

# Least Squares Approximation

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# Approximation

- Solving inconsistent systems of equations

$$x_1 + x_2 = 2$$

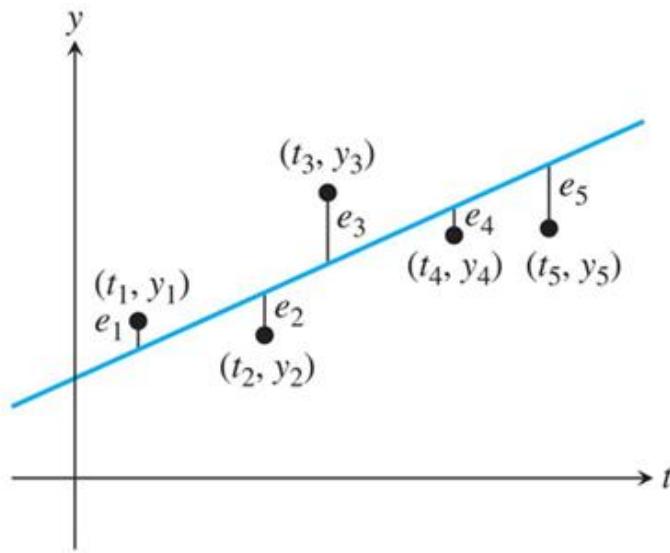
$$x_1 - x_2 = 1$$

$$x_1 + x_2 = 3$$

- No solution
- Find the “closest” x instead

# Least squares approximation

- Fitting model to data



linear model  
 $y = at + b$

$$\begin{aligned}y_1 &= at_1 + b \\y_2 &= at_2 + b \\y_3 &= at_3 + b \\y_4 &= at_4 + b \\y_5 &= at_5 + b\end{aligned}$$

Find  $a, b$  such that  
 $e_1^2 + e_2^2 + e_3^2 + e_4^2 + e_5^2$   
is minimized!

- Seek to locate the specific instance of the model that best fits the data points

# Today

- Normal equations for least squares
  - Solving an inconsistent system
  - Fitting data
- A survey of models

# An inconsistent system

$$x_1 + x_2 = 2$$

$$x_1 - x_2 = 1$$

$$x_1 + x_2 = 3$$

- The matrix form ( $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ ):

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Or

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

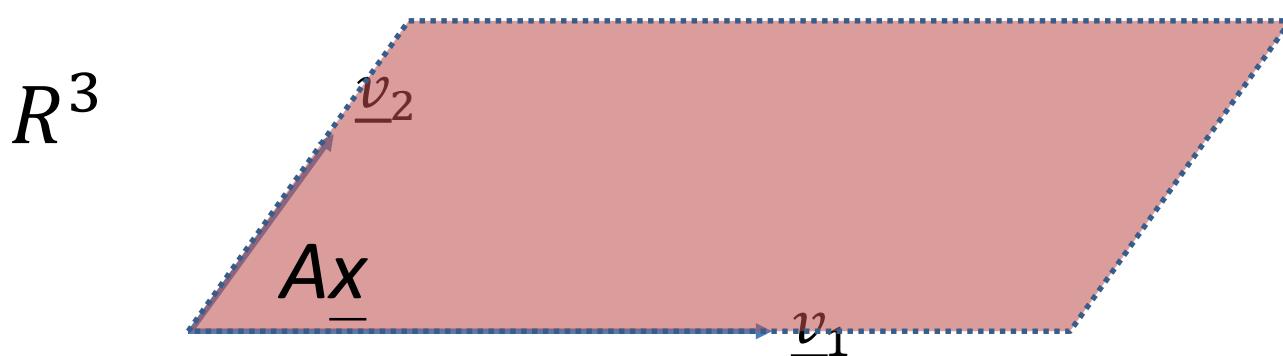
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underline{v}_1$                      $\underline{v}_2$                      $\underline{b}$

- Any  $m \times n$  system  $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$  can be viewed as a vector equation.

$$x_1 \underline{v}_1 + x_2 \underline{v}_2 + \cdots + x_n \underline{v}_n = \underline{b}$$

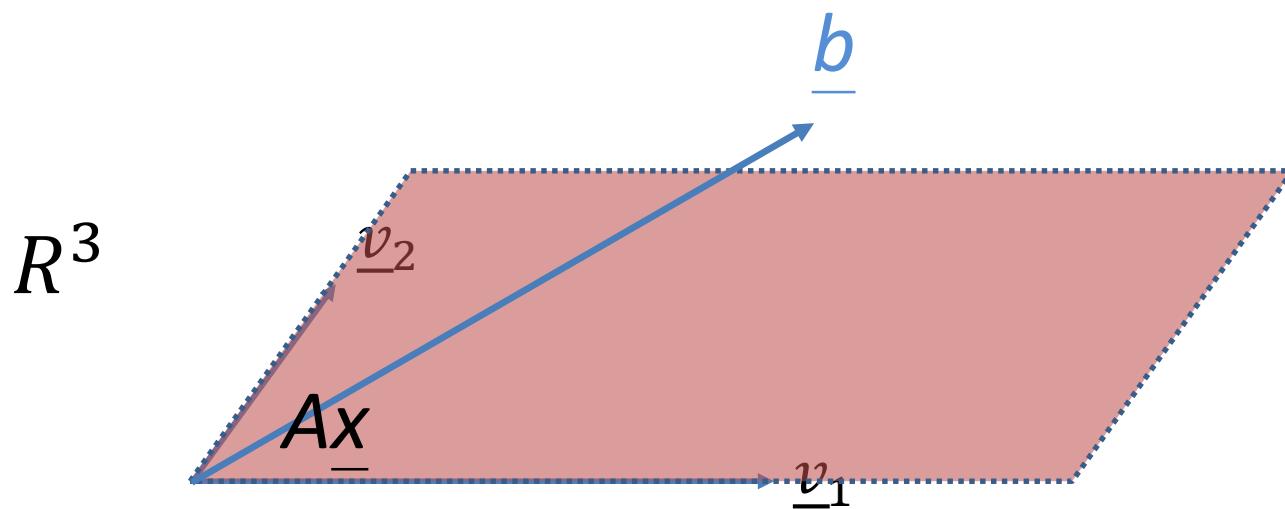
- $\underline{b}$  is a linear combination of the columns  $v_i$  of  $A$ , with coefficients  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .
- Has a solution if  $\underline{b}$  lies on the plane.



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$v_1$                      $v_2$                      $b$

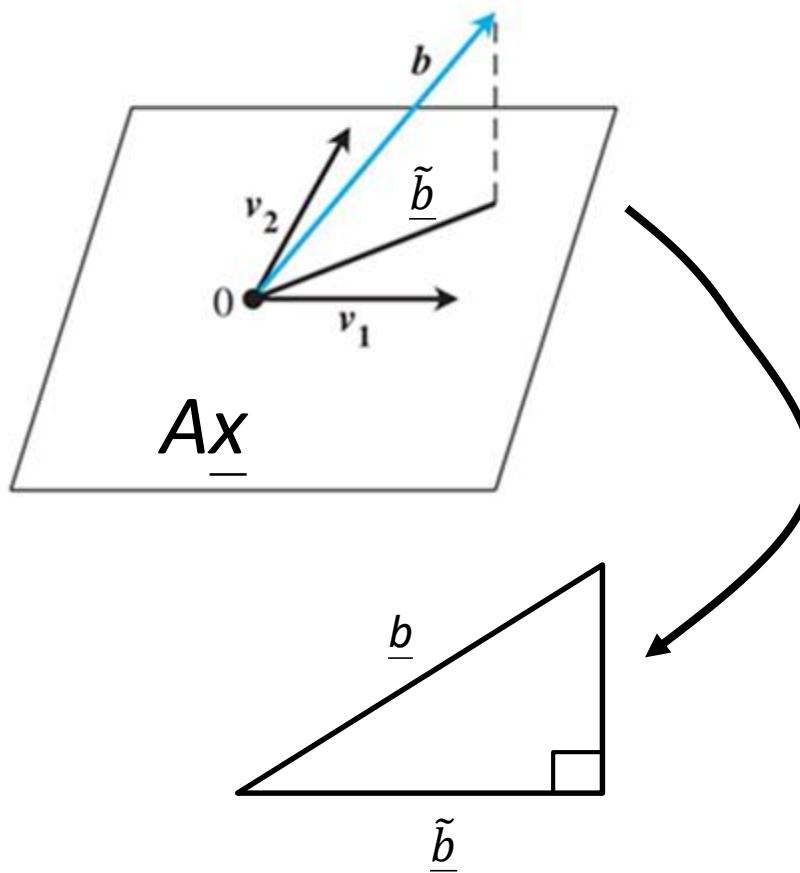
- What if not?
  - No solution.
  - Find “closest” instead.
  - Least squares solution?



$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underline{v}_1$                      $\underline{v}_2$                      $\underline{b}$

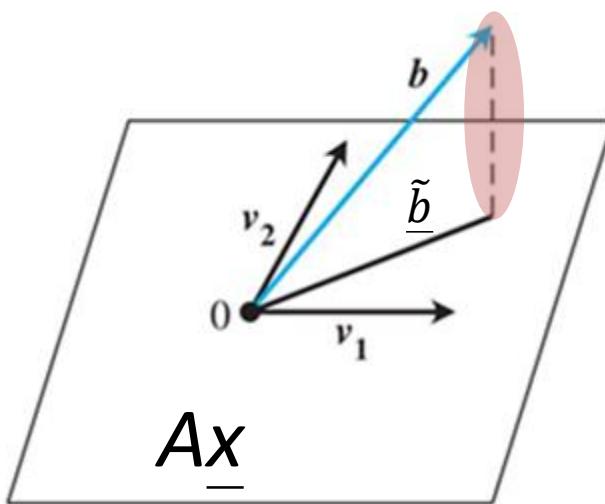
- Find a point in the plane  $\underline{Ax}$  closest to  $\underline{b}$



$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underline{v}_1$                      $\underline{v}_2$                      $\underline{b}$

- Find a point in the plane  $A\underline{x}$  closest to  $\underline{b}$



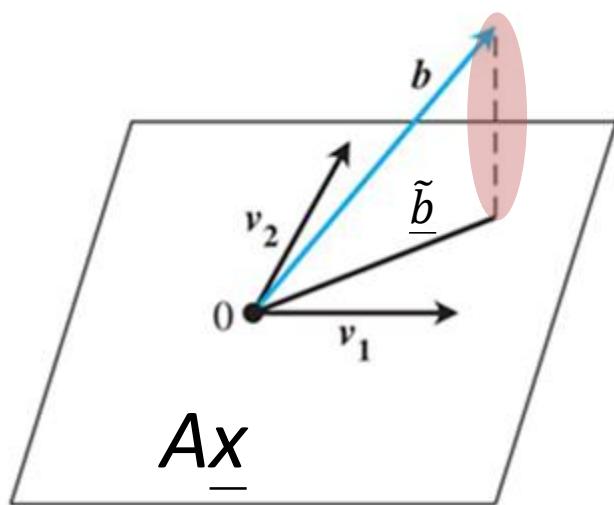
closest solution

- $\underline{\tilde{b}} = A\tilde{\underline{x}}$
- Residual vector  $\underline{b} - \underline{\tilde{b}} = \underline{b} - A\tilde{\underline{x}}$

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underline{v}_1$                      $\underline{v}_2$                      $\underline{b}$

- Find a point in the plane  $A\underline{x}$  closest to  $\underline{b}$



- $(\underline{b} - A\tilde{\underline{x}}) \perp A\underline{x}$
- $(A\underline{x})^T (\underline{b} - A\tilde{\underline{x}}) = 0$  for all  $\underline{x}$

- $(A\underline{x})^T (b - A\tilde{\underline{x}}) = 0$
- $\underline{x}^T A^T (b - A\tilde{\underline{x}}) = 0$
- $A^T (b - A\tilde{\underline{x}}) = 0$
- $A^T A \underline{\tilde{x}} = A^T b \rightarrow \text{The normal equations!}$
- $(A^T A) \underline{\tilde{x}} = (A^T b)$

The solution  $\underline{\tilde{x}}$  is the **least squares solution** of the system  $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ .

# Normal equations for least squares

Given an inconsistent system

$$\underset{m \times n}{A} \underline{x} = \underset{m \times 1}{b},$$

solve

$$\underset{n \times n}{(A^T A)} \tilde{\underline{x}} = \underset{n \times 1}{A^T b}$$

for the least squares solution  $\tilde{\underline{x}}$  that minimizes the Euclidean length of the residual  $\underline{r} = \underline{b} - A\tilde{\underline{x}}$ .

$$(A^T A) \tilde{\underline{x}} = A^T \underline{b}$$

# Example

- Find the least squares solution of the system

$$x_1 + x_2 = 2$$

$$x_1 - x_2 = 1$$

$$x_1 + x_2 = 3$$

- $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, b = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

- $A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

- $A^T b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$

- Solve  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_1 \\ \tilde{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$  Get  $\tilde{\underline{x}} = (7/4, 3/4)$

- Substituting back to the system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{7}{4} \\ \frac{3}{4} \\ \frac{4}{4} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 \\ 1 \\ 2.5 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$A$        $\tilde{x}$        $\tilde{b}$        $b$

- The residual

$$\underline{r} = \underline{b} - \tilde{\underline{b}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 \\ 1 \\ 2.5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 \\ 0.0 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Need to measure the residual size

# Popular methods

- Euclidean length (2-norm)

$$\|\underline{r}\|_2 = \sqrt{r_1^2 + \cdots + r_m^2}$$

- Squared error

$$SE = r_1^2 + \cdots + r_m^2$$

- Root mean squared error

$$RMSE = \sqrt{SE/m} = \sqrt{(r_1^2 + \cdots + r_m^2)/m}$$

$$\underline{r} = \underline{b} - \tilde{\underline{b}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 \\ 1 \\ 2.5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 \\ 0.0 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Euclidean length (2-norm)

$$\|\underline{r}\|_2 = \sqrt{-0.5^2 + 0^2 + 0.5^2}$$

- Squared error

$$SE = -0.5^2 + 0^2 + 0.5^2$$

- Root mean squared error

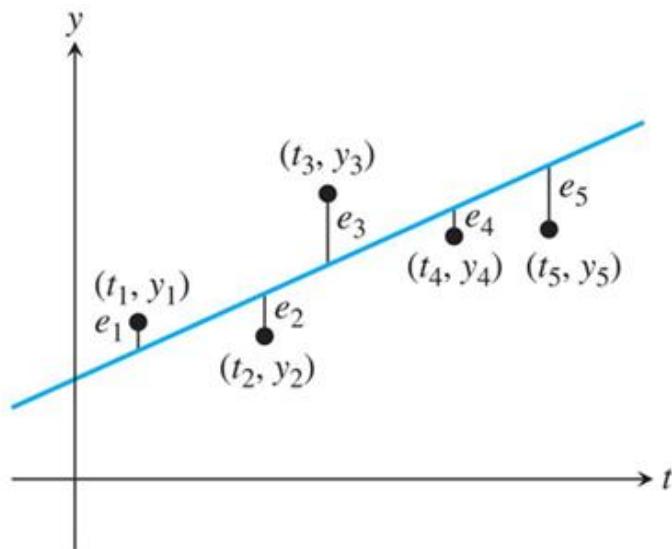
$$RMSE = \sqrt{SE/m} = \sqrt{(-0.5^2 + 0^2 + 0.5^2)/3}$$

# Today

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  - Solving an inconsistent system
  - Fitting data
- A survey of models

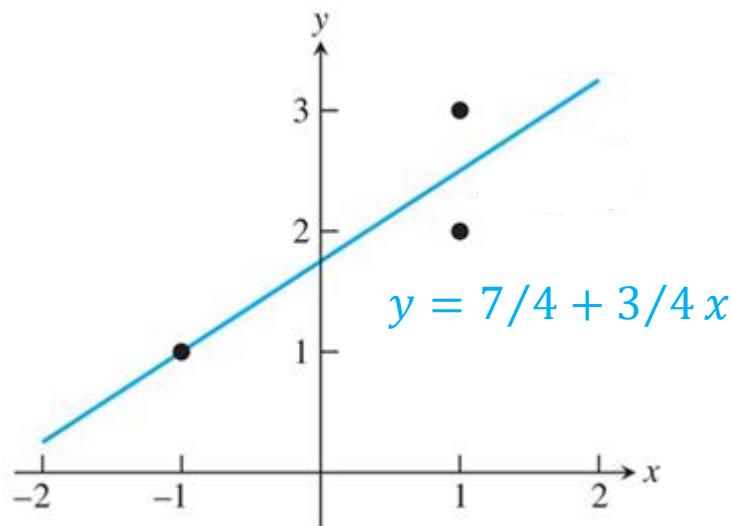
# Fitting models to data

- Find the model parameters that minimize the residual of the fit



# Example 1

- Find the line that best fits  $(1, 2), (-1, 1), (1, 3)$



**Model:**  $y = c_1 + c_2 x$

**Model parameters:**  $c_1, c_2$

$$c_1 + c_2(1) = 2$$

$$c_1 + c_2(-1) = 1$$

$$c_1 + c_2(1) = 3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

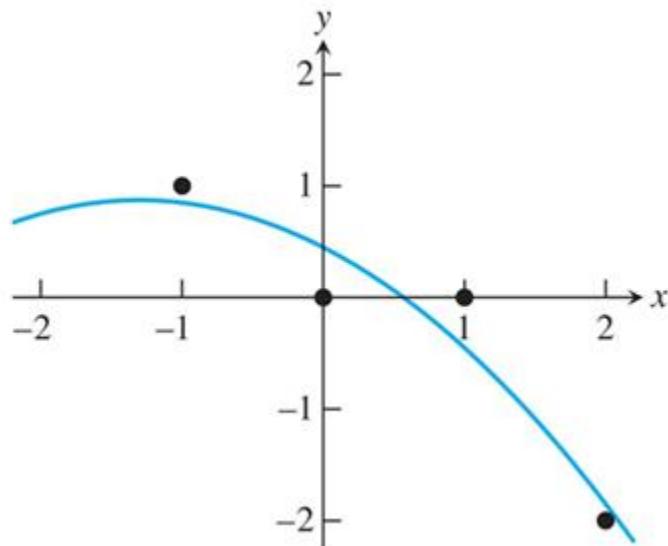
$$(c_1, c_2) = (7/4, 3/4)$$

# Example 2

- Find the parabola that best fits  $(-1, 1), (0, 0), (1, 0), (2, -2)$

**Model:**  $y = c_1 + c_2x + c_3x^2$

**Model parameters:**  $c_1, c_2, c_3$



$$c_1 + c_2(-1) + c_3(-1)^2 = 1$$

$$c_1 + c_2(0) + c_3(0)^2 = 0$$

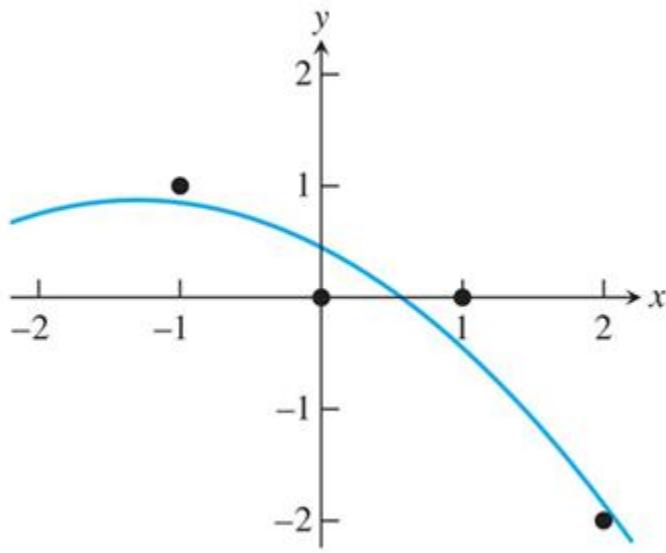
$$c_1 + c_2(1) + c_3(1)^2 = 0$$

$$c_1 + c_2(2) + c_3(2)^2 = -2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example 2 (cont.)

- Find the parabola that best fits  $(-1, 1), (0, 0), (1, 0), (2, -2)$



Compute the normal equations:

$$A^T A \tilde{x} = A^T b$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 6 & 8 \\ 6 & 8 & 18 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -5 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Get  $c_1 = 0.45$   
 $c_2 = -0.65$   
 $c_3 = -0.25$

$$y = 0.45 - 0.65x - 0.25x^2$$

# Fitting data by least squares

Given a set of  $m$  data points  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_m, y_m)$

1. Choose a model. Example:  $y = c_1 + c_2x$
2. Force the model to fit the data
  - Let the unknown variables represent the model parameters
3. Solve the normal equations
  - $A^T A \tilde{\underline{c}} = A^T \underline{b}$

# Today

- Normal equations for least squares
  - Solving an inconsistent system
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- A survey of models

# Previously seen models

- Linear:  $y = c_1 + c_2x$
- Parabola:  $y = c_1 + c_2x + c_3x^2$
- Others?

# Periodic models

- Periodic data
- Example

time of day	$t$	temp (C)
12 mid.	0	-2.2
3 am	$\frac{1}{8}$	-2.8
6 am	$\frac{1}{4}$	-6.1
9 am	$\frac{3}{8}$	-3.9
12 noon	$\frac{1}{2}$	0.0
3 pm	$\frac{5}{8}$	1.1
6 pm	$\frac{3}{4}$	-0.6
9 pm	$\frac{7}{8}$	-1.1

**Model:**

$$y = c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi t + c_3 \sin 2\pi t$$

# Model:

$$y = c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi t + c_3 \sin 2\pi t$$

- Periodic data
- Example

time of day	$t$	temp (C)
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12 noon	$\frac{1}{2}$	0.0
3 pm	$\frac{5}{8}$	1.1
6 pm	$\frac{3}{4}$	-0.6
9 pm	$\frac{7}{8}$	-1.1

$$c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi(0) + c_3 \sin 2\pi(0) = -2.2$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi\left(\frac{1}{8}\right) + c_3 \sin 2\pi\left(\frac{1}{8}\right) = -2.8$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + c_3 \sin 2\pi\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = -6.1$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi\left(\frac{3}{8}\right) + c_3 \sin 2\pi\left(\frac{3}{8}\right) = -3.9$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + c_3 \sin 2\pi\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 0.0$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi\left(\frac{5}{8}\right) + c_3 \sin 2\pi\left(\frac{5}{8}\right) = 1.1$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) + c_3 \sin 2\pi\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) = -0.6$$

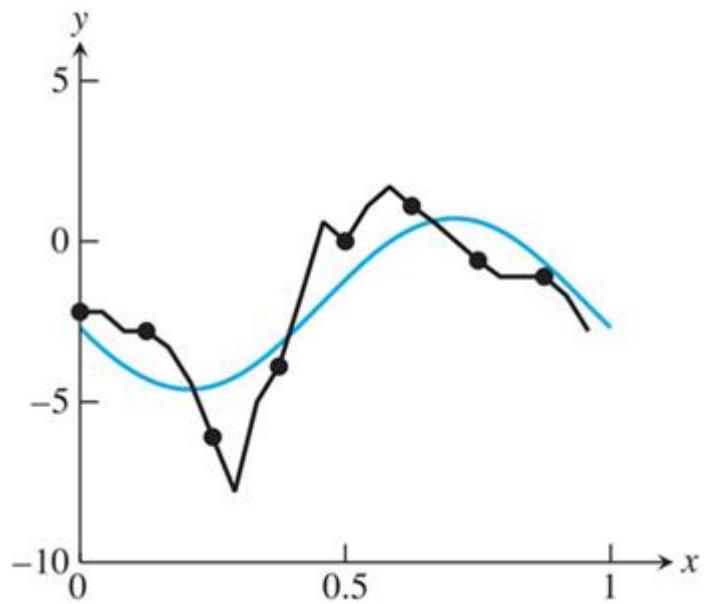
$$c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi\left(\frac{7}{8}\right) + c_3 \sin 2\pi\left(\frac{7}{8}\right) = -1.1$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cos 0 & \sin 0 \\ 1 & \cos \frac{\pi}{4} & \sin \frac{\pi}{4} \\ 1 & \cos \frac{\pi}{2} & \sin \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 1 & \cos \frac{3\pi}{4} & \sin \frac{3\pi}{4} \\ 1 & \cos \pi & \sin \pi \\ 1 & \cos \frac{5\pi}{4} & \sin \frac{5\pi}{4} \\ 1 & \cos \frac{3\pi}{2} & \sin \frac{3\pi}{2} \\ 1 & \cos \frac{7\pi}{4} & \sin \frac{7\pi}{4} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & \sqrt{2}/2 & \sqrt{2}/2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -\sqrt{2}/2 & \sqrt{2}/2 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -\sqrt{2}/2 & -\sqrt{2}/2 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & \sqrt{2}/2 & -\sqrt{2}/2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} -2.2 \\ -2.8 \\ -6.1 \\ -3.9 \\ 0.0 \\ 1.1 \\ -0.6 \\ -1.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

