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Subject: Re: CHISQR\_CVF question.

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sat, 22 Aug 2009 17:51:06 GMT

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On Aug 20, 12:53 pm, "R.G. Stockwell" <noemai...@please.com> wrote:  
> "Craig Markwardt" <craig.markwa...@gmail.com> wrote in message  
>  
> news:cab41ca6-e1a4-4f73-851f-8b25ab0c1e58@k26g2000vbp.google groups.com...  
> On Aug 19, 4:42 pm, "R.G. Stockwell" <noemai...@please.com> wrote:  
>  
>> "Paolo" <pgri...@gmail.com> wrote in message  
>  
>> basically yes,  $\text{abs}(\text{fft}(\text{ts}))^2$ , and comparing it to chisquare from the  
>> IDL functions.  
>> I have worked on it, but I think the result is off by a factor of 2.  
>> That is a factor of 2 too stringent.  
>  
> ...  
>> Perhaps you can check my understanding. If we have a 95% significance  
>> level,  
>> then if we make a spectrum with 1000 points, shouldnt 50 of them be above  
>> that 95% line?  
>  
> Let's say we have a time series, defined like this,  
> LC = time series values (array)  
> ERR = measurement uncertainty (array) of each LC point.  
>  
> I define the power spectrum in the following way,  
> POW =  $\text{ABS}(\text{FFT}(\text{LC},+1))^2 * (2 / \text{TOTAL}(\text{ERR}^2))$   
> \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Craig, Sorry but I am a bit confused here.  
>  
> using the +1 direction is the "inverse" FFT here isn't it?  
> and hence it lacks the 1/N normalization that occurs on the "forward" FFT.  
> Is that right?  
>  
> Also,  $\text{total}(\text{err}^2)$  happens to be equal to the length here, so i looks like  
> you are doing an inverse FFT ^2, and then dividing by len.

Bob, I was just telling you (and showing explicitly) what "works for me." My use of the FFT(+1) notation arises because the documentation indicates it is faster, but also because I'll put in my own normalization factors, thank you very much.

The "conventions" for FFT direction and normalization are so varied across different fields, that there really is no convention!

> And you have a factor of 2, which is coincidentally also the power of your  
> spectrum. and it appears that again this may have just coincidentally  
> cancelled out.

I believe my power of 2 formally comes from adding + and - frequencies, one for each. But in any case, it's a convenient scaling because as it is defined, it allows one to directly do a chi-square probability test for any given power, i.e. `CHISQR_PDF()` or `MPCHITEST()`, since each power is distributed exactly as a chi-square with 2 d.o.f. As we've seen, the scaling is nearly arbitrary, so for probability tests, I find it best to scale to a useful quantity. [ For variability measures, it's another matter. ]

Craig

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