

## NAG C Library Function Document

### nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc)

#### 1 Purpose

nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc) reads a set of optional parameter values from a file and assigns those values to a given options structure of type **Nag\_E04\_Opt**. Values supplied are checked as being of correct type for the specified optional parameter.

#### 2 Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nage04.h>
```

```
void nag_opt_read (const char *name[], const char *opt_file[], Nag_E04_Opt *options,
                  Nag_Boolean print, const char *outfile[], NagError *fail)
```

#### 3 Description

The optimization functions of Chapter e04 have a number of optional parameters, which are set by means of a structure of type **Nag\_E04\_Opt**. Optional parameter values may be assigned to members of the options structure directly in the program text and/or by supplying the optional values in a file which can be read by the function nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc).

When optional parameter values are read from a file using nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc) then the options structure will be initialized automatically if this has not already been done. It is only necessary to call nag\_opt\_init (e04xxc) if direct assignments to the options structure are made in the user's program before calling nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc).

As well as reading from a file, nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc) will also read from `stdin`. This allows redirection to be used to supply the file; it also permits nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc) to be used interactively with the user supplying values from the keyboard.

Checks are made that the values read in are of valid type for the optional parameter specified and (except for nag\_opt\_nlp\_sparse (e04ugc)) that the value is within the range for that parameter. If a value is accepted, a printed confirmation of the setting of the relevant parameter will be output if **print = NagTrue**. An unacceptable parameter name or value will give an error message if **fail.print = NagTrue**.

#### 4 References

None.

#### 5 Arguments

- 1: **name** – const char \* *Input*  
*On entry:* a character string specifying either the NAG six character name or the NAG long name of the proposed optimization function. The case of the character string is disregarded.
- 2: **opt\_file** – const char \* *Input*  
*On entry:* the name of the file which specifies the optional parameter values. If `stdin` is to be used, the string "`stdin`" should be supplied. The set of option values must be preceded by the keyword `begin` followed by the function name for which the set of options is being supplied. The function name may be the six character NAG name of an optimization function or its associated long name.  
Each option value specified in the file must be preceded by the name of the optional parameter. The parameter name and value must be separated by at least one blank space or an equals symbol.

`nag_opt_read` (e04xyc) will read to the end of file or until the keyword `end` is found or until another `begin` is found. C style comments may be placed within a set of option values to aid the user's documentation. Outside the option value sets, text need not be within C style comment delimiters.

**Note:** assignment to function pointers in the options structure, memory allocation to array pointers and assignment of trailing array dimensions cannot be performed from an options file. These must be assigned directly to the options structure in the user's calling program.

- 3: **options** – Nag\_E04\_Opt \* *Input/Output*  
*On entry:* the options structure may or may not have previously been initialized, and had values assigned to its members.  
*On exit:* the options structure, initialized and with values assigned according to the values found in the options file.
- 4: **print** – Nag\_Boolean *Input*  
*On entry:* if **Nag\_True** a message confirming the setting of each option will be output.
- 5: **outfile** – const char \* *Input*  
*On entry:* a character string specifying the name of the file to which confirmation messages should be output. If `stdout` is required then the string "stdout" should be given. When **print = NagFalse** the empty string "" can be supplied as **outfile** will be ignored.
- 6: **fail** – NagError \* *Input/Output*  
The NAG error parameter, see the Essential Introduction.

## 6 Error Indicators and Warnings

The following error messages are specific to option setting for `nag_opt_conj_grad` (e04dgc), `nag_opt_nlp_solve` (e04wdc) and `nag_opt_nlin_lsq` (e04unc).

### NE\_FIELD\_UNKNOWN

(line *<value>*) '*<string>*' is not a permitted structure member or option for *<string>*.

### NE\_INVALID\_BEGIN

The Begin statement occurring in data file from which options are being read is not valid.

### NE\_INVALID\_OPTION

(line *<value>*) *<string>* cannot be assigned to using an options file.

### NE\_INVALID\_OPTION\_NAME

(line *<value>*) '*<string>*' is not a valid name for a structure member or option.

This error message is output if, for example, the specified string contains characters which are not permitted in a variable name in the C programming language.

### NE\_INVALID\_VALUE

(line *<value>*) is not a permitted structure member or option for *<string>*.

### NE\_NOT\_APPEND\_FILE

Cannot open file *<string>* for appending.

### NE\_NOT\_CLOSE\_FILE

Cannot close file *<string>*.

**NE\_NOT\_FUN\_NAME**

The string, *<string>*, supplied in the parameter name is not the name of any C Library function with option setting facilities.

**NE\_NOT\_READ\_FILE**

Cannot open file *<string>* for reading.

**NE\_NO\_VALUE**

(line *<value>*) no value found for option *<string>*.

**NE\_UNBALANCED\_COMMENT**

Unbalanced comment starting on line *<value>* found in options file.

## 7 Accuracy

Not applicable.

## 8 Further Comments

nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc) may be used to read the optional ‘MPSX names’ (e.g., **prob\_name**, **obj\_name**) for nag\_opt\_sparse\_mps\_read (e04mzc). However, although nag\_opt\_sparse\_mps\_read (e04mzc) allows the names to contain non-leading blank characters, nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc) will not read such names correctly from an options file since blank spaces are assumed to denote the end of an option name or value within the file. All other valid MPSX names (see the documentation for nag\_opt\_sparse\_mps\_read (e04mzc) for details) will be read correctly by nag\_opt\_read (e04xyc).

## 9 Example

See Section 9 of the documents for nag\_opt\_simplex (e04ccc), nag\_opt\_conj\_grad (e04dgc), nag\_opt\_lsq\_no\_deriv (e04fcc), nag\_opt\_lsq\_deriv (e04gbc), nag\_opt\_bounds\_2nd\_deriv (e04lbc), nag\_opt\_lp (e04mfc), nag\_opt\_qp (e04nfc), nag\_opt\_nlp\_sparse (e04ugc) and nag\_opt\_nlp\_solve (e04wdc).

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