

Simple Linear Regression

Fundamentals

Rahul Singh
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What is Simple Linear Regression

re·gres·sion

noun

A statistical method used to **predict** the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables

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in other words...

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What is Simple Linear Regression

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A statistical method used to **predict** the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables

in other words...

$$y = f(x)$$

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What is Simple Linear Regression

re·gres·sion

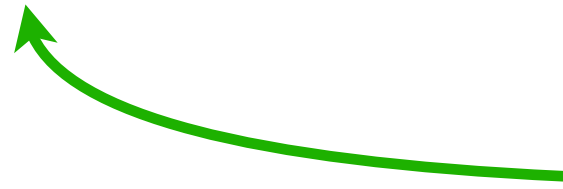
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x is the independent variable

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if we see some data (x, y) we can use linear regression to **predict** the y values for other values of x

$$y = f(x)$$

x is the independent variable

y is the dependent variable

Simple Linear Regression

Lets take a simple example...

Simple Linear Regression

A simple example...

A car is traveling at a constant speed. We observe the distance travelled by the car at various times during its journey.

Time (Hours)	Distance Traveled (Miles)
0.3	18
0.7	42
1.3	78
2.4	144
3.2	192

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Distance Traveled (Miles)

Lets begin by plotting the data

Y Axis = Distance Travelled (Miles)

X Axis = Time (Hours)

Time (Hours)

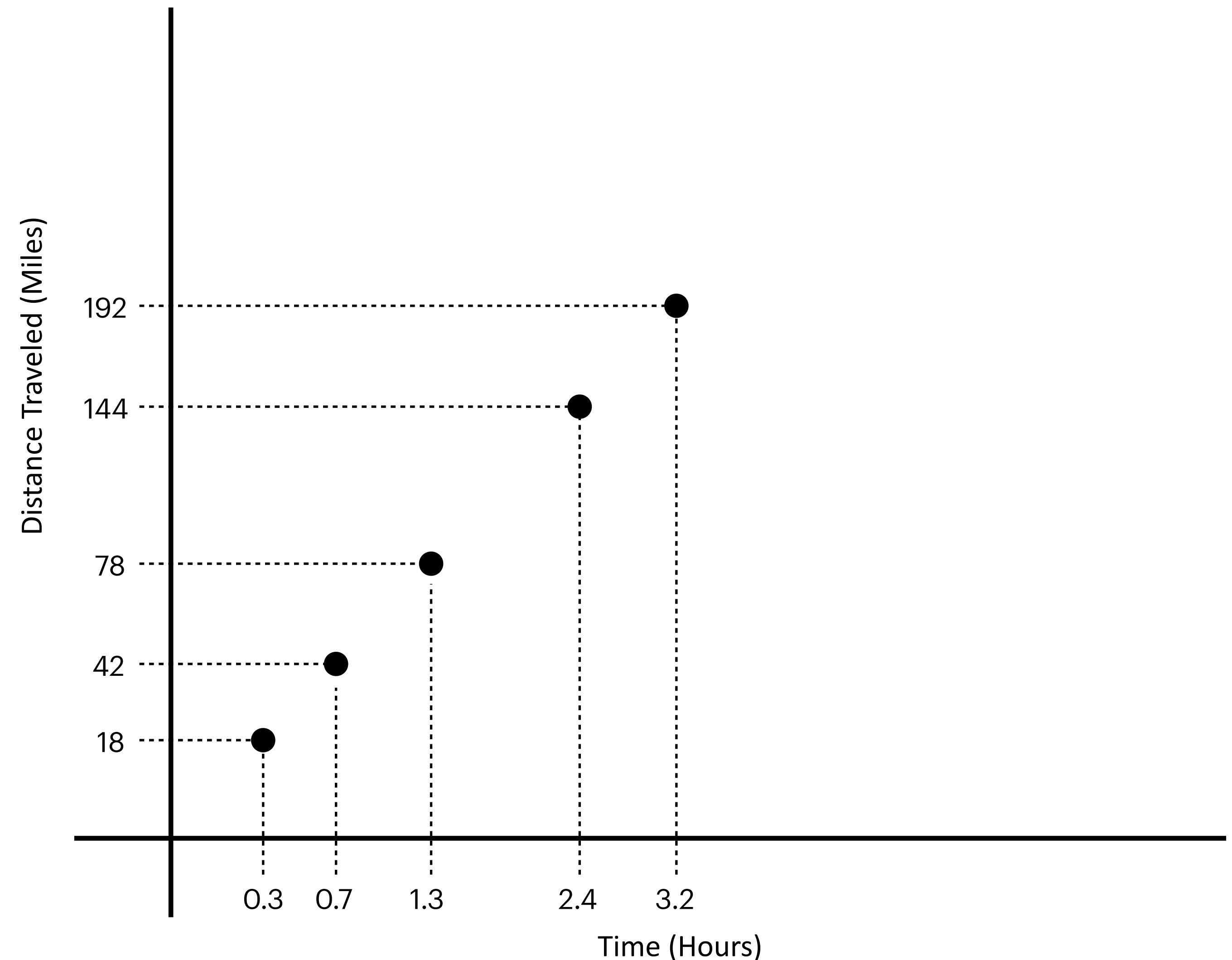
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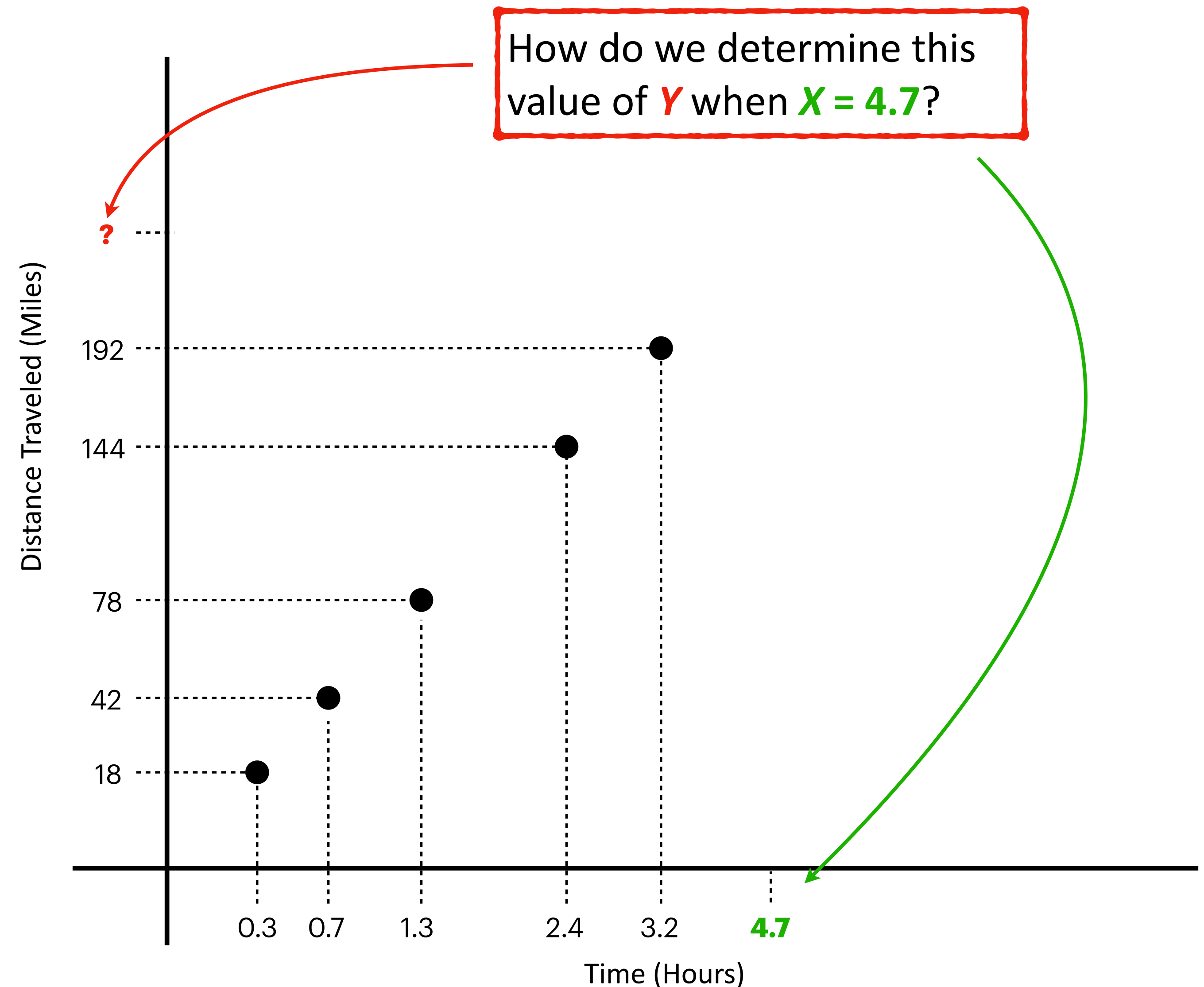
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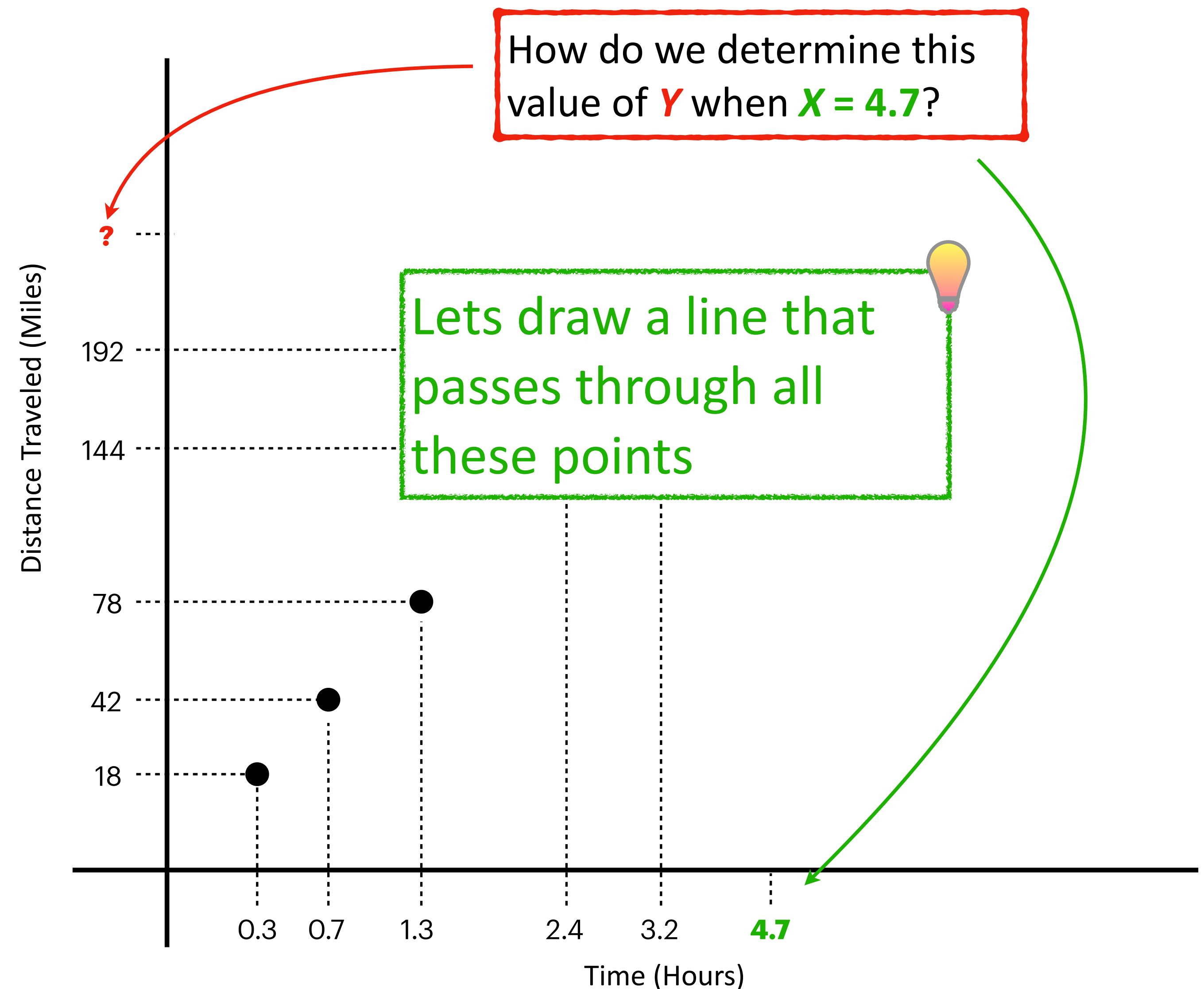
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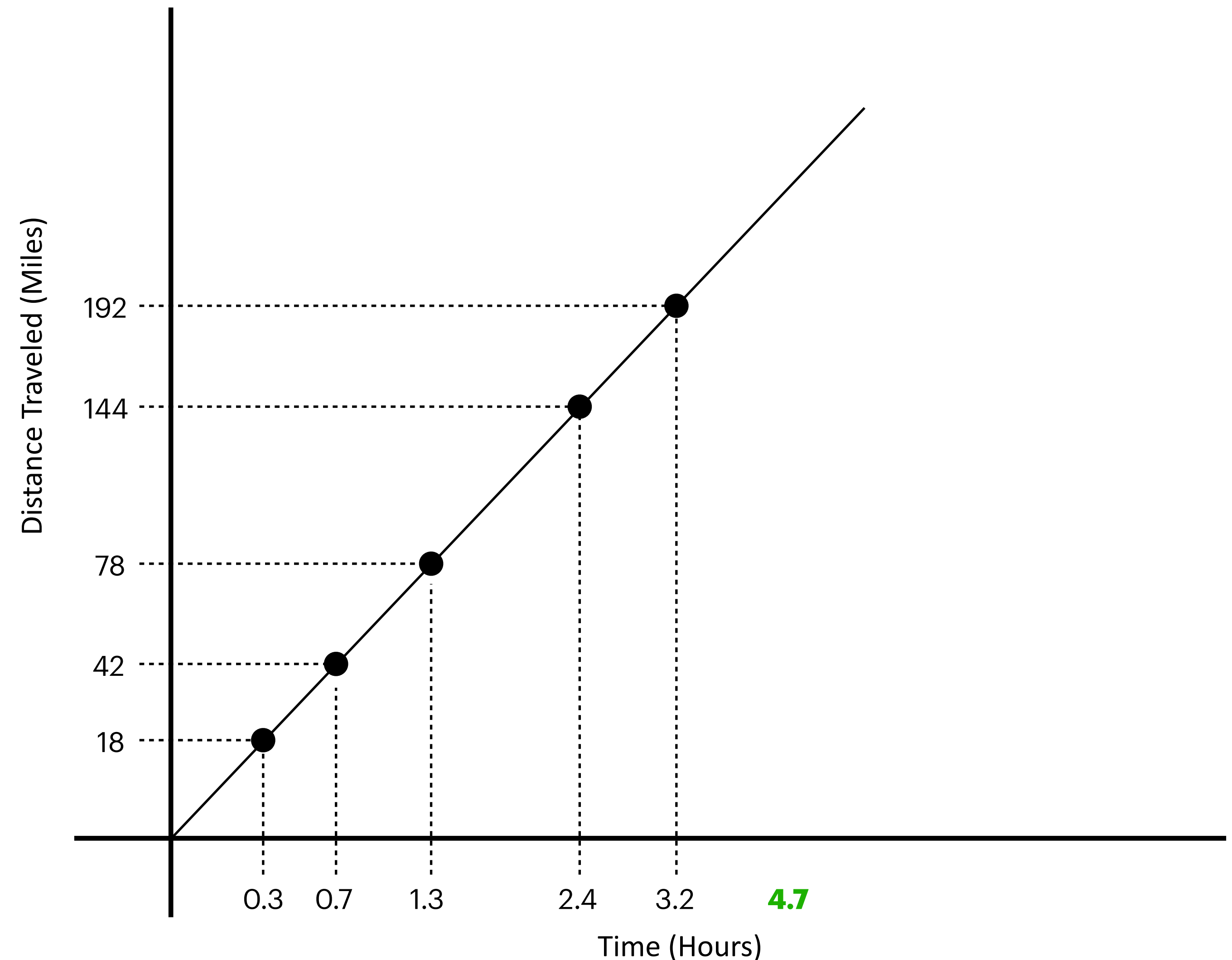
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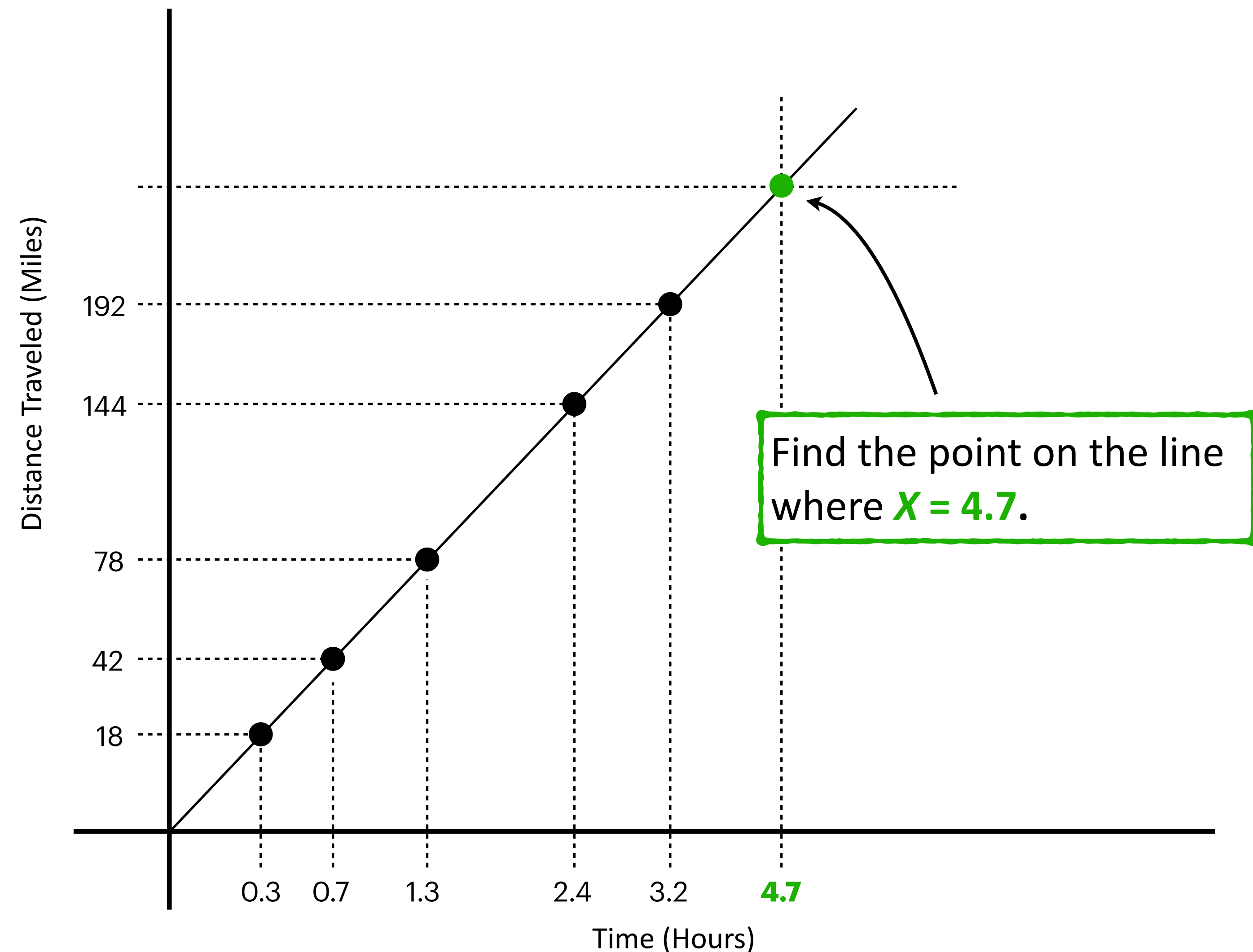
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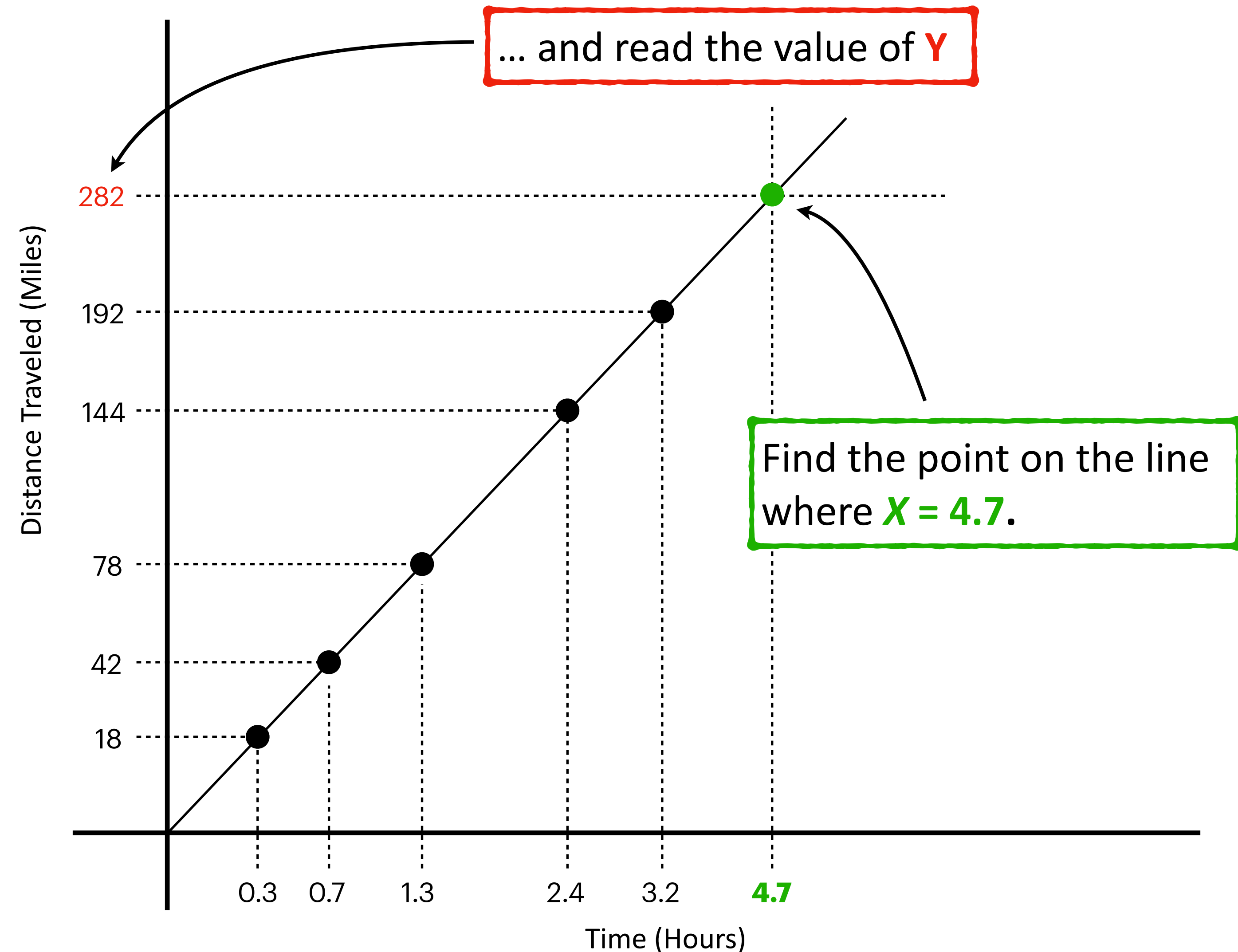
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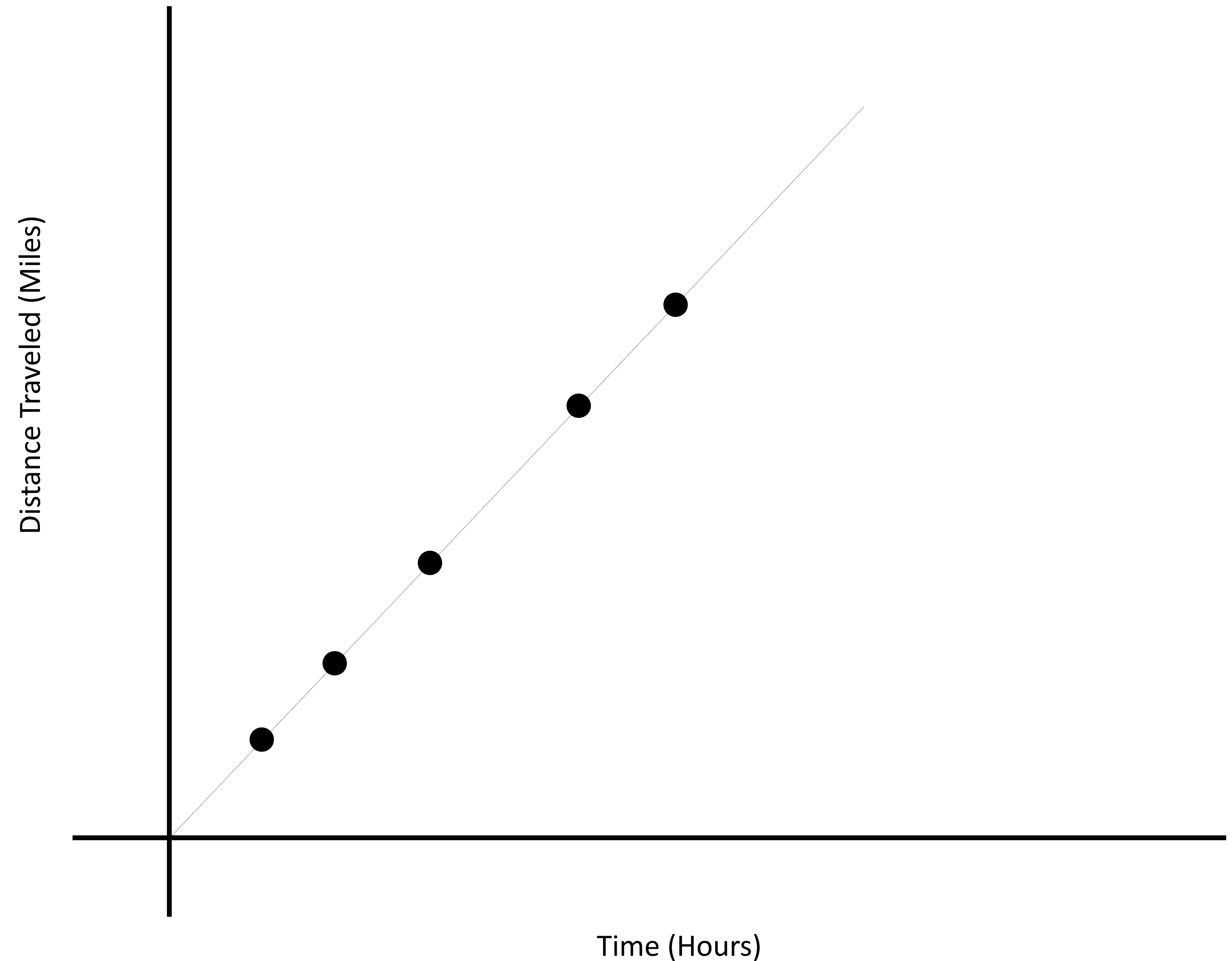
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Simple Linear Regression

A few things to note...

- All the data points line up perfectly
- The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

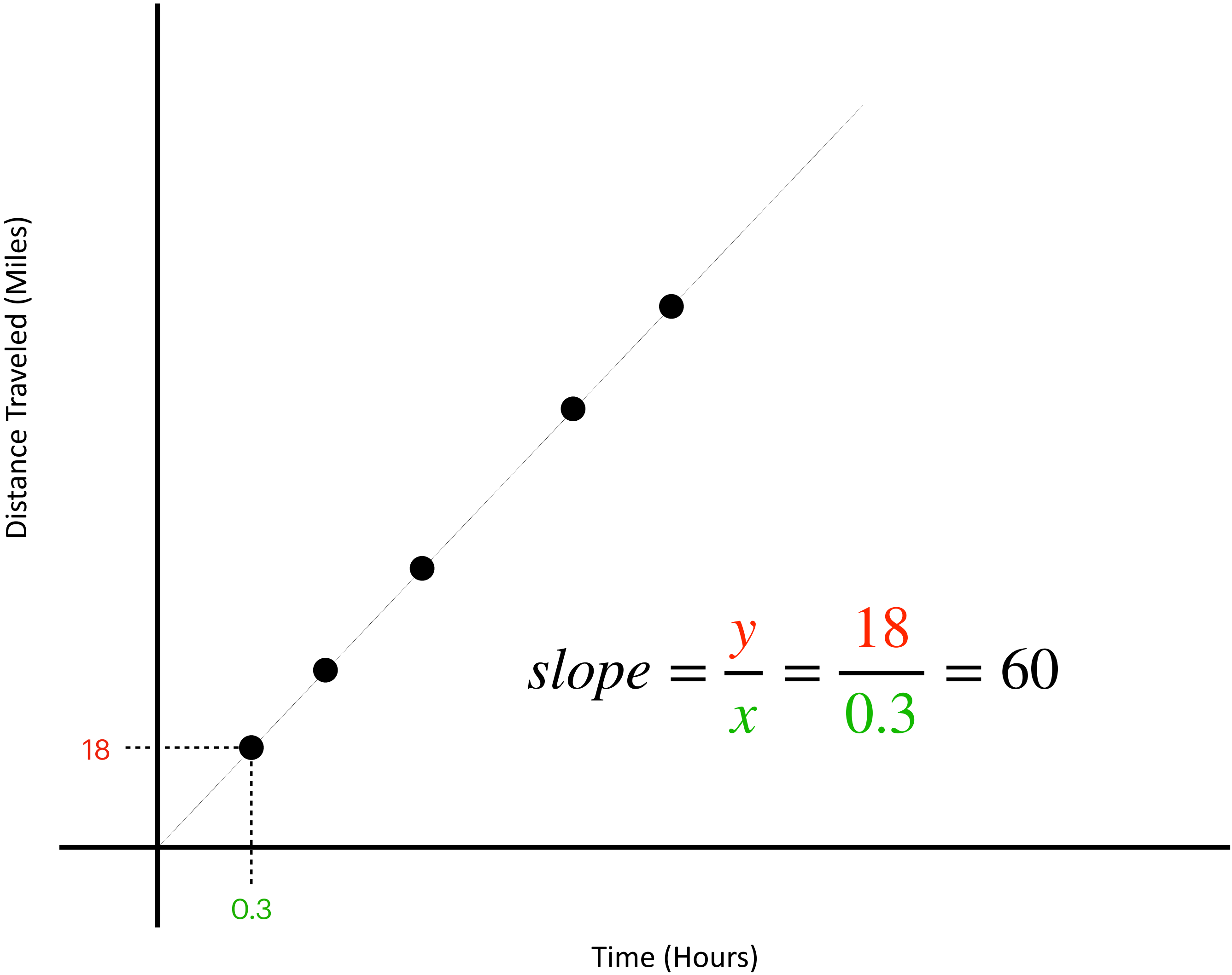


Simple Linear Regression

The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at $x = 0.3$, $y = 18$

Time (Hours)	Distance Traveled (Miles)	Speed (mph)
0.3	18	$18 / 0.3 = 60$

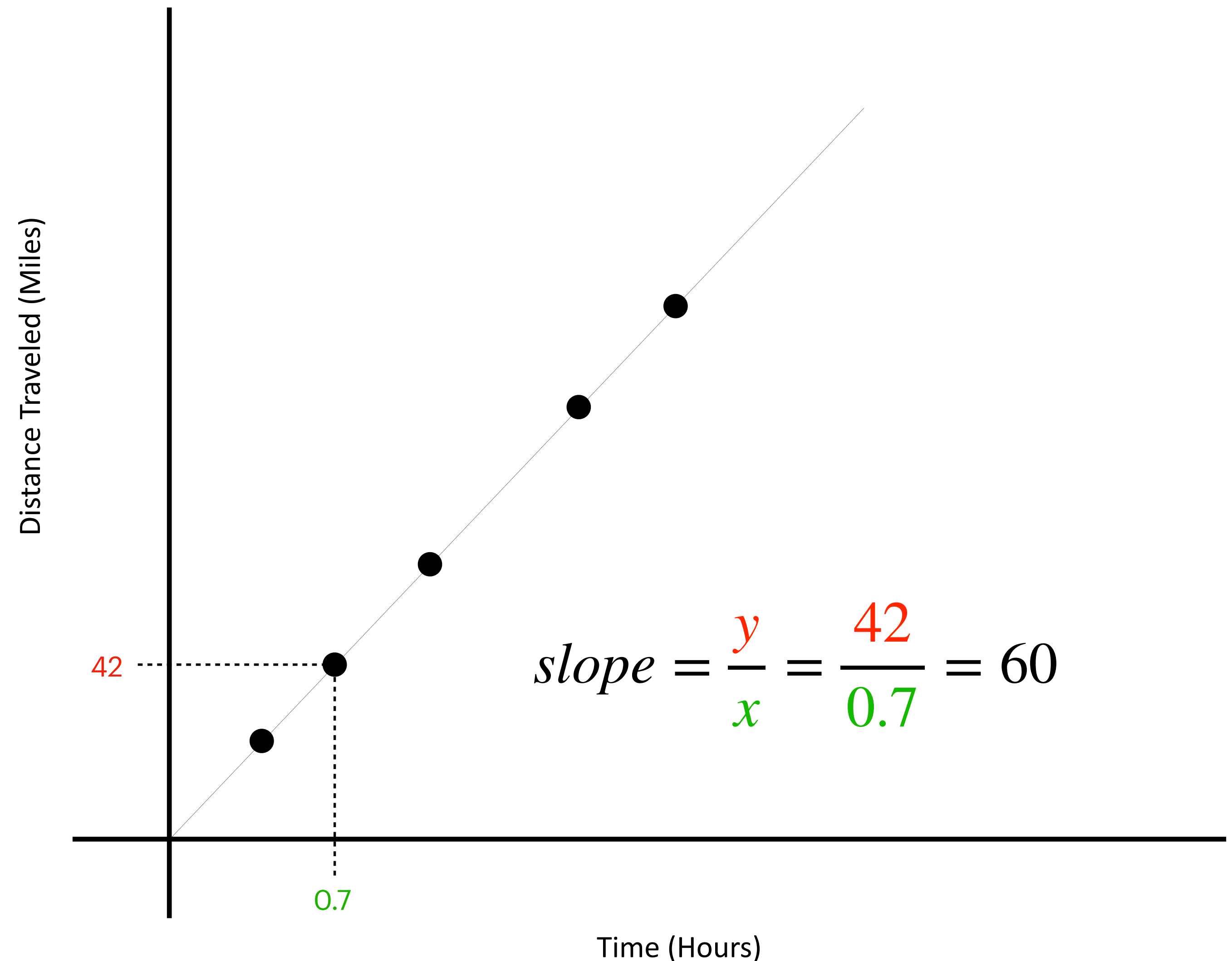


Simple Linear Regression

The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at $x = 0.7$, $y = 42$

Time (Hours)	Distance Traveled (Miles)	Speed (mph)
0.3	18	$18 / 0.3 = 60$
0.7	42	$42 / 0.7 = 60$

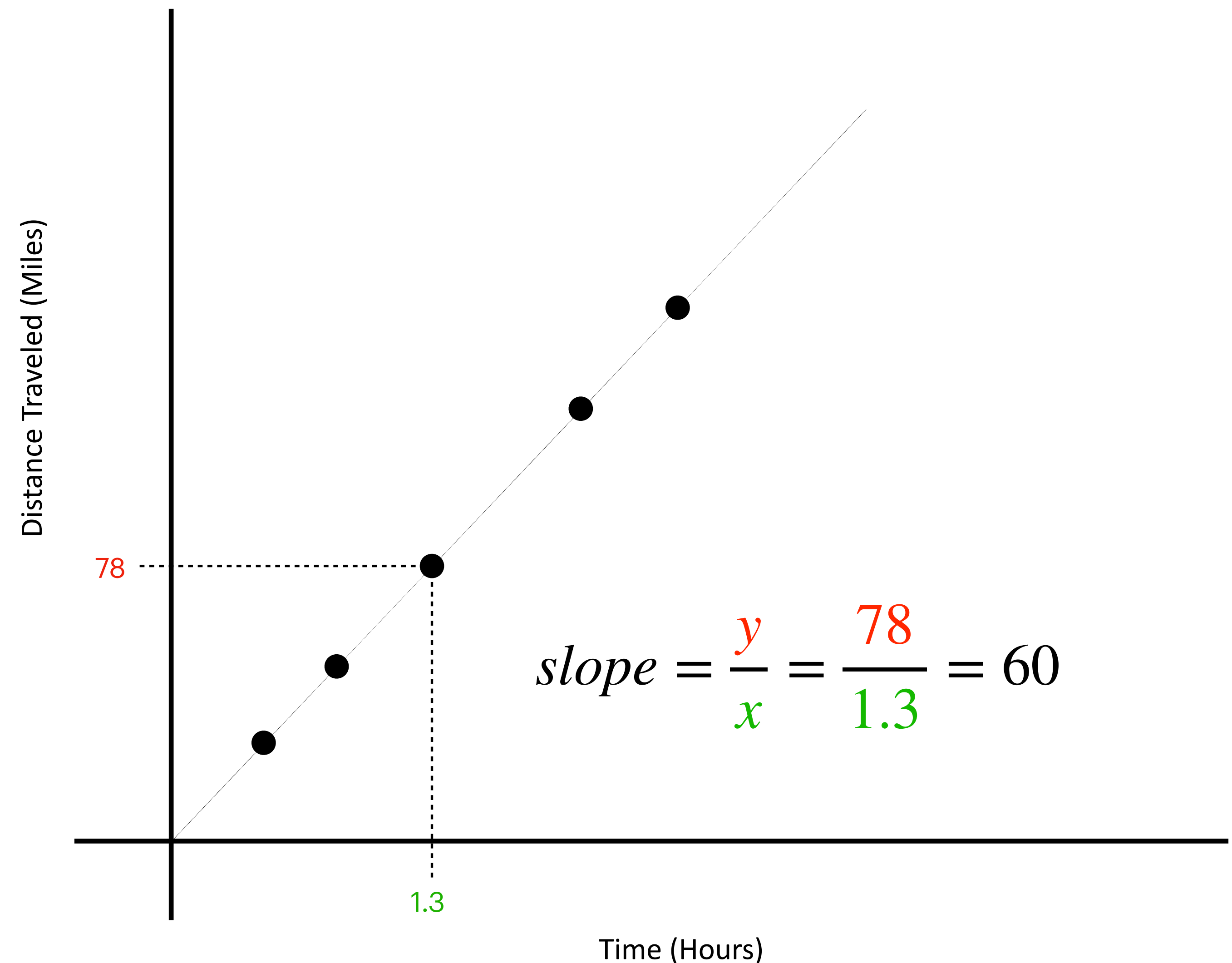


Simple Linear Regression

The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at $x = 1.3$, $y = 78$

Time (Hours)	Distance Traveled (Miles)	Speed (mph)
0.3	18	$18 / 0.3 = 60$
0.7	42	$42 / 0.7 = 60$
1.3	78	$78 / 1.3 = 60$

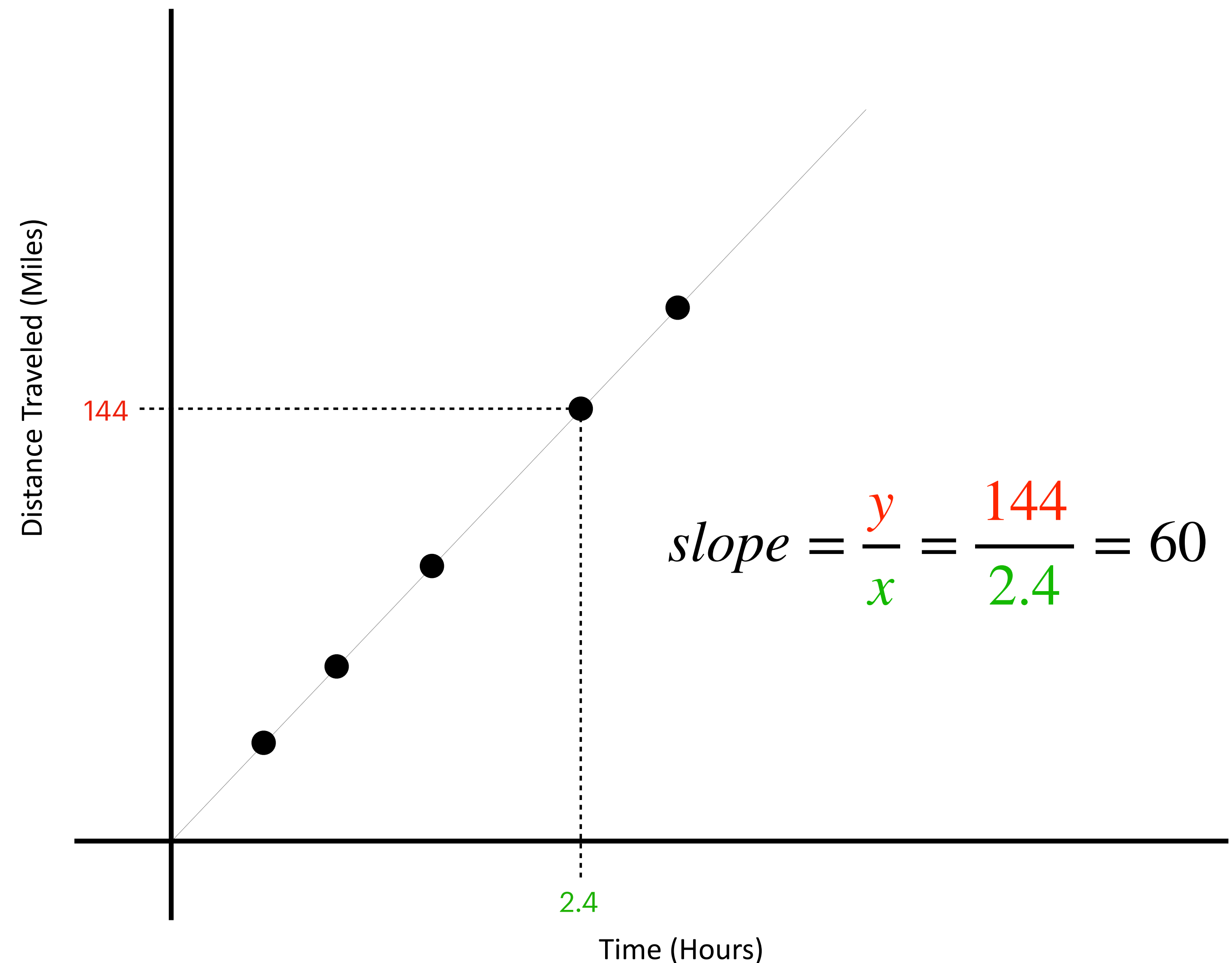


Simple Linear Regression

The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at $x = 2.4$, $y = 144$

Time (Hours)	Distance Traveled (Miles)	Speed (mph)
0.3	18	$18 / 0.3 = 60$
0.7	42	$42 / 0.7 = 60$
1.3	78	$78 / 1.3 = 60$
2.4	144	$144 / 2.4 = 60$

