

# Linear Models

**Geometric Algorithms**

**Lecture 24**

# Practice Problem

$$A = \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} \vec{a}_1 & \vec{a}_2 & \vec{a}_3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Find the projection of  $\mathbf{b}$  onto  $\text{Col}(A)$ .*

hint:  $\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1 = \vec{a}_3$

**Answer**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Objectives

1. Use the least square method to build linear *models* of noisy data.
2. Show how we can use linear algebraic methods to model with non-linear models.

# Keywords

line of best fit

independent/dependent variables

residuals

prediction

simple least squares regression

multiple regression

polynomial regression

models

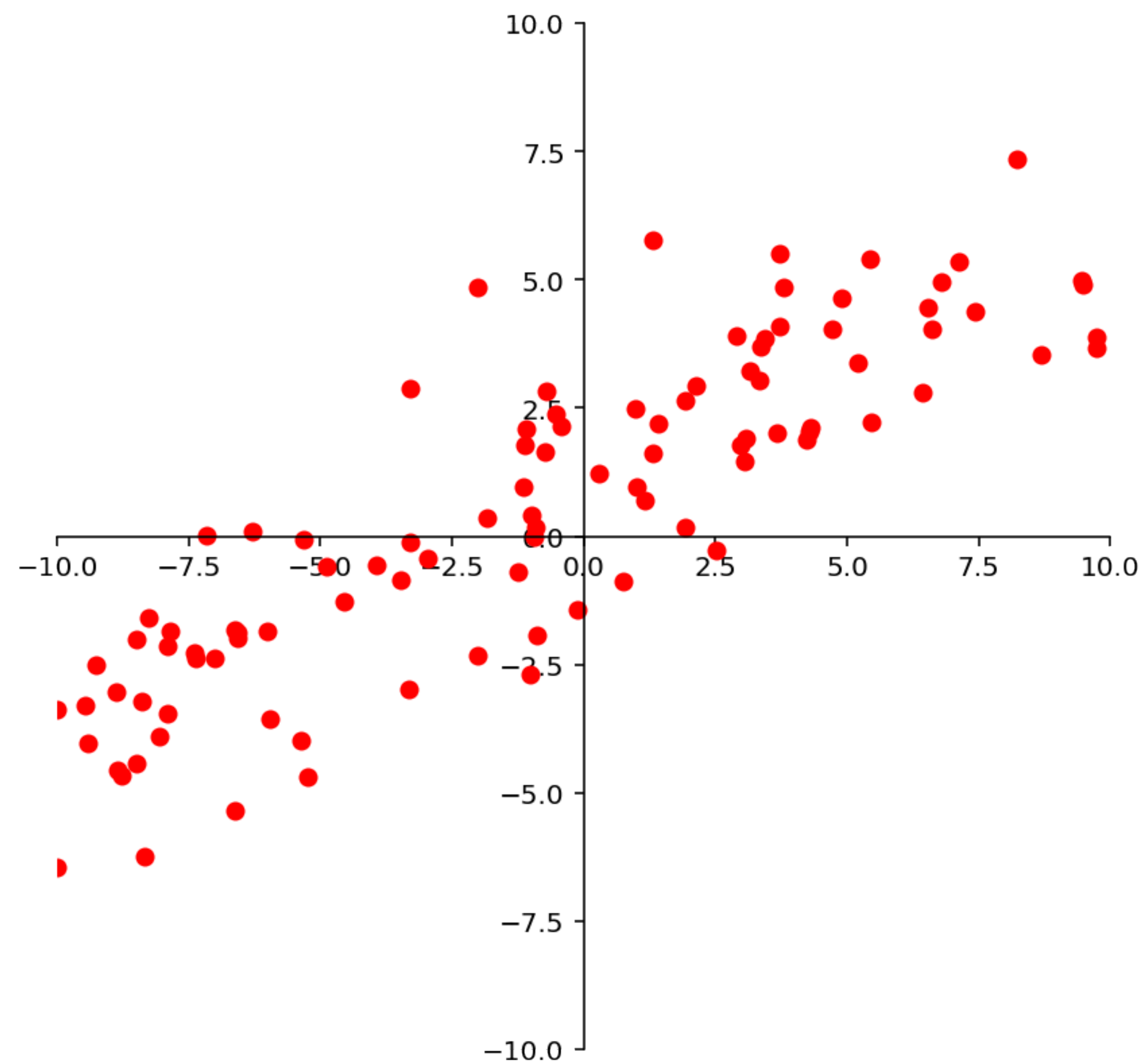
model fitting

model parameters

design matrices

# Warm-up: Line of Best Fit

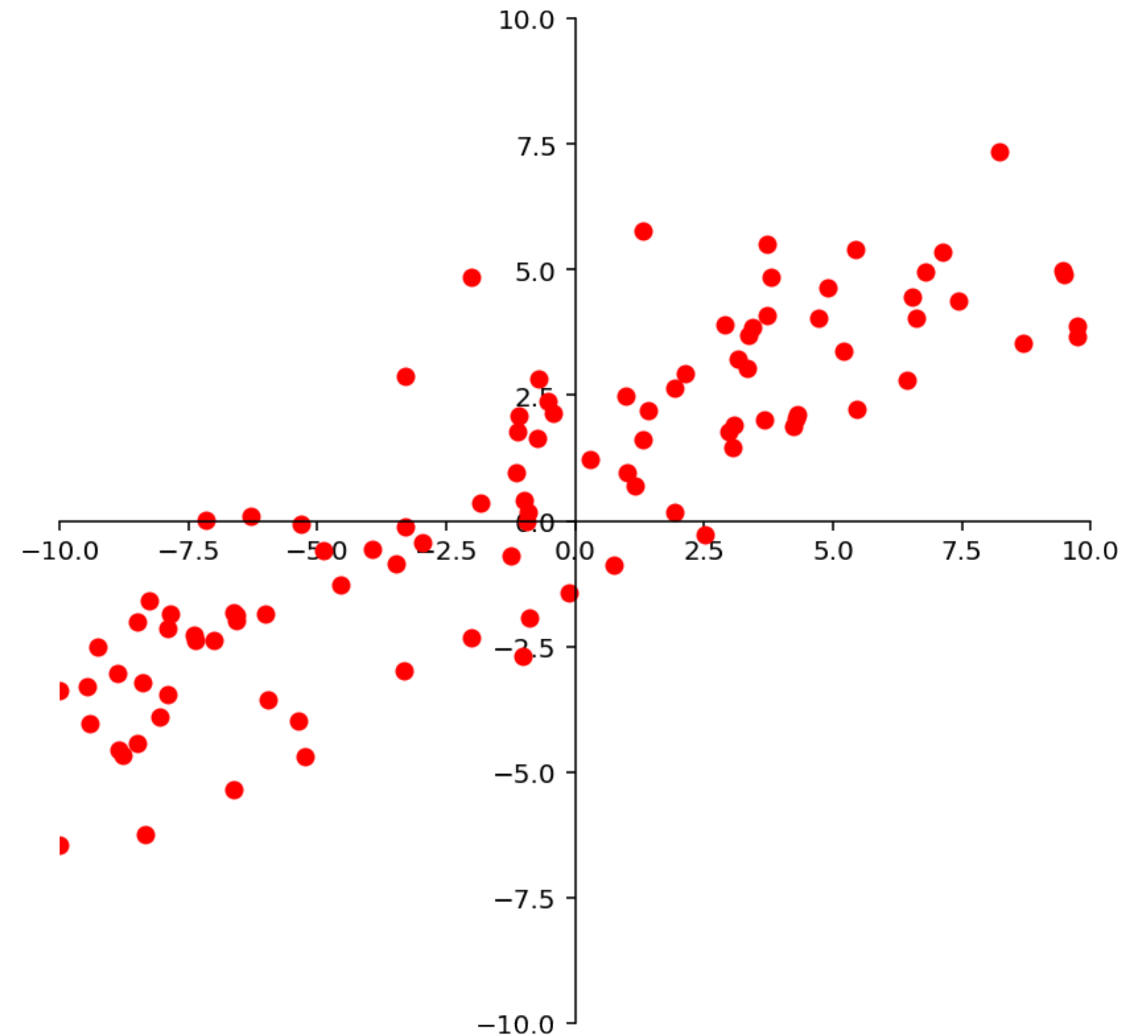
# The Setup



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You're given a set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

$$\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k)\}$$



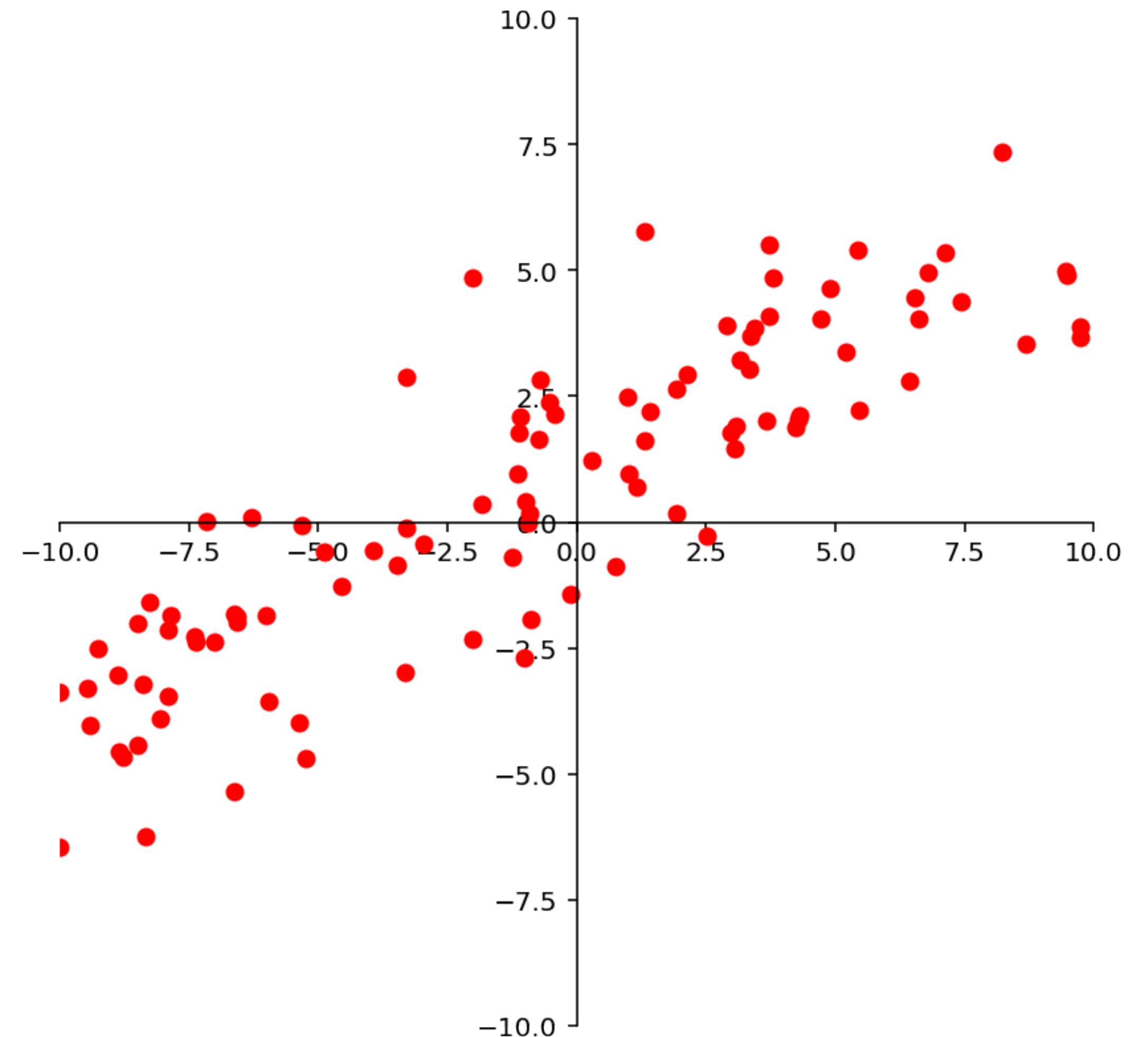


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**Example.** You collect (height, weight) data for a population.



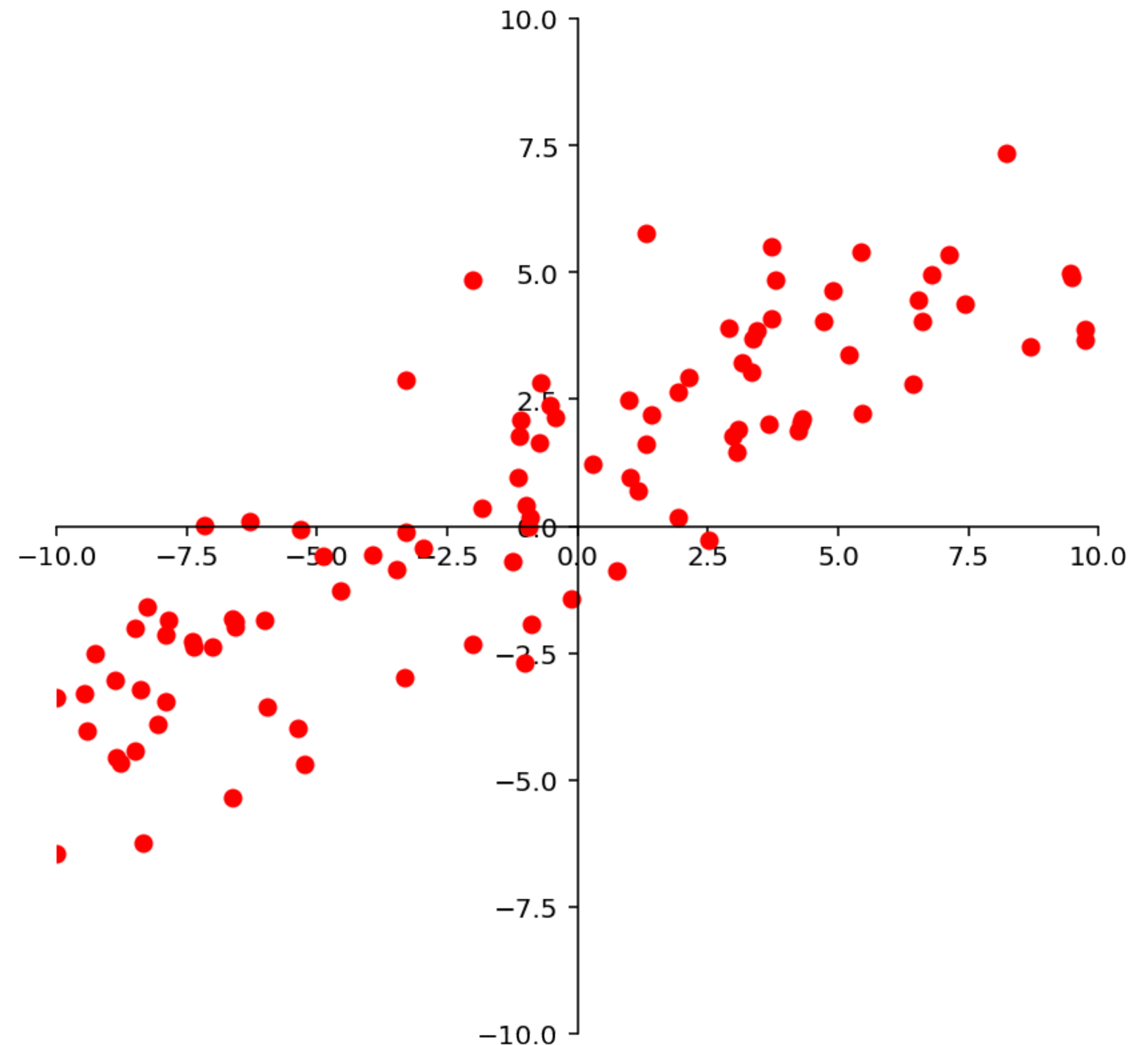
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You notice they *kind of* trend as a line.



