

# Math for Machine Learning

Week 3.1: Basic Differentiation and Vector Calculus

By: Samuel Deng

# Logistics & Announcements

- PS ① latest due date tonight 11:59 PM.
- PS ② due Friday 11:59 PM.
- PS ③ released today, due next Fri 11:59 PM.

If auditing: IMU for a subset of problems.

THURSDAY CLASS (last ~20 min)

Mid-course review from Teaching Development Program

# Lesson Overview

**Motivation for differential calculus.** We ultimately want to solve *optimization problems*, which require finding *global minima*.

**Single-variable differentiation review.** In single-variable differentiation, the derivative is still a  $1 \times 1$  “matrix” mapping change in input to change in output.

**Multivariable differentiation.** Derivatives in multiple variables become harder because we can approach from an infinite number of directions, not just two.

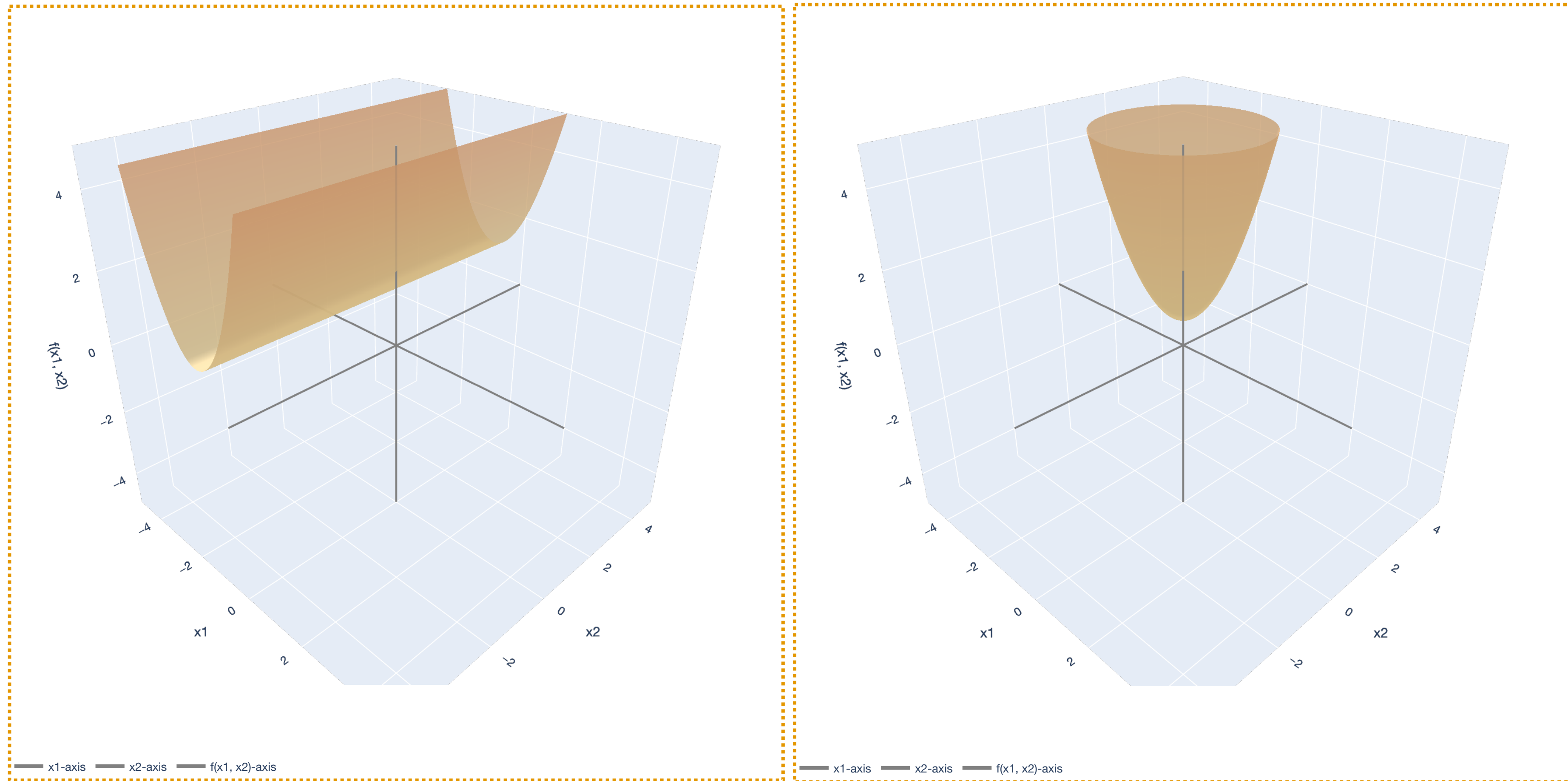
**Total, directional, and partial derivatives.** When a function is smooth it has a total derivative (it is differentiable). In this case, the directional derivative and partial derivative comes directly from the total derivative (Jacobian/gradient).

**OLS: Optimization Perspective.** We can solve OLS using differential calculus instead of linear algebra. We provide a heuristic derivation of the OLS estimator again.

# Lesson Overview

## Big Picture: Least Squares

$$F: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
$$F(\vec{w}) := \|Xw - y\|^2$$



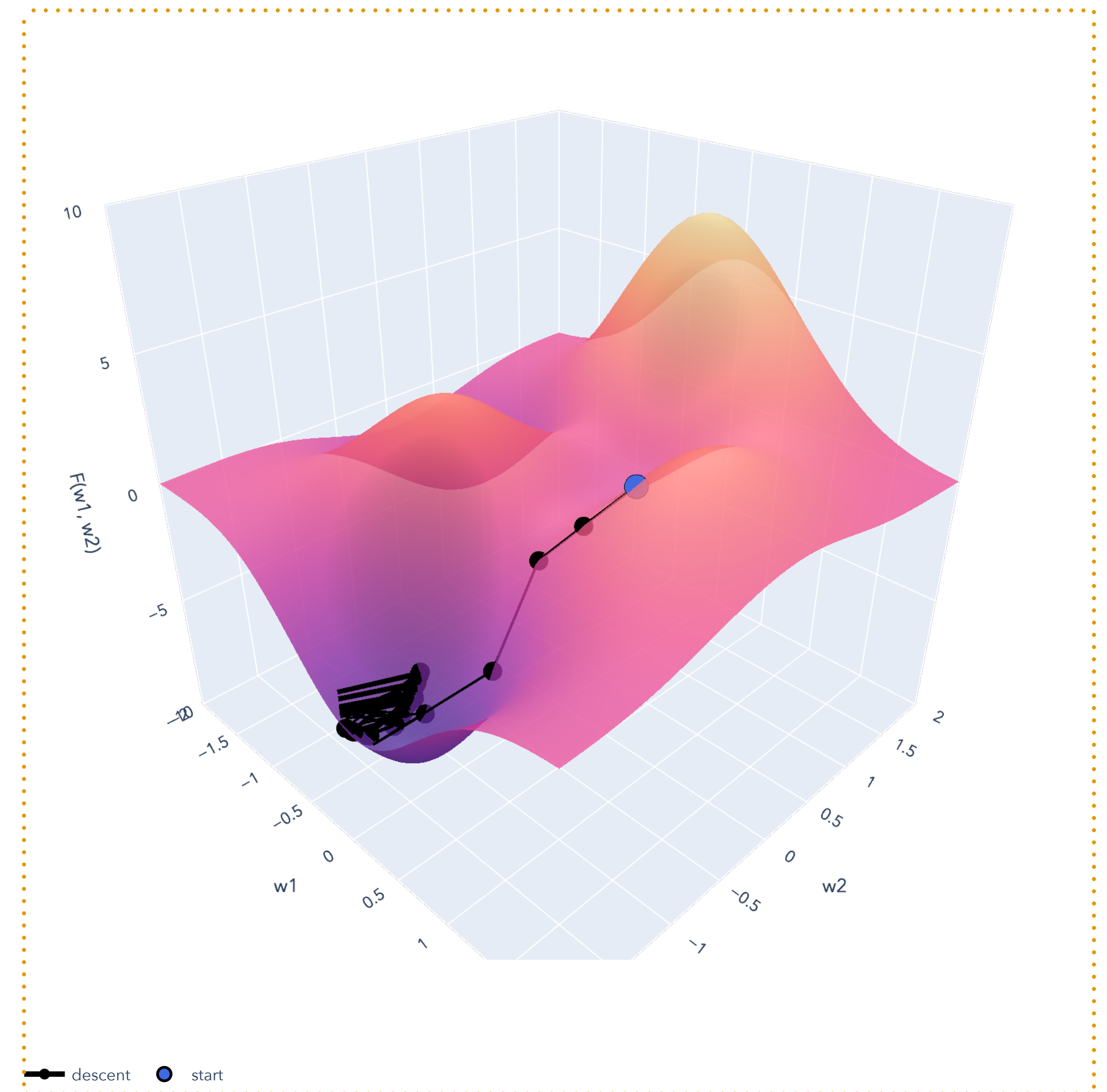
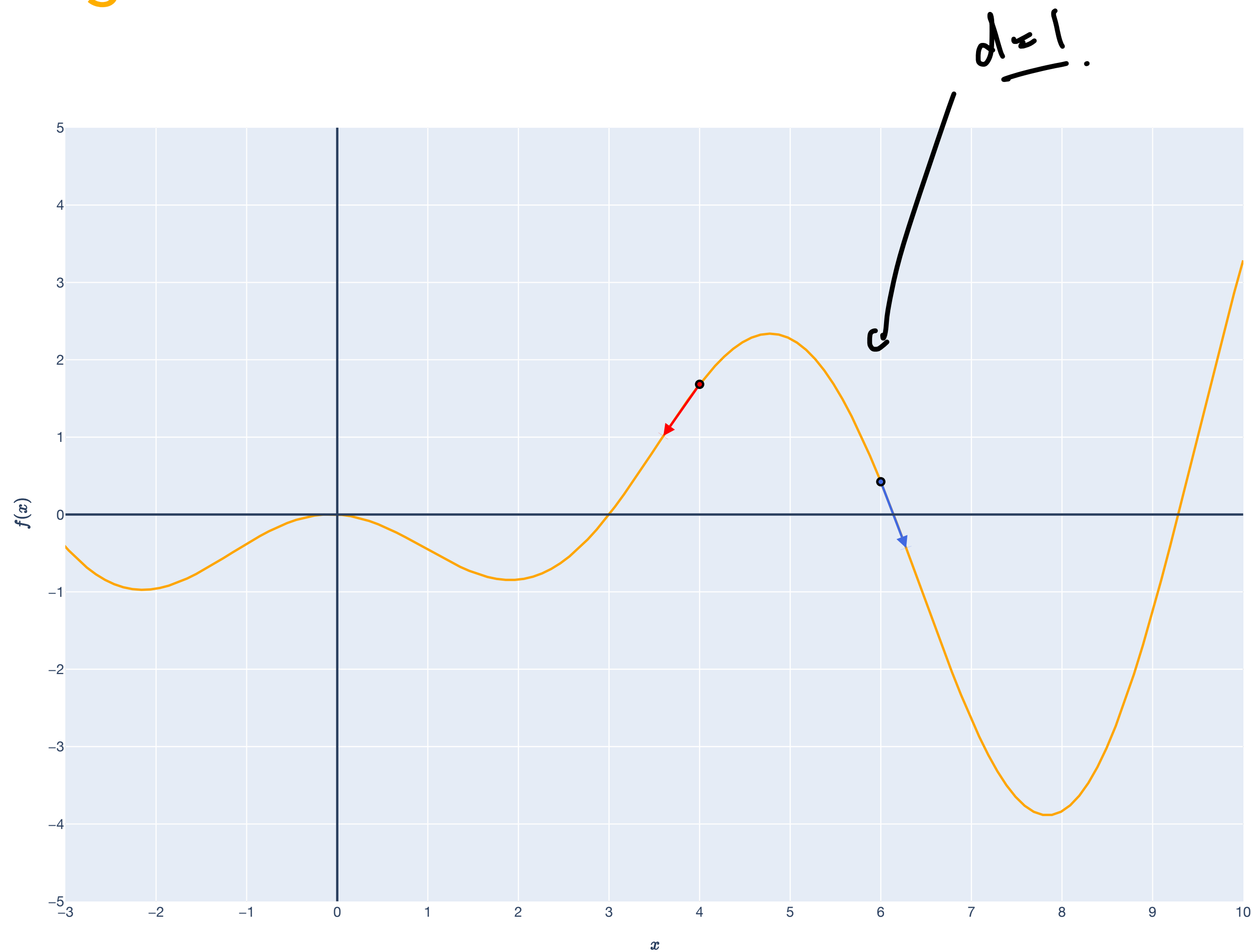
$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d \geq 0$$

$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d > 0$$



# Lesson Overview

## Big Picture: Gradient Descent



# A Motivation for Calculus

Optimization

# Motivation

## Optimization in calculus

In much of machine learning, we design algorithms for well-defined *optimization problems*.

In an optimization problem, we want to minimize an objective function  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with respect to a set of constraints  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{x}{\text{minimize}} & f(x) \\ \text{subject to} & x \in \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

# Motivation

## Optimization in single-variable calculus

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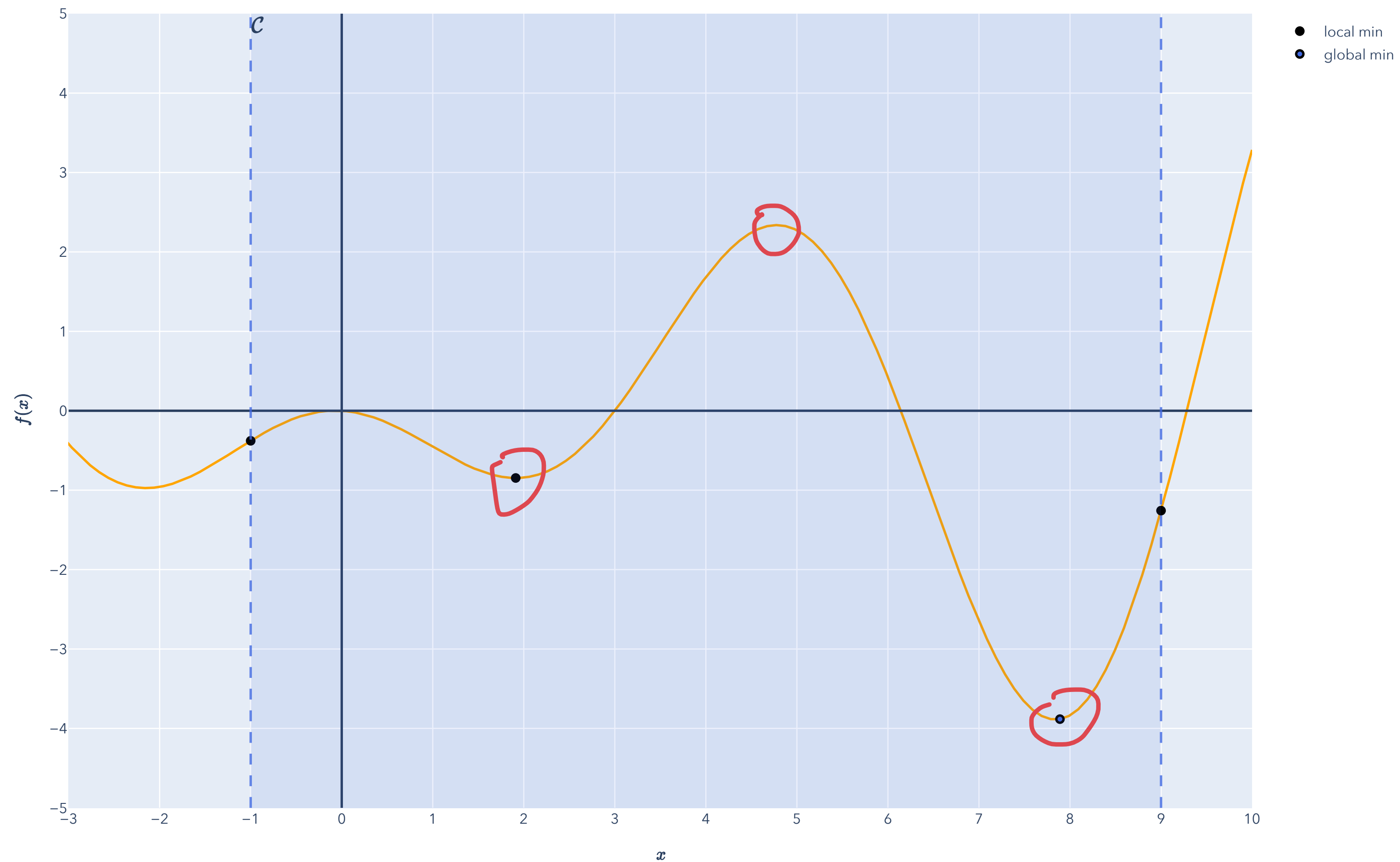
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*How do we know how to do this from single-variable calculus?*

# Motivation

## Optimization in single-variable calculus



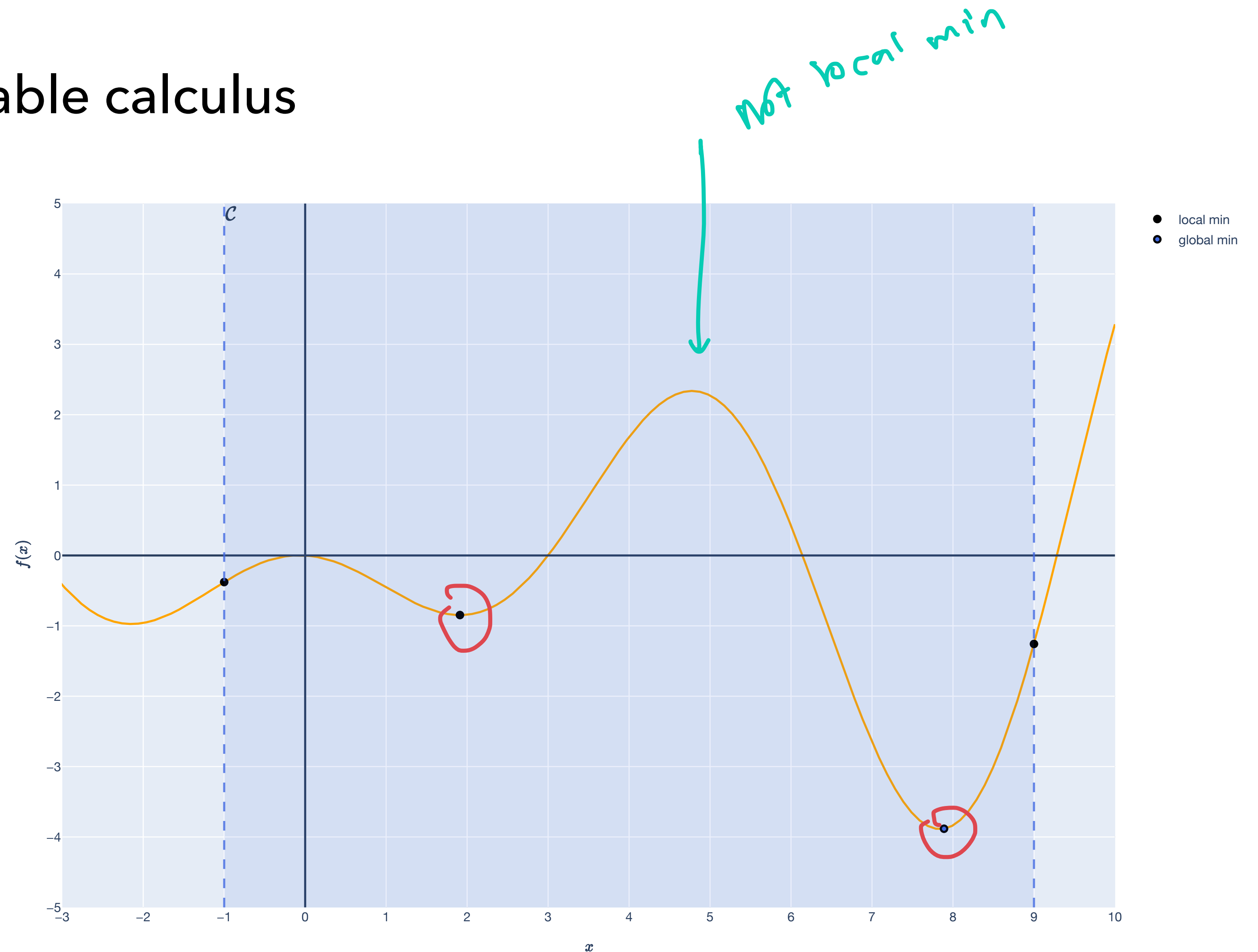
# Motivation

## Optimization in single-variable calculus

Ultimate goal: Find the *global minimum* of functions.

Intermediary goal: Find the *local minima*.

*Derivatives will give us descent directions!*





# Single-variable Differentiation

Review of (some) single-variable calculus

# Single-variable Differentiation

Difference quotient

# Single-variable Differentiation

## Difference quotient

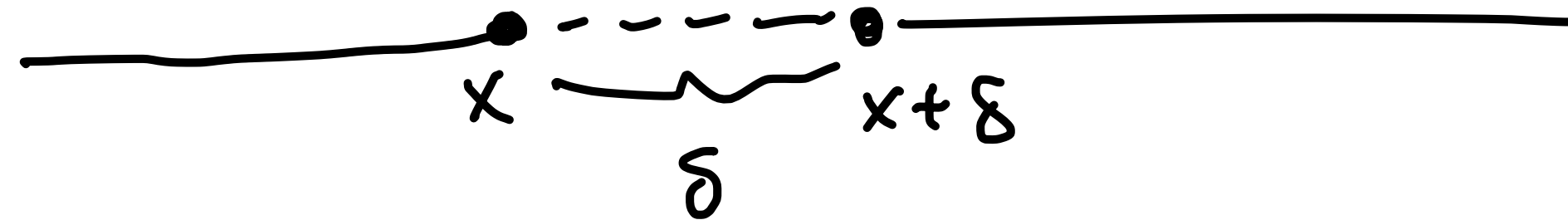
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# Single-variable Differentiation

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$\delta$  will denote “change in the inputs.” For any two points  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , we can write  $\delta = y - x$ .

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For a linear function, this is the slope *everywhere*.

# Single-variable Differentiation

## Difference quotient

Example.  $f(x) = -2x$

Example.  $f(x) = x^2 - 2x + 1 \longrightarrow$

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x+\delta) - f(x)}{\delta}$$

$$= \frac{(x+\delta)^2 - 2(x+\delta) + 1 - (x^2 - 2x + 1)}{\delta}$$

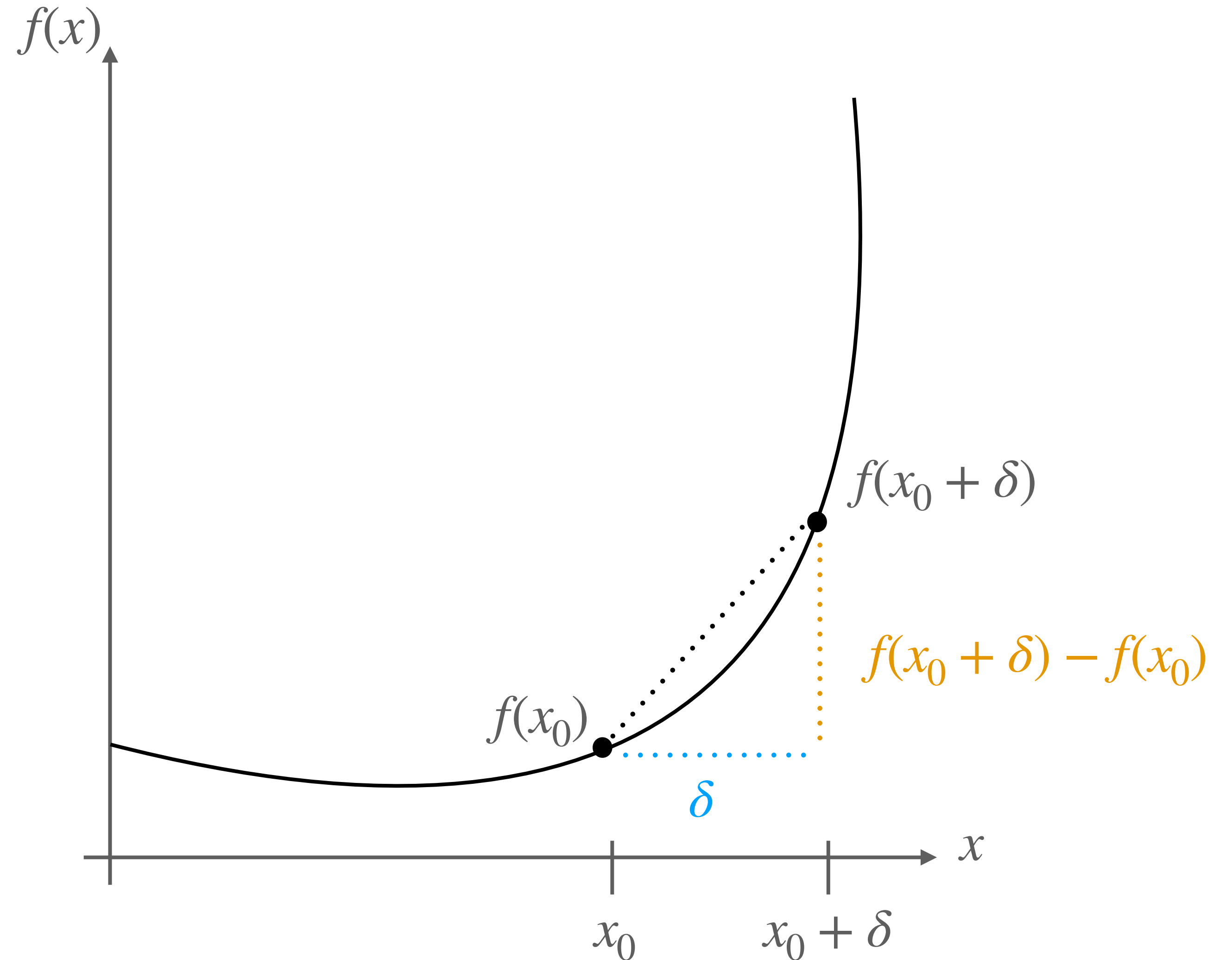
$$2x + \delta - 2 = \frac{2\delta x + \delta^2 - 2\delta}{\delta}$$

$$= \frac{\cancel{x^2} + 2\delta x + \delta^2 - \cancel{2x} - 2\delta + \cancel{1} - \cancel{x^2} + \cancel{2x} - \cancel{1}}{\delta}$$

# Single-variable Differentiation

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\frac{\delta y}{\delta x} := \frac{f(x + \delta) - f(x)}{\delta}$$



# Single-variable Differentiation

Definition of the derivative

# Single-variable Differentiation

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if the limit exists.

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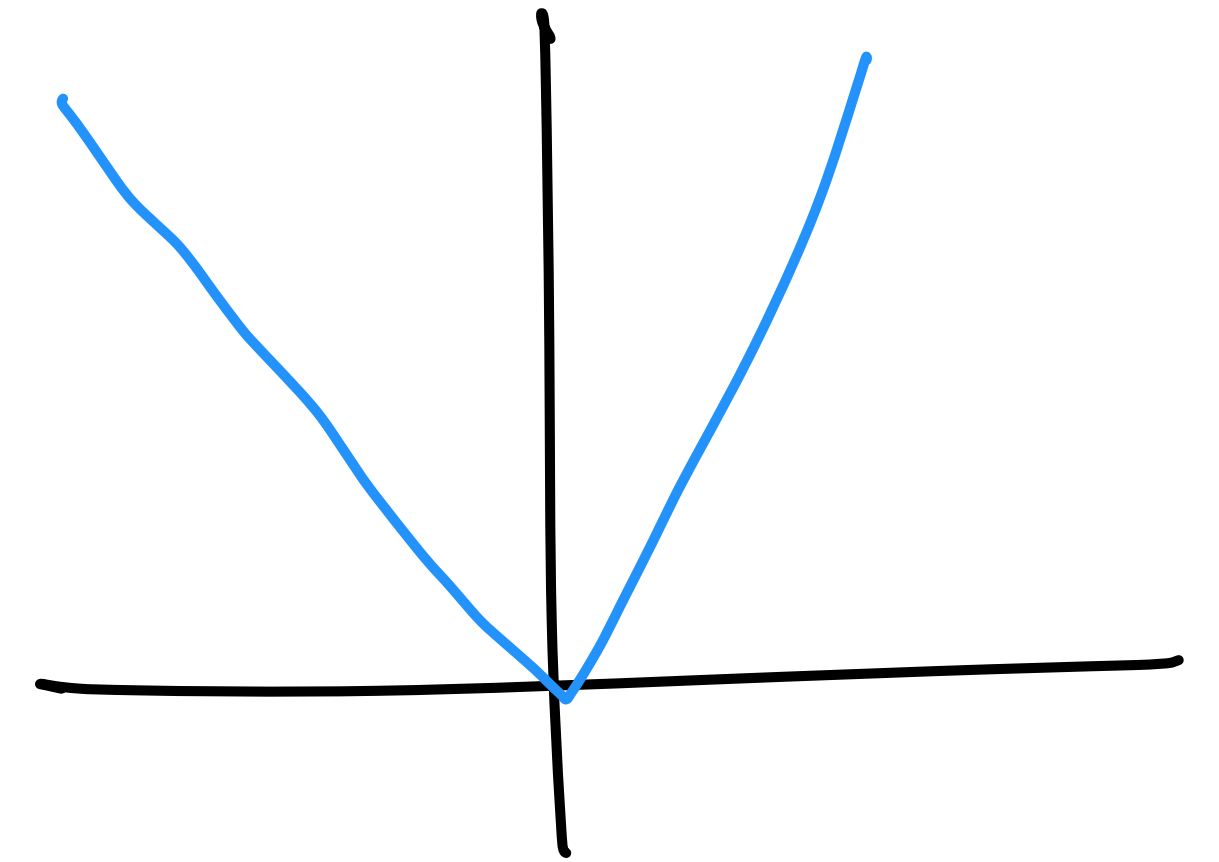
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We will assume functions are *everywhere differentiable* (not always the case, e.g.  $f(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor$ ).



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We will also denote this as  $f'(x)$  or  $\nabla f(x)$ .

*difference quotient*

# Single-variable Differentiation

## Definition of the derivative

$$f(x) = x^2$$

$$f'(x) = 2x$$

← formula for the derivative.

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Important: The derivative is defined *at a point*!



# Single-variable Differentiation

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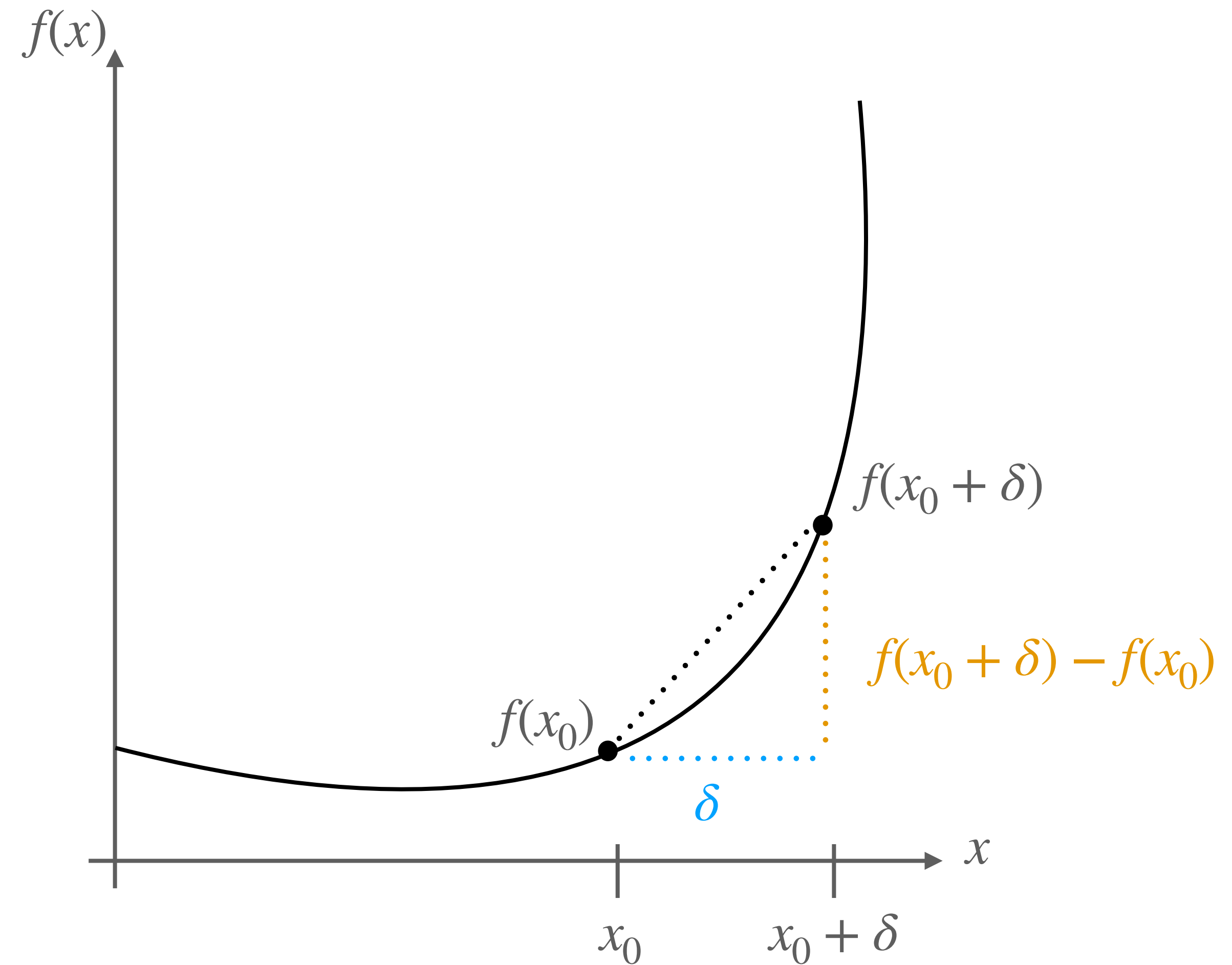
Example.  $f(x) = x^2 - 2x + 1 \longrightarrow$

$$\frac{\delta y}{\delta x} = 2x_0 + \delta - 2$$
$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\delta y}{\delta x} = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} (2x_0 + \delta - 2)$$
$$= 2x_0 - 2$$



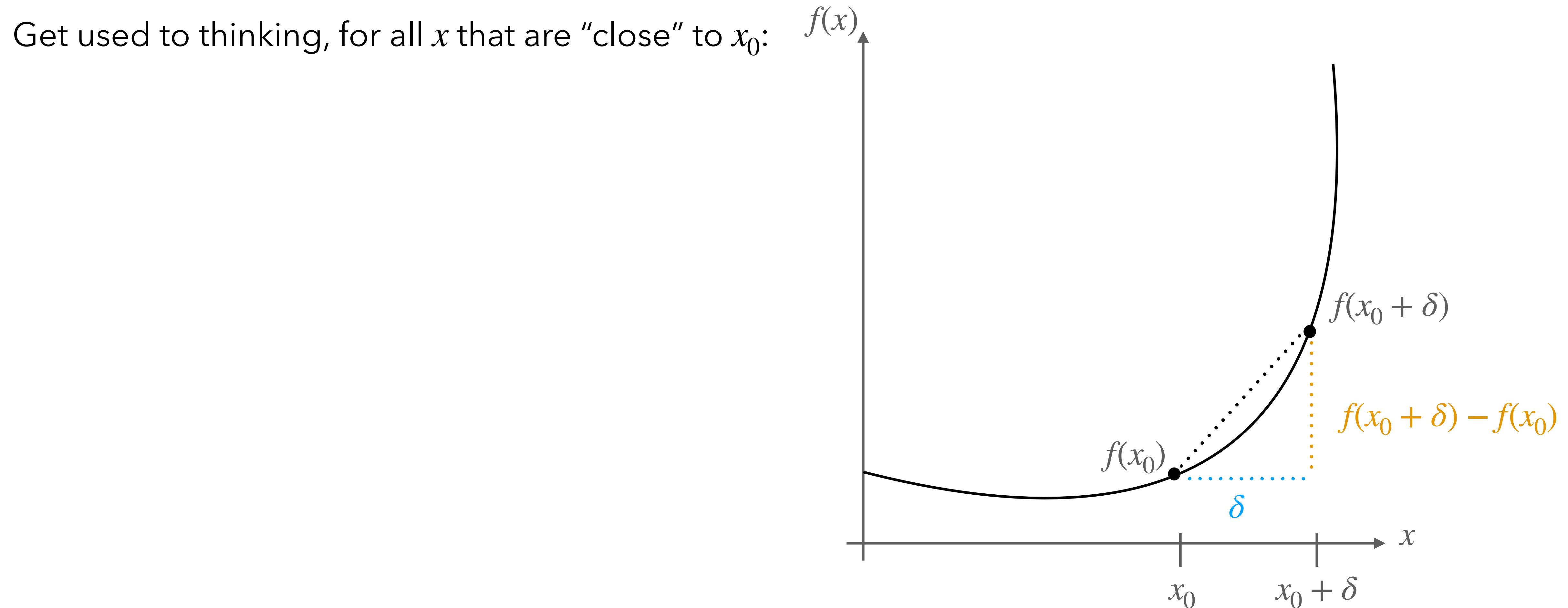
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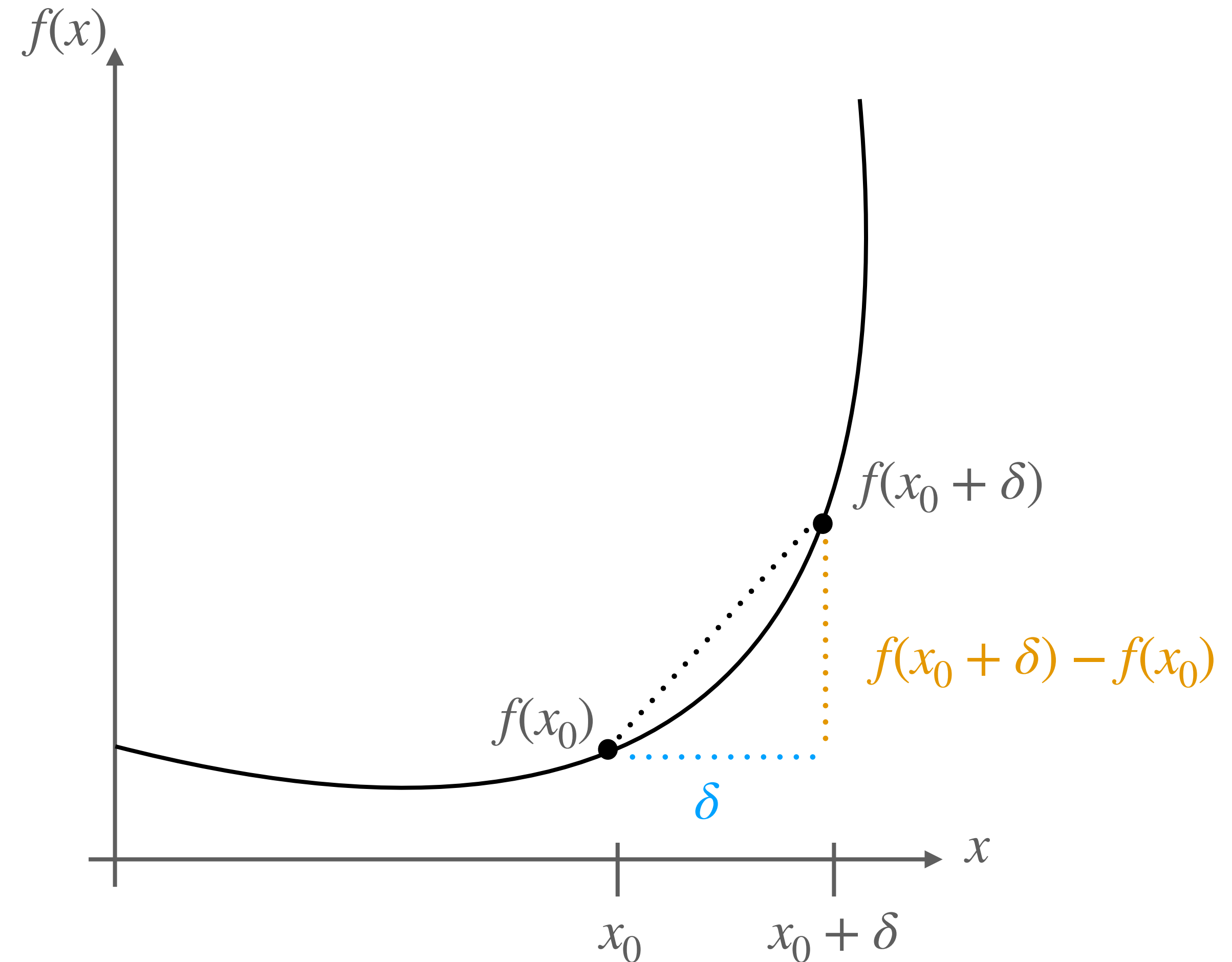


# Single-variable Differentiation

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Get used to thinking, for all  $x$  that are “close” to  $x_0$ :

$$\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0) \approx f(x) - f(x_0)$$



# Single-variable Differentiation

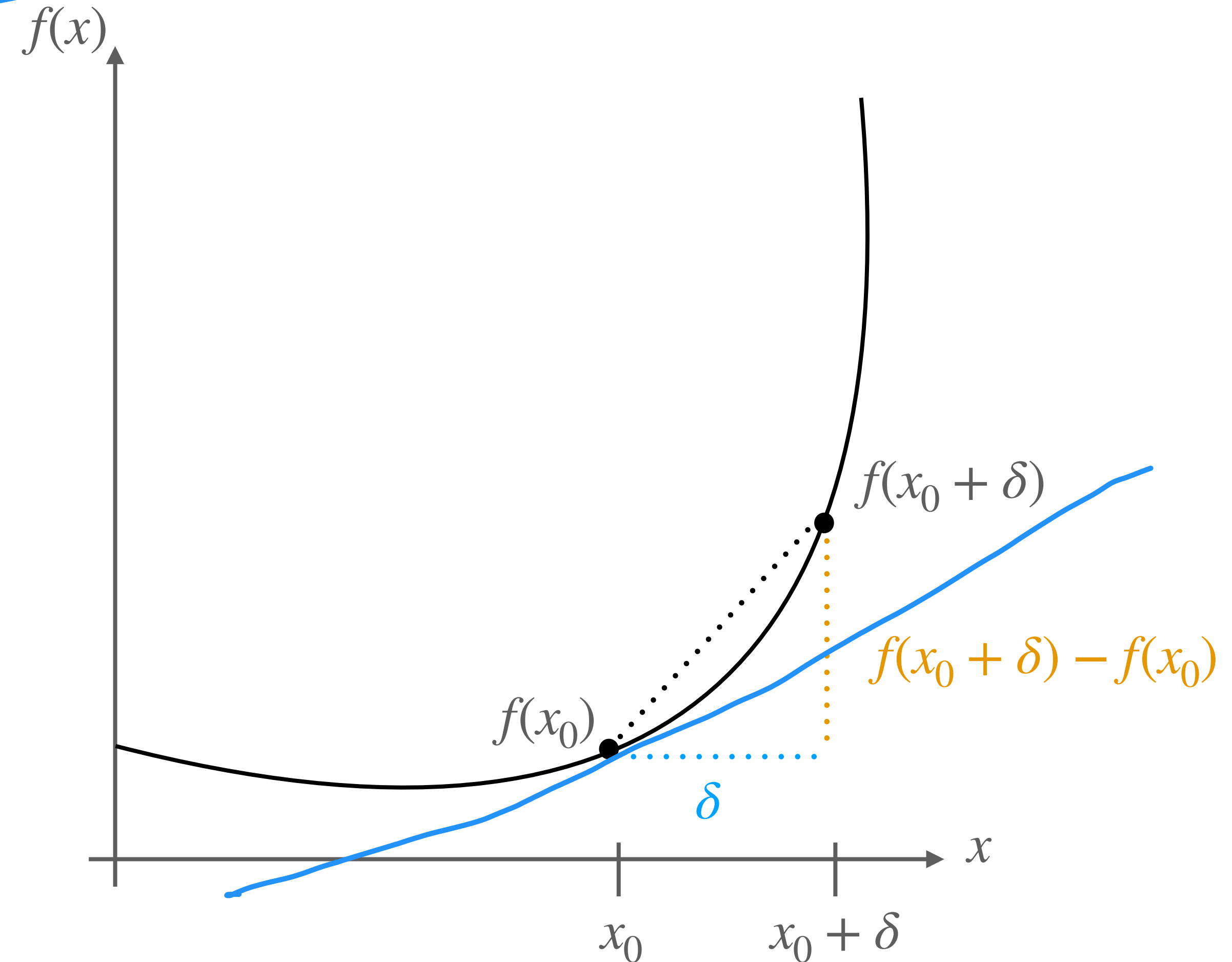
$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0) + f(x_0) \approx f(x)$$

Get used to thinking, for all  $x$  that are "close" to  $x_0$ :

Function of  $x$  =  $\frac{\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0)}{\text{number}} \approx f(x) - f(x_0)$

The "target point" can be written  $x = x_0 + \delta$ .



