

## Creating Graphs With Curved Lines in Excel – Outline

- 1) Open Excel and enter your X data in column A and your Y Data in column B. If you are putting two graphs on one page, put the second set of data below the first. Put appropriate titles above your data to help you remember what they are.
- 2) Click on the Chart Wizard icon (looks like a coloured bar graph)

### *In Chart Wizard:*

- 1) Chart Wizard – Step 1 of 4
  - a) Chart Type: choose “xy scatter”.
  - b) Chart Sub-type: choose “data points connected by smoothed lines”. Click “Next”.
- 2) Chart Wizard – Step 2 of 4 – Chart Source Data

*If you are creating only one graph, click the “Data Range” tab, then click in the data range box. Next, highlight the data. The source data box will reappear with your rough graph. Click “Next” and continue with step 3 of 4. -or-*

  - a) If you are creating more than one graph, click the “series” tab.
  - b) If there is not a series in the series box, click “add”. Click on the first series.
  - c) Click in the “name” box and type a short name for your first graph/series.
  - d) Click in the “X Values” box, delete any values already present, and highlight the X data for your first graph. The source data box should reappear with the cells your X data is in entered.
  - e) Repeat d with the Y values box and data.
  - f) Repeat steps b to e for the second graph/series. When you have specified the source data for all of your graphs, click “Next”.
- 3) Chart Wizard – Step 3 of 4 – Chart Options
  - a) Click on “Titles” and enter the overall chart title and value titles for the X and Y axes. **Don’t forget your units.**
  - b) Set “Axes”, “Gridlines”, and “Legend” as wanted. When done, click “Next”.
- 4) Chart Wizard – Step 4 of 4 – Chart Location
  - a) To view the graph only, choose “As new sheet” and click “Finish”
  - b) To view the graph and data simultaneously (recommended), choose “As object in” [Sheet 1] and click “Finish”. Resize the graph to fill most of the page. Click outside the chart and then click the “Print Preview” icon to see how you’ve done. *Click on the chart to do further work.*
- 5) Finishing Work
  - a) To remove the grey background, right-click anywhere on the grey. Click “format plot area”. Under Patterns/Area, click “None”, then “OK”.
  - b) Double-click on the X axis. Click the “scale” tab and adjust as needed. **Don’t skip this!** Your graph does **not** always have to show the origin. Click on the “Font” tab to change fonts.
  - c) Repeat b) on the Y axis and, if needed for font, on the Chart title, Value X axis title, Value Y axis title, and Legend.
- 6) Click outside the chart and then click “Print Preview”. If satisfied, click “Print...”