

NAG Library Routine Document

S14ABF

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

S14ABF returns the value of the logarithm of the Gamma function, $\ln \Gamma(x)$, via the routine name.

2 Specification

double precision FUNCTION S14ABF(X, IFAIL)
 INTEGER IFAIL
double precision X

3 Description

S14ABF calculates an approximate value for $\ln \Gamma(x)$. It is based on rational Chebyshev expansions.

Denote by $R_{n,m}^i(x) = P_n^i(x)/Q_m^i(x)$ a ratio of polynomials of degree n in the numerator and m in the denominator. Then:

for $0 < x \leq 1/2$,

$$\ln \Gamma(x) \approx -\ln(x) + xR_{n,m}^1(x+1);$$

for $1/2 < x \leq 3/2$,

$$\ln \Gamma(x) \approx (x-1)R_{n,m}^1(x);$$

for $3/2 < x \leq 4$,

$$\ln \Gamma(x) \approx (x-2)R_{n,m}^2(x);$$

for $4 < x \leq 12$,

$$\ln \Gamma(x) \approx R_{n,m}^3(x);$$

and for $12 < x$,

$$\ln \Gamma(x) \approx \left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right) \ln(x) - x + \ln(\sqrt{2\pi}) + \frac{1}{x} R_{n,m}^4(1/x^2). \quad (1)$$

For each expansion, the specific values of n and m are selected to be minimal such that the maximum relative error in the expansion is of the order 10^{-d} , where d is the maximum number of decimal digits that can be accurately represented for the particular implementation (see X02BEF).

Let ϵ denote **machine precision** and let x_{huge} denote the largest positive model number (see X02ALF). For $x < 0.0$ the value $\ln \Gamma(x)$ is not defined; S14ABF returns zero and exits with IFAIL = 1. It also exits with IFAIL = 1 when $x = 0.0$, and in this case the value x_{huge} is returned. For x in the interval $(0.0, \epsilon]$, the function $\ln \Gamma(x) = -\ln(x)$ to machine accuracy.

Now denote by x_{big} the largest allowable argument for $\ln \Gamma(x)$ on the machine. For $(x_{\text{big}})^{1/4} < x \leq x_{\text{big}}$ the $R_{n,m}^4(1/x^2)$ term in Equation (1) is negligible. For $x > x_{\text{big}}$ there is a danger of setting overflow, and so S14ABF exits with IFAIL = 2 and returns x_{huge} . The value of x_{big} is given in the Users' Note for your implementation.

4 References

Abramowitz M and Stegun I A (1972) *Handbook of Mathematical Functions* (3rd Edition) Dover Publications

Cody W J and Hillstom K E (1967) Chebyshev Approximations for the Natural Logarithm of the Gamma Function *Math.Comp.* **21** 198–203

5 Parameters

1: X – *double precision* *Input*
On entry: the argument x of the function.
Constraint: $X > 0.0$.

2: IFAIL – INTEGER *Input/Output*
On entry: IFAIL must be set to 0, –1 or 1. If you are unfamiliar with this parameter you should refer to Section 3.3 in the Essential Introduction for details.
On exit: IFAIL = 0 unless the routine detects an error (see Section 6).

For environments where it might be inappropriate to halt program execution when an error is detected, the value –1 or 1 is recommended. If the output of error messages is undesirable, then the value 1 is recommended. Otherwise, if you are not familiar with this parameter, the recommended value is 0. **When the value –1 or 1 is used it is essential to test the value of IFAIL on exit.**

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 detected by the routine:

IFAIL = 1

On entry, $X \leq 0.0$. If $X < 0.0$ the function is undefined; on soft failure, the function value returned is zero. If $X = 0.0$ and soft failure is selected, the function value returned is the largest machine number (see X02ALF).

IFAIL = 2

On entry, $X > x_{\text{big}}$ (see Section 3). On soft failure, the function value returned is the largest machine number (see X02ALF).

7 Accuracy

Let δ and ϵ be the relative errors in the argument and result respectively, and E be the absolute error in the result.

If δ is somewhat larger than *machine precision*, then

$$E \simeq |x \times \Psi(x)|\delta \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon \simeq \left| \frac{x \times \Psi(x)}{\ln \Gamma(x)} \right| \delta$$

where $\Psi(x)$ is the digamma function $\frac{\Gamma'(x)}{\Gamma(x)}$. Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the behaviour of these error amplification factors.

