

# Machine Learning

CMPT 726

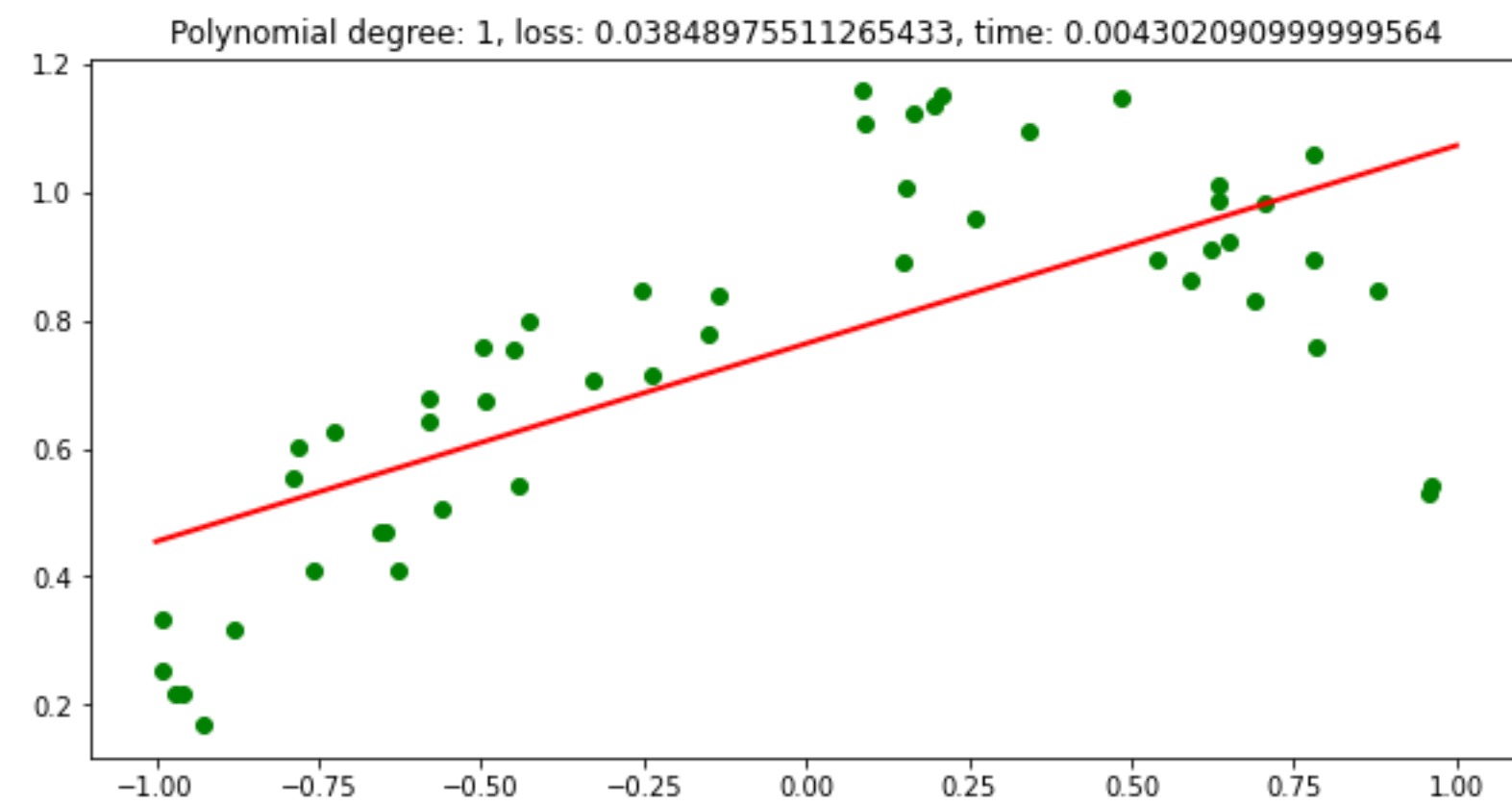
Mo Chen

SFU School of Computing Science

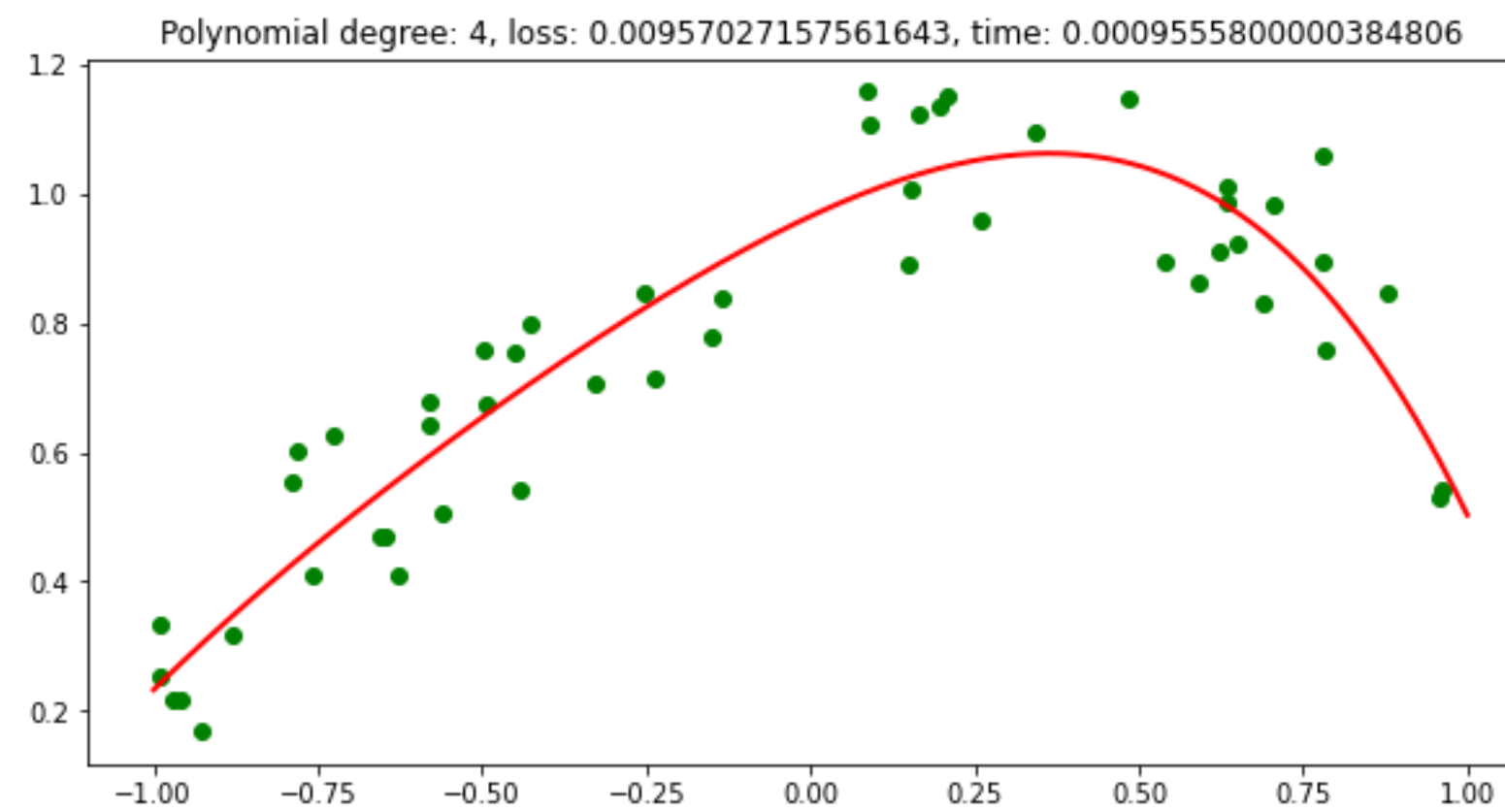
2025-10-01

