Subject: Conditional Curve Fitting with multiple Gaussian Components using MPFIT
Posted by Jeffrey Chan on Wed, 11 May 2011 13:41:53 GMT
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Hi, everyone, I just did a search on internet and couldn't find a suitable solution on my problem, so I send an email to Dr. Fanning, and he told me to ask here.

I am currently using IDL for doing some data analysis, including curve fitting with Gaussian functions.

I tried to use the MPFIT package to construct a model three-Gaussian-component curve (say Gaussian A + Gaussian B + Gaussian C) and give suitable estimates for the fitting program.
The problem is that, there are some constrains/conditions within these 3 Gaussians, i.e. there are not really independent to each other. For example, the sigma of Gaussian A must be greater than Gaussian B, but these two sigmas are not related to each other by an equation so i cannot parametrize them.

Is there any way so I can specify conditions like that in the fitting routine?

Thanks

Subject: Re: Conditional Curve Fitting with multiple Gaussian Components using MPFIT
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Fri, 13 May 2011 03:50:53 GMT
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On May 11, 9:41 am, Jeffrey Chan <jeffreyr...@gmail.com> wrote:
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> fitting routine?

What you are doing is fraught with difficulty, so good luck!

You will find a suggestion on how to achieve what you are doing from a comp.lang.idl-pvwave thread from 31 Oct 2008 entitled, "Another MPFIT question" Just bear in mind that your desired constraint,
  sigma[A] > sigma[B]
can be rewritten as
  sigma[A] - sigma[B] > 0
which is just the kind of constraint discussed in that article.

Best wishes,
Craig
