



# Metaheuristic Optimization

## 15. Multi-Objective Optimization

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Lexicographic Optimization
- 3 Weighted-Sum Approach
- 4 Pareto-based Approach
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website

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- Usually subject to minimization
- Not necessary a function as we know it from high school (like  $f(x) = x^2 + \dots$ ) but may be arbitrarily complex. . .

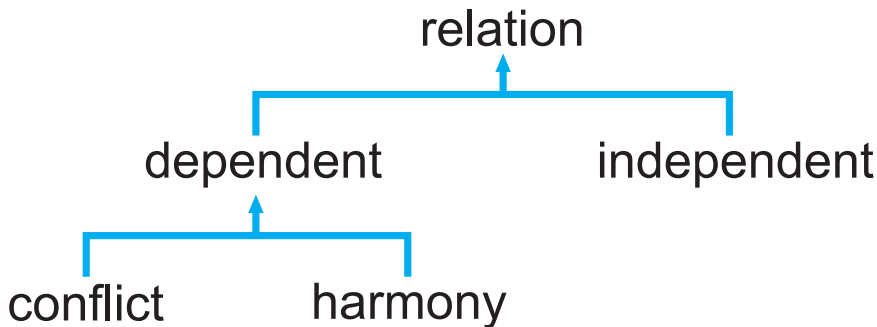
## Definition (Multi-Objective Optimization Problem)

In a multi-objective optimization problem (MOP), a set  $\vec{f} : \mathbb{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^n$  consisting of  $n$  objective functions  $f_i : \mathbb{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is to be optimized over a solution space  $\mathbb{X}$  <sup>[1–3]</sup>.

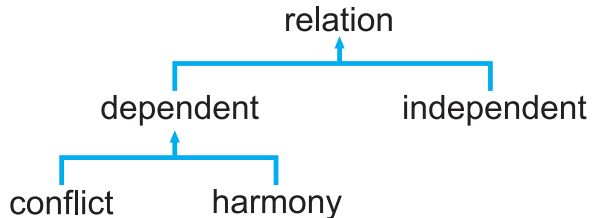
$$\vec{f} = \{f_i : \mathbb{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R} : i \in 1 \dots n\} \quad (1)$$

$$\vec{f}(x) = (f_1(x), f_2(x), \dots)^T \implies \vec{f} : \mathbb{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^n \quad (2)$$

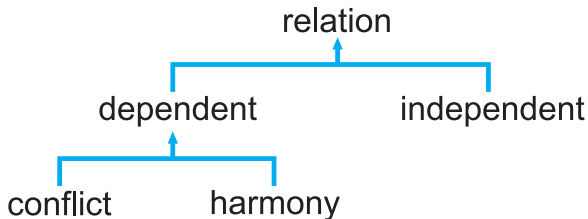
- These objective functions can have different relations with each other. [4, 5]



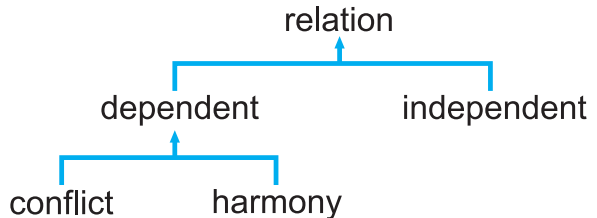
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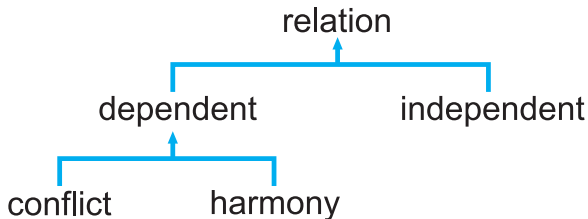
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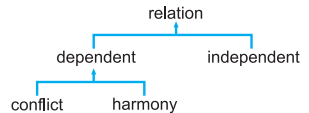


- Independent objective functions are unrelated to each other.
- Example: Find a (1) fast car with (2) beautiful color. → color and speed may be optimized separately
- Uninteresting. Problem can be decomposed into sub-problems which can be optimized separately and solutions of sub-problems can be composed to solution of overall problem

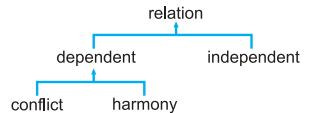




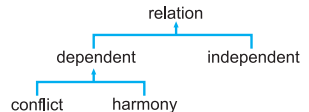
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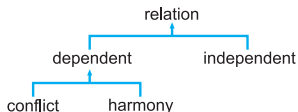
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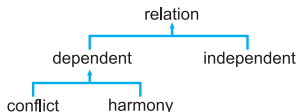
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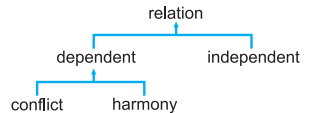
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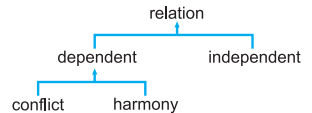
- (definition is given over a subset  $X \subseteq \mathbb{X}$  of the solution space)
- Uninteresting. One of the objectives can be omitted / left away, as its presence does neither change the result nor does it make the problem easier



- If two objectives conflict, then achieving an improvement in one of means getting worse in the other one.



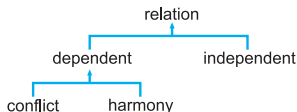
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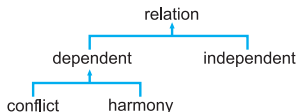




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- This is the really interesting situation – here we need to do something!



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- Instead, they may harmonize in some parts of the solution space and conflict in others

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What does “optimal” mean in the presence of multiple optimization criteria?

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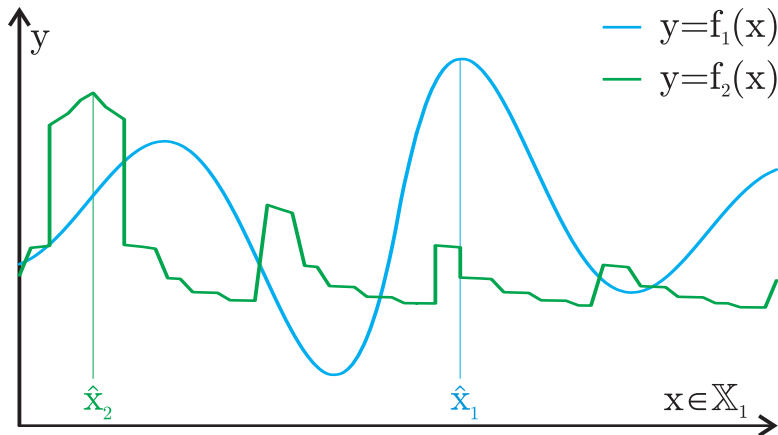
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- Separate a multi-objective optimization problem into  $n$  single-objective ones



## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

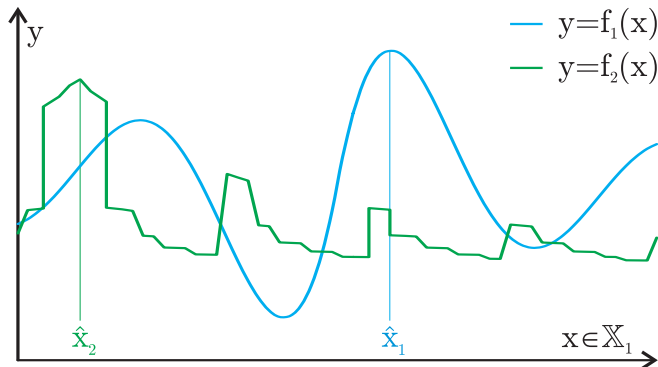
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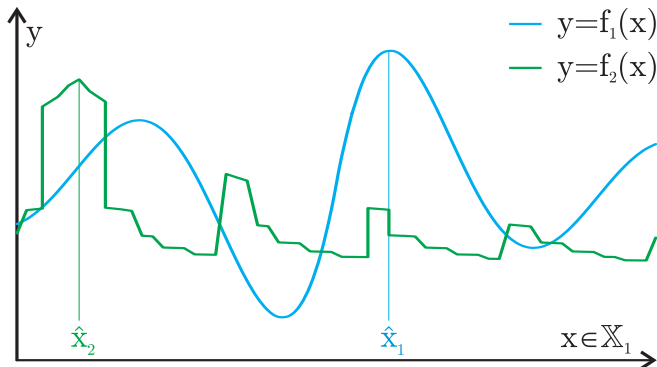
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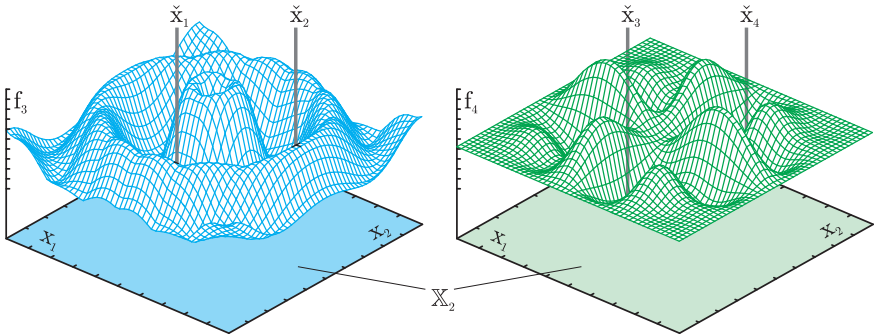
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- $X^* = X_{(1,2)}^* \cup X_{(2,1)}^* = \{\hat{x}_1\} \cup \{\hat{x}_2\} = \{\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2\}$



## Example B: Two 2d-Functions

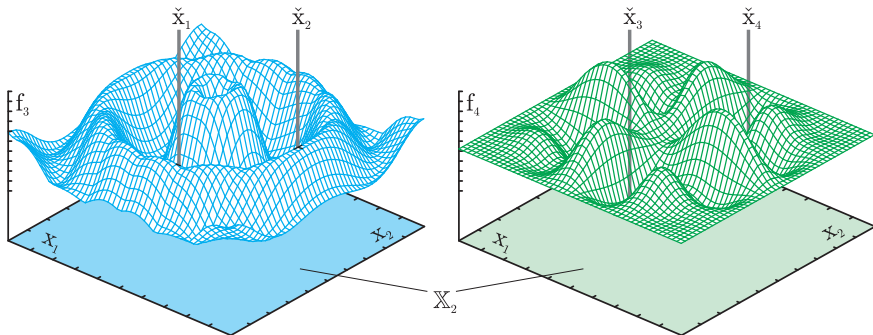
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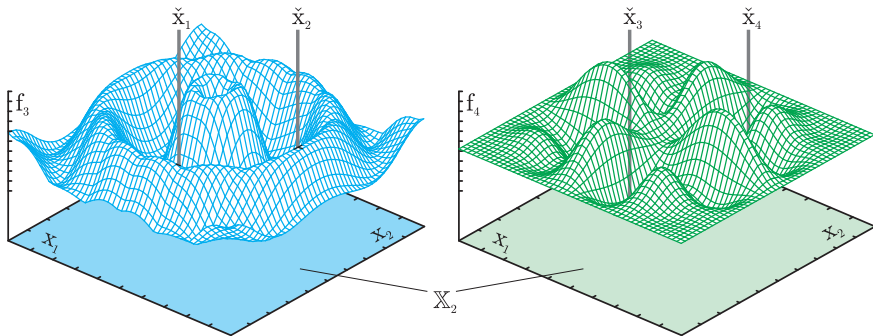
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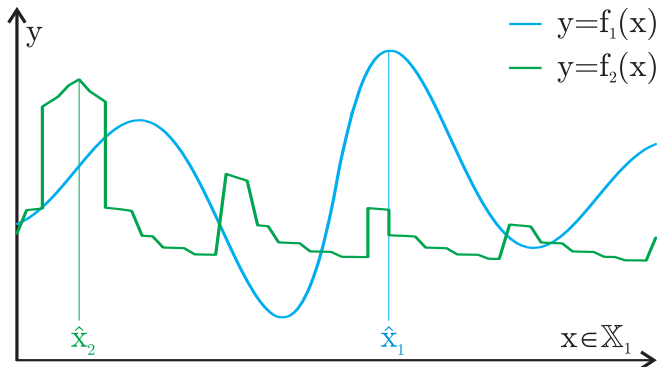
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- We can use any of the single-objective techniques we already know to solve it. . .

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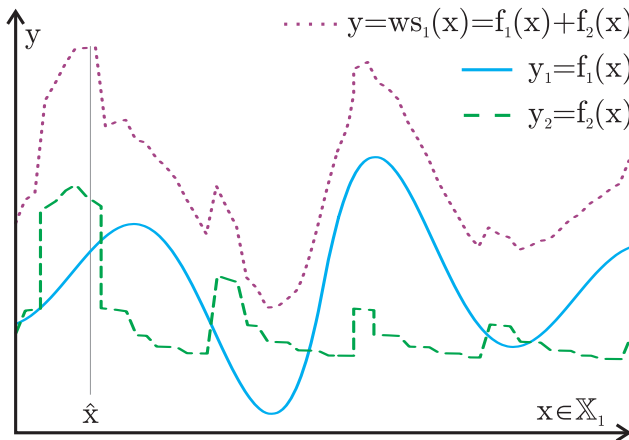




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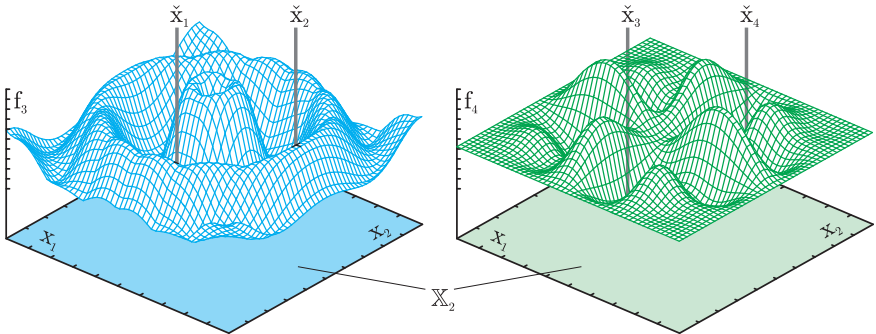
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- Two 2-dimensional functions to minimization:

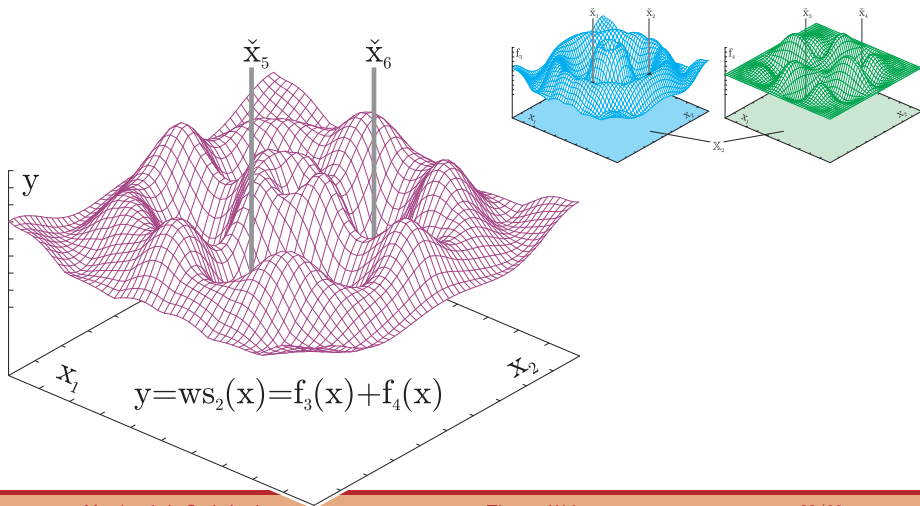
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## Example B: Two 2d-Functions

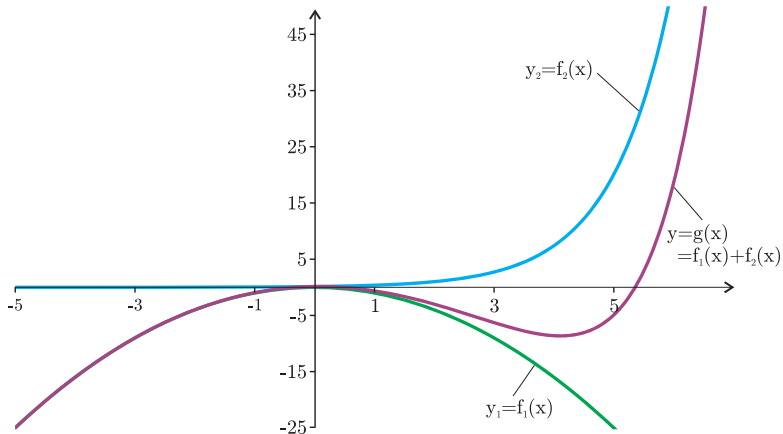
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## Example C: Two 1d-Functions

- Section of two functions subject to either **maximization** or **minimization**



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- ✗ Objective functions are not always precise measures of utility, adding them up thus does not always make sense

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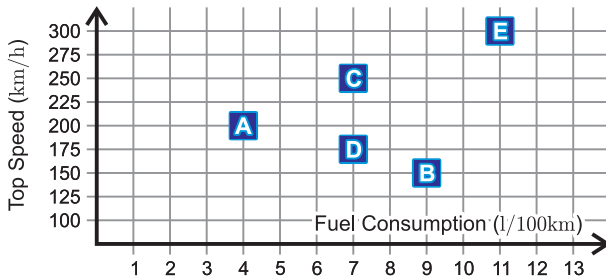
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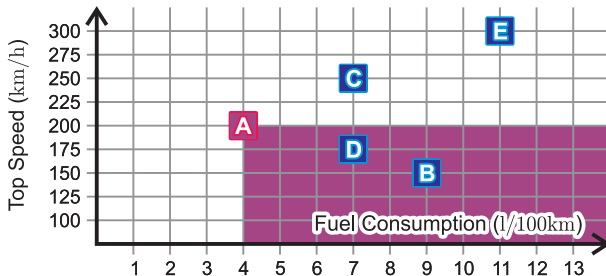
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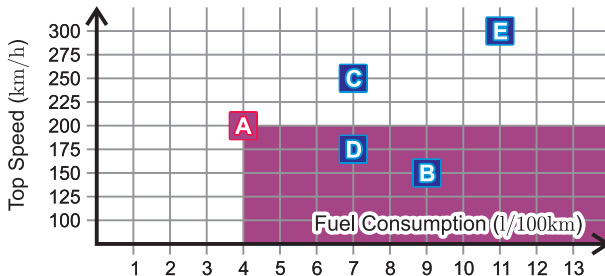
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  - Clearly, car A is better than car D: it is faster and needs less fuels



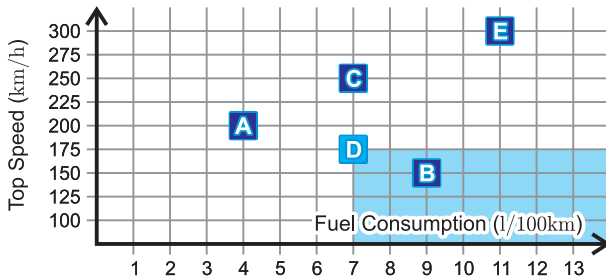
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  - Clearly, car A is better than car D: it is faster and needs less fuels
  - Car A is also better than car B: it is faster and needs less fuel



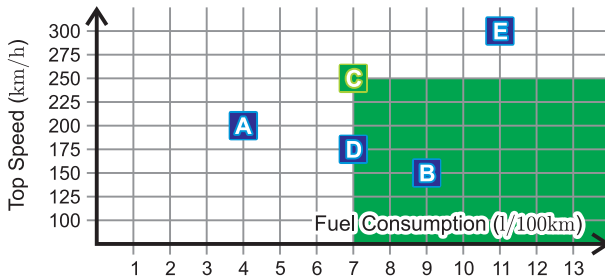


- “Find a fast car which is environmentally friendly!”
  - Assume the following possible candidate solutions:

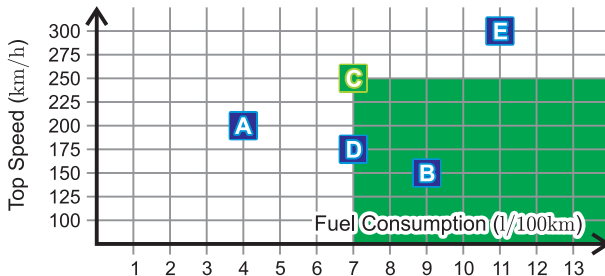
Car A: 200 km/h with 4 L/100km	Car B: 150 km/h with 9 L/100km
Car C: 250 km/h with 7 L/100km	Car D: 175 km/h with 7 L/100km
Car E: 300 km/h with 11 L/100km	
  - Also, car D is better than car B: it is faster and needs less fuel



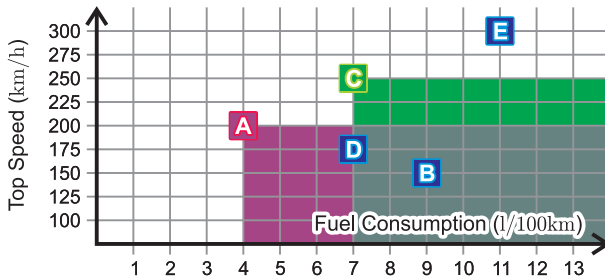
- “Find a fast car which is environmentally friendly!”
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Car A: 200 km/h with 4 L/100km      Car B: 150 km/h with 9 L/100km  
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  - Car C is better than car D: it is faster at the same fuel consumption



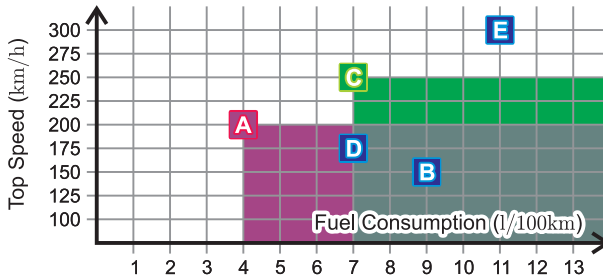
- “Find a fast car which is environmentally friendly!”
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Car E: 300 km/h with 11 L/100km
  - Car C is better than car D: it is faster at the same fuel consumption
  - Car C is also better than car B: it is faster and needs less fuel



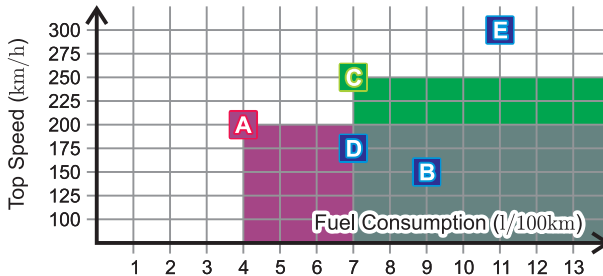
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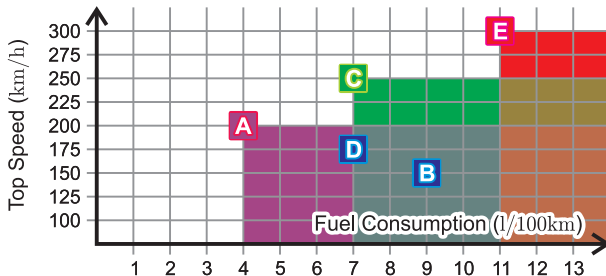


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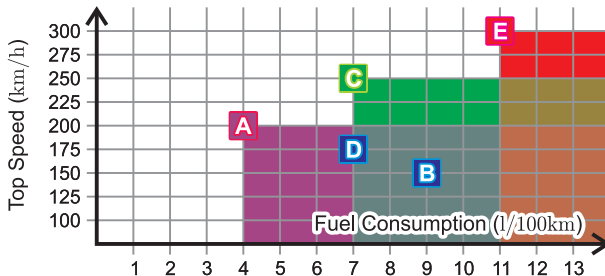
- “Find a fast car which is environmentally friendly!”
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Car A: 200 km/h with 4 L/100km	Car B: 150 km/h with 9 L/100km
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  - No car is better than car E



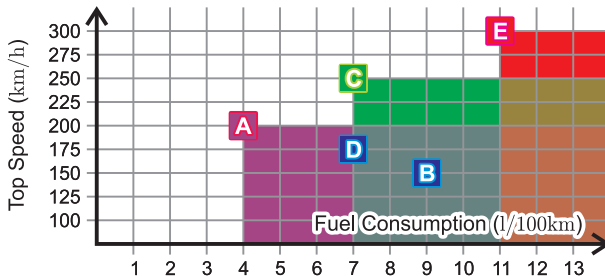
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  - No car is better than car E
  - But: No car is worse than car E!





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Car E: 300 km/h with 11 L/100km
  - No car is better than car E
  - But: No car is worse than car E!
  - All cars are slower than car E, but all need less fuel



- Idea first developed by Edgeworth <sup>[18]</sup> and Pareto <sup>[19]</sup> in the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

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- Pareto optimality defines the frontier of solutions that can be reached by trading-off conflicting objectives in an optimal manner <sup>[3, 20–25]</sup>
- Pareto optimality became an important notion in economics, game theory, engineering, and social sciences <sup>[26–29]</sup>.

- Idea first developed in the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>[18, 19]</sup>
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## Definition (Domination)

An element  $x_1$  dominates (is preferred to) an element  $x_2$  ( $x_1 \dashv x_2$ ) if  $x_1$  is better than  $x_2$  in at least one objective function and not worse with respect to all other objectives. Based on the set  $\vec{f}$  of objective functions  $f$ , we can write:

$$x_1 \dashv x_2 \Leftrightarrow \forall i \in 1 \dots n \Rightarrow \omega_i f_i(x_1) \leq \omega_i f_i(x_2) \wedge \exists j \in 1 \dots n : \omega_j f_j(x_1) < \omega_j f_j(x_2) \quad (7)$$

$$\omega_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } f_i \text{ should be minimized} \\ -1 & \text{if } f_i \text{ should be maximized} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

- Idea first developed in the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>[18, 19]</sup>
- Pareto optimality defines the frontier of solutions that can be reached by trading-off conflicting objectives in an optimal manner<sup>[3, 20–25]</sup>

## Definition (Pareto Optimal)

An element  $x^* \in \mathbb{X}$  is Pareto optimal (and hence, part of the optimal set  $X^*$ ) if it is not dominated by any other element in the solution space  $\mathbb{X}$ .  $X^*$  is called the Pareto-optimal set or Pareto set.

$$x^* \in X^* \Leftrightarrow \nexists x \in \mathbb{X} : x \preceq x^* \quad (7)$$

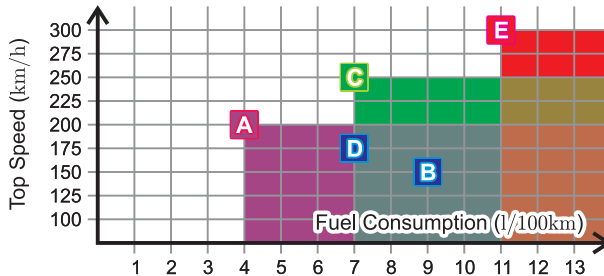
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## Definition (Pareto Frontier)

For a given optimization problem, the Pareto front(ier)  $F^{\star} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is defined as the set of results the objective function vector  $\vec{f}$  creates when it is applied to all the elements of the Pareto-optimal set  $X^{\star}$ .

