
Subject: Re: faster minimization needed - maybe mpfit?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2012 22:36:43 GMT

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On Monday, March 26, 2012 3:59:41 PM UTC-4, chris wrote:

> On 26 Mrz., 21:04, Craig Markwardt <craig.markwa...@gmail.com> wrote:

>> On Monday, March 26, 2012 9:15:30 AM UTC-4, chris wrote:

>>> Hi folks,

>>> the following expression runs successfully with AMOEBA but requires

>>> for large matrices (columns < 512, rows up to 30000), for small

>>> tolerances (e.g. ftol=1e-06) and a high number of iterations

>>> (nmax>=10000) to converge years:

>>

>>> expr = total(abs(convol(im-rebin(p[*],size(im,/dim),/samp),

>>> [-1.,0.,1.])))

>>

>>> where p is the parameter vector (one row) to be found and im is the

>>> matrix.

>>

>>> Is there a way to do it faster? Maybe with mpfit (I don't get an idea

>>> how...)

>>

>> If you can express your problem as minimize{TOTAL(RESID^2)}, then you can use MPFIT, where RESID is signed. In your case you can do this, but there's a few little tricks.

>>

>> Your problem looks like minimize{TOTAL(ABS(XXX))}.

>>

>> You might want to define RESID=SQRT(ABS(XXX)), and then in principle it looks like an MPFIT problem. Unfortunately you need to preserve the sign of XXX. So this is what you do:

>> RESID = SIGN(XXX)*SQRT(ABS(XXX))

>> where SIGN(XXX) is the sign of XXX (-1 or +1 depending on XXX).

>>

>> Happy equation solving...

>> Craig

>

> Hi Craig,

> thank you. Nevertheless, I don't think that I understood what you

> suggests. So, i tried this:

>

> function test2,p,x=x,err=err

> temp=convol(x,rebin(p[*],size(x,/dim)))

> return,signum(temp)*sqrt(abs(temp))

> end

>

> But what I got is this:

>

> ENVI> st={x:im}&help,mpfit('test2',functargs=st,maxiter=100)

> <Expression> DOUBLE = NaN

>
> What's wrong?

Problem #1. You need to provide starting values, for P, just like for AMOEBA.

Problem #2. You changed the function. Your residual in your original post was of the form `convol(im-rebin(p))`. Why did you change it?

Issue #3. Error checking. Use the `STATUS` and `ERRMSG` keywords to retrieve more error information about what went wrong.

By the way, are you sure you want to solve a least absolute deviation problem? Or would you be satisfied with a least squares solution? Least squares is so much easier, for example you can use `MPFITFUN()`.

Craig
