Using Excel to check your complexity

1. Create a Scatter or Line chart in Excel

1. Arrange your data so that the x-values are in the first row or column of your worksheet, and the y-values are located in adjacent rows or columns.
2. Select the range of x- and y-values that you want to plot in the chart.
3. Click Scatter in the Charts on the Insert menu to start the Chart Wizard.

For help on any of the steps, click the question mark (?) on the Chart Wizard title bar.

2. Add Trendline

To see what curve fits the data, click on one data series to highlight them. Right click and select “Add Trendline”. Select which type of curve you want to try to fit. Select “Display equation on chart” and “Display R-squared value on chart”. The R-squared value is actually the square of the correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient, R, gives us a measure of the reliability of the linear relationship between the x and y values. A value of R = 1 indicates an exact linear relationship between x and y.
Values of R close to 1 indicate excellent linear reliability. If the correlation coefficient is relatively far away from 1, the predictions based on the linear relationship, $y = mx + b$, will be less reliable.

Two different attempts at curve fitting the same data: