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Subject: Re: Confluent Hypergeometric Function of the First Kind  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Fri, 22 Feb 2008 13:16:22 GMT

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On Feb 22, 12:46 pm, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Feb 22, 10:36 am, noahh.schwa...@gmail.com wrote:

>

>

>

>> On 21 fév, 17:26, Dan Larson <dlar...@aecom.yu.edu> wrote:

>

>>> On Feb 21, 9:30 am, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>>> On Feb 20, 3:44 pm, noahh.schwa...@gmail.com wrote:

>

>>>> > Hello everyone,

>

>>>> > I am looking for the ConfluentHypergeometricFunction of the First

>>>> > Kind in the IDL Math Library but it does not seem to be implemented!

>

>>>> > I would like to use a function similar to the Hypergeometric1F1[a, b,

>>>> > z] of Mathematica [<http://reference.wolfram.com/mathematica/ref/>

>>>> > Hypergeometric1F1.html].

>

>>>> > I have not found what I was looking for, and so decided to try to code

>>>> > it myself... [sigh...]. Being a fresh beginner in IDL this is a hard

>>>> > task!

>

>>>> > Would anybody know how to code an infinite series expansion like the

>>>> > Hypergeometric1F1?

>

>>>> > Thank you in advance for your time!

>>>> > Noah

>

>>>> Noah,

>

>>>> here's my attempt. It accepts only scalar inputs for A and B, while Z

>>>> can be a vector. I've tested it for the examples on the mathematica

>>>> site and it seems to give correct results, and works correctly for

>>>> complex input too as far as I can tell. 'Precision' is an input

>>>> variable to specify how close two successive iterations have to be

>>>> before the function assumes they are the same and aborts the while

>>>> loop. Default is 7 (i.e. stop when results differ by  $10^{-7}$  or less).

>>>> If you're finding this programme is running very slow, try decreasing

>>>> the precision (I was surprised how fast it runs despite the while

>>>> loop, actually!)

>

>>>> Ideally the input parameters should all be double precision before you

```

>>>> make the call to the function, but the function converts them if
>>>> they're not.
>
>>>> If you want all your inputs to be vectors (not just Z), I'm sure it
>>>> can be done, but it'd be a bit more complicated. :-)
>
>>>> Take care,
>>>> Chris
>
>>>> FUNCTION HYPERGEOMETRICONEFONE, A, B, Z, $
>>>> PRECISION = Precision, $
>>>> K = 0; K is an output parameter to count No. of WHILE loops
>>>> performed.
>
>>>> ; References:
>>>> ; http://reference.wolfram.com/mathematica/ref/Hypergeometric1F1.html
>>>> ; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confluent\_hypergeometric\_function
>
>>>> IF N_PARAMS() NE 3 THEN MESSAGE, 'Must input A, B & Z as 3 input
>>>> parameters.'
>>>> IF N_ELEMENTS(A) GT 1 THEN MESSAGE, 'Variable A must be a scalar.'
>>>> IF N_ELEMENTS(B) GT 1 THEN MESSAGE, 'Variable B must be a scalar.'
>
>>>> A *= 1.0D ; Double precision or double complex scalar
>>>> B *= 1.0D ; Double precision or double complex scalar
>>>> Z *= 1.0D ; Double precision or double complex scalar or vector
>>>> IF N_ELEMENTS(Precision) EQ 0 THEN $
>>>> Precision = 7L ELSE $
>>>> Precision = (LONG(Precision))[0]
>>>> Cutoff = 10D^(-1D * Precision) > (MACHAR()).EPS ; Cutoff can't be
>>>> smaller than machine accuracy!
>
>>>> K = 0L
>>>> ThisResult = REPLICATE(0D, N_ELEMENTS(Z))
>>>> WHILE (N_ELEMENTS(ThisResult) EQ 0) || (MAX(ABS(ThisResult -
>>>> ThisResult)) GT Cutoff) DO BEGIN
>>>> LastResult = ThisResult
>>>> AK = GAMMA(A + K) / GAMMA(A) ; Define (A)k
>>>> BK = GAMMA(B + K) / GAMMA(B) ; Define (B)k
>>>> F = (AK * Z^K) / (BK * FACTORIAL(K)) ; Evaluate function.
>>>> ThisResult = LastResult + F
>>>> K += 1
>>>> ENDWHILE ; Until result is good to Precision
>
>>>> ; Error if not enough while loops to give accurate results.
>>>> IF K LE 1 THEN MESSAGE, 'Function failed. Try greater precision.'
>
>>>> RETURN, ThisResult

