

# Introduction to Machine Learning

*SCP8084699 - LT Informatica*

ML System Design, Diagnoses and Learning Curves  
Prof. Lamberto Ballan

# What we will learn today?

- A bit more on model selection and evaluation:  
advice for applying machine learning
- Diagnosing machine learning models

# Recap: Supervised Learning

- Classification (discrete) vs Regression (real-valued output)

$\{(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)})\}$

Size in feet <sup>2</sup> (x)	Price (\$) in 1K's (y)
2104	460
1416	232
1534	315
852	178
...	...

Training Data

Looking for a good  
**Bias-Variance Tradeoff**

Learning Algorithm

$x$

$h$

$y$

Hypothesis Space  $H$

$h$  approximates the  
unknown target  $f$

$$h \sim f: X \rightarrow Y$$

# Model Selection and Evaluation

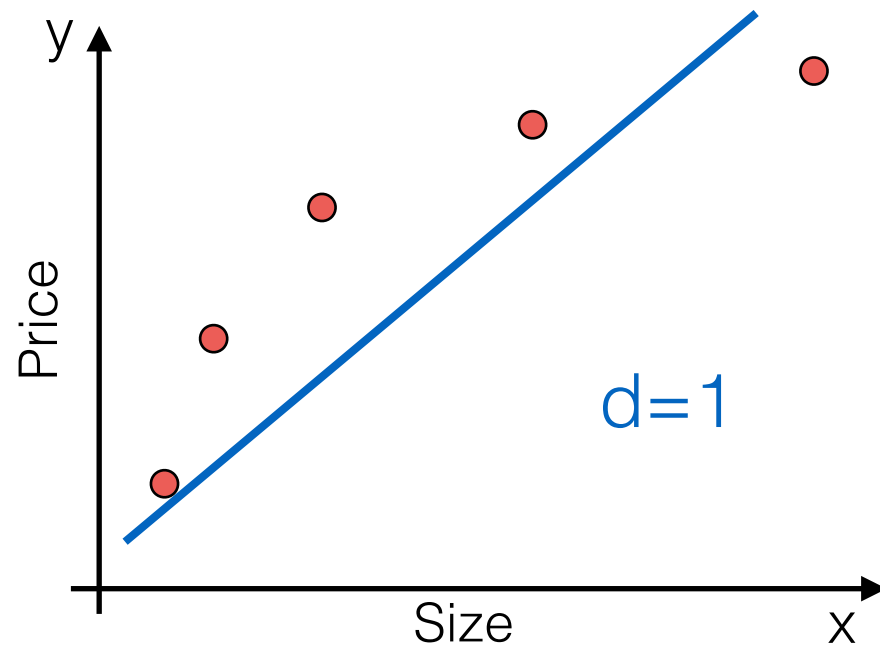
- **Hold-out:** we keep a subset of  $v$  samples from the training set (the validation set) to evaluate our model
  - A classifier/regressor is trained on  $m-v$  samples
  - Parameters are optimized on the training-validation sets: then you should evaluate performances on the test set
  - Size (cardinality) of training+validation sets should be greater than test set, e.g. 70%, 15%, 15%
- **k-fold cross validation:** iterate on  $k$  disjoint subsets
- Given a task, pick the “right” evaluation metric

# Diagnosing bias vs variance

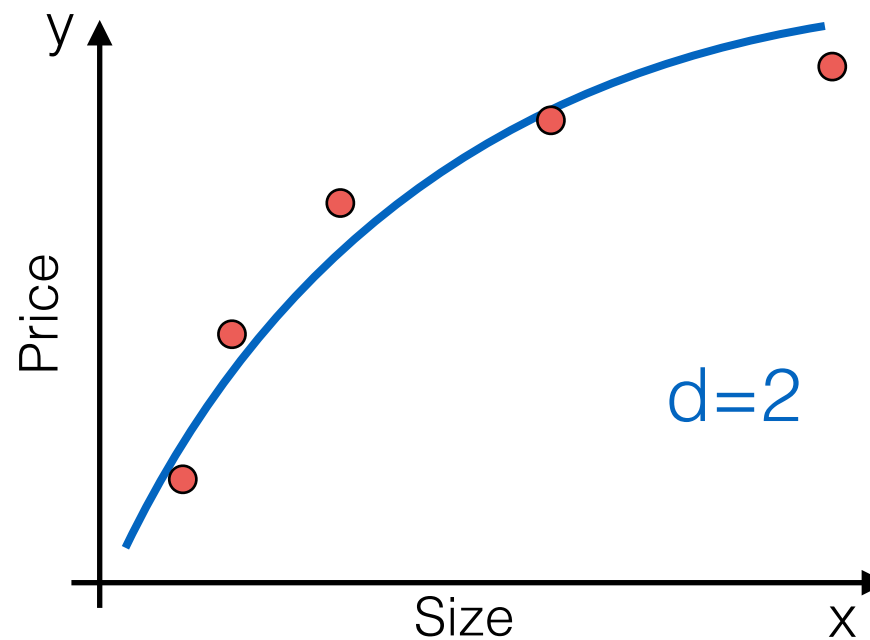
- If your learning model doesn't work as expected, almost all the time it will be because you have either a *high bias* problem or a *high variance* problem
  - How to figure out what's happening (in practice)?
  - What can we do to fix/alleviate the problem?

# Diagnosing bias vs variance

*Underfitting  
(high bias)*

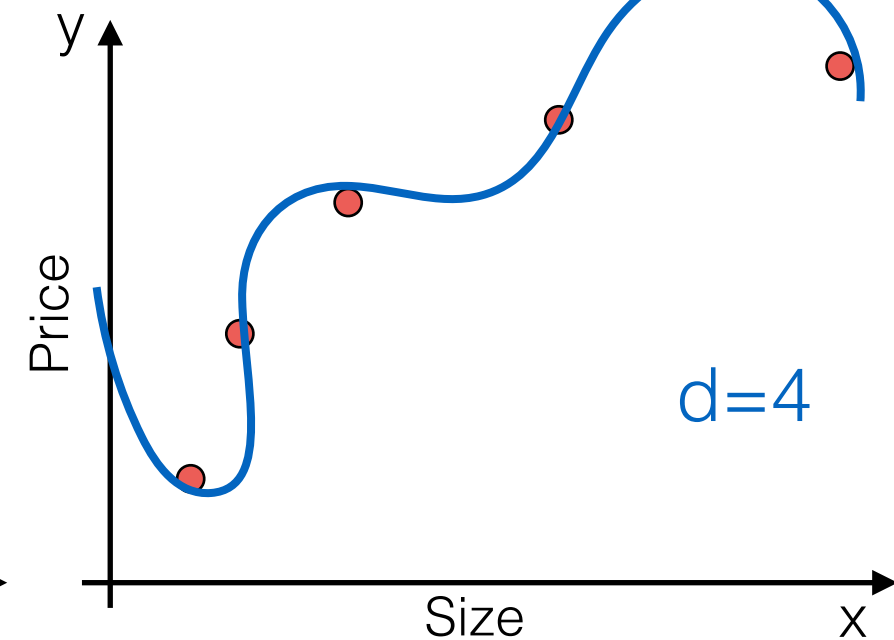


$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x$$



$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2$$

*Overfitting  
(high variance)*



$$\theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 + \theta_4 x^4$$

- We can now look again at this example taking into account hold-out and bias-variance tradeoff

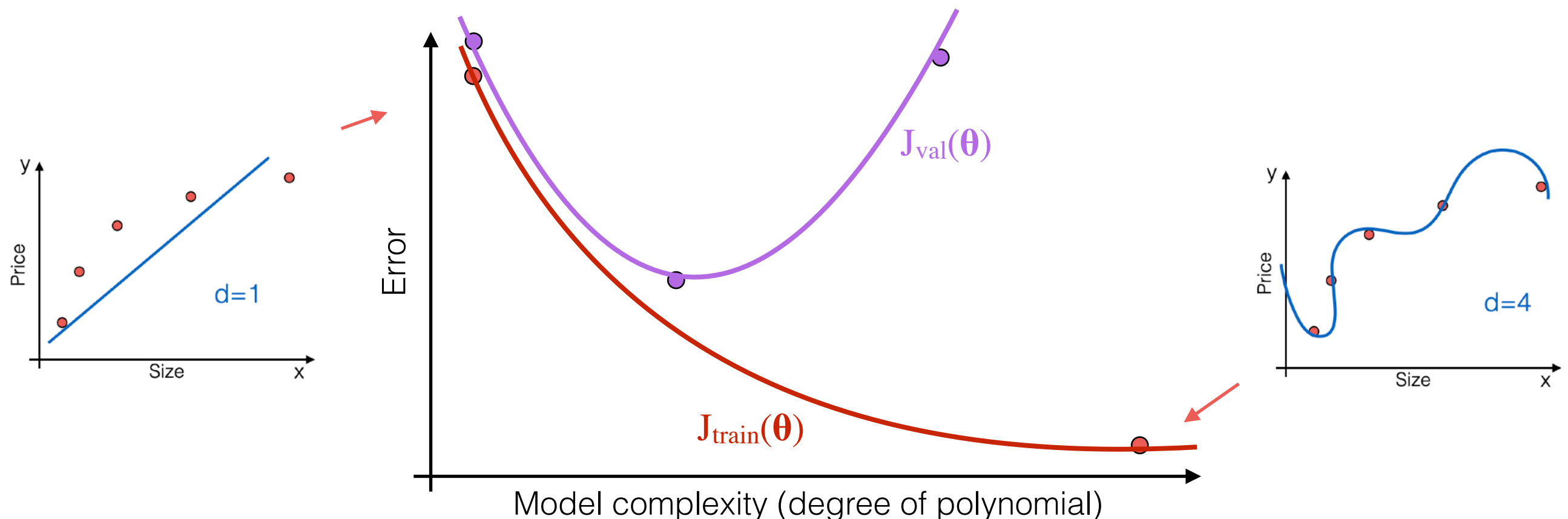


# Diagnosing bias vs variance

- “Measuring” bias vs variance:

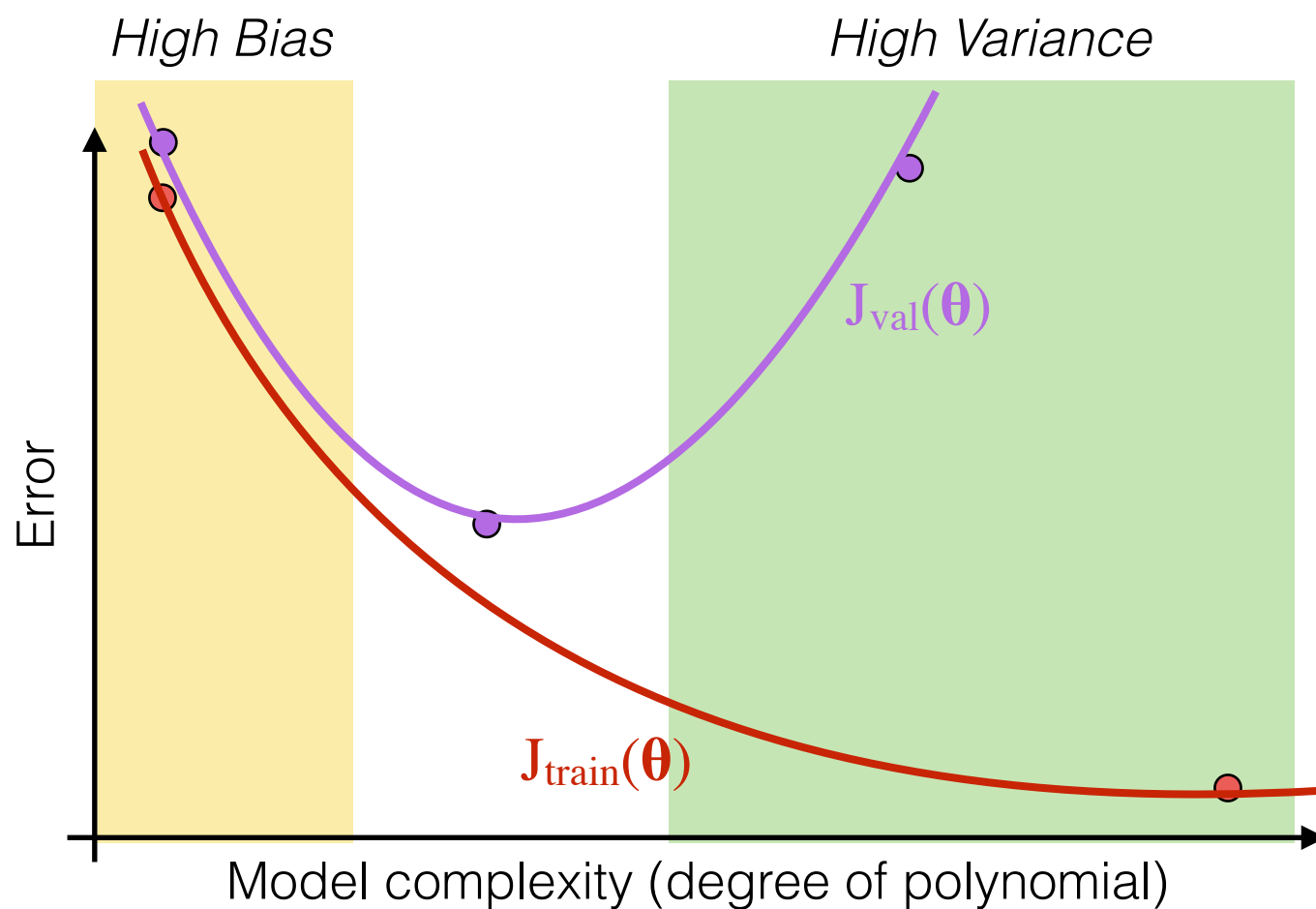
- ▶ Training Error:  $J_{\text{train}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_t} \sum_{i=1}^{m_t} (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$

- ▶ Validation Error:  $J_{\text{val}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_v} \sum_{i=1}^{m_v} (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$



# Diagnosing bias vs variance

- Our learning model doesn't work as expected; is it a bias problem or a variance problem?



**High bias** (underfit):

$J_{\text{train}}(\theta)$  will be high

$J_{\text{val}}(\theta) \approx J_{\text{train}}(\theta)$

**High variance** (overfit):

$J_{\text{train}}(\theta)$  will be low

$J_{\text{val}}(\theta) \gg J_{\text{train}}(\theta)$

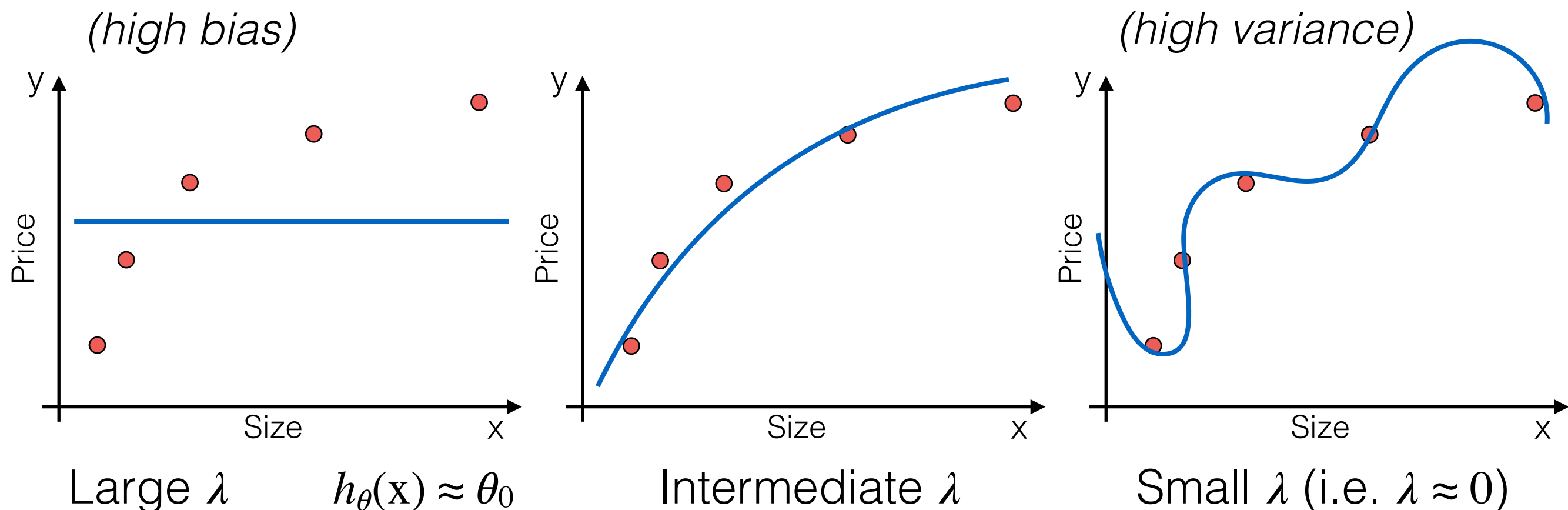


# Diagnosing bias vs variance

- What's the contribution of regularization?

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \theta_j^2 \right]$$

$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 + \theta_4 x^4$$



# Diagnosing bias vs variance

- Choosing the regularization parameter  $\lambda$ :

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \theta_j^2 \right]$$

$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 + \theta_4 x^4$$

- Note: our definition of  $J_{\text{train}}$ ,  $J_{\text{val}}$ ,  $J_{\text{test}}$  don't change

- ▶ Training Error:  $J_{\text{train}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_t} \sum_{i=1}^{m_t} (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$

- ▶ Validation Error:  $J_{\text{val}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_v} \sum_{i=1}^{m_v} (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$

- ▶ Test Error:  $J_{\text{test}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_e} \sum_{i=1}^{m_e} (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$

# Diagnosing bias vs variance

- Choosing the regularization parameter  $\lambda$ :

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \theta_j^2 \right]$$

Model:  $h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 + \theta_4 x^4$

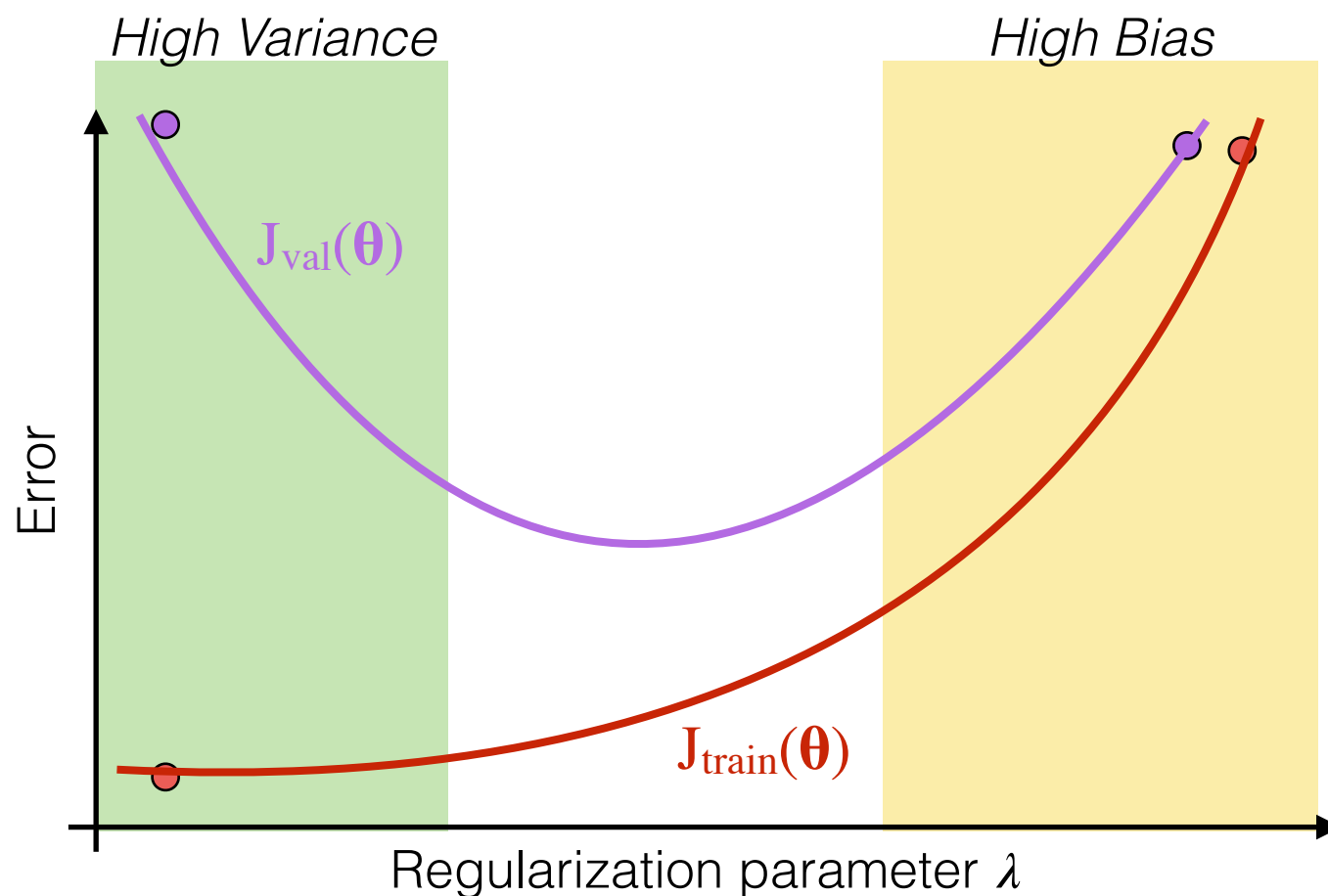
*Model Selection*

1: try $\lambda=0$	$\longrightarrow$	$\min_{\theta} J(\theta) = \theta^{(1)}$	$\longrightarrow$	$J_{\text{val}}(\theta^{(1)})$
2: try $\lambda=0.01$	$\longrightarrow$	$\theta^{(2)}$	$\longrightarrow$	$J_{\text{val}}(\theta^{(2)})$
3: try $\lambda=0.02$	$\longrightarrow$	$\theta^{(3)}$	$\longrightarrow$	$J_{\text{val}}(\theta^{(3)})$ (lowest)
4: try $\lambda=0.04$	$\longrightarrow$	$\theta^{(4)}$	$\longrightarrow$	$J_{\text{val}}(\theta^{(4)})$
5: try $\lambda=0.08$	$\longrightarrow$	$\theta^{(5)}$	$\longrightarrow$	$J_{\text{val}}(\theta^{(5)})$
$\vdots$				
12: try $\lambda \approx 10$	$\longrightarrow$	$\theta^{(12)}$	$\longrightarrow$	$J_{\text{val}}(\theta^{(12)})$

# Diagnosing bias vs variance

- Bias/Variance as a function of the parameter  $\lambda$ :

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \theta_j^2 \right]$$



$$J_{\text{train}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_t} \sum_{i=1}^{m_t} (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$$

$$J_{\text{val}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_v} \sum_{i=1}^{m_v} (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$$

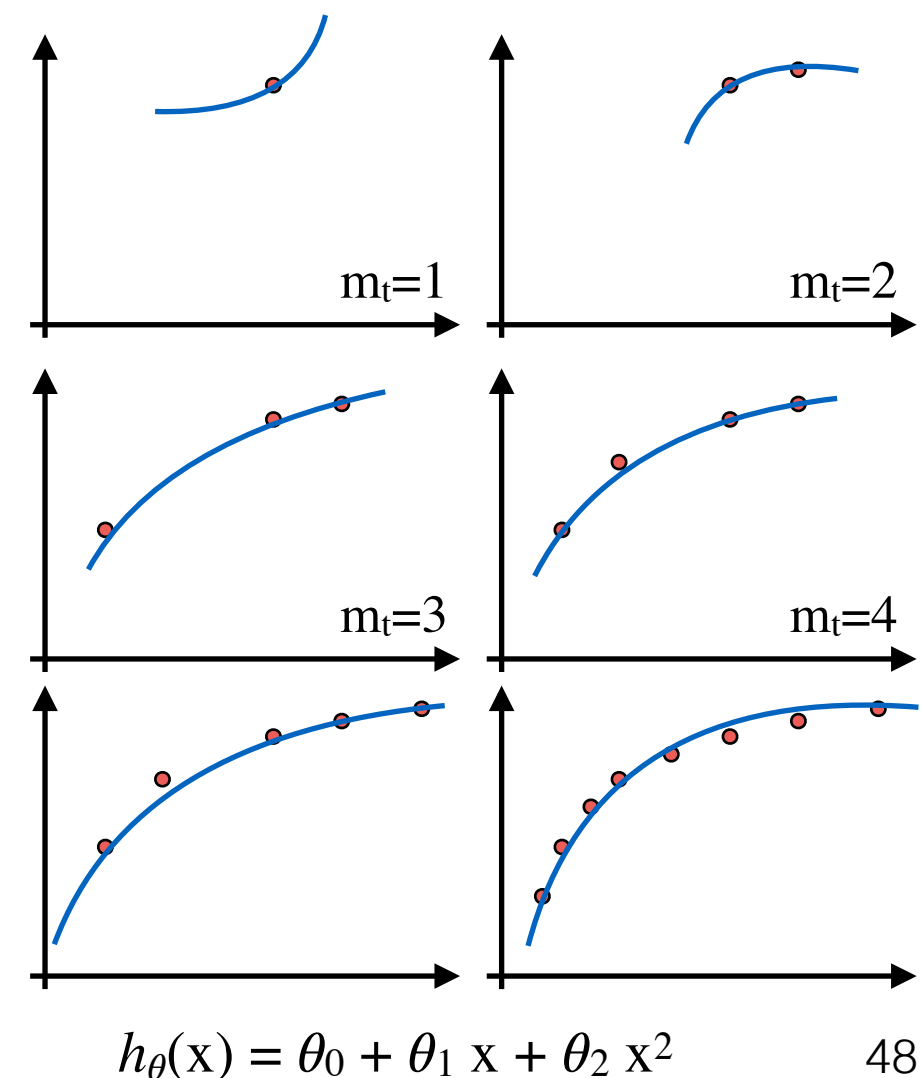
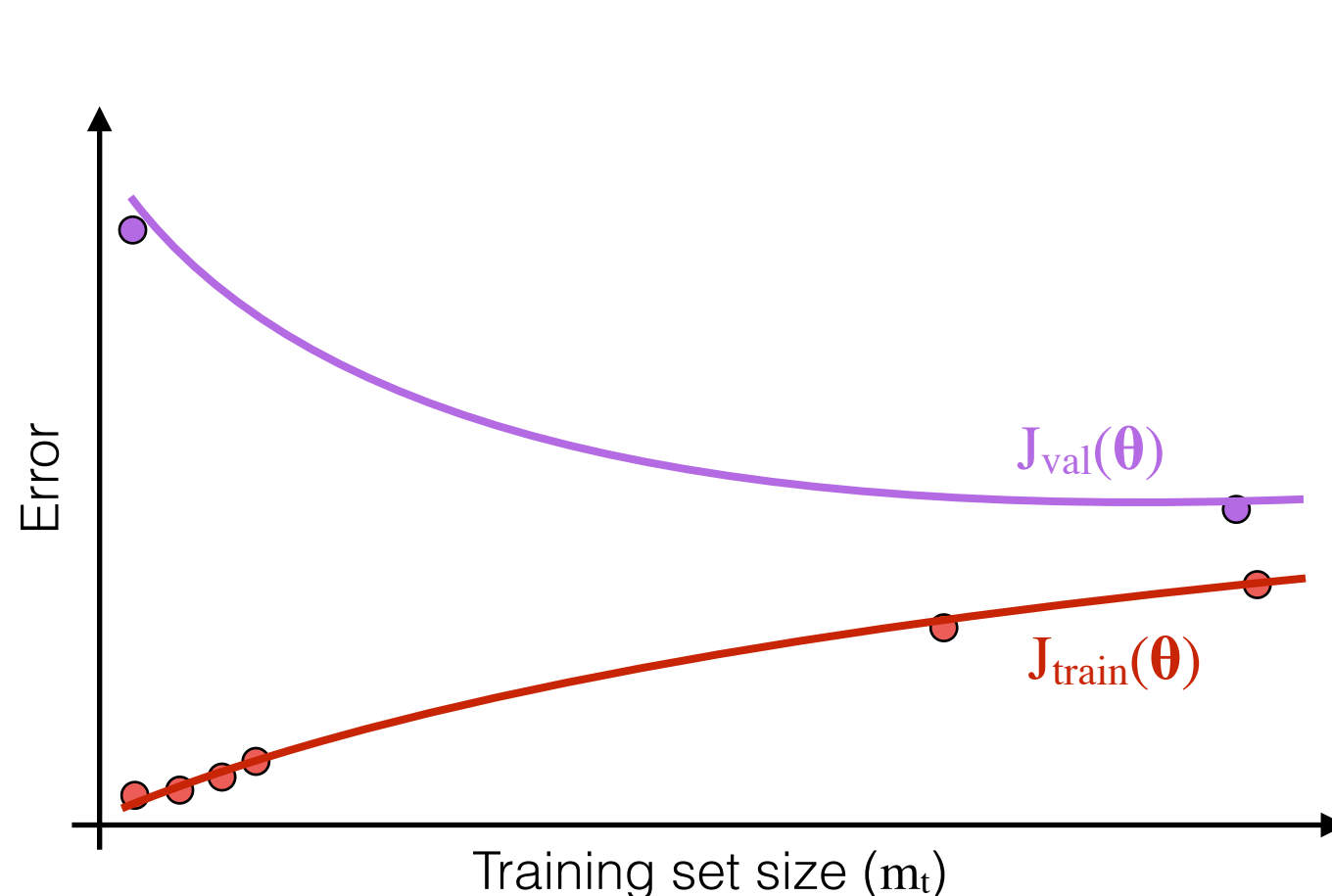
# Diagnosing bias vs variance

- By now you have seen bias and variance from a lot of different perspectives
- Let's now take all the insights we have gone through in order to build a “diagnostic tool” for ML systems

