# Near-Linear Sample Complexity for $L_p$ Polynomial Regression

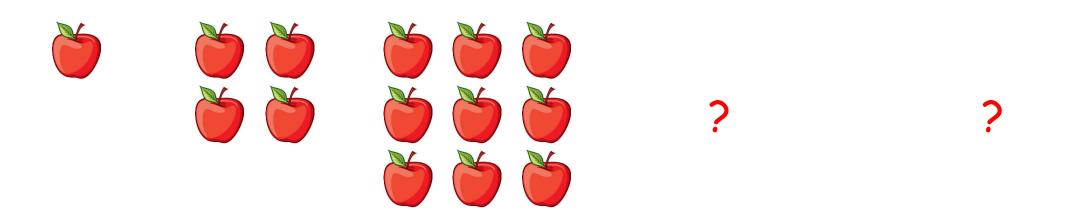
Raphael A. Meyer

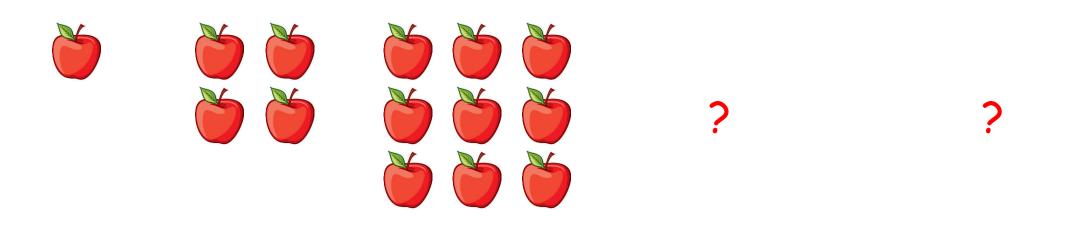
**Cameron Musco** 

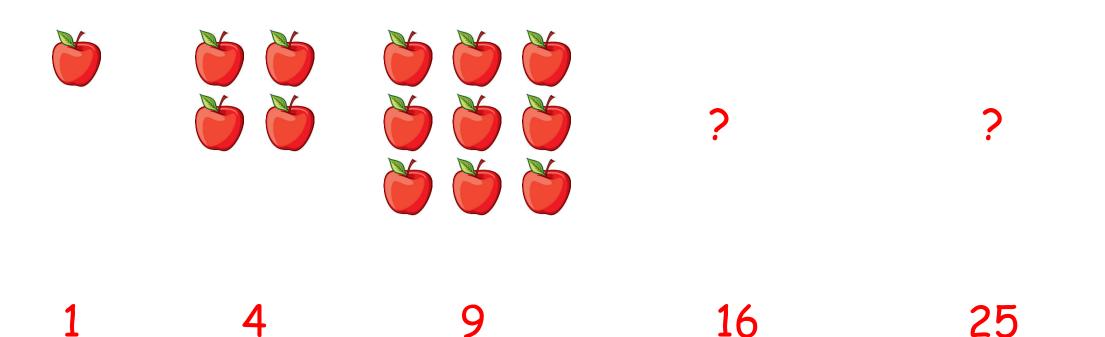
**Christopher Musco** 

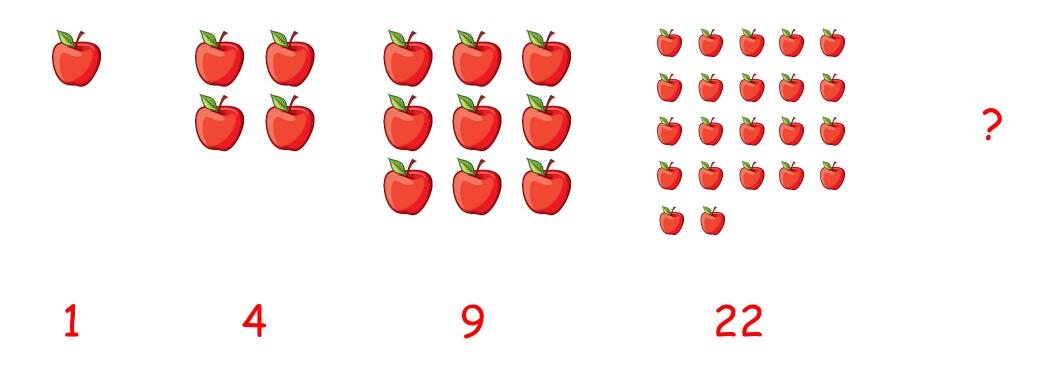
David P. Woodruff

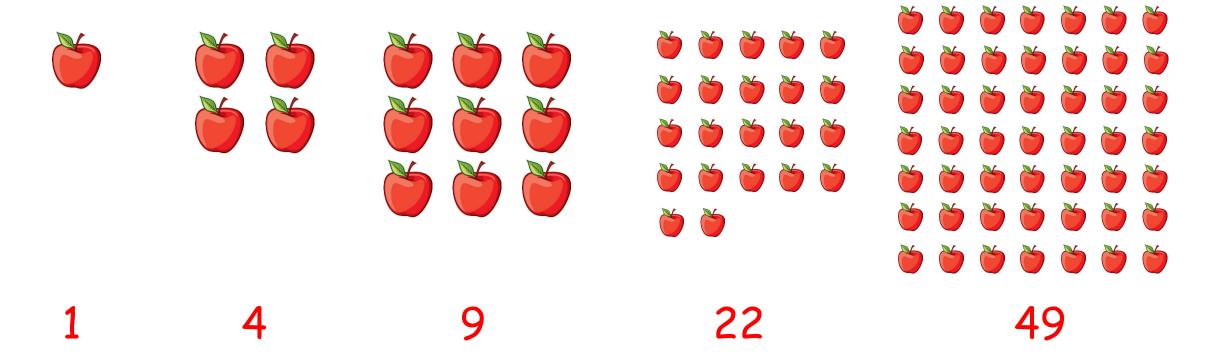
Samson Zhou

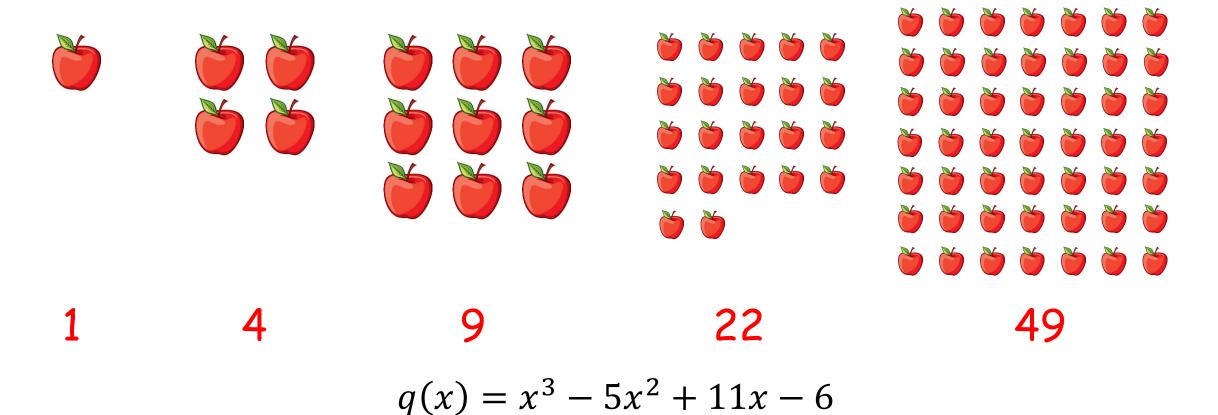












# Polynomial Fitting

 $\Leftrightarrow$  Given  $q(t_1), ..., q(t_m)$ , recover the polynomial q(x)

For a degree d polynomial q(x), must have  $m \ge d+1$  samples to recover q(x)

#### Polynomial Fitting

$$q(x) = a_d x^d + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$$

$$q(t_1) = a_d t_1^d + \dots + a_1 t_1 + a_0$$

$$q(t_2) = a_d t_2^d + \dots + a_1 t_2 + a_0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$q(t_m) = a_d t_m^d + \dots + a_1 t_m + a_0$$

# Polynomial Fitting

 $\Leftrightarrow$  For  $m \ge d+1$ , any choice of distinct  $t_1, ..., t_m$  can recover q(x)

