

Gradient Descent; Word Vectors

LING 575K Deep Learning for NLP

Shane Steinert-Threlkeld

March 30 2022

Announcements

- Office hours:
 - Shane: Mon 3-5PM
 - Agatha:
 - Monday 10-11AM
 - Wednesday 3:30-4:30PM
 - <https://washington.zoom.us/my/agathadowney>
 - in-person by appointment

Today's Plan

- Terminology / Notation
- Gradient Descent
- Word Vectors, intro
- Homework 1

Basic Terminology / Notation

Supervised Learning

Supervised Learning

- Given: a dataset $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$
 - $x_i \in X$: input for i-th example
 - $y_i \in Y$: output for i-th example

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- For example:
 - Sentiment analysis:
 - Input: bag of words representation of “This movie was great.”
 - Output: 4 [on a scale 1-5]
 - Language modeling:
 - Input: “This movie was”
 - Output: “great”

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 - $x_i \in X$: input for i-th example
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- Goal: *learn* a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ which:
 - “Does well” on the given data \mathcal{D}
 - Generalizes well to unseen data

Parameterized Functions

- A learning algorithm searches for a function f amongst a space of possible functions
- Parameters define a family of functions
 - θ : general symbol for parameters
 - $\hat{y} = f(x; \theta)$: input x , parameters θ ; model/function output \hat{y}
- Example: the family of linear functions $f(x) = mx + b$
 - $\theta = \{m, b\}$
- Later: neural network architecture defines the family of functions

Loss Minimization

- General form of optimization problem
- $\mathcal{L}(\hat{Y}, Y)$: loss function (“objective function”); $\mathcal{L}(\hat{Y}, Y) = \frac{1}{|Y|} \sum_i \ell(\hat{y}(x_i), y_i)$
 - How “close” are the model’s outputs to the true outputs
 - $\ell(\hat{y}, y)$: local (per-instance) loss, averaged over training instances
 - More later: depends on the particular task, among other things
- View the loss *as a function of the model’s parameters*

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) := \mathcal{L}(\hat{Y}, Y) = \mathcal{L}(f(X; \theta), Y)$$

Loss Minimization

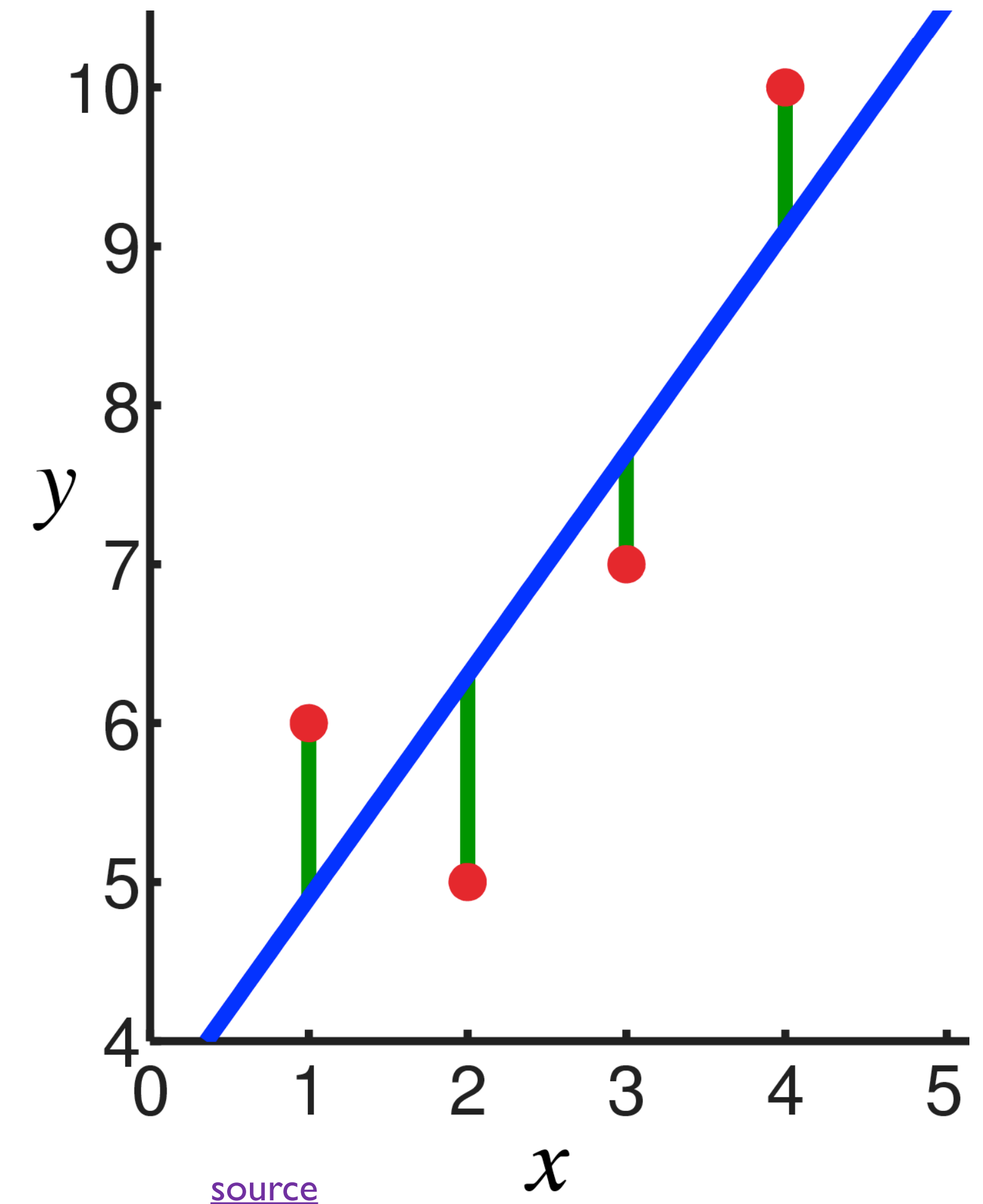
- The optimization problem:

$$\theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta)$$

- Example: (least-squares) linear regression

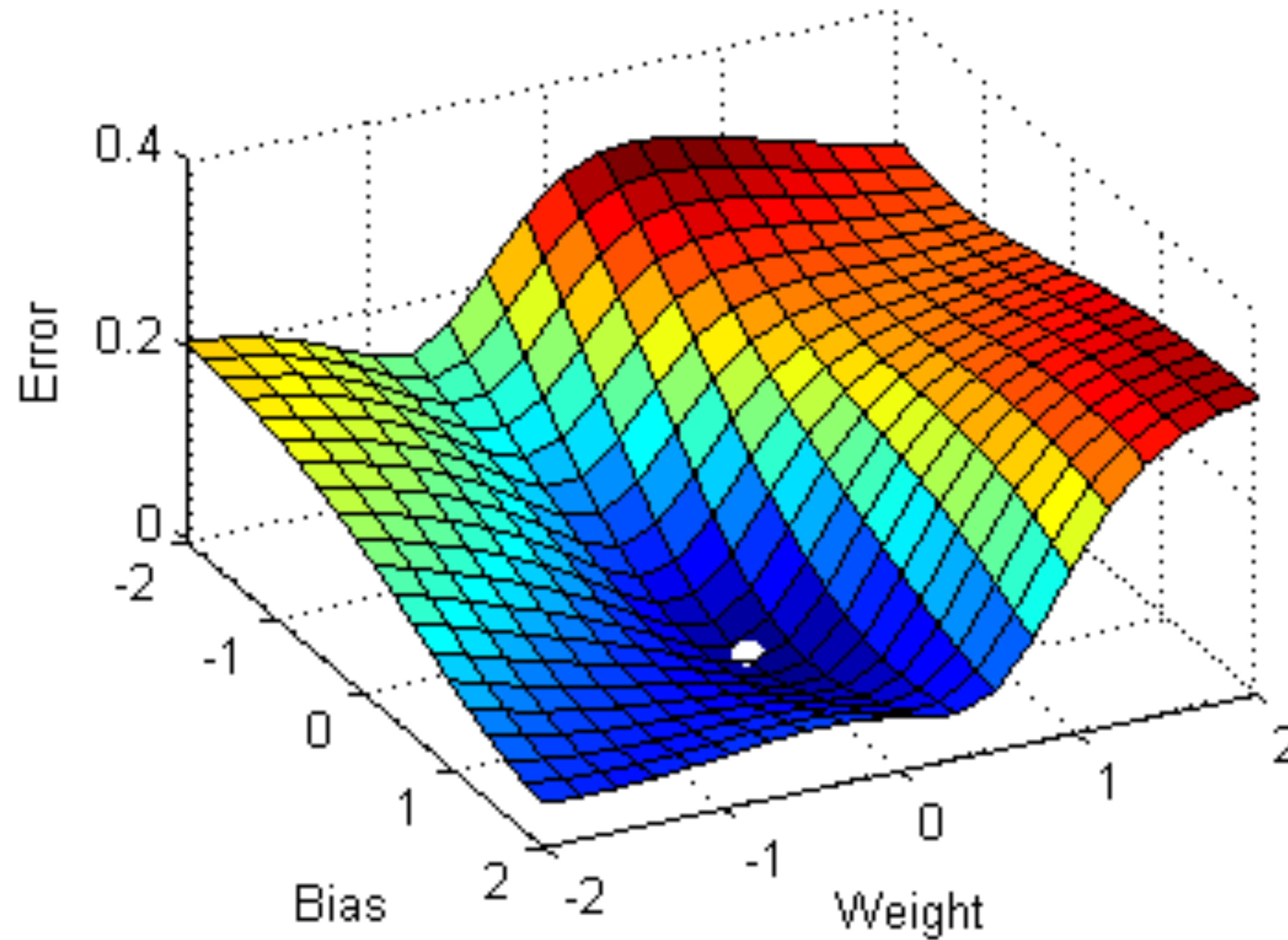
- $\ell(\hat{y}, y) = (\hat{y} - y)^2$

$$m^*, b^* = \arg \min_{m, b} \sum_i ((mx_i + b) - y_i)^2$$

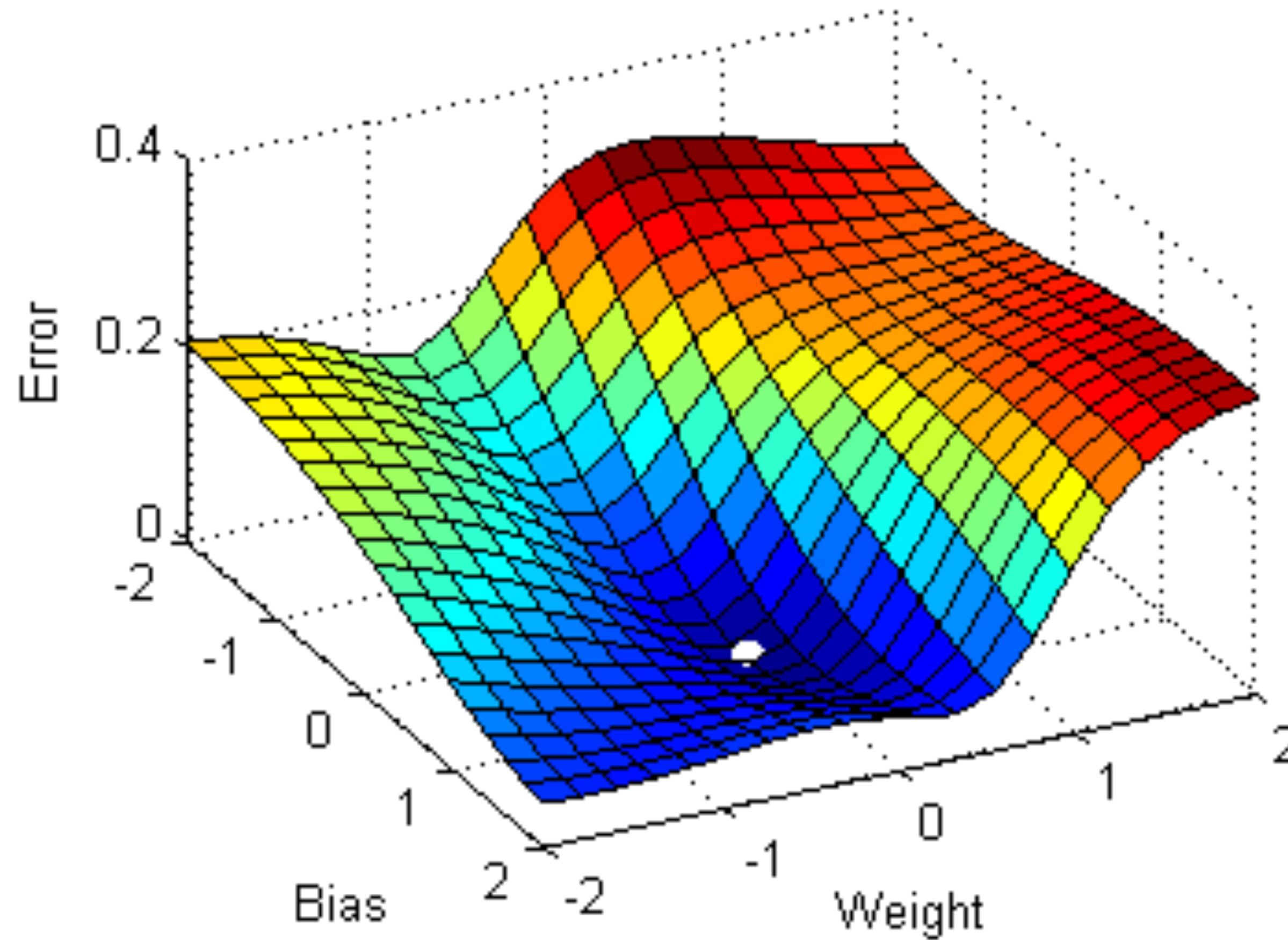


Learning: (Stochastic) Gradient Descent

Gradient Descent: Basic Idea



Gradient Descent: Basic Idea



Gradient Descent: Basic Idea

- The *gradient* of the loss w/r/t parameters tells which direction in parameter space to “walk” to make the loss smaller (i.e. to improve model outputs)
- Guaranteed to work in linear model case
 - Can get stuck in local minima for non-linear functions, like NNs
 - [More precisely: if loss is a *convex* function of the parameters, gradient descent is guaranteed to find an optimal solution. For non-linear functions, the loss will generally *not* be convex.]

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$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 20x^3y + 15xy^2 + 1$$

Gradient

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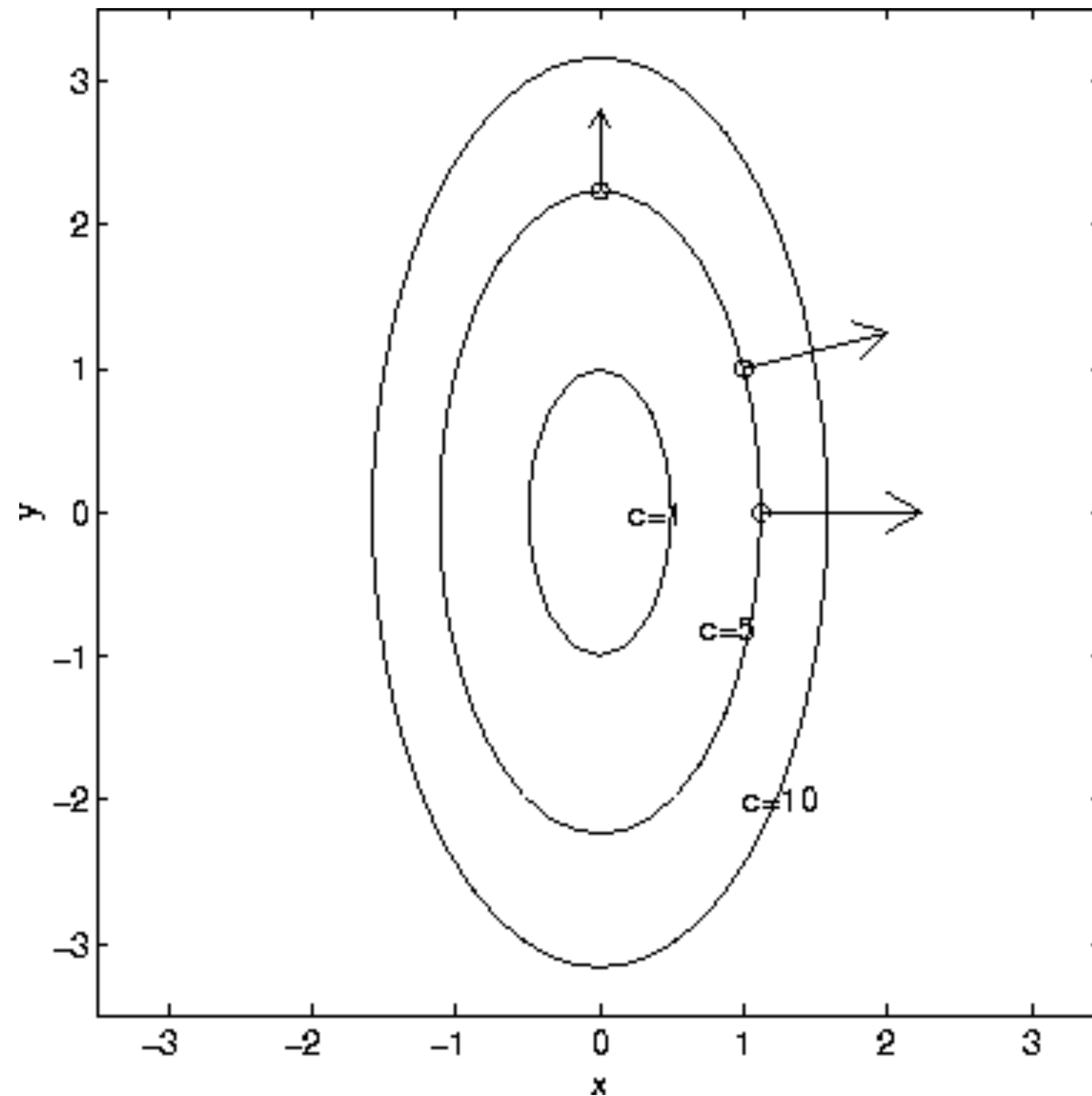
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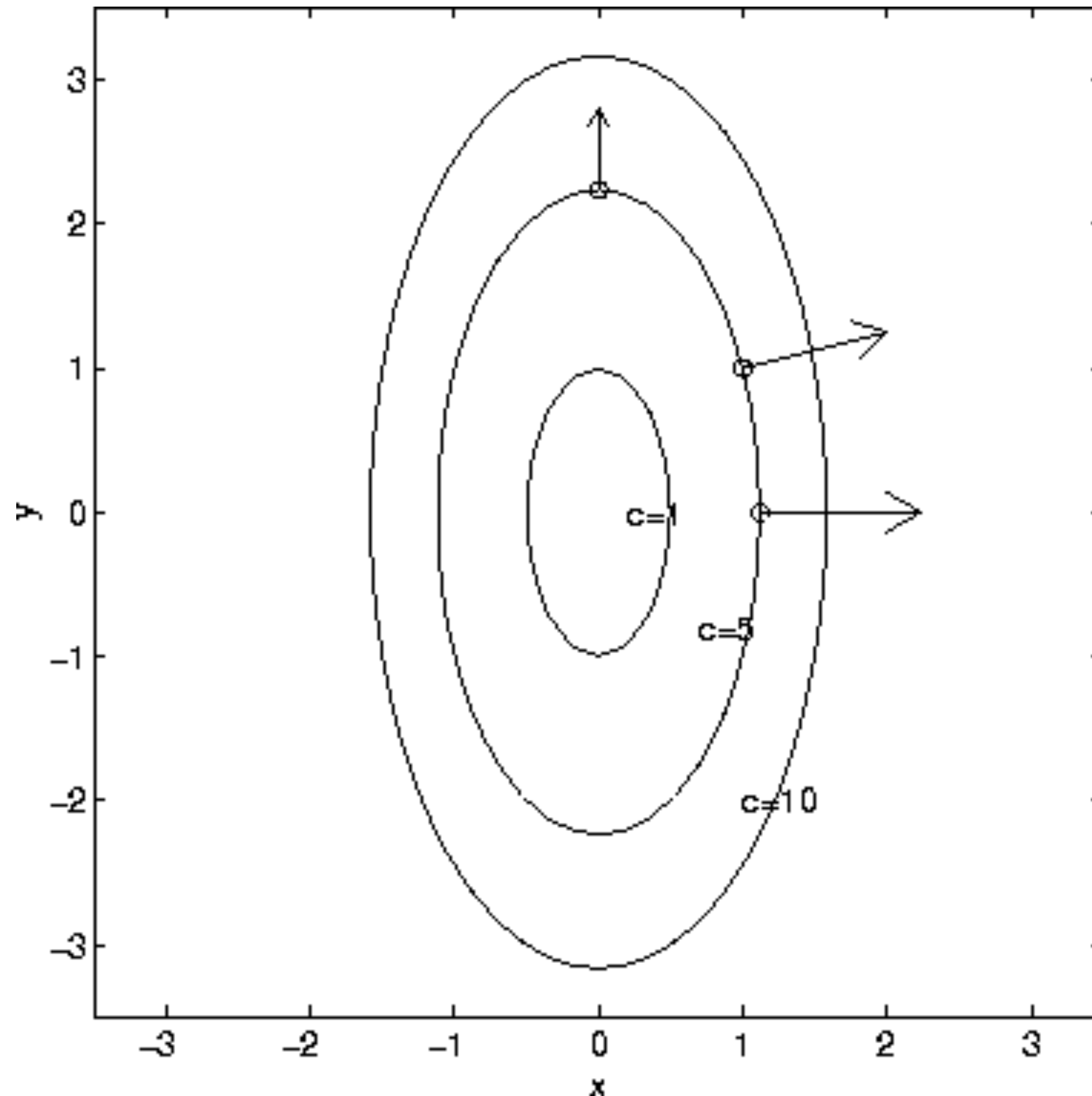
- The gradient is perpendicular to the *level curve* at a point
- The gradient points in the direction of greatest rate of increase of f