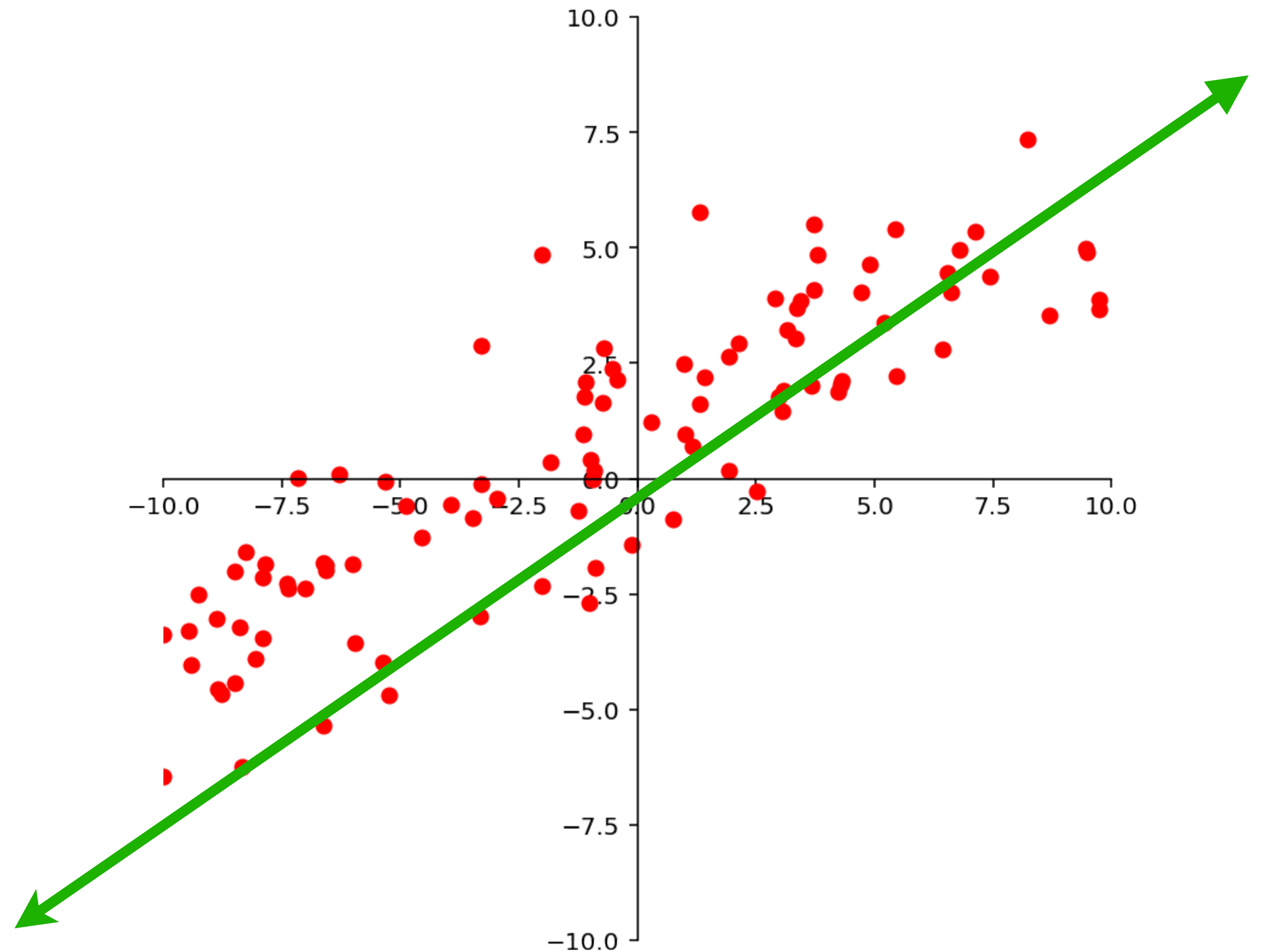
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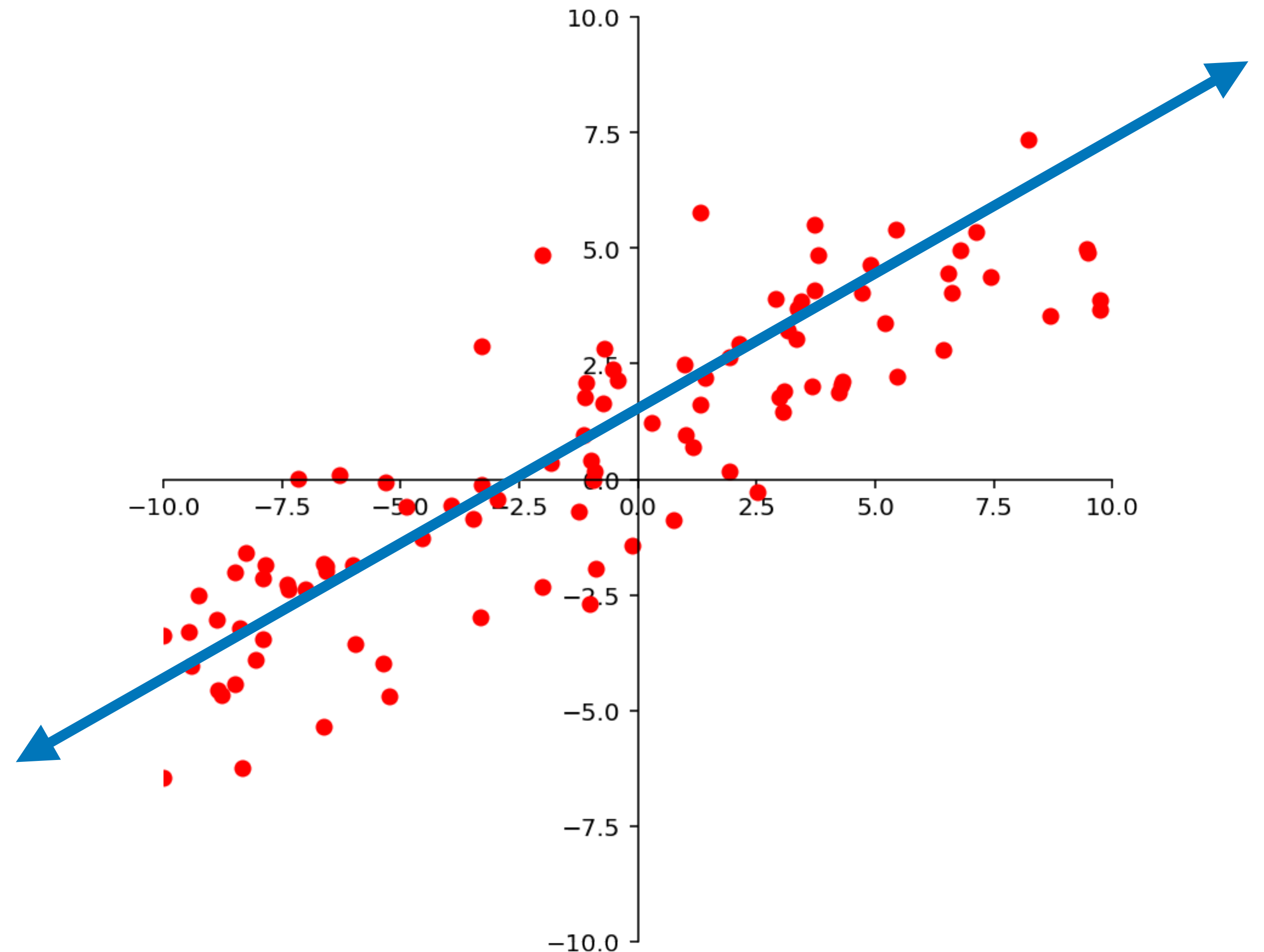
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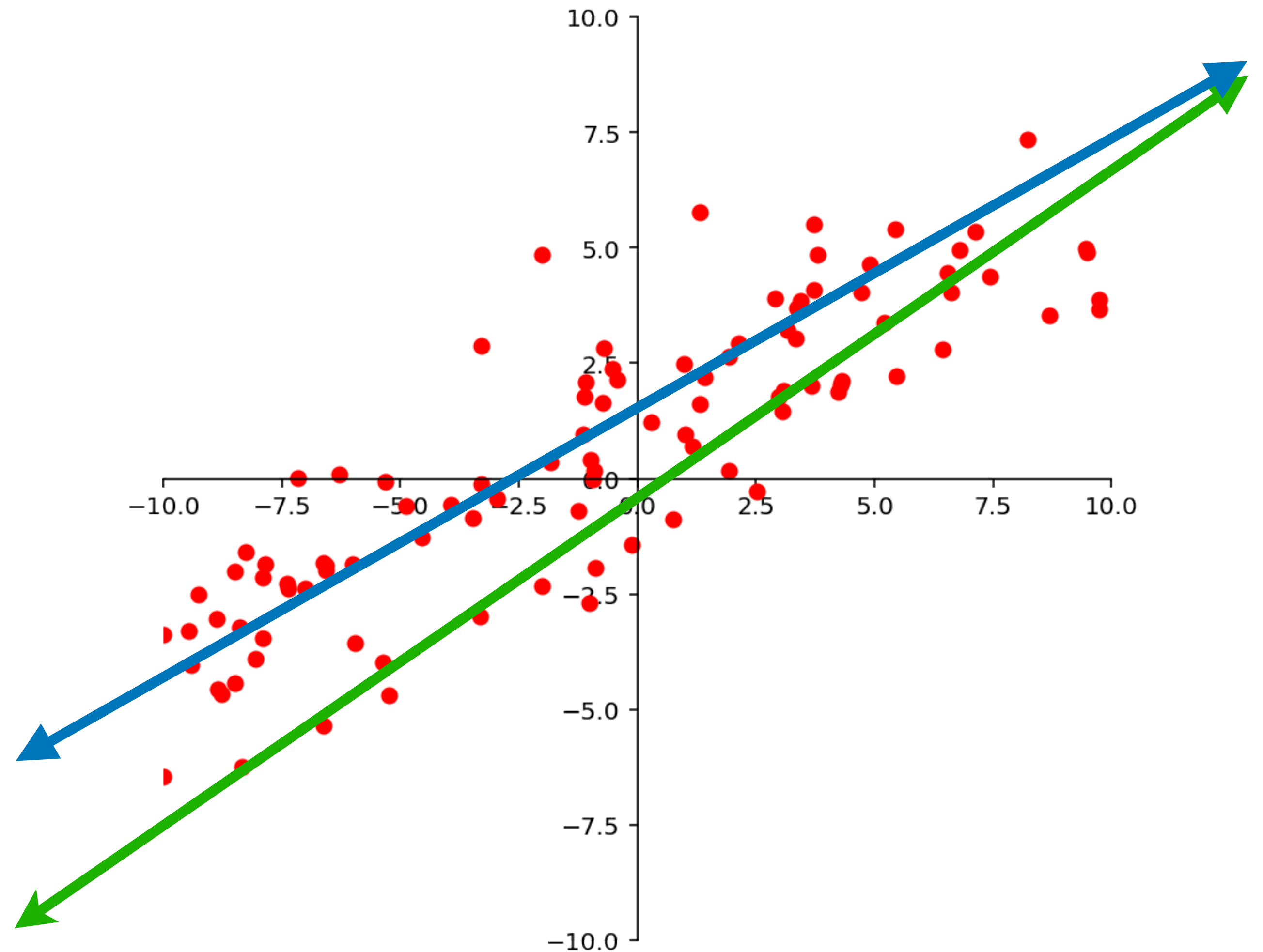
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# The Setup

**Question.** Which line "best" describes the trend of the dataset?

Which one *best models* the dataset?



# Two Important Questions

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1. What is a model?

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**We'll come back to this...**



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1. What is a model?

**We'll come back to this...**

2. What does "best" mean?

**This is a make-or-break question.**

# Least Squares Simple Linear Regression

**Problem.** Given a set of points  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ , find the line

$$f(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$

which minimizes

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

# Least Squares Simple Linear Regression

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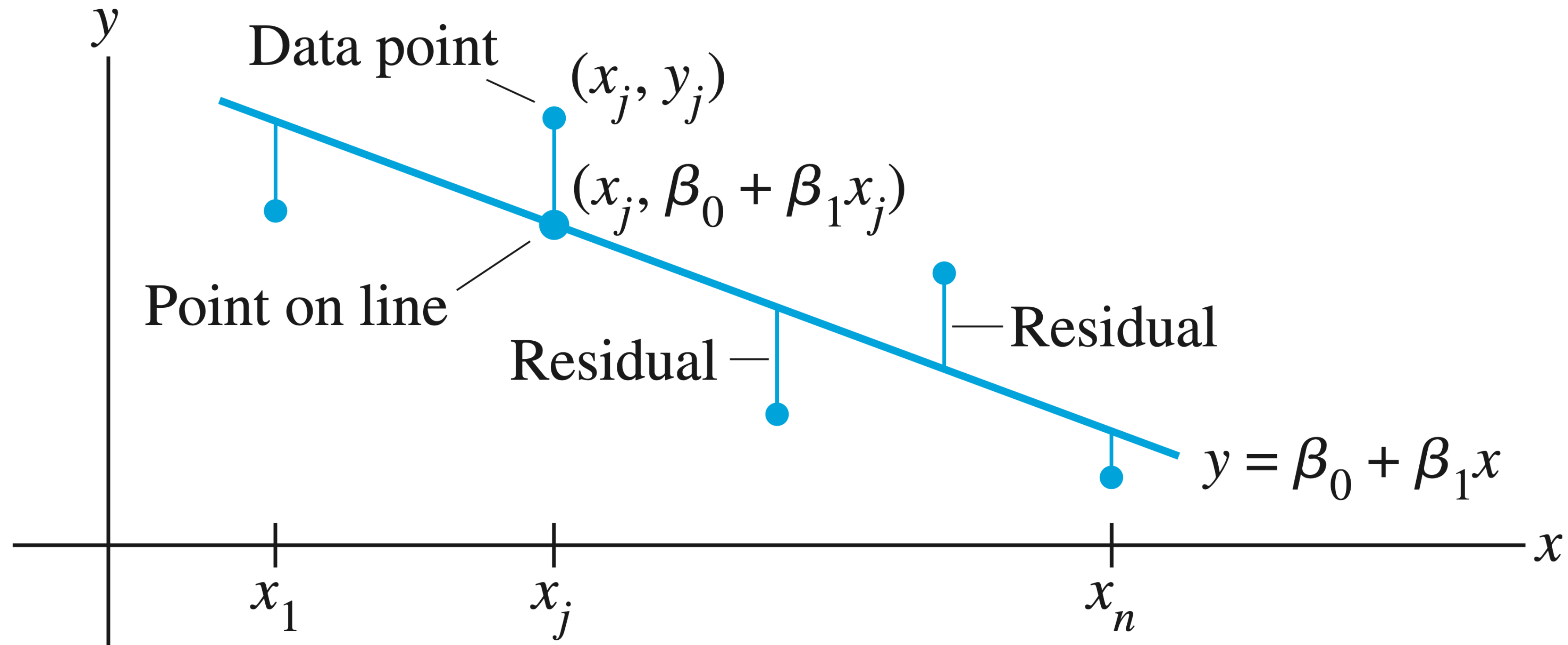
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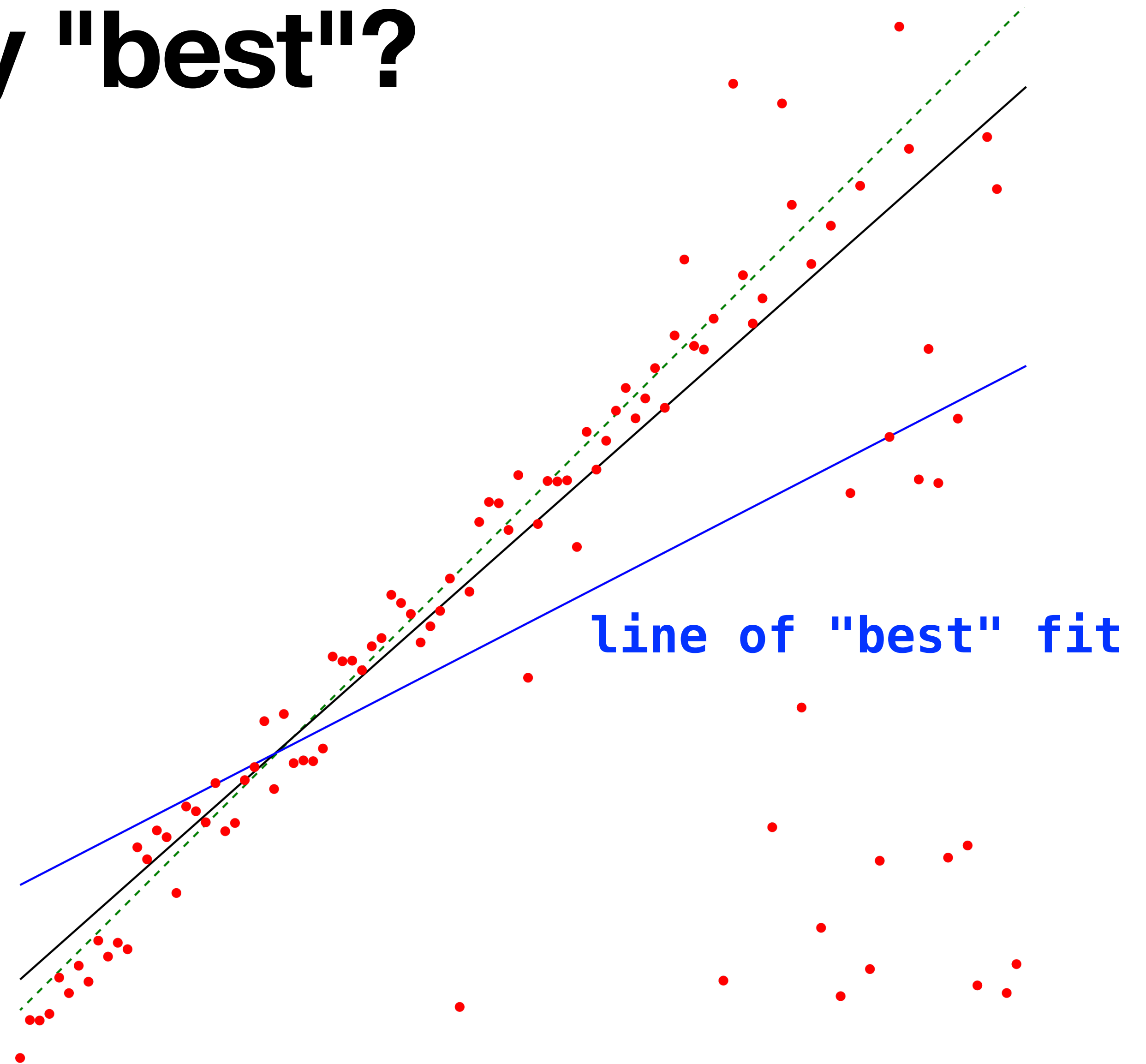
**The "best" line minimizes  
the *sum of squares of  
differences.***

# The Picture



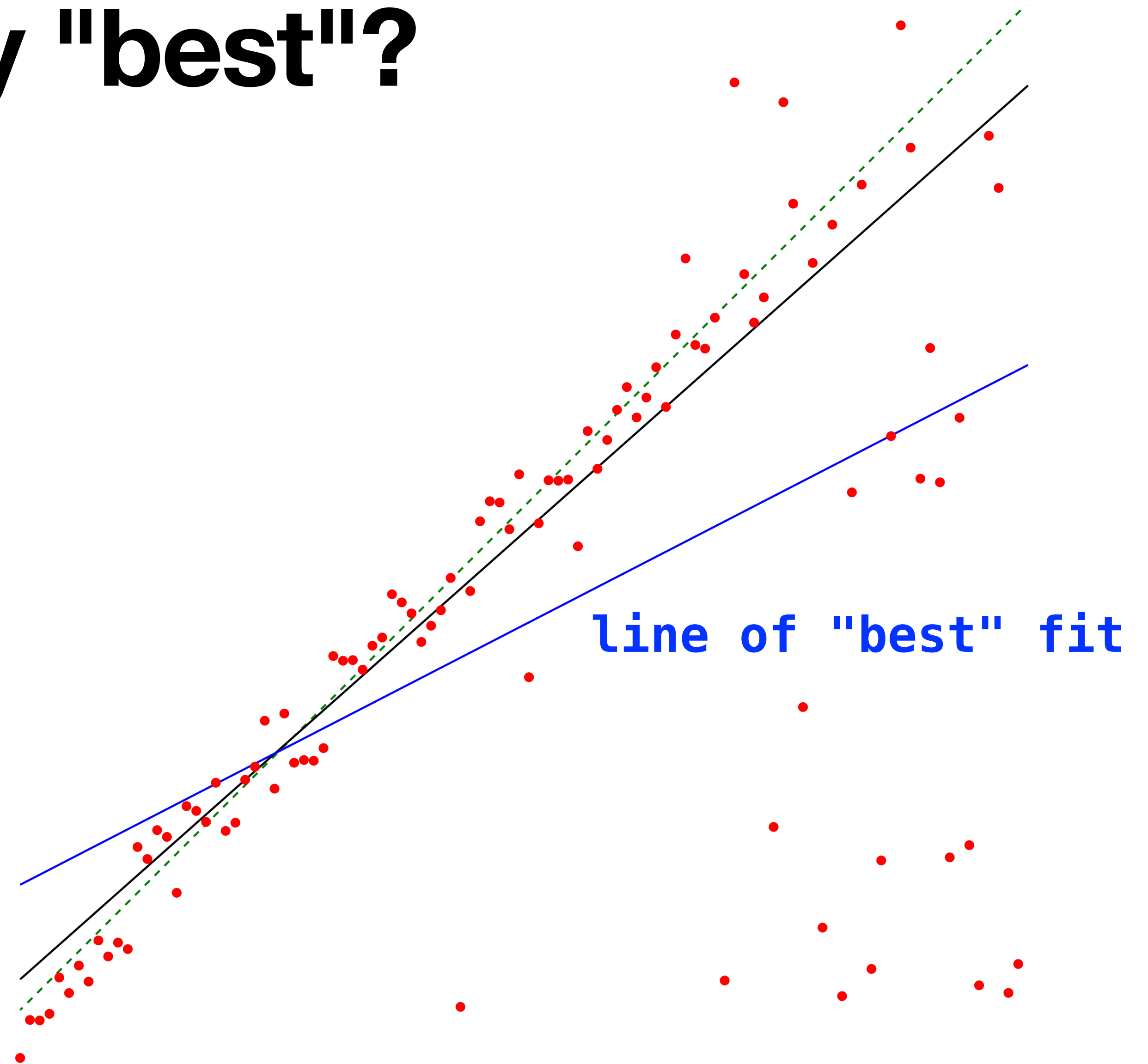
We want to find the line which makes the sum of these differences *as small as possible*.

# An Aside: Is this really "best"?



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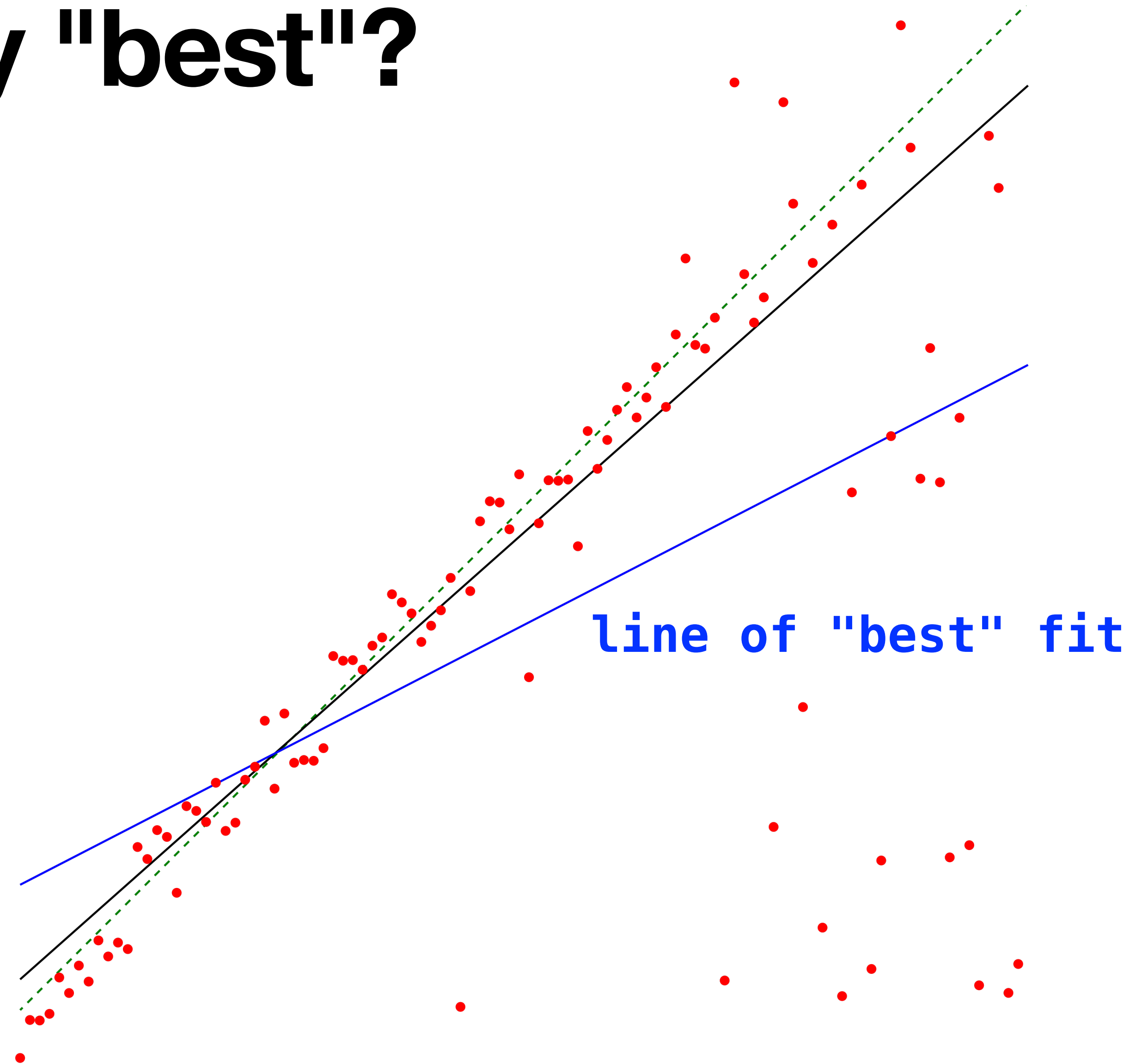
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# An Aside: Is this really "best"?

