

**Bayesian optimization
needs better deep learning**

or

**Some fun antibiotic design
stuff and how it could be
way better.**

Jacob Gardner, University of Pennsylvania



Motivating Example: Antimicrobial Peptides

New Antibiotic Approvals

While antibiotic resistance rises, fewer new antibiotics are being developed and approved.



Clearvue Health

Ventola et al.

Increasing Antibiotic Resistance

Bacteria have rapidly evolved and developed proteins to resist and destroy antibiotics

Antibiotic Resistance Enzymes (β -lactamase)



Clearvue Health

CDC

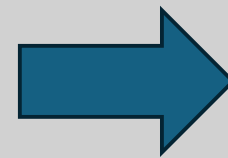
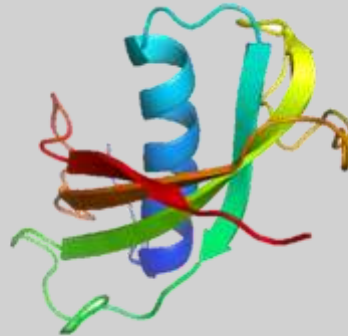
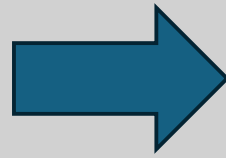
Motivating Example: Antimicrobial Pept



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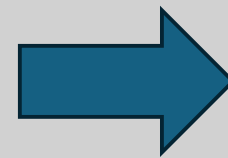
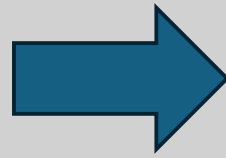
Mine AMPs from extinct mammals



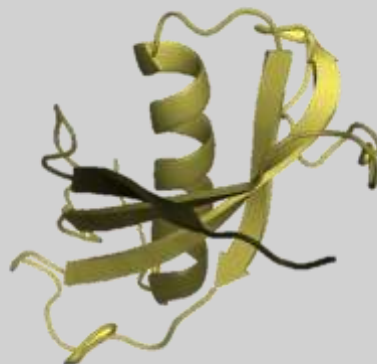
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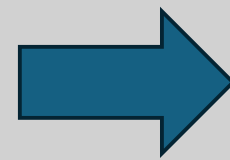
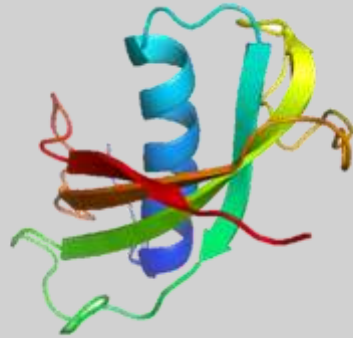
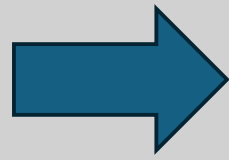
Bayesian optimization



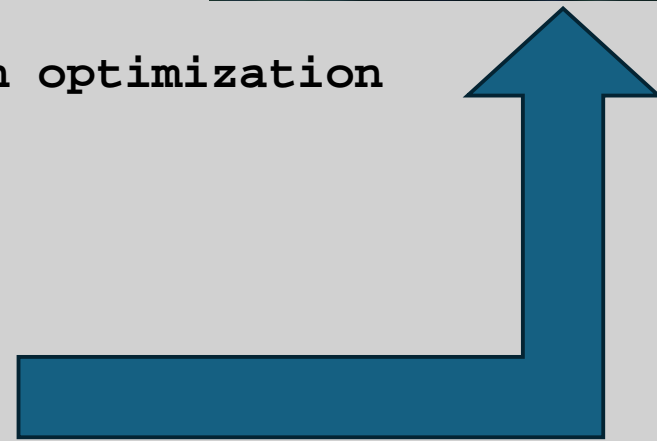
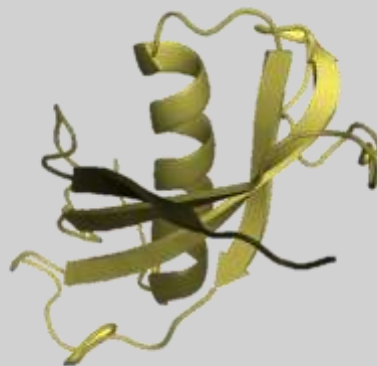
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Mine AMPs from extinct mammals



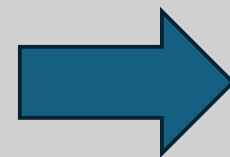
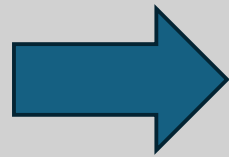
Bayesian optimization



Motivating Example: Antimicrobial Pept



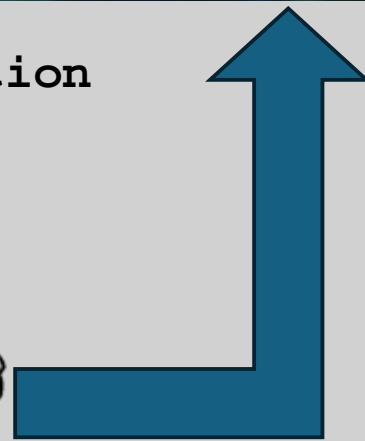
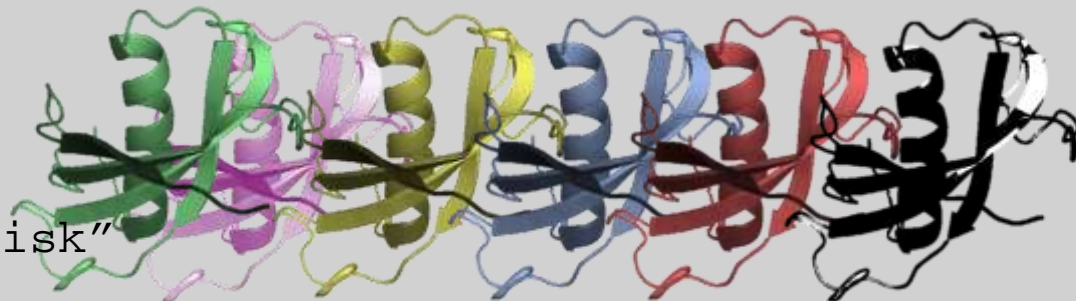
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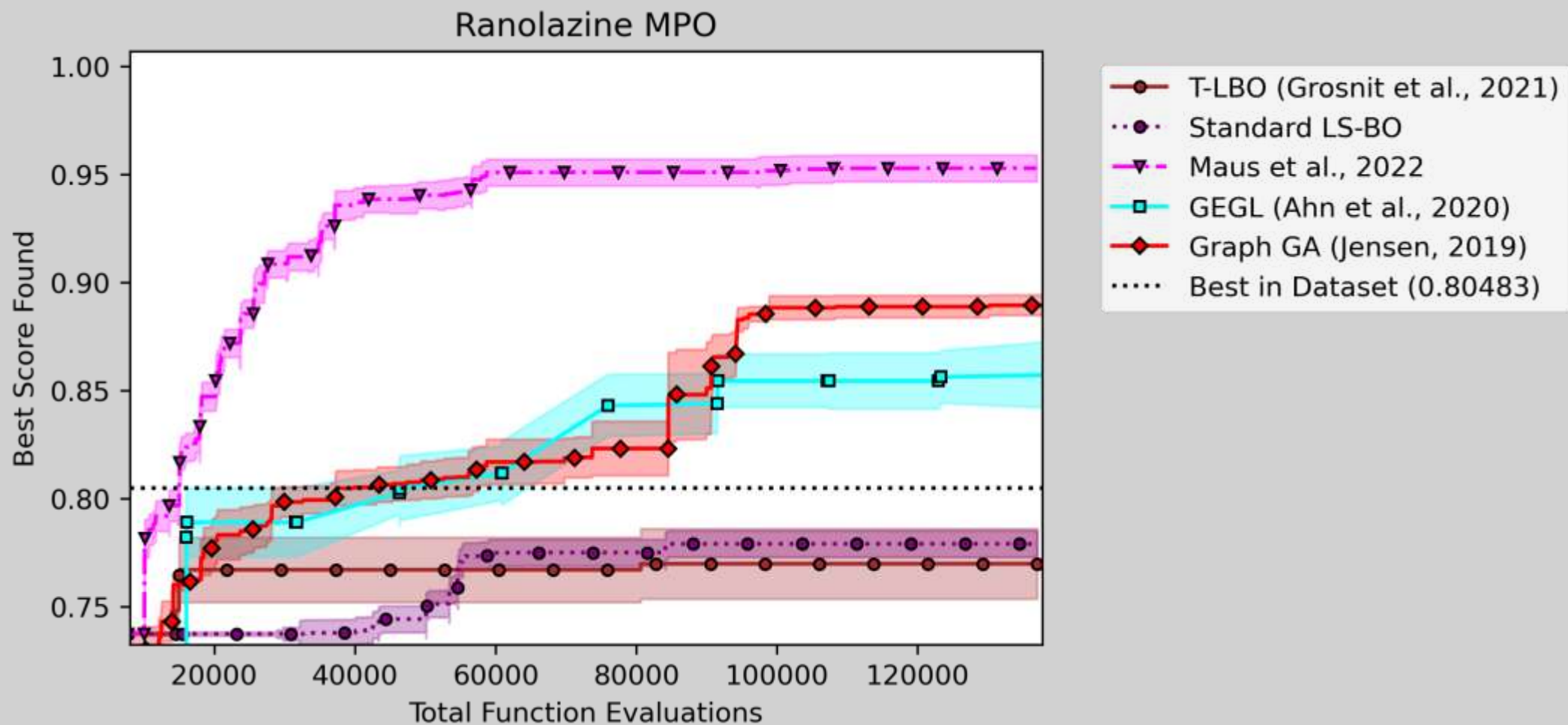
Bayesian optimization



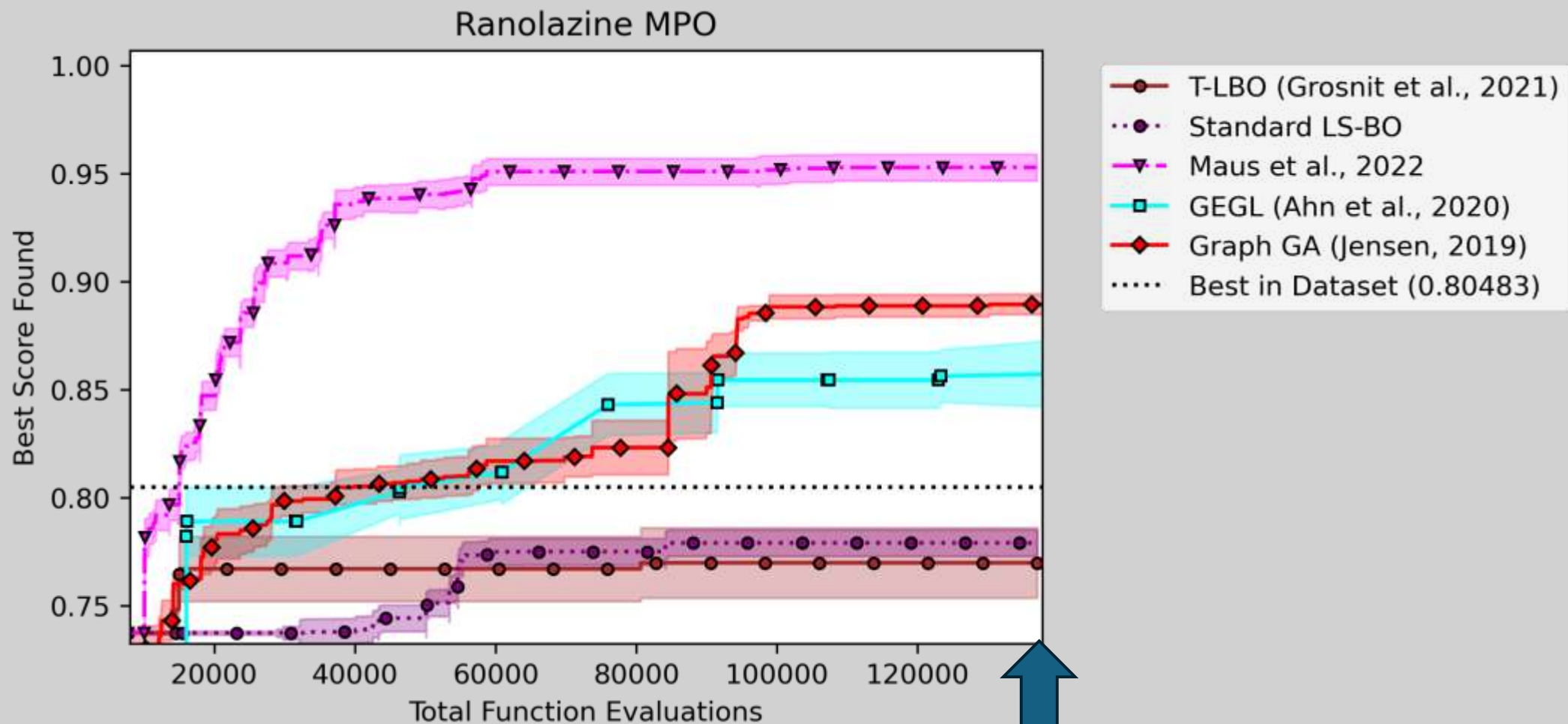
"Portfolio risk"



The Anatomy of a Result Plot in this S



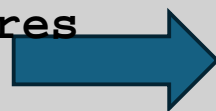
The Anatomy of a Result Plot in this S



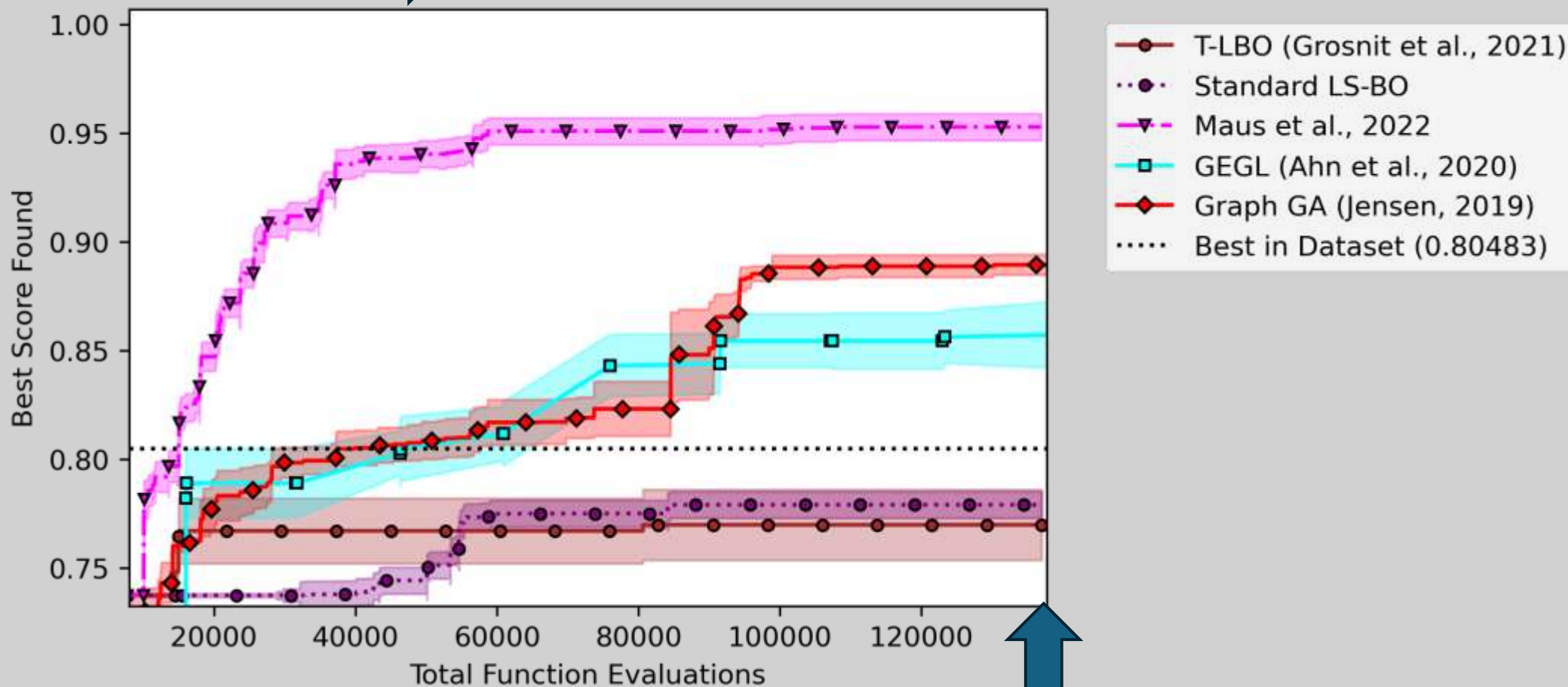
↑
Tons of evaluations,
large batch size.

The Anatomy of a Result Plot in this S

Objectives defined
over **discrete structures**
like molecules.



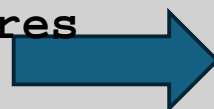
Ranolazine MPO



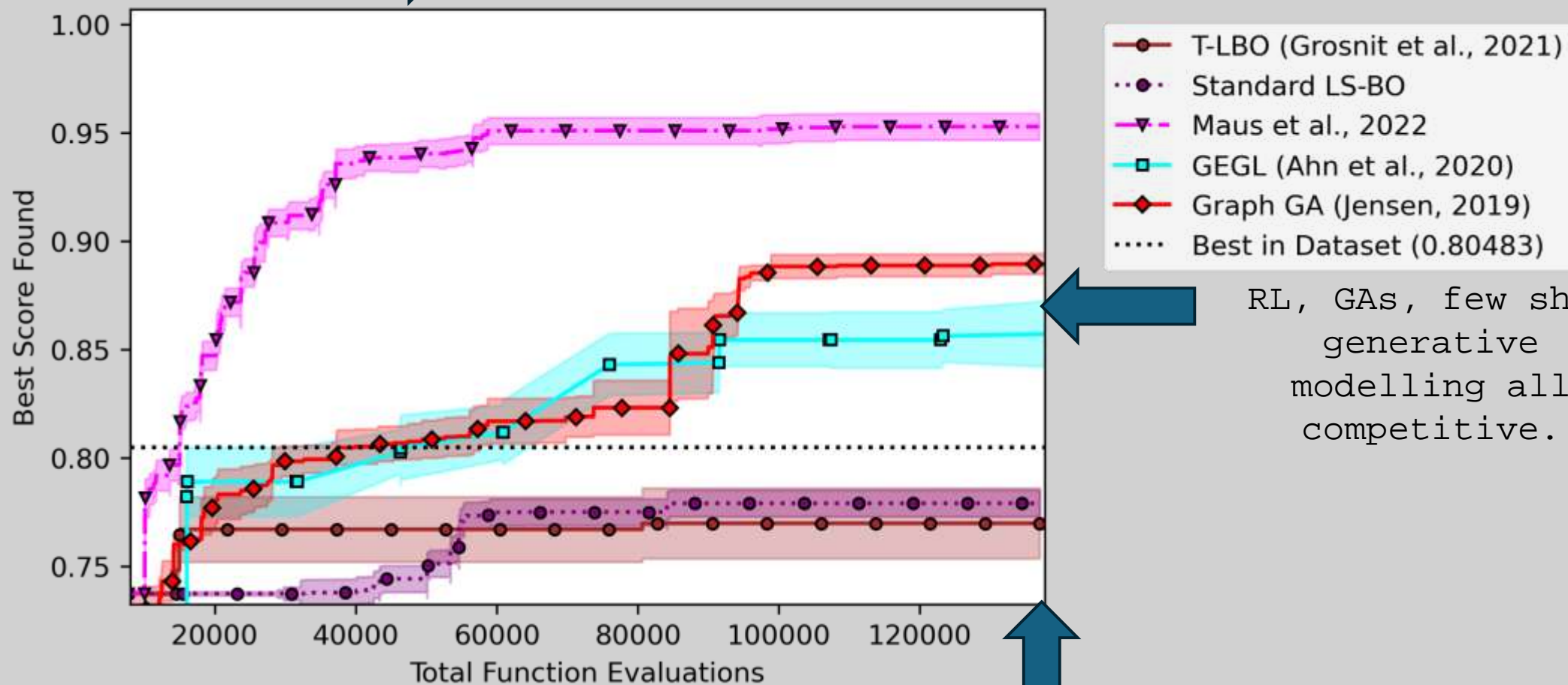
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Ranolazine MPO



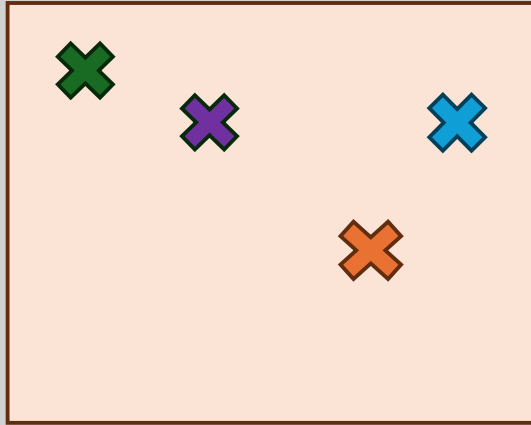
RL, GAs, few shot
generative
modelling all
competitive.



Tons of evaluations,
large batch size.

Challenge 1: Discrete, Structured

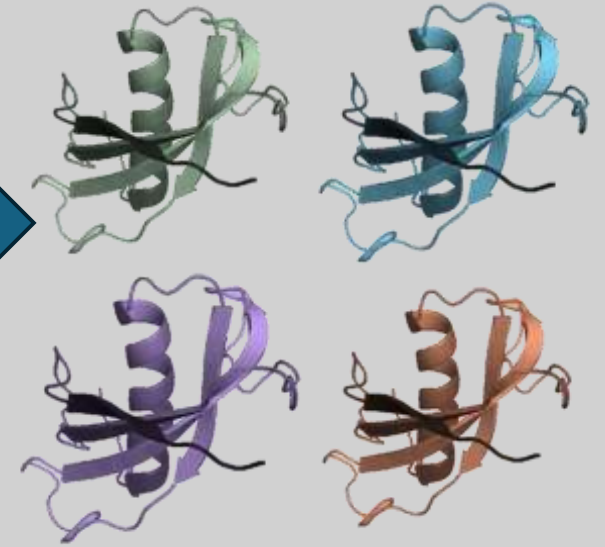
Latent Space



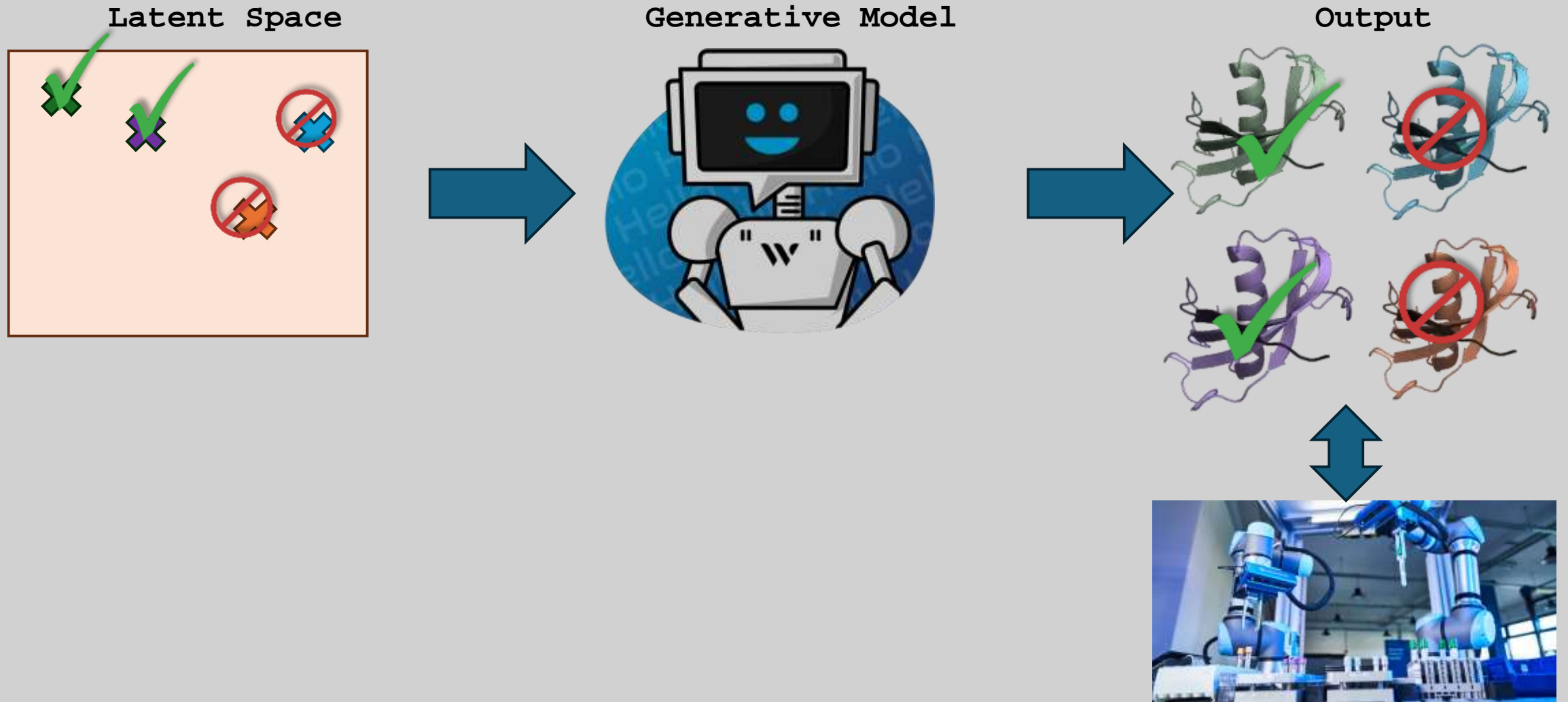
Generative Model



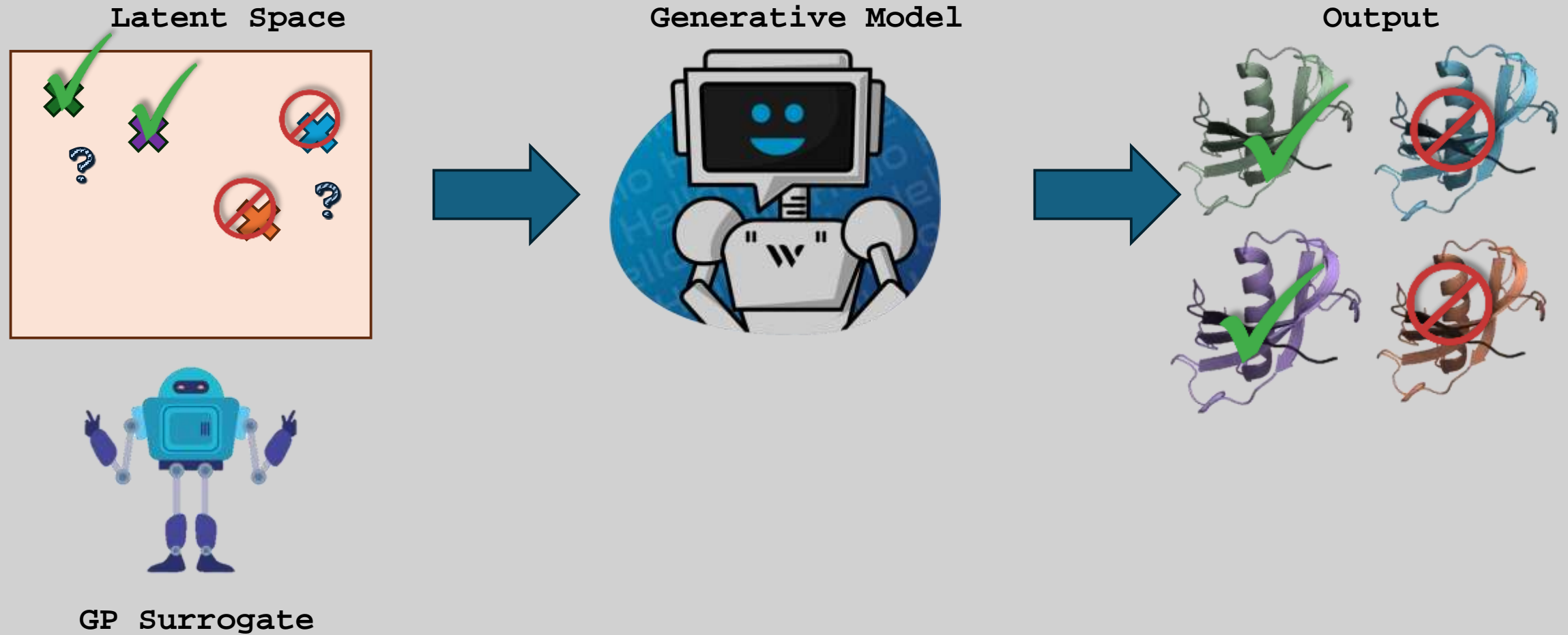
Output



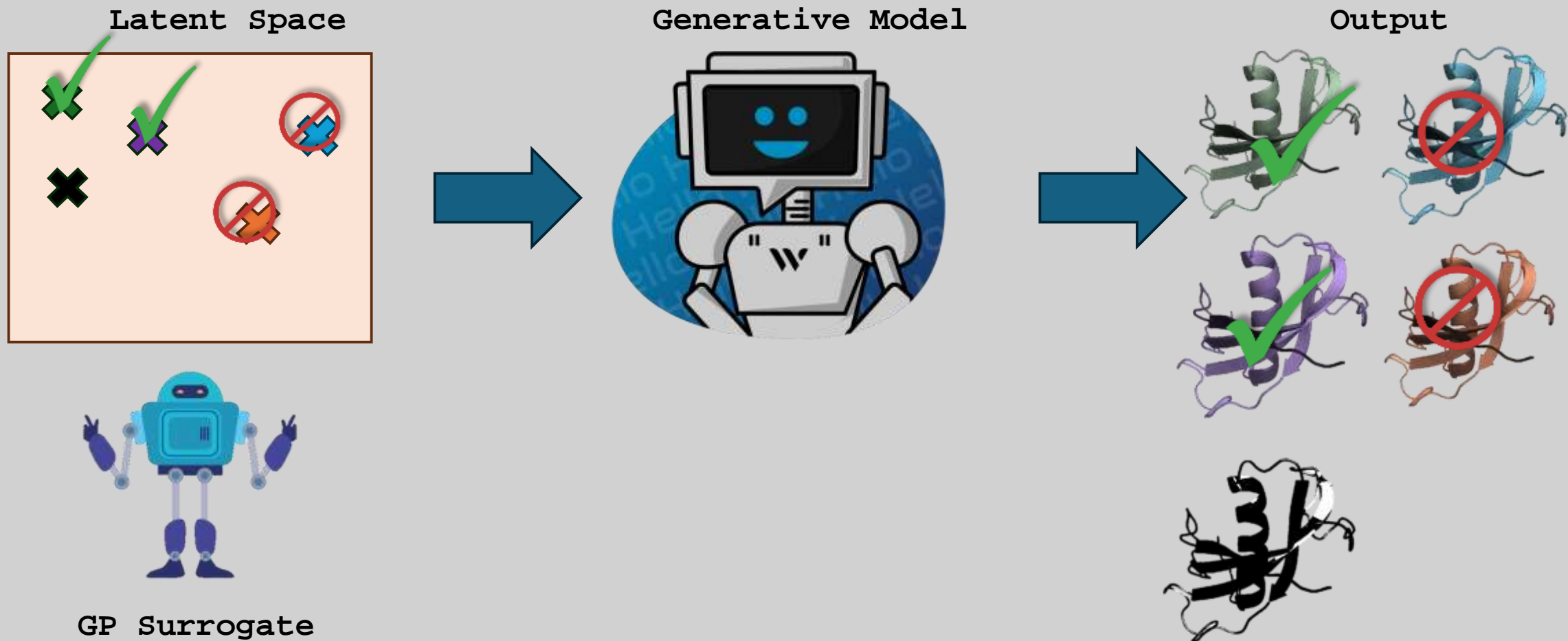
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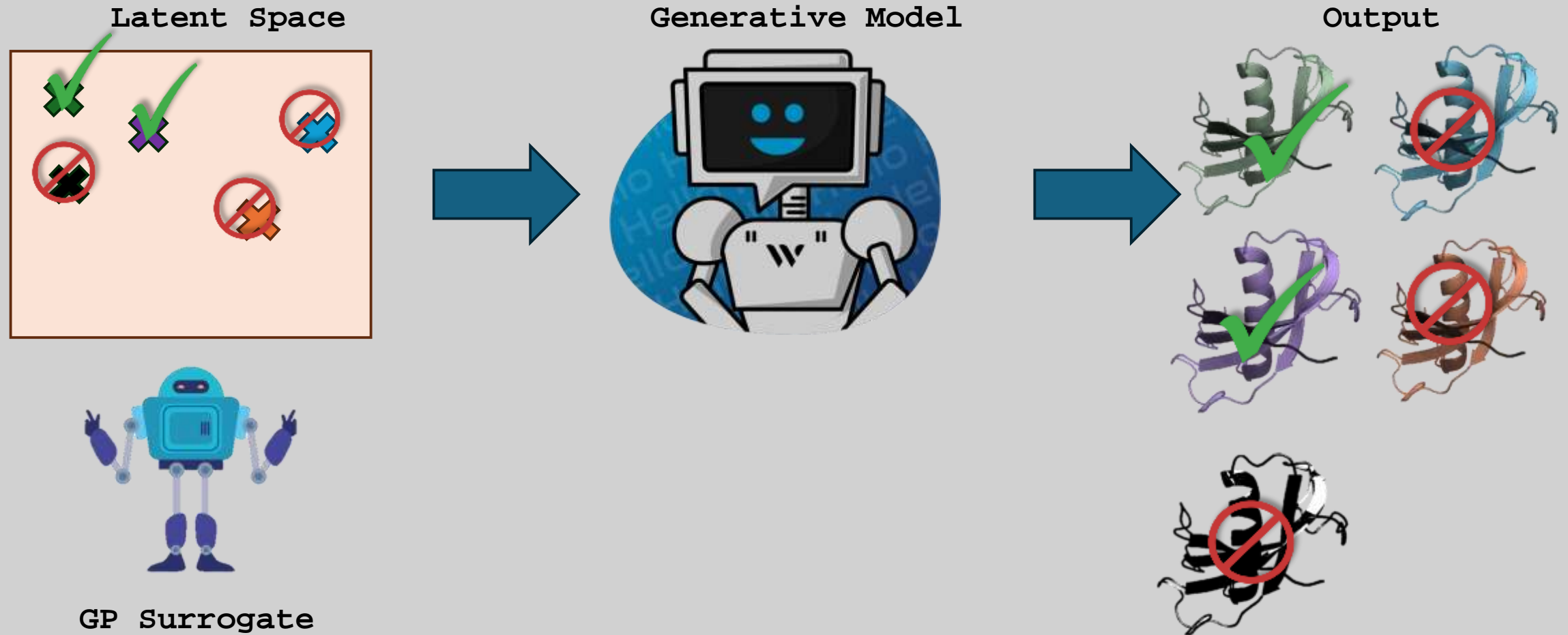
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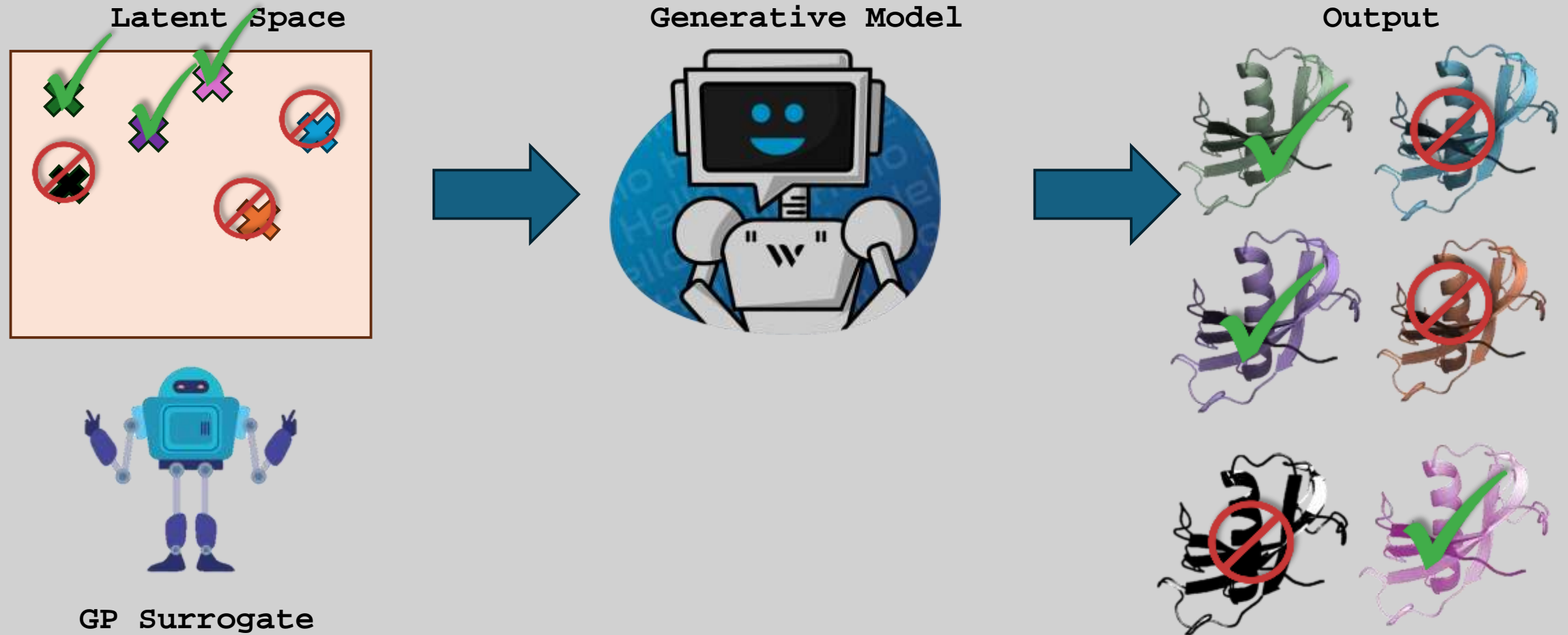
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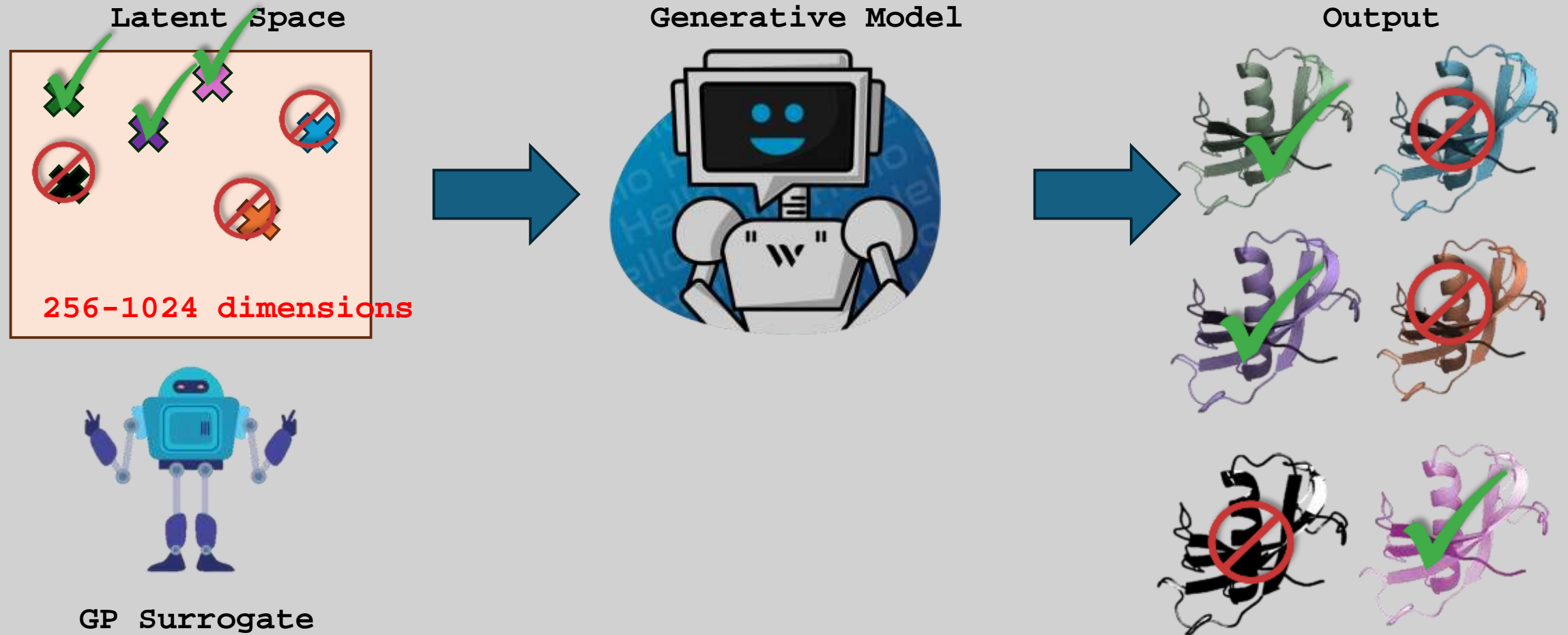
Challenge 1: Discrete, Structured



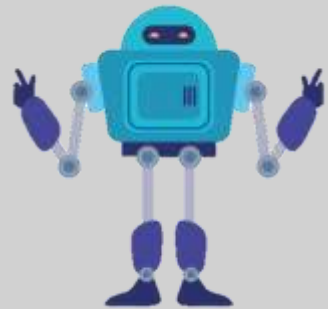
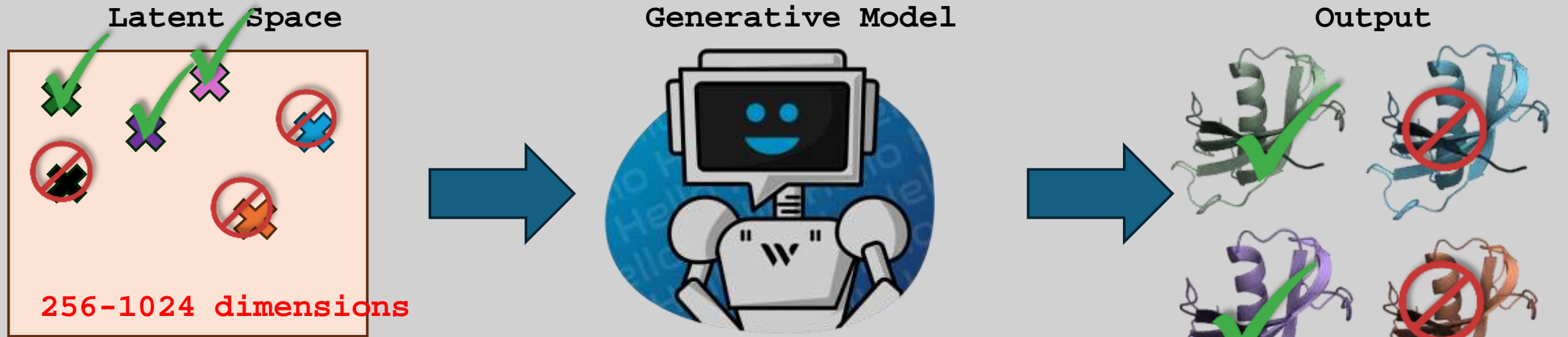
Challenge 1: Discrete, Structured



Challenge 1: Discrete, Structured



Challenge 1: Discrete, Structured



GP Surrogate

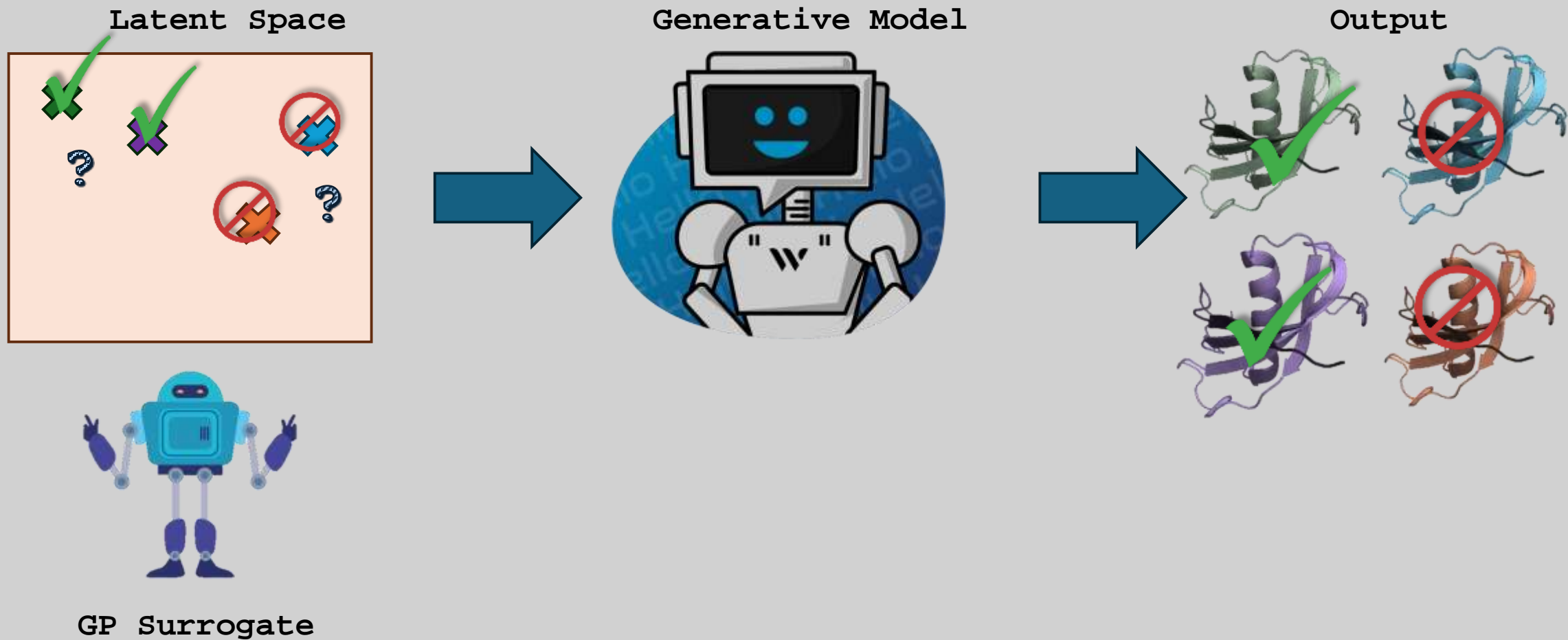
Our paper (NeurIPS 2022):

- Use high dim. BO (local BO)
- Joint ELBO over VAE and SVGP:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{joint}} = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\text{Enc}(z|x)} [\mathcal{L}_{\text{svgp}}(\theta_{\text{GP}}, \theta_{\text{enc}}; \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{Z})]}_{\text{Expected supervised loss}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_{\text{VAE}}(\theta_{\text{enc}}, \theta_{\text{dec}}; \mathbf{X})}_{\text{Typical VAE loss}}$$

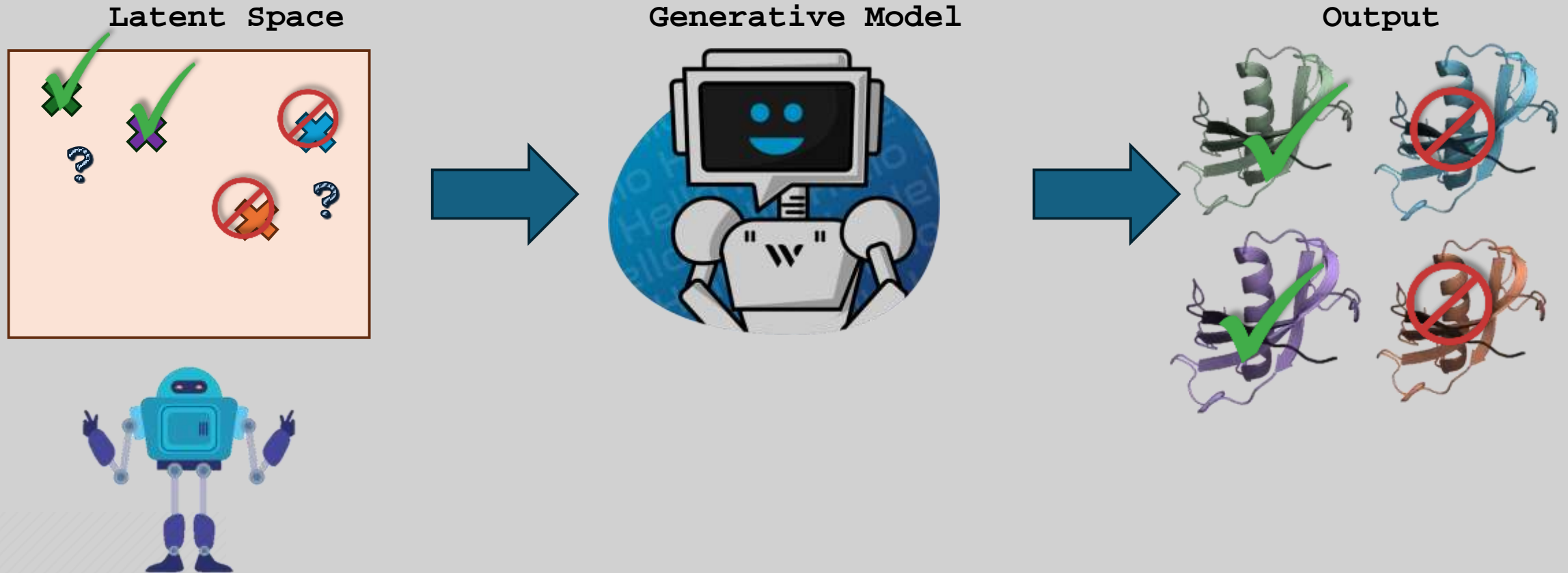
(for data that has labels) (for data that has no labels)

Challenge 2: High Throughput



Challenge 2: High Throughput

(NeurIPS 2024)

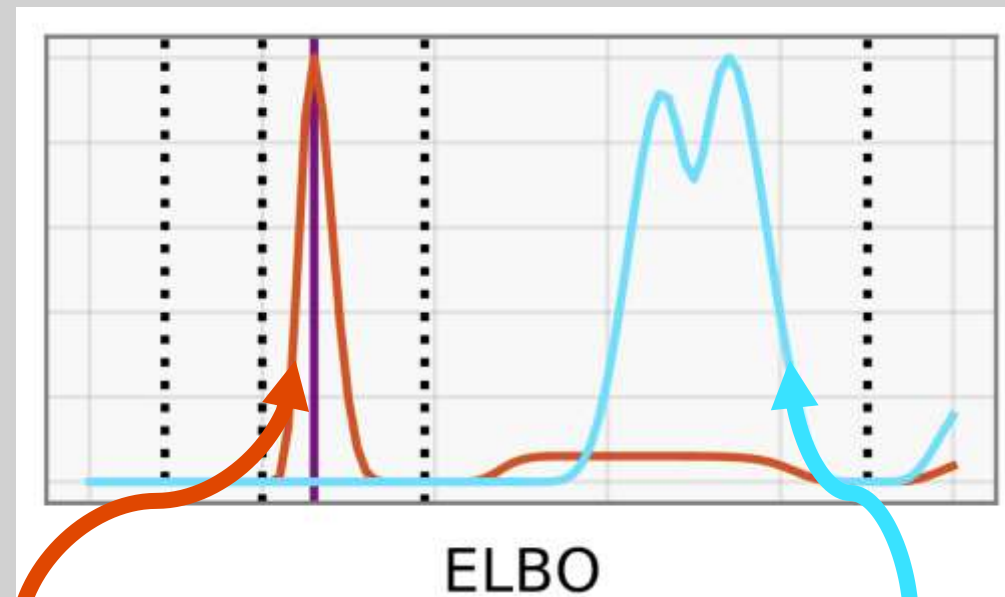
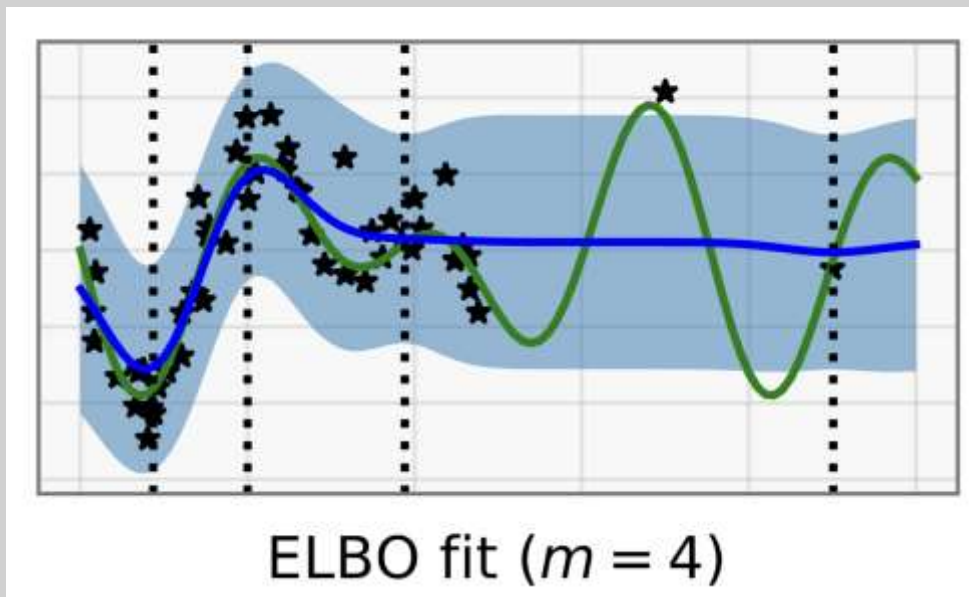


GP Surrogate

SV

(Maddox et al., 2021; Vakili et al., 2021;
Maus et al., 2022; Stanton et al., 2022;
Moss et al., 2023)

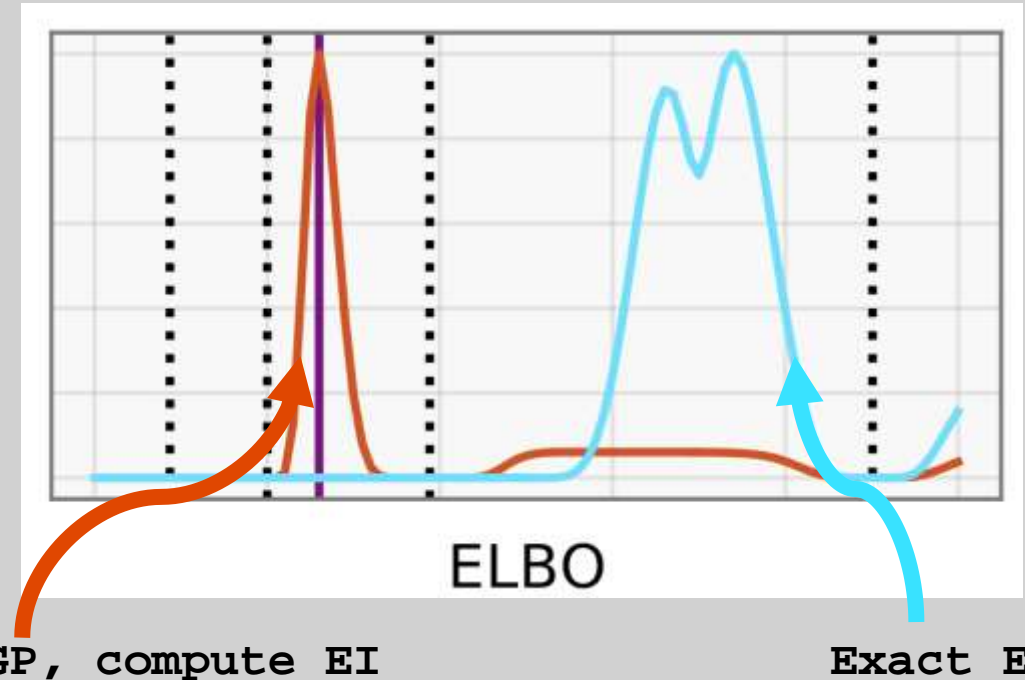
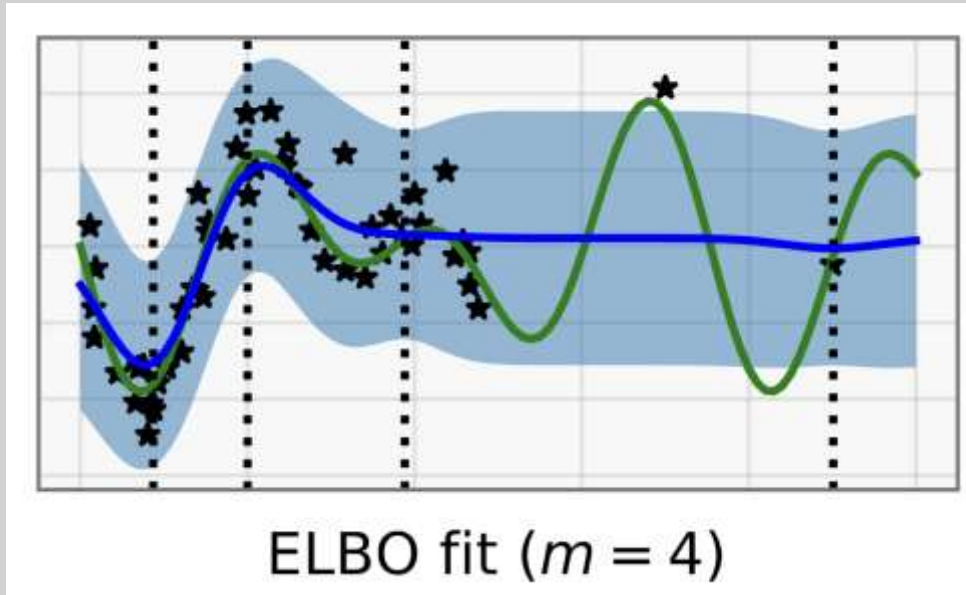
Challenge 2: High Throughput



