Instructor Introductions

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Research Area: Multimodal Learning and Sensing

In addition to:

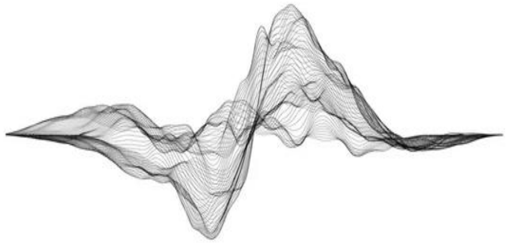
Vision

Text

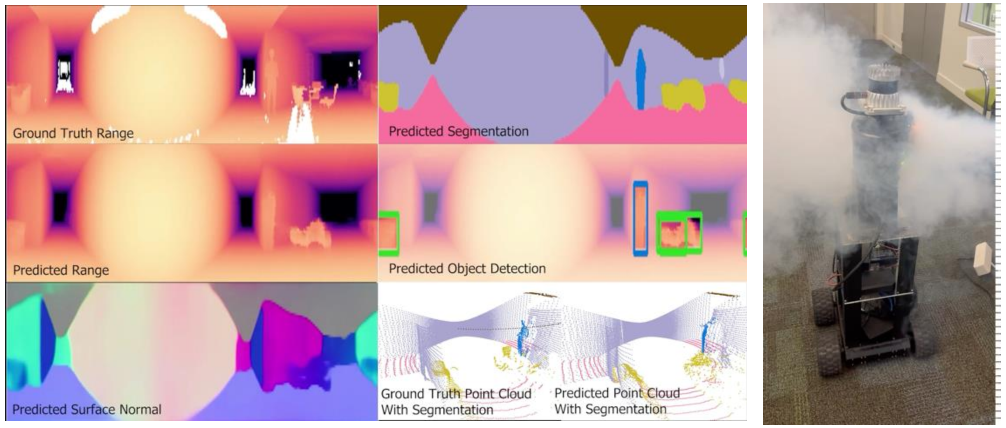
We also look at:

Radio/Wireless

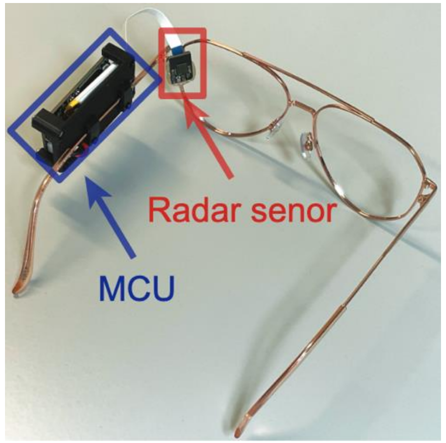
Acoustic/Ultrasound



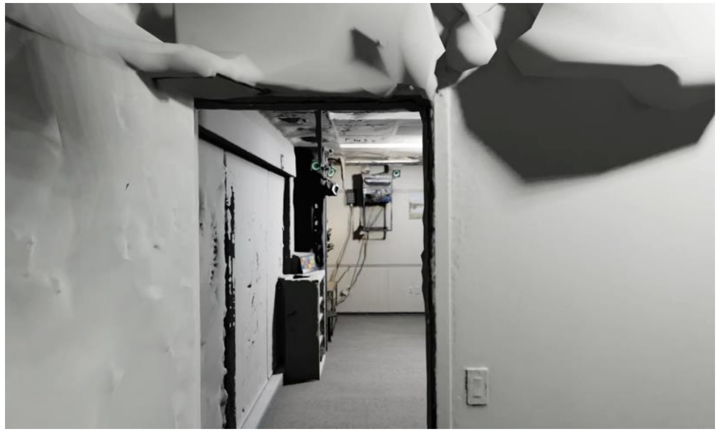
See Through Occlusions & X-Ray Vision



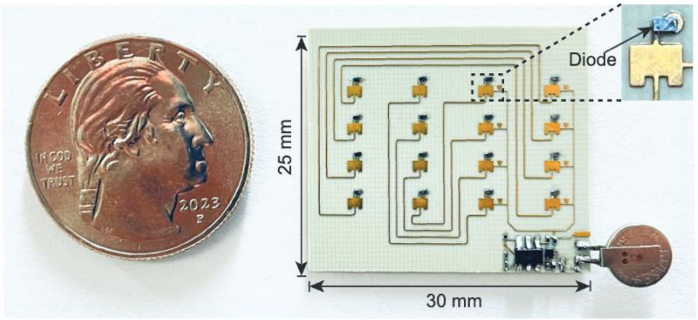
Smart Eyeglasses for Ocular Health & Cognitive State Tracking



Sound Rendering / Acoustic Modeling



Sub-mm and NLOS Motion Capture



Life & Hobbies

Moko

Moki

Announcements

- **Homework 0:** Due in 1 week (Wed 1/29 8 pm).
  - Should only take you a few hours. Primers on various topics on the class website.
- **OH** time and location will be posted soon.
  - After HW0 is due and HW1 is released.
  - 20+ hours every week from instructors and TAs.
- **Waitlist**
  - Some movement on add/drop, some of you added. Prioritizing by date of graduation, and when you came on the waitlist.
  - Email instructors if you have an extraordinary need to take the class.
  - If you have been accepted off the waitlist, **please enroll by Friday**

Lecture 2: Linear Regression (Part 1)

CIS 4190/5190

Spring 2025

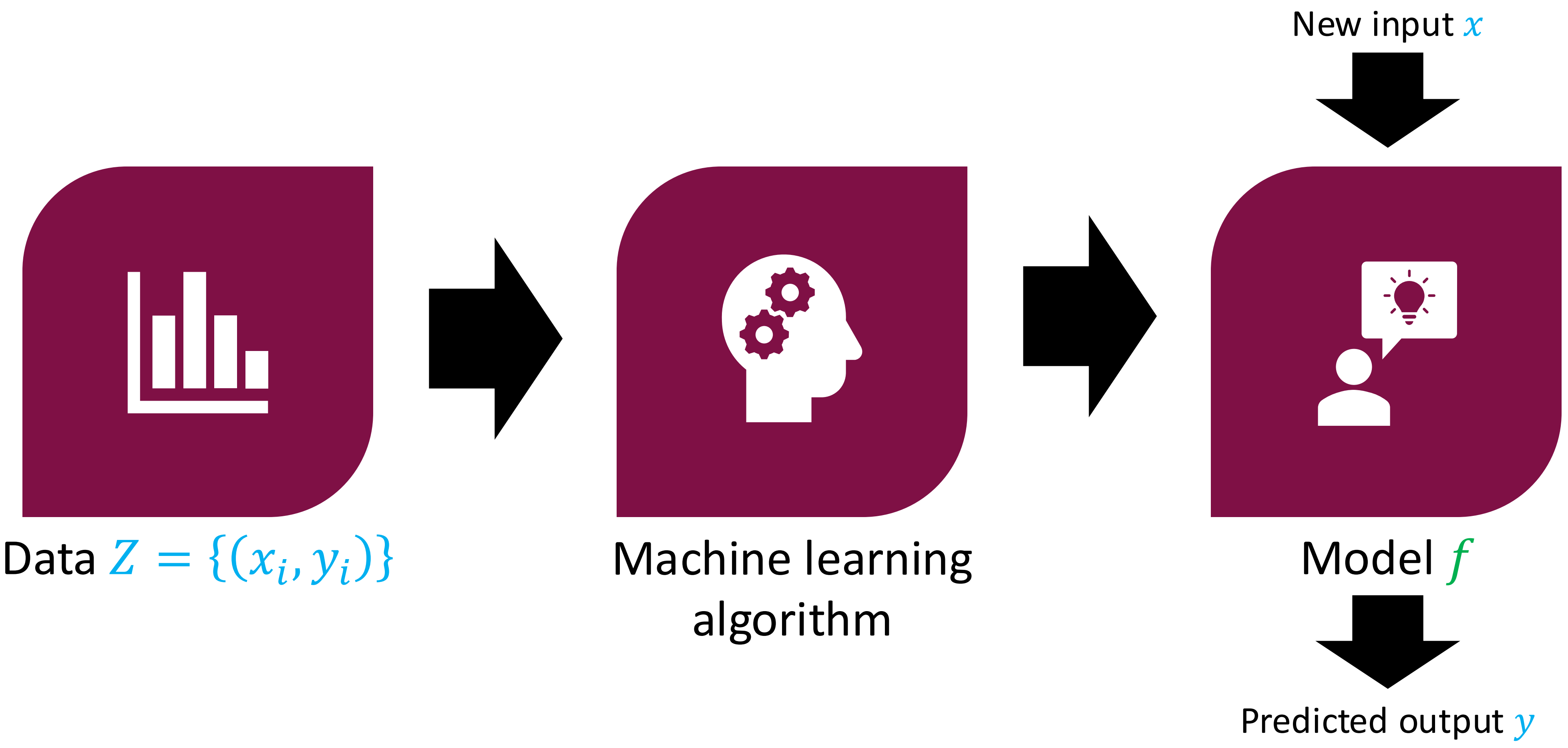
Recap: Types of Machine Learning

- **Supervised learning**
  - **Input:** Examples of inputs and desired outputs
  - **Output:** Model that predicts output given a new input

- **Unsupervised learning**
  - **Input:** Examples of some data (no “outputs”)
  - **Output:** Representation of structure in the data

- **Reinforcement learning**
  - **Input:** Sequence of interactions with an environment
  - **Output:** Policy that performs a desired task

Supervised Learning



Question: What **model family** (a.k.a. **hypothesis class**) to consider?