# Learning Curves

- Learning curves can be used to diagnose if a model may be suffering from bias, variance or a bit of both

$$J_{\text{train}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2m_t} \sum_{i=1}^{m_t} (h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 \quad J_{\text{val}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2m_v} \sum_{i=1}^{m_v} (h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$$

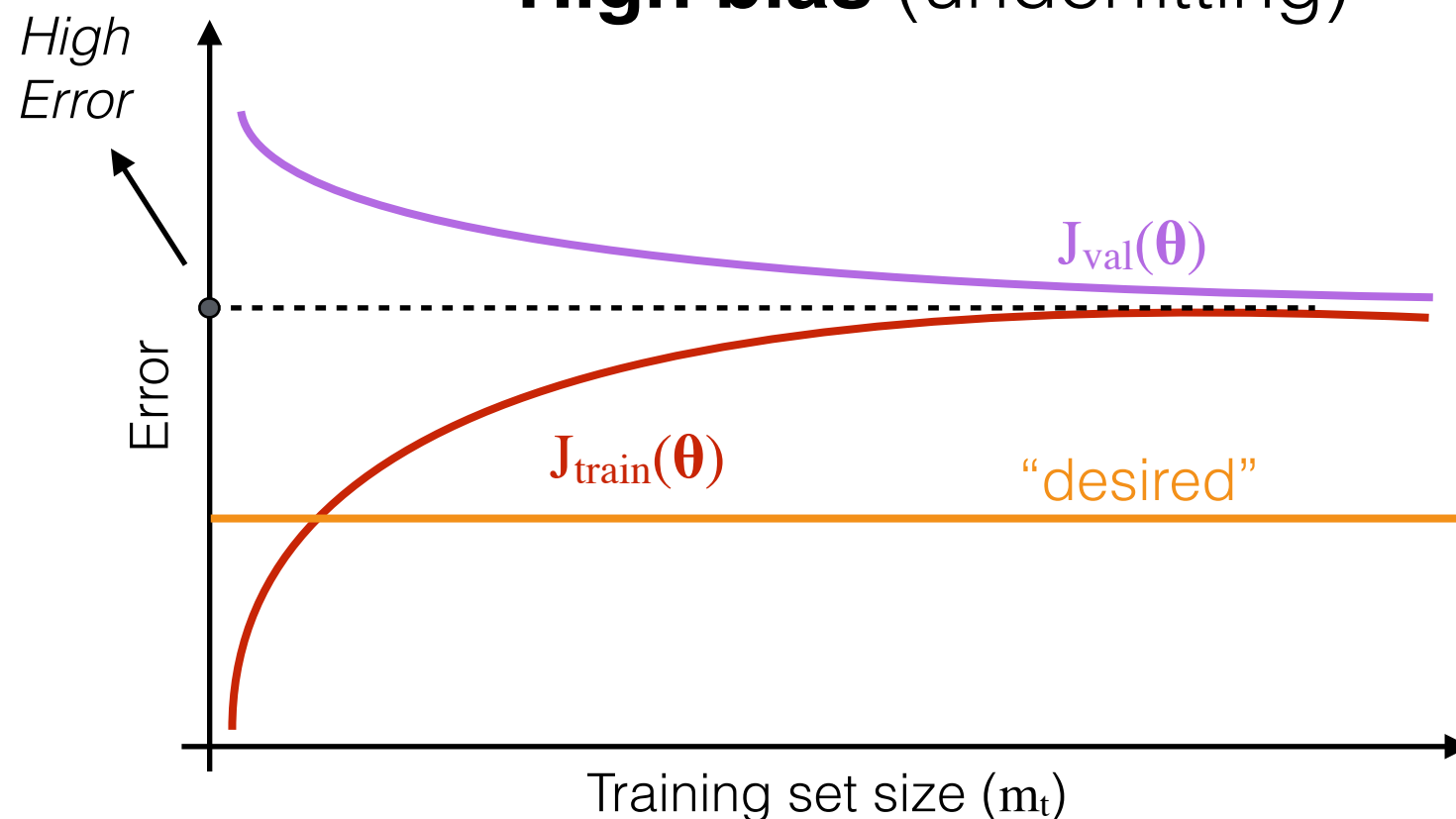




# Learning Curves

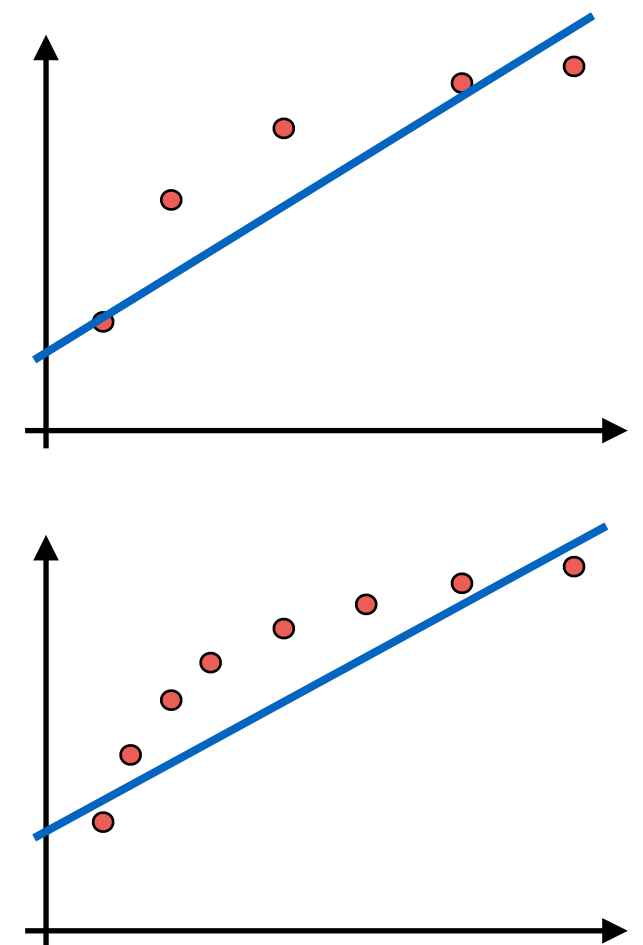
- That's the general intuition... but what's about bias and variance problems?

## High bias (underfitting)



*Note: in case of high bias, getting more training data will not help much*

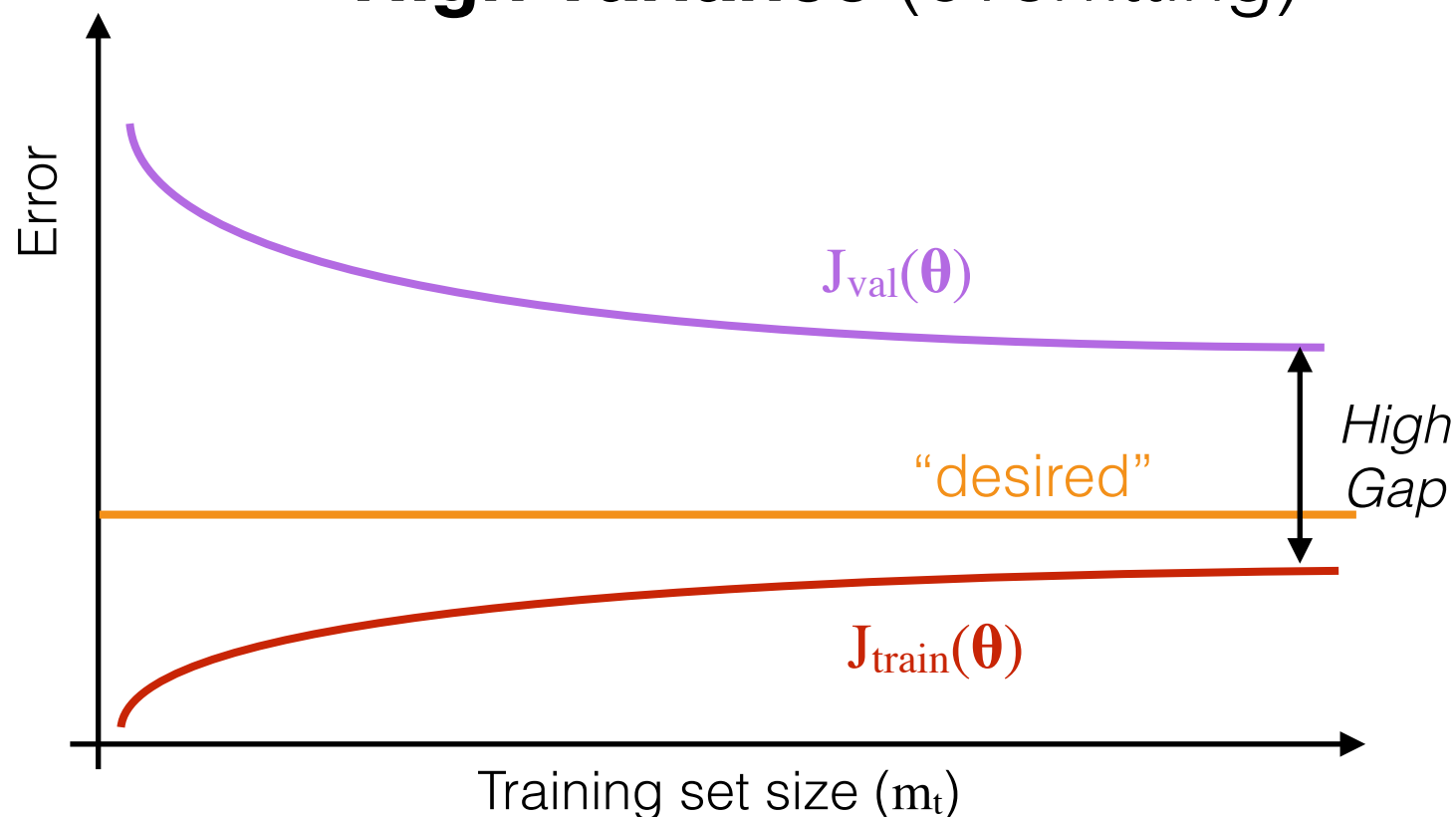
$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x$$



# Learning Curves

- That's the general intuition... but what's about bias and variance problems?

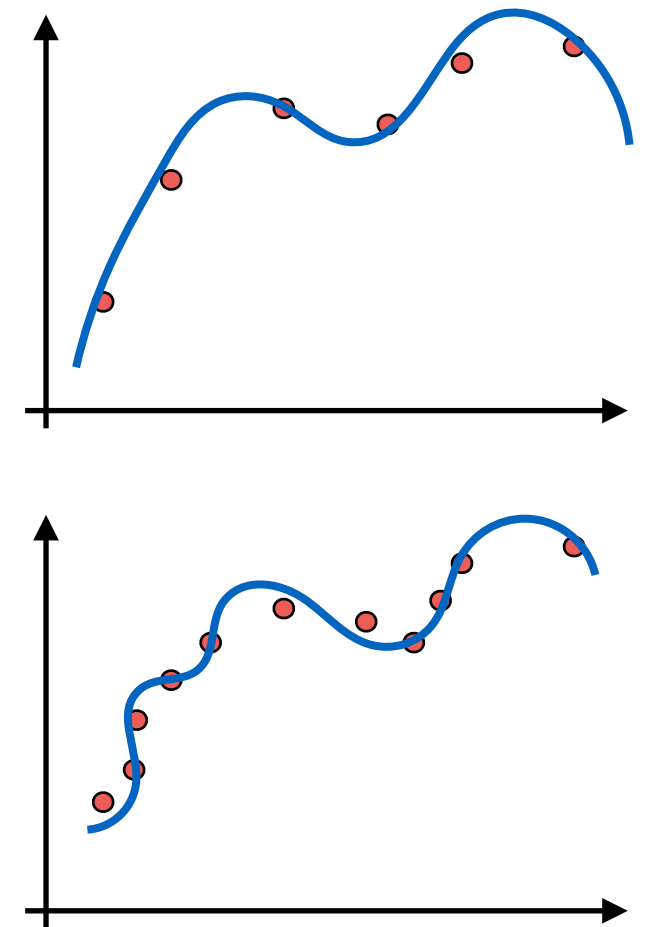
## High variance (overfitting)



*Note: in case of high variance, getting more training data is likely to help*

$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \dots + \theta_{50} x^{50}$$

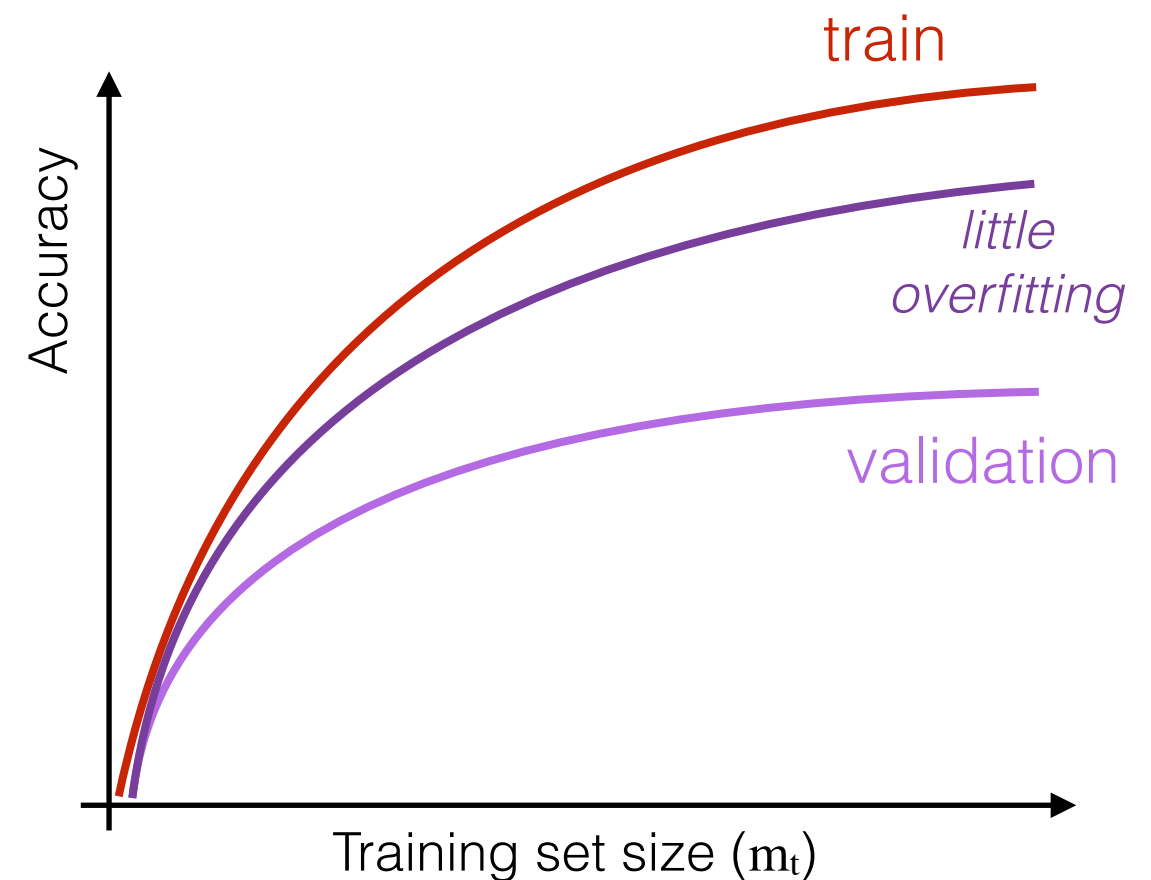
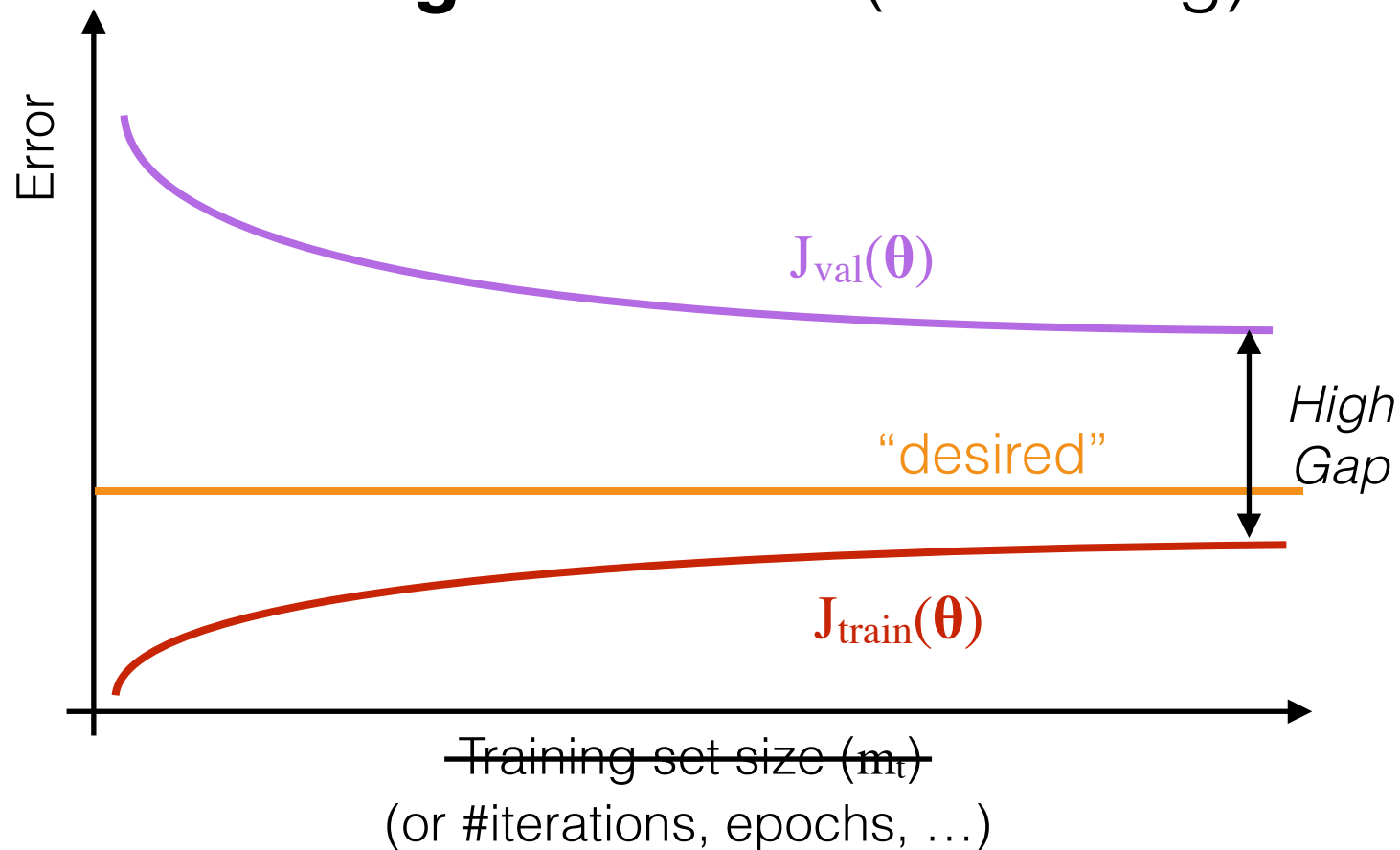
(and small  $\lambda$ )



# Learning Curves

- You can compute learning curves w.r.t. different “dimensions” (e.g. evaluation measures, no. samples)

## High variance (overfitting)



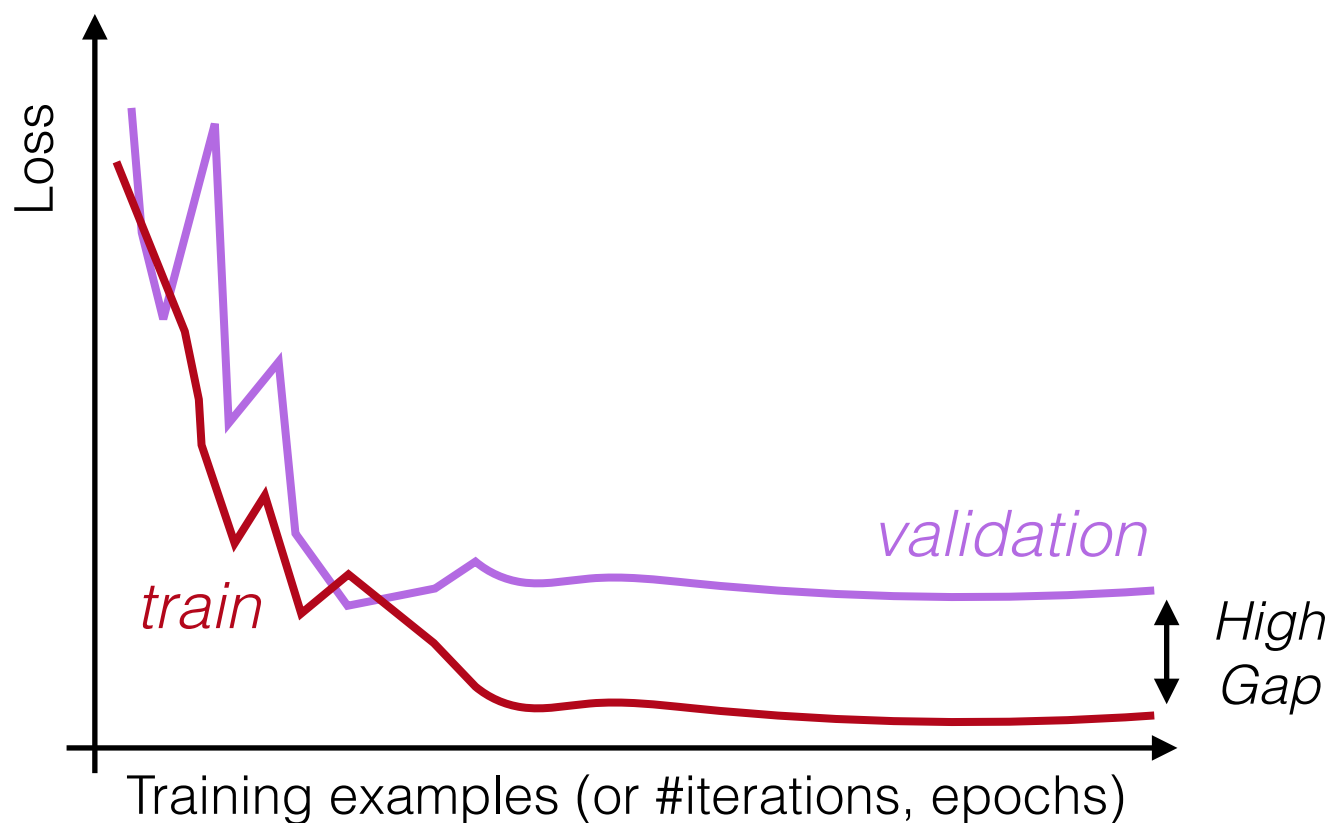
# What to do next

- Debugging (and babysitting) a learning algorithm:
    - Suppose you have implemented a regularized linear regression model for predicting housing prices
    - It doesn't work on new data; what should you do next?
      - You can get more training data → *Fixes high variance*
      - Try smaller set of features → *Fixes high variance*
      - Try getting more features → *Fixes high bias*
      - Try adding complexity to the model (e.g. polynomial features)
      - Try decreasing  $\lambda$  → *Fixes high bias*
      - Try increasing  $\lambda$  → *Fixes high variance*
- Fixes high bias*

