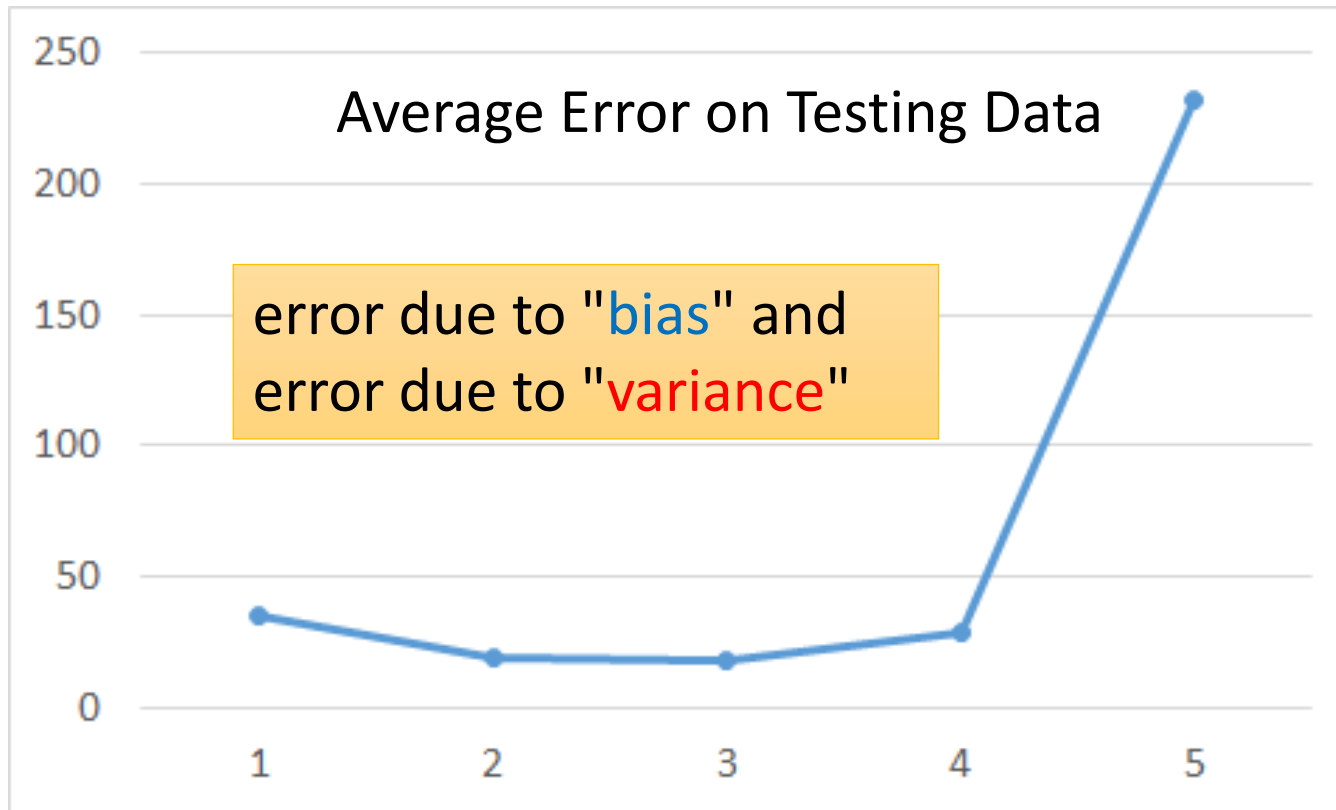


Where does the error  
come from?

# Review



A more complex model does not always lead to better performance on testing data.

# Estimator

$f^\wedge$ : 表示实际的函数，我们想无限逼近的那个函数  
 $f^*$ : 每一次训练所得到的最佳函数  
 $f^-$ : 进行多次训练，将所得到的函数取平均得到的函数

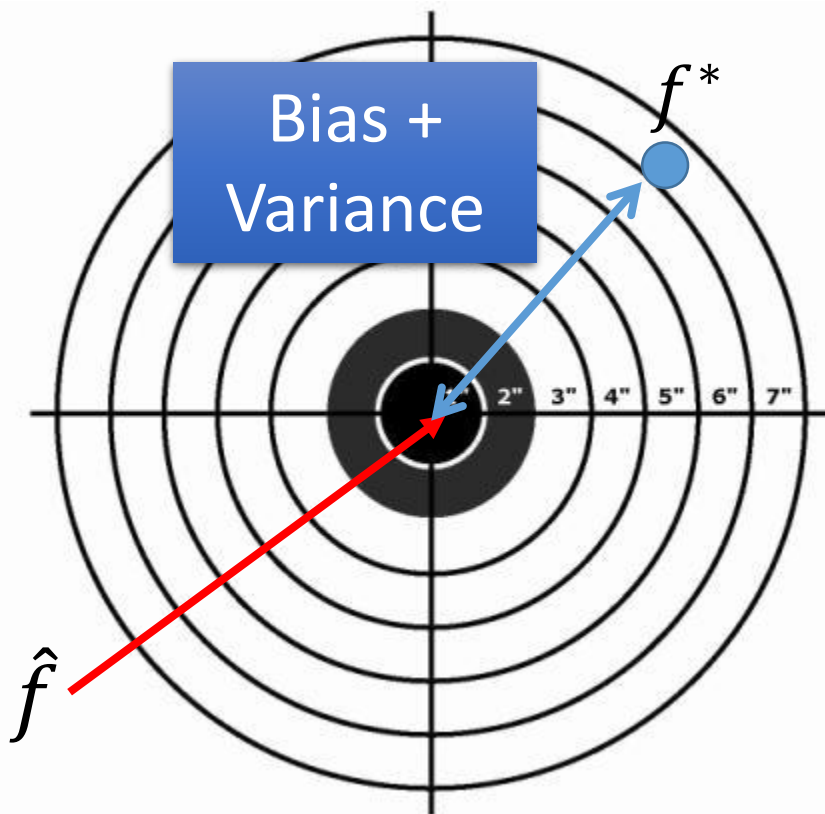
$$\hat{y} = \hat{f}(\text{Squirtle})$$



Only Niantic knows  $\hat{f}$

From training data,  
we find  $f^*$

$f^*$  is an estimator of  $\hat{f}$



$f^*$  是  $f^\wedge$  的估计量，估计函数/或者说可以通过许多个  $f^*$  得到  $f^\wedge$

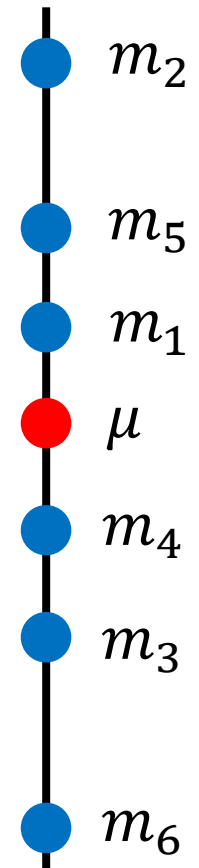
# Bias and Variance of Estimator

- Estimate the mean of a variable  $x$ 
  - assume the mean of  $x$  is  $\mu$
  - assume the variance of  $x$  is  $\sigma^2$
- Estimator of mean  $\mu$ 
  - Sample  $N$  points:  $\{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^N\}$

$$m = \frac{1}{N} \sum_n x^n \neq \mu$$

$$E[m] = E\left[\frac{1}{N} \sum_n x^n\right] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_n E[x^n] = \mu$$

unbiased



# Bias and Variance of Estimator

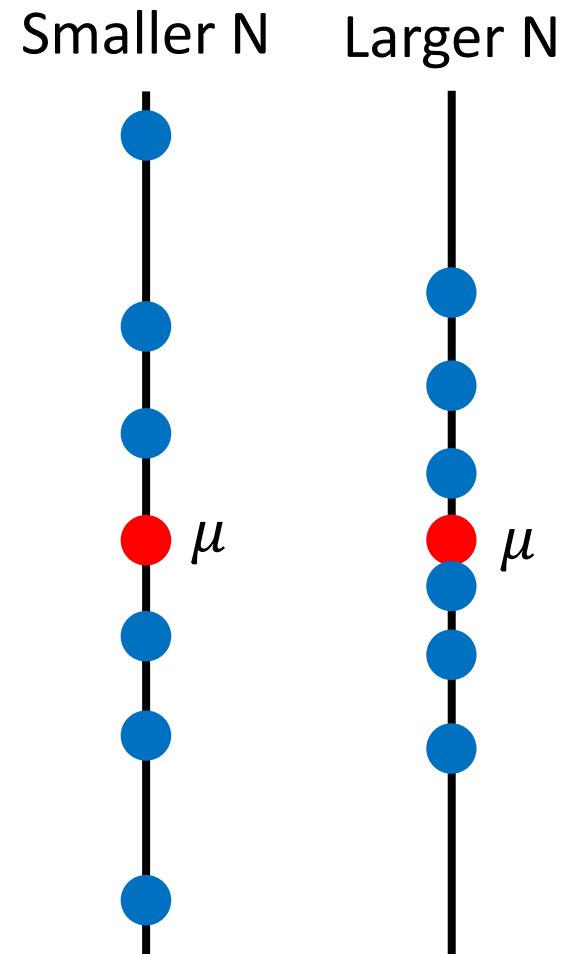
- Estimate the mean of a variable  $x$ 
  - assume the mean of  $x$  is  $\mu$
  - assume the variance of  $x$  is  $\sigma^2$
- Estimator of mean  $\mu$ 
  - Sample  $N$  points:  $\{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^N\}$