Train SVGP, compute EI

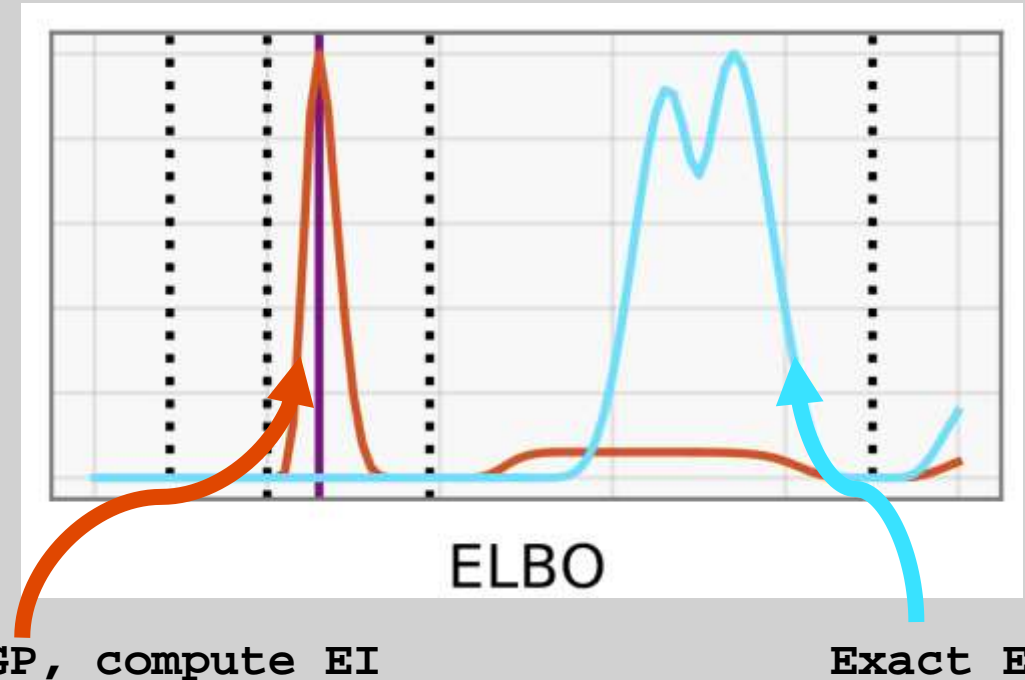
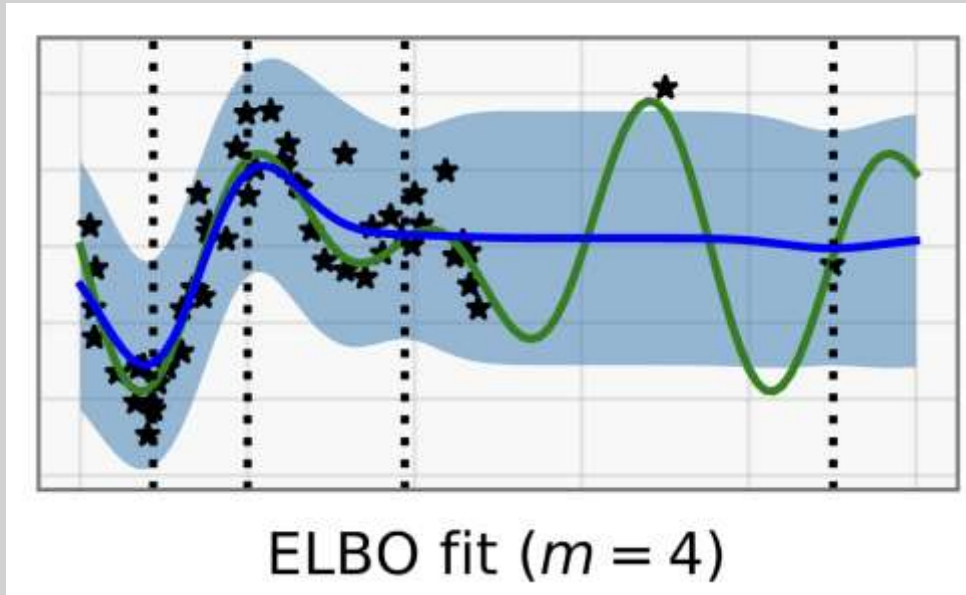
Exact EI

Challenge 2: High Throughput



Suggestion: SVGPs are bad for BO because they aren't designed to be good for it.

Challenge 2: High Throughput



Suggestion: SVGPs are bad for BO because they aren't designed to be good for it.

$$\arg \max \int u(x, f; \mathcal{D}_t) \pi(f | \mathcal{D}_t) df$$

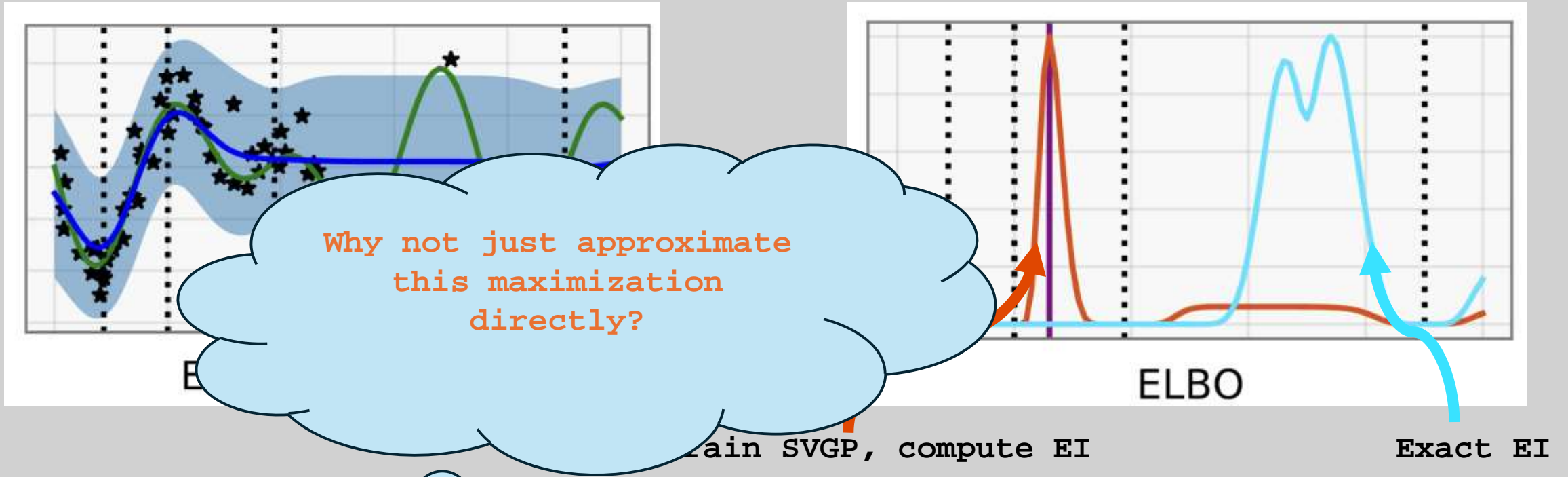
Posterior expected utility

is not approximated by

1. $q_\lambda(f) := \arg \max \mathcal{L}_{\text{ELBO}}(\lambda)$
2. $\arg \max \int u(x, f; \mathcal{D}_t) q_\lambda(f) df$

"first approximate the posterior,
Then just plug that in."

Challenge 2: High Throughput



Suggestion: SVGP are bad for BO because they aren't designed to be good for it.

$$\arg \max \int u(x, f; \mathcal{D}_t) \pi(f | \mathcal{D}_t) df$$

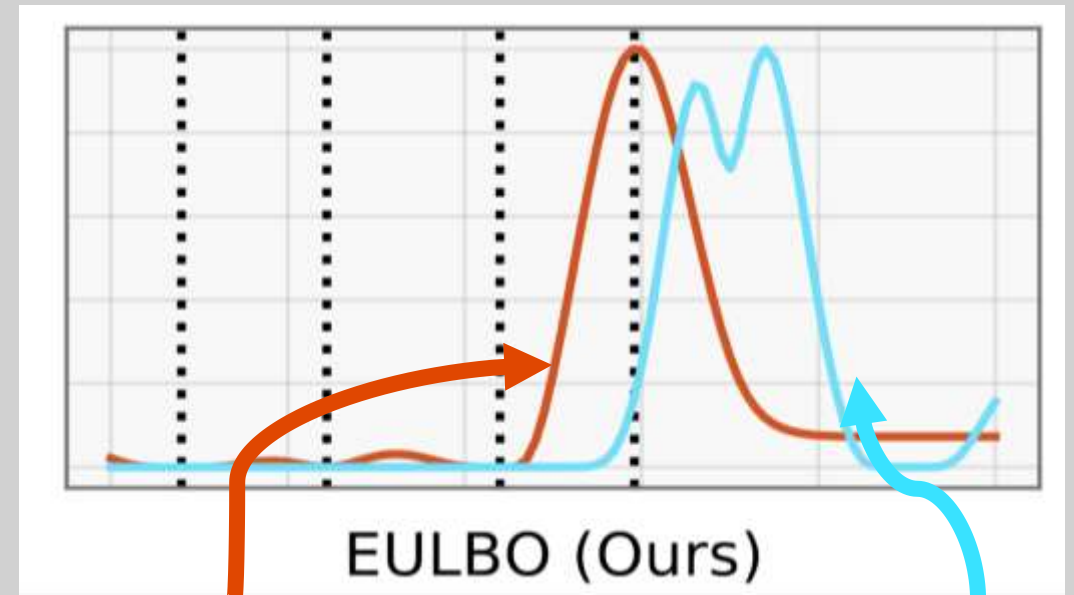
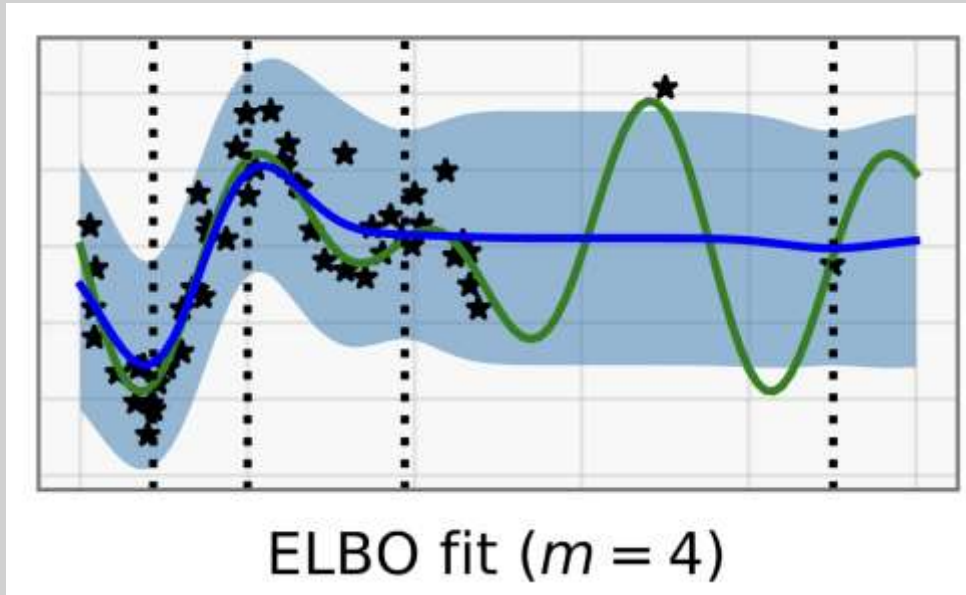
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"first approximate the posterior, Then just plug that in."

Challenge 2: High Throughput



Joint model selection
+ acquisition (EULBO)

Exact EI

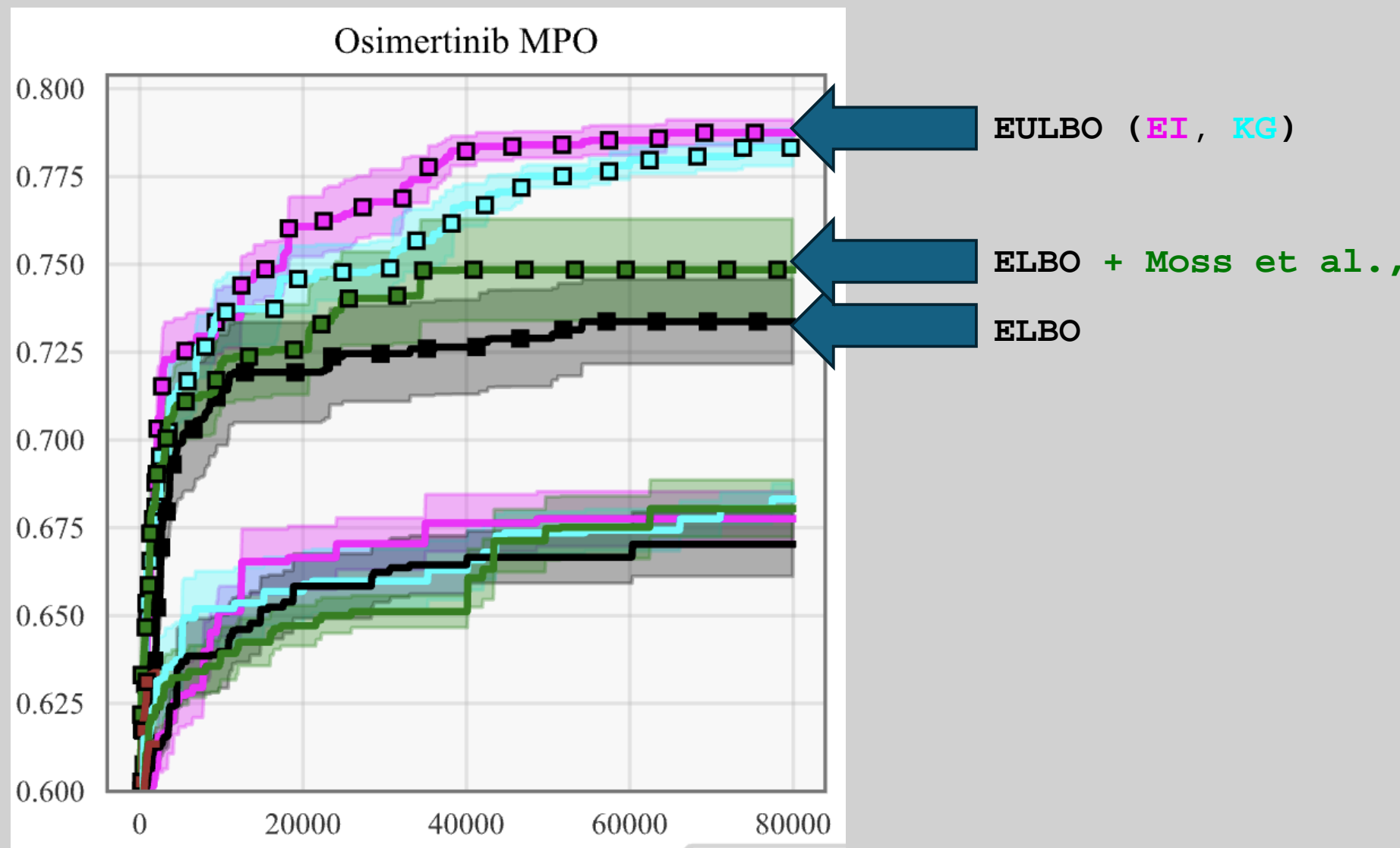
Idea: directly lower bound exact EI instead, **Expected Utility Lower Bound (EULBO)**. Use for model selection and acquisition jointly.

After derivation:

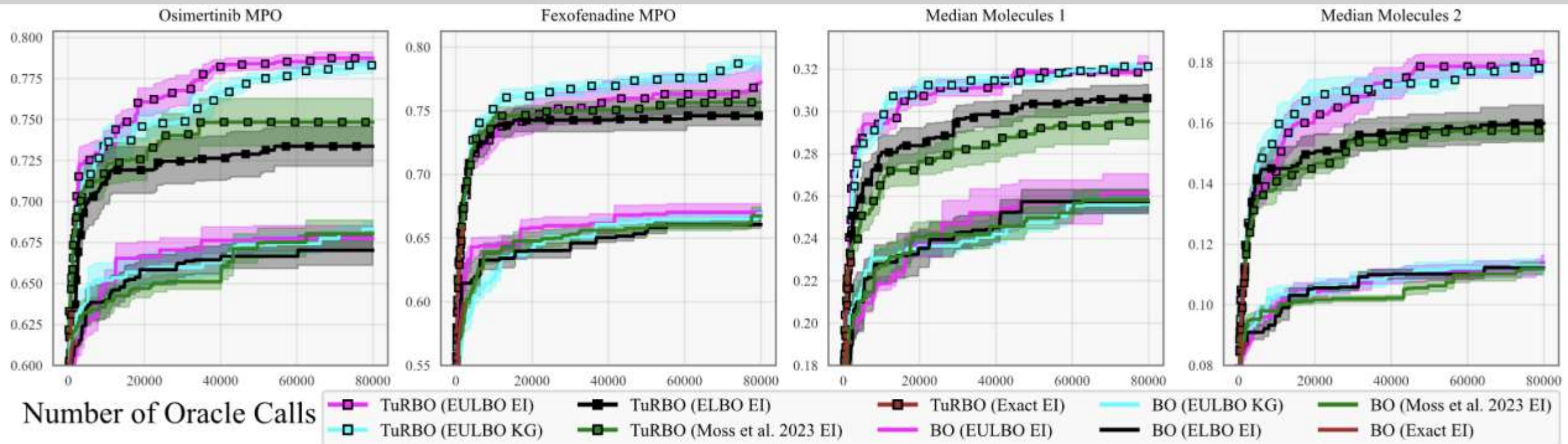
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EULBO}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{ELBO}} + \mathbb{E}_{q_{\lambda}(f)}[\log u(x, f; \mathcal{D}_t)]$$

(Flavor of loss calibrated VI; Lacoste-Julien et al., 2011)

Challenge 2: High Throughput



Challenge 2: High Throughput



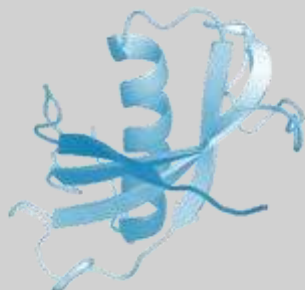
Challenge 3: Portfolio Risk

(AISTATS 2023)

