
Subject: MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO CURVES

Posted by [Mark C.](#) on Thu, 22 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Given:

$a=f(x,y,z)$ and $b=g(x,y,z)$, both a and b are separate curves. (Not straight lines. Nor do they loop over themselves). f and g are unknown functions. Only know g and f by some points in 3D space. Points are irregularly spaced.

Objective:

Find the minimum distance between a and b . Give the coordinate where this minimum occurs in term of the nearest point on a and the nearest point on b .

Needs help:

Does anyone have a routine to do such calculation using IDL? Any other suggestions appreciated.

Thanks in advance,
Mark Chan
