

# **Symmetric Matrices**

**Geometric Algorithms**  
**Lecture 25**

# Introduction

# Objectives

1. Finish up our discussion of linear models (actually define linear models).
2. Talk briefly about symmetric matrices and eigenvalues.
3. Describe an application to constrained optimization problems.

# Keywords

linear models

design matrices

general linear regression

symmetric matrices

the spectral theorem

orthogonal diagonalizability

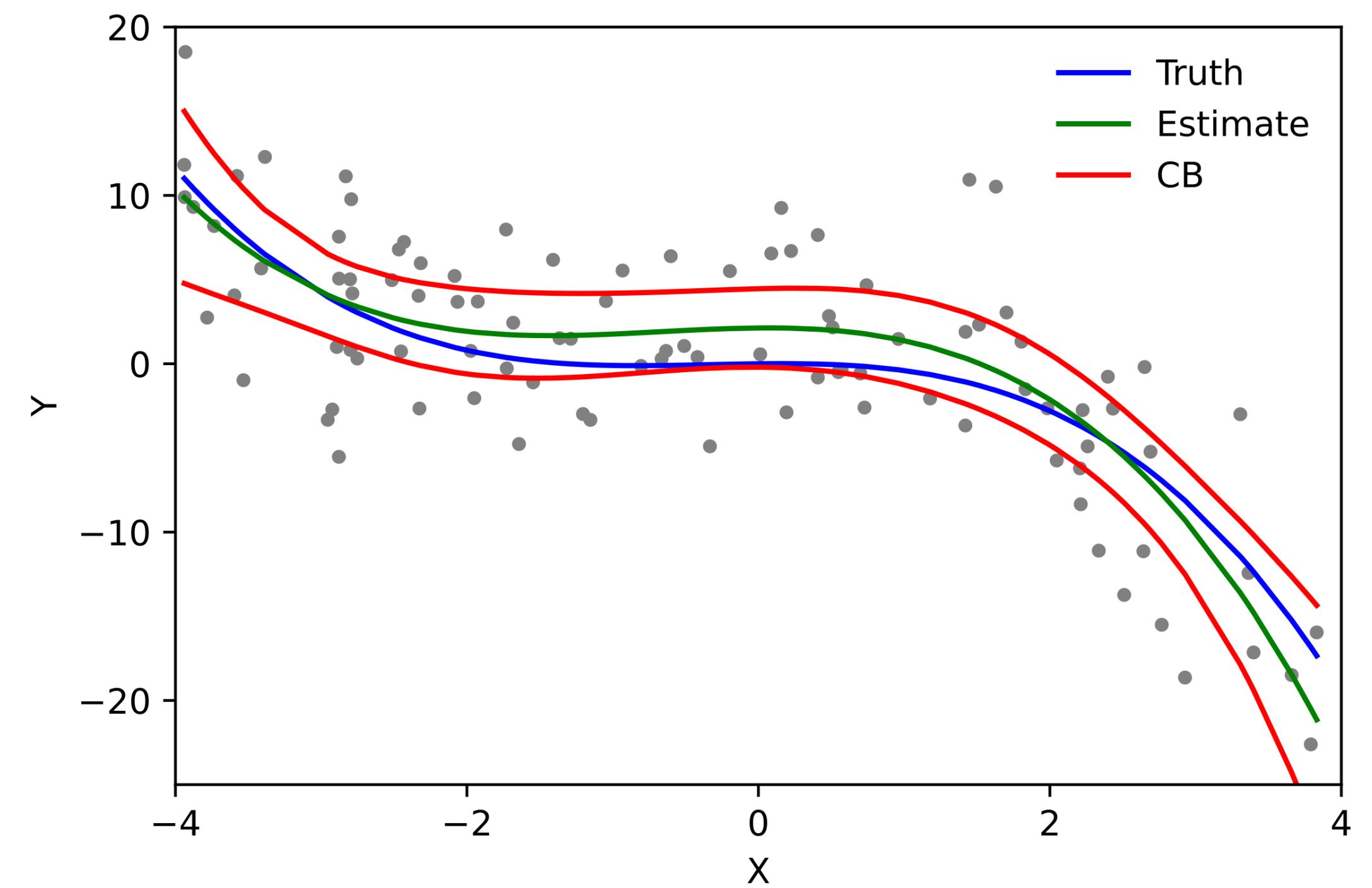
quadratic forms

definiteness

constrained optimization

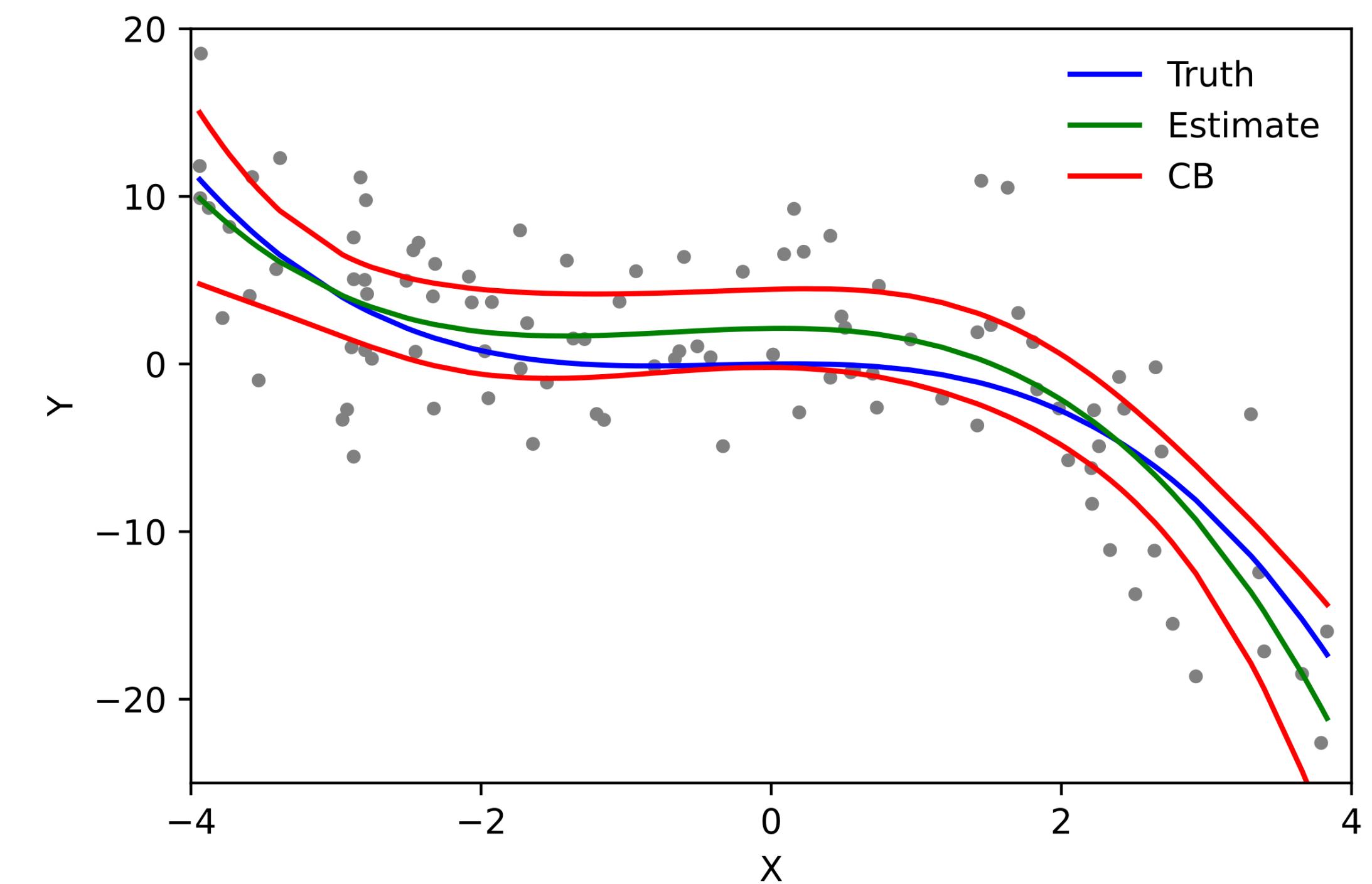
# Recap

# Recall: General Regression



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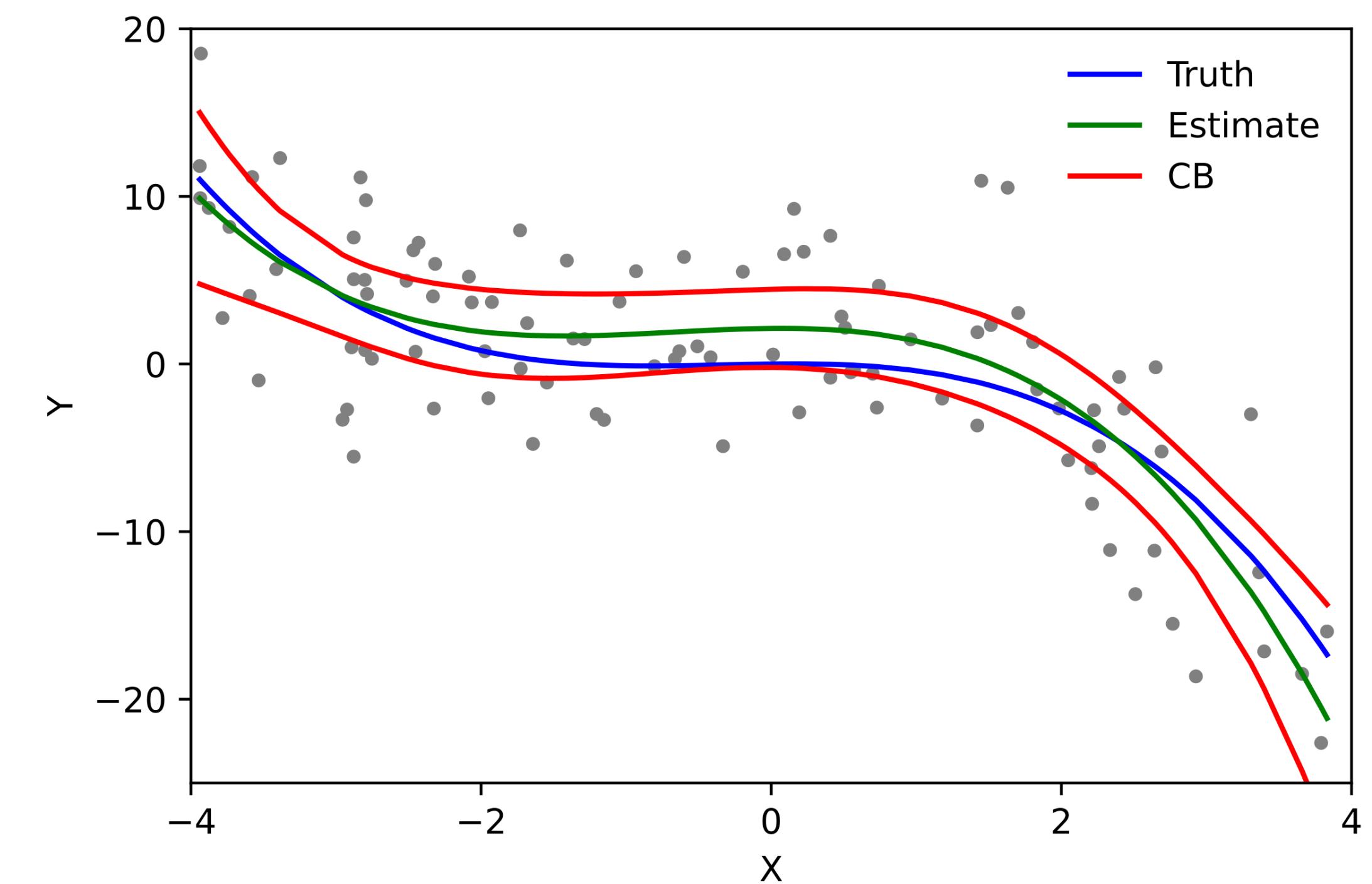
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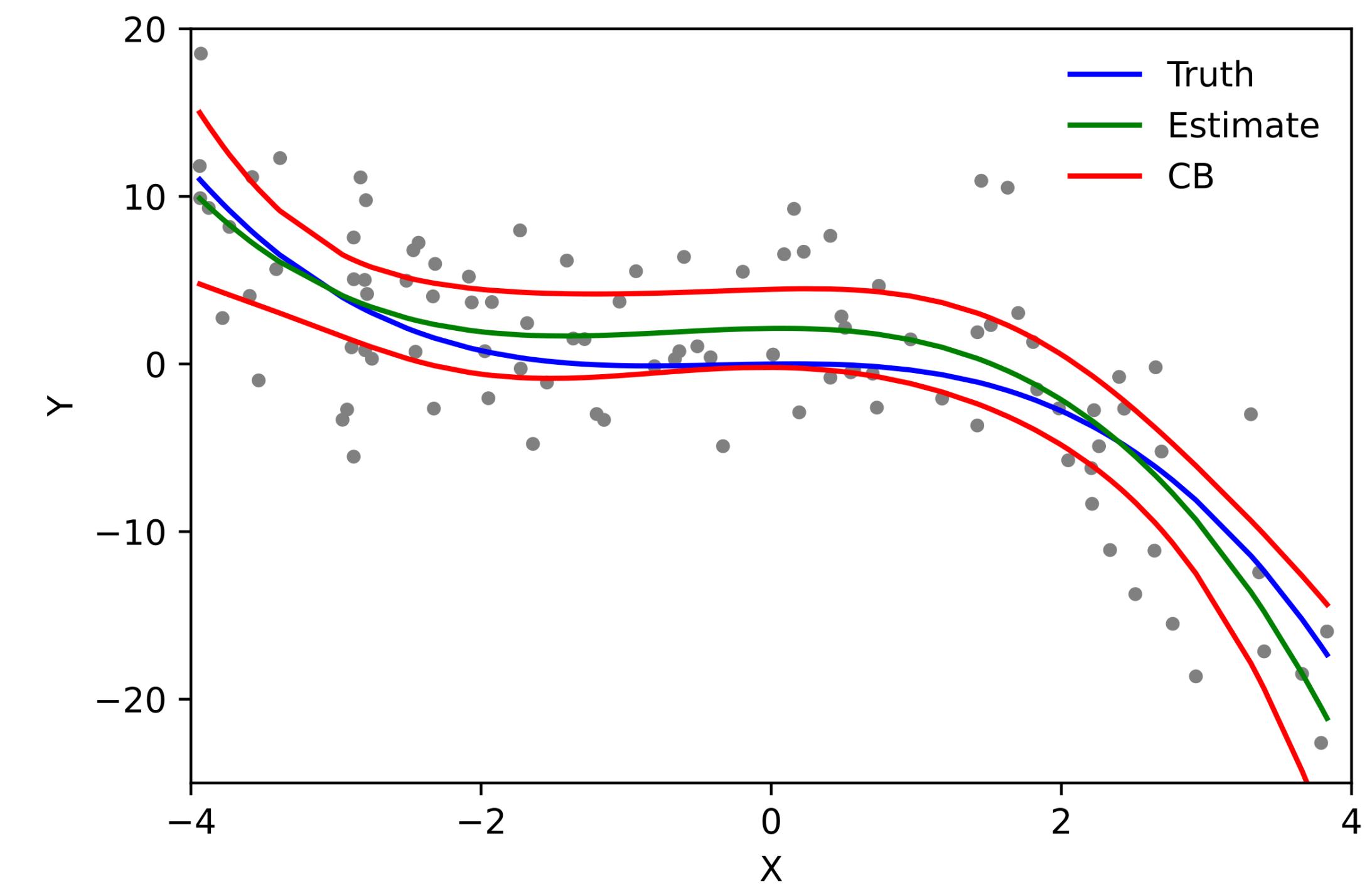


# Recall: General Regression

**Regression** is the process of estimating the relationships independent and dependent variables in a dataset.

What we are estimating is a mathematical function

We think of the environment has providing us a function from our independent variables to our dependent variables.



# Recall: How To: Line of Best Fit

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# Recall: How To: Line of Best Fit

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**Solution.** Find the least squares solution to the above equation.

