

# ASTR4004

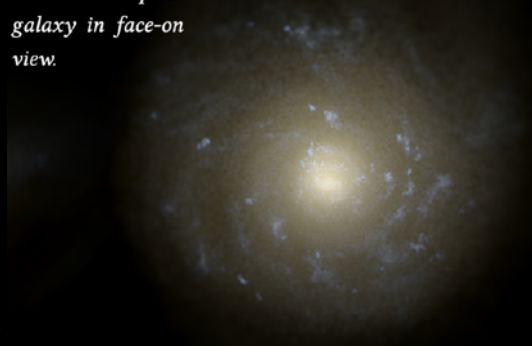
## COMPUTATIONAL ASTRONOMY

Week 8 [https://github.com/svenbuder/astr4004\\_2025\\_week8](https://github.com/svenbuder/astr4004_2025_week8)

*Spiral galaxy M74 in face-on view. Figure credit: Gemini Observatory, GMOS Team*



*Simulated spiral galaxy in face-on view.*



*Figure credit: Tobias Buck*



# My idea for the next 2 weeks:

Assignment 3  
due on October 7

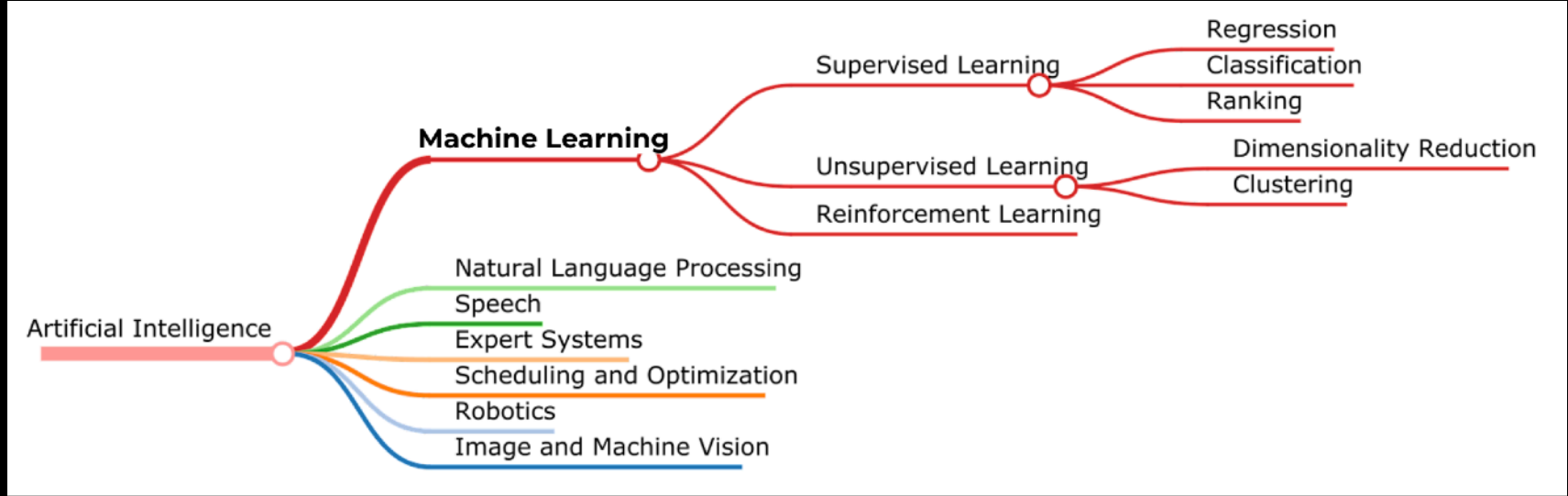
Week	Summary	What I actually plan to talk about
4	Data Processing	git, csv/FITS Files, ADQL/SQL, joining & cleaning catalogues, ...
	Statistics & Plots	Uncertainties & Plot Clinic
8	Regression	how to fit $y = f(x)$ , if $y$ (and even $x$ ) have uncertainties, python fitting packages and when to apply them how to which function, ...
	Dimensionality Reduction	Principal Component Analysis (PCA), tSNE, ...
9	Clustering	k-means, HDBSCAN, Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM), ...
	Model Selection	AIC & BIC, train/test sets, ...
	Interdisciplinary Thinking	How to think abstract or creative and bridge barriers/gaps: How your expertise can help other researchers/industry, ...

