

# Linear Models

**Geometric Algorithms**

**Lecture 24**

# Practice Problem

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Find the projection of  $\mathbf{b}$  onto  $\text{Col}(A)$ .*

**Answer**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Objectives

1. Use the least square method to build linear *models* of noisy data.
2. Show how we can use linear algebraic methods to model with non-linear models.

# Keywords

line of best fit

independent/dependent variables

residuals

prediction

simple least squares regression

multiple regression

polynomial regression

models

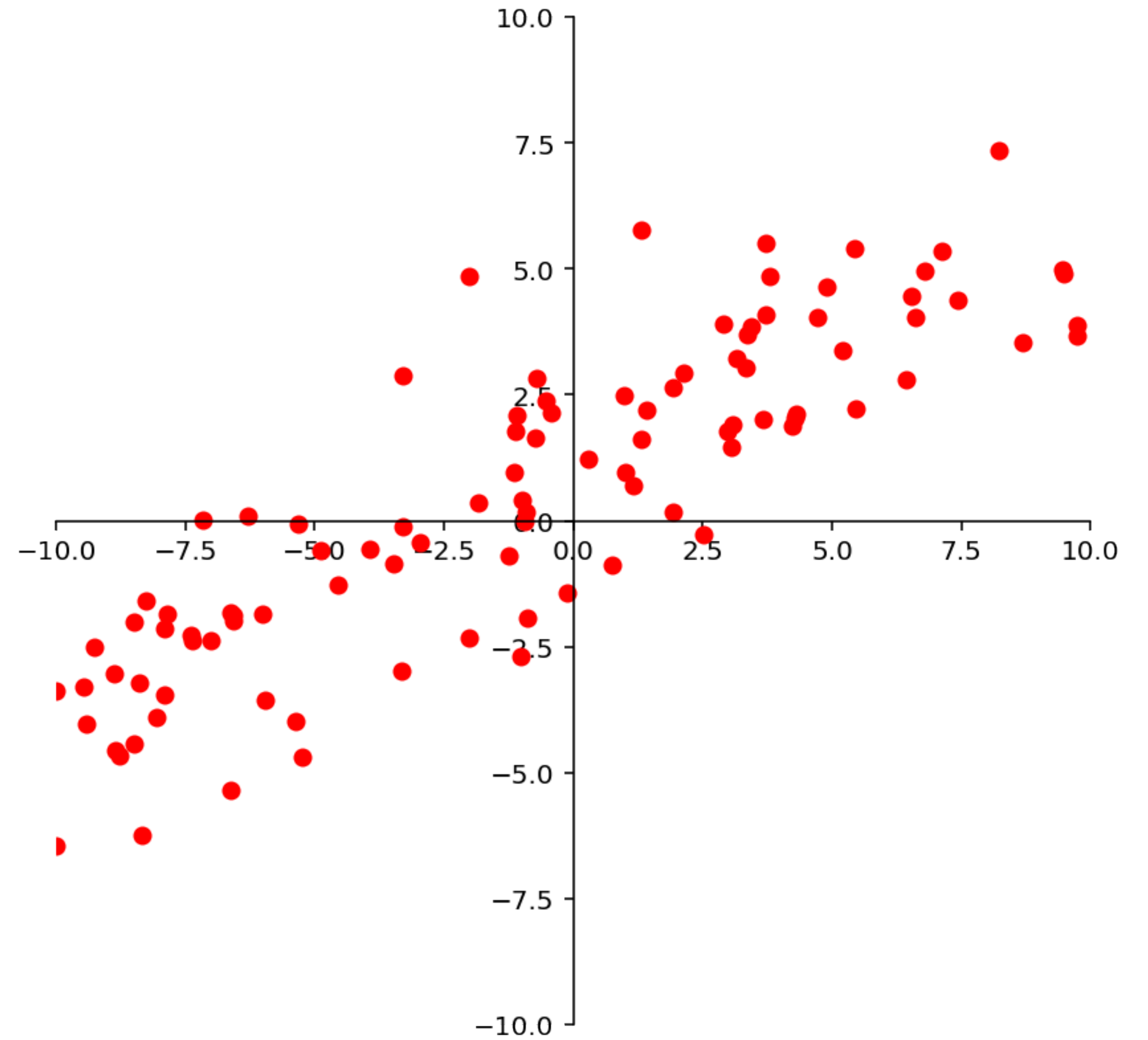
model fitting

model parameters

design matrices

# Warm-up: Line of Best Fit

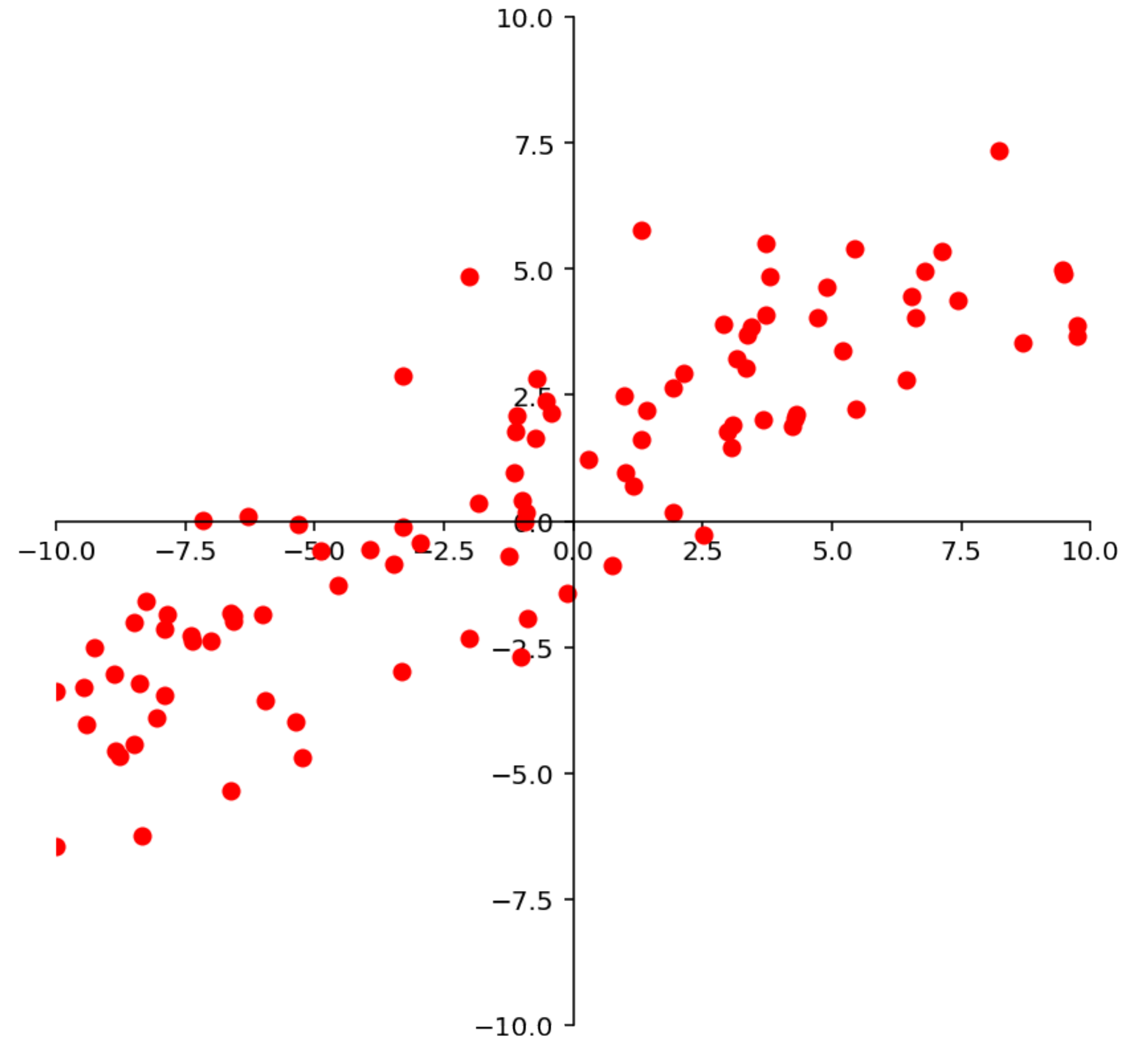
# The Setup



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You're given a set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

$$\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k)\}$$



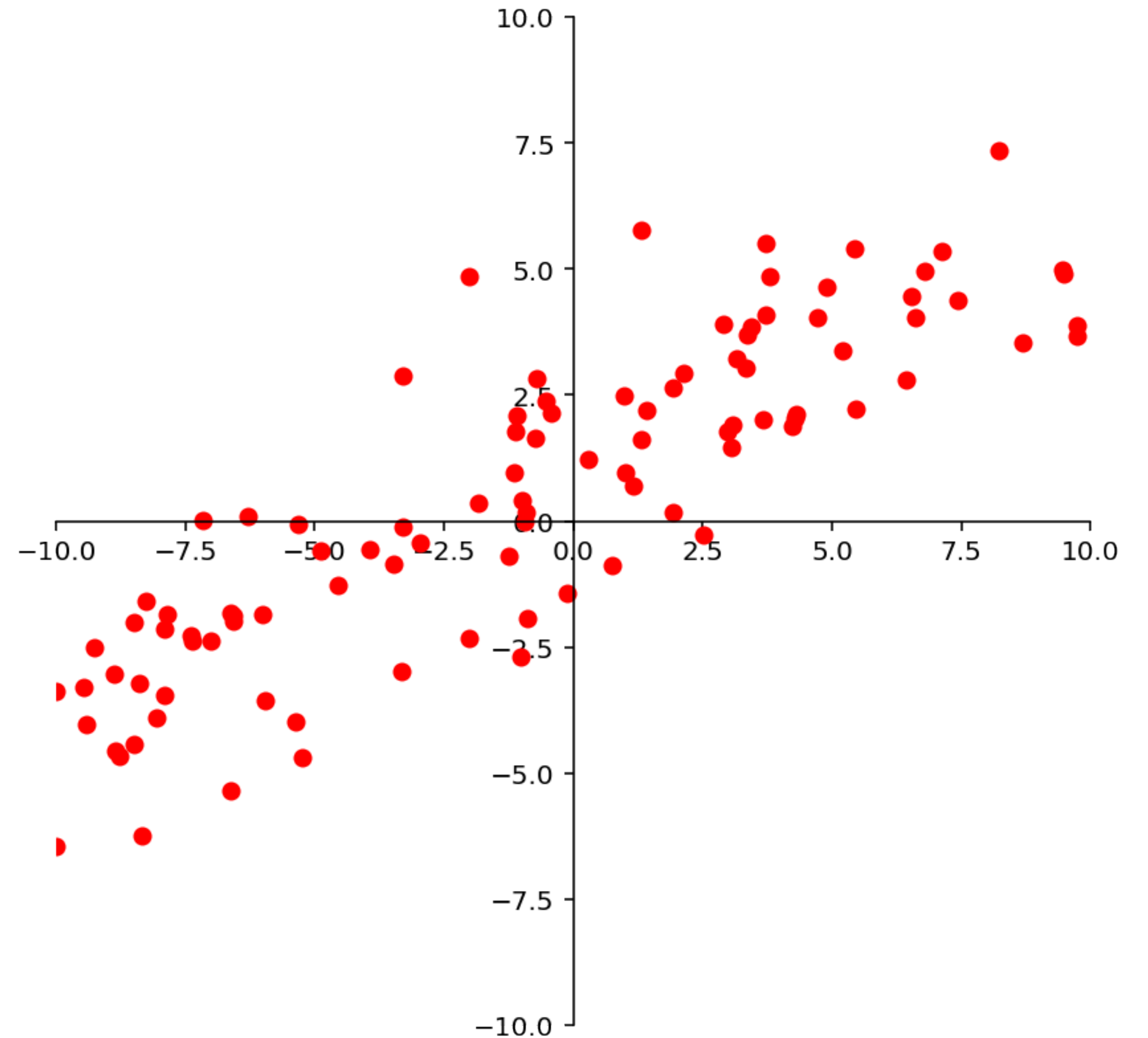


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**Example.** You collect (height, weight) data for a population.



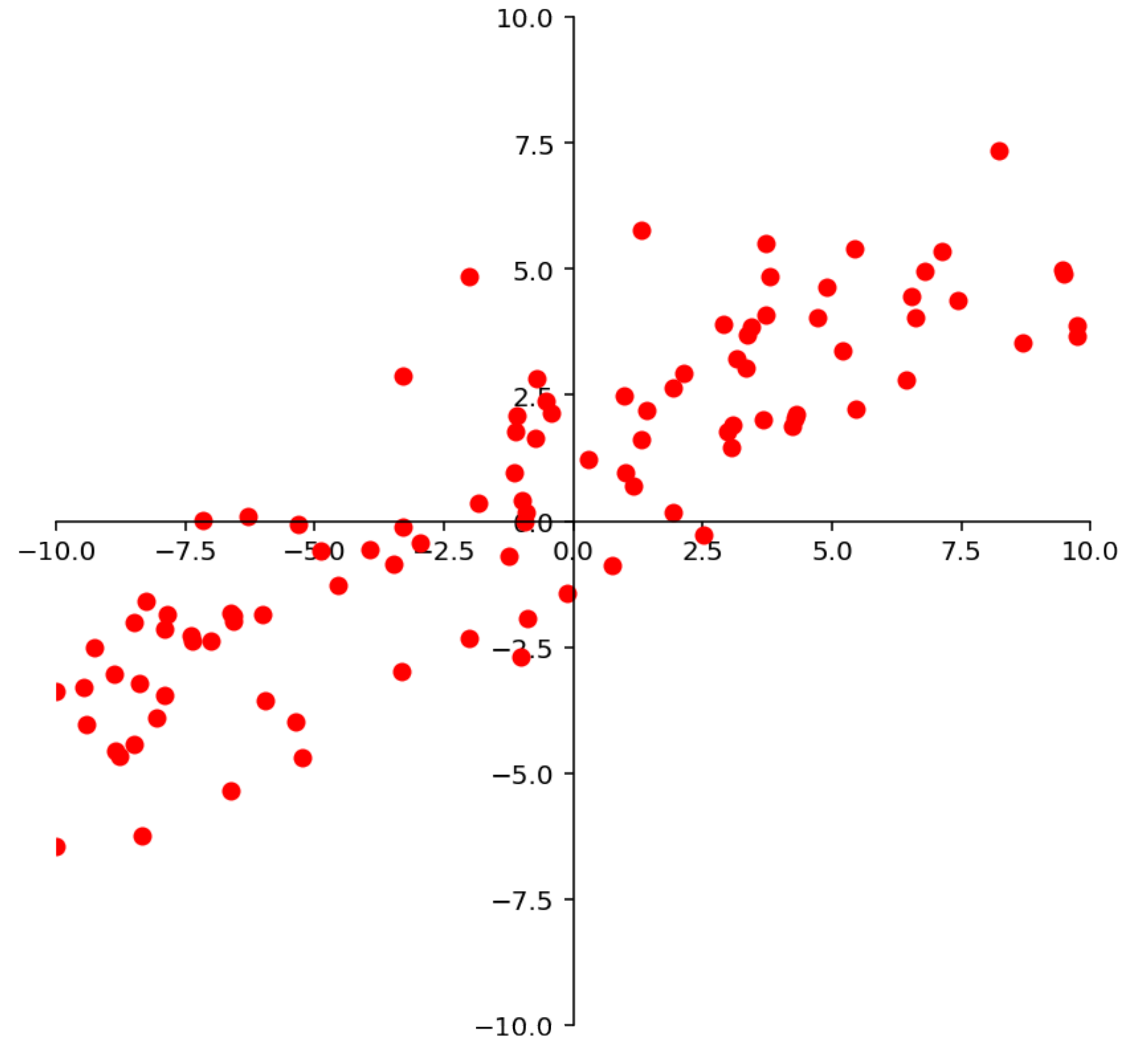
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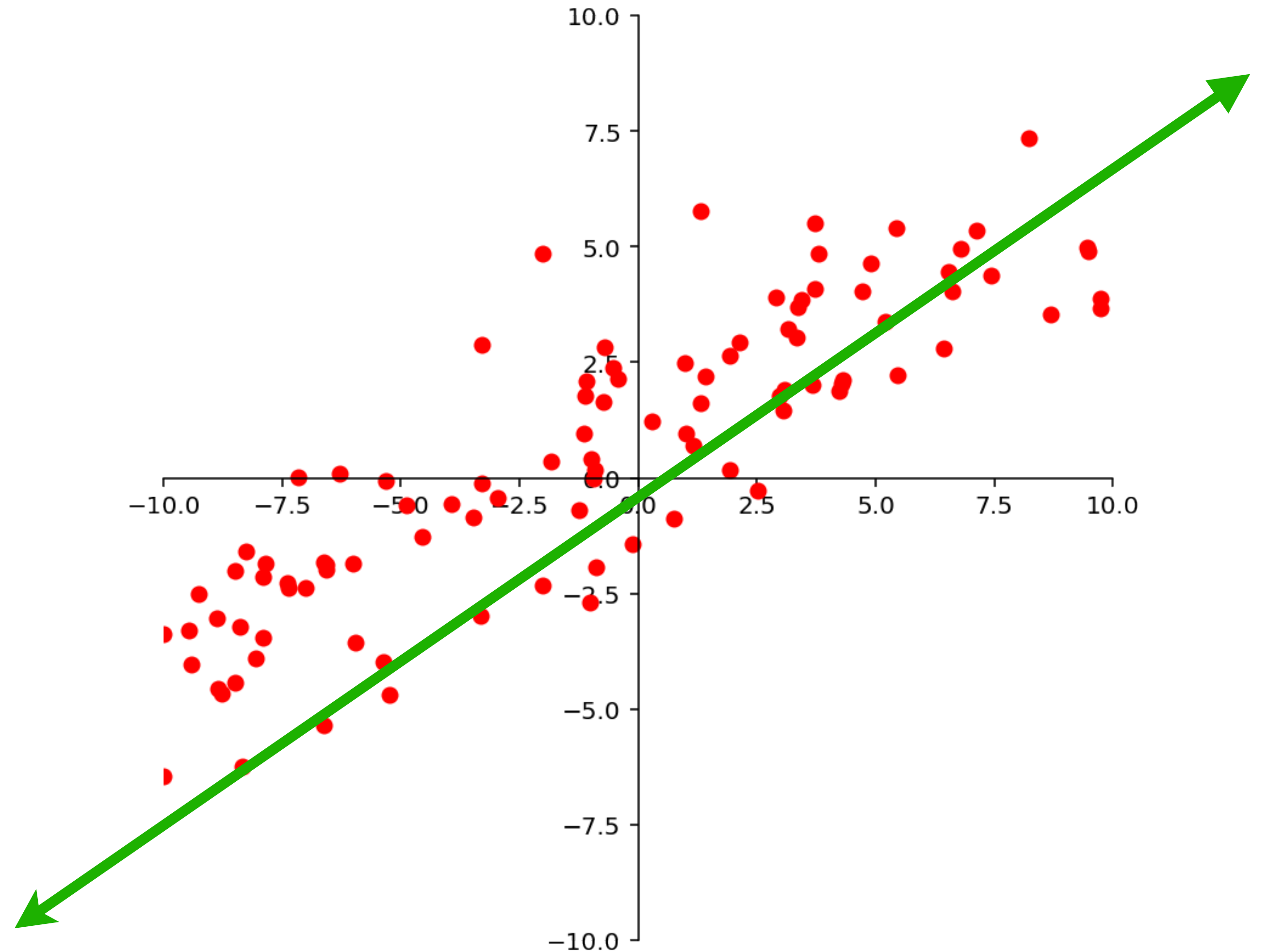
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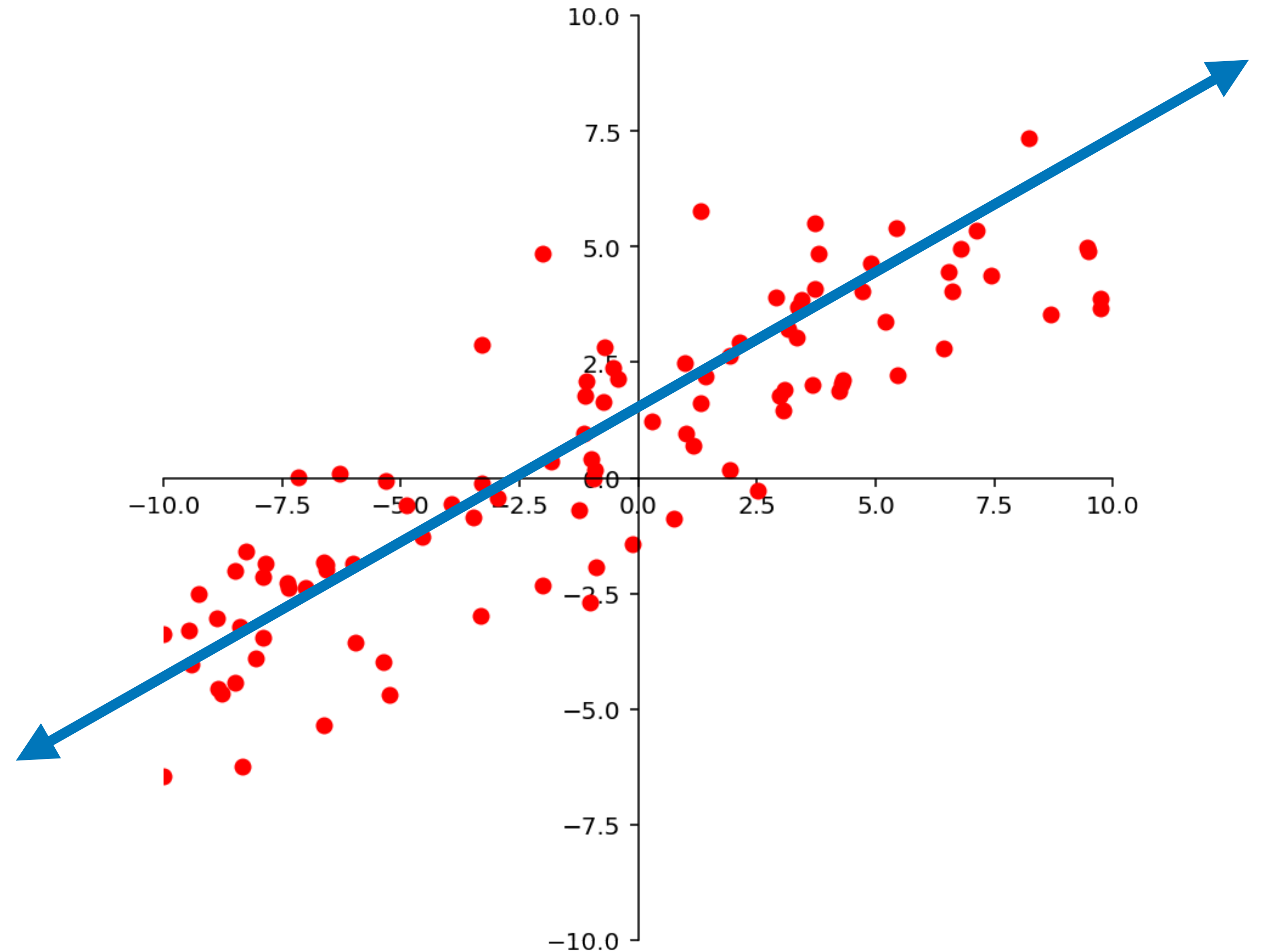
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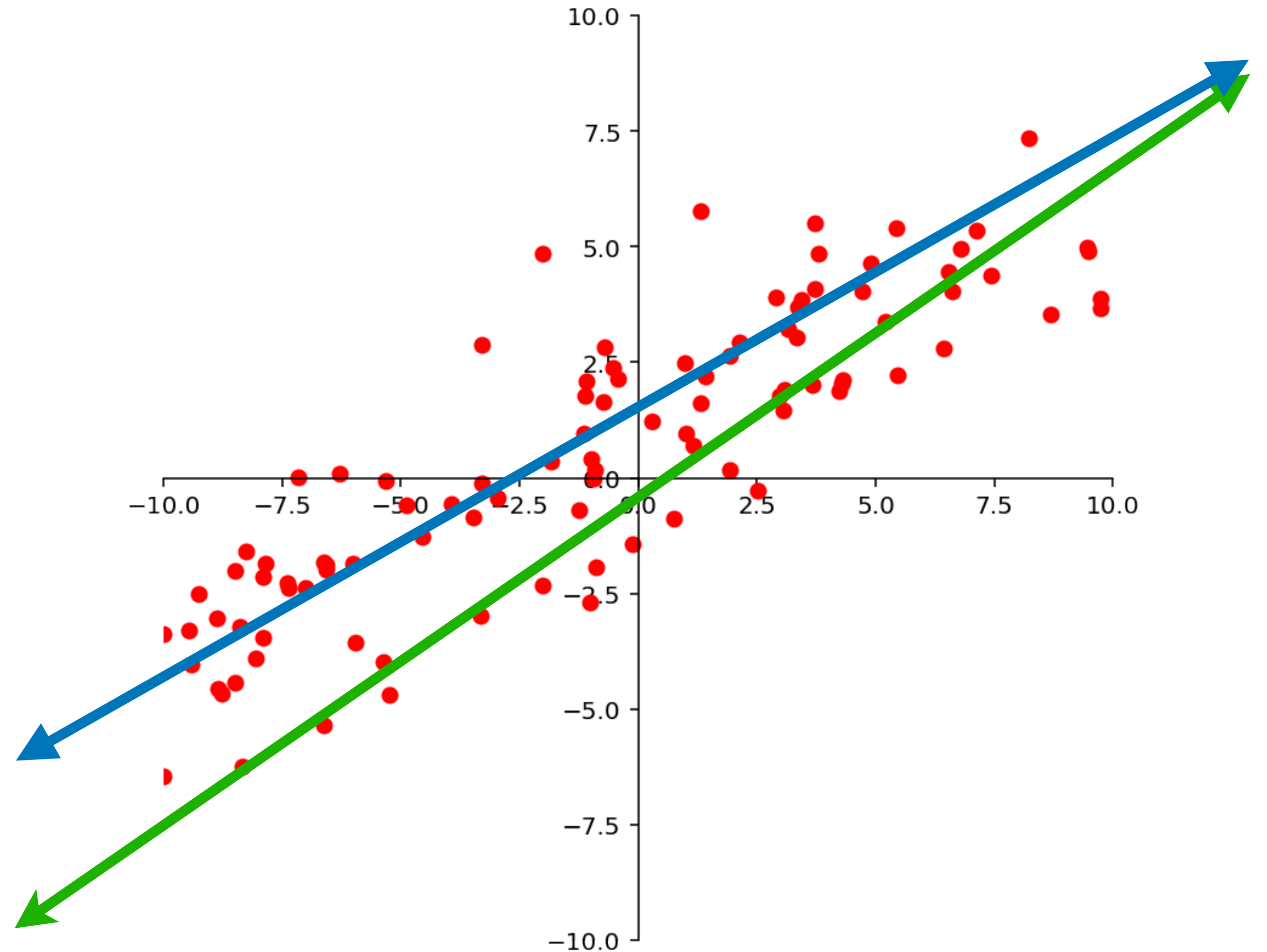
You notice they *kind of* trend as a line.



