## How does Supervised Learning Work?

Data:  $\{x_i, y_i\}$ i=1, 2, ..., n

Goal: learn w y < ---- f(x; w)

Minimize an objective function

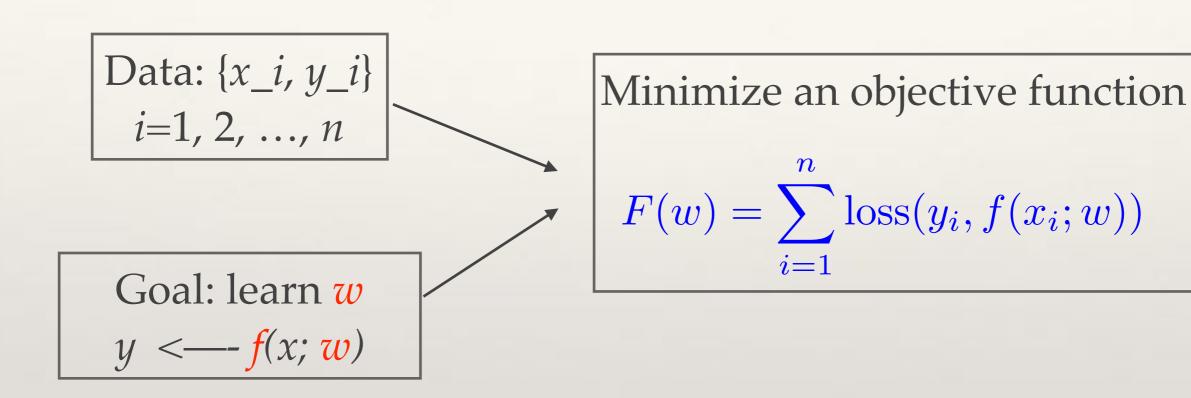
$$F(w) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} loss(y_i, f(x_i; w))$$

$$loss = \left[ y_i - f(x_i; w) \right]^2$$

$$loss = \mathbf{1} \left\{ y_i \neq f(x_i; w) \right\}$$

$$loss = \begin{cases} -\log f(x_i; w) & \text{if } y_i = 1 \\ -\log(1 - f(x_i; w)) & \text{if } y_i = 0 \end{cases}$$

## How does Supervised Learning Work?



- 1. The minimizer  $w^*$  may be in closed form.
- 2. Try optimization algorithms that can guarantee to converge to the global minimizer.
- 3. In the worst case, try gradient descent.

## Overview

- Types of statistical learning problems
- \* Why learning is difficult?
- \* Bias variance tradeoff
- An example: kNN vs Linear Regression (in a separate pdf file)
- \* Not all about prediction

## Challenges

- \* Training error underestimates test/generalization error.
- \* Overfitting: perform well on the training data but not on the future (unseen) data.
- \* *p* denotes the number of parameters the regression/classification function *f* has, i.e., the number of parameters we need to learn from the data.
- \* The gap between the two errors (training *vs.* test) gets large when *p* is large.