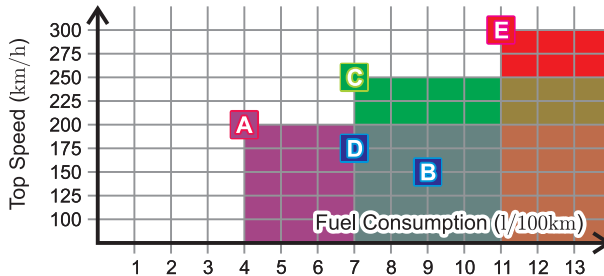
$$F^{\star} = \{\vec{f}(x^{\star}) : x^{\star} \in X^{\star}\} \quad (7)$$

- Non-dominated

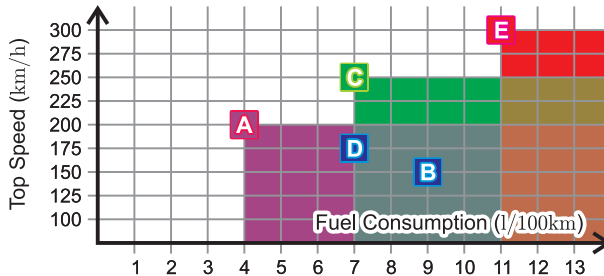




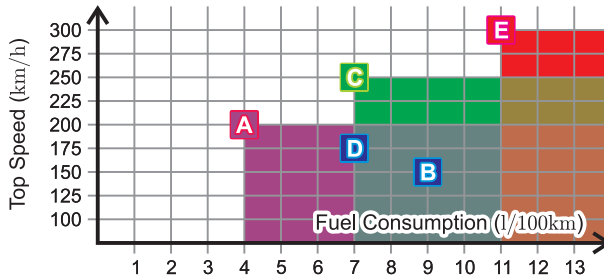
- Non-dominated: A



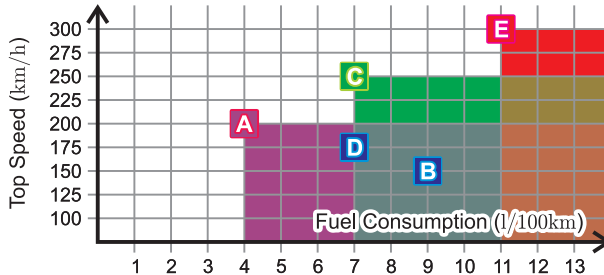
- Non-dominated: A, C



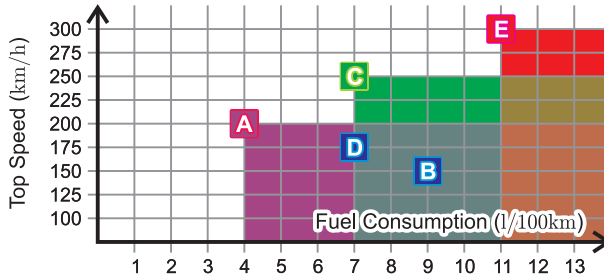
- Non-dominated: A, C, E



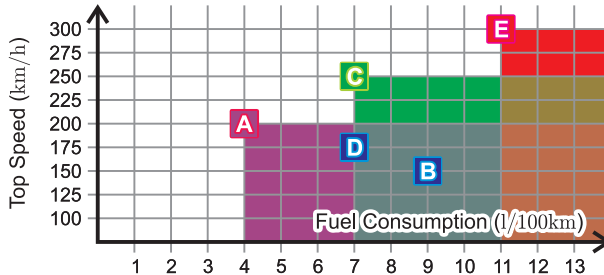
- Non-dominated: A, C, E
- Dominated



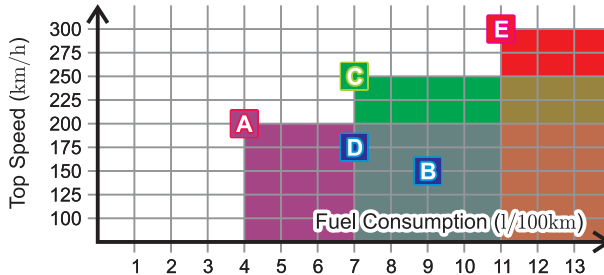
- Non-dominated: A, C, E
- Dominated: D



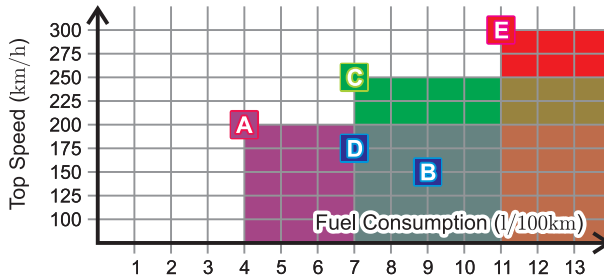
- Non-dominated: A, C, E
- Dominated: D, B



- Non-dominated: A, C, E
- Dominated: D, B
- Pareto set

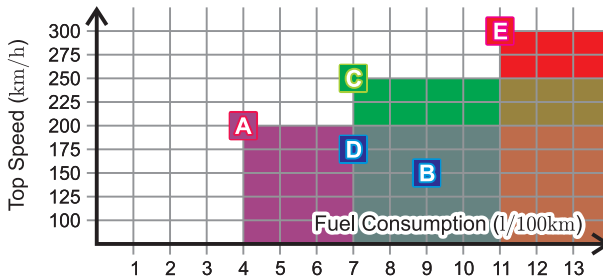


- Non-dominated: A, C, E
- Dominated: D, B
- Pareto set:  $X^* = \{A, C, E\}$

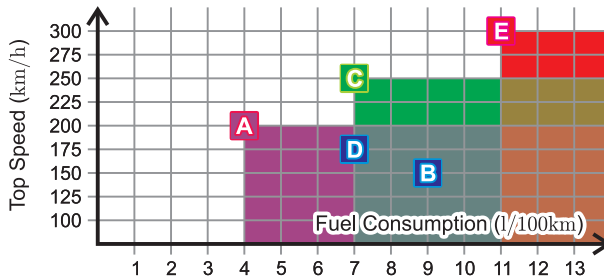




- Non-dominated: A, C, E
- Dominated: D, B
- Pareto set:  $X^* = \{A, C, E\}$
- Pareto front



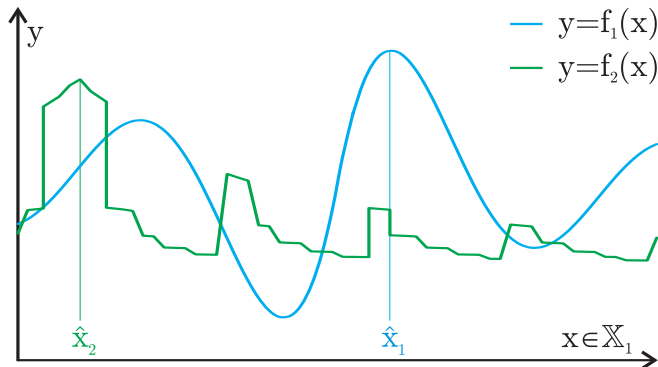
- Non-dominated: A, C, E
- Dominated: D, B
- Pareto set:  $X^{**} = \{A, C, E\}$
- Pareto front:  $F^{**} = \{(4, 200), (7, 250), (11, 300)\}$



## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

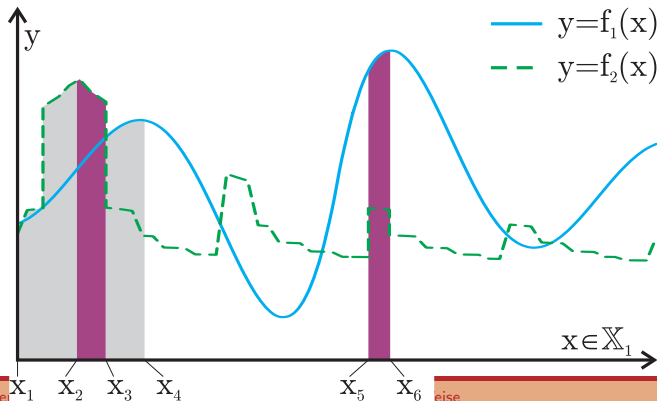


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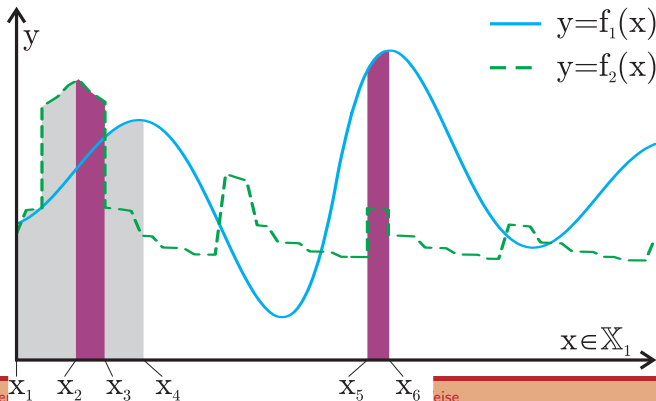
- $X^* = [x_2, x_3] \cup [x_5, x_6]$



## Example A: Two 1d-Functions



- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:  
 $\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$
- all  $x \in [x_1, x_2)$  are dominated by other points in the same region or in  $[x_2, x_3] - f_1$  and  $f_2$  can be improved by increasing  $x$



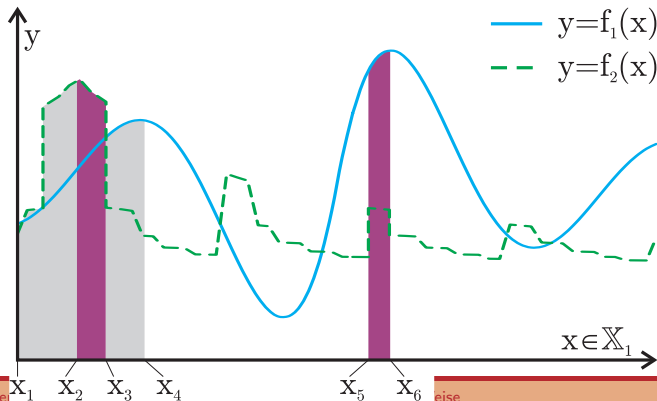
## Example A: Two 1d-Functions



- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

- $f_1$  and  $f_2$  *harmonize* in  $[x_1, x_2)$ :  $f_1 \sim_{[x_1, x_2)} f_2$

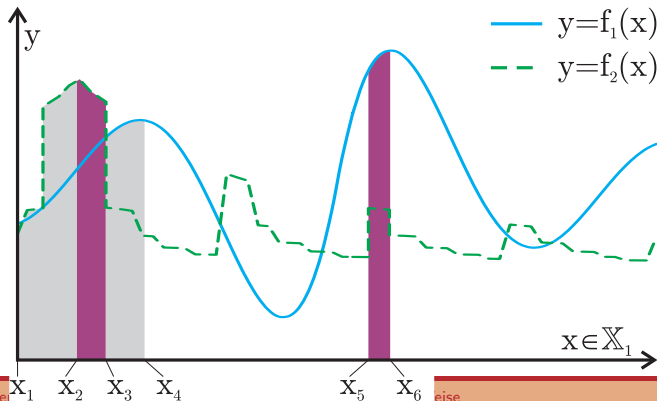


## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

- $f_1(x_1 + \Delta) > f_1(x_1)$  and  $f_2(x_1 + \Delta) > f_2(x_1)$  for all  $\Delta \leq x_2 - x_1$

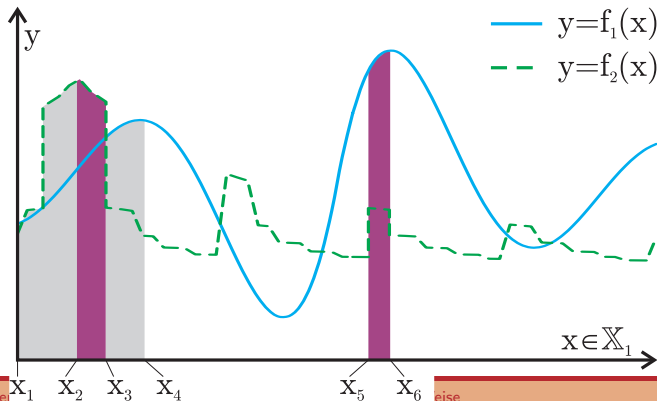


## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

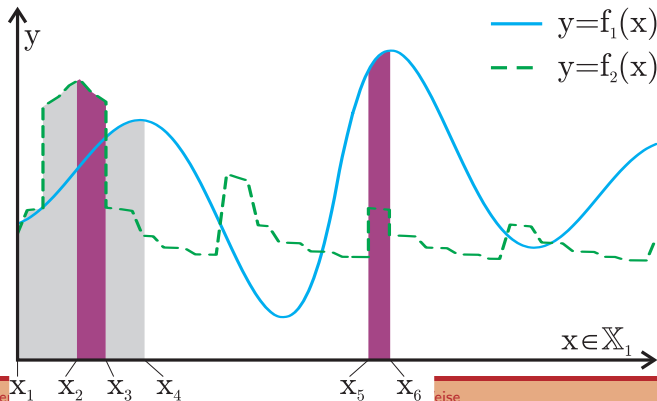
- If we reach  $x_2$ , the situation changes





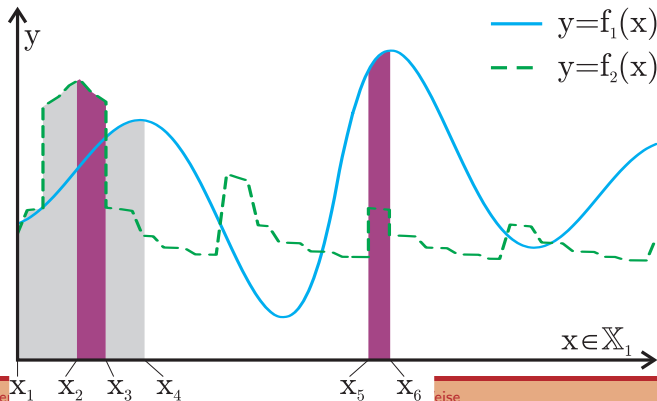
## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:  
 $\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$
- $x_2$  demarks the global maximum of  $f_2$  – the point with the highest possible  $f_2$  value – which can never be dominated



## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:  
 $\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$
- From here on,  $f_2$  will decrease for some time, but  $f_1$  keeps rising.

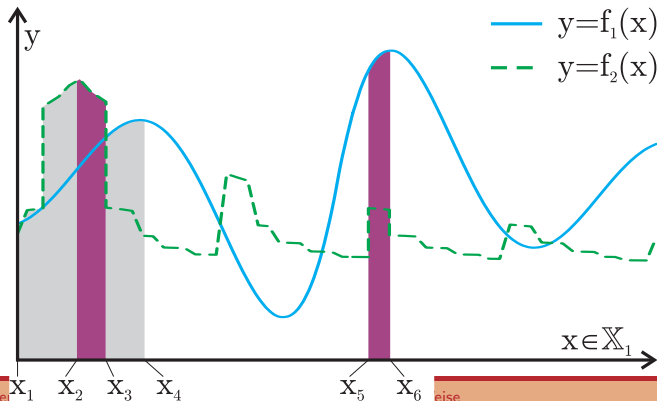


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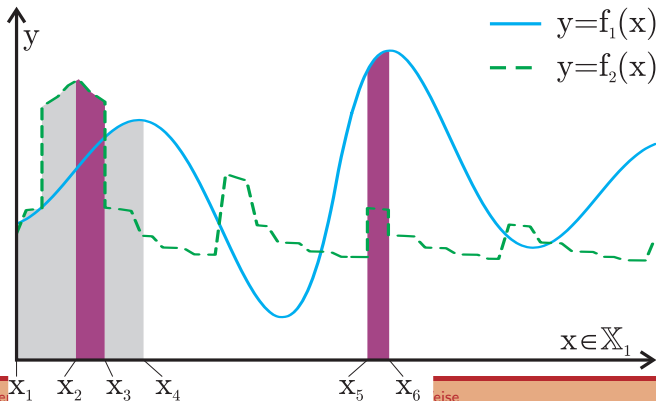
$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

- If we now go a small step  $\Delta$  to the right, we will find a point  $x_2 + \Delta$  with  $f_2(x_2 + \Delta) < f_2(x_2)$  but also  $f_1(x_2 + \Delta) > f_1(x_2)$ .



## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:  
 $\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$
- One objective can only get better if another one degenerates, i.e.,  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  *conflict*  $f_1 \approx_{[x_2, x_3]} f_2$ .



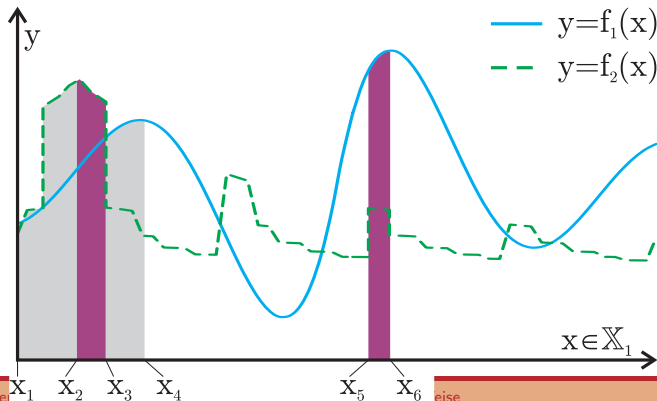
## Example A: Two 1d-Functions



- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

- No point in  $[x_1, x_2)$  dominates any point in  $[x_2, x_4]$



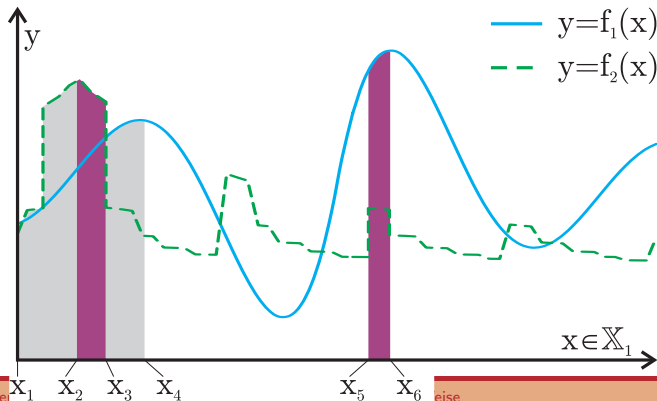
## Example A: Two 1d-Functions



- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

- $f_1$  keeps rising until  $x_4$  is reached.

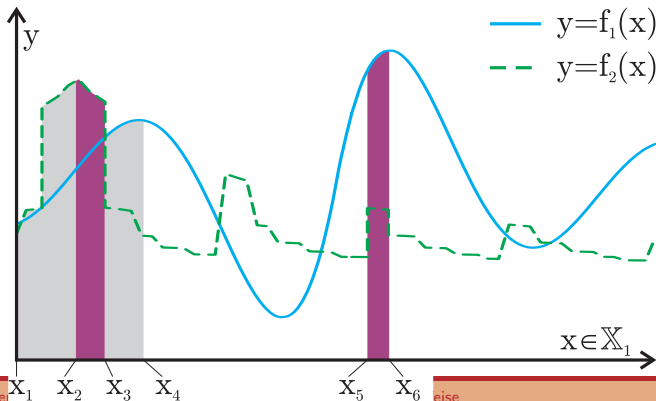


## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

- At  $x_3$  however,  $f_2$  steeply falls to a very low level – lower than  $f_2(x_5)$ .

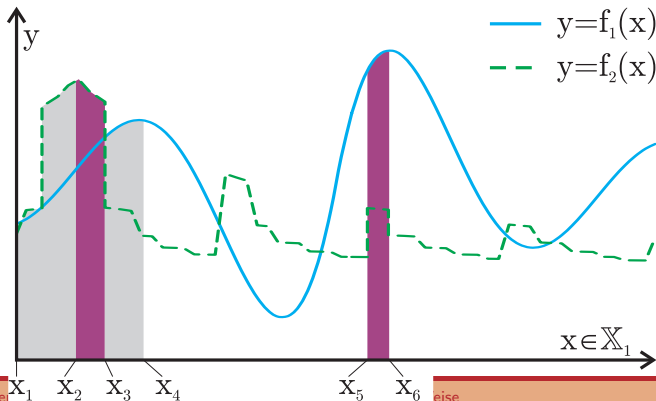


## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

- The  $f_1$  values of the points in  $[x_5, x_6]$  are also higher than those of the points in  $(x_3, x_4]$



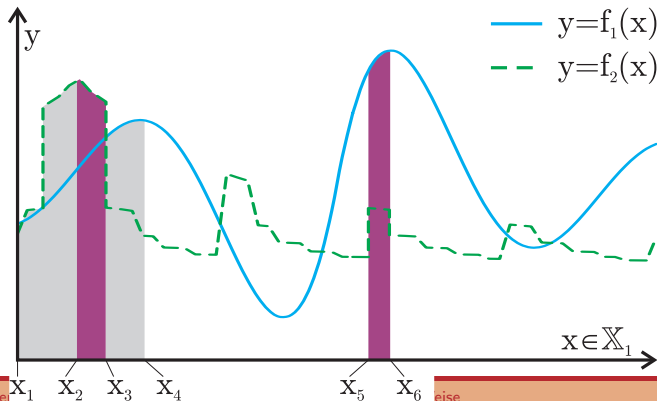


## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:

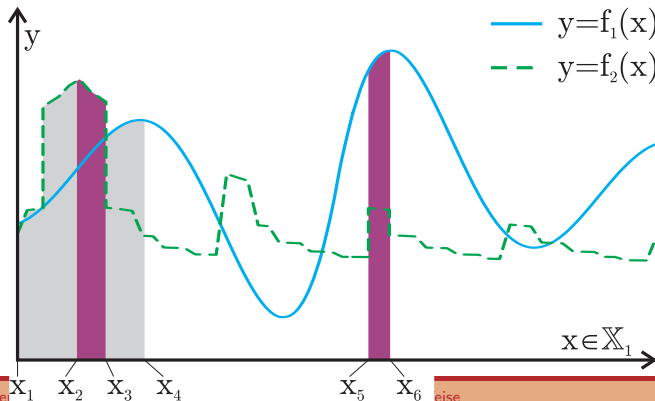
$$\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$$

- All points in the set  $[x_5, x_6]$  (which also contains the global maximum of  $f_1$ ) dominate those in  $(x_3, x_4]$ .



## Example A: Two 1d-Functions

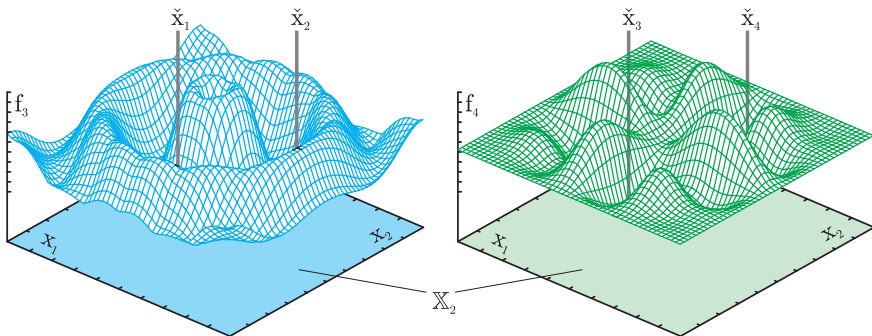
- Two 1-dimensional functions subject to **maximization**:  
 $\vec{f} = \{f_1, f_2\}, f_i : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{1, 2\}$
- All points in  $[x_4, x_5]$  and after  $x_6$  are also dominated by the non-dominated regions just discussed.



## Example B: Two 2d-Functions

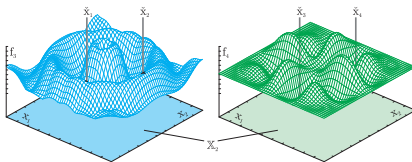
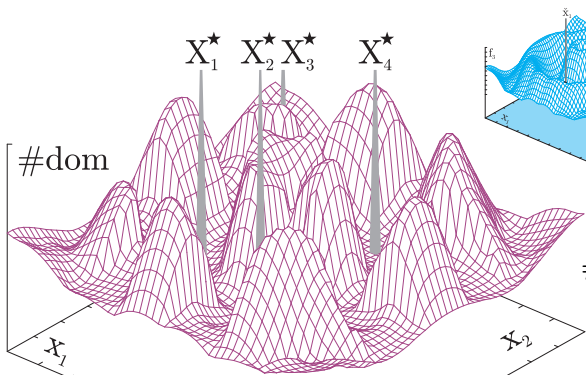
- Grid-based resolution of two 2-dimensional functions to minimization:

$$\vec{f} = \{f_3, f_4\}, f_i : \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{3, 4\}$$



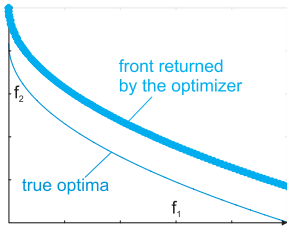
## Example B: Two 2d-Functions

- **Grid-based resolution** of two 2-dimensional functions to **minimization**:  
 $\vec{f} = \{f_3, f_4\}, f_i : \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{R} \forall i \in \{3, 4\}$
- $X^\star = X_1^\star \cup X_2^\star \cup X_3^\star \cup X_4^\star$  are not dominated by any other candidate solution

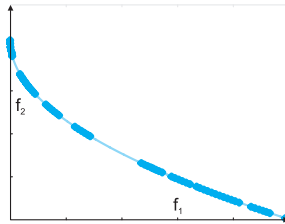


$$\#dom(x, X) = |\{x' : (x' \in X) \wedge (x' \not\prec x)\}|$$

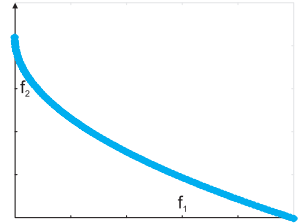
- Goal: Uniformity of convergence – many solutions close to Pareto Front that cover many different “optimal” characteristics



Bad convergence, good spread (uniformity) <sup>[30]</sup>



Good convergence, bad spread (non-uniformity) <sup>[30]</sup>



Good convergence, good spread (uniformity) <sup>[30]</sup>

- ✓ Relative rising/falling speed of objective functions plays no role (big- $\mathcal{O}$  class irrelevant)

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- ✓ Results are best trade-off solutions  $\rightarrow$  Operator can make informed decision



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- ✓ Multiple solutions can be discovered

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- ✓ No weights or additional parameters necessary
- ✓ Results are best trade-off solutions → Operator can make informed decision
- ✓ Multiple solutions can be discovered
- ✗ Maybe too many solutions will be discovered

- ✓ Relative rising/falling speed of objective functions plays no role (big- $\mathcal{O}$  class irrelevant)
- ✓ No weights or additional parameters necessary
- ✓ Results are best trade-off solutions  $\rightarrow$  Operator can make informed decision
- ✓ Multiple solutions can be discovered
- ✗ Maybe too many solutions will be discovered
- ✗ In many problems, the number of Pareto-optimal solutions may be infinite  $\rightarrow$  Which to choose?

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Lexicographic Optimization
- 3 Weighted-Sum Approach
- 4 Pareto-based Approach
- 5 MOEAs**
- 6 Pareto Ranking
- 7 Problems

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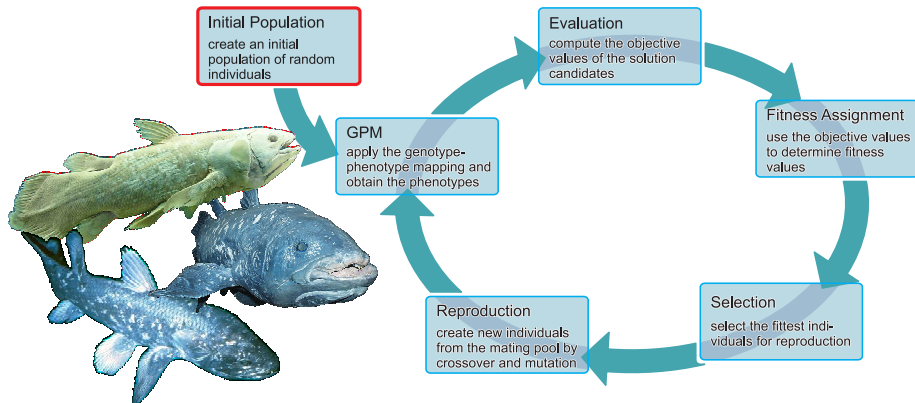
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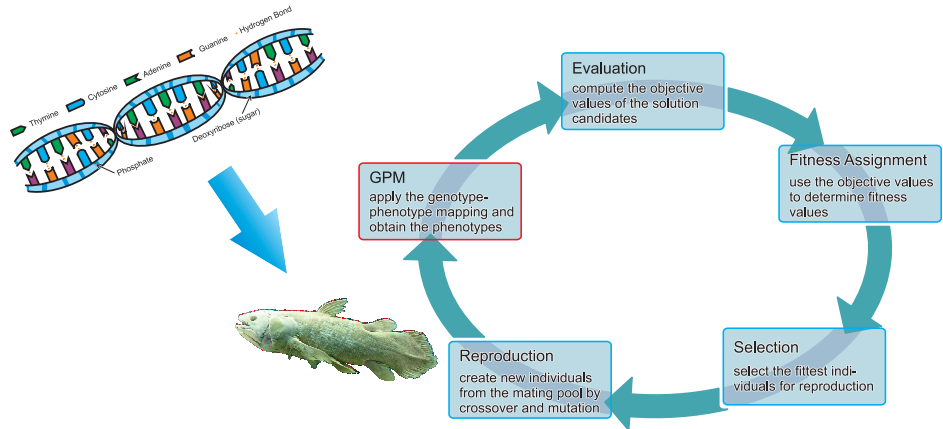
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- Introduce fitness assignment process into the EA which maps the objective value vectors  $\vec{f}(p.x)$  to scalar fitness values  $\nu(p)$
- After such a scalar fitness has been assigned, the traditional selection schemes (fitness proportionate, tournament, ...) can be used!

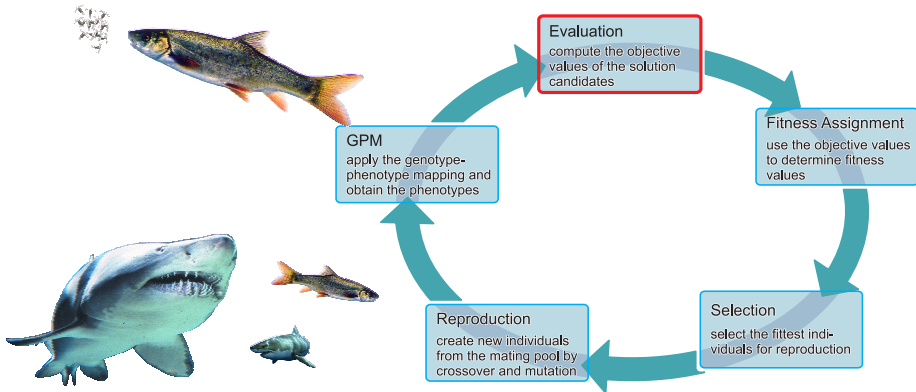
- Nullary search operation to create initial individuals: create a **population** of random bit strings



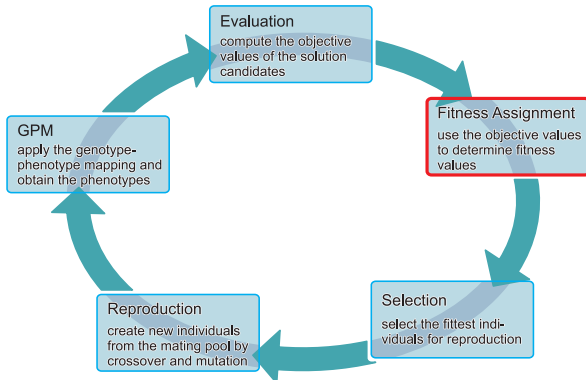
- Map the genotypes to phenotypes
- The GPM is usually problem-dependent



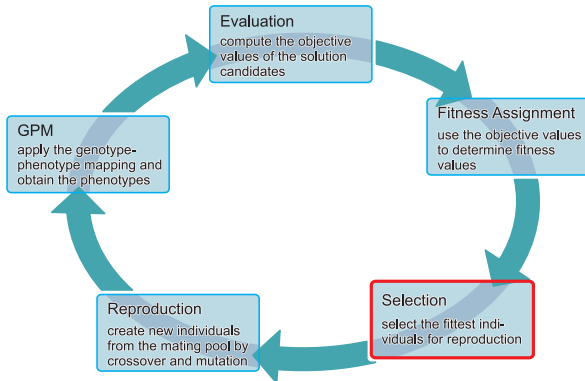
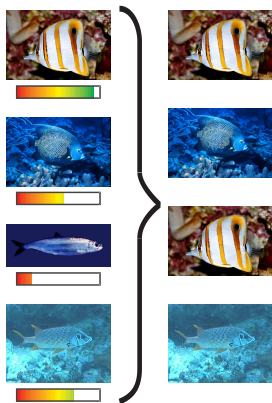
- Evaluate the objective **functions** – each solution may have different features
- Each candidate solution  $x$  now has a **vector of objective values**  $\vec{f}(x)$



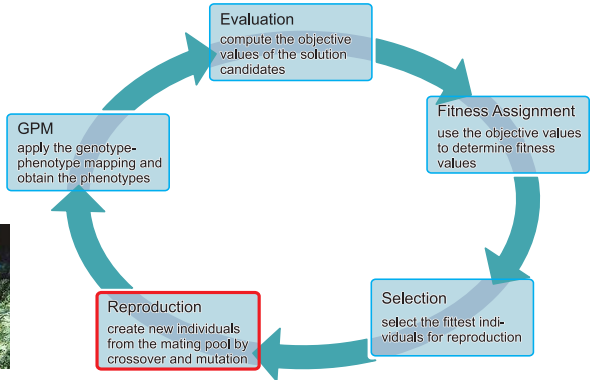
- Fitness is **relative**: e.g., Pareto optimal *inside population* means non-dominated by the other individuals