Solve the linear system, Lagrangian interpolation, etc.

#### Polynomial Regression

For a signal f, recover the degree d polynomial q(x) that is the "best fit" to f

What does best fit mean?

#### Polynomial Regression

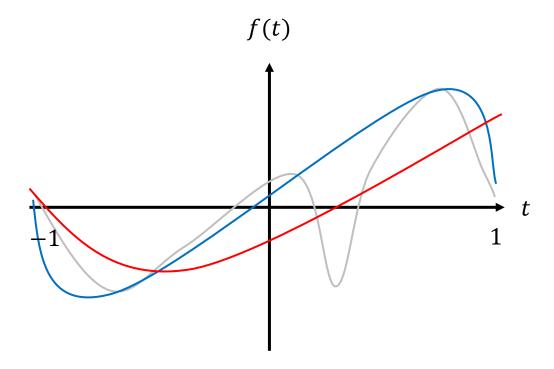
❖ Polynomial regression: Given  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , output  $\widehat{q(t)}$  such that

$$||f - \hat{q}||_p \le (1 + \varepsilon) \left( \min_{\deg(q) \le d} ||f - q||_p \right)$$

#### Polynomial Regression

$$||f - q||_p = \left( \int_{-1}^1 |f(t) - q(t)|^p \, dt \right)^{1/p}$$

$$||f - q||_{\infty} = \max_{t \in [-1,1]} |f(t) - q(t)|$$



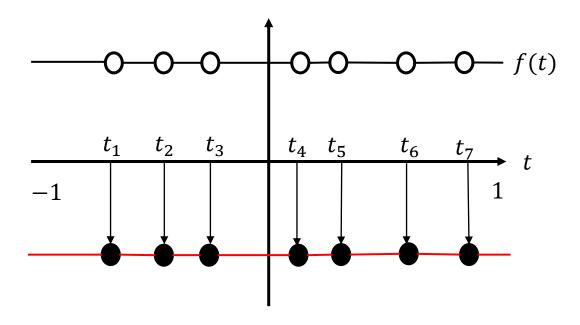
#### Sample Complexity

 $\clubsuit$  Sample complexity: Number m of locations  $t_1, \dots, t_m$  at which the signal f is read

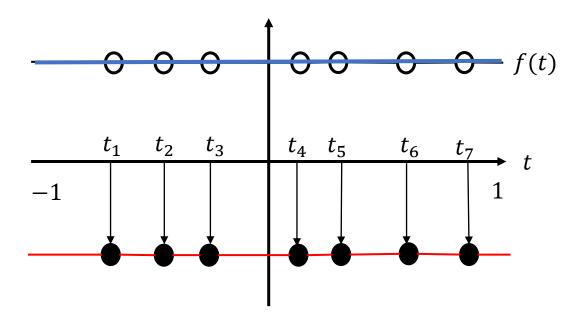
• Sample complexity of polynomial fitting is m = d + 1

What is the sample complexity of polynomial regression?

