

# Convex Optimization

[1] Stephen Boyd and Lieven Vandenberghe, *Convex Optimization*, Available Online:  
[https://web.stanford.edu/~boyd/cvxbook/bv\\_cvxbook.pdf](https://web.stanford.edu/~boyd/cvxbook/bv_cvxbook.pdf)

# Convex Sets

“In Euclidean space, a region is a convex set if the following is true. For any two points inside the region, a straight line segment can be drawn. If every point on that segment is inside the region, then the region is convex.”

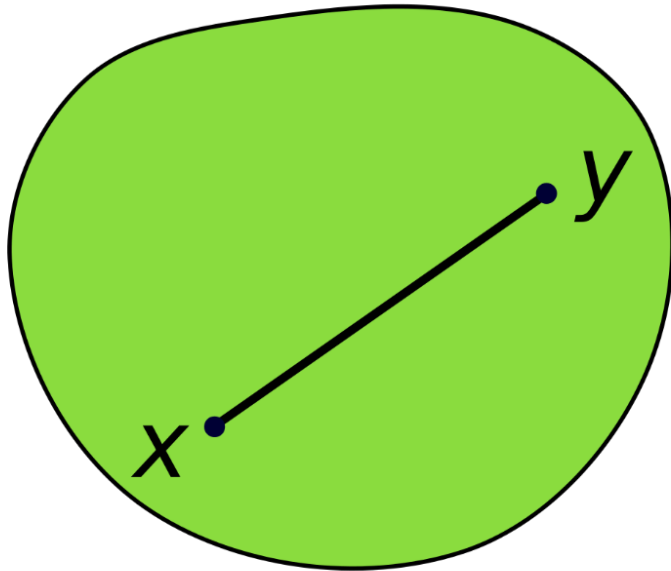
(Source: [https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convex\\_set](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convex_set))

“A region is any connected part of a space or surface”\_

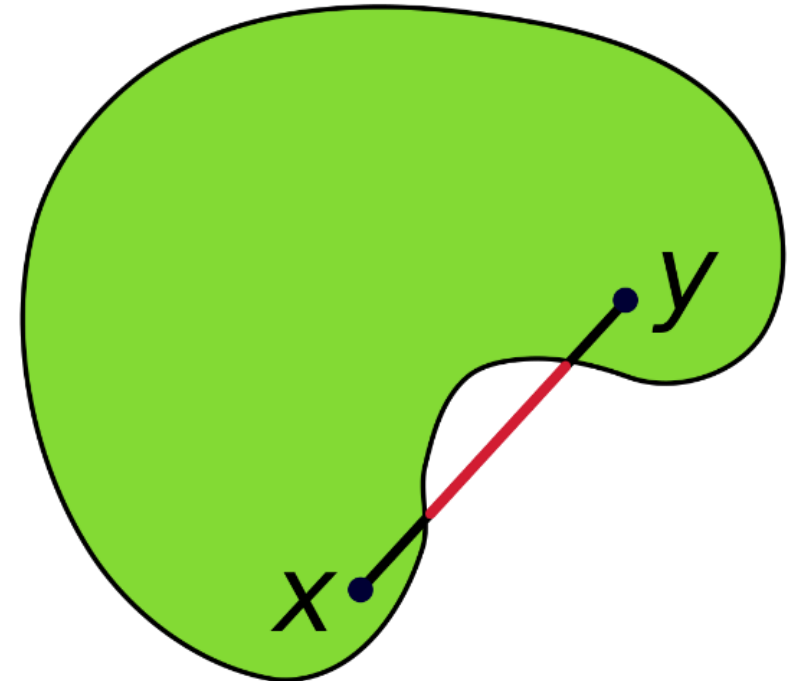
(Source; <https://simple.wiktionary.org/wiki/region>)

# Convex Sets (cont'd)

Convex set



Non-Convex set



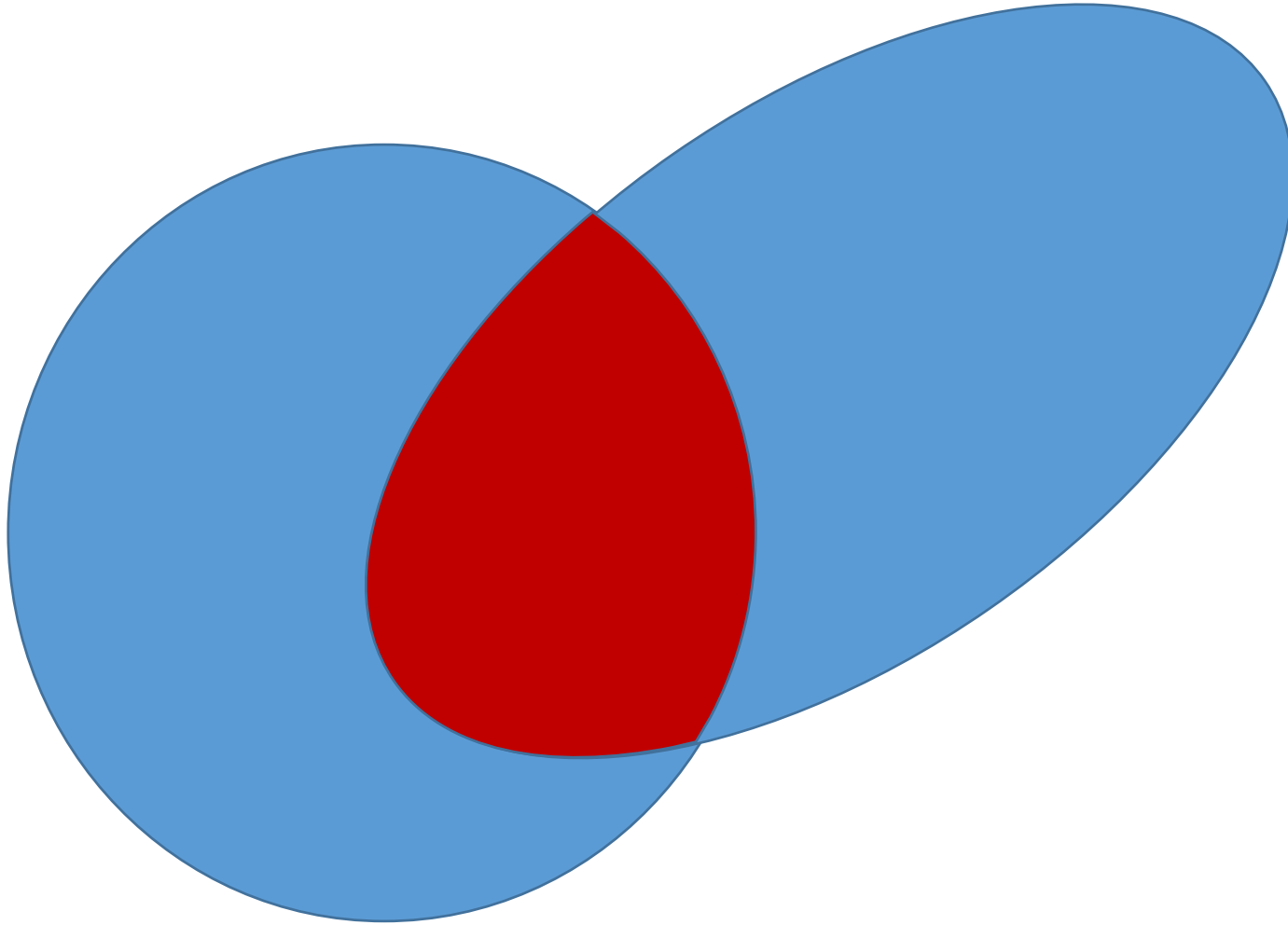
Images credit: [https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convex\\_set](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convex_set)

By CheCheDaWaff - This file was derived from: Convex polygon illustration2.png;, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49541588>

# Intersection of two convex sets

Prove that intersection of convex sets is also a convex set.

# Intersection of two convex sets (cont'd)

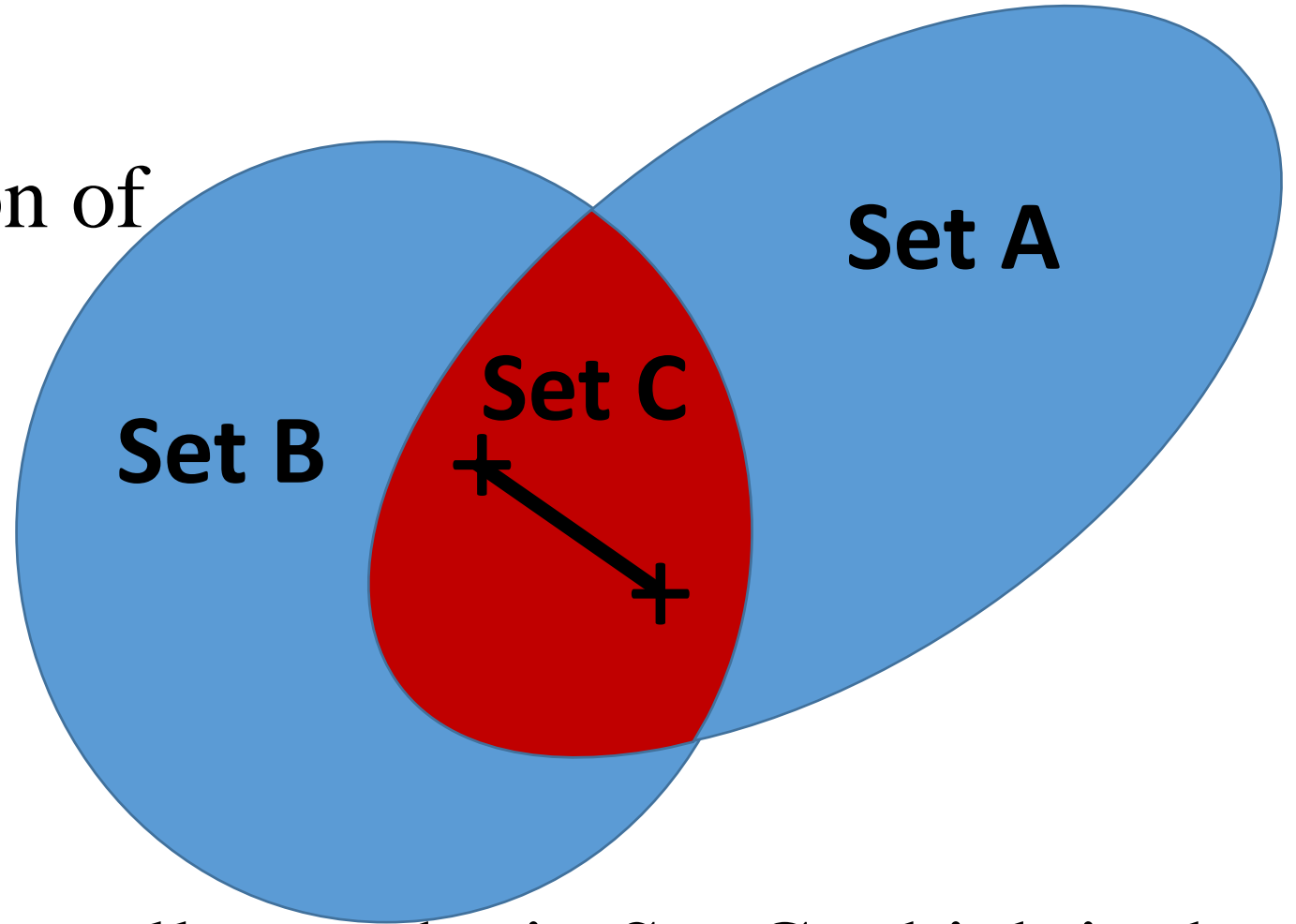


# Intersection of two convex sets (cont'd)

## Proof:

Let Set C be the intersection of Sets A and B. Consider any two points in Set C.

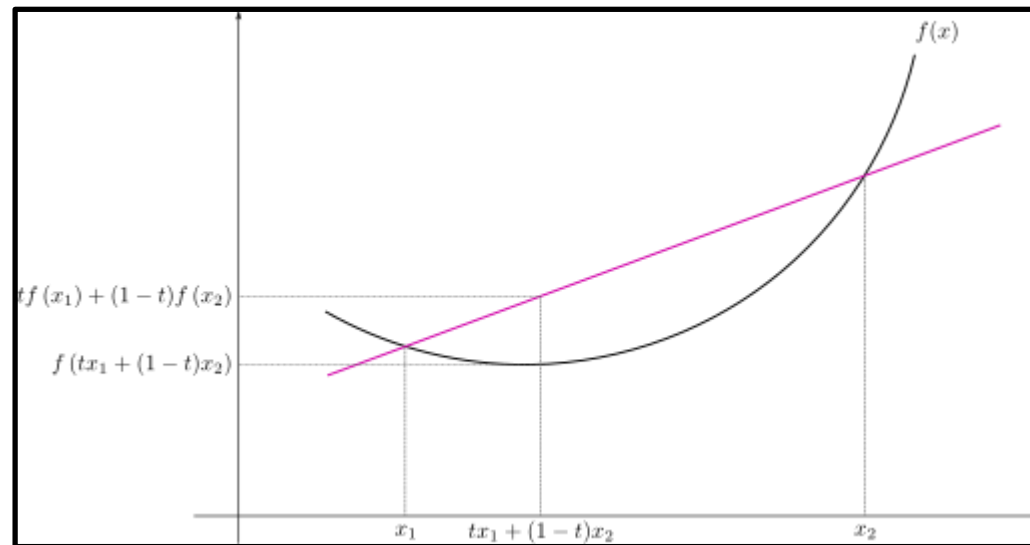
These two points must be in Set A and also in Set B, so all the points between them must be in Set A and also in Set B. Therefore, they all must be in Set C which is the intersection of A and B.



**QED**

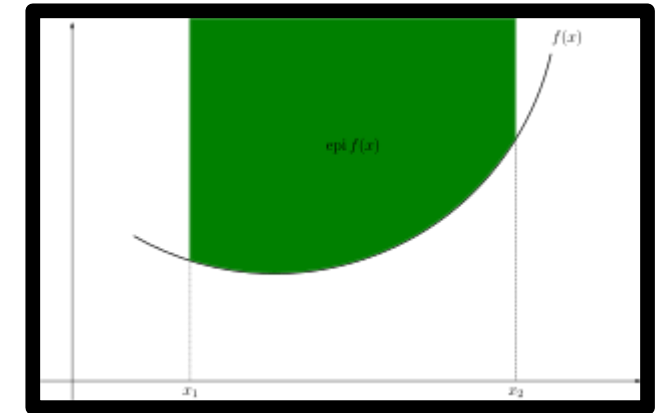
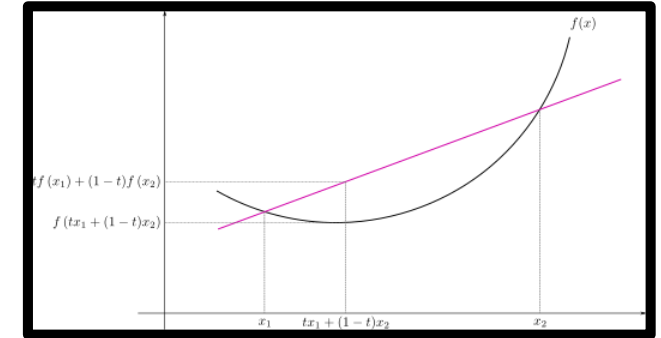
# Convex Function

A real-valued function defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is called convex if the line segment between any two points on the graph of the function lies above or on the graph.



# Relationship between convex function and convex set

A function  $f(x)$  is convex if and only if the region above its graph, called the epigraph of  $f(x)$  or  $\text{epi } f(x)$ , is a convex set.





# Convex Function

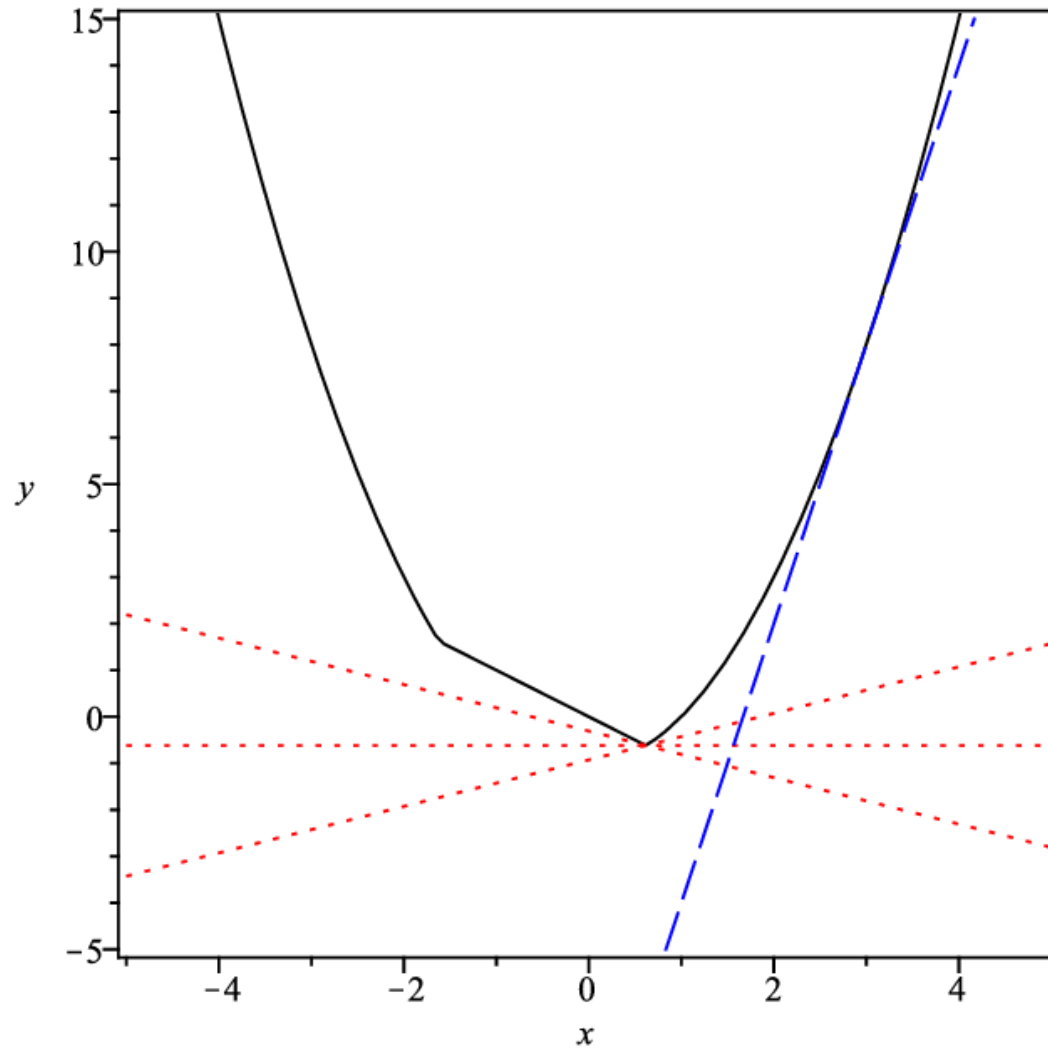


Image credit: Jennifer Johnstone, *Convexity of the Proximal Average*, BSc Thesis, The University of British Columbia, Canada, 2008.

# Convex Function

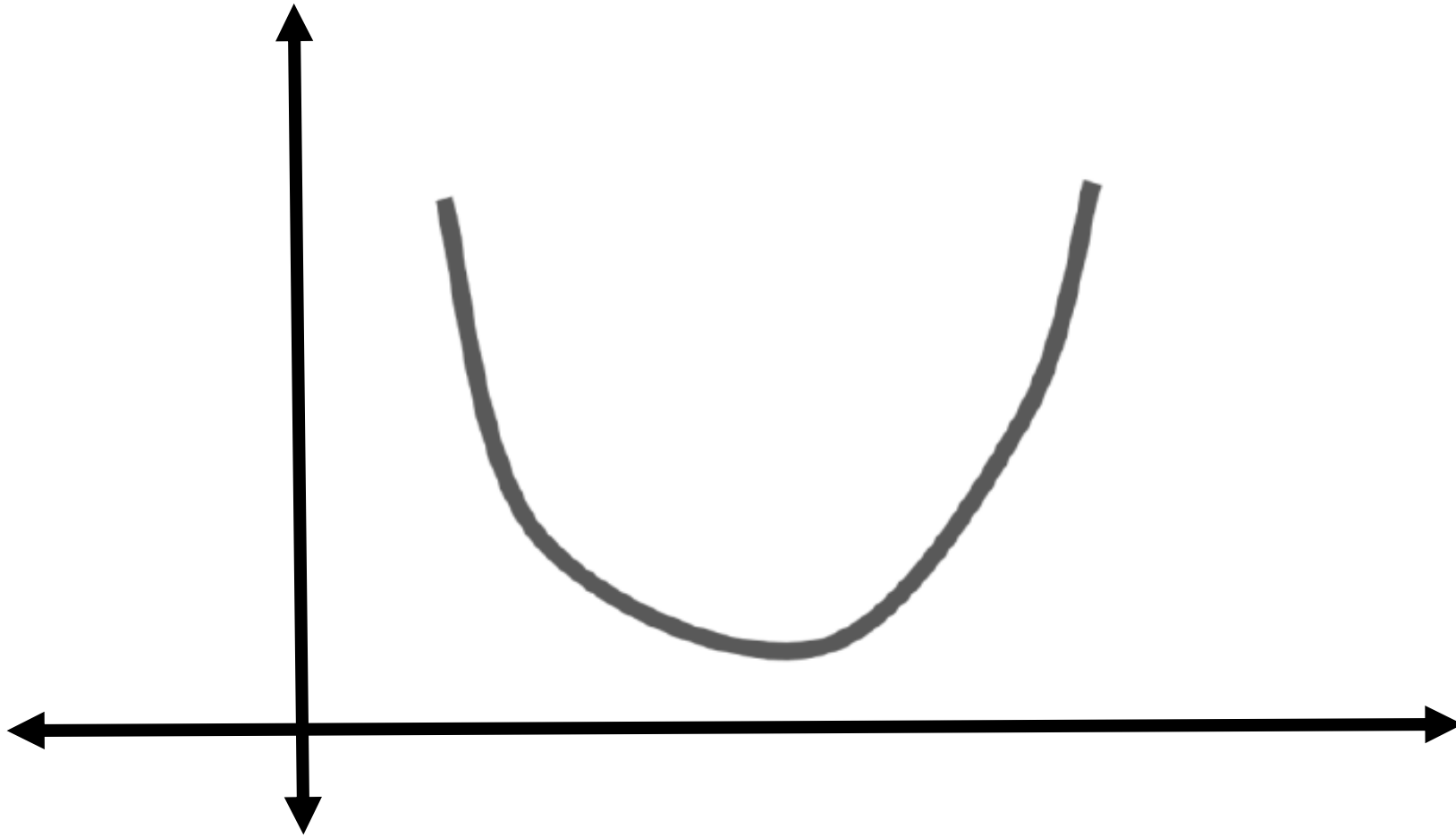
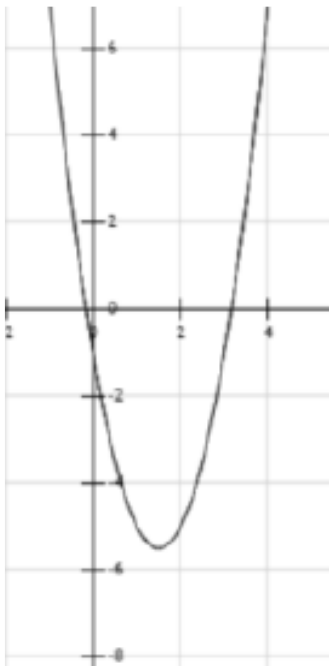


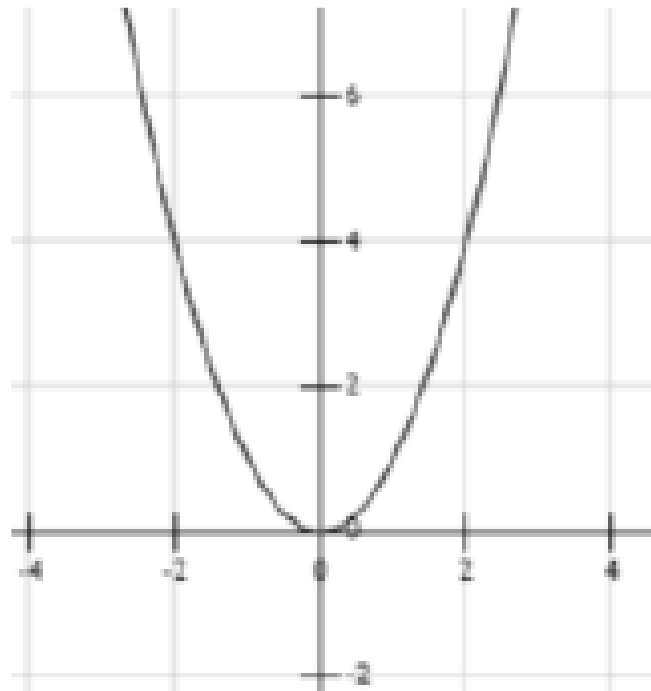
Image credit: <https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/crash-course/reducing-loss/gradient-descent>

# More Examples of Convex Functions

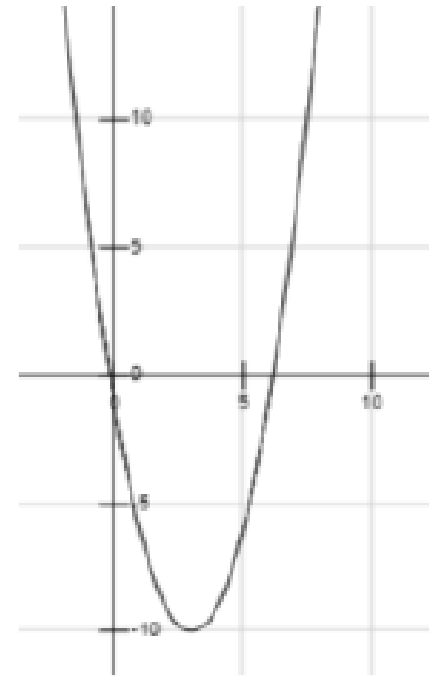
$$f(x) = x^2 + (x - 3)^2 - 10$$



$$f(x) = x^2$$



$$f(x) = (x - 3)^2 - 10$$



Credit: <http://fooplot.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXEiOiJ4XjliLCJjb2xvcil6liMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUiOiJlEwMDB9XQ-->

# Concave Function

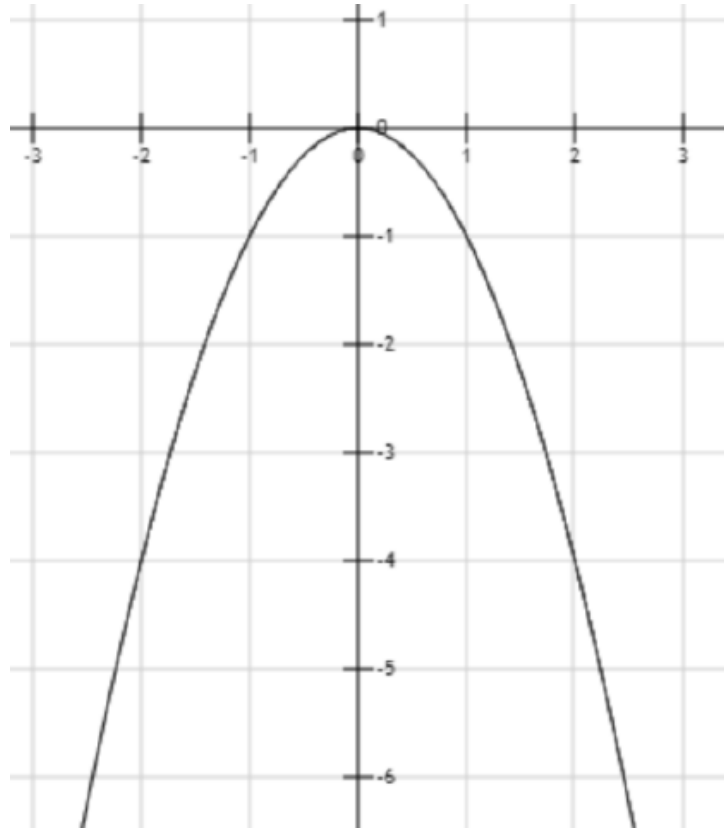
A function  $f(x)$  is concave if there exists a function  $g(x)$  which is convex and

$$f(x) = -g(x)$$

In other words, a concave function is the negative of a convex function.

# Concave Function

Example:  $f(x) = -x^2$



Credit: <http://fooplot.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXElOiJ4XjliLCJjb2xvciI6IiMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUjEwMDB9XQ->

# Concave Function

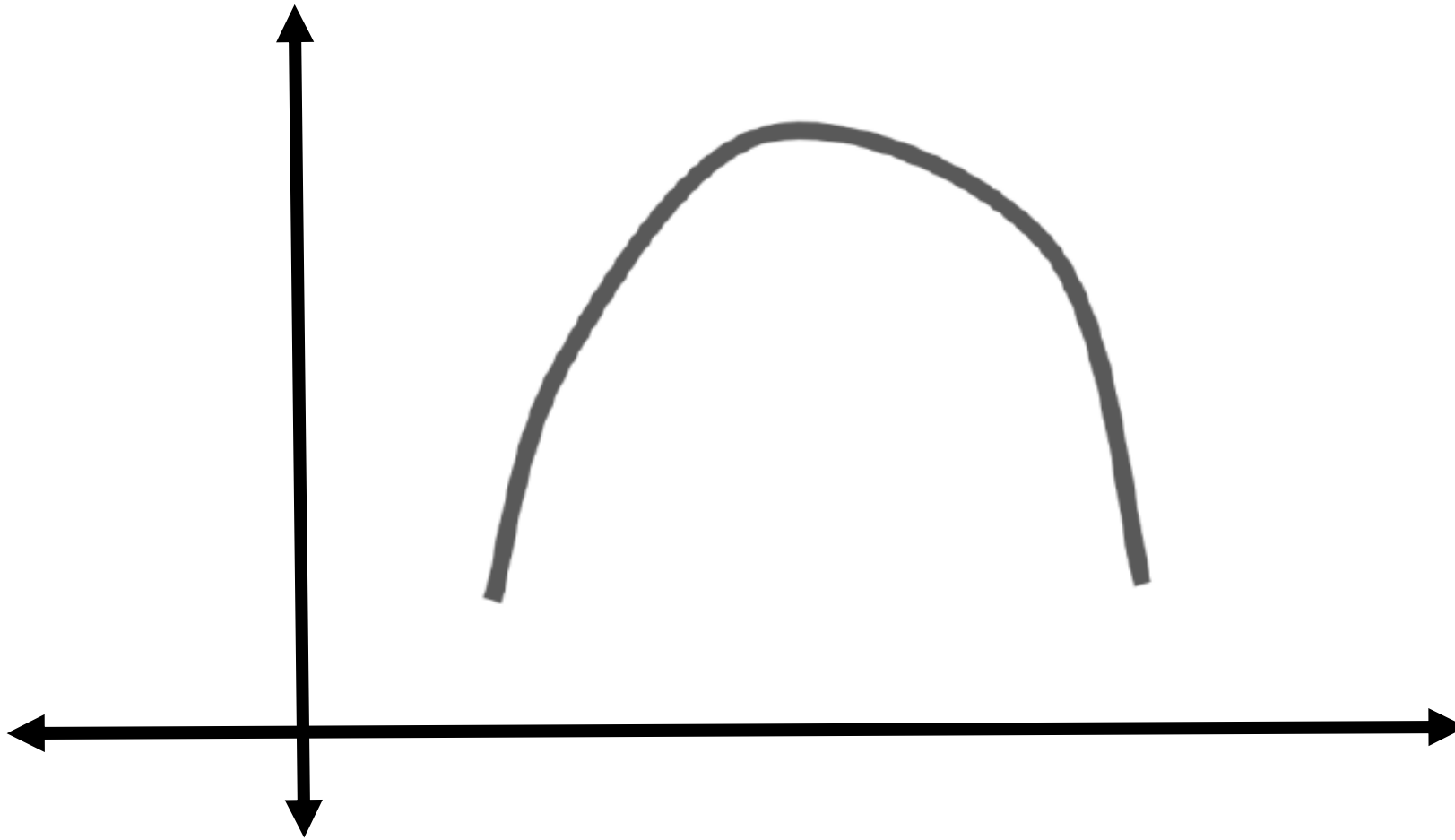
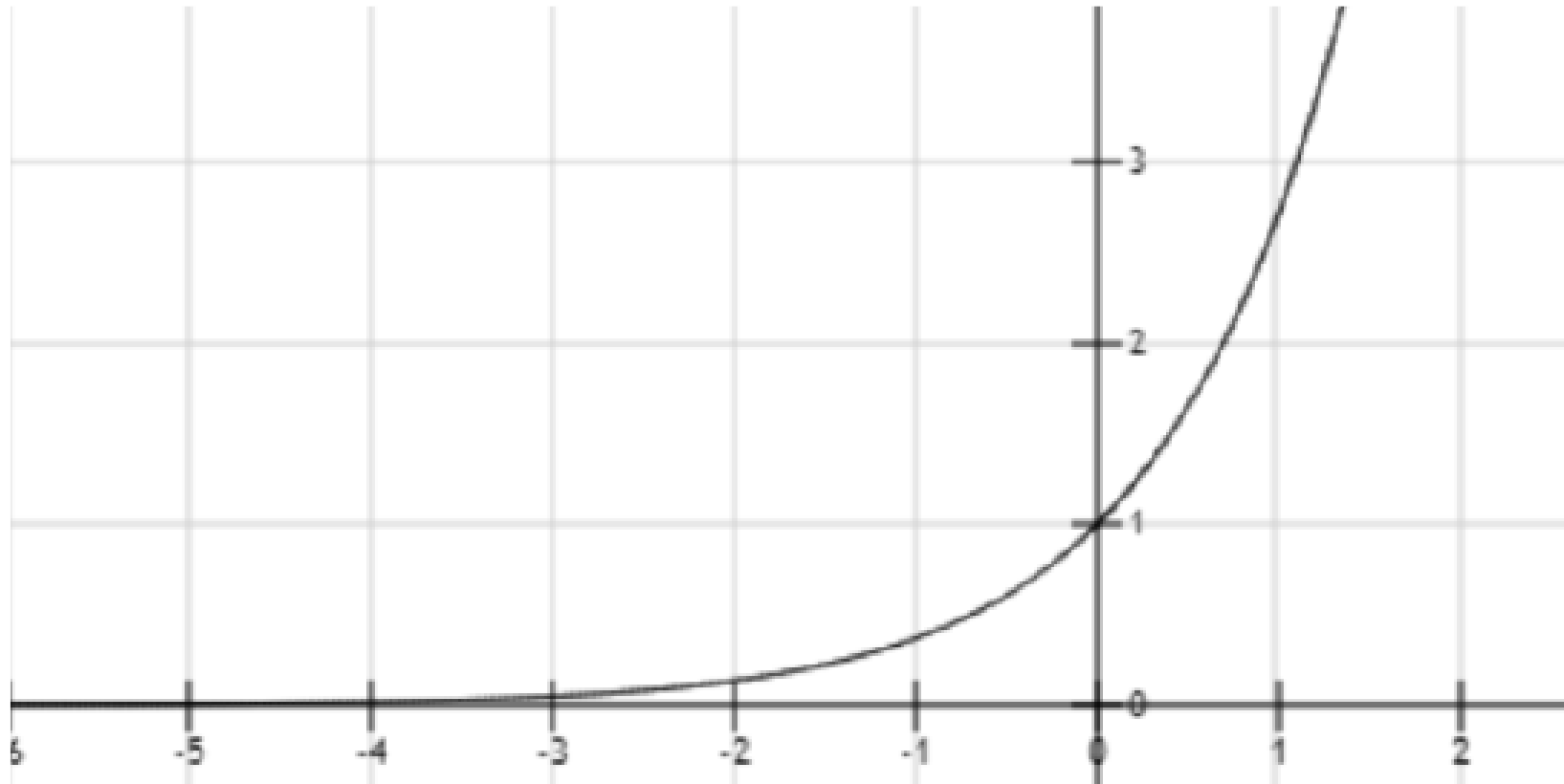


Image credit: <https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/crash-course/reducing-loss/gradient-descent>

# Another example of a convex function

$f(x) = e^x$  is a convex function



Credit: <http://fooplot.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXEiOiJ4XjliLCJjb2xvcil6liMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUiOiJlcm9udGVzZXQ-->

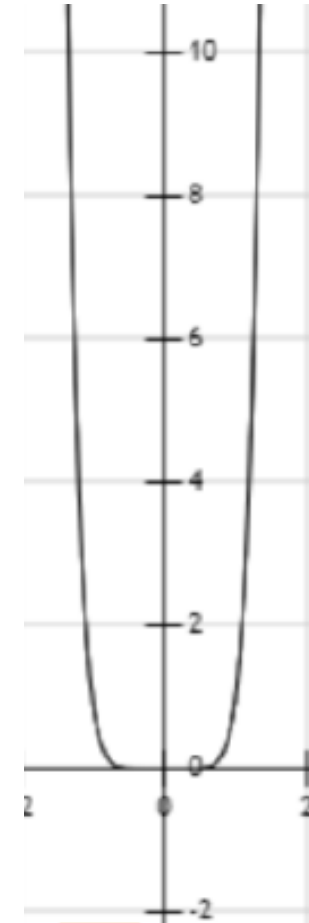
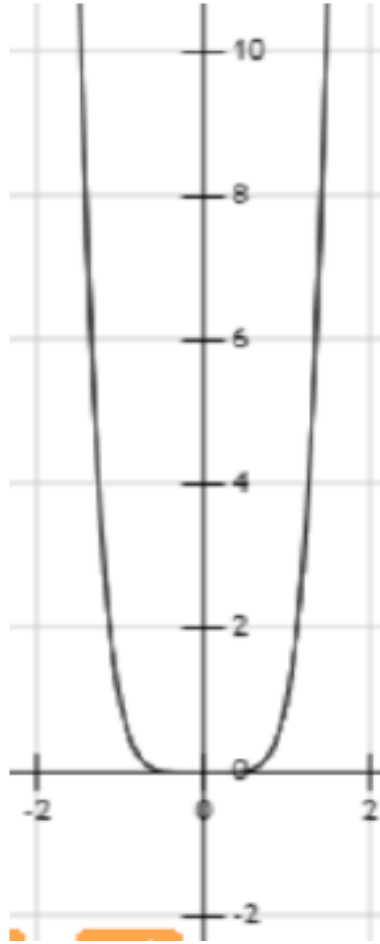
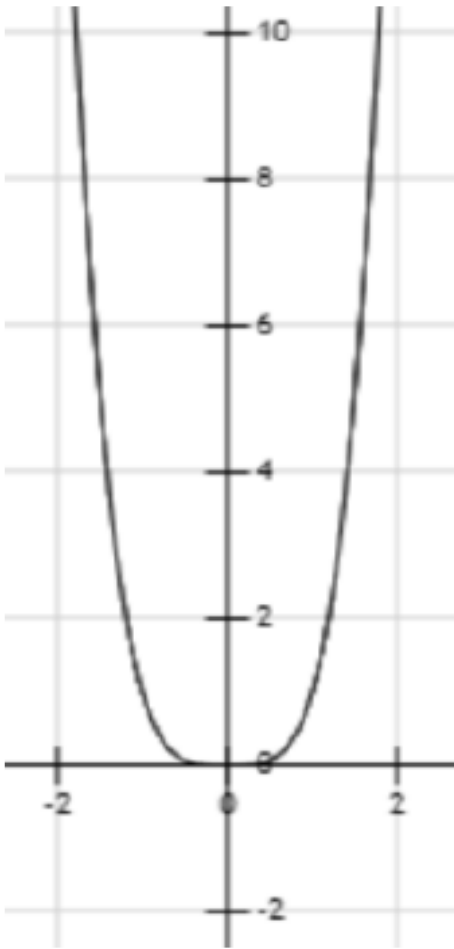
$f(x) = x^3$  is non-convex. It is convex for  $x \geq 0$ , and concave for  $x \leq 0$ .



Credit: <http://fooplots.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXEiOiI4XjliLCJjb2xvcil6IiMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUiOiJlEwMDB9XQ-->



$f(x) = x^4$  is convex     $f(x) = x^6$  is convex     $f(x) = x^8$  is convex



Credit: <http://fooplot.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXEiOiJ4XjliLCJjb2xvcil6IiMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUiOiJlEwMDB9XQ-->

The functions

$$f(x) = x^5$$

and

$$f(x) = x^7$$

are non-convex.

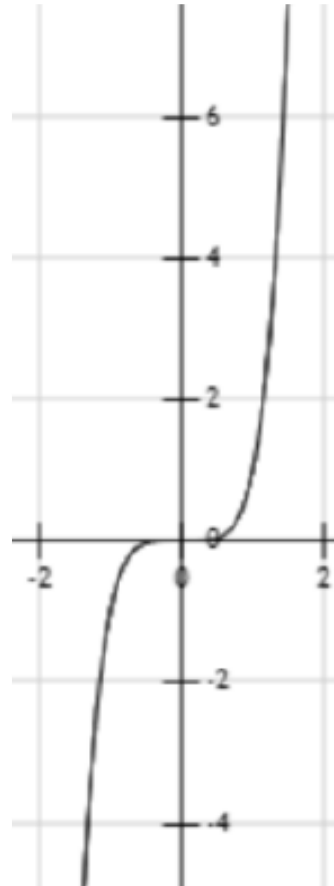
They are convex for

$$x \geq 0,$$

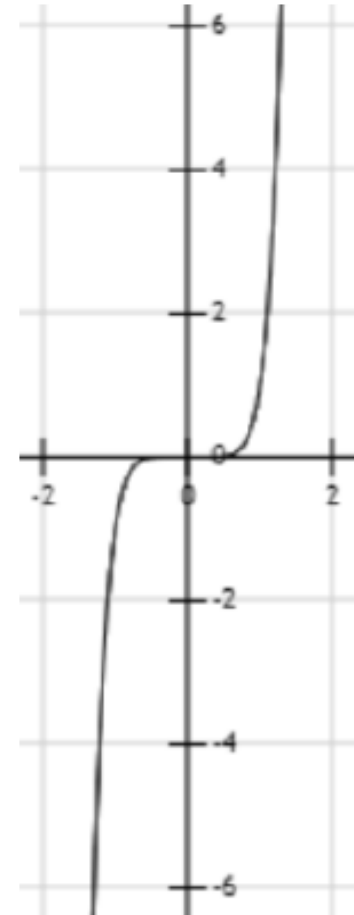
and concave for

$$x \leq 0.$$

$$f(x) = x^5$$



$$f(x) = x^7$$



Credit: <http://fooplots.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXEiOiI4XjliLCJjb2xvcil6IiMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUiOiJlEwMDB9XQ-->

$$f(x) = x^n$$

$f(x) = x^n$  is convex for  $n = 1$  and for  $n$  even.

For  $n > 1$  odd,  
it is convex for  $x \geq 0$   
and concave for  $x \leq 0$ .

# Let's prove that $y = x^2$ is convex.

To prove that  $y = x^2$  is convex, we need to show that the points on the line segment between the points  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  are above or on the function  $y = x^2$ .

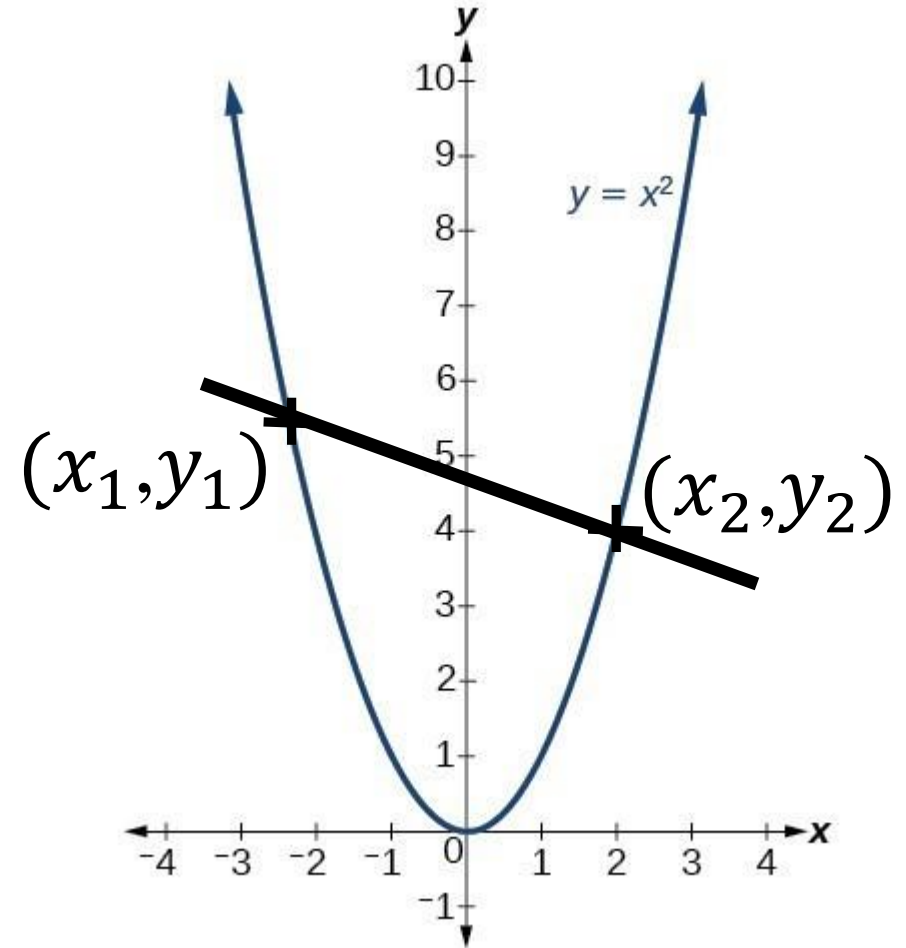


Image credit: <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/waymakercollegealgebra/chapter/transformations-of-quadratic-functions/>

# Let's prove that $y = x^2$ is convex (cont'd)

In particular, to prove that  $y = x^2$  is convex, we need to show that for any point  $(x_3, y_3)$  on the line segment between the points  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$ ,  $y_3 \geq (x_3)^2$ .

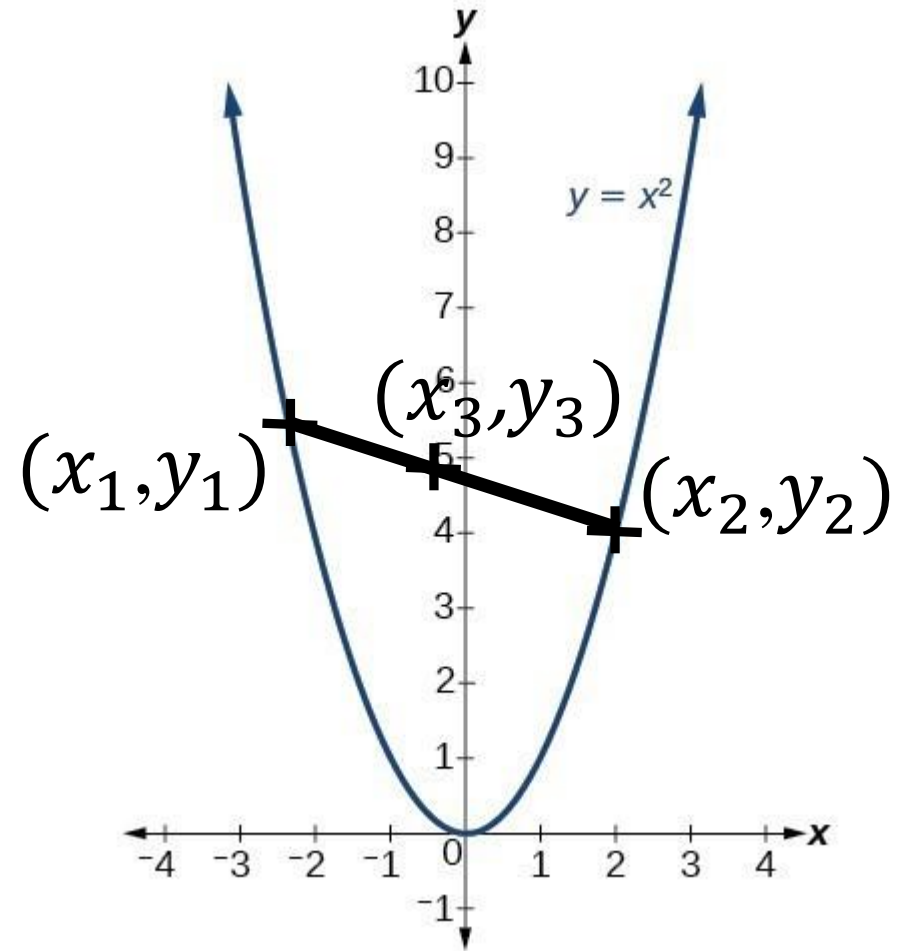


Image credit: <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/waymakercollegealgebra/chapter/transformations-of-quadratic-functions/>

Let's prove that  $y = x^2$  is convex (cont'd)

$$x_3 = px_1 + (1 - p)x_2$$

$$y_3 = py_1 + (1 - p)y_2$$

For  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ .

$$y_3 = p(x_1)^2 + (1 - p)(x_2)^2$$

$$(x_3)^2 = [px_1 + (1 - p)x_2]^2.$$

We need to show:

$$p(x_1)^2 + (1 - p)(x_2)^2 \geq [px_1 + (1 - p)x_2]^2$$

or

$$p(x_1)^2 + (1 - p)(x_2)^2 \geq p^2(x_1)^2 + 2p(1 - p)x_1x_2 + (1 - p)^2(x_2)^2$$

Let's prove that  $y = x^2$  is convex (cont'd)

or

$$p(x_1)^2 + (x_2)^2 - p(x_2)^2 \geq p^2(x_1)^2 + 2p(1-p)x_1x_2 + (x_2)^2 - 2p(x_2)^2 + p^2(x_2)^2$$

or

$$p(x_1)^2 \geq p^2(x_1)^2 + 2p(1-p)x_1x_2 - p(x_2)^2 + p^2(x_2)^2$$

or

$$0 \geq (p^2 - p)(x_1)^2 + 2p(1-p)x_1x_2 + (p^2 - p)(x_2)^2$$

or

$$0 \geq (p^2 - p)(x_1)^2 - 2(p^2 - p)x_1x_2 + (p^2 - p)(x_2)^2$$

or

$$0 \geq (p^2 - p)(x_1 - x_2)^2.$$

which must be true as  $(p^2 - p) \leq 0$  and  $(x_1 - x_2)^2 \geq 0$ . **QED.**

A linear function

$$f(x) = ax + b$$

Where  $a$  and  $b$  are scalars is **both convex and concave**. Clearly for any two points on the line  $f(x) = ax + b$ , all the points in the segment between these two points are on the line, so  $f(x)$  is convex. Then,  $-f(x)$  is also convex because it is also a linear function that satisfies The above form so  $f(x)$  is also concave.