$$m = \frac{1}{N} \sum_n x^n \neq \mu$$

$$\text{Var}[m] = \frac{\sigma^2}{N}$$

Variance depends  
on the number of  
samples

unbiased



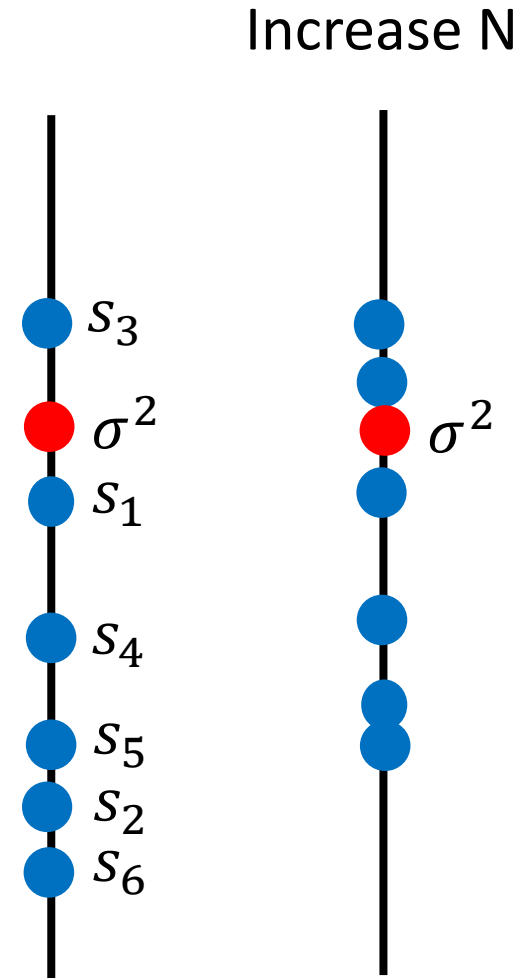
# Bias and Variance of Estimator

- Estimate the mean of a variable  $x$ 
  - assume the mean of  $x$  is  $\mu$
  - assume the variance of  $x$  is  $\sigma^2$
- Estimator of variance  $\sigma^2$ 
  - Sample  $N$  points:  $\{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^N\}$

$$m = \frac{1}{N} \sum_n x^n \quad s = \frac{1}{N} \sum_n (x^n - m)^2$$

Biased estimator

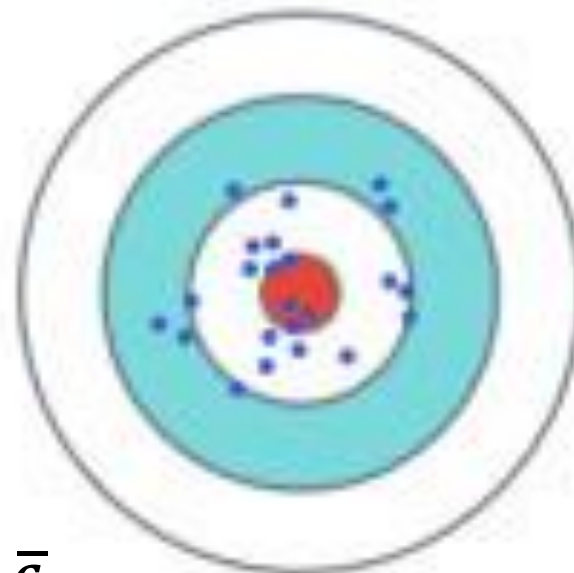
$$E[s] = \frac{N-1}{N} \sigma^2 \neq \sigma^2$$



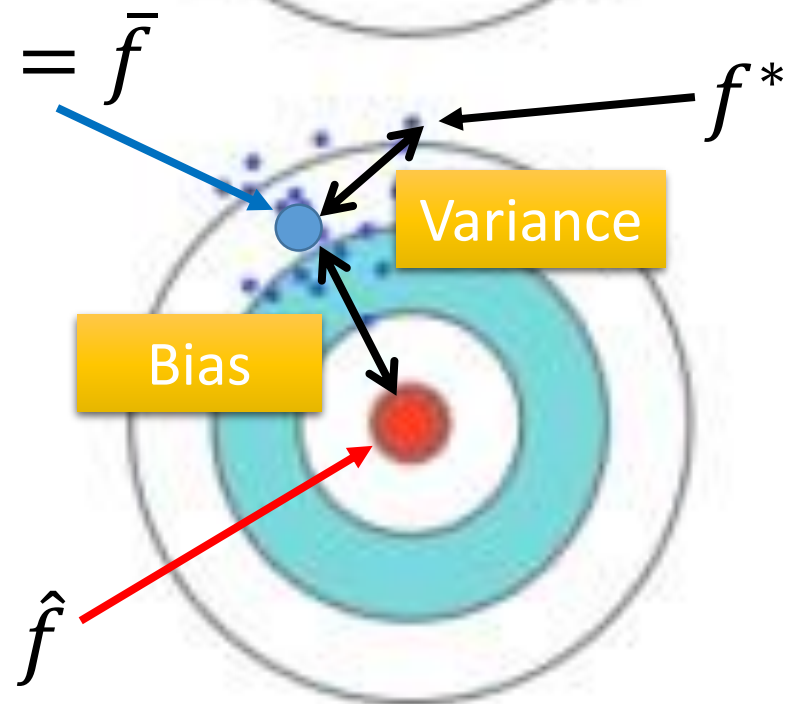
Low Variance

High Variance

Low Bias



High Bias

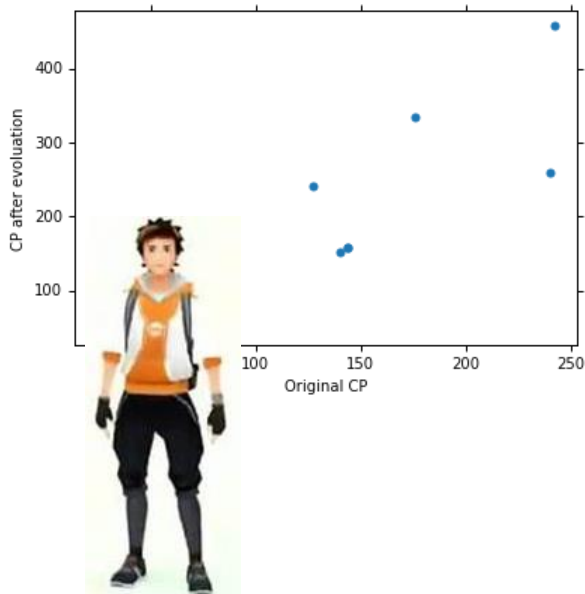


# Parallel Universes

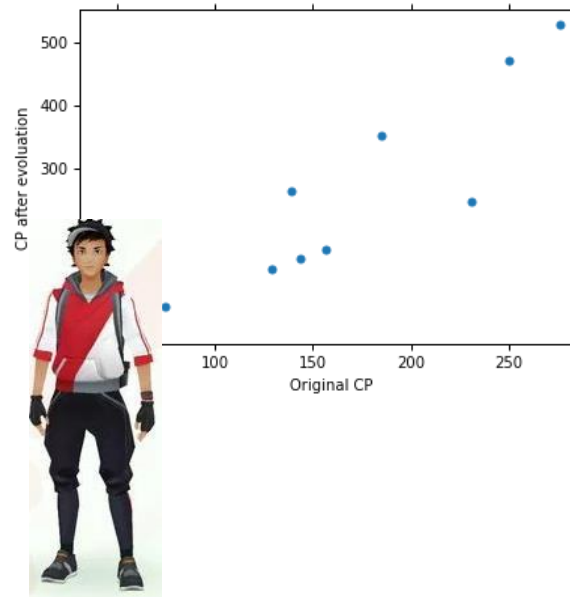
- In all the universes, we are collecting (catching) 10 Pokémon as training data to find  $f^*$