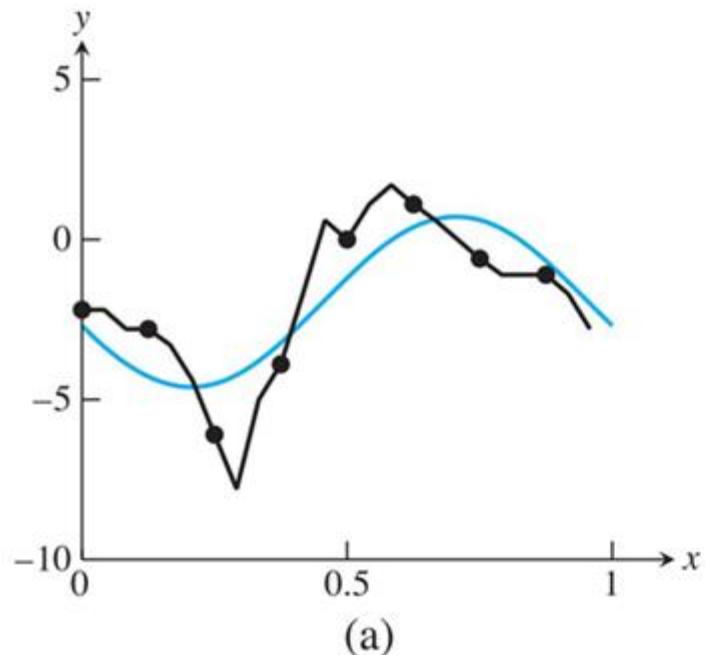
The normal equations  $A^T A c = A^T b$  are

$$\begin{bmatrix} 8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -15.6 \\ -2.9778 \\ -10.2376 \end{bmatrix}$$

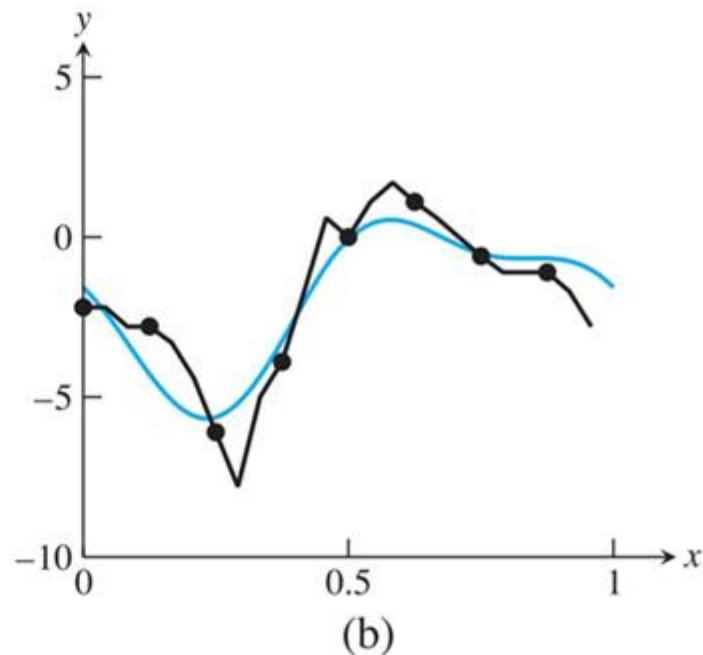
- $c_1 = -1.95, c_2 = -0.7445, c_3 = -2.5594$
- $y = -1.95 - 0.7445\cos 2\pi t - 2.5594\sin 2\pi t$



- $c_1 = -1.95, c_2 = -0.7445, c_3 = -2.5594$
- $y = -1.95 - 0.7445\cos 2\pi t - 2.5594\sin 2\pi t$



(a)



(b)

a)  $y = c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi t + c_3 \sin 2\pi t$

b)  $y = c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi t + c_3 \sin 2\pi t + c_4 \cos 4\pi t$

# Exponential model

- Exponential data
- Example

$t$ year	$y$ cars ( $\times 10^6$ )
1950	53.05
1955	73.04
1960	98.31
1965	139.78
1970	193.48
1975	260.20
1980	320.39

**Model:**  $y = c_1 e^{c_2 t}$



*Can it be directly fit by least squares?*

**No.**  $c_2$  does not appear *linearly* in the model equation.

# Data linearization

- Exponential model:  $y = c_1 e^{c_2 t}$
- Applying the natural logarithm!