Idea: Find M solutions, all pairwise δ



$$= \arg \max f(x)$$



$$= \arg \max f(x)$$

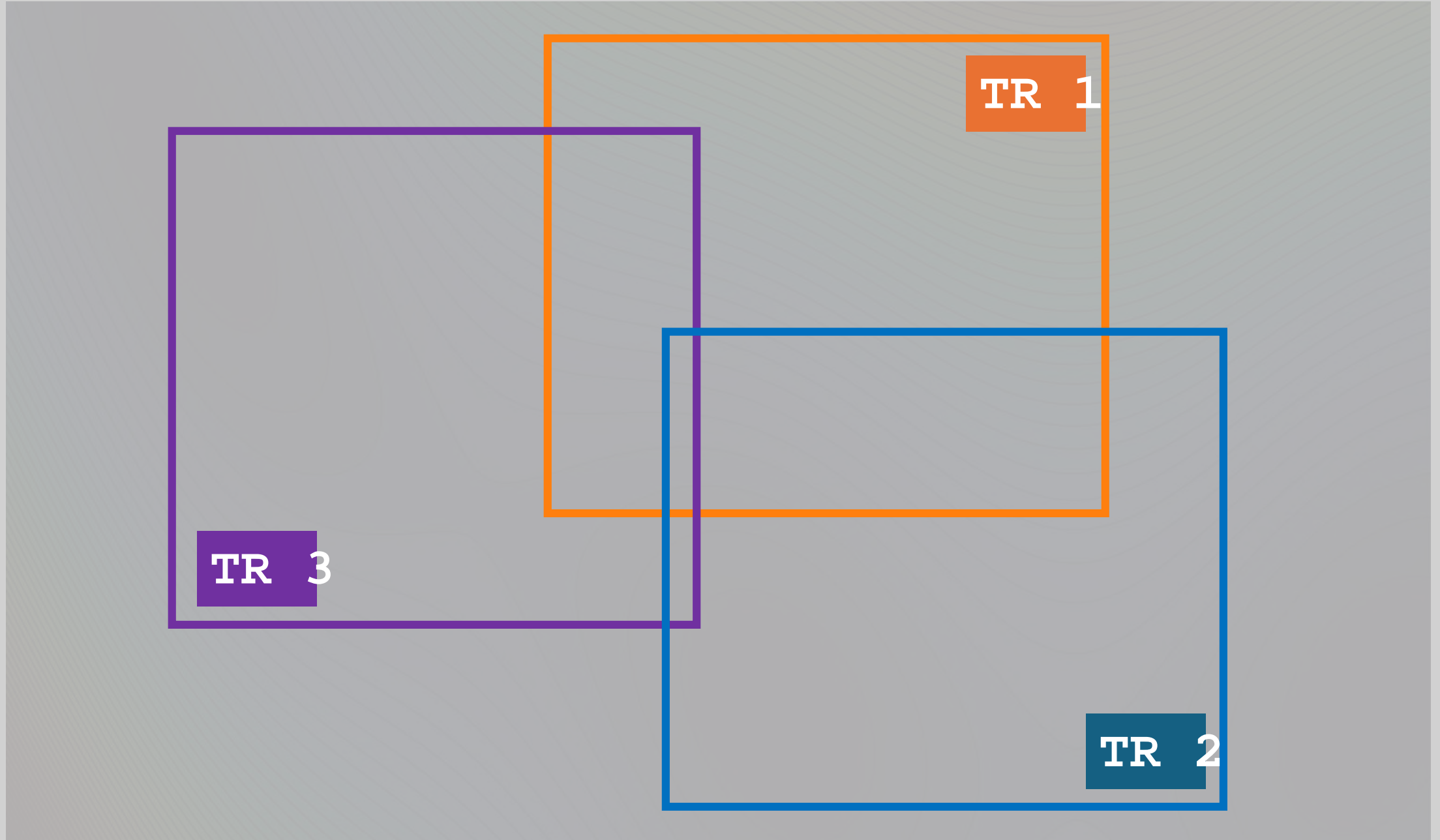
$$s.t. \quad \delta(\text{blue}, \text{orange}) \geq \tau$$



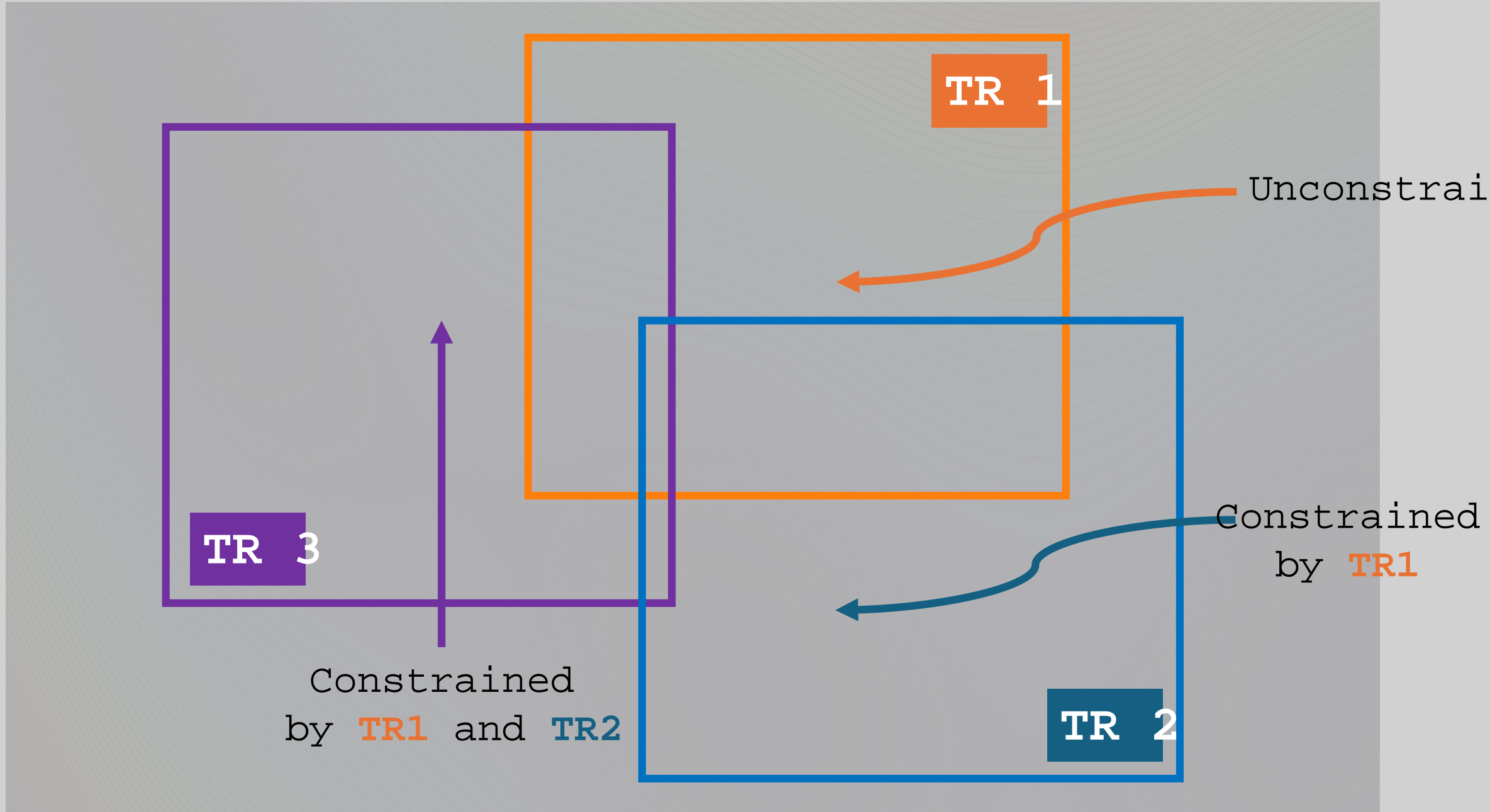
$$= \arg \max f(x)$$

$$s.t. \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \delta(\text{purple}, \text{orange}) \geq \tau \\ \delta(\text{purple}, \text{blue}) \geq \tau \end{array} \right.$$

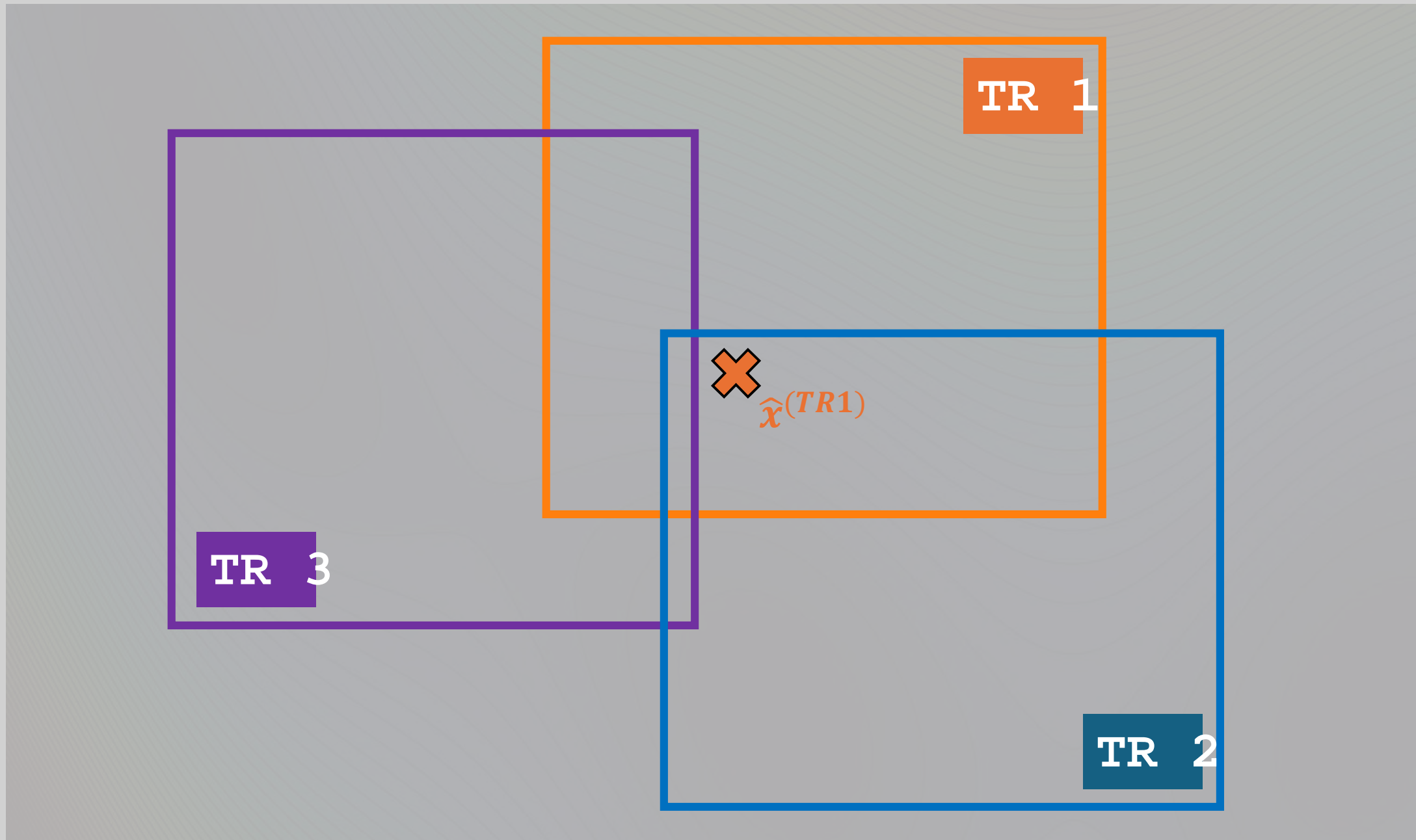
Finding Diverse Solutions



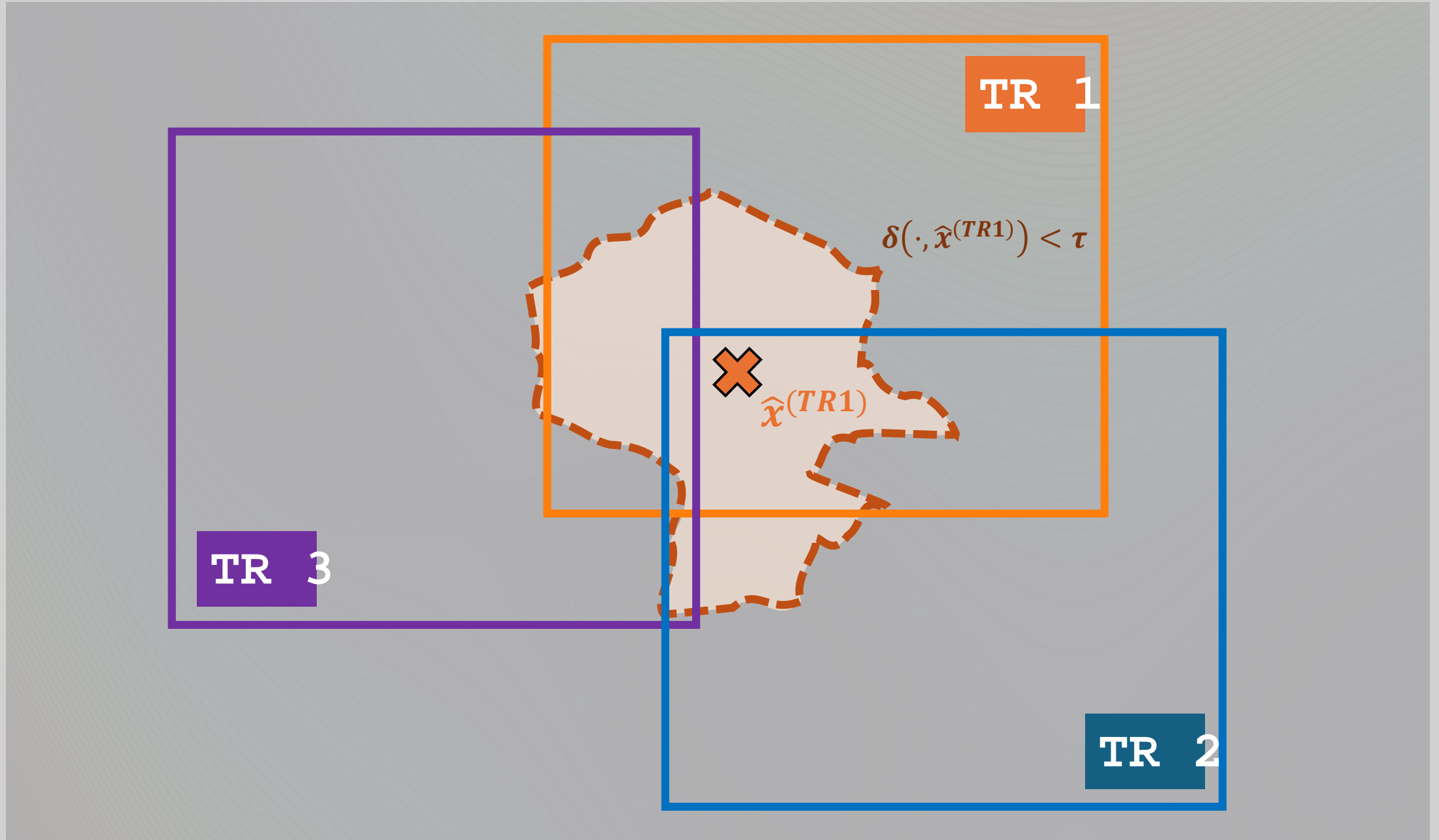
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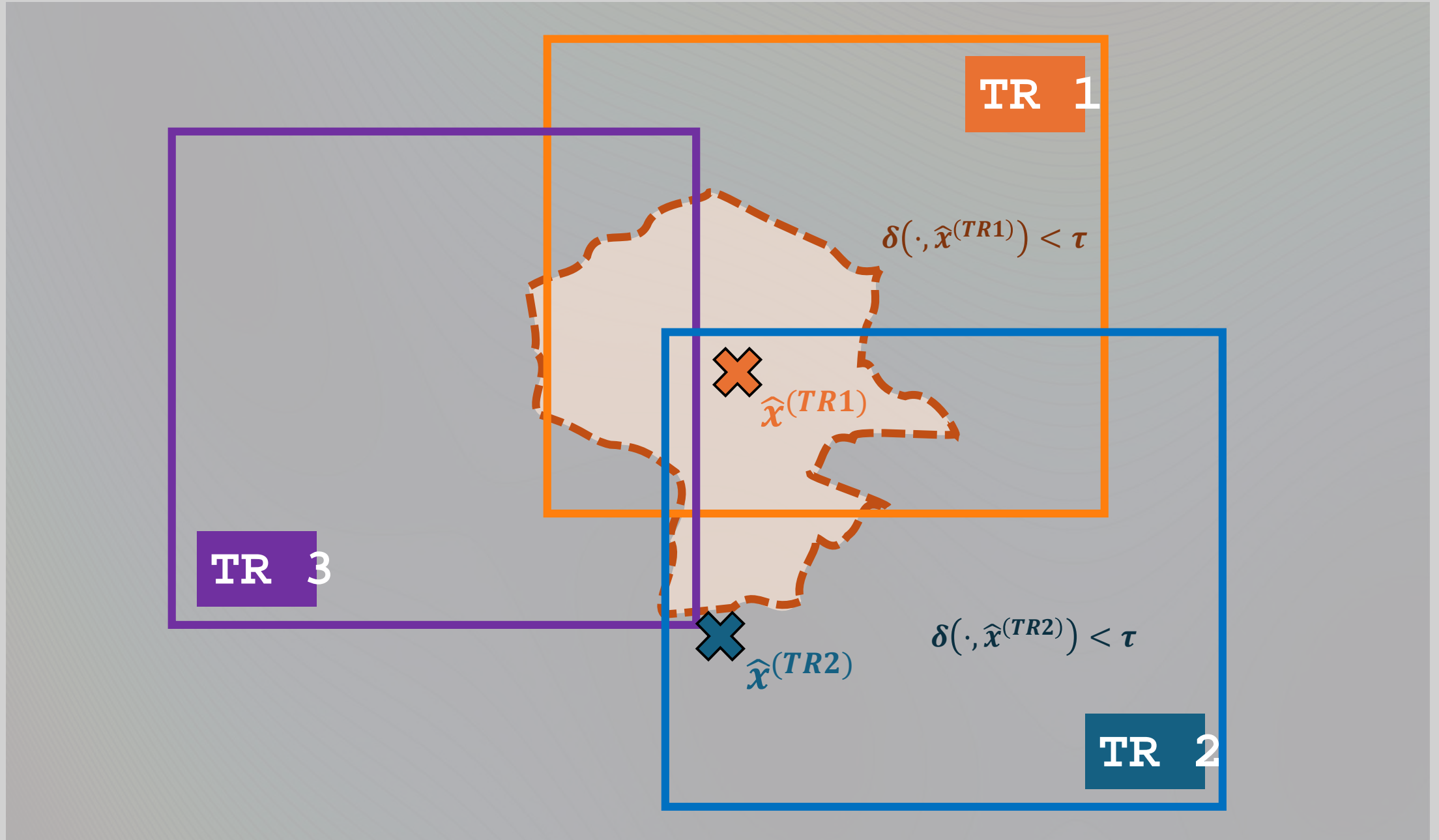
Finding Diverse Solutions



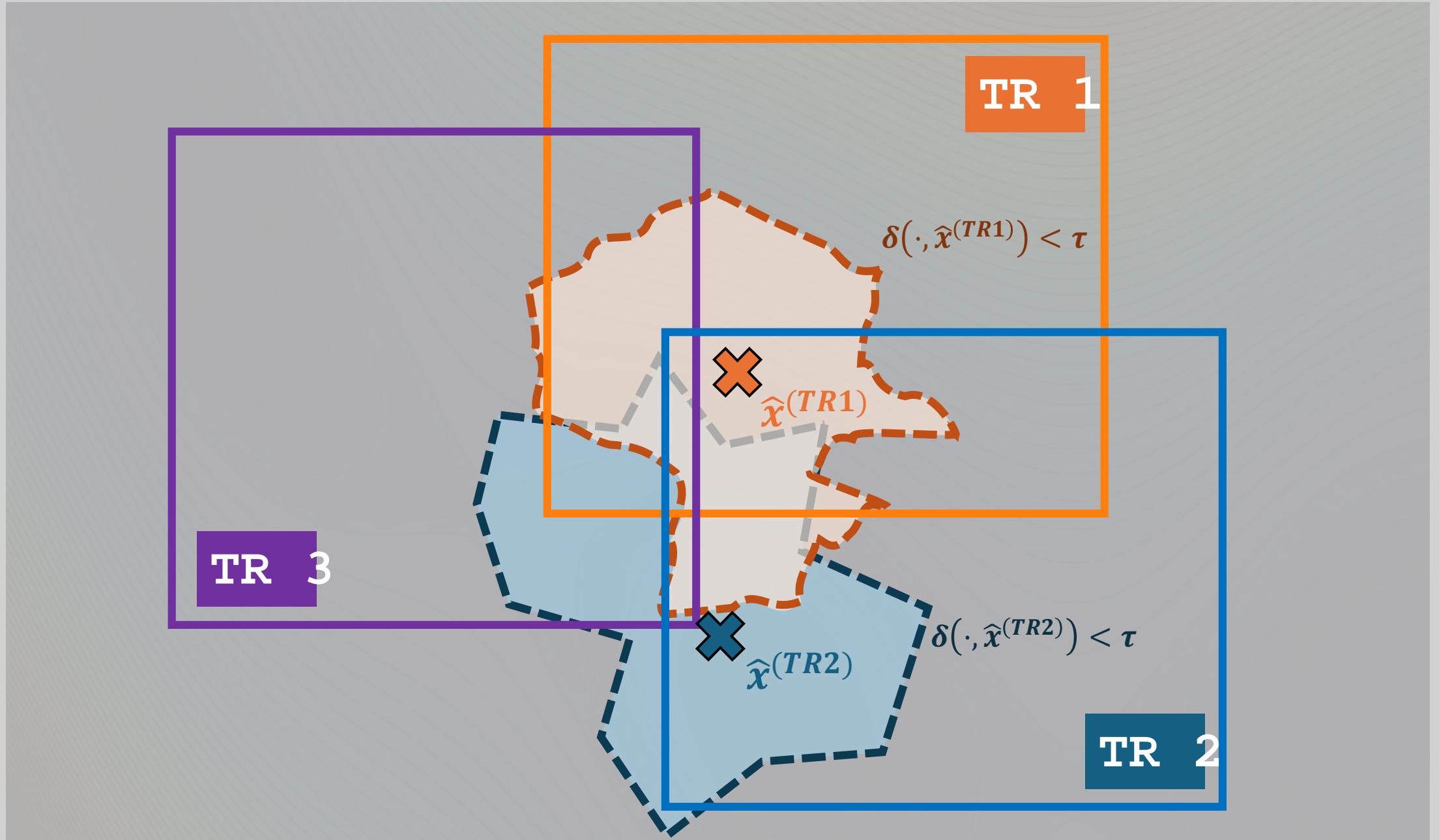
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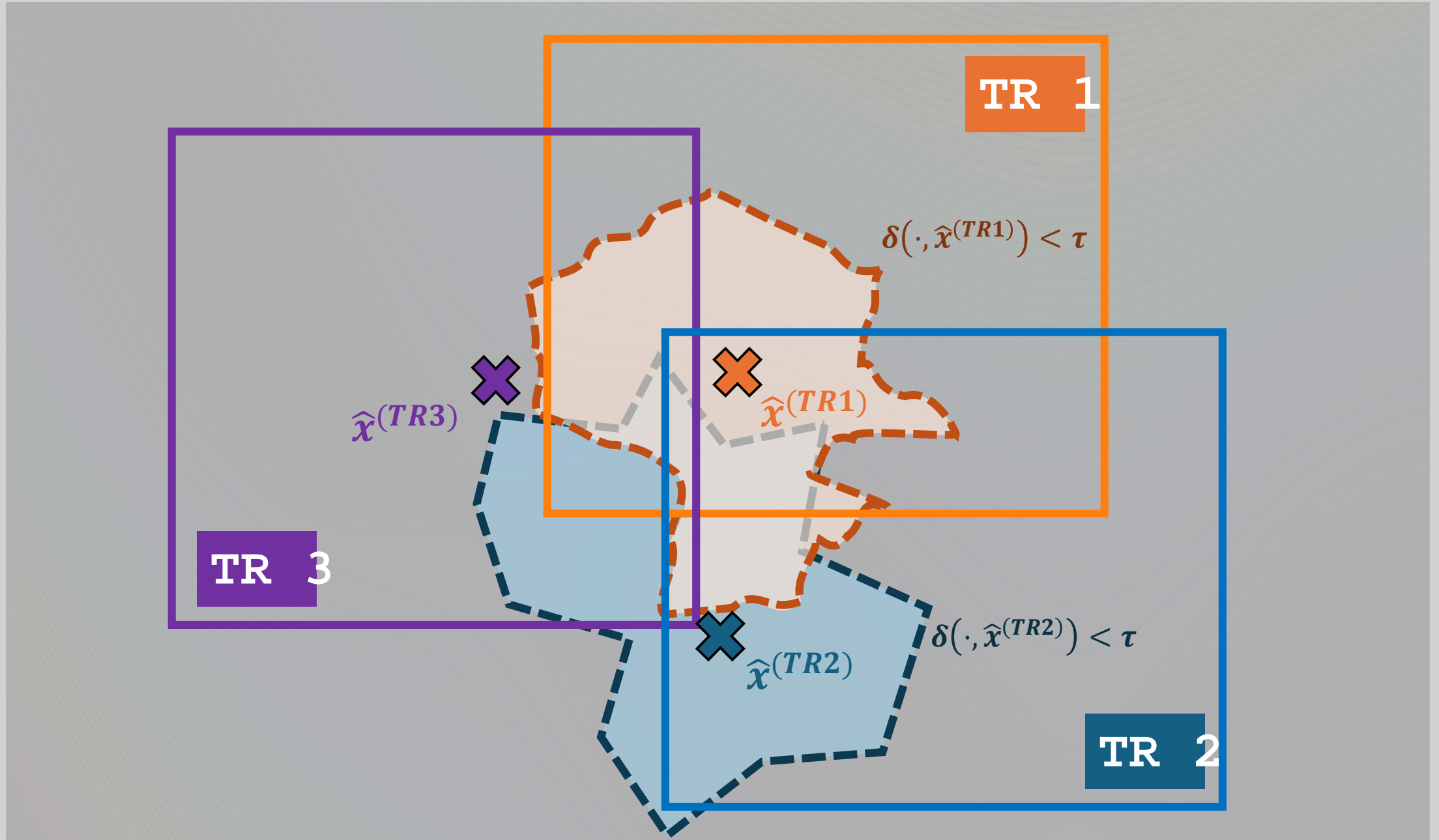
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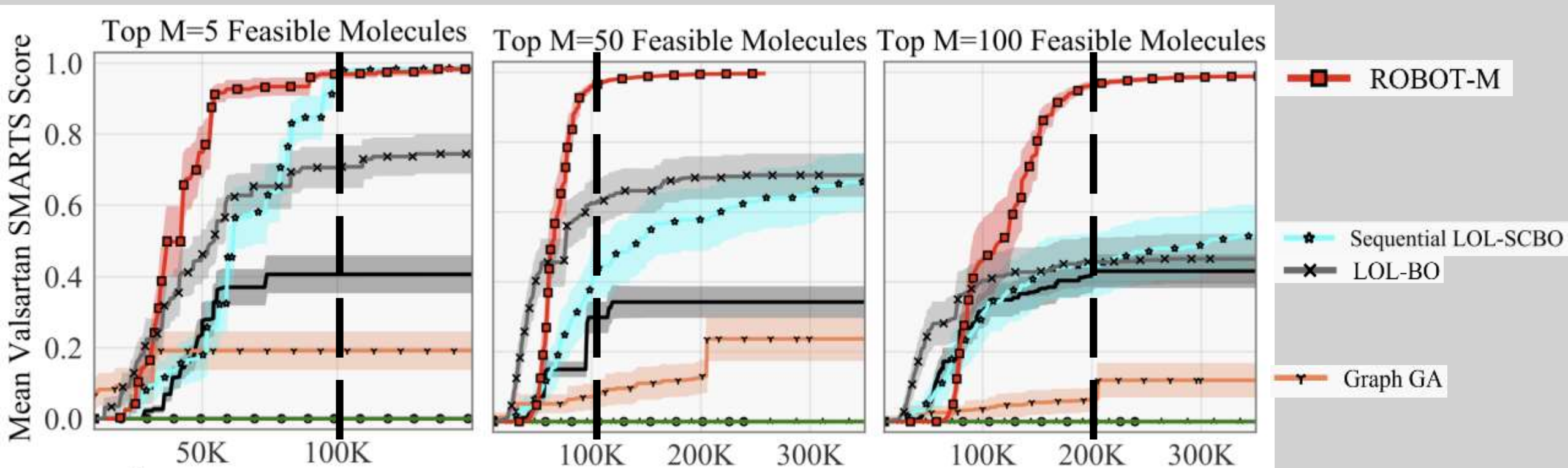
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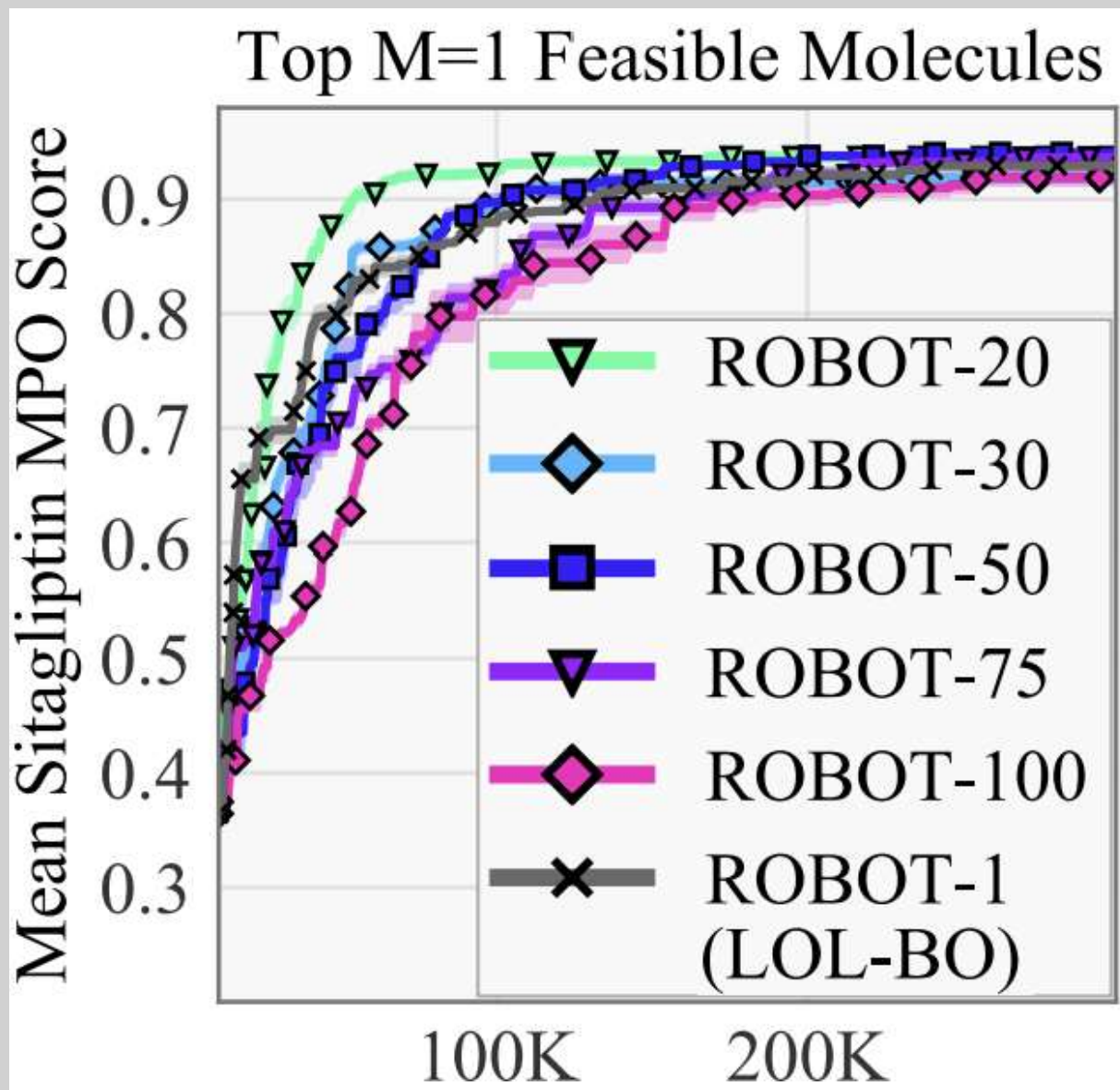
Finding Diverse Solutions



Training Diverse Solutions



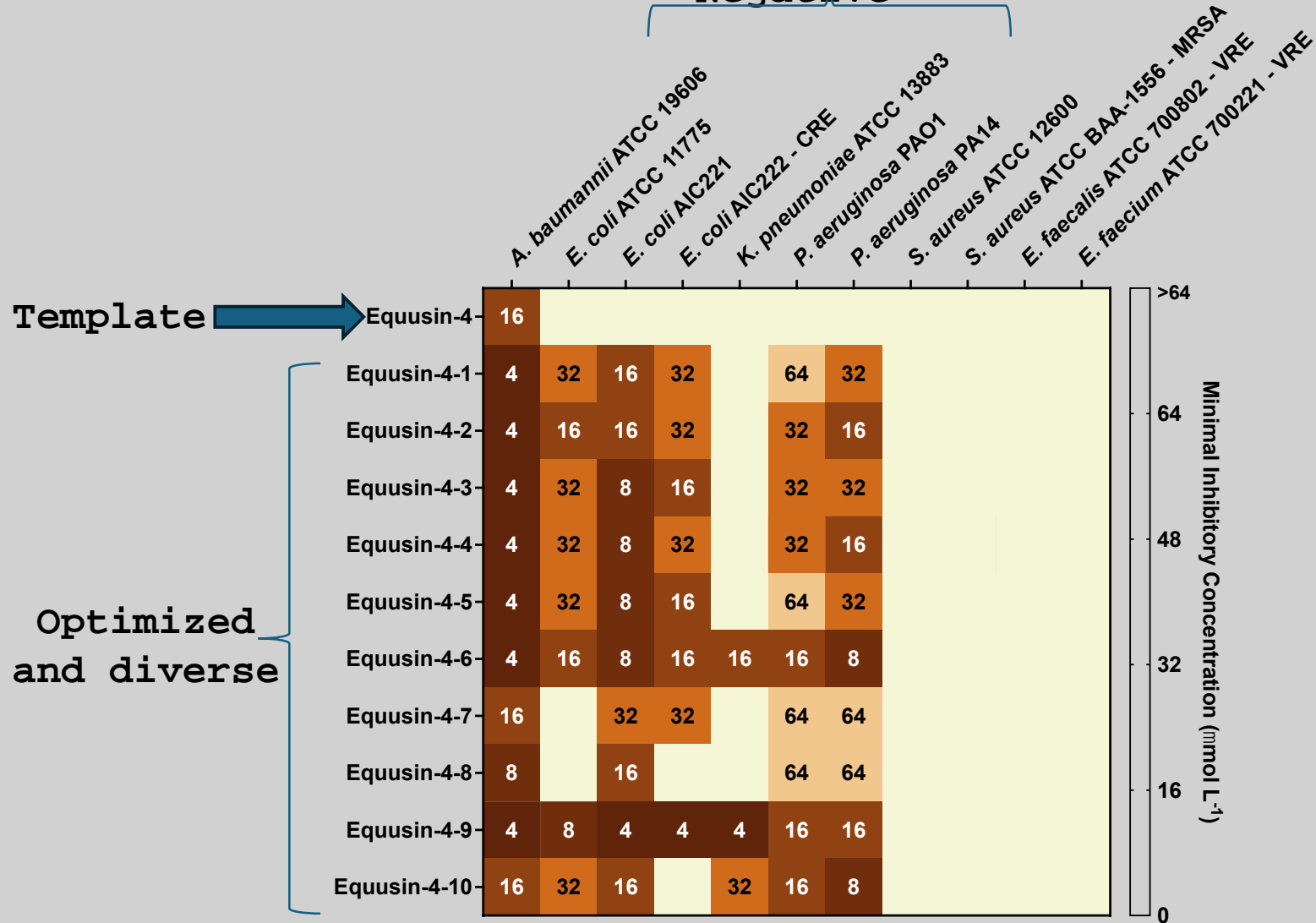
Training Diverse Solutions



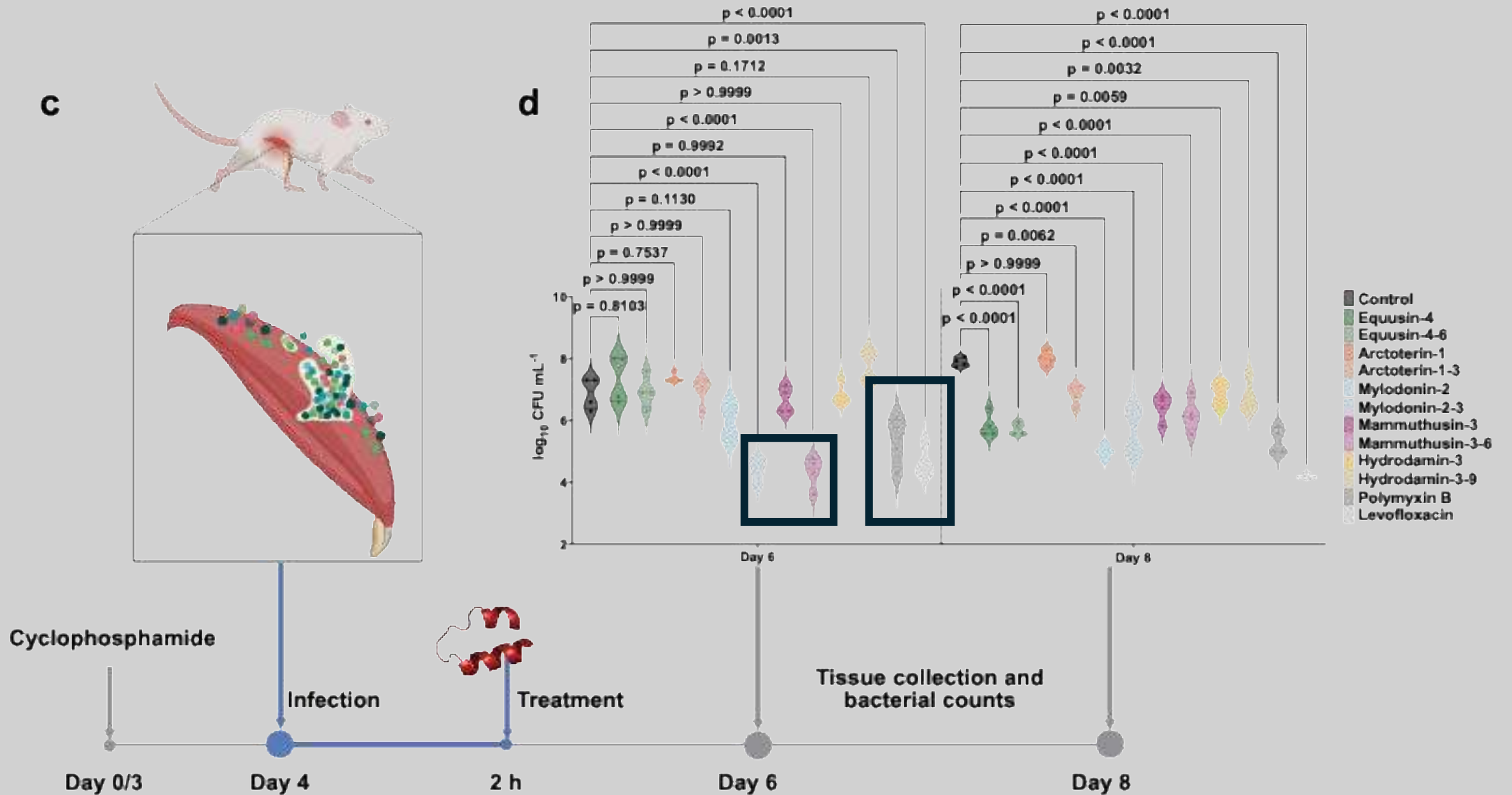
Antibiotics

Gram

Negative



Antibiotics



ANTIBIOTICS

stats

- 10 template peptides from 10 extinct organisms, optimize 10 diverse variants
 - **100** total peptides.
 - **68%** success rate in vitro, **6/8** tested working in vivo (although lower sampl
 - **Two** were stronger than control antibiotics in mice.
- **Virtual screening** (e.g., Stokes et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2023): 3-5% success

Bayesian optimization in a latent space is quite encouraging compared to virtual screening,
generative approaches, ...

what can we be doing
better?

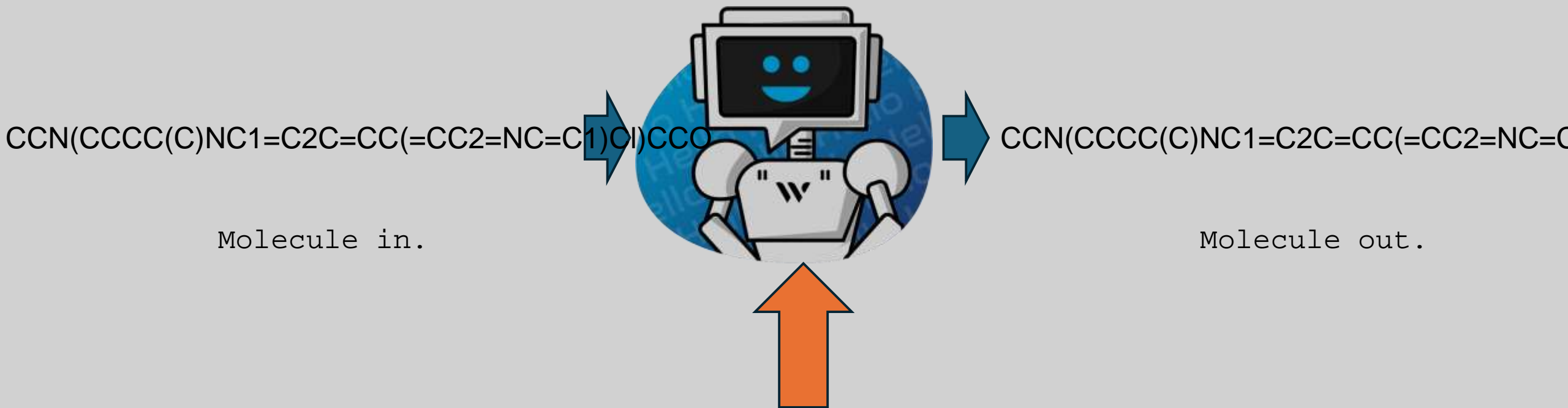
What can we be doing better?

Generative Model



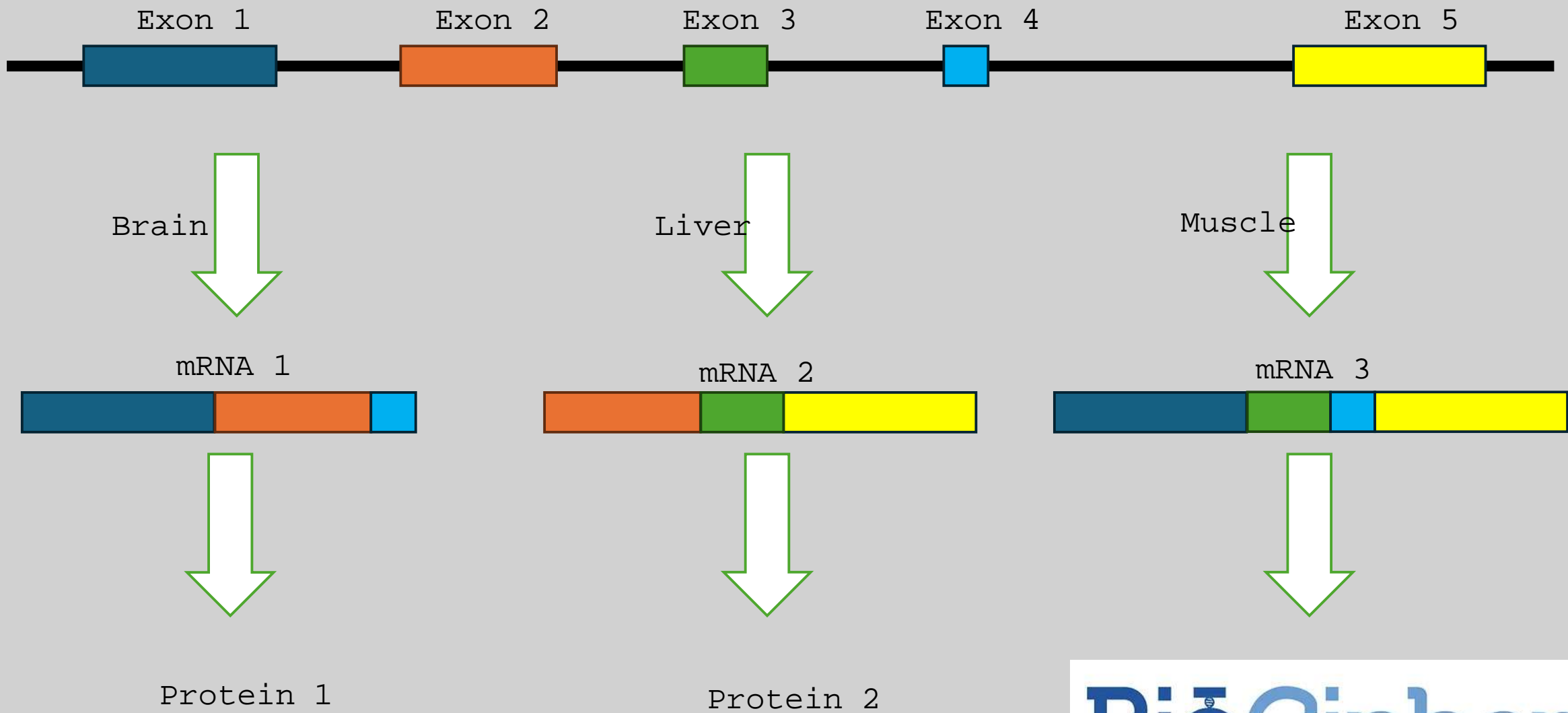
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Generative Model

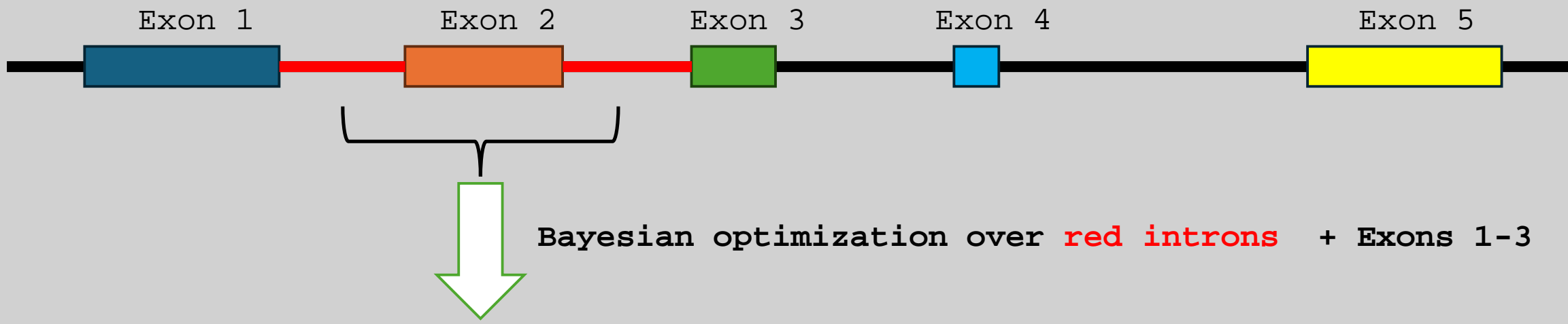


Designed to **generate natural language text**, not **search for new molecules**.

EXAMPLE 1: SPLICING DO IN RNA



EXAMPLE 1: SPlicing BO IN RNA

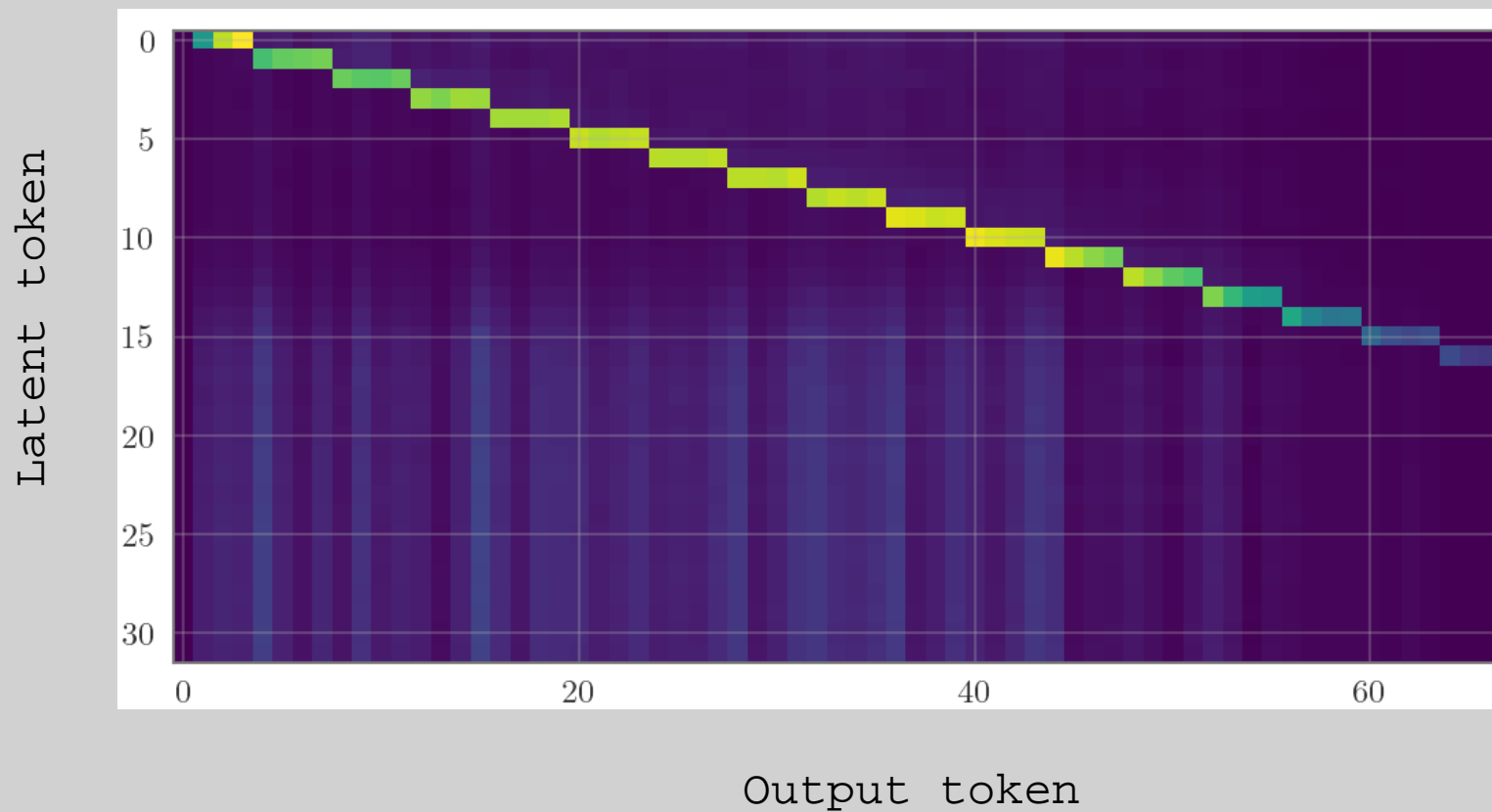


Maximize inclusion of **orange exon** in brain, minimize in all other tissues.

Experimentally: relatively few locations in sequence involved in splicing control

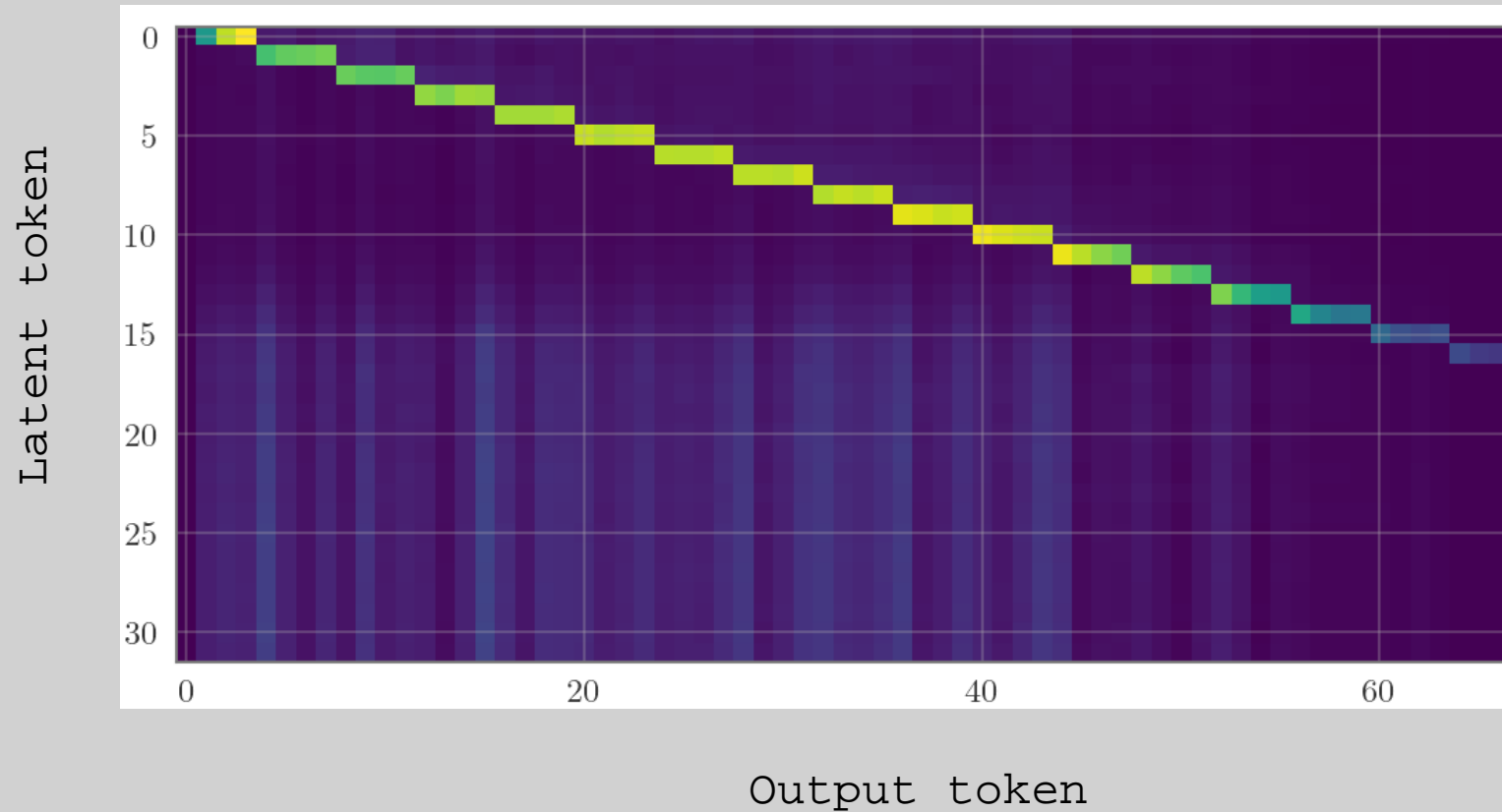
EXAMPLE 1: Sparse BO III RNA

Step 1: Make **output tokens** sparse in **latent tokens**.



EXAMPLE 1: SPARSE BO IN RNA

Step 1: Make **output tokens** sparse in **latent tokens**.

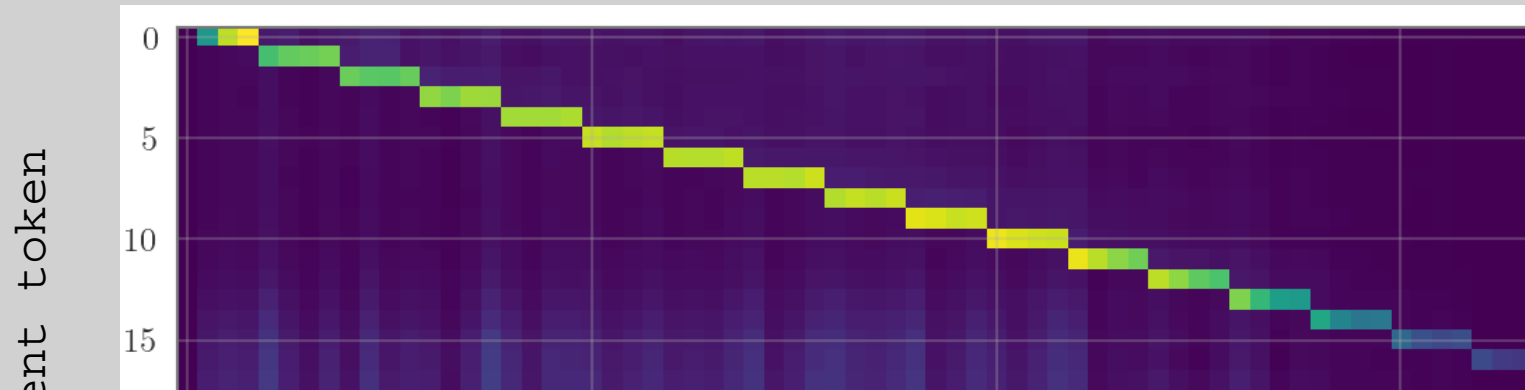


Step 2: **Just run e.g. SAASBO**



EXAMPLE 1: SPARSE BO IN RNA

Step 1: Make **output tokens** sparse in **latent tokens**.

