

# UNCERTAINTY QUANTIFICATION

DEEL MASTERCLASS

JOSEBA DALMAU



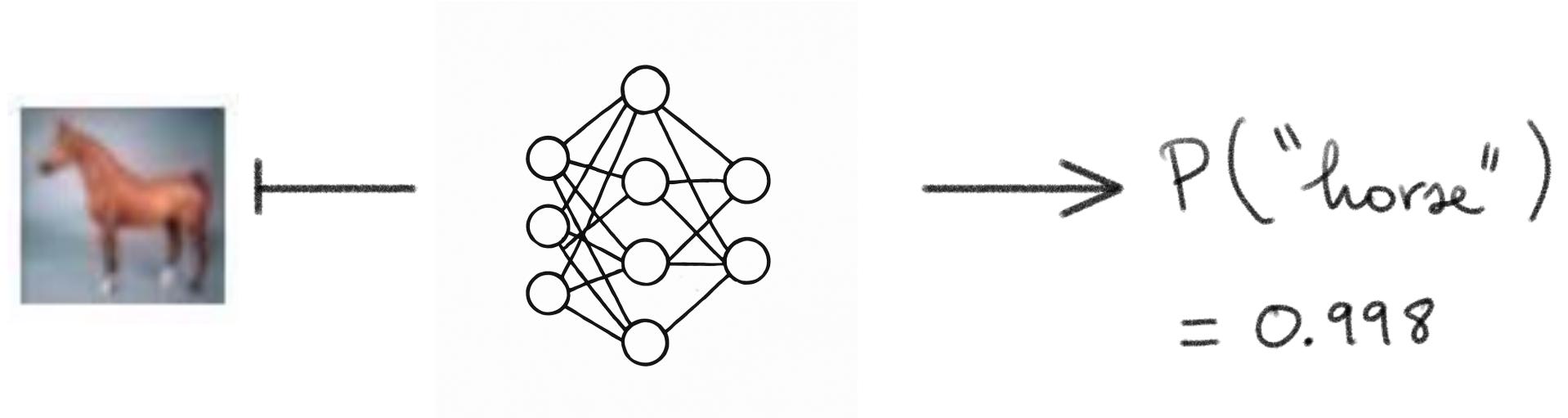
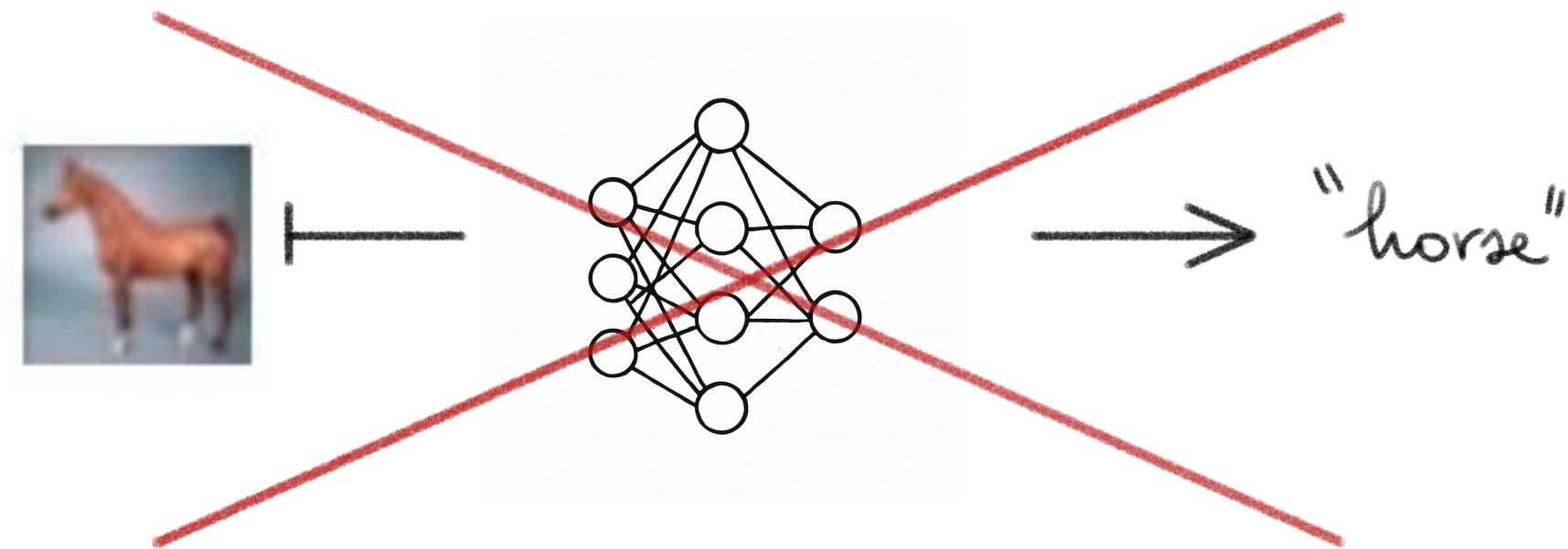
Dependable, Explainable & Embeddable Learning



# UNCERTAINTY QUANTIFICATION IN DEEP LEARNING

- Can we trust the predictions of our models ?
- Under what circumstances ?
- To what extent ?

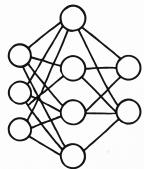
# NNs ARE ILL-CALIBRATED



# NNs ARE ILL-CALIBRATED



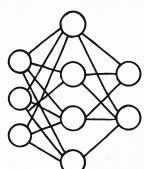
T



$$\rightarrow P(\text{"horse"}) \\ = 0.998$$



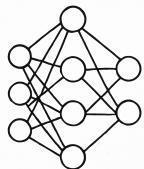
T



$$\rightarrow P(\text{"horse"}) \\ = 0.998$$



T

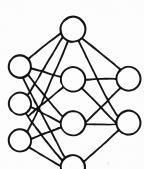


$$\rightarrow P(\text{"horse"}) \\ = 0.998$$

⋮



T



$$\rightarrow P(\text{"horse"}) \\ = 0.998$$



Proportion of  
correct answers

IS NOT  
0.998

# CLASSICAL UQ TECHNIQUES

- Bayesian methods
- Ensembling
- Dropout
- ...



NON POST-HOC

WITHOUT GUARANTEES

## CONFORMAL PREDICTION:

### OBJECTIVE AND GUARANTEE

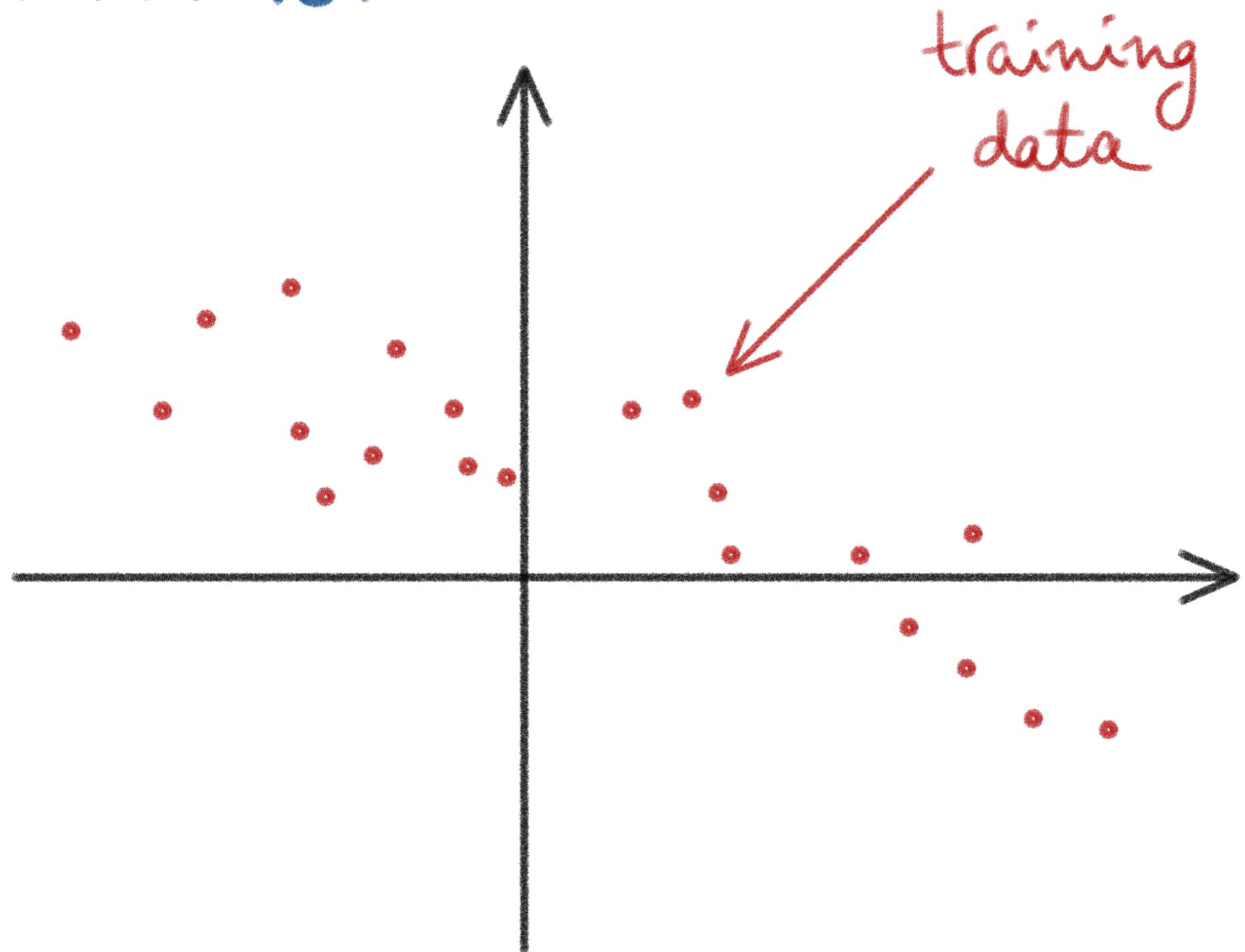
Given: a predictor  $\hat{f}: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$   
and a nominal error rate  $\alpha$ .

Build:  $\hat{C}_\alpha: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Y})$

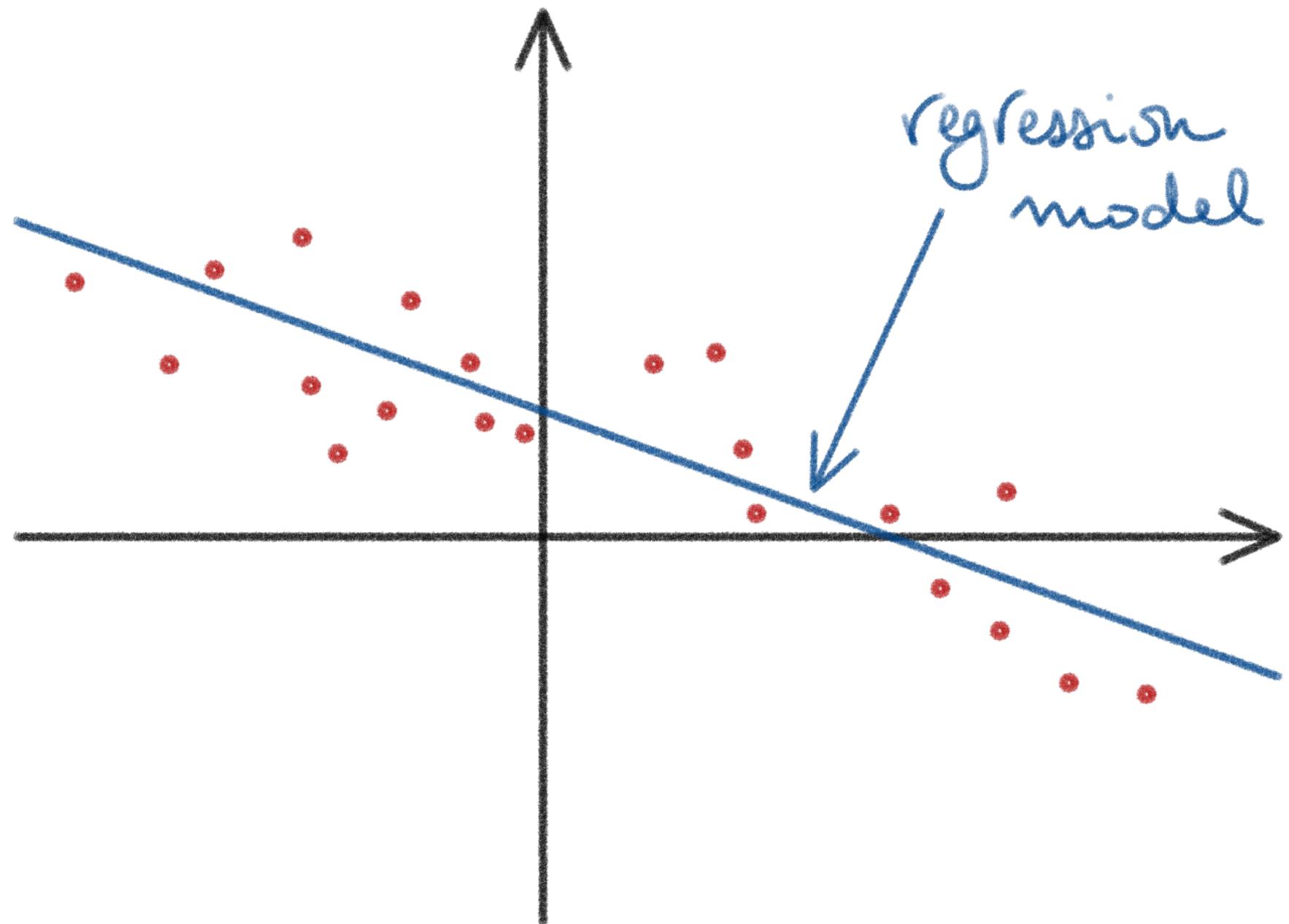
With the following guarantee:

$$\mathbb{P}(y_{\text{test}} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(x_{\text{test}})) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

