

# **4. Supervised Learning & Linear Regression**

**EECE454 Introduction to  
Machine Learning Systems**

# Notice

- Get ready for attendance checks & assignments!

# Big Picture



- **Linear Algebra.** Vectors and Matrices formalize both **Data** and **Model**
  - **Matrix Calculus.** Needed for optimization of models
- **Probability.** Formalizes *uncertainty* in data and optimization
- **Today.** Start formally studying ML!

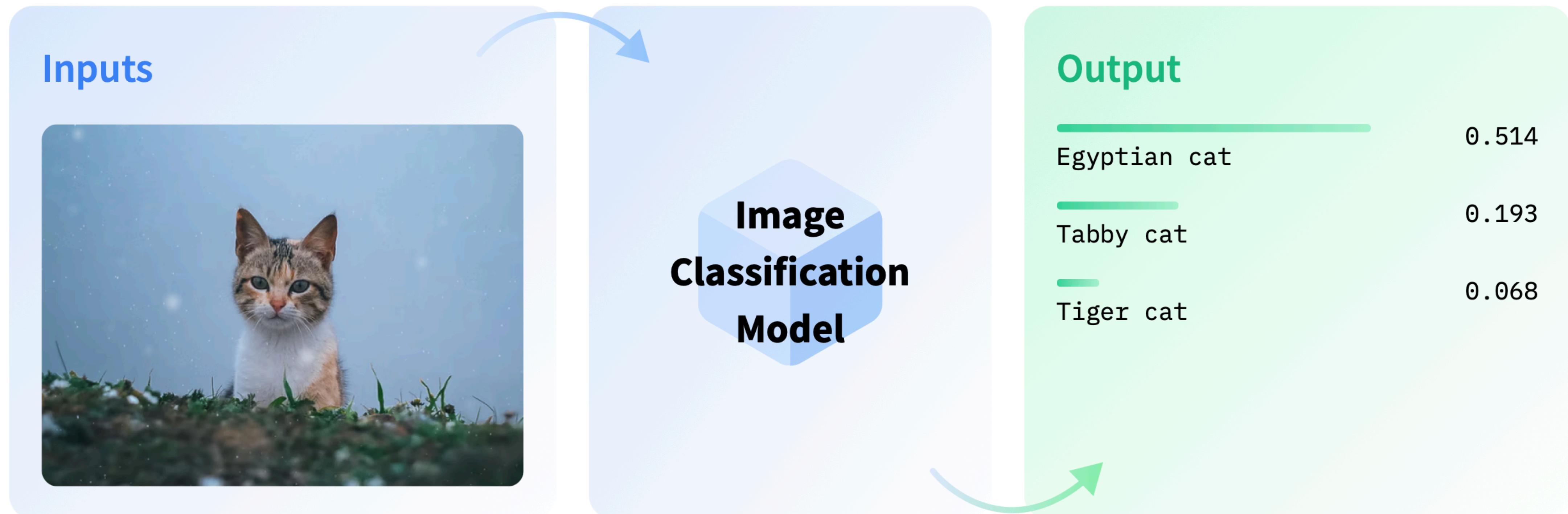
# **Supervised Learning: The basic framework**

# Setup

- **Goal.** Build a nice ***predictor***—
  - Predict some ***output***  $Y$  given a (jointly distributed) ***input***  $X$ .

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\* image source: HuggingFace

# Setup

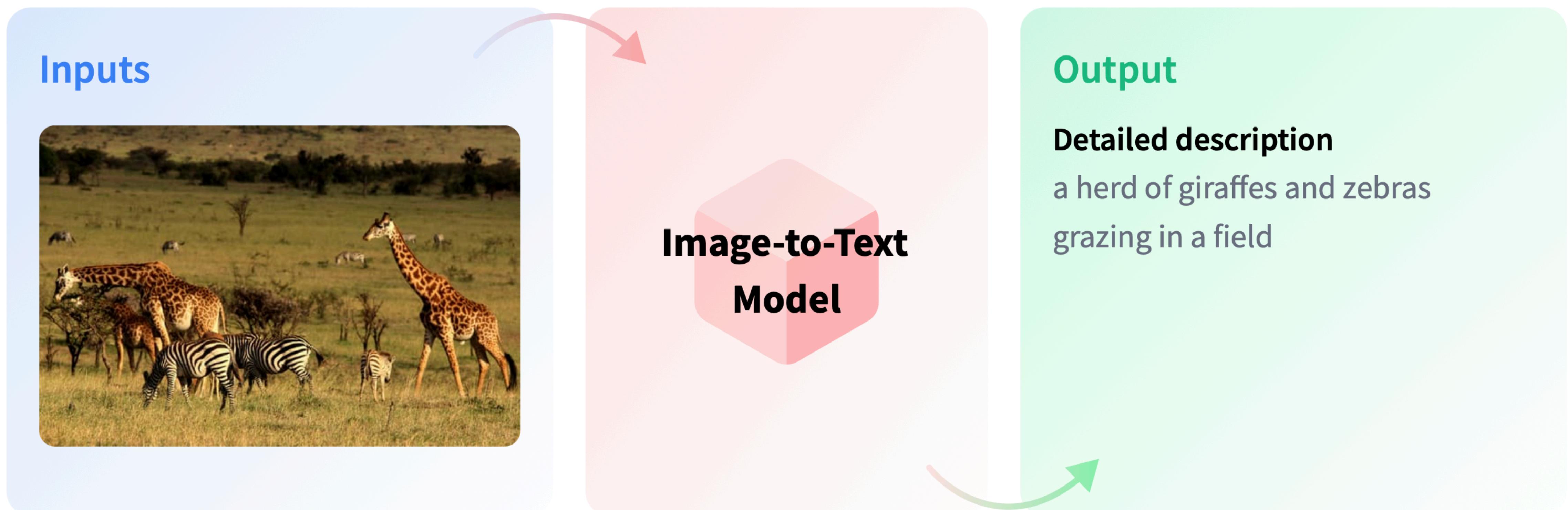
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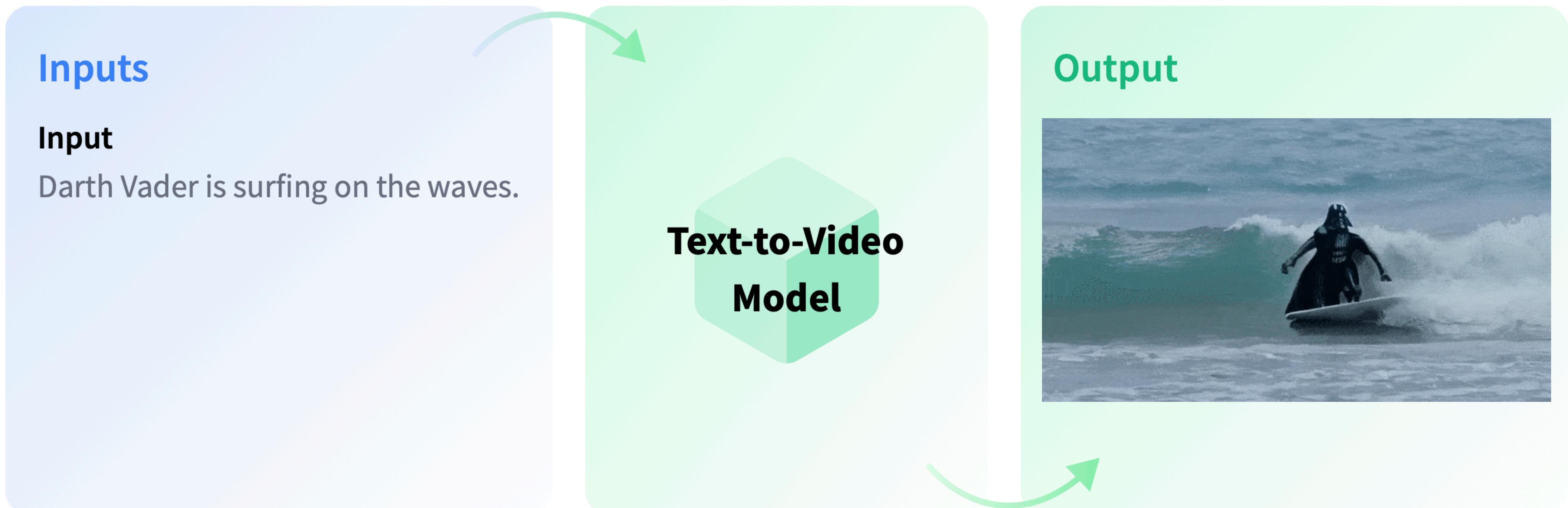
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# Setup

- Find a predictor  $f(\cdot)$  such that  $f(X) \approx Y$ 
  - Can rewrite as
$$\text{minimize } \mathbb{E}[\ell(f(X), Y)], \quad \dots \text{ over a good set of candidate } f(\cdot)$$
for some nice “loss” function  $\ell(\cdot, \cdot)$ .
- **Problem.** Don’t know the joint distribution  $P_{XY}$   
(if we knew, we can easily choose Bayes-optimal  $f$ )

# Setup

- **Dataset.** Instead, we can use the *training dataset*.
  - The dataset consists of many ***input-output*** pairs.  
(i.e., feature-label)
$$D = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$$
  - We call this scenario ***supervised***—someone already inspected the data  $x_i$  and annotated with  $y_i$   
(i.e., supervision for machine)

# Example “Labeled” dataset: ImageNet



n02097047 (196)



n01682714 (40)



n03134739 (522)



n04254777 (806)



n02859443 (449)



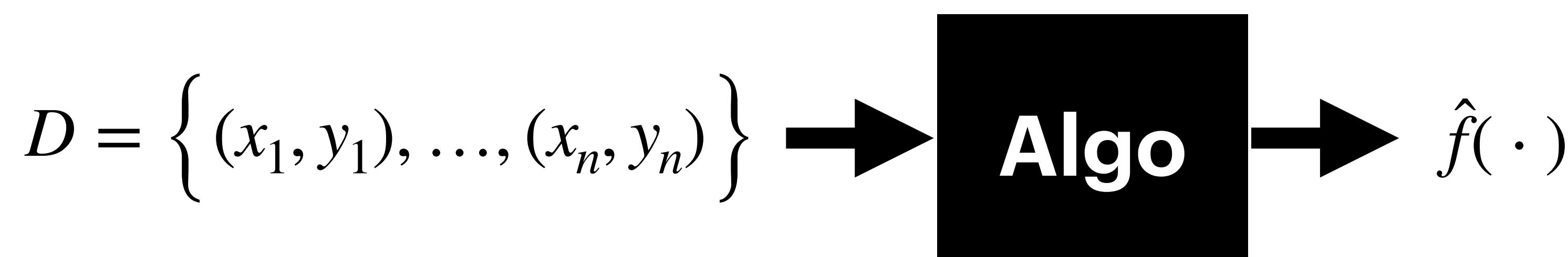
n02096177 (192)

[imagenet1000\\_clsidx\\_to\\_labels.txt](#)

```
1 {0: 'tench, Tinca tinca',
2   1: 'goldfish, Carassius auratus',
3   2: 'great white shark, white shark, man-eater, ma-
4   3: 'tiger shark, Galeocerdo cuvieri',
5   4: 'hammerhead, hammerhead shark',
6   5: 'electric ray, crampfish, numbfish, torpedo',
7   6: 'stingray',
8   7: 'cock',
9   8: 'hen',
10  9: 'ostrich, Struthio camelus',
11  10: 'brambling, Fringilla montifringilla',
12  11: 'goldfinch, Carduelis carduelis',
13  12: 'house finch, linnet, Carpodacus mexicanus',
14  13: 'junco, snowbird',
15  14: 'indigo bunting, indigo finch, indigo bird, P-
16  15: 'robin, American robin, Turdus migratorius',
17  16: 'bulbul',
18  17: 'jay',
19  18: 'magpie',
20  19: 'chickadee',
```

# Learning Algorithm

- Summing up, supervised learning is simply doing



with some algorithm.

- **Q. What algorithm?**

# Learning Algorithm

- Typically consist of two elements:

- A bag of functions (hypothesis space)

$$\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, f_2, \dots\}$$

- An optimizer—the training method
    - (approximately) solves **Empirical Risk Minimization (ERM)**

$$\min_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(y_i, f(x_i)) + \text{regularizer}$$

# Learning Algorithm

- **Intuition.** Empirical Risk  $\approx$  True Risk (Population Risk)

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n g(X_i) \longrightarrow \mathbb{E}[g(X)]$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell\left(y_i, f(x_i)\right) \longrightarrow \mathbb{E}[\ell(Y, f(X))]$$

(**Note 1.** How fast? consult concentration inequalities)

(**Note 2.** Not 100% required—not all  $X_i$  are born equal!)

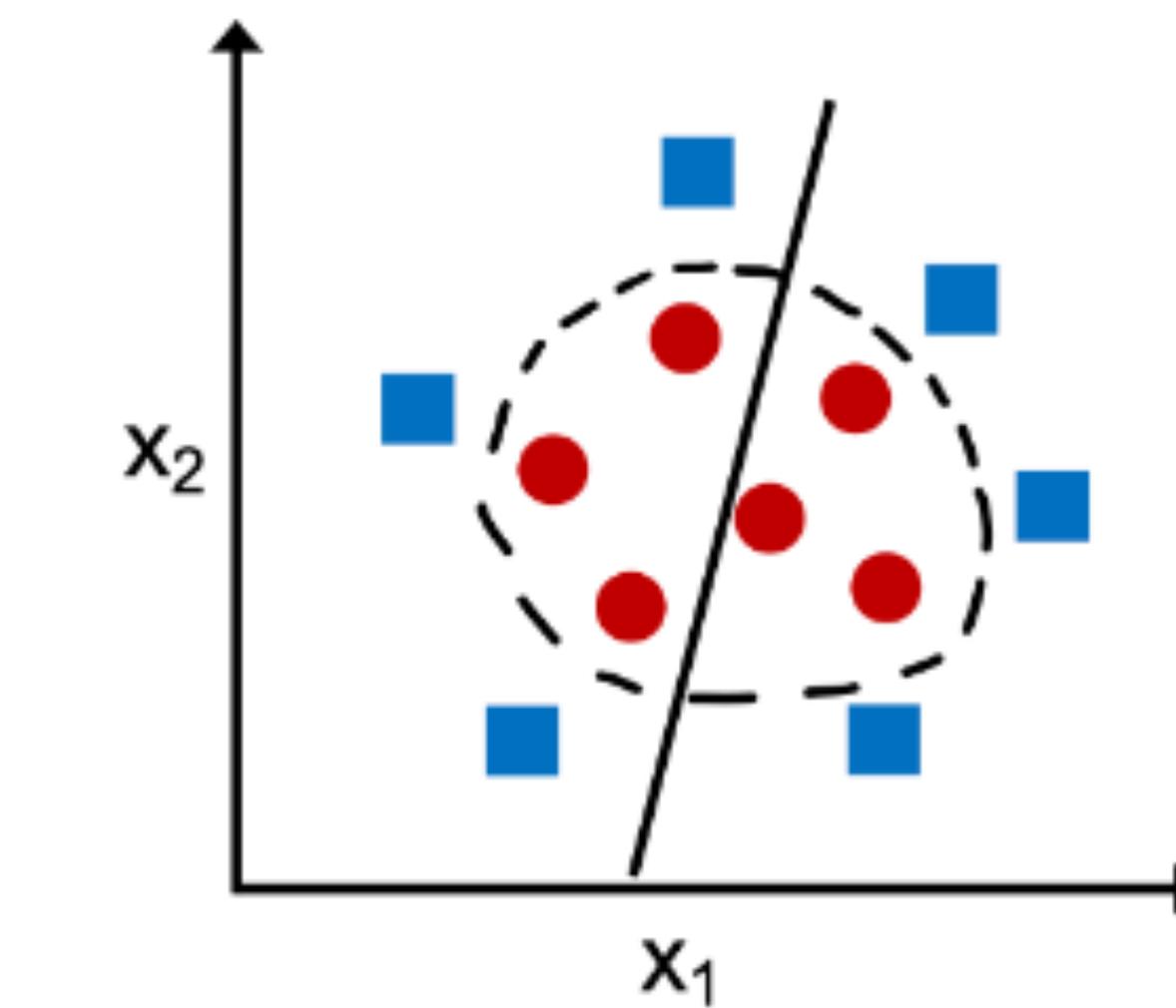
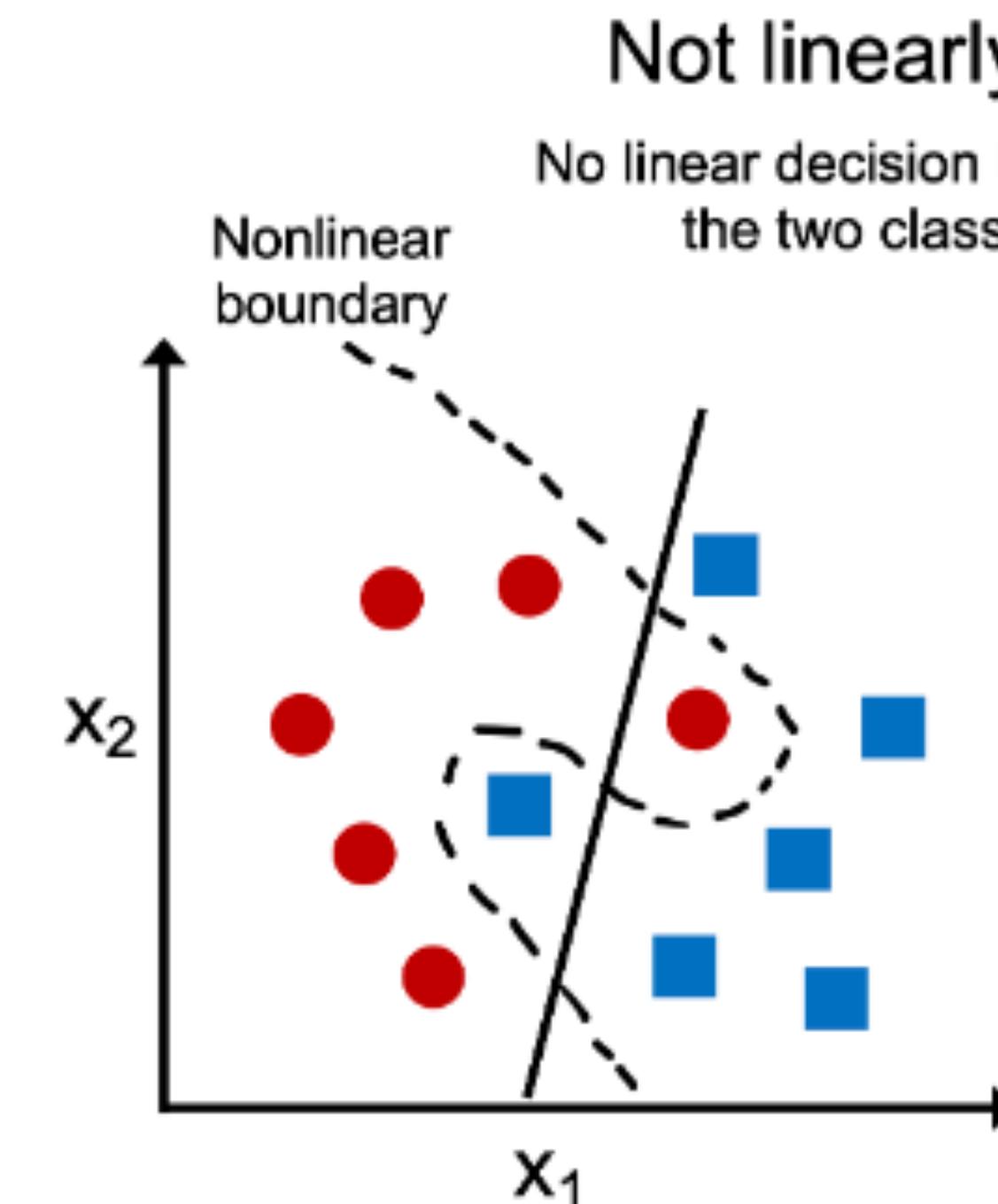
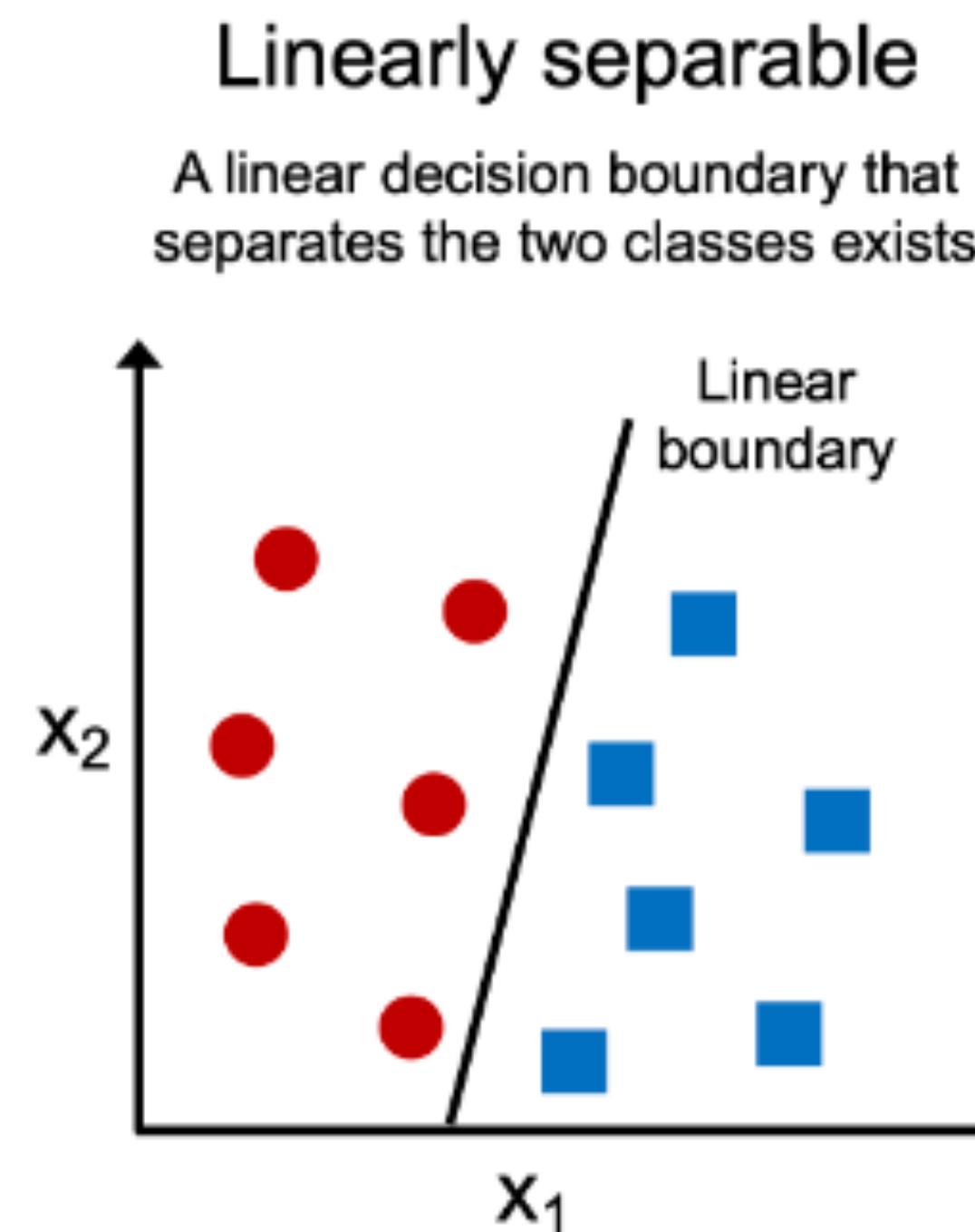
# Testing