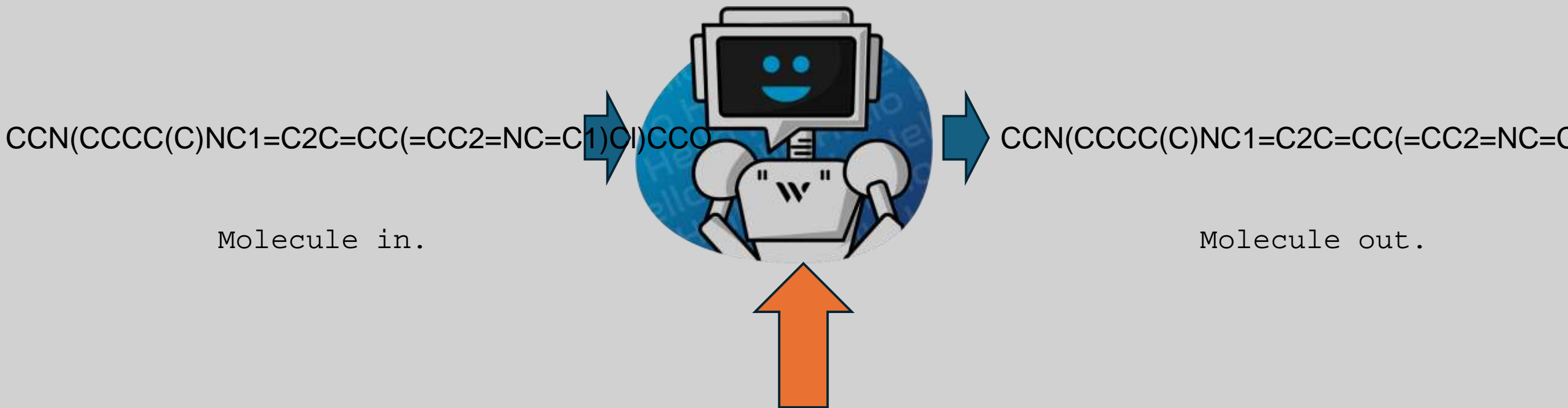


If we want to use BO Algorithm X, the latent space needs to display the advantages that BO Algorithm X exploits.

Step 2: **Just run e.g. SAASBO**

What can we be doing better?

Generative Model



Designed to **generate natural language text**, not **search for new molecules**.

What can we be doing better?

Generative Model



Not where the knowledge is.

What can we be doing better?

Generative Model



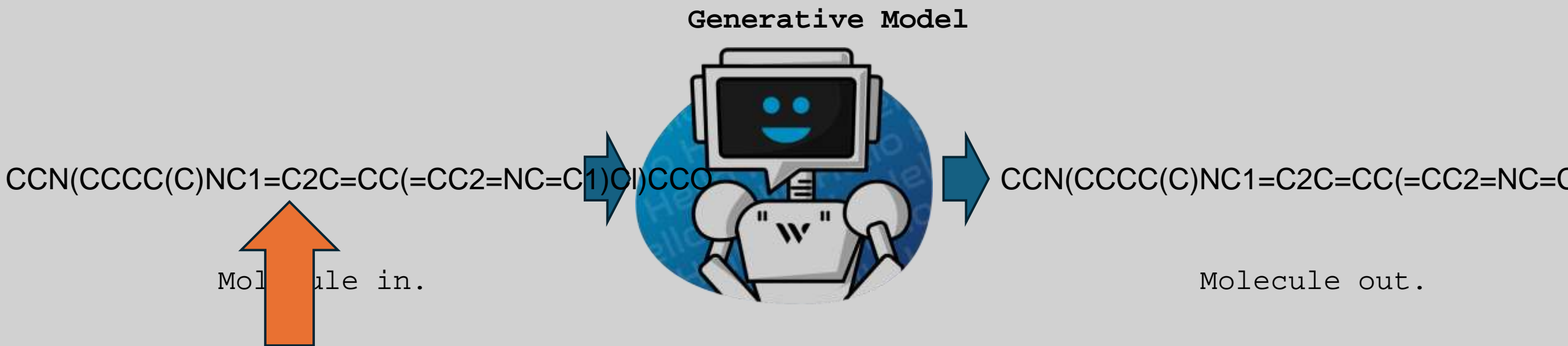
Not where the knowledge is.

Measurable, data exists.



Make a version of this extinct peptide that **kills A. baumannii**

What can we be doing better?



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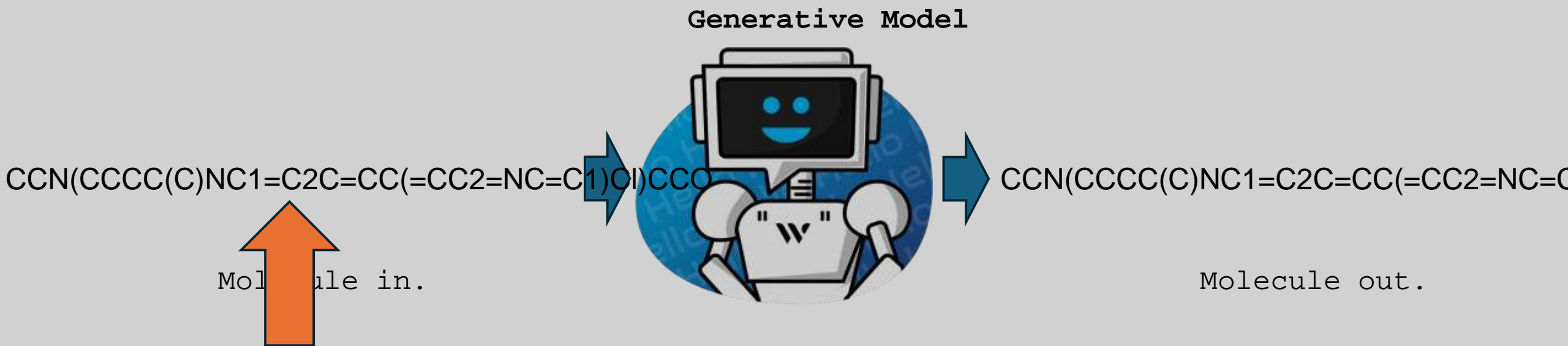


Make a version of this extinct peptide that **kills A. baumannii**



Make a version of this peptide that kills A. baumannii **via membrane perm**

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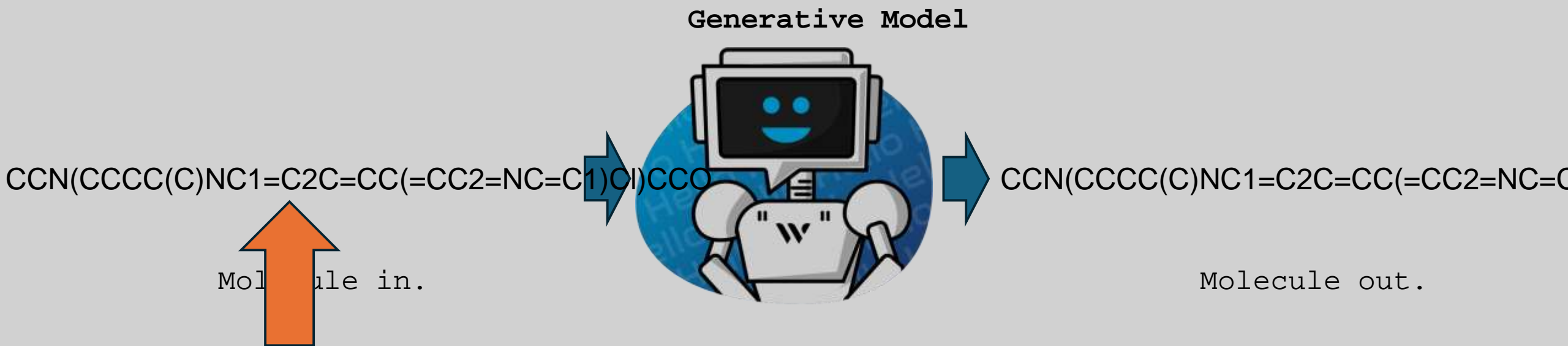


Make a version of this extinct peptide that **kills A. baumannii**



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What can we be doing better?



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Thermostability? Cytotoxicity?

Example 2. People talk
about drugs.

CCN(CCCC(C)NC1=C2C=CC(=CC2=NC=C1)Cl)CCO

Example 2. People talk about drugs.

CCN(CCCC(C)NC1=C2C=CC(=CC2=NC=C1)Cl)CCO

Hydroxychloroquine is an anti-malarial drug commonly used in rheumatologic or dermatological conditions. Its use is partly due to its good safety profile; **however, it is estimated that up to 7.5% of long-term users may develop retinal toxicity.** [1] The mechanism of drug toxicity is still controversial. **Hydroxychloroquine tends to accumulate in pigmented tissues such as retinal pigment epithelium (RPE), inhibiting the activity of anionic transporter 1A2 (OATP1A2) .** [2] **Another theory suggests that the drug accumulates in the photoreceptors, leading to secondary degeneration of the outer nuclear layer and, subsequently, of RPE.** [3] Currently, it is hypothesized that hydroxychloroquine accumulates primarily at the level of the ganglion cell layer but its implications are still unknown. [4] Although usually asymptomatic, retinal toxicity may be associated with photosensitivity and presence of scotomas.'

Example 2. People talk about drugs.

C1[C@@H]([C@H](O[C@H]1N2C=C(C(=O)NC2=O)C(F)(F)F)CO)O

'Shitara and colleagues suggest that adverse effects caused by trifluridine/tipiracil might be easier to manage than those caused by immune checkpoint inhibitors, and underline this as a possible benefit of trifluridine/tipiracil. Although this hypothesis might be true, **grade 3 or worse adverse events occurred in 267 (80%) of 335 patients given trifluridine/tipiracil in this trial, compared with 137 (42%) of 330 patients given nivolumab in the ATTRACTION-2 trial.** 2 Compared with previous trials of trifluridine/tipiracil, the number of adverse events seems to be high in the TAGS study. For example, **in the RECURSE-2 trial, 4 in a population with pretreated metastatic colorectal cancer, 69% of patients given trifluridine/tipiracil had grade 3 or worse adverse events.**'

Example 2. People talk about drugs.

CCN(CCCC(C)NC1=C2C=CC(=CC2=NC=C1)Cl)CCO

13.1 Consolidated References

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LaCo_{0.95}Mo_{0.05}O₃/CeO₂ composite can promote the effective activation of peroxymonosulfate via Co³⁺/Co²⁺ cycle and realize the efficient degradation of hydroxychloroquine sulfate
Publication Name: Journal of Colloid and Interface Science
Publication Date: 2025-01-15
PMID: 39341146 DOI: 10.1016/j.jcis.2024.09.174

Inter-eye asymmetry of microvascular density in patients on hydroxychloroquine therapy by optical coherence tomography angiography
Publication Name: Microvascular Research
Publication Date: 2025-01
PMID: 39288847 DOI: 10.1016/j.mvr.2024.104747

A new three-dimensional modeling of fluorescence excitation-emission measurements to explore the interaction of hydroxychloroquine and DNA, and to quantify their binding constant
Publication Name: Colloids and surfaces. B, Biointerfaces
Publication Date: 2025-01
PMID: 39332057 DOI: 10.1016/j.colsurfb.2024.114266

Innovations in Cutaneous Lupus
Publication Name: Dermatologic Clinics

Example 2. People talk about drugs.

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P18615 · NELFE_HUMAN

Negative elongation factor E · **Gene:** NELFE (RD, RDBP) · **Homo sapiens (Human)** · 380 amino acids · Evidence at protein level · **Annotation score:** (5/5)

#Repressor #RNA-binding #Transcription #Transcription regulation

1 domain · 21 PTMs · 3 isoforms · 6 interactions · 12 3D structures · 34 reviewed publications

P42285 · MTREX_HUMAN

Exosome RNA helicase MTR4 · **Gene:** MTREX (DOB1, KIAA0052, MTR4, SKIV2L2) · **Homo sapiens (Human)** · EC:3.6.4.13 · 1042 amino acids · Evidence at protein level · **Annotation score:** (5/5)

#Helicase #Hydrolase #DNA damage #mRNA processing #mRNA splicing #rRNA processing

2 domains · 4 PTMs · 1 reviewed variant · 1 interaction · 11 3D structures · 32 reviewed publications

Q16270 · IBP7_HUMAN

Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein 7 · **Gene:** IGFBP7 (MAC25, PSF) · **Homo sapiens (Human)** · 282 amino acids · Evidence at protein level · **Annotation score:** (5/5)

#Growth factor binding #Cell adhesion

3 domains · 1 PTM · 3 reviewed variants · 2 isoforms · 1 disease · 1 3D structure · 15 reviewed publications

Example 2. People talk about drugs.

Training

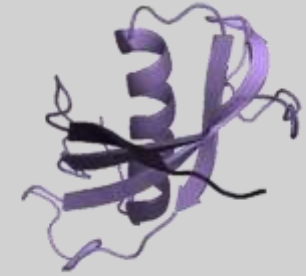
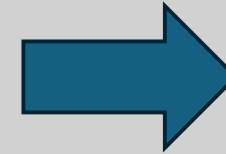
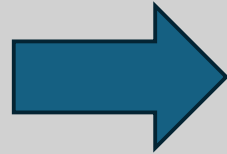
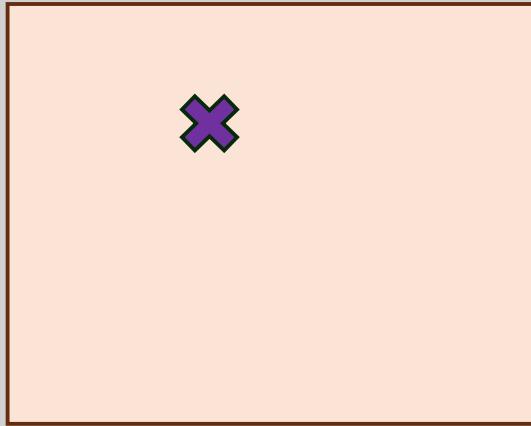


Example 2. People talk about drugs.

Testing

Latent Space

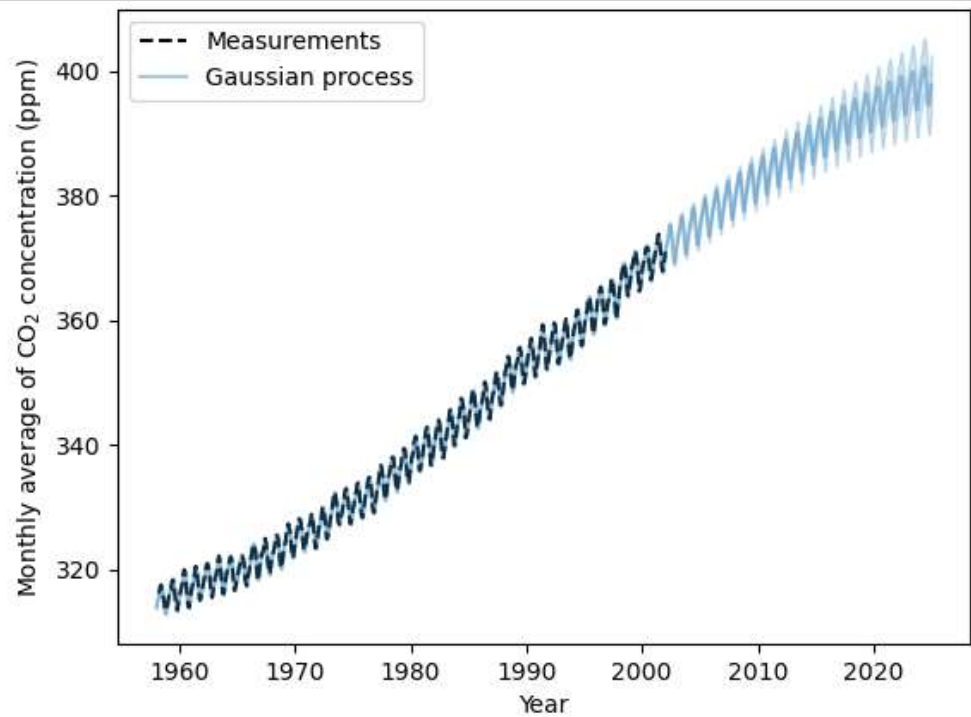
Output



This peptide's primary mechanism of action is **membrane depolarization**. It melts at 65 °C.

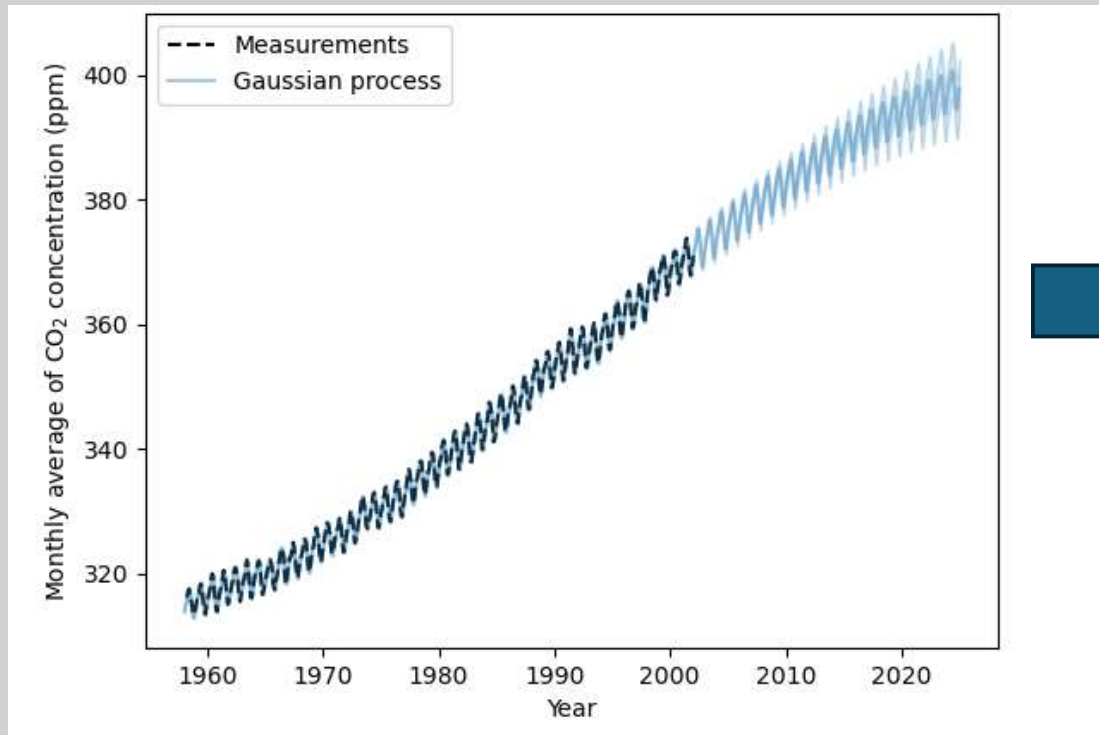
The betrayal slide

Prior knowledge means:



The betrayal slide

Prior knowledge means:



Prior knowledge means:

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Innovations in Cutaneous Lupus
Publication Name: Dermatologic Clinics

Conclusion



Bayesian optimization is great, quite possibly even state of the art for design pr



The representations of molecules that we're searching through are **incredibly naïve**

The next big steps in this space might not be about the surrogate model, the acquisition function, or most of the other things you might find in my own methods sections.