

Fitting a straight line to data in Excel and obtaining the associated parameters and their errors

Example: for y-values in cells b1 to b20 and x-values in cells a1 to a20.

- Use the mouse to select a 2x3 cell blank region of the worksheet
- In the formula area type =linest(b1:b20,a1:a20,1,1)
- Press at the same time the CTRL, Shift and Enter keys
- The six cells will now contain the following

Gradient	Intercept
Error in gradient	Error in intercept
Regression coefficient	Standard deviation of y values

The closer the regression coefficient is to 1, the better the fit.