



# 02 | Supervised Learning

Max Pellert (<https://mpellert.at>)

Deep Learning for the Social Sciences



# Github Classroom

<https://github.com/DLSS-24>

From now on, please find all class materials in this repo:

<https://github.com/DLSS-24/DLSS-24>



Date	Topic	Who?
9.4.	Logistics & Motivation	Max
16.4.	Supervised Learning	Max
23.4.	Shallow Neural Nets	Max
30.4.	Perceptron and Multi Layer Perceptrons	Giordano
7.5.	Convolutional Neural Networks	Giordano
14.5.	Graph Neural Networks	Giordano
21.5.	NN for Time Series analysis	Giordano



Date	Topic	Who?
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28.5.	No class	
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4.6.	Generative Deep Learning 1	Giordano
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11.6.	NLP 1	Max
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18.6.	NLP 2	Max
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25.6.	Reinforcement Learning	Giordano
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2.7.	Project presentation session	Max
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9.7.	Large Language Models	Giordano
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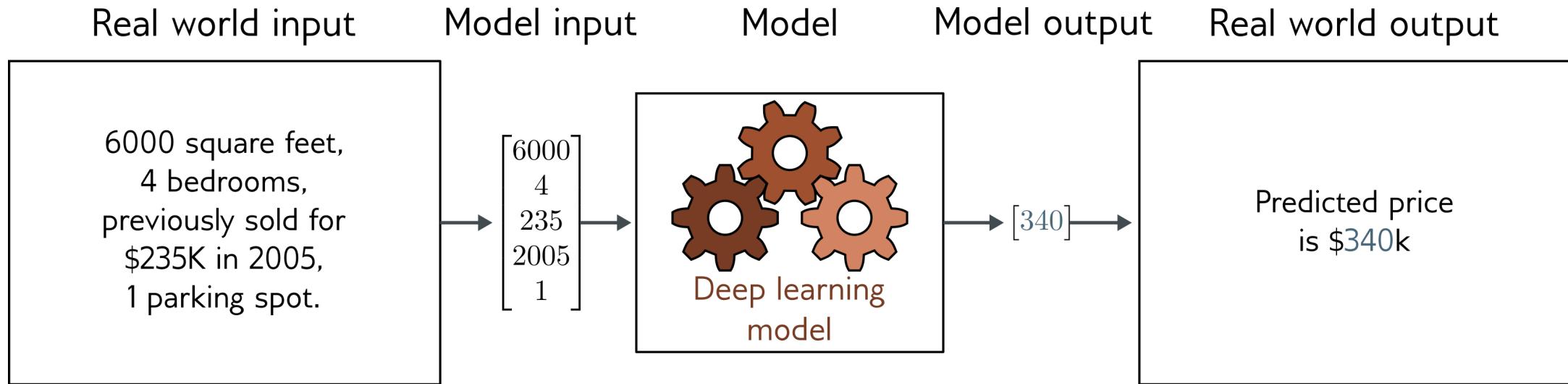
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16.7.	Generative Deep Learning 2	Max
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# Supervised learning

# Regression



Univariate regression problem (one output, real value)



# Supervised learning overview

Supervised learning model = mapping from one or more inputs to one or more outputs

Computing the inputs from the outputs = **inference**

Example:

Input is age and mileage of secondhand Toyota Prius

Output is estimated price of car



# Supervised learning overview

Model is a mathematical equation, but better and more generally: model is a *family of equations*

Model includes **parameters**

Parameters affect outcome of equations

**Training** a model = finding parameters that predict outputs “well” from inputs for a training dataset of input/output pairs



# Notation

Check Appendix A of “Understanding Deep Learning”

Input

**X**

Variables are always indicated with  
Roman letters

Normal = scalar

**Bold** = vector

**CAPITAL BOLD** = matrix

Output

**y**

# Notation



Model

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}[\mathbf{x}]$$

Functions are always indicated with square brackets

Normal = returns scalar

**Bold** = returns vector

**CAPITAL BOLD** = returns matrix



# Notation examples

Input	$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{age} \\ \text{mileage} \end{bmatrix}$	<b>Structured or tabular</b> data
Output	$y = \text{[price]}$	
Model	$y = f[\mathbf{x}]$	
Parameters	$\phi$	Parameters are always Greek letters
Model	$\mathbf{y} = f[\mathbf{x}, \phi]$	



# Loss function

We use a training dataset of  $I$  pairs of input/output examples:

$$\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{i=1}^I$$

**Loss function** or **cost function** measures how bad the model is at relating input to output for the examples:

$$L[\phi, f[\mathbf{x}, \phi], \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{i=1}^I]$$

Or short:

$$L[\phi]$$



# Training

Loss function:  $L[\phi]$  returns a scalar that is smaller when model maps inputs to outputs better

During training, we try to find the parameters that minimize the loss:

$$\hat{\phi} = \underset{\phi}{\operatorname{argmin}}[L[\phi]]$$



# Testing

To test the model, we evaluate it on a separate test dataset of input/output pairs

Crucially, it must not have seen that data during training (suspiciously high, almost perfect performance on the test set is an indicator that there may have been a spillover)

Testing allows us to see how well it generalizes to “new data”



# Testing

Still, the test data is usually from the same domain and collected in the same way as the training data, so external validity can be low although test set performance is high

Always critically assess and try to assess performance “in the wild” to establish the model’s limits

This is clearly where your ways to think from the social sciences can come in very handy!

Lapuschkin, S., Wäldchen, S., Binder, A., Montavon, G., Samek, W., & Müller, K.-R. (2019). Unmasking Clever Hans predictors and assessing what machines really learn. *Nature Communications*, 10(1), 1096. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-08987-4>



# Example: 1D Linear regression model

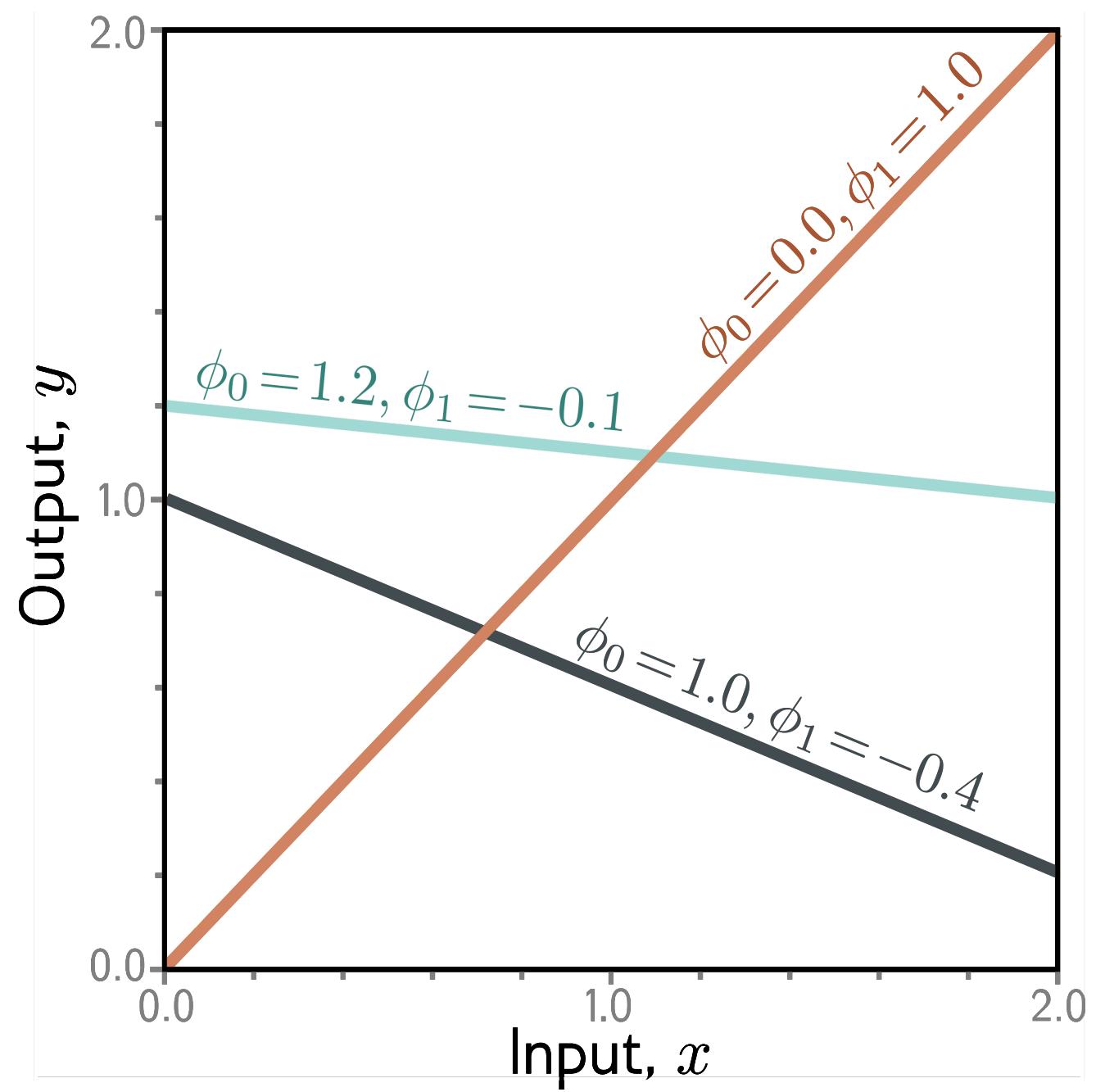
Model

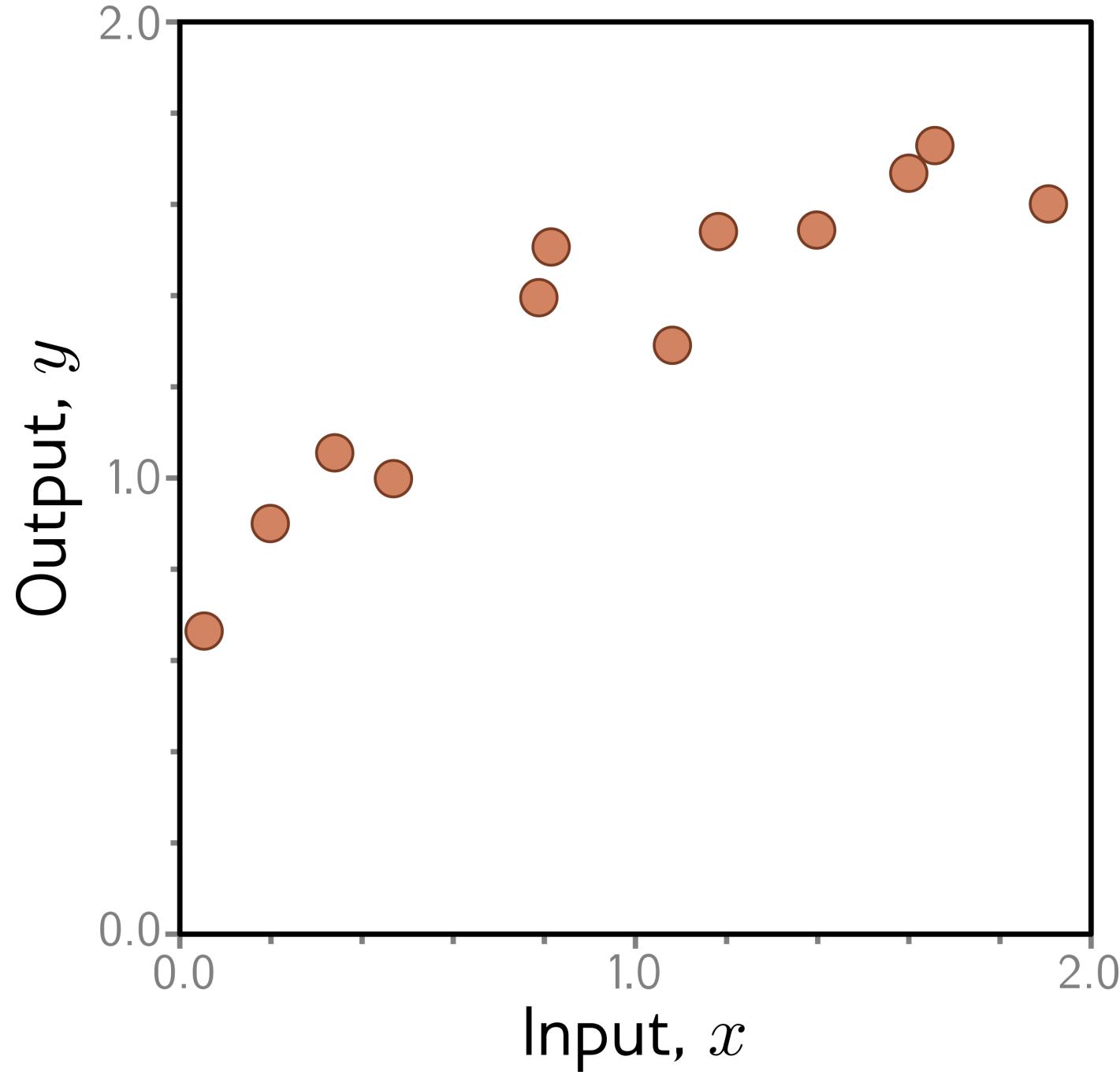
$$\begin{aligned}y &= f[x, \phi] \\&= \phi_0 + \phi_1 x\end{aligned}$$

Parameters

$$\phi = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_0 \\ \phi_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

← y-offset  
← slope

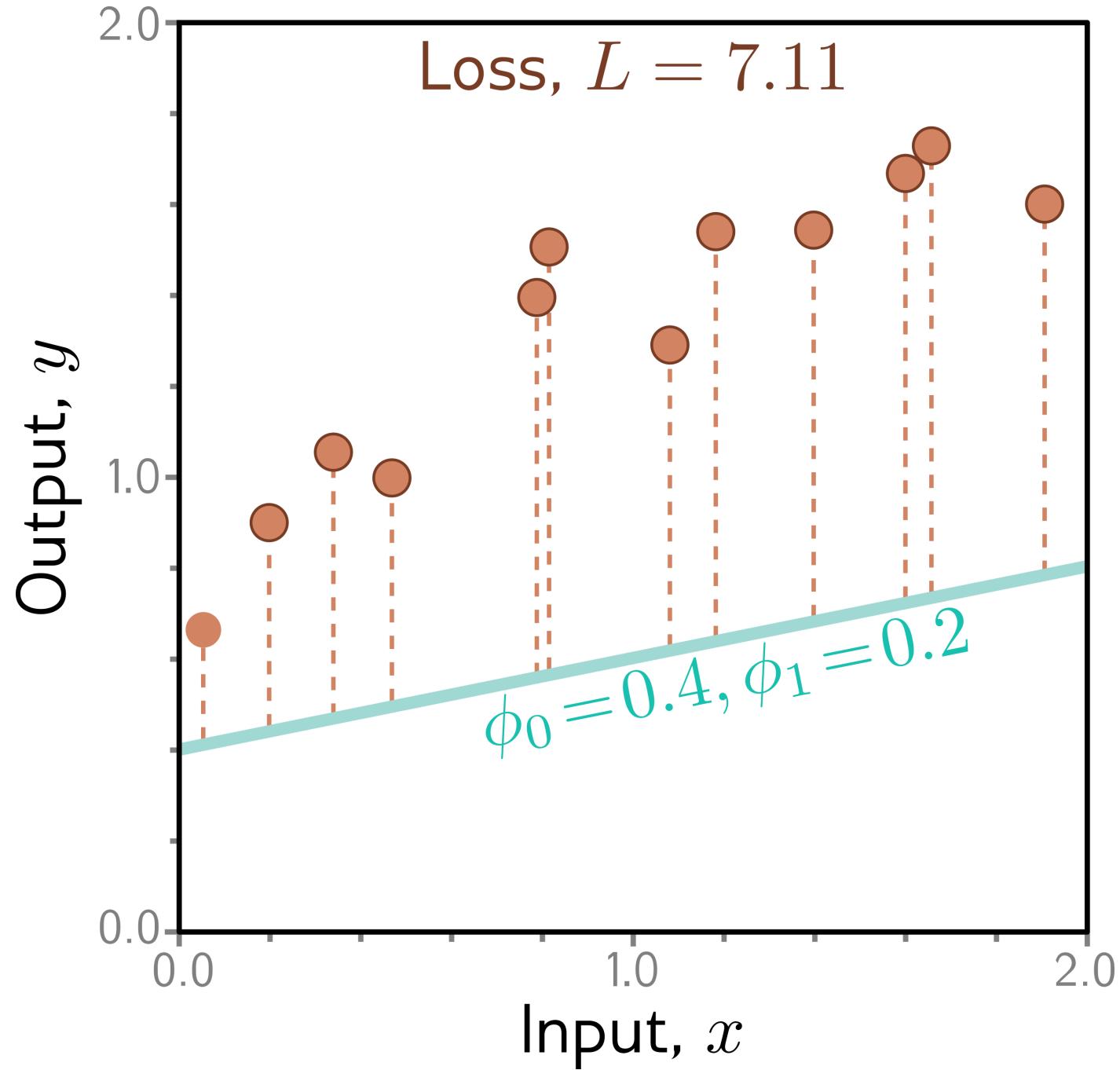




**Loss function:**

$$\begin{aligned} L[\phi] &= \sum_{i=1}^I (f[x_i, \phi] - y_i)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^I (\phi_0 + \phi_1 x_i - y_i)^2 \end{aligned}$$

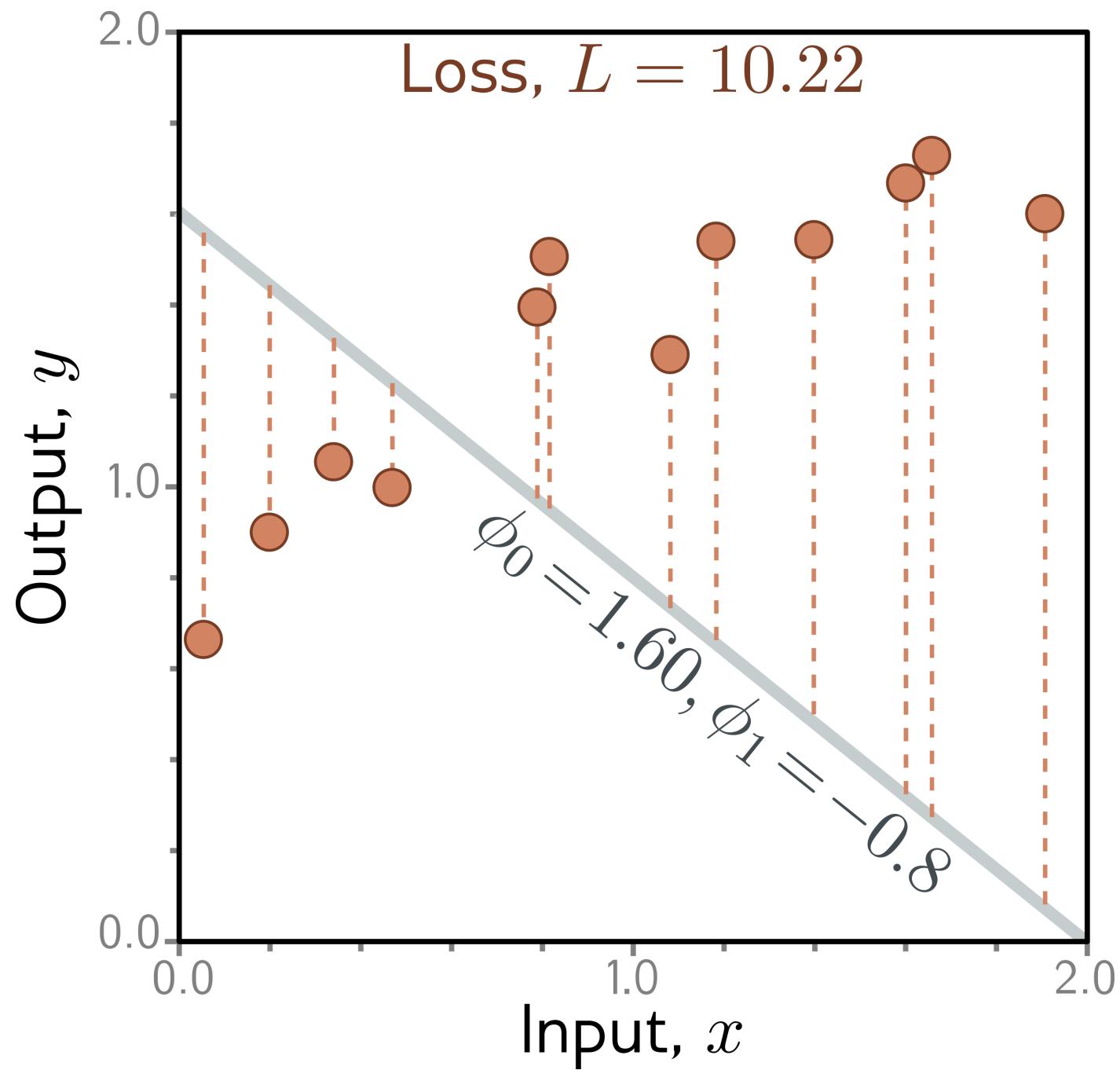
**Least squares loss  
function**



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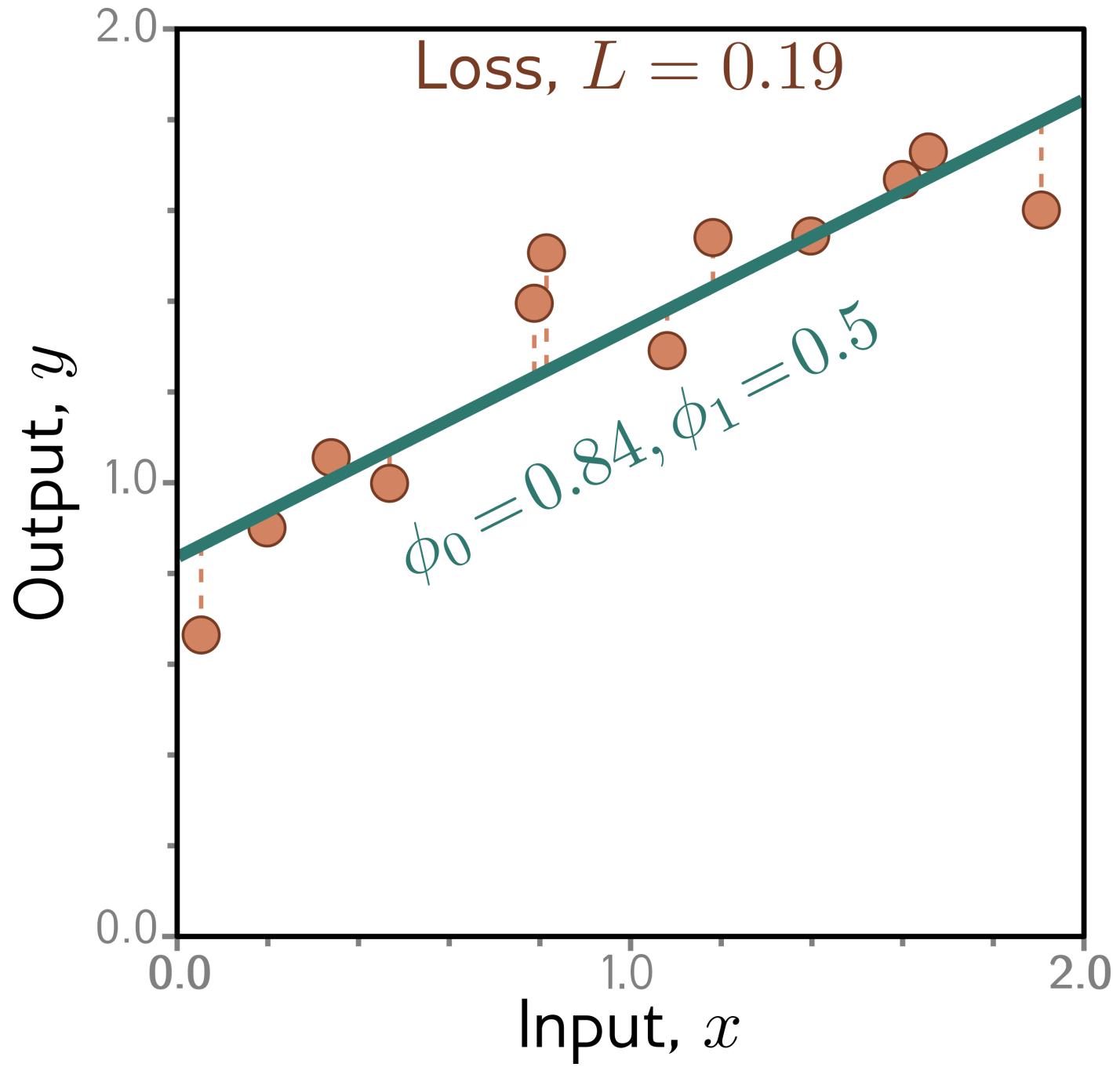
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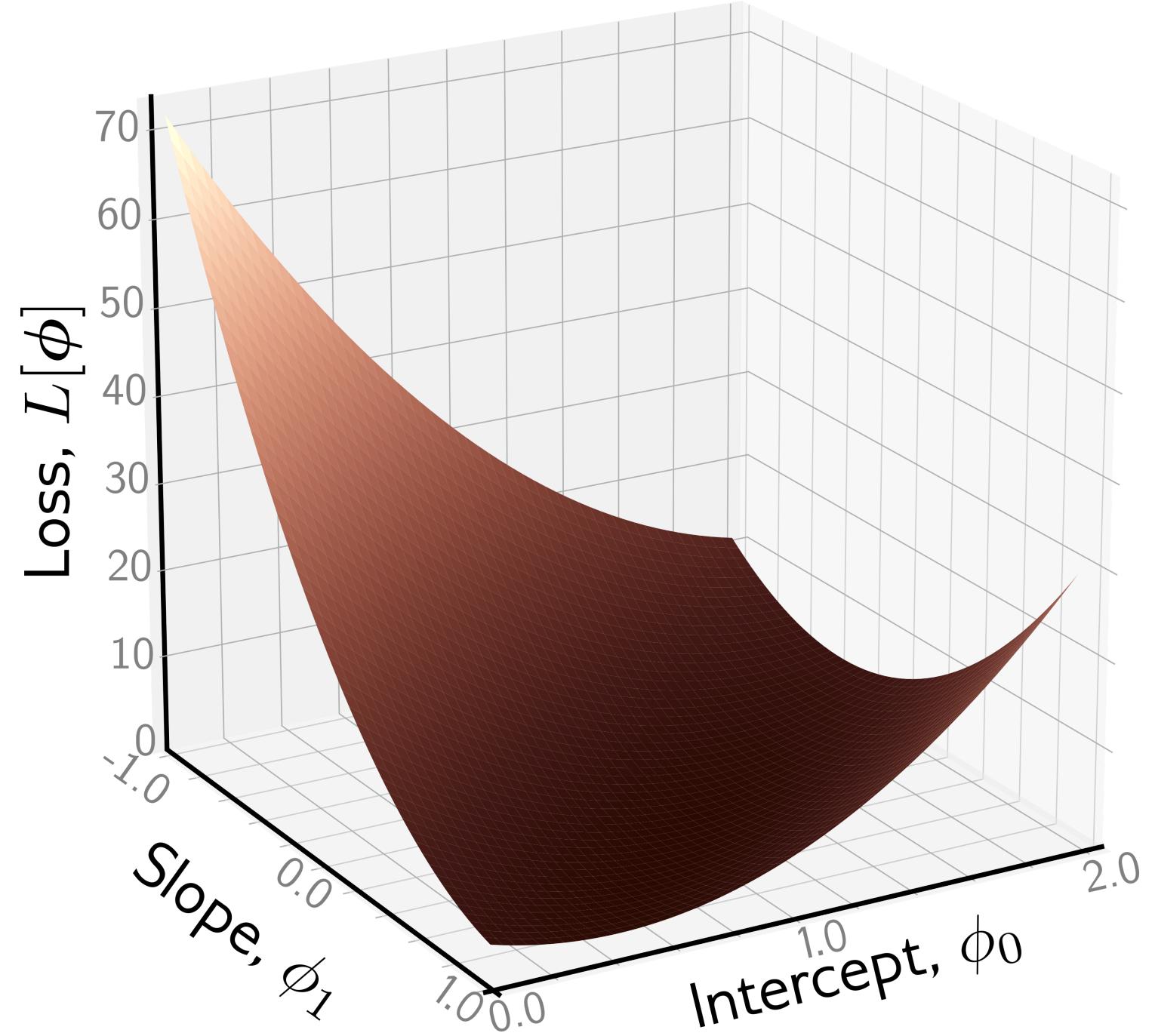
**Least squares loss  
function**

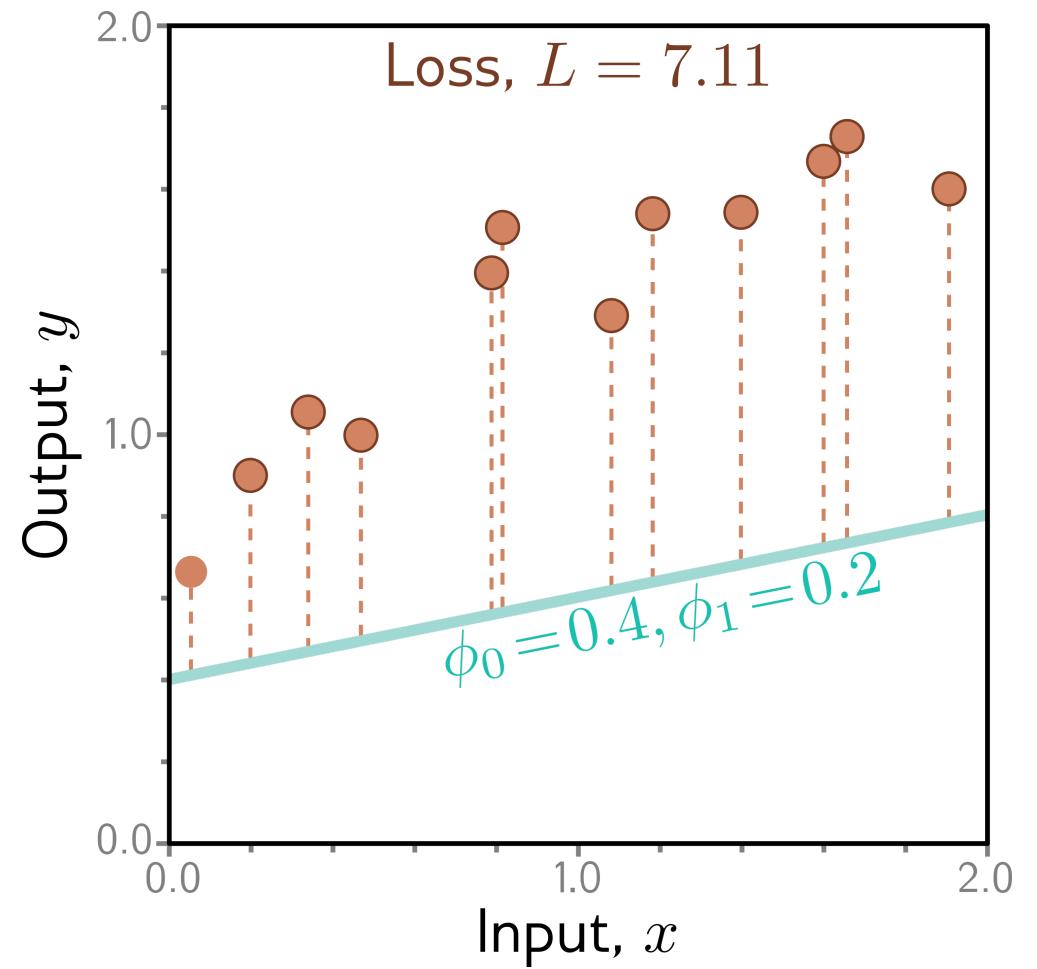
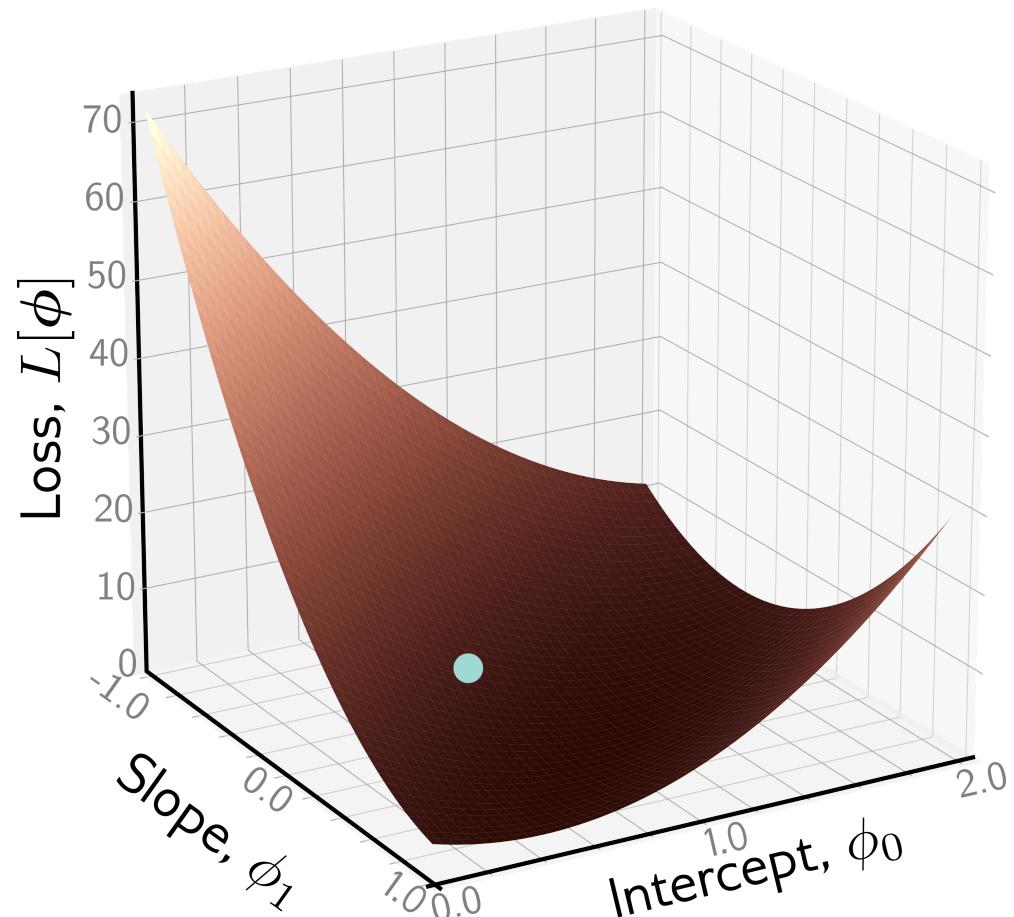


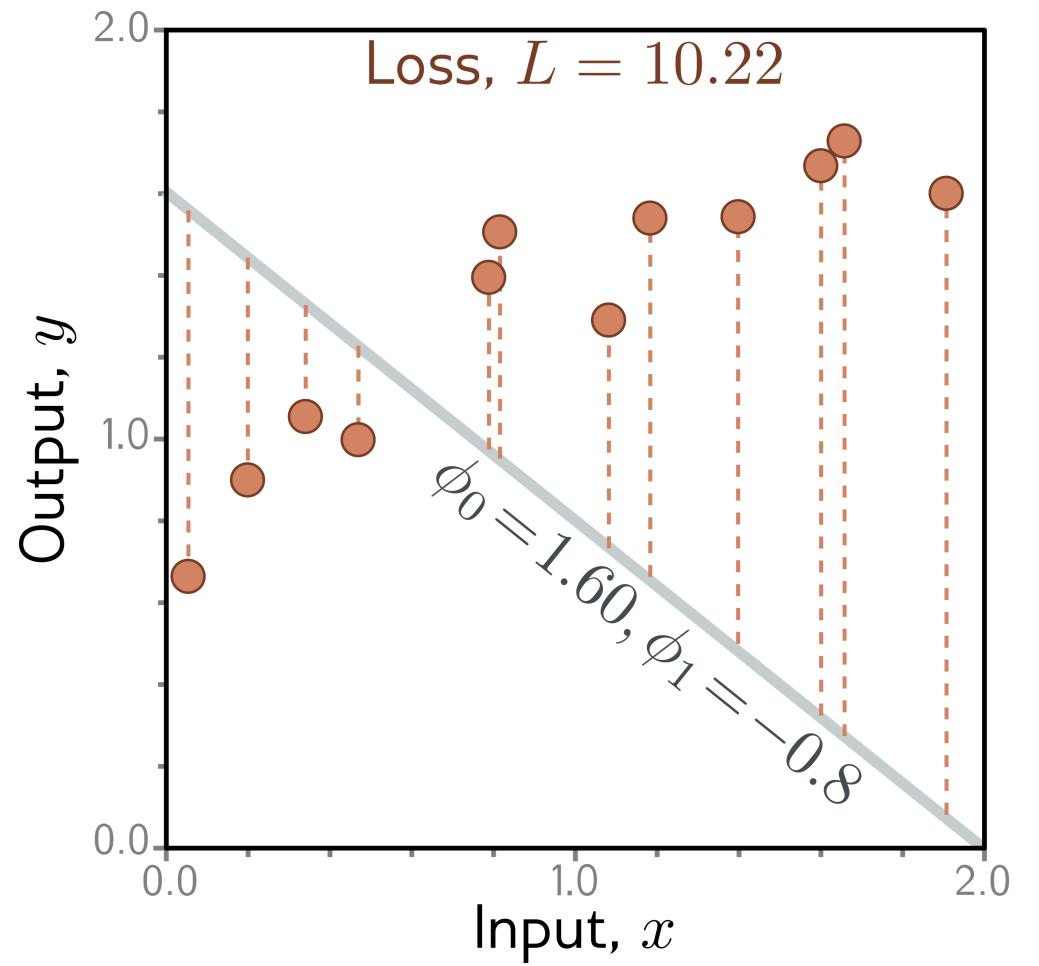
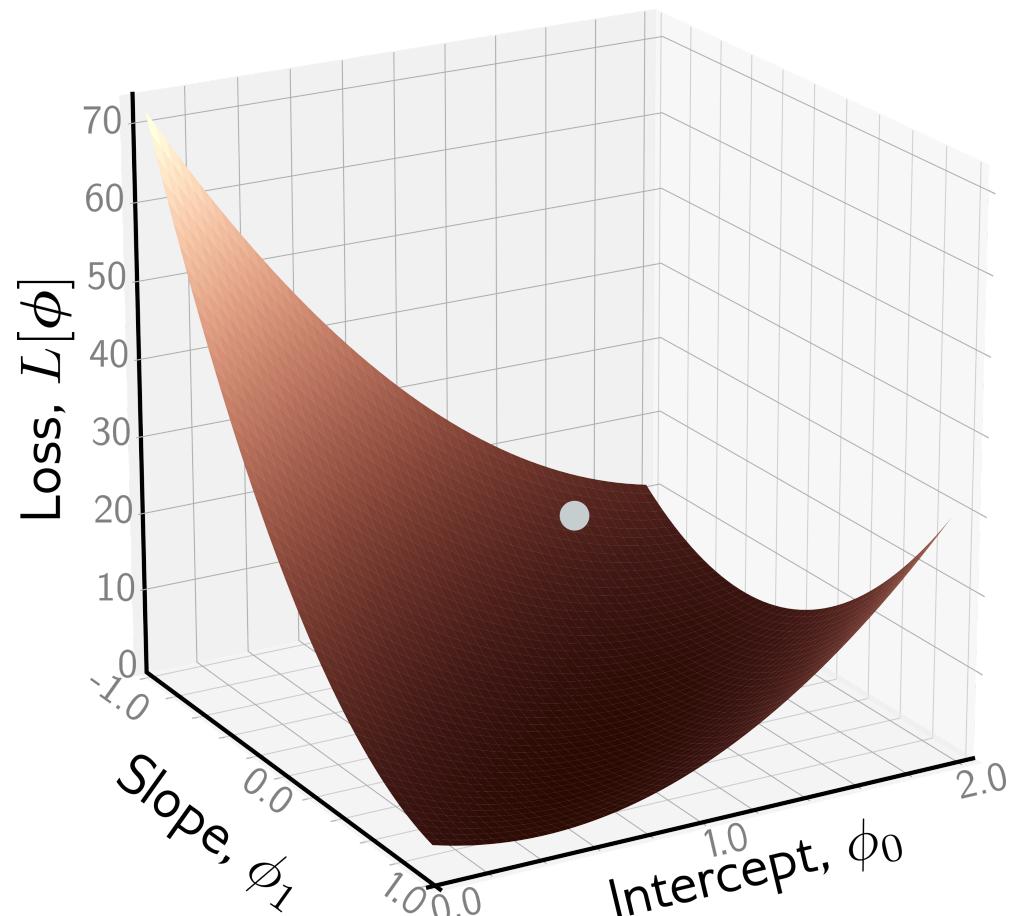
Loss function:

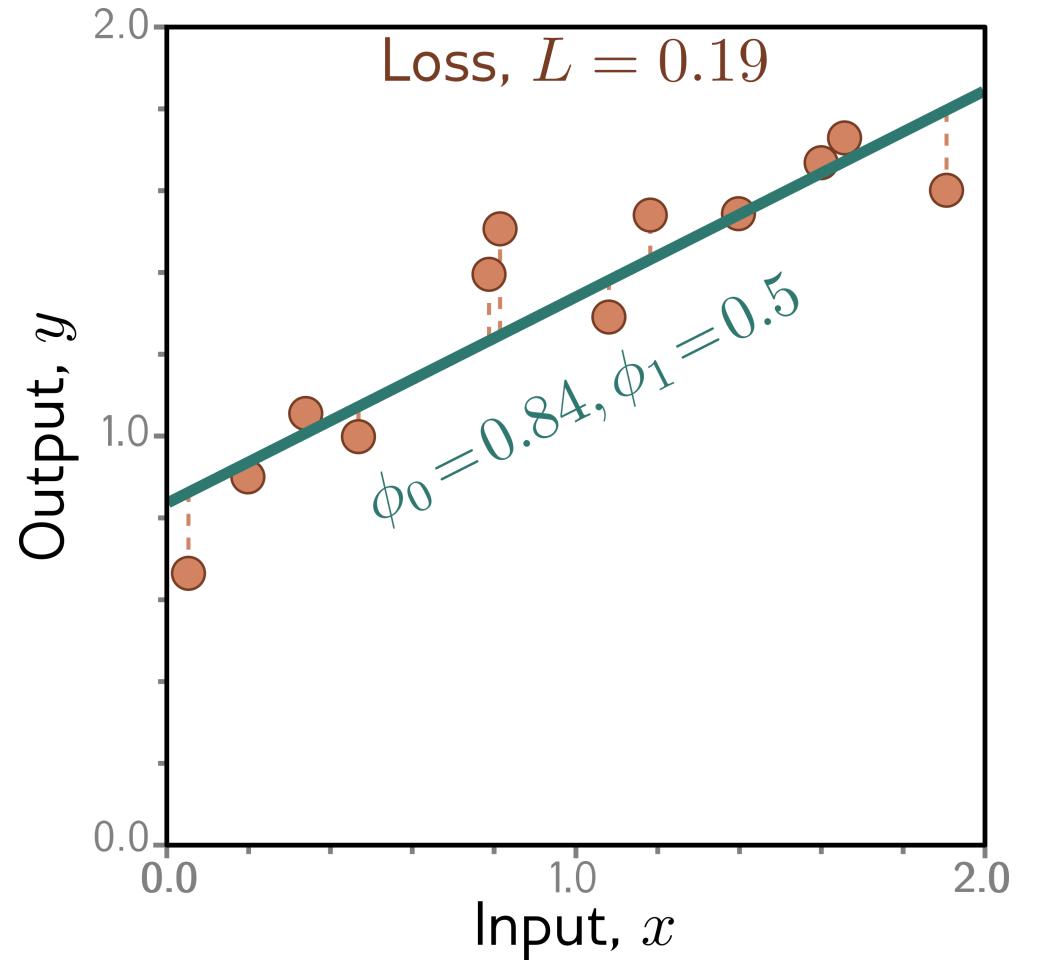
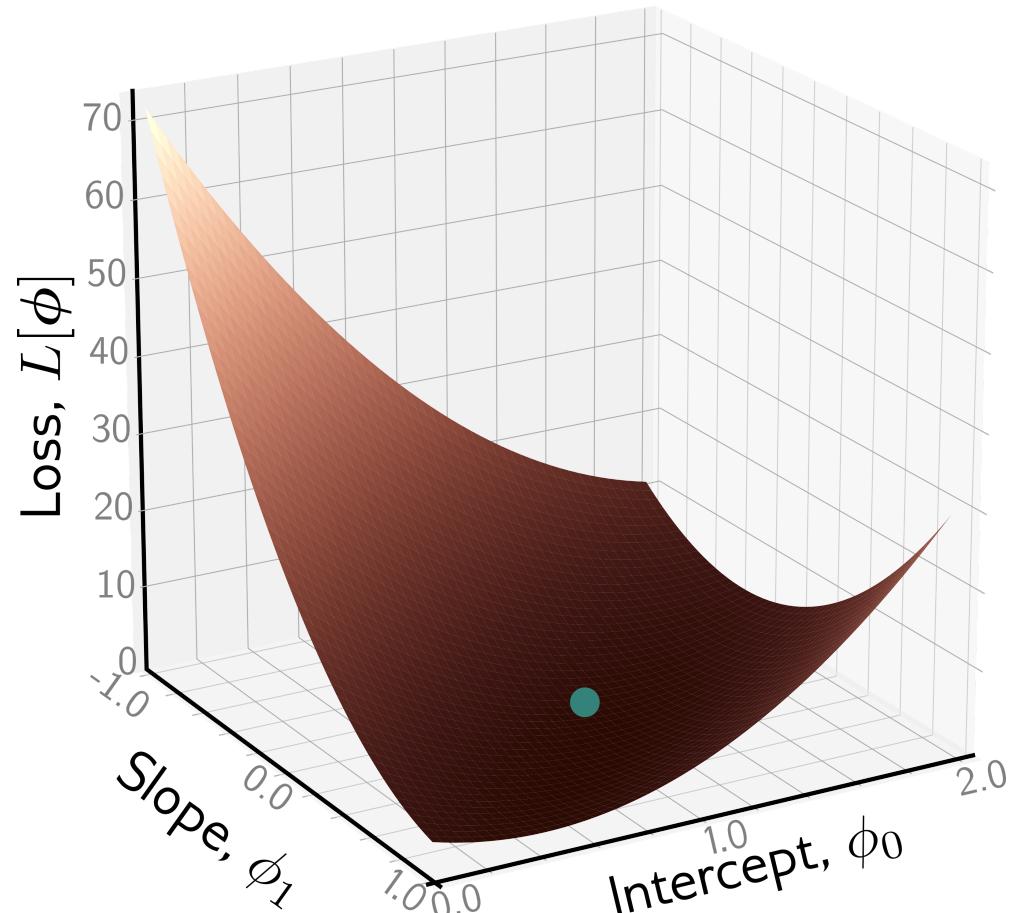
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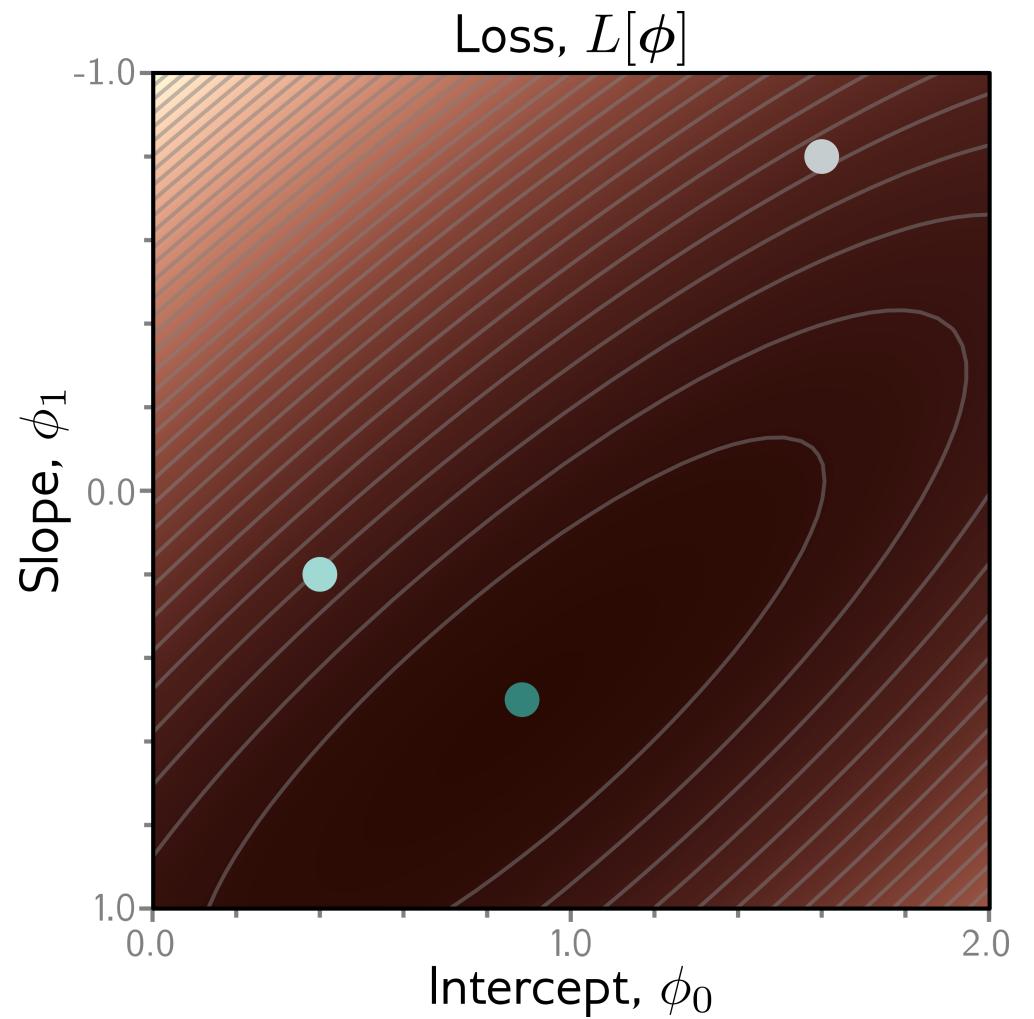
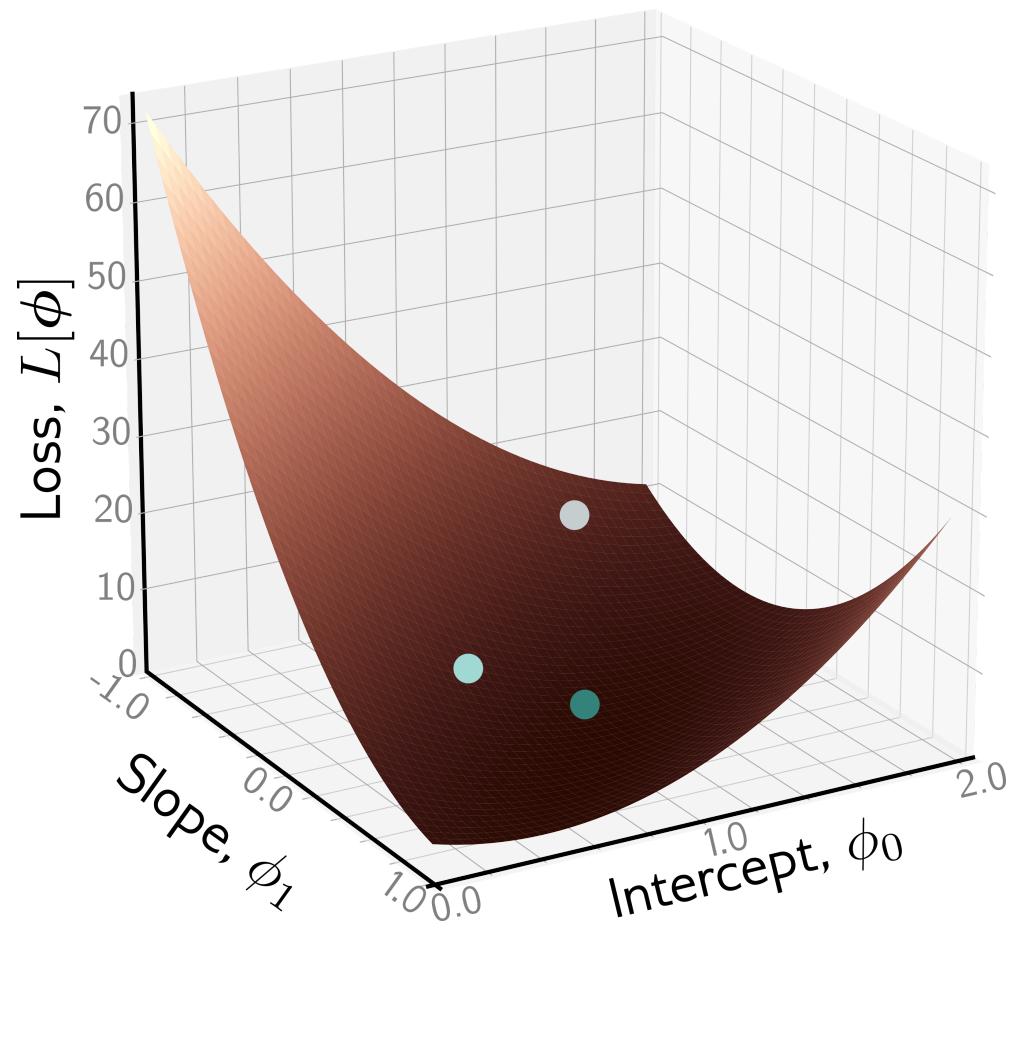
Least squares loss  
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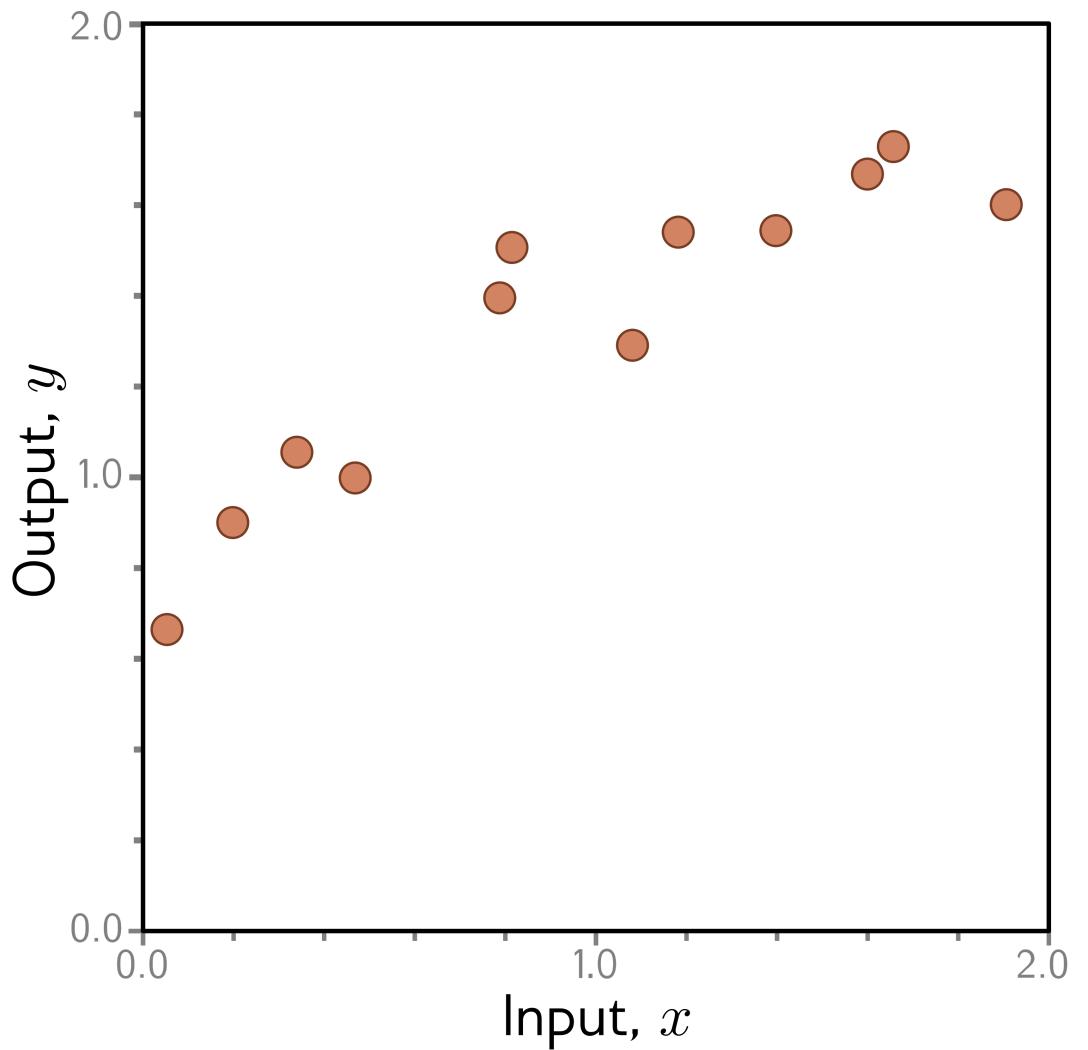
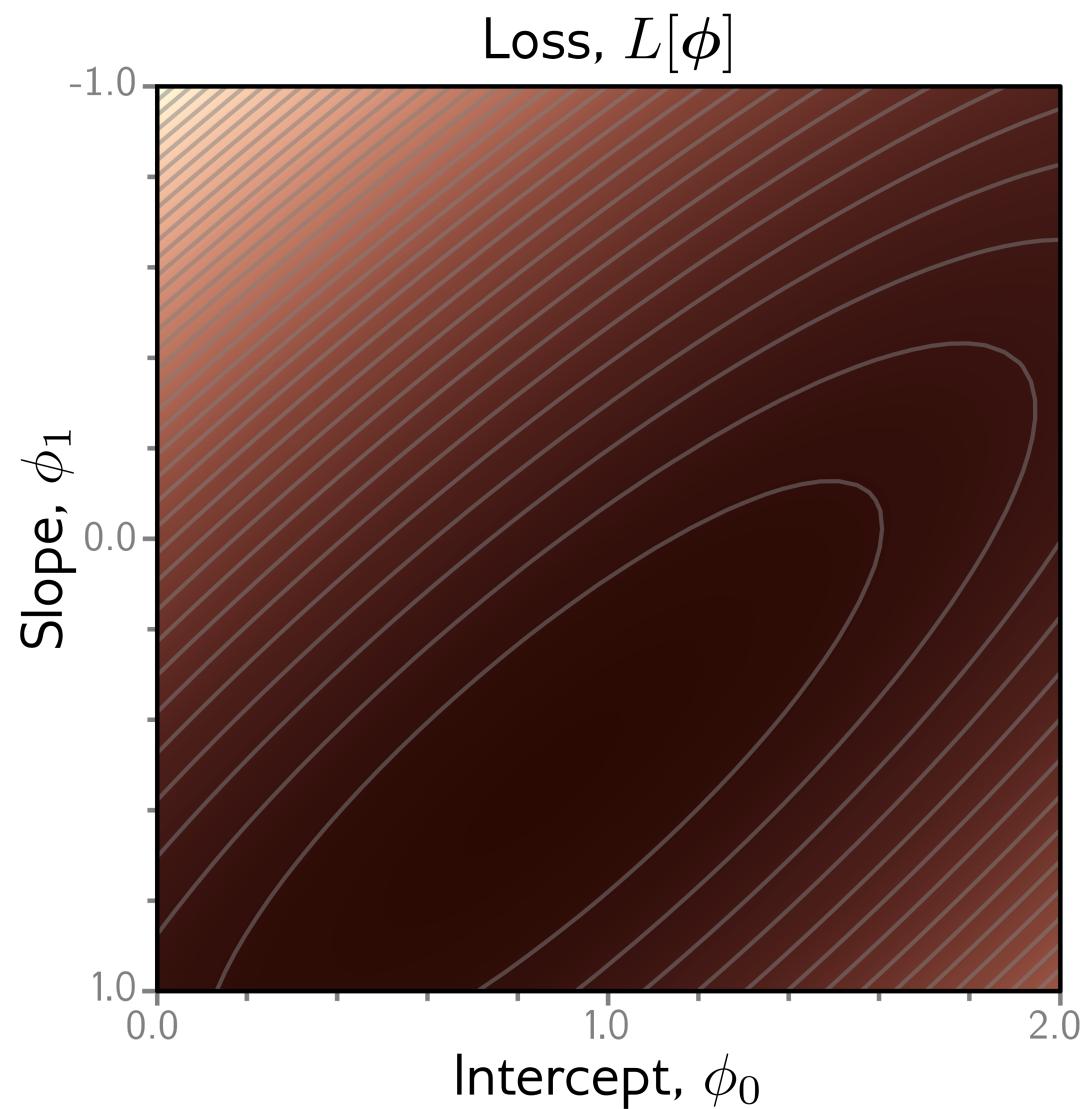


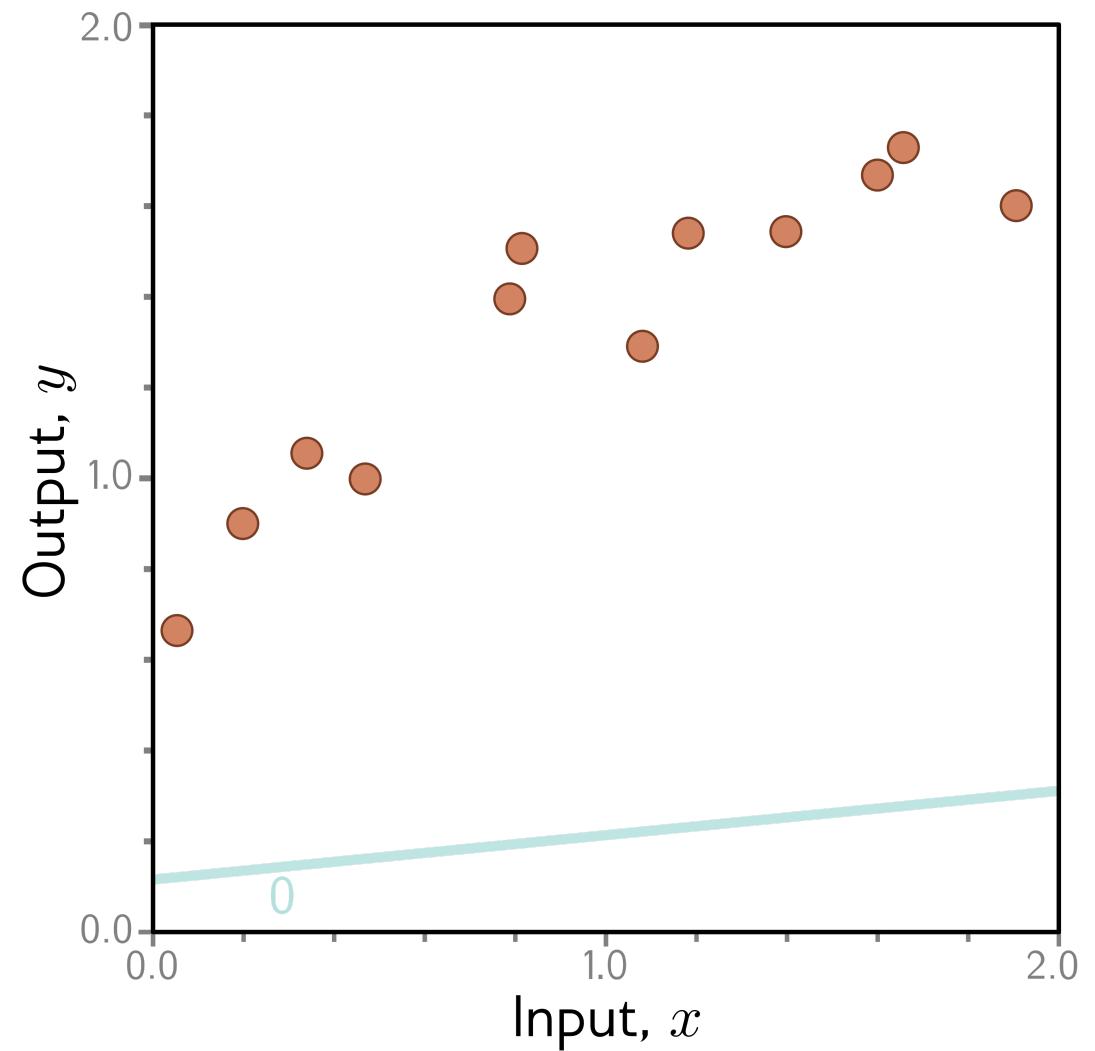
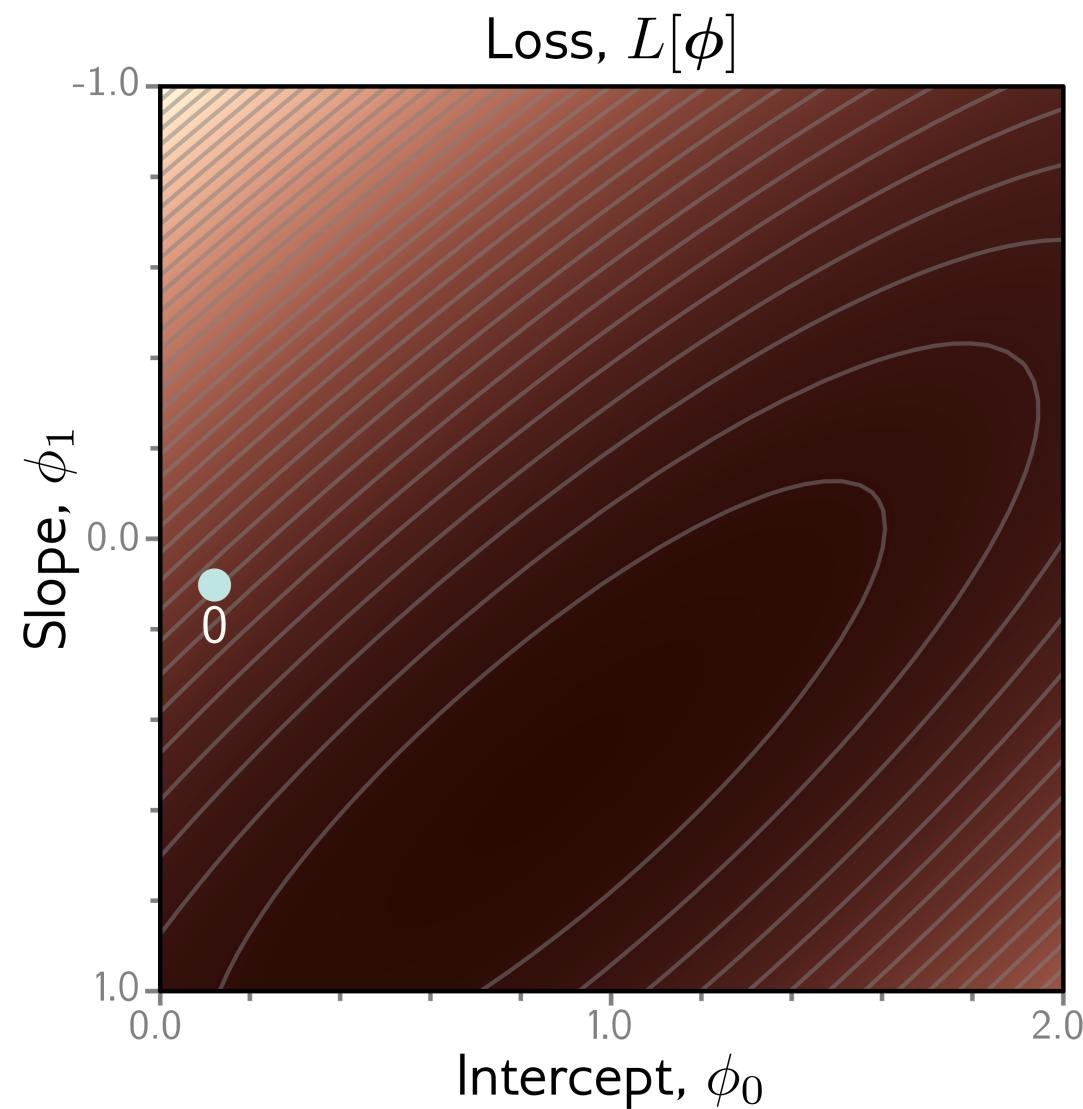


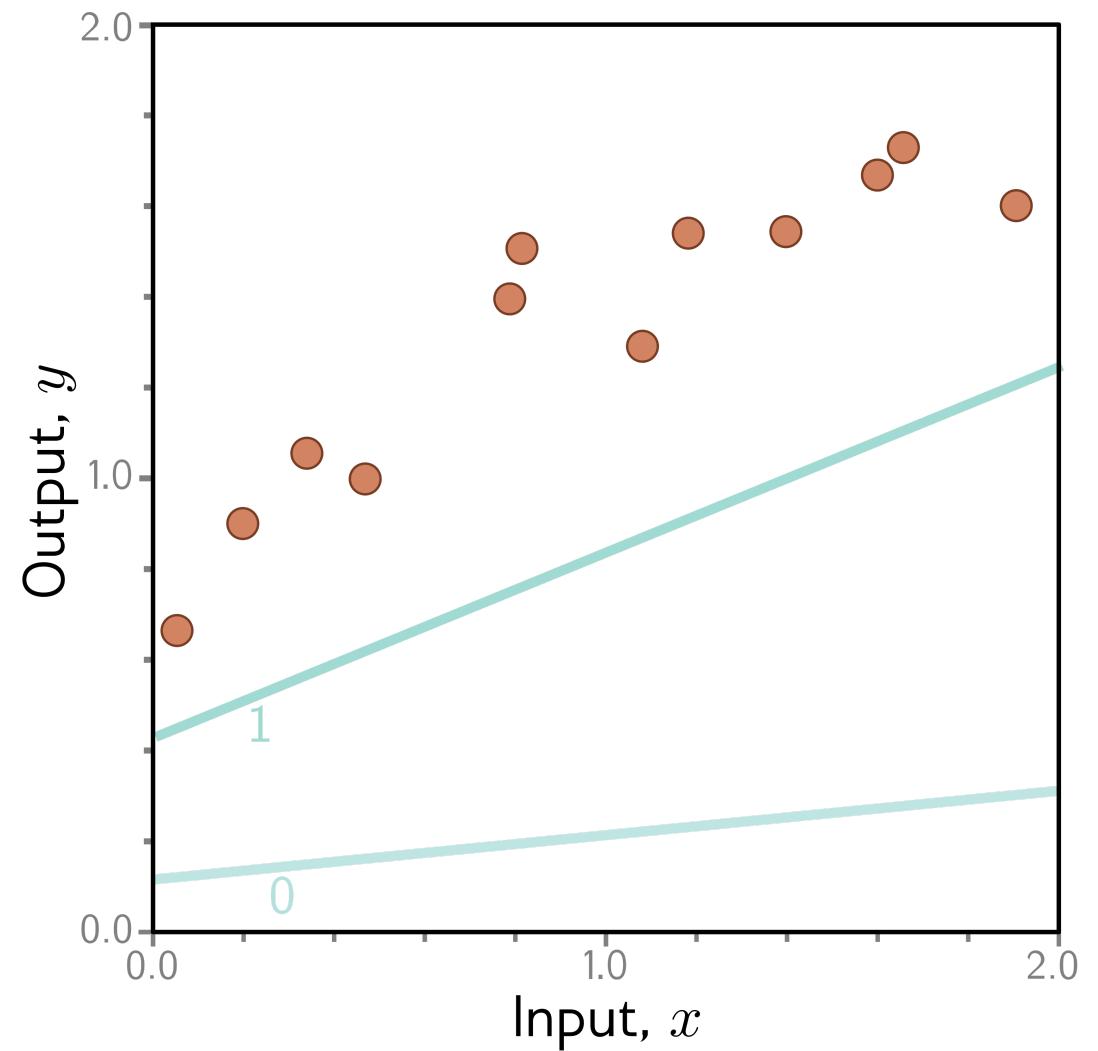
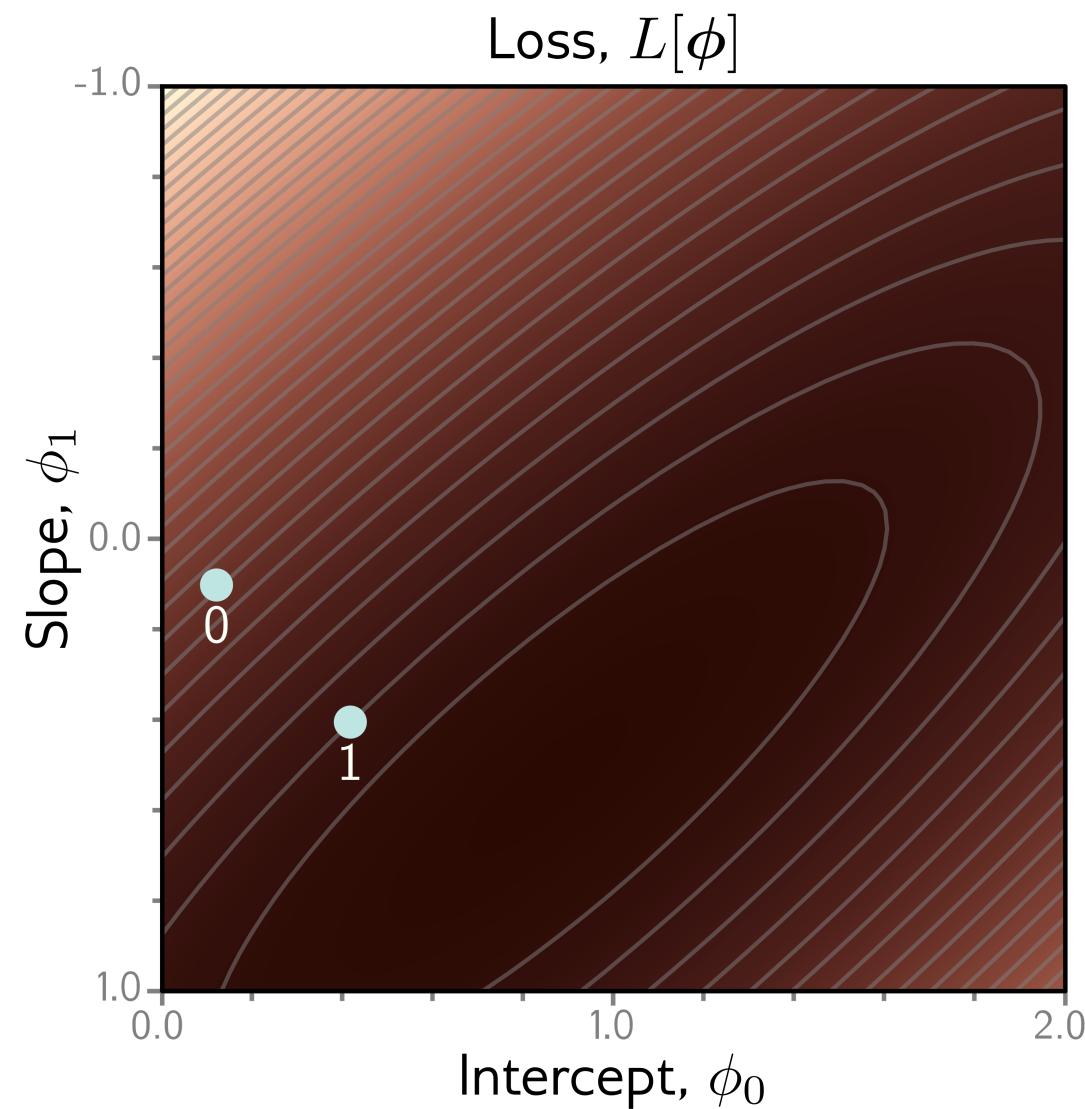


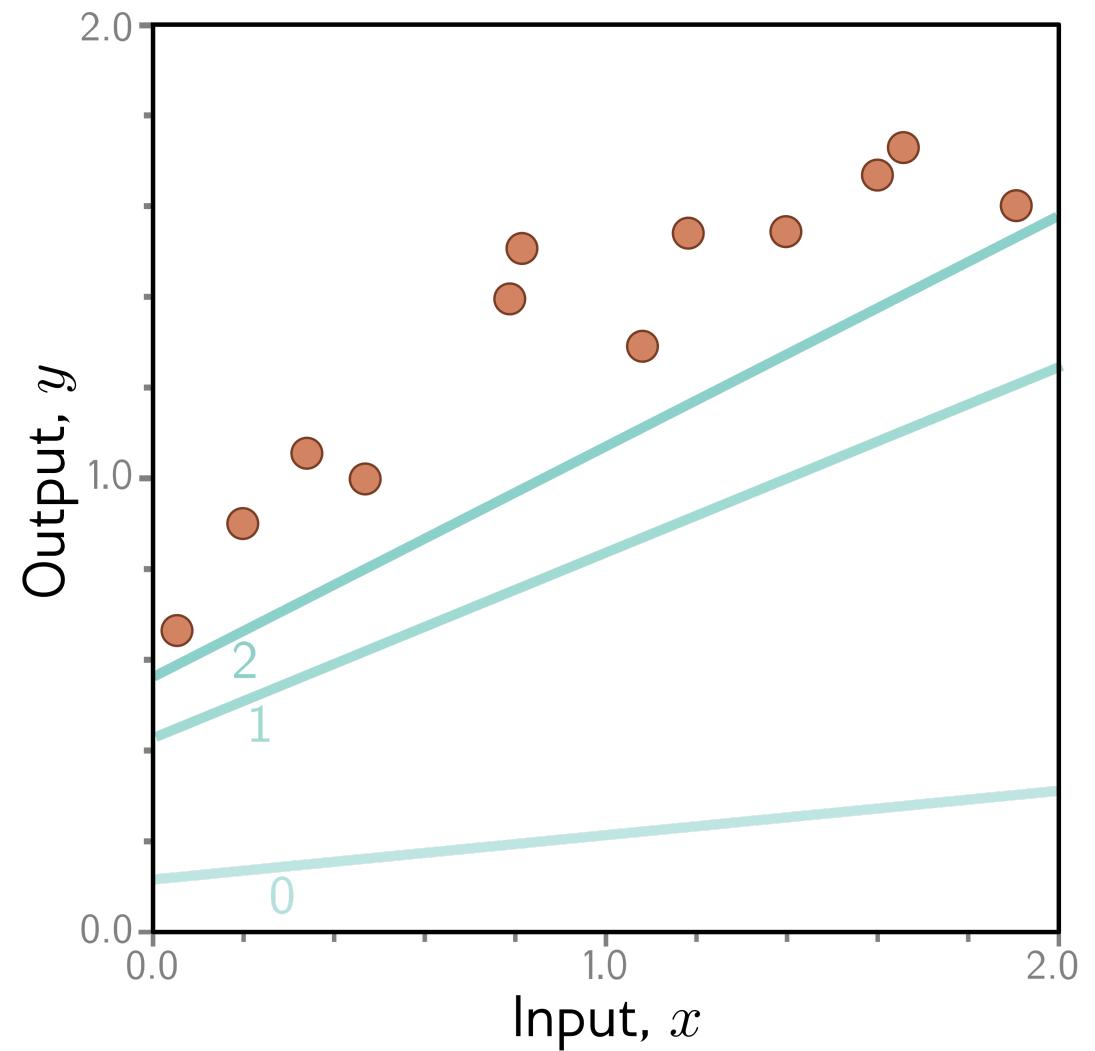
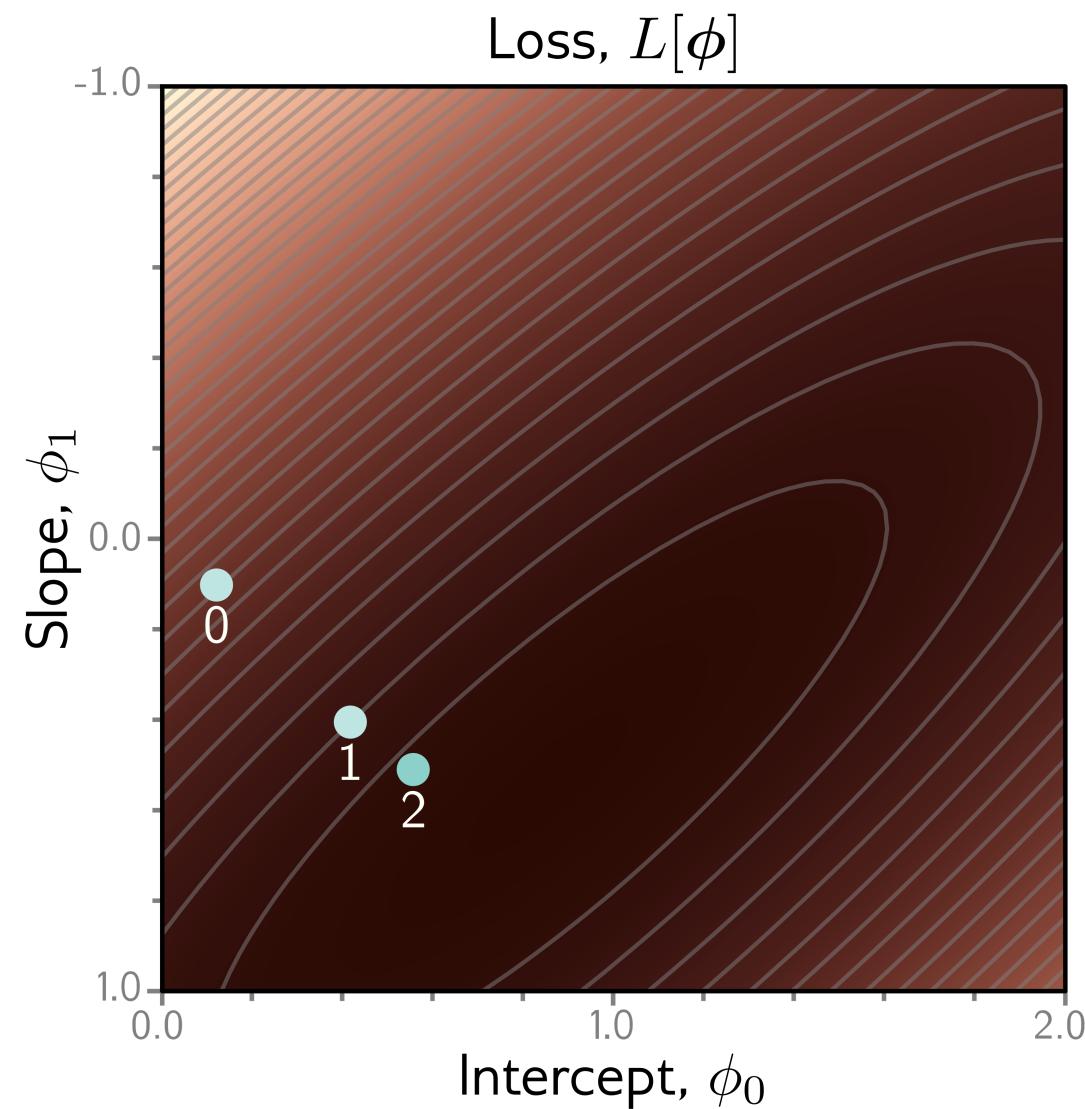


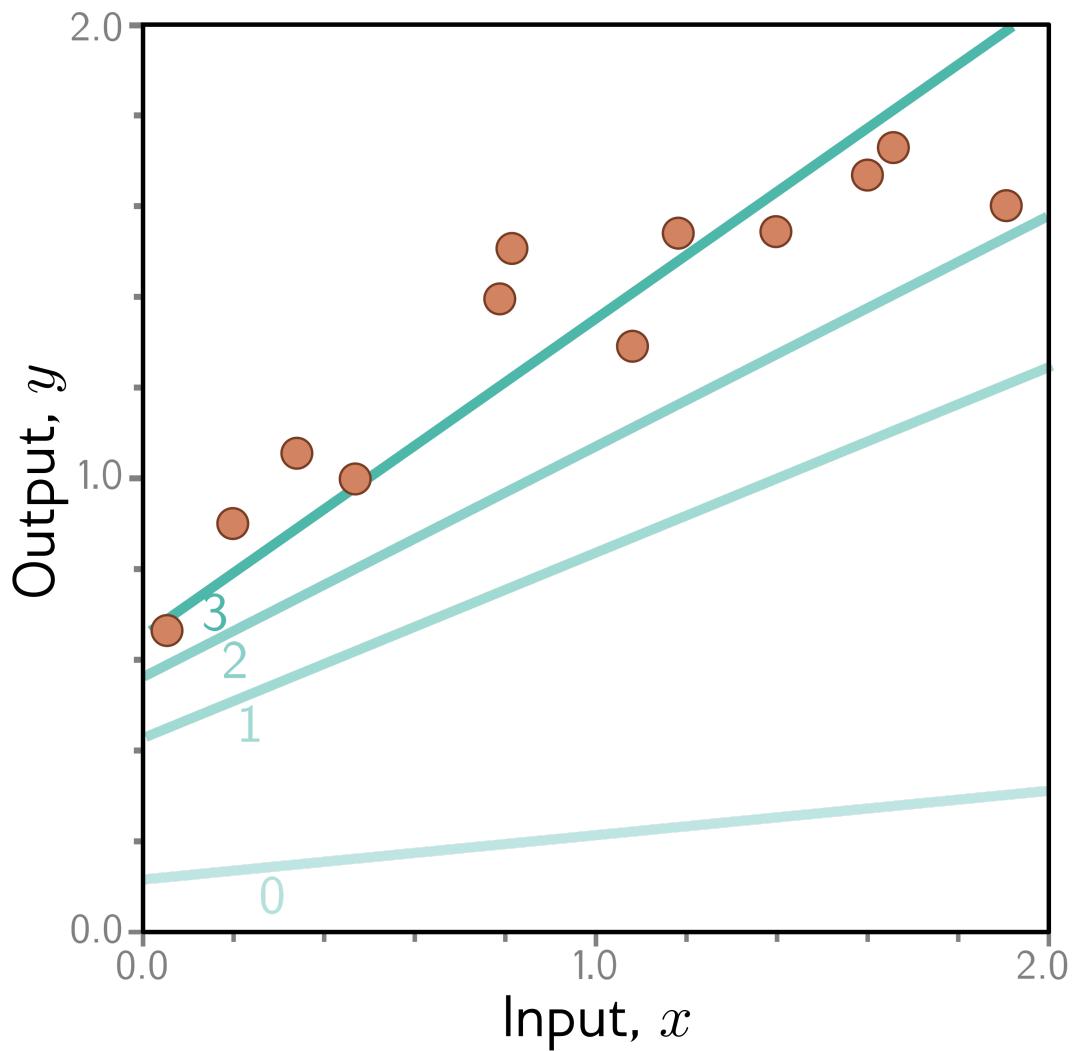
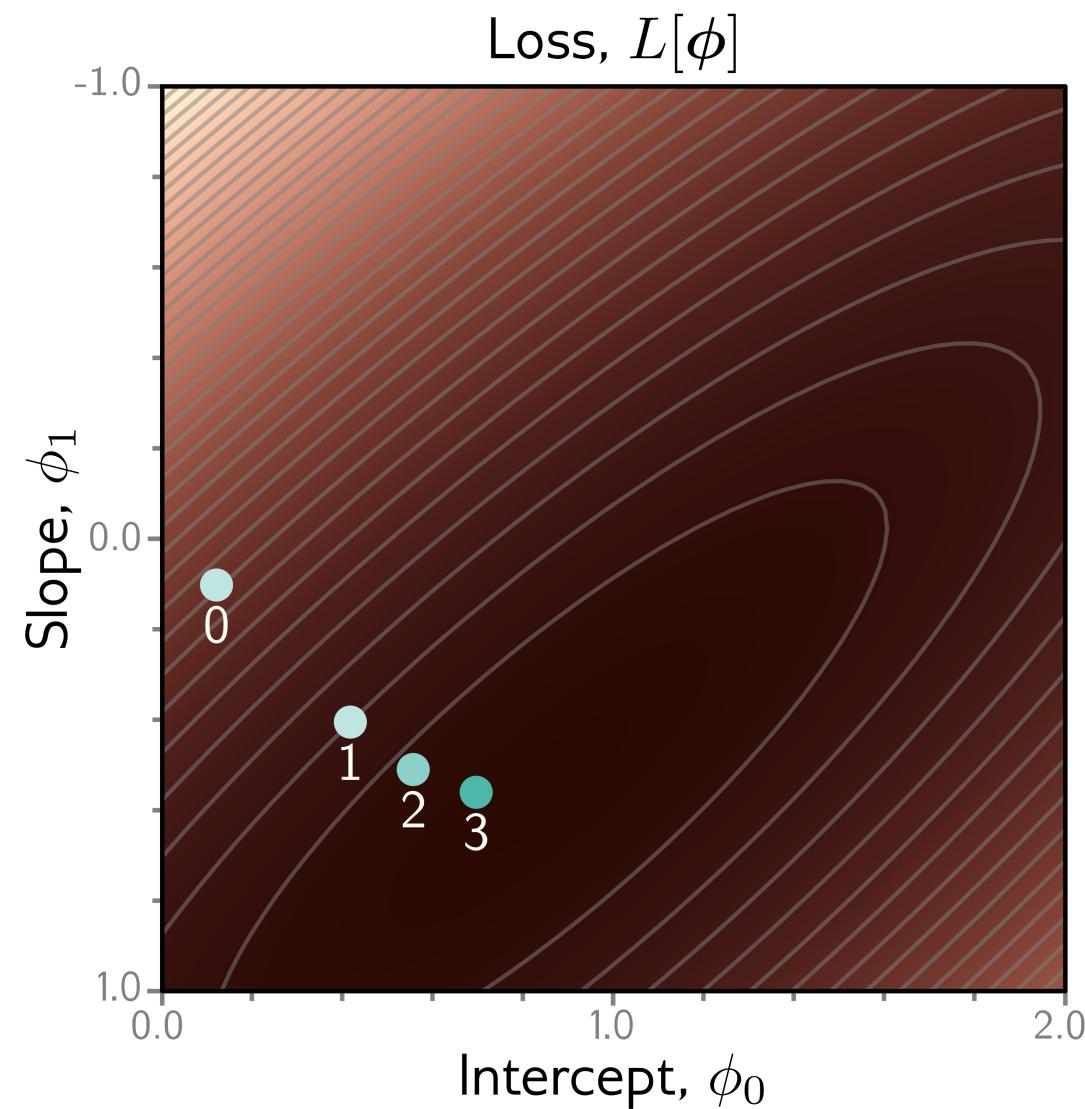


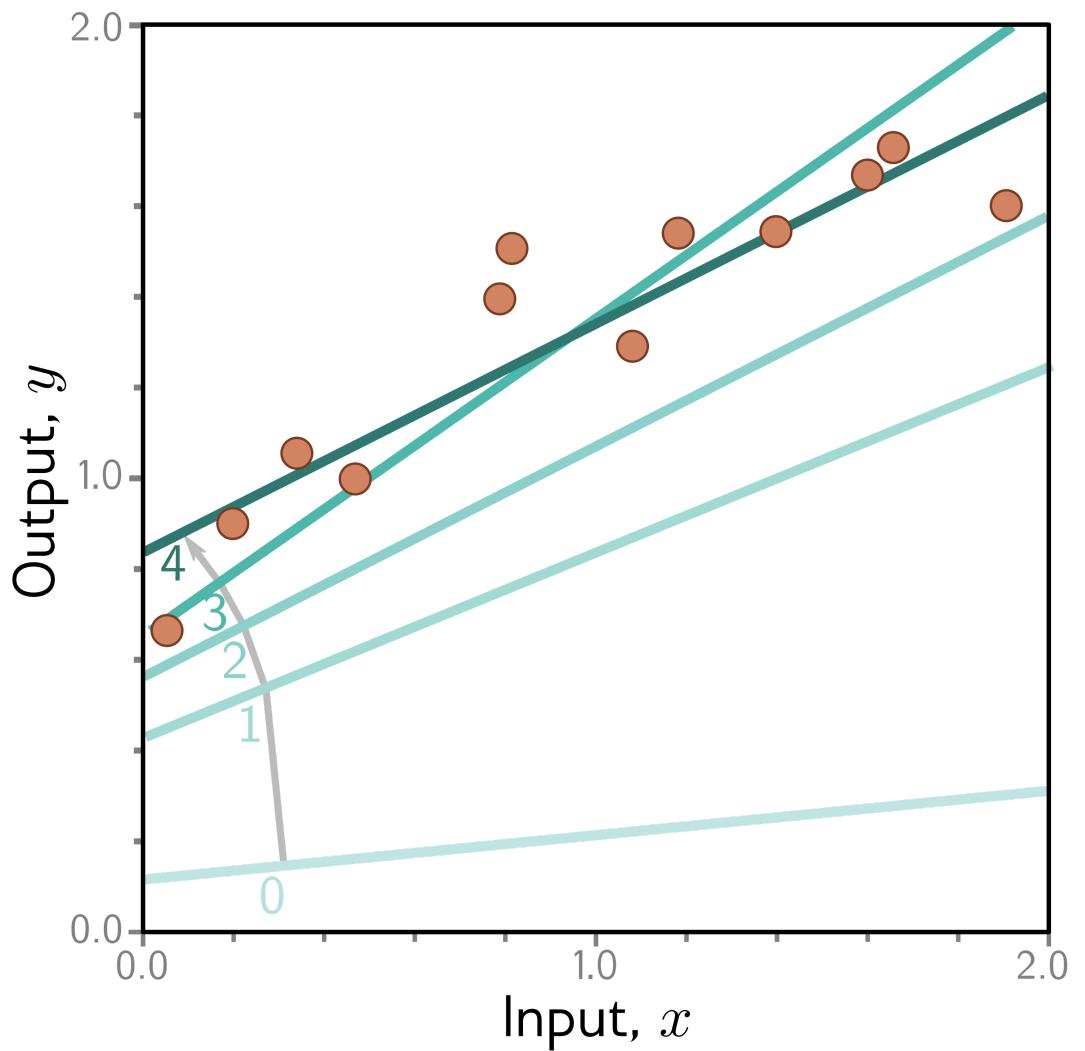
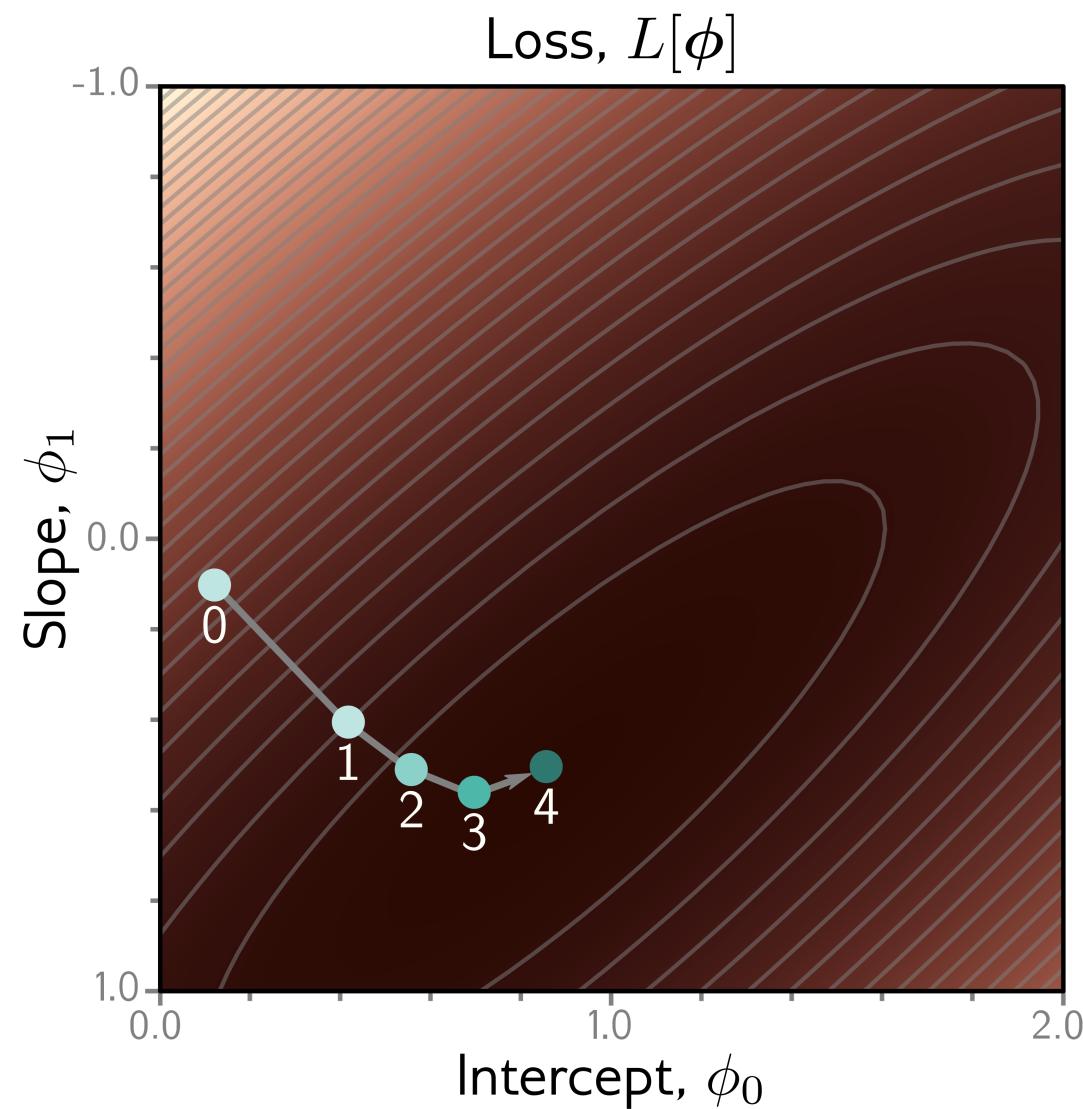














# Possible objections?

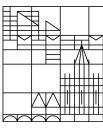
But you can fit the line model in closed form!

True – but only because we look at very simple cases so far, we won't be able to do this for more complex models

But we could exhaustively try every slope and intercept combo!

True – but we won't be able to do this when there are a million parameters

# What do we aim for in the end?



We test with different set of paired input/output data to measure performance

Degree to which we get the same performance as in training =  
**generalization**

Might not generalize well because the model is too simple

Or the Model is too complex

It fits to statistical peculiarities of the specific training data we used, not some “general characteristics”

This is known as **overfitting**



# Where is all of this going?

- Shallow neural networks (a more flexible model)
- Deep neural networks (an even more flexible model)
- Loss functions (where did least squares come from?)
- How to train neural networks (gradient descent and variants)
- How to measure performance of neural networks (generalization)

Still for today: a practical outlook on Word2Vec



# Efficient Estimation of Word Representations in Vector Space

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**Tomas Mikolov**

Google Inc., Mountain View, CA

[tmikolov@google.com](mailto:tmikolov@google.com)

**Kai Chen**

Google Inc., Mountain View, CA

[kaichen@google.com](mailto:kaichen@google.com)

**Greg Corrado**

Google Inc., Mountain View, CA

[gcorrado@google.com](mailto:gcorrado@google.com)

**Jeffrey Dean**

Google Inc., Mountain View, CA

[jeff@google.com](mailto:jeff@google.com)

Mikolov, T., Chen, K., Corrado, G., & Dean, J. (2013). Efficient Estimation of Word Representations in Vector Space (arXiv:1301.3781). arXiv. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1301.3781>



# Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality

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**Tomas Mikolov**

Google Inc.

Mountain View

mikolov@google.com

**Ilya Sutskever**

Google Inc.

Mountain View

ilyasu@google.com

**Kai Chen**

Google Inc.

Mountain View

kai@google.com

**Greg Corrado**

Google Inc.

Mountain View

gcorrado@google.com

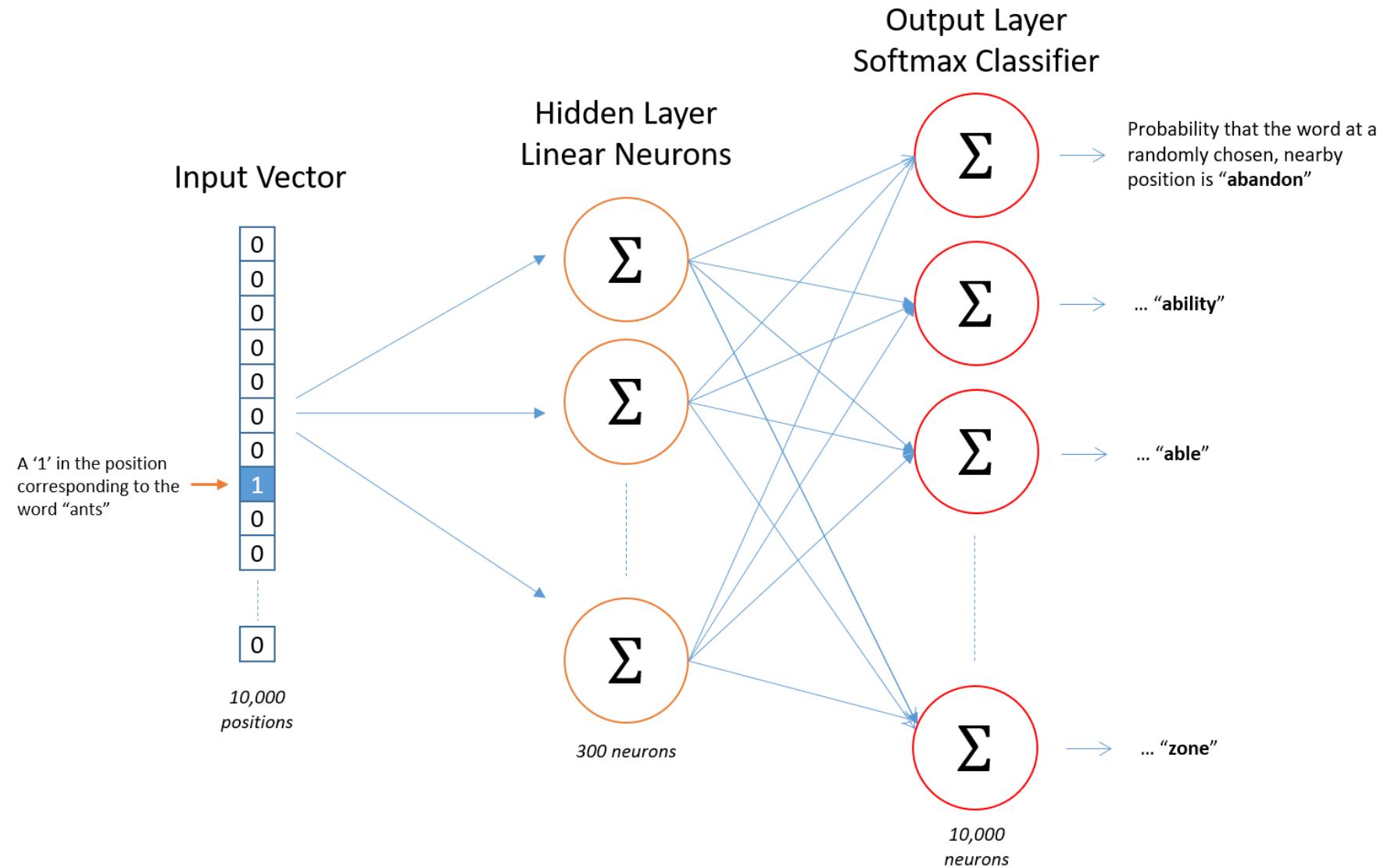
**Jeffrey Dean**

Google Inc.

Mountain View

jeff@google.com

Mikolov, T., Sutskever, I., Chen, K., Corrado, G. S., & Dean, J. (2013). Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality. In C. J. Burges, L. Bottou, M. Welling, Z. Ghahramani, & K. Q. Weinberger (Eds.), Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (Vol. 26). Curran Associates, Inc.



# Word2Vec



A shallow neural net, which we will cover next time

Surprising relationships could be found in vector space by computing similarities between word vectors

“[...] simple algebraic operations are performed on the word vectors, [and] it was shown for example that  $\text{vector}(\text{"King"}) - \text{vector}(\text{"Man"}) + \text{vector}(\text{"Woman"})$  results in a vector that is closest to the vector representation of the word “Queen”. ”

Although the approach is dated by now: it was used in a large number of different (published) studies in the social sciences over the last years (sometimes also even today)