

# Advanced Optimization

## Lectures/Exercises 6 and 7: (Evolutionary) Multiobjective Optimization

January 17, 2017 and January 31, 2017

Master AIC

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# Course Overview

	Date		Topic
1	Tue, 22.11.2016	Dimo	Randomized Algorithms for Discrete Problems
2	Tue, 29.11.2016	Dimo	Exercise: The Travelling Salesperson Problem
3	Tue, 6.12.2016	Anne	Continuous Optimization I
	vacation		
4	Tue, 3.1.2017	Anne	Continuous Optimization II
5	Tue, 10.1.2017	Anne	Continuous Optimization III
6	Tue, 17.1.2017	Dimo	Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization I
7	Tue, 31.1.2017	Dimo	Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization II
	???		oral presentations (individual time slots)

all from 14:00 till 17:15 in PUIO - E213

# Organization Oral Exams

to be decided until last class (Jan 31), better today 😊

	Monday, Feb 20	Friday, Feb 24
10am		
10:30am		
11am	Anh Khoa Ngo Ho	
11:30am	Ahmed Mazari	
12am	Abdallah Benzine	
12:30pm	Jonathan Crouzet	
1:30pm	Mohamed Ali Fathallah	Amal Targhi
2:00pm	Antonin Raffin	Abdelhak Loukkal
2:30pm	Gabriel Quere	Yuxiang Wang
3pm	Laurent Cetinsoy	
3:30pm	Ghazi Felhi	
4pm	Clément Thierry	

# Details on What We Expect from the Oral Exam

- 15min presentation about your paper
  - background
  - summary of content
  - critical discussion
  - organization of the slides is up to you
- 10-15min of discussion/exam questions
  - related to the paper
  - but potentially also related to the lecture

Don't forget to send us your slides by **Jan. 31, 2017** (via email)

# Overview of the Remaining Two Lectures

## Introduction to multiobjective optimization

(a bit more detailed than in the introductory lecture)

- difference to single-objective optimization, the basics
- algorithms and their design principles
- performance assessment and benchmarking
- integration of preferences
- a few aspects of visualization

## Exercise around COCO

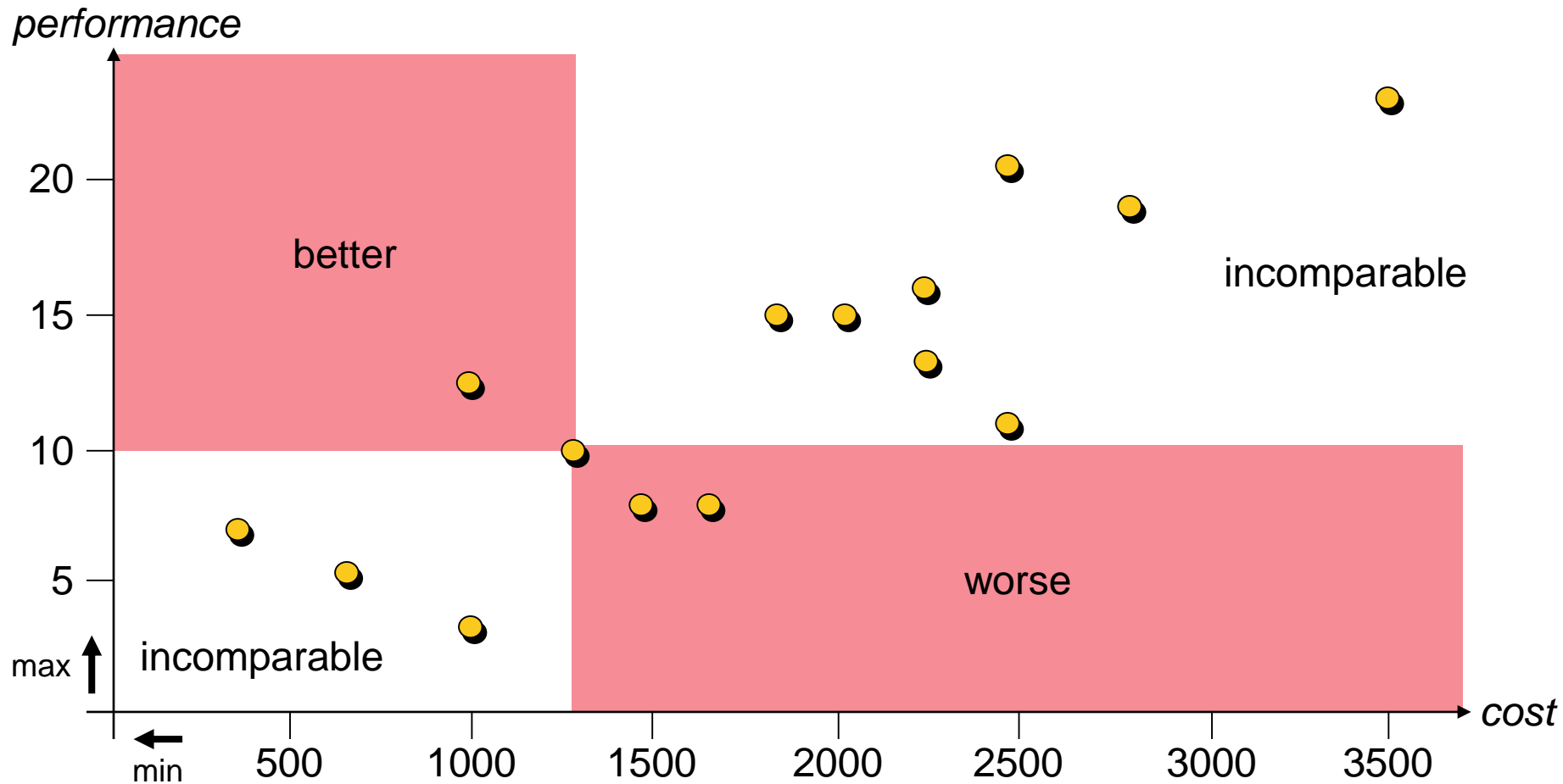
- implement basic algorithm(s)
- benchmark on COCO
  - two goals: testing our new test suite and producing data for the upcoming BBOB-2017 workshop

# **Multiobjective Optimization**

# A Brief Introduction to Multiobjective Optimization

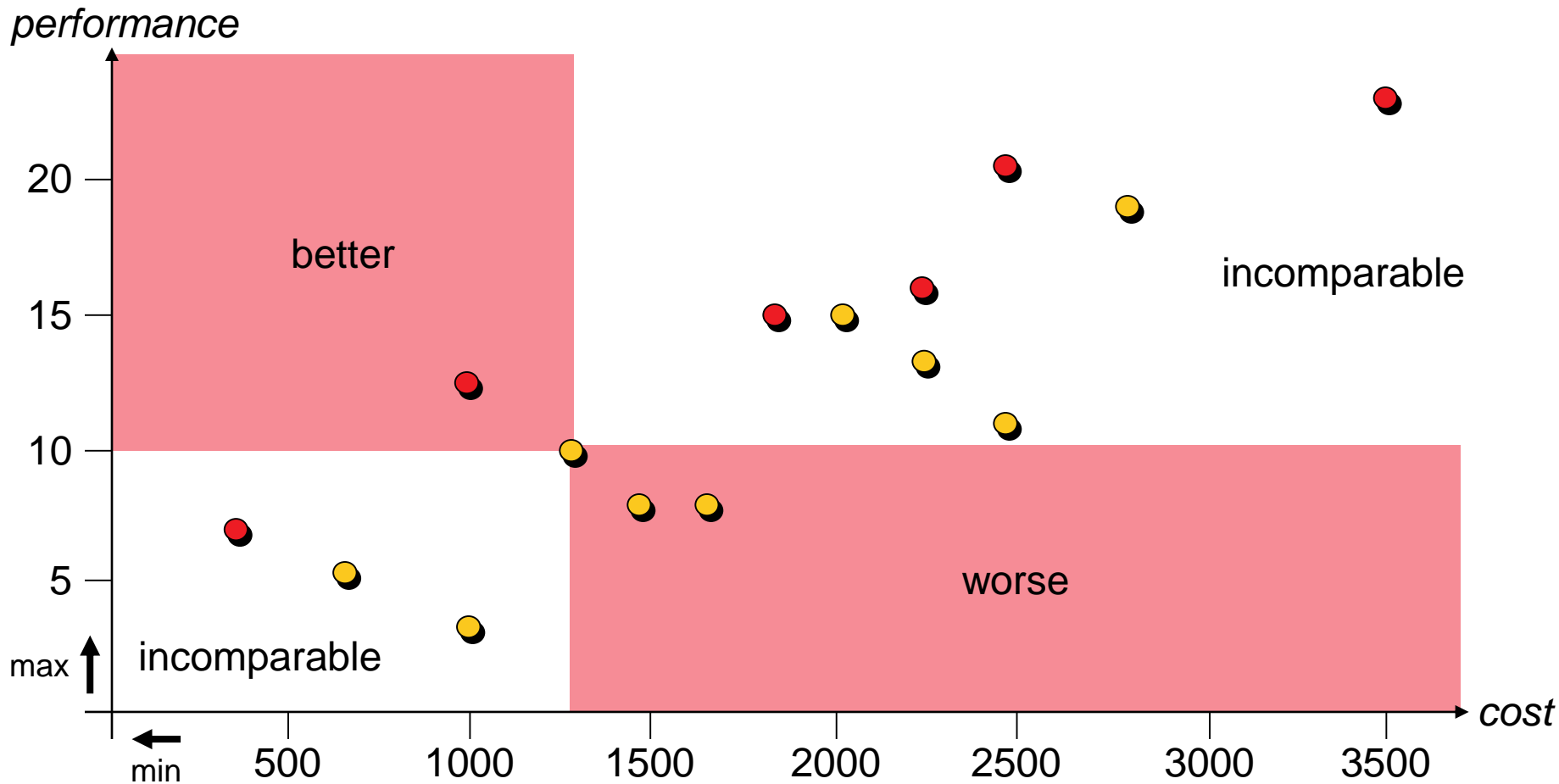
## Multiobjective Optimization

Multiple objectives that have to be optimized simultaneously



# A Brief Introduction to Multiobjective Optimization

- Observations:**
- 1 there is no single optimal solution, but
  - 2 some solutions (●) are better than others (●)

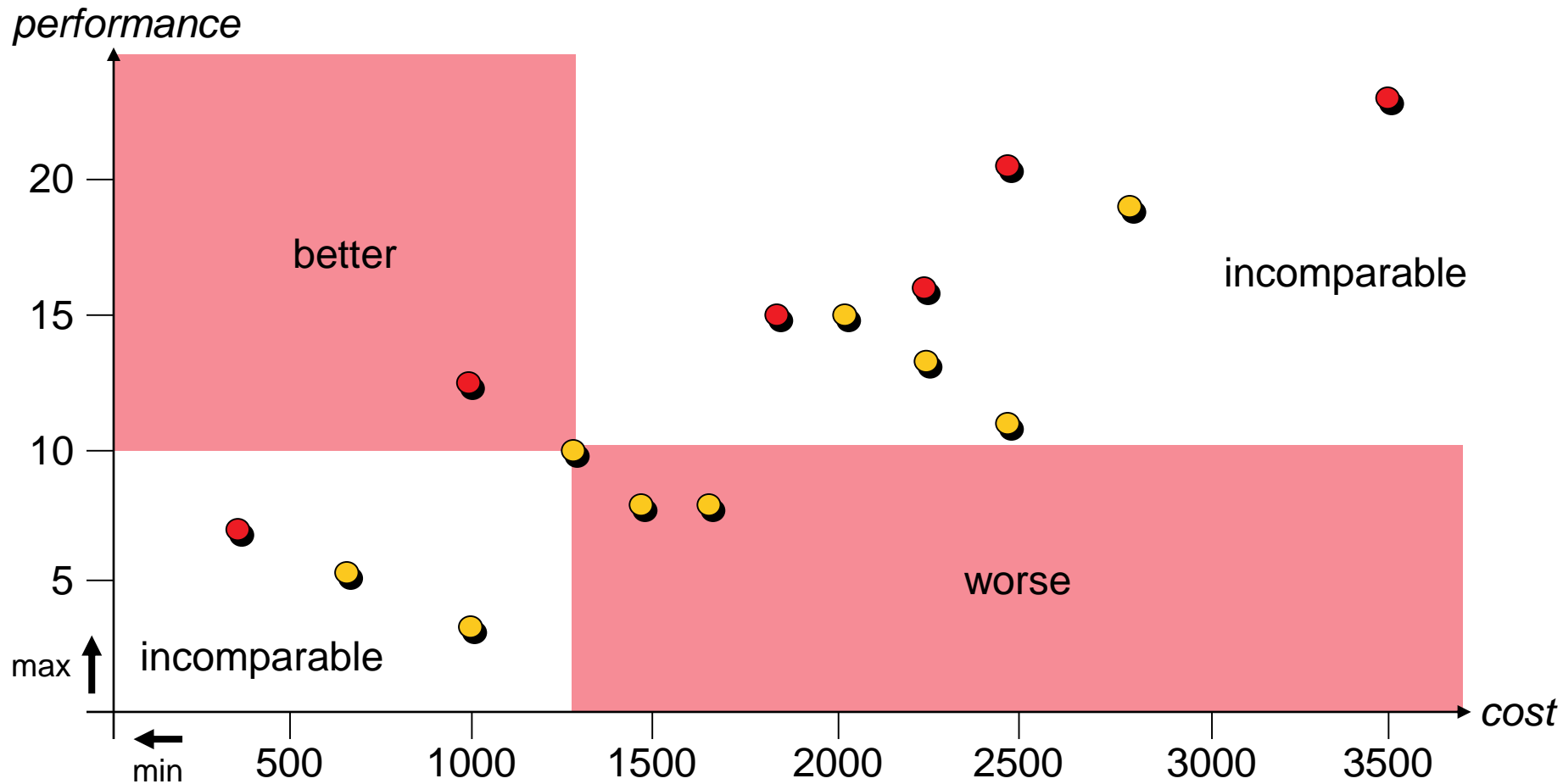




# A Brief Introduction to Multiobjective Optimization

$u$  weakly Pareto dominates  $v$  ( $u \leq_{par} v$ ):  $\forall 1 \leq i \leq k : f_i(u) \leq f_i(v)$

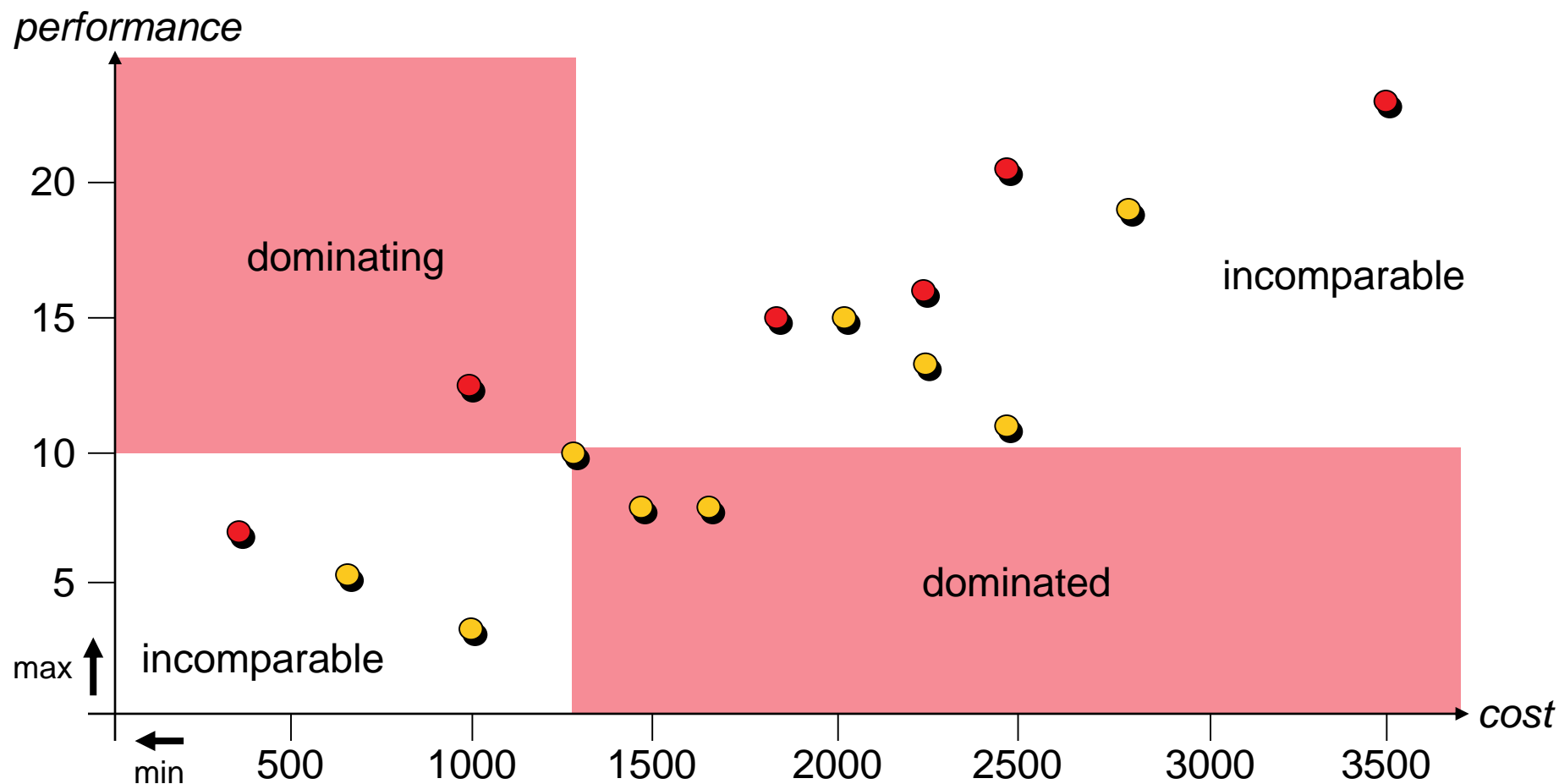
$u$  Pareto dominates  $v$  ( $u <_{par} v$ ):  $u \leq_{par} v \wedge v \not\leq_{par} u$



# A Brief Introduction to Multiobjective Optimization

$u$  weakly Pareto dominates  $v$  ( $u \leq_{par} v$ ):  $\forall 1 \leq i \leq k : f_i(u) \leq f_i(v)$

$u$  Pareto dominates  $v$  ( $u <_{par} v$ ):  $u \leq_{par} v \wedge v \not\leq_{par} u$



# Exercise 1

Show the equivalence between

$$u <_{par} v: u \leq_{par} v \wedge v \not\leq_{par} u$$

and

$$\forall 1 \leq i \leq k: f_i(u) \leq f_i(v) \text{ and } \exists 1 \leq j \leq k: f_j(u) < f_j(v)$$

# Exercise 1: Solution

Proof:

$$u <_{par} v: \quad u \leq_{par} v \wedge v \not\leq_{par} u$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall 1 \leq i \leq k: f_i(u) \leq f_i(v) \text{ and not } (\forall 1 \leq i \leq k: f_i(v) \leq f_i(u))$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall 1 \leq i \leq k: f_i(u) \leq f_i(v) \text{ and not } (\forall 1 \leq i \leq k: f_i(u) \geq f_i(v))$$

$$\forall 1 \leq i \leq k: f_i(u) \leq f_i(v) \text{ and } \exists 1 \leq j \leq k: f_j(u) < f_j(v)$$

## Exercise 2: Understanding Pareto Dominance

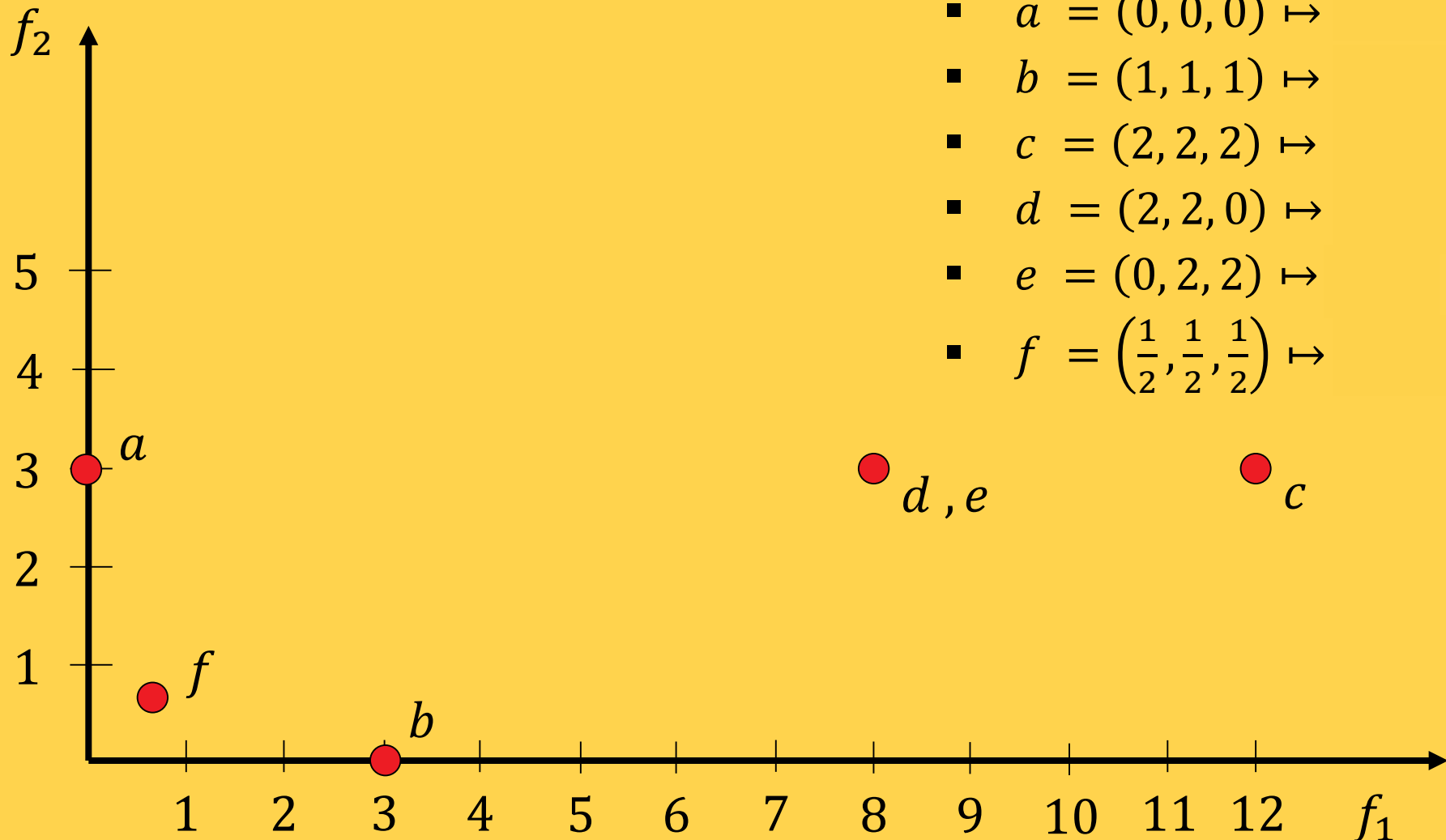
Given the following solutions, tell which ones dominate each other and which don't for the double sphere problem

$$f_{\text{doublesphere}}: x \mapsto \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2, \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - 1)^2 \right).$$

- $a = (0, 0, 0)$
- $b = (1, 1, 1)$
- $c = (2, 2, 2)$
- $d = (2, 2, 0)$
- $e = (0, 2, 2)$
- $f = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right)$

# Exercise 2: Understanding Pareto Dominance

$$f_{\text{doublesphere}}: x \mapsto (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2, \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - 1)^2).$$



- $a = (0, 0, 0) \mapsto$

- $b = (1, 1, 1) \mapsto$

- $c = (2, 2, 2) \mapsto$

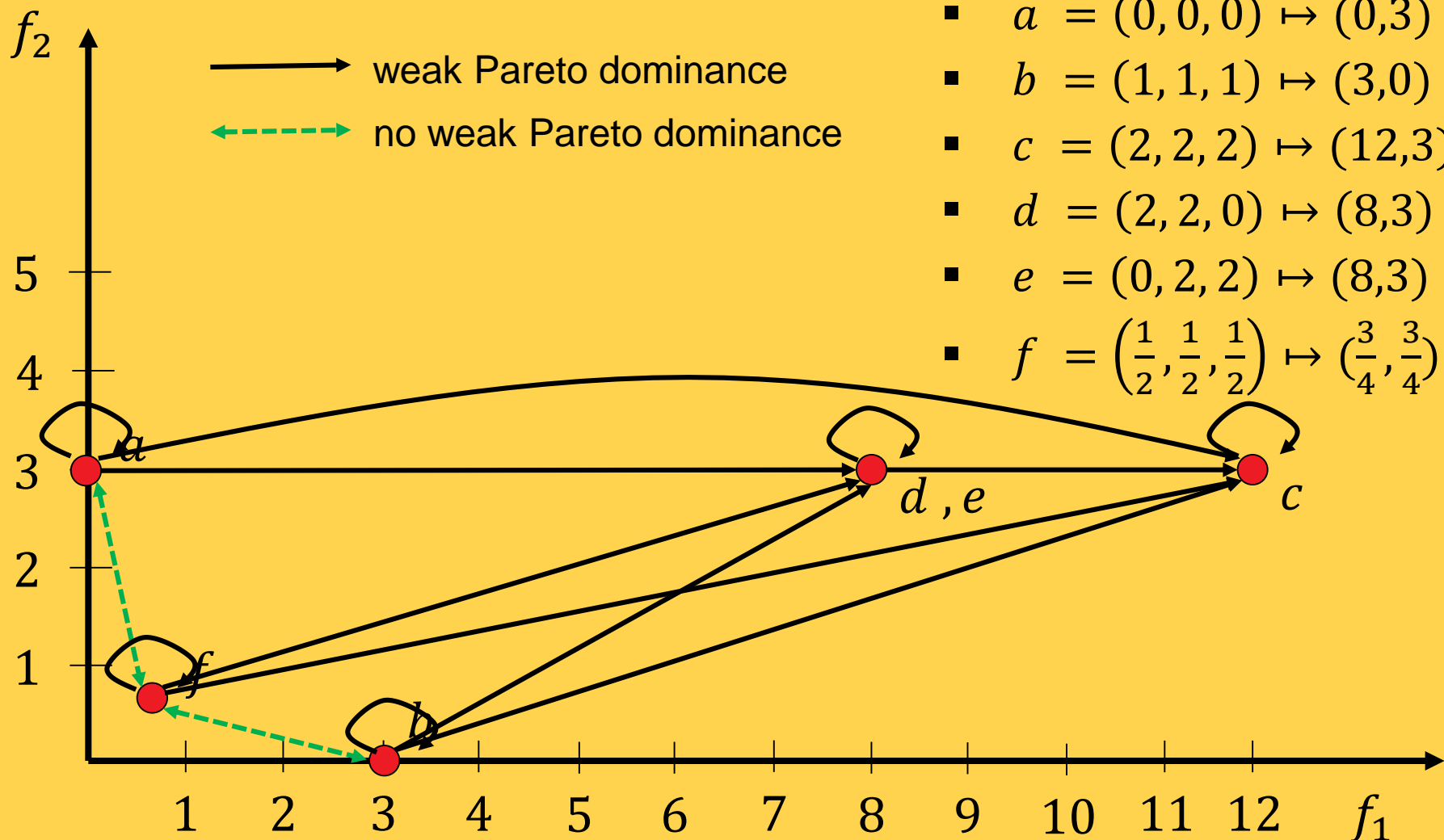
- $d = (2, 2, 0) \mapsto$

- $e = (0, 2, 2) \mapsto$

- $f = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) \mapsto$

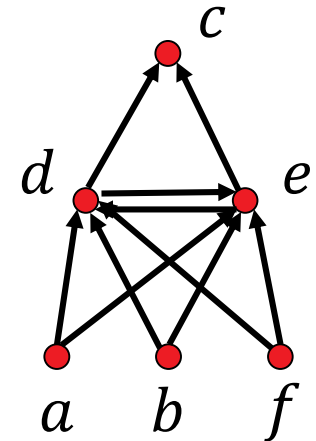
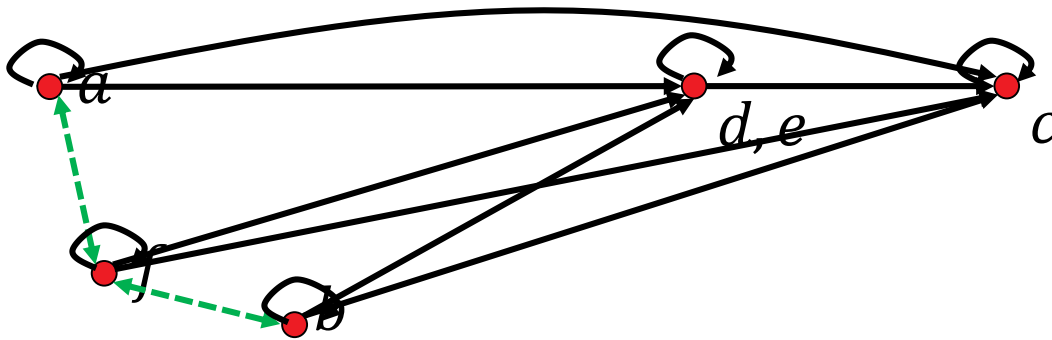
# Exercise 2: Understanding Pareto Dominance

$$f_{\text{doublesphere}}: x \mapsto \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2, \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - 1)^2 \right).$$



# Visualizing Dominance Relations as Graphs

We can simplify the visualization of the (weak) Pareto dominance relation by *transitive reduction*:



The **weak Pareto dominance is a preorder**, i.e. a relation that is

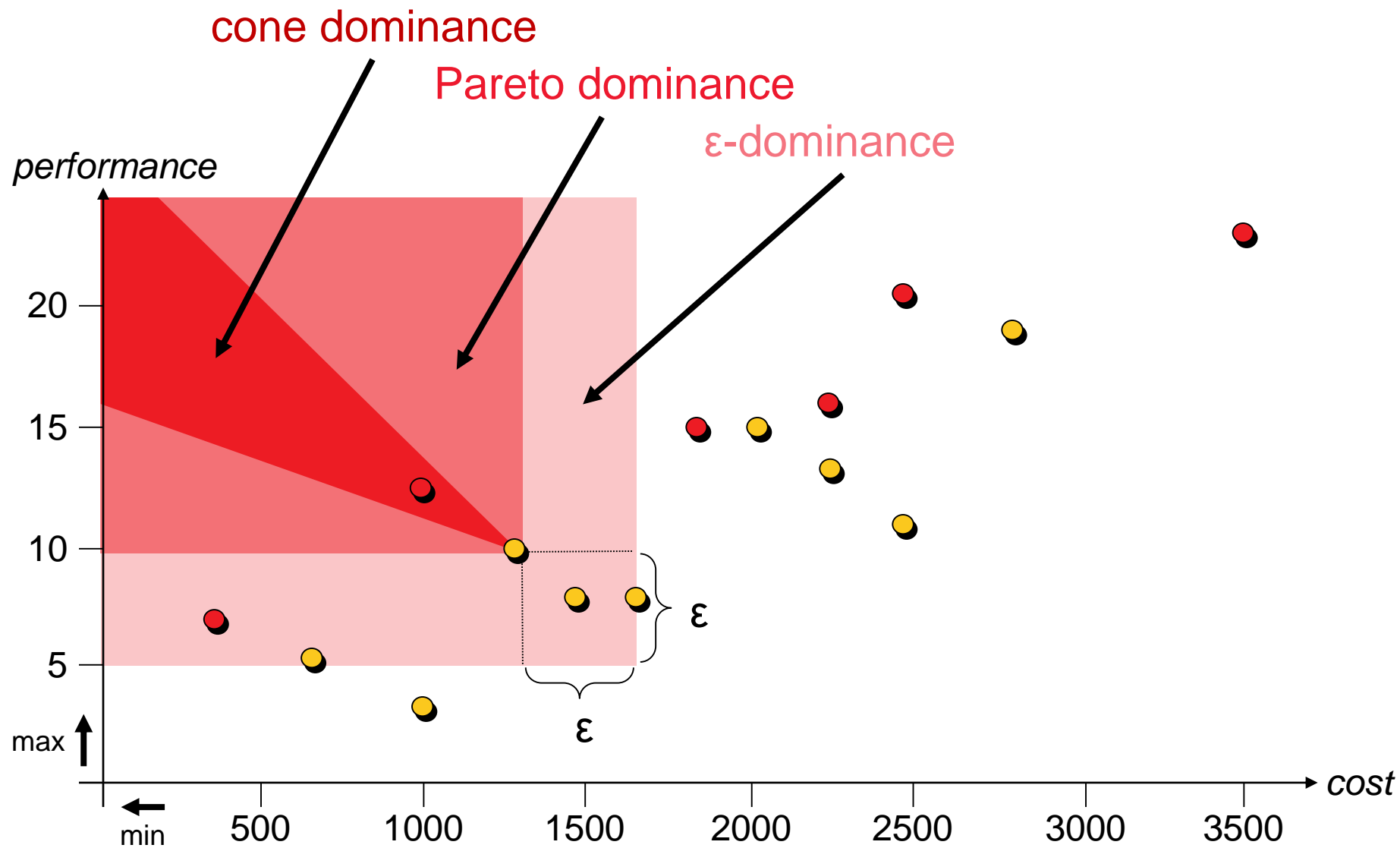
- reflexive and transitive
- minimal elements = Pareto-optimal solutions

If no *indifferent* solutions  $x \neq y$  with  $f(x) = f(y)$  exist, we have antisymmetry and a partial order ("poset")---visualizable as Hasse diagram.