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**e.g., polynomial regression**

# Recall: Plane of Best Fit

Figure 23.2

Multiple Regression Fit to Data

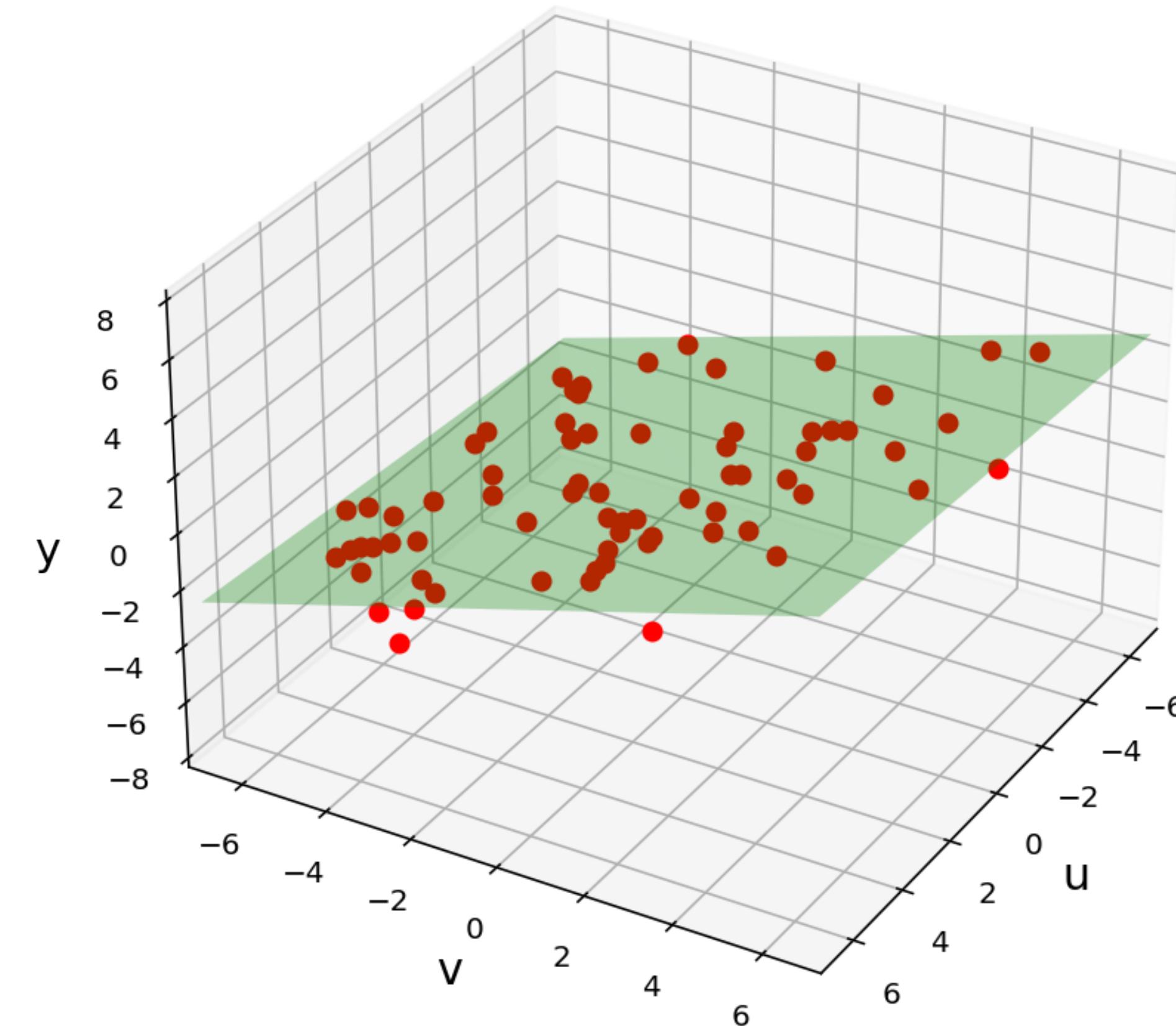
**Dataset:**  $\{(x_1, y_1, z_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k, z_k)\}$   
where  $(x_i, y_i)$  is an longitude and  
latitude and  $z_i$  is an altitude.

**Problem:** Find  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$  such that

$$f(x, y) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 y$$

which minimizes

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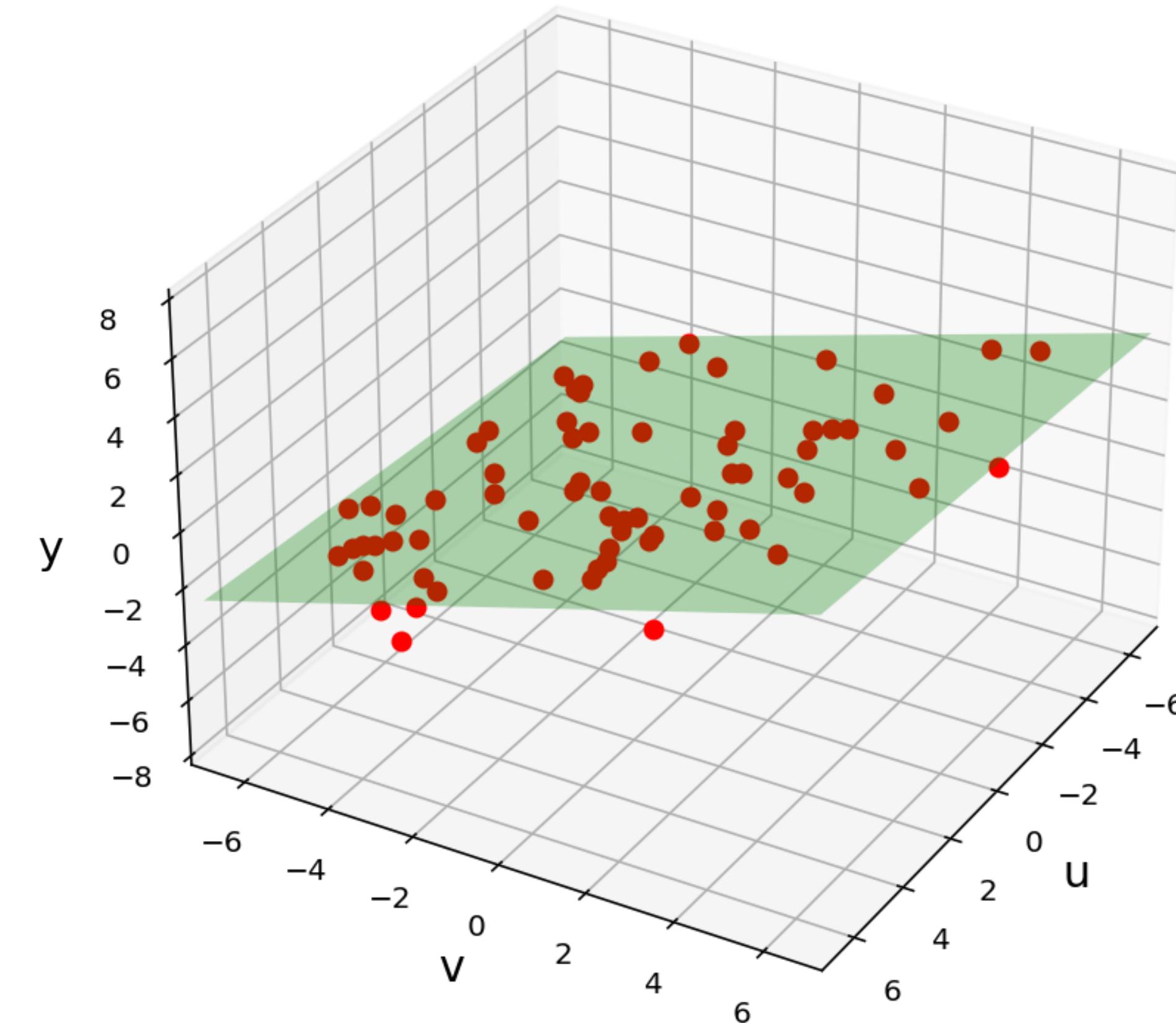
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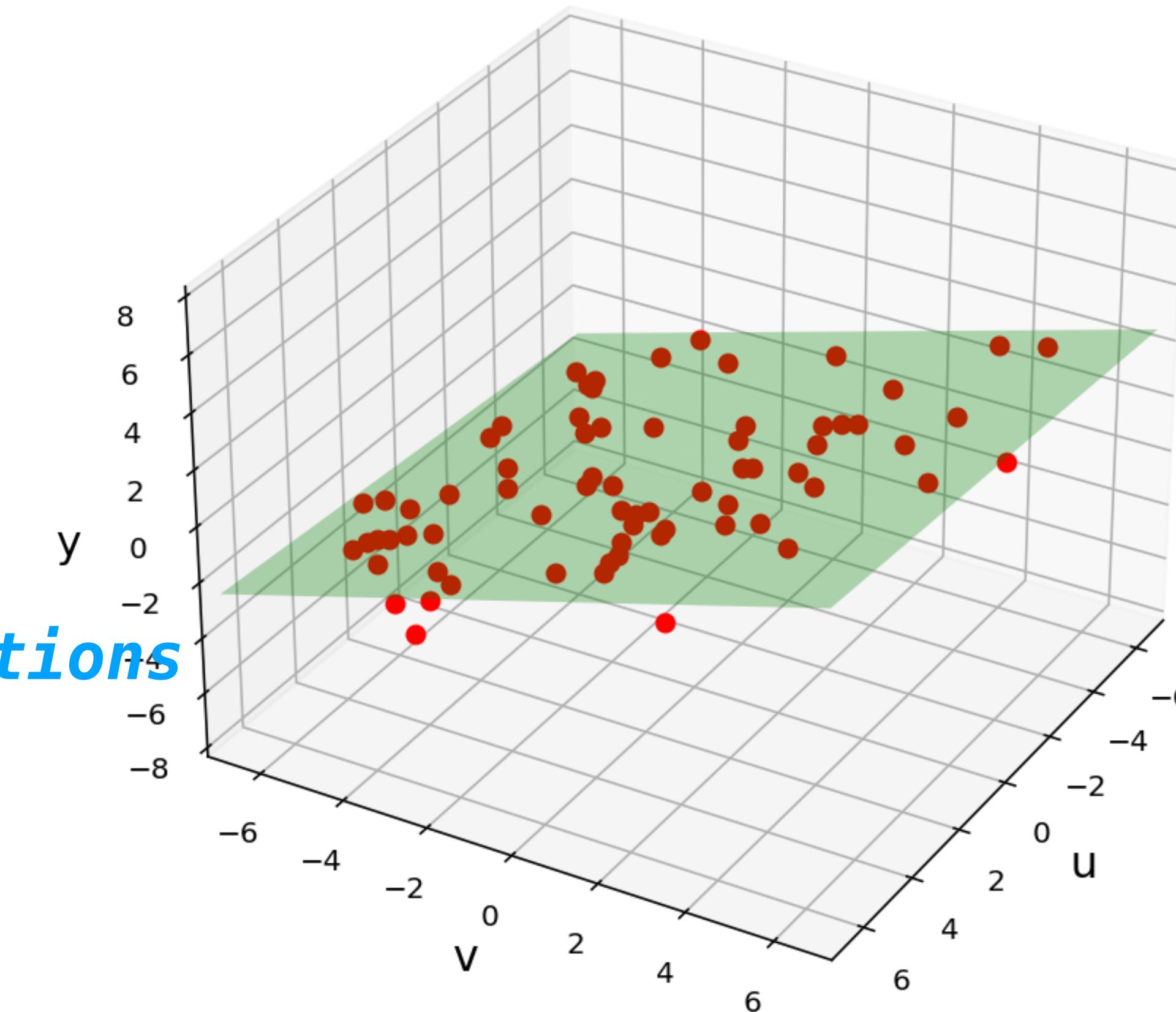
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*recall: planes are given by linear equations*  
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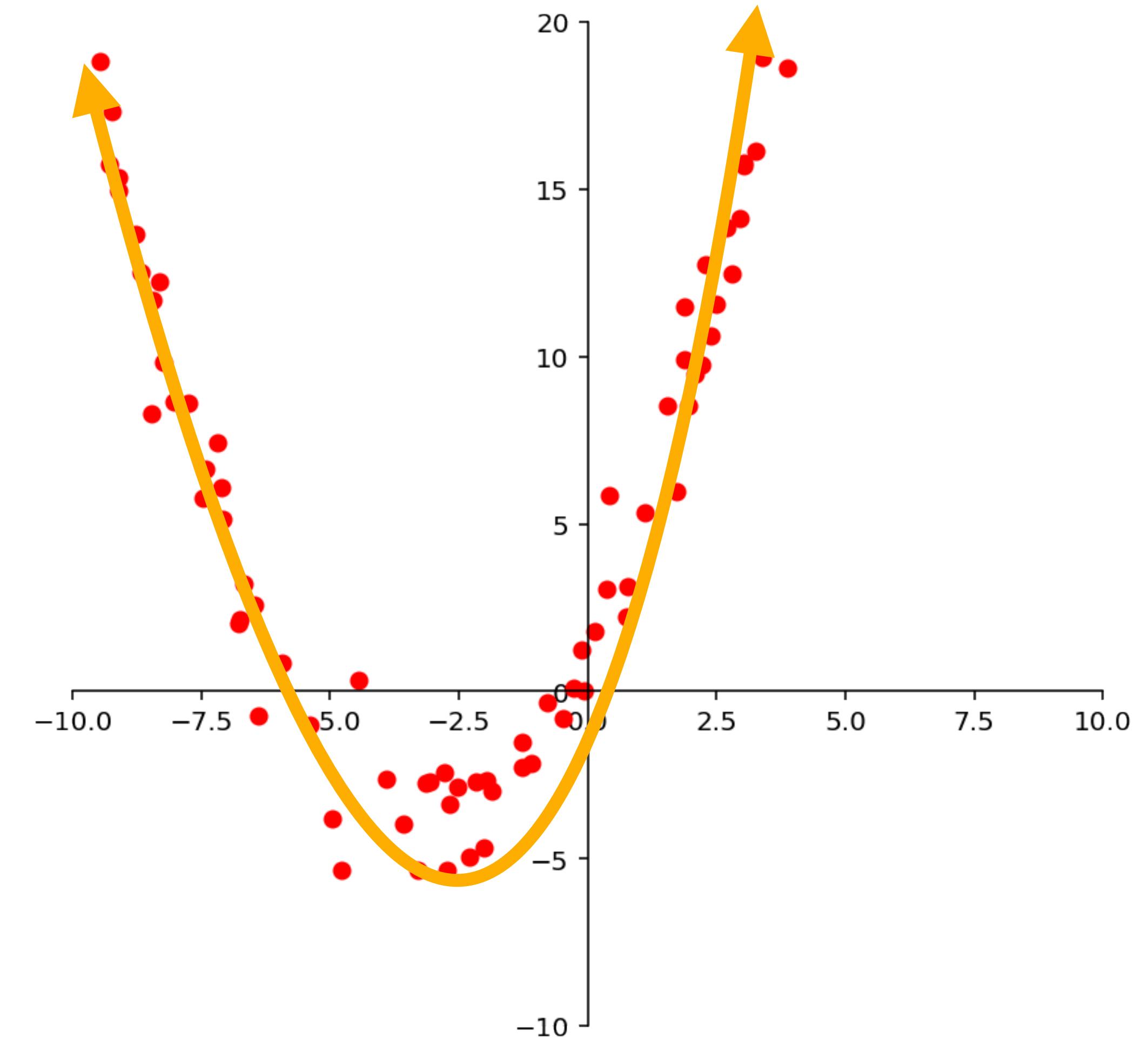
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**Step 1:** Set up an (almost assuredly inconsistent) system of linear equations in terms of the variables  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$

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This is still linear in the  $\beta$ 's

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**Step 2:** Rewrite the system as a matrix equation.

# Recall: Parabola of Best Fit

$$\hat{A}\hat{x} = \hat{b}$$

unique L.S. sol.

$$\hat{\hat{b}} = \hat{A}\hat{x} = \hat{A}(\hat{A}^T\hat{A})^{-1}\hat{A}^T\hat{b}$$

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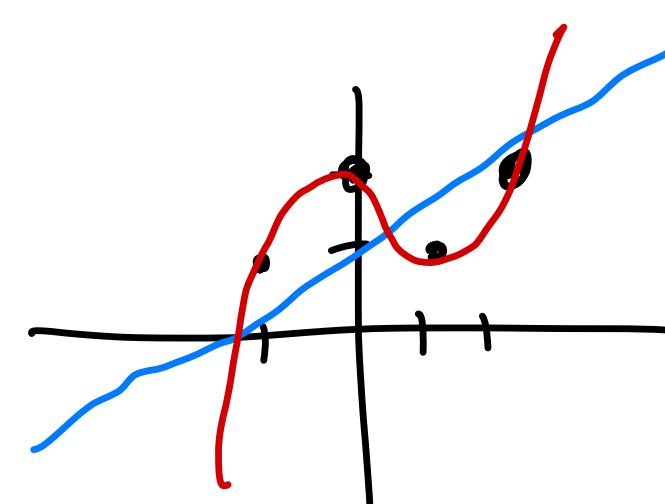
**Step 3:** Find the least squares solution of this system and use as the parameters of your model.

# Recap Problem

$$\{(0,3), (1,1), (-1,1), (2,3)\}$$

*Find the matrices  $X$  as in the previous example to find the least squares best fit parabola and the least squares best fit cubic for this dataset.*

# Answer



$$\{(0, 3), (1, 1), (-1, 1), (2, 3)\}$$

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_i & x_i^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$f_0$ , best-fit parabolr

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$f_0$ , best-fit cubic

# Design Matrices

# The Takeaway

We can use non-linear modeling functions as long as they are linear in the parameters.

# Linear in Parameters

Non example:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = \beta_0 \beta_1 x_1 = e^{\beta_1 x_1}$$

**Definition.** A function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **linear in the parameters**  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$  if it can be written as

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \beta_1 \phi_1(\mathbf{x}) + \beta_2 \phi_2(\mathbf{x}) + \dots + \beta_k \phi_k(\mathbf{x})$$

not necessarily linear

for functions  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Example:  $f(x_1, x_2) = \boxed{\beta_0} \cos(x_1, x_2) + \boxed{\beta_1} e^{x_2/3}$

$$f\left(\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

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design matrix

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# The Takeaway (Again)

We can build design matrices for functions which are linear in their parameters.

# Linear (Regression) Model

**Definition.** A **linear model** with parameters  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$  is a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  which is linear in the parameters  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$ .

The *model fitting problem* is the problem of determining which parameters fit the data "best".

# General Linear Regression

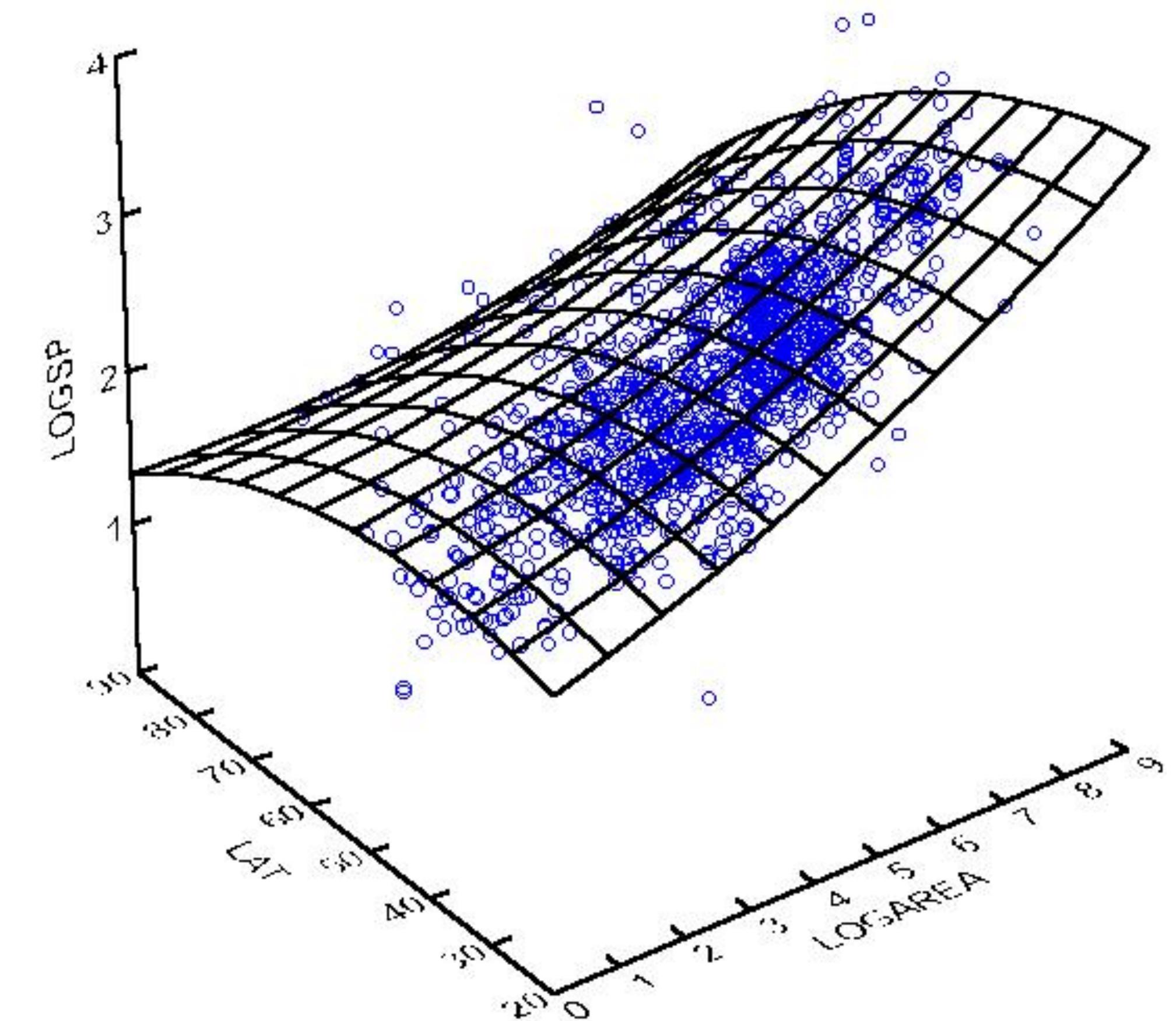
**dataset:**  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_m, y_m)\}$  where  
 $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$

**Problem.** Given a function

$$f_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

which is *linear in the parameters*  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$ , find values for  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$  which minimize

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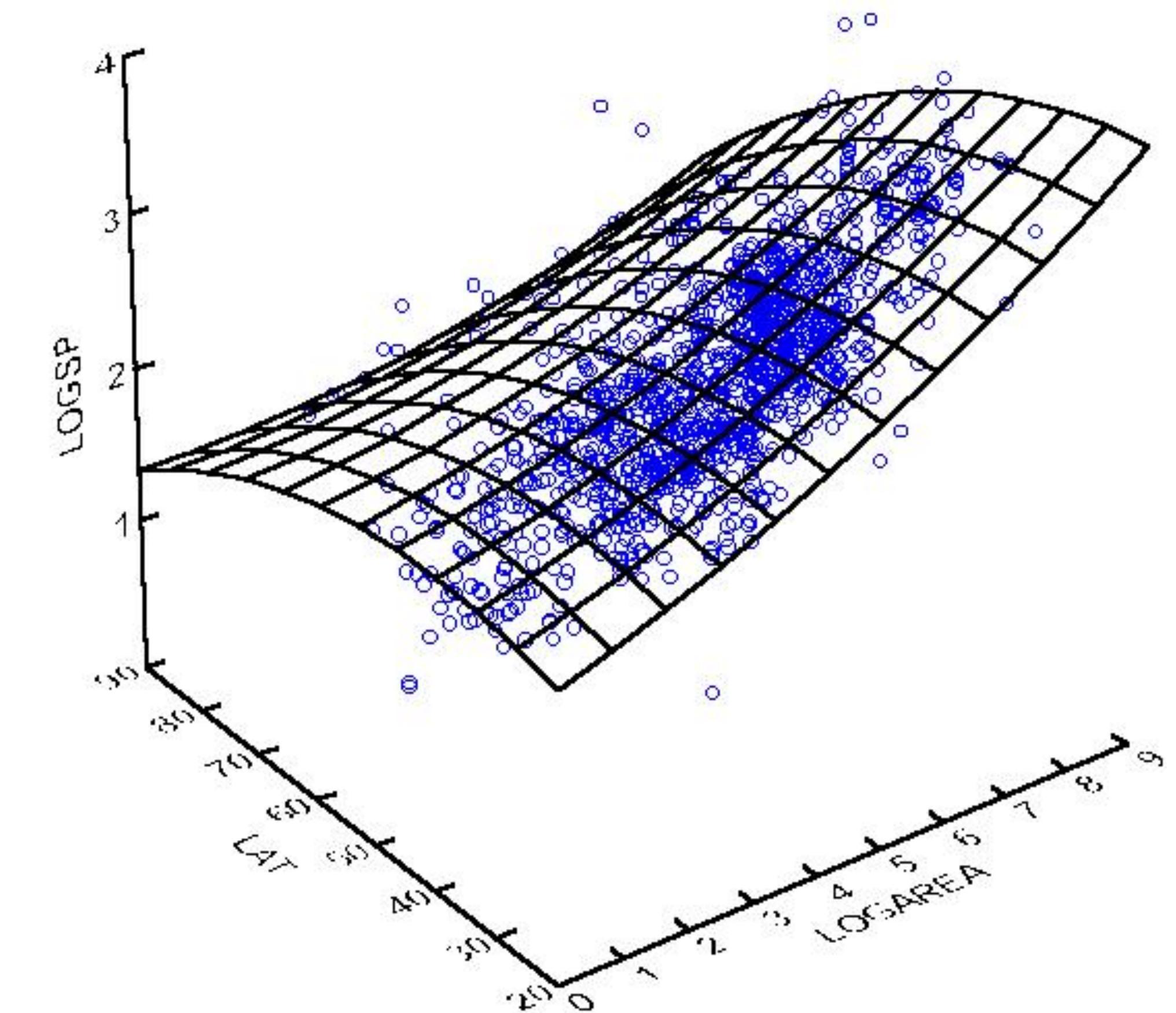
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$$\sum_{i=1}^k \underbrace{(f_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k}(\mathbf{x}_i) - y_i)^2}_{\text{residuals}} \quad \text{observation}$$

Build a linear model which minimizes the least-squares error.



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**design matrix**  $X$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_1) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_2) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_2) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_m) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_m) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_m) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{\beta} \\ \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_k \end{bmatrix}$$

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# General Linear Regression

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**Problem.** Find the design matrix for least squares regression with the function  $f$  in terms of the parameters  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$  given the dataset  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_m, y_m)\}$ .

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**Solution.** First write  $f(\mathbf{x})$  as  $\beta_1\phi_1(\mathbf{x}) + \dots + \beta_k\phi_k(\mathbf{x})$  where  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k$  are potentially non-linear functions. Then build the matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_1) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_2) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_2) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_m) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_m) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_m) \end{bmatrix}$$

# Question

*Find the design matrix for the least squares regression with the function*

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \beta_1 \cos(x_1) + \beta_2 e^{-x_1 x_2} - \beta_1 x_3 + \beta_3$$

*for the dataset*

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = (0,0,0) \quad y_1 = 5$$

$$\mathbf{x}_2 = (\pi, 3, 1) \quad y_2 = 3$$

**Answer:**  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & e^{-3\pi} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \beta_1 (\cos(x_1) - x_3) + \beta_2 e^{-x_1 x_2} + \beta_3$$

$$x_1 = (0, 0, 0)$$

$$x_2 = (\pi, 3, 1)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(0) - 0 & e^{-0(0)} & 1 \\ \cos(\pi) - 1 & e^{-\pi^3} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & e^{-3\pi} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Many functions require large design matrices, e.g. multivariate polynomials have a *lot* of possible terms.

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Again, is least-squares error really what we want? What if we want to minimize something else?

**Concerns for another class.**

# One Last Thing

Read though the extended example in the notes  
on "Multiple Regression in Practice."

It should be useful for Homework 12.

# Symmetric Matrices

# Recall: Symmetric Matrices

**Definition.** A square matrix  $A$  is **symmetric** if  $A^T = A$ .

Example:

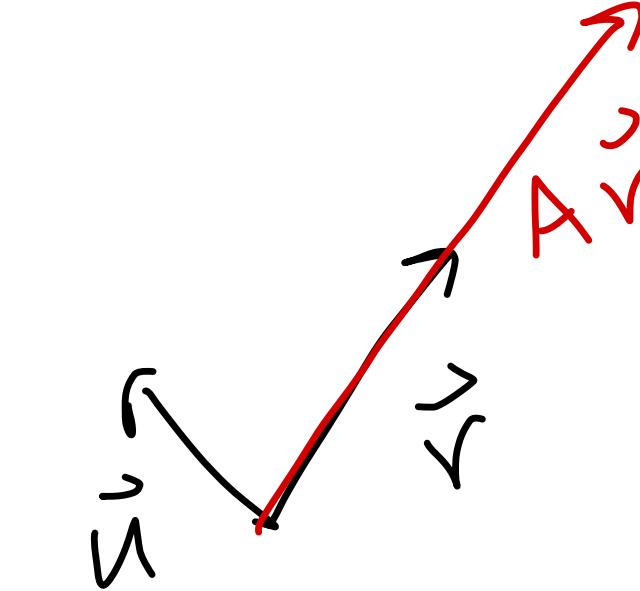
$$A_{ij} = A_{ji}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & 2 & 1 \\ & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

num example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Orthogonal Eigenvectors



**Theorem.** For a symmetric matrix  $A$ , if  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are eigenvectors for *distinct* eigenvalues, then  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are orthogonal.

Verify:  $A\vec{u} = \lambda_1 \vec{u}$        $A\vec{v} = \lambda_2 \vec{v}$

wts:  $\langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle = 0$        $\langle \vec{u}, A\vec{v} \rangle = \vec{u}^T A \vec{v}$

$$\vec{u}^T A \vec{v} = \vec{u}^T A^T \vec{v} = (\vec{u}^T A)^T \vec{v}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \boxed{\lambda_1 \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle} \\ &= \boxed{\lambda_2 \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle} \\ &\therefore \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$$

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**Definition.** A matrix  $A$  is **diagonalizable** if it is similar to a diagonal matrix.