# Operations that Preserve Convexity

The operations that we discuss apply to  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  
but most of our examples are for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

It is given that  $f_1(x)$  and  $f_2(x)$  are convex functions.

Prove that the function

$$f(x) = f_1(x) + f_2(x)$$

is also convex.

# Proof

We need to show:

$$f(px_1+(1-p)x_2) \leq pf(x_1)+(1-p)f(x_2)$$

We know that  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are convex so

$$f_1(px_1+(1-p)x_2) \leq pf_1(x_1)+(1-p)f_1(x_2)$$

$$f_2(px_1+(1-p)x_2) \leq pf_2(x_1)+(1-p)f_2(x_2)$$

and

$$f(x) = f_1(x) + f_2(x).$$

## Proof (cont'd)

$$\begin{aligned} & f(px_1 + (1-p)x_2) \\ &= f_1(px_1 + (1-p)x_2) + f_2(px_1 + (1-p)x_2) \text{ [because } f = f_1 + f_2\text{]} \\ &\leq pf_1(x_1) + (1-p)f_1(x_2) + pf_2(x_1) + (1-p)f_2(x_2) \text{ [because } f_1 \text{ and } f_2 \text{ are convex]} \\ &= p(f_1(x_1) + f_2(x_1)) + (1-p)(f_1(x_2) + f_2(x_2)) \\ &= pf(x_1) + (1-p)f(x_2). \text{ [because } f = f_1 + f_2\text{.]} \end{aligned}$$

**QED**

# Operations that Preserve Convexity (Cont'd)

## Nonnegative Weighted Sum

If  $f_1(x), f_2(x), f_3(x), \dots, f_m(x)$  are convex functions and  $w_1, w_2, w_3, \dots, w_m$  are nonnegative scalars, then  $f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m w_i f_i(x)$  is a convex function.

This is an extension of the convexity of sum of convex functions discussed earlier. Prove it as homework.

Credit: [http://www.princeton.edu/~aaa/Public/Teaching/ORF363\\_COS323/F14/ORF363\\_COS323\\_F14\\_Lec6.pdf](http://www.princeton.edu/~aaa/Public/Teaching/ORF363_COS323/F14/ORF363_COS323_F14_Lec6.pdf)

Using the previous rule, prove that a nonnegative weighted sum of concave functions is concave.

That is, prove that if  $f_1(x), f_2(x), f_3(x), \dots, f_m(x)$  are concave functions and  $w_1, w_2, w_3, \dots, w_m$  are nonnegative scalars, then

$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m w_i f_i(x)$  is a concave function.

# Proof

Let  $g(x) = -f(x)$  and let  
 $g_i(x) = -f_i(x)$ ,  $i=1,2,3, \dots, m$

We know that  $g_i(x)$ ,  $i=1,2,3, \dots, m$  are convex by definition. Then, according to the first rule  $g(x)$  is also convex. Therefore, by definition  $f(x)$  is concave.

**QED**

# Operations that Preserve Convexity (Cont'd)

## Composition with linear mapping

If  $f(x)$  is a convex function, then  $f(ax + b)$  is a convex function, where  $a$  and  $b$  are scalars and assuming that the domain of  $f(ax + b)$  is  $\{x | ax + b \in \text{domain of } f(x)\}$ .

Can you prove it?

(Note: this rule is extendable, when  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , to the symbol  $a$  being a matrix and  $b$  a vector.)

Credit: [http://www.princeton.edu/~aaa/Public/Teaching/ORF363\\_COS323/F14/ORF363\\_COS323\\_F14\\_Lec6.pdf](http://www.princeton.edu/~aaa/Public/Teaching/ORF363_COS323/F14/ORF363_COS323_F14_Lec6.pdf)

# Operations that Preserve Convexity (Cont'd)

## Proof

Consider two points  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  that satisfy the domain requirements. Then, for  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & f(a(px_1 + (1-p)x_2) + b) \\ &= f(p(ax_1) + (1-p)ax_2 + pb + (1-p)b) \\ &= f(p(ax_1 + b) + (1-p)(ax_2 + b)) \\ &\leq pf(ax_1 + b) + (1-p)f(ax_2 + b) \quad [\text{recall the } f \text{ is convex.}] \end{aligned}$$

**QED**



# Question

How about the function  $f(x) = e^{-x}$

Is it a convex function? (Yes/No)

Clearly justify your answer.

# Question

How about the function  $f(x) = e^{5-6x} + 6x^6 - 5x$

Is it a convex function? (Yes/No)

Clearly justify your answer.

# Question

Consider the function  $f(x) = e^{5-6x} + 6x^6 + 5x$

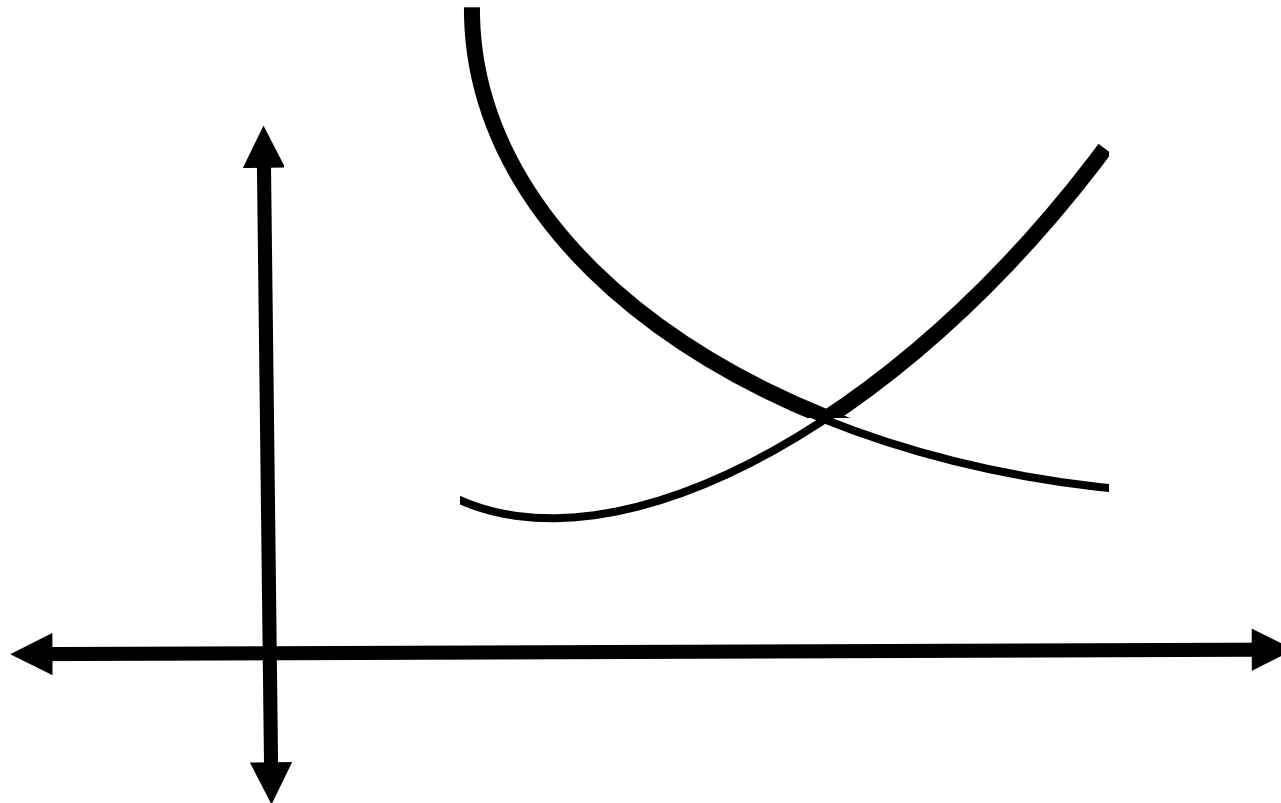
Is it a convex function? (Yes/No)

Clearly justify your answer.

# Operations that Preserve Convexity (Cont'd)

## Pointwise Maximum

$$f(x) = \max\{f_1(x), f_2(x)\}$$



# Operations that Preserve Convexity (Cont'd)

## Pointwise Maximum (cont'd)

Given that functions  $f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots, f_m$  are convex,  
Then the function

$$f(x) = \max\{f_1(x), f_2(x), f_3(x), \dots, f_m(x)\}$$

with a domain that is the intersection of  
the domains of  $f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots, f_m$  is convex.

# Proof

Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  be two points in the domain of  $f(x)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} f(px_1 + (1-p)x_2) &= f_j(px_1 + (1-p)x_2) \text{ [This must be} \\ &\text{equal for some } j \text{ so that } f_j \text{ is the maximum of } \{f_1, \dots, f_m\} \text{ at the} \\ &\text{point } px_1 + (1-p)x_2.] \\ &\leq pf_j(x_1) + (1-p)f_j(x_2) \text{ [because } f_j \text{ is convex]} \\ &\leq p[\max(f_1(x_1), \dots, f_m(x_1))] + (1-p)[\max(f_1(x_2), \dots, f_m(x_2))] \\ &= pf(x_1) + (1-p)f(x_2). \end{aligned}$$

**QED**

# What is Convex Optimization?

$f(\mathbf{x})$  is a convex objective function  
 $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{C}$  is a convex set (a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ).

Minimize  $f(\mathbf{x})$

such that

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{C}$

# What is Convex Optimization?

(another answer)

$f(\mathbf{x})$  is a concave objective function  
 $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{C}$  is a convex set (a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ).

Maximize  $f(\mathbf{x})$   
such that  
 $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{C}$



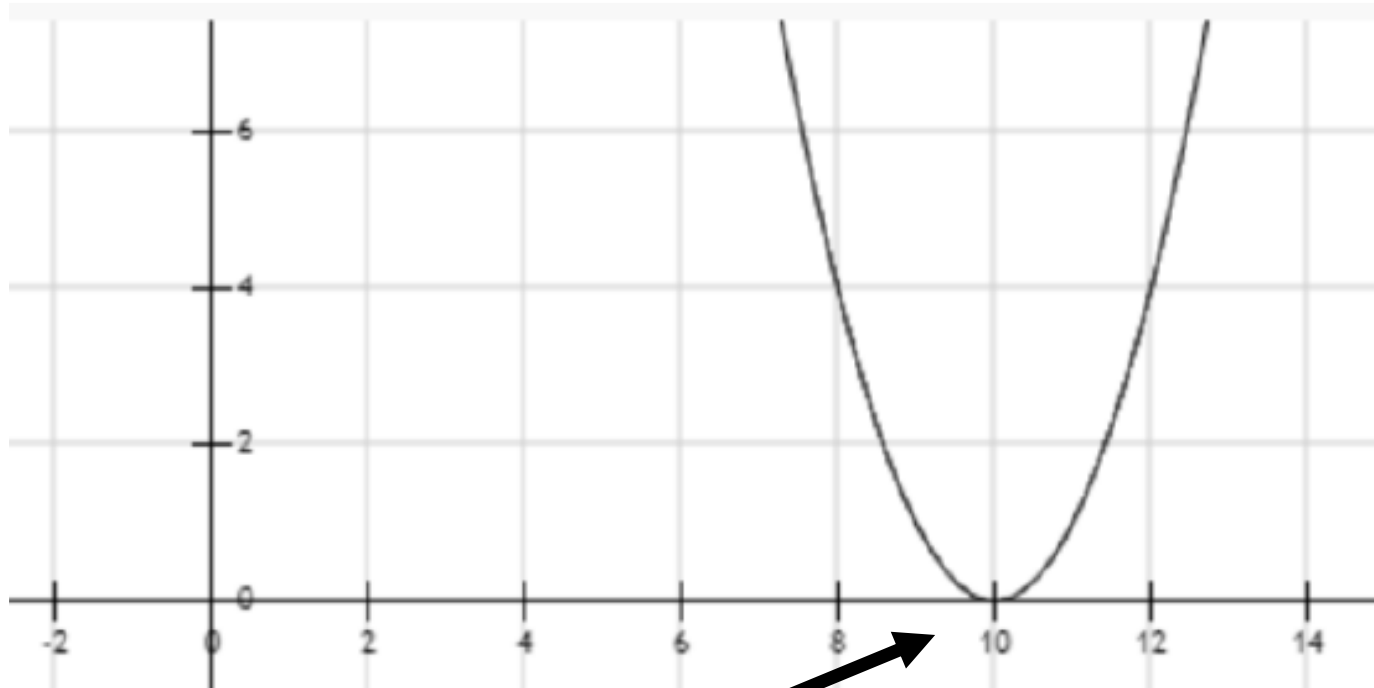
**Some convex programming problems can be solved analytically, but many practical ones can't be solved analytically. Here are some simple homework problems.**

Minimize  $f(x) = x^2 - 20x + 100$   
such that

$$\begin{aligned} 2x &\leq 50 \\ x &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Solve it analytically and by Excel.  
(See Excel solution in the Excel file: convex\_optimization  
Sheet1)

$$f(x) = x^2 - 20x + 100$$



Optimal solution  $f(10) = 0$

Image credit: <http://fooplot.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXEiOiJ4XjliLCJjb2xvciI6liMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUiOiJEWMDDB9XQ-->

Minimize  $f(x) = x^2 - 20x + 100$   
such that

$$2x \leq 50$$

$$x \geq 12.$$

Solve it analytically and by Excel.  
(See Excel solution in the Excel file: convex\_optimization  
Sheet2)

Maximize  $f(x) = 1 - 2^{-x}$

such that

$$x \leq 2$$

$$x \geq 0.$$

Solve it analytically and by Excel.

(See Excel solution in the Excel file: convex\_optimization  
Sheet3)

Maximize  
such that

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = 2 - 2^{-x_1} - 50^{-x_2}$$

$$x_1 + x_2 \leq 2$$

$$\mathbf{x} \geq 0.$$

Solve it by Excel.

