

## nag\_opt\_one\_var\_no\_deriv (e04abc)

### 1. Purpose

**nag\_opt\_one\_var\_no\_deriv (e04abc)** searches for a minimum, in a given finite interval, of a continuous function of a single variable, using function values only. The method (based on quadratic interpolation) is intended for functions which have a continuous first derivative (although it will usually work if the derivative has occasional discontinuities).

### 2. Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nage04.h>

void nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv(void (*funct)(double xc, double *fc,
                                     Nag_Comm *comm),
                             double e1, double e2, double *a, double *b,
                             Integer max_fun, double *x, double *f,
                             Nag_Comm *comm, NagError *fail)
```

### 3. Description

**nag\_opt\_one\_var\_no\_deriv** is applicable to problems of the form:

$$\text{Minimize } F(x) \text{ subject to } a \leq x \leq b.$$

It normally computes a sequence of  $x$  values which tend in the limit to a minimum of  $F(x)$  subject to the given bounds. It also progressively reduces the interval  $[a, b]$  in which the minimum is known to lie. It uses the safeguarded quadratic-interpolation method described in Gill and Murray (1973).

The user must supply a function **funct** to evaluate  $F(x)$ . The parameters **e1** and **e2** together specify the accuracy

$$Tol(x) = \mathbf{e1} \times |x| + \mathbf{e2}$$

to which the position of the minimum is required. Note that **funct** is never called at any point which is closer than  $Tol(x)$  to a previous point.

If the original interval  $[a, b]$  contains more than one minimum, **nag\_opt\_one\_var\_no\_deriv** will normally find one of the minima.

### 4. Parameters

#### **funct**

The function **funct**, supplied by the user, must calculate the value of  $F(x)$  at any point  $x$  in  $[a, b]$ .

The specification of **funct** is:

```
void funct(double xc, double *fc, Nag_Comm *comm)
```

**xc**  
Input:  $x$ , the point at which the value of  $F(x)$  is required.

**fc**  
Output: the value of the function  $F$  at the current point  $x$ .

**comm**  
Pointer to structure of type Nag\_Comm; the following members are relevant to **funct**.

**first** – Boolean  
Input: will be set to **TRUE** on the first call to **funct** and **FALSE** for all subsequent calls.

**nf** – Integer  
Input: the number of calls made to **funct** so far.

**user** – double \*  
**iuser** – Integer \*  
**p** – Pointer  
The type Pointer will be `void *` with a C compiler that defines `void *` and `char *` otherwise.  
Before calling `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv` these pointers may be allocated memory by the user and initialized with various quantities for use by **funct** when called from `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv`.

bf Note: **funct** should be tested separately before being used in conjunction with `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv`.

**e1**

Input: the relative accuracy to which the position of a minimum is required. (Note that since **e1** is a relative tolerance, the scaling of  $x$  is automatically taken into account.)

It is recommended that **e1** should be no smaller than  $2\epsilon$ , and preferably not much less than  $\sqrt{\epsilon}$ , where  $\epsilon$  is the *machine precision*.

If **e1** is set to a value less than  $\epsilon$ , its value is ignored and the default value of  $\sqrt{\epsilon}$  is used instead. In particular, the user may set **e1** = 0.0 to ensure that the default value is used.

**e2**

Input: the absolute accuracy to which the position of a minimum is required. It is recommended that **e2** should be no smaller than  $2\epsilon$ .

If **e2** is set to a value less than  $\epsilon$ , its value is ignored and the default value of  $\sqrt{\epsilon}$  is used instead. In particular, the user may set **e2** = 0.0 to ensure that the default value is used.

**a**

Input: the lower bound  $a$  of the interval containing a minimum.  
Output: an improved lower bound on the position of the minimum.

**b**

Input: the upper bound  $b$  of the interval containing a minimum.  
Output: an improved upper bound on the position of the minimum.  
Constraint: **b** > **a** + **e2**. Note that the value **e2** =  $\sqrt{\epsilon}$  applies here if **e2** <  $\epsilon$  on entry to `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv`.

**max\_fun**

Input: the maximum number of function evaluations (calls to **funct**) which the user is prepared to allow.

The number of evaluations actually performed by `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv` may be determined by supplying a non-NULL parameter **comm** (see below) and examining the structure member **nf** on exit.

Constraint: **max\_fun**  $\geq 3$ . (Few problems will require more than 30 function evaluations.)

**x**

Output: the estimated position of the minimum.

**f**Output: the value of  $F$  at the final point **x**.**comm**

Input/Output: structure containing pointers for communication to user-supplied functions; see the above description of **funct** for details. The number of times the function **funct** was called is returned in the member **nf**.

If the user does not need to make use of this communication feature, the null pointer `NAGCOMM_NULL` may be used in the call to `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv`; **comm** will then be declared internally for use in calls to user-supplied functions.

**fail**

The NAG error parameter, see the Essential Introduction to the NAG C Library.

## 5. Error Indications and Warnings

### NE\_2\_REAL\_ARG\_GE

On entry, **a+e2** =  $\langle value \rangle$  while **b** =  $\langle value \rangle$ .  
These parameters must satisfy **a+e2** < **b**.

### NE\_INT\_ARG\_LT

On entry, **max\_fun** must not be less than 3: **max\_fun** =  $\langle value \rangle$ .

### NW\_MAX\_FUN

The maximum number of function calls,  $\langle value \rangle$ , have been performed.

This may have happened simply because **max\_fun** was set too small for a particular problem, or may be due to a mistake in the user-supplied function, **funct**. If no mistake can be found in **funct**, restart `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv` (preferably with the values of **a** and **b** given on exit from the previous call to `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv`).

## 6. Further Comments

Timing depends on the behaviour of  $F(x)$ , the accuracy demanded, and the length of the interval  $[a, b]$ . Unless  $F(x)$  can be evaluated very quickly, the run time will usually be dominated by the time spent in **funct**.

If  $F(x)$  has more than one minimum in the original interval  $[a, b]$ , `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv` will determine an approximation  $x$  (and improved bounds  $a$  and  $b$ ) for one of the minima.

If `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv` finds an  $x$  such that  $F(x - \delta_1) > F(x) < F(x + \delta_2)$  for some  $\delta_1, \delta_2 \geq Tol(x)$ , the interval  $[x - \delta_1, x + \delta_2]$  will be regarded as containing a minimum, even if  $F(x)$  is less than  $F(x - \delta_1)$  and  $F(x + \delta_2)$  only due to rounding errors in the user-supplied function. Therefore **funct** should be programmed to calculate  $F(x)$  as accurately as possible, so that `nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv` will not be liable to find a spurious minimum.

### 6.1. Accuracy

If  $F(x)$  is  $\delta$ -unimodal for some  $\delta < Tol(x)$ , where  $Tol(x) = \mathbf{e1} \times |x| + \mathbf{e2}$ , then, on exit,  $x$  approximates the minimum of  $F(x)$  in the original interval  $[a, b]$  with an error less than  $3 \times Tol(x)$ .

### 6.2. References

Gill P E and Murray W (1973) Safeguarded steplength algorithms for optimization using descent methods, *NPL Report NAC 37*, National Physical Laboratory.

## 7. See Also

`nag_opt_one_var_deriv` (e04bbc)

## 8. Example

A sketch of the function

$$F(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$$

shows that it has a minimum somewhere in the range [3.5, 5.0]. The example program below shows how nag\_opt\_one\_var\_no\_deriv can be used to obtain a good approximation to the position of a minimum.

### 8.1. Program Text

```
/* nag_opt_one_var_no_deriv(e04abc) Example Program.
 *
 * Copyright 1998 Numerical Algorithms Group.
 *
 * Mark 5, 1998.
 */
#include <nag.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <nag_stdlib.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <nage04.h>

#ifdef NAG_PROTO
static void funct(double xc, double *fc, Nag_Comm *comm);
#else
static void funct();
#endif

#ifdef NAG_PROTO
static void funct(double xc, double *fc, Nag_Comm *comm)
#else
static void funct(xc, fc, comm)
    double xc, *fc;
    Nag_Comm *comm;
#endif
{
    *fc = sin(xc) / xc;
}
/* funct */

main()
{
    double a, b;
    double e1, e2;
    double x, f;
    Integer max_fun;
    Nag_Comm comm;
    static NagError fail;

    Vprintf("e04abc Example Program Results.\n\n");

    /* e1 and e2 are set to zero so that e04abc will reset them to
     * their default values
     */
    e1 = 0.0;
    e2 = 0.0;
    /* The minimum is known to lie in the range (3.5, 5.0) */
    a = 3.5;
    b = 5.0;
    /* Allow 30 calls of funct */
    max_fun = 30;
    fail.print = TRUE;
    e04abc(funct, e1, e2, &a, &b, max_fun, &x, &f, &comm, &fail);

    Vprintf("The minimum lies in the interval %7.5f to %7.5f.\n", a, b);
    Vprintf("Its estimated position is %7.5f,\n", x);
```

```
Vprintf("where the function value is %9.4e.\n",f);  
Vprintf("%11d function evaluations were required.\n", comm.nf);  
  
    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);  
}
```

## 8.2. Program Data

None.

## 8.3. Program Results

e04abc Example Program Results.

The minimum lies in the interval 4.49341 to 4.49341.  
Its estimated position is 4.49341,  
where the function value is -2.1723e-01.  
10 function evaluations were required.

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