$$\ln y = \ln(c_1 e^{c_2 t})$$

$$\ln y = \ln c_1 + \ln e^{c_2 t} = \ln c_1 + c_2 t$$

Let  $k = \ln c_1$

$$\ln y = k + c_2 t$$



# Exponential model

- Example

year	$y$ $\text{cars } (\times 10^6)$
1950	53.05
1955	73.04
1960	98.31
1965	139.78
1970	193.48
1975	260.20
1980	320.39

**Model:**  $y = c_1 e^{c_2 t}$      $t$ : since 1950

**Linearized Model:**  $\ln y = k + c_2 t$   
 $(k = \ln c_1)$

$$\ln(53.05) = k + c_2(1950-1950)$$

$$\ln(73.04) = k + c_2(1955-1950)$$

$$\ln(98.31) = k + c_2(1960-1950)$$

⋮ 2 unknown variables, 7 equations

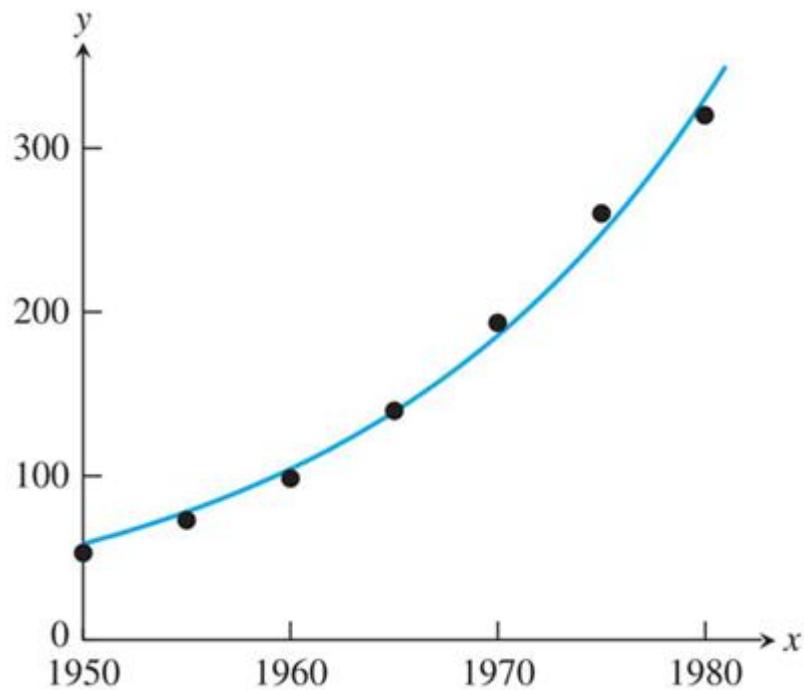
$$k = 3.9896, c_2 = 0.06152$$

$$k = \ln c_1 \Rightarrow c_1 = e^k = 54.03$$

$$y = 54.03e^{0.06152(t-1950)}$$

$$y = 54.03e^{0.06152(t-1950)}$$

$t$ year	$y$ cars ( $\times 10^6$ )
1950	53.05
1955	73.04
1960	98.31
1965	139.78
1970	193.48
1975	260.20
1980	320.39





- Model linearization changes the least squares problem!
- The original problem minimizes

$$(c_1 e^{c_2 t_1} - y_1)^2 + \dots + (c_1 e^{c_2 t_m} - y_m)^2$$

- The “linearized” problem minimizes

$$(\ln c_1 + c_2 t_1 - \ln y_1)^2 + \dots + (\ln c_1 + c_2 t_m - \ln y_m)^2$$

**Errors in “log space”**

# 程式練習

And, please upload your program on moodle.

Fit the monthly data for Japan 2003 oil consumption, shown in the following table, with the periodic model.

$$y = c_1 + c_2 \cos 2\pi t + c_3 \sin 2\pi t + c_4 \cos 4\pi t$$

1. report  $c_1, c_2, c_3$ , and  $c_4$
2. (optional) report RMSE

month	oil use (M bbl/day)
1	6.224
2	6.665
3	6.241
4	5.302
5	5.073
6	5.127
7	4.994
8	5.012
9	5.108
10	5.377
11	5.510
12	6.732

# 程式練習 optional

And, please upload your program on moodle.

- Download scrippsy.txt
  - a list of 50 numbers of atmospheric carbon dioxide (大氣二氧化碳), recorded at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, each May 15 of the years 1961 to 2010.
- Subtract the background level 279 ppm
- Fit the data to **an exponential model** and report the RMSE