# The Setup

**Question.** Which line "best" describes the trend of the dataset?

Which one *best models* the dataset?



# Two Important Questions

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1. What is a model?

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**We'll come back to this...**



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2. What does "best" mean?

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1. What is a model?

**We'll come back to this...**

2. What does "best" mean?

**This is a make-or-break question.**

# Least Squares Simple Linear Regression

**Problem.** Given a set of points  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ , find the line

$$f(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$

which minimizes

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

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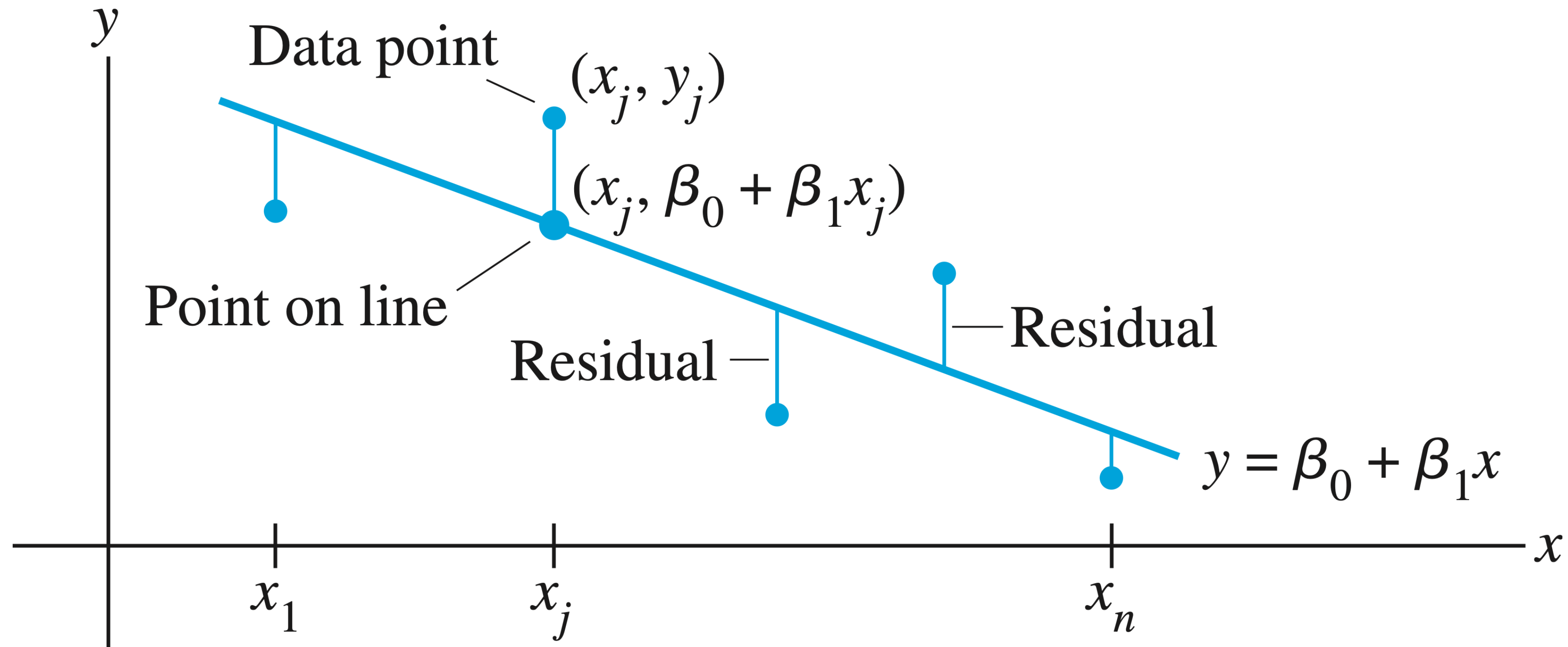
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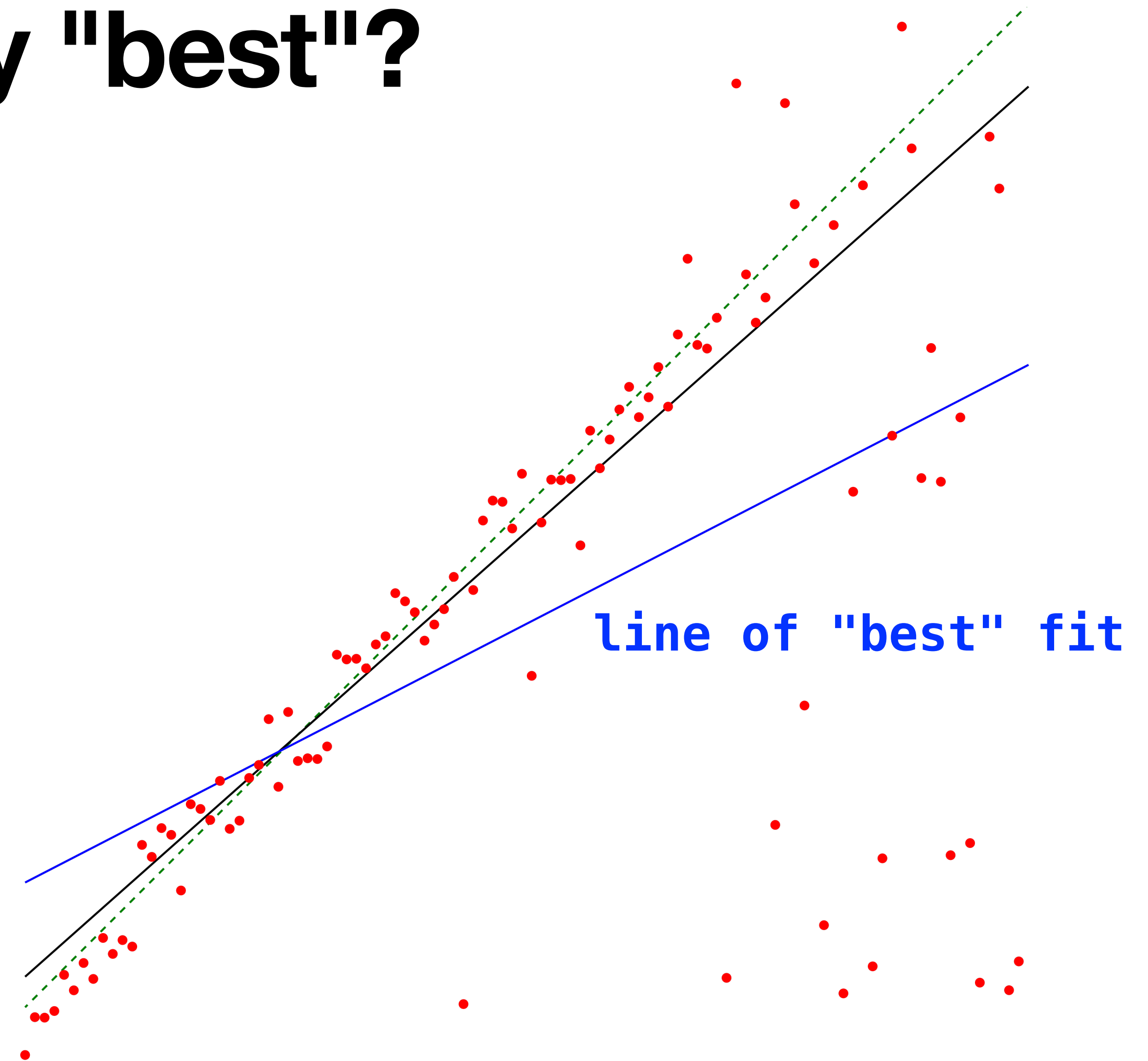
**The "best" line minimizes  
the *sum of squares of  
differences.***

# The Picture



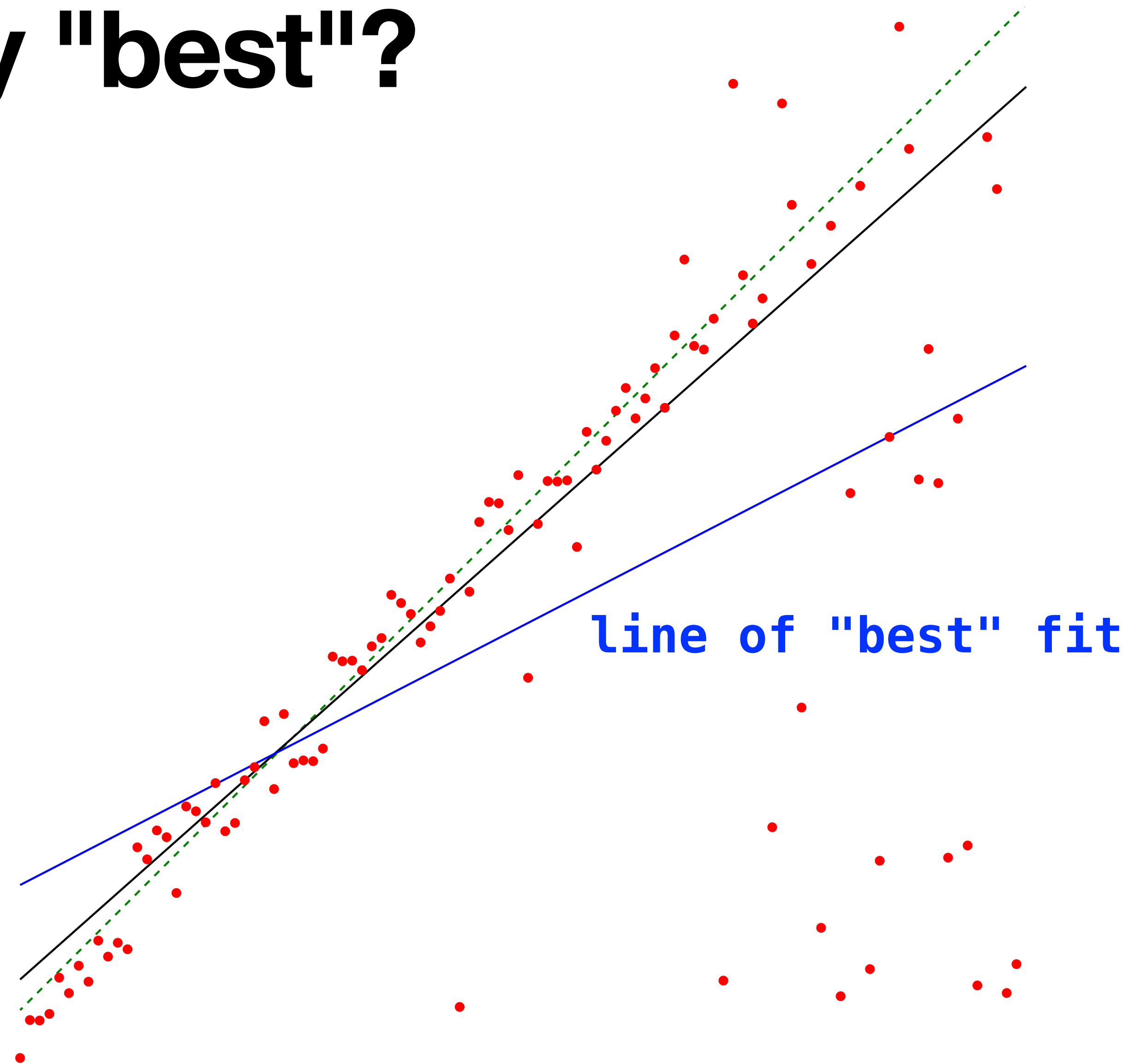
We want to find the line which makes the sum of these differences *as small as possible*.

# An Aside: Is this really "best"?



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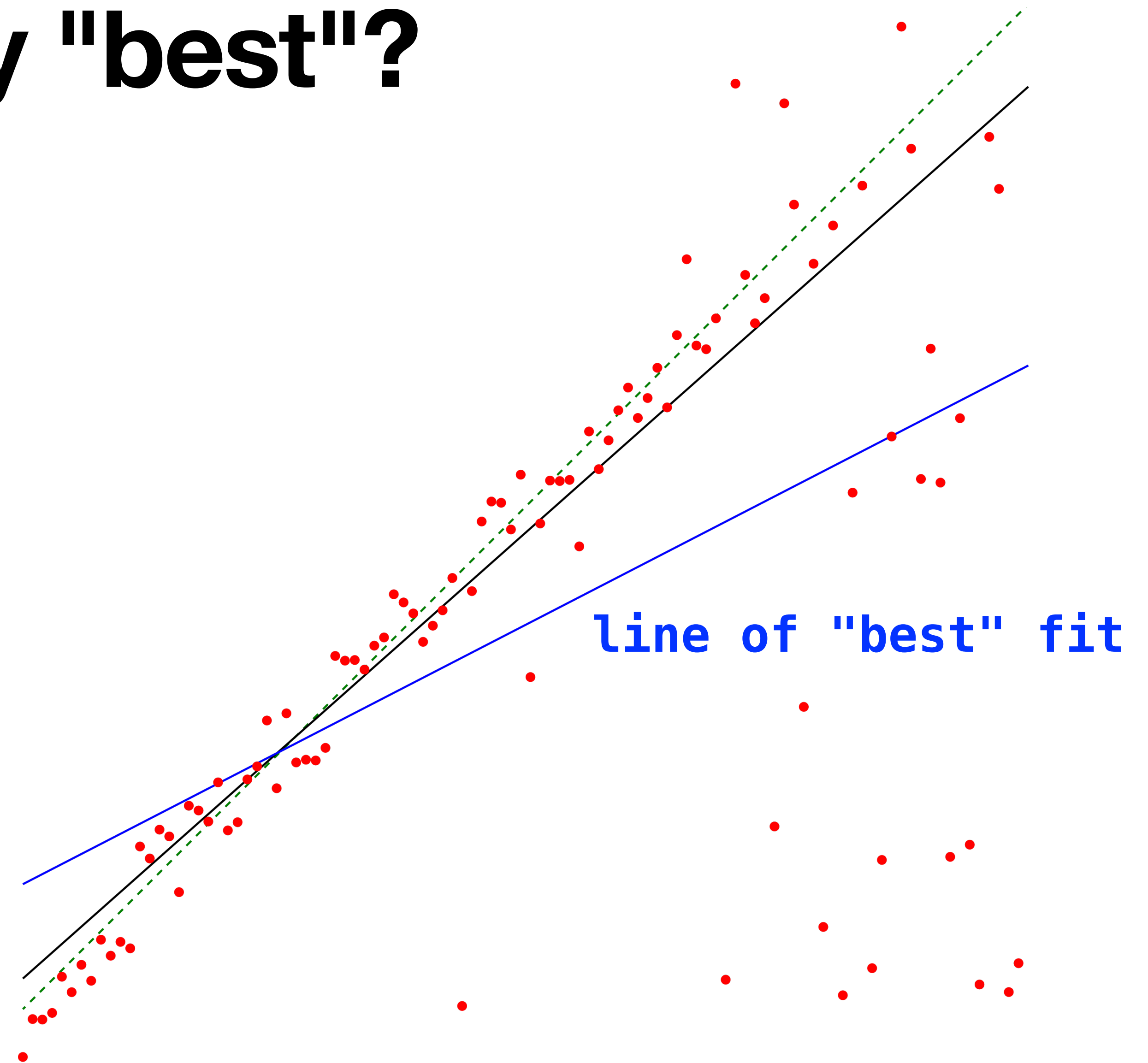
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# An Aside: Is this really "best"?

