

In this post I would be explaining the code to find the best linear fit for a given set of data points.
Or in other words, the equation of a line that best fits a given set of data.

The equation of a line is given by:

$$y = mx + c$$

where 'm' is the slope and 'c' is the intercept.

So we will need to determine these constants in the above equation.

We will be using the [Least Squares Method](#) to achieve this.

Let's say you have n data points: x_i and y_i .

Then the fitted function can be calculated by minimizing:

$$err = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - (mx_i + c))^2$$

where, Y_i are the fitted points.

Skipping all the math, we get the following formulae for m and c :

$$m = \frac{n\sum x_i y_i - \sum x_i \sum y_i}{n\sum x_i^2 - (\sum x_i)^2}$$

$$c = \frac{\sum x_i^2 \sum y_i - \sum x_i \sum x_i y_i}{n\sum x_i^2 - (\sum x_i)^2}$$

You can refer to this [link](#) for a detailed proof.

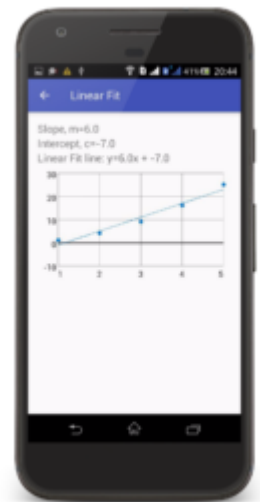
The following JAVA Code for linear fitting works for android devices too.

Let's say you have declared two ArrayLists to store the x-axis and y-axis values.

```
public static ArrayList<String> x_axis=new ArrayList<String>();
public static ArrayList<String> y_axis=new ArrayList<String>();
```

```
int n=x_axis.size();
for(int i=0;i<n;i++){
    xsum=Double.parseDouble(x_axis.get(i))+xsum;
    ysum=Double.parseDouble(y_axis.get(i))+ysum;
    xysum=Double.parseDouble(x_axis.get(i))*Double.parseDouble(y_axis.get(i))+xysum;
    x2sum=Double.parseDouble(x_axis.get(i))*Double.parseDouble(x_axis.get(i))+x2sum;

}
m=(n*xysum-xsum*ysum)/(n*x2sum-xsum*xsum);
c=(x2sum*ysum-xsum*xysum)/(x2sum*n-xsum*xsum);
```



Linear Fit code being used
in an app

So that's it.

You now have the value of 'm'(slope) and 'c'(intercept) and thus the linear fit:

$$y = mx + c$$

To make your code even cleaner, you could wrap all the above code into a method/function and then pass the 'x' and 'y' datapoints as arraylists and get back the values of 'm' and 'c'.

The reason I didn't do it is because Java sucks and doesn't even support multiple return variables.

So I would have had to return the values in an array, and it felt unnecessary.

You can refer to the following links for more info:

Linear Fitting - [Lab Write-Up](#)

Linear Fitting - [C++ Program](#)

Linear Fitting - [Scilab Code](#)

Curve Fit Tools - [Android App](#) (using the above code)

Curve Fit Tools - [Documentation](#)

Curve Fit Tools - [Play Store](#)

Curve Fit Tools - [GitHub Repository](#)

Curve Fitters - [Scilab Toolbox](#)



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