E04GCF – NAG Fortran Library Routine Document

Note. Before using this routine, please read the Users' Note for your implementation to check the interpretation of bold italicised terms and other implementation-dependent details.

1 Purpose

E04GCF is an easy-to-use quasi-Newton algorithm for finding an unconstrained minimum of a sum of squares of m nonlinear functions in n variables $(m \geq n)$. First derivatives are required.

It is intended for functions which are continuous and which have continuous first and second derivatives (although it will usually work even if the derivatives have occasional discontinuities).

2 Specification

```
SUBROUTINE E04GCF(M, N, X, FSUMSQ, IW, LIW, W, LW, IFAIL)
INTEGER           M, N, IW(LIW), LIW, LW, IFAIL
real              X(N), FSUMSQ, W(LW)
```

3 Description

This routine is essentially identical to the subroutine LSFDQ2 in the National Physical Laboratory Algorithms Library. It is applicable to problems of the form

$$\text{Minimize } F(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} [f_i(x)]^2$$

where $x = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)^T$ and $m \geq n$. (The functions $f_i(x)$ are often referred to as 'residuals'.) The user must supply a subroutine LSFUN2 to evaluate the residuals and their first derivatives at any point x.

Before attempting to minimize the sum of squares, the algorithm checks LSFUN2 for consistency. Then, from a starting point supplied by the user, a sequence of points is generated which is intended to converge to a local minimum of the sum of squares. These points are generated using estimates of the curvature of $F(x)$.

4 References

[1] Gill P E and Murray W (1978) Algorithms for the solution of the nonlinear least-squares problem *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.* **15** 977–992

5 Parameters

1: M — INTEGER *Input*

2: N — INTEGER *Input*

On entry: the number m of residuals, $f_i(x)$, and the number n of variables, x_j.

Constraint: $1 \leq \text{N} \leq \text{M}$.

3: X(N) — ***real*** array *Input/Output*

On entry: X(j) must be set to a guess at the jth component of the position of the minimum, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. The routine checks the first derivatives calculated by LSFUN2 at the starting point, and so is more likely to detect an error in the user's routine if the initial X(j) are non-zero and mutually distinct.

On exit: the lowest point found during the calculations. Thus, if IFAIL $= 0$ on exit, X(j) is the jth component of the position of the minimum.

4: FSUMSQ — ***real*** *Output*

On exit: the value of the sum of squares, $F(x)$, corresponding to the final point stored in X.

5: IW(LIW) — INTEGER array *Workspace*

6: LIW — INTEGER *Input*

On entry: the length of IW as declared in the (sub)program from which E04GCF is called.

Constraint: LIW ≥ 1.

7: W(LW) — ***real*** array *Workspace*

8: LW — INTEGER *Input*

On entry: the length of W as declared in the (sub)program from which E04GCF is called.

Constraints:

$\text{LW} \geq 8 \times \text{N} + 2 \times \text{N} \times \text{N} + 2 \times \text{M} \times \text{N} + 3 \times \text{M}$, if $\text{N} > 1$,
$\text{LW} \geq 11 + 5 \times \text{M}$, if $\text{N} = 1$.

9: IFAIL — INTEGER *Input/Output*

On entry: IFAIL must be set to 0, -1 or 1. Users who are unfamiliar with this parameter should refer to Chapter P01 for details.

On exit: IFAIL = 0 unless the routine detects an error or gives a warning (see Section 6).

For this routine, because the values of output parameters may be useful even if IFAIL $\neq 0$ on exit, users are recommended to set IFAIL to -1 before entry. **It is then essential to test the value of IFAIL on exit**.

5.1 User-supplied Routines

1: LSFUN2 — SUBROUTINE, supplied by the user. *External Procedure*

This routine must be supplied by the user to calculate the vector of values $f_i(x)$ and the Jacobian matrix of first derivatives $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$ at any point x. Since the routine is not a parameter to E04GCF, it **must** be called LSFUN2. It should be tested separately before being used in conjunction with E04GCF (see the the Chapter Introduction).

Its specification is:

```
SUBROUTINE LSFUN2(M, N, XC, FVECC, FJACC, LJC)
INTEGER           M, N, LJC
real              XC(N), FVECC(M), FJACC(LJC,N)
```

Important: The dimension declaration for FJACC must contain the variable LJC, not an integer constant.

1: M — INTEGER *Input*

2: N — INTEGER *Input*

On entry: the numbers m and n of residuals and variables, respectively.

3: XC(N) — ***real*** array *Input*

On entry: the point x at which the values of the f_i and the $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$ are required.

4: FVECC(M) — ***real*** array *Output*

On exit: FVECC(i) must contain the value of f_i at the point x, for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$.

5: FJACC(LJC,N) — ***real*** array *Output*

On exit: FJACC(i,j) must contain the value of $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$ at the point x, for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$; $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$.

6: LJC — INTEGER *Input*

On entry: the first dimension of the array FJACC.

Parameters denoted as *Input* must **not** be changed by this procedure.

6 Error Indicators and Warnings

If on entry IFAIL = 0 or −1, explanatory error messages are output on the current error message unit (as defined by X04AAF).

Errors or warnings specified by the routine:

IFAIL = 1

On entry, N < 1,
or M < N,
or LIW < 1,
or LW < $8 \times$ N + $2 \times$ N $\times$ N + $2 \times$ M $\times$ N + $3 \times$ M, when N > 1,
or LW < $11 + 5 \times$ M, when N = 1.

IFAIL = 2

There have been $50 \times n$ calls of LSFUN2, yet the algorithm does not seem to have converged. This may be due to an awkward function or to a poor starting point, so it is worth restarting E04GCF from the final point held in X.

IFAIL = 3

The final point does not satisfy the conditions for acceptance as a minimum, but no lower point could be found.

IFAIL = 4

An auxiliary routine has been unable to complete a singular value decomposition in a reasonable number of sub-iterations.

IFAIL = 5
IFAIL = 6
IFAIL = 7
IFAIL = 8

There is some doubt about whether the point X found by E04GCF is a minimum of $F(x)$. The degree of confidence in the result decreases as IFAIL increases. Thus, when IFAIL = 5, it is probable that the final x gives a good estimate of the position of a minimum, but when IFAIL = 8 it is very unlikely that the routine has found a minimum.

IFAIL = 9

It is very likely that the user has made an error in forming the derivatives $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$ in LSFUN2.

If the user is not satisfied with the result (e.g., because IFAIL lies between 3 and 8), it is worth restarting the calculations from a different starting point (not the point at which the failure occurred) in order to avoid the region which caused the failure. Repeated failure may indicate some defect in the formulation of the problem.

7 Accuracy

If the problem is reasonably well scaled and a successful exit is made then, for a computer with a mantissa of t decimals, one would expect to get $t/2 - 1$ decimals accuracy in the components of x and between $t - 1$ (if $F(x)$ is of order 1 at the minimum) and $2t - 2$ (if $F(x)$ is close to zero at the minimum) decimals accuracy in $F(x)$.

8 Further Comments

The number of iterations required depends on the number of variables, the number of residuals and their behaviour, and the distance of the starting point from the solution. The number of multiplications performed per iteration of E04GCF varies, but for $m \gg n$ is approximately $n \times m^2 + O(n^3)$. In addition, each iteration makes at least one call of LSFUN2. So, unless the residuals and their derivatives can be evaluated very quickly, the run time will be dominated by the time spent in LSFUN2.

Ideally the problem should be scaled so that the minimum value of the sum of squares is in the range $(0, 1)$ and so that at points a unit distance away from the solution the sum of squares is approximately a unit value greater than at the minimum. It is unlikely that the user will be able to follow these recommendations very closely, but it is worth trying (by guesswork), as sensible scaling will reduce the difficulty of the minimization problem, so that E04GCF will take less computer time.

When the sum of squares represents the goodness of fit of a nonlinear model to observed data, elements of the variance-covariance matrix of the estimated regression coefficients can be computed by a subsequent call to E04YCF, using information returned in segments of the workspace array W. See E04YCF for further details.

9 Example

To find the least-squares estimates of x_1, x_2 and x_3 in the model

$$y = x_1 + \frac{t_1}{x_2 t_2 + x_3 t_3}$$

using the 15 sets of data given in the following table.

y	t_1	t_2	t_3
0.14	1.0	15.0	1.0
0.18	2.0	14.0	2.0
0.22	3.0	13.0	3.0
0.25	4.0	12.0	4.0
0.29	5.0	11.0	5.0
0.32	6.0	10.0	6.0
0.35	7.0	9.0	7.0
0.39	8.0	8.0	8.0
0.37	9.0	7.0	7.0
0.58	10.0	6.0	6.0
0.73	11.0	5.0	5.0
0.96	12.0	4.0	4.0
1.34	13.0	3.0	3.0
2.10	14.0	2.0	2.0
4.39	15.0	1.0	1.0

The program uses (0.5, 1.0, 1.5) as the initial guess at the position of the minimum.

9.1 Program Text

Note. The listing of the example program presented below uses bold italicised terms to denote precision-dependent details. Please read the Users' Note for your implementation to check the interpretation of these terms. As explained in the Essential Introduction to this manual, the results produced may not be identical for all implementations.

```
*     E04GCF Example Program Text.
*     Mark 15 Revised.  NAG Copyright 1991.
*     .. Parameters ..
      INTEGER          M, N, NT, LIW, LW
      PARAMETER        (M=15,N=3,NT=3,LIW=1,LW=8*N+2*N*N+2*M*N+3*M)
      INTEGER          NIN, NOUT
      PARAMETER        (NIN=5,NOUT=6)
*     .. Arrays in Common ..
```

```
      real             T(M,NT), Y(M)
*     .. Local Scalars ..
      real             FSUMSQ
      INTEGER          I, IFAIL, J
*     .. Local Arrays ..
      real             W(LW), X(N)
      INTEGER          IW(LIW)
*     .. External Subroutines ..
      EXTERNAL         E04GCF
*     .. Common blocks ..
      COMMON           Y, T
*     .. Executable Statements ..
      WRITE (NOUT,*) 'E04GCF Example Program Results'
*     Skip heading in data file
      READ (NIN,*)
*     Observations of TJ (J = 1, 2, 3) are held in T(I, J)
*     (I = 1, 2, . . . , 15)
      DO 20 I = 1, M
         READ (NIN,*) Y(I), (T(I,J),J=1,NT)
   20 CONTINUE
      X(1) = 0.5e0
      X(2) = 1.0e0
      X(3) = 1.5e0
      IFAIL = 1
*
      CALL E04GCF(M,N,X,FSUMSQ,IW,LIW,W,LW,IFAIL)
*
      IF (IFAIL.NE.0) THEN
         WRITE (NOUT,*)
         WRITE (NOUT,99999) 'Error exit type', IFAIL,
     +     ' - see routine document'
      END IF
      IF (IFAIL.NE.1) THEN
         WRITE (NOUT,*)
         WRITE (NOUT,99998) 'On exit, the sum of squares is', FSUMSQ
         WRITE (NOUT,99998) 'at the point', (X(J),J=1,N)
      END IF
      STOP
*
99999 FORMAT (1X,A,I3,A)
99998 FORMAT (1X,A,3F12.4)
      END
*
      SUBROUTINE LSFUN2(M,N,XC,FVECC,FJACC,LJC)
*     Routine to evaluate the residuals and their 1st derivatives.
*     This routine must be called LSFUN2.
*     .. Parameters ..
      INTEGER           MDEC, NT
      PARAMETER         (MDEC=15,NT=3)
*     .. Scalar Arguments ..
      INTEGER           LJC, M, N
*     .. Array Arguments ..
      real              FJACC(LJC,N), FVECC(M), XC(N)
*     .. Arrays in Common ..
      real              T(MDEC,NT), Y(MDEC)
*     .. Local Scalars ..
      real              DENOM, DUMMY
      INTEGER           I
```

```
*     .. Common blocks ..
      COMMON            Y, T
*     .. Executable Statements ..
      DO 20 I = 1, M
         DENOM = XC(2)*T(I,2) + XC(3)*T(I,3)
         FVECC(I) = XC(1) + T(I,1)/DENOM - Y(I)
         FJACC(I,1) = 1.0e0
         DUMMY = -1.0e0/(DENOM*DENOM)
         FJACC(I,2) = T(I,1)*T(I,2)*DUMMY
         FJACC(I,3) = T(I,1)*T(I,3)*DUMMY
   20 CONTINUE
      RETURN
      END
```

9.2 Program Data

```
E04GCF Example Program Data
 0.14  1.0 15.0  1.0
 0.18  2.0 14.0  2.0
 0.22  3.0 13.0  3.0
 0.25  4.0 12.0  4.0
 0.29  5.0 11.0  5.0
 0.32  6.0 10.0  6.0
 0.35  7.0  9.0  7.0
 0.39  8.0  8.0  8.0
 0.37  9.0  7.0  7.0
 0.58 10.0  6.0  6.0
 0.73 11.0  5.0  5.0
 0.96 12.0  4.0  4.0
 1.34 13.0  3.0  3.0
 2.10 14.0  2.0  2.0
 4.39 15.0  1.0  1.0
```

9.3 Program Results

```
 E04GCF Example Program Results

 On exit, the sum of squares is      0.0082
 at the point      0.0824      1.1330      2.3437
```