

NAG C Library Function Document

nag_rngs_triangular (g05lhc)

1 Purpose

nag_rngs_triangular (g05lhc) generates a vector of pseudo-random numbers from a triangular distribution with parameters x_{\min} , x_{\max} and x_{med} .

2 Specification

```
void nag_rngs_triangular (double xmin, double xmax, double xmed, Integer n,
    double x[], Integer igen, Integer iseed[], NagError *fail)
```

3 Description

The triangular distribution has a PDF (probability density function) that is triangular in profile. The base of the triangle ranges from $x = x_{\min}$ to $x = x_{\max}$ and the PDF has a maximum value of $\frac{2}{x_{\max} - x_{\min}}$ at $x = x_{\text{med}}$. If $x_{\min} = x_{\text{med}} = x_{\max}$ then $x = x_{\text{med}}$ with probability 1; otherwise the triangular distribution has PDF:

$$f(x) = \frac{x - x_{\min}}{x_{\text{med}} - x_{\min}} \times \frac{2}{x_{\max} - x_{\min}} \quad \text{if } x_{\min} < x \leq x_{\text{med}},$$

$$f(x) = \frac{x_{\max} - x}{x_{\max} - x_{\text{med}}} \times \frac{2}{x_{\max} - x_{\min}} \quad \text{if } x_{\text{med}} < x \leq x_{\max},$$

$$f(x) = 0 \quad \text{otherwise.}$$

One of the initialisation functions nag_rngs_init_repeatable (g05kbc) (for a repeatable sequence if computed sequentially) or nag_rngs_init_nonrepeatable (g05kcc) (for a non-repeatable sequence) must be called prior to the first call to nag_rngs_triangular (g05lhc).

4 References

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

5 Parameters

1: **xmin** – double *Input*
 2: **xmax** – double *Input*

On entry: the end-points x_{\min} and x_{\max} of the uniform distribution.

Constraint: **xmin** ≤ **xmax**.

3: **xmed** – double *Input*

On entry: the median of the distribution x_{med} (also the location of the vertex of the triangular distribution at which the PDF reaches a maximum).

Constraint: **xmin** ≤ **xmed** ≤ **xmax**.

4: **n** – Integer *Input*

On entry: the number, n , of pseudo-random numbers to be generated.

Constraint: **n** ≥ 0.

- 5: **x**[*dim*] – double *Output*
Note: the dimension, *dim*, of the array **x** must be at least $\max(1, \mathbf{n})$.
On exit: the *n* pseudo-random numbers from the specified triangular distribution.
- 6: **igen** – Integer *Input*
On entry: must contain the identification number for the generator to be used to return a pseudo-random number and should remain unchanged following initialisation by a prior call to one of the functions nag_rngs_init_repeatable (g05kbc) or nag_rngs_init_nonrepeatable (g05kcc).
- 7: **iseed**[4] – Integer *Input/Output*
On entry: contains values which define the current state of the selected generator.
On exit: contains updated values defining the new state of the selected generator.
- 8: **fail** – NagError * *Input/Output*
The NAG error parameter (see the Essential Introduction).

6 Error Indicators and Warnings

NE_INT

On entry, **n** = $\langle value \rangle$.
Constraint: **n** ≥ 0 .

NE_REAL_2

On entry, **xmed** = $\langle value \rangle$, **xmin** = $\langle value \rangle$.
Constraint: **xmed** \geq **xmin**.
On entry, **xmed** > **xmax**: **xmed** = $\langle value \rangle$, **xmax** = $\langle value \rangle$.
On entry, **xmin** > **xmax**: **xmin** = $\langle value \rangle$, **xmax** = $\langle value \rangle$.

NE_BAD_PARAM

On entry, parameter $\langle value \rangle$ had an illegal value.

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 consult NAG for assistance.

7 Accuracy

Not applicable.

8 Further Comments

None.

9 Example

The example program prints five pseudo-random numbers from a triangular distribution with parameters $x_{\min} = -1.0$, $x_{\max} = 1.0$ and $x_{\text{med}} = 0.5$, generated by a single call to nag_rngs_triangular (g05lhc), after initialisation by nag_rngs_init_repeatable (g05kbc).

9.1 Program Text

```

/* nag_rngs_triangular(g05lhc) Example Program.
 *
 * Copyright 2001 Numerical Algorithms Group.
 *
 * Mark 7, 2001.
 */

#include <stdio.h>
#include <nag.h>
#include <nag_stdlib.h>
#include <nagg05.h>

int main(void)
{
    /* Scalars */
    Integer igen, j, m;
    Integer exit_status=0;
    NagError fail;

    /* Arrays */
    double *x=0;
    Integer iseed[4];

    INIT_FAIL(fail);
    Vprintf("g05lhc Example Program Results\n\n");

    m = 5;
    /* Allocate memory */
    if ( !(x = NAG_ALLOC(m, double)) )
    {
        Vprintf("Allocation failure\n");
        exit_status = -1;
        goto END;
    }

    /* Initialise the seed to a repeatable sequence */
    iseed[0] = 1762543;
    iseed[1] = 9324783;
    iseed[2] = 42344;
    iseed[3] = 742355;
    /* igen identifies the stream. */
    igen = 1;
    g05kbc(&igen, iseed);

    g05lhc(-1.0, 1.0, 0.5, m, x, igen, iseed, &fail);
    if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
    {
        Vprintf("Error from g05lhc.\n%s\n", fail.message);
        exit_status = 1;
        goto END;
    }
    for (j = 0; j < m; ++j)
    {
        Vprintf("%10.4f\n", x[j]);
    }
    END:
    if (x) NAG_FREE(x);
    return exit_status;
}

```

9.2 Program Data

None.

9.3 Program Results

g05lhc Example Program Results

```
-0.4823  
0.7786  
0.1042  
0.4932  
0.7759
```