# Supervised Learning

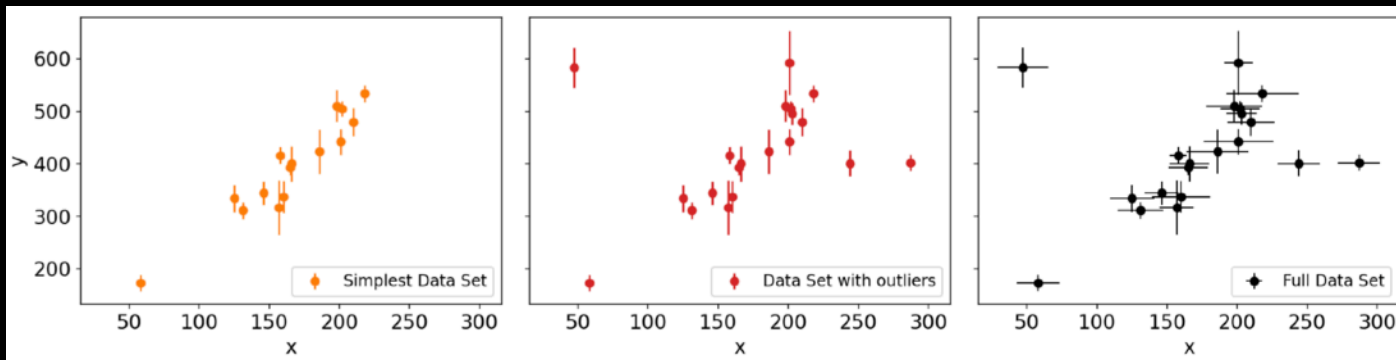
[https://scikit-learn.org/stable/supervised\\_learning.html](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/supervised_learning.html)

# Unsupervised Learning

[https://scikit-learn.org/stable/unsupervised\\_learning.html](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/unsupervised_learning.html)



# Today's tasks: Fitting a line & get distances from parallaxes properly!

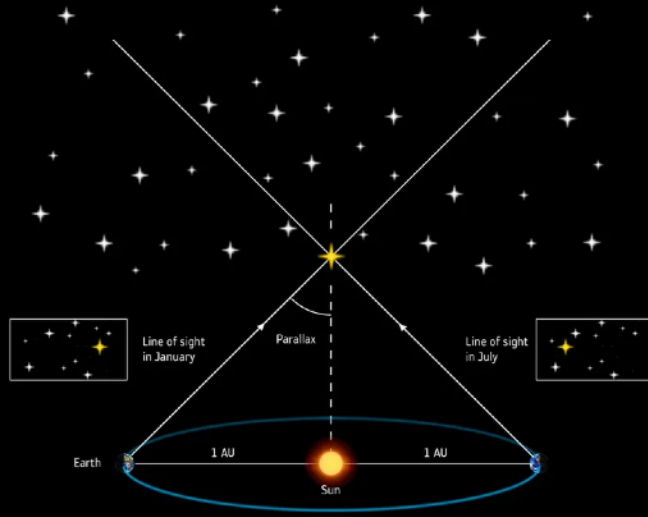


David Hogg, Jo Bovy, Dustin Lang (2010): [arxiv.org/abs/1008.4686](https://arxiv.org/abs/1008.4686)

## Abstract

We go through the many considerations involved in fitting a model to data, using as an example the fit of a straight line to a set of points in a two-dimensional plane. ...