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It depends on the data,  
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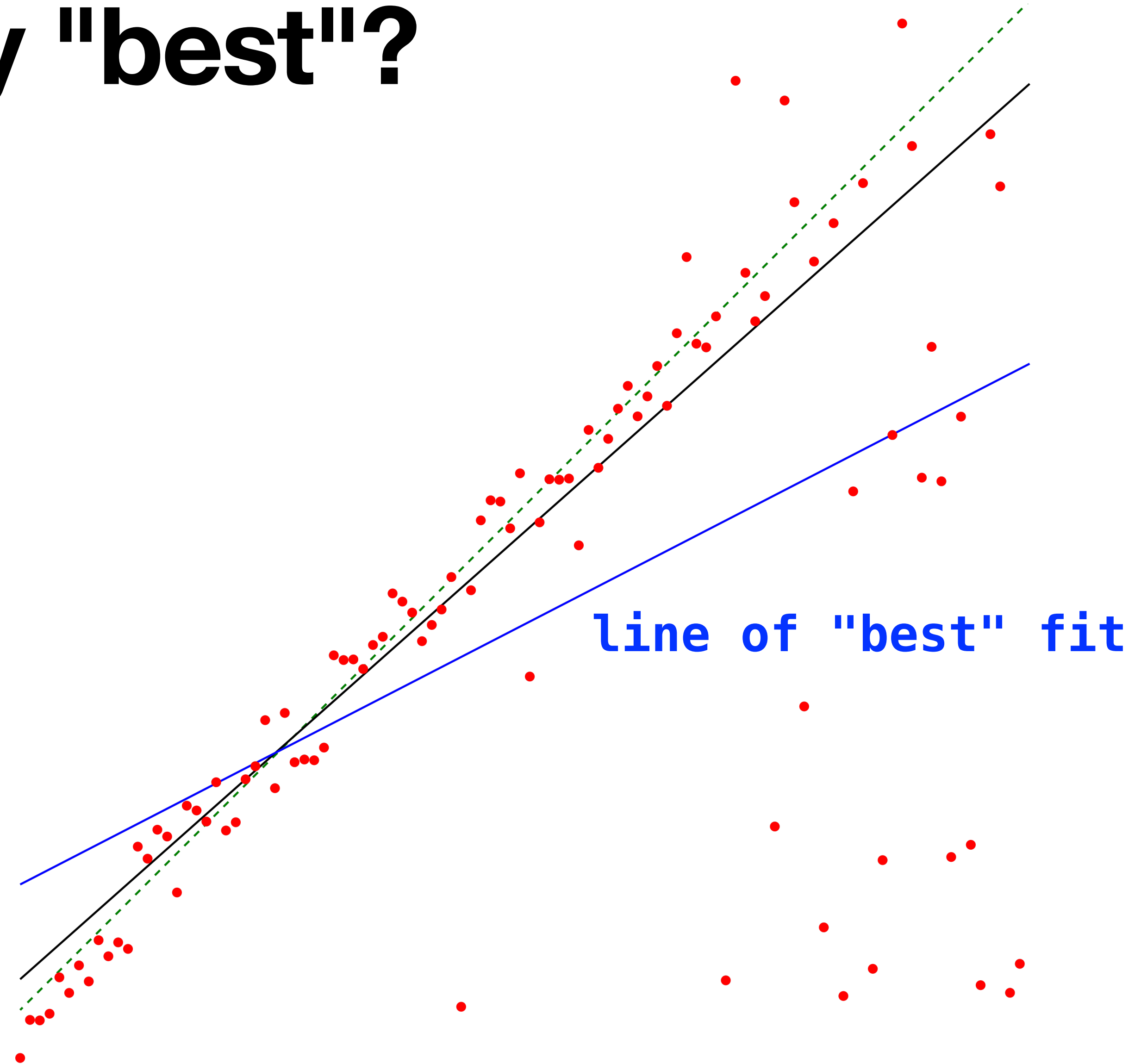


# An Aside: Is this really "best"?

Who's to say...

It depends on the data,  
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**The point.** We fix our  
notion of "best" first,  
and then we do  
calculations and  
derivations from there.



# Terminology: Datasets

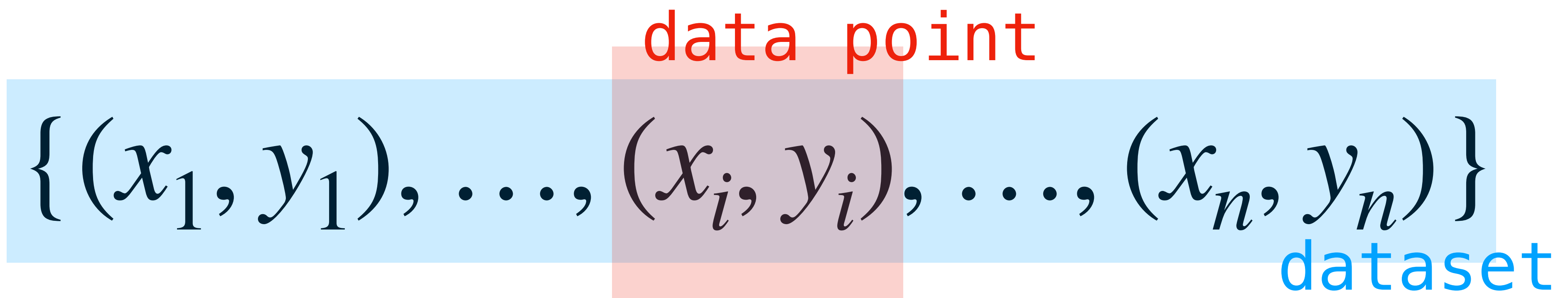
$$\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$$

# Terminology: Datasets

$$\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$$

dataset

# Terminology: Datasets



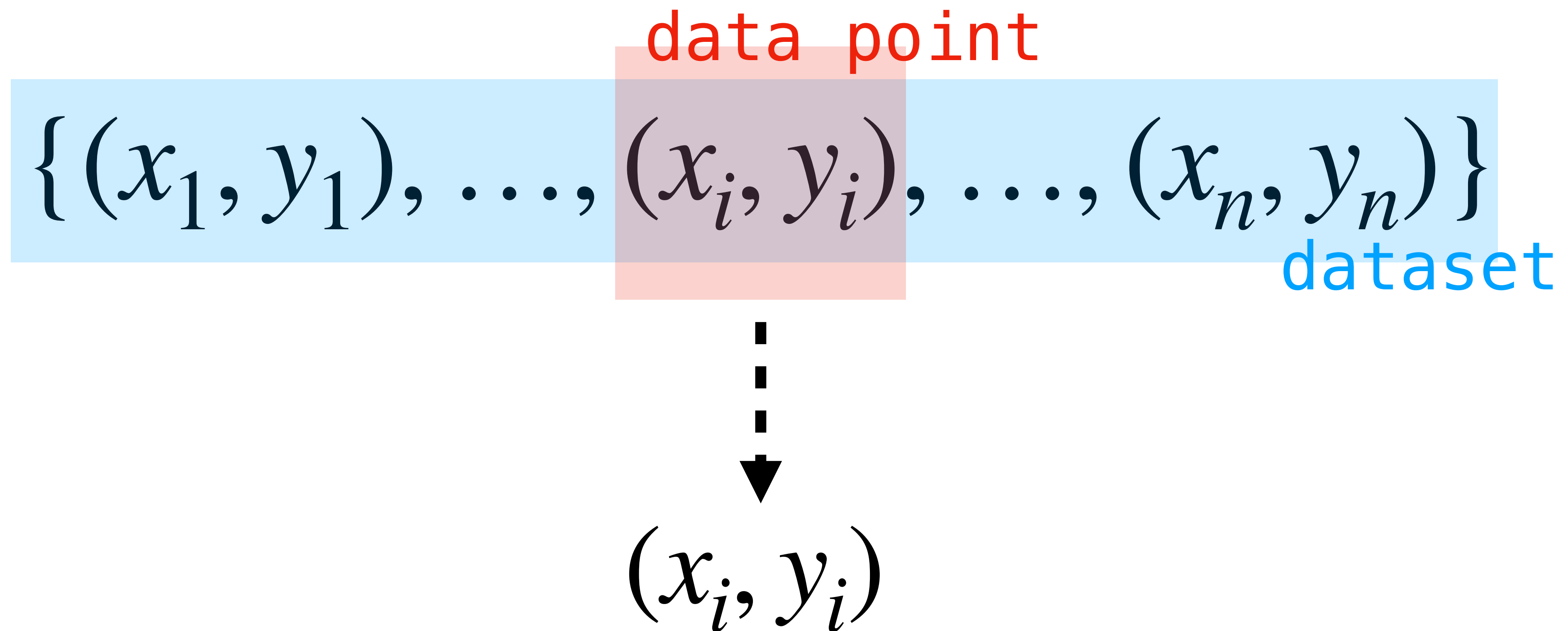
The diagram illustrates the terminology for datasets. It features a light blue rectangular background representing the entire dataset. Within this background, a specific point  $(x_i, y_i)$  is highlighted by a semi-transparent red square. The text "data point" is written in red above the red square, and the word "dataset" is written in blue below the blue background.

$$\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$$

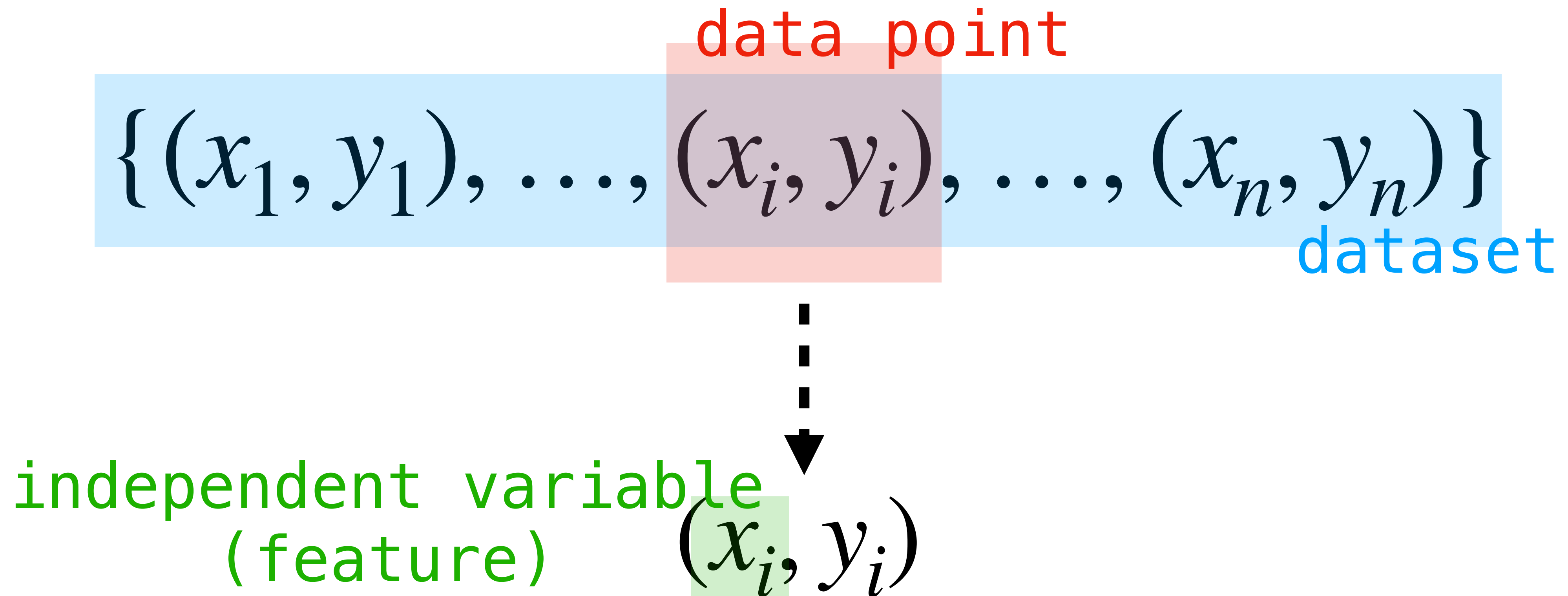
data point

dataset

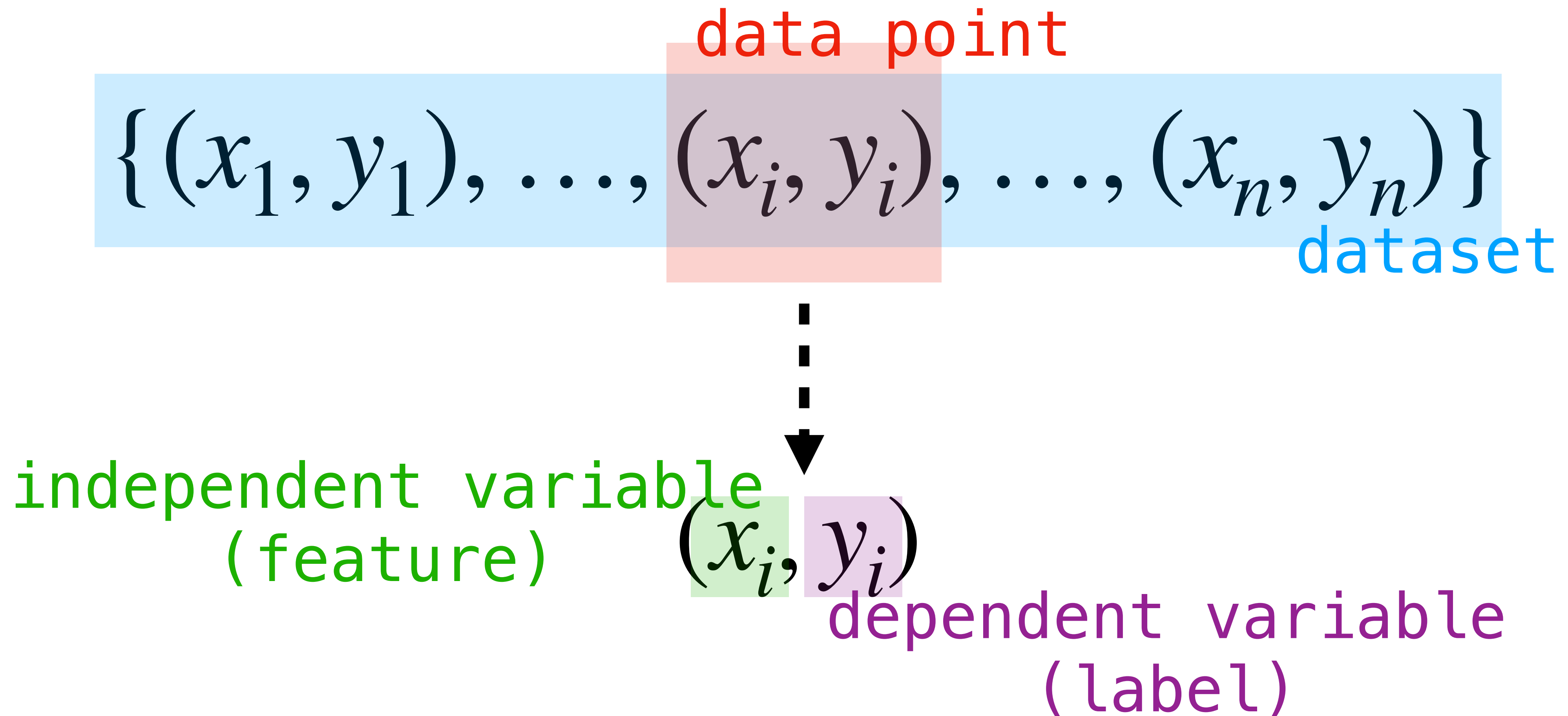
# Terminology: Datasets



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# Terminology: Models

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model

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model parameters/  
regression coefficients

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model

# Terminology: Least-Squares Error

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

# Terminology: Least-Squares Error

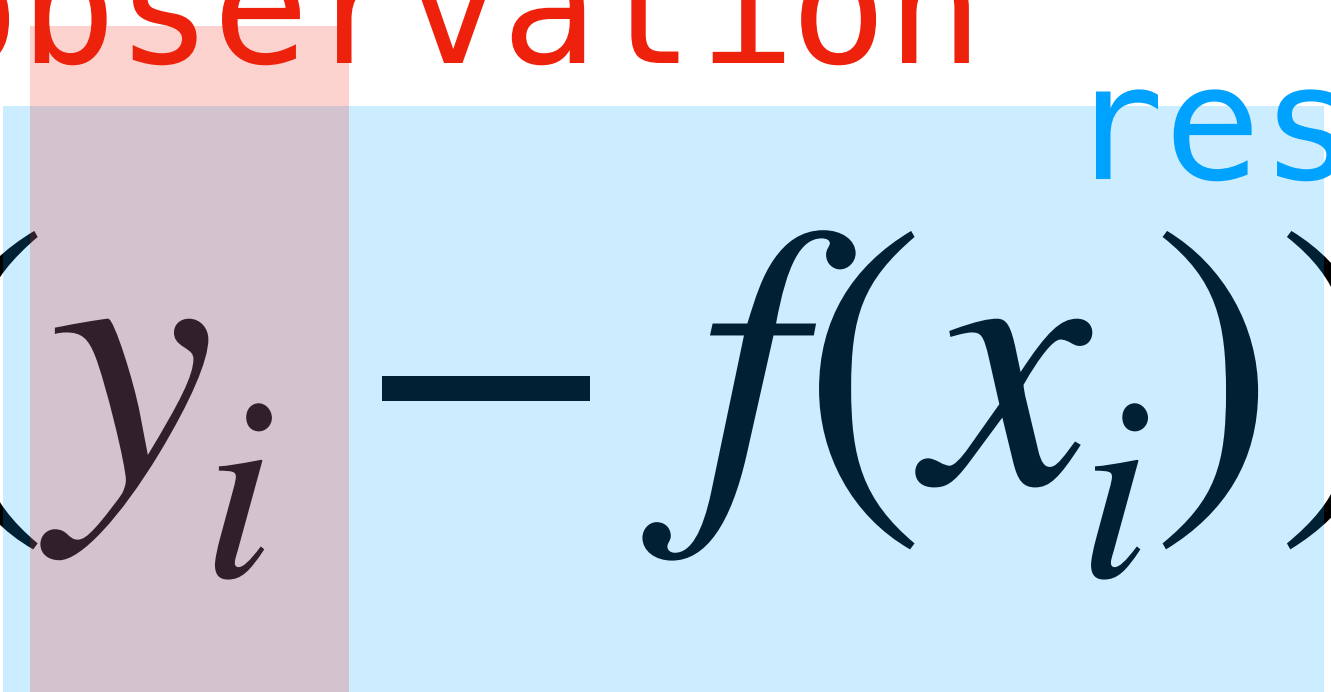
$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

residual

# Terminology: Least-Squares Error

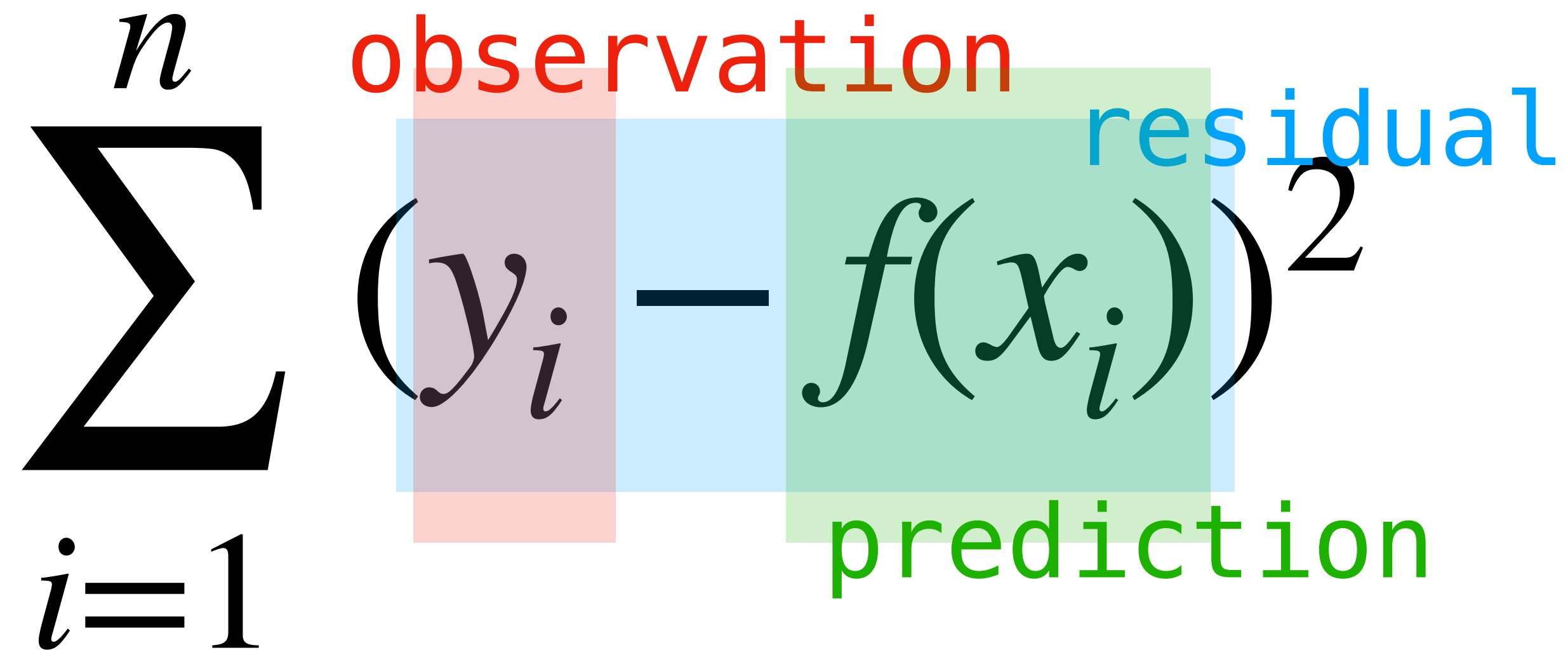
$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

observation residual



The diagram illustrates the components of the least-squares error formula. A light blue rectangular background covers the entire equation. A vertical light red rectangle highlights the term  $y_i$ , which is labeled 'observation' in red text above it. A horizontal light blue rectangle highlights the term  $f(x_i)$ , which is labeled 'residual' in blue text above it. The summation symbol  $\sum$  and the index  $i=1$  are not highlighted.

