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Sample solutions

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## Part 0: Sample dataset (LSD)

In 1968, Wagner Agahajanian, and Bing conducted a study to determine whether you could improve a student's math test scores using lysergic acid diethylamide, also known as "LSD."

Here is the original data sources. The code cell below downloads the file from an alternative location, for compatibility with the Azure Notebook or platforms you are using.

- Raw data: <http://www.stat.ufl.edu/~winner/data/lsd.dat> (<http://www.stat.ufl.edu/~winner/data/lsd.dat>)
- Data file description: <http://www.stat.ufl.edu/~winner/data/lsd.txt> (<http://www.stat.ufl.edu/~winner/data/lsd.txt>)

```
In [ ]: from pandas import read_fwf
from IPython.display import display

import requests
import os
import hashlib
import io

def on_vocareum():
    return os.path.exists('.voc')

if on_vocareum():
    URL_BASE = "https://cse6040.gatech.edu/datasets/"
    DATA_PATH = "../resource/asnlib/publicdata/"
else:
    URL_BASE = "https://github.com/cse6040/labs-fa17/raw/master/datasets/"
    DATA_PATH = ""

def download(file, local_dir="", url_base=URL_BASE, checksum=None):
    local_file = "{}{}".format(local_dir, file)
    if not os.path.exists(local_file):
        url = "{}{}".format(url_base, file)
        print("Downloading: {} ...".format(url))
        r = requests.get(url)
        with open(local_file, 'wb') as f:
            f.write(r.content)

    if checksum is not None:
        with io.open(local_file, 'rb') as f:
            body = f.read()
            body_checksum = hashlib.md5(body).hexdigest()
            assert body_checksum == checksum, \
                "Downloaded file '{}' has incorrect checksum: '{}' instead of '{}'".format(local_file,
                                                                                            body_checksum,
                                                                                            checksum)

    print("'{}' is ready!".format(file))

datasets = {'lsd.dat': '4c119057baf86cff8da03d825d7ce141'}
for filename, checksum in datasets.items():
    download(filename, local_dir=DATA_PATH, url_base=URL_BASE, checksum=checksum)
print("\n(All data appears to be ready.)")
```

Let's take a look at the data, first as a table and then using a scatter plot.

```
In [ ]: df = read_fwf('{0}lsd.dat'.format(DATA_PATH),
                    colspecs=[(0, 4), (7, 13)],
                    names=['lsd_concentration', 'exam_score'])
display(df)
```

```
In [ ]: from matplotlib.pyplot import scatter, xlabel, title, plot
        %matplotlib inline

        scatter(df['lsd_concentration'], df['exam_score'])
        xlabel ('LSD Tissue Concentration')
        title ('Shocking news: Math scores degrade with increasing LSD!');
```

## Fitting a model

**Exercise 0** (2 points). Complete the function below so that it computes  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  for the univariate model,  $y \sim \alpha \cdot x + \beta$ , given observations stored in arrays `y[ : ]` for the responses and `x[ : ]` for the predictor.

Use the linear regression formulas derived in class.

```
In [ ]: def linreg_fit(x, y):
        """Returns (alpha, beta) s.t.  $y \sim \alpha x + \beta$ ."""
        from numpy import ones
        m = len(x) ; assert len(y) == m

        ### BEGIN SOLUTION
        u = ones(m)
        alpha = x.dot(y) - u.dot(x)*u.dot(y)/m
        alpha /= x.dot(x) - (u.dot(x)**2)/m
        beta = u.dot(y - alpha*x)/m
        ### END SOLUTION

        return (alpha, beta)

# Compute the coefficients for the LSD data:
x, y = df['lsd_concentration'], df['exam_score']
alpha, beta = linreg_fit(x, y)

print("alpha:", alpha)
print("beta:", beta)
```

---

```
In [ ]: # Test cell: `linreg_fit_test`

x, y = df['lsd_concentration'], df['exam_score']
alpha, beta = linreg_fit(x, y)

r = alpha*x + beta - y
ssqr = r.dot(r)
ssqr_ex = 253.88132881

from numpy import isclose
assert isclose(ssqr, ssqr_ex, rtol=.01), "Sum-of-squared residuals is {} instead of {}".format(ssqr, ssqr_ex)

print("\n(Passed!)")
```

---

```
In [ ]: from numpy import linspace, floor, ceil

# Two points make a line:
x_fit = linspace(floor(x.min()), ceil(x.max()), 2)
y_fit = alpha*x_fit + beta

scatter(x, y, marker='o')
plot(x_fit, y_fit, 'r--')
xlabel('LSD Tissue Concentration')
title('Best-fit linear model');
```

**Fin!** If you've gotten this far without errors, your notebook is ready to submit.

## Part 1: Gradients example

This notebook is designed to illustrate the concept of the gradient.

Let  $x \equiv \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \end{bmatrix}$  be a two-dimensional vector, and let

$$f(x) \equiv x^T x = x_0^2 + x_1^2.$$

**Exercise 0** (1 point). Implement the Python function,  $f(x_0, x_1)$ , so that it computes  $f(x)$ .

```
In [1]: def f(x0, x1):  
        ### BEGIN SOLUTION  
        return x0*x0 + x1*x1  
        ### END SOLUTION  
  
In [2]: # Test cell: `f_test`  
  
from numpy import sin, cos, vectorize, isclose  
from numpy.random import randn
```

```
f_vec = vectorize(f)
theta = randn(1000)
assert all(isclose(f_vec(sin(theta)), cos(theta)), 1.0))

print("\n(Passed!)")

(Passed!)
```

## The gradient

Let's create a mesh of  $[x_0, x_1]$  coordinate values:

```
In [3]: from numpy import linspace, meshgrid
x0 = linspace(-2, 2, 11)
x1 = linspace(-2, 2, 11)
X0, X1 = meshgrid(x0, x1)
```

```
In [4]: print("X0:\n", X0)
print("X1:\n", X1)
```

```
X0:
[[-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]
 [-2.  -1.6 -1.2 -0.8 -0.4  0.   0.4  0.8  1.2  1.6  2. ]]

X1:
[[-2.  -2.  -2.  -2.  -2.  -2.  -2.  -2.  -2.  -2.  -2. ]
 [-1.6 -1.6 -1.6 -1.6 -1.6 -1.6 -1.6 -1.6 -1.6 -1.6 -1.6]
 [-1.2 -1.2 -1.2 -1.2 -1.2 -1.2 -1.2 -1.2 -1.2 -1.2 -1.2]
 [-0.8 -0.8 -0.8 -0.8 -0.8 -0.8 -0.8 -0.8 -0.8 -0.8 -0.8]
 [-0.4 -0.4 -0.4 -0.4 -0.4 -0.4 -0.4 -0.4 -0.4 -0.4 -0.4]
 [ 0.   0.   0.   0.   0.   0.   0.   0.   0.   0.   0. ]
 [ 0.4  0.4  0.4  0.4  0.4  0.4  0.4  0.4  0.4  0.4  0.4]
 [ 0.8  0.8  0.8  0.8  0.8  0.8  0.8  0.8  0.8  0.8  0.8]
 [ 1.2  1.2  1.2  1.2  1.2  1.2  1.2  1.2  1.2  1.2  1.2]
 [ 1.6  1.6  1.6  1.6  1.6  1.6  1.6  1.6  1.6  1.6  1.6]
 [ 2.   2.   2.   2.   2.   2.   2.   2.   2.   2.   2. ]]
```

Apply  $f()$  to each of the points in the mesh:

```
In [5]: Z = f_vec(X0, X1)
print("Z:\n", Z)
```

```
Z:
[[8.   6.56 5.44 4.64 4.16 4.   4.16 4.64 5.44 6.56 8.   ]
 [6.56 5.12 4.   3.2  2.72 2.56 2.72 3.2  4.   5.12 6.56]
 [5.44 4.   2.88 2.08 1.6  1.44 1.6  2.08 2.88 4.   5.44]
 [4.64 3.2  2.08 1.28 0.8  0.64 0.8  1.28 2.08 3.2  4.64]
 [4.16 2.72 1.6  0.8  0.32 0.16 0.32 0.8  1.6  2.72 4.16]
 [4.   2.56 1.44 0.64 0.16 0.   0.16 0.64 1.44 2.56 4.   ]
 [4.16 2.72 1.6  0.8  0.32 0.16 0.32 0.8  1.6  2.72 4.16]
 [4.64 3.2  2.08 1.28 0.8  0.64 0.8  1.28 2.08 3.2  4.64]
 [5.44 4.   2.88 2.08 1.6  1.44 1.6  2.08 2.88 4.   5.44]
 [6.56 5.12 4.   3.2  2.72 2.56 2.72 3.2  4.   5.12 6.56]
 [8.   6.56 5.44 4.64 4.16 4.   4.16 4.64 5.44 6.56 8.   ]]
```

Plot  $Z[:, :]$  as a three-dimensional surface:

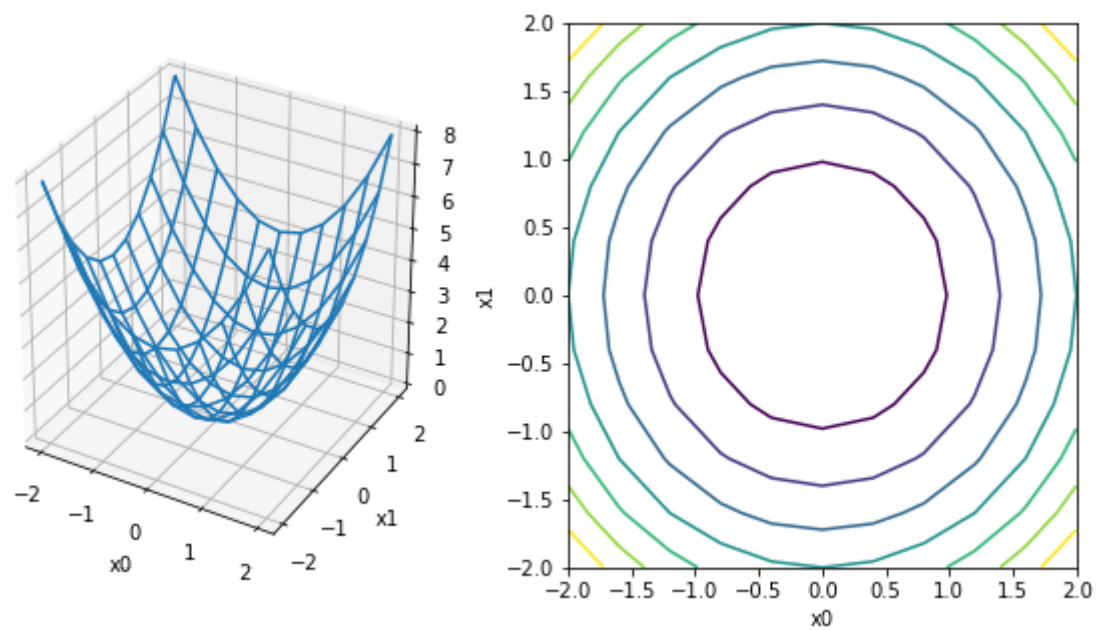
```
In [6]: from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D
from matplotlib.pyplot import figure, xlabel, ylabel
%matplotlib inline

fig = figure(figsize=(10, 5))

ax3d = fig.add_subplot(121, projection='3d')
ax3d.plot_wireframe(X0, X1, Z)
xlabel('x0')
ylabel('x1')

ax2d = fig.add_subplot(122)
cp = ax2d.contour(X0, X1, Z)
xlabel('x0')
ylabel('x1')
```

```
Out[6]: Text(0,0.5,'x1')
```



The gradient of  $f(x)$  with respect to  $x$  is

$$\nabla_x f(x) \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_0} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} (x_0^2 + x_1^2) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} (x_0^2 + x_1^2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_0 \\ 2x_1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Exercise 1** (1 point). Implement a function, `grad_f(x0, x1)`, that implements the gradient  $\nabla_x f(x)$  shown above. It should return a pair of value gradient for this  $f(x)$  has two components.

```
In [7]: def grad_f(x0, x1):
      ### BEGIN SOLUTION
      return (2*x0, 2*x1)
      ### END SOLUTION
```

```
In [8]: # Test cell: `grad_f_test`

grad_f_vec = vectorize(grad_f)
z = randn(5)
gx, gy = grad_f_vec(z, -z)
assert all(isclose(gx*0.5, z)) and all(isclose(gy*(-0.5), z)), "Your function might have a bug..."

print("\n(Passed!)")

(Passed!)
```

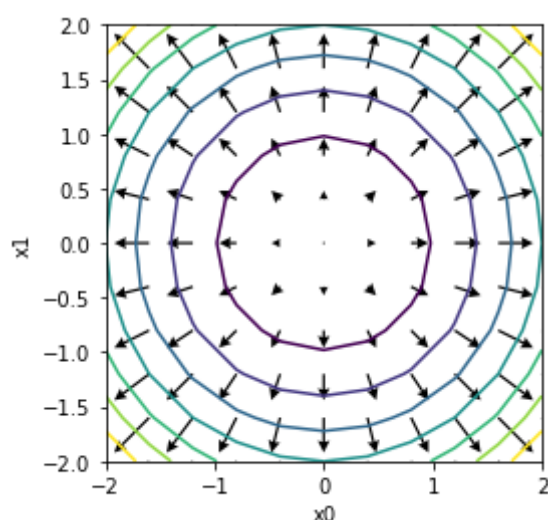
## Visualizing the gradient

Let's generate and plot  $\nabla_x f(x)$ :

```
In [9]: dX0, dX1 = grad_f(X0, X1)

from matplotlib.pyplot import contour, quiver, axis
cp = contour(X0, X1, Z)
quiver(X0, X1, dX0, dX1, scale=40, headwidth=5)
xlabel('x0')
ylabel('x1')
axis('square')
```

```
Out[9]: (-2.0, 2.0, -2.0, 2.0)
```



**Fin!** If you've gotten this far without errors, your notebook is ready to submit.

## Part 2: Algorithms for the linear least squares problem

Recall the linear regression problem: given a data matrix,  $X$ , and responses  $y$ , we wish to determine the model parameters  $\theta^*$  that minimizes  $\|X\theta - y\|_2$ . This problem is also known as the *linear least squares* problem.

Numpy has a function, `np.linalg.lstsq()` (<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.linalg.lstsq.html>), that will compute linear least squares solutions for you. However, the purpose of this notebook is to give you a sense of how `lstsq()` works. So, instead of using it as a black box, you one might implement `lstsq()` using two different numerical algorithms.

You may rightly ask, why bother with such details? Here are three reasons it's worth looking more closely.

1. It's helpful to have some deeper intuition for how one formalizes a mathematical problem and derives a computational solution, in case you ever encounter a problem that does not exactly fit what a canned library can do for you.
2. If you have ever used a statistical analysis package, it's likely you have encountered "strange" numerical errors or warnings. Knowing how problems are derived can help you understand what might have gone wrong. We will see an example below.
3. Because data analysis is quickly evolving, it's likely that new problems and new models will not exactly fit the template of existing models. Therefore, it's possible you will need to derive a new model or know how to talk to someone who can derive one for you.

**Implementation note.** In this notebook, we ask that you use the following convention: any column vector should be *explicit*. That means its shape is two dimensions where the column dimension equals one (1).

**Exercise 0** (ungraded). Inspect the following code cell and make sure you understand the difference between two conventions for storing a vector: as a one-dimensional array versus as a two-dimensional array (matrix) where the number of columns equals one (1). When you are asked to produce a vector, we will generally ask you to follow the second convention (`z_colvec`).

```
In [1]: import numpy as np

# By default, Numpy vectors constructed from a list are 1-D
# and have neither a row nor a column orientation.
z_array = np.array([1.0, 2.0, 3.0])

# By contrast, we want you to ensure your vectors are
# column vectors.
z_colvec = np.reshape(z_array, (len(z_array), 1))

print("`z_array`:\n\n", z_array, "\n\n==> shape:", z_array.shape)
print("\n")
print("`z_colvec`:\n\n", z_colvec, "\n\n==> shape:", z_colvec.shape)

`z_array`:

[1. 2. 3.]

==> shape: (3,)

`z_colvec`:

[[1.]
 [2.]
 [3.]]

==> shape: (3, 1)
```

Before beginning, run this code cell to load some of the key modules you'll need.

```
In [2]: # Data and computation
import numpy as np
import scipy as sp
import scipy.linalg
import pandas as pd

# Viz
from IPython.display import display, Math
from matplotlib.pyplot import figure, subplot, xlim, ylim
from matplotlib.pyplot import scatter, axis, xlabel, ylabel, title, plot
%matplotlib inline

# Some functions we'll use later to display results
def show_cond_fancy(x, name, opt=''):
    """Display a condition number in 'fancy' format (using LaTeX)."""
    def sci_to_latex(x, fmt='{:.2e}'):
        s_raw = fmt.format(x)
        s, e = s_raw.split('e')
        return s + r'\times 10^{{{}}}'.format(int(e))
    from IPython.display import Math
    x_s = sci_to_latex(x)
```

```
display(Math(r'\kappa({}){} \approx {}'.format(name, opt, x_s)))

def show_2vecs_tibble(x, y, xname='x', yname='y', error=False):
    """Display two column vectors side-by-side in a tibble."""
    assert type(x) is np.ndarray and x.ndim >= 2 and x.shape[1] == 1
    assert type(y) is np.ndarray and y.ndim >= 2 and y.shape[1] == 1
    assert x.shape == y.shape
    x_df = pd.DataFrame(x, columns=[xname])
    y_df = pd.DataFrame(y, columns=[yname])
    df = pd.concat([x_df, y_df], axis=1)
    if error:
        df['error'] = x - y
    display(df)

# Display (X, y) problem as a tibble
def make_data_tibble(X, y=None):
    df = pd.DataFrame(X, columns=['x_{}'.format(i) for i in range(X.shape[1])])
    if y is not None:
        y_df = pd.DataFrame(y, columns=['y'])
        df = pd.concat([y_df, df], axis=1)
    return df

# From: https://stackoverflow.com/questions/17129290/numpy-2d-and-1d-array-to-latex-bmatrix
def nparray_to_bmatrix(a):
    """Returns a LaTeX bmatrix"""
    assert len(a.shape) <= 2, 'bmatrix can at most display two dimensions'
    lines = str(a).replace('[', '').replace(']', '').splitlines()
    rv = [r'\begin{bmatrix}']
    rv += [' ' + ' & '.join(l.split()) + r'\\' for l in lines]
    rv += [r'\end{bmatrix}']
    return '\n'.join(rv)

# Stash this function for later:
SAVE_LSTSQ = np.linalg.lstsq # You may ignore this line, which some test cells will use
```

Notation and review

Here is a quick summary of how we can formulate and approach the linear regression problem. For a more detailed derivation, see these [accompan...](https://courses.edx.org/asset-v1:GTx+CSE6040x+1T2018+type@asset+block@nb12-notes-linreg.html) (<https://courses.edx.org/asset-v1:GTx+CSE6040x+1T2018+type@asset+block@nb12-notes-linreg.html>).