Gradient and Level Curves



Level curves: $f(x) = c$

Gradient and Level Curves

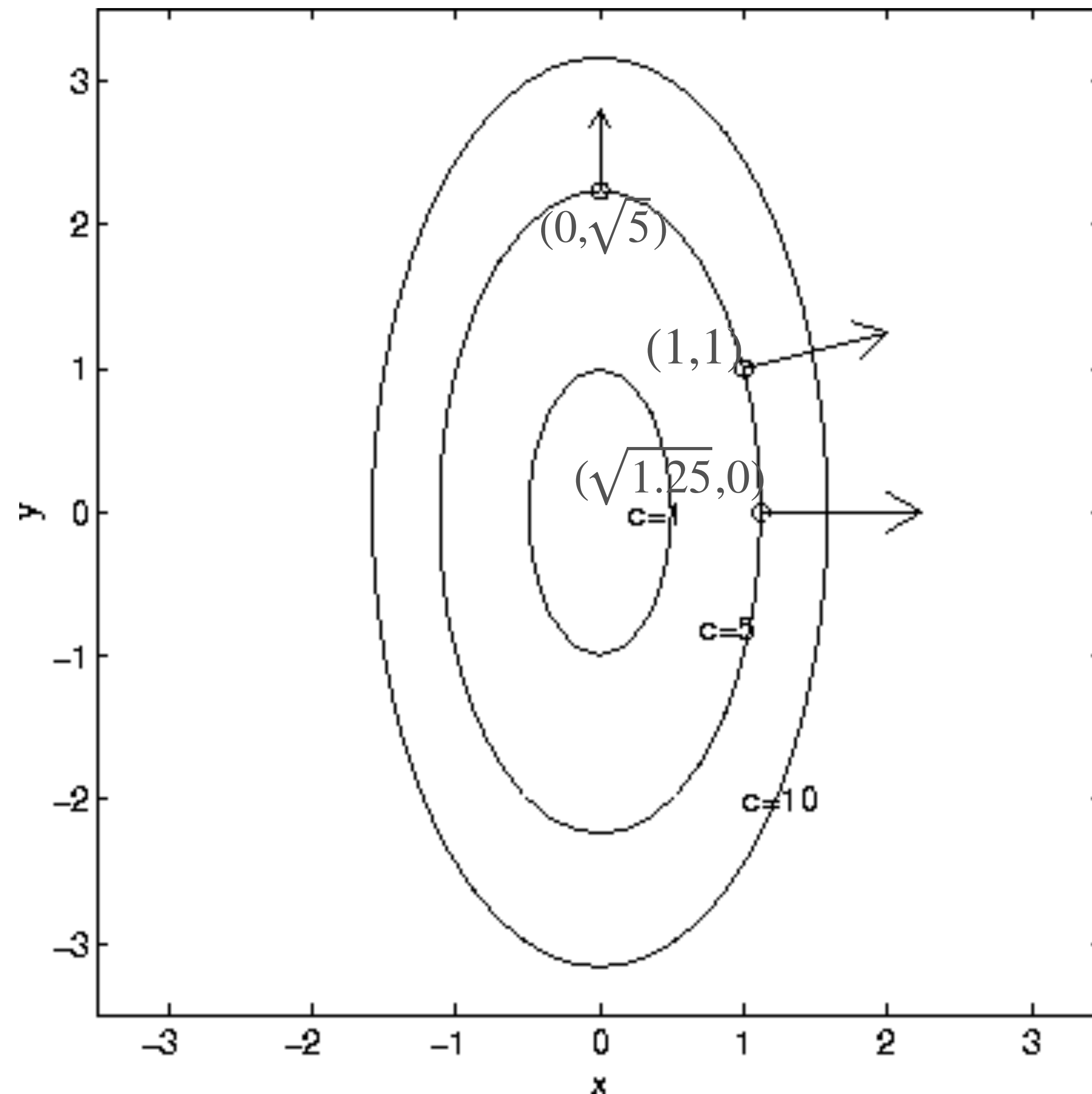


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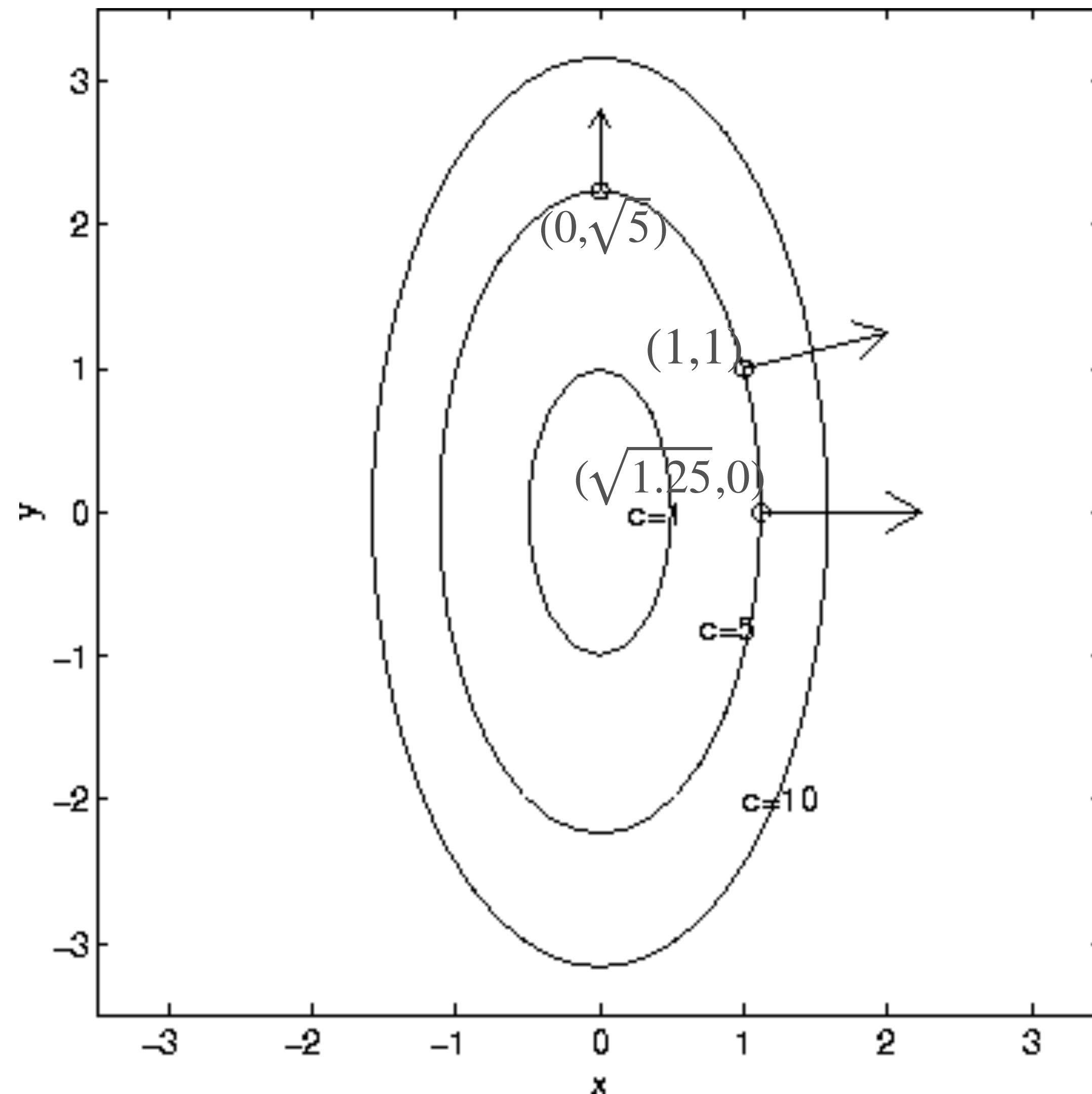


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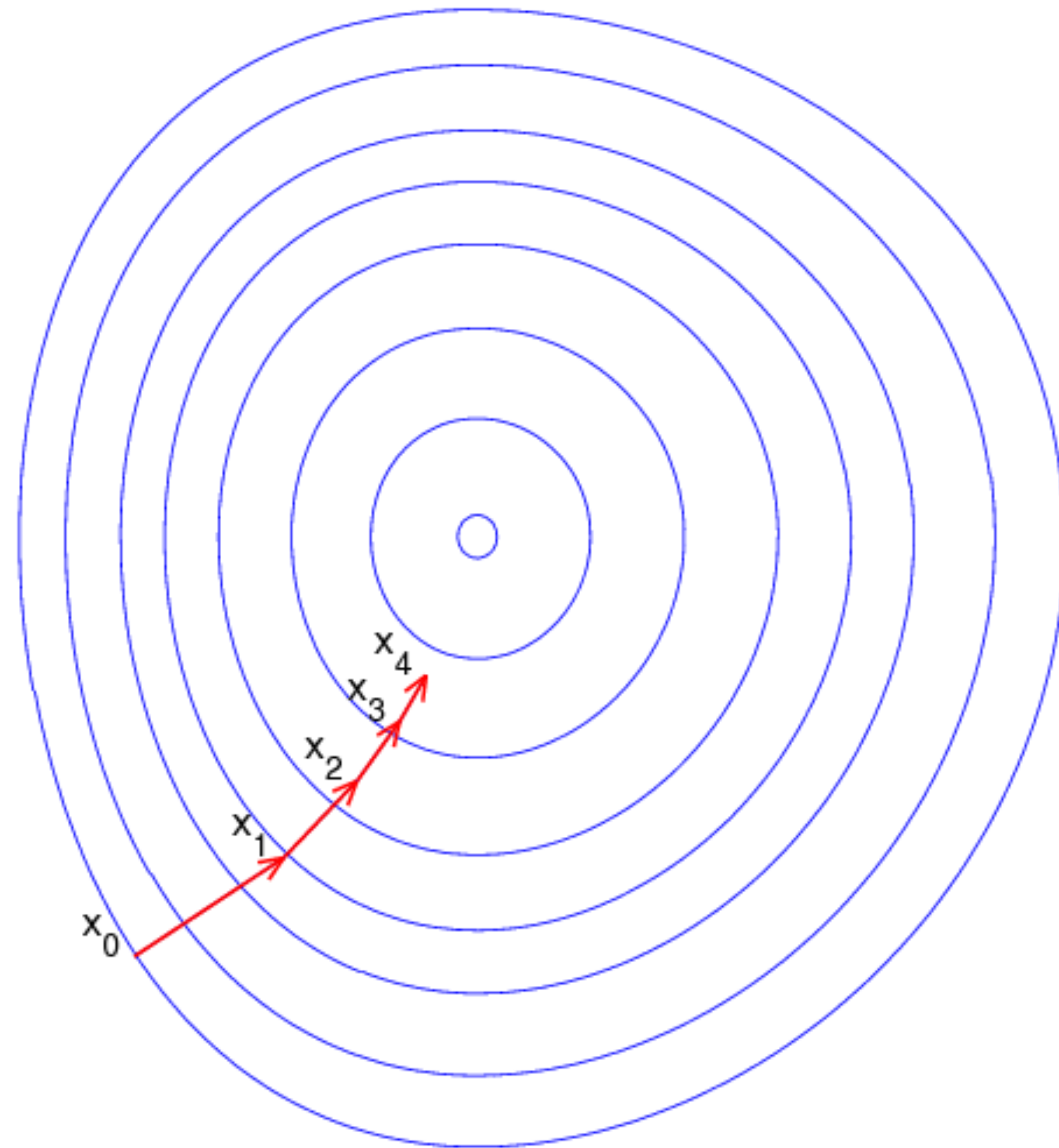
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Level curves: $f(x) = c$

Q: what are the actual gradients
at those points?