对于同样一个model，用不同的数据训练会得到不同的 $f^*$ ，也就是不一样的函数。

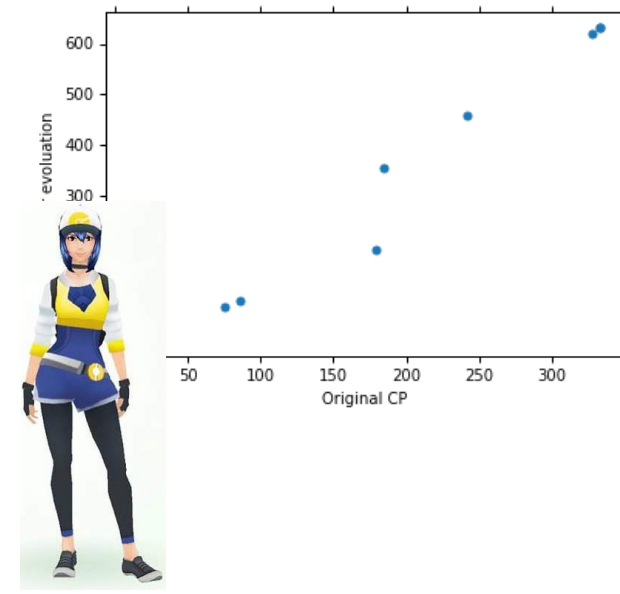
Universe 1



Universe 2



Universe 3

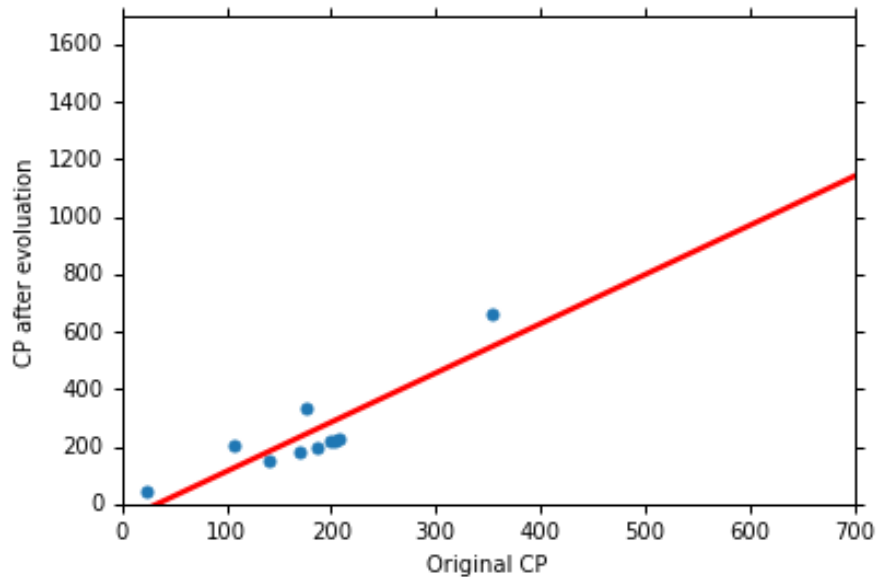




# Parallel Universes

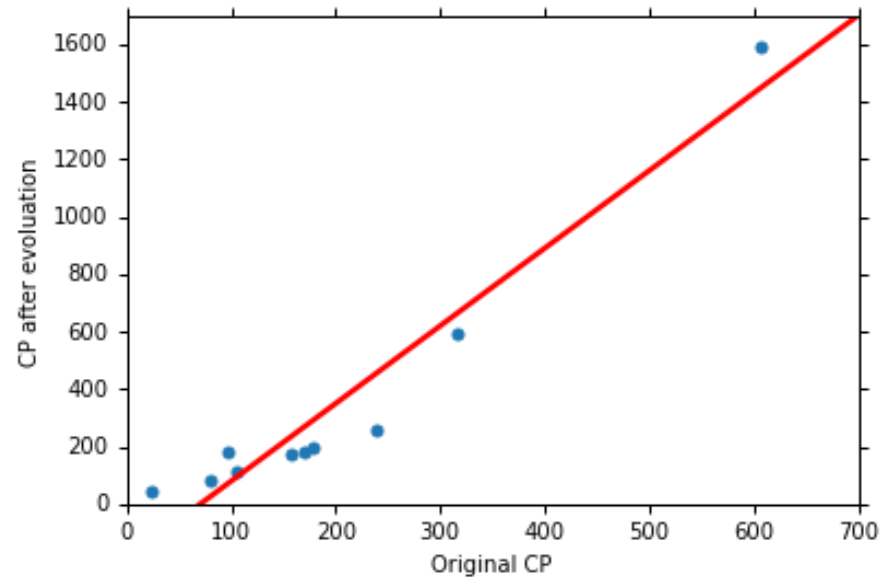
- In different universes, we use the same model, but obtain different  $f^*$