Who's to say...

It depends on the data,  
on the application  
domain, etc.



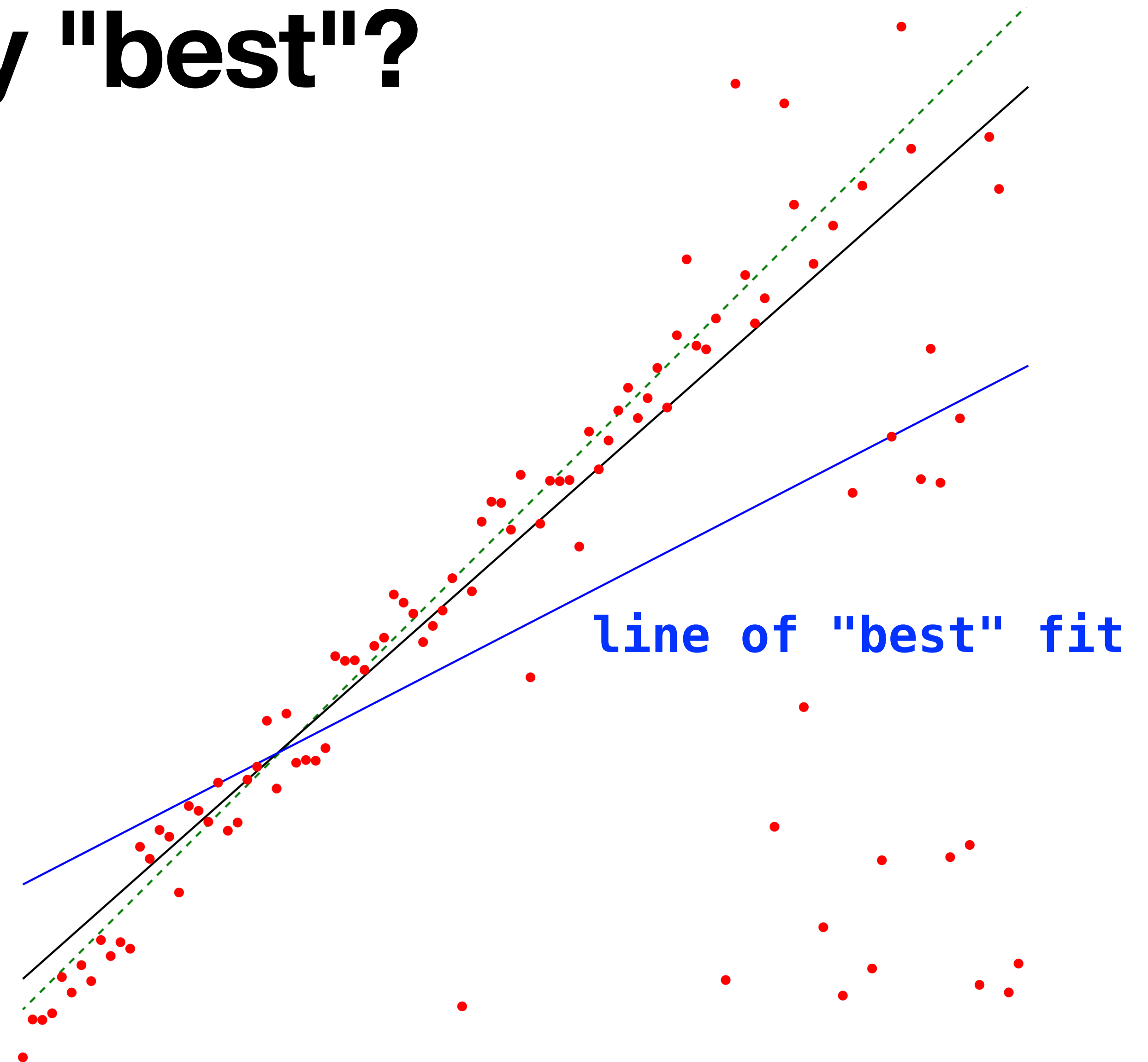


# An Aside: Is this really "best"?

Who's to say...

It depends on the data,  
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**The point.** We fix our  
notion of "best" first,  
and then we do  
calculations and  
derivations from there.



# Terminology: Datasets

$$\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$$

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dataset

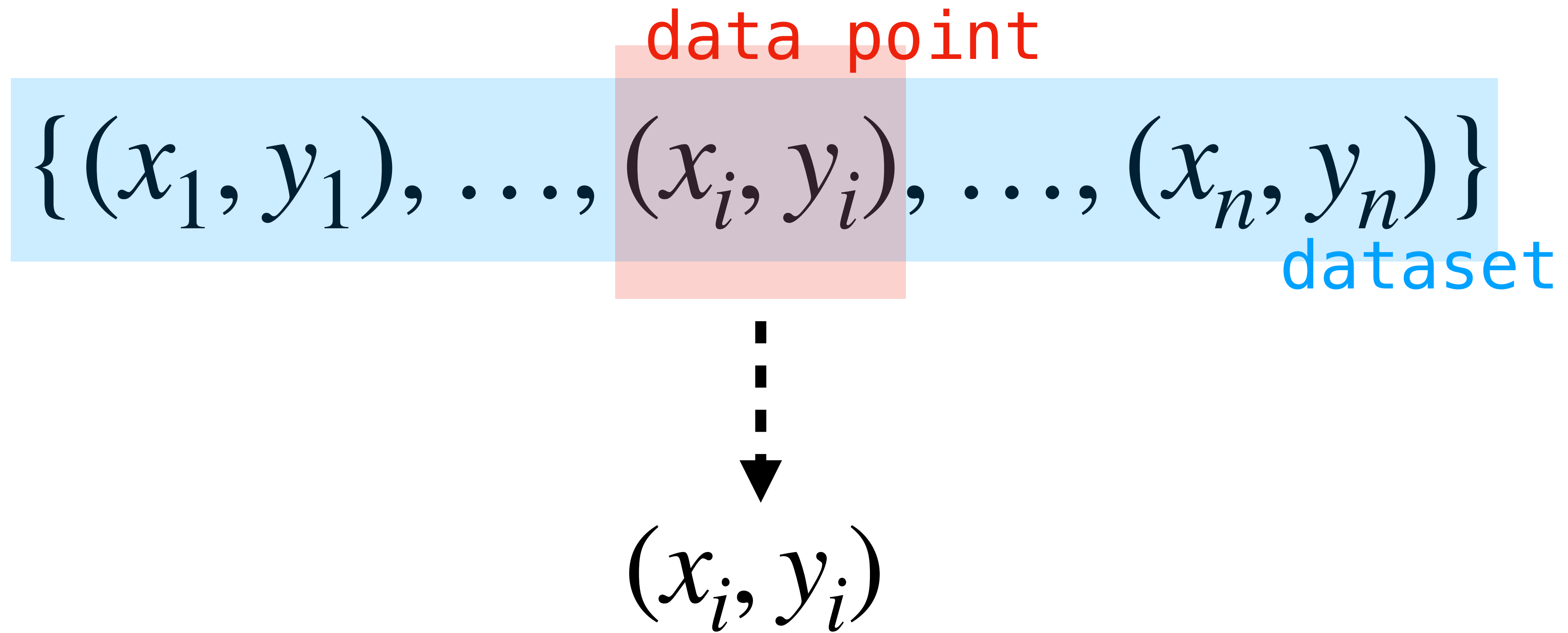
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data point

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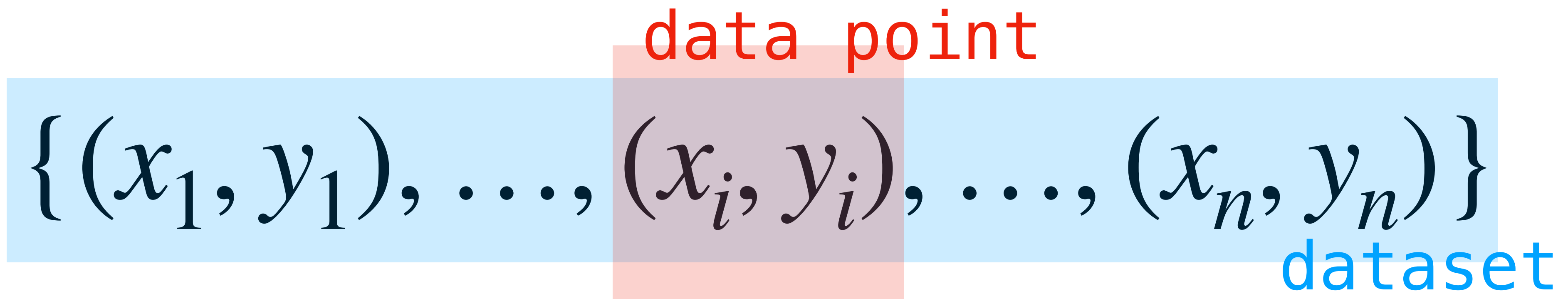


# Terminology: Datasets

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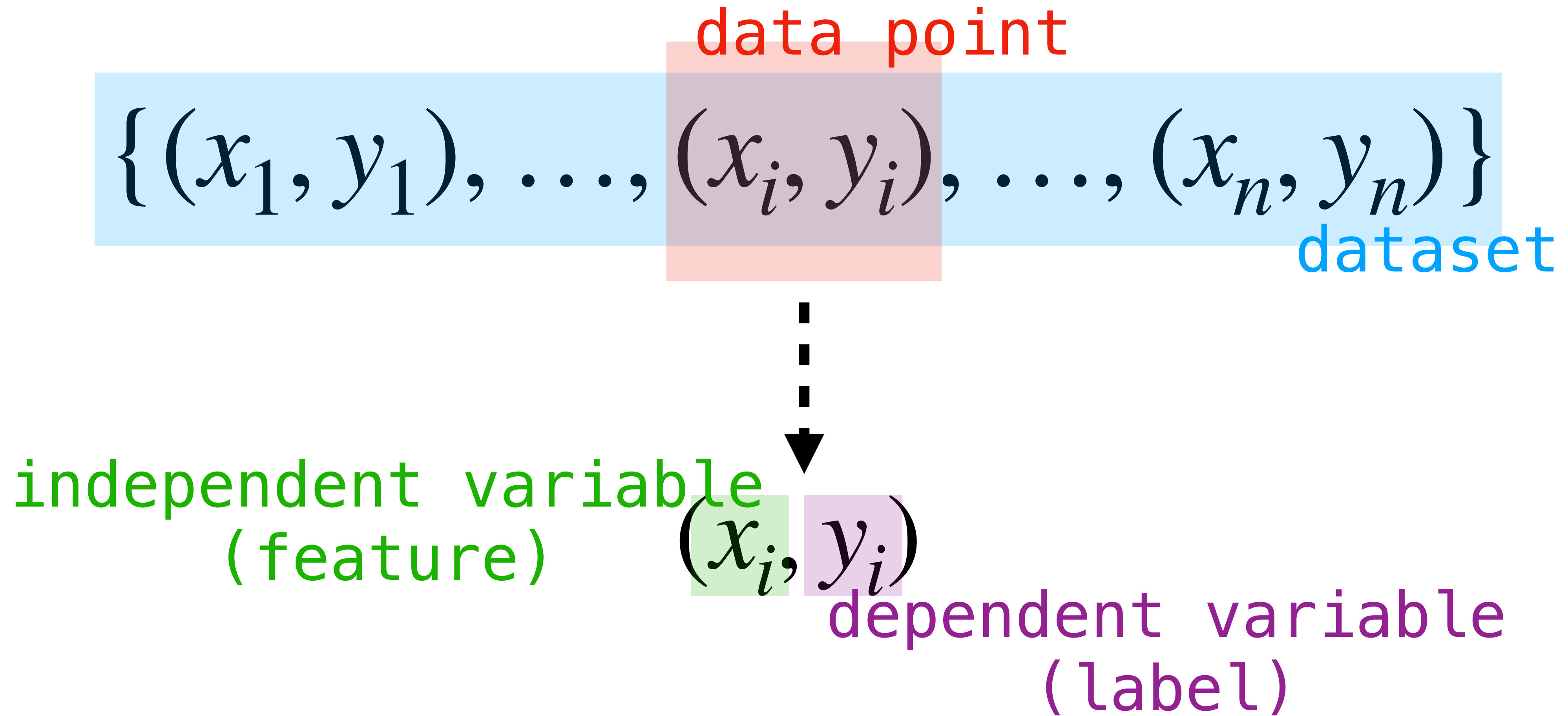
A light blue horizontal bar contains the mathematical expression for a dataset: a set of ordered pairs  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ . The pair  $(x_i, y_i)$  is highlighted by a semi-transparent red rectangular box. Above this box, the text "data point" is written in red. Below the entire set, the word "dataset" is written in blue.

independent variable  
(feature)

$(x_i, y_i)$

A dashed black arrow points downwards from the  $(x_i, y_i)$  pair in the dataset above to the  $(x_i, y_i)$  pair below. The text "independent variable (feature)" is written in green to the left of the  $(x_i, y_i)$  pair. The  $x_i$  component of the pair is highlighted by a semi-transparent green rectangular box.

# Terminology: Datasets



# Terminology: Models

$$f(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$



# Terminology: Models

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model

# Terminology: Models

model parameters/  
regression coefficients

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# Terminology: Least-Squares Error

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

# Terminology: Least-Squares Error

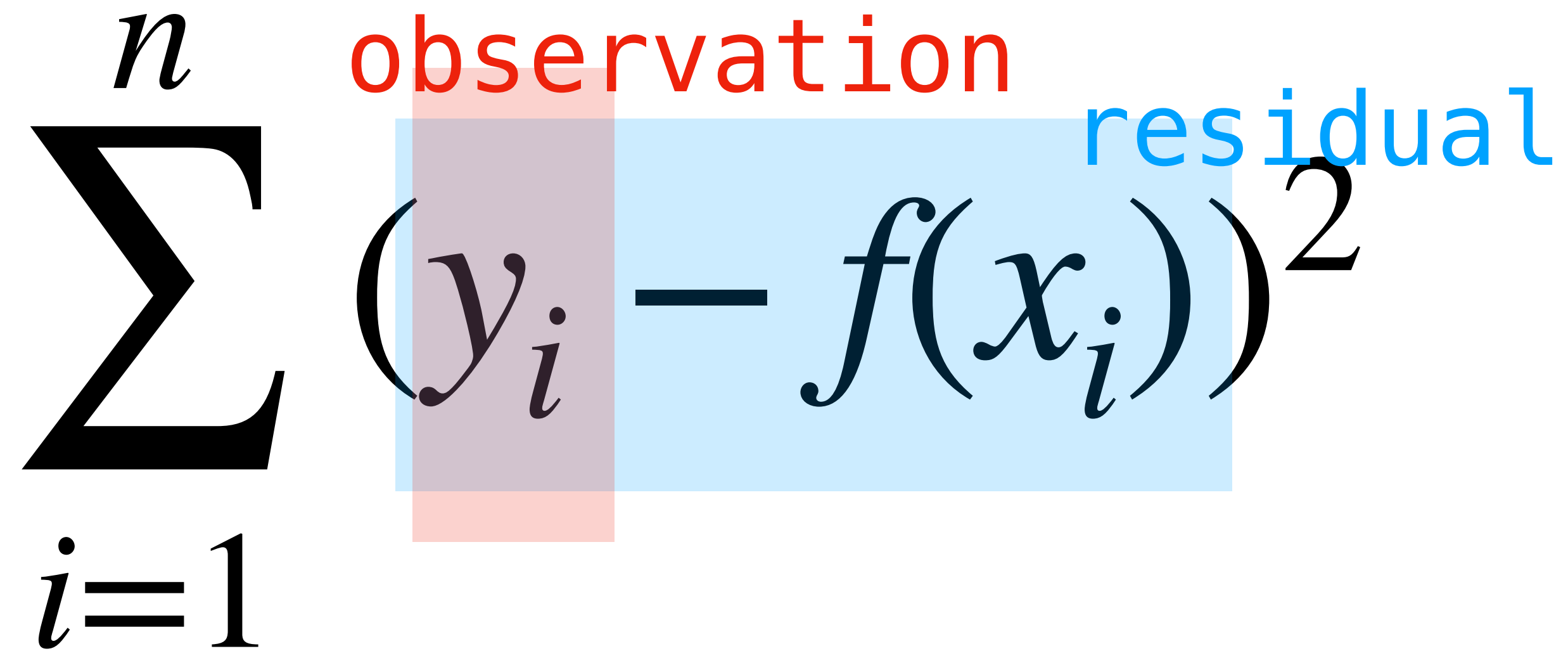
$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

residual

# Terminology: Least-Squares Error

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

observation residual

The diagram shows the least-squares error formula with two highlighted regions. A light red rectangular highlight covers the term  $y_i$  in the expression  $(y_i - f(x_i))^2$ , with the word "observation" written in red above it. A light blue rectangular highlight covers the term  $f(x_i)$  in the same expression, with the word "residual" written in blue above it.

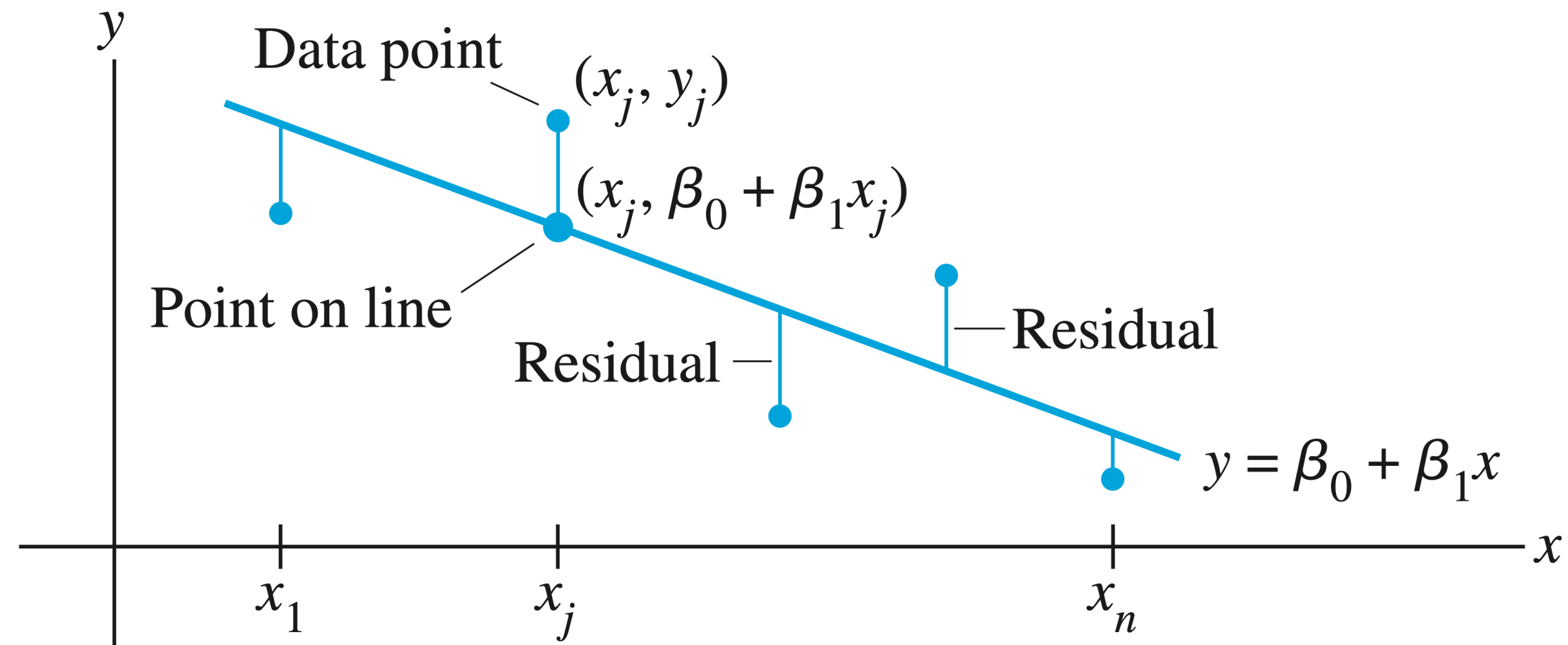
# Terminology: Least-Squares Error

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

The diagram illustrates the least-squares error formula with color-coded components:

- observation**: The term  $y_i$  is highlighted in a light red box.
- prediction**: The term  $f(x_i)$  is highlighted in a light green box.
- residual**: The entire expression  $(y_i - f(x_i))^2$  is highlighted in a light blue box.

