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Subject: Re: Multidimensional curve fitting  
Posted by [rivers](#) on Sat, 20 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article <1995May19.085532.18482@rahman.earth.ox.ac.uk>, keith@earth.ox.ac.uk (Keith Refson) writes:

> The usual IDL fitting routines svdfit and curvefit only deal with 1-d  
> functions. There is a function "sfit" which claims to perform surface  
> fitting, but this can not provide uncertainties in the fit, nor even  
> take account of the numerical values of x1, x2.  
>

Here is an example which illustrates my previous post. It computes and fits a 2-D surface. It is necessary to "REFORM" the array to 1-D before passing it to CURVEFIT, but this is only a minor nuisance. This program uses the new version of CURVEFIT which does not require derivatives, but the old version will work the same in terms of fitting N-dimensional data.

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|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
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```
pro fit_curve, ind, g, pred
nx = 10
ny = 8
x = rebin(findgen(nx), nx, ny)
y = rebin(transpose(findgen(ny)), nx, ny)
pred = g(0)*(x-g(1))^2 + g(2)*(y-g(3))^2 ; Predicted surface based on
                                         ; current fit parameters
pred = reform(pred, nx*ny, /overwrite) ; Convert back to 1-D array
end
```

```
; Main program - compute a 2-D surface and fit it
nx = 10
ny = 8
x = rebin(findgen(nx), nx, ny)
y = rebin(transpose(findgen(ny)), nx, ny)
a = [4.5, 4.7, 6, 5] ; Actual coefficients
g = [4.0, 3.0, 5.4, 5.9] ; Guess of coefficients
obs = a(0)*(x-a(1))^2 + a(2)*(y-a(3))^2 ; 2-D surface
obs = reform(obs, nx*ny, /overwrite) ; Reform to 1-D for CURVEFIT
w = fltarr(nx*ny) + 1. ; Weights, all 1
ind = findgen(nx*ny) ; Independent variable, dummy
print, 'Actual coefficients = ', a
```

```
print, 'Initial guess      = ', g
fit = curvefit(ind, obs, w, g, funct='fit_curve', /noderivative)
print, 'Best fit coefficients = ', g
end
```

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