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Subject: Re: Curve Fits and Partial Derivatives

Posted by [rivers](#) on Tue, 28 May 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <4oefja\$qbl@sinfo.ll.iac.es>, bsams@ll.iac.es (Bruce Sams) writes:

> Hello,

>

> I am a new user of IDL, and I am having some less than satisfying

> results with the CURVEFIT routine. I want to fit a user

> defined function to some 1-d data. The function is simple: a power-law.

> I am able to get CURVEFIT to run, but the initial guesses I give to

> the program have to be SOOOOO close to the final "fitted" values

> (within about 5% or so) that the routine is effectively useless.

> A simple program (Kaleidagraph) on my Macintosh can fit practically

> \*any\* curve with a power law and NO initial guesses. So what's up?

> Does anyone have a .pro file they could e-mail me where the

> call to fit with CURVEFIT and the user defined function are

> shown?

An easy mistake to make with CURVEFIT is to get the analytical derivatives wrong. If you are using derivatives calculated in your procedure, try letting CURVEFIT do the derivatives numerically.

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Mark Rivers

(312) 702-2279 (office)

CARS

(312) 702-9951 (secretary)

Univ. of Chicago

(312) 702-5454 (FAX)

5640 S. Ellis Ave.

(708) 922-0499 (home)

Chicago, IL 60637

rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Internet)

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