Linear Functions

- Consider the space of linear functions $f_\beta(x)$ defined by

$$f_\beta(x) = \beta^\top x$$

Linear Functions

- Consider the space of linear functions $f_\beta(x)$ defined by

$$f_\beta(x) = \beta^\top x = [\beta_1 \quad \cdots \quad \beta_d] \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_d \end{bmatrix} = \beta_1 x_1 + \cdots + \beta_d x_d$$

- $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is called an **input** (a.k.a. **features** or **covariates**)
- $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is called the **parameters** (a.k.a. **parameter vector**)
- $y = f_\beta(x)$ is called the **label** (a.k.a. **output** or **response**)

Linear Regression Problem

- **Input:** Dataset $Z = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\}$, where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$
- **Output:** A linear function $f_\beta(x) = \beta^\top x$ such that $y_i \approx \beta^\top x_i$

- **Typical notation**
  - Use i to index examples (x_i, y_i) in data Z
  - Use j to index components x_j of $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$
  - x_{ij} is component j of input example i

- **Goal:** Estimate $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Linear Regression Problem

- **Input:** Dataset $Z = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\}$, where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$
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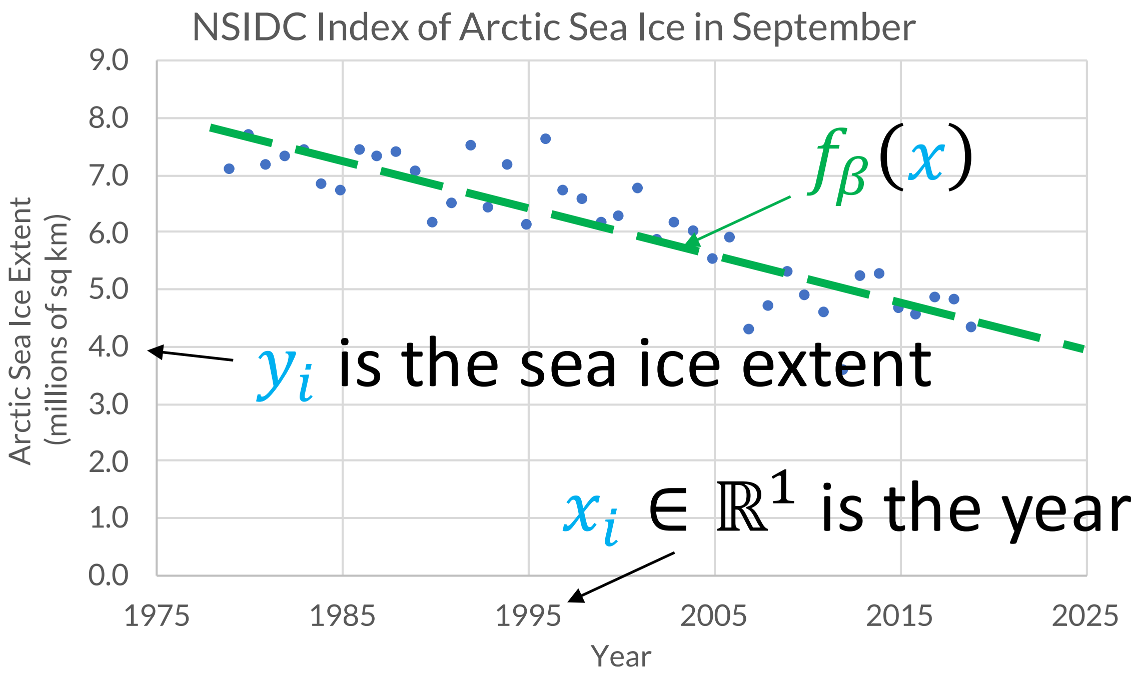


Image: https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsfc/5937599688/
Data from https://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/sea-ice-tools/

Linear Regression Problem

What does this mean?

- **Input:** Dataset $Z = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\}$, where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$
- **Output:** A linear function $f_\beta(x) = \beta^\top x$ such that $y_i \approx \beta^\top x_i$


Photo by NASA Goddard

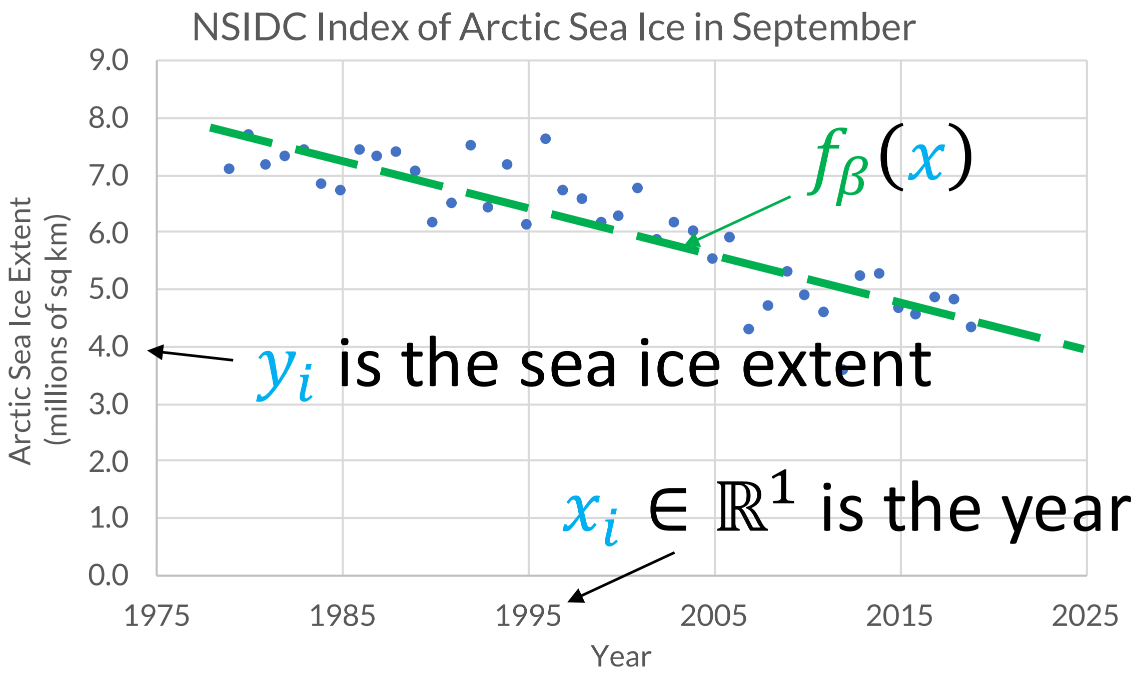


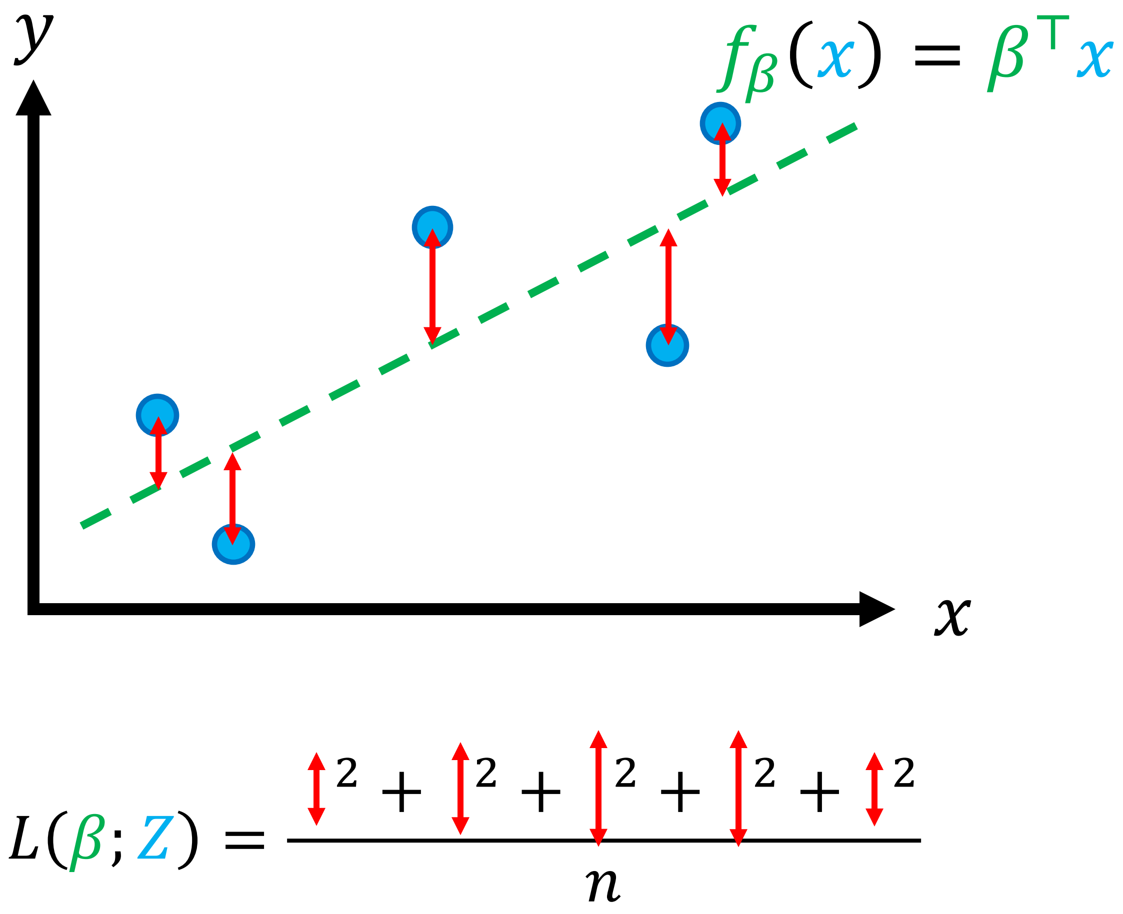
Image: https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsfc/5937599688/
Data from https://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/sea-ice-tools/

Choice of Loss Function

- $y_i \approx \beta^\top x_i$ if $(y_i - \beta^\top x_i)^2$ small
- **Mean squared error (MSE):**

$$L(\beta; Z) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \beta^\top x_i)^2$$

- Computationally convenient and works well in practice



Linear Regression Problem

- **Input:** Data $Z = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$, where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$
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Linear Regression Problem

- **Input:** Data $Z = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$, where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$
- **Output:** A linear function $f_\beta(x) = \beta^\top x$ that minimizes the MSE:

$$L(\beta; Z) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \beta^\top x_i)^2$$

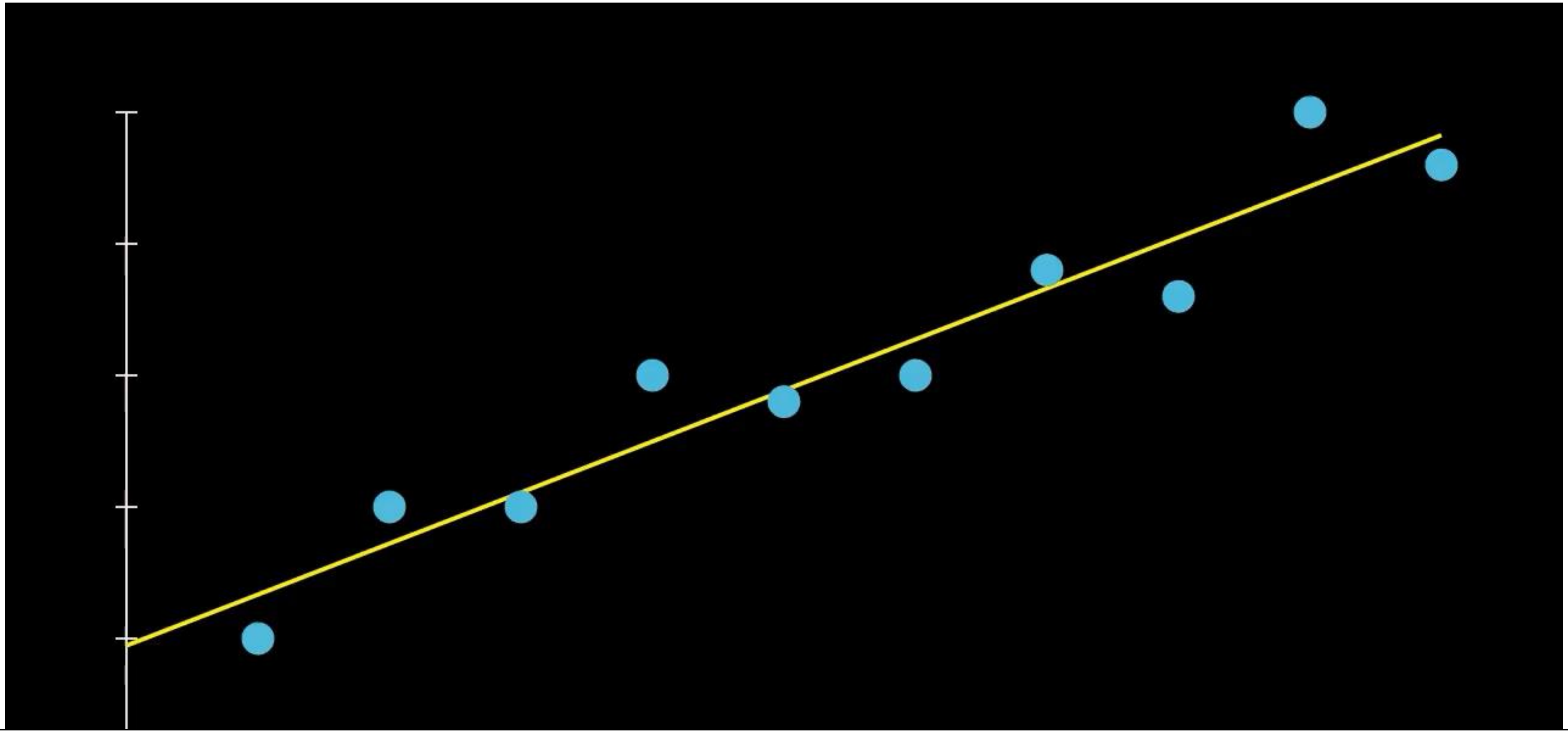
Linear Regression Algorithm

- **Input:** Dataset $Z = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\}$
- Compute

$$\hat{\beta}(Z) = \arg\min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^d} L(\beta; Z)$$
$$= \arg\min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \beta^\top x_i)^2$$

- **Output:** $f_{\hat{\beta}(Z)}(x) = \hat{\beta}(Z)^\top x$
- Discuss algorithm for computing the minimal β later

Minimizing the Mean Squared Error

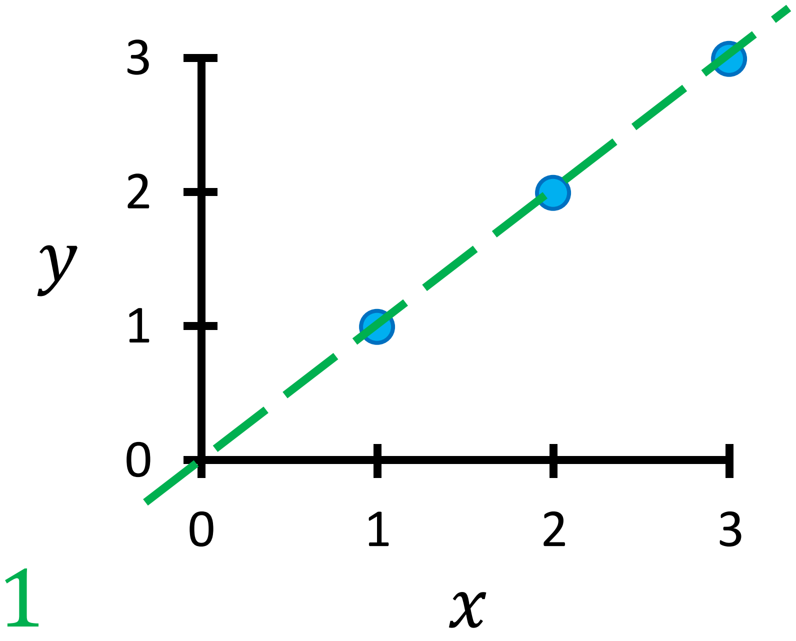


Q: What is depicted here is actually the “sum” of squared errors (SSE), but it doesn’t really matter. Why?

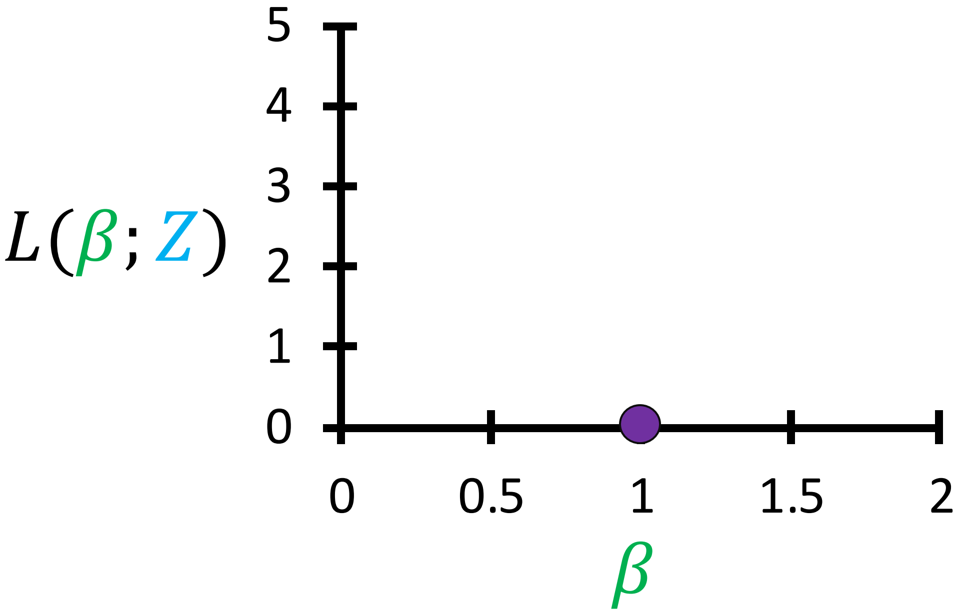
Youtube: 3-Minute Data Science

Intuition on Minimizing MSE Loss

- Consider $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$

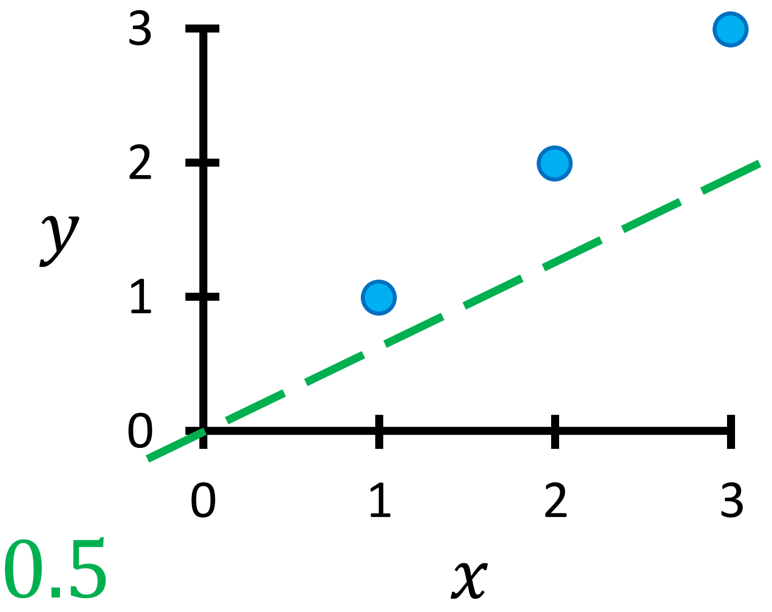


$\beta = 1$

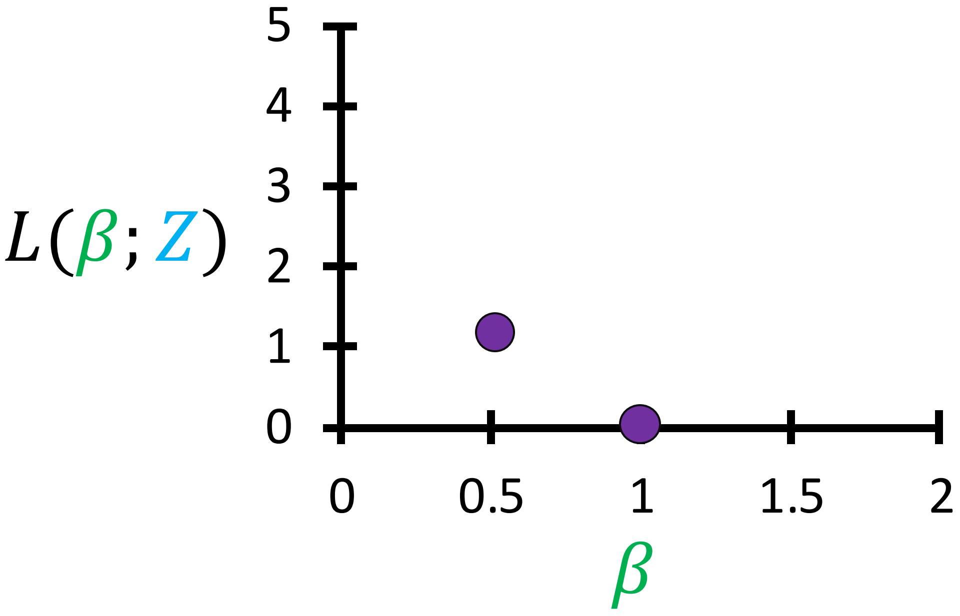


Intuition on Minimizing MSE Loss

- Consider $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$

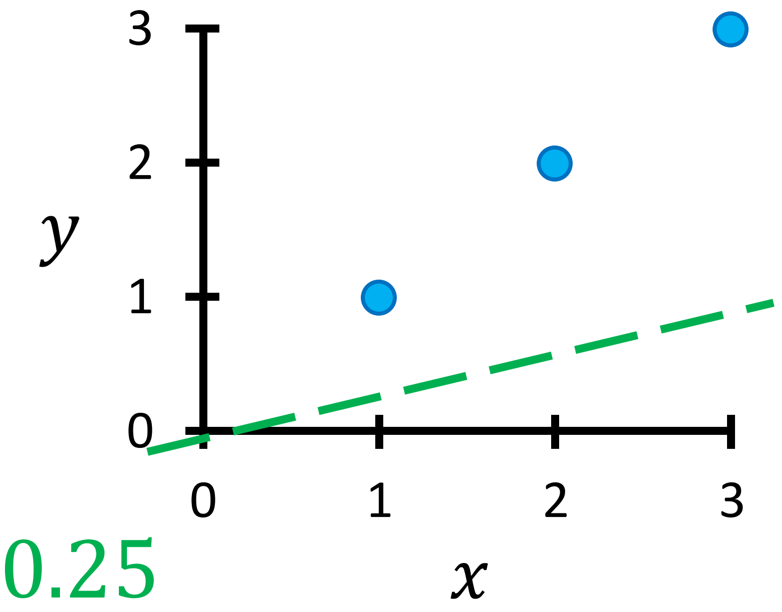


$\beta = 0.5$

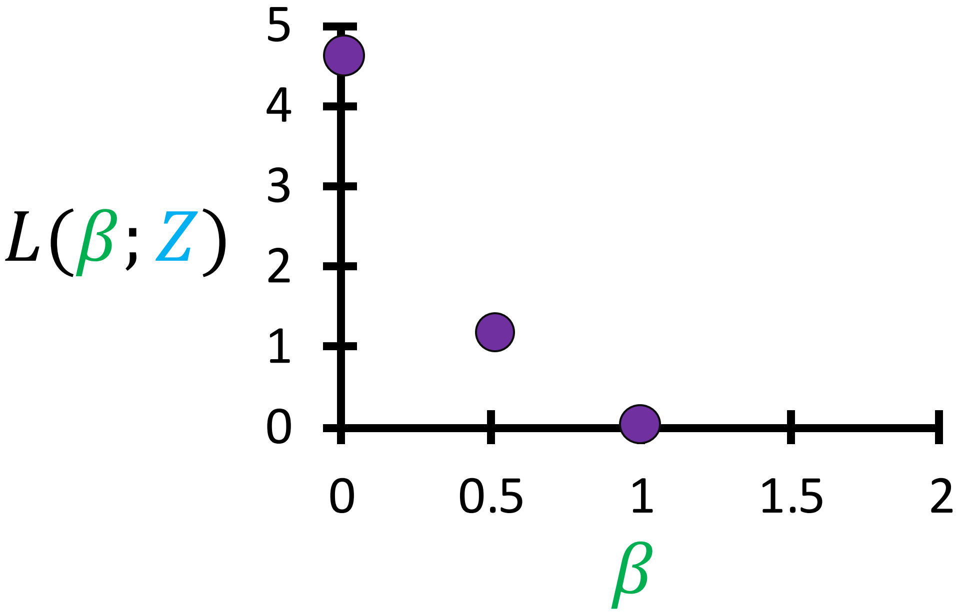


Intuition on Minimizing MSE Loss

- Consider $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$

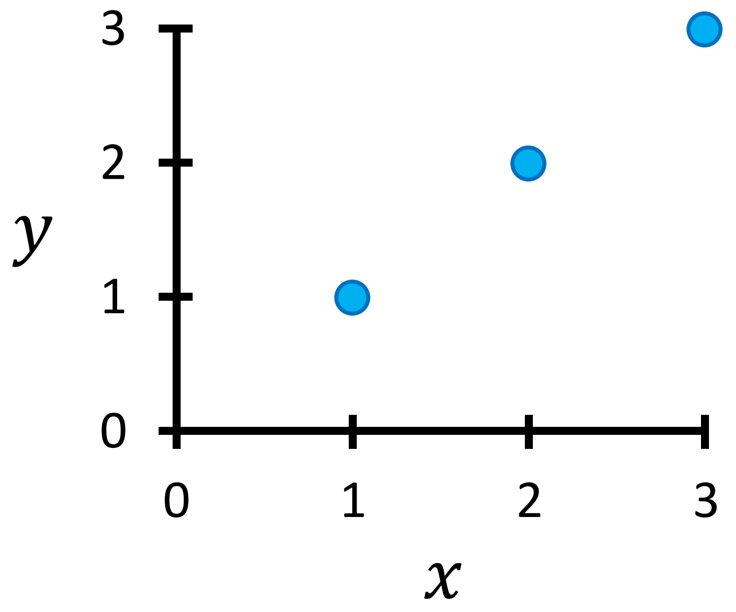


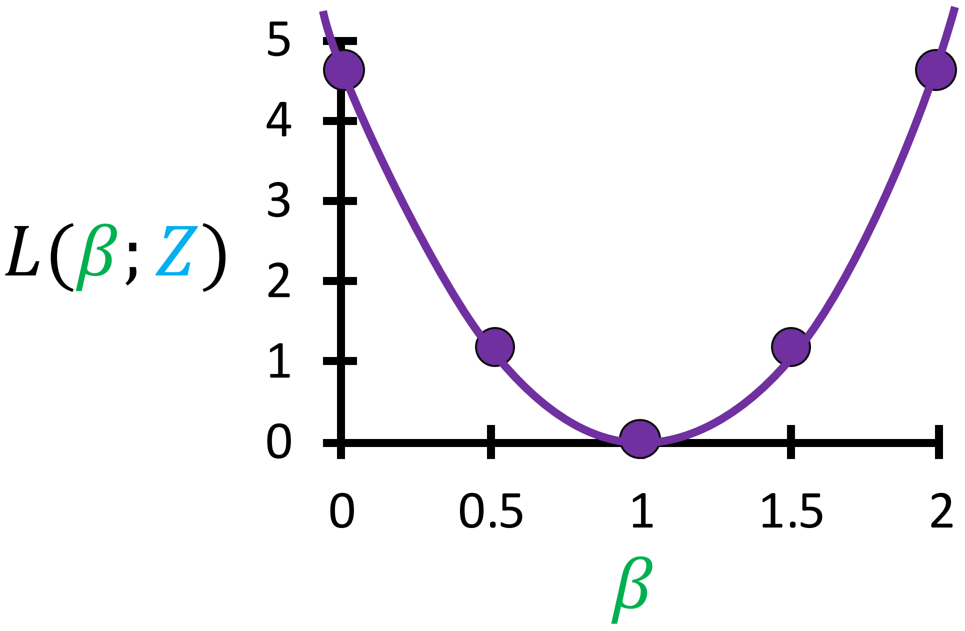
$\beta = 0.25$



Intuition on Minimizing MSE Loss

- Consider $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$

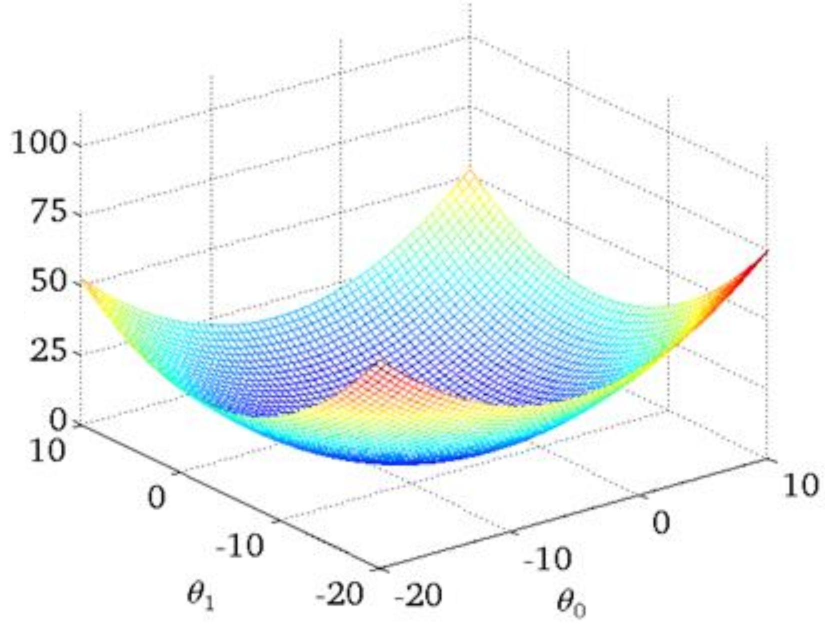


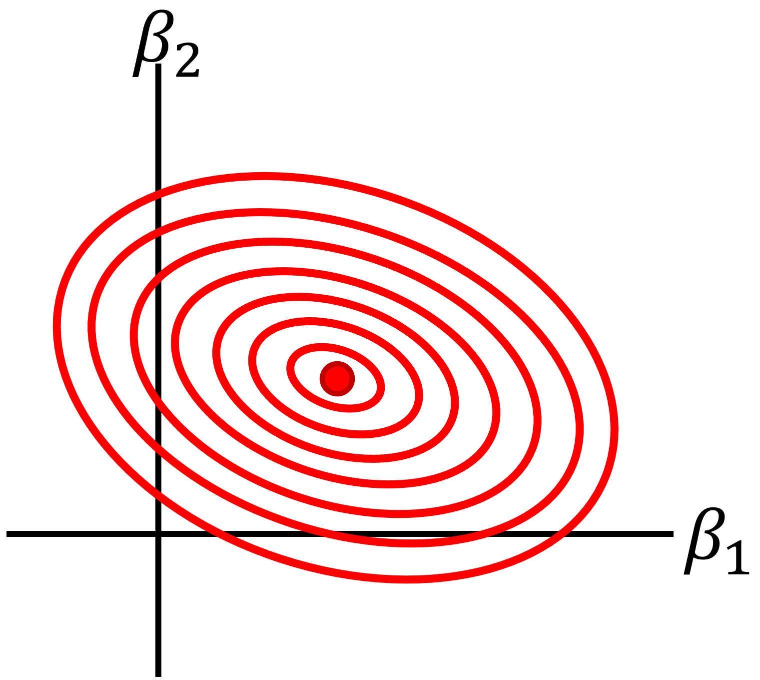


Intuition on Minimizing MSE Loss

- **Convex** ("bowl shaped") in general

$L(\beta; Z)$





Later, we will discuss how to find the parameters β that minimize the MSE loss L

Slide by Andrew Ng

What Is A “Good” Mean Squared Error?

- Zero MSE is rarely achievable. How do we know that the linear regression algorithm worked well?
- **Compare to simple baselines:** “Is my ML algorithm giving me more than what I could easily have coded up?” For example,
  - Constant prediction, e.g., predicting the mean of the training dataset target labels
  - Handcrafted model
  - …
- **A suite of performance metrics:** There’s no reason to solely rely on MSE for performance evaluation, even if you use MSE as the loss function.
- **Evaluate beyond the training examples**: (more on this soon)

Alternative Functions to Measure Performance

- **Mean absolute error:** $\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} |\hat{y}_i - y_i|$

- **Mean relative error:** $\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{|\widehat{y_i} - y_i|}{|y_i|}$

- **R^2 score:** $1 - \frac{\text{MSE}}{\text{Variance}}$
  - “Coefficient of determination”
  - Higher is better, $R^2 = 1$ is perfect

Alternative Functions to Measure Performance

- **Pearson correlation:** $\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{(\hat{y}_i-\hat{\mu})(y_i-\mu)}{\hat{\sigma}\sigma}$
  - Usually estimated from some sampled measurements of those variables, and denoted as R (related to R^2 on the last slide!)

- **Rank-order correlation:**
  - First rank the measurements of $\hat{y}_{\boldsymbol{i}}$ and y separately, then replace each value in y by its rank, and ditto for $\hat{y}$
  - Then measure the linear correlation between those ranks

Performance Metrics

- Loss functions are special performance metrics.
  - Every loss function, e.g. MSE, is a performance metric, but not every performance metric is a convenient loss function for ML. (Reasons later)
- Always think carefully about the useful performance metric(s) for your ML problem. Use them to iterate on your ML design choices.
  - E.g. For an ML model that makes car driving decisions,
    - How frequently did it successfully get from A to B?
    - How fast did it get there?
    - How many traffic violations did it commit?
- The loss function is *a single scalar function*. A good choice of loss function:
  - expresses all the performance metrics.
  - is "convenient for machine learning." More on this later.

Zooming Out of Linear Regression
To The Big Picture For a Bit …

Function Approximation View of ML

Data Z

Machine learning algorithm

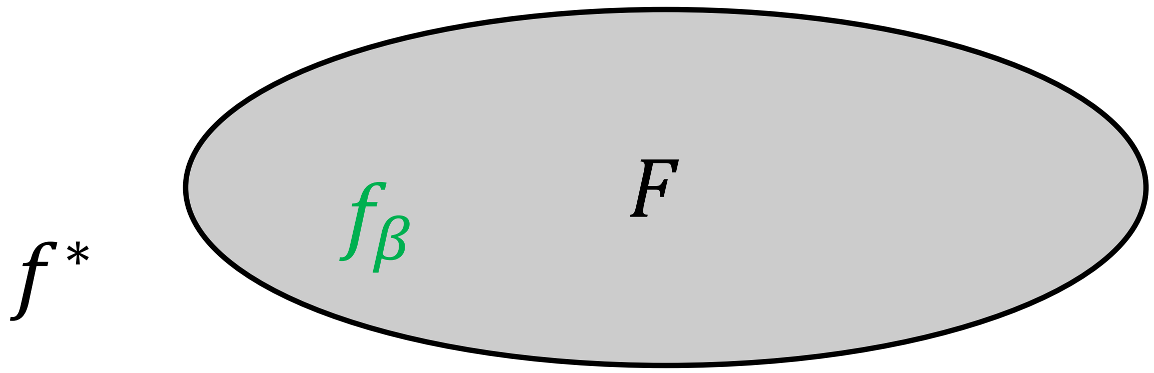
Model f

ML algorithm outputs a model f that best "approximates" the given data Z

The "True Function" $\boldsymbol{f^*}$

- **Input:** Dataset Z
  - Presume there is an unknown function f^* that **generates** Z

- **Goal:** Find an approximation $f_\beta \approx f^*$ in our model family $f_\beta \in F$
  - Typically, f^* not in our model family F



Function Approximation View of ML

- Framework for designing machine learning algorithms

- **Two key design decisions:**
  - What is the family of candidate models f?
  - How to define “approximating”?

Let us see how linear regression fits in this framework.

Machine Learning

Data Z

Machine learning algorithm

Model f

Machine Learning as *Parametric Function Approximation*

Data Z

Machine learning algorithm

Model f_β

Parametric model family (i.e., $F = \{ f_\beta \mid \beta \in \mathbb{R}^d \}$)