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*There is an invertible matrix  $P$  and diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $\boxed{A = PDP^{-1}}$ .*

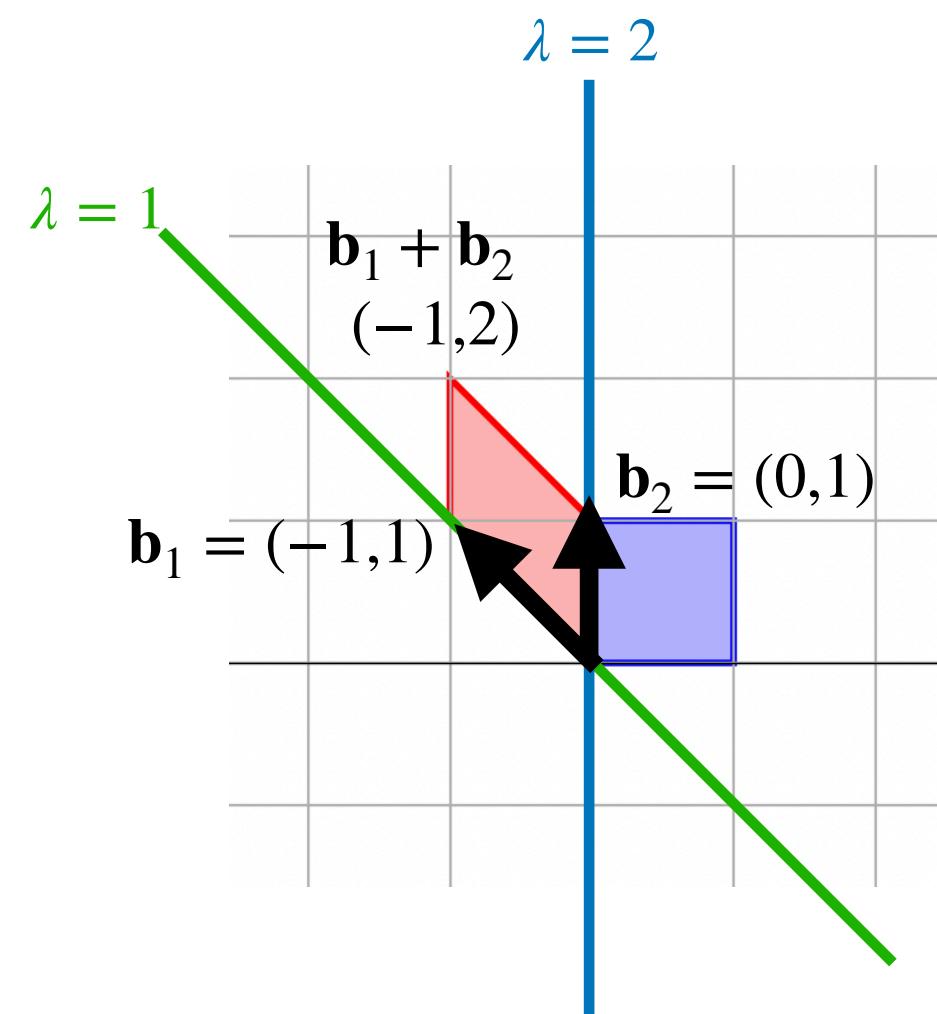
# Recall: Diagonalizable Matrices

**Definition.** A matrix  $A$  is **diagonalizable** if it is similar to a diagonal matrix.

*There is an invertible matrix  $P$  and diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $A = PDP^{-1}$ .*

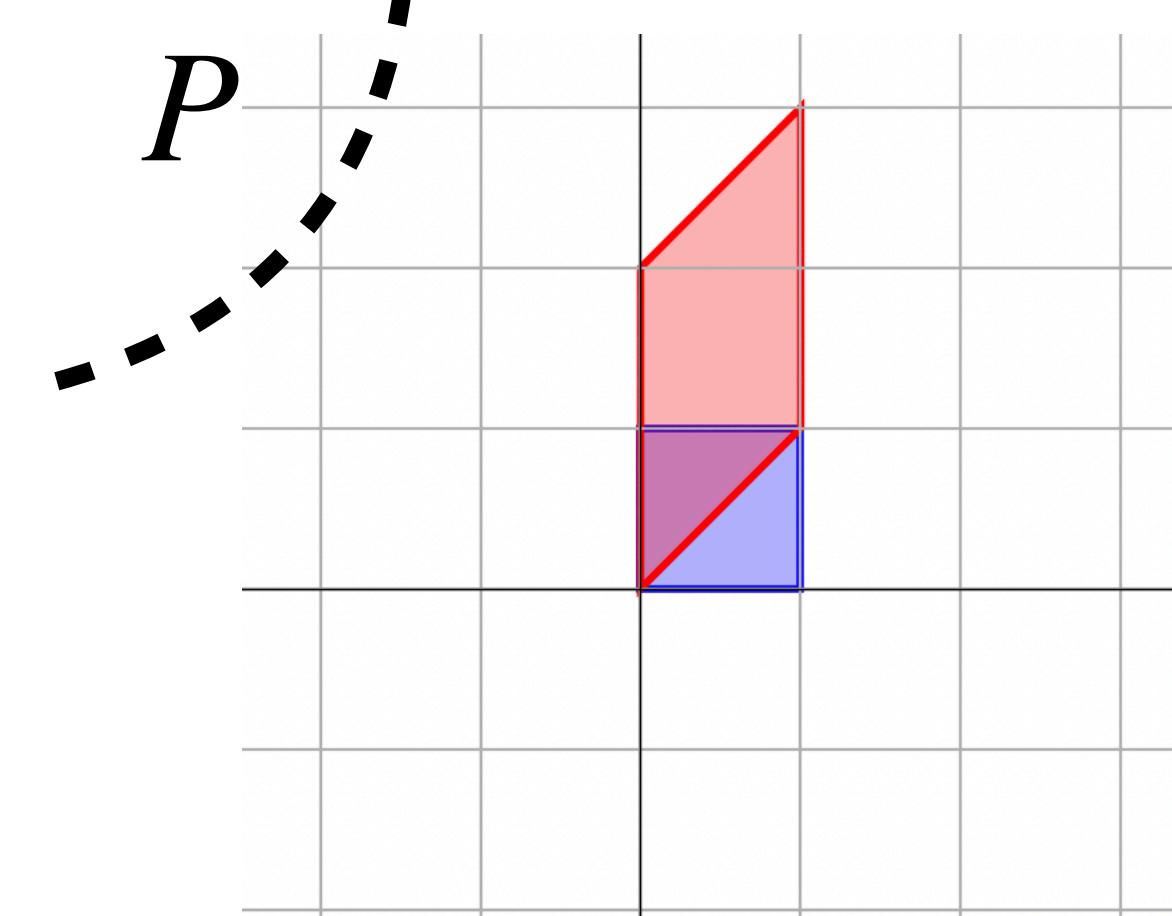
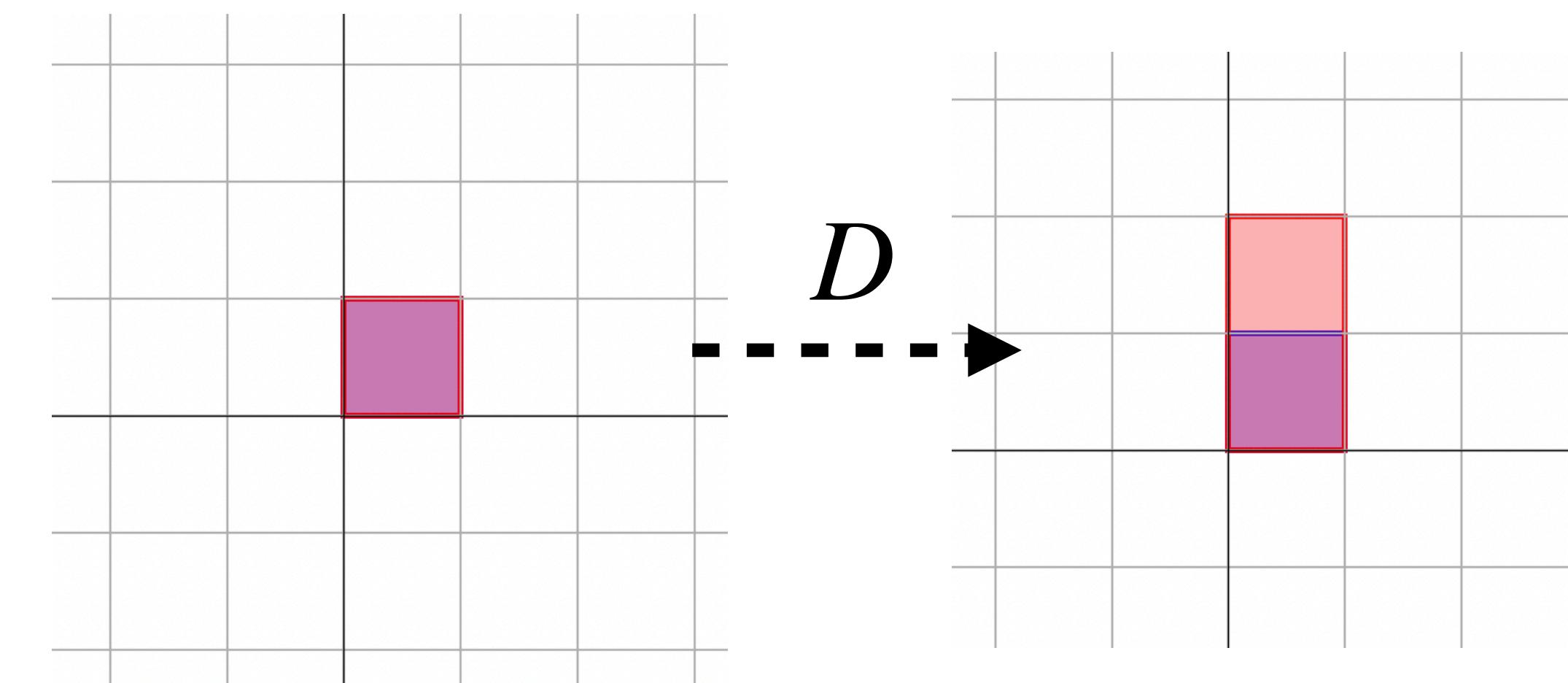
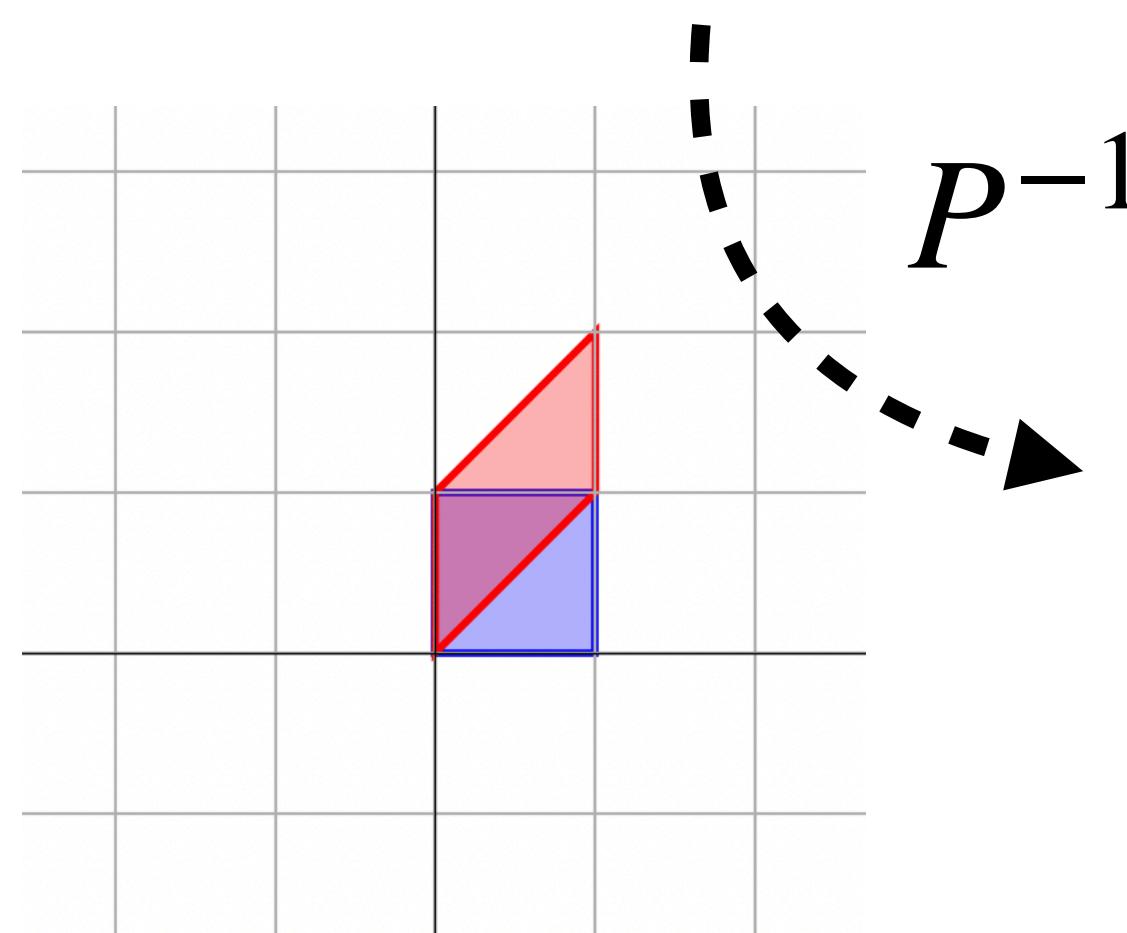
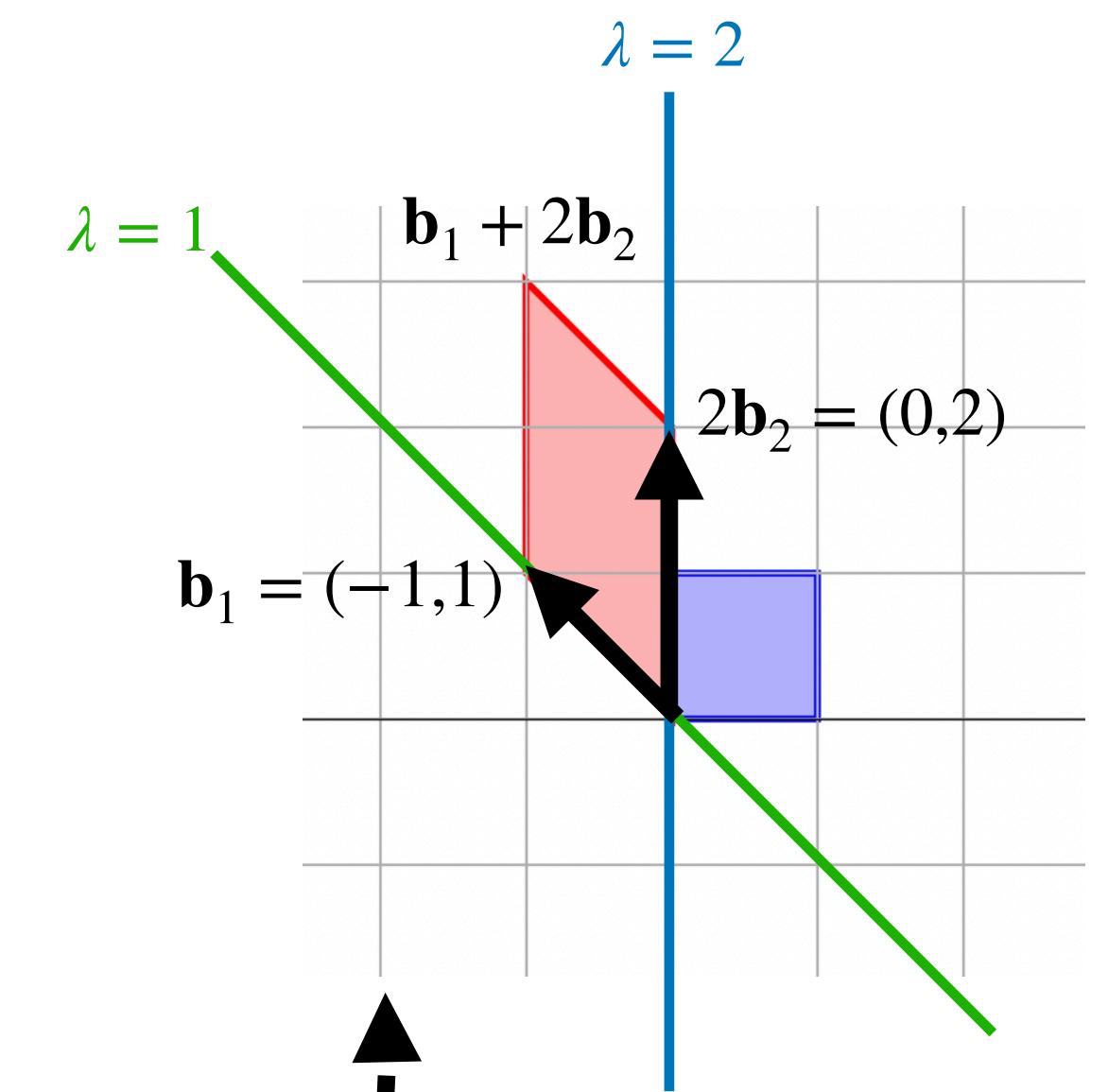
**Diagonalizable matrices are the same as scaling matrices up to a change of basis.**

# Recall: The Picture



$$A = PDP^{-1}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$



# Recall: The Diagonalization Theorem

$$A = PDP^{-1}$$

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**Theorem.**  $A$  is diagonalizable if and only if it has an eigenbasis.

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# Recall: The Diagonalization Theorem

$$A = \overset{\text{eigenbasis}}{P} D P^{-1}$$

**Theorem.**  $A$  is diagonalizable if and only if it has an eigenbasis.

**The idea:**

The columns of  $P$  form an eigenbasis for  $A$ .

# Recall: The Diagonalization Theorem

$$A = \begin{matrix} \text{eigenbasis} \\ P \end{matrix} D \begin{matrix} P^{-1} \\ \text{eigenvalues} \end{matrix}$$

**Theorem.**  $A$  is diagonalizable if and only if it has an eigenbasis.

**The idea:**

The columns of  $P$  form an eigenbasis for  $A$ .

