



# Automatic Learning of Algebraic Models for Optimization

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# PROBLEM STATEMENT

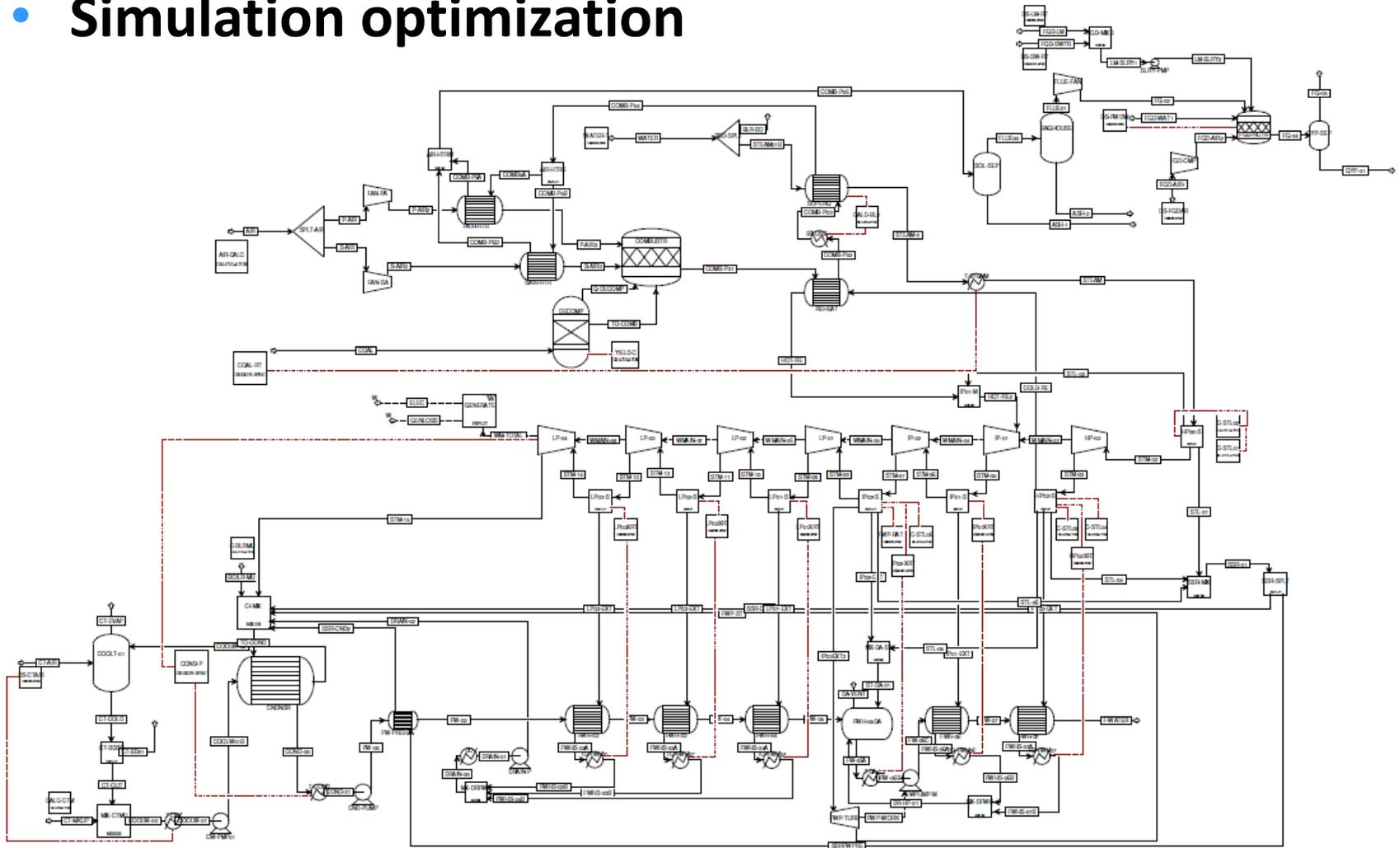
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x) \leq 0 \\ & x \in A \subset \mathbb{R}^n \end{aligned}$$



where  $f(x)$  is an algebraic or black-box cost function  
 $g(x)$  is a set of algebraic or black-box constraints  
 $A$  is a set of box constraints on  $x$

# MOTIVATION

- Simulation optimization



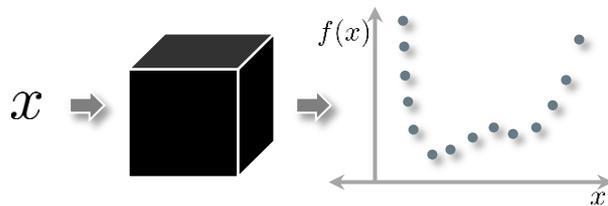
Pulverized coal plant Aspen Plus® simulation provided by the National Energy Technology Laboratory

# CHALLENGES

SOURCE: Simulator

1

No algebraic model



SOURCE : Optimizer

2

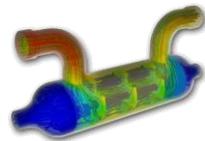
Costly simulations

```
AREA = SQ  
WRITE(6,60  
GO TO 10  
50 WRITE(6,60  
STOP  
90 WRITE(6,60  
STOP
```

seconds



minutes



hours

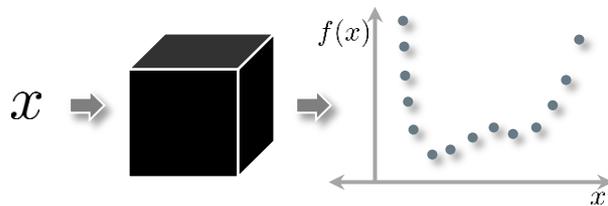
**X** Gradient-based methods

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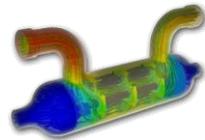
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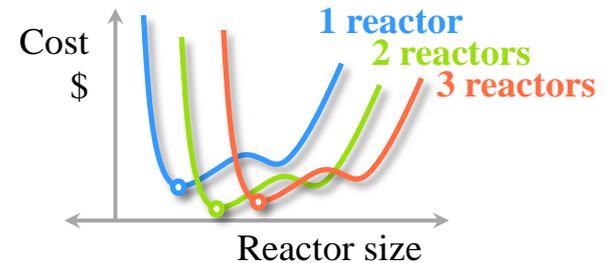


hours

SOURCE : Simulator

3

Complex process alternatives



SOURCE : Optimizer

4

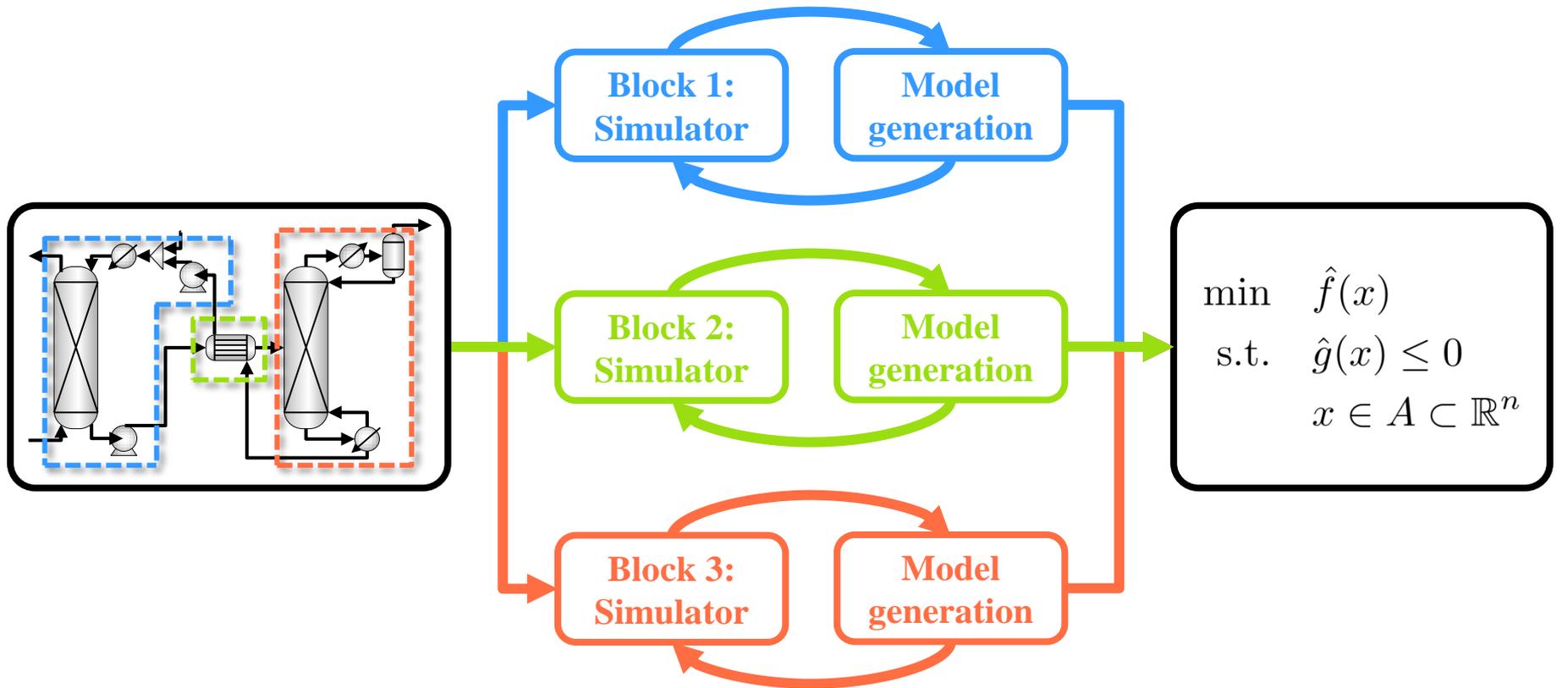
Scarcity of fully robust simulations



~~X~~ Gradient-based methods

~~X~~ Derivative-free methods

# SOLUTION STRATEGY



## Process Simulation

Disaggregate process into process blocks

## Surrogate Models

Build **simple** and **accurate** models with a functional form tailored for an optimization framework

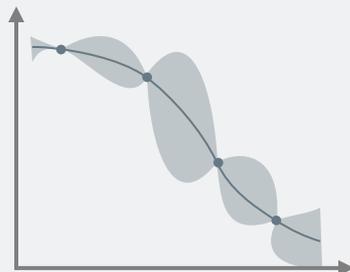
## Optimization Model

Add algebraic constraints design specs, heat/mass balances, and logic constraints

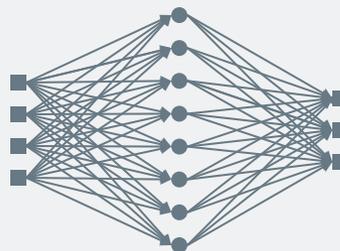
# RECENT WORK IN CHEMICAL ENG

## Modeling Methods Used

### Kriging



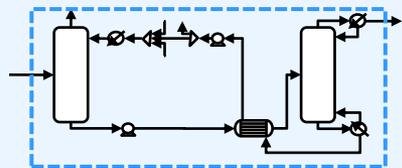
### Neural nets



### Polynomial-based

$$\hat{z}(x) = \sum_{j=1,2,\dots} \beta_j x^j$$

### Full process

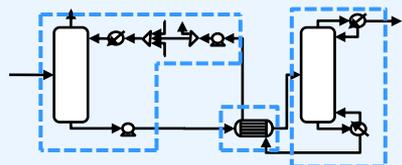


- Palmer and Realff, 2002
- Huang et al., 2006
- Davis and Ierapetritou, 2012

- Michalopoulos et al., 2001

- Palmer and Realff, 2002

### Disaggregated



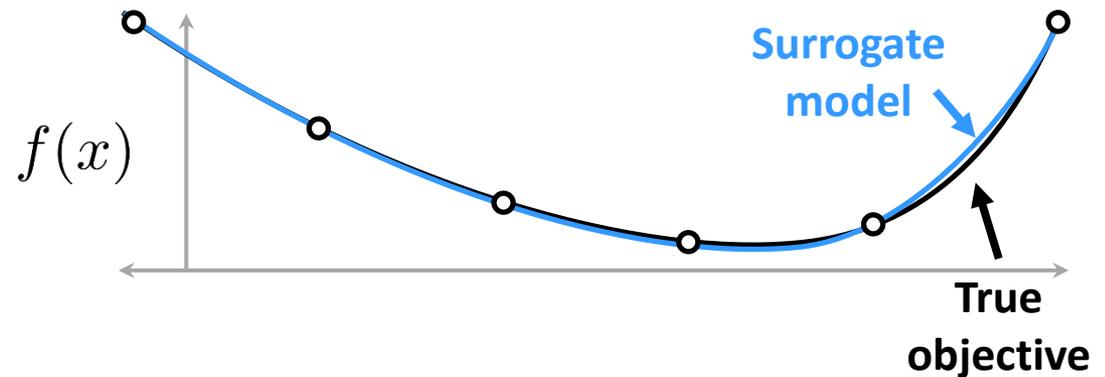
- Caballero and Grossmann, 2008

- Henao and Maravelias, 2011

# USE SURROGATE MODELS

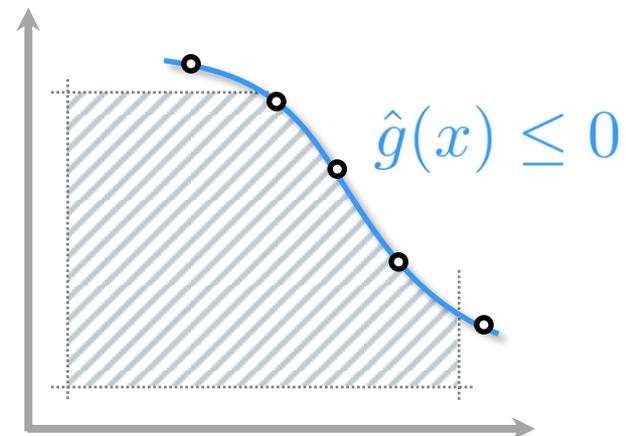
- To replace black-box objectives

- Generate surrogate models for the objective as a whole or in-parts



- To replace black-box constraints

- Define the problem space
- Generate equality or inequality constraints



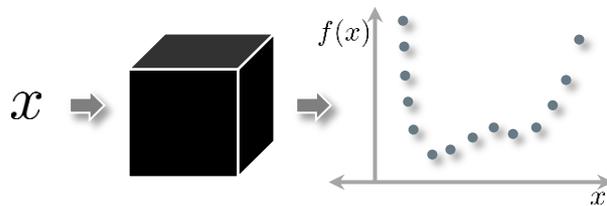
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SOURCE : Optimizer

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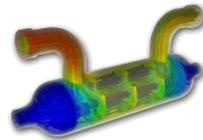
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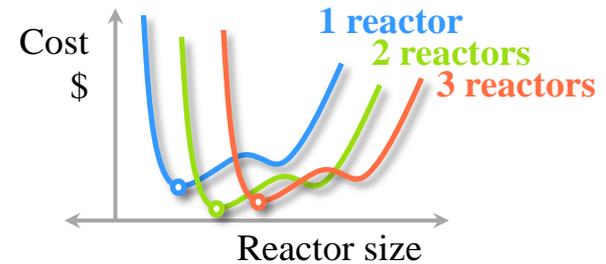
~~X~~ Gradient-based methods

SOURCE : Simulator



3

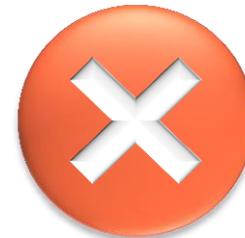
Complex process alternatives



SOURCE : Optimizer

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Scarcity of fully robust simulations



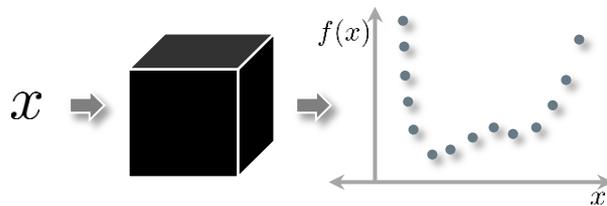
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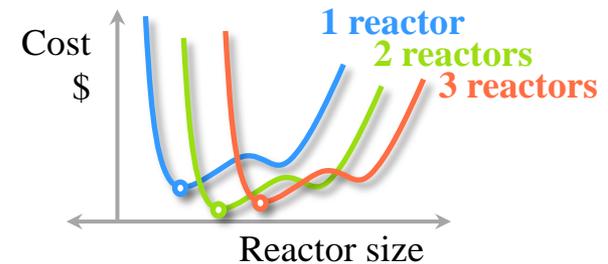
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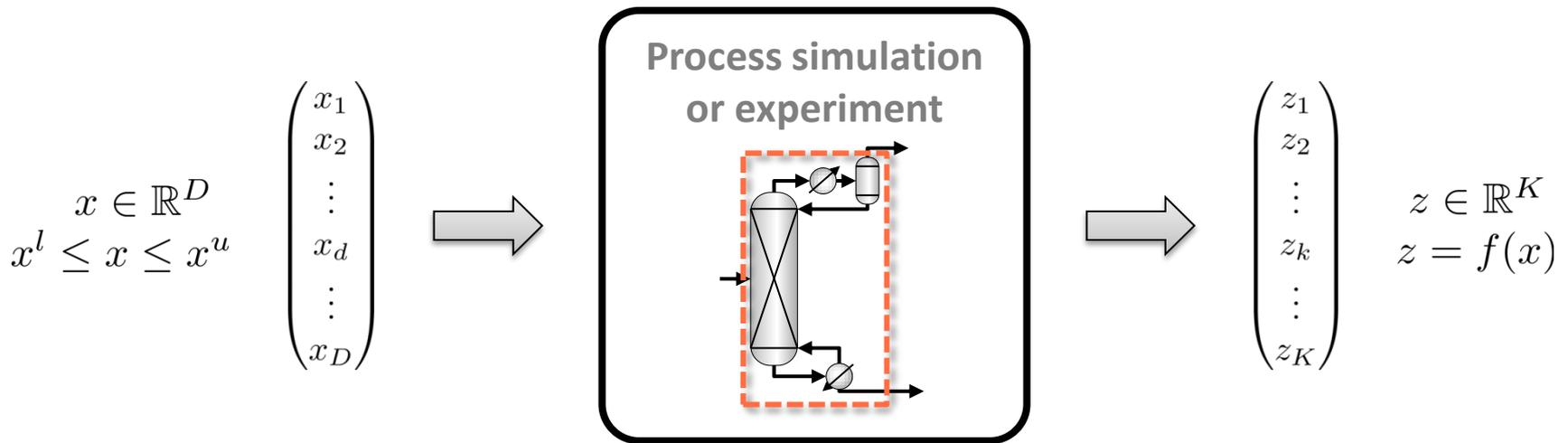
~~X~~ Gradient-based methods

~~X~~ Derivative-free methods

# LEARNING PROBLEM STATEMENT

- **Model building problem:**

- Build a model of output variables  $z$  as a function of input variables  $x$  over a specified interval



## Independent variables:

Operating conditions, inlet flow properties, unit geometry

## Dependent variables:

Efficiency, outlet flow conditions, conversions, heat flow, etc.

# HOW TO BUILD THE SURROGATES

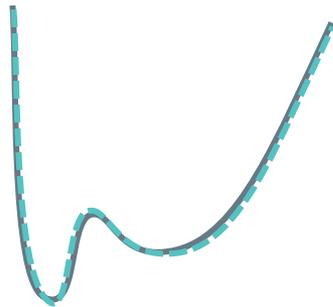
- We aim to build surrogate models that are

- Accurate

- *We want to reflect the true nature of the simulation*

- Simple

- **Tailored** for algebraic optimization



$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i \exp\left(\frac{\|x\|}{\sigma^2}\right) + \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \dots$$

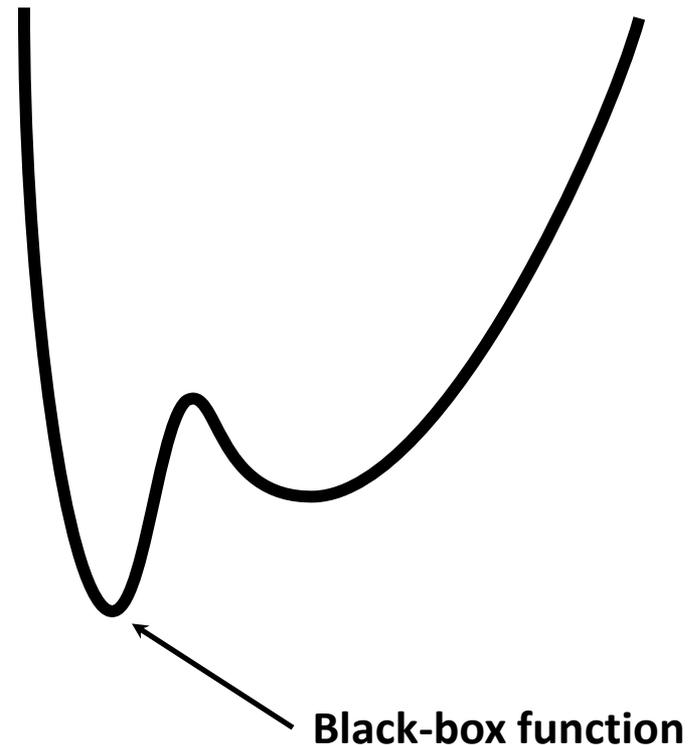
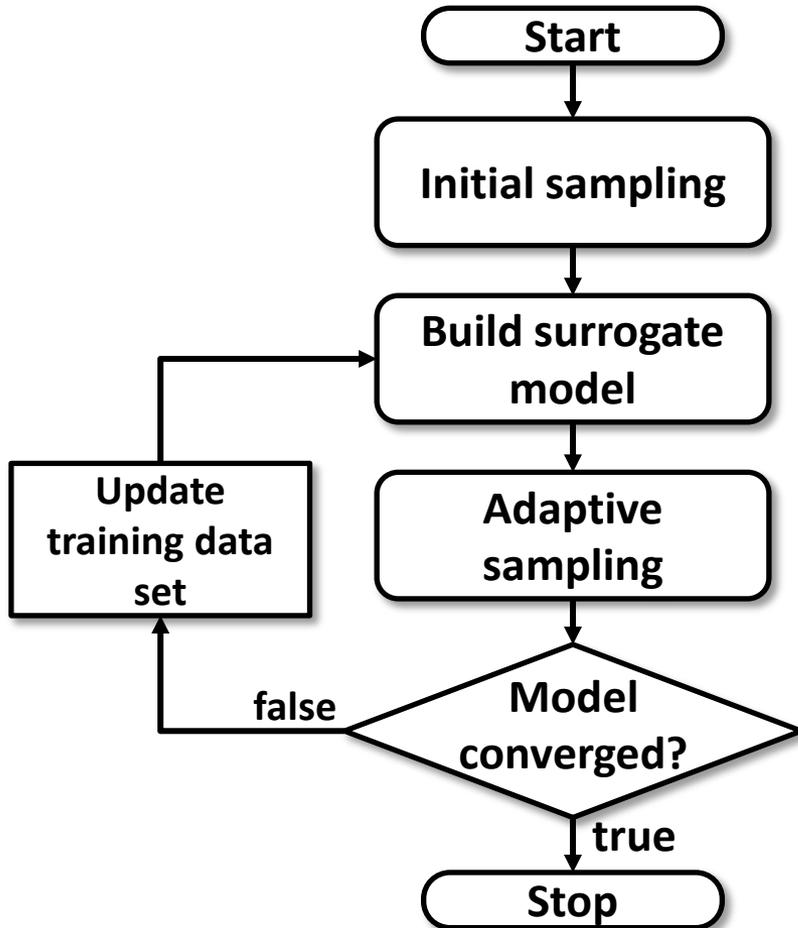
$$\hat{f}(x) = \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \beta_3 x^3 + \beta_4 e^x$$

- Generated from a minimal data set

- *Reduce experimental and simulation requirements*

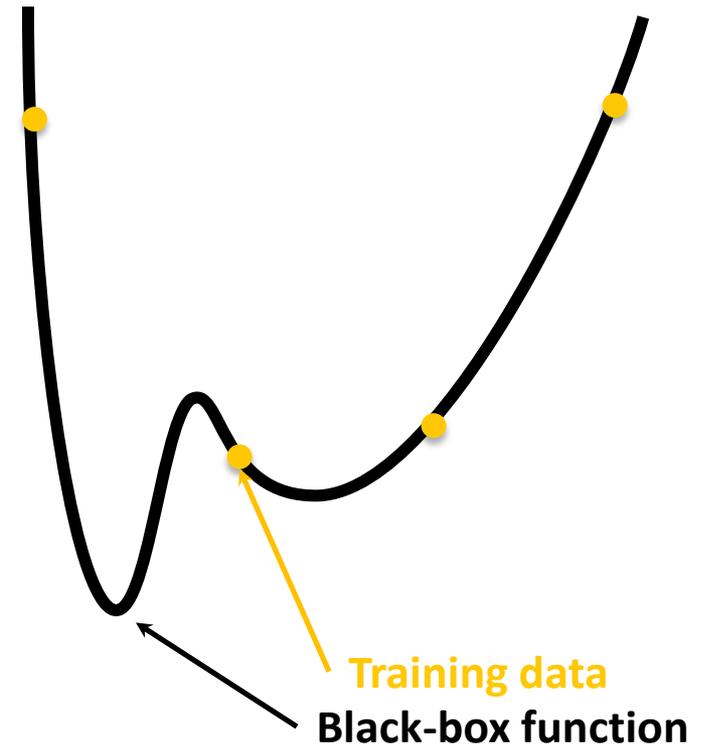
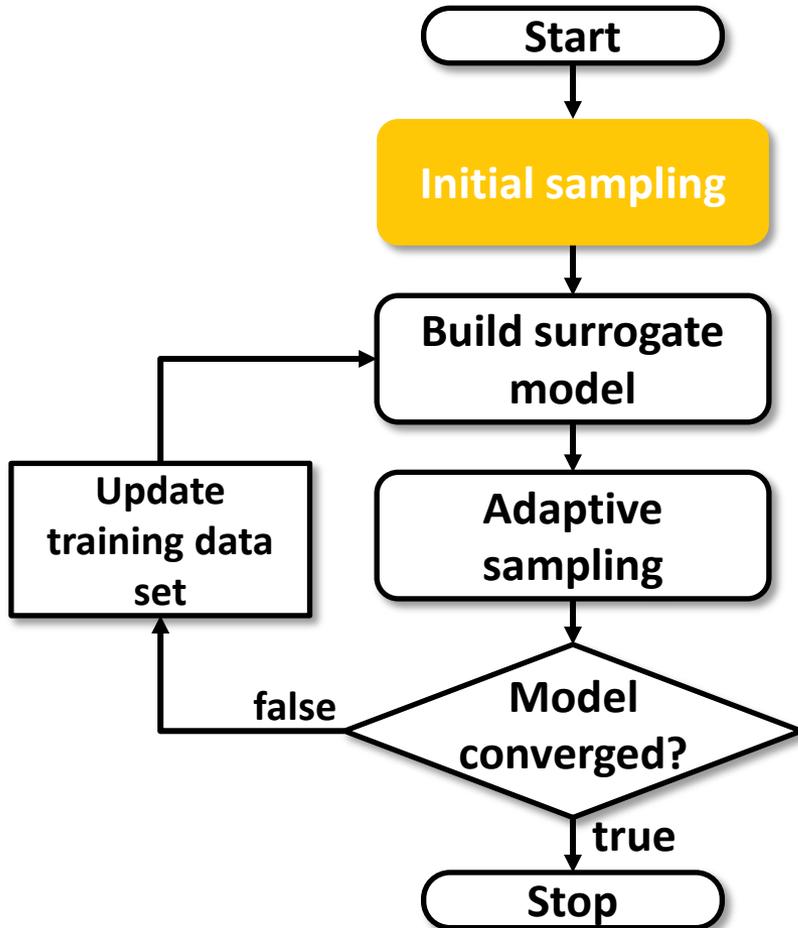
# ALAMO

## Automated Learning of Algebraic Models for Optimization



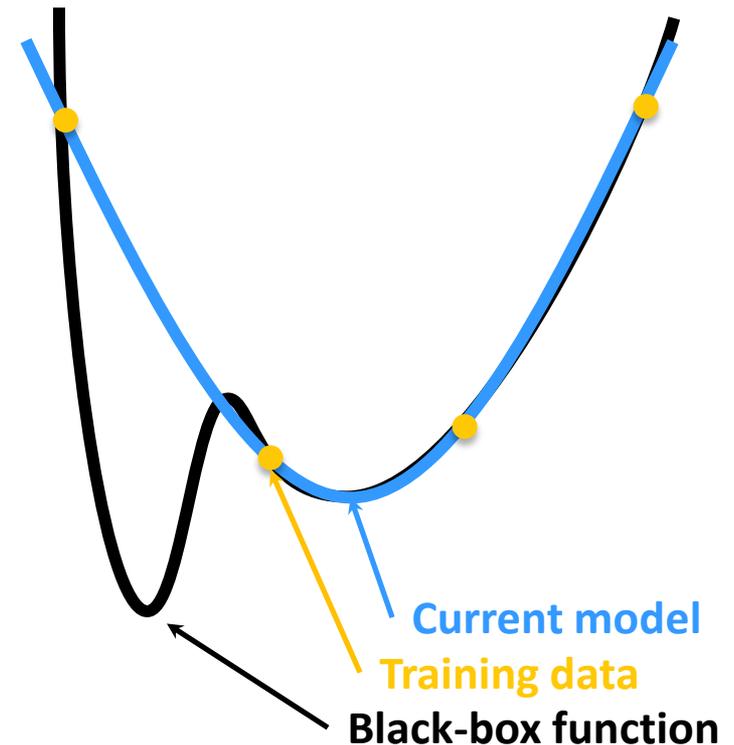
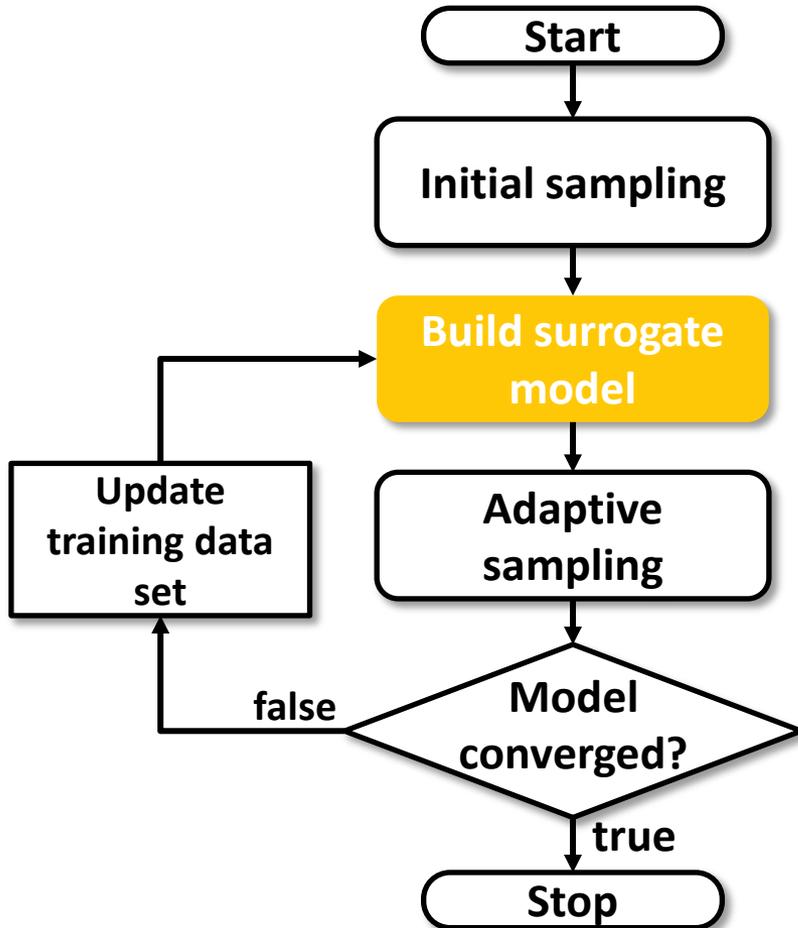
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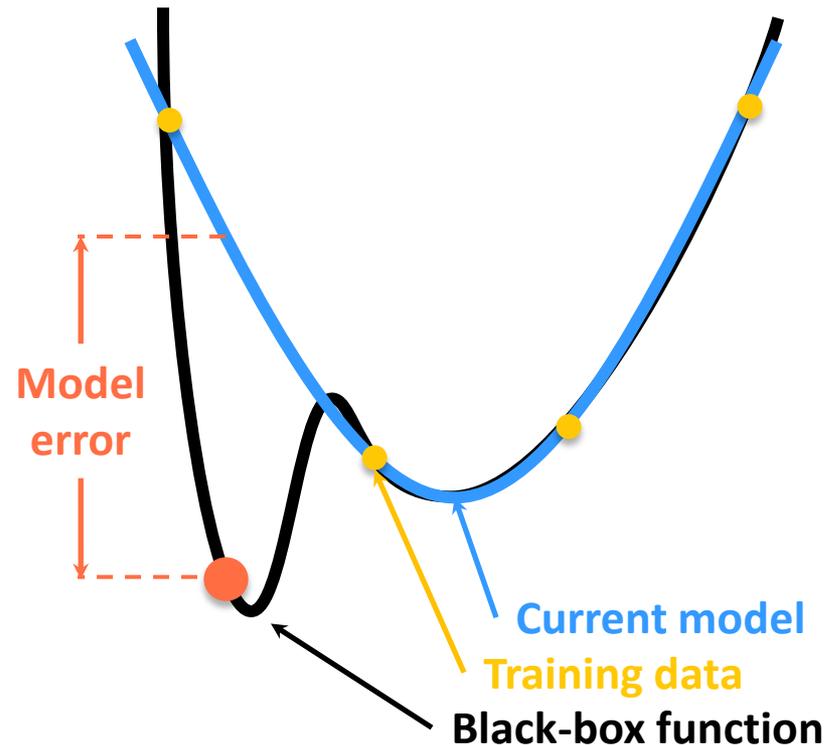
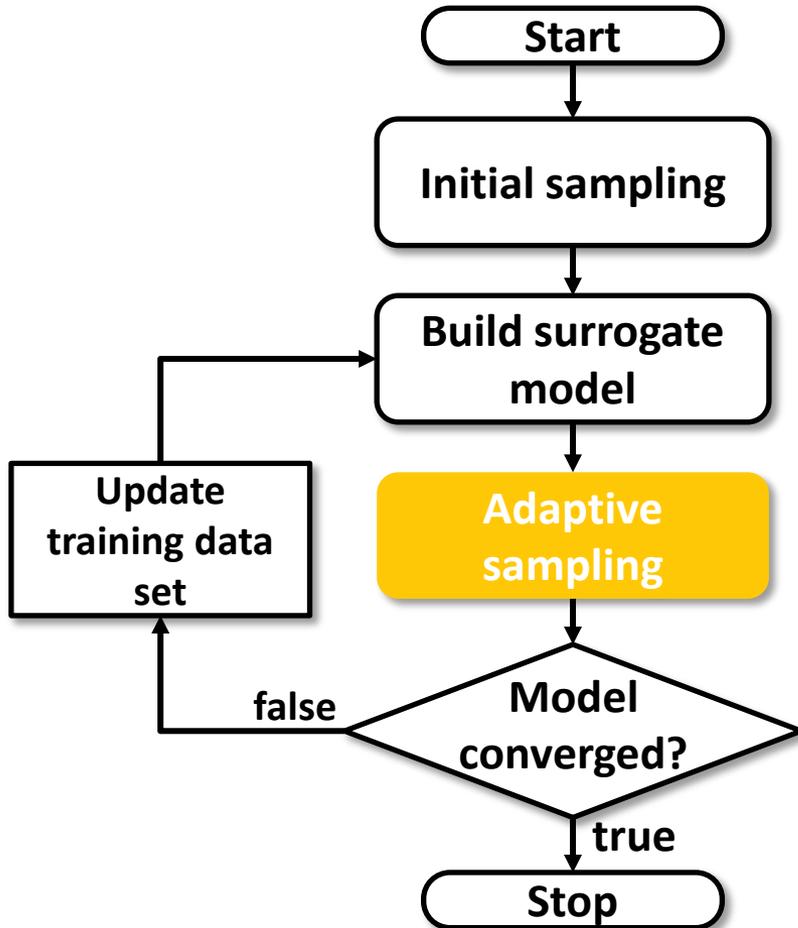
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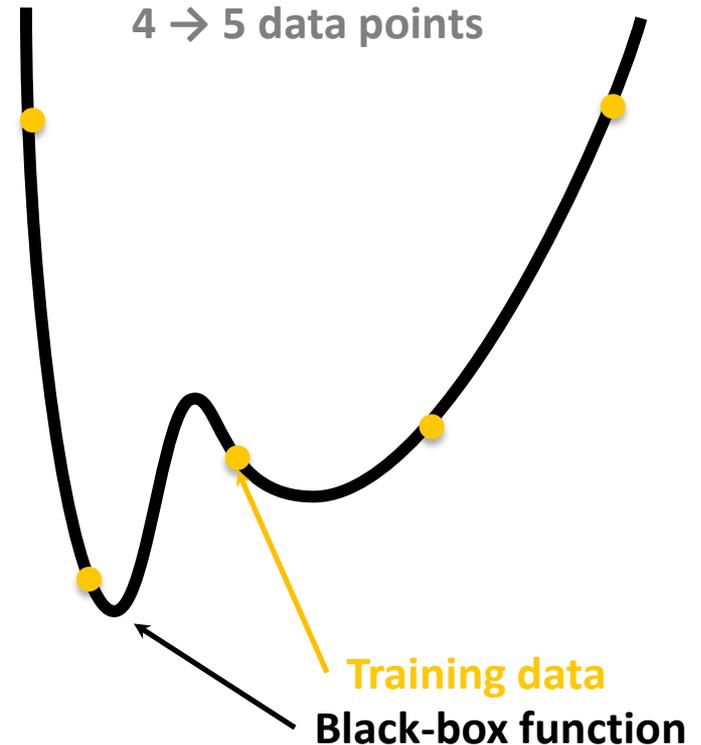
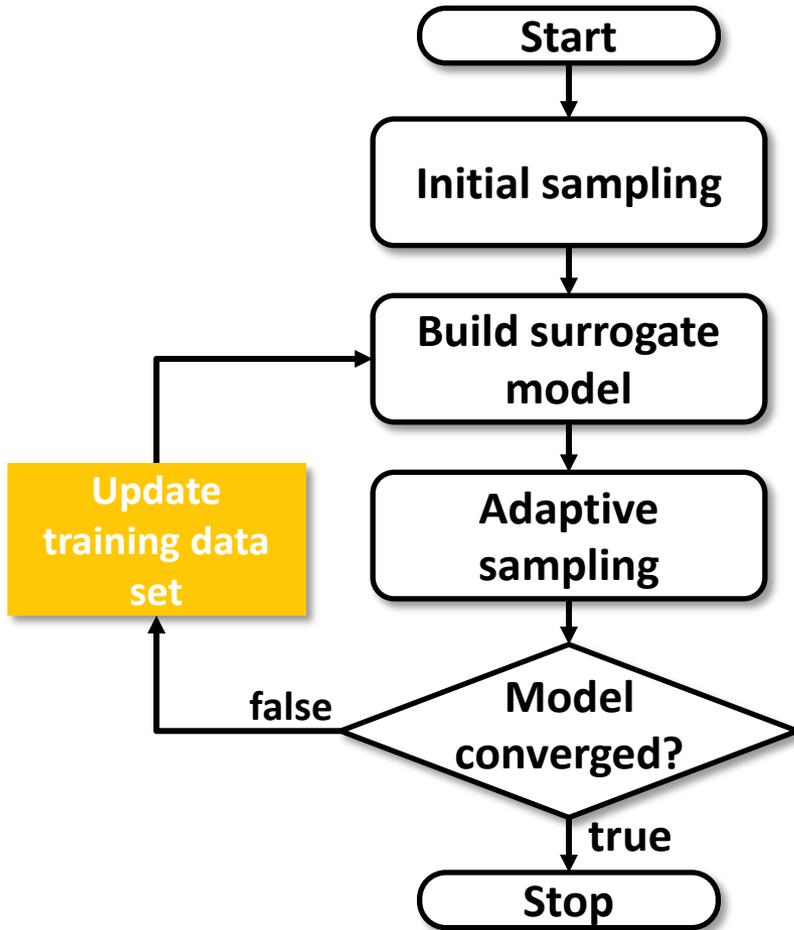
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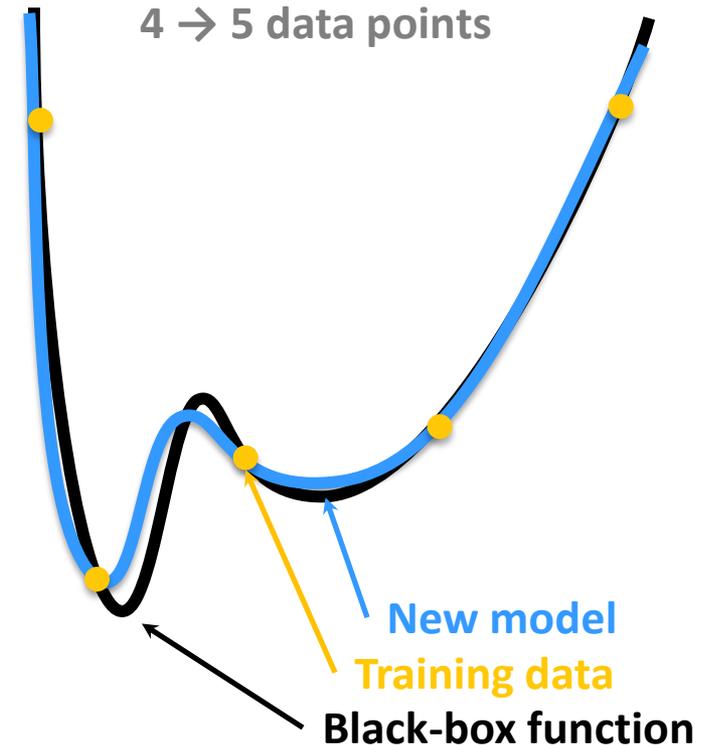
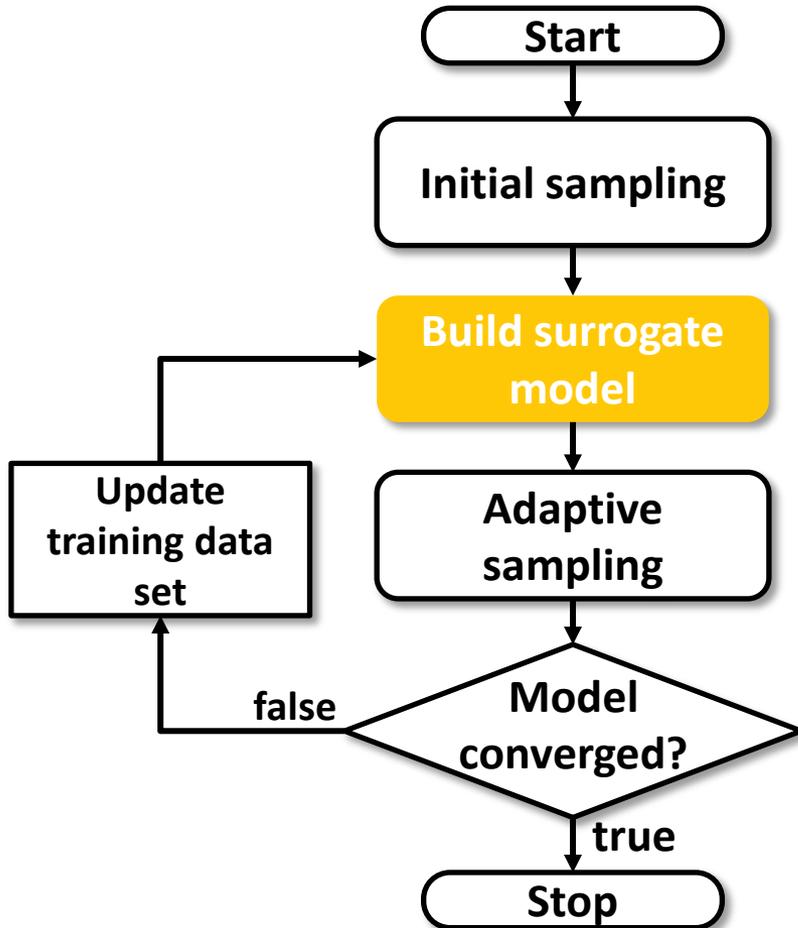
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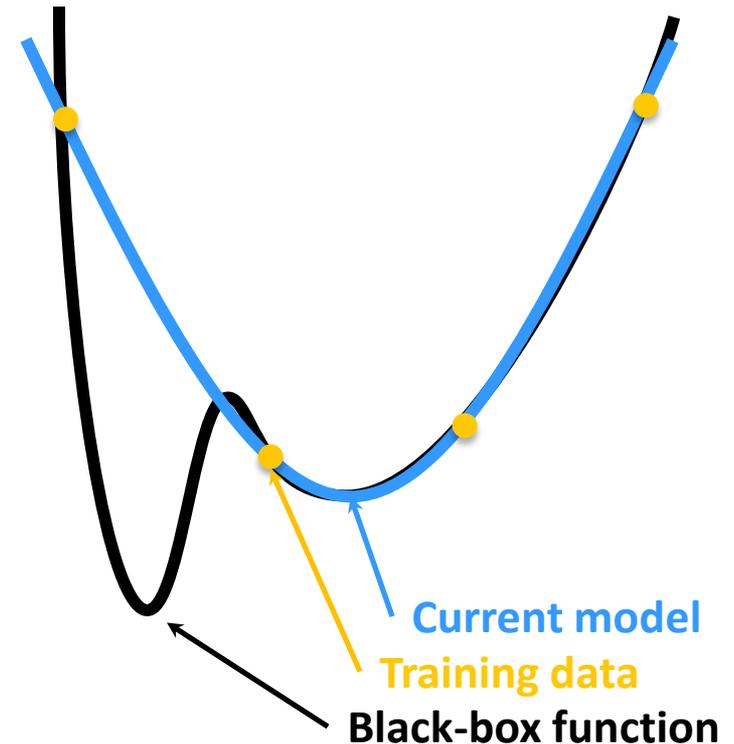
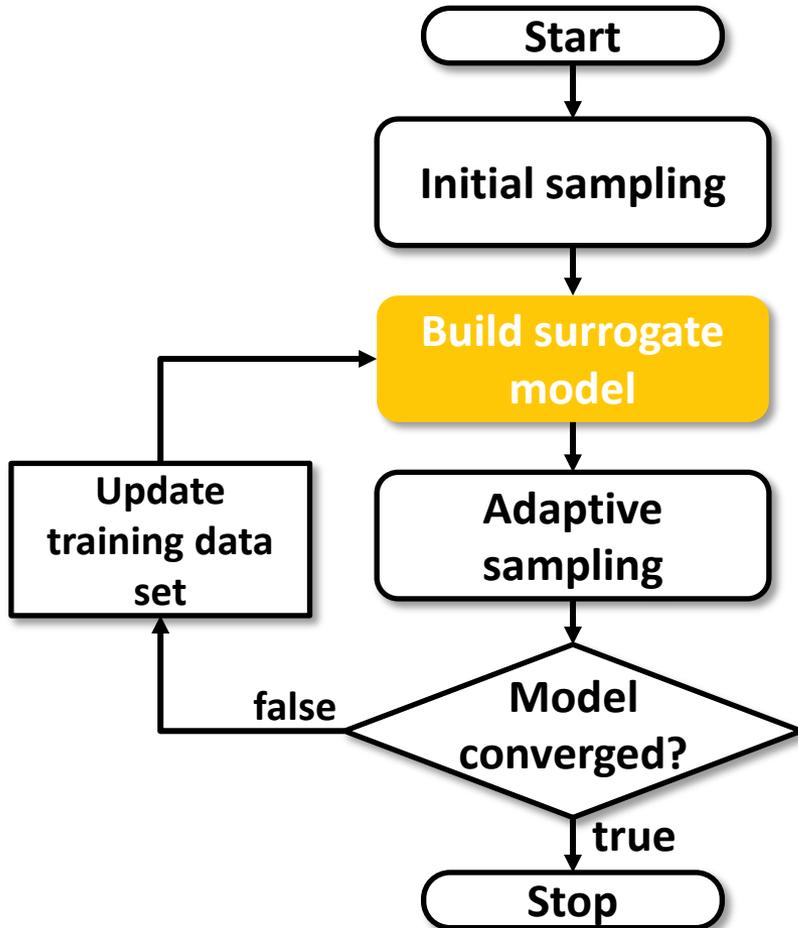
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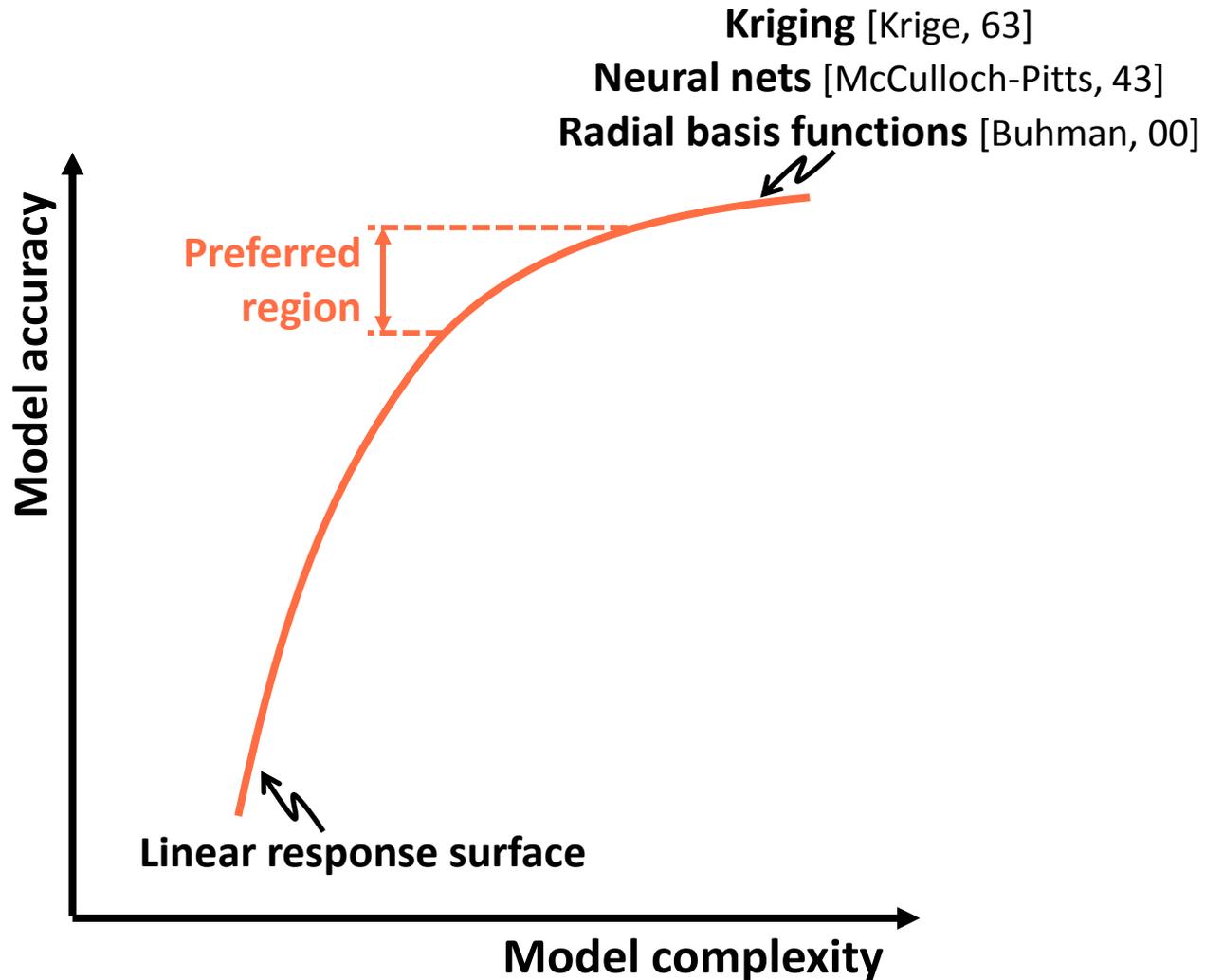


# ALAMO: ADAPTIVE SAMPLING

*Identifying simple, accurate models*



# MODEL COMPLEXITY TRADEOFF



# MODEL IDENTIFICATION

- Goal: Identify the **functional form** and **complexity** of the surrogate models

$$z = f(x)$$

- **Functional form:**

- General functional form is unknown: Our method will identify models with combinations of **simple basis functions**

Category	$X_j(x)$
I. Polynomial	$(x_d)^\alpha$
II. Multinomial	$\prod_{d \in \mathcal{D}' \subseteq \mathcal{D}} (x_d)^{\alpha_d}$
III. Exponential and logarithmic forms	$\exp\left(\frac{x_d}{\gamma}\right)^\alpha, \log\left(\frac{x_d}{\gamma}\right)^\alpha$
IV. Expected bases	From experience, simple inspection, physical phenomena, etc.

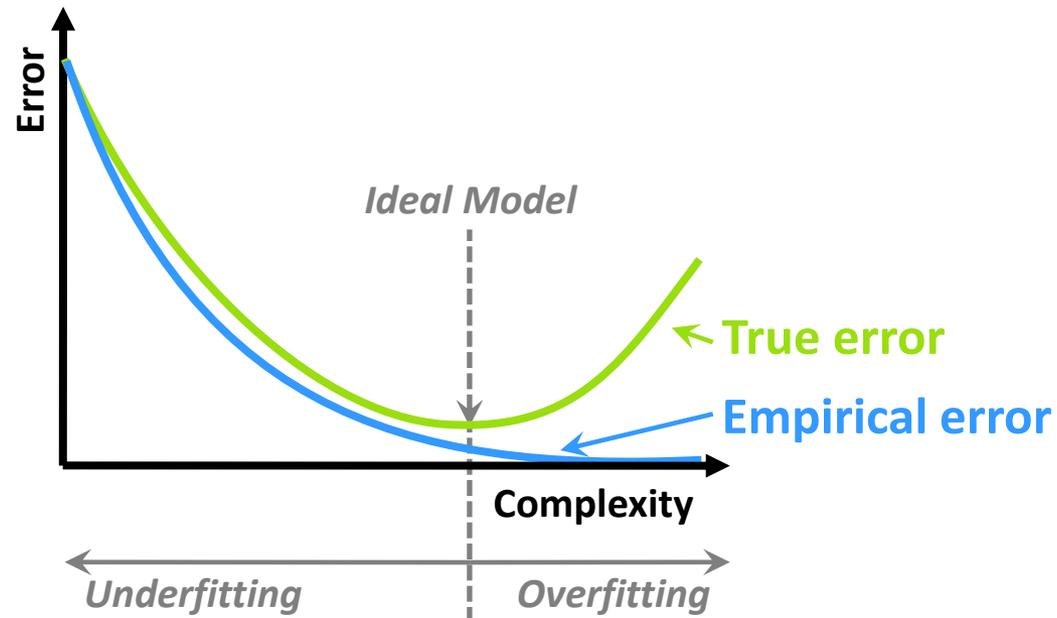
# OVERFITTING AND TRUE ERROR

**Step 1:** Define a large set of potential basis functions

$$\hat{z}(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_1 x_2 + \beta_4 \frac{x_1}{x_2} + \beta_5 \frac{x_2}{x_1} + \beta_6 e^{x_1} + \beta_7 e^{x_2} + \dots$$

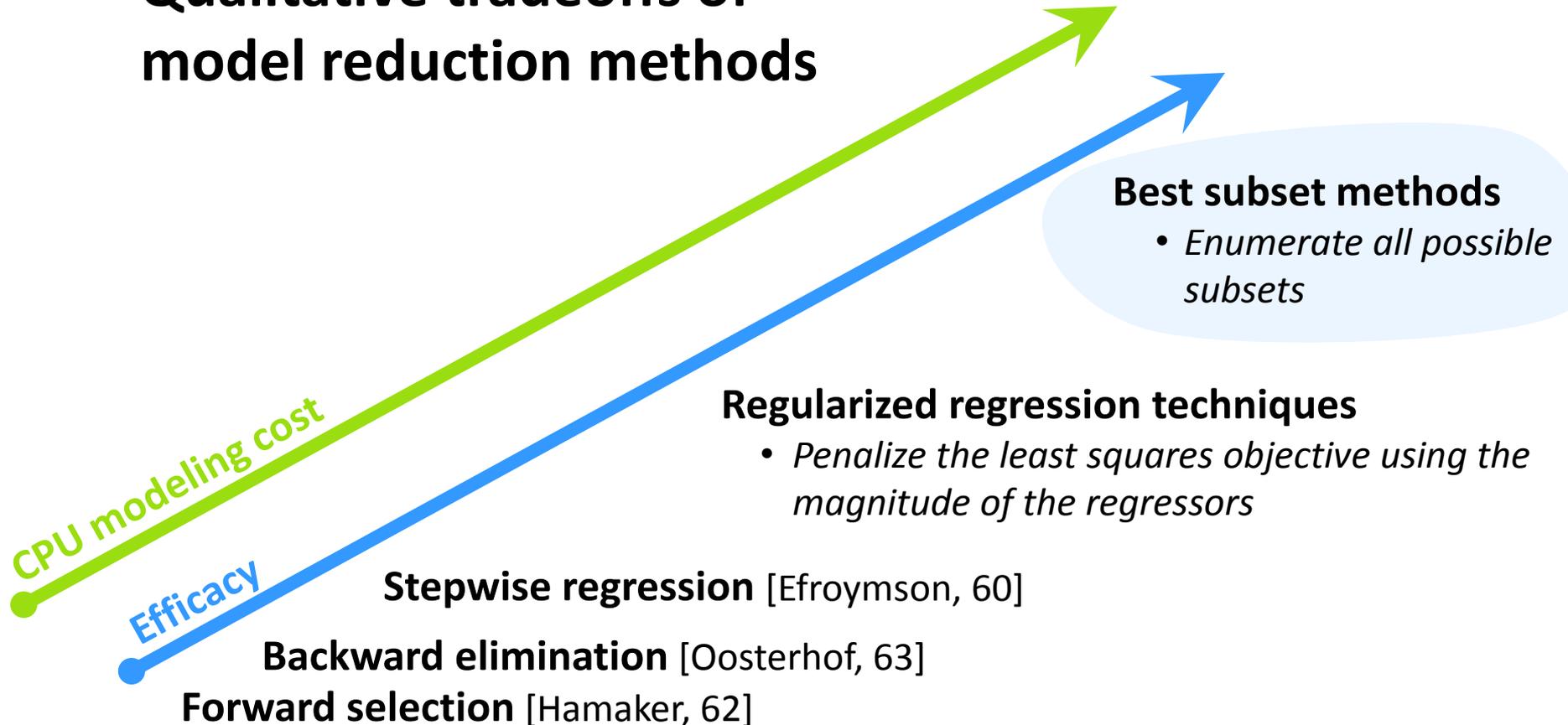
**Step 2:** Model reduction

$$\hat{z}(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_5 \frac{x_2}{x_1} + \beta_7 e^{x_2}$$



# MODEL REDUCTION TECHNIQUES

- Qualitative tradeoffs of model reduction methods



# MODEL REDUCTION TECHNIQUES

- **Qualitative tradeoffs of model reduction methods**

To solve large problems we

- Use optimization rather than enumeration
- Decouple the model identification into
  1. Model size
  2. Term selection

## Best subset methods

- *Enumerate all possible subsets*

## Regularized regression techniques

- *Penalize the least squares objective using the magnitude of the regressors*

**Stepwise regression** [Efroymson, 60]

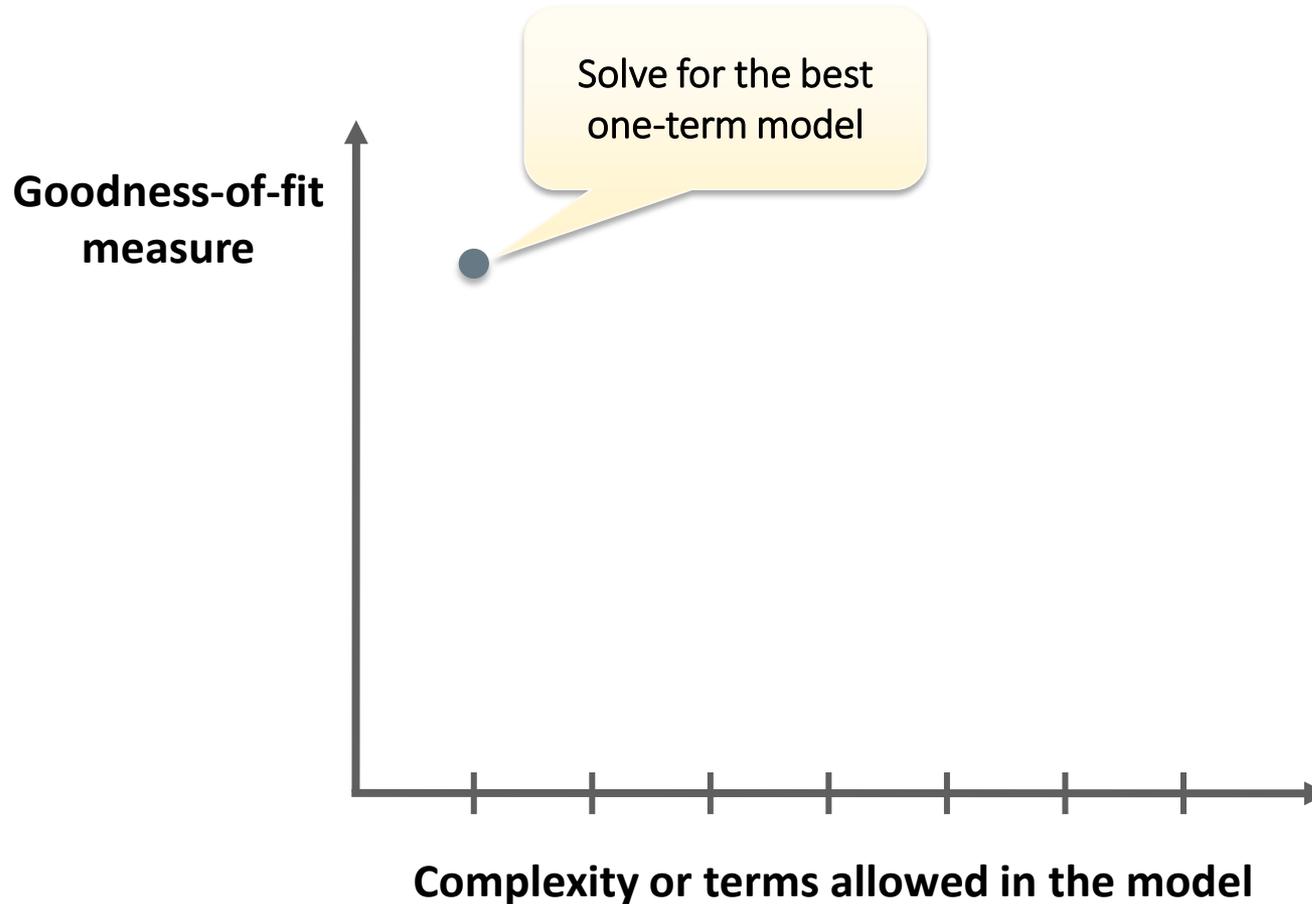
**Backward elimination** [Oosterhof, 63]

**Forward selection** [Hamaker, 62]

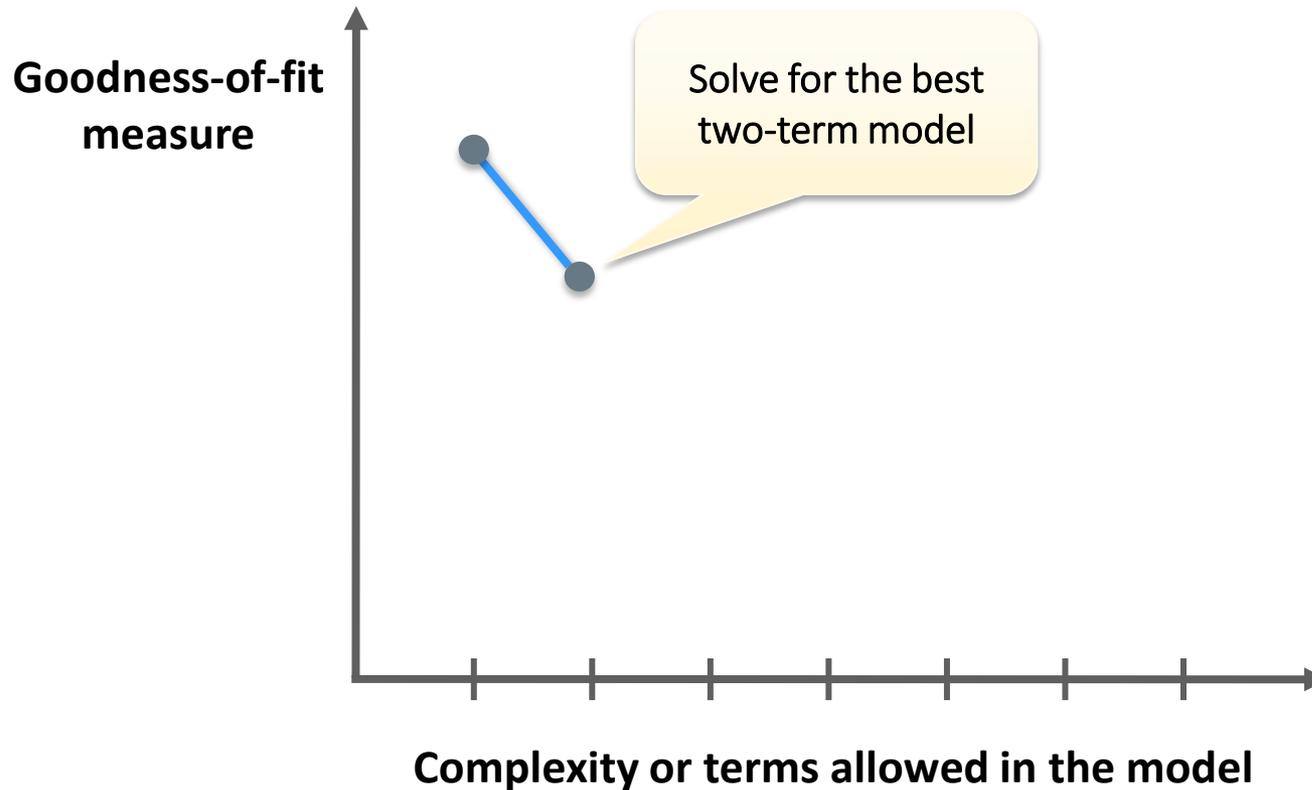
CPU modeling cost

Efficacy

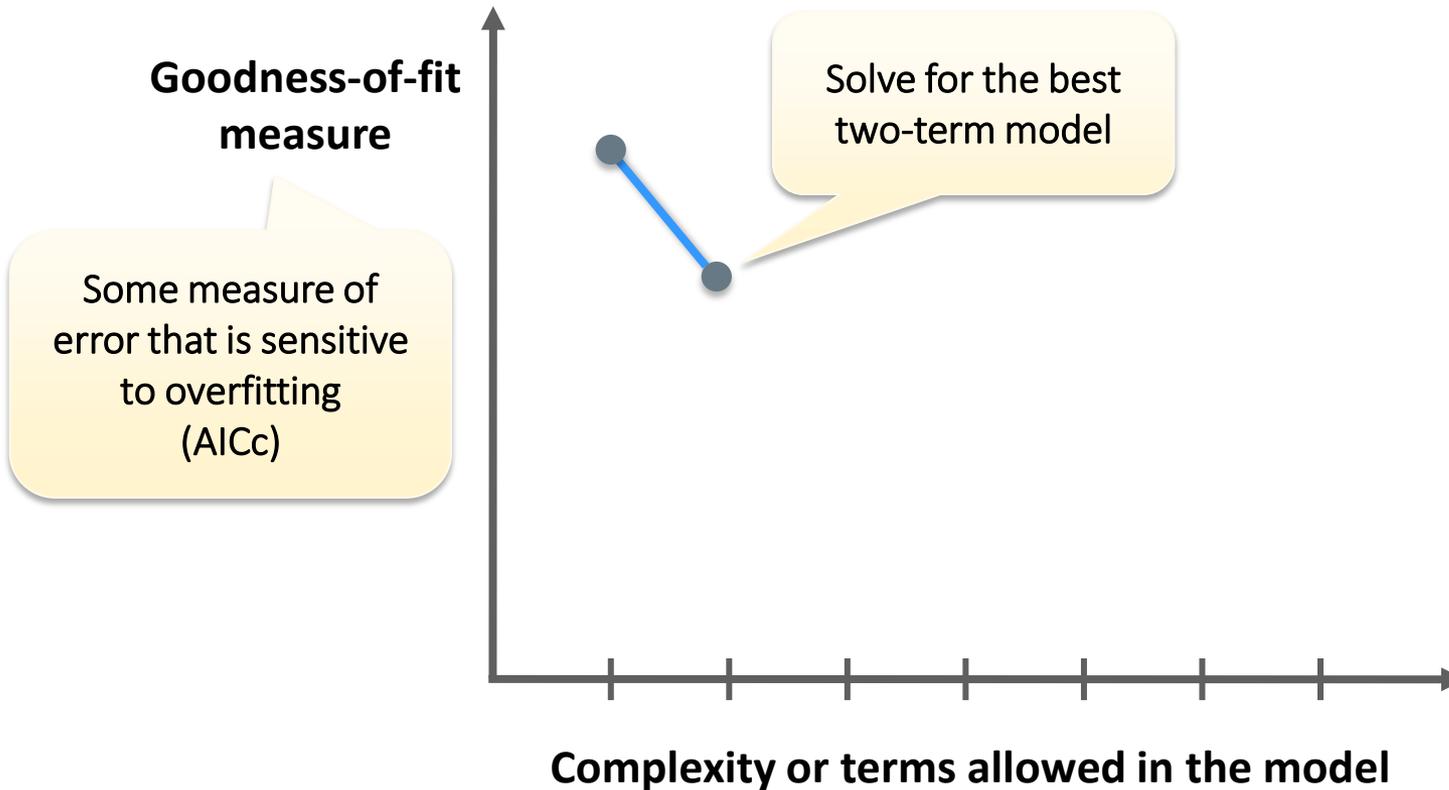
# MODEL SIZING



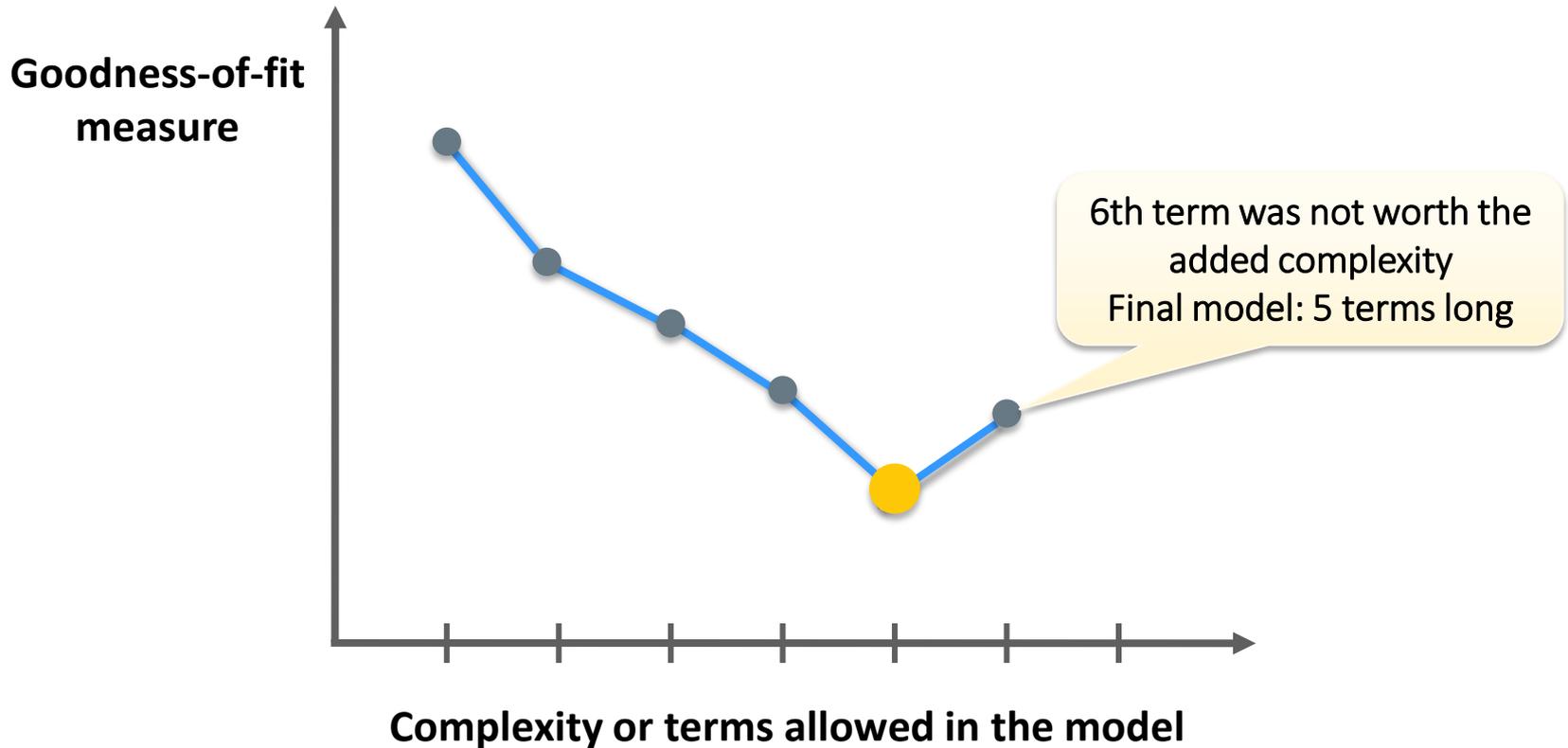
# MODEL SIZING



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# MODEL SIZING



# BASIS FUNCTION SELECTION

$$\min \quad SE = \sum_{i=1}^N \left| z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right|$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} y_j = T$$

$$-U(1 - y_j) \leq \sum_{i=1}^N X_{ij} \left( z^i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right) \leq U(1 - y_j) \quad j \in \mathcal{B}$$

$$\beta^l y_j \leq \beta_j \leq \beta^u y_j \quad j \in \mathcal{B}$$

$$y_j = \{0, 1\} \quad j \in \mathcal{B}$$

# BASIS FUNCTION SELECTION

$$\min SE = \sum_{i=1}^N \left| z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right|$$

Find the model with the least error

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} y_j = T$$

$$-U(1 - y_j) \leq \sum_{i=1}^N X_{ij} \left( z^i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right) \leq U(1 - y_j) \quad j \in \mathcal{B}$$

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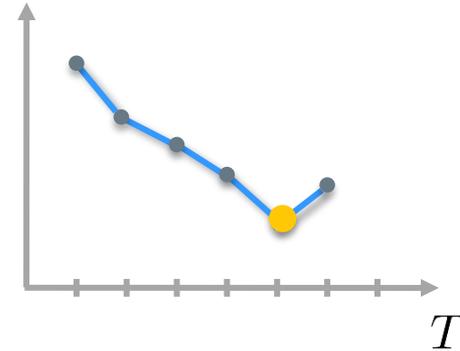
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$$y_j = \{0, 1\}$$



We will solve this model for increasing  $T$  until we determine a model

# BASIS FUNCTION SELECTION

$$\min SE = \sum_{i=1}^N \left| z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right|$$

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$$y_j = \{0, 1\} \quad j \in \mathcal{B}$$

$$y_j = 1$$

**Basis function used in the model**

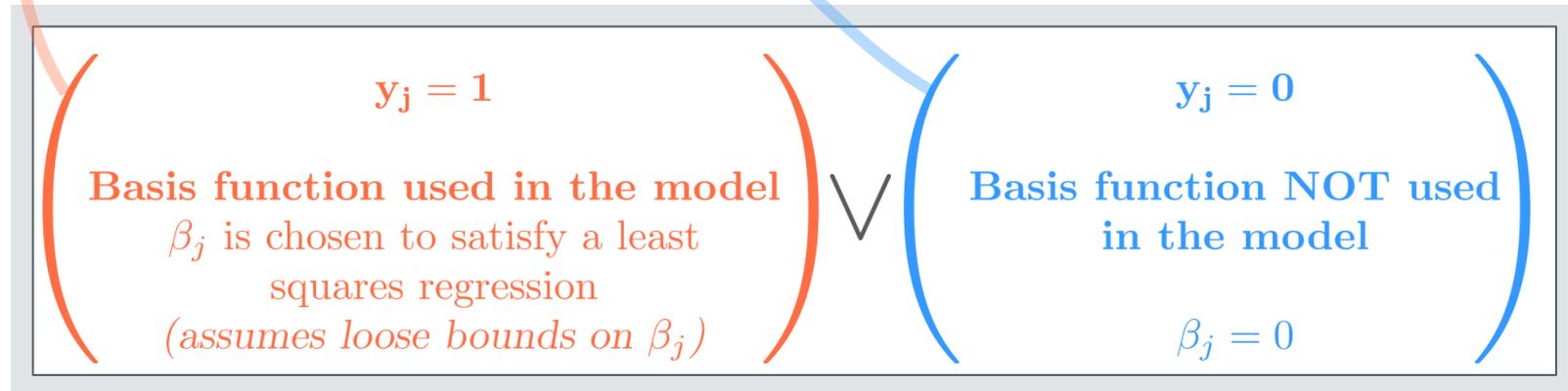
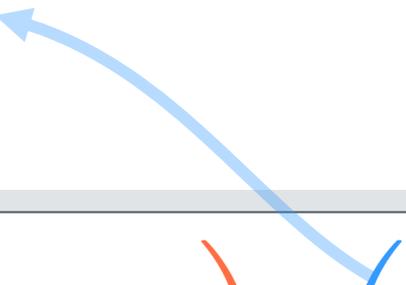
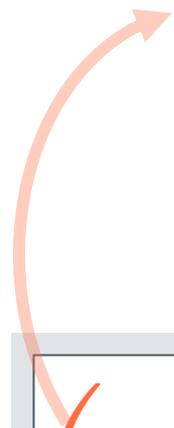
$\beta_j$  is chosen to satisfy a least squares regression

(assumes loose bounds on  $\beta_j$ )

$$y_j = 0$$

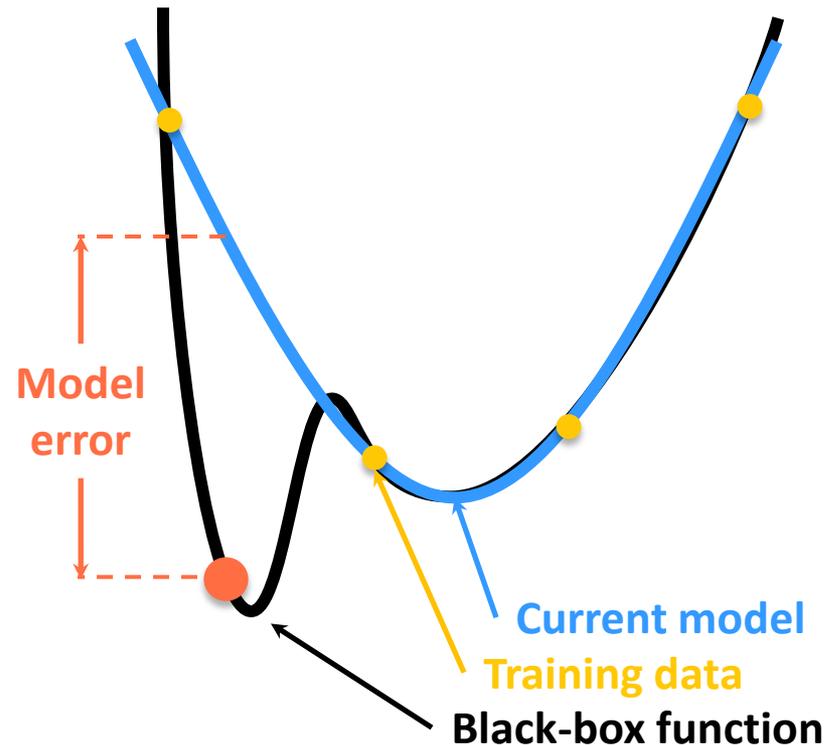
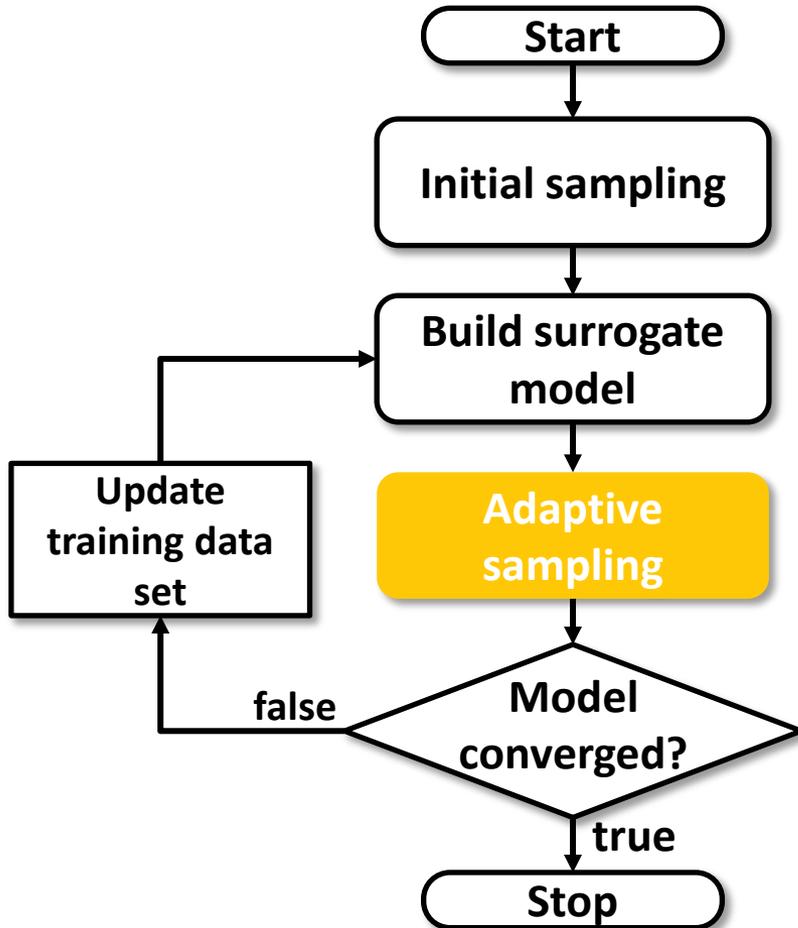
**Basis function NOT used in the model**

$$\beta_j = 0$$



# ALAMO: ADAPTIVE SAMPLING

*Choosing new data points to sample*



# ERROR MAXIMIZATION SAMPLING

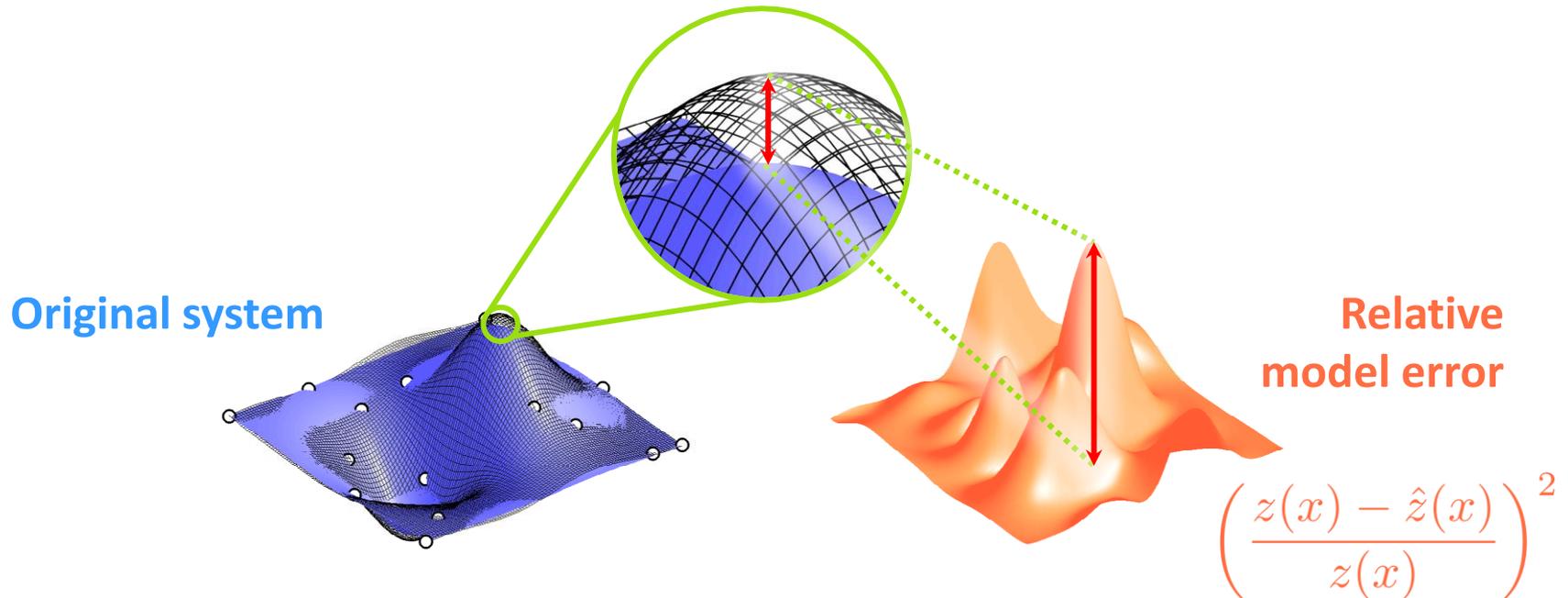
- **Goal: Search the problem space for areas of model inconsistency or model mismatch**
- **More succinctly, we are trying to find points that maximizes the model error with respect to the independent variables**

$$\max_x \left( \frac{z(x) - \hat{z}(x)}{z(x)} \right)^2$$

Surrogate model  
Black-box value

- **Optimized using a black-box or derivative-free solver (SNOBFIT)**  
[Huyer and Neumaier, 08]
- **Derivative-free solvers work well in low-dimensional spaces**  
[Rios and Sahinidis, 12]

# ERROR MAXIMIZATION SAMPLING



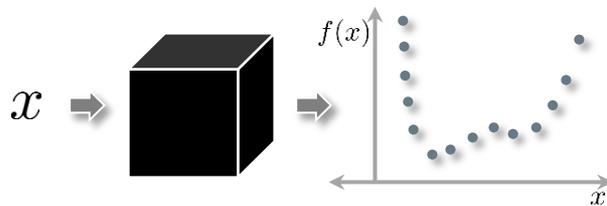
- **Information gained using error maximization sampling:**
  - New data point locations that will be used to better train the next iteration's surrogate model
  - Conservative estimate of the true model error
    - *Defines a stopping criterion*
    - *Estimates the final model error*

# CHALLENGES

SOURCE: Simulator ✓

1

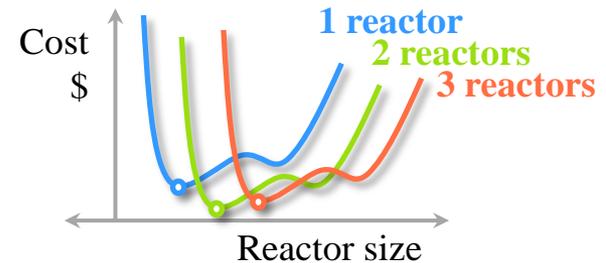
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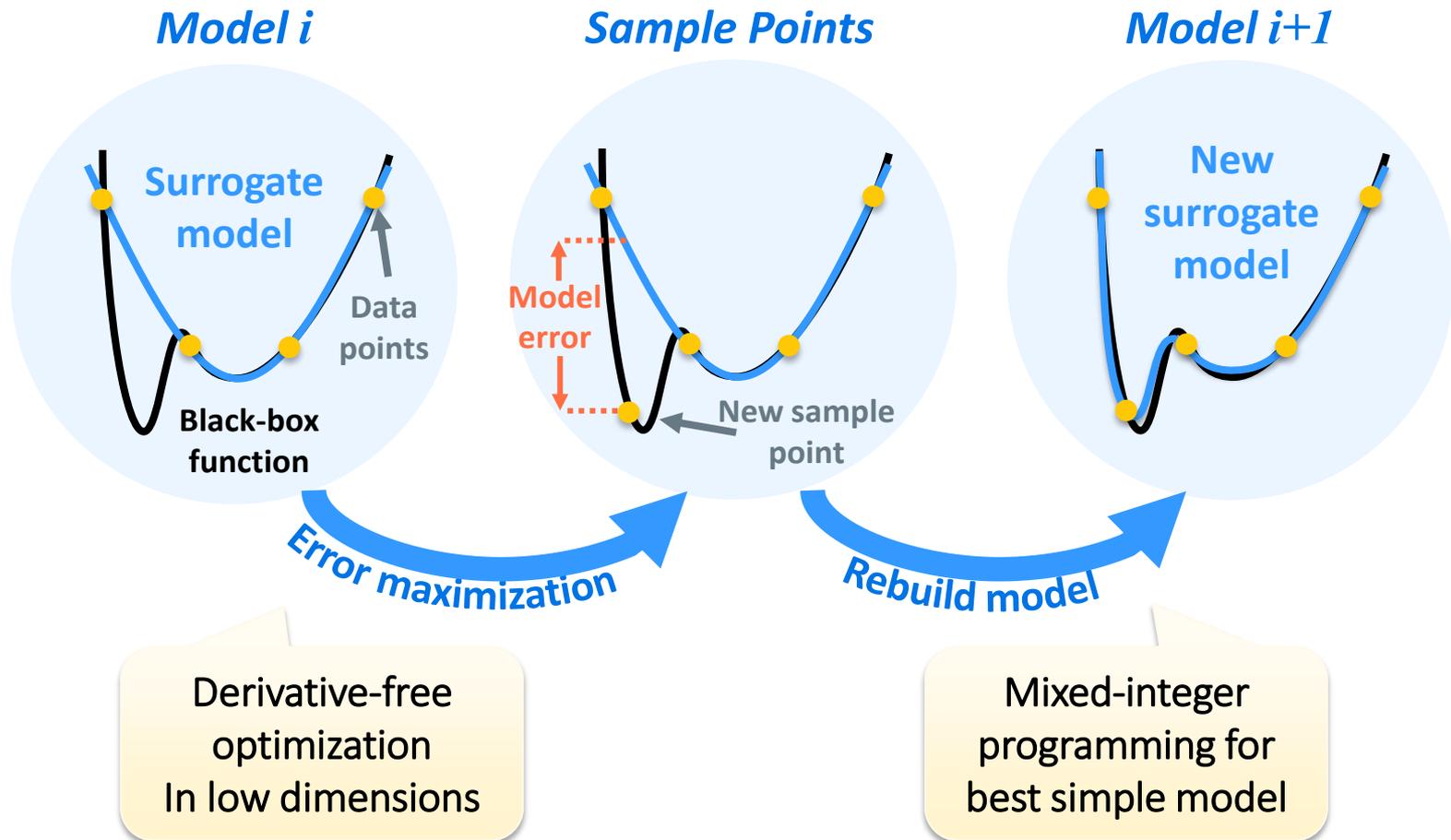


~~X~~ Gradient-based methods

~~X~~ Derivative-free methods

# SYNOPSIS

- Leverage accurate, simple, efficiently build surrogate models to expand the scope of MINLPs



# ACCURATE, SIMPLE, AND EFFICIENT

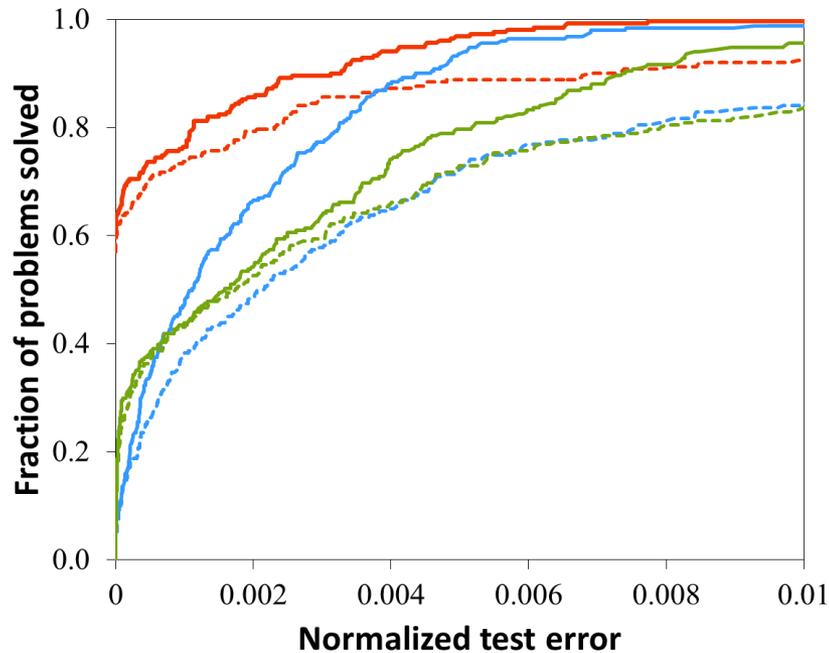
## *Computational experiments to validate ALAMO*

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- **Goal - Test the accuracy, efficiency, and model simplicity**
  - **Modeling methods compared**
    - MIP – Proposed methodology
    - LASSO – The lasso regularization
    - OLR – Ordinary least-squares regression
  - **Sampling methods compared**
    - EMS – Proposed error maximization technique
    - SLH – Single Latin hypercube (no feedback)
  - **Two test sets**
    - Test set A – Bases available to ALAMO
    - Test set B – Functions with forms not available to ALAMO
-

# COMPUTATIONAL EXPERIMENTS

## Model accuracy



### Modeling methods

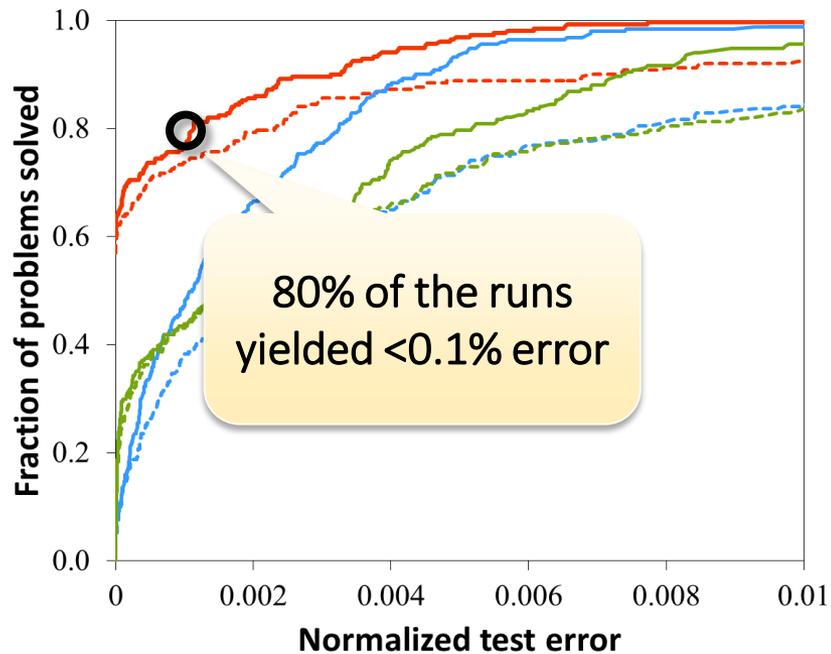
**Our  
method**

**LASSO**

**Least  
squares**

# COMPUTATIONAL EXPERIMENTS

## Model accuracy



### Modeling methods

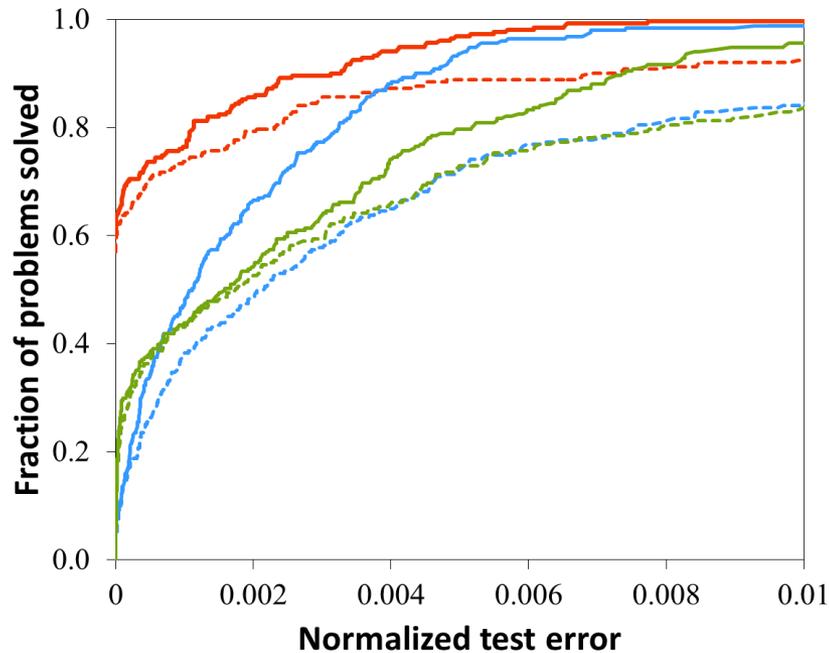
**Our  
method**

**LASSO**

**Least  
squares**

# COMPUTATIONAL EXPERIMENTS

## Model accuracy



### Modeling methods

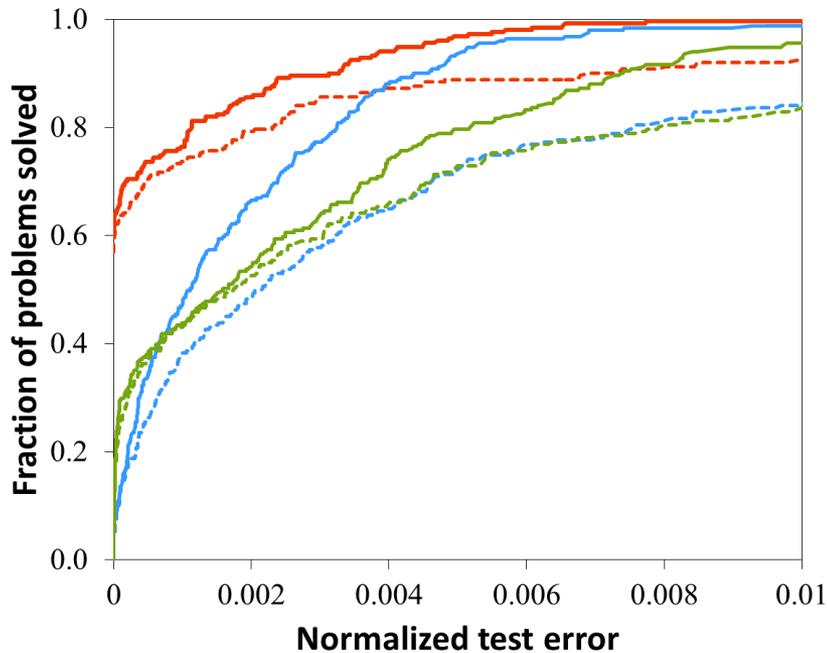
**Our  
method**

**LASSO**

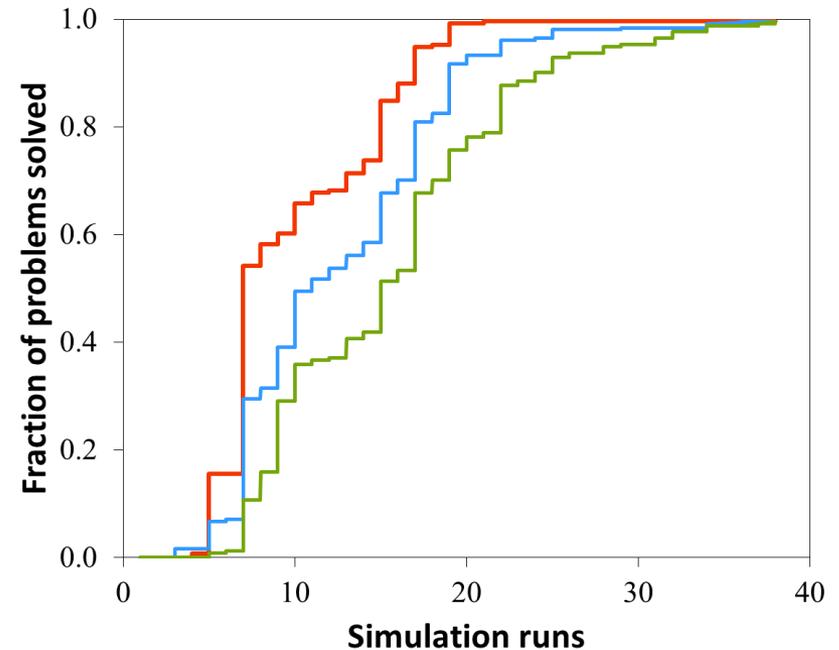
**Least  
squares**

# COMPUTATIONAL EXPERIMENTS

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



Modeling methods

Our  
method

LASSO

Least  
squares

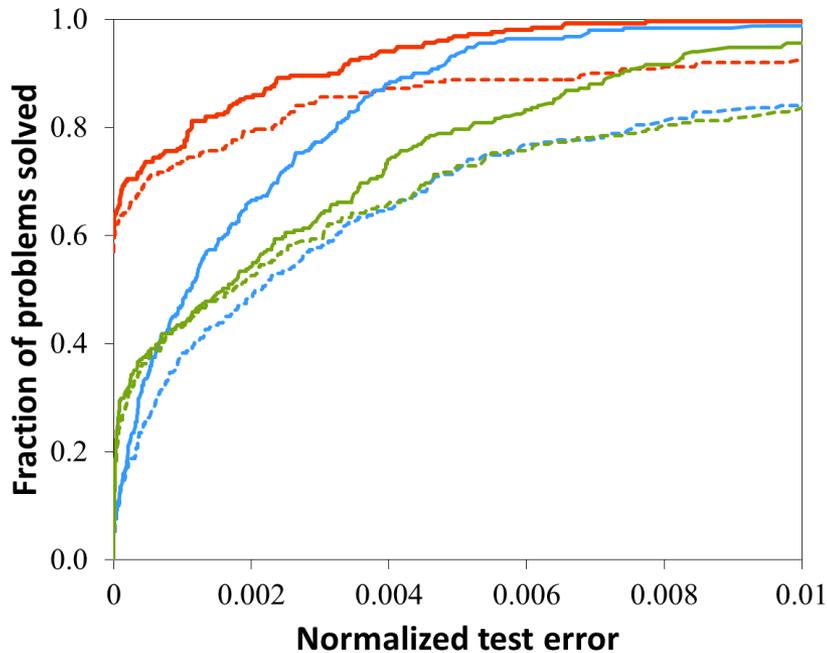
Sampling methods

Error  
maximization

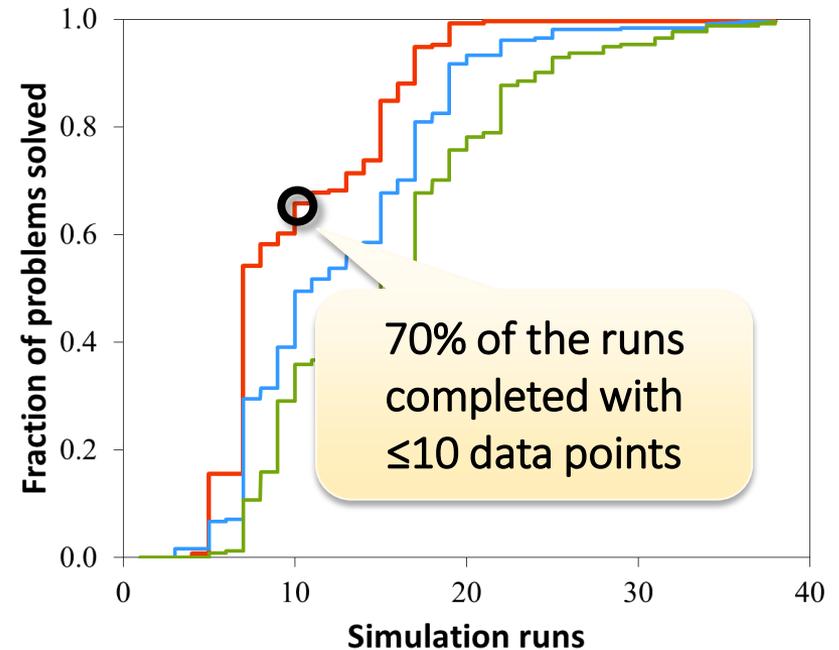
Single Latin  
hypercube

# COMPUTATIONAL EXPERIMENTS

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



### Modeling methods

**Our  
method**

**LASSO**

**Least  
squares**

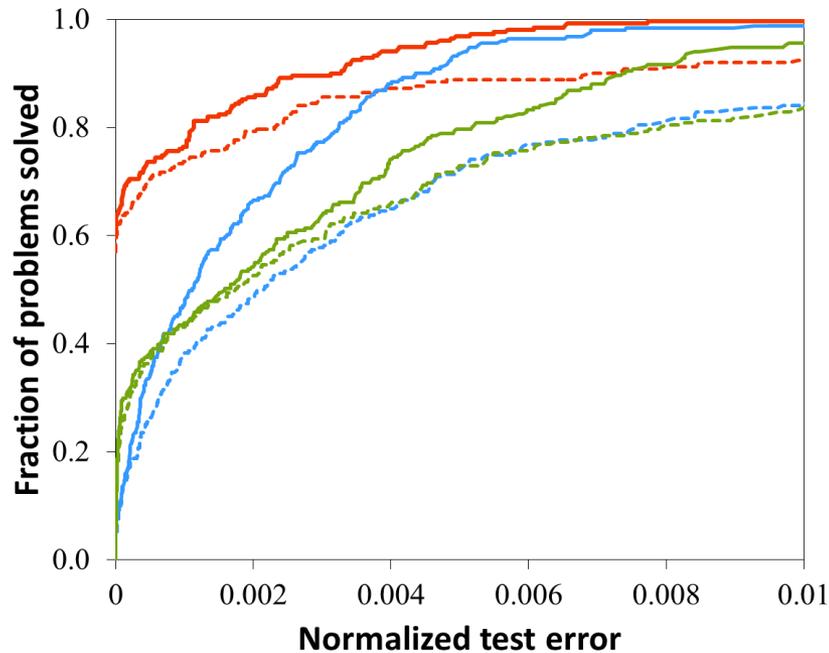
### Sampling methods

**Error  
maximization**

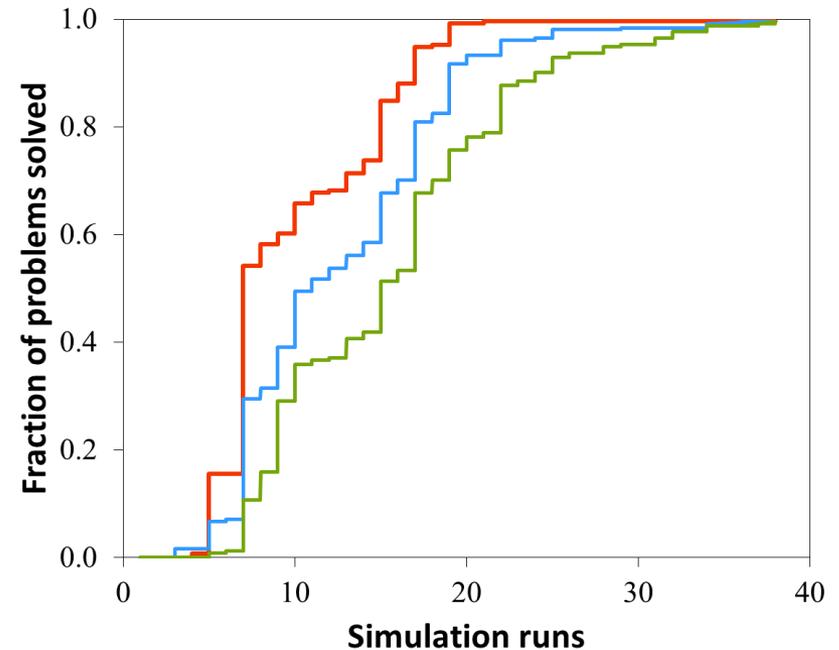
**Single Latin  
hypercube**

# COMPUTATIONAL EXPERIMENTS

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



Modeling methods

Our  
method

LASSO

Least  
squares

Sampling methods

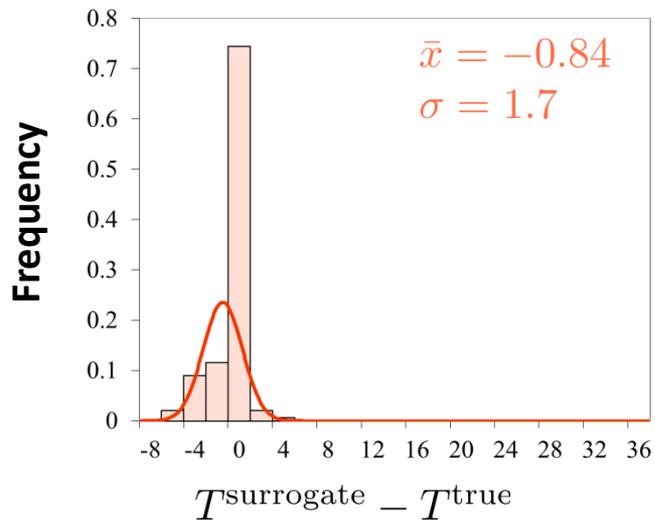
Error  
maximization

Single Latin  
hypercube

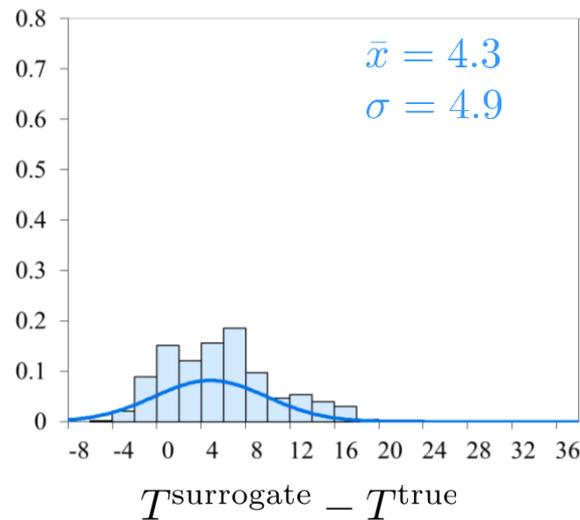
# MODEL SIZING RESULTS

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{No. of terms in the} \\ \text{surrogate model} \end{array} \right] - \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{No. of terms in} \\ \text{the true function} \end{array} \right]$$

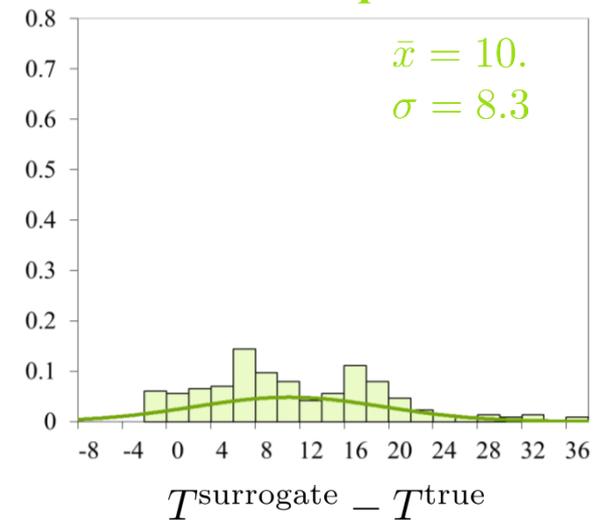
**Our method**



**The LASSO**



**Least squares**



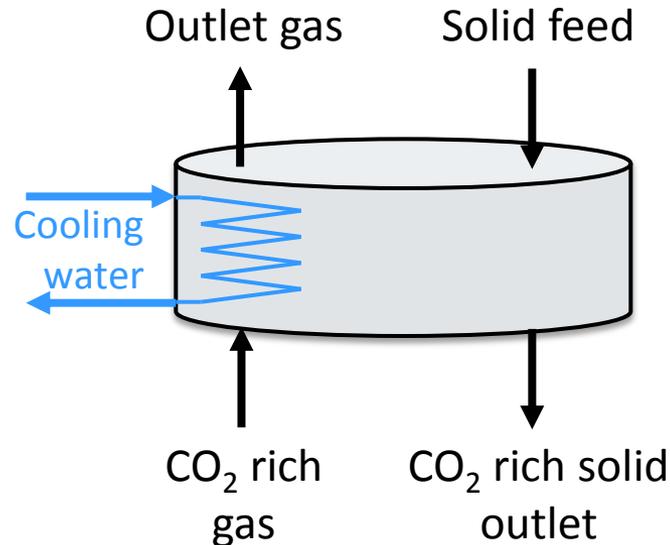
45 problems with 2-10 available bases, 5 repeats

# REMARKS

- **Model building**
  - The ALAMO model building method shows the highest accuracy, using the fewest data points, while giving the most simple models
- **Experimental design**
  - The Error Maximization Sampling method used provides more information per data point sampled resulting in more accurate models with a given data set size
- **ALAMO availability**
  - Licensed through the National Energy Technology Laboratory (Department of Energy Lab) to several industrial companies

# ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

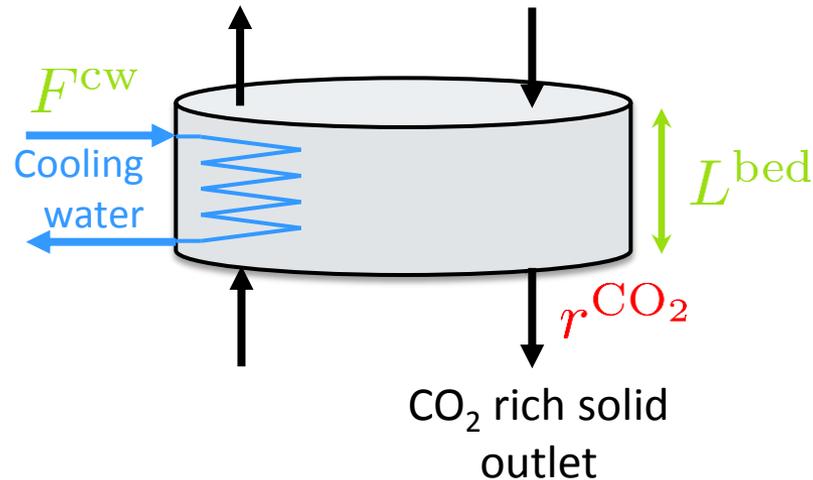
## *Bubbling fluidized bed adsorber*



- **Goal: Optimize a bubbling fluidized bed reactor by**
  - Minimizing the cost of electricity
  - Maximizing CO<sub>2</sub> removal

# ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

## *Bubbling fluidized bed adsorber*



- **Generate model of % CO<sub>2</sub> removal:**

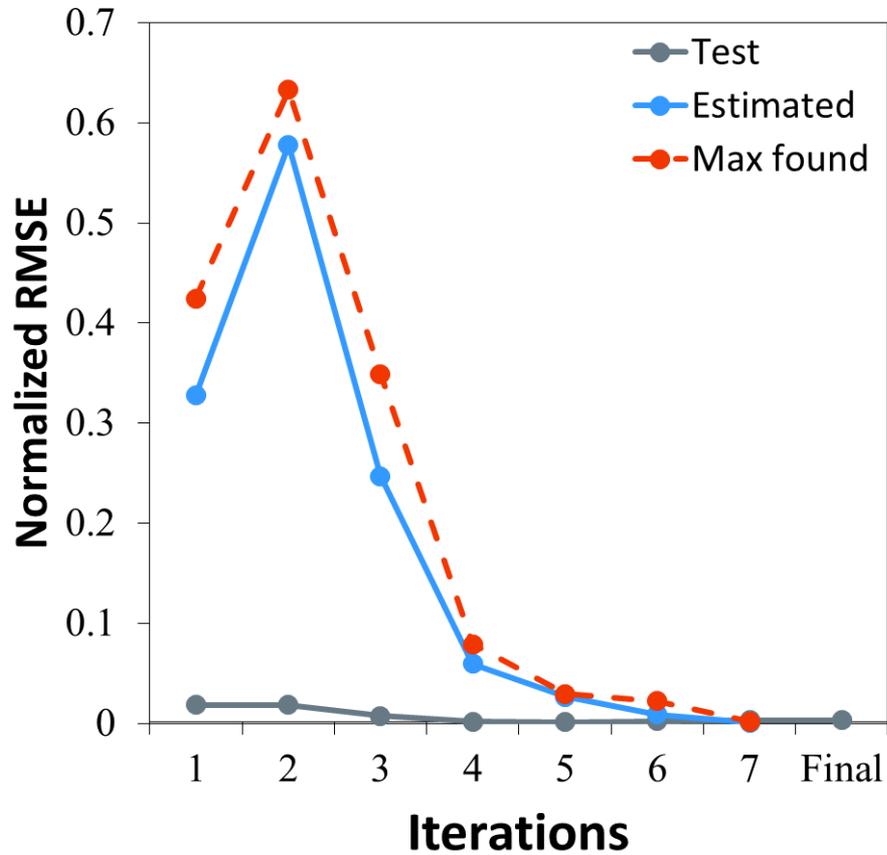
$$r^{CO_2}(L^{bed}, F^{cw}) = f_1(L^{bed}, F^{cw})$$

- **Problem space:**

$$1 \cdot 10^4 \frac{\text{kmol}}{\text{h}} \leq F^{cw} \leq 20 \cdot 10^4 \frac{\text{kmol}}{\text{h}}$$
$$1 \text{ m} \leq L^{bed} \leq 10 \text{ m}$$

# ALGORITHM PROGRESS

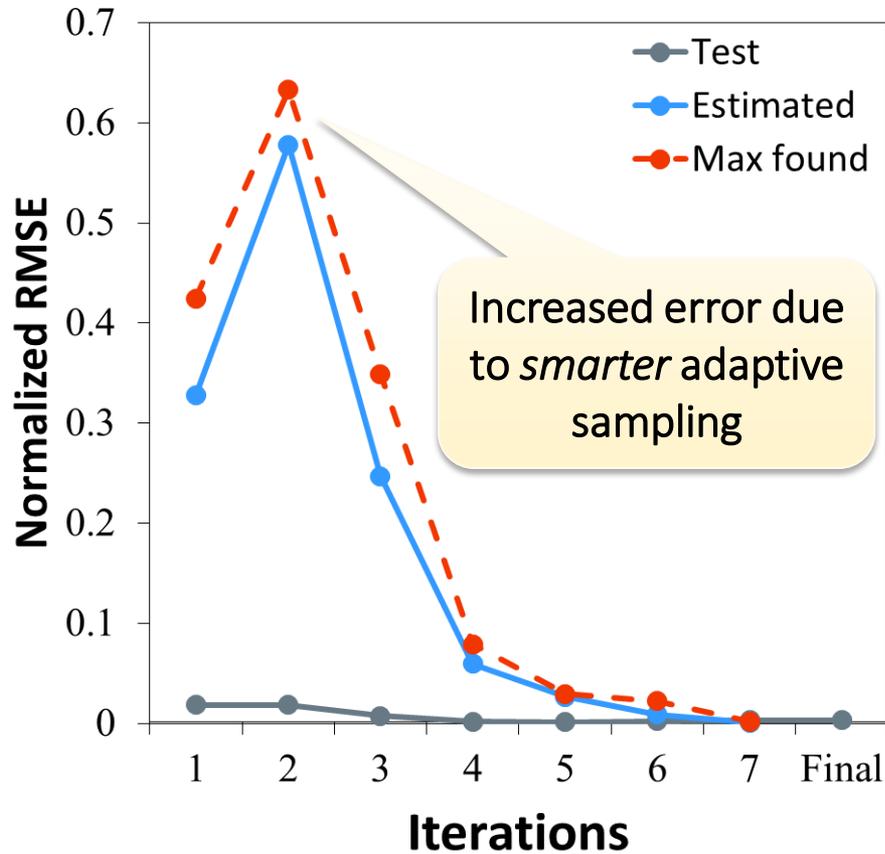
## Normalized model error



Iteration	Training points
1	4
2	6
3	8
4	10
5	12
6	14
7	23
Final	35

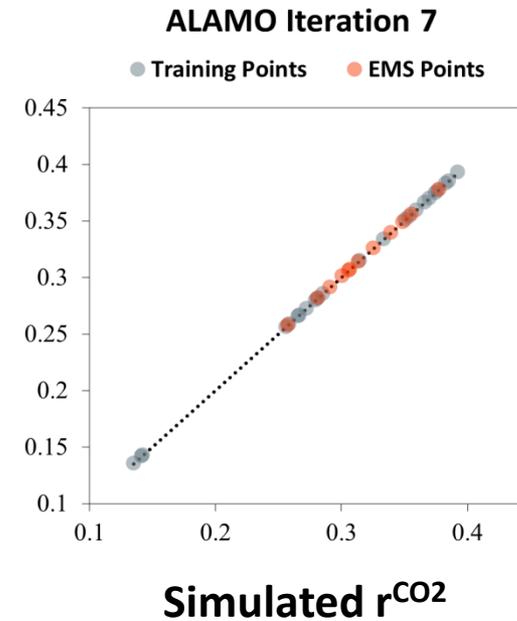
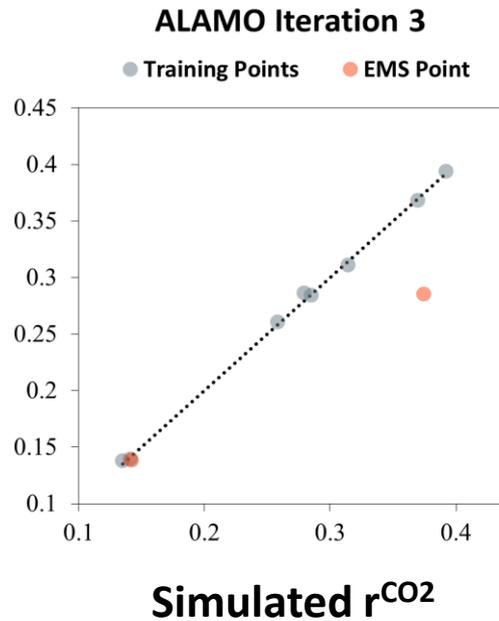
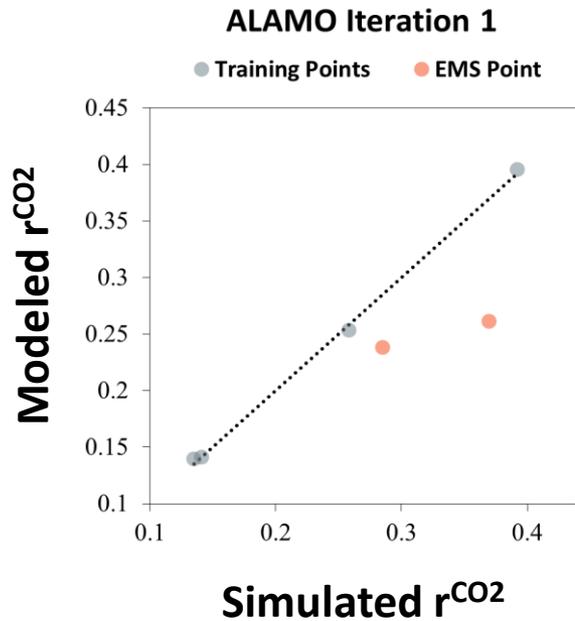
# ALGORITHM PROGRESS

## Normalized model error



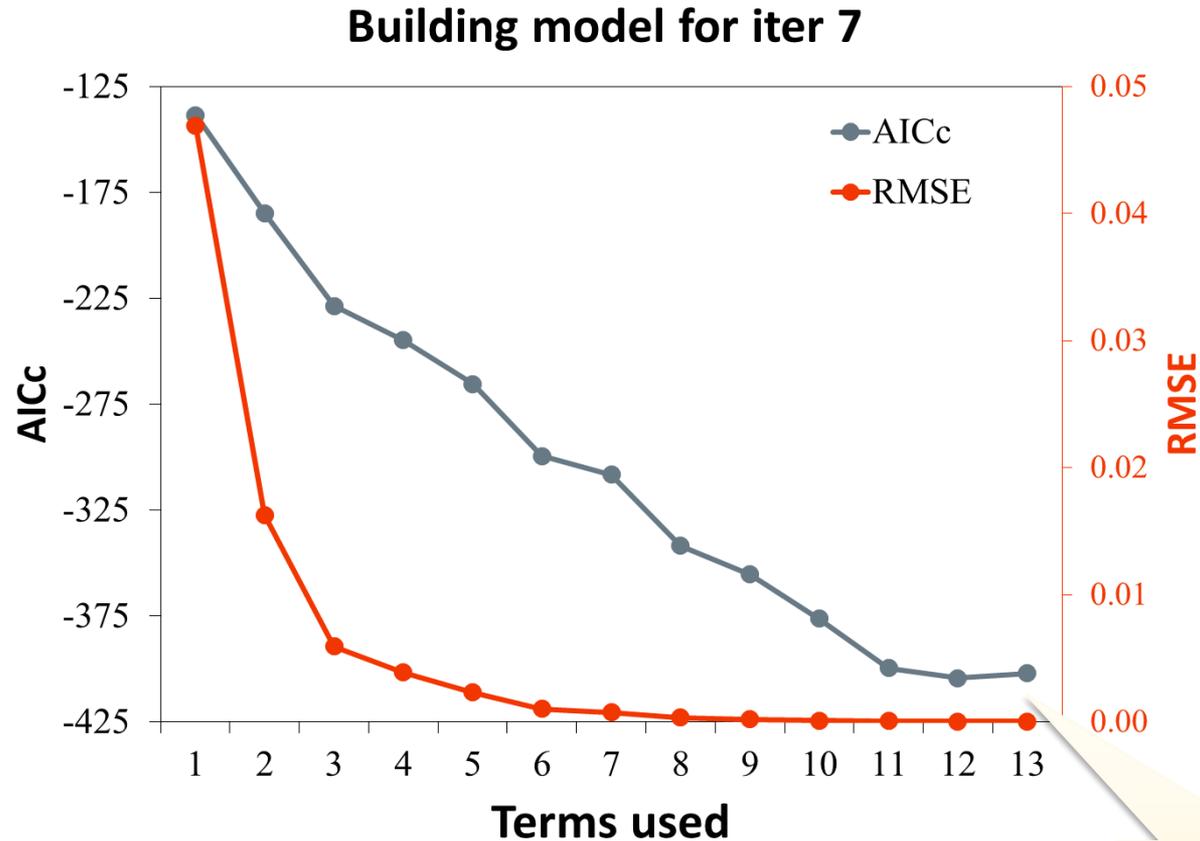
Iteration	Training points
1	4
2	6
3	8
4	10
5	12
6	14
7	23
Final	35

# ITERATION SNAPSHOTS



Iteration	Terms (max 67)	Model
1	2	$(8.1 \cdot 10^{-7}) F \sqrt{L} + 0.14$
3	3	$0.014 \sqrt[3]{F} - (4.4 F \sqrt{L} + 1.1 F L) \cdot 10^{-6}$
7	12	$-\frac{4.7 L}{\sqrt{F}} + \frac{0.39}{\sqrt[3]{L}} + 0.15 \sqrt[3]{L} + \frac{8.7 L^2}{F} + \left(\frac{3300}{FL}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{2500}{FL}\right)^4 + \left(-\frac{0.01 F}{\sqrt{L}} - 5.5 \sqrt{F} L + 5.6 \sqrt{F} + 41 L^2\right) \cdot 10^{-5}$

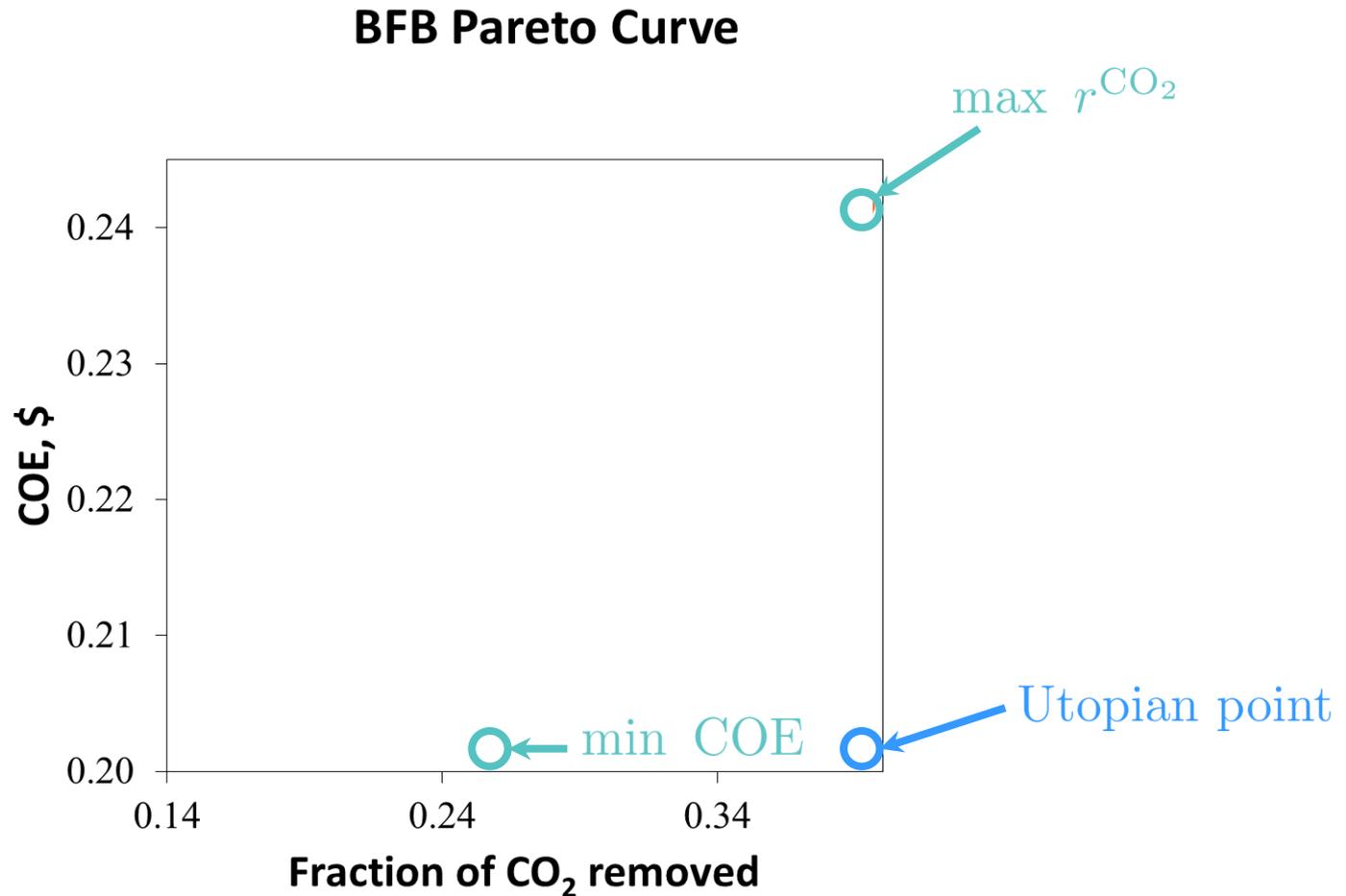
# FINAL ITERATION – MODEL BUILD



13<sup>th</sup> term is not worth the added complexity

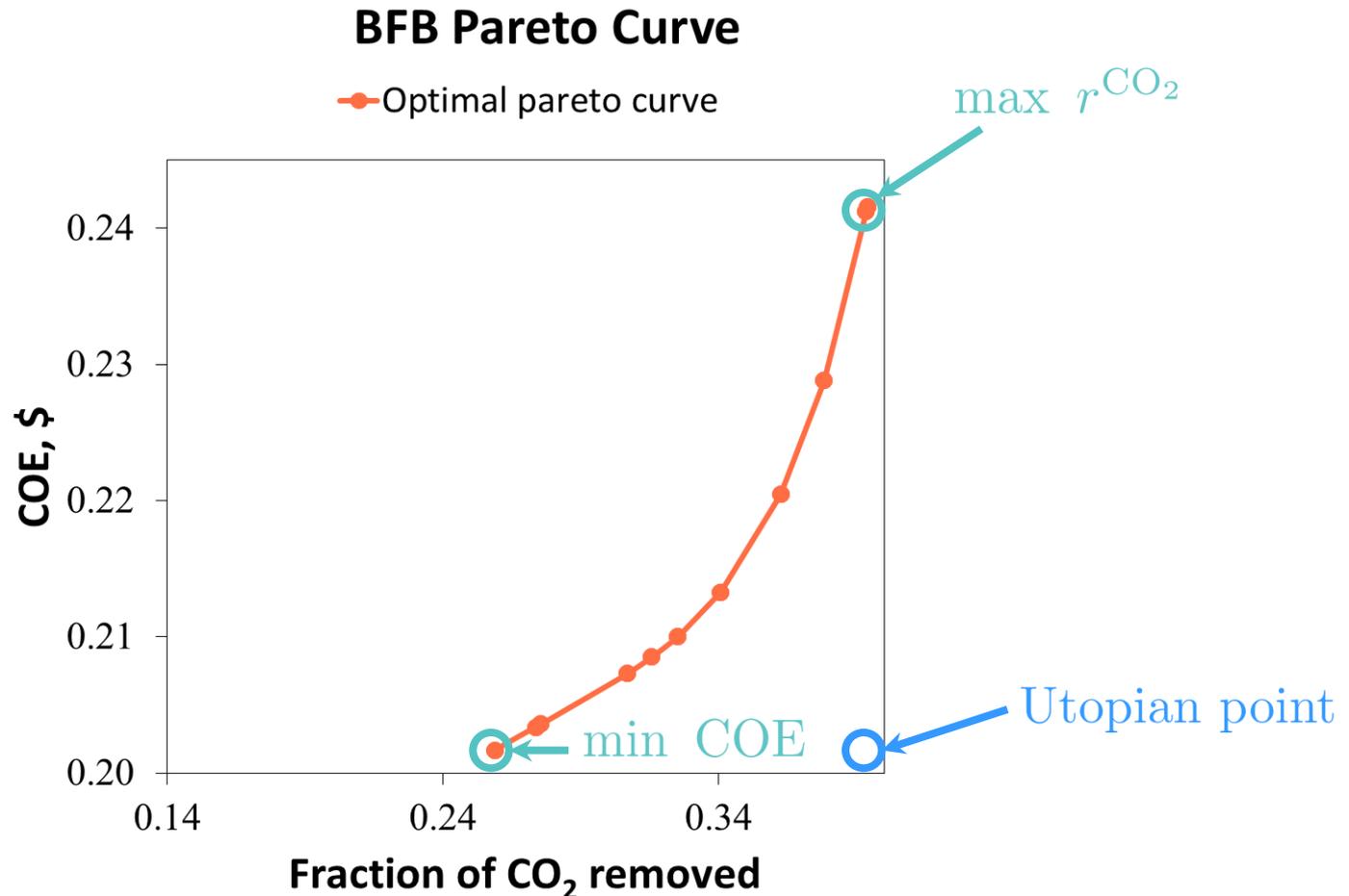
# OPTIMAL PARETO CURVE

- Once a set surrogate models are built, many optimization problem can be efficiently solved



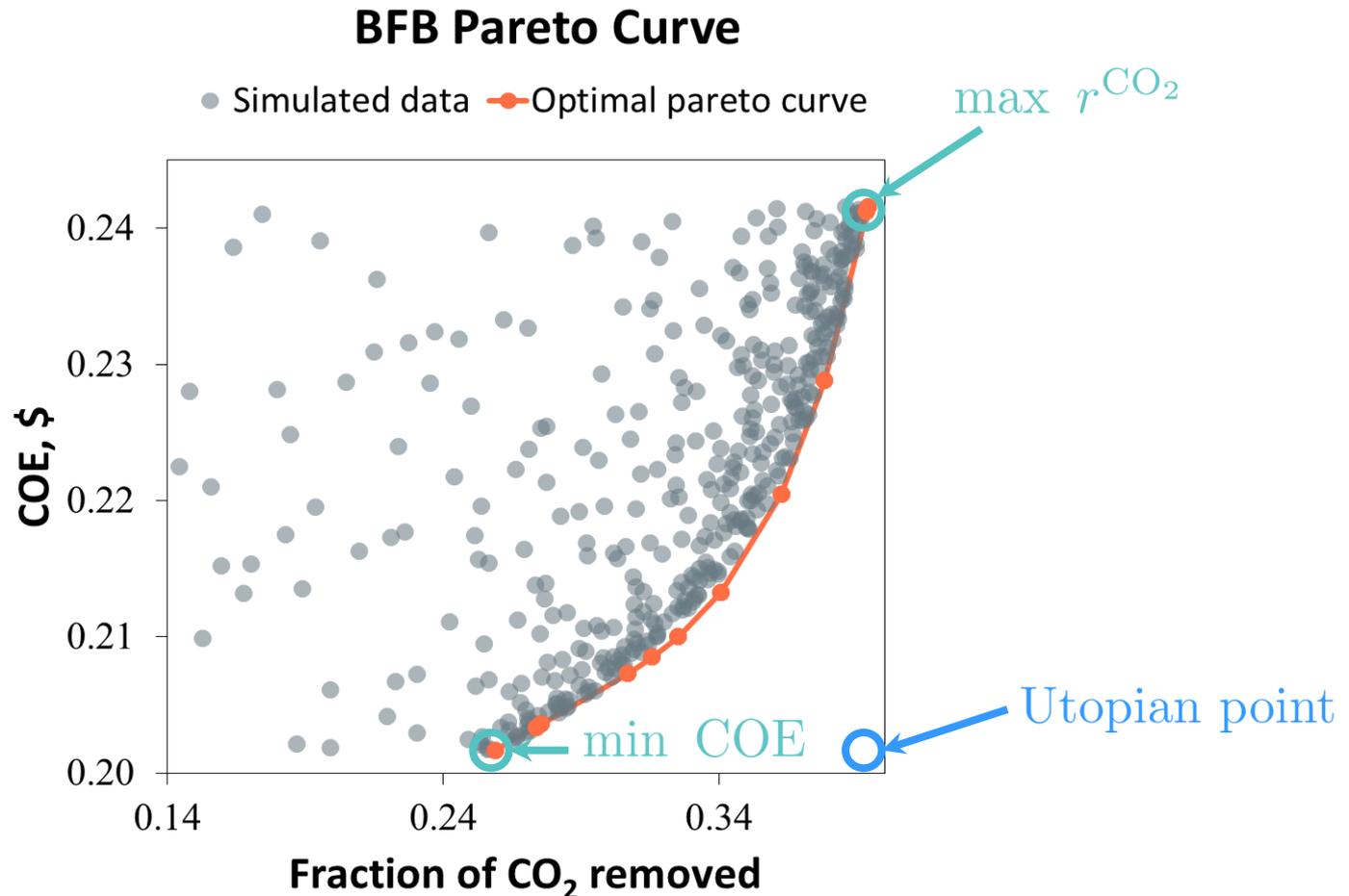
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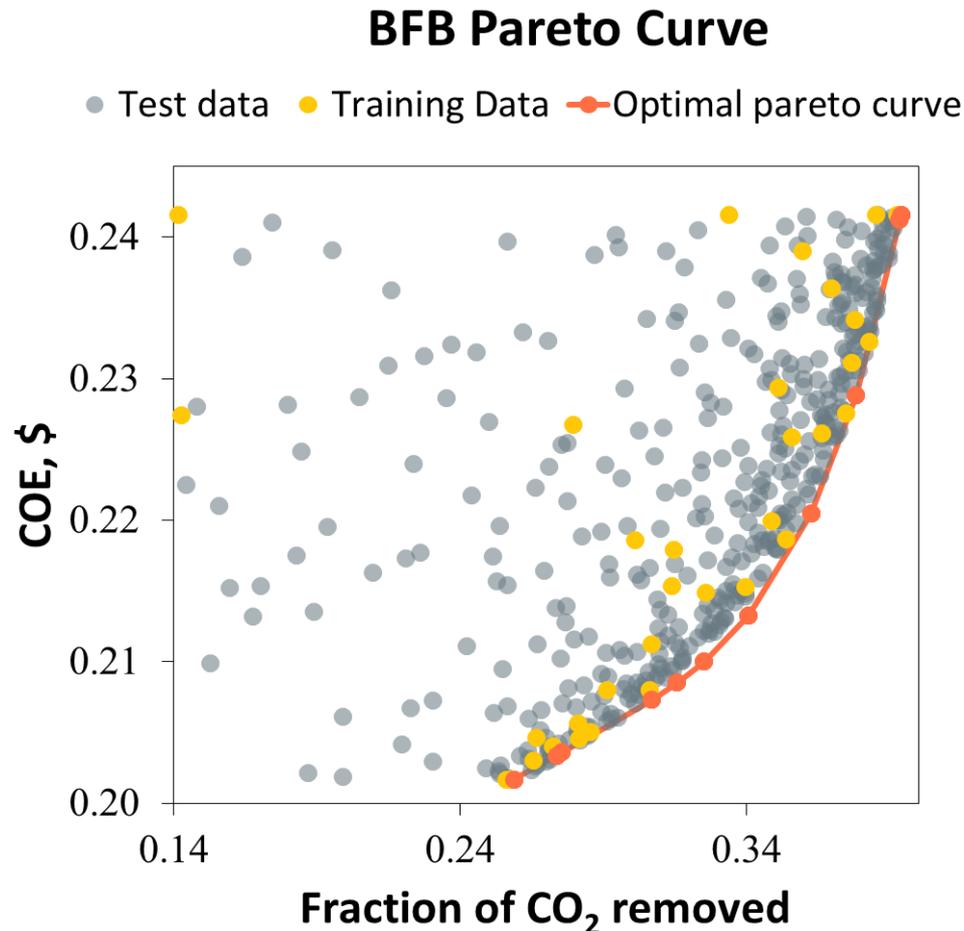
# OPTIMAL PARETO CURVE

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# OPTIMAL PARETO CURVE

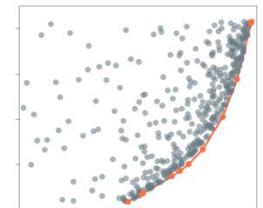
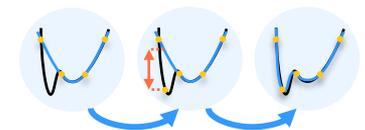
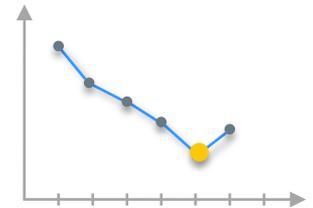
- Once a set surrogate models are built, many optimization problem can be efficiently solved



# FINAL REMARKS

- **Expanding the scope of MINLPs**
  - Using low-complexity surrogate models to strike a balance between optimal decision-making and model fidelity
- **Surrogate model identification**
  - Simple, accurate model identification – MILP formulation
- **Error Maximization**
  - More information found per each simulated data point
- **Surrogates used to replace black-boxes**
  - Efficiently solve numerous and/or complex optimization problems

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \hat{f}(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \hat{g}(x) \leq 0 \\ & x \in A \subset \mathbb{R}^n \end{aligned}$$



# BEST SUBSET METHOD

- **Generalized best subset problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathcal{S}, \beta} \quad & \Phi(\mathcal{S}, \beta) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{B} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Phi(\mathcal{S}, \beta)$  is a goodness of fit measure for the subset of basis function,  $\mathcal{S}$ , and regression coefficients,  $\beta$ .

# BEST SUBSET METHOD

- **Surrogate subset model:**

$$\hat{z}(x) = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} \beta_j X_j(x)$$

- **Mixed-integer surrogate subset model:**

$$\hat{z}(x) = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} (y_j \beta_j) X_j(x) \quad \text{such that} \quad \begin{array}{ll} y_j = 1 & j \in \mathcal{S} \\ y_j = 0 & j \notin \mathcal{S} \end{array}$$

- **Generalized best subset problem mixed-integer formulation:**

Very tough  
to solve

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{\beta, y} & \Phi(\beta, y) \\ \text{s.t.} & y_j = \{0, 1\} \end{array}$$

# MIXED-INTEGER AICC

- **Corrected Akaike information criterion (AICC)** [Hurvich and Tsai, 93]

$$AICC(\mathcal{S}, \beta) = N \log \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right)^2 \right) + 2|\mathcal{S}| + \frac{2|\mathcal{S}|(|\mathcal{S}| + 1)}{N - |\mathcal{S}| - 1}$$

- **Substituting the mixed integer surrogate form into AICC:**

$$AICC(\beta, y_j) = N \log \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} (y_j \beta_j) X_{ij} \right)^2 \right) + 2 \sum_j y_j + \frac{2 \sum_j y_j (\sum_j y_j + 1)}{N - \sum_j y_j - 1}$$

OR if  $\sum_j y_j = T$

$$AICC(\beta, y_j) = N \log \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} (y_j \beta_j) X_{ij} \right)^2 \right) + 2T + \frac{2T(T + 1)}{N - T - 1}$$

# MIXED-INTEGER PROBLEM

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\beta, T, y} \quad & AICc(\beta, T, y) = N \log \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} (y_j \beta_j) X_{ij} \right)^2 \right) + 2T + \frac{2T(T+1)}{N-T-1} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} y_j = T \\ & y_j = \{0, 1\} \quad j \in \mathcal{B} \end{aligned}$$

# MIXED-INTEGER PROBLEM

- **Further reformulation**

- Replace bilinear terms with big-M constraints

$$y_j \beta_j \quad \longrightarrow \quad \beta_j^l y_j \leq \beta_j \leq \beta_j^u y_j$$

- Decouple objective into two problems

a) model sizing

$$\text{General:} \quad \min_{\beta, T, y} \Phi(\beta, T, y) = \min_T \left\{ \underbrace{\min_{\beta, y} [\Phi_{\beta, y}(\beta, y)|_T]}_{\text{b) basis and coefficient selection}} + \Phi_T(T) \right\}$$

b) basis and coefficient selection

$$AICc(\beta, T) : \quad AICc_{\beta, y}(\beta, y)|_T = N \log \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} (y_j \beta_j) X_{ij} \right)^2 \right)$$

$$AICc_T(T) = 2T + \frac{2T(T+1)}{N-T-1}$$

- Inner minimization objective reformulation

# NESTED MIXED-INTEGER PROBLEM

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{T \in \{1, \dots, T^u\}} && N \log \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} (y_j \beta_j) X_{ij} \right)^2 \right) + 2T + \frac{2T(T+1)}{N-T-1} \\ & \text{s.t.} && \\ & && \min_{\beta, y} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right)^2 \\ & && \text{s.t.} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} y_j = T \\ & && \beta^l y_j \leq \beta_j \leq \beta^u y_j \quad j \in \mathcal{B} \\ & && y_j = \{0, 1\} \quad j \in \mathcal{B} \end{aligned}$$

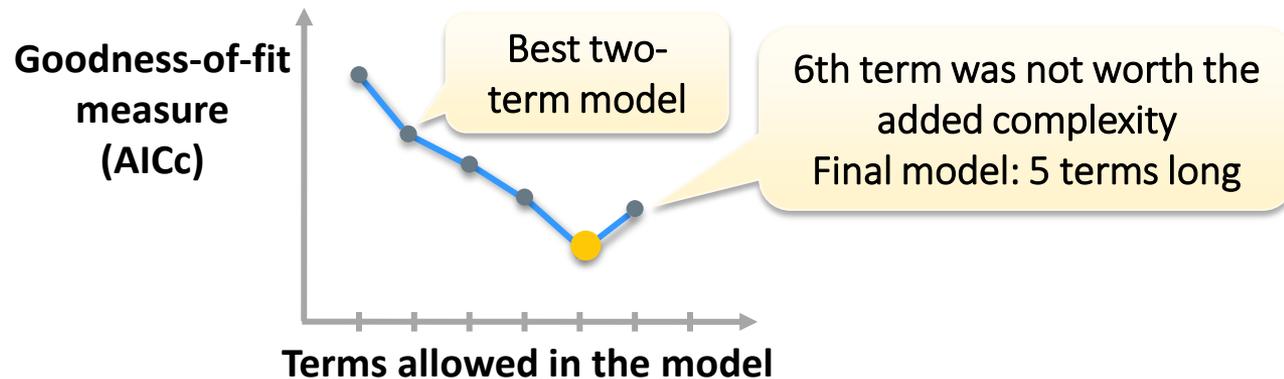
a) Model sizing

b) Basis and coefficient selection

# PROBLEM SIMPLIFICATIONS

- **Outer problem**

- The outer problem is parameterized by T and a local minima is found



- **Inner problem**

- Stationarity condition used to solve for continuous variables

$$\frac{d}{d\beta_j} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right)^2 \propto \sum_{i=1}^N X_{ij} \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right) = 0, \quad j \in \mathcal{S}$$

- Linear objective used to solved for integer variables

$$\text{Objective: } \sum_{i=1}^N \left| z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right|$$

# FINAL BEST SUBSET MODEL

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & SE = \sum_{i=1}^N \left| z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right| \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} y_j = T \\ & -U(1 - y_j) \leq \sum_{i=1}^N X_{ij} \left( z_i - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \beta_j X_{ij} \right) \leq U(1 - y_j) \quad j \in \mathcal{B} \\ & \beta^l y_j \leq \beta_j \leq \beta^u y_j \quad j \in \mathcal{B} \\ & y_j \in \{0, 1\} \quad j \in \mathcal{B} \\ & \beta_j \in [\beta_j^l, \beta_j^u] \quad j \in \mathcal{B} \end{aligned}$$

- This model is solved for increasing values of  $T$  until the  $AICc$  worsens