Your data consists of  $m$  observations and  $n + 1$  variables. One of these variables is the *response* variable,  $y$ , which you want to predict from the variables,  $\{x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}\}$ . You wish to fit a *linear model* of the following form to these data,

$$y_i \approx x_{i,0}\theta_0 + x_{i,1}\theta_1 + \dots + x_{i,n-1}\theta_{n-1} + \theta_n,$$

where  $\{\theta_j | 0 \leq j \leq n\}$  is the set of unknown coefficients. Your modeling task is to choose values for these coefficients that "best fit" the data.

If we further define a set of dummy variables,  $x_{i,n} \equiv 1.0$ , associated with the  $\theta_n$  parameter, then the model can be written more compactly in matrix notation as

$$y \approx X\theta,$$

where we will refer to  $X$  as the (input) data matrix.

Visually, you can also arrange the observations into a tibble like this one:

y	x <sub>0</sub>	x <sub>1</sub>	⋯	x <sub>n-1</sub>	x <sub>n</sub>
y <sub>0</sub>	x <sub>0,1</sub>	x <sub>0,2</sub>	⋯	x <sub>0,n-1</sub>	1.0
y <sub>1</sub>	x <sub>1,1</sub>	x <sub>1,2</sub>	⋯	x <sub>1,n-1</sub>	1.0
y <sub>2</sub>	x <sub>2,1</sub>	x <sub>2,2</sub>	⋯	x <sub>2,n-1</sub>	1.0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	1.0
y <sub>m-1</sub>	x <sub>m-1,1</sub>	x <sub>m-1,2</sub>	⋯	x <sub>m-1,n-1</sub>	1.0

This tibble includes an extra column (variable),  $x_n$ , whose entries are all equal to 1.0.

**Synthetic problem generator.** For the exercises in this notebook, we will generate synthetic data. The function, `gen_problem(m, n)`, will return `theta`, which are an  $m \times (n+1)$  data matrix  $X$ , a response vector  $y$ , and the "true" model parameters `theta`. We will then run two different numerical methods that estimate `theta` from  $X$  and  $y$ , and see how their answers compare against the true value.

- Note 1.** The problem generator constructs the data matrix  $X$  such that each entry  $(i, j)$  is  $i^j$ . This structure makes it an instance of a [Vandermonde matrix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandermonde_matrix) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandermonde\\_matrix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandermonde_matrix)), which arises when fitting a polynomial to data. The "true" parameter vector  $\theta$  is set to all ones, and  $y$  computed simply by summing the rows.

**Note 2.** Although our usual convention is to make the *last* column all ones, the Vandermonde matrix has its *first* column set to all ones. This ordering is not important in this problem, but it does mean one would interpret  $\theta_0$  as the intercept rather than  $\theta_n$ , which will be our usual convention.

[illegible]

Sample generated problem:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1. & 0. & 0. \\ 1. & 1. & 1. \\ 1. & 2. & 4. \\ 1. & 3. & 9. \\ 1. & 4. & 16. \\ 1. & 5. & 25. \\ 1. & 6. & 36. \\ 1. & 7. & 49. \\ 1. & 8. & 64. \\ 1. & 9. & 81. \end{bmatrix}, \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} 1. \\ 3. \\ 7. \\ 13. \\ 21. \\ 31. \\ 43. \\ 57. \\ 73. \\ 91. \end{bmatrix} \implies \theta^* = \begin{bmatrix} 1. \\ 1. \\ 1. \end{bmatrix}$$

We are interested primarily in *overdetermined systems*, meaning  $X$  has more rows than columns, i.e.,  $m > n + 1$ , as shown above. That's because we have more observations (data points, or rows) than predictors (variables or columns). For such problems, there is generally no unique solution.

Therefore, to identify some solution, we need to ask for the "best" fit and say what we mean by "best." For linear regression, the usual definition of *minimizing* the sum-of-squared residual error:

$$\theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} \|X\theta - y\|_2^2.$$

Solving this minimization problem is equivalent to solving a special system known as the *normal equations*,

$$X^T X \theta^* = X^T y.$$

So, our computational task is to solve this problem.

### Algorithm 1: Direct solution of the normal equations

The preceding calculation immediately suggests the following algorithm to estimate  $\theta^*$ . Given  $X$  and  $y$ :

1. Form  $C \equiv X^T X$ . This object is sometimes called the Gram matrix ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gramian\\_matrix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gramian_matrix)) or Gramian of  $X$ .
2. Form  $b \equiv X^T y$ .
3. Solve  $C\theta^* = b$  for  $\theta^*$ .

But, is this a "good" algorithm? There are at least three dimensions along which we might answer this question.

1. Is it accurate enough?
2. Is it fast enough?
3. Is it memory-efficient enough?

Let's examine these questions by experiment.

**Exercise 1** (3 points). Implement a function, `solve_neq(X, y)` that implements Algorithm 1. It should return a Numpy vector containing the model estimates.

Recall the steps of the algorithm as previously outlined:

1. Form the Gramian of  $X$ ,  $C \equiv X^T X$ .
2. Form  $b \equiv X^T y$ .
3. Solve  $C\theta^* = b$  for  $\theta^*$ .

Your algorithm should carry out these steps. For the third step, use Scipy's routine, `scipy.linalg.solve()`. (<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/tutorial/linalg.html#solving-linear-system>). It has an option that allows you to indicate that  $C$  is symmet positive definite, which will be true of  $C$  for our synthetic problem.

The code cell will run your function to compute a set of parameter estimates. It will store these in a variable named `theta_neq`, which we refer to later.



```
In [4]: def solve_neq(X, y):
        ### BEGIN SOLUTION
        C = X.T.dot(X)
        b = X.T.dot(y)
        theta_est = sp.linalg.solve(C, b, sym_pos=True)
        return theta_est
        ### END SOLUTION

theta_neq = solve_neq(X, y)

print("Your implementation's solution versus the true solution:")
show_2vecs_tibble(theta_neq, theta_true, xname='theta_neq', yname='theta_true', error=True)
```

Your implementation's solution versus the true solution:

	theta_neq	theta_true	error
0	1.0	1.0	-2.065015e-14
1	1.0	1.0	4.218847e-15
2	1.0	1.0	0.000000e+00

```
In [5]: # Test cell: `solve_neq_test`

try:
    del np.linalg.lstsq
    solve_neq(X, y)
except NameError as n:
    if re.findall('lstsq', n.args[0]):
        print("*** Double-check that you did not try to use `lstsq()`. ***")
        raise n
except AttributeError as a:
    if re.findall('lstsq', a.args[0]):
        print("*** Double-check that you did not try to use `lstsq()`. ***")
        raise a
finally:
    np.linalg.lstsq = SAVE_LSTSQ

assert type(theta_neq) is np.ndarray, "`theta_neq` should be a Numpy array, but isn't."
assert theta_neq.shape == (n+1, 1), "`theta_neq.shape` is {} instead of {}".format(theta_neq.shape, (n+1, 1))

assert (np.abs(theta_neq - theta_true) <= 1e-12).all(), \
        "Your `theta_neq` does not match the true solution, `theta_true`."

print("\n(Passed!)")

(Passed!)
```

**Exercise 2** (1 point). Write a function to calculate the residual norm,  $\|r\|_2 = \|X\theta^* - y\|_2$ .

Although we are minimizing  $\|r\|_2^2$ , for this exercise your function should return  $\|r\|_2$ .

```
In [6]: def calc_residual_norm(X, y, theta):
        ### BEGIN SOLUTION
        from numpy.linalg import norm
        return norm(X.dot(theta) - y, ord=2)
        ### END SOLUTION

r_norm_neq = calc_residual_norm(X, y, theta_neq)
print("\nThe squared residual norm:", r_norm_neq)
```

The squared residual norm: 3.766978705903275e-14

```
In [7]: # Test cell: `calc_residual_norm_test`

r_norm_neq = calc_residual_norm(X, y, theta_neq)
assert 1e-16 <= np.abs(r_norm_neq) <= 1e-12
print("\n(Passed.)")

(Passed.)
```

## Sources of error

We said before that one question we should ask about our algorithm is whether it is "accurate enough." But what does that mean?

**Exercise 3** (ungraded). For any modeling problem, there will be several sources of error. Describe at least three such sources.

**Answer.** Here are some possibilities.

1. There will be errors in the inputs. That is, the data itself may only represent measurements of a certain accuracy.
2. There will be errors in the model. That is, the model is only an approximation of the underlying phenomena.
3. There will be errors in the algorithm. That is, you may implement an algorithm that can only approximately estimate the parameters of the model.
4. There will be roundoff errors. Recall that floating-point arithmetic necessarily represents all values finitely, which means you may lose accuracy when you do an arithmetic operation.

**Perturbations.** One way to understand error in a numerical computation is to consider how sensitive the computed solution is to perturbations to

That is, suppose we change  $X$  by an amount  $\Delta X$ . We can then ask by how much the computed model parameters  $\theta^*$  change. If they change by our method for computing them may be overly sensitive to perturbations. Instead, we might prefer one method over another one that is more sensitive to changes.

Let's see how Algorithm 1 fares under small perturbations. But first, we'll need a method to generate a random perturbation of a certain magnitude

**Exercise 4** (2 points). Implement a function that returns an  $m \times n$  matrix whose entries are uniformly randomly distributed in the interval,  $[0, \epsilon]$  for a given value of  $\epsilon$ .

Hint: Check out Numpy's module for generating (pseudo)random numbers: [numpy.random](https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/routines.random.html) (<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/routines.random.html>).

```
In [8]: def random_mat (m, n, eps):
        ### BEGIN SOLUTION
        return np.random.random((m, n)) * eps
        ### END SOLUTION

print(random_mat(3, 2, 1e-3))

[[0.00059339 0.00057468]
 [0.00092299 0.00063703]
 [0.0003482  0.00091574]]
```

```
In [9]: # Test cell: `rand_eps_test`

Z = random_mat (5, 3, 1e-2)
assert Z.shape == (5, 3)
assert ((Z >= 0) & (Z <= 1e-2)).all()
print("\n(Passed.)")

(Passed.)
```

**Exercise 5** (2 points). Use your `random_mat()` function to write another function, `perturb_system(X, y, eps)`, that creates two "perturbations" to the system defined by  $X$  and  $y$ .

1. Let  $\Delta X$  be the first perturbation. It should have the same dimensions as  $X$ , and its entries should lie in the interval  $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$ . The value of  $\epsilon$  is `eps`.
2. The second is  $\Delta y$ , a small perturbation to the response variable,  $y$ . Its entries should also lie in the same interval,  $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$ .

Your function should return a perturbed system,  $X + \Delta X$  and  $y + \Delta y$ , as a pair.

```
In [10]: def perturb_system(X, y, eps):
        ### BEGIN SOLUTION
        Delta_X = random_mat(X.shape[0], X.shape[1], 2*eps) - eps
        Delta_y = random_mat(y.shape[0], y.shape[1], 2*eps) - eps
        return X + Delta_X, y + Delta_y
        ### END SOLUTION

EPSILON = 0.1
X_perturbed, y_perturbed = perturb_system(X, y, EPSILON)

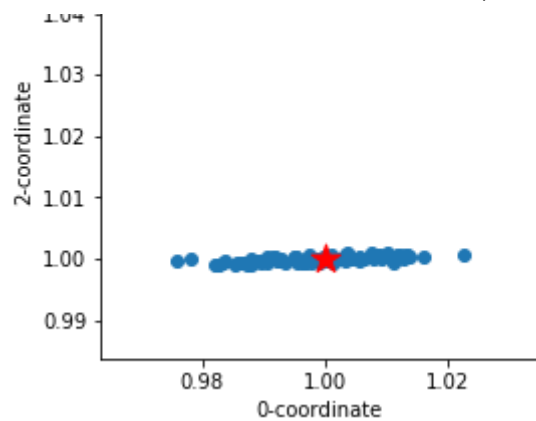
Delta_X = X_perturbed - X
Delta_y = y_perturbed - y
display(Math(r'\Delta X = {}', \quad \Delta y = {}'.format(nparray_to_bmatrix(Delta_X[:5, :]),
                                                         nparray_to_bmatrix(Delta_y[:5])))))
```

$$\Delta X = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0106095 & 0.01422098 & -0.06028698 \\ 0.06029219 & -0.02538373 & 0.08494938 \\ 0.06021075 & -0.09076259 & 0.07316003 \\ 0.03928084 & -0.05499615 & -0.07508389 \\ -0.00887685 & 0.07215012 & -0.03684651 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Delta y = \begin{bmatrix} -0.04424354 \\ 0.01997222 \\ -0.02917007 \\ 0.04818775 \\ 0.06929618 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
In [11]: # Test cell: `delta_X_test`

Delta_X = X_perturbed - X
Delta_y = y_perturbed - y
```





You should observe that the change in the estimates are of the same order as the perturbation. So for this example system, the algorithm seems enough.

## Stress-testing Algorithm 1

This experiment suggests all is fine. But what should we *expect* to happen?

We've prepared another [notebook](https://courses.edx.org/asset-v1:GTx+CSE6040x+1T2018+type@asset+block@nb12-notes-cond.html) (<https://courses.edx.org/asset-v1:GTx+CSE6040x+1T2018+type@asset+block@nb12-notes-cond.html>), that walk through an analysis of solving linear systems. It turns out you can estimate how hard it is to solve a linear system using a measure called the *condition number*. We can denote the condition number of solving a system by  $\kappa(X)$  where  $X$  is the matrix. The larger this number is, the more sensitive the solution is.

In Numpy, there is a condition number estimator that will tell us approximately what the condition number is for a given matrix. Let's compare  $\kappa(X)$  and  $\kappa(C) = \kappa(X^T X)$ :

```
In [14]: cond_X = np.linalg.cond(X)
cond_XTX = np.linalg.cond(X.T.dot(X))

assert 1. <= cond_X <= 3e3
assert 1. <= cond_XTX <= 6e6

show_cond_fancy(cond_X, 'X')
show_cond_fancy(cond_XTX, 'X^T X')
show_cond_fancy(cond_X**2, 'X', opt='^2')
```

$$\kappa(X) \approx 1.07 \times 10^2$$

$$\kappa(X^T X) \approx 1.15 \times 10^4$$

$$\kappa(X)^2 \approx 1.15 \times 10^4$$

**Ill-conditioning.** As it happens,  $\kappa(C)$  is roughly the **square** of  $\kappa(X)$ . So, by forming  $C$  explicitly and then trying to solve a system based on it, you make the problem *more* difficult. Indeed, if the problem is ill-conditioned enough, this algorithm based on directly constructing the normal equations will produce different results even under small changes, and we call the algorithm *unstable*.

In this particular example, the condition numbers are not very "big." You would be more concerned if the condition numbers were close to  $1/\epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon$  is machine epsilon. In double-precision, recall that  $\epsilon_d \approx 10^{-15}$ , so the values shown above are nothing to be worried about.

But what if we had a "hard" problem, that is, one whose condition number is large? The synthetic data generator allows us to create such a problem and make the problem bigger. Let's try that next.

```
In [15]: # Generate a "hard" problem
m_hard, n_hard = 100, 6
X_hard, y_hard, theta_hard_true = gen_problem(m_hard, n_hard)

df_hard = make_data_tibble(X_hard, y_hard)
print("First few rows of data:")
df_hard.head()
print("True parameter estimates:\n{}".format(theta_hard_true))

cond_X_hard = np.linalg.cond(X_hard)
cond_XTX_hard = np.linalg.cond(X_hard.T.dot(X_hard))

name_X_hard = 'X_h'
show_cond_fancy(cond_X_hard, name_X_hard)
show_cond_fancy(cond_XTX_hard, '{}^T {}'.format(name_X_hard, name_X_hard))
```

First few rows of data:

True parameter estimates:

```
[[1.]
 [1.]
 [1.]
 [1.]
 [1.]
 [1.]
 [1.]]
```

$$\kappa(X_h) \approx 1.72 \times 10^{12}$$



```

Q, R = np.linalg.qr(X)
### END SOLUTION

# Print the dimensions of your result
print("Q:", Q.shape, "\n")
print("R:", R.shape, "==")
print(R)

[[ 1.  0.  0.]
 [ 1.  1.  1.]
 [ 1.  2.  4.]
 [ 1.  3.  9.]
 [ 1.  4. 16.]]
...

Q: (10, 3)

R: (3, 3) ==
[[ -3.16227766 -14.23024947 -90.12491331]
 [  0.          9.08295106  81.74655956]
 [  0.          0.         22.97825059]]

```

```

In [18]: # Test cell: `qr_test`

assert type(Q) is np.ndarray, "`Q` is not a Numpy array but should be."
assert type(R) is np.ndarray, "`R` is not a Numpy array but should be."
assert Q.shape == (m, n+1), "`Q` has the wrong shape: it's {} rather than {}".format(Q.shape, (m, n+1))
assert R.shape == (n+1, n+1), "`R` has the wrong shape: it's {} rather than {}".format(R.shape, (m, n+1))
for i in range(R.shape[0]):
    for j in range(i):
        assert np.isclose(R[i][j], 0.0), "R[{}][{}] == {} instead of 0!".format(i, j, R[i][j])

QTQ = Q.T.dot(Q)
assert np.isclose(QTQ, np.eye(Q.shape[1])).all(), "Q^T Q is not nearly the identity matrix, as it should

assert np.isclose(X, Q.dot(R)).all(), "QR is not sufficiently close in values to X!"

print("\n(Passed!)")

(Passed!)

```

**Condition number of  $R$ .** Let's check the condition number of  $R$  empirically, to verify that it is comparable to  $\kappa(X)$ .

```

In [19]: cond_R = np.linalg.cond(R)

show_cond_fancy(cond_X, 'X')
show_cond_fancy(cond_XTX, 'X^T X')
show_cond_fancy(cond_R, 'R')

```

$$\kappa(X) \approx 1.07 \times 10^2$$

$$\kappa(X^T X) \approx 1.15 \times 10^4$$

$$\kappa(R) \approx 1.07 \times 10^2$$

**Exercise 7** (3 points). Implement a function, `solve_qr(X, y)`, which uses the QR-based algorithm to estimate  $\theta^*$ .

To solve the triangular system, use Scipy's specialized function, available as `sp.linalg.solve_triangular()`. ([https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/generated/scipy.linalg.solve\\_triangular.html](https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/generated/scipy.linalg.solve_triangular.html)).

```

In [20]: import scipy.linalg

def solve_qr(X, y):
    ### BEGIN SOLUTION
    Q, R = np.linalg.qr(X)
    b = Q.T.dot(y)
    theta = sp.linalg.solve_triangular(R, b) # Solves R u = b
    return theta
    ### END SOLUTION

theta_qr = solve_qr(X, y)

print("Comparing your QR solution to the true solution:")
show_2vecs_tibble(theta_qr, theta_true, xname='theta_qr', yname='theta_true', error=True)

print("Residual norm:")
calc_residual_norm(X, y, theta_qr)

```

Comparing your QR solution to the true solution:

	theta_qr	theta_true	error
0	1.0	1.0	-1.154632e-14

1	1.0	1.0	3.552714e-15
2	1.0	1.0	-2.220446e-16

Residual norm:

Out[20]: 1.5434895314732317e-14

```
In [21]: # Test cell: `solve_qr_test`
import re

try:
    del np.linalg.lstsq
    solve_qr(X, y)
except NameError as n:
    if re.findall('lstsq', n.args[0]):
        print("*** Double-check that you did not try to use `lstsq()`. ***")
        raise n
except AttributeError as a:
    if re.findall('lstsq', a.args[0]):
        print("*** Double-check that you did not try to use `lstsq()`. ***")
        raise a
finally:
    np.linalg.lstsq = SAVE_LSTSQ

assert np.isclose(theta_qr, theta_true).all(), "Your QR-based solution should be closer to the true solu
print("\n(Passed!)")

(Passed!)
```

**Is QR more stable?** Let's run the same perturbation experiments on the "hard" regression problem and see the result.

```
In [22]: Thetas_hard_qr = run_perturbation_trials(solve_qr, X_hard, y_hard)

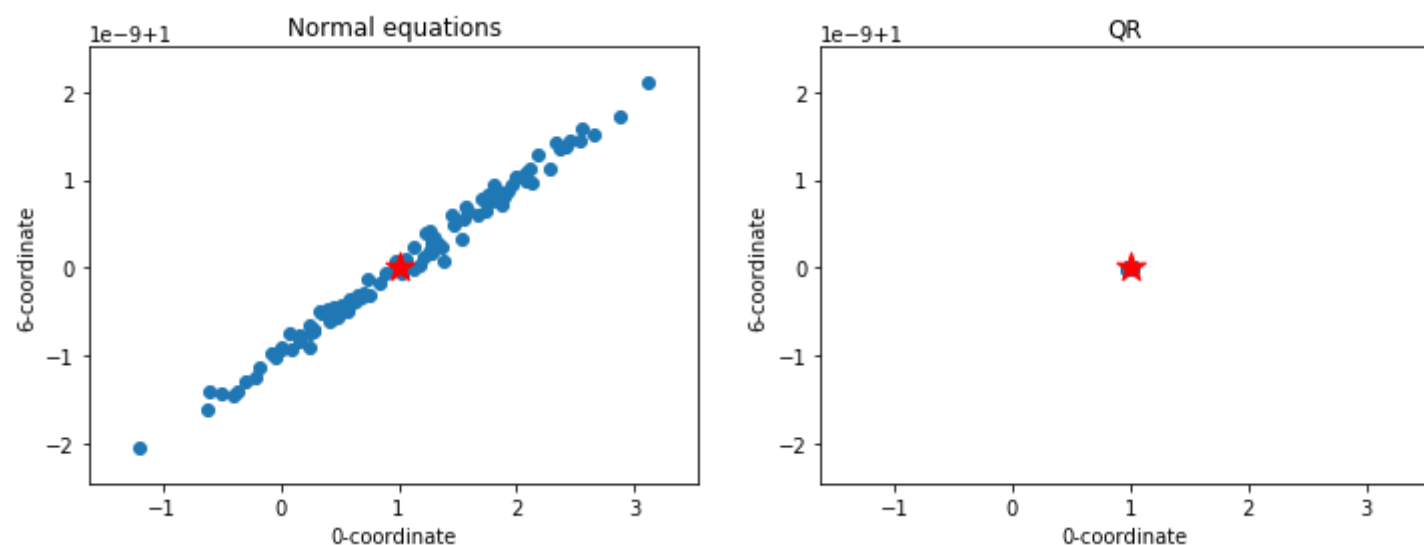
# Plot side-by-side against normal equations method
def compare_scatter_thetas(T0, title0, T1, title1, ax=0, ay=1, **kwargs):
    xmin, xmax = calc_lims(np.array([Thetas_hard_neq[ax, :], Thetas_hard_qr[ax, :]]))
    ymin, ymax = calc_lims(np.array([Thetas_hard_neq[ay, :], Thetas_hard_qr[ay, :]]))
    xlim = [xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax]
    figure(figsize=(12, 4))
    subplot(1, 2, 1)
    scatter_thetas(T0, title=title0, ax=ax, ay=ay, xlim=xlim, **kwargs)
    subplot(1, 2, 2)
    scatter_thetas(T1, title=title1, ax=ax, ay=ay, xlim=xlim, **kwargs)

compare_scatter_thetas(Thetas_hard_neq, 'Normal equations',
                        Thetas_hard_qr, 'QR',
                        ax=0, ay=-1, theta_true=theta_hard_true)

print("Sample estimate for one of the trials:")
theta_hard_neq_example = Thetas_hard_neq[:, np.random.randint(Thetas_hard_neq.shape[1])]
theta_hard_qr_example = Thetas_hard_qr[:, np.random.randint(Thetas_hard_qr.shape[1])]
msg = "- {}-based method: theta^T =\n\t{"
print(msg.format("Gramian", theta_hard_neq_example.T))
print(msg.format("QR", theta_hard_qr_example.T))
```

Sample estimate for one of the trials:

```
- Gramian-based method: theta^T =
  [0.64091071  1.16266565  0.98363847  1.00065254  0.99998782  1.00000011
  1.          ]
- QR-based method: theta^T =
  [0.98958625  0.99839116  1.00028587  0.99998727  1.00000024  1.
  1.          ]
```



You should observe that the QR-based method does, indeed, produce estimates much closer to the true value despite the problem's high conditic

**Performance tradeoff** Although QR produces more reliable results, there can be a performance tradeoff as the following quick test should show.

**Performance tradeoff.** Although QR produces more reliable results, there can be a performance tradeoff, as the following quick test should show

```
In [23]: print("=== Performance of the normal equations-based algorithm ===")
         %timeit solve_neq(X_hard, y_hard)

print("\n=== Performance of the QR-based algorithm ===")
         %timeit solve_qr(X_hard, y_hard)

=== Performance of the normal equations-based algorithm ===
87.7 μs ± 1.46 μs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 10000 loops each)

=== Performance of the QR-based algorithm ===
146 μs ± 2.17 μs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 10000 loops each)
```

**Summary comment.** The intent of this notebook was to help you appreciate some of the reliability and performance issues involved in the design of linear algebra algorithms. The key ideas are as follows.

- 1. The *conditioning* of a problem, which is a measure of how hard it is to solve. For solving linear systems, the condition number of the matrix  $A$  by `numpy.linalg.cond()` is this measure.
- 2. For the specific problem of linear least squares, a method based on QR factorization is better than forming the Gram matrix, which squares the condition number. Although we did not discuss the theory of QR better, it exemplifies a common pattern or trick in linear algebraic problems: converting the original problem (or matrix) into one whose structure is easier to solve.
- 3. There is a potential tradeoff between *reliability* of an algorithm and *speed*.

Many of these algorithmic and engineering ideas have already been worked out, and are encapsulated in Numpy's built-in `lstsq()` solver (<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.linalg.lstsq.html>) or its *Scipy equivalent* (<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/generated/scipy.linalg.lstsq.html>). So when you need to solve a linear system in a future notebook, you can use these functions.

**Fin!** If you've gotten this far without errors, your notebook is ready to submit.

### Part 3: The cost of solving the normal equations

This notebook helps you explore the execution time cost of solving the normal equations,  $X^T X \theta^* = X^T y$ .

This notebook only has one exercise, but it is not graded. So, you should complete it for your own edification.

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
```

#### Scalability with the problem size

To start, here is some code to help generate synthetic problems of a certain size, namely,  $m \times (n + 1)$ , where  $m$  is the number of observations and  $n$  is the number of predictors. The  $+1$  comes from our usual dummy coefficient for a non-zero intercept.

We will also implement a linear least squares solver, `estimate_coeffs()`, that simply calls Numpy's `lstsq()` routine.

```
In [2]: def generate_model (n):
        """Returns a set of (random) n+1 linear model coefficients."""
        return np.random.rand (n+1, 1)

def generate_data (m, theta, sigma=1.0/(2**0.5)):
    """
    Generates 'm' noisy observations for a linear model whose
    predictor (non-intercept) coefficients are given in 'theta'.
    Decrease 'sigma' to decrease the amount of noise.
    """
    assert (type (theta) is np.ndarray) and (theta.ndim == 2) and (theta.shape[1] == 1)
    n = len (theta)
    X = np.random.rand (m, n)
```



```

X[:, 0] = 1.0
y = X.dot (theta) + sigma*np.random.randn (m, 1)
return (X, y)

def estimate_coeffs(X, y):
    """
    Solves  $X \cdot \theta = y$  by a linear least squares method.
    """
    result = np.linalg.lstsq (X, y, rcond = None)
    theta = result[0]
    return theta