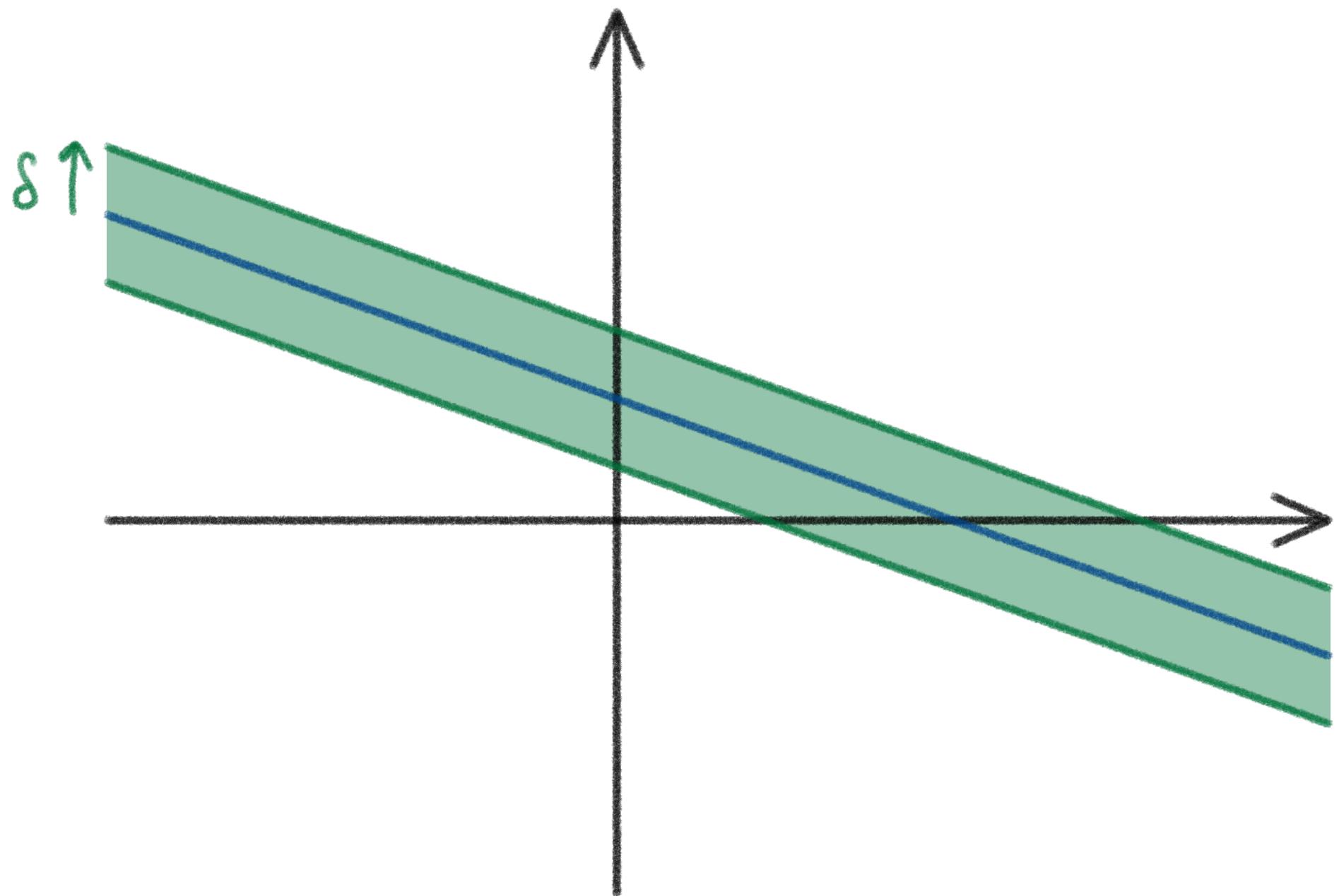
# INTUITION



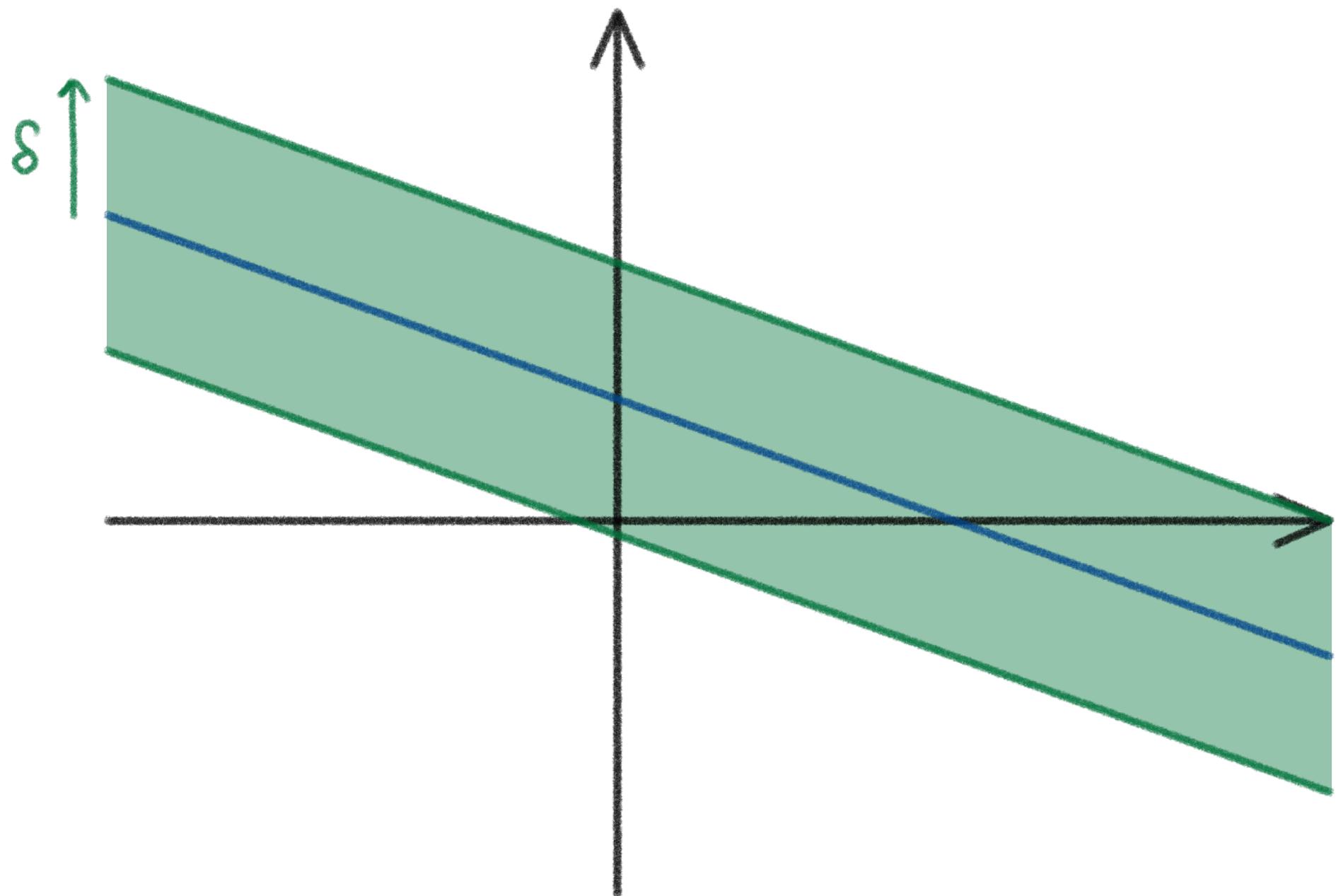
# INTUITION



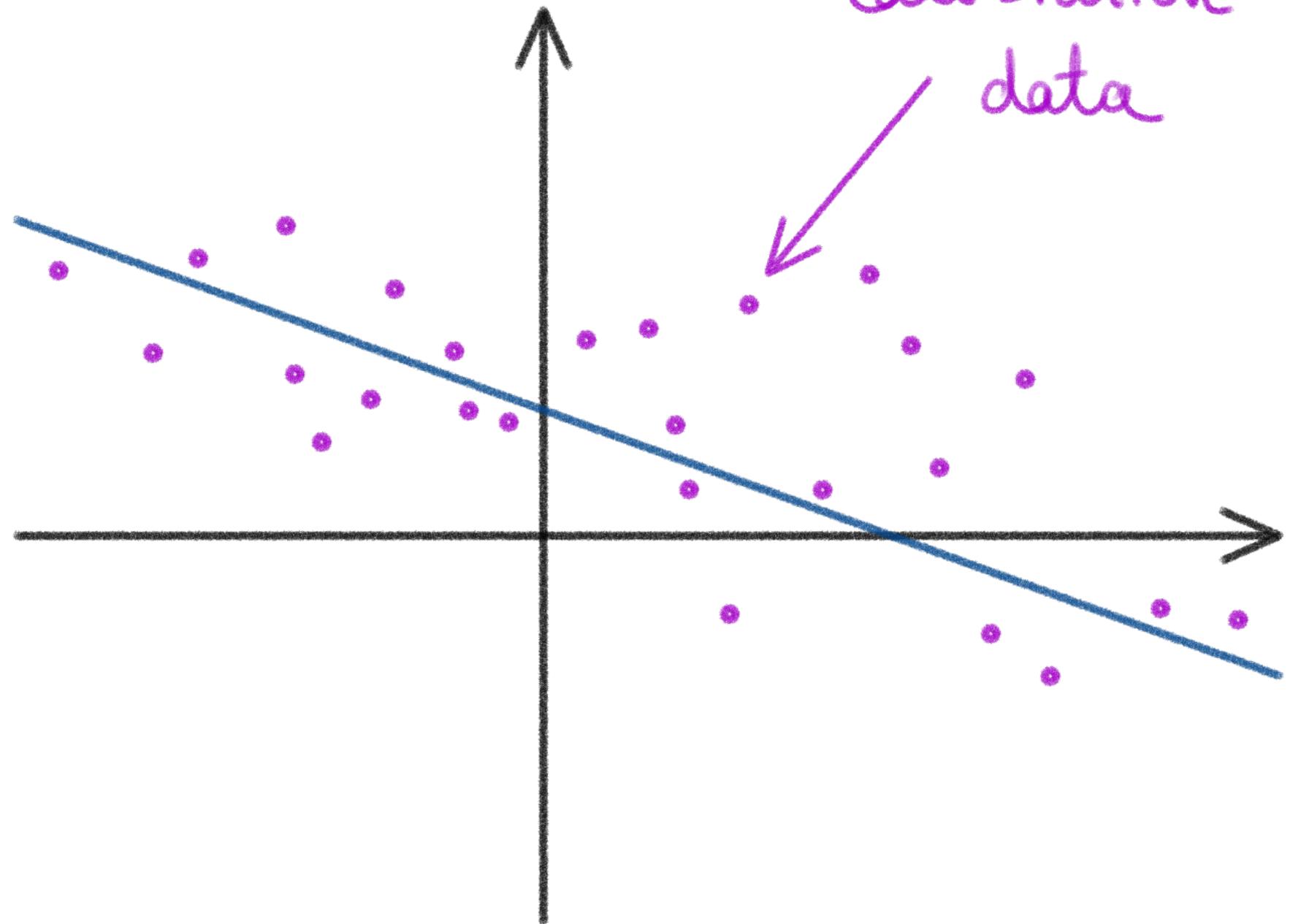
# INTUITION



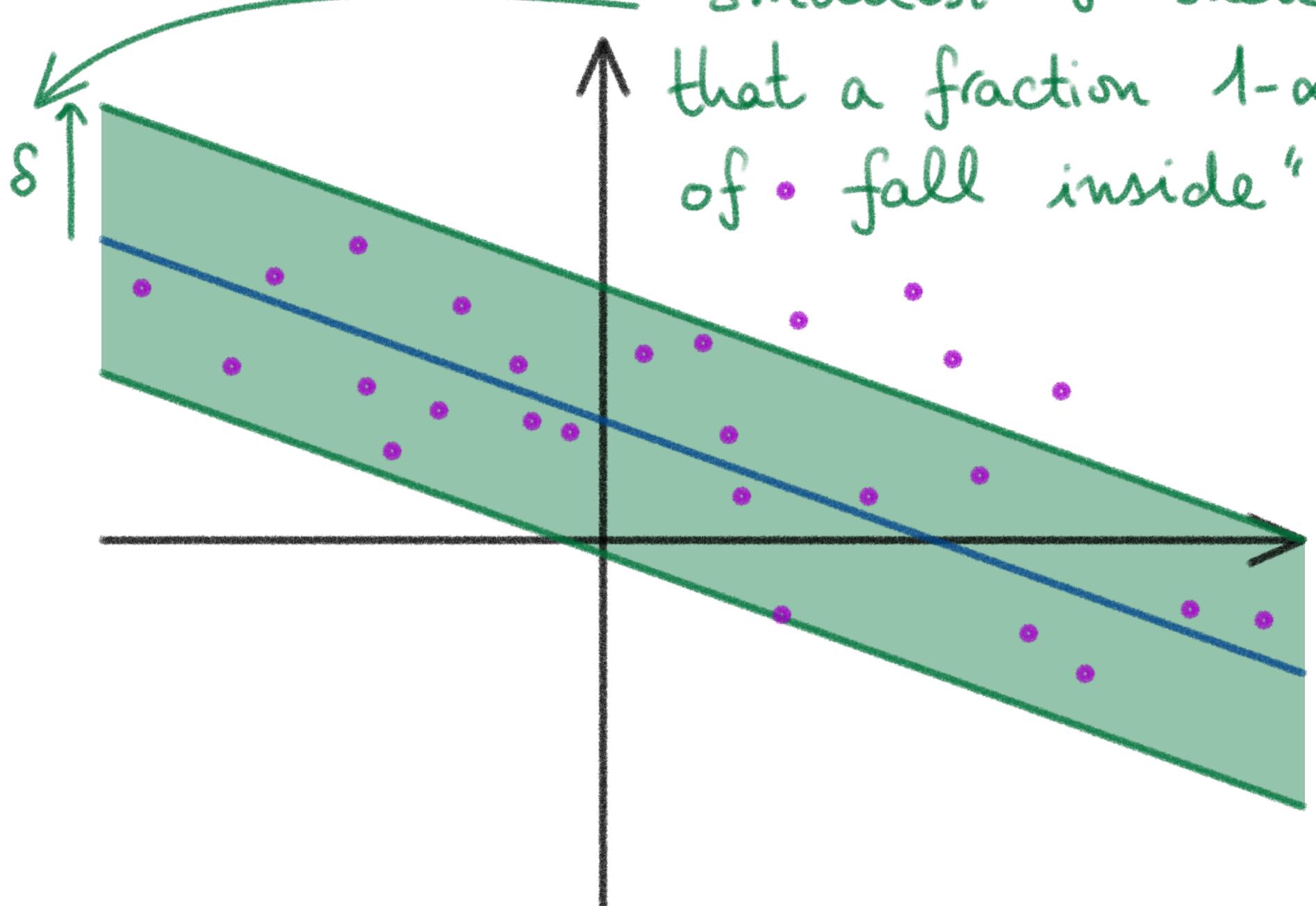
# INTUITION



# INTUITION



# INTUITION



# OUTLINE

→ Conformal Regression

- Theorem
- Jackknife+ / CV+
- CQR

→ Conformal Classification

- LAC
- APS / RAPS

# CONFORMAL REGRESSION

Given:  $\hat{f}: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $\alpha$ .