Gradient Descent and Level Curves



[source](#)

Gradient Descent Algorithm

- Initialize θ_0
- Repeat until convergence:

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - \alpha \nabla \mathcal{L}(\hat{Y}(\theta_n), Y)$$

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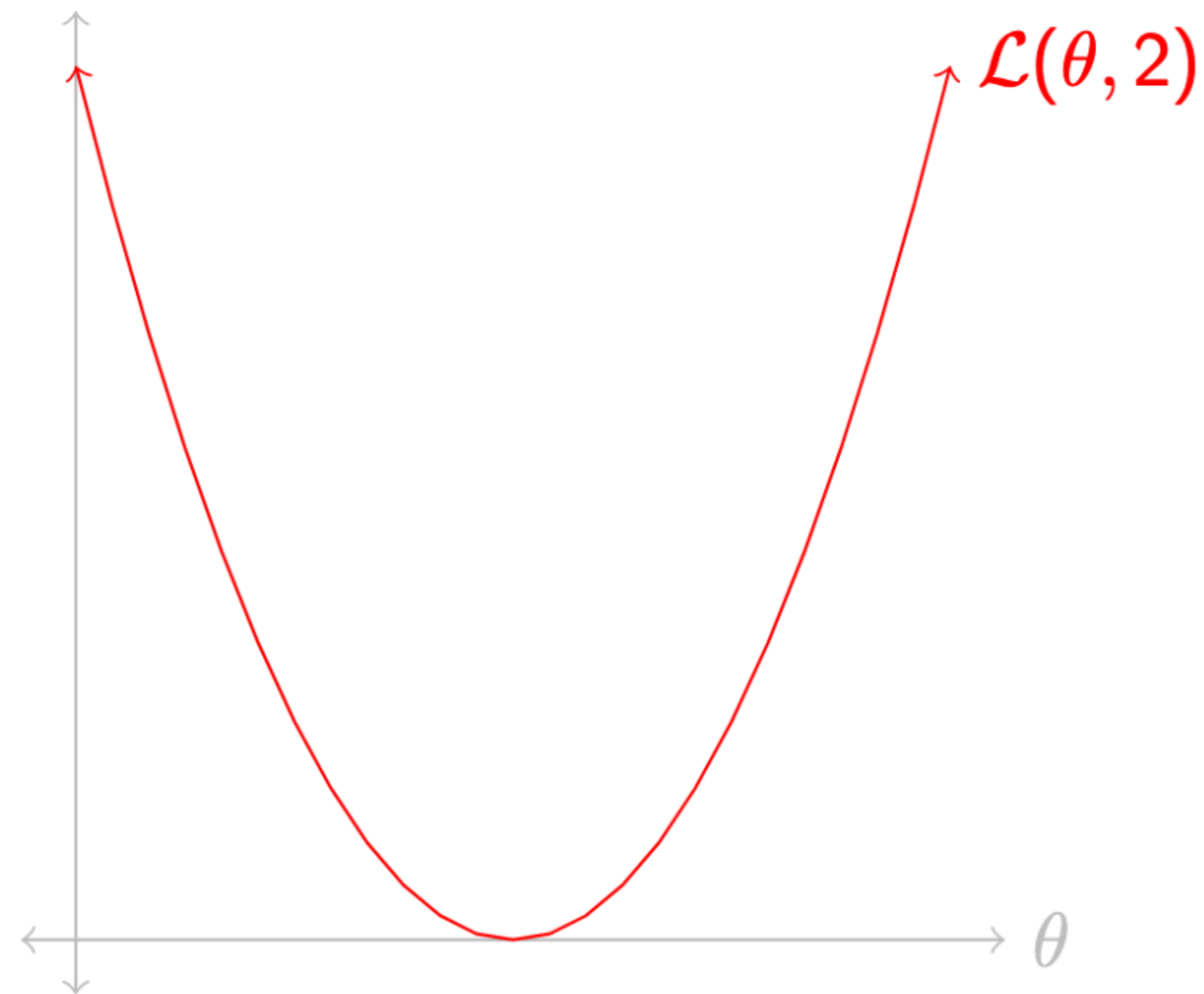
- High learning rate: big steps, may bounce and “overshoot” the target
- Low learning rate: small steps, smoother minimization of loss, but can be slow

Gradient Descent: Minimal Example

- Task: predict a target/true value $y = 2$
- “Model”: $\hat{y}(\theta) = \theta$
 - A single parameter: the actual guess
- Loss: Euclidean distance

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{y}(\theta), y) = (\hat{y} - y)^2 = (\theta - y)^2$$

Gradient Descent: Minimal Example



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta, y) = 2(\theta - y)$$

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \alpha \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta, y)$$

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- Mini-batch gradient descent:
 - Break the data into “mini-batches”: small chunks of the data
 - Compute gradients and update parameters for each batch
 - Mini-batch of size 1 = single example = stochastic gradient descent
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- Epoch: one pass through the whole training data

Stochastic Gradient Descent

```
initialize parameters / build model
```

```
for each epoch:
```

```
    data = shuffle(data)
```

```
    batches = make_batches(data)
```

```
    for each batch in batches:
```

```
        outputs = model(batch)
```

```
        loss = loss_fn(outputs, true_outputs)
```

```
        compute gradients
```

```
        update parameters
```

Word Vectors, Intro

Distributional Similarity

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- Tezguino; corn-based alcoholic beverage. (From [*Lin, 1998a*](#))

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- How can we represent the “company” of a word?

Distributional Similarity

- How can we represent the “company” of a word?
- How can we make similar words have similar representations?

Why use word vectors?

- With words, a feature is a word identity
 - Feature 5: 'The previous word was "terrible"'
 - requires exact same word to be in training and test
 - **One-hot vectors:**
 - “terrible”: [0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 ... 0]
 - Length = size of vocabulary
 - All words are as different from each other
 - e.g. “terrible” is as different from “bad” as from “awesome”

Why use word vectors?

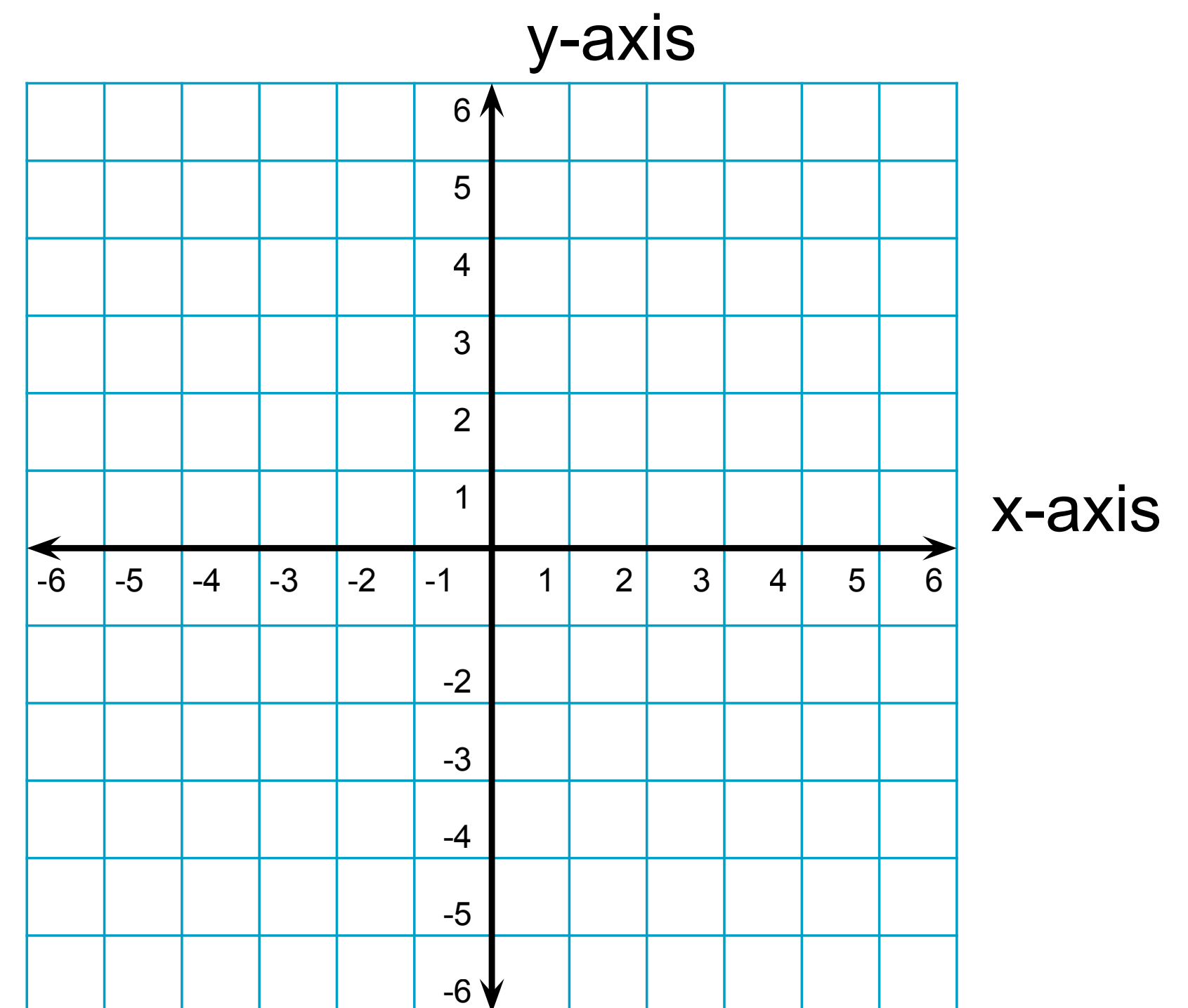
- With embeddings (= vectors):
 - Feature is a word vector
 - 'The previous word was vector [35,22,17, ...]
 - Now in the test set we might see a similar vector [34,21,14, ...]
 - We can generalize to similar but unseen words!

Vectors: A Refresher

- A vector is a list of numbers
- Each number can be thought of as representing a “dimension”

