



# Optimizing Simulations and Black-boxes using a Surrogated-based Approach

Alison Cozad<sup>1,2</sup>, Nick Sahinidis<sup>1,2</sup>, Zhihong Yuan<sup>1,2</sup>, David Miller<sup>1</sup>

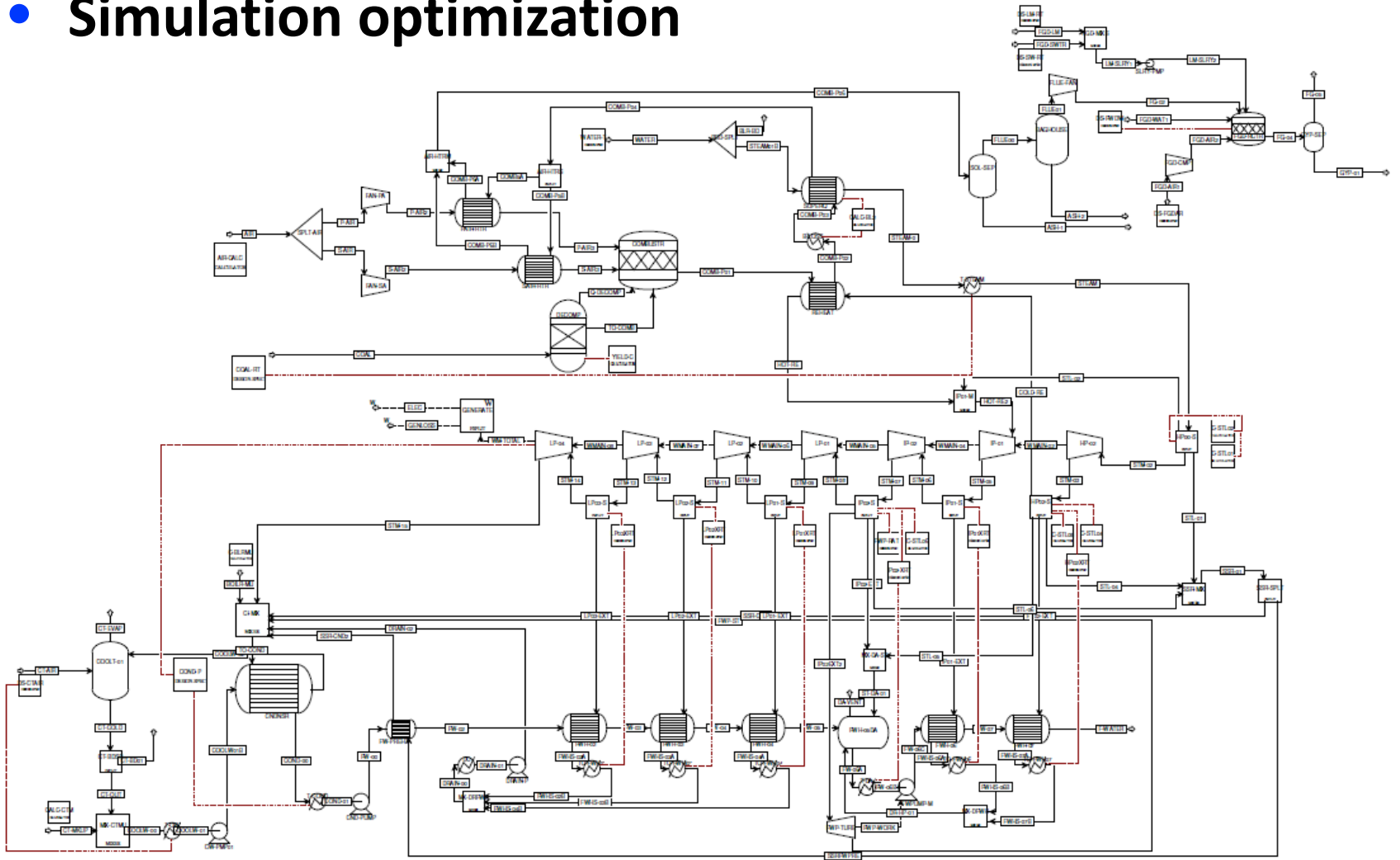
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# MOTIVATION

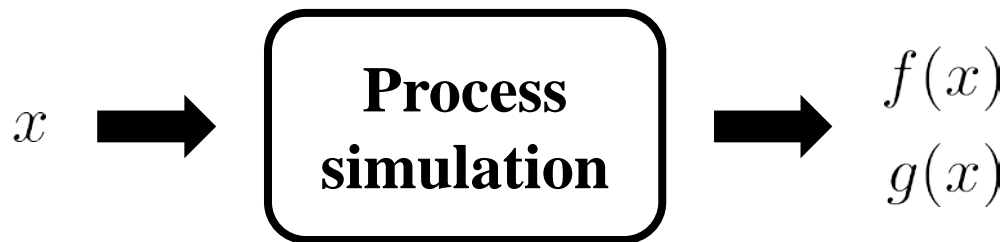
- Simulation optimization



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

# PROBLEM STATEMENT

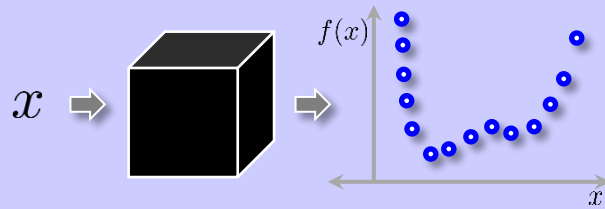
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x) \leq 0 \\ & h(x) = 0 \\ & x \in [x^l, x^u] \end{aligned}$$



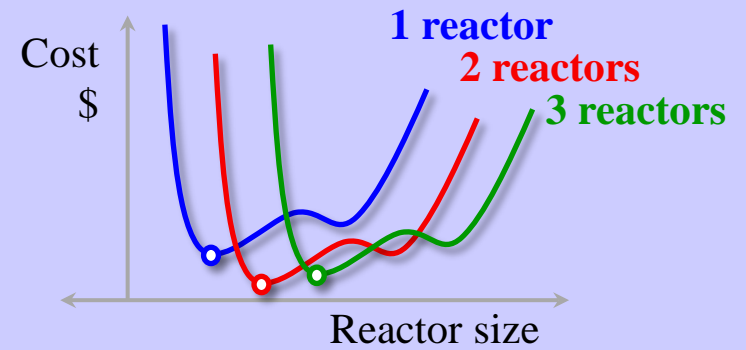
Optimize simulations or black-box processes

# CHALLENGES

## No algebraic model



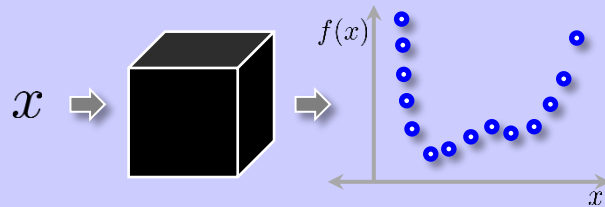
## Complex process alternatives



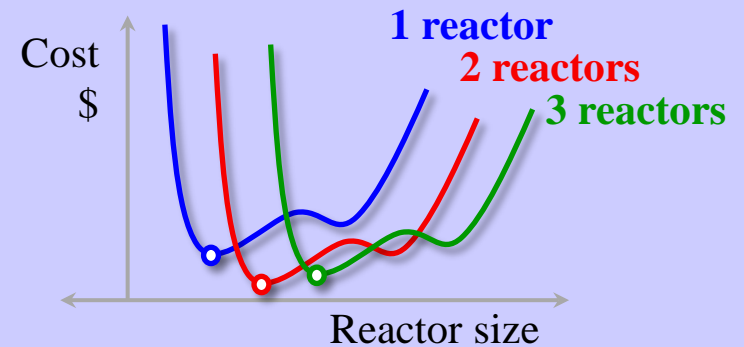
# CHALLENGES

OPTIMIZER

No algebraic model

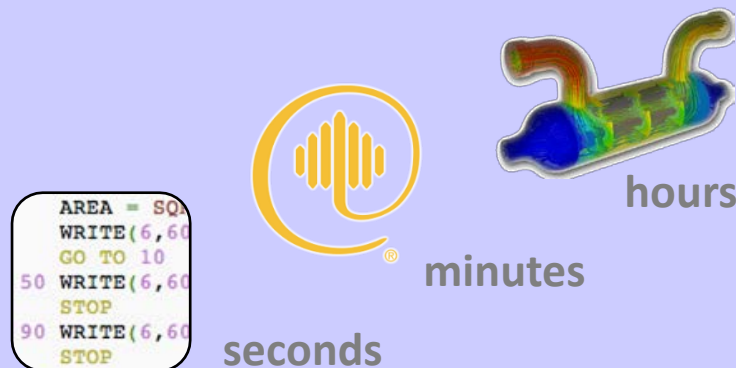


Complex process alternatives



SIMULATOR

Costly simulations



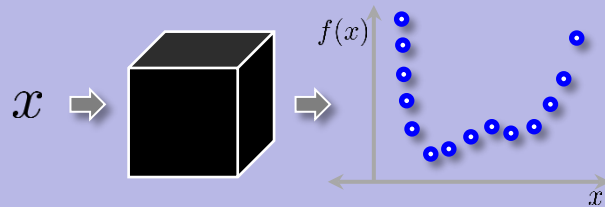
Scarcity of fully robust simulations



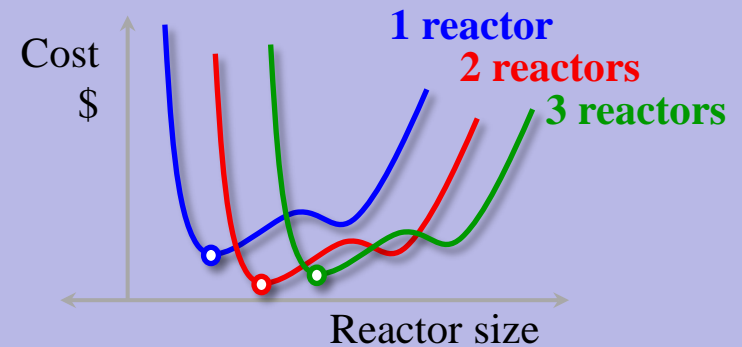
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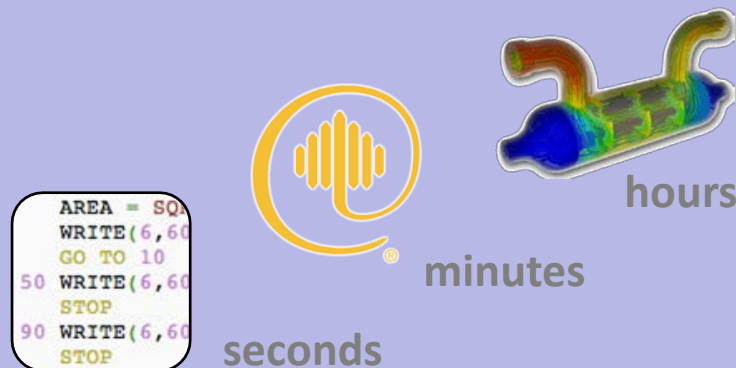


Complex process alternatives



SIMULATOR

Costly simulations



Scarcity of fully robust simulations



~~X~~ Gradient-based methods

~~X~~ Derivative-free methods

# OVERVIEW

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- 1. Surrogate-based optimization of process simulations**
- 2. Surrogate model generation method**
- 3. Computational experiments**
- 4. Case studies**

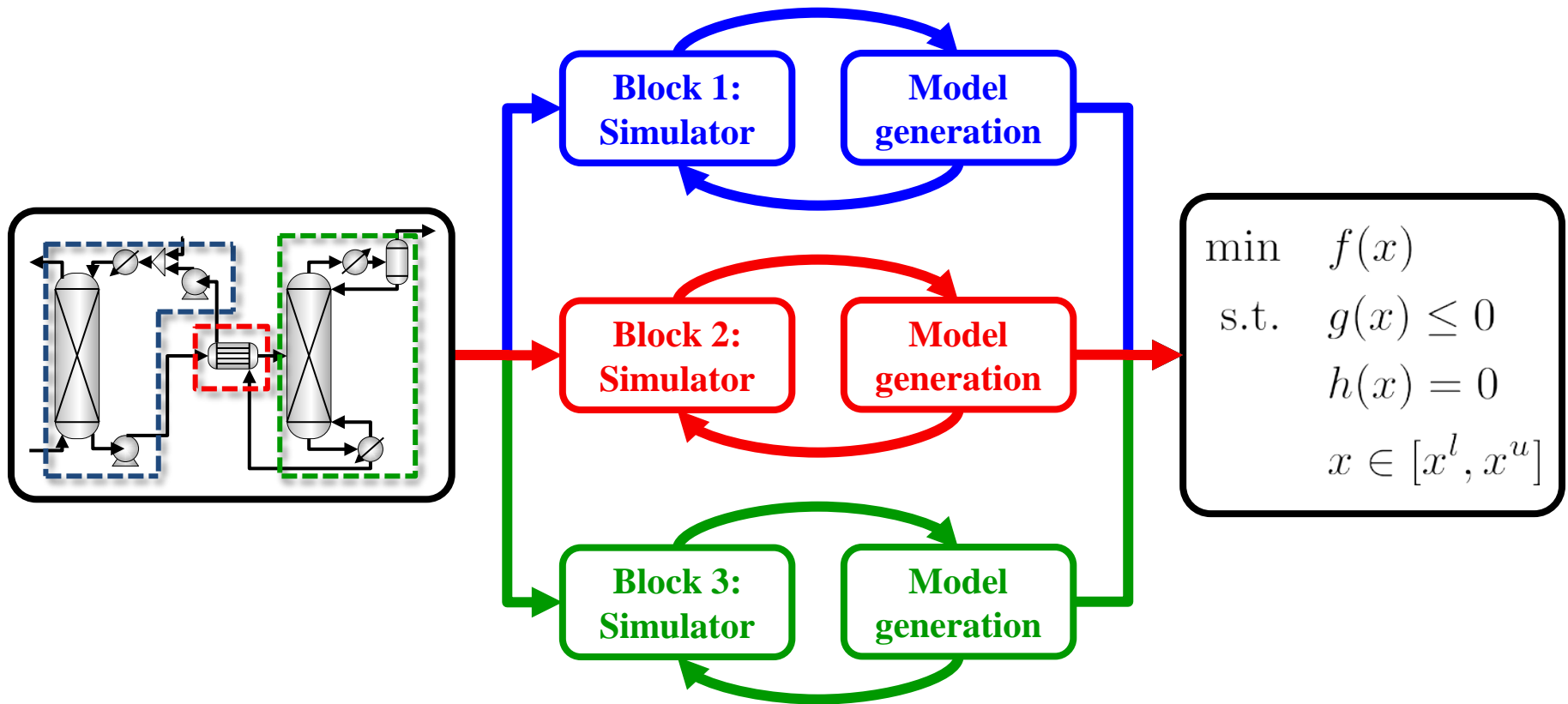
# OVERVIEW

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- 1. Surrogate-based optimization of process simulations**
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# SOLUTION STRATEGY



## Process Simulation

Disaggregate process into process **blocks**

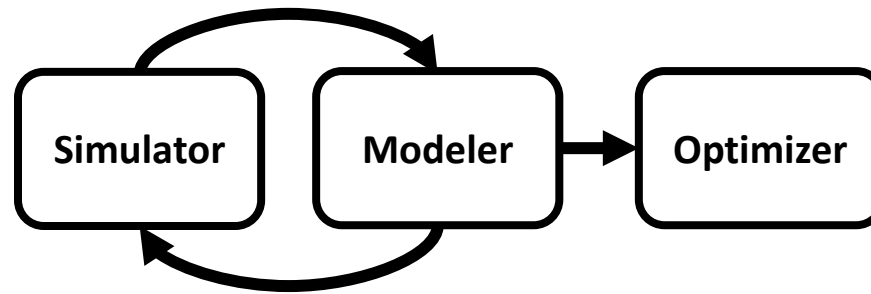
## Surrogate Models

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

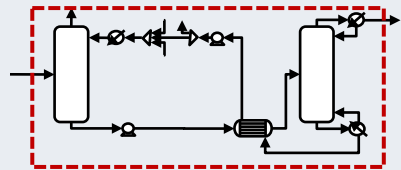
## Optimization Model

Add algebraic constraints  
 $h(x)=0$ : design specs, heat/mass balances, and logic constraints

# RECENT WORK IN CHEMICAL ENG



## Full process



### Kriging

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

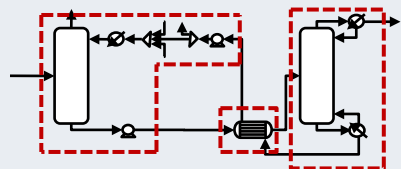
### Neural nets

- Michalopoulos et al., 2001

### Polynomial-based

- Palmer and Realff, 2002

## Disaggregated



- Caballero and Grossmann, 2008

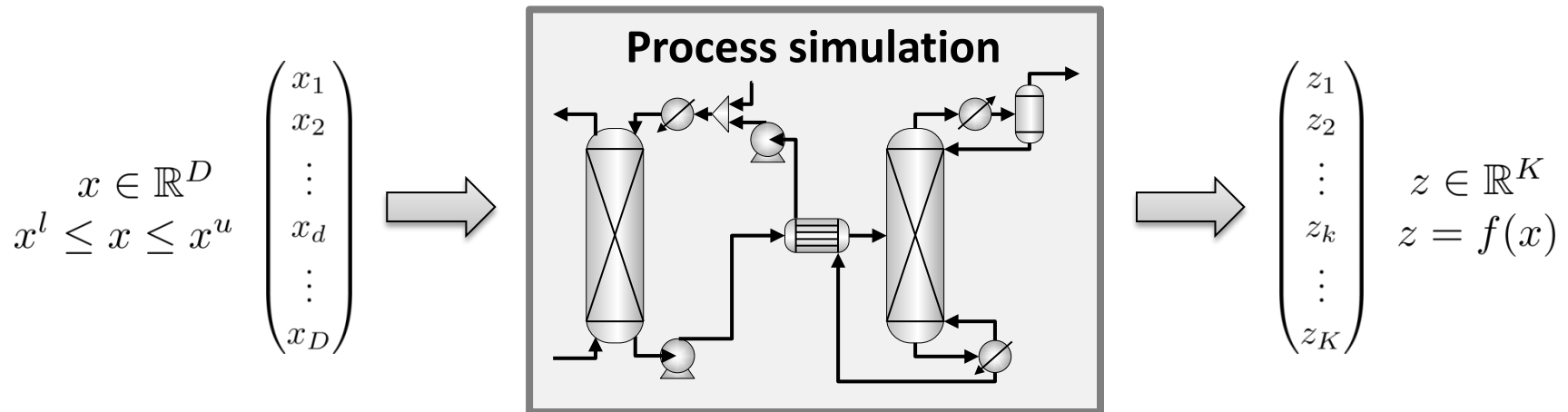
- Henao and Maravelias, 2011

# OVERVIEW

1. Surrogate-based optimization of process simulations
2. Surrogate model generation method
  - **Efficiently** generate **simple** and **accurate** algebraic models
3. Computational experiments
4. Case studies

# LEARNING PROBLEM STATEMENT

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

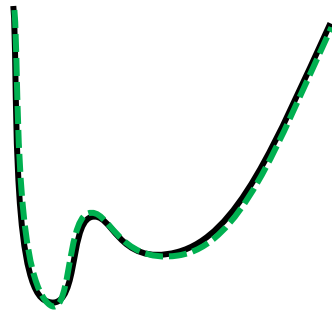


**Independent variables:**  
Operating conditions, inlet flow  
properties, unit geometry

**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*



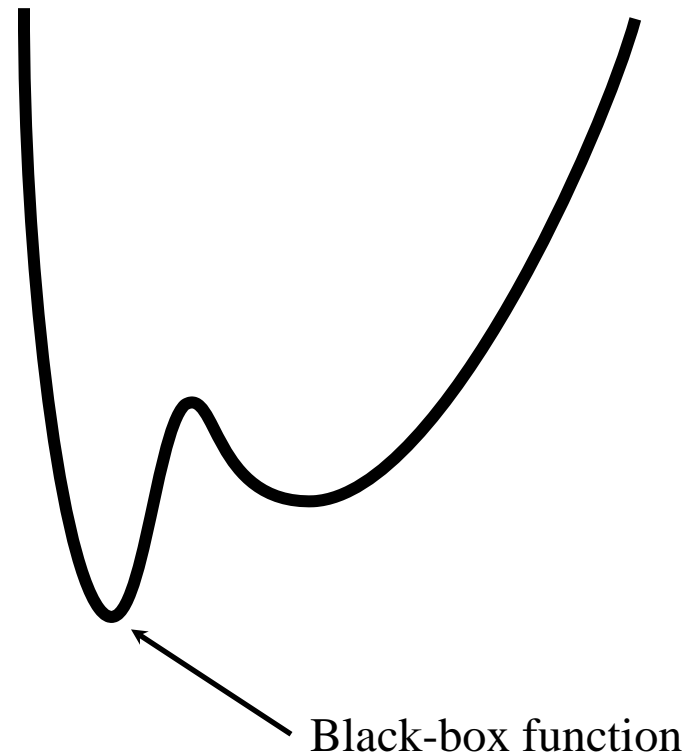
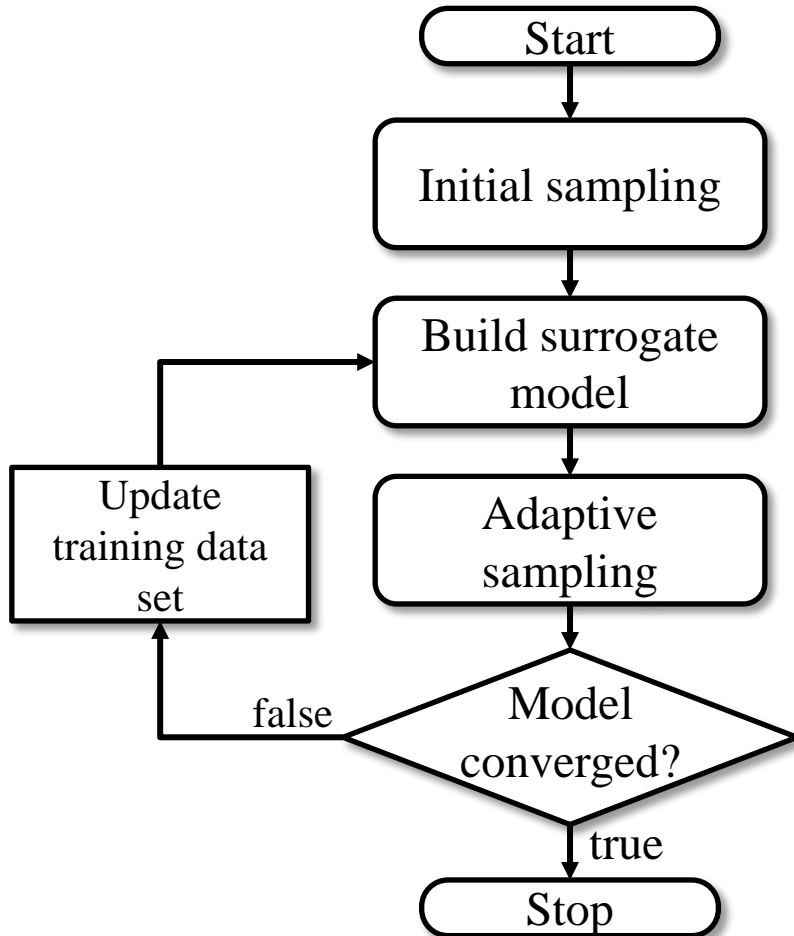
$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i \exp\left(\frac{\|x\|}{\sigma^2}\right) + \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \dots$$

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

- Generated from a minimal data set
  - *Reduce experimental and simulation requirements*

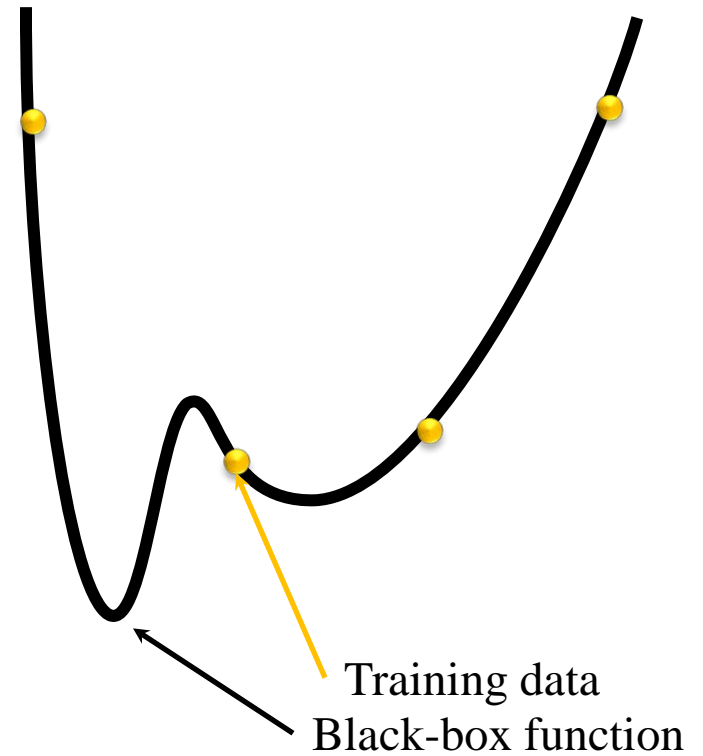
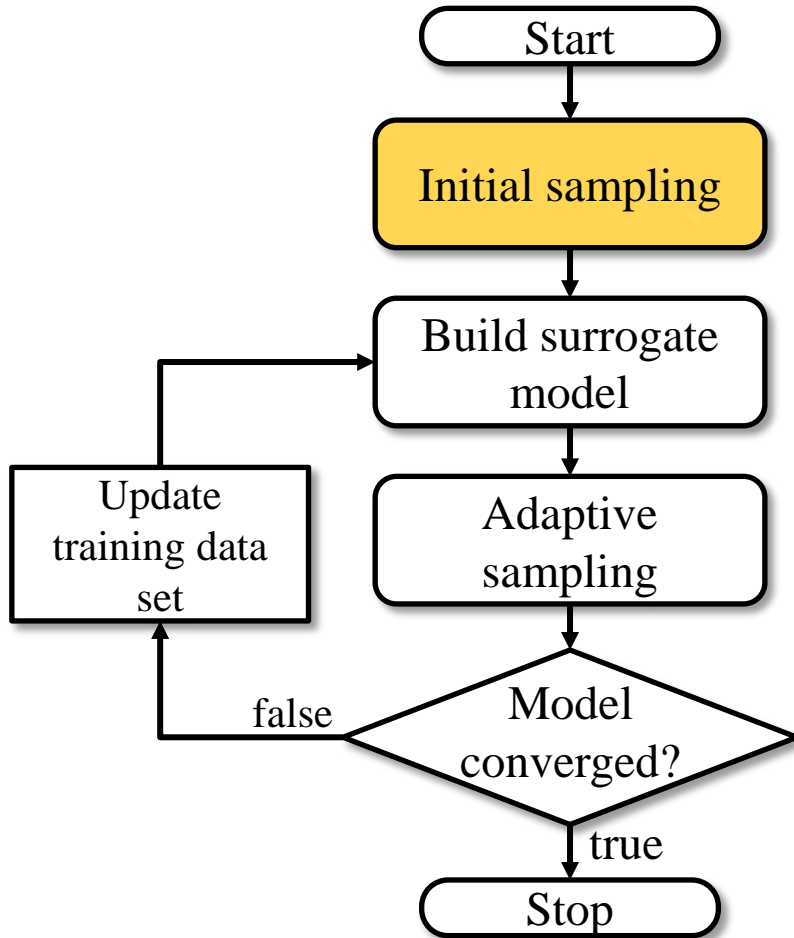
# ALAMO

## Automated Learning of Algebraic Models for Optimization



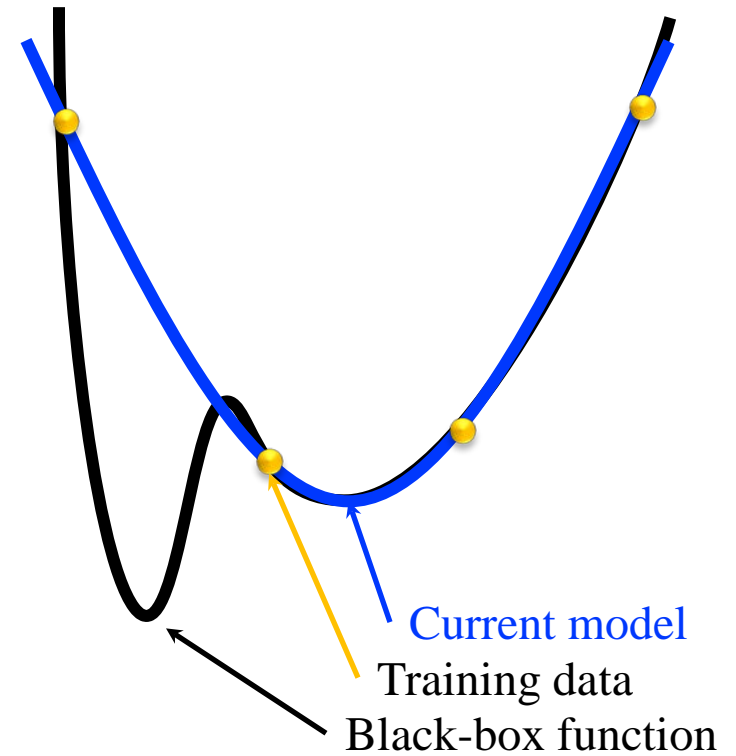
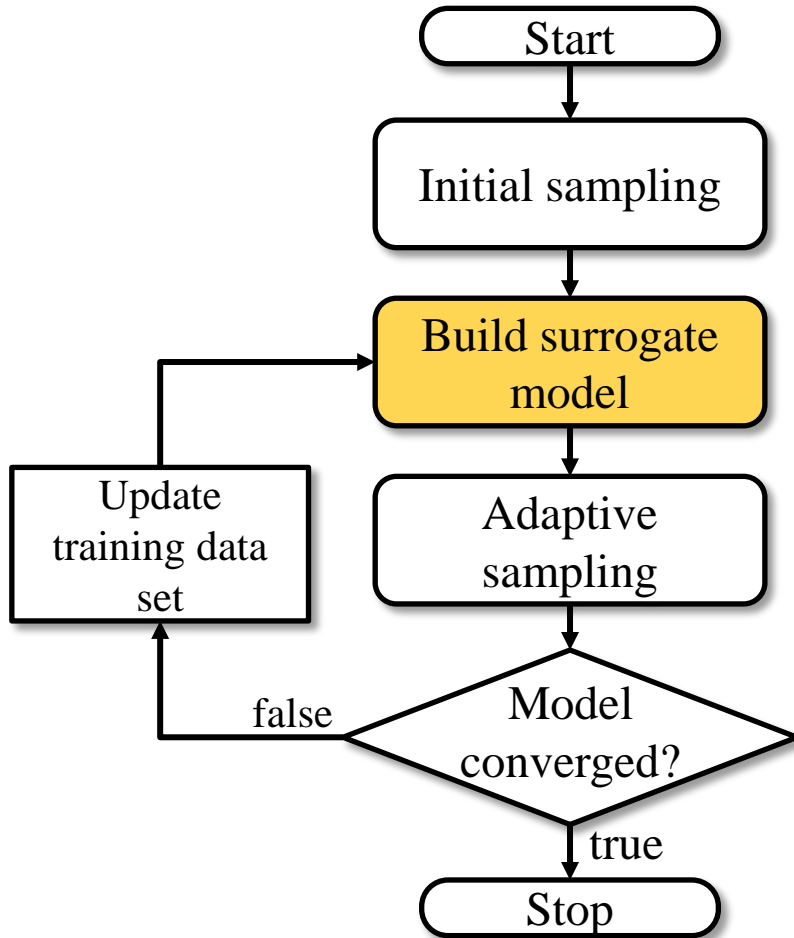
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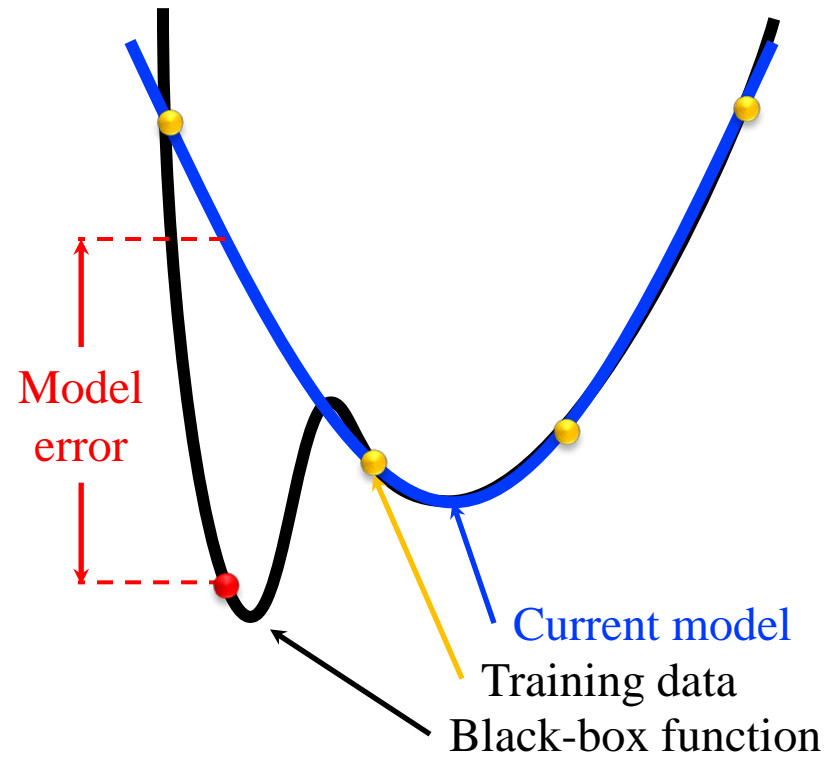
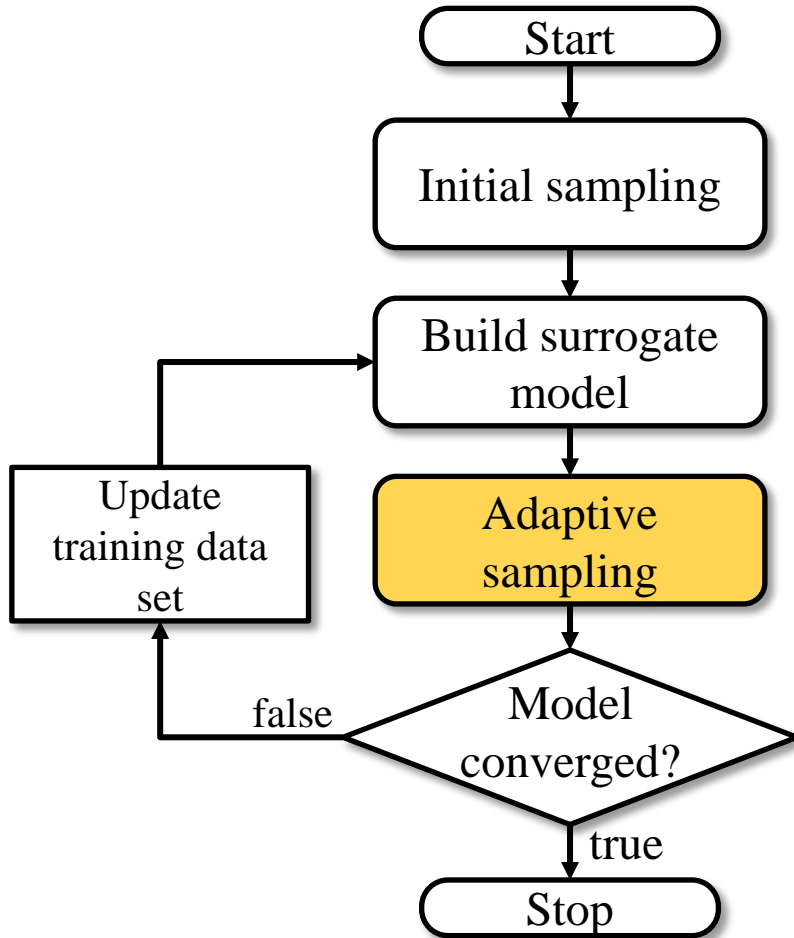
## Automated Learning of Algebraic Models for Optimization





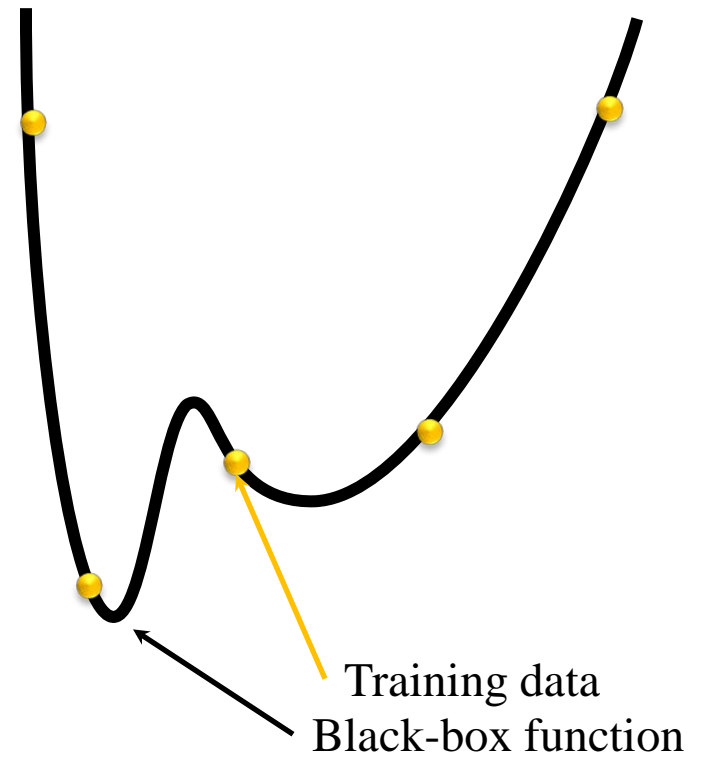
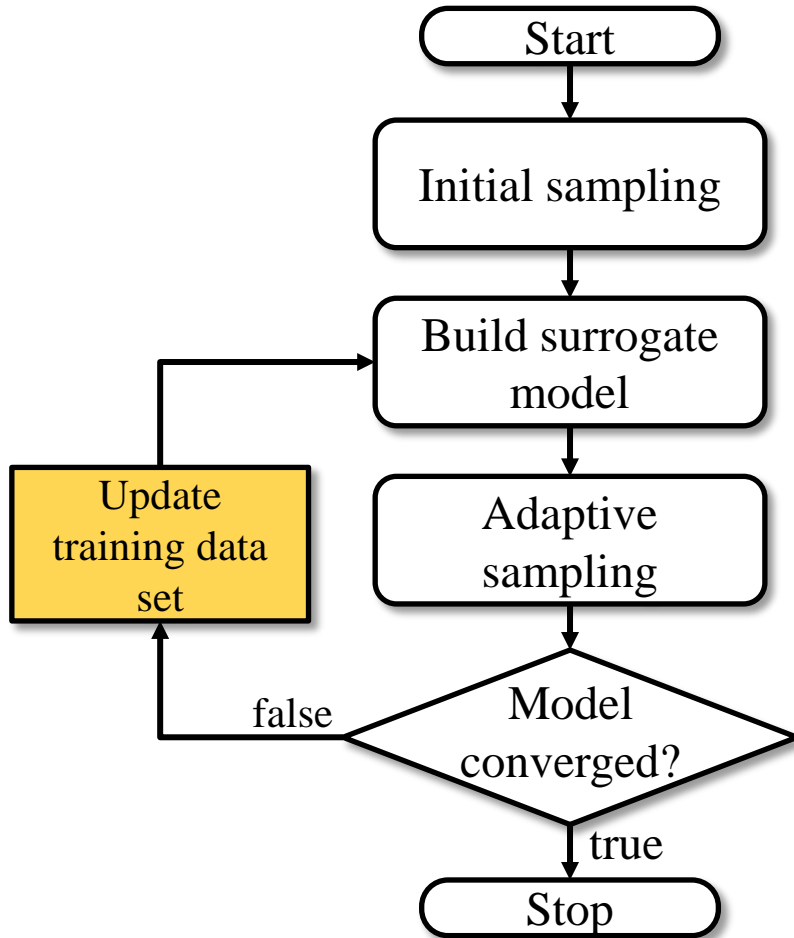
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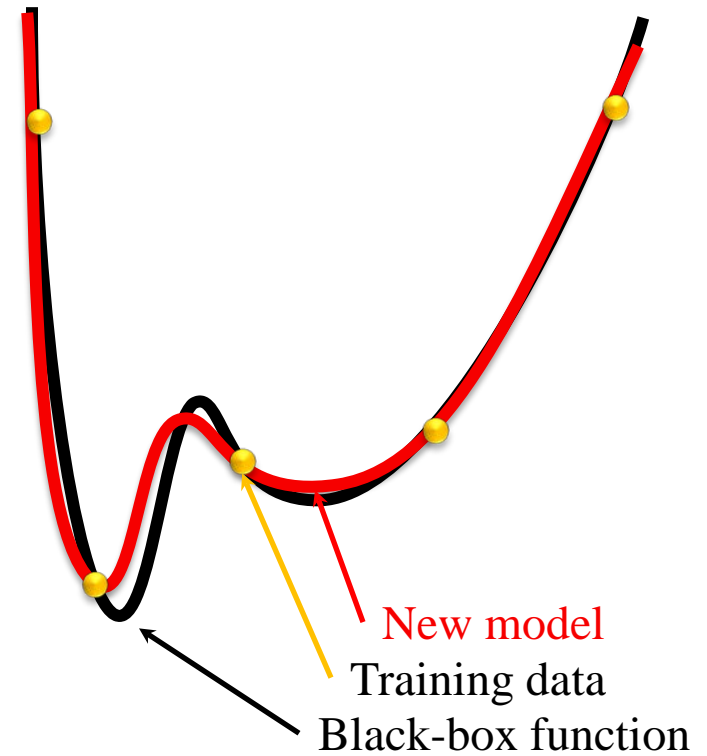
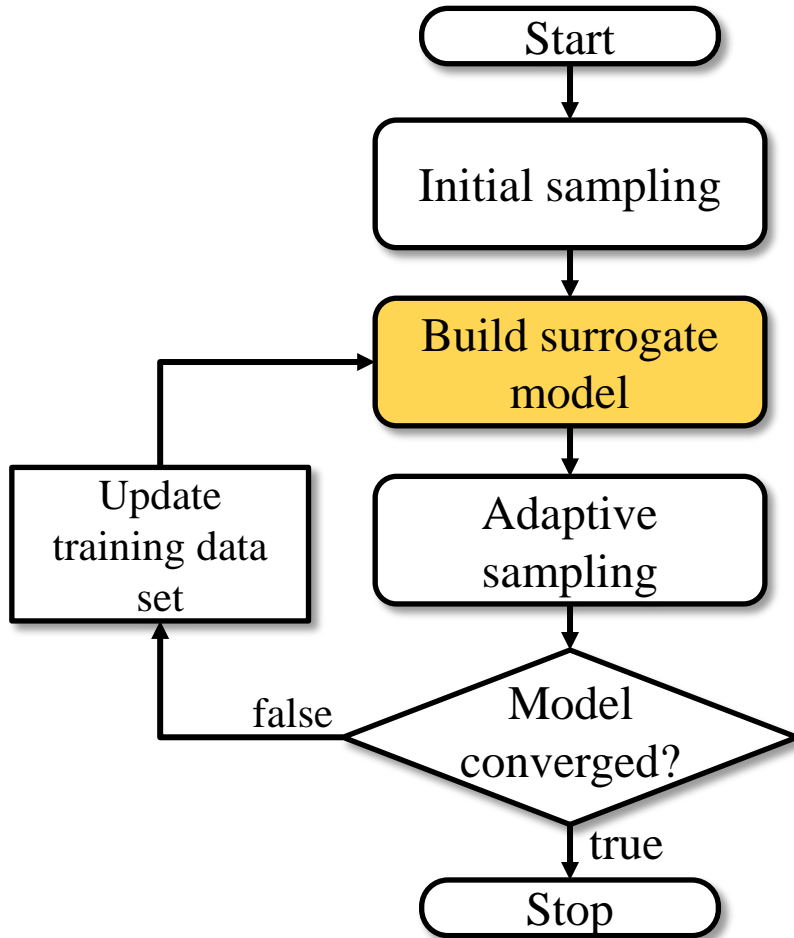
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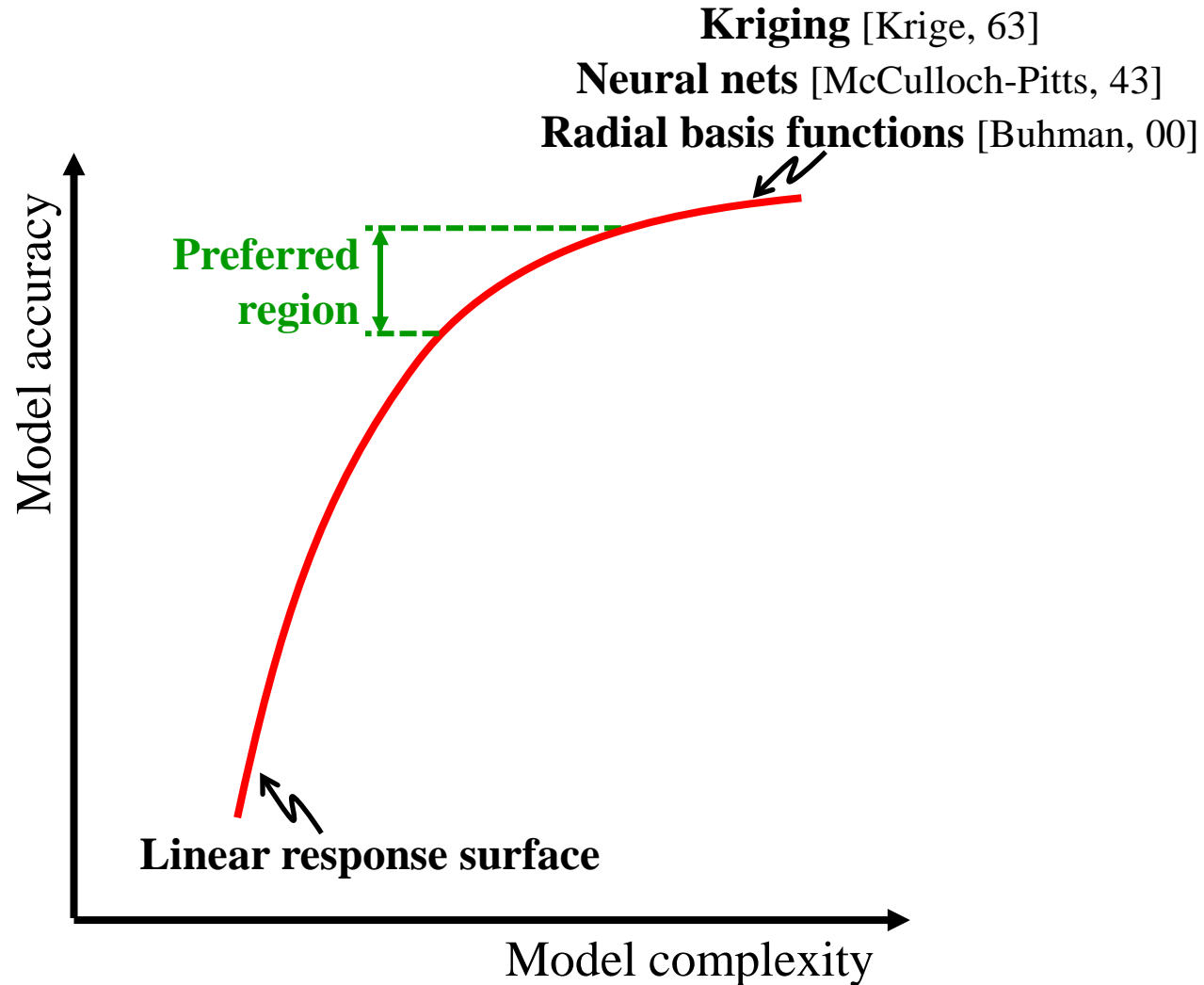


# ALAMO

## Automated Learning of Algebraic Models for Optimization



# MODEL COMPLEXITY TRADEOFF



# MODEL IDENTIFICATION

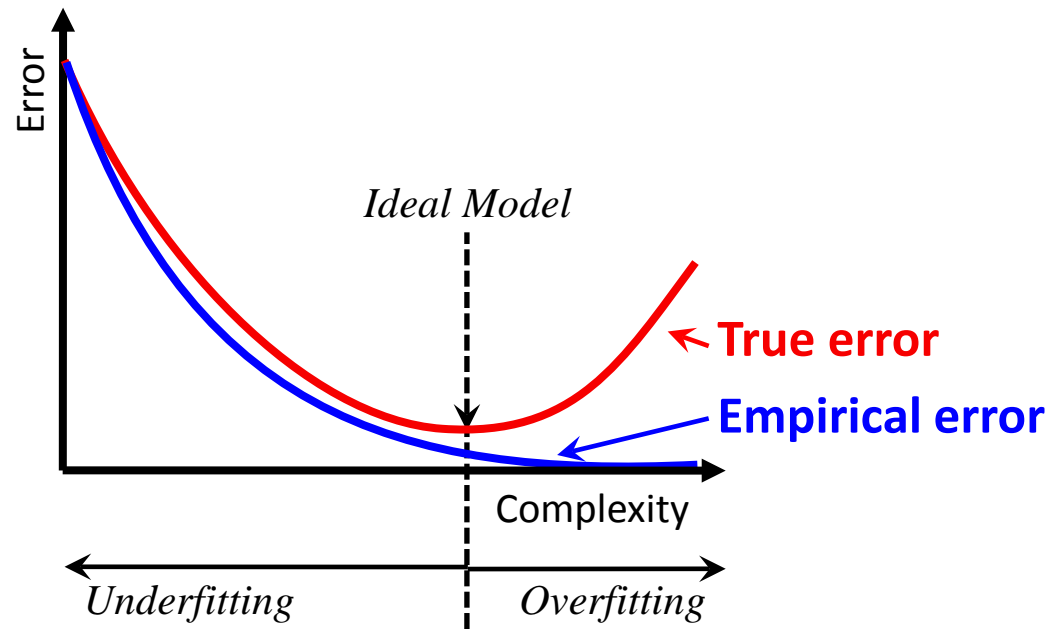
- Goal: Identify the **functional form** and **complexity** of the surrogate models

$$z = f(x)$$

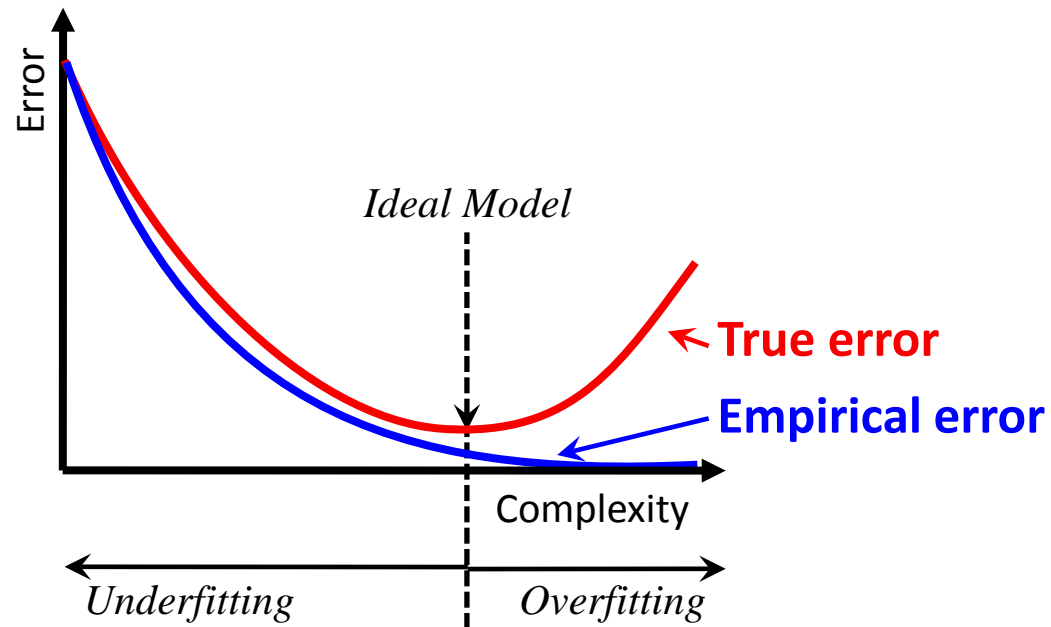
- **Functional form:**
  - General functional form is unknown: Our method will identify models with combinations of **simple basis functions**

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



# OVERFITTING AND TRUE ERROR



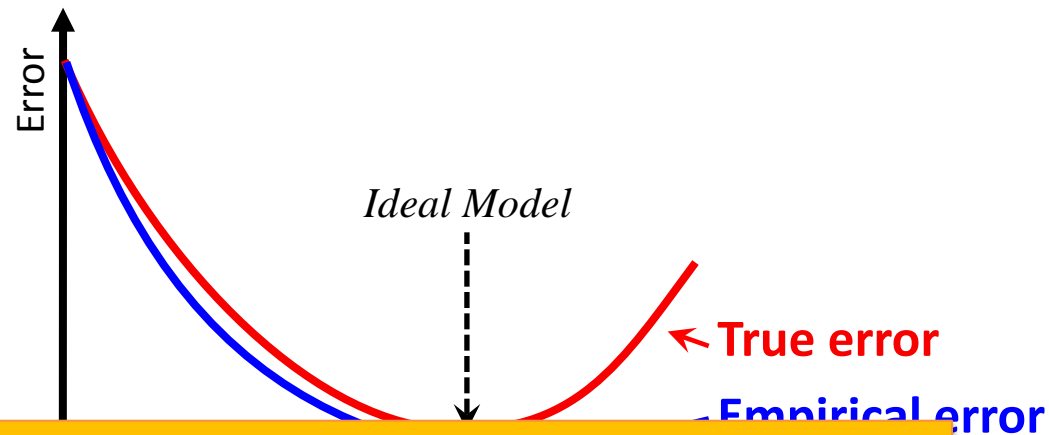
**Step 1: Define a large set of potential basis functions**

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

**Step 2: Model reduction**

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

# OVERFITTING AND TRUE ERROR



To identify the simple functional form we need to solve two problems:

1. Model Sizing
2. Basis function selection

Step 1: Define a large set of basis functions

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

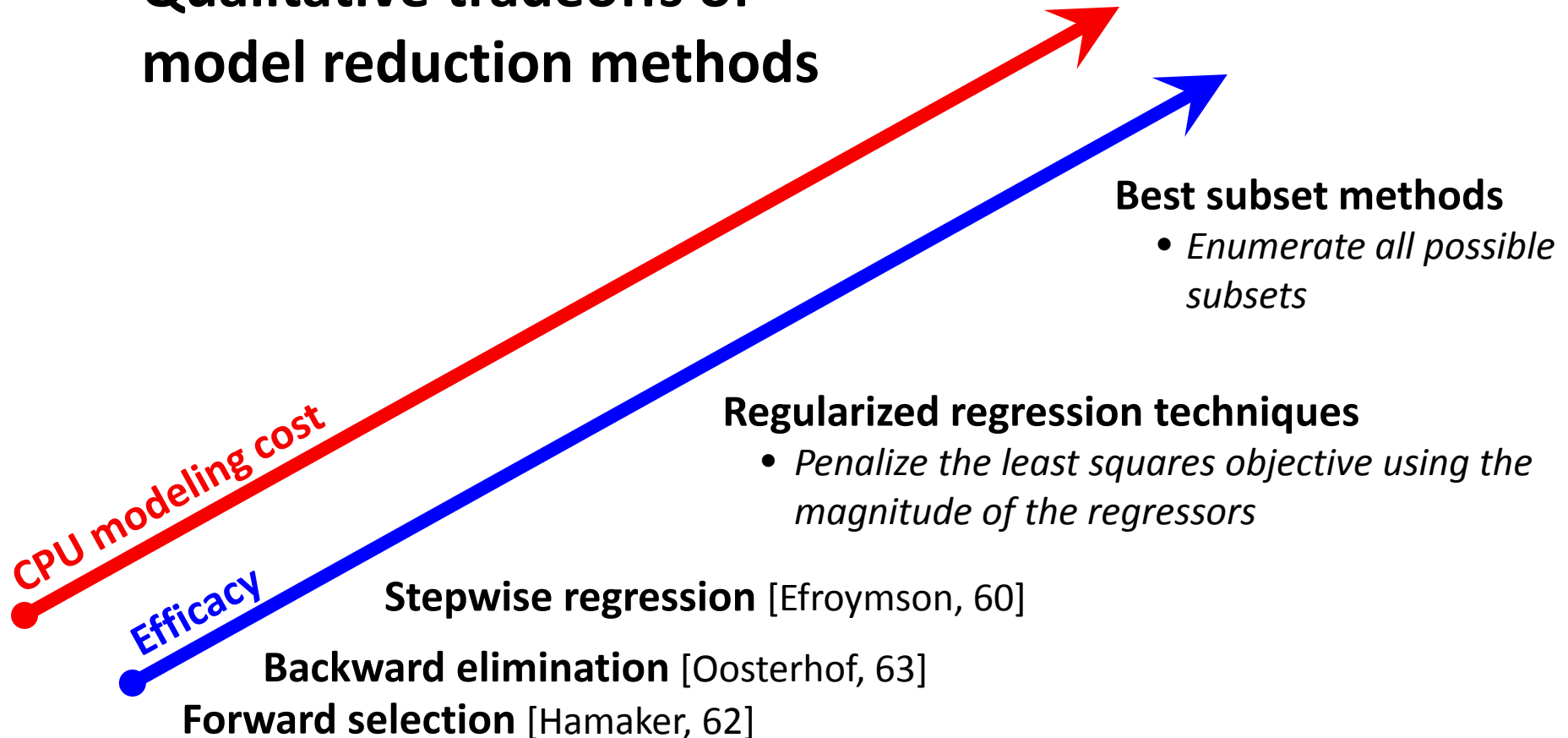
Step 2: Model reduction

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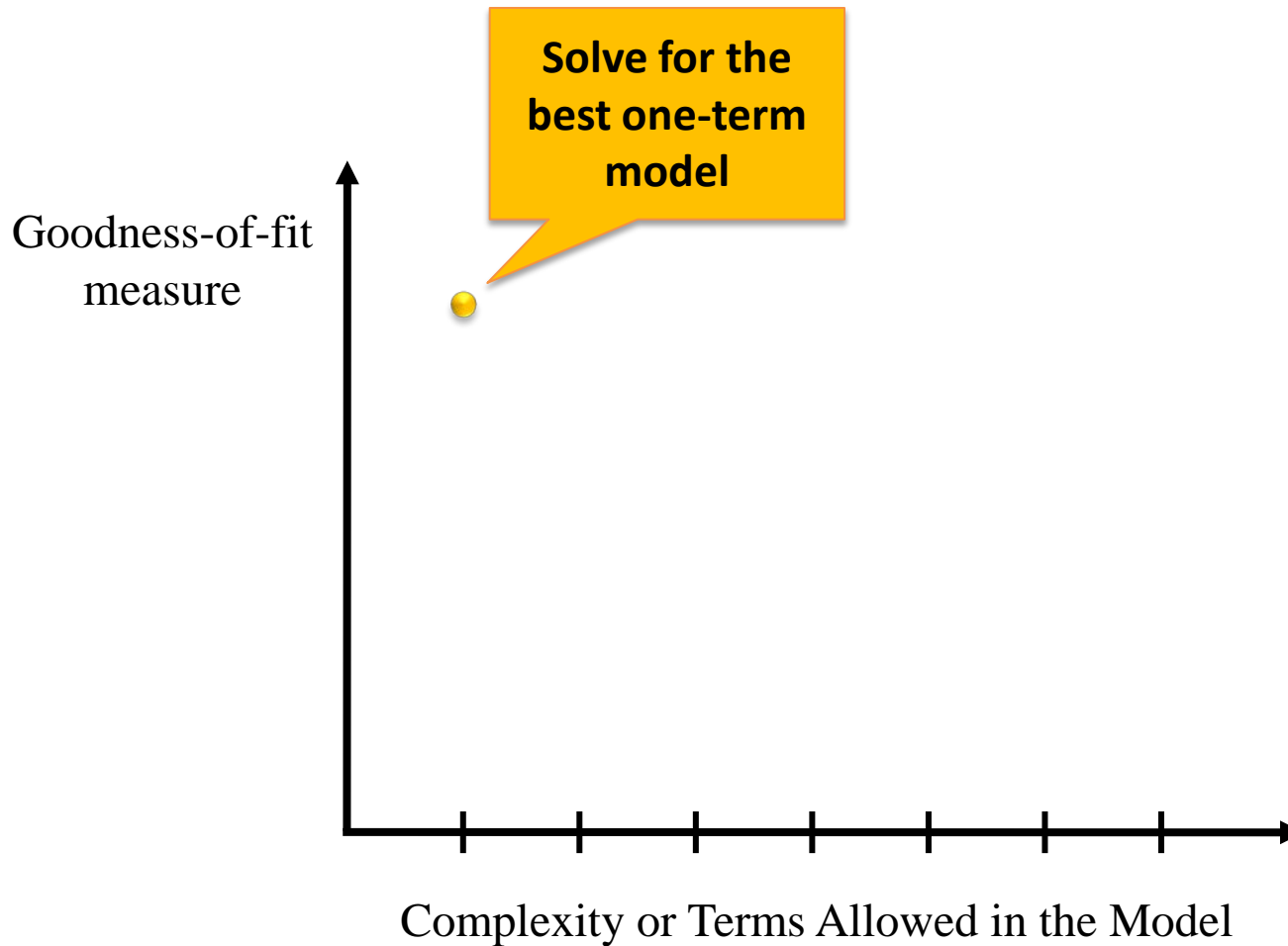


# MODEL REDUCTION TECHNIQUES

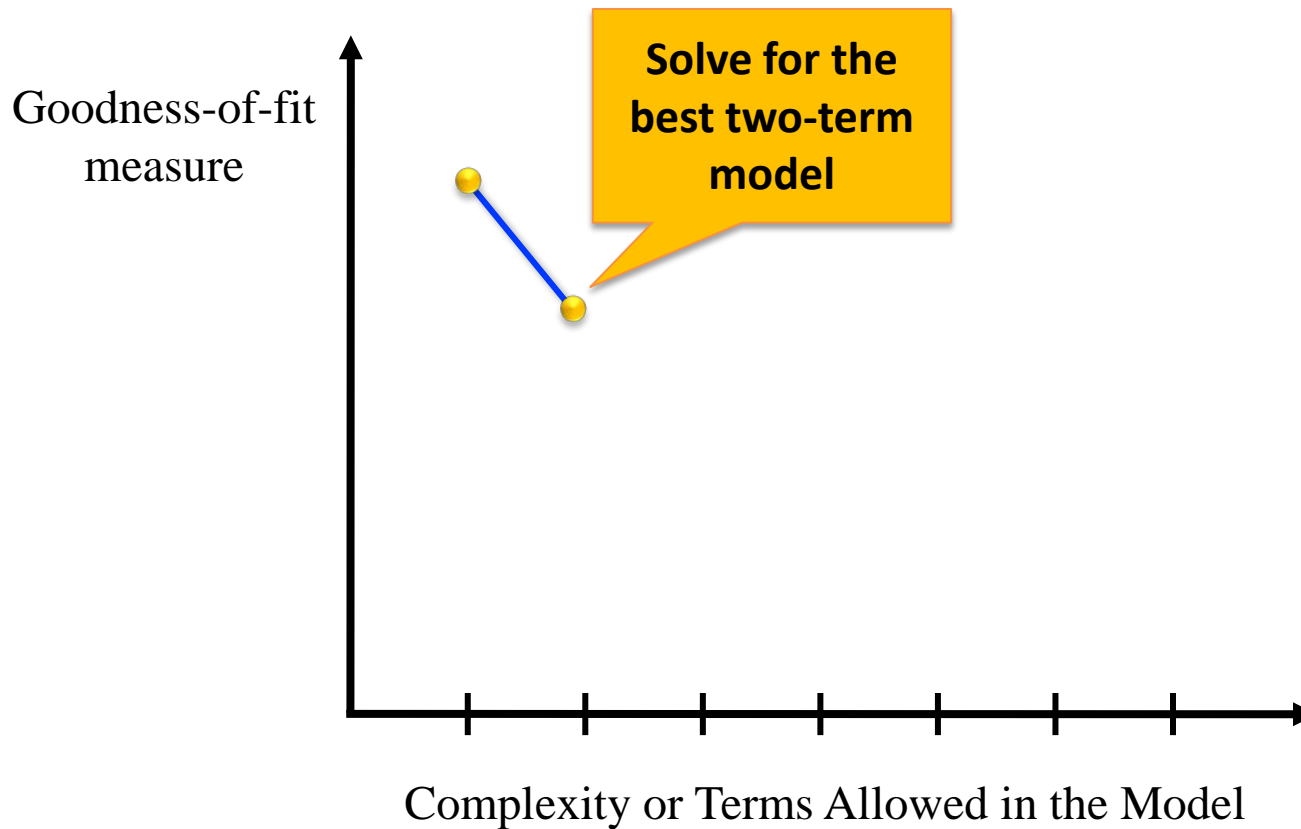
- Qualitative tradeoffs of model reduction methods



# MODEL SIZING



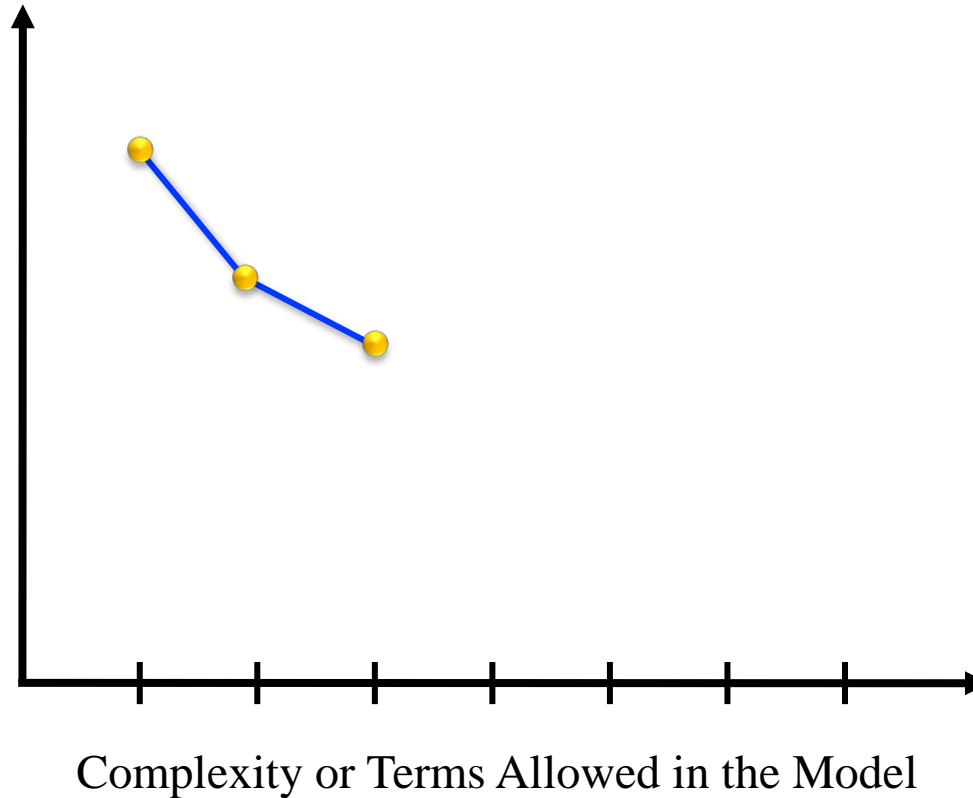
# MODEL SIZING



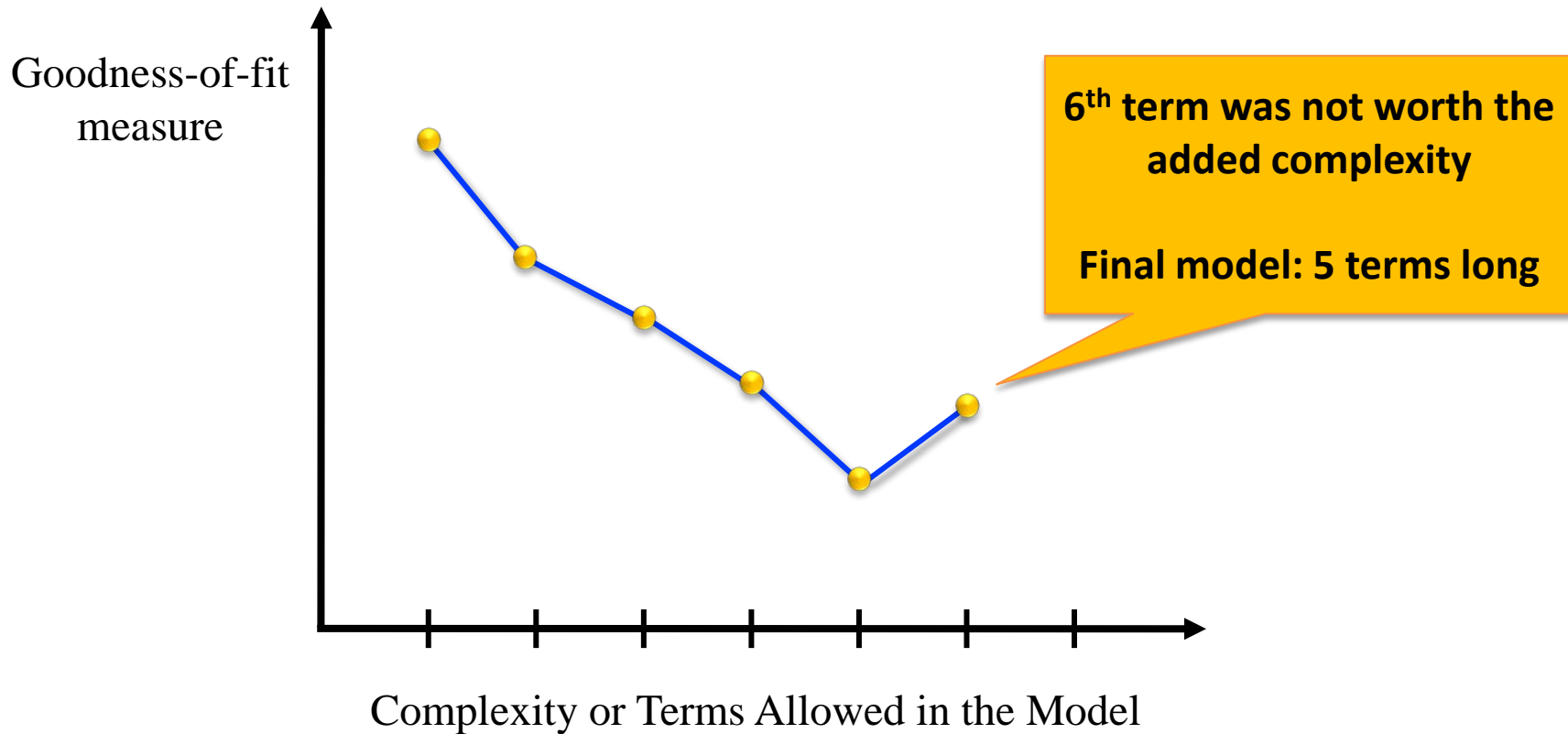
# MODEL SIZING

Goodness-of-fit  
measure

**Some measure of  
error that is  
sensitive to  
overfitting**



# 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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# BASIS FUNCTION SELECTION

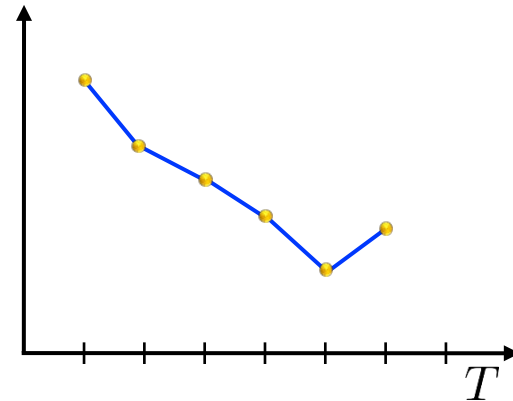
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$$\beta^l y_j \leq \beta_j \leq \beta^u y_j$$

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



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



# BASIS FUNCTION SELECTION

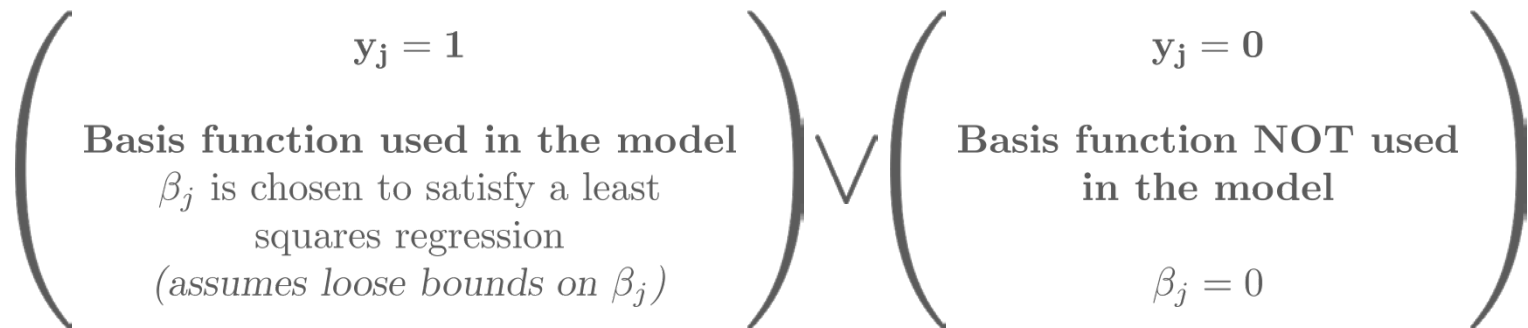
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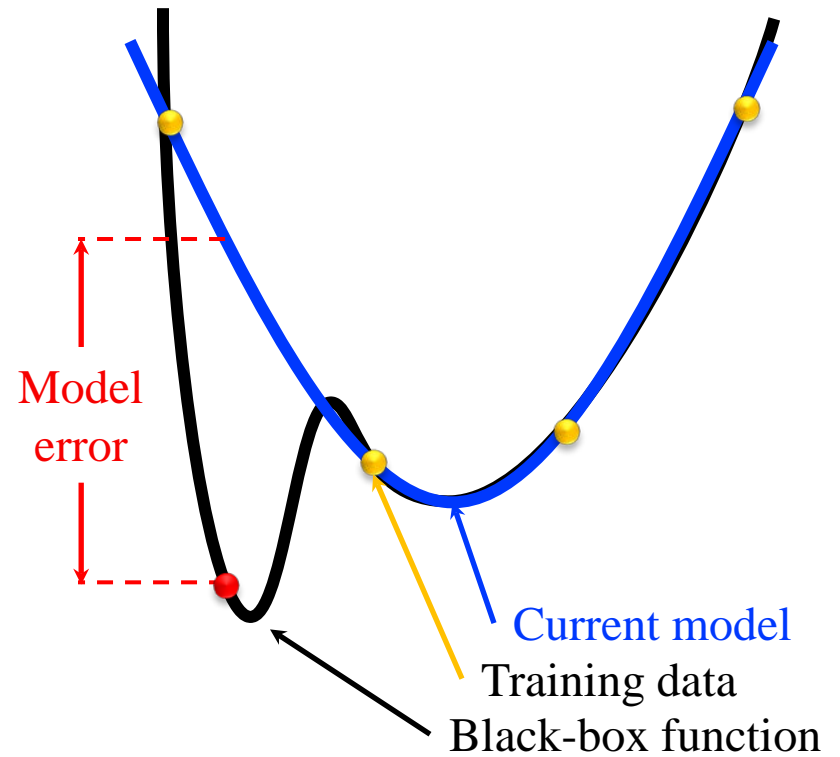
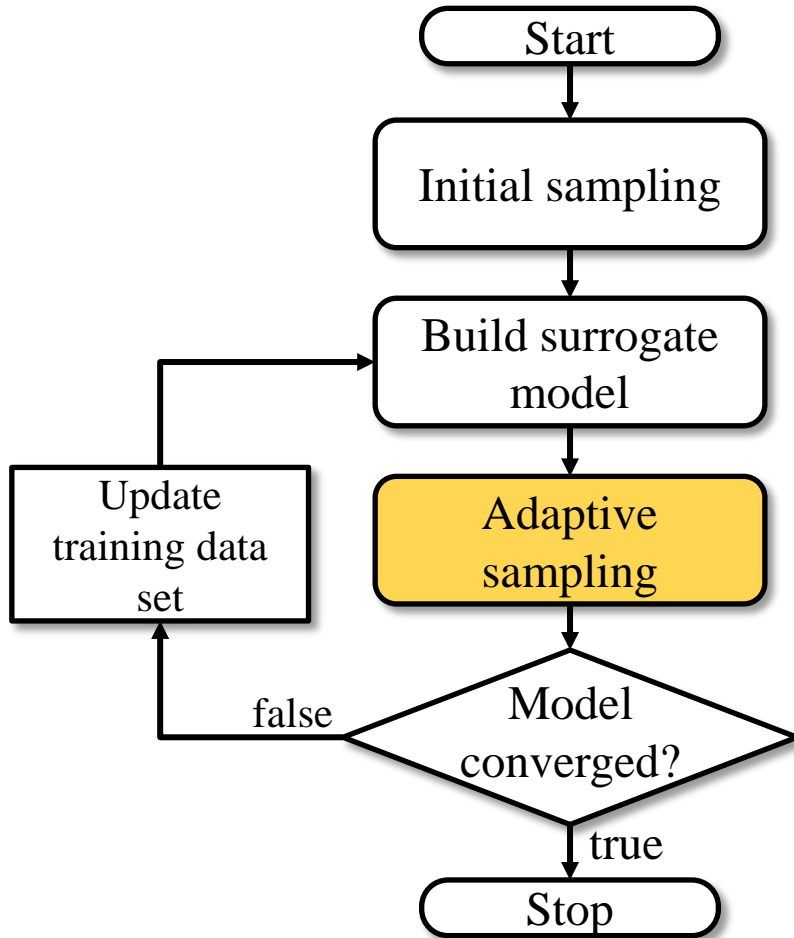
$$\beta^l y_j \leq \beta_j \leq \beta^u y_j \quad j \in \mathcal{B}$$

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



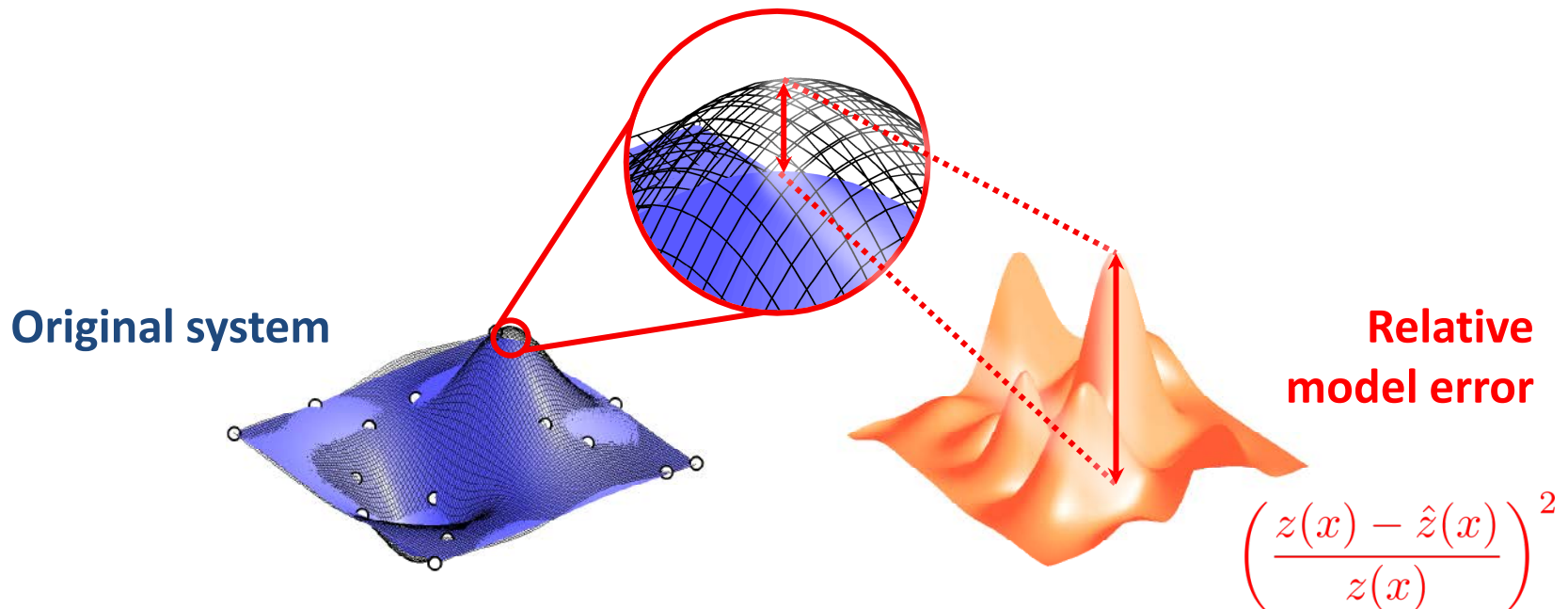
# ALAMO

## Automated Learning of Algebraic Models for Optimization



# ADAPTIVE SAMPLING

- Goal: Choose **new locations** to sample that can best be used to improve the model
- Solution: Search the problem space for areas of **model inconsistency** or model mismatch

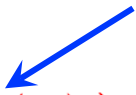


# ERROR MAXIMIZATION SAMPLING

- **New 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



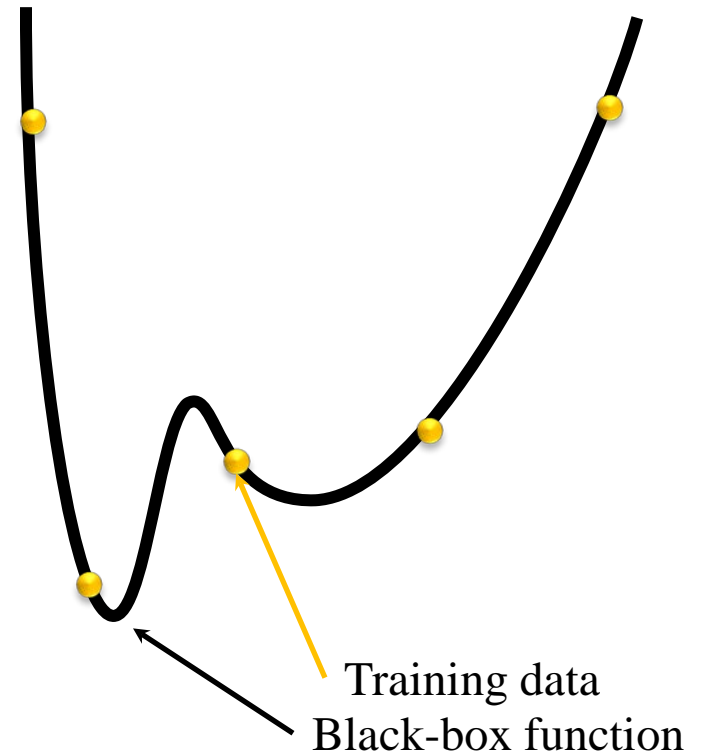
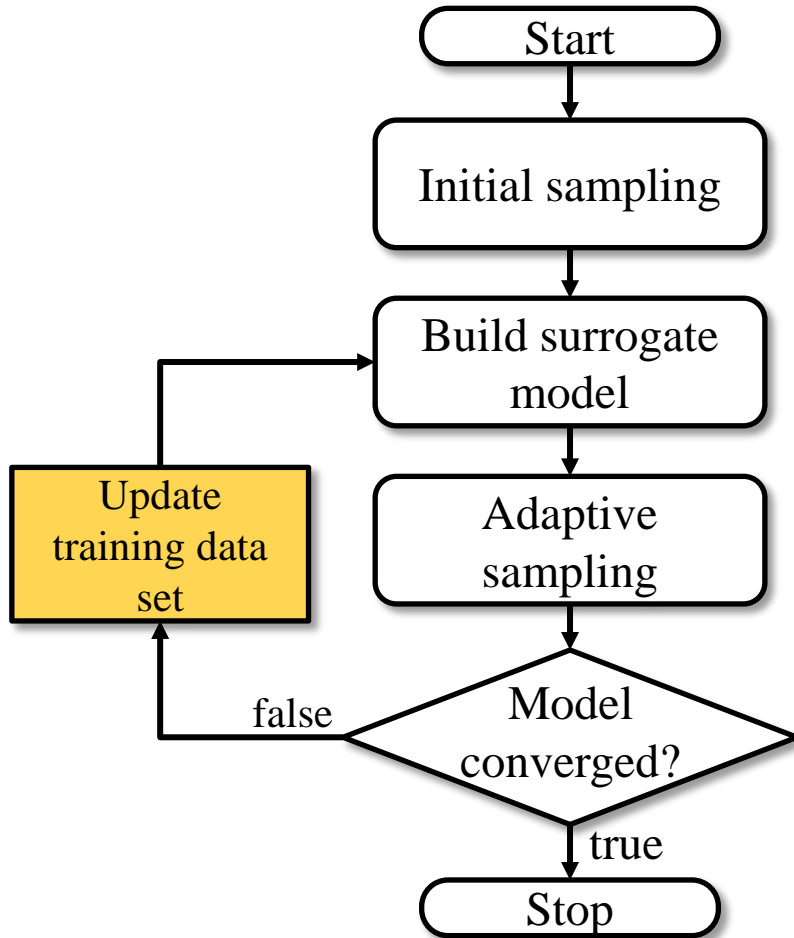
- **Optimized using a black-box or derivative-free solver (SNOBFIT)**  
[Huyer and Neumaier, 08]

# 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*

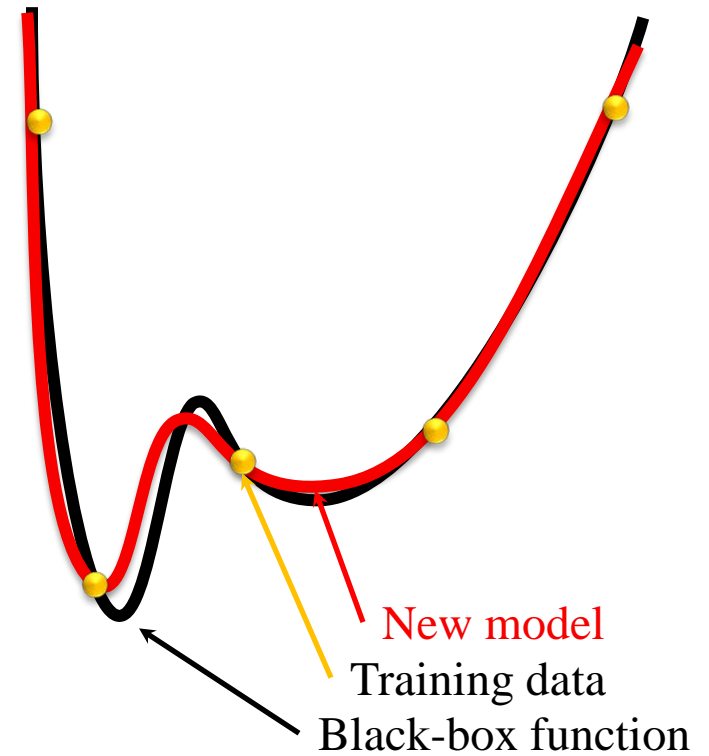
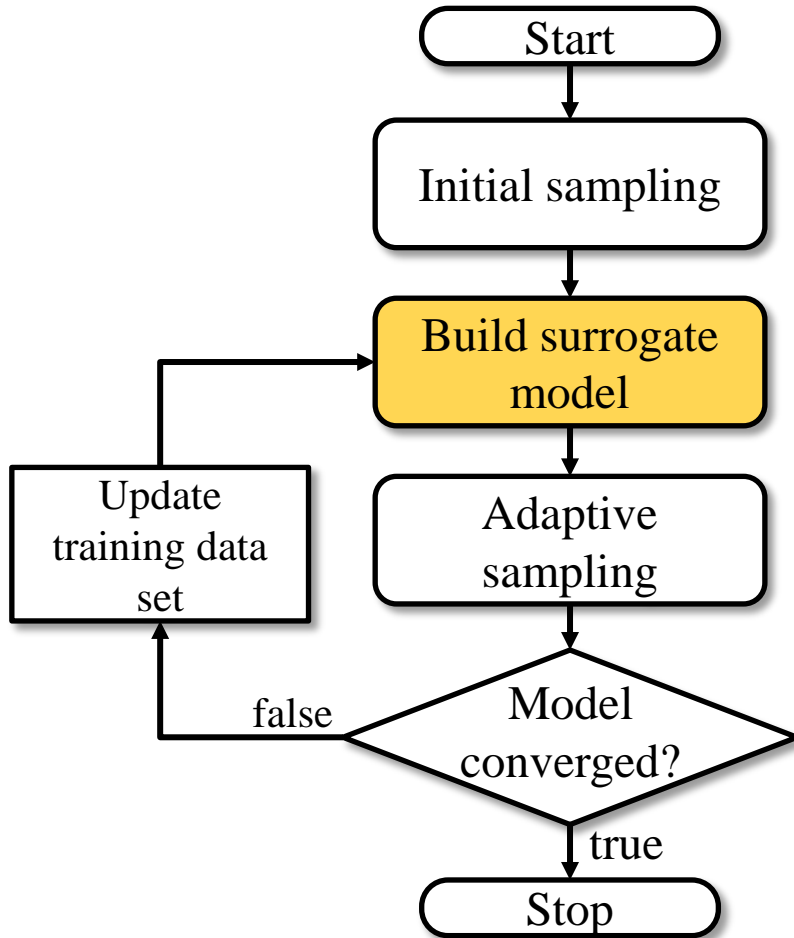
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# ALAMO

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# OVERVIEW

1. Surrogate-based optimization of process simulations
2. Surrogate model generation method
- 3. Computational experiments**
  - Validating modeling **accuracy**, **efficiency**, and **parsimony**
4. Case studies



# COMPUTATIONAL TESTING

- 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 – Generated from bases available to ALAMO
  - Test set B – Generated from functions with forms not available to ALAMO (*More real world test set*)

# DESCRIPTION – TEST SET A

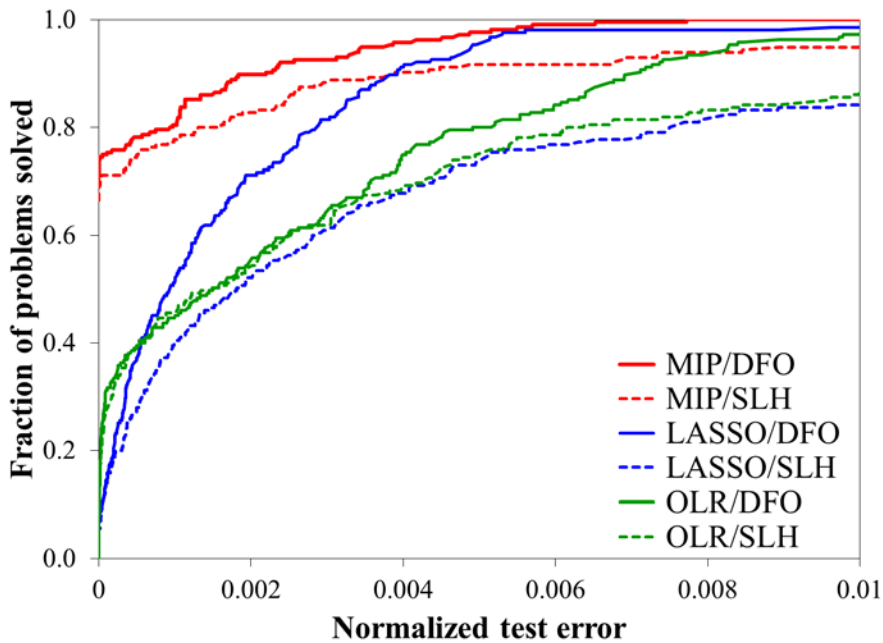
- Two and three input black-box functions randomly chosen basis functions available to the algorithms with varying complexity from 2 to 10 terms
- Basis functions allowed:

Category	$X_j(x)$	Parameters used
I. Polynomial	$(x_d)^\alpha$	$\alpha = \{\pm 3, \pm 2, \pm 1, \pm 0.5\}$
II. Multinomial	$\prod_{d \in \mathcal{D}' \subseteq \mathcal{D}} (x_d)^{\alpha_d}$	for $ \mathcal{D}'  = 2$ $\alpha = \{\pm 2, \pm 1, \pm 0.5\}$ for $ \mathcal{D}'  = 3$ $\alpha = \{\pm 1\}$
III. Exponential and logarithmic forms	$\exp\left(\frac{x_d}{\gamma}\right)^\alpha, \log\left(\frac{x_d}{\gamma}\right)^\alpha$	$\alpha = 1, \gamma = 1$

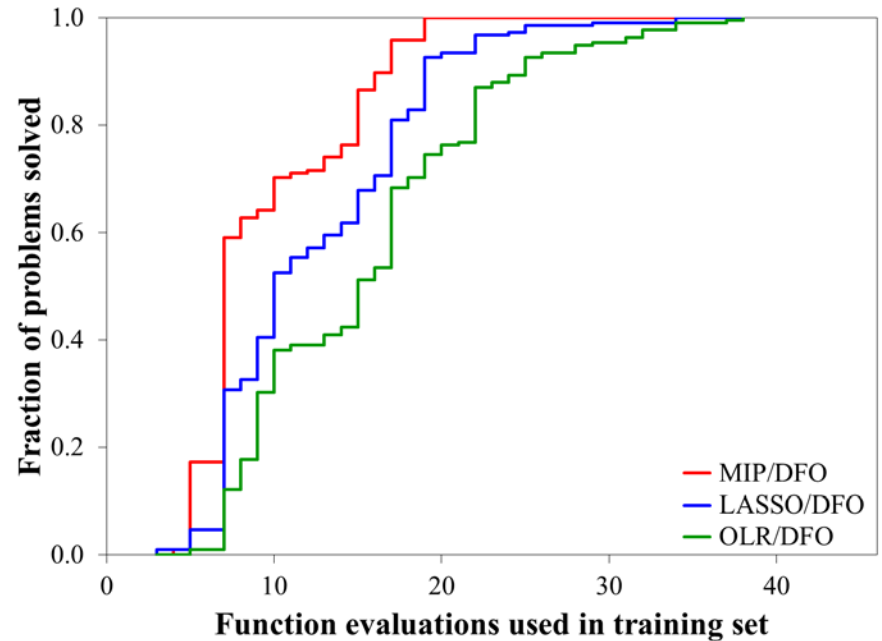
True basis function coefficients were randomly chosen from a uniform distribution where  $\beta \in [-1, 1]$ .

# RESULTS – TEST SET A

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



### Modeling methods

**Our method**

**LASSO**

**Least squares**

### Sampling methods

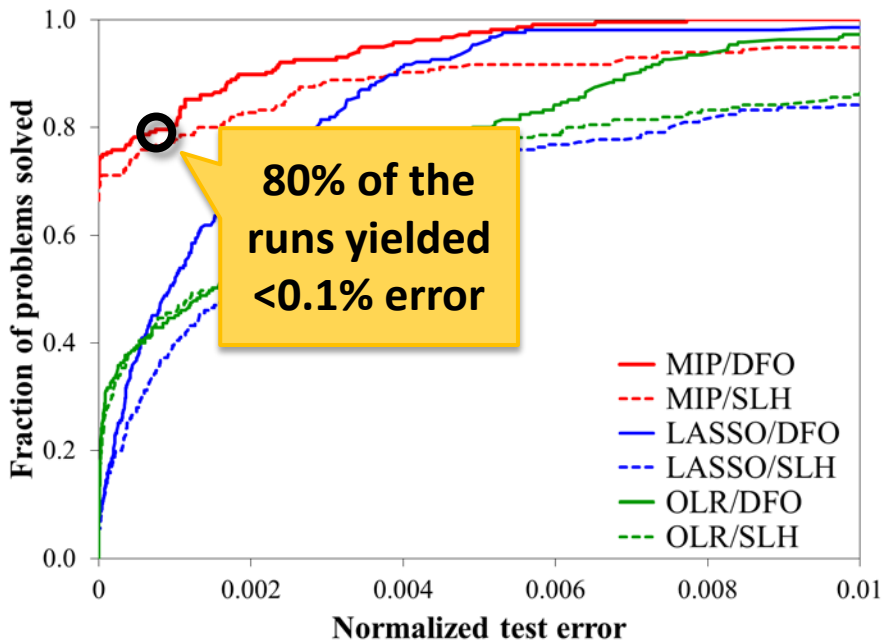
**Error maximization**

**Single Latin hypercube**

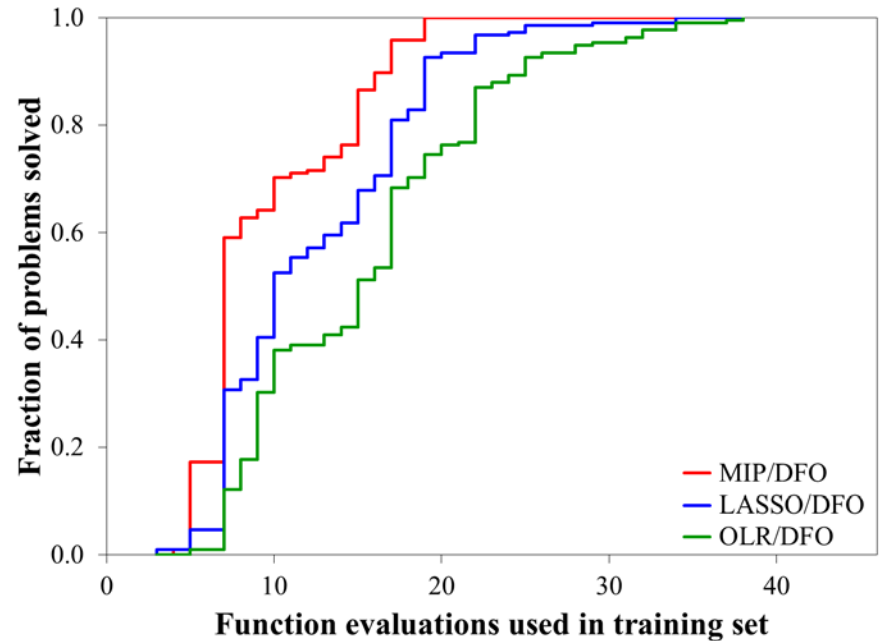
45 test problems, repeated 5 times, tested against 1000 independent data points

# RESULTS – TEST SET A

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



### Modeling methods

Our method

LASSO

Least squares

### Sampling methods

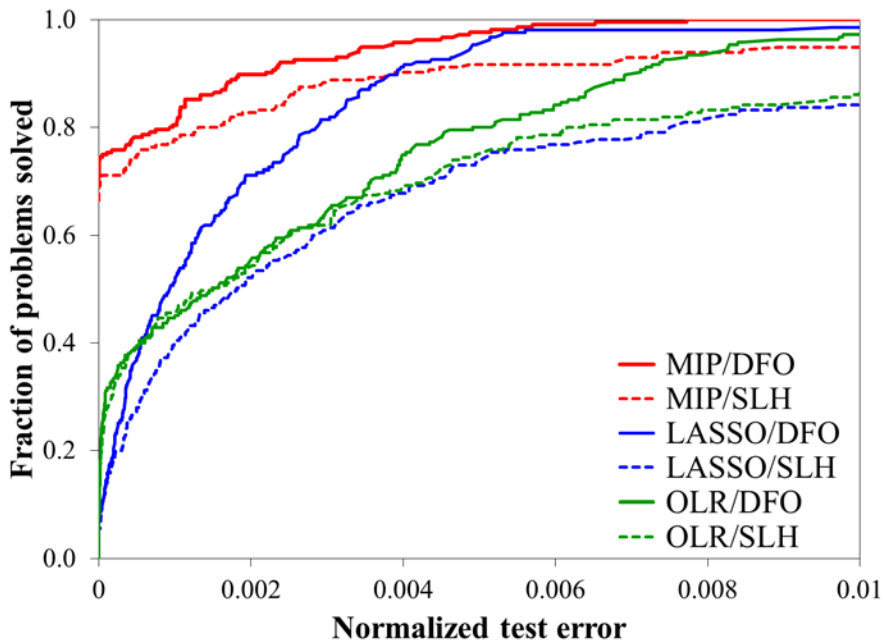
Error maximization

Single Latin hypercube

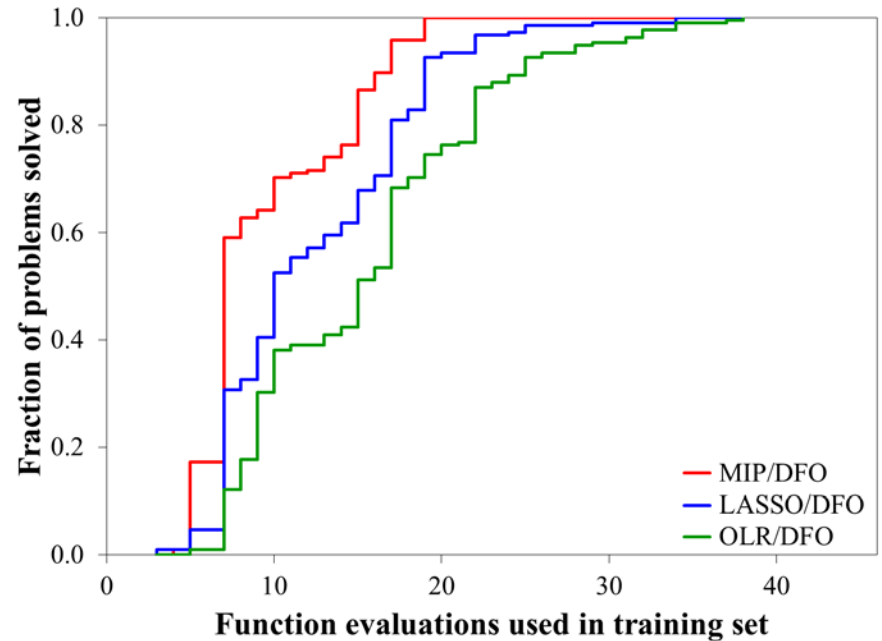
45 test problems, repeated 5 times, tested against 1000 independent data points

# RESULTS – TEST SET A

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



### Modeling methods

**Our  
method**

**LASSO**

**Least  
squares**

### Sampling methods

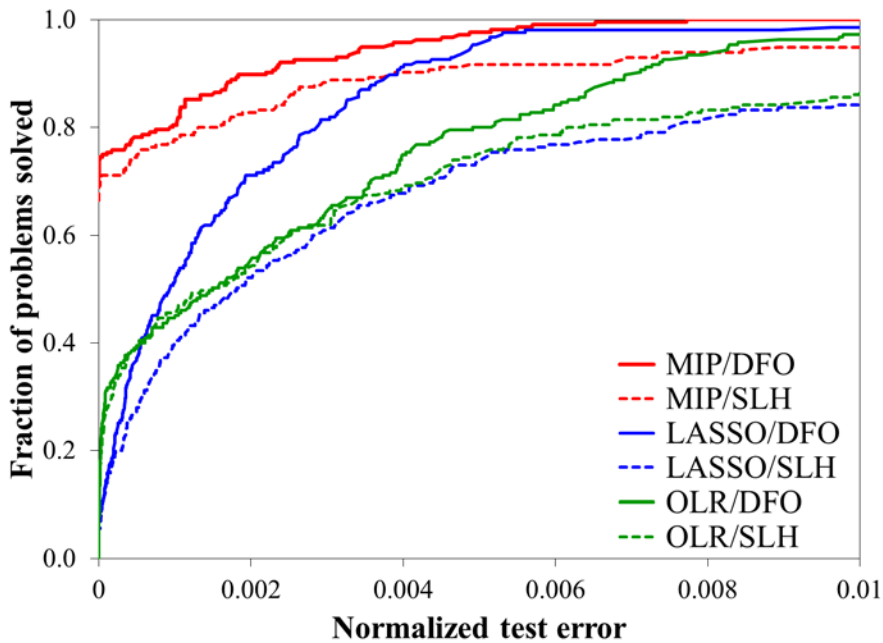
**Error  
maximization**

**Single Latin  
hypercube**

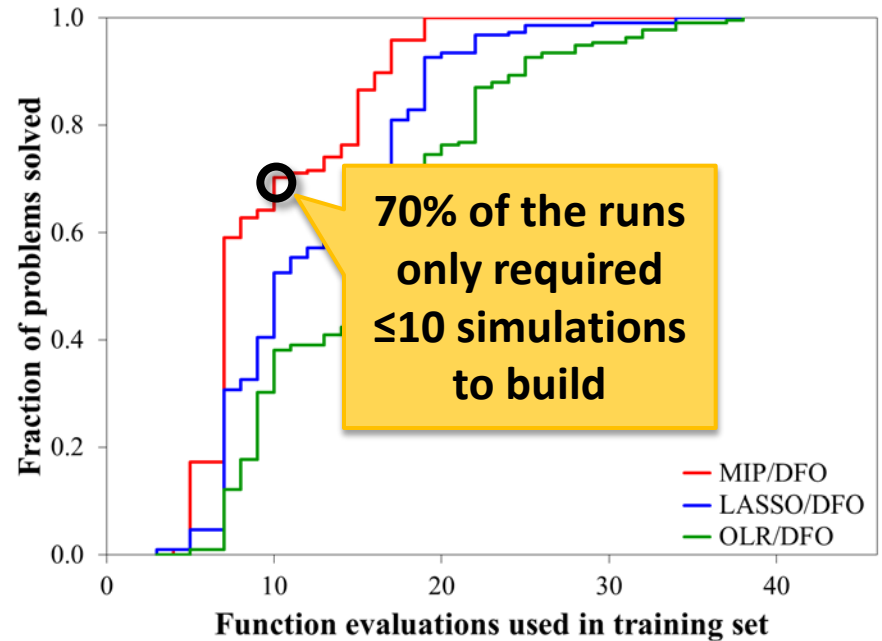
45 test problems, repeated 5 times, tested against 1000 independent data points

# RESULTS – TEST SET A

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



### Modeling methods

**Our method**

**LASSO**

**Least squares**

### Sampling methods

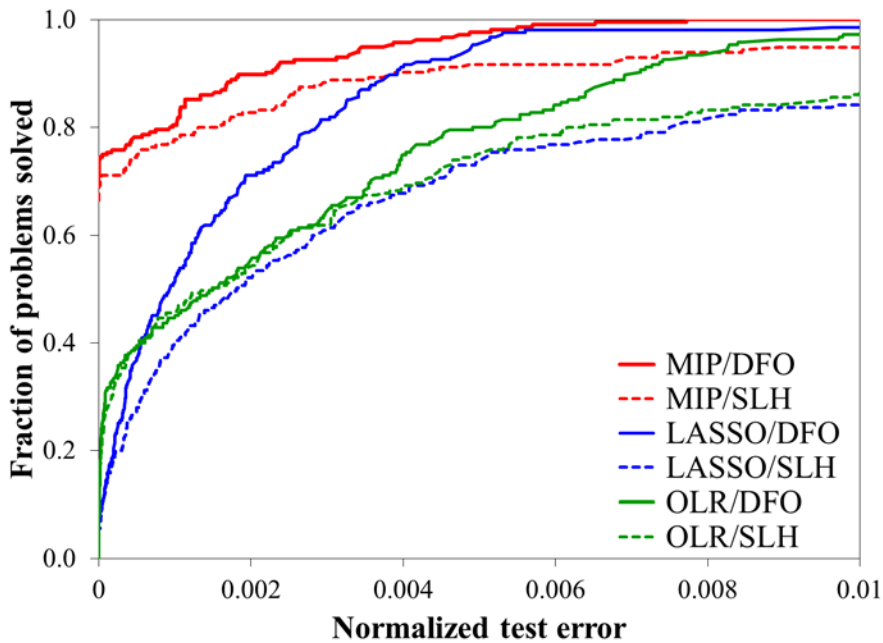
**Error maximization**

**Single Latin hypercube**

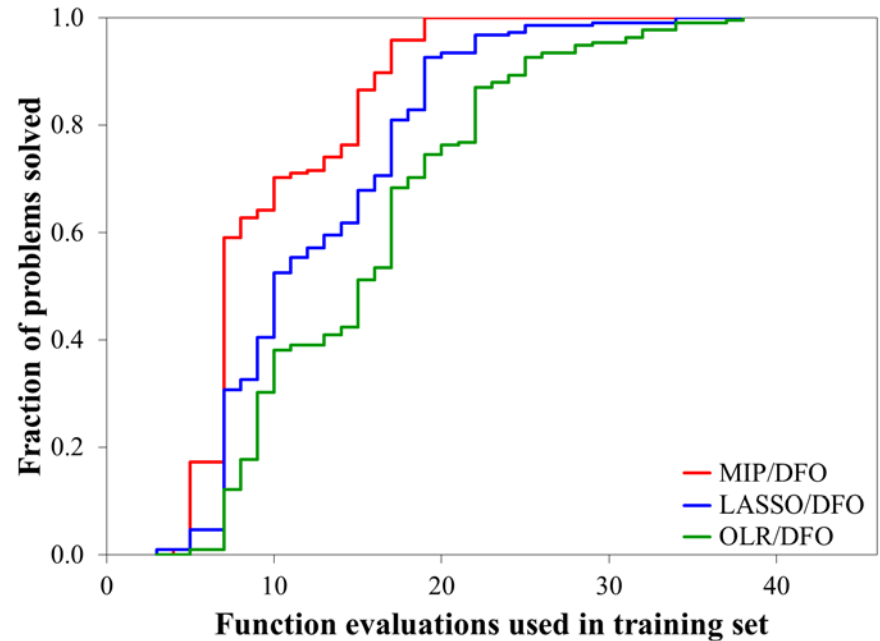
45 test problems, repeated 5 times, tested against 1000 independent data points

# RESULTS – TEST SET A

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



### Modeling methods

**Our method**

**LASSO**

**Least squares**

### Sampling methods

**Error maximization**

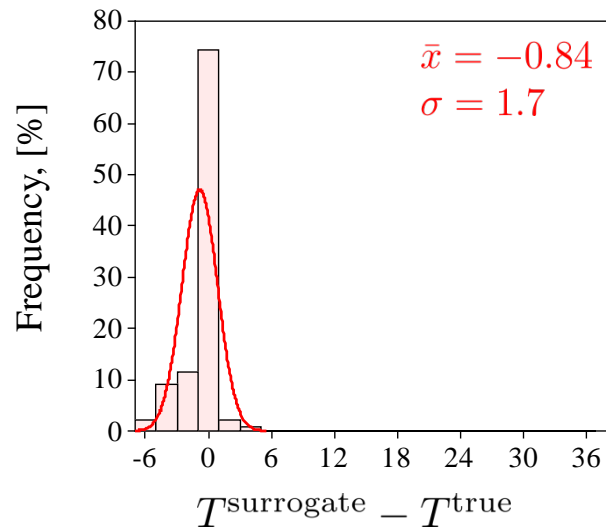
**Single Latin hypercube**

45 test problems, repeated 5 times, tested against 1000 independent data points

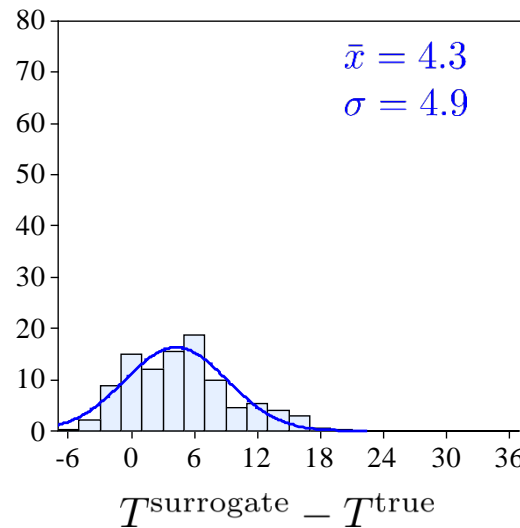
# MODEL SIZING RESULTS

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

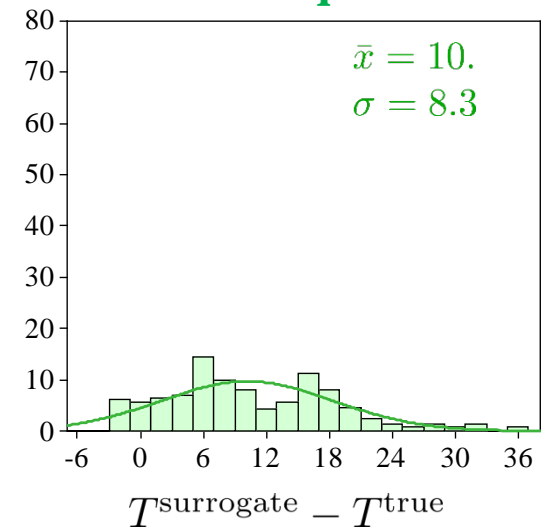
**Our method**



**The LASSO**



**Least squares**



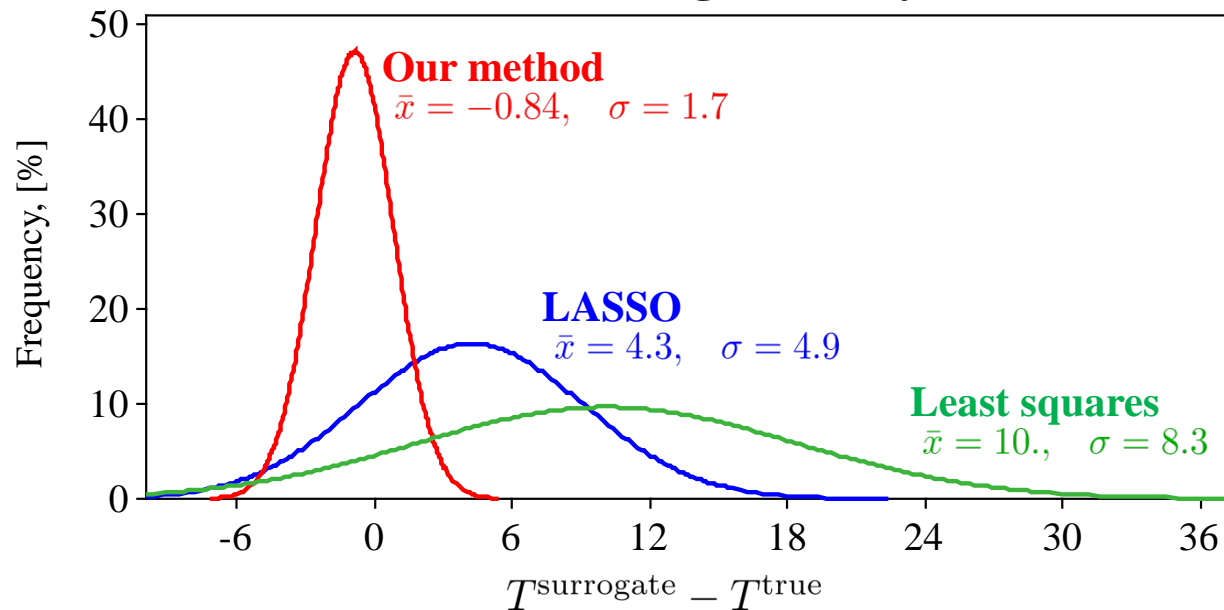
45 problems with 2-10 available bases, 5 repeats



# MODEL SIZING RESULTS

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

**Model sizing summary**



45 problems with 2-10 available bases, 5 repeats

# DESCRIPTION – TEST SET B

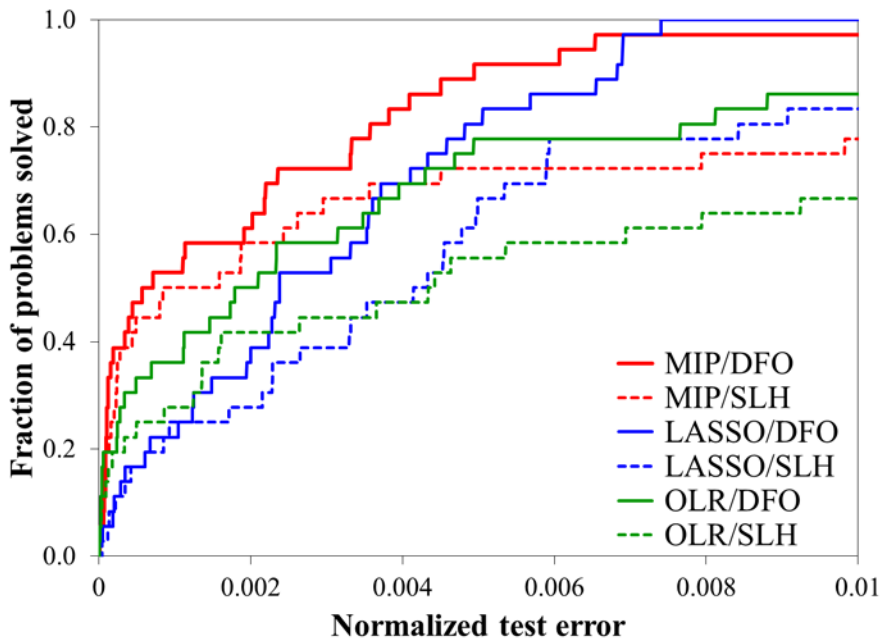
- Two input black-box functions with basis functions unavailable to the algorithms with

Function type	Functional form
I	$z(x) = \beta x_i^\alpha \exp(x_j)$
II	$z(x) = \beta x_i^\alpha \log(x_j)$
III	$z(x) = \beta x_1^\alpha x_2^\nu$
IV	$z(x) = \frac{\beta}{\gamma + x_i^\alpha}$

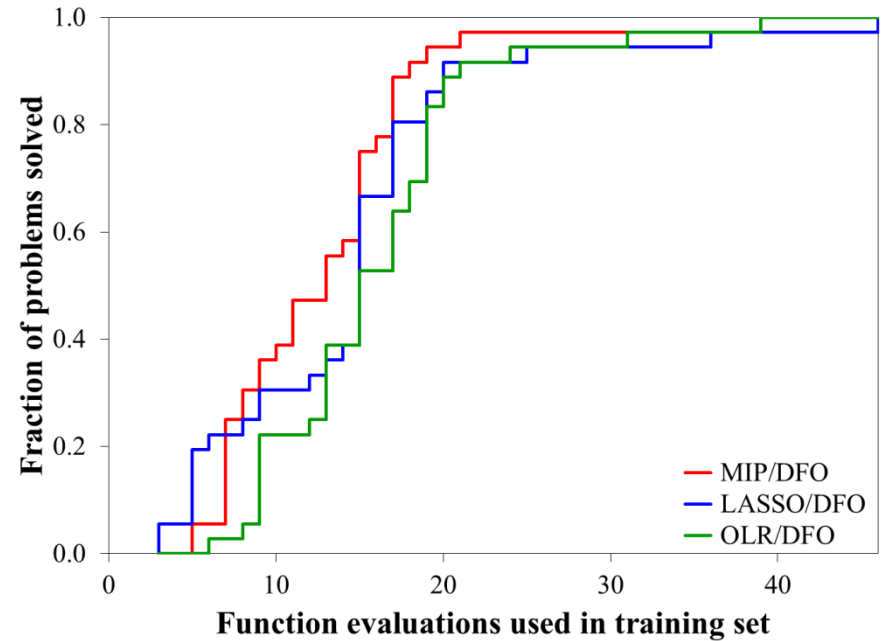
with true parameters chosen from a uniform distribution where  $\beta \in [-1, 1]$ ,  $\alpha, \nu \in [-3, 3]$ ,  $\gamma \in [-5, 5]$ , and  $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ .

# RESULTS – TEST SET B

## Model accuracy



## Modeling efficiency



### Modeling methods

**Our  
method**

**LASSO**

**Least  
squares**

### Sampling methods

**Error  
maximization**

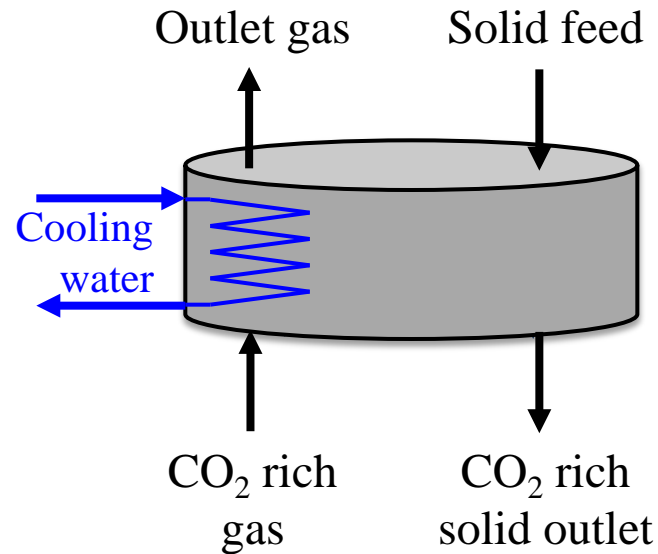
**Single Latin  
hypercube**

12 test problems, repeated 5 times, tested against 1000 independent data points

# OVERVIEW

1. Surrogate-based optimization of process simulations
2. Surrogate model generation method
3. Computational experiments
4. **Case studies**
  - Small example problem
  - Real world example

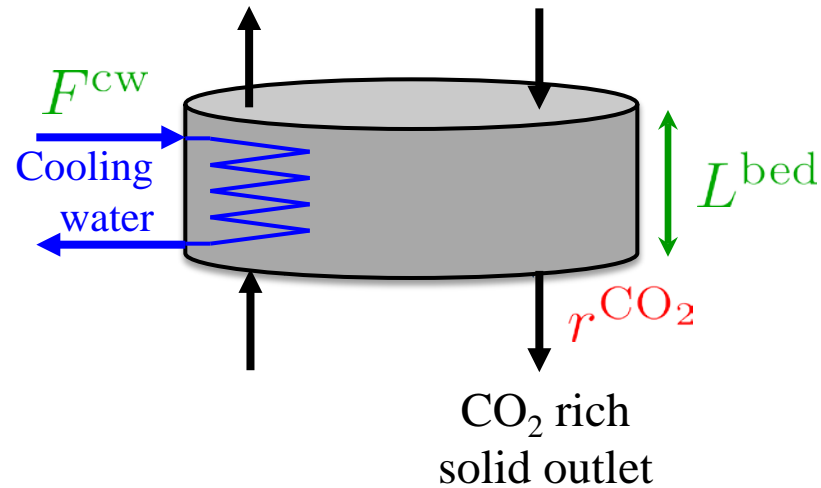
# BUBBLING FLUIDIZED BED ADSORBER



**Goal: Optimize a bubbling fluidized bed reactor by**

- **Minimizing the increased cost of electricity**
- **Maximizing CO<sub>2</sub> removal**

# BUBBLING FLUIDIZED BED ADSORBER



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

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

Over the Range:

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

# POTENTIAL MODEL

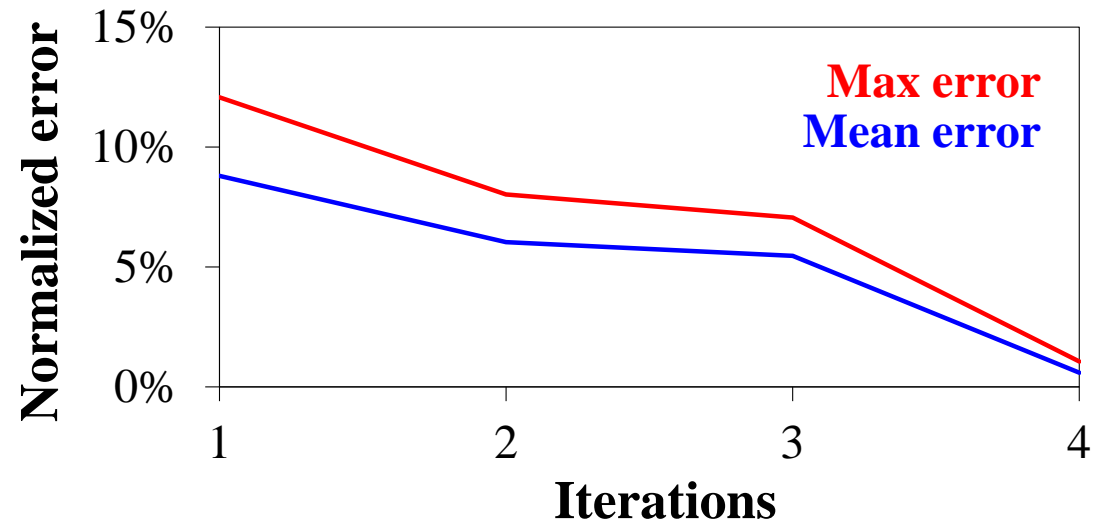
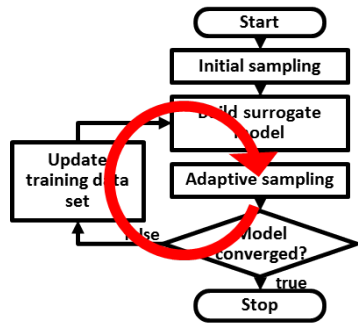
$$\begin{aligned} r^{\text{CO}_2} = & \beta_0 + \beta_1 F + \beta_2 L + \beta_3 e^F + \beta_4 e^L + \beta_5 \ln(F) + \beta_6 \ln(L) + \beta_7 \frac{F}{L} + \beta_8 \frac{2F}{L^2} + \\ & \beta_9 F L^2 + \beta_{10} F^2 L + \beta_{11} \frac{F}{\sqrt{L}} + \beta_{12} F \sqrt{L} + \beta_{13} \frac{L}{\sqrt{F}} + \beta_{14} \sqrt{F} L + \beta_{15} \frac{F}{L^{\frac{1}{3}}} + \beta_{16} F L^{\frac{1}{3}} + \\ & \beta_{17} \frac{L}{F^{\frac{1}{3}}} + \beta_{18} F^{\frac{1}{3}} L + \beta_{19} 2 F \ln(F) + \beta_{20} F \ln(L) + \beta_{21} L \ln(F) + \beta_{22} L \ln(L) + \beta_{23} \frac{1}{F} + \\ & \beta_{24} \frac{1}{F^2} + \beta_{25} F^2 + \beta_{26} \frac{1}{F^3} + \beta_{27} \frac{1}{\sqrt{F}} + \beta_{28} \sqrt{F} + \beta_{29} F^3 + \beta_{30} \frac{1}{F^{\frac{1}{3}}} + \beta_{31} F^{\frac{1}{3}} + \beta_{32} \frac{1}{L} + \\ & \beta_{33} \frac{1}{L^2} + \beta_{34} L^2 + \beta_{35} \frac{1}{L^3} + \beta_{36} \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} + \beta_{37} \sqrt{L} + \beta_{38} L^3 + \beta_{39} \frac{1}{L^{\frac{1}{3}}} + \beta_{40} L^{\frac{1}{3}} + \beta_{41} \frac{1}{F L} + \\ & \beta_{42} \frac{2 L^2}{F} + \beta_{43} \frac{\sqrt{L}}{F} + \beta_{44} \frac{F^2}{L^2} + \beta_{45} F^2 L^2 + \beta_{46} \frac{\sqrt{F}}{L} + \beta_{47} \frac{F^3}{L} + \beta_{48} \frac{1}{F^3 L^3} + \beta_{49} \frac{1}{\sqrt{F} \sqrt{L}} + \\ & \beta_{50} \frac{\sqrt{F}}{\sqrt{L}} + \beta_{51} \sqrt{F} \sqrt{L} + \beta_{52} \frac{F^3}{L^3} + \beta_{53} F^3 L^3 + \beta_{54} \frac{L^{\frac{1}{3}}}{F} + \beta_{55} \frac{F^{\frac{1}{3}}}{L} + \beta_{56} \frac{1}{F^{\frac{1}{3}} L^{\frac{1}{3}}} + \beta_{57} \frac{F^{\frac{1}{3}}}{L^{\frac{1}{3}}} + \\ & \beta_{58} F^{\frac{1}{3}} L^{\frac{1}{3}} + \beta_{59} F^{\frac{1}{3}} \ln(L) + \beta_{60} L^{\frac{1}{3}} \ln(F) + \beta_{61} L^{\frac{1}{3}} \ln(L) + \beta_{62} F L \end{aligned}$$

63 basis functions

**Not tractable in an algebraic  
superstructure formulation!**

# BUILDING THE MODEL

## Model error



Iteration	Surrogate
-----------	-----------

1	$0.17 \sqrt[3]{L}$
---	--------------------

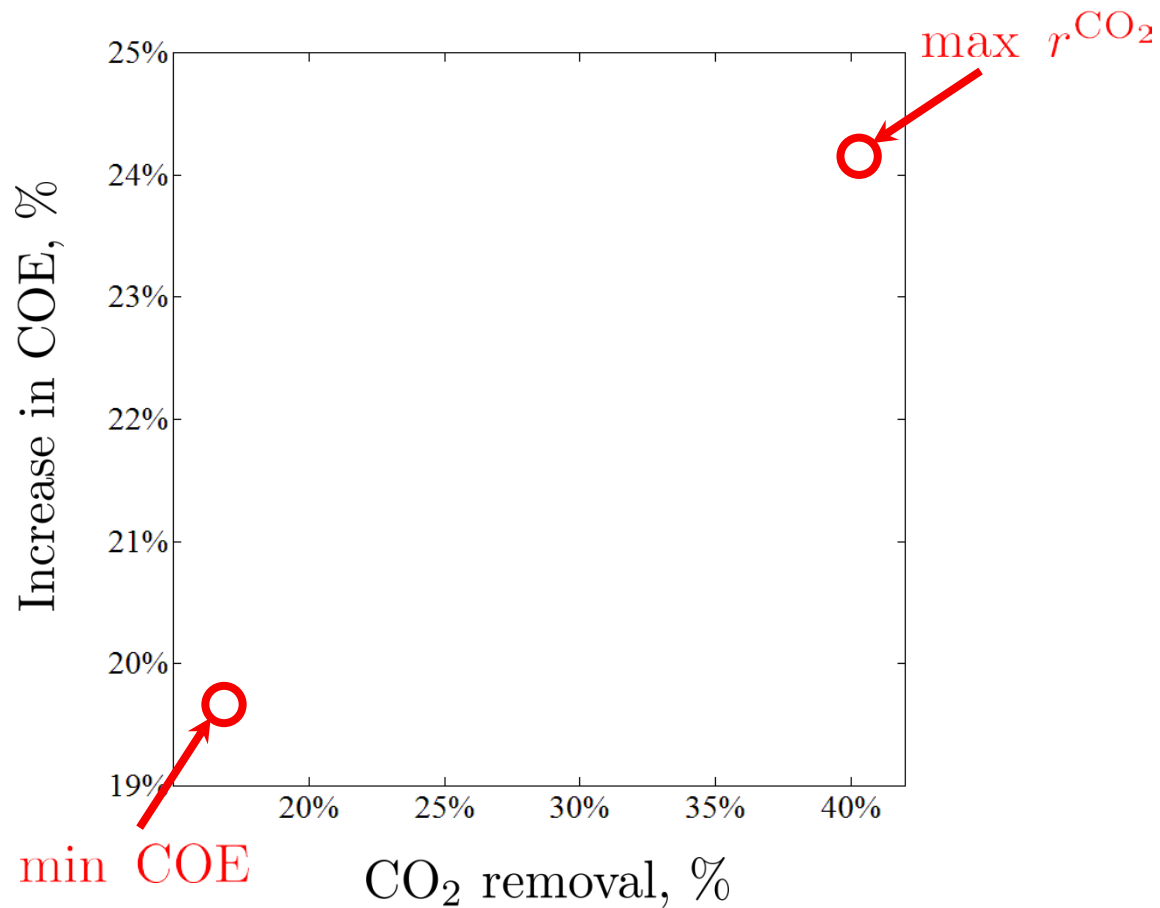
2	$0.22 \sqrt{L} - 0.018 L F - 0.015 \frac{L}{\sqrt{F}}$
---	--

3	$0.18 + -0.02 F^2 + 0.038 L F + 0.061 \log L - 0.003 F L^2 - 5.1 \cdot 10^{-5} \frac{L^2}{F}$
---	---

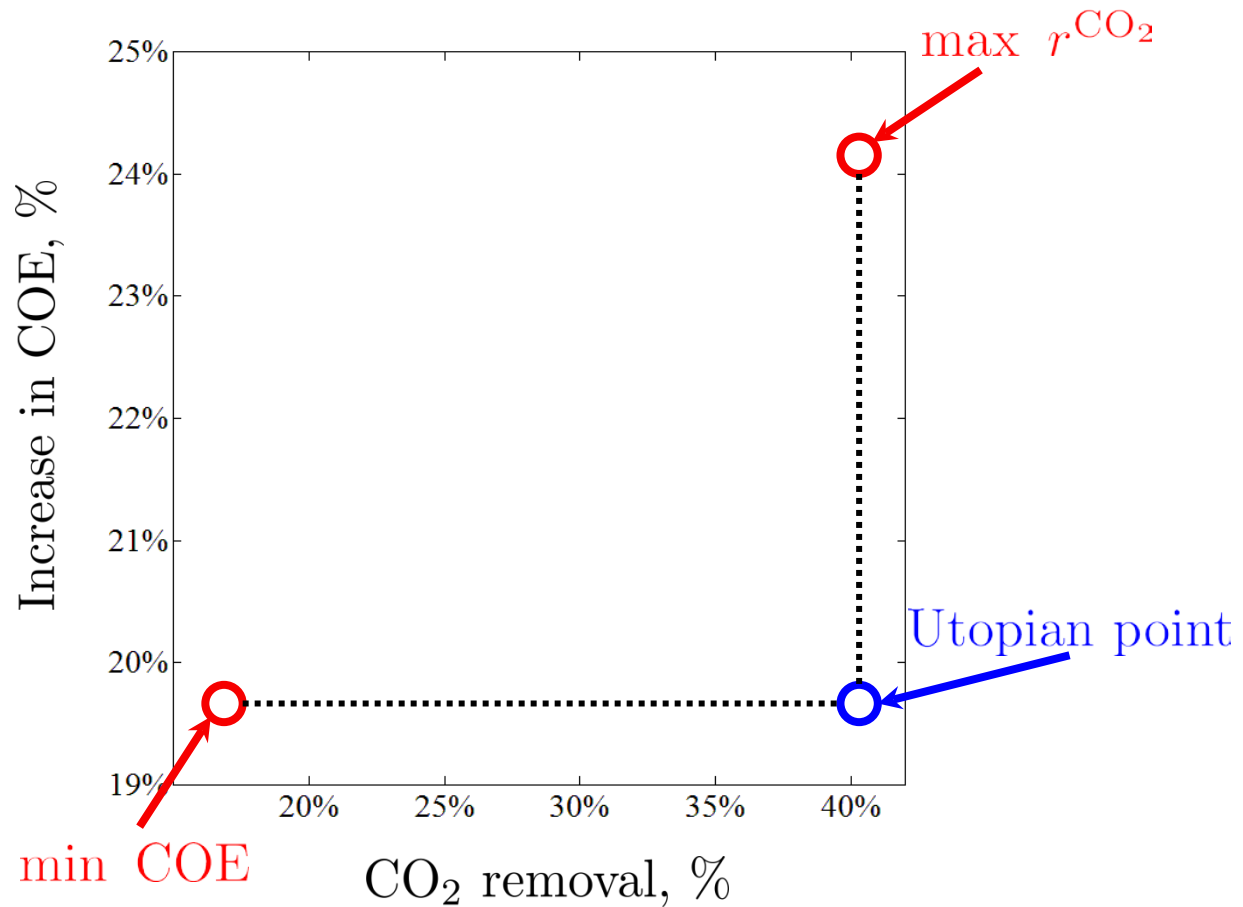
4	$0.057 F - \frac{0.033 L}{\sqrt[3]{F}} + 0.29 \sqrt{L} + \frac{(1.7 \cdot 10^{-4}) L^2}{F} - \frac{0.042 \sqrt{F}}{L} - \frac{(1.6 \cdot 10^{-3}) \sqrt[3]{L}}{F} - 0.084 \sqrt{F} \sqrt{L}$
---	--



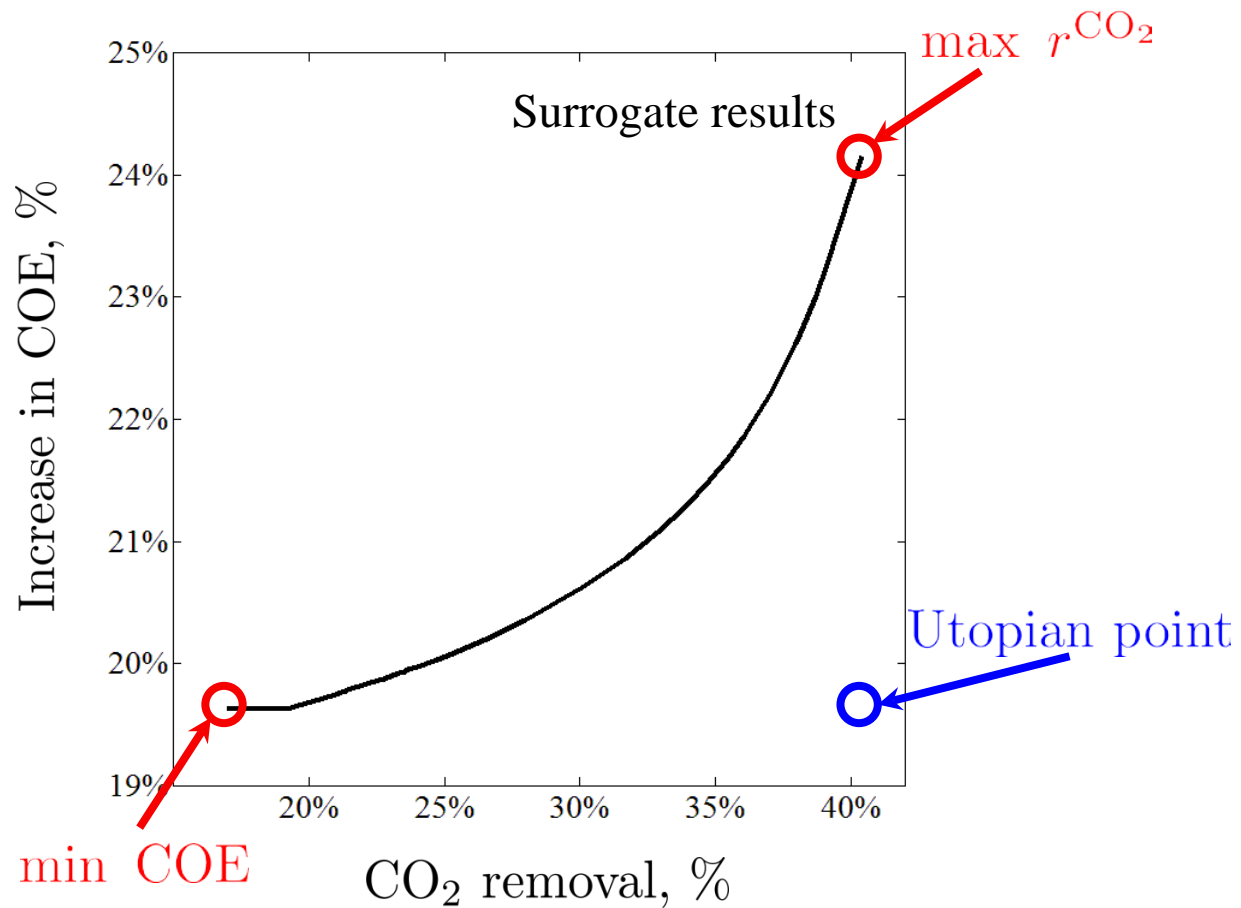
# OPTIMAL PARETO CURVE



# OPTIMAL PARETO CURVE

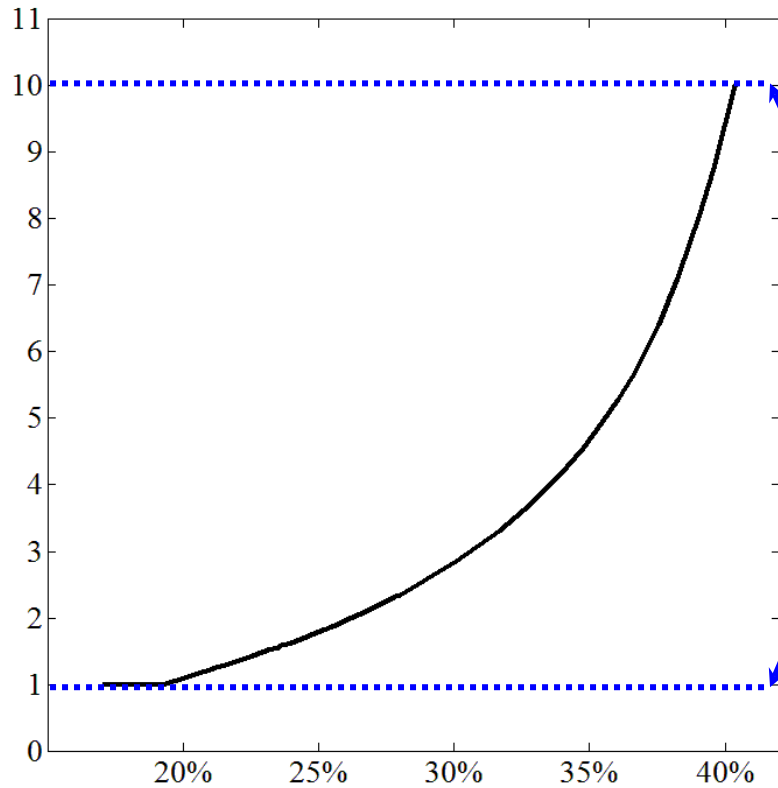


# OPTIMAL PARETO CURVE



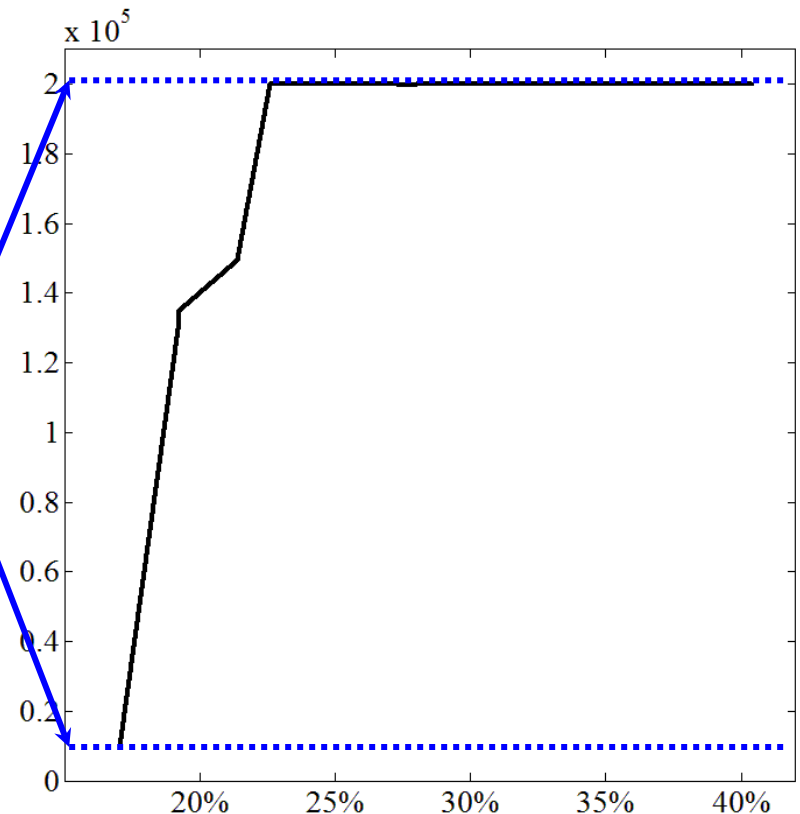
# DESIGN VARIABLE RESULTS

Reactor Depth, m



CO<sub>2</sub> removal, %

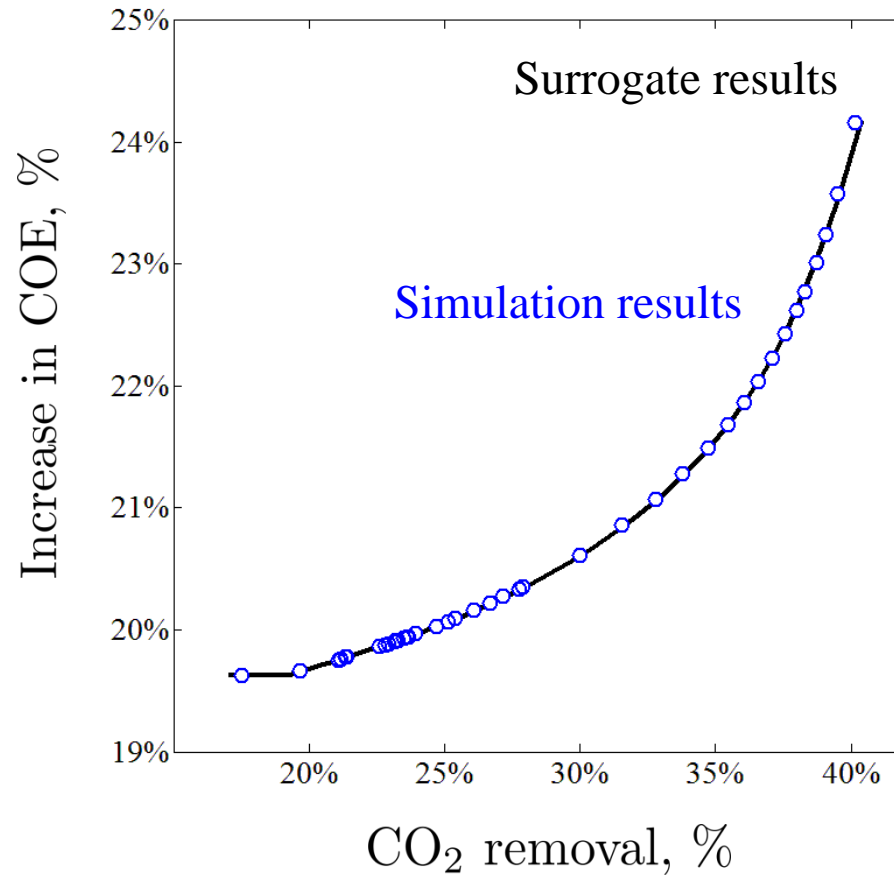
Cooling water use,  $\frac{\text{kmol}}{\text{h}}$



CO<sub>2</sub> removal, %

Bounds

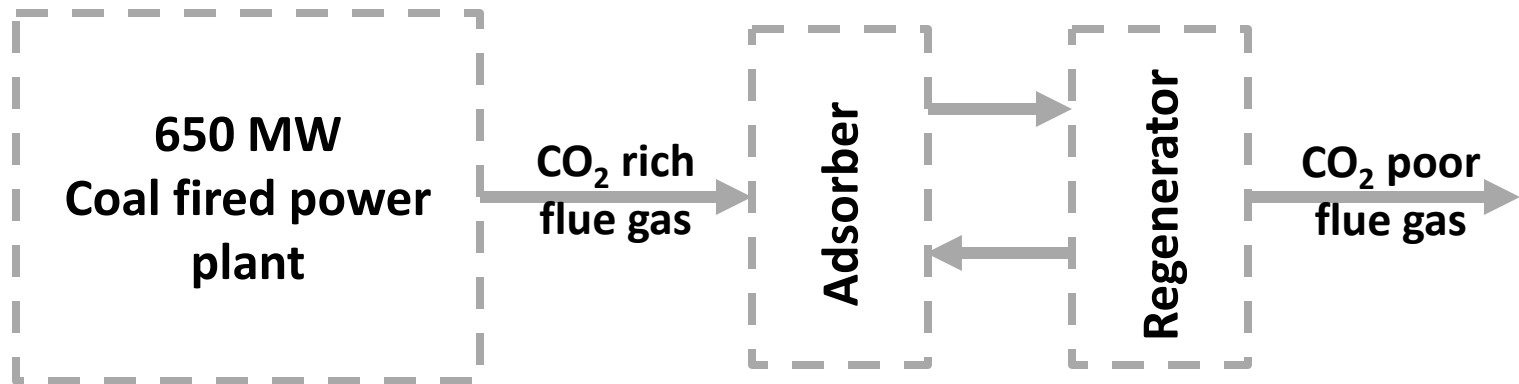
# OPTIMAL PARETO CURVE



# CARBON CAPTURE OPTIMIZATION

- Problem statement:

Capture **90% of CO<sub>2</sub>** from a 350MW power plant's post combustion flue gas with **minimal increase in the cost of electricity**

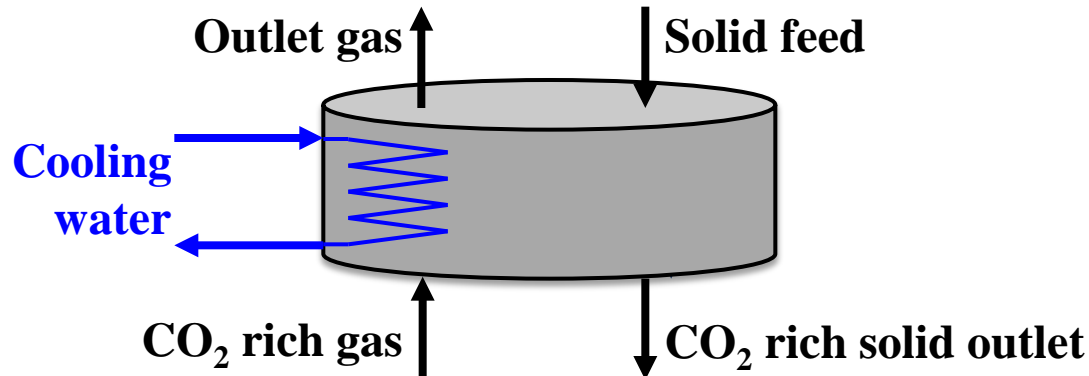


- Design considerations:

- Capture technology
  - *Bubbling fluidized bed, moving bed, fast fluidized bed, transport bed, etc.*
- Number of reactors
- Reactor configuration and geometry
- Operating conditions

# BUBBLING FLUIDIZED BED

## Bubbling fluidized bed adsorber diagram



- **Model inputs (16 total)**

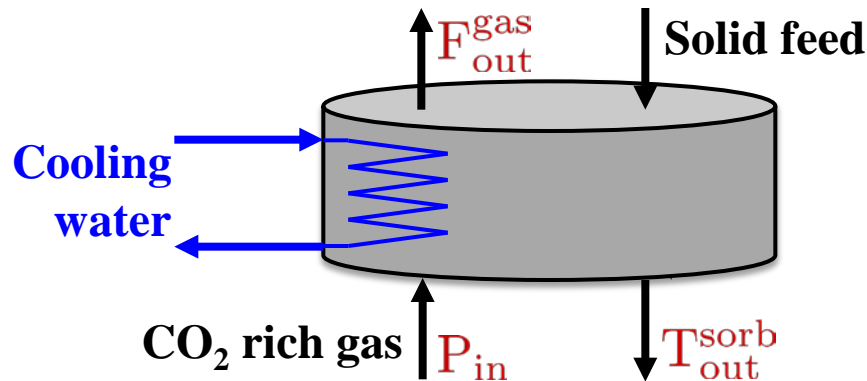
- Geometry (3)
- Operating conditions (5)
- Gas mole fractions (2)
- Solid compositions (2)
- Flow rates (4)

- **Model outputs (14 total)**

- Geometry required (2)
- Operating condition required (1)
- Gas mole fractions (3)
- Solid compositions (3)
- Flow rates (2)
- Outlet temperatures (3)

Model created by Andrew Lee at the National Energy and Technology Laboratory

# EXAMPLE MODELS



$$P_{in} = \frac{1.0 P_{out} + 0.0231 L_b - 0.0187 \ln(0.167 L_b) - 0.00626 \ln(0.667 v_{gi}) - 51.1 xHCO_3_{in}^{ads}}{F_{in}^{gas}}$$

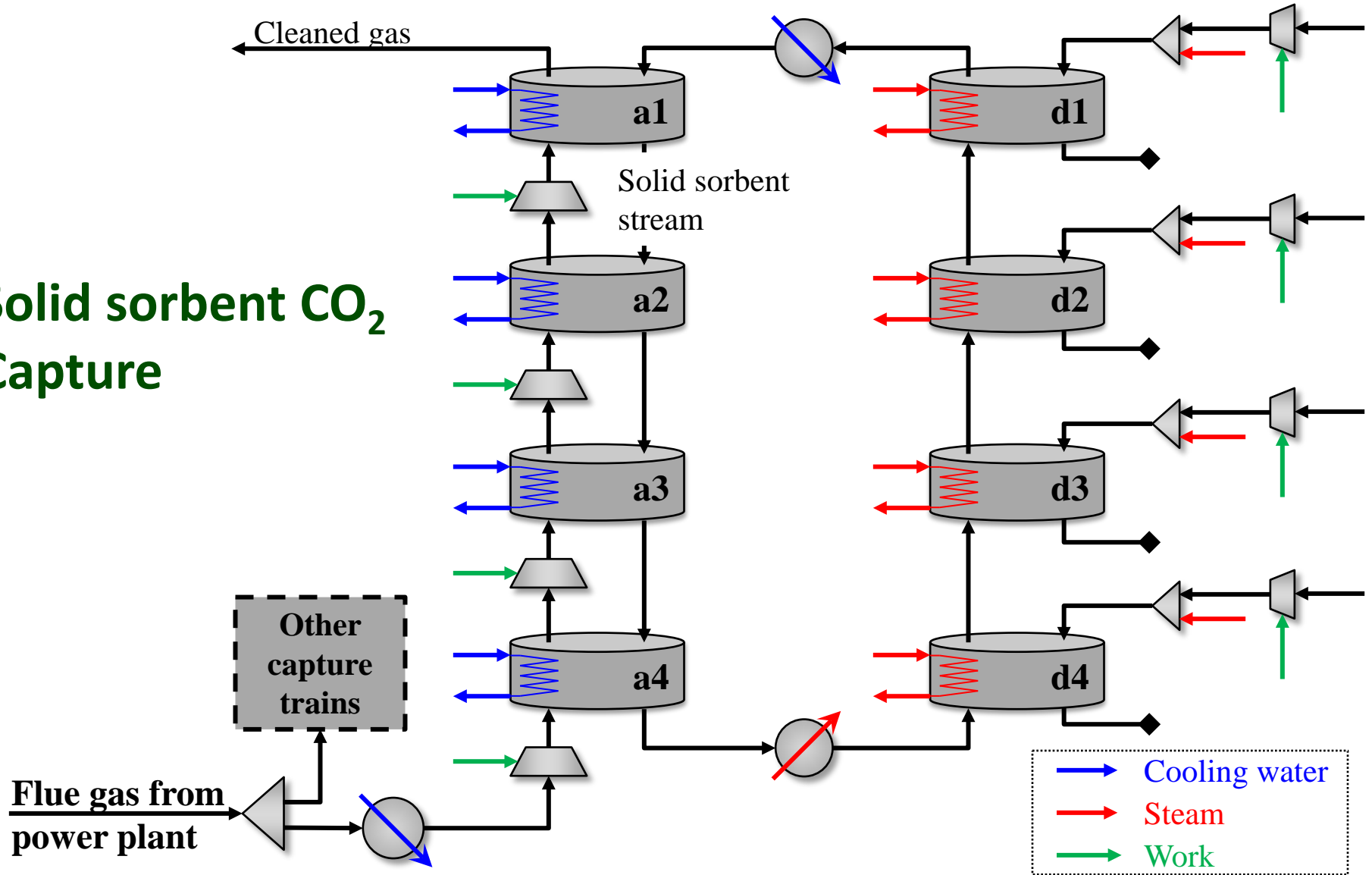
$$T_{out}^{sorb} = 1.0 T_{in}^{gas} - \frac{(1.77 \cdot 10^{-10}) NX^2}{\gamma^2} - \frac{3.46}{NX T_{in}^{gas} T_{in}^{sorb}} + \frac{1.17 \cdot 10^4}{F^{sorb} NX xH_2O_{in}^{ads}}$$

$$F_{out}^{gas} = 0.797 F_{in}^{gas} - \frac{9.75 T_{in}^{sorb}}{\gamma} - 0.77 F_{in}^{gas} xCO_2_{in}^{gas} + 0.00465 F_{in}^{gas} T_{in}^{sorb} - 0.0181 F_{in}^{gas} T_{in}^{sorb} xH_2O_{in}^{gas}$$



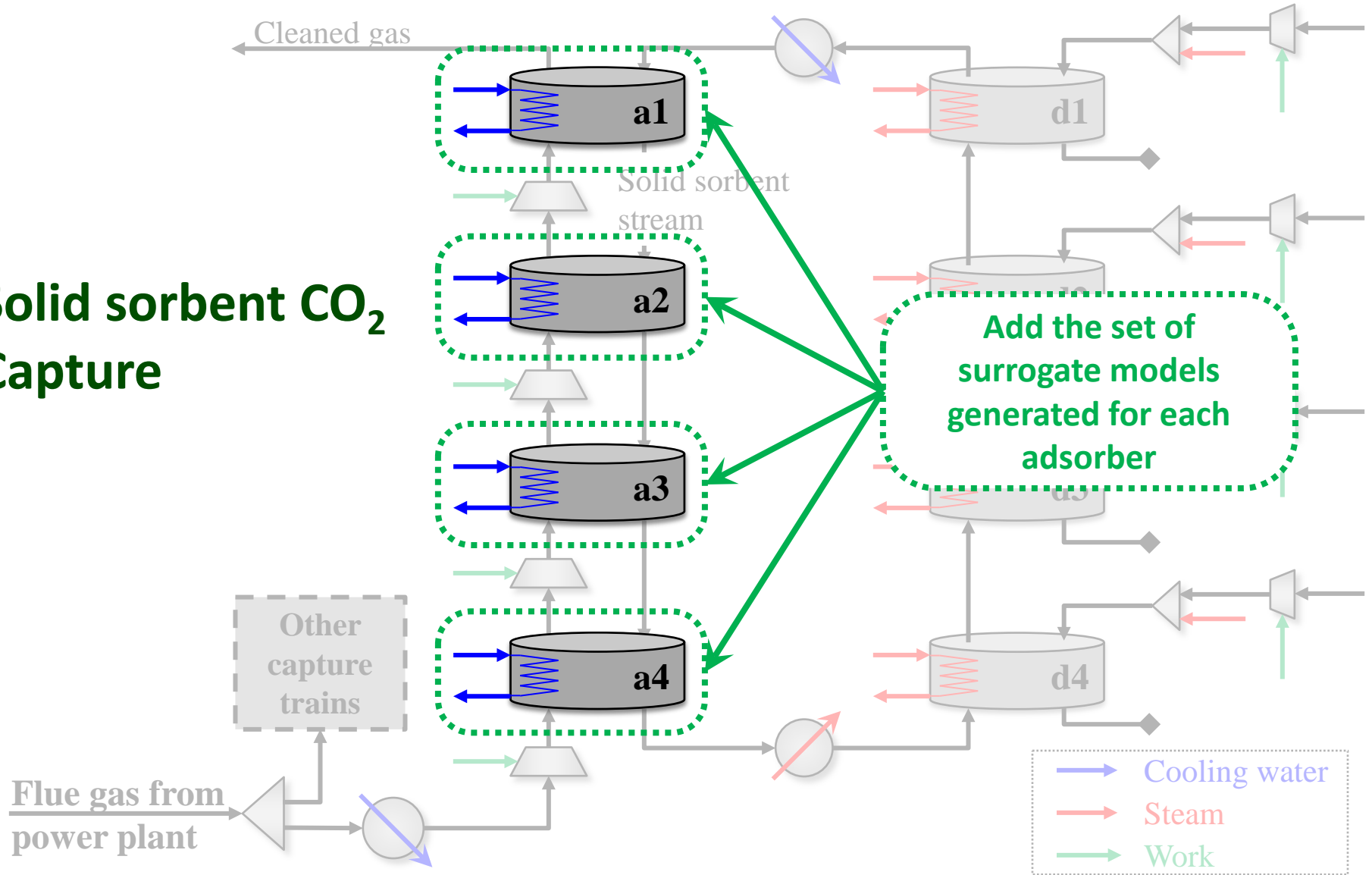
# SUPERSTRUCTURE OPTIMIZATION

## Solid sorbent CO<sub>2</sub> Capture



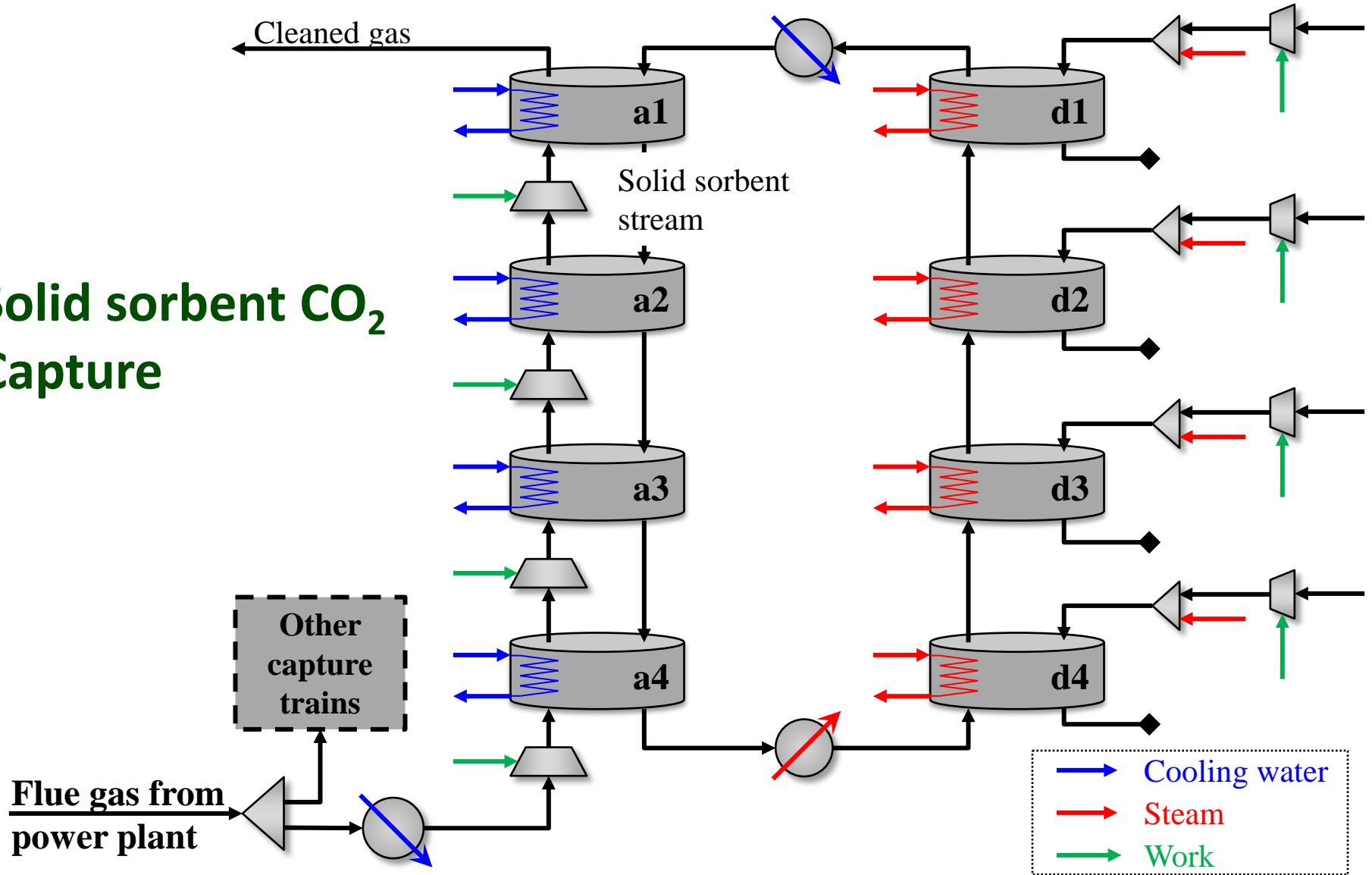
# SUPERSTRUCTURE OPTIMIZATION

## Solid sorbent CO<sub>2</sub> Capture

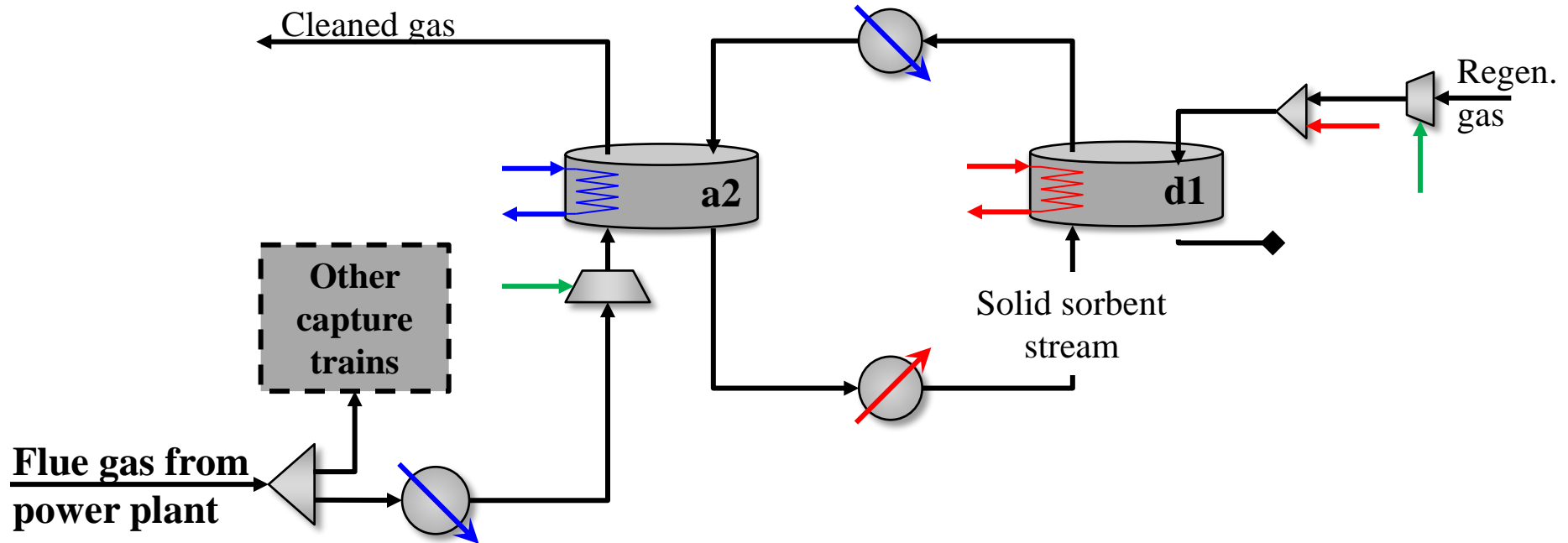


# SUPERSTRUCTURE OPTIMIZATION

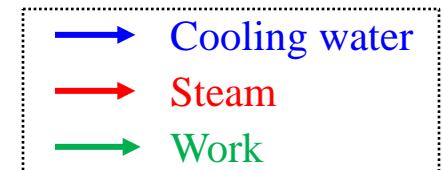
## Solid sorbent CO<sub>2</sub> Capture



# PRELIMINARY RESULTS

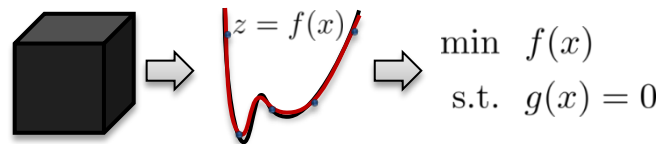


Variables	Value
COE (\$/MWh)	92.3
CapEX (\$)	1.05E+8
steamFlow (kg/s)	108
derate (MW)	114
utilInF (kgmol/s)	9.26



# CONCLUSIONS

- The algorithm we developed is able to model black-box functions for use in optimization such that the models are
  - ✓ Accurate
  - ✓ Tractable in an optimization framework (low-complexity models)
  - ✓ Generated from a minimal number of function evaluations
- Surrogate models can then be incorporated within a larger optimization framework



- **ALAMO site:** [archimedes.cheme.cmu.edu/?q=alamo](http://archimedes.cheme.cmu.edu/?q=alamo)