

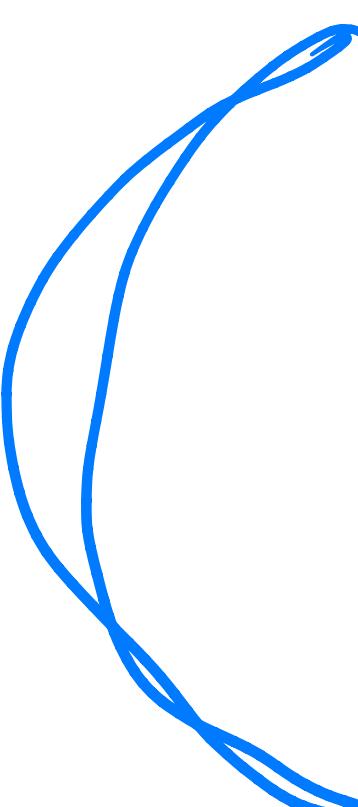
# Math Basics and Supervised Learning: Regression

Junxian He  
Feb 10, 2026

# **Announcement**

Lecture videos till next week will be released considering the Lunar New Year

# Example Distributions



Distribution	PDF or PMF	Mean	Variance
$Bernoulli(p)$	$\begin{cases} p, & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 1 - p, & \text{if } x = 0. \end{cases}$	$p$	$p(1 - p)$
$Binomial(n, p)$	$\binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$ for $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$	$np$	$np(1 - p)$
$Geometric(p)$	$p(1 - p)^{k-1}$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$	$\frac{1}{p}$	$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$
$Poisson(\lambda)$	$\frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!}$ for $k = 0, 1, \dots$	$\lambda$	$\lambda$
$Uniform(a, b)$	$\frac{1}{b-a}$ for all $x \in (a, b)$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$
$Gaussian(\mu, \sigma^2)$	$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$ for all $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$	$\mu$	$\sigma^2$
$Exponential(\lambda)$	$\lambda e^{-\lambda x}$ for all $x \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0$	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$

# Joint and Marginal Distributions

# Joint and Marginal Distributions

- Joint PMF for discrete RV's  $X, Y$ :

$$p_{XY}(x, y) = P(X = x, Y = y)$$

Note that  $\sum_{x \in Val(X)} \sum_{y \in Val(Y)} p_{XY}(x, y) = 1$

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- Marginal PMF of  $X$ , given joint PMF of  $X, Y$ :

$$p_X(x) = \sum_y p_{XY}(x, y)$$

*marginalizing  
out  $Y$*

$p_{(X, Y)}$        $p_X(x)$        $p_Y(y)$

# Joint and Marginal Distributions

- Joint PDF for continuous RV's  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ :

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{\delta^n F(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\delta x_1 \delta x_2 \dots \delta x_n}$$

Note that  $\int_{x_1} \int_{x_2} \dots \int_{x_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n) dx_1 \dots dx_n = 1$

- Marginal PDF of  $X_1$ , given joint PDF of  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ :

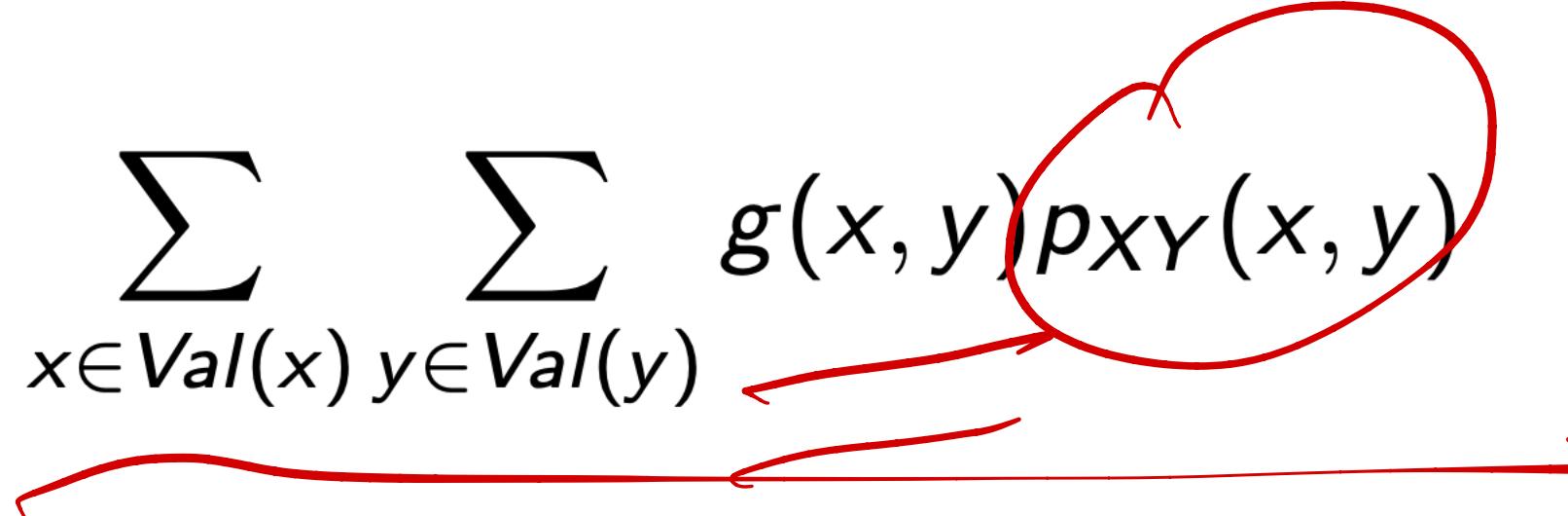
$$f_{X_1}(x_1) = \int_{x_2} \dots \int_{x_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n) dx_2 \dots dx_n$$

# Expectation for multiple random variables

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Given two RV's  $X, Y$  and a function  $g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of  $X, Y$ ,

- for discrete  $X, Y$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X, Y)] := \sum_{x \in Val(x)} \sum_{y \in Val(y)} g(x, y) p_{XY}(x, y)$$


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- for continuous  $X, Y$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X, Y)] := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x, y) f_{XY}(x, y) dx dy$$

# Covariance

$$E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

Intuitively: measures how much one RV's value tends to move with another RV's value. For RV's  $X, Y$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}[X, Y] &:= E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])] \\ &= E[XY] - E[X]E[Y] \end{aligned}$$

# Covariance

**Intuitively:** measures how much one RV's value tends to move with another RV's value. For RV's  $X, Y$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}[X, Y] &:= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y] \end{aligned}$$



- If  $\text{Cov}[X, Y] < 0$ , then  $X$  and  $Y$  are negatively correlated
- If  $\text{Cov}[X, Y] > 0$ , then  $X$  and  $Y$  are positively correlated
- If  $\text{Cov}[X, Y] = 0$ , then  $X$  and  $Y$  are uncorrelated



# Variance of two variables

$$\text{Var}[X + Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y] + 2\text{Cov}[X, Y]$$

# Conditional distributions for RVs

Works the same way with *RV's* as with events:

- For discrete  $X, Y$ :

$$p_{Y|X}(y|x) = \frac{p_{XY}(x,y)}{p_X(x)}$$

*joint*

*marginal*

- For continuous  $X, Y$ :

$$f_{Y|X}(y|x) = \frac{f_{XY}(x,y)}{f_X(x)}$$

- In general, for continuous  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ :

$$f_{X_1|X_2, \dots, X_n}(x_1|x_2, \dots, x_n) = \frac{f_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}{f_{X_2, \dots, X_n}(x_2, \dots, x_n)}$$

# Bayes' Rule for RVs

Also works the same way for *RV's* as with events:

- For discrete  $X, Y$ :

$$p_{Y|X}(y|x) = \frac{p_{X|Y}(x|y)p_Y(y)}{\sum_{y' \in Val(Y)} p_{X|Y}(x|y')p_Y(y')}$$

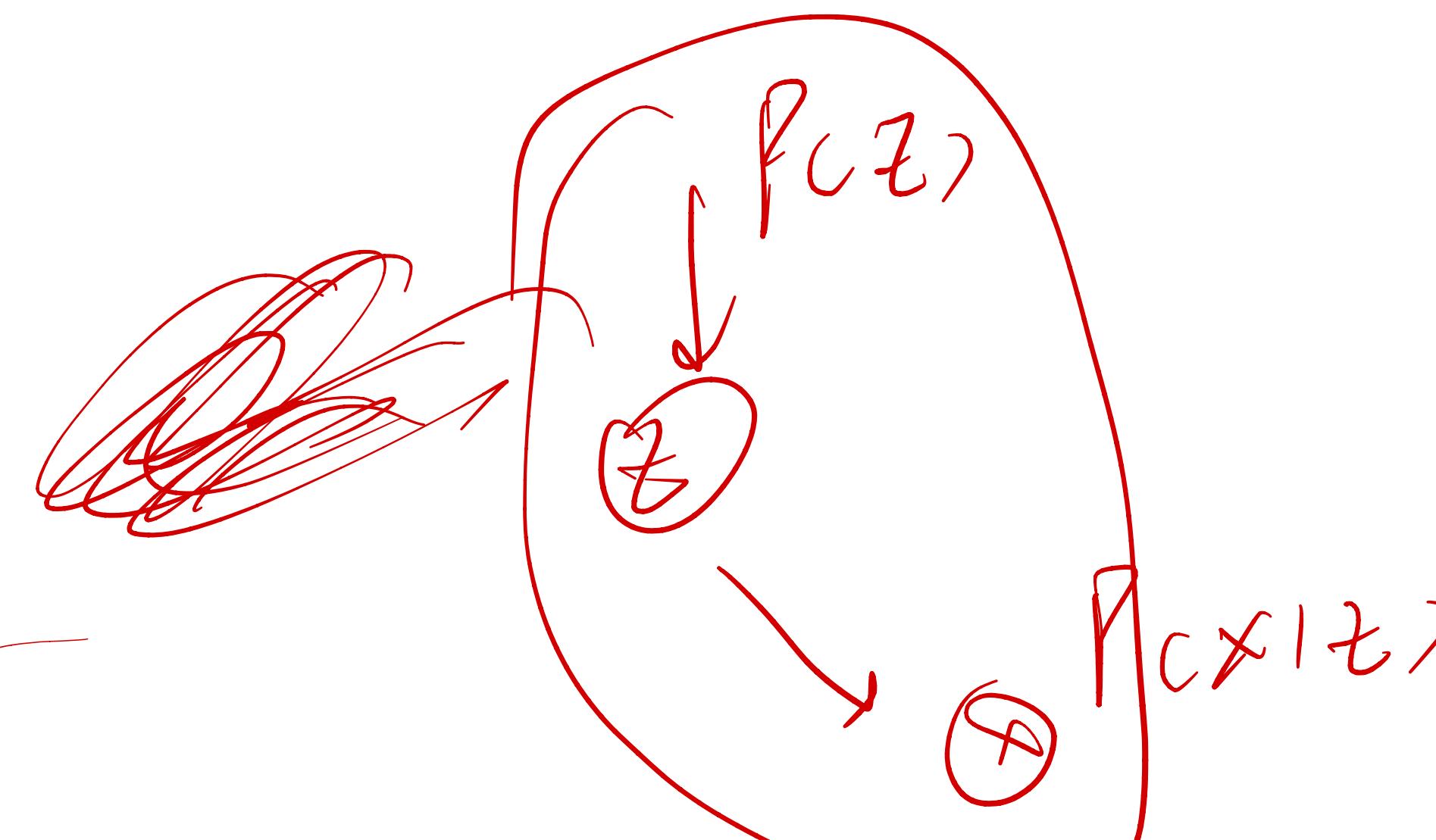
- For continuous  $X, Y$ :

$$f_{Y|X}(y|x) = \frac{f_{X|Y}(x|y)f_Y(y)}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X|Y}(x|y')f_Y(y')dy'}$$

$$P(x) = \sum_y P(x,y)$$

$$= \sum_y P(y)P_{X|Y}(x|y)$$

$$P(z|x)$$



# Random Vectors

# Random Vectors

Given  $n$  RV's  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ , we can define a random vector  $X$  s.t.

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_n \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$X = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: all the notions of joint PDF/CDF will apply to  $X$ .

Given  $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ , we have:

$$g(x) = \begin{bmatrix} g_1(x) \\ g_2(x) \\ \vdots \\ g_m(x) \end{bmatrix}, \mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{E}[g_1(X)] \\ \mathbb{E}[g_2(X)] \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{E}[g_m(X)] \end{bmatrix}$$

# Covariance Matrices

# Covariance Matrices

For a random vector  $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we define its **covariance matrix**  $\Sigma$  as the  $n \times n$  matrix whose  $ij$ -th entry contains the covariance between  $X_i$  and  $X_j$ .

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$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Cov}[X_1, X_1] & \dots & \text{Cov}[X_1, X_n] \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \text{Cov}[X_n, X_1] & \dots & \text{Cov}[X_n, X_n] \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{red arrow}} n \times n$$

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high-dim  
Gaussian

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Cov}[X_1, X_1] & \dots & \text{Cov}[X_1, X_n] \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \text{Cov}[X_n, X_1] & \dots & \text{Cov}[X_n, X_n] \end{bmatrix}$$

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \\ X_4 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

$XX^\top \rightarrow n \times n$

$X^\top X \rightarrow \text{scalar}$

applying linearity of expectation and the fact that  $\text{Cov}[X_i, X_j] = \mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mathbb{E}[X_i])(X_j - \mathbb{E}[X_j])]$ , we obtain

$$\Sigma = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^\top]$$

Outer product

$X - \mathbb{E}[X]$

$n$

$n$

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applying linearity of expectation and the fact that  $\text{Cov}[X_i, X_j] = \mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mathbb{E}[X_i])(X_j - \mathbb{E}[X_j])]$ , we obtain

$$\Sigma = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^T]$$

Properties:

- $\Sigma$  is symmetric and PSD
- If  $X_i \perp X_j$  for all  $i, j$ , then  $\Sigma = \text{diag}(\text{Var}[X_1], \dots, \text{Var}[X_n])$

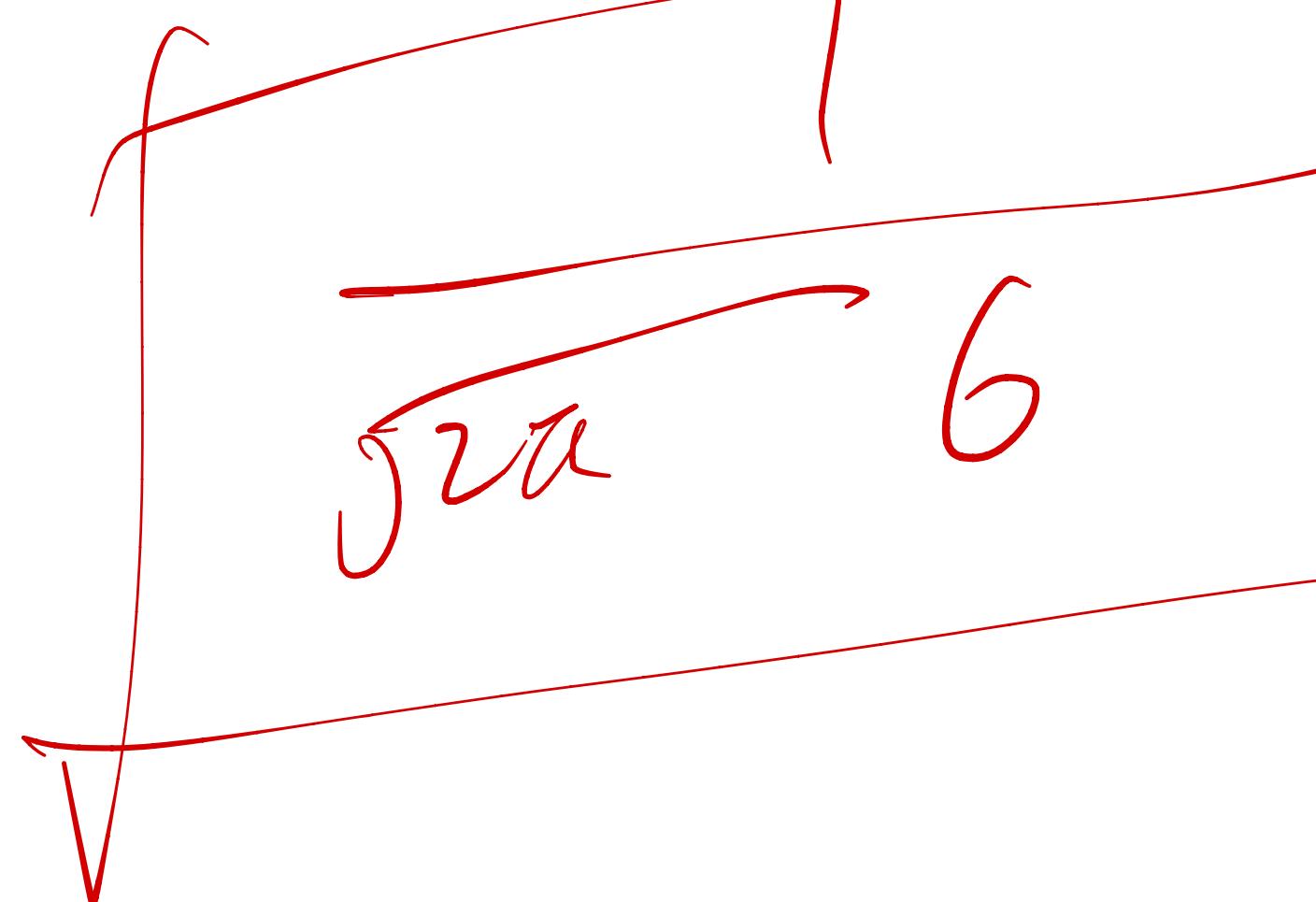
$$z^T A z \geq 0 \xrightarrow{\text{A is}} \text{PSD}$$

# Multivariate Gaussian

The multivariate Gaussian  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$ ,  $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$p(x; \mu, \Sigma) = \frac{1}{\det(\Sigma)^{\frac{1}{2}} (2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu)\right)$$

Variance



$$\exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$$

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Gaussian when  $n = 1$ .

$$p(x; \mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sigma(2\pi)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x - \mu)^2\right)$$

Notice that if  $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$ , then  $\Sigma = \text{Var}[X_1] = \sigma^2$ , and so  $\Sigma^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$  and  $\det(\Sigma)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sigma$

# MV Gaussian Visualization

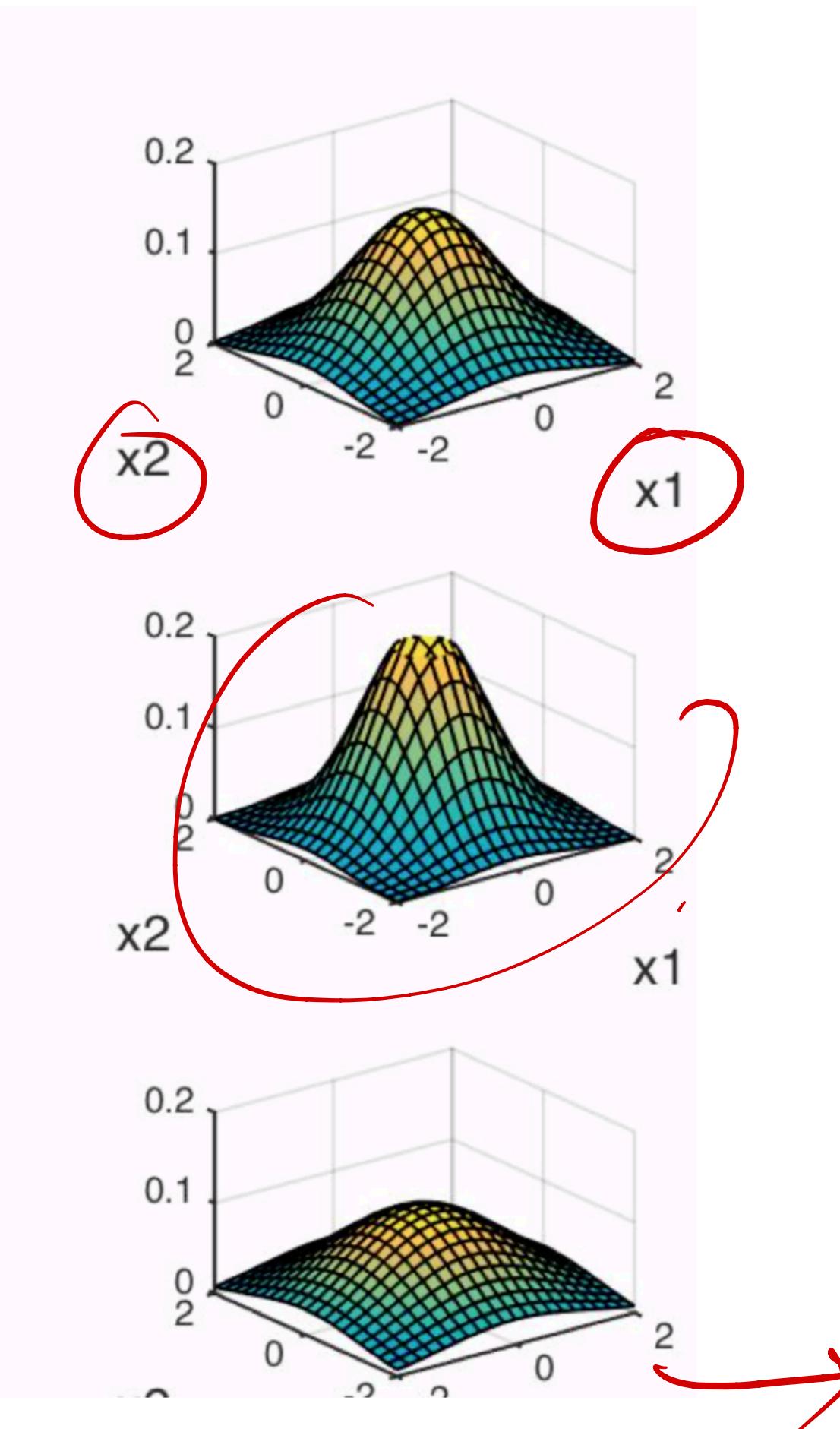
# MV Gaussian Visualization

Effect of changing variance

$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $\mu = [0 \ 0]^T$

$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.7 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $\mu = [0 \ 0]^T$