# Diagnosing our datasets

- Learning curves can be also used to diagnose the quality of our training/validation sets

## Unrepresentative Training Set

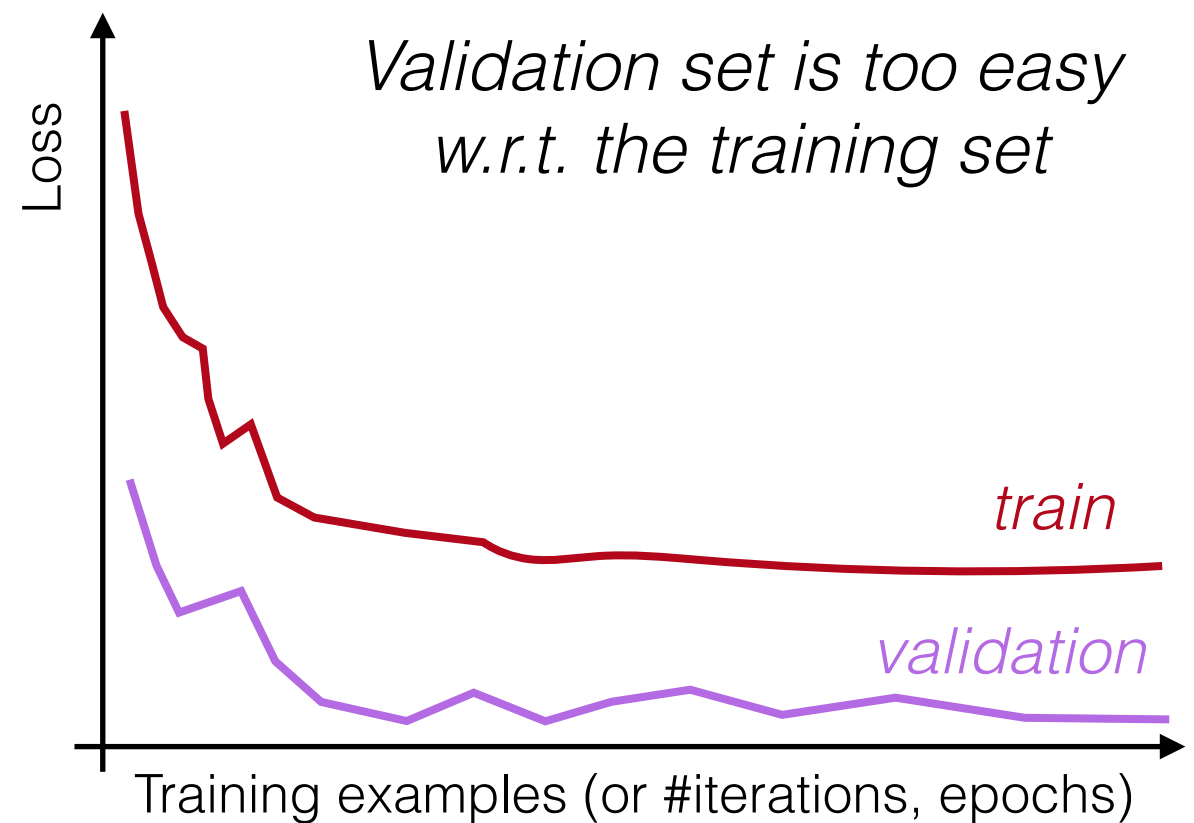
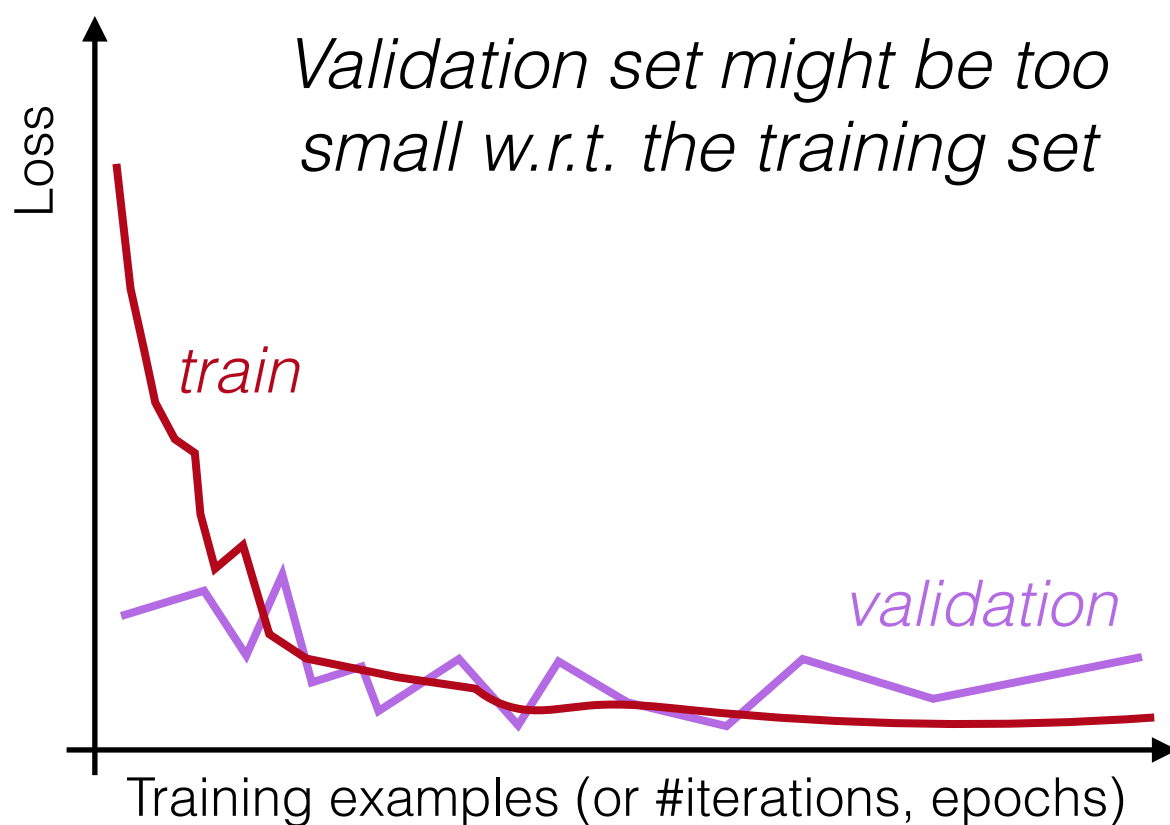


- ▶ The training set does not provide sufficient information to learn the problem
- ▶ It may occur if the training set has too few examples as compared to the validation set

# Diagnosing our datasets

- Learning curves can be also used to diagnose the quality of our training/validation sets

## Unrepresentative Validation Set





# Contact

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