# Linear Regression (cont'd)

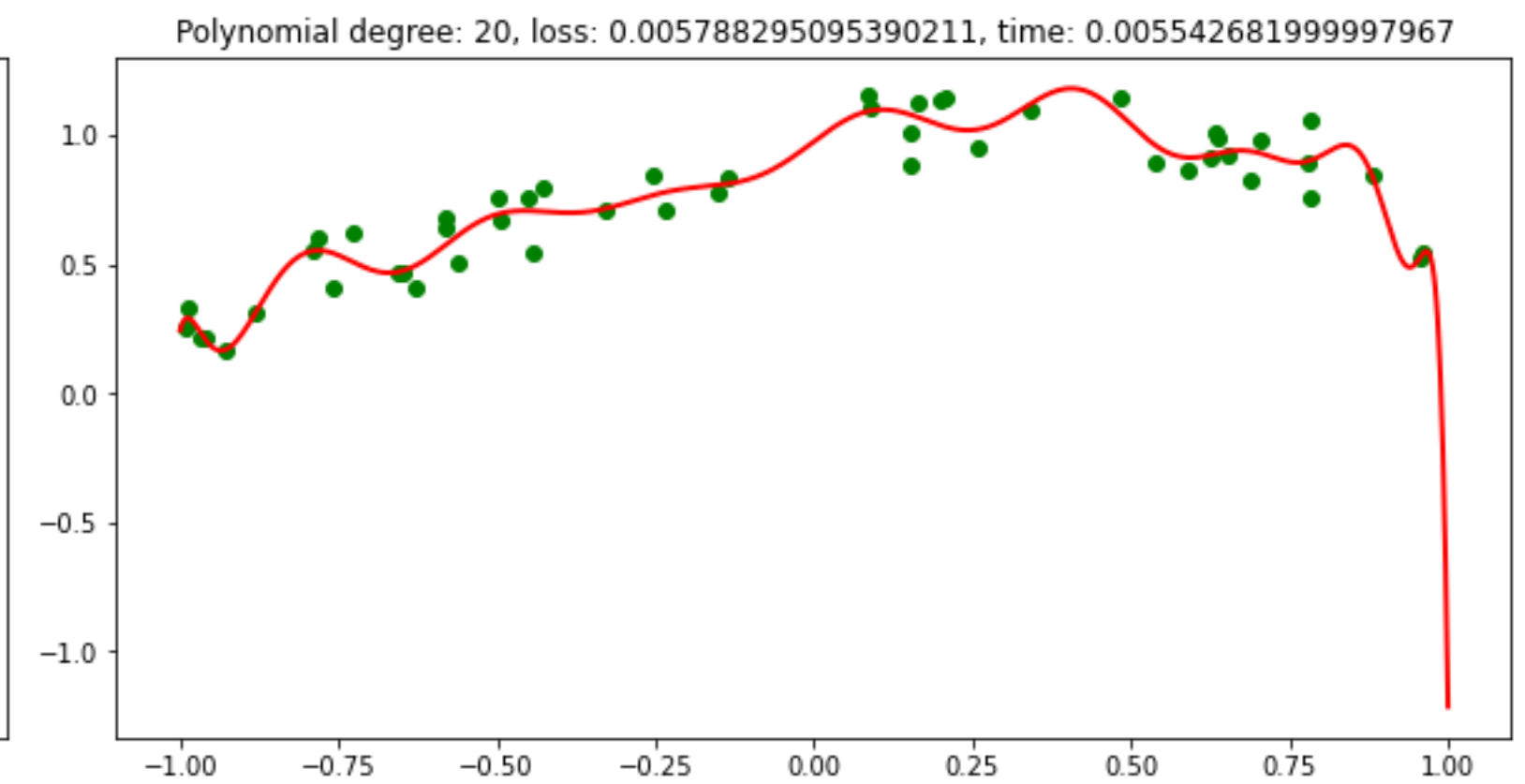
# Overfitting vs. Underfitting



Underfitting

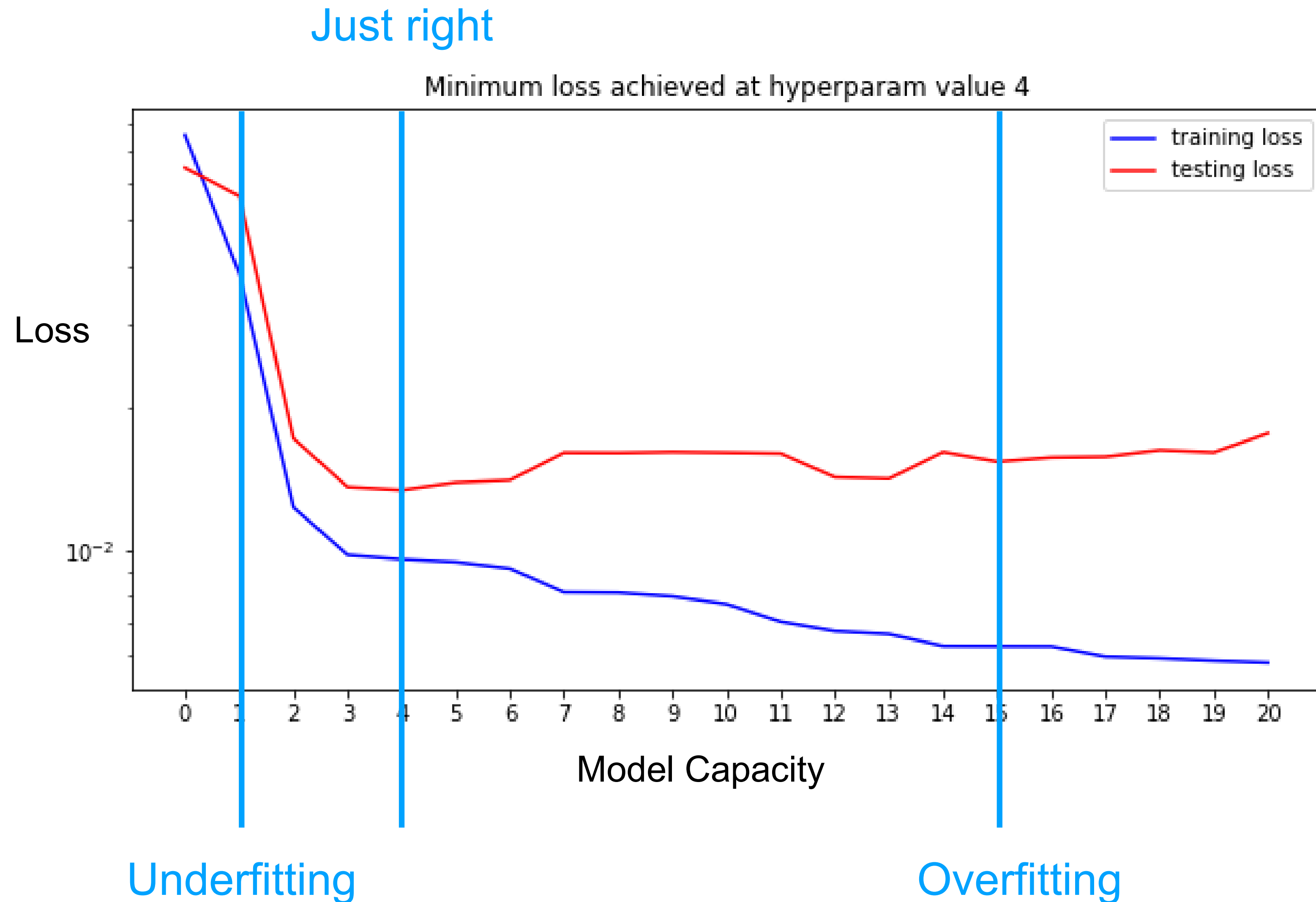


Just right



Overfitting

# Overfitting vs. Underfitting



# Hyperparameters and Model Selection

**Hyperparameters** determine the model that is used to fit the data, e.g.: the degree of the polynomial

Choosing the best hyperparameter setting is known as **model selection**.

**Never, ever** perform model selection based on the testing loss!

Instead, split the training set into two subsets, a smaller training set and a **validation set**.

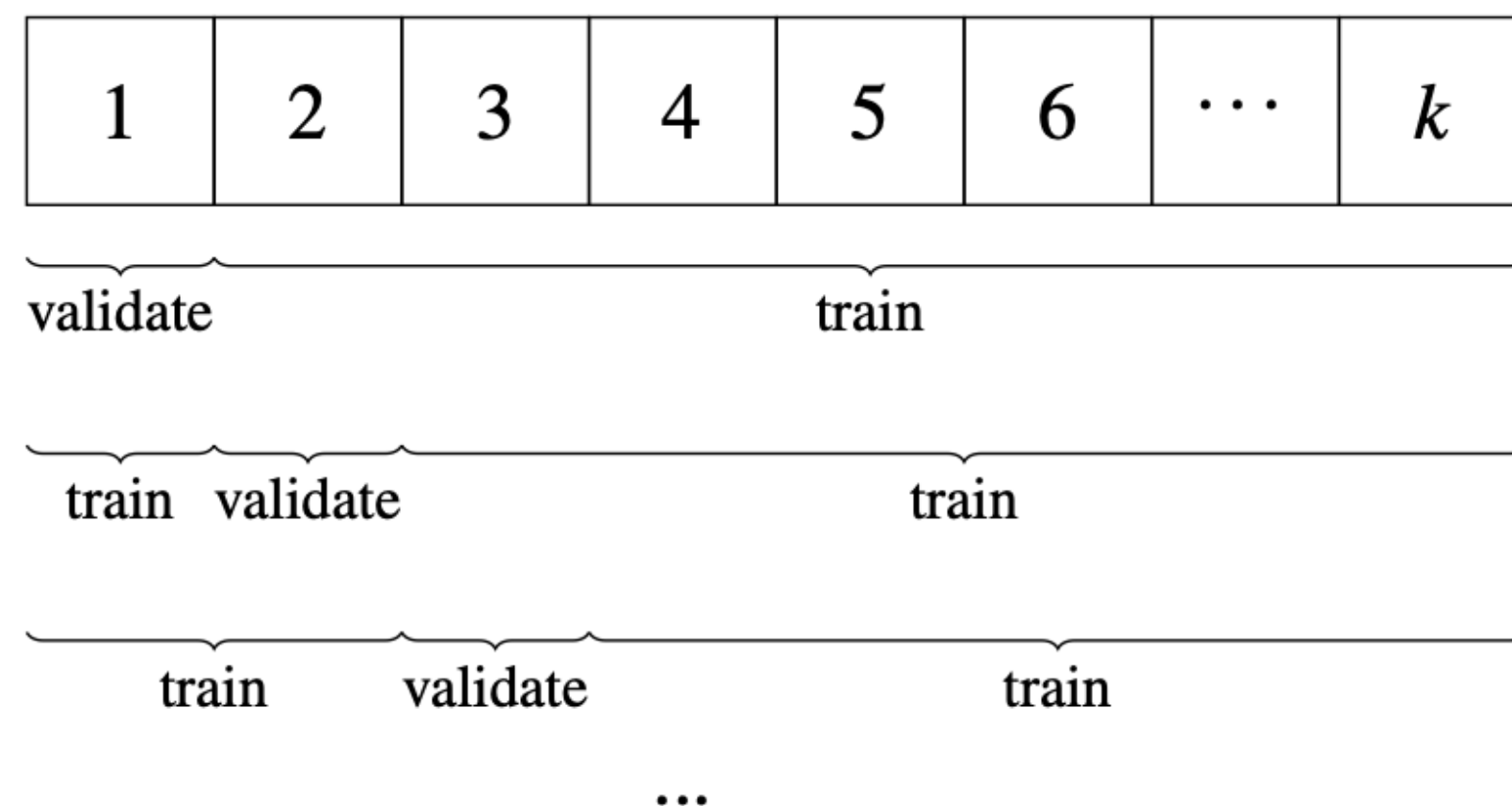
Validation set is not used for training and is only used for model selection.

# $K$ -Fold Cross Validation

In general, training a model on more data makes it perform better on **held-out data** (either validation or testing data).

Drawback of validation set: The training set is smaller, so the validation loss is a less accurate gauge of true performance on the testing set.

**$K$ -fold cross validation:** Divide dataset into  $K$  equal-sized subsets, and train each model  $K$  times. Each time treat one of the subsets as the validation set and the others as the training set. At the end, average the  $K$  validation losses and use the average to perform model selection.



Useful when little data is available, but comes at the expense of greater computational cost.

# Ridge Regression

Recall: When OLS overfits,  $\vec{w}^*$  contains elements with large magnitude.

Idea: Change the loss function to penalize weights with large magnitude.

OLS: 
$$L(\vec{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \vec{w}^\top \vec{x}_i)^2 = \|\vec{y} - X\vec{w}\|_2^2$$

where  $X = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{x}_1^\top \\ \vdots \\ \vec{x}_N^\top \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\vec{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_N \end{pmatrix}$

Ridge regression: 
$$L(\vec{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \vec{w}^\top \vec{x}_i)^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2 = \|\vec{y} - X\vec{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2,$$

where  $\lambda > 0$  is a hyperparameter.

# Ridge Regression

$$\begin{aligned} L(\vec{w}) &= \|\vec{y} - X\vec{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2 \\ &= (\vec{y} - X\vec{w})^\top (\vec{y} - X\vec{w}) + \lambda \vec{w}^\top \vec{w} \\ &= \vec{y}^\top \vec{y} - (X\vec{w})^\top \vec{y} - \vec{y}^\top (X\vec{w}) + (X\vec{w})^\top (X\vec{w}) + \lambda \vec{w}^\top \vec{w} \\ &= \vec{y}^\top \vec{y} - (2\vec{y}^\top X)\vec{w} + \vec{w}^\top (X^\top X)\vec{w} + \lambda \vec{w}^\top \vec{w} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \vec{w}} = \frac{\partial(\vec{y}^\top \vec{y})}{\partial \vec{w}} - \frac{\partial\left((2X^\top \vec{y})^\top \vec{w}\right)}{\partial \vec{w}} + \frac{\partial(\vec{w}^\top (X^\top X)\vec{w})}{\partial \vec{w}} + \frac{\partial(\lambda \vec{w}^\top \vec{w})}{\partial \vec{w}} = 0$$

$$0 - 2X^\top \vec{y} + \left(X^\top X + (X^\top X)^\top\right) \vec{w} + \lambda(I + I^\top) \vec{w} = 0$$

$$-2X^\top \vec{y} + 2(X^\top X) \vec{w} + 2\lambda I \vec{w} = 0$$

$$-2X^\top \vec{y} + 2(X^\top X + \lambda I) \vec{w} = 0$$

$$2(X^\top X + \lambda I) \vec{w} = 2X^\top \vec{y}$$

$$(X^\top X + \lambda I) \vec{w} = X^\top \vec{y}$$

$$\vec{w} = (X^\top X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^\top \vec{y}$$



# Ridge Regression

$$\text{Recall: } \frac{\partial L}{\partial \vec{w}} = -2X^\top \vec{y} + 2(X^\top X + \lambda I)\vec{w}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \vec{w} \partial \vec{w}^\top} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{w}} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \vec{w}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{w}} (-2X^\top \vec{y} + 2(X^\top X + \lambda I)\vec{w})$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{w}} (-2X^\top \vec{y}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{w}} (2(X^\top X + \lambda I)\vec{w})$$

$$= 0 + 2(X^\top X + \lambda I)^\top$$

$$= 2(X^\top X + \lambda I)$$

Claim:  $X^\top X + \lambda I \succ 0$

$$\text{Proof: } \vec{w}^\top (X^\top X + \lambda I) \vec{w} = \vec{w}^\top (X^\top X) \vec{w} + \vec{w}^\top (\lambda I) \vec{w} = (X\vec{w})^\top (X\vec{w}) + \lambda \vec{w}^\top \vec{w} = \|X\vec{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2$$

