

# Quantification and Propagation of Uncertainties in Machine Learning Interatomic Potentials for Molecular Dynamics

Model errors and active learning

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SIAM UQ

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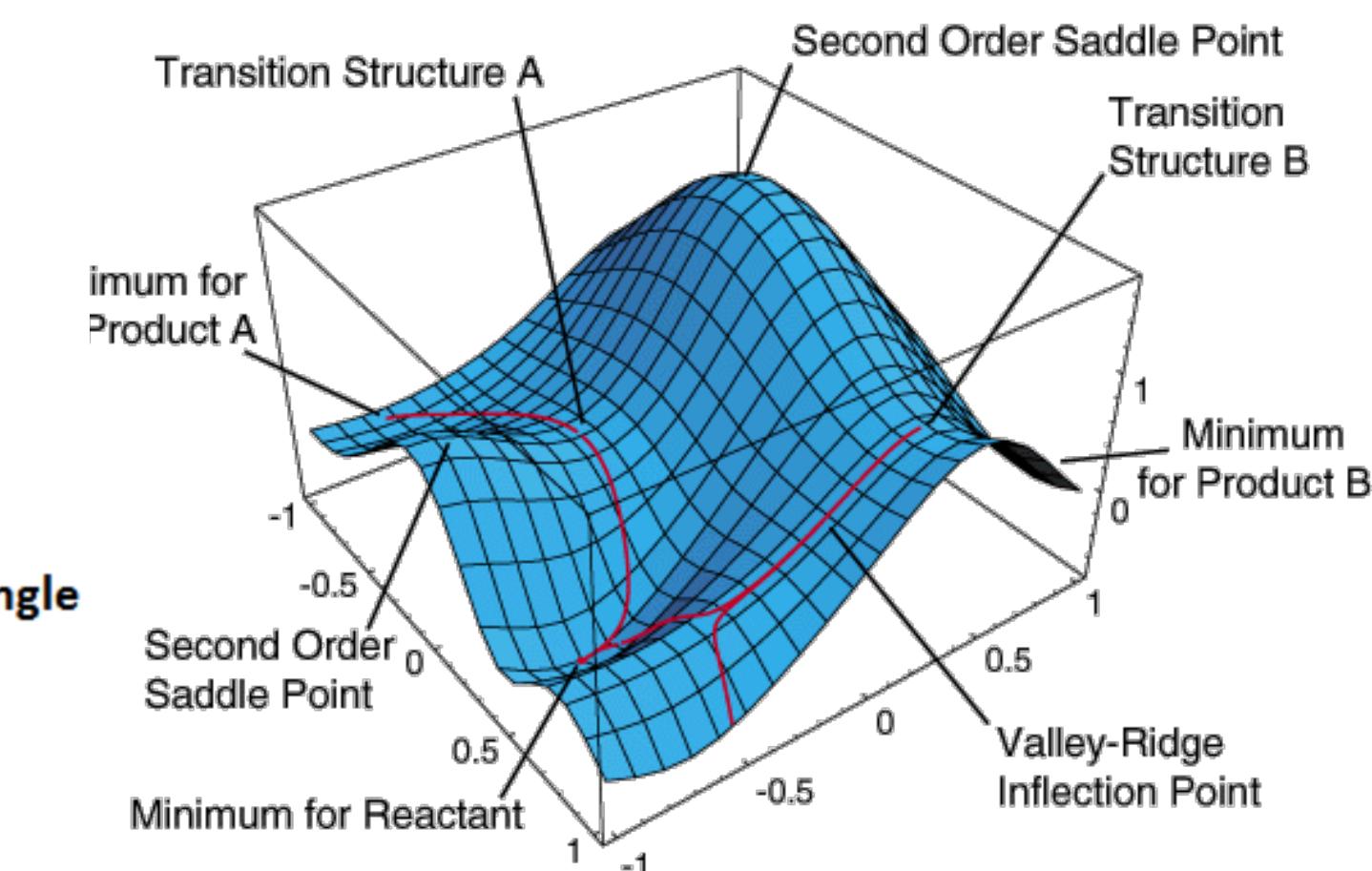
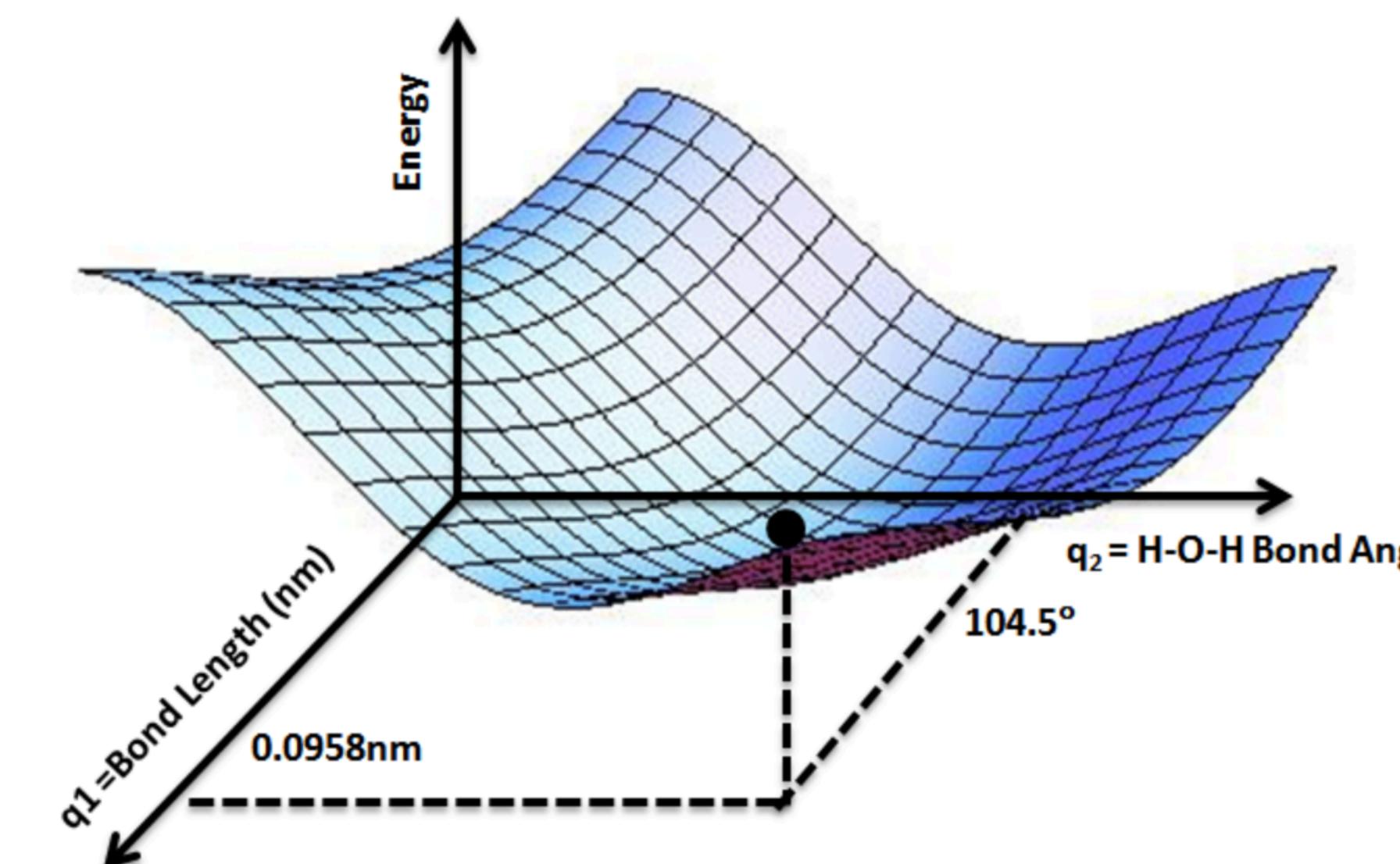
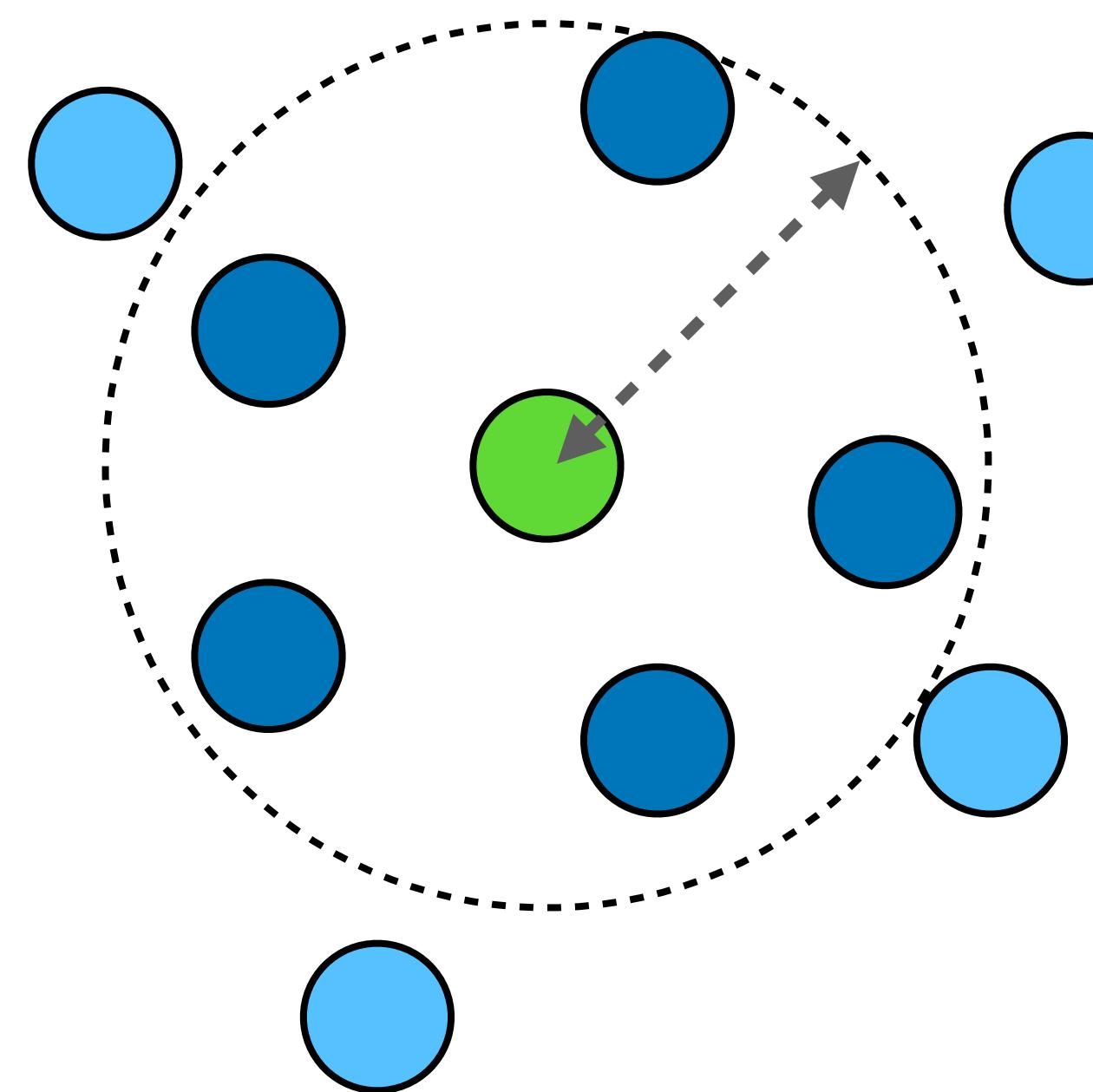
# Outline

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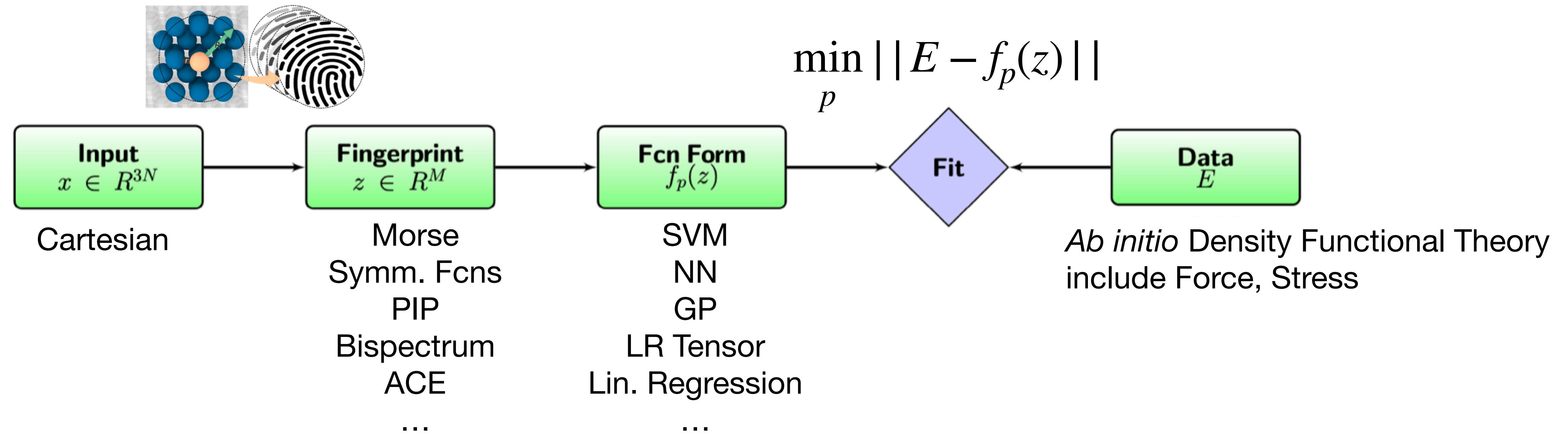
- Interatomic potentials as building blocks to approximate potential energy surfaces
- Machine learning interatomic potentials (MLIAP) - a supervised ML problem
- Active learning and need for uncertainty estimation in MLIAP construction
- (Bayesian) MLIAP hinges on proper assumptions for model-data discrepancies
- Embedded model error approach for uncertainty estimation in MLIAPs

# Interatomic Potentials

- Object of interest: potential energy  $E$  of a system defined by a configuration  $x$  , where  $x$  encapsulates coordinates of all atoms in the system
- Typically additive form:  $E(x) = E_{ref} + \sum_i E(x_i) + \dots$  using local environments