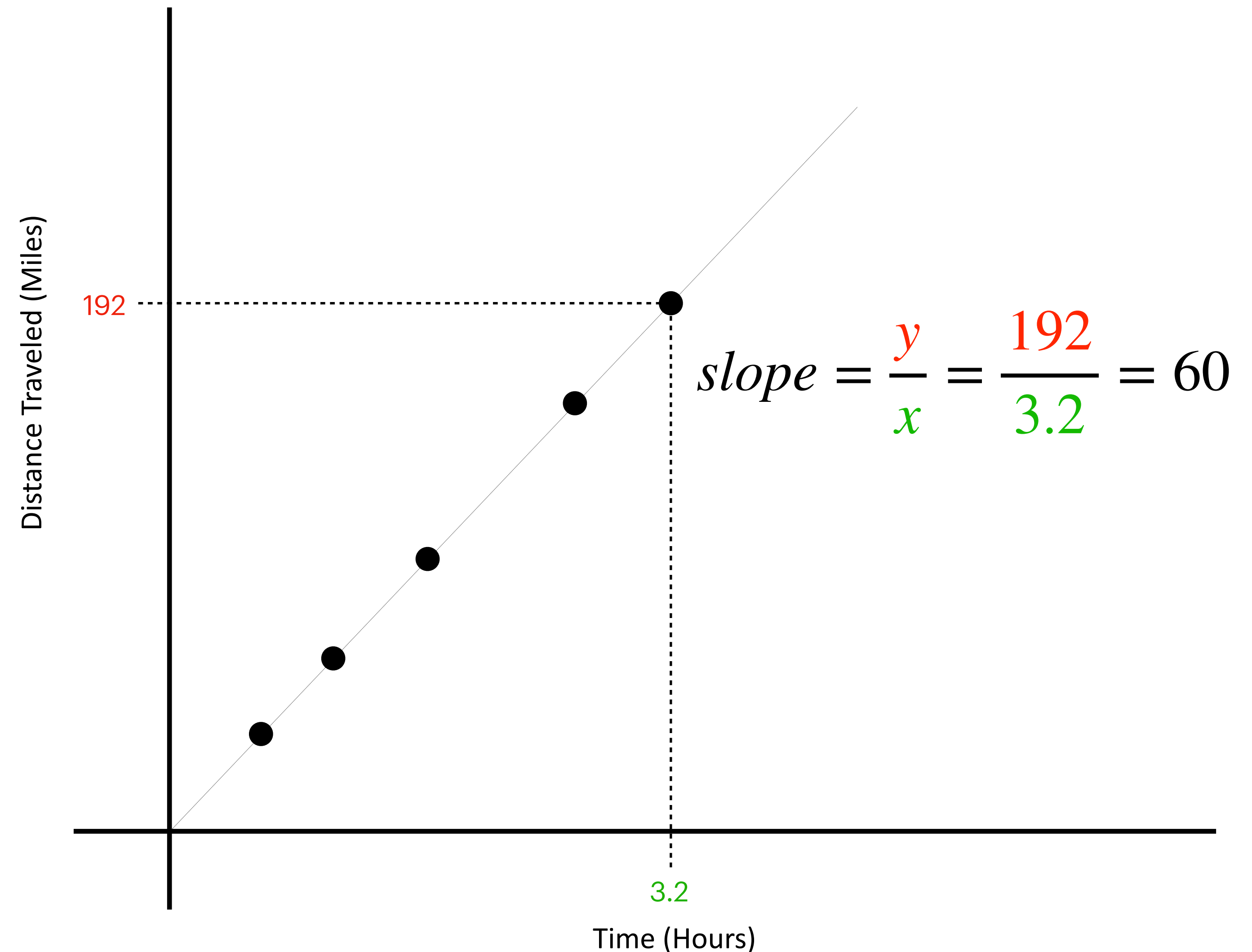


Simple Linear Regression

The slope of the line (i.e. speed of the car) is easy to determine:

Slope at $x = 3.2$, $y = 192$

Time (Hours)	Distance Traveled (Miles)	Speed (mph)
0.3	18	$18 / 0.3 = 60$
0.7	42	$42 / 0.7 = 60$
1.3	78	$78 / 1.3 = 60$
2.4	144	$144 / 2.4 = 60$
3.2	192	$192 / 3.2 = 60$



Simple Linear Regression

Once we know the slope of the line...

$$\text{slope} = 60$$

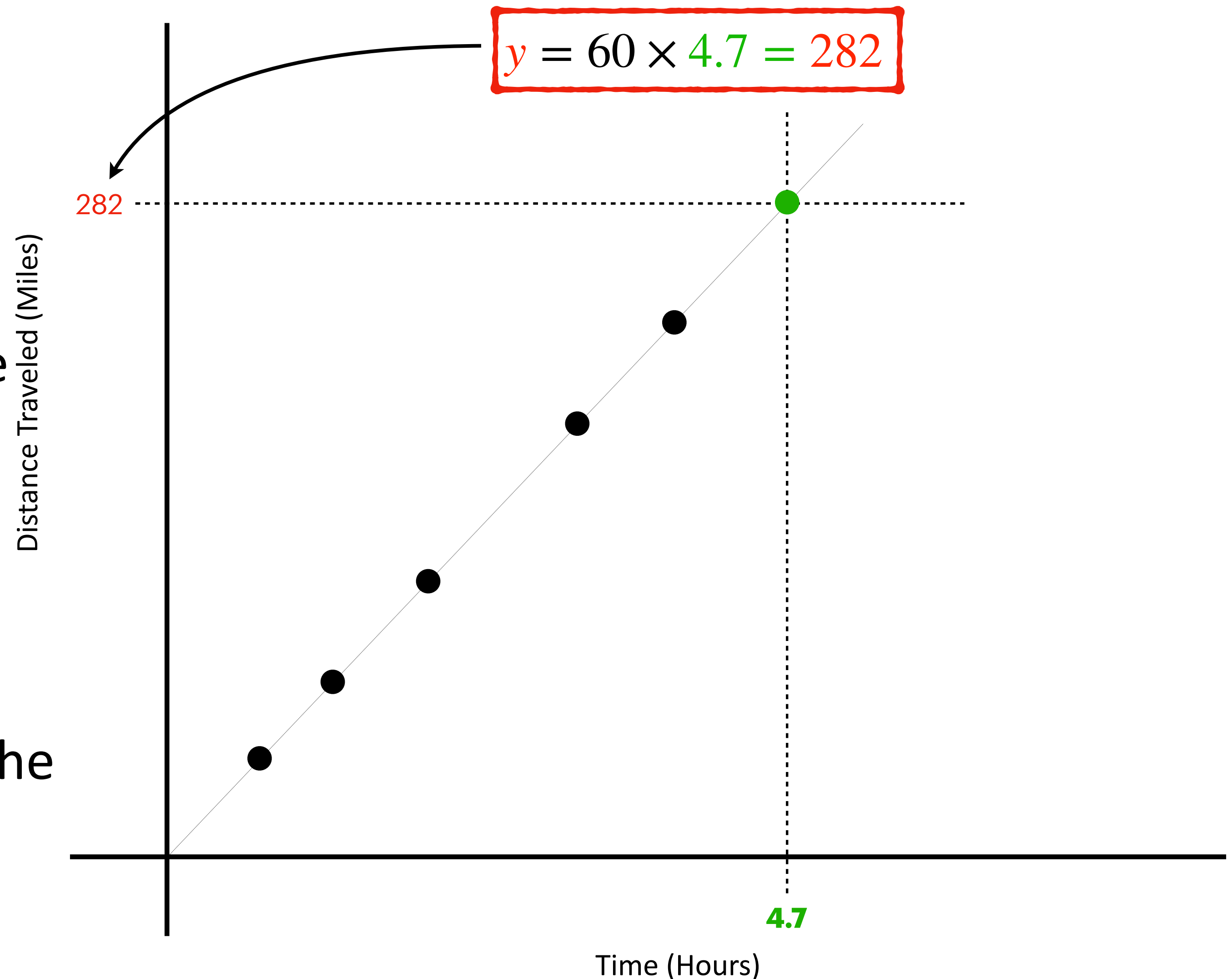
- Once we know the slope of the line, we can plot it using the formula for a line

$$y = \beta x$$

$$\text{distance} = \text{speed} \times \text{time}$$

- Once we have a line then we can find the distance traveled at any point in time

$$y = 60 \times 4.7 = 282$$



Simple Linear Regression

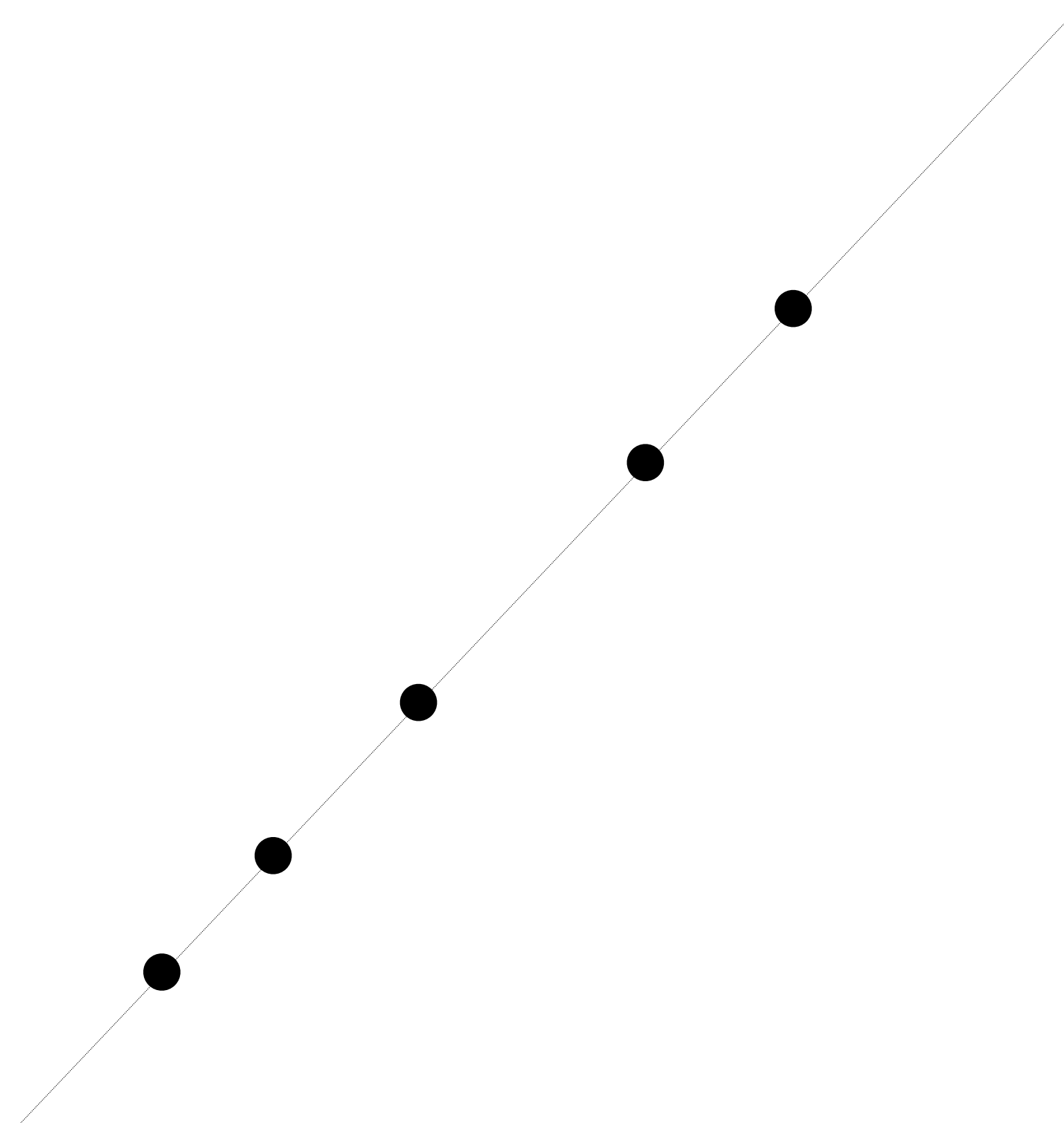
In General...

- Given a set of data points (x, y) ...
- We plot a line that fits that data...
- Then we use the line to calculate the y values for any value of x

This was a simple (contrived?) example...

- All the data points lined up perfectly
- The line fit the data perfectly
- We could have simply used the formula for the distance

$$\text{distance} = \text{speed} \times \text{time}$$



Simple Linear Regression

Lets take a more realistic example...

Simple Linear Regression

A realistic example...

We observe the heights and weights of 6 people

Height (inches)	Weight (lbs)
62	138
55	178
44	123
75	200
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50	102

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Question: Can we **predict** the weight of a person that is 71 inches tall?

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Weight (lbs)

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Y Axis = Weight (lbs)

X Axis = Height (inches)

Height (inches)

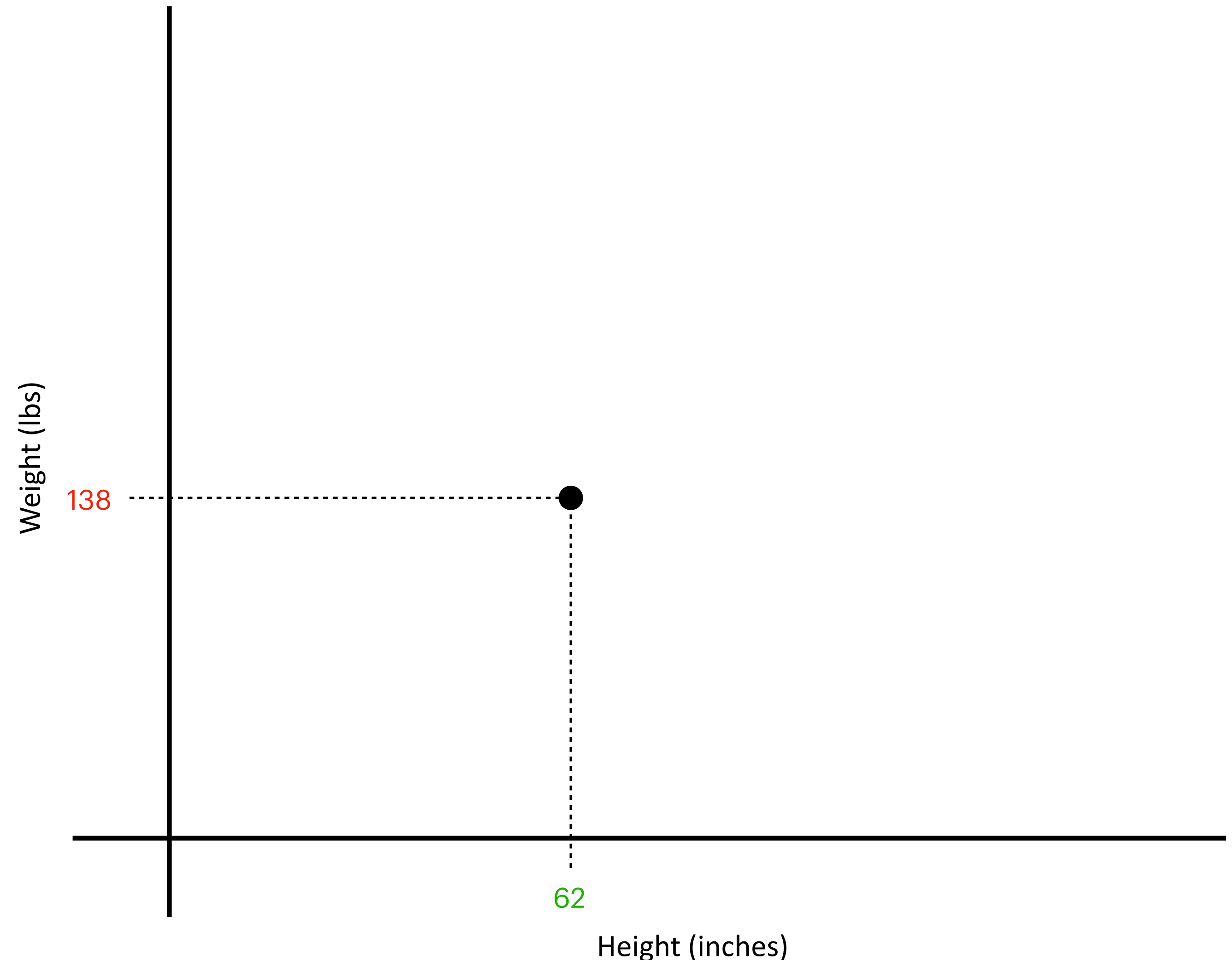
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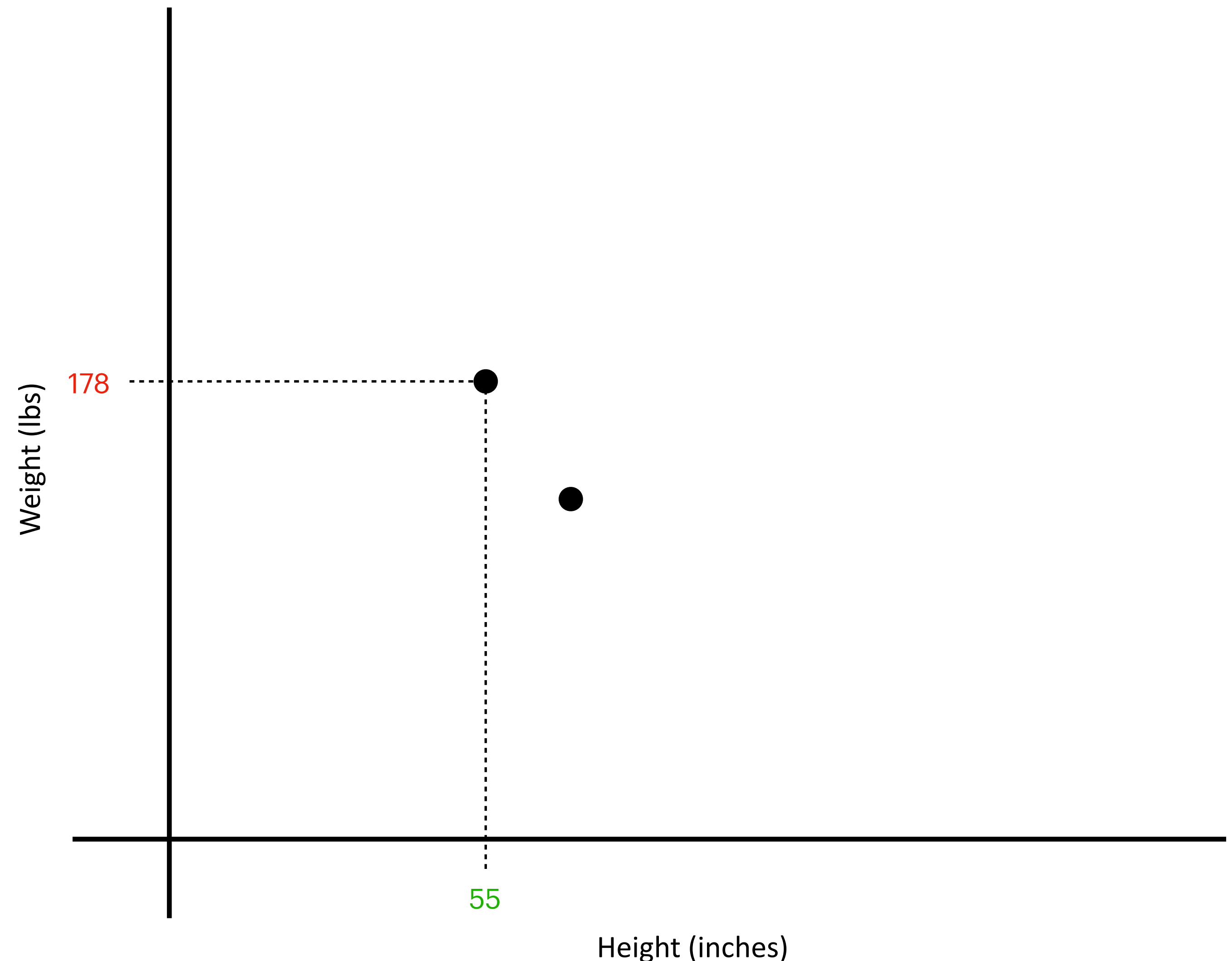
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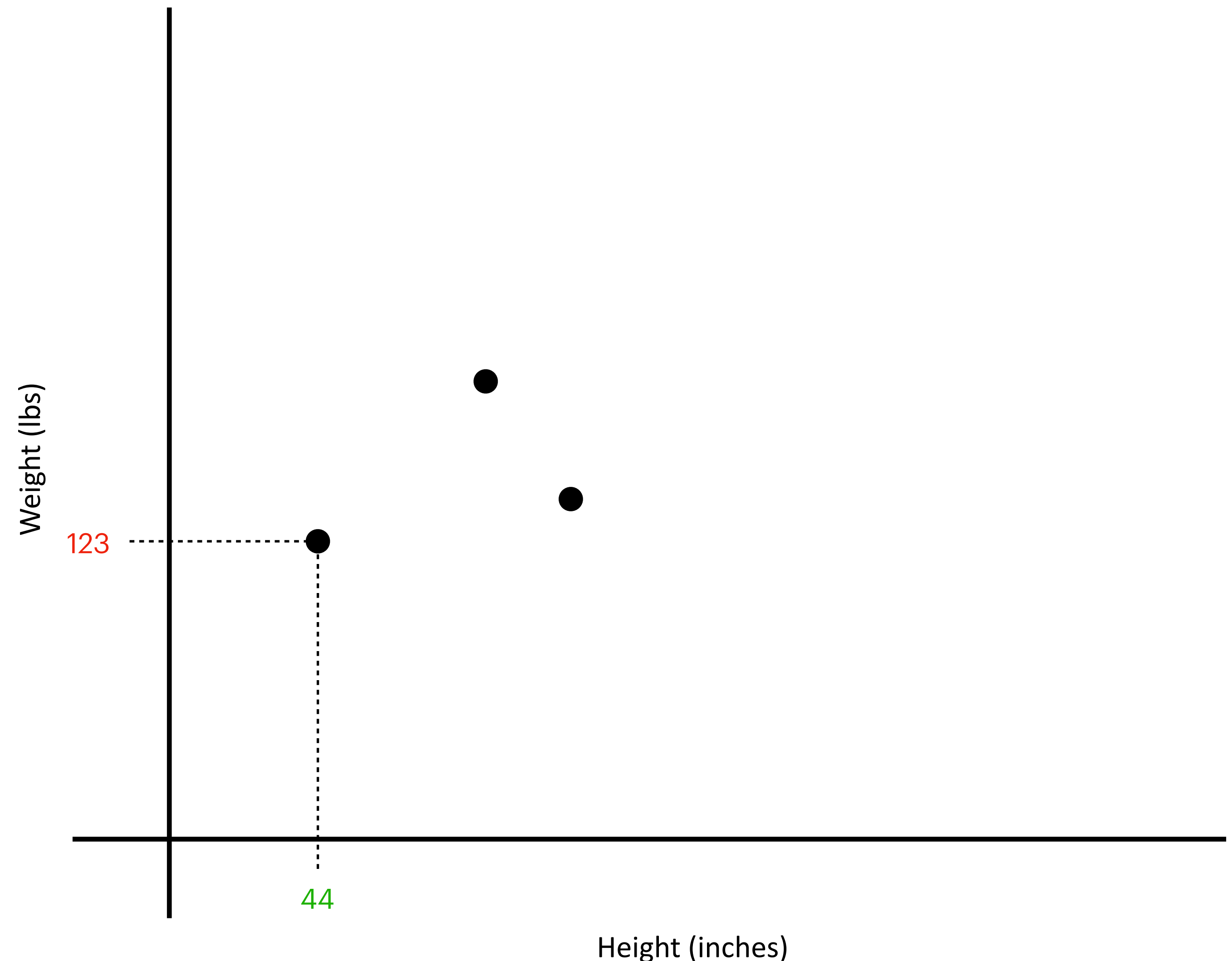
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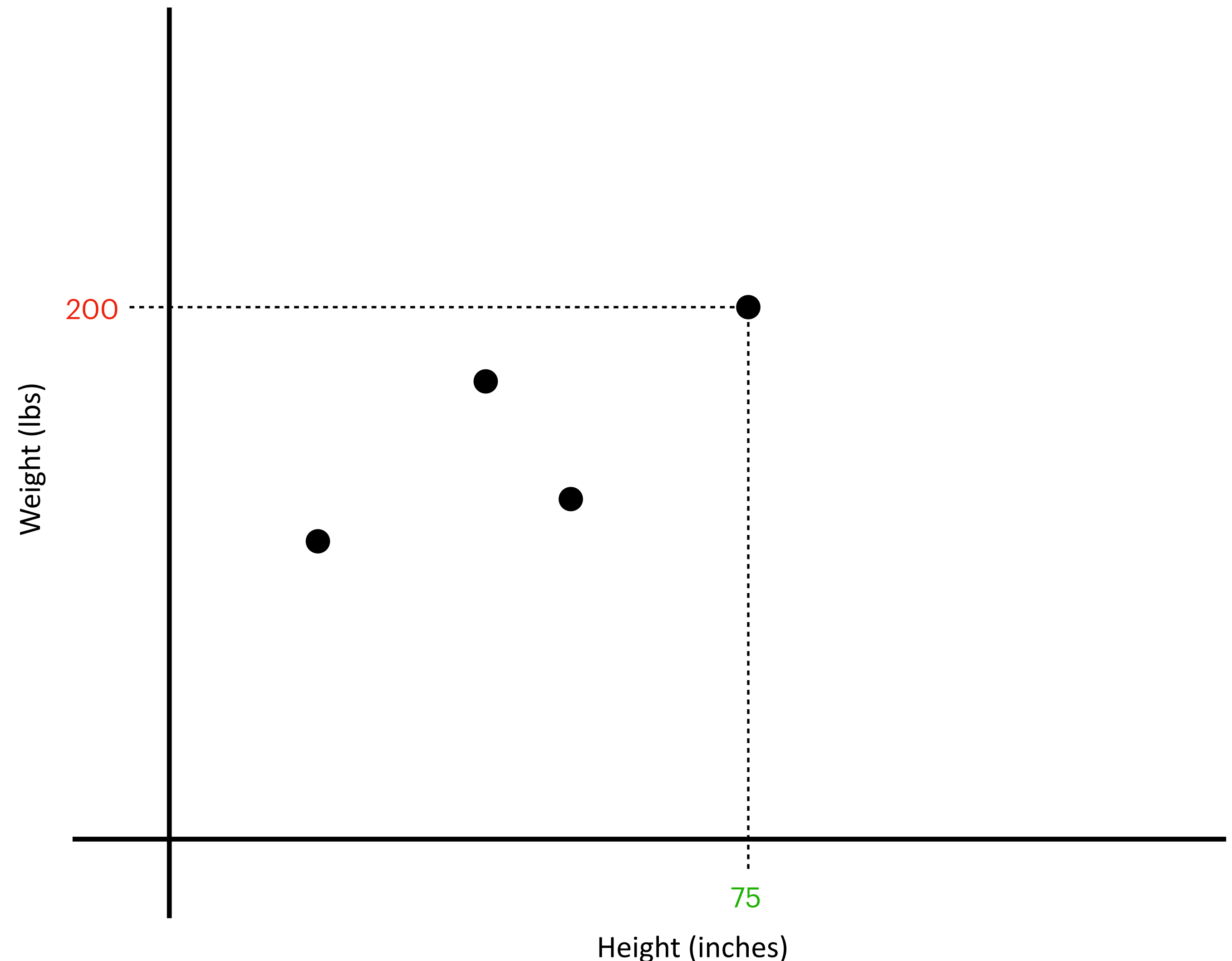
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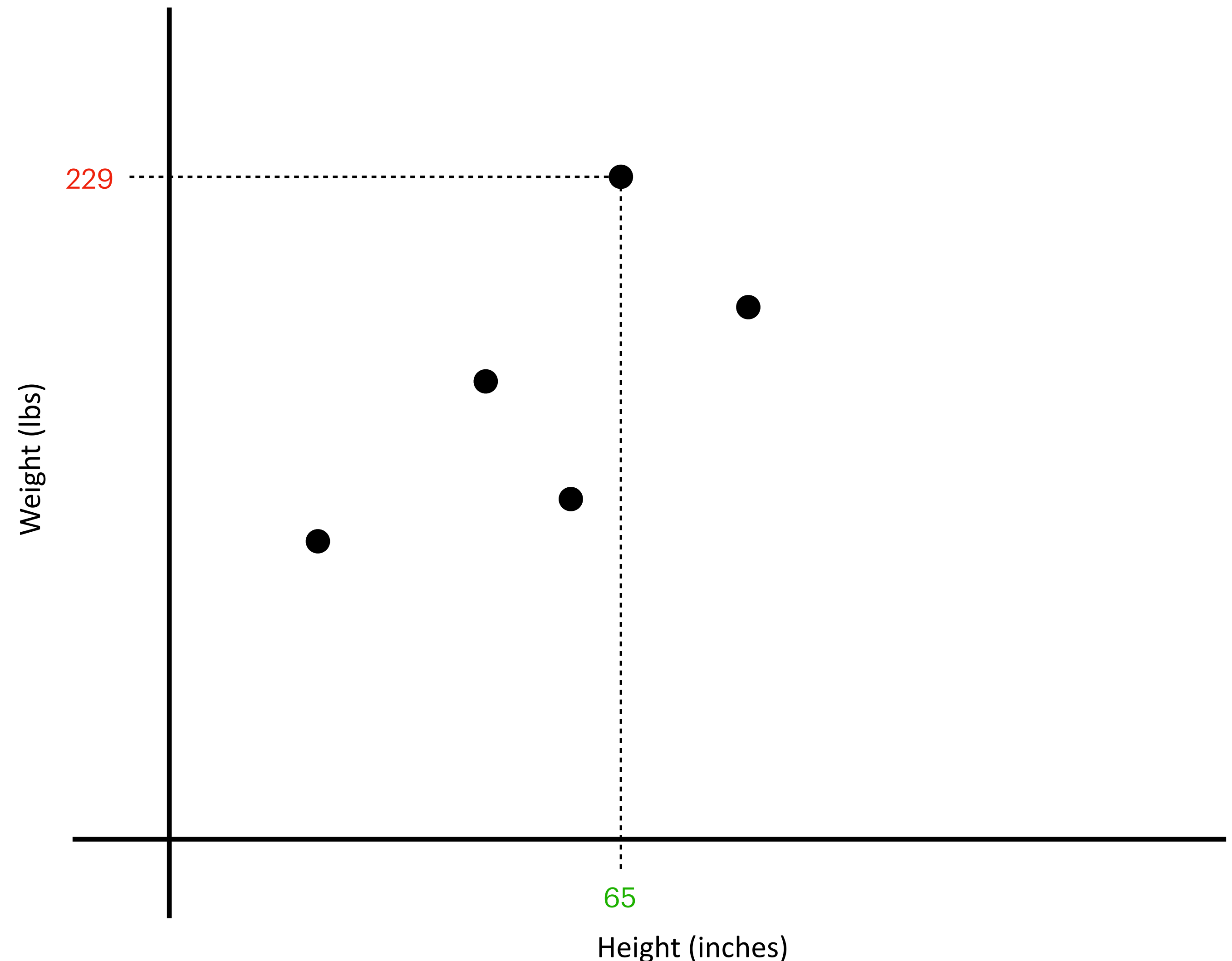
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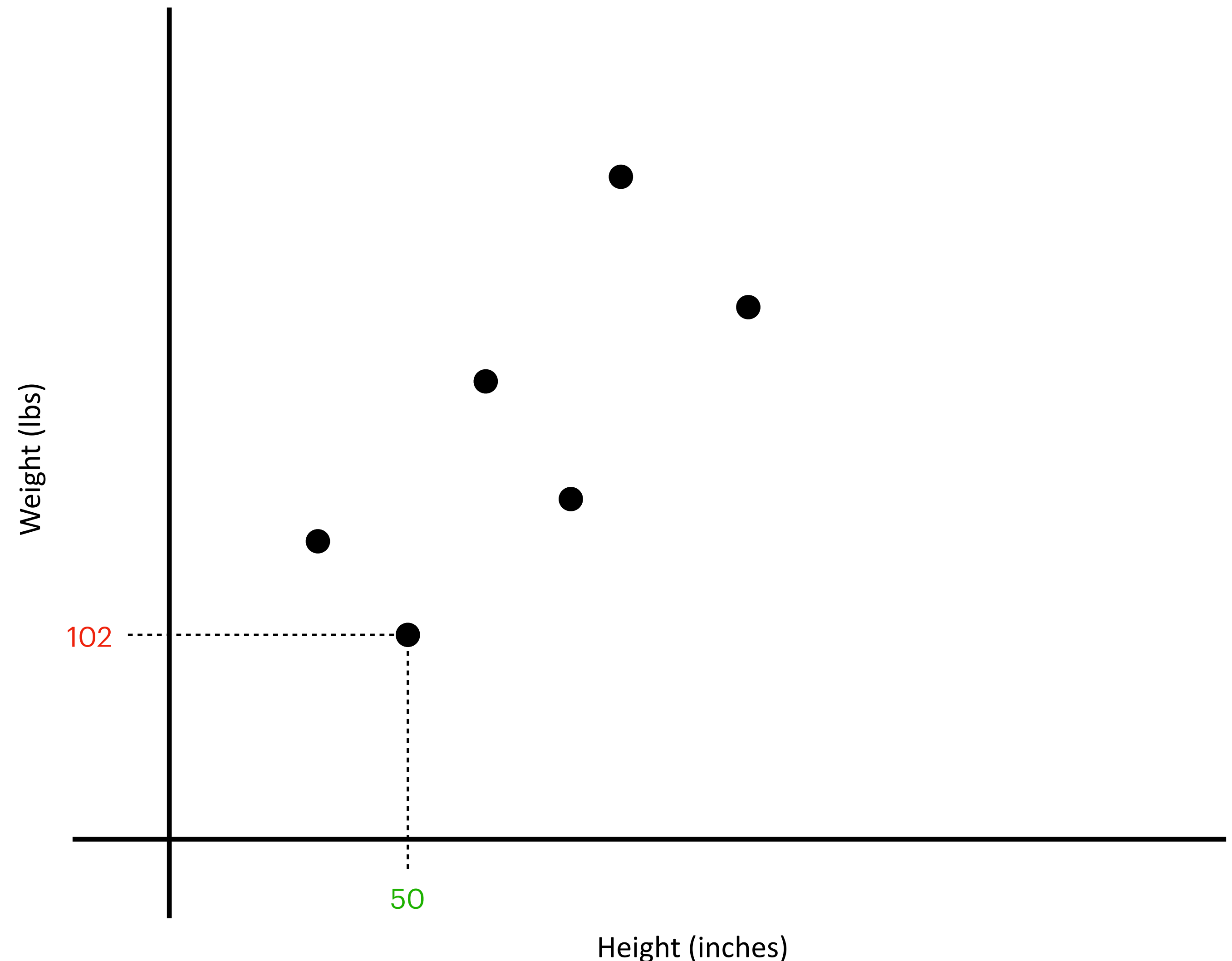
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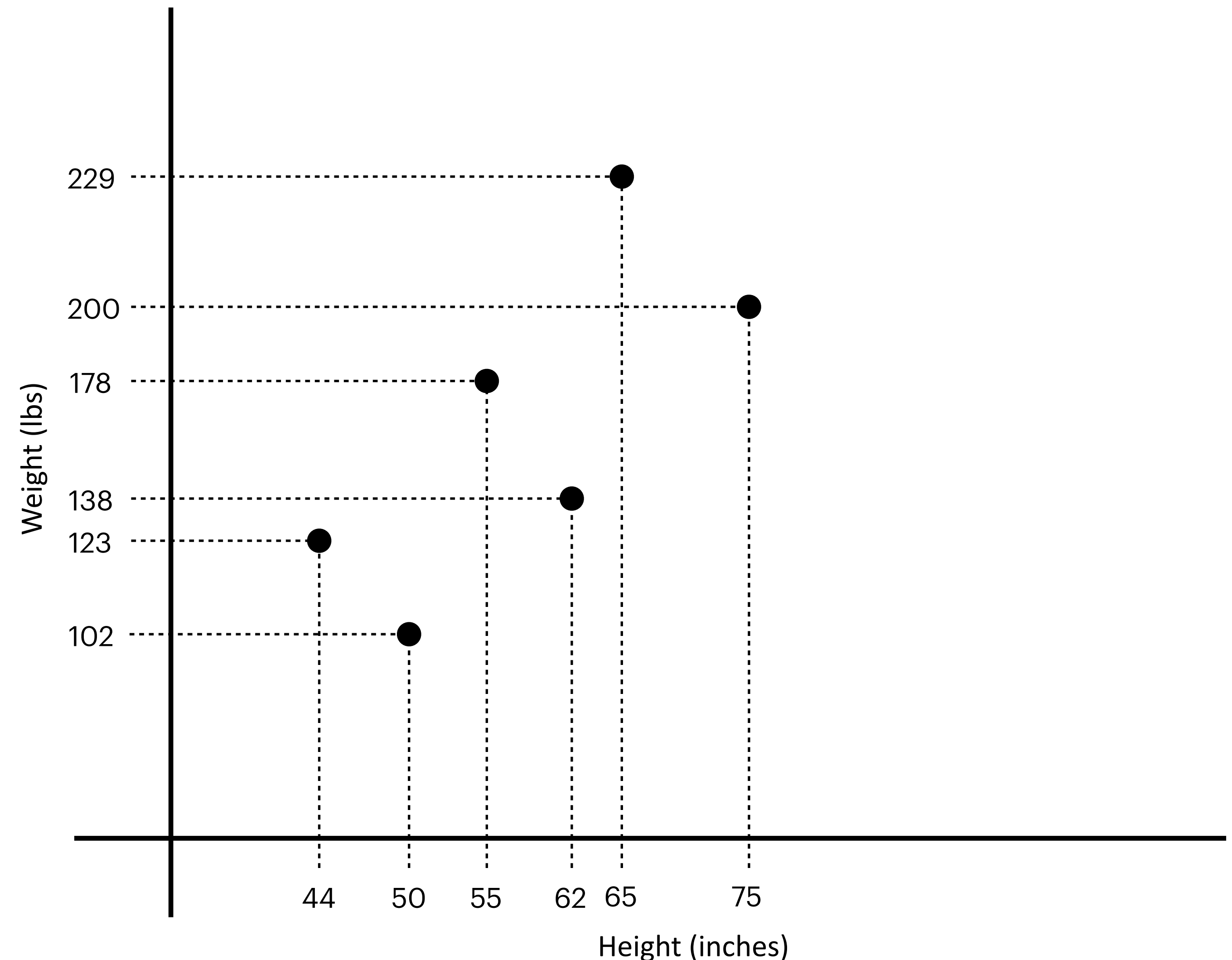
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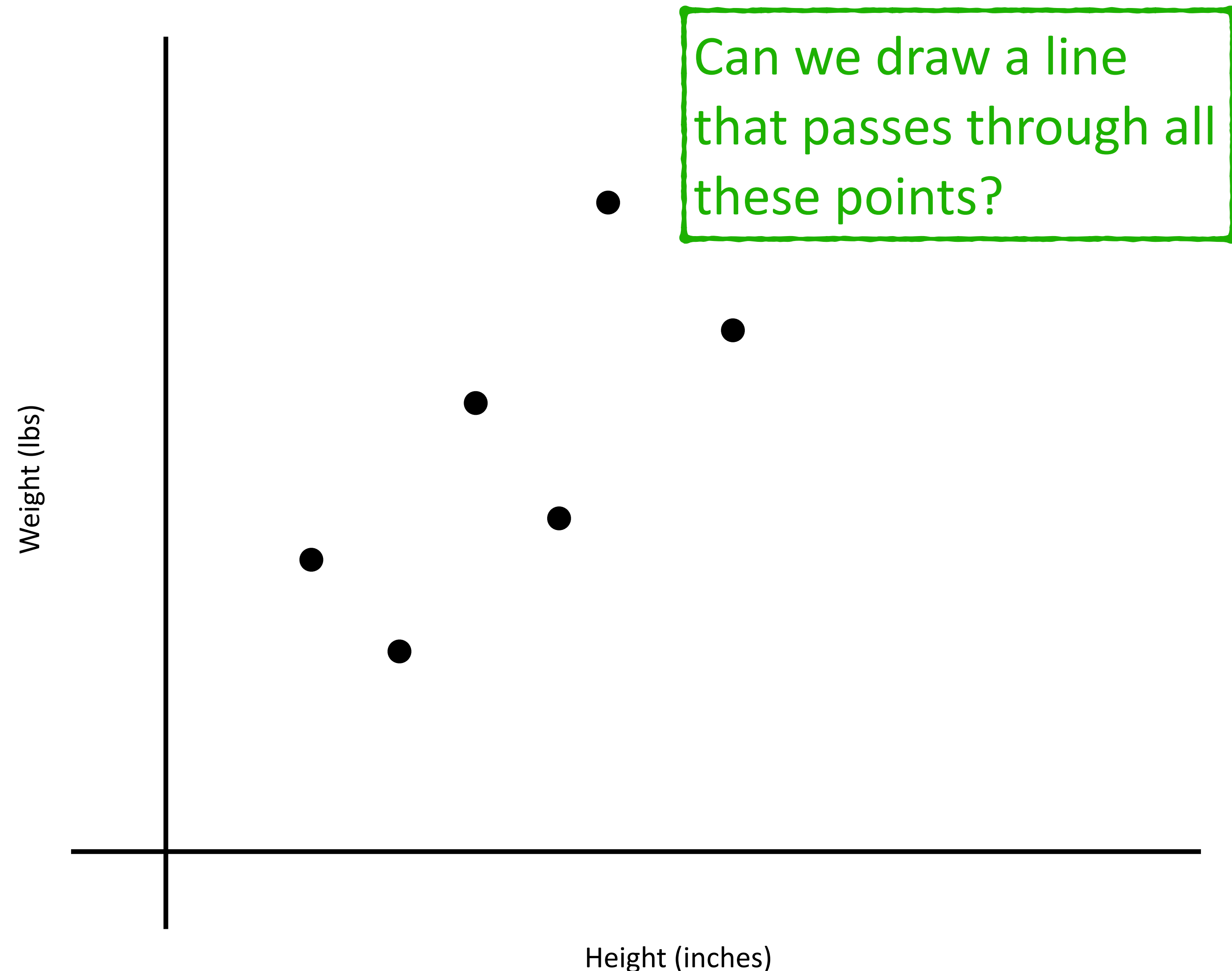
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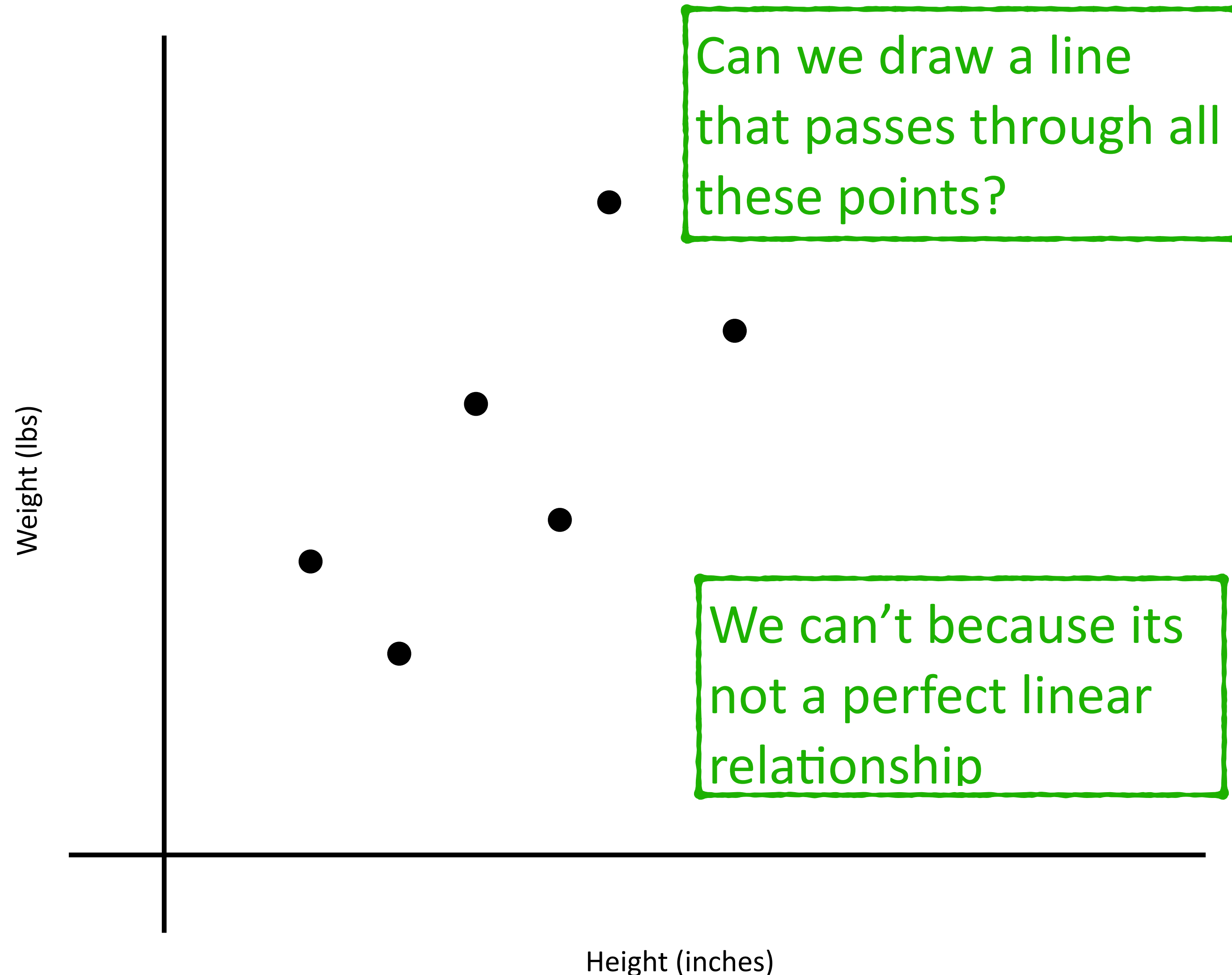
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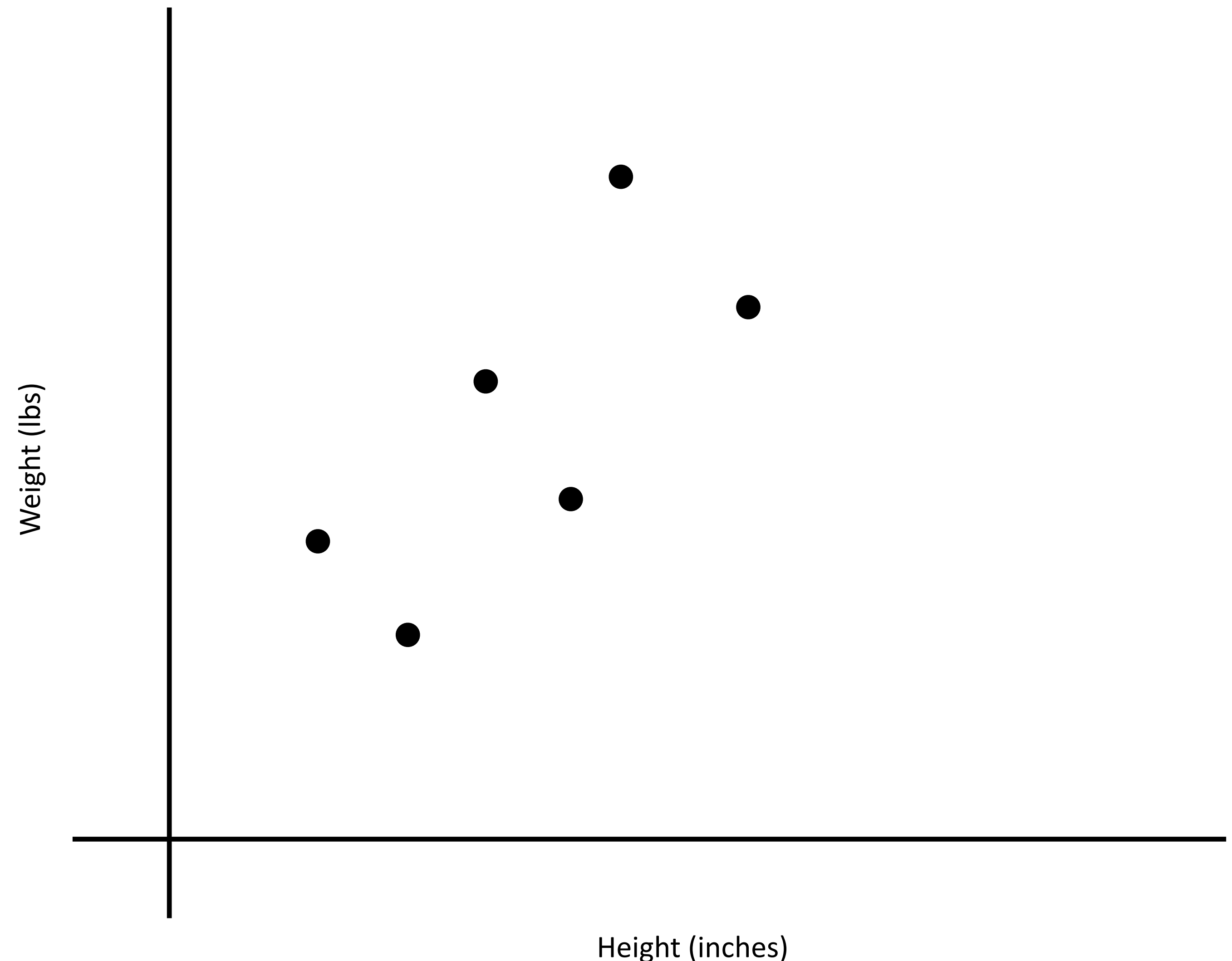
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Question: So what's the line that **best** fits the data?



