NAG Library Function Document

nag_search_char (m01ncc)

1 Purpose

nag_search_char (m01ncc) examines an ordered vector of null terminated strings and returns the index of the first value equal to the sought-after item. Character items are compared according to the ASCII collating sequence.

2 Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nagm01.h>
Integer nag_search_char (Nag_Boolean validate, const char *ch[], Integer m1,
        Integer m2, const char *item, NagError *fail)
```

3 Description

nag_search_char (m01ncc) is based on Professor Niklaus Wirth's implementation of the Binary Search algorithm (see Wirth (2004)), but with two modifications. First, if the sought-after item is less than the value of the first element of the array to be searched, -1 is returned. Second, if a value equal to the sought-after item is not found, the index of the immediate lower value is returned.

4 References

Wirth N (2004) *Algorithms and Data Structures* 35–36 Prentice Hall

5 Arguments

1: **validate** – Nag_Boolean *Input*

On entry: if **validate** is set to Nag_TRUE argument checking will be performed. If **validate** is set to Nag_FALSE nag_search_char (m01ncc) will be called without argument checking, which includes checking that array **ch** is sorted in ascending order and the function will return with **fail**.**code** = NE_NOERROR. See Section 9 for further details.

2: **ch**[**m2** + 1] – const char * *Input*

On entry: elements **m1** to **m2** contain null terminated strings to be searched.

Constraint: elements **m1** to **m2** of **ch** must be sorted in ascending order. The length of each element of **ch** must not exceed 255. Trailing space characters are ignored.

3: **m1** – Integer *Input*

On entry: the index of the first element of **ch** to be searched.

Constraint: **m1** ≥ 0.

4: **m2** – Integer *Input*

On entry: the index of the last element of **ch** to be searched.

Constraint: **m2** $\geq$ **m1**.

5: **item** – const char * *Input*

On entry: the sought-after item. Trailing space characters are ignored.

6: **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_BAD_PARAM

On entry, argument ⟨*value*⟩ had an illegal value.

NE_CHAR_LEN_INVALID

On entry, the length of each element of **ch** must be at most 255: maximum string length = ⟨*value*⟩.

NE_INT

On entry, **m1** = ⟨*value*⟩.
Constraint: **m1** ≥ 0.

NE_INT_2

On entry, **m1** = ⟨*value*⟩ and **m2** = ⟨*value*⟩.
Constraint: **m2** $\geq$ **m1**.

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_NOT_INCREASING

On entry, **ch** must be sorted in ascending order: **ch** element ⟨*value*⟩ $>$ element ⟨*value*⟩.

7 Accuracy

Not applicable.

8 Parallelism and Performance

Not applicable.

9 Further Comments

The argument **validate** should be used with caution. Set it to Nag_FALSE only if you are confident that the other arguments are correct, in particular that array **ch** is in fact arranged in ascending order. If you wish to search the same array **ch** many times, you are recommended to set **validate** to Nag_TRUE on first call of nag_search_char (m01ncc) and to Nag_FALSE on subsequent calls, in order to minimize the amount of time spent checking **ch**, which may be significant if **ch** is large.

The time taken by nag_search_char (m01ncc) is $O(\log(n))$, where $n = \mathbf{m2} - \mathbf{m1} + 1$, when **validate** = Nag_FALSE.

10 Example

This example reads a list of character data and sought-after items and performs the search for these items.

10.1 Program Text

```
/* nag_search_char (m01ncc) Example Program.
 *
 * Copyright 2008, Numerical Algorithms Group.
 *
 * Mark 9, 2009.
 */
/* Pre-processor includes */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <nag.h>
#include <nag_stdlib.h>
#include <nagm01.h>

int main(void)
{
  /*Logical scalar and array declarations */
  Nag_Boolean validate;
  /*Integer scalar and array declarations */
  Integer     exit_status = 0;
  Integer     chlen, i, index, lench, m1, m2;
  /*Character scalar and array declarations */
  char        item[255], chtmp[255];
  char        **ch;
  NagError    fail;

  INIT_FAIL(fail);

  printf("%s\n", "nag_search_char (m01ncc) Example Program Results");
  printf("\n");
  scanf("%*[^\n] ");
  scanf("%ld%*[^\n]", &lench);
  if (!(ch = NAG_ALLOC(lench, char *)))
    {
      printf("Allocation failure\n");
      exit_status = -1;
      goto END;
    }
  /* Read in Reference Vector ch*/
  for (i = 0; i < lench; i++)
    {
      scanf("%254s", chtmp);
      chlen = strlen(chtmp);
      if (!(ch[i] = NAG_ALLOC(chlen+1, char)))
        {
          printf("Allocation failure\n");
          exit_status = -1;
          goto END;
        }
      strncpy(ch[i], chtmp, chlen+1);
    }
  scanf("%*[^\n] ");
  /* Read items sought in the reference vector*/
  validate = Nag_TRUE;
  m1 = 0;
  m2 = lench-1;
  while (scanf("%254s%*[^\n] ", item) != EOF)
    {
      /*
       * nag_search_char (m01ncc)
       * Binary search in set of character data
       */
      index = nag_search_char(validate, (const char**)ch, m1, m2, item, &fail);
      if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
        {
          printf("Error from nag_search_char (m01ncc).\n%s\n",
                  fail.message);
          exit_status = 1;
          goto END;
```

```
        }
      if (validate)
        {
          /* Print the reference vector*/
          printf("%s\n", "Reference Vector is:");
          for (i = 0; i < lench; i++)
            {
              printf("%s%s", ch[i], (i+1)%10?" ":"\n");
            }
          printf("\n");
          validate = Nag_FALSE;
        }
      printf("\n");
      printf("  Search for item %s returned index: %4ld\n", item,
              index);
    }

 END:
  for (i = 0; i < lench; i++)
    {
      NAG_FREE(ch[i]);
    }
  NAG_FREE(ch);

  return exit_status;
}
```

10.2 Program Data

```
nag_search_char (m01ncc) Example Program Data
10                                                  : lench
a02aac  a02abc  a02acc  c02adc
c02aec  c05auc  c05awc  c05axc
c05ayc  c05azc                                      : ch
c02adc                                              : item 1
a01aac                                              : item 2
c04ayc                                              : item 3
d01nbc                                              : item 4
```

10.3 Program Results

```
nag_search_char (m01ncc) Example Program Results

Reference Vector is:
a02aac a02abc a02acc c02adc c02aec c05auc c05awc c05axc c05ayc c05azc


  Search for item c02adc returned index:    3

  Search for item a01aac returned index:   -1

  Search for item c04ayc returned index:    4

  Search for item d01nbc returned index:    9
```