

# NAG Library Function Document

## nag\_rand\_students\_t (g05snc)

### 1 Purpose

nag\_rand\_students\_t (g05snc) generates a vector of pseudorandom numbers taken from a Student's  $t$ -distribution with  $\nu$  degrees of freedom.

### 2 Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nagg05.h>
void nag_rand_students_t (Integer n, Integer df, Integer state[], double x[],
    NagError *fail)
```

### 3 Description

The distribution has PDF (probability density function)

$$f(x) = \frac{\left(\frac{\nu-1}{2}\right)!}{\left(\frac{1}{2}\nu - 1\right)! \sqrt{\pi\nu} \left(1 + \frac{x^2}{\nu}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}(\nu+1)}}.$$

nag\_rand\_students\_t (g05snc) calculates the values

$$y_i \sqrt{\frac{\nu}{z_i}}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

where the  $y_i$  are generated by nag\_rand\_normal (g05skc) with mean 0 and variance 1.0, and the  $z_i$  are generated by nag\_rand\_gamma (g05sjc) with parameters  $\frac{1}{2}\nu$  and 2 (i.e., from a  $\chi^2$ -distribution with  $\nu$  degrees of freedom).

One of the initialization functions nag\_rand\_init\_repeatable (g05kfc) (for a repeatable sequence if computed sequentially) or nag\_rand\_init\_nonrepeatable (g05kgc) (for a non-repeatable sequence) must be called prior to the first call to nag\_rand\_students\_t (g05snc).

### 4 References

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

### 5 Arguments

- 1: **n** – Integer *Input*  
*On entry:*  $n$ , the number of pseudorandom numbers to be generated.  
*Constraint:*  $n \geq 0$ .
- 2: **df** – Integer *Input*  
*On entry:*  $\nu$ , the number of degrees of freedom of the distribution.  
*Constraint:*  $df \geq 1$ .

- 3: **state**[*dim*] – Integer *Communication Array*  
**Note:** the dimension, *dim*, of this array is dictated by the requirements of associated functions that must have been previously called. This array **MUST** be the same array passed as argument **state** in the previous call to `nag_rand_init_repeatable` (g05kfc) or `nag_rand_init_nonrepeatable` (g05kgc).  
*On entry:* contains information on the selected base generator and its current state.  
*On exit:* contains updated information on the state of the generator.
- 4: **x**[**n**] – double *Output*  
*On exit:* the *n* pseudorandom numbers from the specified Student's *t*-distribution.
- 5: **fail** – NagError \* *Input/Output*  
The NAG error argument (see Section 3.6 in the Essential Introduction).

## 6 Error Indicators and Warnings

### NE\_ALLOC\_FAIL

Dynamic memory allocation failed.  
See Section 3.2.1.2 in the Essential Introduction for further information.

### NE\_BAD\_PARAM

On entry, argument *<value>* had an illegal value.

### NE\_INT

On entry, **df** = *<value>*.  
Constraint: **df** ≥ 1.

On entry, **n** = *<value>*.  
Constraint: **n** ≥ 0.

### 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 contact NAG for assistance.

An unexpected error has been triggered by this function. Please contact NAG.  
See Section 3.6.6 in the Essential Introduction for further information.

### NE\_INVALID\_STATE

On entry, **state** vector has been corrupted or not initialized.

### NE\_NO\_LICENCE

Your licence key may have expired or may not have been installed correctly.  
See Section 3.6.5 in the Essential Introduction for further information.

## 7 Accuracy

Not applicable.

## 8 Parallelism and Performance

`nag_rand_students_t` (g05snc) is threaded by NAG for parallel execution in multithreaded implementations of the NAG Library.

Please consult the X06 Chapter Introduction for information on how to control and interrogate the OpenMP environment used within this function. Please also consult the Users' Note for your implementation for any additional implementation-specific information.

## 9 Further Comments

The time taken by `nag_rand_students_t` (g05snc) increases with  $\nu$ .

## 10 Example

This example prints five pseudorandom numbers from a Student's  $t$ -distribution with five degrees of freedom, generated by a single call to `nag_rand_students_t` (g05snc), after initialization by `nag_rand_init_repeatabe` (g05kfc).

### 10.1 Program Text

```

/* nag_rand_students_t (g05snc) Example Program.
 *
 * Copyright 2014 Numerical Algorithms Group.
 *
 * Mark 9, 2009.
 */
/* Pre-processor includes */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <nag.h>
#include <nag_stdlib.h>
#include <nagg05.h>

int main(void)
{
    /* Integer scalar and array declarations */
    Integer      exit_status = 0;
    Integer      i, lstate;
    Integer      *state = 0;

    /* NAG structures */
    NagError     fail;

    /* Double scalar and array declarations */
    double       *x = 0;

    /* Set the distribution parameters */
    Integer      df = 5;

    /* Set the sample size */
    Integer      n = 5;

    /* Choose the base generator */
    Nag_BaseRNG  genid = Nag_Basic;
    Integer      subid = 0;

    /* Set the seed */
    Integer      seed[] = { 1762543 };
    Integer      lseed = 1;

    /* Initialise the error structure */
    INIT_FAIL(fail);

    printf("nag_rand_students_t (g05snc) Example Program Results\n\n");

    /* Get the length of the state array */
    lstate = -1;
    nag_rand_init_repeatabe(genid, subid, seed, lseed, state, &lstate, &fail);
    if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
    {
        printf("Error from nag_rand_init_repeatabe (g05kfc).\n%s\n",

```

```

        fail.message);
    exit_status = 1;
    goto END;
}

/* Allocate arrays */
if (!(x = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) ||
    !(state = NAG_ALLOC(lstate, Integer)))
{
    printf("Allocation failure\n");
    exit_status = -1;
    goto END;
}

/* Initialise the generator to a repeatable sequence */
nag_rand_init_repeatable(genid, subid, seed, lseed, state, &lstate, &fail);
if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
{
    printf("Error from nag_rand_init_repeatable (g05kfc).\n%s\n",
        fail.message);
    exit_status = 1;
    goto END;
}

/* Generate the variates*/
nag_rand_students_t(n, df, state, x, &fail);
if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
{
    printf("Error from nag_rand_students_t (g05snc).\n%s\n",
        fail.message);
    exit_status = 1;
    goto END;
}

/* Display the variates*/
for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
    printf("%10.4f\n", x[i]);

END:
NAG_FREE(x);
NAG_FREE(state);

return exit_status;
}

```

## 10.2 Program Data

None.

## 10.3 Program Results

nag\_rand\_students\_t (g05snc) Example Program Results

```

0.3849
-0.9461
-2.2814
0.1127
0.5272

```

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