# Deterministic Algorithms Do Not Work



#### Deterministic Algorithms Do Not Work



#### Previous Work for $L_2$ Regression

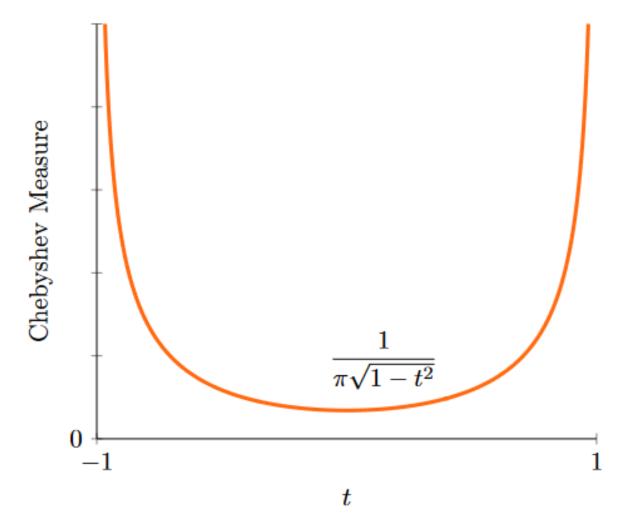
 $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_2$  regression with  $O\left(\frac{d \log d}{\varepsilon}\right)$  queries [RauhutWard12, CohenDavenportLeviatan13, CohenMigliorati13]

 $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_2$  regression with  $O\left(\frac{d}{\varepsilon}\right)$  queries [ChenPrice19]

#### Previous Work for $L_{\infty}$ Regression

••  $O(\log d)$ -approximation to  $L_{\infty}$  regression with  $O(d \log d)$  queries [Trefethen12]

Arr Constant factor approximation to  $L_{\infty}$  regression with  $O(d \log d)$  queries [KaneKarmalkarPrice17]



# Our Results (I)

 $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_p$  regression with  $dp\left(\frac{\log^{O(p)}d}{\varepsilon^{O(p)}}\right)$  queries from the Chebyshev density for all  $p\geq 1$ 

 $\clubsuit$  Upper bound shows separation in the degree d between polynomial  $L_p$  regression and matrix  $L_p$  regression, which requires  $\Omega(d^{p/2})$  samples [LiWangWoodruff20]

#### Our Results (II)

 $\Omega\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^{p-1}}\right)$  queries are necessary for  $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_p$  regression

 $\red$  Proof recovers a result by [KaneKarmalkarPrice17] showing impossibility of  $(2-\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_{\infty}$  regression

Approach	Sample Complexity	Approximation
$L_p$ sensitivity sampling ([MMWY21] + Theorem 5.3)	$d^2p \left(\frac{\log d}{\varepsilon}\right)^{O(1)}$	$(1+\varepsilon)$
$L_p$ sensitivity + Lewis weight sampling [MMWY21]	$d^{\max(1,p/2)} \left(\frac{\log d}{\varepsilon}\right)^{O(1)}$	$(1+\varepsilon)$
$L_1$ Lewis weight sampling [MMM <sup>+</sup> 22]	$dp \log d$	O(1)
Chebyshev measure sampling for all $p \ge 1$ (our results)	$dp \left(\frac{\log d}{\varepsilon}\right)^{O(p)}$	$(1+\varepsilon)$

# Algorithm

Sample with respect to Chebyshev density on [-1,1]

2. Return approximately optimal solution on sketched instance

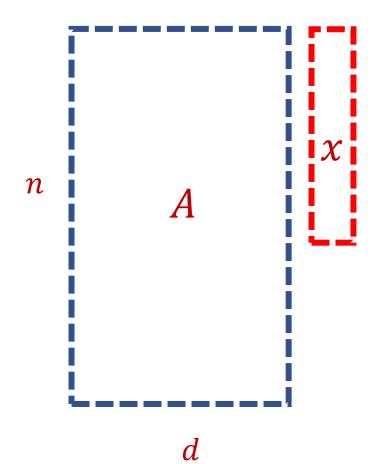
#### Questions?

- ❖ Part 1: Background
- Part 2: Subspace Embeddings
- ❖ Part 3: Lewis Weights
- Part 4: Algorithm

#### Format

- 1. Show Chebyshev density are the  $L_p$  sensitivities
- 2. Show Chebyshev density are the Lewis weights
- 3. Uniform sampling + Lewis weight sampling for  $p \in [1,2]$
- 4. Tensor trick + compact net for p > 2

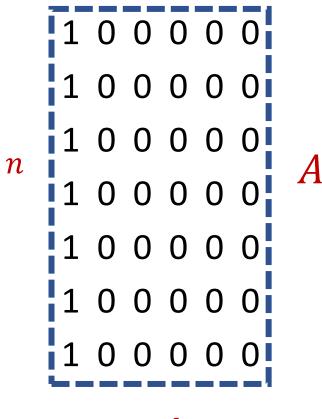
#### Subspace Embedding



Subspace embedding: Given  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $A \in R^{n \times d}$ , find matrix  $T \in R^{m \times d}$  with  $m \ll n$ , such that for every  $x \in R^d$ ,

$$(1 - \varepsilon) ||Ax||_p \le ||Tx||_p \le (1 + \varepsilon) ||Ax||_p$$

#### Subspace Embedding



❖ If the rows of A are "roughly" uniform, could uniformly sample a small number of rows of A and rescale them to form subspace embedding T

d

- Intuition: how "important" a row is (importance sampling)
- $\star \tau_i(A) = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\|Ax\|_2^2}$  are the *leverage scores* of A (in this case of row  $a_i$ )