# Single-variable Differentiation

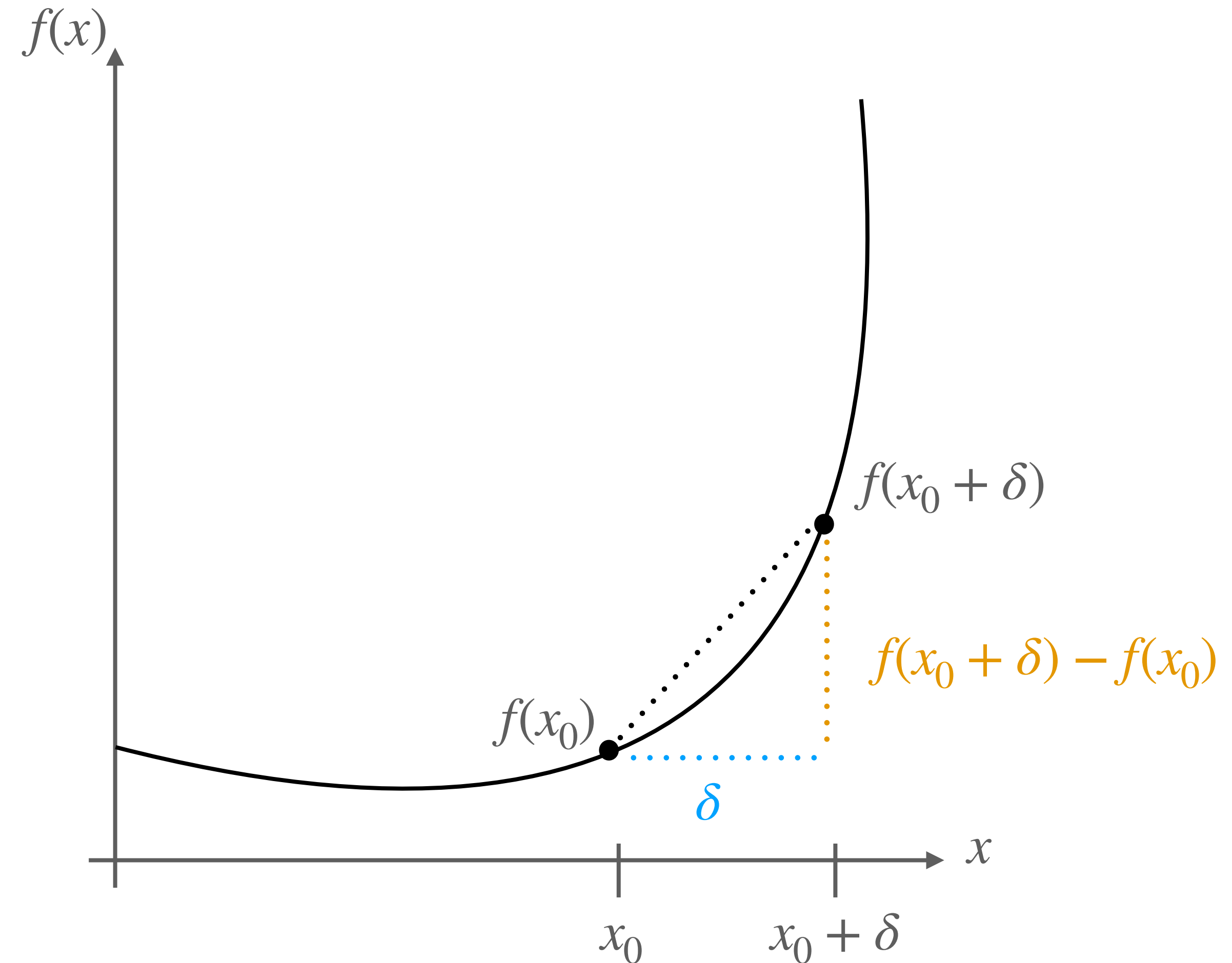
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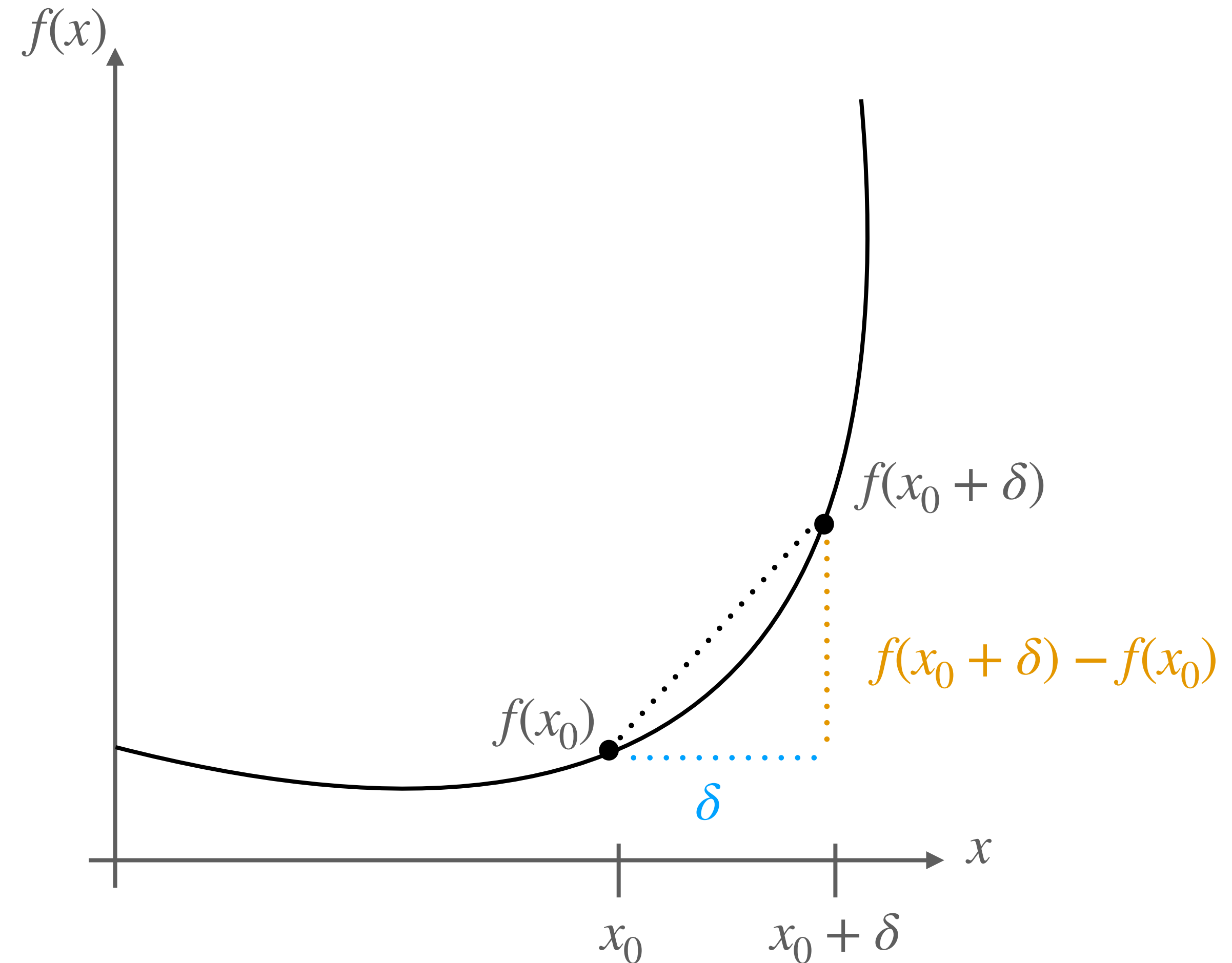
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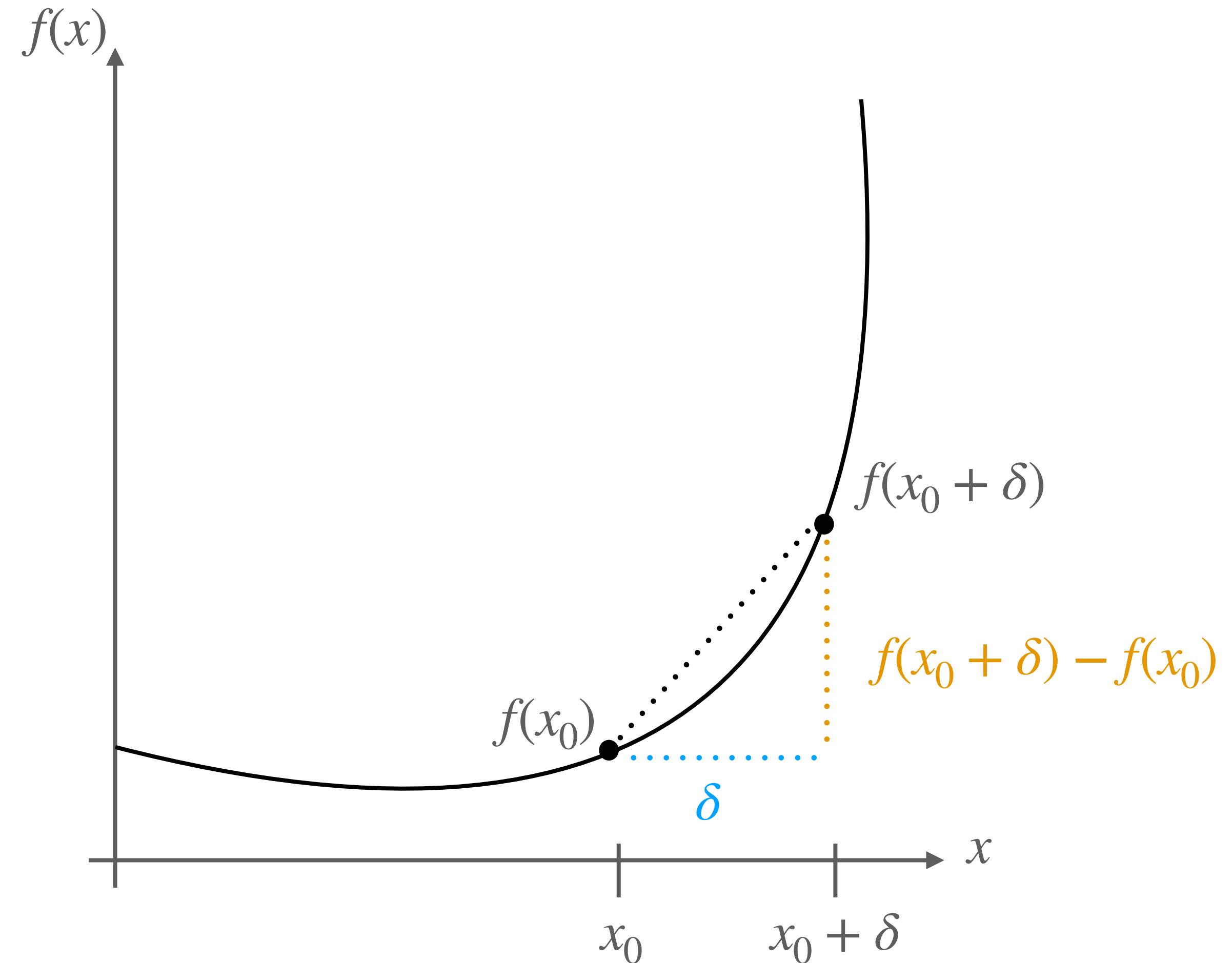
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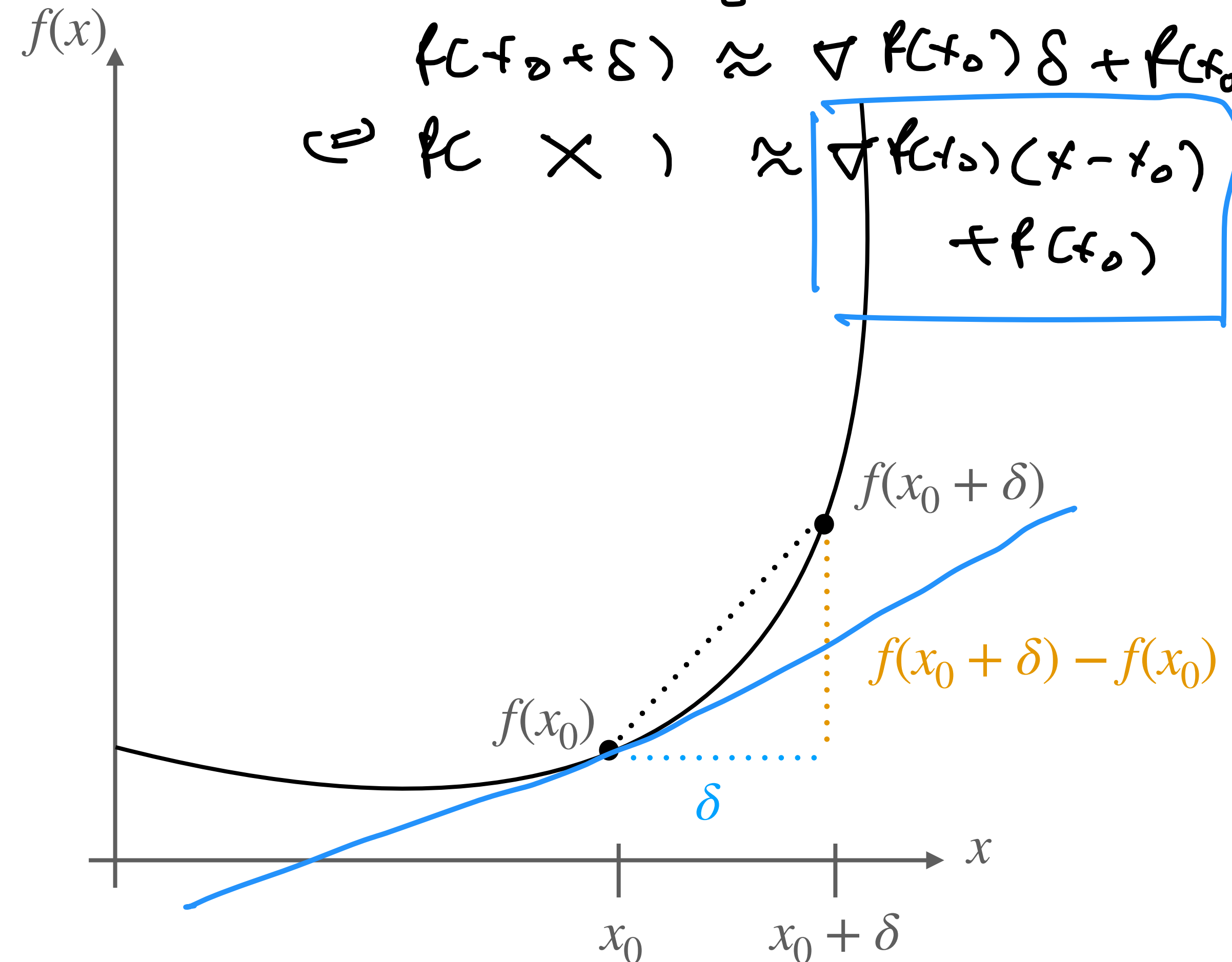
*The derivative gives a good local, linear approximation to the change in  $f(x)$ .*

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + \delta) - f(x_0)}{\delta} = \nabla f(x_0)$$

$$\frac{f(x_0 + \delta) - f(x_0)}{\delta} \approx \nabla f(x_0)$$

$$f(x_0 + \delta) \approx \nabla f(x_0)\delta + f(x_0)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow f(x) \approx \nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0) + f(x_0)$$





# Single-variable Differentiation

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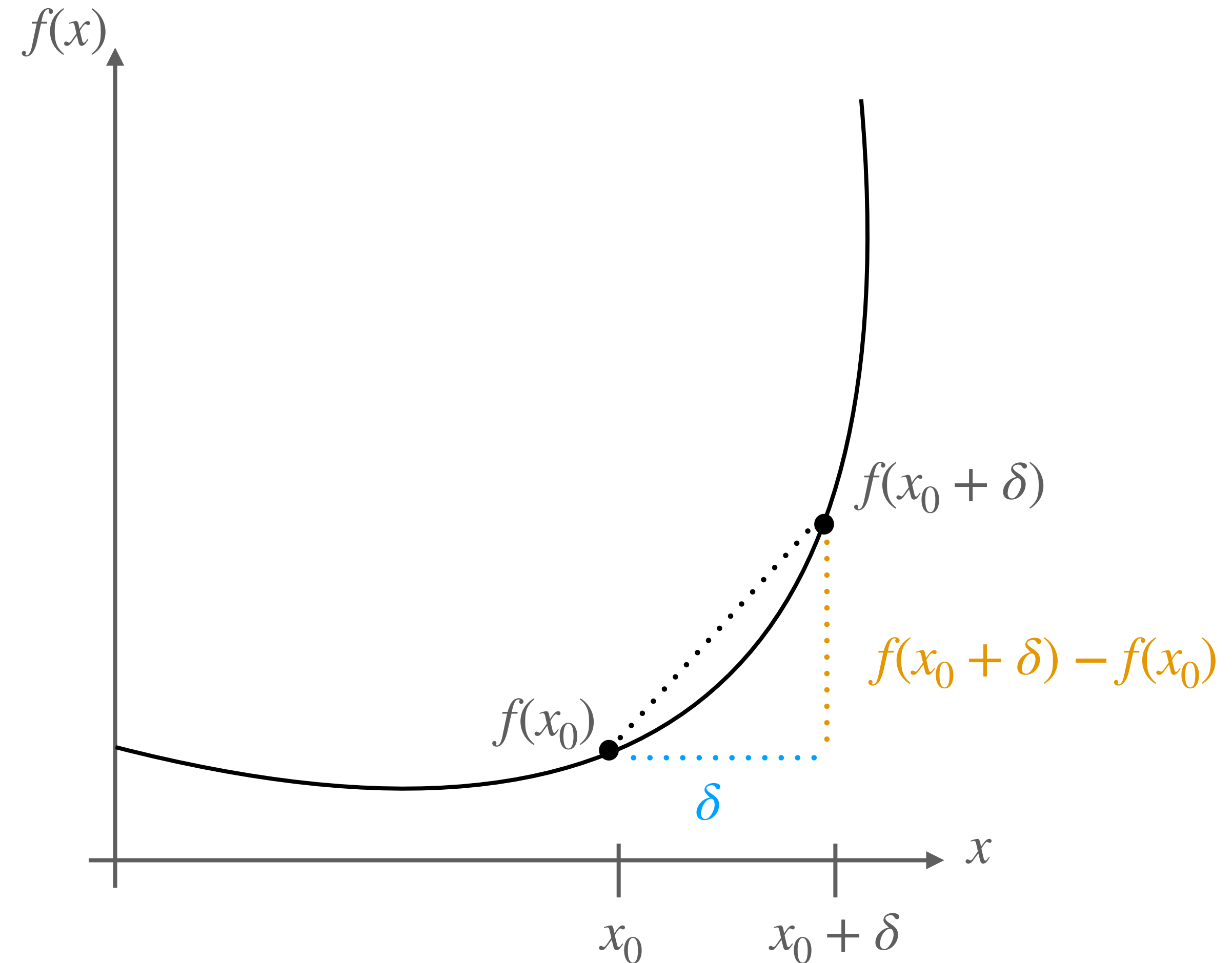
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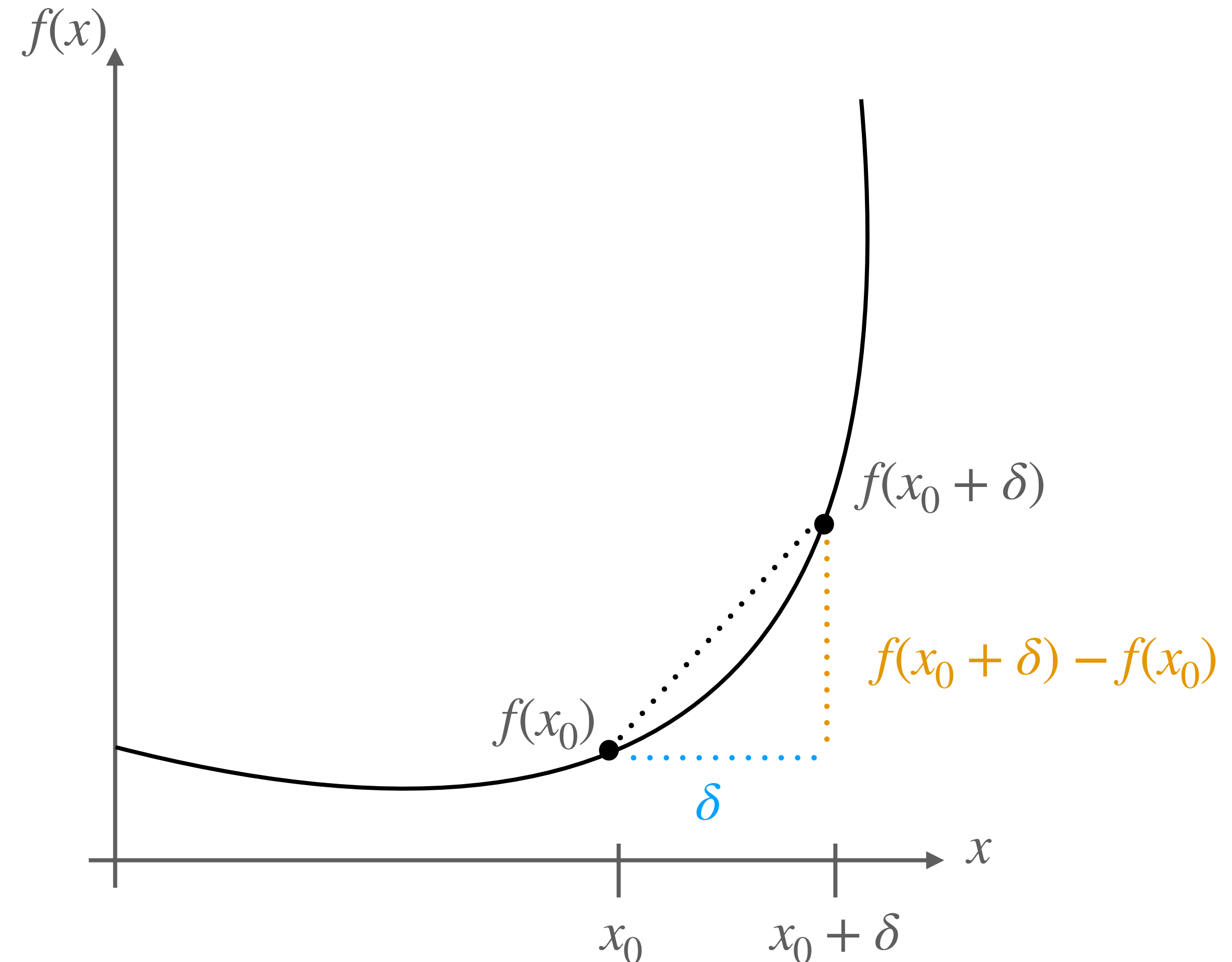
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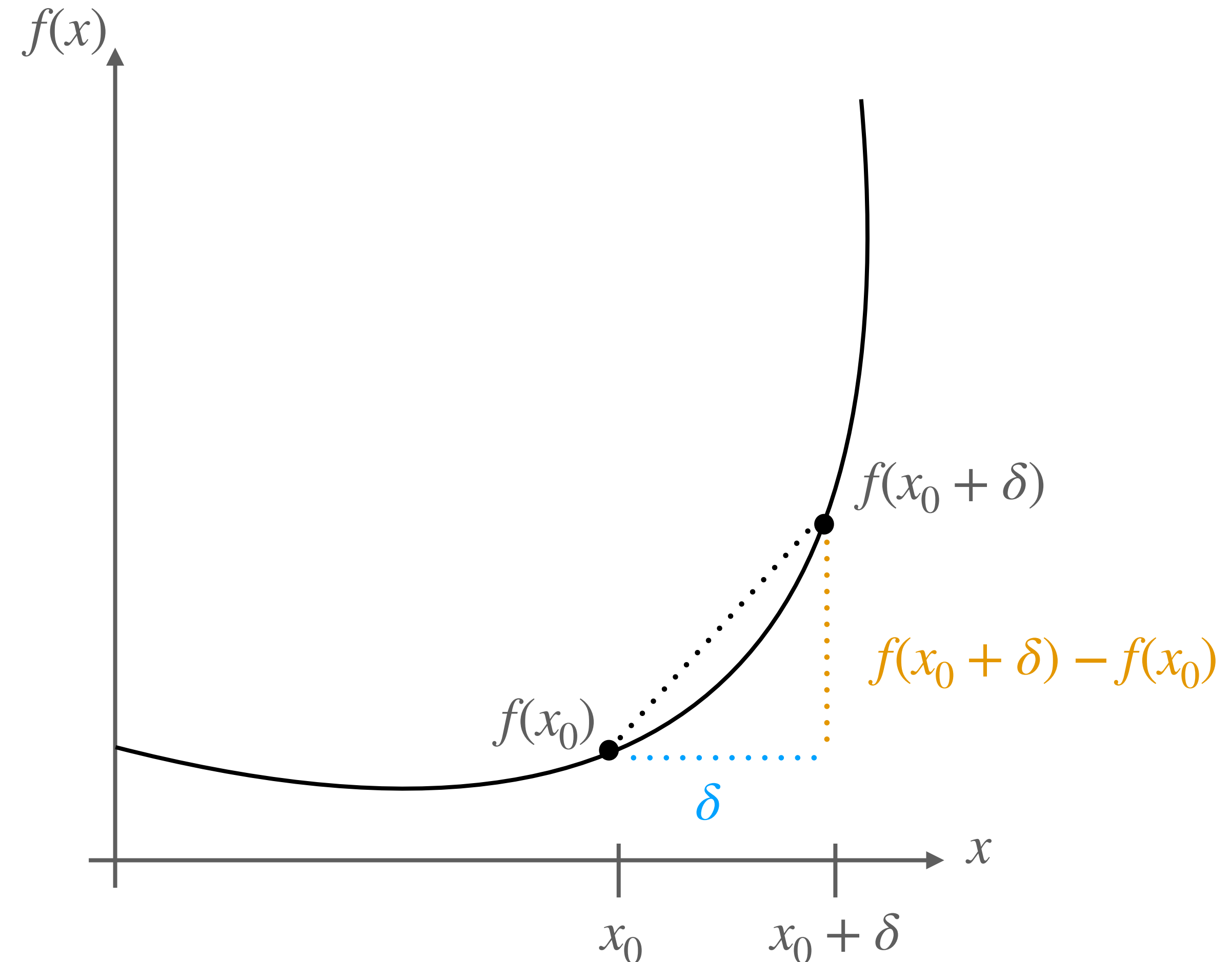
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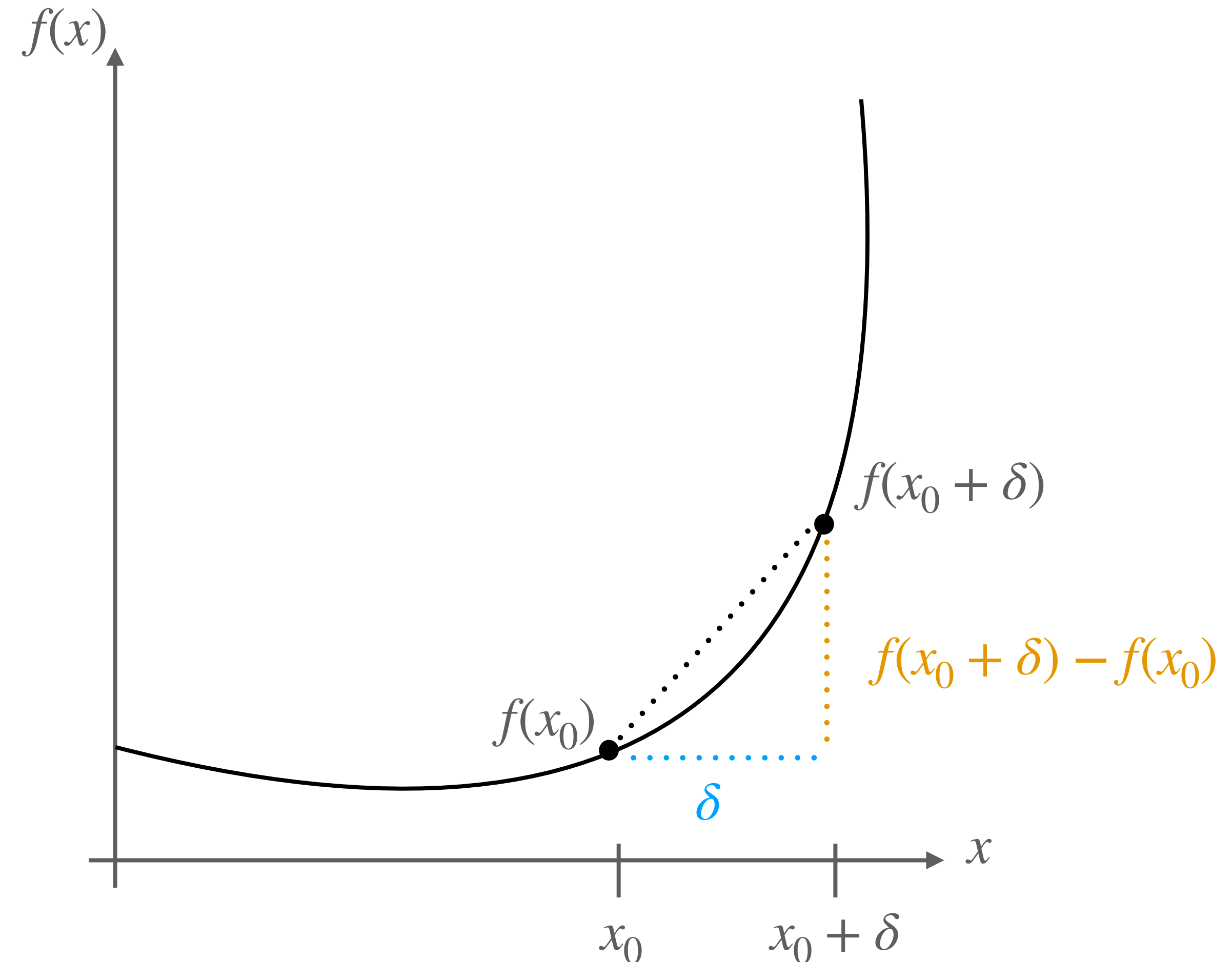
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change in  $x$       change in  $y$

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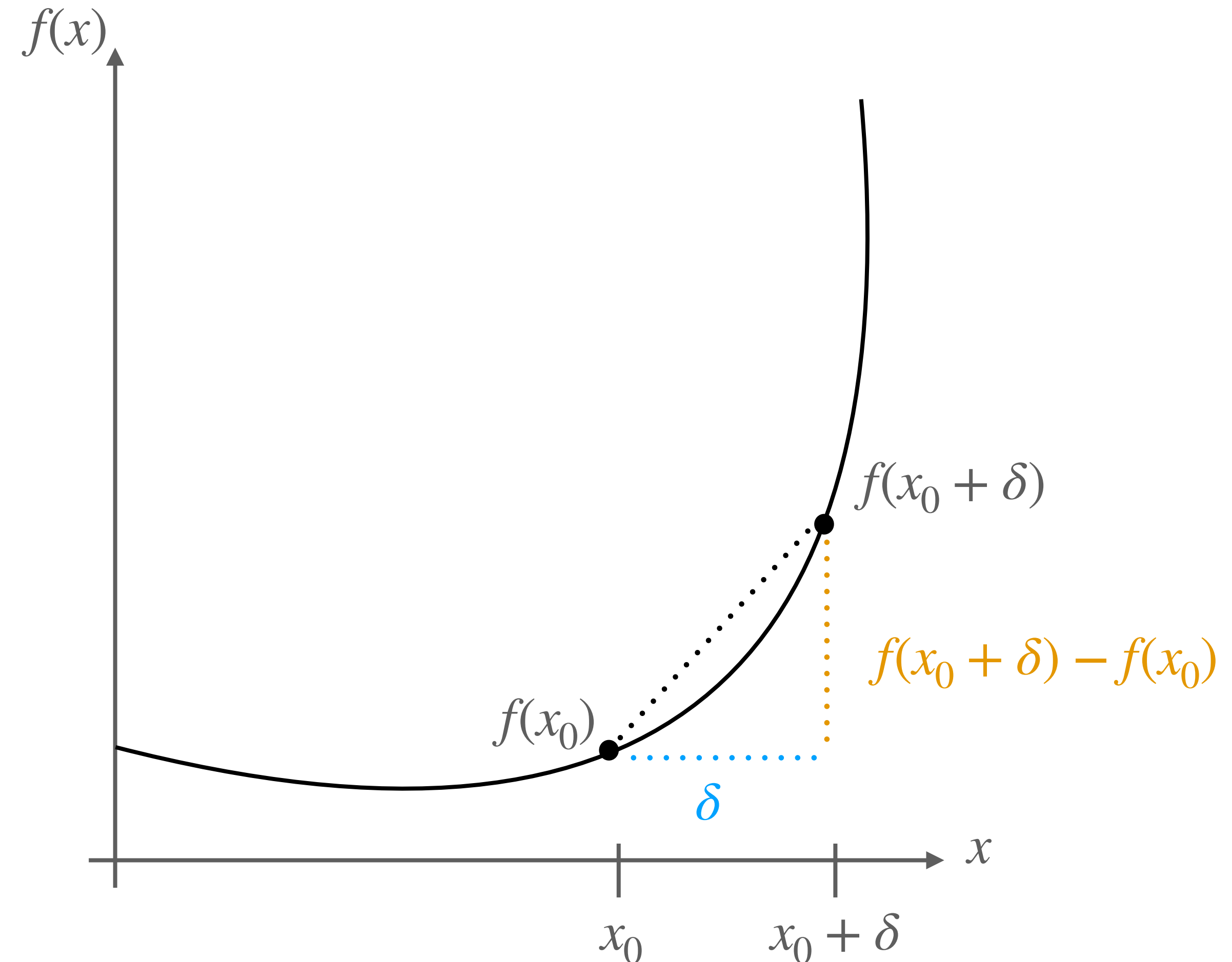
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# Single-variable Differentiation

Review: basic derivative rules

Product rule:  $\nabla (f(x)g(x)) = g(x) \nabla f(x) + f(x) \nabla g(x)$

Quotient rule:  $\nabla \left( \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right) = \frac{g(x) \nabla f(x) - f(x) \nabla g(x)}{g(x)^2}$

Sum rule:  $\nabla (f(x) + g(x)) = \nabla f(x) + \nabla g(x)$

Chain rule:  $\nabla (g(f(x))) = \nabla (g \circ f)(x) = \nabla g(f(x)) \nabla f(x)$

# Linearity

## Review from linear algebra

Linearity is the central property in linear algebra. Cooking is typically linear.

Bacon, egg, cheese (on roll)

1 egg

1 slice of cheese

1 slice bacon

1 Kaiser roll

0 cream cheese

0 slices of lox

0 bagel

Bacon, egg, cheese (on bagel)

1 egg

1 slice of cheese

1 slice bacon

0 Kaiser roll

0 cream cheese

0 slices of lox

1 bagel

Lox sandwich

0 egg

0 slice of cheese

0 slice bacon

0 Kaiser roll

1 cream cheese

2 slices of lox

1 bagel

# Linearity

## Review from linear algebra

Linearity is the central property in linear algebra.

A function ("transformation")  $T : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is linear if  $T$  satisfies these two properties for any two vectors  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ :

$$T(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) = T(\mathbf{a}) + T(\mathbf{b})$$

$$T(c\mathbf{a}) = cT(\mathbf{a}) \text{ for any } c \in \mathbb{R}.$$



# Single-variable Differentiation

## Linearity and differentiation

How will we use linear transformations?

$$\underbrace{\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0)}_{\text{distance}} \approx \underbrace{f(x) - f(x_0)}_{\text{linear from outputs of } f.}$$
$$T(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
$$x \mapsto \nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0)$$

Recall:  $T(x + y) = T(x) + T(y)$  and  $T(cx) = cT(x)$ .

*Derivative exploits the fact that, on small scales, things behave linearly!*

# Single-variable Differentiation

## Linearity and differentiation

The derivative is a linear transformation that maps changes in  $x$  to changes in  $y$ .

We like linear transformations!

$T_{x_0}$ : change in  $x \rightarrow$  change in  $y$

$$\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0) \approx f(x) - f(x_0)$$

$$\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0) = ?$$

$$T_{x_0}(\delta) = \nabla f(x_0)\delta$$

$$T(c\delta) = c\nabla f(x_0)\delta$$

$$T(\delta_1 + \delta_2) = \nabla f(x_0)\delta_1 + \nabla f(x_0)\delta_2$$

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$$\nabla f(x) = 2x$$

Consider the function  $f(x) = x^2$ . The derivative of  $f$  at  $x = \underline{1}$  is  $\nabla f(1) = 2$ .

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Consider the function  $f(x) = x^2$ . The derivative of  $f$  at  $x = 1$  is  $\nabla f(1) = 2$ .

The derivative is nothing more than a  $1 \times 1$  matrix in single-variable differentiation:  $\nabla f(1) = [2]$ .

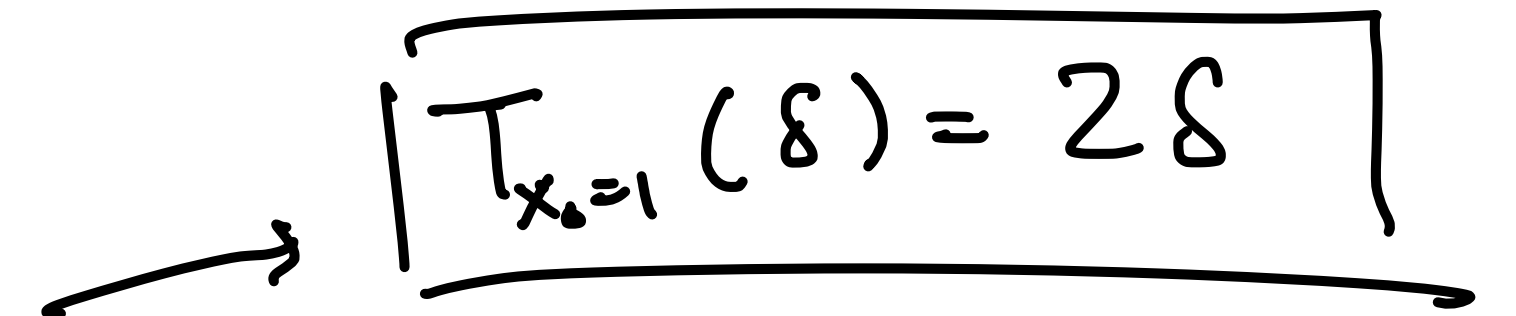
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$$\boxed{T_{x_0=1}(\delta) = 2\delta}$$

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*A goal of differential calculus is to replace nonlinear functions with linear approximations!*

# Single-variable Differentiation

## Linearity and differentiation

The derivative is a linear transformation that maps changes in  $x$  to changes in  $y$ .

$T$  : change in  $x \rightarrow$  change in  $y$

$$\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0) \approx f(x) - f(x_0)$$

Consider the function  $f(x) = x^2$ . The derivative of  $f$  at  $x = 1$  is  $\nabla f(1) = 2$ .

The derivative is nothing more than a  $1 \times 1$  matrix in single-variable differentiation:  $\nabla f(1) = [2]$ .

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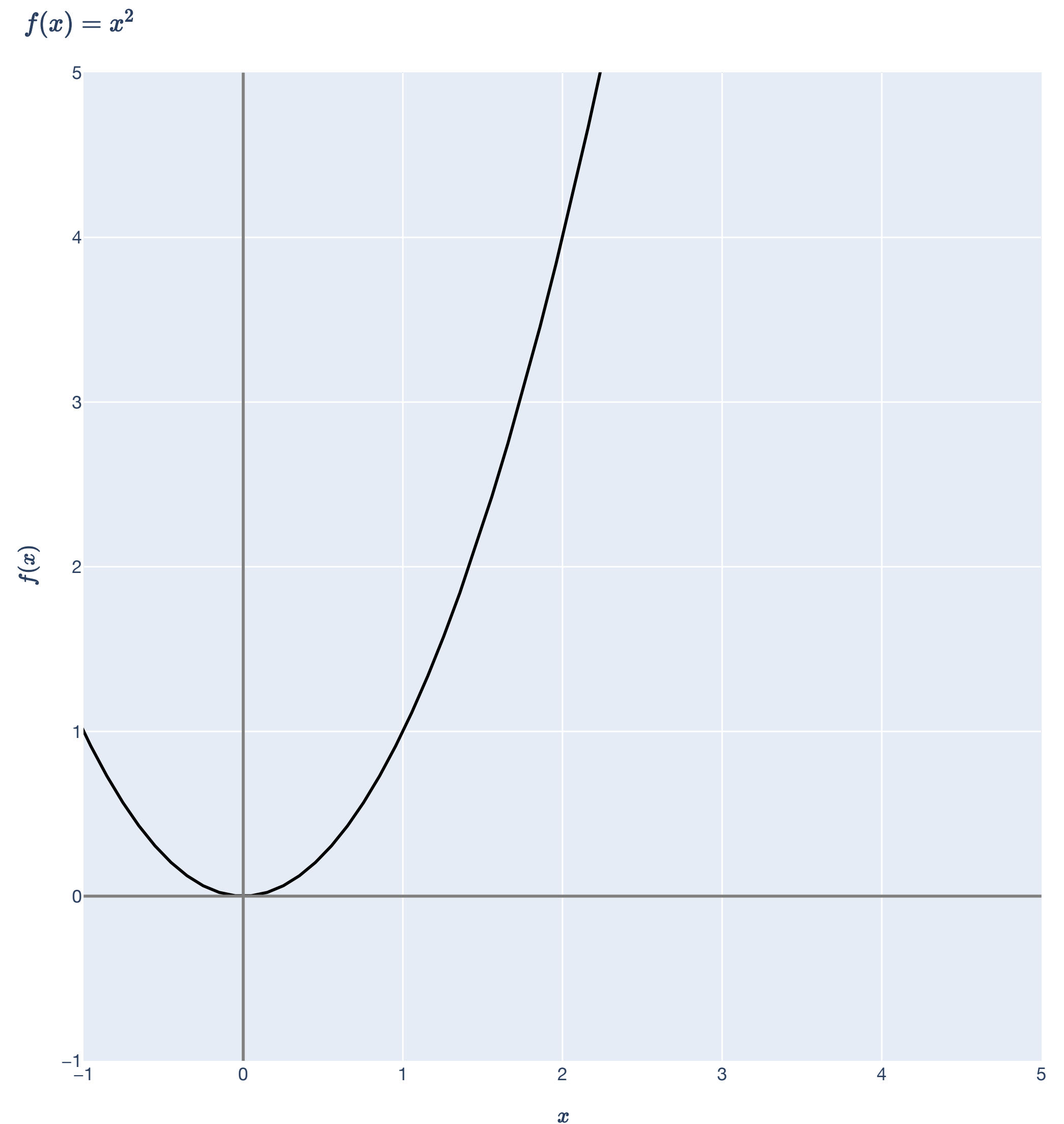
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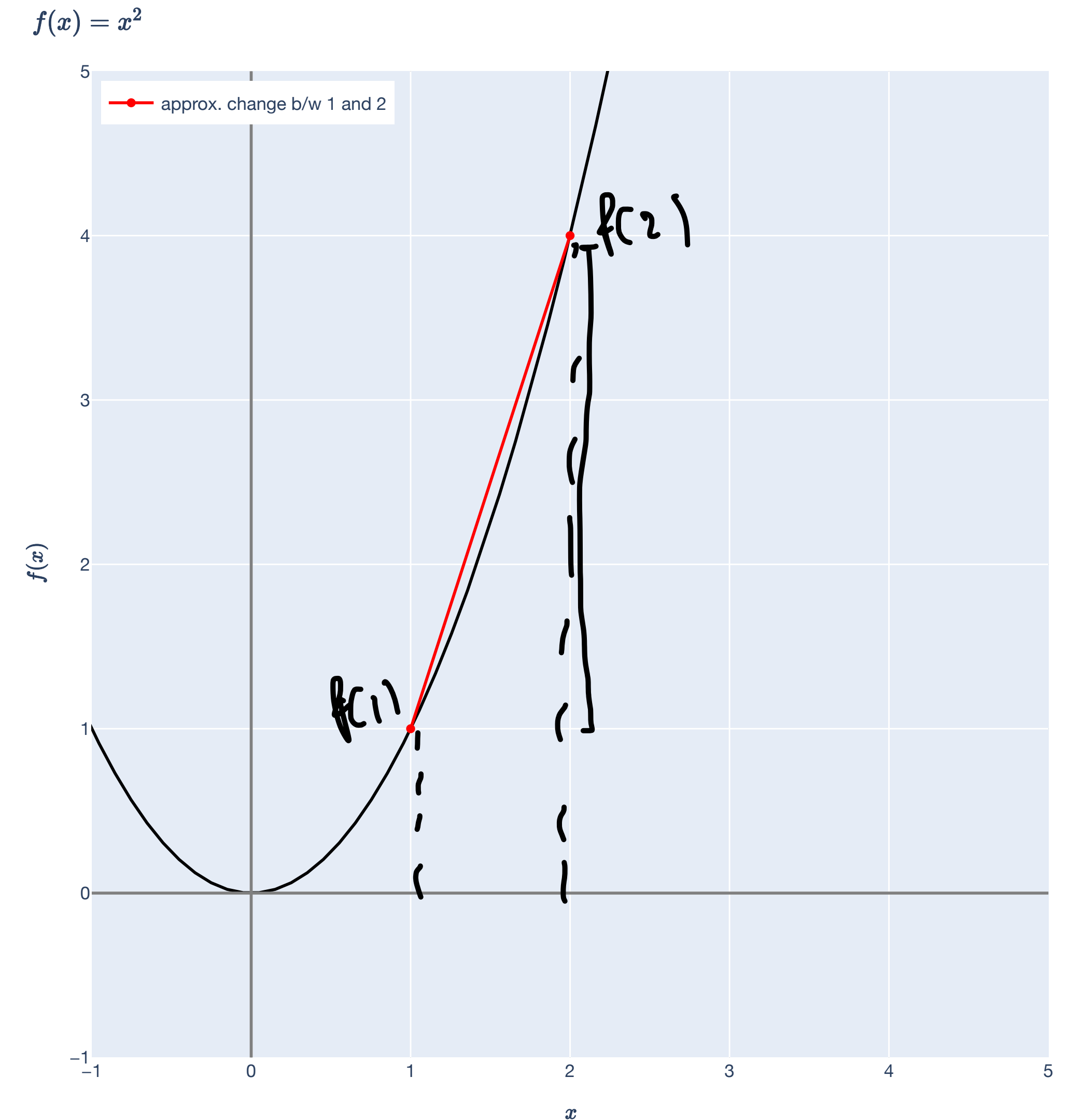


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Let  $f(x) = x^2$ . Derivative of  $f$  at  $x = 1$  is  $\nabla f(1) = 2$ .

$$\underbrace{\nabla f(1)(2 - 1)}_{\text{change in } f \text{ between 1 and 2}} = \underbrace{[2](2 - 1)}_{\text{change in } f \text{ between 1 and 2}} = \underline{2} \approx$$
$$= f(2) - f(1) = 4 - 1 = 3$$



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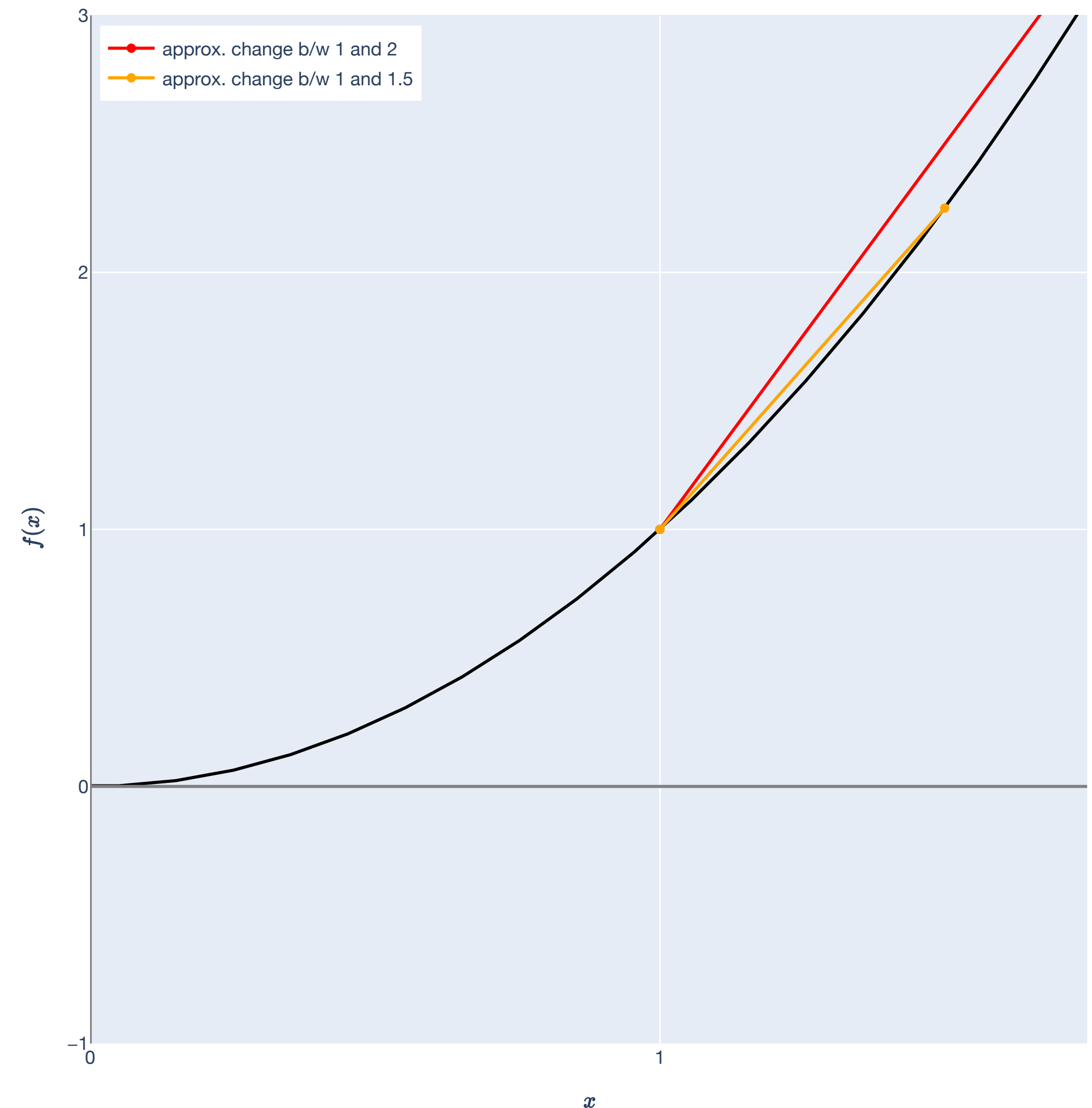
change in  $f$  between 1 and 2

$$\nabla f(1)(1.5 - 1) = [2](1.5 - 1) = 1 \approx$$

change in  $f$  between 1 and 1.5

$$f(1.5) - f(1) = 2.25 - 1 = 1.25$$

$$f(x) = x^2$$





# Single-variable Differentiation

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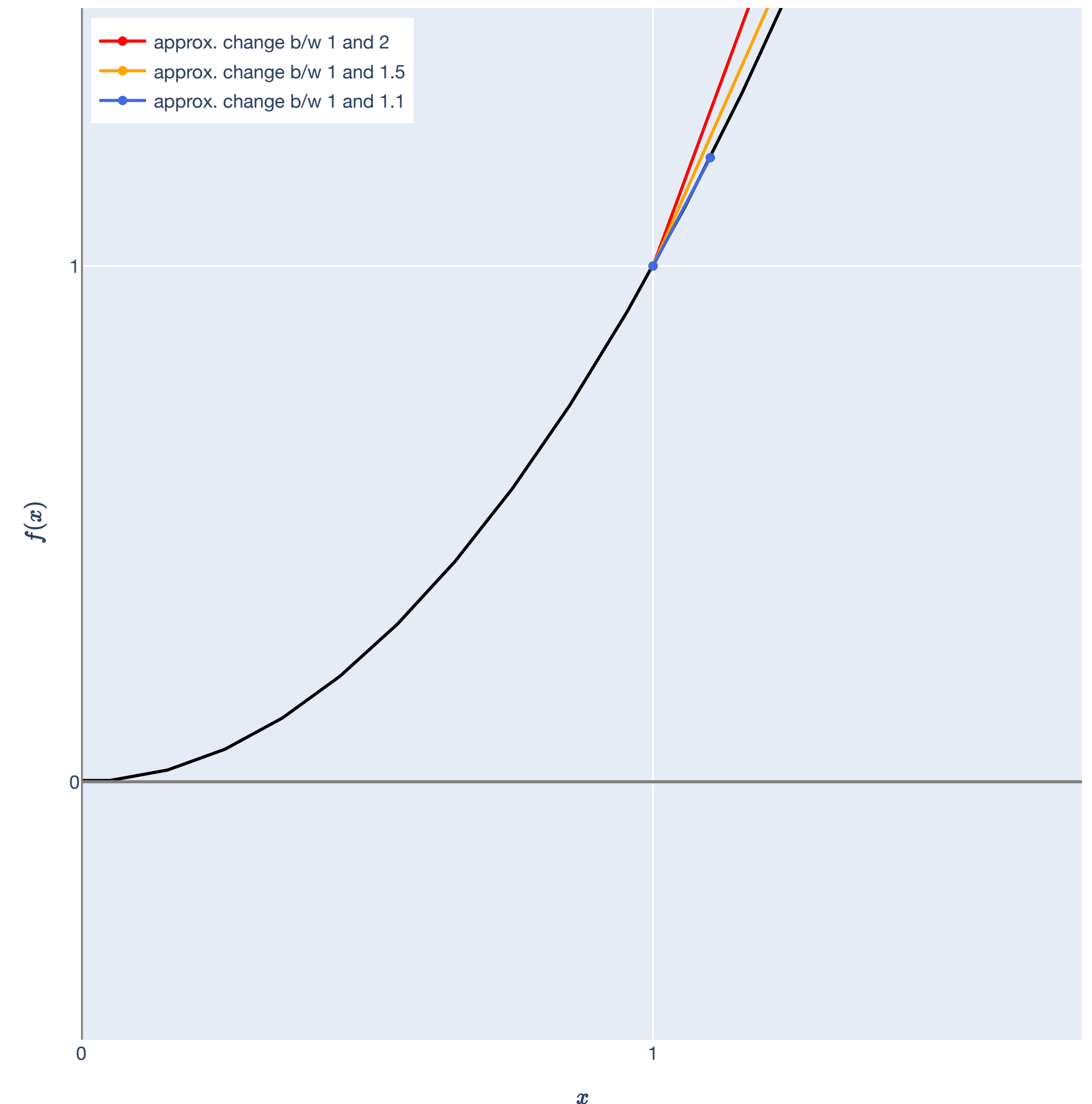
change in  $f$  between 1 and 1.5

$$\nabla f(1)(1.1 - 1) = [2](1.1 - 1) = 0.2 \approx 0.21$$

change in  $f$  between 1 and 1.1

$$f(1.1) = 1.21 \quad f(1) = 1$$

$$f(x) = x^2$$



# Single-variable Differentiation

## Linearity and differentiation

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$$\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0) \approx f(x) - f(x_0)$$

*The derivative is nothing more than a  $1 \times 1$  matrix in single-variable differentiation.*

# Multivariable Differentiation

Review of multivariable notions of derivative

# Multivariable Differentiation

Scalar-valued vs. vector-valued functions

# Multivariable Differentiation

Scalar-valued vs. vector-valued functions

$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a scalar-valued multivariable function

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But  $\mathbf{f}$  is just made up of  $n$  scalar-valued functions.

**Upshot:** Just treat vector-valued functions as a collection of  $n$  scalar-valued functions, and deal with each coordinate individually.

# Multivariable Differentiation

Big picture: total, partial, and directional derivatives.

The total derivative (or just derivative) of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is a linear transformation  $D\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .

The gradient of  $f$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is the vector  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0) \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and derivative of scalar-valued  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

The Jacobian of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is the matrix  $\nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and derivative of vector-valued  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .

The directional derivative of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  in the direction  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is the derivative applied to  $\mathbf{v}$ :

$$\underbrace{\nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0)}_{n \times d} \underbrace{\mathbf{v}}_{d \times 1}, \text{ via matrix-vector multiplication.}$$

The  $i$ th partial derivative of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is the directional derivative in the unit basis direction  $\mathbf{e}_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

# Multivariable Differentiation

Difference from single-variable differentiation

# Multivariable Differentiation

Difference from single-variable differentiation

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + \delta) - f(x_0)}{\delta}$$

Why is multivariable differentiation harder to pin down than single-variable differentiation?

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Difference from single-variable differentiation

Why is multivariable differentiation harder to pin down than single-variable differentiation?

In  $\mathbb{R}$ , there are only two directions from which we can approach  $x_0$  (on a standard Cartesian plane, the “left” and the “right”).

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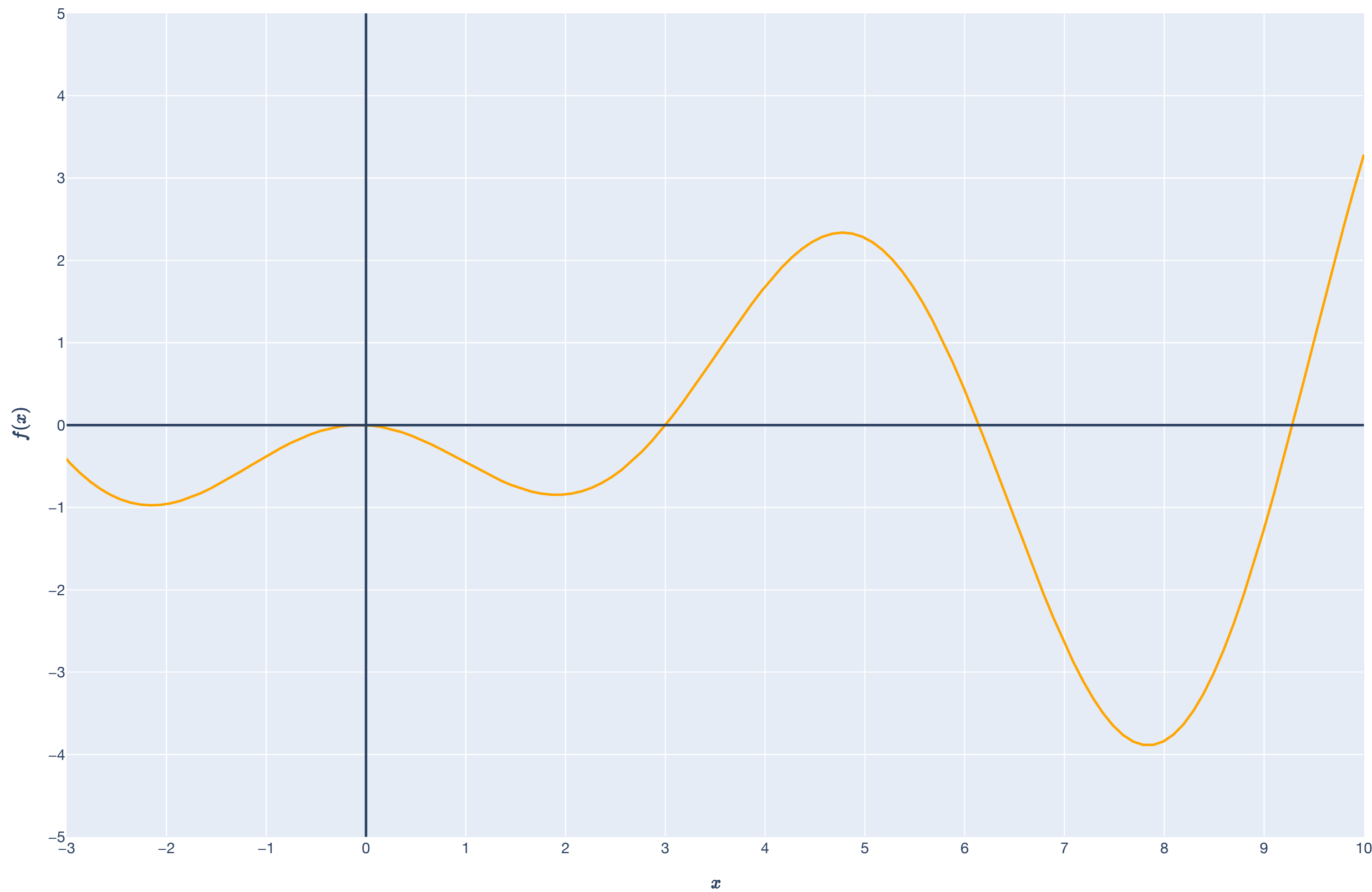
In  $\mathbb{R}$ , there are only two directions from which we can approach  $x_0$  (on a standard Cartesian plane, the “left” and the “right”).

In  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , we can approach  $\mathbf{x}_0$  from infinitely many directions!

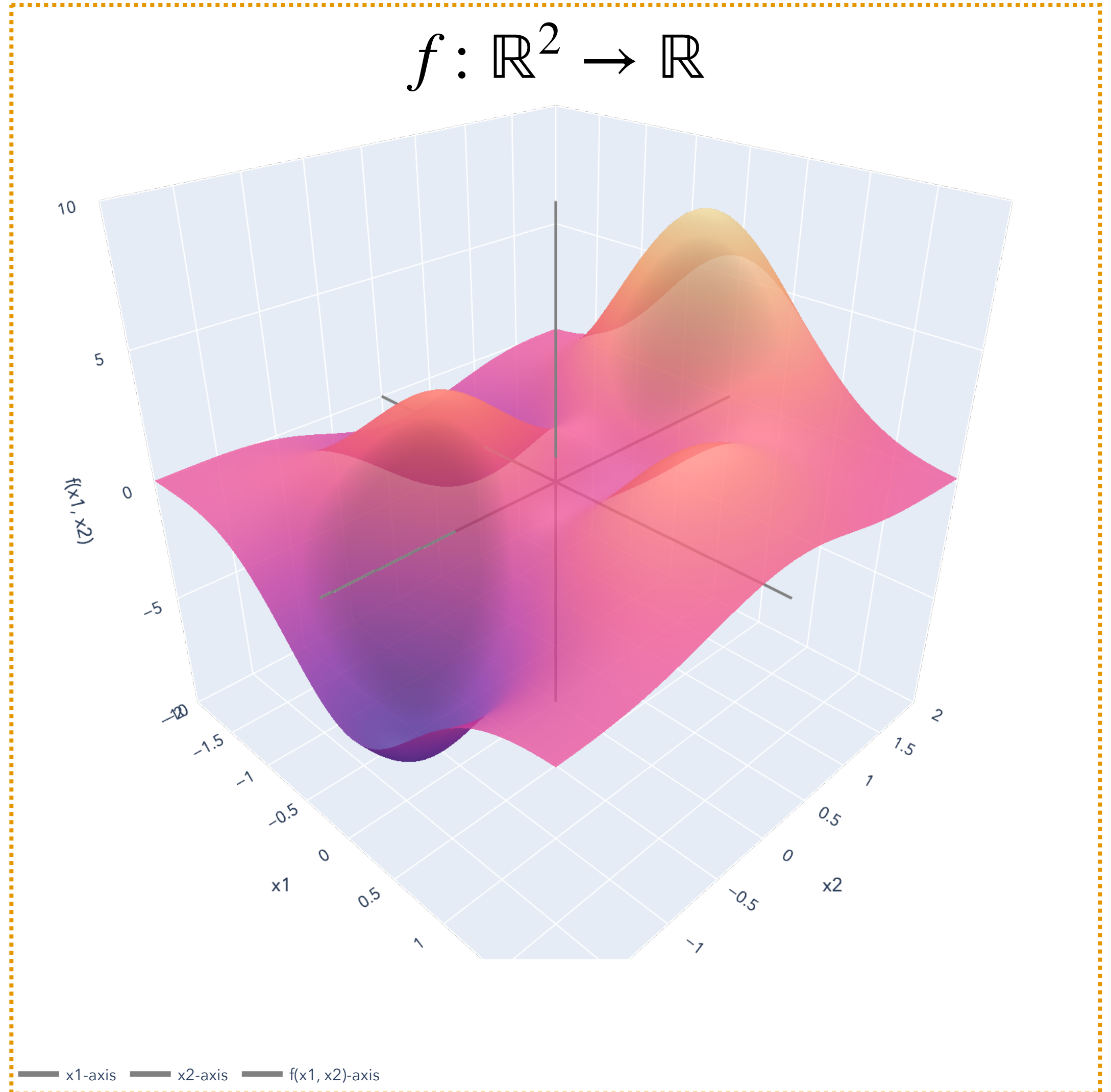
# Multivariable Differentiation

## Approach directions

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

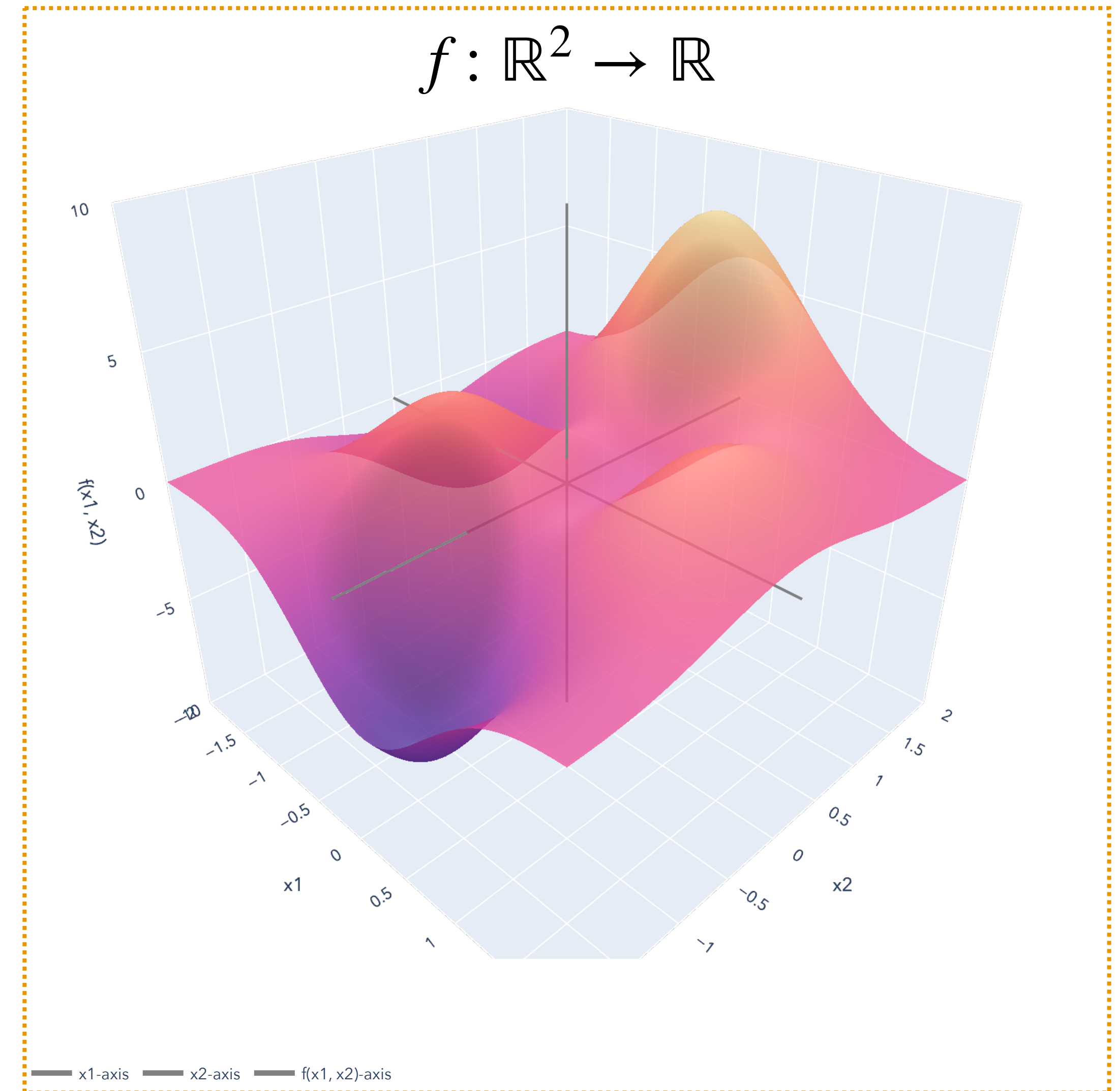
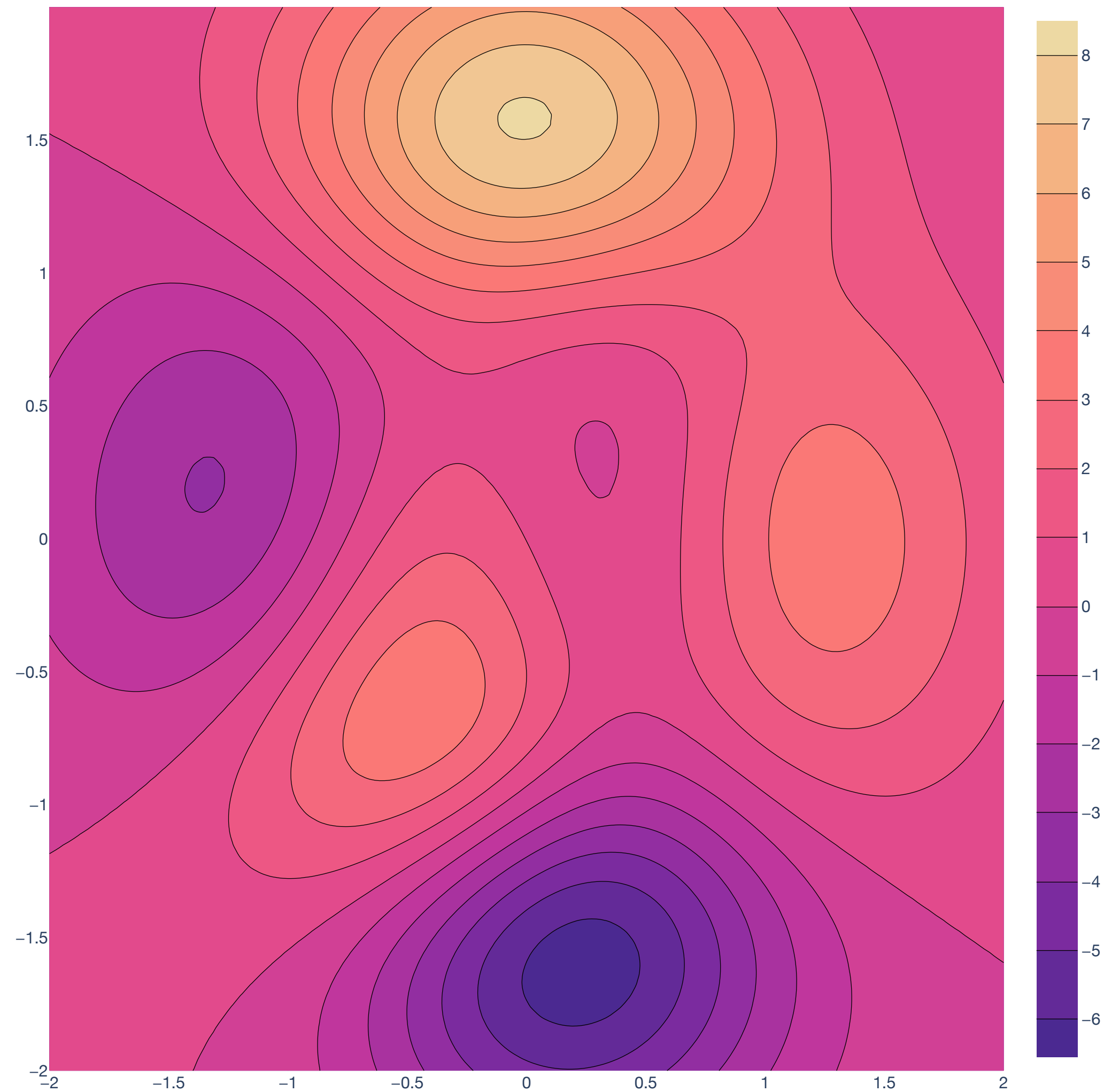


$$f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



# Multivariable Differentiation

## Approach directions



# Multivariable Differentiation

Directional and partial derivatives

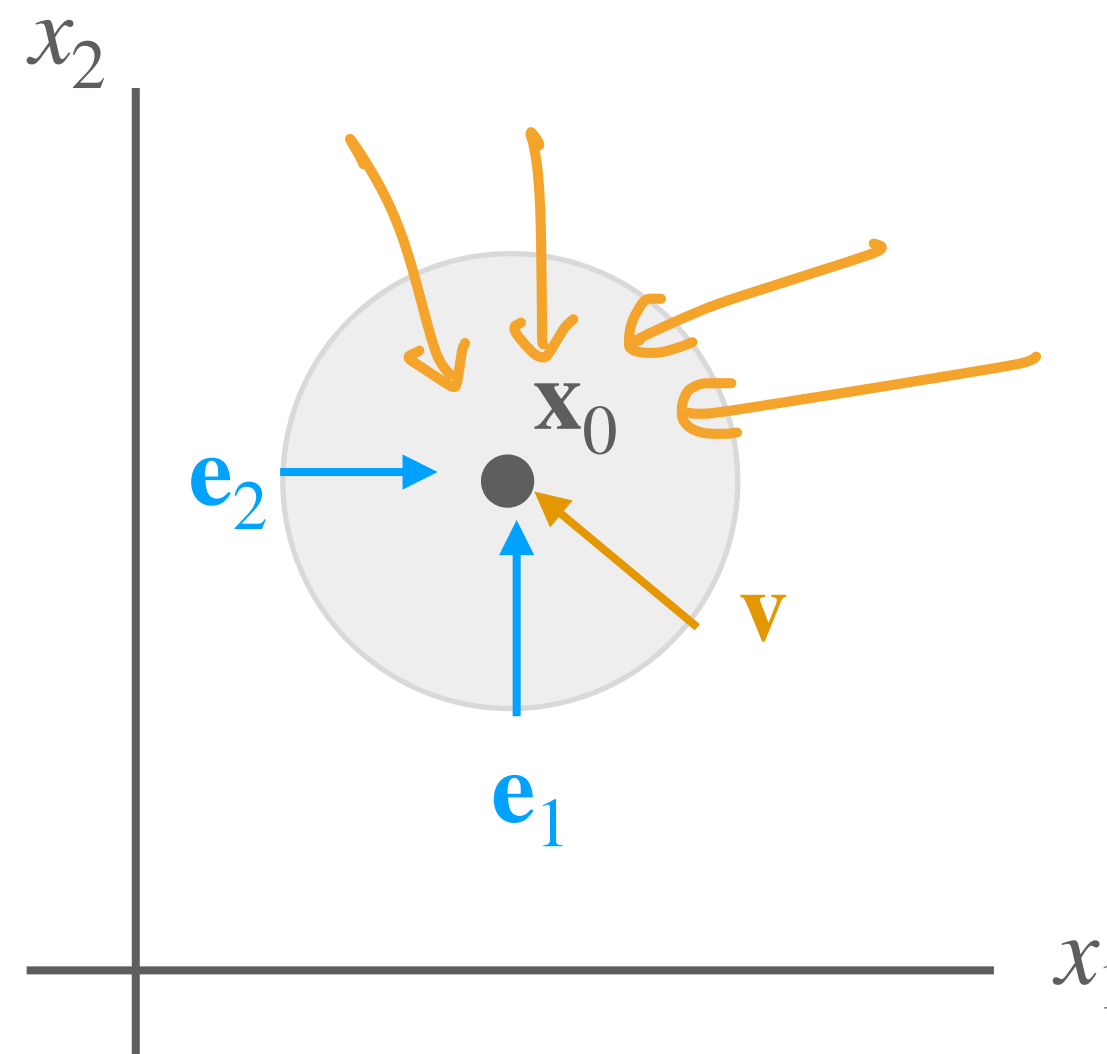
# Multivariable Differentiation

## Directional and partial derivatives

For  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n=1}$  and point  $\mathbf{x}_0 \dots$

The directional derivative is change in  $\mathbf{f}$  approaching  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , direction defined by vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

The  $i$ th partial derivative is change in  $\mathbf{f}$  when approaching  $\mathbf{x}_0$  from standard basis direction  $\mathbf{e}_i$ .