# Terminology: Least-Squares Error



The diagram illustrates the least-squares error formula with color-coded components. The summation symbol  $\sum$  is large and black. The index  $i=1$  is below it. The term  $y_i$  is inside a light purple box labeled "observation" in red. The minus sign  $-$  is in a light blue box. The term  $f(x_i)$  is inside a light green box labeled "prediction" in green. The entire expression is squared,  $)^2$ , and the word "residual" is written in blue to the right of the expression.

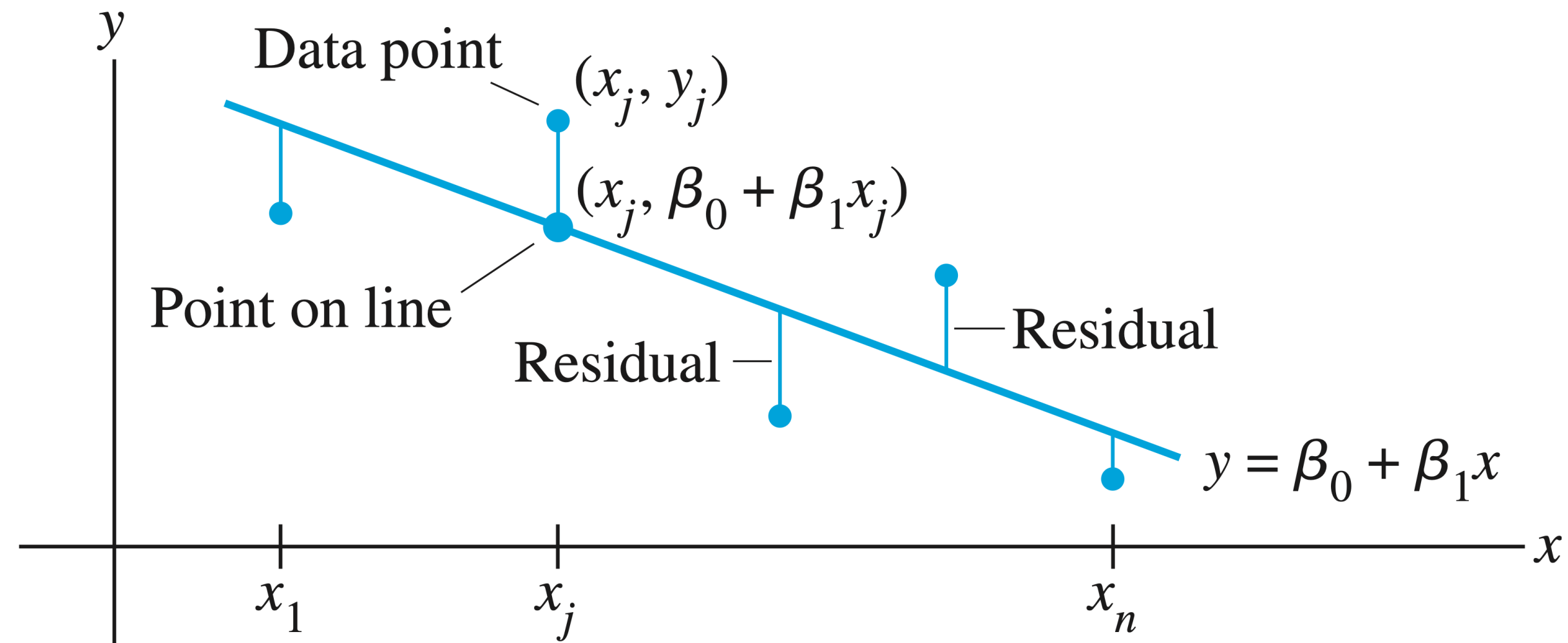
$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

observation

residual

prediction

# Terminology



$$\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, \text{data point } (x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\} \text{ dataset}$$

$$f(x) = \text{model parameters/regression coefficients } \beta_0 + \beta_1 x \text{ model}$$

independent variable  $x_i$

dependent variable (label)  $y_i$

dataset

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \text{observation } y_i - \text{prediction } f(x_i) \text{ residual } ^2$$

# How to: Finding the Least Squares Line

$$\beta_1 = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i - \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right) \left( \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \right)}{n \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^2} \quad \beta_0 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i - \beta_1 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$



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**Solution (First attempt).** Use these equations...

# How to: Finding the Least Squares Line

Don't memorize these.

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minimize for least-squares line

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These expressions look very similar.

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These expressions look very similar.

Can we design a matrix where finding a least squares solution gives us a least squares line?

# A Least Squares Problem

$$\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 = y_1$$

$$\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_2 = y_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_n = y_n$$



# A Least Squares Problem

In the "ideal" world, we could find parameters  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  such that all of these equations hold.

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**This is a linear system in the variables  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$**

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

# A Least Squares Problem

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

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In the "ideal" world,  
*this matrix equation*  
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In the "ideal" world,  
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In reality this system  
is unlikely to have a  
solution, **but maybe we  
can find an  
approximate solution.**

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$$\|X\vec{\beta} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n ((\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i) - y_i)^2$$

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The sum of squares of residuals is the squared distances between  $X\beta$  and  $\mathbf{y}$ .



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*Least squares solutions to this system give us parameters for least squares lines.*

# Recall: The Normal Equations

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**Theorem.** The set of least-squares solutions of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is the same as the set of solutions to

$$A^T A\mathbf{x} = A^T \mathbf{b}$$

# Recall: The Normal Equations

**Theorem.** The set of least-squares solutions of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is the same as the set of solutions to

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# Recall: The Normal Equations

**Theorem.** The set of least-squares solutions of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is the same as the set of solutions to

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**In particular, this set of solutions is nonempty**

(We just showed that if  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  is a least squares solution then  $A^T A \hat{\mathbf{x}} = A^T \mathbf{b}$ )

# Recall: Unique Least Squares Solutions

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

If  $A$  has linearly independent columns, then its unique least squares solution is defined as above.

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

**Just for Fun**

$$\begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \end{bmatrix} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{b}$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{n \sum_i x_i y_i - \left( \sum_i x_i \right) \left( \sum_i y_i \right)}{n \sum_i x_i^2 - \left( \sum_i x_i \right)^2}$$

Let's derive it:

$$A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} n & x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n \\ x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n & x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(A^T A)^{-1} = \frac{1}{n(\sum_i x_i^2) - (\sum_i x_i)^2} \begin{bmatrix} \sum_i x_i^2 & -\sum_i x_i \\ -\sum_i x_i & n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A^T \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_1 & \dots & x_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_i y_i \\ \sum_i x_i y_i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\det(A^T A)} \left( (-\sum_i x_i)(\sum_i y_i) + n(\sum_i x_i y_i) \right) \right] \quad \text{(something for } \beta_0 \text{)}$$

# How To: Least Squares Line

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



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**Problem.** Find the least squares line for the dataset  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ .

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**Problem.** Find the least squares line for the dataset  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ .

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

# Question

*Find the line of best fit for the dataset*

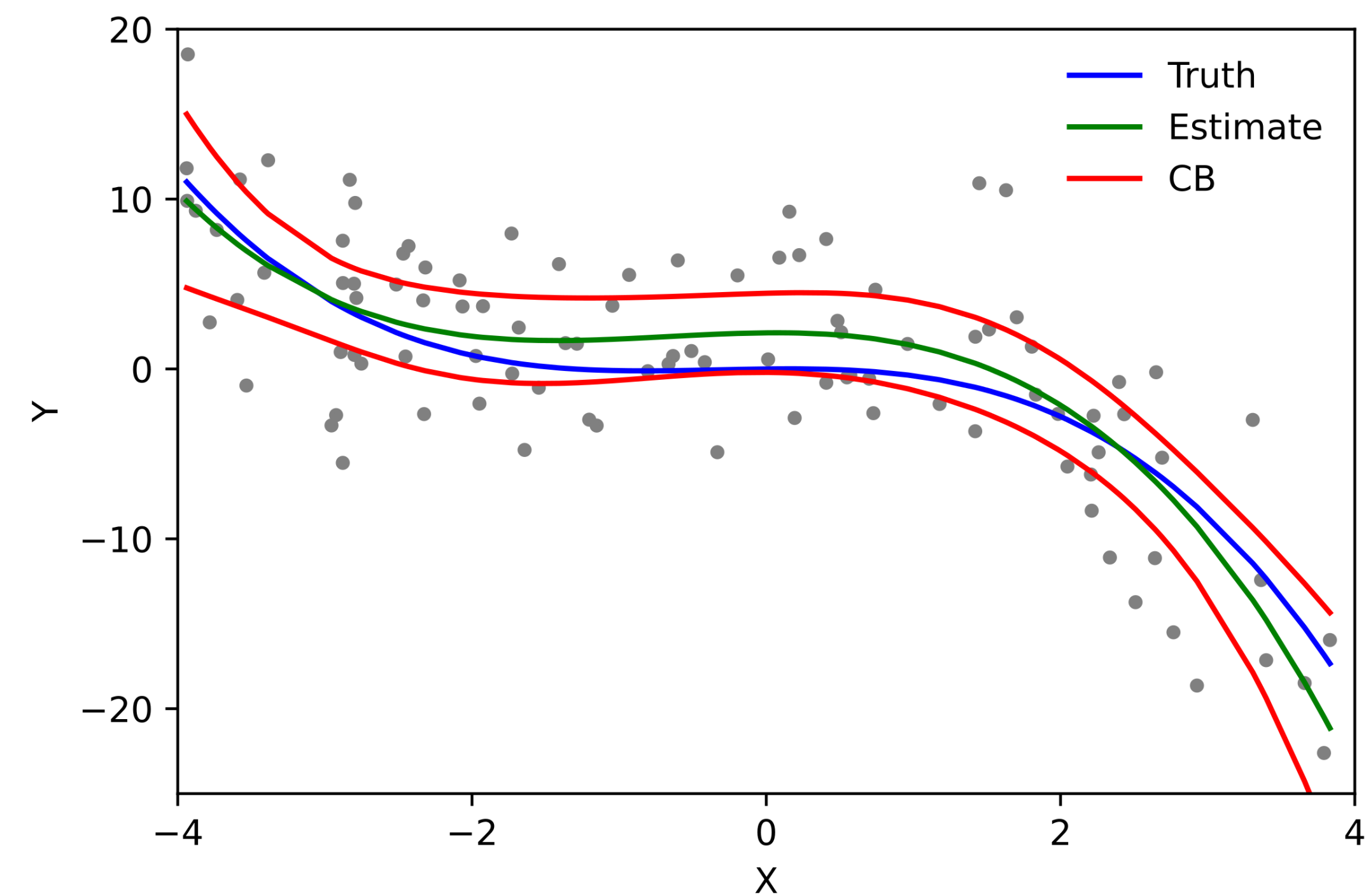
$$\{(0,3), (1,1), (-1,1), (2,3)\}$$

*by using the the least-squares method.*

*If you have time, graph your result and use it to "predict" the corresponding value for the input 4.*

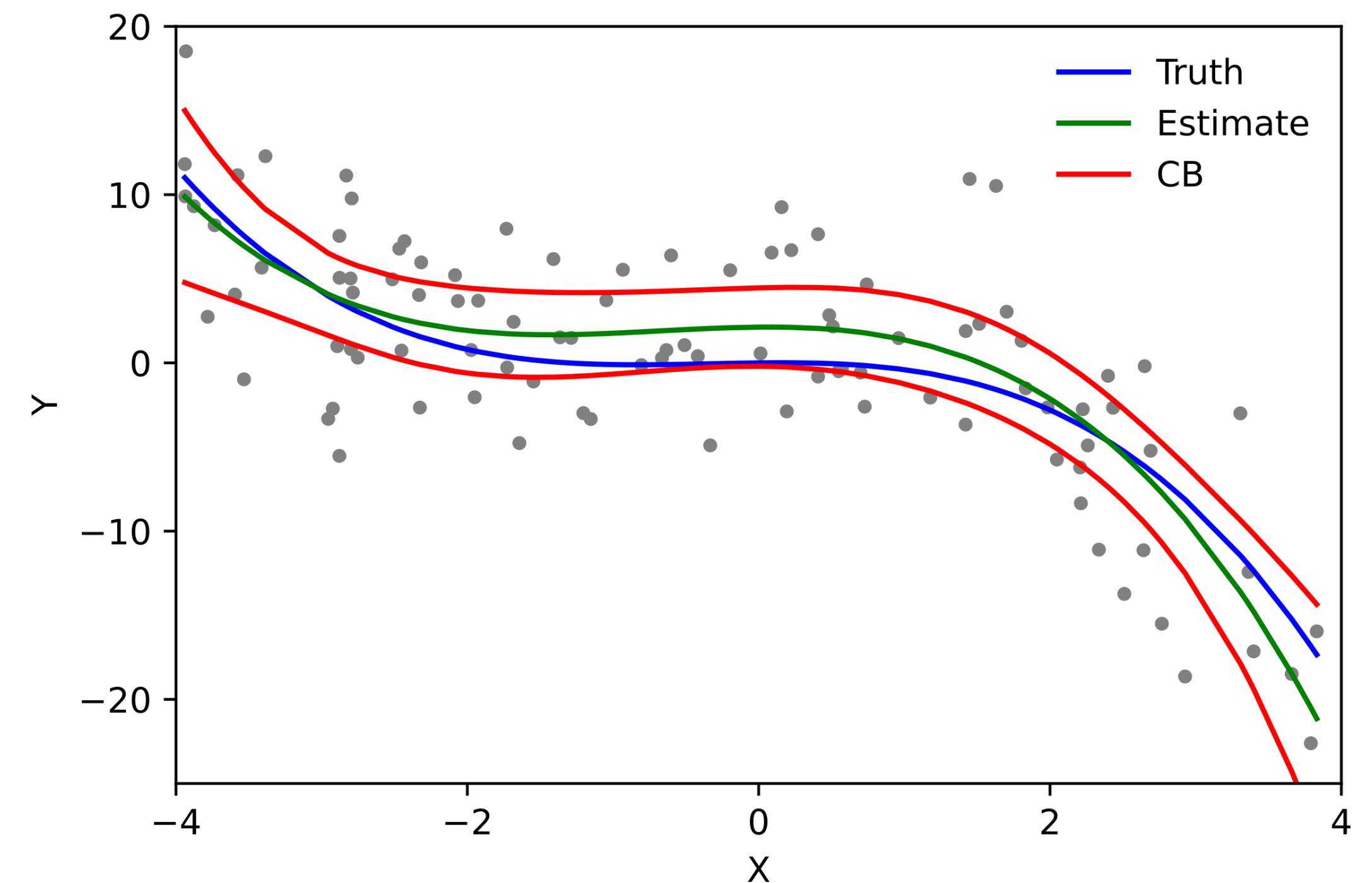


# General Regression



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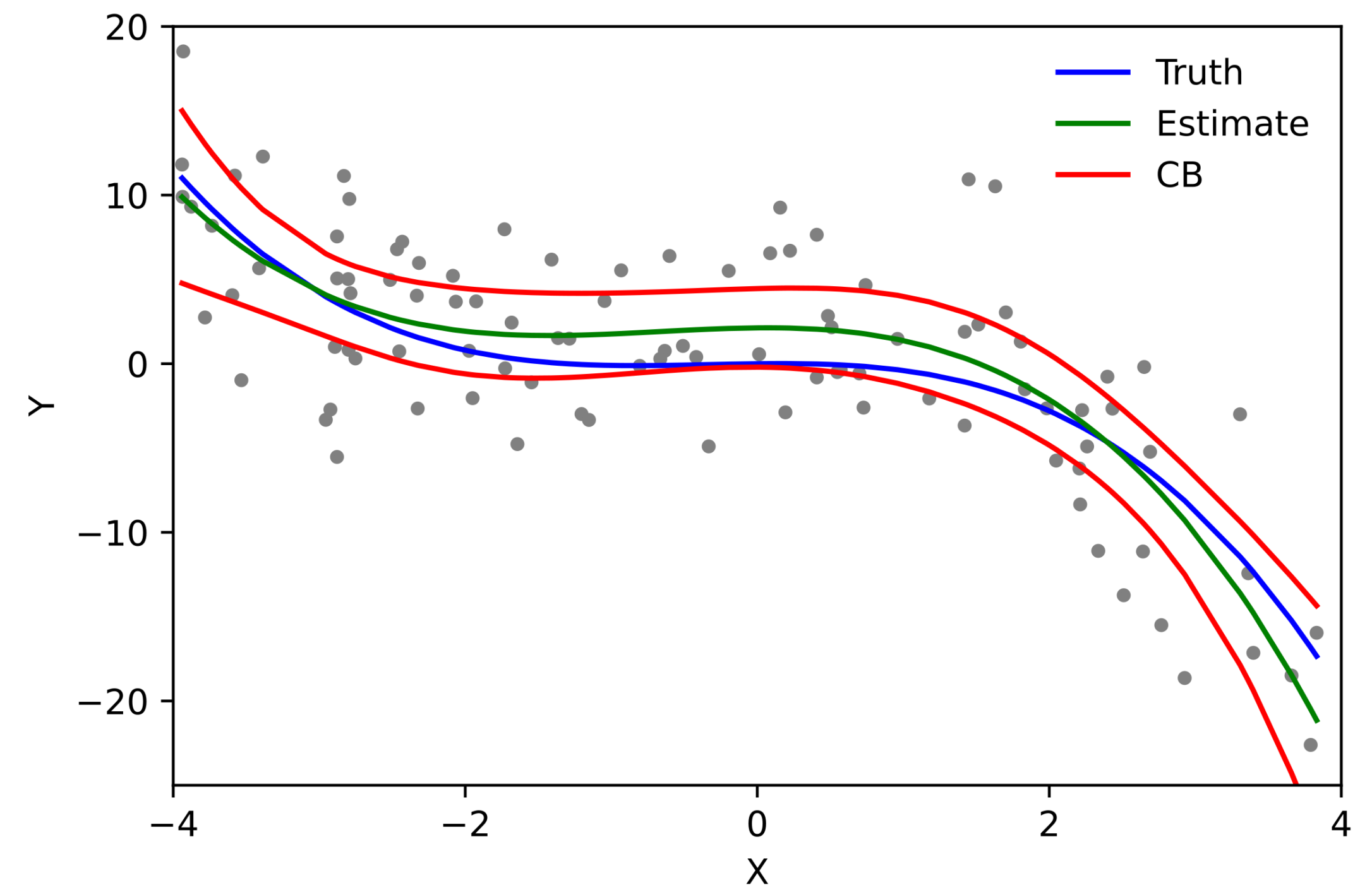
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What we are estimating is a mathematical function