❖ For x = (1 - 1):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, x \rangle^2}{\langle a_1, x \rangle^2 + \langle a_2, x \rangle^2} = \frac{1}{1} = 1, \text{ so } \tau_1 = 1$$

❖ For x = (1 - 1):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\langle a_2, x \rangle^2}{\langle a_1, x \rangle^2 + \langle a_2, x \rangle^2} = \frac{0}{1} = 0$$

- $\star \tau_i(A) = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\|Ax\|_2^2} = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n \langle a_i, x \rangle^2}$
- **•** For  $x = (0 \ 1)$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 \\
1 & 1
\end{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
0 \\
1
\end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\langle a_2, x \rangle^2}{\langle a_1, x \rangle^2 + \langle a_2, x \rangle^2} = \frac{1}{1} = 1, \text{ so } \tau_2 = 1$$

```
\star \tau_i(A) = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\|Ax\|_2^2} = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n \langle a_i, x \rangle^2}
```

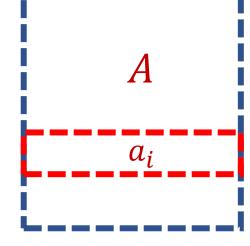
**rightharpoonup** For  $x = (1 \ 0)$ :

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, x \rangle^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n \langle a_i, x \rangle^2} = \frac{1}{5} \text{ and in fact } \tau_1 = \frac{1}{5}$$

- Intuition: how "important" a row is (importance sampling)
- $\star \tau_i(A) = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\|Ax\|_2^2}$  are the *leverage scores* of A (in this case of row  $a_i$ )

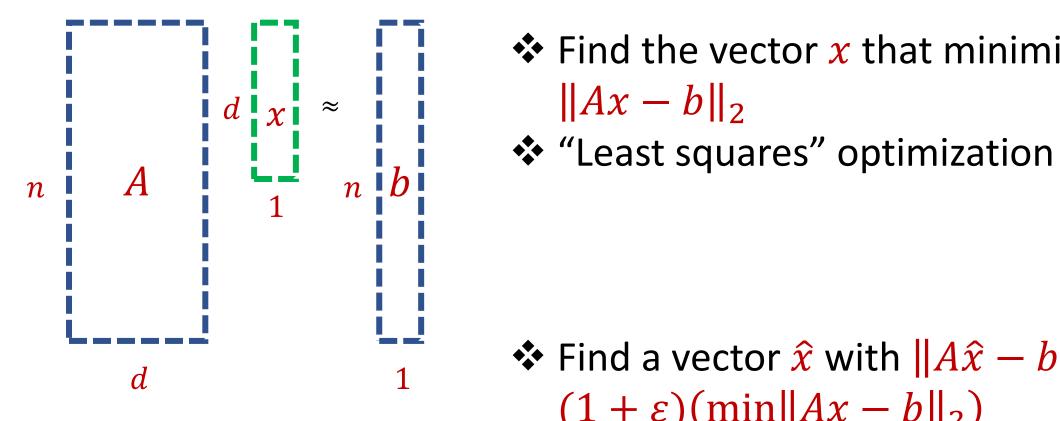
- Take x = (1 1) to see that  $\tau_1 = 1$
- ightharpoonup Take  $x = (0 \ 1)$  to see that  $\tau_2 = 1$



- Leverage score sampling: Sample  $O\left(\frac{d \log d}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$  rows of A with probability proportional to leverage score  $\tau_i(A) = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\|Ax\|_2^2}$
- $\diamond$  Rescale sampled rows to form subspace embedding T

$$(1 - \varepsilon) ||Ax||_2 \le ||Tx||_2 \le (1 + \varepsilon) ||Ax||_2$$

#### Linear Regression

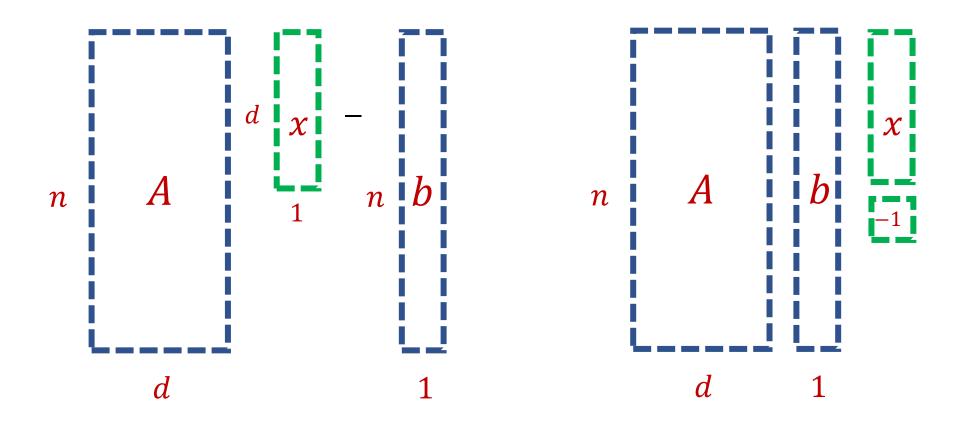


- $\clubsuit$  Find the vector  $\mathbf{x}$  that minimizes

 $\Leftrightarrow$  Find a vector  $\hat{x}$  with  $||A\hat{x} - b||_2 \le$  $(1+\varepsilon)(\min ||Ax-b||_2)$ 