$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $\mu = [0 \ 0]^T$



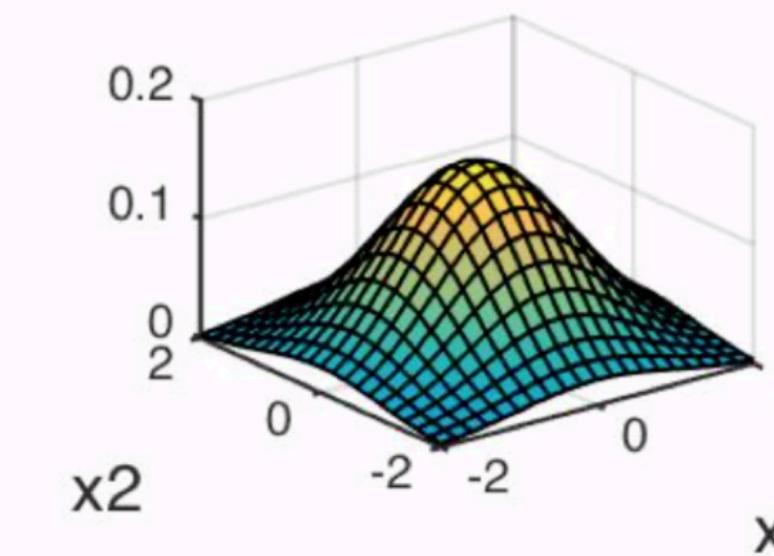
sharper

# MV Gaussian Visualization

Effect of changing variance

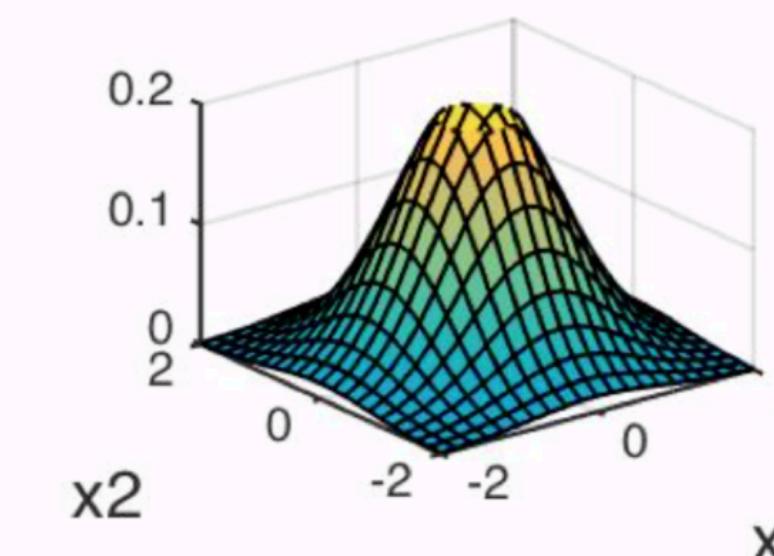
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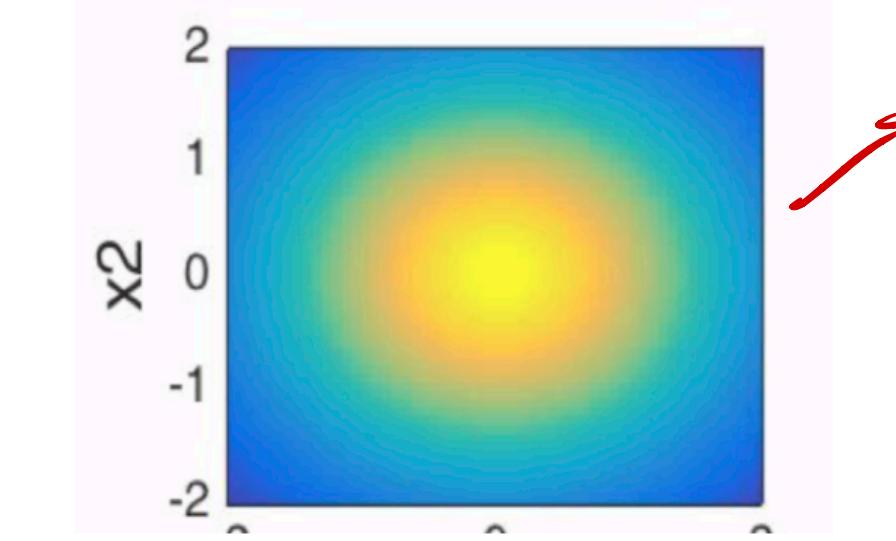
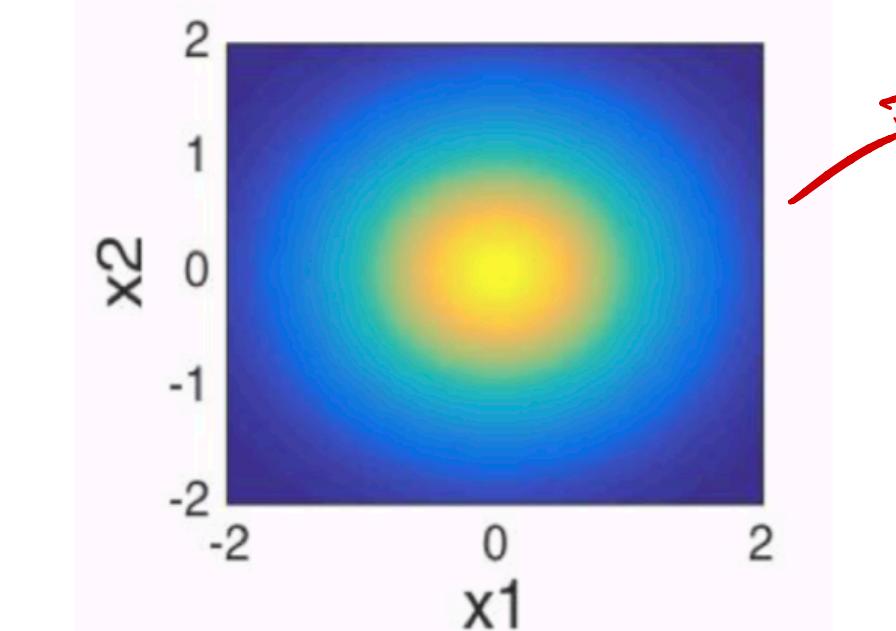
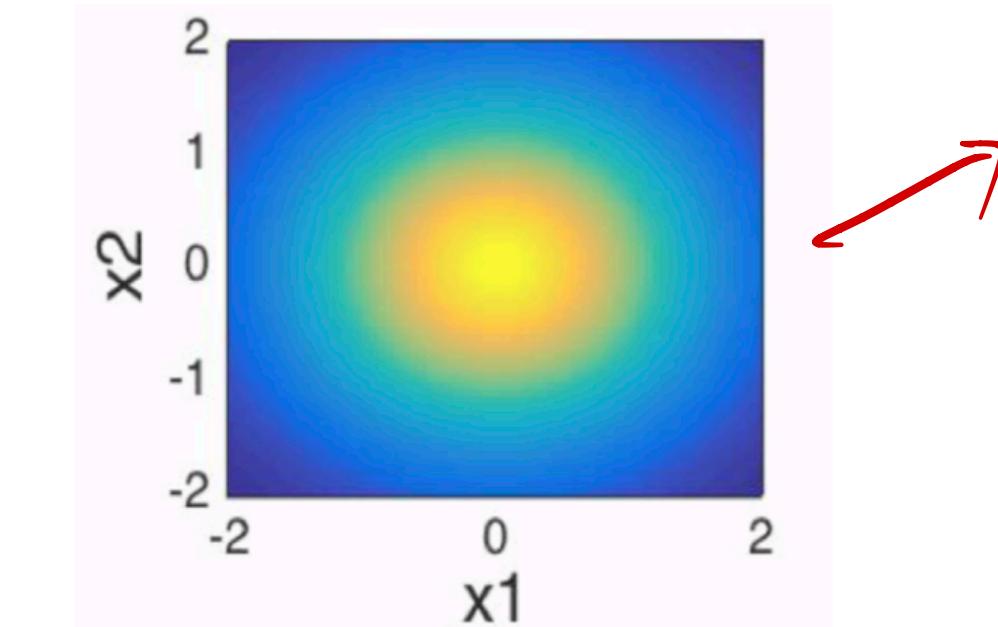
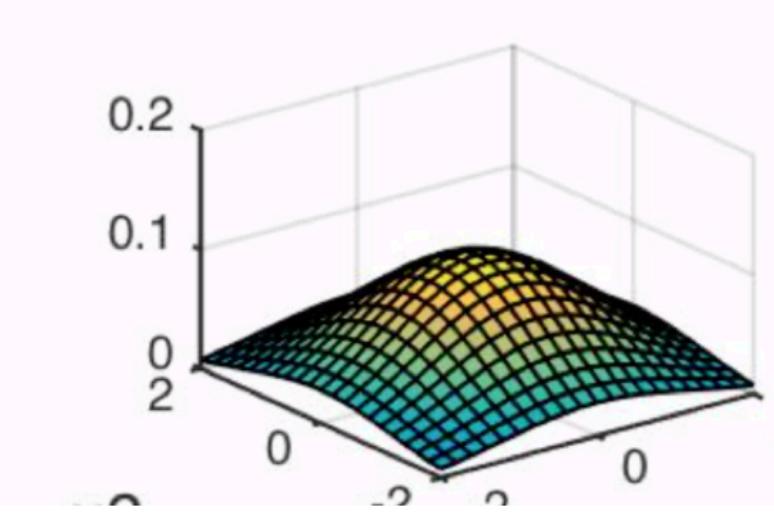
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# MV Gaussian Visualization

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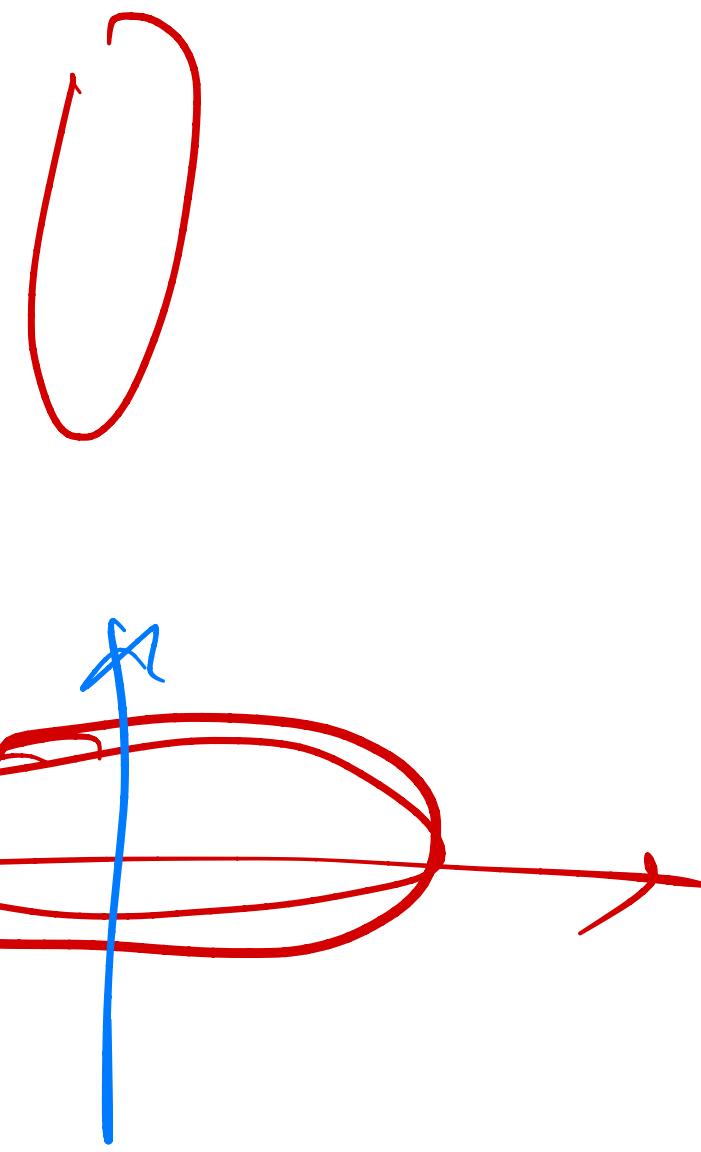
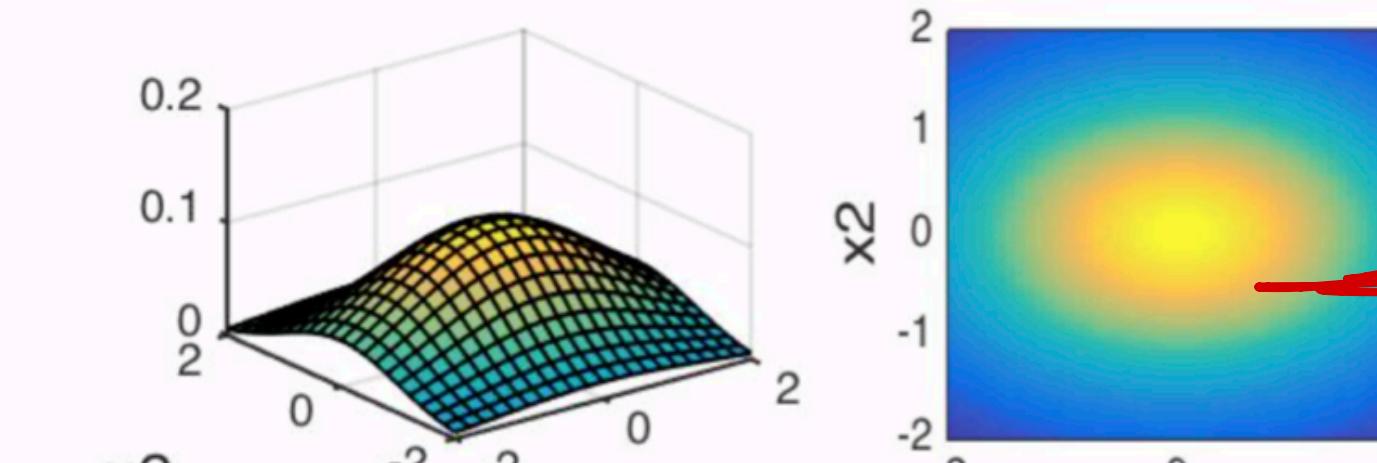
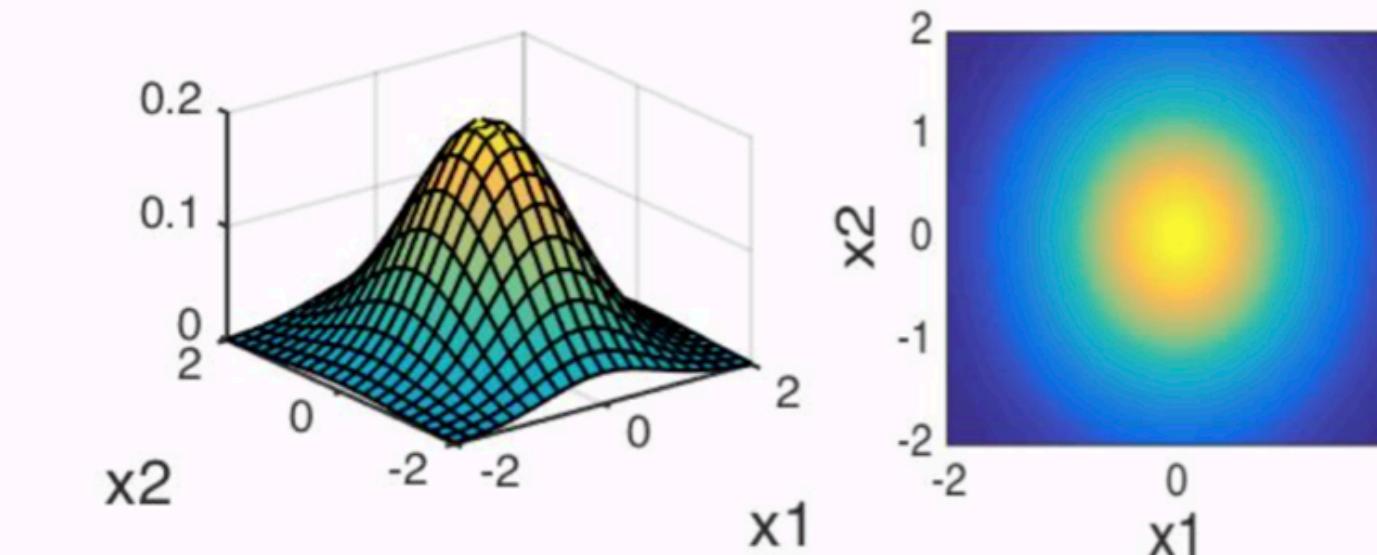
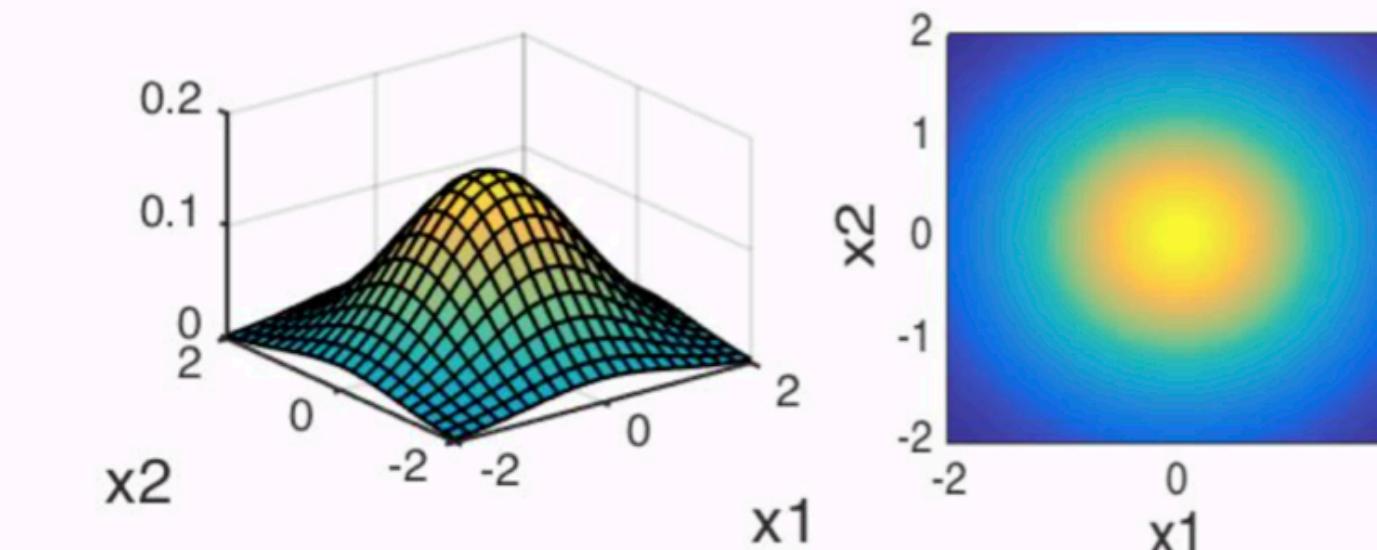
$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0.6 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mu = [0 \ 0]^T$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mu = [0 \ 0]^T$$

If  $\text{Var}[X_1] \neq \text{Var}[X_2]$ :



# MV Gaussian Visualization

$x_1$  ↑  $x_2$  ↑

If  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are positively correlated:

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

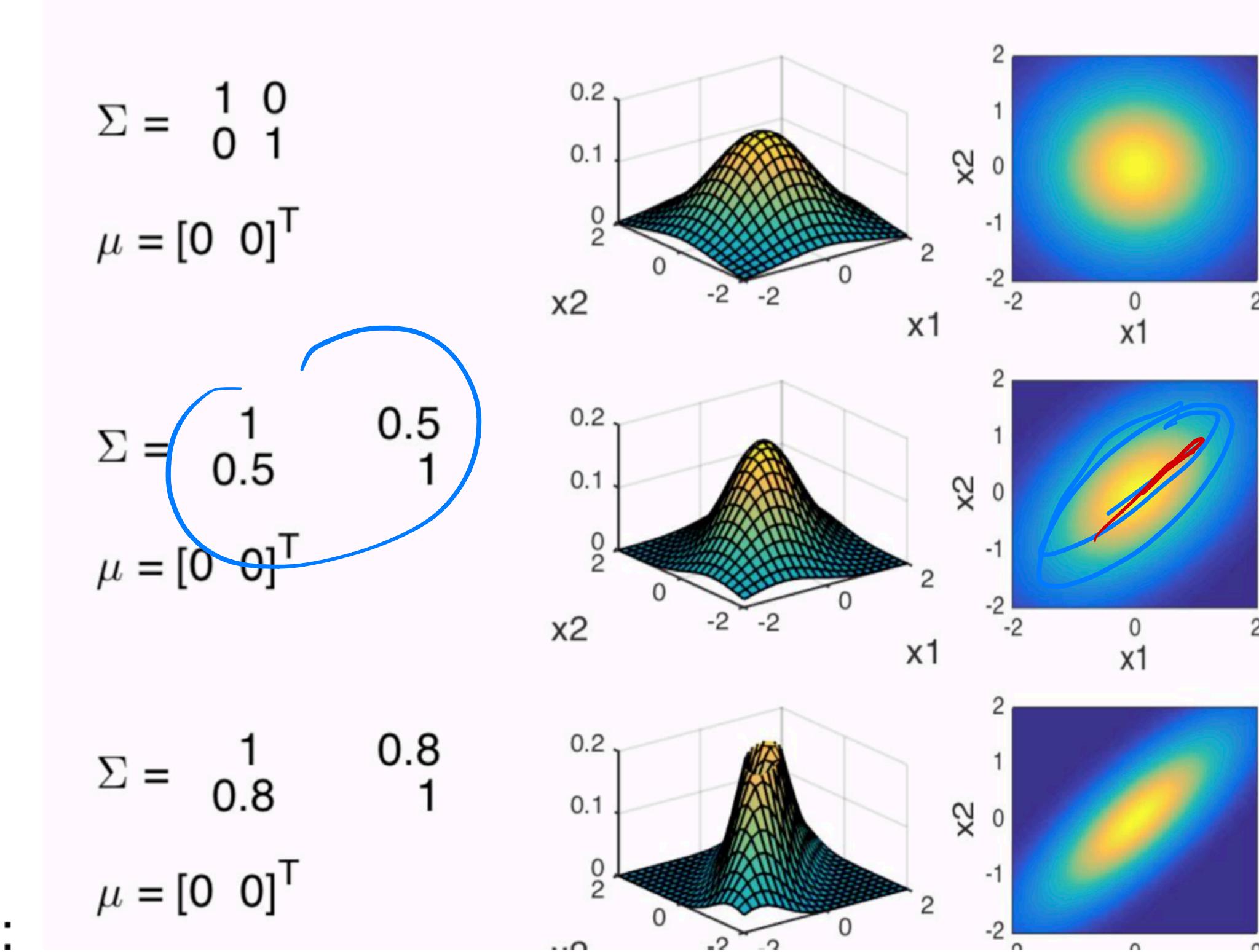
$$\mu = [0 \ 0]^T$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.8 \\ 0.8 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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# MV Gaussian Visualization

If  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are negatively correlated:

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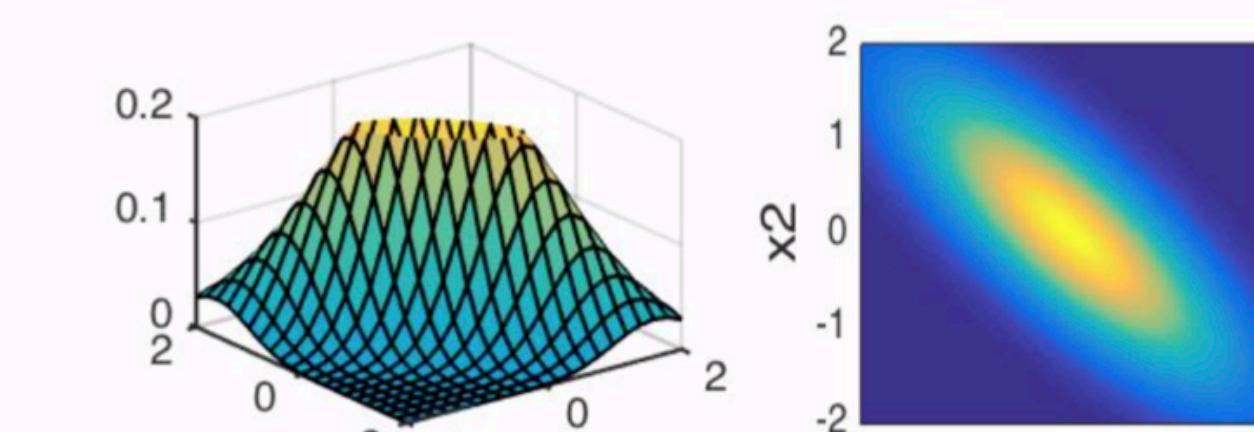
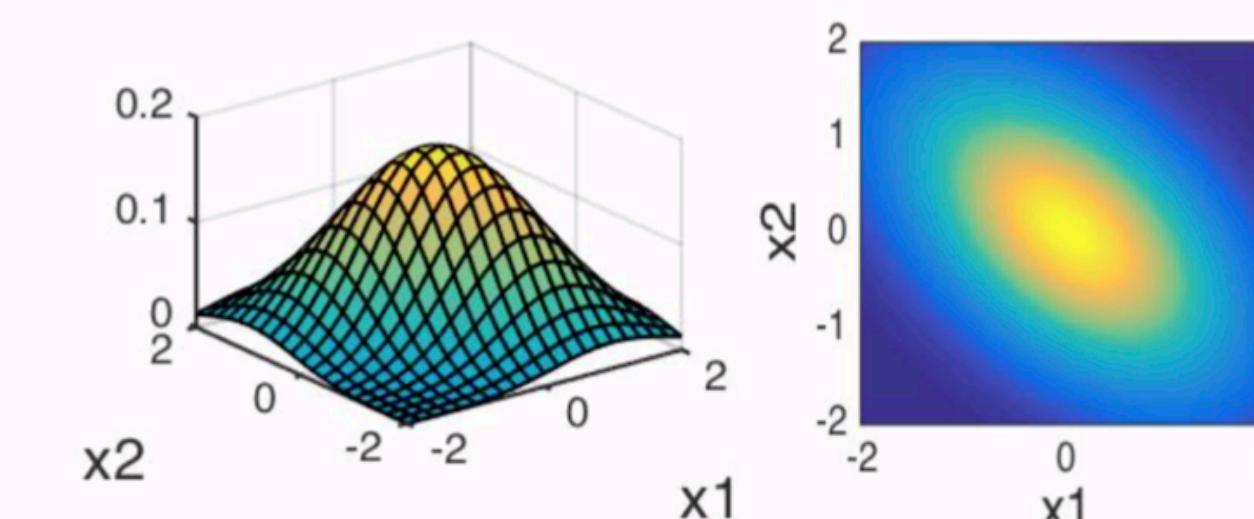
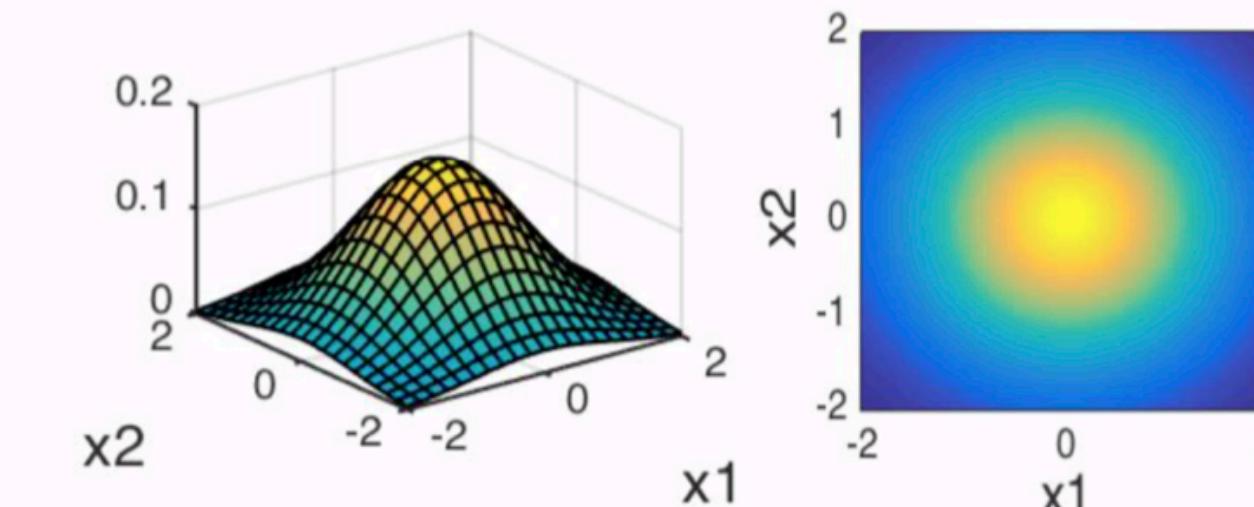
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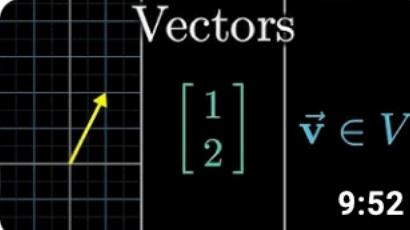
The purpose of computation is  
insight, not numbers.

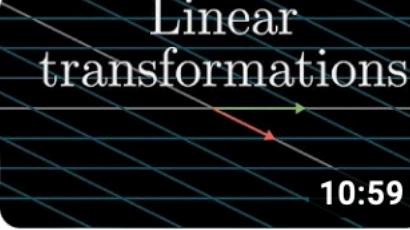
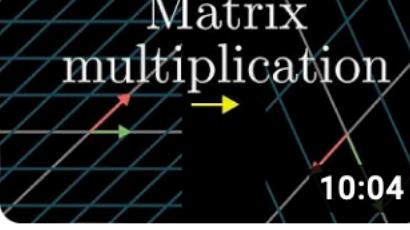
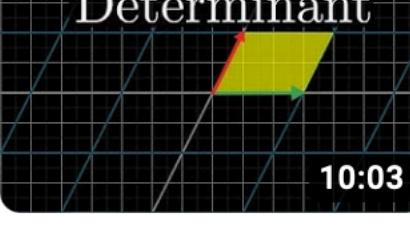
- Richard Hamming

matrix

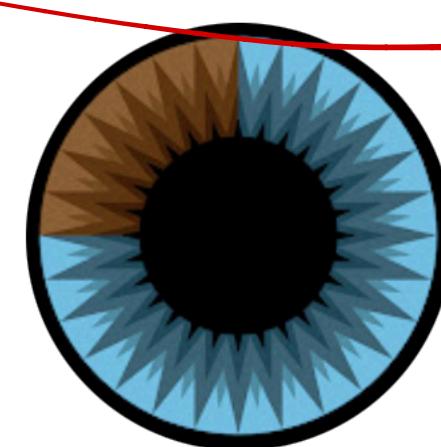
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- 1 Vectors | Chapter 1, Essence of linear algebra  
  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$   $\vec{v} \in V$  9:52
- 2 Span | Chapter 2, Essence of linear algebra  

- 3 Linear transformations and matrices | Chapter 3, Essence of linear algebra  
 10:59
- 4 Matrix multiplication as composition | Chapter 4, Essence of linear algebra  
 10:04
- 5 Three-dimensional linear transformations | Chapter 5, Essence of linear algebra  
 4:46
- 6 Determinant | Chapter 6, Essence of linear algebra  
 10:03
- Inverse matrices | Chapter 7, Essence of linear algebra  


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# Supervised Learning: Regression

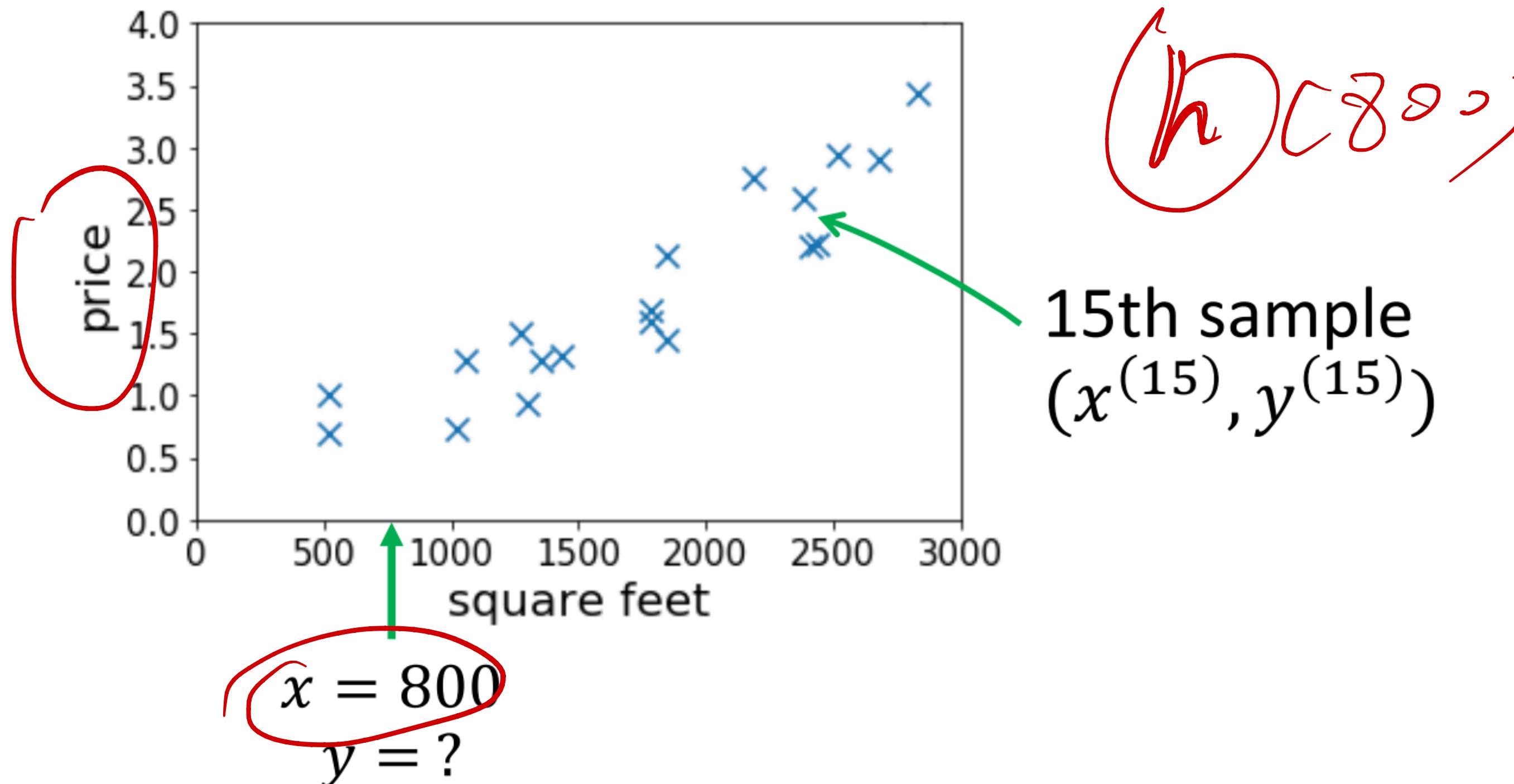
# Supervised Learning

- A hypothesis or a prediction function is function

$$h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$$

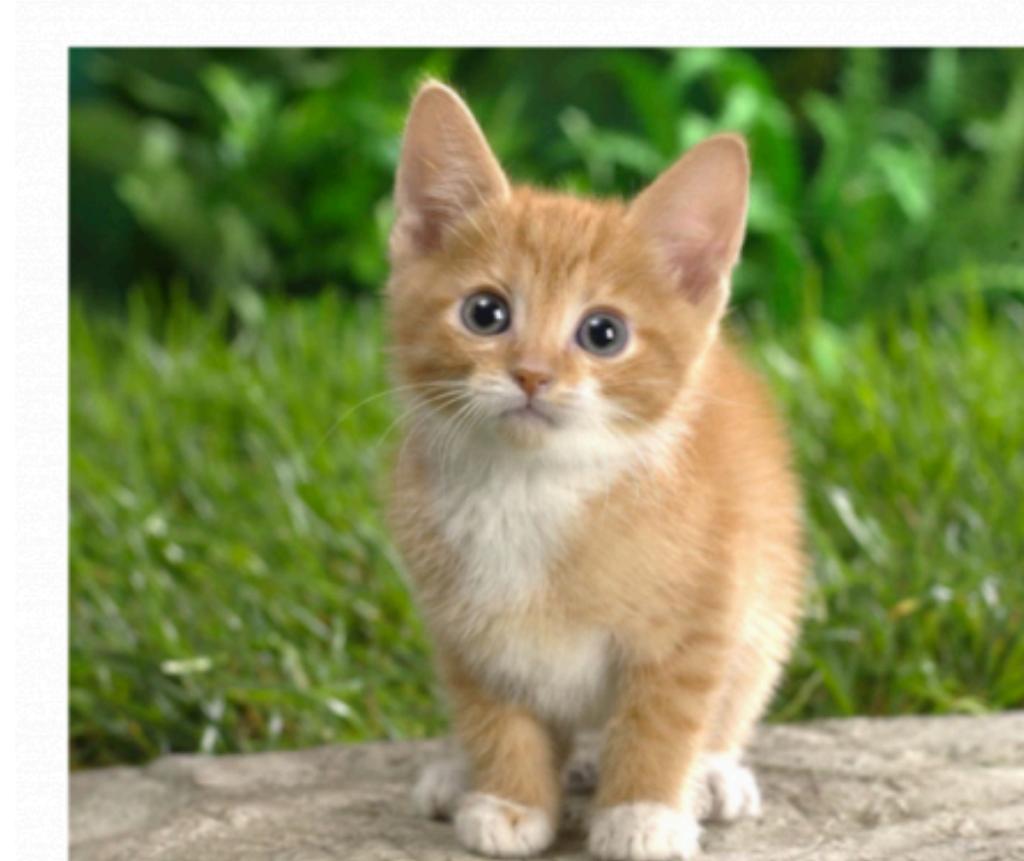
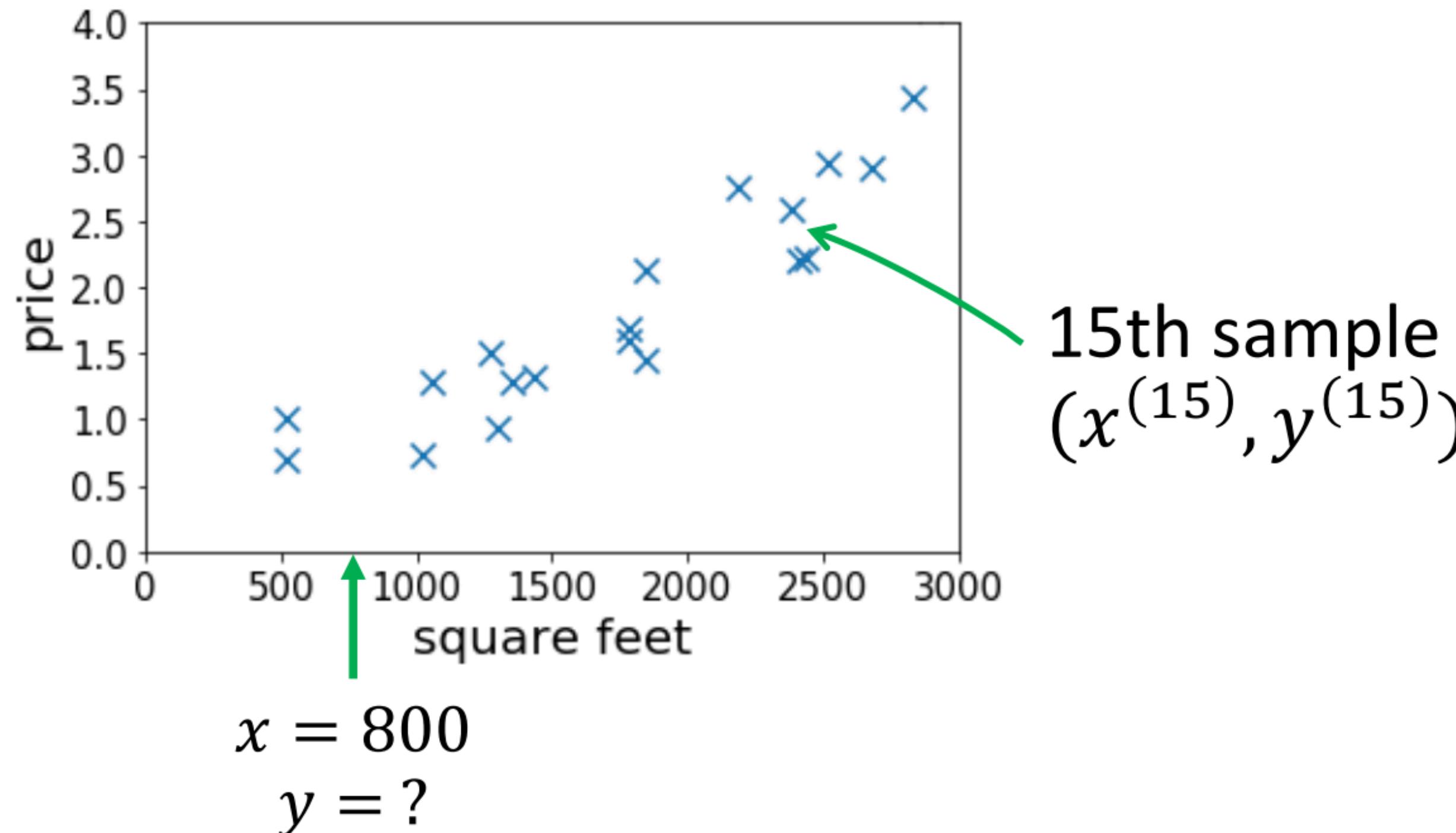
# Supervised Learning

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# Supervised Learning

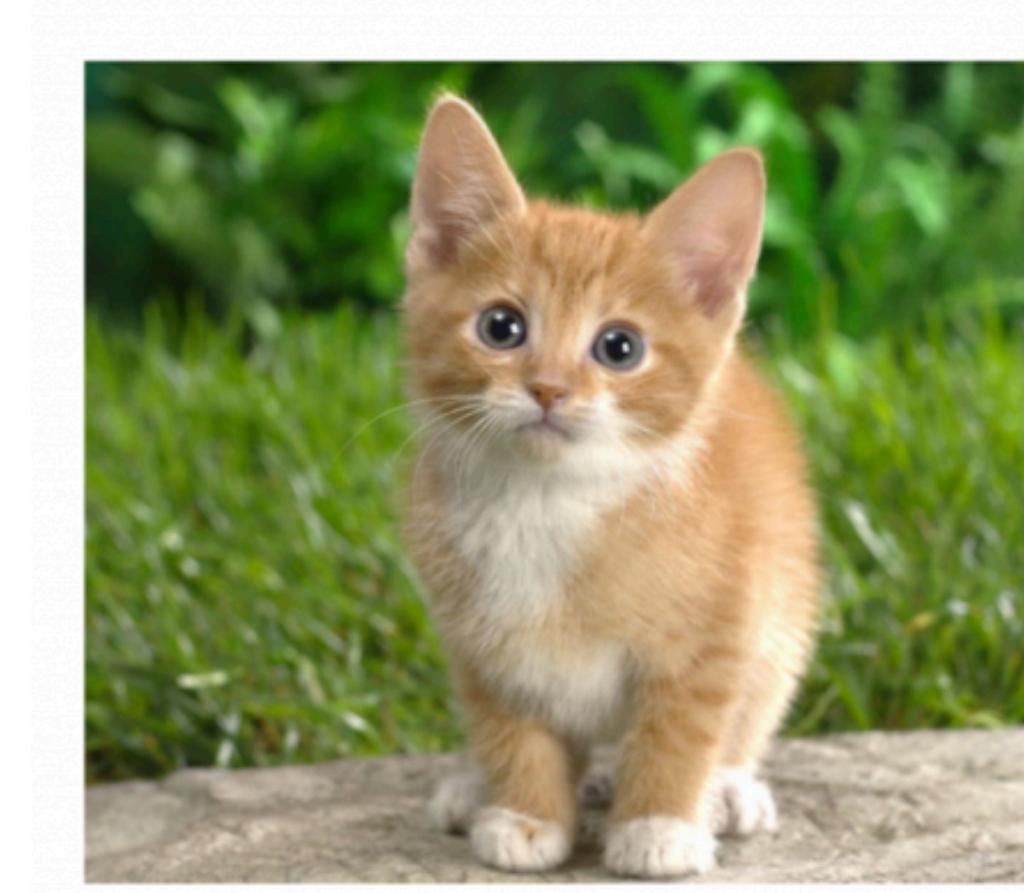
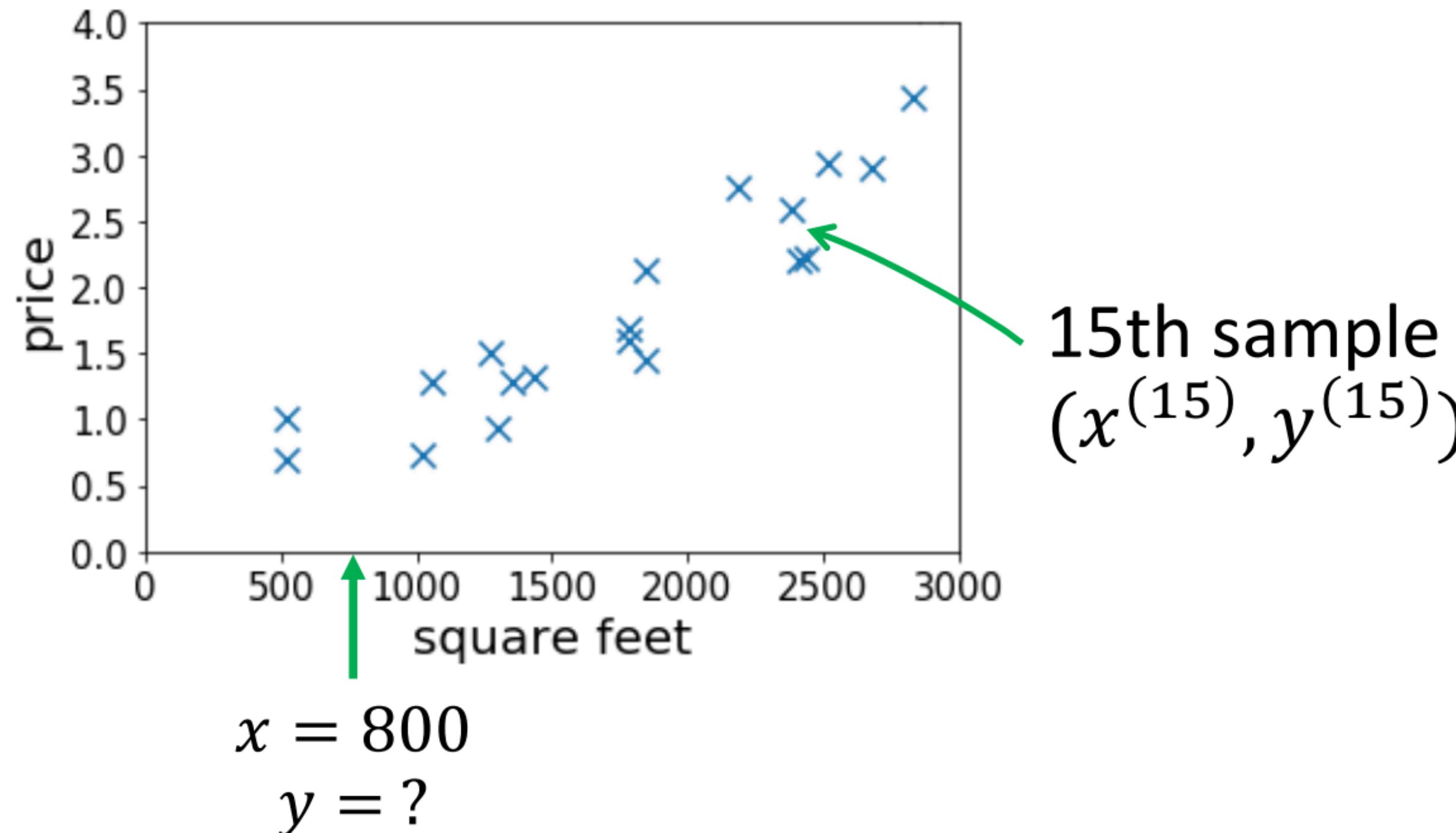
- A hypothesis or a prediction function is function  $h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$



CAT

# Supervised Learning

- A hypothesis or a prediction function is function  $h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$



# Supervised Learning

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# Supervised Learning

- A hypothesis or a prediction function is function  $h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$
- A training set is set of pairs  $\{(x^{(1)}, y^{(1)}), \dots, (x^{(n)}, y^{(n)})\}$   
s.t.  $x^{(i)} \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $y^{(i)} \in \mathcal{Y}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

# Supervised Learning

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s.t.  $x^{(i)} \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $y^{(i)} \in \mathcal{Y}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .
- Given a training set our goal is to produce a good prediction function  $h$
- If  $\mathcal{Y}$  is continuous, then called a regression problem
- If  $\mathcal{Y}$  is discrete, then called a classification problem 

# Supervised Learning

- How to define “good” for a prediction function?

- Metrics / performance

- Good on unseen data

Validation dataset is another set of pairs  $\{(\hat{x}^{(1)}, \hat{y}^{(1)}), \dots, (\hat{x}^{(m)}, \hat{y}^{(m)})\}$

Does not overlap with training dataset

# Supervised Learning

- How to define “good” for a prediction function?

- Metrics / performance
- Good on unseen data

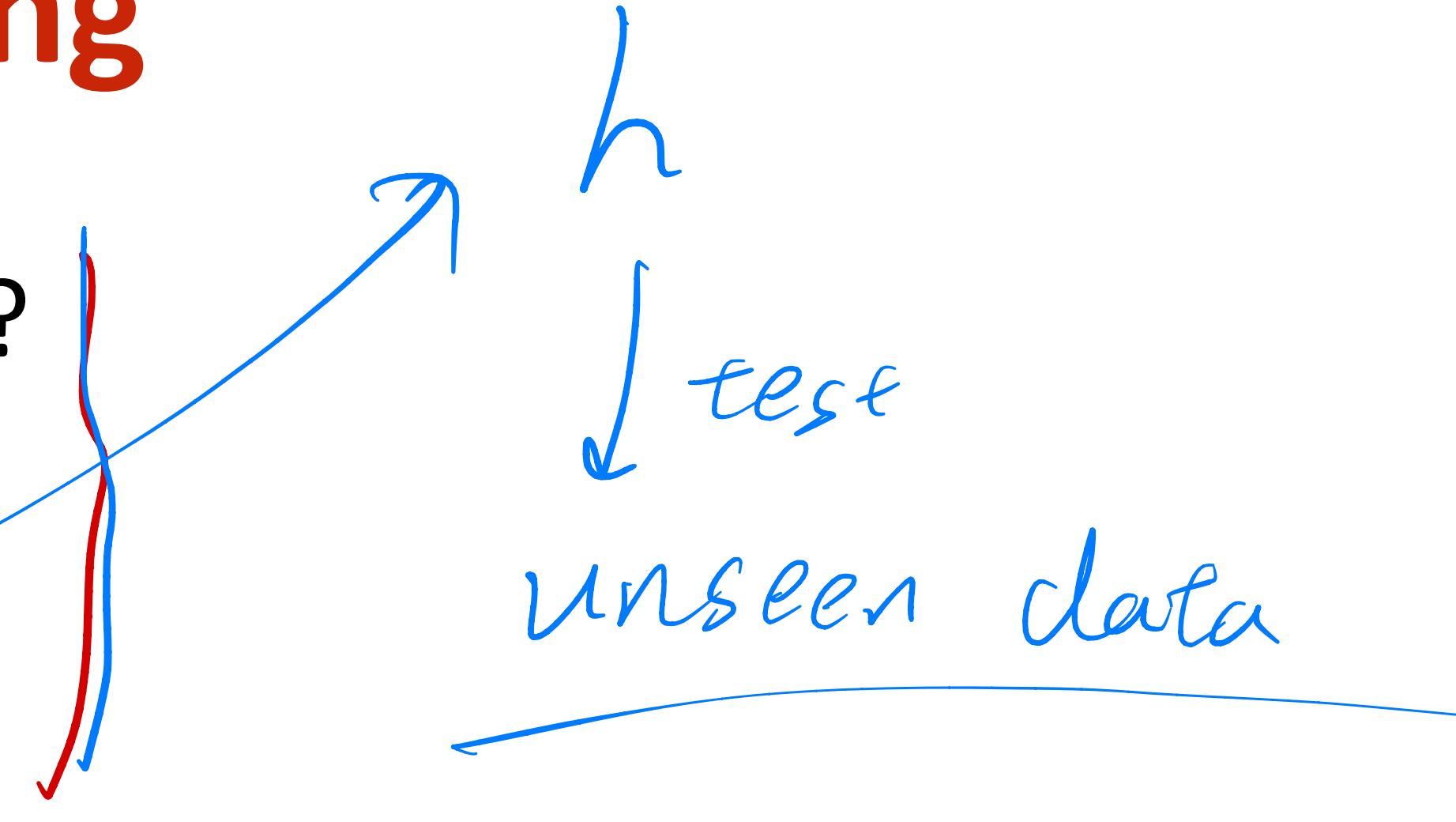
Validation dataset is another set of pairs  $\{(\hat{x}^{(1)}, \hat{y}^{(1)}), \dots, (\hat{x}^{(m)}, \hat{y}^{(m)})\}$

Does not overlap with training dataset

*develop*

Test dataset is another set of pairs  $\{(\tilde{x}^{(1)}, \tilde{y}^{(1)}), \dots, (\tilde{x}^{(L)}, \tilde{y}^{(L)})\}$

Does not overlap with training and validation dataset



# Supervised Learning

- How to define “good” for a prediction function?

- Metrics / performance

- Good on unseen data

Validation dataset is another set of pairs  $\{(\hat{x}^{(1)}, \hat{y}^{(1)}), \dots, (\hat{x}^{(m)}, \hat{y}^{(m)})\}$

*development*

*validation*

Does not overlap with training dataset

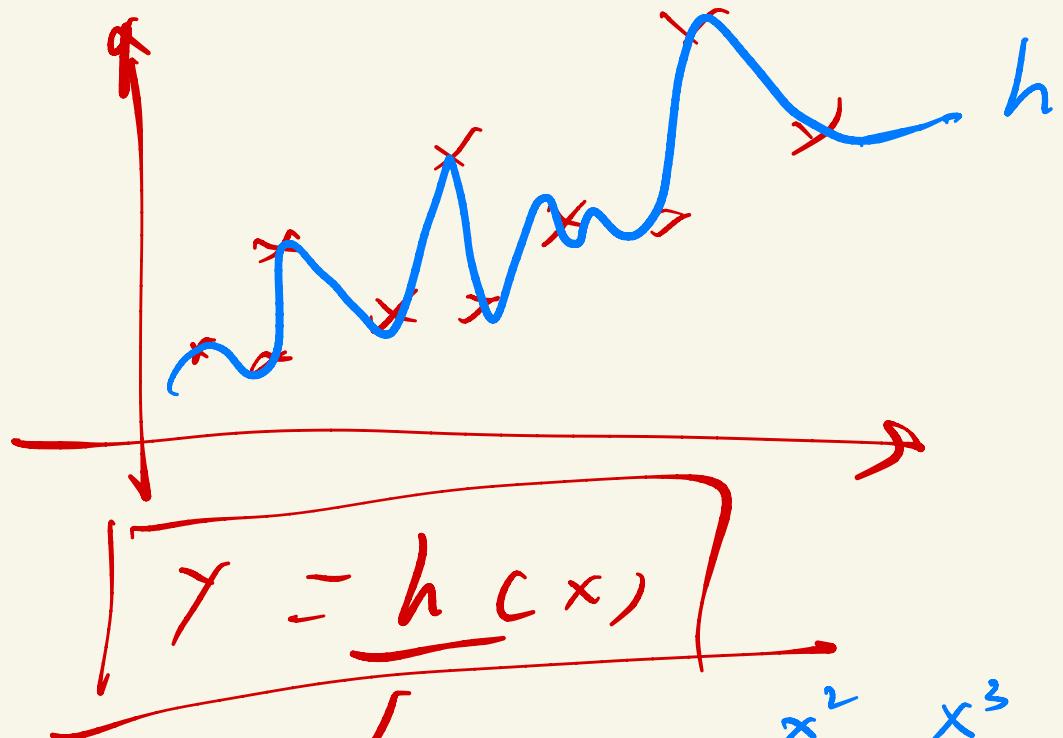
Test dataset is another set of pairs  $\{(\tilde{x}^{(1)}, \tilde{y}^{(1)}), \dots, (\tilde{x}^{(L)}, \tilde{y}^{(L)})\}$

*real user data*

Does not overlap with training and validation dataset

Completely unseen before deployment

Realistic setting



linear ?      polynomial. what order  
 $x^2, x^3, \frac{x^4}{}$

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Validation dataset is another set of pairs  $\{(\hat{x}^{(1)}, \hat{y}^{(1)}), \dots, (\hat{x}^{(m)}, \hat{y}^{(m)})\}$

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Test dataset is another set of pairs  $\{(\tilde{x}^{(1)}, \tilde{y}^{(1)}), \dots, (\tilde{x}^{(L)}, \tilde{y}^{(L)})\}$

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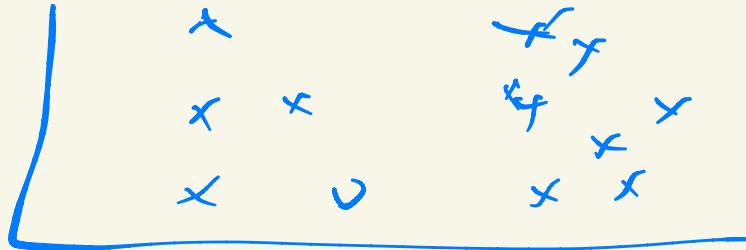
Hyperparameter tuning is a form of training

Realistic setting  
test loss

optimizer

human  
brain space

## 1. unsupervised learning



kmeans ?

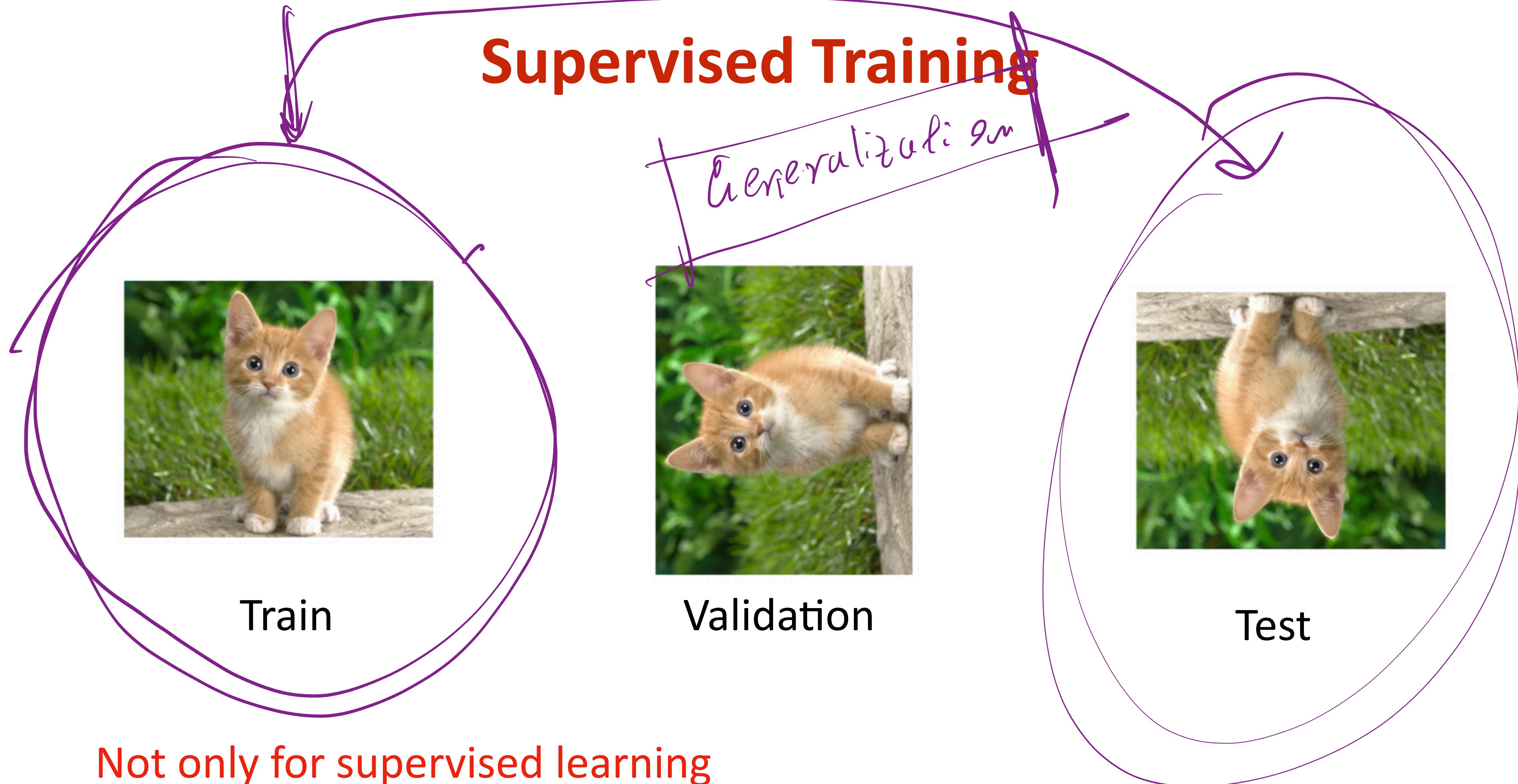
scientific  
discovery

## 2. don't care about unseen data

### 1. Solve a mathematical hypothesis

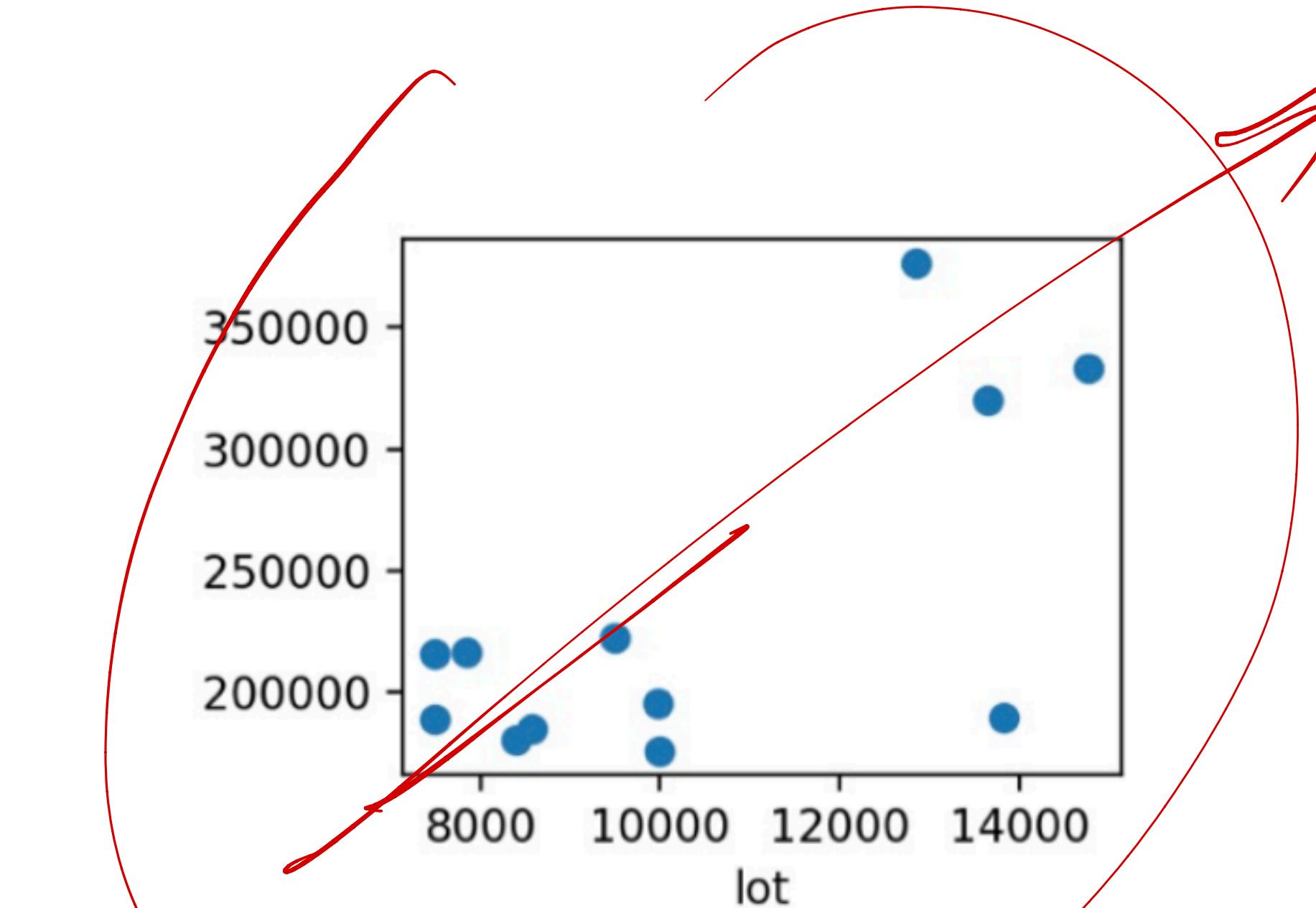
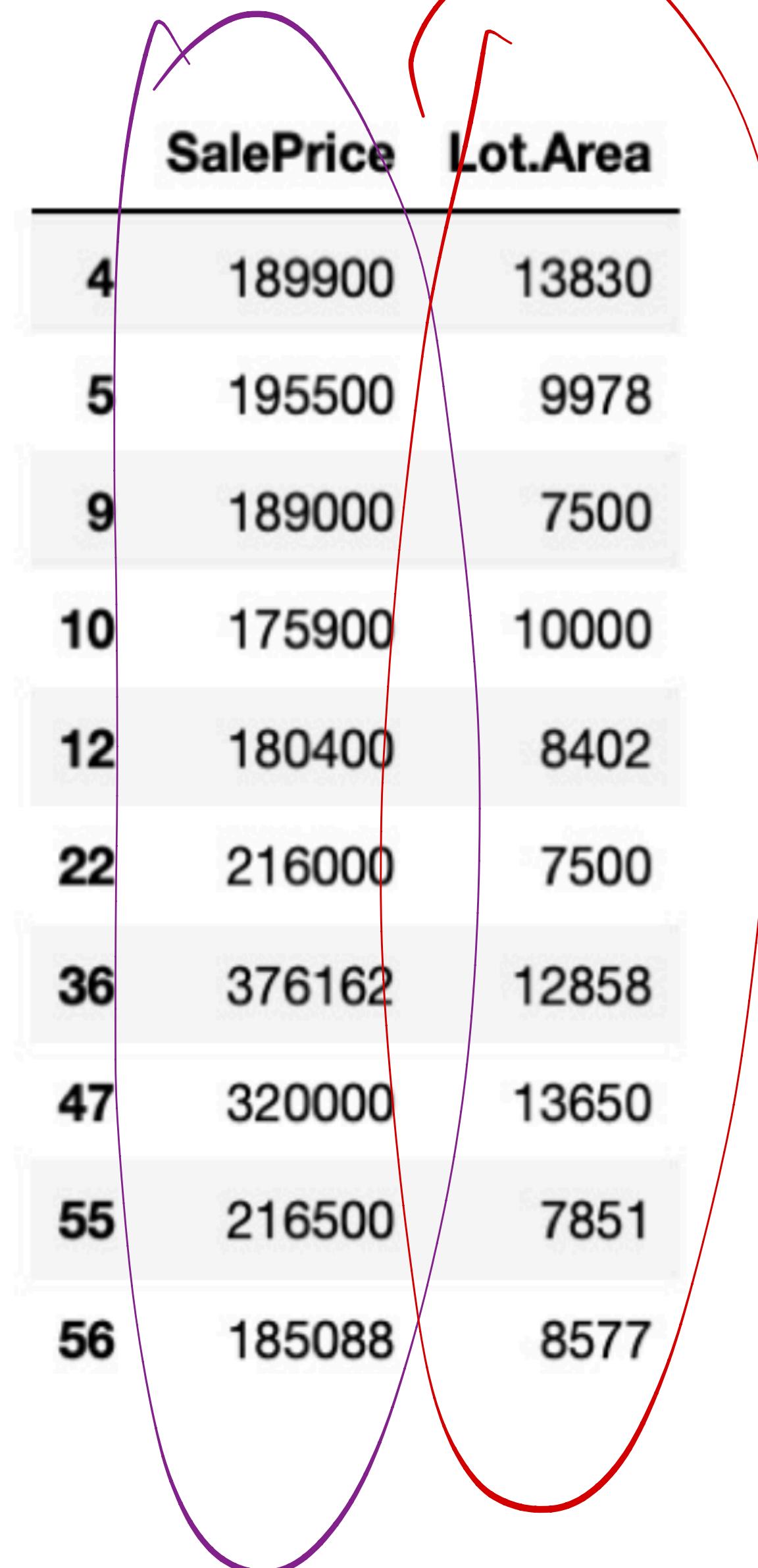
### 2. algorithm operator } $\rightarrow$ Kmeans <sup>imprud</sup> <sub>lot</sub>

# Supervised Training



# Example: Regression using Housing Data

# Example Housing Data



# Represent $h$ as a Linear Function

$h(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1$  is an *affine function*

Popular choice

$$h(x) = \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_0$$

affine

# Represent $h$ as a Linear Function

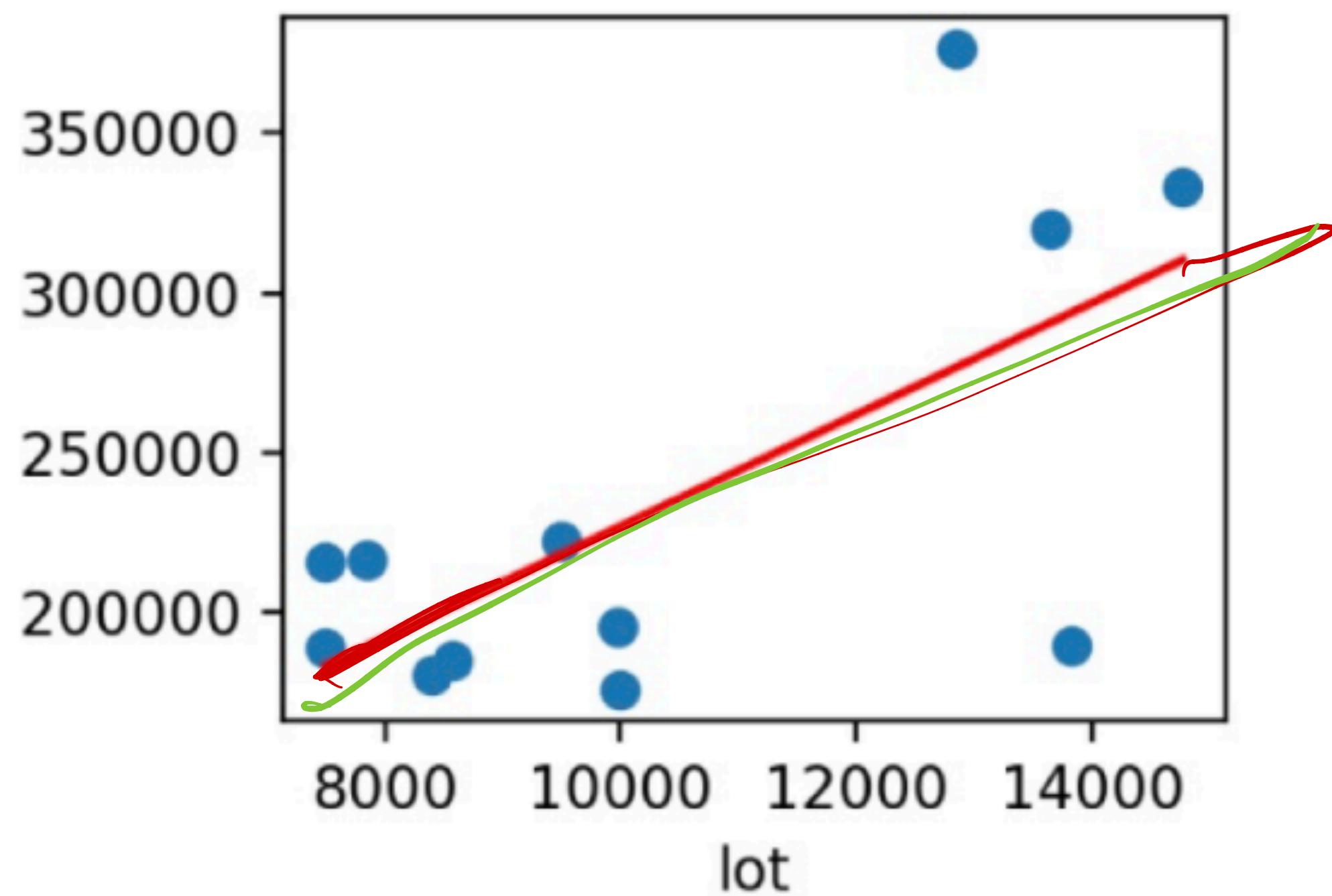
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# Popular choice

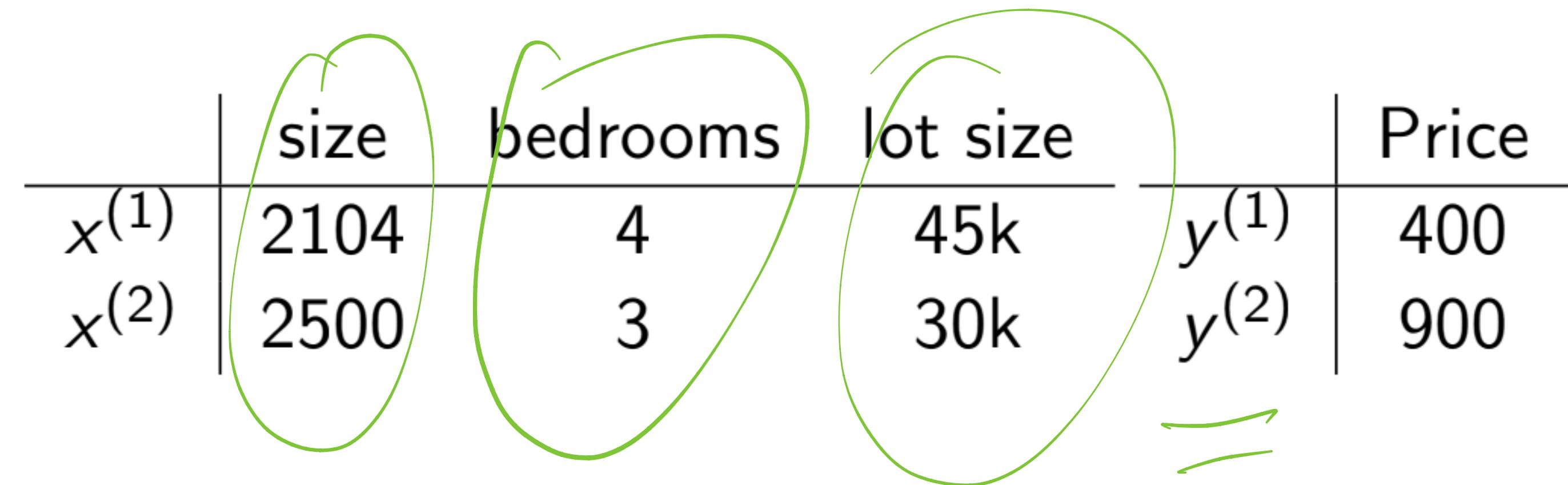
The function is defined by parameters  $\theta_0$  and  $\theta_1$ , the function space is greatly reduced

→ learning

# Simple Line Fit



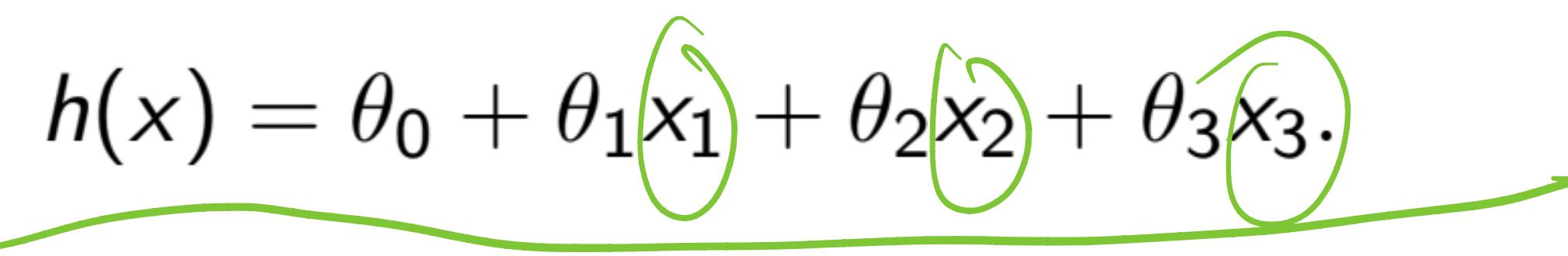
# More Features



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	size	bedrooms	lot size		Price
$x^{(1)}$	2104	4	45k	$y^{(1)}$	400
$x^{(2)}$	2500	3	30k	$y^{(2)}$	900

What's a prediction here?

$$h(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2 + \theta_3 x_3.$$


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With the convention that  $x_0 = 1$  we can write:

$$h(x) = \sum_{j=0}^3 \theta_j x_j$$

$$x_0 = 1$$
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We write the vectors as (important notation)

$$\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } x^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} x_0^{(1)} \\ x_1^{(1)} \\ x_2^{(1)} \\ x_3^{(1)} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2104 \\ 4 \\ 45 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } y^{(1)} = 400$$


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We call  $\theta$  **parameters**,  $x^{(i)}$  is the input or the **features**, and the output or **target** is  $y^{(i)}$ . To be clear,

$(x, y)$  is a training example and  $(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)})$  is the  $i^{th}$  example.

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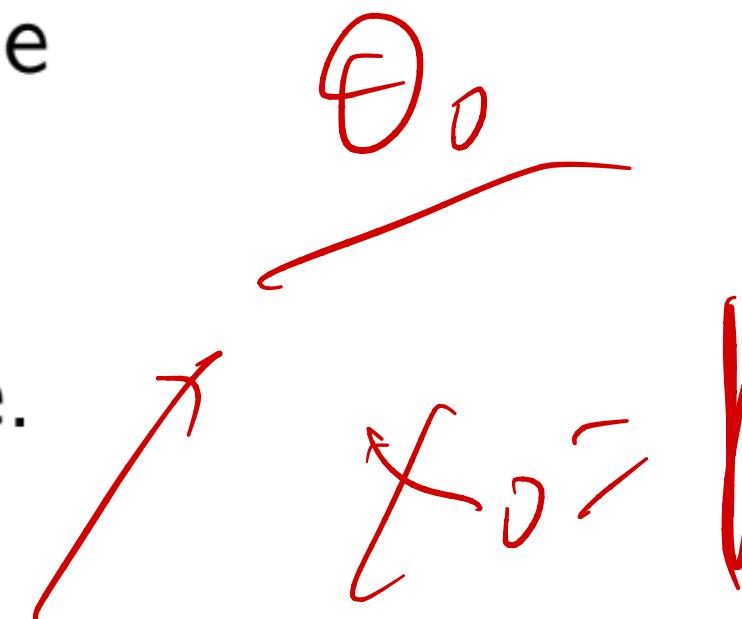
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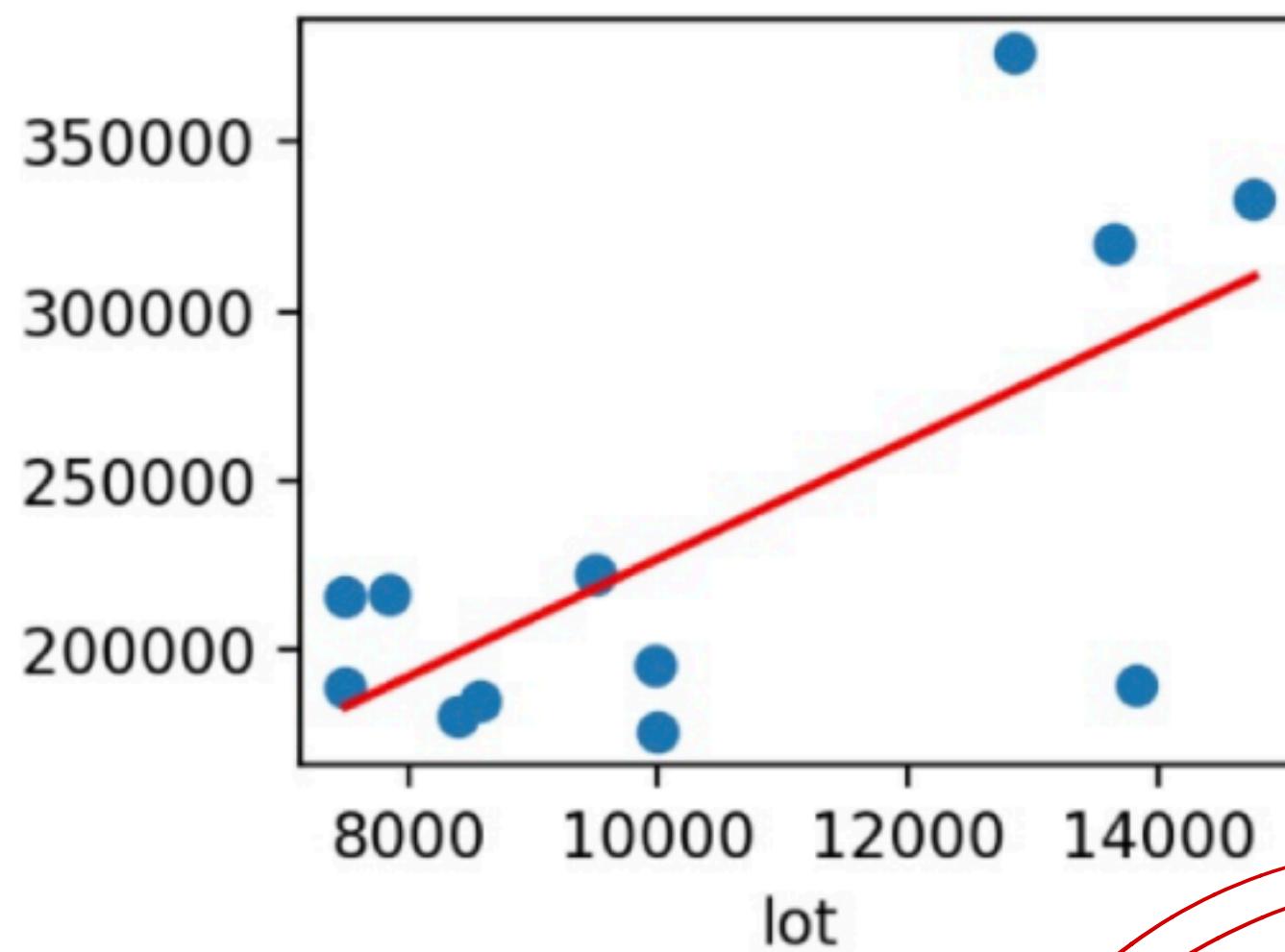
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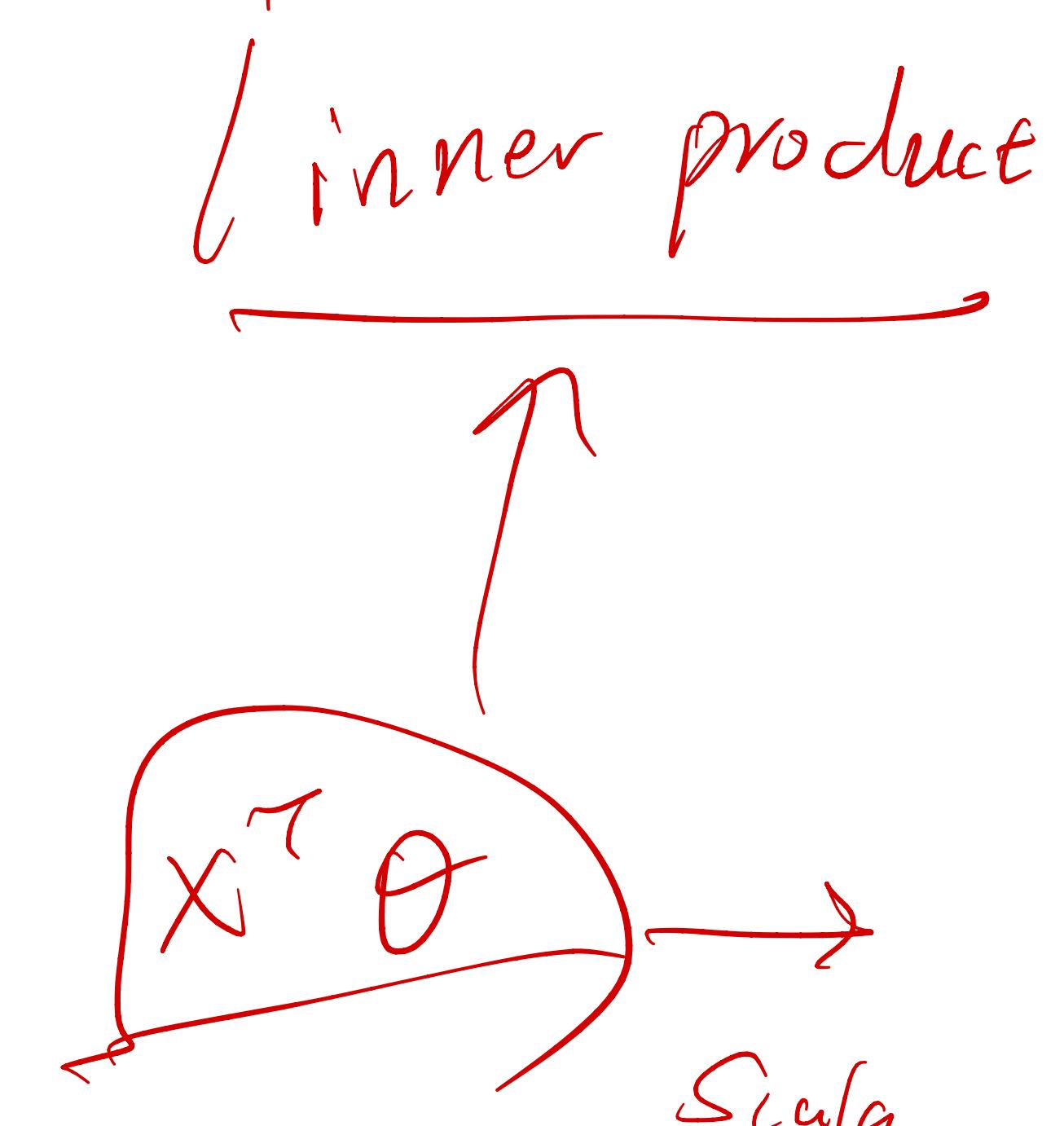
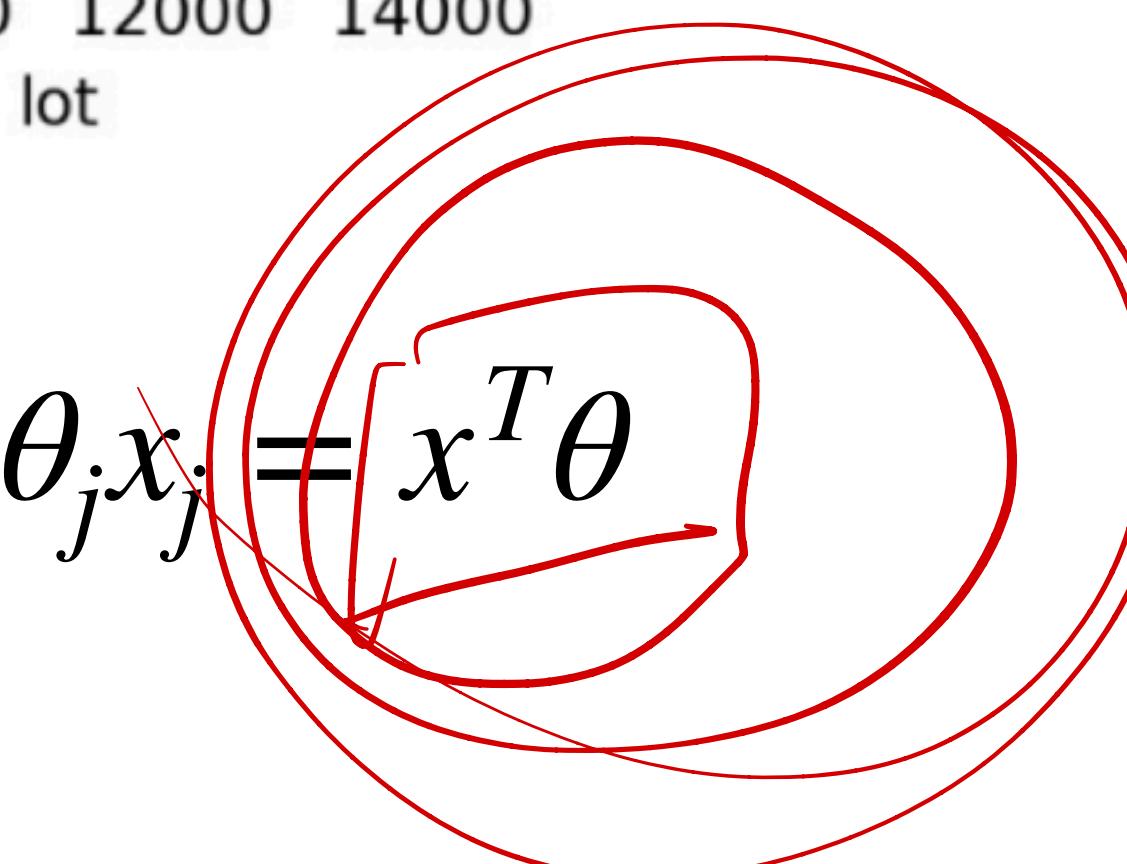
We have  $n$  examples. There are  $d$  features.  $x^{(i)}$  and  $\theta$  are  $d+1$  dimensional (since  $x_0 = 1$ )



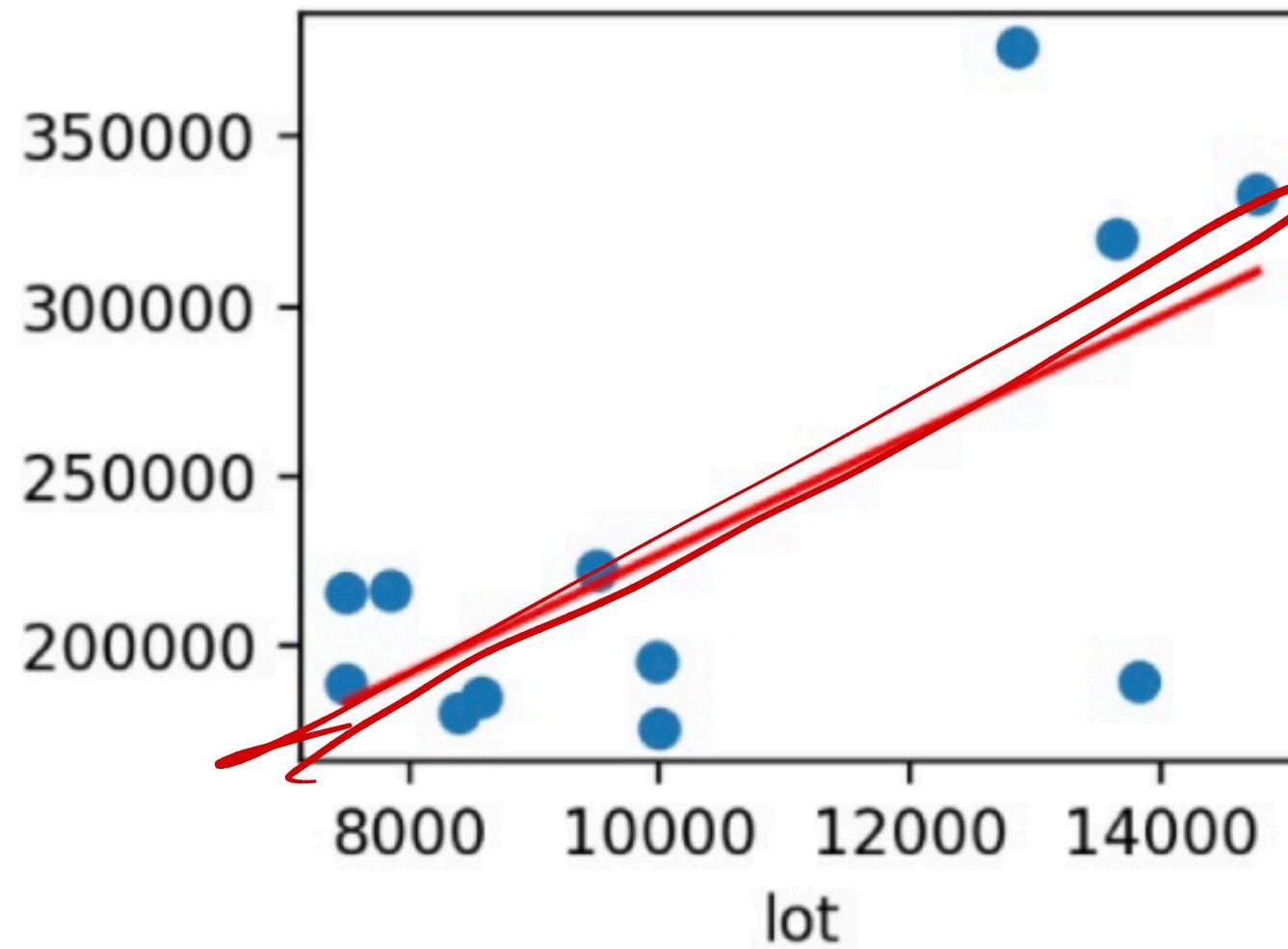
# Vector Notation of Prediction



$$h_{\theta}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^d \theta_j x_j = x^T \theta$$



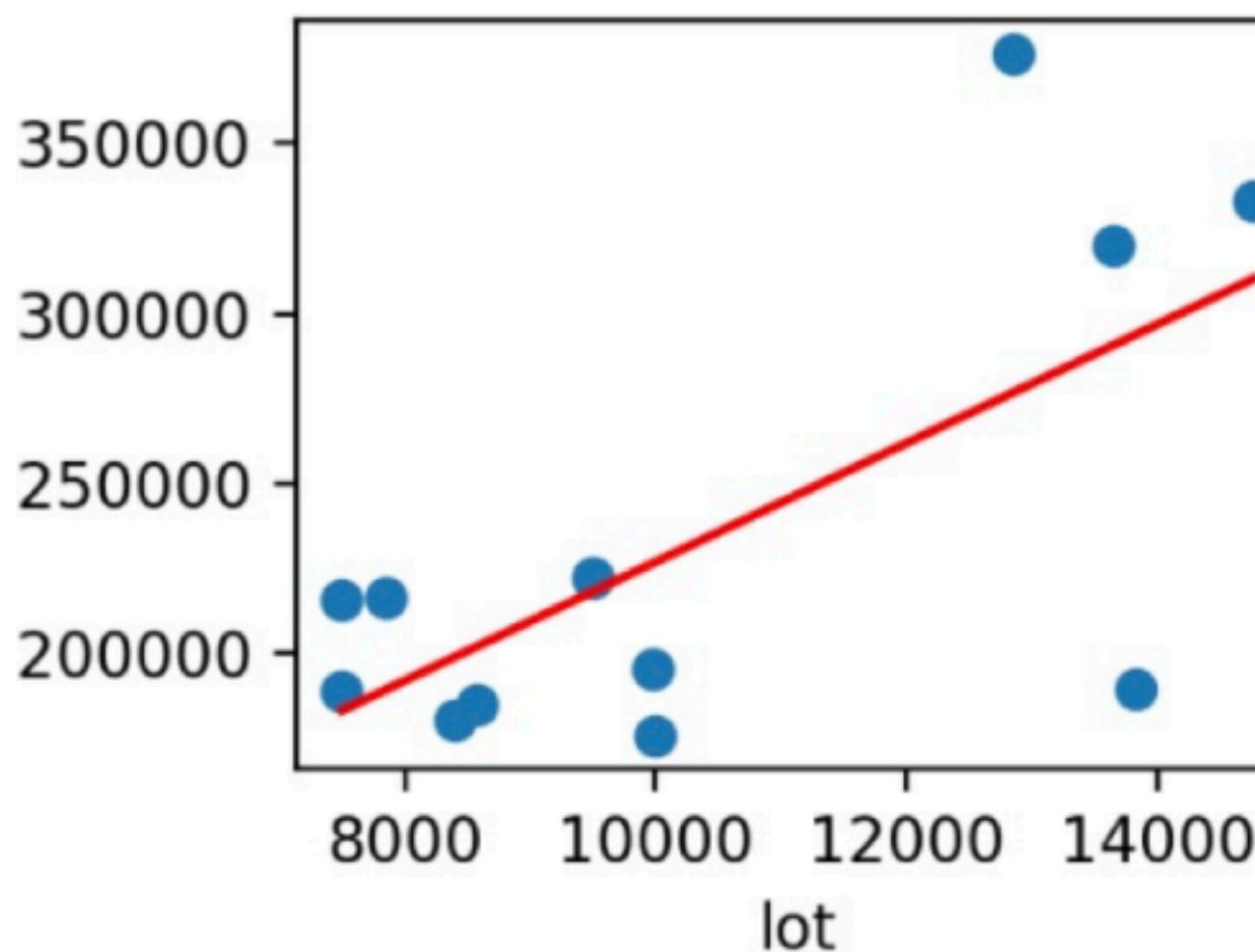
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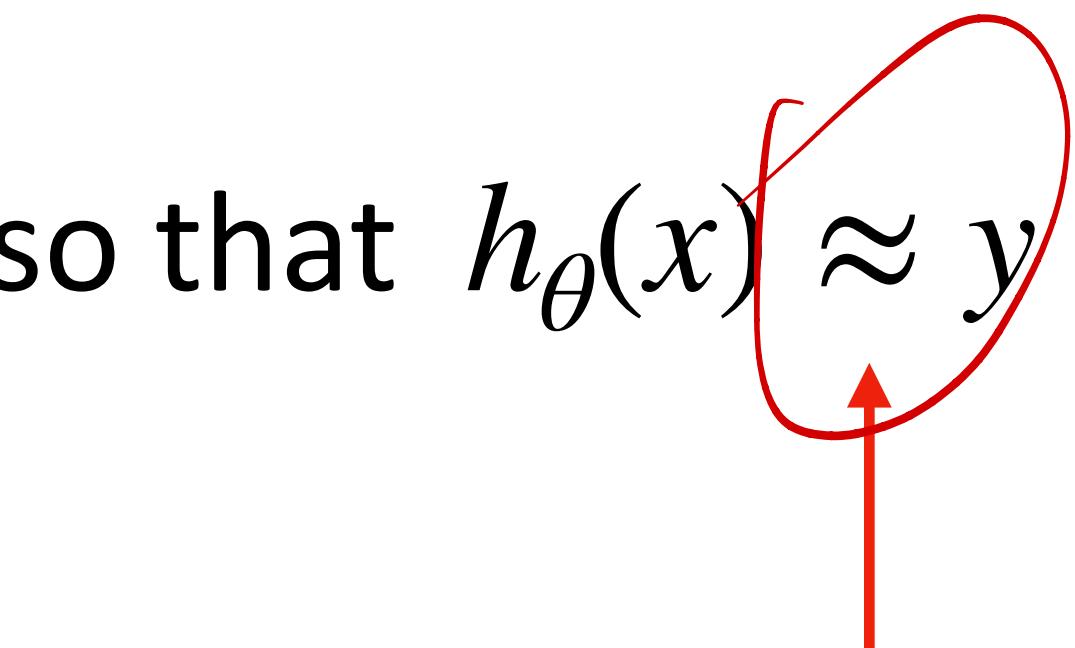
We want to choose  $\theta$  so that  $h_{\theta}(x) \approx y$

# Loss Function



$$h_{\theta}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^d \theta_j x_j = x^T \theta$$

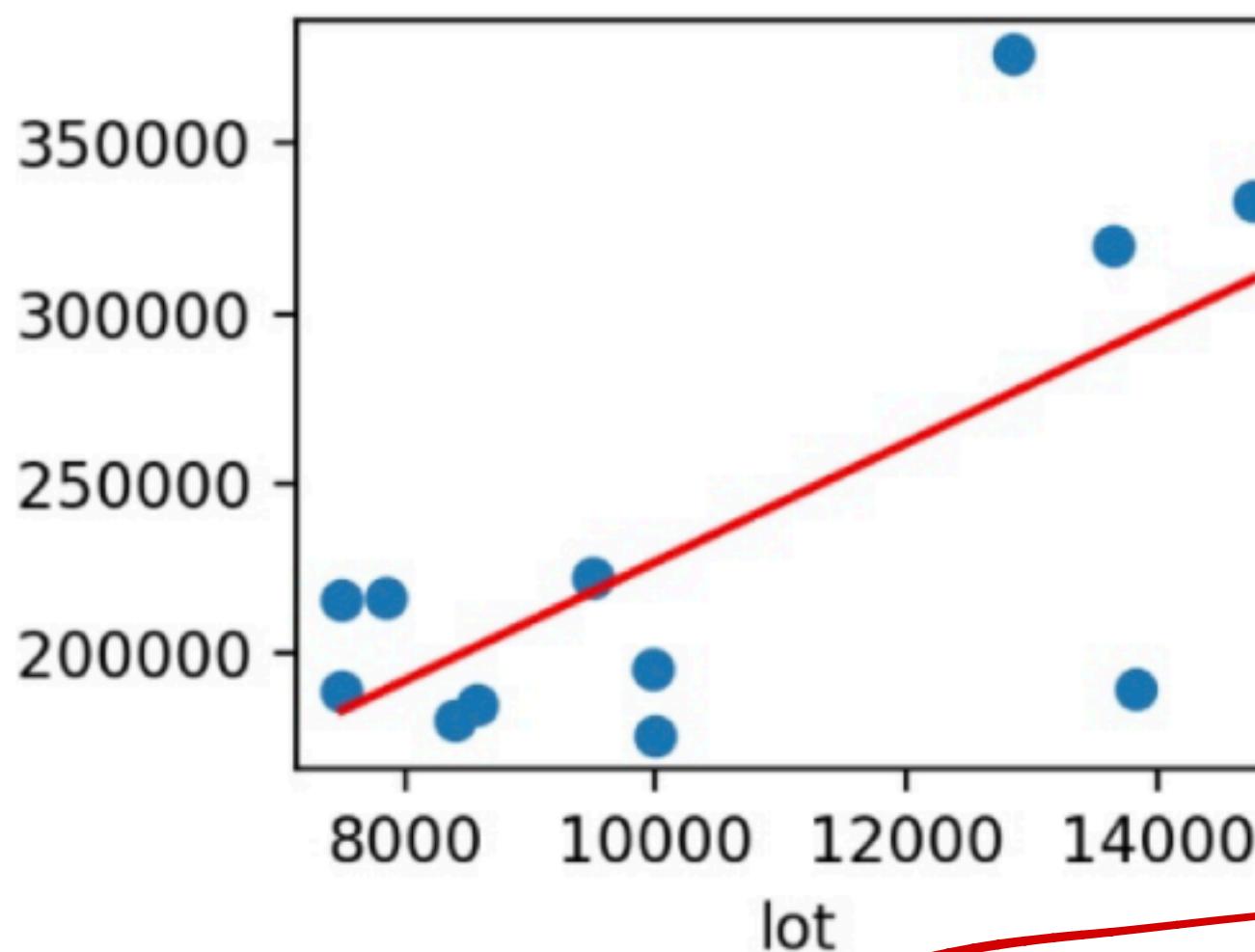
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How to quantify the deviation of  $h_{\theta}(x)$  from  $y$

metric

# Least Squares

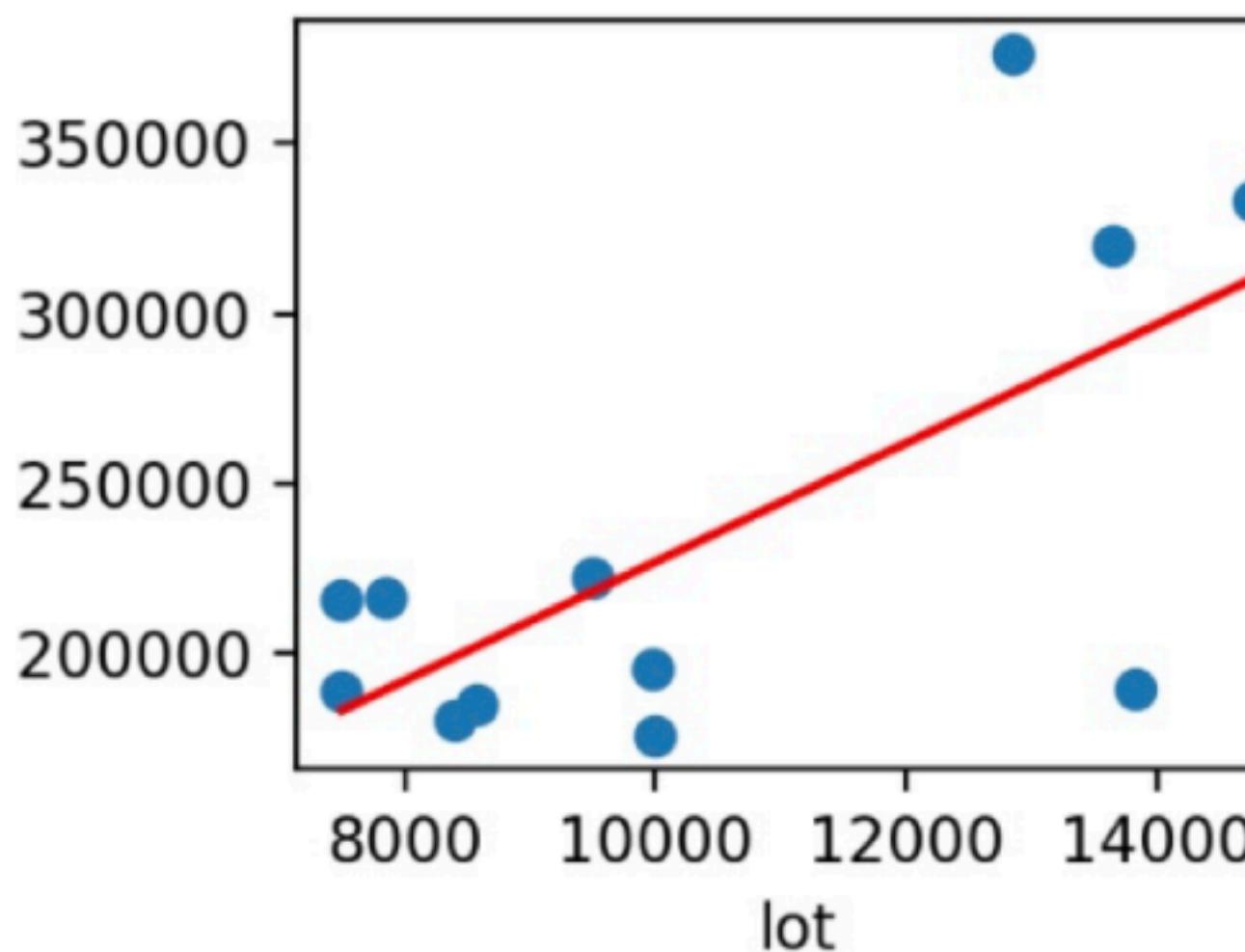


$$h_{\theta}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^d \theta_j x_j = x^T \theta$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right]^2$$

# Least Squares



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Choose

$$\theta = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} J(\theta).$$

# Solving Least Square Problem

Direct Minimization

$$h_{\theta}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^d \theta_j x_j = x^T \theta$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - \underline{y}^{(i)} \right)^2$$

Choose

$$\theta = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} J(\theta).$$

$$\exists \theta \quad J(\theta) \rightarrow$$

$$\frac{d J(\theta)}{d \theta} \rightarrow$$

# Solving Least Square Problem

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) &= \nabla_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} (\vec{X}\theta - \vec{y})^T (\vec{X}\theta - \vec{y}) \\&= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} ((\vec{X}\theta)^T \vec{X}\theta - (\vec{X}\theta)^T \vec{y} - \vec{y}^T (\vec{X}\theta) + \vec{y}^T \vec{y}) \\&= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} (\theta^T (\vec{X}^T \vec{X}) \theta - \vec{y}^T (\vec{X}\theta) - \vec{y}^T (\vec{X}\theta)) \\&= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} (\theta^T (\vec{X}^T \vec{X}) \theta - 2(\vec{X}^T \vec{y})^T \theta) \\&= \frac{1}{2} (2\vec{X}^T \vec{X}\theta - 2\vec{X}^T \vec{y}) \\&= \vec{X}^T \vec{X}\theta - \vec{X}^T \vec{y}\end{aligned}$$
$$\vec{X}^T \vec{X}\theta = \vec{X}^T \vec{y}$$
$$\theta = (\vec{X}^T \vec{X})^{-1} \vec{X}^T \vec{y}.$$

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Normal equations

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

$$\theta = (\vec{X}^T \vec{X})^{-1} \vec{X}^T \vec{y}.$$

$$\text{rank}(X^T X) \leq \min(\text{rank}(X^T), \text{rank}(X)) = \text{rank}(X)$$

# Solving Least Square Problem

$d \times d$

$X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$

$n$ : # samples

$d$ : # features

Normal equations  $X^T X \theta = X^T \vec{y}$

When is  $X^T X$  invertible? What if it is not invertible?

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) = \nabla_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} (X\theta - \vec{y})^T (X\theta - \vec{y})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} ((X\theta)^T X\theta - (X\theta)^T \vec{y} - \vec{y}^T (X\theta) + \vec{y}^T \vec{y})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} (\theta^T (X^T X) \theta - \vec{y}^T (X\theta) - \vec{y}^T (X\theta))$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} (\theta^T (X^T X) \theta - 2(X^T \vec{y})^T \theta)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (2X^T X \theta - 2X^T \vec{y})$$

$$= X^T X \theta - X^T \vec{y}$$

necessary condition:

$$\text{rank}(X) \geq d$$

$$\text{rank}(X) \leq \min(n, d)$$

$[n < d]$

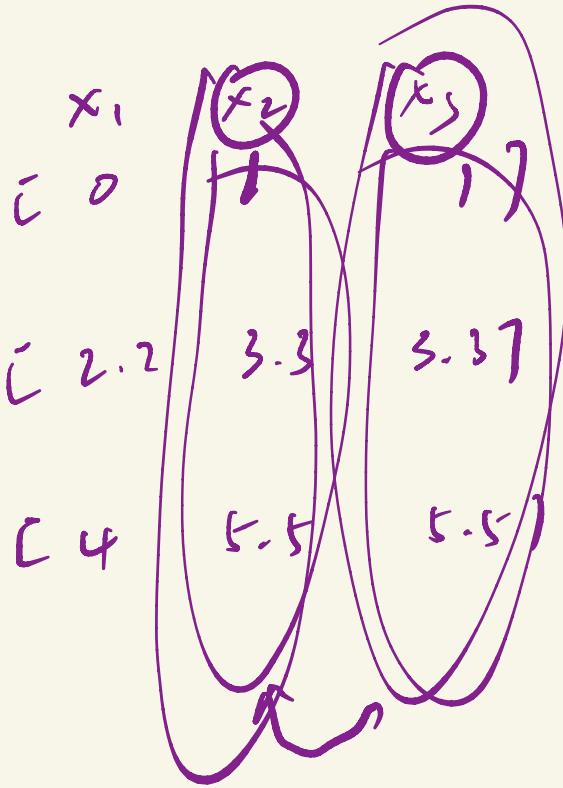
invertible  $\iff$  full

rank

$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T \vec{y}.$$

$$\begin{array}{c} d+1 \\ \overbrace{\quad\quad\quad\quad\quad} \\ \theta_1 + \theta_2 x_2 + \dots + \theta_{d+1} x_{d+1} = 0 \\ \theta_1 + \dots \\ \theta_1 + \dots \\ \text{rank}(x) < d+1 \end{array}$$

sufficiency



$\boxed{x \in R^{n \times d}}$

# Why Least-Square Loss Function?

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

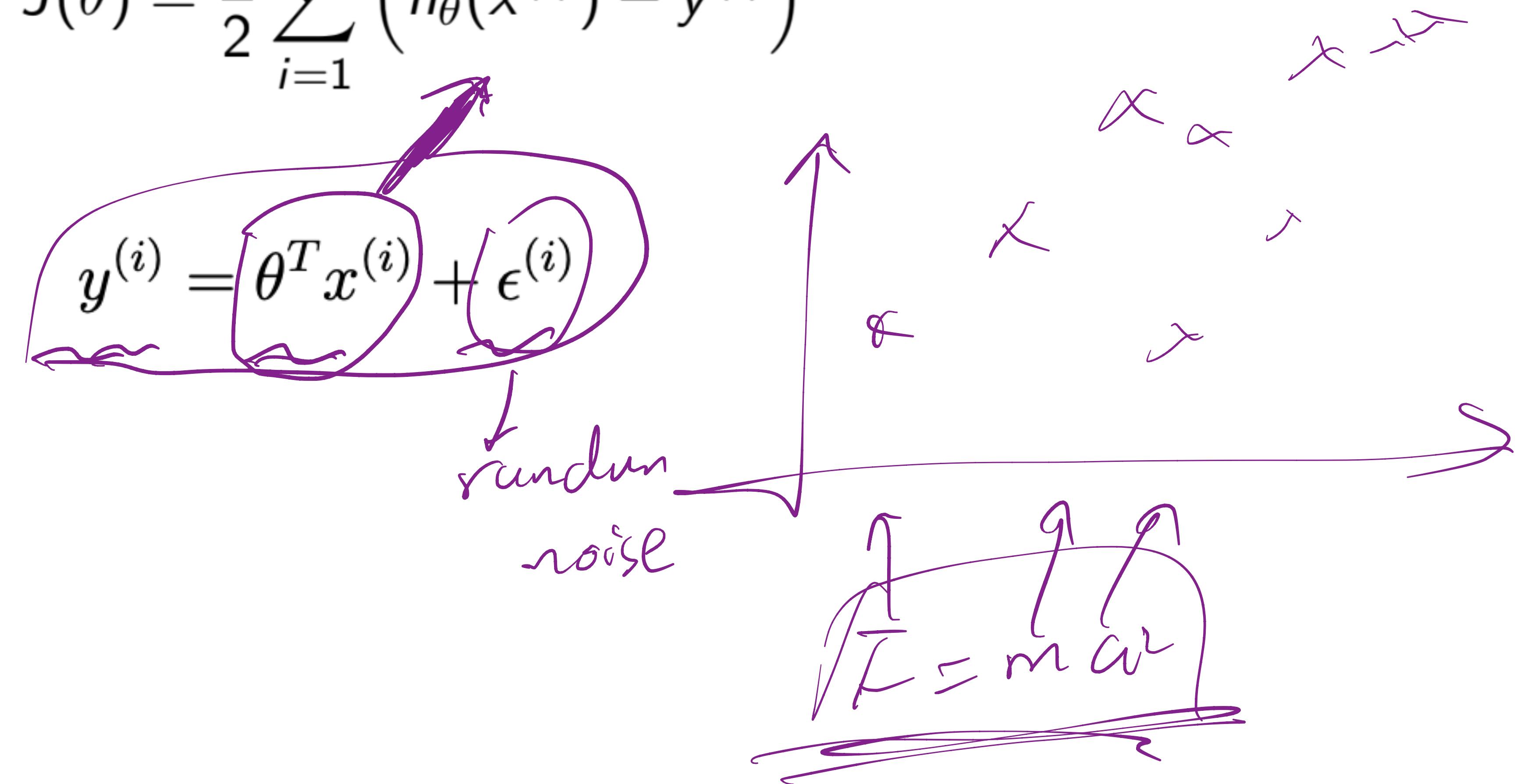
$\sum_{i=1}^n |h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)}|^2$

Maximum Likelihood Estimation → MLE

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Assume

$$y^{(i)} = \theta^T x^{(i)} + \epsilon^{(i)}$$

$x, y$ : random variable

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$x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}$ : observations, or the data

$\epsilon^{(i)}$ : the actual prediction error of the  $i_{th}$  example, sampled from the Gaussian distribution, IID (independently and identically distributed)

# Why Least-Square Loss Function?

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$$p(\epsilon^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(\epsilon^{(i)})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

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Likelihood Function

Gaussian

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Likelihood Function

What is a reasonable guess of  $\theta$ ?



