NAG Library Function Document

nag_triplets_test (g08ecc)

1 Purpose

nag_triplets_test (g08ecc) performs the triplets test on a sequence of observations from the interval $[0, 1]$.

2 Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nagg08.h>
void nag_triplets_test (Integer n, const double x[], Integer max_count,
     double *chi, double *df, double *prob, NagError *fail)
```

3 Description

nag_triplets_test (g08ecc) computes the statistics for performing a triplets test which may be used to investigate deviations from randomness in a sequence of $[0, 1]$ observations.

An m by m matrix, C, of counts is formed as follows. The element c_{jkl} of C is the number of triplets $(\mathbf{x}(i), \mathbf{x}(i+1), \mathbf{x}(i+2))$, for $i = 1, 4, \ldots, n-2$, such that

$$\frac{j-1}{m} \leq X(i) < \frac{j}{m}$$

$$\frac{k-1}{m} \leq X(i+1) < \frac{k}{m}$$

$$\frac{l-1}{m} \leq X(i+2) < \frac{l}{m}.$$

Note that all triplets formed are non-overlapping and are thus independent under the assumption of randomness.

Under the assumption that the sequence is random, the expected number of triplets for each class (i.e., each element of the count matrix) is the same, that is the triplets should be uniformly distributed over the unit cube $[0, 1]^3$. Thus the expected number of triplets for each class is just the total number of triplets, $\sum_{j,k,l=1}^{m} c_{jkl}$, divided by the number of classes, m^3.

The χ^2 test statistic used to test the hypothesis of randomness is defined as:

$$X^2 = \sum_{j,k,l=1}^{m} \frac{\left(c_{jkl} - e\right)^2}{e}$$

where $e = \sum_{j,k,l=1}^{m} c_{jkl}/m^3 =$ expected number of triplets in each class.

The use of the χ^2 distribution as an approximation to the exact distribution of the test statistic, X^2, improves as the length of the sequence relative to m increases, hence the expected value, e, increases.

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: n, the number of observations.

Constraint: **n** ≥ 3.

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

On entry: the sequence of observations.

Constraint: $0.0 \leq \mathbf{x}[i-1] \leq 1.0$, for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$.

3: **max_count** – Integer *Input*

On entry: the size of the count matrix to be formed, m.

Constraint: **max_count** ≥ 2.

4: **chi** – double * *Output*

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

5: **df** – double * *Output*

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

6: **prob** – double * *Output*

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

7: **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.

NE_G08EC_CELL

The expected value for the counts in each element of the count matrix is less than or equal to 5.0. This implies that the χ^2 distribution may not be a very good approximation to the test statistic.

NE_G08EC_TRIPLETS

No triplets were found because less than 3 observations were provided in total.

NE_INT_ARG_LE

On entry, **max_count** must not be less than or equal to 1: **max_count** $= \langle value \rangle$.

NE_INT_ARG_LT

On entry, **n** $= \langle value \rangle$.
Constraint: **n** ≥ 3.

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.

NE_REAL_ARRAY_CONS

On entry, $\mathbf{x}[\langle value \rangle] = \langle value \rangle$.
Constraint: $0 < \mathbf{x}[i] < 1.0$, for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$.

7 Accuracy

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

8 Parallelism and Performance

Not applicable.

9 Further Comments

The time taken by nag_triplets_test (g08ecc) increases with the number of observations, n.

10 Example

The following program performs the pairs test on 10000 pseudorandom numbers from a uniform distribution $U(0, 1)$ generated by nag_rand_basic (g05sac). nag_triplets_test (g08ecc) is called with **max_count** set to 5.

10.1 Program Text

```
/* nag_triplets_test (g08ecc) 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 scalar and array declarations */
  Integer     exit_status = 0;
  Integer     lstate;
  Integer     *state = 0;

  /* NAG structures */
  NagError    fail;

  /* Double scalar and array declarations */
  double      chi, df, p;
  double      *x = 0;

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

  /* Set the seed */
  Integer     seed[] = { 32423 };
  Integer     lseed = 1;

  /* Set the size of the (randomly generated) dataset */
```

```
  Integer     n = 10000;

  /* Set the size of the count matrix */
  Integer     max_count = 5;

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

  printf("nag_triplets_test (g08ecc) Example Program Results\n");

  /* Get the length of the state array */
  lstate = -1;
  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;
    }

  /* 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 vector of n uniform variates between 0.0 and 1.0 */
  nag_rand_basic(n, state, x, &fail);
  if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
    {
      printf("Error from nag_rand_basic (g05sac).\n%s\n", fail.message);
      exit_status = 1;
      goto END;
    }

  /* nag_triplets_test (g08ecc).
   * Performs the triplets test for randomness
   */
  nag_triplets_test(n, x, max_count, &chi, &df, &p, &fail);

  /* Display the results */
  if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR && fail.code != NE_G08EC_CELL)
    {
      printf("Error from nag_triplets_test (g08ecc).\n%s\n",
              fail.message);
      exit_status = 1;
      goto END;
    }
  printf("\n");
  printf("Chisq          = %10.4f\n", chi);
  printf("DF             = %8.2f\n", df);
  printf("Prob           = %10.4f\n", p);
  if (fail.code == NE_G08EC_CELL)
    printf("Error from nag_triplets_test (g08ecc).\n%s\n",
            fail.message);

 END:
```

```
  NAG_FREE(x);
  NAG_FREE(state);

  return exit_status;
}
```

10.2 Program Data

None.

10.3 Program Results

```
nag_triplets_test (g08ecc) Example Program Results

Chisq          =   120.1578
DF             =   124.00
Prob           =     0.5809
```