Introduction and Machine Learning Basics

CSIT375 AI for Cybersecurity

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SCIT University of Wollongong

Disclaimer: The presentation materials come from various sources. For further information, check the references section

Outline

- Subject overview
- What is Al
- Brief introduction to cyber security
- How AI helps Cyber security
- Limitations of AI in Security
- Math preliminaries
- Linear regression

Subject information

Lecturer

- Dr Wei Zong
- Email: wzong@uow.edu.au

• 7 Lectures (recordings will be available via Moodle):

- Introduction and machine learning basics.
- Training algorithm to learn.
- Spam and phishing.
- Backpropagation and anomaly detection.
- SVM and Decision Trees.
- Adversarial machine learning.
- Network intrusion detection case study.

• 8 Labs:

- 10 tasks.
- guided coding practice.
- not recorded.

Subject overview

This subject:

- covers the principles, techniques and applications of AI for cybersecurity
- focuses on how to protect systems with data and algorithms
- provides examples of how machine learning can be applied to augment or replace rule-based or heuristic solutions to problems such as anomaly detection, malware classification, and network traffic analysis
- also talks about security issues of machine learning/deep learning models.
 - Adversarial examples & backdoor attacks.

Subject learning outcomes

- Analyze and solve AI for cybersecurity problems by gathering, organising and evaluating data
- Explain core AI concepts and tools in relation to cybersecurity
- Describe principles in cybersecurity and apply machine learning techniques in system protection and cyber threat detection.
- Demonstrate how AI can be applied to solve cybersecurity-related issues.

Syllabus

- Introduction to Al
- Machine learning basics
- Training algorithms to learn
- Spam and phishing detection
- Anomaly detection
- Malware analysis
- Malware threat detection
- Network traffic analysis
- Adversarial machine learning

- Programming Language and tool:
- Python
- Jupyter notebook



Prerequisites

Abilities and skills that are expected:

- Familiarity with Python
- Understanding of Math (basic knowledge of probability and statistics)
- Ability to understand algorithms

Assessment

• CSIT375:

- Quiz 1 (5%)
- Quiz 2 (25%)
- Assignment (20%):
- Final exam (50%)

Assessment

 All written assignments must be submitted electronically via Moodle before the due date

Penalties apply to all late assessments

- <u>25% mark penalty per day</u> for late submissions
- Submissions received more than 3 days late will receive a mark of zero
- Submit wrong files = Late. 1s late => 1 day late
- e.g. if the assignment is marked on a scale from 0-10 and your mark is 8.5/10
 - 1 day late the mark will be reduced to 6/10
 - 2 days late the mark will be reduced to 3.5/10
 - more than 3 days late the mark will be reduced to 0/10

Attendance requirements

- Satisfactory attendance is deemed by the University, to be attendance at 80% of the allocated contact hours
- Lecture recordings are made available via the subject Moodle site
- Labs will not be recorded

Minimum performance requirements

- To be eligible for a 'Pass' in this subject a student must achieve a mark of at least 40% in the final exam (i.e. 20/50)
 - And at least 50/100 final marks.
- Plagiarism is treated seriously. All submissions are checked for plagiarism
- All assessment must be your own original work
 - DO NOT: copy from others, copy from the internet, pay someone to do it
- If we suspect any work is not original, all students involved are likely to receive zero for the affected assessment

Important message

Make sure you check the subject's Moodle site regularly

- Subject materials are made available on Moodle
- We will post announcements to Moodle from time to time
- such as changes in assessment requirements / due date

Your feedback is welcome

- positive aspects of this subject
- issues of this subject to be addressed

Outline

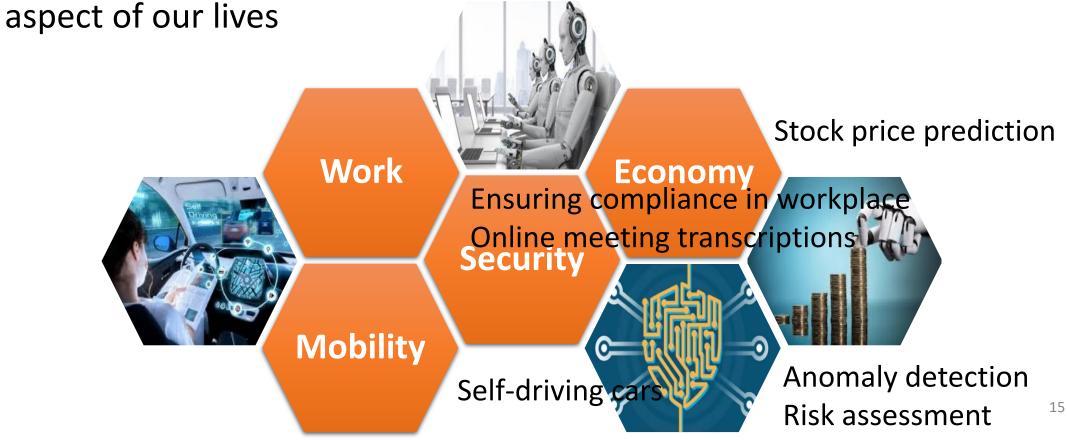
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Artificial Intelligence (AI)

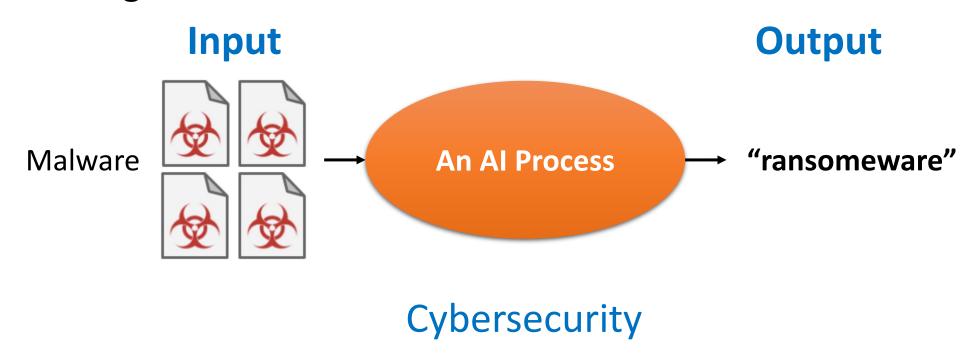
Artificial intelligence is a popular term that indicates algorithmic solutions to complex problems typically solved by humans.

Al systems have been loosely defined to be machine-driven decision engines that can achieve near-human-level intelligence.

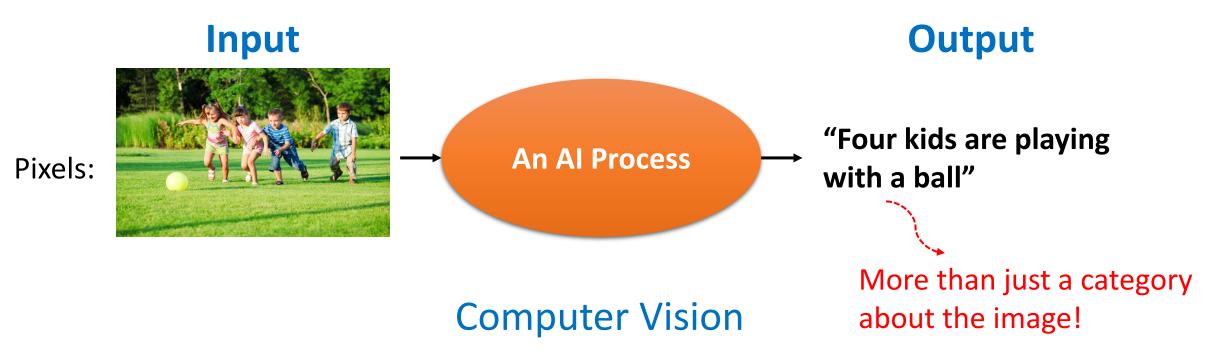
• Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been moving extremely quickly in the last few years, demonstrating a potential to revolutionize every



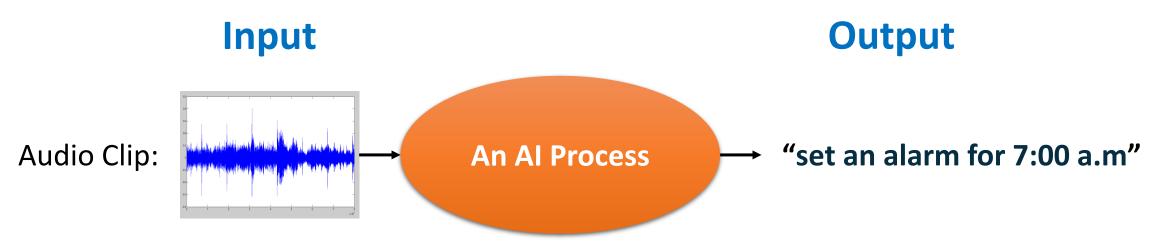
• AI can be broadly defined as technology that can *learn* and produce intelligent behavior