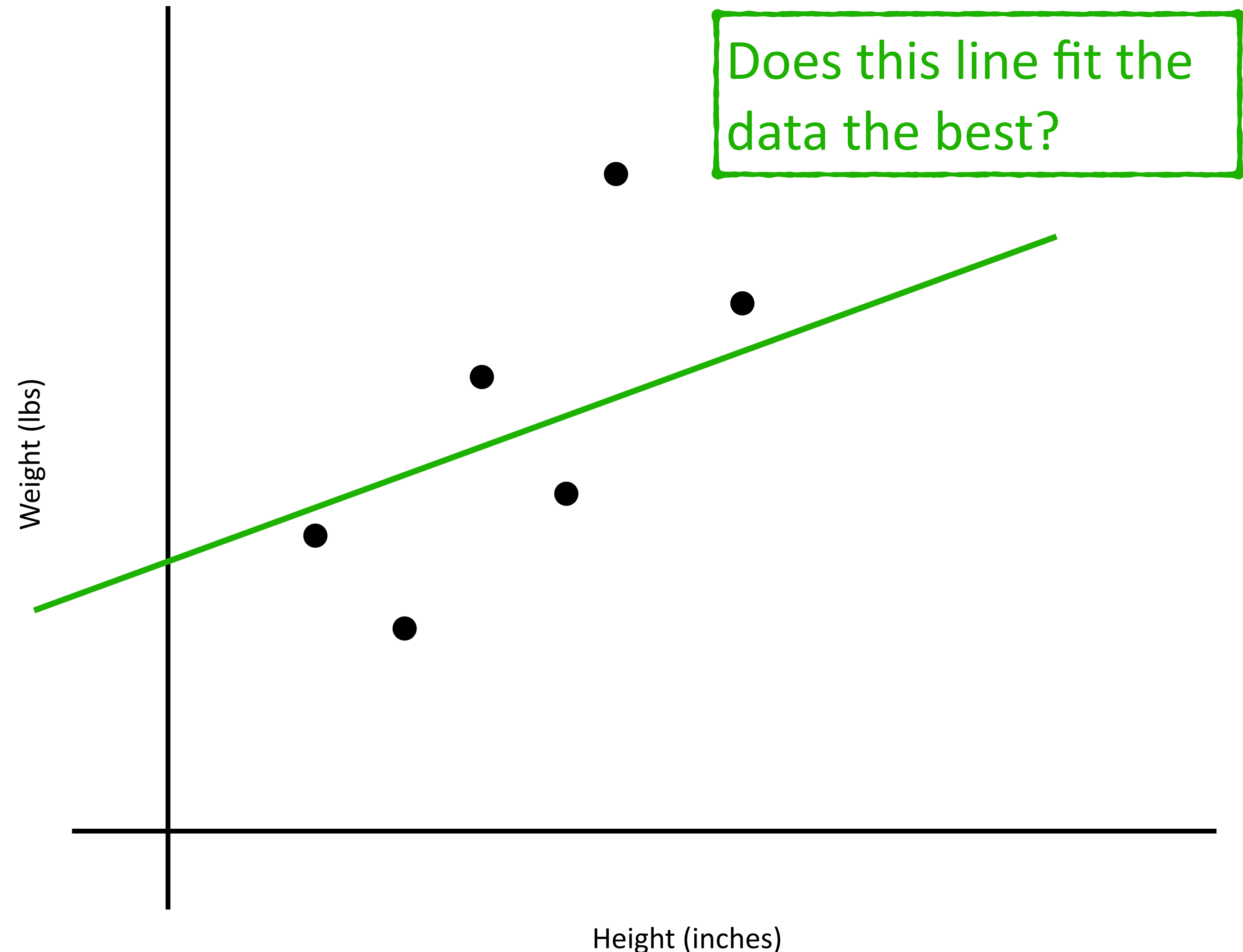
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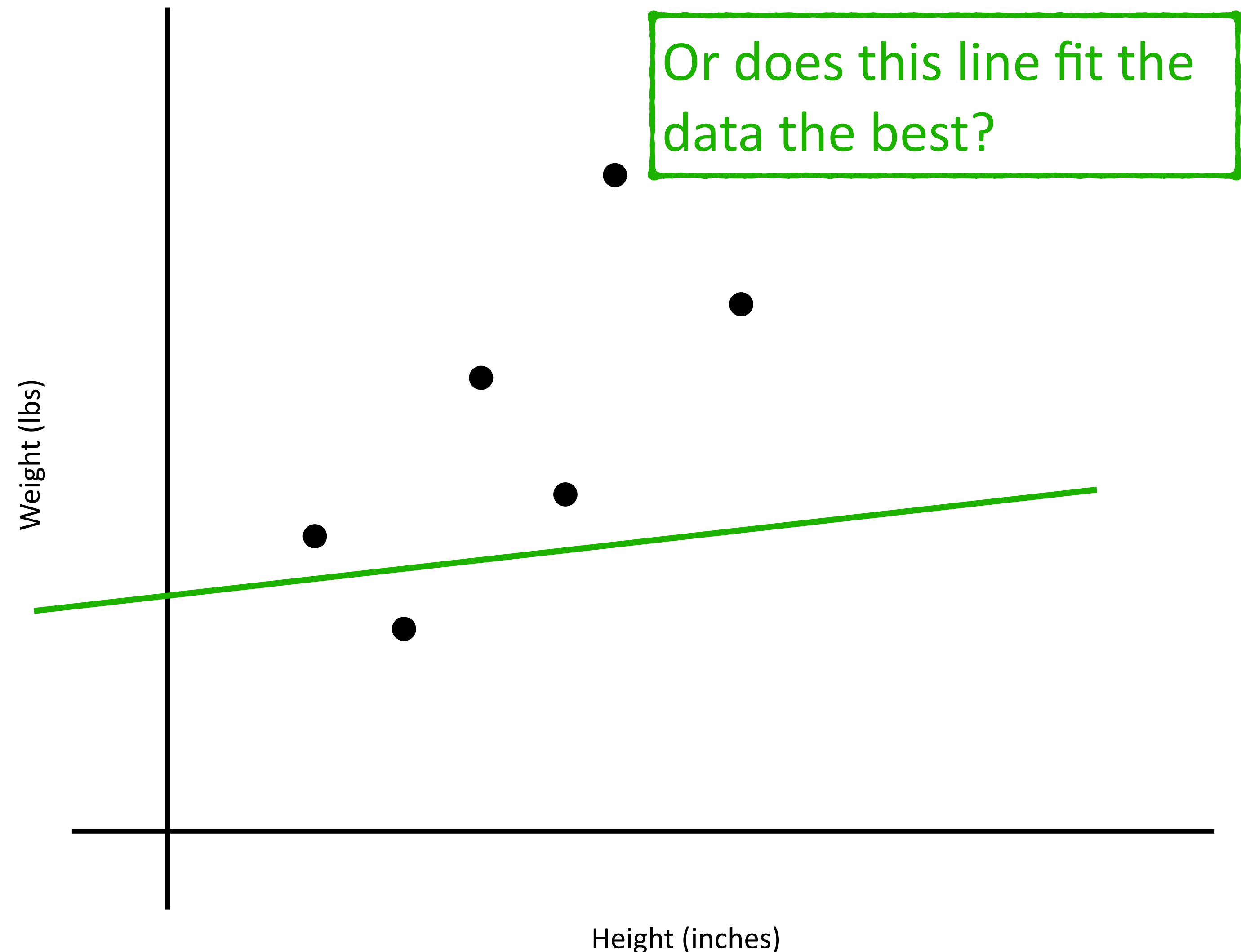
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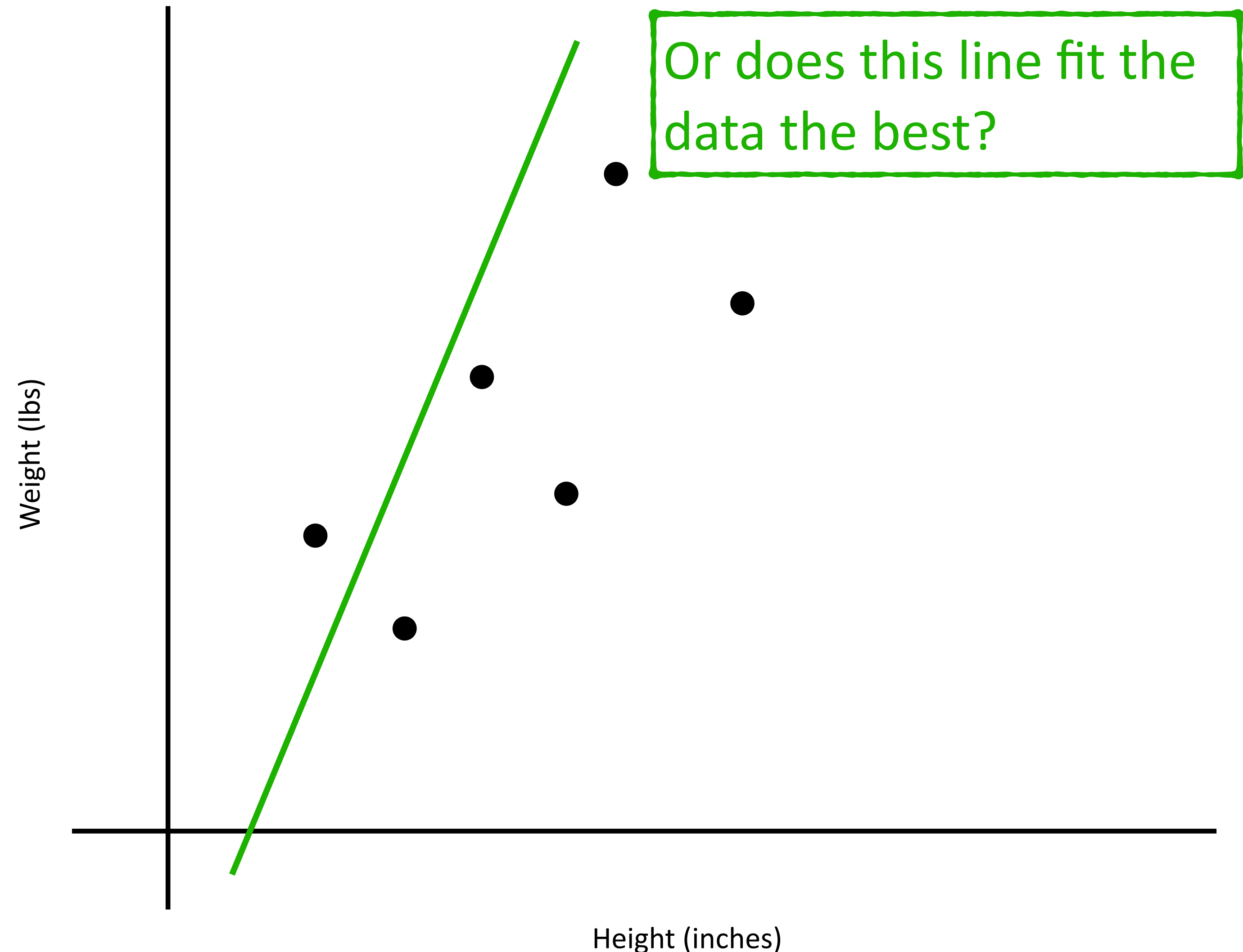
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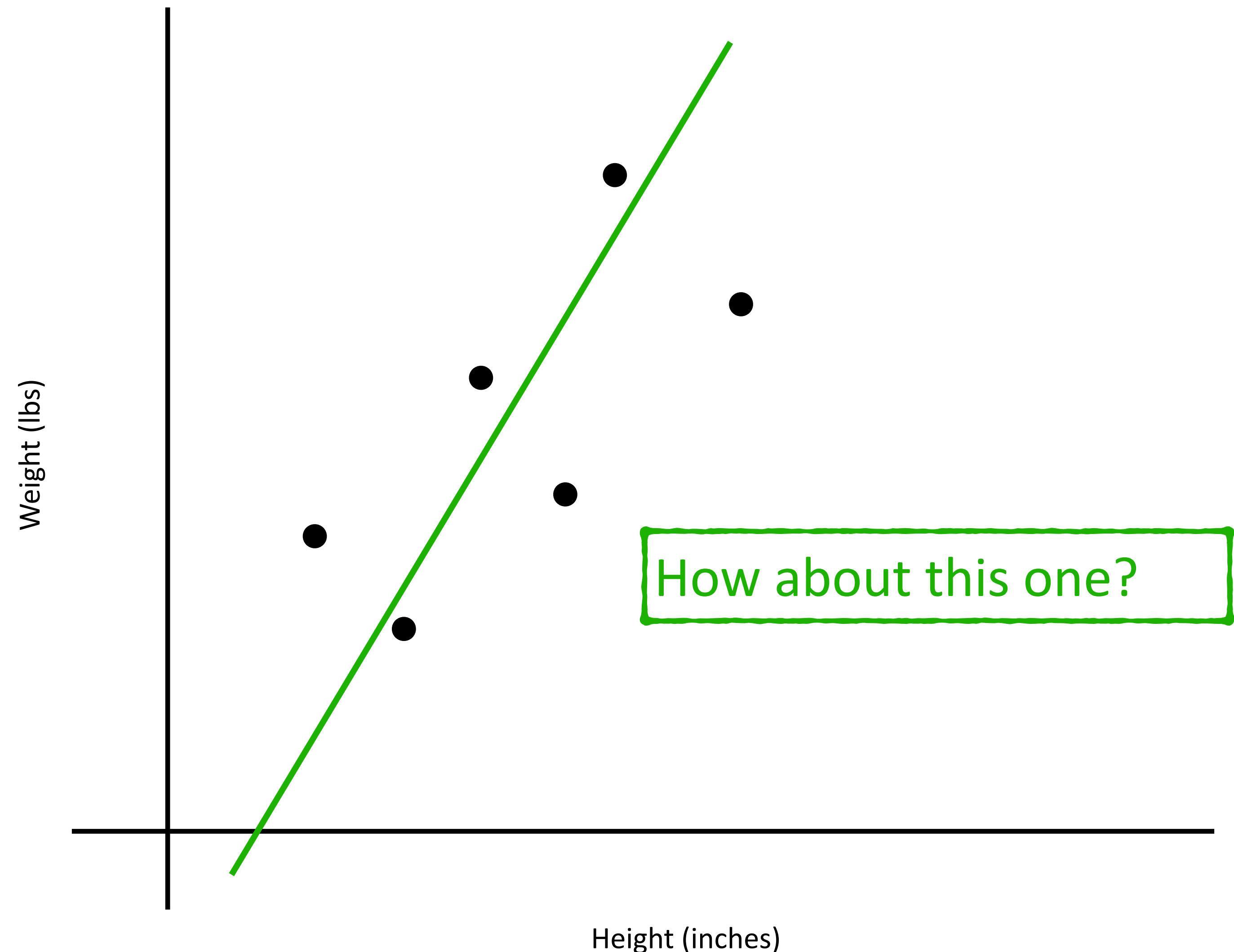
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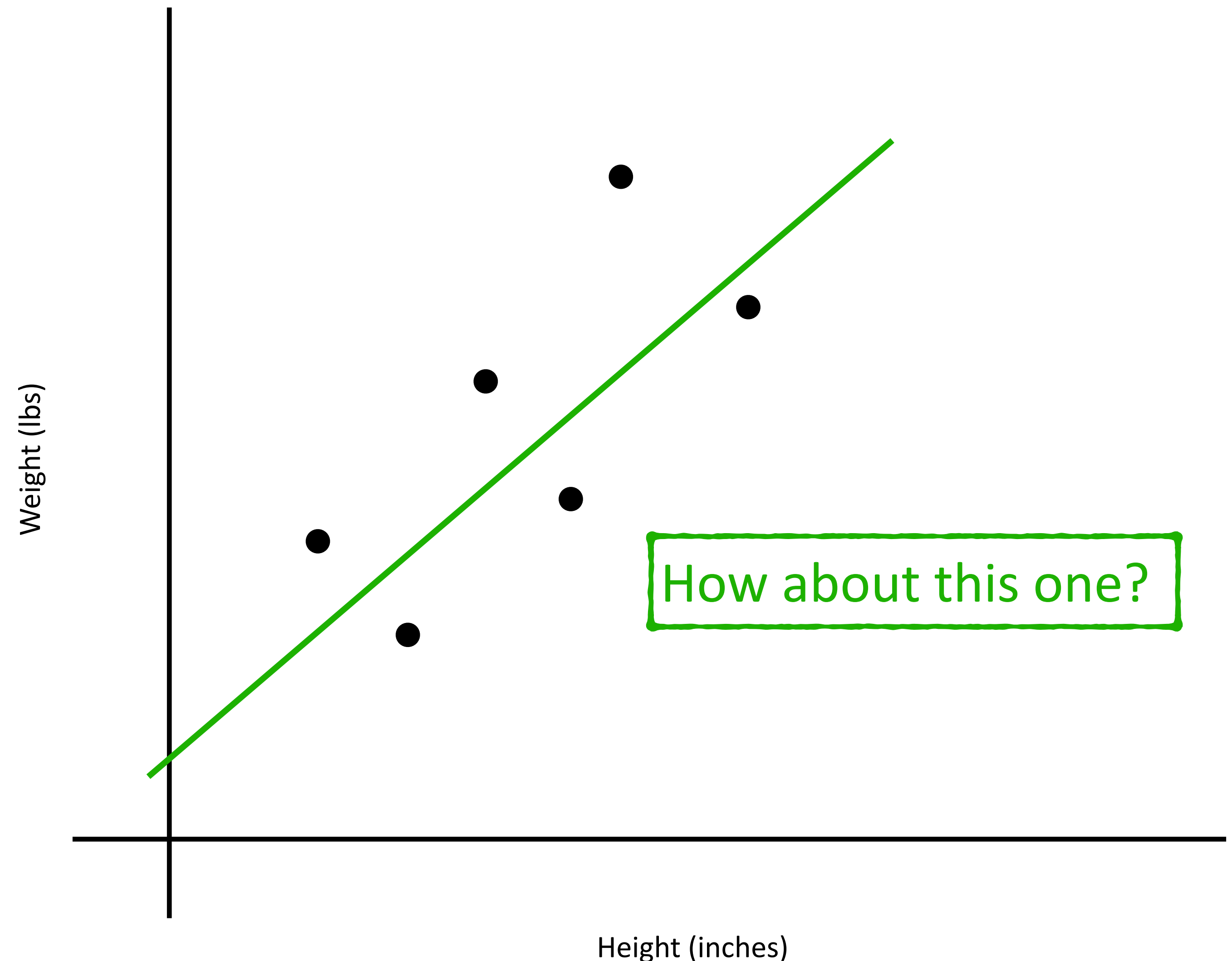
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Simple Linear Regression

A realistic example...

We observe the heights and weights of 6 people

Height (inches)	Weight (lbs)
50	102

Problem Statement: Find the line that **best** fits the given data.

Height (inches)

Simple Linear Regression

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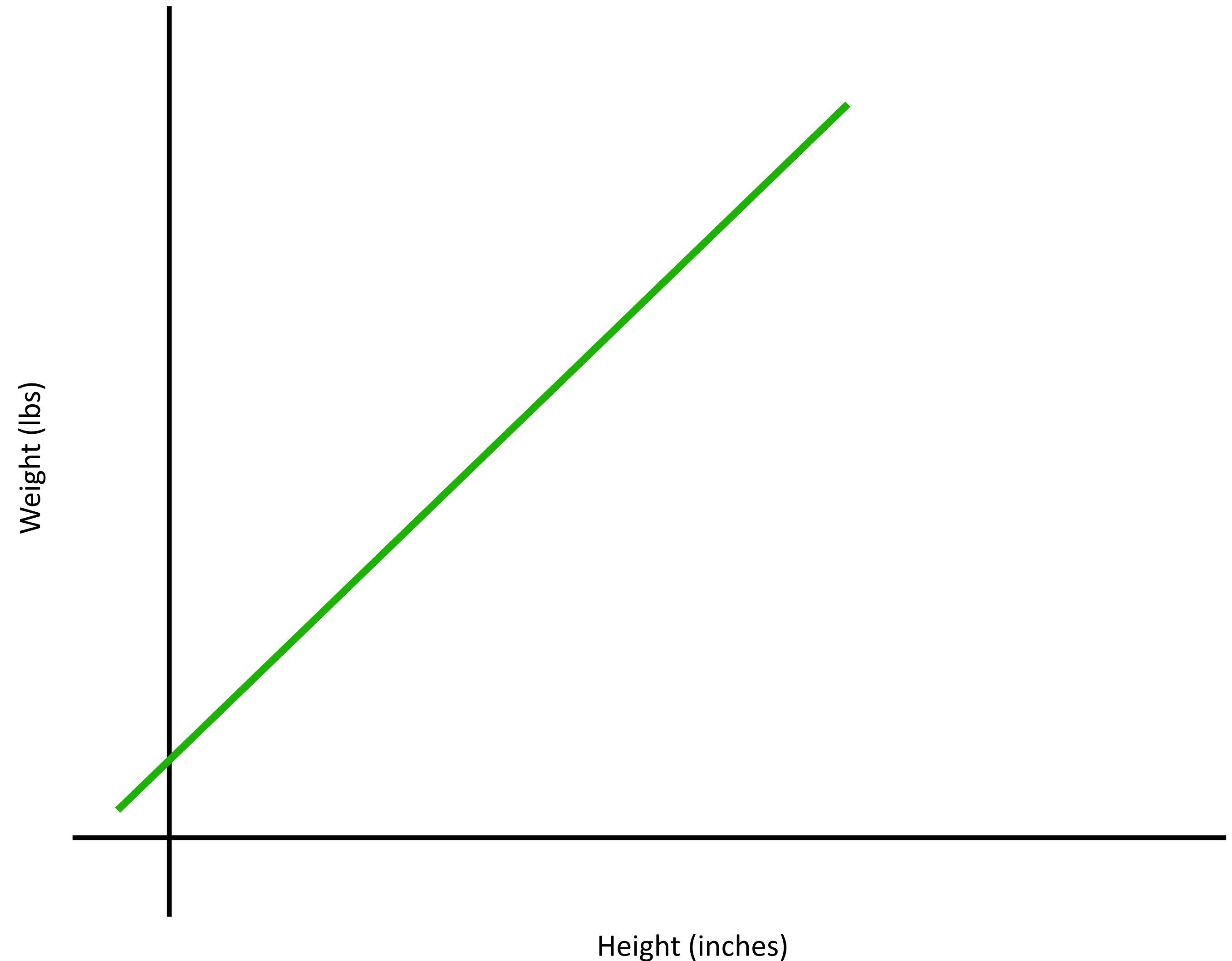
We observe the heights and weights of 6 people

Problem Statement: Given a set of data points in $\mathbb{R}^2$, $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \dots (x_n, y_n)$, find the line that **best** fits the data

Height (inches)

Simple Linear Regression

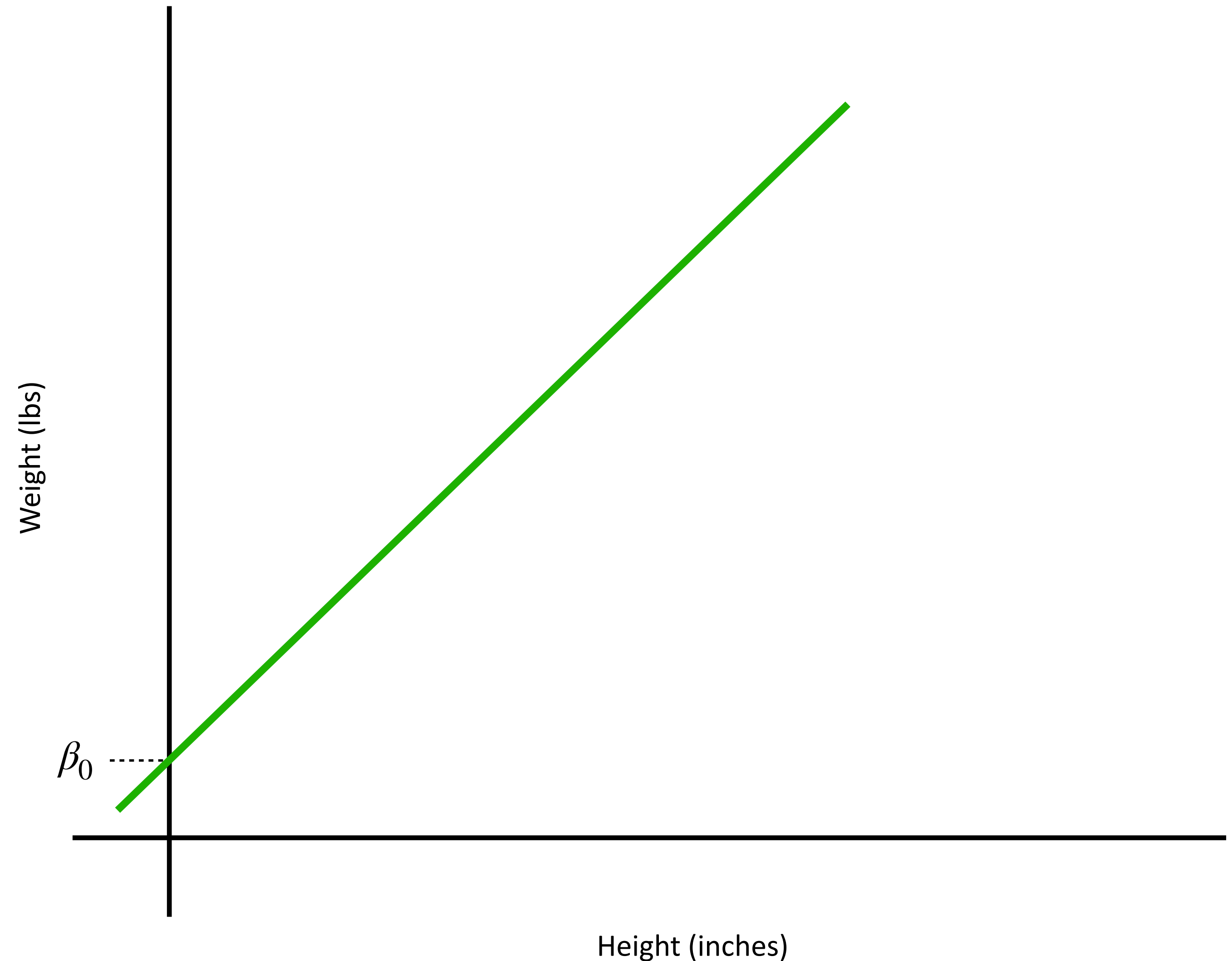
The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$



Simple Linear Regression

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β_0 Is the Y intercept

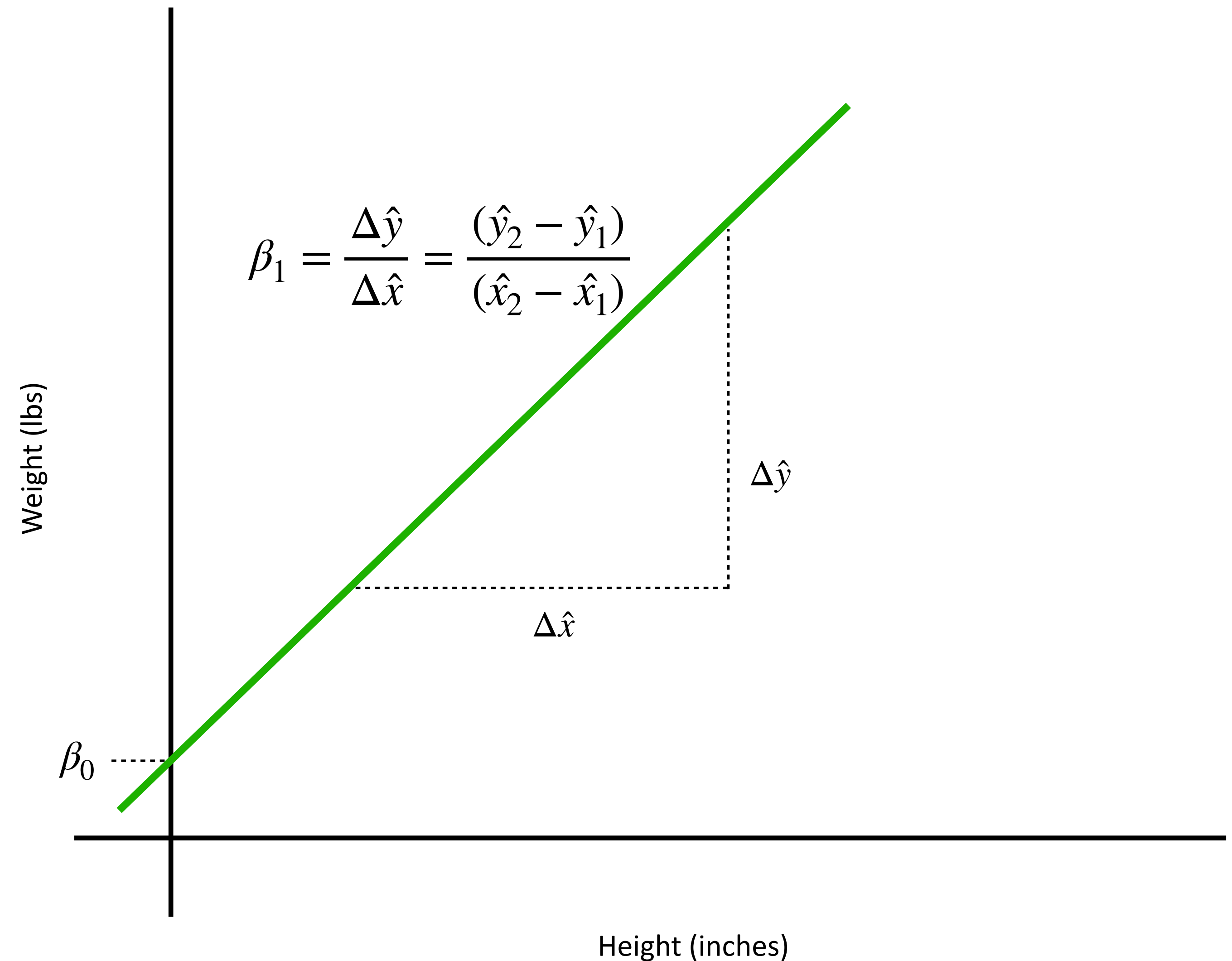


Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

β_0 Is the Y intercept

β_1 Is the slope of the line



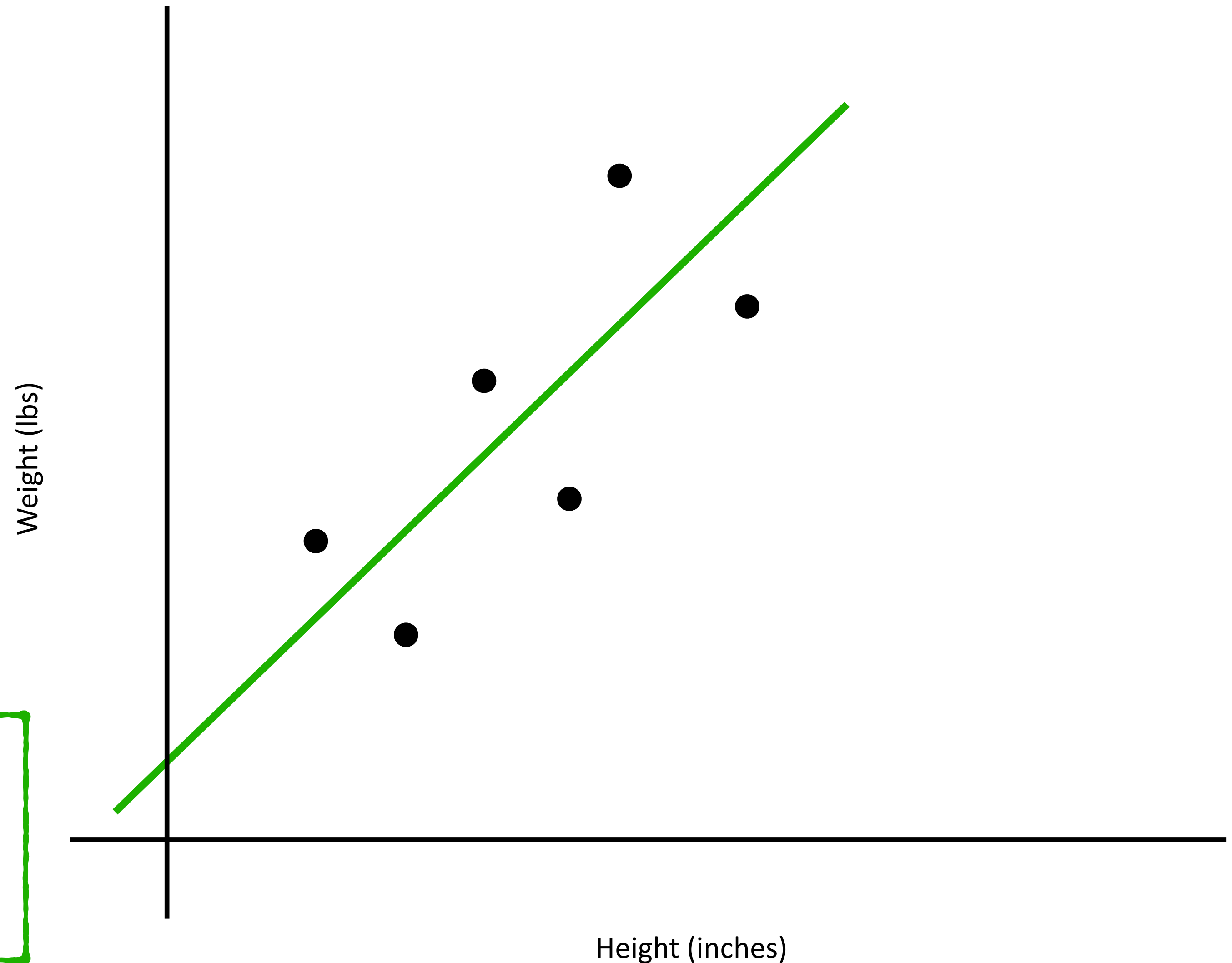
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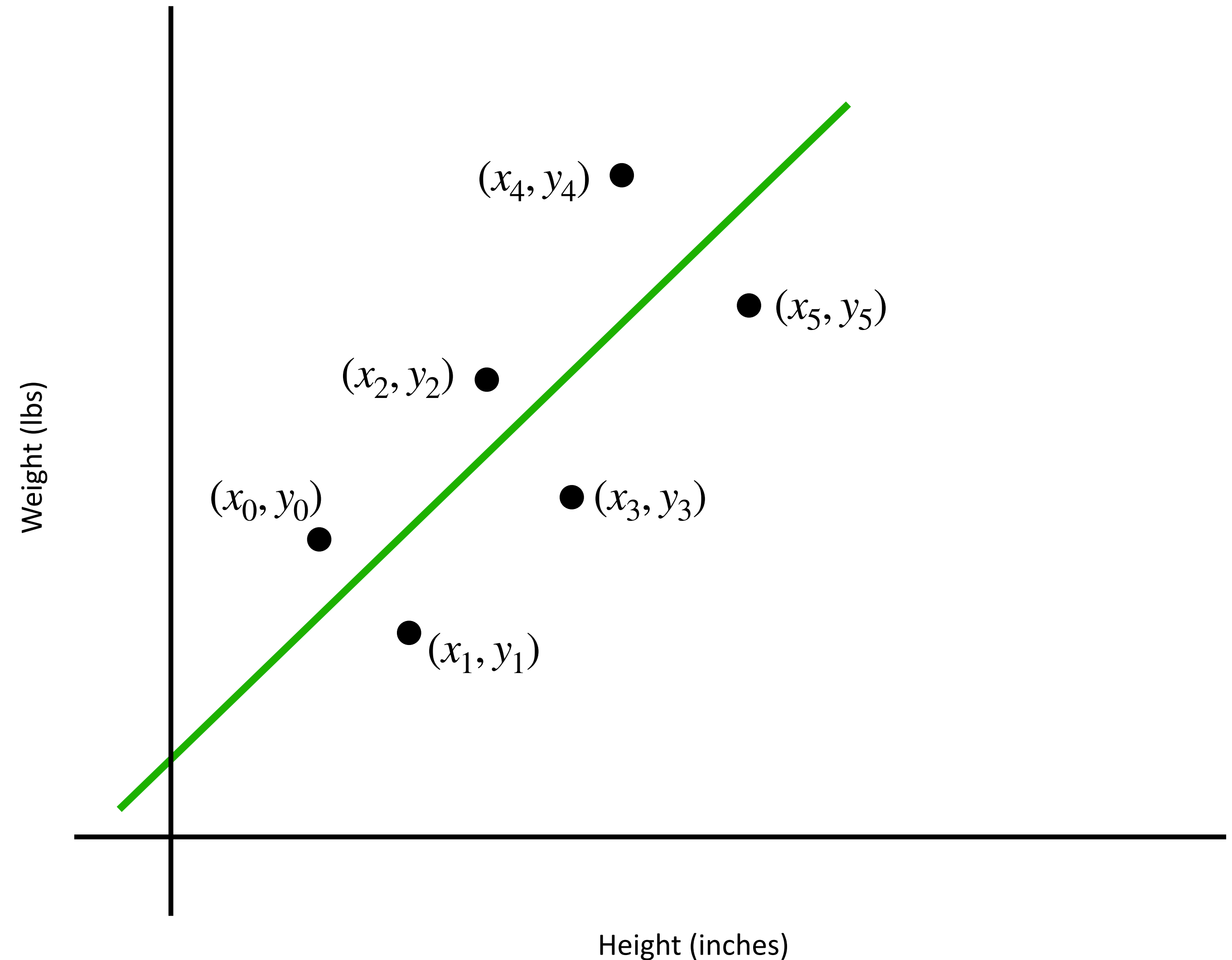
β_1 Is the slope of the line

Problem Statement: Find the values of β_0 and β_1 for the line that best fits the given data.