Universe 123



$$y = b + w \cdot x_{cp}$$

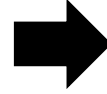
Universe 345



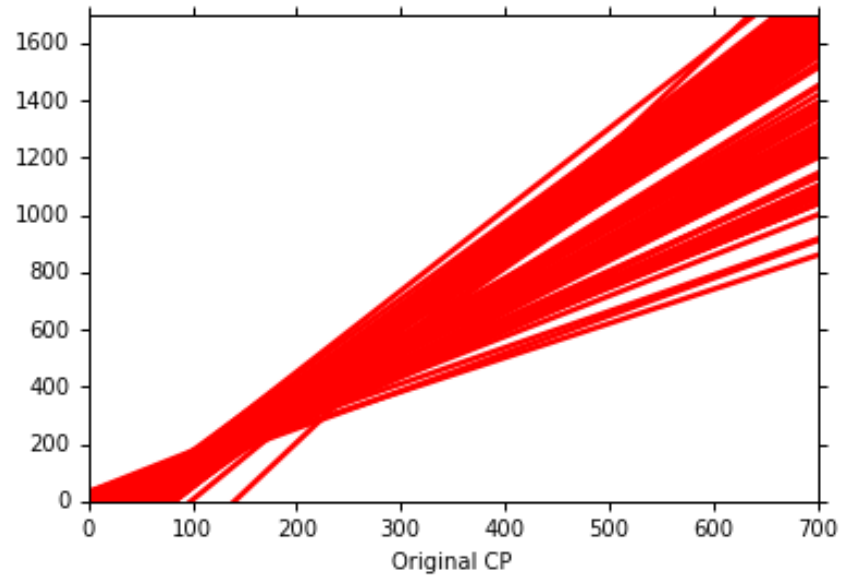
$$y = b + w \cdot x_{cp}$$

# $f^*$ in 100 Universes

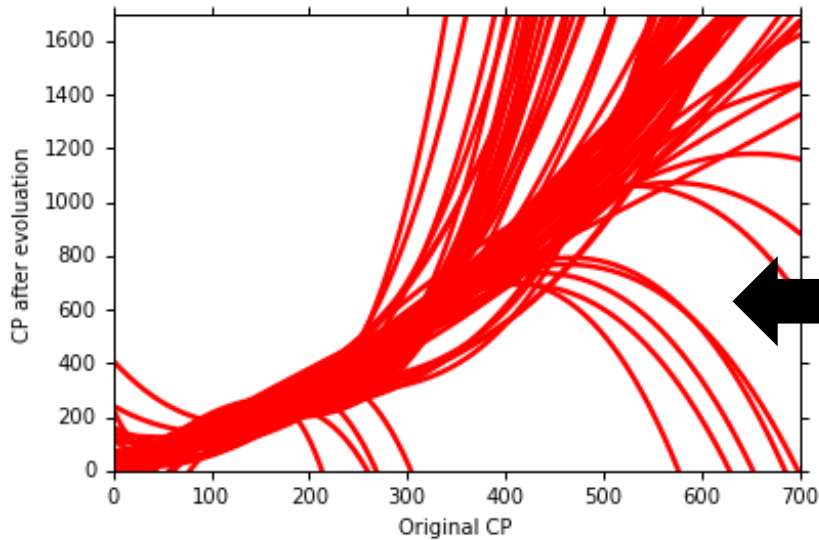
$$y = b + w \cdot x_{cp}$$



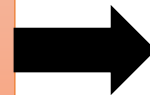
CP after evolution



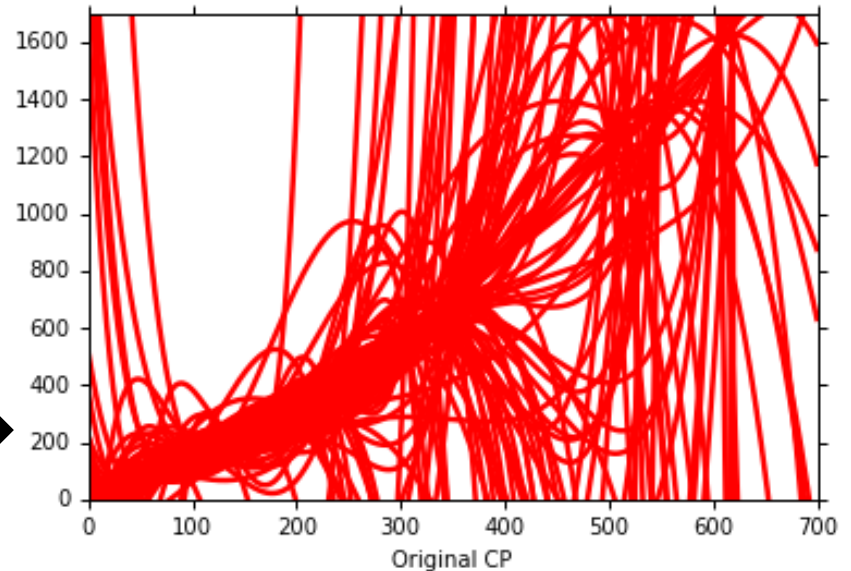
$$y = b + w_1 \cdot x_{cp} + w_2 \cdot (x_{cp})^2 + w_3 \cdot (x_{cp})^3$$



$$y = b + w_1 \cdot x_{cp} + w_2 \cdot (x_{cp})^2 + w_3 \cdot (x_{cp})^3 + w_4 \cdot (x_{cp})^4 + w_5 \cdot (x_{cp})^5$$

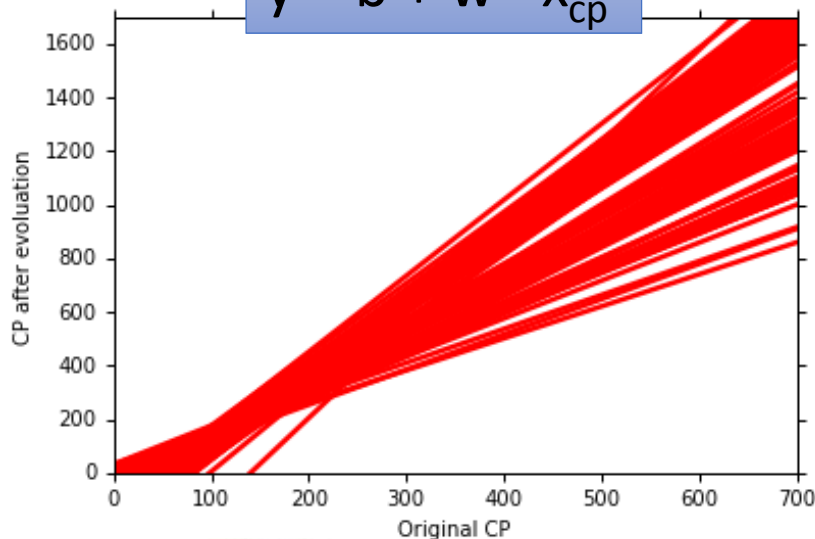


CP after evolution



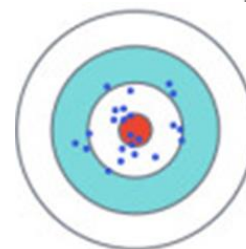
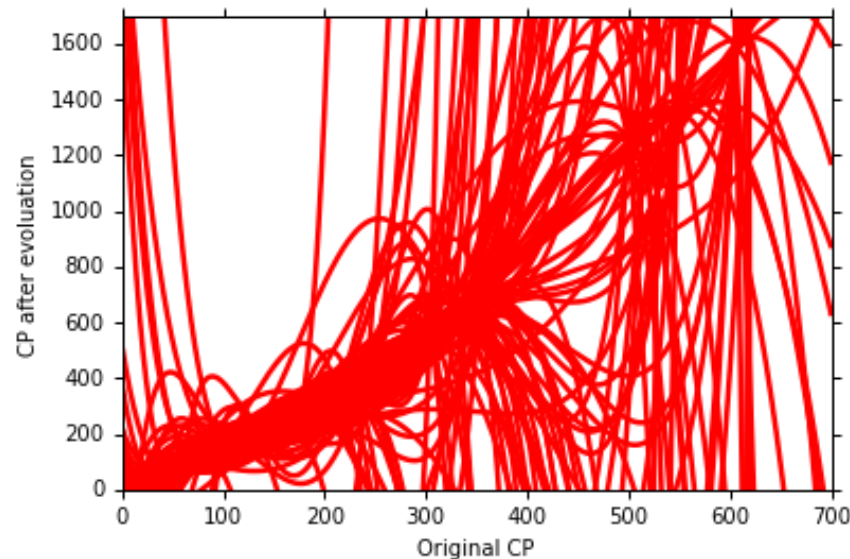
# Variance

$$y = b + w \cdot x_{cp}$$



Small  
Variance

$$y = b + w_1 \cdot x_{cp} + w_2 \cdot (x_{cp})^2 + w_3 \cdot (x_{cp})^3 + w_4 \cdot (x_{cp})^4 + w_5 \cdot (x_{cp})^5$$



Large  
Variance

Simpler model is less influenced by the sampled data

取极端一点，当只有一个变量b时，函数的输出永远是一个常量，与任何的样本都无关。

Consider the extreme case  $f(x) = 5$

# Bias

$$E[f^*] = \bar{f}$$

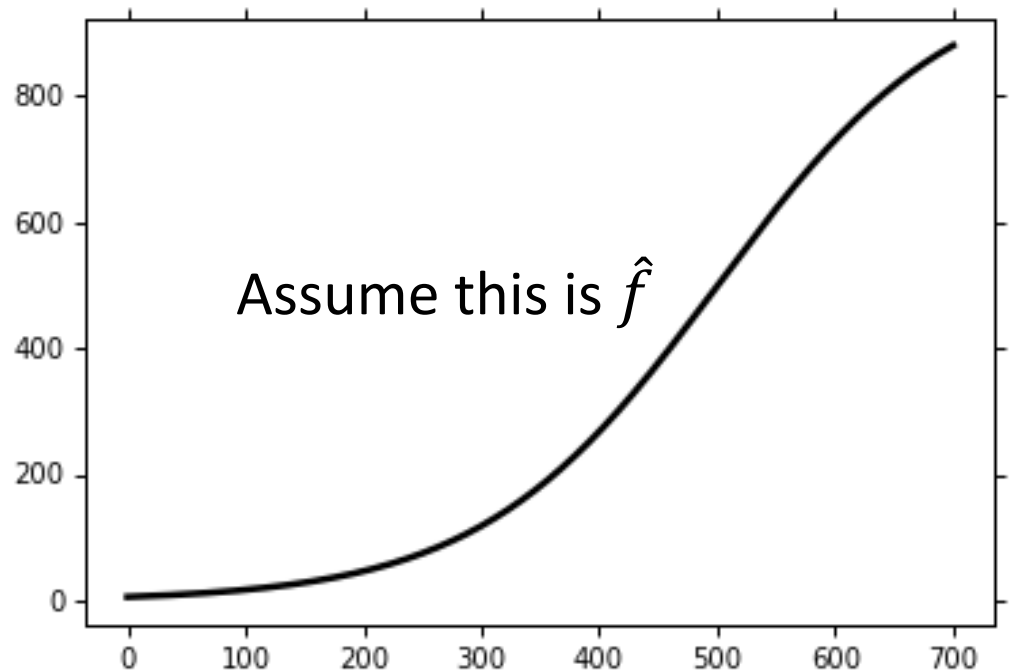
- Bias: If we average all the  $f^*$ , is it close to  $\hat{f}$  ?



Large  
Bias



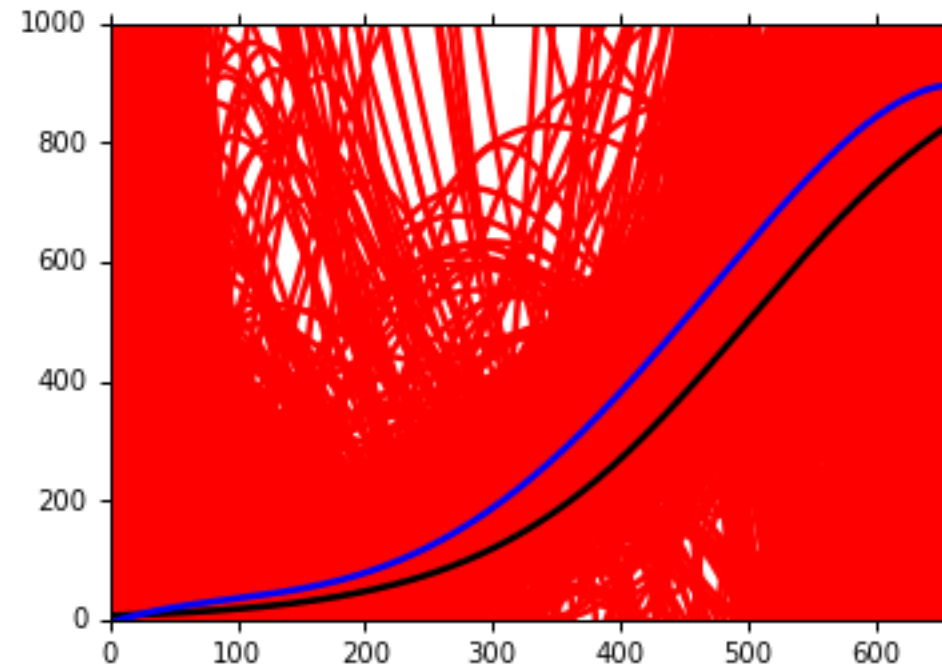
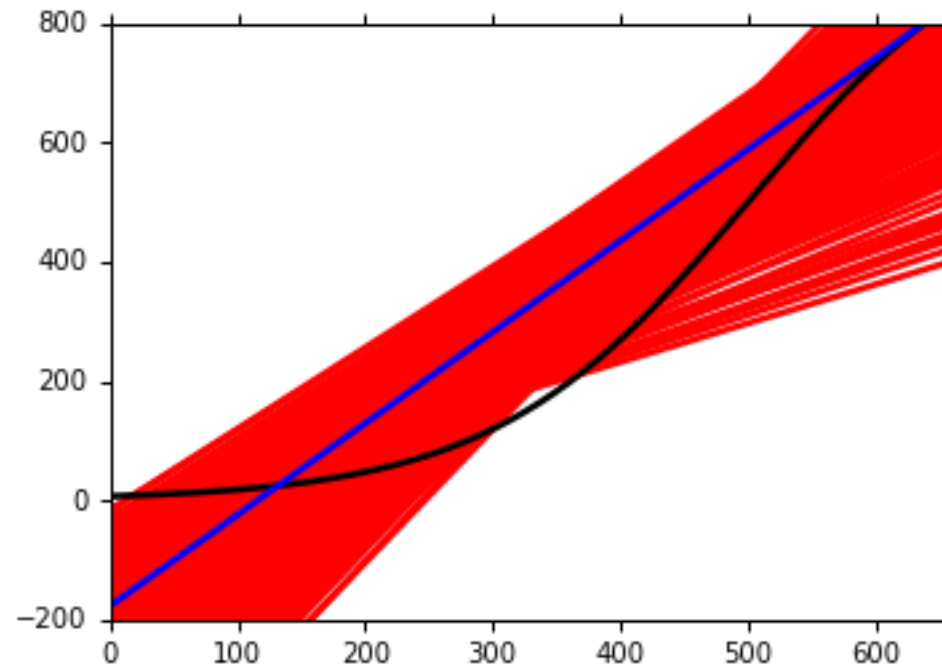
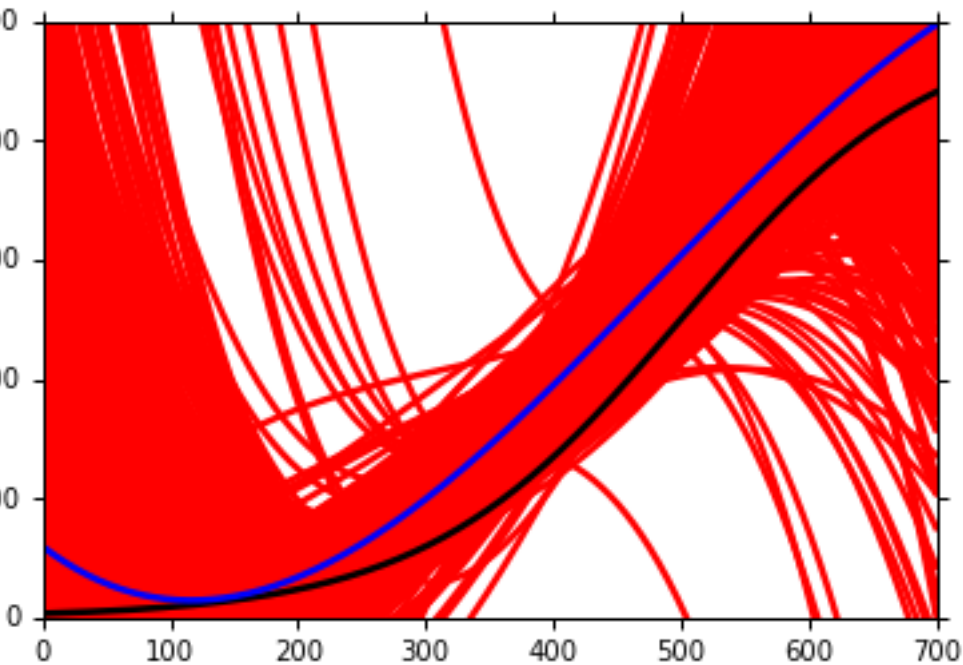
Small  
Bias



Black curve: the true function  $\hat{f}$

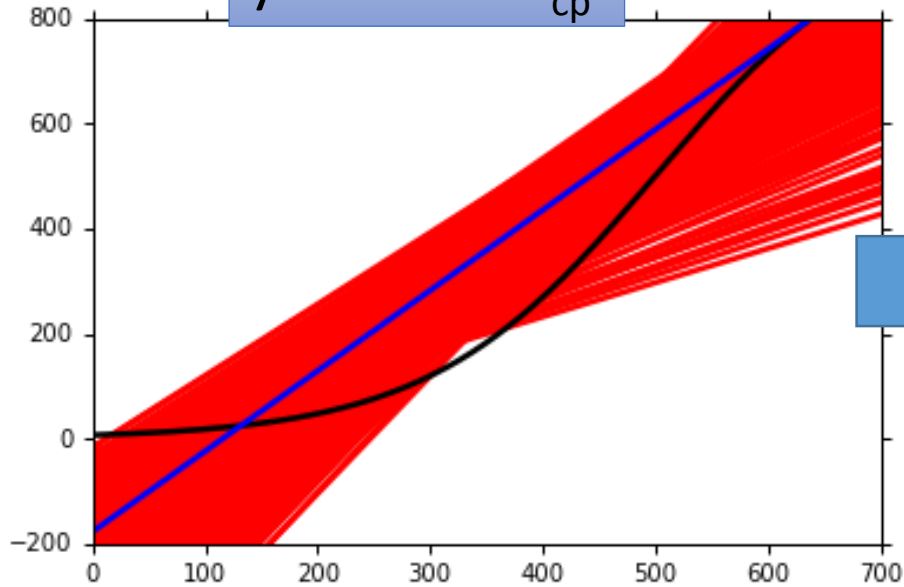
Red curves: 5000  $f^*$

Blue curve: the average of 5000  $f^*$   
 $= \bar{f}$

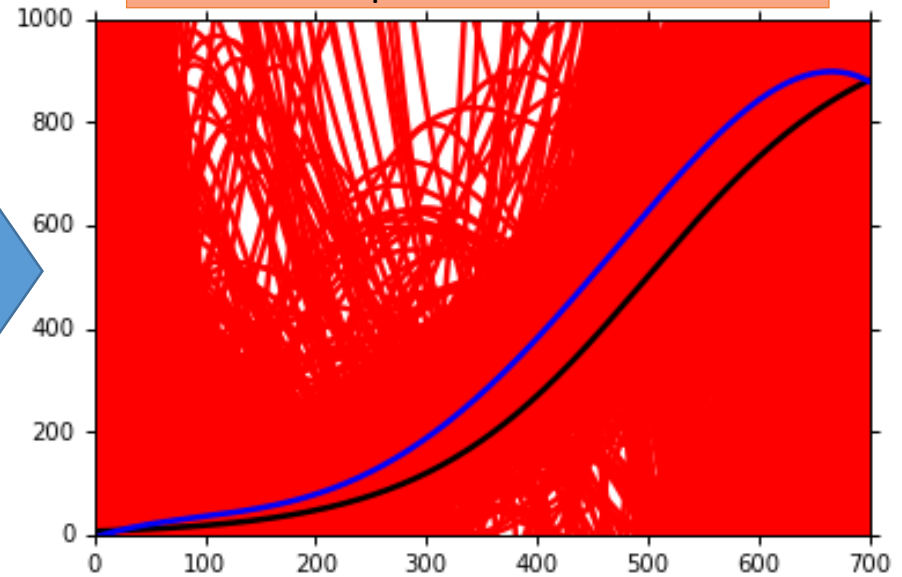


# Bias

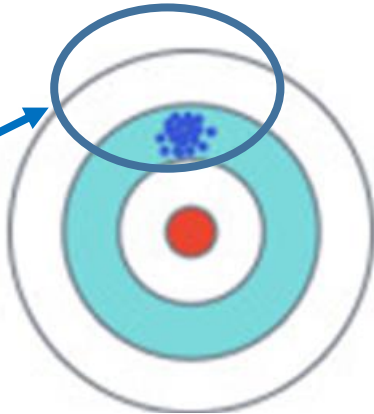
$$y = b + w \cdot x_{cp}$$



$$y = b + w_1 \cdot x_{cp} + w_2 \cdot (x_{cp})^2 + w_3 \cdot (x_{cp})^3 + w_4 \cdot (x_{cp})^4 + w_5 \cdot (x_{cp})^5$$

