
Subject: Re: CURVEFIT.PRO standard deviations?
Posted by [Ralf Flicker](#) on Mon, 13 May 2002 22:12:00 GMT
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William Thompson wrote:

>

[....]

> In the CURVEFIT program, the error bars are passed in through the
> WEIGHTS parameter in the calling sequence. There doesn't seem to be any
> way to make this optional. When you put in a WEIGHTS array of all ones,
> you're saying that the error in each point is +/- 1.0. If you put in
> more realistic weights, you'd get a more realistic error and
> chi-squared. With realistic weights, you should get a chi-squared of
> about one.

Yes, as Craig pointed out, I had overlooked the importance of the weights and failed to set them to $\sim 1/\text{variance}(\text{data})$. Unfortunately, in trying to find out what was wrong, I was confused further by three fitting routines giving different answers for the same input.

Thanks y'all for your input, I'm just no statistics whiz kid :)

ralf
