
Subject: Re: Fitting a function with multiple independent variables
Posted by [Sean Davis](#) on Wed, 20 Apr 2005 16:30:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

maarten wrote:

> Hello,
>
> You can use the built in routine curvefit.
> cheers maarten
>
> Sean Davis wrote:
>> Hello all,
>>
>> I am currently trying to fit a function with multiple independent
>> variables. I have used IDL's REGRESS routine, which does a multiple
>> linear regression, such as fits to something like:
>>
>> $Y = 5 + 3 \cdot X_1 - 4 \cdot X_2$
>>
>> But what if I want one of my independent variables to vary non-linearly,
>> like
>>
>> $Y = 5 + 3 \cdot X_1^2 - 4 \cdot X_2$
>>
>> (I assume this is called non-linear regression?)
>>
>> I've heard of Craig M.'s fitting library, so I suppose I should look
>> there. But for the record, are there any built-in programs in IDL to do
>> this???
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Sean
>>

Actually, CURVEFIT does not work for that task. CURVEFIT fits a function with multiple parameters (a,b,c), like

$$y = a \cdot x + b \cdot x^2 + c \cdot \exp(x),$$

but not functions with multiple independent variables AND parameters, like

$$y = a \cdot x_1 + b \cdot x_2^2 + c \cdot \exp(x_3)$$

-Sean
