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Subject: Re: Completing a Gaussian Fit

Posted by [Bringfried Stecklum](#) on Thu, 13 Dec 2007 09:21:33 GMT

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rpertaub@gmail.com wrote:

> Hello,

> I have a problem I am not sure how to go about...more of a physics

> question maybe than IDL, but does not hurt to ask...

>

> I have an image of a spot. The spot can be assumed to be fairly

> Gaussian, i.e bright in the middle and dissipating as radius

> increases. All is good. Except say now I have only part of the spot.

> (Say if radius is 30, I have only a spot of radius 5). How do I model

> a Gaussian based on only this information and nothing else? I have no

> idea the intensity at the std deviation point, or radius 15? Is it

> possible? How does IDL do Gaussian fit?

> Thanks,RP

This is fairly easy. You just need to apply a mask on your model image

when computing the chisquare during the minimization, i.e. something like

```
mask=(object gt sigma*noise)
```

```
chisq=mask*(object-model)^2
```

Of course the model parameters will be more uncertain if the observed fraction of the Gaussian image becomes smaller. In other words, you need fairly high signal-to-noise to get meaningful results.

regards,

B. Stecklum

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