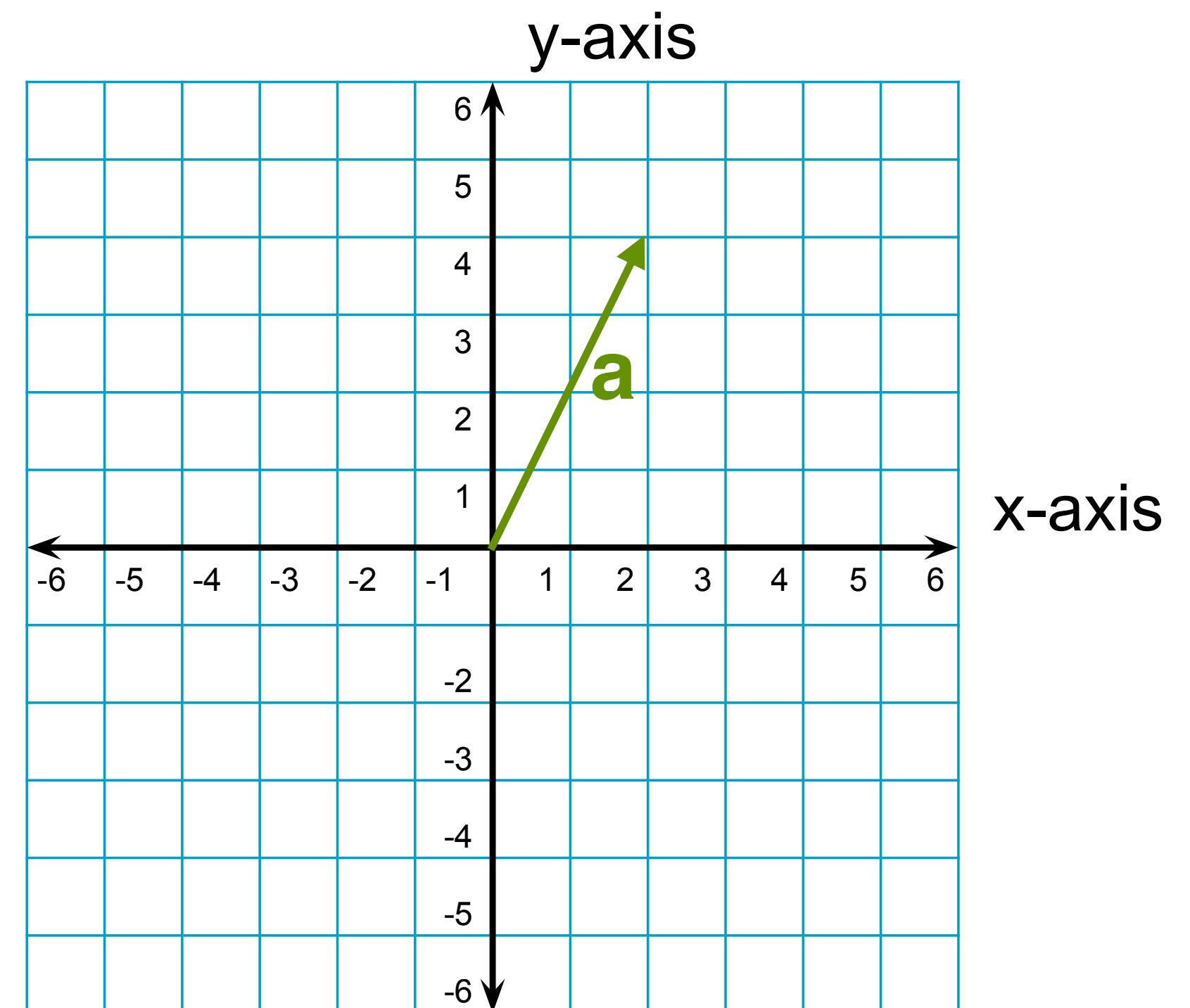
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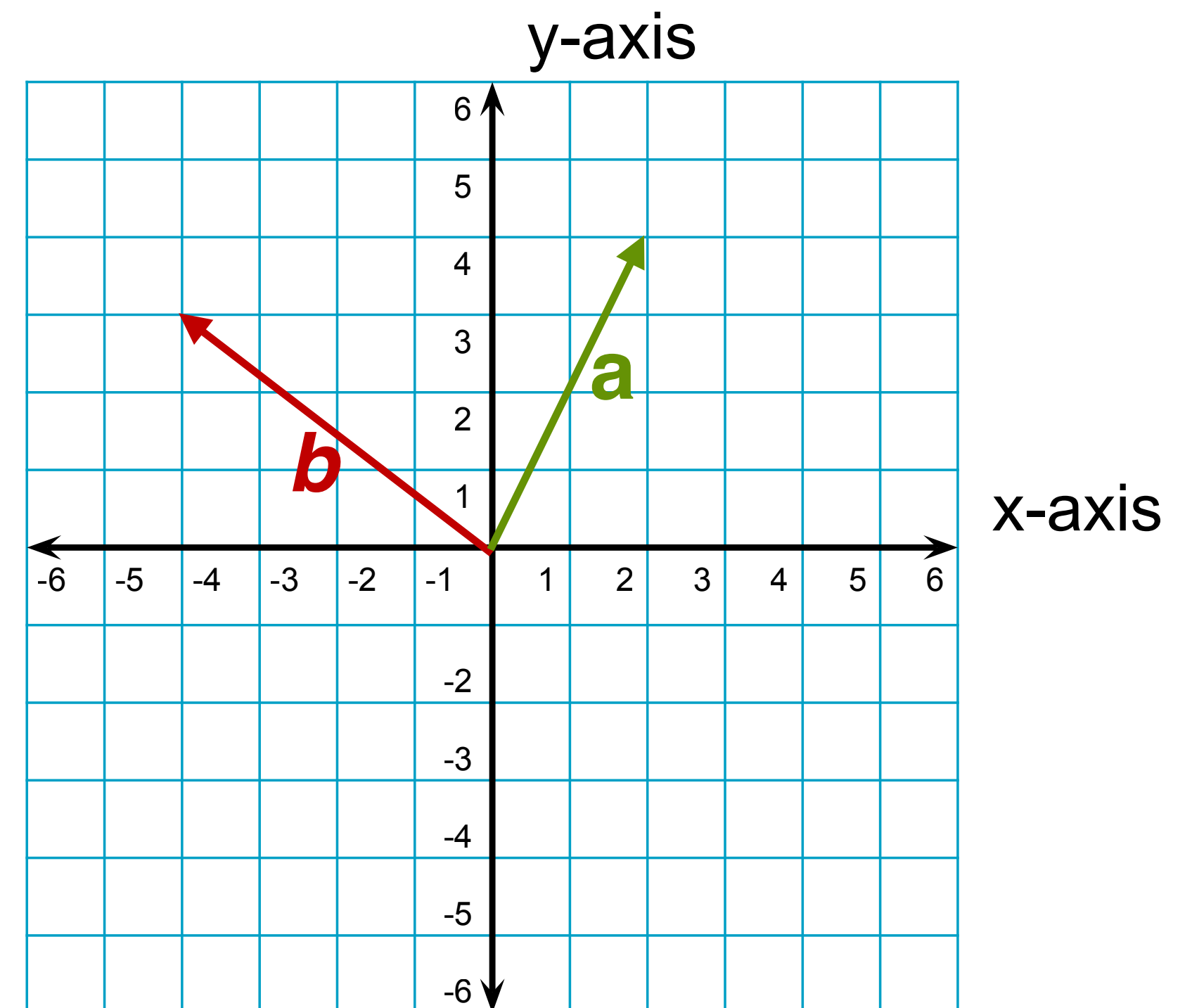
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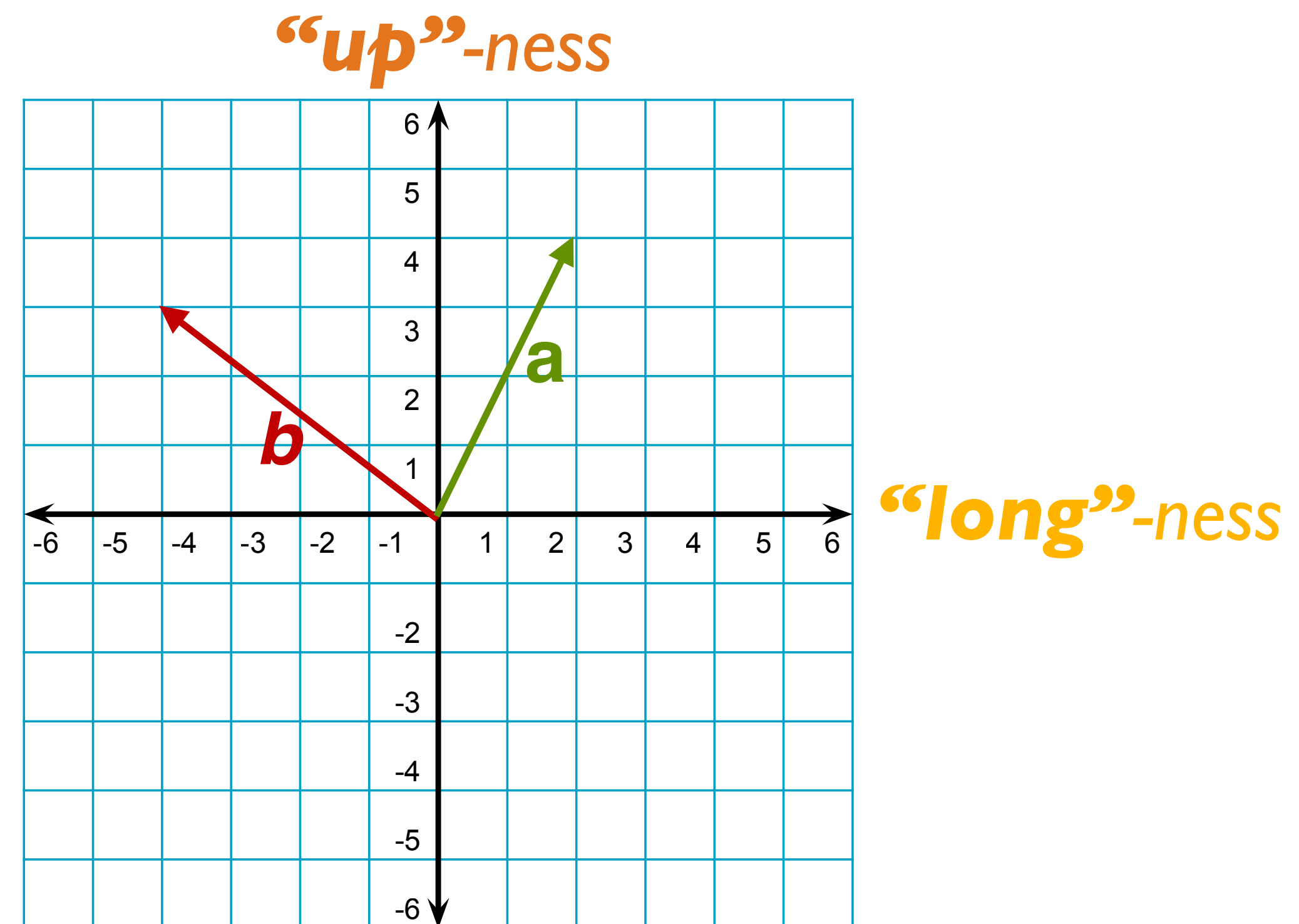
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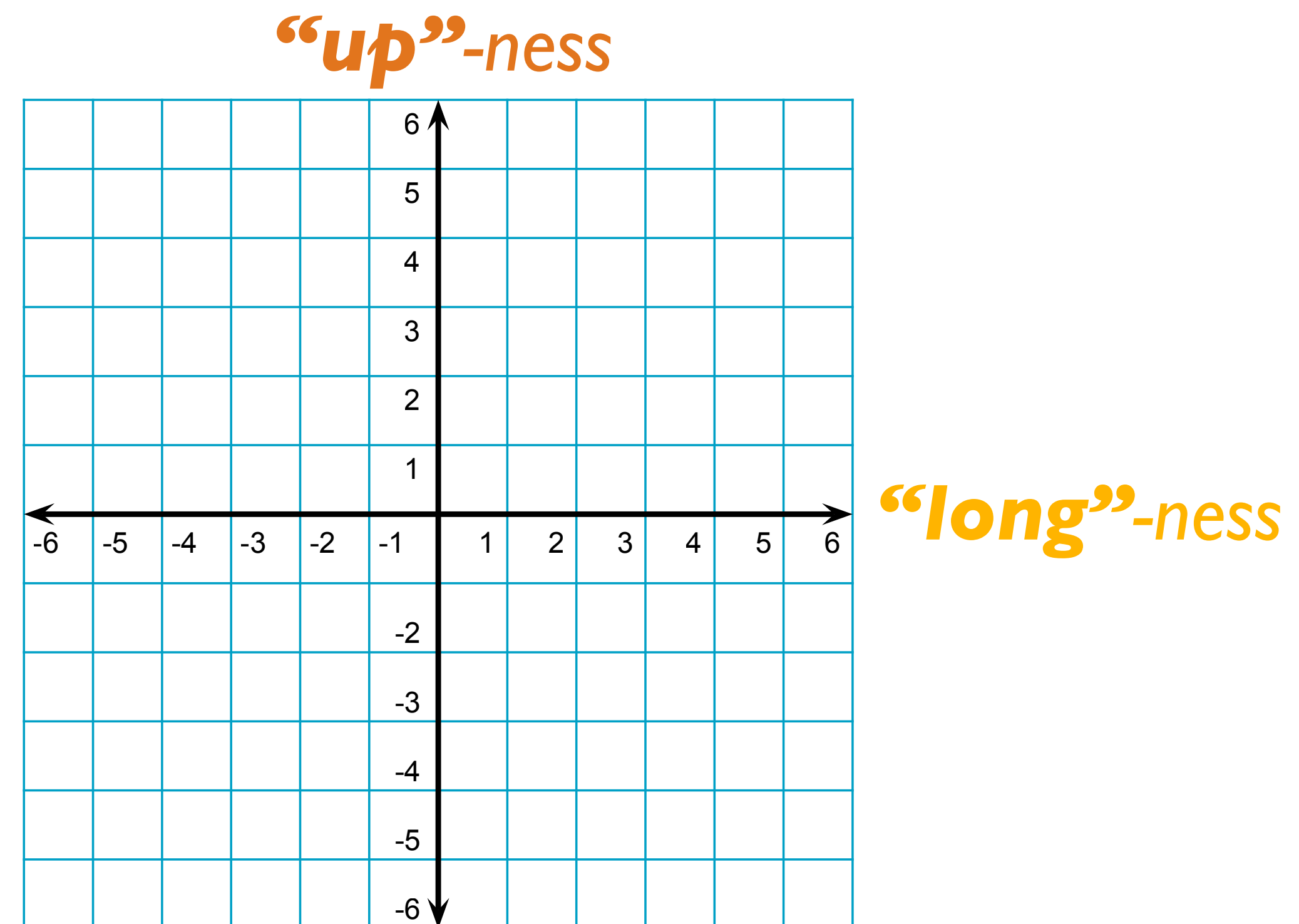
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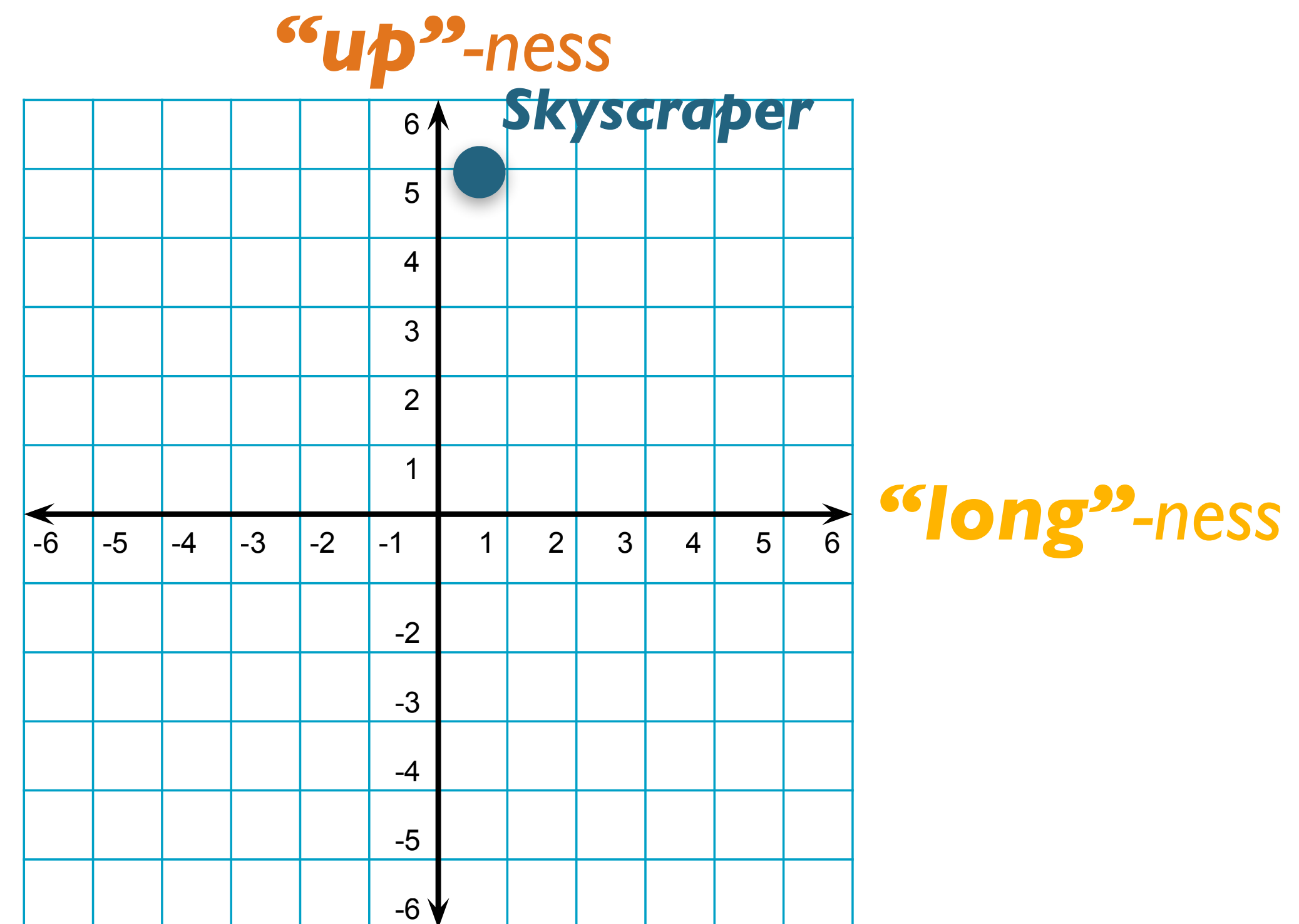
