In article <329E8639.7D1B@innov.und.ac.za>, Professor Michael Alport
<alport@innov.und.ac.za> writes:
> Can anyone give me their benefit of their experience with Gaussian
> curve fitting and (I suspect the primary culprit) curvefit.pro.
> These routines are just not robust enough. 1D Gaussfit sometimes
> suddenly fits very badly - due to subtle differences in the input data.
> Furthermore, IDL 4.01 help refers to the keyword "NTERMS" but, my
> gaussfit.pro does not accept this. Cutting and running the Gauss2Dfit
> example from the help documentation caused my 100MHz pentium to hang -
> at least after 30 minutes I rebooted.
> The Gauss2Dfit documentation refers to the need to have the data span at
> least 5-8 halfwidths - any other pearls of wisdom?

I have no trouble fitting Gaussians using curvefit. I don't use Gaussfit,
because I want to fit multiple Gaussians, no background, etc. Try using
curvefit directly, and writing your own procedure to be called from curvefit.
Note that I don't use a PC, so there may be a problem with curvefit on the PC
that I don't know about.