

## Experimental Techniques

Last time:

- > Rejection of data
- > Weighted Averages
- > Least Squares

Today:

- > Ch.9
  - > Finish least squares
  - > correlation and covariance

What is the purpose?

$$y = A + Bx$$

fit this to data

intercept      slope

↓                      ↓

1. We want to estimate the coefficients A and B
2. Another important determination is whether the data  $(x_i, y_i)$  really are linear — “how well does the data fit our model?” (Ch.9)

How to estimate A and B?

$$(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N)$$

assume y suffer appreciable uncertainty, the uncertainty in our measurements of x is negligible.

let's use ML. first proceed as if we know A and B:

$$\text{(true value for } y_i) = A + Bx_i \quad \text{Prob}_{A,B}(y_i) \propto \frac{1}{\sigma_y} e^{-(y_i - A - Bx_i)^2 / 2\sigma_y^2}$$

$$\left[ \begin{aligned} \text{Prob}_{A,B}(y_1, \dots, y_N) &= \text{Prob}_{A,B}(y_1) \cdots \text{Prob}_{A,B}(y_N) \\ &\propto \frac{1}{\sigma_y^N} e^{-\chi^2/2}, \end{aligned} \right.$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - A - Bx_i)^2}{\sigma_y^2}$$

Best estimates of A and B maximize the probability, which corresponds to minimizing the  $\chi^2$  term (hence least squares)

minimize  $\chi^2$   
maximize  $\text{Prob}(y_1 \dots y_N)$

How to estimate A and B?

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - A - Bx_i)^2}{\sigma_y^2}$$

How to find an expression for the minimum?

$$\frac{\partial \chi^2}{\partial A} = 0 \rightarrow \frac{-2}{\sigma_y^2} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - A - Bx_i) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \chi^2}{\partial B} = 0 \rightarrow \frac{-2}{\sigma_y^2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i (y_i - A - Bx_i)$$

Solve for B & A

How to estimate A and B?

$$A = \frac{\sum x^2 \sum y - \sum x \sum xy}{\Delta}$$

$$\Delta = N \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2$$

$$B = \frac{N \sum xy - \sum x \sum y}{\Delta}$$

# How to estimate uncertainty in $y$ ?

Remember that the numbers  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_N$  are not  $N$  measurements of the same quantity. (They might, for instance, be the times for a stone to fall from  $N$  different heights.)

The measurement of each  $y_i$  is (we are assuming) normally distributed about its true value  $\underline{A + Bx_i}$ , with width parameter  $\sigma_y$ .

$$\sigma_y = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum (y_i - A - Bx_i)^2}$$

# How to estimate uncertainty in A and B?

The uncertainties in A and B are given by simple error propagation in terms of those in  $y_1 \dots y_N$

$$\sigma_A = \sigma_y \sqrt{\frac{\sum x^2}{\Delta}}$$

$$\sigma_B = \sigma_y \sqrt{\frac{N}{A}}$$

# Some caveats

1. What if the uncertainty of  $y$  is not equal for all measurements?

we can use the method of weighted least squares,  
(ex. in Prob. 8.9)