#### Linear Regression

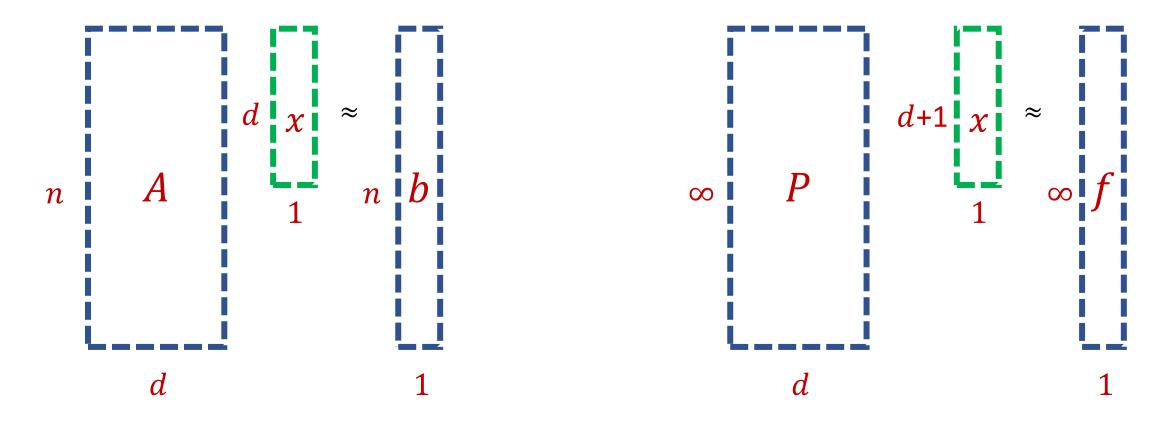
 $\clubsuit$  If B = [A; b] and y = [x; -1], then Ax - b = By



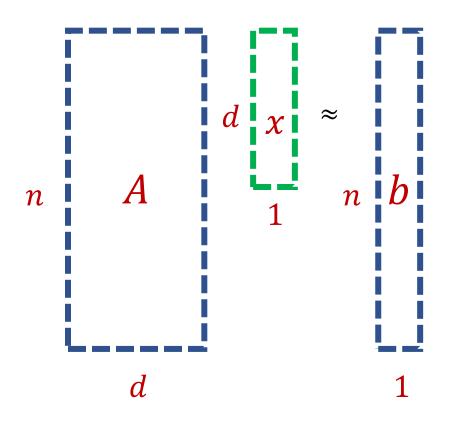
#### Linear Regression

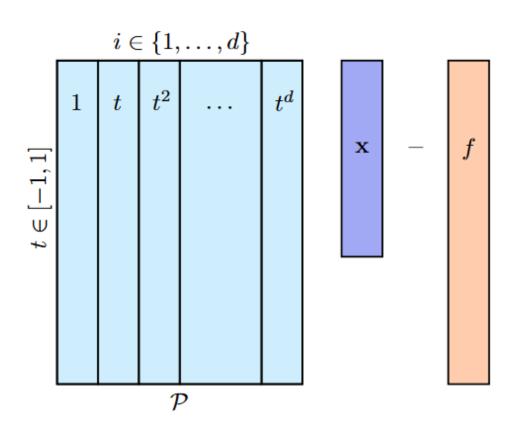
- $\clubsuit$  If B = [A; b] and y = [x; -1], then Ax b = By
- ❖ If "free" access to all entries of B = [A; b], suffices to find a subspace embedding for B and then minimize  $||By||_2$

#### Linear Regression to Polynomial Regression



### Linear Regression to Polynomial Regression





### L<sub>2</sub> Polynomial Regression

- **\Leftrigorange** Leverage score for matrices:  $\tau_i = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\|Ax\|_2^2}$
- \$\times\$ Leverage function for operators:  $\tau(t) = \max_{\deg(q) \le d} \frac{|q(t)|^2}{\|q\|_2^2}$

Arr Can show  $au(t) \leq O\left(\frac{d}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}\right)$ , so roughly  $O\left(\frac{d\log^2 d}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$  samples from the Chebyshev density suffice

#### Toward General p

 $\clubsuit$  Analog of leverage score for general p?

• Previous  $L_2$  leverage scores:  $\tau_i(A) = \max \frac{\langle a_i, x \rangle^2}{\|Ax\|_2^2}$ 

# L<sub>p</sub> Sensitivities

- $\star L_p$  sensitivites:  $\tau_i^{(p)}(A) = \max \frac{|\langle a_i, x \rangle|^p}{\|Ax\|_p^p}$
- ightharpoonup 
  igh

- Pros: Easy to understand, generalize, i.e., "importance sampling"
- **Cons:** Gives suboptimal bounds, e.g.,  $\tilde{O}(d^2)$  samples for  $p \in [1,2)$

# L<sub>p</sub> Sensitivities

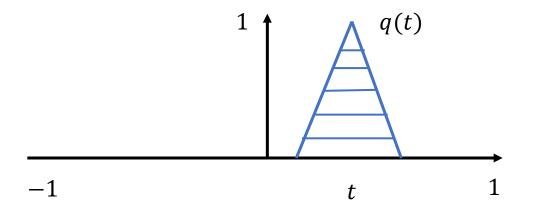
- $L_p$  sensitivities for matrices:  $\tau_i^{(p)}(A) = \max \frac{|\langle a_i, x \rangle|^p}{||Ax||_p^p}$
- $\star L_p$  sensitivities for operators:  $\tau^{(p)}(t) = \max_{\deg(q) \le d} \frac{|q(t)|^p}{\|q\|_p^p}$

 $\Leftrightarrow$  Want to bound  $\tau^{(p)}(t)$ 

## Upper Bound for $L_p$ Sensitivities

$$\Rightarrow \text{ Structural result: } \tau^{(p)}(t) = \max_{\deg(q) \le d} \frac{|q(t)|^p}{\|q\|_p^p} \le O\left(\min\left(\frac{dp \log d}{\sqrt{1 - t^2}}, d^2p\right)\right)$$

• Normalize q(t) = 1, how small can  $||q||_p^p$  be?