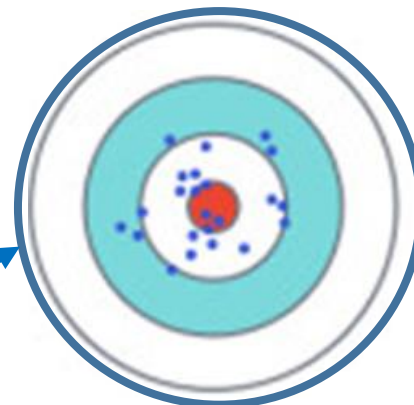


model



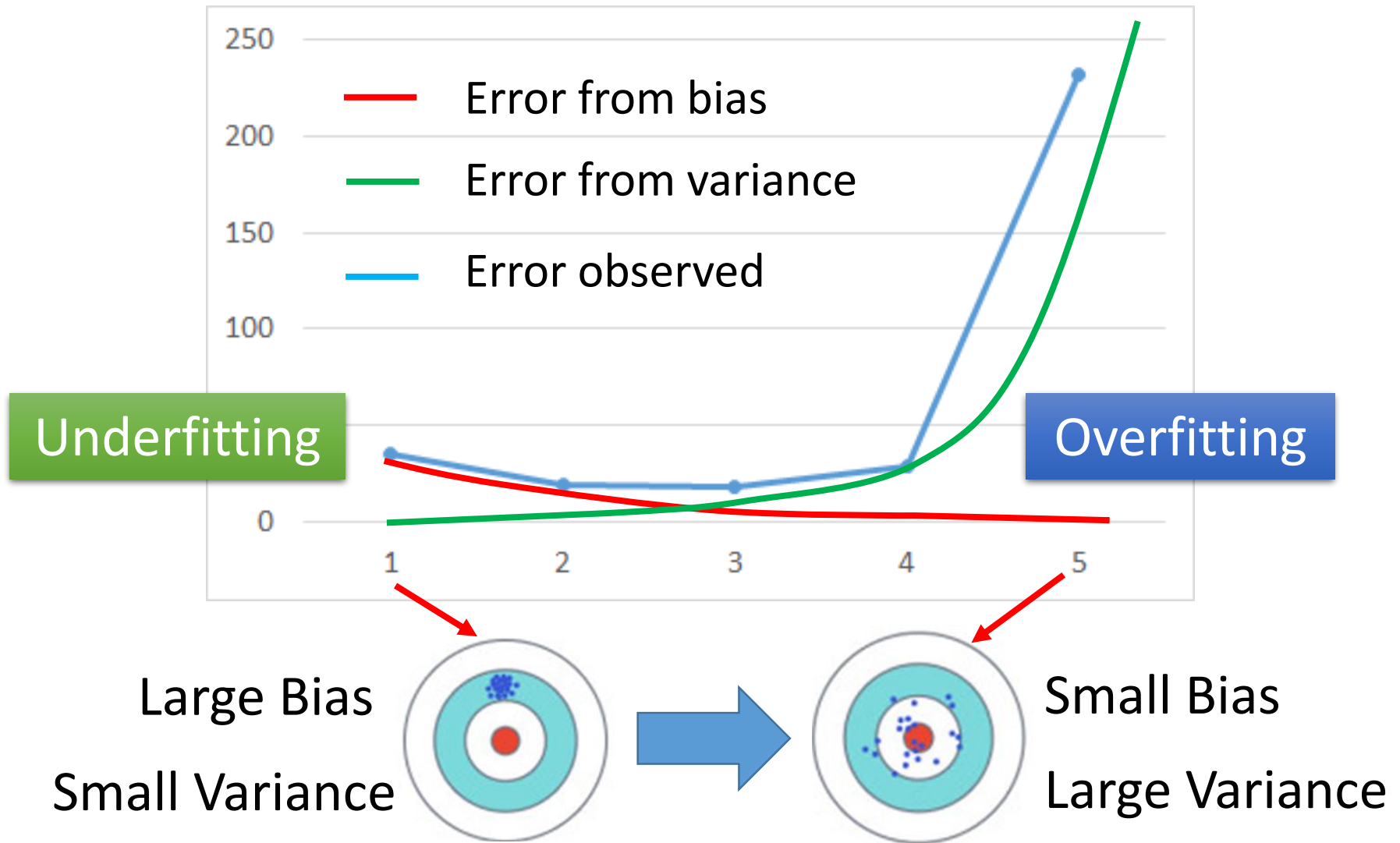
Large  
Bias

model



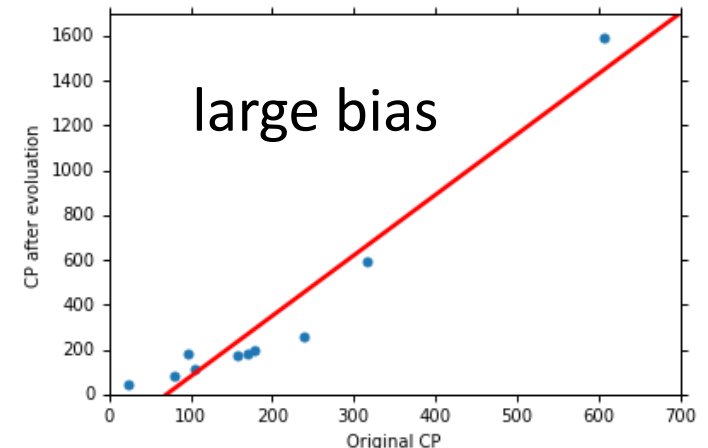
Small  
Bias

# Bias v.s. Variance



# What to do with large bias?

- Diagnosis:
  - If your model cannot even fit the training examples, then you have large bias **Underfitting**
  - If you can fit the training data, but large error on testing data, then you probably have large variance **Overfitting**
- For bias, redesign your model:
  - Add more features as input
  - A more complex model

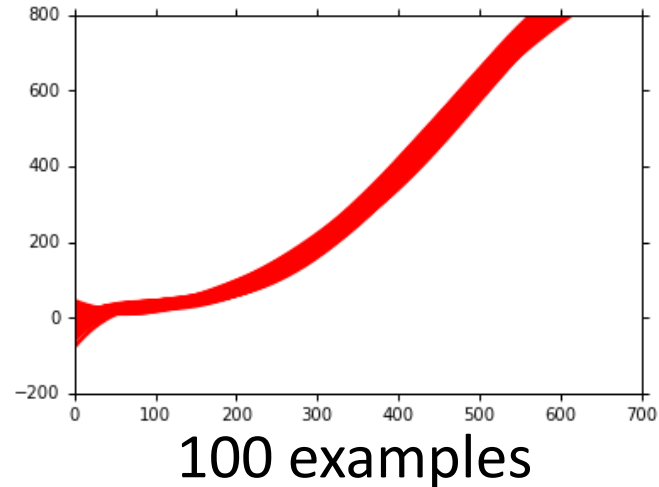
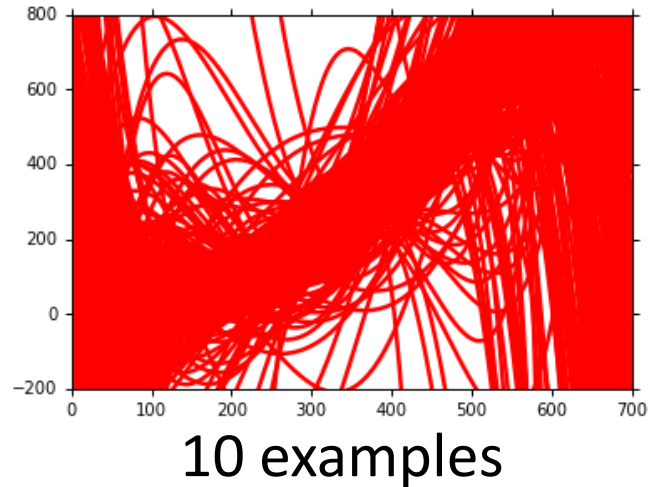




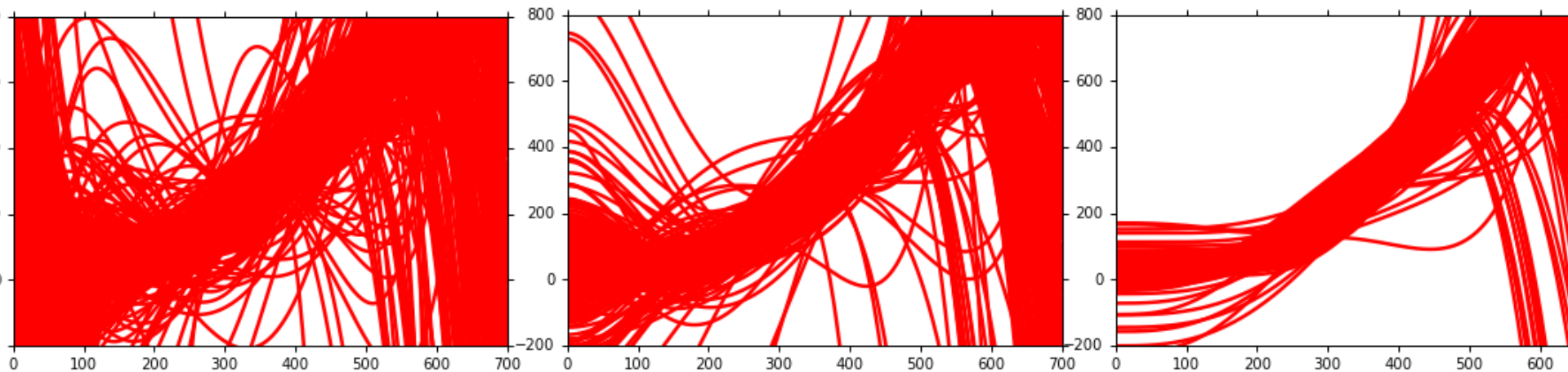
# What to do with large variance?

- More data

Very effective,  
but not always  
practical

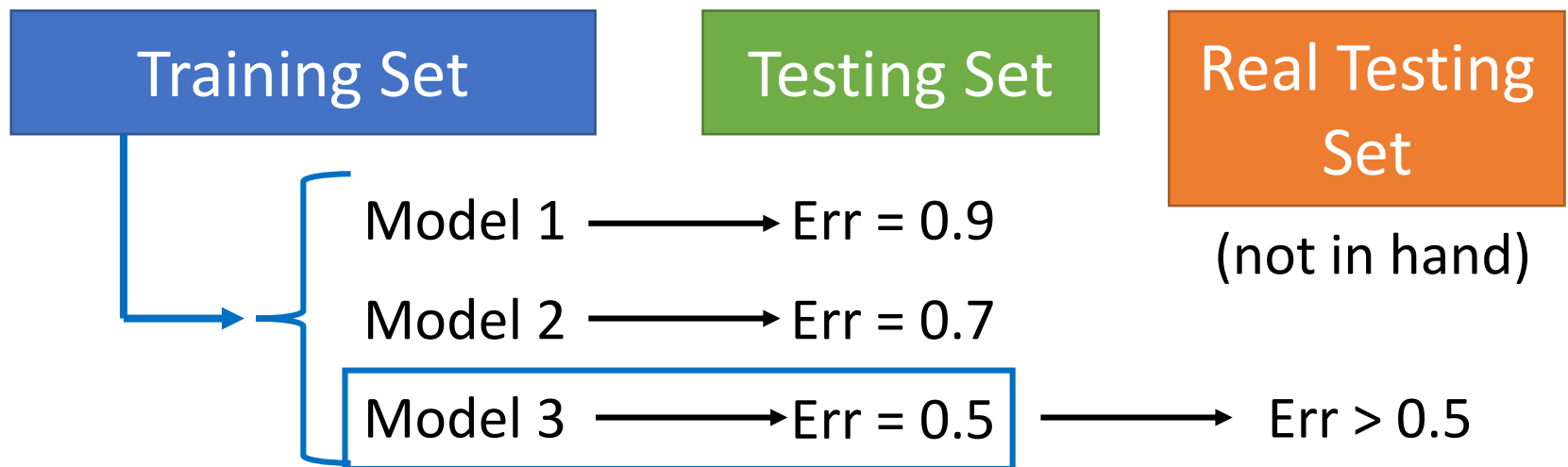


- Regularization → May increase bias



# Model Selection

- There is usually a trade-off between bias and variance.
- Select a model that balances two kinds of error to minimize total error
- What you should NOT do:



# Homework

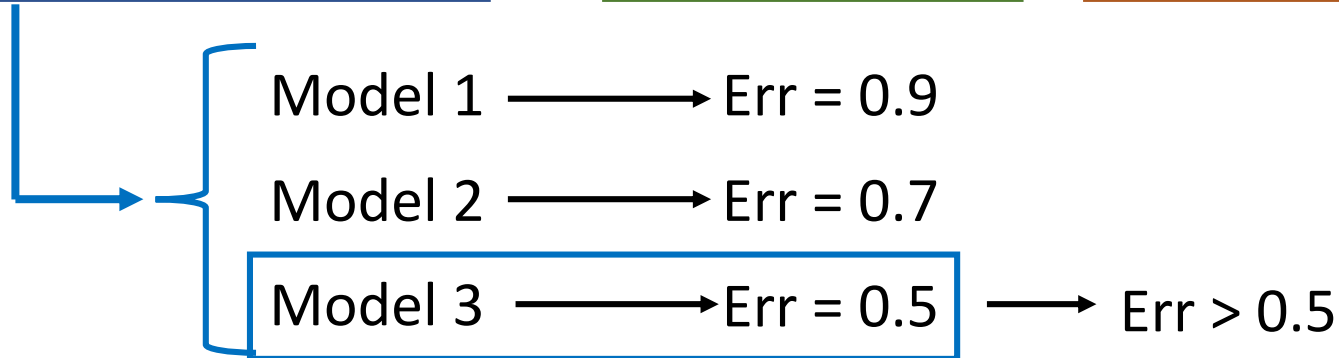
public

private

Training Set

Testing Set

Testing Set

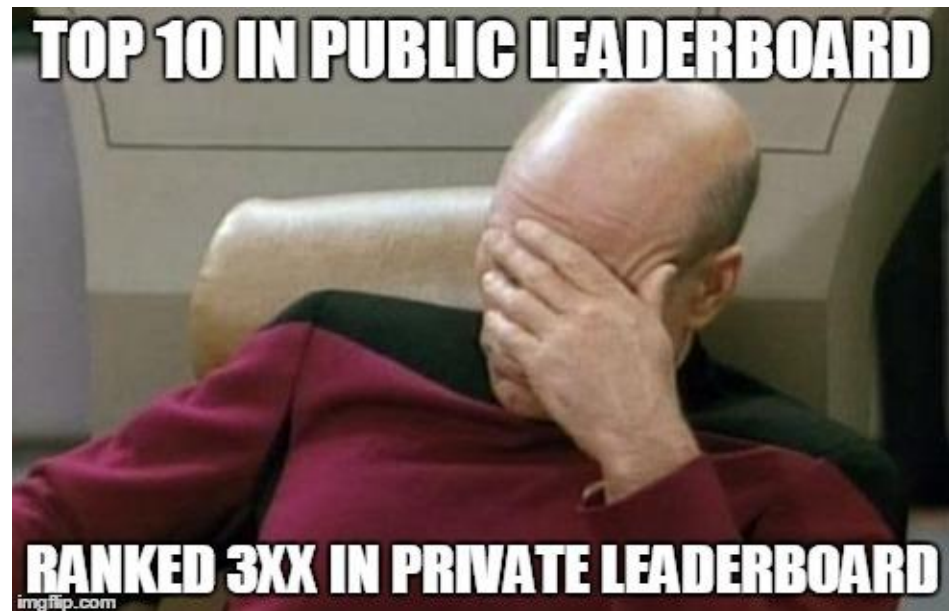


I beat baseline!

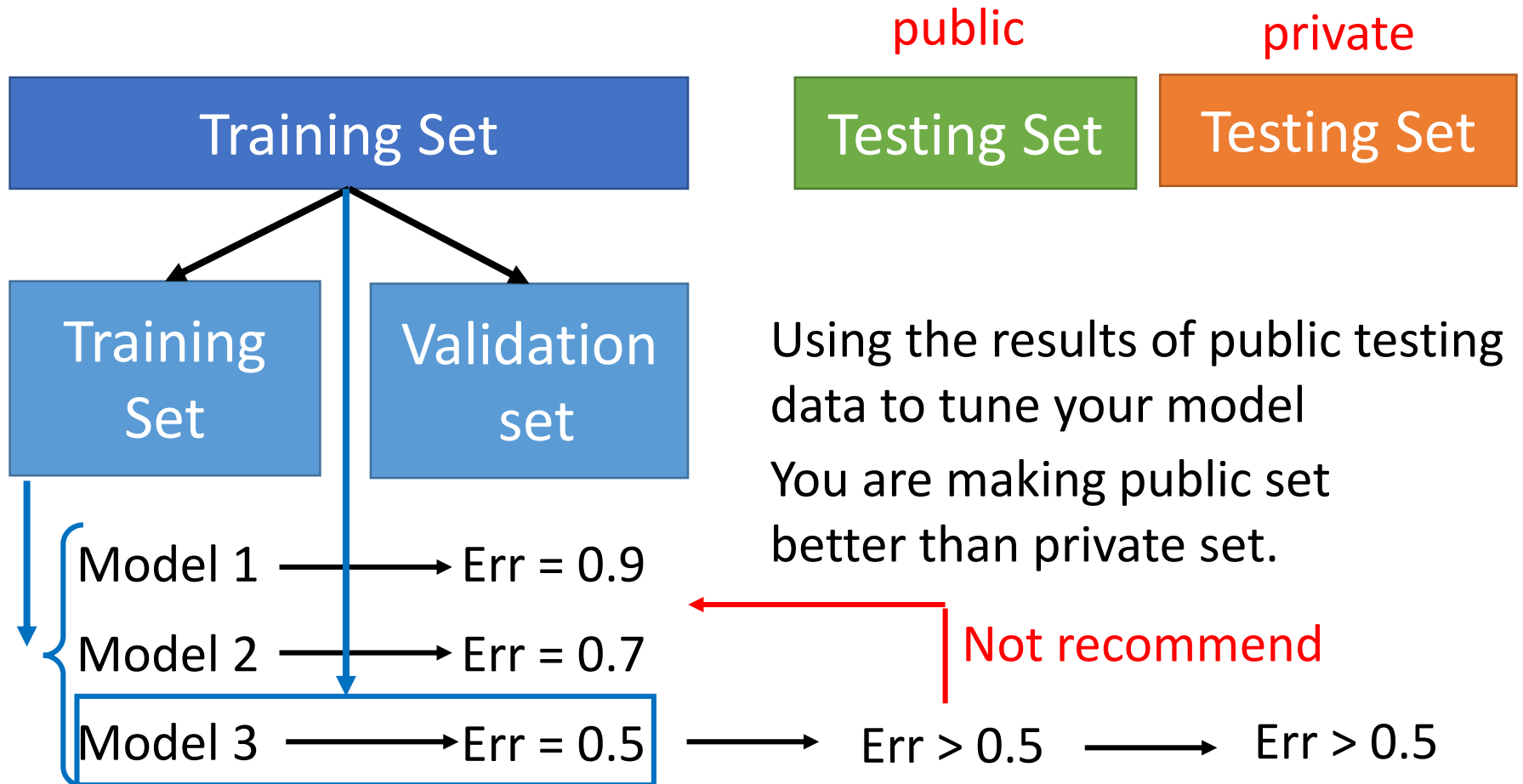
No, you don't

What will happen?

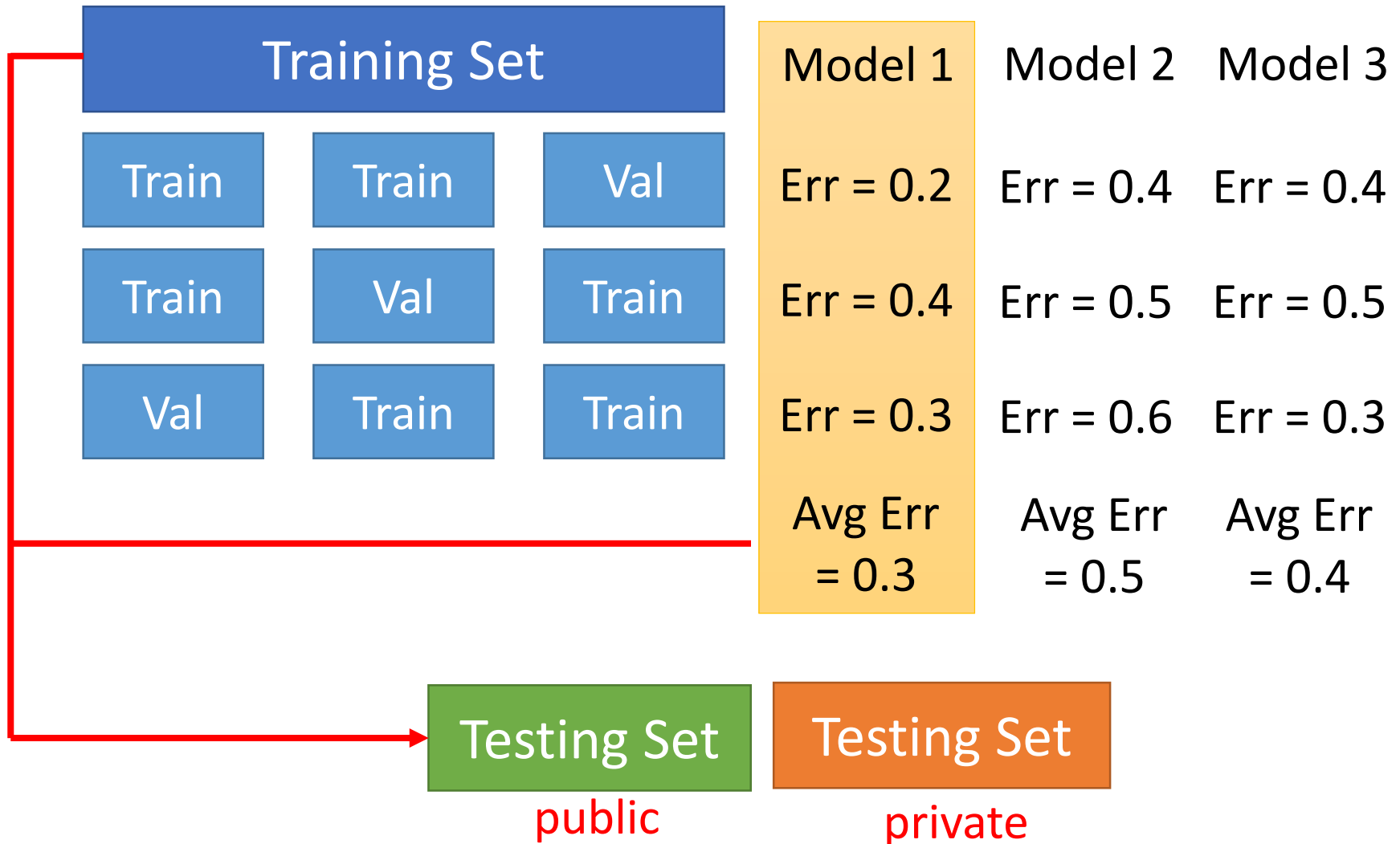
<http://www.chioka.in/how-to-select-your-final-models-in-a-kaggle-competitio/>



# Cross Validation



# N-fold Cross Validation



# Reference

- Bishop: Chapter 3.2

个人对于这个PPT的总结：

1 variance (方差) 表示的是 $f^*$ 与 $f^\wedge$ 的离散程度。越复杂的函数， $f^*$ 可选区域更大，它出现的点更分散，也就是离散程度更大，方差也就更大。越简单的函数， $f^*$ 的可选区域更小，它出现的点更集中，也就是方差更小。

当variance大时，这说明函数过于复杂，也就是说出现 过拟合 (overfitting) ；  
增加数据量；正则化 (正则化会使函数变平滑，可能会增大bias)

2 bias (偏差) 表示的是多次实验的 $f^*$ 的中心与 $f^\wedge$ 的距离。bias的大小取决于函数的复杂程度 (函数的复杂度来自于特征的数量与特征的次数)，函数的复杂程度越低， $f^*$ 可选的范围就越小，很可能就没有包括 $f^\wedge$ ，所以bias大；当函数复杂程度比较高时， $f^*$ 的选取范围更大，更有可能包括 $f^\wedge$ ，所以bias小。

当bias大时，这说明函数欠拟合 (underfitting) ；  
重新设计函数：增加特征数，增加特征的次数。

简单的函数，曲线平滑，其bias较大，variance较小；复杂的函数相反。