

Least squares

Sample Subtitle

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Example

Showing why least squares

We have a variable y . We know that it's dependent of another variable x in some way. But we don't know how, exactly. So we go to the field and measure certain points. Those that we can reach. Six of them.

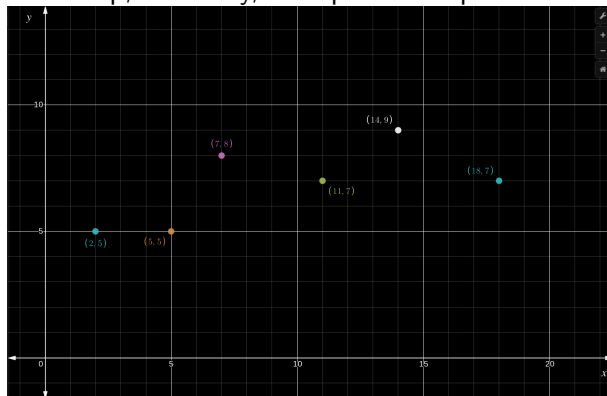
$$(2, 5), (5, 5), (7, 8), (11, 7), (14, 9), (18, 7)$$

That is: at $x = 2$ we measure $y = 5$, at $x = 5$ we measure $y = 5$ again, but at $x = 7$ we got $y = 8$, and so on.

Example

Showing why least squares

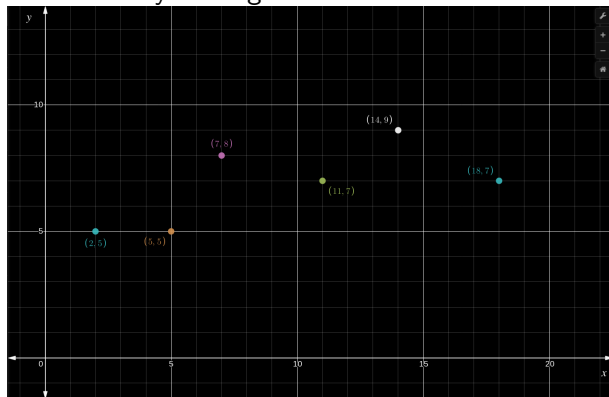
Next step, obviously, is to plot these points.



Example

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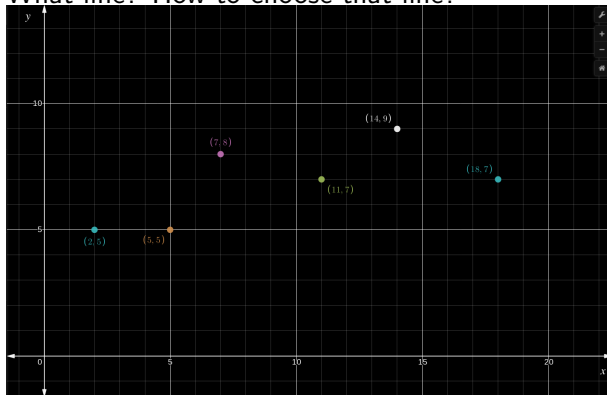
Let's start by tracing a line with "best fit" that data



Example

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What line? How to choose that line?



Example

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A very common way to express a line is using the equation (a polynomial function)

$$y = mx + b$$

Using vector notation:

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} x & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

Or, switching terms:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix} = y$$

Example

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Ok. Fine. That's it. This form

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix} = y$$

will be a useful one because we know x and y in six points. For example take the first point $(2, 5)$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix} = 5$$

Example

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And yes, your guess is true. We can incorporate the second point (5, 5) and get

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

...and the third point...and the fourth...

Example

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Reaching the end this is the result

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 \\ 11 & 1 \\ 14 & 1 \\ 18 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 8 \\ 7 \\ 9 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

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Time to name things.

Example

Showing why least squares

Call A to the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 \\ 11 & 1 \\ 14 & 1 \\ 18 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Showing why least squares

Call x to the column vector

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Showing why least squares

Call b to the column vector

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 8 \\ 7 \\ 9 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Showing why least squares

Thus, the equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 \\ 11 & 1 \\ 14 & 1 \\ 18 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 8 \\ 7 \\ 9 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

becomes

$$Ax = b$$

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In other words: if you want to know the values m and b in the equation $y = mx + b$ of the line we are searching find the x such that $Ax = b$, but...

...that equation have no solution!...

...because the matrix A is tall, so $Ax = b$ is over-determined, there are more equations (m) than variables to choose. There is no x such that the norm of the difference between Ax and b equals zero

$$\|Ax - b\| \neq 0$$

We need the least squares approximate solution

Example

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In the least squares approximate solution of $Ax = b$ we, provided that $\|Ax - b\| \neq 0$, select x that the *norm* of the *residual* $r = Ax - b$ be minimal.

It's all here: <http://vmls-book.stanford.edu/> and in many other sources. The least squares approximate solution is very known. Let's see it.

Example

Showing why least squares

All start with our equation $Ax = b$.

Example

Showing why least squares

Take A ,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 \\ 11 & 1 \\ 14 & 1 \\ 18 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

transpose it.

$$A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 & 7 & 11 & 14 & 18 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Showing why least squares

Multiply A^T by A

$$A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 & 7 & 11 & 14 & 18 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 \\ 11 & 1 \\ 14 & 1 \\ 18 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 719 & 57 \\ 57 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

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All start with our equation $Ax = b$.

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