NAG C Library Function Document

nag_gaps_test (g08edc)

1 Purpose

nag_gaps_test (g08edc) performs a gaps test on a sequence of observations.

2 Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nagg08.h>

void nag_gaps_test (Integer n, const double x[], Integer num_gaps,
     Integer max_gap, double lower, double upper, double length, double *chi,
     double *df, double *prob, NagError *fail)
```

3 Description

Gaps tests are used to test for cyclical trend in a sequence of observations. nag_gaps_test (g08edc) computes certain statistics for the gaps test.

The term gap is used to describe the distance between two numbers in the sequence that lie in the interval (r_l, r_u). That is, a gap ends at x_j if $r_l \leq x_j \leq r_u$. The next gap then begins at x_{j+1}. The interval (r_l, r_u) should lie within the region of all possible numbers. For example if the test is carried out on a sequence of (0,1) random numbers then the interval (r_l, r_u) must be contained in the whole interval (0,1). Let t_{len} be the length of the interval which specifies all possible numbers.

nag_gaps_test (g08edc) counts the number of gaps of different lengths. Let c_i denote the number of gaps of length i, for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k-1$. The number of gaps of length k or greater is then denoted by c_k. An unfinished gap at the end of a sequence is not counted. The following is a trivial example.

Suppose we called nag_gaps_test (g08edc) with the following sequence and with $r_l = 0.30$ and $r_u = 0.60$:

0.20 0.40 0.45 0.40 0.15 0.75 0.95 0.23 0.27 0.40 0.25 0.10 0.34 0.39 0.61 0.12.

nag_gaps_test (g08edc) will count gaps of the following lengths:

2, 1, 1, 6, 3 and 1.

When the counting of gaps is complete nag_gaps_test (g08edc) computes the expected values of the counts. An approximate χ^2 statistic with **max_gap** degrees of freedom is computed where

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k} (c_i - e_i)^2}{e_i}$$

where

$e_i = ngaps \times p \times (1-p)^{i-1}$, if $i < k$;

$e_i = ngaps \times (1-p)^{i-1}$, if $i = k$;

$ngaps =$ the number of gaps found and

$p = (r_u - r_l)/t_{len}$.

The use of the χ^2 distribution as an approximation to the exact distribution of the test statistic improves as the expected values increase.

The user may specify the total number of gaps to be found. If the specified number of gaps is found before the end of a sequence nag_gaps_test (g08edc) will exit before counting any further gaps.

4 References

Dagpunar J (1988) *Principles of Random Variate Generation* Oxford University Press

Knuth D E (1981) *The Art of Computer Programming (Volume 2)* (2nd Edition) Addison–Wesley

Morgan B J T (1984) *Elements of Simulation* Chapman and Hall

Ripley B D (1987) *Stochastic Simulation* Wiley

5 Arguments

1: **n** – Integer *Input*

On entry: the length of the current sequence of observations, n.

Constraint: $\mathbf{n} \geq 1$.

2: **x**[**n**] – const double *Input*

On entry: the sequence of observations.

3: **num_gaps** – Integer *Input*

On entry: the maximum number of gaps to be sought. If $\mathbf{num\_gaps} \leq 0$ then there is no limit placed on the number of gaps that are found.

Constraint: $\mathbf{num\_gaps} \leq \mathbf{n}$.

4: **max_gap** – Integer *Input*

On entry: the length of the longest gap for which tabulation is desired, k.

Constraint: $\mathbf{max\_gap} > 1$ and $\mathbf{max\_gap} \leq \mathbf{n}$.

5: **lower** – double *Input*

On entry: the lower limit of the interval to be used to define the gaps, r_l.

Constraint: $\mathbf{lower} < \mathbf{upper}$ and $\mathbf{upper} - \mathbf{lower} < \mathbf{length}$.

6: **upper** – double *Input*

On entry: the upper limit of the interval to be used to define the gaps, r_u.

Constraint: $\mathbf{upper} > \mathbf{lower}$ and $\mathbf{upper} - \mathbf{lower} < \mathbf{length}$.

7: **length** – double *Input*

On entry: the total length of the interval which contains all possible numbers that may arise in the sequence.

Constraint: $\mathbf{length} > 0.0$ and $\mathbf{upper} - \mathbf{lower} < \mathbf{length}$.

8: **chi** – double * *Output*

On exit: contains the χ^2 test statistic, X^2, for testing the null hypothesis of randomness.

9: **df** – double * *Output*

On exit: contains the degrees of freedom for the χ^2 statistic.

10: **prob** – double * *Output*

On exit: contains the upper tail probability associated with the χ^2 test statistic, i.e., the significance level.

11: **fail** – NagError * *Input/Output*

The NAG error parameter, see the Essential Introduction.

6 Error Indicators and Warnings

NE_2_INT_ARG_GT

On entry, **num_gaps** = ⟨*value*⟩ while **n** = ⟨*value*⟩. These parameters must satisfy **num_gaps** ≤ **n**.

NE_2_REAL_ARG_GE

On entry, **lower** = ⟨*value*⟩, while **upper** = ⟨*value*⟩. These parameters must satisfy **upper** < **lower**.

NE_3_REAL_ARG_CONS

On entry, **lower** = ⟨*value*⟩, **upper** = ⟨*value*⟩ and **length** = ⟨*value*⟩. These parameters must satisfy **upper** − **lower** < **length**.

NE_ALLOC_FAIL

Dynamic memory allocation failed.

NE_G08ED_FREQ_LT_ONE

Some classes have expected frequencies less than 1.0. This implies that the χ^2 may not be a good approximation to the distribution of the test statistic.

NE_G08ED_FREQ_ZERO

The expected frequency of a certain class is zero, that is $e_i = 0$, for some $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$. For further details please refer to Section 3.

NE_G08ED_GAPS

The number of gaps requested were not found.

NE_G08ED_GAPS_ZERO

No gaps were found. Try using a longer sequence or increase the size of the interval **upper** − **lower**.

NE_INT_2

On entry, **max_gap** = ⟨*value*⟩, **n** = ⟨*value*⟩.
Constraint: 1 ≤ **max_gap** ≤ **n**.

NE_INT_ARG_LT

On entry, **n** must not be less than 1: **n** = ⟨*value*⟩.

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.

NE_REAL_ARG_LE

On entry, **length** must not be less than or equal to 0.0: **length** = ⟨*value*⟩.

7 Accuracy

The computations are believed to be stable. The computation of **prob** given the values of **chi** and **df** will obtain a relative accuracy of five significant places for most cases.

8 Further Comments

The time taken by nag_gaps_test (g08edc) increases with the number of observations n.

9 Example

The following program performs the pairs test on 10000 pseudo-random numbers from a uniform distribution between 0 and 1 generated by nag_random_continuous_uniform (g05cac). nag_gaps_test (g08edc) is called 10 times with 1000 observations on each call. All gaps of length 10 or more are counted together.

9.1 Program Text