Machine Learning as *Parametric Function Approximation*

Data Z

$\hat{\beta}(Z) = \arg\min_{\beta} L(\beta; Z)$

Model $f_{\hat{\beta}(Z)}$

ML algorithm minimizes loss of parameters β over data Z

… For *Supervised Learning*

Data $Z = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^{n}$

$\hat{\beta}(Z) = \arg\min_{\beta} L(\beta; Z)$

L encodes $y_i \approx f_{\beta}(x_i)$

Model $f_{\hat{\beta}(Z)}$

Goal is for function to approximate **label** y given **input** x

… Specifically, *For Regression*

Data $Z = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^{n}$

$\hat{\beta}(Z) = \arg\min_{\beta} L(\beta; Z)$

L encodes $y_i \approx f_{\beta}(x_i)$

Model $f_{\hat{\beta}(Z)}$

Label is a real number $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$

… Specifically, *For Linear Regression*

Data $Z = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^{n}$

$\hat{\beta}(Z) = \arg\min_{\beta} L(\beta; Z)$

L encodes $y_i \approx f_{\beta}(x_i)$

Model $f_{\hat{\beta}(Z)}$

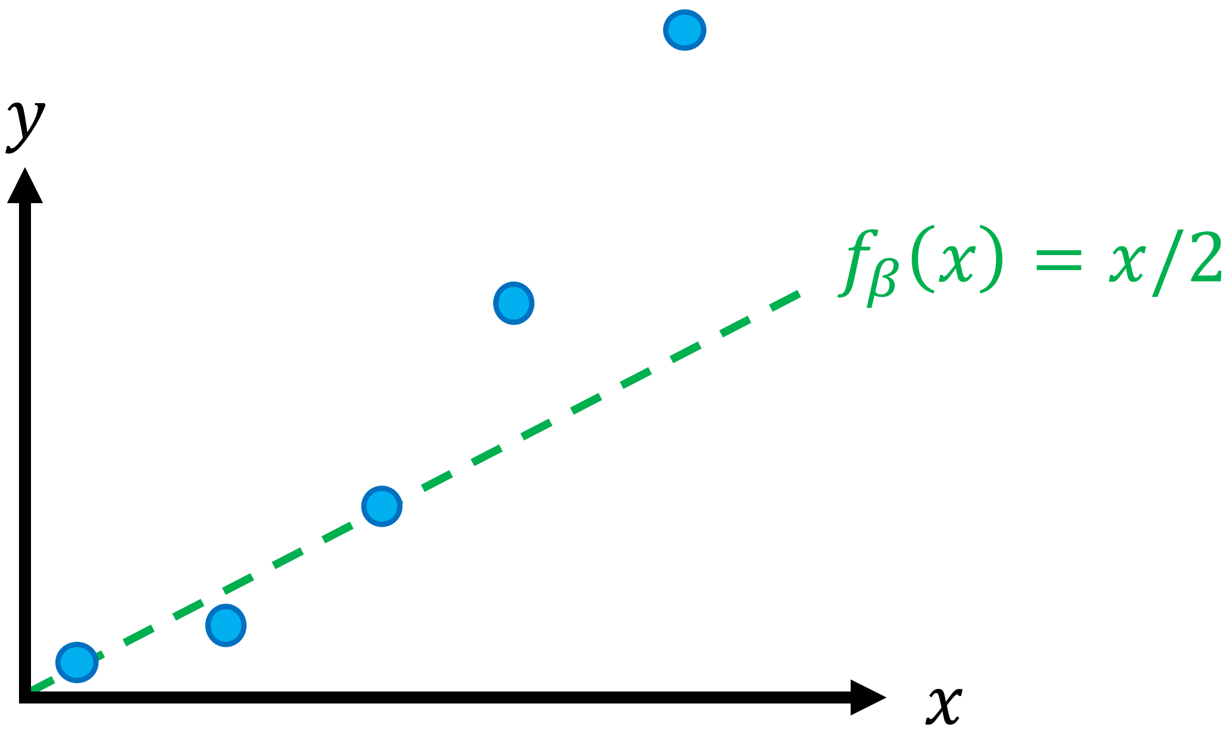
MSE loss

Model is a linear function $f_{\beta}(x) = \beta^{\top} x$

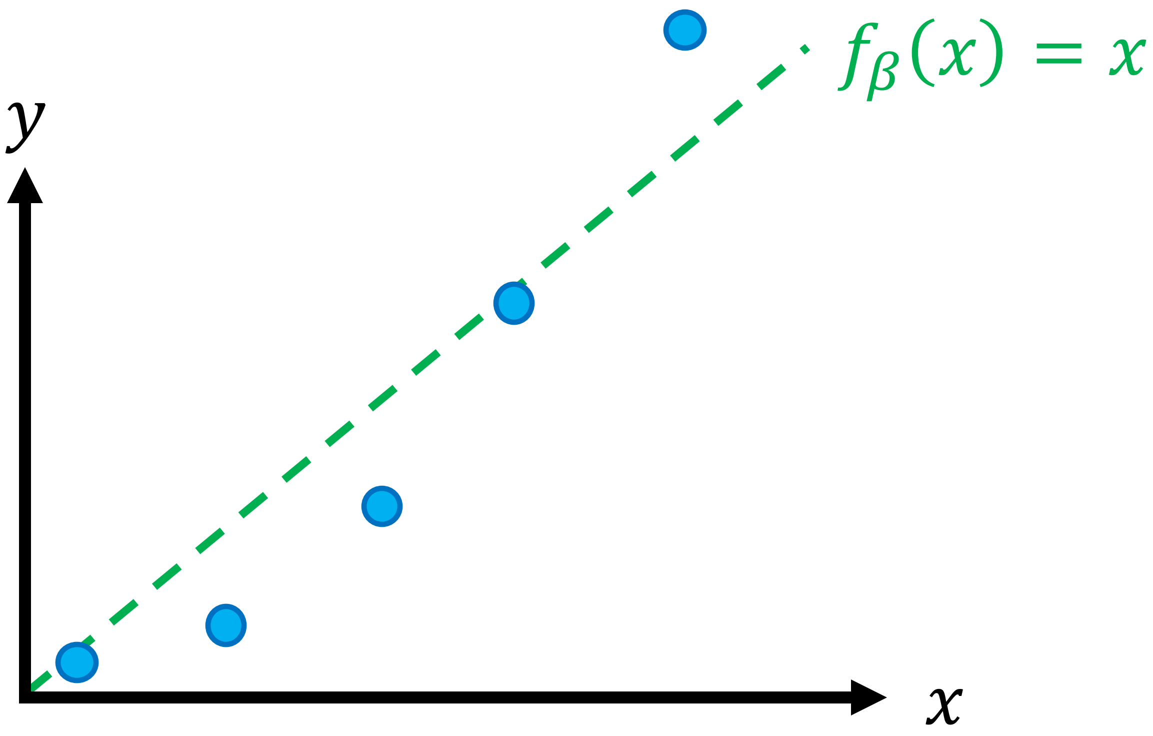
Linear Regression With Feature Maps

Linear Regression When Data is *Non-Linear?*

Example: Quadratic Function



Example: Quadratic Function



Can we get a better fit?

Feature Maps

General strategy

- Model family $F = \{f_\beta\}_\beta$
- Loss function $L(\beta; Z)$

Linear regression with feature map

- Linear functions over a given **feature map** $\phi: X \to \mathbb{R}^d$

$$F = \{f_\beta(x) = \beta^\top \phi(x)\}$$

- MSE $L(\beta; Z) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(y_i - \beta^\top \phi(x_i)\right)^2$

Quadratic Feature Map

- Consider the feature map $\phi: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^2$ given by

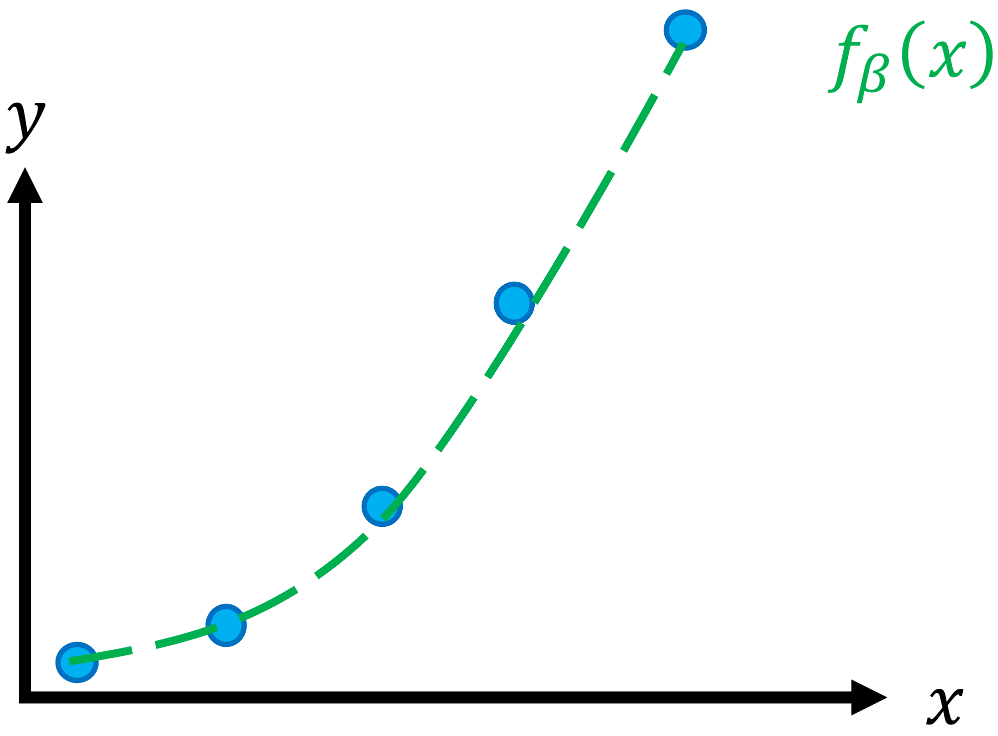
$$\phi(x) = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ x^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Then, the model family is

$$f_\beta(x) = \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2$$

Quadratic Feature Map

$f_\beta(x) = 0x + 1x^2$



In our family for $\beta = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$!

Feature Maps

- Effectively changes the hypothesis space! This is a powerful strategy for encoding “prior knowledge” about the function we are looking to approximate.

- **Terminology**
  - x is the **input** and $\phi(x)$ is the **features**
  - Often used interchangeably

Examples of Feature Maps

- Polynomial features
  - $\boldsymbol{\phi}(x) = [1, x_1, x_2, x_1^2, x_1 x_2, x_2^2]$
  - $f_\beta(x) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_1 + \beta_3 x_2 + \beta_4 x_1^2 + \beta_5 x_1 x_2 + \beta_6 x_2^2 + \cdots$
  - Quadratic features are very common; capture "feature interactions"
  - Can use other nonlinearities (exponential, logarithm, square root, etc.
- Note the intercept term (in red)
  - $\phi(x) = [1 \quad x_1 \quad \cdots \quad x_d]^\top$
  - Almost always used; captures constant effect
- Encoding non-real inputs
  - E.g. Education level $x \in$ {"high school", "college", "masters", "doctoral"} $\phi(x)$ maps to {1, 2, 3, 4}

Examples of Feature Maps

- Feature maps can also help handle very complex data like text and images
  - E.g., $x =$ "the food was good" and $y = 4$ stars
  - $\phi(x) = [1(\text{"good"} \in x) \quad 1(\text{"bad"} \in x) \quad \ldots]^{\top}$

- More on features for text and images later in the course!

Algorithm for Non-Linear Regression

First, select an appropriate feature map:

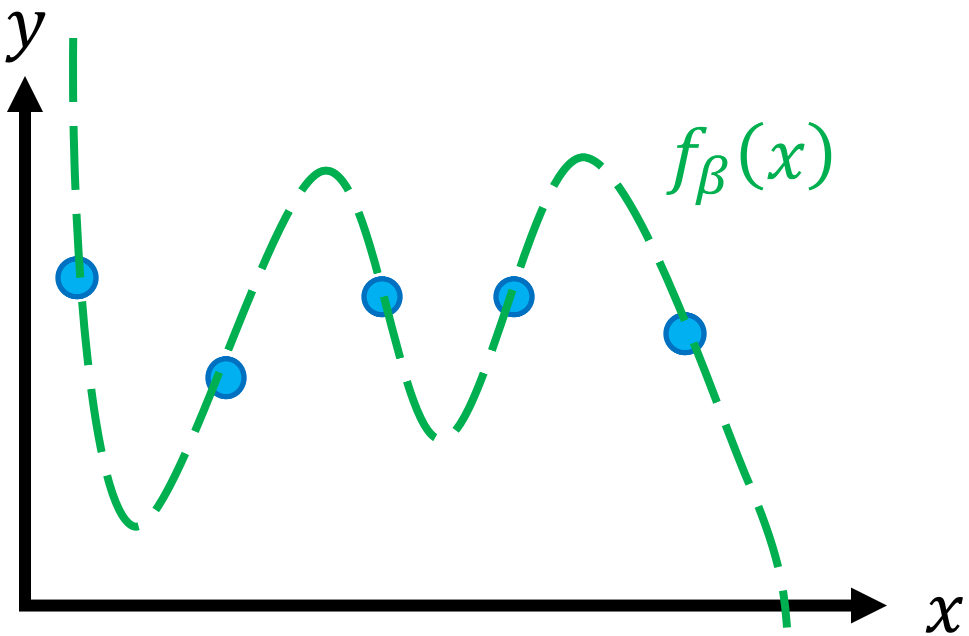
$$\boldsymbol{\phi}(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ \phi_{d'}(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

Then, non-linear regression reduces to linear regression!