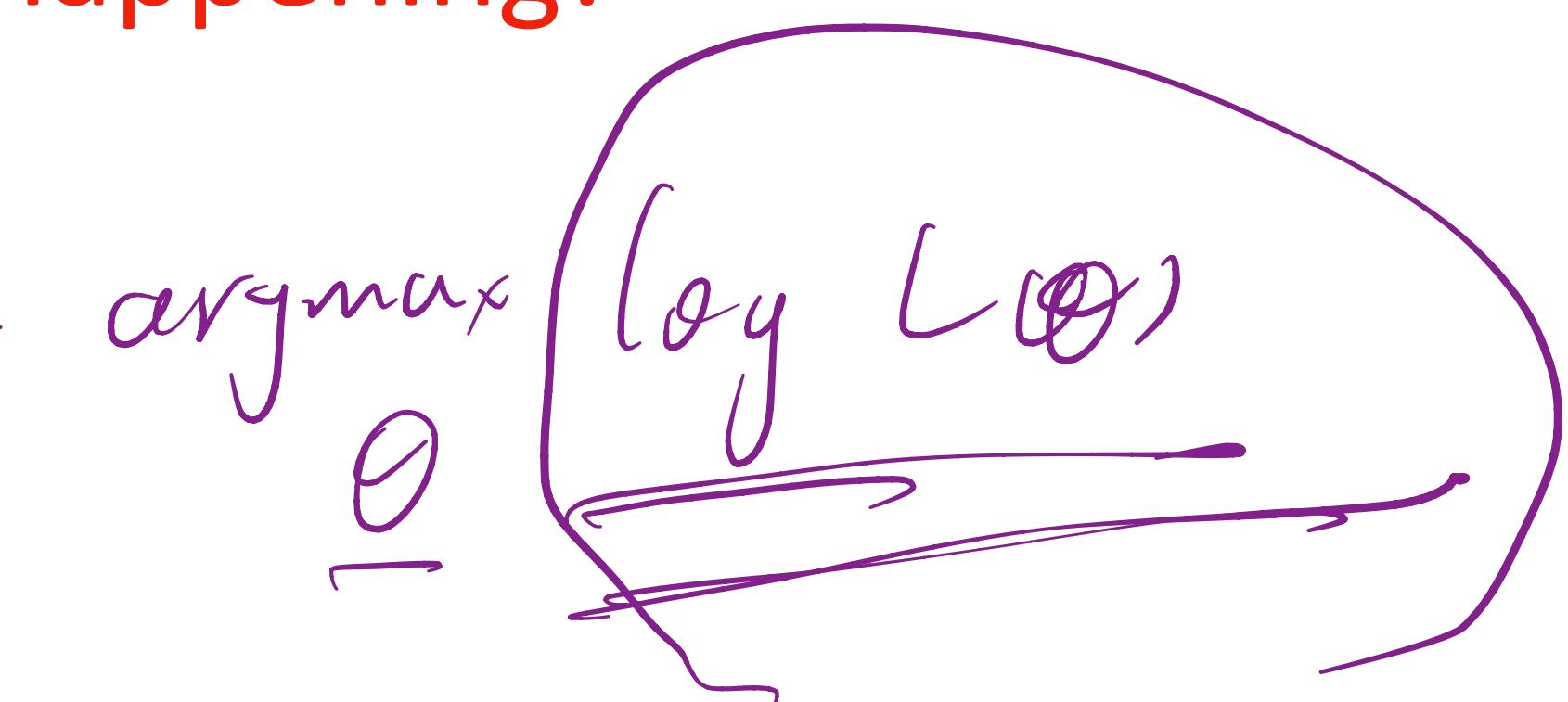
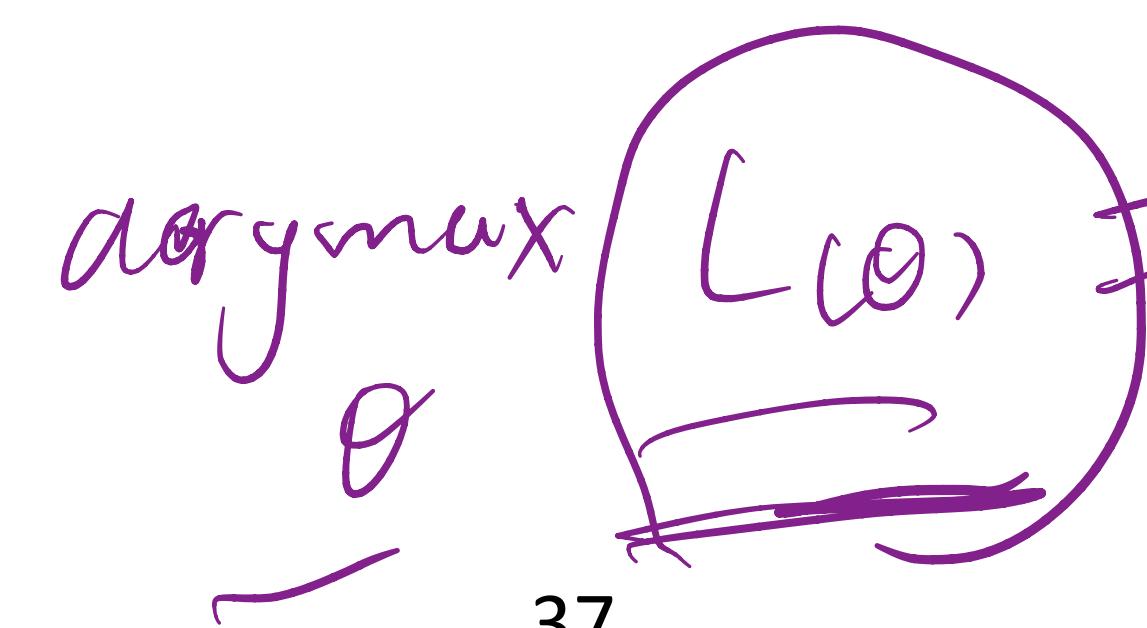
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Likelihood Function

What is a reasonable guess of  $\theta$ ?

Maximize the probability of Y's happening!



# Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(\theta) &= \log L(\theta) \\ &= \log \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(y^{(i)} - \theta^T x^{(i)})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \log \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(y^{(i)} - \theta^T x^{(i)})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= n \log \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y^{(i)} - \theta^T x^{(i)})^2.\end{aligned}$$

↓ constant

least square

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What is a reasonable guess of  $\theta$ ?

Maximize the probability of Y's happening?

Maximizing likelihood estimation  $\rightarrow \hat{\theta}$

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Likelihood Function

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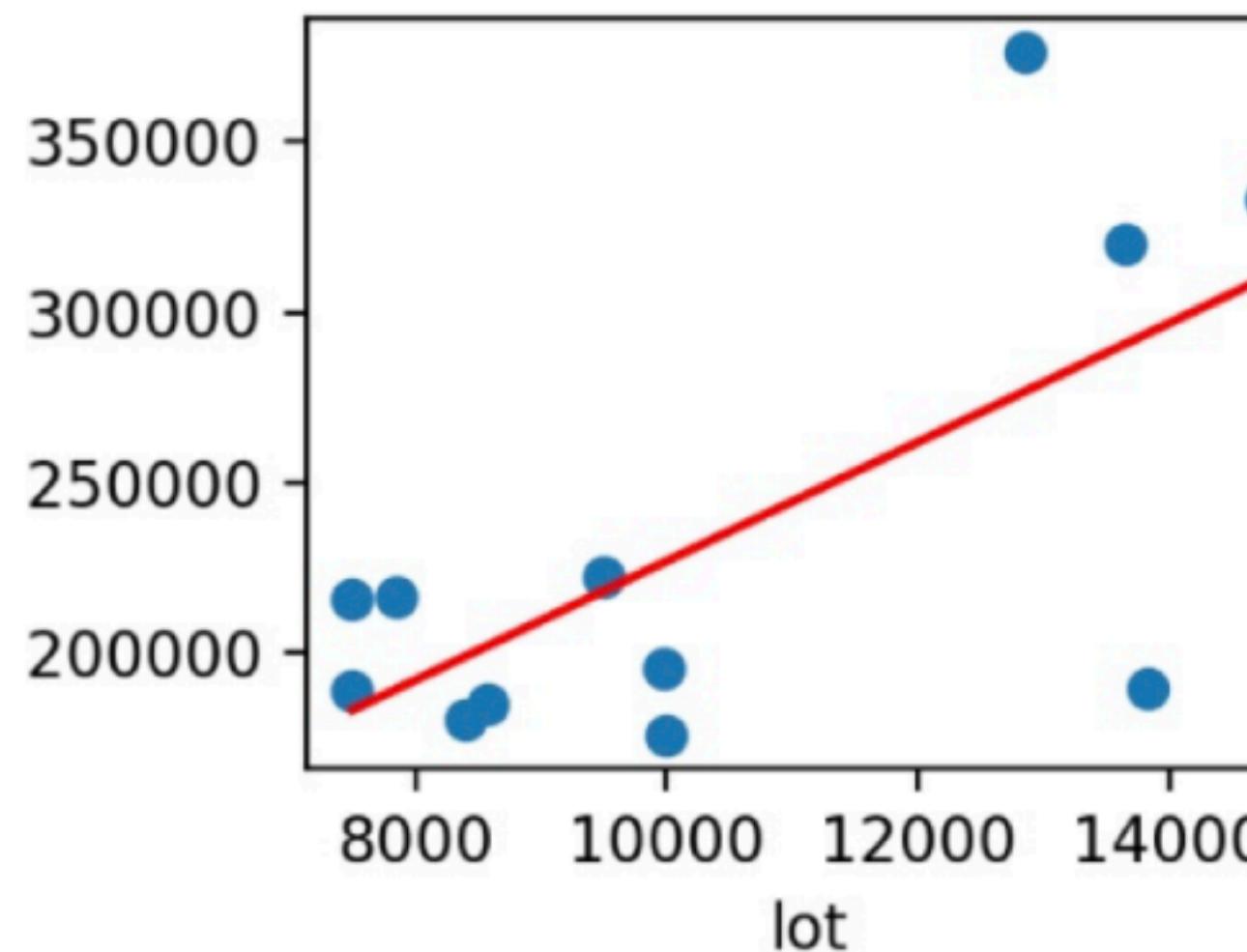
Maximize the probability of Y's happening?

Maximizing likelihood estimation  $\rightarrow \hat{\theta}$

Ground-truth  $\theta^*$

$$n \rightarrow \infty \quad \hat{\theta} \rightarrow \theta^*$$

# Another Solution – Gradient Descent



$$h_{\theta}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^d \theta_j x_j = x^T \theta$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

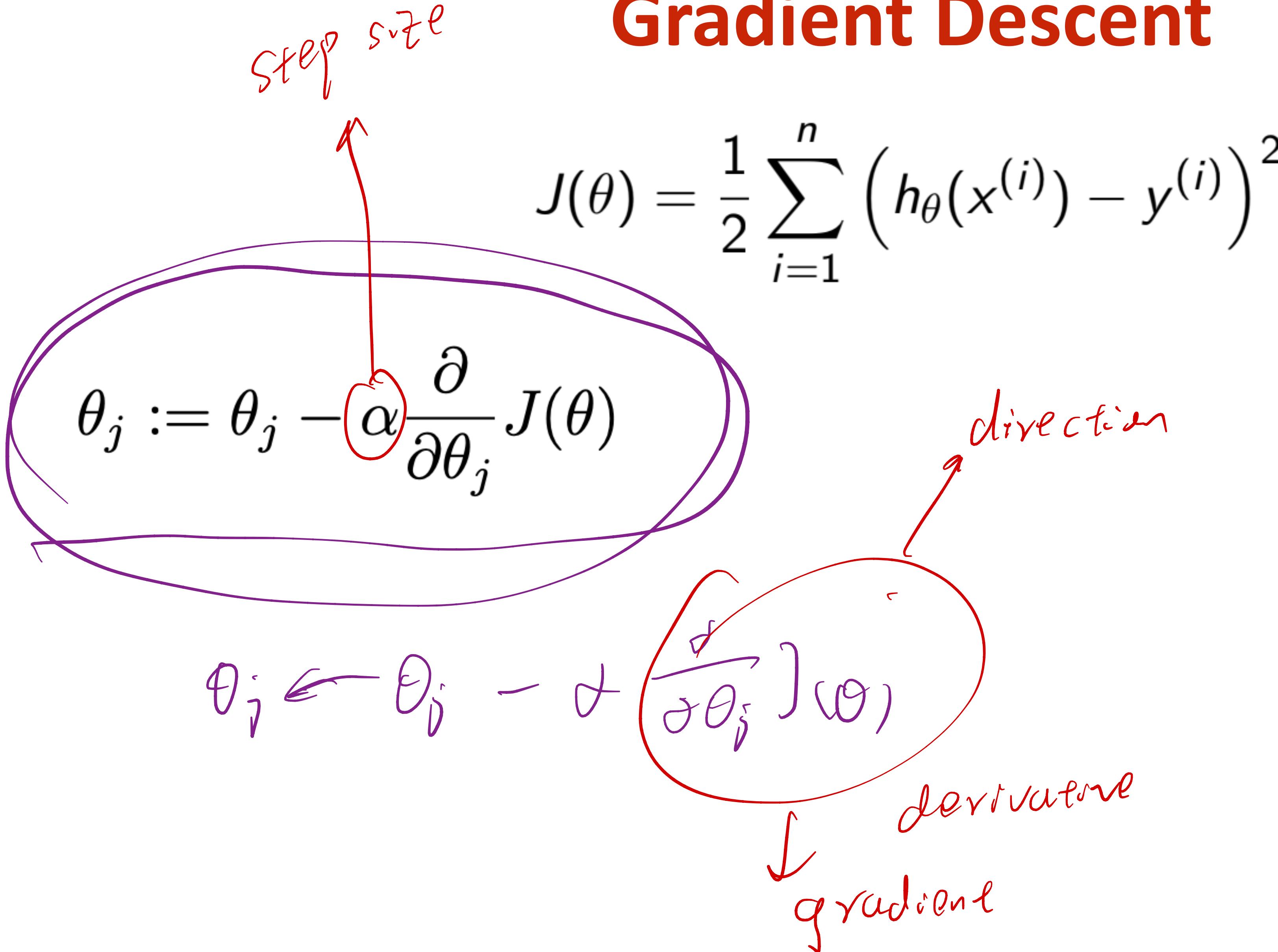
Choose

$$\theta = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} J(\theta).$$

# Gradient Descent

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

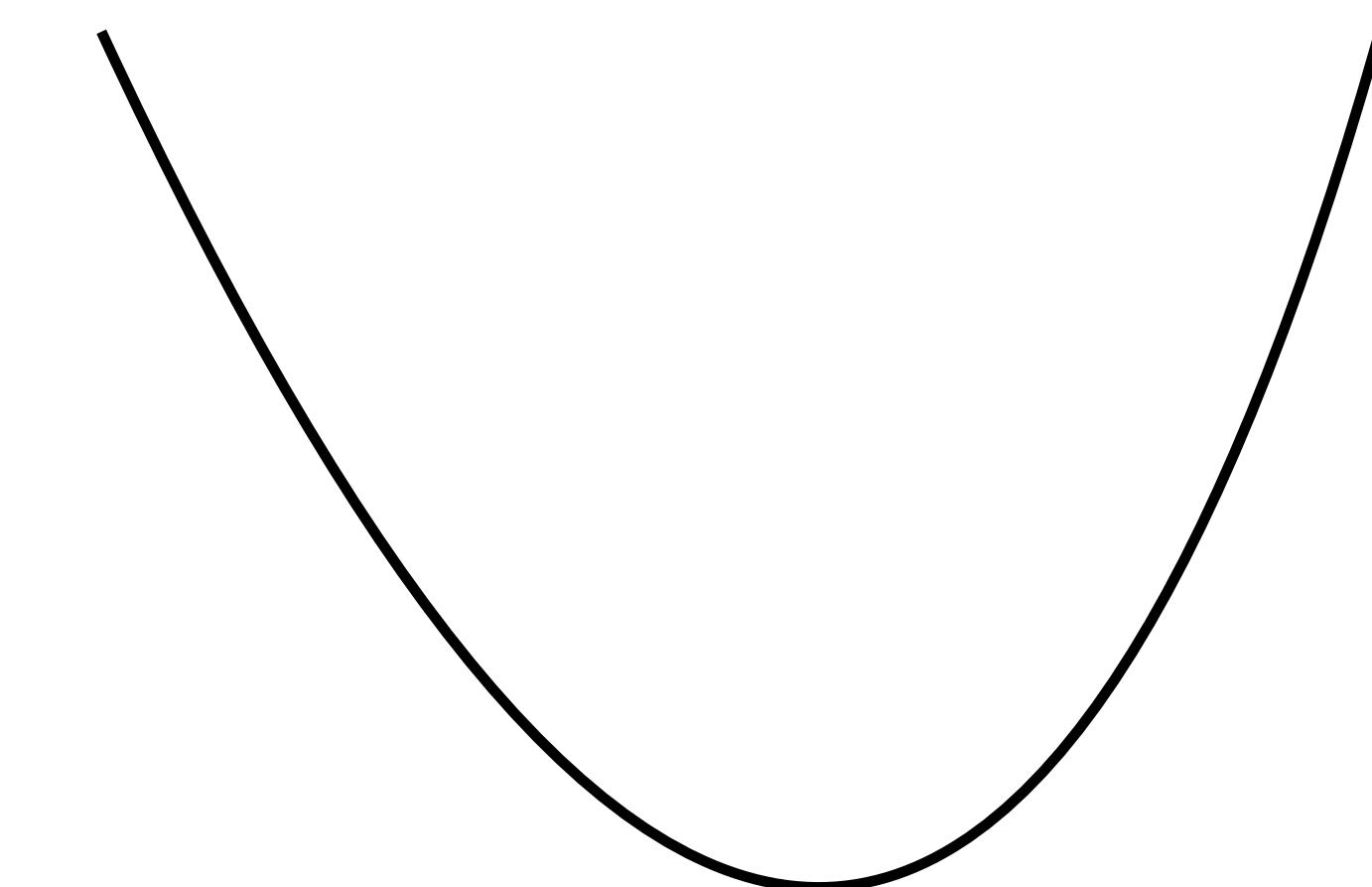
# Gradient Descent



# Gradient Descent

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

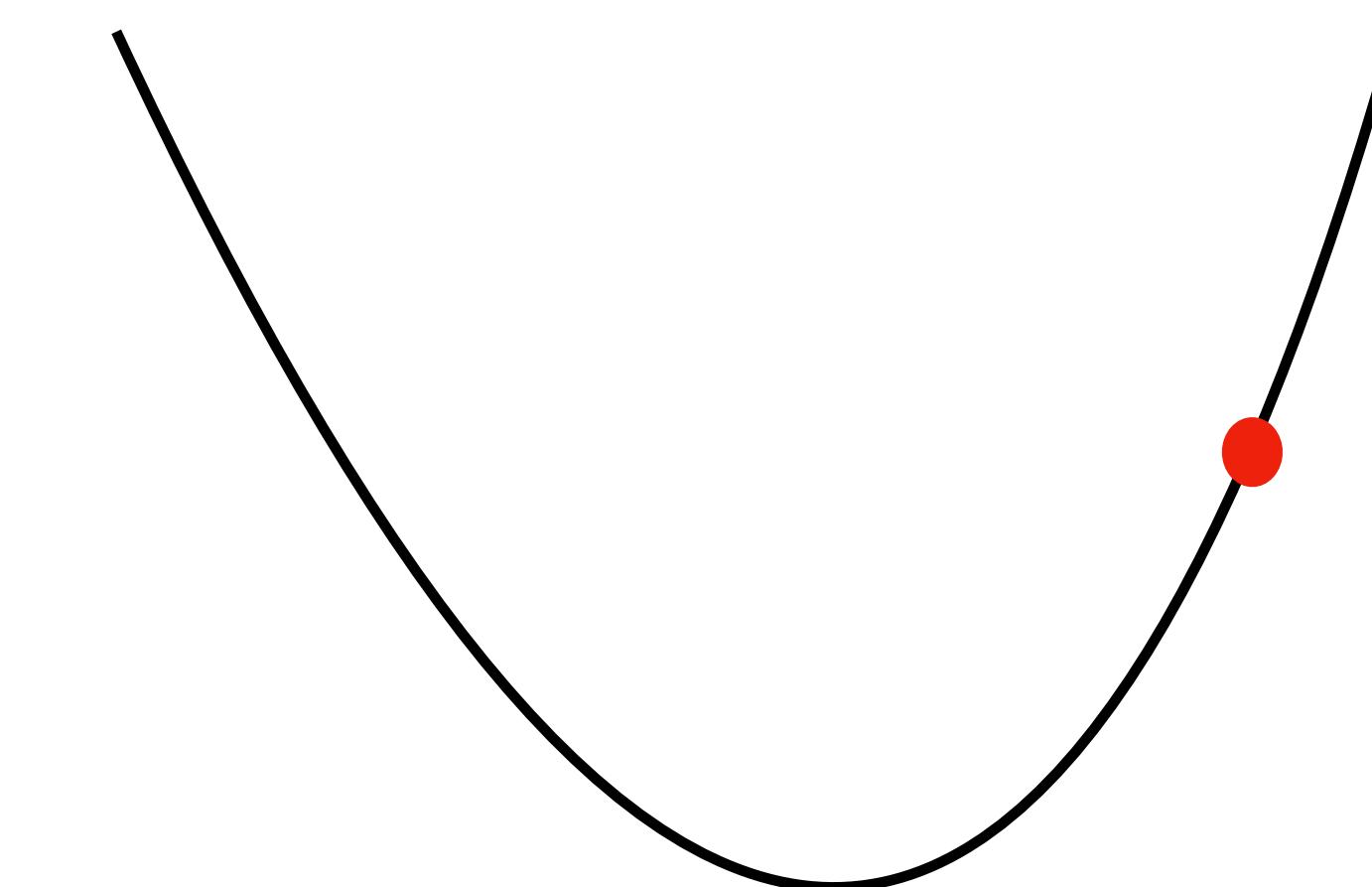
$$\theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\theta)$$



# Gradient Descent

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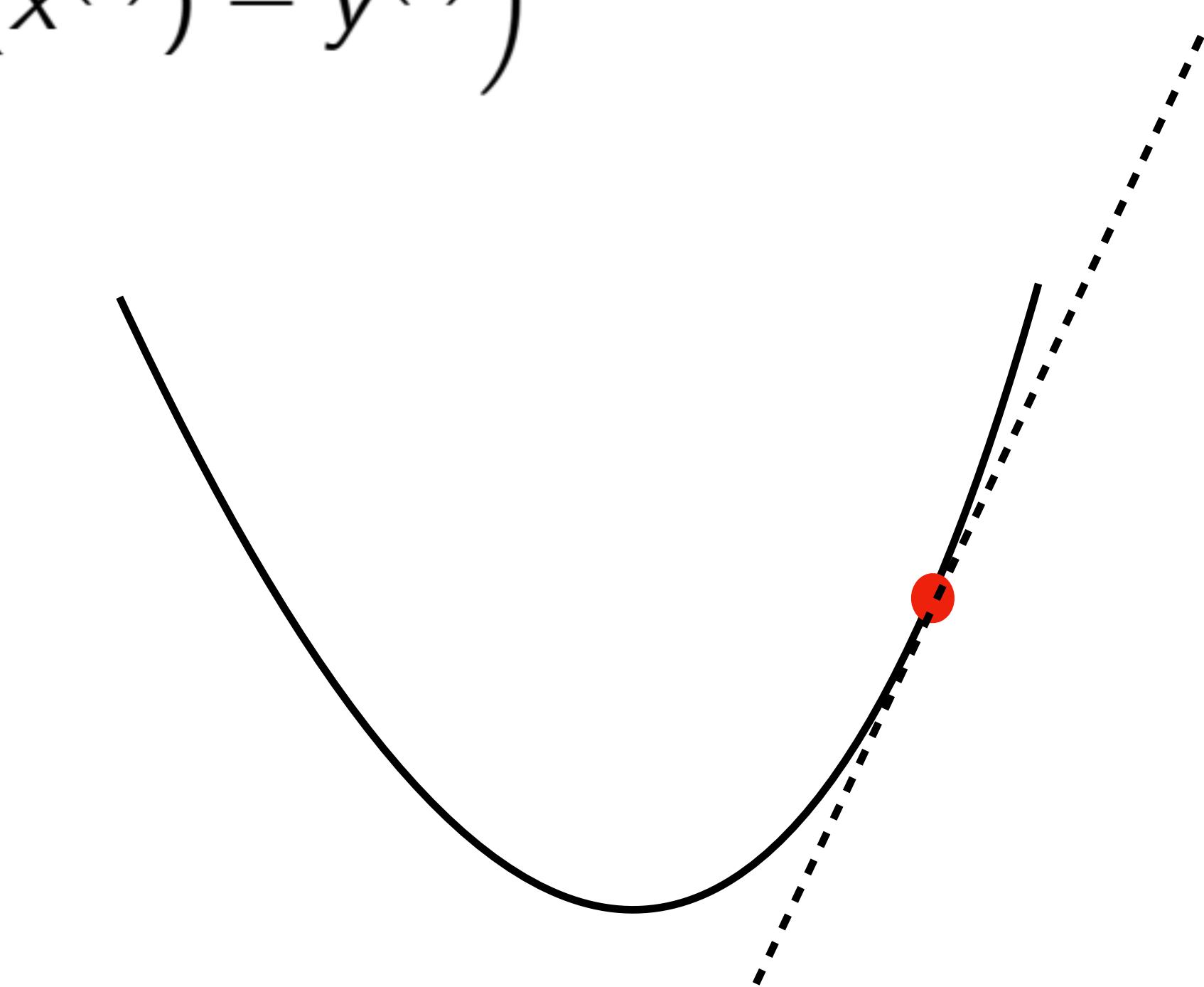
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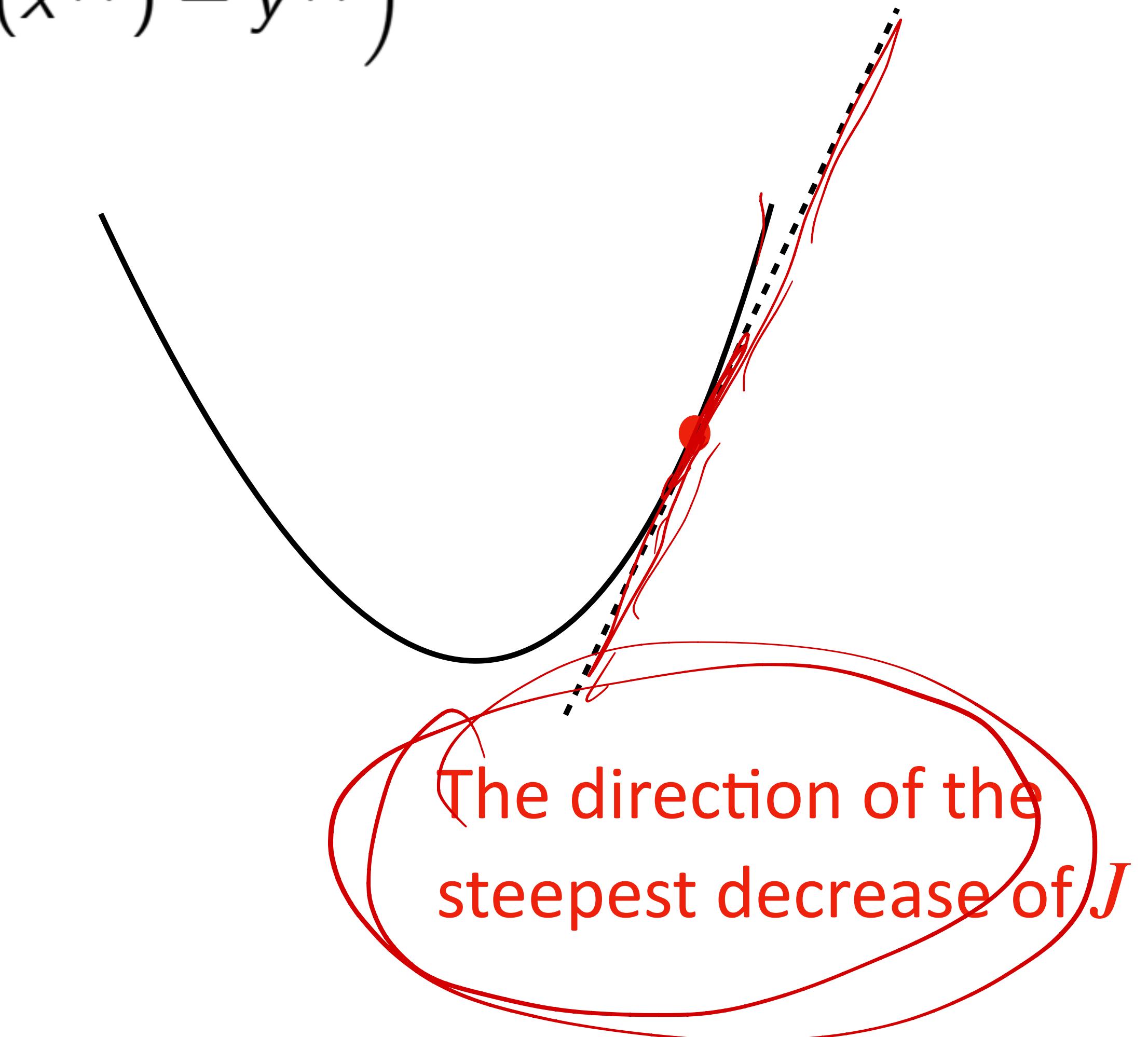
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# Gradient Descent