```
/* nag_gaps_test (g08edc) Example Program.
 *
 * Copyright 2000 Numerical Algorithms Group.
 *
 * Mark 6, 2000.
 *
 * Mark 8 revised, 2004
 *
 */

#include <stdio.h>
#include <nag.h>
#include <nag_stdlib.h>
#include <nagg05.h>
#include <nagg08.h>

int main (void)
{
  Integer exit_status=0, igen = 0, iseed[] = {0, 0, 0, 0}, max_gap, n, num_gaps;
  NagError fail;
  double chi, df, enda, endb, length, lower, p, upper, *x=0;

  INIT_FAIL(fail);
  Vprintf("nag_gaps_test (g08edc) Example Program Results\n");
  /* nag_rngs_init_repeatable (g05kbc).
   * Initialize seeds of a given generator for random number
   * generating functions (that pass seeds explicitly) to give
   * a repeatable sequence
   */
  nag_rngs_init_repeatable(&igen, iseed);
  n = 5000;
  if (!(x = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)))
    {
      Vprintf("Allocation failure\n");
      exit_status = -1;
      goto END;
    }

  enda = 0.0;
  endb = 1.0;
  /* nag_rngs_uniform (g05lgc).
   * Generates a vector of random numbers from a uniform
   * distribution, seeds and generator number passed
   * explicitly
   */
  nag_rngs_uniform(enda, endb, n, x, igen, iseed, NAGERR_DEFAULT);
  num_gaps = 0;
  max_gap = 10;
  length = 1.0;
  lower = 0.4;
  upper = 0.6;
  /* nag_gaps_test (g08edc).
   * Performs the gaps test for randomness
   */
  nag_gaps_test(n, x, num_gaps, max_gap, lower, upper, length, &chi, &df, &p,
```

```
                &fail);

  if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR && fail.code != NE_G08ED_GAPS &&
      NE_G08ED_FREQ_LT_ONE)
    {
      Vprintf("Error from nag_gaps_test (g08edc).\n%s\n", fail.message);
      exit_status = 1;
      goto END;
    }
  Vprintf("\n");
  Vprintf("%s%10.4f\n", "Chisq = ", chi);
  Vprintf("%s%7.1f\n", "DF    = ", df);
  Vprintf("%s%10.4f\n", "Prob  = ", p);
  if (fail.code == NE_G08ED_FREQ_LT_ONE)
    Vprintf("Error from nag_gaps_test (g08edc).\n%s\n", fail.message);
 END:
  if (x) NAG_FREE(x);
  return exit_status;
}
```

9.2 Program Data

None.

9.3 Program Results

```
nag_gaps_test (g08edc) Example Program Results

Chisq =    10.3666
DF    =     9.0
Prob  =     0.3216
```