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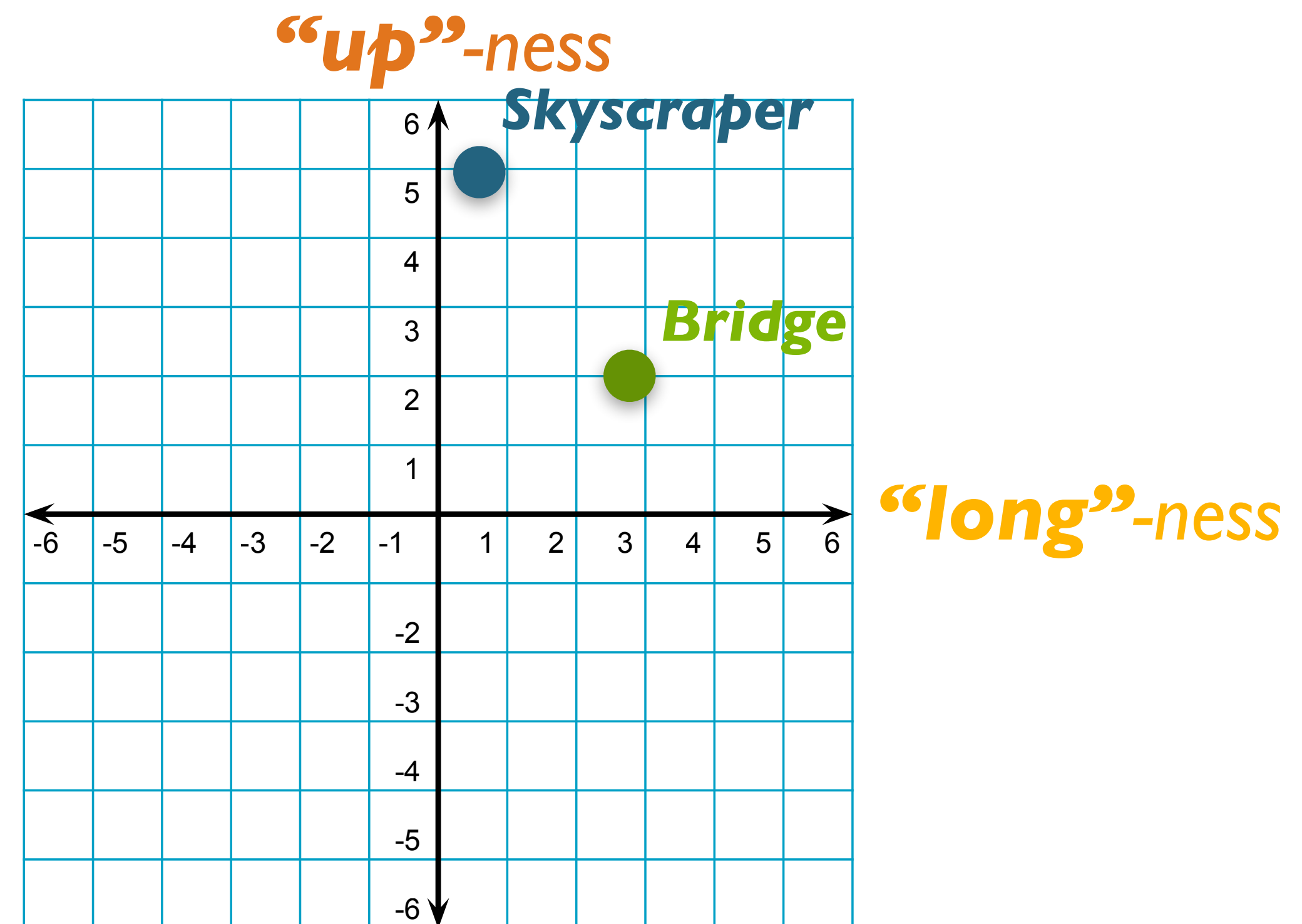
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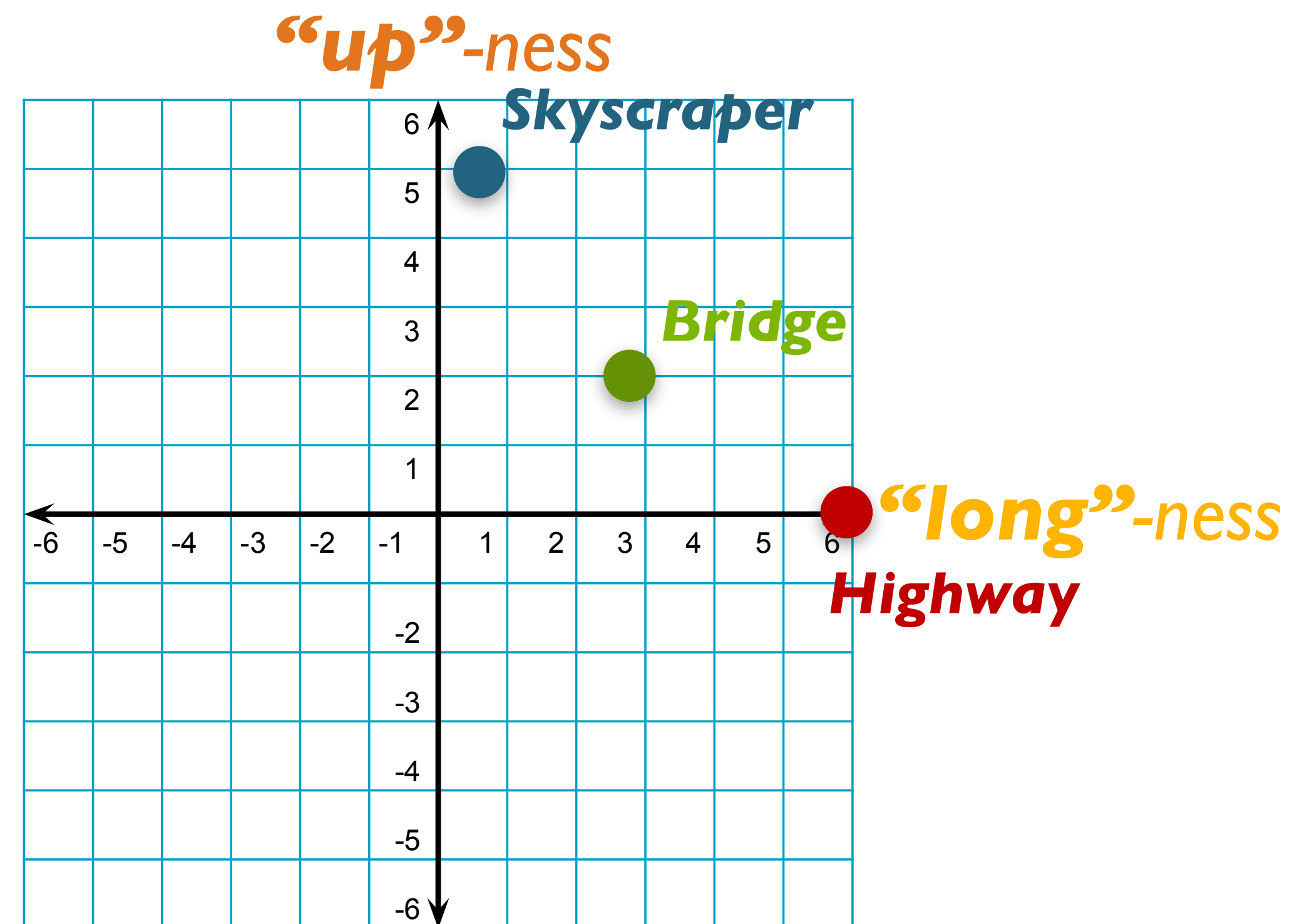
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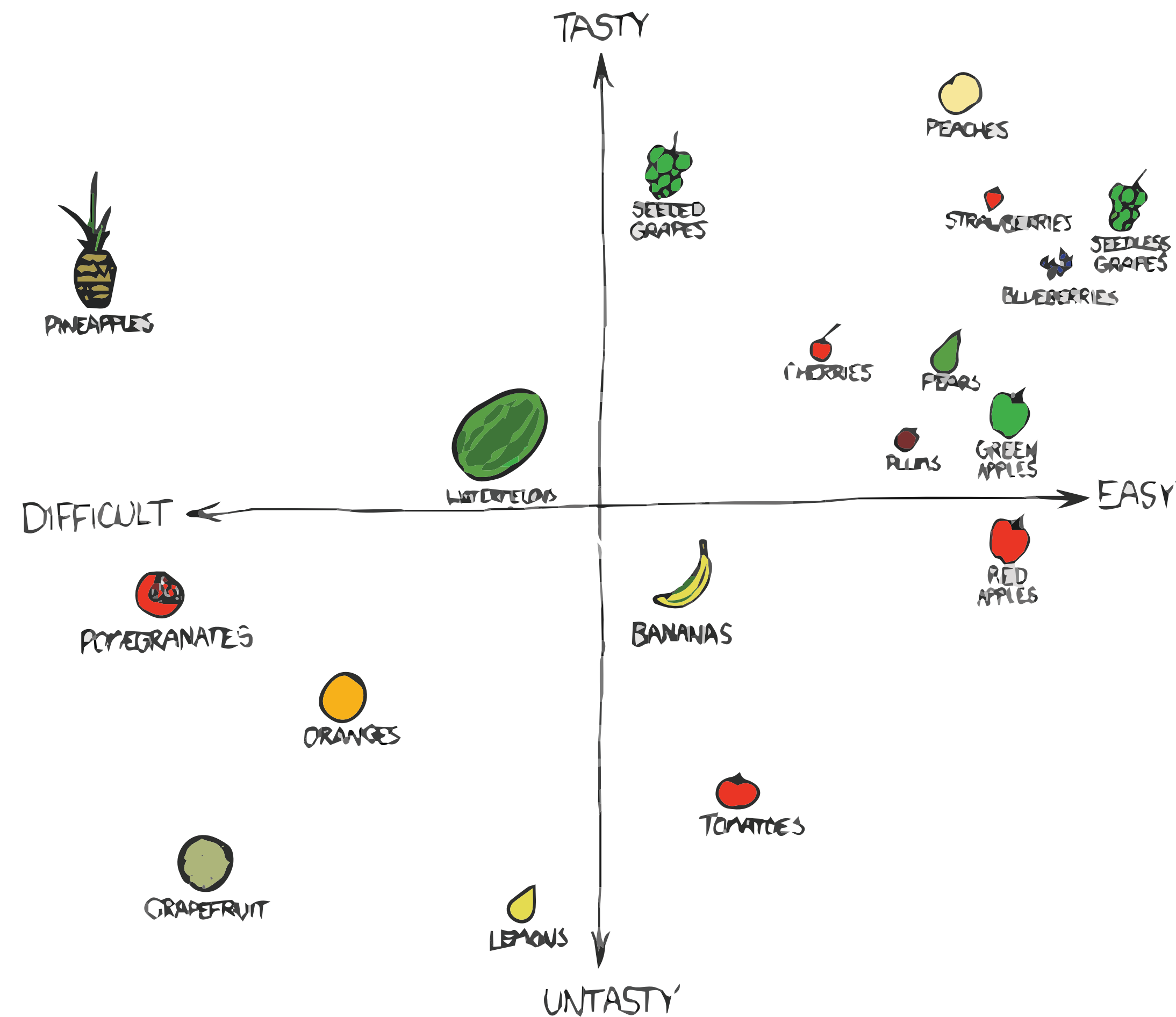
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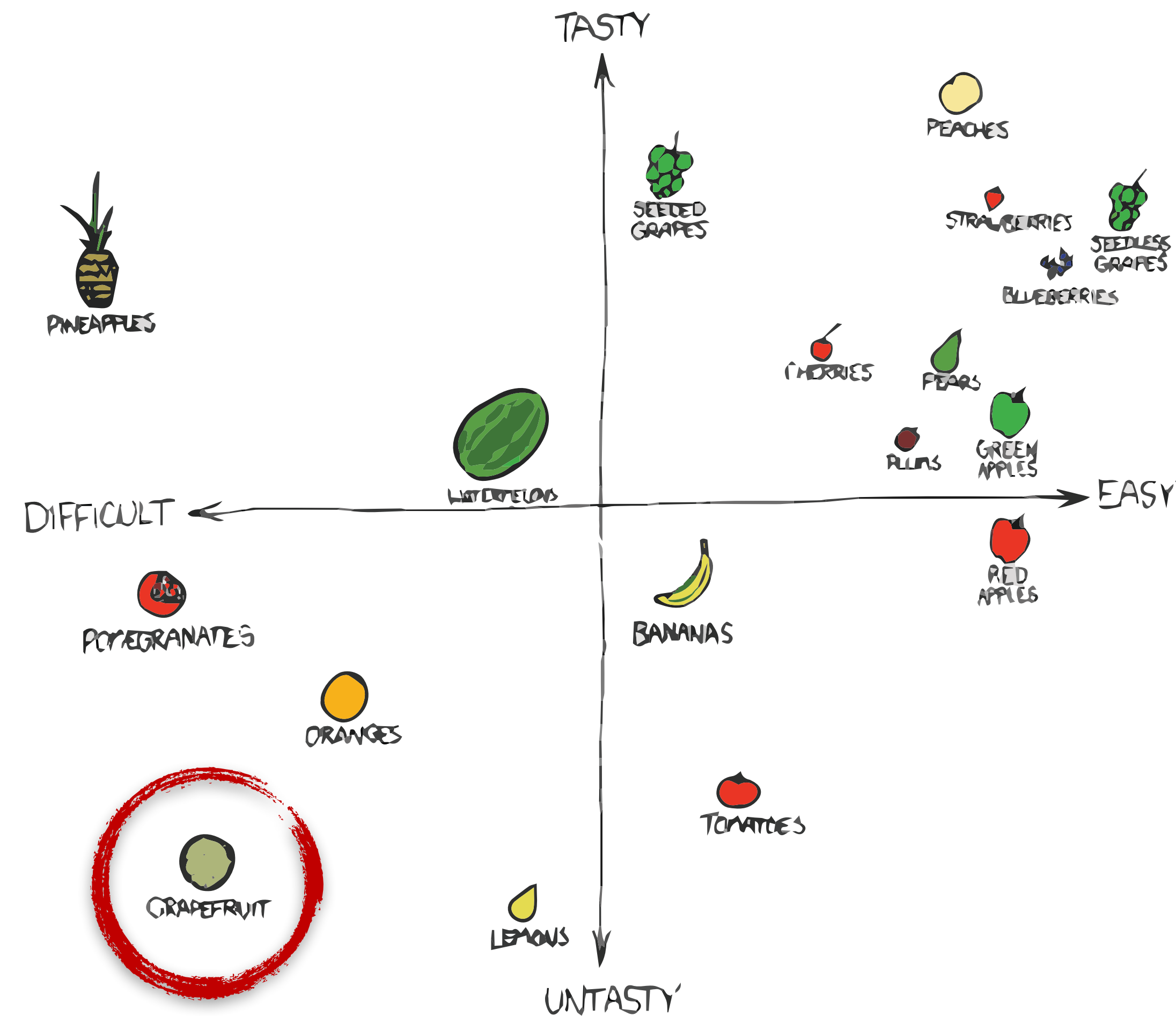
Vectors: A Refresher