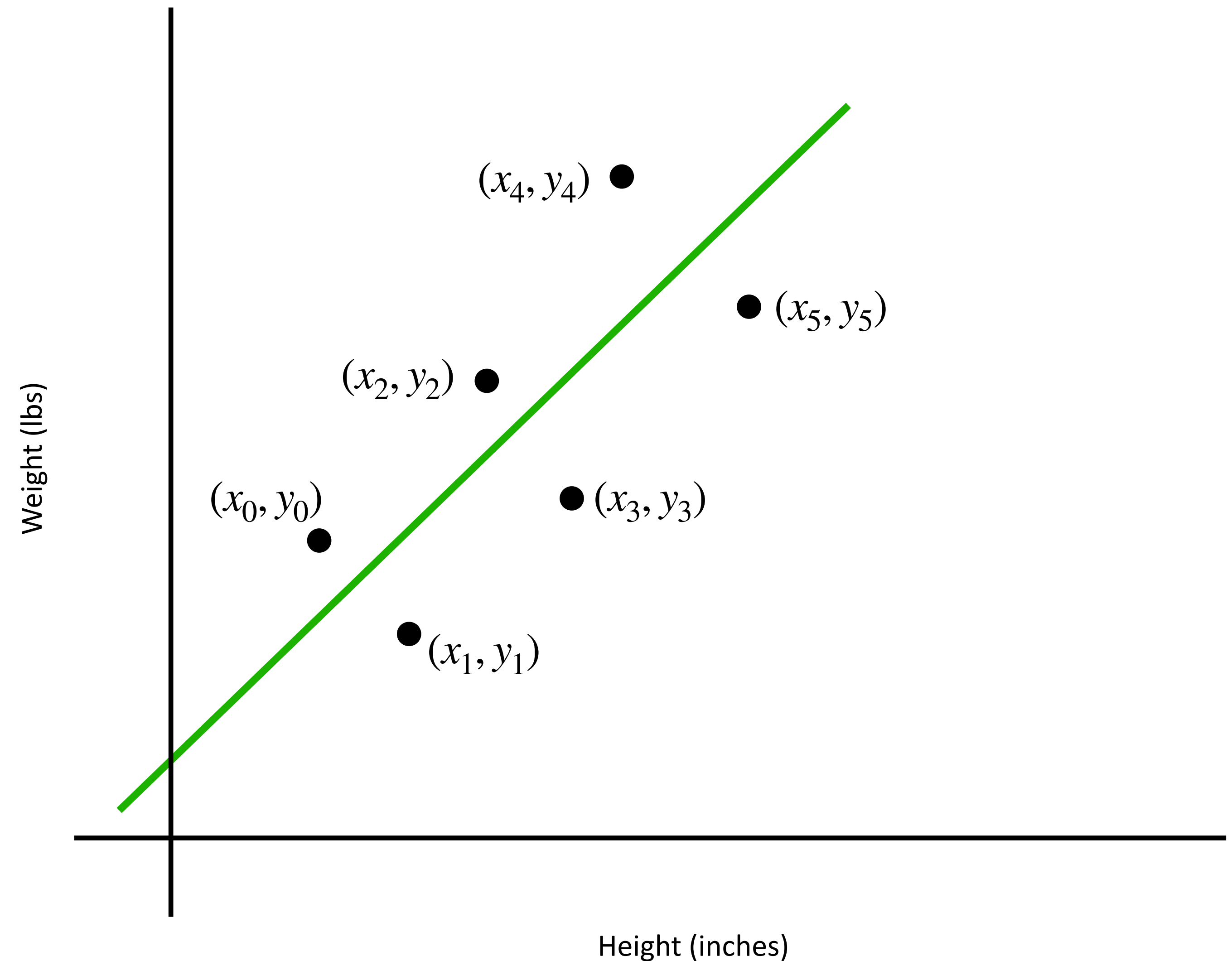
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Simple Linear Regression

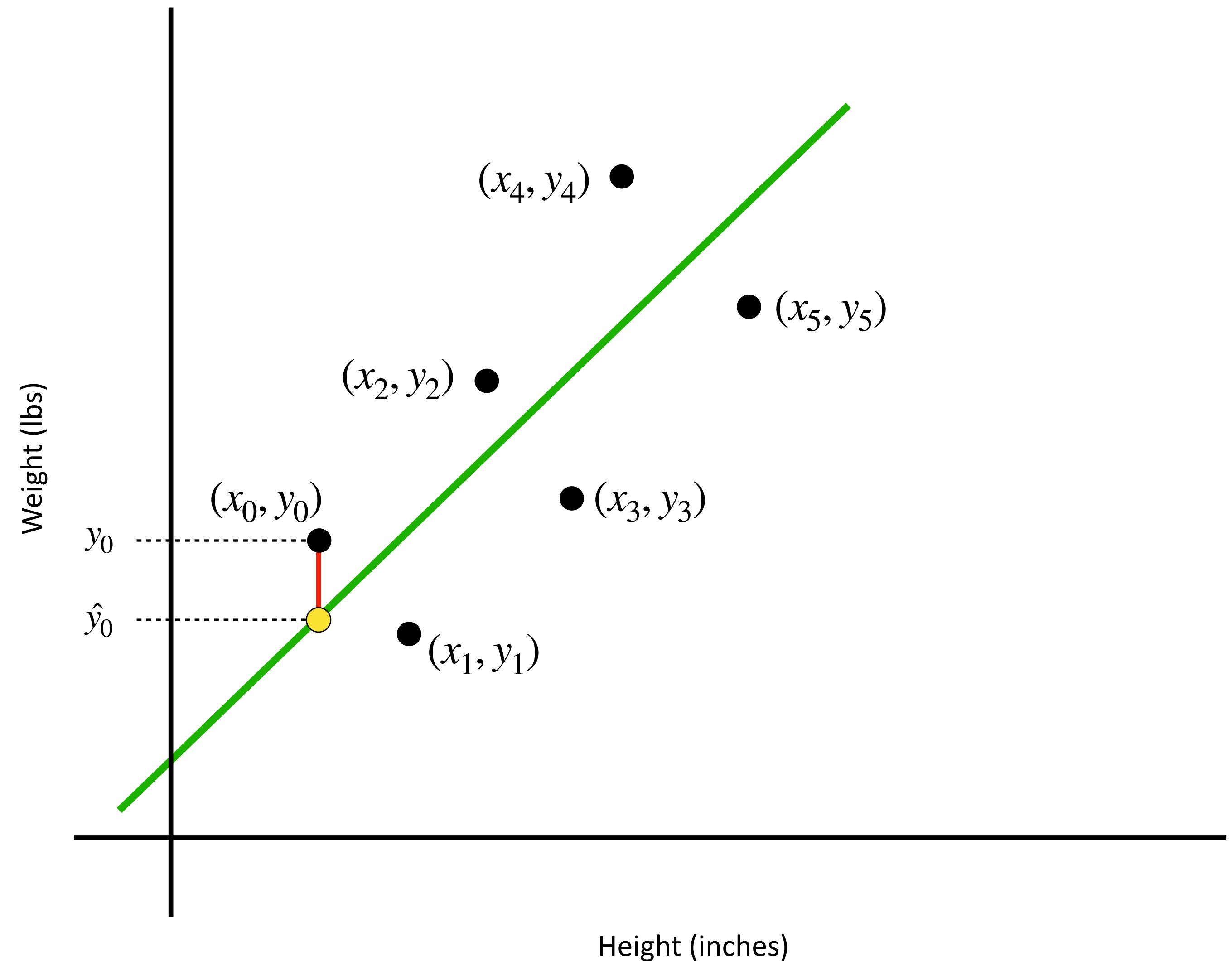
The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$
For each point calculate the
distance to the line (the error)



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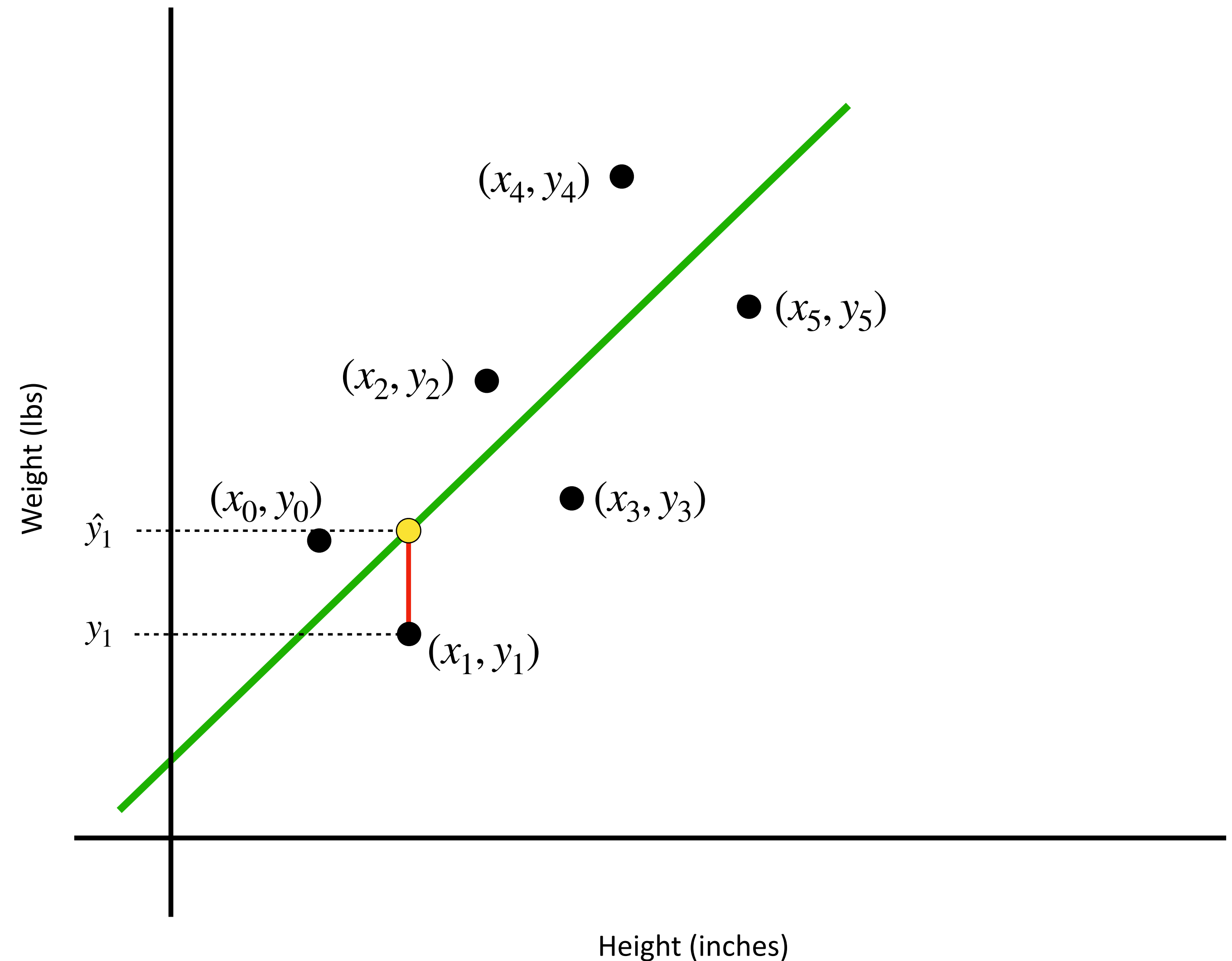
$$(y_0 - \hat{y}_0)$$



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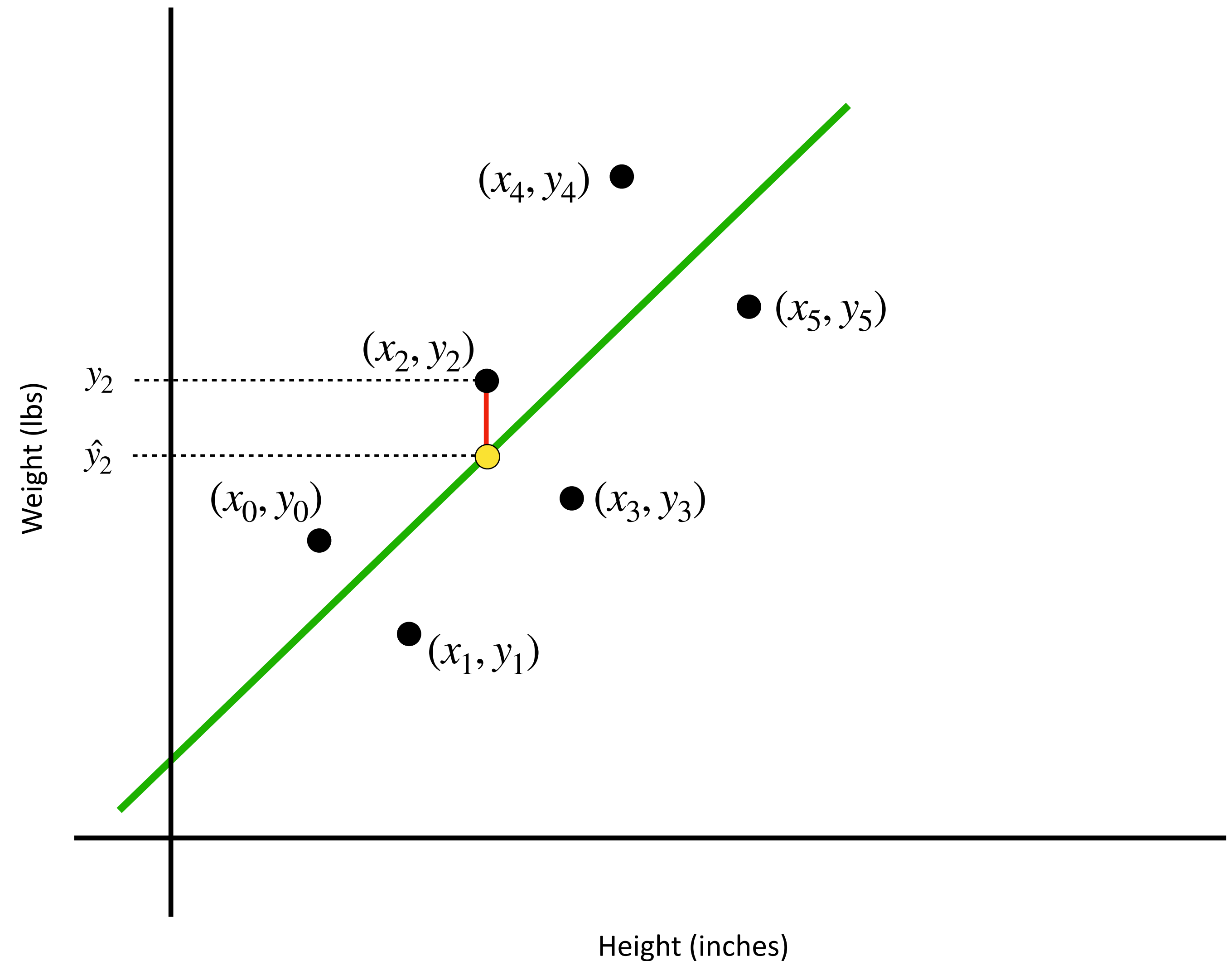
$$(y_0 - \hat{y}_0) + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1)$$



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For each point calculate the
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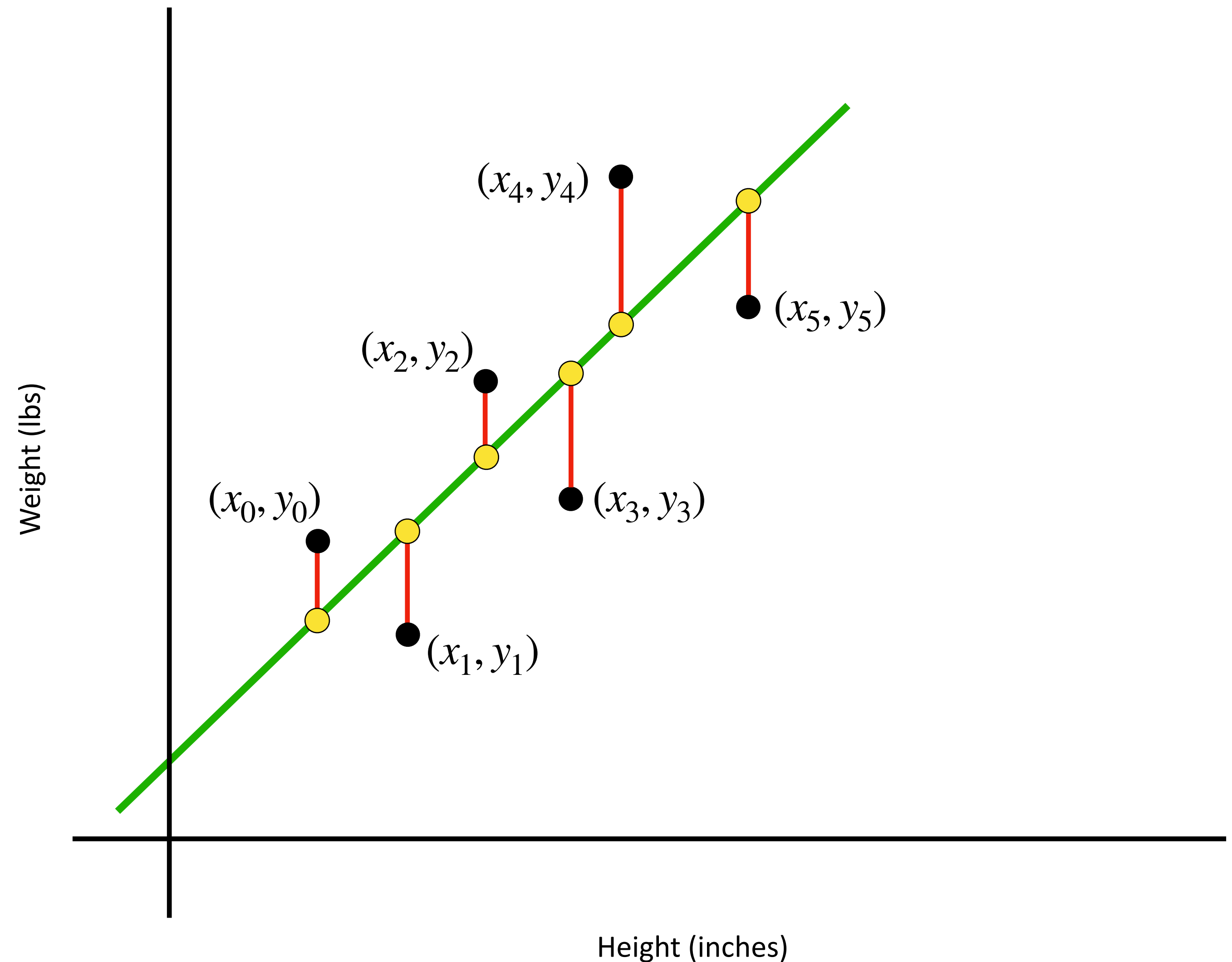
$$(y_0 - \hat{y}_0) + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1) + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)$$



Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$
For each point calculate the
distance to the line (the error)

$$(y_0 - \hat{y}_0) + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1) + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2) \\ + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3) + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4) + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)$$

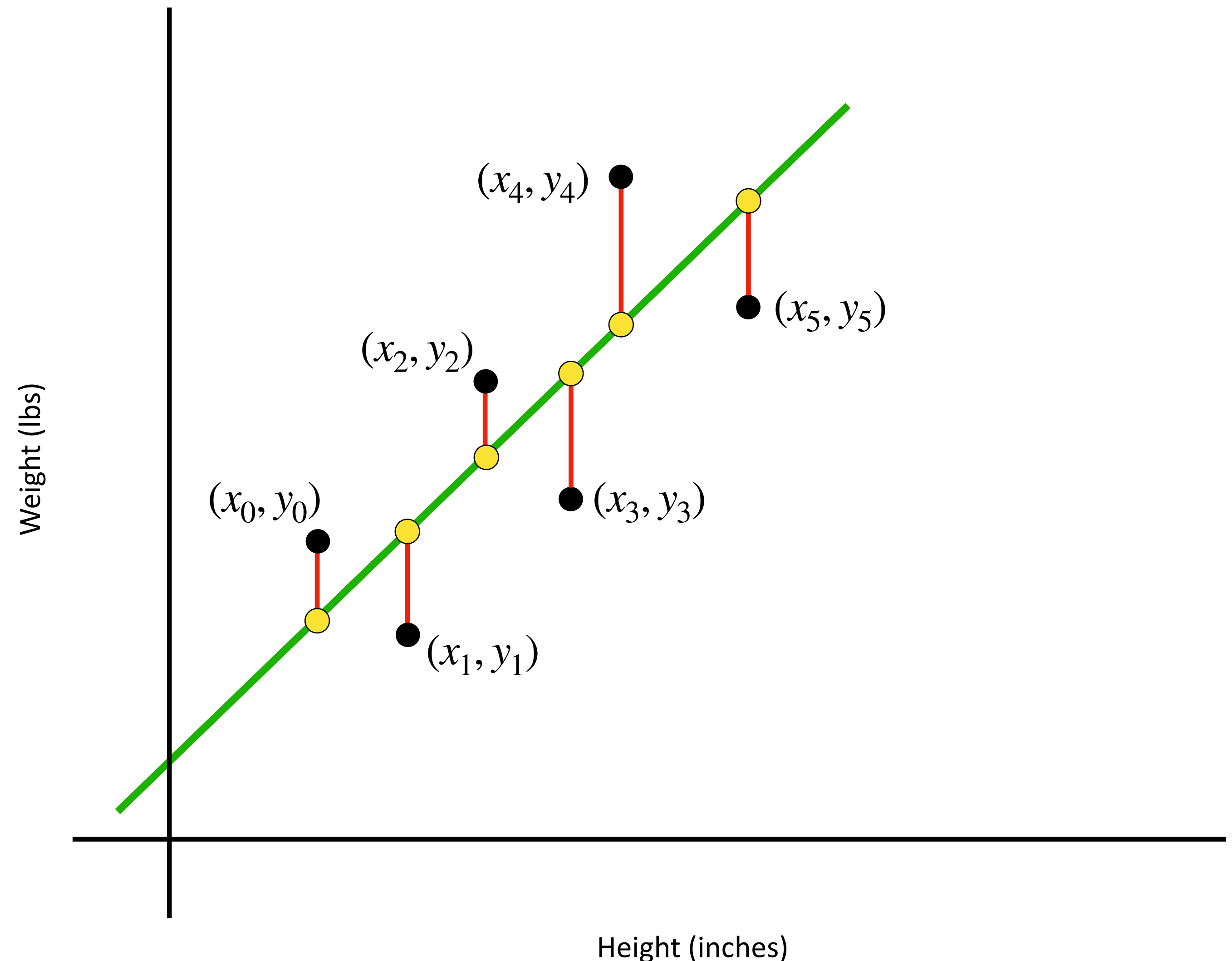


Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$
For each point calculate the
distance to the line (the error)

$$(y_0 - \hat{y}_0) + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1) + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2) \\ + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3) + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4) + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)$$

But there's a small problem...

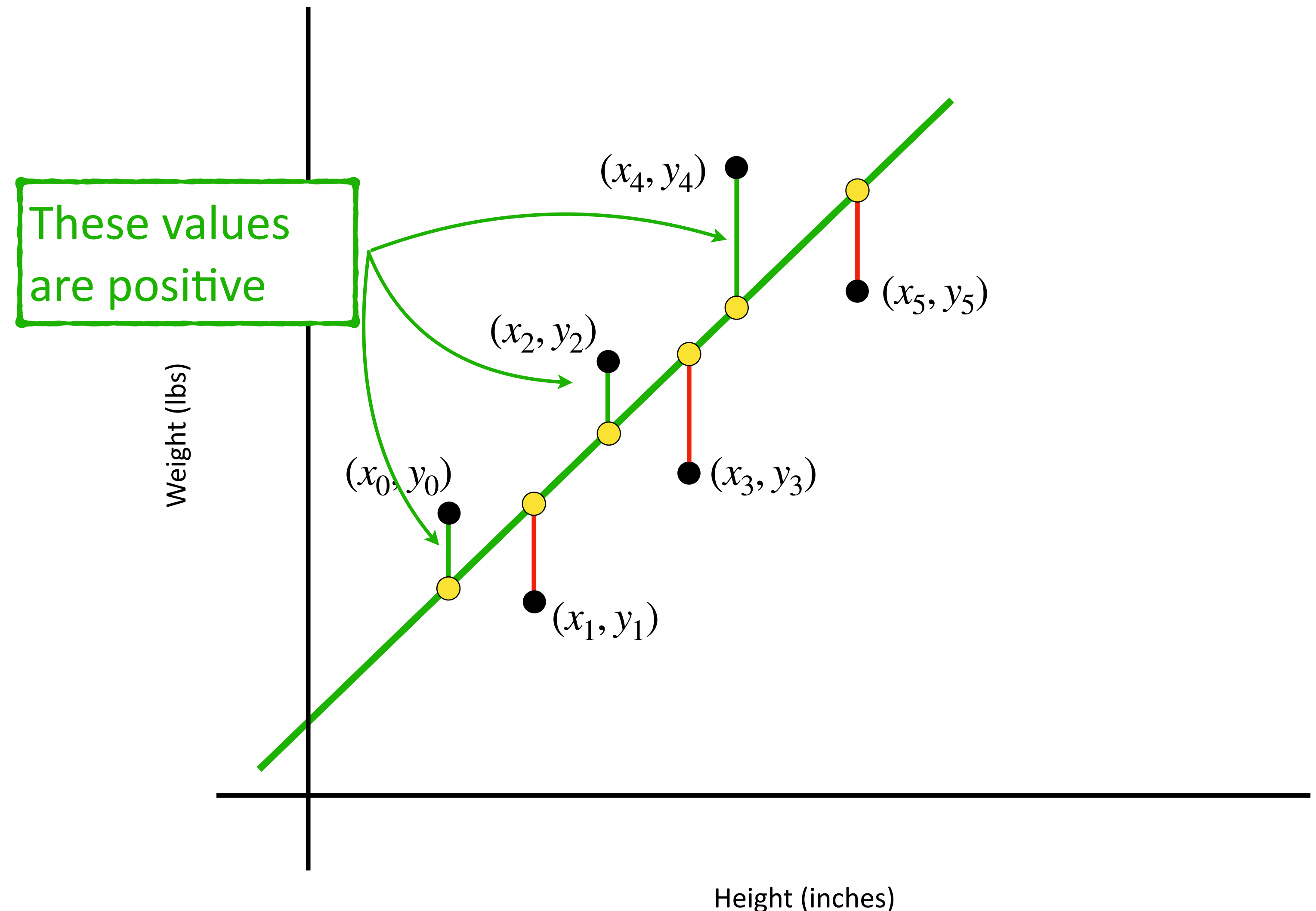


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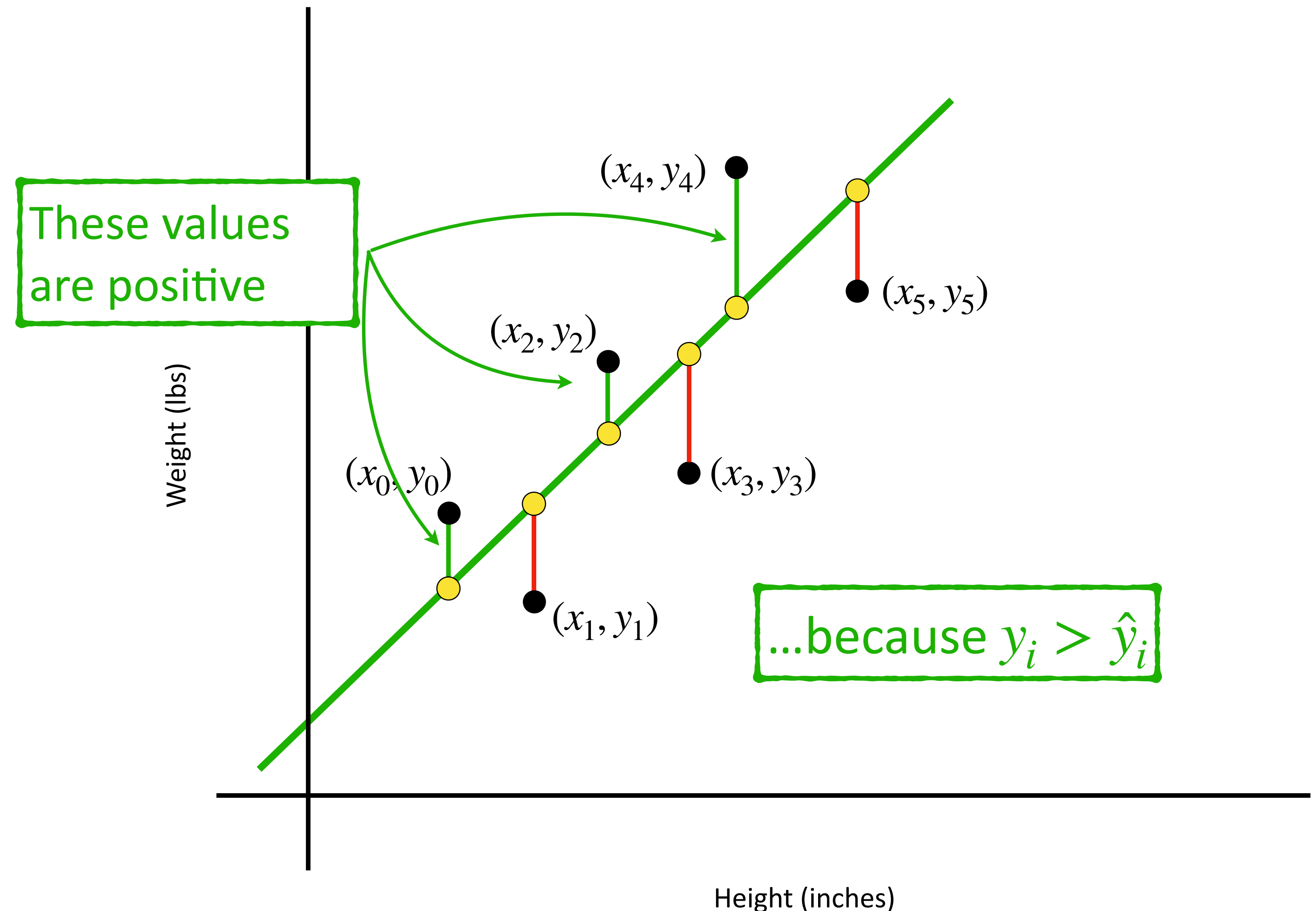


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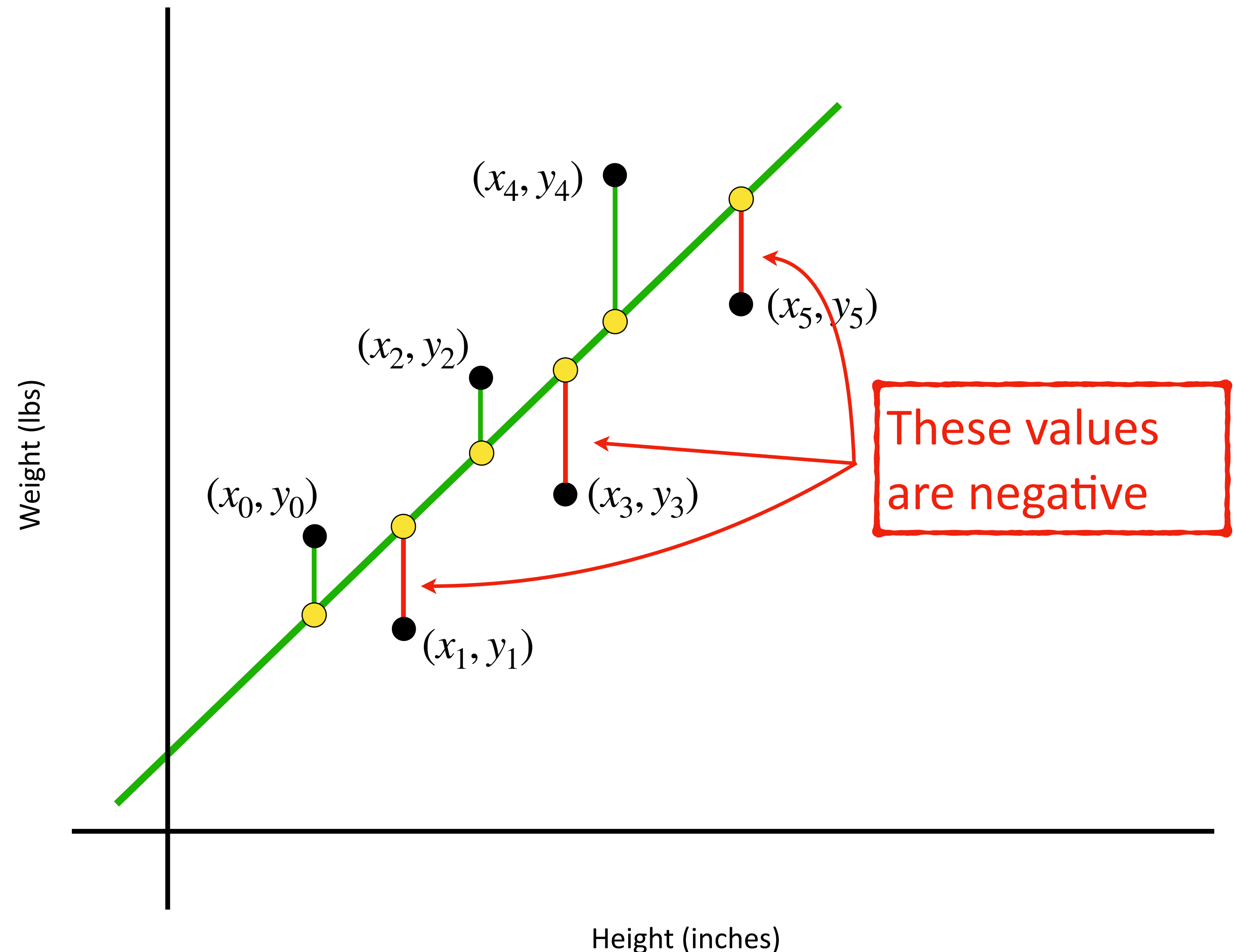


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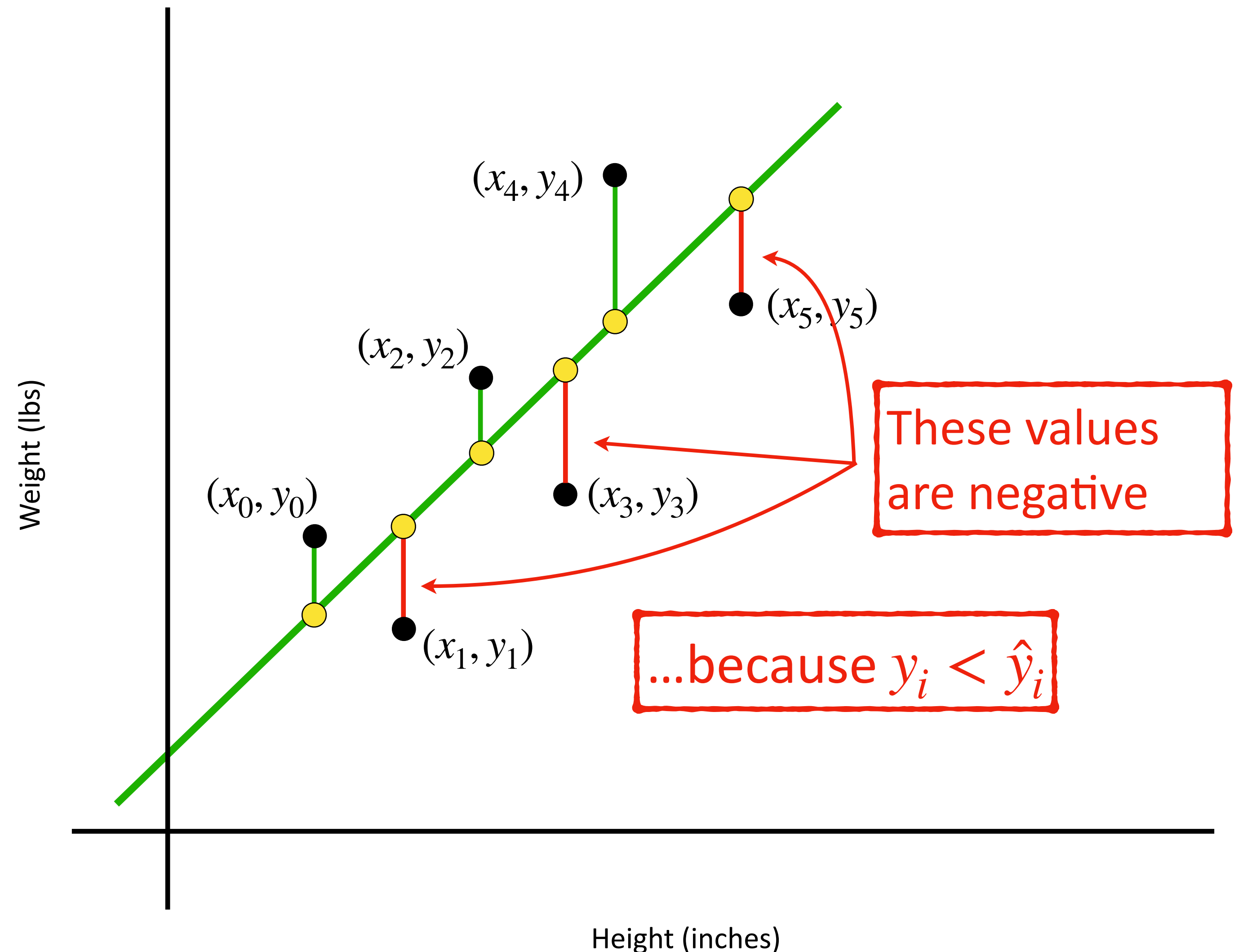


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But there's a small problem...