- We hope that  $\mathbb{E}[\ell(Y, \hat{f}(X))]$  is small, but how do we know?
- Usually have a **test dataset**  $D^{\text{test}} = \{(\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{y}_1), \dots, (\tilde{x}_k, \tilde{y}_k)\}$ .
  - We validate the smallness of
$$\frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k \ell(\hat{f}(\tilde{x}_i), \tilde{y}_i)$$
  - Typically splits train/val\*/test into 8:1:1 (or 7:1:2 in the past).  
(cross-validation if the dataset is small)

**Learning algorithm  
vs Learning algorithm**

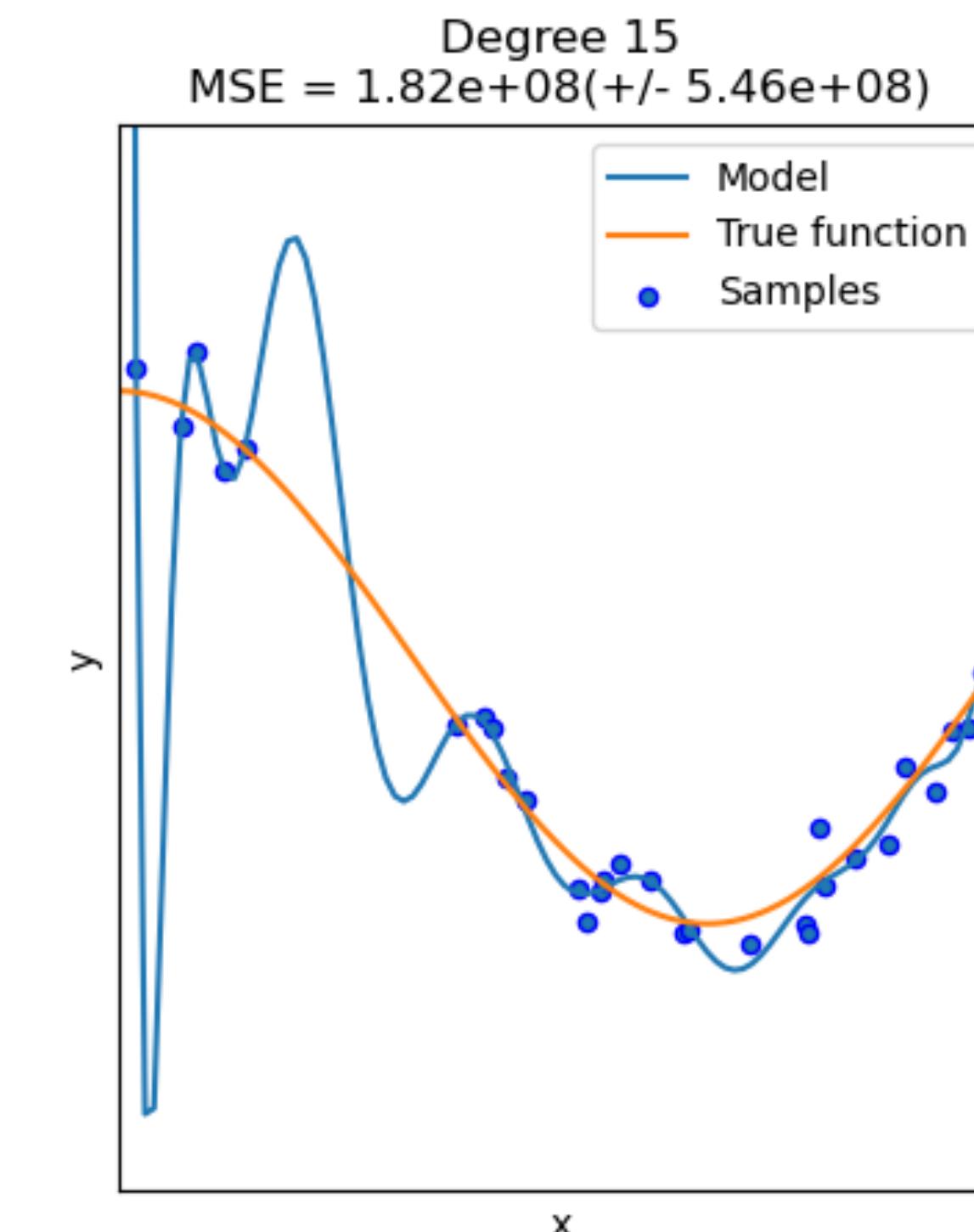
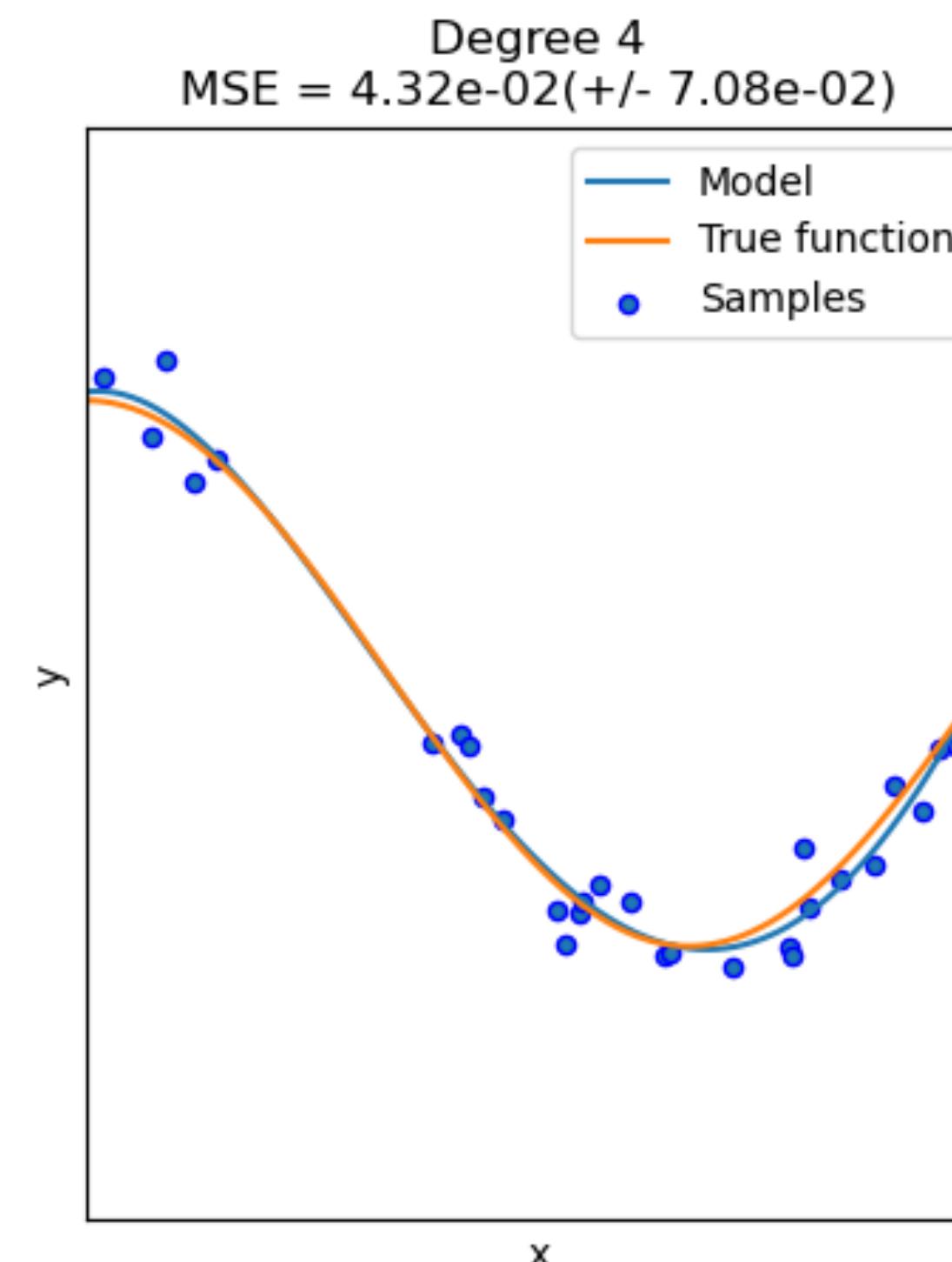
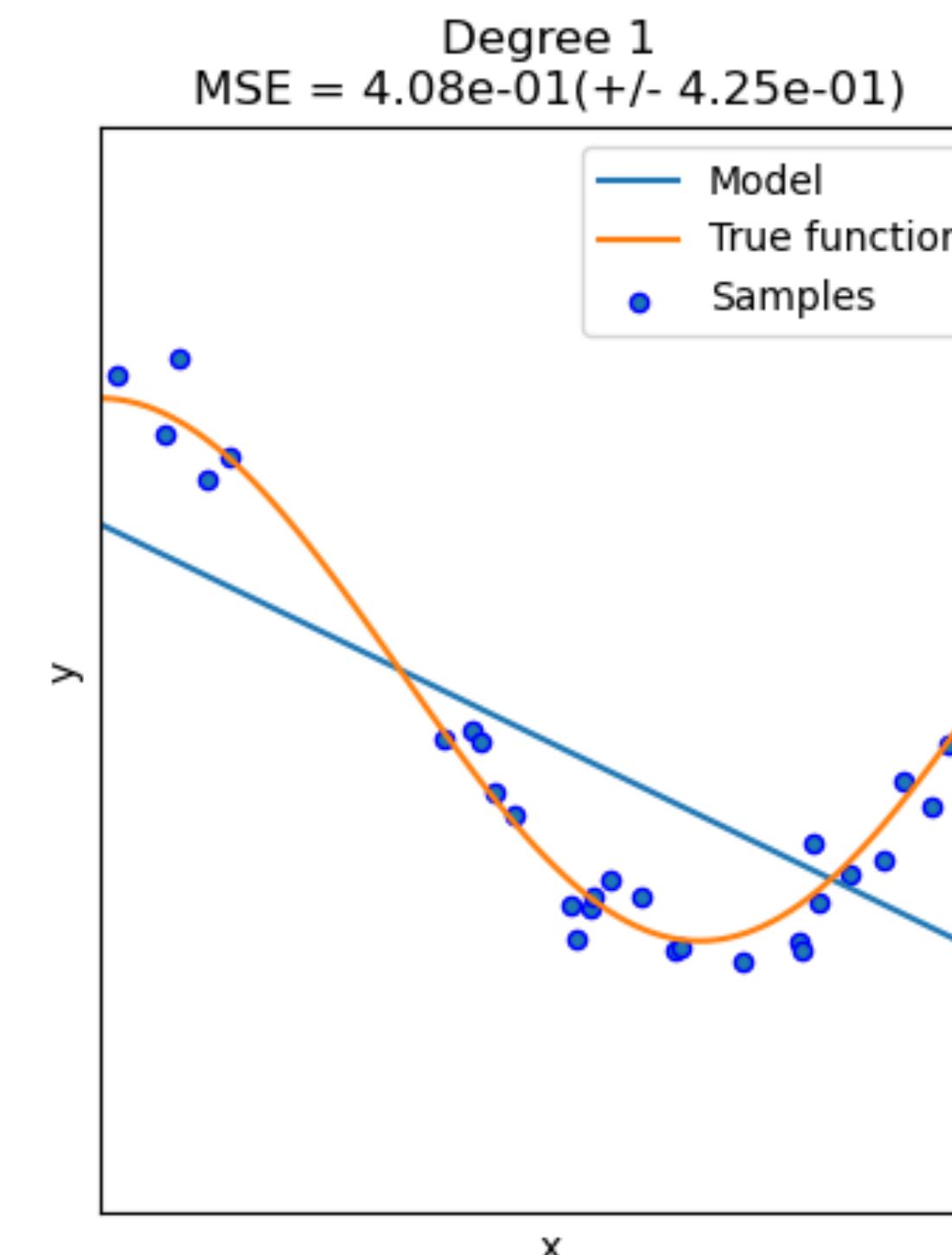
# Which algorithm should we use?