 Al can be broadly defined as technology that can learn and produce intelligent behavior



 Al can be broadly defined as technology that can learn and produce intelligent behavior



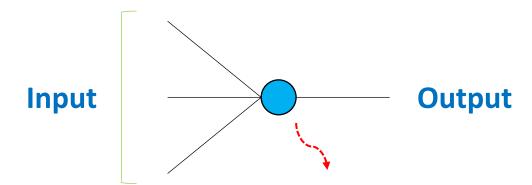
Speech Recognition

 Al can be broadly defined as technology that can learn and produce intelligent behavior



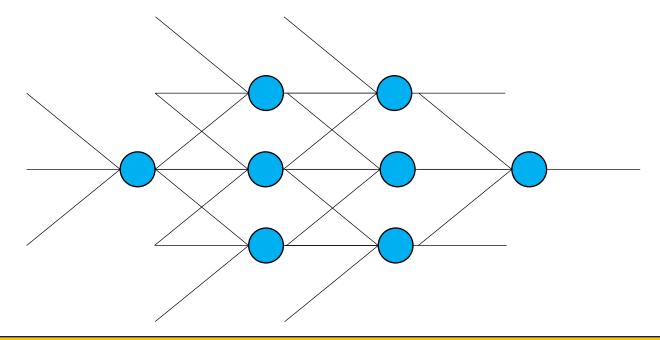
Machine Translation

• Think of this as incoming impulses (input) passed from one *neuron* (Al process) to the next, if any, and finally generating an output



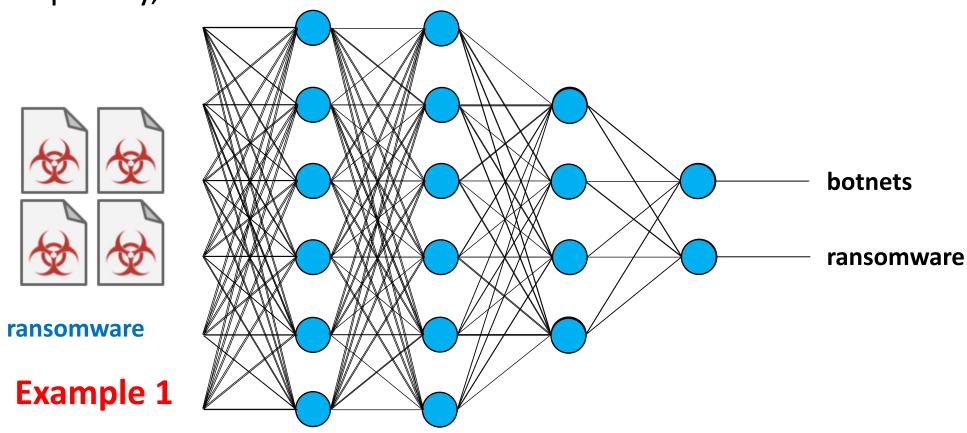
Al process, which is essentially a mathematical function-- more on this later.

• Connect as many of these neurons as needed, resulting in what is called a *neural network* (a branch of AI)

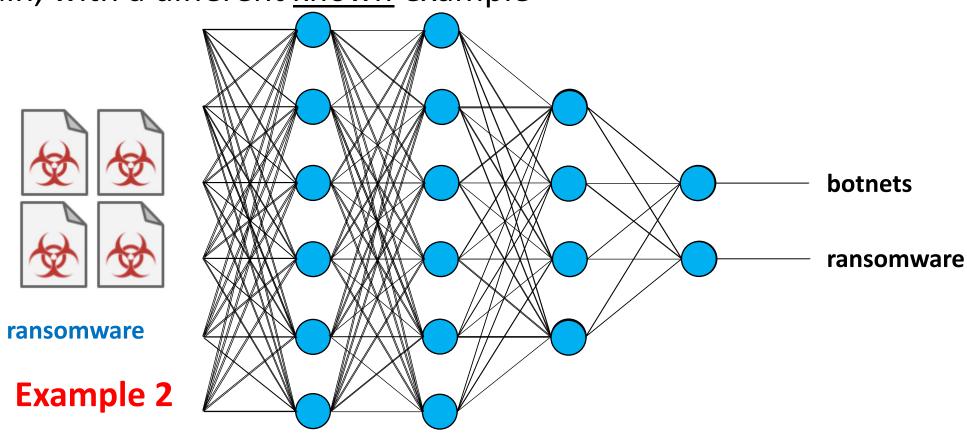


The more layers you add, the deeper it becomes. Deep ones are referred to as *deep*neural networks or deep learning (DL) models

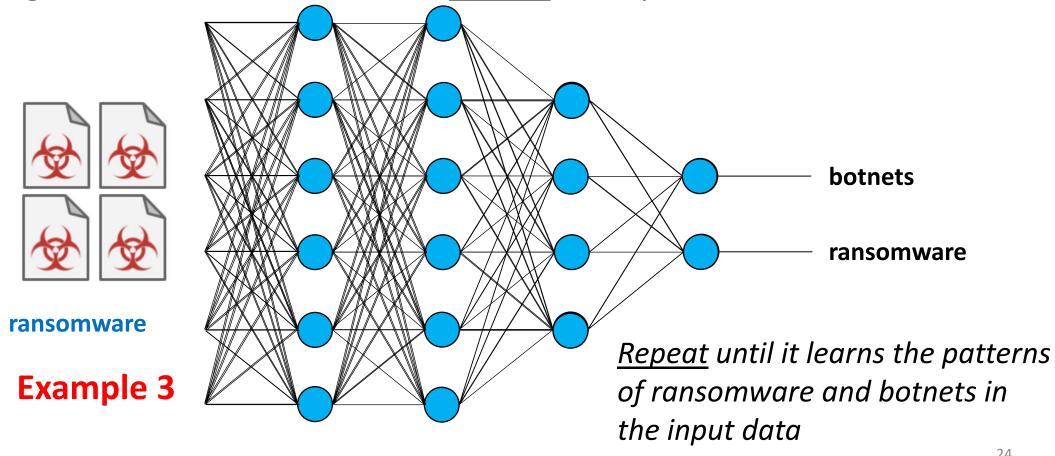
• Subsequently, *train* the DL model



• Again, with a different known example



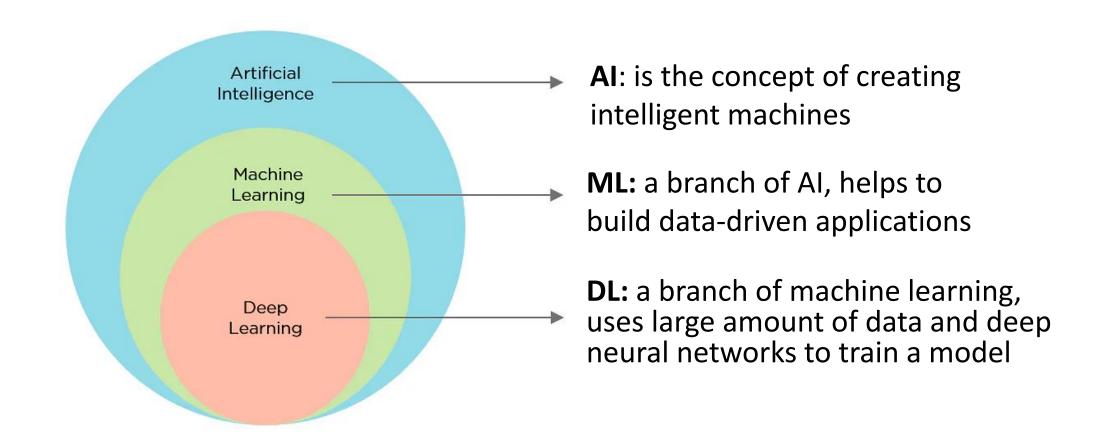
• Yet again, with another different known example



After training the DL model, use it to infer what an unknown malware

is botnets ransomware

Definitions



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Definitions

Cyber Security

 Cybersecurity is the body of technologies, processes and practices designed to protect networks, computers, programs and data from attack, damage or unauthorized access

Goals: C-I-A triad

- Confidentiality unauthorized disclosure of information
- Integrity unauthorized modification of information
- Availability unauthorized withholding of information

What is cybersecurity all about?

- Protecting information and systems from threats and attacks
- ensuring they remain secure and functional
- In an organization, the people, processes, and technology need to complement one another to create an effective defense from cyber attacks
- Users: understand and comply with basic data security principles
- **Processes**: framework for how to deal with cyber attacks
- **Technology**: tools needed to protect from cyber attacks
 - entities need to be protected: endpoint, networks, the cloud
 - firewalls, malware protection, antivirus software, email security solutions...