(See Excel solution in the Excel file: convex\_optimization  
Sheet4)

Change the constraint to  $x_1 + x_2 \leq 0.1$  and observe the  
changes in resource apportionment!!!

$$f(x) = 1 - 2^{-x}$$

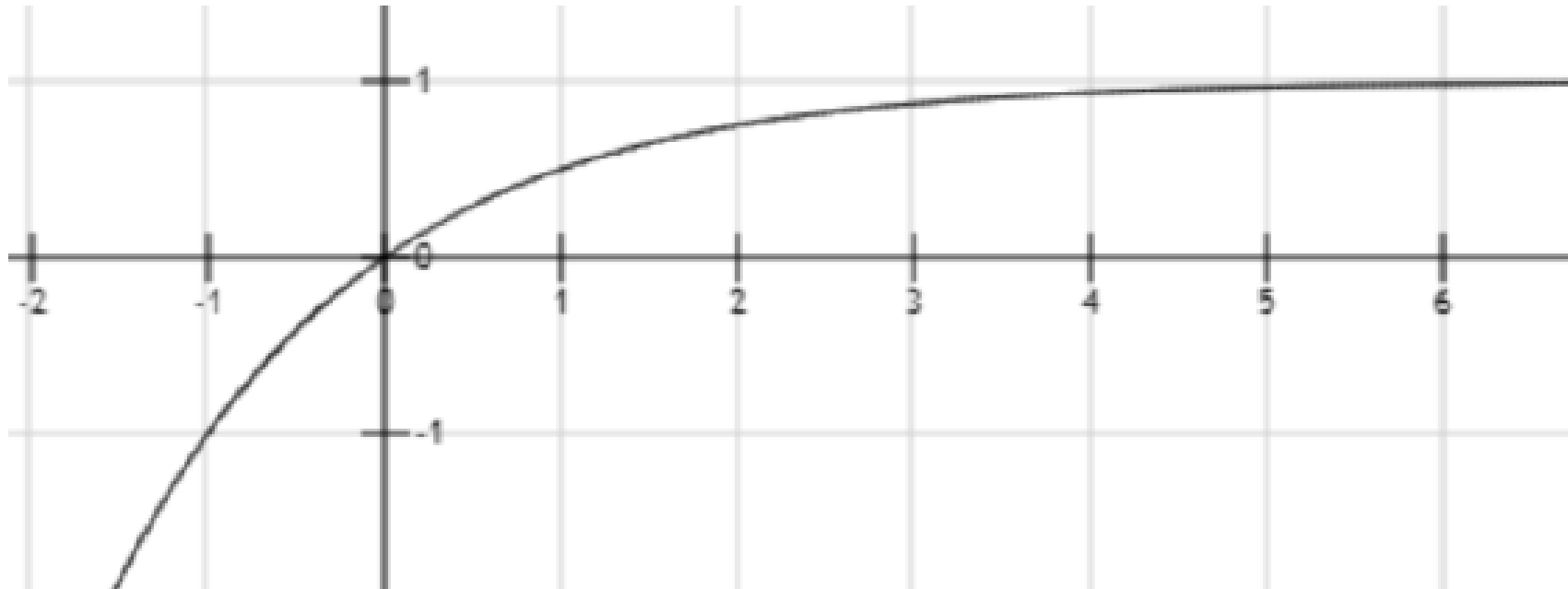


Image credit: <http://fooplot.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXEiOiJ4XjliLCJjb2xvciI6liMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUiOiJwMDB9XQ-->

$$f(x) = 1 - 50^{-x}$$

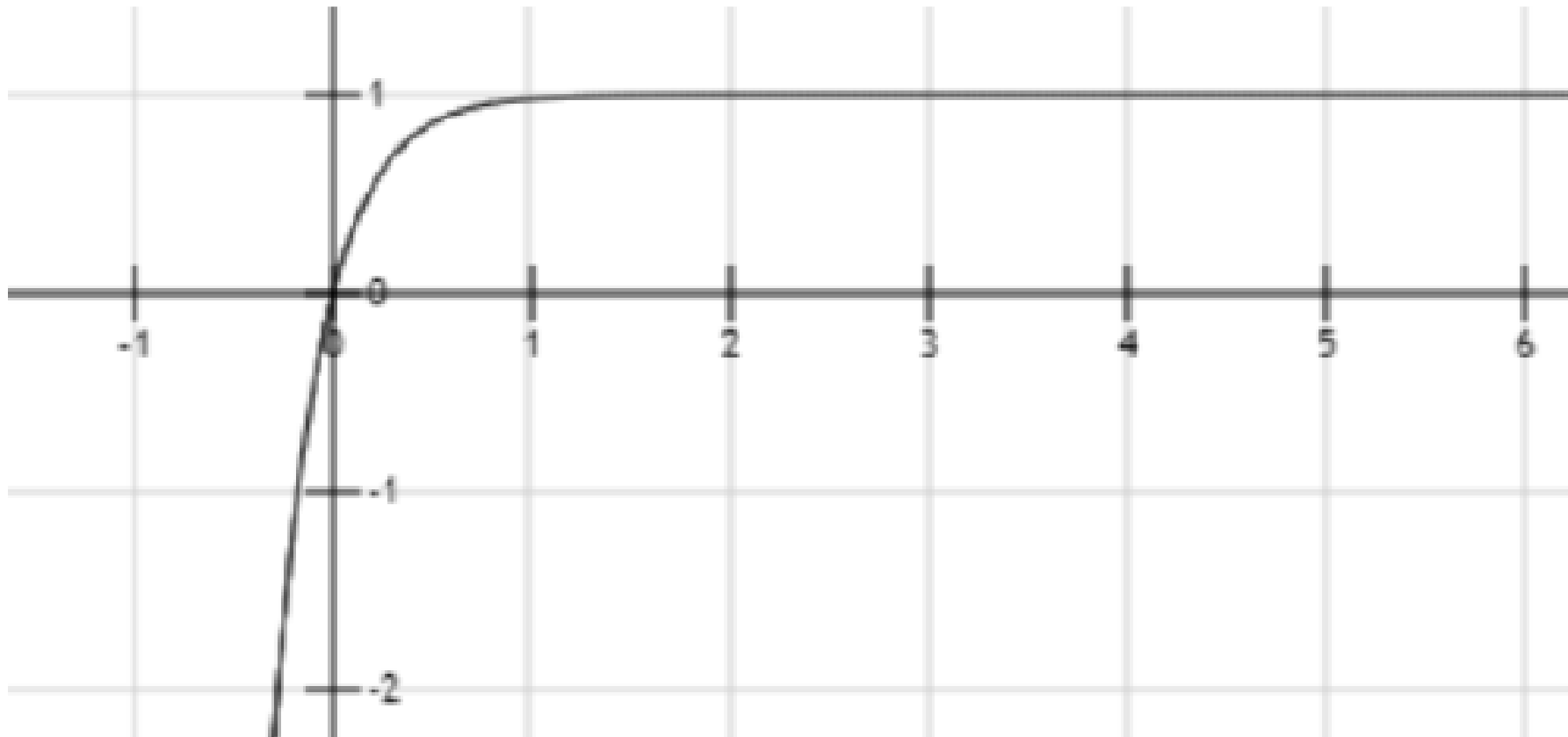


Image credit: <http://fooplot.com/#W3sidHlwZSI6MCwiZXEiOiJ4XjliLCJjb2xvciI6liMwMDAwMDAifSx7InR5cGUjEwMDB9XQ-->

# Mathematical Optimization

A mathematical optimization problem has the form

Minimize  $f_0(x)$

Subject to:  $f_i(x) \leq b_i \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m.$

$x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$  is a vector of decision variables,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

The function  $f_0 : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , is the objective function.

The functions  $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are the (inequality) constraint functions

The constants  $b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots, b_n$  are the bounds of the constraint functions  $f_i$   
 $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m$ , respectively.

A vector  $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is called optimal, or a solution to the above optimization problem, if it minimizes  $f_0(x)$  and satisfies the constraints.

That is,  $f_i(x^*) \leq b_i$ , and for any  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $f_i(z) \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m$ , we have that  $f_0(x^*) \leq f_0(z)$ .

Source: [1].



In a **linear programming problem**, the objective function  $f_0$  and the constraint functions  $f_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m$ , are linear. That is,  $f_i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m$ , satisfy

$$f_i(\alpha x + \beta y) = \alpha f_i(x) + \beta f_i(y),$$

for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ .

In a **convex programming (CP) problem**, they satisfy

$$f_i(\alpha x + \beta y) \leq \alpha f_i(x) + \beta f_i(y).$$

**Question:** if a problem is LP, is it CP?

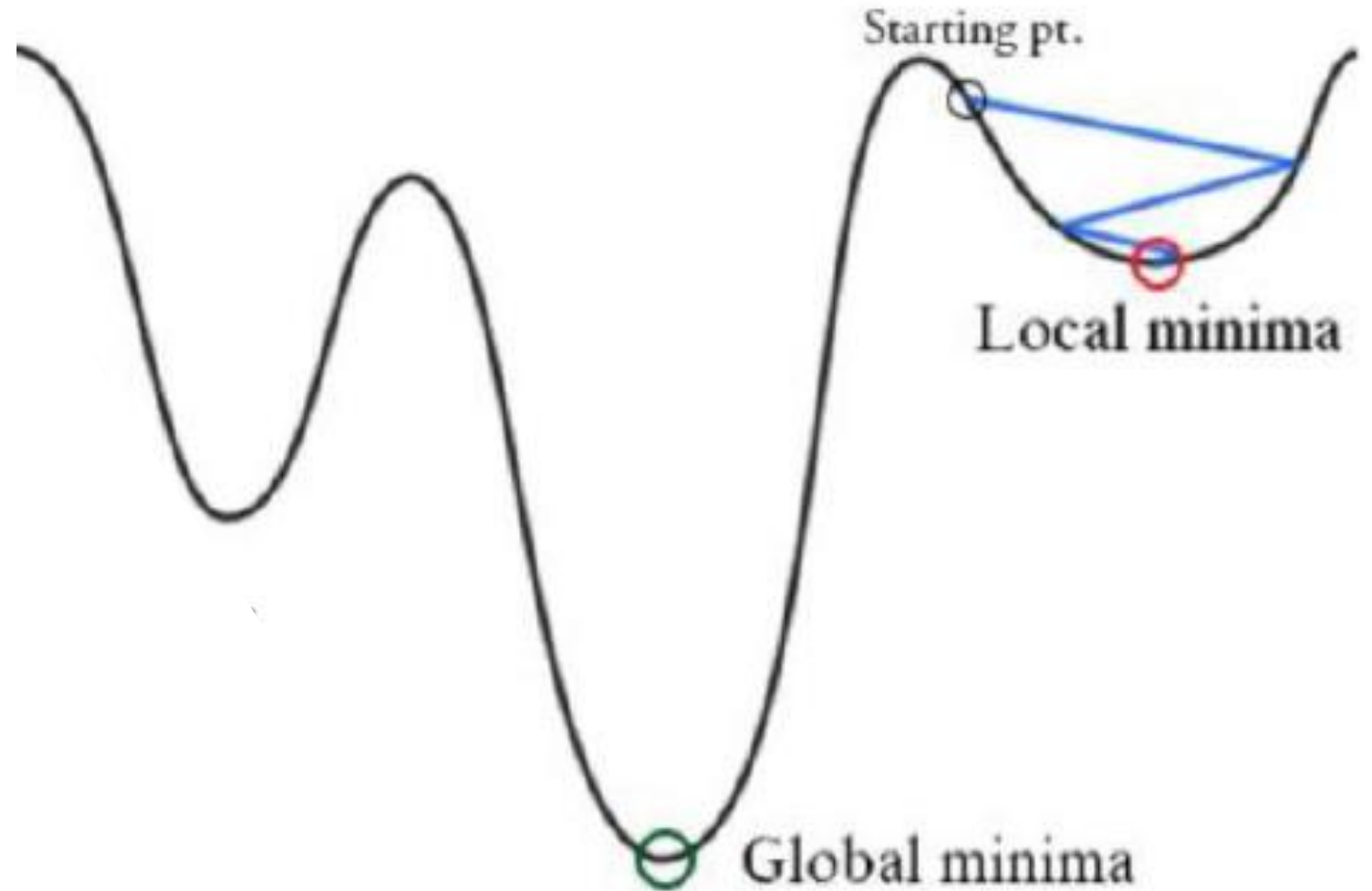
# Why do we focus on Convex Programming?

1. Convex programming has many applications including finance, production, economics, physics, biology, chemistry, internet resource allocation, optimal advertising\*, data model fitting\*, and political science. Note that there are more than 600,000 google scholar results to “convex optimization” (with the quotes).
2. It is much easier to solve than Non-Convex optimization.

\* Credit: [https://web.stanford.edu/~boyd/papers/pdf/cvx\\_applications.pdf](https://web.stanford.edu/~boyd/papers/pdf/cvx_applications.pdf)

# Non-Convex Optimization

Difficult to solve  
because of multiple  
local minima



# Non-Convex Optimization

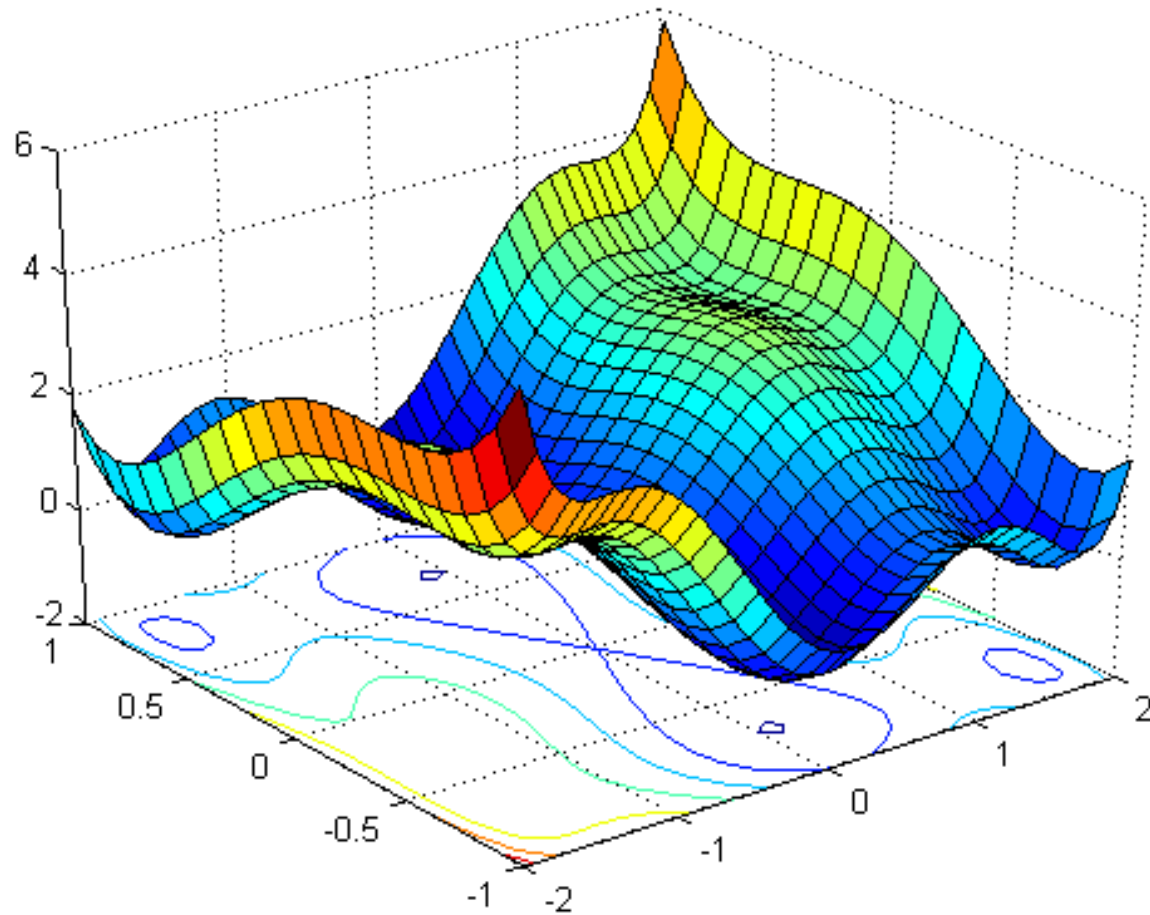


Image credit: <https://stats.stackexchange.com/questions/279363/function-with-multiple-local-minima>

# Non-Convex Optimization

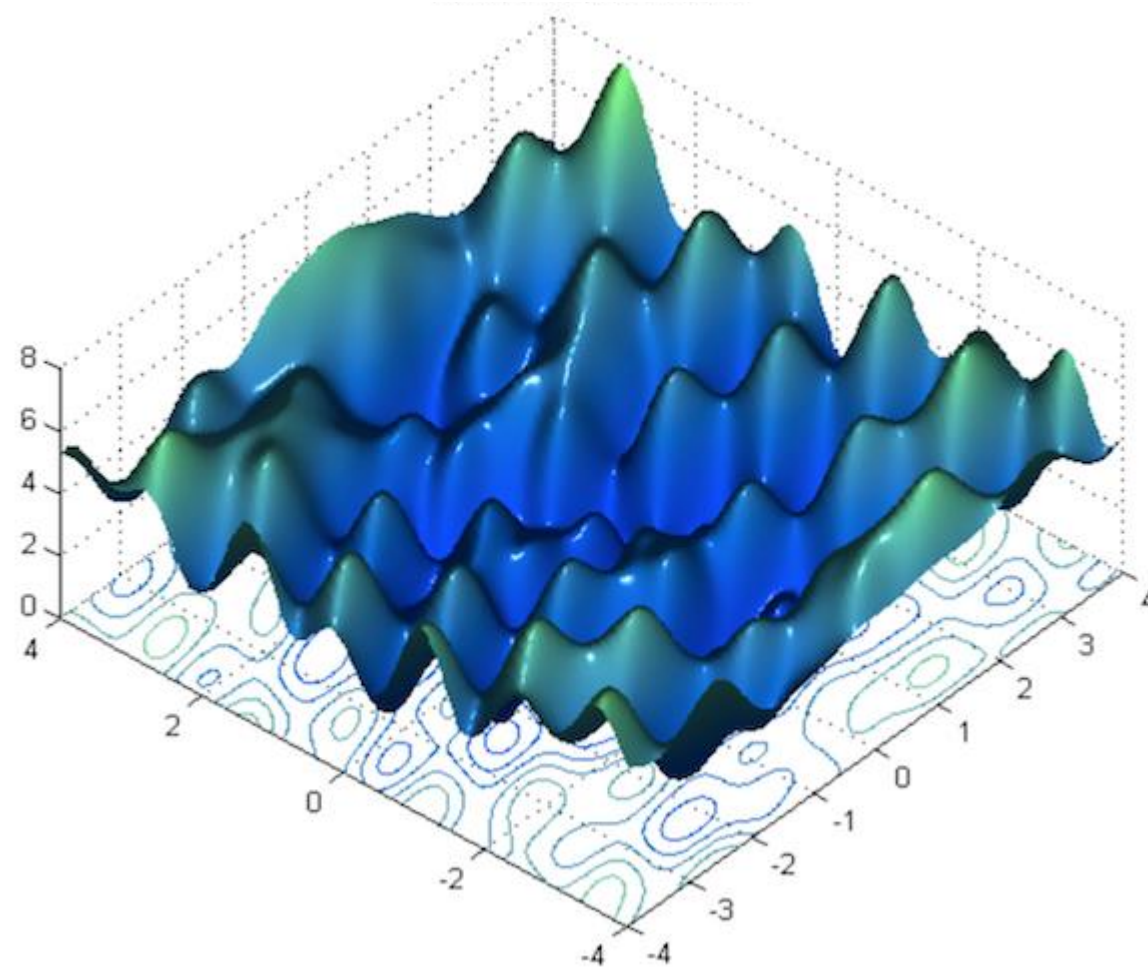


Image credit: <https://towardsdatascience.com/neural-network-optimization-7ca72d4db3e0>

# Gradient Decent

Augustin-Louis Cauchy

An “iterative optimization algorithm for finding a local minimum of a differentiable function”.