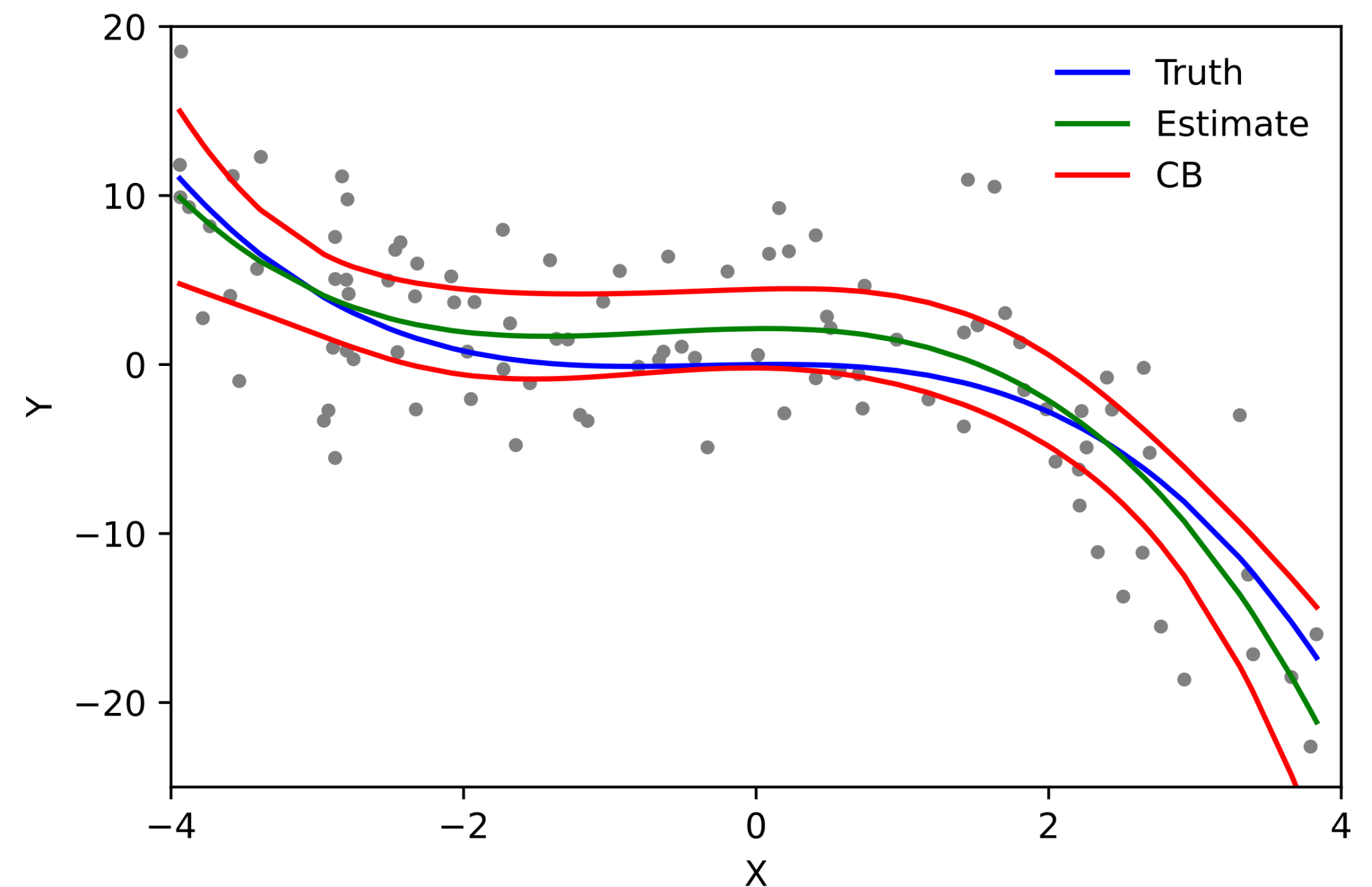


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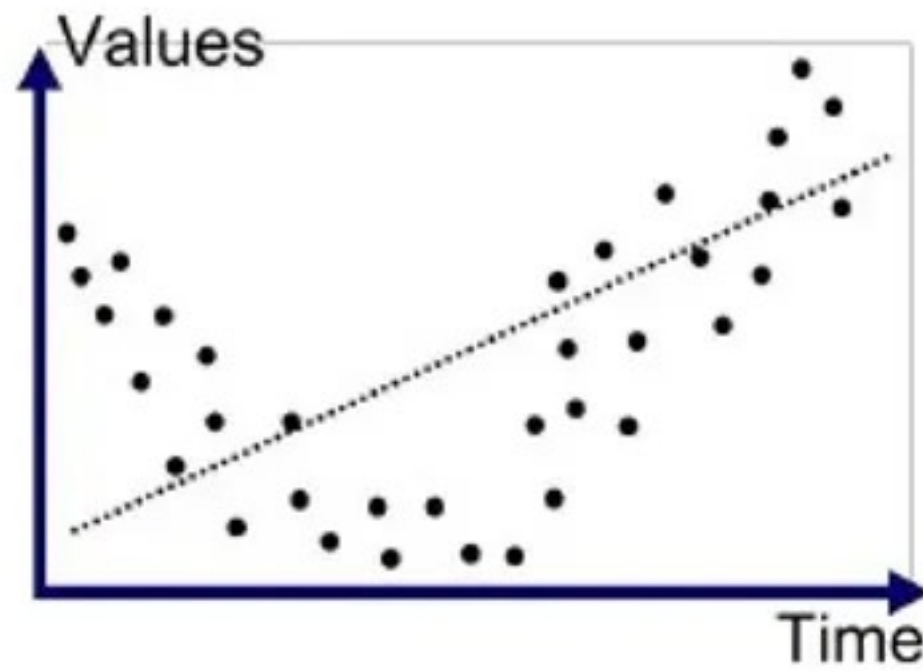
What we are estimating is a mathematical function

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

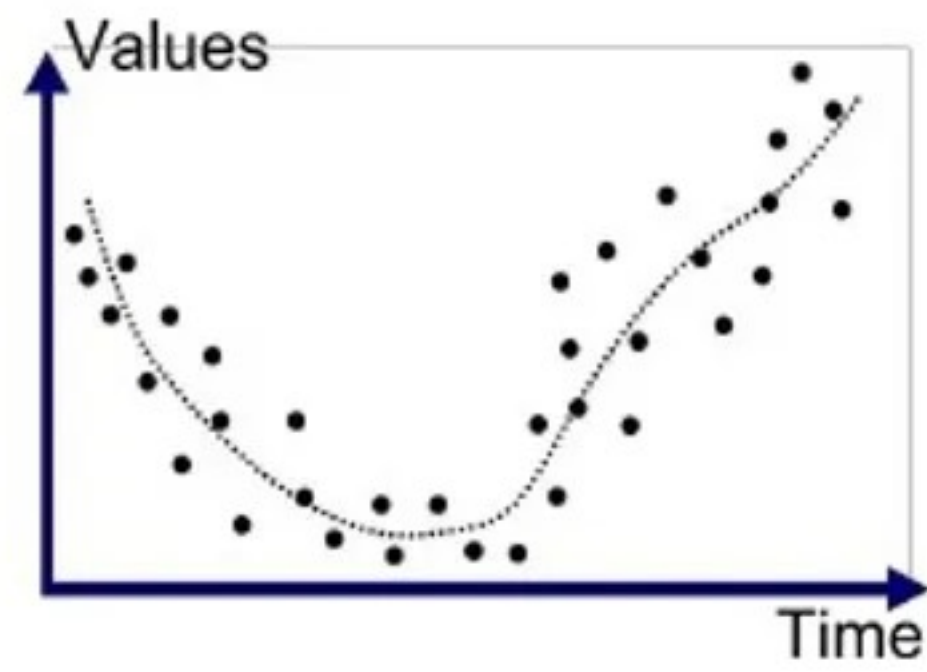




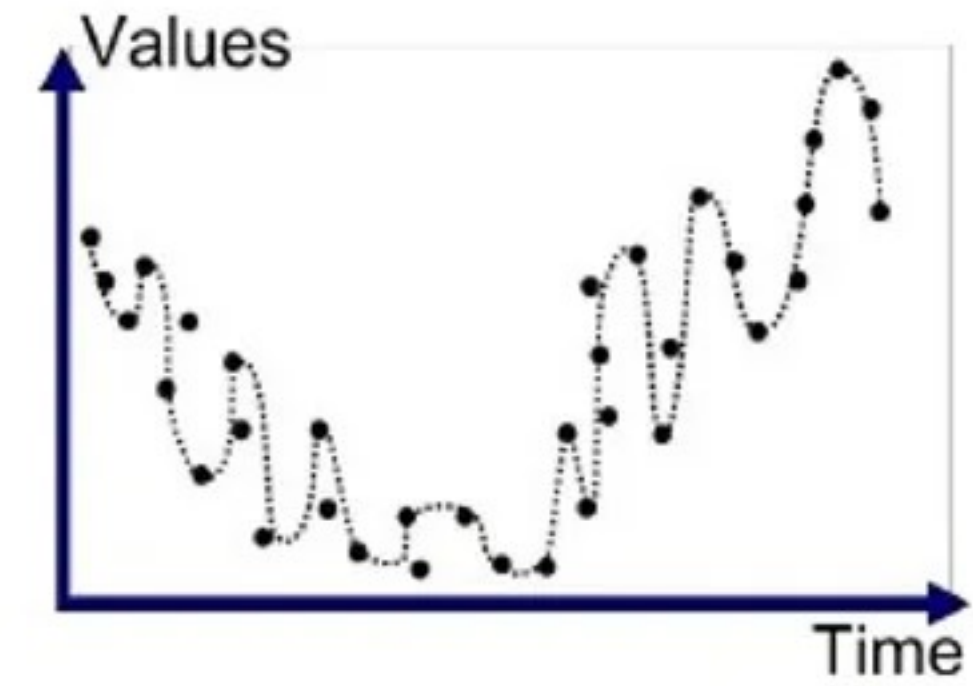
# Models



Underfitted

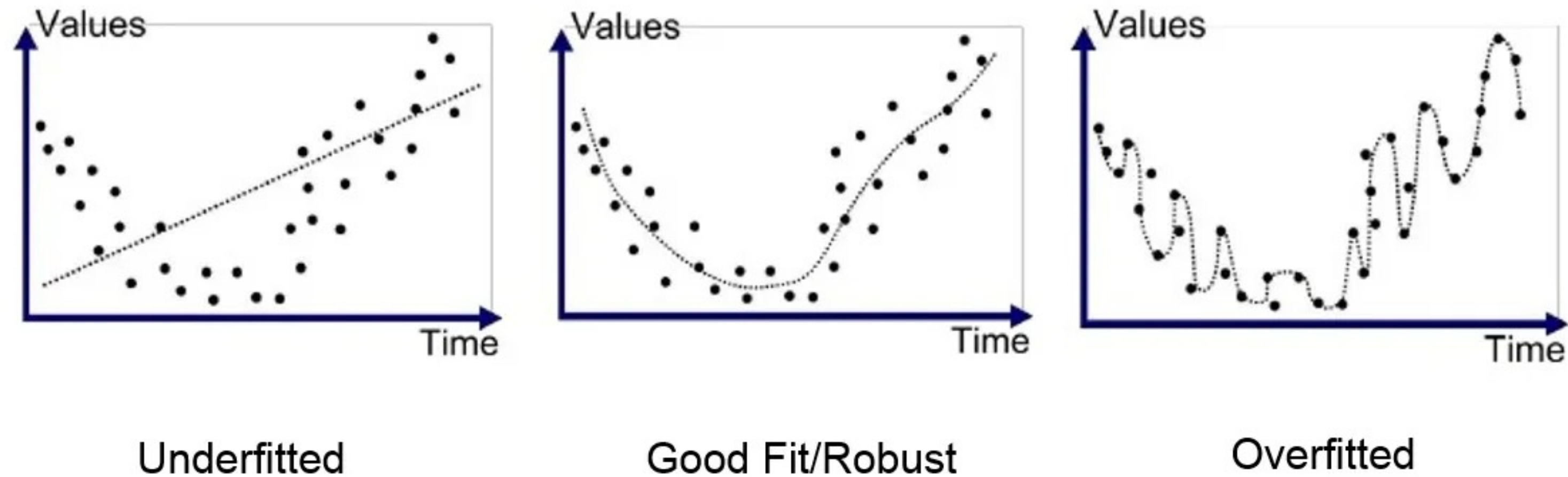


Good Fit/Robust



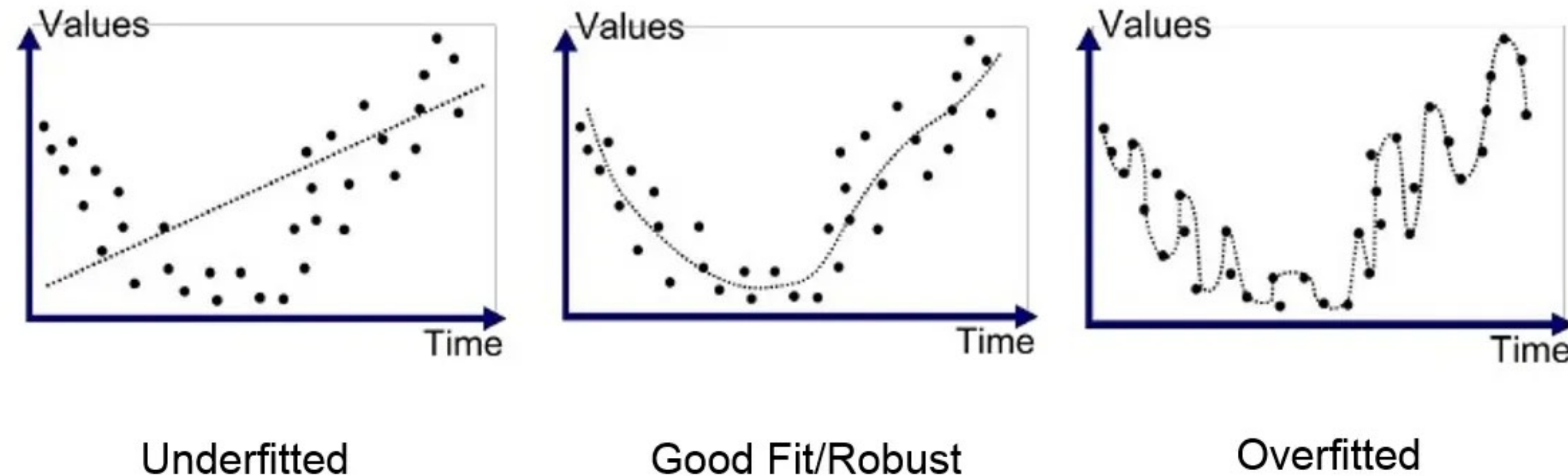
Overfitted

# Models



Therefore, a *model* is a mathematical function.

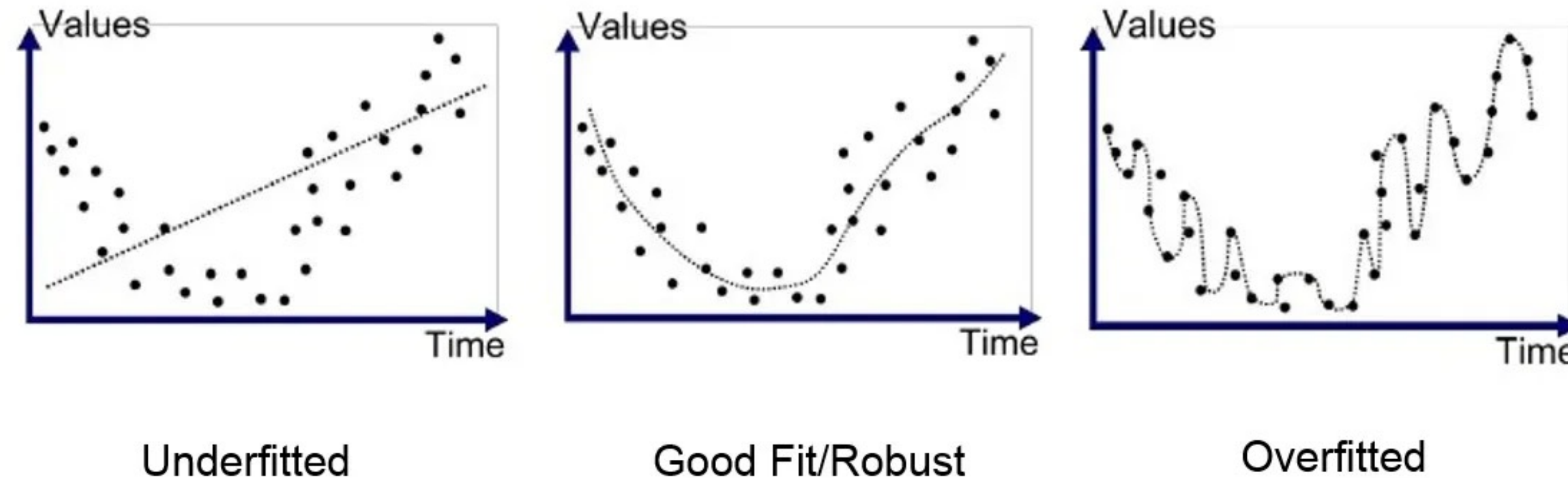
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# Models

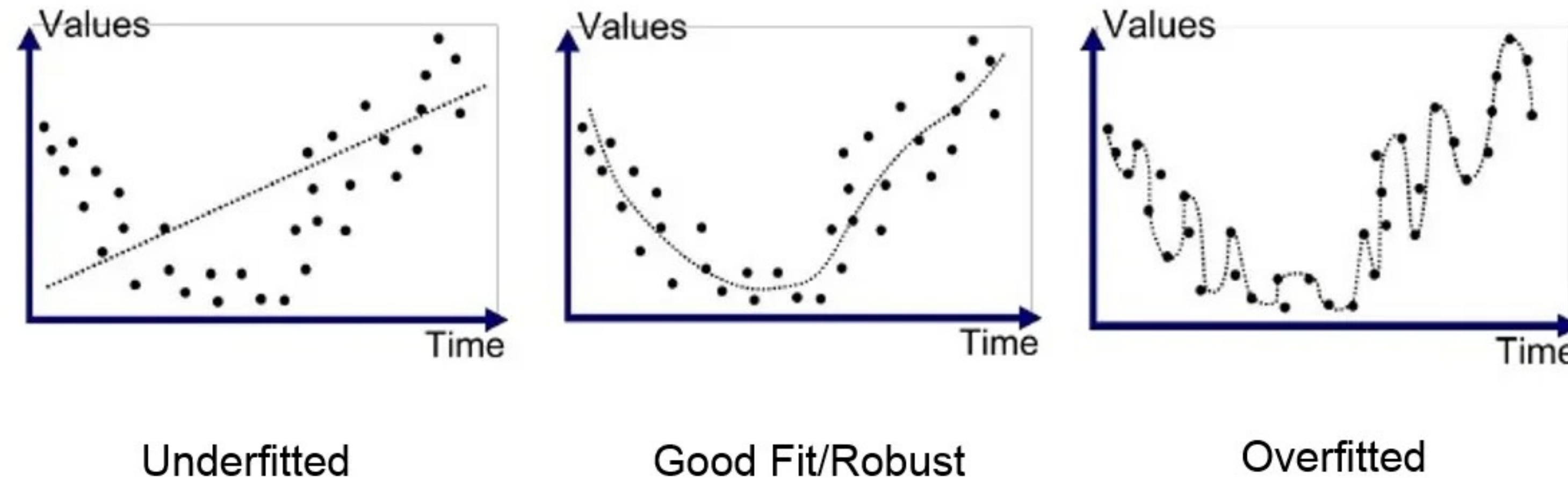


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# Models



Therefore, a *model* is a mathematical function.

We're interested in finding mathematical functions that "correctly" model the data we've seen.

But this would be a bit boring if we *just* wanted to model data we've seen.

*(Advanced) We pick models from weaker classes of functions so that they are more robust when we **predict** values using the model.*

# How To: Prediction



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**Problem.** Given the data  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k)\}$  use the line of best fit to predict the value of  $y'$  for the input  $x'$ .

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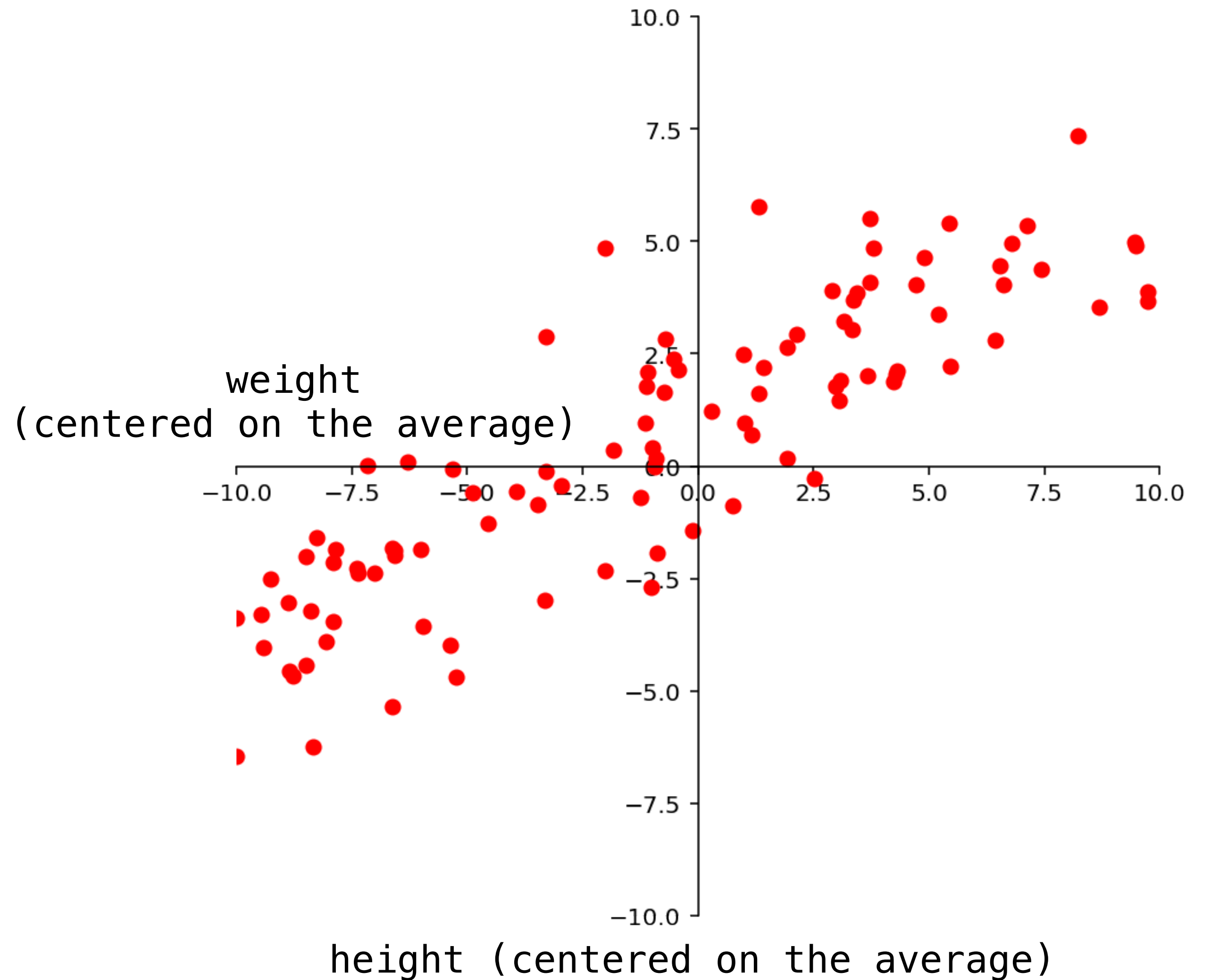
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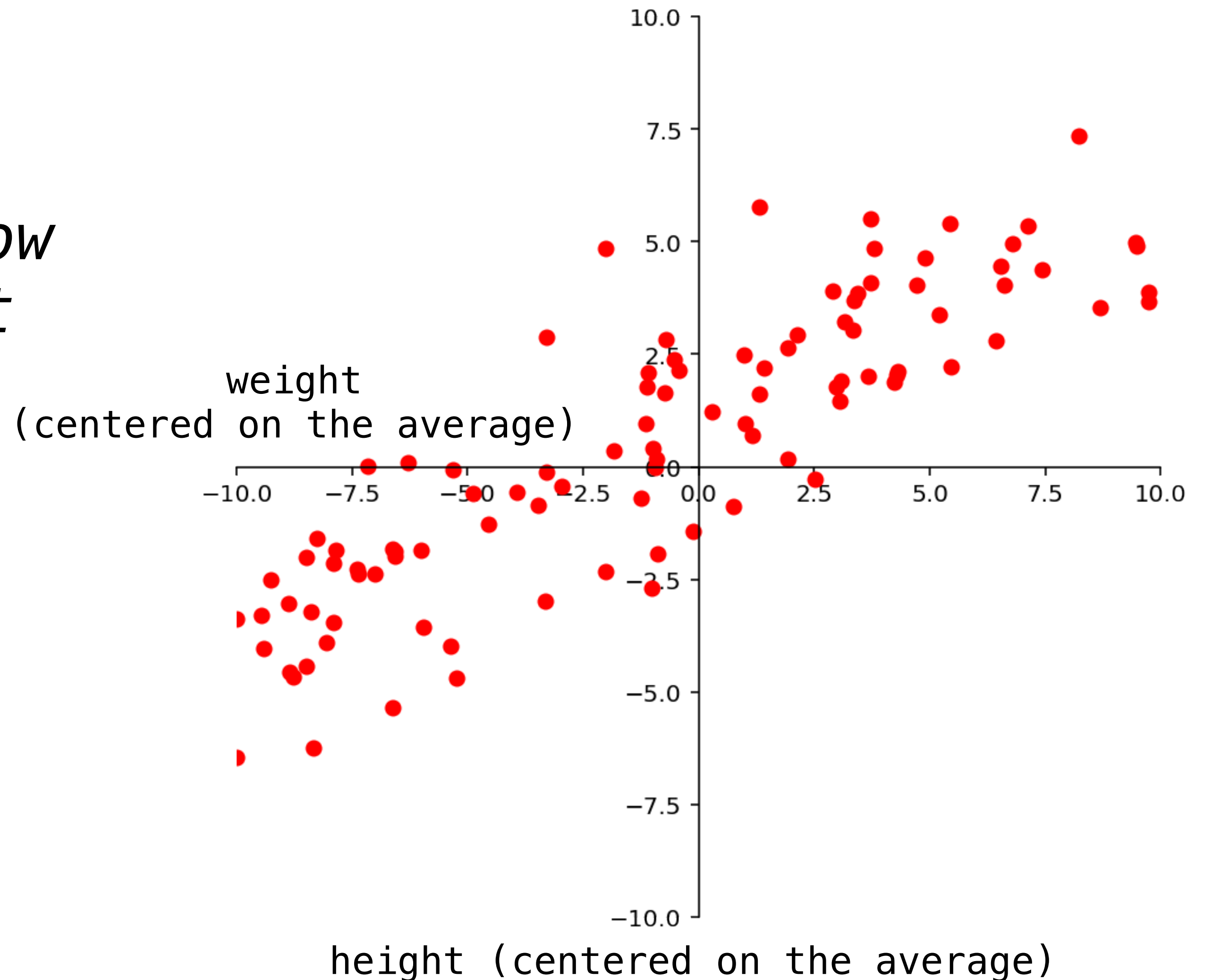
**This generalizes to any  
model fitting problem**

# Example: Height from Weight



# Example: Height from Weight

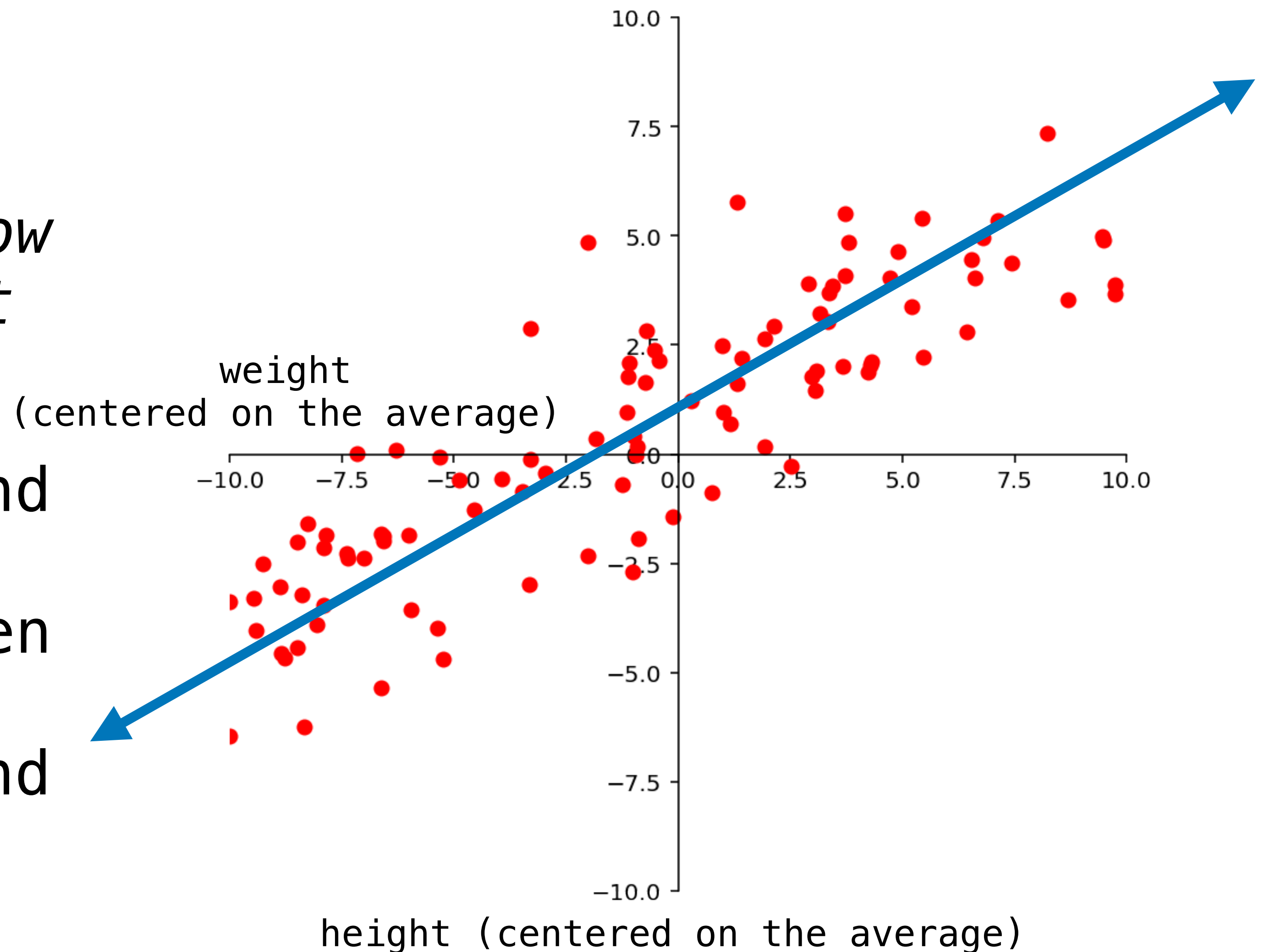
Suppose we know that person  $X$  weighs 150lb. *How would we guess the height of person  $X$ ?*



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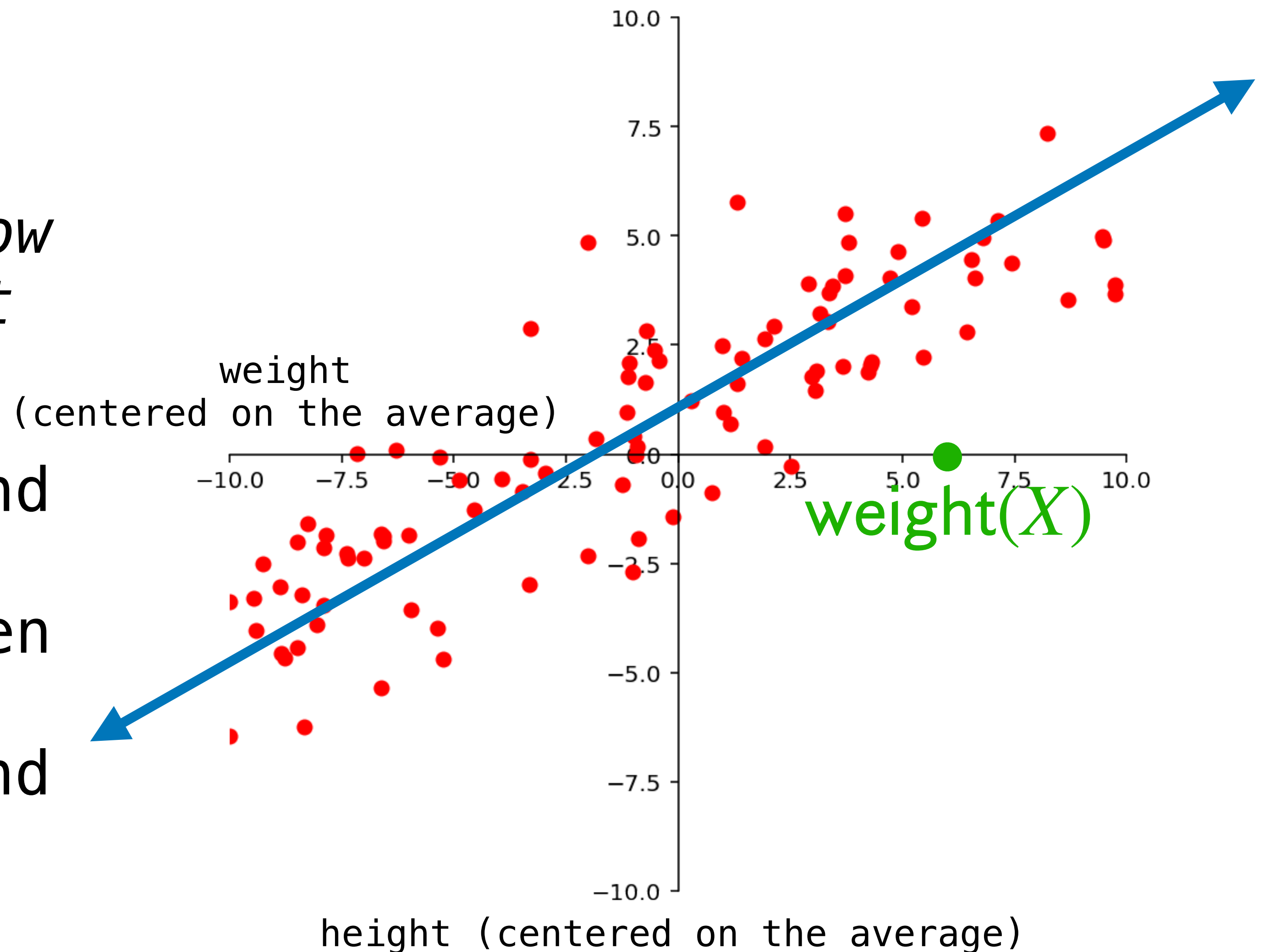
If we know the heights and weights of a population (from which  $X$  comes), then we can **find the line of best fit for that data** and then use that function.



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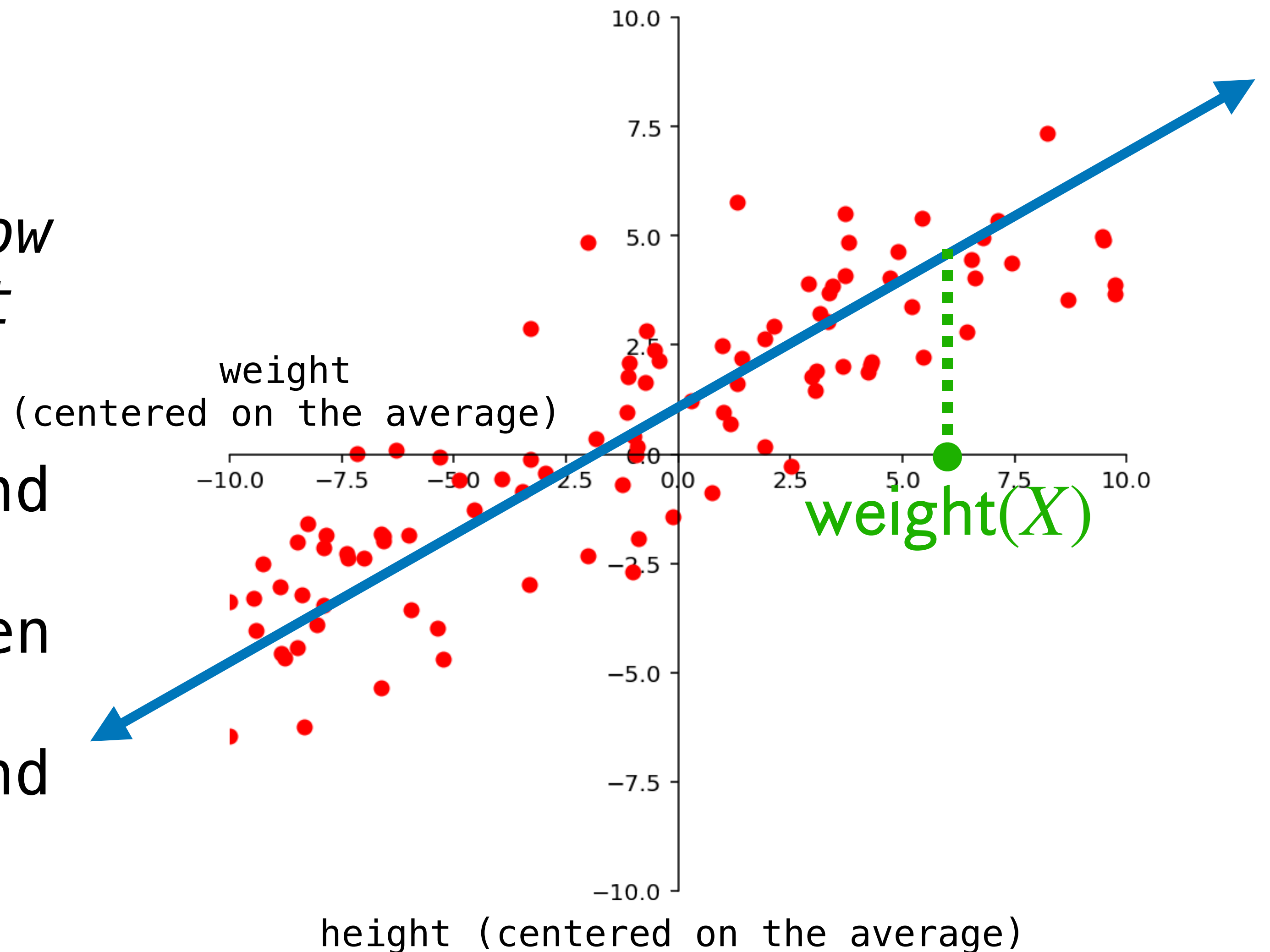
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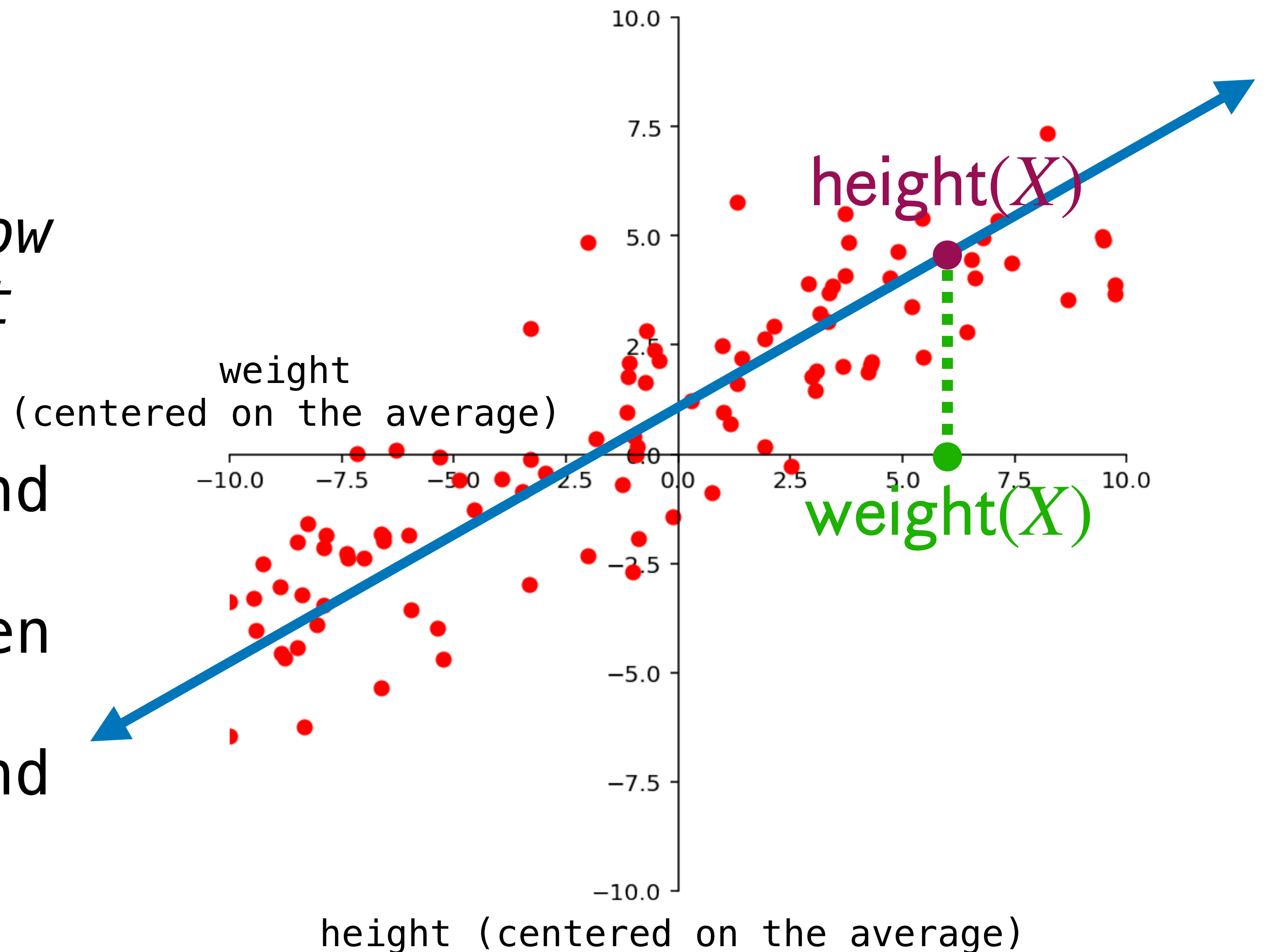




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If we know the heights and weights of a population (from which  $X$  comes), then we can **find the line of best fit for that data** and then use that function.