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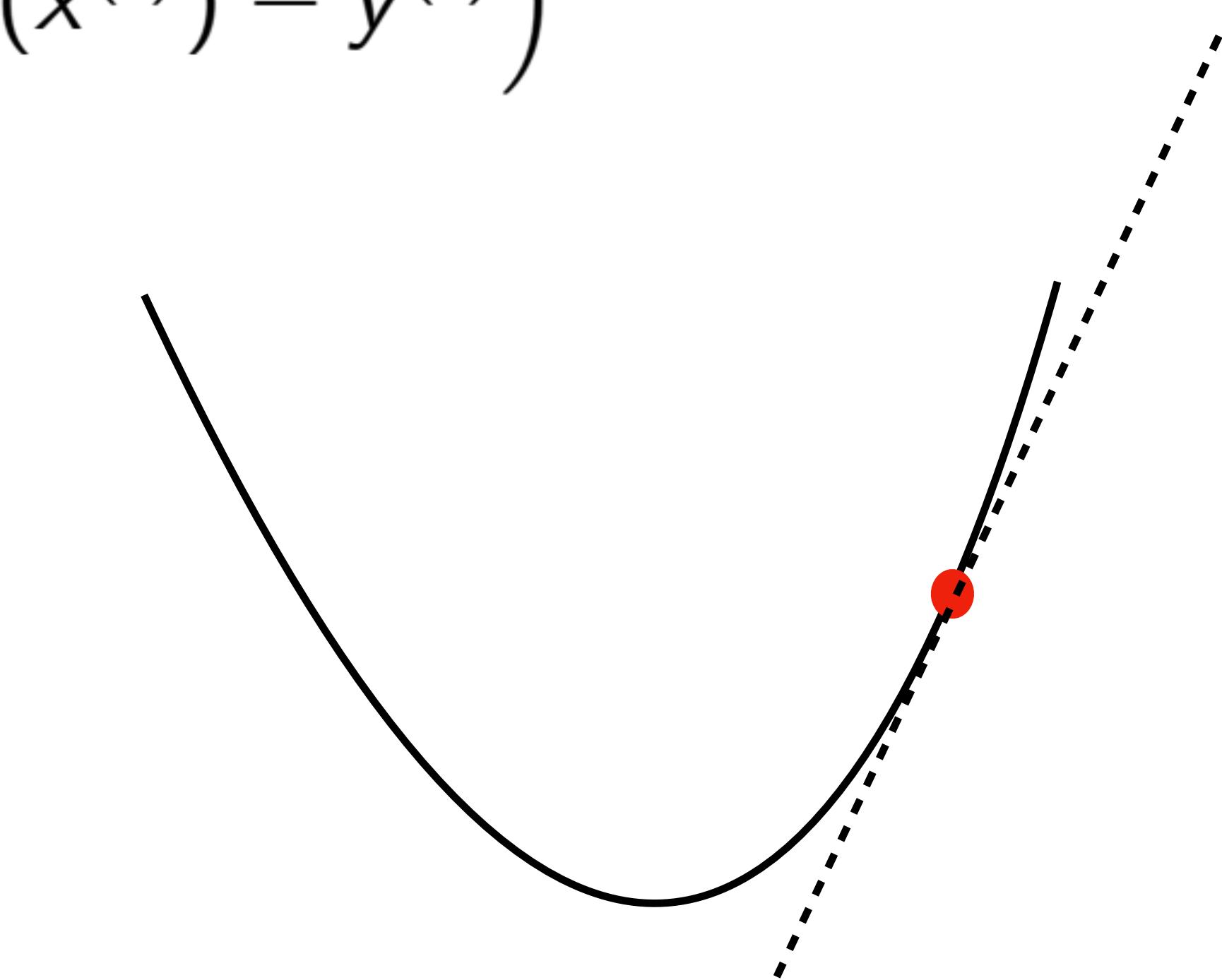


# Gradient Descent

Learning Rate

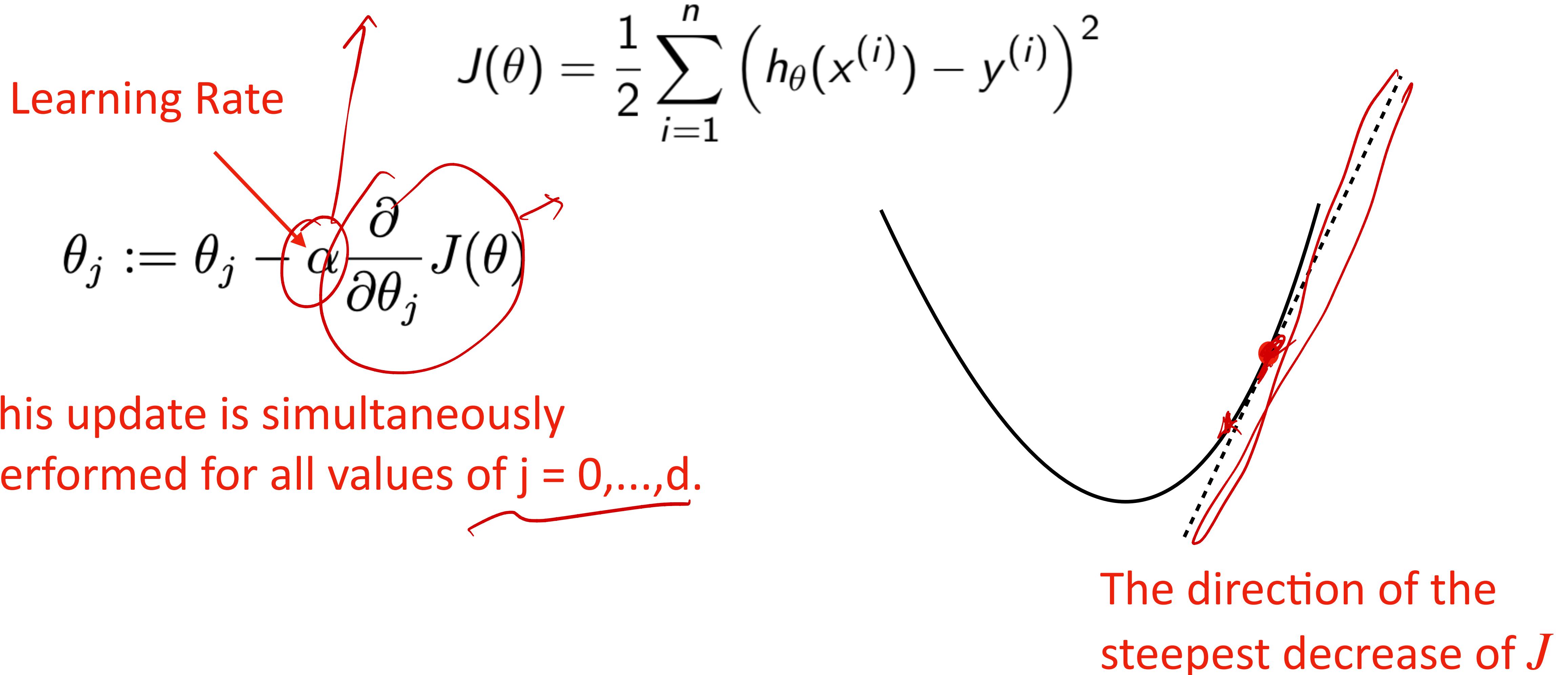
$$\theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\theta)$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$



The direction of the  
steepest decrease of  $J$

# Gradient Descent



# Gradient Descent

For a single training example:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\theta) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} \frac{1}{2} (h_{\theta}(x) - y)^2 \\ &= 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} (h_{\theta}(x) - y) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} (h_{\theta}(x) - y) \\ &= (h_{\theta}(x) - y) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} \left( \sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i x_i - y \right) \\ &= (h_{\theta}(x) - y) x_j\end{aligned}$$

# Gradient Descent

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LMS (Least Mean Square) Update Rule

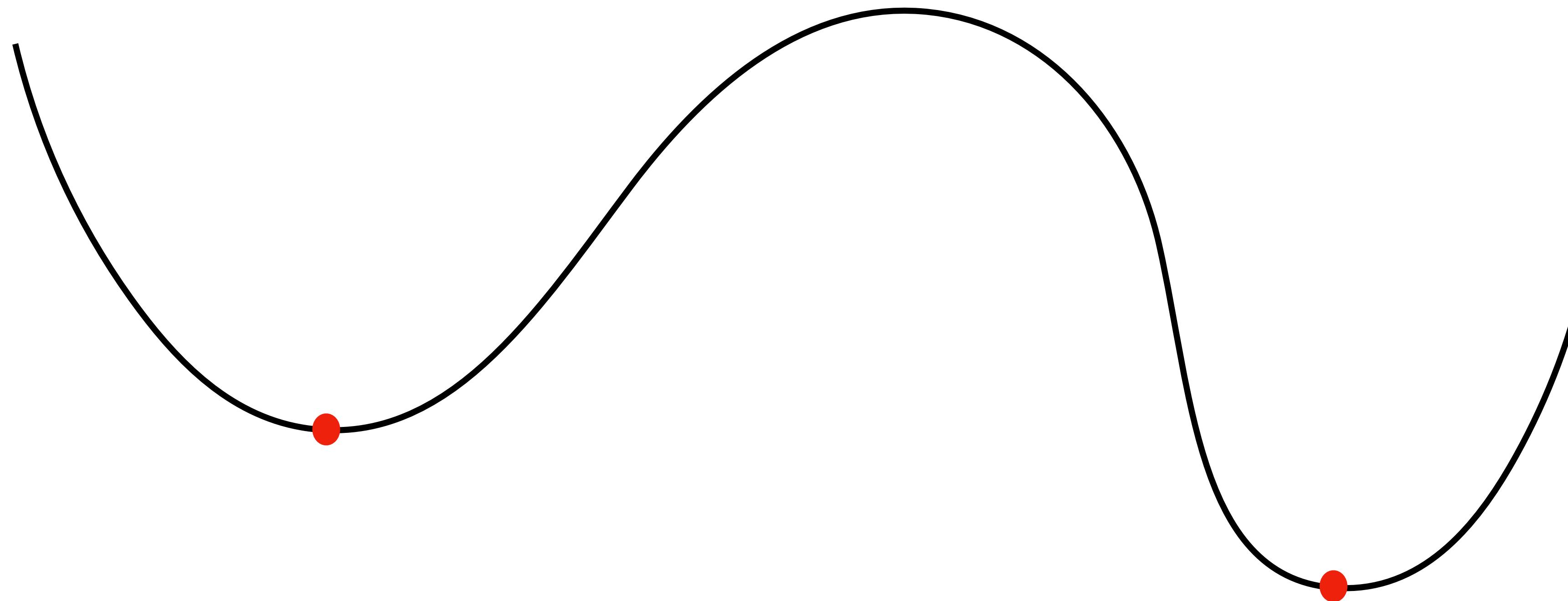
# Batch Gradient Descent

For a multiple training examples:

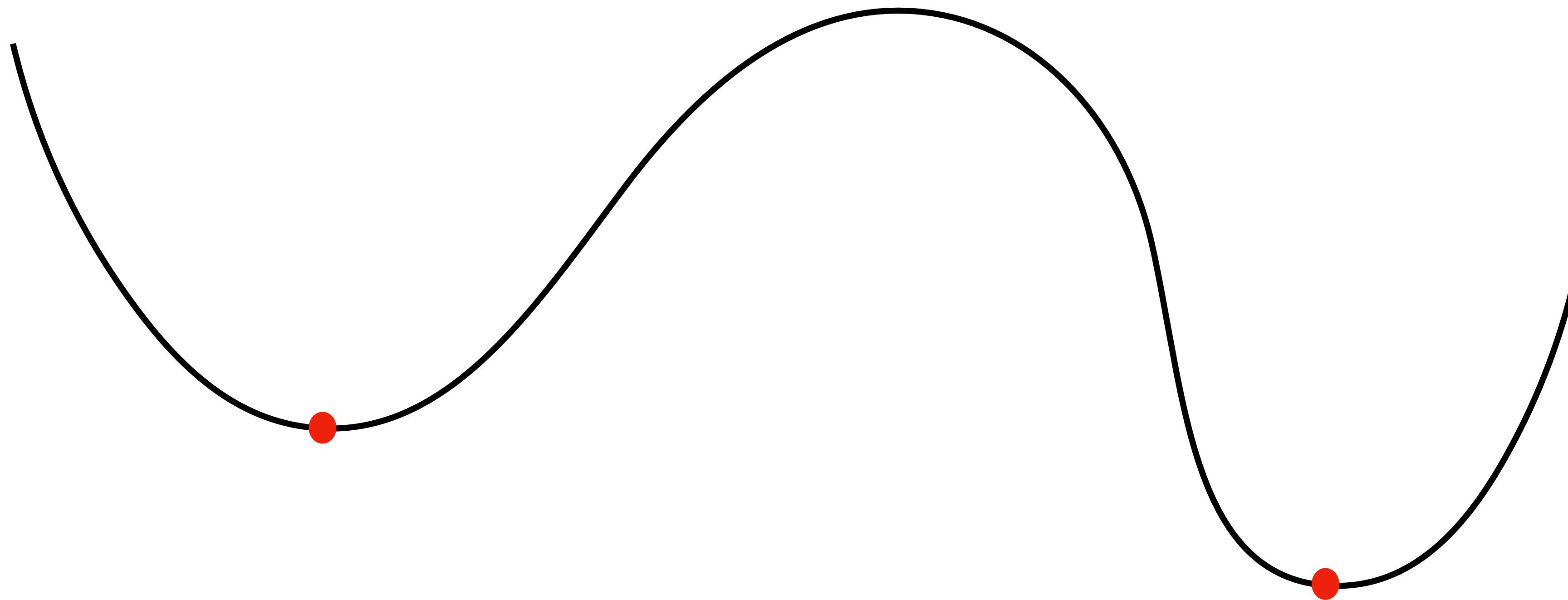
$$\theta_j := \theta_j + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n (y^{(i)} - h_\theta(x^{(i)})) x_j^{(i)}$$

Repeat until convergence

# Local Minimum



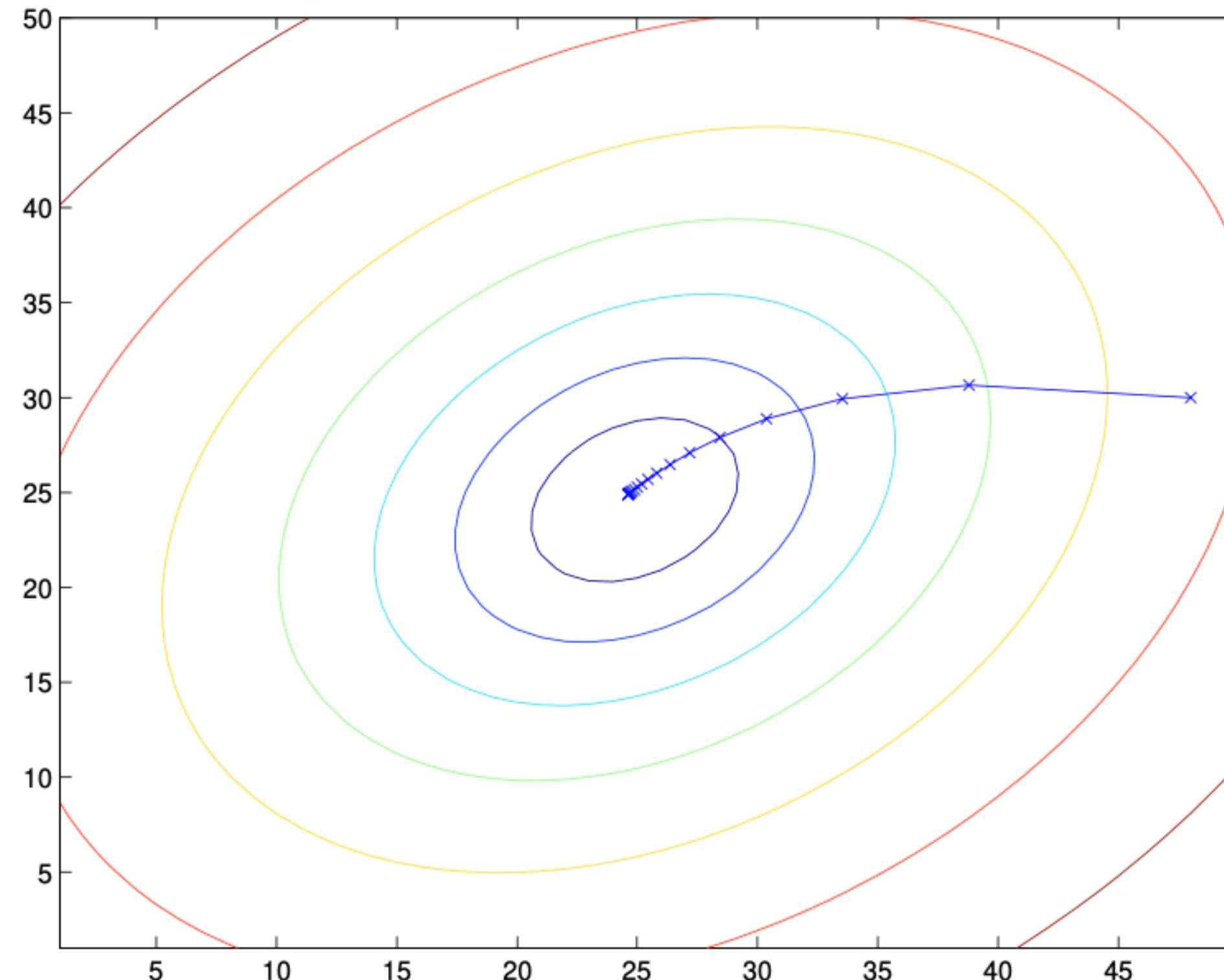
# Local Minimum



For least square optimization, are we likely to get local minima rather than the global minima through gradient descent?

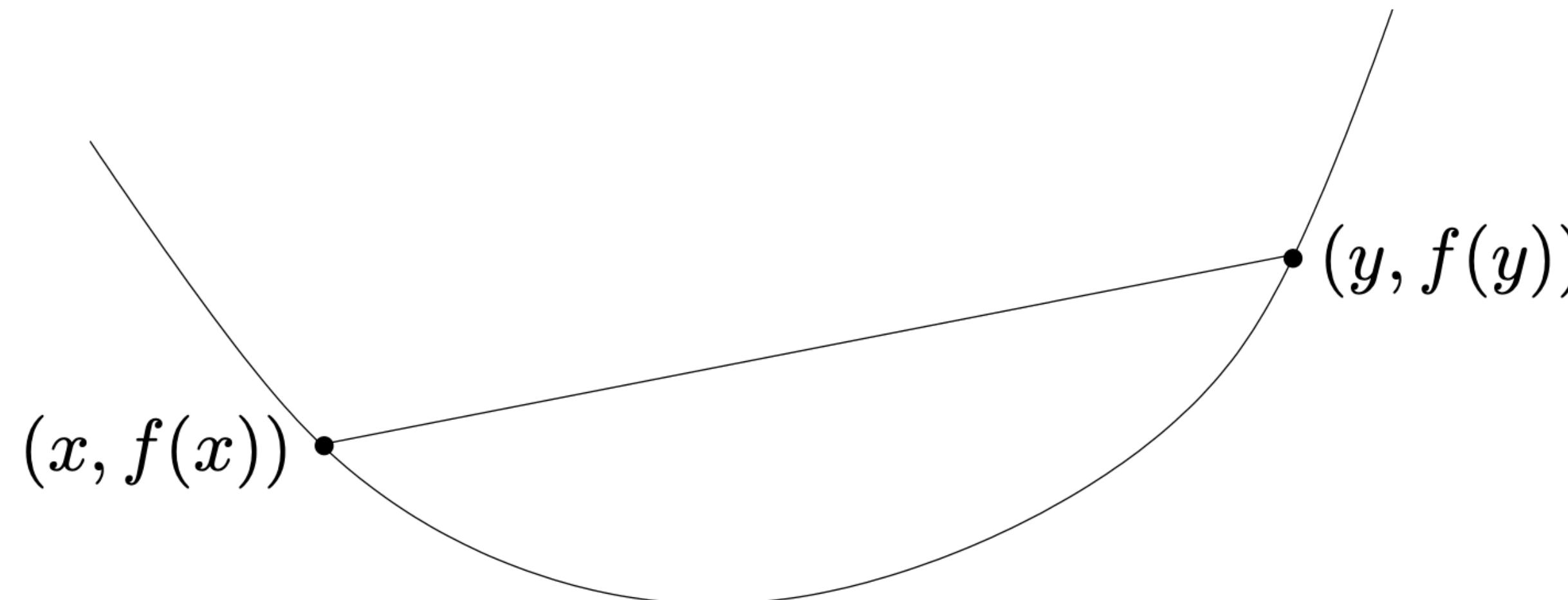
# $J$ is a convex quadratic function

There is only one local minima for  $J$



# Convex Function

$$f(tx + (1 - t)y) \leq tf(x) + (1 - t)f(y) \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq 1$$



**Thank You!**  
**Q & A**