# Ingredients of MLIAPs (supervised ML problem)



- Training data  $(x_i, E_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, S$  and  $x_i \in R^{3N}$
- Input representation, aka fingerprint, aka descriptor  $x \rightarrow z(x)$
- Parametrized functional form of the approximation class  $f_p(z)$
- Loss function:  $\min_p \sum_{i=1}^S [E_i - f_p(z_i)]^2 + \text{regularization}$

# State-of-the-art: largely manual and lacking systematic UQ

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## MLIAP Construction

- ◆ Good training set selection: active learning
- ◆ Fingerprint choice: invariances, symmetries
- ◆ Functional form choice: model selection
- ◆ Loss function: regularization, weighting energies and forces

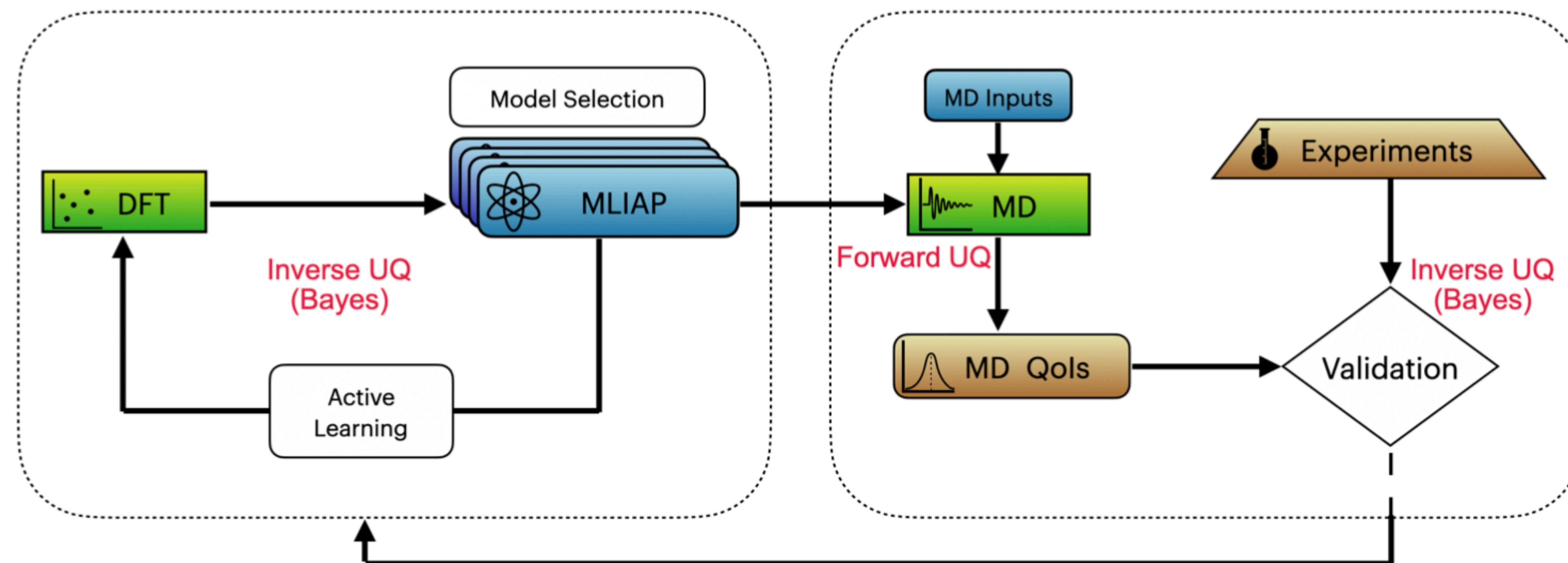
## MLIAP Usage

- ◆ Find reaction pathways, saddle points
- ◆ Pipe the IAPs to MD simulations

# Big Picture

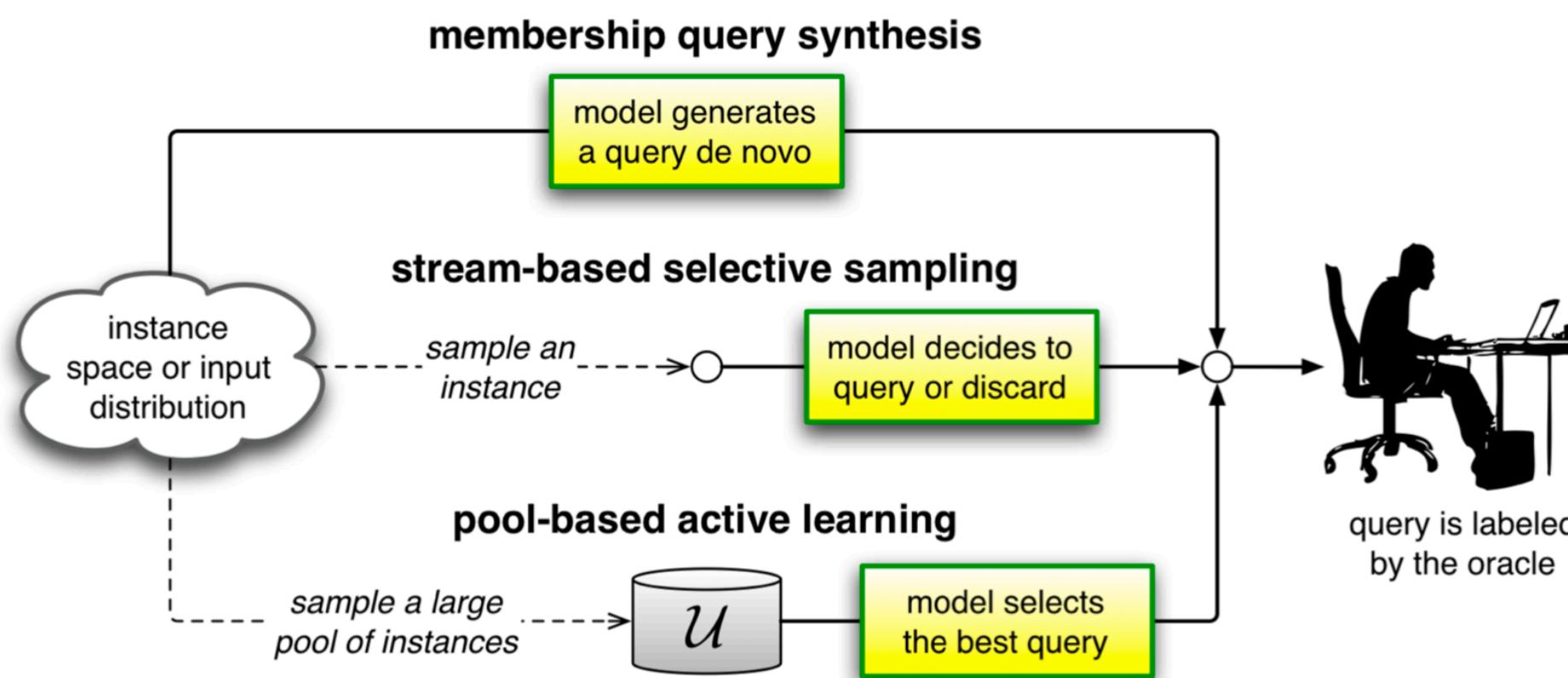
Main focus today:

Bayesian inference of IAPs, model errors



# Active Learning: motivation for UQ

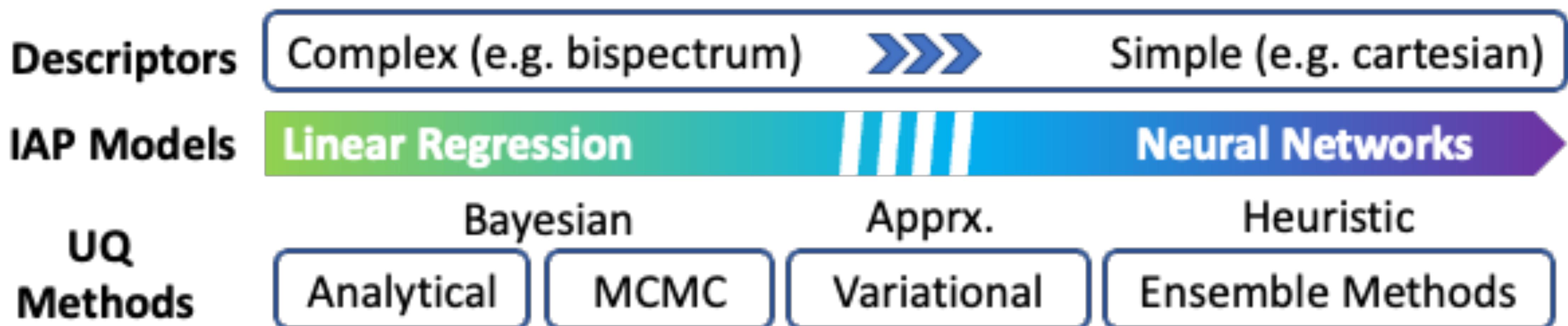
- Choose the training samples adaptively
- Achieve greater accuracy with fewer training samples
- In conventional ML, minimize human effort of labeling images
- For us, minimize the number of *ab initio* calculations
- (aka optimal experimental/computational design)



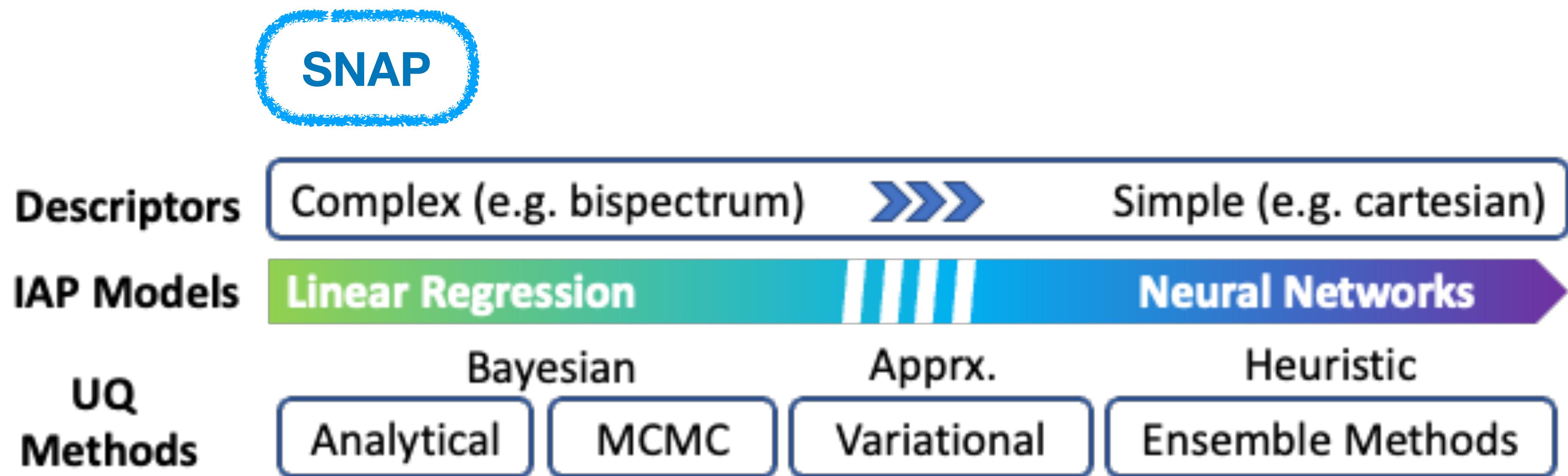
Detect and query extrapolative (high-uncertainty?) configurations on-the-fly and get DFT data for those.

Key: query strategy, whether to query DFT or not. If such decision can be made reliably, then one does not need to start with a very good training set.

# Equipping parametric fits with uncertainties



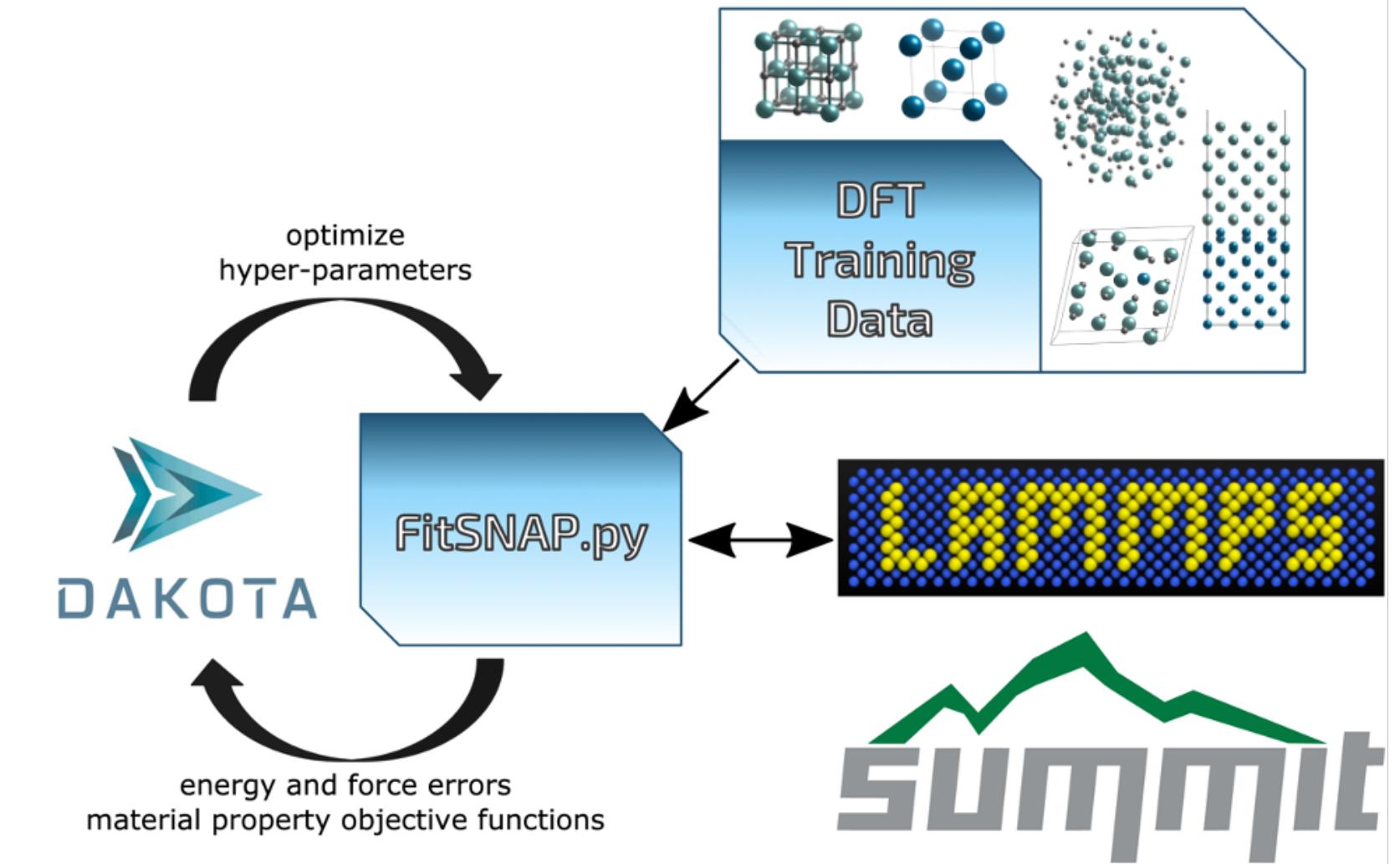
# Equipping parametric fits with uncertainties



A.P. Thompson et al. “Spectral neighbor analysis method for automated generation of quantum-accurate interatomic potentials”, *Journal of Computational Physics*, 285(15), pp. 316-330, 2015. <https://github.com/FitSNAP>

# Spectral neighbor analysis potential (SNAP) details

- Uses **bispectrum** as fingerprints:
  - uses hyper spherical harmonics
  - respects rotational, permutational, translational symmetries/invariances
  - incorporates forces and stresses as well
  - tunable complexity/order



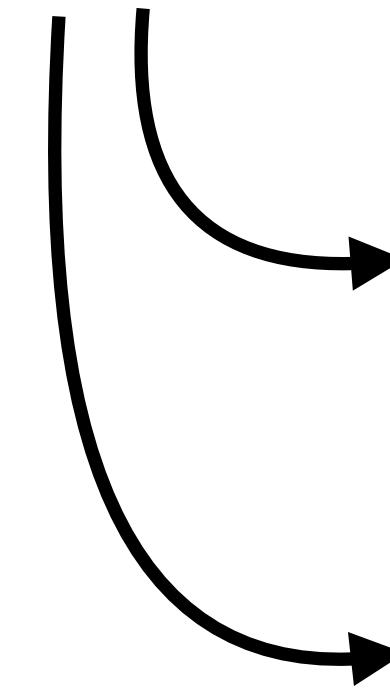
$$E(x) \approx \sum_k c_k B_k(x)$$

- Uses **linear regression** as model form:
  - built on hyper spherical harmonics basis functions
  - generalized to quadratic form as well

M. Wood and A. Thompson ,  
“Extending the accuracy of the  
SNAP interatomic potential form”,  
*Journal of Chemical Physics*, 148, 2018.

# (Bayesian) Parameter Inference

- Given a model  $f(x, c)$  and data  $y_i = y(x_i)$ , calibrate parameters  $c$ .



Linear model  $y \approx Ac$  with coefficients  $c$

NN model  $y \approx NN_c(x)$  with weights/biases  $c$

- Bayesian least-squares fit:

$$p(c | y) \propto p(y | c)p(c) \propto \prod_{i=1}^N \exp\left(-\frac{(f(x_i, c) - y_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right)$$

Corresponding data model

$$y_i = f(x_i, c) + \sigma_i \epsilon_i$$

# Elephant in the room: model is assumed to be \*the\* correct model behind data

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$$y_i = f(x_i, c) + \sigma_i \epsilon_i$$

Model      Data err.  
Truth

Model  $\neq$  Truth

Ignoring model error hurts in a few ways:

- ♦ One gets biased estimates of parameters  $c$  (crucial if the model is physical, and/or  $c$  is propagated through other models)
- ♦ More data leads to overconfident predictions (we become more and more certain about the wrong values of the data)
- ♦ More evident when there is no (observational/experimental) data error:  
e.g. DFT is data, and MLIAPIP is model

# Posterior uncertainty does not capture true discrepancy

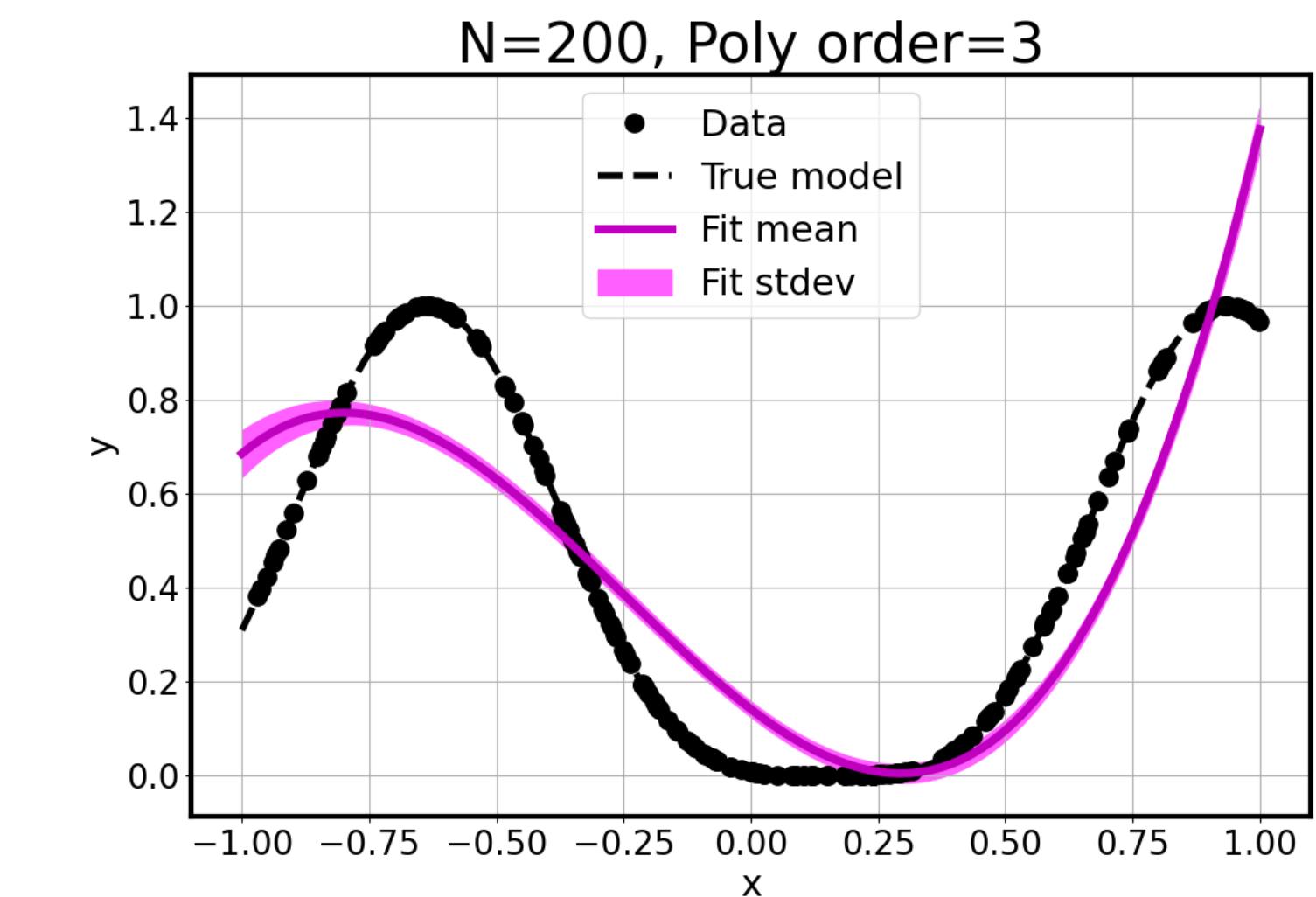
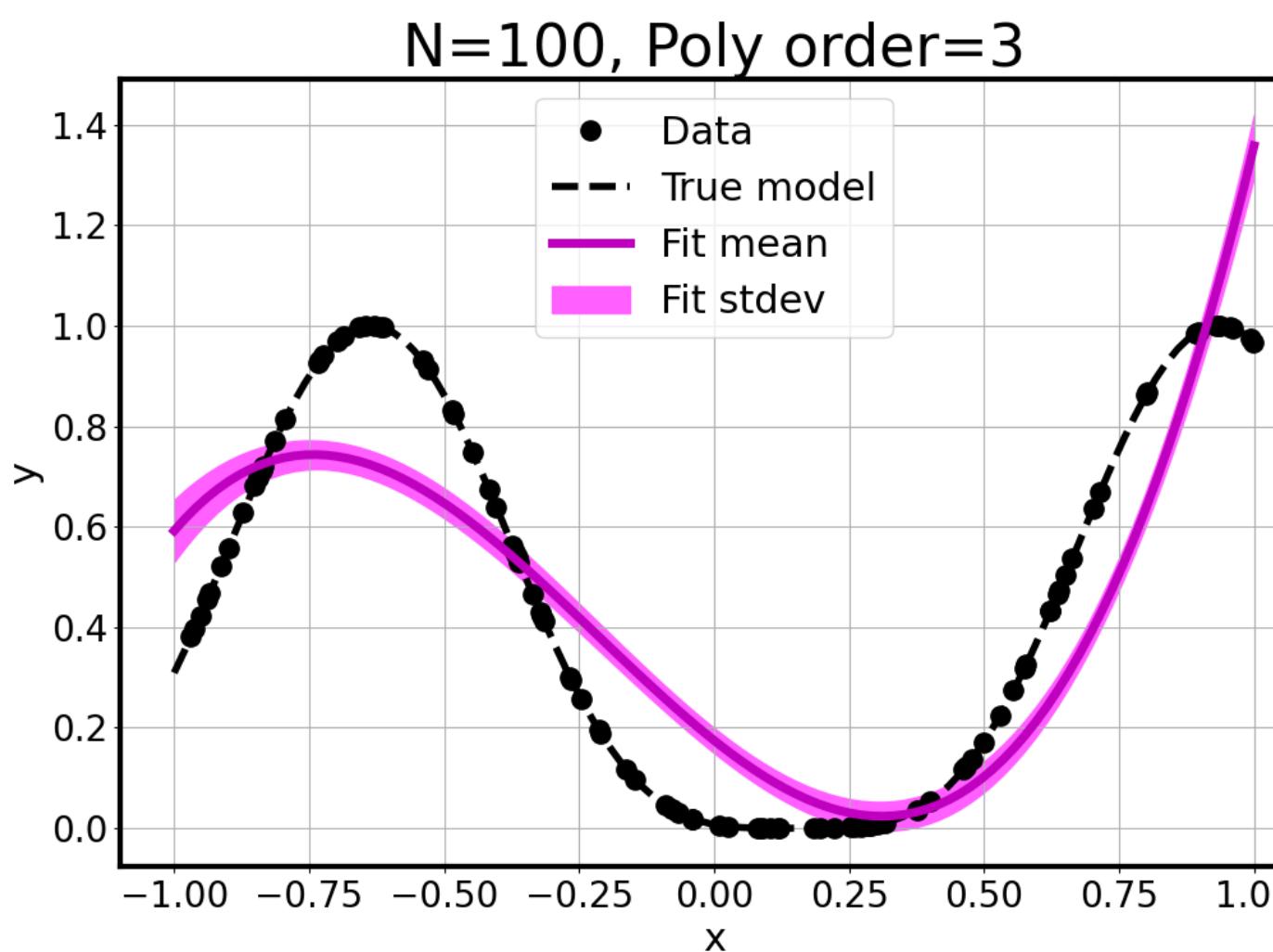
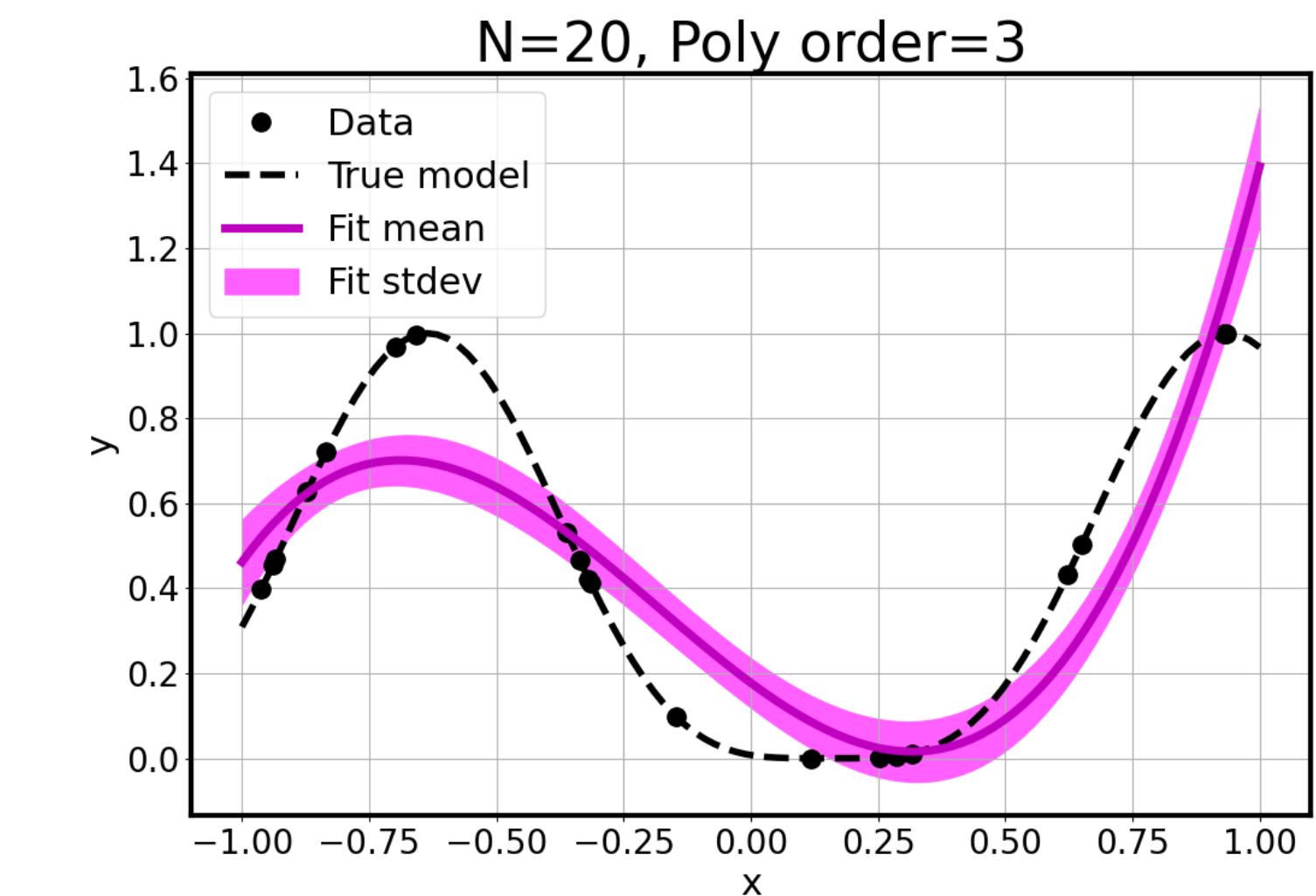
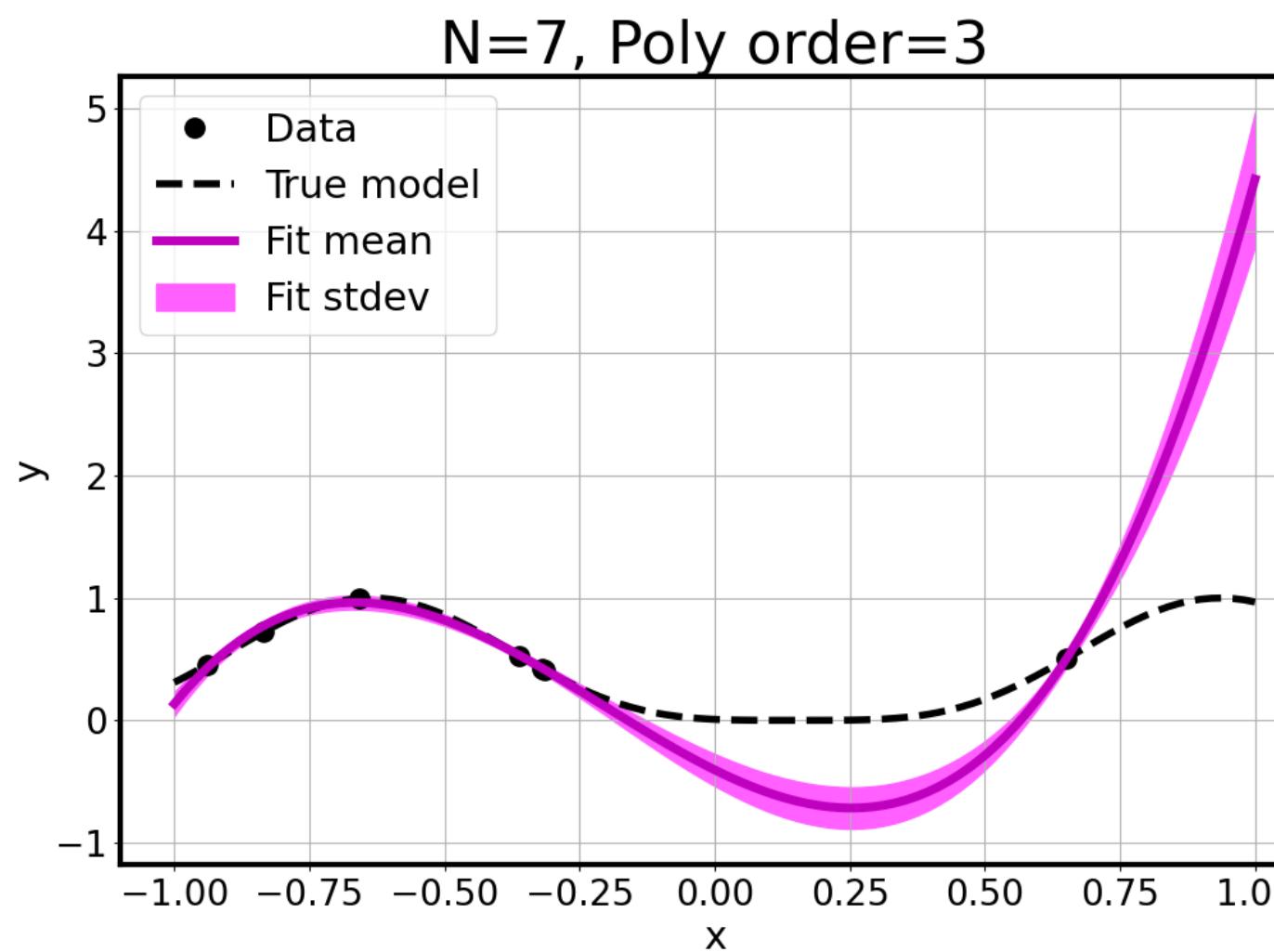
Synthetic data