- Some considerations:
  - **Model Size** (= Richness of Hypothesis Space)
    - If **too small**, even the best  $\hat{f}(\cdot)$  cannot fit the reality.



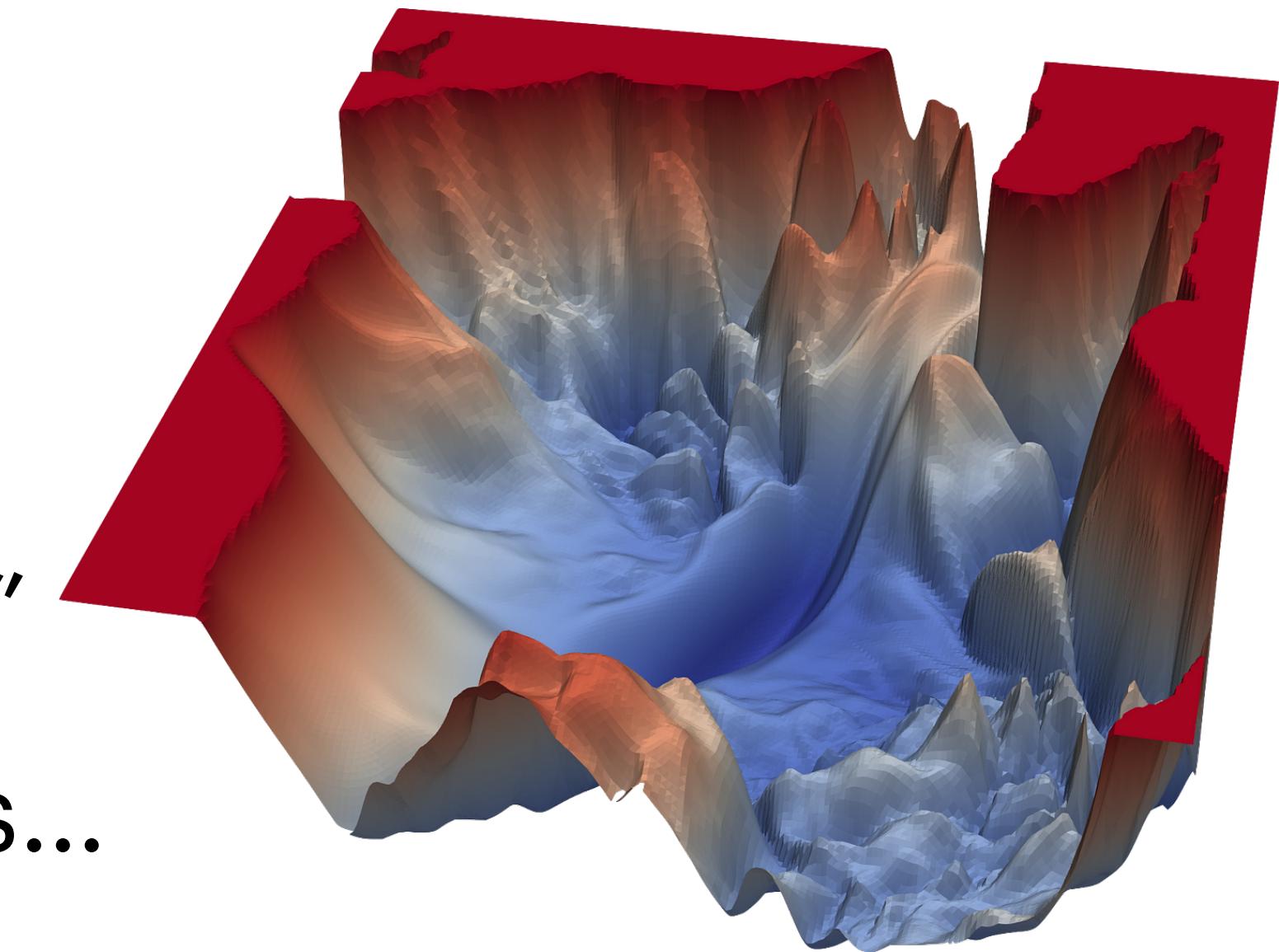
# Which algorithm should we use?

- Some considerations:
  - **Model Size** (= Richness of Hypothesis Space)
    - If **too large**, can **overfit** the training data + large inference cost



# Which algorithm should we use?

- Some considerations:
  - **Optimization** (= difficulty of solving ERM)
    - Often highly customized for each “model.”
    - For highly complicated, non-linear models...
      - Explicit solution not available.
      - Takes a long time to compute the optimum  
(high training cost)



# Which algorithm should we use?

- Some considerations:
  - **Loss function / Regularizer**
    - Affects how difficult the optimization is.
    - Affects overfitting.
    - Affects desirable properties (robustness, sparsity)...

# Throughout the course...

- We study popular ML models one-by-one.
  - Which “hypothesis space” it uses.
  - Which “optimizer” it uses.
  - Which “loss/regularizer” it uses.
- **This and Next Class.** Linear models, Naïve Bayes, Nearest Neighbors

Note. Many of these choices are heavily dependent on **task**.

(regression vs. classification, image vs. text vs. tabular, ...)

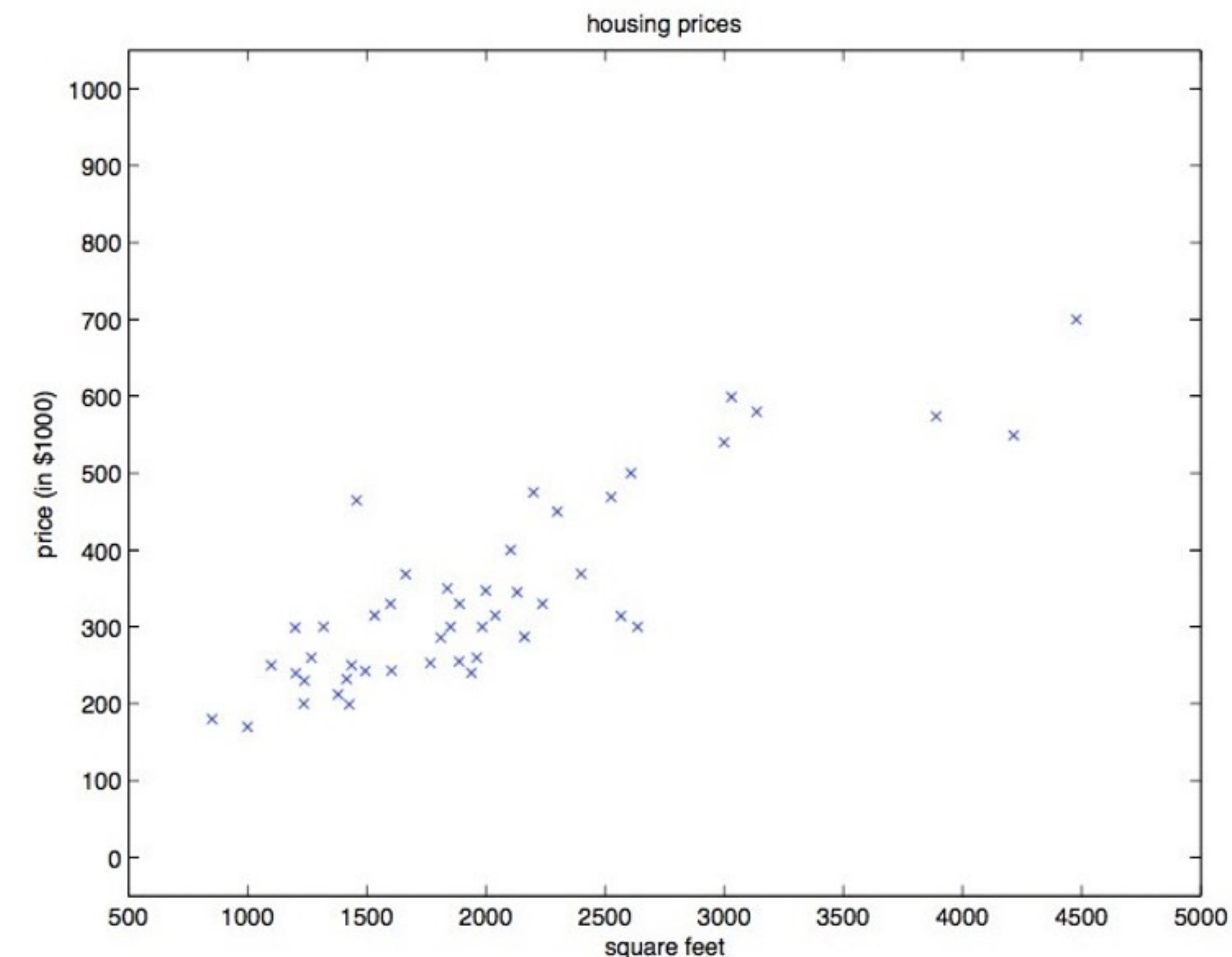
# Linear Regression

# Regression

- **Regression**  $\approx$  Predict continuous  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .
- **Example.** House price prediction.

$$f(\text{area}) = \text{price}$$

Living area (feet <sup>2</sup> )	Price (1000\$)
2104	400
1600	330
2400	369
1416	232
3000	540
:	:



# Linear Regression

- We use linear model  $f(\cdot)$ .

- If  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

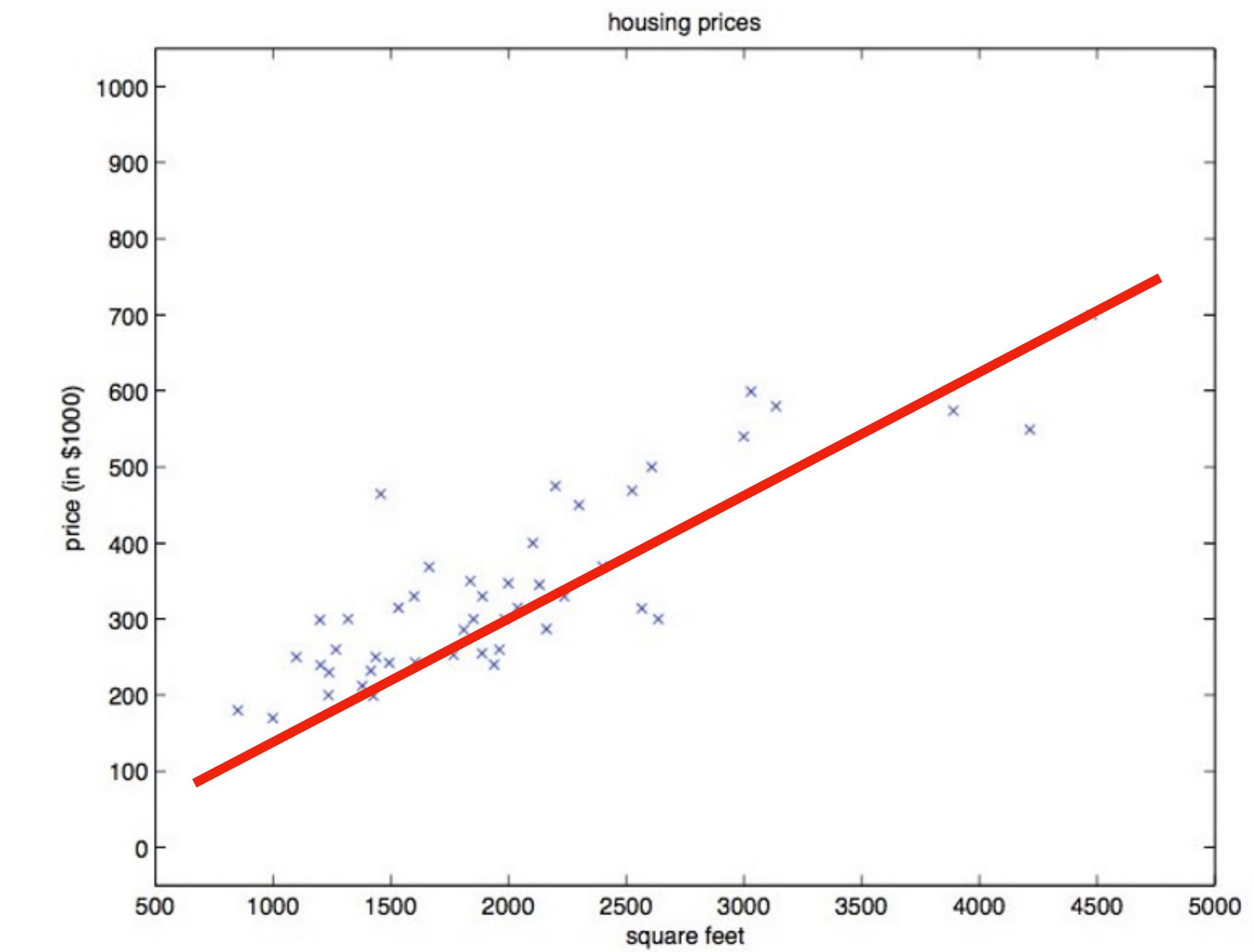
$$f(\mathbf{x}) = w \cdot x + b, \quad w \in \mathbb{R}, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

- If  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x} + b, \quad \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

- If  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}, \quad \mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$$



# Linear Regression

- We use linear models
- Reflects a belief that the **data-generating distribution** may look like:

$$X \sim P(X)$$

$$Y \sim w_*^\top X + \epsilon$$

where  $\epsilon$  is some (zero-mean) noise.