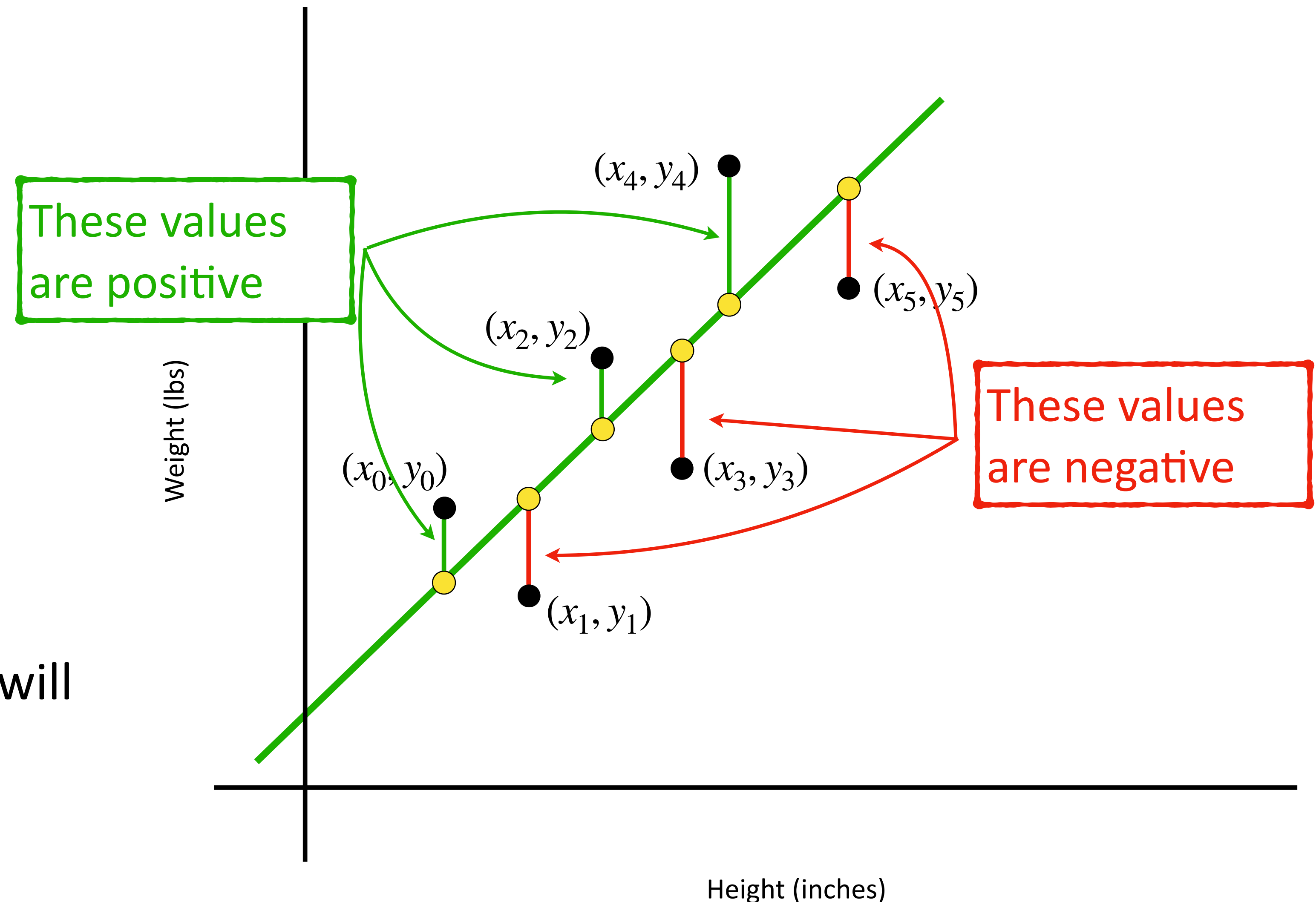


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... the **positive** and **negative** values will cancel each other out



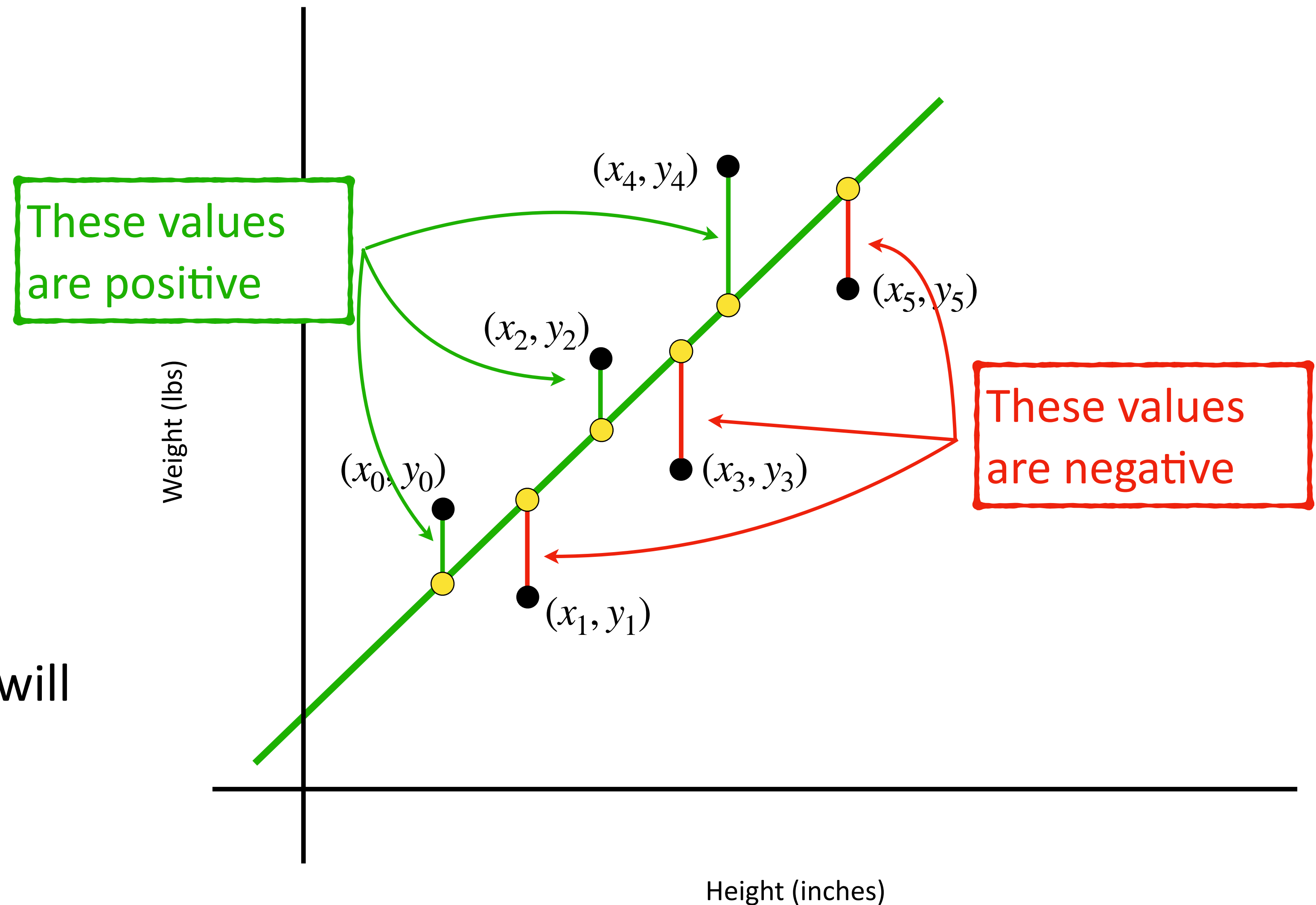
Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$
For each point calculate the distance to the line (the error)

$$(y_0 - \hat{y}_0) + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1) + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2) \\ + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3) + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4) + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)$$

To fix that, we **square** each term

... the **positive** and **negative** values will cancel each other out



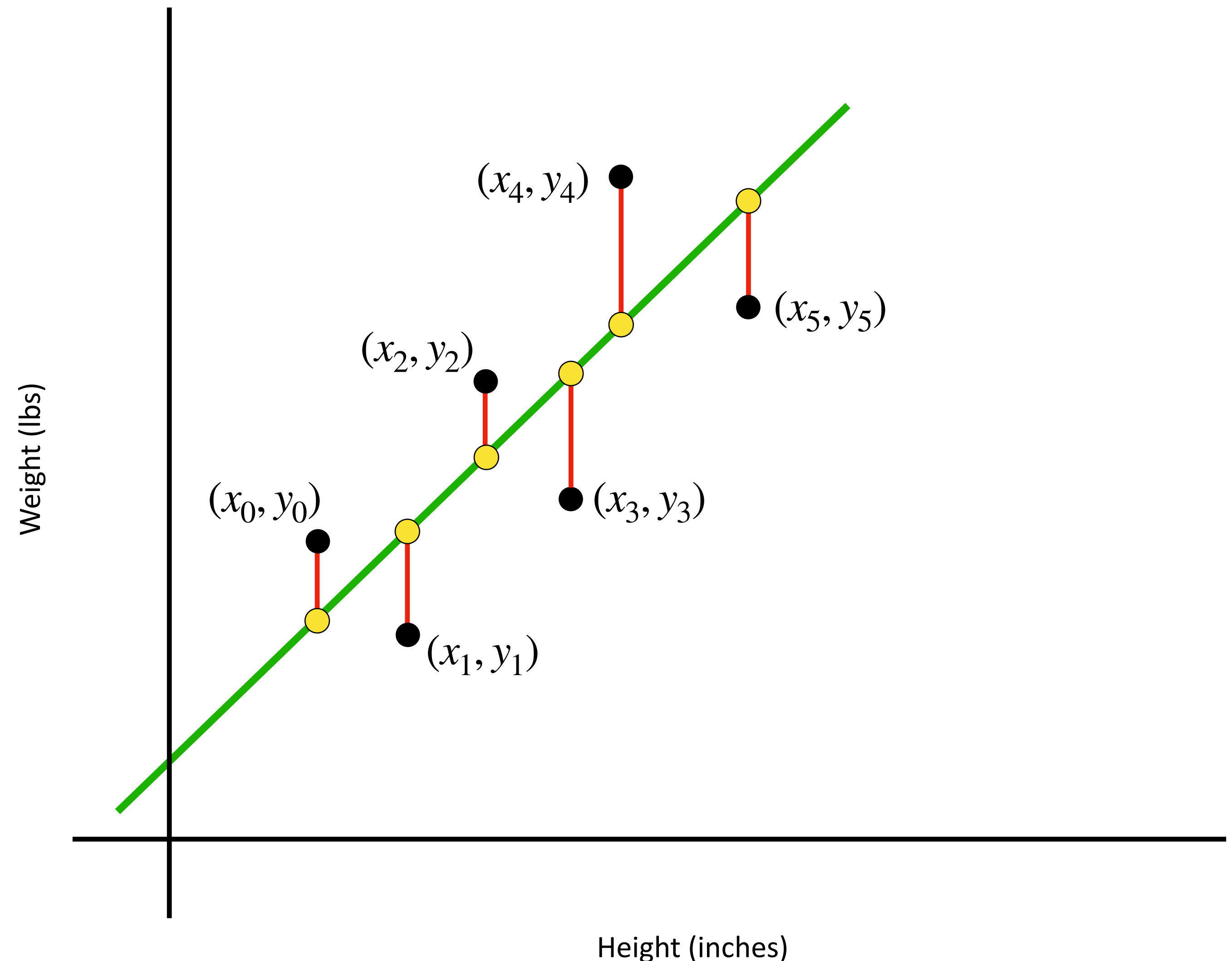
Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$(y_0 - \hat{y}_0)^2 + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 \\ + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2$$

To fix that, we **square** each term

This is the sum of squared errors.

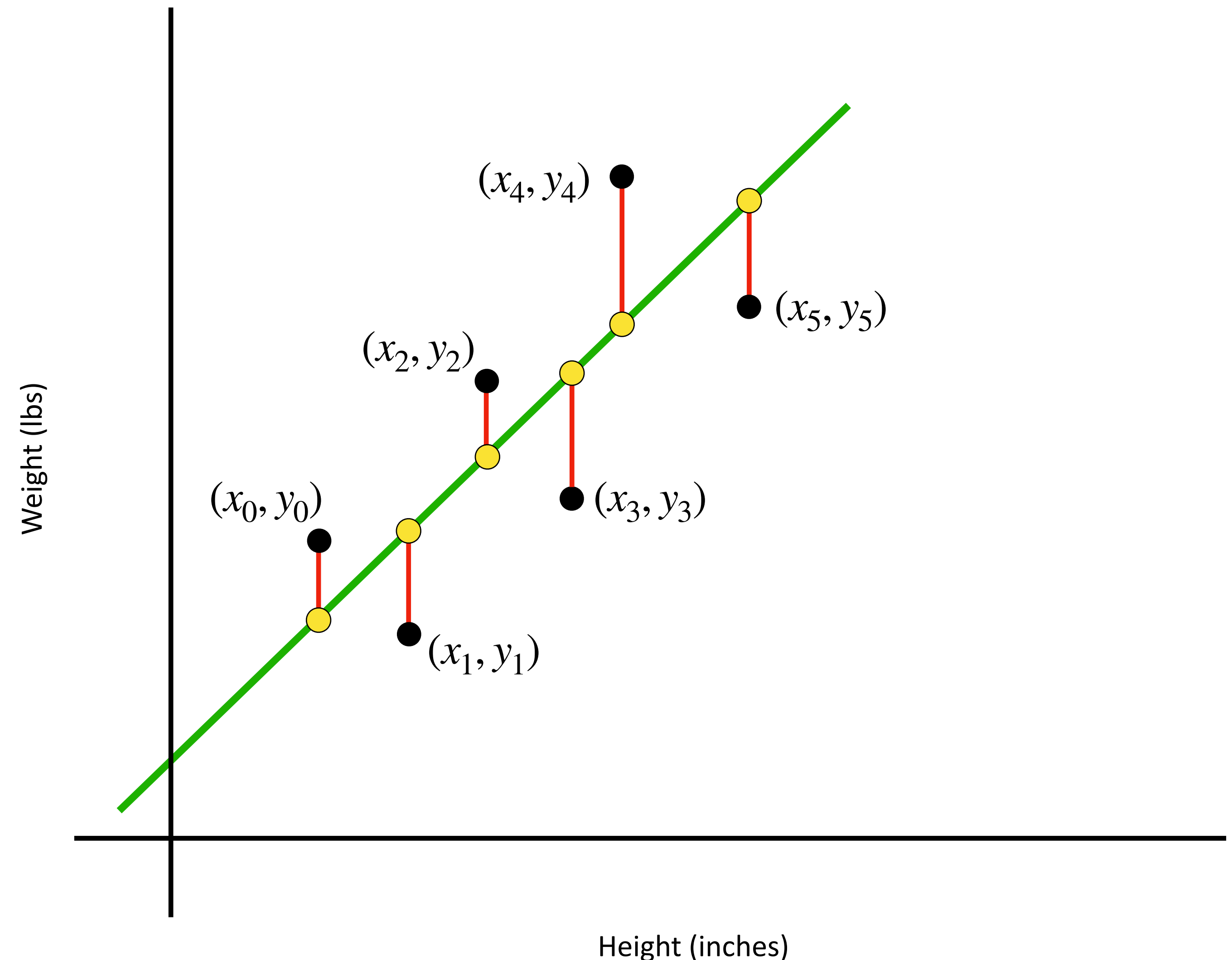


Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

Sum of squared errors:

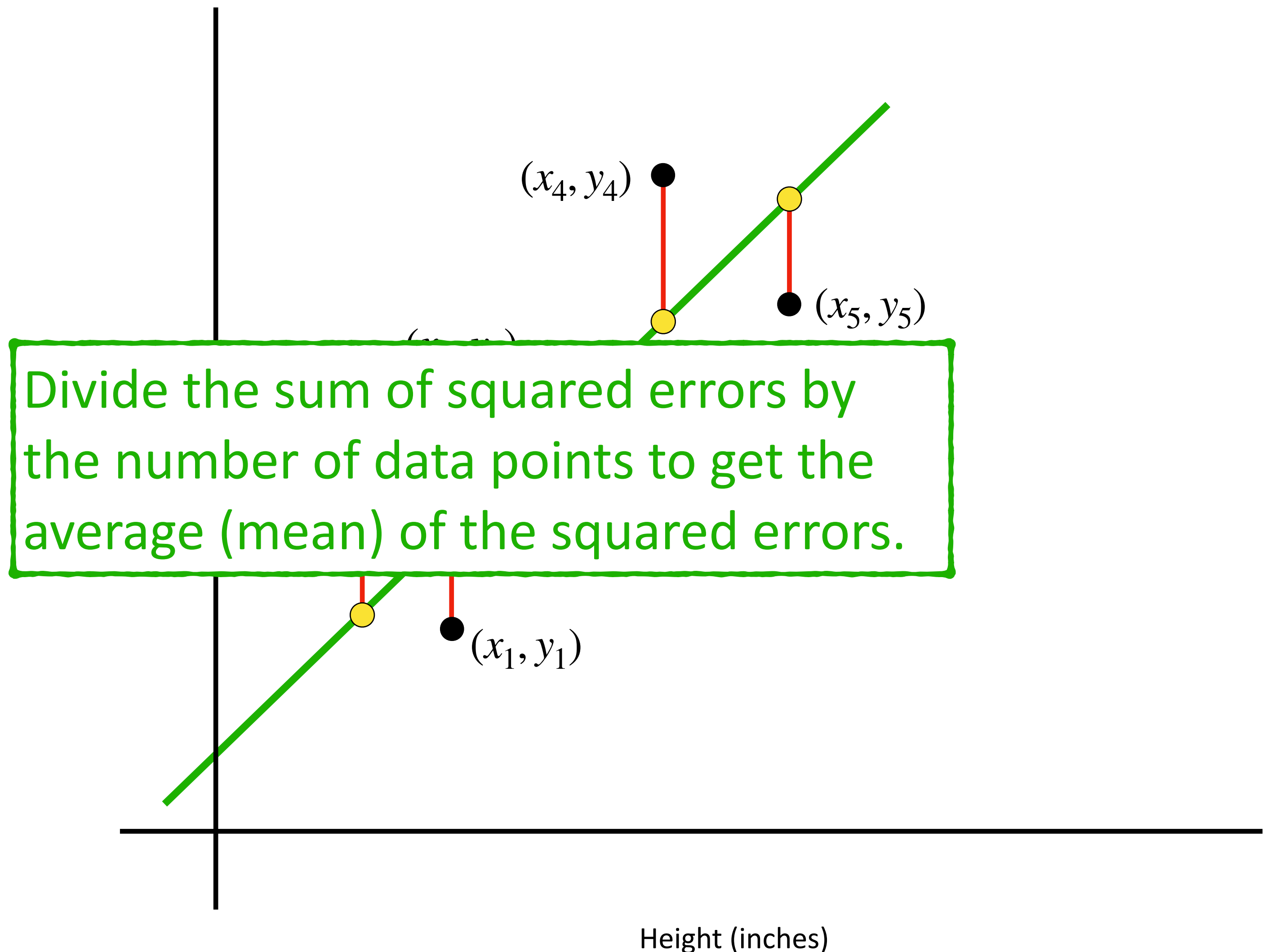
$$(y_0 - \hat{y}_0)^2 + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 \\ + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2$$



Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$\frac{(y_0 - \hat{y}_0)^2 + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2}{n}$$



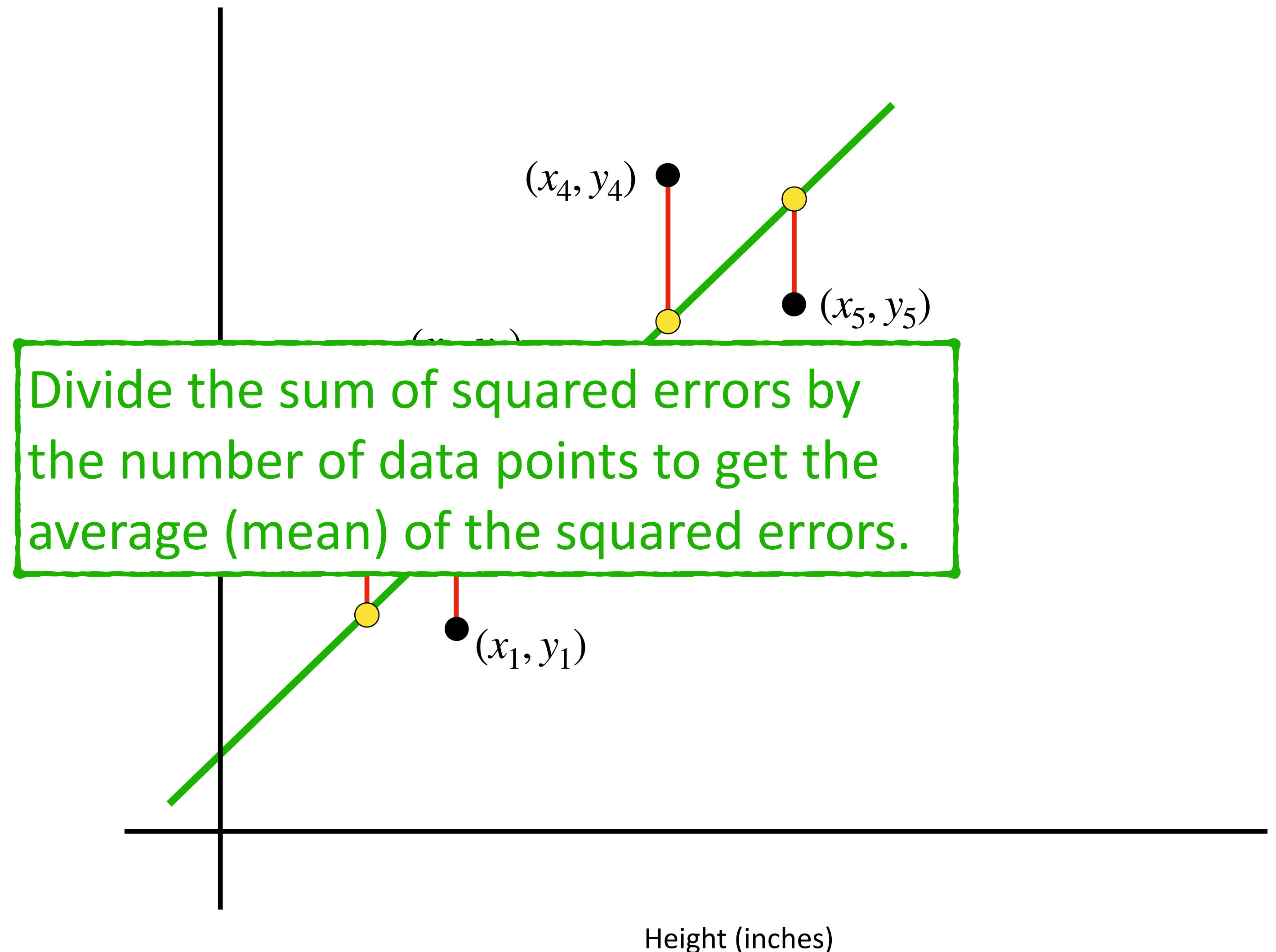
Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$\frac{(y_0 - \hat{y}_0)^2 + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2}{n}$$

This is the **Mean Square Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$



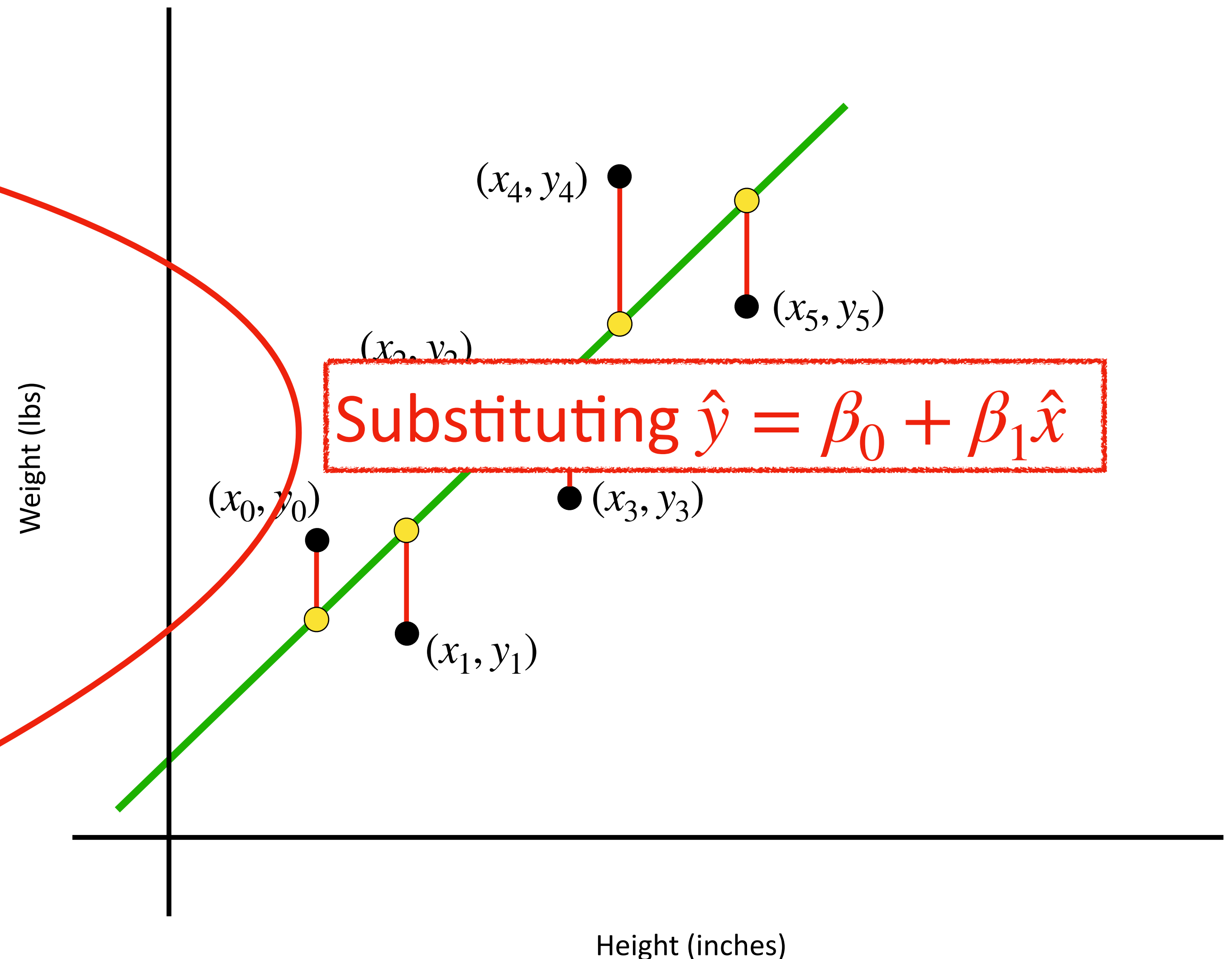
Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

$$\frac{(y_0 - \hat{y}_0)^2 + (y_1 - \hat{y}_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{y}_2)^2 + (y_3 - \hat{y}_3)^2 + (y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2 + (y_5 - \hat{y}_5)^2}{n}$$

This is the **Mean Square Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$

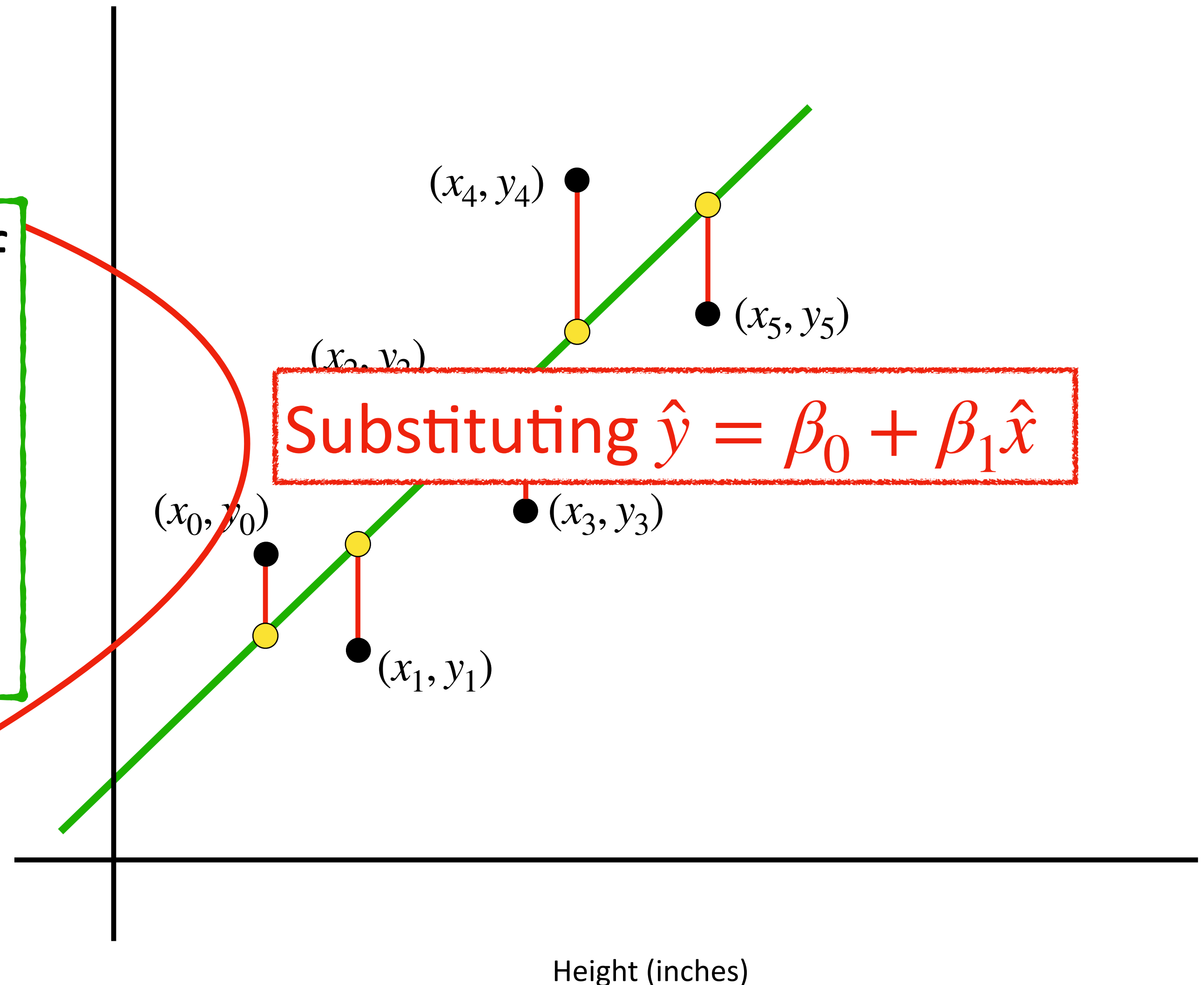


Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

Problem Statement: Given a set of data points in $\mathbb{R}^2$, $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \dots (x_n, y_n)$, find the line that minimizes the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$

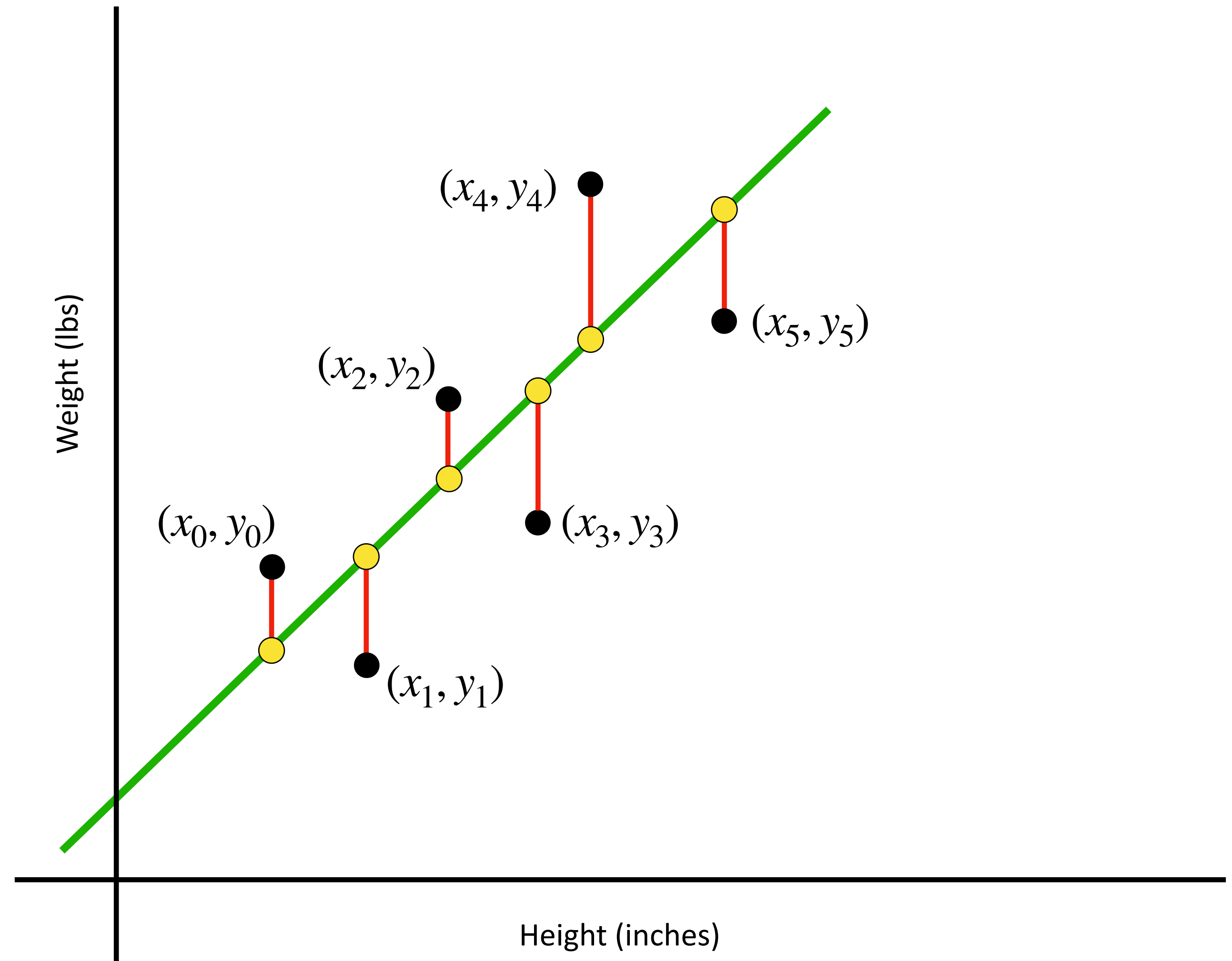


Simple Linear Regression

The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

This is the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$



Simple Linear Regression

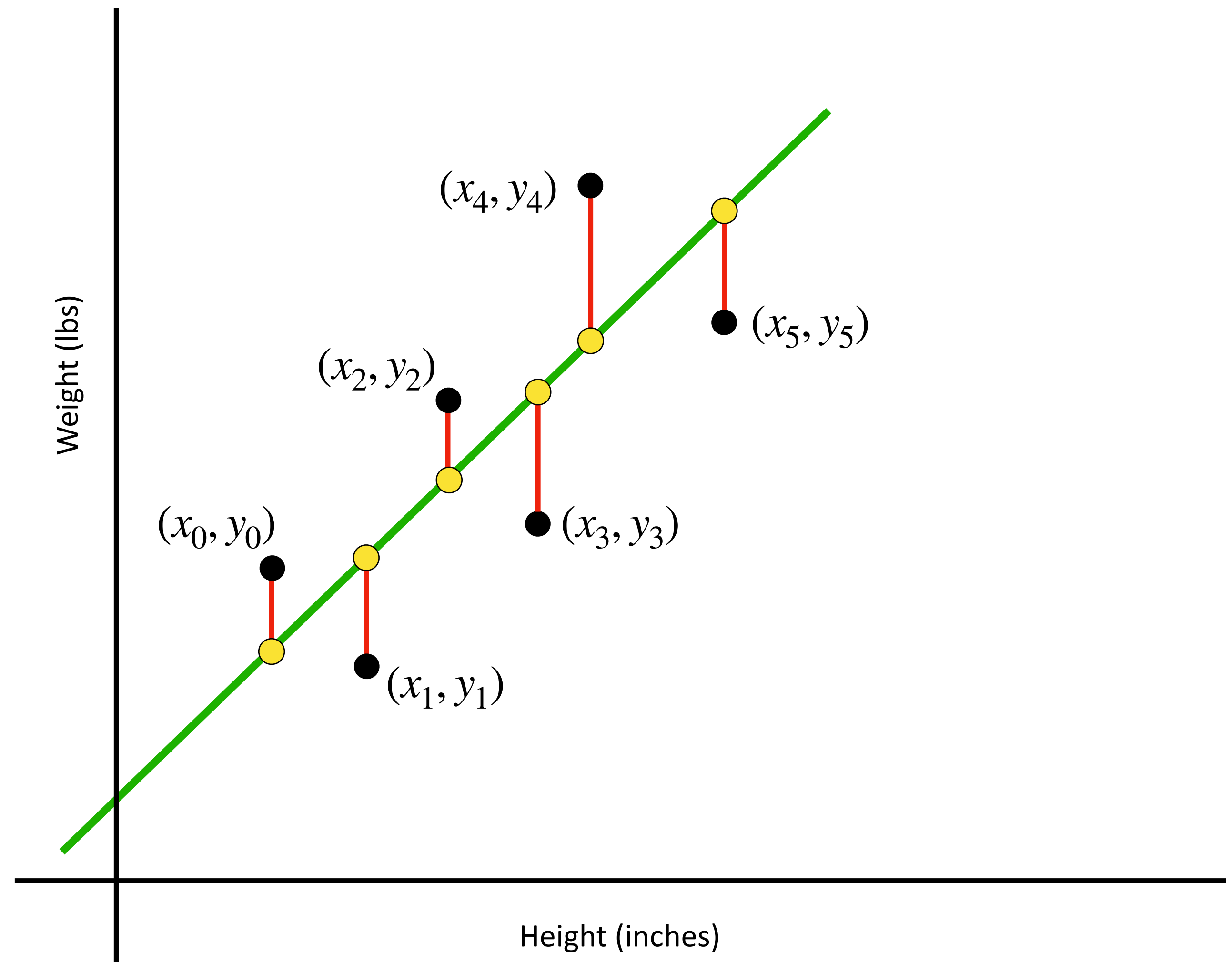
The line of best fit is $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \hat{x}$

This is the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$

The Problem Statement:

Simple Linear Regression: Find the values of β_0 and β_1 such that the Mean Squared Error (MSE) is minimized.



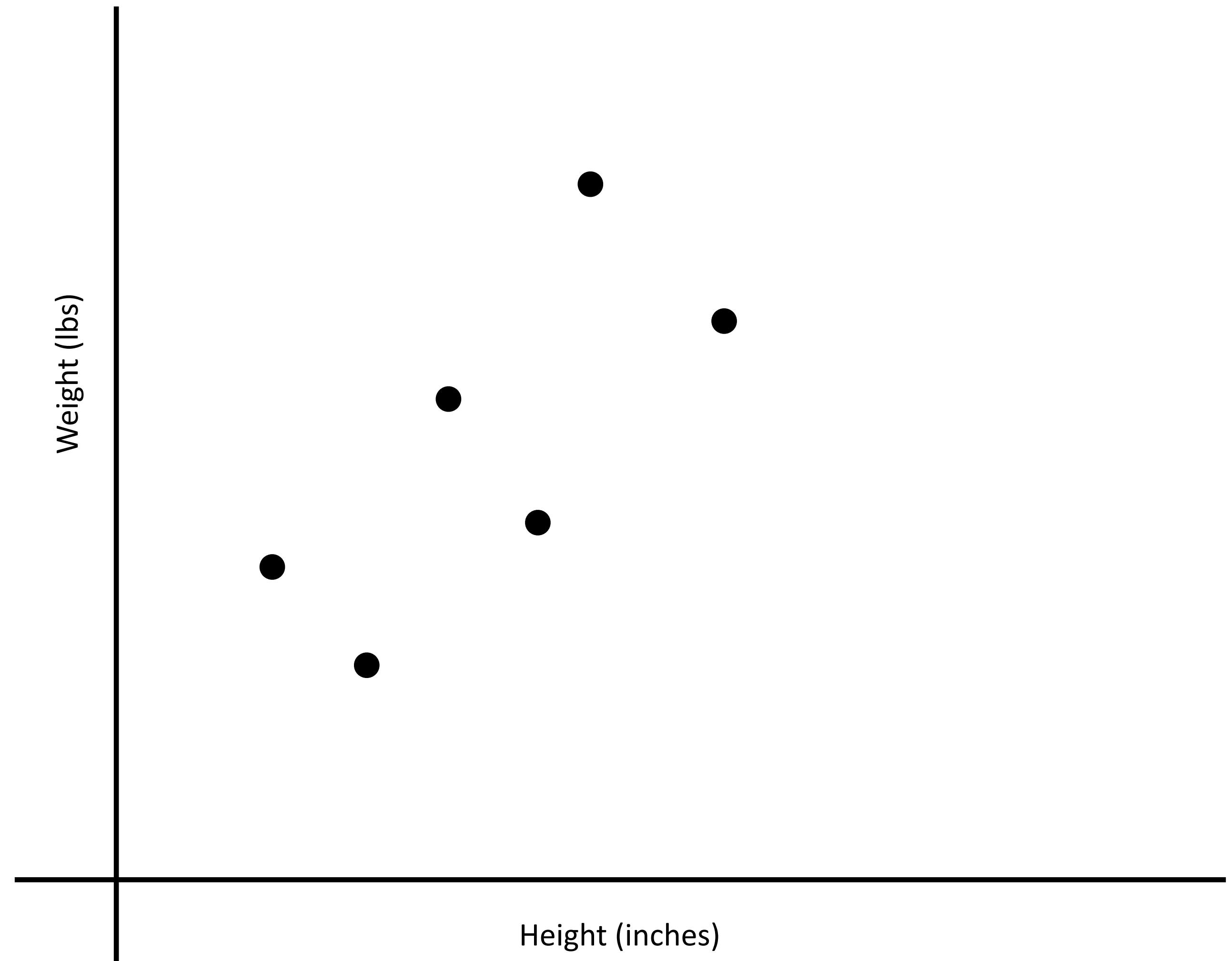
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$

The Problem Statement:

Simple Linear Regression: Find the values of β_0 and β_1 such that the Mean Squared Error (MSE) is minimized.

Simple Linear Regression



Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression

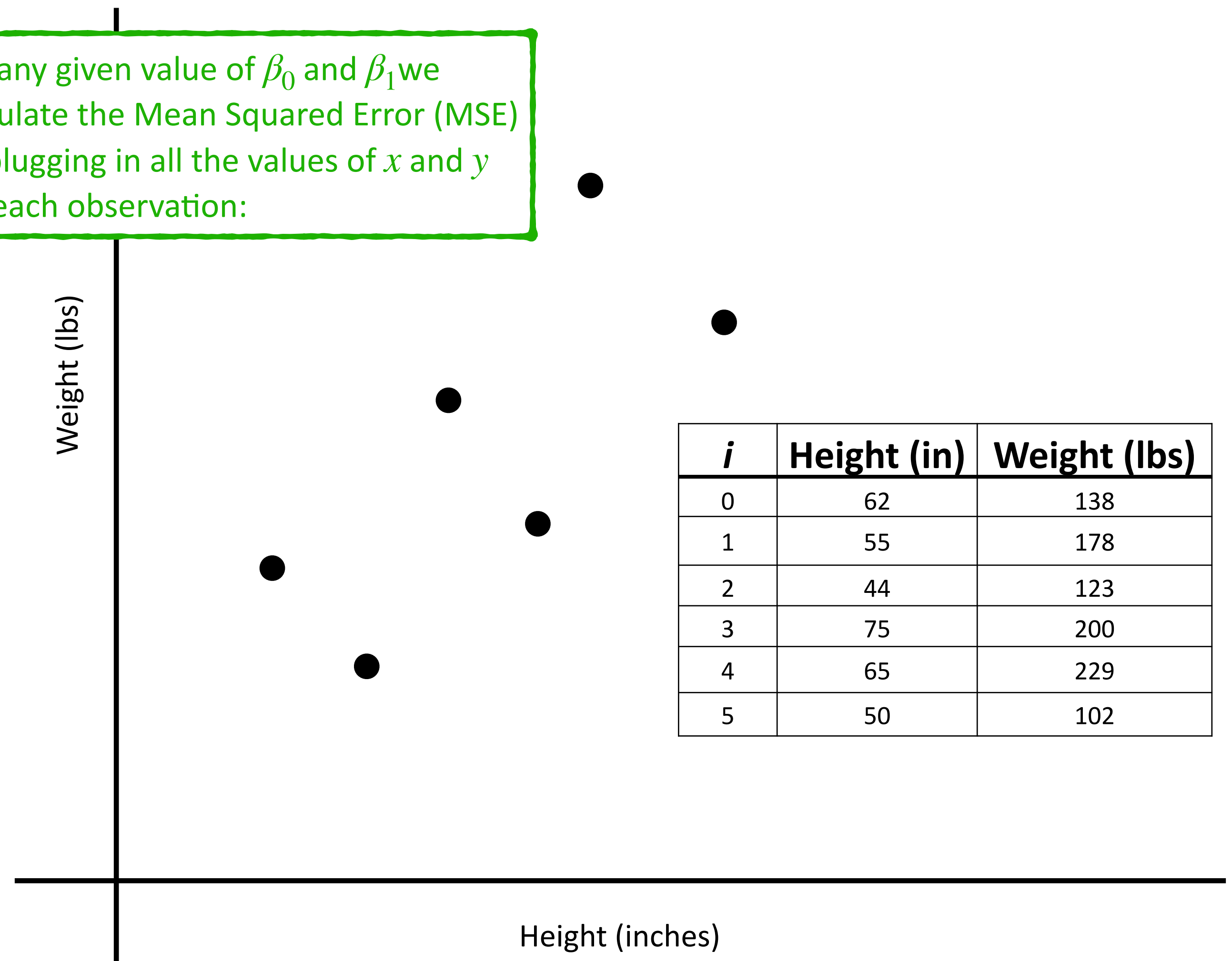
$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$

For any given value of β_0 and β_1 we calculate the Mean Squared Error (MSE) by plugging in all the values of x and y for each observation:

$$\frac{(62 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 138)^2 + (55 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 178)^2 + (44 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 123)^2 + (75 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 200)^2 + (65 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 229)^2 + (50 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 102)^2}{6}$$

The Problem Statement:

Simple Linear Regression: Find the values of β_0 and β_1 such that the Mean Squared Error (MSE) is minimized.



