Subject: MPFIT update (and bug notice)
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Mon, 23 Apr 2001 16:27:03 GMT
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Greetings--

Long time group members know that I have a small package useful for curve fitting in IDL called MPFIT. Generally speaking this package is meant to incorporate all the goodness of the time-proven fortran code called MINPACK version 1 by Jorge More', which makes it quite robust. Upon that some extra features are added to MPFIT, such as the ability to impose simple parameter constraints. All well and good, right?

On March 26 I posted an "update" to the code. I'd made some fairly significant internal changes. Some of the more visible changes are improved documentation, more choices over how numerical derivatives are computed, and overflow checking. It also fixed an obscure bug regarding parameter constraints.

Unfortunately I also introduced *another* typographical bug in the handling of constraints. The essence of the problem is that if you impose constraints, the parameter values will almost certainly "rail" to the constraints, and/or the fitting procedure may terminate prematurely. You will almost certainly notice the effect. Somehow this got past me.

So if you downloaded the code between March 26 and April 20, please go and get the new version, where these problems are fixed. With the fix these problems have disappeared.

Craig

http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html (under Curve Fitting)

P.S. Thanks to Rob Dimeo and Nari for bringing this to my attention.

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