The diagonal of  $D$  are the eigenvalues for each column of  $P$ .

# Recall: The Diagonalization Theorem

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**The idea:**

The columns of  $P$  form an eigenbasis for  $A$ .

The diagonal of  $D$  are the eigenvalues for each column of  $P$ .

The matrix  $P^{-1}$  is a change of basis to this eigenbasis of  $A$ .

# The Spectral Theorem

**Theorem.** If  $A$  is symmetric, then it has an *orthonormal* eigenbasis.

(we won't prove this)

Symmetric matrices are diagonalizable.

But more than that, we can choose  $P$  to be *orthogonal*.

# Recall: Orthonormal Matrices

**Definition.** A matrix is **orthonormal** if its columns form an orthonormal set.

The notes call a square orthonormal matrix an **orthogonal** matrix.

# Recall: Inverses of Orthogonal Matrices

**Theorem.** If an  $n \times n$  matrix  $U$  is orthogonal (square orthonormal) then it is invertible and

$$U^{-1} = U^T$$

Verify:

# Orthogonal Diagonalizability

**Definition.** A matrix  $A$  is **orthogonally diagonalizable** if there is a diagonal matrix  $D$  and matrix  $P$  such that

$$A = PDP^T = PDP^{-1}$$

$P$  must be an orthogonal matrix.

Symmetric matrices are  
orthogonally diagonalizable

# Orthogonal Diagonalizability and Symmetry

**Fact.** All orthogonally diagonalizable matrices are symmetric.

Verify:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= P D P^T & A^T &= (P D P^T)^T \\ &&=& P^T (D^T) P^T \\ &&=& P^{TT} D^T P^T \\ &&=& P D P^T = A \end{aligned}$$

# Orthogonal Diagonalizability and Symmetry

**Theorem.** A matrix is orthogonally diagonalizable if and only if it is symmetric.

*(You won't need to construct an orthogonal diagonalization, we'll just use NumPy.)*

# **Quadratic Forms**

# Quadratic Forms

**Definition.** A **quadratic form** is a function of variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  in which every term has degree two:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_{ij} x_i x_j \quad x_i^2, \quad x_j^2$$

*Quadratic forms are the quadratic versions the left-hand-sides of linear equations.*

# Examples

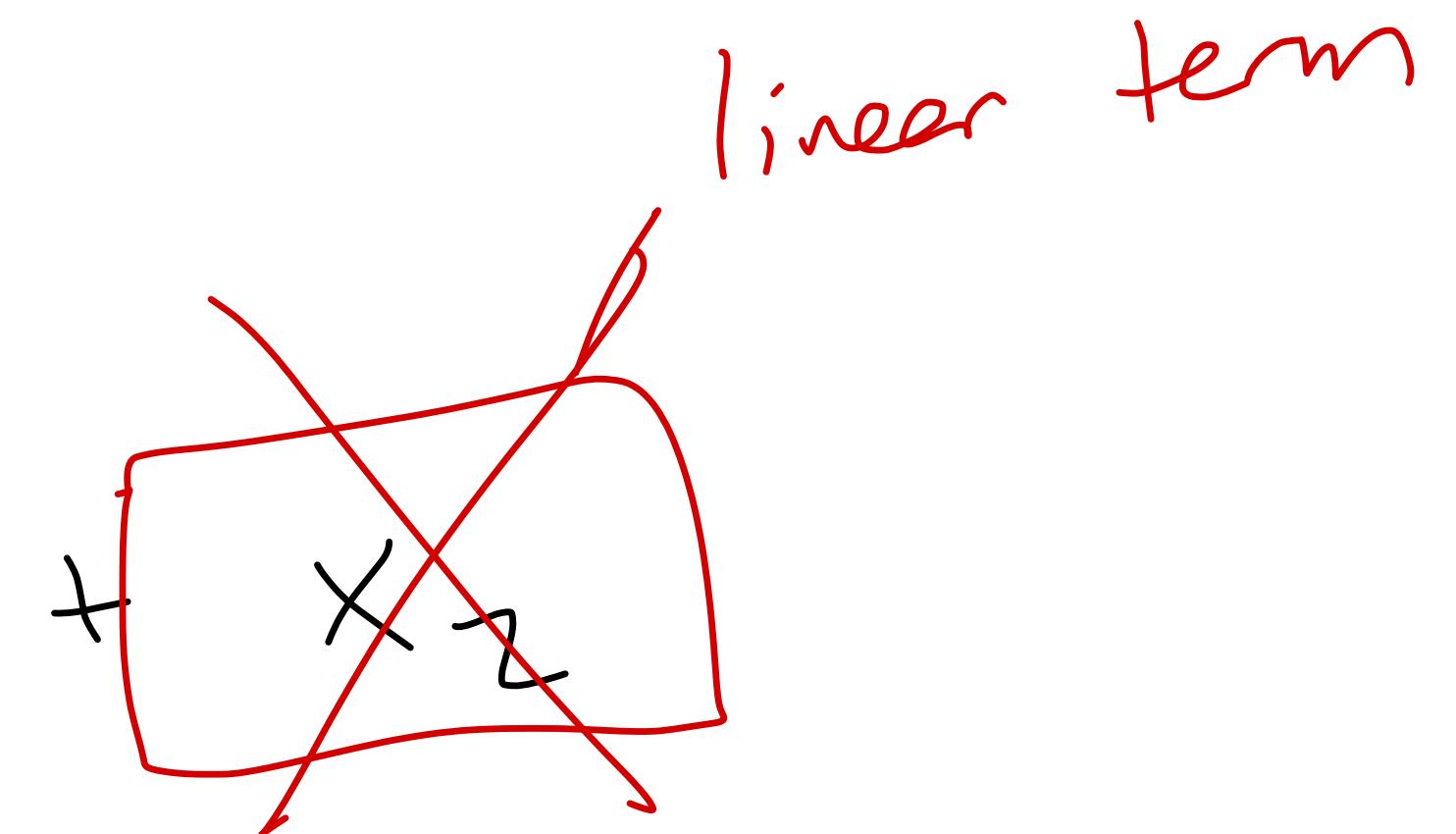
$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 2x_1^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4x_1x_3 - 2x_2x_3$$

$$Q(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}^T \vec{x} = \langle \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle$$

Non-examples

$$Q(x_1) = x_1^3$$

$$Q(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_1x_2 +$$



# Quadratic Forms and Symmetric Matrices

**Fact.** Every quadratic form can be represented as

$$\boxed{\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}} \quad \langle \mathbf{x}, A \mathbf{x} \rangle$$

where  $A$  is symmetric.

Example:  $3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2 = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3x_1 \\ 7x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2$$

# Example: Computing the Quadratic Form for a Matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

This means, given a symmetric matrix  $A$ , we can compute its corresponding quadratic form:

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3x_1 - 2x_2 \\ -2x_1 + 7x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ & = x_1(3x_1 - 2x_2) + x_2(-2x_1 + 7x_2) = 3x_1^2 - 2x_2x_1 + (-2)x_1x_2 + 7x_2^2 = \boxed{3x_1^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 7x_2^2} \end{aligned}$$

# Quadratic forms and Symmetric Matrices (Again)

Furthermore, we can generally say

$$\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} x_i x_j$$

Verify:

# A Slightly more Complicated Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let's expand  $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ :

# Matrices from Quadratic Forms

$$Q(\mathbf{x}) = 5x_1^2 + 3x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 - x_1x_2 + 8x_2x_3$$

We can also go in the other direction. Let's express this as  $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ :

# How To: Matrices of Quadratic Forms

**Problem.** Given a quadratic form  $Q(\mathbf{x})$ , find the symmetric matrix  $A$  such that  $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ .

**Solution.**

- » if  $Q(\mathbf{x})$  has the term  $\alpha x_i^2$  then  $A_{ii} = \alpha$
- » if  $Q(\mathbf{x})$  has the term  $\alpha x_i x_j$ , then  $A_{ij} = A_{ji} = \frac{\alpha}{2}$

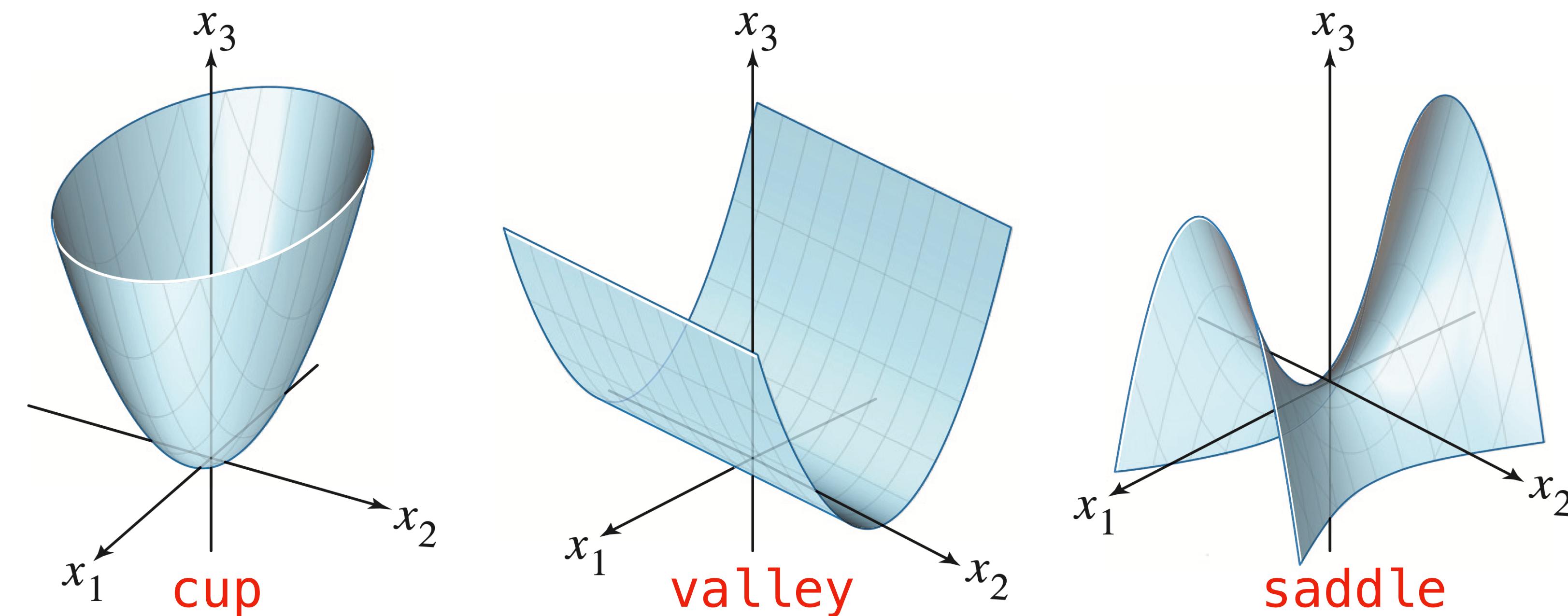
# Question

$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_1^2 + 3x_2^2 - 2x_3x_4 - 6x_4^2 + 7x_1x_3$$

*Find the symmetric matrix A such that  $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ .*

# **Answer**

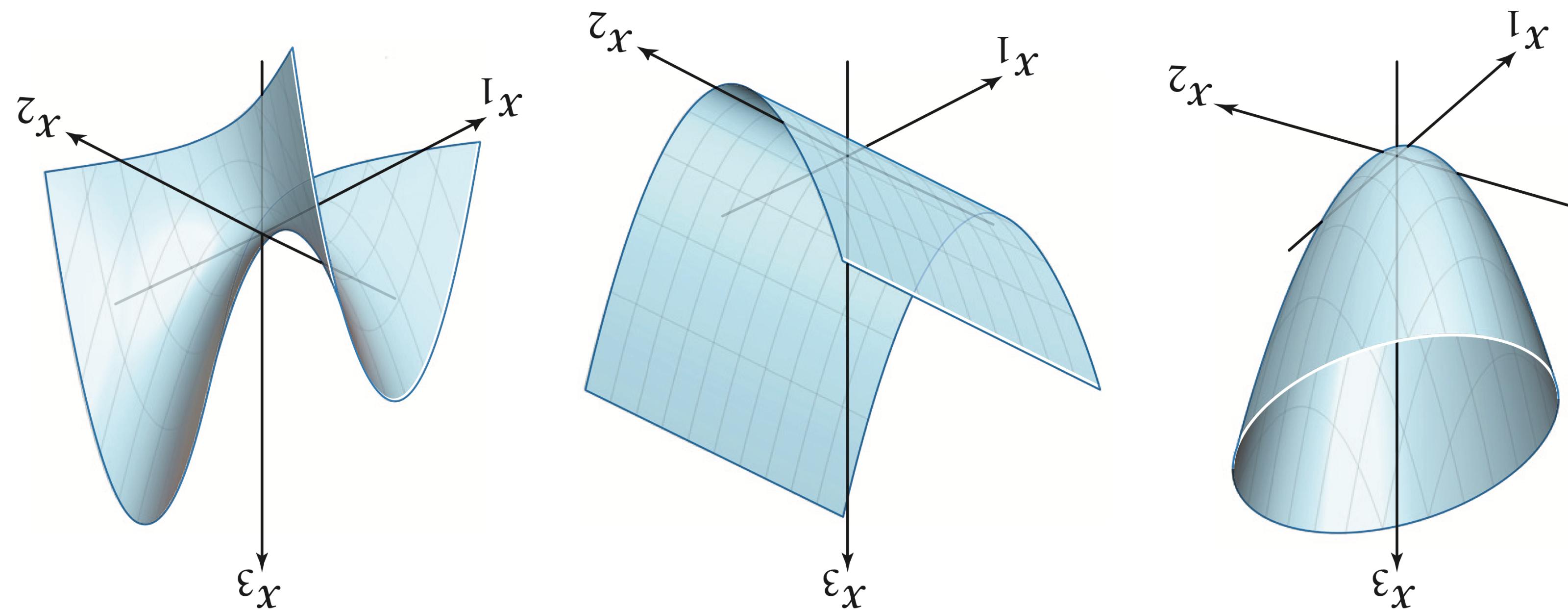
# Shapes of Quadratic Forms in $\mathbb{R}^3$



There are essentially three possible shapes (six if you include the negations).