# Today's tasks: Fitting a line & get distances from parallaxes properly!



$$D_{\varpi} = \text{distance} = \frac{1}{\text{parallax}} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ pc}}{1 \text{ arcsec}} = \frac{1}{\varpi} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ pc}}{1 \text{ arcsec}}$$

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathcal{D}) \propto p(\mathcal{D}|\mathbf{w}) \times p(\mathbf{w}) \quad \text{or} \quad \text{posterior} \propto \text{likelihood} \times \text{prior}$$

What if we know that all  $D_{\varpi} \geq 0 \text{ pc}$ ?

1	2023AJ....166..269B	2023/12	cited: 7	<a href="#">Estimating Distances from Parallaxes. VI. A Method for Inferring Distances and Transverse Velocities from Parallaxes and Proper Motions Demonstrated on Gaia Data Release 3</a> Bailer-Jones, C. A. L.
2	2021AJ....161..147B	2021/01	cited: 1260	<a href="#">Estimating Distances from Parallaxes. V. Geometric and Photogeometric Distances to 1.47 Billion Stars in Gaia Early Data Release 3</a> Bailer-Jones, C. A. L.; Rybizki, J.; Fouesneau, M. <a href="#">and 2 more</a>
3	2018AJ....156...58B	2018/01	cited: 1623	<a href="#">Estimating Distance from Parallaxes. IV. Distances to 1.33 Billion Stars in Gaia Data Release 2</a> Bailer-Jones, C. A. L.; Rybizki, J.; Fouesneau, M. <a href="#">and 2 more</a>
4	2016ApJ...833..119A	2016/11	cited: 128	<a href="#">Estimating Distances from Parallaxes. III. Distances of Two Million Stars in the Gaia DR1 Catalogue</a> Astraatmadja, Tri L.; Bailer-Jones, Coryn A. L.
5	2016ApJ...832..137A	2016/11	cited: 131	<a href="#">Estimating Distances from Parallaxes. II. Performance of Bayesian Distance Estimators on a Gaia-like Catalogue</a> Astraatmadja, Tri L.; Bailer-Jones, Coryn A. L.
6	2015PASP..127..994B	2015/11	cited: 432	<a href="#">Estimating Distances from Parallaxes</a> Bailer-Jones, Coryn A. L.

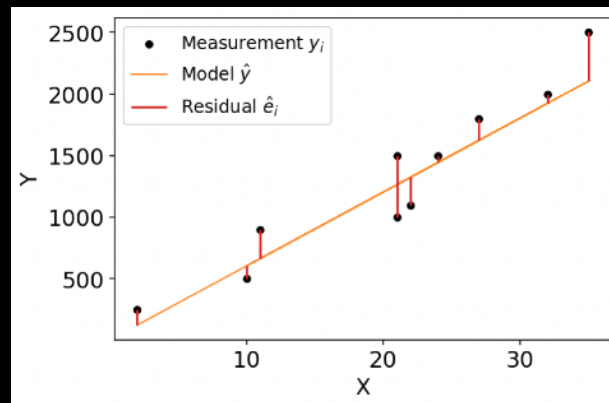
# HOW TO: FIT A LINE



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# What we will cover:

1. Building intuition
2. Only uncertainties for  $y$ :
  - 2.1. Linear algebra
  - 2.2. Numerical solutions
    - 2.2.1. `np.polyfit`
    - 2.2.2. `scipy.optimize.curve_fit`
    - 2.2.3. `statsmodel.api`
3. Uncertainties for  $x$  and  $y$ :
  - 3.1. `scipy.optimize.minimize`
  - 3.2. `scipy.odr`



