

Polynomial Interpolation

Given $n+1$ data points, find the equation of a degree n polynomial ($c_1 + c_2x + c_3x^2 + \dots + c_{n+1}x^n = y$) so that the data points lie on the graph of the equation.

That is, find a line that lies on 2 data points
find a parabola that lies on 3 data points
find a cubic that lies on 4 data points, etc.

This is an **exact fit**. There is **no error** for this model.

Method:

1. Write the general polynomial equation whose coefficients you are trying to find. $c_1 + c_2x + c_3x^2 + \dots + c_{n+1}x^n = y$
2. Form a system of equations by substituting each data point (x,y) into the equation for x and y .
3. Solve the system of equations to find the coefficients.