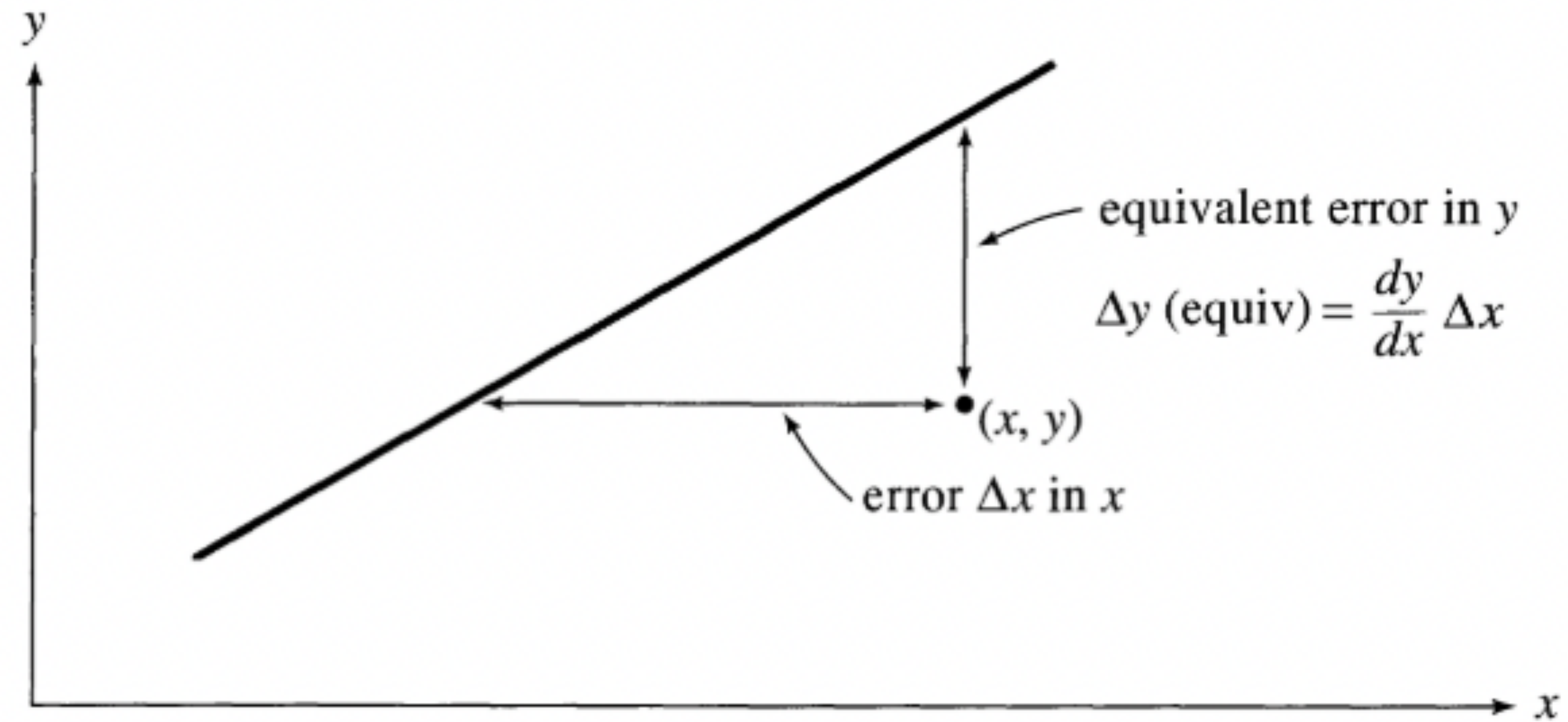
2. What if both  $x$  and  $y$  have uncertainties

actually doesn't make a big difference



# What if both $x$ and $y$ have uncertainties

Assume error in  $x$  only



$$\sigma_y(\text{equiv}) = \frac{dy}{dx} \sigma_x$$

$$\sigma_y(\text{equiv}) = B\sigma_x$$

if all the uncertainties  $\sigma_x$ , are equal, the same is true of the equivalent uncertainties  $\sigma_y(\text{equiv})$ .

# What if both $x$ and $y$ have uncertainties

Now for the case that both  $x$  and  $y$  have uncertainties.

$$\sigma_y(\text{equiv}) = \sqrt{\sigma_y^2 + (B\sigma_x)^2} \quad \checkmark$$

If both  $x$  and  $y$  have uncertainties, we can combine in quadrature and replace with a single uncertainty

The most complicated case is when each measurement  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  have their own uncertainties, then we need to use the equivalence and a weighted least squares

We can use least squares to fit nonlinear curves!

$$y = A + Bx + Cx^2 \quad \text{polynomial}$$

$$\text{Prob}_{A,B,C} (y_1, \dots, y_n) \propto e^{-\chi^2/2}$$
$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(y_i - A - Bx_i - Cx_i^2)^2}{\sigma_y^2}$$

# General case when least squares can fit

problems in which the function  $y = f(x)$  depends linearly on the parameters  $A, B, C, \dots$

$$y = A \sin x + B \cos x,$$

$$y = Ae^{Bx} \qquad \ln y = \ln A + Bx$$

Another look at least squares in matrix form

$$y = \beta_1 x + \beta_0$$

model: beta are our parameters  
y and x measurements

$$y_i = \beta_1 x_i + \beta_0$$

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\beta$$

$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_i \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_i & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_N & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\beta = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$y = \beta_1 x + \beta_0$$