## Upper Bound for $L_p$ Sensitivities

❖ Bernstein's inequality: If q is a polynomial with degree d and  $|q(t)| \le 1$  for  $t \in [-1,1]$ , then  $|q'(t)| \le \frac{d}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}$  for all  $t \in [-1,1]$ 

A Markov brothers' inequality: If q is a polynomial with degree d and  $|q(t)| \le 1$  for  $t \in [-1,1]$ , then  $|q'(t)| \le d^2$  for all  $t \in [-1,1]$ 

# L<sub>p</sub> Sensitivities

 $\P$  If |q| achieves maximum at t, then  $||q||_p^p \ge \Omega\left(\max\left(\frac{\sqrt{1-t^2}}{dp},\frac{1}{d^2p}\right)\right)$ 

• Otherwise, show there exists a degree  $O(d \log d)$  polynomial r that achieves maximum "near" t and  $|||r||_p^p - ||q||_p^p| \le \frac{1}{d^3}$ 

# L<sub>p</sub> Sensitivities

 $\clubsuit$  Constant factor approximation to  $L_p$  regression with  $\operatorname{poly}(d,p)$  queries from the Chebyshev density for all  $p \geq 1$ , showing separation between polynomial  $L_p$  regression and matrix  $L_p$  regression, which requires  $\Omega(d^{p/2})$  samples [LiWangWoodruff20]

#### Questions?

- ❖ Part 1: Background
- Part 2: Subspace Embeddings
- ❖ Part 3: Lewis Weights
- Part 4: Algorithm

#### Format

- 1. Show Chebyshev density are the  $L_p$  sensitivities
- 2. Show Chebyshev density are the Lewis weights
- 3. Uniform sampling + Lewis weight sampling for  $p \in [1,2]$
- 4. Tensor trick + compact net for p > 2

# L<sub>p</sub> Sensitivities

- $\star L_p$  sensitivites:  $\tau_i^{(p)}(A) = \max \frac{|\langle a_i, x \rangle|^p}{\|Ax\|_p^p}$
- ightharpoonup 
  igh

- Pros: Easy to understand, generalize, i.e., "importance sampling"
- **Cons:** Gives suboptimal bounds, e.g.,  $\tilde{O}(d^2)$  samples for  $p \in [1,2)$

# Lp Lewis Weights

- $L_p$  Lewis weights [CohenPeng15]:  $w_i = \tau_i (W^{\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{p}} A)$
- $\Leftrightarrow$  Sample each row  $a_i$  with probability  $p_i \propto w_i$  gives  $L_p$  subspace embedding

- Pros: Gives near-optimal bounds, e.g.,  $\tilde{O}(d)$  samples for  $p \in [1,2)$
- Cons: Difficult to understand, generalize, i.e., "reweighted importance sampling"

### Properties $L_p$ Lewis Weights

Lp Lewis weights can be approximated by iteratively computing  $\tau_i \left( W^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{p}} A \right)$  after initializing  $W = I_n$ 

❖ If  $\frac{1}{c} \le \frac{\tau_i \left( W^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{p}} A \right)}{w_i} \le C$ , then W is a C-approximation to the  $L_p$  Lewis weights, for  $p \in [1,2]$ 

#### L<sub>1</sub> Lewis Weight Fixed Point Ratio

❖ Goal: Show  $\frac{1}{c} \le \frac{\tau(W^{-1/2} P)}{w(t)} \le C$ , where  $\tau$  is the leverage score function,  $w(t) = \frac{d}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}$  is the Chebyshev density, and P is the polynomial operator

Change of basis to Chebyshev polynomials of the second kind, which are orthogonal under the inner product

$$\int_{-1}^{1} f(t)g(t)\sqrt{1-t^2}dt$$

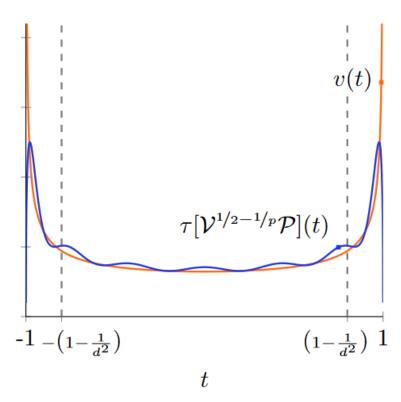
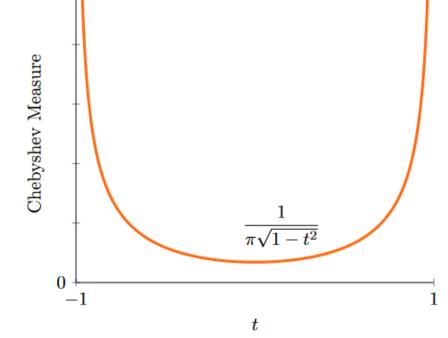


Figure 6: Plot of the scaled Chebyshev Measure (—) and corresponding reweighted leverage function  $\tau[\mathcal{V}^{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{p}}\mathcal{P}](t)$  (—) on [-1,1] for  $d=6,\ p=1$ . For most values of t both curves are close, but for  $|t| > 1 - \frac{1}{d^2}$  the curves diverge. This means that the Chebyshev density itself does not directly approximate the  $L_p$  Lewis weights, motivating our study of a clipped version of the measure, denoted w(t).