# Terminology



data point

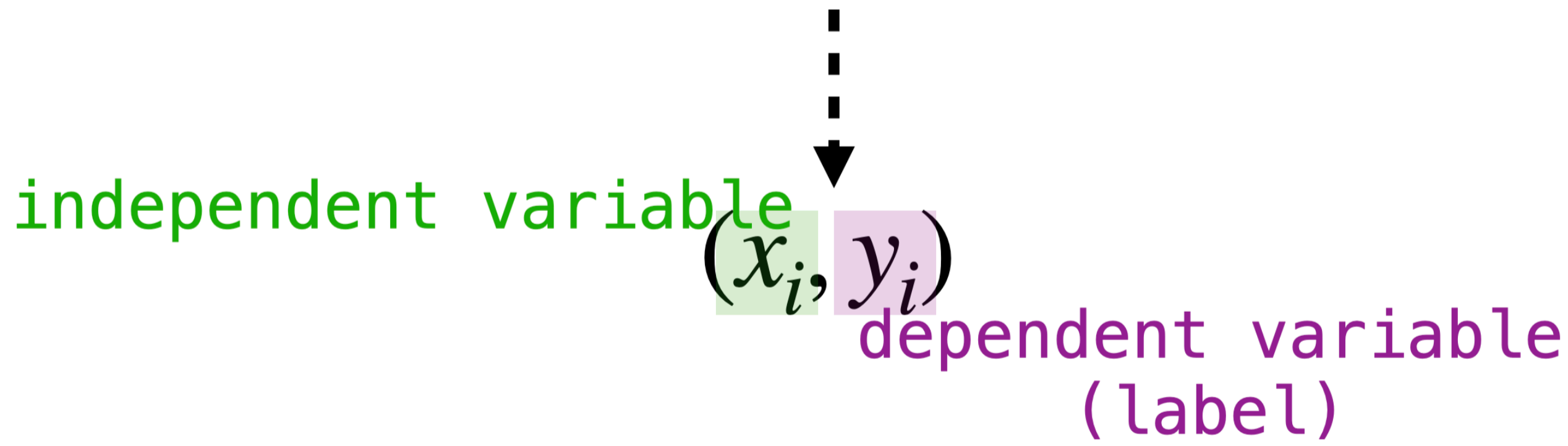
$$\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$$

dataset

model parameters/  
regression coefficients

$$f(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$

model



observation

residual

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# How to: Finding the Least Squares Line

$$\beta_1 = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i - \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right) \left( \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \right)}{n \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^2} \quad \beta_0 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i - \beta_1 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$



# How to: Finding the Least Squares Line

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**Solution (First attempt).** Use these equations...

# How to: Finding the Least Squares Line

Don't memorize these.

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$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

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minimize for least-squares line

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These expressions look very similar.

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minimize for least-squares method

These expressions look very similar.

Can we design a matrix where finding a least squares solution gives us a least squares line?

# A Least Squares Problem

$$\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 = y_1$$

$$\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_2 = y_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_n = y_n$$



# A Least Squares Problem

In the "ideal" world, we could find parameters  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  such that all of these equations hold.

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This would mean **all the points already lie on a single line.**

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**This is a linear system in the variables  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$**

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 &= y_1 \\ \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_2 &= y_2 \\ &\vdots \\ \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_n &= y_n\end{aligned}$$

# A Least Squares Problem

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

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In the "ideal" world,  
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In the "ideal" world,  
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In reality this system  
is unlikely to have a  
solution, **but maybe we  
can find an  
approximate solution.**

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The sum of squares of residuals is the squared distances between  $X\beta$  and  $\mathbf{y}$ .



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*Least squares solutions to this system give us parameters for least squares lines.*

# Recall: The Normal Equations

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**Theorem.** The set of least-squares solutions of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is the same as the set of solutions to

$$A^T A\mathbf{x} = A^T \mathbf{b}$$

# Recall: The Normal Equations

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**In particular, this set of solutions is nonempty**

# Recall: The Normal Equations

**Theorem.** The set of least-squares solutions of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is the same as the set of solutions to

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**In particular, this set of solutions is nonempty**

(We just showed that if  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  is a least squares solution then  $A^T A\hat{\mathbf{x}} = A^T \mathbf{b}$ )

# Recall: Unique Least Squares Solutions

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \mathbf{b}$$

If  $A$  has linearly independent columns, then its unique least squares solution is defined as above.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# Just for Fun

Let's derive it:

$$\beta_1 = \frac{n \sum_i x_i y_i - \left( \sum_i x_i \right) \left( \sum_i y_i \right)}{n \sum_i x_i^2 - \left( \sum_i x_i \right)^2}$$

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**Problem.** Find the least squares line for the dataset  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ .

**Solution.** Find the least squares solution to the above equation.

# Question

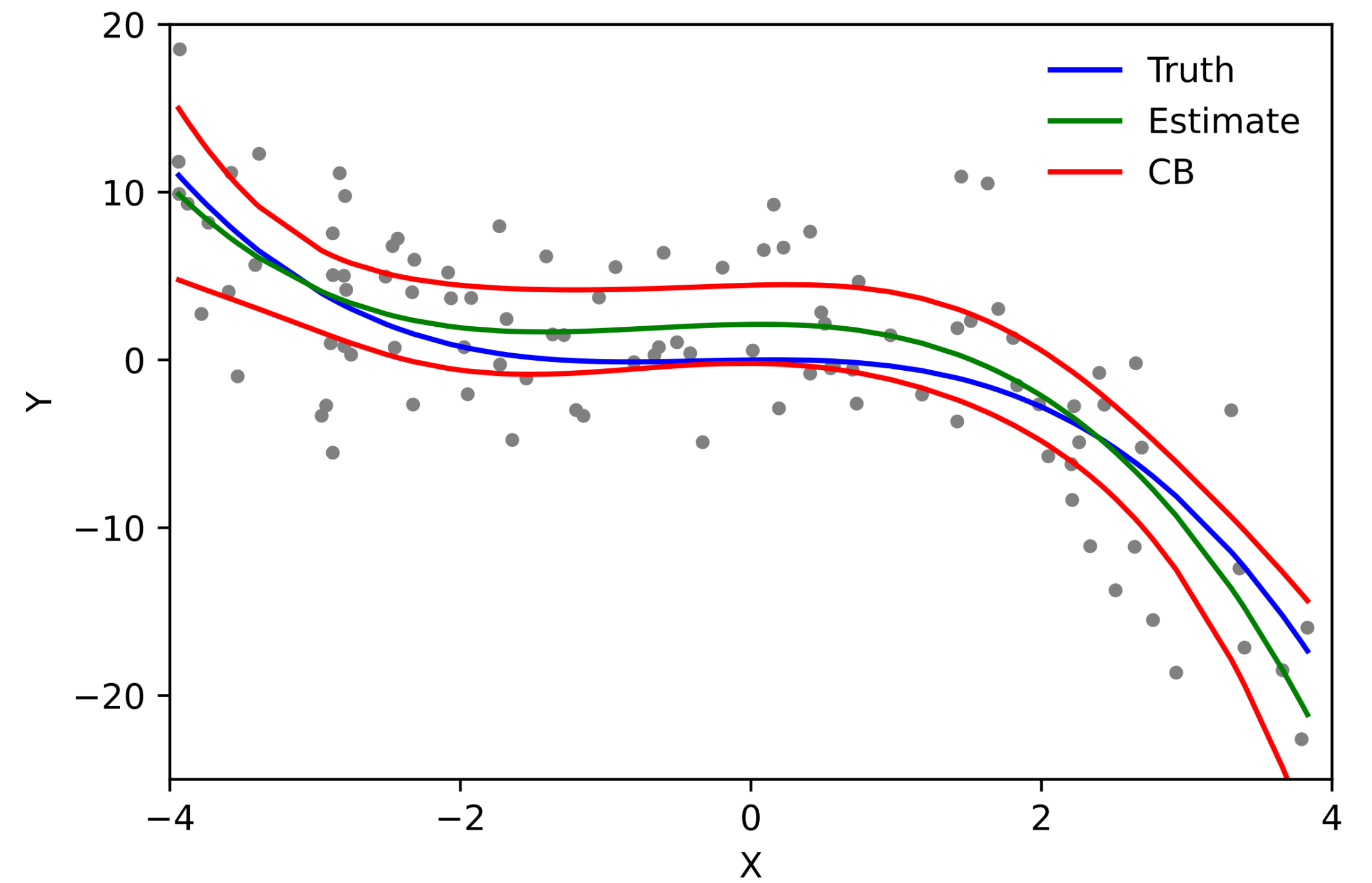
*Find the line of best fit for the dataset*

$$\{(0,3), (1,1), (-1,1), (2,3)\}$$

*by using the the least-squares method.*

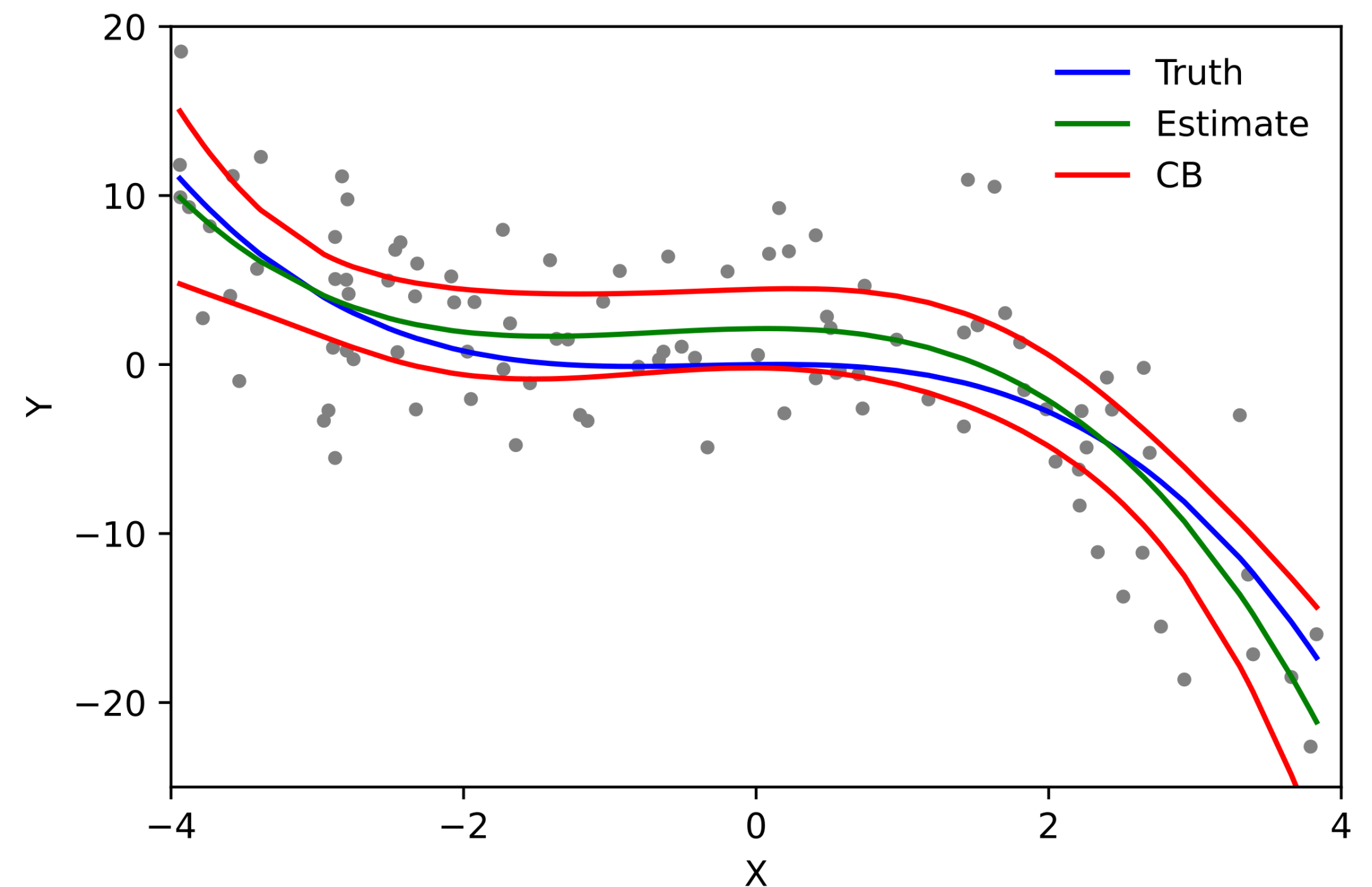
*If you have time, graph your result and use it to "predict" the corresponding value for the input 4.*

# General Regression



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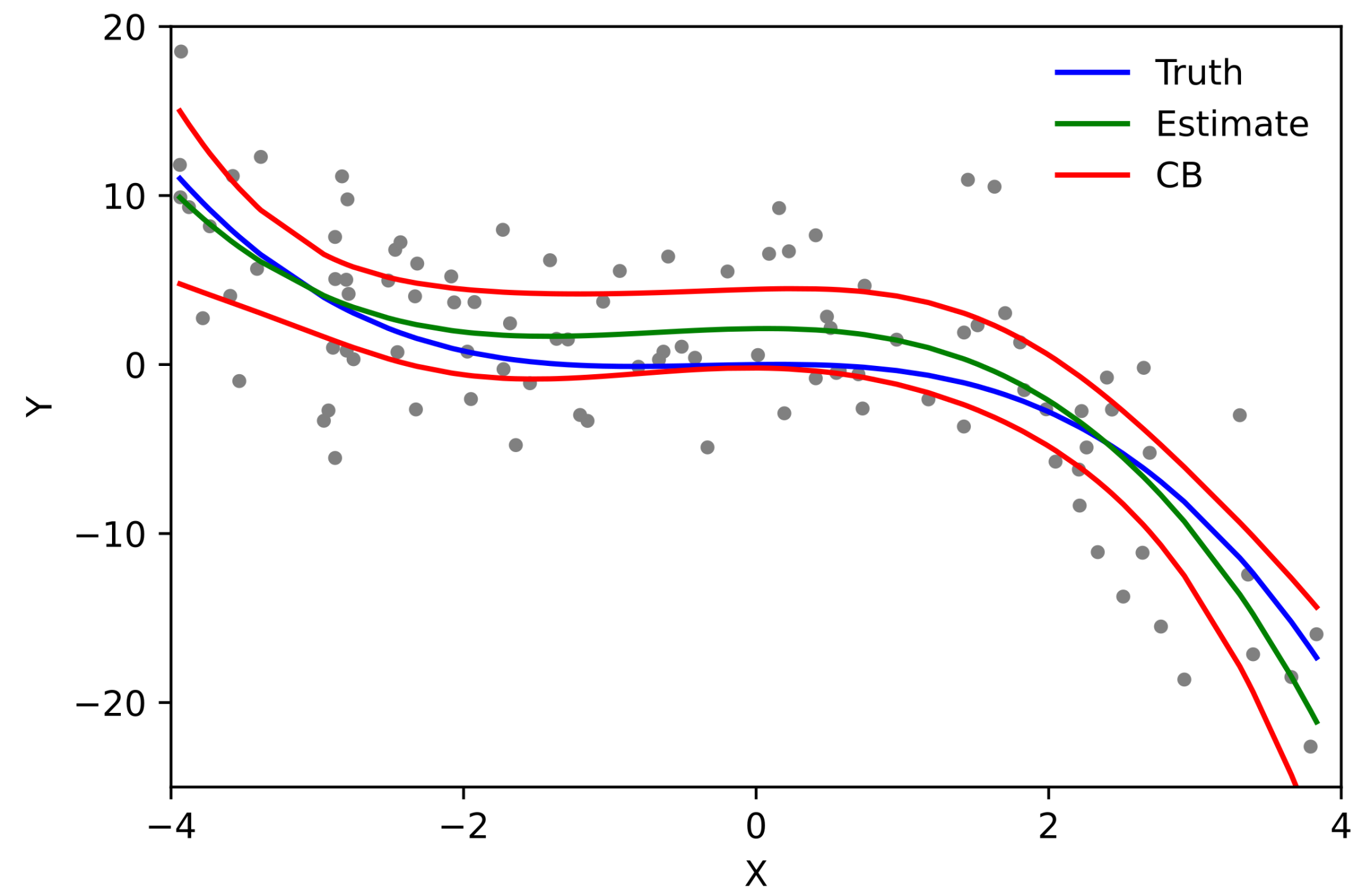
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# General Regression

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What we are estimating is a mathematical function

