

Regression Methods

Regression is the method of finding the best fitting formula for a data set. **Note:** Best fitting does not always mean that the formula goes through each data point.

The process of finding the best fitting curve follows these steps.

1. Enter data into the calculator.
2. Create a scatterplot of the data.
3. From the scatterplot, decide which types of formulas should be eliminated.
4. Examine the other regression models.
5. Pick the best model based on a variety of criteria, some are given here.
 - (a) ease of use
 - (b) closeness to the data
 - (c) follows trend of the data

Example: The population of a town, given in hundreds of people, is shown in the table. Find a model that will represent the population of the town.

year	population
1800	25
1830	60
1850	125
1875	350
1900	680
1925	1400
1950	2500