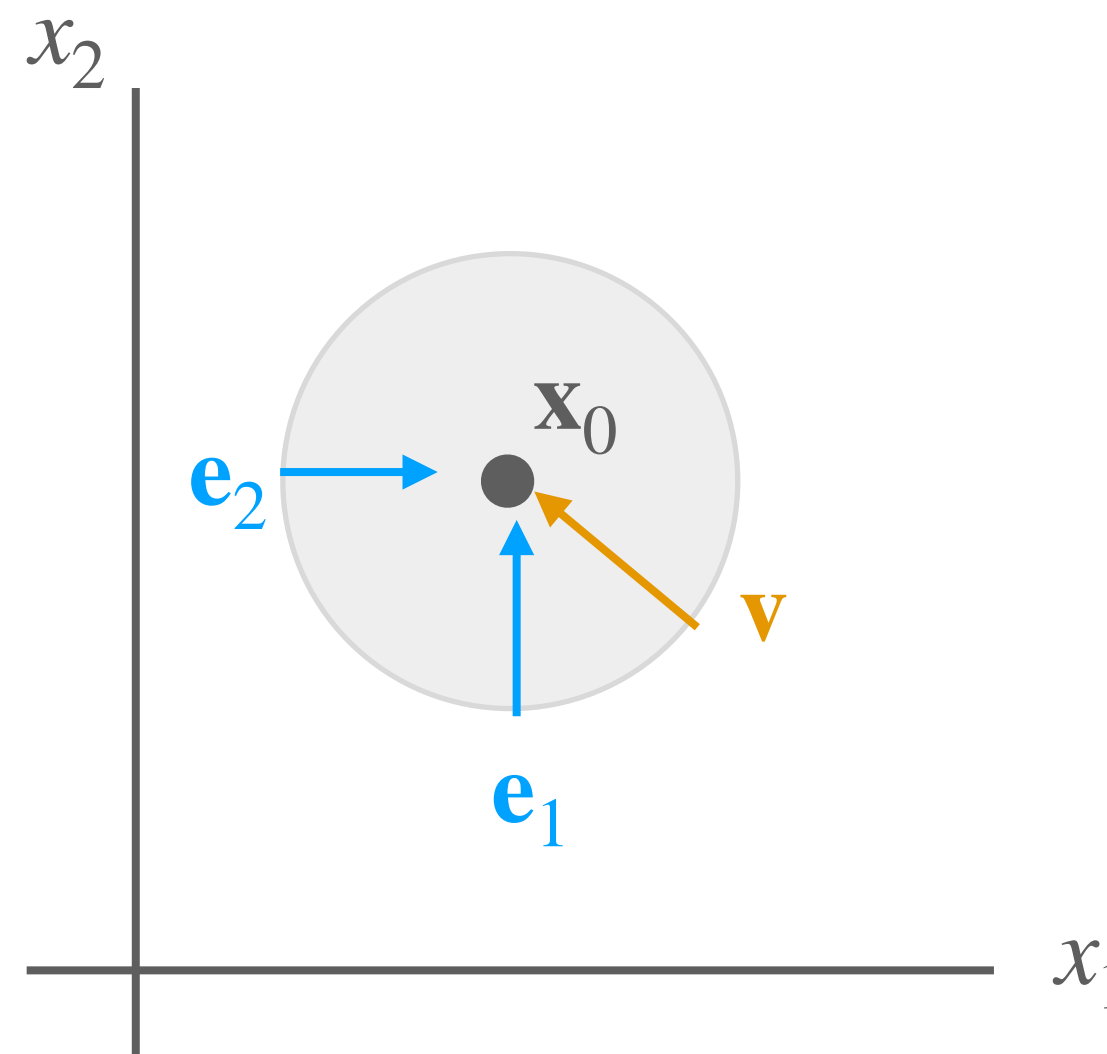
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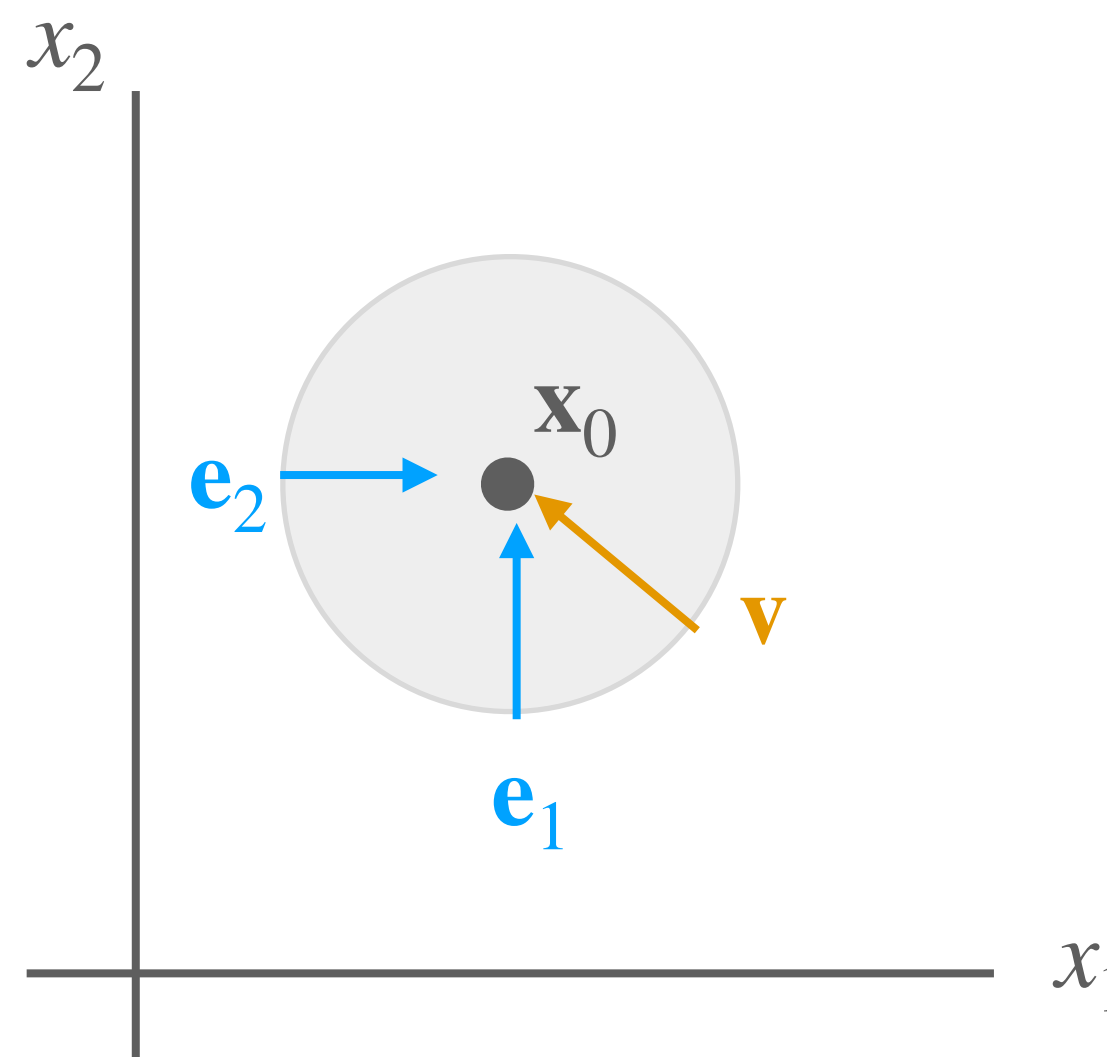
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# Multivariable Differentiation

## Directional derivative

Let  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a function. The directional derivative of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  in the direction  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0 + \delta \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0)}{\delta}.$$

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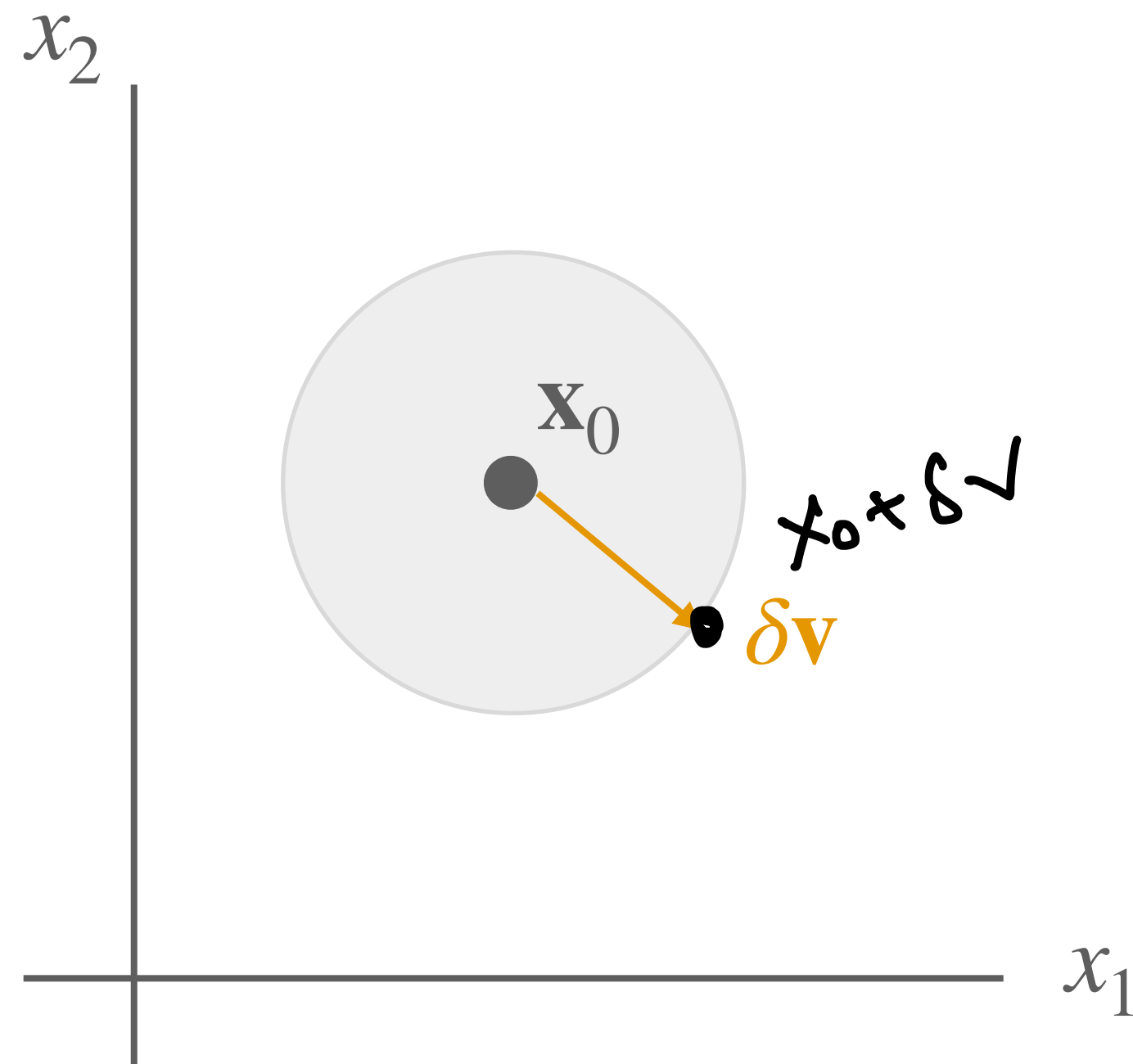
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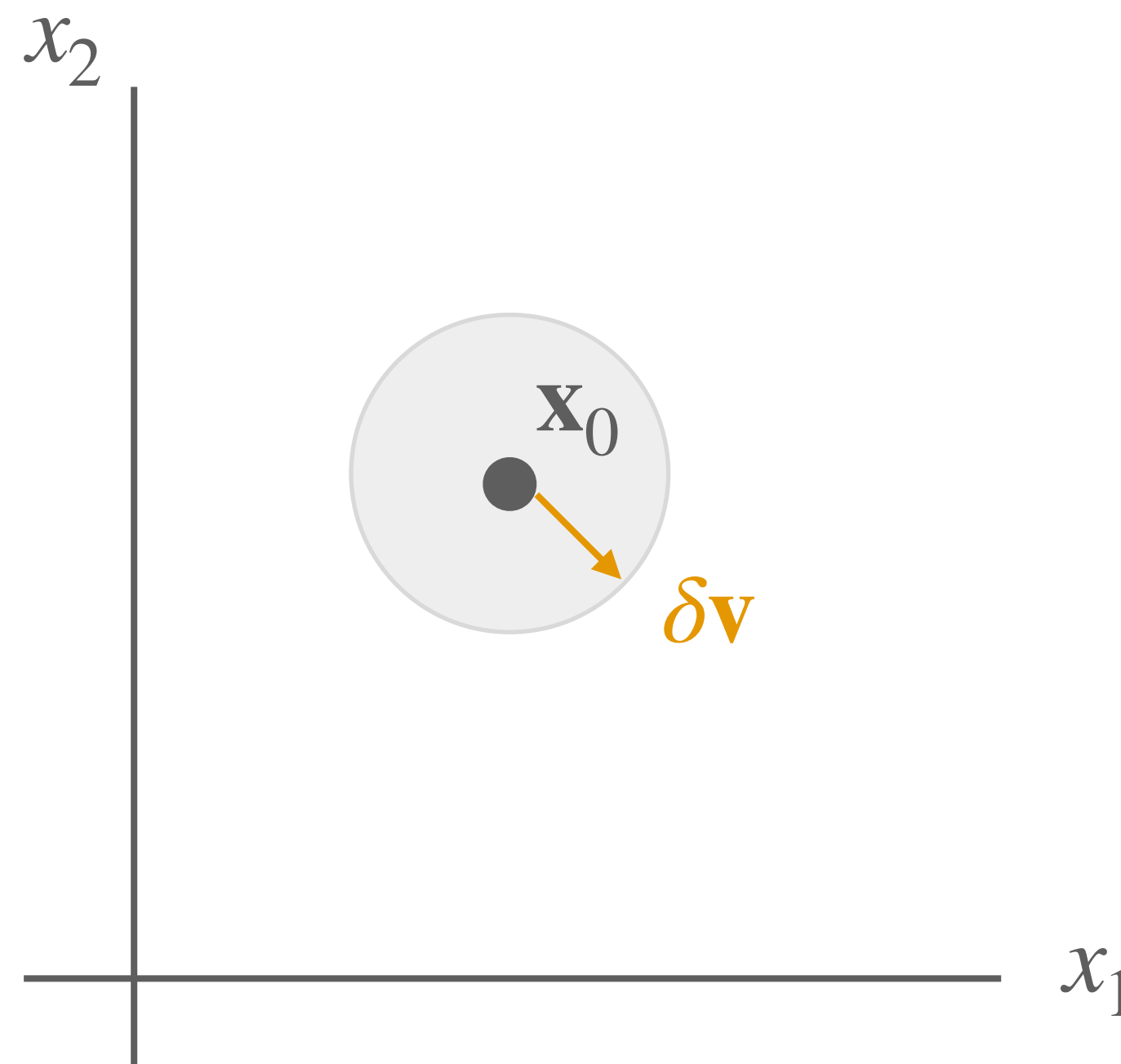
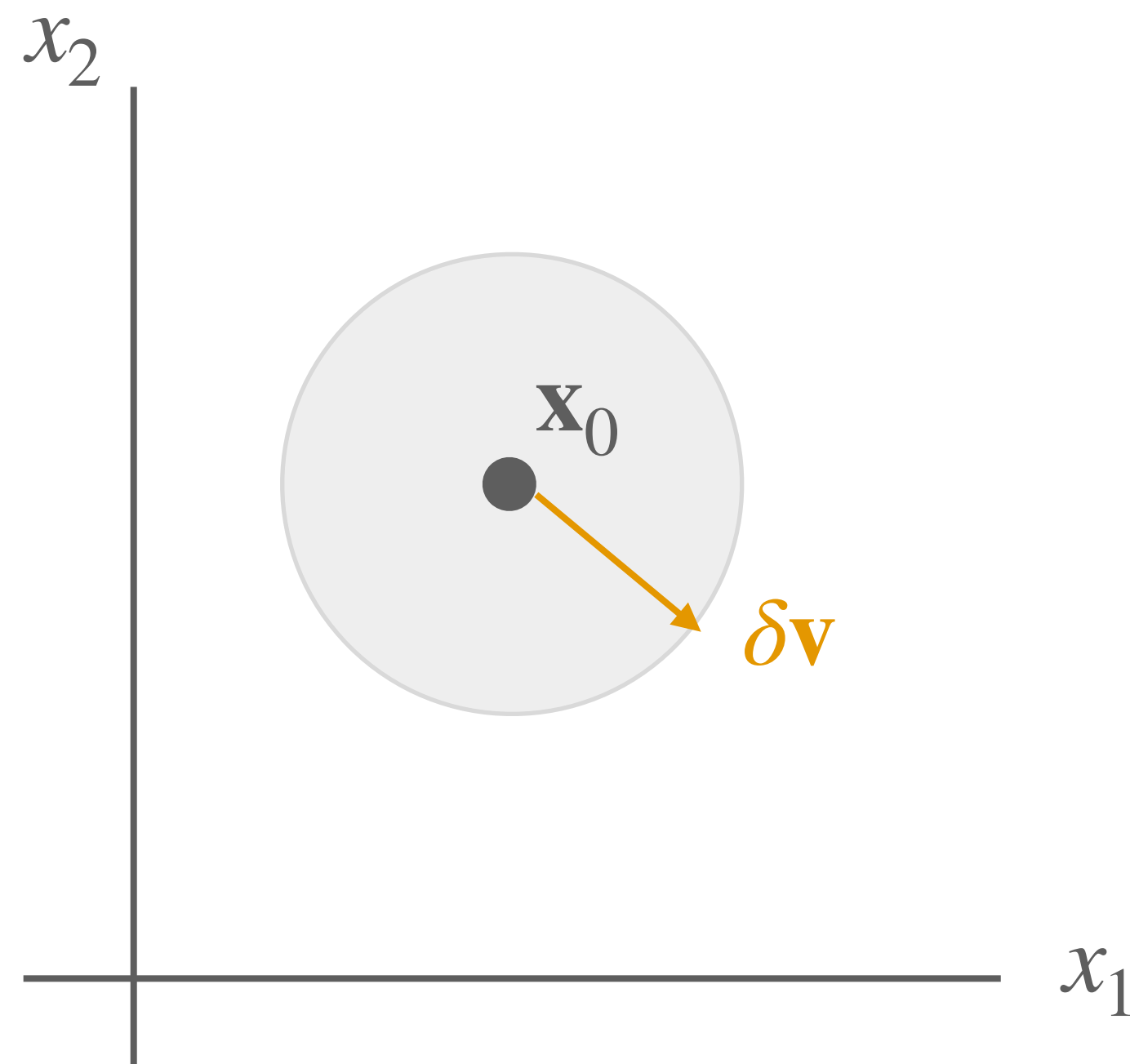


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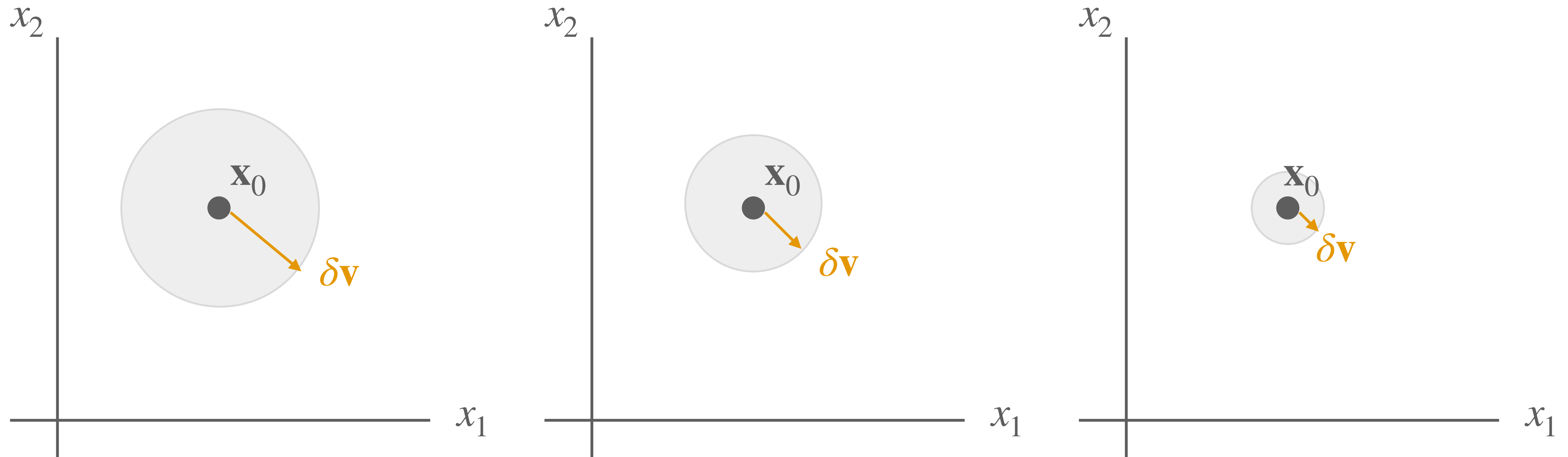


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# Multivariable Differentiation

## Partial derivative

The *i*th partial derivative of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is the directional derivative in the standard basis direction  $\mathbf{e}_i$ :

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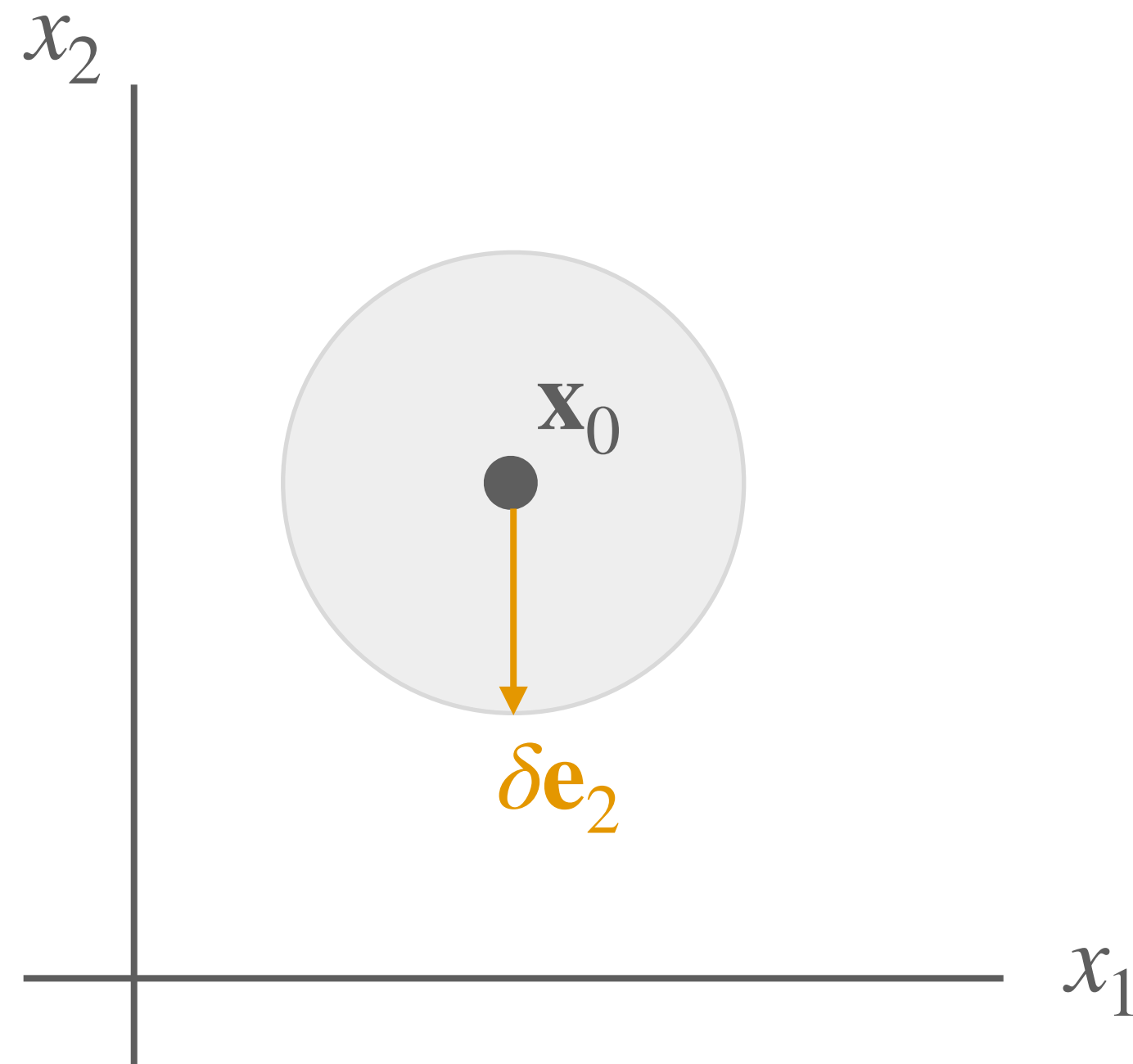
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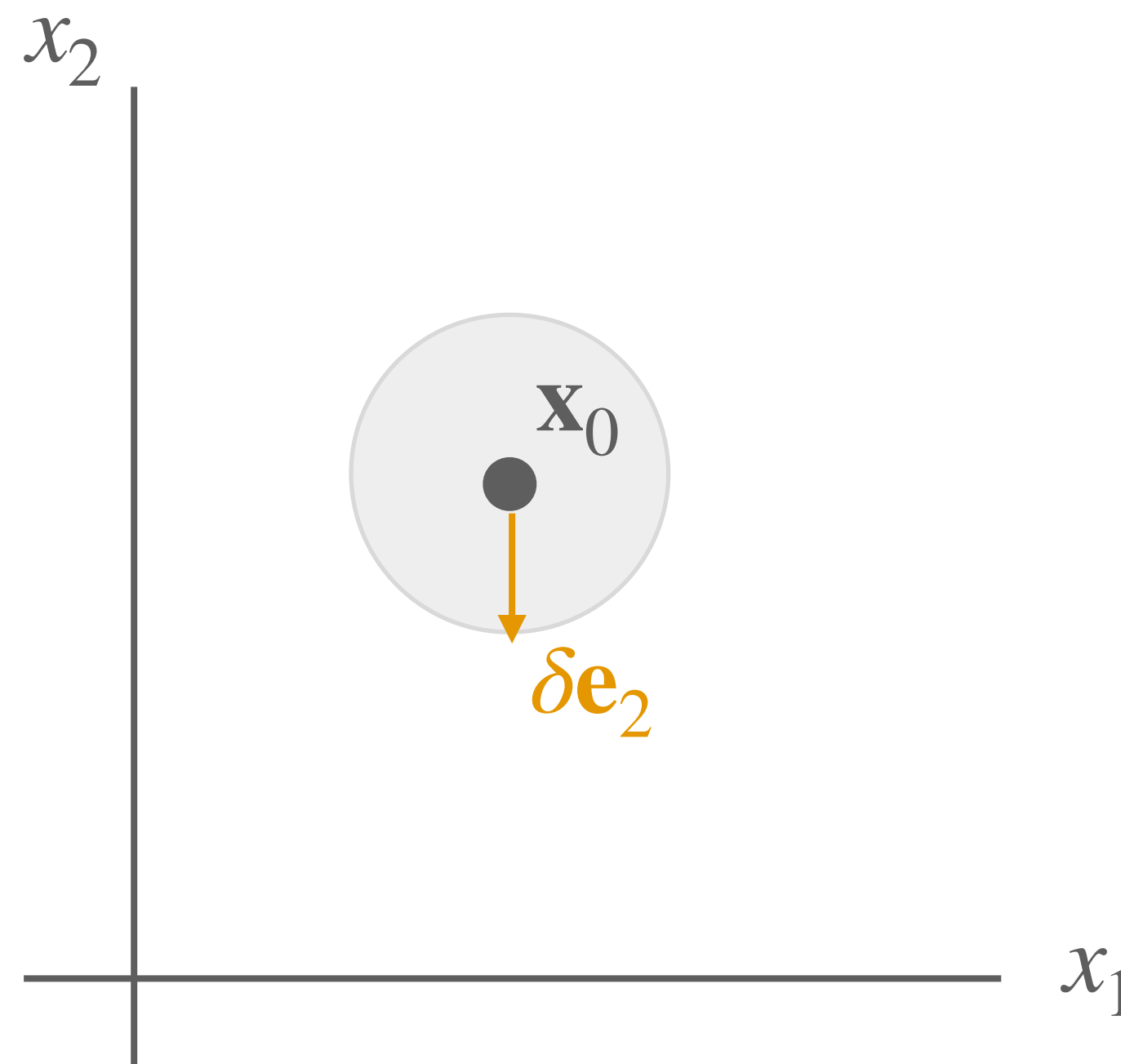
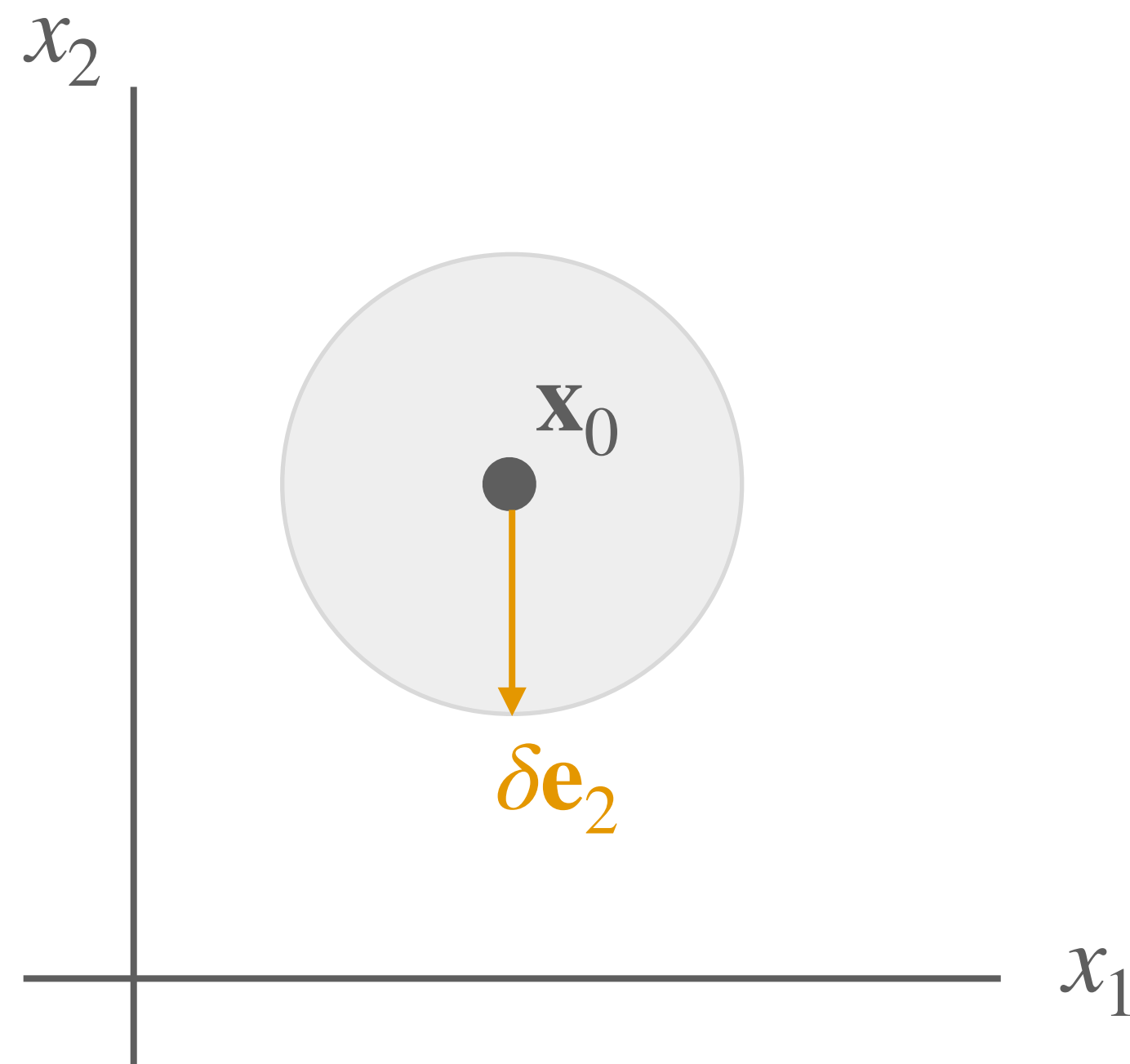


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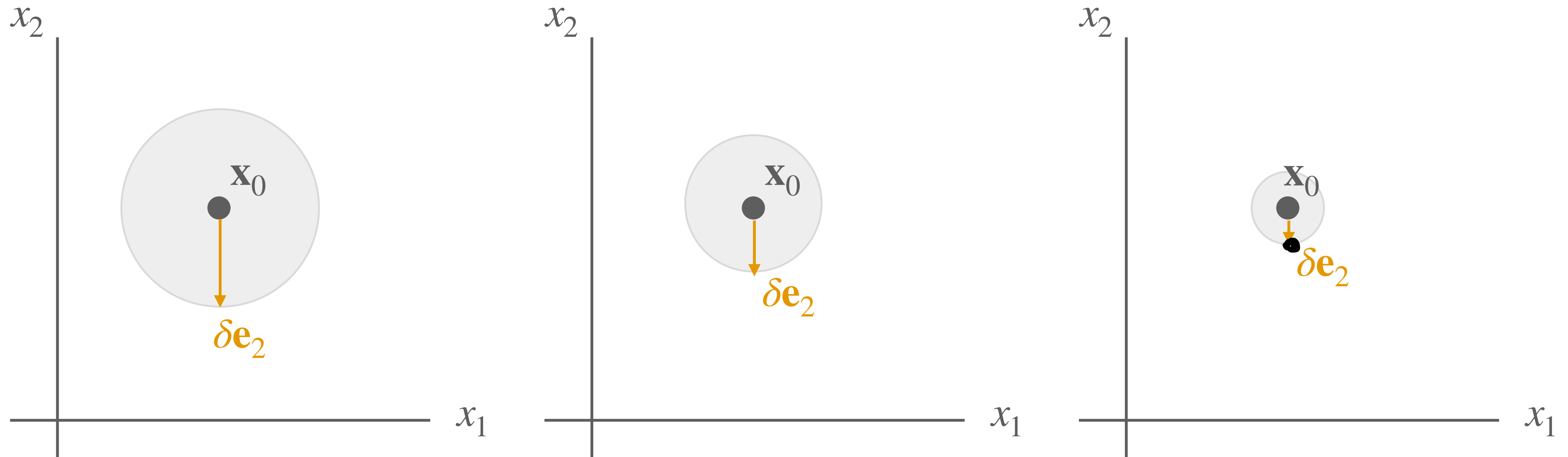


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# Multivariable Differentiation

## Partial derivative

The *i*th partial derivative of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  can also be written:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) := \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0 + \delta \mathbf{e}_i) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0)}{\delta} = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{f}(x_{0,1}, \dots, x_{0,i} + \delta, \dots, x_{0,d}) - \mathbf{f}(x_{0,1}, \dots, x_{0,i}, \dots, x_{0,d})}{\delta}$$

*Mechanically:* take the derivative of variable  $x_i$  while keeping all the others constant.