Build:  $\hat{C}_\alpha: X \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Y)$

With the following guarantee:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{\text{test}} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{\text{test}})) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

# CONFORMAL REGRESSION

Given:  $\hat{f}: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $\alpha$ .

Build:  $\hat{C}_\alpha: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})}_{\text{usually an interval!}}$

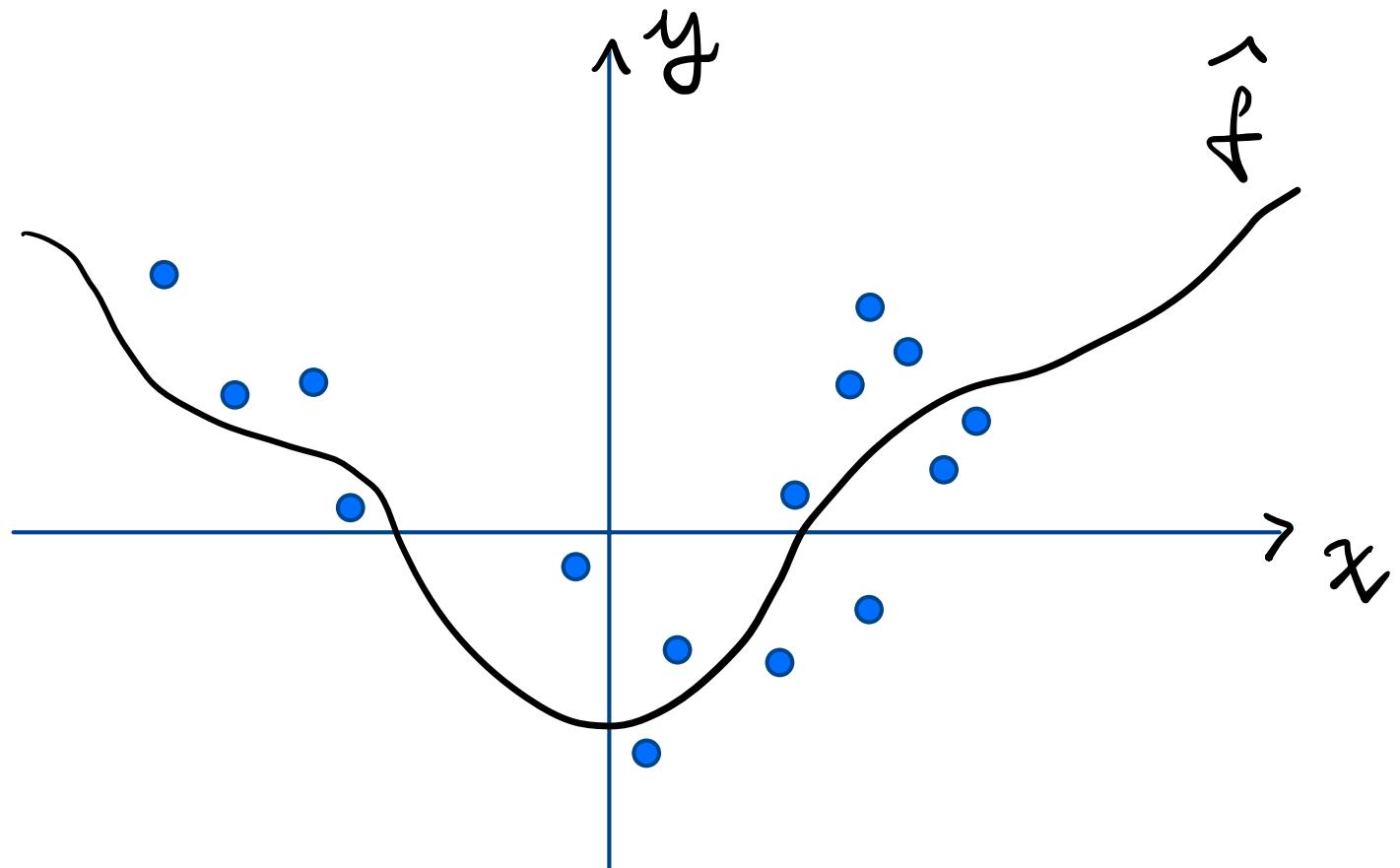
With the following guarantee:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{\text{test}} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{\text{test}})) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

# CALIBRATION

We use a calibration set

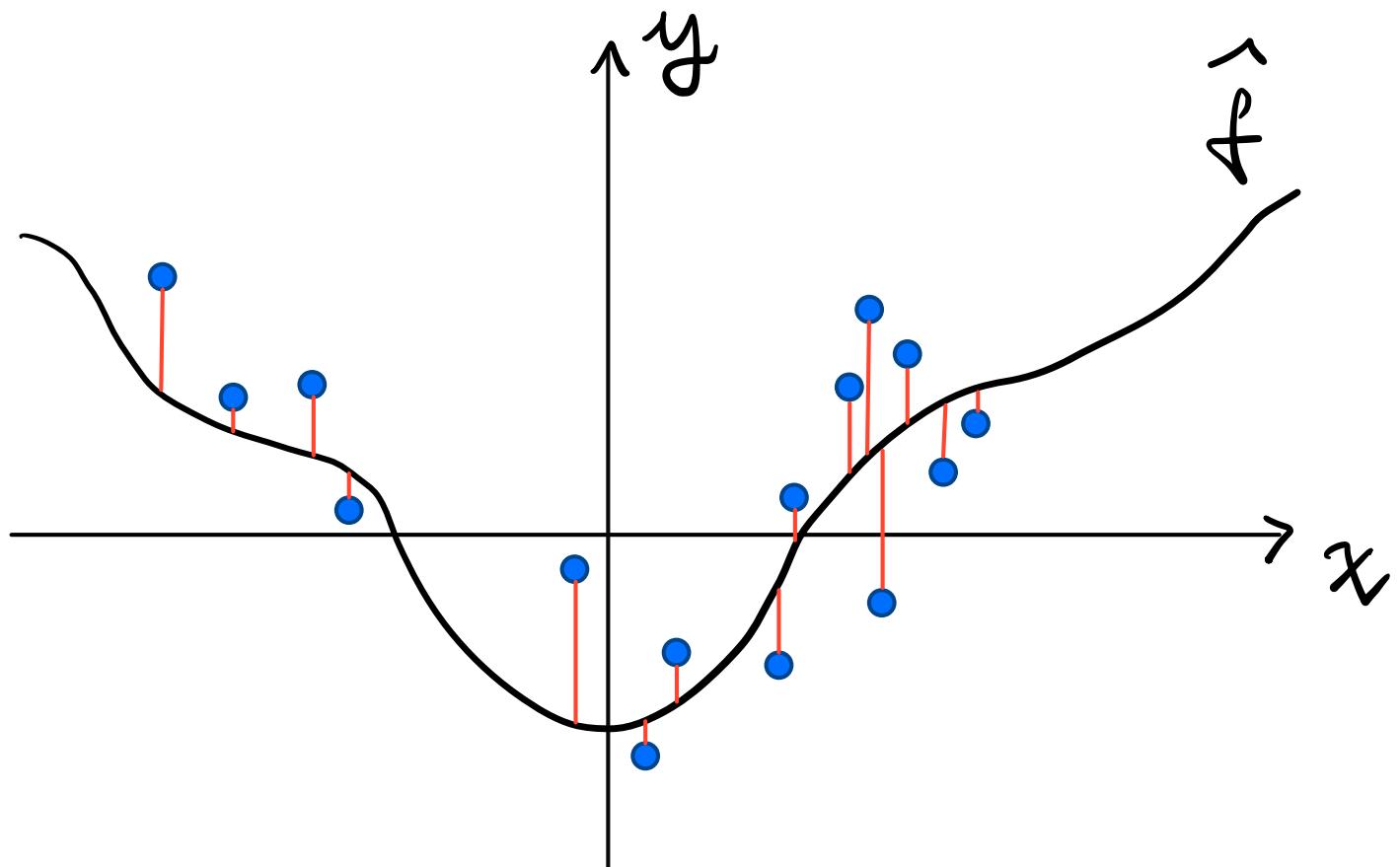
$$D_{\text{calib}} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$$



# CALIBRATION

We measure the **scores** (errors)

$$S_i = |y_i - \hat{f}(x_i)|$$



# CALIBRATION

We compute:

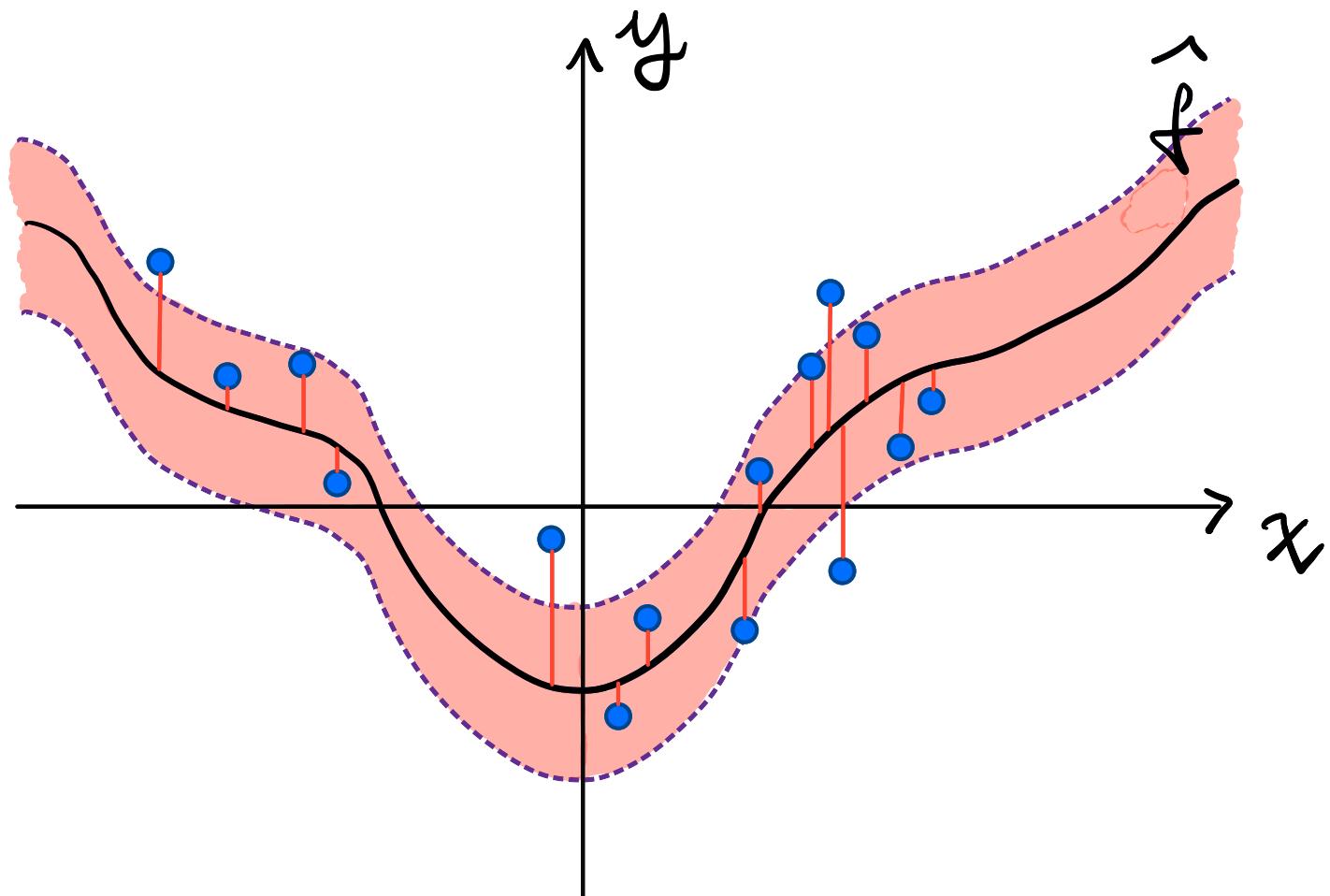
$s_\alpha :=$  the  $\frac{\lceil (n+1)(1-\alpha) \rceil}{n}$ -th

quantile of the scores  $s_1, \dots, s_n$

i.e. the  $\lceil (n+1)(1-\alpha) \rceil$ -th  
smallest score.