- Step 1: Compute $\boldsymbol{\phi}_i = \boldsymbol{\phi}(x_i)$ for each x_i in Z
- Step 2: Run linear regression with $Z' = \{(\boldsymbol{\phi}_1, y_1), \ldots, (\boldsymbol{\phi}_n, y_n)\}$

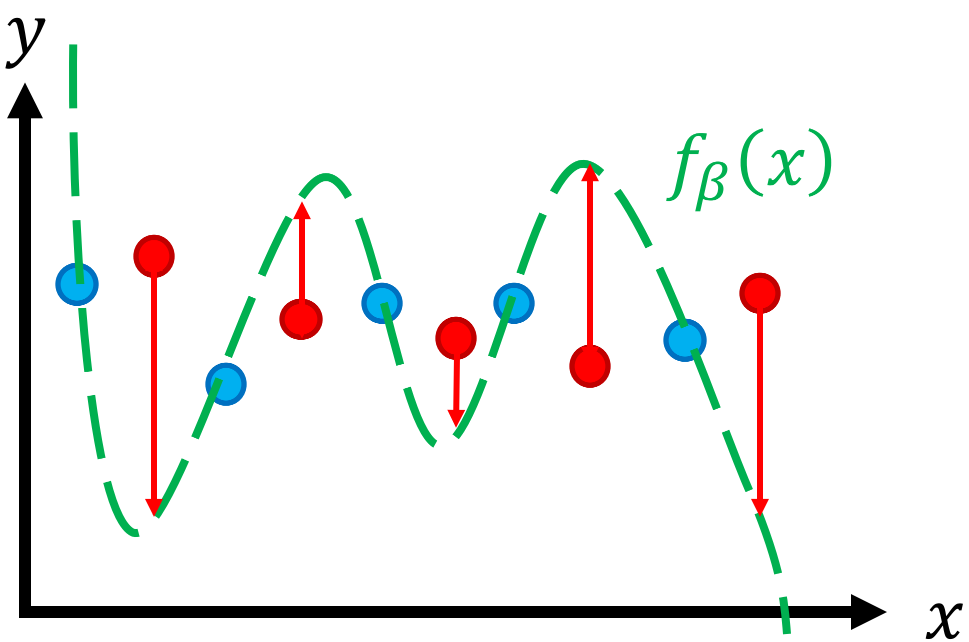
Question

- Why not always throw in lots of features?
  - After all, more features => more expressive hypothesis space!
  - For example, if $\boldsymbol{\phi}(x) = [1, x_1, x_2, x_1^2, x_1 x_2, x_2^2, \ldots]$
  - Can fit any n points using an n-th degree polynomial $f(x) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_1 + \beta_3 x_2 + \beta_4 x_1^2 + \beta_5 x_1 x_2 + \beta_6 x_2^2 + \cdots$



Prediction

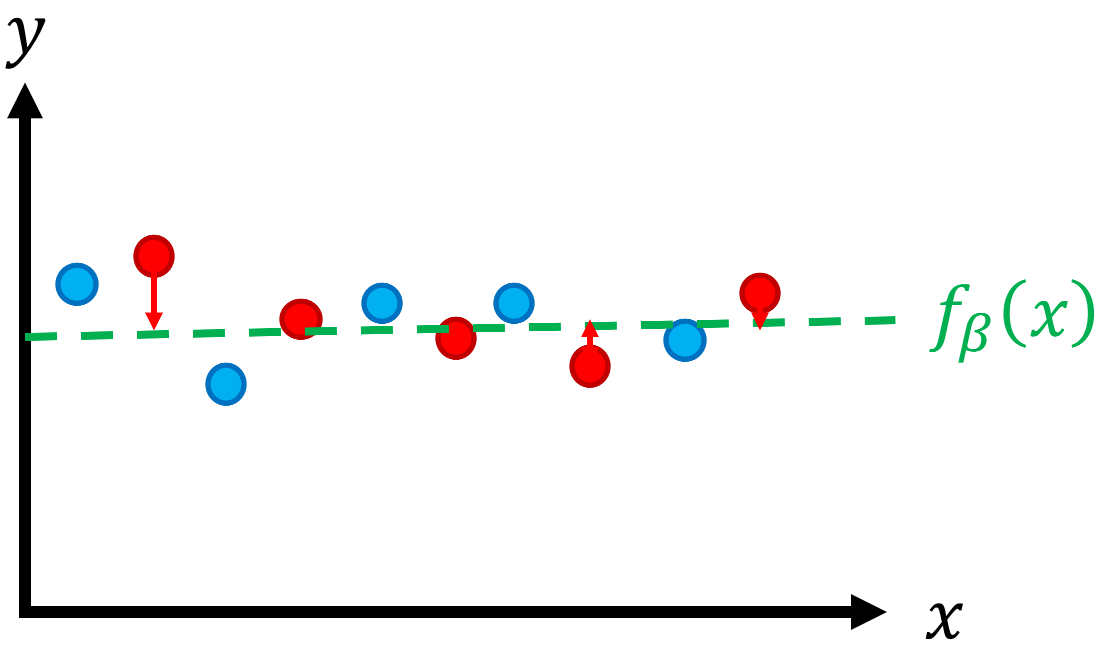
- **Issue:** The goal in machine learning is **prediction**
  - Given a **new** input x, predict the label $\hat{y} = f_\beta(x)$



The errors on new inputs is very large!

Prediction

- **Issue:** The goal in machine learning is **prediction**
  - Given a **new** input x, predict the label $\hat{y} = f_\beta(x)$



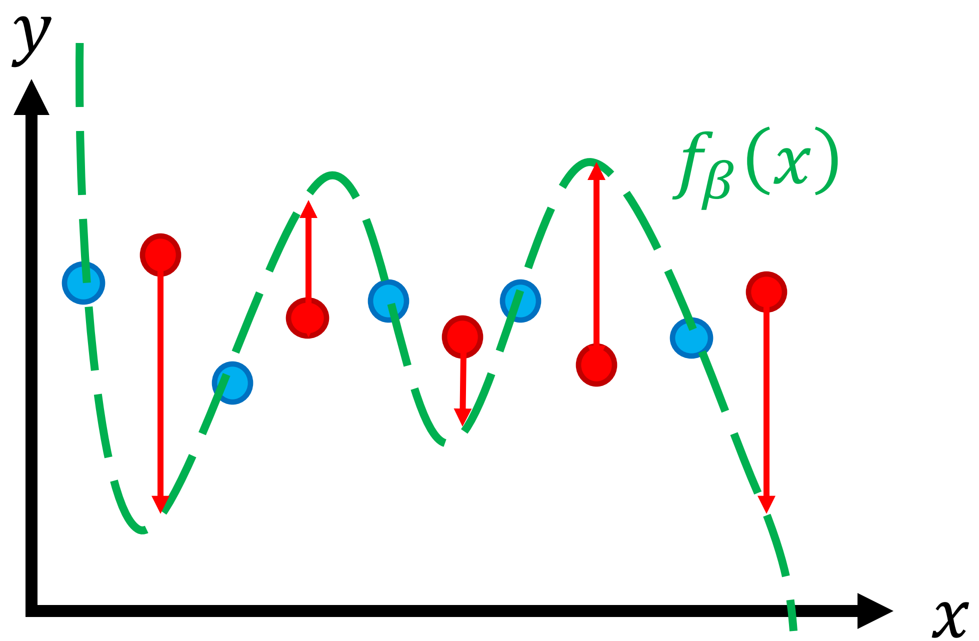
Vanilla linear regression actually works better!