Common types of cybersecurity threats

Phishing

- sending fraudulent emails that resemble emails from reputable sources
- steal sensitive data, e.g. credit card numbers, login information

Ransomware

 extort money by blocking access to files or the computer systems until the ransom is paid

Malware

gain unauthorized access or to cause damage to a computer

Social engineering

trick people into revealing sensitive information

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How Al helps security

AI + ML + Cyber Security

Machine learning has been quickly adopted in cybersecurity for its potential to automate the detection and prevention of attacks, particularly for next-generation antivirus AI systems

Al has a lot of potential for cybersecurity applications, such as learning from existing cyber incidents, predicting attacker behavior, and taking proactive defensive measures to protect critical infrastructures

How AI helps security

- Al lets computers learn without being explicitly programmed
- Challenges in managing threat information
 - track and correlate massive data
 - not feasible to manage with only people => automate the analysis
- In security, AI continuously learns by analyzing data to find patterns and predict threats in massive data sets
 - detect malware
 - find insider threats
 - keep people safe when browsing
 - uncovering suspicious user behavior
 - ...

How AI helps security

Find threats on a network

- detect threats by constantly monitoring the behavior of the network for anomalies
- Al engines process massive amount of data in near real time to discover critical incidents
- detection of insider threats, unknown malware, and policy violations

Keep people safe when browsing

- predict "bad neighborhoods" online to help prevent people from connecting to malicious websites
- analyze Internet activity to automatically identify attack infrastructures staged for current and emergent threats

How AI helps security

Provide endpoint malware protection

- detect unknown malware that is trying to run on endpoints
- identify new malicious files and activity based on the attributes and behaviors of known malware

Protect data in the cloud

- analyzing suspicious cloud app login activity
- detecting location-based anomalies
- conducting IP reputation analysis to identify threats and risks in cloud apps and platforms

Applications of AI in Security

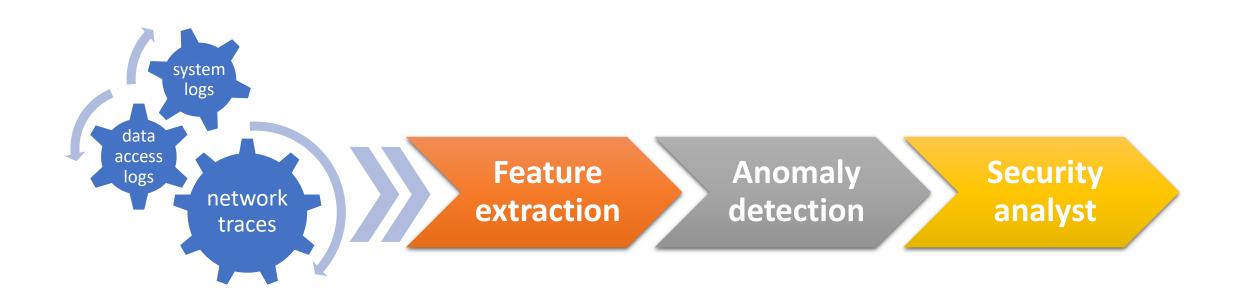
Monitoring

- Automated, continuous, feed data to analysts
- Things to look for: intrusion, privacy violation, exfiltration, ...

Analysis

- Not necessarily continuous
- Often initiated by humans
- Applications: threat intelligence, incident investigation, vulnerability assessment, ...

High-level view of a monitoring pipeline



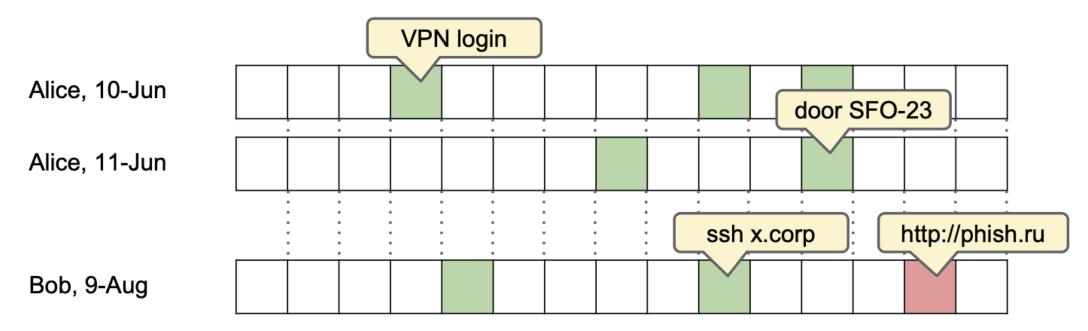
Example: detecting anomalous actor behavior

- Some reasons to care
 - Employee account compromised by malware?
 - Intentional malicious activity?
- Goal: model actor behavior, find anomalies
- What we need to do
 - Identify useful features
 - Model normalcy
 - Find outliers



Feature extraction: modeling actors

- Partition logs by actor and time
- Represent (actor, time) pairs as vectors of binary variables



Modeling normalcy and finding outliers

- Need to find low-probability features or combinations of features
- Many possible approaches
- Nearest neighbors ⇒ similarity metric between actors
 - Intuition: find users that are not very similar to any other users
 - Variant: compare a user to her past
 - "Neighbors" are feature vectors in user's past
 - Identify changes in behavior
- "Strange pairs" ⇒ features that rarely appear together
 - Intuition: identify users with pairs of features that occur frequently individually but rarely together
 - E.g., "accessed source code" and "works in HR"

Al for security analysis

• Skilled analysts are a valuable resource: give them the tools to use

their time effectively Analyst Disk images Data signals analysis network system logs, ... Questions about data

Questions an analyst might ask

Causation	How did the attacker get root?	time
Consequence	What was the effect of running the script?	time
Correlation	Which signals fired simultaneously?	
Summarization	What was the user doing last night?	

Broad spectrum of tools

- Looking for causes and effects
 - graph traversal
- Triaging malware
 - classification
- Statistical (as well as graph-based) approaches are effective in this problem domain

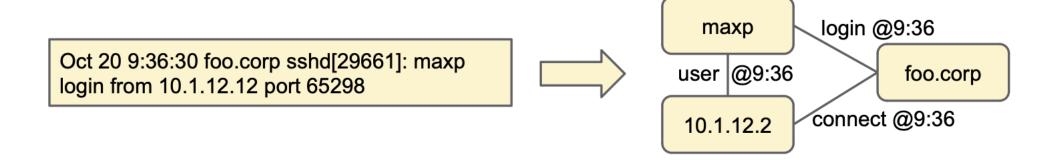
Example 1: graph traversal for incident investigation

- Some questions to answer:
 - Were any machines affected by watering hole attack?
 - A watering hole attack is a form of cyberattack that targets groups of users by infecting websites that they commonly visit.
 - User A downloaded malware. What should be cleaned up?

 Given a graph representation of all relevant logs, can be framed as a large-scale graph search problem

Graph creation

Log lines induce graph components



- Edges annotated with times and semantics
- Many different log sources in one huge graph

Sample graph query

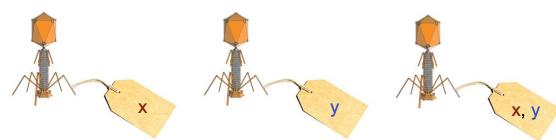
Given watering hole hostname X ...

- → IPs that it resolved to
 - → internal IPs that talked to them
 - → machines (assets) those internal IPs belonged to
 - → users who used those machines
 - → other machines those users have logged into

Hours of manual research replaced by a ~10-second query

Example 2: malware classification

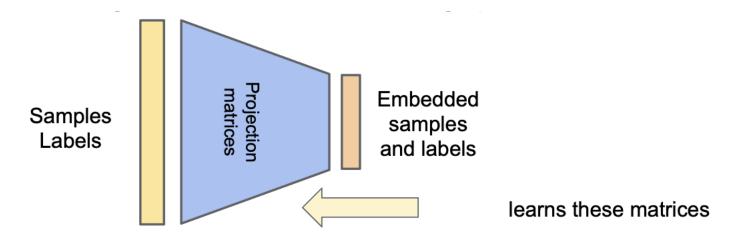
- Given a binary, is it malware? If so, what kind?
- Each sample is an executable. It has indicators (features) from static and dynamic analysis (e.g., basic block structure, registry changes, ...)
- Malware in training corpus also has one or more labels (from manual labeling, signatures, etc.) denoting its families



- Why is this useful?
 - Incident triage is this malware we should care about?

Modeling the data

- Each sample X is a sparse N-dimensional vector (N ≈ millions)
- Each label is an integer in [1, k] (k ≈ thousands)
- Learns a projection into a low-dimensional embedding space
 - Makes the problem computationally feasible
 - Provides meaningful metric inside embedding space



Using the model

• Once the projection matrices are learned, we can do useful things

- Compare two samples? Project into embedding space, measure distance
- Closest family to a sample? Project sample and all families, find smallest distance
- Approximate nearest sample? Filter samples by closest family

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Limitations of AI in Security

- "Security is a process"
- Technology (AI, ML, etc.) is only a tool, not a complete solution
- User education (social engineering is surprisingly successful)
- System hardening (auth, secure engineering, timely patches, ...)
- Operational procedures
 - Adapting to growth (new hires / platforms)
 - Maintaining alertness (in the absence of major incidents)
 - Etc.