$$y(x) = \sin^4(2x - 0.3)$$

Cubic fit

$$y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^3 c_k B_k(x)$$

More data leads to  
overconfident prediction



# Capturing Model Error in Likelihood (a.k.a. Data Model)

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$$y_i = f(x_i, c) + \delta(x_i) + \sigma_i \epsilon_i$$

## External correction

(Kennedy-O'Hagan):

- Kennedy, O'Hagan, “Bayesian Calibration of Computer Models”.  
*J Royal Stat Soc: Series B (Stat Meth)*, 63: 425-464, 2001.
- 

$$y_i = f(x_i, c + \delta(x_i)) + \sigma_i \epsilon_i$$

## Internal correction

(embedded model error):

- Allows meaningful usage of calibrated model
- ‘Leftover’ noise term even with no data error
- Respects physics (not too relevant in our context)

• Sargsyan, Najm, Ghanem, “On the Statistical Calibration of Physical Models”.  
*Int. J. Chem. Kinet.*, 47: 246-276, 2015.

• Sargsyan, Huan, Najm, “Embedded Model Error Representation for Bayesian Model Calibration”.  
*Int. J. Uncert. Quantif.*, 9(4): 365-394, 2019.

# Embedded Model Error for Linear Regression Models

$$\underline{y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x) + \sigma_i \epsilon_i}$$

'Embed' uncertainty in  
all (or selected) coefficients

$$y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^P (c_k + d_k \xi_k) B_k(x)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Model} & & \text{Model error} \\ = & & \\ \sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x) + \sum_{k=0}^P d_k B_k(x) \xi_k & & \end{array}$$

(still Gaussian, but correlated,  
and model-informed)

Note:

No formal distinction between  
internal and external corrections,  
but internal allows for interpretation  
and model-informed error

# Embedded Model Error: likelihood choice is challenging

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Classical data model

$$y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x) + \sigma_i \epsilon_i$$

$$p(c | y) \propto \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left( -\frac{(\sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x_i) - y_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2} \right)$$

MCMC sampling of  $c$

---

Embedded model error

$$y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^P (c_k + d_k \xi_k) B_k(x) = \sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x) + \sum_{k=0}^P d_k B_k(x) \xi_k$$

Option 1 (IID)

$$p(c, d | y) \propto \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left( -\frac{(\sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x_i) - y_i)^2}{2 \sum_{k=0}^K d_k^2 B_k(x_i)^2} \right)$$

MCMC sampling of  $c, d$   
or  
simply optimize the posterior for  $c, d$

# Embedded Model Error: likelihood choice is challenging

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Classical data model

$$y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x) + \sigma_i \epsilon_i$$

$$p(c | y) \propto \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left( -\frac{(\sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x_i) - y_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2} \right)$$

MCMC sampling of  $c$

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Embedded model error

$$y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^P (c_k + d_k \xi_k) B_k(x) = \sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x) + \sum_{k=0}^P d_k B_k(x) \xi_k$$

Option 2 (ABC)

$$p(c, d | y) \propto \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left( -\frac{(\sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x_i) - y_i)^2 + (\sqrt{\sum_{k=0}^P d_k^2 B_k^2(x_i)} - \alpha | \sum_{k=0}^P c_k B_k(x_i) - y_i |)^2}{2\epsilon^2} \right)$$

# Pushed forward predictive uncertainty captures the true discrepancy from the data

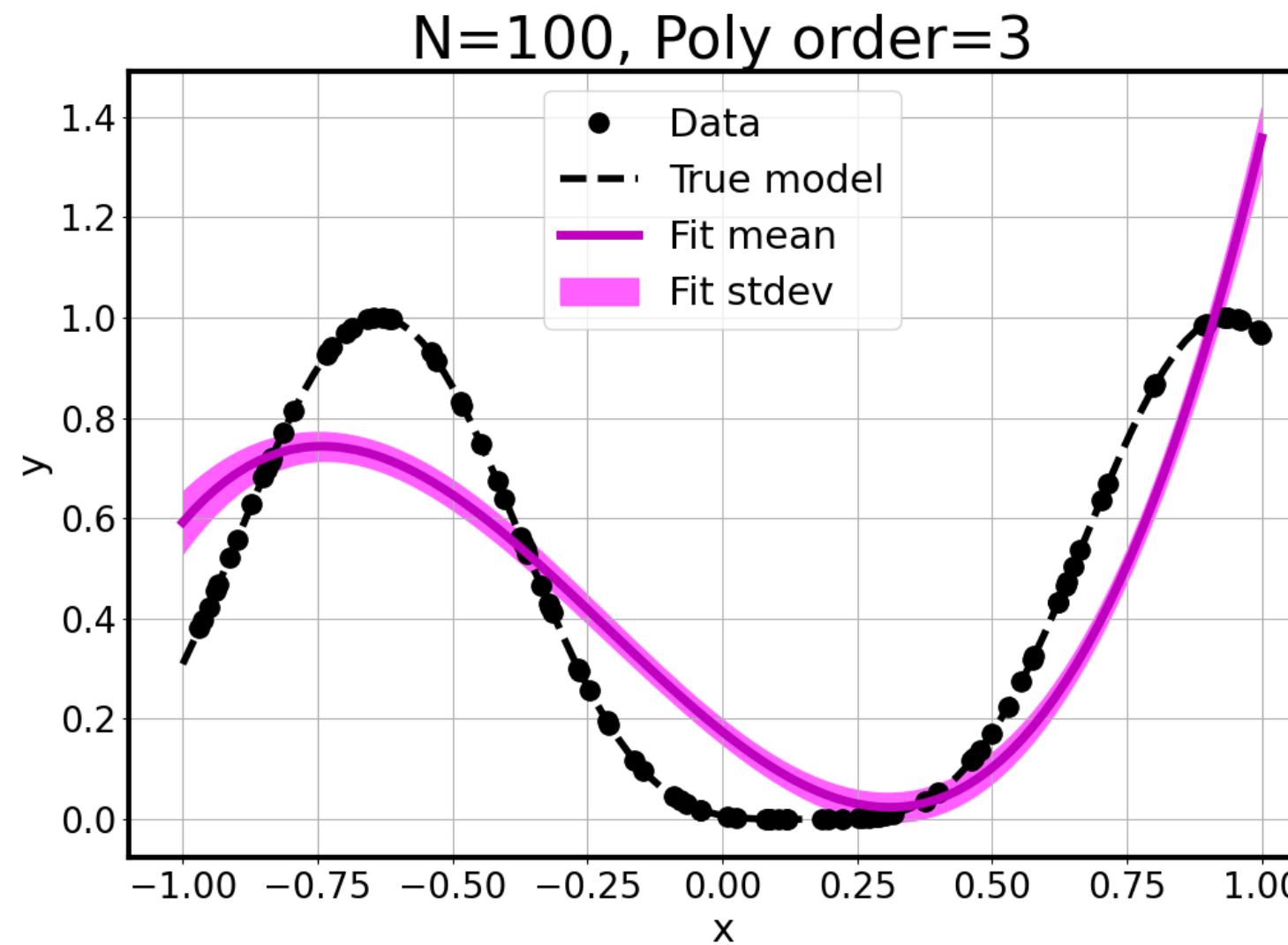
Synthetic data

$$y(x) = \sin^4(2x - 0.3)$$

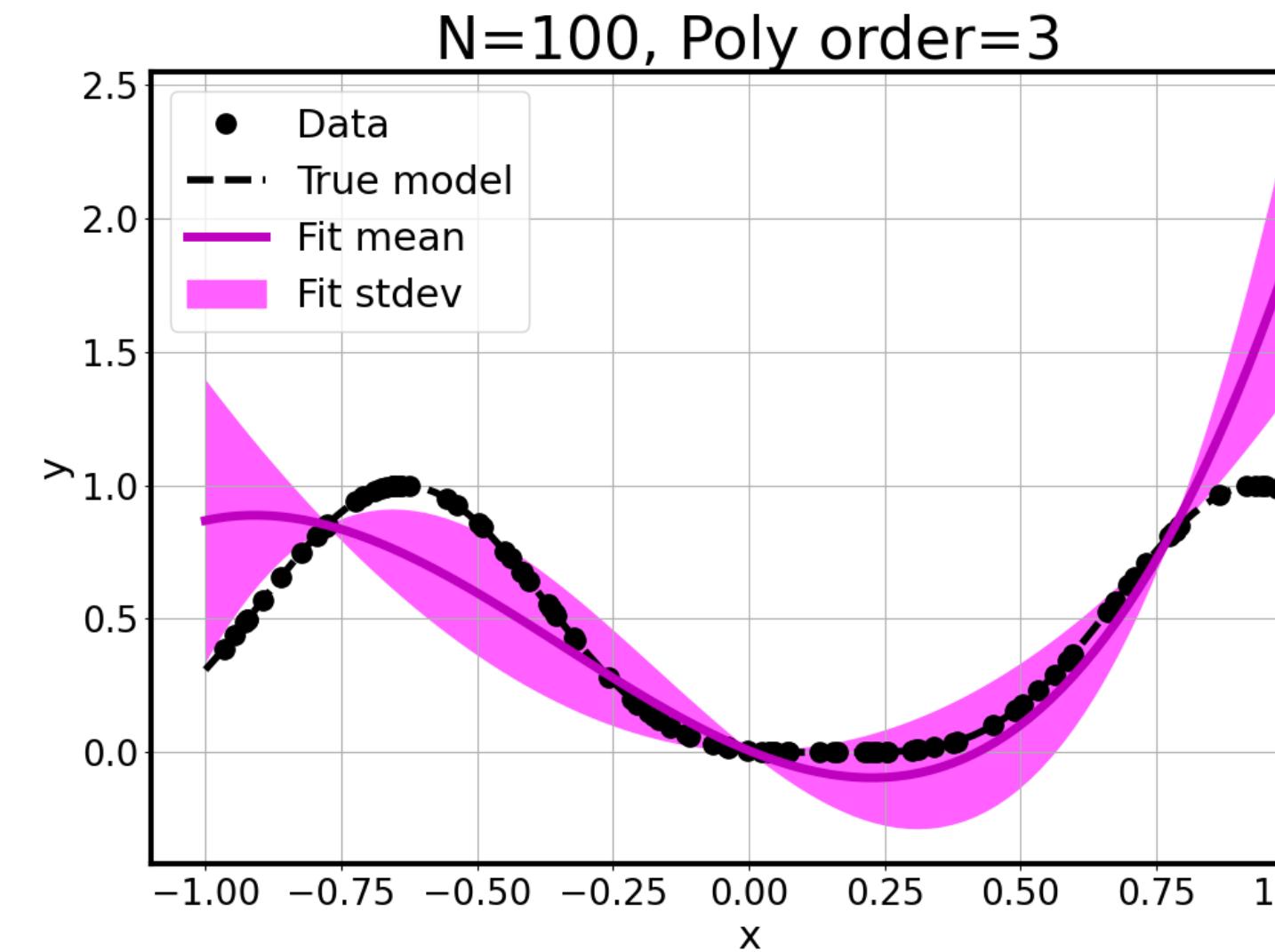
Cubic fit

$$y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^3 c_k B_k(x)$$

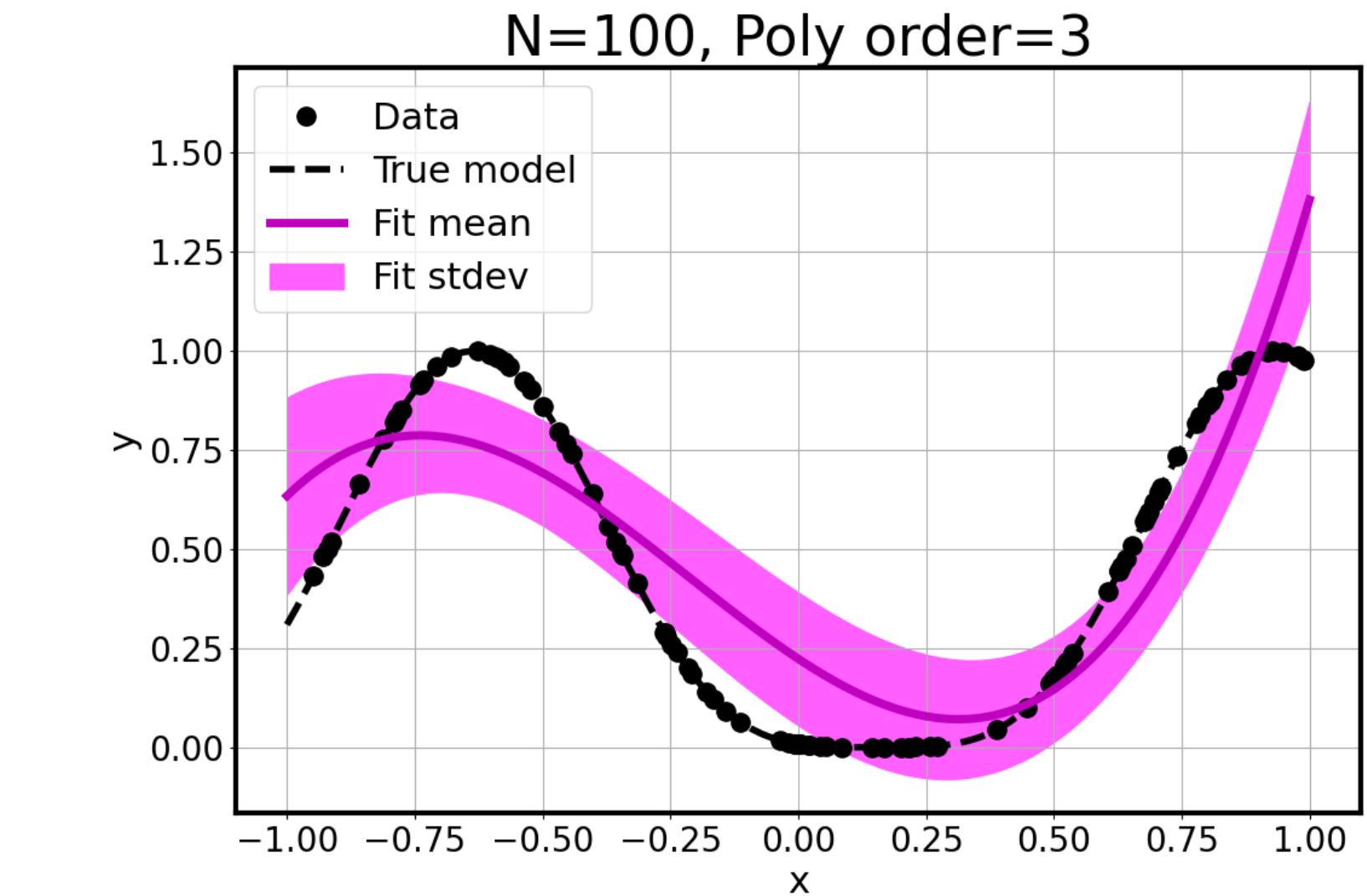
Classical case



Model error, IID likelihood

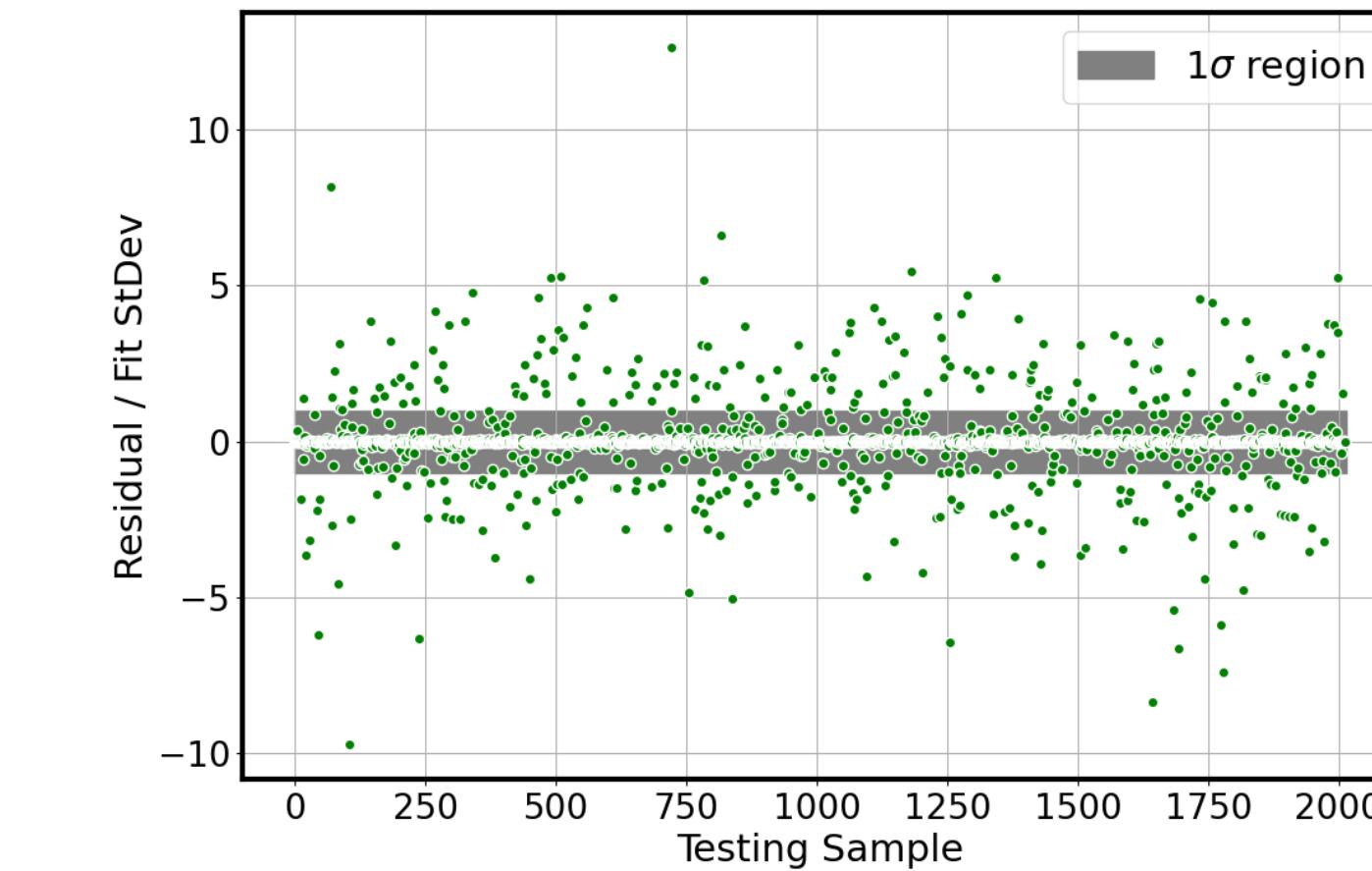
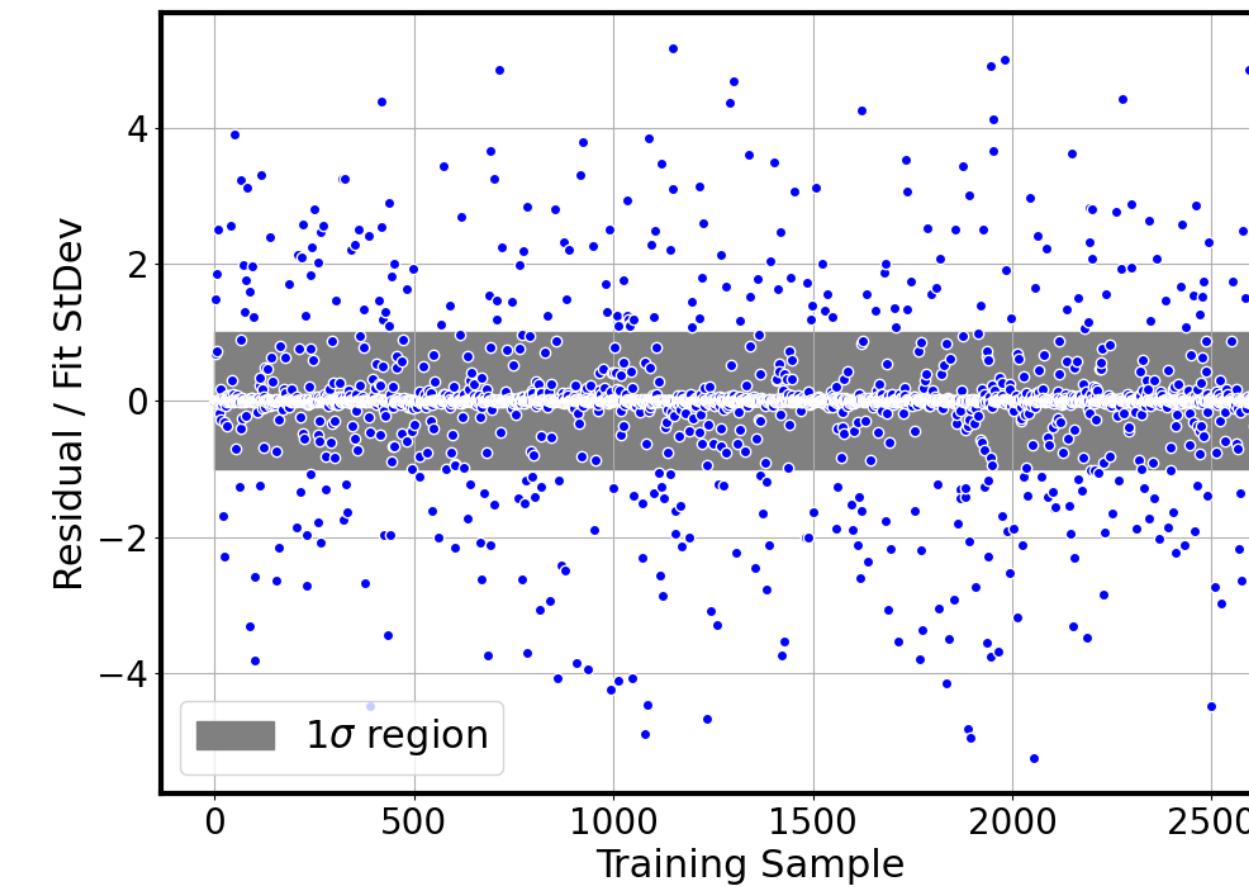
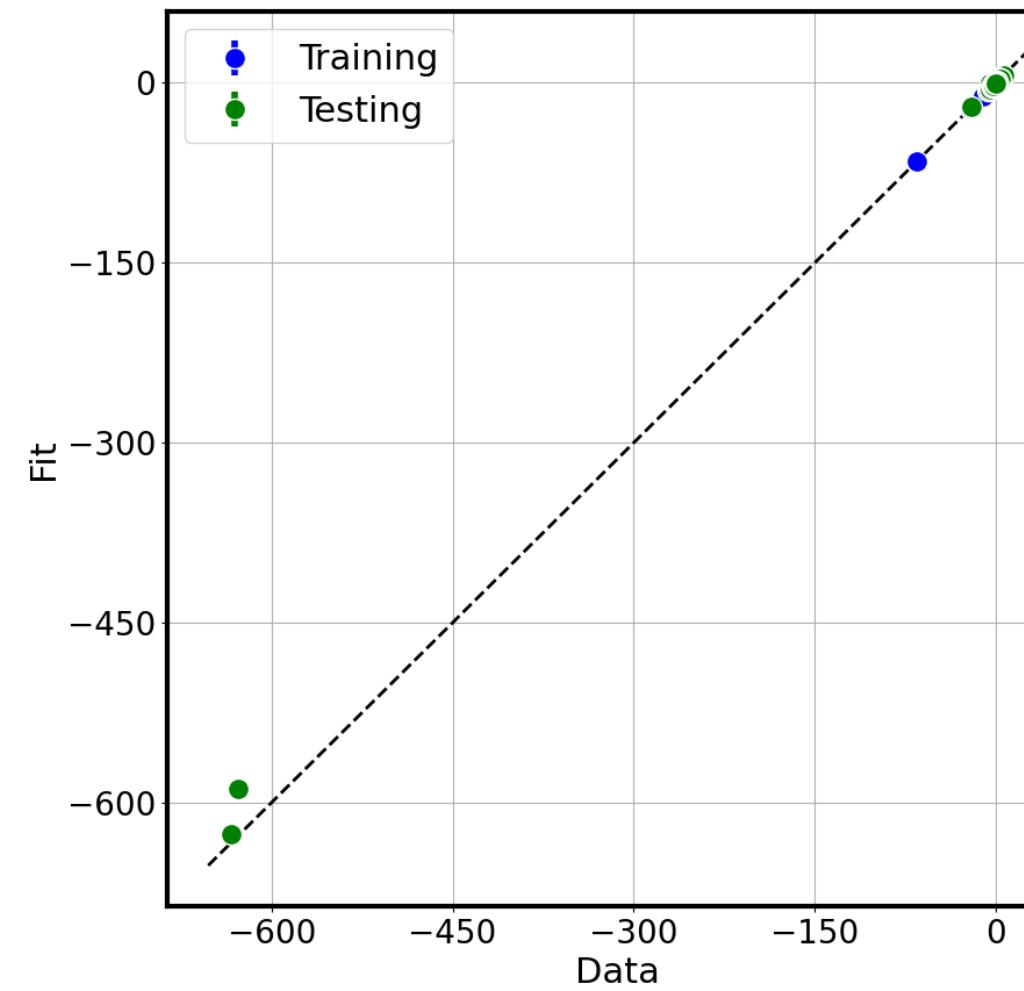