- **Fun fact.** If  $X, Y$  are jointly Gaussian, MMSE estimator is always linear!



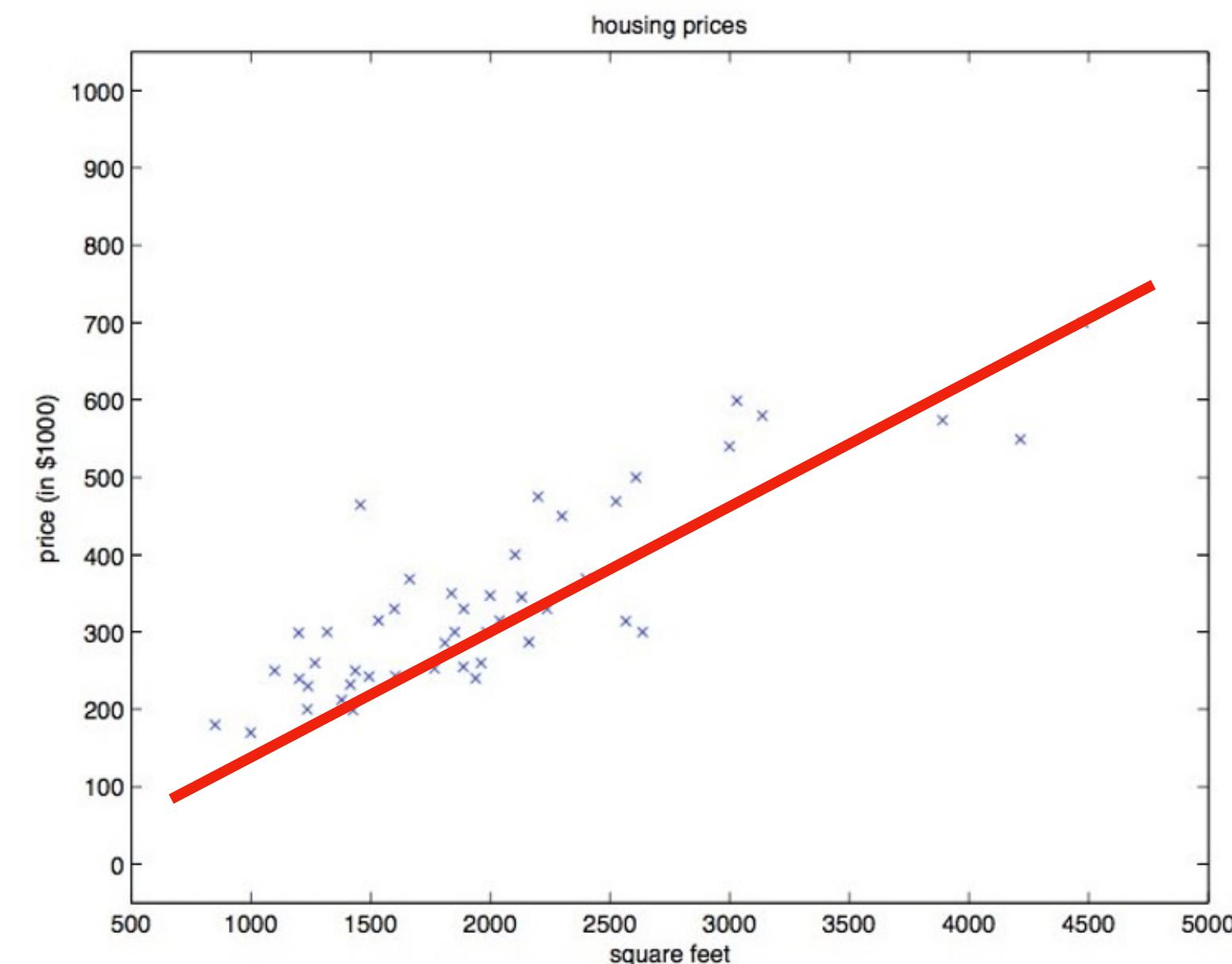
# Linear Regression: Ordinary Least Squares

- We use squared  $\ell_2$  loss  $\ell(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \|\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}\|_2^2$ .

- For a dataset  $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ , we solve

$$\min_{w,b} \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (w \cdot x_i + b))^2$$

- **Why least squared?**
  - easy to solve (quadratic)
  - nice interpretation (maximum likelihood solution under linear model + Gaussian noise)



# Solving the Linear Regression

# 1D, bias-free case

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (w \cdot x_i))^2}_{=:J(w)}$$

- Since this is a quadratic function,  
the minimum is where derivatives are zero (critical point)

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial w}(w) = 0$$

# 1D, bias-free case

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial w} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (w \cdot x_i - y_i) x_i = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow w \left( \sum x_i^2 \right) = \sum y_i x_i$$

$$\Rightarrow w = \frac{\sum y_i x_i}{\sum x_i^2}$$

- Explicit solution can be characterized by math (not always possible)
  - No real gradient computation needed (we did math with our brain)
  - Need several multiplications and summations for optimization.

# Solving the minimization: Multivariate

- Consider a slightly more general case of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}^1} \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b)^2$$

- This looks messy, so we want to simplify a bit...

# Solving the minimization: Multivariate

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}^1} \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b)^2$$

- **Trick #1.**
- Define  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\theta = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{w} \\ b \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y - \theta^\top \tilde{\mathbf{x}})^2.$$

# Solving the minimization: Multivariate

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}} \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y - \theta^\top \tilde{\mathbf{x}})^2$$

- Trick #2.

• Define  $\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_1^\top \\ \cdots \\ \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \cdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\theta\|^2.$$

# Solving the minimization: Multivariate

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\theta\|^2$$

- We examine the critical point—where gradient is zero.

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla J(\theta) &= \frac{1}{2n} \nabla \left( (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\theta)^\top (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\theta) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2n} \nabla \left( \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} + \theta^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \theta - 2\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{X} \theta \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2n} \left( 2\theta^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} - 2\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{X} \right) = 0\end{aligned}$$

# Solving the minimization: Multivariate

- Thus, critical point is the  $\theta$  that satisfies:

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \theta = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

- If the matrix  $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$  is invertible, we have a unique solution:

$$\hat{\theta} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

- Fun exercise. Count the number of FLOPs?

# Solving the minimization: Multivariate

- Thus, critical point is the  $\theta$  that satisfies:

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \theta = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

- If not, there are infinite critical points (sadly 😢)
  - Solution. The above takes the form  $\mathbf{A}\theta = \mathbf{b}$   
⇒ simply use QR decomposition
  - Gives you **Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse**  $(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^\dagger$ ,  
which is a minimum norm solution among all possible  $\theta$ .