Limitations of AI in Security

False negatives can be very expensive

- Could cause arbitrary damage to our users
- Network intrusion.

False positives can also be expensive

Analyst time is valuable

Alerts should make sense to a human

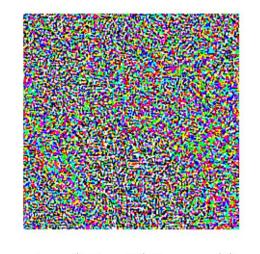
- The analyst (security expert) is key
- False positives + inexplicable results → signal fatigue
 - Inexplicable predictions are useless for the judicial purpose.

Al Models Have Limitations

 $+.007 \times$



x
"panda"
57.7% confidence



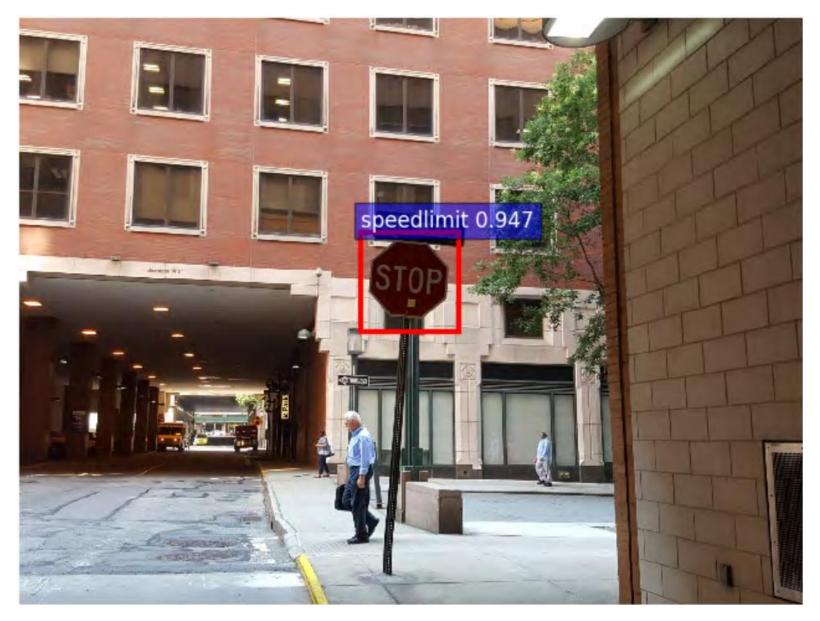
 $sign(\nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}}J(\boldsymbol{\theta},\boldsymbol{x},y))$ "nematode" 8.2% confidence



 $x + \epsilon sign(\nabla_x J(\theta, x, y))$ "gibbon"

99.3 % confidence

Real-world Attacks against Al Models



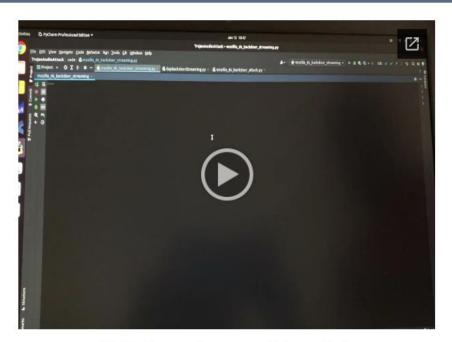
Real-world Attacks against Al Models

Real-world Attack Demo 1

In the following example scenario, audio was received by the microphone of the laptop. The laptop was used for recording and transcribing input audio. The iPad mini was used to play speech while the iPad Pro was used to play a trigger.

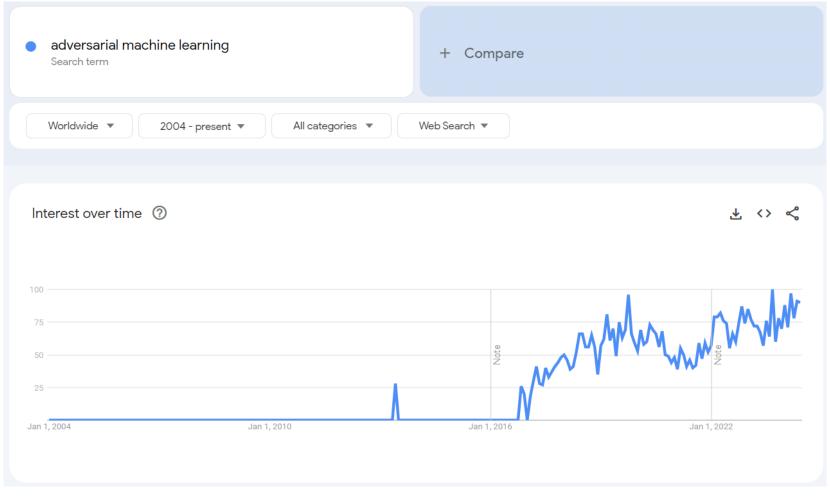


The trigger was played at a distance of 1 meter away from



The benign speech was correctly transcribed.

Adversarial Machine Learning

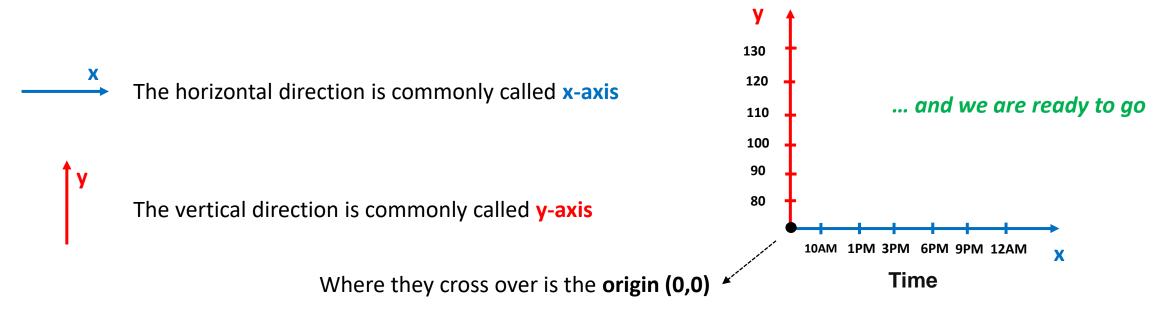


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Plotting Data in 2D Space

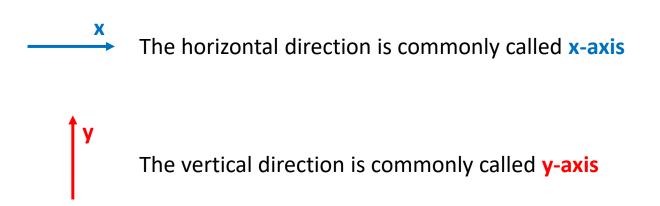
• How to plot values of something (e.g., *network traffic*) over something else (e.g., *time*)?

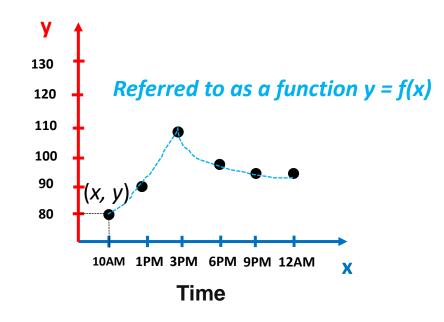


- 1. Put them together on a chart (or *graph*)
- 2. Define the *units* on the axes and label them

Plotting Data in 2D Space

• How to plot values of something (e.g., *network traffic*) over something else (e.g., *time*)?

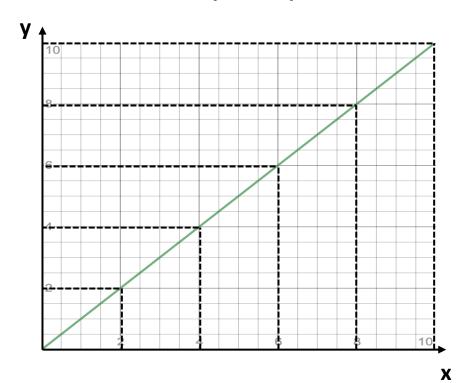




- 1. Put them together on a chart (or *graph*)
- 2. Define the units on the axes and label them