Training vs. Test Data

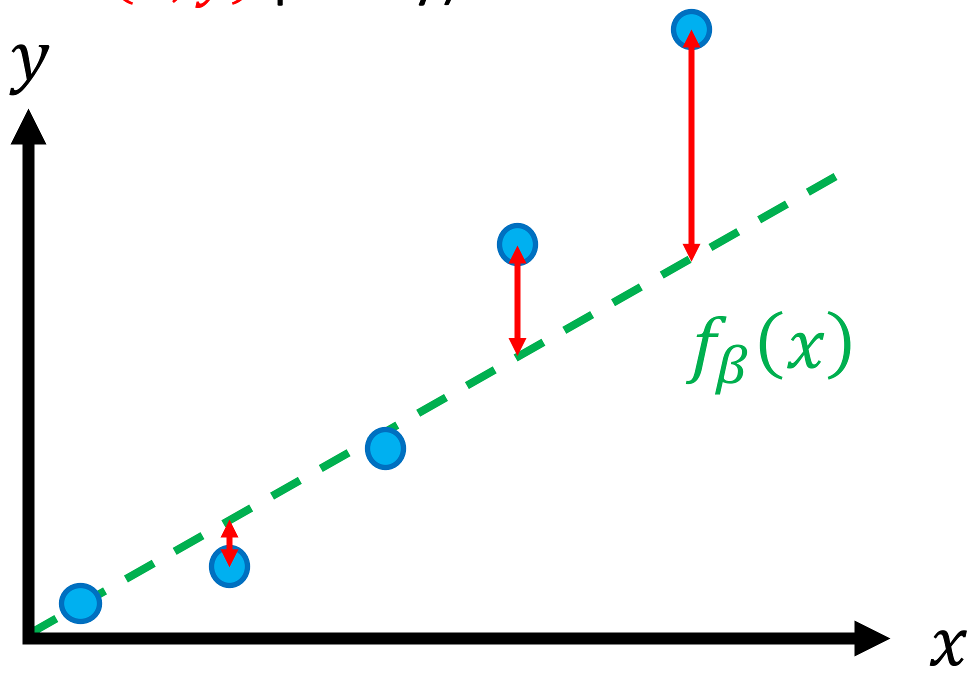
- **Training data:** Examples $Z = \{(x, y)\}$ used to fit our model
- **Test data:** New inputs x whose labels y we want to predict

Overfitting vs. Underfitting

- **Overfitting**
  - Fit the **training data** Z well
  - Fit new **test data** (x, y) poorly



- **Underfitting**
  - Fit the **training data** Z poorly
  - (Necessarily also fit new **test data** (x, y) poorly)



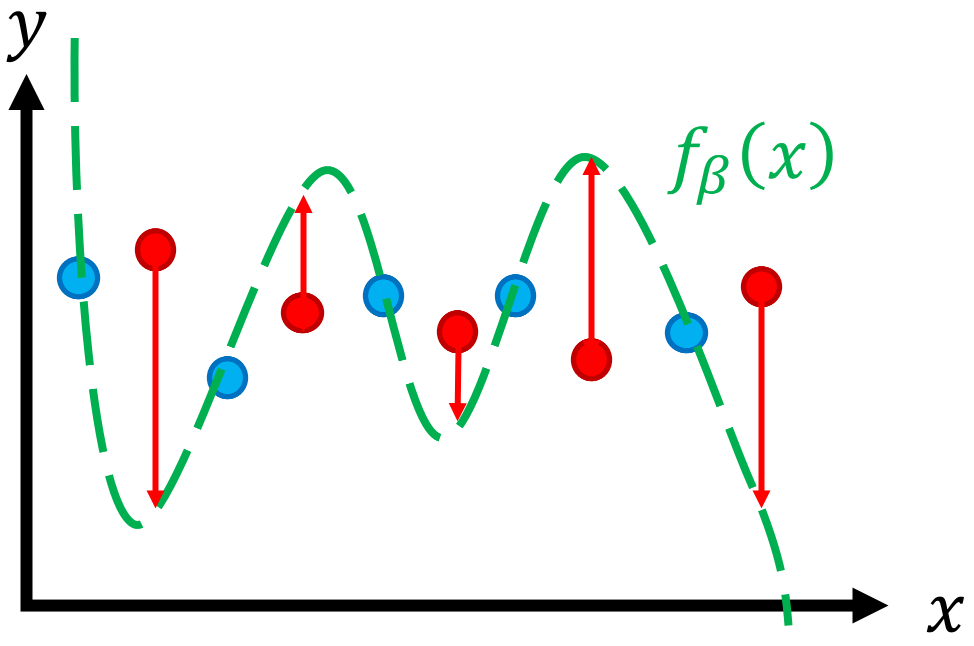
Role of Capacity

- **Capacity** of a model family captures "complexity" of data it can fit
  - Higher capacity → more likely to overfit (model family has high **variance**)
  - Lower capacity → more likely to underfit (model family has high **bias**)

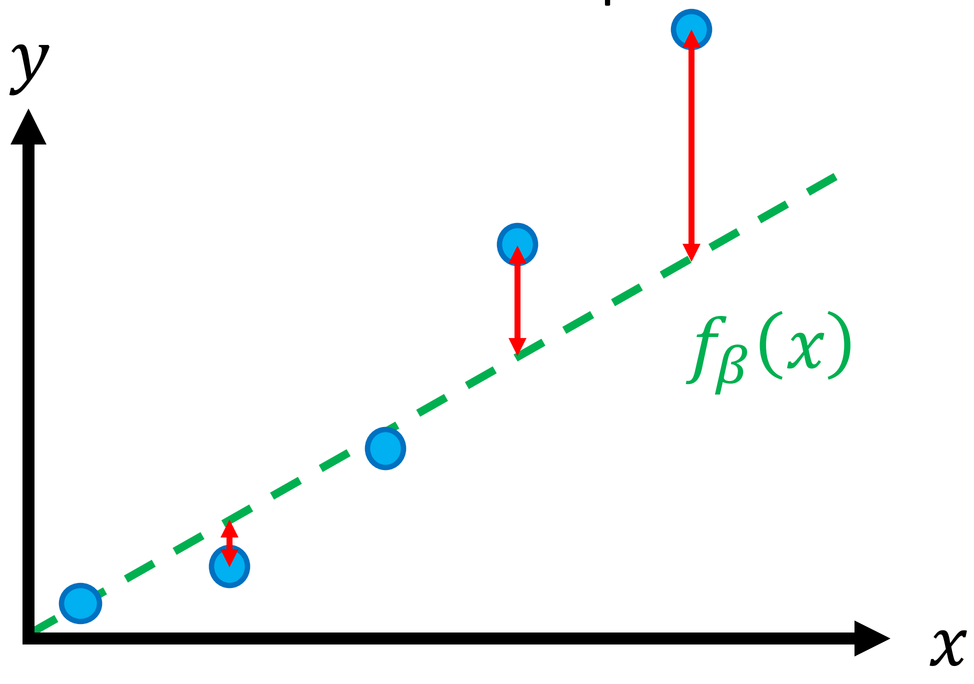
- For linear regression, capacity roughly corresponds to feature dimension d
  - I.e., number of features in $\phi(x)$

Bias-Variance Tradeoff

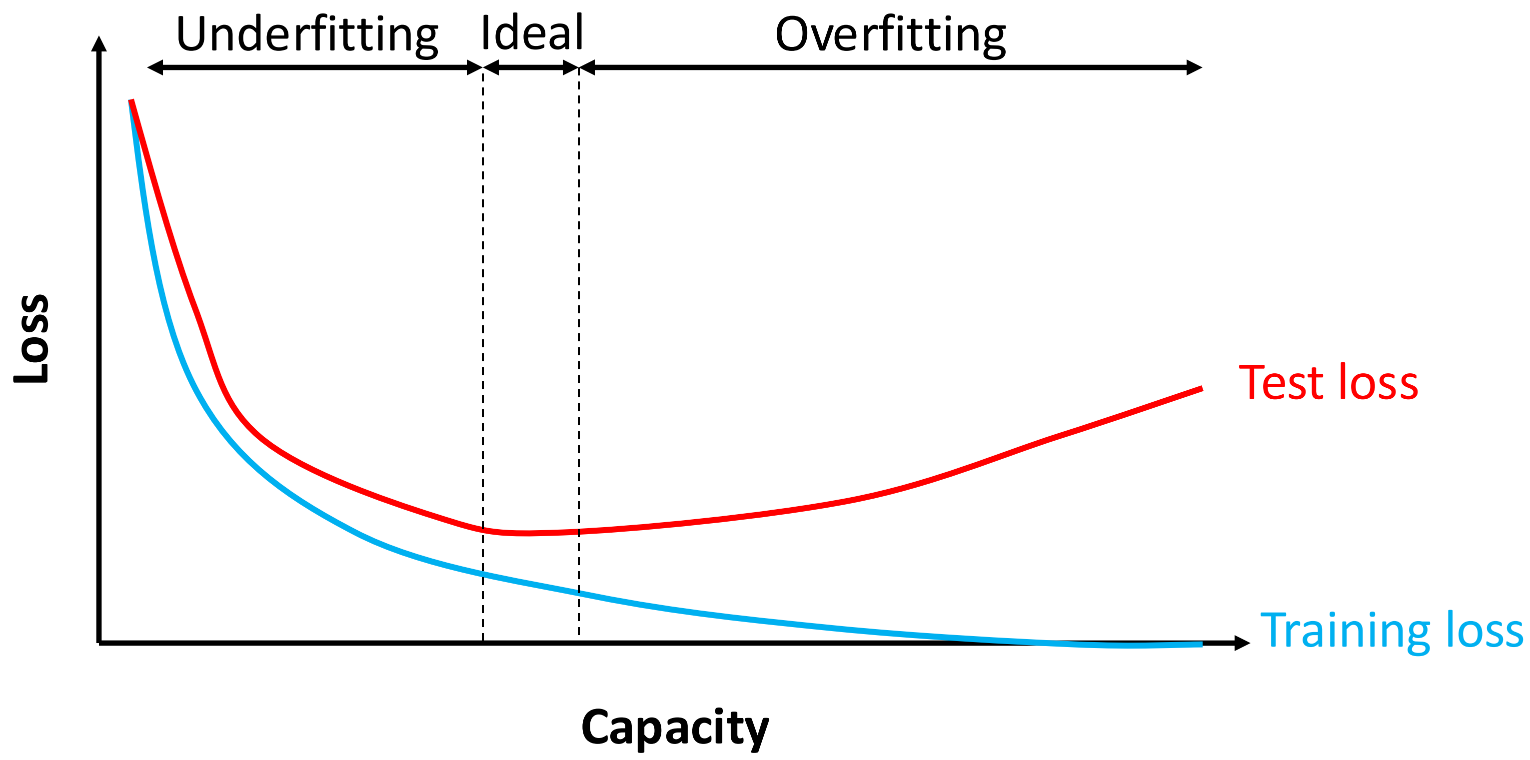
- **Overfitting (high variance)**
  - High capacity model capable of fitting complex data
  - Insufficient data to constrain it



- **Underfitting (high bias)**
  - Low capacity model that can only fit simple data
  - Sufficient data but poor fit



Bias-Variance Tradeoff



Warning: Very stylized plot!

Slide by Padhraic Smyth, UCIrvine