
Subject: How to do surface fit?

Posted by [Gang Chen](#) on Tue, 27 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

I am trying to fit a surface (probably 2nd degree polynomial:
 $z=a+b*x+c*y+d*x*x+e*xy+f*y*y$) on a two dimensional grids with IDL. But it seems to me that SFIT and SVDFIT would not serve my purpose: SFIT only generates the values on those grids without giving the coefficients, and it uses different format of polynomial ($z=\text{sum of } k_{i,j} * x^i * y^j$); While SVDFIT works only for curve fit. Does anybody have any idea on how to do this by simply calling some existing functions instead of writing more complicate code?

Many thanks,

Gang Chen == gang@cochise.biosci.arizona.edu

Subject: Re: How to do surface fit?

Posted by [Evilio del Rio](#) on Thu, 29 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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On Wed, 28 Jan 1998, Gang Chen wrote:

```
>> Use the KX keyword to SFIT, it will return an array of coefficients, in
>> your case:
>>
>> IDL> zfit = SFIT(z,2,KX=k)
>> IDL> help,k
>> COEFF      FLOAT    = Array[3, 3]
>>
>> They are calculated with the convention X= 0,...,NX and Y=0,...,NY
>> (so you must to make the needed conversion).
>
>
> HI Evilio,
>
> I really appreciate your help on this. It seems that it works the way I
> wanted. But I have another question: Since the default grids are set with
> X= 0,...,NX and Y=0,...,NY in the source code for SFIT, how can I do for a
> non-uniform grids (e.g., X=0, 1, 4, 5, 9, ..., and Y=3, 4, 7, 11, ..)?
> Do I have to resort to interpolation so that values at uniform grids can be
> distributed?
>
> Many thanks,
> Gang Chen == gang@cochise.biosci.arizona.edu
>
```

Humm... Well, in fact you could use multivarite linear fitting, this is fine if you have low-degree polynimials. You should use the function

REGRESS

but you must prepare before the independent variables. Let's call u to the REGRESS dependent variable (they call it Y in the doc) and v the set of independent variables (X in the doc). The fit REGRESS does is:

$$u = \text{const} + a_0*v_0 + a_1*v_1 + \dots + a_{n-1}*v_{n-1}$$

if you compare with your problem:

$$z = a + b*x + c*y + d*x*x + e*xy + f*y*y$$

you must set:

u <=> z
const <=> a
a0 <=> b, v0 <=> x
a1 <=> c, v1 <=> y
a2 <=> d, v2 <=> x*x
(etc...)

This is not strictly correct since the "independent" variables are not (x, is strongly correlated with x^2, x*y, etc.) but it will work if your data are not very abnormal. The correct procedure, however, should be an improved SVDFIT so that it can accept multiple independent variables since the values of "X" are only used to calculate the user-supplied function FUNC (see IDL doc on SVDFIT and "Numerical Recipes in FORTRAN", ch. 15.4, pag. 675).

Maybe we could suggest this change to RSI people.

Cheers,

Evilio Jose del Rio Silvan Institut de Ciencies del Mar
E-mail: edelrio@icm.csic.es URL: <http://www.ieec.fcr.es/~evilio/>
"Anywhere you choose,/ Anyway, you're gonna lose"- Mike Oldfield