Model error, ABC likelihood

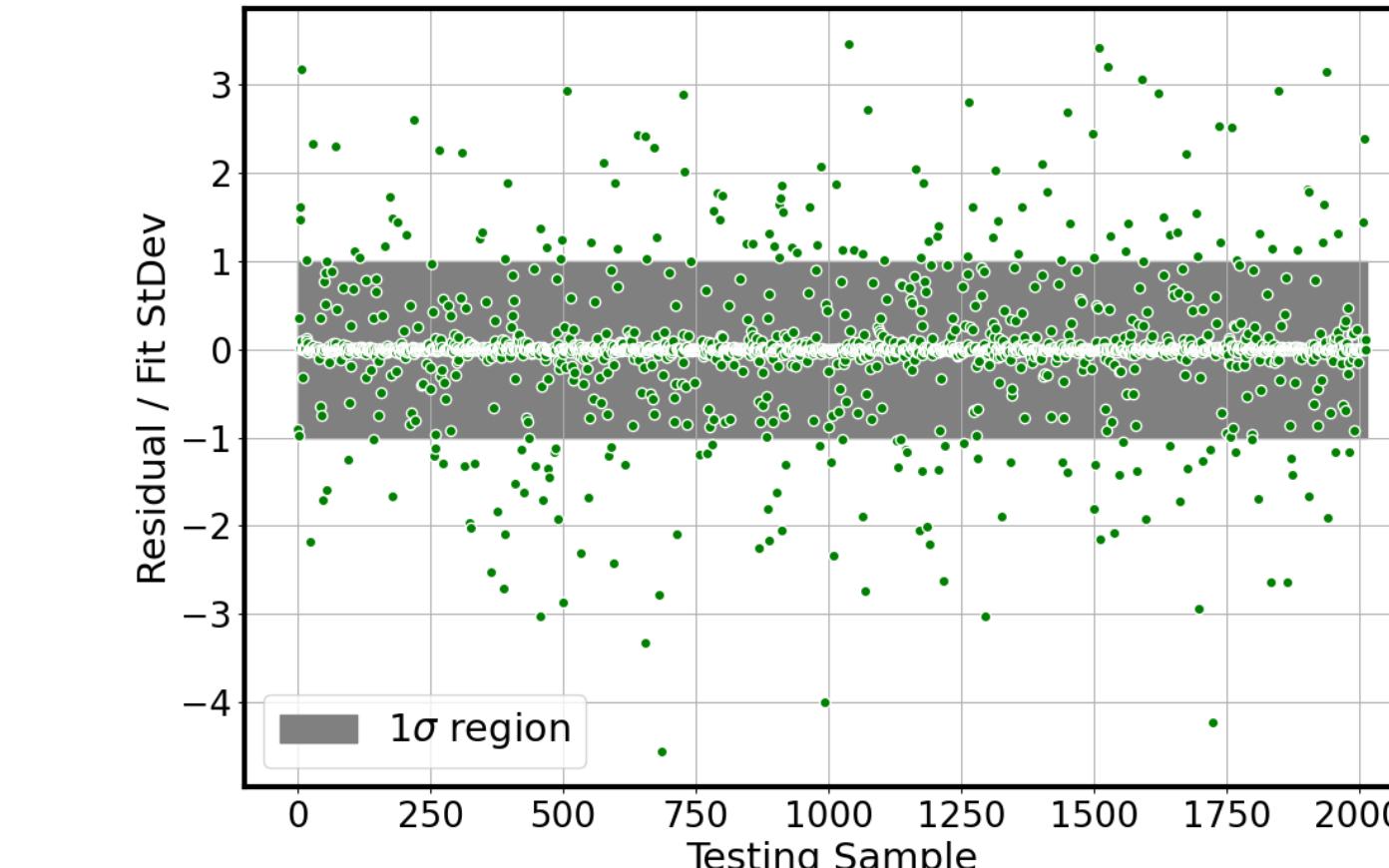
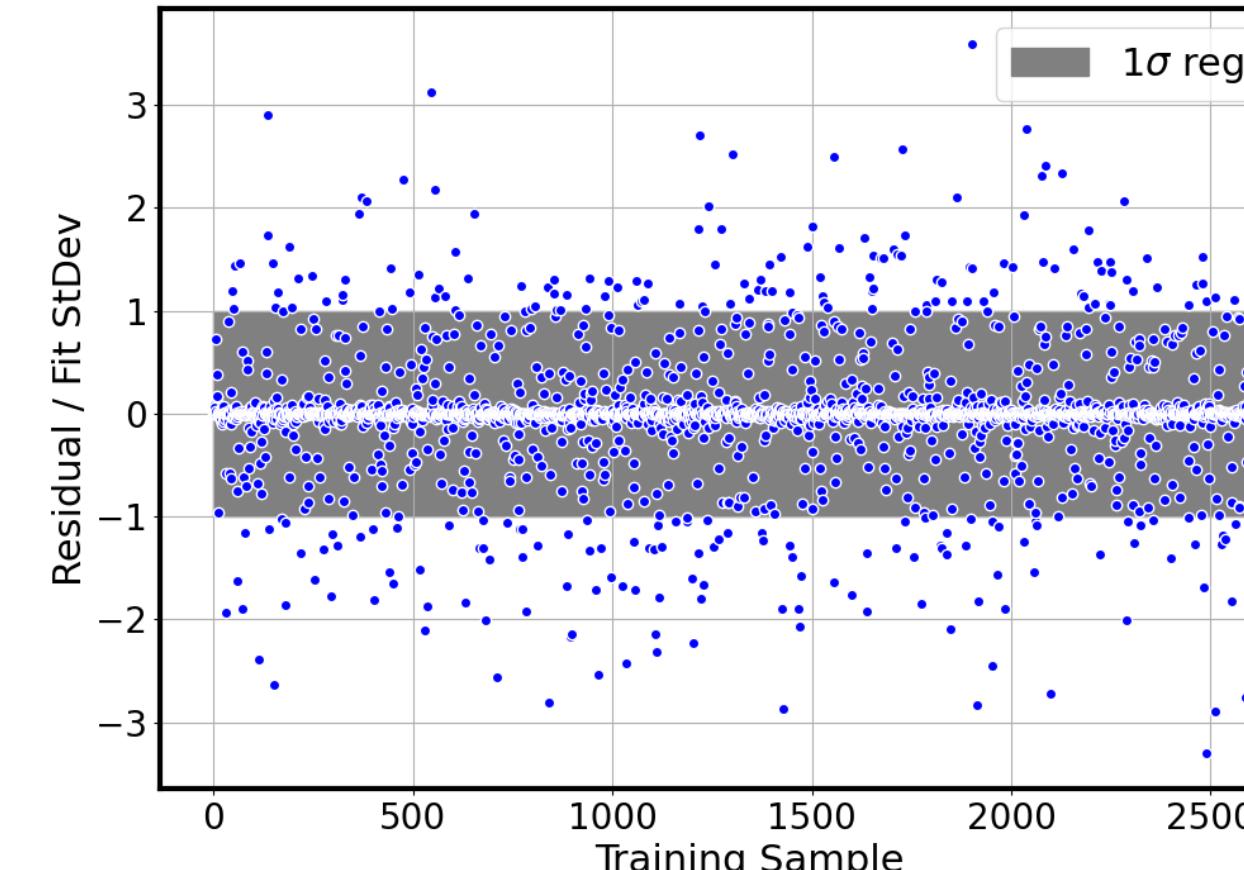
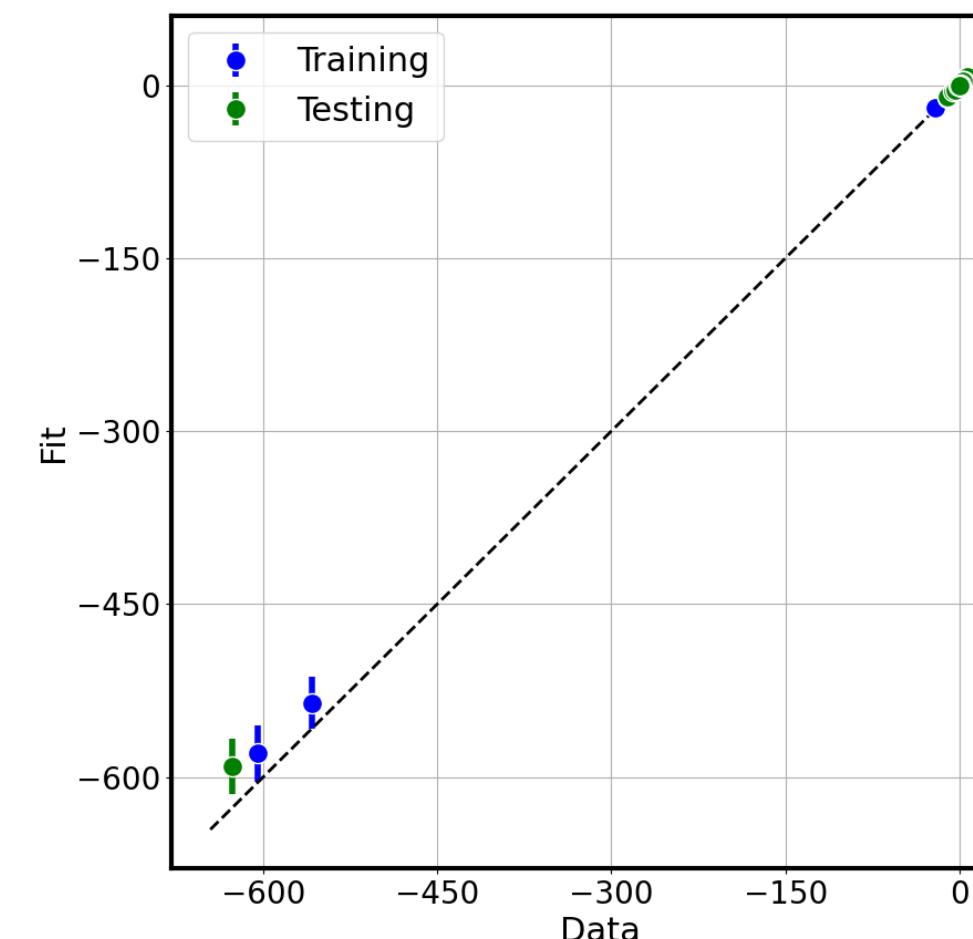


# Uncertainty validation: W-Zrc Dataset

## Uncertainty without model error

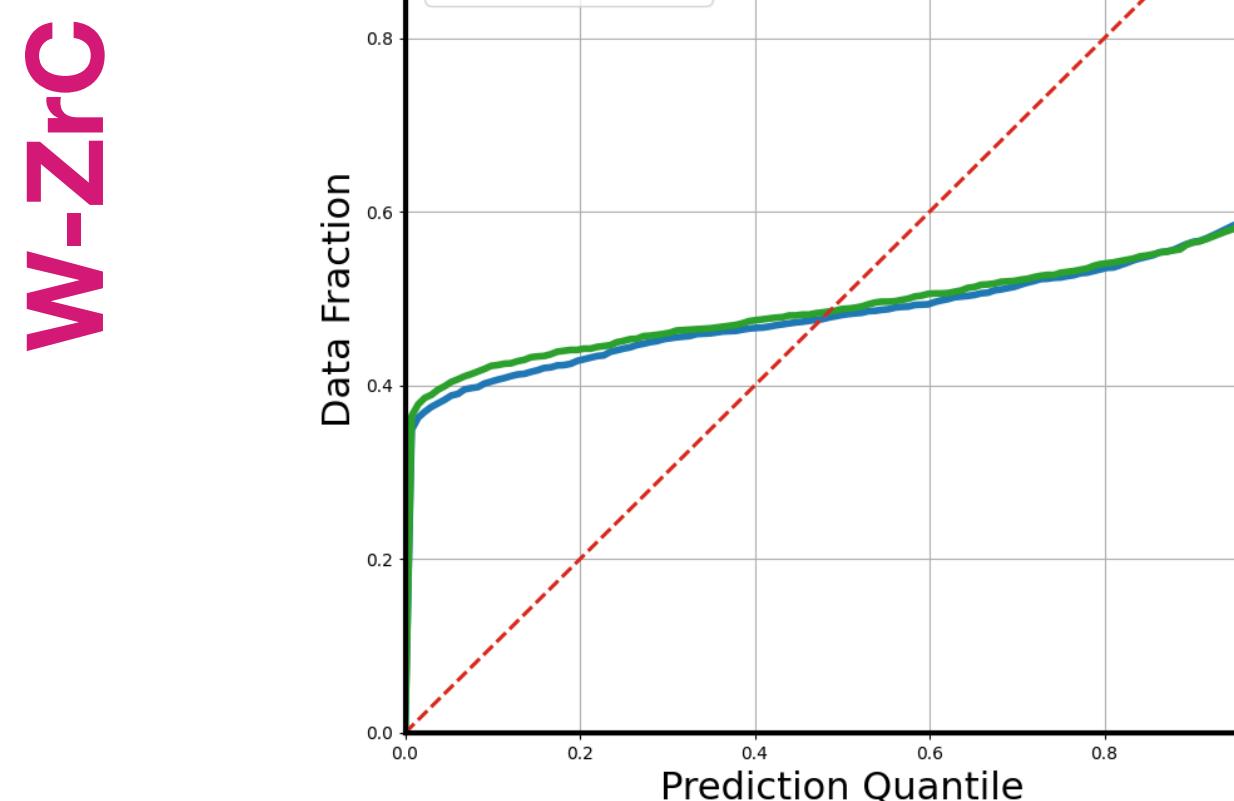
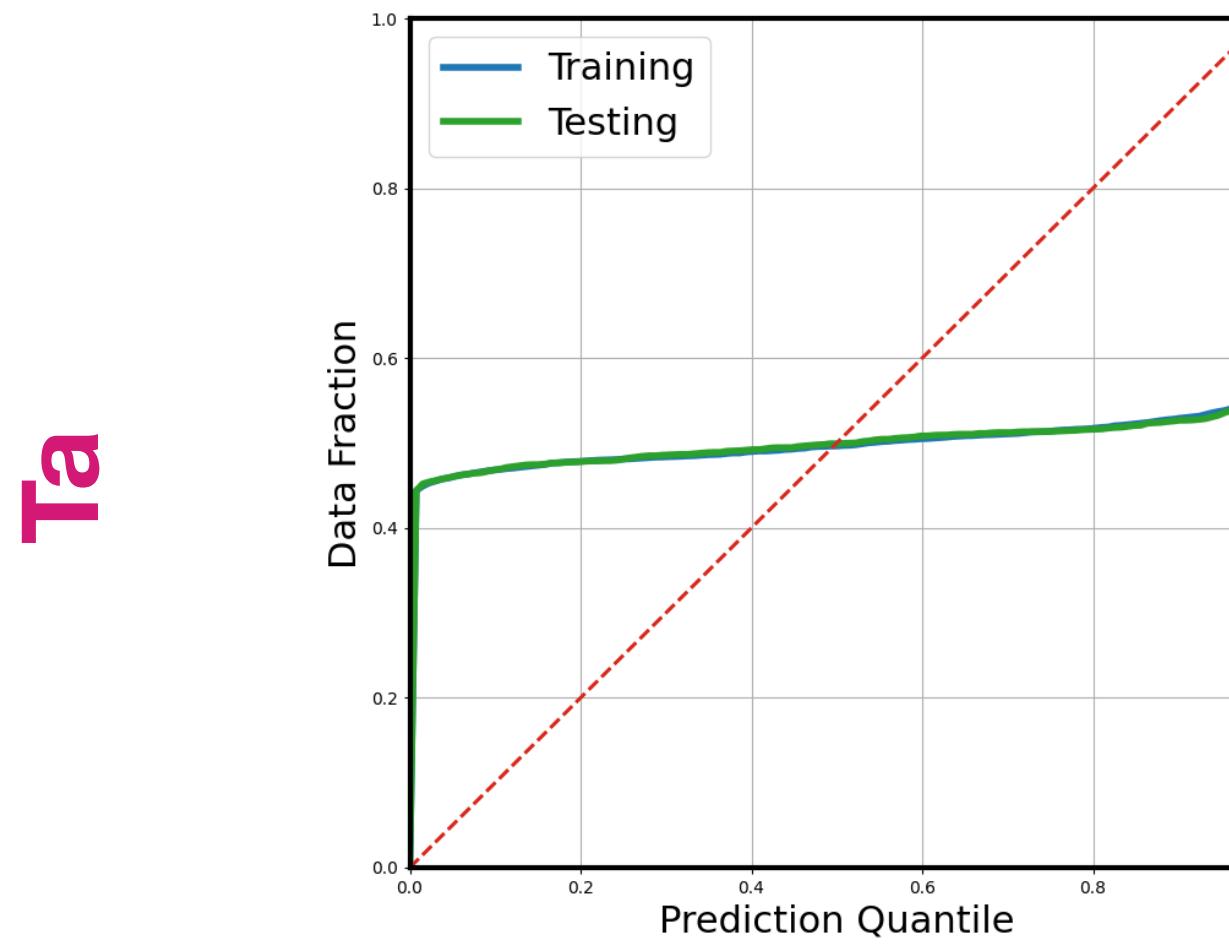


## Uncertainty with model error

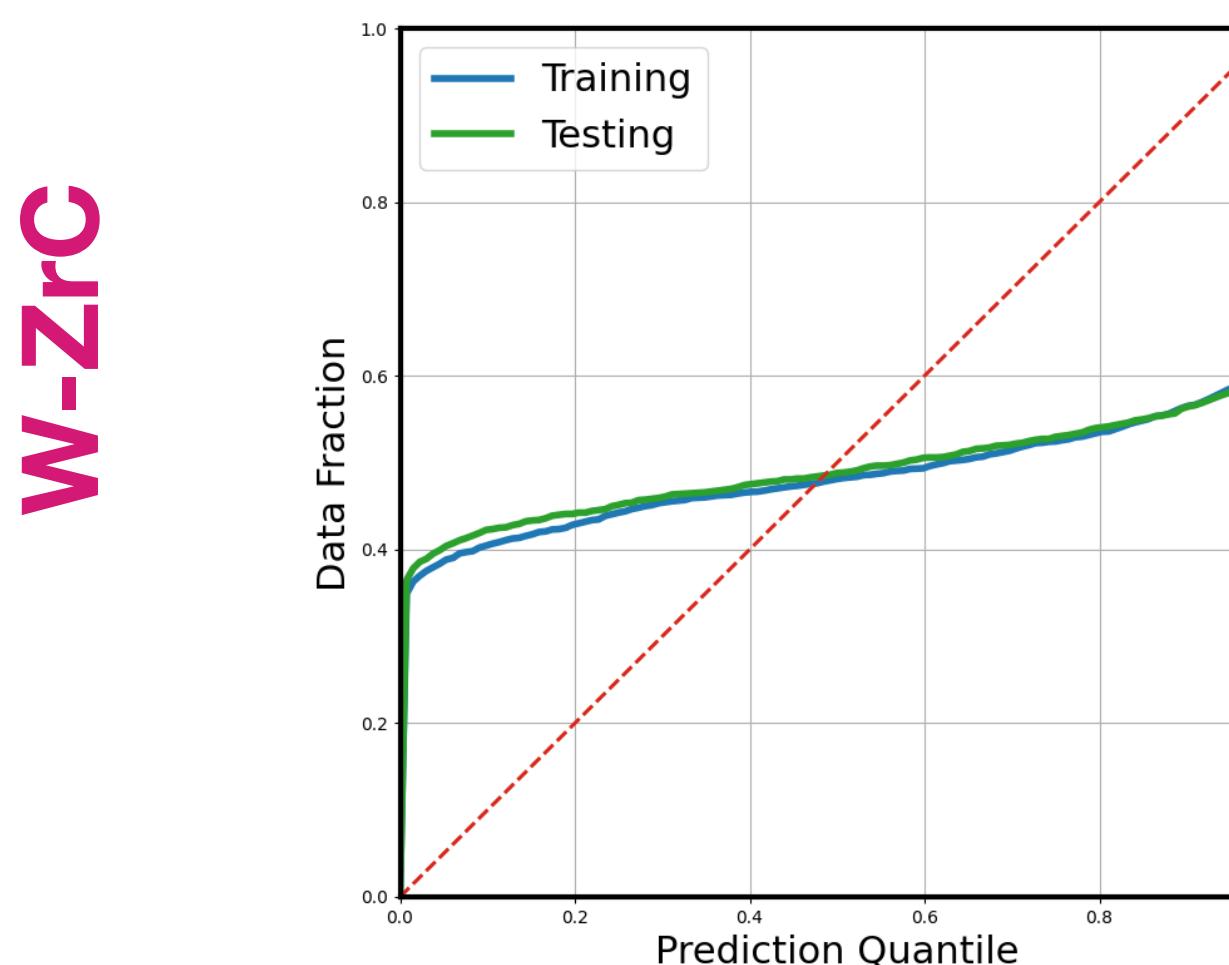
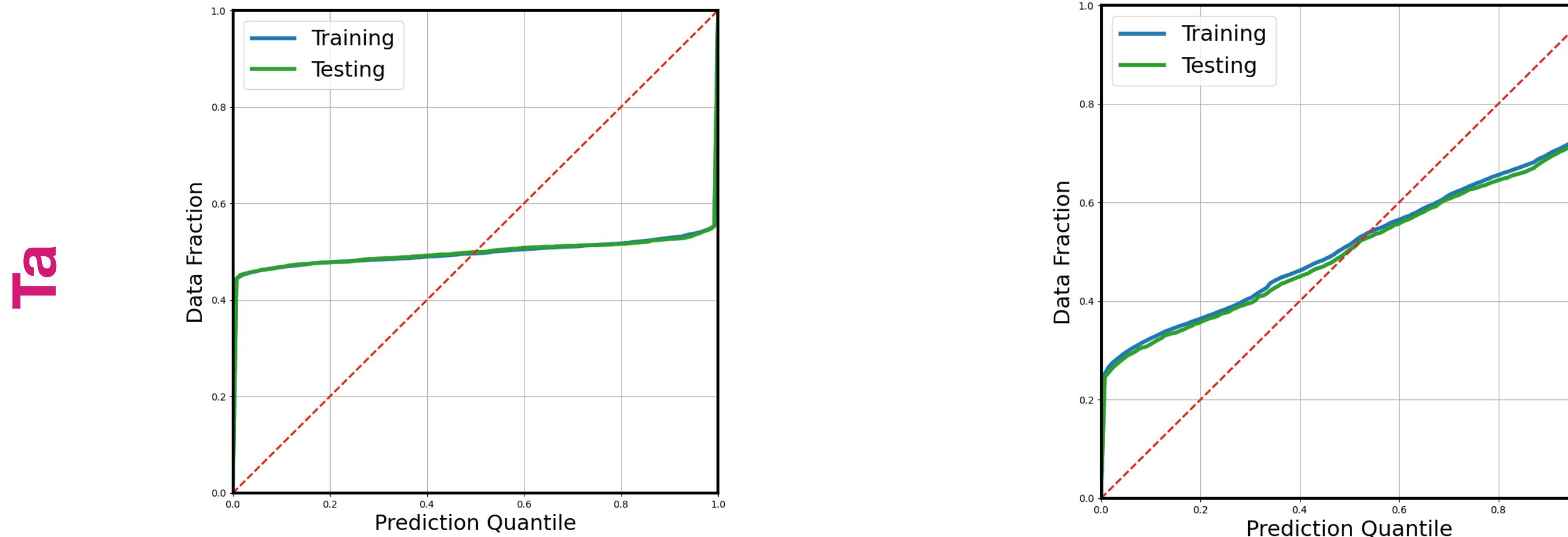


# Uncertainty validation: two examples

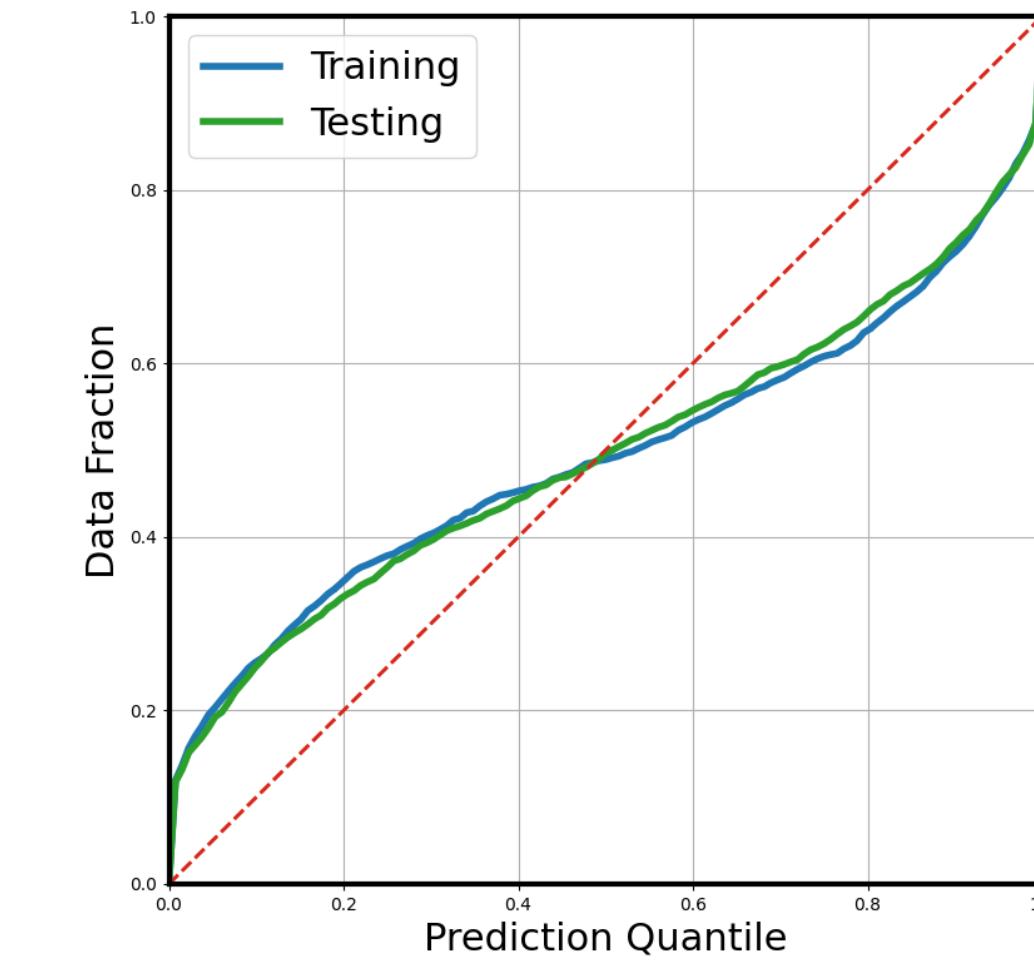
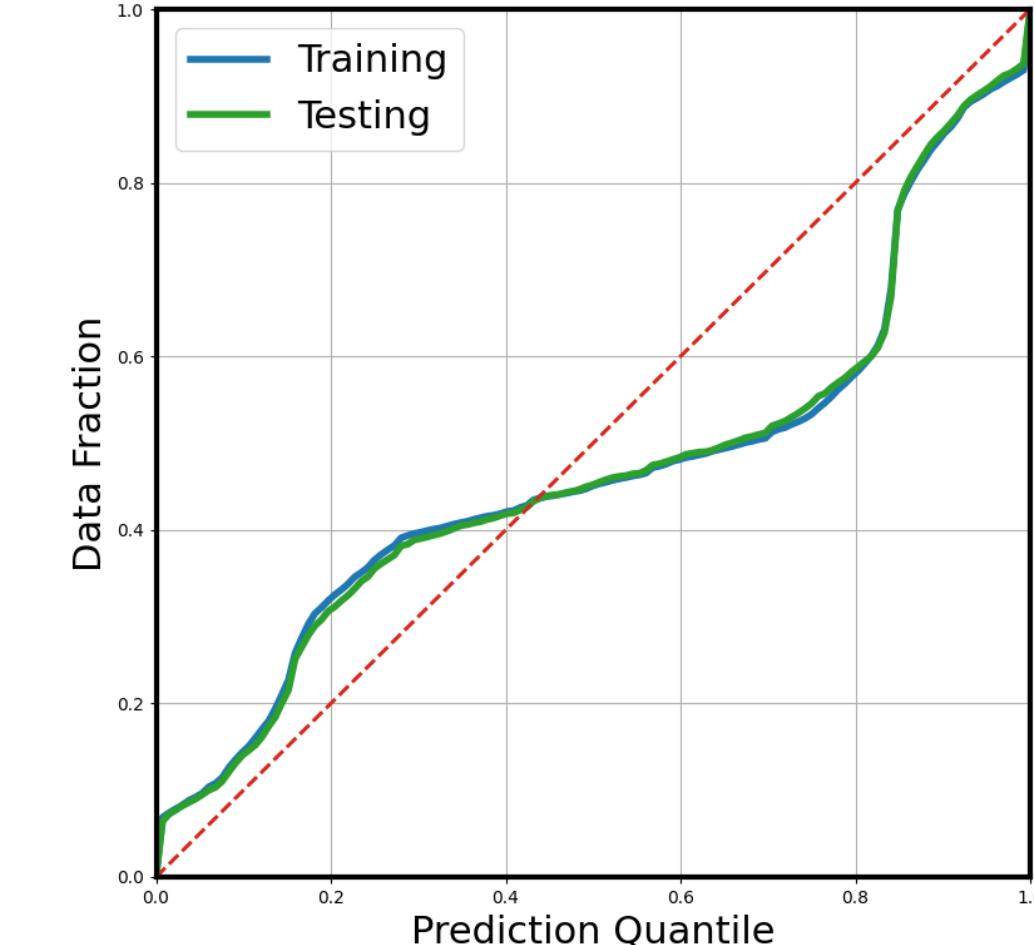
Classical case