$\beta_1$ : slope

$\beta_0$ : intercept

model  
ML

$$y_i = \beta_1 x_i + \beta_0$$

for all data

$\{y_i, x_i\}$

rewrite as a matrix?

$$Y = X\beta \quad Y: \begin{matrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{matrix} \quad X: \begin{matrix} x_1 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n & 1 \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_0 \end{matrix}$$

$N \times 1$                        $n \times 2$                        $2 \times 1$

$$Y = X\beta$$

$$\min_{\beta} \|Y - X\beta\|^2 \quad (\text{optimization problem})$$

$J$

$$J = (Y - X\beta)^T (Y - X\beta)$$

$$= Y^T Y - \underbrace{(X\beta)^T Y - Y^T (X\beta)}_{\text{combine}} + (X\beta)^T (X\beta)$$

$$J = Y^T Y - 2\beta^T X^T Y - \beta^T X^T X \beta$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \beta} = 0$$

$$= -2X^T Y + 2X^T X \beta$$

pseudo-inverse

$$\beta^* = \left[ (X^T X)^{-1} X^T \right] Y$$

$\text{pinv}(\cdot)$

$$Y = X\beta$$

if  $N=2$

$N \times 1$

$N \times 2$     $2 \times 1$

Another look at least squares in matrix form

$$\min_{\beta} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\beta\|^2 = \min_{\beta} \mathcal{J}$$

$$\mathcal{J} = (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\beta)^T (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\beta)$$

$$= \mathbf{Y}^T \mathbf{Y} - (\mathbf{X}\beta)^T \mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Y}^T (\mathbf{X}\beta) + (\mathbf{X}\beta)^T (\mathbf{X}\beta)$$

$$= \mathbf{Y}^T \mathbf{Y} - 2\beta^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y} - \beta^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \beta$$

Another look at least squares in matrix form

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \beta} = 0$$

$$= -2\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y} + 2\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \beta$$