# Multivariable Differentiation

Example:  $f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y + y^2$

Example. Compute the formula for partial derivatives of  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y + y^2.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3x^2 + 2xy \longrightarrow 3 + 2 \cdot 2 = \boxed{7} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^2 + 2y \longrightarrow 1 + 4 = \boxed{5}$$

What are the partial derivatives at  $\underline{(1, 2)}$ ?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 7 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \boxed{7}$$

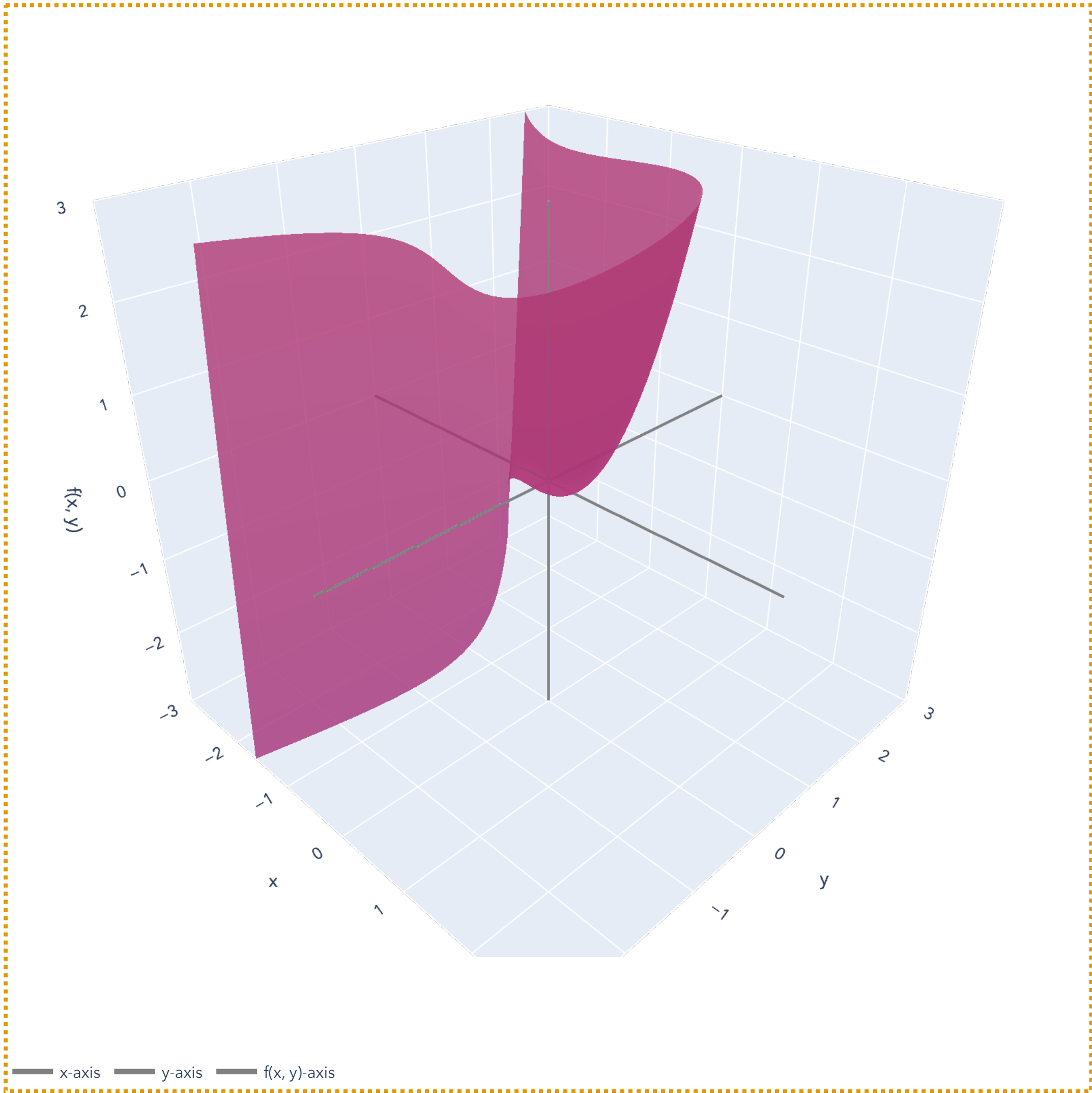
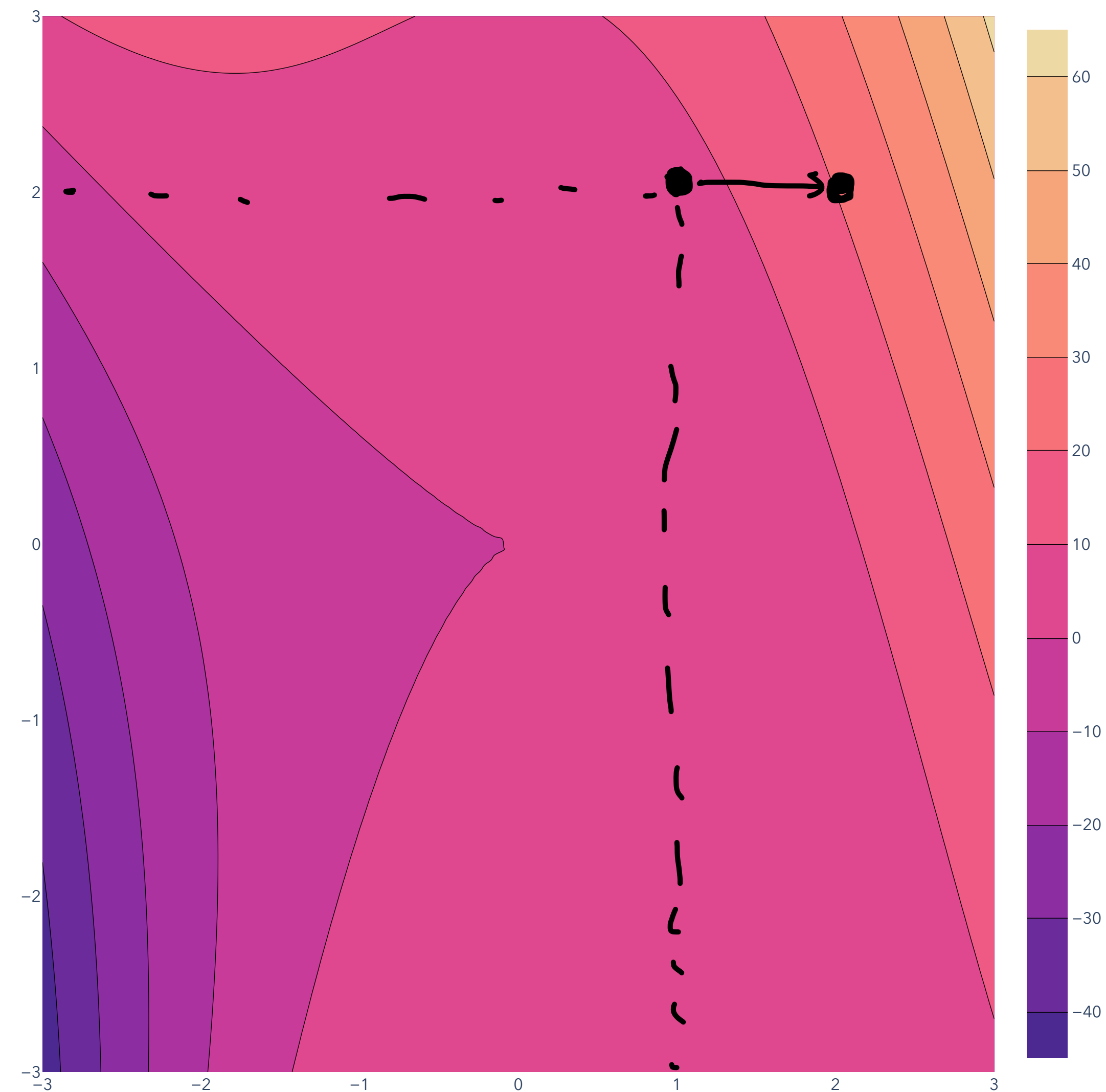
$2 \times 1$

$$f(1, 2) = 1 + 2 + 4 = 7 \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \boxed{15} \times 2 \end{array} \right.$$

$$f(2, 2) = 8 + 8 + 4 = 20$$

# Multivariable Differentiation

Example:  $f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y + y^2$



# Multivariable Differentiation

## Examples

→ vectors.

Example. Compute the partial derivatives of  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  defined by

$$f(x, y) = (x^2y, \cos y).$$

What are the partial derivatives at (1,2)?

# Multivariable Differentiation

Total derivatives

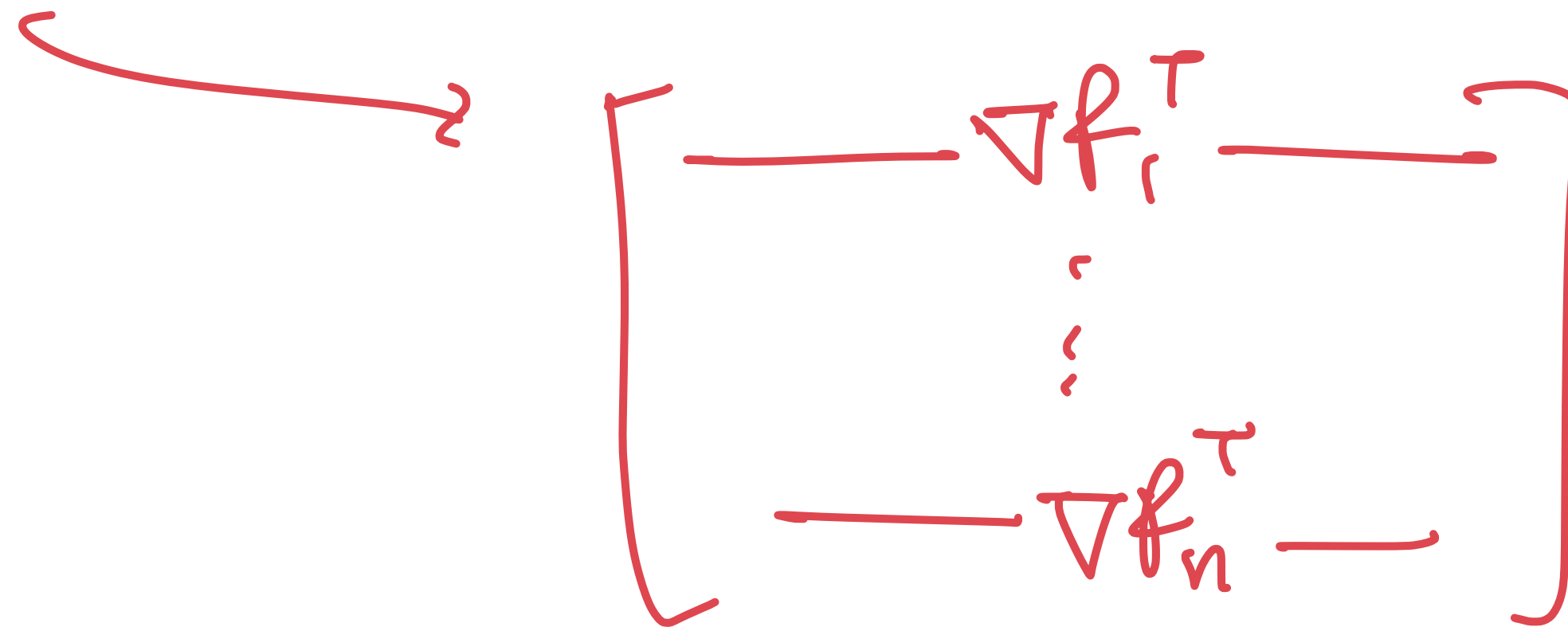
# Multivariable Differentiation

## Jacobian and gradient idea

The gradient is the vector in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  that contains the partial derivatives of  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as each entry.

scalar-valued!

The Jacobian  $n \times d$  matrix that contains the partial derivatives of  $\mathbf{f}: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , collected column-by-column.



A hand-drawn diagram illustrating the structure of the Jacobian matrix. It shows a large square bracket containing a vertical stack of three terms: the top term is  $\nabla f_1^T$ , followed by a vertical ellipsis  $\vdots$ , and the bottom term is  $\nabla f_n^T$ . A red arrow points from the word "Jacobian" in the text above to the left side of this bracketed structure.

Viewing  $\mathbf{f}$  as a collection of  $n$  functions  $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, \dots, f_n)$ , the Jacobian is also what we get by "stacking" all the gradients top-to-bottom in a matrix.



# Multivariable Differentiation

## Gradient

Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The gradient of  $f$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is the vector  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0) \in \mathbb{R}^d$  composed of all the partial derivatives of  $f$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$ :

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0) := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f(\mathbf{x}_0) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_d} f(\mathbf{x}_0) \end{bmatrix}$$

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Gradient

Example. What's a formula for the gradient of  $f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y + y^2$ ?

Formula for grad.

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3x^2 + 2xy$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^2 + 2y$$

$$\nabla f(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} 3x^2 + 2xy \\ x^2 + 2y \end{bmatrix}$$

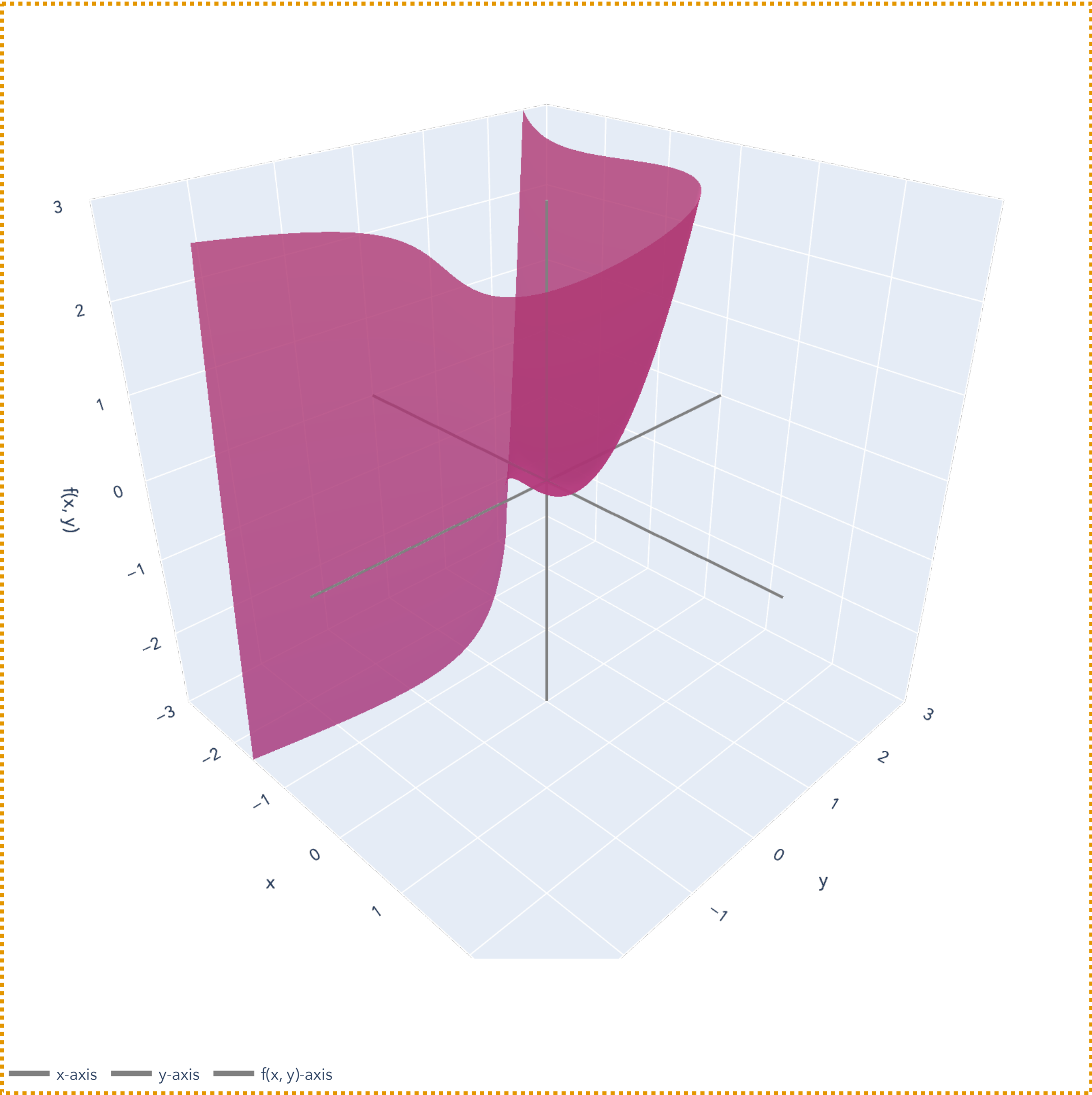
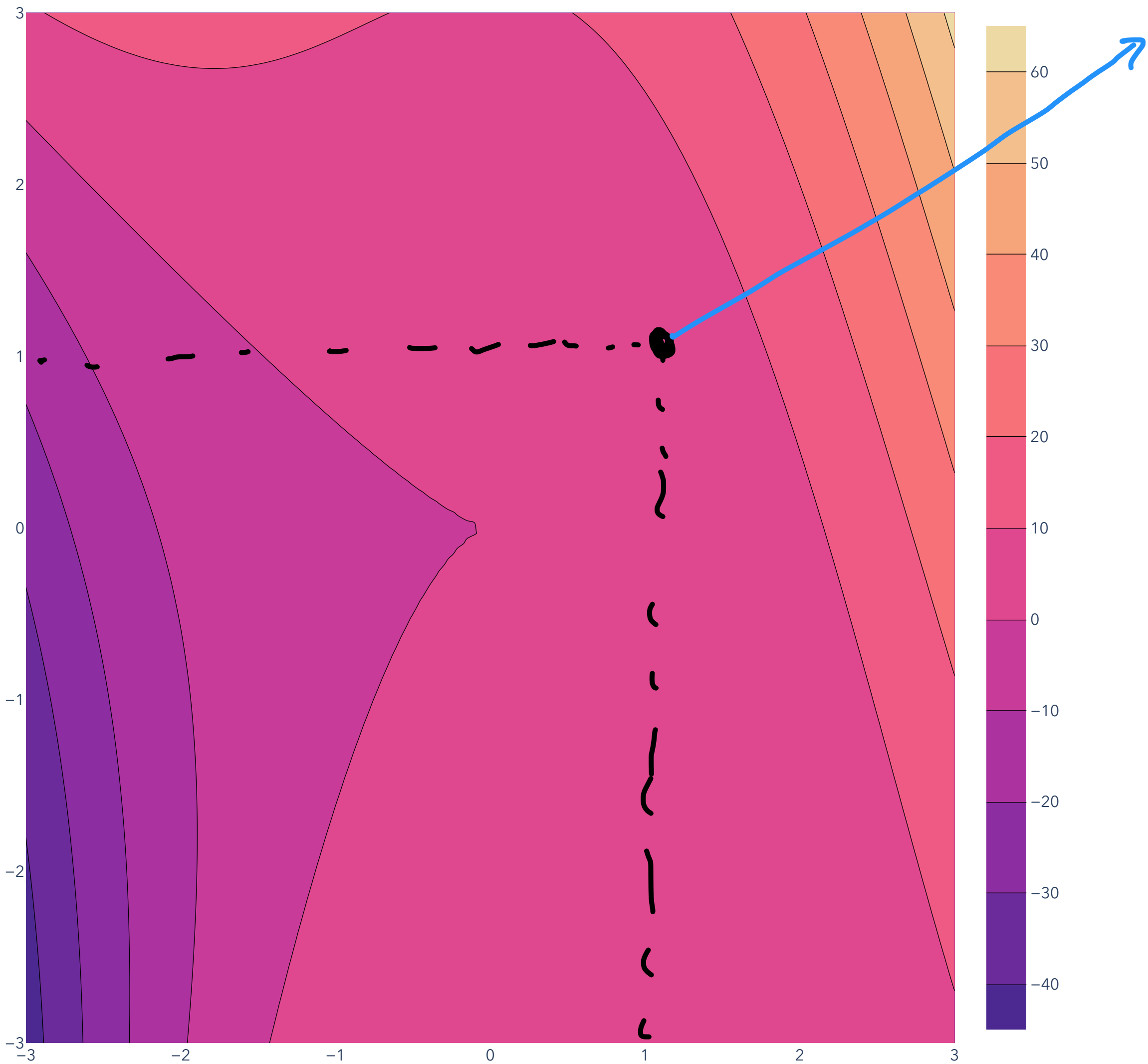
What's the gradient at  $(x, y) = (1, 1)$ ?

$$\nabla f(1, 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 + 2 \\ 1 + 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Multivariable Differentiation

$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} 3x^2 \\ 2xy \\ 2y \end{bmatrix}$$

Example:  $f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y + y^2$



# Multivariable Differentiation

## Jacobian

Let  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a function  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = (f_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, f_n(\mathbf{x}))$ .

The Jacobian of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is the  $n \times d$  matrix composed of all the partial derivatives of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$ :

$$\nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_1(\mathbf{x}_0) & \dots & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_d} f_1(\mathbf{x}_0) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_n(\mathbf{x}_0) & \dots & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_d} f_n(\mathbf{x}_0) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow & \nabla f_1(\mathbf{x}_0)^\top & \rightarrow \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \leftarrow & \nabla f_n(\mathbf{x}_0)^\top & \rightarrow \end{bmatrix}$$

*Handwritten notes:*  
A blue arrow points from the text "Bold" to the  $\nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0)$  term in the equation.  
Below the equation, the text "→ vector-valued" is written in blue and underlined.

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Jacobian

$$f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

Example. What's the formula for the Jacobian of  $f(x, y) = (x^2y, \cos y)$ ?

$$f_1(x, y) = x^2y$$

$$f_2(x, y) = \cos y$$

$$\nabla f_1(x, y) = (2xy, x^2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\nabla f_2(x, y) = (0, -\sin y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2xy & x^2 \\ 0 & -\sin y \end{bmatrix}$$

What's the Jacobian at  $(x, y) = (\pi, \pi)$ ?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2\pi^2 & \pi^2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x - \pi \\ y - \pi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2\pi^2(x - \pi) + \pi^2(y - \pi) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

change in  $f$ :  $\vec{f}(x - \pi, y - \pi) - \vec{f}(\pi, \pi)$

# Multivariable Differentiation

Total Derivative (Idea)

# Multivariable Differentiation

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The total derivative is the linear transformation that “best approximates” the *local* change in  $\mathbf{f}$  at a point  $\mathbf{x}_0$ .

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In 1D, recall:

$T$  : change in  $x \rightarrow$  change in  $y$

$$\underbrace{\nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0)}_{\text{linear function}} \approx f(x) - f(x_0)$$

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Total Derivative (Definition)

Let  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a function and let  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  be a point.

If there exists a linear transformation  $D\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{x}_0} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$\lim_{\vec{\delta} \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\|\vec{\delta}\|} \left( \underbrace{\left( \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0 + \vec{\delta}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) \right)}_{\text{change in } \mathbf{f}} - \underbrace{D\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{x}_0}(\vec{\delta})}_{\text{lin. approx.}} \right) = \mathbf{0},$$

then  $\mathbf{f}$  is differentiable at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  and has the unique (total) derivative  $D\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{x}_0}$ .

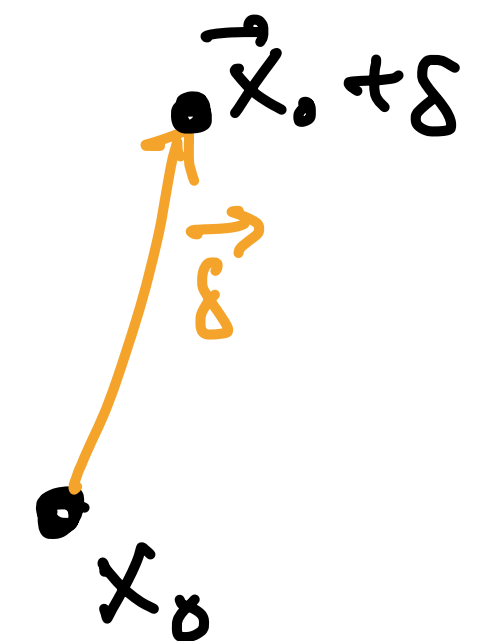
Approaching  $\mathbf{x}_0$  from any direction  $\vec{\delta}$ , the change  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0 + \vec{\delta}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0)$  is approximated by  $D\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{x}_0}$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x} = 0$$

Unit vector  $\vec{v} = \frac{\vec{\delta}}{\|\vec{\delta}\|}$   
 $\delta \rightarrow 0$

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + \delta) - f(x_0)}{\delta} = \frac{\delta \nabla f(x_0)}{\delta}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + \delta) - f(x_0) - \nabla f(x_0) \delta}{\delta} = 0$$



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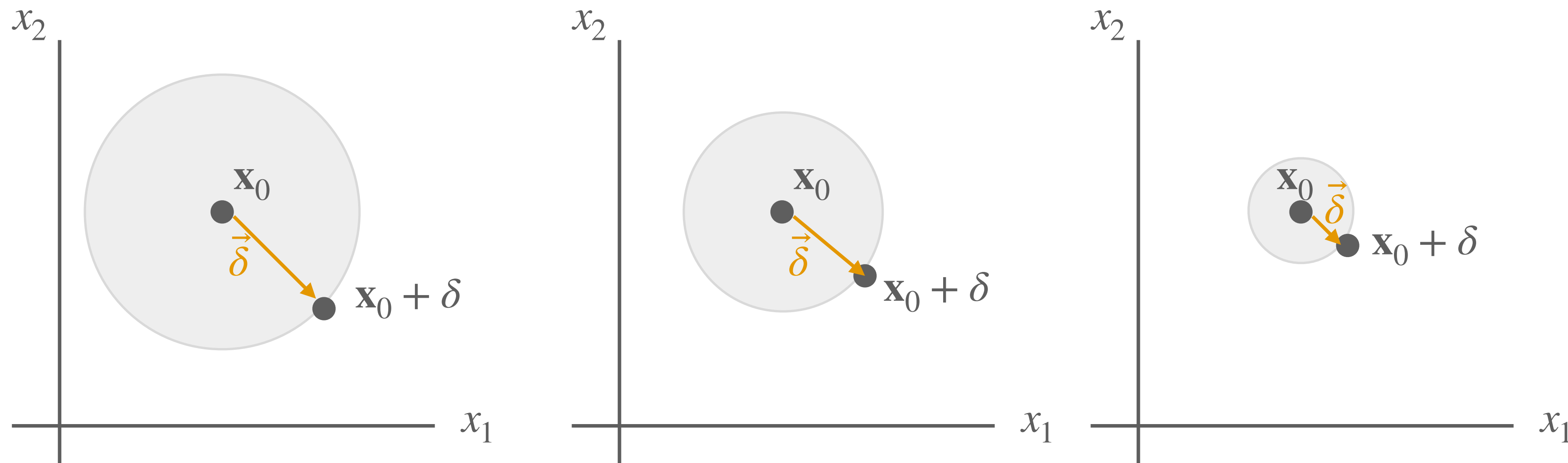
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# Multivariable Differentiation

## Total Derivative (Definition)

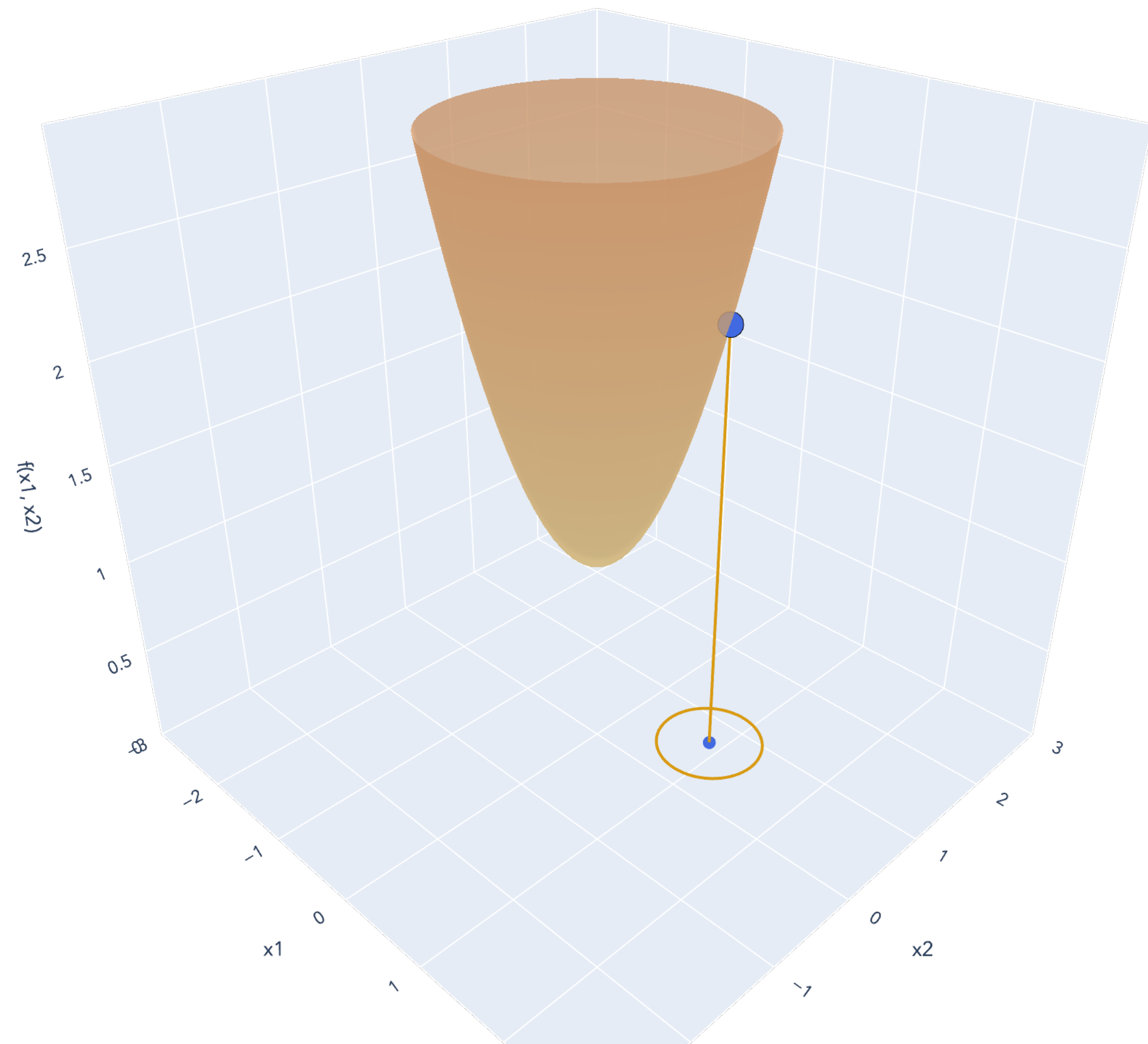
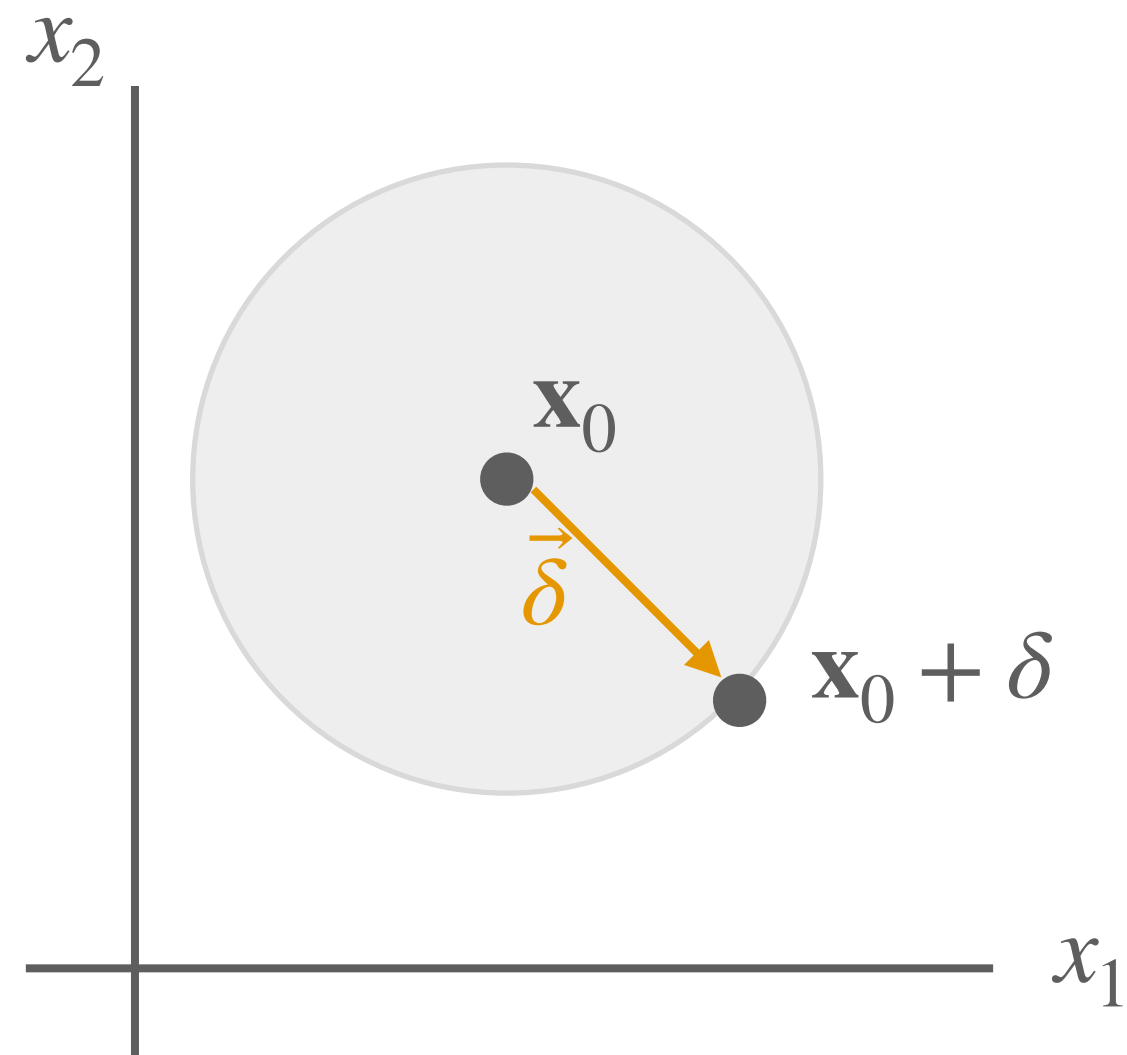
$$\lim_{\vec{\delta} \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\|\vec{\delta}\|} \left( \left( \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0 + \vec{\delta}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) \right) - D\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{x}_0}(\vec{\delta}) \right) = \mathbf{0},$$

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# Multivariable Differentiation

## Total Derivative (Definition)





# Multivariable Differentiation

## Total Derivative

Good news: in many cases, we don't have to deal with the clunky expression

$$\lim_{\vec{\delta} \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\|\vec{\delta}\|} \left( \left( \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0 + \vec{\delta}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) \right) - D\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{x}_0}(\vec{\delta}) \right) = \mathbf{0},$$

because we can replace  $D\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{x}_0}$  by the Jacobian/gradient for all "nice" functions (the functions we usually care about)!

The "nice" functions is the class of continuously differentiable (smooth) functions.

# Multivariable Differentiation

Smoothness and consequences

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Smoothness

A function  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is continuously differentiable if all partial derivatives of  $\mathbf{f}$  exist and are continuous. These are the  $\mathcal{C}^1$  *functions*, and the collection of all such functions are the class  $\mathcal{C}^1$ .

Generally:  $\mathcal{C}^p$  for some  $p \geq 1$  are the  $p$ -times continuously differentiable functions.

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Smoothness

**Theorem (Sufficient criterion for differentiability).** If  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a  $\mathcal{C}^1$  function, then  $\mathbf{f}$  is differentiable, and its total derivative is equal to its Jacobian matrix.

**Theorem (Sufficient criterion for differentiability).** If  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a  $\mathcal{C}^1$  function, then  $f$  is differentiable, and its total derivative is equal to its gradient.

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Directional derivatives from total derivative

**Theorem (Computing directional derivatives).** If  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is differentiable with Jacobian matrix  $\nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ , the directional derivative of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  in the direction  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is given by the matrix-vector product:

$$\underbrace{\nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0)}_{n \times d} \underbrace{\mathbf{v}}_{d \times 1} .$$

Matrix-vector multiplication is the same as *applying a linear transformation*.

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Directional derivatives from total derivative

Theorem (Computing directional derivatives). If  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable with gradient  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)$ , the directional derivative of  $f$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  in the direction  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is given by the inner product:

$$\underbrace{\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)^T}_{1 \times d \text{ matrix}} \mathbf{v}.$$

Vector inner product is the same as *applying a linear functional*.

linear function  
mapping from:  $\mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Gradient as direction of steepest ascent

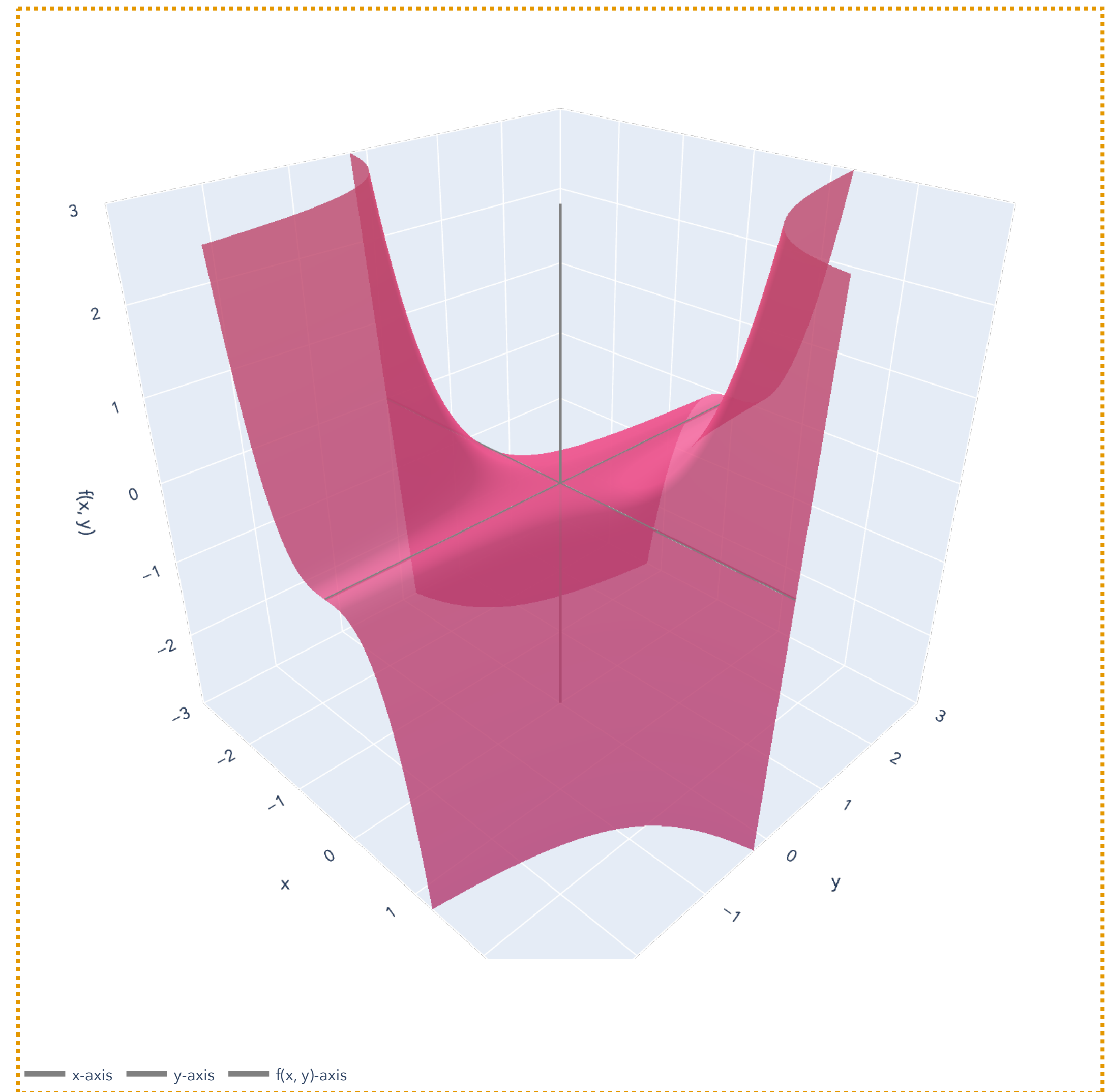
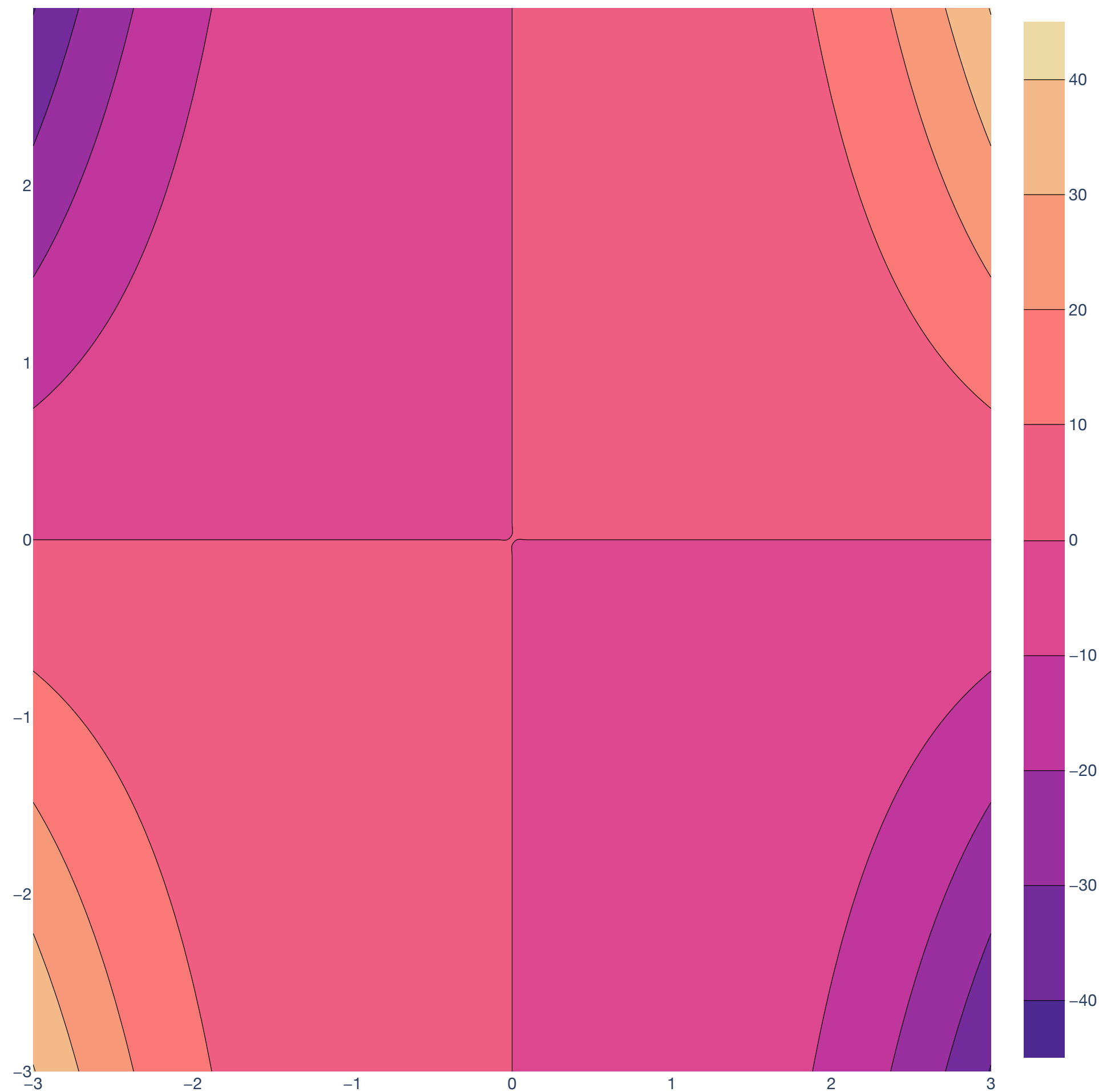
Theorem (Gradient and direction of steepest ascent). Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable at  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . If  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is a *unit* vector making angle  $\theta$  with the gradient  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)$ , then:

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)^\top \mathbf{v} = \overset{\|\mathbf{v}\|=1}{\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)\|} \cos \theta.$$

Gradient is the direction of *steepest ascent* at the rate  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)\|$ !

