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Subject: Re: Smoothing Spline -- any existing efficient routines?

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Mon, 16 Aug 2010 14:33:44 GMT

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This post made me reflect upon how IDL is taught - or the sources that people use to learn IDL by themselves. The fact that somebody that started IDL around 2006 wrote a program consistently using parentheses "()" instead of brackets "[]" seems to imply a failure in communicating "proper" usage to new users.

How and why are we failing in communicating to new users the importance to use proper indexing syntax? Is this a problem with documentation, mentoring or it comes from too much old legacy code laying around?

Nikola: this is not a criticism of your program - I am concerned about the sources you used to learn IDL and why they failed to mention the "[]" syntax.

Ciao,  
Paolo

On Aug 16, 6:11 am, Nikola <[nikola.vi...@gmail.com](mailto:nikola.vi...@gmail.com)> wrote:

```
> You can try this one. It's not very nicely coded - I wrote it as an
> exercise in my early IDL days - but it might work.
>
> ;+
> ; NAME:
> ;   SPLINECOEFF
> ;
> ; PURPOSE:
> ;   This procedure computes coefficients of cubic splines
> ;   for a given observational set and smoothing parameter
> ;   lambda. The method is coded according to Pollock D.S.G.
> ;   (1999), "A Handbook of Time-Series Analysis, Signal
> ;   Processing and Dynamics, Academic Press", San Diego
> ;
> ; CATEGORY:
> ;   Data processing
> ;
> ; CALLING SEQUENCE:
> ;   COEFFS = SPLINECOEFF([X,] Y, [SIGMA], LAMBDA=LAMBDA)
> ;
> ; INPUTS:
> ;   X   = 1D Array (independent variable)
> ;   Y   = 1D Array (function)
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> ; SIGMA = 1D Array (weight of each measurement) By default
> ;     all the measurements are of the same weight.
> ;
> ;
> ; KEYWORDS:
> ; LAMBDA = Smoothing parameter (It can be determined
> ;     empirically, by the LS method or by cross-
> ;     validation, eg. see book of Pollock.) LAMBDA
> ;     equals 0 results in a cubic spline interpolation.
> ;     In the other extreme, for a very large LAMBDA
> ;     the result is smoothing by a linear function.
> ;
> ; COMMENT:
> ;
> ; EXAMPLE:
> ; X = .....
> ; Y = .....
> ; Coeffs = SPLINECOEFF(X, Y, LAMBDA = 1.d5)
> ; Y1 = N_ELEMENTS(Y) - 1
> ; X1 = X(0:N_ELEMENTS(Y)-2)
> ; FOR i = 0, N_ELEMENTS(Y)-2 DO Y1(i) = Coeff.D(i) + $
> ;     Coeff.C(i) * (X(i+1)-X(i)) + $
> ;     Coeff.B(i) * (X(i+1)-X(i))^2 + $
> ;     Coeff.A(i) * (X(i+1)-X(i))^3
> ; PLOT, X, Y, PSYM = 3
> ; OPLOT, X1, Y1
> ;
> ; OUTPUTS:
> ; COEFFS: Structure of 4 arrays (A, B, C & D) containing
> ;     the coefficients of a spline between each two of
> ;     the given measurements.
> ;
> ; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
> ; Written by: NV (Jan2006)
> ;     # as a function, NV (Mar2007)
> ;