# Fitting a linear model to data: Complexity Level 0

What we have  $n$  data points  $(x_i, y_i)$   
without uncertainties

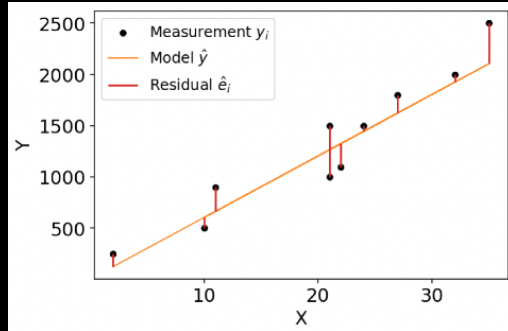
$$(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$$

We want to fit a linear function  
with intercept  $c_0$  and slope  $c_1$

$$y_i = c_0 + c_1 x_i + \epsilon_i$$

Matrix form:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{c} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$



$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Data Vector

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Design matrix

$$\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Coefficient Vector





# Fitting a linear model to data

Matrix form:  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{c} + \epsilon$

To find the coefficients  $\mathbf{c}$  that minimise the sum of squared residuals, we use the normal equation (multiply above with transpose matrix  $\mathbf{X}^T$ ):

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$



$$\mathbf{c} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

$$\text{Cov}(\mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}$$

Covariance  
matrix of  $\mathbf{c}$

$$\sigma_{c_0} = \sqrt{\text{Cov}_{00}}$$

$$\sigma_{c_1} = \sqrt{\text{Cov}_{11}}$$

multiply each  
side with

$$(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}$$

# Example

$$(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$$

$$(1, 2), (2, 2.8), (3, 3.6)$$



$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2.8 \\ 3.6 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 6 \\ 6 & 14 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2.8 \\ 3.6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 8.4 \\ 18.8 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}(\hat{c}) = \hat{\sigma}^2 (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}$$



$$(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 14 - 6 \cdot 6} \begin{pmatrix} 14 & -6 \\ -6 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 14 & -6 \\ -6 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{7}{3} & -1 \\ -1 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

det(X)

$$\mathbf{c} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$



$$\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{7}{3} & -1 \\ -1 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 8.4 \\ 18.8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.2 \\ 0.8 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$y = 1.2 + 0.8 \cdot x$$



$$\sigma_{c_0} = \sqrt{\text{Cov}_{00}} \quad \sigma_{c_1} = \sqrt{\text{Cov}_{11}}$$

```
import numpy as np

# Step 1: Define the data
x = x_data_simple
y = y_data_simple

# Step 2: Create the design matrix X
# We add a column of ones for the bias term (c_0)
X = np.column_stack((np.ones(x.shape[0]), x))

# Step 3: Compute the normal equation components
# X^T X and X^T y
XT_X = np.dot(X.T, X) # X.T is the transpose of X
XT_y = np.dot(X.T, y)

# Step 4: Compute the covariance matrix of the coefficients
cov_matrix = np.linalg.inv(XT_X)

# Step 5: Solve for the coefficients (c_0, c_1)
coefficients = cov_matrix.dot(XT_y)

# Step 5: Output the coefficients
c_0, c_1 = coefficients

# Step 6: Extract coefficient sigma
diagonal_entries_sigma = np.sqrt(np.diag(cov_matrix))
c_0_sigma = diagonal_entries_sigma[0]
c_1_sigma = diagonal_entries_sigma[1]

# Step 7: Use the coefficients to predict y values
y_pred = X.dot(coefficients)
```



# Complexity Level 1: uncertainties on $y_i$

$$x = [1, 2, 3]$$

$$y = [2, 2.8, 3.6]$$

$$\sigma_y = [0.1, 0.2, 0.3]$$

$$y_i = c_0 + c_1 x_i + \epsilon_i$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{c} + \epsilon$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Design matrix

$$\mathbf{W} = \text{diag}\left(\frac{1}{\sigma_{y_1}^2}, \frac{1}{\sigma_{y_2}^2}, \dots, \frac{1}{\sigma_{y_n}^2}\right)$$

