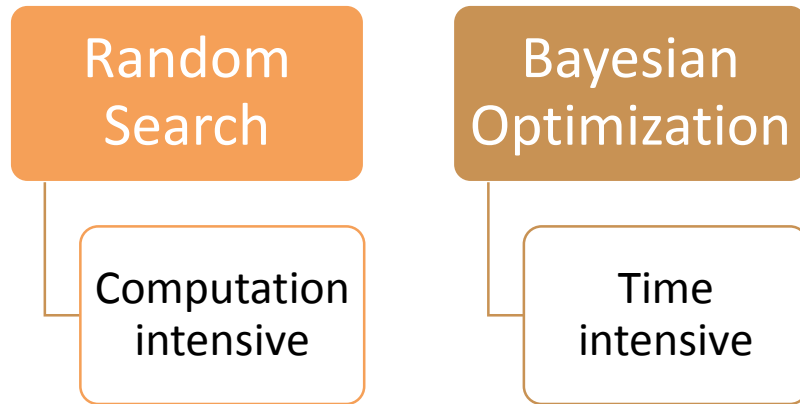




# Multi-Fidelity Optimization

# Search strategies



- Both strategies aim to find the hyperparameters,  $x$ , that minimize  $f(x)$
- To find the “global” minimum we require a good coverage of  $f(x)$
- As  $x$  dimension increases, the number of evaluations needed to cover  $f(x)$  increases exponentially
  - More computing resource or more time
- Impracticable

# Time budget

- In practice, one constraint for optimization techniques is the **time budget**.
- The aim of the optimization algorithm is to select the hyperparameters that can achieve **(near)-optimal** performance within a defined time budget (or cost).

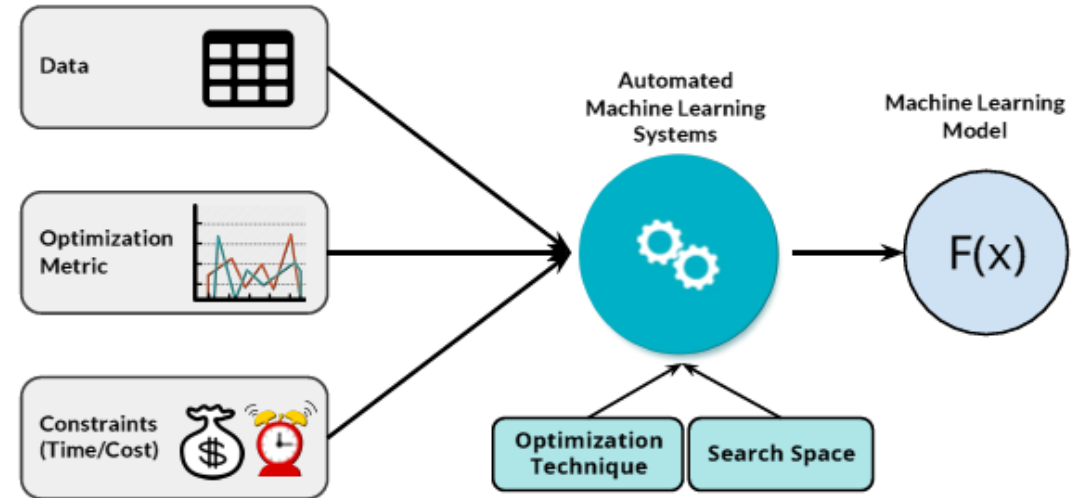


Image taken from Elshaw, et. Al., “Automated Machine Learning: State of the Art and Open Challenges”, ArXiv, 2019

# Black-box strategies

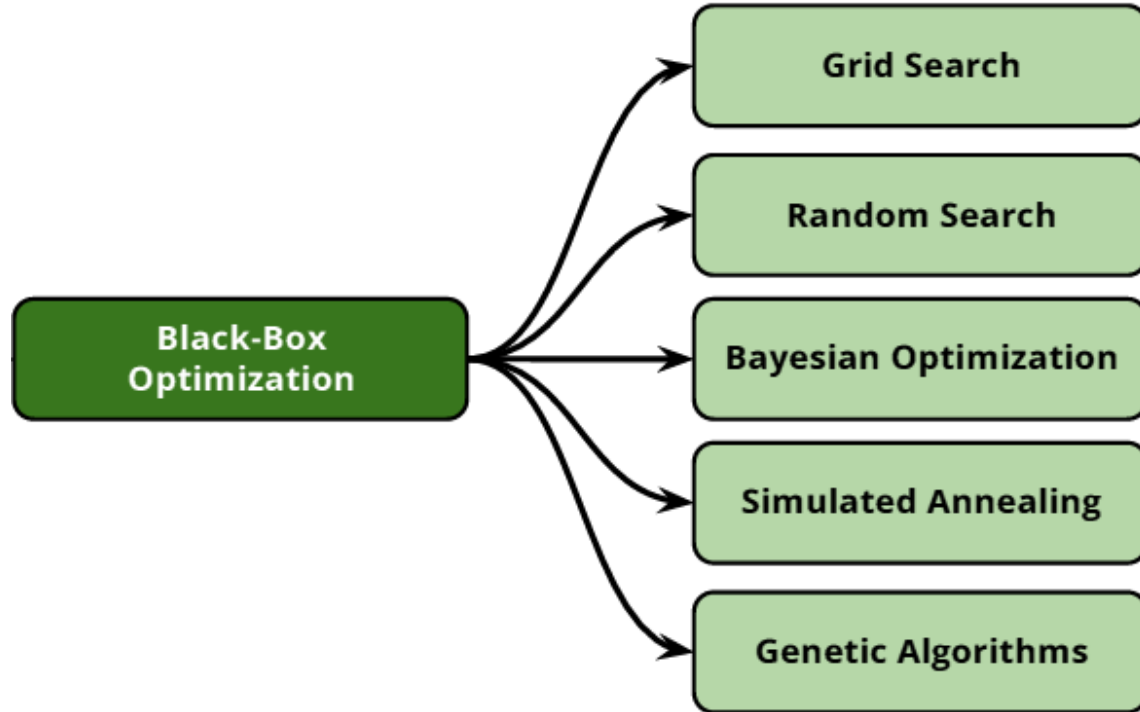


Image taken from Elshawi, et. Al., "Automated Machine Learning: State of the Art and Open Challenges", ArXiv, 2019

We can only know  $f(x)$  after we have fully evaluated it at certain values of the hyperparameters.

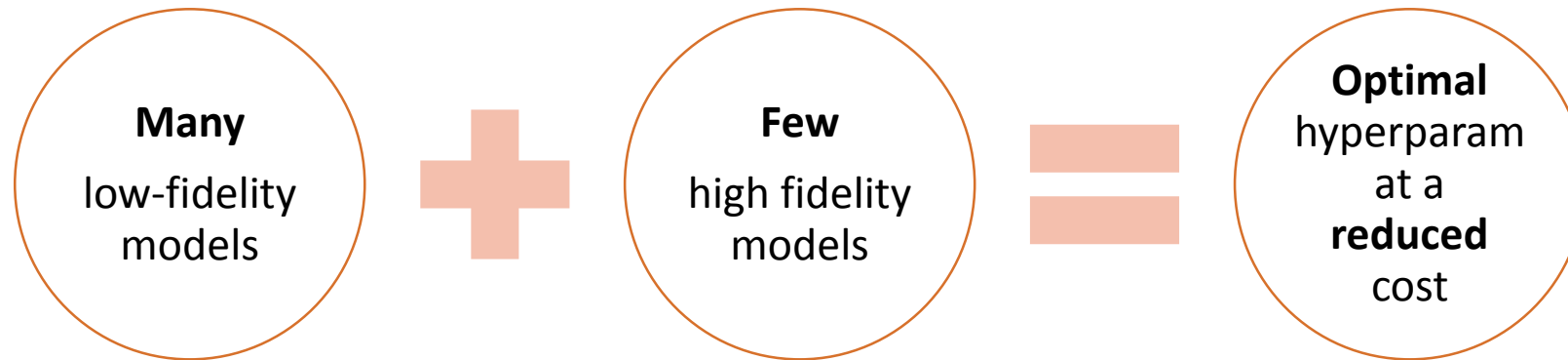
- $F(x)$  is often expensive to obtain
- Often, no getting around the fact that a thorough search of  $f(x)$  will require sampling a large number of  $x$ s.
- **What if, we could use a cheaper version of  $f(x)$ ?**

# Multi-fidelity

- Multi-fidelity optimization focuses on decreasing the evaluation cost by combining **large number** of cheap **low-fidelity** evaluations and a **small number** of expensive **high-fidelity** evaluations.
- The **high-fidelity** evaluation outputs **precise performance** at a higher cost
- The **low-fidelity** evaluations output a **(good) approximation** of the best  $f(x)$  at a much cheaper cost

# Multi-fidelity optimization

Multi-fidelity optimization uses many low-fidelity models to **reduce the total evaluation cost**, find a subset of potentially good solutions, and then, examine the best solutions with high-fidelity model(s).



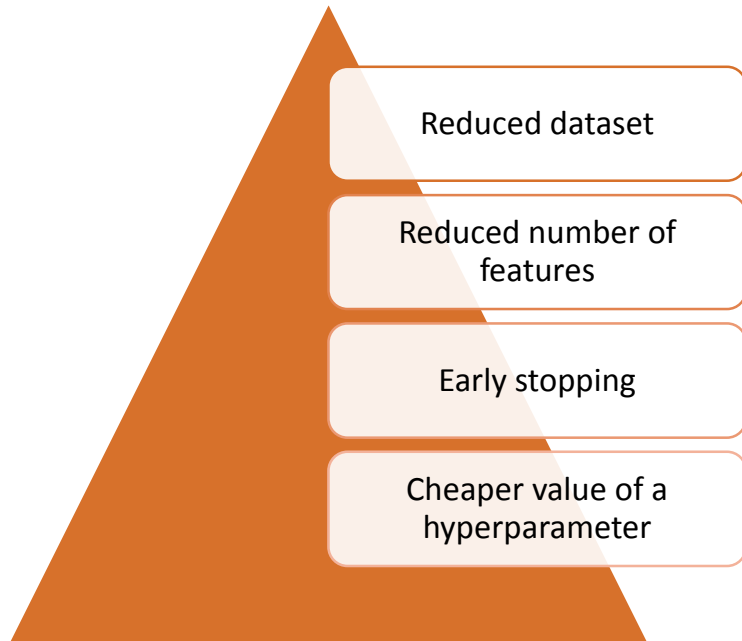


# What are low- and high-fidelity models?



# Low-fidelity models

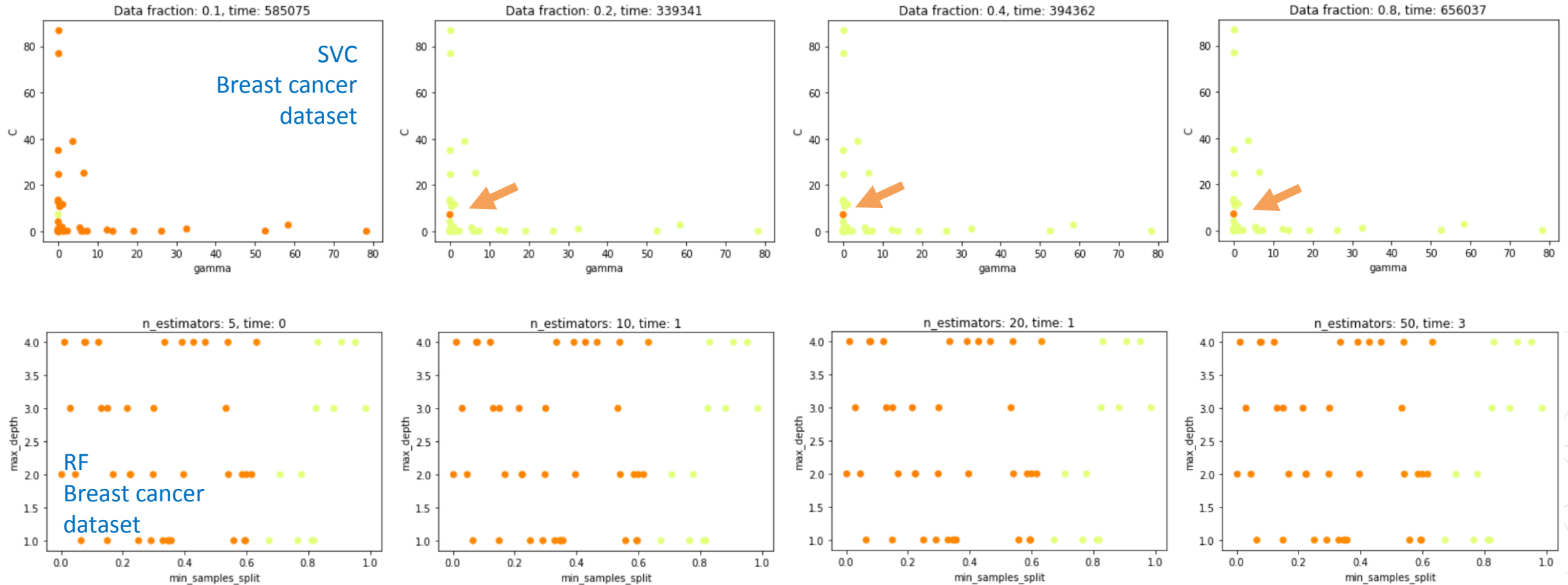
Low-fidelity models are cheaper representations of  $f(x)$



- Low-fidelity models are created to reduce computational cost when a large number of expensive simulations



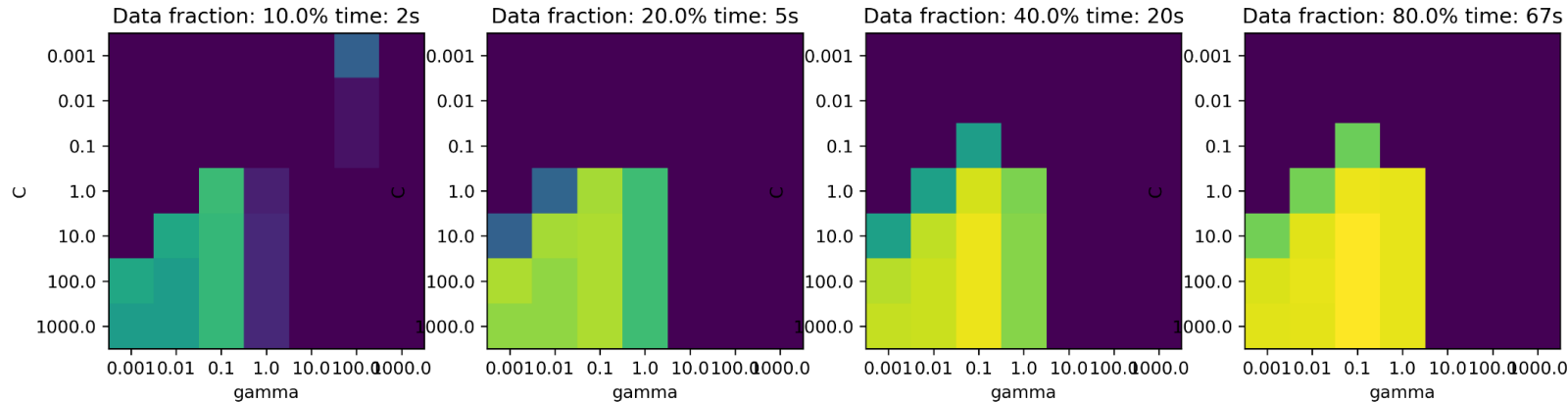
# Low-fidelity models approximate $f(x)$



With low-fidelity models we can already detect where the optimal hyperparameters are at a fraction of the time.

# Low-fidelity models approximate $f(x)$

RBF-SVM parameters on digits dataset



With low-fidelity models we can already detect where the optimal hyperparameters are at a fraction of the time.

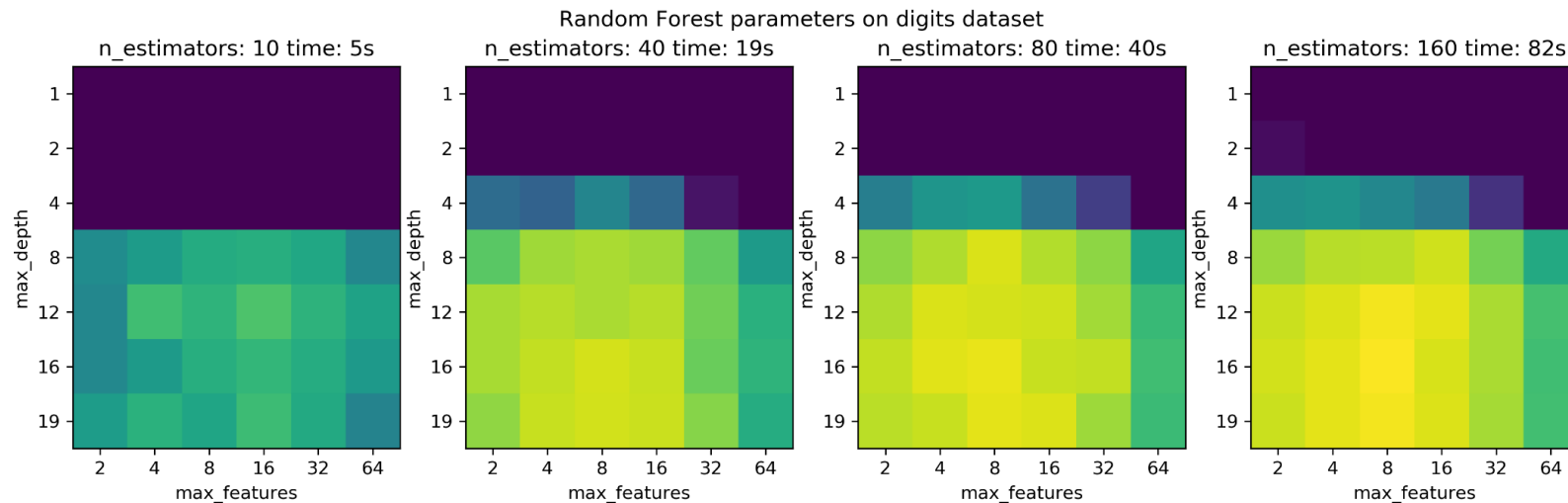
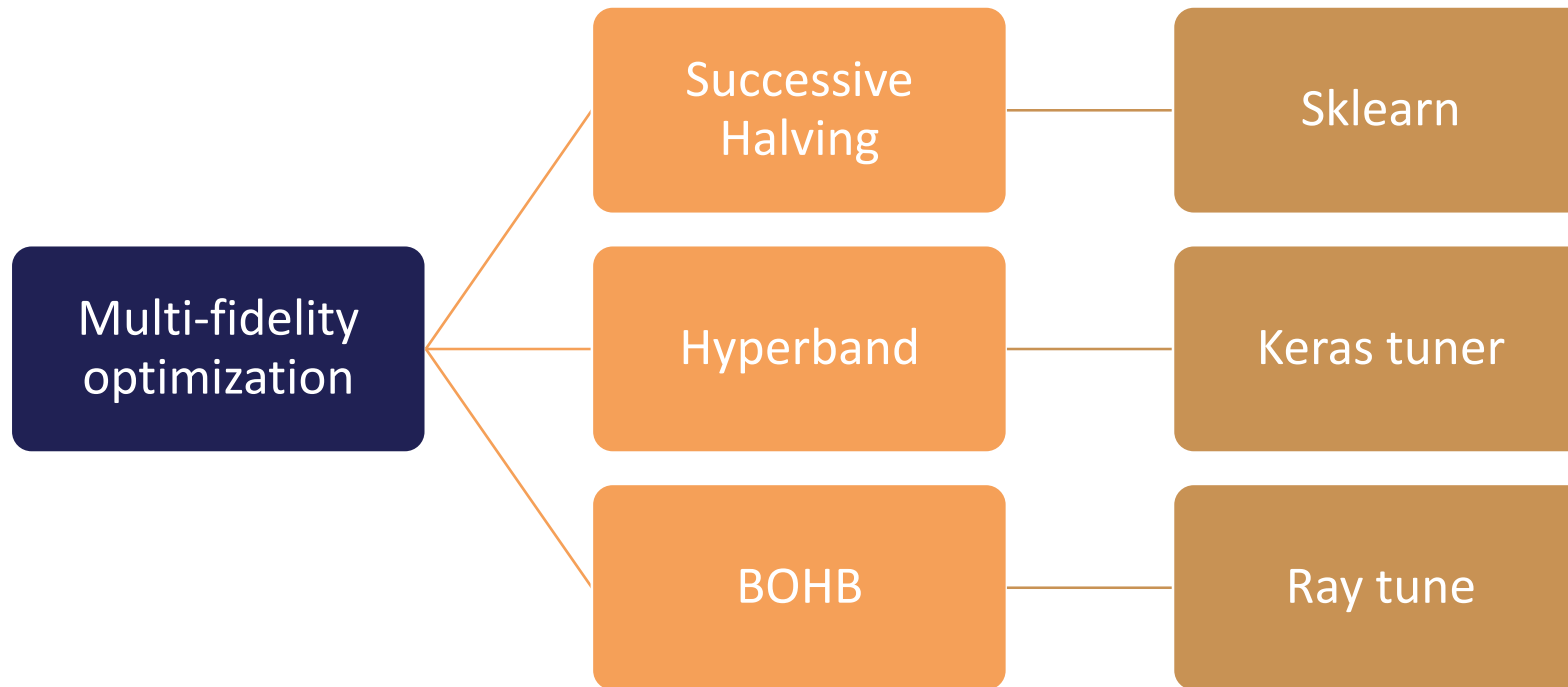


Image taken from A. Mueller class: <https://amueller.github.io/COMS4995-s19/slides/aml-13-parameter-tuning-automl/#17>

# Multi-fidelity optimization models



# THANK YOU

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