> FUNCTION SPLINECOEFF, XX, YY, SS, LAMBDA = LAMBDA
>
> CASE N_PARAMS() OF
>   1: BEGIN
>     Y = XX
>     X = INDGEN(N_ELEMENTS(Y))
>     SIGM = FLTARR(N_ELEMENTS(Y))+1
>   END
>   2: BEGIN
>     Y = YY
>     X = XX
>     SIGM = FLTARR(N_ELEMENTS(Y))+1
>   END

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> 3: BEGIN
>     Y = YY
>     X = XX
>     SIGM = SS
> END
> ELSE: MESSAGE, 'Wrong number of arguments'
> ENDCASE
>
> NUM = SIZE(X, /N_ELEMENTS)
> N = NUM-1
> IF NOT(KEYWORD_SET(LAMBDA)) THEN MESSAGE, 'Parameter lambda is not
> defined.'
>
> ; Definition of the help variables
> H = DBLARR(NUM) & R = DBLARR(NUM) & F = DBLARR(NUM) & P = DBLARR(NUM)
> Q = DBLARR(NUM) & U = DBLARR(NUM) & V = DBLARR(NUM) & W = DBLARR(NUM)
> ; Definition of the unknown coefficients
> A = DBLARR(NUM) & B = DBLARR(NUM) & C = DBLARR(NUM) & D = DBLARR(NUM)
>
> ; Computation of the starting values
> H(0) = X(1) - X(0)
> R(0) = 3.D/H(0)
>
> ; Computation of all H, R, F, P & Q
> FOR I = 1, N - 1 DO BEGIN
>     H(I) = X(I+1) - X(I)
>     R(I) = 3.D/H(I)
>     F(I) = -(R(I-1) + R(I))
>     P(I) = 2.D * (X(I+1) - X(I-1))
>     Q(I) = 3.D * (Y(I+1) - Y(I))/H(I) - 3.D * (Y(I) - Y(I-1))/H(I-1)
> ENDFOR
>
> ; Compute diagonals of the matrix: W + LAMBDA T' SIGMA T
> FOR I = 1, N - 1 DO BEGIN
>     U(I) = R(I-1)^2 * SIGM(I-1) + F(I)^2 * SIGM(I) + R(I)^2 * SIGM(I+1)
>     U(I) = LAMBDA * U(I) + P(I)
>     V(I) = F(I) * R(I) * SIGM(I) + R(I) * F(I+1) * SIGM(I+1)
>     V(I) = LAMBDA * V(I) + H(I)
>     W(I) = LAMBDA * R(I) * R(I+1) * SIGM(I+1)
> ENDFOR
>
> ; Decomposition in the form L' D L
> V(1) = V(1)/U(1)
> W(1) = W(1)/U(1)
>
> FOR J = 2, N-1 DO BEGIN
>     U(J) = U(J) - U(J-2) * W(J-2)^2 - U(J-1) * V(J-1)^2
>     V(J) = (V(J) - U(J-1) * V(J-1) * W(J-1))/U(J)

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>      W(J) = W(J)/U(J)
> ENDFOR
>
> ; Gaussian eliminations to solve Lx = T'y
> Q(0) = 0.D
> FOR J = 2, N-1 DO Q(J) = Q(J) - V(J-1) * Q(J-1) - W(J-2) * Q(J-2)
> FOR J = 1, N-1 DO Q(J) = Q(J)/U(J)
>
> ; Gaussian eliminations to solve L'c = D^{-1}x
> Q(N-2) = Q(N-2) - V(N-2)*Q(N-1)
> FOR J = N-3, 1, -1 DO Q(J) = Q(J) - V(J) * Q(J+1) - W(J) * Q(J+2)
>
> ; Coefficients in the first segment
> D(0) = Y(0) - LAMBDA * R(0) * Q(1) * SIGM(0)
> D(1) = Y(1) - LAMBDA * (F(1) * Q(1) + R(1) * Q(2)) * SIGM(0)
> A(0) = Q(1)/(3.D * H(0))
> B(0) = 0.D
> C(0) = (D(1) - D(0))/H(0) - Q(1) * H(0)/3.D
>
> ; Other coefficients
> FOR J = 1, N-1 DO BEGIN
>     A(J) = (Q(J+1)-Q(J))/(3.D * H(J))
>     B(J) = Q(J)
>     C(J) = (Q(J) + Q(J-1)) * H(J-1) + C(J-1)
>     D(J) = R(J-1) * Q(J-1) + F(J) * Q(J) + R(J) * Q(J+1)
>     D(J) = Y(J) - LAMBDA * D(J) * SIGM(J)
> ENDFOR
> D(N) = Y(N) - LAMBDA * R(N-1) * Q(N-1) * SIGM(N)
>
> SplCoeff = {A:DBLARR(NUM), B:DBLARR(NUM), C:DBLARR(NUM),
> D:DBLARR(NUM)}
> SplCoeff.A = A
> SplCoeff.B = B
> SplCoeff.C = C
> SplCoeff.D = D
>
> RETURN, SPLCOEFF
>
> END

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