xkcd.com/388



Vectors: A Refresher

xkcd.com/388



WTF, Grapefruit?

Basic vector operations

- Addition: $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} = \langle \mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{y}_0, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n + \mathbf{y}_n \rangle$
- Subtraction: $\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} = \langle \mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{y}_0, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n - \mathbf{y}_n \rangle$
- Scalar multiplication: $k\mathbf{x} = \langle k\mathbf{x}_0, \dots, k\mathbf{x}_n \rangle$
- Length: $\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{\sum_i \mathbf{x}_i^2}$

Vector Distances: Manhattan & Euclidean

- **Manhattan Distance** $d_{\text{manhattan}}(x, y) = \sum_i |x_i - y_i|$
 - (Distance as cumulative horizontal + vertical moves)

- **Euclidean Distance**

$$d_{\text{euclidean}}(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_i (x_i - y_i)^2}$$

- Too sensitive to extreme values

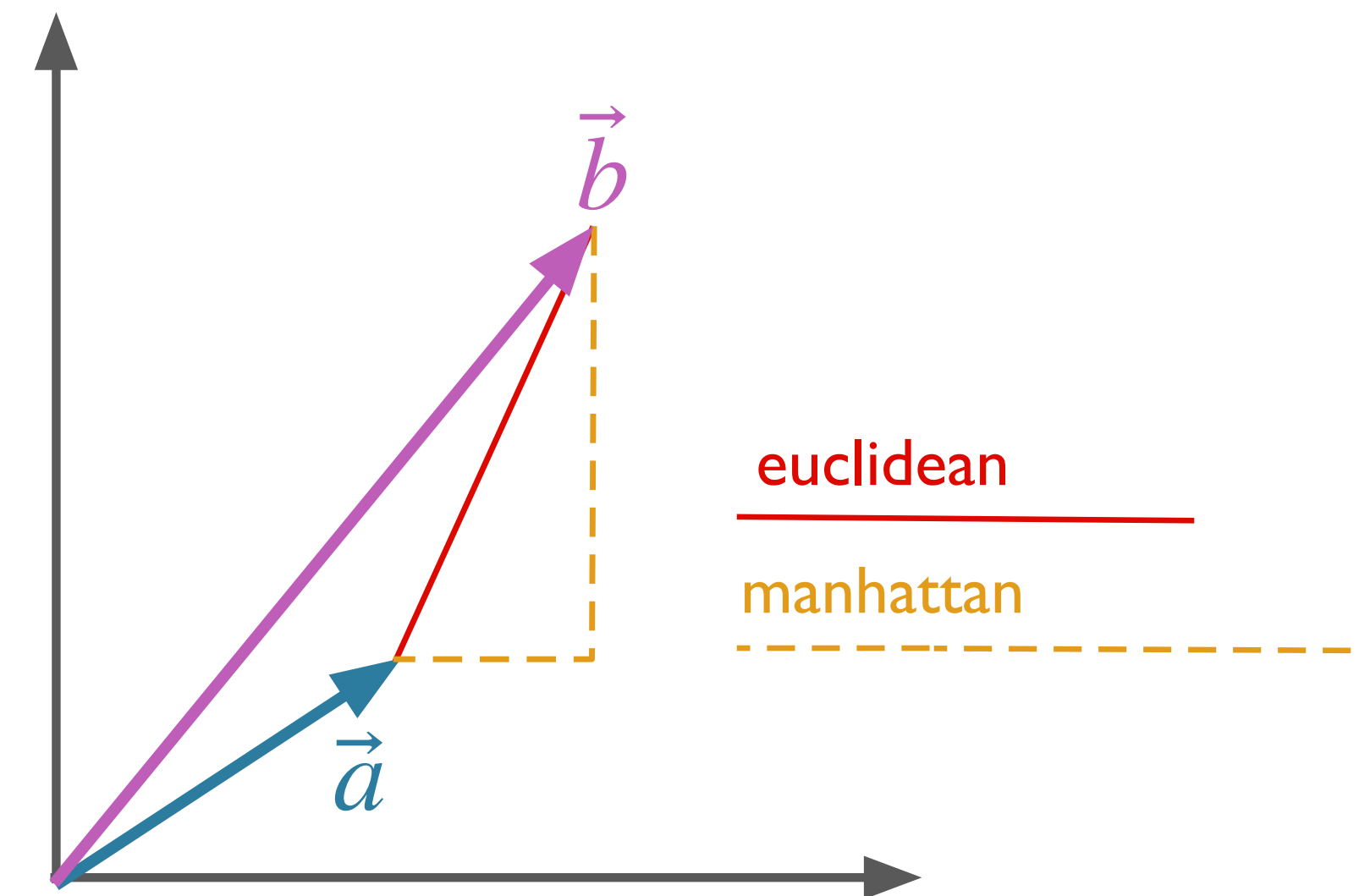
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Vector Similarity: Dot Product