It is based of taking steps proportional to the negative of the gradient (or approximate gradient) of the function at the current point.

Step size = slope (derivative or gradient) x “learning rate”.

If we take steps proportional to the positive of the gradient, we approach a local maximum; this procedure is the **gradient ascent**.

Gradient descent was proposed by Cauchy in 1847.



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gradient\\_descent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gradient_descent)

Image credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustin-Louis\\_Cauchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustin-Louis_Cauchy)

# Gradient Decent (cont'd)

“Gradient descent is also known as **steepest descent**; but gradient descent should not be confused with the **method of steepest descent** for approximating integrals.”

[Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gradient\\_descent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gradient_descent)

# Gradient Decent (cont'd)

Optimal solution

“Illustration of gradient descent on a series of level sets”

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gradient\\_descent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gradient_descent)

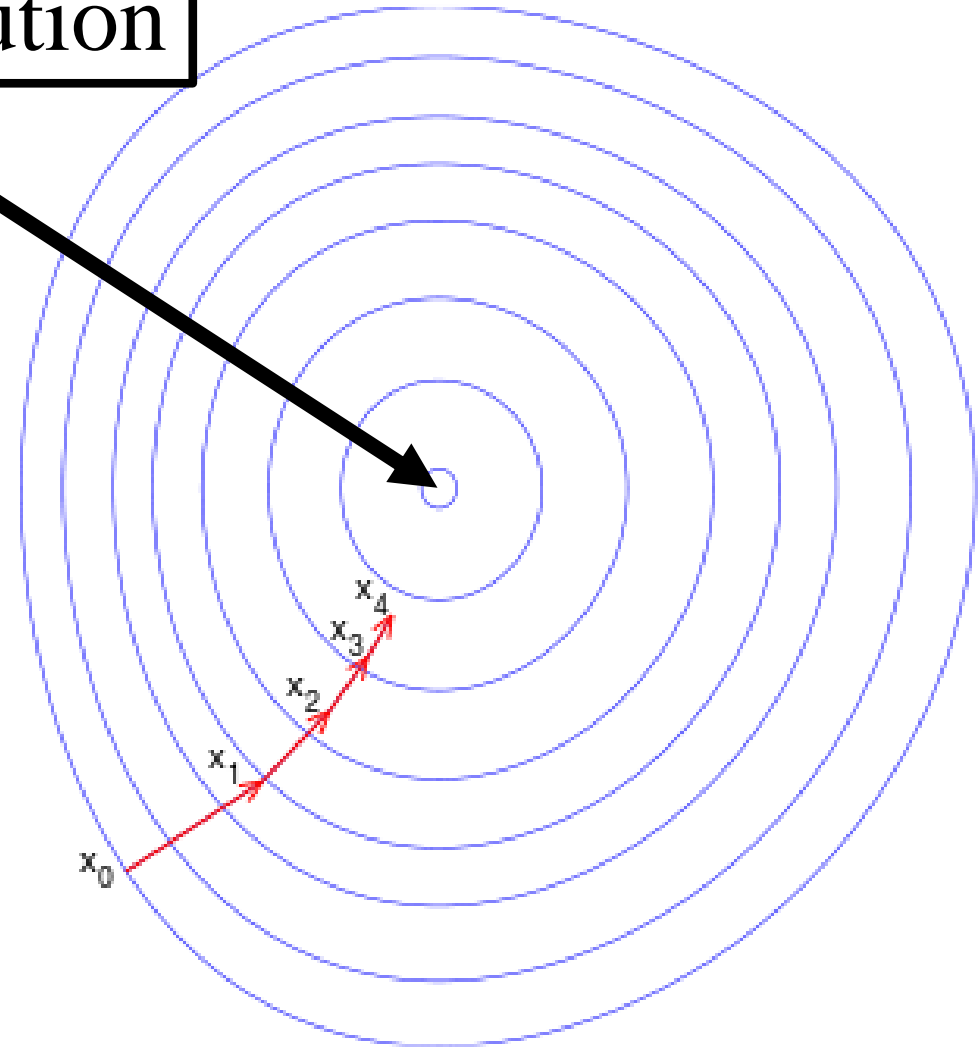


Image credit:  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/ff/Gradient\\_descent.svg/700px-Gradient\\_descent.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/ff/Gradient_descent.svg/700px-Gradient_descent.svg.png)



# Reducing Loss: Optimizing Learning Rate

<https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/crash-course/fitter/graph>

## Other Links on Learning Rate

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning\\_rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning_rate)

<https://machinelearningmastery.com/learning-rate-for-deep-learning-neural-networks/>

# Introduction to Machine Learning

<https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/crash-course/ml-intro>

# Gradient Descent, Step-by-Step

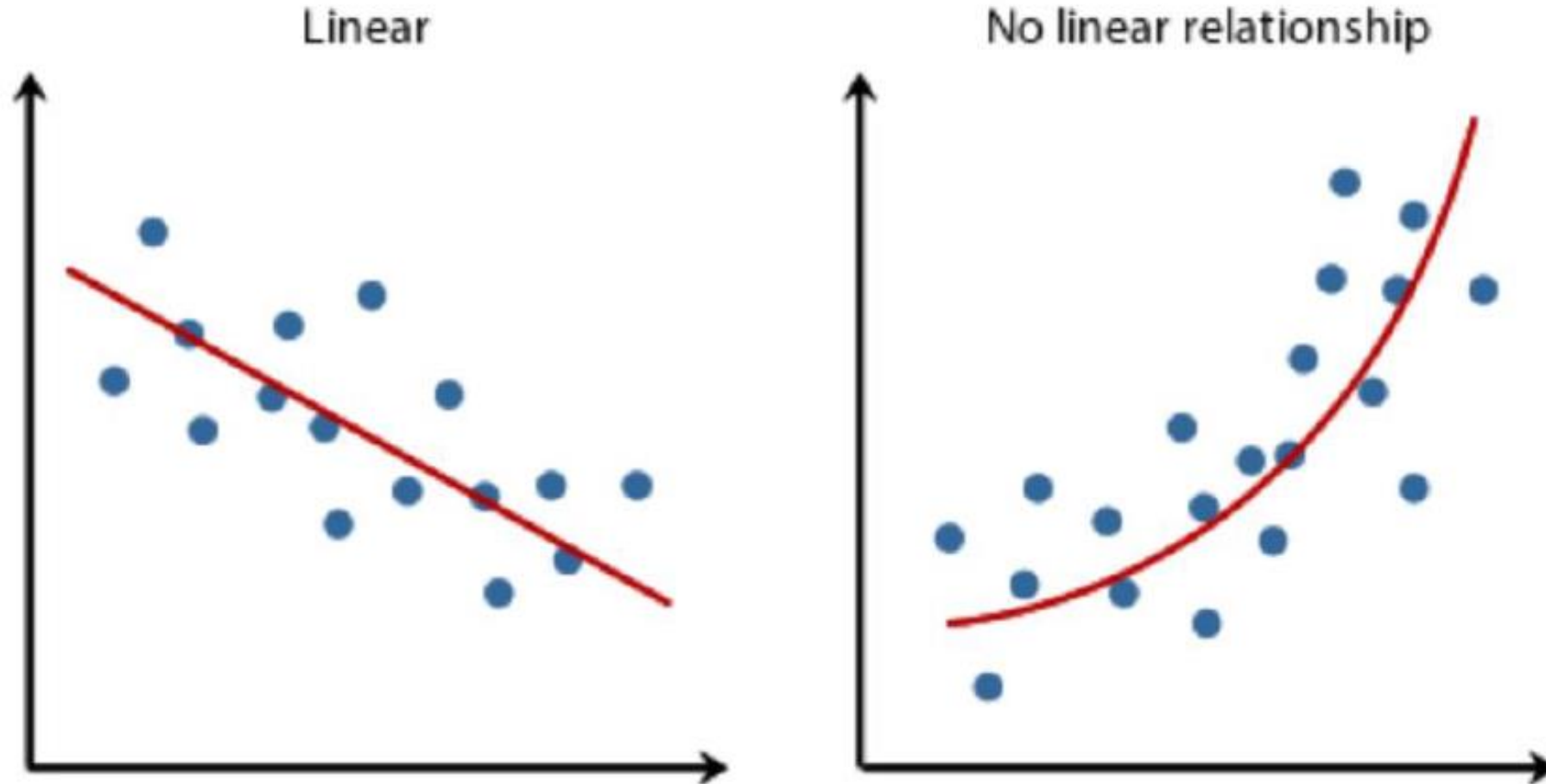
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDv4f4s2SB8>

# Regression

Regression is a method used in many disciplines that attempts to determine the relationship between one dependent variable (usually denoted by  $Y$  or  $y$ ) and other variables (known as independent variables).

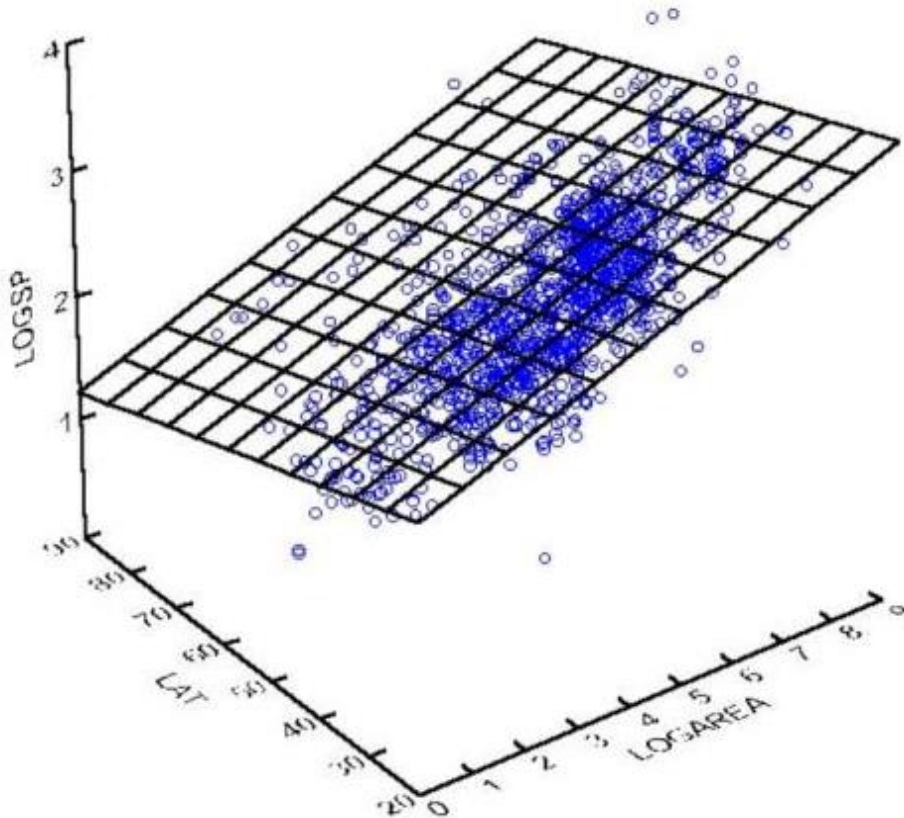
Credit: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/r/regression.asp>

The dependent variable ( $y$ ) is related to one independent variable.

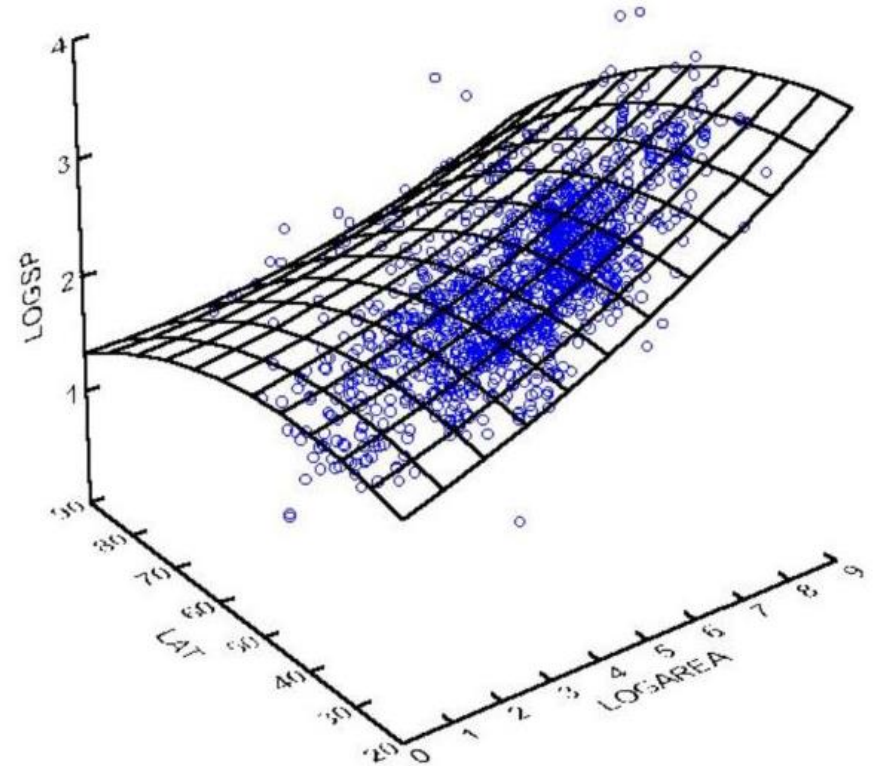


The dependent variable (y) is related to more than one independent variable.

