
Subject: Powell's ghost

Posted by [Mark Fardal](#) on Thu, 03 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

I've been using the Numerical Recipes routine POWELL to do some parameter fitting. At first it worked nicely, but lately I've been having problems with it--it's not necessarily converging to a global minimum, and I'm not sure whether the problem is in my function or in Powell itself. Also, it tends to spend a long time (~10 successive calls) on parameter choices that are identical to 7 decimal places. So I thought I would look at the source code. I have to call it with `nr_powell`, not `powell` (as the on-line help indicates), so I've been looking for both names.

Unfortunately, I couldn't find the source code anywhere in the directories listed in my `IDL_PATH`. And when I try `help,/source_files` or `help,/routines`, it doesn't show up anywhere either. So is the routine a figment of my imagination, or what?

I'm using IDL 4.0.1 on a Sun Ultra-1, with Solaris 2.5.1.

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