

## Curve Fitting and Prediction

An experiment is performed to define the relationship between applied stress and the time to fracture for a type of stainless steel. The data obtained is given:

|                                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| stress, $x$ , $\text{kg/mm}^2$ | 5  | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 |
| time, $y$ , hours              | 40 | 30 | 25 | 40 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 15 |

Plot the data and then develop a best-fit equation to predict the fracture time for an applied stress of  $20 \text{ kg/mm}^2$ .

Hint: Try a model with all data points, and then try a model by treating point  $(20, 40)$  as an outlier and discarding it.