**!** The Pareto dominance itself is not reflexive and thus, never a poset!



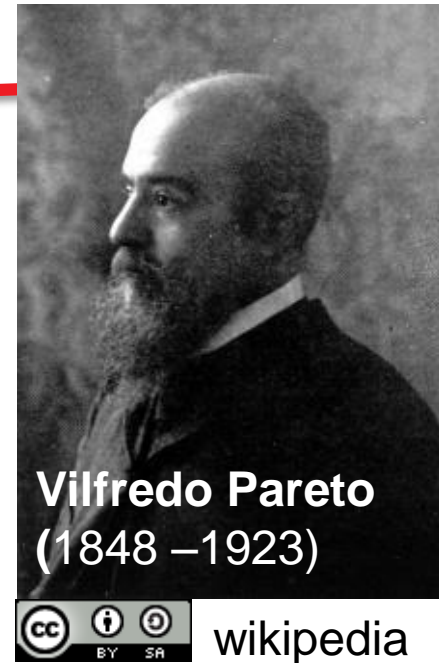
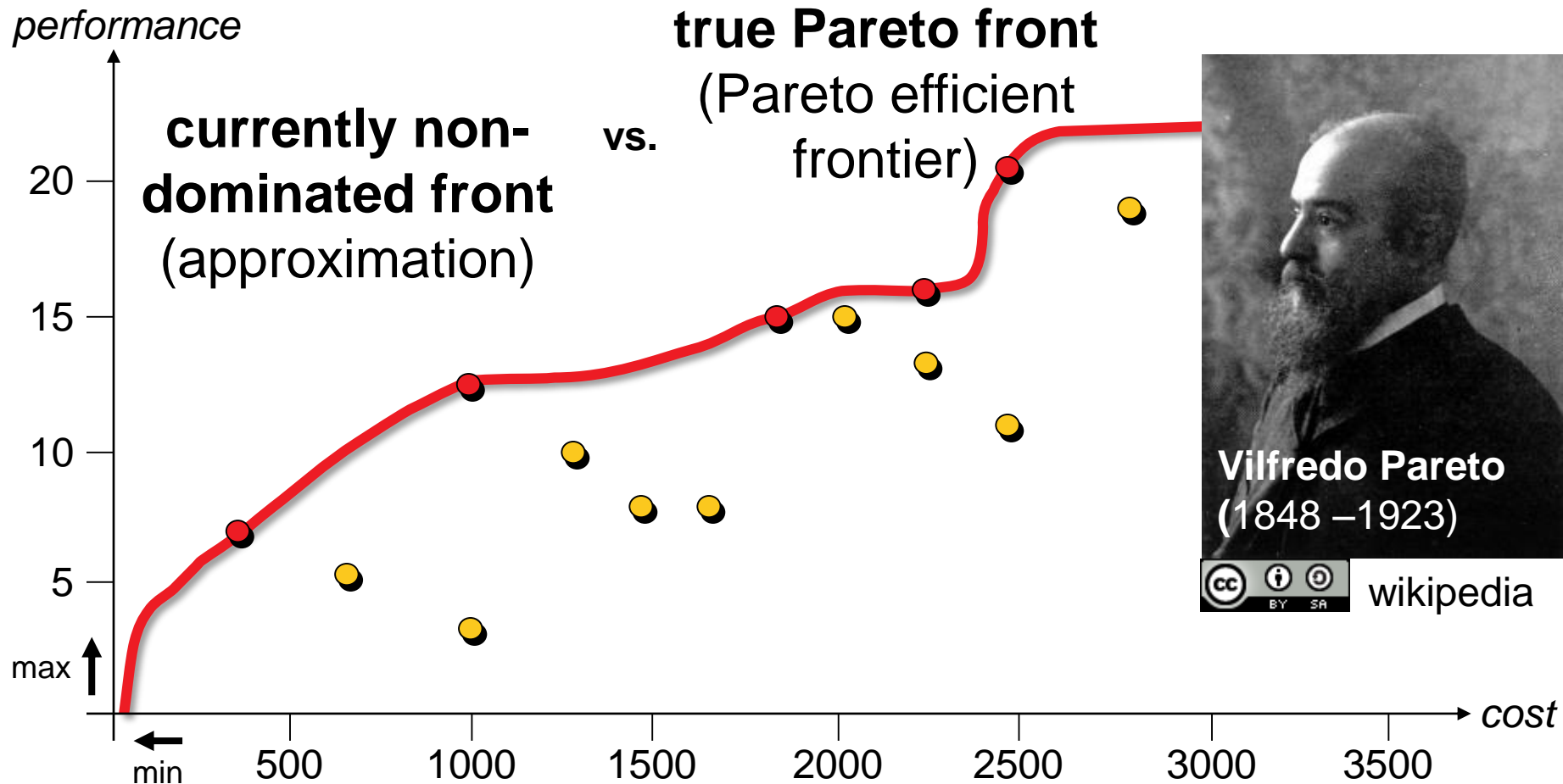
# A Brief Introduction to Multiobjective Optimization



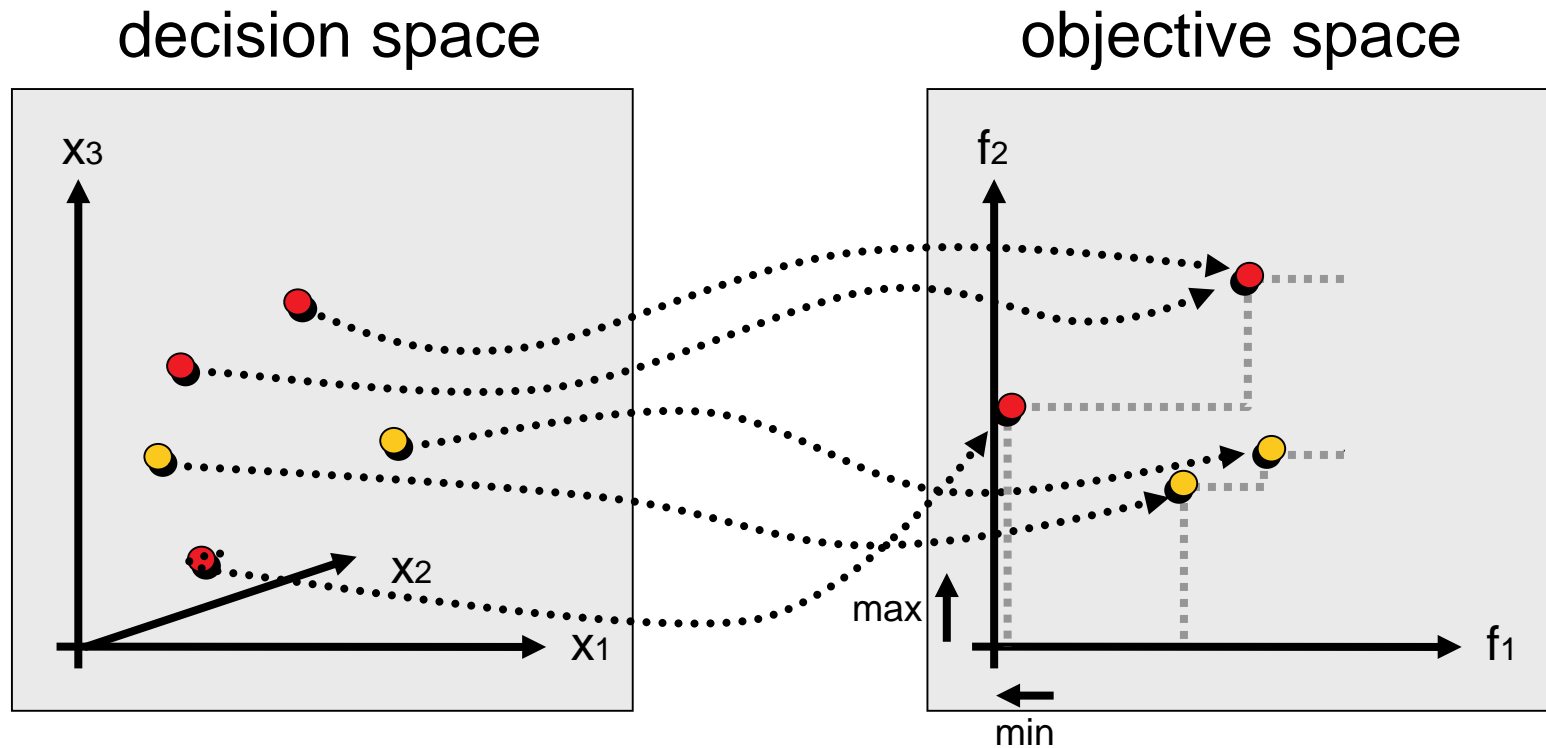
# A Brief Introduction to Multiobjective Optimization

**Pareto set:** set of all non-dominated solutions (decision space)

**Pareto front:** its image in the objective space



# A Brief Introduction to Multiobjective Optimization



solution of Pareto-optimal set    ● vector of Pareto-optimal front  
non-optimal **decision vector**    ● non-optimal **objective vector**

# Exercise 3: Pareto Front of Double Sphere

What is the Pareto set/front of the double sphere problem

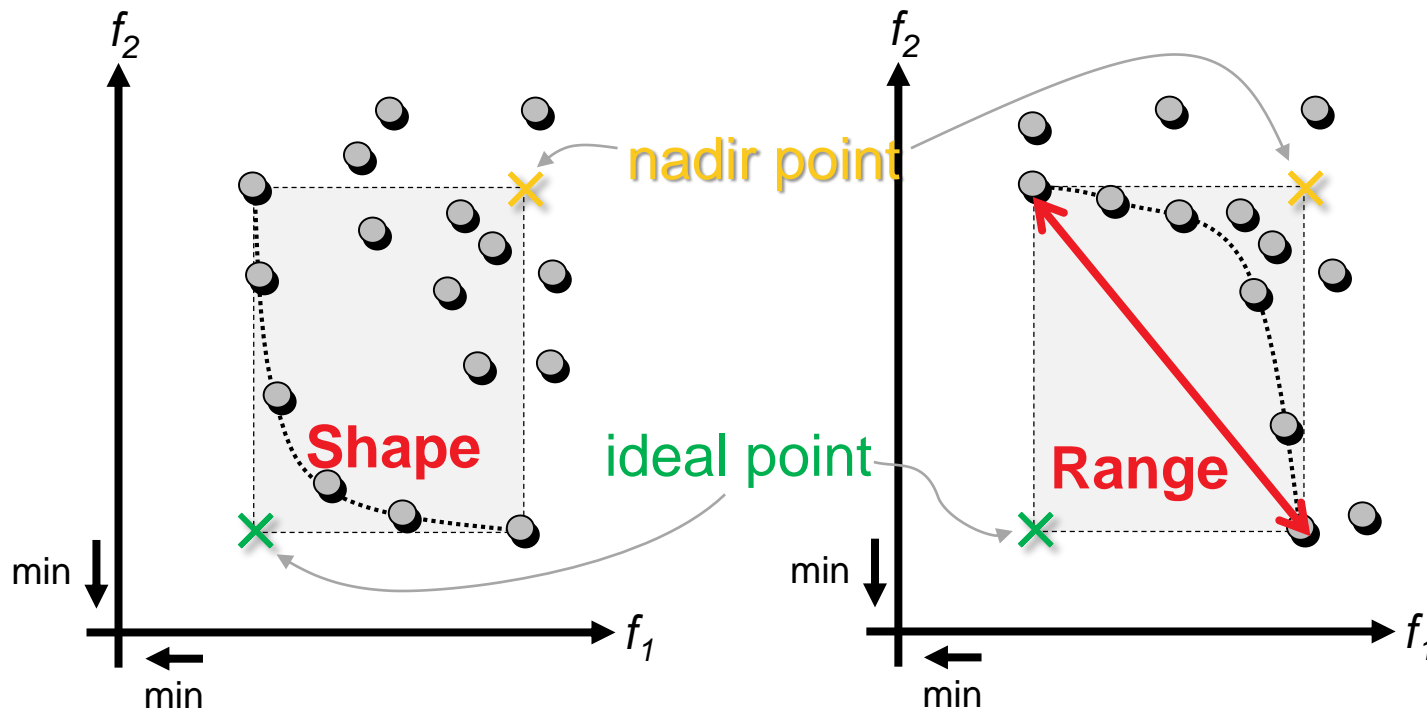
$$f_{\text{doublesphere}}: x \mapsto (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2, \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - 1)^2)$$

- a) what is the Pareto set?
- b) what is the associated Pareto front?

Tips for a)

- display some solutions in the search space (let's say in 2-D)
- investigate where dominating solutions lie
- investigate where dominated solutions lie
- finally, show graphically that what you think is the Pareto set is actually the Pareto set (take a point anywhere within your guessed set and show in which direction you can improve and where you cannot improve anymore)

# Ideal and Nadir Point



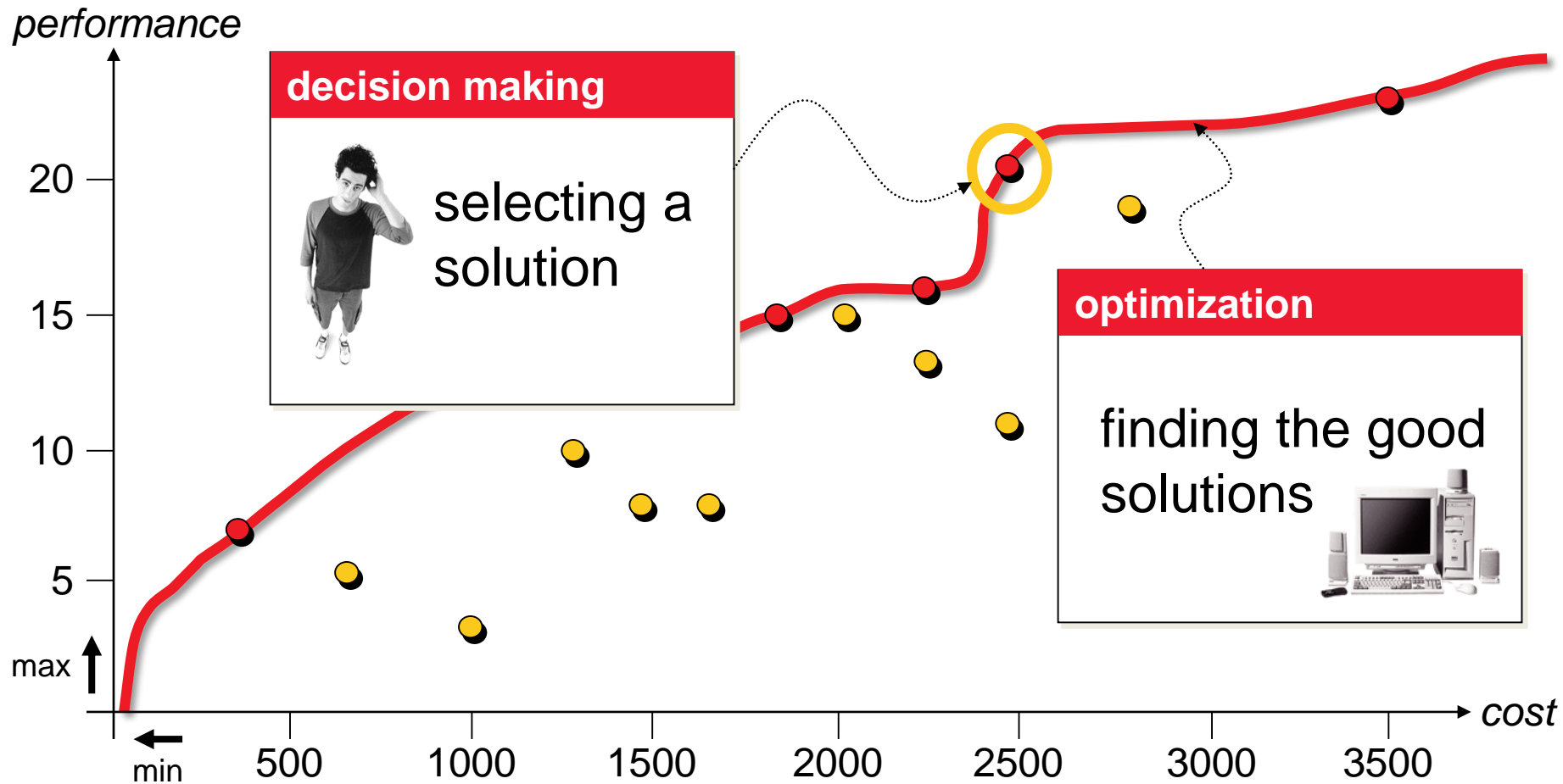
ideal point: best values  
nadir point: worst values

} obtained for *Pareto-optimal* points

# Optimization vs. Decision Making

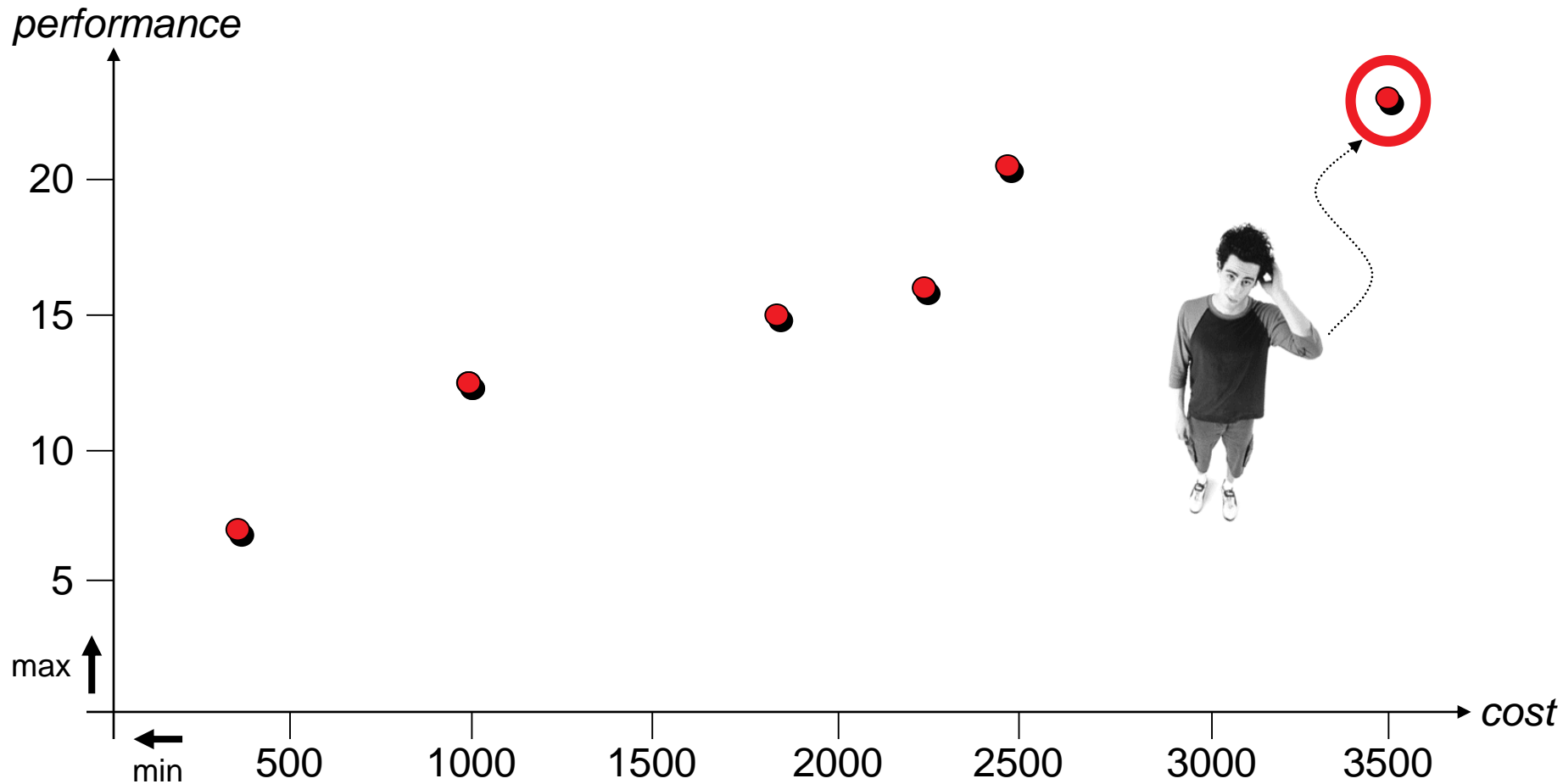
## Multiobjective Optimization

combination of optimization of a set and a decision for a solution



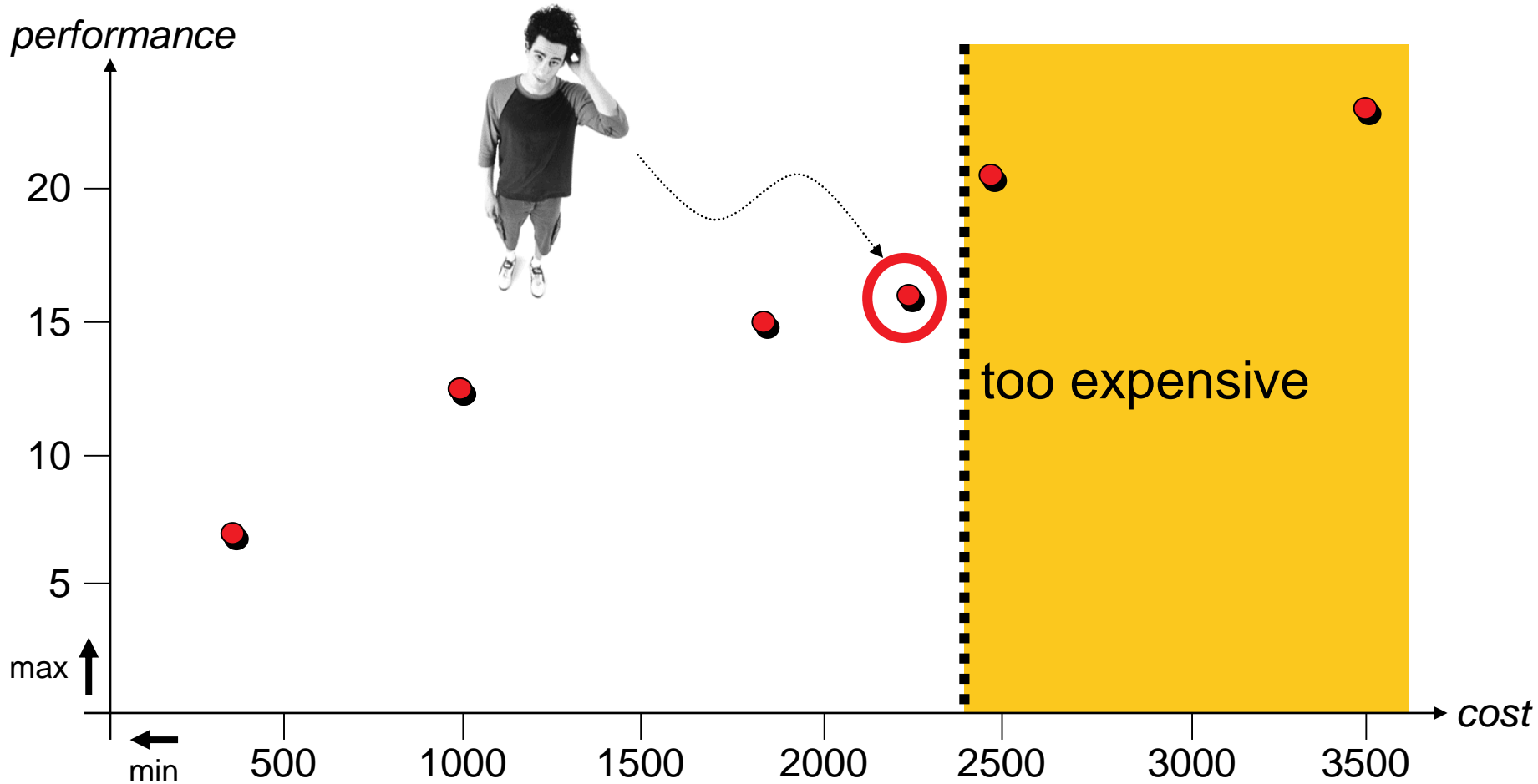
# Selecting a Solution: Examples

**Possible Approaches:** ① **ranking:** performance more important than cost



# Selecting a Solution: Examples

- Possible Approaches:**
- ① ranking: performance more important than cost
  - ② constraints: cost must not exceed 2400



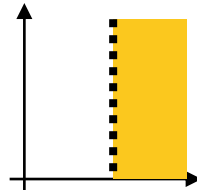


# When to Make the Decision

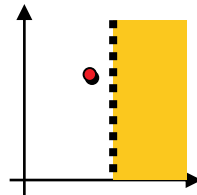
## Before Optimization:



rank objectives,  
define constraints,...



search for one  
(good) solution

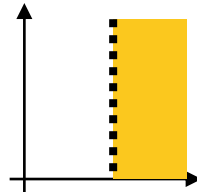


# When to Make the Decision

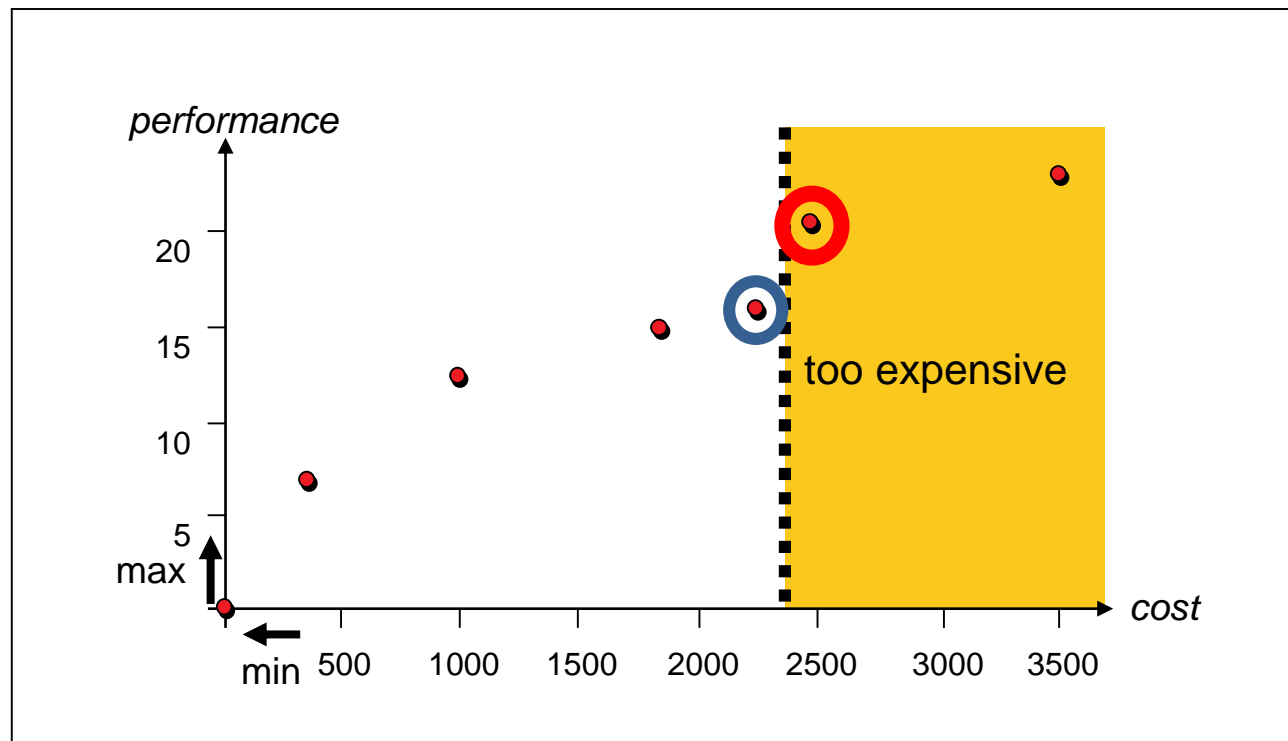
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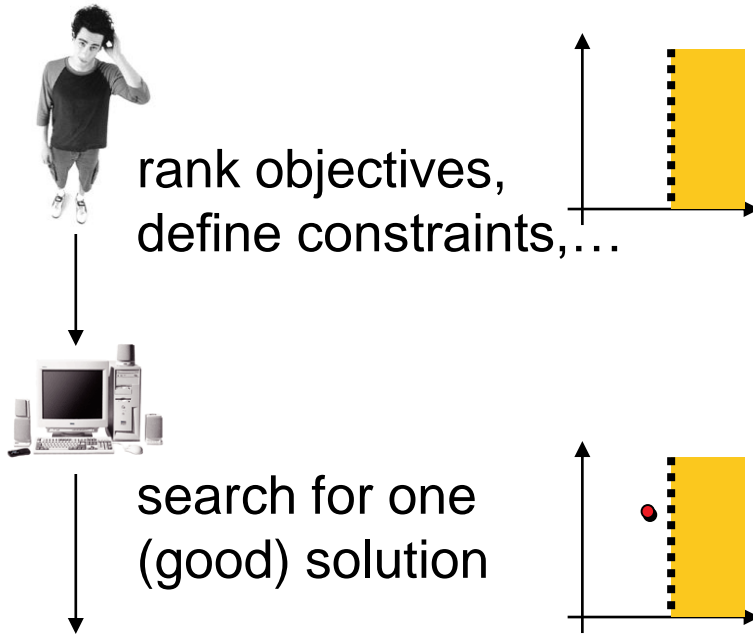


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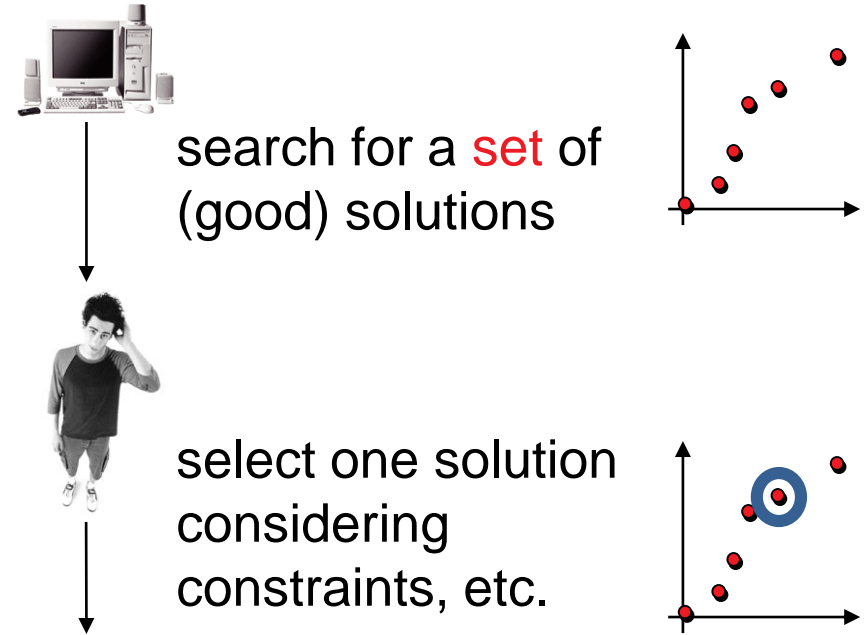


# When to Make the Decision

## Before Optimization:



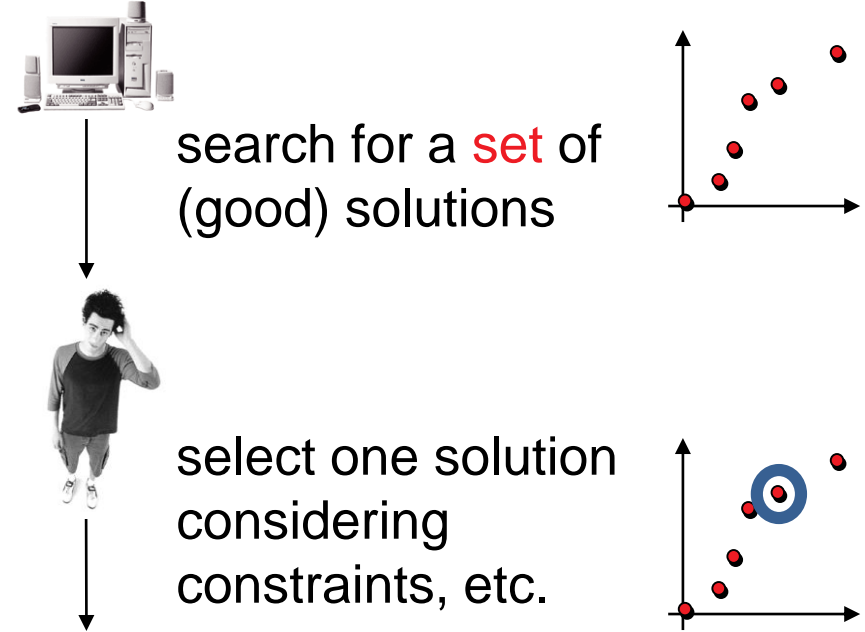
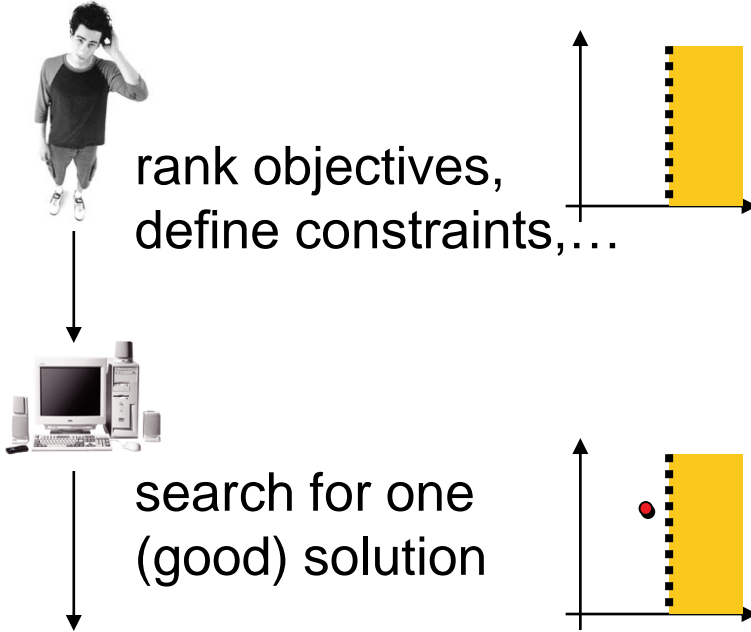
## After Optimization:



# When to Make the Decision

## Before Optimization:

## After Optimization:



**Focus:** learning about a problem

- trade-off surface
- interactions among criteria
- structural information
- also: interactive optimization

# Two Communities...



International Society on  
Multiple Criteria Decision Making

- established field (beginning in 1950s/1960s)
- bi-annual conferences since 1975
- background in economics, math, management and social sciences
- focus on optimization and decision making



- quite young field (first papers in mid 1980s)
- bi-annual conference since 2001
- background in computer science, applied math and engineering
- focus on optimization algorithms

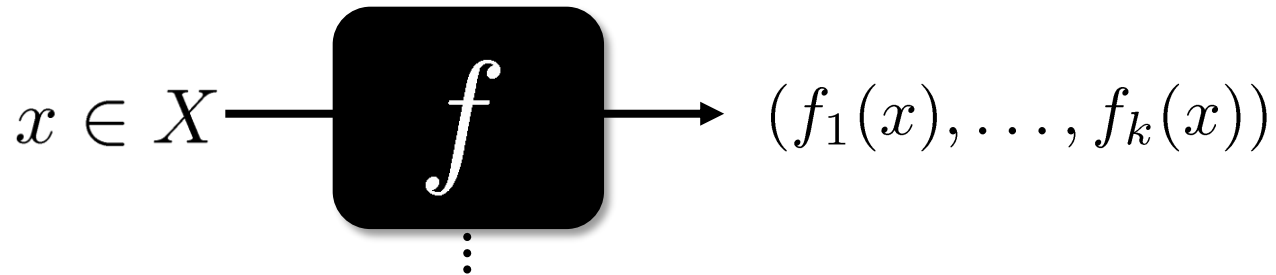
# ...Slowly Merge Into One



- MCDM track at EMO conference since 2009
- special sessions on EMO at the MCDM conference since 2008
- joint Dagstuhl seminars since 2004

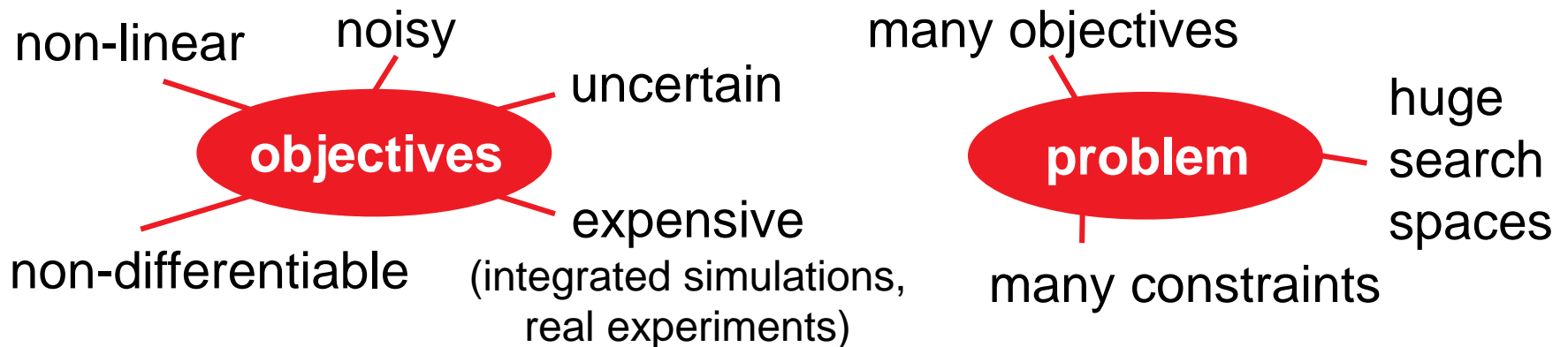
# One of the Main Differences

## Blackbox optimization



only mild assumptions

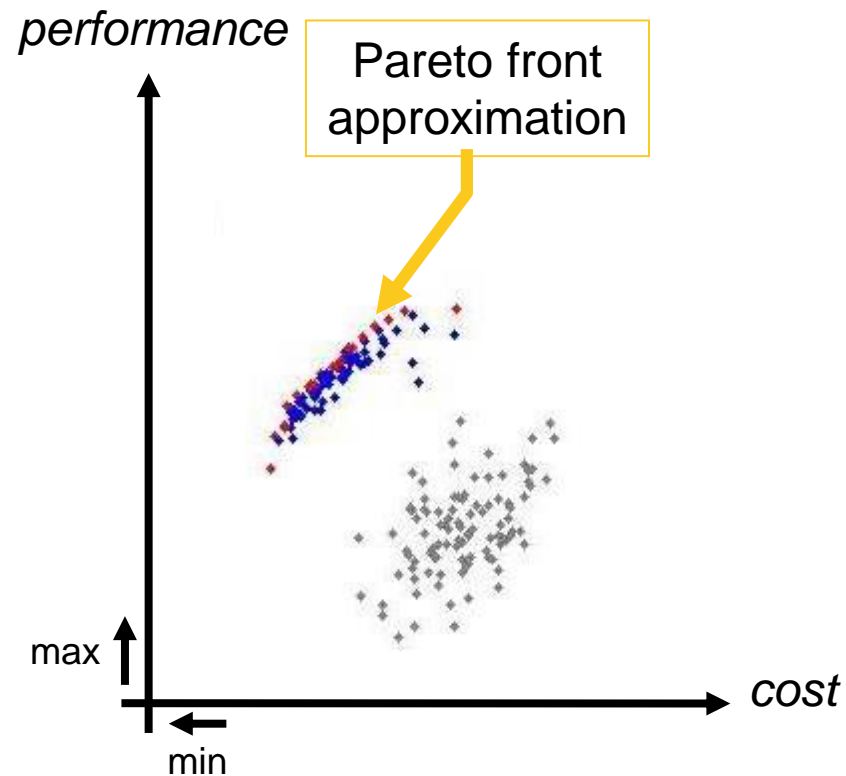
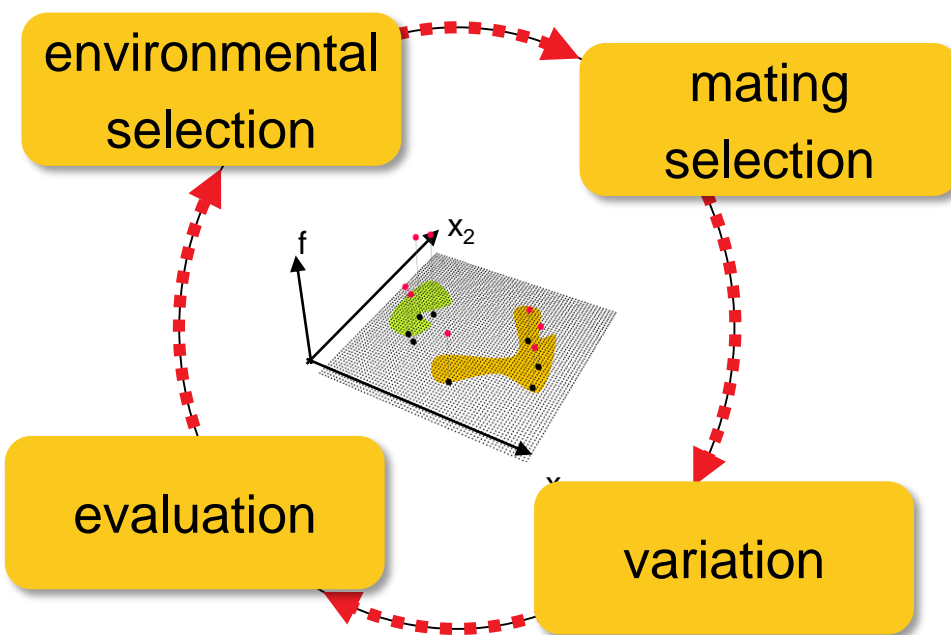
→ EMO therefore well-suited for real-world engineering problems



# The Other Main Difference

## Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization

- set-based algorithms
- therefore possible to approximate the Pareto front in one run



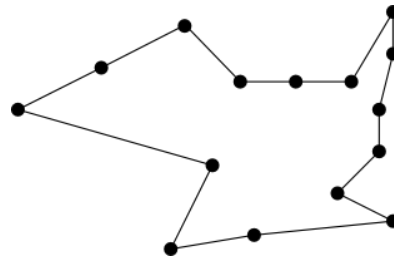


# Multiobjectivization

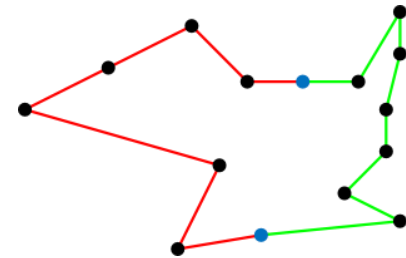
Some problems are easier to solve in a multiobjective scenario

example: TSP

[Knowles et al. 2001]



$$\pi \in S_n \rightarrow f(\pi)$$



$$\pi \in S_n \rightarrow (f_1(\pi, a, b), f_2(\pi, a, b))$$

## Multiobjectivization

by **addition** of new “helper objectives” [Jensen 2004]

job-shop scheduling [Jensen 2004], frame structural design [Greiner et al. 2007], VRP [Watanabe and Sakakibara 2007], ...

by **decomposition** of the single objective

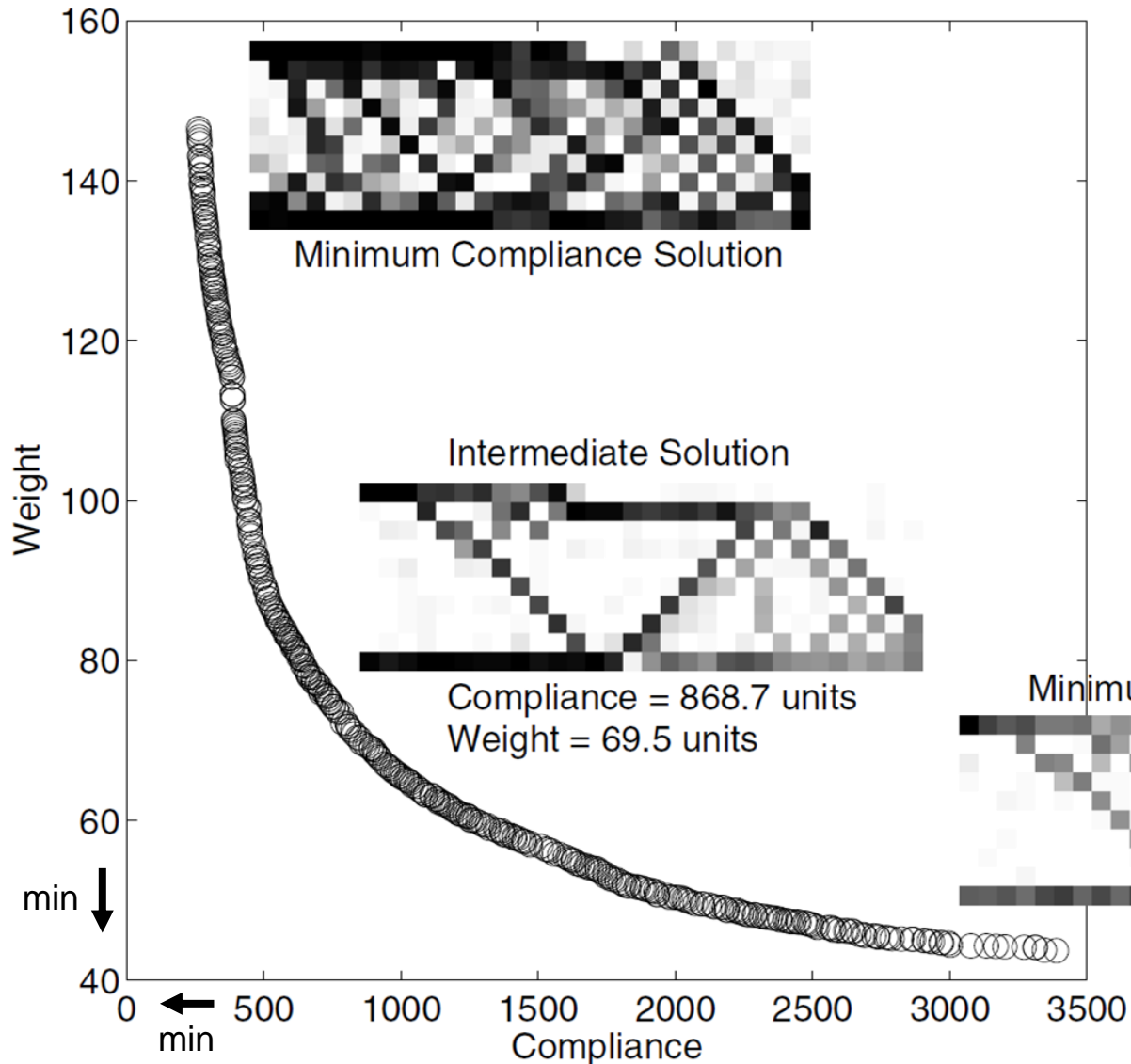
TSP [Knowles et al. 2001], minimum spanning trees [Neumann and Wegener 2006], protein structure prediction [Handl et al. 2008a], ...

also backed up by theory e.g. [Brockhoff et al. 2009, Handl et al. 2008b]

related to **constrained** and **multimodal** single-objective optimization

see also this recent overview: [Segura et al. 2013]

Often innovative design principles among solutions are found



Example:  
Cantilever beam  
topology optimization  
[Bandaru and Deb 2015]

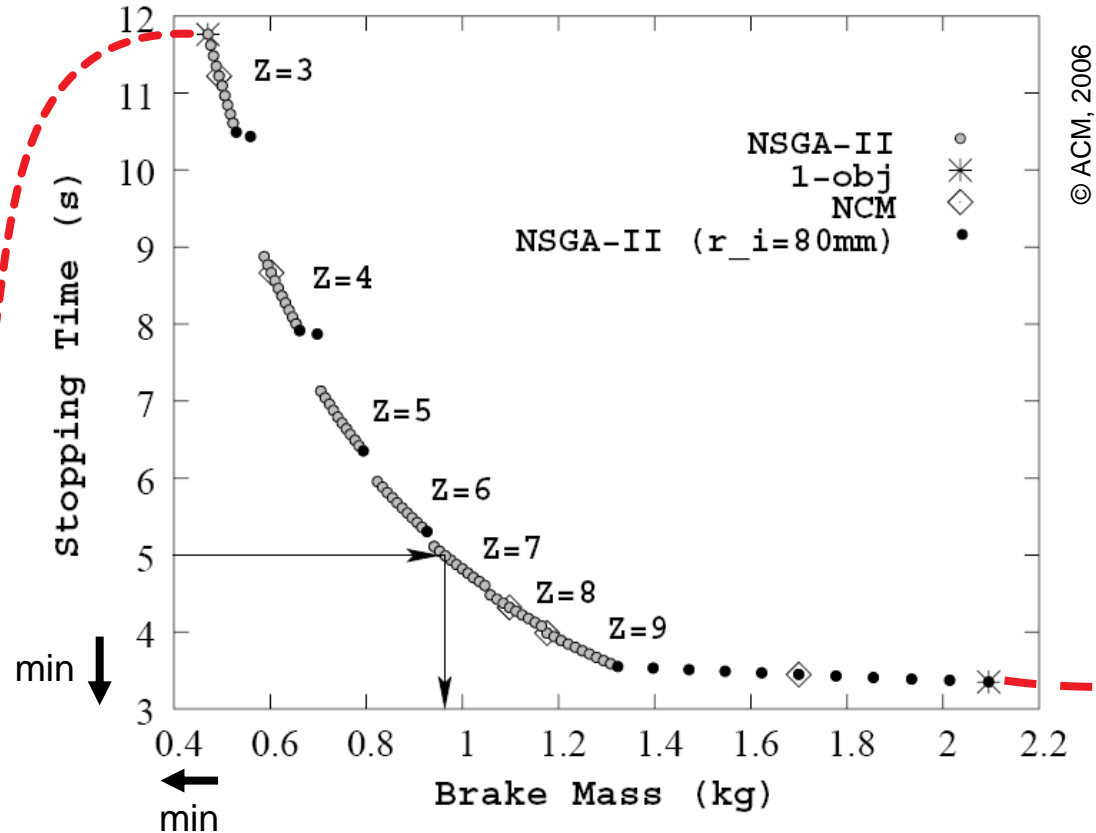
# Innovization

Often innovative design principles among solutions are found

Example:

Clutch brake design

[Deb and Srinivasan 2006]



Solution	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$f_1$	$f_2$
Min. $f_1$	70	90	1.5	1000	3	0.4704	11.7617
Min. $f_2$	80	110	1.5	1000	9	2.0948	3.3505

Often innovative design principles among solutions are found

## **Innovization** [Deb and Srinivasan 2006]

- = using machine learning techniques to find new and innovative design principles among solution sets
- = learning from/about a multiobjective optimization problem

## **Other examples:**

- Self-Organizing Maps for supersonic wing design [Obayashi and Sasaki 2003]
- Biclustering for processor design and knapsack [Ulrich et al. 2007]
- Successful case studies in engineering  
(noise barrier design, polymer extrusion, friction stir welding)  
[Deb et al. 2014]

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## The Big Picture

### Basic Principles of Multiobjective Optimization

- algorithm design principles and concepts
- performance assessment

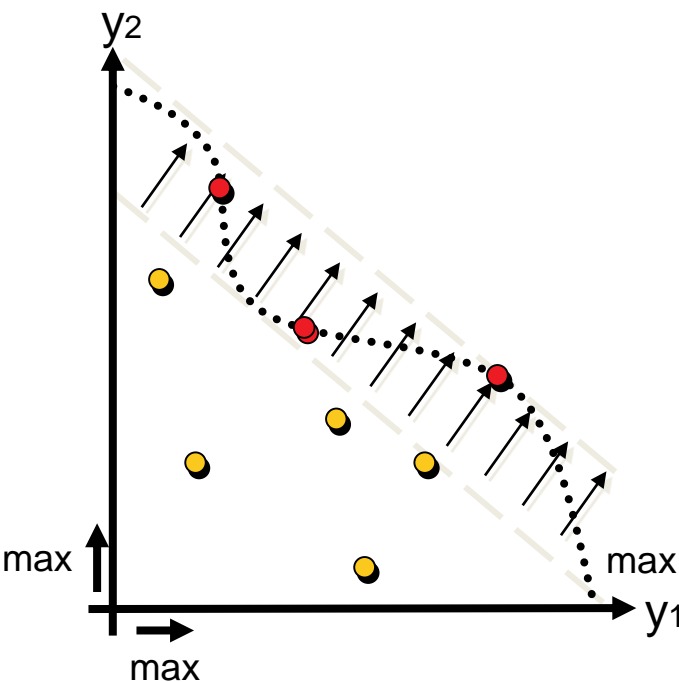
### Selected Advanced Concepts

- preference articulation
- visualization aspects

# Approaches to Multiobjective Optimization

## aggregation-based

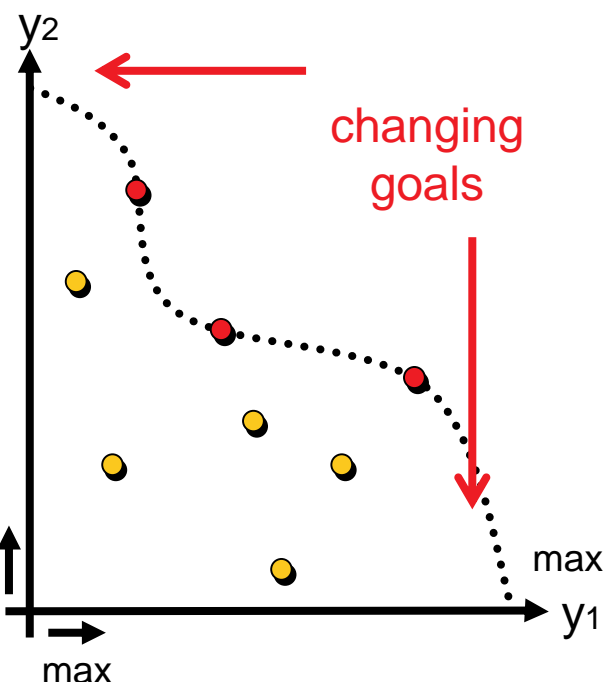
*problem decomposition  
(multiple single-objective  
optimization problems)*



solution-oriented  
scaling-dependent

## criterion-based

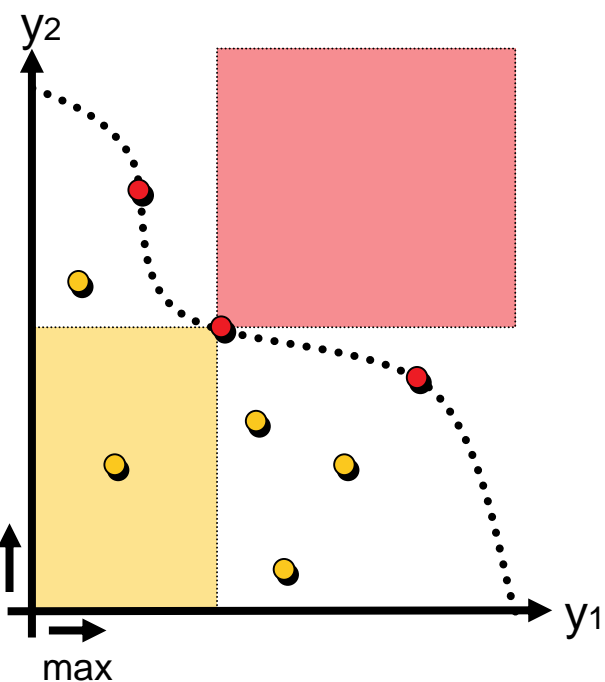
*VEGA*



less scaling-independent

## dominance-based

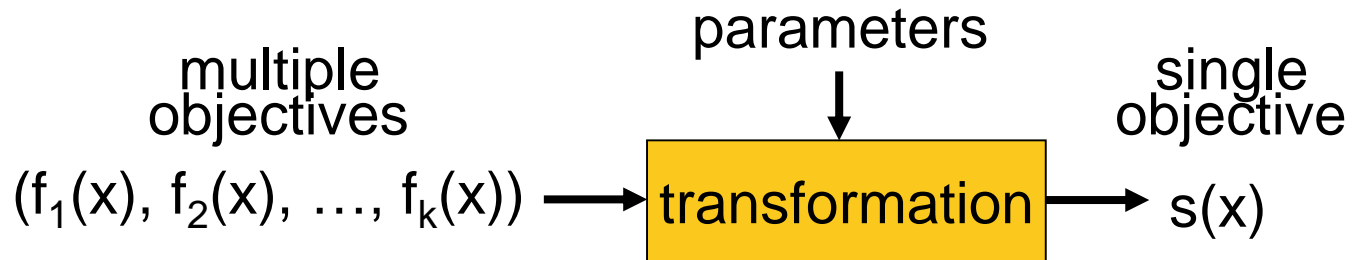
*SPEA2, NSGA-II  
"modern" EMOA*



set-oriented

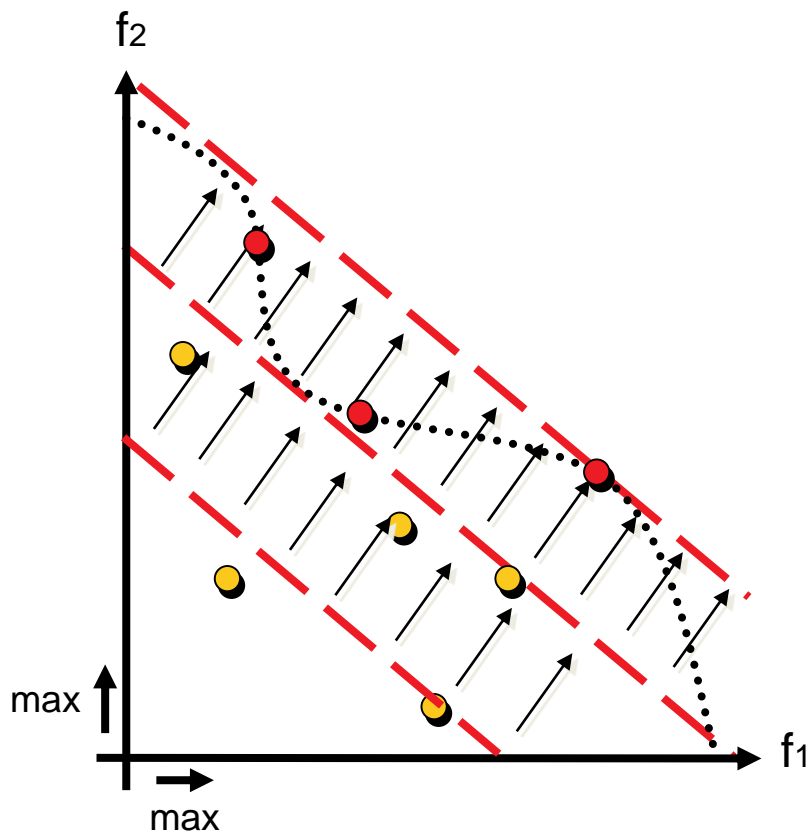
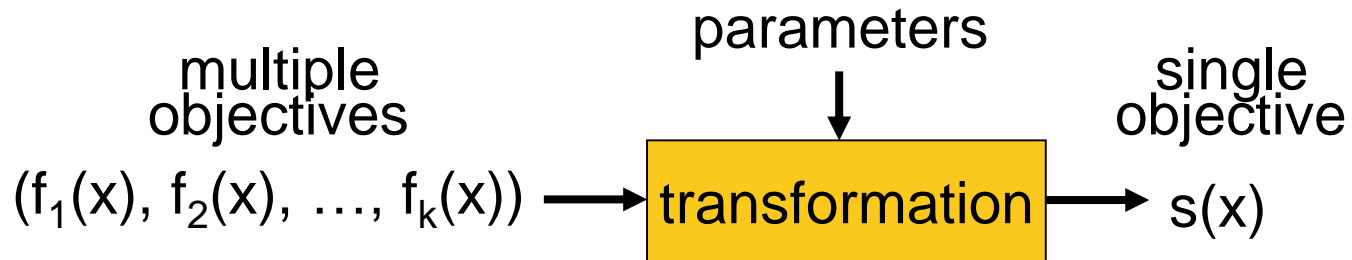


# Solution-Oriented Problem Transformations

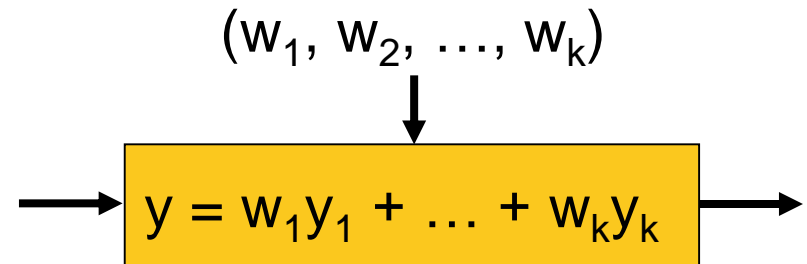


A scalarizing function  $s$  is a function  $s : Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that maps each objective vector  $u = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in Z$  to a real value  $s(u) \in \mathbb{R}$ .

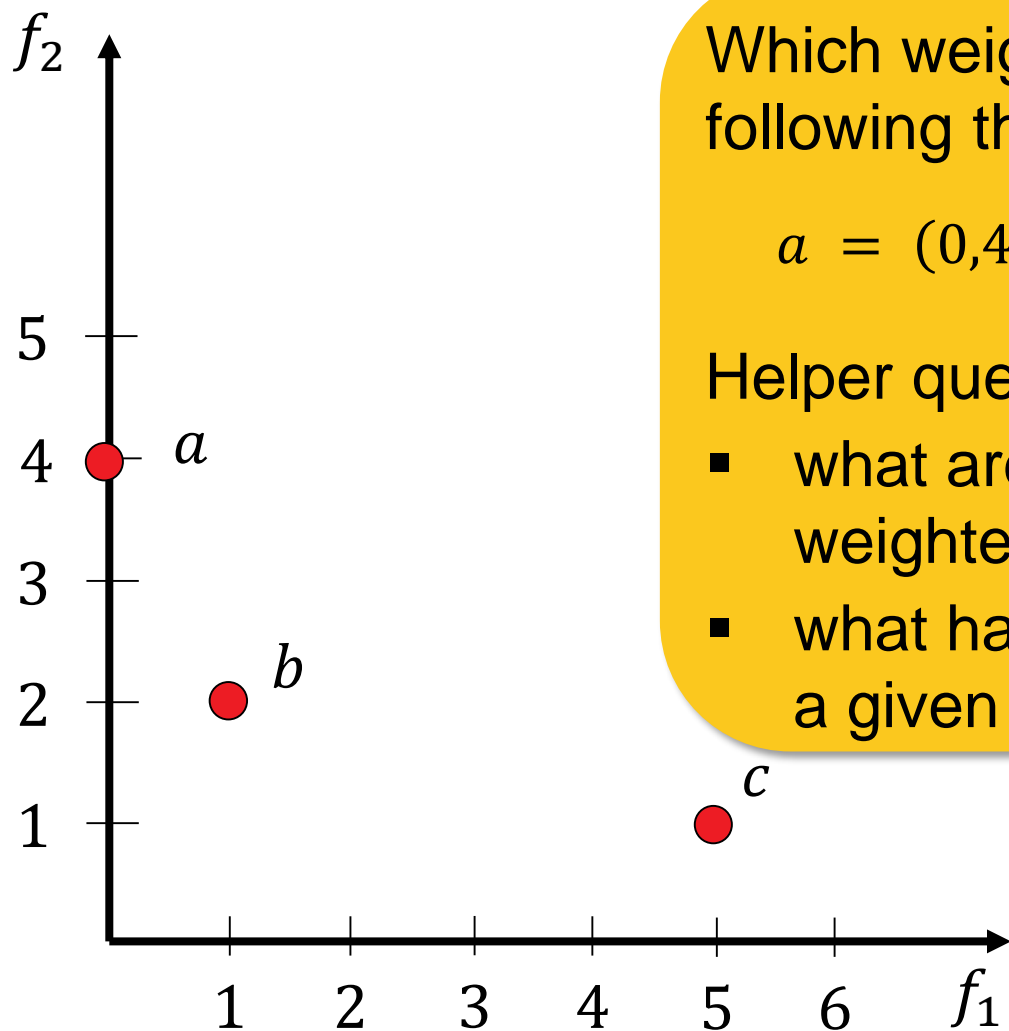
# Solution-Oriented Problem Transformations



**Example 1:** weighted sum approach



# Exercise 4: Weighted Sum



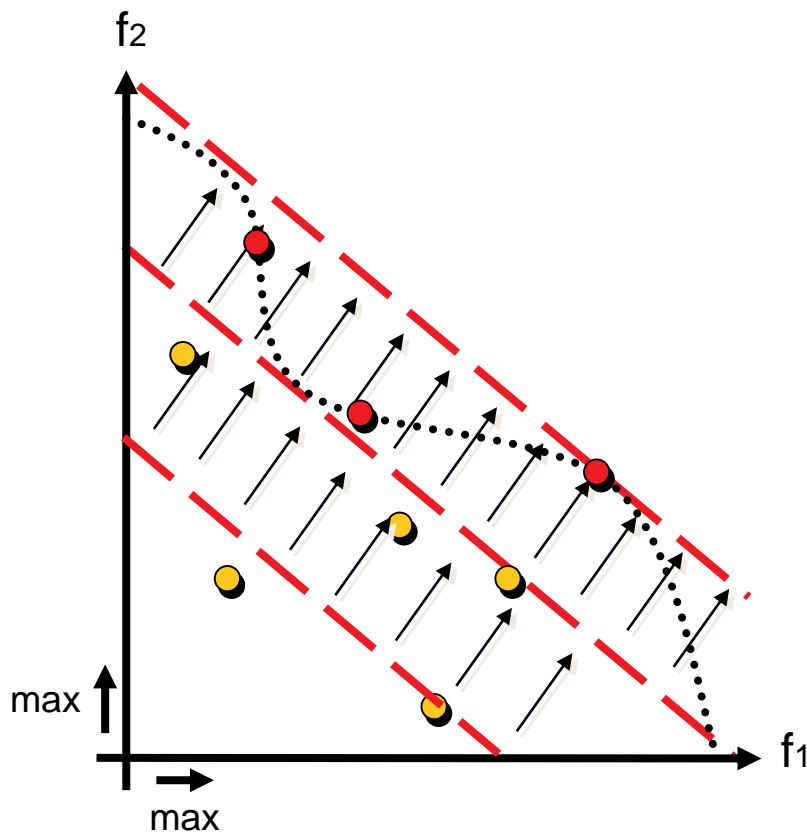
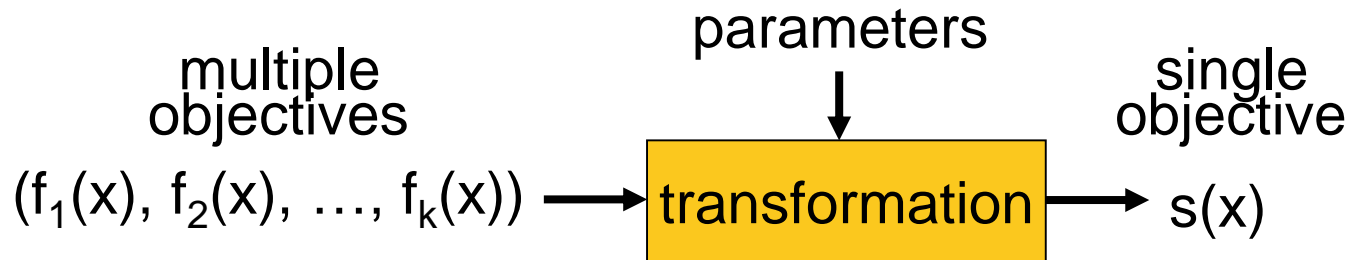
Which weights are optimal for the following three points?

$$a = (0,4) \quad b = (1,2) \quad c = (5,1)$$

Helper questions:

- what are the lines of equal weighted sum for a given weight?
- what happens if you optimize wrt. a given weighted sum?

# Solution-Oriented Problem Transformations



**Example 1:** weighted sum approach

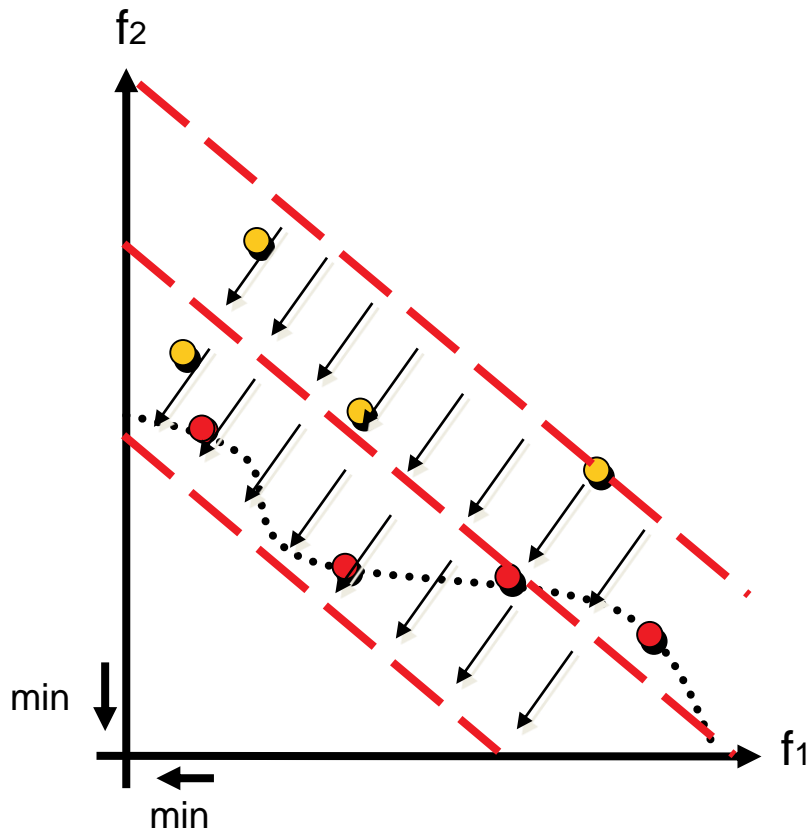
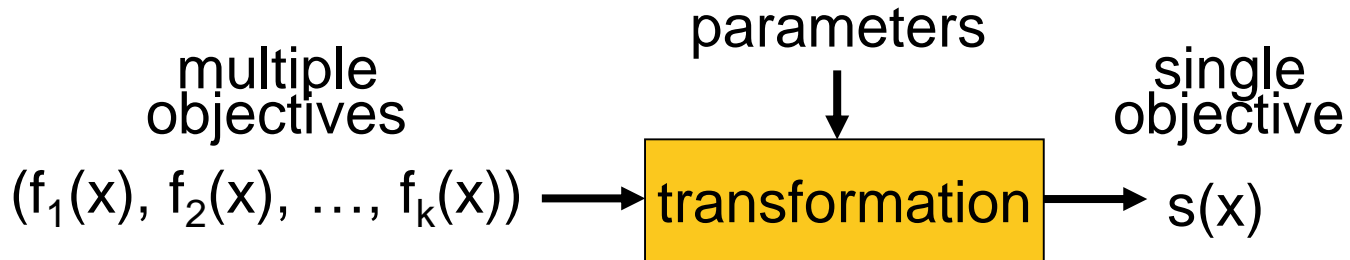
$(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k)$

↓

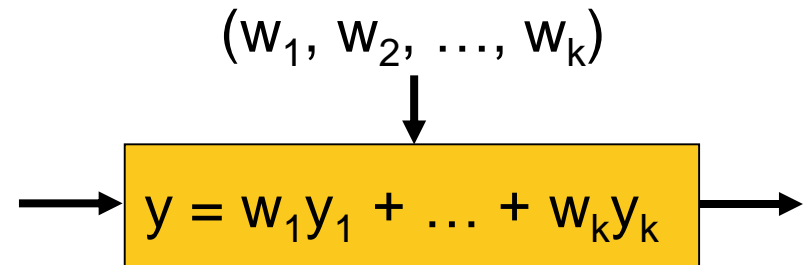
$y = w_1 y_1 + \dots + w_k y_k$

**Disadvantage:** not all Pareto-optimal solutions can be found if the front is not concave (for maximization)

# Solution-Oriented Problem Transformations

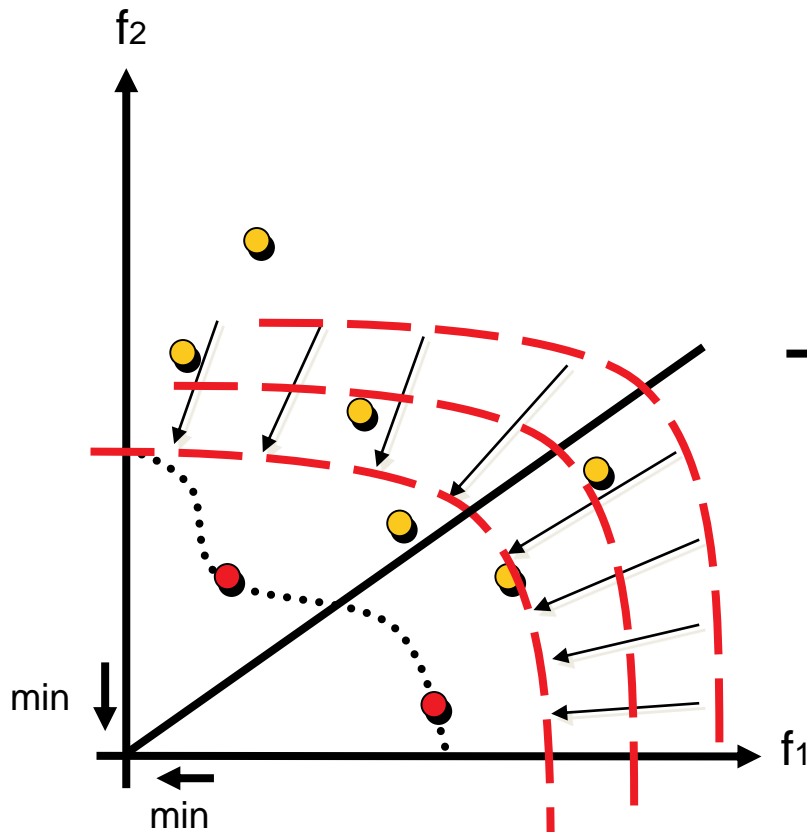
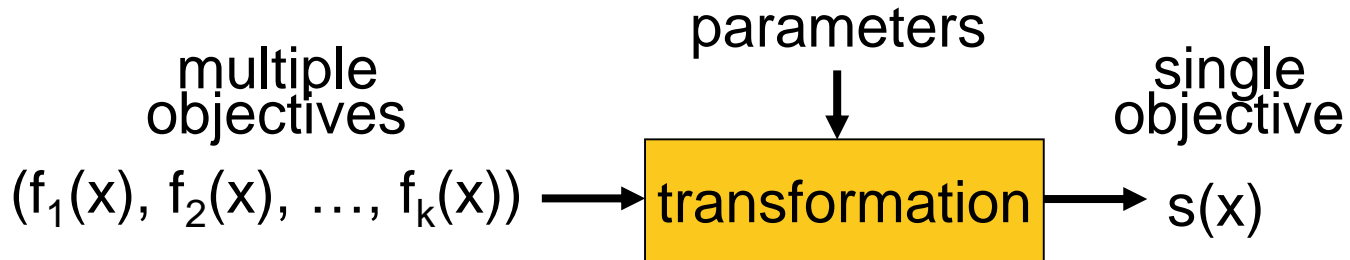


**Example 1:** weighted sum approach



**Disadvantage:** not all Pareto-optimal solutions can be found if the front is not convex (for minimization)

# Solution-Oriented Problem Transformations



## Example 2: weighted p-norm

$(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k)$

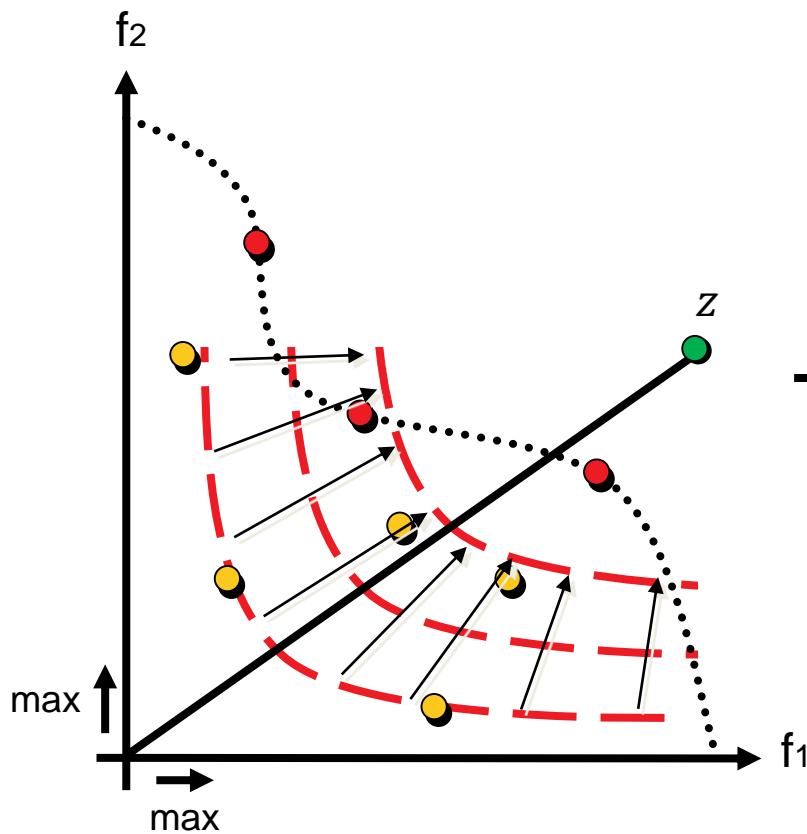
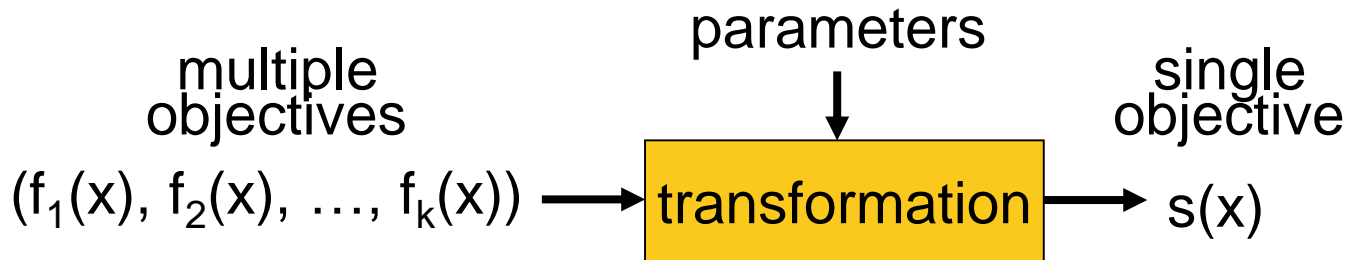
↓

$y = \sqrt[p]{(w_1 y_1)^p + \dots + (w_k y_k)^p}$

$p = 1$ : weighted sum

$p = \infty$ : weighted Tchebycheff

# Solution-Oriented Problem Transformations



## Example 2: weighted p-norm

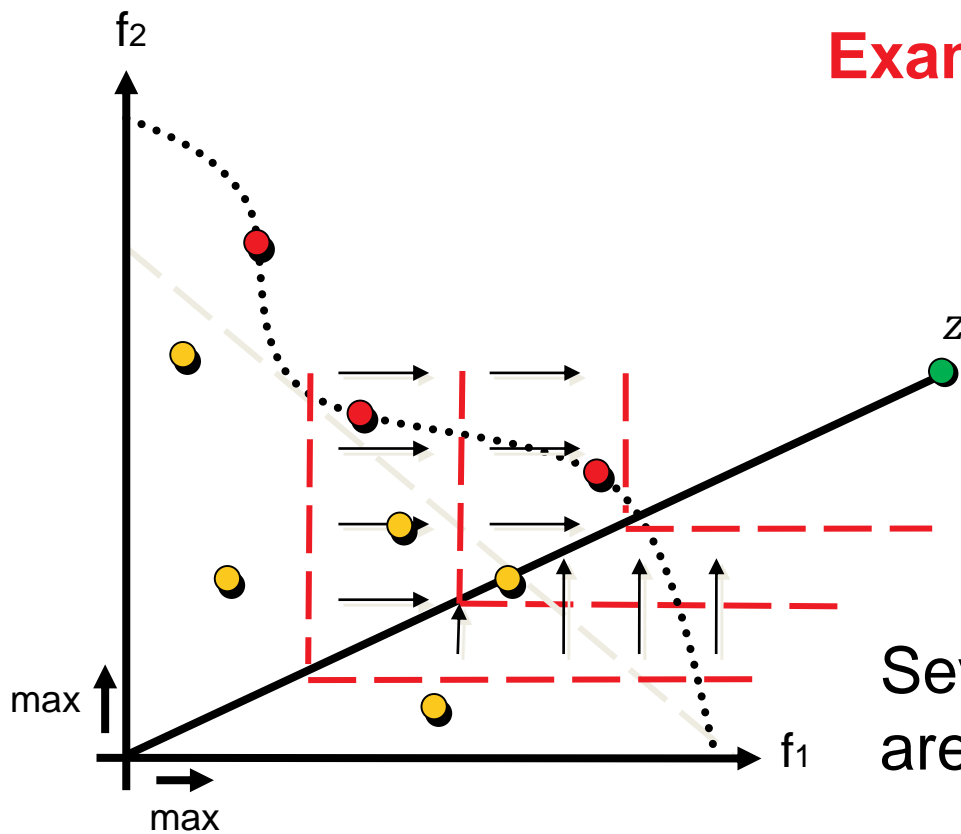
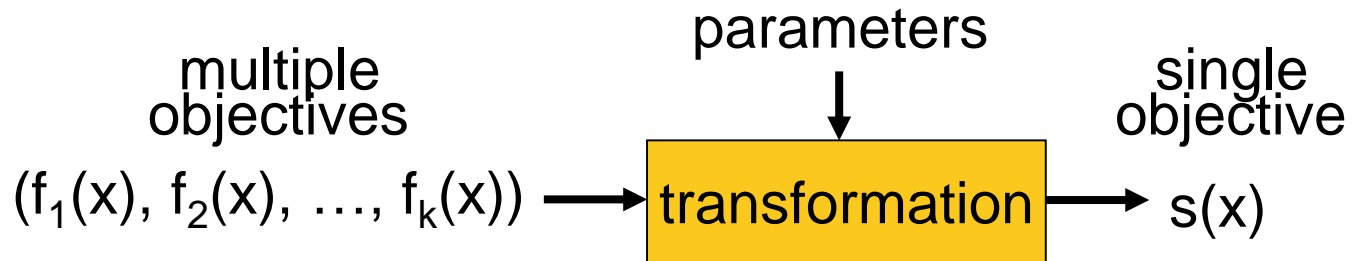
$(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k)$

$$y = \sqrt[p]{\sum_{i=1}^k (|w_i(y_i - z_i)|)^p}$$

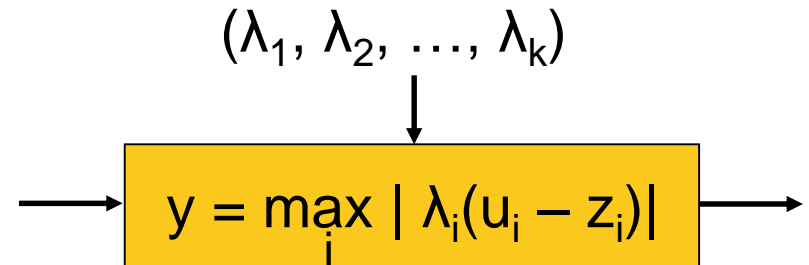
$p = 1$ : weighted sum

$p = \infty$ : weighted Tchebycheff

# Solution-Oriented Problem Transformations



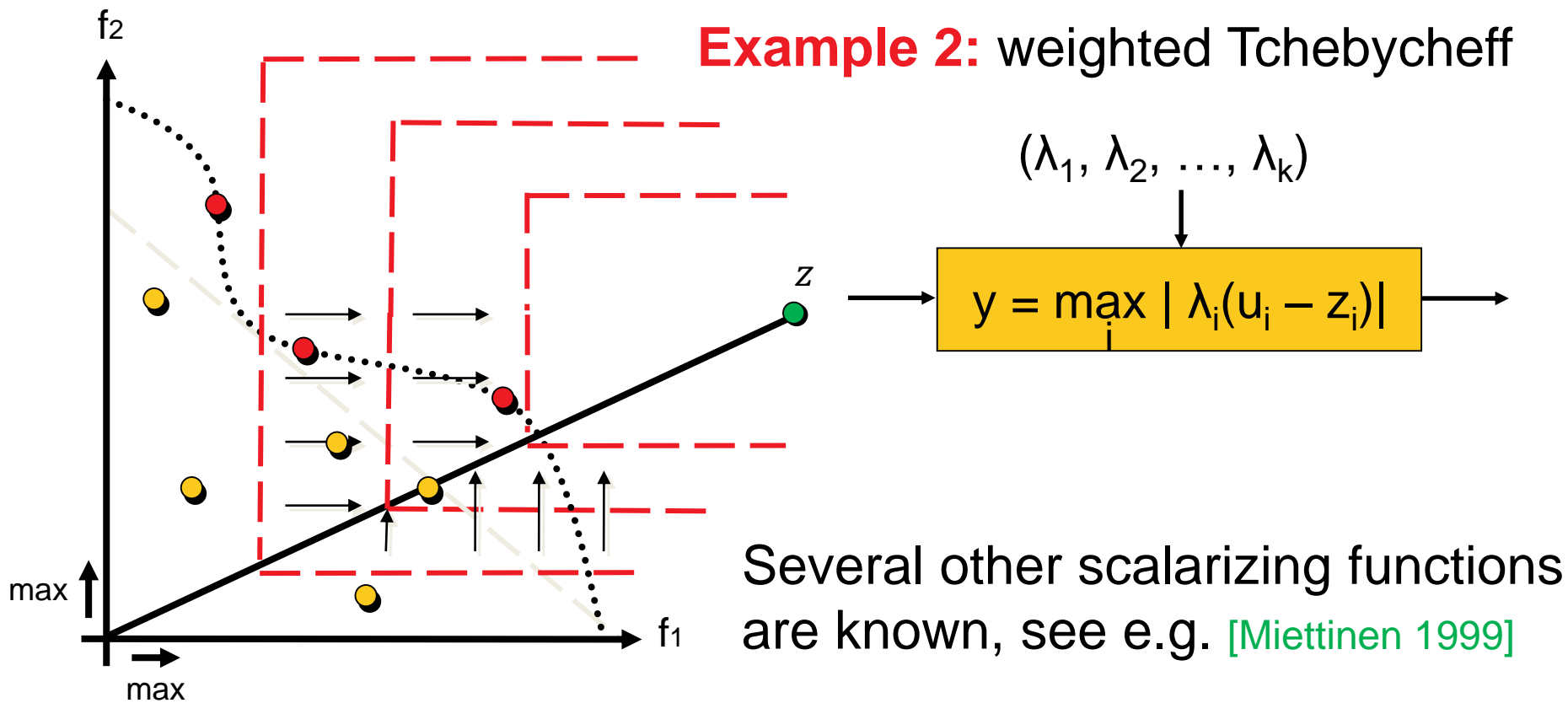
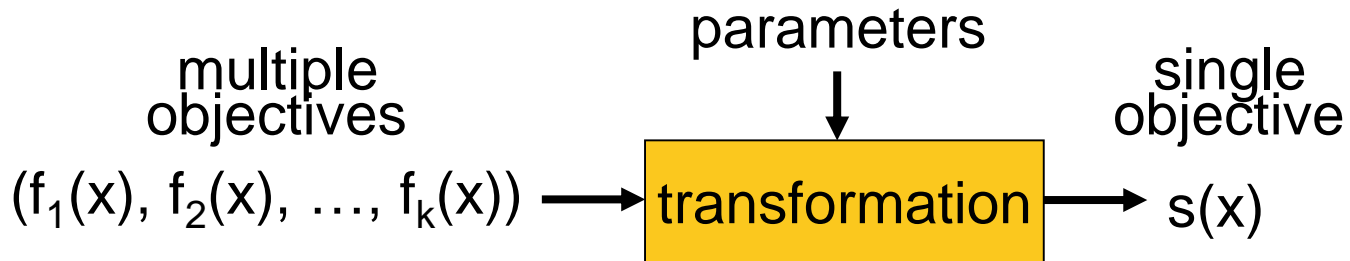
**Example 2:** weighted Tchebycheff



Several other scalarizing functions are known, see e.g. [\[Miettinen 1999\]](#)



# Solution-Oriented Problem Transformations



# **Exercise: Benchmarking a Weighted Sum Approach on COCO**

# Exercise

## Goal: Implement a Simple Weighted Sum Approach:

- N scalarizing functions, optimized with CMA-ES
- Python: use CMA-ES after `pip install cma` (more details here: <https://pypi.python.org/pypi/cma>)
- use ask and tell interface (next slide)
- CMA-ES parameters as default (with  $\sigma_{init} = 3$  and initialized in  $[-5,5]$ )
- no details given about:
  - how to normalize the objectives and estimate  $z$
  - the order in which the N scalarizing functions are optimized
  - how to do restarts and how to distribute the budget

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Goal:

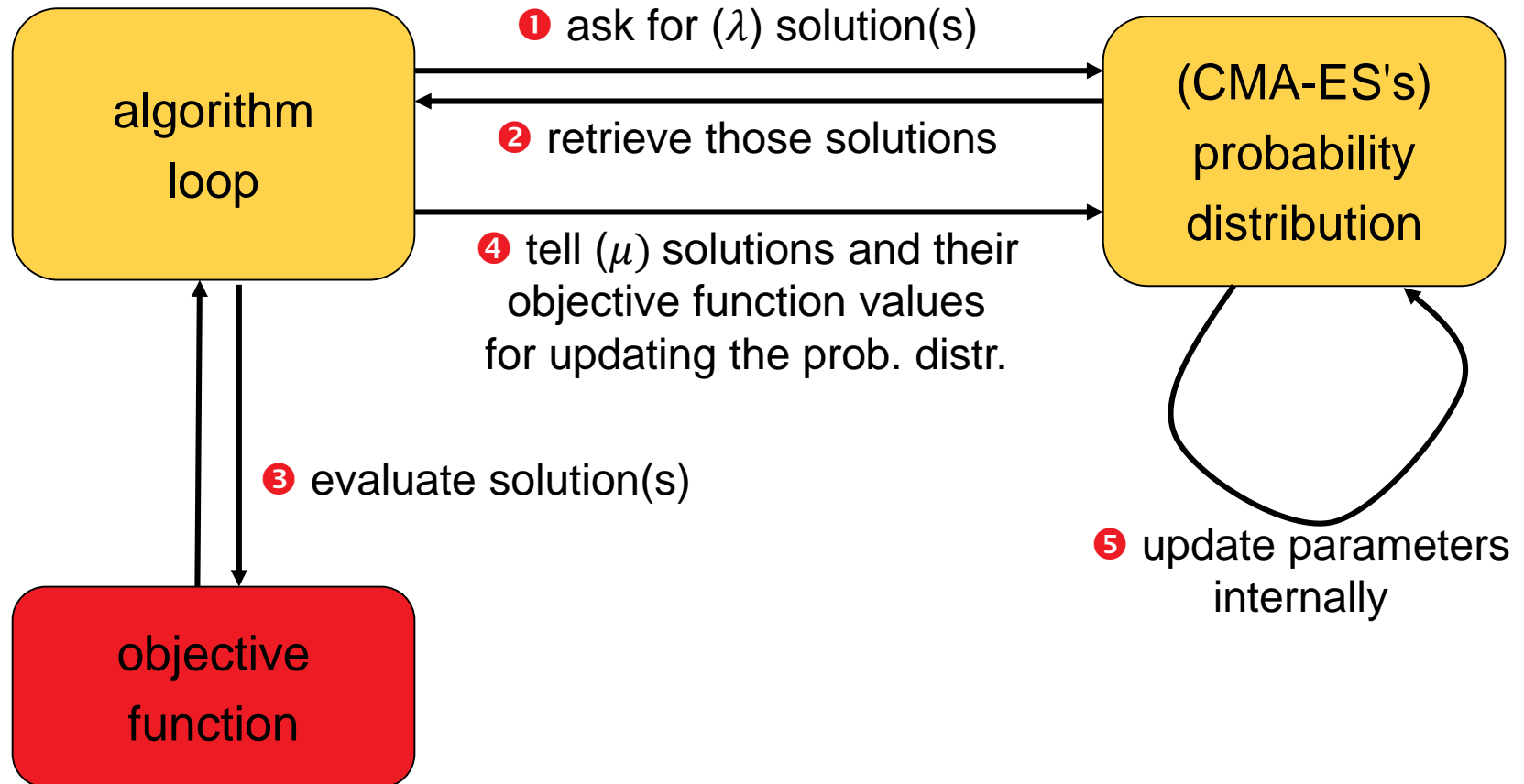
- produce data for the new **bbob-biobj-ext** suite
- hence, interested in your evaluations

# The Idea of the Ask&Tell Interface to Optimization

example from the CMA-ES web page:

```
>>> import cma
>>> es = cma.CMAEvolutionStrategy(12 * [0], 0.5)
>>> while not es.stop():
...     solutions = es.ask()
...     es.tell(solutions,
...             [cma.fcts.rosen(x) for x in solutions])
...     es.logger.add() # write data to disc
...                     to be plotted
...     es.disp()
<output omitted>
>>> es.result_pretty()
<output omitted>
>>> cma.plot() # shortcut for es.logger.plot()
```

# Ask&Tell with CMA-ES (Visually)



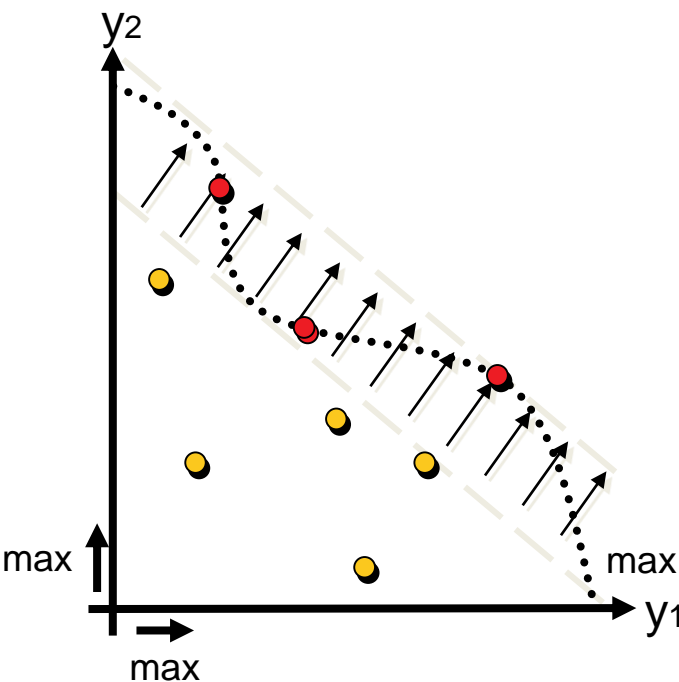
# Exercise: concrete

- a) download COCO (release 2.0) from `https://github.com/numbbo/coco/`
- b) install and test it via `python do.py run-python`
- c) run the previous example code of CMA-ES (e.g. in ipython shell) to get an idea how it works
- d) start your implementation of a weighted sum optimizer from `researchers.lille.inria.fr/~brockhof/advancedOptSaclay/2016/exercises/example_experiment-WS.py` within the function `def weighted_sum(fun, budget)`  
**tip: start simple and extend!**
- e) run the experiments by typing `python example_experiment-WS.py bbob-biobj-ext BUDGET` with **BUDGET** any integer (start small and then increase) and send all data to me by email 😊

# Approaches to Multiobjective Optimization

## aggregation-based

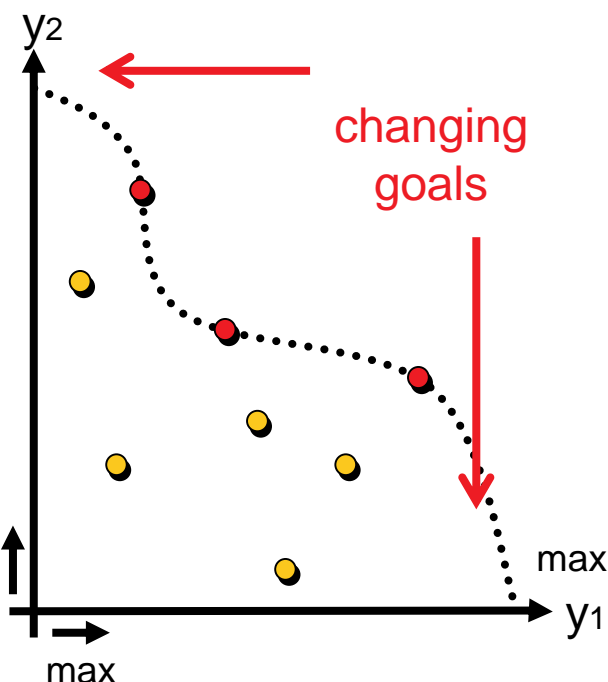
*problem decomposition  
(multiple single-objective  
optimization problems)*



solution-oriented  
scaling-dependent

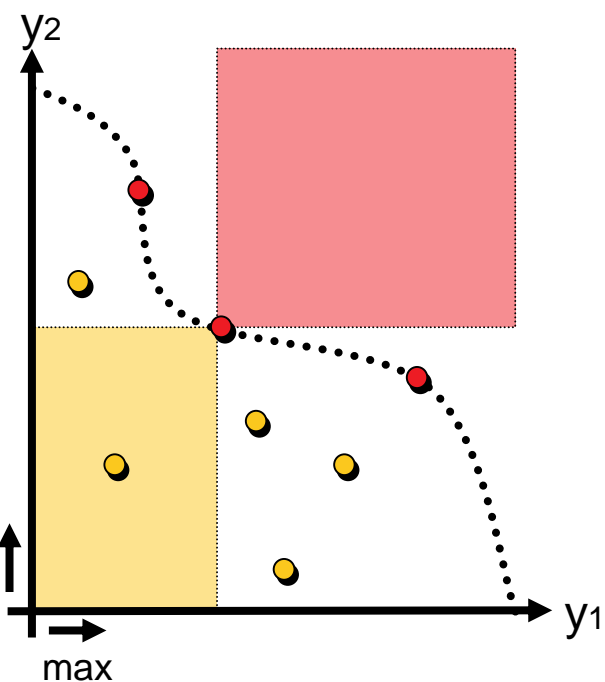
## criterion-based

*VEGA*



## dominance-based

*SPEA2, NSGA-II  
"modern" EMOA*

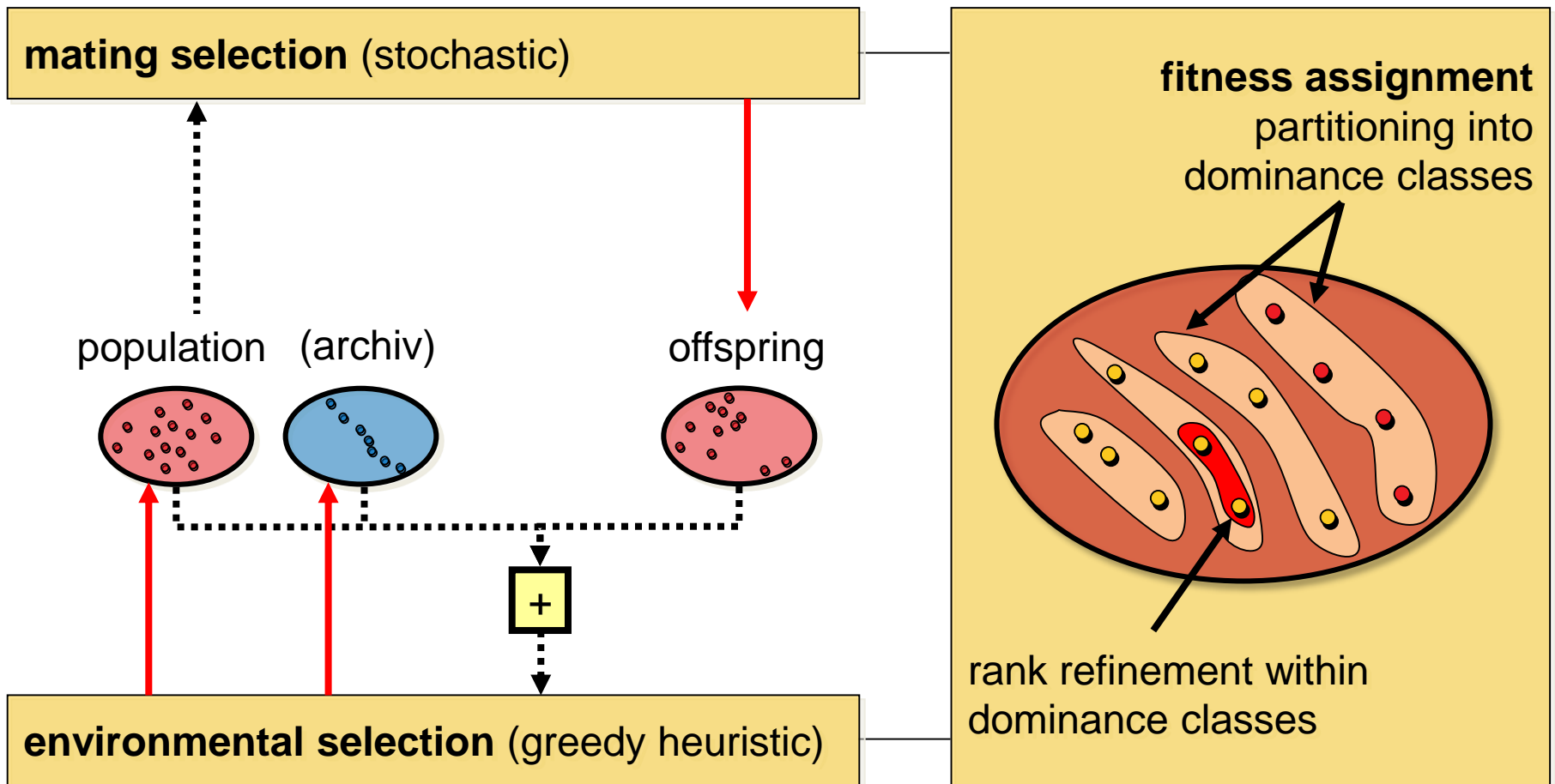


set-oriented  
less scaling-independent

# **Set-Oriented Approaches**



# General Scheme of Most Set-Oriented EMO

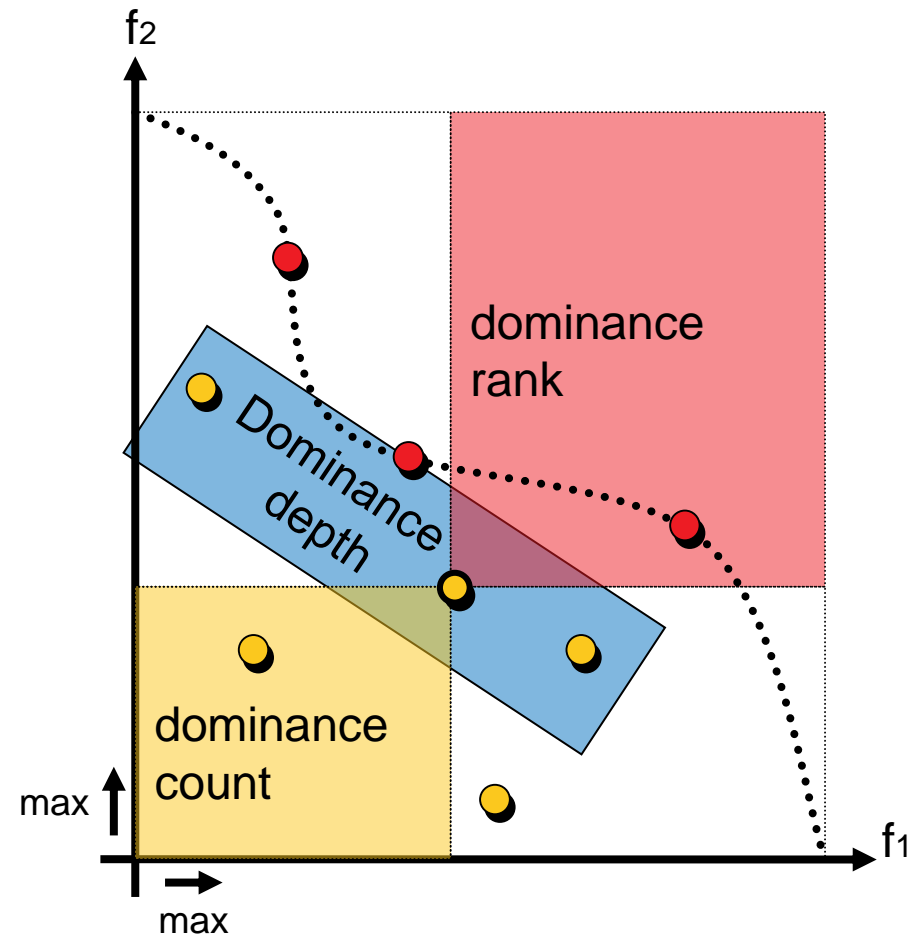


# Ranking of the Population Using Dominance

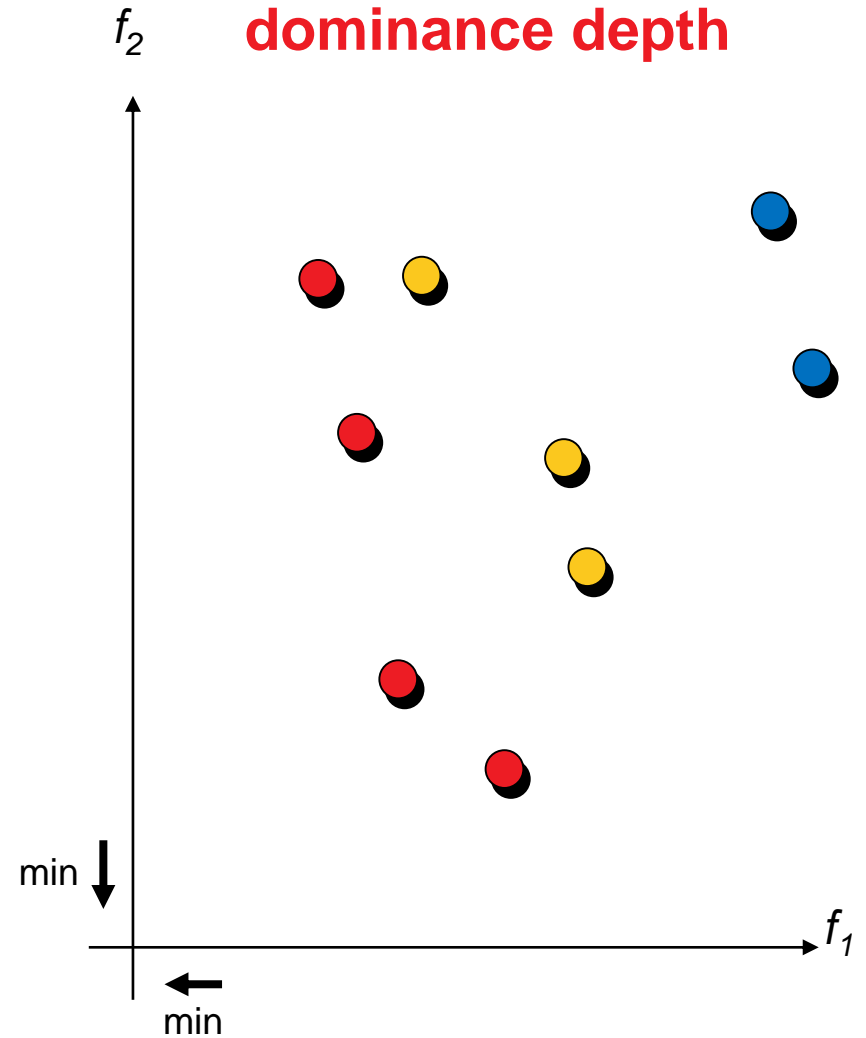
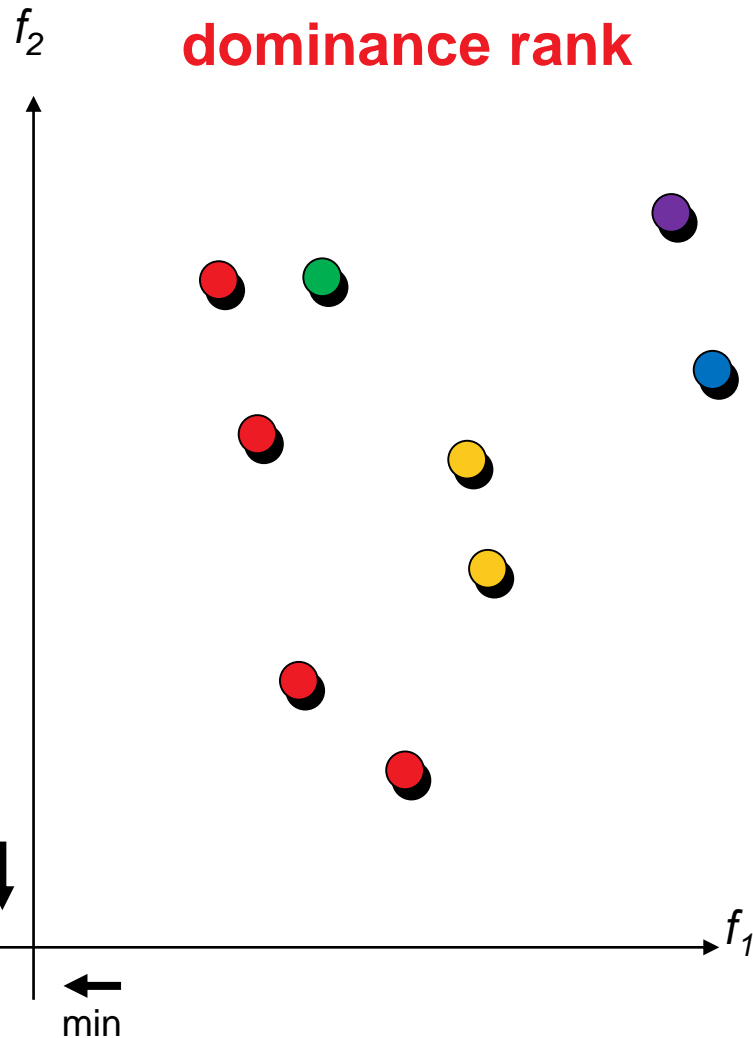
... goes back to a proposal by David Goldberg in 1989.

... is based on pairwise comparisons of the individuals only.

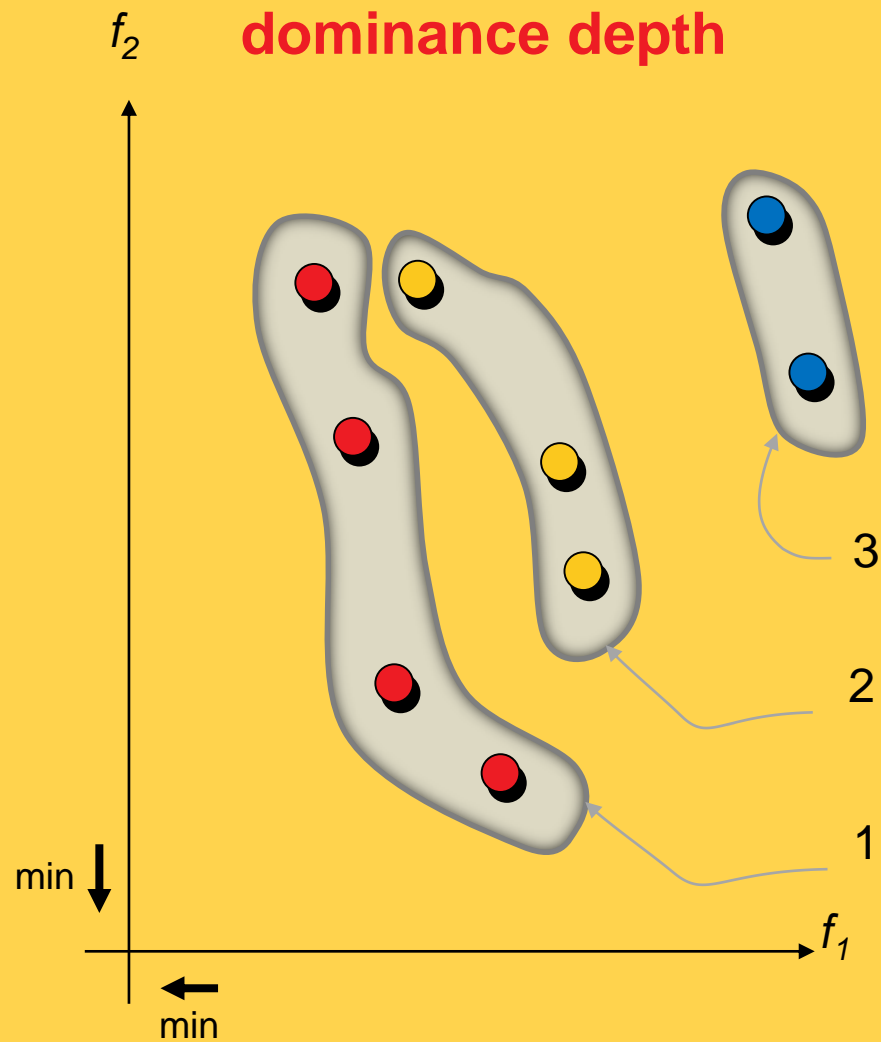
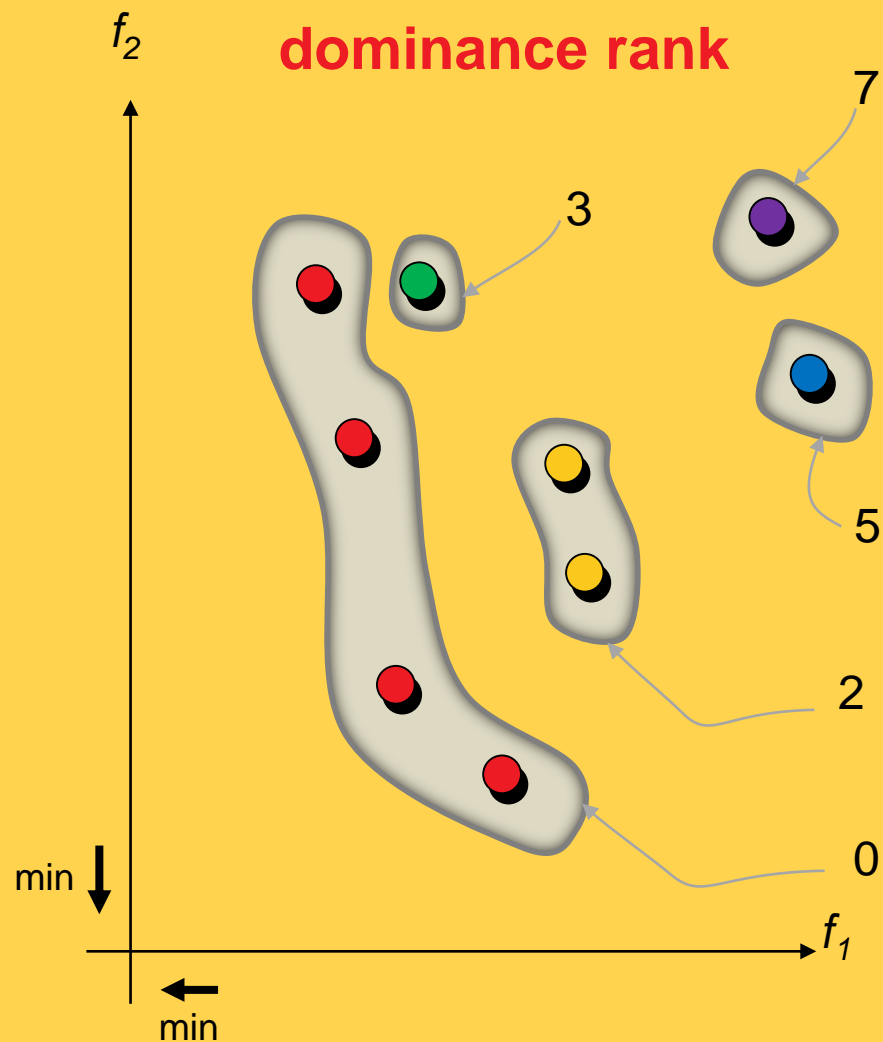
- **dominance rank:** by how many individuals is an individual dominated?  
*MOGA, NPGA*
- **dominance count:** how many individuals does an individual dominate?  
*SPEA, SPEA2*
- **dominance depth:** at which front is an individual located?  
*NSGA, NSGA-II, most of the recently proposed algorithms*



# Exercise: Dominance-Based Partitioning



# Illustration of Dominance-Based Partitioning



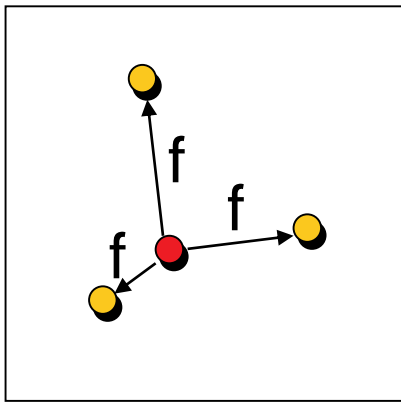
# Refinement of Dominance Rankings

**Goal:** rank incomparable solutions within a dominance class

## ① Diversity information

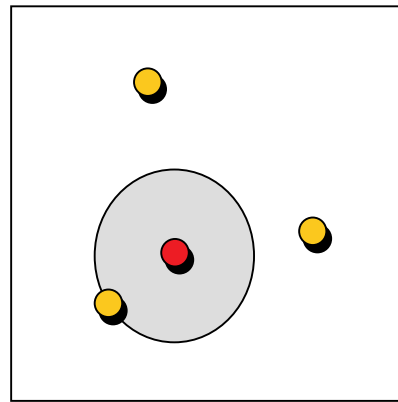
### Kernel method

diversity =  
function of the  
distances



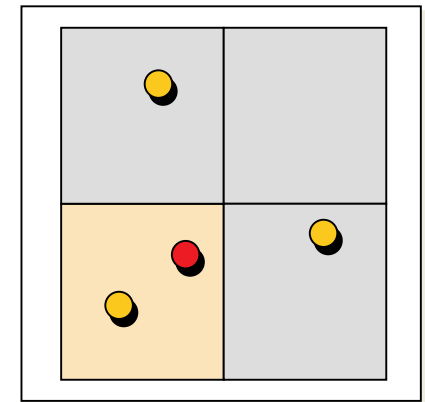
### k-th nearest neighbor

diversity =  
function of distance  
to k-th nearest neighbor



### Histogram method

diversity =  
number of elements  
within box(es)

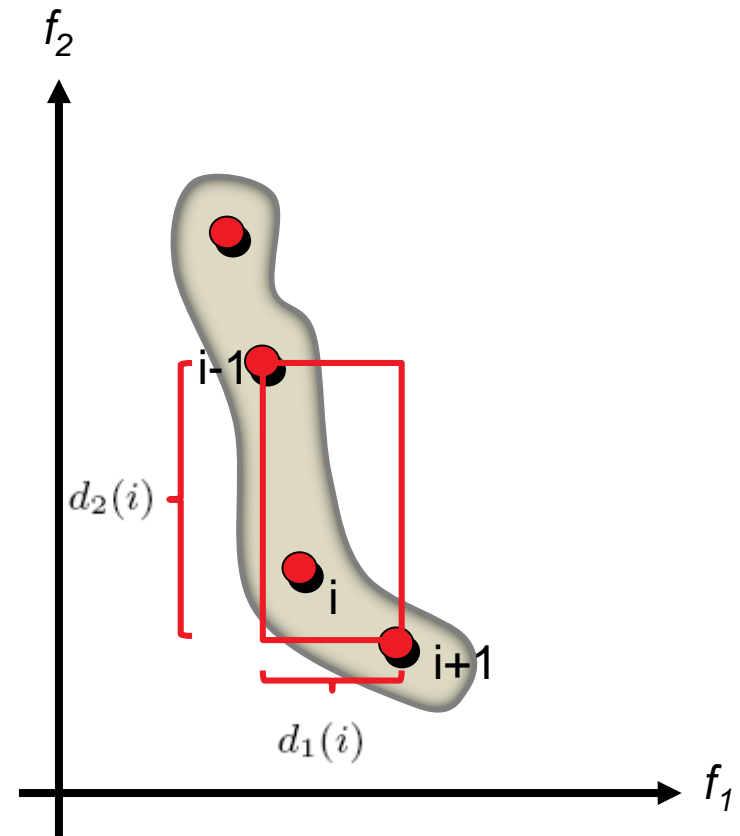


## ② (Contribution to a) quality indicator

# Example: NSGA-II Diversity Preservation

## Crowding Distance (CD)

- sort solutions with regard to each objective
- assign CD maximum value to extremal objective vectors
- compute CD based on the distance to the neighbors in each objective



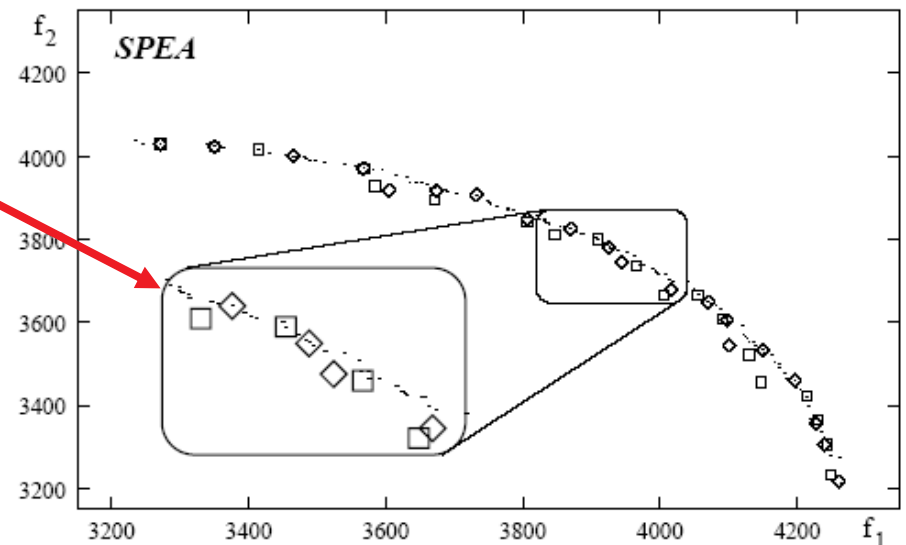
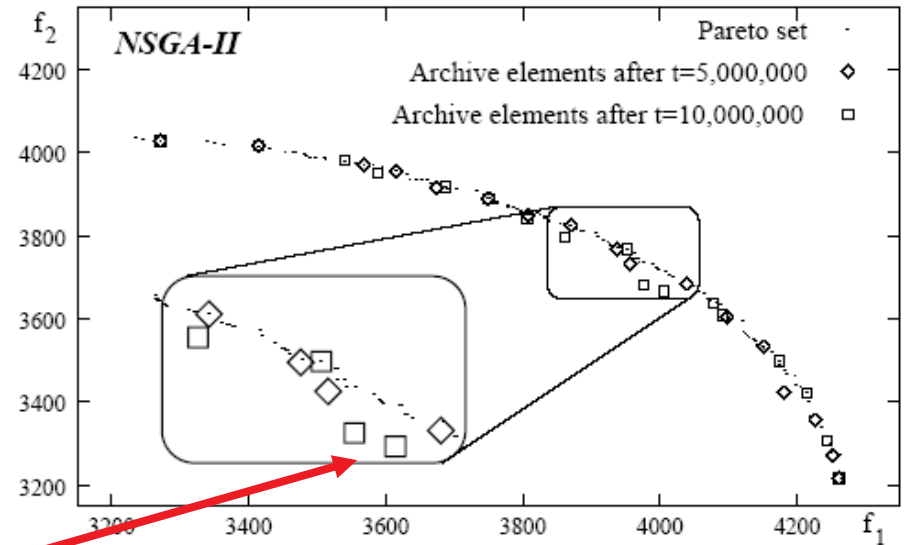
$$CD(i) = \frac{d_1(i)}{f_{1,\max} - f_{1,\min}} + \dots + \frac{d_m(i)}{f_{m,\max} - f_{m,\min}}$$

# SPEA2 and NSGA-II: Deteriorative Cycles

Selection in SPEA2 and NSGA-II can result in

*deteriorative* cycles

non-dominated  
solutions already  
found can be lost



# Hypervolume-Based Selection

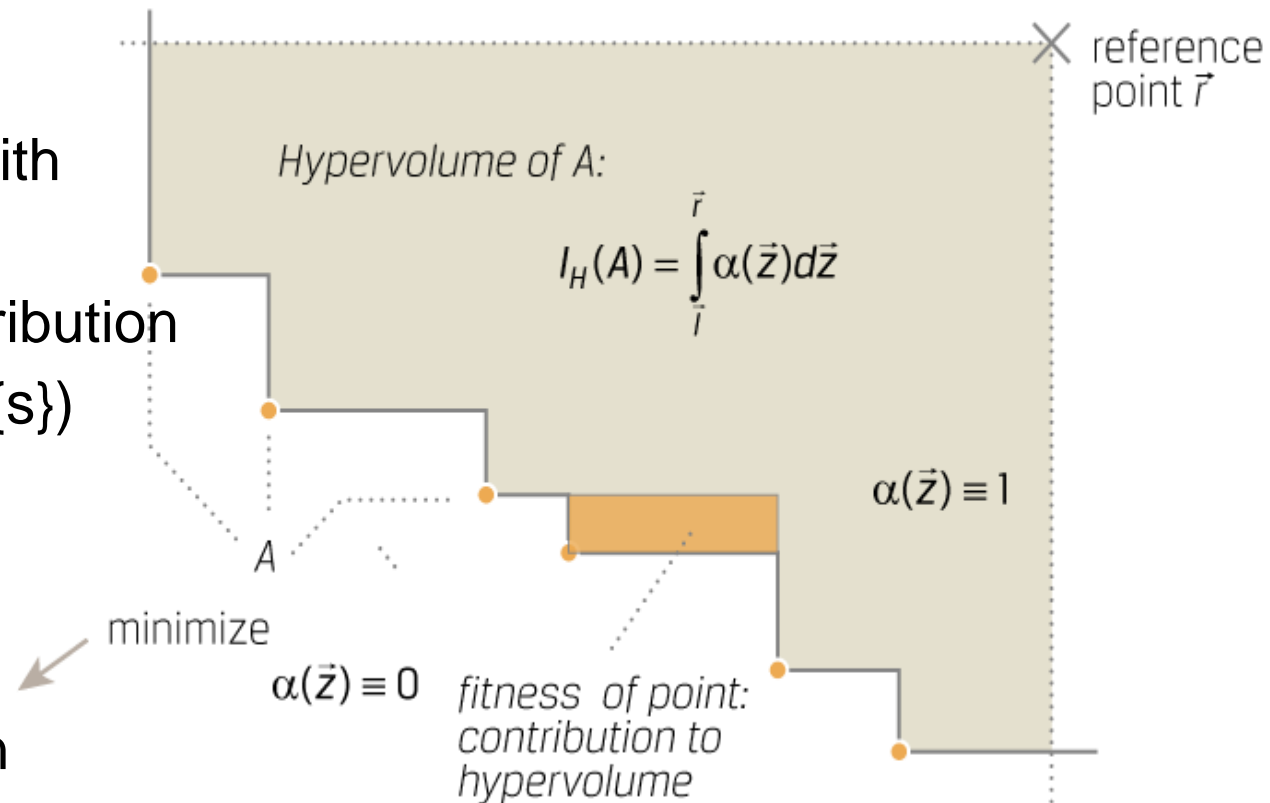
**Latest Approach** (SMS-EMOA, MO-CMA-ES, HypE, ...)

use hypervolume indicator to guide the search: refines dominance

## Main idea

Delete solutions with the smallest hypervolume contribution

$d(s) = I_H(P) - I_H(P \setminus \{s\})$   
iteratively



**But:** can also result in cycles if reference

point is not constant [Judt et al. 2011]

and is expensive to compute exactly [Bringmann and Friedrich 2009]



# Indicator-Based Selection

- Concept can be generalized to any quality indicator

A (unary) quality indicator  $I$  is a function  $I : \Psi = 2^X \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  that assigns a Pareto set approximation a real value.



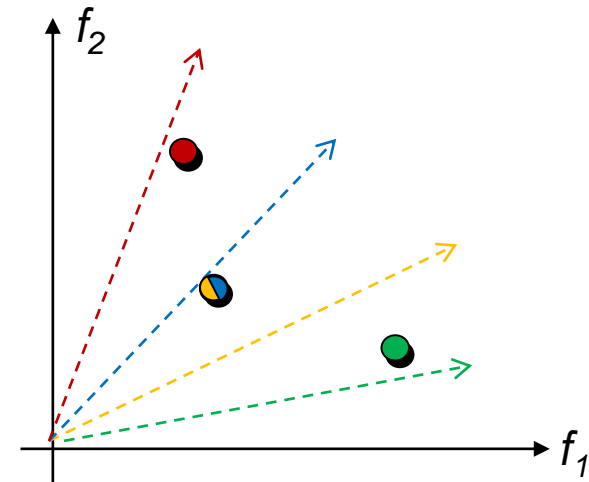
- for example: R2-indicator [Brockhoff et al. 2012], [Trautmann et al. 2013], [Díaz-Manríquez et al. 2013]
- Generalizable also to contribution to larger sets  
**HypE** [Bader and Zitzler 2011]: Hypervolume sampling + contribution if more than 1 (random) solution deleted

# Decomposition-Based Selection: MOEA/D

**MOEA/D:** Multiobjective Evolutionary Algorithm Based on Decomposition [Zhang and Li 2007]

## Ideas:

- optimize  $N$  scalarizing functions in parallel
- use best solutions of neighbor subproblems for mating
- keep the best solution for each scalarizing function
- update neighbors
- use external archive for non-dominated solutions
- several variants and enhancements



# Remark: Variation in EMO

- at first sight not different from single-objective optimization
- most research on selection mechanisms (until now)
- but: convergence to a set  $\neq$  convergence to a point

## Open Question:

- how to achieve fast convergence to a *set*?

## Related work:

- set-based gradient of the HV [Emmerich et al. 2007]
- multiobjective CMA-ES [Igel et al. 2007] [Voß et al. 2010]
- RM-MEDA [Zhang et al. 2008]
- set-based variation [Bader et al. 2009]
- set-based fitness landscapes [Verel et al. 2011]
- offline and online configuration based on libraries of variation operators [Bezerra et al. 2015] [Hadka and Reed 2013]

## The Big Picture

### Basic Principles of Multiobjective Optimization

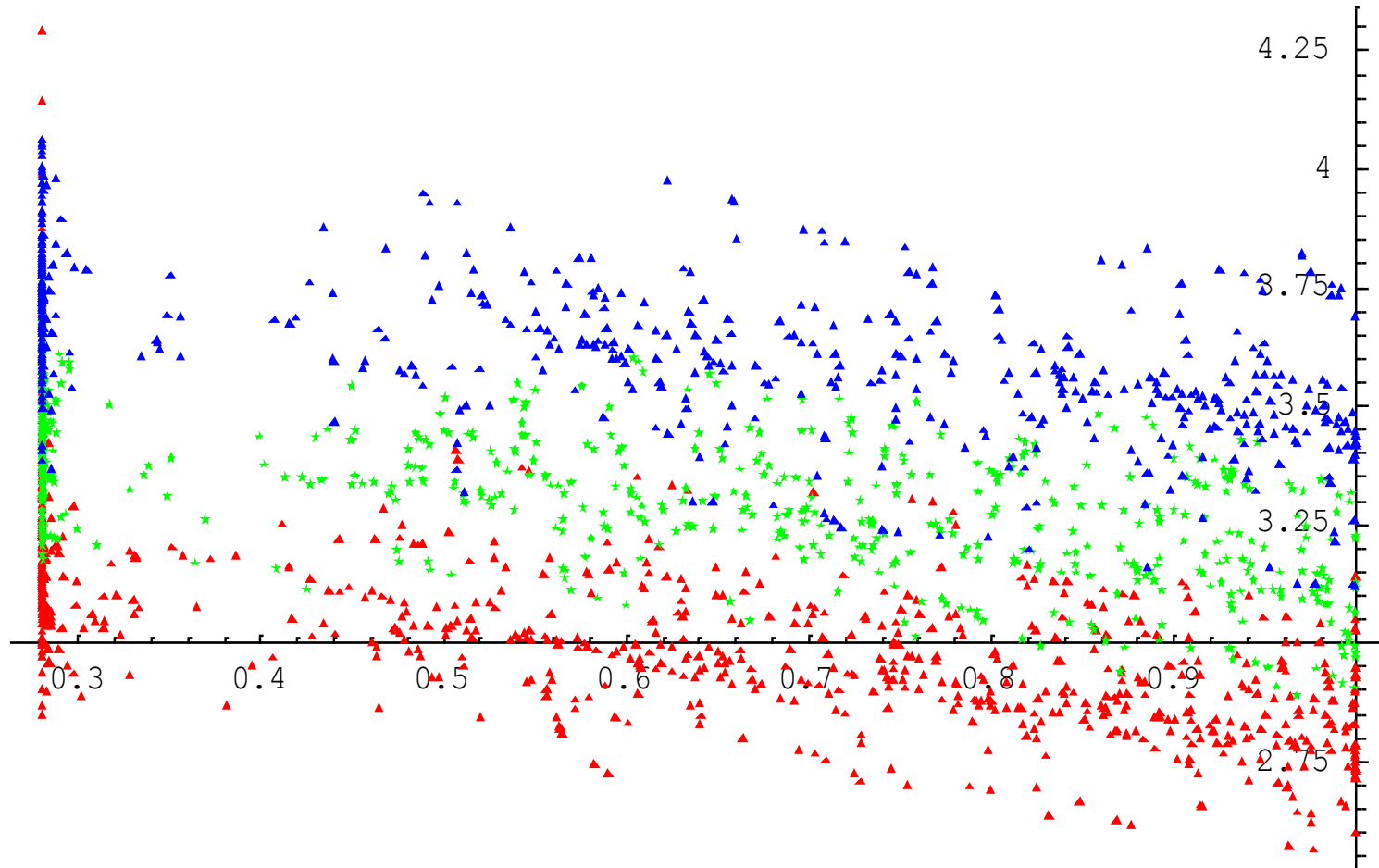
- algorithm design principles and concepts
- **performance assessment**

### Selected Advanced Concepts

- preference articulation
- visualization aspects

# Once Upon a Time...

... multiobjective EAs were mainly compared visually:

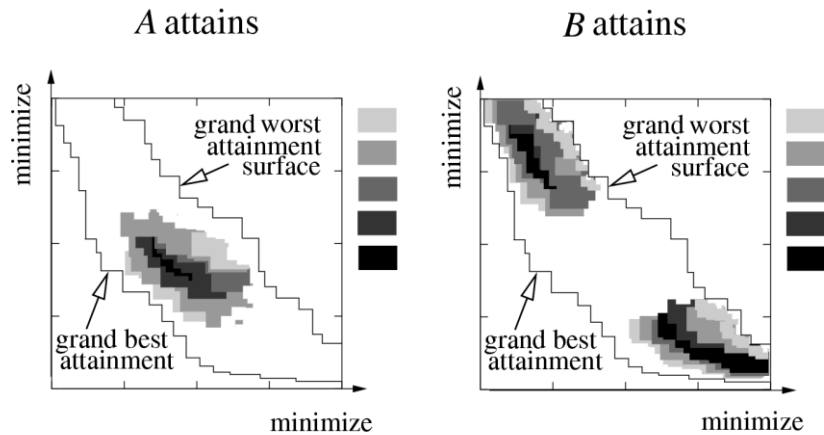


ZDT6 benchmark problem: **IBEA**, **SPEA2**, **NSGA-II**

# Two Main Approaches for Empirical Studies

## Attainment function approach

- applies statistical tests directly to the approximation set
- detailed information about how and where performance differences occur



## Quality indicator approach

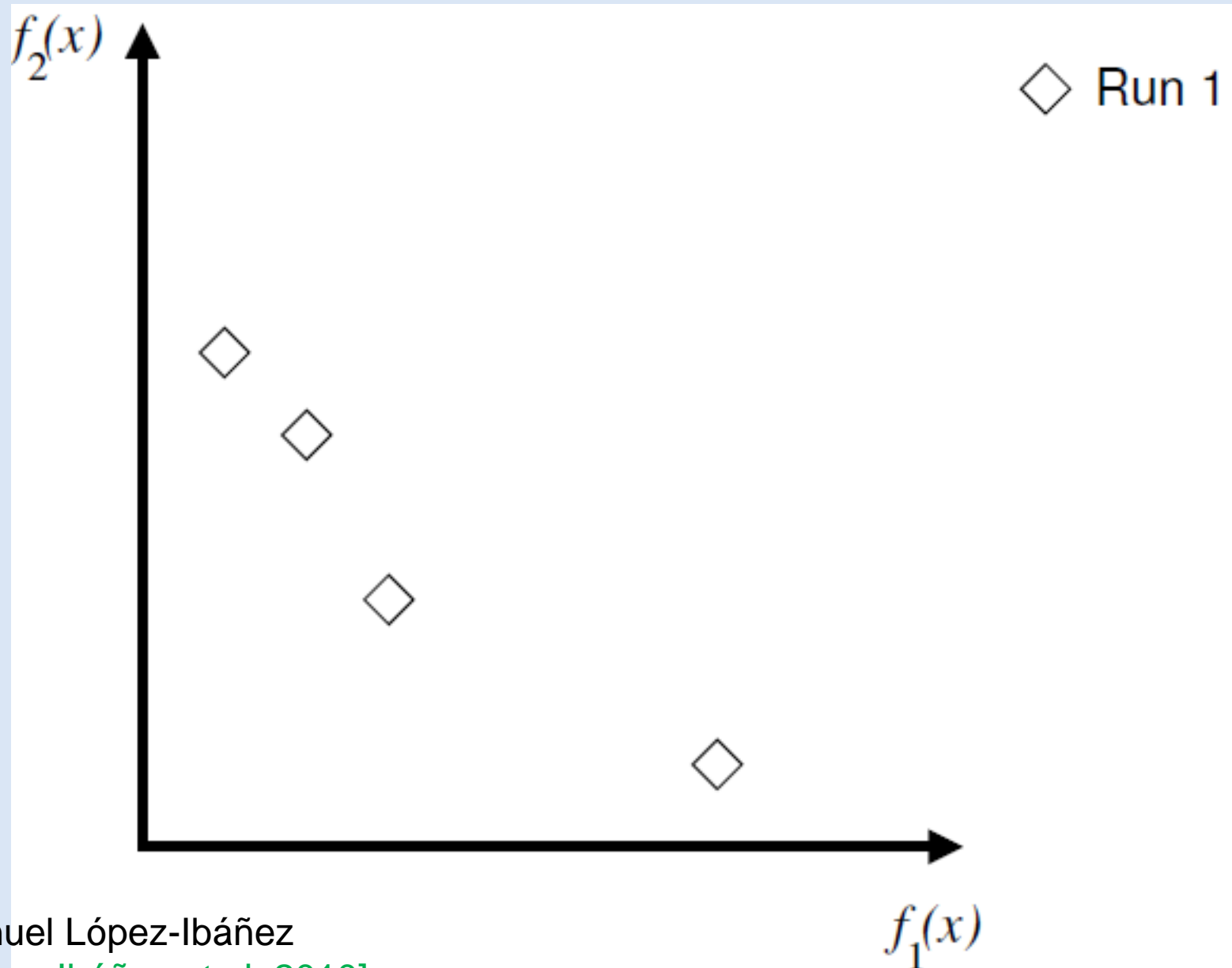
- reduces each approximation set to a single quality value
- applies statistical tests to the quality values

<i>Indicator</i>	A	B
Hypervolume indicator	6.3431	7.1924
$\epsilon$ -indicator	1.2090	0.12722
$R_2$ indicator	0.2434	0.1643
$R_3$ indicator	0.6454	0.3475

see e.g. [\[Zitzler et al. 2003\]](#)

note that slides of this light blue color have not been discussed in depth during the lecture due to the restricted time

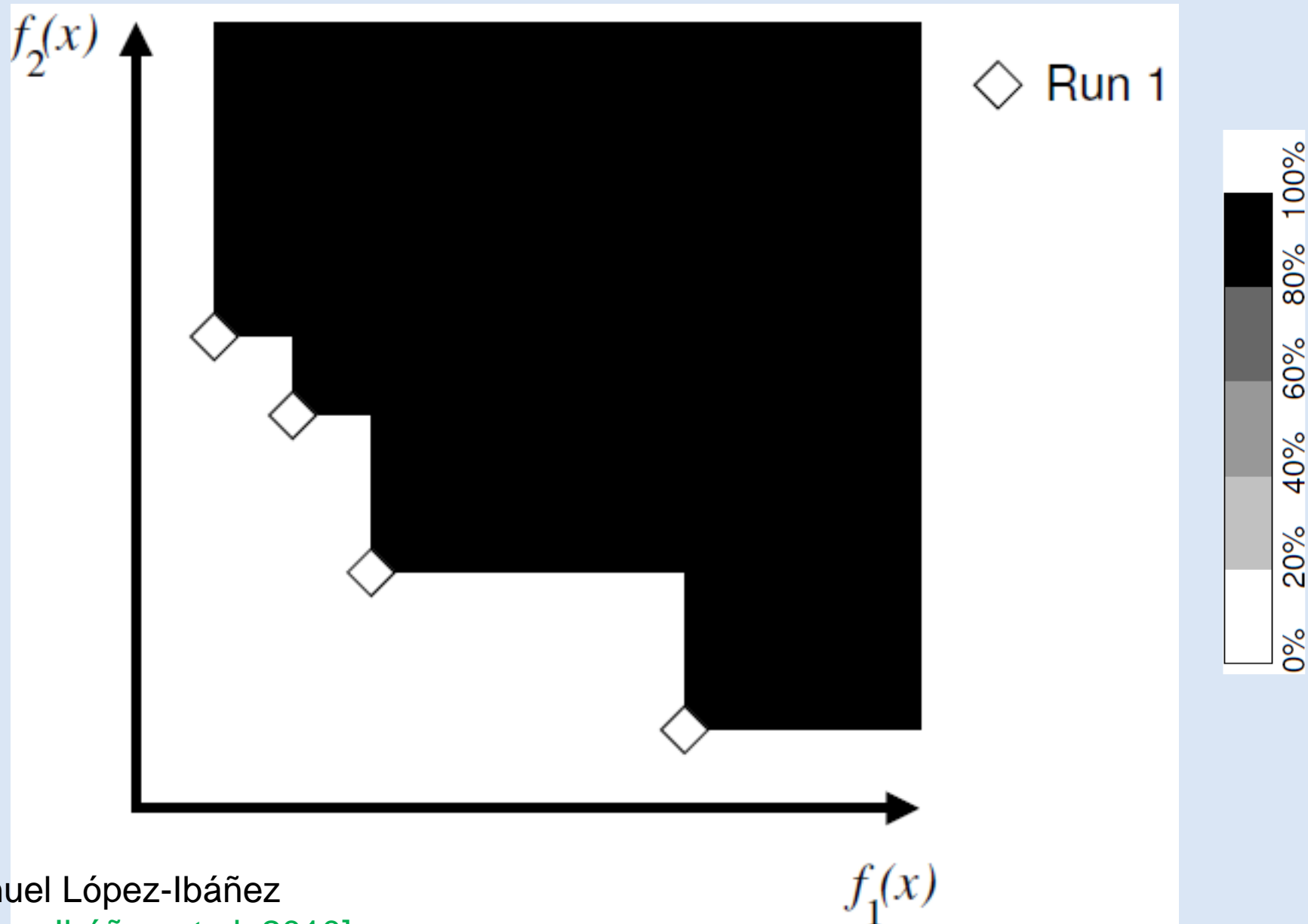
# Empirical Attainment Functions: Idea



© Manuel López-Ibáñez  
[López-Ibáñez et al. 2010]

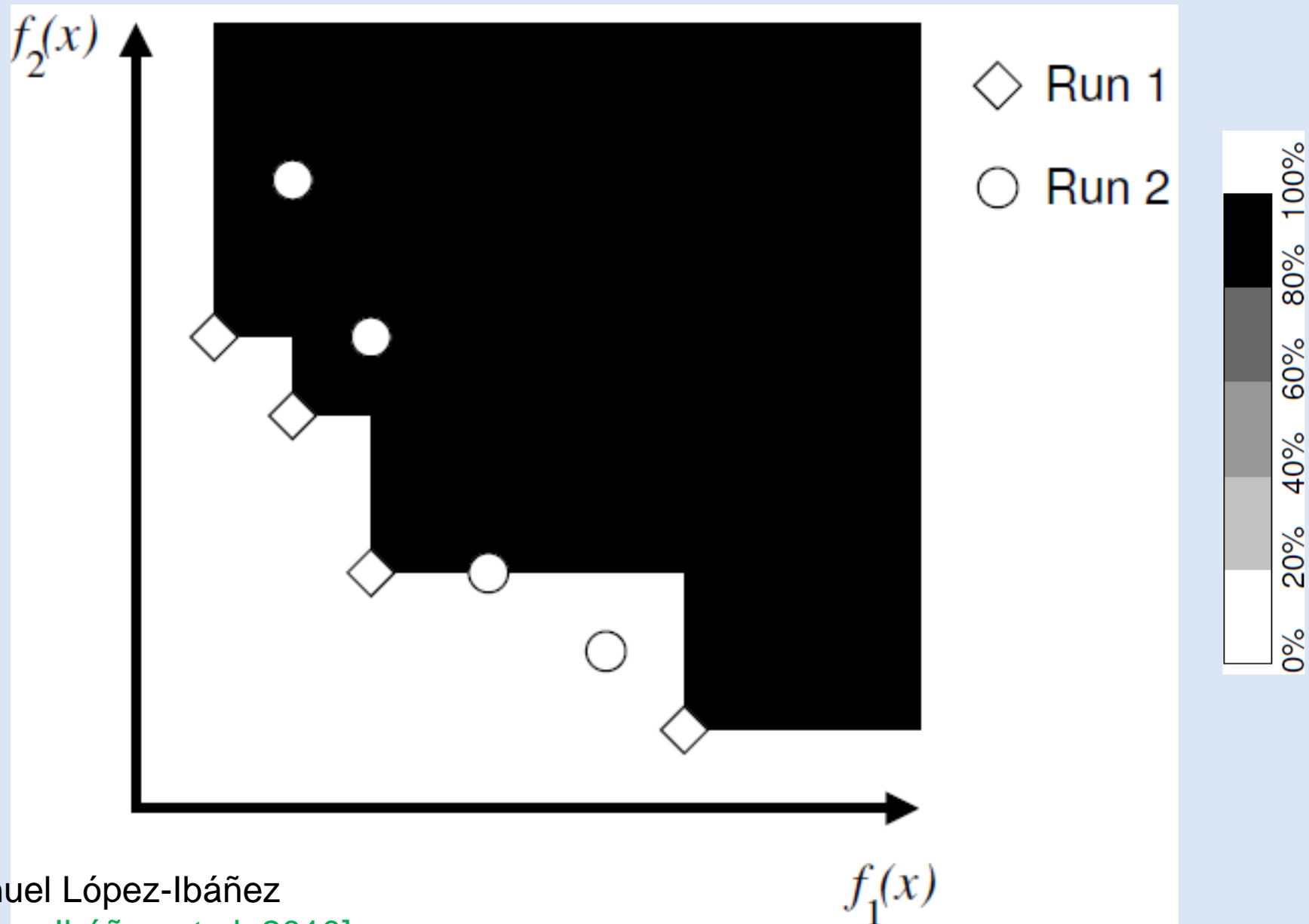


# Empirical Attainment Functions: Idea



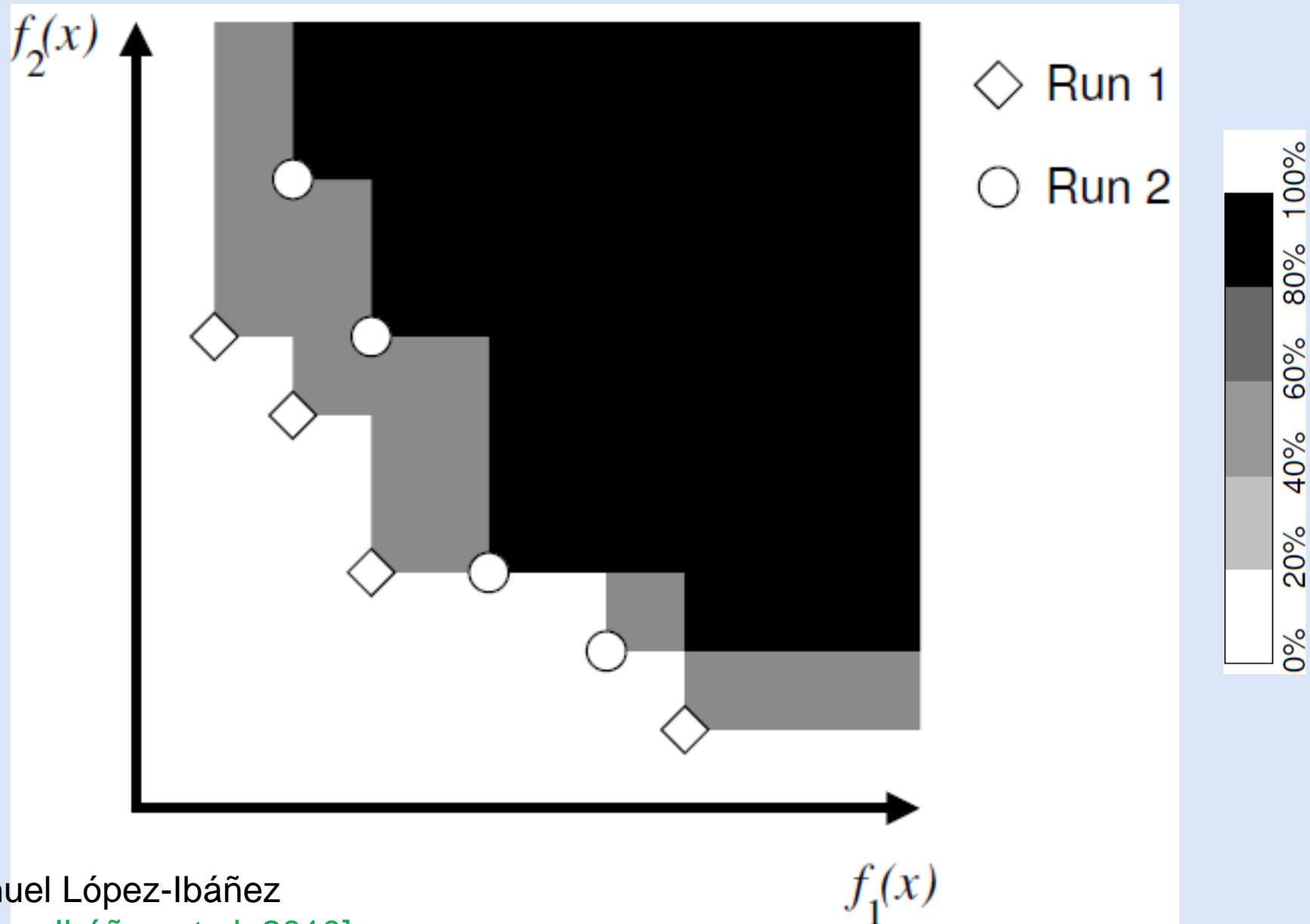
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[López-Ibáñez et al. 2010]

# Empirical Attainment Functions: Idea



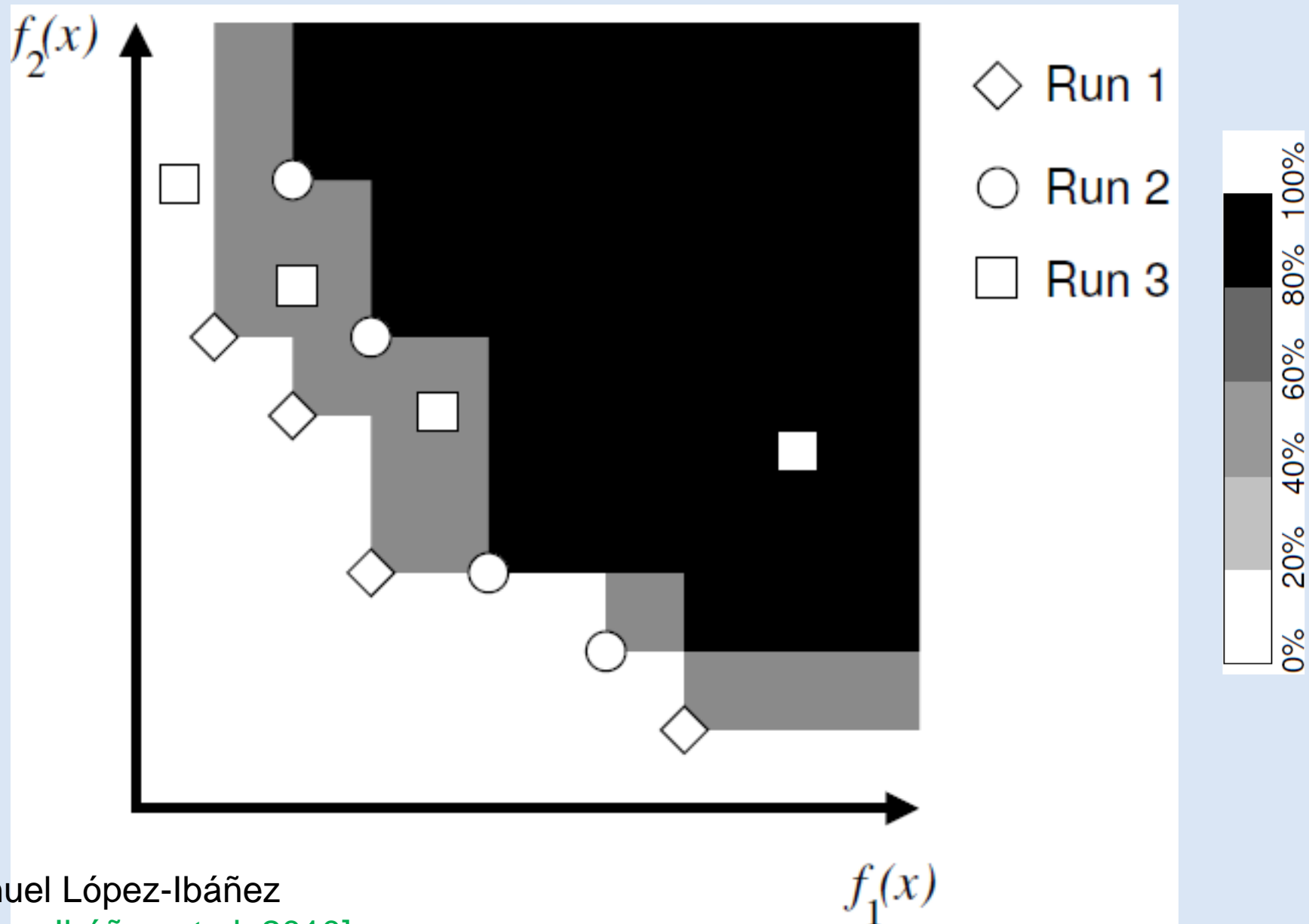
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[López-Ibáñez et al. 2010]

# Empirical Attainment Functions: Idea



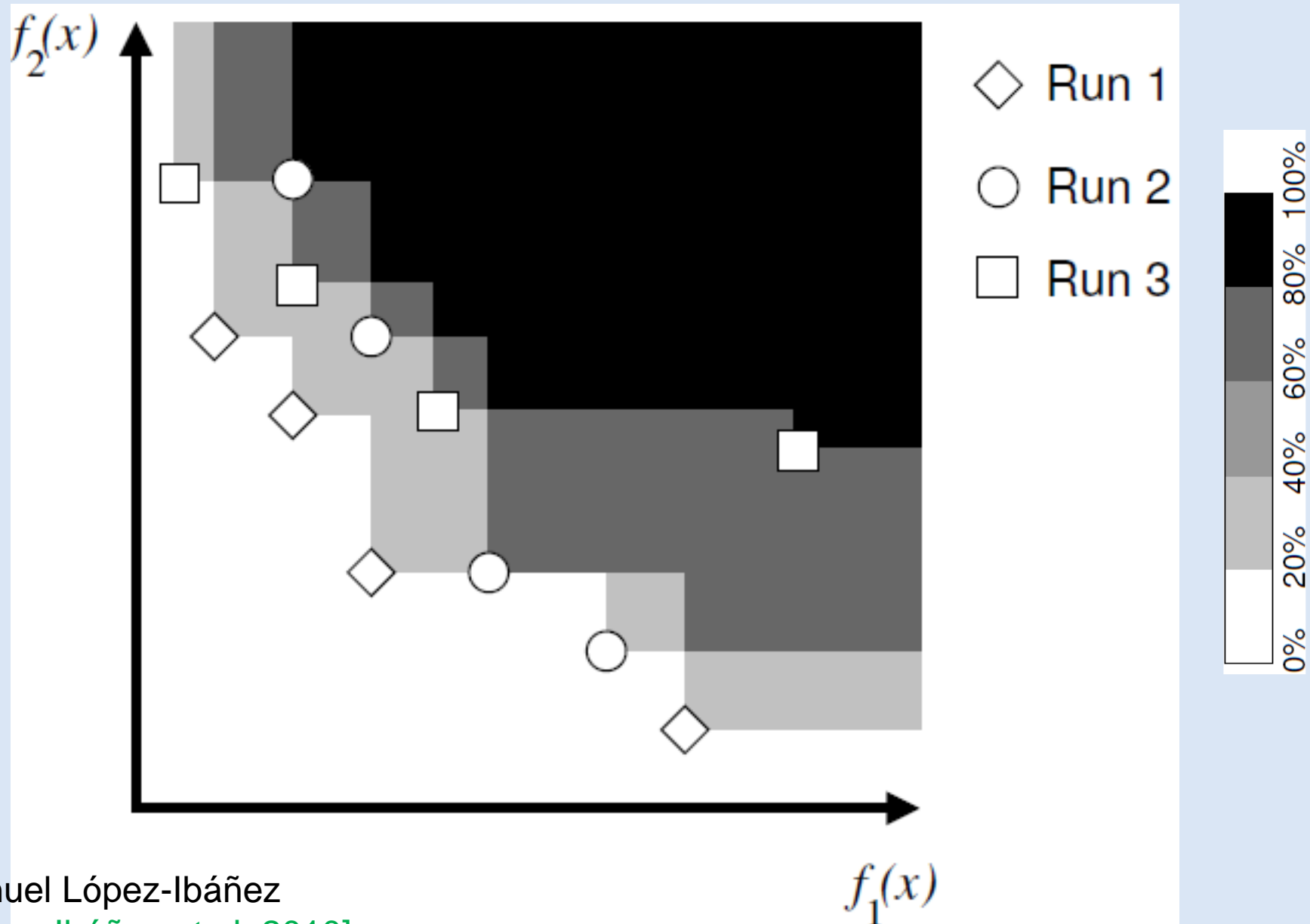
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[López-Ibáñez et al. 2010]

# Empirical Attainment Functions: Idea



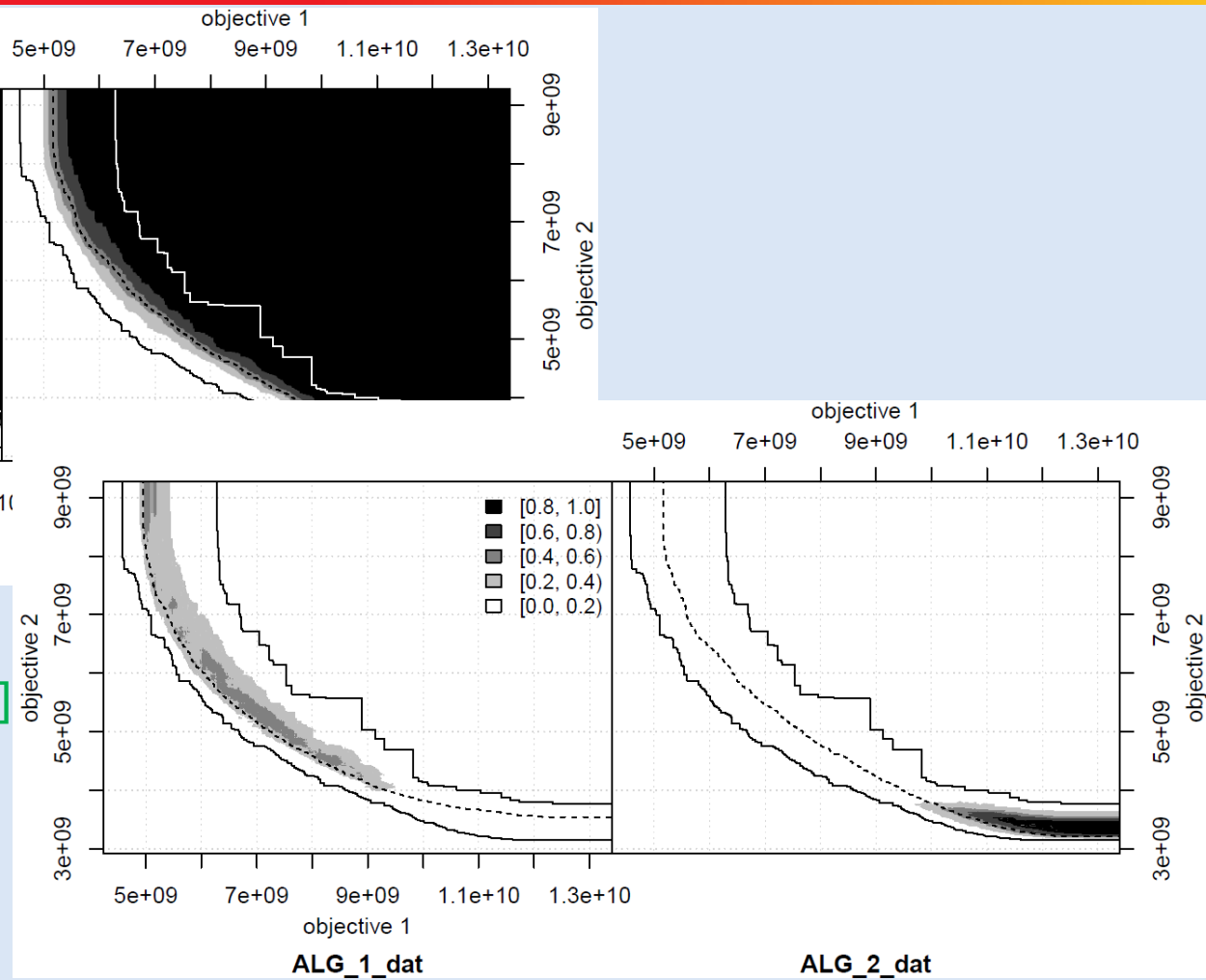
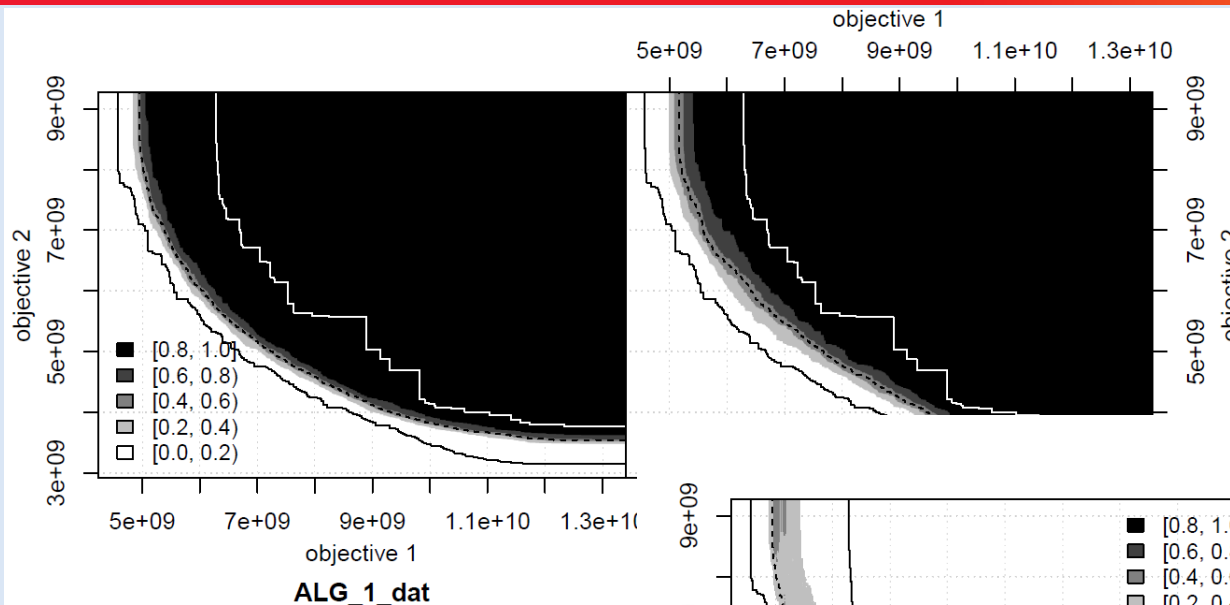
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[López-Ibáñez et al. 2010]

# Empirical Attainment Functions: Idea



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[López-Ibáñez et al. 2010]

# Attainment Plots in Practice

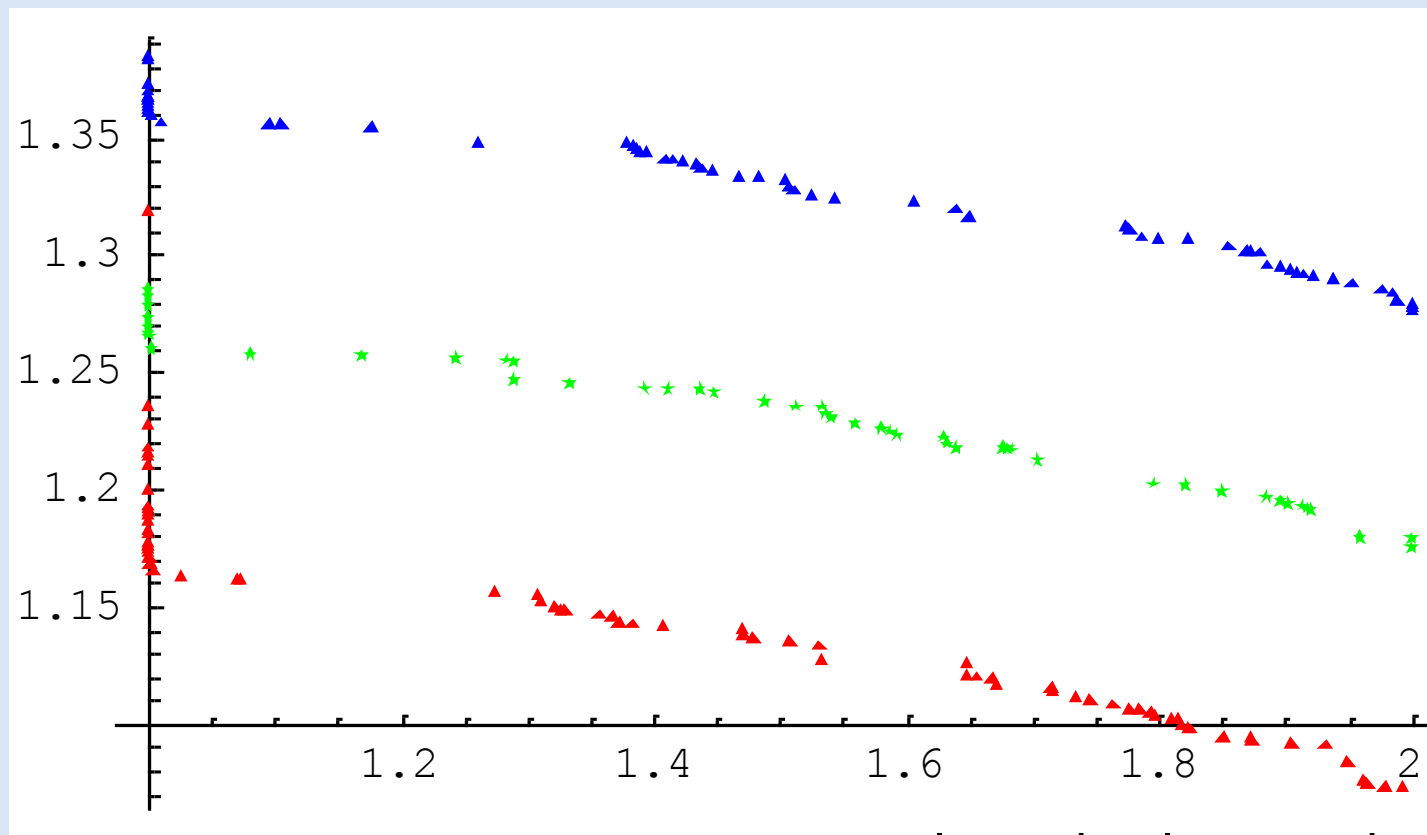


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[López-Ibáñez et al. 2010]

latest implementation online at  
<http://eden.dei.uc.pt/~cmfonsec/software.html>  
R package: <http://lopez-ibanez.eu/eaftools>  
see also [López-Ibáñez et al. 2010, Fonseca et al. 2011]

# Attainment Plots

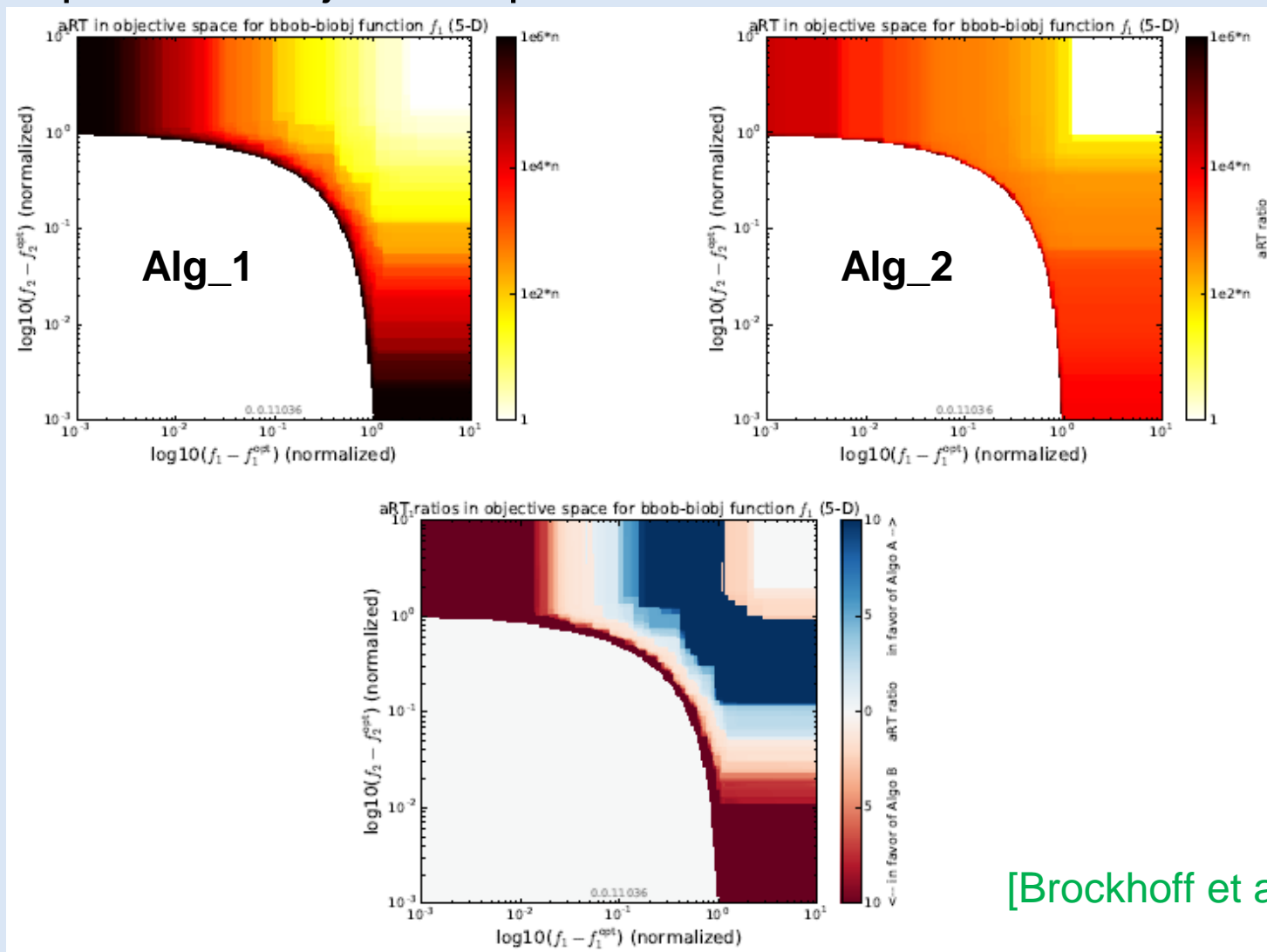
50% attainment surface for **IBEA**, **SPEA2**, **NSGA2** (ZDT6)



latest implementation online at  
<http://eden.dei.uc.pt/~cmfonsec/software.html>  
see [Fonseca et al. 2011]

# Average Runtime Attainment Plots

...display not only the success probabilities, but the **average runtime** to attain points in objective space:



[Brockhoff et al. 2016]



# Most Used Approach: Quality Indicators

## A quality indicator

- maps a solution set to a real number
- can be used with standard performance assessment
  - report median, variance, ...
  - boxplots
  - statistical tests
- should optimally refine the dominance relation on sets

## Recommendation:

- use hypervolume (refinement, i.e. it does not contradict the dominance relation)
- or epsilon indicator or R2 indicator (are weak refinements)

## Also important:

- interpretation of the results (by knowing theoretical properties of the used indicator)

# Quality Indicator Approach

## Idea:

- transfer multiobjective problem into a set problem
- define an objective function (“quality indicator”) on sets
- use the resulting total (pre-)order (on the quality values)

## Question:

Can any total (pre-)order be used or are there any requirements concerning the resulting preference relation?

⇒ Underlying dominance relation should be reflected!

$$A \preceq B :\Leftrightarrow \forall y \in B \exists x \in A x \leq_{par} y$$

# Refinements and Weak Refinements

①  $\succsim^{\text{ref}}$  **refines** a preference relation  $\succsim$  iff

$$A \succsim B \wedge B \not\succeq A \Rightarrow A \succsim^{\text{ref}} B \wedge B \not\succeq^{\text{ref}} A \quad (\text{better} \Rightarrow \text{better})$$

$\Rightarrow$  fulfills requirement

②  $\succsim^{\text{ref}}$  **weakly refines** a preference relation  $\succsim$  iff

$$A \succsim B \wedge B \not\succeq A \Rightarrow A \succsim^{\text{ref}} B \quad (\text{better} \Rightarrow \text{weakly better})$$

$\Rightarrow$  does not fulfill requirement, but  $\succsim^{\text{ref}}$  does not contradict  $\succsim$

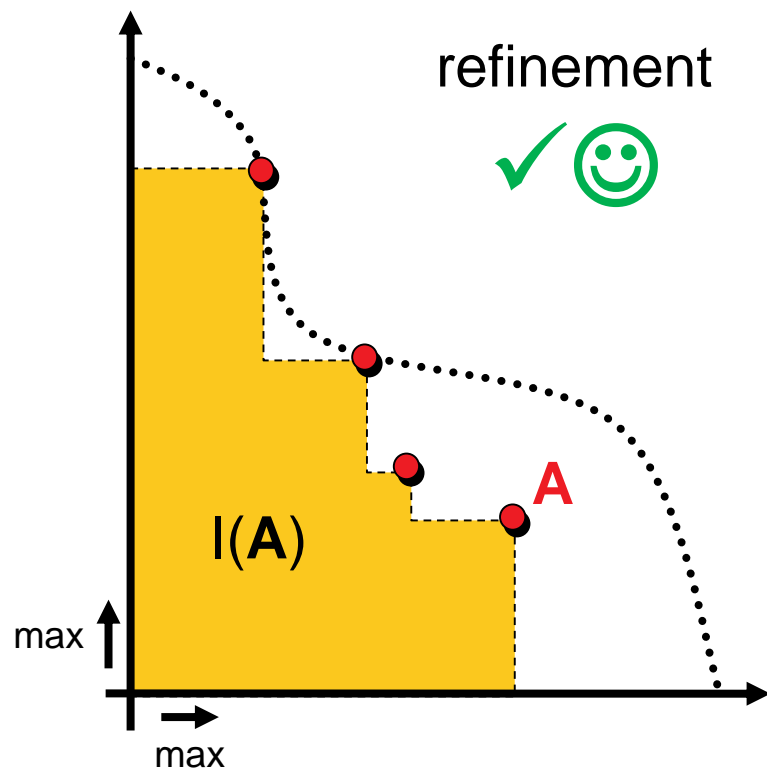
! sought are total refinements...

[Zitzler et al. 2010]

# Example: Refinements Using Indicators

$$A \stackrel{\text{ref}}{\preceq} B :\Leftrightarrow I(A) \geq I(B)$$

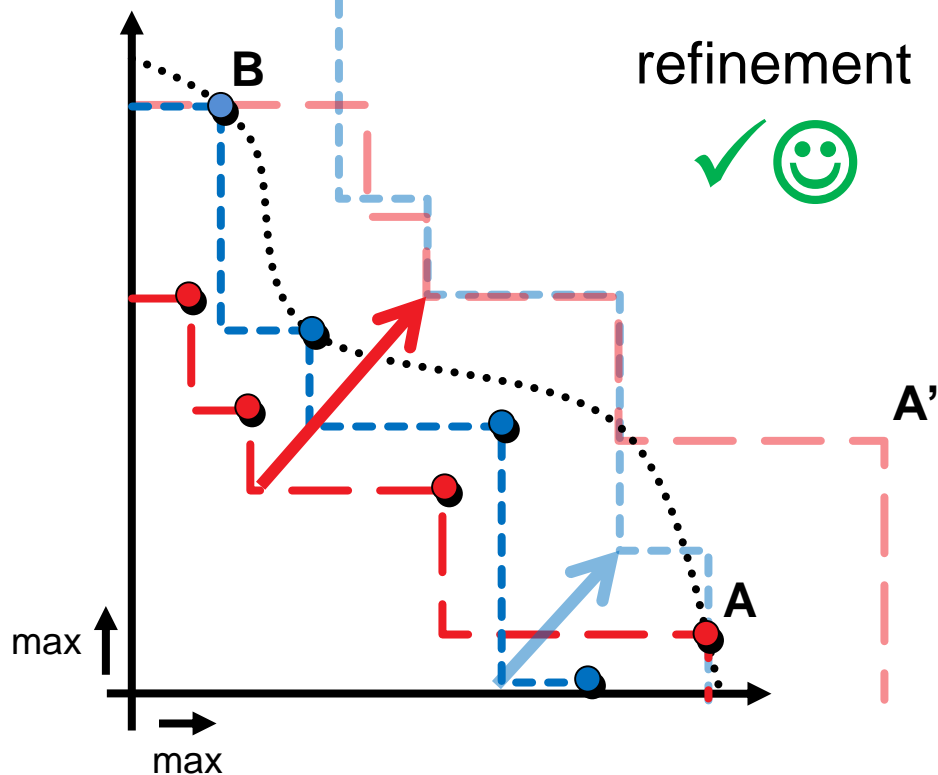
$I(A)$  = volume of the weakly dominated area in objective space



**unary** hypervolume indicator

$$A \stackrel{\text{ref}}{\preceq} B :\Leftrightarrow I(A,B) \leq I(B,A)$$

$I(A,B)$  = how much needs A to be moved to weakly dominate B



**binary** epsilon indicator

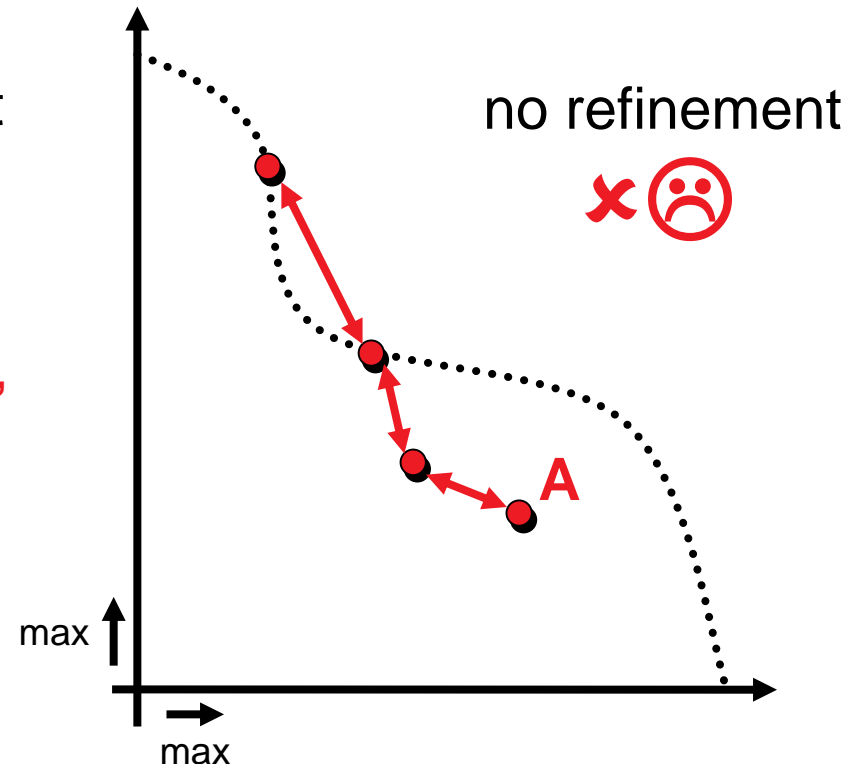
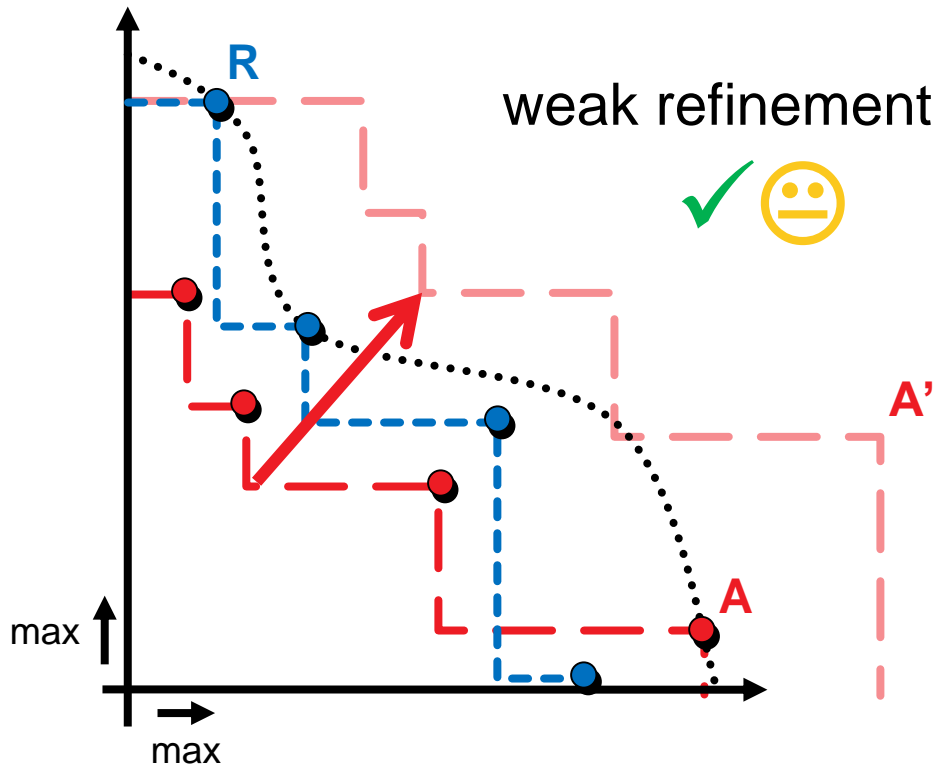
# Example: Weak Refinement / No Refinement

$$A \stackrel{\text{ref}}{\preceq} B : \Leftrightarrow I(A, R) \leq I(B, R)$$

$$A \stackrel{\text{ref}}{\preceq} B : \Leftrightarrow I(A) \leq I(B)$$

$I(A, R)$  = how much needs A to be moved to weakly dominate R

$I(A)$  = variance of pairwise distances

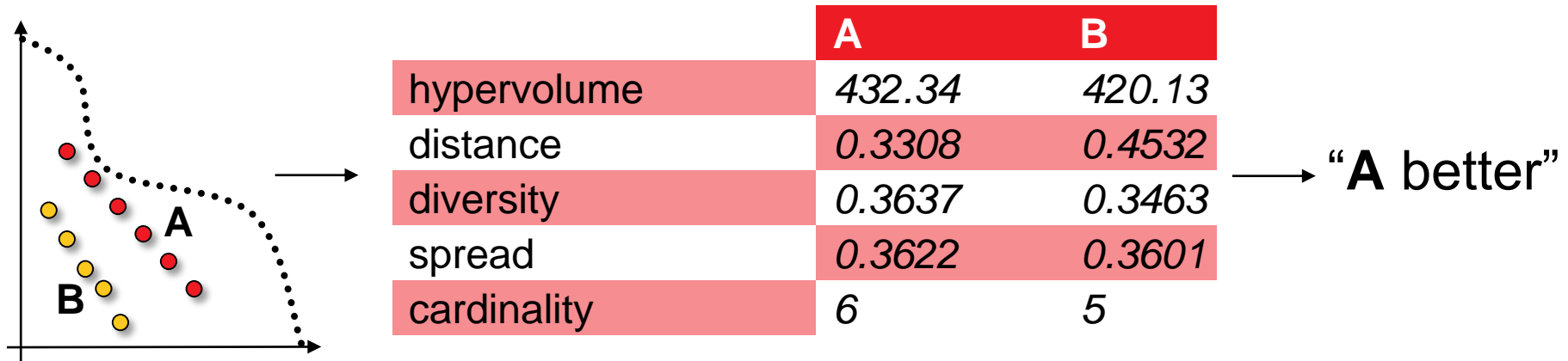


unary epsilon indicator

unary diversity indicator

# Quality Indicator Approach

**Goal:** compare two Pareto set approximations A and B



**Comparison method C** = quality measure(s) + Boolean function

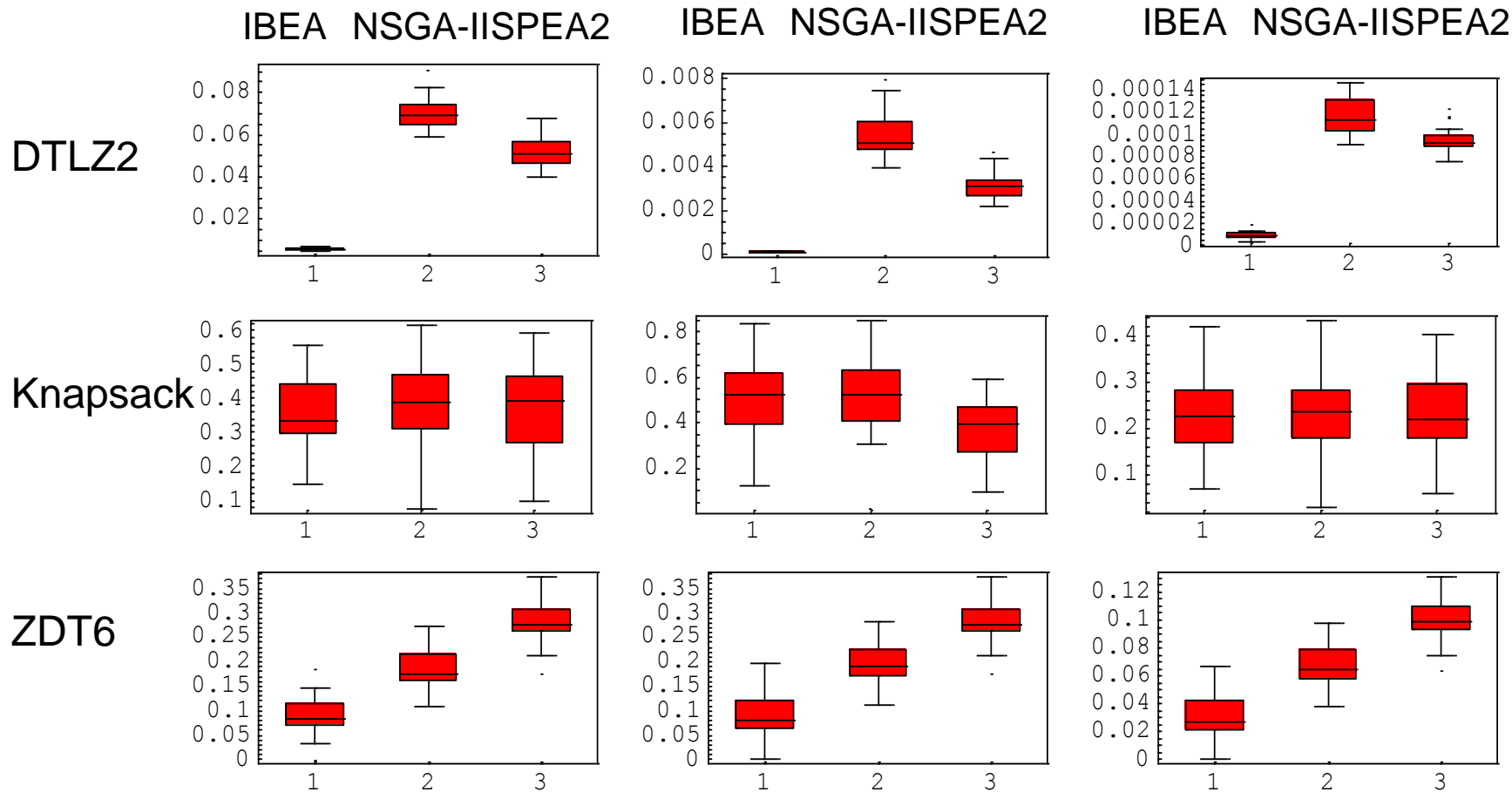


# Example: Box Plots

epsilon indicator

hypervolume

R indicator



# Statistical Assessment (Kruskal Test)

## ZDT6 Epsilon

is better  
than

	IBEA	NSGA2	SPEA2
IBEA		~0 😊	~0 😊
NSGA2	1		~0 😊
SPEA2	1	1	

Overall p-value =  $6.22079e-17$ .  
Null hypothesis rejected (alpha 0.05)

## DTLZ2 R

is better  
than

	IBEA	NSGA2	SPEA2
IBEA		~0 😊	~0 😊
NSGA2	1		1
SPEA2	1	~0 😊	

Overall p-value =  $7.86834e-17$ .  
Null hypothesis rejected (alpha 0.05)

**Knapsack/Hypervolume:**  $H_0$  = No significance of any differences

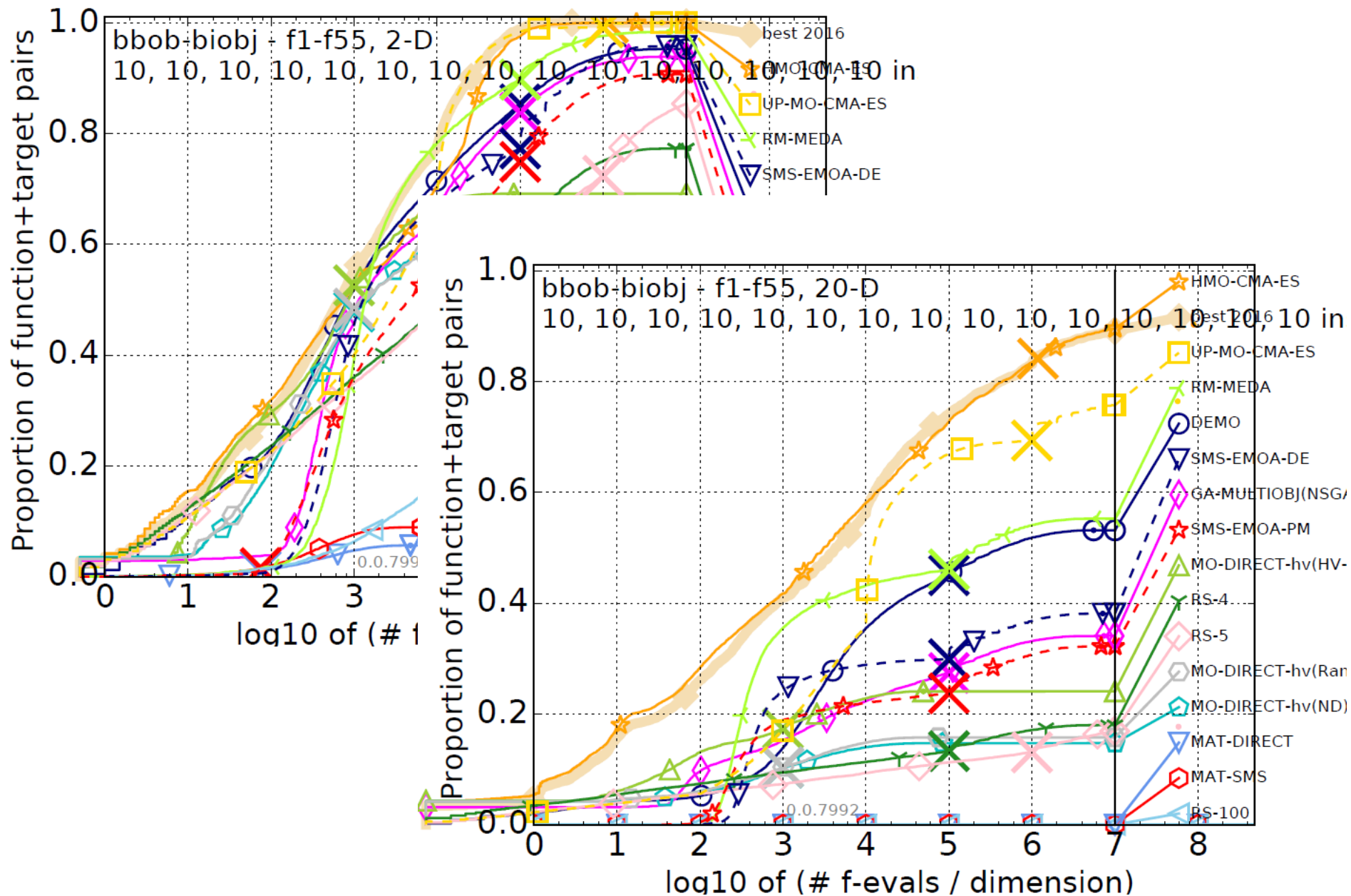


# Automated Benchmarking

- State-of-the-art in single-objective optimization: **Blackbox Optimization Benchmarking (BOB)** with COCO platform  
<https://github.com/numbbo/coco>
- In 2016: first release of a **bi-objective test suite** and corresponding BOB-2016 workshop @ GECCO
- Focus on **target-based runlengths**
  - gives (nearly) anytime, interpretable results
  - defines problem=(test function instance, single-objective goal e.g. min. indicator difference to reference set, target precision)
  - reports average runtimes (aRT) to reach target precision
- COCO provides **data profiles**, **scaling plots**, scatter plots, tables, statistical tests, etc. **automatically**



# Exemplary BBOB-2016 Results



## The Big Picture

### Basic Principles of Multiobjective Optimization

- algorithm design principles and concepts
- performance assessment

### Selected Advanced Concepts

- preference articulation
- visualization aspects

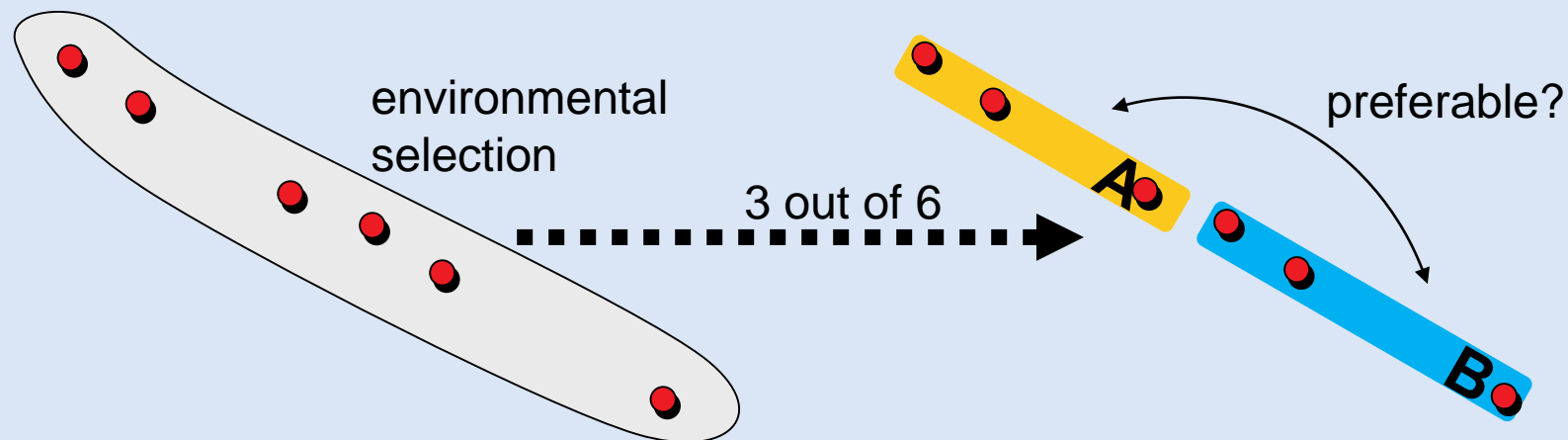
# Articulating User Preferences During Search

## What we thought: EMO is preference-less

**Search before decision making:** Optimization is performed without any preference information given. The result of the search process is a set of (ideally Pareto-optimal) candidate solutions from which the final choice is made by the DM.

[Zitzler 1999]

## What we learnt: EMO just uses weaker preference information



# Incorporation of Preferences During Search

## Nevertheless...

- the more (known) preferences incorporated the better
- in particular if search space is large

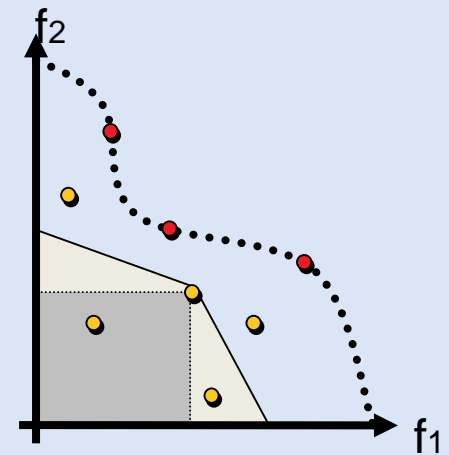
[Branke and Deb 2004] [Branke 2008] [Bechikh et al. 2015]

### ① Refine/modify dominance relation, e.g.:

- using goals, priorities, constraints  
[Fonseca and Fleming 1998a,b]
- using different types of dominance cones  
[Branke and Deb 2004]

### ② Use quality indicators, e.g.:

- based on reference points and directions [Deb and Sundar 2006, Deb and Kumar 2007]
- based on the hypervolume indicator  
[Brockhoff et al. 2013] [Wagner and Trautmann 2010]
- based on the R2 indicator [Trautmann et al. 2013]

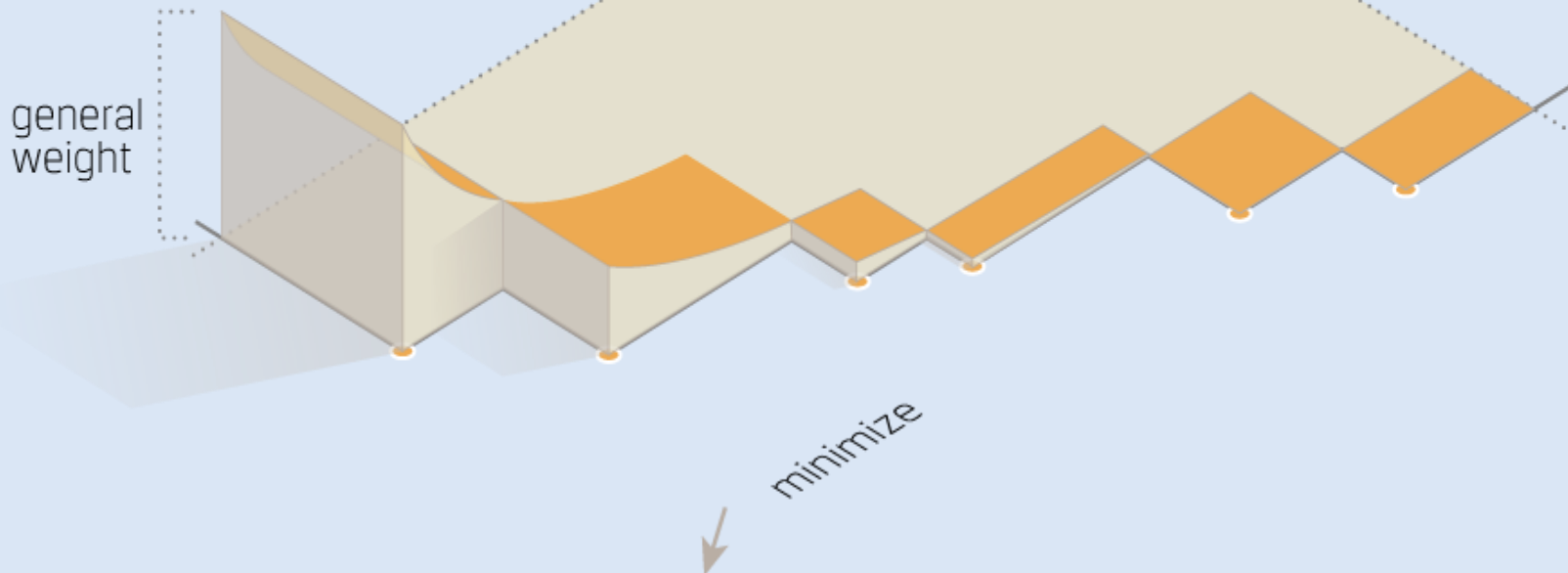


# Example: Weighted Hypervolume Indicator

[Brockhoff et al. 2013]

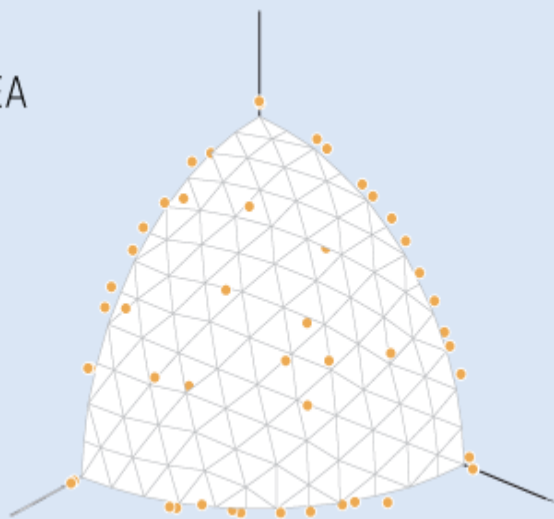
$$I_H^W(A) = \int_{\vec{l}}^{\vec{r}} w(\vec{z}) d\vec{z}$$

weighted  
hypervolume

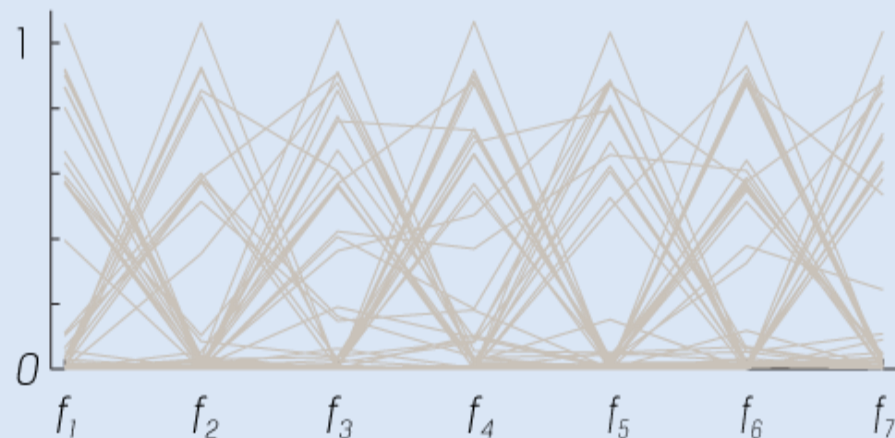


# Weighted Hypervolume in Practice

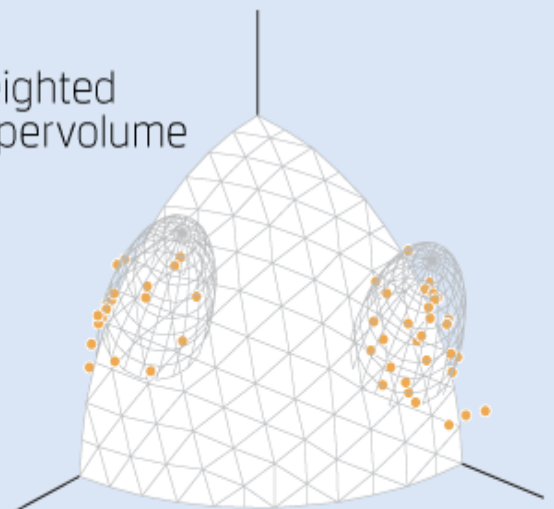
IBEA



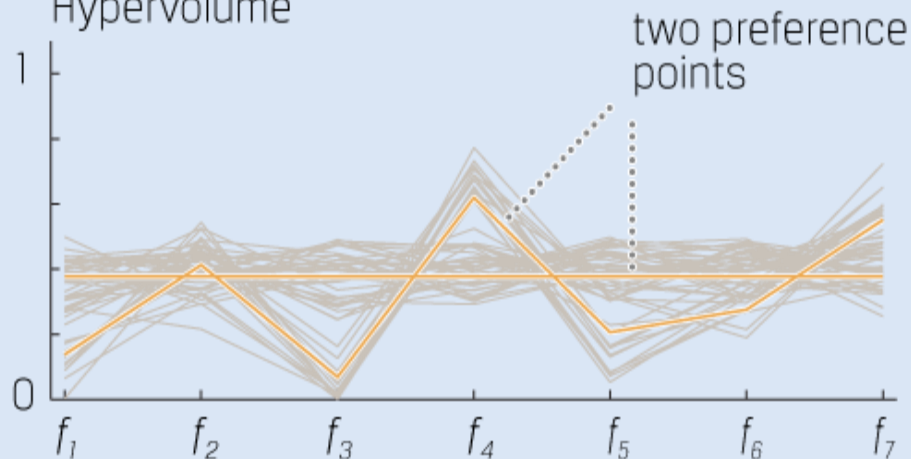
IBEA



weighted  
Hypervolume



weighted  
Hypervolume



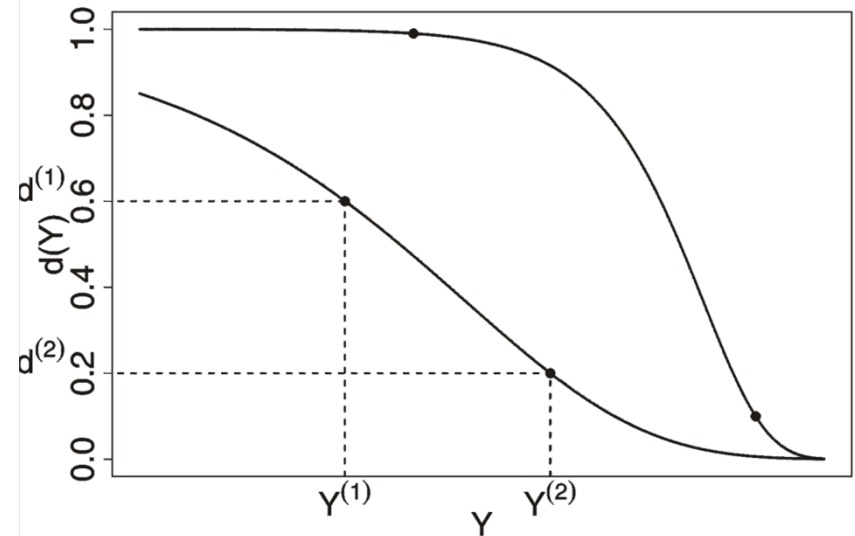
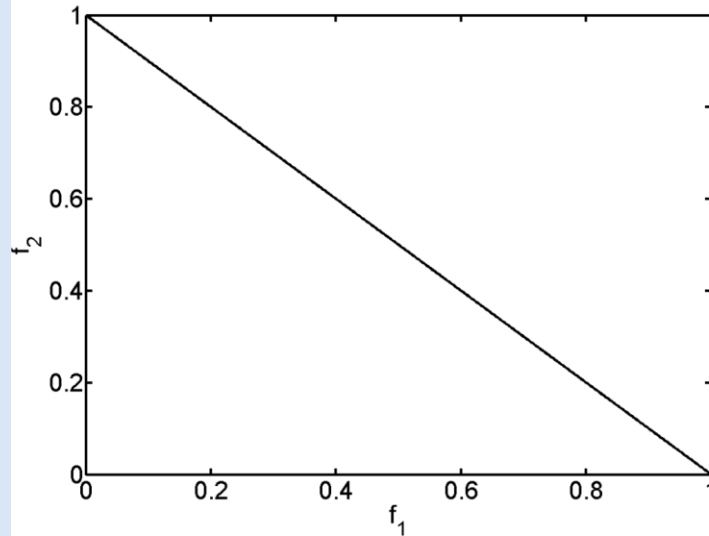
[Auger et al. 2009b]



# Example: Desirability Function (DF)-SMS-EMOA

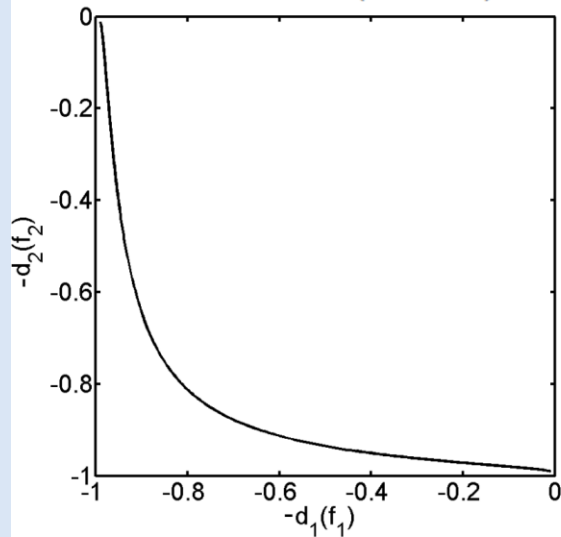
[Wagner and Trautmann 2010]

Shape of the untransformed Pareto front



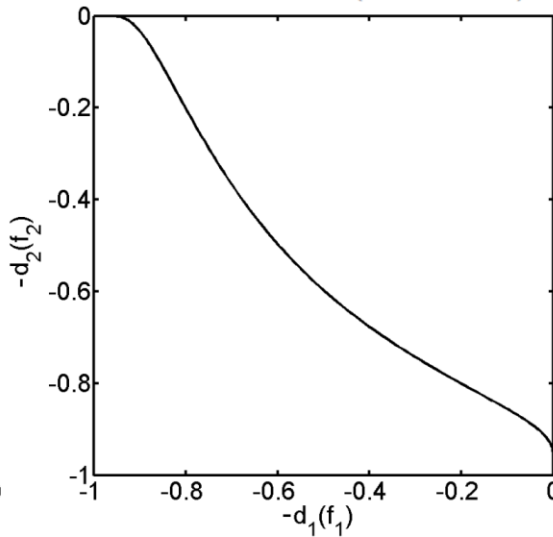
Shape of the transformed front for

identical DFs with  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0.99 \\ 1 & 0.01 \end{pmatrix}$



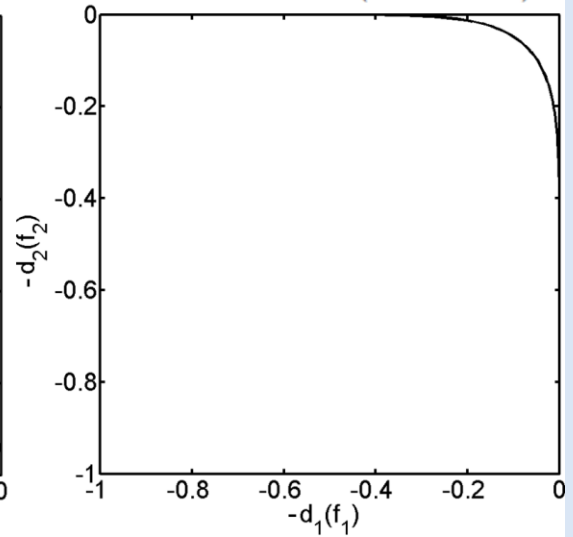
Shape of the transformed front for

identical DFs with  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0.99 \\ 0.75 & 0.01 \end{pmatrix}$

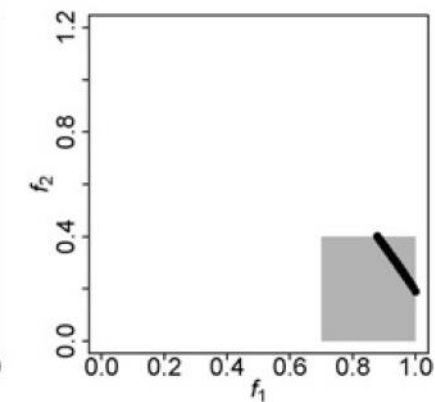
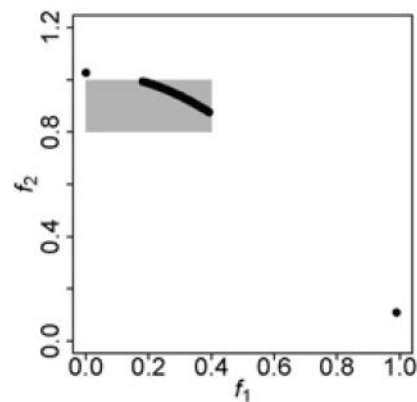
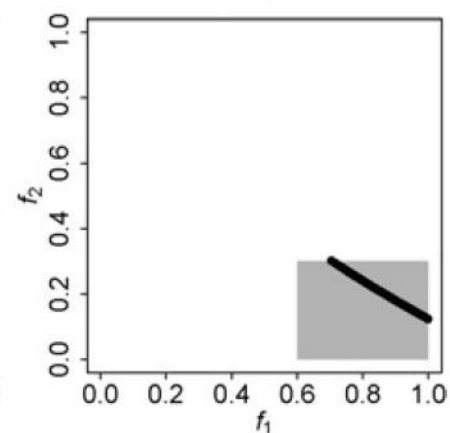
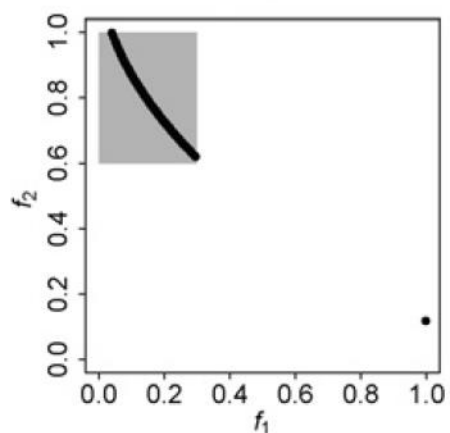
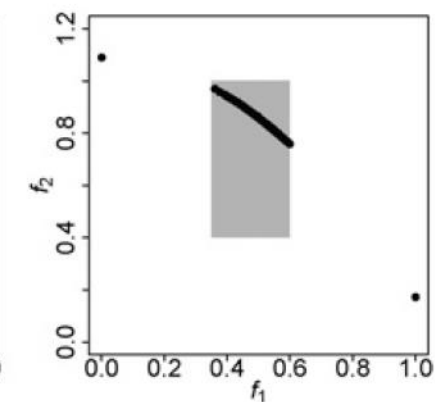
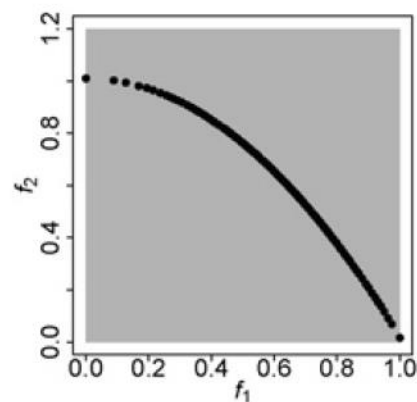
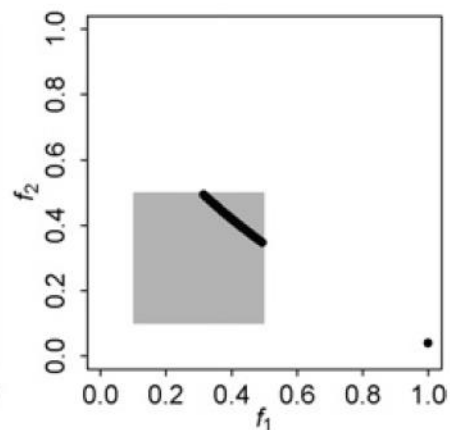
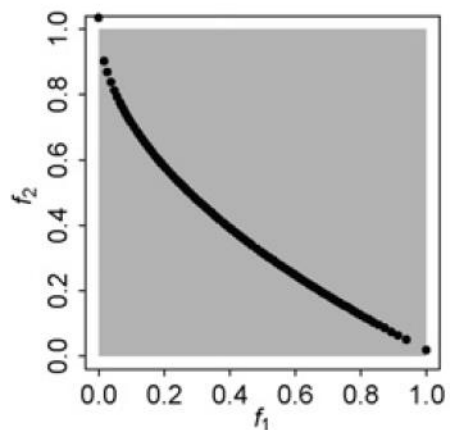


Shape of the transformed front for

identical DFs with  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0.99 \\ 0.55 & 0.01 \end{pmatrix}$



# DF-SMS-EMOA in Practice

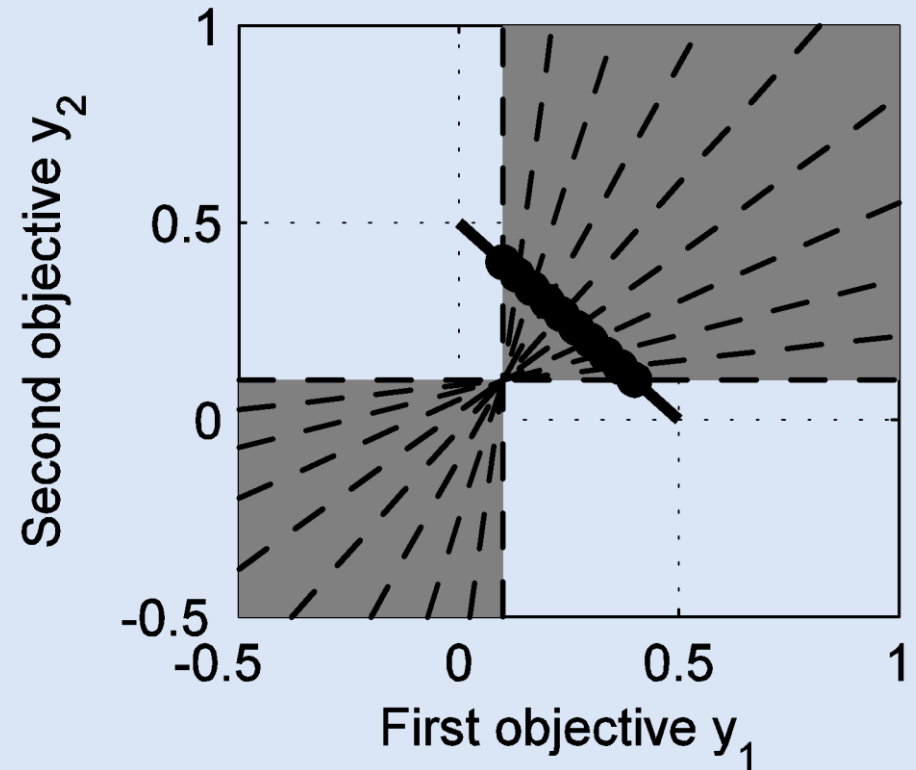
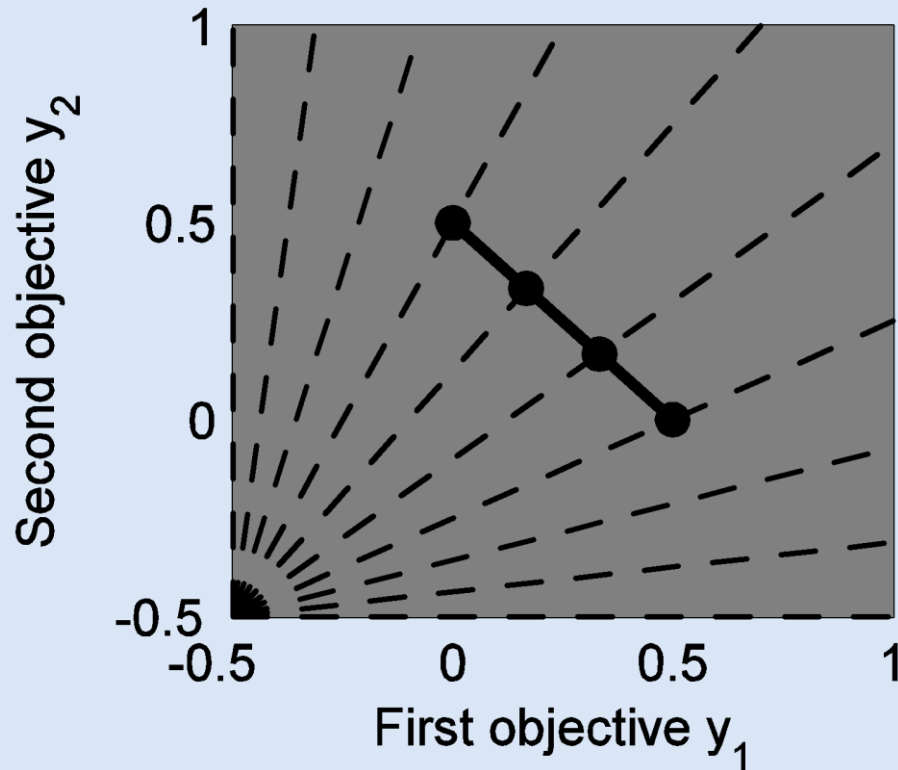


# Example: R2-EMOA

## Concept

Integration of preferences by varying the scalarizing functions

## Position of ideal point

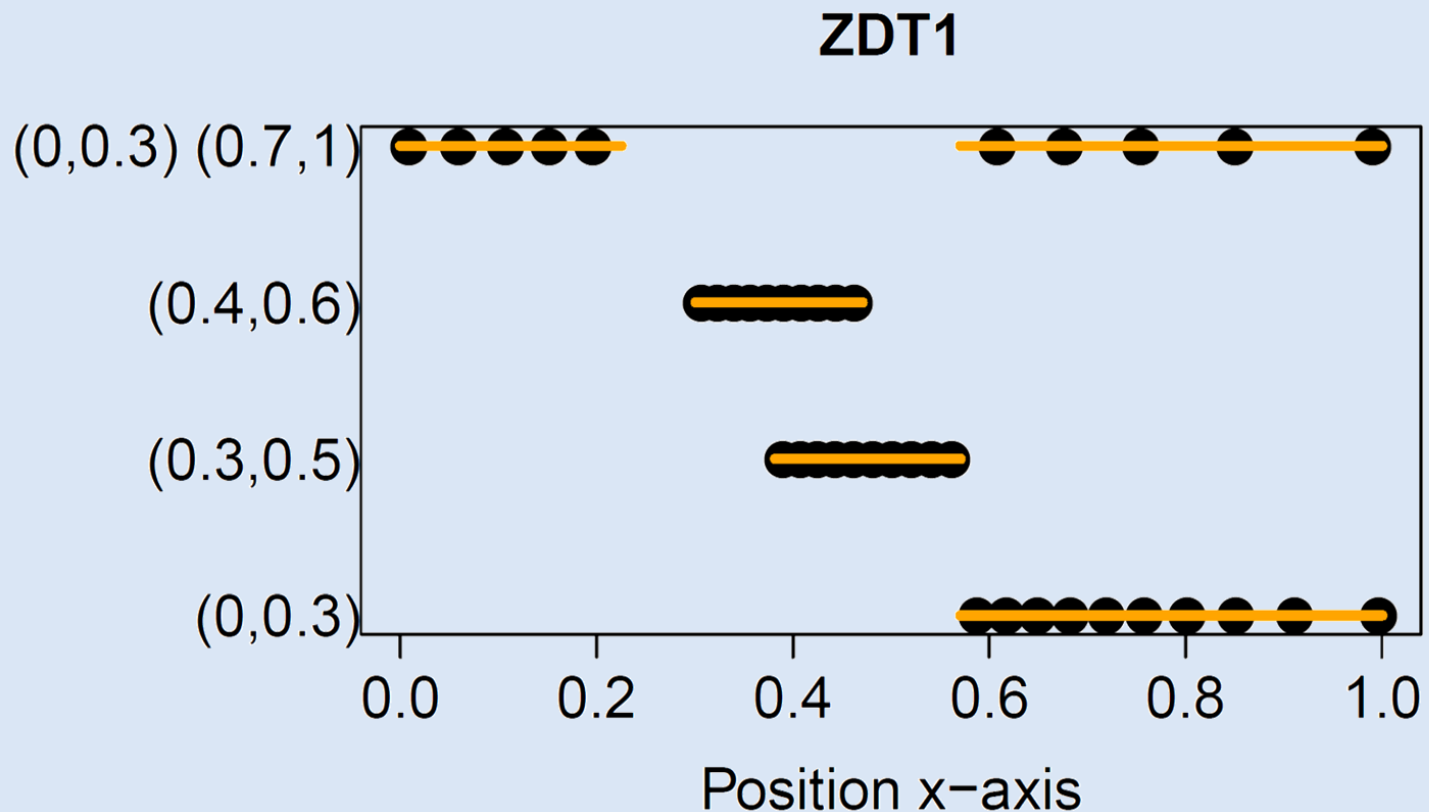


# Example: R2-EMOA

## Concept

Integration of preferences by varying the scalarizing functions

## Restriction of the weight space



# Interactive Approaches

## Successive Preference Articulation = Interactive EMO

- recent interest of both EMO and MCDM community
- important in practice

## Examples

- first interactive EMO: [Tanino et al. 1993]
- good overview: [Jaszkiewicz and Branke 2008]
- more recent work: [Brockhoff et al. 2014] [Branke et al. 2014]

## Issues/Open Questions

- realistic scenarios/ value functions
- evaluation of interactive algorithms [López-Ibáñez and Knowles 2015]

## The Big Picture

### Basic Principles of Multiobjective Optimization

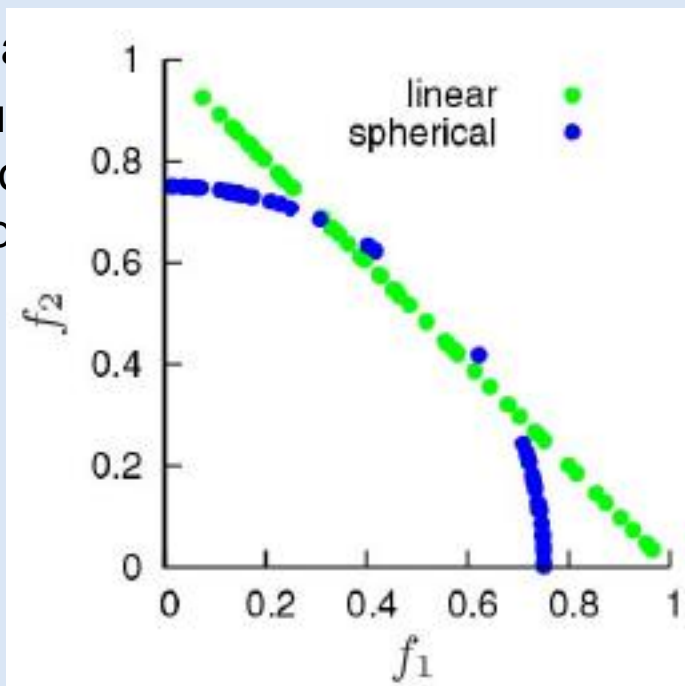
- algorithm design principles and concepts
- performance assessment

### Selected Advanced Concepts

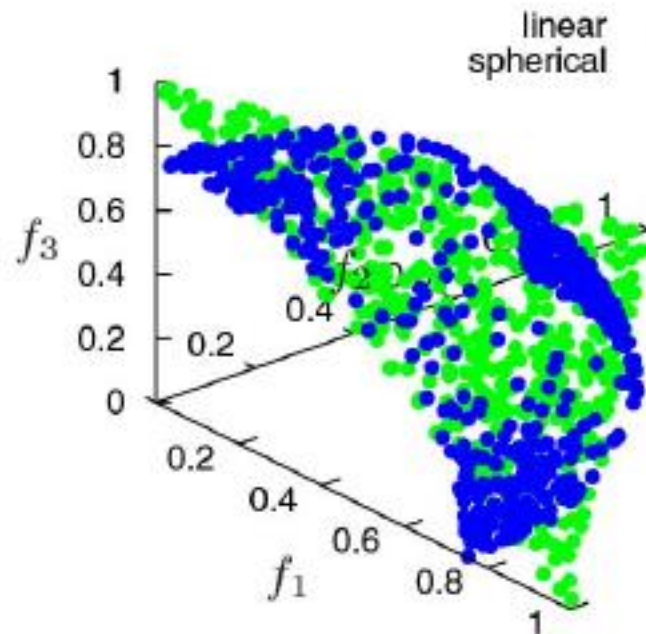
- preference articulation
- **visualization aspects**

# Visualization is Difficult for Many Objectives

These are  
Tea Tu  
Evolu  
Method



2 objective functions

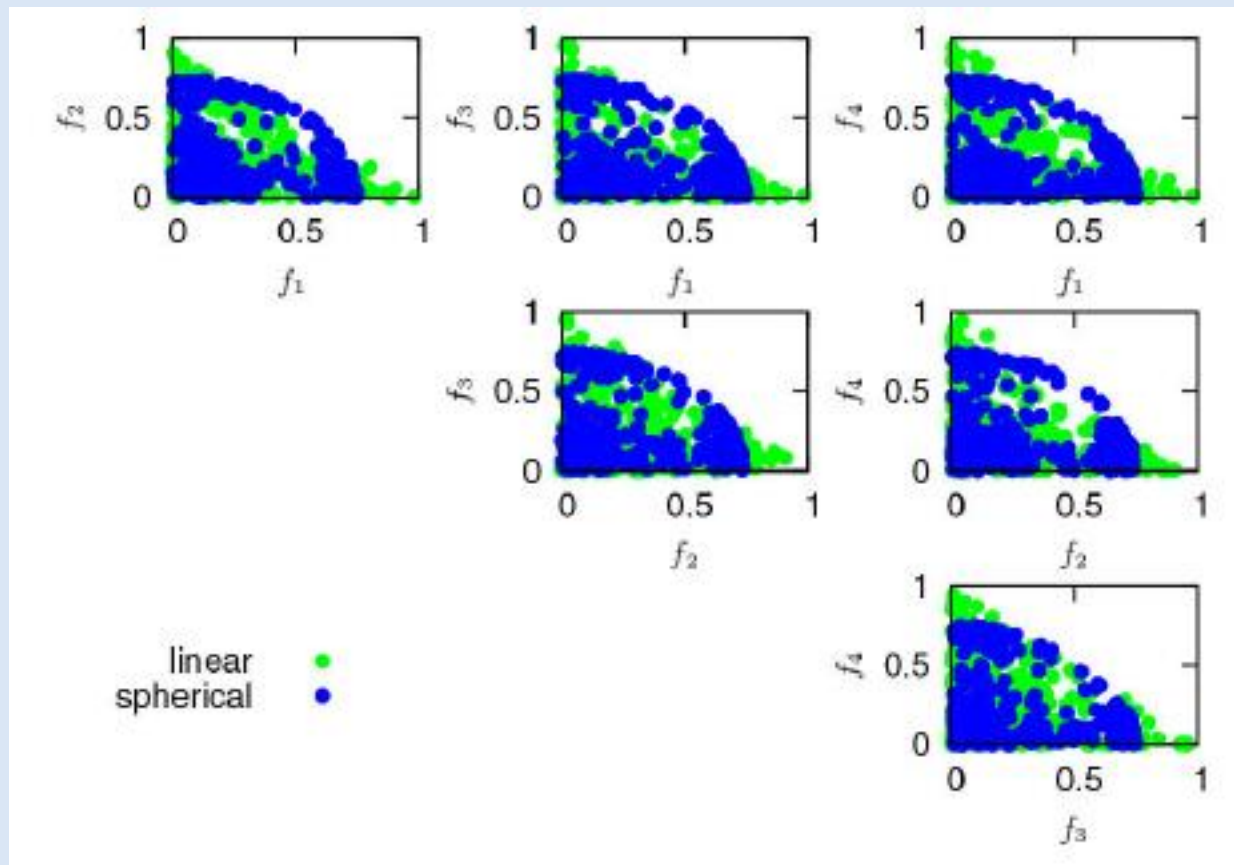


3 objective functions

>3 objective functions?

in  
n  
15.

# Scatter Plots for all Objective Combinations



These and the following plots are taken from

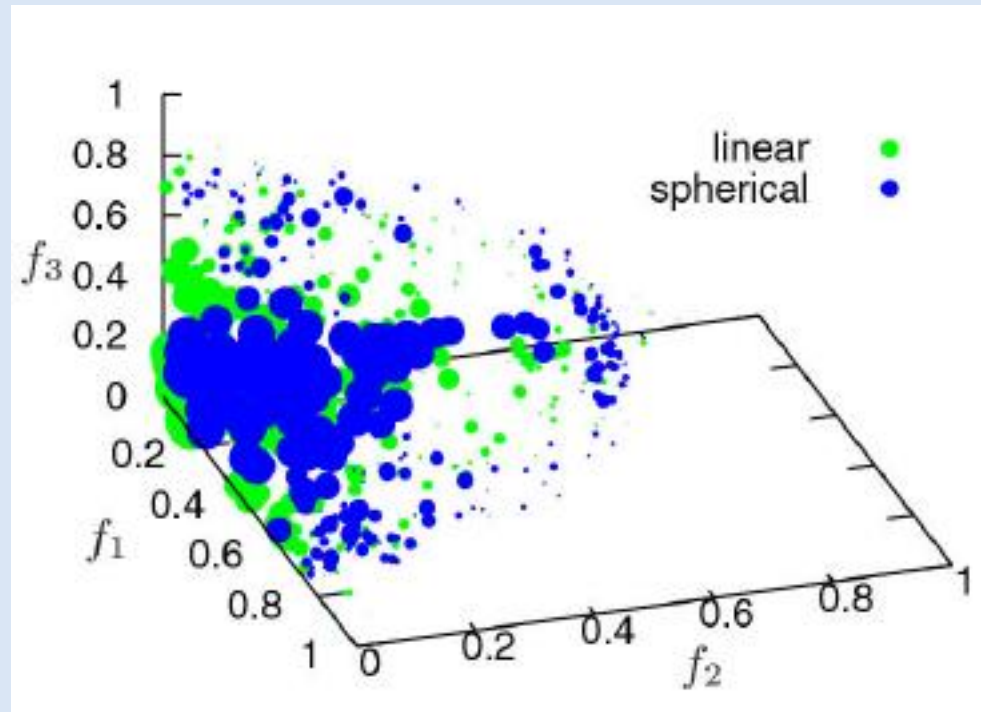
Tea Tušar and Bogdan Filipic: "Visualization of Pareto Front Approximations in Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization: A Critical Review and the Prosecution Method". *IEEE Transactions in Evolutionary Computation*, 19(2):225-245, 2015.



# Bubble Chart

Bubble chart:

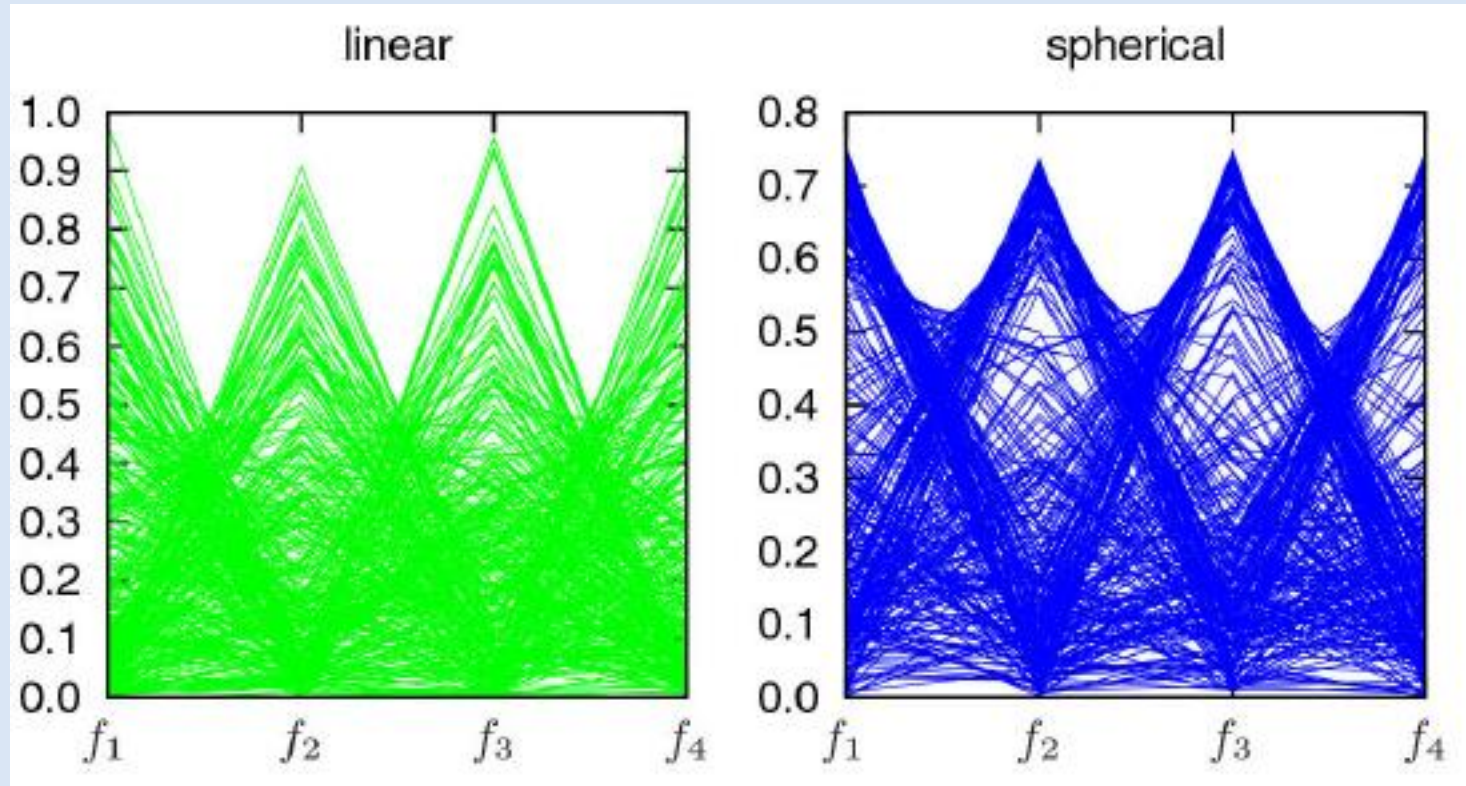
size of bubble = fourth objective



This and the following plots are taken from

Tea Tušar and Bogdan Filipic: "Visualization of Pareto Front Approximations in Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization: A Critical Review and the Prosection Method". *IEEE Transactions in Evolutionary Computation*, 19(2):225-245, 2015.

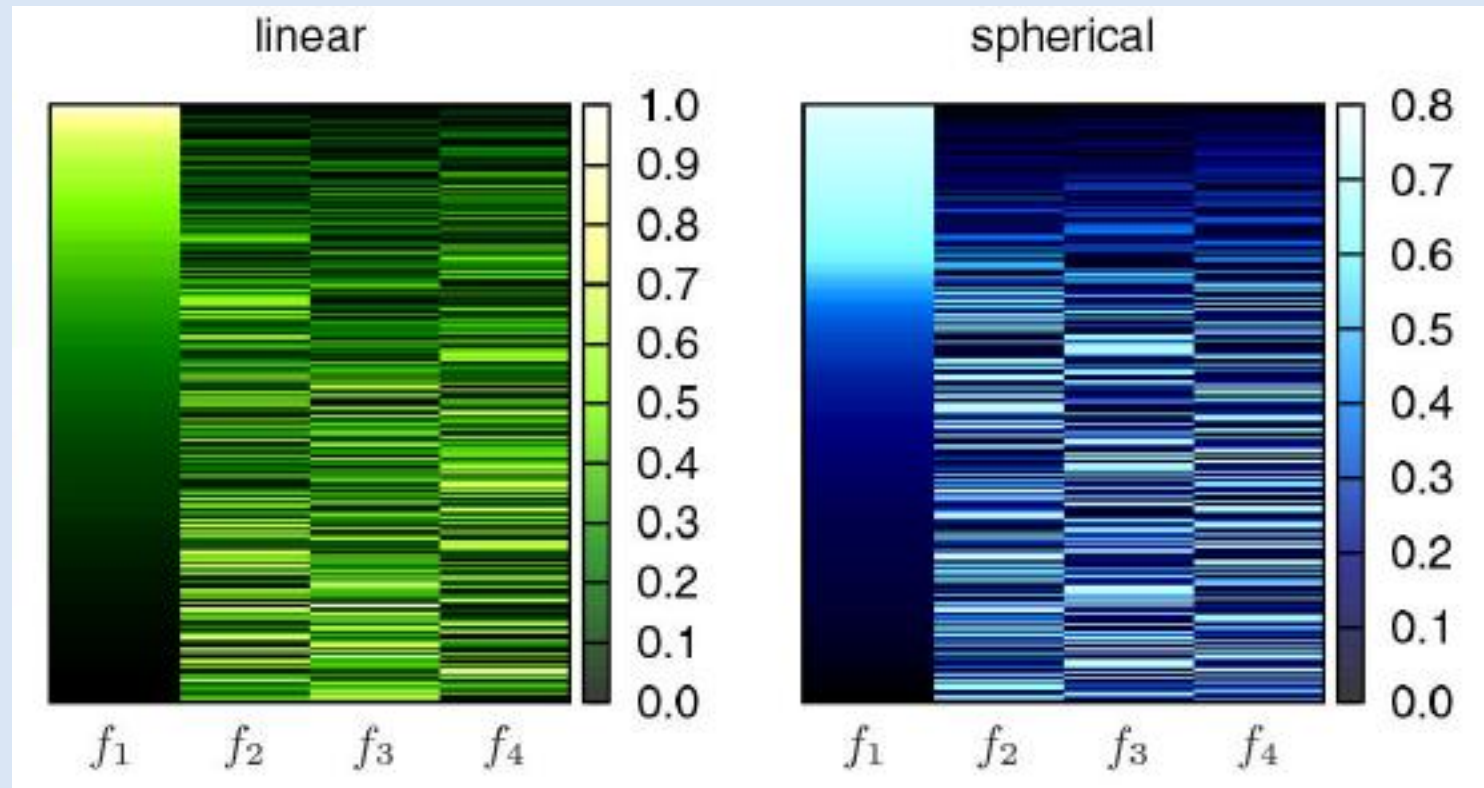
# Parallel Coordinates



These and the following plots are taken from  
Tea Tušar and Bogdan Filipic: "Visualization of Pareto Front Approximations in Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization: A Critical Review and the Prosecution Method". *IEEE Transactions in Evolutionary Computation*, 19(2):225-245, 2015.

# Heat Maps

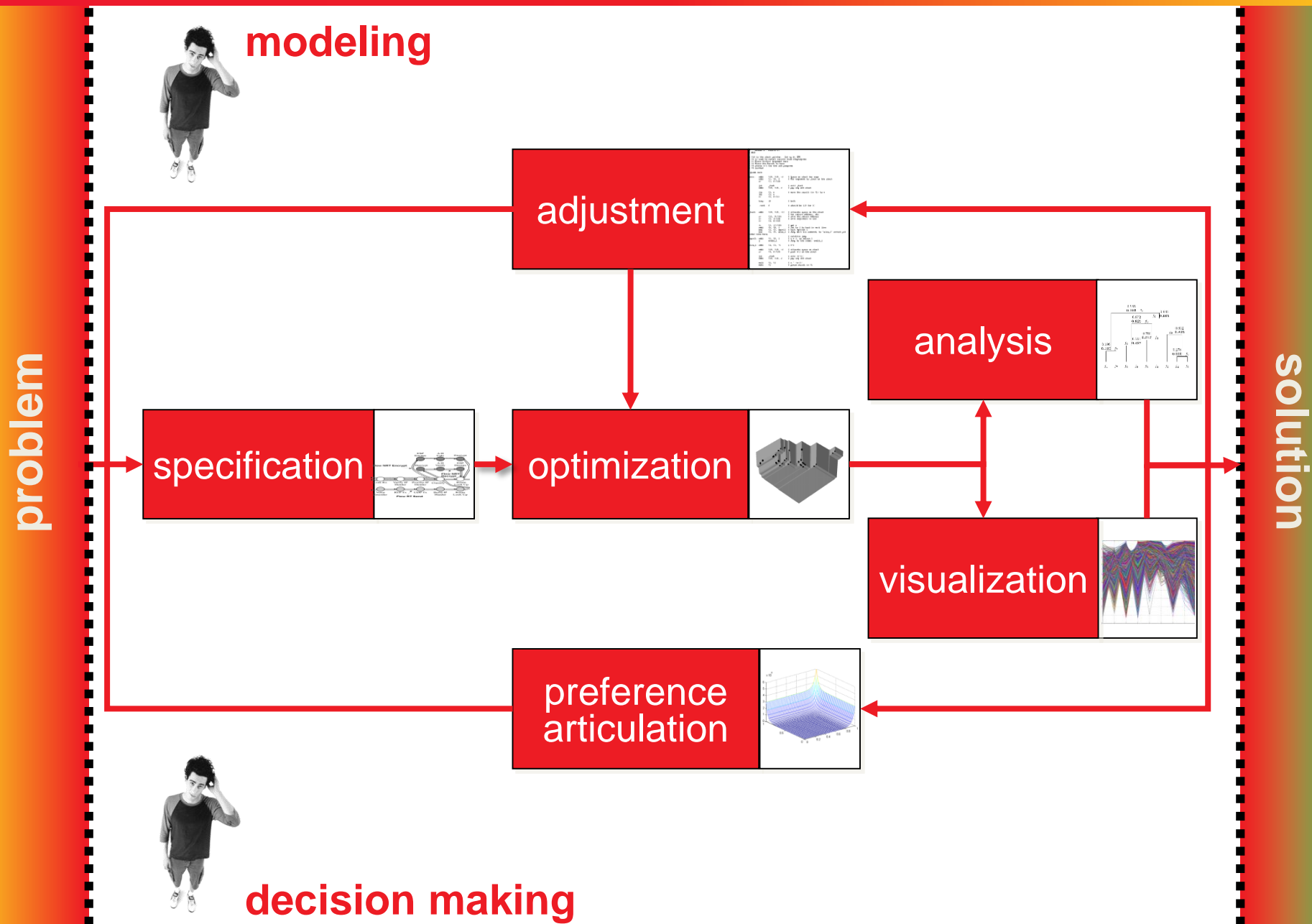
and many more...



These plots are taken from

Tea Tušar and Bogdan Filipic: "Visualization of Pareto Front Approximations in Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization: A Critical Review and the Prosecution Method". *IEEE Transactions in Evolutionary Computation*, 19(2):225-245, 2015.

# Conclusions: EMO as Interactive Decision Support



# The EMO Community

## Links:

- EMO mailing list: <https://lists.dei.uc.pt/mailman/listinfo/emo-list>
- MCDM mailing list: <http://lists.jyu.fi/mailman/listinfo/mcdm-discussion>
- EMO bibliography: <http://www.lania.mx/~ccoello/EMOO/>
- EMO conference series: <http://www.dep.uminho.pt/EMO2015/>

## Books:

- ***Multi-Objective Optimization using Evolutionary Algorithms***  
Kalyanmoy Deb, Wiley, 2001
- ***Evolutionary Algorithms for Solving Multi Objective Problems Objective Problems***, Carlos A. Coello Coello, David A. Van Veldhuizen & Gary B. Lamont, Kluwer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2007
- **Multiobjective Optimization—Interactive and Evolutionary Approaches**, J. Branke, K. Deb, K. Miettinen, and R. Slowinski, editors, volume 5252 of *LNCS*. Springer, 2008 [(still) many open questions!]
- and more...



# PISA

A Platform and Programming Language Independent Interface for Search Algorithms

### Principles and Documentation

What is PISA? How does PISA work? How is PISA useful?

### PISA for Beginners

The first steps in order to use PISA

### Downloads

Download Selectors, Downloaders

### Crucial Bugfix

A severe bug in the hypervolume calculation of the **IBEA variator** has been found, please redownload the module if your version is older



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PROBLEMS

RESOURCES

OUR TECHNIQUES

## Welcome to the **jMetal** Web Site

jMetal is ...

Summary of features

Download from **sourceforge**

**jMetal** stands for **Metaheuristic Algorithms in Java**, and it is an object-oriented Java-based framework for multi-objective optimization with metaheuristics.

You can use it to ...

The object-oriented architecture of the framework and the included features allow you to: experiment with the provided classic and state-of-the-art techniques, develop your own algorithms, solve your optimization problems, integrate jMetal in other tools, etc.

Our motivation is ...

The motivation driving us is to provide ...

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Examples

Downloads

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## MOEA Framework

A Free and Open Source Java Framework for Multiobjective Optimization

### A Framework for Innovation

The MOEA Framework is a free and open source Java library for developing and experimenting with multiobjective evolutionary algorithms (MOEAs) and other general-purpose multiobjective optimization algorithms. The MOEA Framework supports genetic algorithms, differential evolution, particle swarm optimization, genetic programming, grammatical evolution, and more. A number of algorithms are provided out-of-the-box, including NSGA-II, NSGA-III, e-MOEA, GDE3 and MOEA/D. In addition, the MOEA Framework provides the tools necessary to rapidly design, develop, execute and statistically test optimization algorithms.

### Key Features

- Fast, reliable implementations of many state-of-the-art multiobjective evolutionary algorithms
- Extensible with custom algorithms, problems and operators
- Supports master-slave, island-model, and hybrid parallelization
- Modular design for constructing new optimization algorithms from existing components
- Permissive open source license
- Fully documented source code

### Downloads

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Pull requests 1

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	brockho committed on GitHub Merge pull request #1075 from numbbo/development	Latest commit 0cbb7db on 10 Jun
code-experiments	Merge pull request #1071 from ttusar/debug	a month ago
code-postprocessing	further clean up of postprocessing output,	a month ago
code-preprocessing/archive-update	Added empty last lines.	a month ago
docs	updated reference to biobjective perf-assessment paper on arXiv in ge...	2 months ago
howtos	Update documentation-howto.md	4 months ago
.clang-format	raising an error in bbob2009_logger.c when best_value is NULL. Plus s...	a year ago
.hgignore	raising an error in bbob2009_logger.c when best_value is NULL. Plus s...	a year ago
AUTHORS	small correction in AUTHORS	4 months ago
LICENSE	Added acknowledgements to external collaborators...	4 months ago

### Key Features

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