#### L<sub>1</sub> Lewis Weight Fixed Point Ratio

❖ Goal: Show  $\frac{1}{C} \le \frac{\tau(W^{-1/2} P)}{w(t)} \le C$ , where  $\tau$  is the leverage score function,  $w(t) = \frac{d}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}$  is the Chebyshev density, and P is the polynomial operator

**❖** NOT TRUE!



#### L<sub>1</sub> Lewis Weight Fixed Point Ratio

❖ Goal: Show  $\frac{1}{c} \le \frac{\tau(U^{-1/2}P)}{u(t)} \le C$ , where  $u(t) = \min\left(\frac{d}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}, d^2\right)$  is the clipped Chebyshev density

- $\clubsuit$  Behavior in the "middle" of u(t) is similar to w(t)
- Upper bounding the ratio in the "endcaps" from upper bounding the numerator
- Lower bounding the ratio in the "endcaps" by evaluating the numerator for a low-degree approximation of a high-degree polynomial

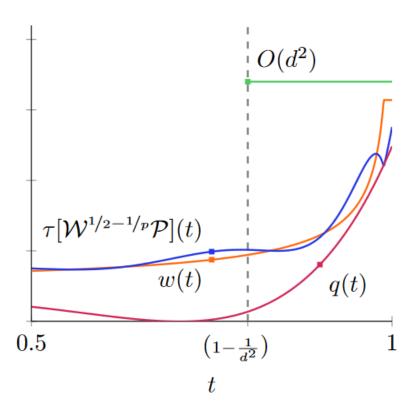


Figure 7: Plot of the clipped Chebyshev Measure (-) and corresponding reweighted leverage function (-) for  $t \in [0.5, 1]$  and d = 6, p = 1. As proven in Theorem 2.2, these functions are within a constant factor for all t, so we can claim that the clipped measure approximates the  $L_p$  Lewis weights. We also visualize the "spike" polynomial q(t) (-) and upper bound (-) used in the proof of Theorem 2.2.

### **L**<sub>p</sub> Lewis Weight Fixed Point Ratio

❖ Structural result for 
$$p = 1$$
:  $\frac{1}{\text{polylog}(d)} \le \frac{\tau(U^{-1/2} P)}{u(t)} \le \text{polylog}(d)$ 

❖ By using Jacobi polynomials instead:  $\frac{1}{\text{polylog}(d)} \le \frac{\tau^{\left(U^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{p}} p\right)}}{u(t)} \le \text{polylog}(d)$  for  $p \in [1,2]$ 

### L<sub>p</sub> Lewis Weights Challenges

 $\clubsuit$  There are no  $L_p$  known Lewis weights for operators

...no approximate Lewis weight theorem!

#### Questions?

- ❖ Part 1: Background
- Part 2: Subspace Embeddings
- ❖ Part 3: Lewis Weights
- Part 4: Algorithm

#### Format

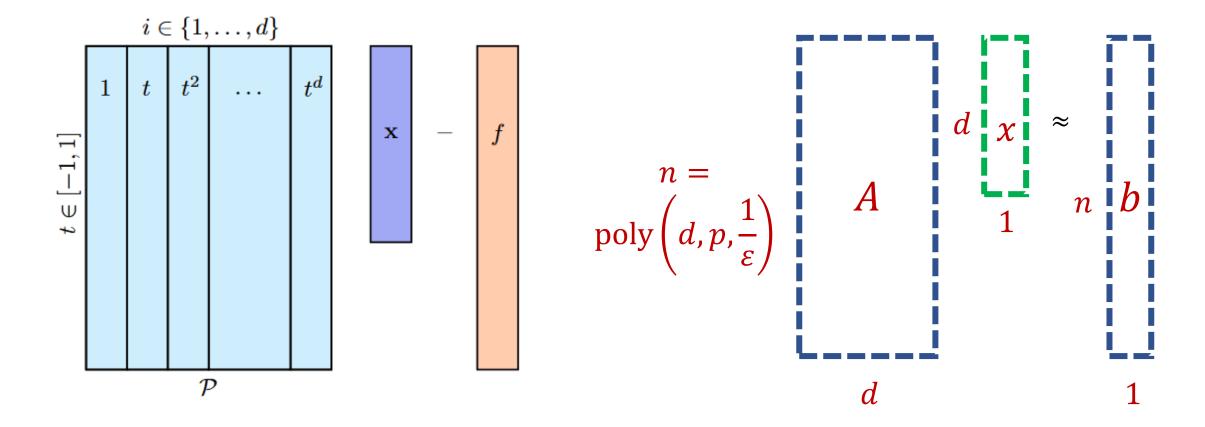
- 1. Show Chebyshev density are the  $L_p$  sensitivities
- 2. Show Chebyshev density are the Lewis weights
- 3. Uniform sampling + Lewis weight sampling for  $p \in [1,2]$
- 4. Tensor trick + compact net for p > 2

#### **Uniform Sampling**

- Sample poly  $(d, p, \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$  points uniformly at random from [-1,1] and form a matrix A from these points
- $\clubsuit$  Let **b** be the corresponding measurements of the signal f

$$||Ax - b||_p \approx ||Px - f||_p = \left( \int_{-1}^1 |Px(t) - f(t)|^p \, dt \right)^{1/p}$$