*Can we determine what shape it will be mathematically?*

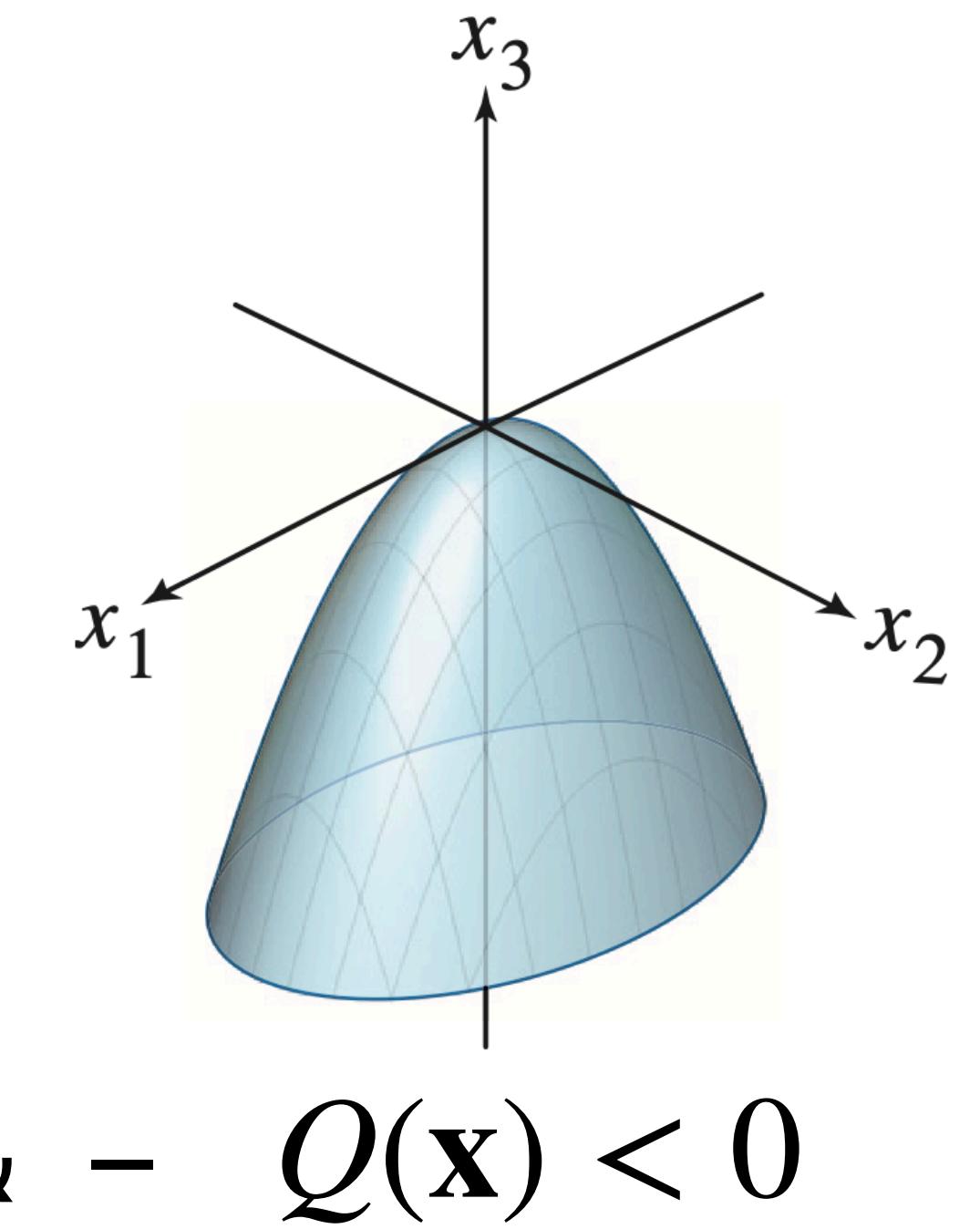
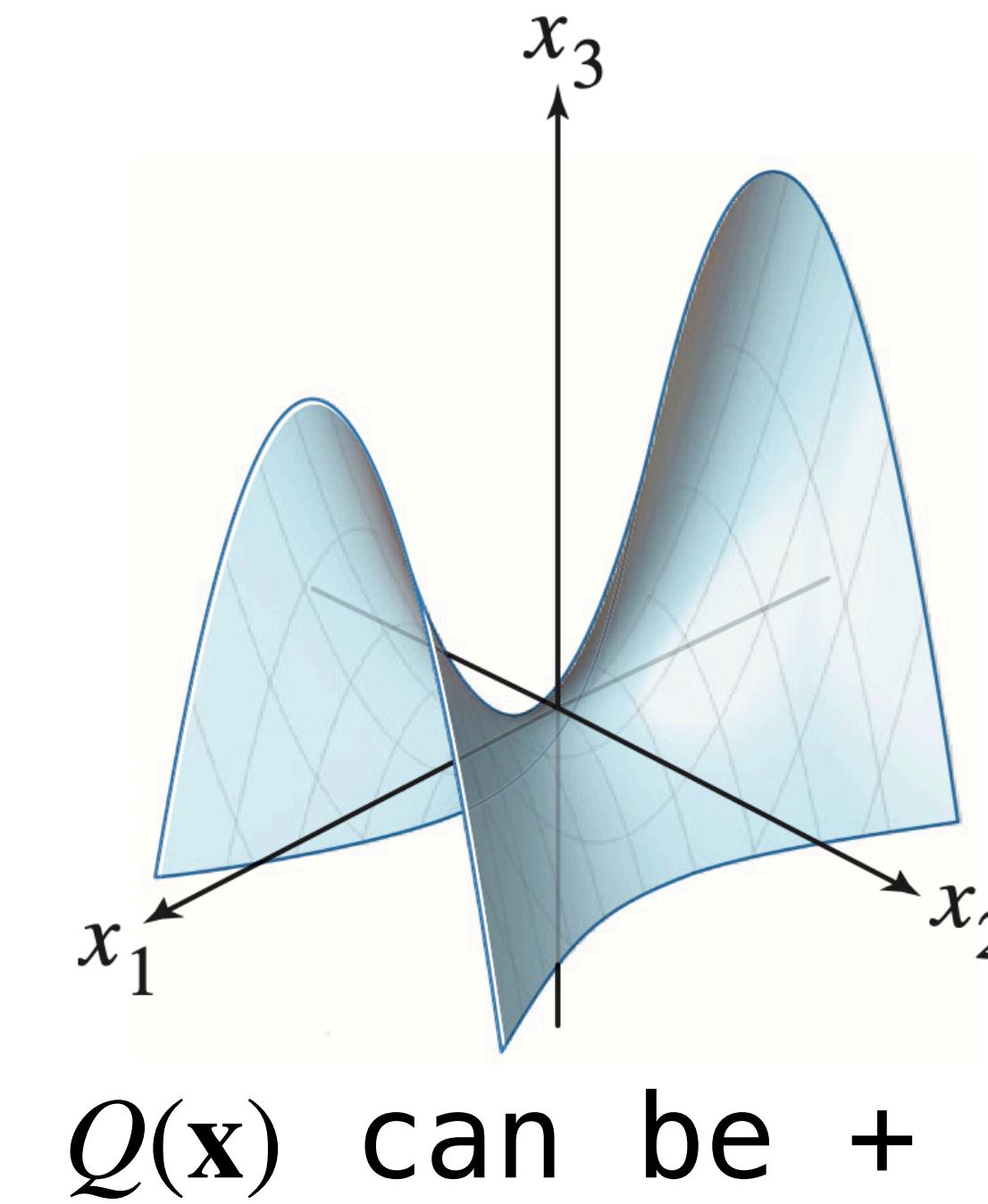
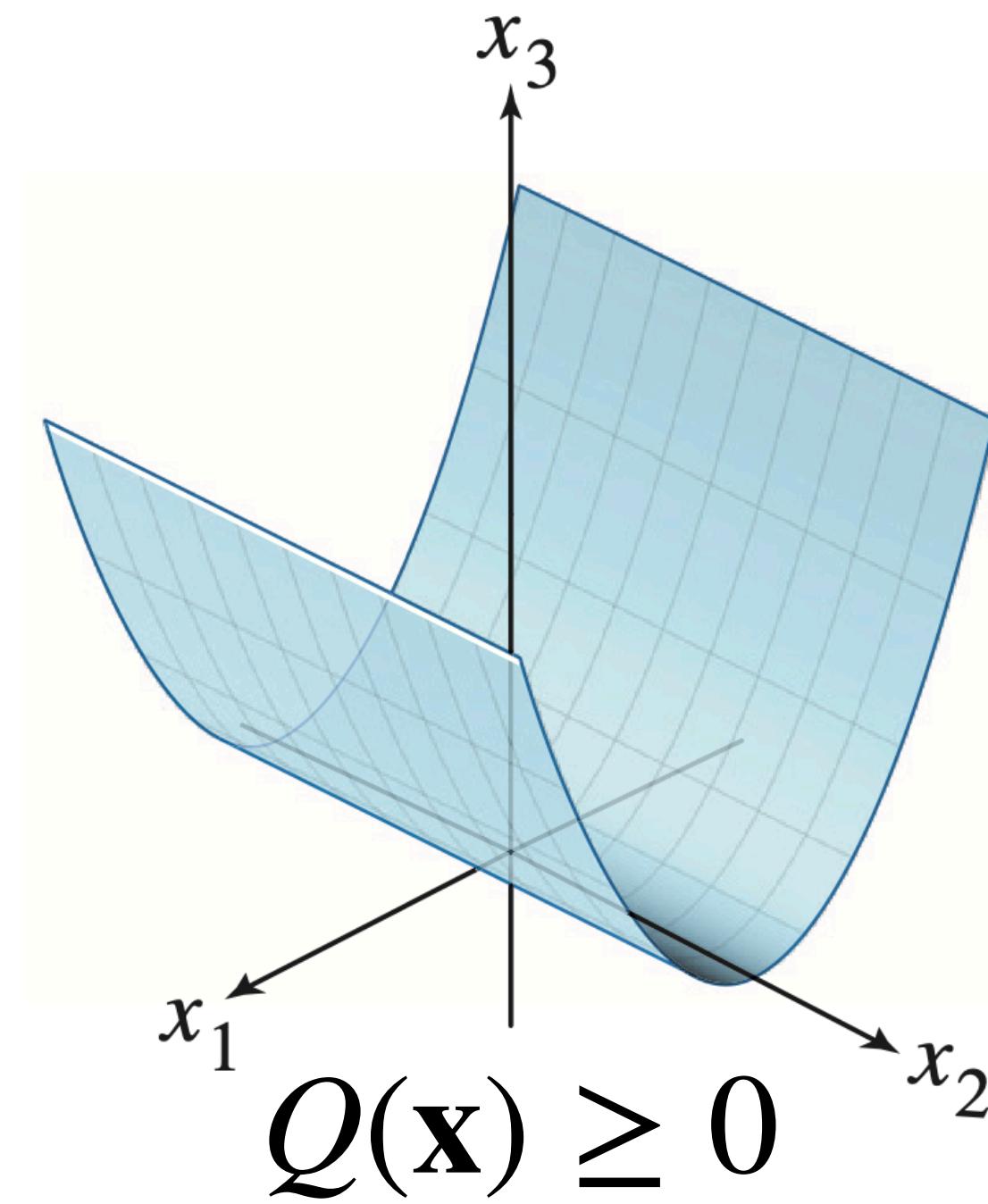
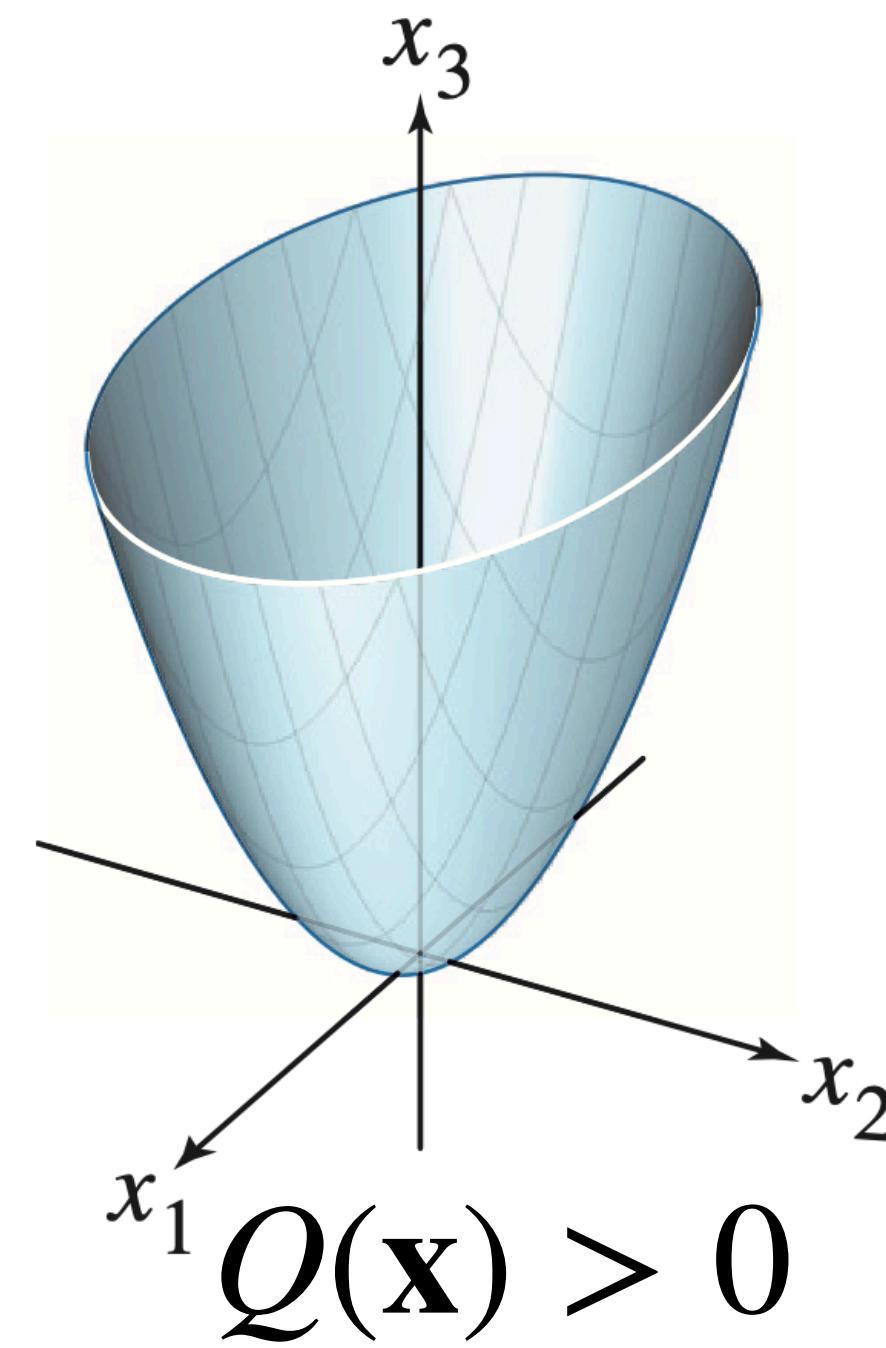
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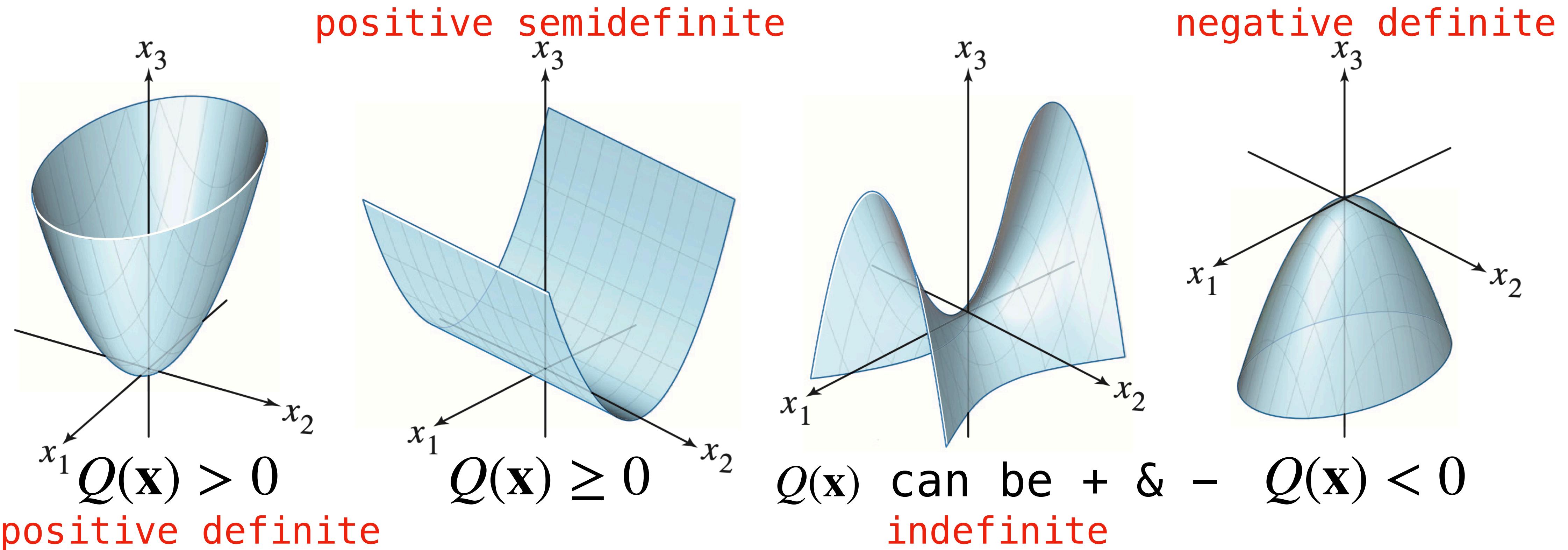
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# Definiteness



For  $\mathbf{x} \neq 0$ , each of the above graphs satisfy the associated properties.