- Select the best individuals with highest probability

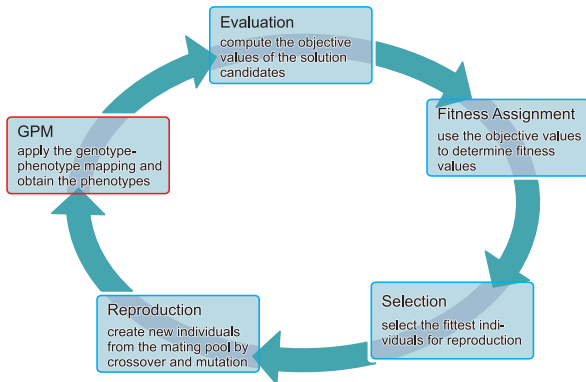


- Mutation and recombination





- Start with new population in next generation.



```
 $\tilde{X} \leftarrow \text{basicMOEA}(\vec{f}, ps, mps)$ 
```

```
begin
```

```
  pop  $\leftarrow$  create initial population
```

```
  while  $\neg \text{shouldTerminate}$  do
```

```
    perform genotype-phenotype mapping
```

```
    compute objective values
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    matePool  $\leftarrow$  select parents from pop
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- A Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithm works like a normal EA
- Initialize first generation and generation counter

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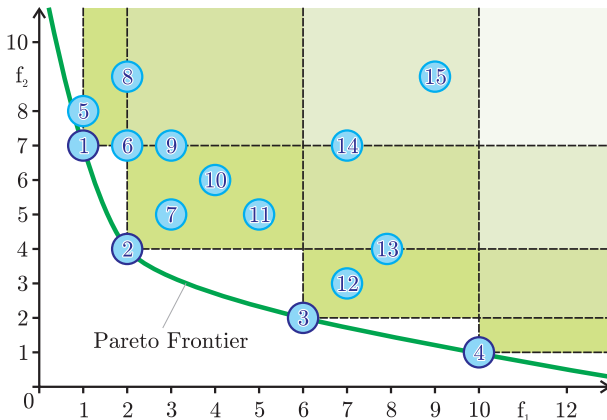
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- If size limit is reached: delete elements from the archive (maybe randomly, maybe based on density information).

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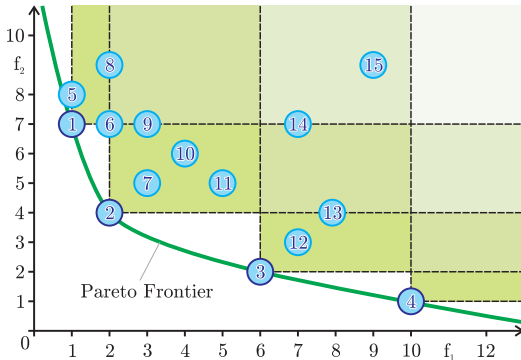
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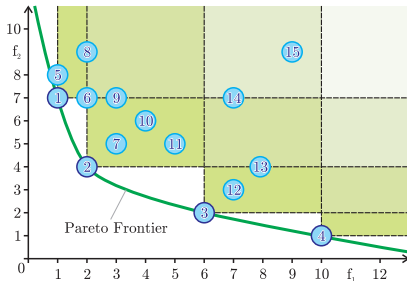


Example: two-objective problem with 15 individuals (1) to (15)

- Reflect the Pareto dominance relationship of the individuals in the population in the fitness! [41, 54–56]
- **Idea:** Count the number dominates( $p$ , pop) of individuals that the individual  $p$  and set  $\nu(p) = 1/(1+\text{dominates}(p, \text{pop}))$



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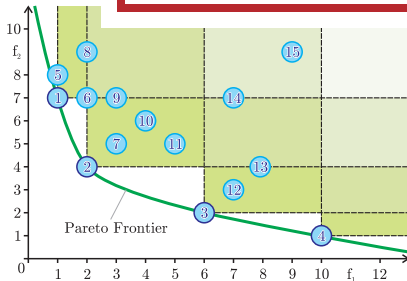


$p$	dominated <u>by</u> $p$	$\nu(p)$
1	{5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15}	1/7
2	{6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15}	1/10
3	{12, 13, 14, 15}	1/5
4	$\emptyset$	1
5	{8, 15}	1/3
6	{8, 9, 14, 15}	1/5
7	{9, 10, 11, 14, 15}	1/6
8	{15}	1/2
9	{14, 15}	1/3
10	{14, 15}	1/3
11	{14, 15}	1/3
12	{13, 14, 15}	1/4
13	{15}	1/2
14	{15}	1/2
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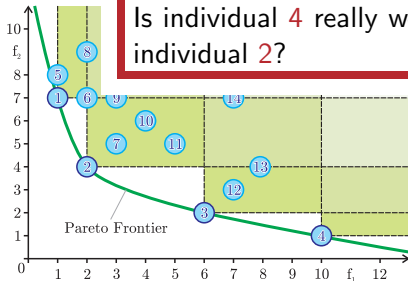
Are individual 4 and 15 really as same as interesting?



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Are individual 4 and 15 really as same as interesting?  
Is individual 4 really worse than individual 2?



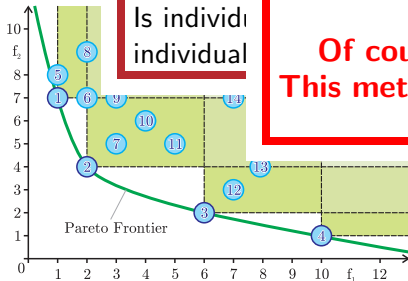
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Are individual 4 and 15 really as same as individual 1?

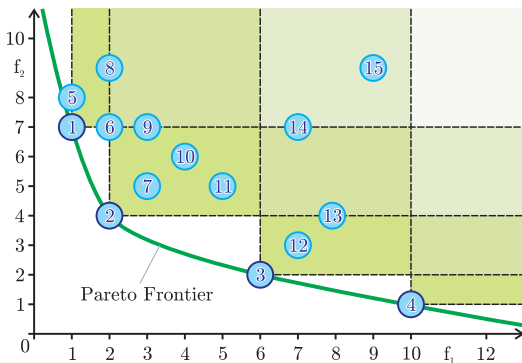
Is individual 15 really as good as individual 1?

**Of course not!  
This method is bad.**



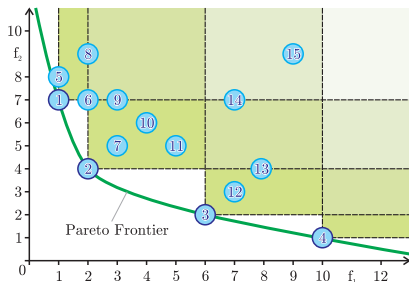
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- **Idea:** Count the number  $\#dom(p, pop)$  of individuals in the population that dominate individual  $p$ , set  $\nu(p) = \#dom(p, pop)$





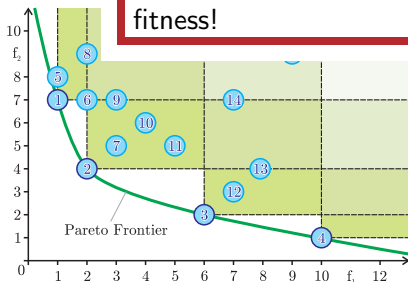
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$p$	$\#dom(p, Pop)$	$\nu(p)$
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3	$\emptyset$	0
4	$\emptyset$	0
5	{1}	1
6	{1, 2}	2
7	{2}	1
8	{1, 2, 5, 6}	4
9	{1, 2, 6, 7}	4
10	{2, 7}	2
11	{2, 7}	2
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13	{2, 3, 12}	3
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All the non-dominated individuals have the same, best possible fitness!



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paretoRank(pop)

begin

22foreach  $p \in pop$  do  $p.y \leftarrow 0$

for  $i \leftarrow 1$  up to  $ps - 1$  do

$p_1 \leftarrow pop[i]$

    for  $j \leftarrow 0$  up to  $i - 1$  do

$p_2 \leftarrow pop[j]$

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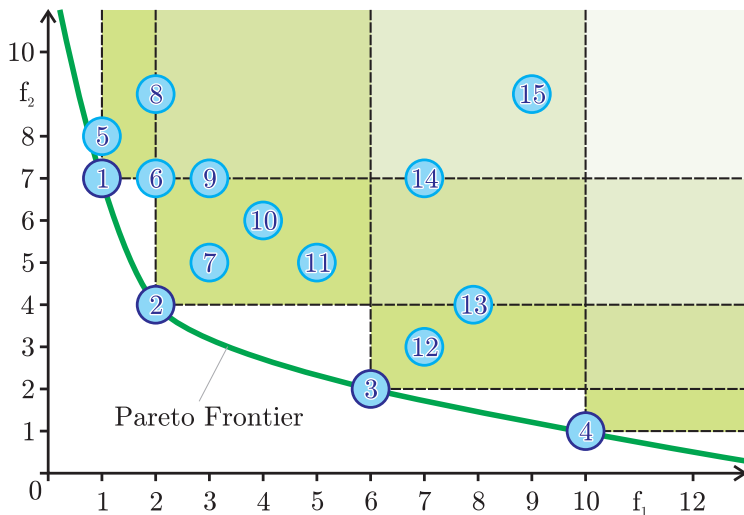
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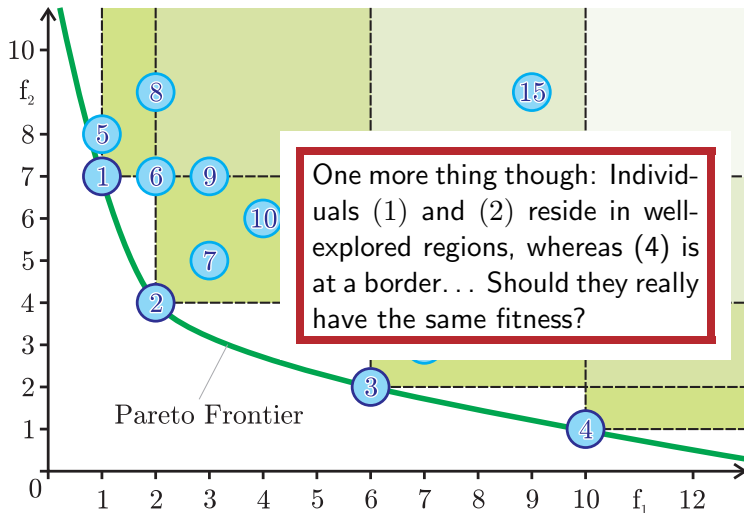
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  - 3 also with Roulette Wheel selection

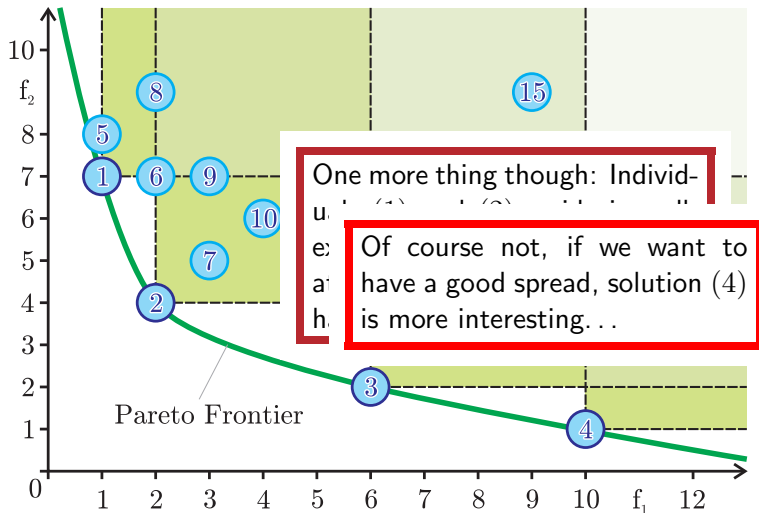
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- Can be combined with all traditional selection schemes:
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  - ② Truncation Selection
  - ③ **also** with Roulette Wheel selection: Pareto rank is scale-independent and thus, the problems of Roulette Wheel selection (for fitness minimization) do not occur. . .

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  - ③ PESA by Corne et al. <sup>[59]</sup> (Pareto domination and number of other individuals in the same hyper-box in a grid defined over the search space)

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  - ⑤ If population not empty, go to step ①.



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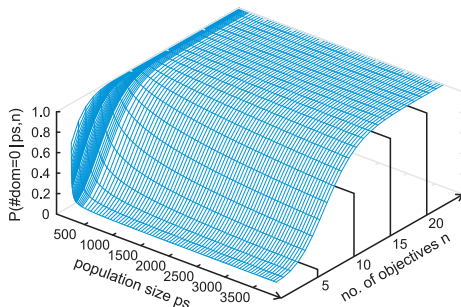


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- Therefore: Do NOT use too many objective functions!

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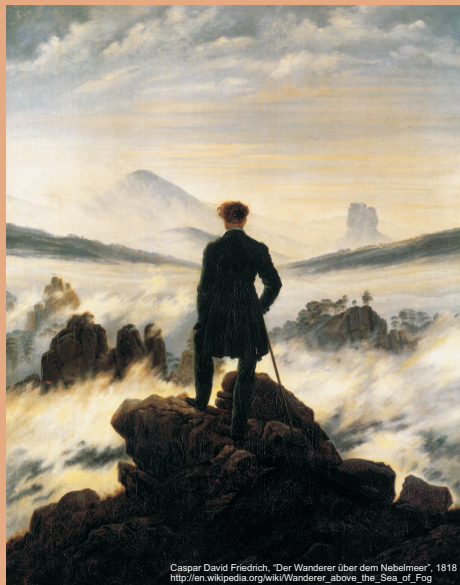
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- Pareto ranking is a good idea: incorporated into MOEAs
- Many treatments (e.g., Pareto) can be reduced to binary comparisons

# 谢谢

## Thank you

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Caspar David Friedrich, "Der Wanderer über dem Nebelmeer", 1818  
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