

The Normal Equations for the quadratic fit are

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 \sum x_i^4 + c_2 \sum x_i^3 + c_3 \sum x_i^2 &= \sum x_i^2 y_i \\ c_1 \sum x_i^3 + c_2 \sum x_i^2 + c_3 \sum x_i &= \sum x_i y_i \\ c_1 \sum x_i^2 + c_2 \sum x_i + c_3 m &= \sum y_i \end{aligned}$$

Using Maple to solve them in general returns very messy equations:

For example,

$$c_1 = -\frac{\sum x_i^2 y_i m \sum x_i^2 - \sum x_i^2 y_i (\sum x_i)^2 - \sum y_i (\sum x_i^2)^2 + \sum x_i^2 \sum_i x_i \sum x_i y_i - \sum x_i^3 \sum x_i y_i m + \sum x_i^3 \sum x_i \sum y_i}{-m \sum x_i^4 \sum x_i^2 + m (\sum x_i^3)^2 + (\sum x_i^2)^3 + (\sum_i x_i)^2 \sum x_i^4 - 2 \sum x_i \sum_i x_i^3 \sum x_i^2}$$

So in practice, it is better to compute the sums [Excel is good for this] for a given data set and use them in the normal equations. Then use your favorite method to solve the m equations m unknowns [Excel is not so great at this. Maple or RREF on your calculator is probably better].

Ex:

	x	y	x^2	x^3	x^4	xy	x^2y
	5.4	15.06					
	8.2	38.59					
	10.6	68.48					
	15.5	149.14					
	21.8	301.93					
	26.1	433.42					
sums	87.6	1006.62	1605.46	33763.54	765616.5	21329.66	485298.5

$$\begin{aligned} 765616.4770 c_1 + 33763.536 c_2 + 1605.46 c_3 &= 485298.4904 \\ 33763.536 c_1 + 1605.46 c_2 + 87.6 c_3 &= 21329.656 \\ 1605.46 c_1 + 87.6 c_2 + 6 c_3 &= 1006.62 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 765616.4770 & 33763.536 & 1605.46 & 485298.4904 \\ 33763.536 & 1605.46 & 87.6 & 21329.656 \\ 1605.46 & 87.6 & 6 & 1006.62 \end{bmatrix}$$