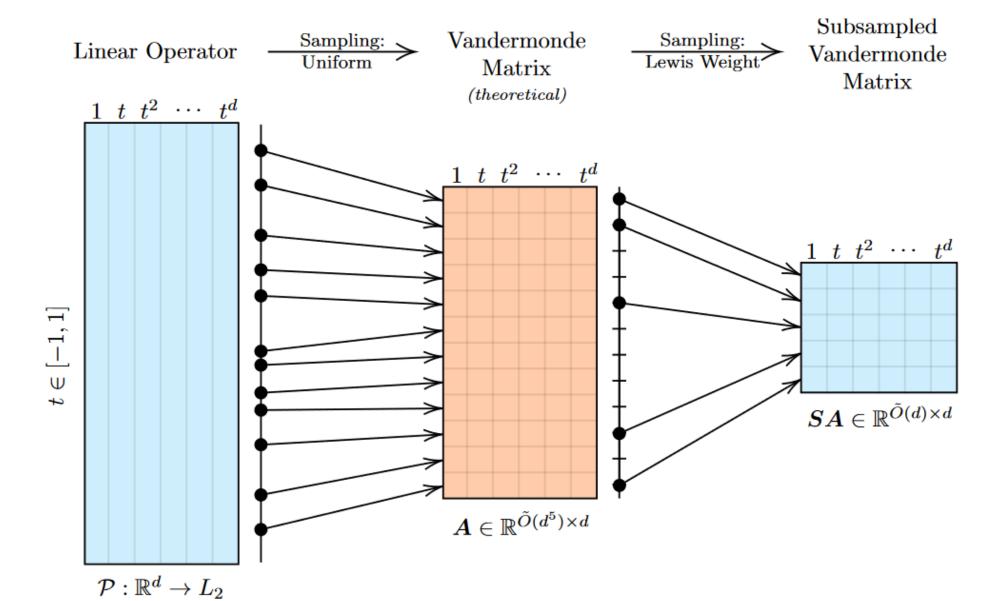
### **Uniform Sampling**



#### Uniform Sampling Preserves Fixed Point Ratio

$$\frac{\tau(U^{-1/2} P)}{u(t)} \approx \frac{\tau(W^{-1/2} A)}{w_i(A)}$$

 $\bullet$  Only  $\tilde{O}\left(\frac{d}{\varepsilon^{O(1)}}\right)$  samples with  $L_p$  Lewis weights needed for  $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_p$  regression with  $p \in [1,2]$  [ChenDerezinski21, ParulekarParulekarPrice21, MuscoMuscoWoodruffYasuda22]



### (Simplified) Algorithm

- 1. Uniform sample  $n = poly \left(d, p, \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$  points from [-1,1] form a matrix A from these points
- 2. Perform  $L_p$  Lewis weight sampling on A
- 3. Return approximately optimal solution on sketched instance

- Sample with respect to Chebyshev density on [-1,1]
- Return approximately optimal solution on sketched instance

### Challenges for p > 2

ightharpoonup Do not have structural property relating Chebyshev density with  $L_p$  Lewis weights for p>2

 $L_p$  Lewis weights use  $O(d^{p/2})$  samples

# $L_p$ Regression for p > 2

 $\clubsuit$   $L_p$  sensitivities are upper bounded by Chebyshev density

Use tensoring trick of [MeyerMuscoMuscoWoodruffZhou22] to union bound over a smaller net

#### (Simplified) Algorithm for p>2

- 1. Uniform sample  $n = poly \left(d, p, \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$  points from [-1,1] form a matrix A from these points
- 2. Perform  $L_p$  sensitivity sampling on A
- 3. Return approximately optimal solution on sketched instance

- Sample with respect to Chebyshev density on [-1,1]
- Return approximately optimal solution on sketched instance

#### Lower Bound

- $\Phi$   $\Omega\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^{p-1}}\right)$  queries are necessary for  $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_p$  regression
- Let  $n = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{p-1}}$  and I be an interval of length  $\frac{n}{100}$  from [-1,1] so that with probability  $\frac{2}{3}$ , no query lands in I
- ❖ Define  $f_+ = \frac{2^{\frac{1}{p}}}{\varepsilon}$  on I and 0 elsewhere, define  $f_- = -\frac{2^{\frac{1}{p}}}{\varepsilon}$  on I and 0 elsewhere
- $||q f_+||_p^p = (1 O(\varepsilon)) ||f_+||_p^p \text{ for } q(t) = 1$

#### Summary

- $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_p$  regression with  $dp\left(\frac{\log^{O(p)}d}{\varepsilon^{O(p)}}\right)$  queries from the Chebyshev density for all  $p\geq 1$
- $\Phi$   $\Omega\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^{p-1}}\right)$  queries are necessary for  $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_p$  regression
- $\Rightarrow \text{ Structural result: } \tau^{(p)}(t) = \max_{\deg(q) \le d} \frac{|q(t)|^p}{\|q\|_p^p} \le O\left(\min\left(\frac{dp \log d}{\sqrt{1 t^2}}, d^2p\right)\right)$
- Structural result:  $\frac{1}{\text{polylog}(d)} \le \frac{\tau^{\left(U^{\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{p}} p\right)}}{u(t)} \le \text{polylog}(d) \text{ for } p \in [1,2]$

#### Summary

- $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_p$  regression with  $dp\left(\frac{\log^{O(p)}d}{\varepsilon^{O(p)}}\right)$  queries from the Chebyshev density for all  $p\geq 1$
- $\Phi$   $\Omega\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^{p-1}}\right)$  queries are necessary for  $(1+\varepsilon)$ -approximation to  $L_p$  regression
- Question: Other loss functions?
- Question: Sparse Fourier regression [ChenKanePriceSong16, AvronKapralovMuscoMuscoVelingkerZandieh19]