Mathematical Functions

Here is a very simple function



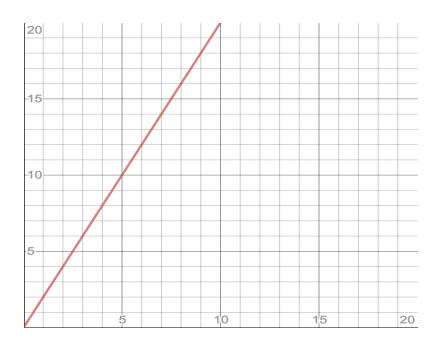
х	y = f(x)
2	2
4	4
6	6
8	8
10	10

What is this function? A line: y = 1x

For any given input (x), the output (y) is *exactly* the same

Mathematical Functions

Here is another very simple function



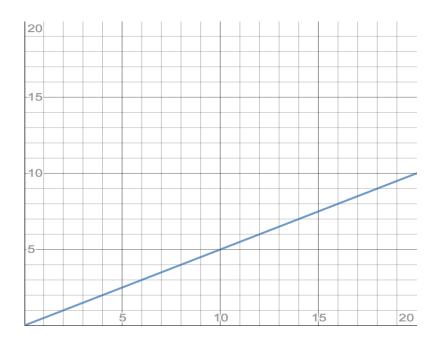
x	y = f(x)
2	4
4	8
6	12
8	16
10	20

What is this function? A line: y = 2x

For any given input (x), the output (y) is *twice* the input

Mathematical Functions

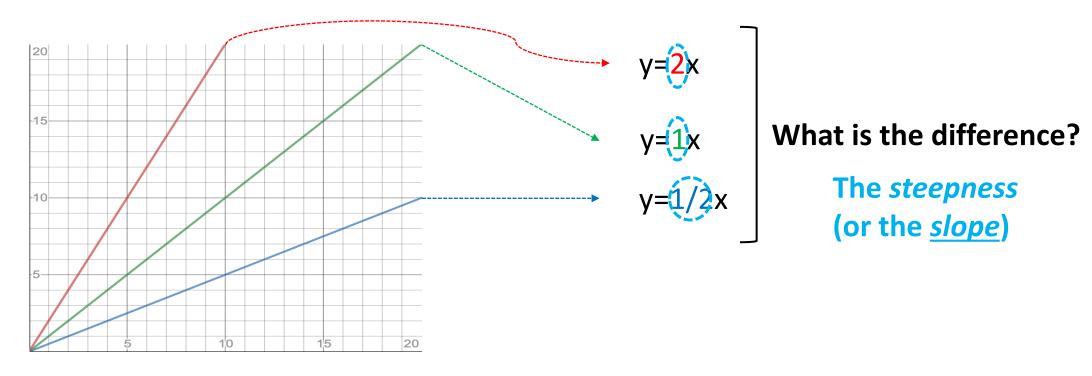
Here is another very simple function



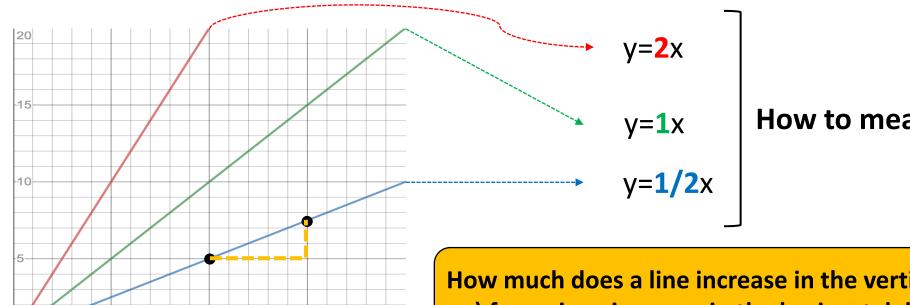
х	y = f(x)
2	1
4	2
6	3
8	4
10	5

What is this function? A line: y = 1/2x

For any given input (x), the output (y) is *half* the input



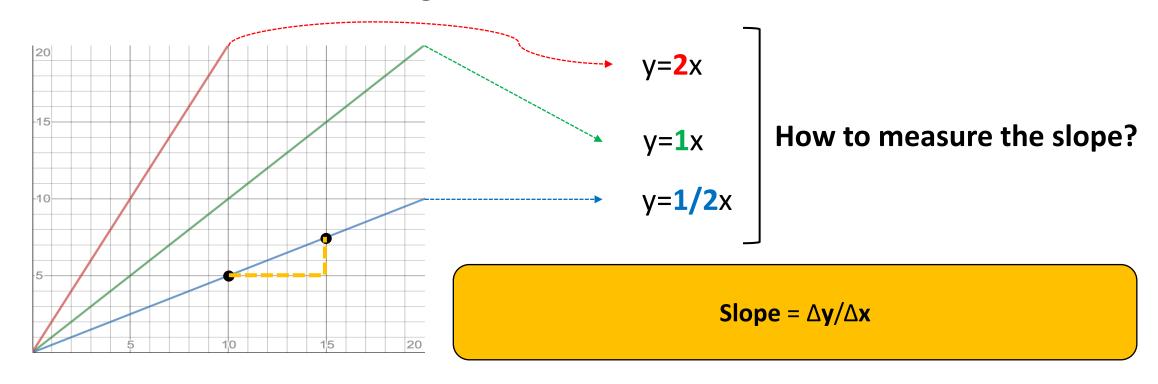
Here are the 3 functions together

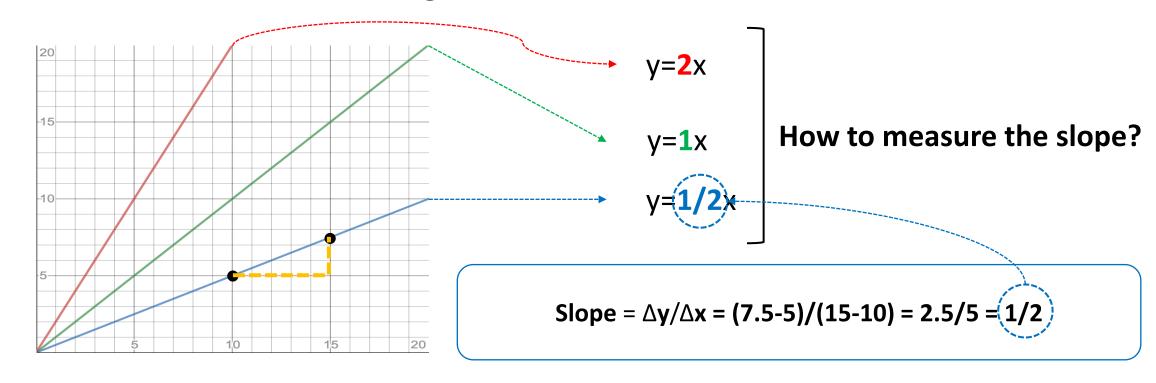


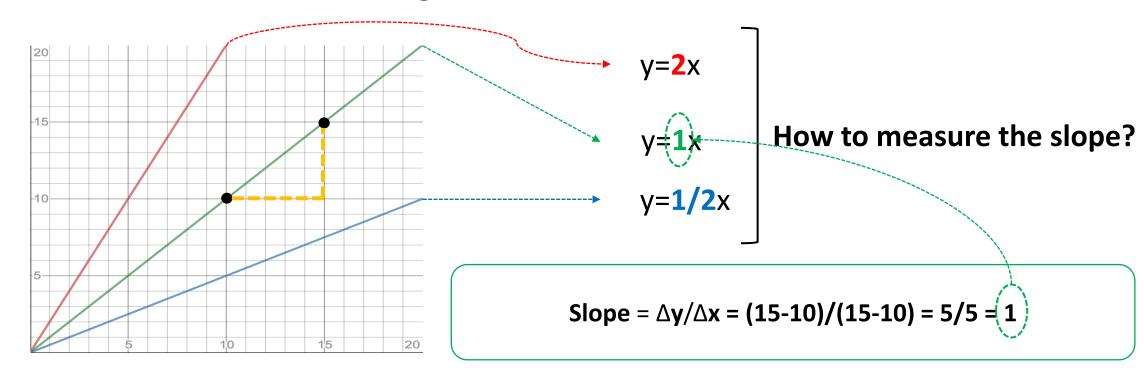
20

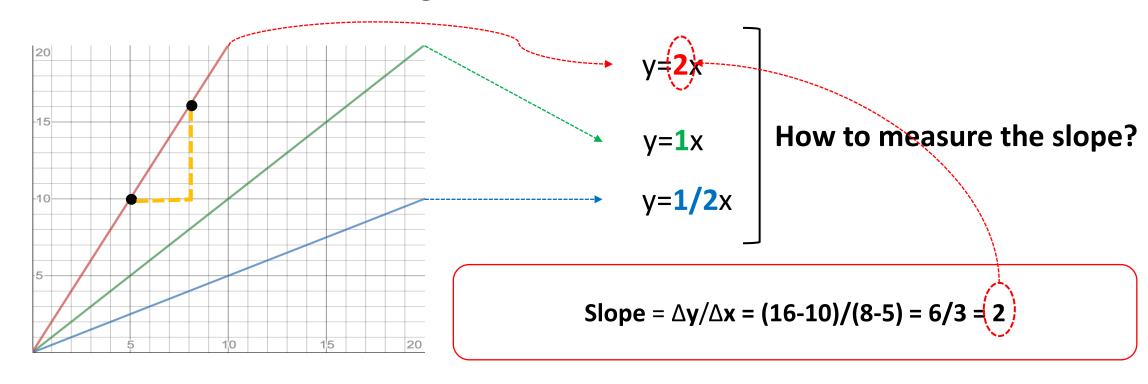
How to measure the slope?

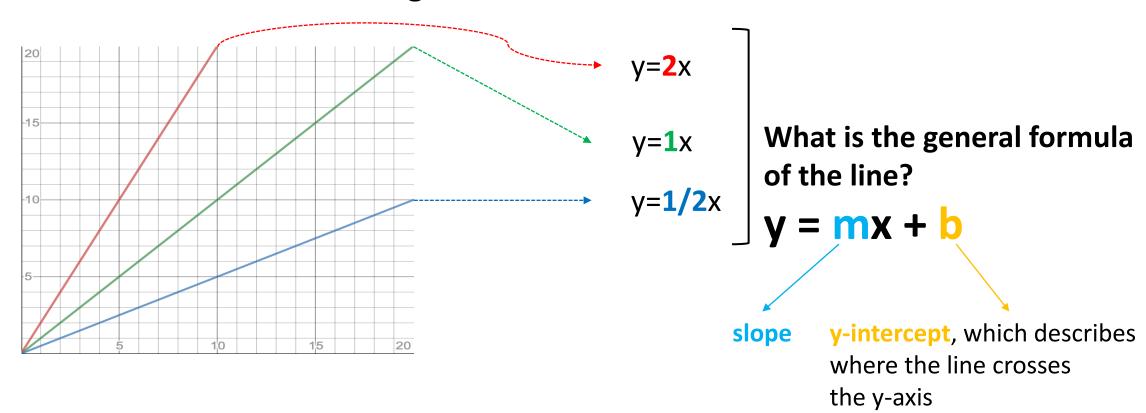
How much does a line increase in the vertical direction (i.e., y) for a given increase in the horizontal direction (i.e., x)?











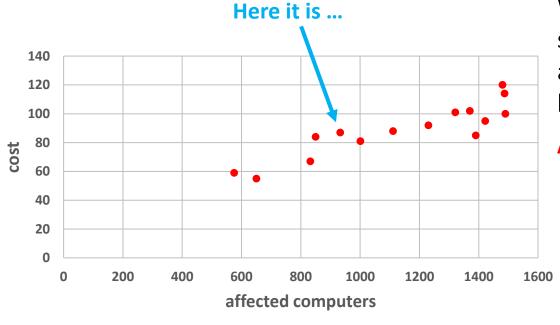
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Example

 You are given the "right answer" (i.e., cost of security incident) for each example (i.e., #affected computers) in the data

# computer	cost
575	59
650	55
832	67
850	84
933	87
1001	81
1111	88
1230	92
1321	101
1370	102
1390	85
1422	95
1480	120
1487	114
1490	100



What is the cost of the security incident where there are **933** computers that have been affected?

Answer: 87

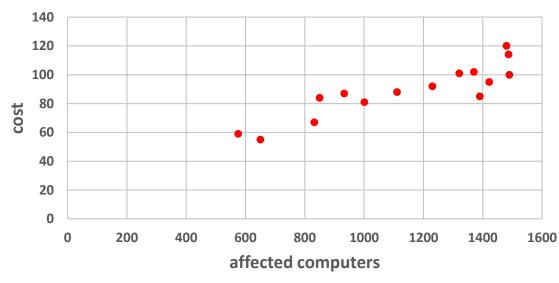
Dataset

Scatter Plot

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What is the cost of the security incident where there are **900** computers that have been affected?

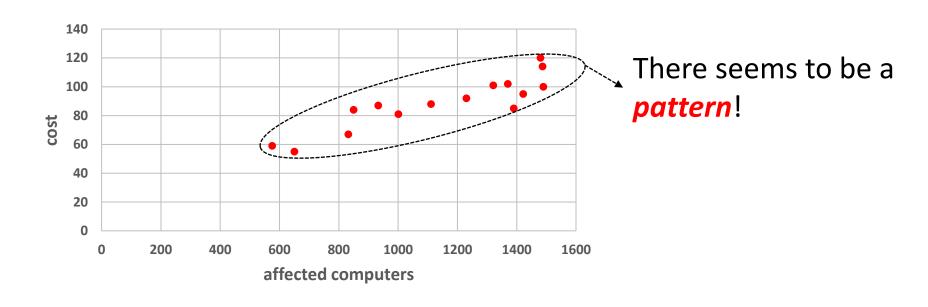
Answer: NOT in the dataset!

But we can *predict* it using machine learning

?

- How to start?
 - Let us visualize the data

# computer (x)	cost (y)
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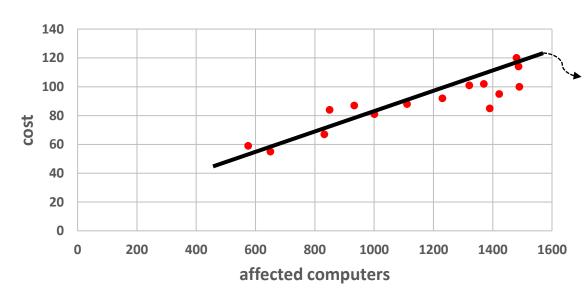


73

Dataset Scatter Plot

- How to start?
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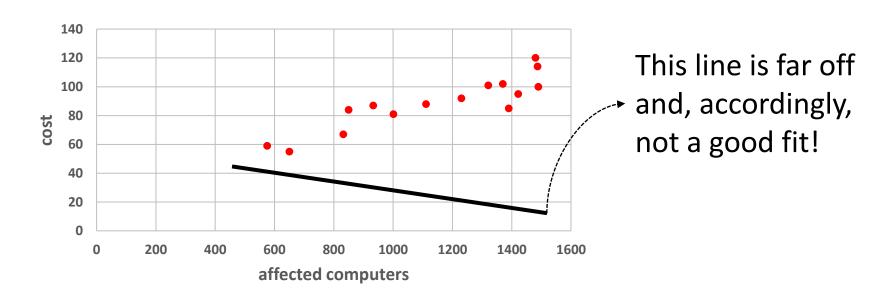


Which could be potentially captured (or fit) through a *line*

Dataset

- How to start?
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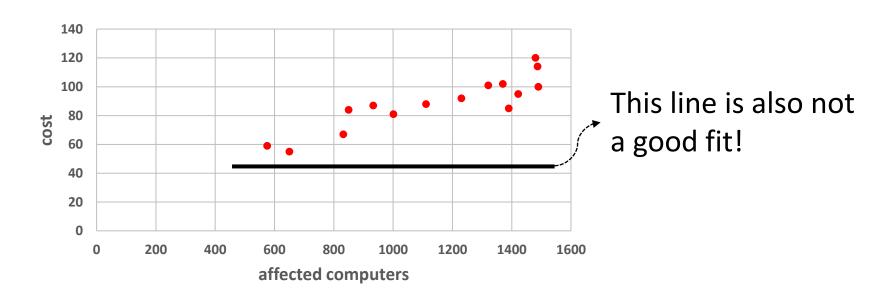
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Dataset Scatter Plot 75

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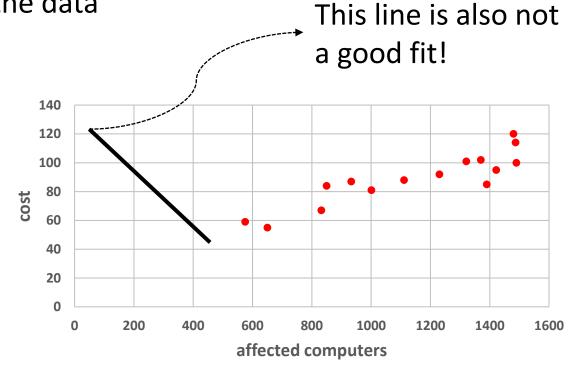
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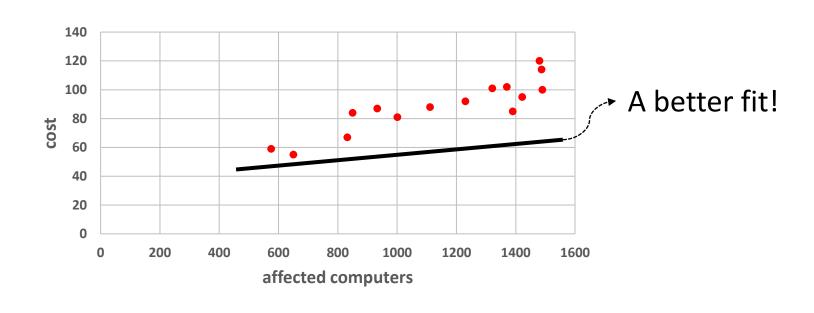
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Dataset Scatter Plot 77

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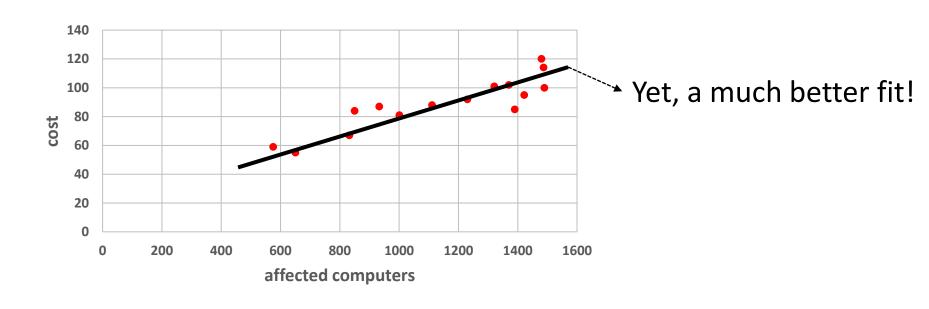
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1490	100