# Definiteness



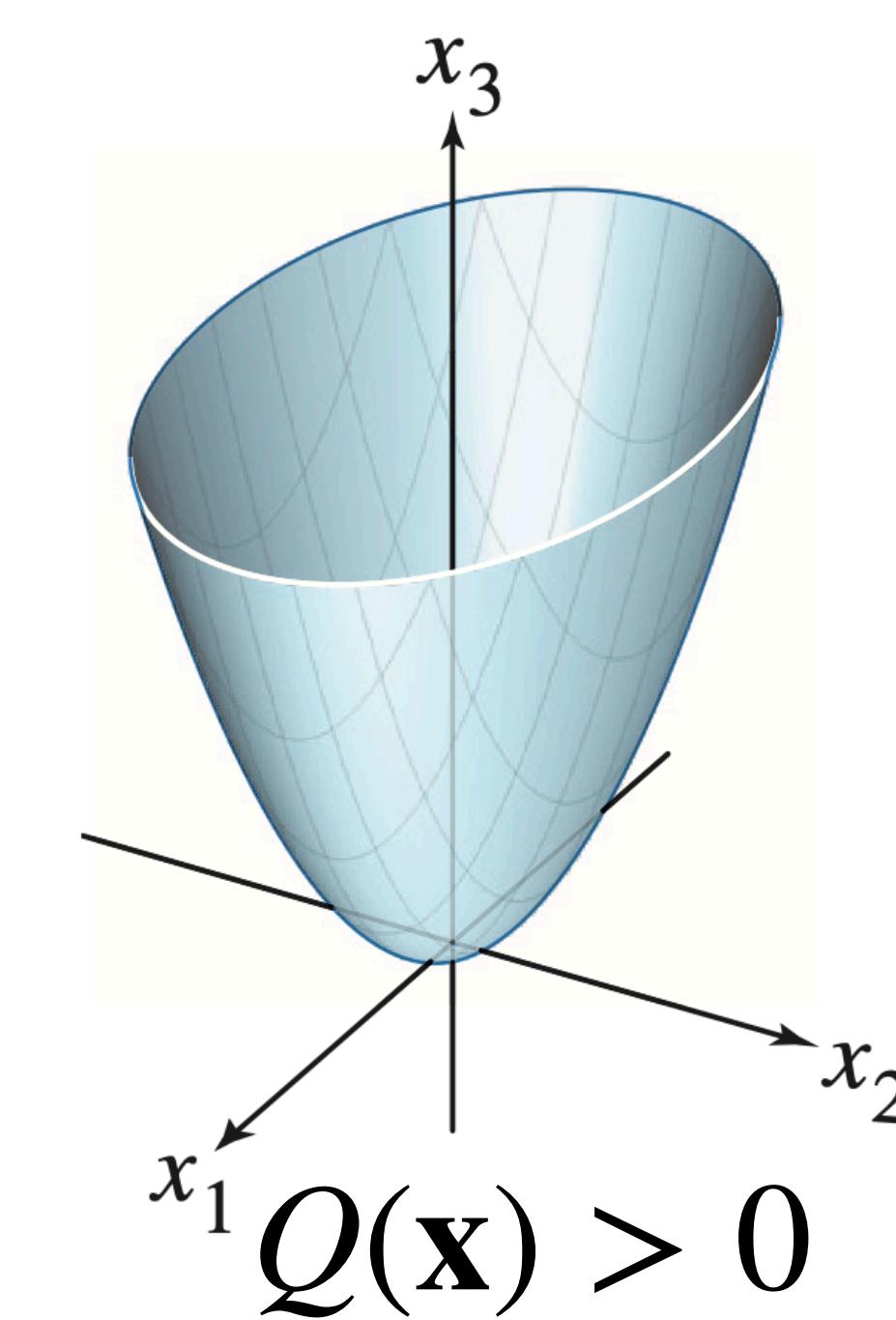
For  $\mathbf{x} \neq 0$ , each of the above graphs satisfy the associated properties.

# Definiteness and Eigenvectors

**Theorem.** For a symmetric matrix  $A$ , the quadratic form  $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$

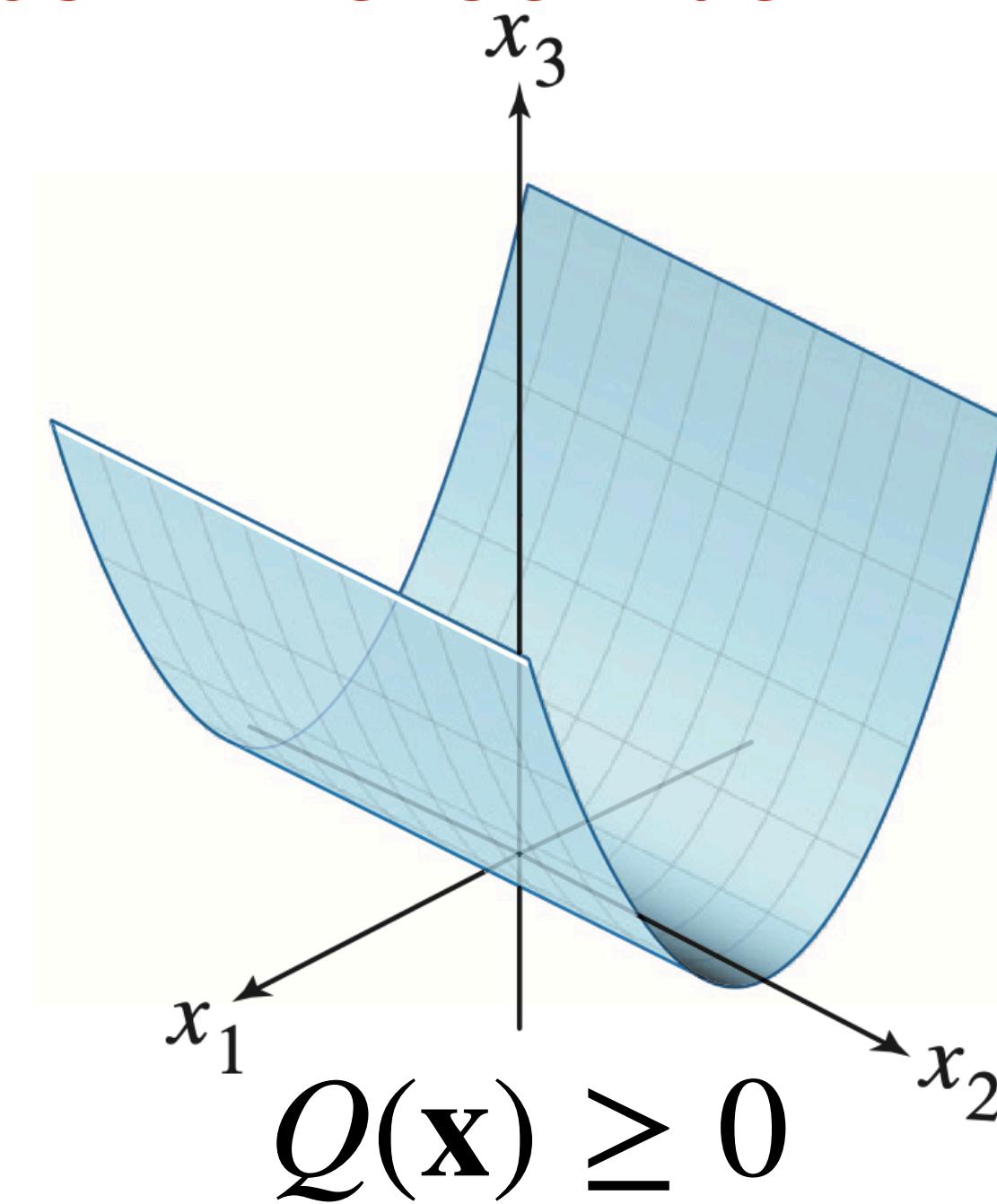
- » **positive definite**       $\equiv$  all positive eigenvalues
- » **positive semidefinite**  $\equiv$  all nonnegative eigenvalues
- » **indefinite**                 $\equiv$  positive and negative eigenvalues
- » **negative definite**         $\equiv$  all negative eigenvalues

# Definiteness

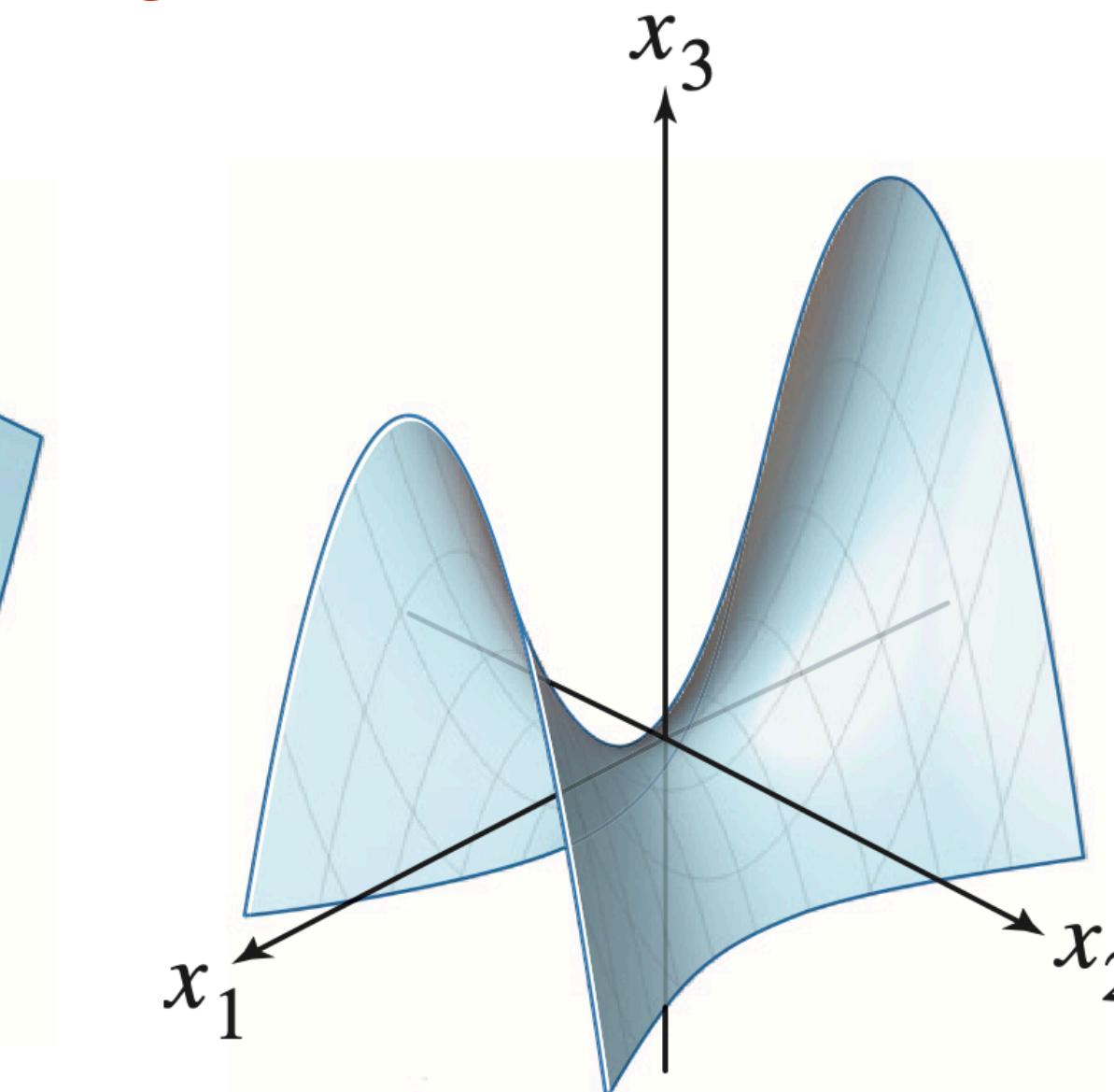


$Q(\mathbf{x}) > 0$   
positive definite  
all pos. eigenvals

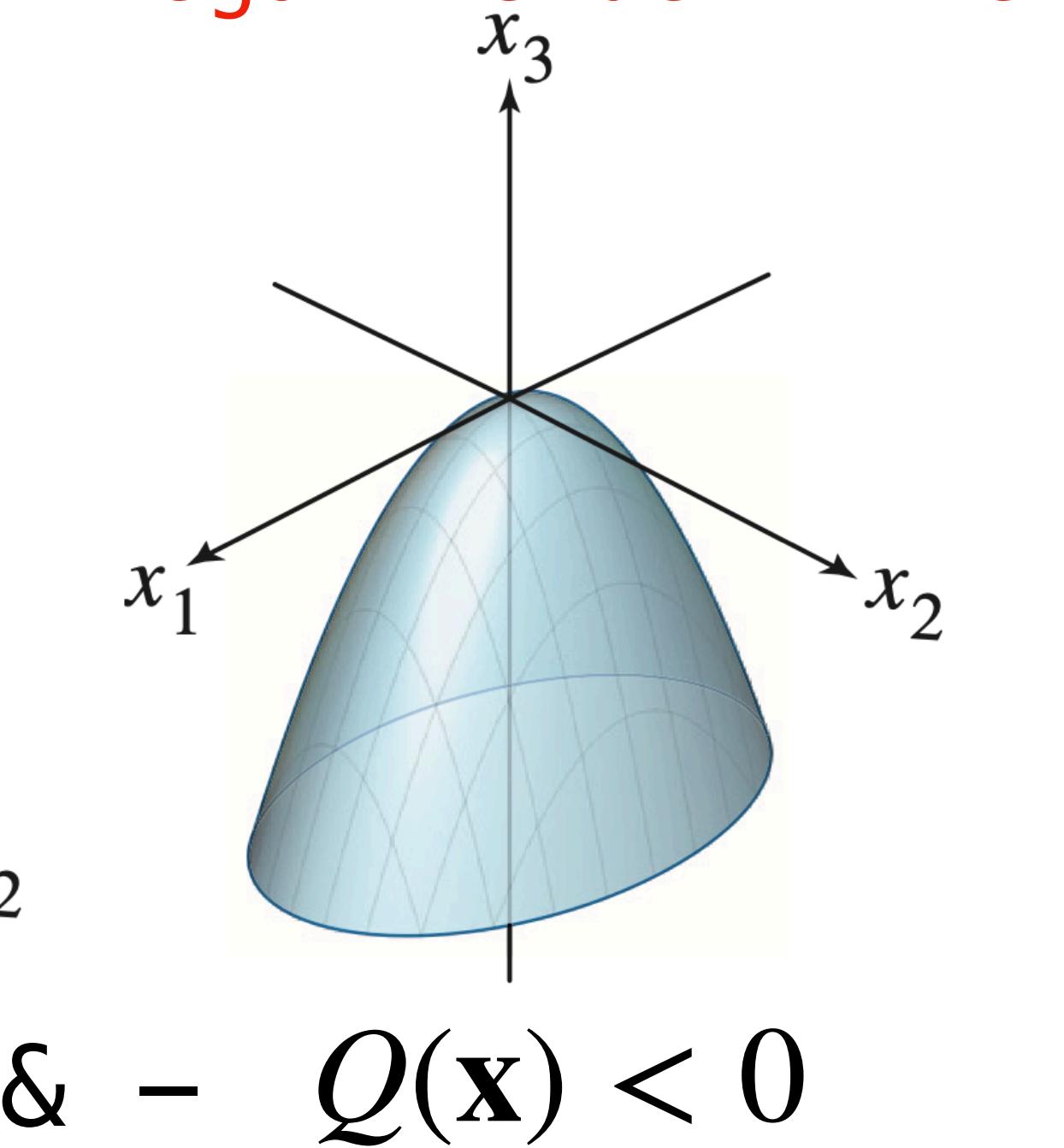
all nonneg. eigenvals  
positive semidefinite



$Q(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0$



$Q(\mathbf{x})$  can be + & -  
indefinite  
pos. and neg. eigenvals



$Q(\mathbf{x}) < 0$

all neg. eigenvals  
negative definite

# **Positive Definite Case**

Let's think why this is for the positive definite case:

# Example

$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 3x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 4x_2x_3 + x_3^2$$

Let's determine which case this is:

# Constrained Optimization

# In General

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Given a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a set of vectors  $X$  from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  the **constrained minimization problem** for  $f$  over  $X$  is the problem of determining

$$\min_{\mathbf{v} \in X} f(\mathbf{v})$$

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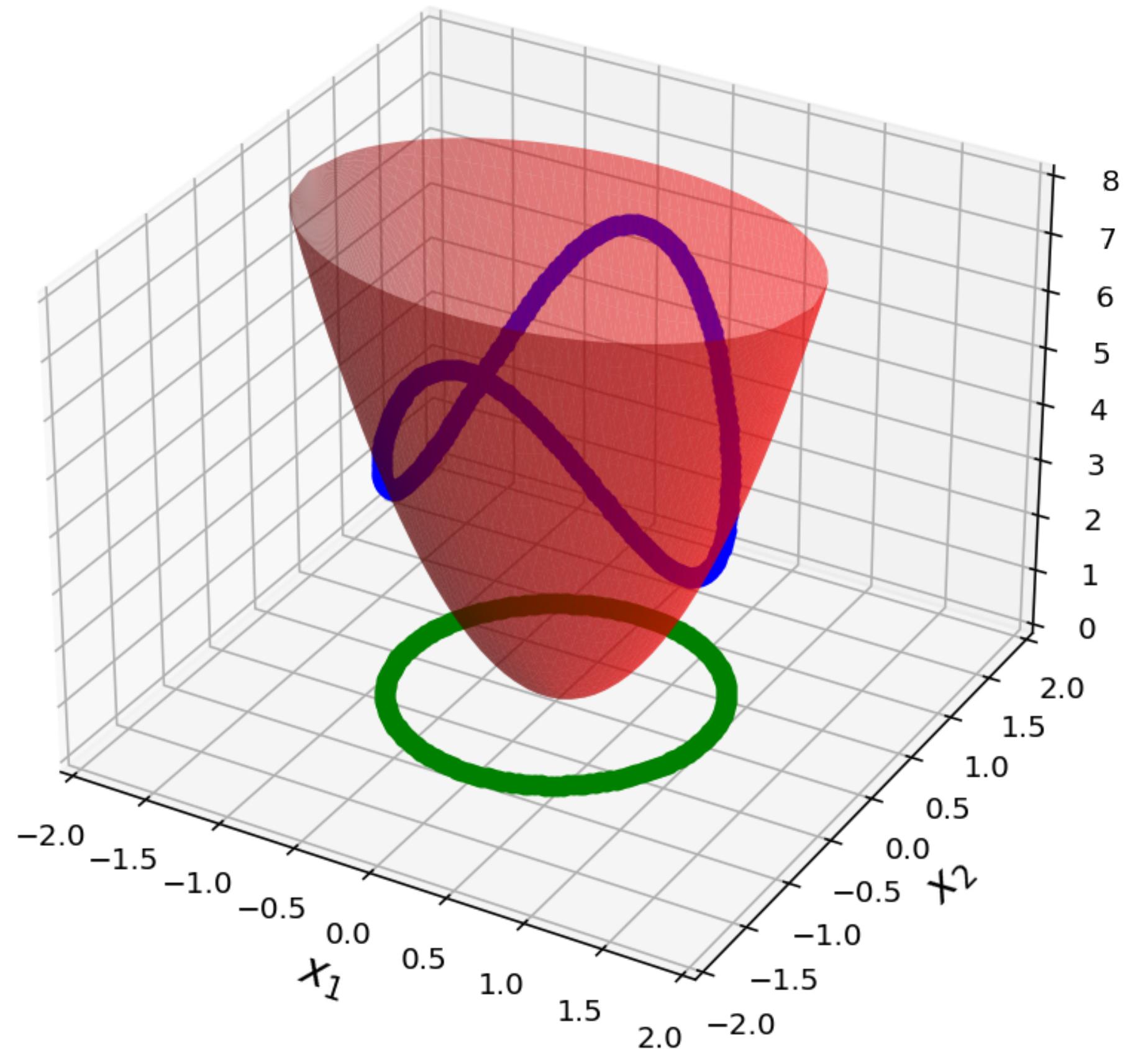
$$\min_{\mathbf{v} \in X} f(\mathbf{v})$$

(analogously for maximization)

*Find the smallest value of  $f(\mathbf{v})$  subject to choosing a vector in  $X$*

# Constrained Optimization for Quadratic Forms and Unit Vectors

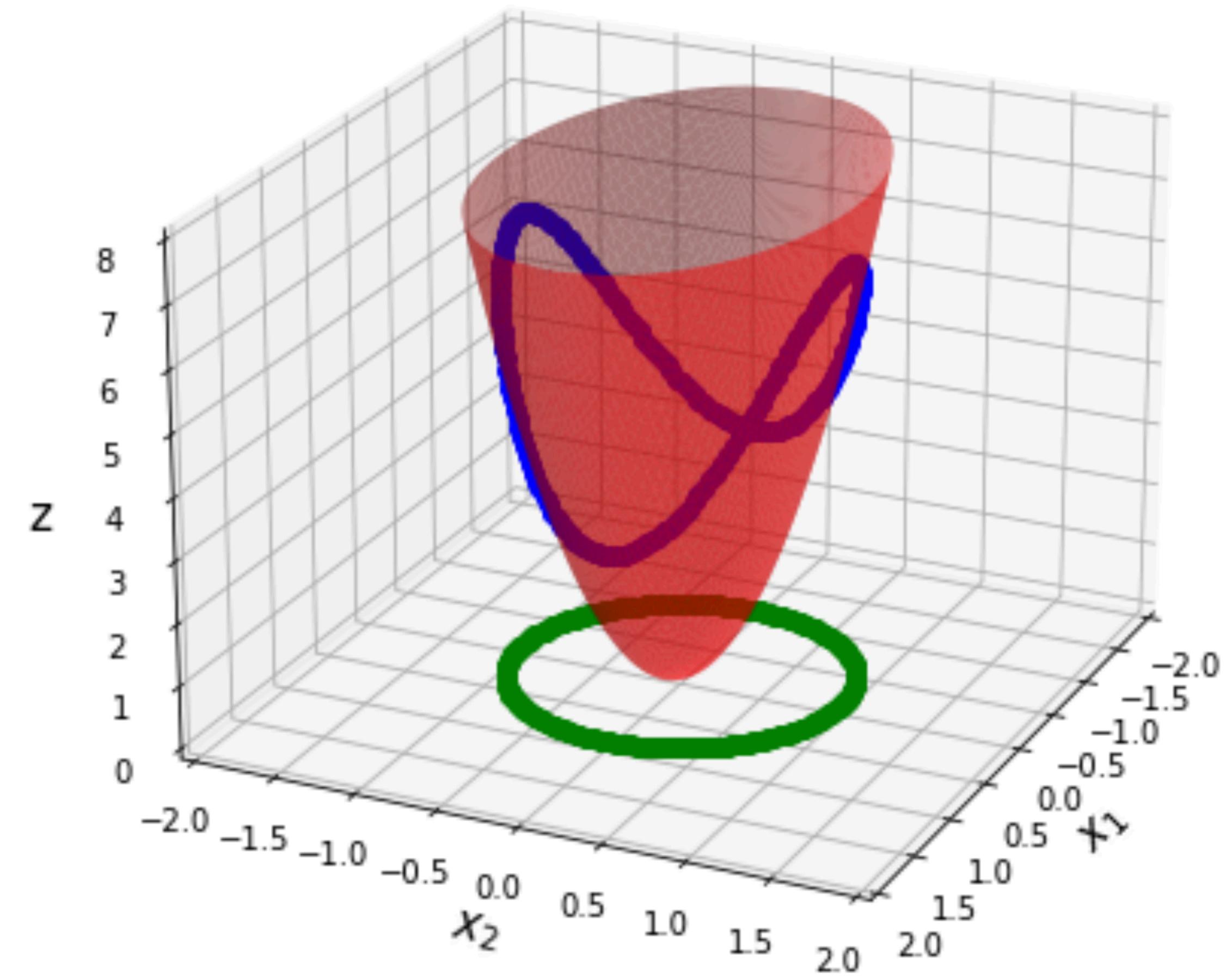
mini/maximize  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$  subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$



It's common to constraint to unit vectors.

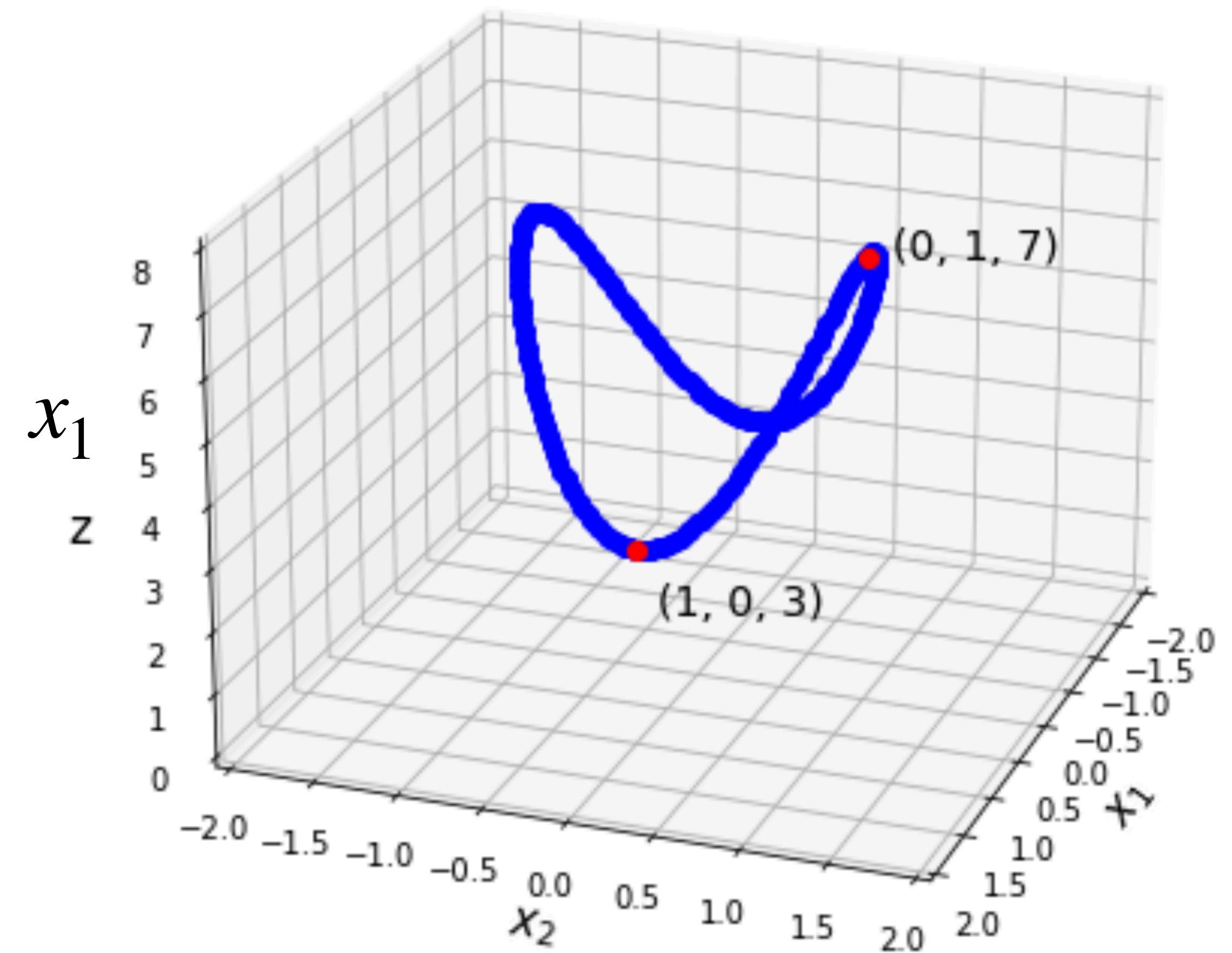
**Example:**  $3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2$

What are the min/max values?:



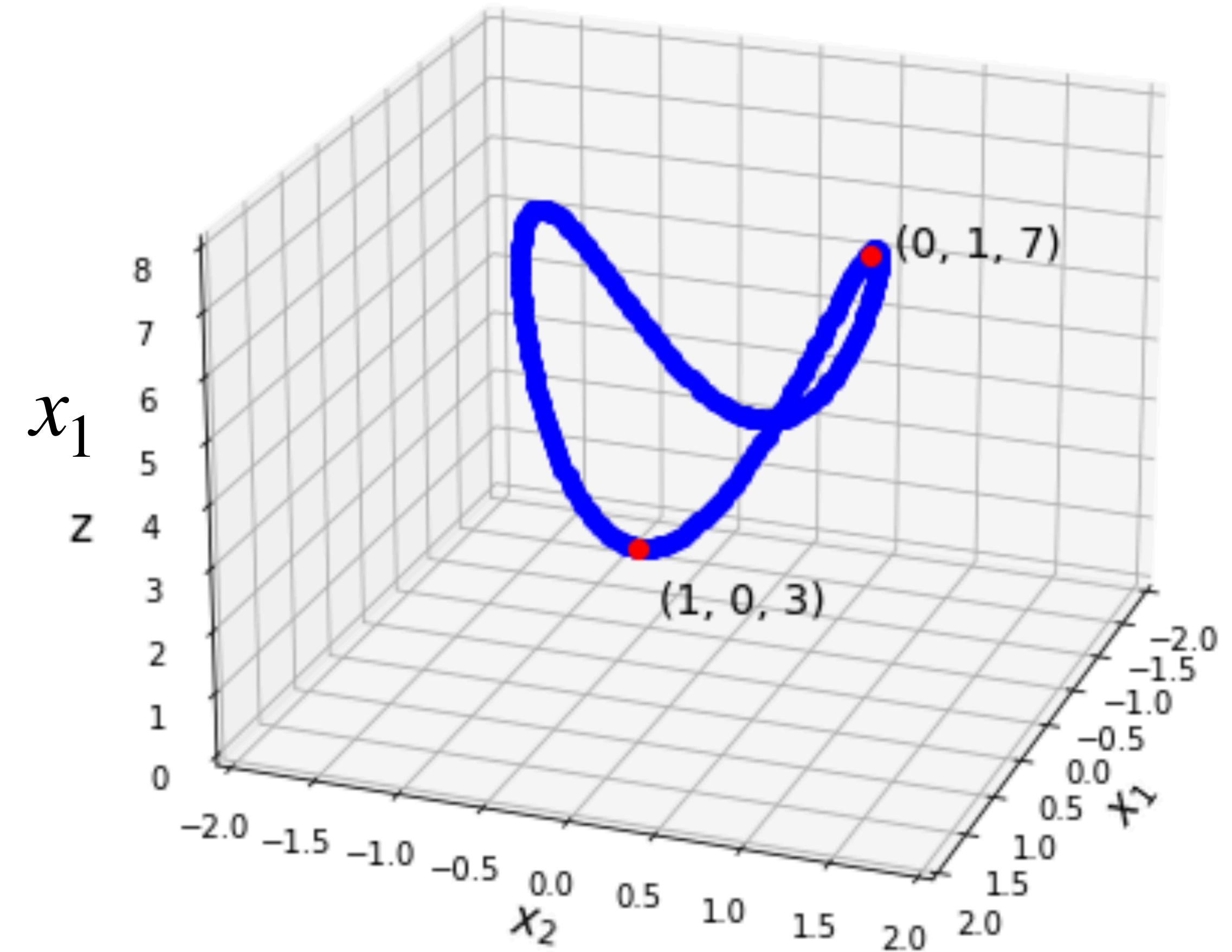
# **Example:** $3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2$

The minimum and maximum values are attained when the "weight" of the vector is distributed all on  $x_1$  or  $x_2$ .



**Example:**  $3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2$

What is the matrix?:



# Constrained Optimization and Eigenvalues

**Theorem.** For a symmetric matrix  $A$ , with largest eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$  and smallest eigenvalue  $\lambda_n$

$$\max_{\|\mathbf{x}\|=1} \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} = \lambda_1$$

$$\min_{\|\mathbf{x}\|=1} \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} = \lambda_n$$

No matter the shape of  $A$ , this will hold.

# **How To: Constrained Optimization**

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**Problem.** Find the maximum value of  $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$  subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$ .

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**Problem.** Find the maximum value of  $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$  subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$ .

**Solution.** Find the largest eigenvalue of  $A$ , this will be the maximum value.

*(Use NumPy)*

# Summary

We can build models which are nonlinear functions if those functions are linear in their parameters.

We can solve constrained optimization problems using eigenvalues.