<i>i</i>	Height (in)	Weight (lbs)
0	62	138
1	55	178
2	44	123
3	75	200
4	65	229
5	50	102

Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$

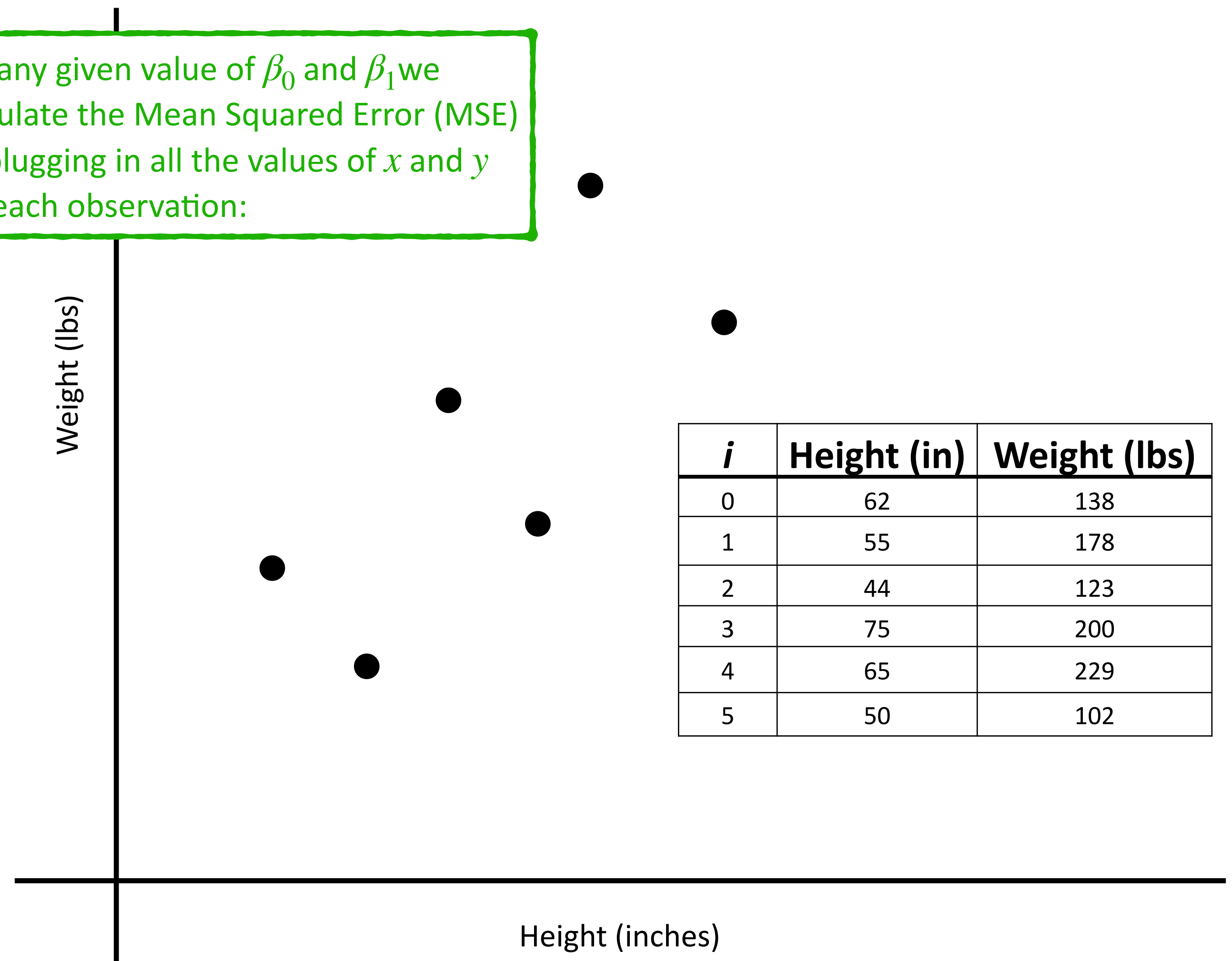
For any given value of β_0 and β_1 we calculate the Mean Squared Error (MSE) by plugging in all the values of x and y for each observation:

For example: If $\beta_0 = 20$ and $\beta_1 = -1$ then MSE = 42817.17

$$\frac{(62 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 138)^2 + (55 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 178)^2 + (44 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 123)^2 + (75 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 200)^2 + (65 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 229)^2 + (50 - \beta_0 - \beta_1 102)^2}{6}$$

The Problem Statement:

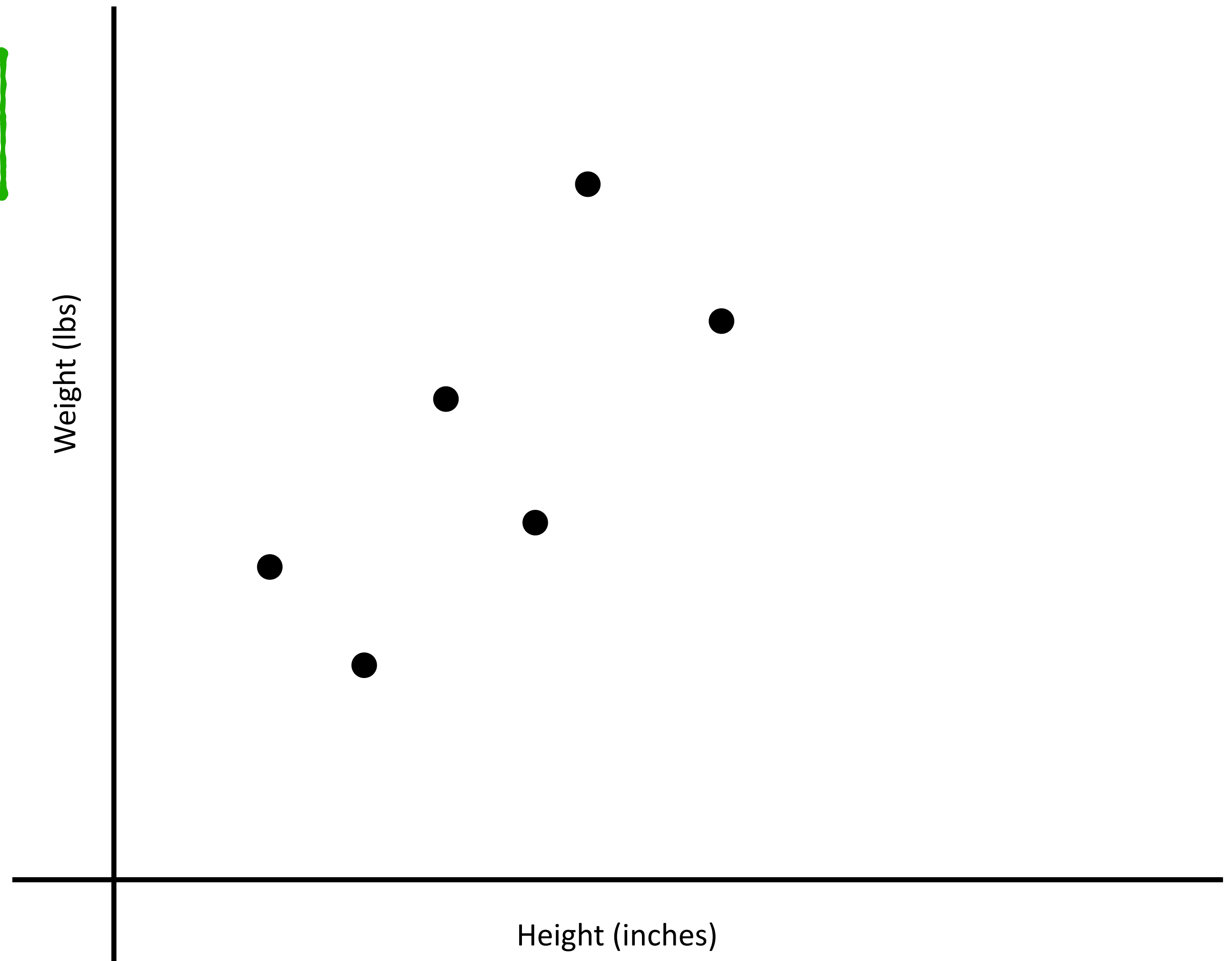
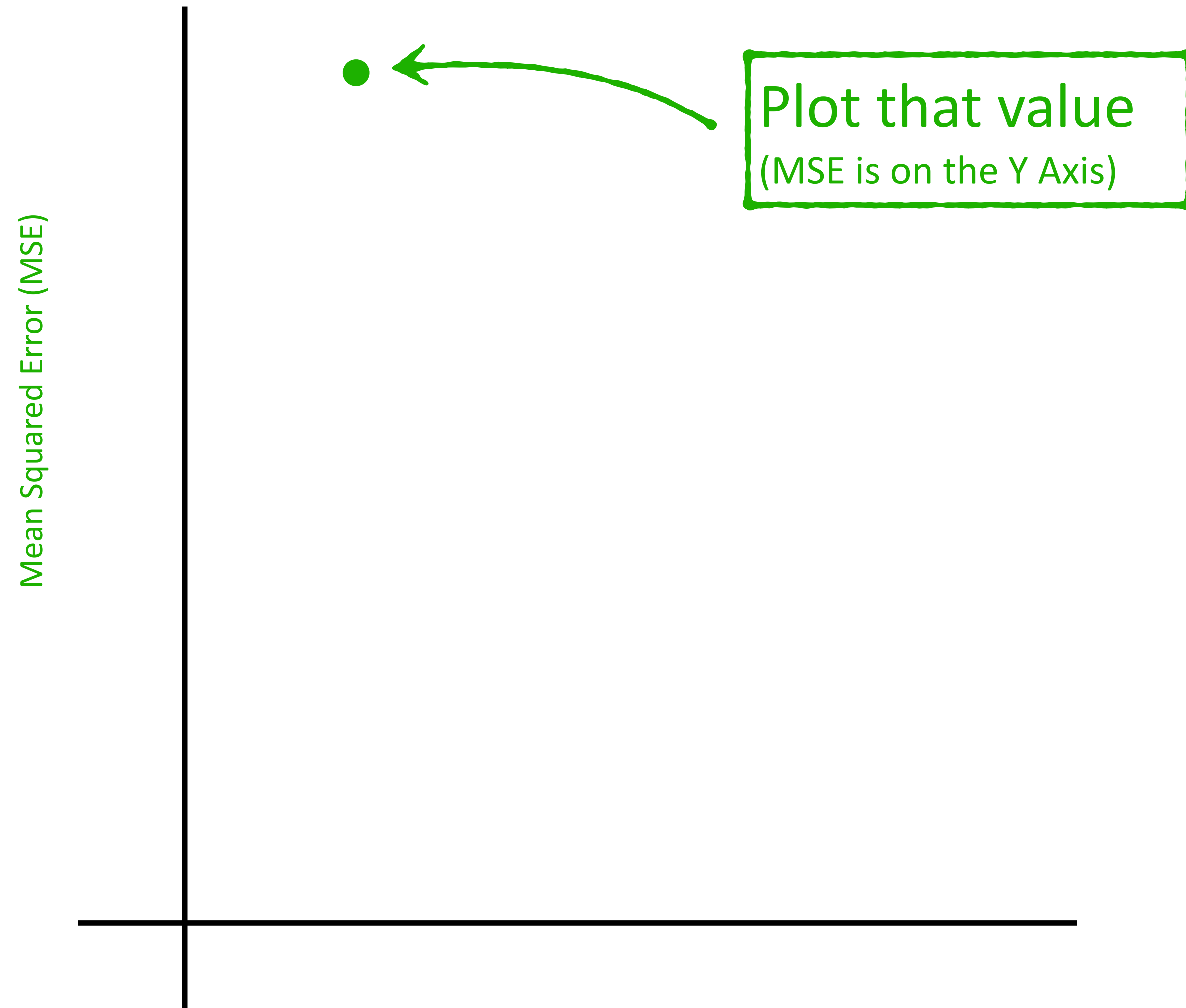
Simple Linear Regression: Find the values of β_0 and β_1 such that the Mean Squared Error (MSE) is minimized.



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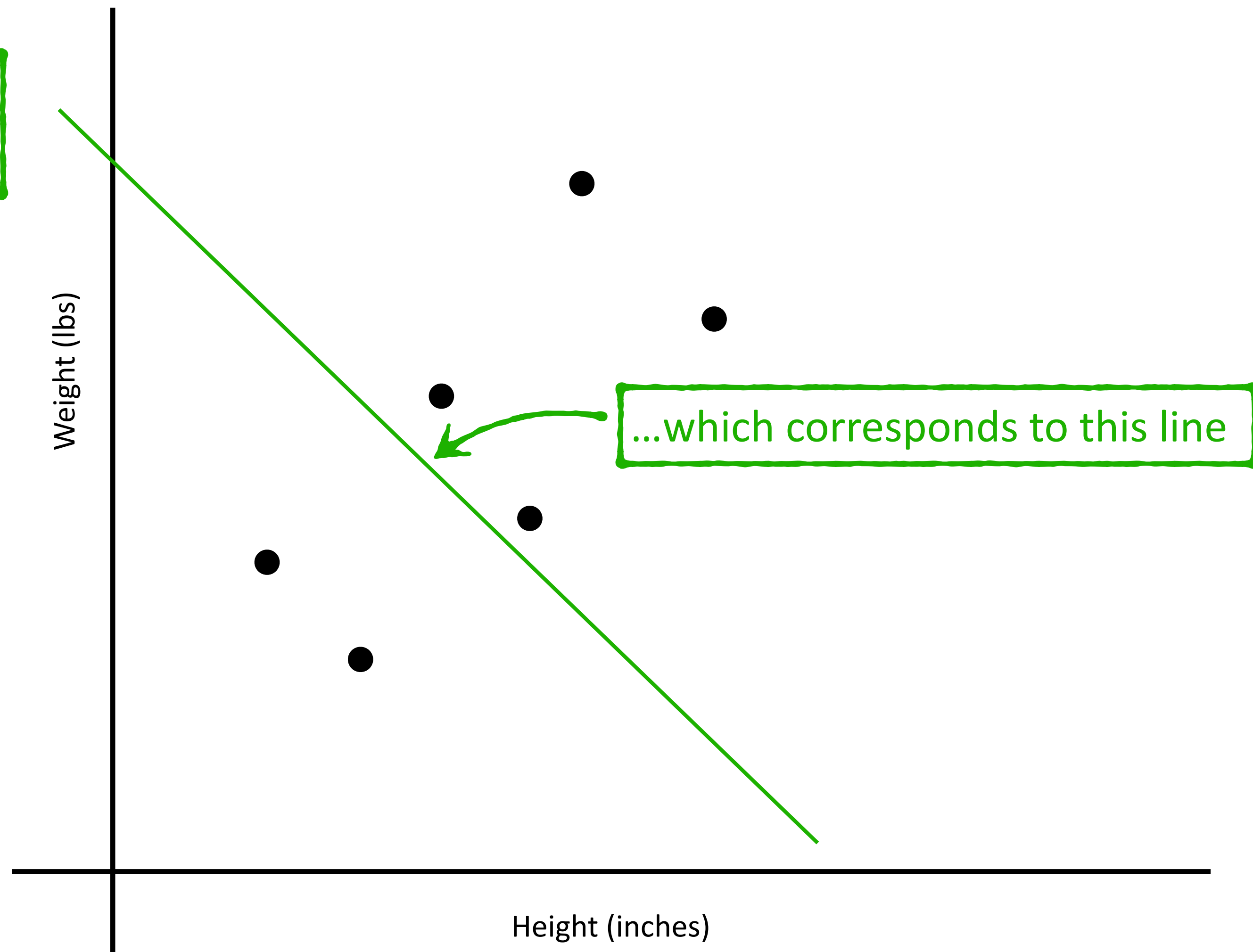
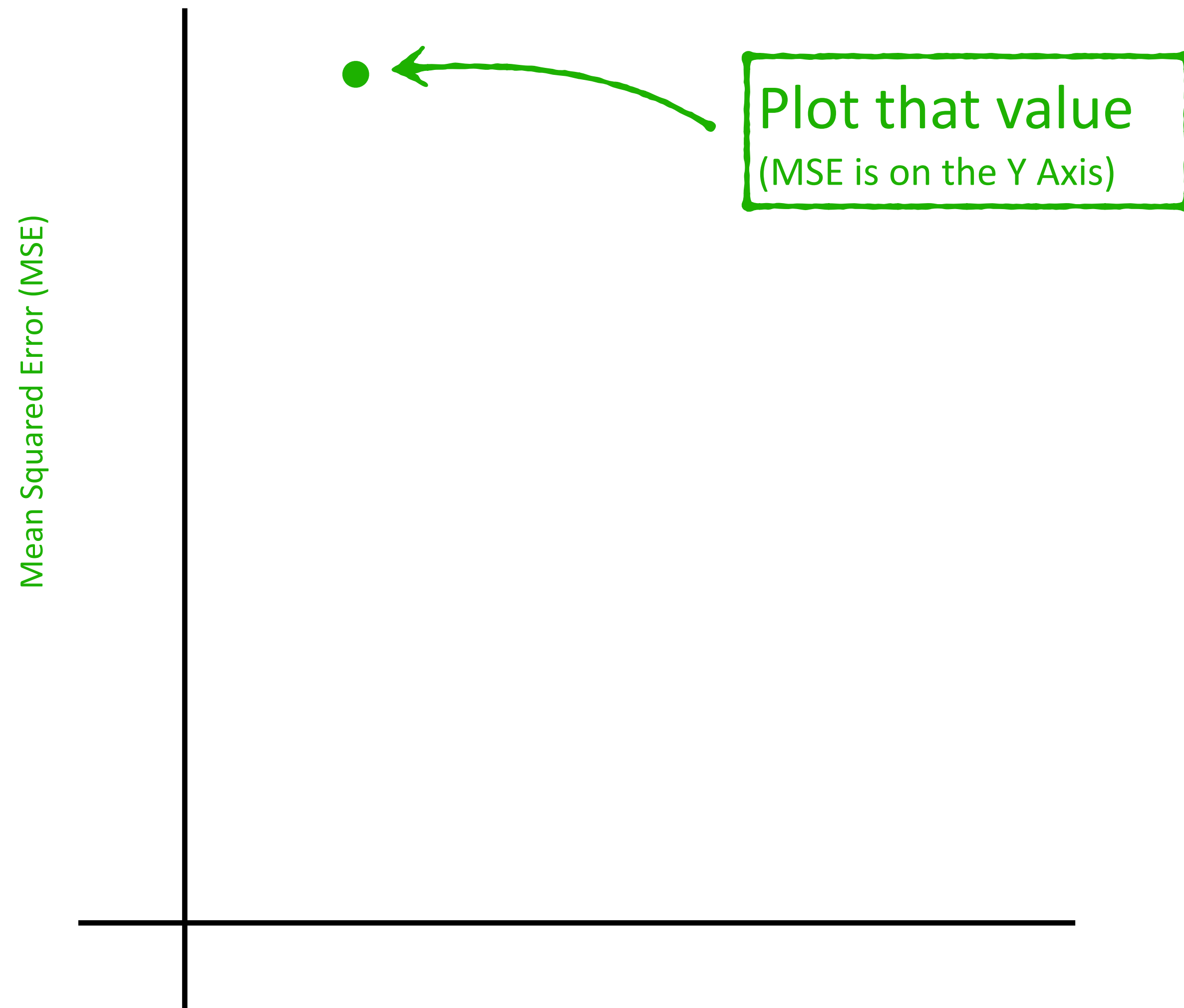
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression



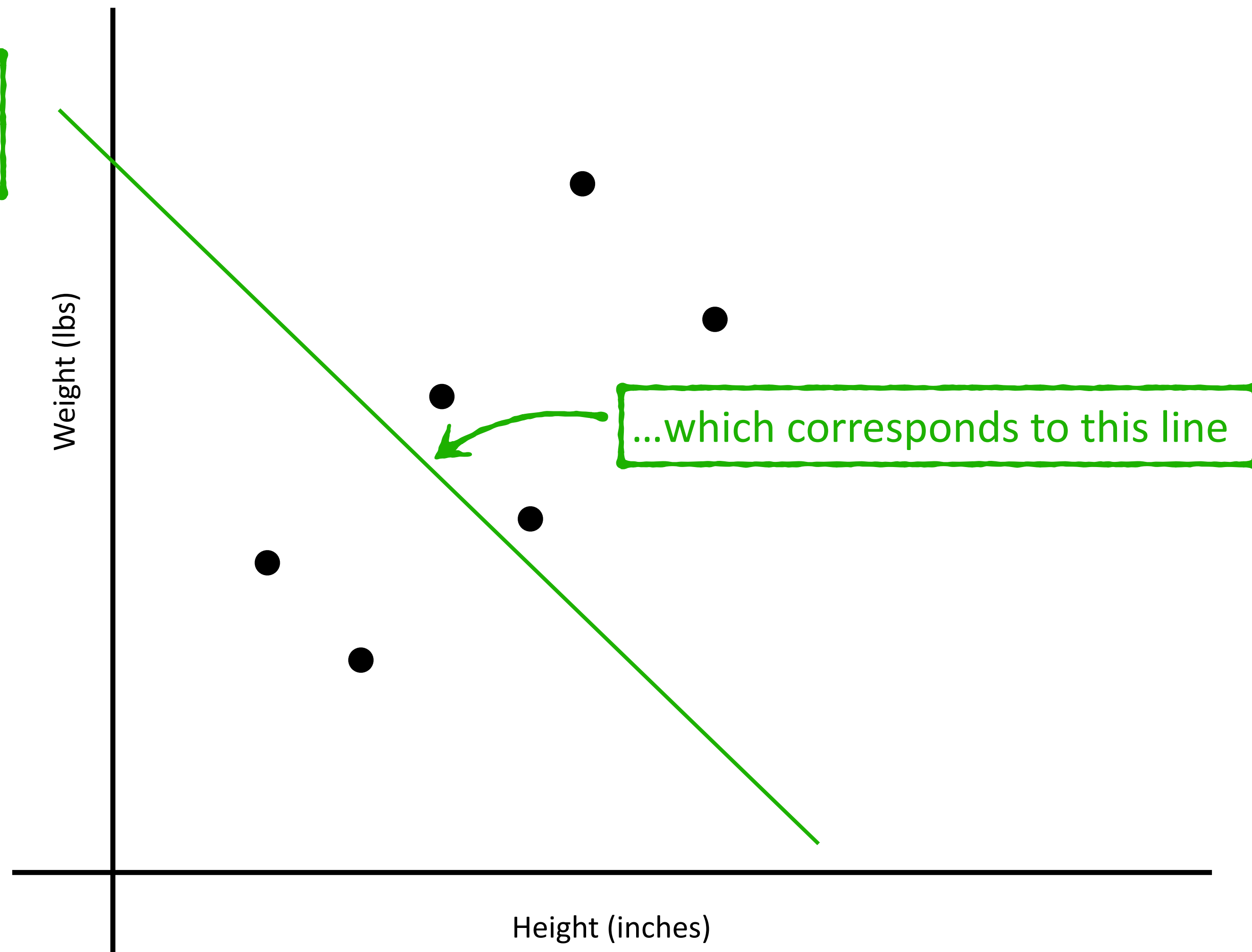
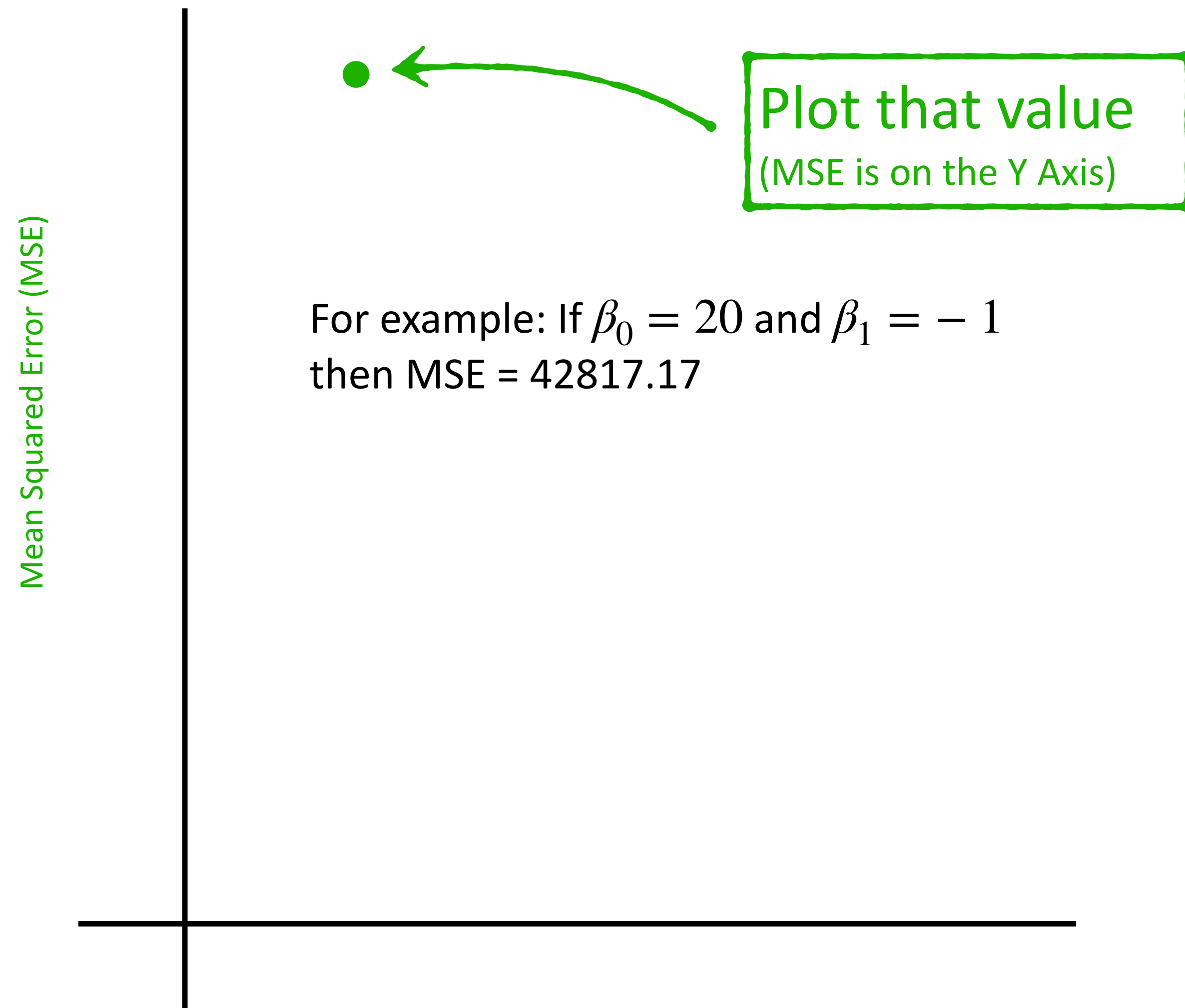
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Simple Linear Regression



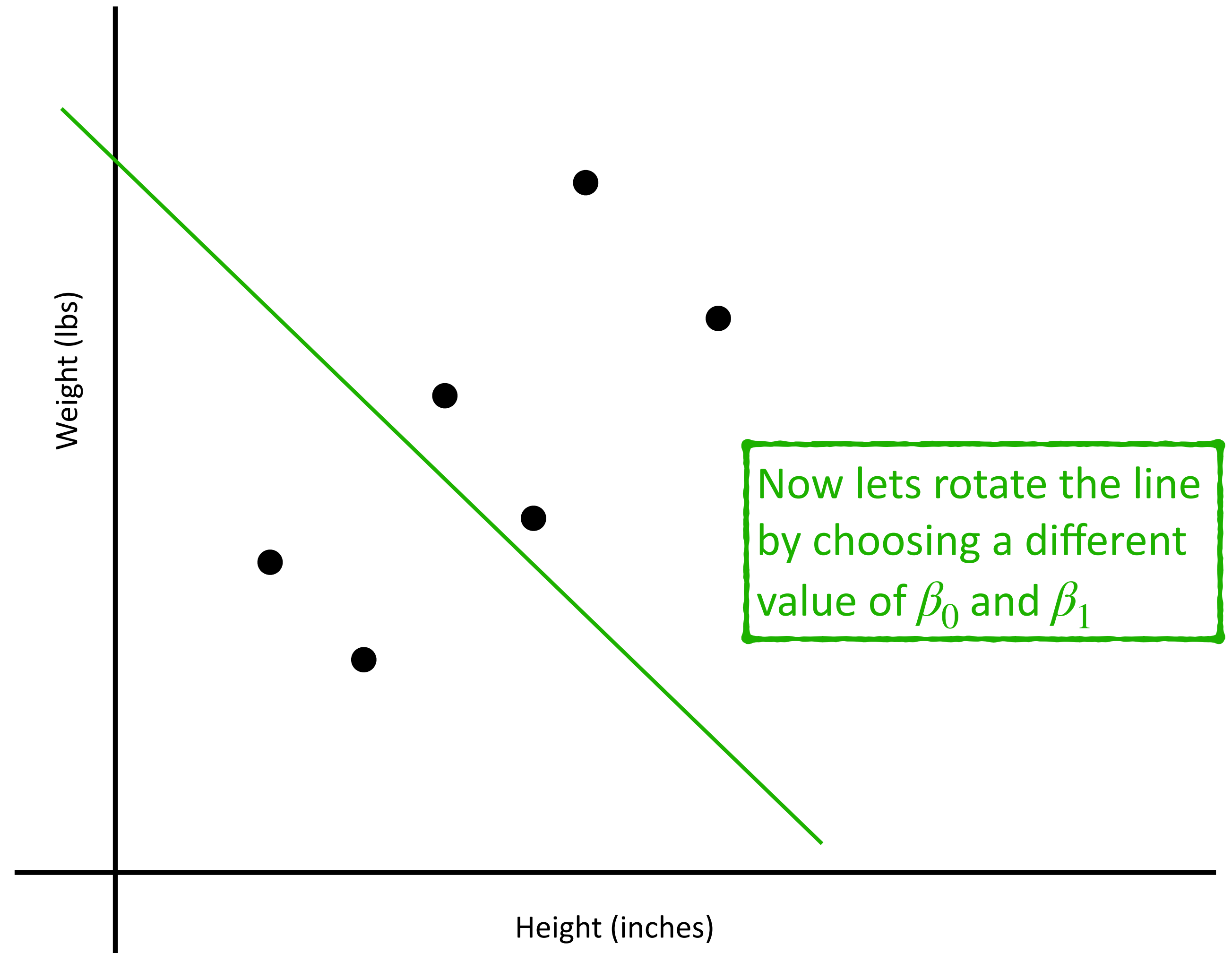
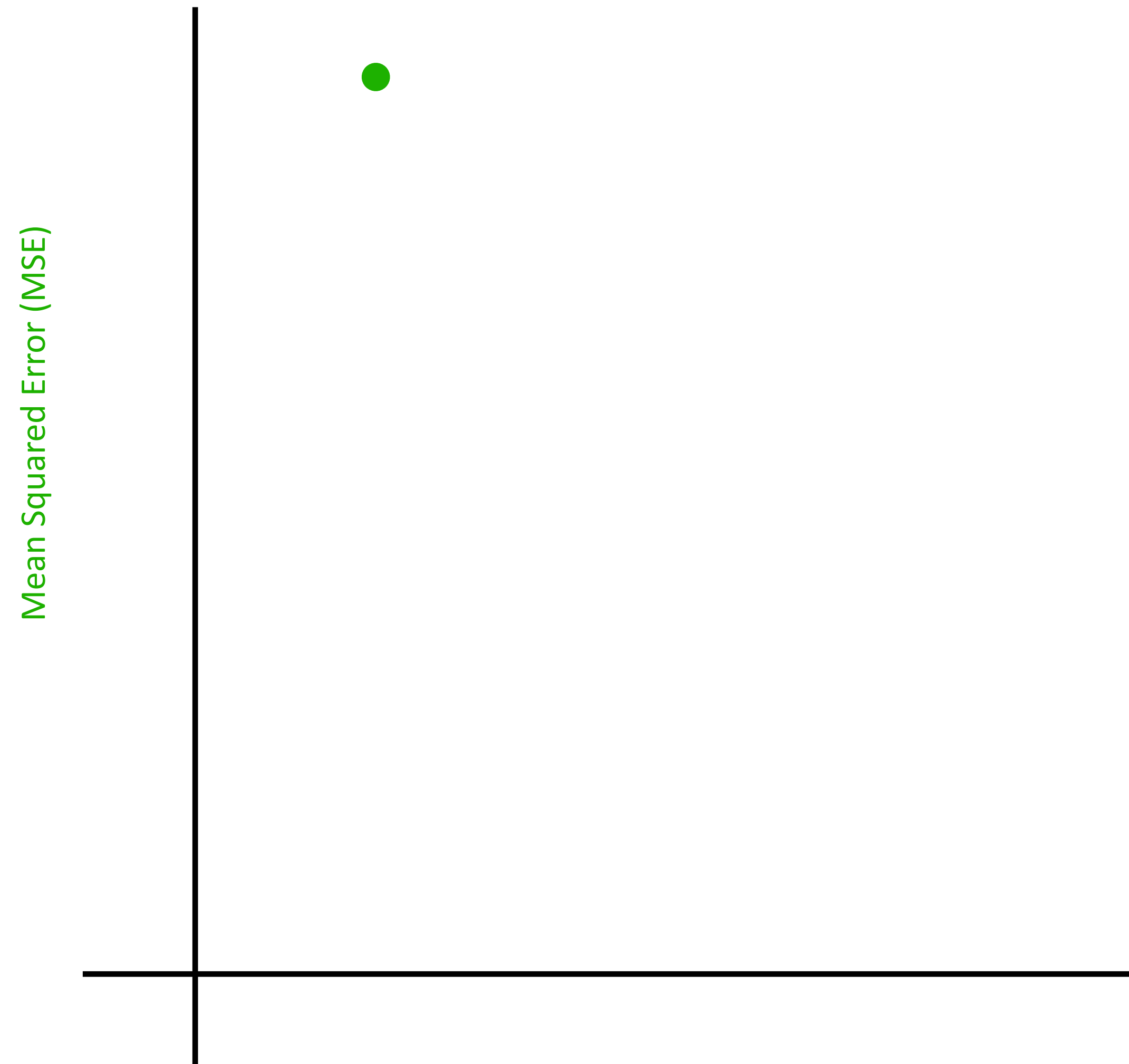
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Simple Linear Regression



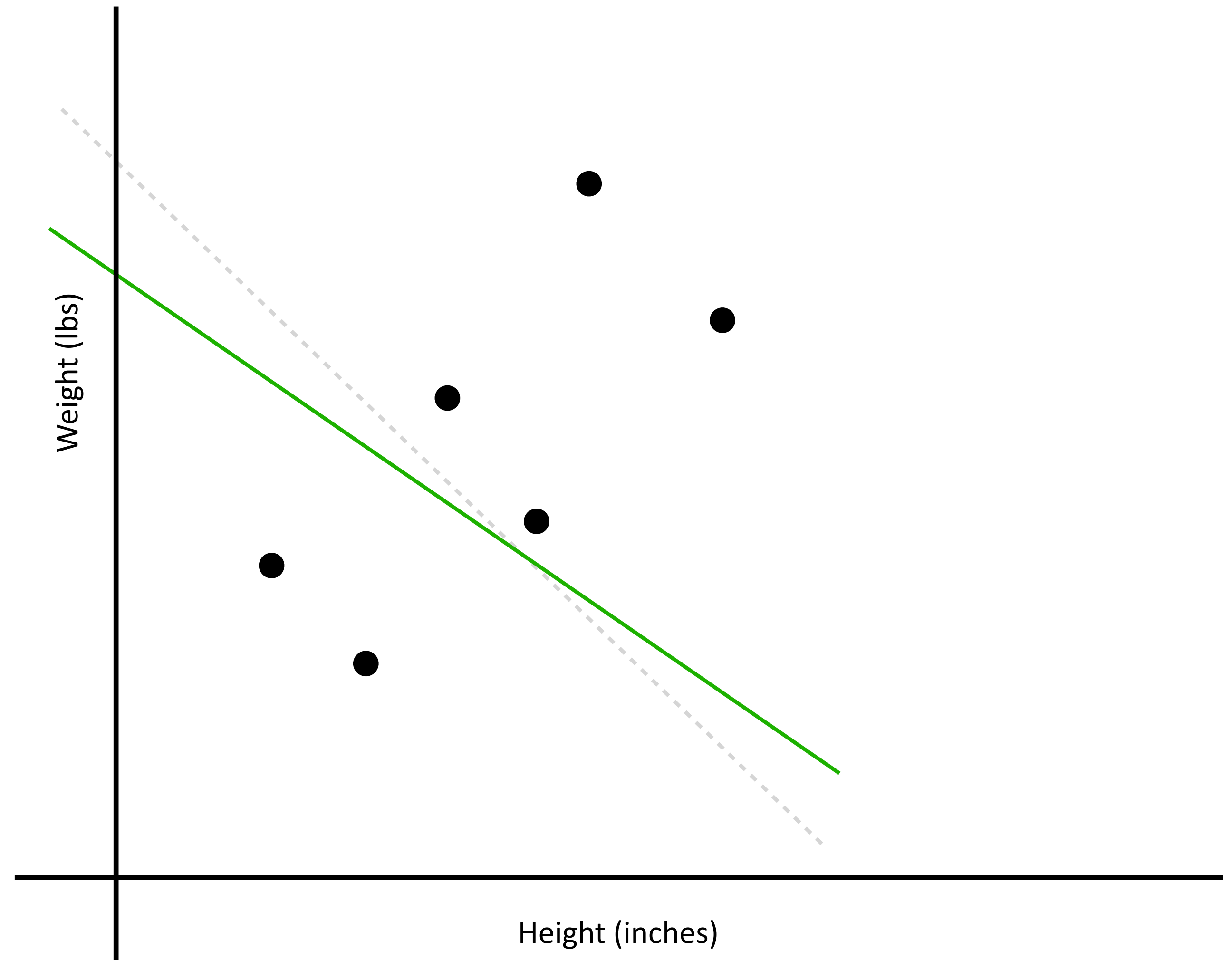
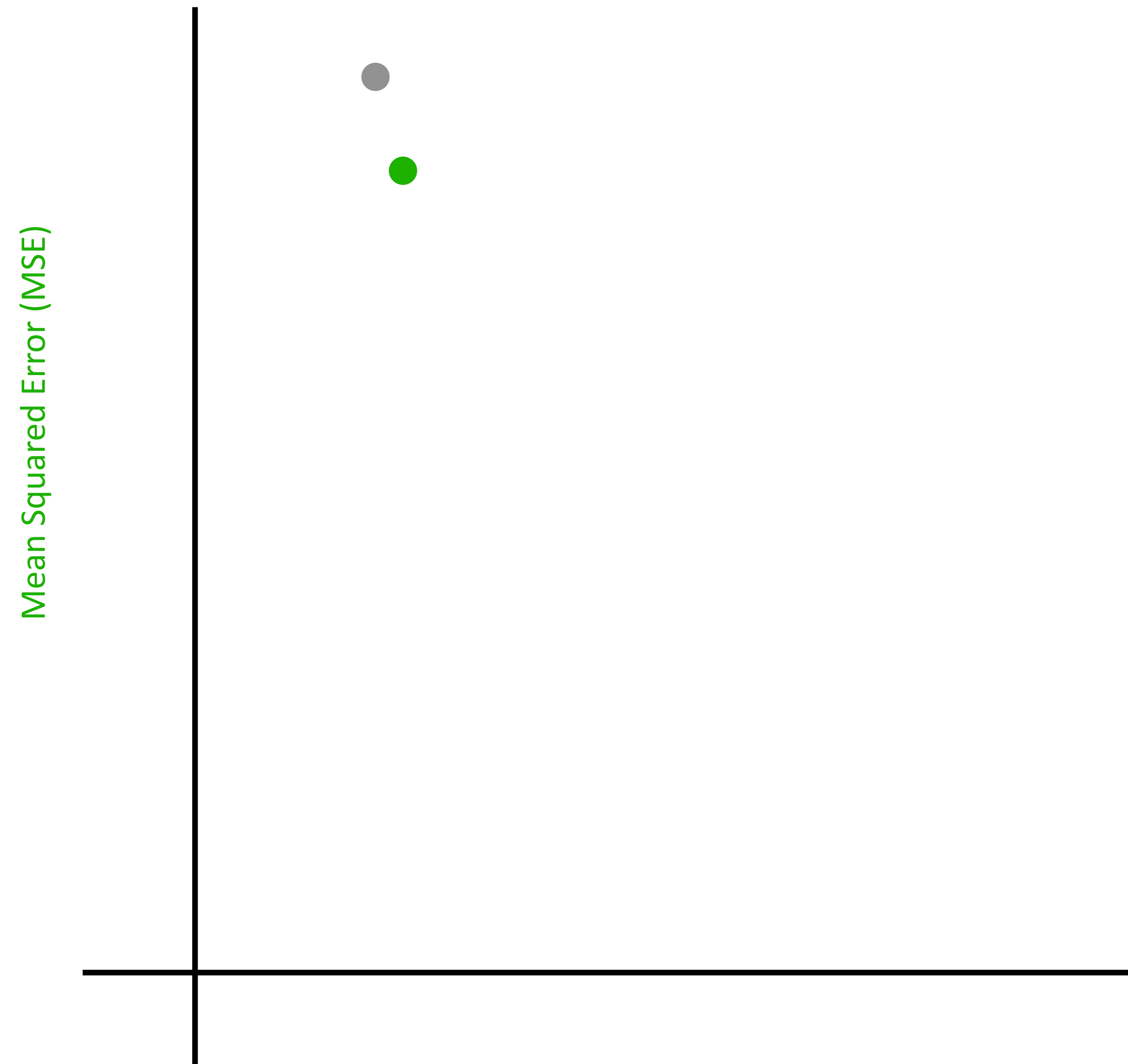
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Simple Linear Regression



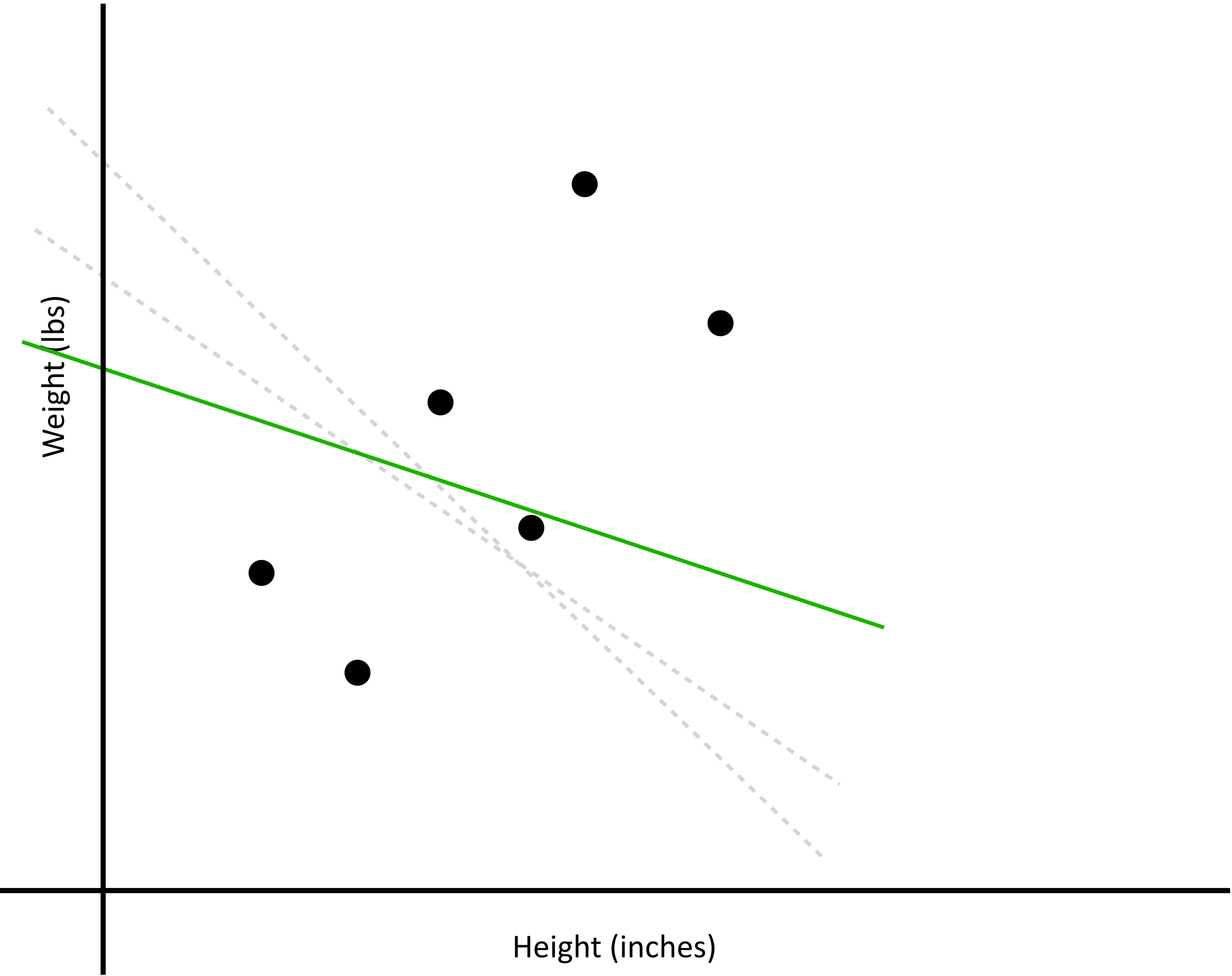
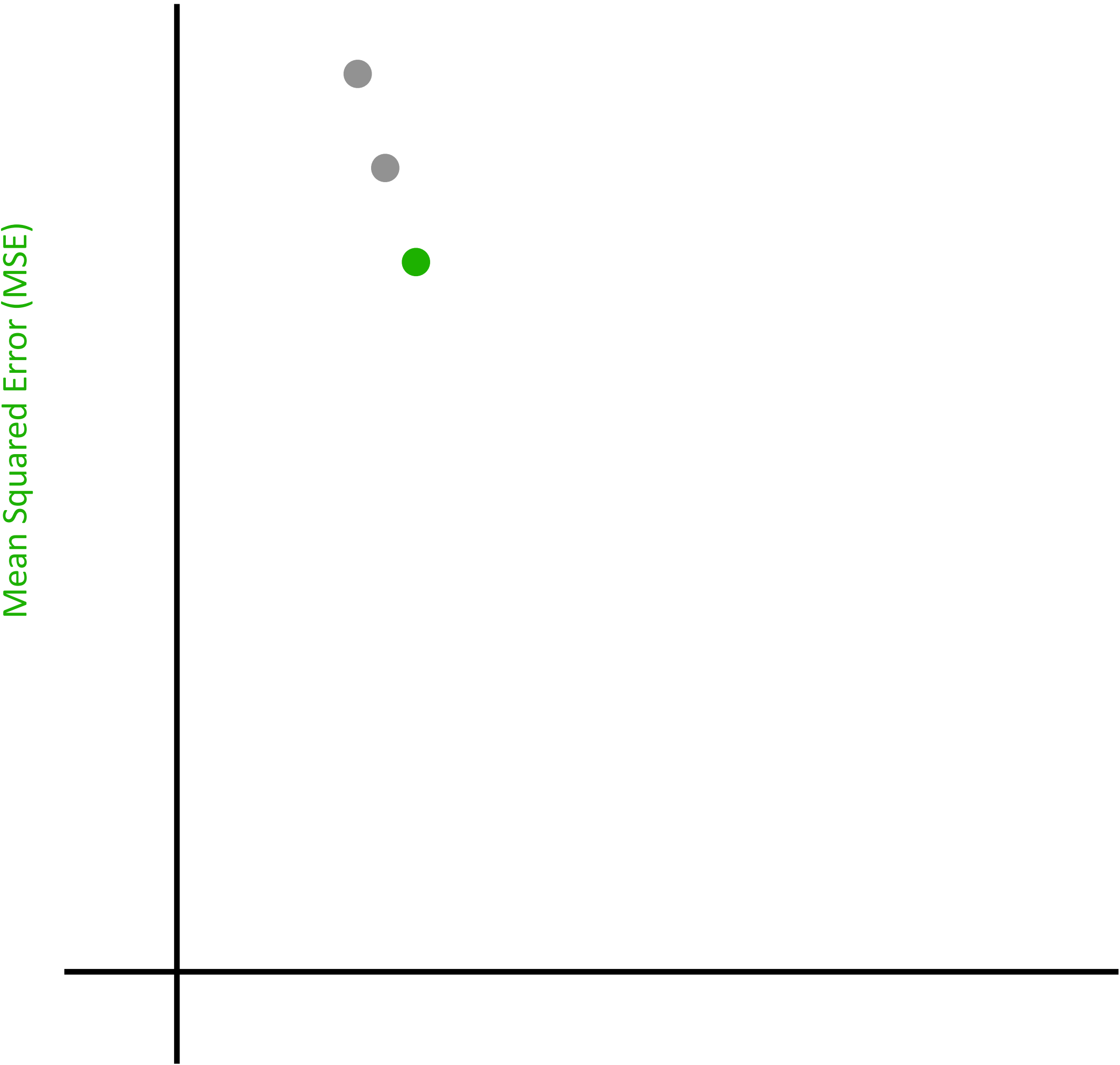
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Simple Linear Regression