For any  $\vec{w} \neq \vec{0}$ ,  $\|\vec{w}\|_2^2 > 0$

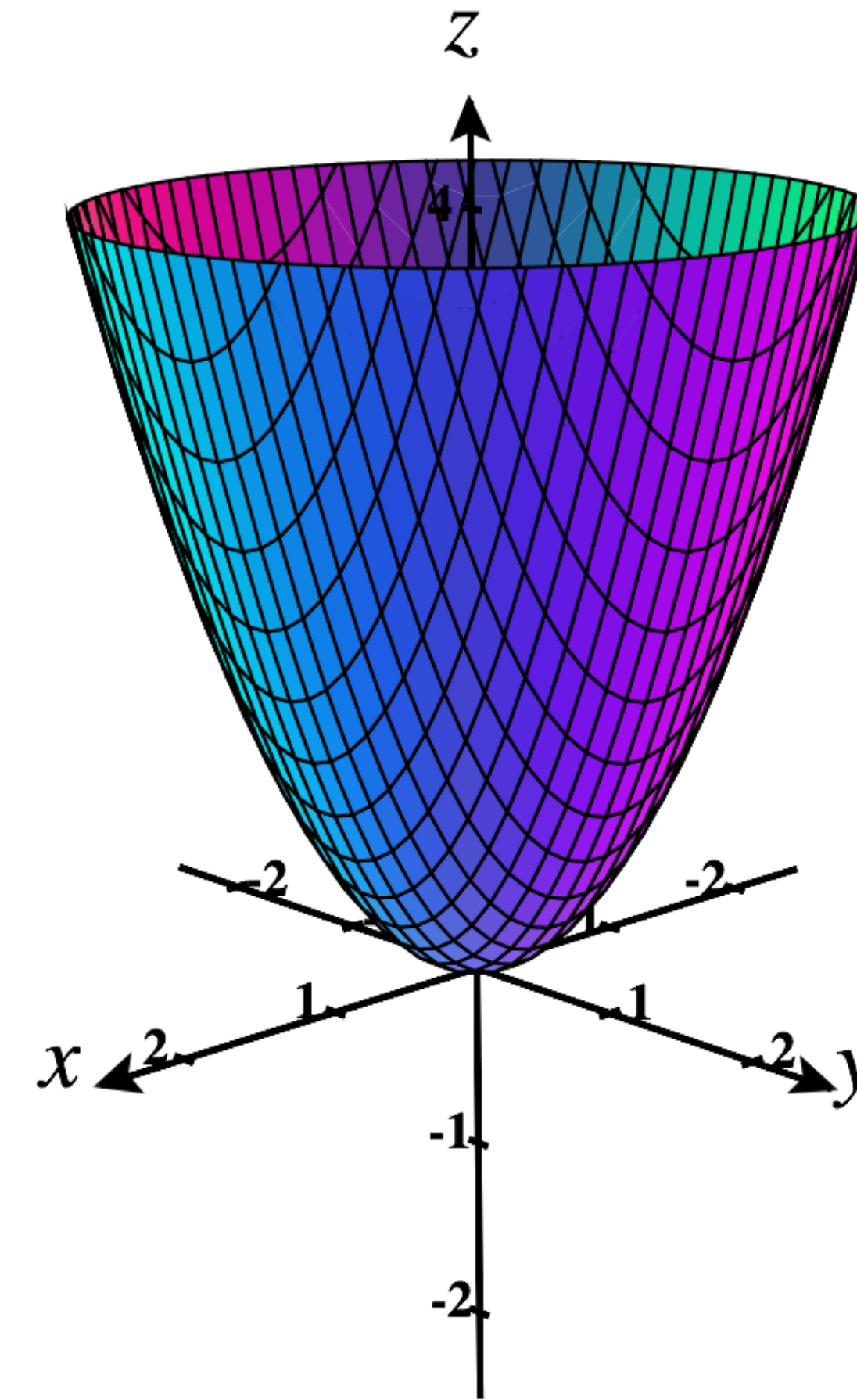
Since  $\|X\vec{w}\|_2^2 \geq 0$  and  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $\|X\vec{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2 > 0 \quad \forall \vec{w} \neq \vec{0}$

So the loss function is strictly convex.

# Ridge Regression

For a strictly convex function, there is a unique critical point, which is a local minimum, which is a global minimum.

So, the critical point  $\vec{w}^* = (X^T X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^T \vec{y}$  is the only optimal parameter vector, regardless of whether  $X$  is full-rank or not.



# Ridge Regression: Summary

Model:  $\hat{y} = \vec{w}^\top \vec{x}$

Parameters:  $\vec{w}$

Loss function:  $L(\vec{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \vec{y}_i)^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \vec{w}^\top \vec{x}_i)^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2$

where  $X = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{x}_1^\top \\ \vdots \\ \vec{x}_N^\top \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\vec{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_N \end{pmatrix}$

Optimal parameters:  $\vec{w}^* := \arg \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}) = (X^\top X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^\top \vec{y}$

# OLS vs. Ridge Regression

Model:  $\vec{y} = \vec{w}^\top \vec{x}$ ; Parameters:  $\vec{w}$

**OLS:**

Loss function:

$$\begin{aligned} L(\vec{w}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \vec{w}^\top \vec{x}_i)^2 \\ &= \|\vec{y} - X\vec{w}\|_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

Optimal Parameters:

$$\vec{w}^* := \arg \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}) = (X^\top X)^{-1} X^\top \vec{y}$$

**Ridge Regression:**

Loss function:

$$\begin{aligned} L(\vec{w}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \vec{w}^\top \vec{x}_i)^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2 \\ &= \|\vec{y} - X\vec{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\vec{w}\|_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

Optimal Parameters:

$$\vec{w}^* := \arg \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}) = (X^\top X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^\top \vec{y}$$