Dataset

- How to start?
 - Let us visualize the data

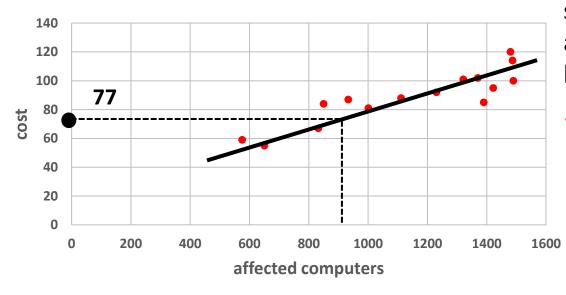
# computer (x)	cost (y)
575	59
650	55
832	67
850	84
933	87
1001	81
1111	88
1230	92
1321	101
1370	102
1390	85
1422	95
1480	120
1487	114
1490	100



Dataset

 Assume there is a way for us to find and fit this line around the given dataset, how can we use it to predict an unseen data point?

# computer (x)	cost (y)
575	59
650	55
832	67
850	84
933	87
1001	81
1111	88
1230	92
1321	101
1370	102
1390	85
1422	95
1480	120
1487	114
1490	100



What will be the cost of the security incident where there are **900** computers that have been affected?

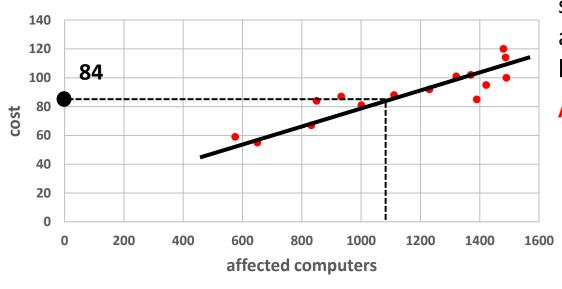
80

Answer: 77

Dataset Scatter Plot

 Assume there is a way for us to find and fit this line around the given dataset, how can we use it to predict an unseen data point?

# computer (x)	cost (y)
575	59
650	55
832	67
850	84
933	87
1001	81
1111	88
1230	92
1321	101
1370	102
1390	85
1422	95
1480	120
1487	114
1490	100

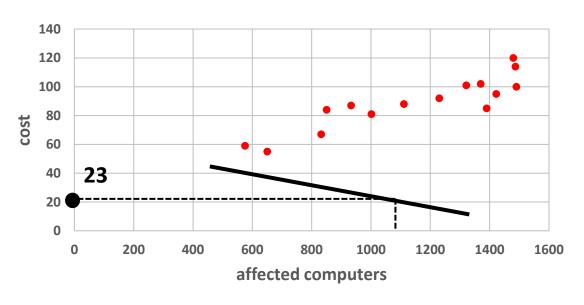


What will be the cost of the security incident where there are **1090** computers that have been affected?

Answer: 84

Dataset

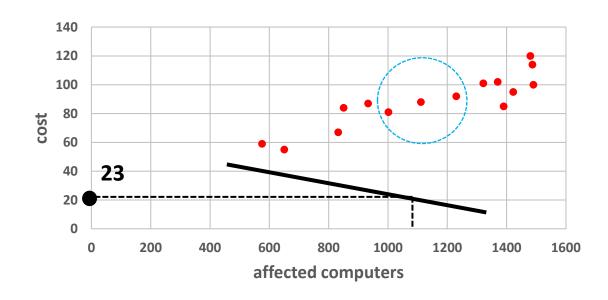
The better the fit, the higher the accuracy of prediction



What will be the cost of the security incident where there are **1090** computers that have been affected?

Answer: 23

The better the fit, the higher the accuracy of your predictions

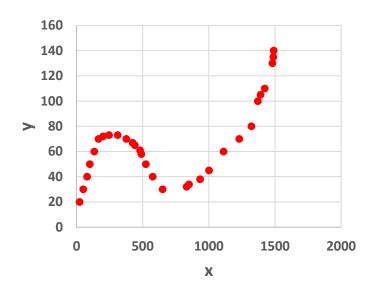


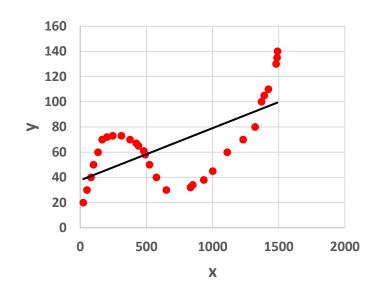
The prediction given by this line is unreasonable

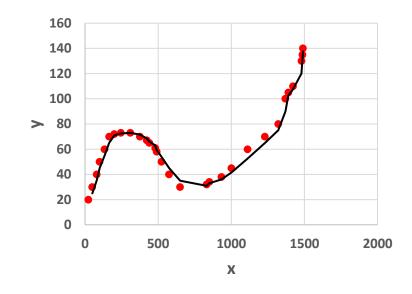
The whole idea becomes, how to fit a good function (here a *line*) which is more generally referred to as a <u>model</u>

Mathematical Models

• Of course, a model needs not be a line!







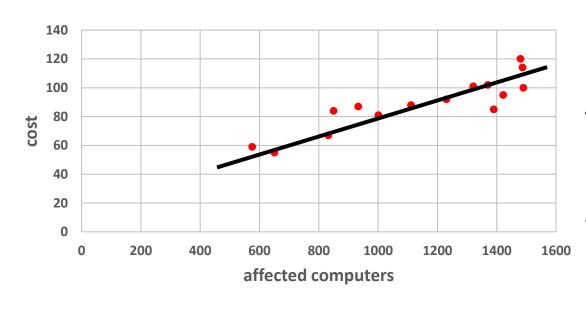
Consider this data

Line is not a good fit

This model is a better fit

 How to fit a mathematical model, after which you can predict any target value (e.g., cost) given a <u>feature</u> value (e.g., # computers)?

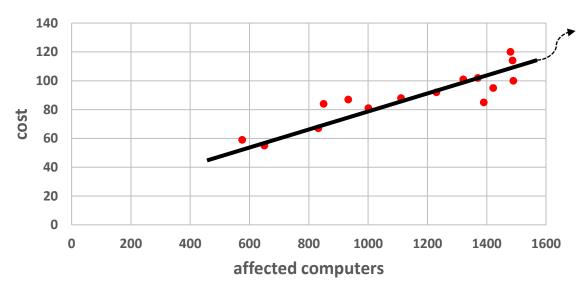
# computer (x)	cost (y)
575	59
650	55
832	67
850	84
933	87
1001	81
1111	88
1230	92
1321	101
1370	102
1390	85
1422	95
1480	120
1487	114
1490	100



In other words, how to *learn* a model (e.g., a line) given a dataset?

- How do we represent a line in mathematics?
 - y = mx + b

# computer (x)	cost (y)
575	59
650	55
832	67
850	84
933	87
1001	81
1111	88
1230	92
1321	101
1370	102
1390	85
1422	95
1480	120
1487	114
1490	100



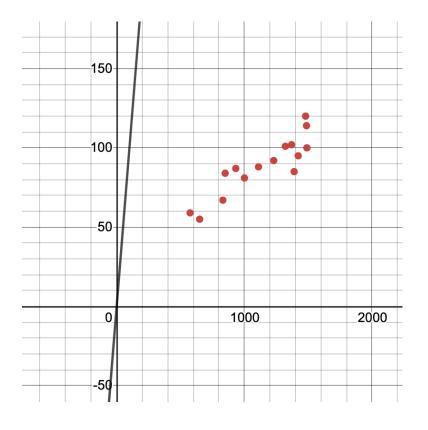
For this best fitting line:

$$m = 0.052$$

$$b = 29.21$$

But, how can we find (or *learn*) *m* and *b*?