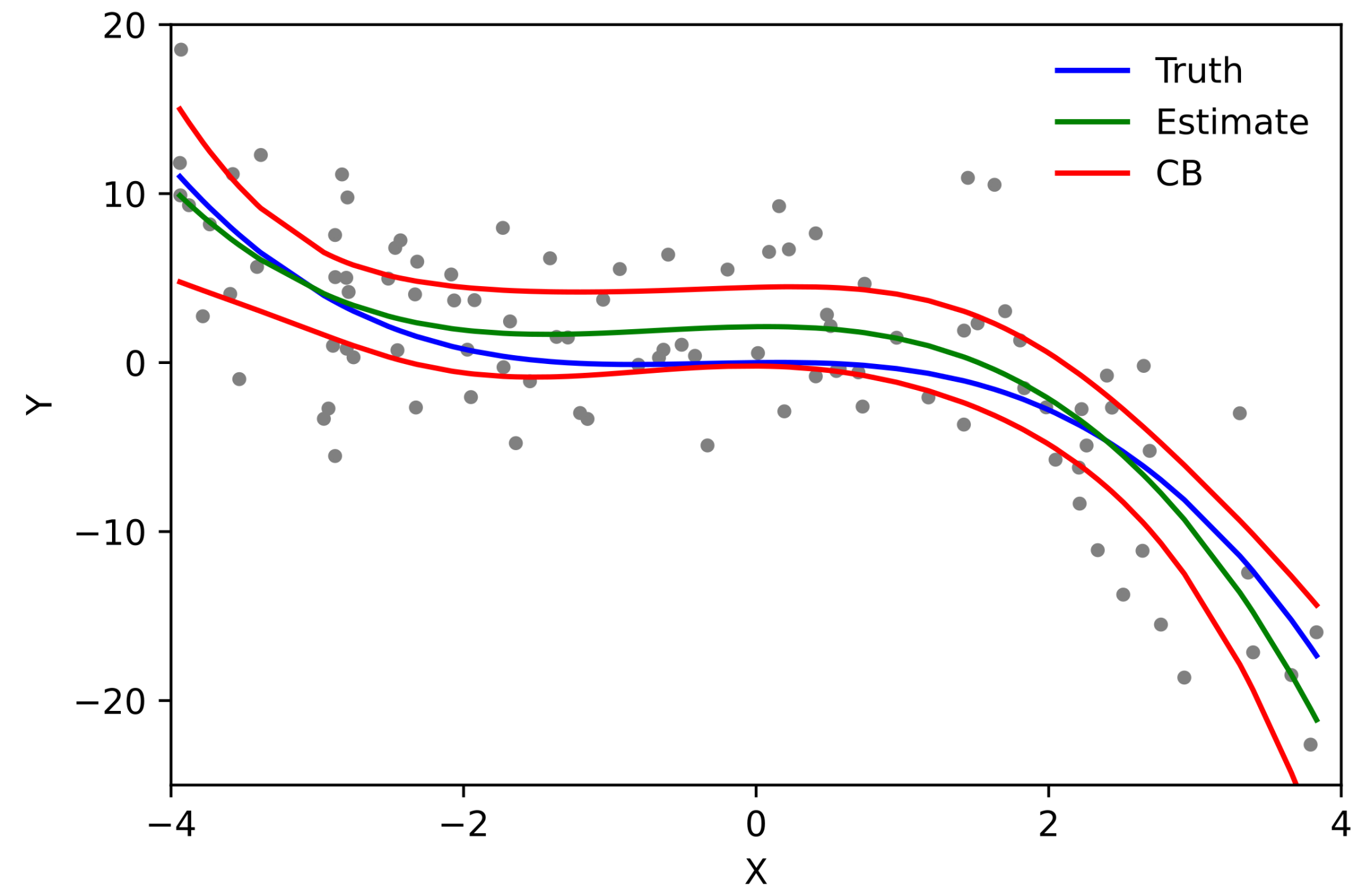


# General Regression

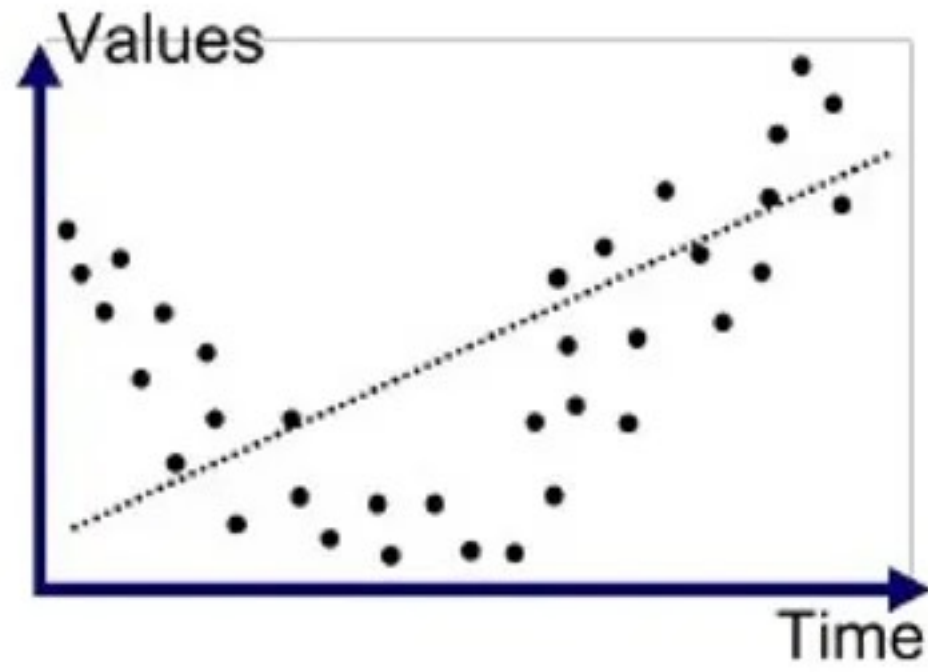
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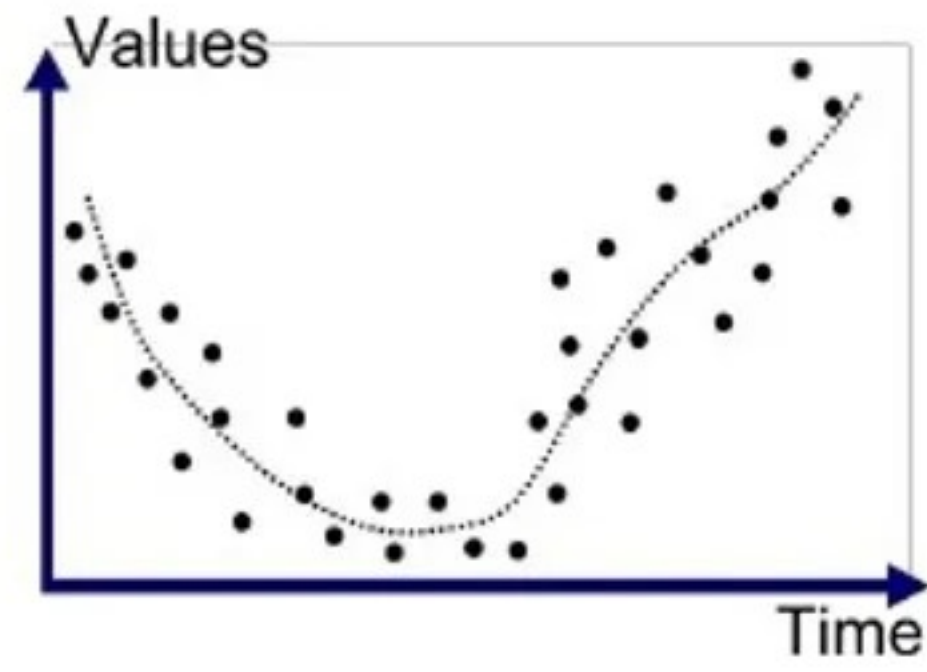
We think of the environment has providing us a function from our independent variables to our dependent variables.



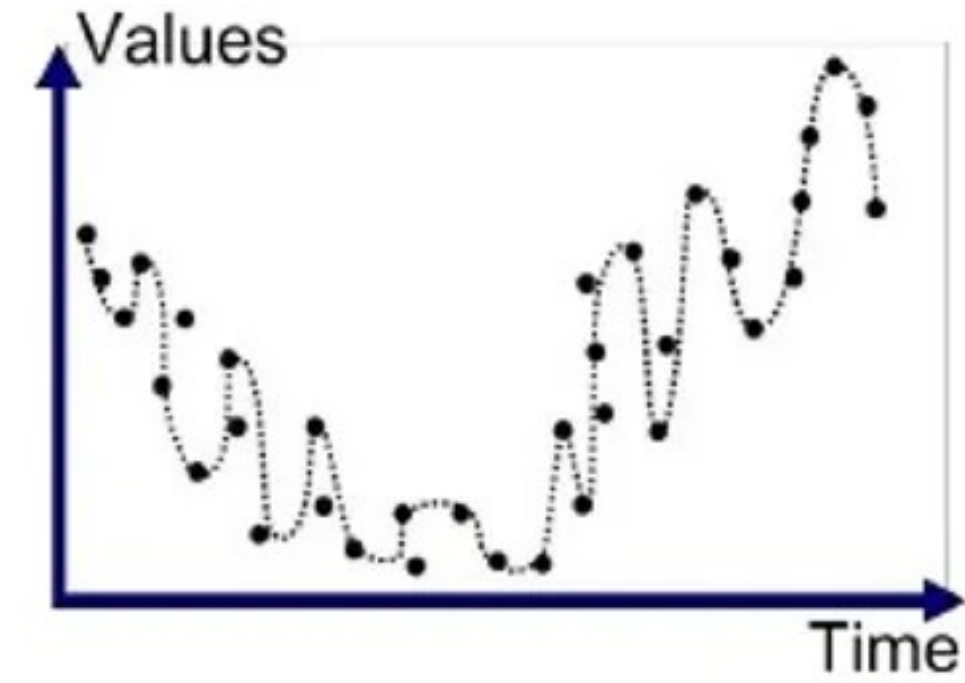
# Models



Underfitted



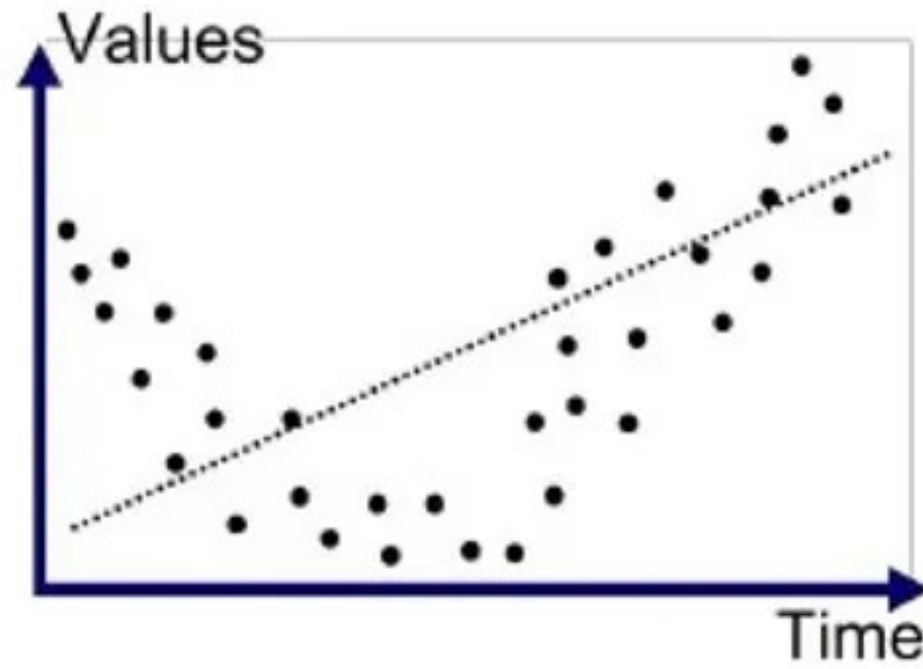
Good Fit/Robust



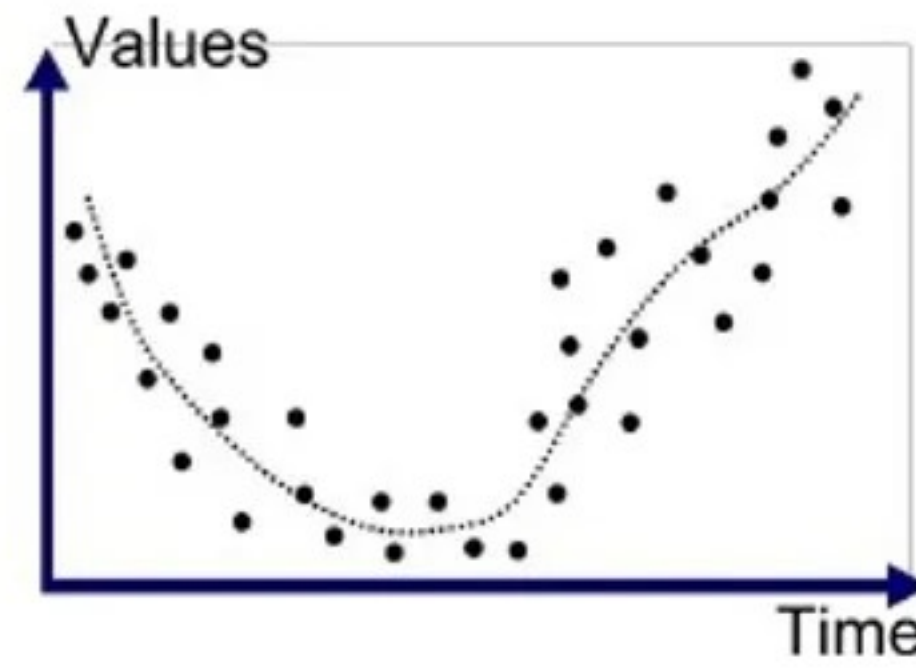
Overfitted



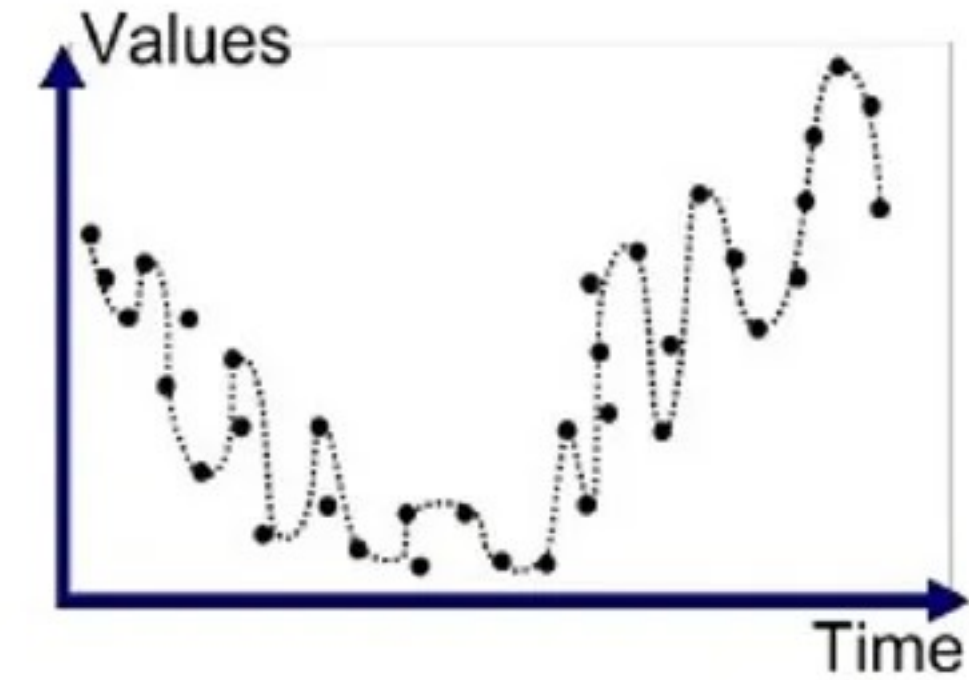
# Models



Underfitted



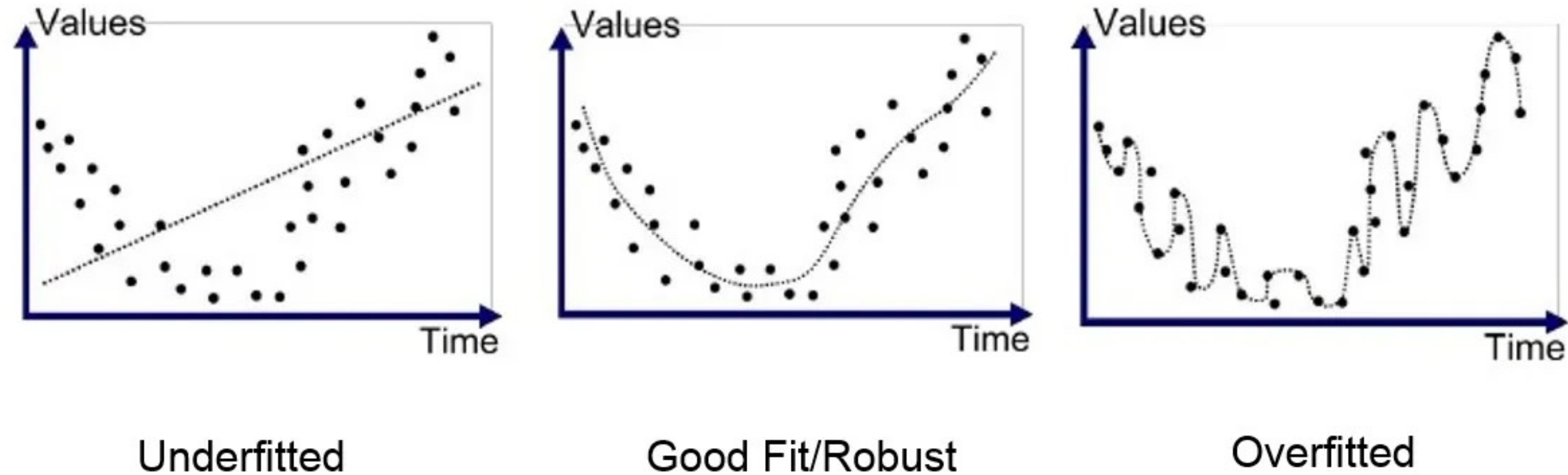
Good Fit/Robust



Overfitted

Therefore, a *model* is a mathematical function.

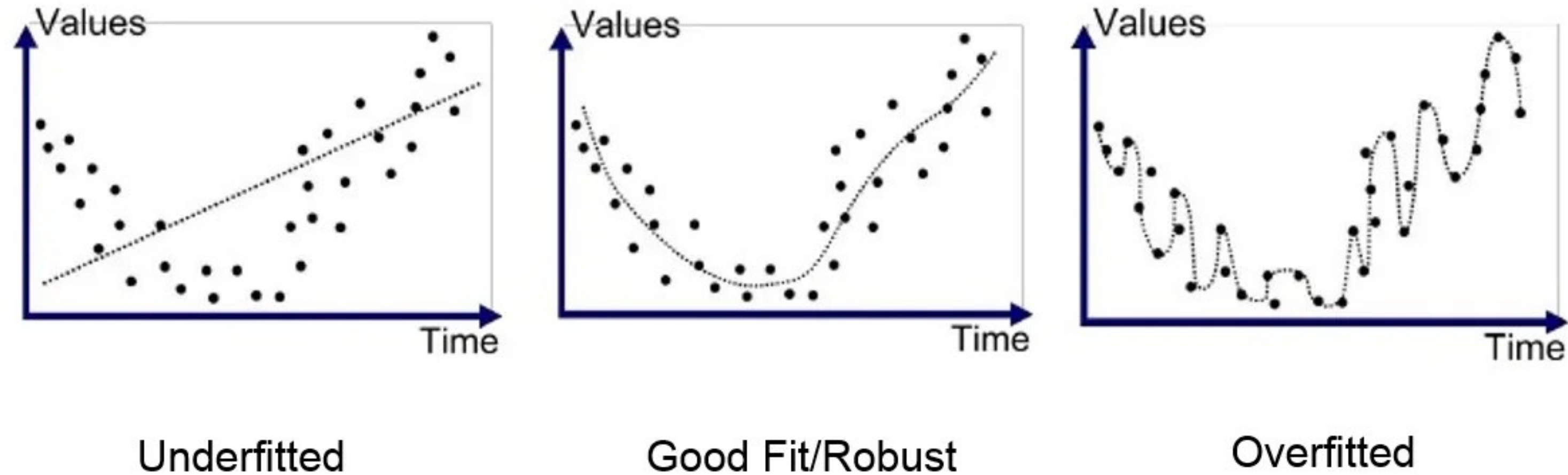
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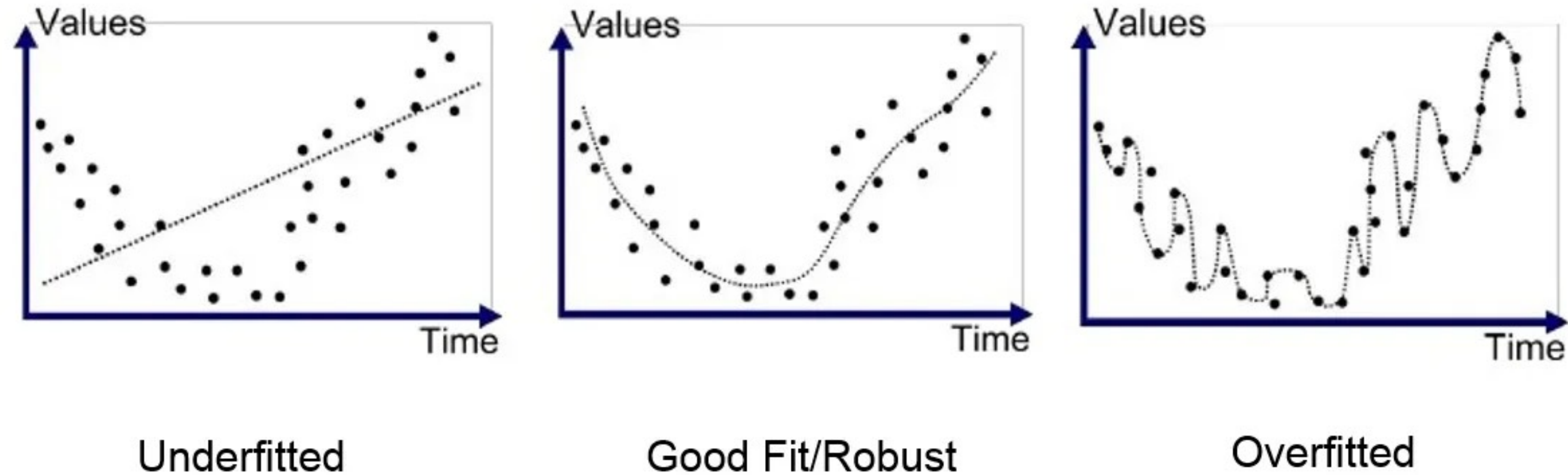


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But this would be a bit boring if we *just* wanted to model data we've seen.