```

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>>>> END- Hide quoted text -
>
>>>> - Show quoted text -
>
>>> Noah,
>
>>> Here is my implementation, both of the series expansion of the hypergeometric function and
the integral representation. Depending on
>>> the parameters, I have found that one may be more stable than the
>>> other. Both of these are based on Arfken and Weber, Mathematical
>>> Methods for Physicists.
>
>>> best,
>>> dan
>
>>> ; chss
>>> ; confluent hypergeometric series solution
>>> ; calculates the solution to the differential equation:
>>> ;  $xy''(x) + (c - x)y'(x) - ay(x) = 0$ 
>>> ; (see Arfken and Weber, p. 801-2)
>>> ;
>>> ; inputs:
>>> ; n: number of terms to calculate. Due to limits in IDL architecture n
>>> must be between 1 and 170.
>>> ; a, c: vector of constants - see above. They MUST have the same
>>> number of elements
>>> ; x: input value
>>> ;
>>> ; outputs:
>>> ; y: output vector
>>> ;
>>> ; Dan Larson, 2007.10.11
>
>>> function chss, n, a, c, x
>>>   y = DBLARR((SIZE(a))[1])
>>>   ; first term of series expansion is 1, so we initialize the output
>>>   y[*] = 1
>
>>>   FOR i = 0, (SIZE(a))[1]-1 DO BEGIN
>>>     ; initialize constant series products
>>>     a_p = 1
>>>     c_p = 1
>>>     FOR j = 0, n DO BEGIN
>
>>>       a_p *= (a[i] + j)
>>>       c_p *= (c[i] + j)
>>>       d = FACTORIAL(j + 1)
>

```

```

>>>      y[i] += (a_p/c_p)*(x^(j + 1))/d
>
>>>      ENDFOR
>>>      ENDFOR
>>>      RETURN, y
>>>      END
>
>>> ; chins
>>> ; confluenthypergeometricintegral solution
>>> ; calculates the solution to the differential equation:
>>> ;  $xy''(x) + (c - x)y'(x) - ay(x) = 0$ 
>>> ; (see Afken and Weber, p. 801-2)
>>> ;
>>> ; inputs:
>>> ; a, c: vector constants - see above
>>> ; x: input value
>>> ;
>>> ; outputs:
>>> ; y: output vector
>>> ;
>>> ;Dan larson, 2007.10.11
>
>>> Functionchins, a, c, x
>>> ; curve point resolution, change this if your results look like
>>> crap
>>>   b = 1000
>>>   ; initialize t vector
>>>   t = DINDGEN(b + 1)/b
>>>   ; initialize vector of curve heights
>>>   h = DBLARR(b + 1)
>>>   ; initialize output
>>>   y=dblarr(n_elements(c))
>
>>>   g1 = GAMMA(c)
>>>   g2 = GAMMA(a) * GAMMA(c - a)
>
>>>   FOR i = 0, (SIZE(a))[1]-1 DO BEGIN
>>>     FOR j = 0, b DO BEGIN
>>>       h[j] = exp(x*t[j]) * ((t[j])^(a[i] - 1.0)) * ((1.0 -
>>> t[j])^(c[i] - a[i] - 1.0))
>>>     ENDFOR
>>>   ENDFOR
>
>>>   y[i] = (g1[i]/g2[i]) * int_tabulated(t, h, /double)
>>> ENDFOR
>
>>> RETURN, y
>>> END
>

```

```

>>> ; chcmp
>>> ; compares the results between the integral and series form of CHF
>>> ;
>>> ; inputs:
>>> ; a, c: constants
>>> ; x: input value
>>> ;
>>> ; output:
>>> ; none
>>> ; (solution is printed to screen)
>
>>> PRO chcmp, a, c, x, epsilon
>>>   y1 = chins(a, c, x)
>
>>>   lastVal = 0.0000
>
>>>   FOR n = 1, 170 DO BEGIN
>>>     y2 = chss( n, a, c, x)
>
>>>     IF ( ABS(y1 - y2)/y1 LT epsilon) THEN BEGIN
>>>       print, "Number of necessary terms for ep = ", epsilon, " n =
>>> ", n
>>>       BREAK
>>>     ENDIF
>
>>>     IF( ABS(lastVal - y2)/y2 EQ 0) THEN BEGIN
>>>       print, "Series converged before matching integral!"
>>>       BREAK
>>>     ENDIF
>
>>>     lastVal = y2
>>>   ENDFOR
>
>>>   IF n EQ 169 THEN PRINT, "Equations did not meet!"
>
>>>   RETURN
>>> END
>
>> Thank you all for your answers. It really made my day!
>> I've tested the 3 methods for the "Mathematica" example (i.e. for
>> 1F1(1,2,[-5..5]))
>> HYPERGEOMETRICONEFONE, CHSS and CHINS seem to work fine for this
>> example. HYPERGEOMETRICONEFONE seems a bit faster than the other ones.
>> Unfortunately I am more interested in evaluating something like 1F1(-.
>> 75,1,40) :
>
>> IDL> print,hypergeometriconefone(-0.75D,1D,-40D)
>>      NaN

```

```

>
>> IDL> print, chins([-0.75D],[1D],-40D)
>>      NaN
>
>> IDL> print, chss(169D,[-0.75D],[1D],-40D)
>>      17.478776
>
>> The mathematica website gives [http://functions.wolfram.com/
>> webMathematica/FunctionEvaluation.jsp?name=Hypergeometric1F1 ]:

>
>> Thanks,
>> Noah
>
> Phew, you're really pushing my little programme to the limit here! ;-)
>
> If you put this line:
> Print, [ThisResult, K]
> into my programme just before the line with ENDWHILE on it, you'll see
> that the function actually gets quite close to the answer before it
> succumbs to floating overflow. On my machine, the results of the last
> few iterations are:
>      17.462850      96.000000
>      17.015058      97.000000
>      17.196383      98.000000
>      17.123695      99.000000
>
> If you try "print, hypergeometriconefone(-0.75D,1D,-40D, prec=1)", you
> should get similar results.
>
> I suspect IDL won't really help you out here, at least until someone
> invents 128-bit quadruple-precision data type :-(
> Or, unless you use a better algorithm, I guess. chss seems to be that
> better algorithm in this case.
>
> Actually, it would help to replace this:
>   F = (AK * Z^K) / (BK * FACTORIAL(K)) ; Evaluate function.
>
> with:
>   F = (AK / BK) * (Z^K / FACTORIAL(K)) ; Evaluate function.
>
> Though I suspect it's just putting off the inevitable by a few more
> iterations :-(
> Also, there should've been some sort of protection for preventing k
> from going over 169, which is the limit at which FACTORIAL can work
> reliably.
>
> I'll try and amend the programme and repost if you're having

```

> difficulty piecing my garbled lines together into your copy.

The more I stare at this, the more I realise that my guess at available precision is WAY off the mark :-)

I'll go stare at the 'Sky is falling' page for another while, shall I? :-P

I need to make sure the precision is determined by the significant figures, not just an absolute.

Anyway, for now if you get NaN results, just try dropping PRECISION below 5.

If you want acres of spam, call the function with the debug keyword set.

e.g.:

```
Test = HYPERGEOMETRICONEFONE(-0.75d,1d,-40d, prec = 5, k = k, /DEBUG)
```

```
Print, 'IDL thinks the result is ' + STRTRIM(Test, 2) + ' and got  
there in ' + STRTRIM(k, 2) + ' iterations.'
```

```
IDL> IDL thinks the result is 17.145252 and got there in 109  
iterations.
```

As an aside: a) Yes, I know I should learn format codes and do this properly ;-)

b) How does IDL work out the linebreak if I use commas instead of plus signs?

Presumably by using "+" I'm joining the whole string together before it gets passed to the PRINT command, whereas PRINT has to figure out what to do with the different inputs if I use "," - but what criteria does it use?

Good luck!

Chris

```
FUNCTION HYPERGEOMETRICONEFONE, A, B, Z, $
```

```
  DEBUG = Debug, $
```

```
  PRECISION = Precision, $
```

```
  K = K ; K is an output parameter to count No. of WHILE loops  
  performed.
```

```
  DoDebug = KEYWORD_SET(Debug)
```

```
  IF ~DoDebug THEN ON_ERROR, 2
```

```
  ; Mathematica defines Hypergeometric1F1 here:
```

```
  ; http://reference.wolfram.com/mathematica/ref/Hypergeometric1 F1.html
```

```
  ; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confluent_hypergeometric_functi on
```

```
  IF N_PARAMS() NE 3 THEN MESSAGE, 'Must input A, B & Z as 3 input  
  parameters.'
```

```
IF N_ELEMENTS(A) GT 1 THEN MESSAGE, 'Variable A must be a scalar.'
IF N_ELEMENTS(B) GT 1 THEN MESSAGE, 'Variable B must be a scalar.'
```

```
A *= 1.0D ; Double precision or double complex scalar
B *= 1.0D ; Double precision or double complex scalar
Z *= 1.0D ; Double precision or double complex vector
IF N_ELEMENTS(Precision) EQ 0 THEN $
  Precision = 5L ELSE $
  Precision = (LONG(Precision))[0] < 5
Cutoff = 10D^(-1D * Precision) > 16D * (MACHAR()).EPS
```

```
K = 0L
ThisResult = REPLICATE(0D, N_ELEMENTS(Z))
; Logical OR (||) used so this construct works even when LastResult
not defined.
; (This doesn't work with bitwise OR)
WHILE (N_ELEMENTS(LastResult) EQ 0) || (MAX(ABS(LastResult -
ThisResult)) GT Cutoff) DO BEGIN
  LastResult = ThisResult
  AK = GAMMA(A + K) / GAMMA(A) ; Define (A)k
  BK = GAMMA(B + K) / GAMMA(B) ; Define (B)k
  F = (AK / BK) * (Z^K / FACTORIAL(K)) ; Evaluate function.
  ThisResult = LastResult + F
  K += 1
  IF K GT 169 THEN MESSAGE, 'Failure to converge.'
  IF DoDebug THEN Print, [ThisResult, K]
ENDWHILE ; Until result is good to Precision
```

```
; Error if not enough while loops to give accurate results.
IF K LE 1 THEN MESSAGE, 'Function failed. Try greater precision.'
```

```
RETURN, ThisResult
END
```

---