Model error, IID likelihood



Model error, ABC likelihood



# Several challenges/choices

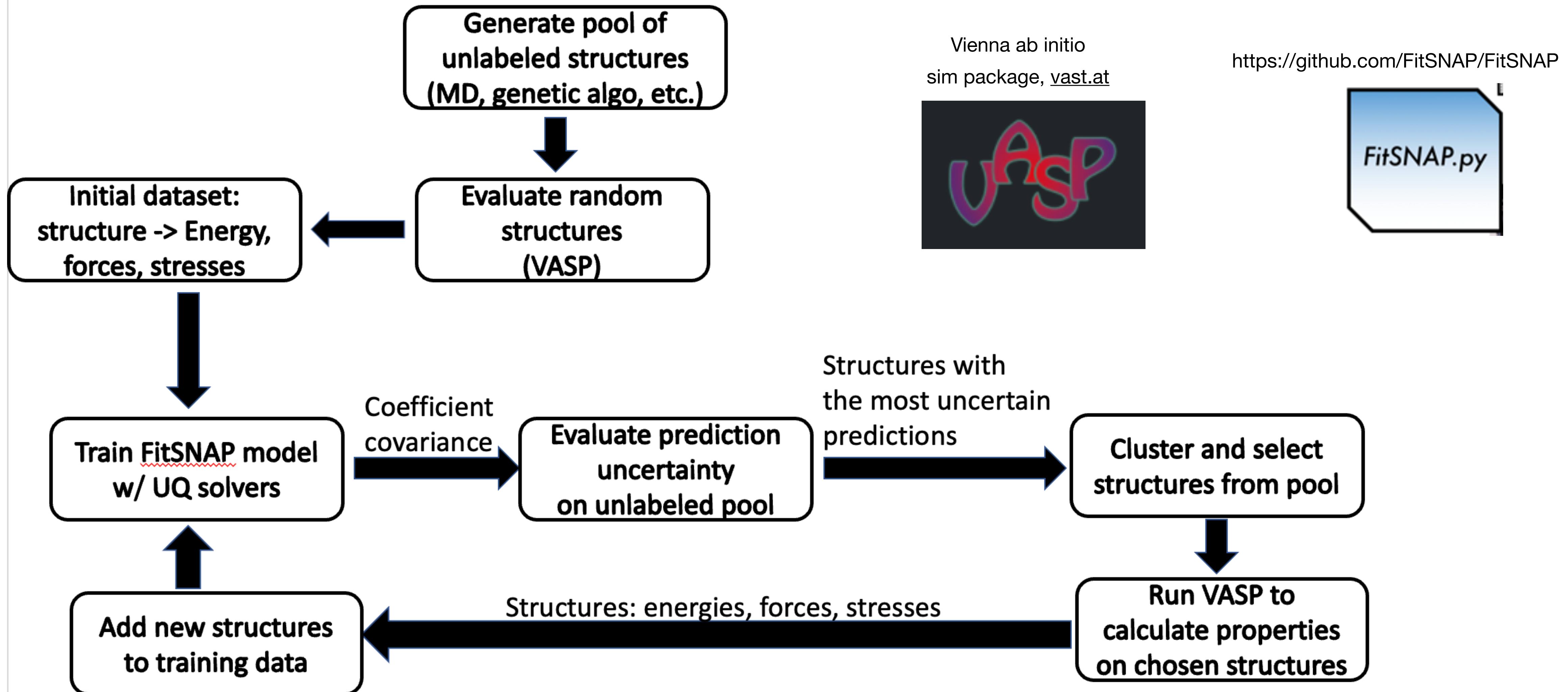
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- Embedding type: e.g.

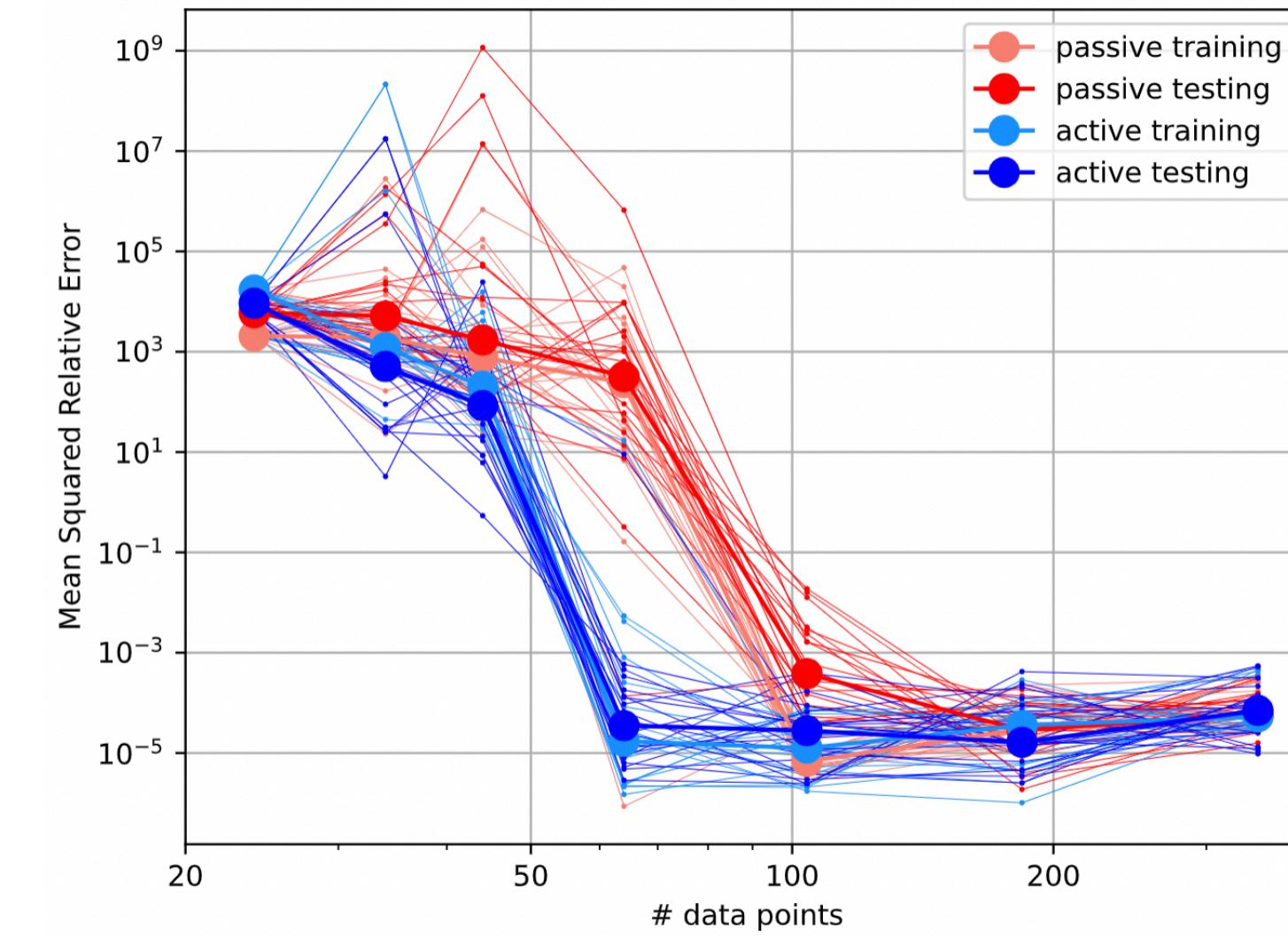
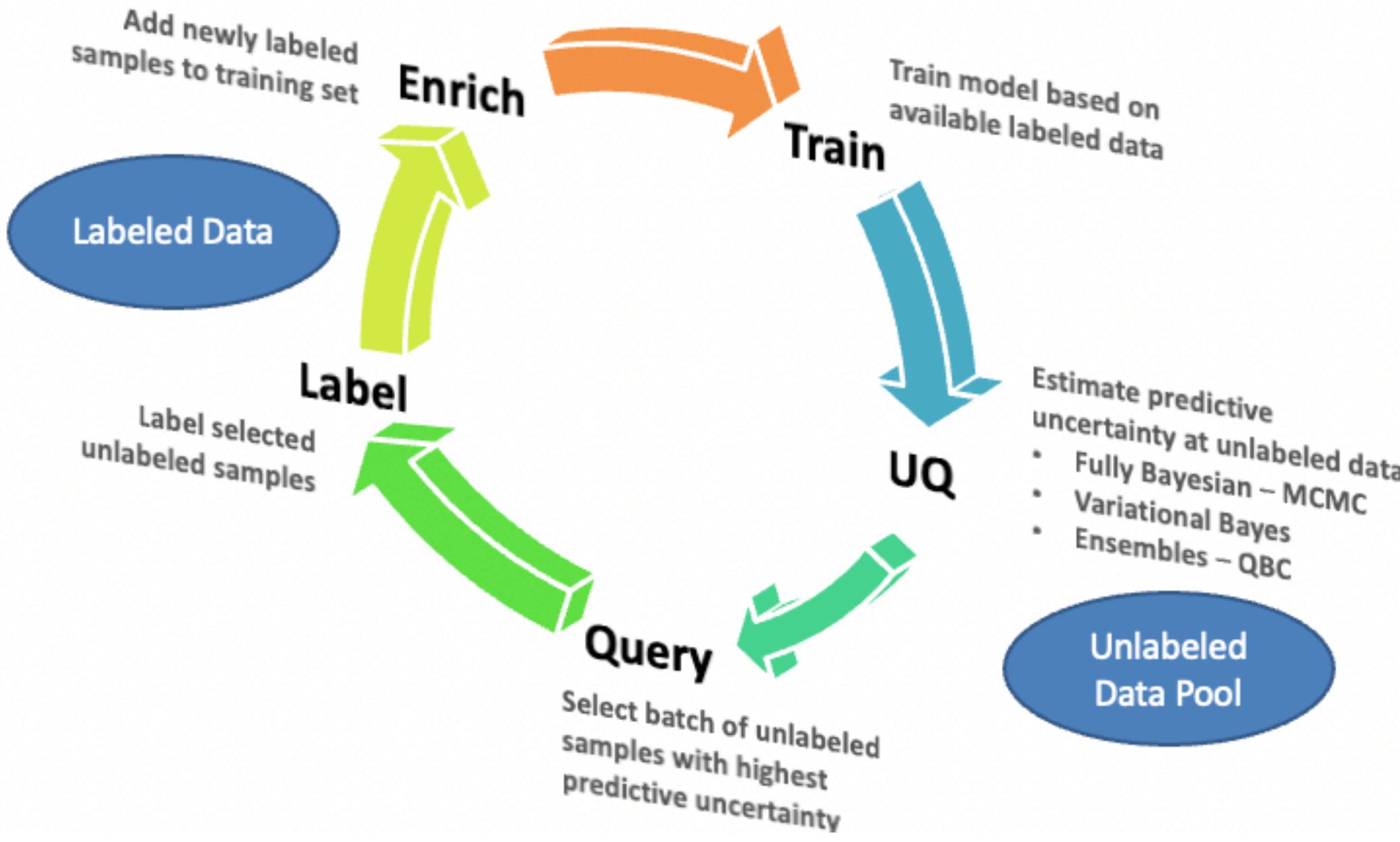
$$\text{additive } y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^P (c_k + d_k \xi_k) B_k(x) \text{ or multiplicative } y_i \approx \sum_{k=0}^P (c_k + c_k d_k \xi_k) B_k(x)$$

- Degenerate (Gaussian) likelihoods: resort to approximate Bayesian computation (ABC) or independent (IID) assumptions
- Difficult posterior PDFs for MCMC, choice of priors for embedding parameters
- Which coefficients to embed the model error in?
- Connect predictive uncertainty and the residual error with an extrapolation metric
- Weighting between energies, forces and stresses

# Active Learning: current workflow



# Active Learning: Query Options



## Query-by-Committee (QBC)

- Launch K learners, each with fN training points ( $f=0.8$ )
- Evaluate the learners' performance at all points in the pool
- Select training points from the pool that correspond to the highest 'disagreement' and add them to the training set

## Bayesian Uncertainty

- Launch a single learner
- Evaluate its performance at all points in the pool
- Select training points from the pool that correspond to the highest posterior uncertainty and add them to the training set

# Summary

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- Embedded **model error** for Bayesian inference of MLIAPs
  - Leads to data model with baked-in uncertainty
  - Meaningful model-error uncertainty capturing the true residual
  - Choices to make: priors, likelihoods, MCMC sampler, where to embed...
- **Active learning** informed by uncertain predictions (Bayesian, variational, QBC)
  - Anchored in uncertainty estimation, even if heuristic
  - Promising initial results
  - Choices to make: query strategy, UQ method, metric of ‘newness’...