$$\beta^* = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y}$$

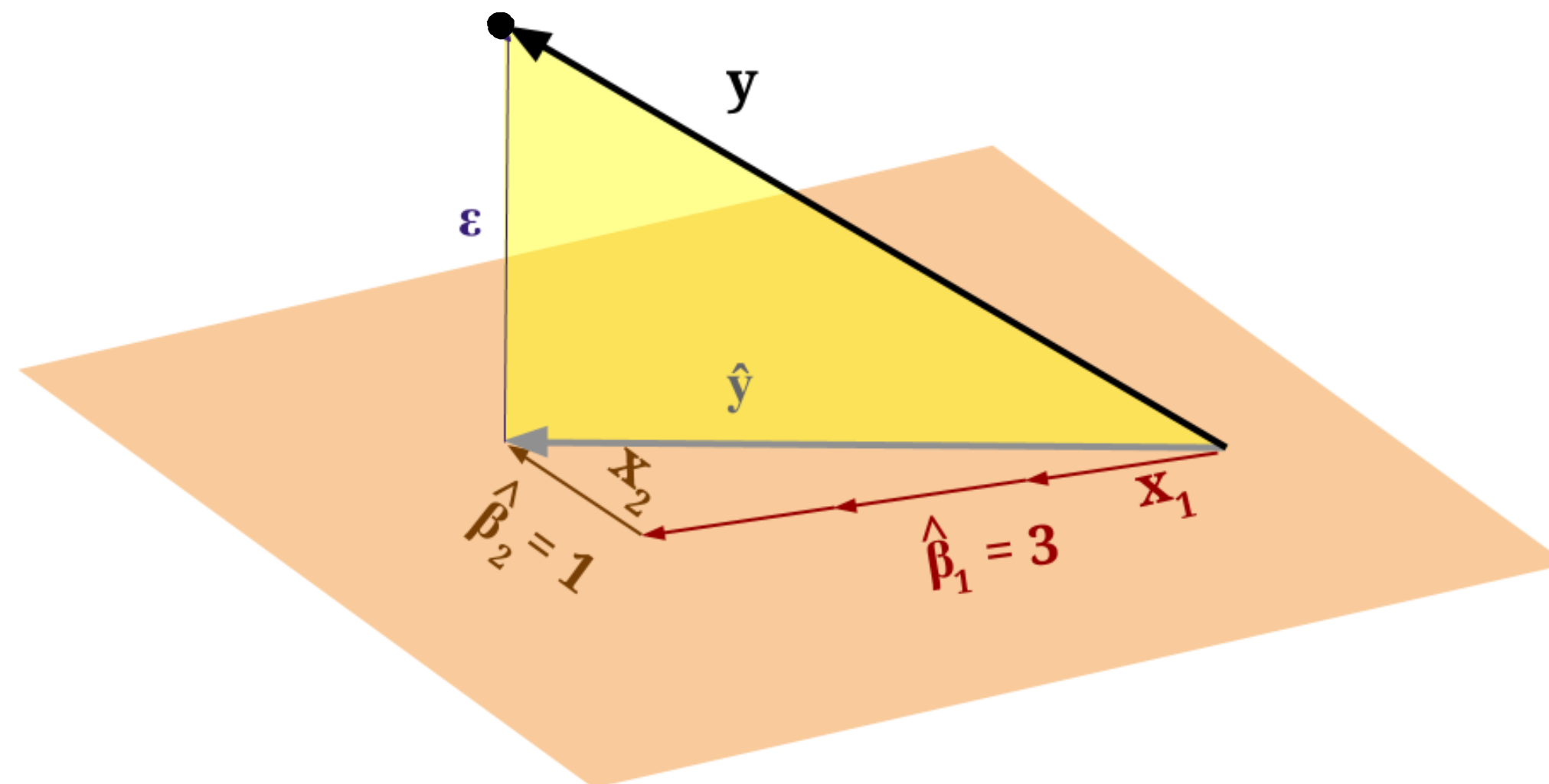


Another look at least squares in matrix form

$$\beta^* = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y}$$

Solution is the 'projection' of the  $\mathbf{y}$  on the space that matrix  $\mathbf{X}$  spans

Geometric Interpretation OLS



$$y = \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \beta_0$$

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_1^2 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n & x_n^2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$y = \beta_1 \sin(x) + \beta_2 \log(x)$$

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(x_1) & \log(x_1) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \sin(x_n) & \log(x_n) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Another look at least squares in matrix form

$$y = \beta_1 \cos(x) + \beta_2 \sin(x) + \beta_3 x^2$$

Write the matrix X, Y, beta

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(x_1) & \sin(x_1) & x_1^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \cos(x_n) & \sin(x_n) & x_n^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\min \|y - X\beta\| + \lambda \|\beta\|$

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} x^2 & \sin(x) & x x^2 & \dots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{pmatrix}$$

# Covariance and Correlation

First let's review the principles of error propagation

If we measuring two quantities  $x$  and  $y$  to calculate some function  $q(x, y)$ :

$$\delta q \approx \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right| \delta x + \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right| \delta y$$

naive  
they

could cancel  
errors in  $x$   
 $y$ .

$$\delta q = \sqrt{\left( \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \delta x \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \delta y \right)^2}$$

# Covariance and Correlation

First let's review the principles of error propagation

If we measuring two quantities  $x$  and  $y$  to calculate some function  $q(x, y)$ :

$$\delta q \approx \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right| \delta x + \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right| \delta y. \quad \text{our naive uncertainty}$$

there may be partial cancellation of the errors in  $x$  and  $y$ .

$$\delta q = \sqrt{\left( \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \delta x \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \delta y \right)^2}. \quad \text{we can prove this assuming Gaussians}$$

# Covariance and Correlation

$$\delta q = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \delta x\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \delta y\right)^2}$$

if the measurements of  $x$  and  $y$  are governed by independent normal distributions, with standard deviations  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$  the values of  $q(x, y)$  are also normally distributed, with standard deviation

$$\underline{\underline{\sigma_q}} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \sigma_x\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \sigma_y\right)^2}. \quad \checkmark \quad \text{as bound even if } \underline{\underline{\text{non-normal}}}$$

This result provides the justification for the claim

 **But what if we don't meet the assumptions?**

does it still apply whether or not the errors in  $x$  and  $y$  are independent and normally distributed.

Claim: the estimate always is upper bound estimate of uncertainty!