*(Advanced) We pick models from weaker classes of functions so that they are more robust when we **predict** values using the model.*

# How To: Prediction

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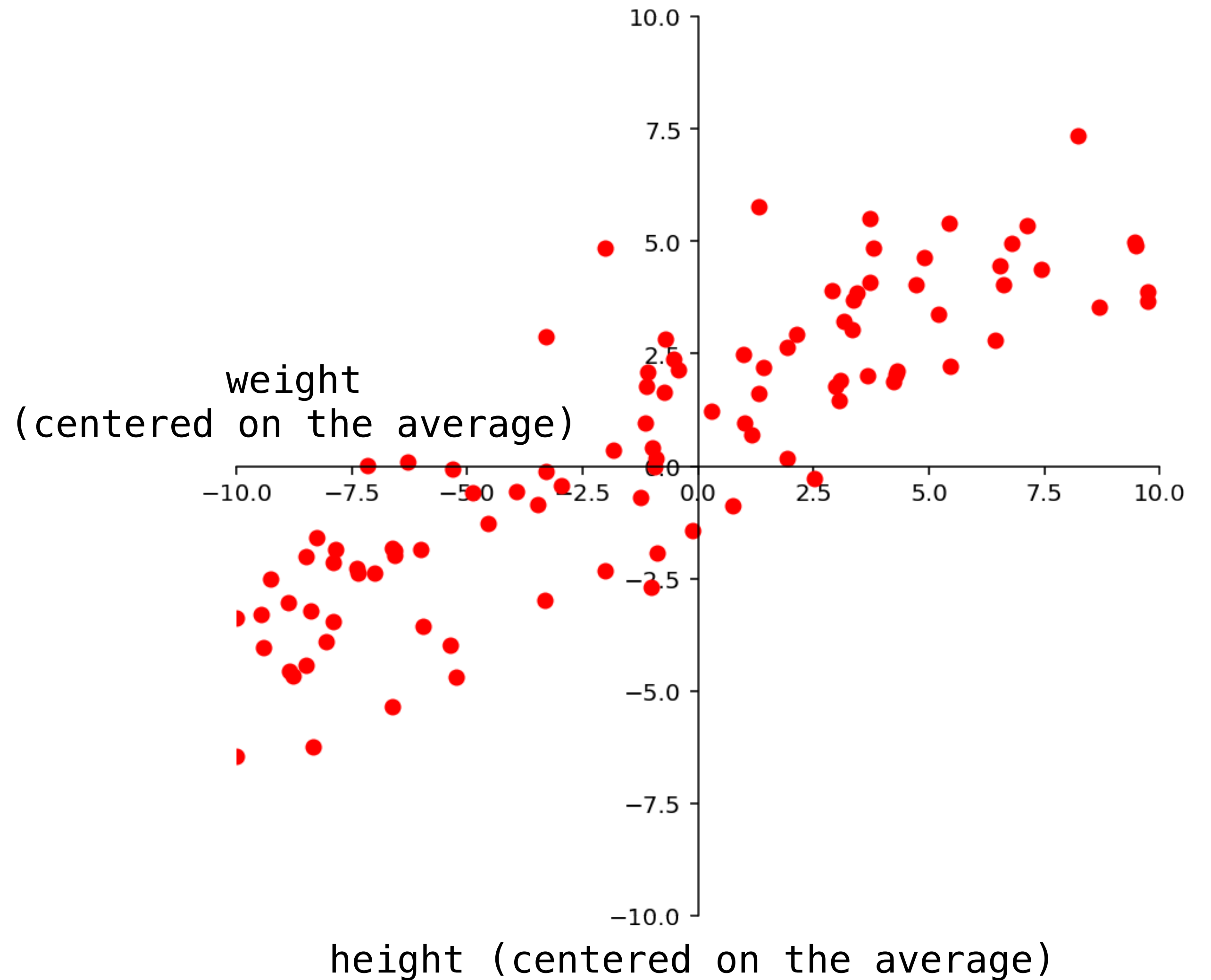
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**This generalizes to any  
model fitting problem**

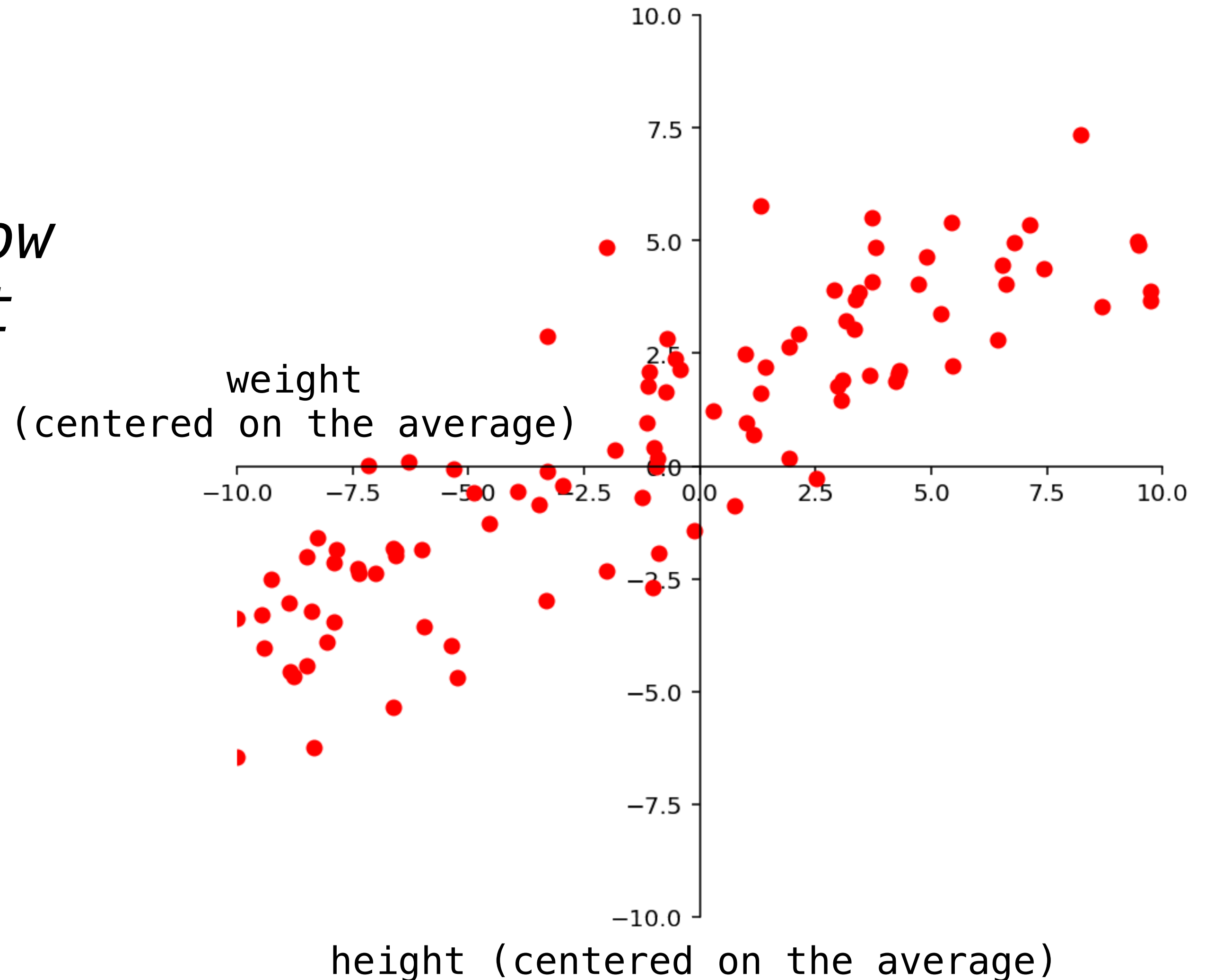


# Example: Height from Weight



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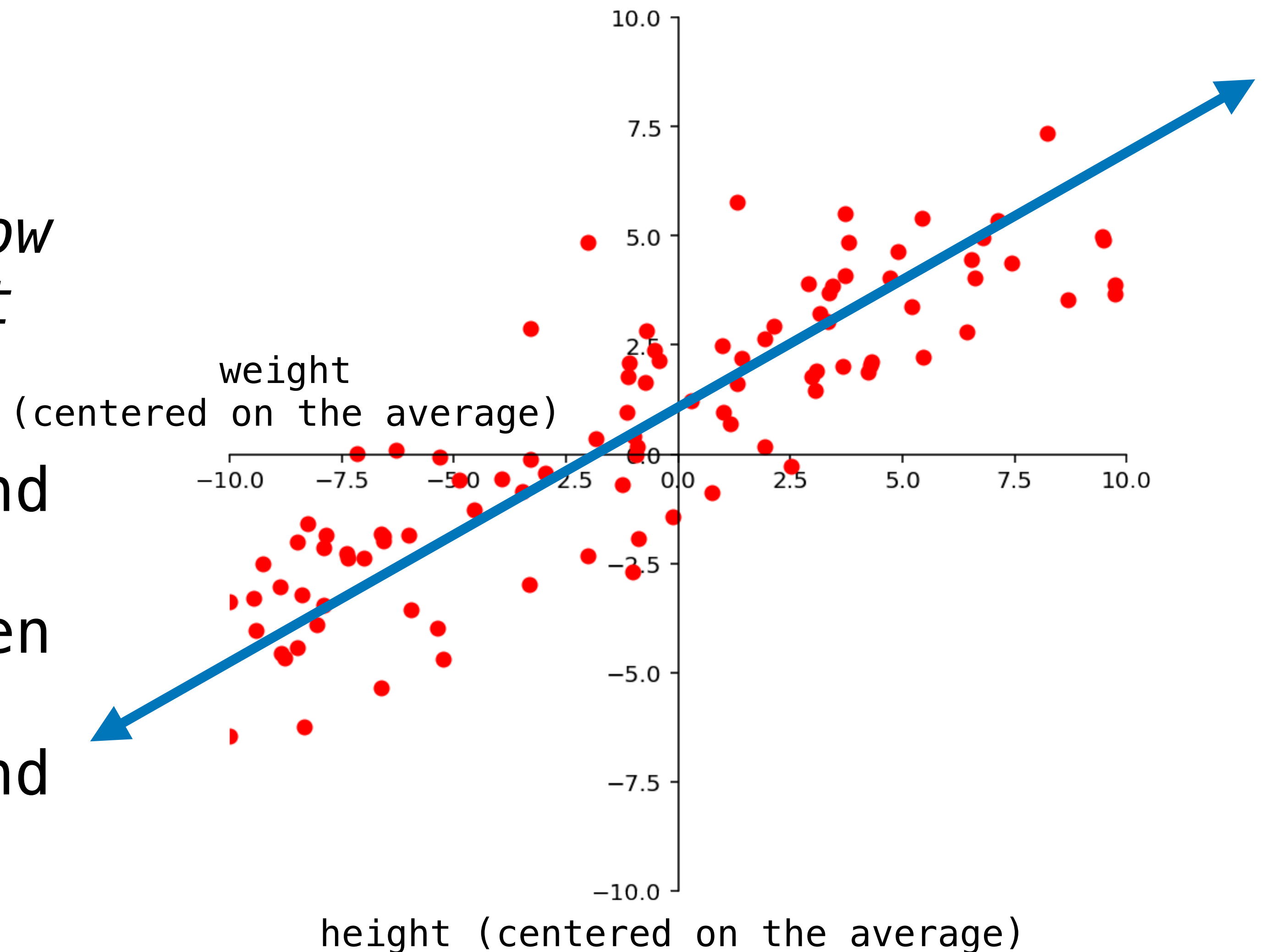
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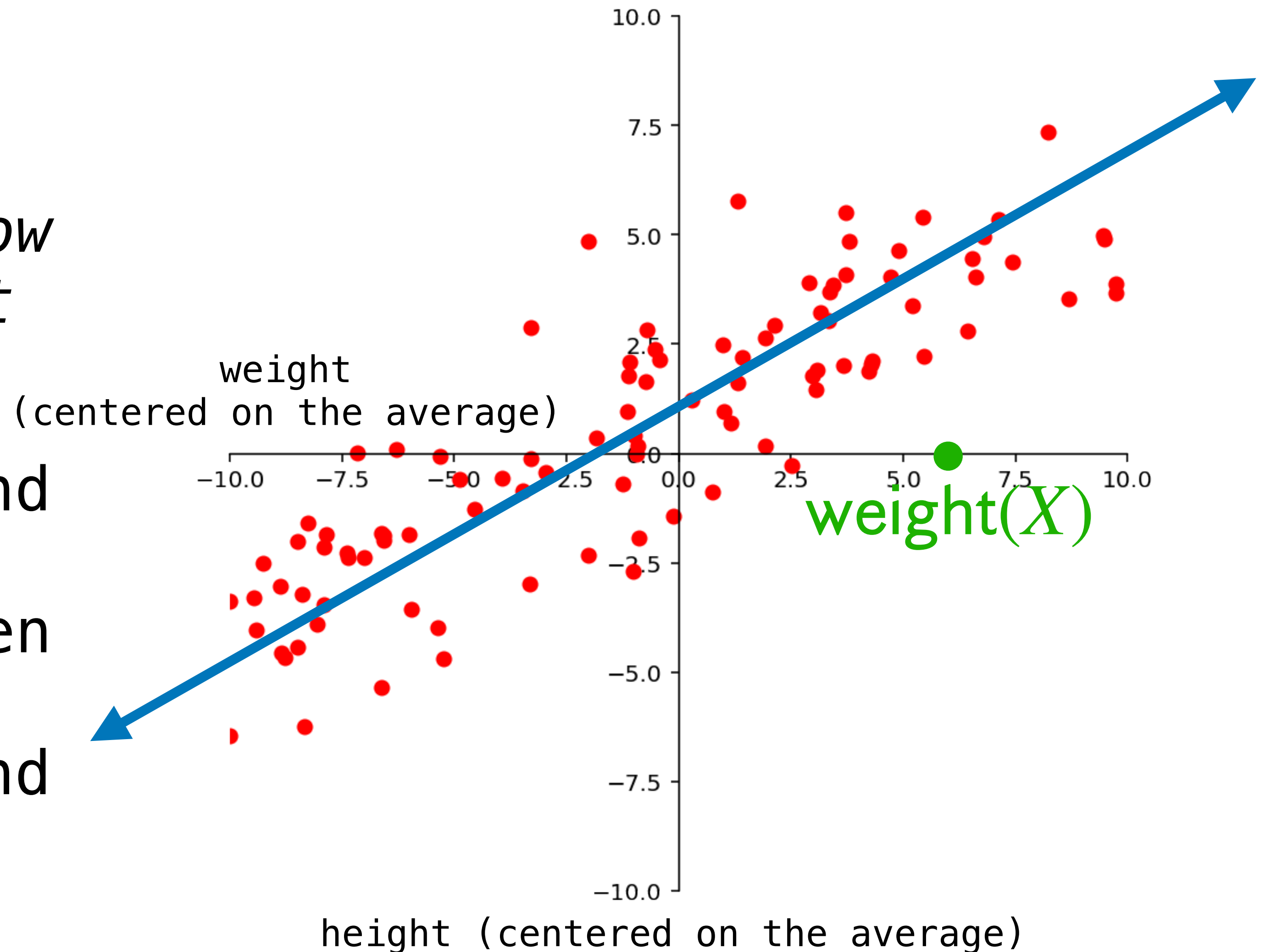
If we know the heights and weights of a population (from which  $X$  comes), then we can **find the line of best fit for that data** and then use that function.



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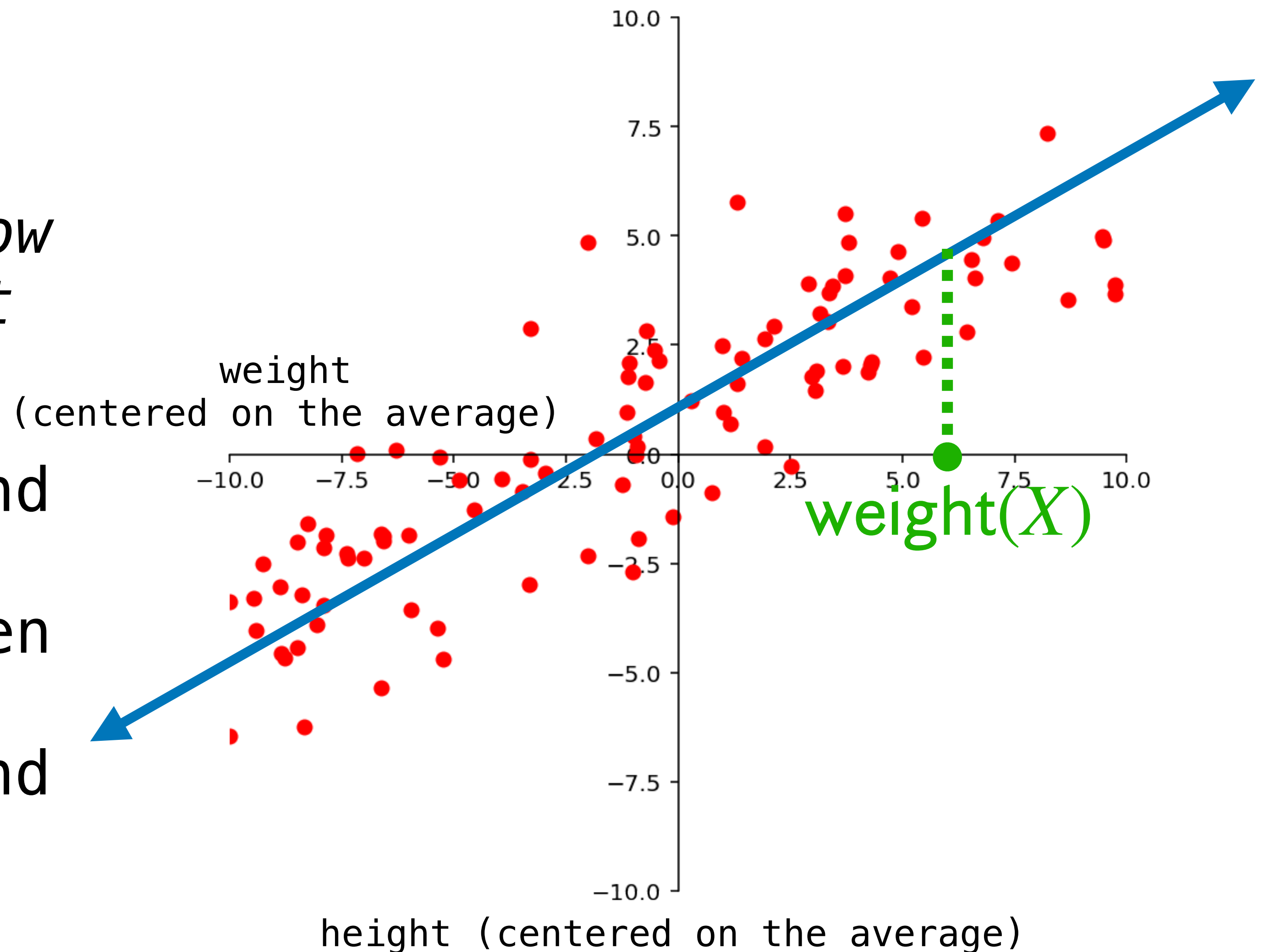
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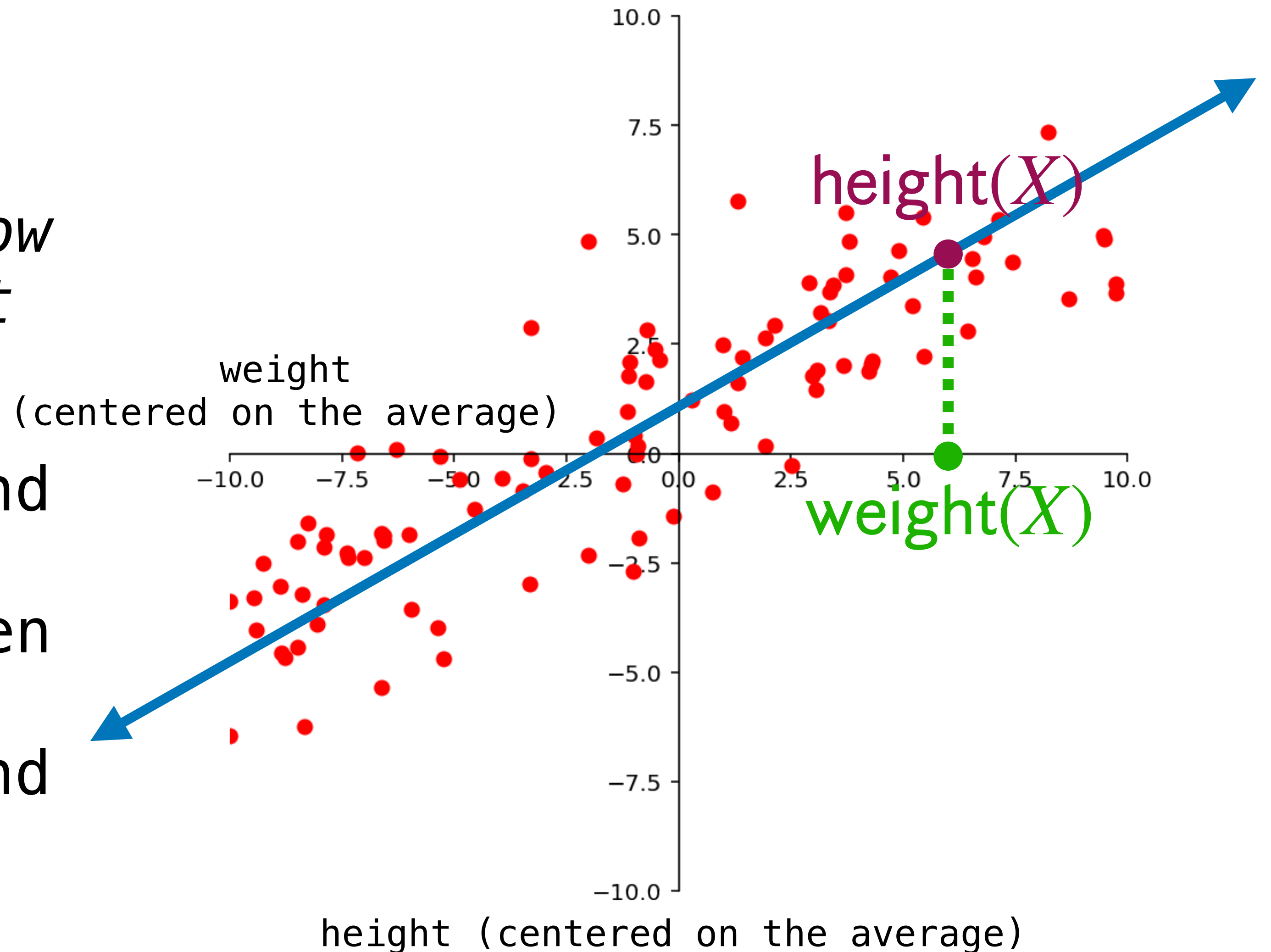
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If we know the heights and weights of a population (from which  $X$  comes), then we can **find the line of best fit for that data** and then use that function.