```

In [3]: # Demo the above routines for a 2-D dataset.

```

m = 50
theta_true = generate_model (1)
(X, y) = generate_data (m, theta_true, sigma=0.1)

print ("Dimensions of X:", X.shape)
print ("Dimensions of theta_true:", theta_true.shape)
print ("Dimensions of y:", y.shape)

print ("Condition number of X: ", np.linalg.cond (X))
print ("True model coefficients:", theta_true.T)

theta = estimate_coeffs (X, y)

print ("Estimated model coefficients:", theta.T)

fig = plt.figure()
ax1 = fig.add_subplot(111)
ax1.plot (X[:, 1], y, 'b+') # Noisy observations
ax1.plot (X[:, 1], X.dot (theta), 'r*') # Fit
ax1.plot (X[:, 1], X.dot (theta_true), 'go') # True solution

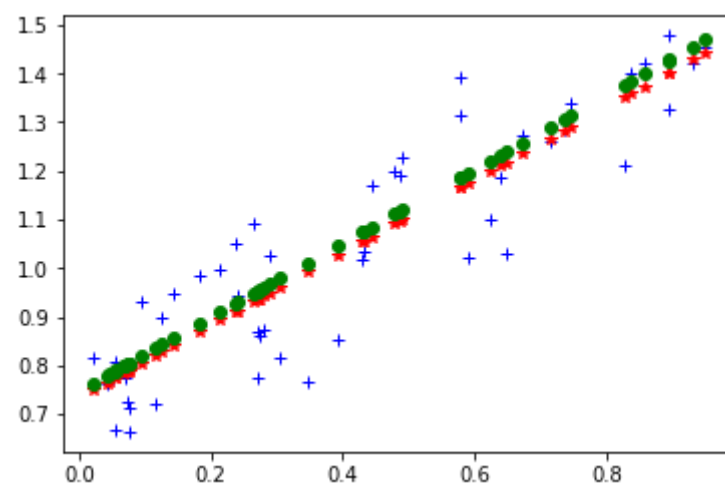
```

```

Dimensions of X: (50, 2)
Dimensions of theta_true: (2, 1)
Dimensions of y: (50, 1)
Condition number of X: 4.1056142618693565
True model coefficients: [[0.74734942 0.76050905]]
Estimated model coefficients: [[0.73296025 0.74693774]]

```

Out[3]: [ <matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x7f04ece9b8d0> ]



**Benchmark varying  $m$ .** Let's benchmark the time to compute  $x$  when the dimension  $n$  of each point is fixed but the number  $m$  of points varies. I running time scale with  $m$ ?

In [4]: # Benchmark, as 'm' varies:

```

n = 32 # dimension
M = [100, 1000, 10000, 100000, 1000000]
times = [0.] * len (M)
for (i, m) in enumerate (M):
    theta_true = generate_model (n)
    (X, y) = generate_data (m, theta_true, sigma=0.1)
    t = %timeit -o estimate_coeffs (X, y)
    times[i] = t.best

804 µs ± 7.11 µs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
3.13 ms ± 931 µs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 100 loops each)
10.8 ms ± 899 µs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 100 loops each)
107 ms ± 13.7 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 10 loops each)
1.39 s ± 47.6 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1 loop each)

```

In [5]: t\_linear = [times[0]/M[0]\*m for m in M]

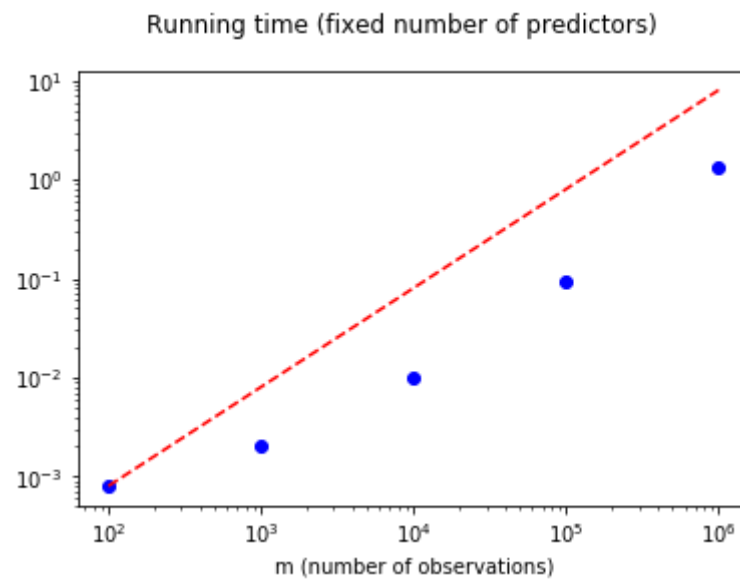
```

fig = plt.figure()
ax1 = fig.add_subplot(111)
ax1.loglog (M, times, 'bo')
ax1.loglog (M, t_linear, 'r--')
ax1.set_xlabel ('m (number of observations)')

```

```
fig.suptitle('Running time (fixed number of predictors)')
```

```
Out[5]: Text(0.5,0.98,'Running time (fixed number of predictors)')
```



**Exercise 0** (ungraded). Now fix the number  $m$  of observations but vary the dimension  $n$ . How does time scale with  $n$ ? Complete the benchmark to find out. In particular, given the array  $N[:, ]$ , compute an array,  $\text{times}[:, ]$ , such that  $\text{times}[i]$  is the running time for a problem of size  $m \times (N[i]$

Hint: You can adapt the preceding benchmark. Also, note that the code cell following the one immediately below will plot your results against  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  and  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .

```
In [6]: N = [2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024]
m = 5000
times = [0.] * len(N)

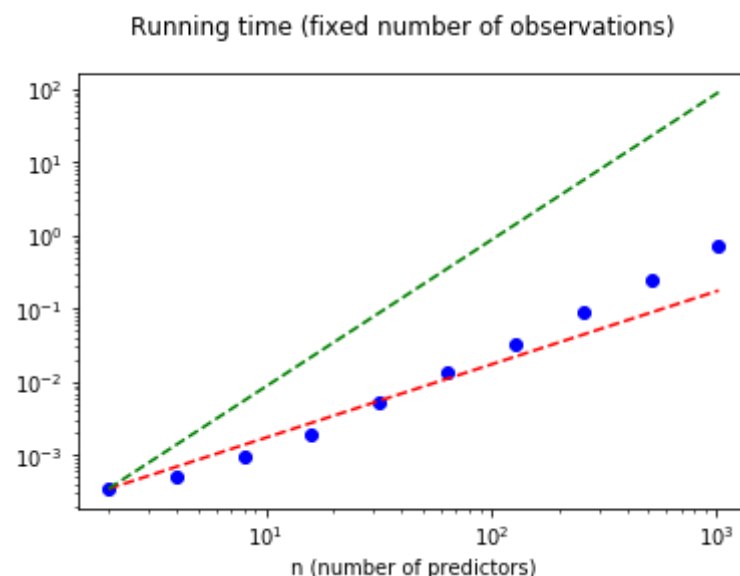
# Implement a benchmark to compute the time,
# `times[i]`, to execute a problem of size `N[i]`.
for (i, n) in enumerate(N):
    ### BEGIN SOLUTION
    theta_true = generate_model(n)
    (X, y) = generate_data(m, theta_true, sigma=0.1)
    t = %timeit -o estimate_coeffs(X, y)
    times[i] = t.best
    ### END SOLUTION
```

```
347 µs ± 238 ns per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
520 µs ± 372 ns per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
998 µs ± 75.3 µs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
1.96 ms ± 171 µs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 100 loops each)
5.82 ms ± 454 µs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 100 loops each)
16.7 ms ± 1.78 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 100 loops each)
40.1 ms ± 7.43 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 10 loops each)
97.9 ms ± 12.7 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 10 loops each)
249 ms ± 366 µs per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1 loop each)
876 ms ± 178 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1 loop each)
```

```
In [7]: t_linear = [times[0]/N[0]*n for n in N]
t_quadratic = [times[0]/N[0]/N[0]*n*n for n in N]

fig = plt.figure()
ax1 = fig.add_subplot(111)
ax1.loglog(N, times, 'bo')
ax1.loglog(N, t_linear, 'r--')
ax1.loglog(N, t_quadratic, 'g--')
ax1.set_xlabel('n (number of predictors)')
fig.suptitle('Running time (fixed number of observations)')
```

```
Out[7]: Text(0.5,0.98,'Running time (fixed number of observations)')
```



Thus, the empirical scaling appears to be pretty reasonable, being roughly linear in  $m$ . And while being quadratic in  $n$  sounds bad, one expects (and indeed finds) that  $n \ll \sqrt{m}$  in practical regression problems.

**Fin!** If you've gotten this far without errors, your notebook is ready to submit.

## Part 4: "Online" linear regression

When you are trying to fit a model to data and you get to see all of the data at once, we refer to the problem as an *offline* or *batch* problem, and you use certain algorithms to compute the fit that can take advantage of the fact that you have a lot of available data.

But what if you only get to see one or a few data points at a time? In that case, you might want to get an initial model from whatever data you've got and then gradually improve the model as you see new data points. In this case, we refer to the problem as being an *online* problem.

The goal of this notebook is to introduce you to online algorithms. You'll start by reviewing the offline linear regression problem, and then look at it variant. The neat thing about the online method is that you can derive it using all the tools you already have at your disposal, namely, multivariate

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
```

## Review: Offline or batch linear regression

Let's start with a quick review of the linear regression problem: given a response vector,  $y$ , and a data matrix  $X$ ---whose rows are observations and columns are variables---the problem is to find the best linear model,  $y \approx X\theta^*$ , where  $\theta^*$  is the vector of best-fit model parameters that we wish to compute. A conventional batch linear least squares method has an asymptotic running time of  $\mathcal{O}(mn^2)$ .

To start, here is some code to help generate synthetic problems of a certain size, namely,  $m \times (n + 1)$ , where  $m$  is the number of observations number of predictors. The  $+1$  comes from our usual dummy coefficient for a non-zero intercept.

```
In [2]: def generate_model (n):
        """Returns a set of (random) n+1 linear model coefficients."""
        return np.random.rand (n+1, 1)

def generate_data (m, theta, sigma=1.0/(2**0.5)):
    """
    Generates 'm' noisy observations for a linear model whose
    predictor (non-intercept) coefficients are given in 'theta'.
    Decrease 'sigma' to decrease the amount of noise.
    """
    assert (type (theta) is np.ndarray) and (theta.ndim == 2) and (theta.shape[1] == 1)
    n = len (theta)
    X = np.random.rand (m, n)
    X[:, 0] = 1.0
    y = X.dot (theta) + sigma*np.random.randn (m, 1)
    return (X, y)

def estimate_coeffs (X, y):
    """
    Solves  $X\theta = y$  by a linear least squares method.
    """
    result = np.linalg.lstsq (X, y, rcond=None)
    theta = result[0]
    return theta
```

```
In [3]: def rel_diff(x, y, ord=2):
        """
        Computes  $\|x-y\| / \|y\|$ . Uses 2-norm by default;
        override by setting 'ord'.
        """
        return np.linalg.norm(x - y, ord=ord) / np.linalg.norm(y, ord=ord)
```

## An online algorithm

The empirical scaling of linear least squares appears to be pretty good, being roughly linear in  $m$  or at worst quadratic in  $n$ . But there is still a dov and storage: each time there is a change in the data, you appear to need to form the data matrix all over again and recompute the solution from s possibly touching the entire data set again!

This begs the question, is there a way to incrementally update the model coefficients whenever a new data point, or perhaps a small batch of new arrives? Such a procedure would be considered *incremental* or *online*, rather than batched or offline.

**Setup: Key assumptions and main goal.** In the discussion that follows, assume that you only get to see the observations *one-at-a-time*. Let  $(y_k, \hat{x}_k^T)$  be the current observation. (Relative to our previous notation, this tuple is just element  $k$  of  $y$  and row  $k$  of  $X$ .)

We will use  $\hat{x}_k^T$  to denote a row  $k$  of  $X$  since we previously used  $x_j$  to denote column  $j$  of  $X$ . That is,

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 & \cdots & x_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{x}_0^T \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}_{m-1}^T \end{pmatrix},$$

where the first form is our previous "columns-view" representation and the second form is our "rows-view."

Additionally, assume that, at the time the  $k$ -th observation arrives, you start with a current estimate of the parameters,  $\tilde{\theta}(k)$ , which is a vector. If for some reason you need to refer to element  $i$  of that vector, use  $\tilde{\theta}_i(k)$ . You will then compute a new estimate,  $\tilde{\theta}(k+1)$  using  $\tilde{\theta}(k)$  and  $(y_k, \hat{x}_k^T)$ . For  $k \geq 1$  below, further assume that you throw out  $\tilde{\theta}(k)$  once you have  $\tilde{\theta}(k+1)$ .

As for your goal, recall that in the batch setting you start with *all* the observations,  $(y, X)$ . From this starting point, you may estimate the linear regression model's parameters,  $\theta$ , by solving  $X\theta = y$ . In the online setting, you compute estimates one at a time. After seeing all  $m$  observations in  $X$ , you compute an  $\tilde{\theta}_{m-1} \approx \theta$ .

**An intuitive (but flawed) idea.** Indeed, there is a technique from the signal processing literature that we can apply to the linear regression problem: the *least mean square (LMS) algorithm*. Before describing it, let's start with an initial idea.

Suppose that you have a current estimate of the parameters,  $\tilde{\theta}(k)$ , when you get a new sample,  $(y_k, \hat{x}_k^T)$ . The error in your prediction will be,

$$y_k - \hat{x}_k^T \tilde{\theta}(k).$$

Ideally, this error would be zero. So, let's ask if there exists a *correction*,  $\Delta_k$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned} y_k - \hat{x}_k^T (\tilde{\theta}(k) + \Delta_k) &= 0 \\ \iff y_k - \hat{x}_k^T \tilde{\theta}(k) &= \hat{x}_k^T \Delta_k \end{aligned}$$

Then, you could compute a new estimate of the parameter by  $\tilde{\theta}(k+1) = \tilde{\theta}(k) + \Delta_k$ .

This idea has a major flaw, which we will discuss below. But before we do, please try the following exercise.

**Mental exercise (no points).** Verify that the following choice of  $\Delta_k$  would make the preceding equation true.

$$\Delta_k = \frac{\hat{x}_k}{\|\hat{x}_k\|_2^2} (y_k - \hat{x}_k^T \tilde{\theta}(k)).$$

**Refining (or rather, "hacking") the basic idea: The least mean square (LMS) procedure.** The basic idea sketched above has at least one major flaw: any choice of  $\Delta_k$  might allow you to correctly predict  $y_k$  from  $x_k$  and the new estimate  $\tilde{\theta}(k+1) = \tilde{\theta}(k) + \Delta_k$ , but there is no guarantee that this new estimate  $\tilde{\theta}(k+1)$  preserves the quality of predictions made at all previous iterations!

There are a number of ways to deal with this problem, which includes carrying out an update with respect to some (or all) previous data. However, we will focus on a simpler "hack" that, though it might require some parameter tuning, can be made to work in practice.

That hack is as follows. Rather than using  $\Delta_k$  as computed above, let's compute a different update that has a "fudge" factor,  $\phi$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\theta}(k+1) &= \tilde{\theta}(k) + \Delta_k \\ \text{where } \Delta_k &= \phi \cdot \hat{x}_k (y_k - \hat{x}_k^T \tilde{\theta}(k)). \end{aligned}$$

A big question is how to choose  $\phi$ . There is some analysis out there that can help. We will just state the results of this analysis without proof.

Let  $\lambda_{\max}(X^T X)$  be the largest eigenvalue of  $X^T X$ . The result is that as the number of samples  $s \rightarrow \infty$ , any choice of  $\phi$  that satisfies the following condition will *eventually* converge to the best least-squares estimator of  $\theta$ , that is, the estimate of  $\theta$  you would have gotten by solving the linear regression problem with all of the data.

$$0 < \phi < \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(X^T X)}.$$

This condition is not very satisfying, because you cannot really know  $\lambda_{\max}(X^T X)$  until you've seen all the data, whereas we would like to apply the LMS procedure *online* as the data arrive. Nevertheless, in practice you can imagine hybrid schemes that, given a batch of data points, use the QR fitting procedure to get a starting estimate for  $\tilde{\theta}$  as well as to estimate a value of  $\phi$  to use for all future updates.

**Summary of the LMS algorithm.** To summarize, the algorithm is as follows:

- Choose any initial guess,  $\tilde{\theta}(0)$ , such as  $\tilde{\theta}(0) \leftarrow 0$ .
- For each observation  $(y_k, \hat{x}_k^T)$ , do the update:
  - $\tilde{\theta}(k+1) \leftarrow \tilde{\theta}(k) + \Delta_k$ ,

$$\text{where } \Delta_k = \phi \cdot \hat{x}_k (y_k - \hat{x}_k^T \tilde{\theta}(k)).$$

## Trying out the LMS idea

Now *you* should implement the LMS algorithm and see how it behaves.

To start, let's generate an initial 1-D problem (2 regression coefficients, a slope, and an intercept), and solve it using the batch procedure.

Recall that we need a value for  $\phi$ , for which we have an upper-bound of  $\lambda_{\max}(X^T X)$ . Let's cheat by computing it explicitly, even though in practice we need to do something different.

```
In [4]: m = 100000
        n = 1
        theta_true = generate_model(n)
        (X, y) = generate_data(m, theta_true, sigma=0.1)

        print("Condition number of the data matrix:", np.linalg.cond(X))

        theta = estimate_coeffs(X, y)
        e_rel = rel_diff(theta, theta_true)

        print("Relative error:", e_rel)
```

```
Condition number of the data matrix: 4.400944337141808
Relative error: 0.0016564742343831158
```

```
In [5]: LAMBDA_MAX = max(np.linalg.eigvals(X.T.dot(X)))
        print(LAMBDA_MAX)
```

```
126970.43769457837
```

**Exercise 1** (5 points). Implement the online LMS algorithm in the code cell below where indicated. It should produce a final parameter estimate,  $\hat{\theta}$ , as a column vector.

In addition, the skeleton code below uses `rel_diff()` to record the relative difference between the estimate and the true vector, storing the  $k$ -th difference in `rel_diffs[k]`. Doing so will allow you to see the convergence behavior of the method.

Lastly, to help you out, we've defined a constant in terms of  $\lambda_{\max}(X^T X)$  that you can use for  $\phi$ .

In practice, you would only maintain the current estimate, or maybe just a few recent estimates, rather than all of them. Since we want to inspect these vectors later, go ahead and store them all.

```
In [6]: PHI = 1.99 / LAMBDA_MAX # Fudge factor
        rel_diffs = np.zeros((m+1, 1))

        theta_k = np.zeros((n+1))
        for k in range(m):
            rel_diffs[k] = rel_diff(theta_k, theta_true)

            # Implement the online LMS algorithm.
            # Take (y[k], X[k, :]) to be the k-th observation.
            ### BEGIN SOLUTION
            x_k = X[k, :]
            r_k = y[k] - x_k.T.dot(theta_k)
            delta_k = PHI * r_k * x_k
            theta_k = theta_k + delta_k
            ### END SOLUTION

        theta_lms = theta_k
        rel_diffs[m] = rel_diff(theta_lms, theta_true)
```

Let's compare the true coefficients against the estimates, both from the batch algorithm and the online algorithm. The values of the variables below change if the notebooks are re-run from start.