## Recall STD

$$\sigma_x^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2.$$

If the measurements of  $x$  are normally distributed, then in the limit that  $N$  is large,

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_x \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x - X)^2 / 2\sigma_x^2}$$

$\sigma_x$  is the width parameter

If the underlying process is non-Gaussian —  $\sigma_x$  is still the STD, but this relationship is no longer available to us.

# Covariance Propagation

$f =$

Suppose that to find a value for the function  $q(x, y)$ , we measure the two quantities  $x$  and  $y$  several times, obtaining  $N$  pairs of data,  $(x_1, y_1) \dots (x_N, y_N)$ .

We can still calculate:

- > mean  $x$  and  $\sigma_x$
- > mean  $y$  and  $\sigma_y$
- > mean  $q$  and  $\sigma_q$



# Covariance Propagation

$$q_i = q(x_i, y_i)$$

$$\approx q(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) + \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} (x_i - \bar{x}) + \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} (y_i - \bar{y})$$

Jacobian



$$\bar{q} = \frac{1}{N} \sum q_i$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum \left[ q(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) + \right]$$

from  
 $1 \times 1$

$$+ \left( \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} (x_i - \bar{x}) + \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} (y_i - \bar{y}) \right)$$

$\bar{q}$

# Covariance Propagation

$$\sigma_q^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum (q_i - \bar{q})^2$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial x} \right)^2 \frac{1}{N} \sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \left( \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial y} \right)^2 \frac{1}{N} \sum (y_i - \bar{y})^2$$

$$+ 2 \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial y} \frac{1}{N} \sum (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})$$

$\sigma_{xy}$

$$\sigma_q^2 = \left( \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial x} \right)^2 \sigma_x^2 + \left( \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial y} \right)^2 \sigma_y^2 + 2 \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial y} \sigma_{xy}$$

# Covariance Propagation

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}).$$

$$\sigma_q^2 = \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial x}\right)^2 \sigma_x^2 + \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial y}\right)^2 \sigma_y^2 + 2 \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \sigma_{xy}$$

This equation gives the standard deviation  $\sigma_q$ , whether or not the measurements of  $x$  and  $y$  are independent or normally distributed.

# Covariance Propagation

- If the measurements of  $x$  and  $y$  are not independent, the covariance  $\sigma_{xy}$  is non zero.
- if measurements are independent the covariance is zero
- When the covariance is not zero (even in the limit of infinitely many measurements, we say that the errors in  $x$  and  $y$  are correlated.

## Example: Two Angles with a Negative Covariance

Each of five students measures the same two angles  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  and obtains the results shown in the first three columns of Table 9.1.

**Table 9.1.** Five measurements of two angles  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  (in degrees).

Student	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$(\alpha - \bar{\alpha})$	$(\beta - \bar{\beta})$	$(\alpha - \bar{\alpha})(\beta - \bar{\beta})$
A	35	50	2	-2	-4
B	31	55	-2	3	-6
C	33	51	0	-1	0
D	32	53	-1	1	-1
E	34	51	1	-1	-1

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum (\alpha - \bar{\alpha})(\beta - \bar{\beta}) = \frac{1}{5} \cdot (-12) \\ &= \underline{\underline{-2.4}}\end{aligned}$$