# Question

*Find the line of best fit for the dataset*

$$\{(0,3), (1,1), (-1,1), (2,3)\}$$

*If you have time, graph your result and use it to "predict" the corresponding value for the input 4.*

**Answer**

$$\{(0,3), (1,1), (-1,1), (2,3)\}$$



# Linear Models and Least Squares Regression

# **"Vectors" of Generalization**

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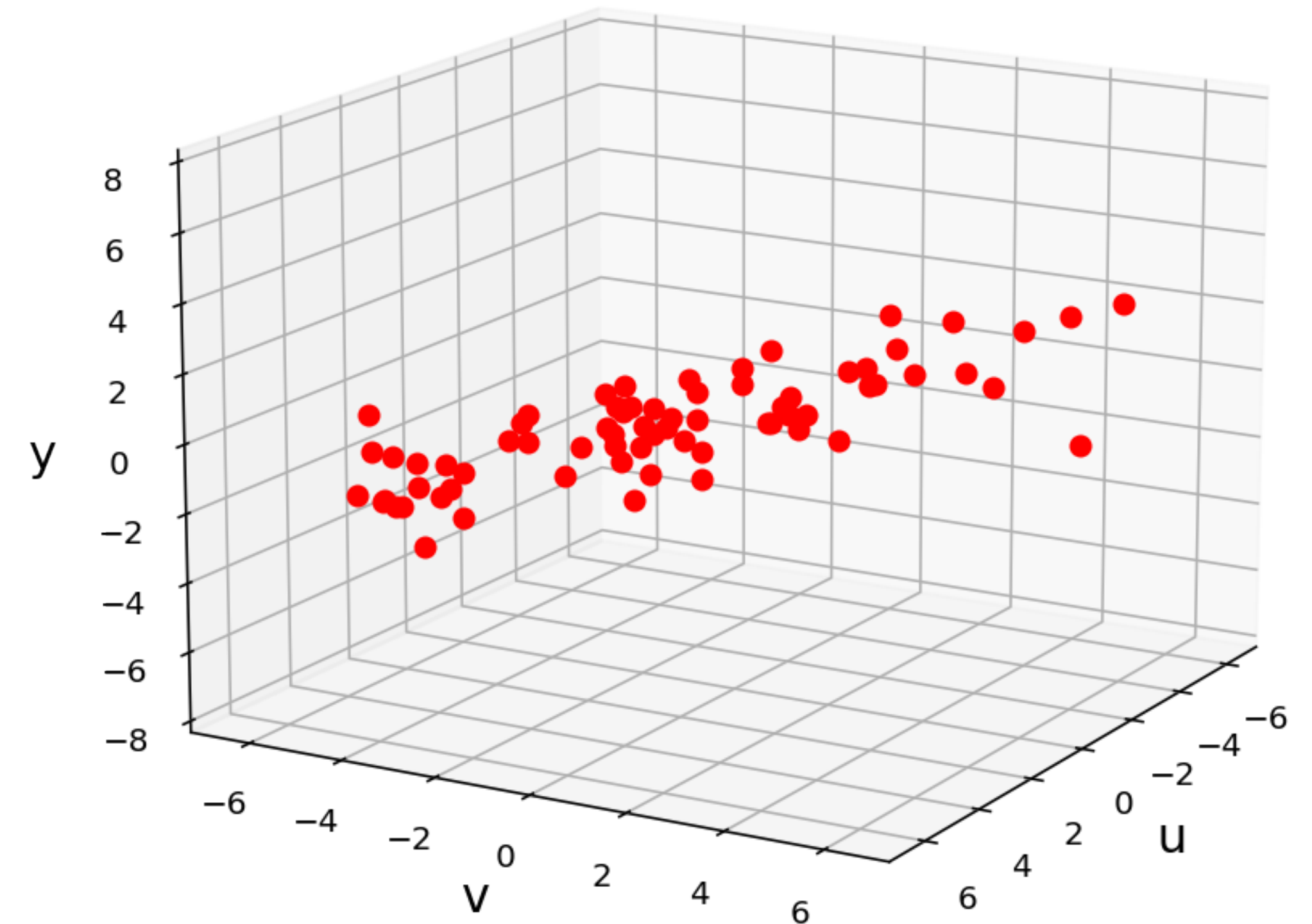
# Example: Terrain Data

**Dataset:**  $\{(x_1, y_1, z_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k, z_k)\}$   
where  $(x_i, y_i)$  is an longitude  
and latitude and  $z_i$  is an  
altitude.

**Problem:** Find the plane  
which "best" fits the  
data.

Figure 23.1

Terrain Data for Multiple Regression





# Example: Terrain Data

**Dataset:**  $\{(x_1, y_1, z_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k, z_k)\}$   
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**Problem:** Find  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$  such that

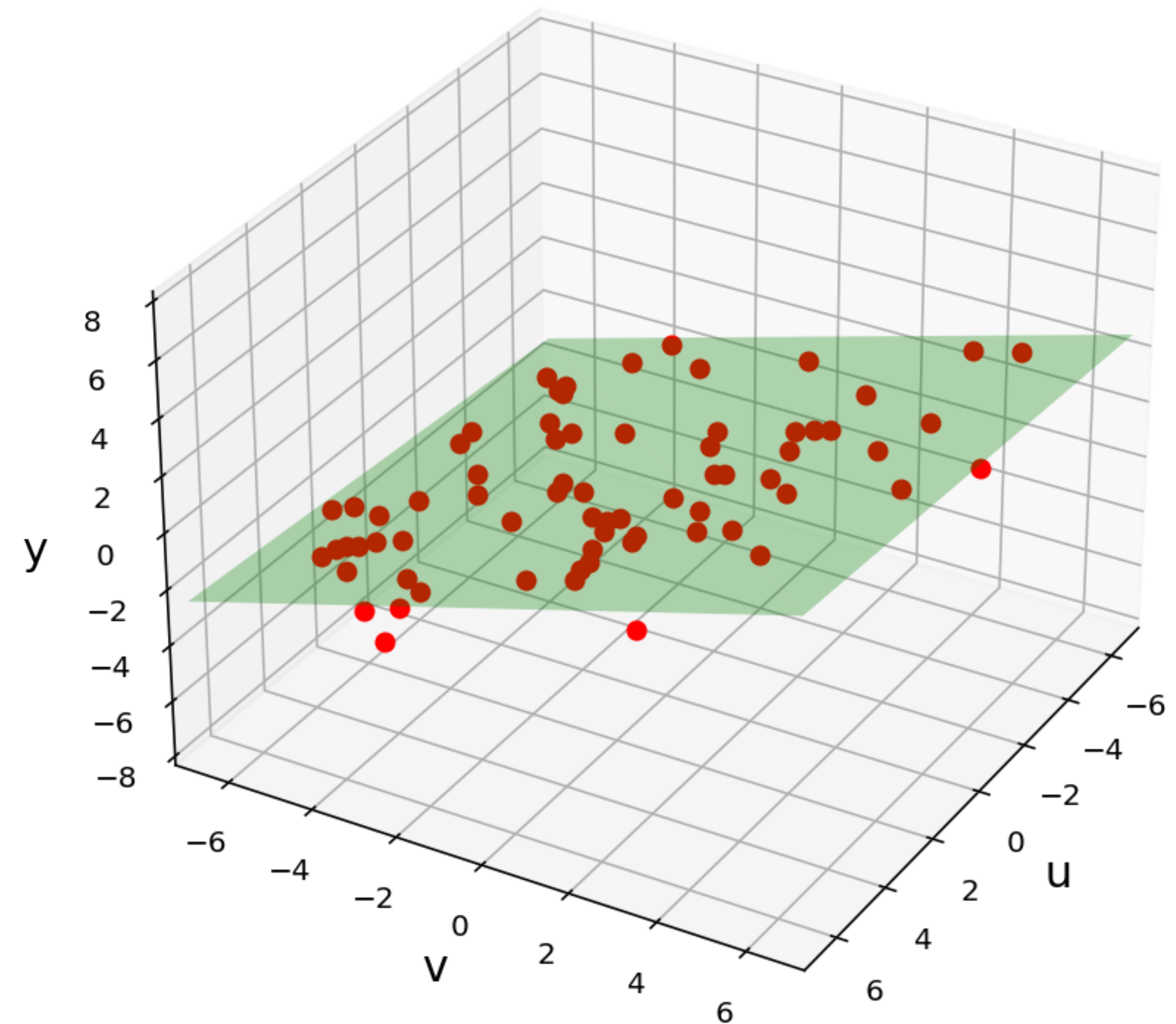
$$f(x, y) = \beta_0 + \beta_1x + \beta_2y$$

which minimizes

$$\sum_{i=1}^k (f(x_i, y_i) - z_i)^2$$

Figure 23.2

Multiple Regression Fit to Data



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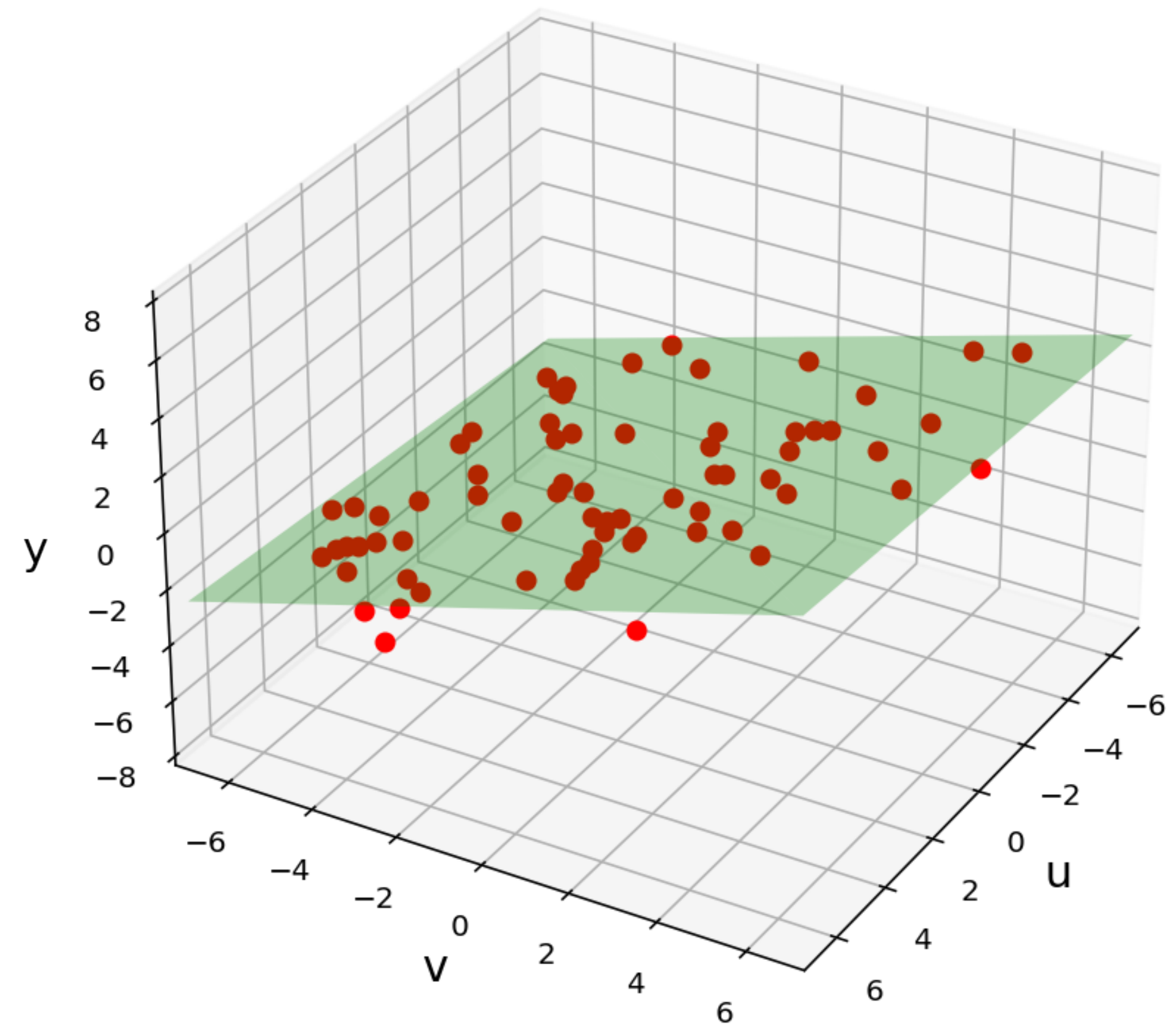
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*$f(x, y)$  is a good approximation of the altitude.*

Figure 23.2

Multiple Regression Fit to Data



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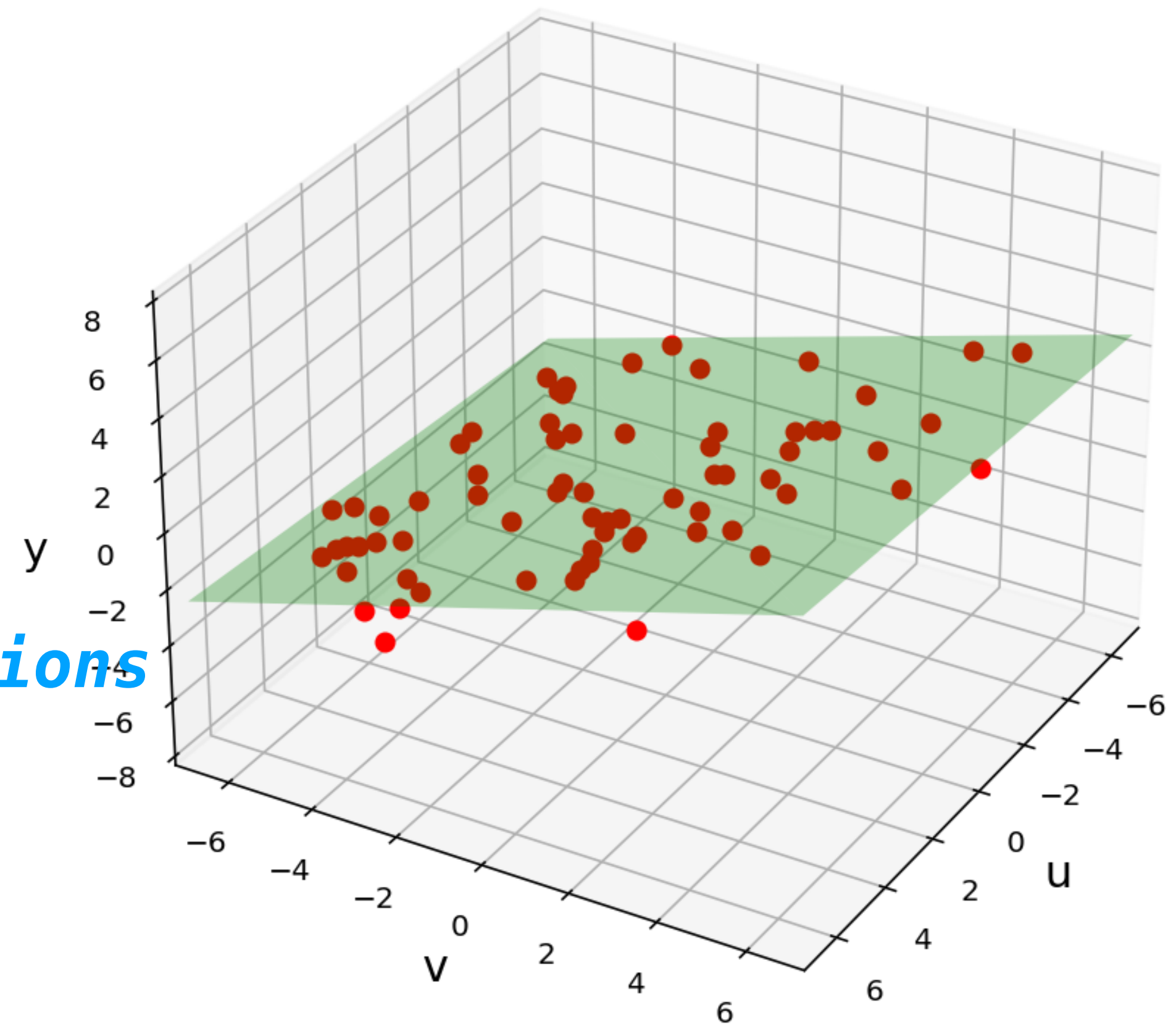
*recall: planes are given by linear equations*  
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**Step 1:** Set up an (almost assuredly inconsistent) system of linear equations in terms of the variables  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$



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This is still linear in the  $\beta$ 's

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**Step 2:** Rewrite the system as a matrix equation.

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**Step 3:** Find the least squares solution of this system and use as the parameters of your model.

# An Aside: Unique Least Squares

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**Question (Conceptual).** Why can almost always assume that the columns of this matrix are linearly independent?



**Answer**

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Second, this variable could be then be thought of as a *dependent* variable.

It wouldn't contribute anything when using the least squares method.

# "Vectors" of Generalization


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1. What if we have *more than one* independent value?

**multiple regression, (hyper)plane of best fit**

2. What if our data is not *exactly* linear.

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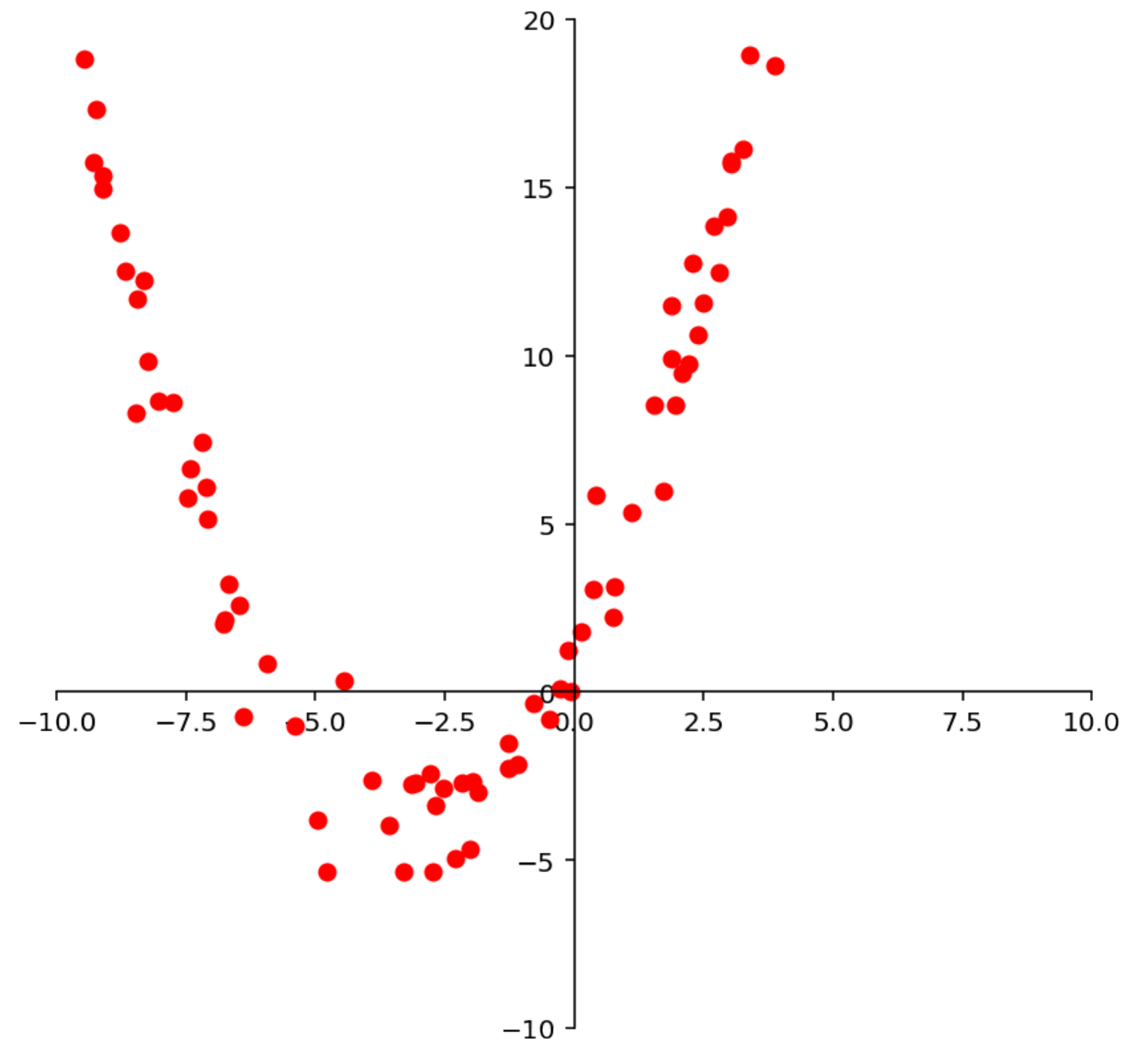
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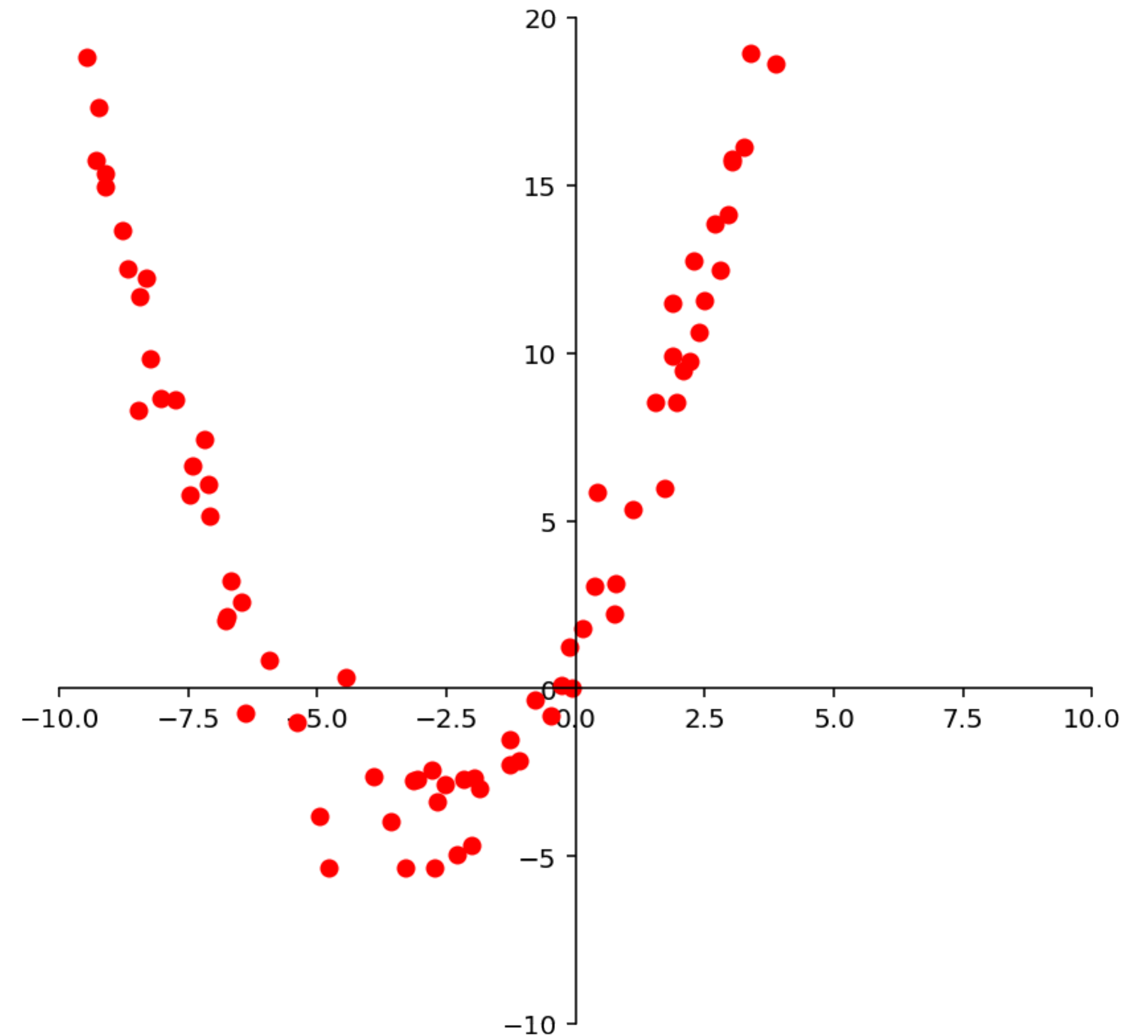
# Example: Best Fit Quadratic





