NAG Library Function Document

nag_median_1var (g07dac)

1 Purpose

nag_median_1var (g07dac) finds the median, median absolute deviation, and a robust estimate of the standard deviation for a set of ungrouped data.

2 Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nagg07.h>
```

```
void nag_median_1var (Integer n, const double x[], double y[], double *xme,
     double *xmd, double *xsd, NagError *fail)
```

3 Description

The data consists of a sample of size n, denoted by $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$, drawn from a random variable X. nag_median_1var (g07dac) first computes the median

$$\theta_{\mathrm{med}} = \mathrm{med}_i \left\{x_i\right\}$$

and from this the median absolute deviation can be computed,

$$\sigma_{\mathrm{med}} = \mathrm{med}_i \left\{\left|x_i - \theta_{\mathrm{med}}\right|\right\}.$$

Finally, a robust estimate of the standard deviation is computed,

$$\sigma'_{\mathrm{med}} = \sigma_{\mathrm{med}} / \Phi^{-1}(0.75)$$

where $\Phi^{-1}(0.75)$ is the value of the inverse standard Normal function at the point 0.75. nag_median_1var (g07dac) is based upon the algorithm used in the function LTMDDV in the ROBETH library, see Marazzi (1987).

4 References

Huber P J (1981) *Robust Statistics* Wiley

Marazzi A (1987) Subroutines for robust and bounded influence regression in ROBETH *Cah. Rech. Doc. IUMSP, No. 3 ROB 2* Institut Universitaire de Médecine Sociale et Préventive, Lausanne

5 Arguments

1: **n** – Integer *Input*

On entry: the number of observations, n.

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

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

On entry: the vector of observations, $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$.

3: **y**[**n**] – double *Output*

On exit: the observations sorted into ascending order.

4: **xme** – double * *Output*

On exit: the median, θ_{med}.

5: **xmd** – double * *Output*

On exit: the median absolute deviation, σ_{med}.

6: **xsd** – double * *Output*

On exit: the robust estimate of the standard deviation, σ'_{med}.

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

The NAG error argument (see Section 3.6 in the Essential Introduction).

6 Error Indicators and Warnings

NE_INT_ARG_GT

On entry, $\mathbf{n} = \langle \mathit{value} \rangle$.
Constraint: $\mathbf{n} \leq \langle \mathit{value} \rangle$.

NE_INT_ARG_LE

On entry, $\mathbf{n} = \langle \mathit{value} \rangle$.
Constraint: $\mathbf{n} > 1$.

7 Accuracy

The computations are believed to be stable.

8 Parallelism and Performance

Not applicable.

9 Further Comments

nag_median_1var (g07dac) may be called with the same actual array supplied for arguments **x** and **y**, in which case the sorted data values will overwrite the original contents of **x**.

10 Example

The following program reads in a set of data consisting of eleven observations of a variable **x**. The median, median absolute deviation and a robust estimate of the standard deviation are calculated and printed along with the sorted data in output array **y**.

10.1 Program Text

```
/* nag_median_1var (g07dac) Example Program.
 *
 * Copyright 2014 Numerical Algorithms Group.
 *
 * Mark 1, 1990.
 *
 * Mark 3 revised, 1994.
 * Mark 8 revised, 2004.
 */

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

```
#include <nagg07.h>

int main(void)
{
  Integer  exit_status = 0, i, n;
  NagError fail;
  double   *x = 0, xmd, xme, xsd, *y = 0;

  INIT_FAIL(fail);

  printf("nag_median_1var (g07dac) Example Program Results\n");
  /* Skip heading in data file */
#ifdef _WIN32
  scanf_s("%*[^\n]");
#else
  scanf("%*[^\n]");
#endif
#ifdef _WIN32
  scanf_s("%"NAG_IFMT"", &n);
#else
  scanf("%"NAG_IFMT"", &n);
#endif
  if (n > 1)
    {
      if (!(x = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) ||
          !(y = NAG_ALLOC(n, double))
          )
        {
          printf("Allocation failure\n");
          exit_status = -1;
          goto END;
        }
    }
  else
    {
      printf("Invalid n.\n");
      exit_status = 1;
      return exit_status;
    }
  for (i = 0; i < n; ++i)
#ifdef _WIN32
    scanf_s("%lf", &x[i]);
#else
    scanf("%lf", &x[i]);
#endif
  /* nag_median_1var (g07dac).
   * Robust estimation, median, median absolute deviation,
   * robust standard deviation
   */
  nag_median_1var(n, x, y, &xme, &xmd, &xsd, &fail);
  if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
    {
      printf("Error from nag_median_1var (g07dac).\n%s\n",
              fail.message);
      exit_status = 1;
      goto END;
    }

  printf("Output y:\n");
  for (i = 0; i < n; ++i)
    printf("%6.3f%s", y[i], (i%11 == 10 || i == n-1)?"\n":" ");
  printf("\nxme = %6.3f, xmd = %6.3f, xsd = %6.3f\n", xme, xmd, xsd);
 END:
  NAG_FREE(x);
  NAG_FREE(y);
  return exit_status;
}
```

10.2 Program Data

```
nag_median_1var (g07dac) Example Program Data
11
13.0 11.0 16.0 5.0 3.0 18.0 9.0 8.0 6.0 27.0 7.0
```

10.3 Program Results

```
nag_median_1var (g07dac) Example Program Results
Output y:
  3.000  5.000  6.000  7.000  8.000  9.000 11.000 13.000 16.000 18.000 27.000

xme =  9.000, xmd =  4.000, xsd =  5.930
```