# CALIBRATION

We predict  $\hat{C}_\alpha(x) = [\hat{f}(x) - \delta_\alpha, \hat{f}(x) + \delta_\alpha]$



# EXERCISE

1. Write down the pseudocode of the Split Conformal Regression algorithm
2. Should we add any constraints on the nominal error rate  $\alpha$ ?

**Hint:** there may be a problem when choosing the " $\lceil n+1 \rceil(1-\alpha)^{\frac{1}{n}}$ -th smallest score"

## GUARANTEE (VovK et al 1999)

Theorem.- Given a calibration set

$\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$  and a test point  $(x_{n+1}, y_{n+1})$ ,

if the scores  $s_i = |y_i - \hat{f}(x_i)|$  are exchangeable, then the interval

$\hat{C}_\alpha(x_{n+1}) = [\hat{f}(x_{n+1}) - s_\alpha, \hat{f}(x_{n+1}) + s_\alpha]$   
satisfies:

$$P(y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(x_{n+1})) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

# EXCHANGABILITY

The random variables  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  are exchangeable if:

For any  $\pi \in \{ \text{permutations of } \{1, \dots, n\} \}$

$$X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(n)} \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} X_1, \dots, X_n$$

Exercise.— Give an example of an array of r.v.s that are exchangeable but not i.i.d.

# EXCHANGABILITY

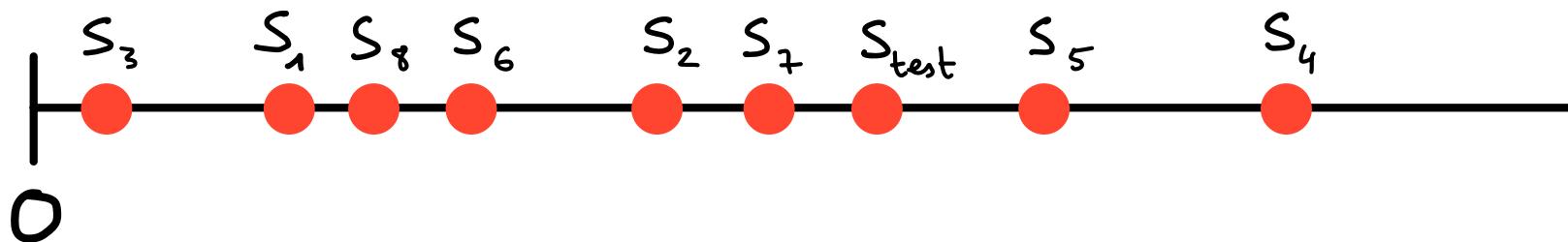
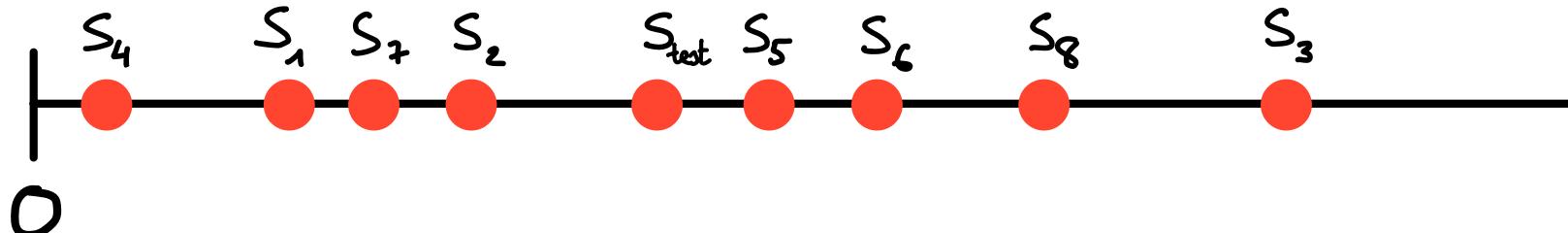
The random variables  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  are exchangeable if:

For any  $\pi \in \{ \text{permutations of } \{1, \dots, n\} \}$

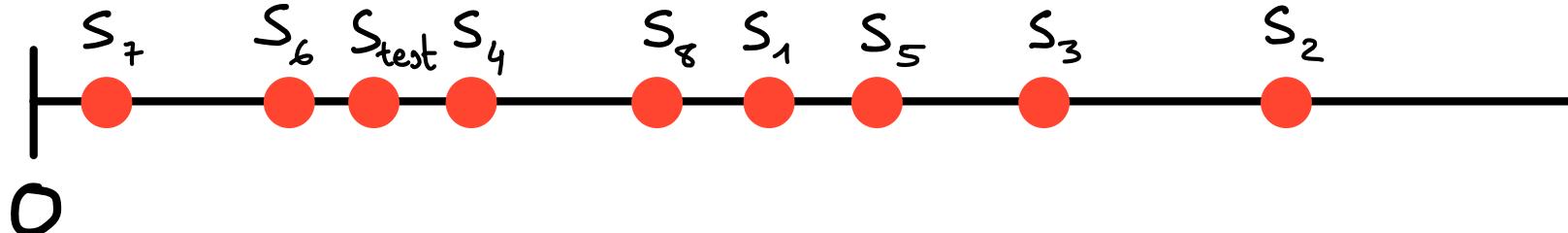
$$X_{\pi(1)}, \dots, X_{\pi(n)} \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} X_1, \dots, X_n$$

Example:  $Z_1, \dots, Z_n$  i.i.d.  $\Rightarrow X_i = \frac{Z_i}{\sum_{j=1}^n |Z_j|}$   
exchangeable

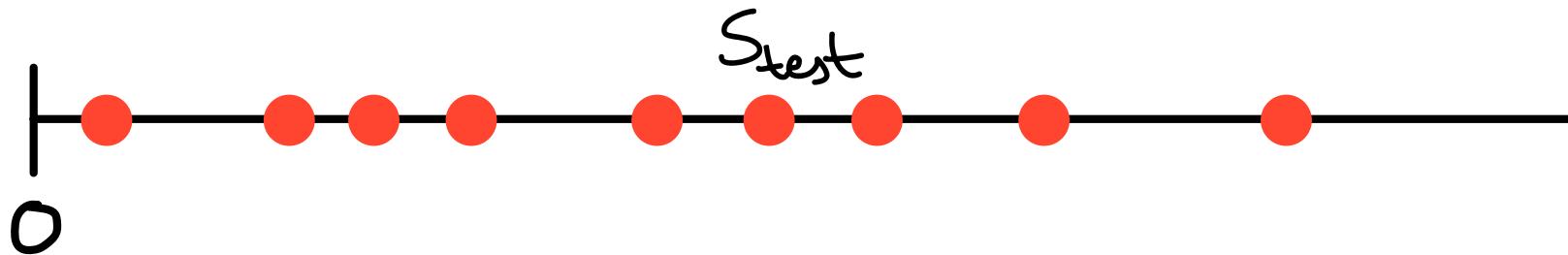
# PROOF



⋮



# PROOF



$P(\text{Rank of } S_{\text{test}} = k)$

$$= \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} = \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$\Rightarrow \text{Rank of } S_{\text{test}} \sim \text{Unif}(\{1, \dots, n+1\})$

## PROOF

Rank of  $S_{\text{test}}$   $\sim \text{Unif}(\{1, \dots, n+1\})$

$$\Rightarrow P(\text{Rank of } S_{\text{test}} \leq K) = \frac{K}{n+1}$$

We choose the smallest  $K$  s.t.

$$\frac{K}{n+1} \geq 1 - \alpha \text{ i.e. } K^* = \lceil \Gamma(n+1)(1-\alpha) \rceil$$

## PROOF

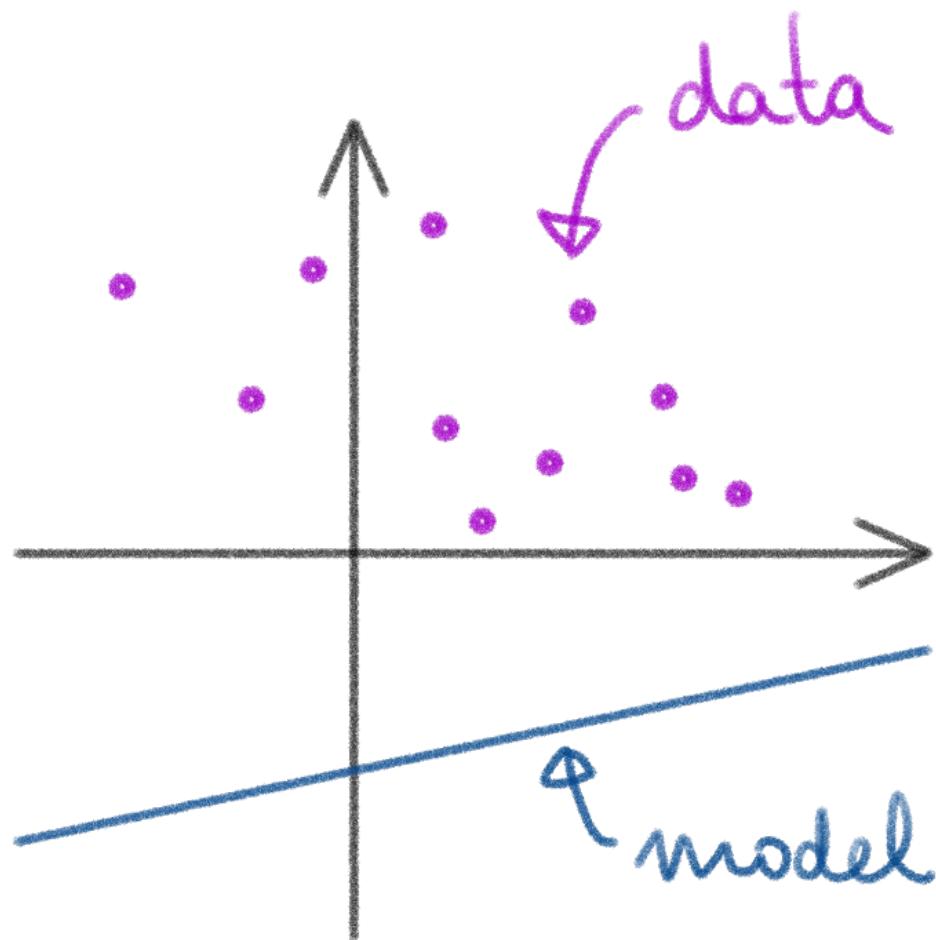
Then:  $P(S_{\text{test}} \text{ (Rank of } \leq K^*) \geq 1-\alpha$

Rank of  $\leq K^*$   
 $S_{\text{test}}$

$\Leftrightarrow S_{\text{test}} \leq \text{the } K^{\text{-th}}$

smallest score  $S_1, \dots, S_m$

# Too Good To BE TRUE ?



No assumptions  
on the model

$$\hat{f}$$

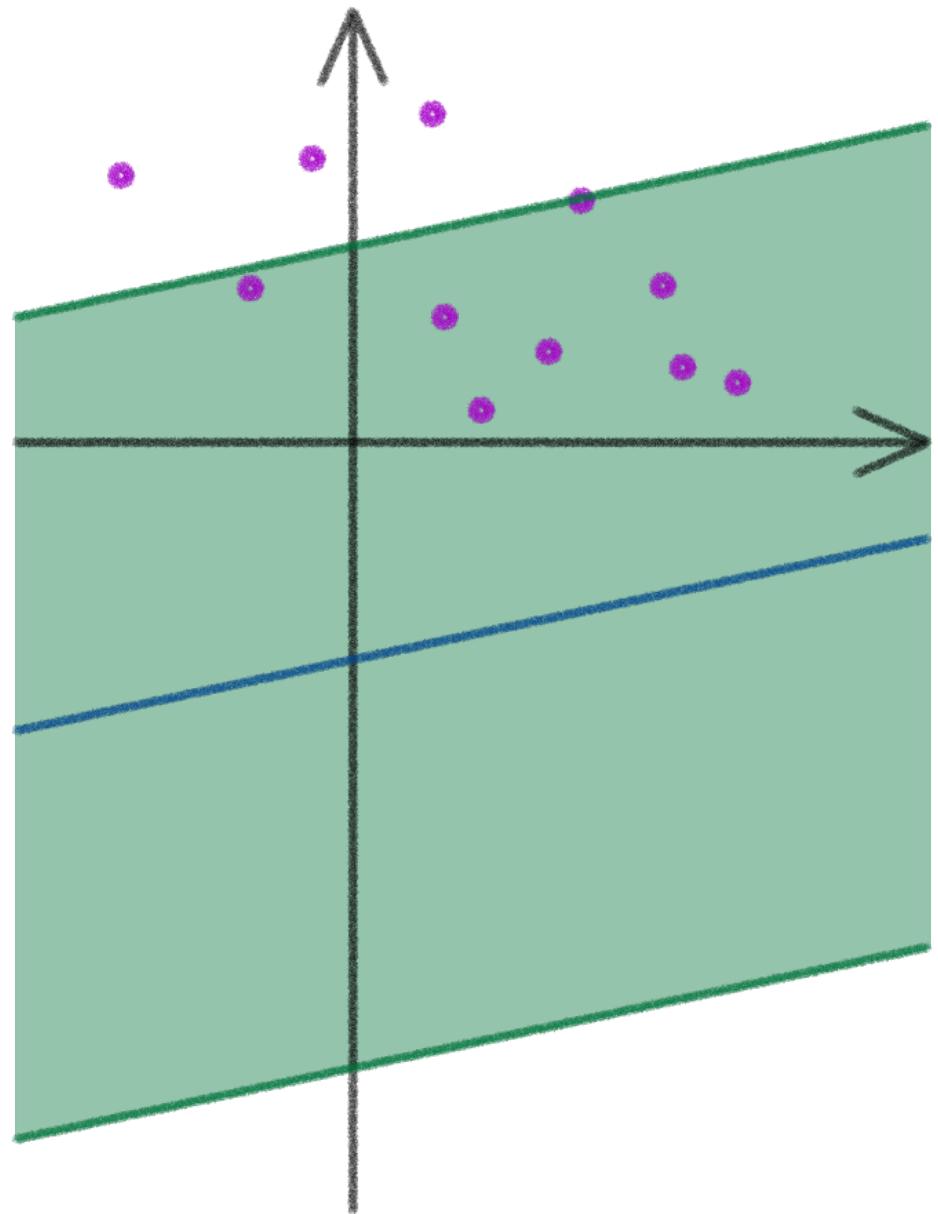
No assumptions  
on the data  
distribution  $P$ .

# Too Good To BE TRUE ?



$\hat{f}$  bad

$\hat{C}_\alpha$  very  
large



## ADVANTAGES

- Post-hoc
- Distribution-free
- Minimal hypotheses
- Finite-sample guarantee

## LIMITATIONS

1. Calibration - marginal guarantee
2. Non-conditional guarantee
3. Need for calibration data
4. Bad with heteroscedastic data

1. CALIBRATION- MARGINAL

GUARANTEE

Calibration- marginal guarantee:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1})) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

how is this set  
constructed?

Calibration- marginal guarantee:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1})) \geq 1-\alpha$$

$$\hat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) = [\hat{f}(X_{n+1}) - \delta_\alpha, \hat{f}(X_{n+1}) + \delta_\alpha]$$

$\delta_\alpha = \lceil (n+1)(1-\alpha) \rceil$  smallest score

$$S_1 = |\hat{f}(x_1) - y_1|, \dots, S_n = |\hat{f}(x_n) - y_n|$$

Calibration- marginal guarantee:

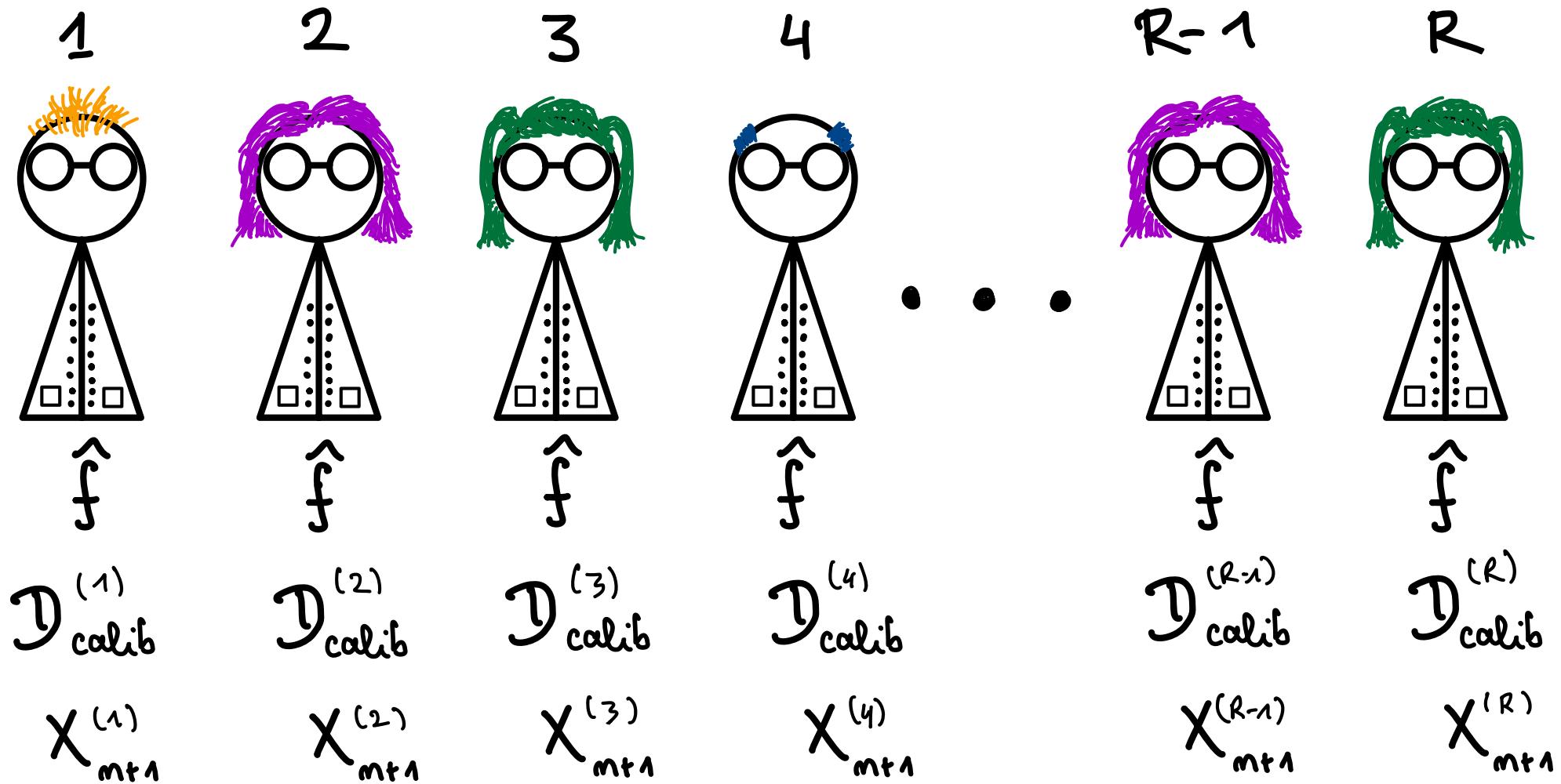
$$\underbrace{\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}))}_{\text{---}} \geq 1-\alpha$$



On average over the draw  
of the calibration set !

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}(X_{n+1}) \mid \{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n) \geq 1-\alpha ?$$

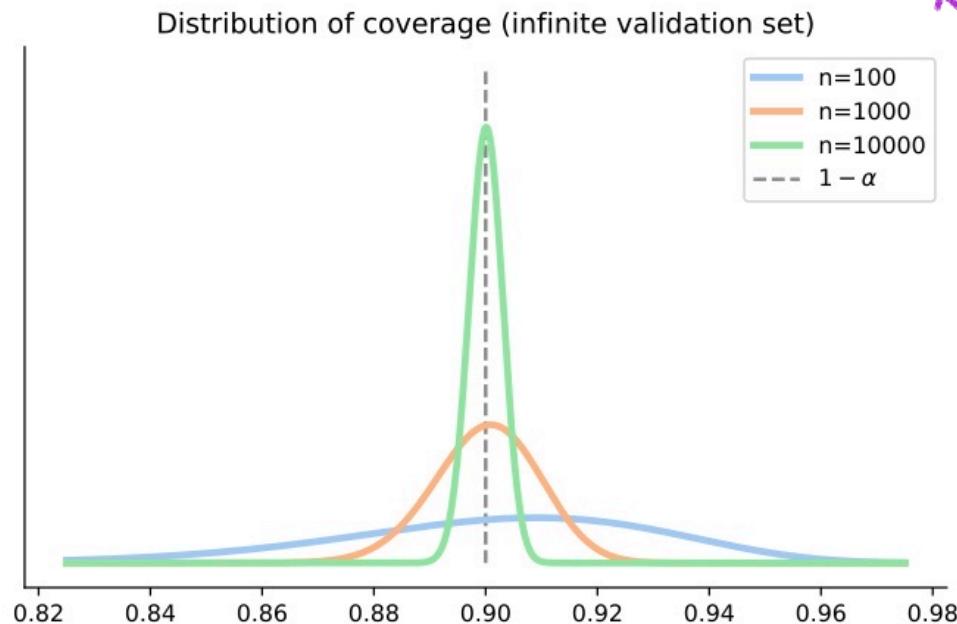
Calibration- marginal guarantee:



# CALIBRATION-CONDITIONAL COVERAGE

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \mathcal{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) \mid \{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n) \sim \text{Beta}(n+1-\ell, \ell)$$

with  $\ell = \lfloor L(n+1) \alpha \rfloor$



\*

We can pick  $\delta > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$  and choose  $n(\varepsilon) = |D^{\text{calib}}|$  so that with proba  $1 - \delta$

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \mathcal{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) \mid D^{\text{calib}}) \geq 1 - \alpha - \varepsilon$$

$\varepsilon$	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.005	0.001
$n(\varepsilon)$	22	102	2491	9812	244390

\*

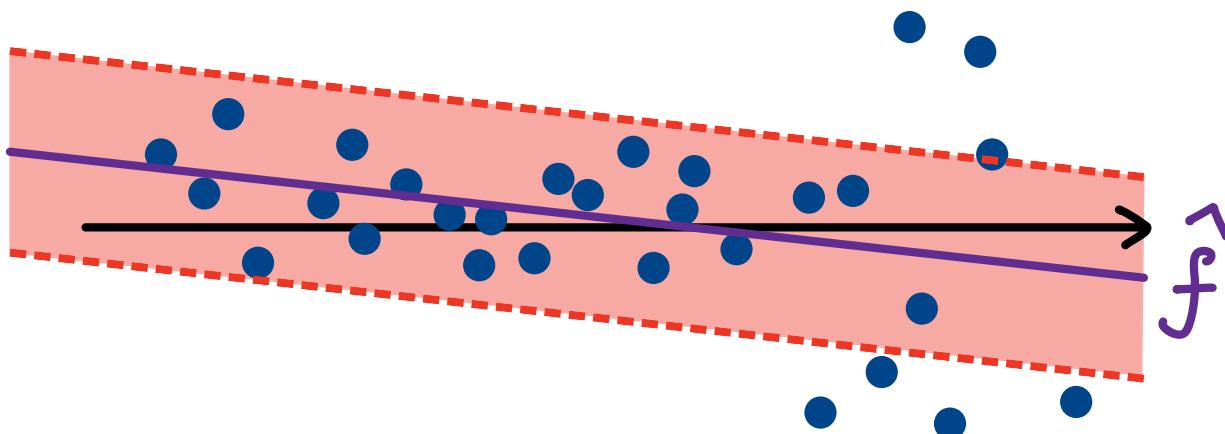
\* Angelopoulos et al, 2022

2. Non-CONDITIONAL  
GUARANTEE

Non-conditional guarantee

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1})) \geq 1-\alpha \quad \checkmark$$

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) | X_{n+1} = x) \geq 1-\alpha \quad \times$$



# CP EVALUATION

2 main metrics :

→ Coverage :

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}^{\text{test}}|} \sum_{(x,y) \in \mathcal{D}^{\text{test}}} \mathbb{1}_{y \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha(x)}$$

should be close to  $1 - \alpha$



We are approximating

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{m+1} \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha(X_{m+1}) | \mathcal{D}^{\text{cal}})$$

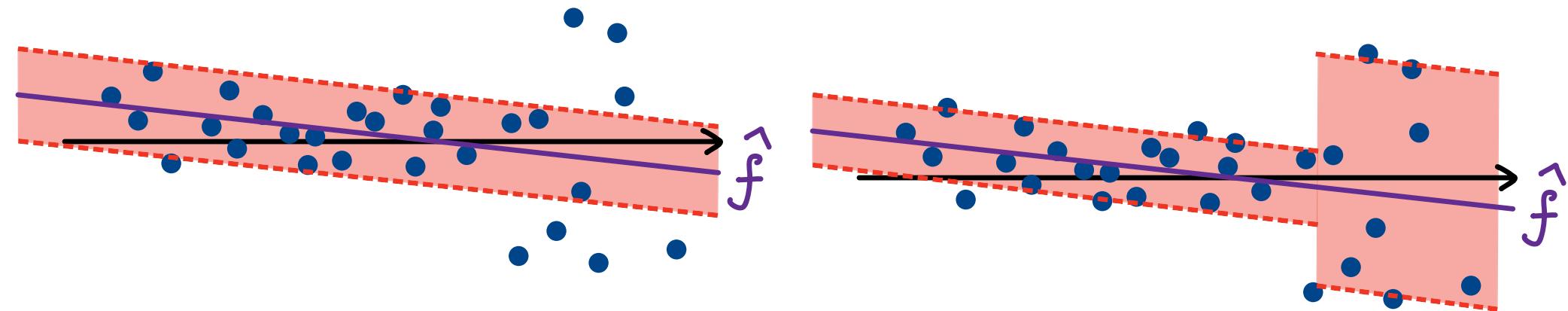
# CP EVALUATION

→ average size of prediction sets:

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}^{\text{test}}|} \sum_{(x,y) \in \mathcal{D}^{\text{test}}} |\mathcal{C}_\alpha(x)|$$



Smaller isn't always better!



# IMPOSSIBILITY OF CONDITIONAL COVERAGE

Theorem (Vovk 2012)

If  $\hat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha$  is such that

$$\mathbb{P}(T_{m+1} \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha(X_{m+1}) \mid X_{m+1} = x) \geq 1 - \alpha \quad \forall x$$

$\Rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha = \mathbb{R}$  (except on some very particular cases)

## GROUP - BALANCED CP (Vovk 2012)

Assume  $X = \bigcup_{g=1}^G X_g$  (partition)

we want :

$$\underline{P}(Y_{m+1} \in \hat{\ell}_\alpha(X_{m+1}) \mid X_{m+1} \in X_g) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

Exercise.- Write an algorithm that achieves the above coverage by calibrating on each of the  $X_g$  independently.

Solution .- Define  $\mathcal{D}_g^{\text{cal}} = \{(x, y) \in \mathcal{D}^{\text{cal}} : x \in \mathcal{X}_g\}$

(i) Compute the non-conformity scores:

$$S_i^{(g)} = |y_i - \hat{f}(x_i)| \quad \text{for } i=1, \dots, n_g := |\mathcal{D}_g^{\text{cal}}|$$

(ii) Compute the quantiles:

$s^{(g)} = \lceil (n_g + 1)(1-\alpha) \rceil$  smallest score  
from  $S_1^{(g)}, \dots, S_{n_g}^{(g)}$

(iii) Build the prediction set: for  $g$  s.t.  $x_{n+1} \in \mathcal{X}_g$

$$\mathcal{C}_\alpha(x_{n+1}) = [\hat{f}(x_{n+1}) - s^{(g)}, \hat{f}(x_{n+1}) + s^{(g)}]$$

# CP WITH CONDITIONAL GUARANTEES (Gibbs et al. 2024)

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) | X_{n+1}) \geq 1-\alpha \quad \forall x$$



$$\mathbb{P}\left[f(X_{n+1}) (\mathbb{I}_{Y_{n+1} \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha(X_{n+1})} - (1-\alpha))\right] = 0$$

for all measurable  $f$ .