# Multivariable Differentiation

Example:  $f(x, y) = (1/2)x^3y$





# Multivariable Differentiation

Big picture: how do all these objects connect?

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$$T: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

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*When we apply a total derivative to a vector, think of mapping the “change” represented by that vector to a “change” in output space.*

# Multivariable Differentiation

Big picture: how do all these objects connect?

$$\nabla f(x_0) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}(x_0) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_d}(x_0) \end{pmatrix}$$

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*When we apply a total derivative to a vector, think of mapping the "change" represented by that vector to a "change" in output space.*

The partial derivative tells us how our function changes in each basis vector direction. The directional derivative tells us change in any direction.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} &= v_1 \vec{e}_1 + v_2 \vec{e}_2 + \dots + v_d \vec{e}_d \\ \nabla f(x_0)^T \vec{v} &= v_1 \nabla f(x_0)^T \vec{e}_1 + \dots + v_d \nabla f(x_0)^T \vec{e}_d \\ &= v_1 \frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x_1} + \dots + v_d \frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x_d} \end{aligned}$$

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*Applying the Jacobian/gradient to a vector is the same as matrix-vector multiplication!*

# Multivariable Differentiation

Big picture: how do all these objects connect?

$\mathcal{C}^1$  function  $\implies$  total derivative is the Jacobian/gradient

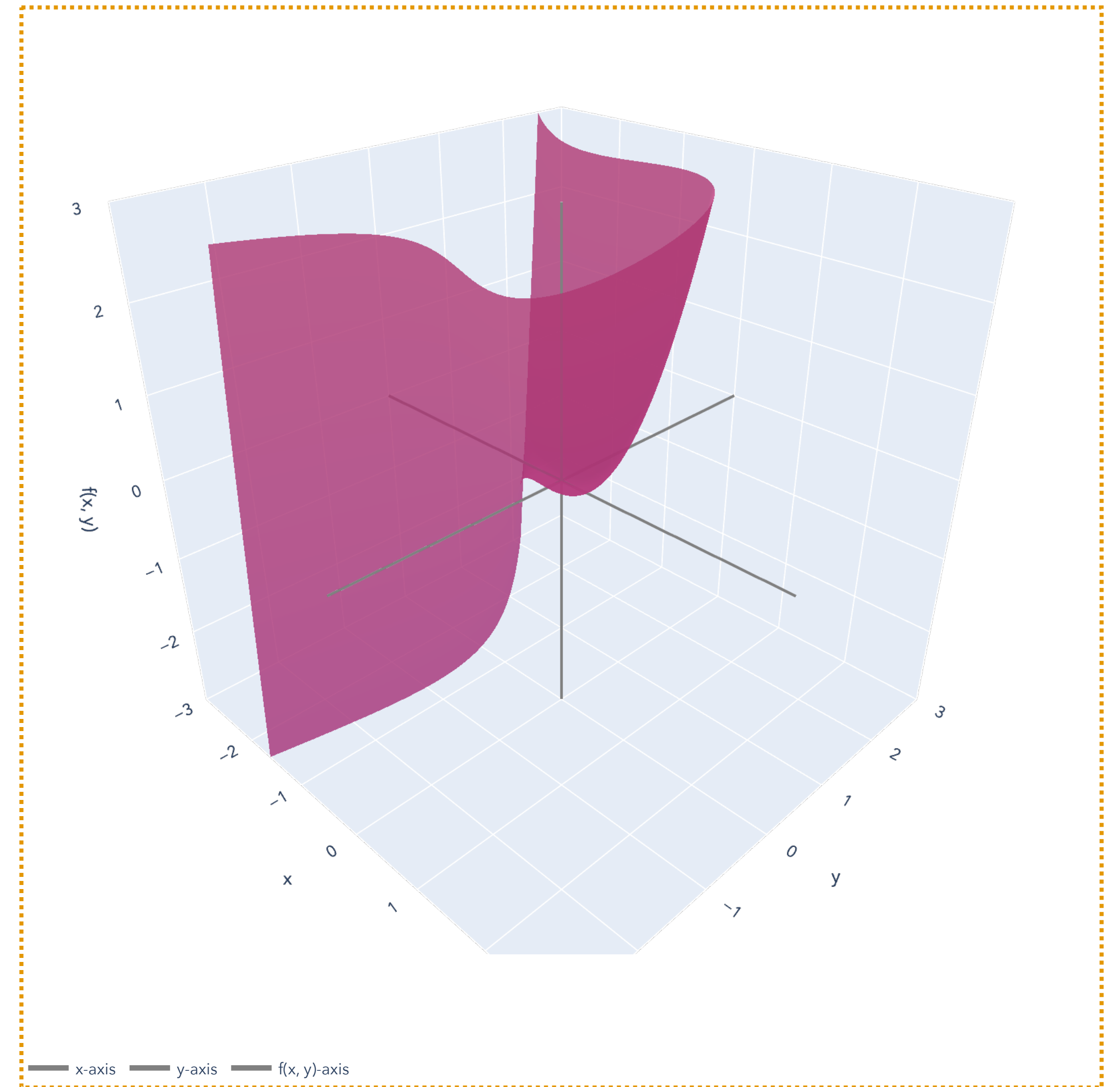
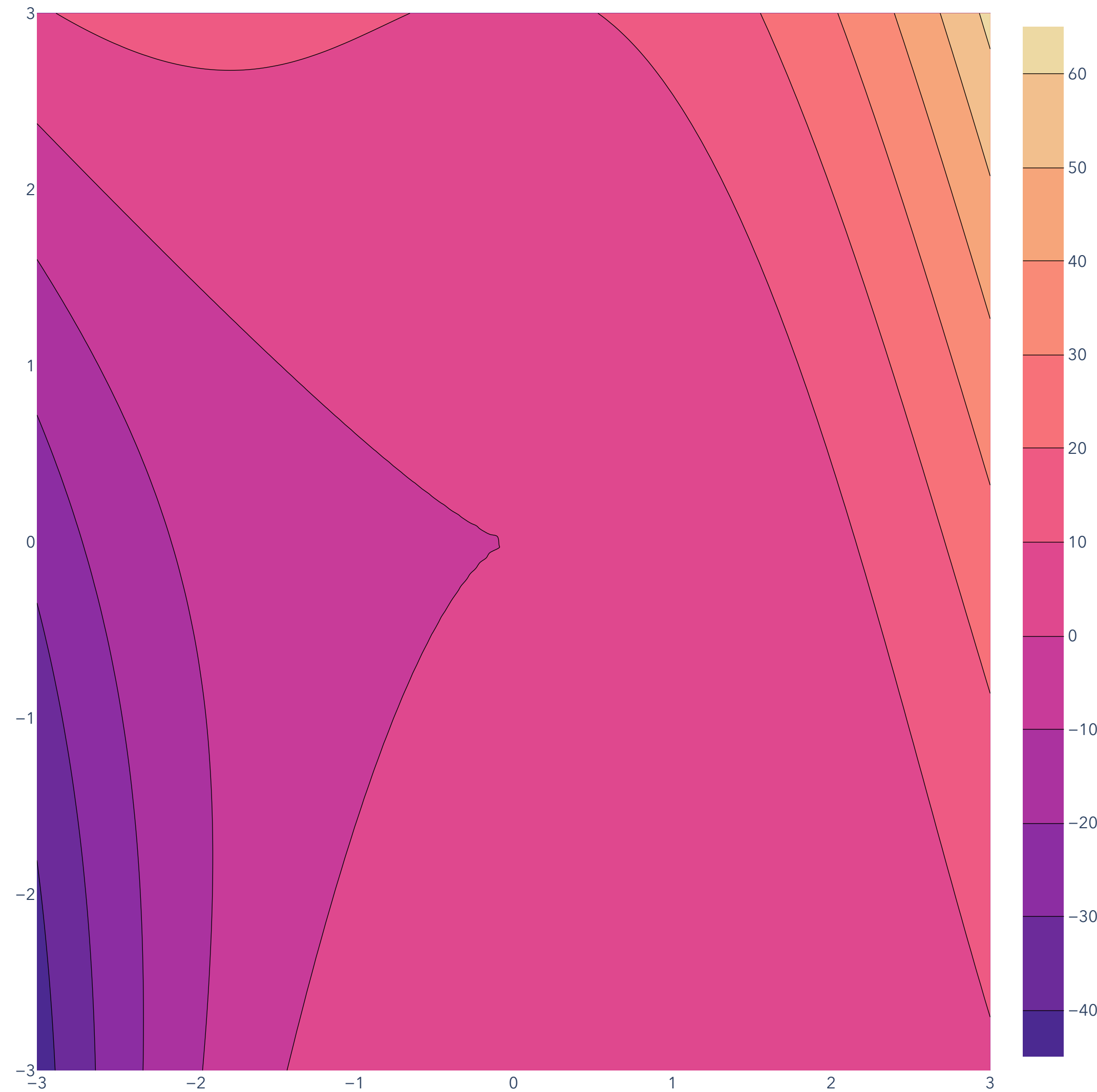
$\implies$  all directional/partial derivatives from matrix-vector product!

$\nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) \mathbf{v}$  for Jacobian ( $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ )

$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)^\top \mathbf{v}$  for gradient ( $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ )

# Multivariable Differentiation

Example:  $f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y + y^2$





# Multivariable Differentiation

## The Hessian and the “Second Derivative”

# Multivariable Differentiation: Hessian

## Hessian matrix

The Hessian is the “second derivative” for *scalar-valued* multivariable functions  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

It is a matrix. For *really* smooth functions, it is symmetric.

The Hessian contains the local “second-order” information, or curvature of the function. It describes how “bowl-shaped” the function is around a point.

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# Multivariable Differentiation: Hessian

Hessian matrix for  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

The Hessian matrix for  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the  $2 \times 2$  matrix of all second-order partial derivatives:

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_0) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i^2}$  is the second partial derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $x_i$ .

$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$  is the partial derivative from differentiating w.r.t.  $x_j$  first and then differentiating w.r.t.  $x_i$ .

# Multivariable Differentiation: Hessian

Hessian matrix for  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

The Hessian matrix for  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the  $d \times d$  matrix of all second-order partial derivatives.

# Multivariable Differentiation: Hessian

Equality of mixed partials

# Multivariable Differentiation: Hessian

## Equality of mixed partials

Theorem (Equality of mixed partials). If  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a *twice continuously differentiable* function (i.e., in class  $\mathcal{C}^2$ ), then, for all pairs  $(i, j)$ :

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$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_j \partial x_i}.$$



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# Multivariable Differentiation: Hessian

## Equality of mixed partials

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

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This means that for  $\mathcal{C}^2$  functions, the Hessian is a symmetric matrix.

$\mathcal{C}^2$ , the class of twice continuously differentiable functions, is the collection of all functions whose second-order partial derivatives all exist and are continuous.

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Wrap-up example

Consider the function  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  given by

$$\mathbf{f}(x, y) := \left( \frac{1}{2}x^3y \quad 2x^2y^2 \quad xy \right).$$

Is  $\mathbf{f}$  smooth (i.e. in  $\mathcal{C}^1$ )?

How about  $\mathcal{C}^2$ ?

What does that tell us?

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Wrap-up example

Consider the function  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  given by

$$\mathbf{f}(x, y) := \left( \frac{1}{2}x^3y \quad 2x^2y^2 \quad xy \right).$$

What's the *formula* for the Jacobian of  $\mathbf{f}$ ?

What's the *formula* for the gradient of  $f_1(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}x^3y$ ?

What is the Jacobian/gradient at  $\mathbf{x}_0 = (1, 2)$ ?

# Multivariable Differentiation

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What's the total derivative of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0 = (1, 0)$ ?

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## Wrap-up example

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What's the directional derivative of  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  in the direction  $\mathbf{v} = (1, 1)$ ?

How about in the direction  $\mathbf{e}_1$ ?

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Common Derivative Rules



# Multivariable Differentiation

## Basic derivative rules

Same as single-variable differentiation rules, but we need to “type-check” dimensions.

Let  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$  be the differentiation “operator.”

---

Derivatives of  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  from reasoning about each scalar-valued  $f_1, \dots, f_n$ .

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Sum Rule

For  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}}(f(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Product Rule

For  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}}(f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}}g(\mathbf{x}) + f(\mathbf{x})\frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Chain Rule

For  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}}(g \circ f)(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}}g(f(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{\partial g}{\partial f} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$

*Handwritten blue notes above the equation:*  
 $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (above  $\frac{\partial g}{\partial f}$ )  
 $\mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (above  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$ )

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Example of chain rule

**Example.** Let  $g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined as  $g(y_1, y_2) = y_1^2 + 2y_2$ . Let  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be defined as  $\mathbf{f}(x_1, x_2) := (\sin(x_1) + \cos(x_2) \quad x_1x_2^3)$ .

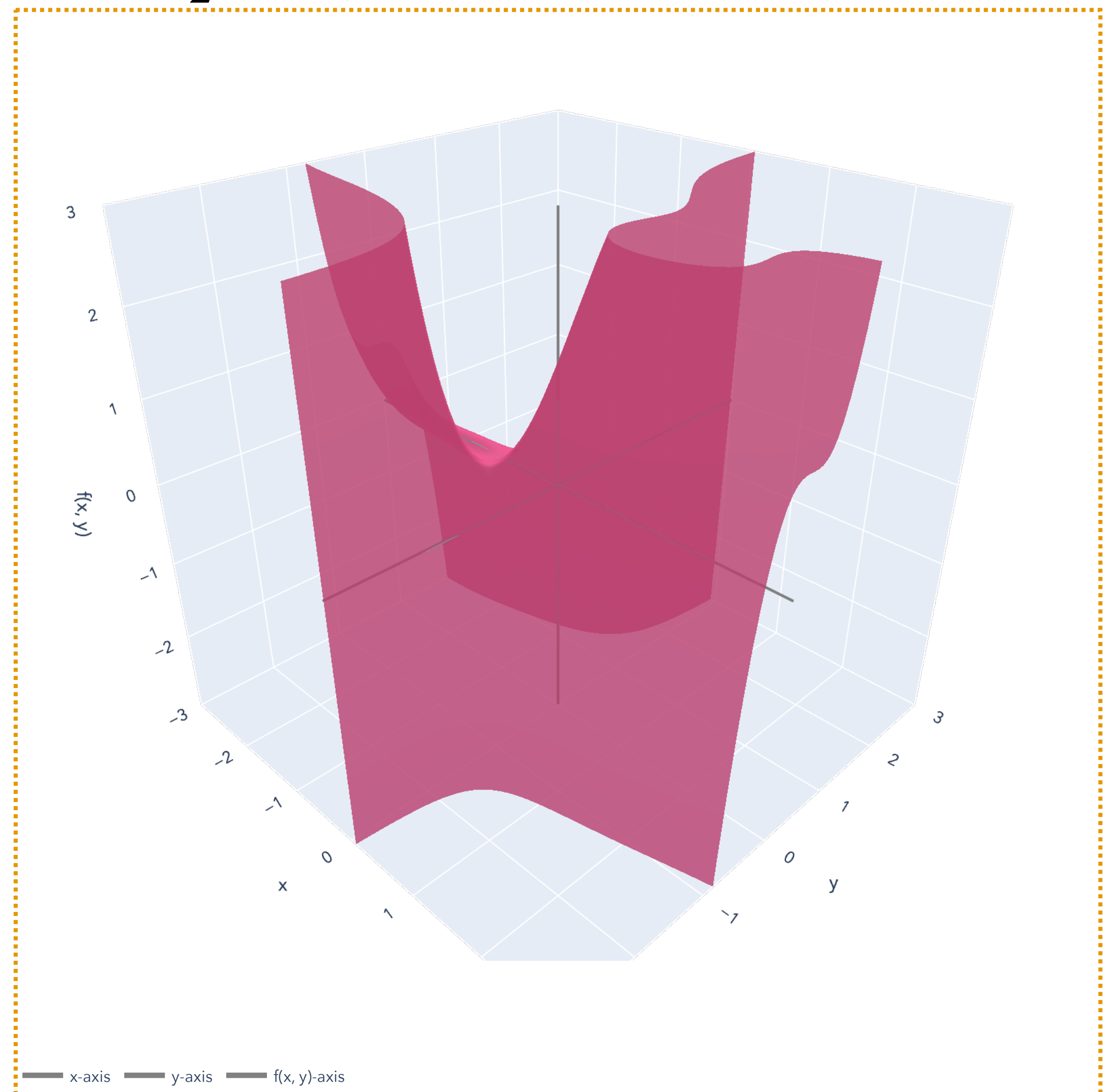
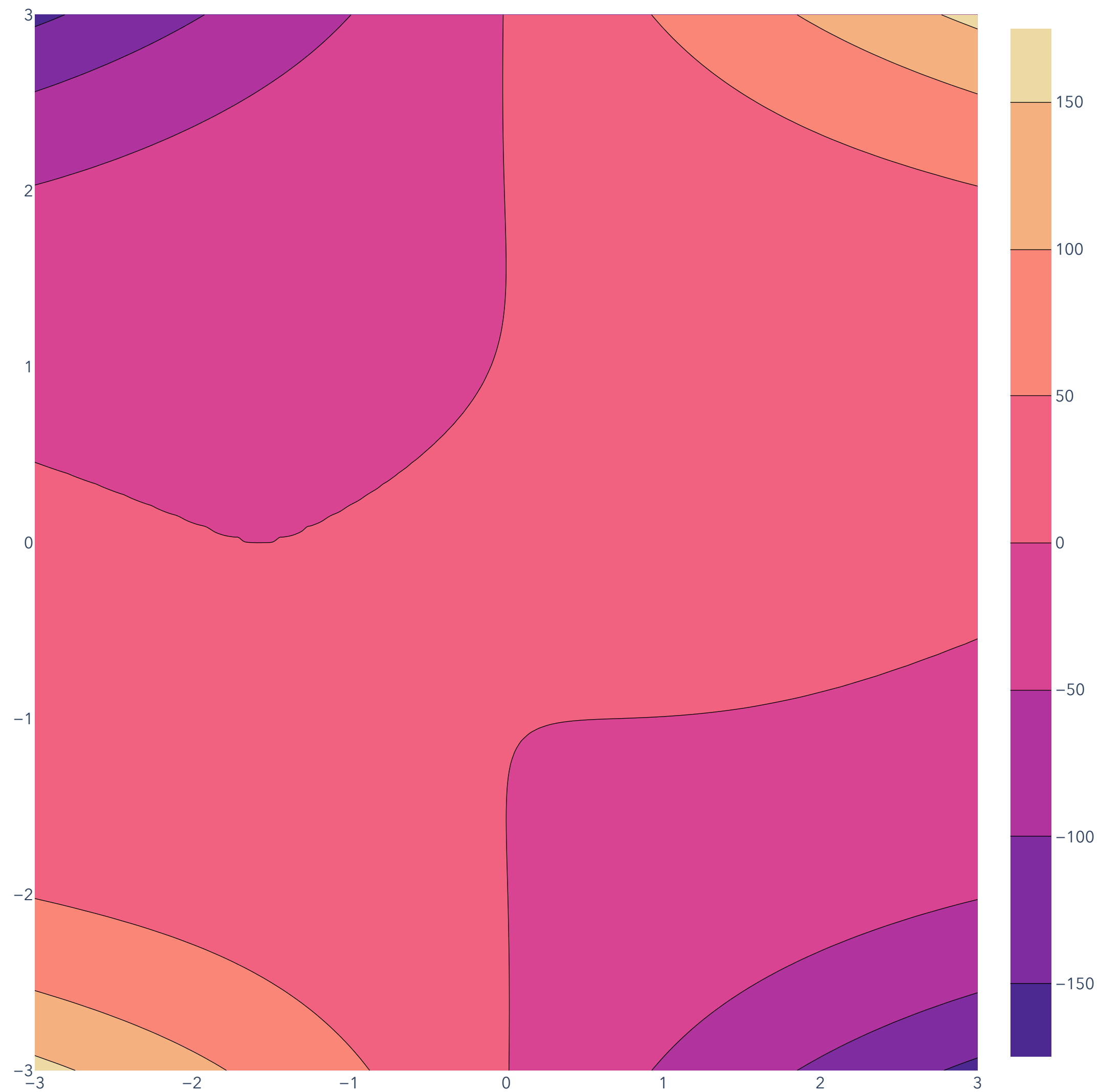
We can also write this as:

$$g(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})) = (g \circ \mathbf{f})(x_1, x_2) = (\sin(x_1) + \cos(x_2))^2 + 2(x_1x_2^3)$$

What is  $\frac{\partial(g \circ \mathbf{f})}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$ ?

# Multivariable Differentiation

$$g(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})) = (g \circ \mathbf{f})(x_1, x_2) = (\sin(x_1) + \cos(x_2))^2 + 2(x_1 x_2^3)$$



# "Matrix Calculus"

Useful identities in machine learning

$$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
$$f(\vec{x}) = \mathbf{a}^\top \vec{x}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{x}} (\cdot)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{a}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^\top) \mathbf{x}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{x}} (\mathbf{a}^\top \vec{x})$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} x^2 = 2x$$
$$= (1+1) x$$

More in [The Matrix Cookbook](#).

# "Matrix Calculus"

Example

Why  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{a}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$ ?

$$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
$$f(\vec{x}) = \vec{a}^\top \vec{x}$$

Why do we get  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$  "for free?"



# Least Squares

## Optimization Perspective

# Regression

## Setup (Example View)

Observed: Matrix of *training samples*  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and vector of *training labels*  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow & \mathbf{x}_1^\top & \rightarrow \\ & \vdots & \\ \leftarrow & \mathbf{x}_n^\top & \rightarrow \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Unknown: *Weight vector*  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  with weights  $w_1, \dots, w_d$ .

Goal: For each  $i \in [n]$ , we predict:  $\hat{y}_i = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i = w_1 x_{i1} + \dots + w_d x_{id} \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Choose a weight vector that "fits the training data":  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $y_i \approx \hat{y}_i$  for  $i \in [n]$ , or:

$$\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} \approx \mathbf{y}.$$

# Regression

## Setup (Feature View)

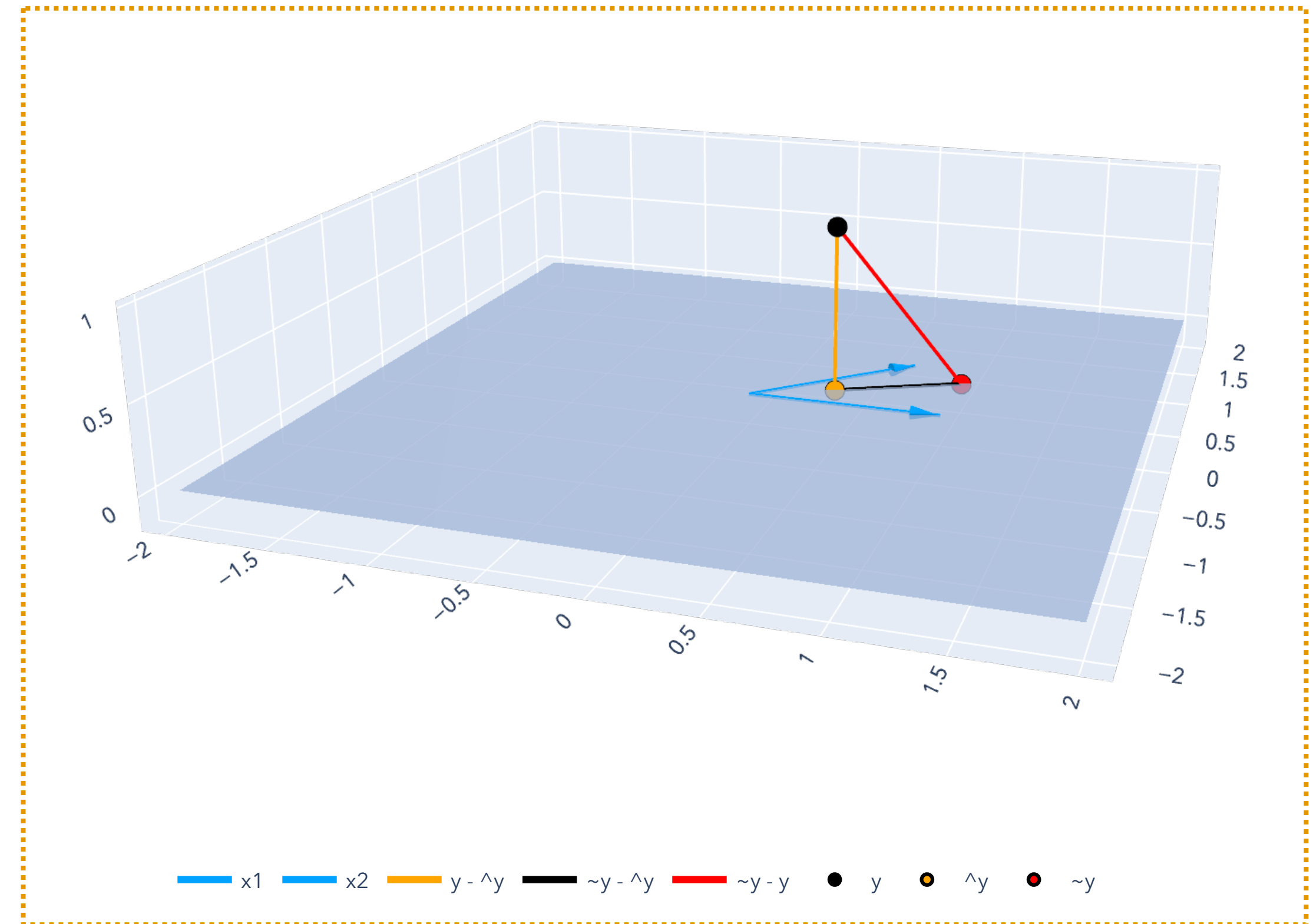
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# Least Squares

## OLS Theorem

Theorem (Ordinary Least Squares). Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $\hat{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  be the least squares minimizer:

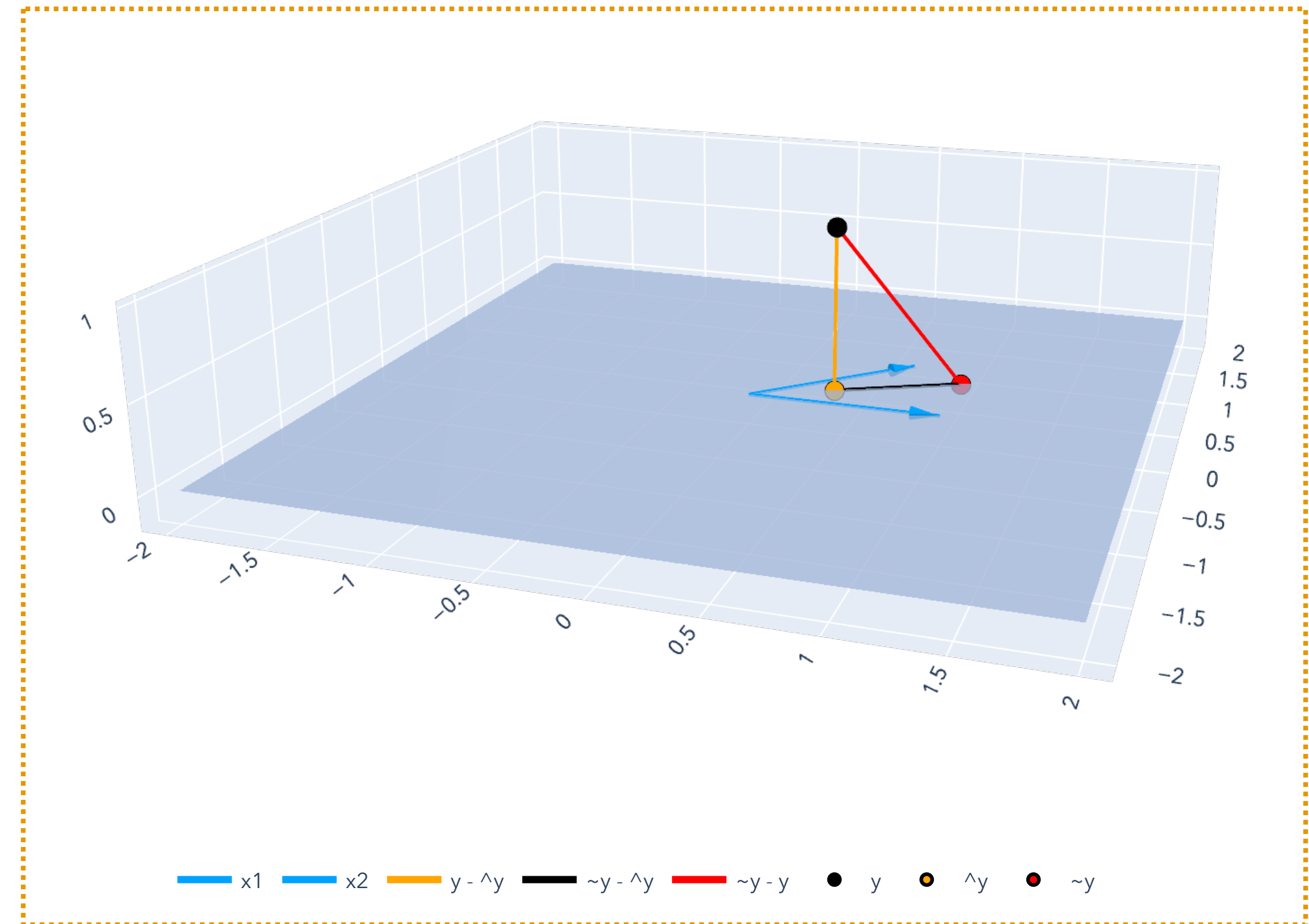
$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$$

If  $n \geq d$  and  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = d$ , then:

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

To get predictions  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{X}\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$



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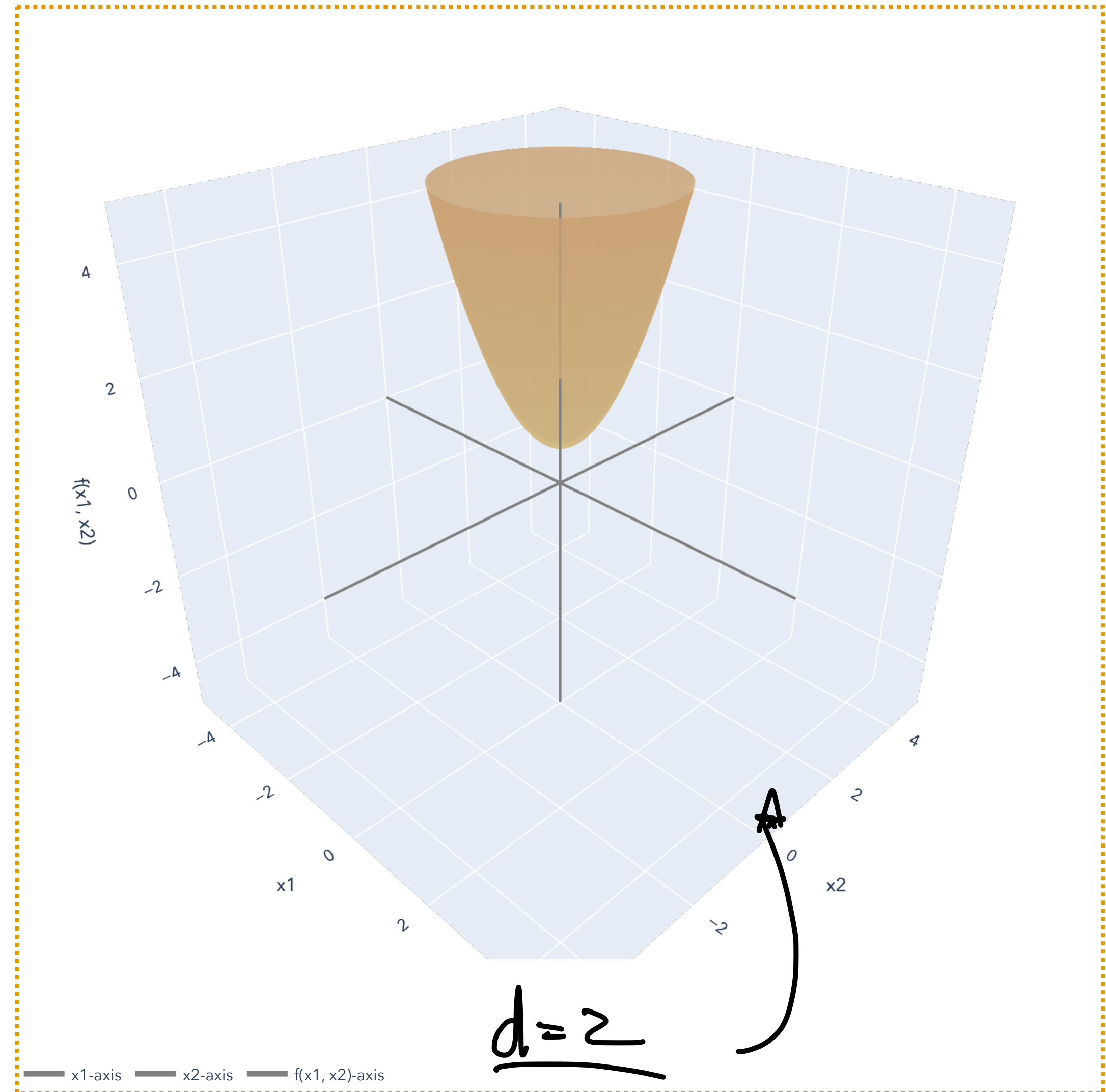
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$$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
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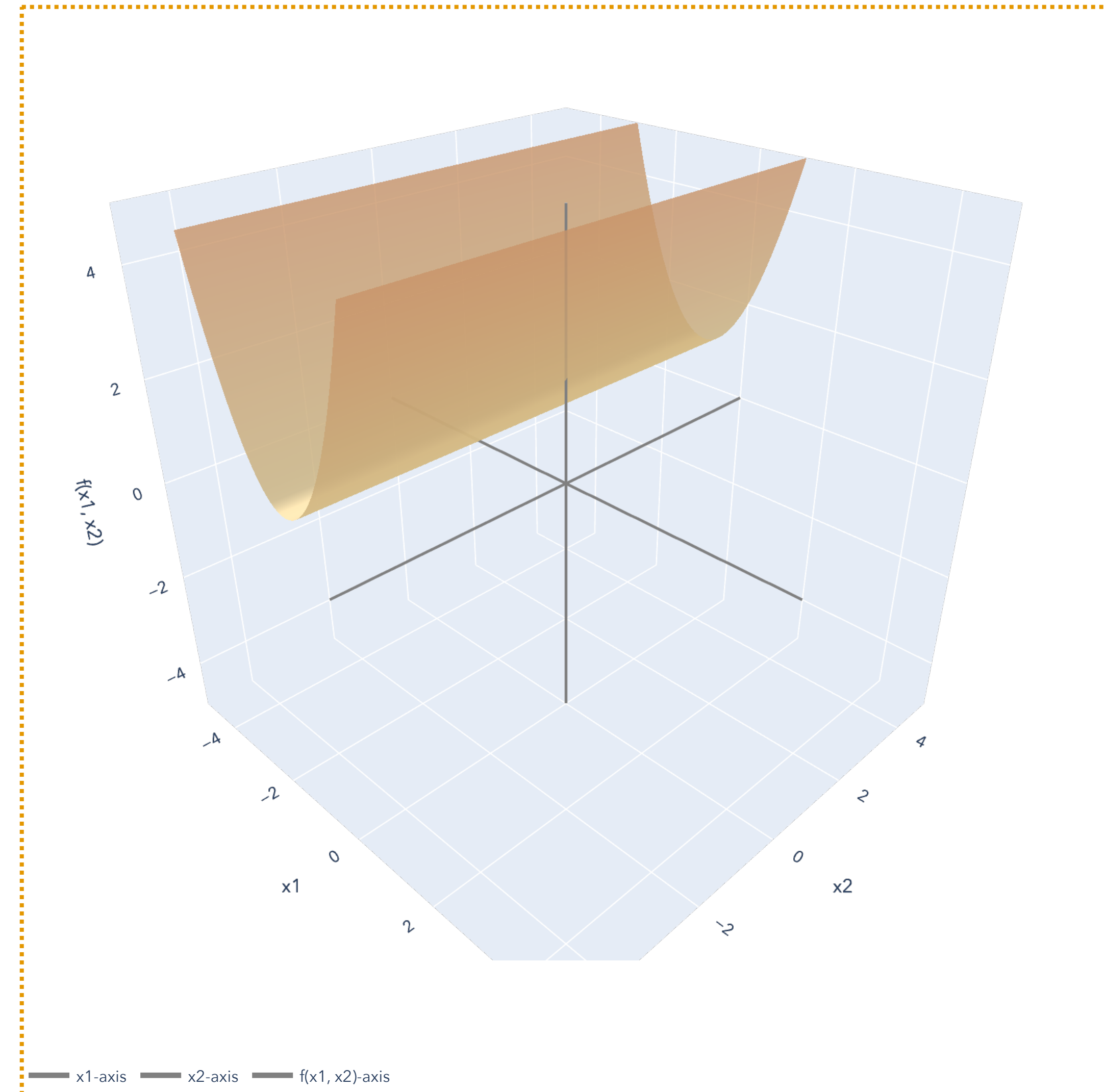
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# Least Squares Optimization Problem

Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $\hat{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  be the least squares minimizer:

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$$

*What if we consider this as an optimization problem instead?*

minimize  $\|\mathbf{X}\vec{\mathbf{w}} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$   
subject to  $\vec{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathbb{R}^d$   $\leftarrow$  No constraints.



# Least Squares Optimization Problem

Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $\hat{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  be the least squares minimizer:

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*What if we consider this as an optimization problem instead?*

$$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$$

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

for rows  $\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n$ .

# Motivation

## Optimization in calculus

In much of machine learning, we design algorithms for well-defined *optimization problems*.

In an optimization problem, we want to minimize an objective function  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with respect to a set of constraints  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{x}{\text{minimize}} & f(x) \\ \text{subject to} & x \in \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

# Least Squares

## Least Squares Objective

Before, we called this the squared error or sum of squared residuals...

$$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\boxed{f(\mathbf{w}) = \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2}$$

← OBJECTIVE  
& fixed given the data.

This is also the *objective function* of an optimization problem: the least squares objective.

# Least Squares

Least Squares Objective in  $\mathbb{R}$

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$d=1$ .

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 \implies f(w) = \|w\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$$

$\in \mathbb{R}^n$

# Least Squares

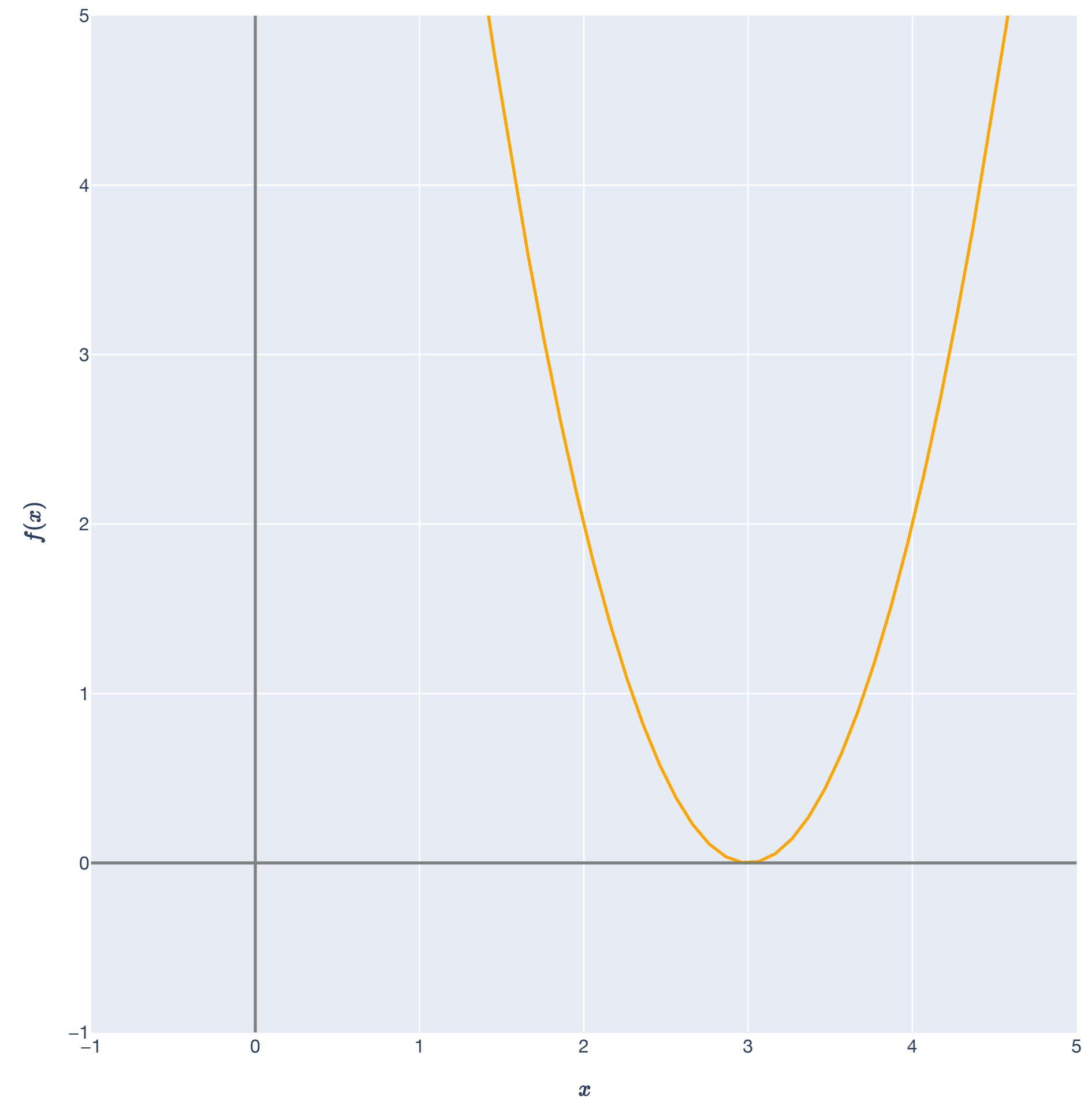
## Least Squares Objective in $\mathbb{R}$

Consider the dataset  $\mathbf{x} = (1, -1)$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (3, -3)$ , where  $n = 2, d = 1$ .

$$f(w) = \|w\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(w) = (w - 3)^2 + (3 - w)^2$$



# Least Squares

Least Squares Objective in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

$$f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$$

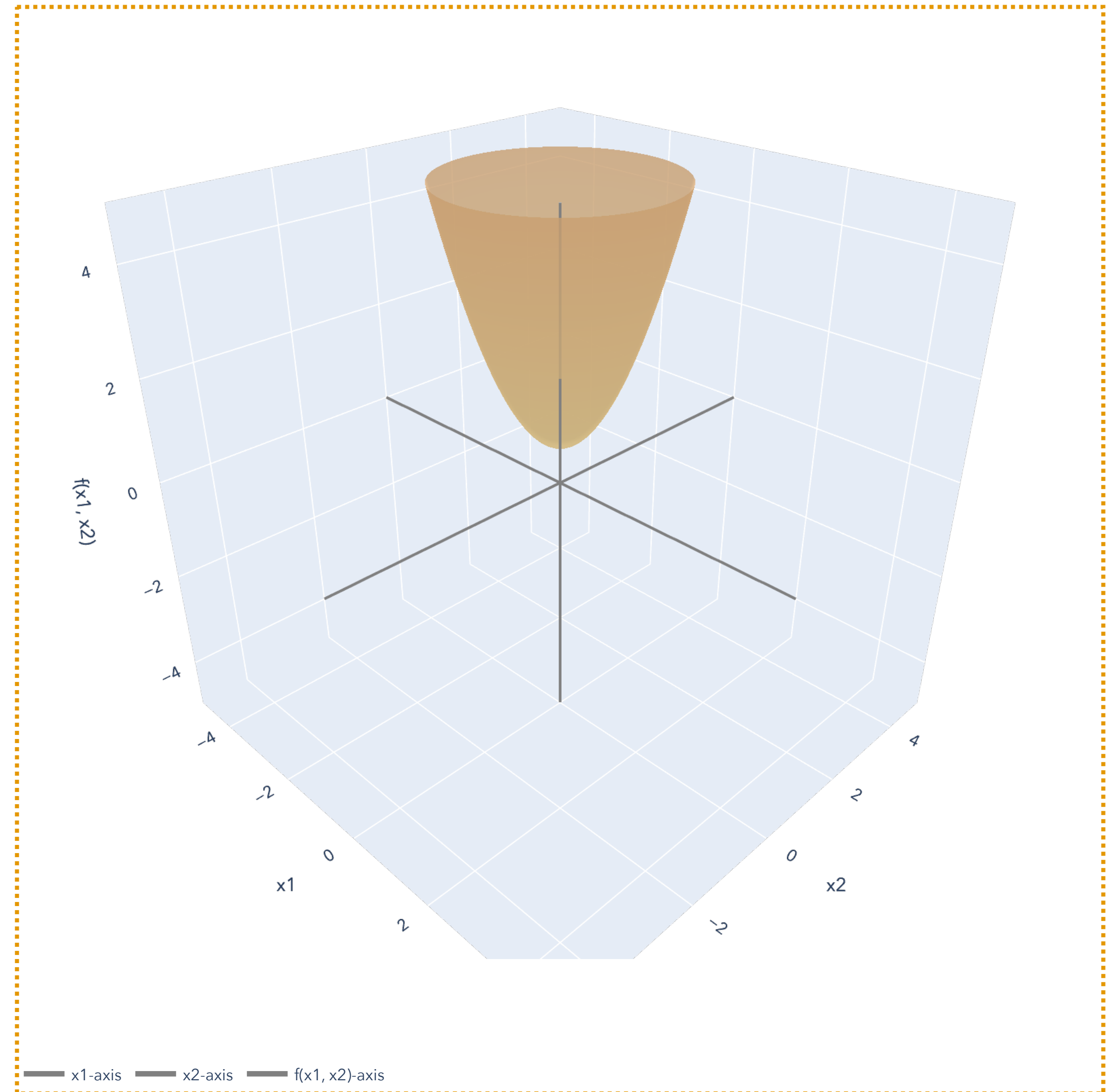


# Least Squares

Least Squares Objective in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

Consider the dataset  $\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  
where  $n = 2, d = 2$ .

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$$

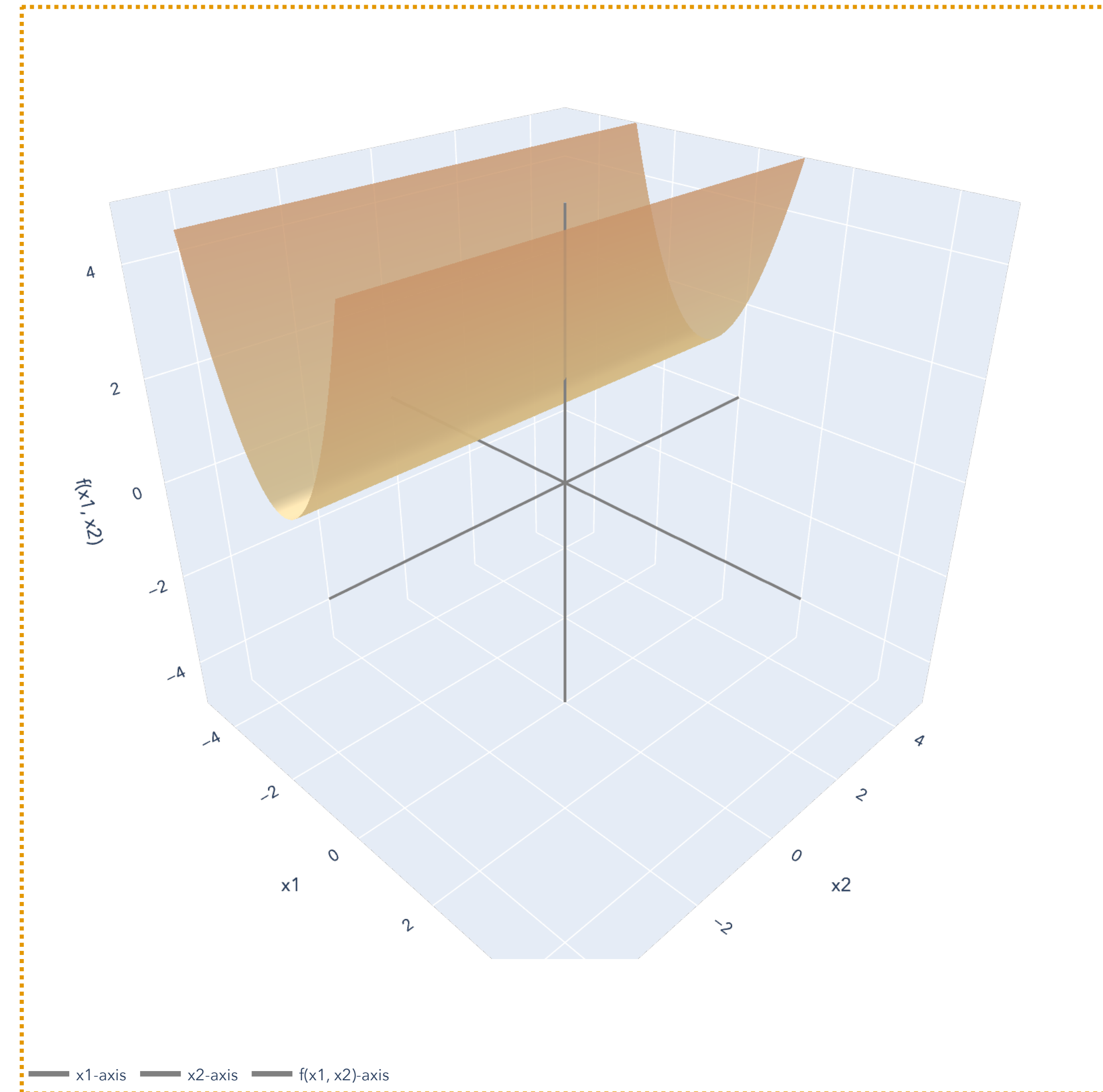


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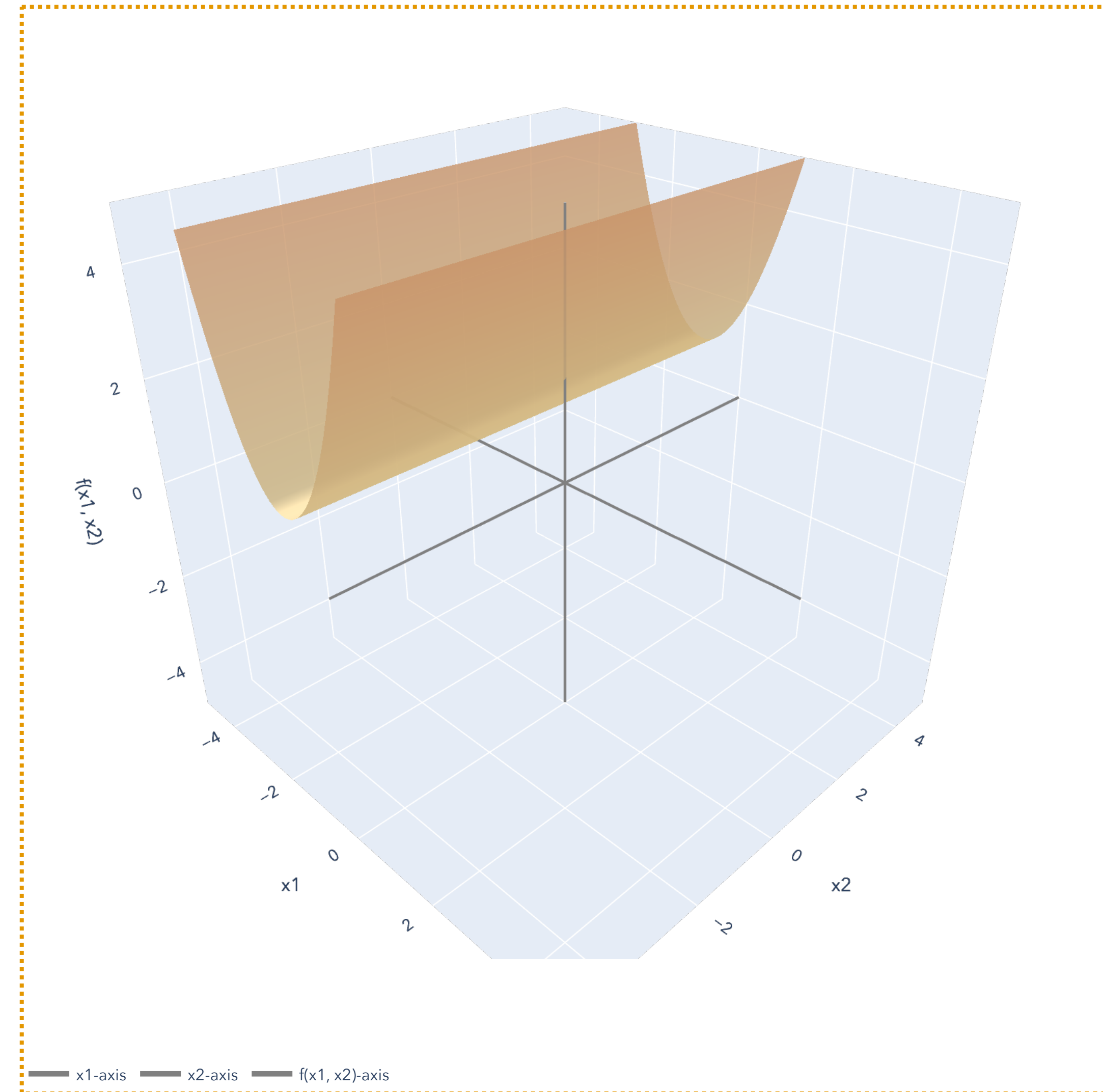
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# Least Squares

## OLS from Optimization

Theorem (Full rank and eigenvalues). Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  be a square matrix with all real eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = d \iff \lambda_i > 0 \text{ for all } i \in [d].$$

$\Updownarrow$   
There is no vector that gets mapped to  $\vec{0}$

$$\Updownarrow$$
$$\text{NS}(\mathbf{A}) = \{\vec{0}\} \iff \dim(\text{CS}(\mathbf{A})) = d.$$

# Least Squares

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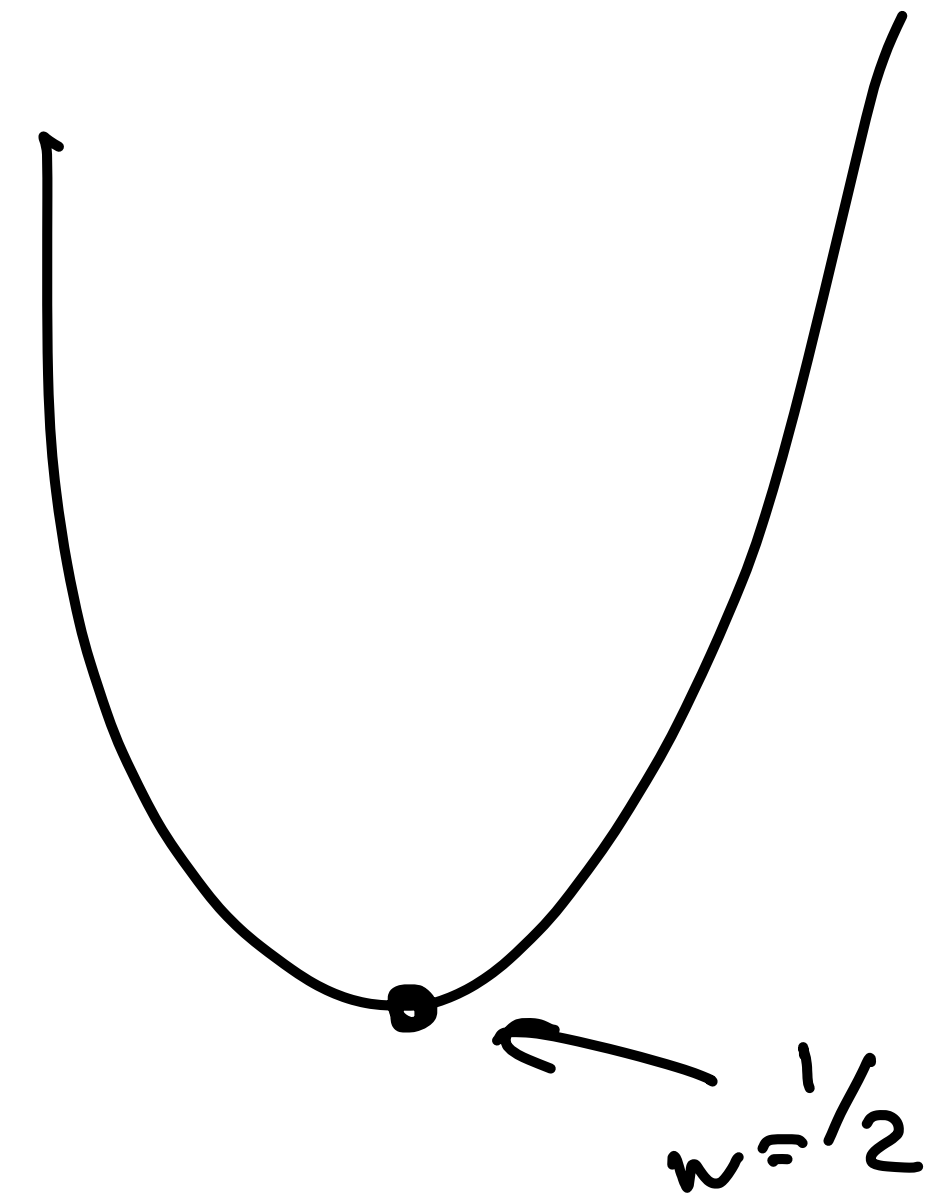
$$f(w) = 4w^2 - 4w + 1?$$

$$f'(w) = 8w - 4$$

$$0 = 8w - 4$$

$$\boxed{w = 1/2}$$

$$\underline{f''(w) = 8 > 0}$$



# Least Squares

Review: How did we optimize in 1D?

Recall from single variable calculus: how did we optimize a function like:

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# Least Squares

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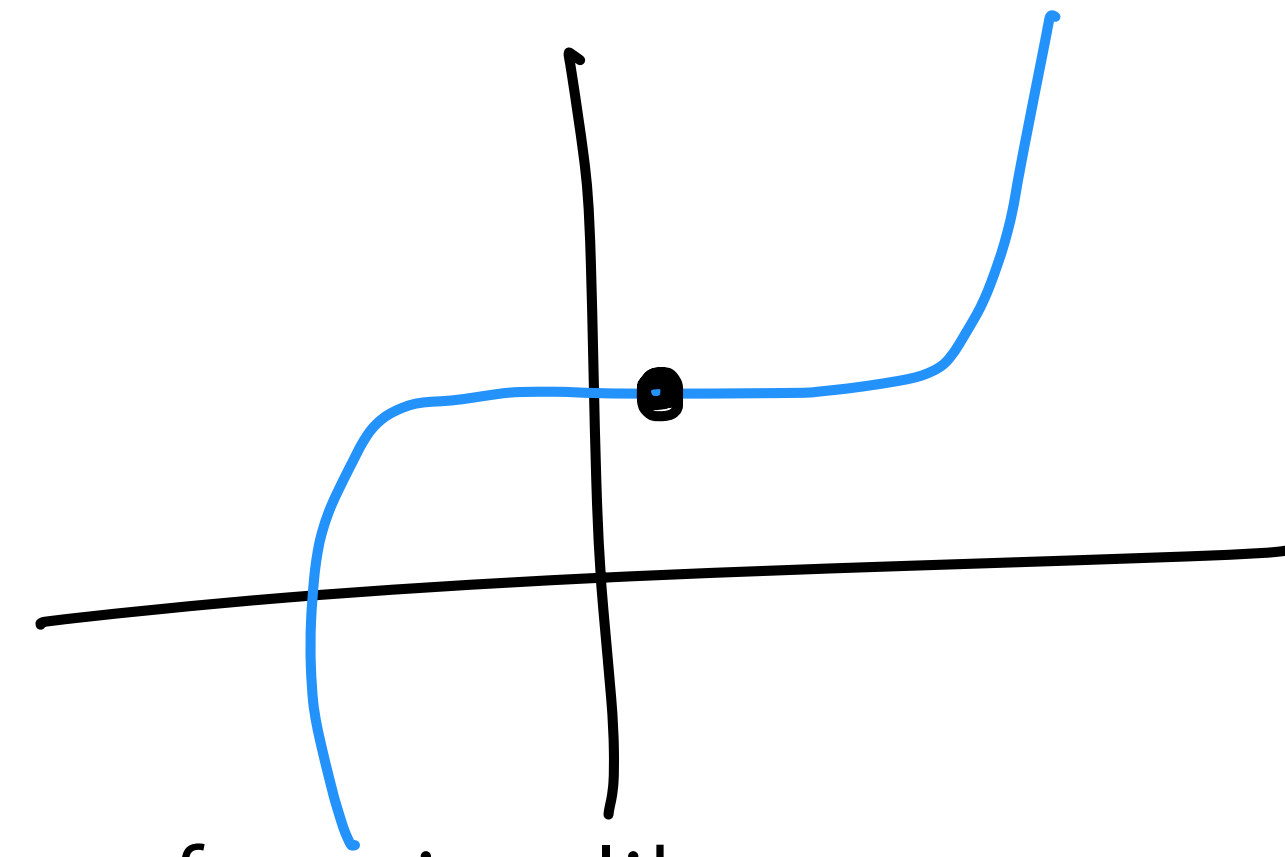
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First derivative test. Take derivative  $f'(w)$  and set equal to 0 to find candidates for optima,  $\hat{w}$ .

Second derivative test. Check  $f''(\hat{w}) > 0$  for minimum; check  $f''(\hat{w}) < 0$  for maximum.

# Least Squares (Calculus Proof)

Step 1: Expand the squared norm

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$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{w}) &= \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 \\ &= (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y})^\top (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}) \\ &= \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} \end{aligned}$$

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# Quadratic Forms

## Review

A function  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a quadratic form if it is a polynomial with terms of all degree two:

$$f(x) = ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2.$$

We can rewrite this in matrix form:

$$f(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$$

# Least Squares

## Step 2: Recognize quadratic form

Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Consider the function  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2.$$

Expand the squared norm:

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

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This is a quadratic function, with the leading quadratic form:

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$$(\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x})^\top = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x}$$

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# Positive Semidefinite (PSD) Matrices

## Review

A square matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  is positive semidefinite (PSD) if...

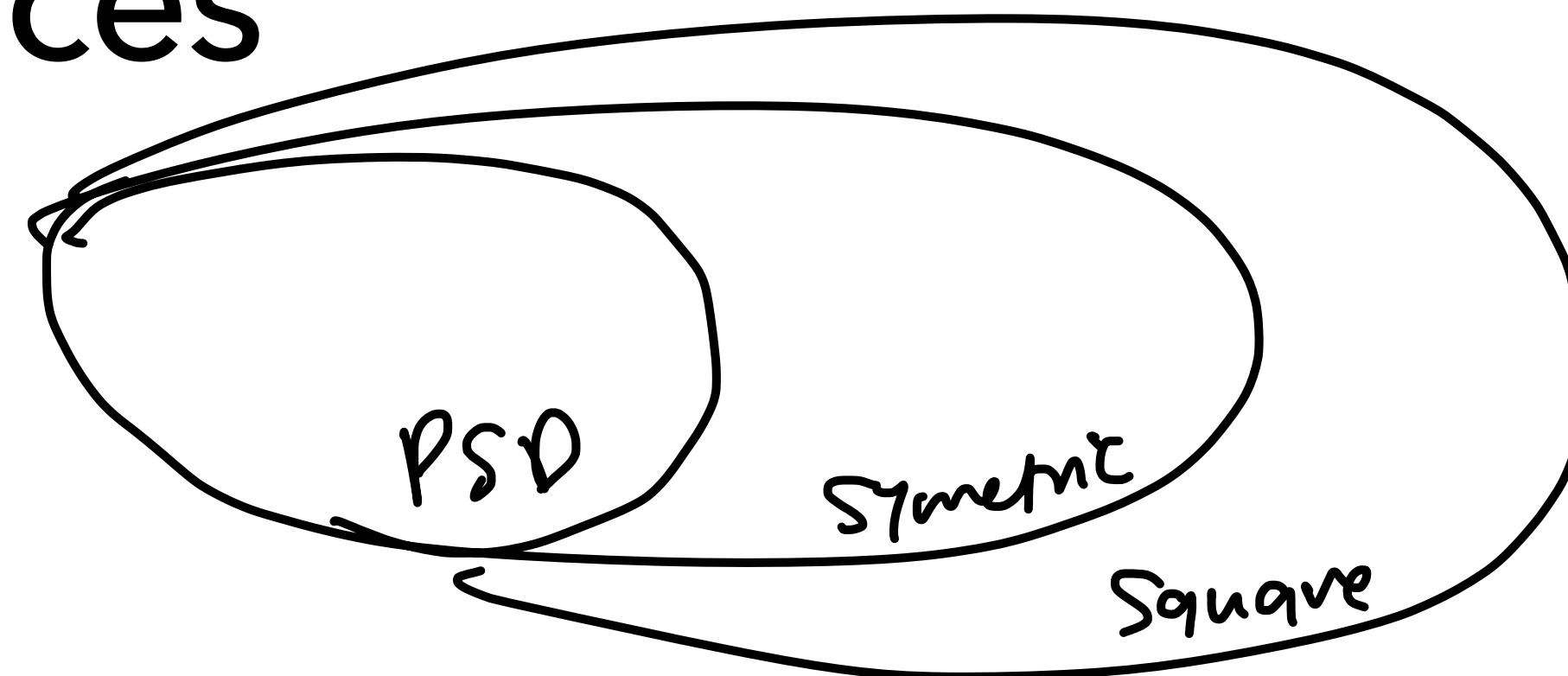
there exists  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  such that  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ .



all eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$  are nonnegative:  $\lambda_1 \geq 0, \dots, \lambda_d \geq 0$ .



$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \geq 0$  for any  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .



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## Step 2: Recognize quadratic form

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This is a quadratic function, with the leading quadratic form:

$$\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}$$

*We know that this is positive semidefinite.*



# Least Squares

## Step 2: Recognize quadratic form

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This is a quadratic function, with the leading quadratic form:

$$\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}$$

*Even better:  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = d$ , so  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}) = d$  and therefore  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d > 0$  and  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}$  is positive definite!*

*From assumption.*

# “Matrix Calculus”

Useful identities in machine learning

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{a}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^\top) \mathbf{x}$$

More in [The Matrix Cookbook](#).

# Least Squares

Step 3: Take first derivative (gradient)  $\longrightarrow$   $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   
scalar-valued

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

# Least Squares

Step 3: Take first derivative (gradient)

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“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

# Least Squares

Step 3: Take first derivative (gradient)

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}) - \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}) + \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} \text{ (sum rule)}$$

# Least Squares

Step 3: Take first derivative (gradient)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} x^2 = 2x$$

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}) - \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}) + \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} \text{ (sum rule)}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} \text{ because } \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^\top)\mathbf{x}$$

# Least Squares

Step 3: Take first derivative (gradient)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w} - 2bw = -2b$$

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

"First derivative test." Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}) - \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}) + \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} \text{ (sum rule)}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}) \mathbf{w} \text{ because } \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^\top) \mathbf{x}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}) = 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} \text{ because } \frac{\partial \mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$$

↑  
just a  
vector

# Least Squares

Step 3: Take first derivative (gradient)

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}) - \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}) + \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} \text{ (sum rule)}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} \text{ because } \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^\top)\mathbf{x}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}) = 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} \text{ because } \frac{\partial \mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} = 0 \implies \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$



# Least Squares

Step 3: Take first derivative (gradient)

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w}) - \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}) + \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} \text{ (sum rule)}$$

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$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} (2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}) = 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} \text{ because } \frac{\partial \mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} = 0 \implies \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

# Least Squares

## OLS from Optimization

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

Set it equal to  $\mathbf{0}$ .

$$2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0} \implies \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

We have again obtained the normal equations!

Solve the same way:

$$\boxed{\mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}}$$

# Least Squares

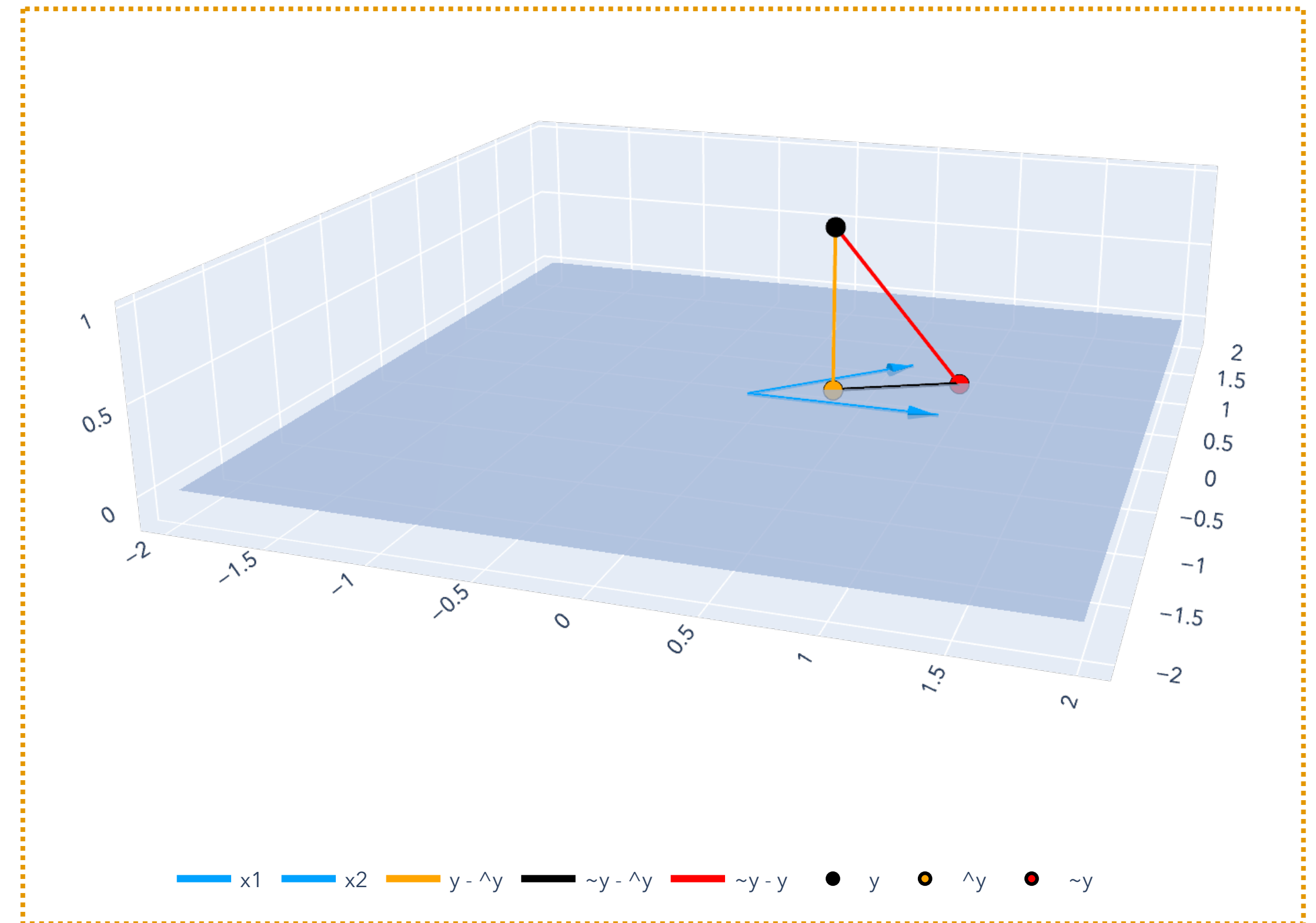
## Obtaining normal equations from linear algebra

Because  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y}$  is perpendicular to  $\text{CS}(\mathbf{X})$ , we obtain the *normal equations*:

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \hat{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}.$$

$$\mathbf{X}^T (\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y}) = \vec{0}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{X}^T (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}) = \vec{0}$$



# Least Squares

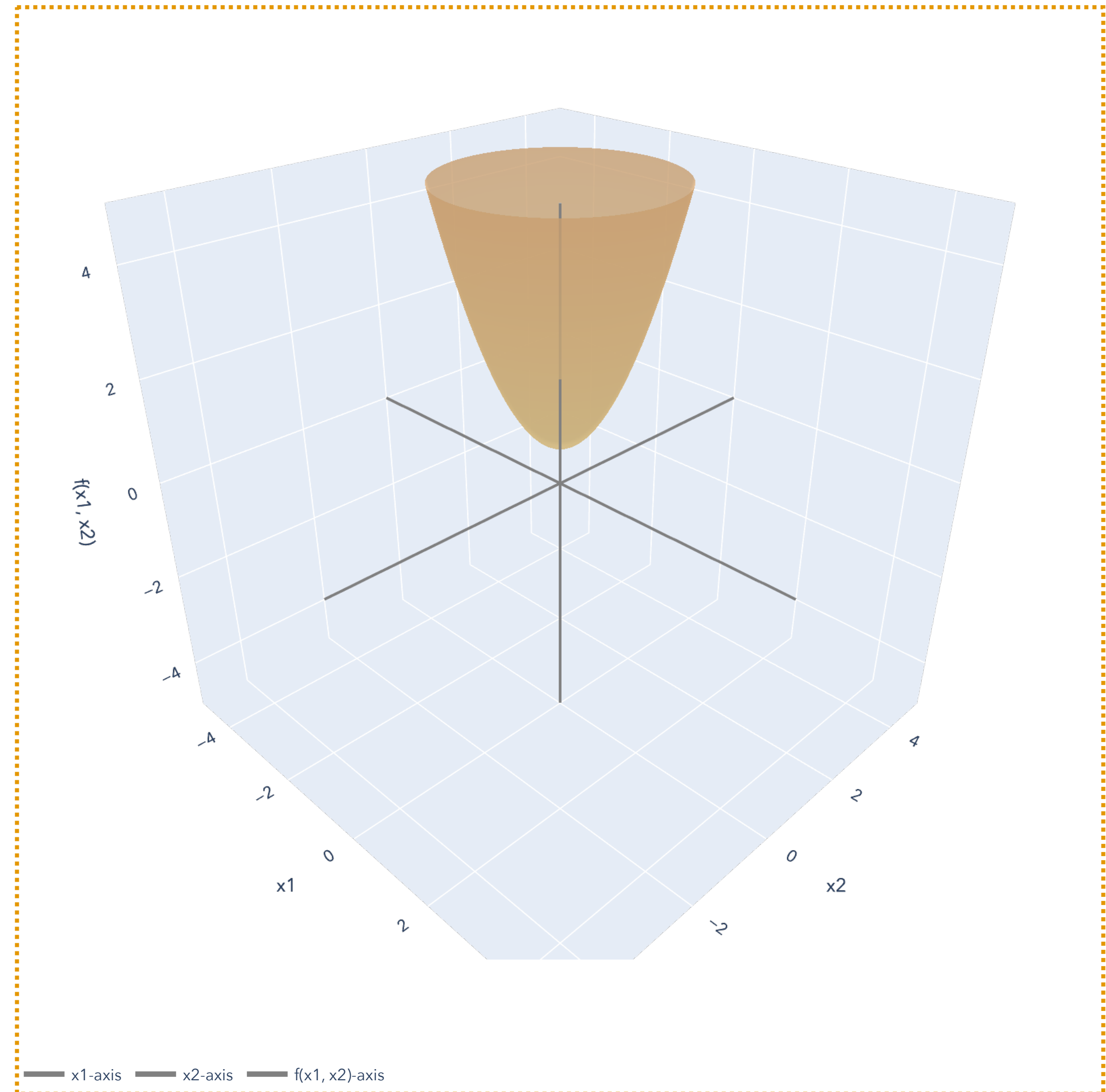
## Obtaining normal equations from optimization

Because the gradient is

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y},$$

setting it equal to  $\mathbf{0}$ , we obtain the *normal equations*:

$$\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \hat{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$



# Least Squares

Step 4: Solve the normal equations using PD matrix

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

Set it equal to **0**.

# Least Squares

Step 4: Solve the normal equations using PD matrix

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

Set it equal to  $\mathbf{0}$ .

$$2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0} \implies \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

# Least Squares

Step 4: Solve the normal equations using PD matrix

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

Set it equal to  $\mathbf{0}$ .

$$2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0} \implies \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

Because  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = d$ , we know  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}) = d$  and  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}$  is invertible. Solve the normal equations to get a *candidate* for the minimizer:

# Least Squares

Step 4: Solve the normal equations using PD matrix

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

Set it equal to  $\mathbf{0}$ .

$$2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0} \implies \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

Because  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = d$ , we know  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}) = d$  and  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}$  is invertible. Solve the normal equations to get a *candidate* for the minimizer:

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$



# Least Squares

Step 4: Solve the normal equations using PD matrix

$$f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

“First derivative test.” Take the gradient.

