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Subject: faster minimization needed - maybe mpfit?  
Posted by [rogass](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2012 13:15:30 GMT  
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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...)

Thanks for any help

CR

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Subject: Re: faster minimization needed - maybe mpfit?  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2012 19:04:25 GMT  
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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  $\text{RESID} = \text{SQRT}(\text{ABS}(\text{XXX}))$ , 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:

$\text{RESID} = \text{SIGN}(\text{XXX}) * \text{SQRT}(\text{ABS}(\text{XXX}))$

where  $\text{SIGN}(\text{XXX})$  is the sign of XXX (-1 or +1 depending on XXX).

Happy equation solving...

Craig

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Subject: Re: faster minimization needed - maybe mpfit?

Posted by [rogass](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2012 19:59:41 GMT

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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,

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

>> tolerances (e.g.  $\text{ftol} = 1\text{e-}06$ ) and a high number of iterations

>> ( $\text{nmax} \geq 10000$ ) 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.

>

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>> how...)

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> where  $\text{SIGN}(\text{XXX})$  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?

Thank you

Chris

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,

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

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

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

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

>>> matrix.

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>>

>> 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:
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> function test2,p,x=x,err=err
> temp=convol(x,rebin(p[*],size(x,/dim)))
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> 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

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Subject: Re: faster minimization needed - maybe mpfit?

Posted by [rogass](#) on Tue, 27 Mar 2012 12:28:02 GMT

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Hi Craig,  
 sorry I made several typos. I would also be satisfied with a least squares solution as you can see if you compare function test2 with the previous posts. The function I want to minimize is test2. It doesnt matter for me at this stage whether total(abs(resid)) or total(resid^2) is minimized.

```

function test2,p,xval=x,errval=err
resid=convol(x-rebin(p[*],size(x,/dim)),[-1.,0.,1.])

```

```
return,total(resid^2)
end
```

```
ENVI> help,im
IM      INT      = Array[512, 7237]
ENVI> sz=size(im,/dim)
ENVI> im2=im+fix(1000.*rebin((((add=randomn(seed,sz[0])))-mean(add ))/
stddev(add),sz))
ENVI> help,im2
IM2      INT      = Array[512, 7237]
ENVI> p0=((p0=total(im2,2)/float(sz[1])))-smooth(p0,3,/edge_trunc)
ENVI> help,p0
P0      FLOAT     = Array[512]
ENVI> st={x:im2,errval:sqrt(p0)}
&res=mpfit('test2',p0,functargs=st,maxiter=100,status=st atus,errmsg=errmsg)
&print,status,string(10b),errmsg
0
ERROR: number of parameters must not exceed data
```

THANKS in advance

CR

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Subject: Re: faster minimization needed - maybe mpfit?  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 27 Mar 2012 13:38:36 GMT  
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On Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:28:02 AM UTC-4, chris wrote:

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> &print,status,string(10b),errmsg
>      0
> ERROR: number of parameters must not exceed data

```

Check out the documentation for MPFIT. It expects your user function to return a 1D array of residuals, not the sum of squares.

Craig

Subject: Re: faster minimization needed - maybe mpfit?

Posted by [rogass](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2012 06:45:24 GMT

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On 27 Mrz., 15:38, Craig Markwardt <craig.markwa...@gmail.com> wrote:

```

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>

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>

> Craig

Dear Craig,  
now it works perfect. Thank you!

CR

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