# Nonparametric density estimation

- Histogram
- Kernel density est





Fix  $\Delta$ , estimate number of points within  $\Delta$  of x (n<sub>i</sub> or n<sub>x</sub>) from data

Fix  $n_x = k$ , estimate  $\Delta$  from data (volume of ball around x that contains k training pts)

k-NN density est

$$\widehat{p}(x) = \overbrace{n \boldsymbol{\Delta}_{k,x}}^{k}$$



• What is the temperature

in the room?





# Local Kernel Regression Nonparametric estimator Nadaraya-Watson Kernel Estimator $= \bigcup_{\substack{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_i \\ \alpha \in \mathcal{A}_i \\ i=1}} \bigcup_{\substack{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_i \\ \alpha \in \mathcal{A}_i \\ i=1}} \bigcup_{\substack{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_i \\ \alpha \in \mathcal{$ local average

- Weight each training point based on distance to test point
- Boxcar kernel yields boxcar kernel : local average  $K(x) = \frac{1}{2}I(x),$

#### Choice of kernel bandwidth h



# **Kernel Regression as Weighted Least** Squares



Kernel regression corresponds to locally constant estimator obtained from (locally) weighted least squares

i.e. set  $f(X_i) = \beta$  (a constant)



#### Kernel Regression as Weighted Least Squares



#### **Local Linear/Polynomial Regression**



Local Polynomial regression corresponds to locally polynomial estimator obtained from (locally) weighted least squares

i.e. set 
$$f(X_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (X_i - X) + \frac{\beta_2}{2!} (X_i - X)^2 + \dots + \frac{\beta_p}{p!} (X_i - X)^p$$
  
(local polynomial of degree p around X)

# Summary

• Non-parametric approaches

Four things make a nonparametric/memory/instance based/lazy learner:

- How many nearby neighbors/radius to look at?
  k, Δ/h
- *3.* A weighting function (optional) **W** based on kernel K
- 4. How to fit with the local points? Average, Majority vote, Weighted average, Poly fit

W= TK

### Summary

- Parametric vs Nonparametric approaches
  - Nonparametric models place very mild assumptions on the data distribution and provide good models for complex data
    - Parametric models rely on very strong (simplistic) distributional assumptions
  - Nonparametric models (not histograms) requires storing and computing with the entire data set.
     Parametric models, once fitted, are much more efficient in terms of storage and computation.