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = 2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

Set it equal to  $\mathbf{0}$ .

$$2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0} \implies \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

Because  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = d$ , we know  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}) = d$  and  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}$  is invertible. Solve the normal equations to get a *candidate* for the minimizer:

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

# Least Squares

Step 5: Take second derivative (Hessian)

Objective:  $f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y}$

Gradient:  $\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} f(\mathbf{w}) = \underbrace{2(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})\mathbf{w} - 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}}_{\text{blue arrow from } \mathbf{y} \text{ to } \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}}$  ○

Candidate minimizer:  $\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$

"Second derivative test." Take the Hessian of  $f(\mathbf{w})$ .

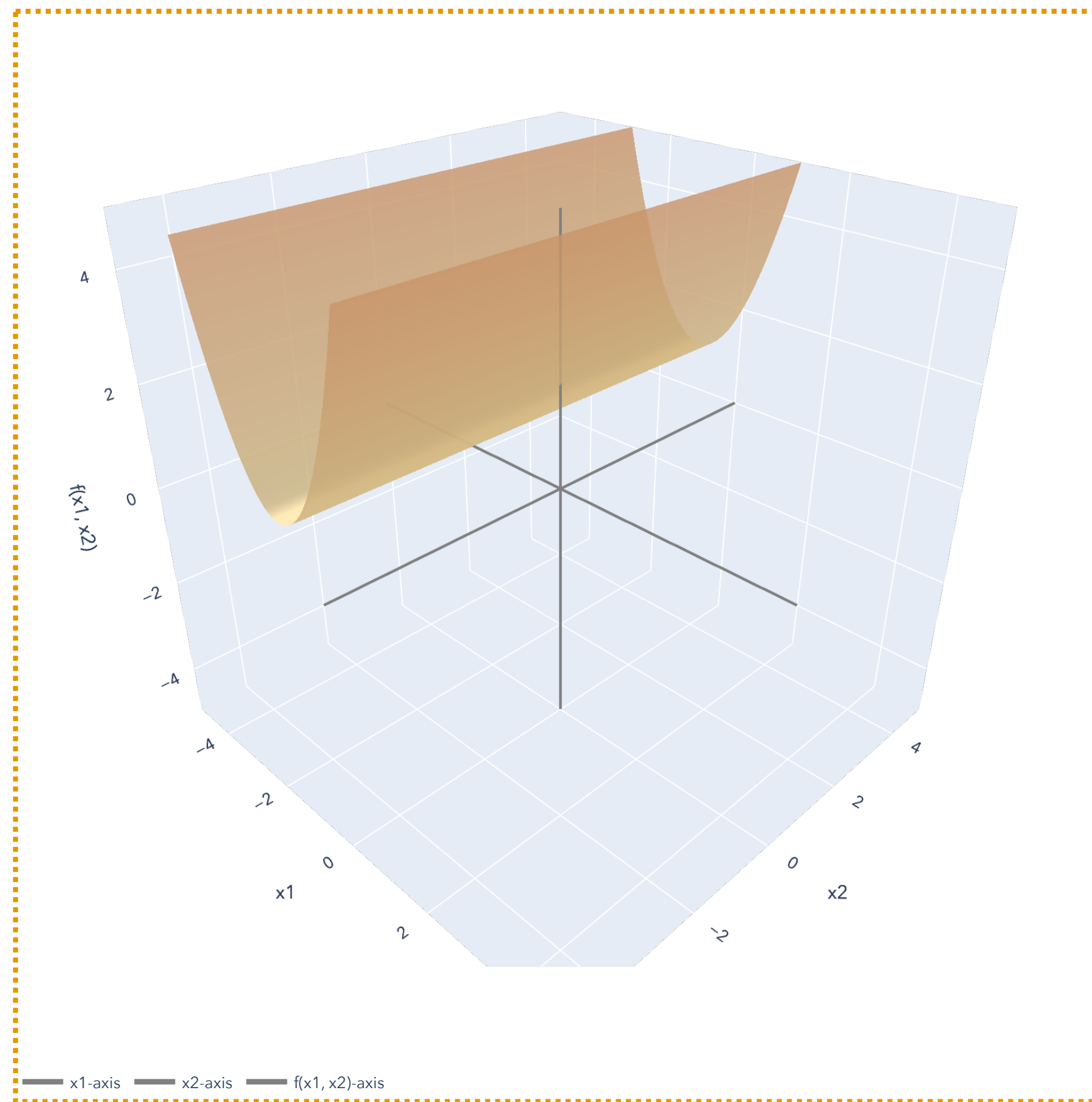
$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}}^2 f(\mathbf{w}) = 2\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}.$$

$$\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = d \implies \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}) = d \implies \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d > 0$$

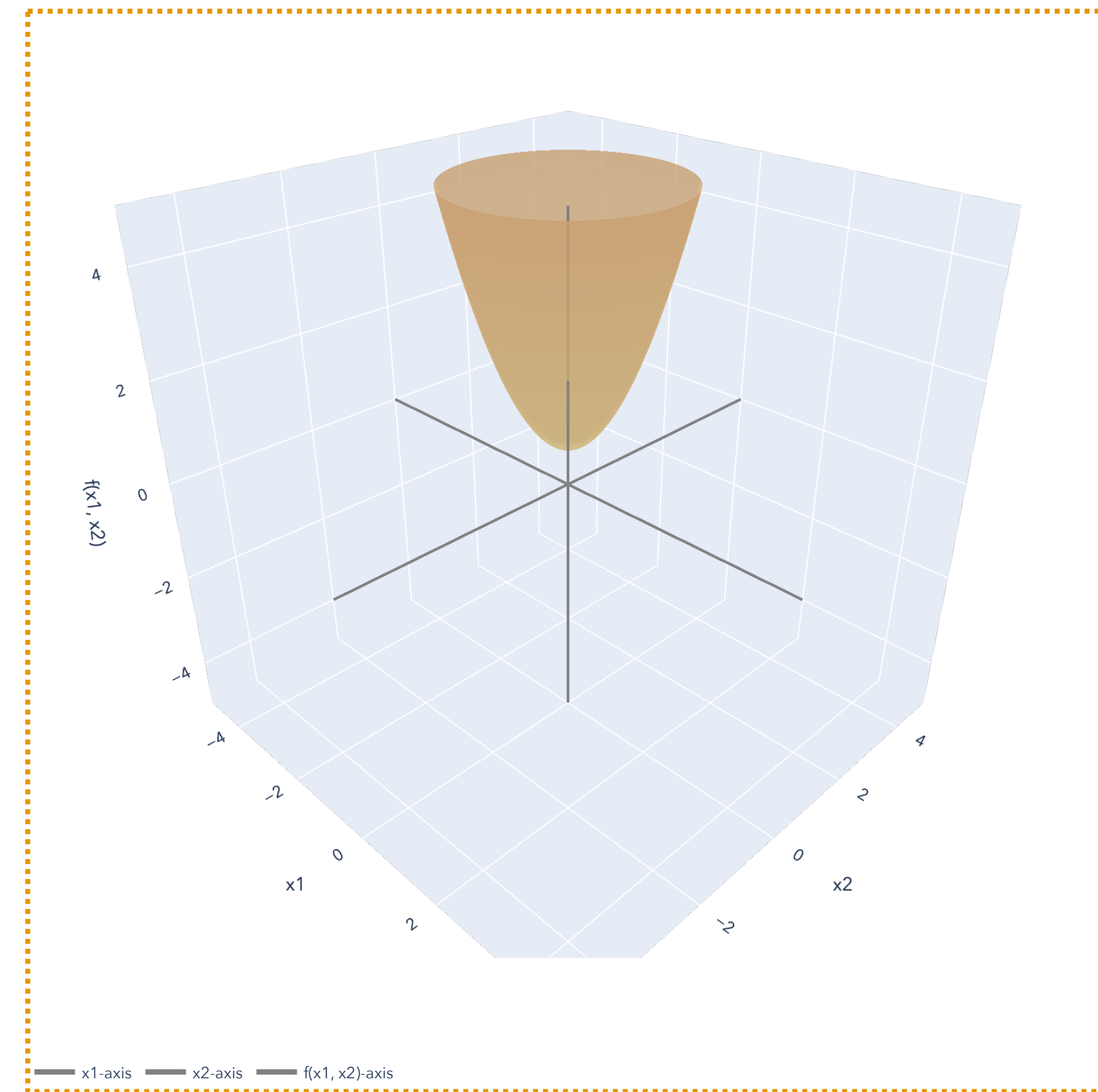
$$\implies \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \text{ is positive definite!}$$

# PSD and PD Quadratic Forms

"Proof by graph"



$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d \geq 0$$



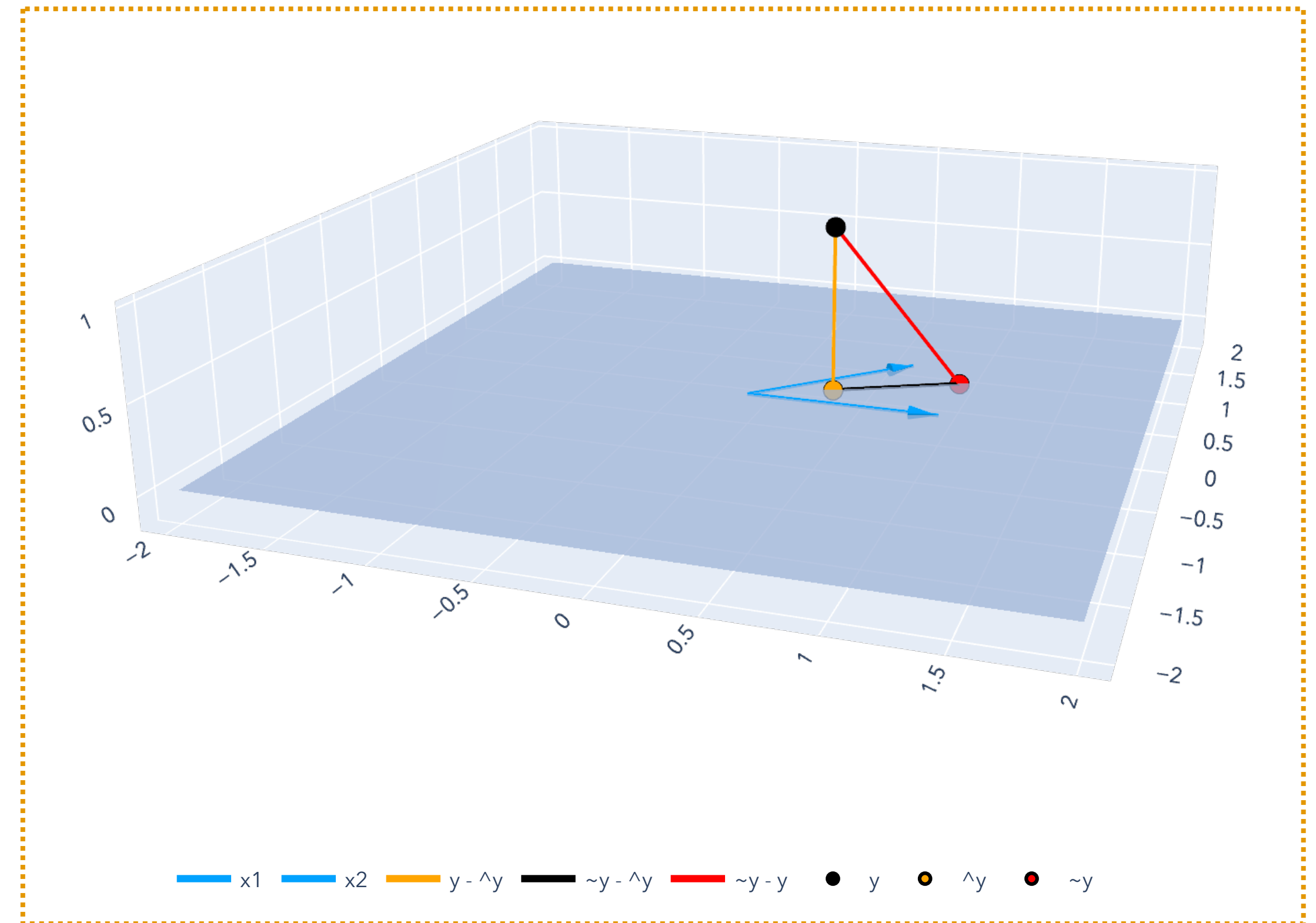
$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d > 0$$

# Least Squares

Showing  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$  is the minimizer from linear algebra

By Pythagorean Theorem, any other vector  $\tilde{\mathbf{y}} \in \text{CS}(\mathbf{X})$  gives a larger error:

$$\|\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 \leq \|\tilde{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y}\|^2.$$



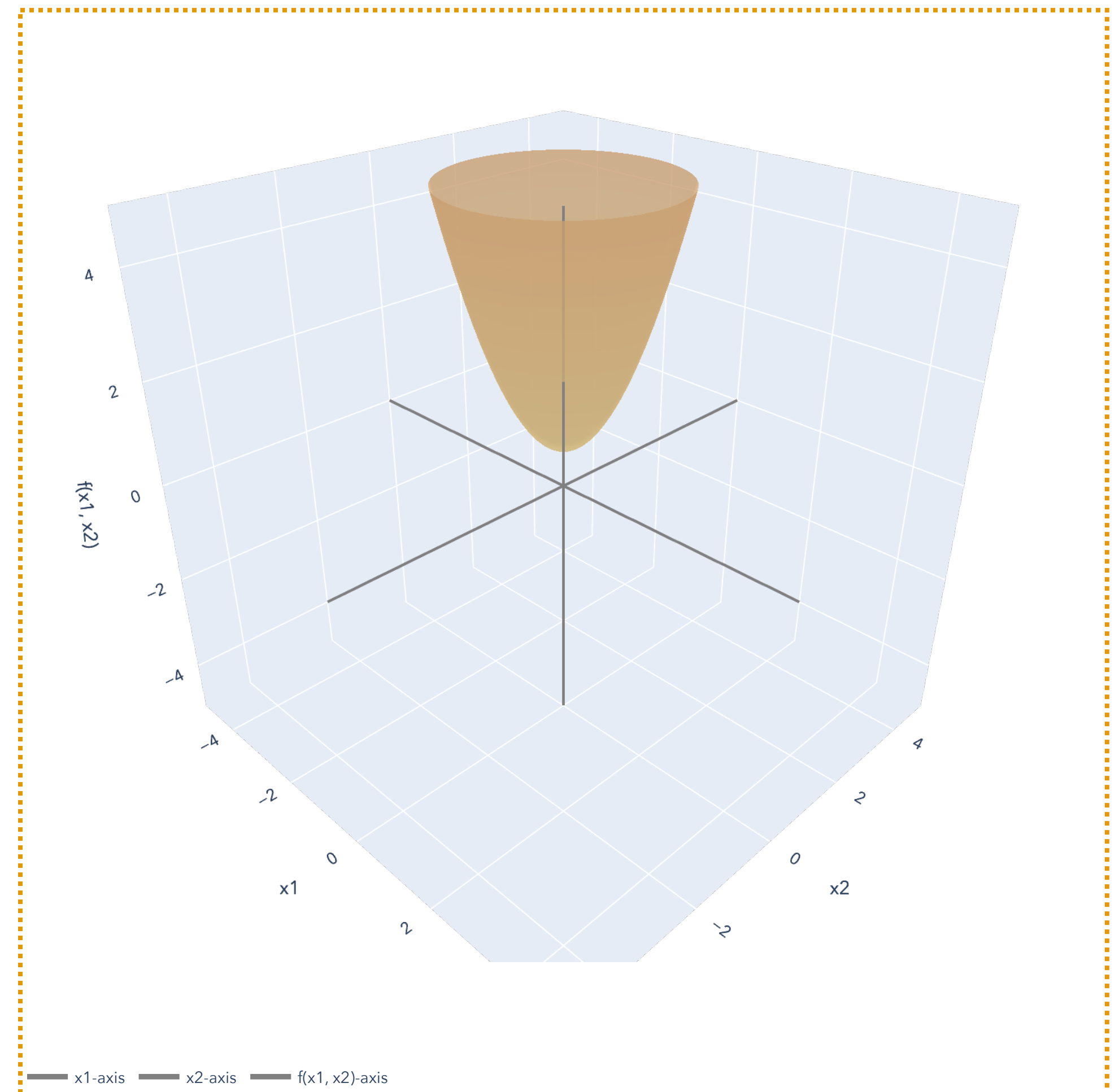
# Least Squares

Showing  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$  is the minimizer from optimization

Because the Hessian of  $f(\mathbf{w})$  is

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}}^2 f(\mathbf{w}) = 2\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X},$$

and we assumed  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = d$ , the matrix  $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$  must be positive definite, and  $f(\mathbf{w})$  therefore has a “positive” second derivative (Hessian).



# Least Squares

## OLS Theorem

Theorem (Ordinary Least Squares). Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $\hat{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  be the least squares minimizer:

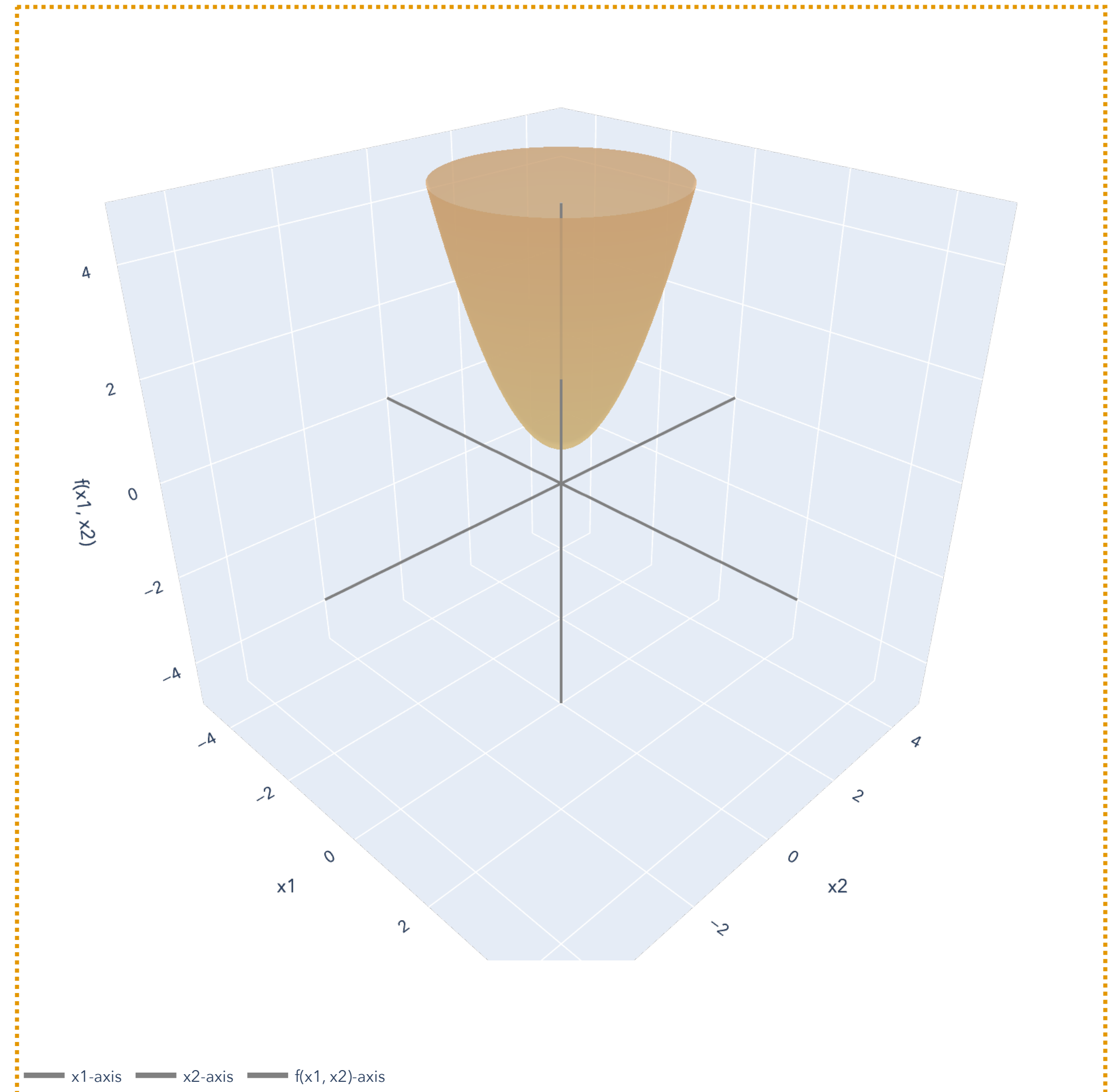
$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$$

If  $n \geq d$  and  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = d$ , then:

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

To get predictions  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{X}\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$



# Gradient Descent

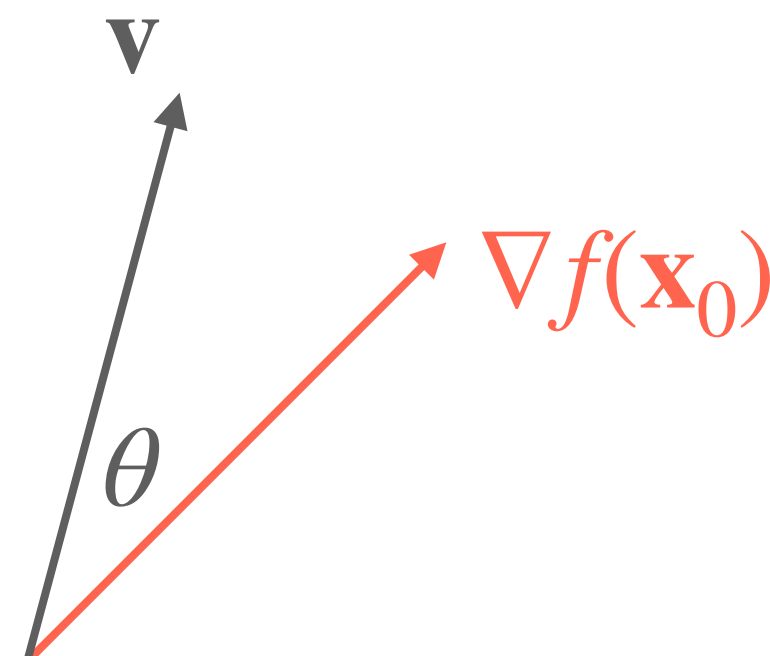
Preview of the Algorithm

# Multivariable Differentiation

## Gradient as direction of steepest ascent

Theorem (Gradient and direction of steepest ascent). Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable at  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . If  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is a *unit* vector making angle  $\theta$  with the gradient  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)$ , then:

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)^\top \mathbf{v} = \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)\| \cos \theta.$$



Gradient is the direction of *steepest ascent* at the rate  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)\|$ !

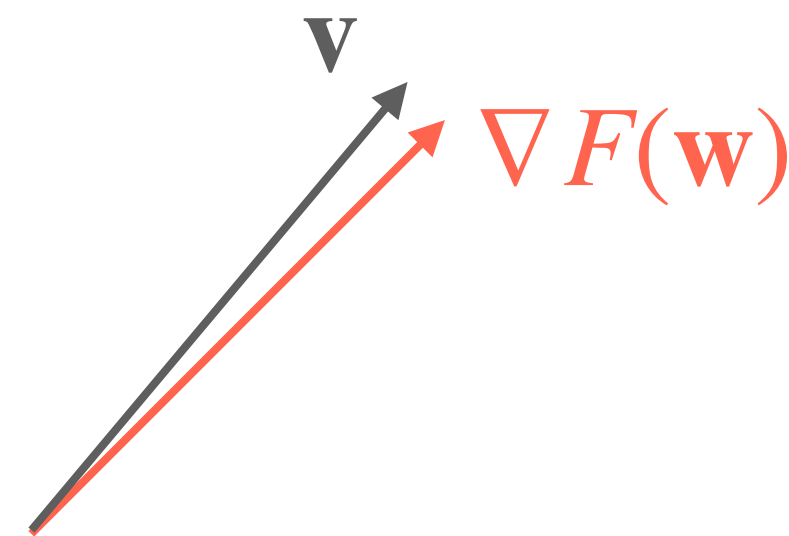


# Multivariable Differentiation

## Gradient as direction of steepest ascent

Theorem (Gradient and direction of steepest ascent). Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable at  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . If  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is a *unit* vector making angle  $\theta$  with the gradient  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)$ , then:

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)^\top \mathbf{v} = \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)\| \cos \theta.$$



Gradient is the direction of *steepest ascent* at the rate  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_0)\|$ !

# Gradient Descent

## Algorithm

Input: Function  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Initial point  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Step size  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Initialize at a randomly chosen  $\mathbf{x}^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

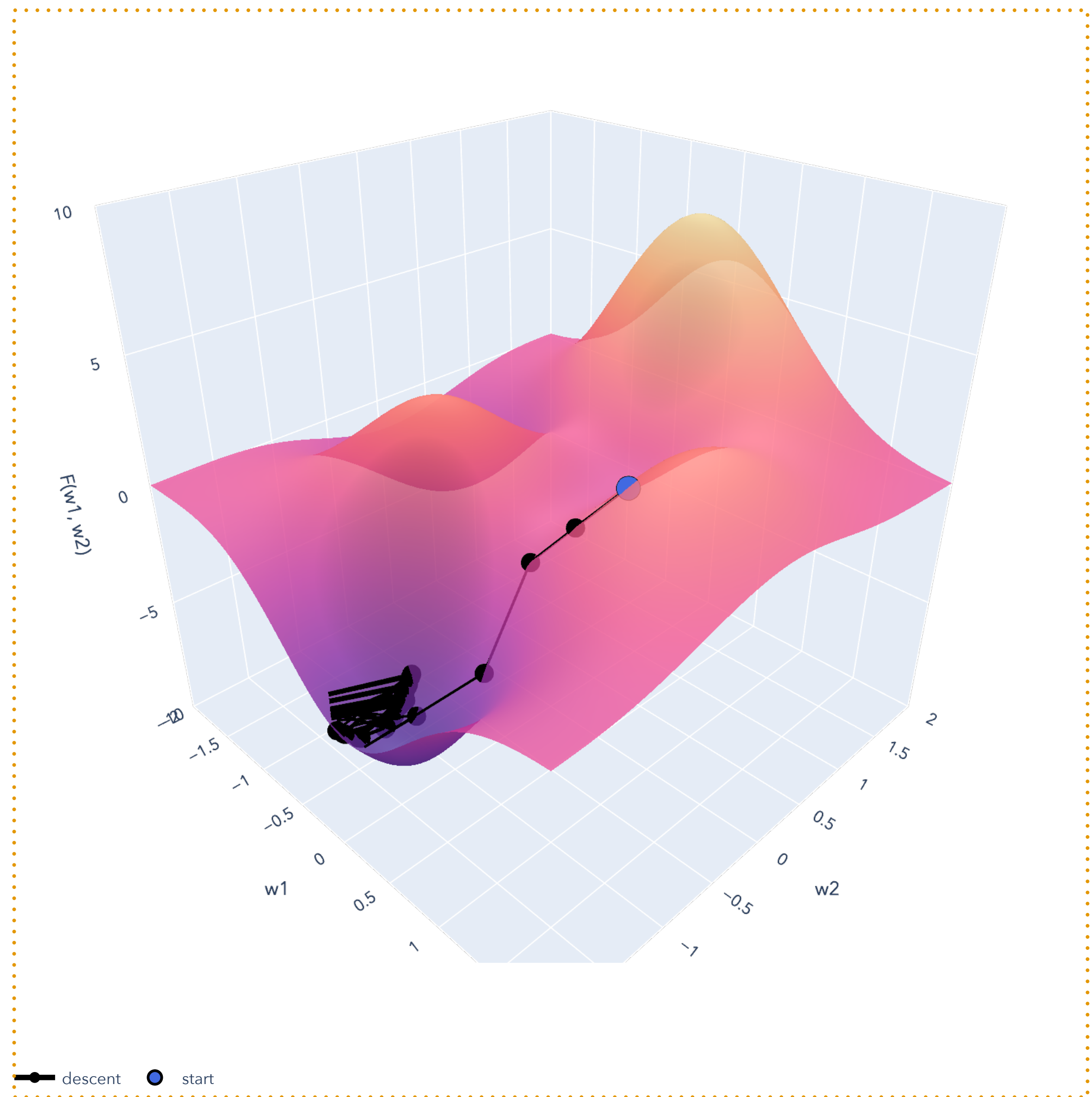
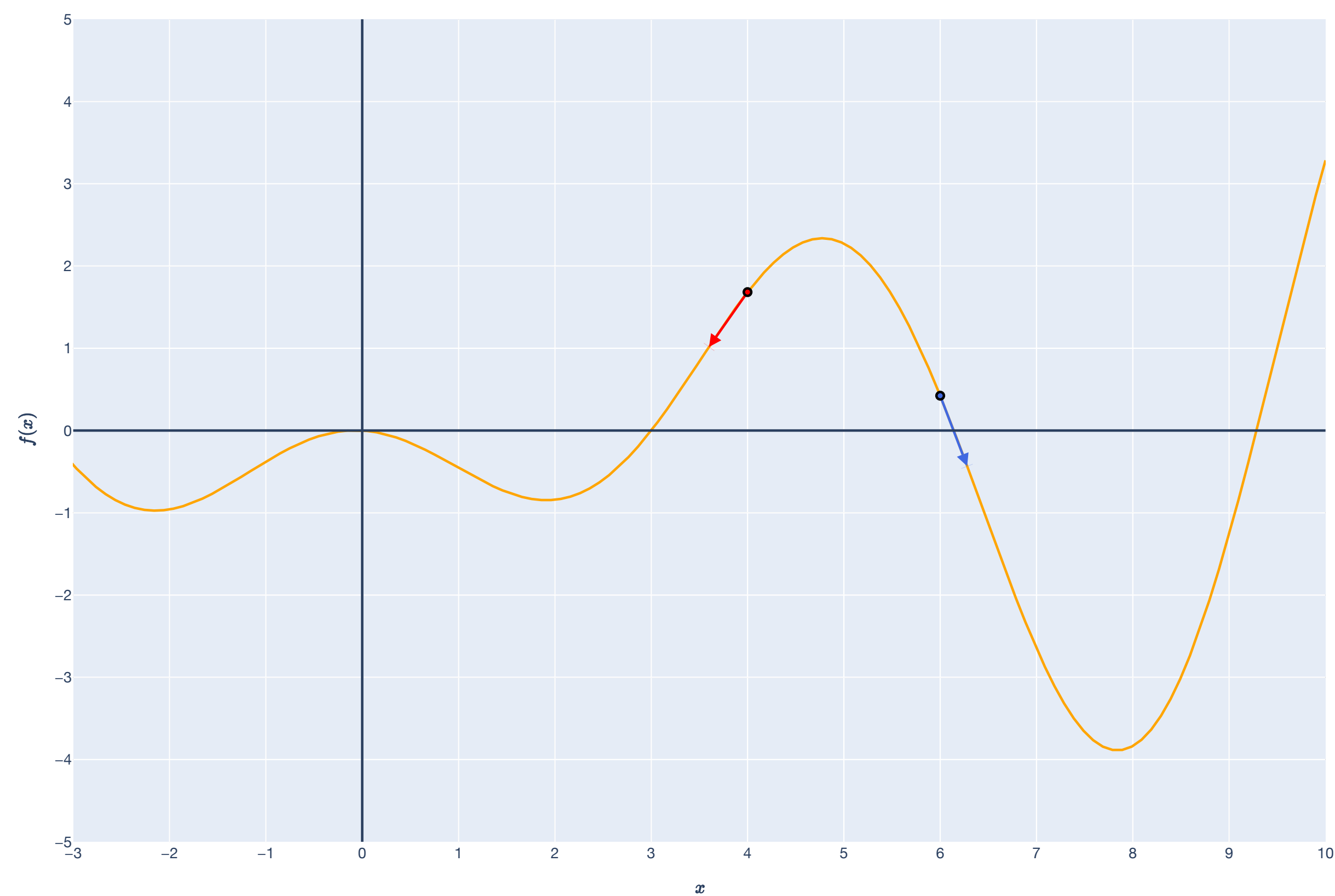
For iteration  $t = 1, 2, \dots$  (until "stopping condition" satisfied):

$$\mathbf{x}^{(t)} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^{(t-1)} - \eta \nabla F(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)})$$

Return final  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$ .

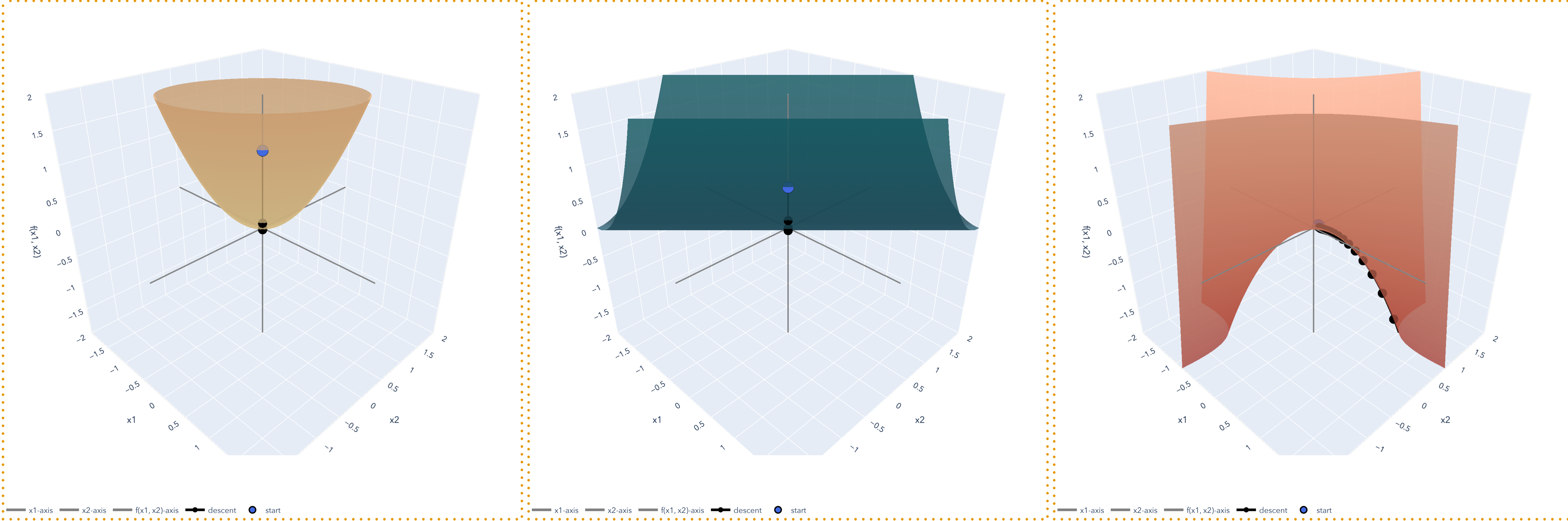
# Gradient Descent

## Preview



# Lesson Overview

## Preview



Recap

# Lesson Overview

**Motivation for differential calculus.** We ultimately want to solve *optimization problems*, which require finding *global minima*.

**Single-variable differentiation review.** In single-variable differentiation, the derivative is still a  $1 \times 1$  “matrix” mapping change in input to change in output.

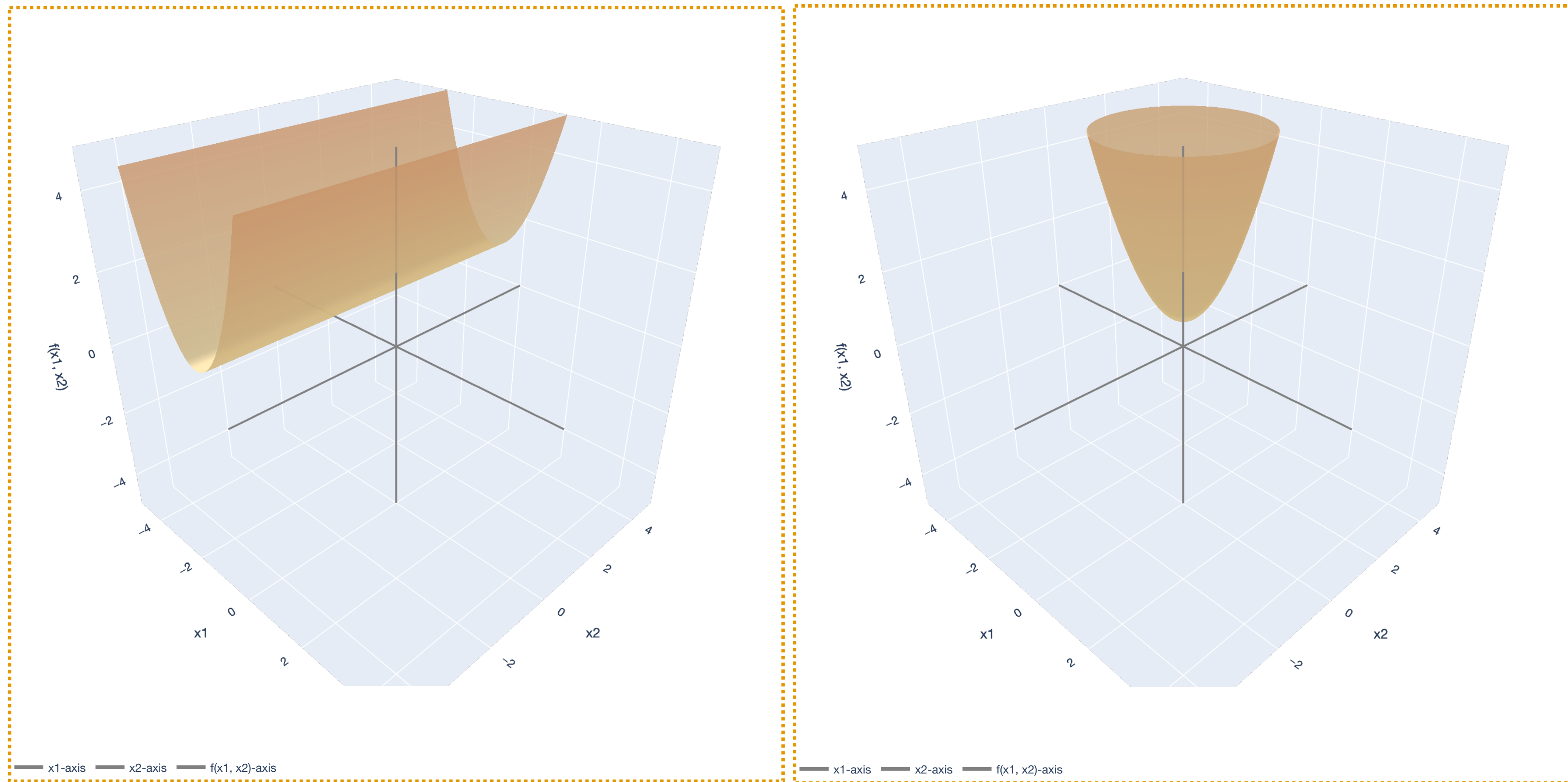
**Multivariable differentiation.** Derivatives in multiple variables become harder because we can approach from an infinite number of directions, not just two.

**Total, directional, and partial derivatives.** When a function is smooth it has a total derivative (it is differentiable). In this case, the directional derivative and partial derivative comes directly from the total derivative (Jacobian/gradient).

**OLS: Optimization Perspective.** We can solve OLS using differential calculus instead of linear algebra. We provide a heuristic derivation of the OLS estimator again.

# Lesson Overview

## Big Picture: Least Squares



$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d \geq 0$$

$$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d > 0$$



# Lesson Overview

## Big Picture: Gradient Descent

