
Subject: Re: mpfit2dpeak and fitting an ellipse

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sun, 01 Jun 2008 14:26:11 GMT

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Kevin.Pallati@gmail.com writes:

> Hello,
>
> I have a quick question regarding fitting routines. I will describe
> the problem first.
> I have an image with X,Y coordinates and I try to find an overdensity
> of points
> by smoothing out the image. I used mpfit2dpeak to fit the N number of
> points
> and I was able to find the center xcen and ycen that way. But the
> mpfit2dpeak
> assumes either a Gaussian, Lorentzian or Moffat function. The shape
> that I am
> looking for in the image is an ellipse so I was looking if there is an
> available
> program that fits a 2 dimensional ellipse but I could not find one.
> Does anyone have any suggestions on how to handle this?

I'm also a little confused. If you have N discrete points, then I'm not sure it's appropriate to fit a 2D function, but rather to compute the simple centroid. But you also say that you compute the mean density (intensity), and in that case MPFIT2DPEAK might be more appropriate.

I also don't know exactly what you mean by a "2 dimensional ellipse." Perhaps you mean a flat-topped ellipsoidal disk? It really wouldn't be that difficult for you to modify the code to add such a function.

It might look something like this,

```
; Lorentzian Function
function mpfit2dpeak_disk, x, y, p, tilt=tilt, symmetric=sym, _extra=extra
  u = mpfit2dpeak_u(x, y, p, tilt=keyword_set(tilt), symmetric=keyword_set(sym))
  return, p[0] + p[1]*(u LT 1)
end
```

The "u LT 1" part selects only the pixels that are within the bounds of the ellipse.

Happy fitting,
Craig
