

```
K0*K1 > 5           // K0*K1 is nonlinear
1/K1 < 4            // This is nonlinear: division by K1
ln(K0) < 1           // K0 not allowed as parameter to a function
```

When constraint expressions are parsed, the factors that multiply or divide the Kn's are extracted as literal strings and evaluated separately. Thus, if you have <expression>*K0 or K0/<expression>, <expression> must be executable on its own.

You cannot use a text wave with constraint expressions for fitting from a threadsafe function. You must use the method described in **Constraint Matrix and Vector** on page III-230.

Equality Constraint

You may wish to constrain the value of a fit coefficient to be equal to a particular value. The constraint algorithm does not have a provision for equality constraints. One way to fake this is to use two constraints that require a coefficient to be both greater than and less than a value. For instance, "K1 > 5" and "K1 < 5" will require K1 to be equal to 5.

If it is a single parameter that is to be held equal to a value, this isn't the best method. You are much better off holding a parameter. In the Curve Fitting dialog, simply select the Hold box in the Coefficients list on the Coefficients tab and enter a value in the Initial Guess column. If you are using a command line to do the fit,

`FuncFit/H="01"...`

will hold K1 at a particular value. Note that you have to set that value before starting the fit.

Example Fit with Constraints

The examples here are available in the Curve Fitting help file where they can be conveniently executed directly from the help window.

This example fits to a sum of two exponentials, while constraining the sum of the exponential amplitudes to be less than some limit that might be imposed by theoretical knowledge. We use the command line because the constraint is too complicated to enter into the Curve Fitting dialog.

First, make the data and graph it:

```
Make/O/N=50 expData= 3*exp (-0.2*x) + 3*exp (-0.03*x) + gnoise (.1)
Display expData
ModifyGraph mode=3,marker=8
```

Do a fit without constraints:

```
CurveFit dblExp expData /D/R
```

The following command makes a text wave with a single element containing the string "K1 + K3 < 5" which implements a restriction on the sum of the individual exponential amplitudes.

```
Make/O/T CTextWave={"K1 + K3 < 5"}
```

The wave is made using commands so that it could be written into this help file. It may be easier to use the Make Waves item from the Data menu to make the wave, and then display the wave in a table to edit the expressions. Make sure you make Text wave. Do not leave any blank lines in the wave.

Now do the fit again with constraints:

```
CurveFit dblExp expData /D/R/C=CTextWave
```

In this case, the difference is slight; in the graph of the fit with constraints, notice that the fit line is slightly lower at the left end and slightly higher at the right end than in the standard curve fit, and that difference is reflected in the residual values at the ends: