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 View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

- > 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
- > ~ 1/y. Have you tried this?

Yerr ~ 1/y? Do you means 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