- Produces real number scalar from product of vectors' components

$$\text{sim}_{\text{dot}}(x, y) = x \cdot y = \sum_i x_i \times y_i$$

- Biased toward ***longer*** (larger magnitude) vectors
 - In our case, vectors with fewer zero counts

Vector Similarity: Cosine

- If you normalize the dot product for vector magnitude...
- ...result is same as cosine of angle between the vectors.

$$\text{sim}_{\text{cos}}(x, y) = \frac{x \cdot y}{\|x\| \|y\|} = \frac{\sum_i x_i \times y_i}{\sqrt{\sum_i x_i^2} \sqrt{\sum_i y_i^2}}$$

Bag of Words Vectors

- Represent 'company' of word such that similar words will have similar representations
- 'Company' = context

Bag of Words Vectors

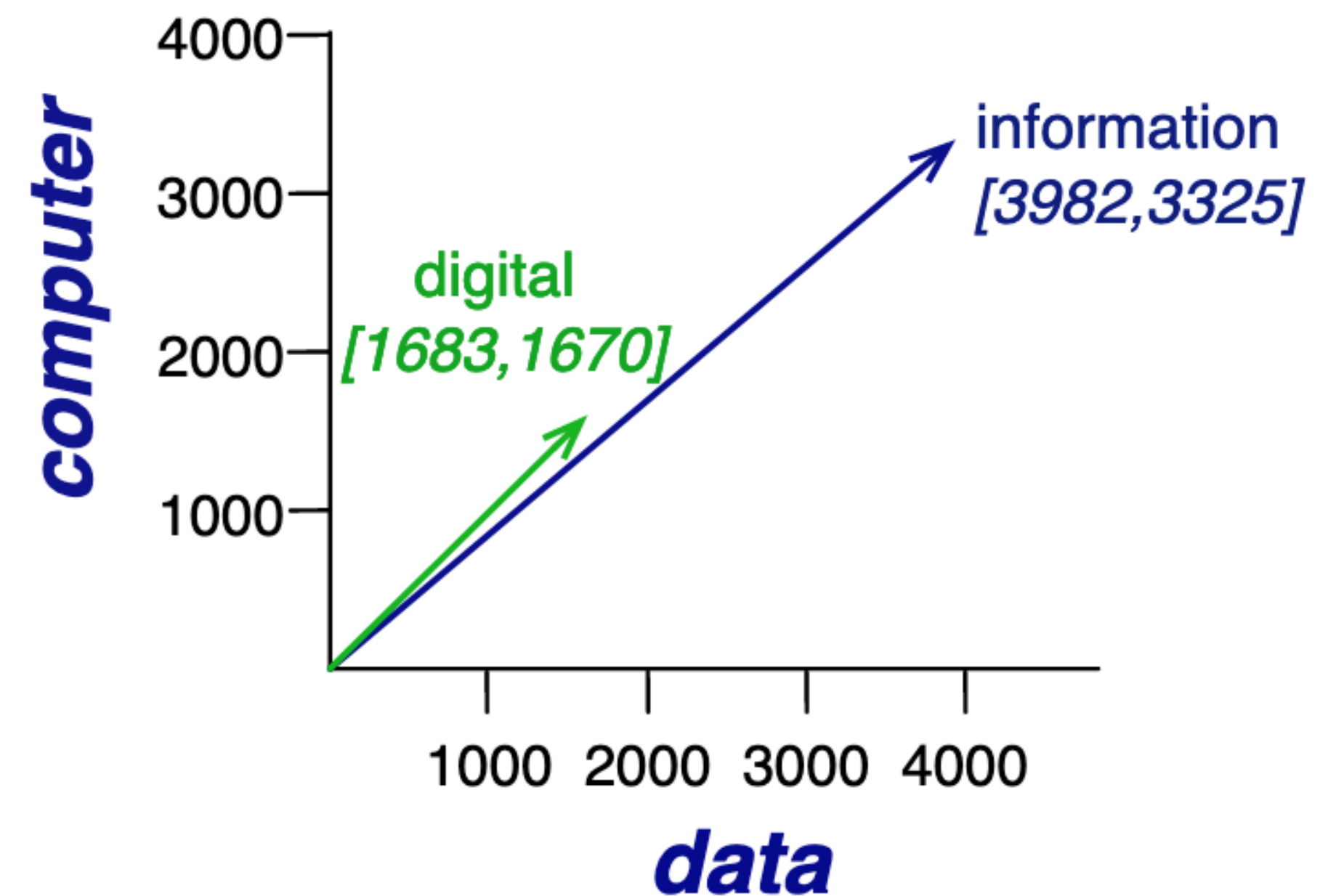
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 - Many alternatives for vector

Bag of Words Vectors

- Represent ‘company’ of word such that similar words will have similar representations
 - ‘Company’ = context
- Word represented by context feature vector
 - Many alternatives for vector
- Initial representation:
 - ‘Bag of words’ feature vector
 - Feature vector length N , where N is size of vocabulary
 - $f_i += 1$ if $word_i$ within window size w of $word$

Bag of Words Vectors

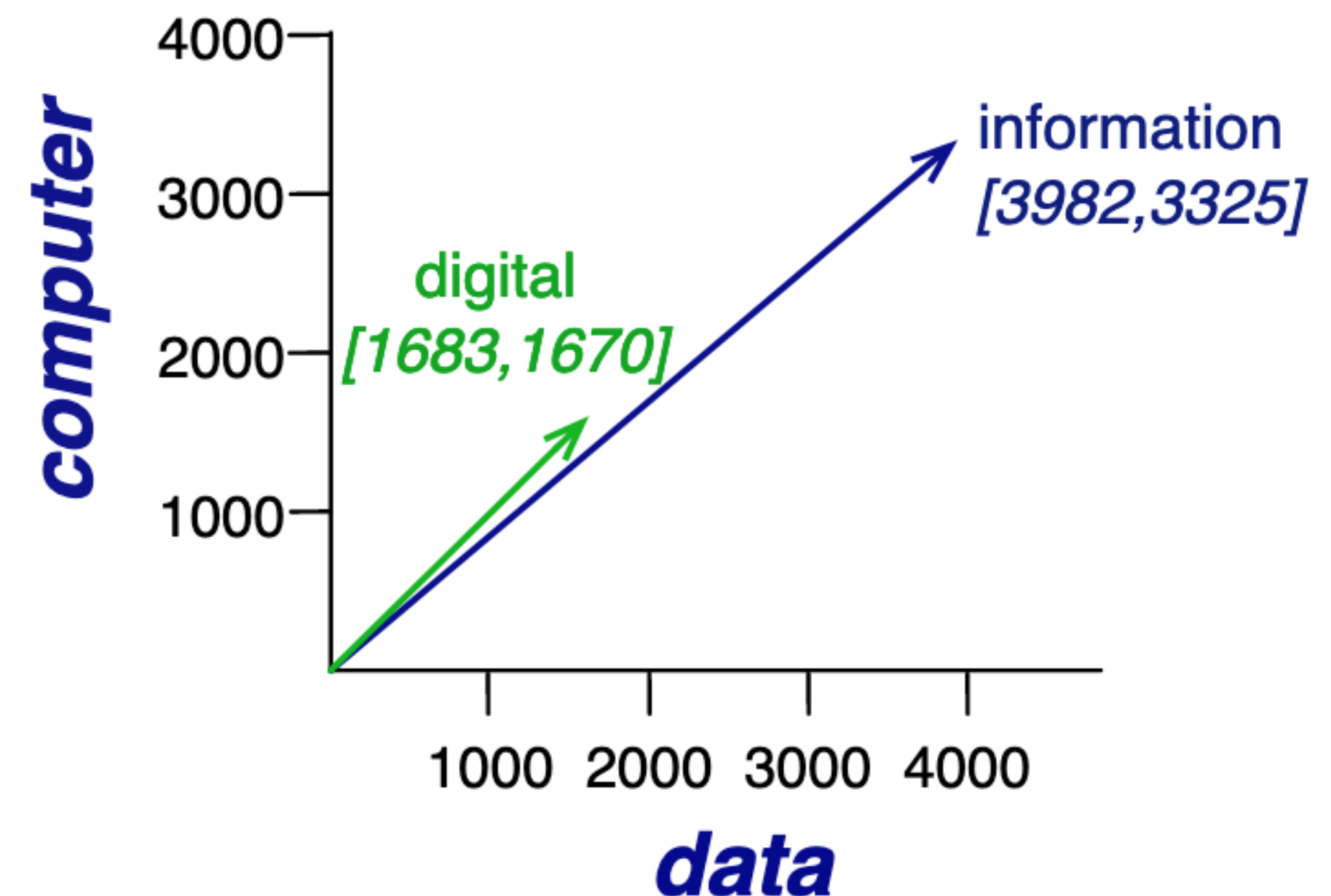
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cherry	0	...	2	8	9	442	25	...
strawberry	0	...	0	0	1	60	19	...
digital	0	...	1670	1683	85	5	4	...
information	0	...	3325	3982	378	5	13	...



Bag of Words Vectors

- Usually re-weighted, with e.g. tf-idf, ppmi
- Still sparse
- Very high-dimensional: IVI

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Homework 1

Learning Goals

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- Build the very first building block for our NLP models: a Vocabulary
- Reflect on dataset documentation, using data that we will use throughout the course

1. Installing Anaconda

- Anaconda lets you manage local environments for python and other tools
 - Avoid version conflicts across multiple projects
 - Get exactly the versions of packages you need
 - Helps reproducibility as well
- We've provided an environment in ``/dropbox/21-22/575k/env``
- Install:
 - `wget https://repo.anaconda.com/archive/Anaconda3-2021.11-Linux-x86_64.sh`
 - `sh Anaconda3-2021.11-Linux-x86_64.sh`
- `run_hw1.sh` shows you how to activate the environment

2. Implementing a Vocabulary

- At the base of every NLP system is a `Vocabulary` object, containing:
 - Token \rightarrow index
 - Index \rightarrow token
 - These provide the interface between strings (tokens), and integer indices that will be used in our models (e.g. for looking up embeddings)
- `/dropbox/21-22/575k/hw1/vocabulary.py`
 - `#TODO:` comments tell you where to write your own code
- Write small script to save various vocabularies from the SST dataset [see next slide]

3. Data Statement for SST

- For many assignments in this course, we will be using the Stanford Sentiment Treebank
 - Input: movie reviews
 - Output: discrete ratings (0-4) of the sentiment from very negative to very positive
 - Simple/cleaned version available in `/dropbox/21-22/575k/data/sst/`
- Data Statements for NLP [Emily M Bender and Batya Friedman]
 - Best practices for documenting dataset creation
 - Can help understand and mitigate biased models by clearly identifying the nature and source of the data [e.g. which populations]
 - For this assignment: answer (to the best of your ability, given the documentation of SST) the relevant questions that should go into a data statement
 - NB: also see updated schema here: <http://techpolicylab.uw.edu/data-statements/>

Next Time

- Skip-Gram with Negative Sampling
 - How optimization framework applies to this problem
- Introduction of two tasks that we will use throughout the class
 - Language modeling
 - Text classification [sentiment analysis]