**COST FUNCTION INTUITION**

**Let’s get some intuition about how this cost function works.**

Chart

Description automatically generated

Let’s simplify this:

Schematic

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Restricted to always go through origin.

So now we have two functions:

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Let’s imagine some training data:

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

Let’s pick a value for w, say w=1. So slope is 1.

(plot the graph)

A picture containing text, watch, clock, gauge

Description automatically generated

Calculate this for each data point. They should all come out to zero!

Let’s plot this separately. W on indep axis, J(w) dep axis.

Chart

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What if w=0.5?

Chart

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What if w=0? (horizontal line)

Chart

Description automatically generated

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

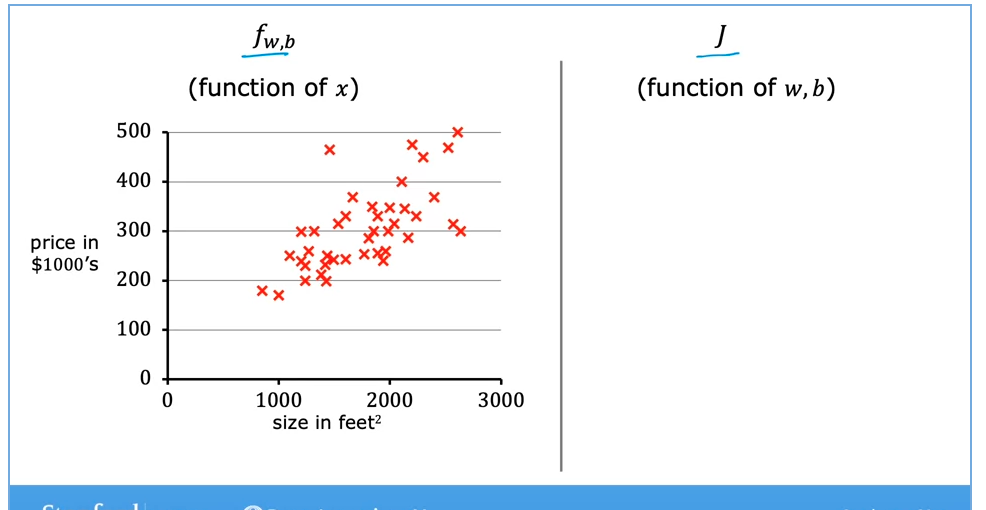
Key ideas:

* Each choice of w produces a LINE on the left graph, but a POINT on the right graph.
* How do we choose a w so that the J(w) function is minimized?
* For this example, it’s w=1
* Text

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**COST FUNCTION INTUITION IN GENERAL CASE**

But, now what if we let b be anything, not just zero?



Let’s make up some numbers for w and b. say w=0.06 and b=50.

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

So this model isn’t great, it consistently underestimates. Our old graph of J had w on the x-axis and J on the y-axis. So we had our graph that always looked like a parabola. But now this graph is in 3 dimensions, with w and b as independent variables and J has the dependent variable.

[show 3d plot]. NOTE THAT THIS IS JUST AN EXAMPLE, not the the real thing.

So this now a surface. And any point on the surface represents a particular choice of w and b. Just like in the previous example where any particular point on the line represented a particular choice of w.

**CONTOUR PLOTS**

Draw a mountain. Imagine we draw lines of equal height above the ground around the mountain. Fly above the mountain, looking down.

Imagine slicing the mountain horizontally. So each slice gets a collection of points all at the same height above the ground.

Do an elongated mountain in 1 dimension, so we have ellipses.

Chart

Description automatically generated

So now return to the plots. The left plot has lines of f for different values of w, b. These correspond to points on the right graph of J. So where is the minimum on the right graph? It’s at the center of the circles/ovals.

(Remember J is not the y axis anymore, it’s represented abstractly as a “height” coming out of the page/screen).

So now, equally bad lines on the left graph (that generate the exact same amount of squared error) all correspond to the same value of J on the right graph. So they’ll all be on the same circle/oval.

(Do these examples, show plots in notebook) cost function intuition notebook

**OUR CONTOUR PLOTS**

Put on board the housing data on left, and right draw the contour plots from the notebook above.

**Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated**

So imagine w=-0.15, b = 800. Then we get this LINE on the left, and this POINT on the right.

This line sucks! Many of the predictions are quite far from the line!

So the point on the right graph is far from the center.

Another example. W = 0, b = 360.

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

One more example

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated