```
                          left_right_delta
function delta = left_right_delta(list)

%This function takes in a list, sorts it, and then returns the sqrt of the
sum-squared difference between the two ends of the list
%It is a measure of dispersion, but could perhaps be used for other purposes as well

  [x N] = size(list);

  list = sort(list); %assumes the list is 1 x N vector

  delta = 0;

  for i = 1 : N

      delta = delta + (list(i) - list(N - i + 1))^2;

  endfor

  delta = sqrt(delta/N);

endfunction
```