
Subject: Re: GAUSS_FUNCT problem

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Mon, 01 Mar 2004 02:23:22 GMT

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> Well, I can half-heartedly defend the existing code. Note that if one
> supplies 5 or 6 terms (linear or quadratic background) then GAUSS_FUNCT
> properly returns an array when $A[2] = 0$. In the case of 3 terms you
> are computing a function which only consists of a Gaussian with a sigma
> width of 0, which probably indicates that you have made an earlier
> mistake. So I don't begrudge GAUSS_FUNCT returning an anomalous result.

I understand your point, however the documentation clearly states that an array will be returned in **all** cases. This particular case, no matter how improbable or illogical it may be, is an allowable input. My issue isn't so much about the behavior of the procedure, but rather that the documentation doesn't match what the procedure does in every case.

The other problem is that this is a helper procedure for gaussfit and the gaussfit code always expects an array returned. Needless to say, gaussfit chokes on this, even though the inputs are valid according to the documentation.

It's really not the programming that bothers me. It's that the documentation doesn't match what the procedure does in all cases. Back in school, we'd get big points taken off if our inputs and outputs didn't match up with the documentation. So, I learned to be careful about how I document things! ;-)

-Mike