# Question

*Find the line of best fit for the dataset*

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

*If you have time, graph your result and use it to "predict" the corresponding value for the input 4.*



**Answer**

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

# Linear Models and Least Squares Regression

# "Vectors" of Generalization

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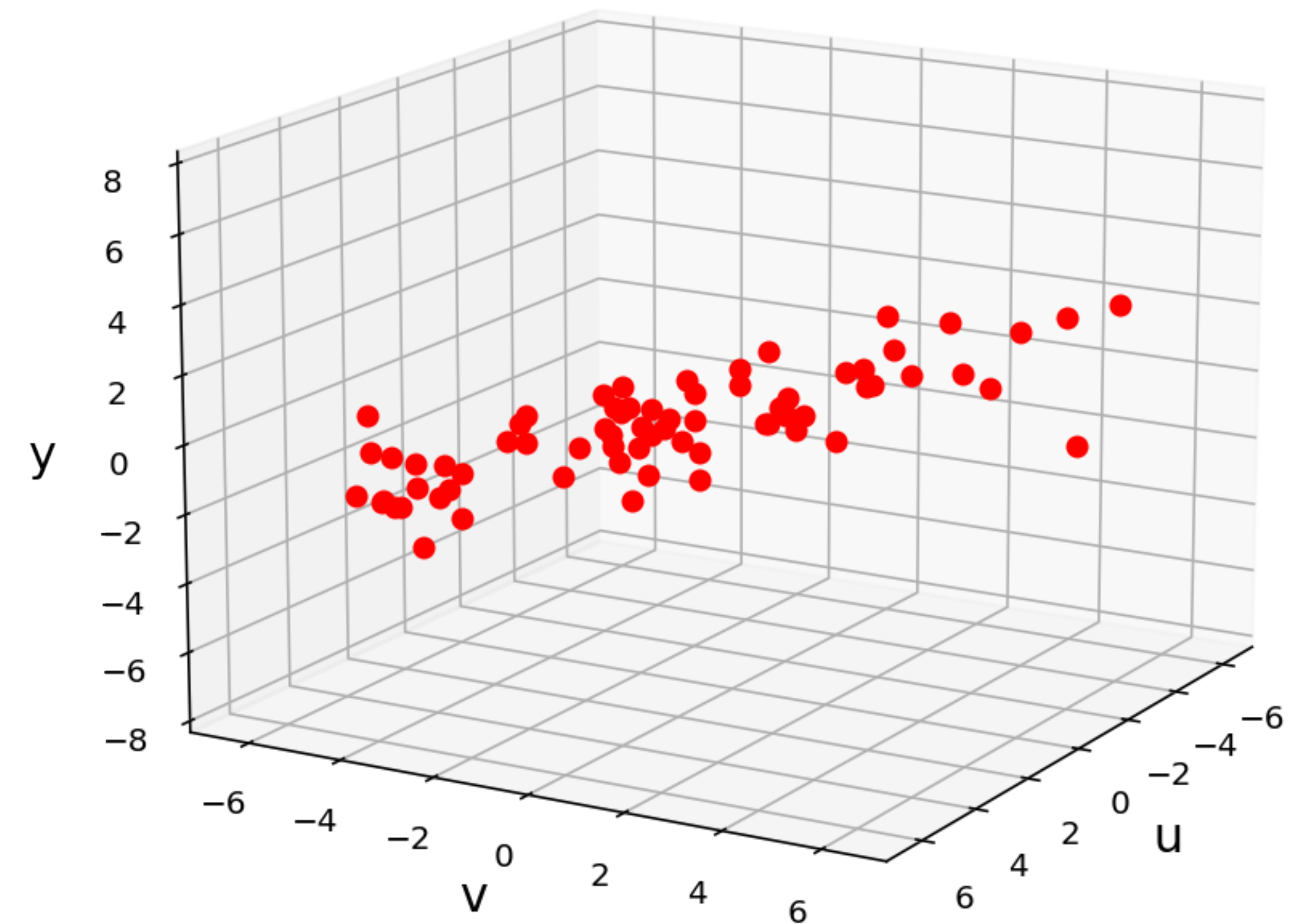
# Example: Terrain Data

**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 the plane  
which "best" fits the  
data.

Figure 23.1

Terrain Data for Multiple Regression



# Example: Terrain Data

**Dataset:**  $\{(x_1, y_1, z_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k, z_k)\}$   
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**Problem:** Find  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$  such that

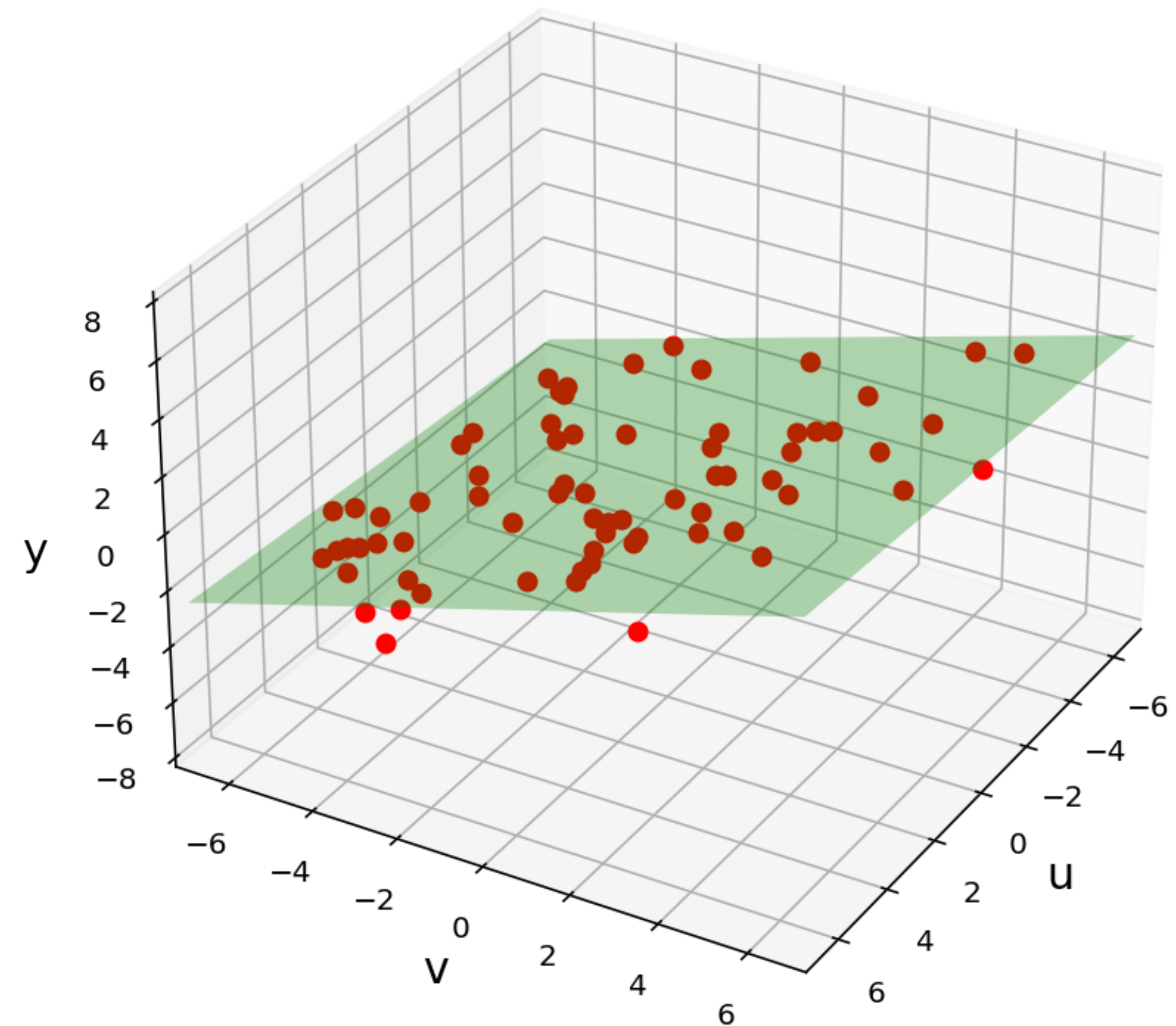
$$f(x, y) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 y$$

which minimizes

$$\sum_{i=1}^k (f(x_i, y_i) - z_i)^2$$

Figure 23.2

Multiple Regression Fit to Data



# Example: Terrain Data

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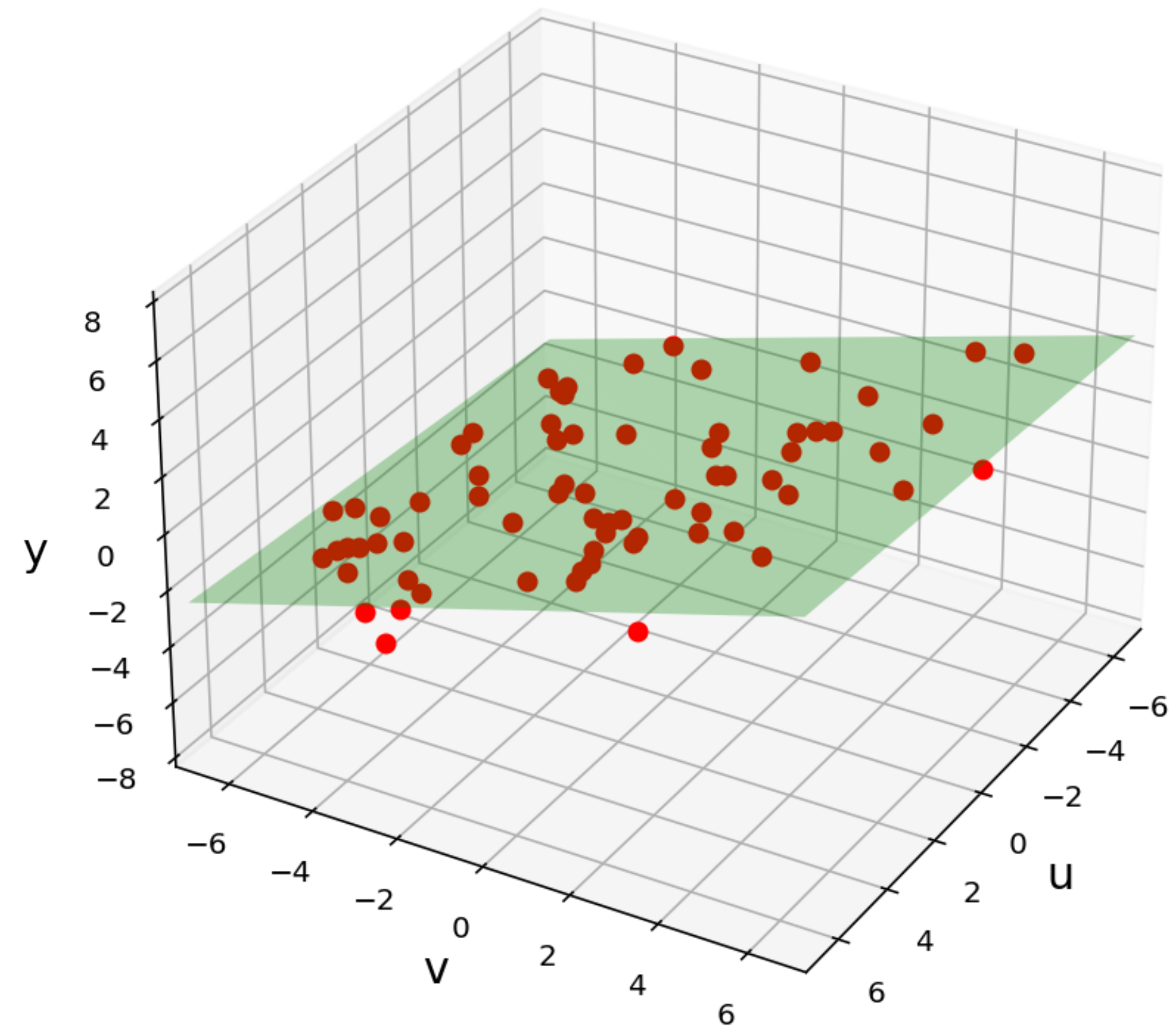
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*$f(x, y)$  is a good approximation of the altitude.*

Figure 23.2

Multiple Regression Fit to Data





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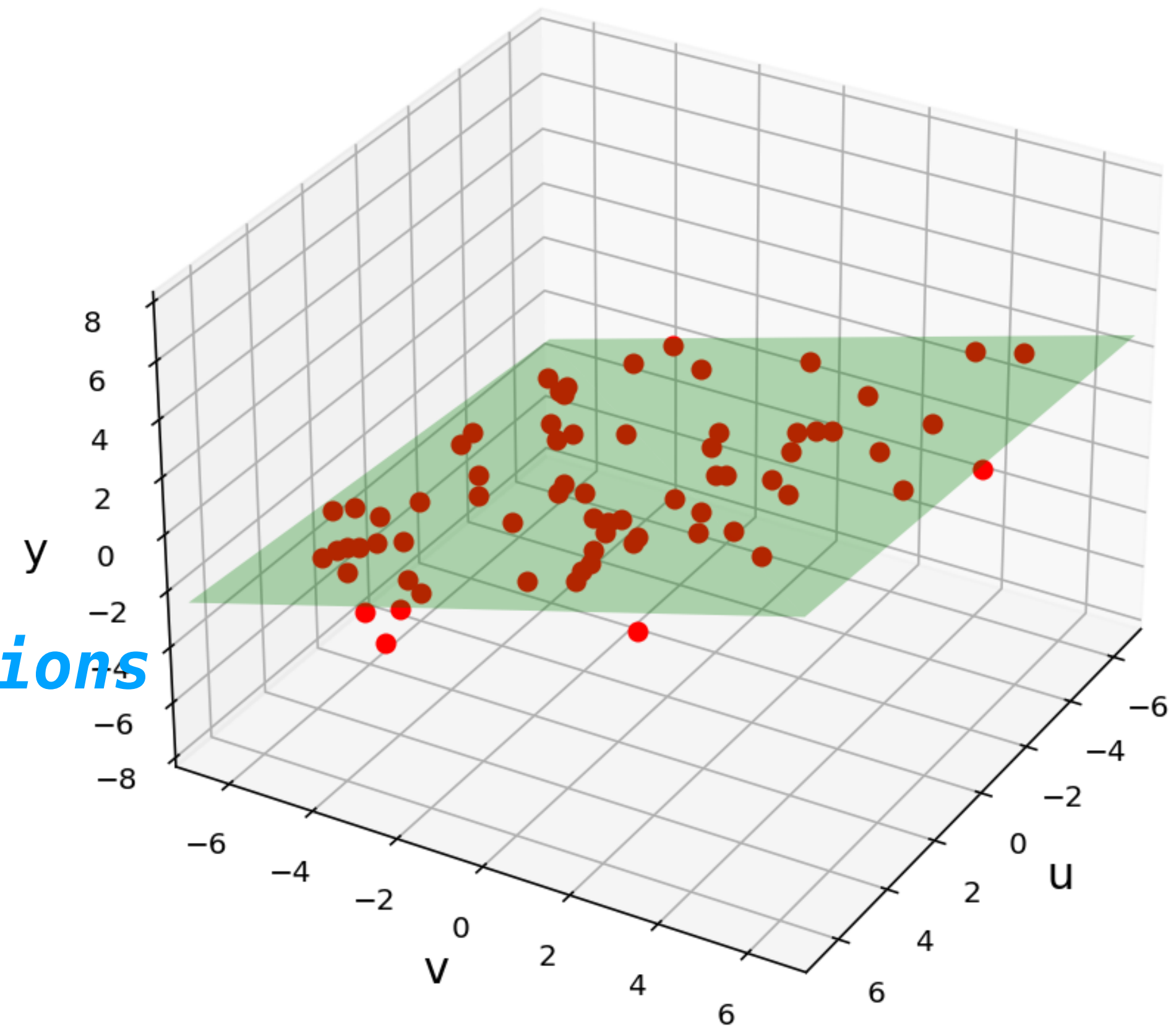
*recall: planes are given by linear equations*  
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**Step 1:** Set up an (almost assuredly inconsistent) system of linear equations in terms of the variables  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \overset{\textcolor{blue}{X}}{x_1} & y_1 \\ 1 & x_2 & y_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_k & y_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \overset{\textcolor{blue}{\vec{\beta}}}{\beta_0} \\ \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{\textcolor{blue}{Z}}{z_1} \\ z_2 \\ \vdots \\ z_k \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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$$\hat{\vec{\beta}} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T \mathbf{z}$$

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



# An Aside: Unique Least Squares

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & y_1 \\ 1 & x_2 & y_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_k & y_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \vdots \\ z_k \end{bmatrix}$$

**Question (Conceptual).** *Why can almost always assume that the columns of this matrix are linearly independent?*

# Answer

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If the columns were linearly dependent, then one of our independent variables can be computed in terms of the others.

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First off, this is very unlikely.

Second, this variable could be then be thought of as a *dependent* variable.

It wouldn't contribute anything when using the least squares method.

