
Subject: Re: How to determine the WEIGHTS in MPFITFUN for distribution function fit?

Posted by duxiyu@gmail.com on Fri, 07 Sep 2007 04:43:39 GMT

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- > Boy, that's a good question ... Here are some questions for you.
- > How do you measure the counts? How sure are you of the number of
- > counts?
- > If they are truly counts, the errors may be Poisson distributed, yerr
- > $\sim 1/y$. Have you tried this?

Yerr $\sim 1/y$? Do you mean that the keyword WEIGHTS should be $1/y$?

- > Are you really interested in the standard errors of the parameters, or
- > just the parameters? The estimate of the parameters is fairly robust
- > with mpfitfun, so the P values are good estimates regardless of the
- > estimated error.
- >
- > If you can't estimate the 1-sigma errors for Y you could always use
- > the bootstrap to estimate the P-errors. I've found this very helpful
- > - and really easy to do.

Could you explain for me what the bootstrap is?

Is it a IDL procedure or a mathematic method to estimate the P-error?

I cannot find it in the IDL Help files.

Thanks for your reply.

jdu