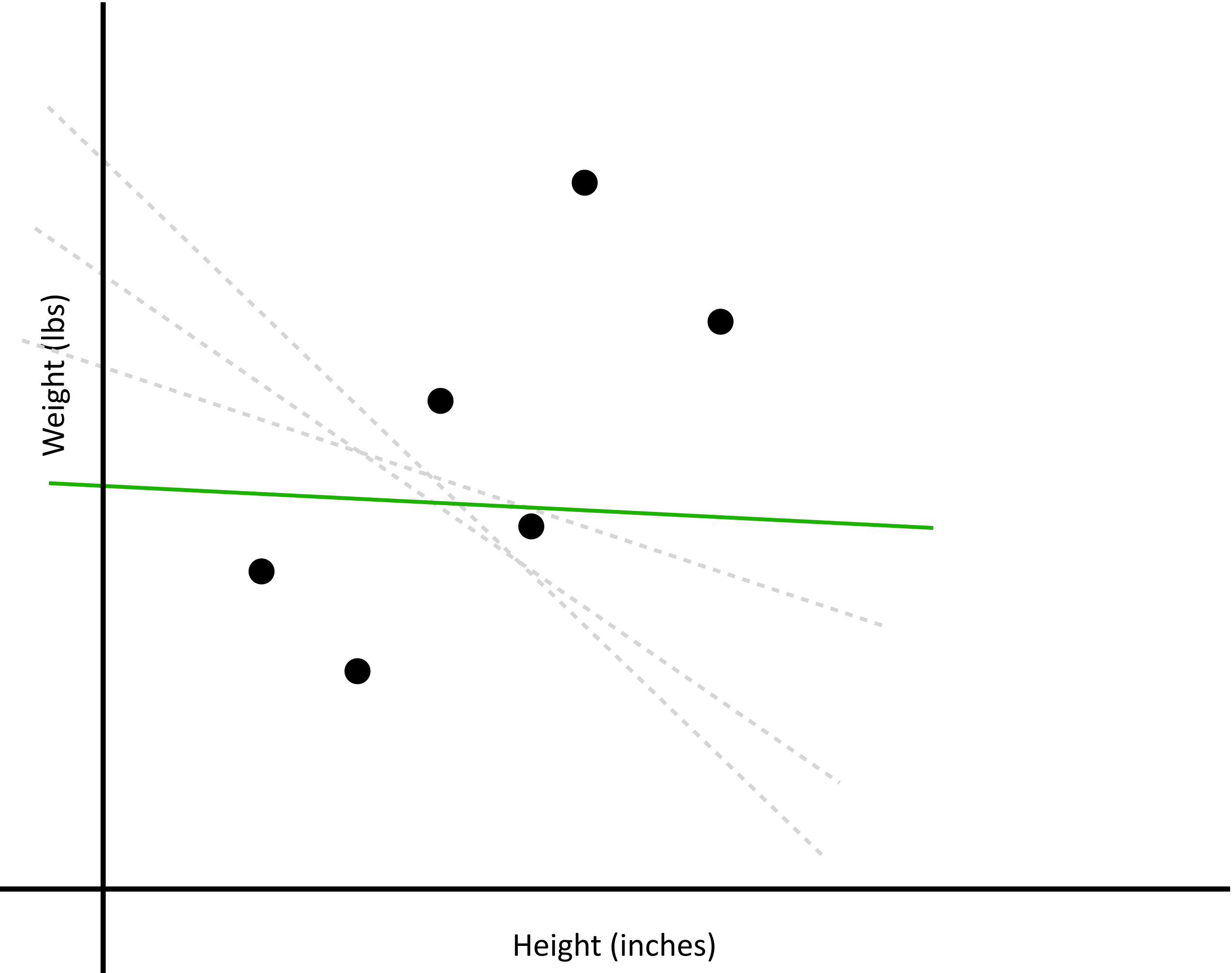
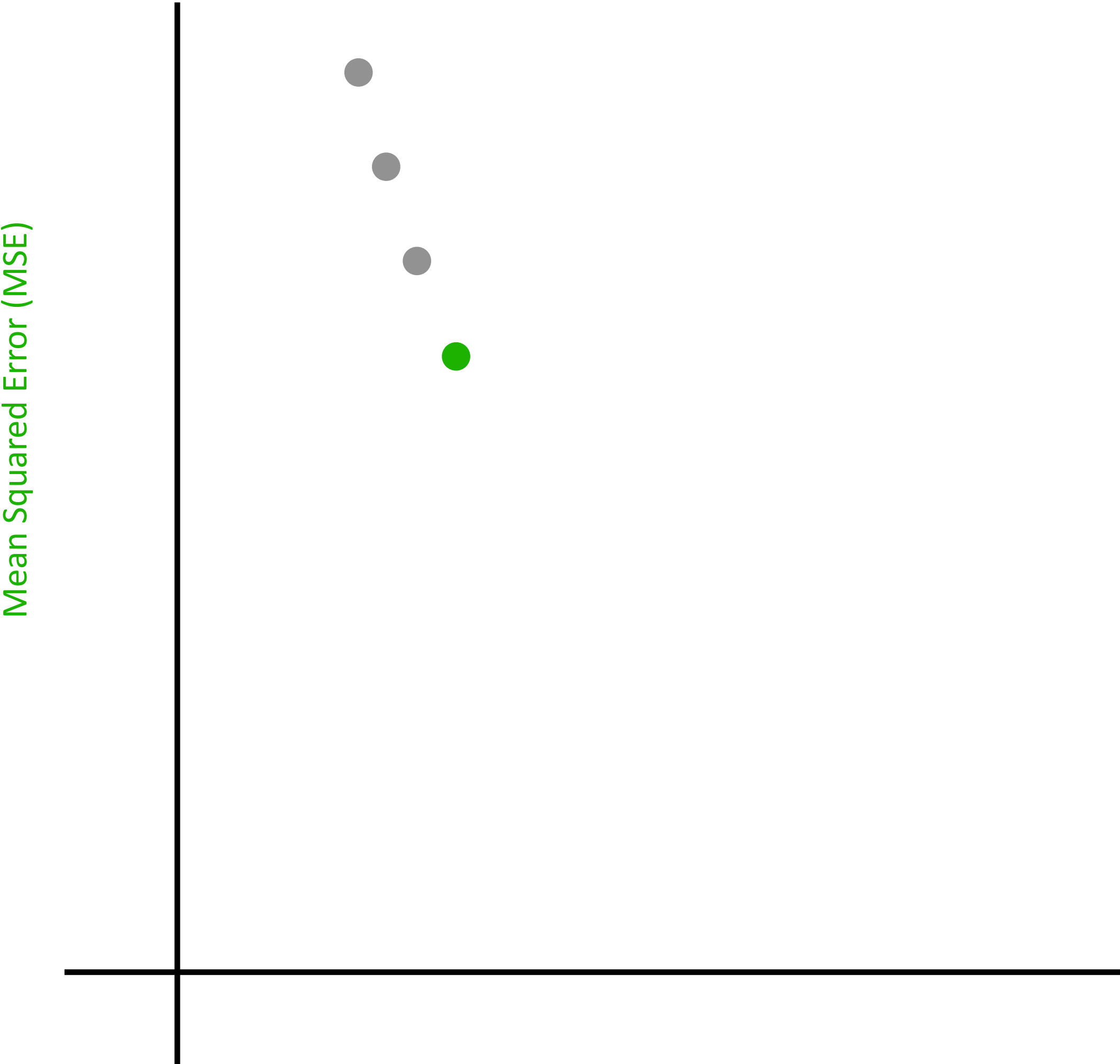
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Simple Linear Regression



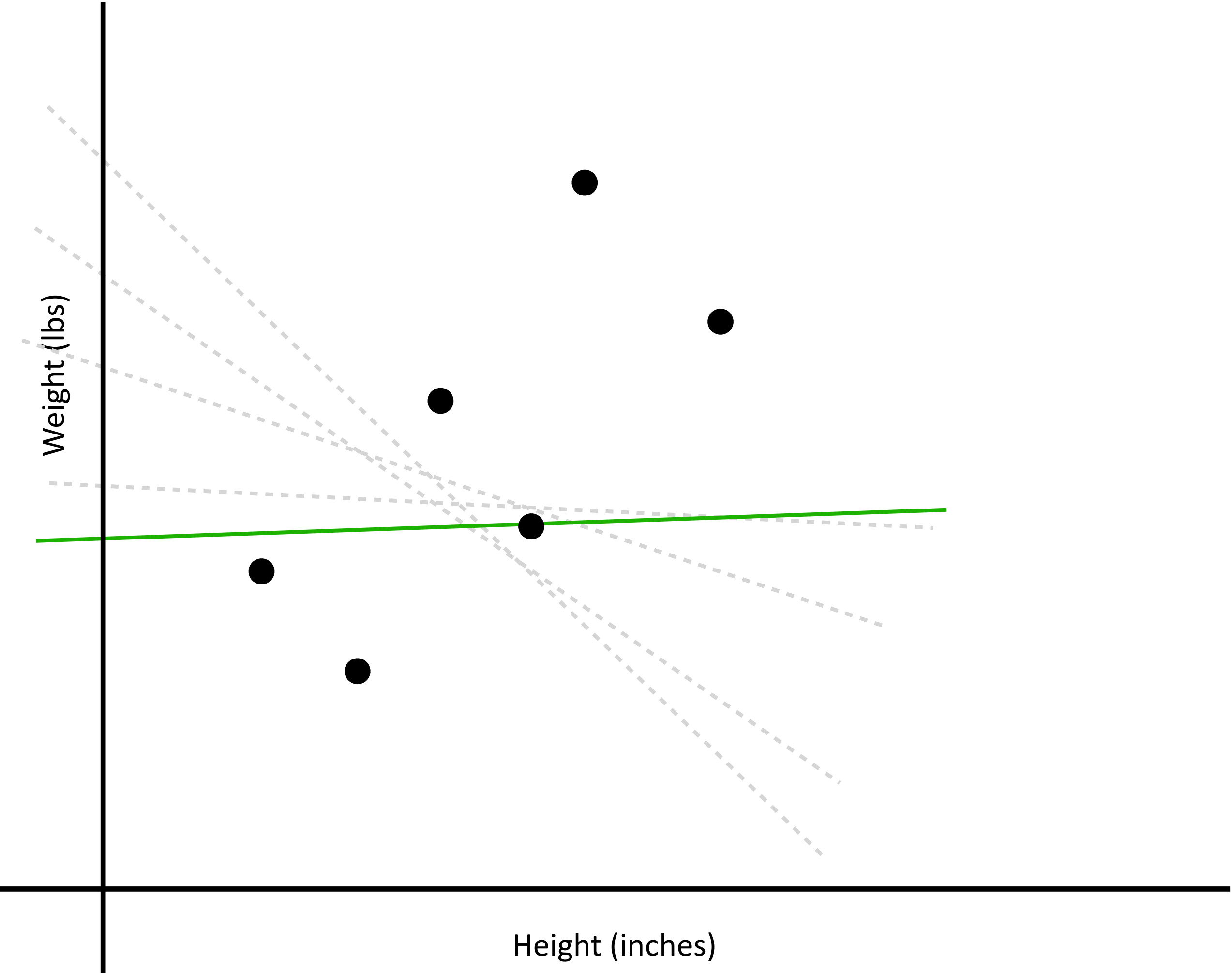
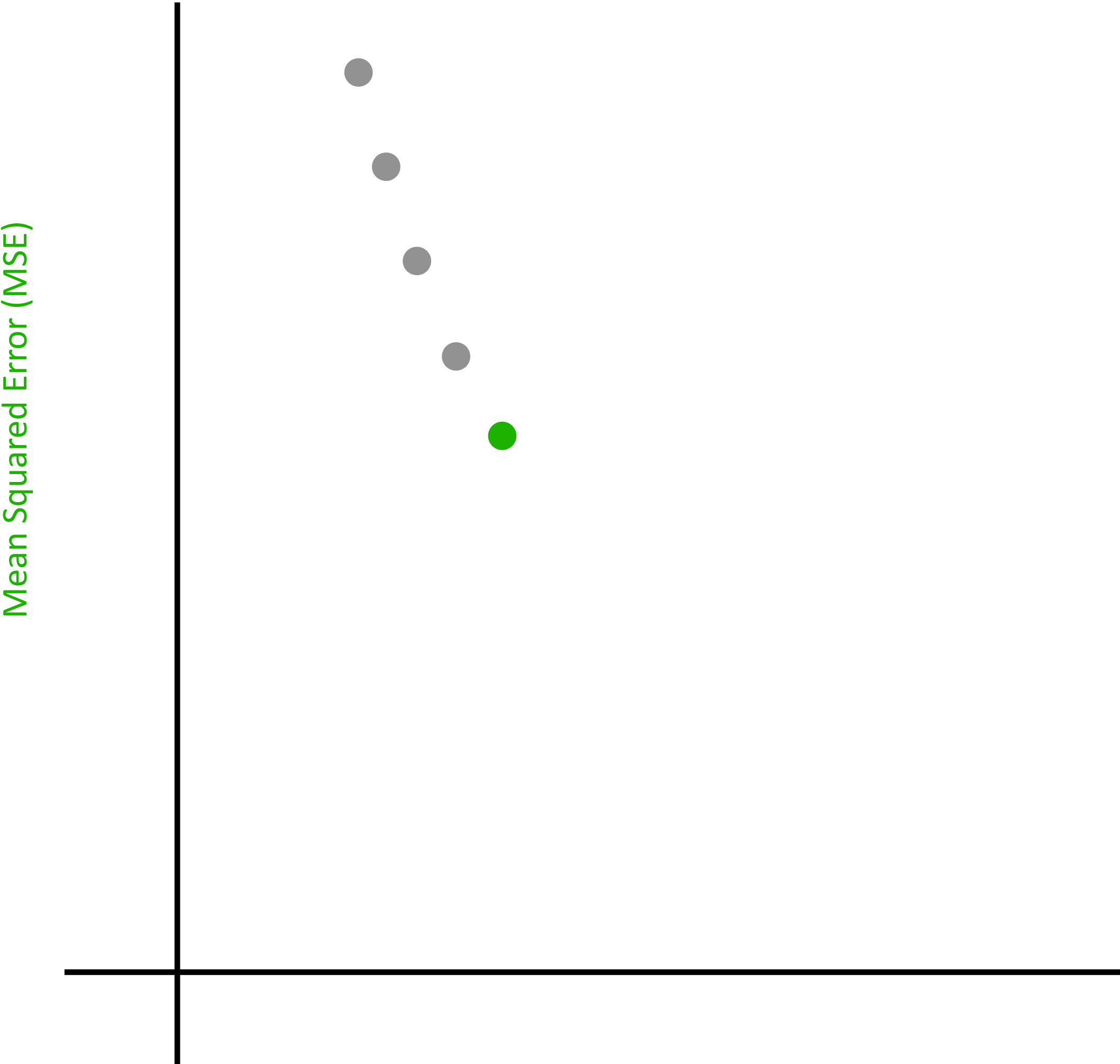
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Simple Linear Regression



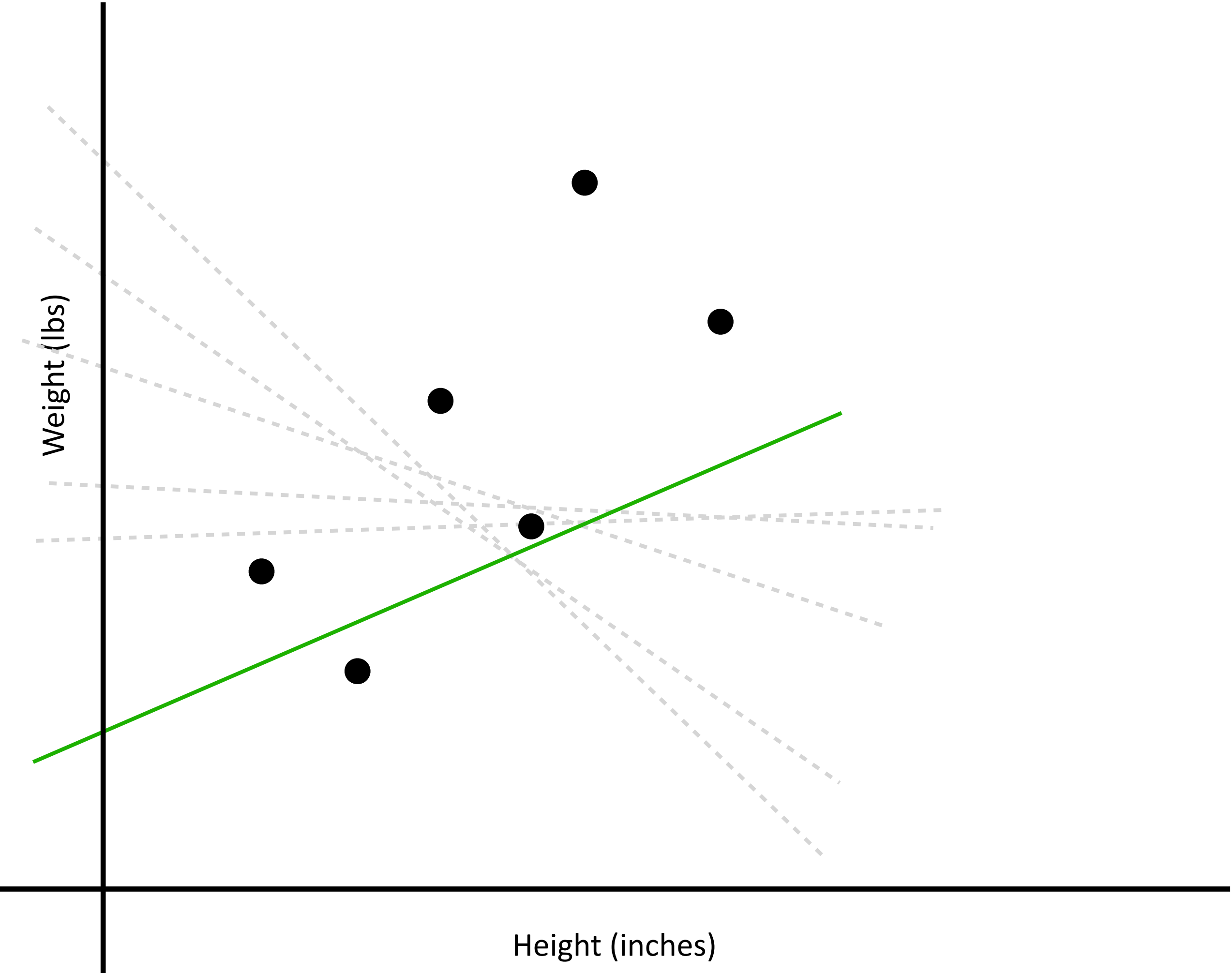
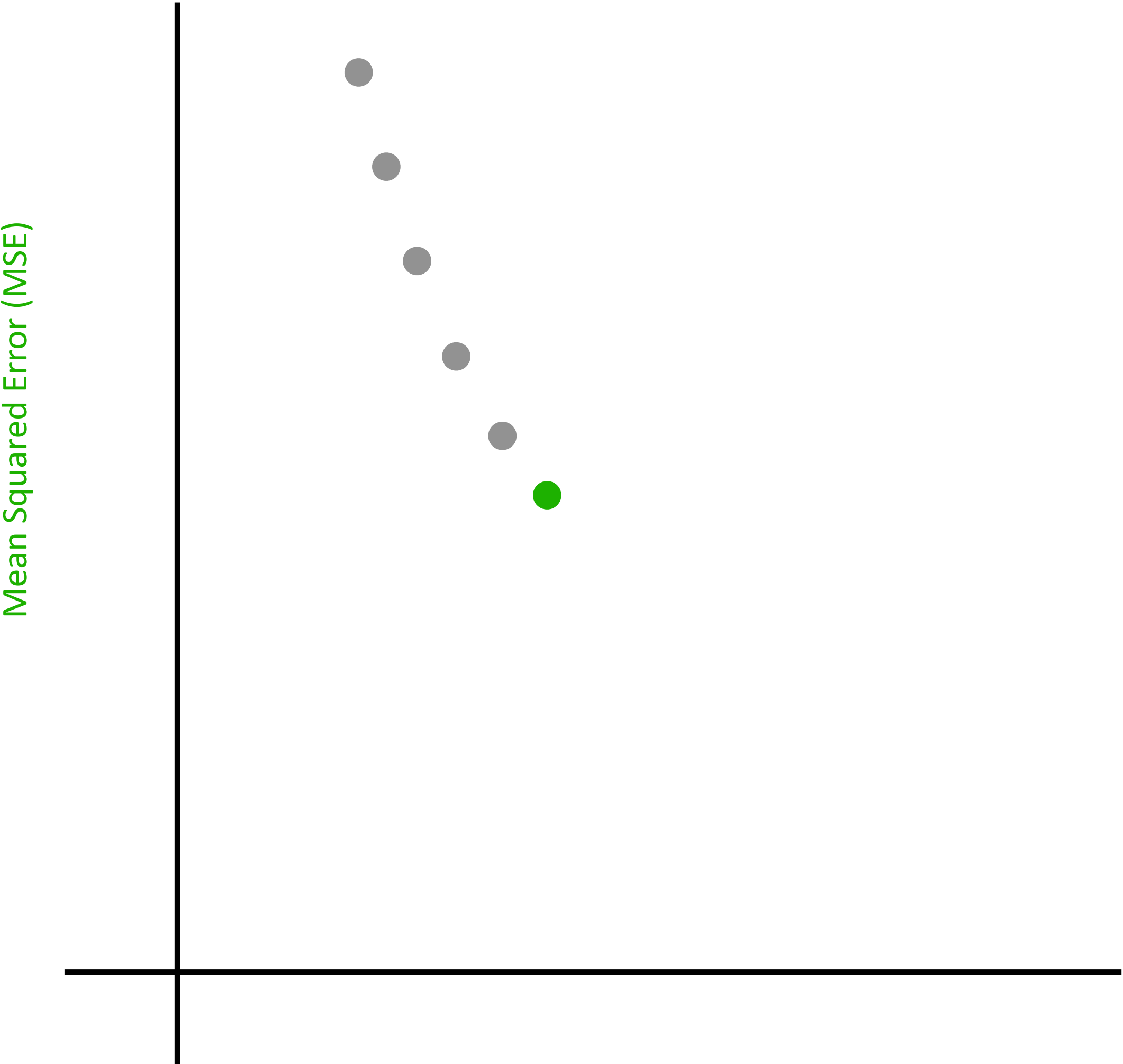
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Simple Linear Regression



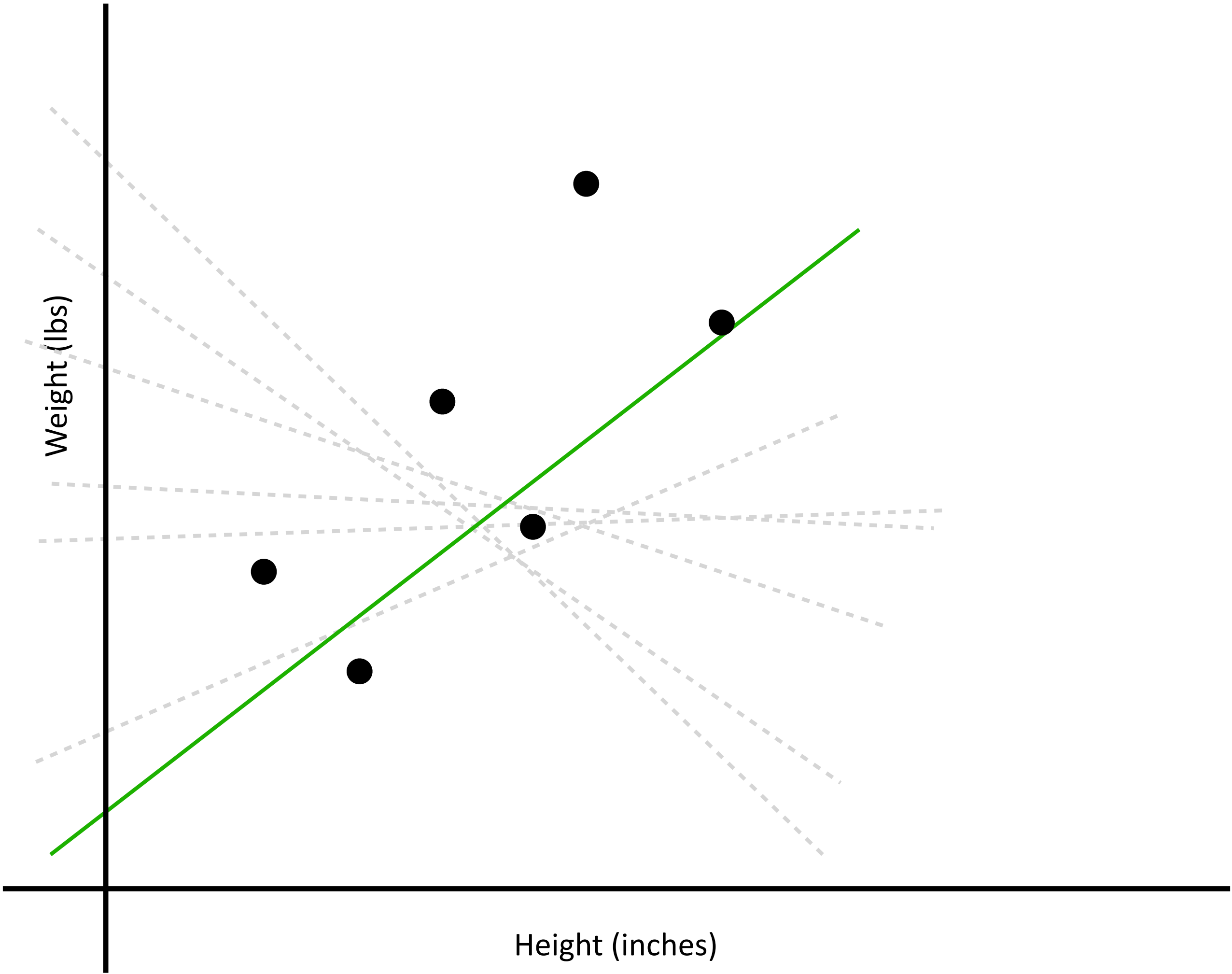
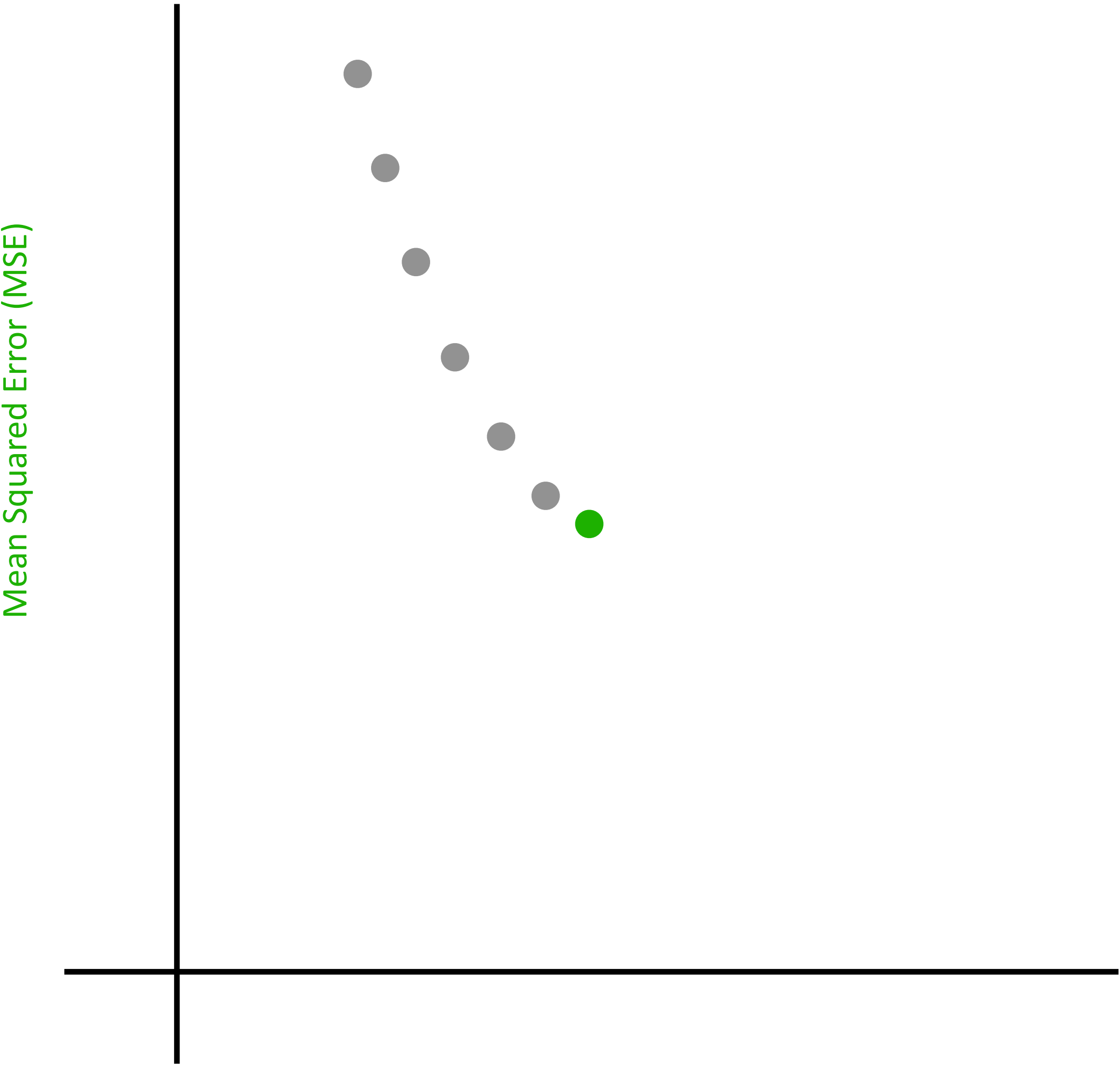
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Simple Linear Regression



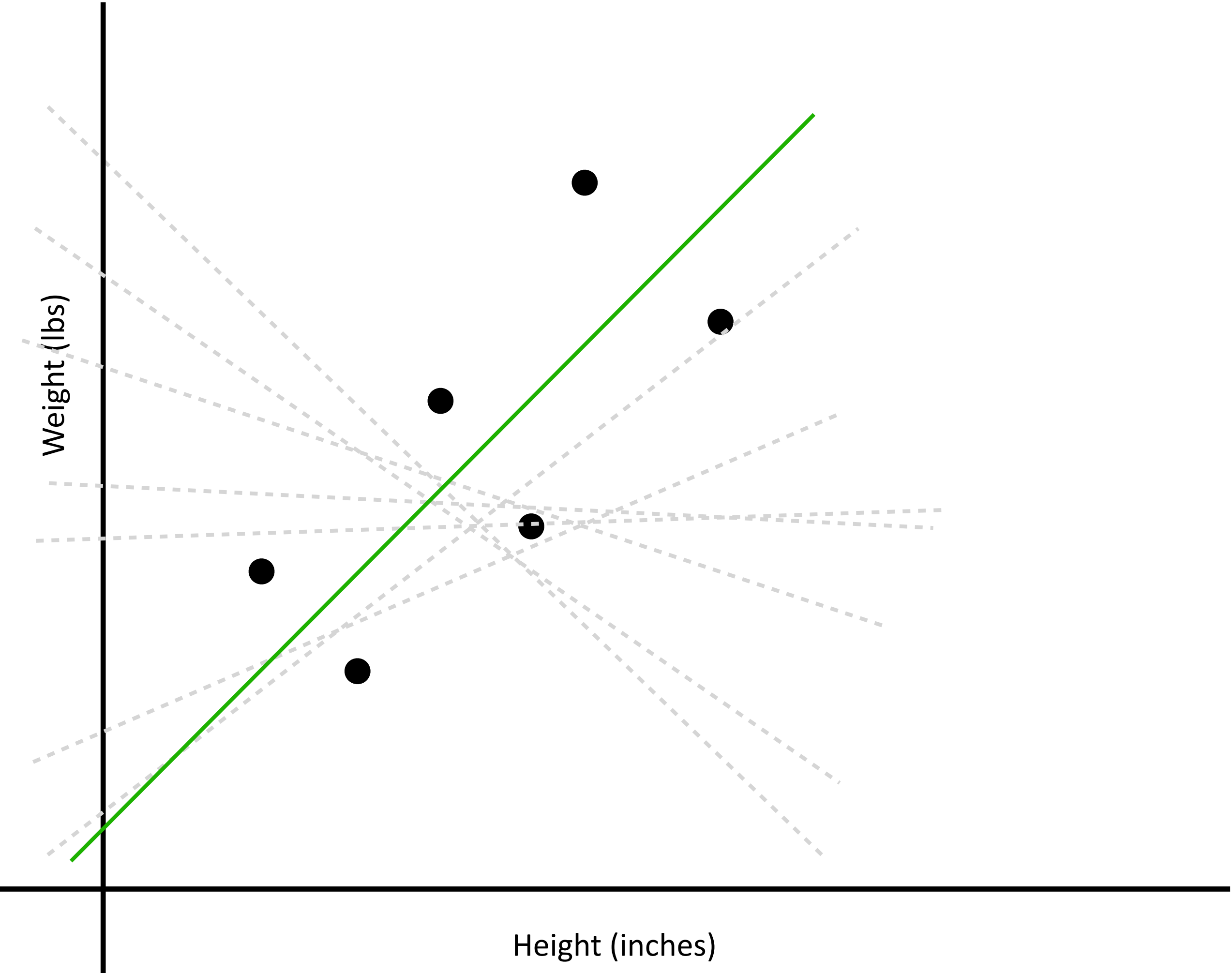
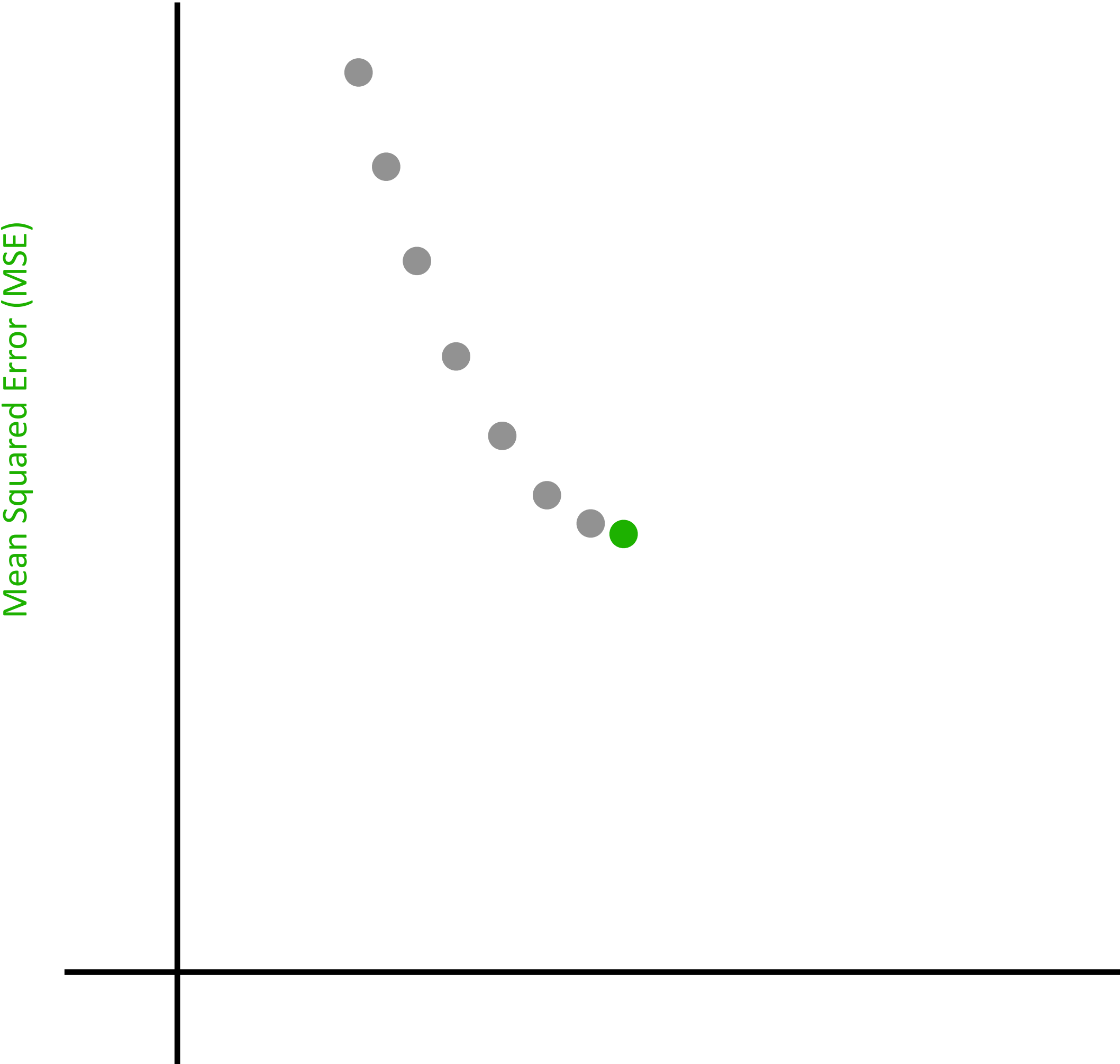
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression



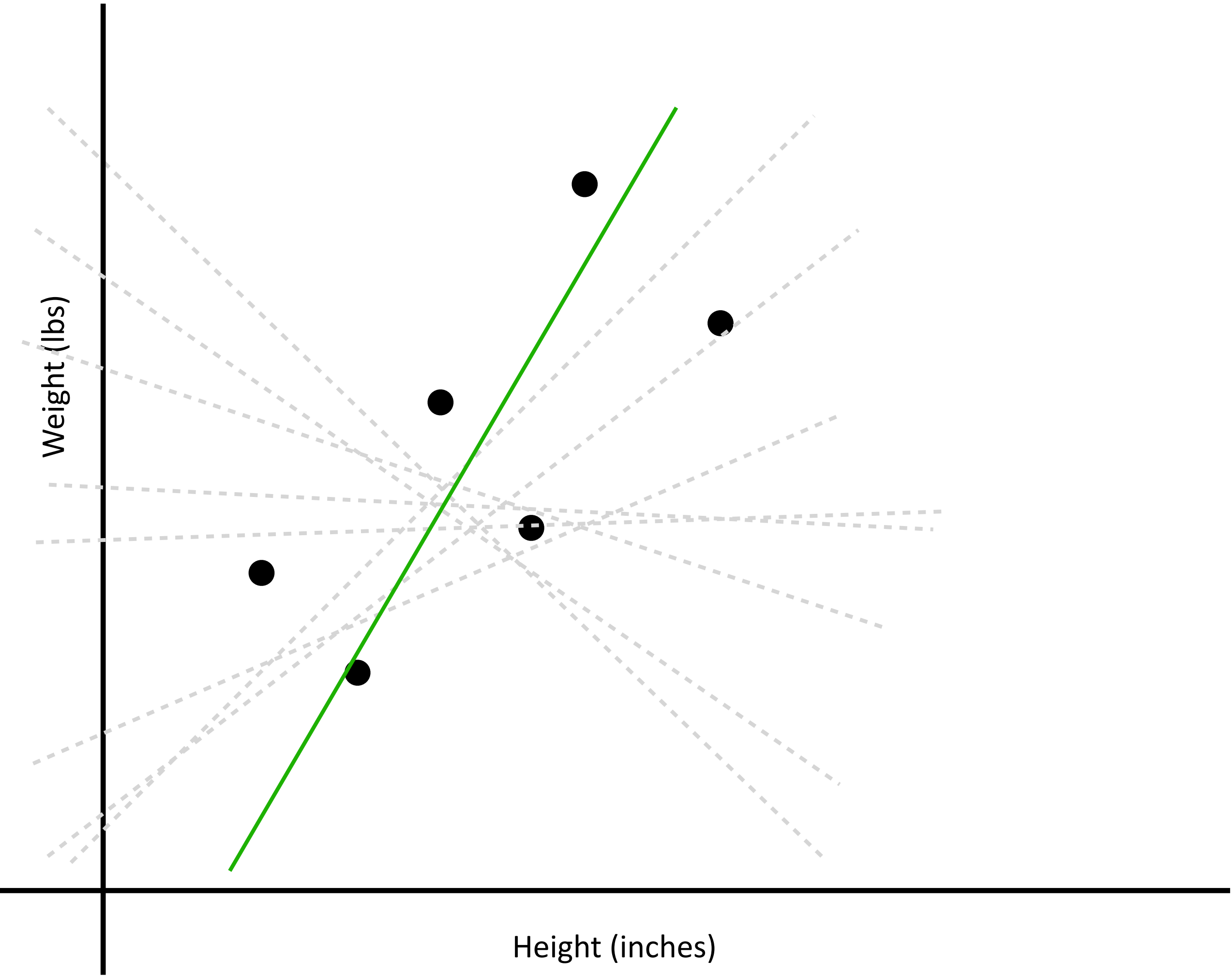
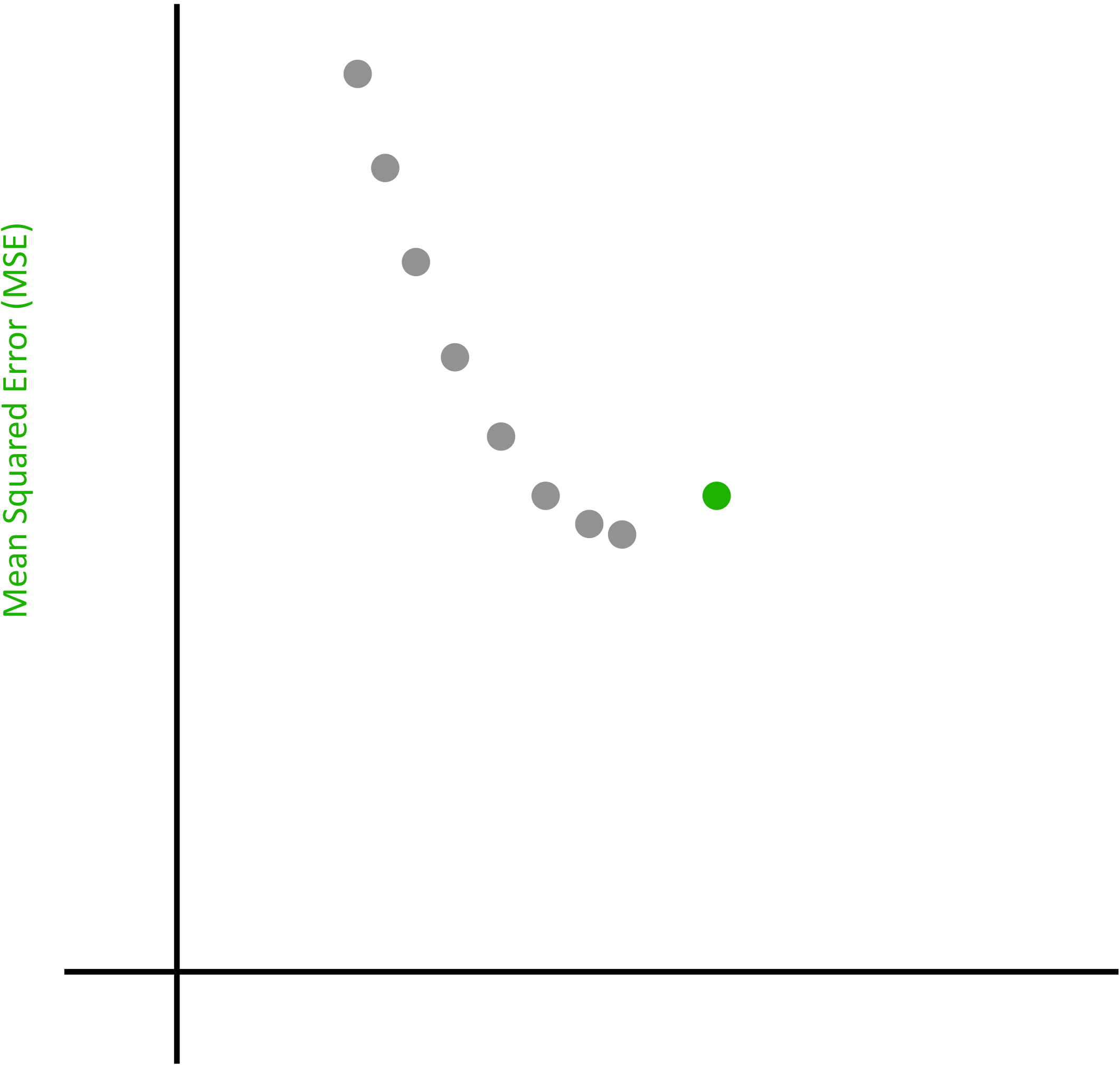
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression



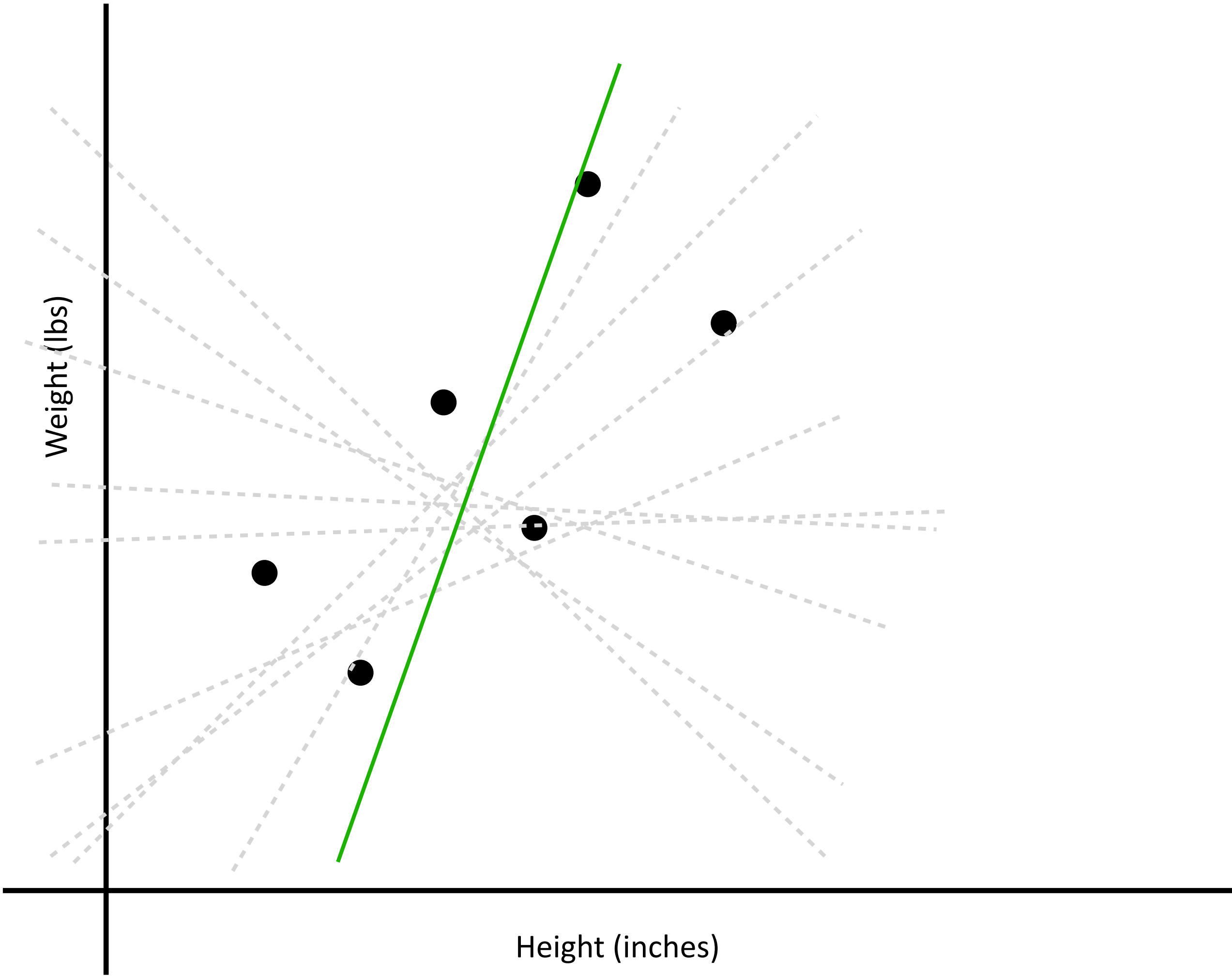
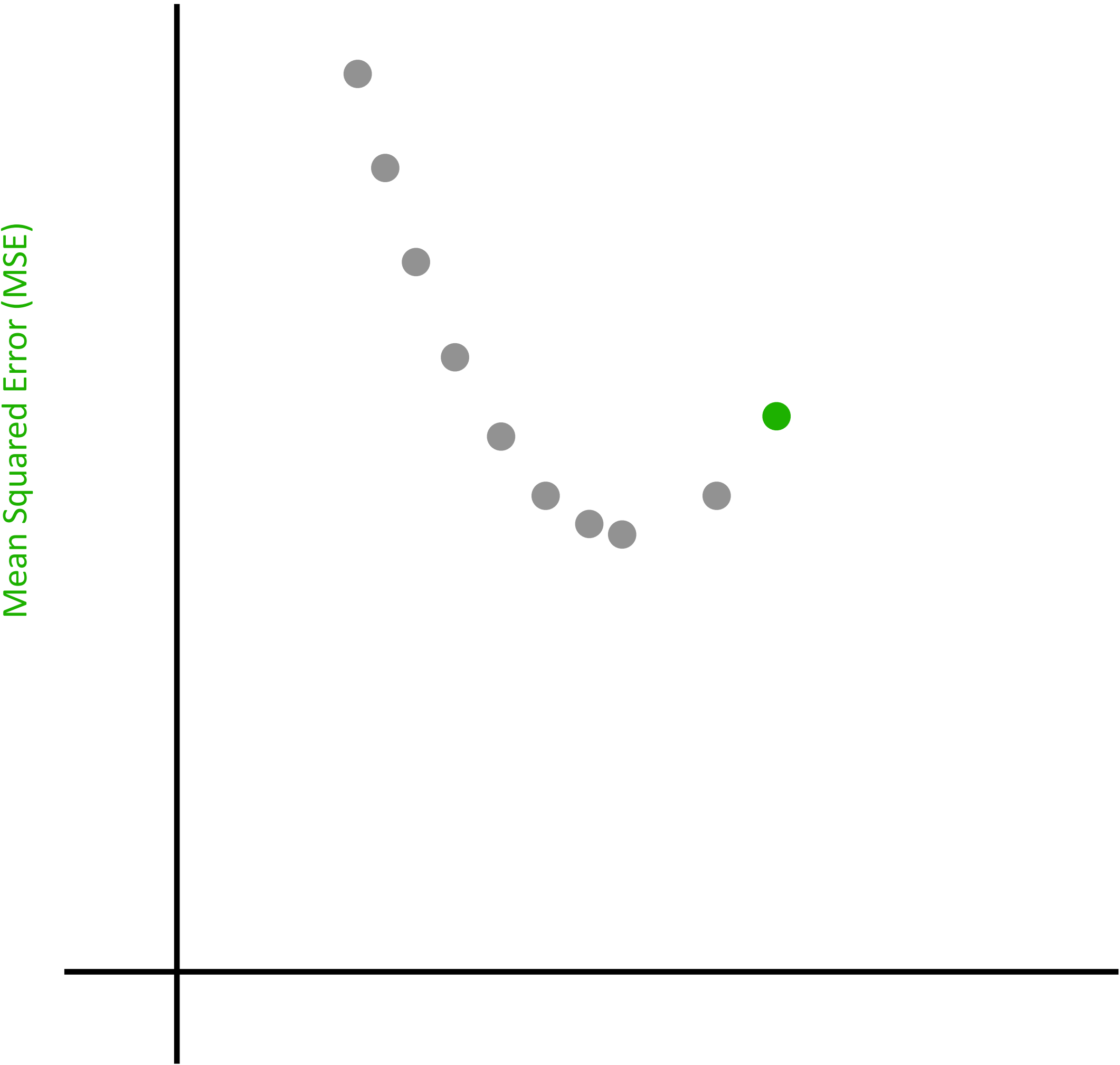
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression



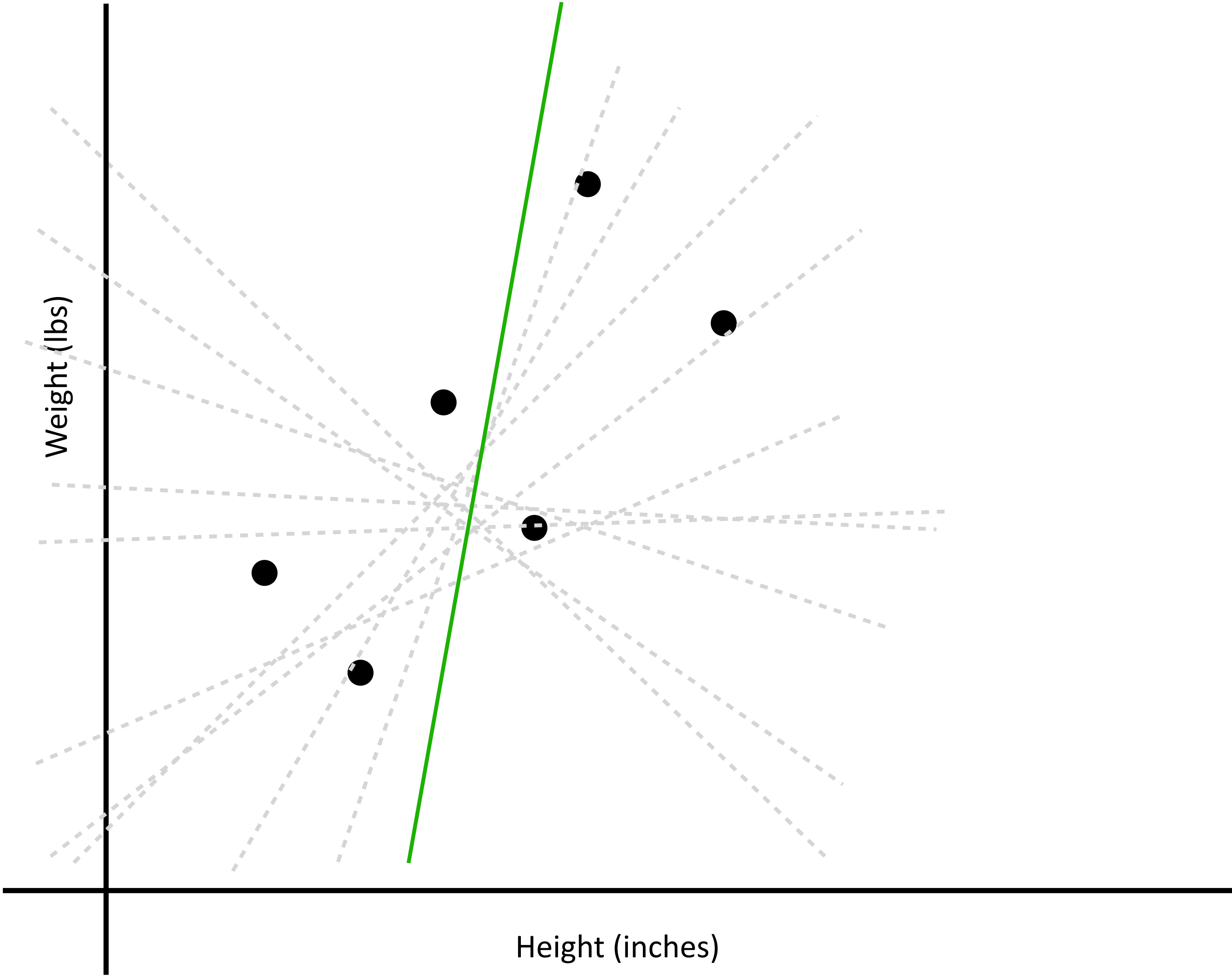
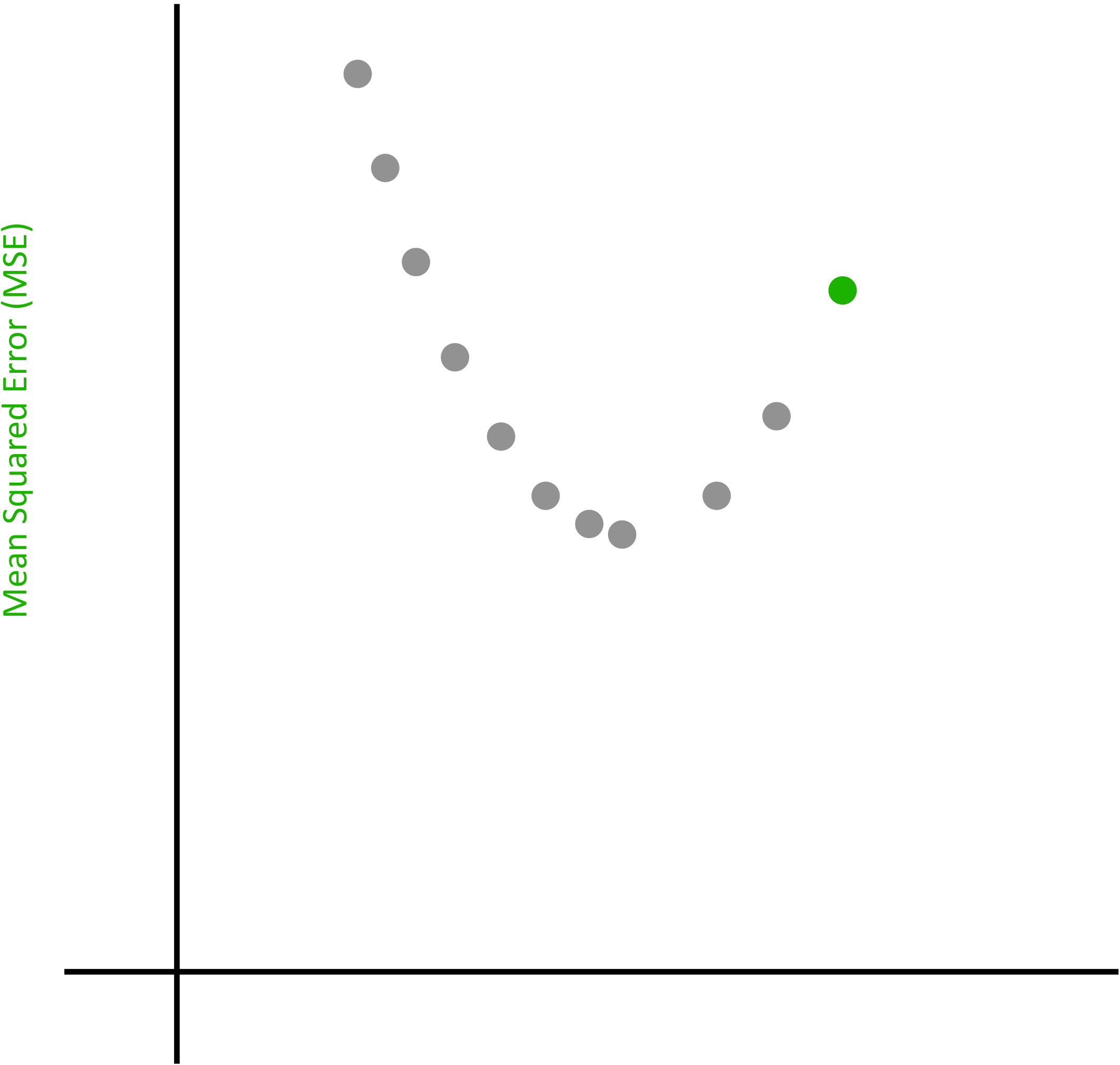
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression



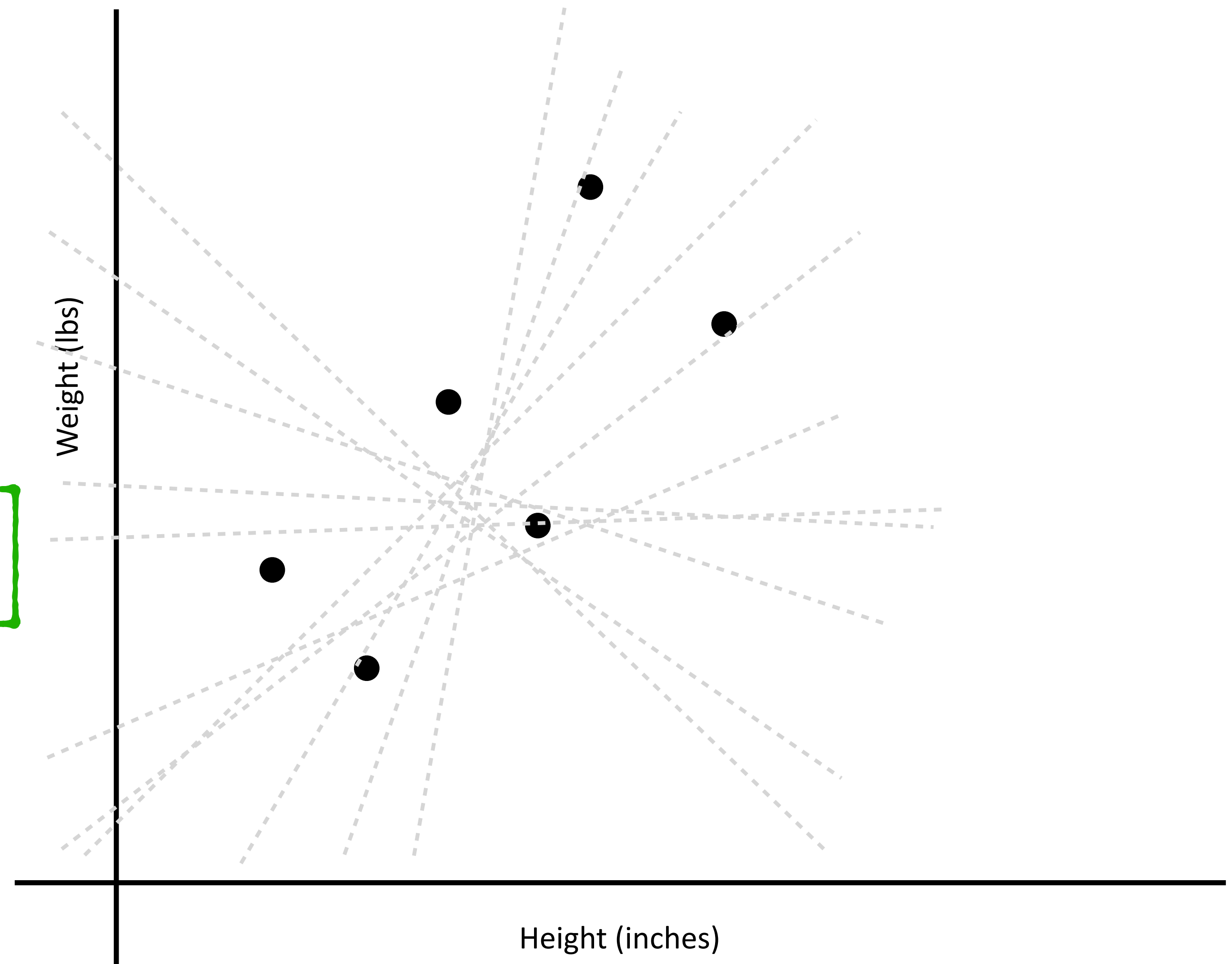
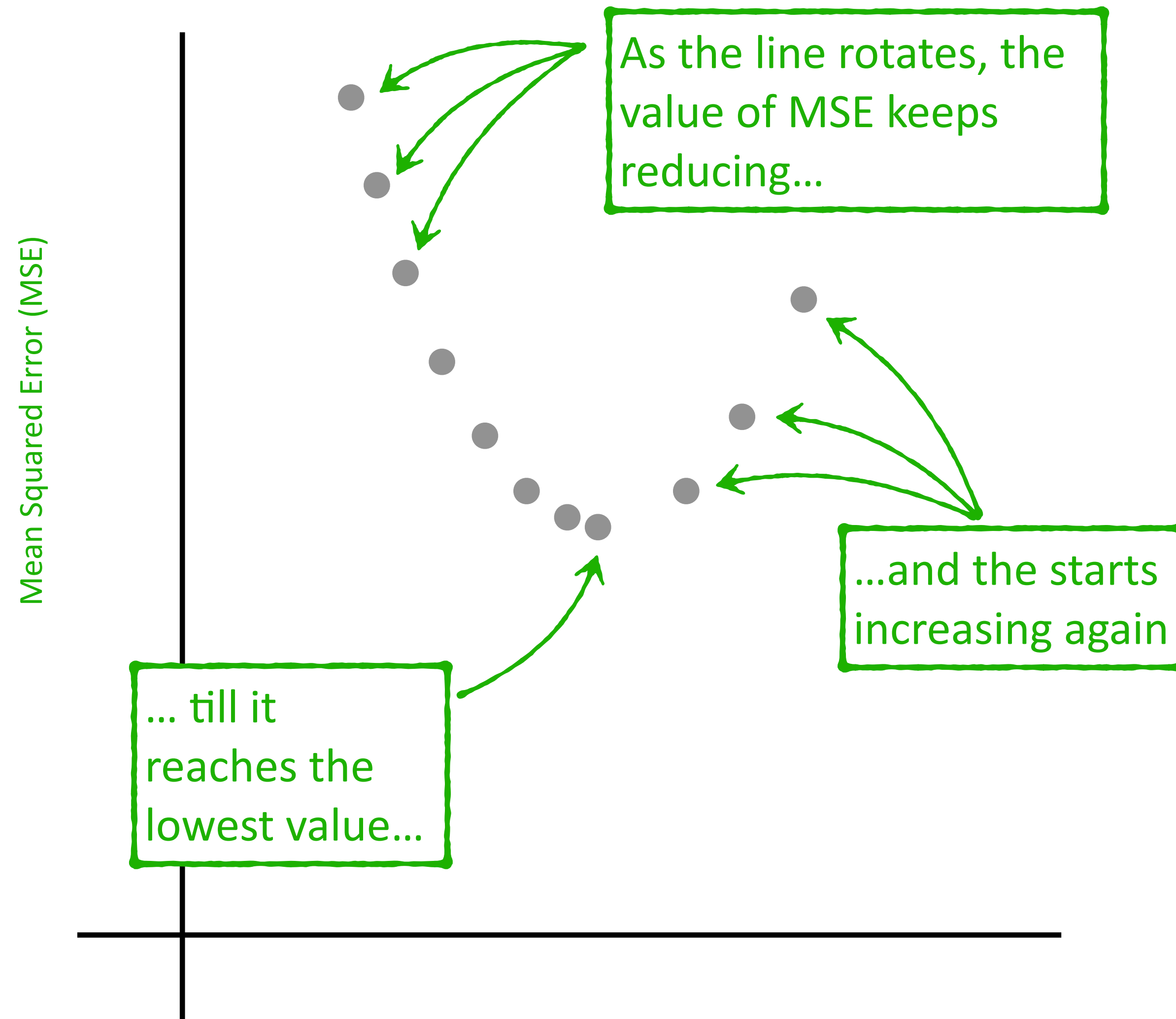
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression

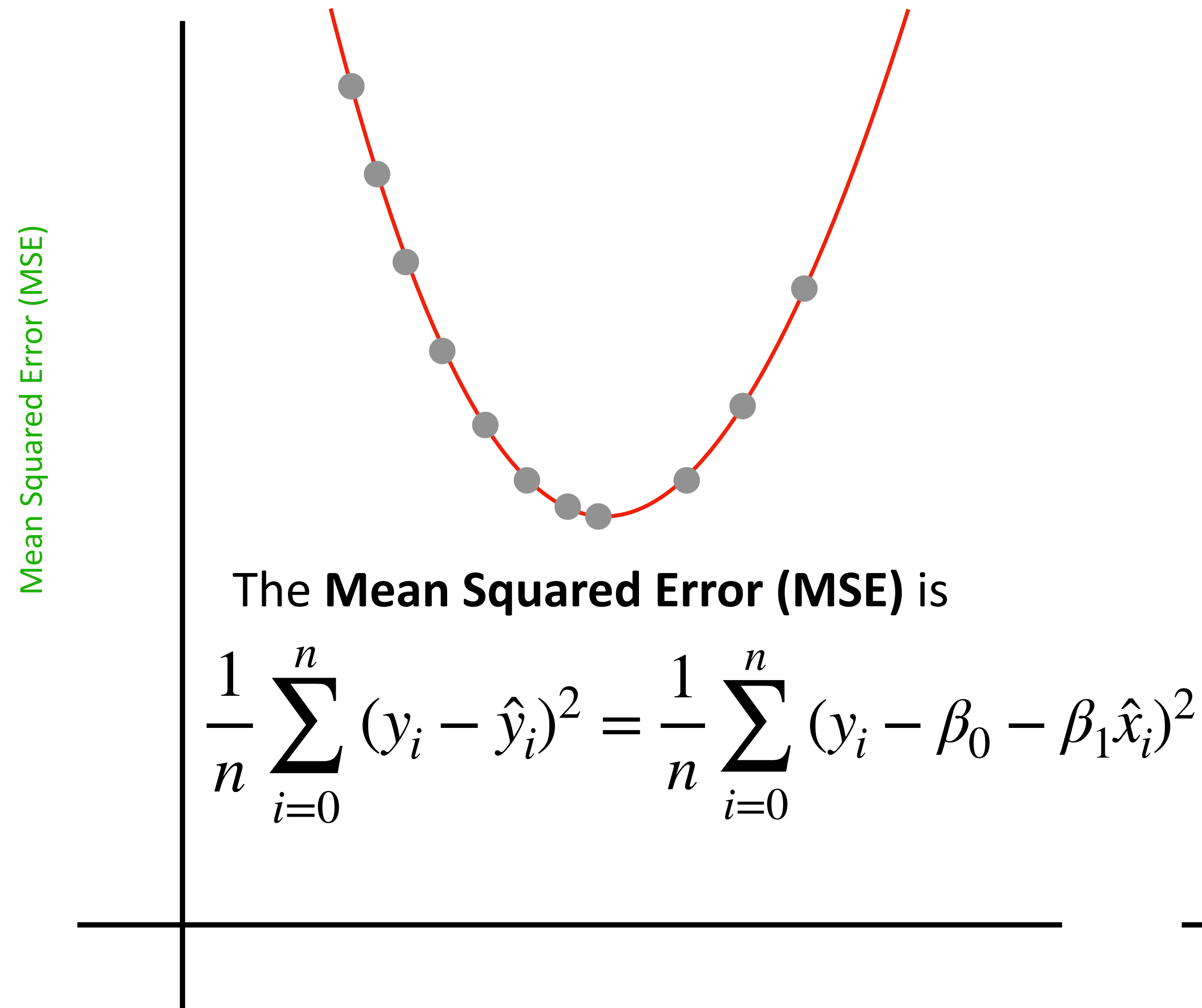


Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression



Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1



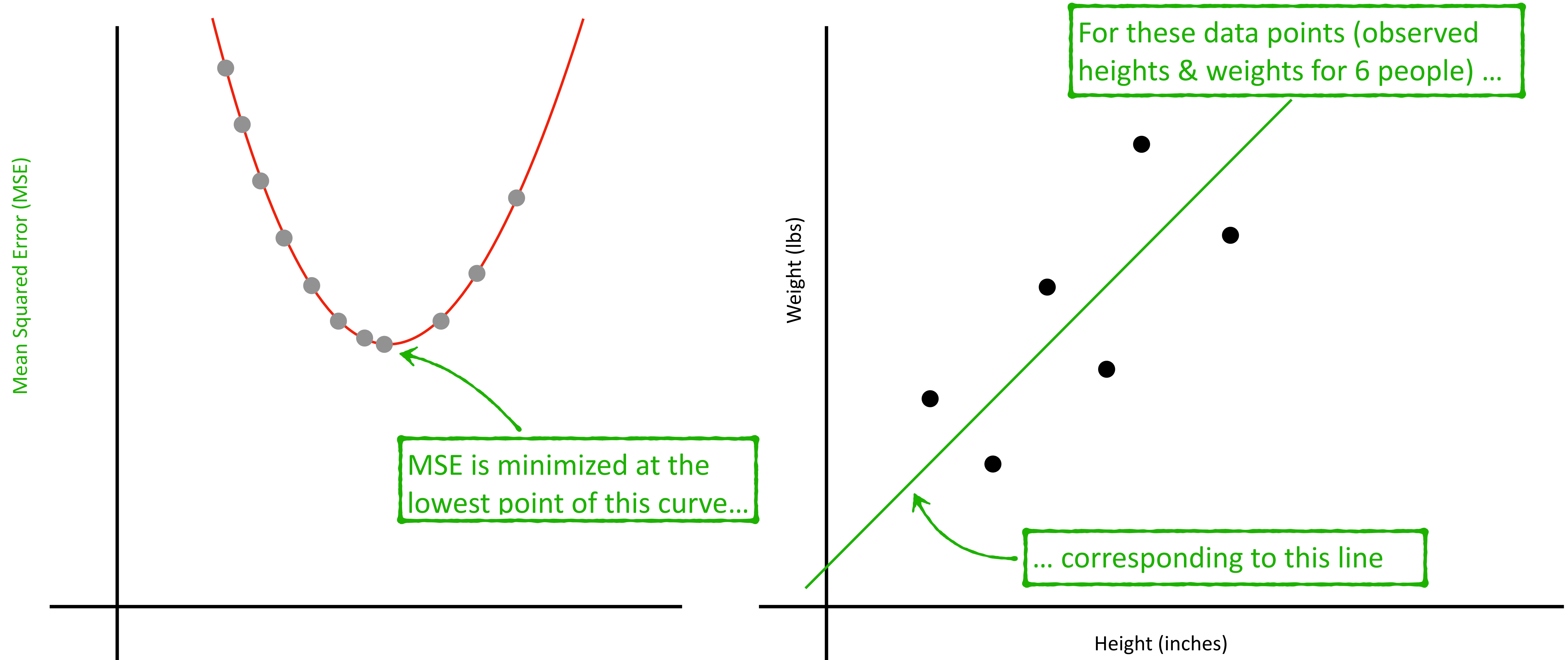
Simple Linear Regression

For these data points (observed heights & weights for 6 people) ...



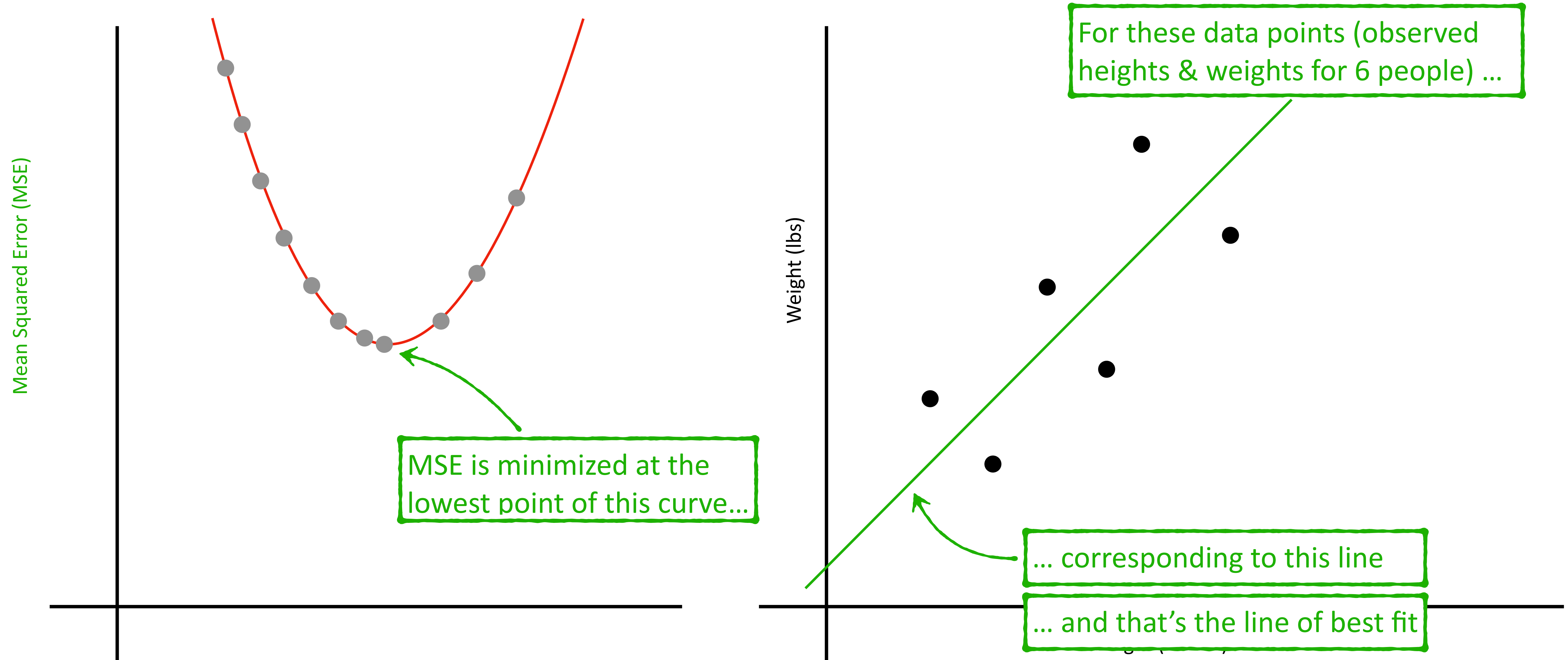
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Simple Linear Regression



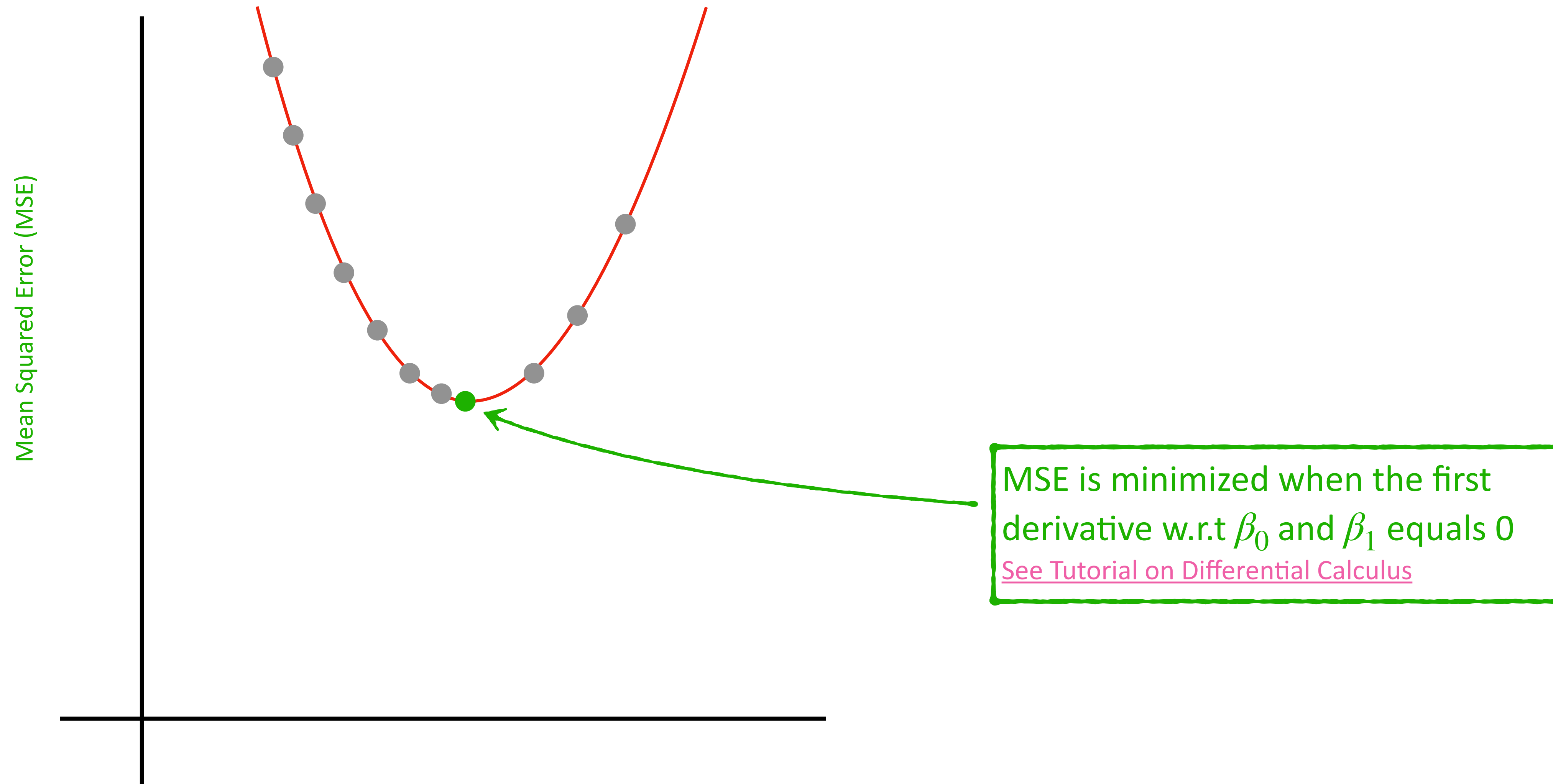
Lets calculate the **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** for various values of β_0 and β_1

Simple Linear Regression



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The **Mean Squared Error (MSE)** is

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \hat{x}_i)^2$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_0} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2 = 0 \cdots eq(1)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2 = 0 \cdots eq(2)$$

MSE is minimized when the first derivative w.r.t β_0 and β_1 equals 0

[See Tutorial on Differential Calculus](#)

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Solving both equations for β_0 and β_1
we get...

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$$\beta_0 = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^n y_i - \beta_1 \sum_{i=0}^n x_i}{n}$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{n \sum_{i=0}^n x_i y_i - \sum_{i=0}^n x_i \sum_{i=0}^n y_i}{n \sum_{i=0}^n x_i^2 - \left(\sum_{i=0}^n x_i \right)^2}$$

This is known as the **Closed Form Solution** for Simple Linear Regression

For the details on how the two equations are solved see [Proof of the Closed Form Solution](#) 

Related Tutorials & Textbooks

[Simple Linear Regression - Proof of the Closed Form Solution ↗](#)

A detailed proof of the the closed form solution of simple linear regression introduced above. This proof walks through solving two partial differential equations to compute the values of the two parameters.

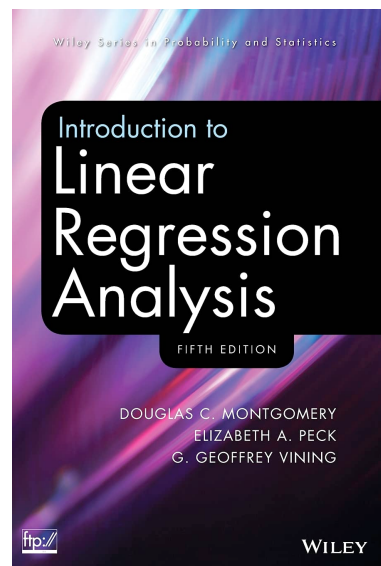
[Multiple Regression ↗](#)

Multiple regression extends the two dimensional linear model introduced in Simple Linear Regression to $k + 1$ dimensions with one dependent variable, k independent variables and $k+1$ parameters.

[Gradient Descent for Simple Linear Regression ↗](#)

An introduction to the Gradient Descent algorithm and a deep dive on how it can be used to optimize the two parameters β_0 and β_1 for Simple Linear Regression.

Recommended Textbooks



Introduction to Linear Regression Analysis

by Douglas C. Montgomery, Elizabeth A. Peck, G. Geoffrey Vining

For a complete list of tutorials see:

<https://arrsingh.com/ai-tutorials>