# CP WITH CONDITIONAL GUARANTEES

Gibbs et al. 2024

$$\mathbb{P} \left[ f(X_{n+1}) (\mathbb{I}_{Y_{n+1} \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha(X_{n+1})} - (1-\alpha)) \right] = 0$$

for all  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ .

Choosing the right  $\mathcal{F}$ :

- group-balanced coverage (overlapping groups)
- coverage under covariate shift

3. NEED FOR  
CALIBRATION DATA

# SPLIT CONFORMAL

Theorem. - Given a calibration set

$\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$  and a test point  $(x_{n+1}, y_{n+1})$ ,

if the scores  $s_i = |y_i - \hat{f}(x_i)|$  are

exchangeable, then the interval

$$\hat{C}_\alpha(x_{n+1}) = [\hat{f}(x_{n+1}) - s_\alpha, \hat{f}(x_{n+1}) + s_\alpha]$$

satisfies:

$$\mathbb{P}(y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(x_{n+1})) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

# SPLIT CONFORMAL

$\hat{f}$  model ( obtained by optimizing  
on  $\mathcal{D}^{\text{train}}$  )

$$\mathcal{D}^{\text{calib}} = \{ (x_i, y_i) \}_{i=1}^n \quad \begin{matrix} \text{calibration} \\ \text{data} \end{matrix}$$

$(x_{n+1}, y_{n+1})$  test point.

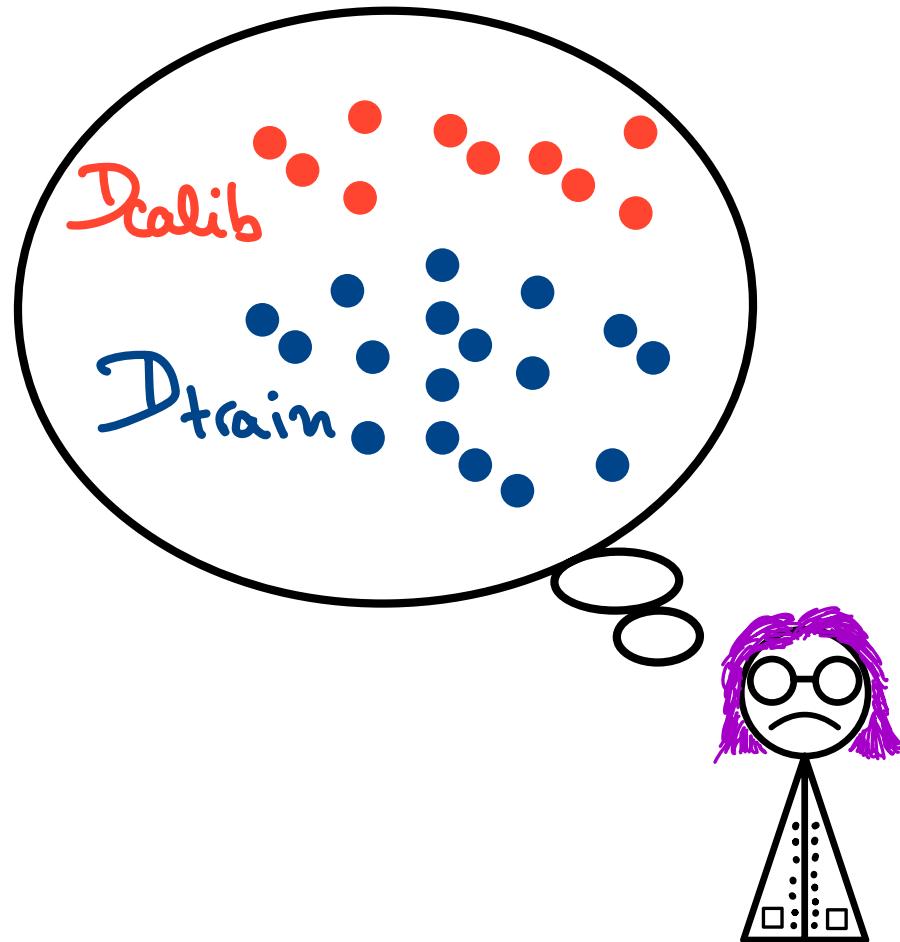
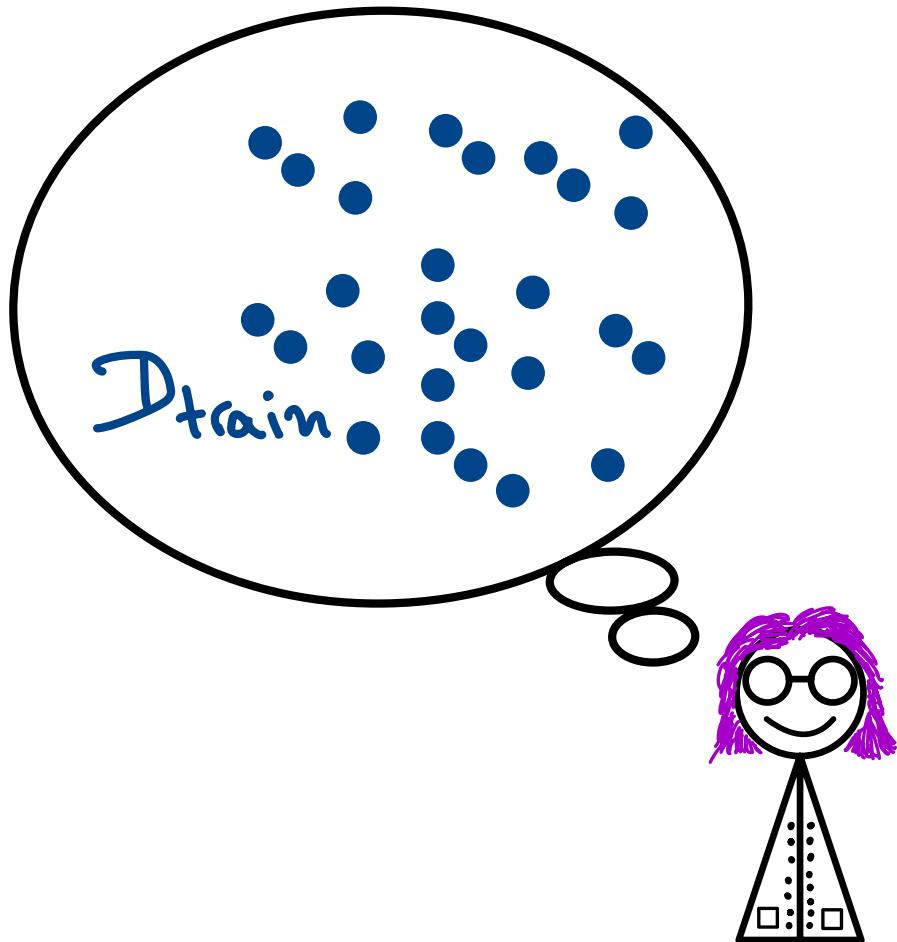


$$S_i = |y_i - \hat{f}(x_i)|, i=1, \dots, n+1$$

exchangeable

# LIMITATIONS

Need for calibration data



# JACKNIFE+ , CROSS-VALIDATION+ (Barber et al. 2019)

Partition the data :

$D_1$	$D_2$	$D_3$	• • •	$D_{k-1}$	$D_k$
-------	-------	-------	-------	-----------	-------



$$\hat{f}_{-D_1}$$

$D_1$	$D_2$	$D_3$	• • •	$D_{k-1}$	$D_k$
-------	-------	-------	-------	-----------	-------



$$\hat{f}_{-D_2}$$

$D_1$	$D_2$	$D_3$	• • •	$D_{k-1}$	$D_k$
-------	-------	-------	-------	-----------	-------



$$\hat{f}_{-D_3}$$

$D_1$	$D_2$	$D_3$	• • •	$D_{k-1}$	$D_k$
-------	-------	-------	-------	-----------	-------



$$\hat{f}_{-D_k}$$

# JACKNIFE+ , CROSS-VALIDATION+

Calibration:

$$S_i^{cv} = |Y_i - \hat{f}_{-D_{ind(i)}}(X_i)|, \quad i=1, \dots, n$$

# JACKNIFE+ , CROSS-VALIDATION+

Inference:

$\hat{e}_\alpha(x) := \lfloor \alpha(n+1) \rfloor$  - the smallest value of

$$\hat{f}_{-S_{\text{ind}(1)}}^{(x)-S_1^{\text{cv}}} \dots \hat{f}_{-S_{\text{ind}(n)}}^{(x)-S_n^{\text{cv}}}$$

$\hat{u}_\alpha(x) := \lceil (1-\alpha)(n+1) \rceil$ -th smallest value of

$$\hat{f}_{-S_{\text{ind}(1)}}^{(x)+S_1^{\text{cv}}} \dots \hat{f}_{-S_{\text{ind}(n)}}^{(x)+S_n^{\text{cv}}}$$

$$\hat{C}_\alpha(x) = [\hat{e}_\alpha(x), \hat{u}_\alpha(x)]$$

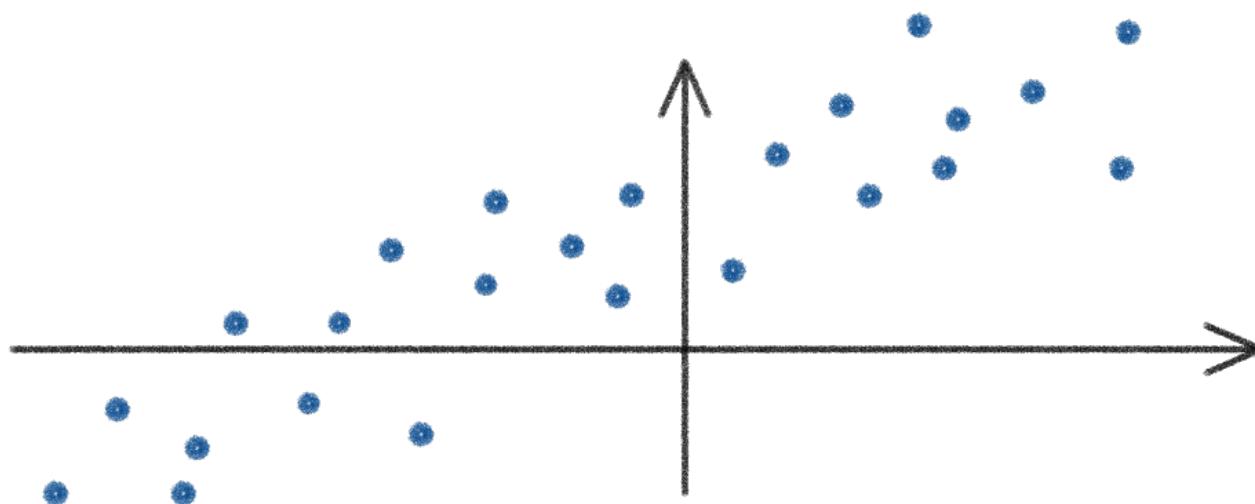
JACKNIFE+, CROSS-VALIDATION+

Guarantee:

$$P(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1})) \geq 1 - 2\alpha$$

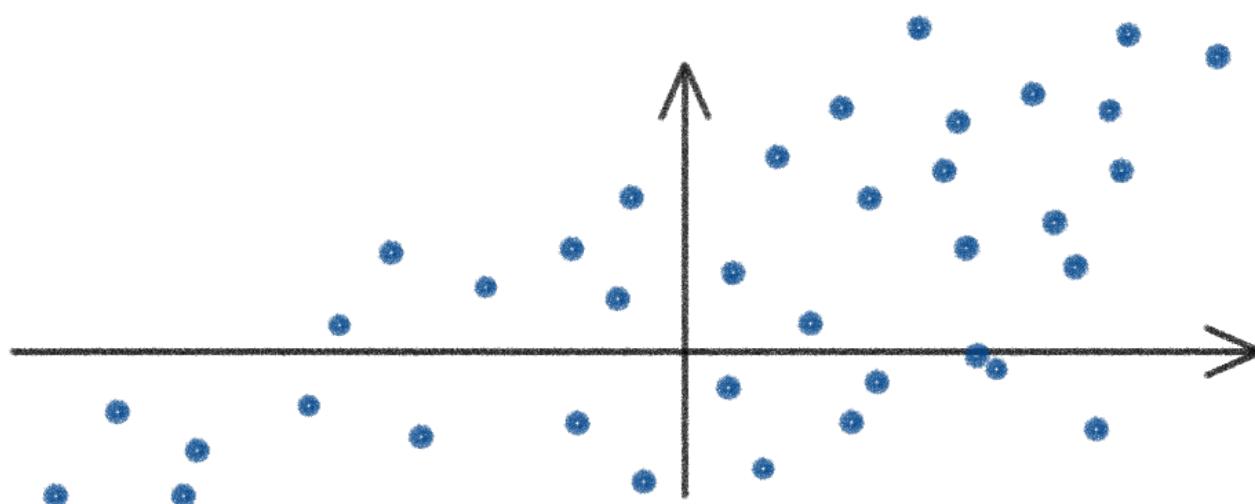
# 4. HETEROSCEDASTIC DATA

Homoscedastic data



$$\text{Var}(Y|X=x) = \text{constant}$$

Heteroscedastic data



$$\text{Var}(Y|X=x) = g(x)$$

## LOCALLY ADAPTIVE CP (Papadopoulos et al 2008)

Train a second model  $\hat{\sigma}$  such that

$$\hat{\sigma}(x) \approx |\hat{f}(x) - y|$$

(i) Compute  $\delta_\alpha$  from the non-conformity scores:

$$s_i = \frac{|\hat{f}(x_i) - y_i|}{\hat{\sigma}(x_i)}$$

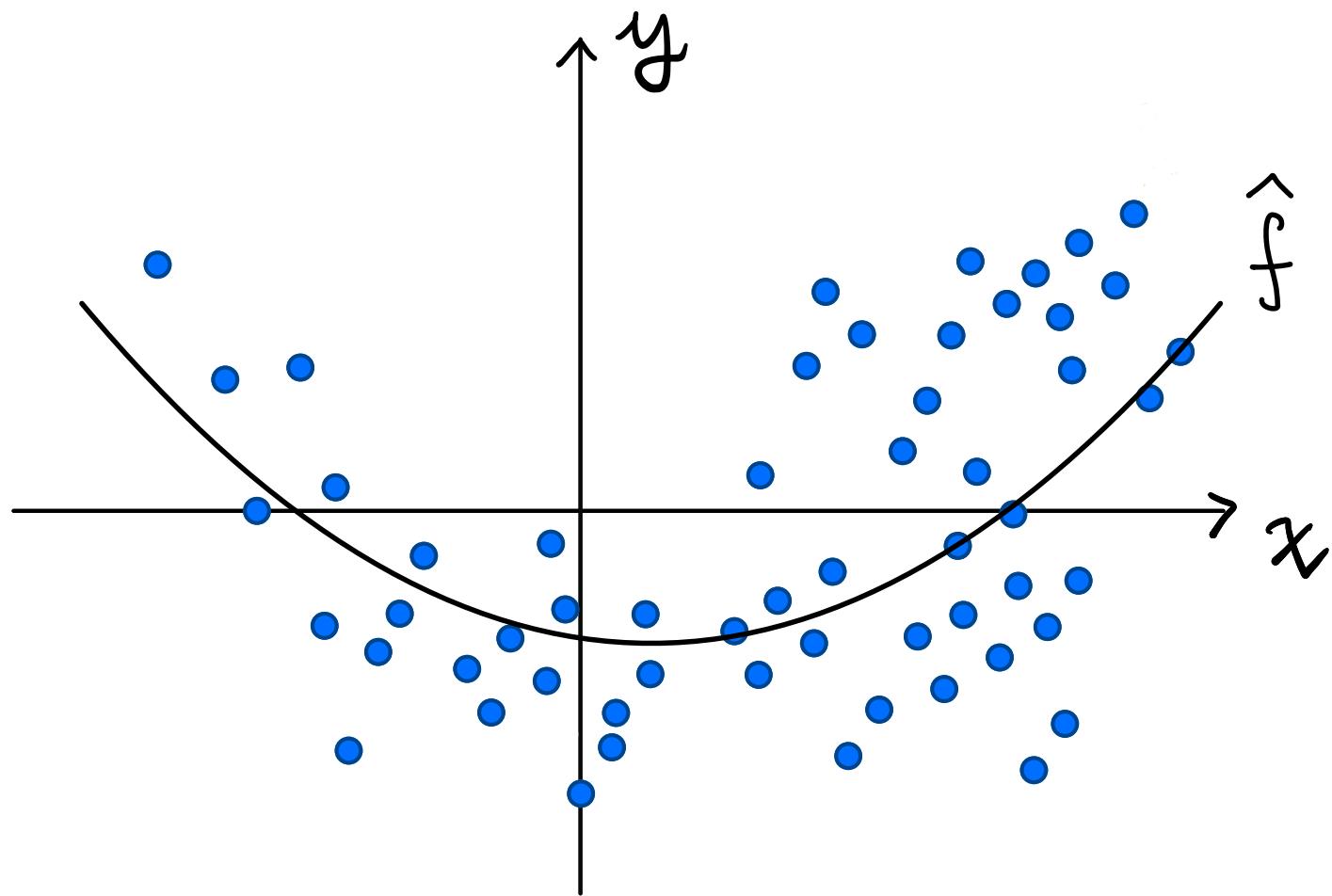
(ii) Build the prediction intervals as:

$$\hat{\mathcal{E}}_\alpha(x) = [\hat{f}(x) - \hat{\sigma}(x)\delta_\alpha, \hat{f}(x) + \hat{\sigma}(x)\delta_\alpha]$$

CQR : CONFORMAL

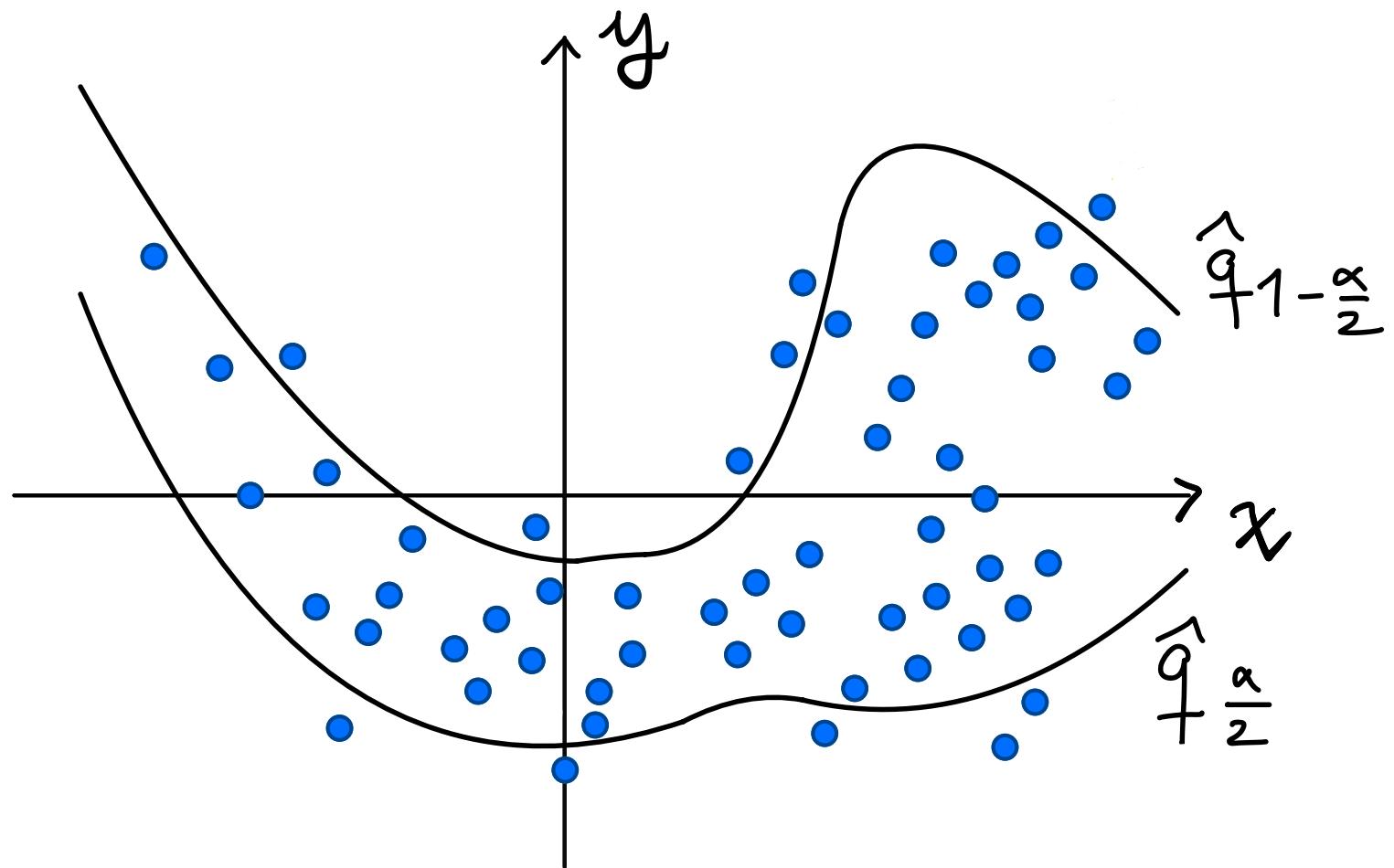
QUANTILE REGRESSION

(Romans et al 2019)



