
Vprintf("\n%s%s\n%s%s\n", "      Input data",
"      ",
"Output results",
"  I      X      Y      ",
"      ",
"YHAT      H");

for (i = 1; i <= nord; ++i)
    Vprintf("%4ld %8.3f %8.3f      %8.3f %8.3f\n",
i, xord[i - 1], yord[i - 1], yhat[i - 1], h[i - 1]);
END:
if (x) NAG_FREE(x);
if (y) NAG_FREE(y);
if (weights) NAG_FREE(weights);
if (yhat) NAG_FREE(yhat);
if (coeff) NAG_FREE(coeff);
if (res) NAG_FREE(res);
if (h) NAG_FREE(h);
if (wwt) NAG_FREE(wwt);
if (yord) NAG_FREE(yord);
if (xord) NAG_FREE(xord);
return exit_status;
}

```

## 8.2 Program Data

g10acc Example Program Data

43

D U

5.2	4.8	8.8	4.1	10.5	5.2	10.6	5.5	10.4	5.0
1.8	3.4	12.7	3.4	15.6	4.9	5.8	5.6	1.9	3.7
2.2	3.9	4.8	4.5	7.9	4.8	5.2	4.9	0.9	3.0
11.8	4.6	7.9	4.8	11.5	5.5	10.6	4.5	8.5	5.3
11.1	4.7	12.8	6.6	11.3	5.1	1.0	3.9	14.5	5.7

```

11.9 5.1    8.1 5.2  13.8 3.7  15.5 4.9   9.8 4.8
11.0 4.4    12.4 5.2  11.1 5.1   5.1 4.6   4.8 3.9
 4.2 5.1    6.9 5.1  13.2 6.0   9.9 4.9  12.5 4.1
13.2 4.6    8.9 4.9  10.8 5.1
10000 0.001 40 12.0

```

### 8.3 Program Results

g10acc Example Program Results

```

Residual sum of squares =      10.35
Degrees of freedom =      25.00
rho =          2.68

```

Input data			Output results	
I	X	Y	YHAT	H
1	0.900	3.000	3.373	0.534
2	1.000	3.900	3.406	0.427
3	1.800	3.400	3.642	0.313
4	1.900	3.700	3.686	0.313
5	2.200	3.900	3.839	0.448
6	4.200	5.100	4.614	0.564
7	4.800	4.200	4.576	0.442
8	5.100	4.600	4.715	0.189
9	5.200	4.850	4.783	0.407
10	5.800	5.600	5.193	0.455
11	6.900	5.100	5.184	0.592
12	7.900	4.800	4.958	0.530
13	8.100	5.200	4.931	0.235
14	8.500	5.300	4.845	0.245
15	8.800	4.100	4.763	0.271
16	8.900	4.900	4.748	0.292
17	9.800	4.800	4.850	0.301
18	9.900	4.900	4.875	0.277
19	10.400	5.000	4.970	0.173
20	10.500	5.200	4.977	0.154
21	10.600	5.000	4.979	0.285
22	10.800	5.100	4.970	0.136
23	11.000	4.400	4.961	0.137
24	11.100	4.900	4.964	0.284
25	11.300	5.100	4.975	0.162
26	11.500	5.500	4.975	0.186
27	11.800	4.600	4.930	0.213
28	11.900	5.100	4.911	0.220
29	12.400	5.200	4.852	0.206
30	12.500	4.100	4.857	0.196
31	12.700	3.400	4.900	0.189
32	12.800	6.600	4.932	0.193
33	13.200	5.300	4.955	0.488
34	13.800	3.700	4.797	0.408
35	14.500	5.700	5.076	0.559
36	15.500	4.900	4.979	0.445
37	15.600	4.900	4.946	0.535

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