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Subject: reading old code... why would one do this?  
Posted by [wallabadah](#) on Thu, 22 Oct 2009 21:36:08 GMT  
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Hi All,

I'm in the process of reviewing and rewriting some old routines I inherited... and I've come across the following code snippet:

```
a = svdfit(x, y, fitting_order + 1, measure_errors = e, $  
variance = var, chisq = c)  
; this line added to give results consistent with IDL pre 5.4  
var = var * c
```

I'm a bit worried about the last line - I don't have access to IDL documentation pre version 6.1, so I have two questions...  
- was there some change in the output of svdfit that would require such an 'adjustment' of the variance value?  
- if not - maybe the statistics gurus can tell me if variance \* chisq has some mystical statistical meaning that I'm missing

cheers,

Will.

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