# "Vectors" of Generalization




1. What if we have *more than one* independent value?

**multiple regression, (hyper)plane of best fit**

2. What if our data is not *exactly* linear.

**e.g., polynomial regression**

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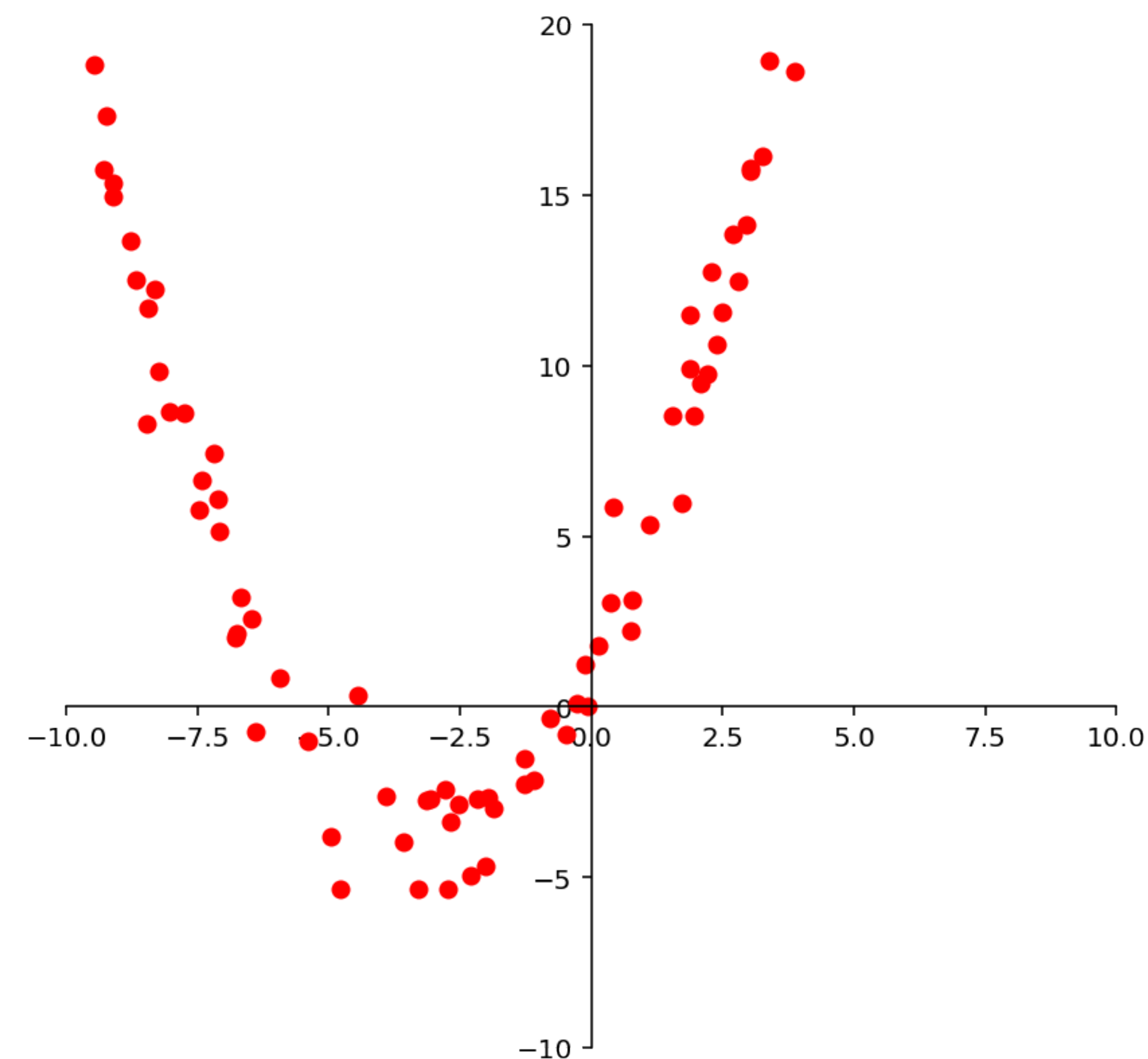
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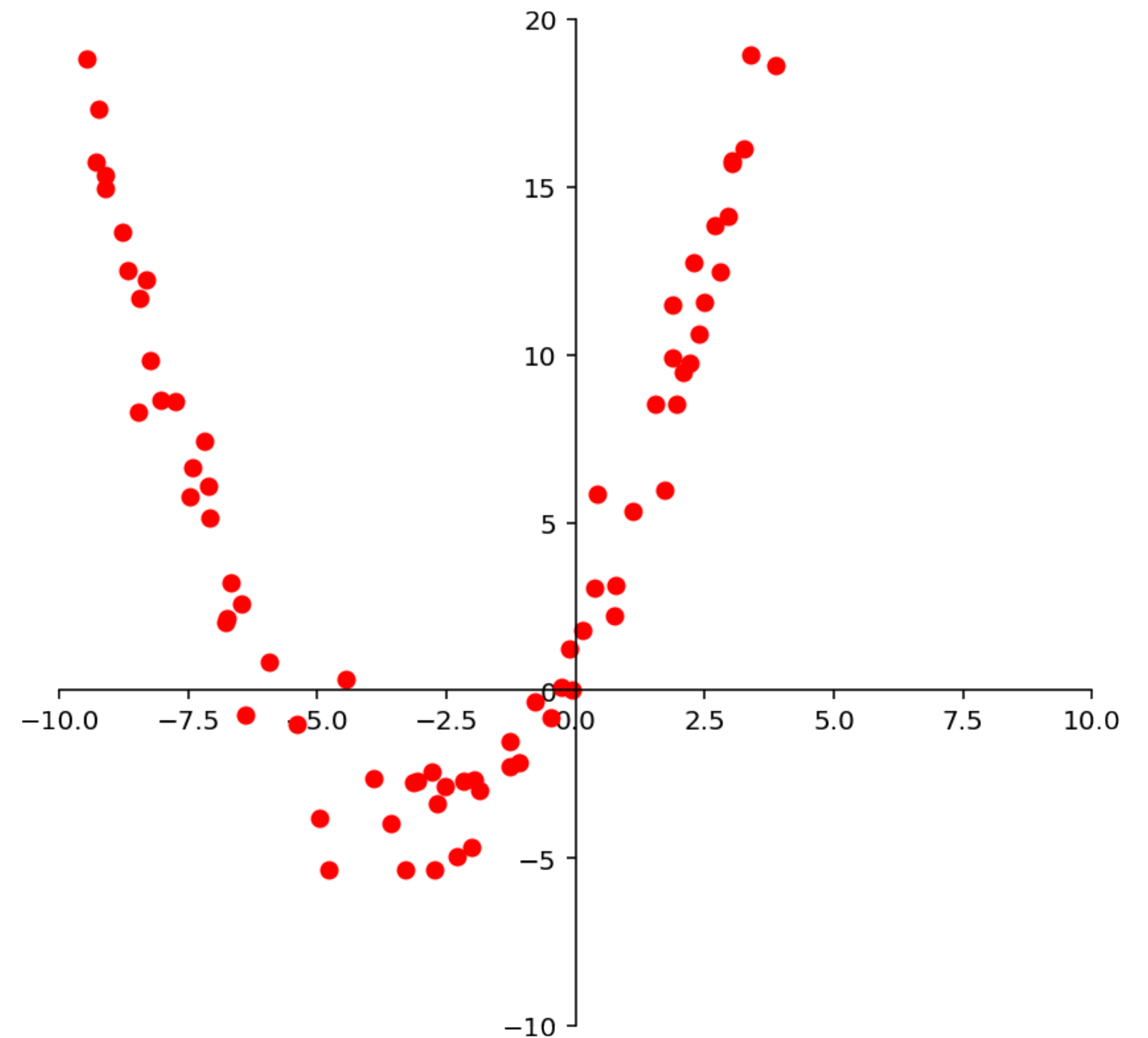


# Example: Best Fit Quadratic



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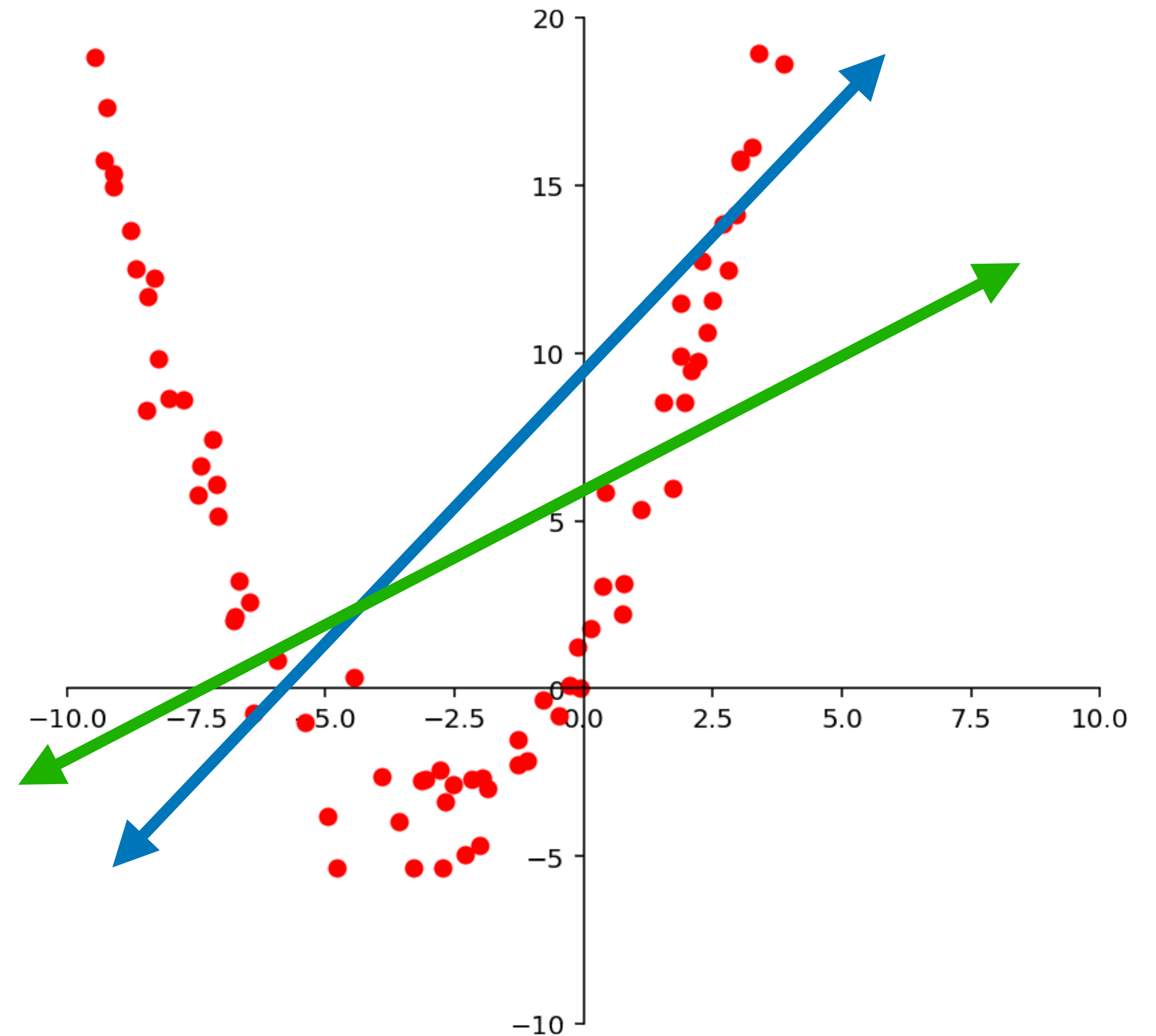
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**The issue:** There is no good line to approximate this data.

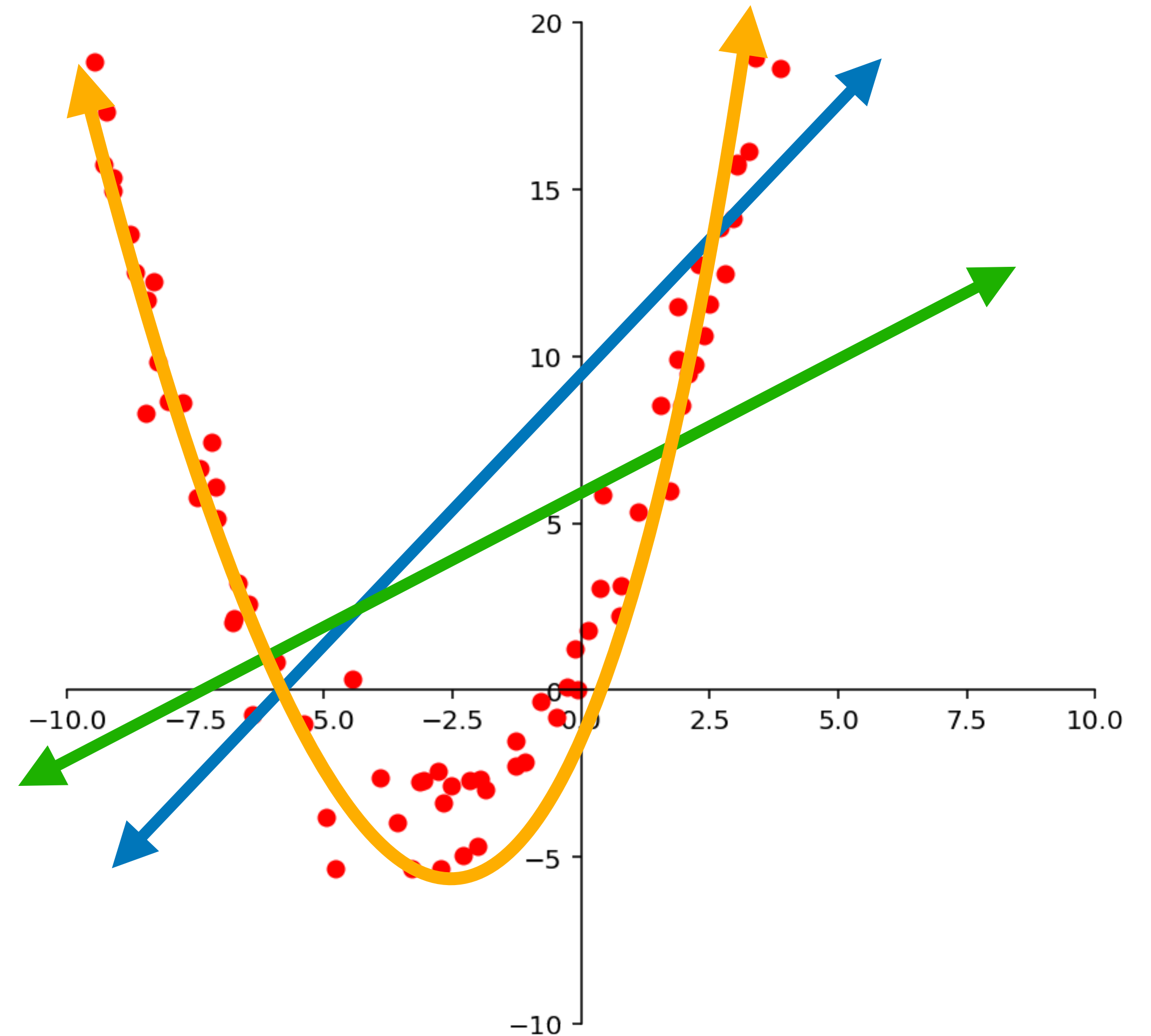


# Example: Best Fit Quadratic

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**What about a parabola?**



# Example: Best Fit Quadratic

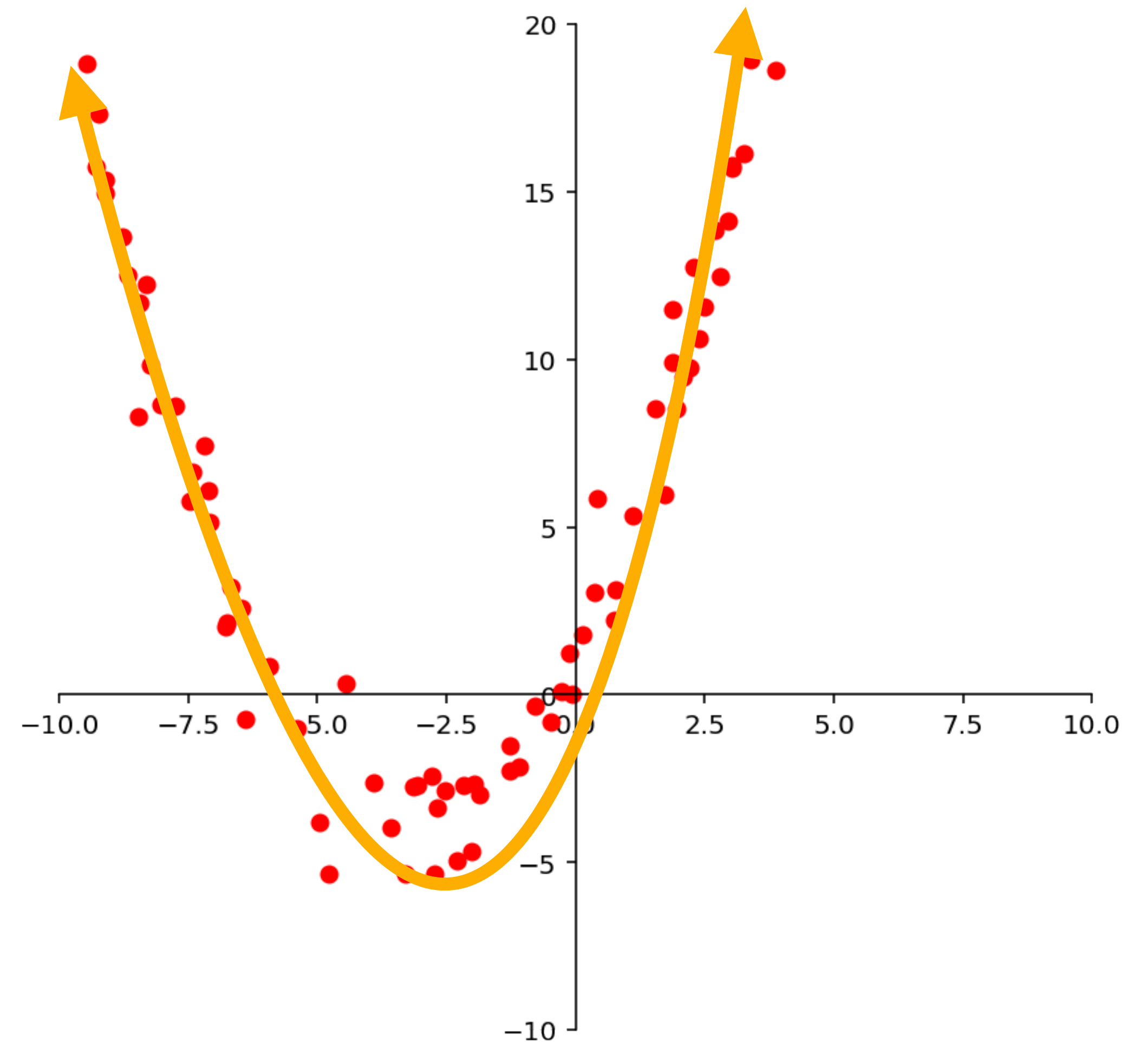
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$$\hat{\vec{\beta}} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T \mathbf{y}$$

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

# The Takeaway

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

# Linear in Parameters

**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

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

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

Example:

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

# General Linear Regression

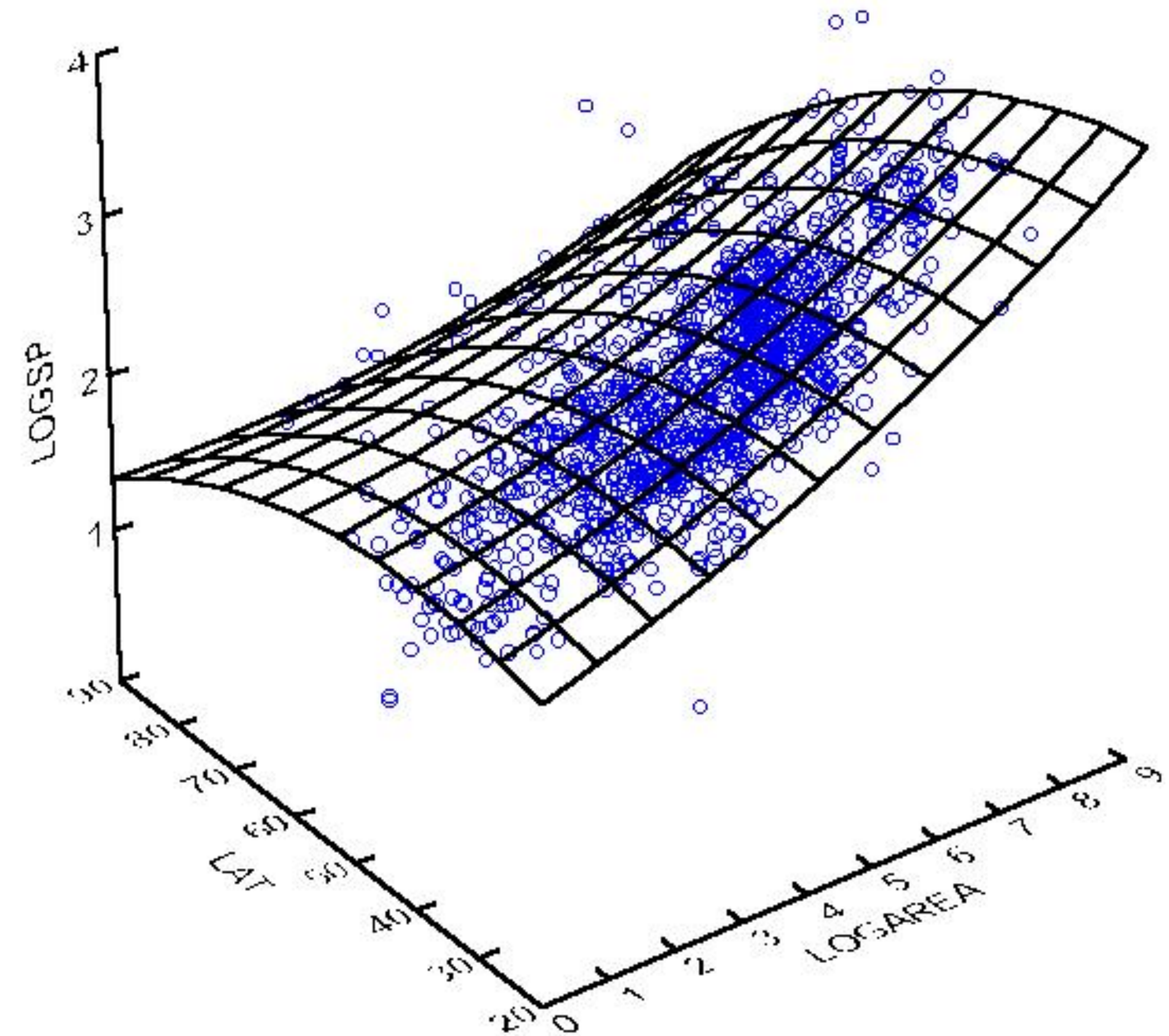
**dataset:**  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_m, y_m)\}$  where  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$

**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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design matrix

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

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



# 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

$$\sum_{i=1}^k (f_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k}(\mathbf{x}_i) - y_i)^2$$

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

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

# How To: Design Matrices

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

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**Concerns for another class.**