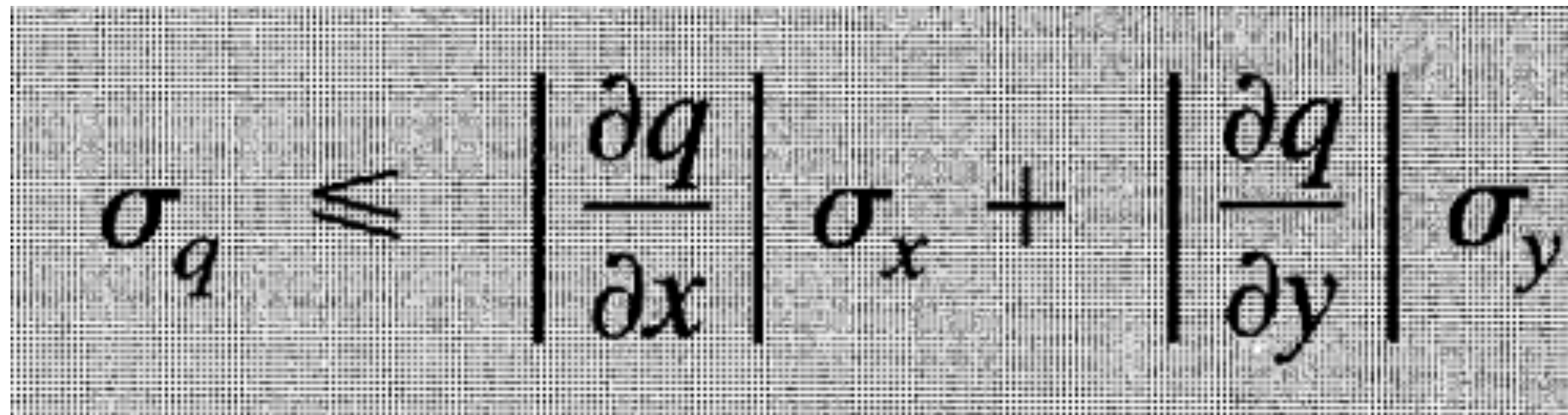
Upper limit on  $\sigma_q$

*Schwarz inequality*

$$|\sigma_{xy}| \leq \sigma_x \sigma_y$$

$$\sigma_q^2 \leq \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial x}\right)^2 \sigma_x^2 + \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial y}\right)^2 \sigma_y^2 + 2 \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right| \sigma_x \sigma_y$$

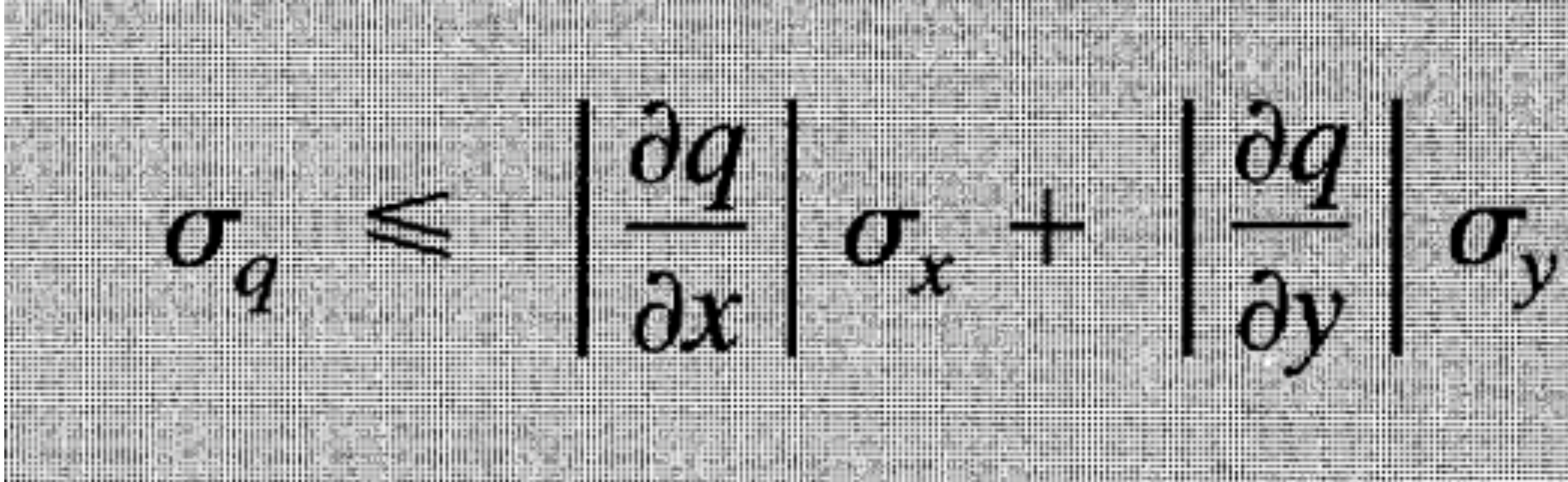
$$= \left[ \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right| \sigma_x + \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right| \sigma_y \right]^2$$


$$\sigma_q \leq \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right| \sigma_x + \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right| \sigma_y$$

# Main Results on Covariance

$$\delta q \approx \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right| \delta x + \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right| \delta y$$

naive estimate is  
still upper bound!


$$\sigma_q \leq \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right| \sigma_x + \left| \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right| \sigma_y$$