Weights matrix

Weighted normal equation:

Multiply with  $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W}$ :

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{y}$$

Multiply with  $(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X})^{-1}$

$$\mathbf{c} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{y}$$

$$\text{Cov}(\mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X})^{-1}$$

```
import numpy as np

# Step 1: Define the data and uncertainties
x = x_data_sample
y = y_data_sample
y_sigma = y_sigma_sample

# Step 2: Create the design matrix X
# We add a column of ones for the bias term (c_0)
X = np.column_stack((np.ones(x.shape[0]), x))

# Step 3: Create the weights matrix W
W = np.diag(1 / y_sigma**2) # Diagonal matrix of 1/y_sigma^2

# Step 4: Compute the weighted normal equation components
# X^T W X and X^T W y
XT_W_X = np.dot(X.T, np.dot(W, X))
XT_W_y = np.dot(X.T, np.dot(W, y))

# Step 5: Compute the covariance matrix of the coefficients
cov_matrix = np.linalg.inv(XT_W_X)

# Step 5: Solve for the coefficients (c_0, c_1)
coefficients = cov_matrix.dot(XT_W_y)

# Step 6: Output the coefficients
c_0, c_1 = coefficients

# Step 7: Extract coefficient sigma
diagonal_entries_sigma = np.sqrt(np.diag(cov_matrix))
c_0_sigma = diagonal_entries_sigma[0]
c_1_sigma = diagonal_entries_sigma[1]

# Step 8: Use the coefficients to predict y values
y_pred = X.dot(coefficients)
```

# Complexity Level 2: outliers

## Complexity Level 3: quadratic function

$$y = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n & x_n^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{y}$$

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

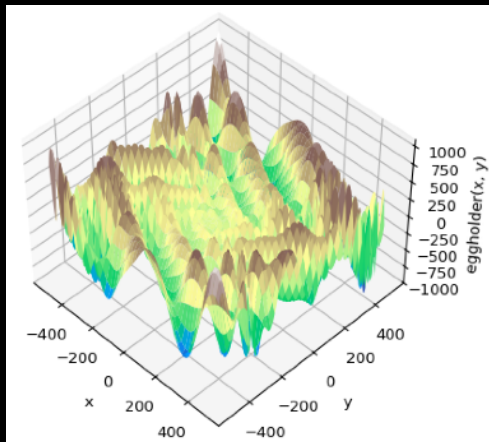
$$\text{Cov}(\mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}$$

The maths stays the same!

# IN PRACTICE:

FUNCTIONS CAN BE MORE COMPLICATED.

WHEN TO USE PACKAGES FOR FITTING?



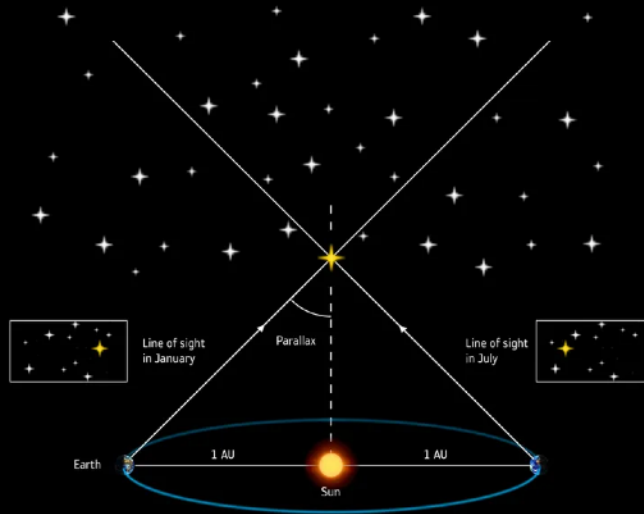
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# BREAK UNTIL 2PM



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# HOW TO: ESTIMATE DISTANCES FROM PARALLAXES



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# PLOT CLINIC



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