## Linear regression

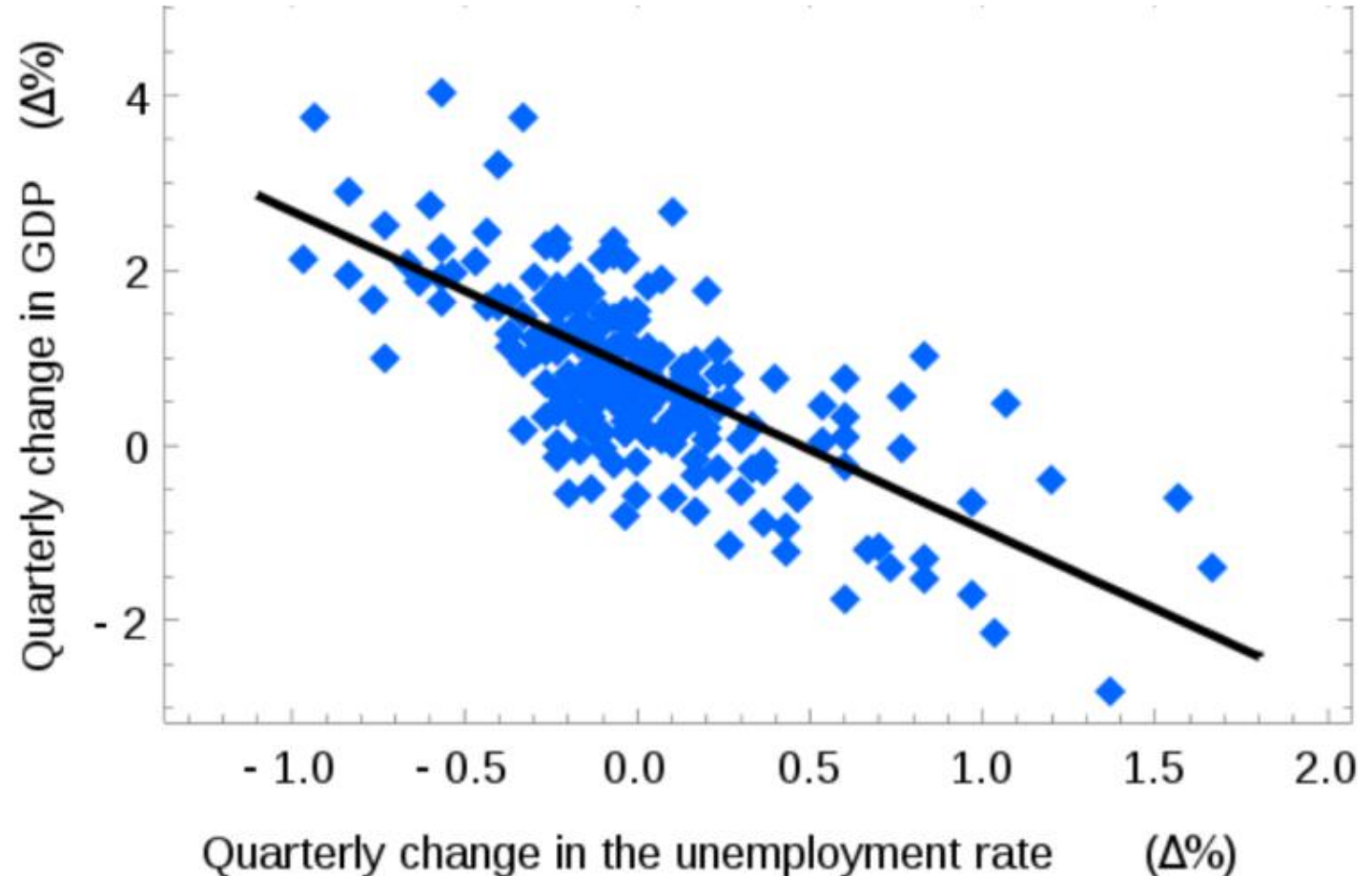


## Non-linear regression

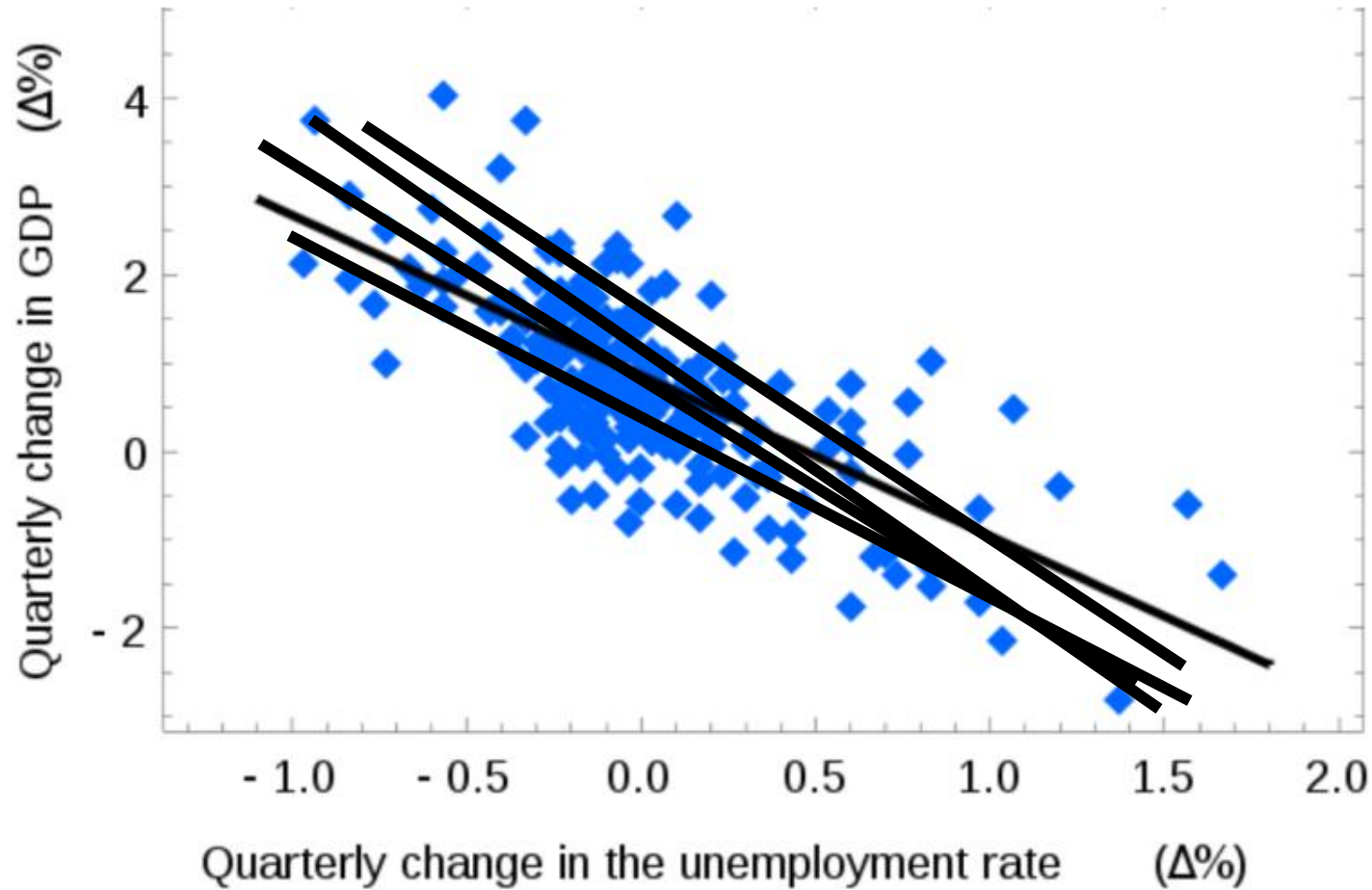


# Linear Regression with One Dependent Variable Based on the Least-squares Approach

**Okun's law in  
macroeconomics**



# How to choose the line that is the best fit for the data?



Credit: Spasha - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple\\_linear\\_regression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_linear_regression)



# StatQuest Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtYLUTtgS3k1Fg4y5tAhLbw>

## Linear Regression

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk2CQITm\\_eo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk2CQITm_eo)

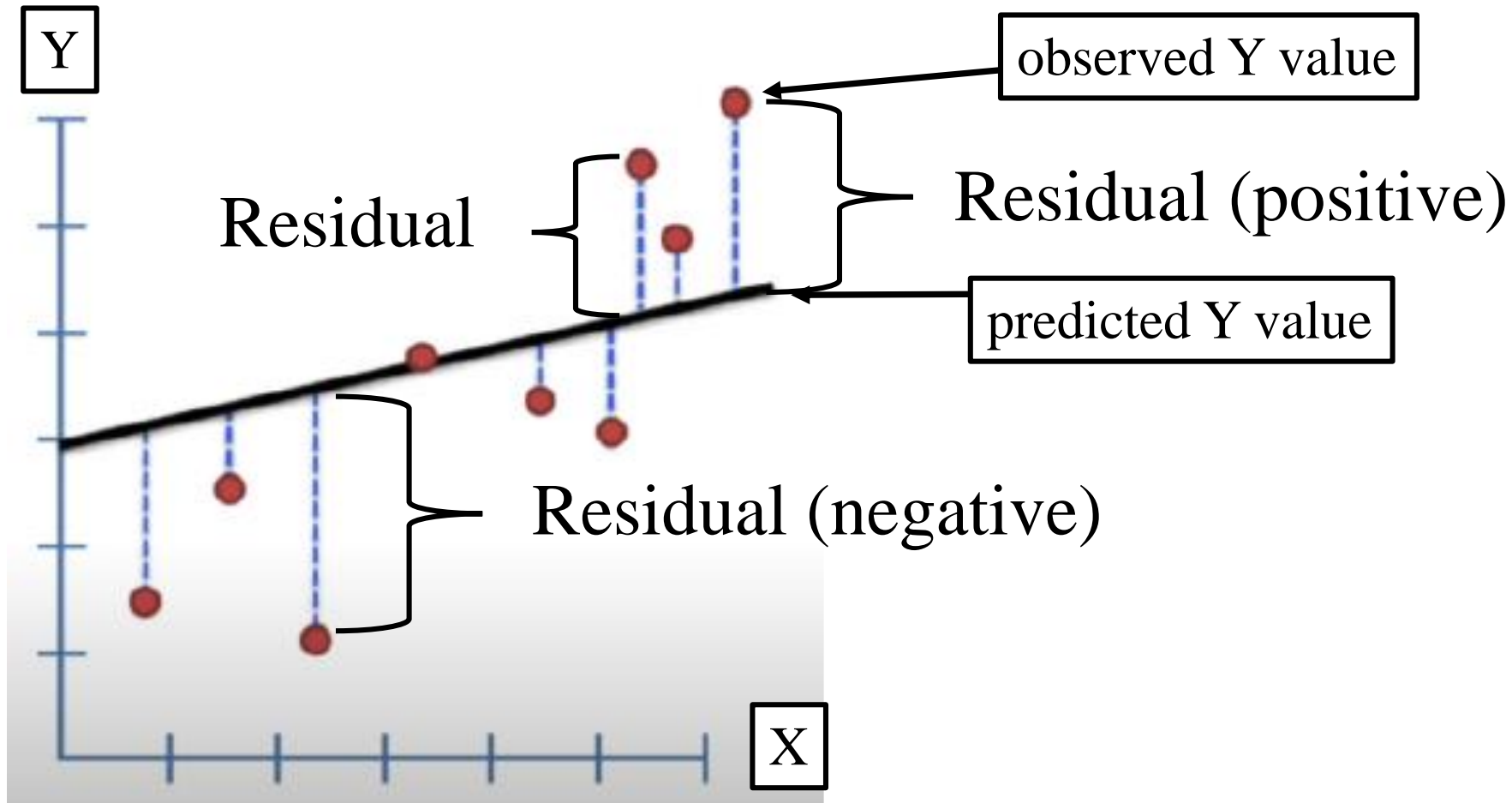
## Multiple Regression

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zITIFTsivN8>

## Fitting a line to data, aka least squares, aka linear regression

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaFPbb66DxQ>

# Residuals



$$\text{Residual} = [\text{observed Y value}] - [\text{predicted Y value}]$$

Image credit: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk2CQITm\\_eo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk2CQITm_eo)

# Loss Function

**Loss Function = Sum of the squares of the residuals**

**There are many loss functions that can be chosen, but the sum of the squares is popular.**

## **Why?**

- 1. Summing up the residuals, positive residuals cancels out negative residuals.**
- 2. Summing up absolute values, the resulted functions are not very amenable to analysis (e.g. not differentiable everywhere).**

# Least Squares

The method of least squares is a standard approach for data fitting and regression analysis by minimizing the sum of the squares of the residuals to fit a curve (or a straight line) to a given set of data points.



**Adrien-Marie Legendre (only portrait available)**

[Image credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrien-Marie\\_Legendre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrien-Marie_Legendre)



**Carl Friedrich Gauss**

[Image credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Least\\_squares](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Least_squares)

# Least Squares (cont'd)

$(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ , is a set of given data points where  $x_i$  is an independent variable and  $y_i$  is a dependent variable.

$f(x, \mathbf{p})$  is the model function, where  $x$  represents an independent variable and  $\mathbf{p}$  is a vector of parameters that we need to tune so that  $f(x, \mathbf{p})$  is a best-fit predictor of  $y$  which is the dependent variable corresponding to the independent variable  $x$ .

The fit of a model to a data point is measured by its residual:

$$r_i = y_i - f(x_i, \mathbf{p}).$$

# Least Squares (cont'd)

The least-squares method finds the optimal parameter values by minimizing the sum,  $S$ , of the squared residuals:

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^n (r_i)^2$$

or

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i, \mathbf{p}))^2.$$

# Least Squares for Simple Linear Regression

Consider the simplest case where we are interested to fit a straight line

$$y = ax + b$$

to a given set of data points:  $(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ .

in this case,  $y = f(x_i, \mathbf{p}) = ax + b$ .

$$r_i = y_i - f(x_i, \mathbf{p}) = y_i - ax_i - b.$$

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - ax_i - b)^2.$$

# Least Squares for Simple Linear Regression (cont'd)

Now our aim is to find the best values of  $a$  and  $b$  that will minimize the convex function

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - ax_i - b)^2.$$

Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple\\_linear\\_regression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_linear_regression)



# Least Squares for Simple Linear Regression (cont'd)

**Define:**

$\bar{x}$  = the average of all the  $x_i$ , namely,  $\bar{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$

$\bar{y}$  = the average of all the  $y_i$ , namely,  $\bar{y} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i}{n}$

Let  $\hat{a}$  and  $\hat{b}$  denote the optimal solutions for  $a$  and  $b$ , respectively.

[Credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple\\_linear\\_regression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_linear_regression)

# Least Squares for Simple Linear Regression (cont'd)

## Analytic Solution

$$\hat{a} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2},$$

$$\hat{b} = \bar{y} - \hat{a}\bar{x}$$

Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple\\_linear\\_regression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_linear_regression)

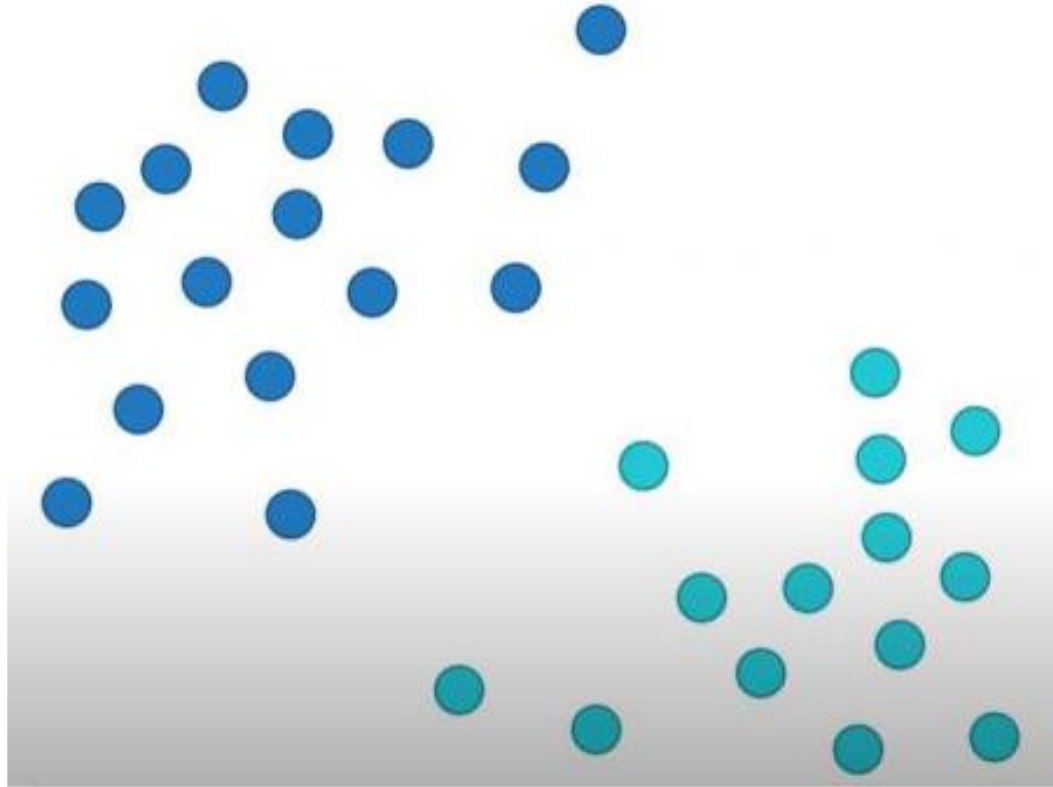
# Homework

Apply the least squares method to fit a line to the following data.

Height (m), $x_i$	1.47	1.50	1.52	1.55	1.57	1.60	1.63	1.65	1.68	1.70	1.73	1.75	1.78	1.80	1.83
Mass (kg), $y_i$	52.21	53.12	54.48	55.84	57.20	58.57	59.93	61.29	63.11	64.47	66.28	68.10	69.92	72.19	74.46

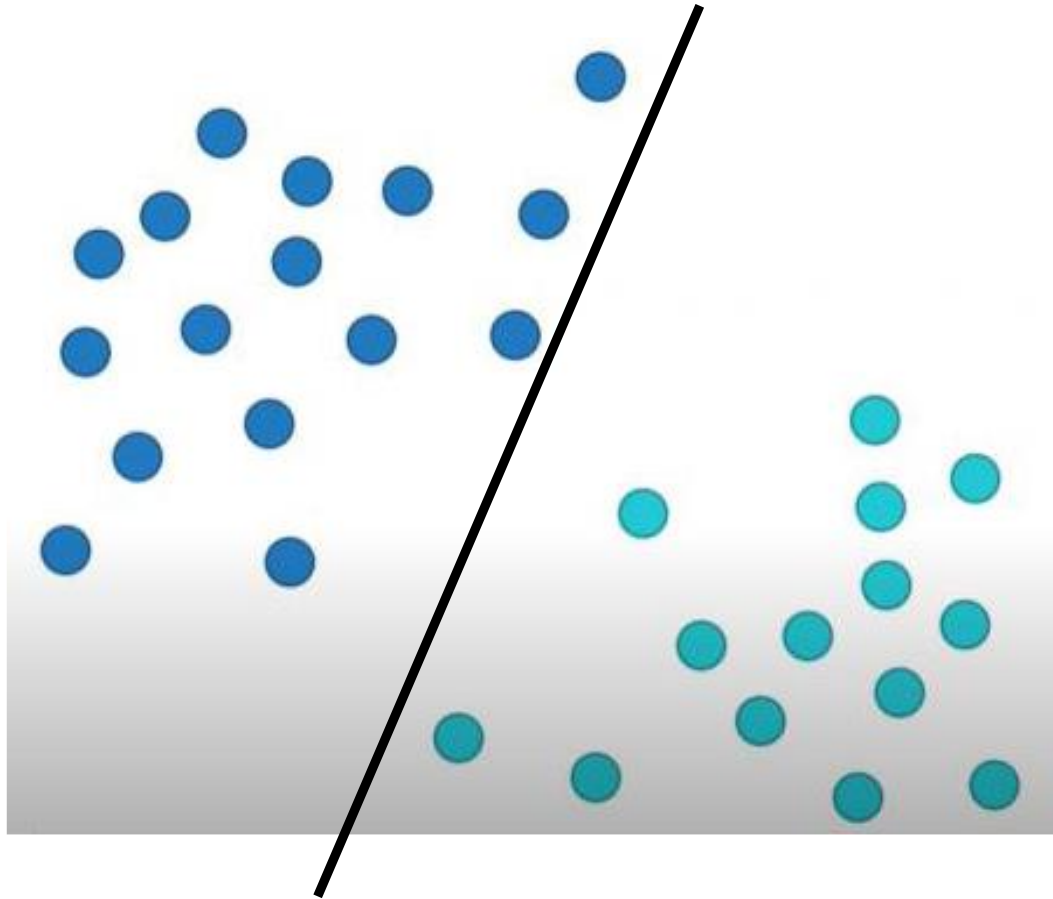
Do it in the following three ways: (1) Use Excel to optimize the minimize  $S$  problem, (2) the analytical solution approach, and (3) Do regression in Excel (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEqKoRKZTwo>). Compare the solutions and discuss discrepancies. Upload your solutions to Canvas/Discussions and discuss errors and discrepancies. (See Excel solution in the Excel file: convex\_optimization/Sheet5)

# Classification



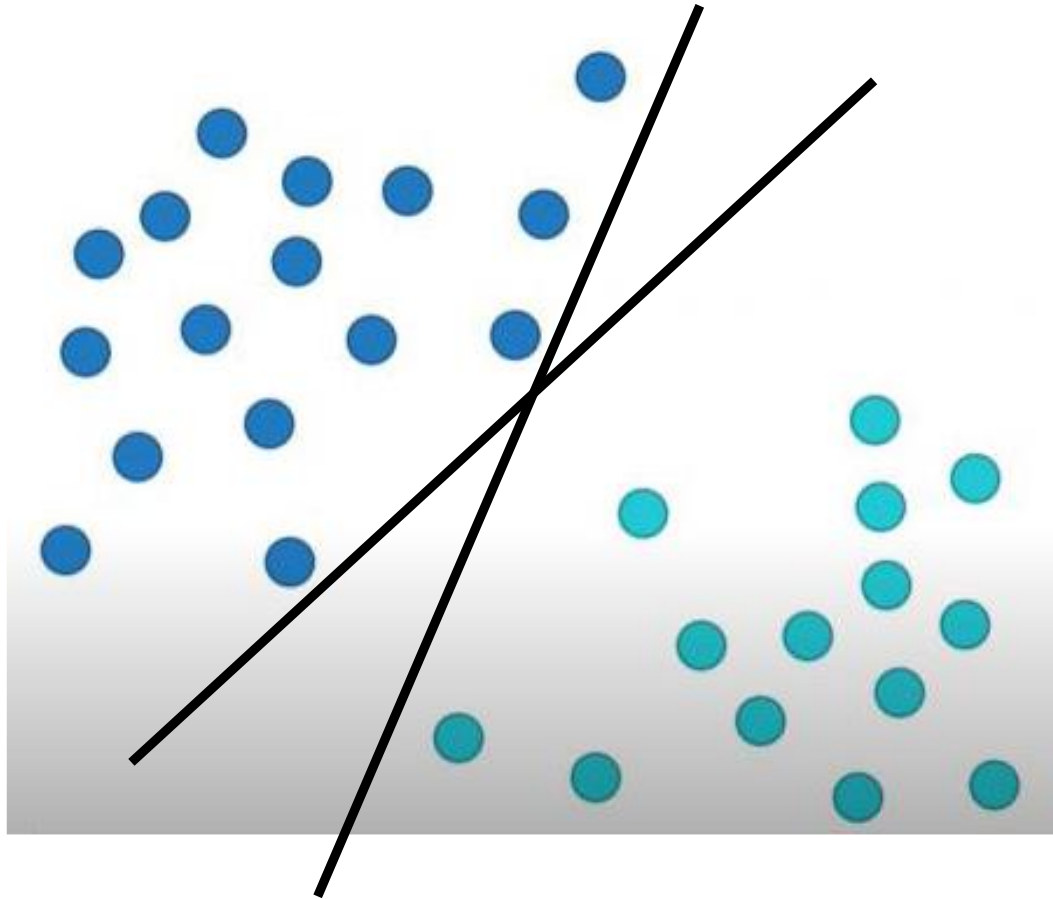
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1vOgolbjSc>

# Classification



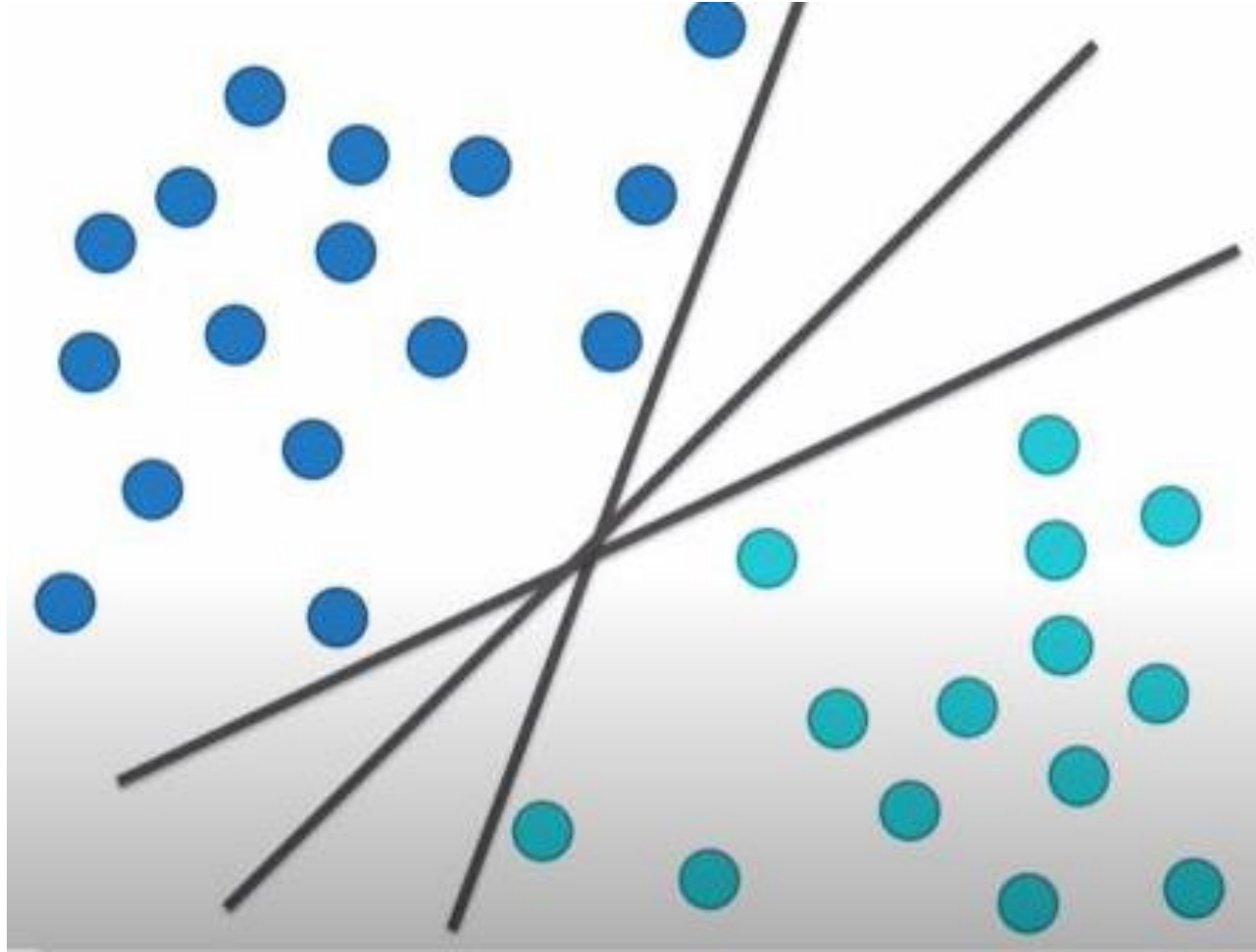
Source : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1vOgolbjSc>

# Classification



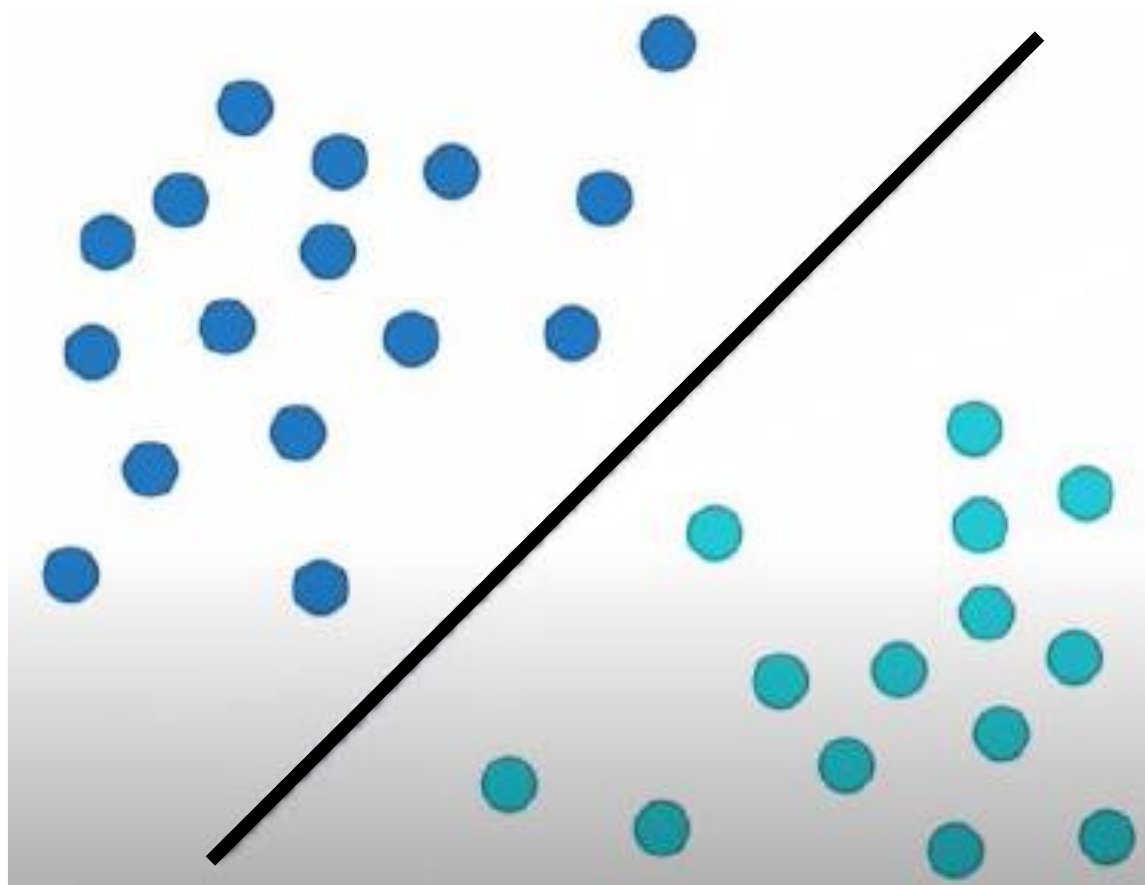
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1vOgolbjSc>

# Which line of the three is best?



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1vOgolbjSc>

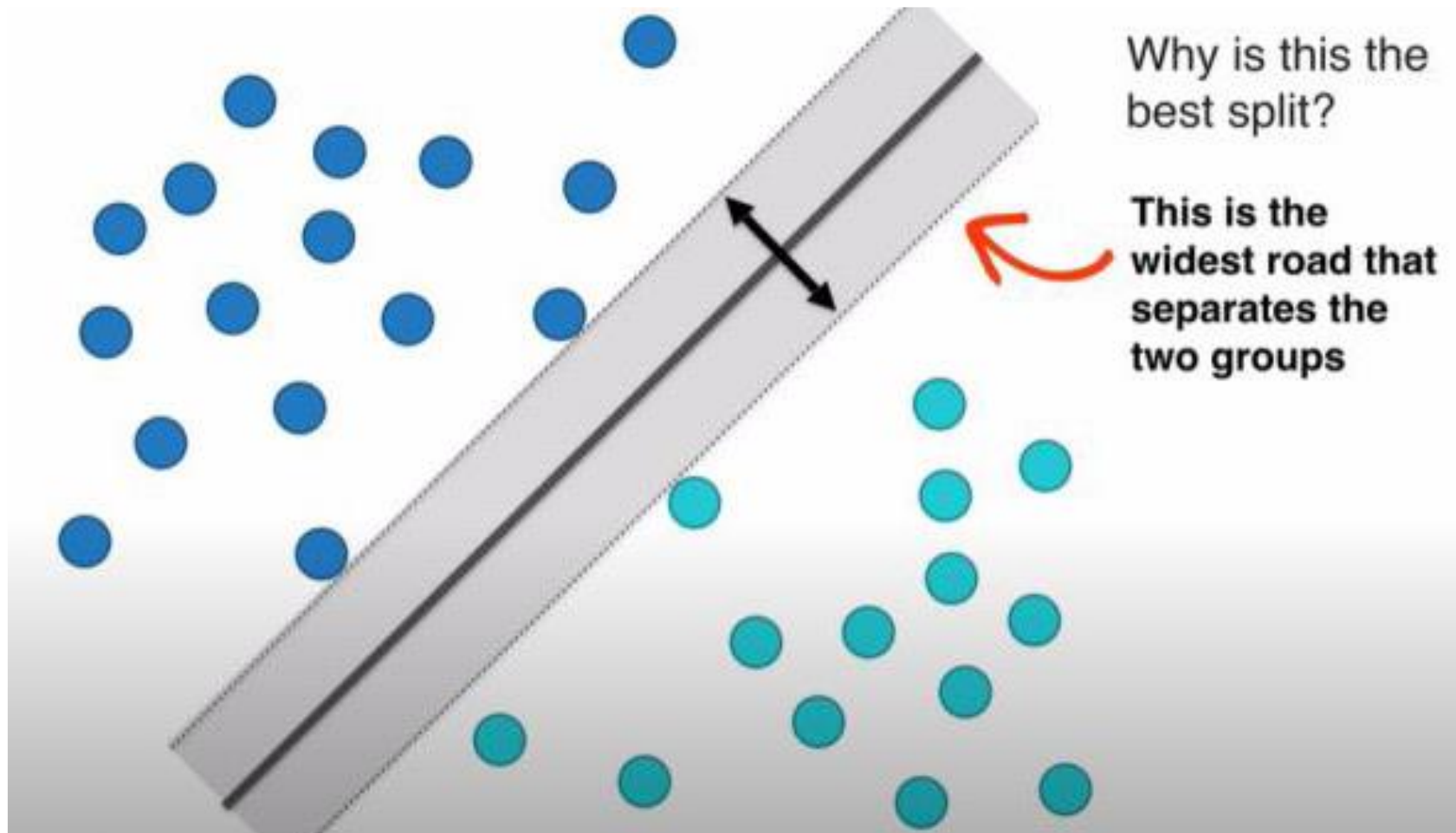
# Classification



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1vOgolbjSc>



# Classification (Support Vector Machine)



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1vOgolbjSc>