```
In [7]: print (theta_true.T)
        print (theta.T)
        print (theta_lms.T)

        print("\n('Passed' -- this cell appears to run without error, but we aren't checking the solution.)")

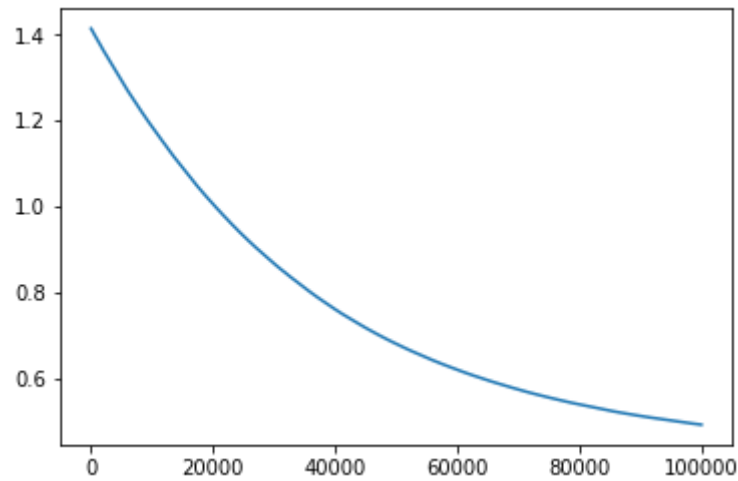
        [[0.87103594  0.46153527]]
        [[0.87172037  0.46005275]]
        [0.74984566  0.40192802]

        ('Passed' -- this cell appears to run without error, but we aren't checking the solution.)
```

Let's also compute the relative differences between each estimate `Theta[:, k]` and the true coefficients `theta_true`, measured in the two-norm estimate is converging to the truth.

In [8]: `plt.plot(range(len(rel_diffs)), rel_diffs)`

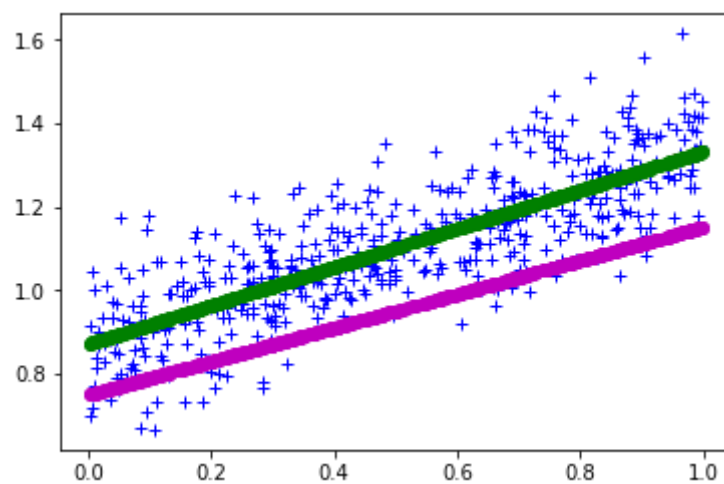
Out[8]: `[<matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x7ff8bd23eb00>]`



You should see it converging, but not especially quickly.

Finally, if the dimension is  $n=1$ , let's go ahead and do a sanity-check regression fit plot. The plot can change if the notebooks are re-run from start

```
In [9]: STEP = int(X.shape[0] / 500)
if n == 1:
    fig = plt.figure()
    ax1 = fig.add_subplot(111)
    ax1.plot(X[:,STEP], y[:,STEP], 'b+') # blue - data
    ax1.plot(X[:,STEP], X.dot(theta_true)[:,STEP], 'r*') # red - true
    ax1.plot(X[:,STEP], X.dot(theta)[:,STEP], 'go') # green - batch
    ax1.plot(X[:,STEP], X.dot(theta_lms)[:,STEP], 'mo') # magenta - pure LMS
else:
    print("Plot is multidimensional; I live in Flatland, so I don't do that.")
```



**Exercise 2** (*ungraded*, optional). We said previously that, in practice, you would probably do some sort of *hybrid* scheme that mixes full batch upc (possibly only initially) and incremental updates. Implement such a scheme and describe what you observe. You might observe a different plot ea cell is re-run.

```
In [10]: # Setup problem and compute the batch solution
m = 100000
n = 1
theta_true = generate_model(n)
(X, y) = generate_data(m, theta_true, sigma=0.1)
theta_batch = estimate_coeffs(X, y)

# Your turn, below: Implement a hybrid batch-LMS solution
# assuming you observe the first few data points all at
# once, and then see the remaining points one at a time.

### BEGIN SOLUTION
def lms(X, y, theta_0=None, PHI=1e-6):
    """Implements the LMS algorithm for the system X theta = y."""
    print(X.shape)
    (m, n) = X.shape

    if theta_0 is None:
        theta_k = np.zeros((n))
    else:
        theta_k = theta_0
    theta_k = np.reshape(theta_k, (n, 1))

    for k in range(m):
        x_k = X[k:k+1, :].T
        r_k = y[k] - x_k.T.dot(theta_k)
        delta_k = PHI * r_k * x_k
        theta_k = theta_k + delta_k
    return theta_k
```

```

# Pure LMS solution
START = 100
lambdas = np.linalg.eigvals(X[:START, :].T.dot(X[:START, :]))
lambda_max = max(lambdas)
lambda_min = min(lambdas)
phi = 2.0 / (lambda_max + lambda_min) # See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Least_mean_squares_filter
theta_lms = lms(X, y, PHI=phi)

# Batch on first START observations + LMS on the rest:
theta_batch_START = estimate_coeffs(X[:START, :], y[:START])
print(theta_batch_START)
theta_hybrid = lms(X[START:, :], y[START:], theta_0=theta_batch_START, PHI=phi)
print(theta_hybrid)

def calc_ssqr(theta, X, y):
    r = X.dot(theta) - y
    return r.T.dot(r)

print("=== Sum of squared errors ===")
print("True:", calc_ssqr(theta_true, X, y))
print("Batch:", calc_ssqr(theta_batch, X, y))
print("Batch-{:}:".format(START), calc_ssqr(theta_batch_START, X, y))
print("LMS(phi={:}):".format(phi), calc_ssqr(theta_lms, X, y))
print("Batch (k <= %d) + LMS:" % START, calc_ssqr(theta_hybrid, X, y))

print("=== Relative error in the coefficients (theta) ===")
print("Batch:", rel_diff(theta_batch, theta_true))
print("Batch-{:}:".format(START), rel_diff(theta_batch_START, theta_true))
print("LMS(phi={:}):".format(phi), rel_diff(theta_lms, theta_true))
print("Batch (k <= %d) + LMS:" % START, rel_diff(theta_hybrid, theta_true))

STEP = int(X.shape[0] / 100)
if n == 1:
    fig = plt.figure()
    ax1 = fig.add_subplot(111)
    ax1.plot(X[:, 1], y[:, 1], 'b+') # blue - data
    ax1.plot(X[:, 1], X.dot(theta_true)[:, 1], 'r*') # red - true
    ax1.plot(X[:, 1], X.dot(theta_batch)[:, 1], 'go') # green - batch
    ax1.plot(X[:, 1], X.dot(theta_lms)[:, 1], 'mo') # magenta - pure LMS
    ax1.plot(X[:, 1], X.dot(theta_hybrid)[:, 1], 'yx') # yellow - hybrid
else:
    print("Plot is multidimensional; I live in Flatland, so I don't do that.")

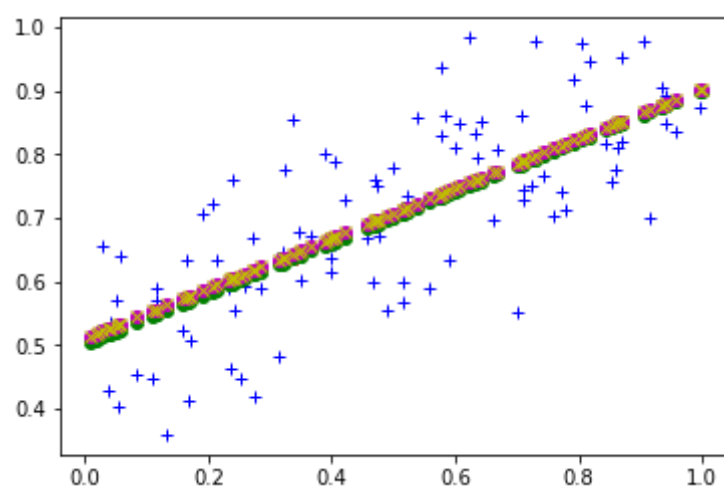
### END SOLUTION

```

```

(10000, 2)
[[0.54400102]
 [0.33553129]]
(99900, 2)
[[0.51075904]
 [0.39327854]]
=== Sum of squared errors ===
True: [[994.76733987]]
Batch: [[994.76638474]]
Batch-100: [[1040.65200804]]
LMS(phi=0.014605068287428212): [[999.28578087]]
Batch (k <= 100) + LMS: [[999.28578087]]
=== Relative error in the coefficients (theta) ===
Batch: 0.00025460403740161595
Batch-100: 0.12047813595445639
LMS(phi=0.014605068287428212): 0.018194600645439905
Batch (k <= 100) + LMS: 0.018194600645439905

```



**Fin!** If you've gotten this far without errors, your notebook is ready to submit.



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