**Solving differently—  
Gradient Descent**

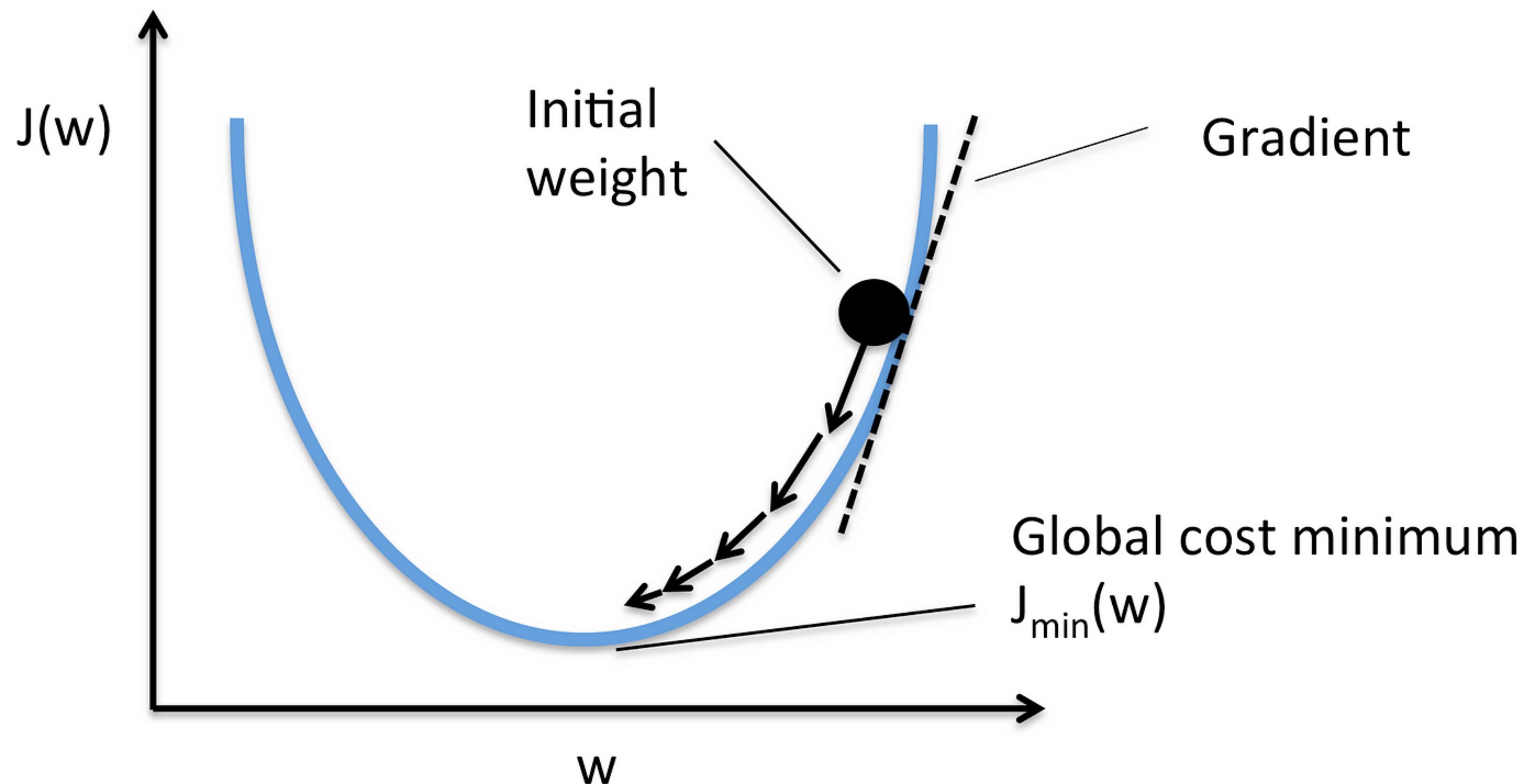
# Gradient Descent

- Repeat taking steps in the downward direction.



# Gradient Descent

- Pick a random  $\theta^{(0)}$ , and use gradient to update  $\theta^{(1)}, \theta^{(2)}, \dots$



# Gradient Descent

- Pick a random  $\theta^{(0)}$ , and use gradient to update  $\theta^{(1)}, \theta^{(2)}, \dots$
- **Idea.** Gradient = direction of fastest increase.  
    ⇒ Negative Gradient = direction of fastest decrease.

$$\theta^{(t+1)} = \theta^{(t)} - \eta \cdot \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta^{(t)})$$

- Plug in the previous gradient formula:

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta - \frac{\eta}{n} \left( \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \theta - \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} \right)$$

# Computational Remarks

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta - \frac{\eta}{n} (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \theta - \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y})$$

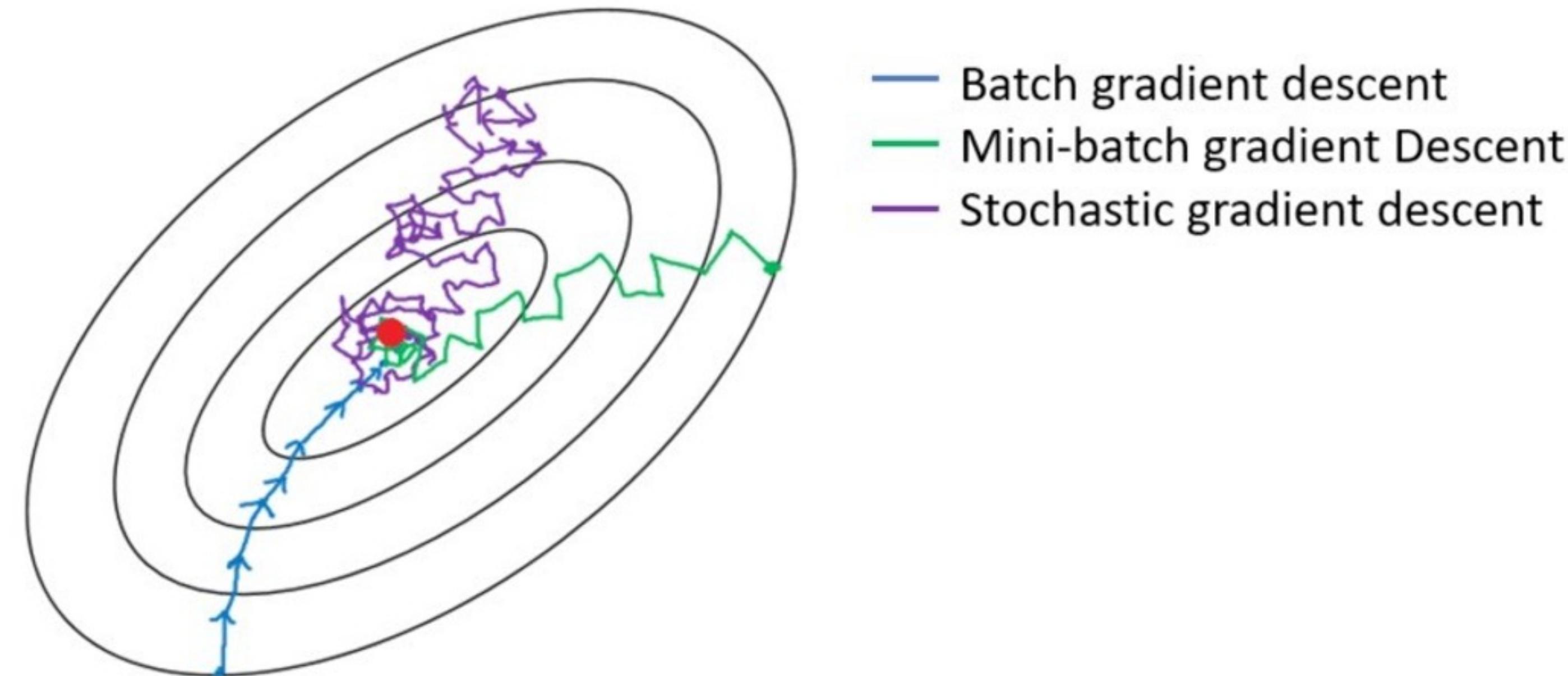
- How computation-heavy?
  - You can pre-compute and re-use  $\mathbf{A} := \frac{\eta}{n} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{b} := \frac{\eta}{n} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$  for every GD iteration.

$$\theta \leftarrow (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\theta - \mathbf{b}$$

- The pre-computing cost is almost same as solving explicitly (except QR decomposition part).

# Additional Remarks

- You don't need full data for GD—  
using a randomly drawn subset of  $k$  samples works ( $k \ll n$ ).  
Called “mini-batch GD.” (or “stochastic GD” when  $k = 1$ ).
  - Useful for small RAM!



# Cheers

- Next up. Naïve Bayes, Logistic Regression, Nearest Neighbors