- Let us try different random values of *m* and *b*:
 - **m** = 1 and **b** = 0

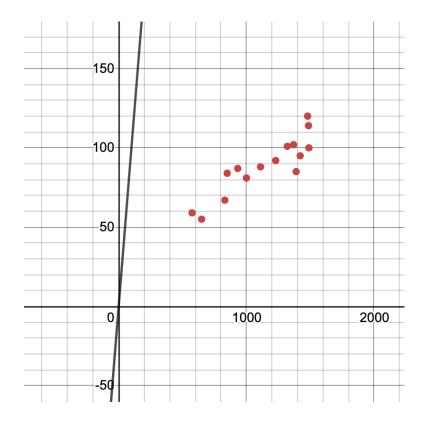


# computer (x)	Actual cost (y)	Predicted cost (y')
575	59	575
650	55	650
832	67	832
850	84	850
933	87	933
1001	81	1001
1111	88	1111
1230	92	1230
1321	101	1321
1370	102	1370
1390	85	1390
1422	95	1422
1480	120	1480
1487	114	1487
1490	100	1490

$$y' = mx + b$$

= 1*575 + 0
= 575

- Let us try different random values of *m* and *b*:
 - **m** = 1 and **b** = 0



# computer (x)	Actual cost (y)	Predicted cost (y')	
575	59	575	
650	55	650	
832	67	832	
850	84	850	
933	87	933	
1001	81	1001	
1111	88	1111	
1230	92	1230	
1321	101	1321	
1370	102	1370	
1390	85	1390	
1422	95	1422	
1480	120	1480	
1487	114	1487	
1490	100	1490	

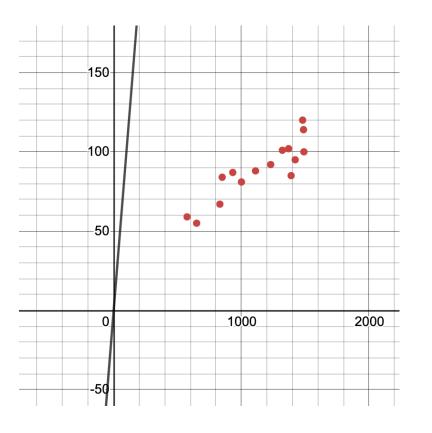
$$y' = mx + b$$

= 1*1001 + 0
= 1001

How close are these predicted cost to the actual ones?

• Let us try different random values of *m* and *b*:

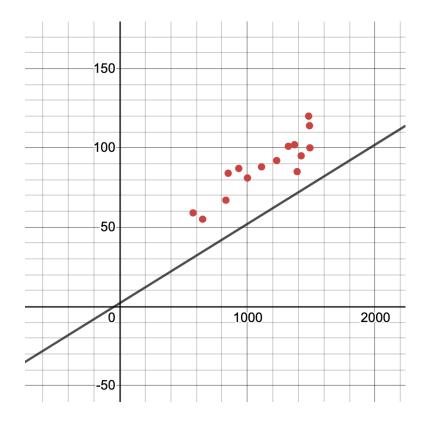
• **m** = 1 and **b** = 0



	Predicted – Actual (y' – y)	Predicted cost (y')	Actual cost (y)	# computer (x)
	516	575	59	575
	595	650	55	650
	765	832	67	832
	766	850	84	850
	846	933	87	933
	920	1001	81	1001
	1023	1111	88	1111
→ Sum = 15812	1138	1230	92	1230
	1220	1321	101	1321
▋	1268	1370	102	1370
	1305	1390	85	1390
∑ = 15812	1327	1422	95	1422
	1360	1480	120	1480
	1373	1487	114	1487
	1390	1490	100	1490

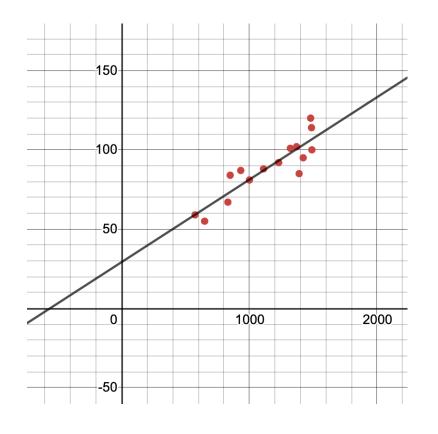
The **Error**

- Let us try different random values of *m* and *b*:
 - m = 0.05 and b = 2



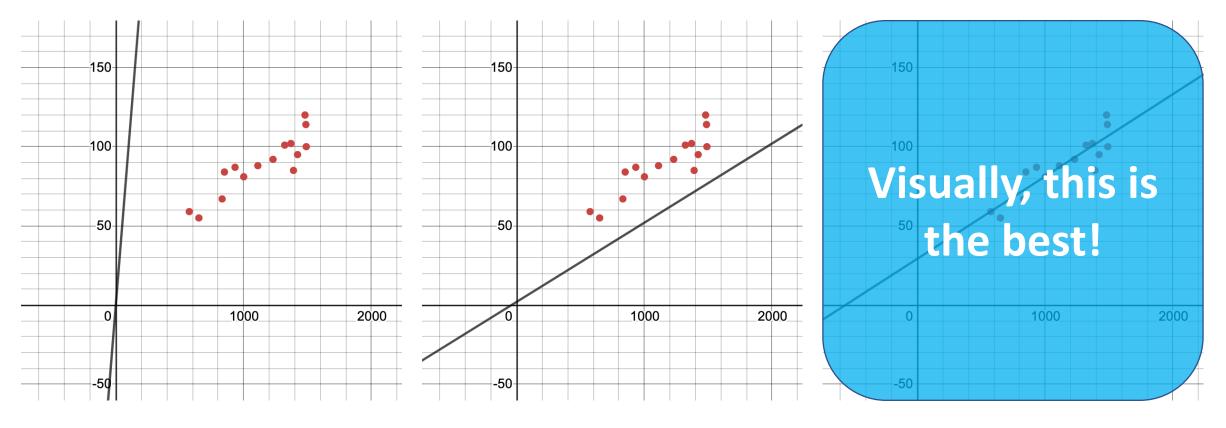
# computer (x)	Actual cost (y)	Predicted cost (y')	Predicted – Actual (y' – y)	
575	59	30.75	-28.25	
650	55	34.5	-20.5	
832	67	43.6	-23.4	
850	84	44.5	-39.5	
933	87	48.65	-38.35	_
1001	81	52.05	-28.95	Error:
1111	88	57.55	-30.45	
1230	92	63.5	-28.5	$\rightarrow \Sigma = -442.9$
1321	101	68.05	-32.95] -
1370	102	70.5	-31.5	
1390	85	71.5	-13.5	
1422	95	73.1	-21.9	
1480	120	76	-44	
1487	114	76.35	-37.65	
1490	100	76.5	-23.5	

- Let us try different random values of *m* and *b*:
 - m = 0.052 and b = 29.21



# computer (x)	Actual cost (y)	Predicted cost (y')	Predicted – Actual (y' – y)	
575	59	59.11	0.11	
650	55	63.01	8.01	
832	67	72.474	5.474	
850	84	73.41	-10.59	
933	87	77.726	-9.274	_
1001	81	81.262	0.262	Error:
1111	88	86.982	-1.018	
1230	92	93.17	1.17	$\rightarrow \Sigma = -0.466$
1321	101	97.902	-3.098	_
1370	102	100.45	-1.55	
1390	85	101.49	16.49	
1422	95	103.154	8.154	
1480	120	106.17	-13.83	
1487	114	106.534	-7.466	
1490	100	106.69	6.69	

Let us observe the three options besides each other



m= 1 and**b**= 0

m = 0.05 and b = 2

m = 0.052 and b = 29.21

• Let us compare their errors

Let us compare their errors

$$m = 1 and b = 0$$

$$m = 1$$
 and $b = 0$ $m = 0.05$ and $b = 2$ $m = 0.052$ and $b = 29.21$

# computer (x)	Actual cost (y)	Predicted cost (y')	(Predicted – Actual) ² (y' – y) ²	Predicted cost (y')	(Predicted – Actual) ² (y' – y) ²	Predicted cost (y')	(Predicted – Actual) ² (y' – y) ²
575	59	59.11	266256	30.75	798.0625	59.11	0.0121
650	55	63.01	354025	34.5	420.25	63.01	64.1601
832	67	72.474	585225	43.6	547.56	72.474	29.964676
850	84	73.41	586756	44.5	1560.25	73.41	112.1481
933	87	77.726	715716	48.65	1470.7225	77.726	86.007076
1001	81	81.262	846400	52.05	838.1025	81.262	0.068644
1111	88	86.982	1046529	57.55	927.2025	86.982	1.036324
1230	92	93.17	1295044	63.5	812.25	93.17	1.3689
1321	101	97.902	1488400	68.05	1085.7025	97.902	9.597604
1370	102	100.45	1607824	70.5	992.25	100.45	2.4025
1390	85	101.49	1703025	71.5	182.25	101.49	271.9201
1422	95	103.154	1760929	73.1	479.61	103.154	66.487716
1480	120	106.17	1849600	76	1936	106.17	191.2689
1487	114	106.534	1885129	76.35	1417.5225	106.534	55.741156
1490	100	106.69	1932100	76.5	552.25	106.69	44.7561

SQUARED ERRORS: **∑** = **17922958**

 $\Sigma = 14019.9$





Recap

- What is the idea?
 - start with a generic model or a hypothesis (e.g., a line),
 - then keep varying its paramters (i.e., *m* and *b* for the line) until you get the *minimum squared error*
 - This process is called *learning*
 - And an algorithm that can be used to vary the paramters to locate the minimum squared error is called gradient descent
 - Once you learn a model, you can use it to predict unseen values!

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