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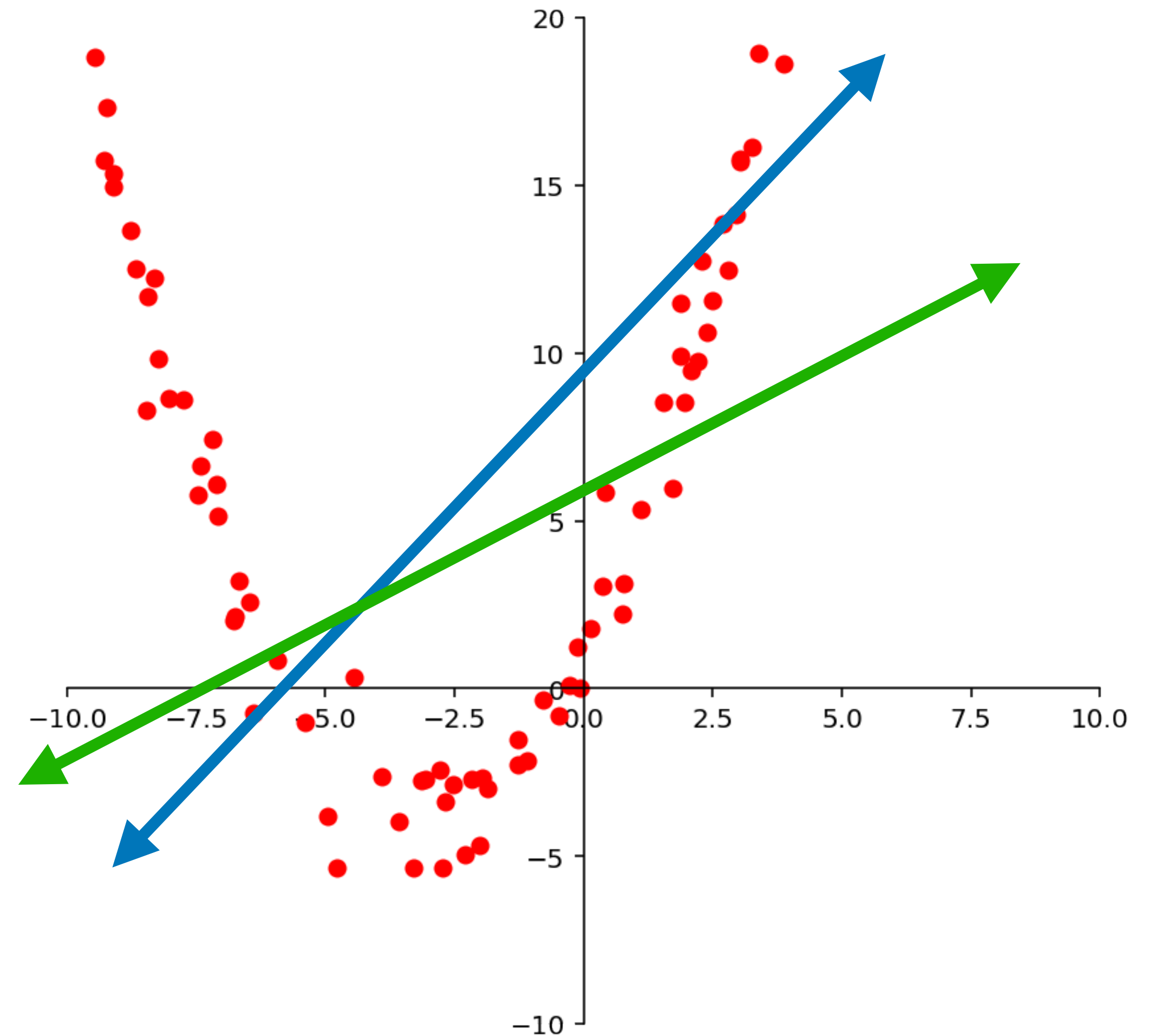
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**The issue:** There is no good line to approximate this data.

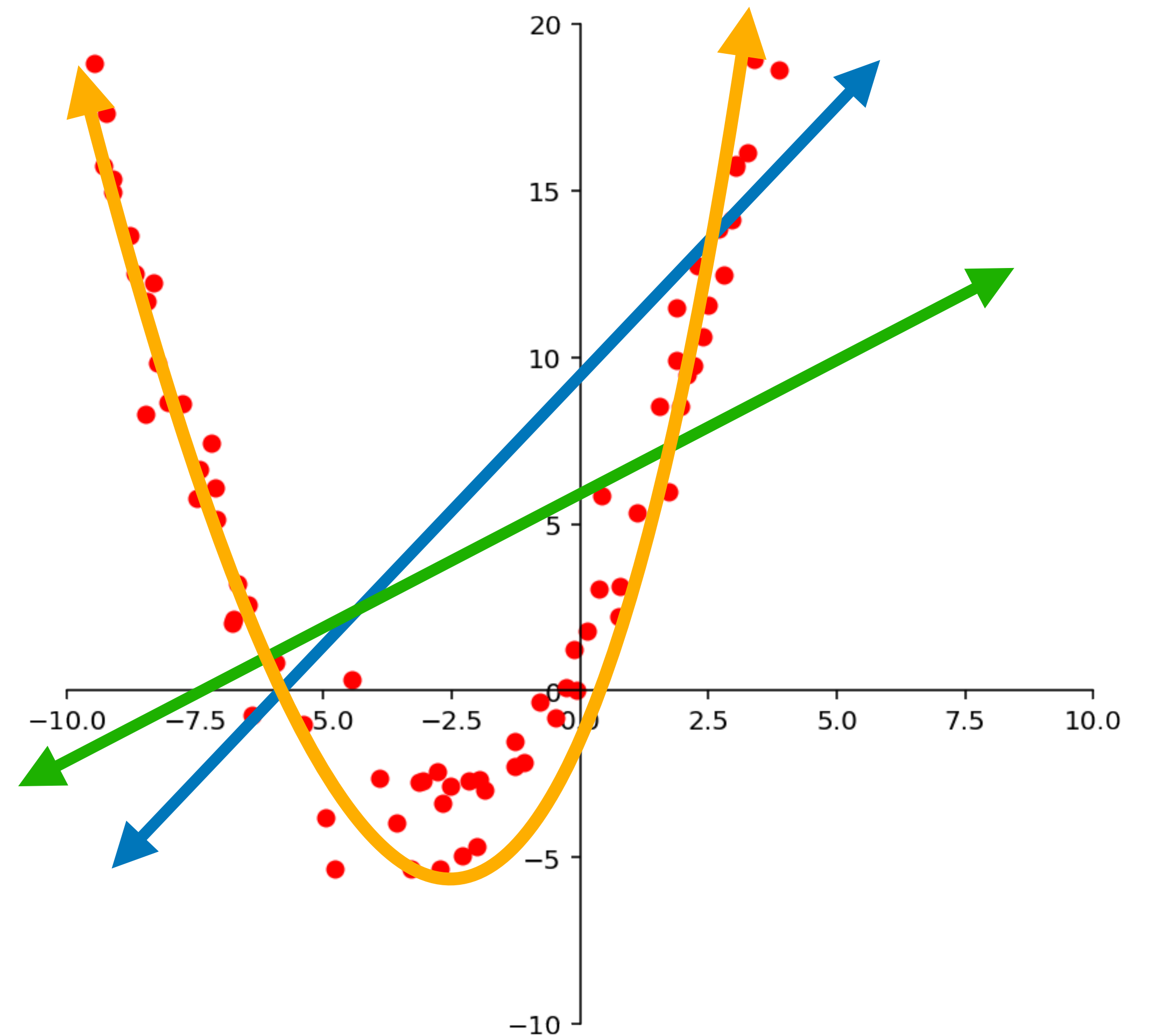


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**What about a parabola?**



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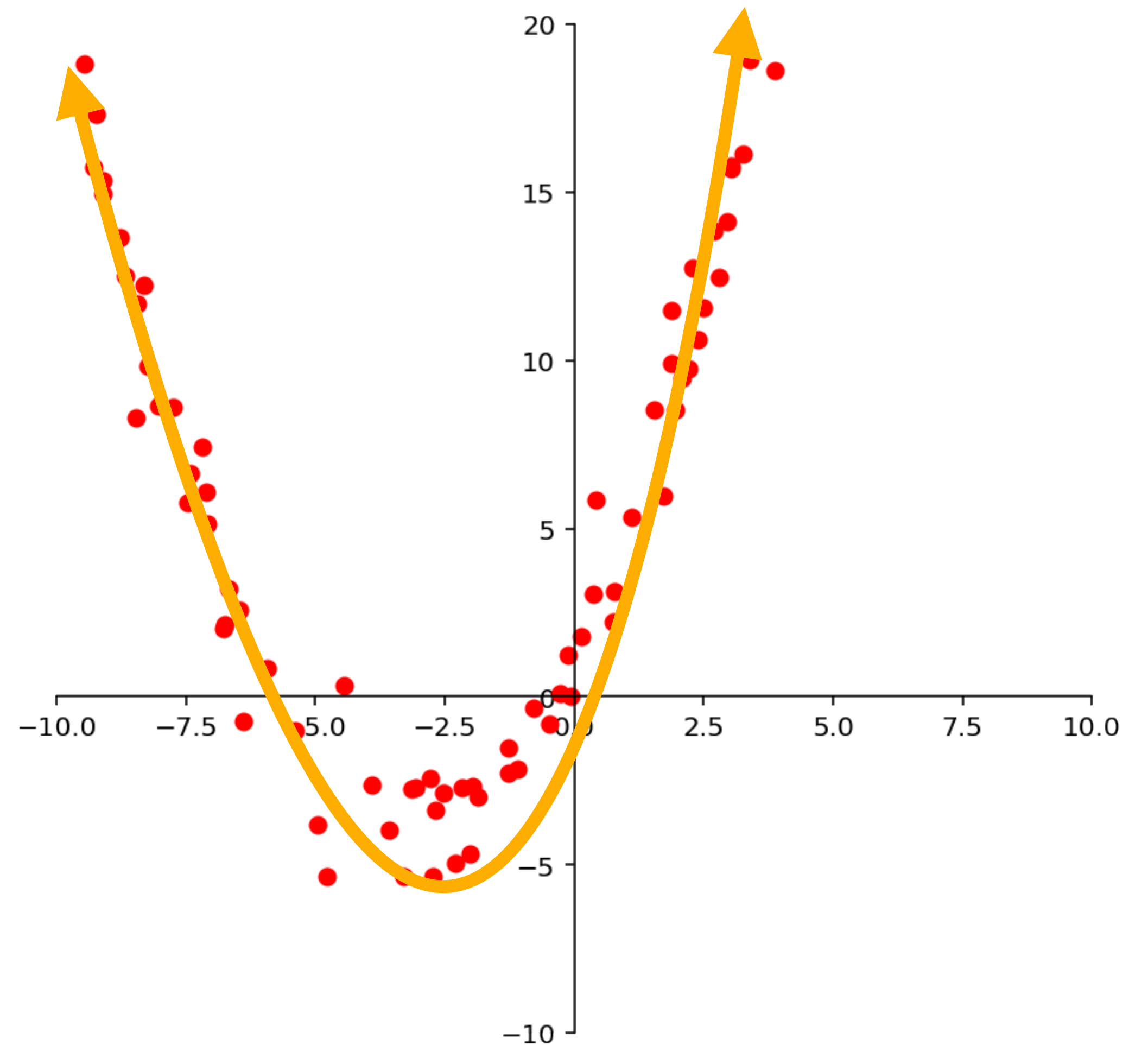
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# The Takeaway

We can use non-linear modeling functions as long as they are linear in the parameters.

# Linear in Parameters

**Definition.** A function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **linear in the parameters**  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$  if it can be written as

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \beta_1 \phi_1(\mathbf{x}) + \beta_2 \phi_2(\mathbf{x}) + \dots + \beta_k \phi_k(\mathbf{x})$$

for functions  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Example:

We can build design matrices for function which are linear in their parameters.

# General Linear Regression

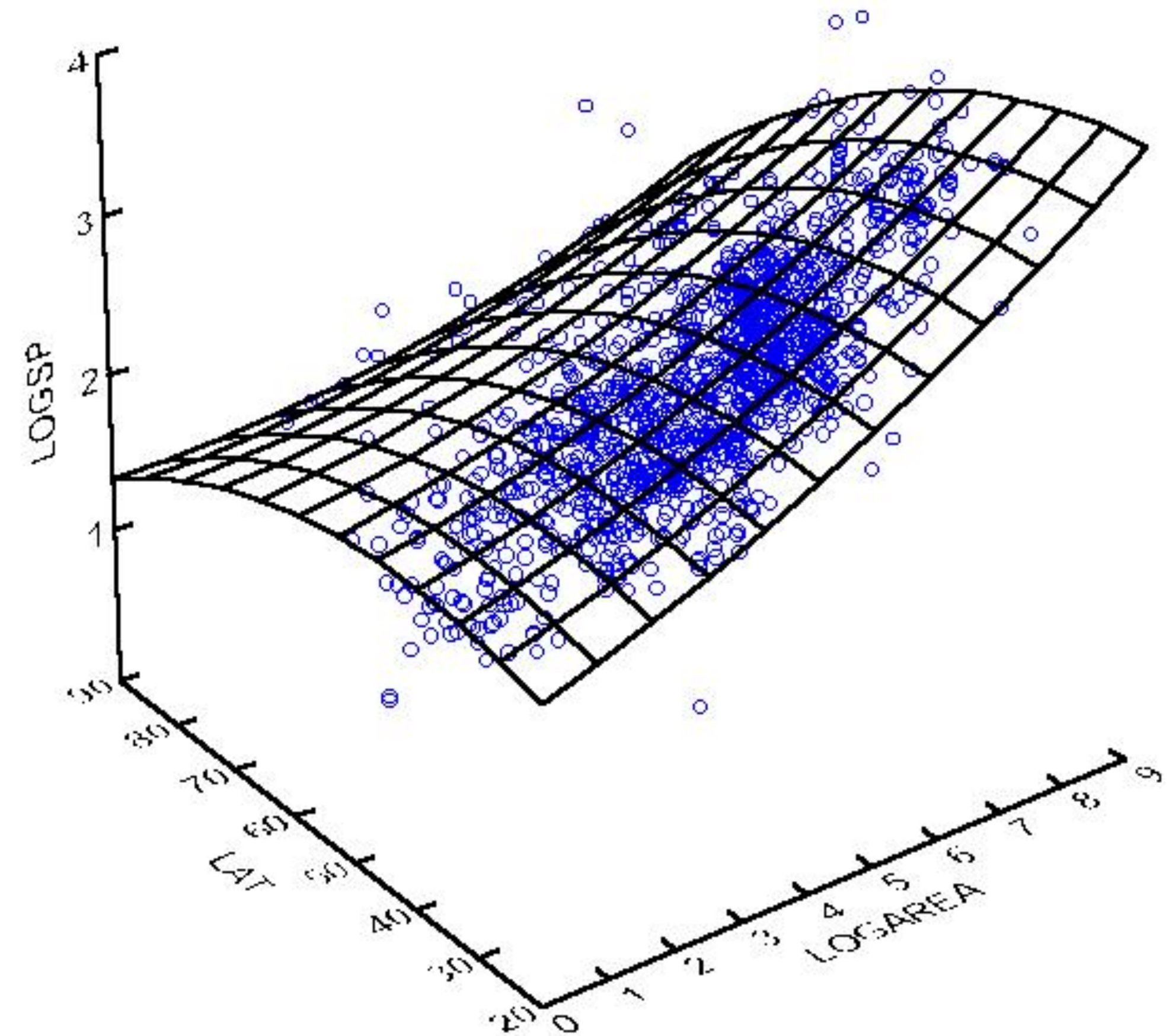
**dataset:**  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_m, y_m)\}$  where  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$

**Problem.** Given a function

$$f_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

which is *linear in the parameters*  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$ , find values for  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$  which minimize

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design matrix

$$\begin{matrix} & \text{design matrix} \\ & X \\ \begin{bmatrix} \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_1) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_2) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_2) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_m) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_m) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_m) \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \vec{\beta} \\ \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_k \end{bmatrix} & = & \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_k \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

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$$\sum_{i=1}^k (f_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k}(\mathbf{x}_i) - y_i)^2$$

$$\hat{\vec{\beta}} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T \mathbf{y}$$

**Step 3:** Find the least squares solution of this system and use as the parameters of your model.



# How To: Design Matrices

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**Problem.** Find the design matrix for least squares regression with the function  $f$  in terms of the parameters  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$  given the dataset  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_m, y_m)\}$ .

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**Solution.** First write  $f(\mathbf{x})$  as  $\beta_1\phi_1(\mathbf{x}) + \dots + \beta_k\phi_k(\mathbf{x})$  where  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k$  are potentially non-linear functions. Then build the matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_1) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_2) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_2) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_m) & \phi_2(\mathbf{x}_m) & \dots & \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_m) \end{bmatrix}$$

# Question

*Find the design matrix for the least squares regression with the function*

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \beta_1 \cos(x_1) + \beta_2 e^{-x_1 x_2} - \beta_1 x_3 + \beta_3$$

*for the dataset*

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = (0, 0, 0) \quad y_1 = 5$$

$$\mathbf{x}_2 = (\pi, 3, 1) \quad y_2 = 3$$

**Answer:**  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & e^{-3\pi} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

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**Concerns for another class.**