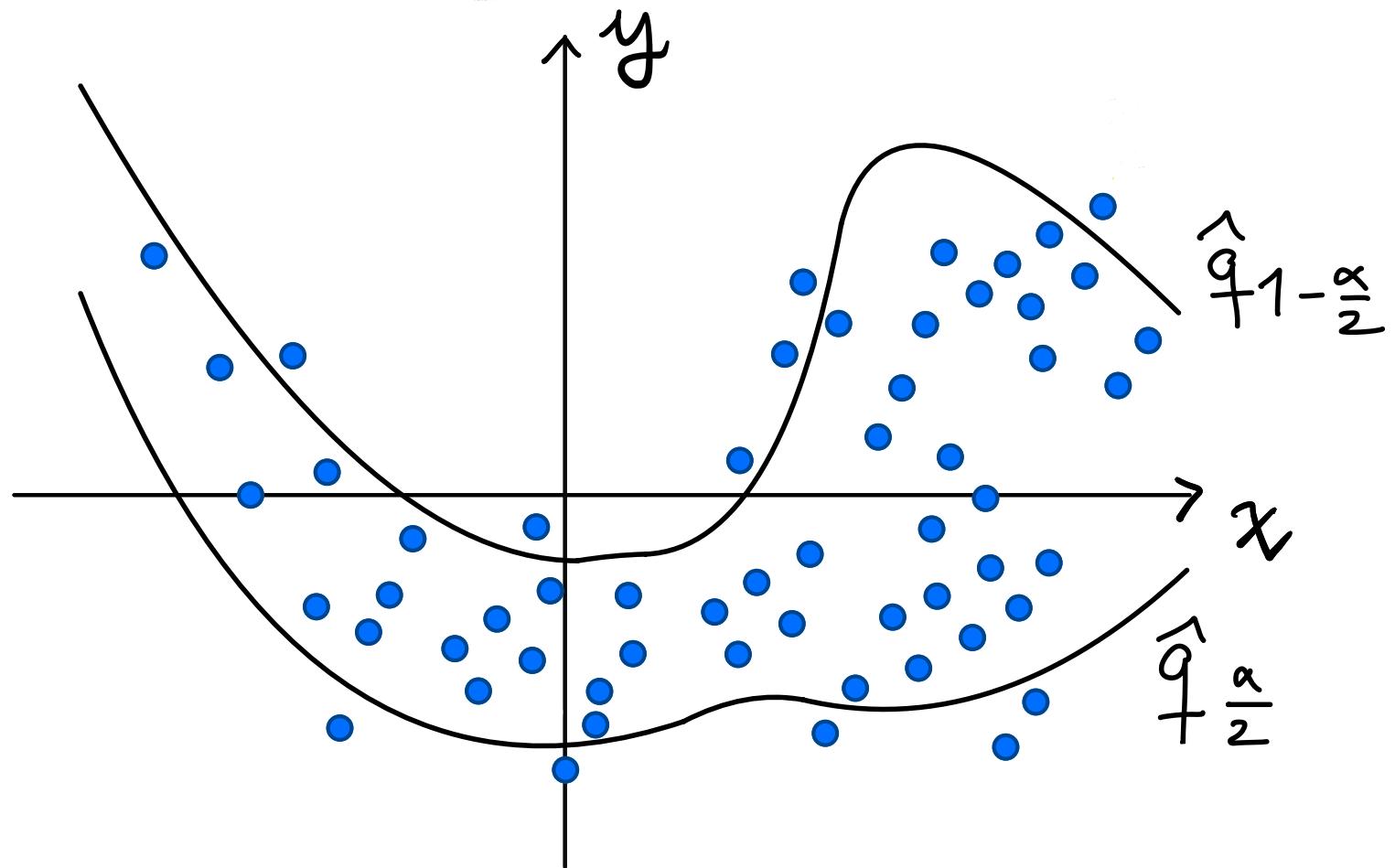
CQR

$$\hat{q}_t(x) \approx \mathbb{P}(Y < t | X = x)$$



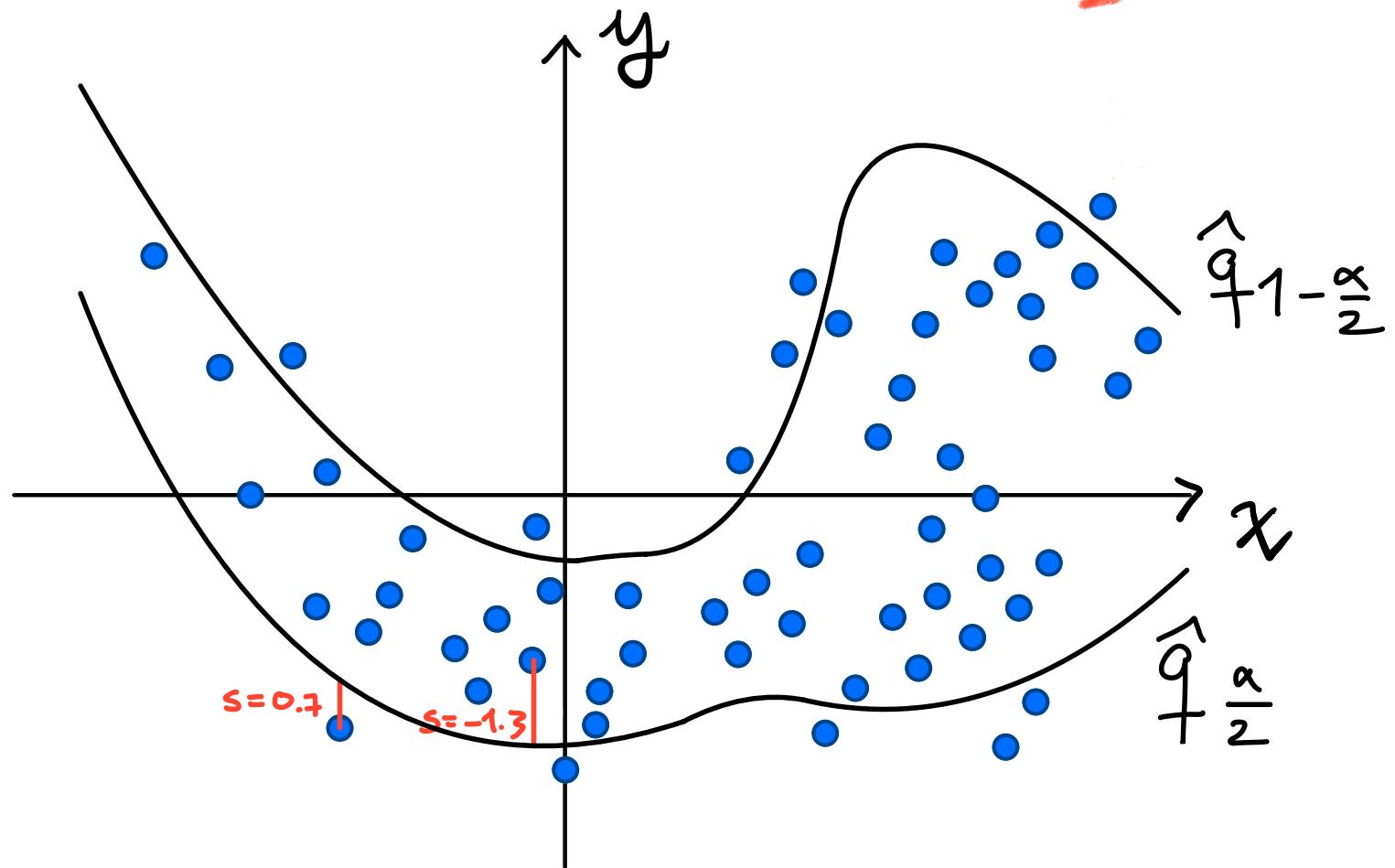
CQR

$$\mathbb{P}(Y \in [q_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}(x), q_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}(x)]) = ?$$



# CQR : CALIBRATION

$$S_i = \max\{q_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}(x_i) - y_i, y_i + q_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}(x_i)\}$$



# CQR : CALIBRATION

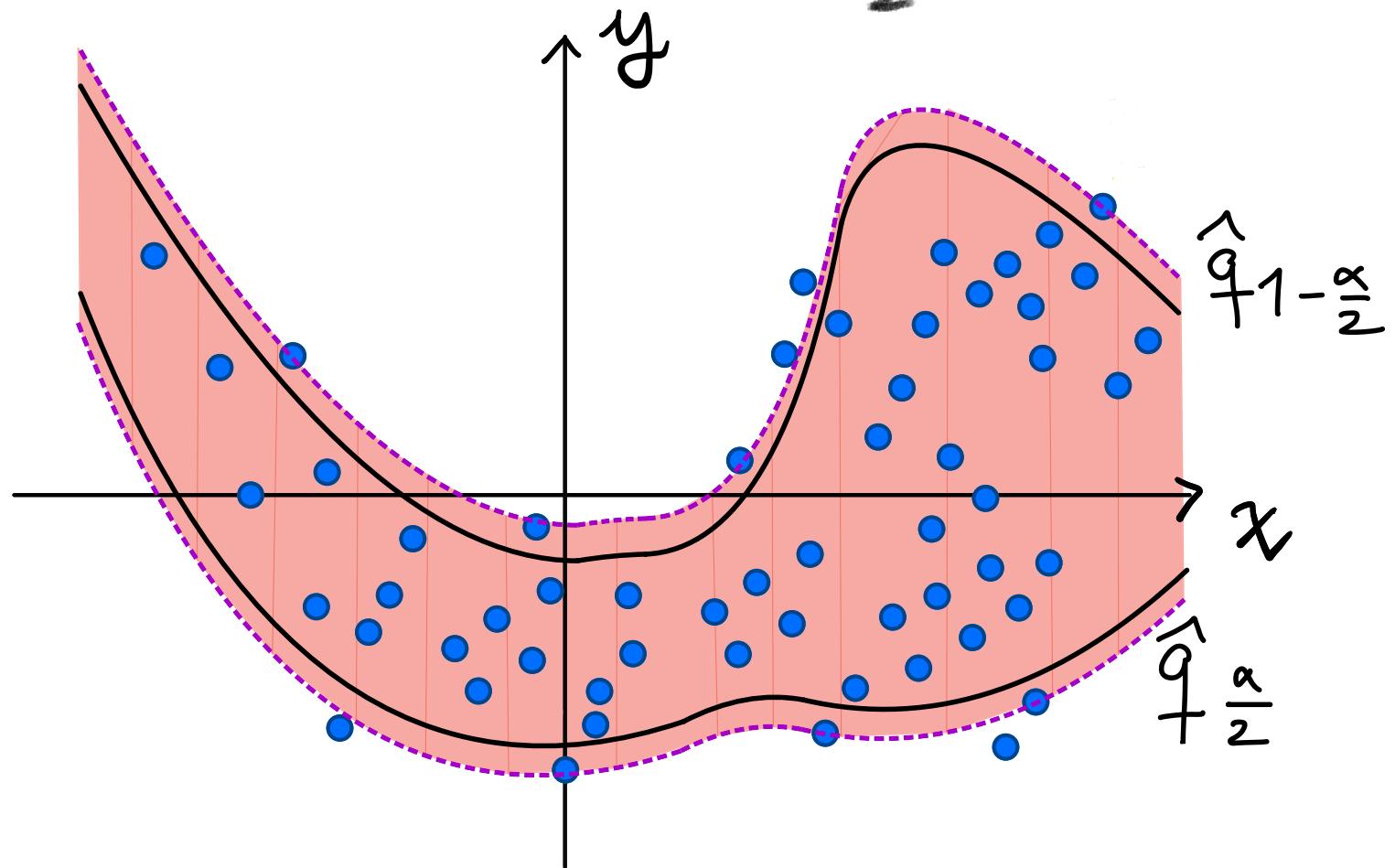
Calibration:

$S_\alpha := \text{the } \left\lceil \frac{(n+1)(1-\alpha)}{n} \right\rceil - \text{th}$

quantile of the scores  $S_1, \dots, S_n$

# CQR : CALIBRATION

$$C_\alpha(x) = \left[ \hat{q}_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}(x) - \delta_\alpha, \hat{q}_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}(x) + \delta_\alpha \right]$$



# GENERAL FORMULATION

Given : a predictor  $\hat{f}: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$   
a nominal error rate  $\alpha$   
a scoring function  $s: \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$   
e.g. in regression  $s(y, y') = |y - y'|$

Split conformal : Calibration set  $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$

$\Rightarrow$  non-conformity scores  $R_i = s(\hat{Y}_i, y_i)$

$\Rightarrow q_\alpha = \left\lceil \frac{(1-\alpha)(n+1)}{n} \right\rceil$  -quantile of the  $\{R_i\}_{i=1}^n$

$\Rightarrow C(\alpha) := \{y: s(\hat{y}, y) \leq q_\alpha\}$

# CONFORMAL CLASSIFICATION

- Least Ambiguous Set-Valued Classifiers (LAC)
- Adaptive Prediction Sets (APS)
- Regularized Adaptive Prediction Sets (RAPS)

# LAC (Sadinkle et al 2019)

Given :  $\hat{\pi}$  softmax classifier

$\alpha$  nominal error rate

Use the nonconformity scores

$$s(\hat{\pi}, y) = 1 - \underbrace{\hat{\pi}_y}_{\text{in pink}}$$

i.e. 1- the probability  
of the true label.

APS (Romano et al 2020)

Given:  $\hat{\pi}$  softmax classifier

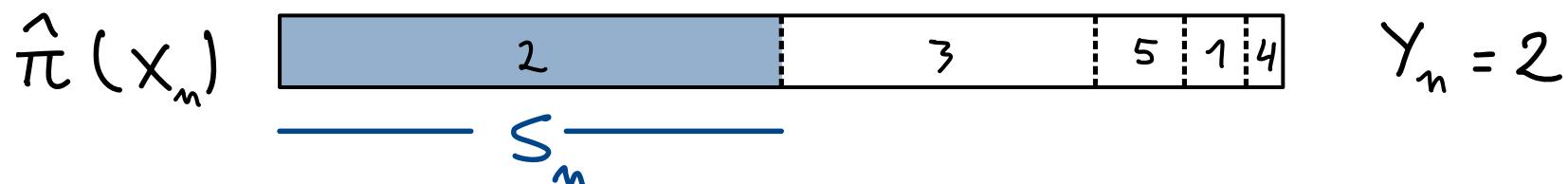
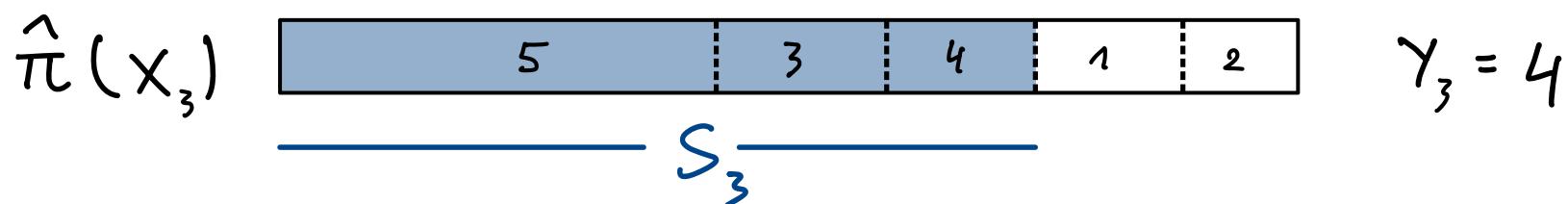
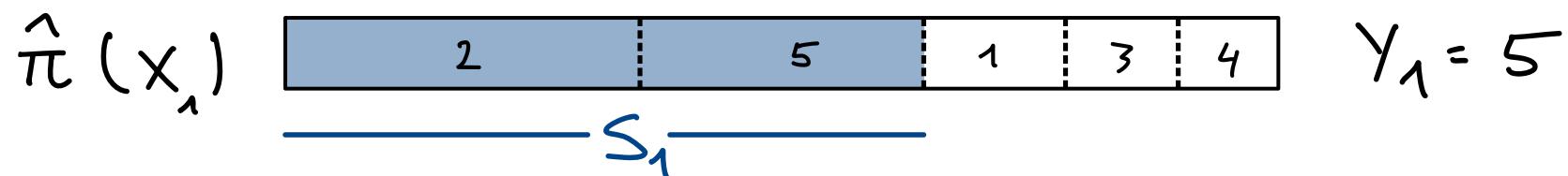
$\alpha$  nominal error rate

Rank:  $\hat{\pi}_{(1)}(x) \geq \hat{\pi}_{(2)}(x) \geq \dots \geq \hat{\pi}_{(k)}(x)$

$$L(x, \hat{\pi}, z) := \min_{c \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \left\{ \hat{\pi}_{(1)}(x) + \dots + \hat{\pi}_c(x) \geq z \right\}$$

# APS

Calibration:



APS

Calibration:

$S_\alpha := \text{the } \left\lceil \frac{(n+1)(1-\alpha)}{n} \right\rceil - \text{th}$

quantile of the scores  $S_1, \dots, S_n$

# APS

Inference:  $\hat{C}_\alpha(x) = \{(1), (2), \dots, (K)\}$

where  $K = \min \{i : \hat{\pi}_{(1)} + \dots + \hat{\pi}_{(i)} \geq \delta_\alpha\}$



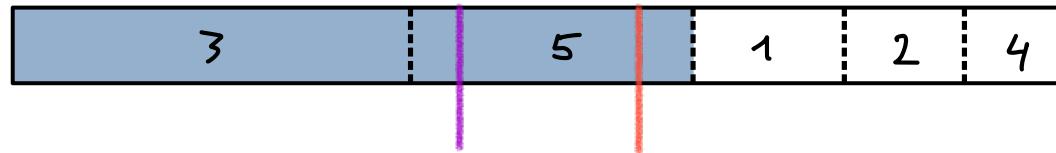
$$\Rightarrow C_\alpha(x) = \{3, 5\}$$

Guarantee:

$$P(Y_{n+1} \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1})) \geq 1 - \alpha$$

# APS WITH RANDOMIZATION

$\hat{\pi}(x)$



$s_\alpha$   $u \leftarrow$  Uniform random variable in

$$[\pi_3, \pi_3 + \pi_5]$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{c}_\alpha(x) := \begin{cases} \{3\} & \text{if } u \leq s_\alpha \\ \{3, 5\} & \text{if } u > s_\alpha \end{cases}$$



Same guarantee, tighter prediction sets!

# RAPS (Angelopoulos et al 2020)

Given :  $\hat{\pi}$  softmax classifier

$\alpha$  nominal error rate

Rank:  $\hat{\pi}_{(1)}(x) \geq \hat{\pi}_{(2)}(x) \geq \dots \geq \hat{\pi}_{(K)}(x)$

$$S_i := \hat{\pi}_{(1)} + \dots + \hat{\pi}_{(k)} + \lambda (K - K_{\text{reg}} + 1)$$

$K$  such that  $(k) = y_i$

rank of  $y_i$

hyper-parameters

# RAPS

Prediction set:

$$\hat{\mathcal{C}}_a(x) = \{1, \dots, (k)\}$$

where

$$K = \max \{ i : \pi_{(1)} + \dots + \pi_{(i)} + \lambda(i - K_{\text{reg}} + 1) \leq S_a \} + 1$$



More stable than APS if softmax is "noisy" i.e. many classes w. low proba.

Kahoot  
time!

## WRAP-UP

1. List the main advantages of CP.
2. List the main limitations of CP.
3. Give an example of a use-case where you might use CP.
4. Write down a question about something you did not fully understand / would like to know more about.