

## Step-1

By the least squares method, we have the equation  $A^T A \hat{x} = A^T b$

$$\text{is } \begin{bmatrix} (1,1) & (1,x) \\ (x,1) & (x,x) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ D \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (1,x^4) \\ (x,x^4) \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (1,1) &= \int_0^1 1 \cdot 1 dx \\ &= x \Big|_0^1 \\ &= 1 - 0 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (x,1) &= \int_0^1 x \cdot 1 dx \\ &= \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^1 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} - 0 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

## Step-2

Similarly  $(1,x) = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{aligned} (x,x) &= \int_0^1 x^2 dx \\ &= \left[ \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^1 \\ &= \frac{1}{3} - 0 \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1, x^4) &= \int_0^1 4x^3 dx \\
 &= \left[ \frac{x^4}{4} \right]_0^1 \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} - 0 \\
 &= \frac{1}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x, x^4) &= \int_0^1 x^5 dx \\
 &= \left[ \frac{x^6}{6} \right]_0^1 \\
 &= \frac{1}{6} - 0 \\
 &= \frac{1}{6}
 \end{aligned}$$

### Step-3

Using these results in (1), we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ D \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/5 \\ 1/6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C + \frac{1}{2}D = \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{2}C + \frac{1}{3}D = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\Rightarrow C = \frac{-1}{5}, D = \frac{4}{5}$$

Therefore, the closest straight line to the parabola  $y = x^4$  is

$$y = C + Dx$$

$$= \frac{-1}{5} + \frac{4}{5}x$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{4x-1}{5}}$$