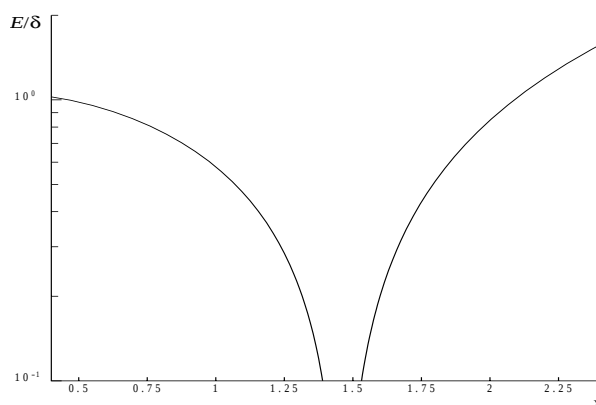


Figure 1

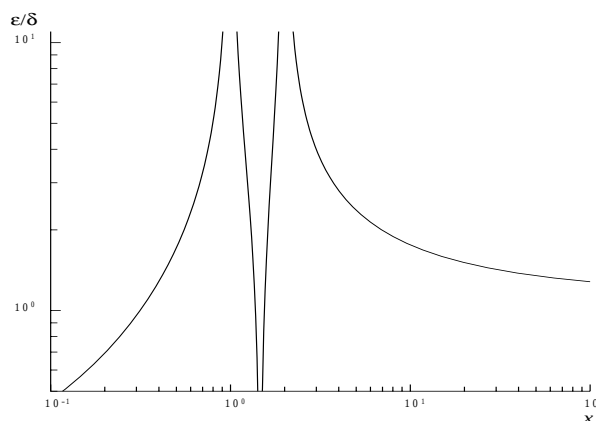


Figure 2

These show that relative error can be controlled, since except near $x = 1$ or 2 relative error is attenuated by the function or at least is not greatly amplified.

For large x , $\epsilon \simeq \left(1 + \frac{1}{\ln x}\right)\delta$ and for small x , $\epsilon \simeq \frac{1}{\ln x}\delta$.

The function $\ln \Gamma(x)$ has zeros at $x = 1$ and 2 and hence relative accuracy is not maintainable near those points. However absolute accuracy can still be provided near those zeros as is shown above.

If however, δ is of the order of *machine precision*, then rounding errors in the routine's internal arithmetic may result in errors which are slightly larger than those predicted by the equalities. It should be noted that even in areas where strong attenuation of errors is predicted the relative precision is bounded by the effective machine precision.

8 Further Comments

None.

9 Example

This example reads values of the argument x from a file, evaluates the function at each value of x and prints the results.

9.1 Program Text

```

*      S14ABF Example Program Text
*      Mark 14 Revised. NAG Copyright 1989.
*      .. Parameters ..
      INTEGER          NIN, NOUT
      PARAMETER        (NIN=5,NOUT=6)
*      .. Local Scalars ..
      DOUBLE PRECISION X, Y
      INTEGER          IFAIL
*      .. External Functions ..
      DOUBLE PRECISION S14ABF
      EXTERNAL          S14ABF
*      .. Executable Statements ..
      WRITE (NOUT,*) 'S14ABF Example Program Results'
*      Skip heading in data file
      READ (NIN,*)
      WRITE (NOUT,*)
      WRITE (NOUT,*) '          X          Y          IFAIL'
      WRITE (NOUT,*)
20    READ (NIN,*,END=40) X
      IFAIL = 1
*
      Y = S14ABF(X,IFAIL)
*
      IF (IFAIL.GE.0) THEN
        WRITE (NOUT,99999) X, Y, IFAIL
        GO TO 20
      ELSE
        WRITE (NOUT,99998) IFAIL
      END IF
40    CONTINUE
*
99999 FORMAT (1X,1P,2E12.3,I7)
99998 FORMAT (1X,' ** S14ABF returned with IFAIL = ',I5)
      END

```

9.2 Program Data

S14ABF Example Program Data

```

1.0
1.25
1.5
1.75
2.0
5.0
10.0
20.0
1000.0
0.0
-5.0

```

9.3 Program Results

S14ABF Example Program Results

X	Y	IFAIL
1.000E+00	0.000E+00	0
1.250E+00	-9.827E-02	0
1.500E+00	-1.208E-01	0
1.750E+00	-8.440E-02	0
2.000E+00	0.000E+00	0
5.000E+00	3.178E+00	0
1.000E+01	1.280E+01	0
2.000E+01	3.934E+01	0
1.000E+03	5.905E+03	0
0.000E+00	1.798+308	1
-5.000E+00	0.000E+00	1