```r
① linear <- function (dat, y, time, params = NULL, ...) {

      linearPars <- function(dat, y, time) {
          time <- dat[[time]]
②         y <- dat[[y]]
          if (var(y) == 0) {
              return(NULL)
          }
          mm <- (max(y) − min(y))/max(time)
          bb <- mean(y) − mm * mean(time)
          return(c(intercept = bb, slope = mm))
      }

③     if (is.null(params)) {
          params <- linearPars(dat, y, time)
      }
④     if (is.null(params)) {
          return(NULL)
      }
      y <- str2lang(y)
      time <- str2lang(time)
⑤     ff <- bquote(.(y) ~ slope * .(time) + intercept)
      attr(ff, "parnames") <- names(params)
      return(list(formula = ff, params = params))
 }
```