

# Performance Evaluation of Anytime Black Box Optimizers

# Black-Box Optimization (Search)

**Minimize** an objective function (also: cost, loss, error, or fitness function)

$$f : \mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad x \mapsto f(x)$$

in a **black-box scenario** (direct search, no gradients)

$$x \longrightarrow \blacksquare \longrightarrow f(x)$$

where the black box can be

- non-linear, non-convex, discontinuous, dynamic, stochastic
- from milli-seconds to hours to evaluate

**Objective:**

- convergence to a global essential infimum of  $f$  as fast as possible
- (informally, time-finite) find  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  with small  $f(x)$  value using as few black-box calls (function evaluations) as possible

# Why Do We Need to Measure Performance?

- putting algorithms to a *standardized* test
  - simplify judgement
  - simplify comparison
  - regression test/quality check under algorithm changes
- algorithm selection
- understanding of algorithms

How do we measure performance?

We can measure performance on

- **real world problems**
  - expensive
  - comparison is typically limited to certain domains
  - experts have limited interest to publish
- "artificial" **benchmark functions**
  - cheap
  - data acquisition is comparatively easy
  - **problem of representativity**
- caveat: parameter of algorithms

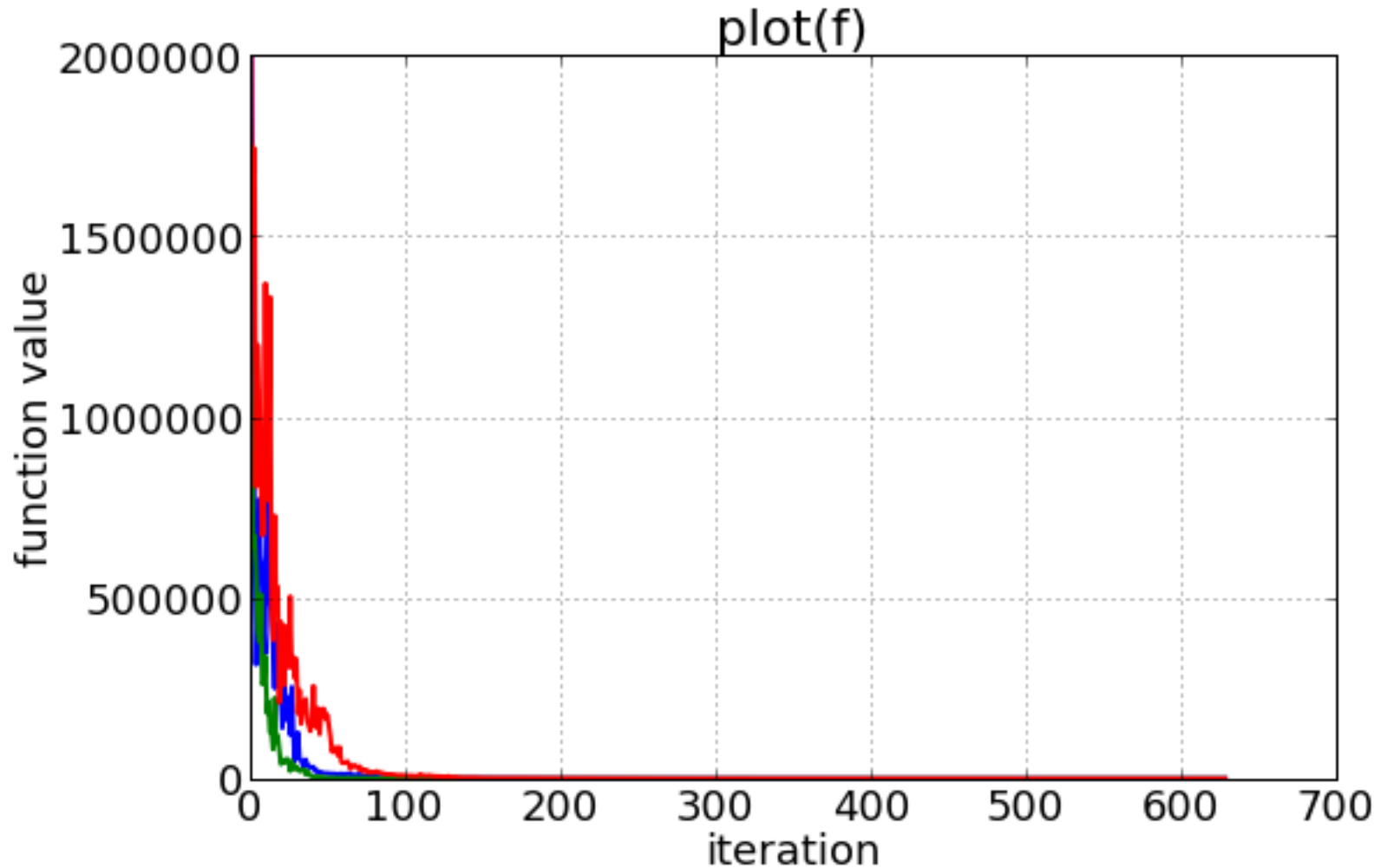
# Measuring Performance

...empirically...

- **convergence graphs** is all we have to start with
- the **right presentation** cannot be overestimated

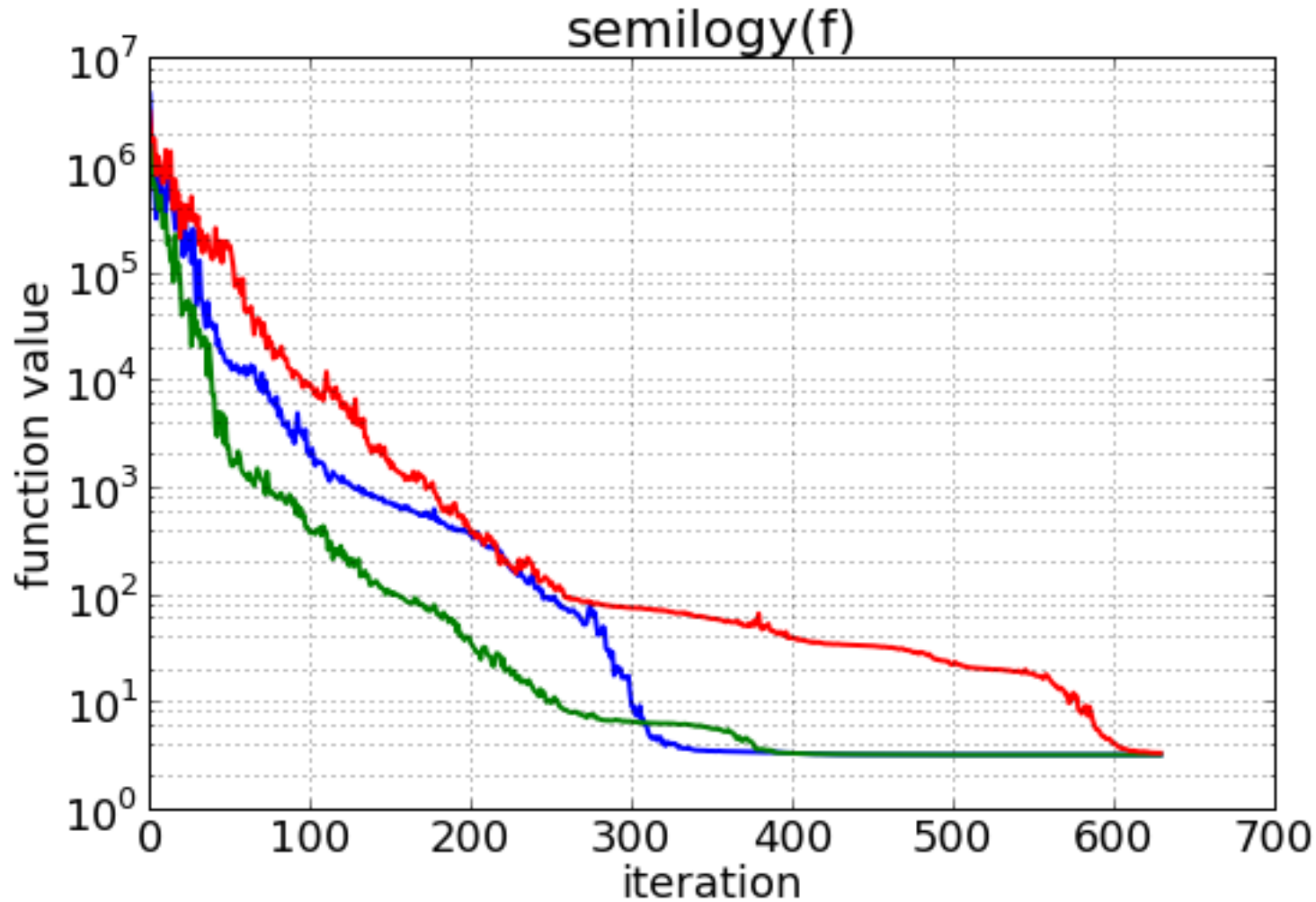
the details are important

# Displaying Three Runs (three trials)



not like this (it's unfortunately a common picture)

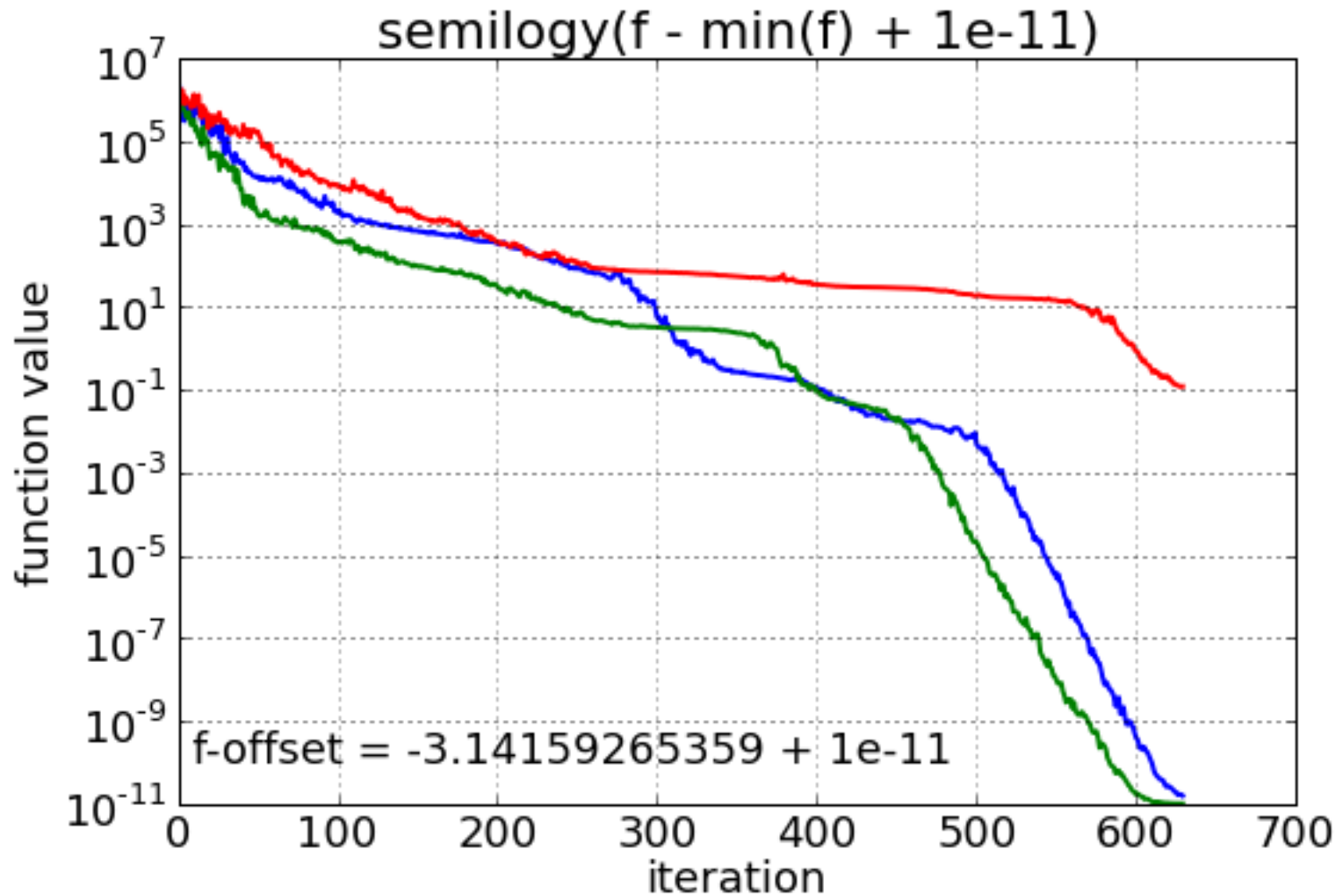
# Displaying Three Runs (three trials)



better like this (shown are the same data),  
caveat: fails with negative f-values



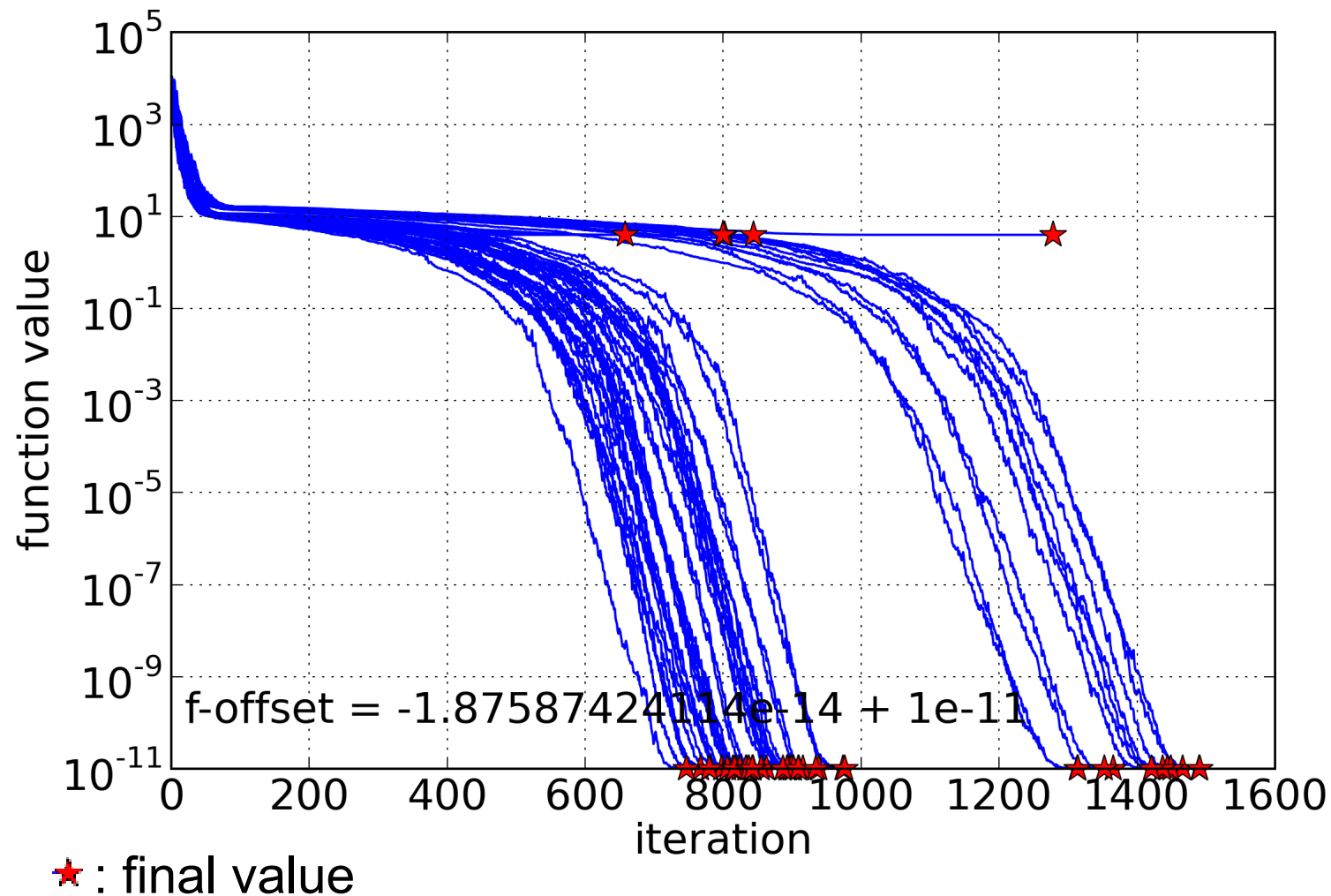
# Displaying Three Runs (three trials)



even better like this: subtract minimum value over all runs

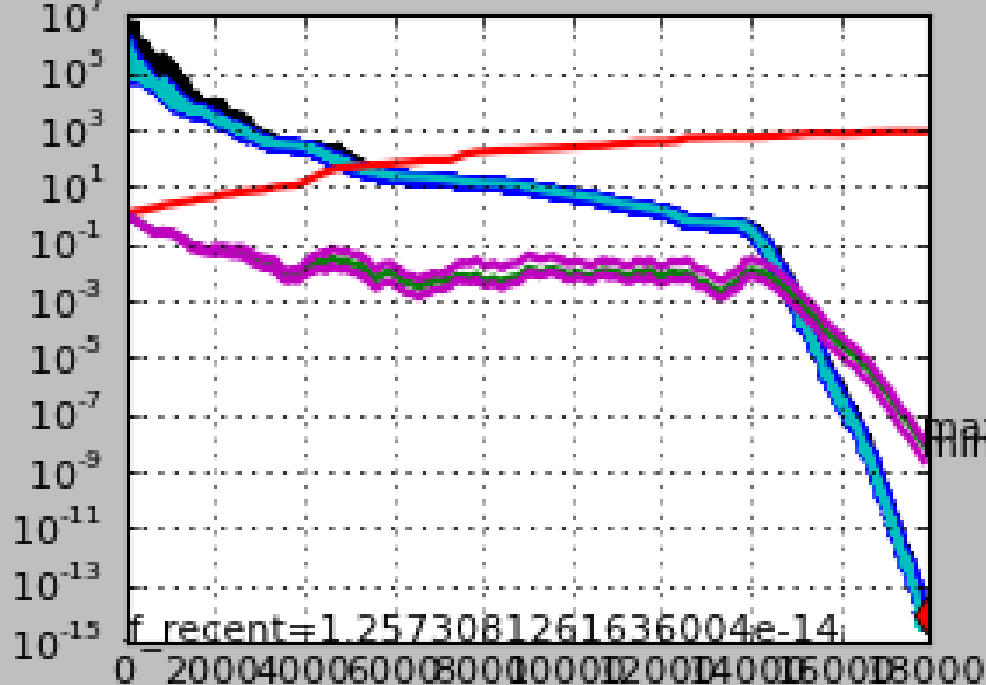
# Displaying 51 Runs

don't hesitate to display all data (the appendix is your friend)

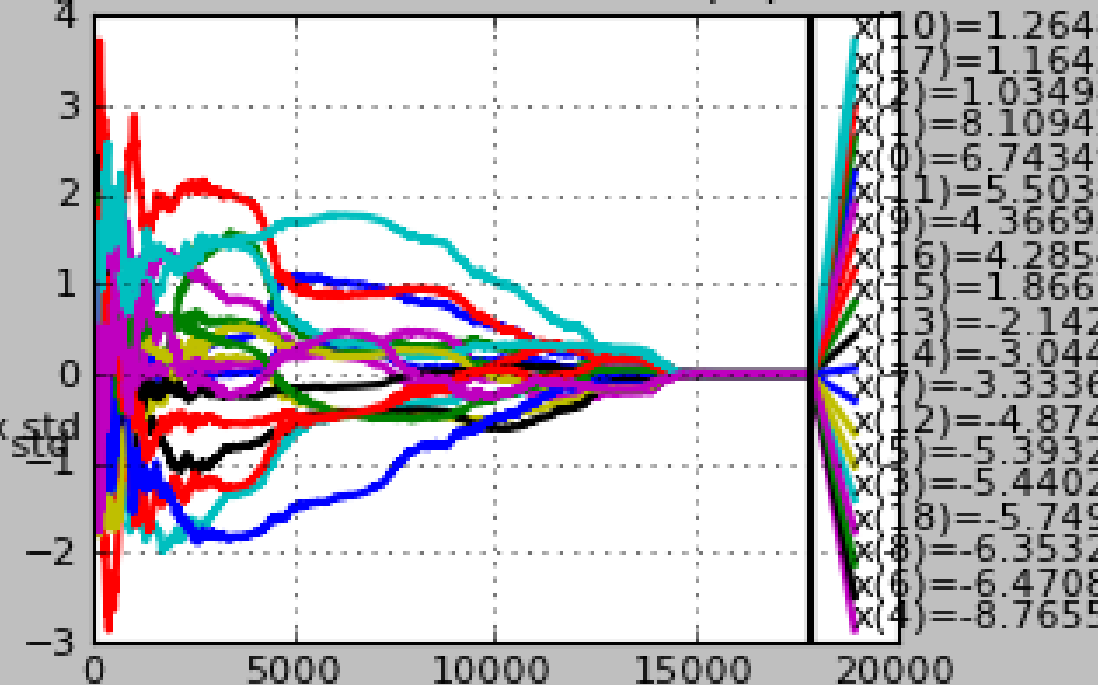
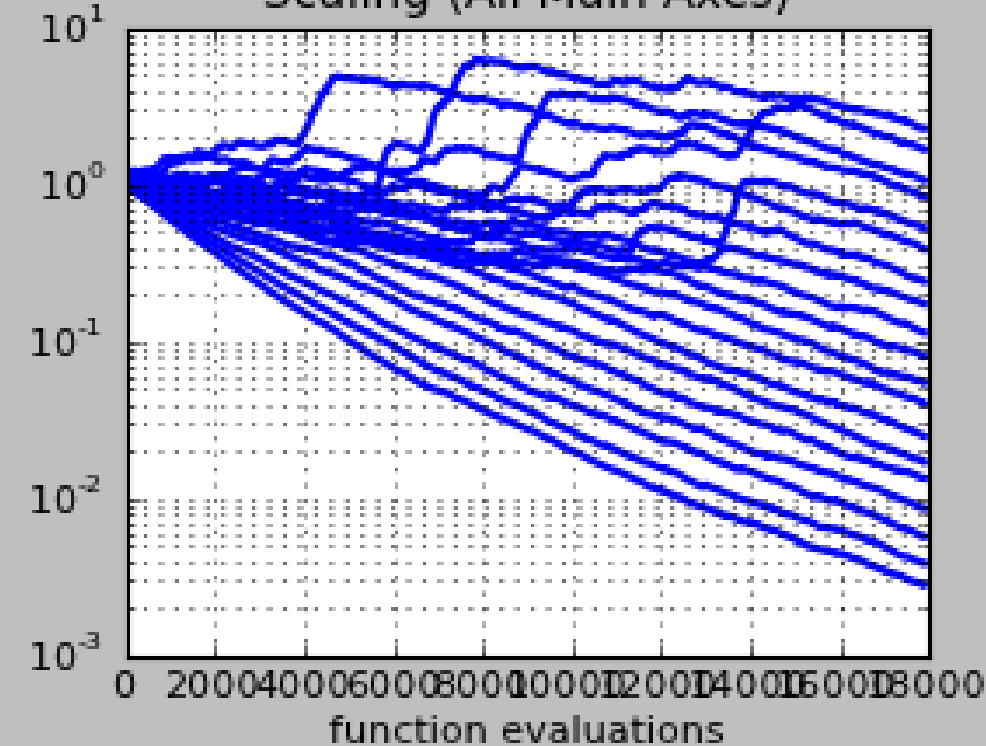


observation: three different "modes", which would be difficult to represent or recover in single statistics

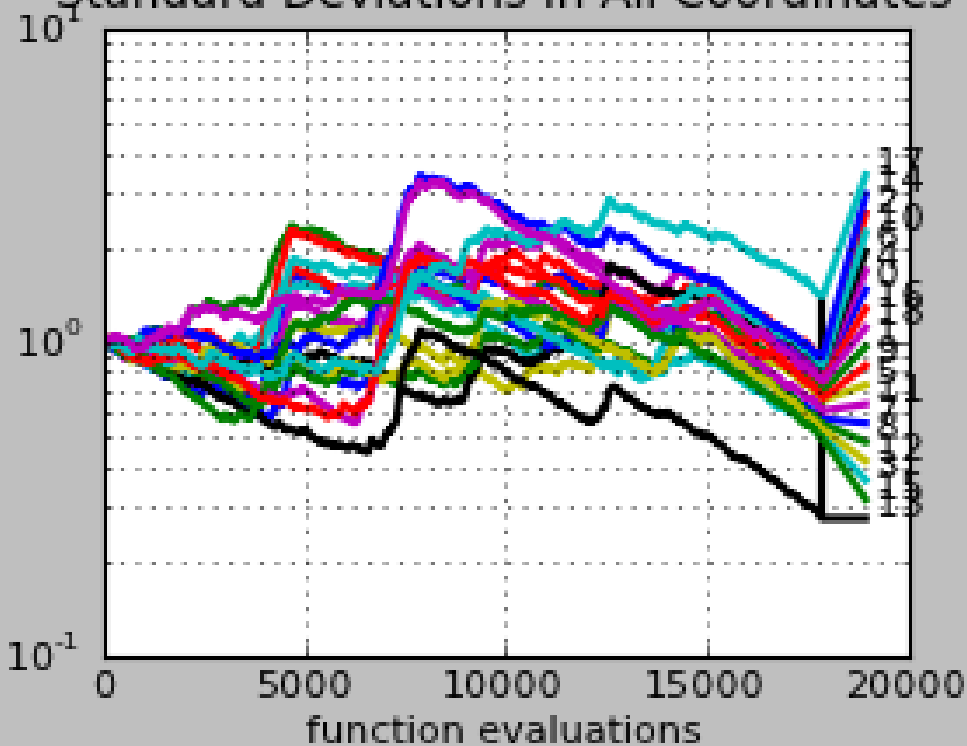
blue:abs(f), cyan:f-min(f), green:sigma, red:axis ratio Object Variables (mean, 19-D, popsize~12)



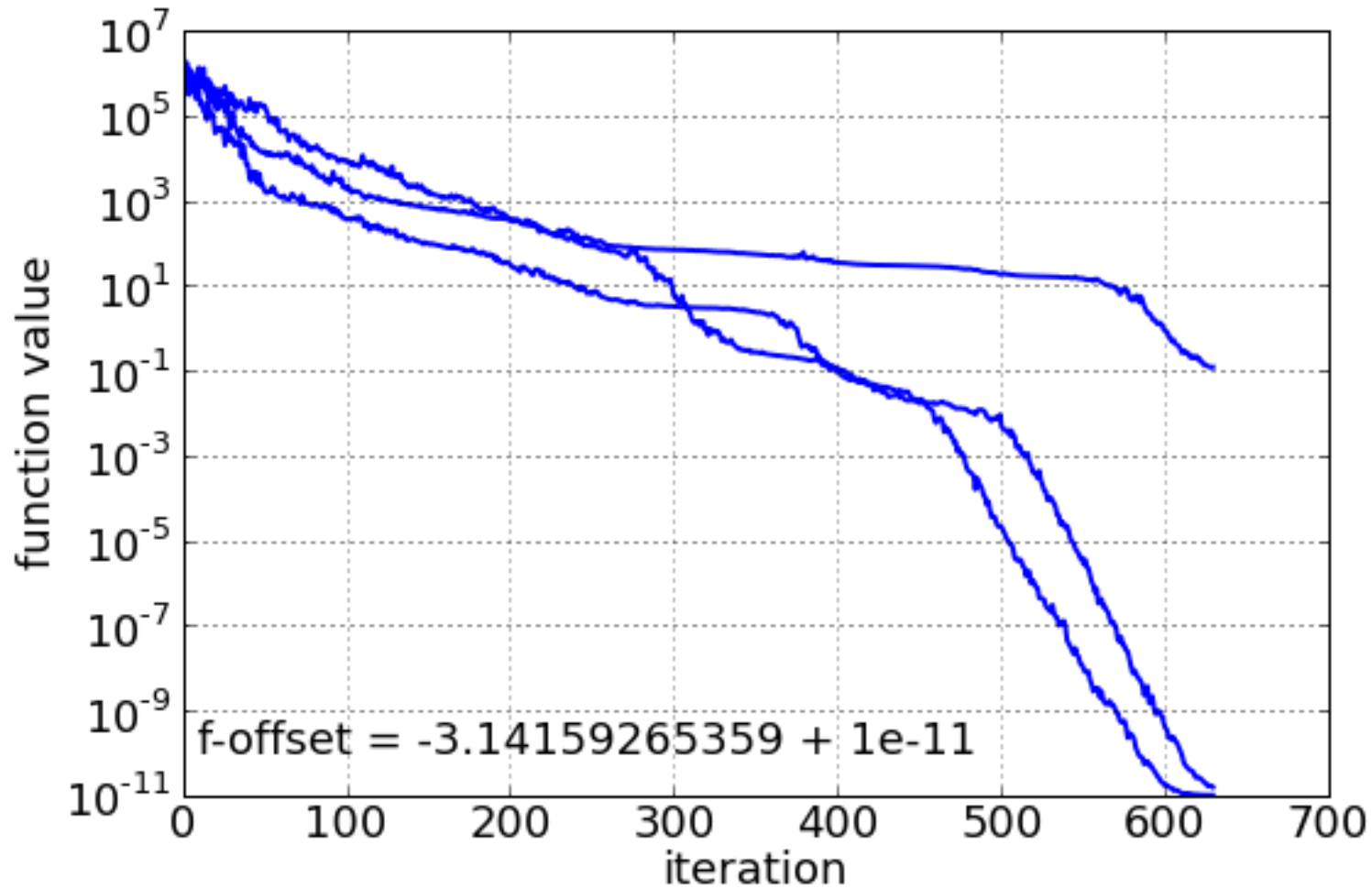
Scaling (All Main Axes)



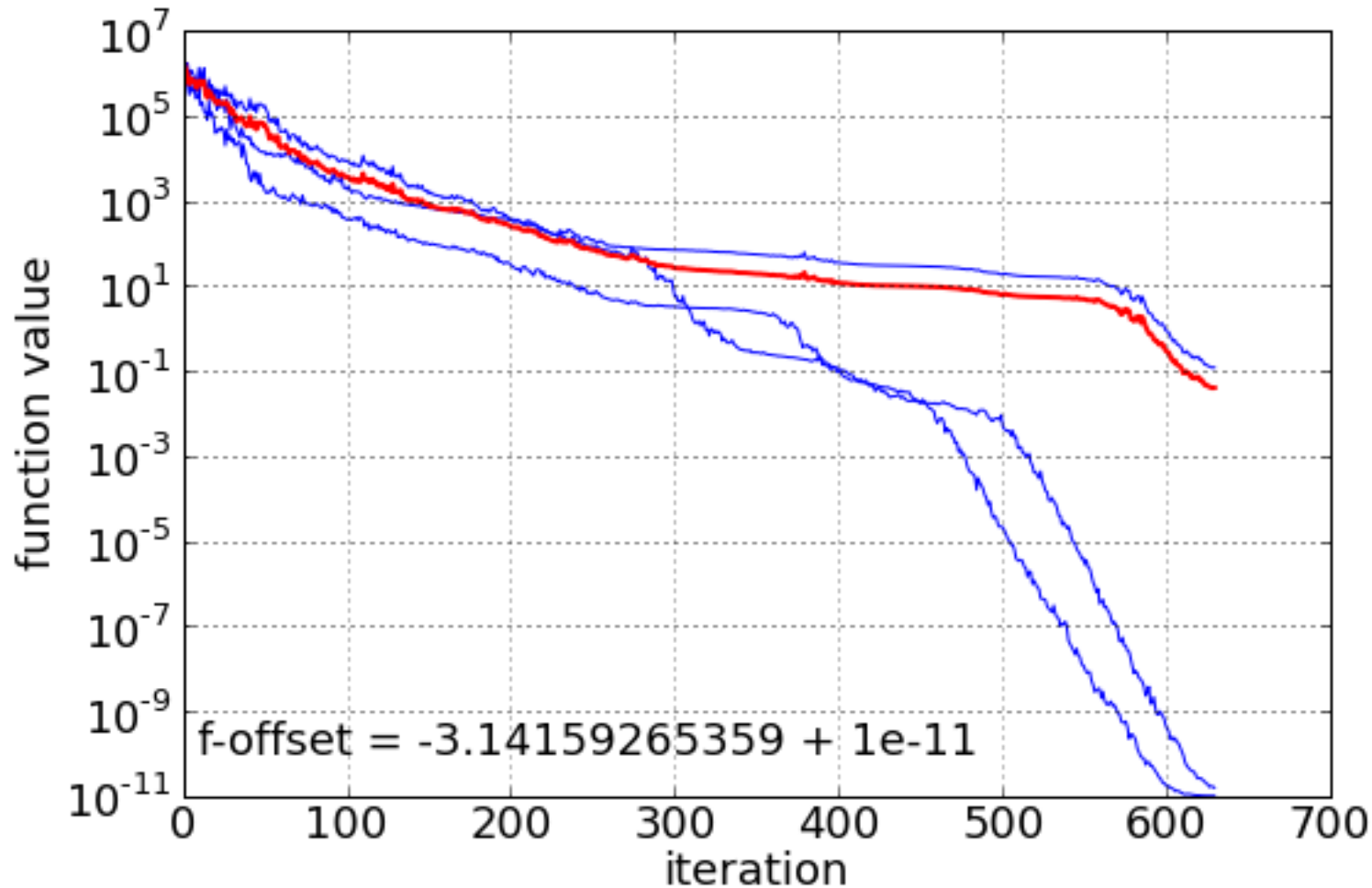
Standard Deviations in All Coordinates



# Which Statistic?



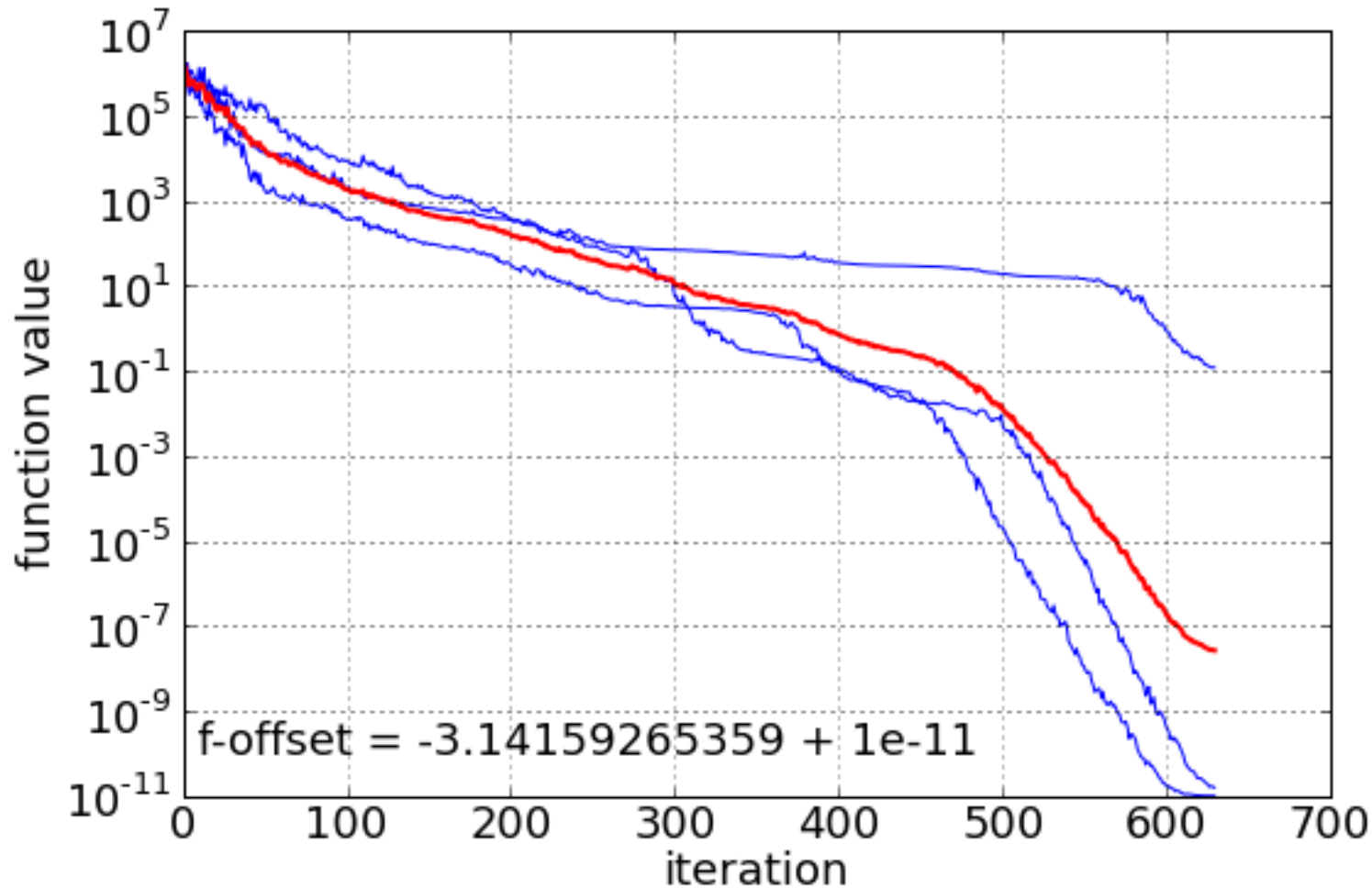
# Which Statistic?



## mean/average function value

- tends to emphasize large values

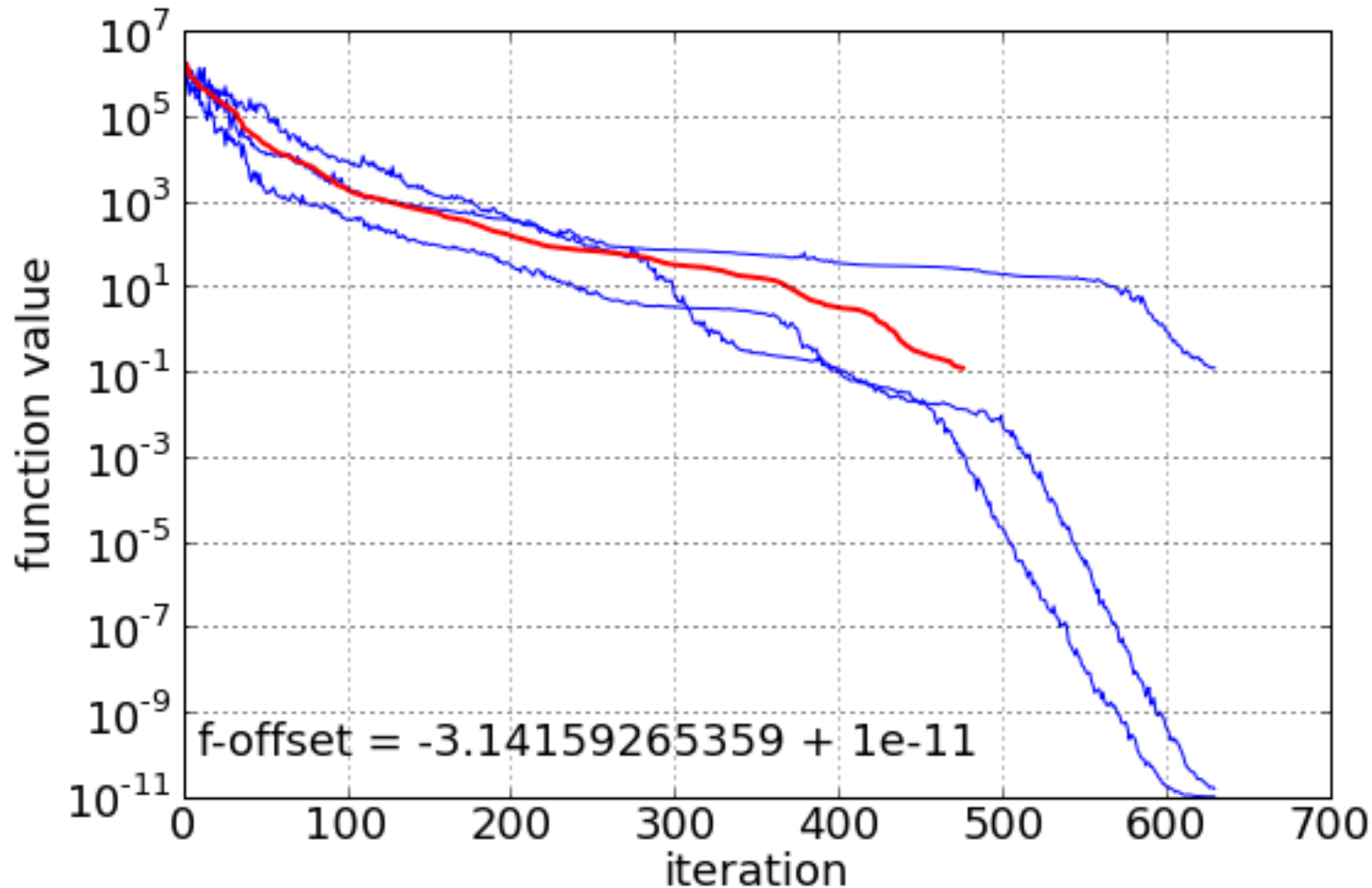
# Which Statistic?



**geometric average** function value  $\exp(\text{mean}_i(\log(f_i))) = (\prod_{i=1}^N f_i)^{1/N}$

- reflects "visual" average
- depends on offset
- artefact due to adding 1e-11

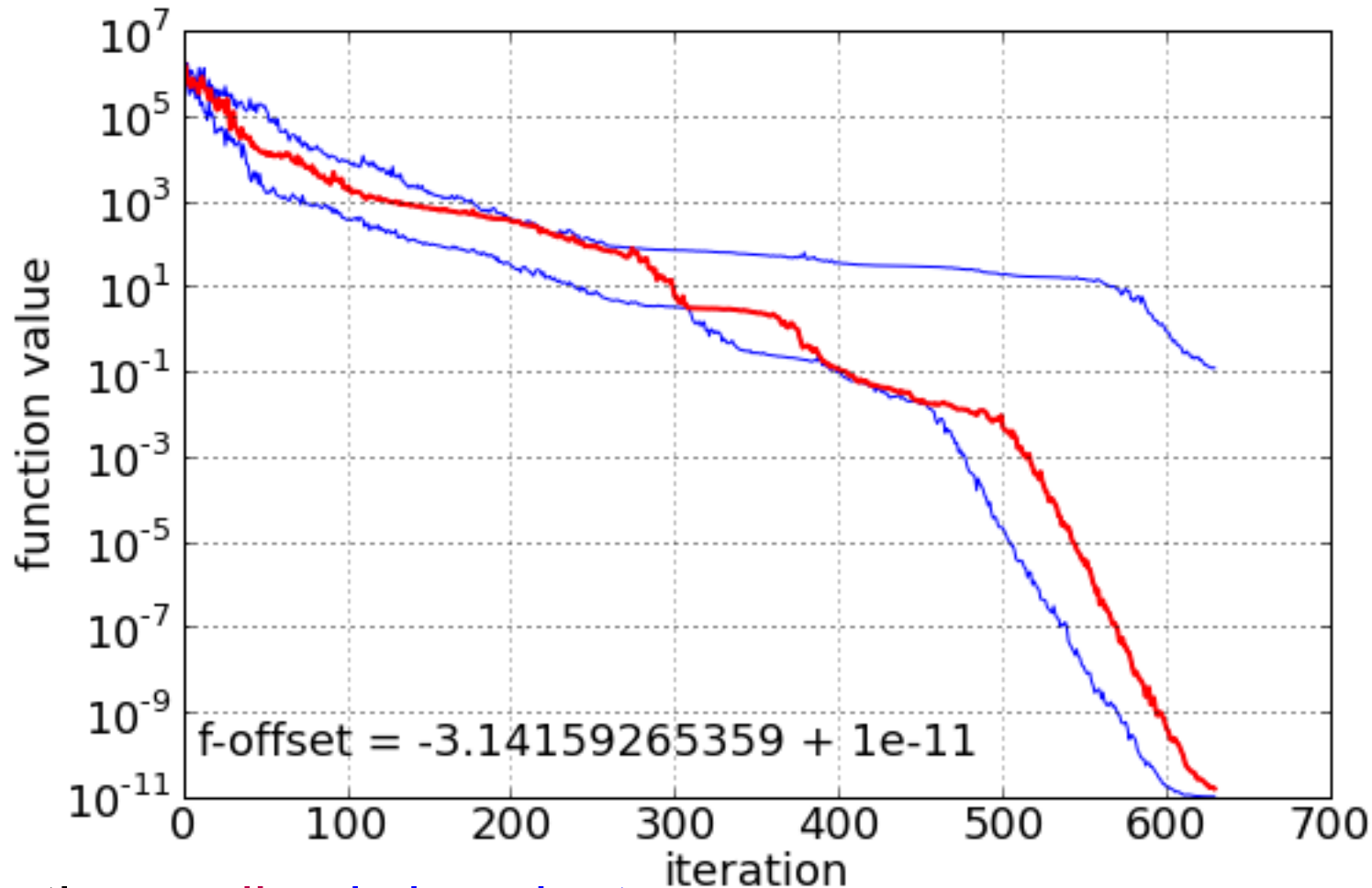
# Which Statistic?



## average iterations

- reflects "visual" average
- here: incomplete

# Which Statistic?



the median is invariant

- unique for uneven number of data
- independent of log-scale, offset...

$$\text{median}(\log(\text{data})) = \log(\text{median}(\text{data}))$$

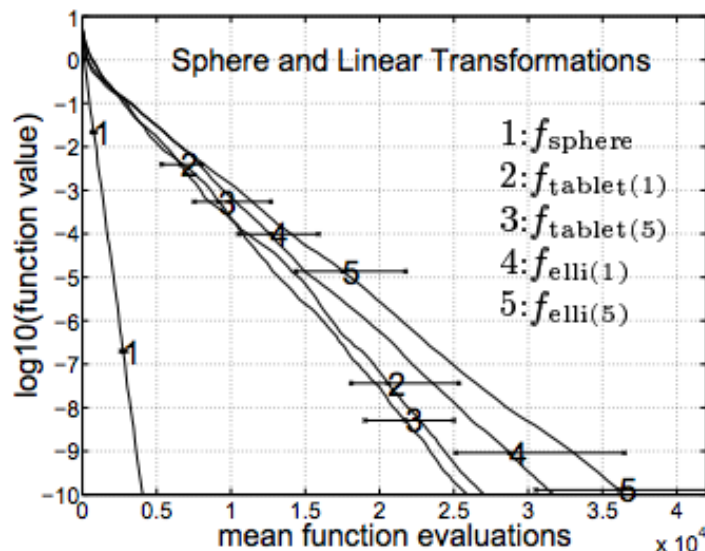
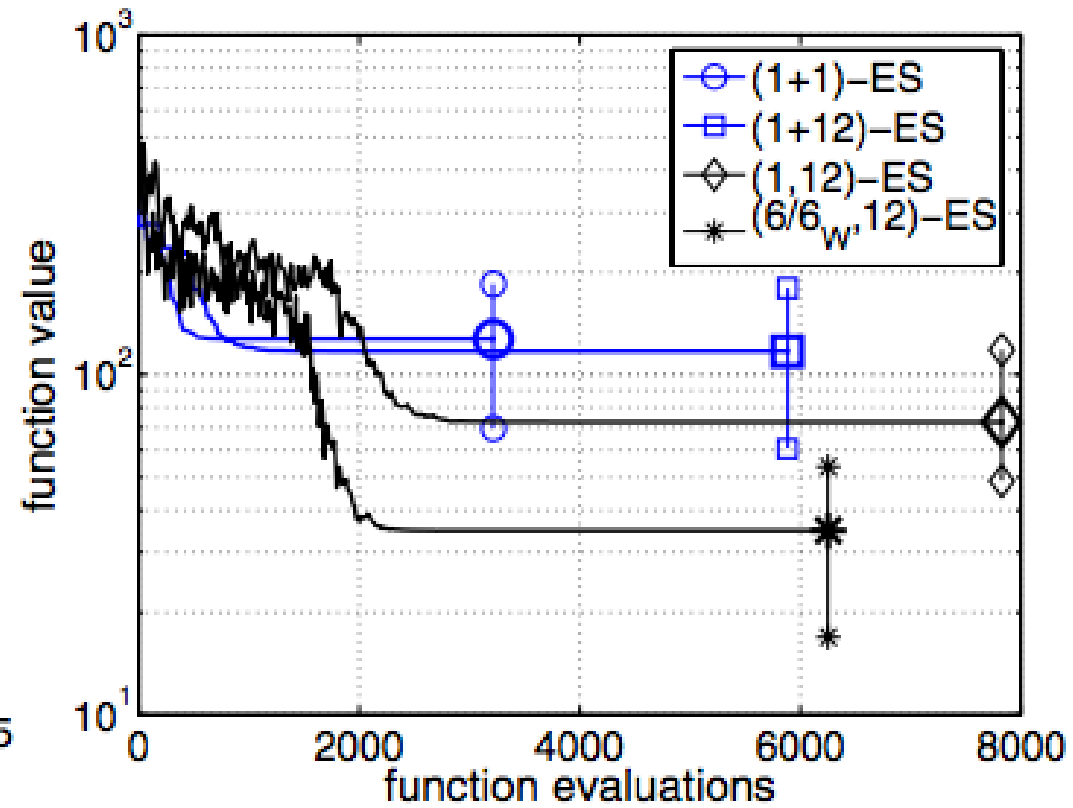
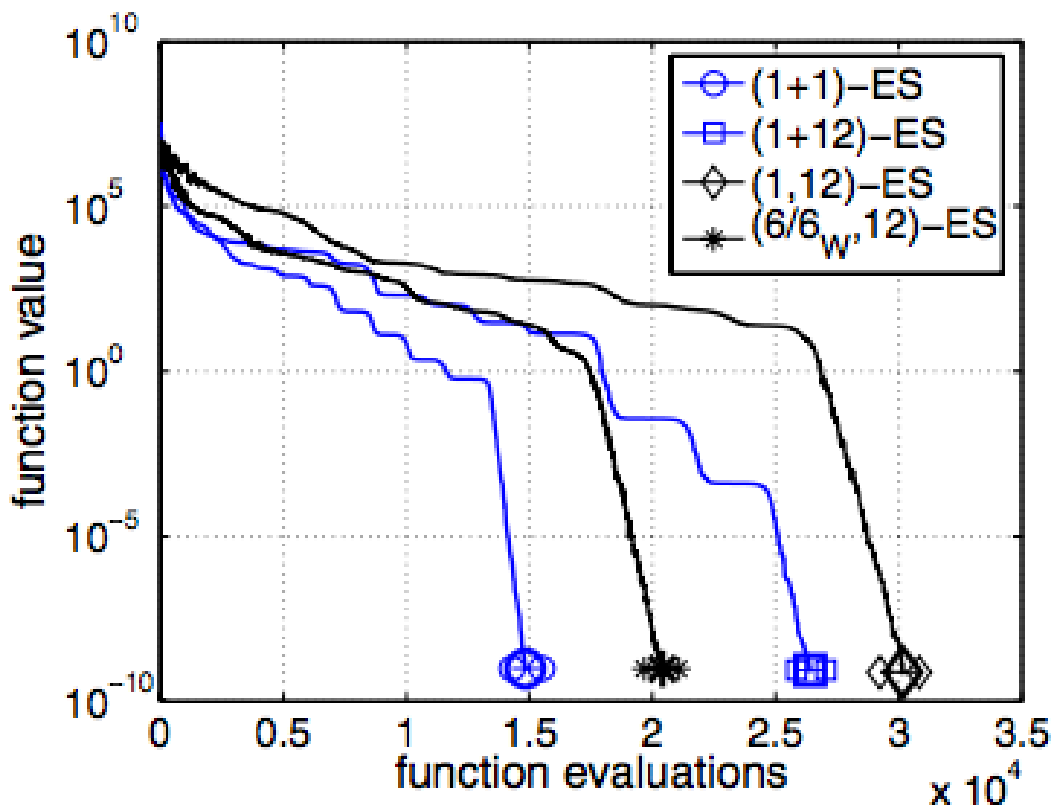
- same when taken over x- or y-direction



- use the median as summary datum
- more general: use quantiles as summary data
  - for example out of 15 data: 2nd, 8th, and 14th value represent the 10%, 50%, and 90%-tile

unless there are good reasons for a different statistic

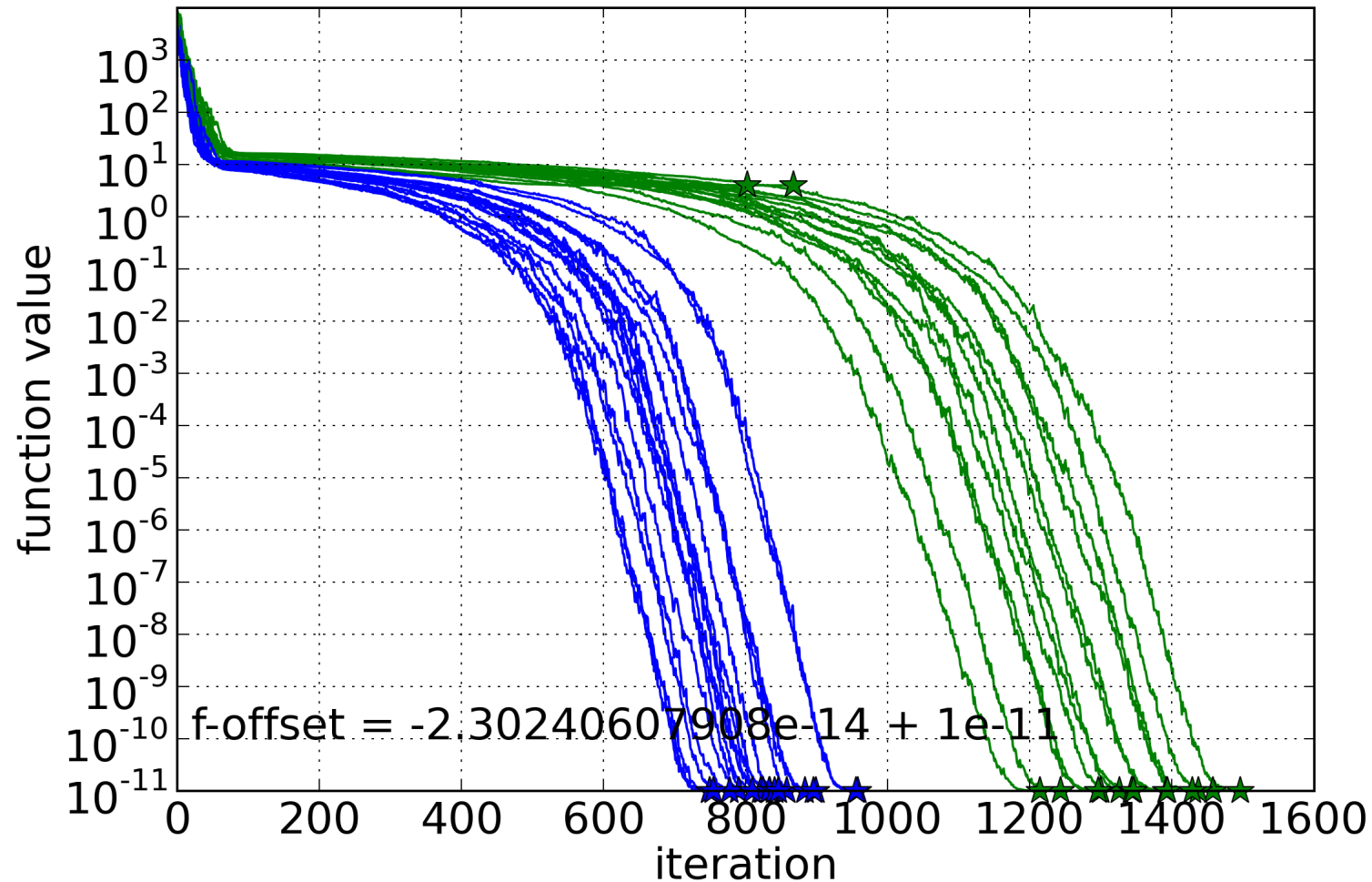
# Examples



Comparison of 4 algorithms using the "median run" and the 90% central range of the final value on two different functions (Ellipsoid and Rastrigin)

caveat: this range display with simple error bars fails, if, e.g., 30% of all runs "converge"

# Examples: Plotting All Data



Experiments from two algorithms, **A1** and **A2**

# Statistical Assessment

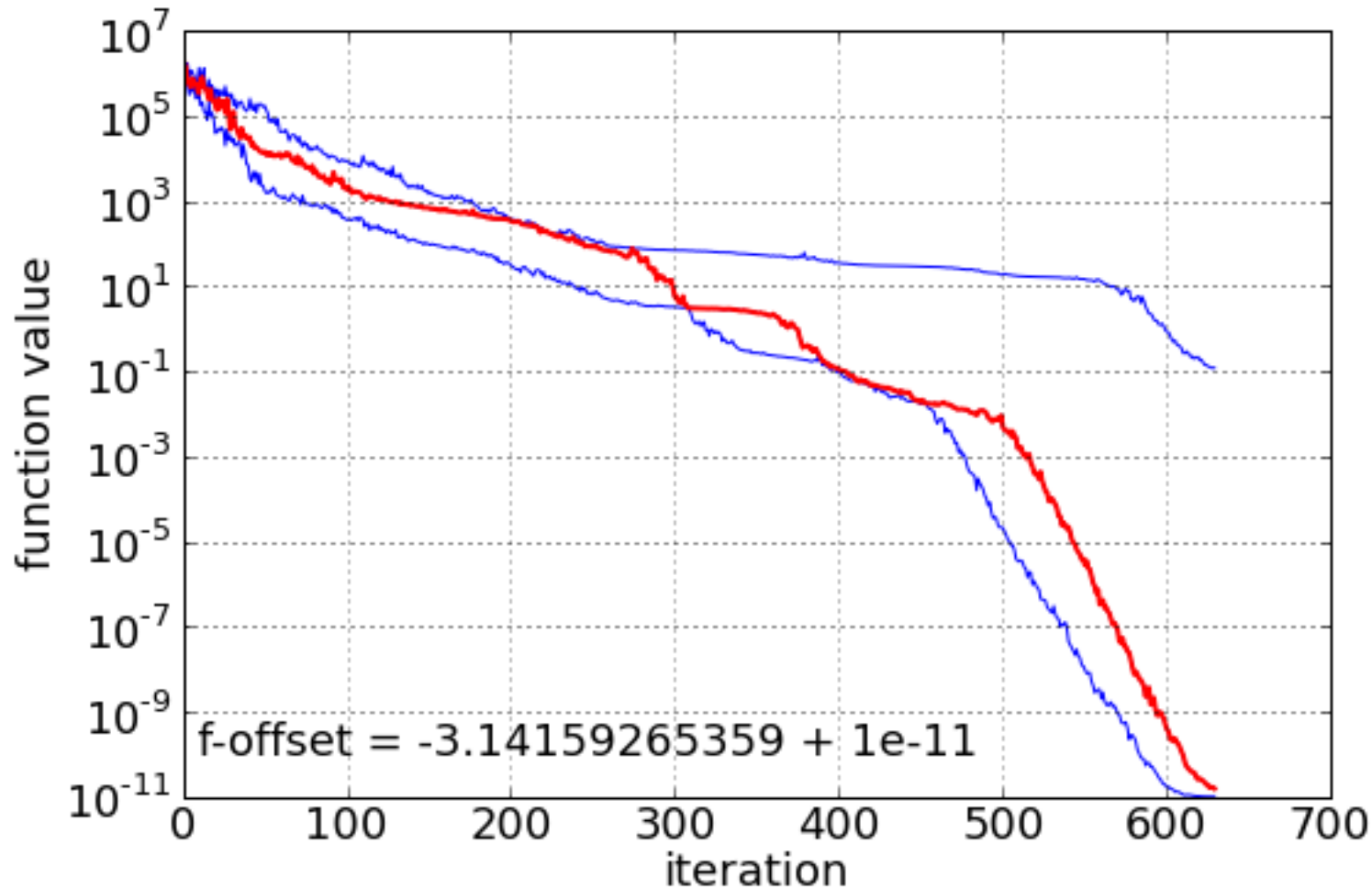
- Don't be scared!
- 1) Assess the meaning/**relevance of a difference** first (the only difficult part)
- 2) Apply **rank-sum test** (Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney U)
  - only assumption: no equal data values
    - as usual: useful even if assumptions do not hold,  
for categorical data:  $\chi^2$ -test
  - hypothesis:  $p(x > y) \neq p(x < y) \neq 1/2$
  - compares sum of ranks in a combined ranking
  - two-sided 1%-significance  $p$ -value needs only 2x5 data values
- For the same  $p$ -value, **fewer significant data** are better
  - using enough data, *any* difference  
can be made significant

Generally: non-parametric tests, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for ECDFs, no need to use the t-test

# Performance Measure(s)

## Runtime

# Three Convergence Graphs



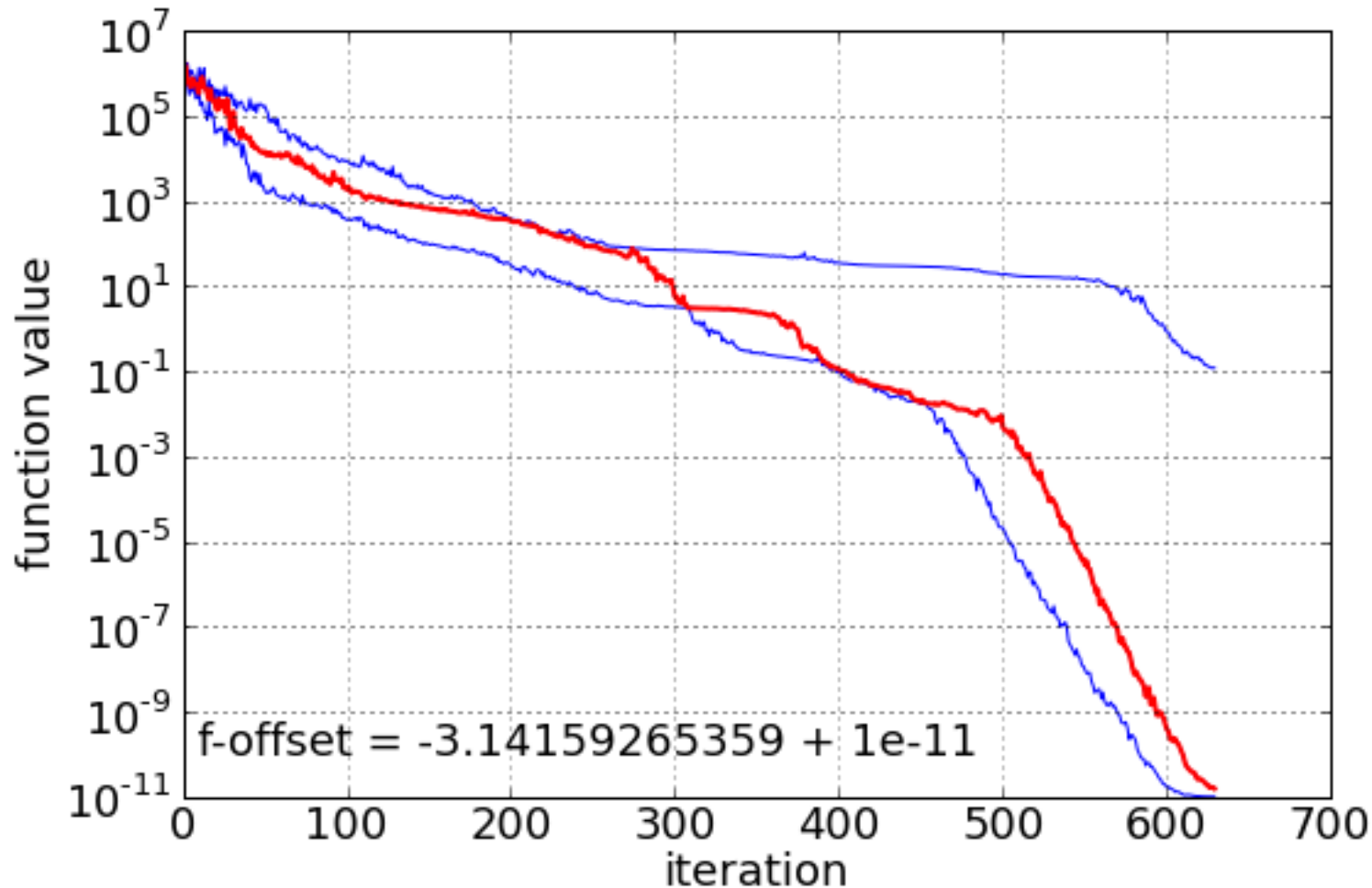
recall: convergence graphs is all we have

# (recall) Black-Box Optimization

Two objectives:

- Find solution with small(est possible) **function value**
- With the least possible **search costs** (number of function evaluations)
- For measuring performance: fix one and measure the other

# Two objectives

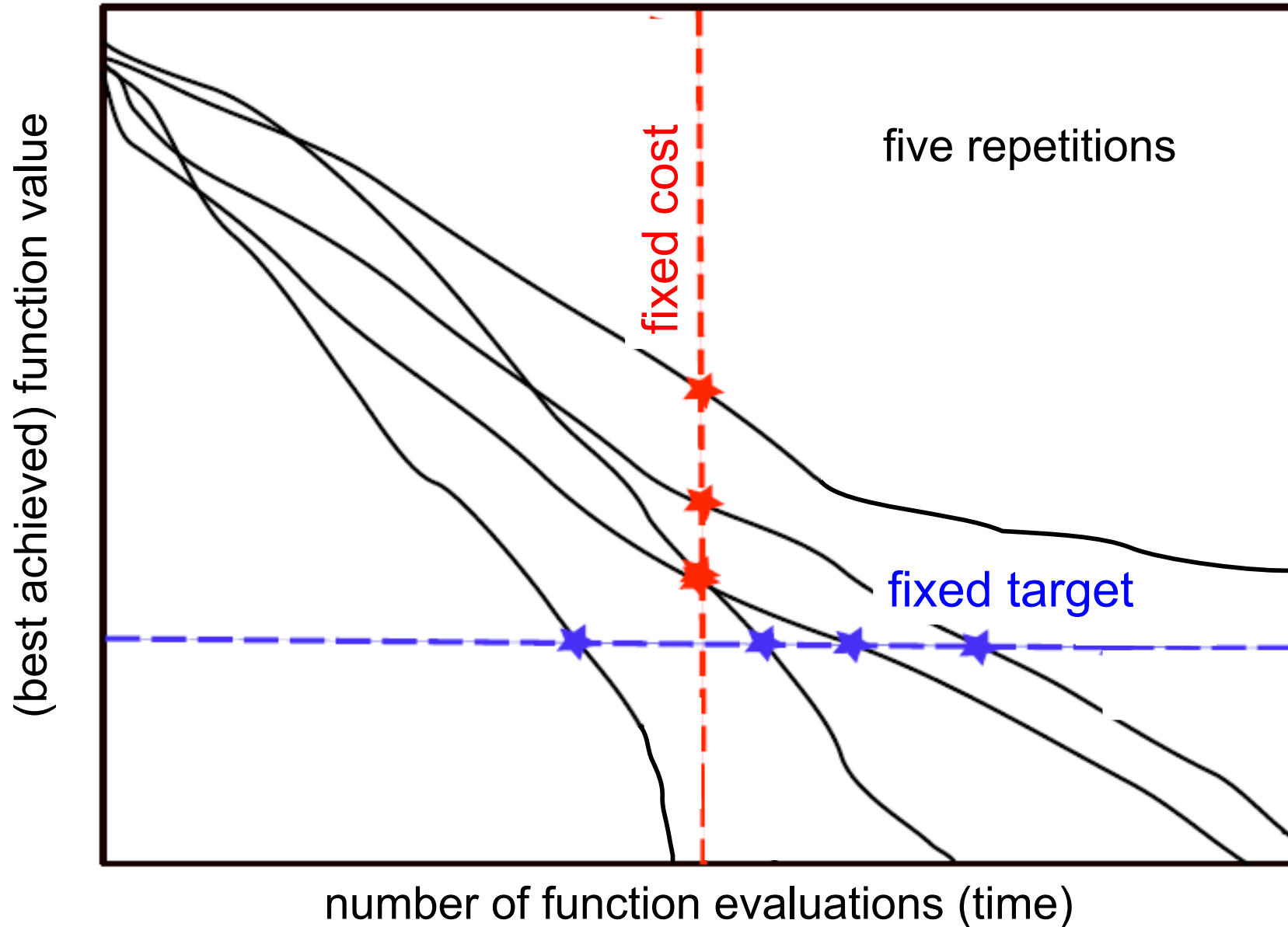


convergence graph is a plot in objective space



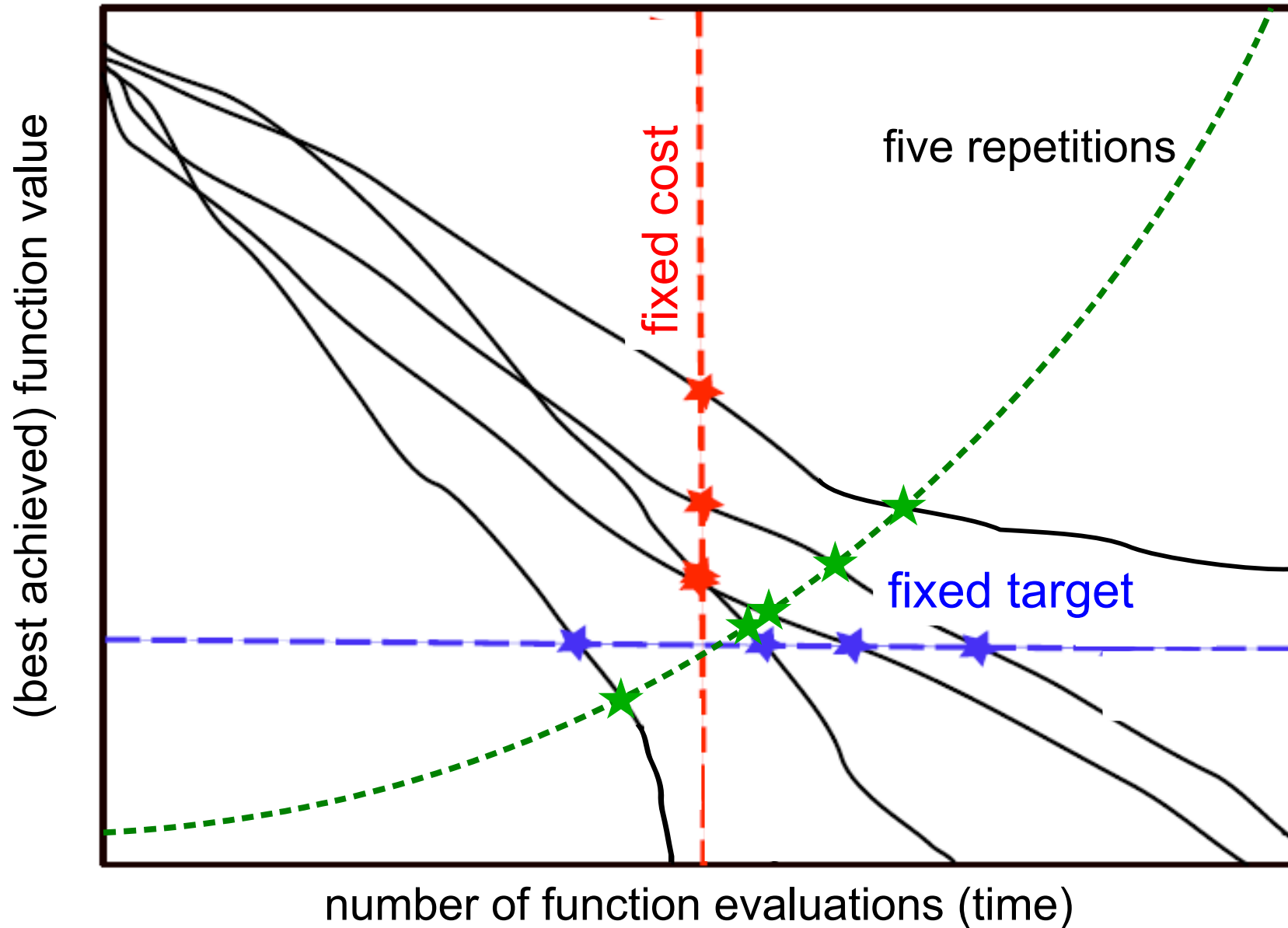
# Measuring Performance from Convergence Graphs

**fixed-cost** versus **fixed-target**



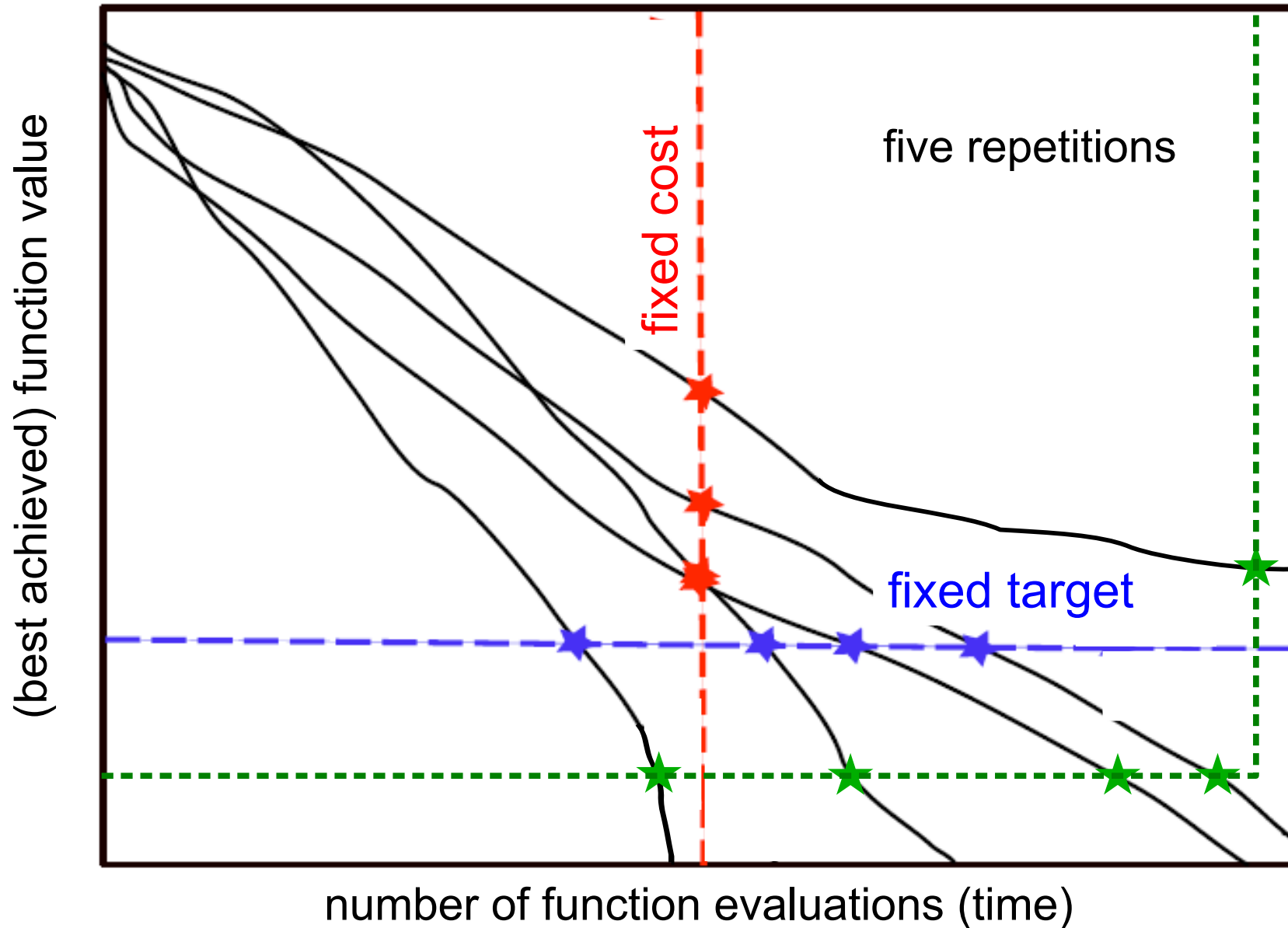
# Measuring Performance from Convergence Graphs

**fixed-cost** versus **fixed-target**



# Measuring Performance from Convergence Graphs

**fixed-cost** versus **fixed-target**



# Evaluation of Search Algorithms

Behind the scene

a performance should be

- **quantitative** on the ratio scale (highest possible)
  - “algorithm A is two *times* better than algorithm B”  
is a meaningful statement
- can assume a wide range of values
- **meaningful (interpretable)** with regard to the real world  
possible to transfer from benchmarking to real world

**runtime** or **first hitting time** is the prime candidate (we don't have many choices anyway)

# The performance measure we use

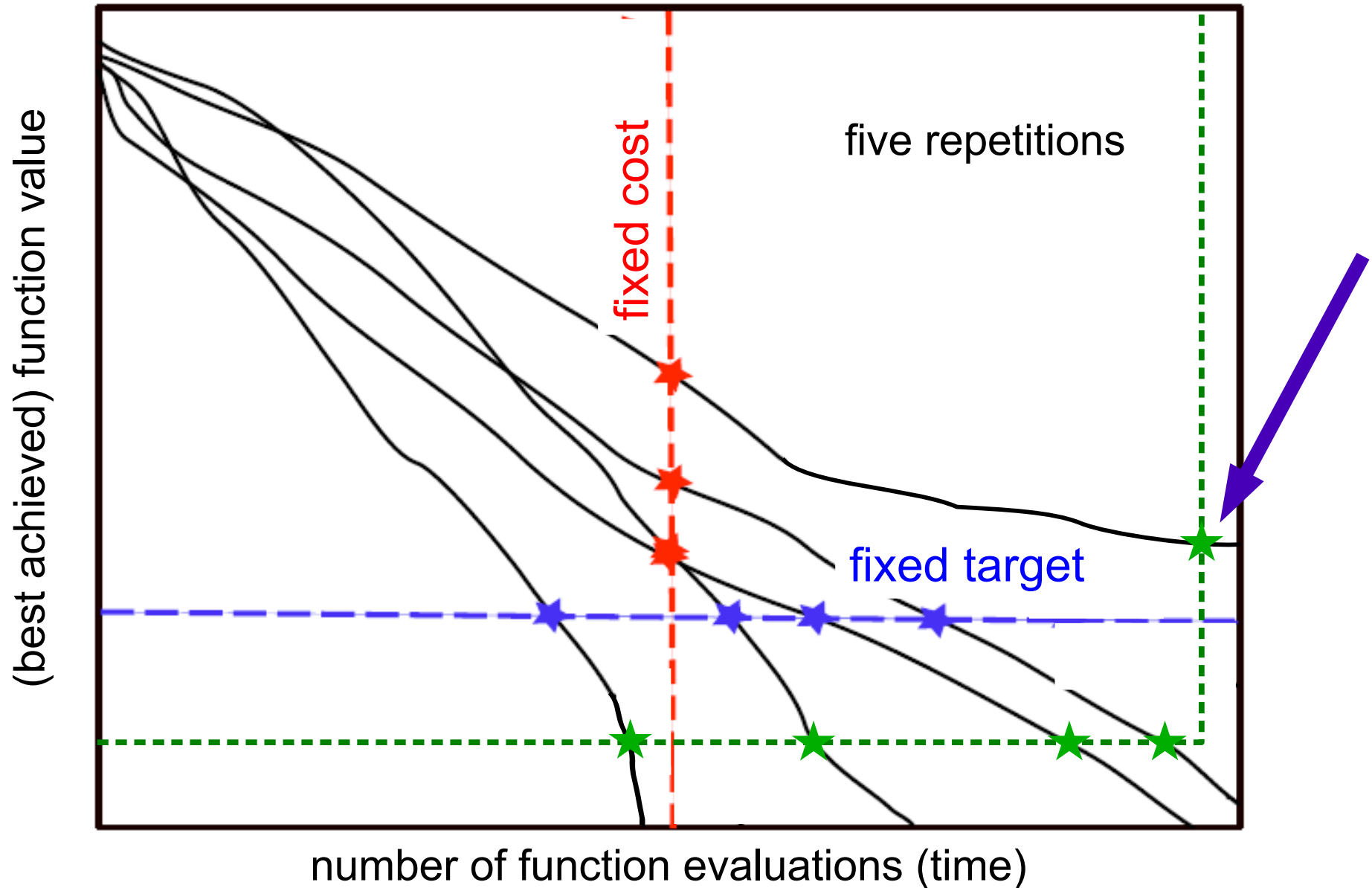
Run length or runtime or first hitting time to a given target function value measured in number of fitness function evaluations

equivalent to first hitting time of a sublevel set in search space

How can we deal with "missing values"?

# Measuring Performance from Convergence Graphs

**fixed-cost** versus **fixed-target**



# Fixed-target: Measuring Runtime

1. Fix a target  $f$ -value (**most difficult** part)
2. Compute the **success rate**  $\hat{p}$  as

$$\hat{p} = \frac{\text{\# of successful runs (that reached the target)}}{\text{\# of all runs}} \in [0, 1]$$

$$\hat{R} = \frac{1 - \hat{p}}{\hat{p}} = \frac{\text{\# of unsuccessful runs}}{\text{\# of successful runs}} \in [0, \infty]$$

$\hat{R}$  is the **odds ratio to be unsuccessful**

$\hat{R}$  is the number of unsuccessful runs observed *for each single successful* run (i.e. normalized by # of successful runs)

# Fixed-target: Measuring Runtime

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$\hat{R}$  is the **odds ratio to be unsuccessful**

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### 3. Compute "expected runtime" to hit the target

average runtime for a single successful run

$$\text{ERT} := \overbrace{\overline{\text{RT}}_{\text{succ}}} + \underbrace{\hat{R} \times \overline{\text{RT}}_{\text{unsucc}}}$$

average runtime spent in unsuccessful runs to achieve one successful run

$$\text{SP1} := \overline{\text{RT}}_{\text{succ}} + \hat{R} \times \overline{\text{RT}}_{\text{succ}} = \overline{\text{RT}}_{\text{succ}}(1 + \hat{R}) \text{ disregarding runlength of unsuccessful runs}$$

if  $\hat{R} < \infty$ , else we can assume  $\text{ERT} \geq \sum \text{RT}_{\text{unsucc}}$



# Fixed-target: Measuring Runtime

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We can simulate a single runtime by "restarting" until the first success

$$\text{RT} = \text{RT}_{\text{succ}} + \sum \text{RT}_{\text{unsucc}}$$

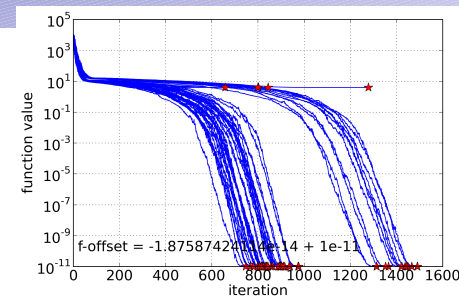
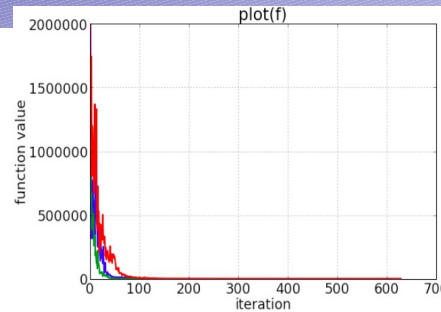
⇒ distribution of runtimes incorporating unsuccessful runs

⇒ display the distribution or a statistic of it

# Break

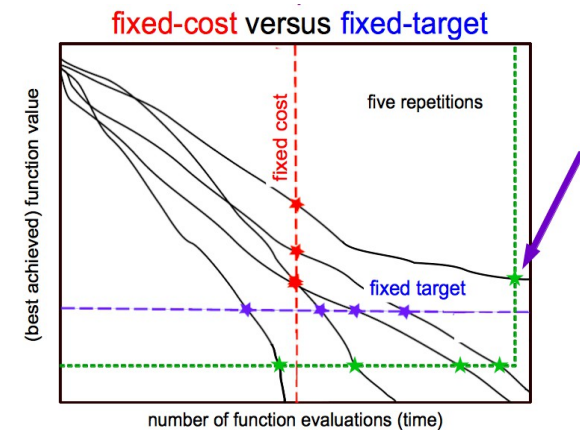
# Summary

- plot carefully
- display all data
- use the median as summary datum



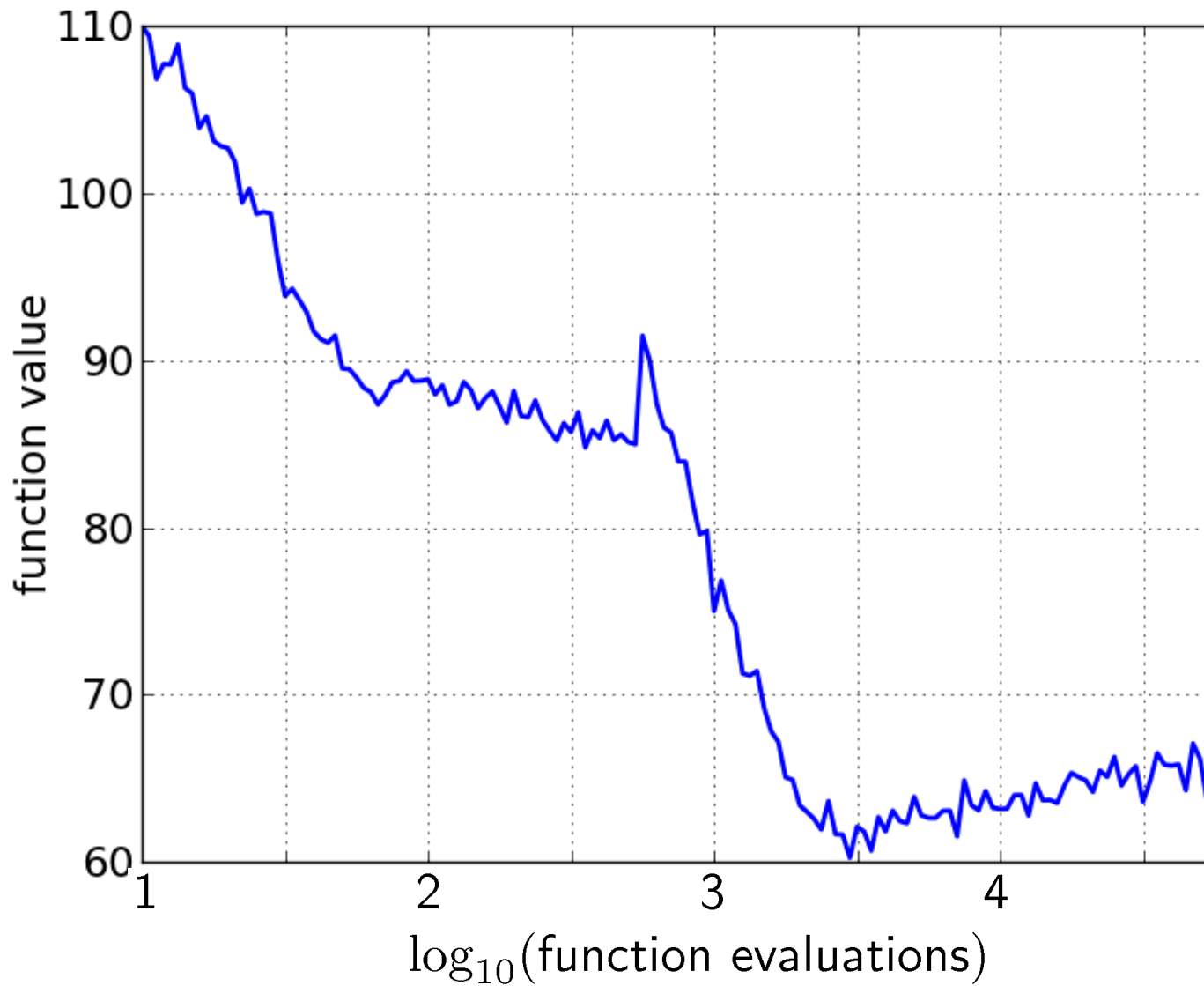
unless for runtimes or you know exactly what you do

- more general: use **quantiles** as summary data
- assess a performance difference *before* to worry about statistical significance
- vertical vs. horizontal view-point
- run"time" RT and
  - ERT (expected RT)
  - runtime ECDF (empirical cumulative distribution fct)

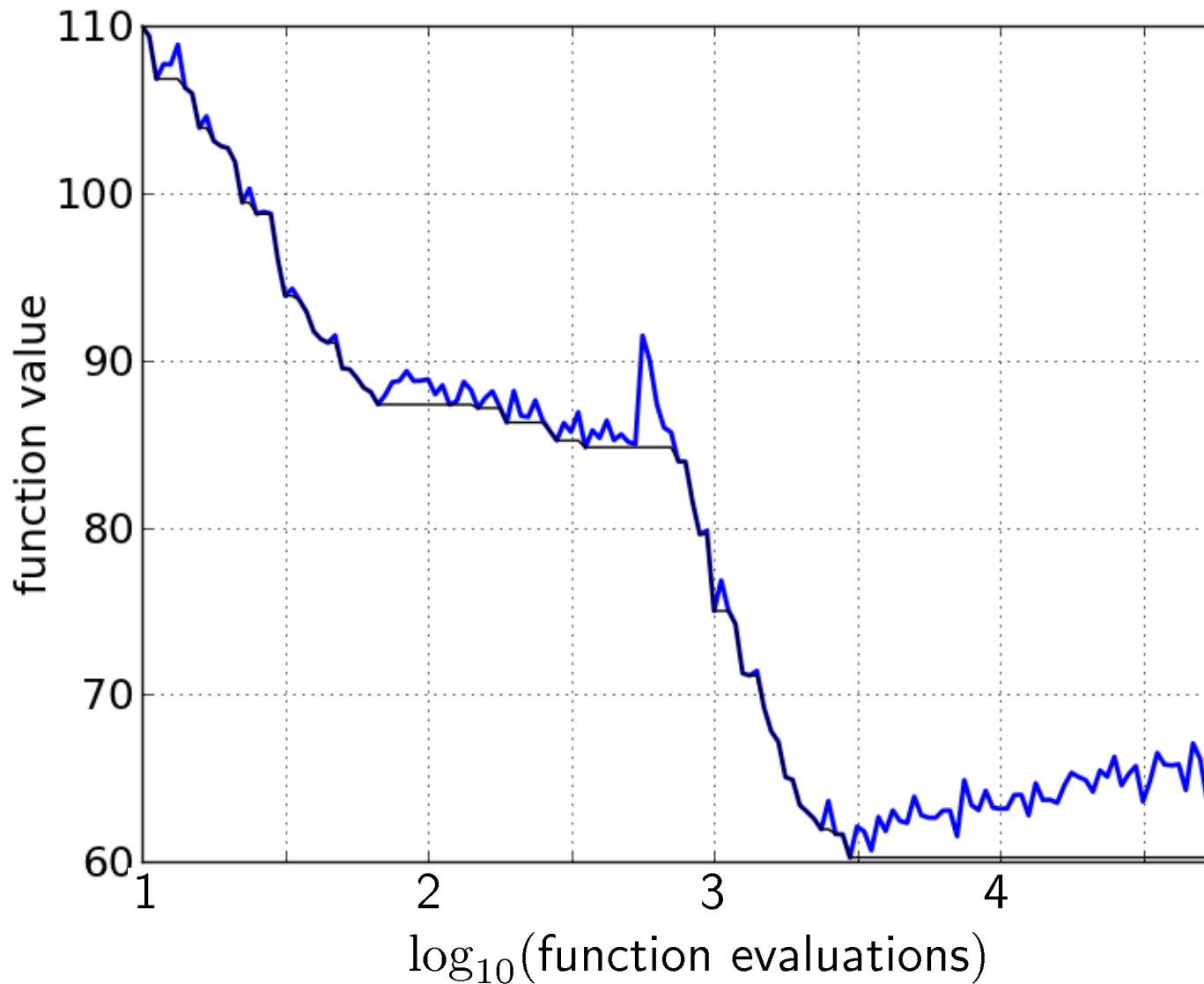


# ECDF: Empirical Cumulative Distribution Function of the Runtime

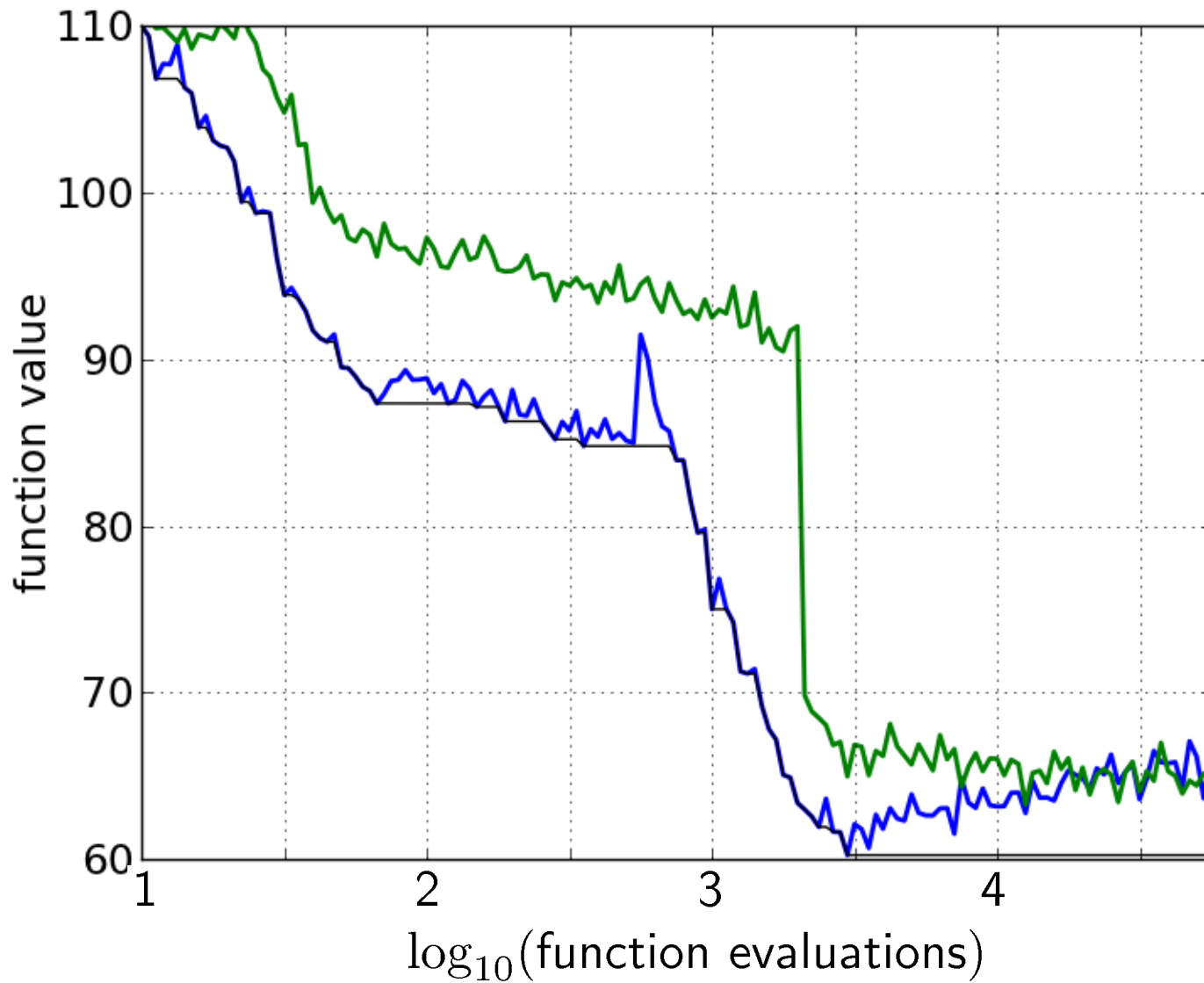
# A Convergence Graph



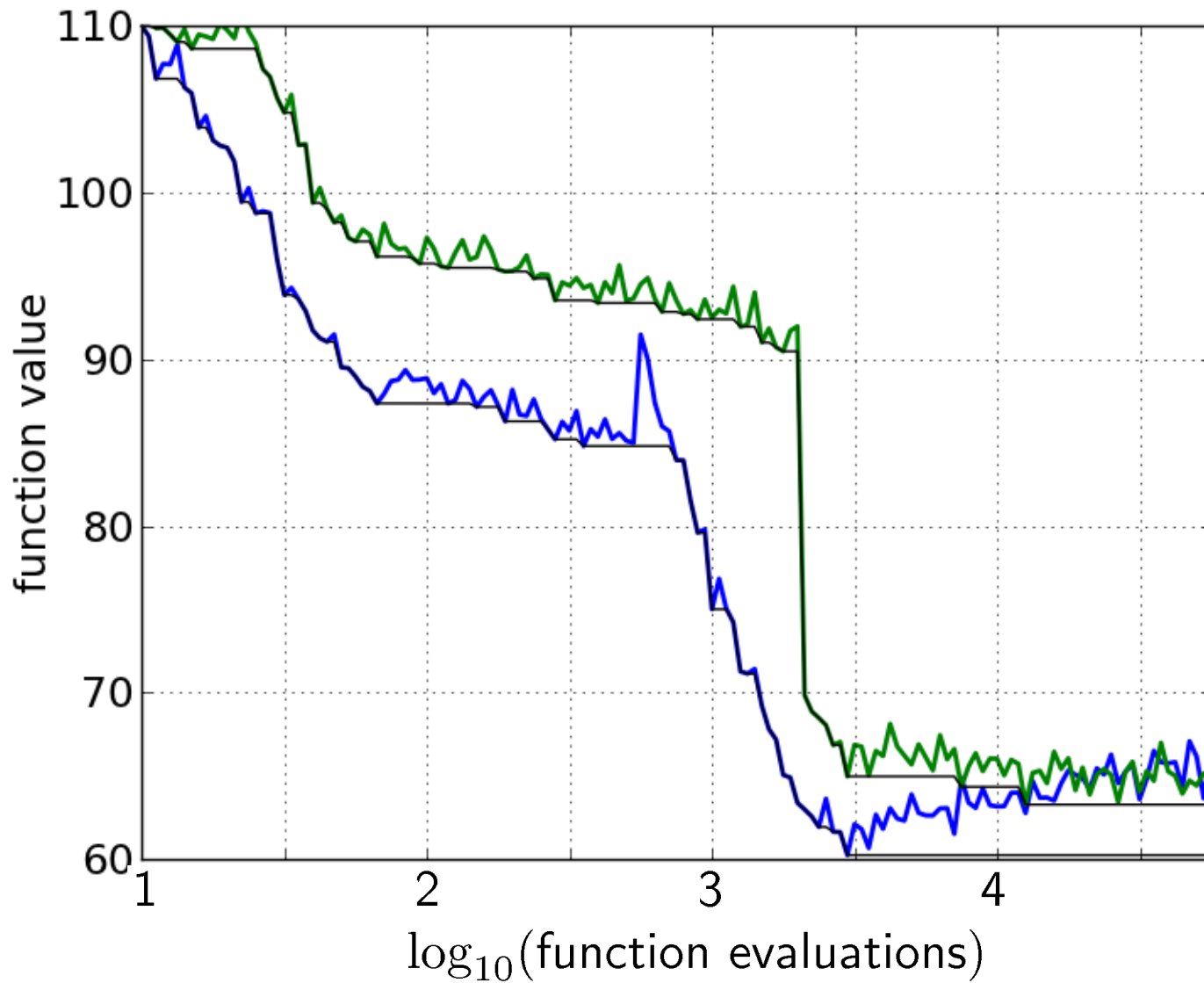
# First hitting time is monotonous



- first hitting time: a monotonous graph

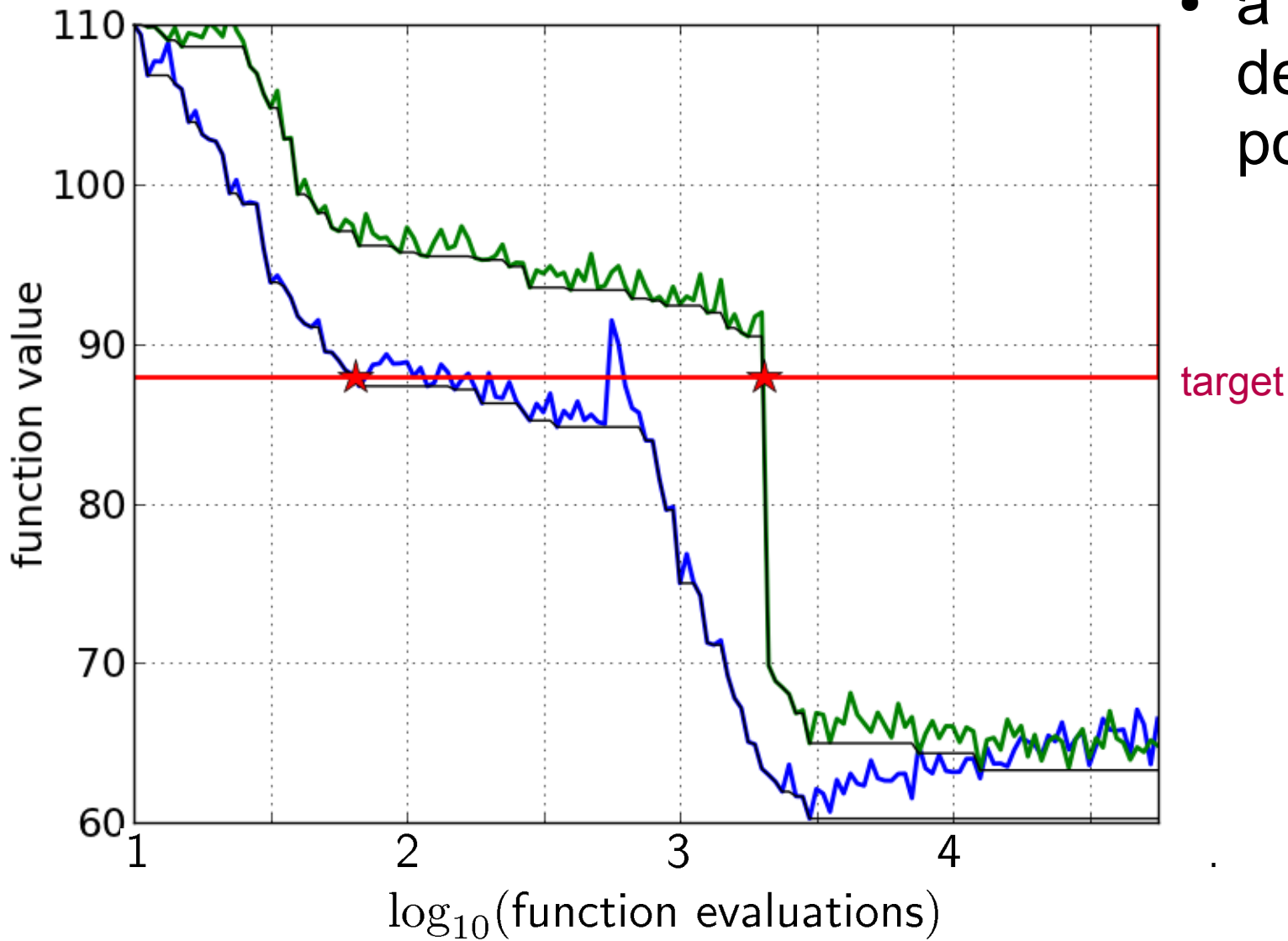


- another convergence graph

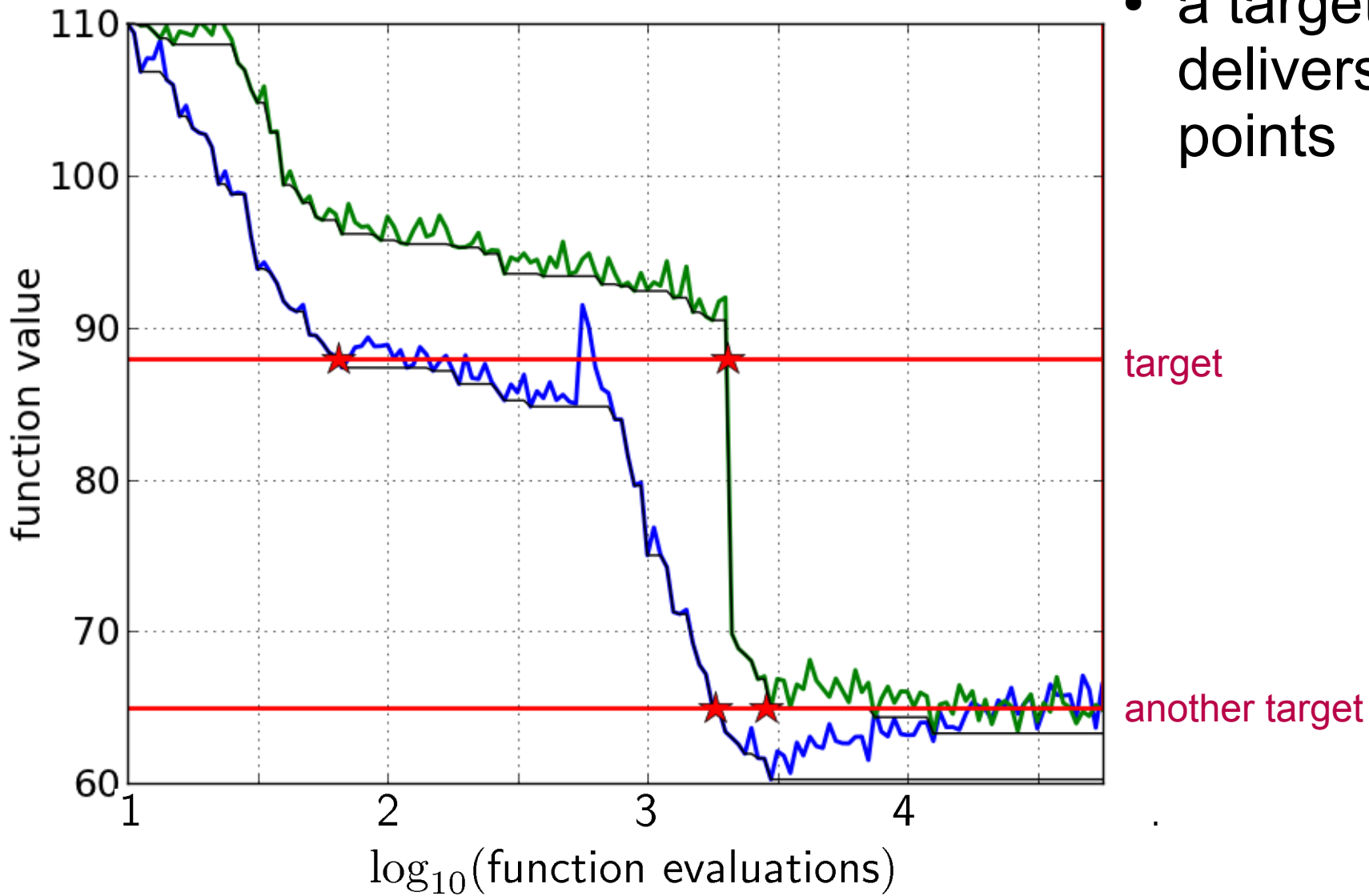


- another convergence graph with hitting time





- a target value delivers two data points

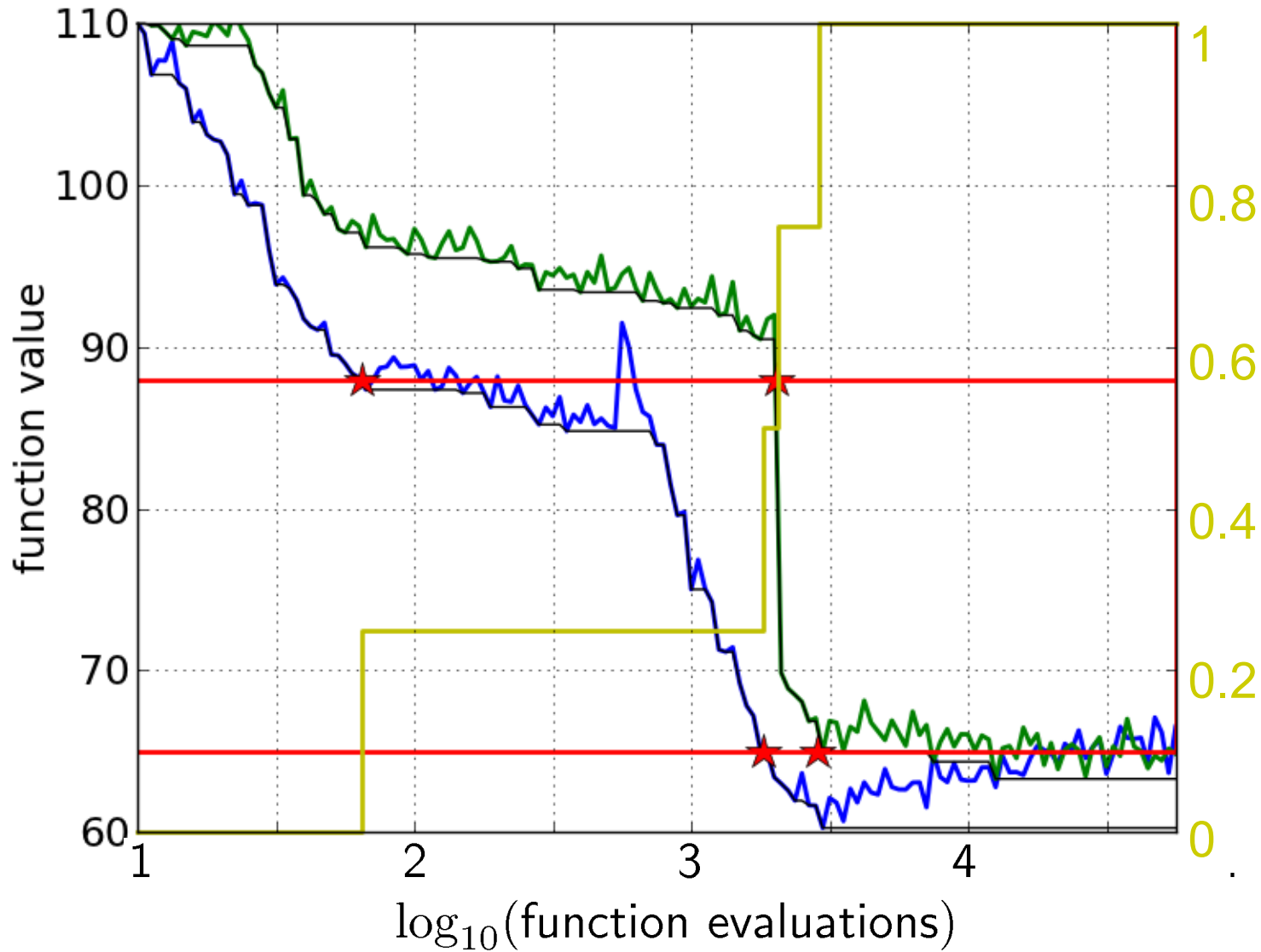


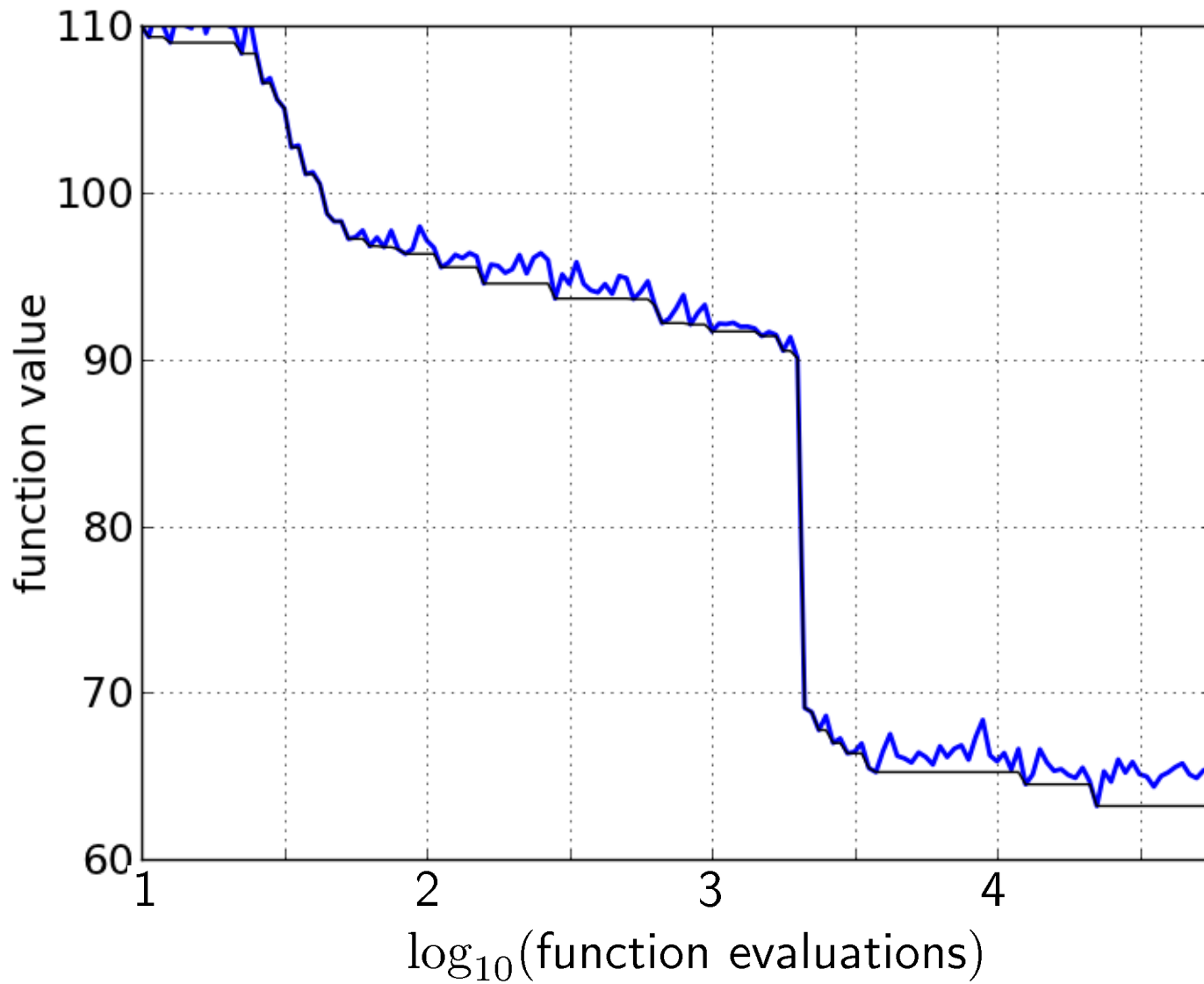
- a target value delivers two data points

target

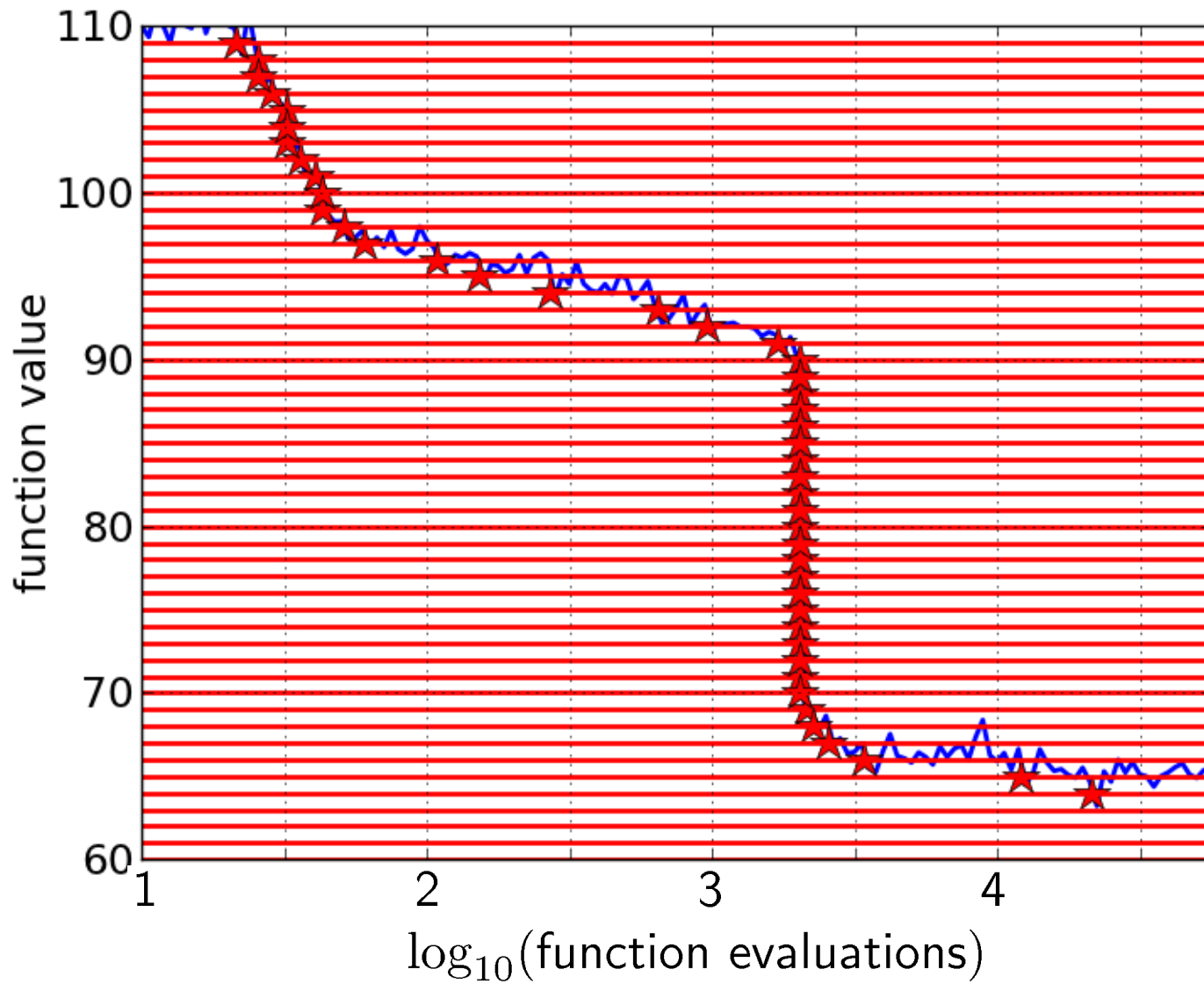
another target

# ECDF with four data points

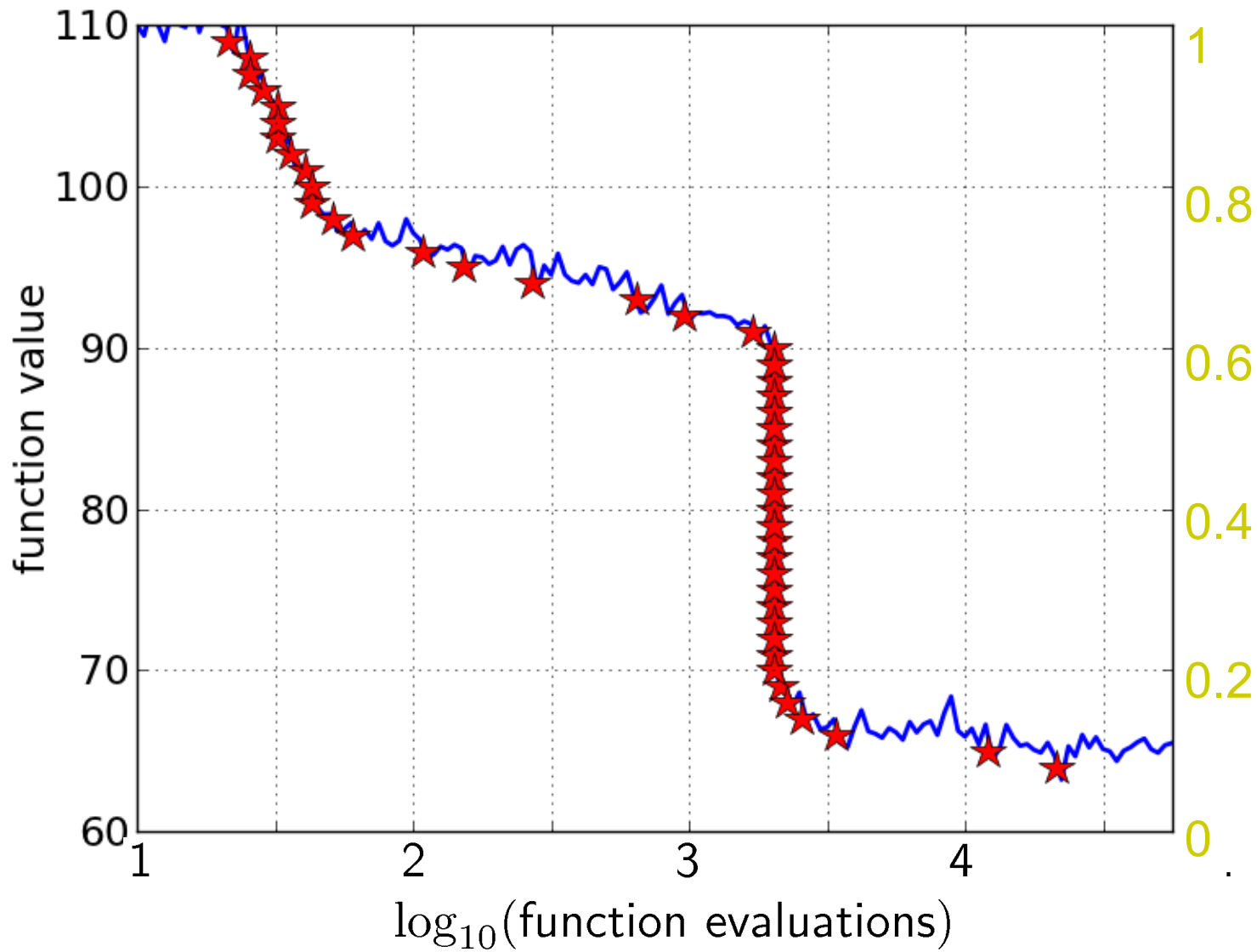


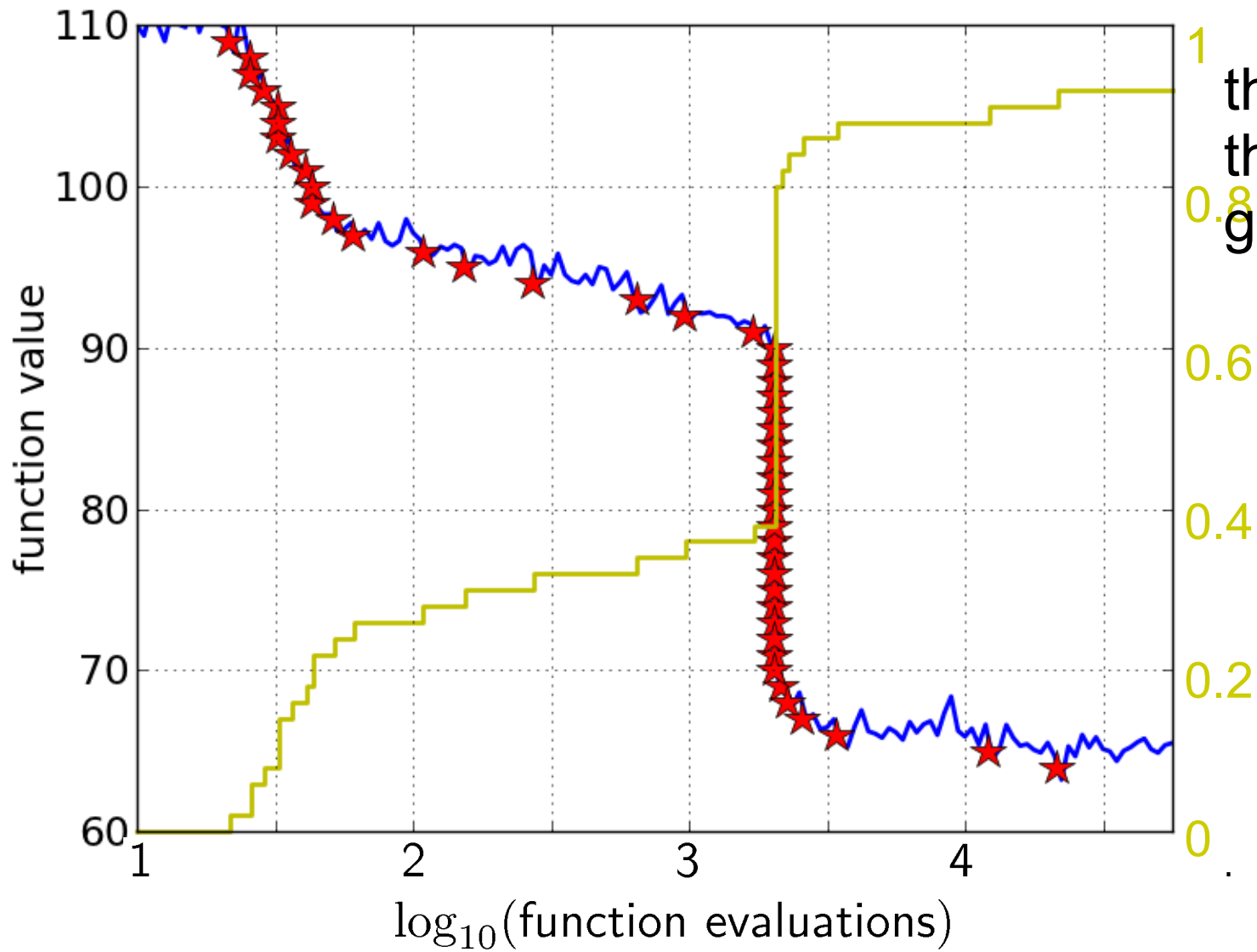


- reconstructing a single run

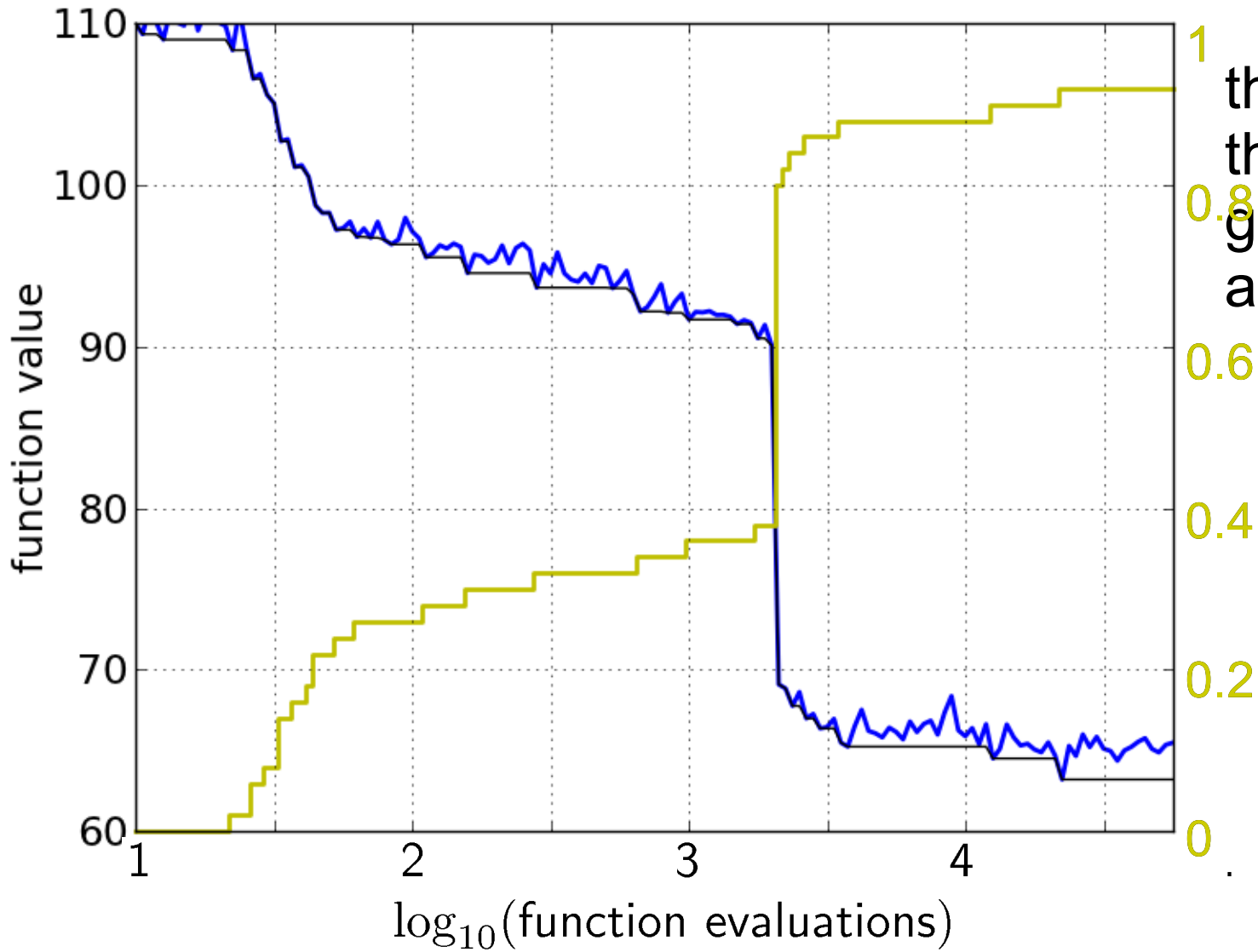


50 equally spaced targets



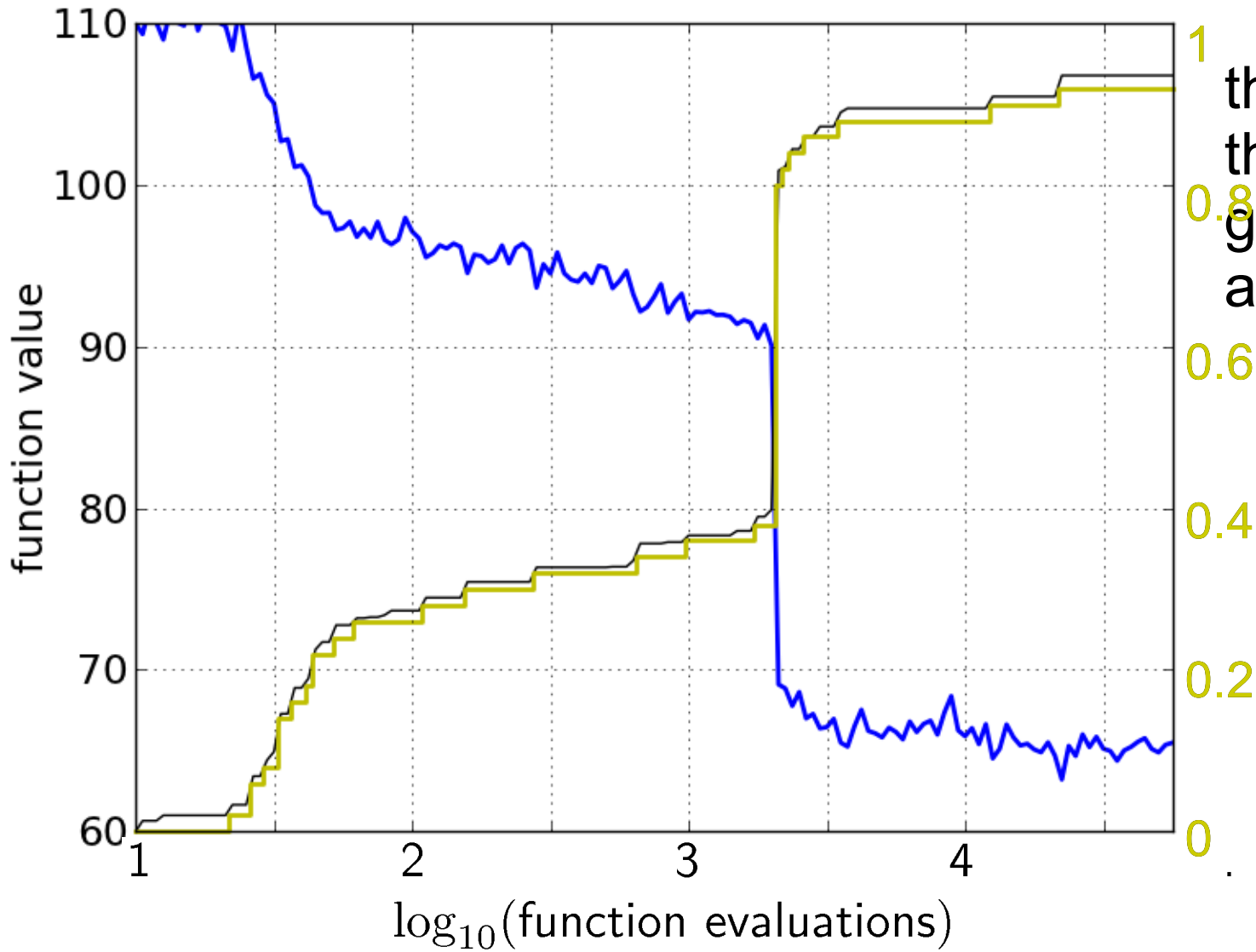


the ECDF recovers  
the monotonous  
graph

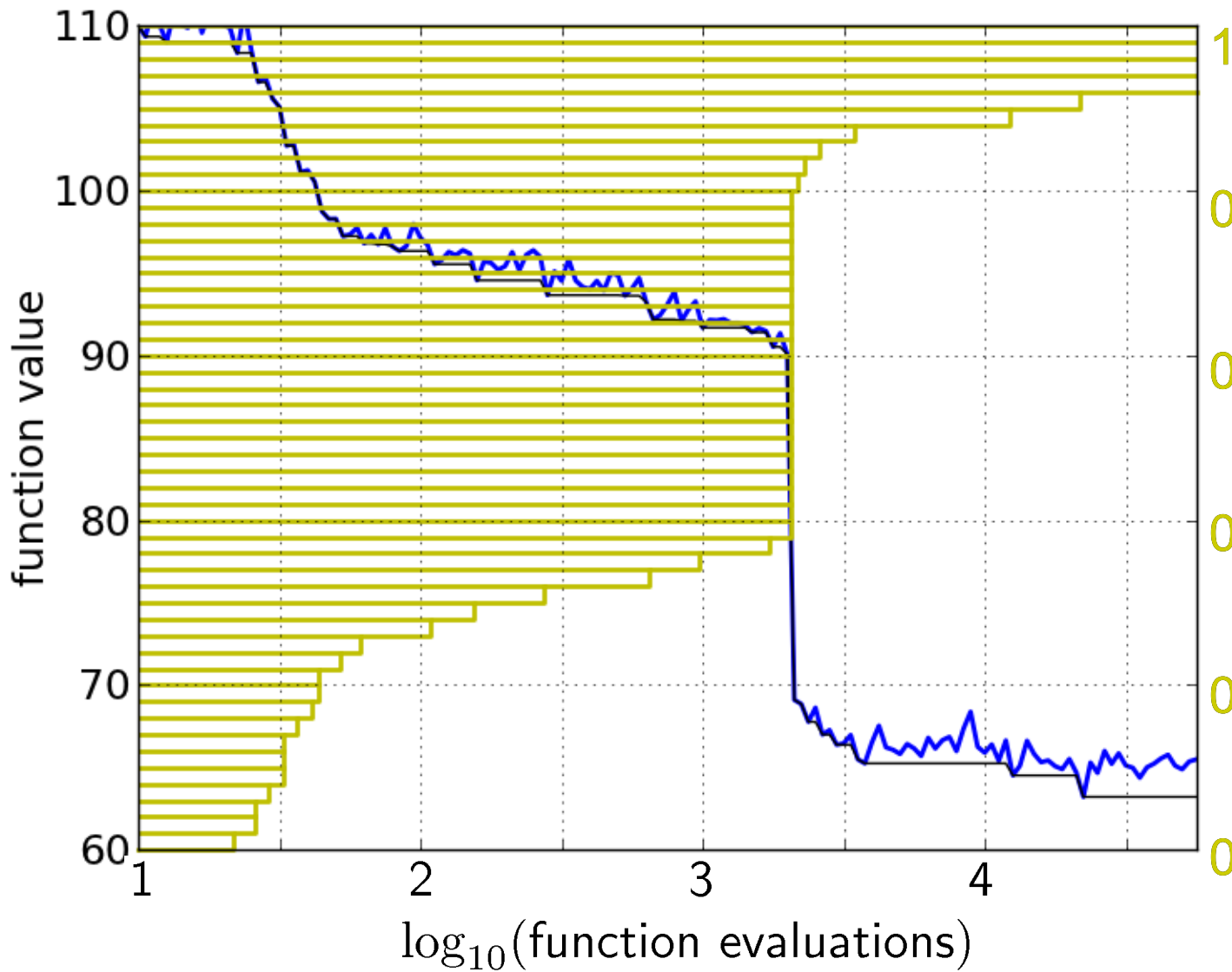


the ECDF recovers  
the monotonous  
graph, discretised  
and flipped



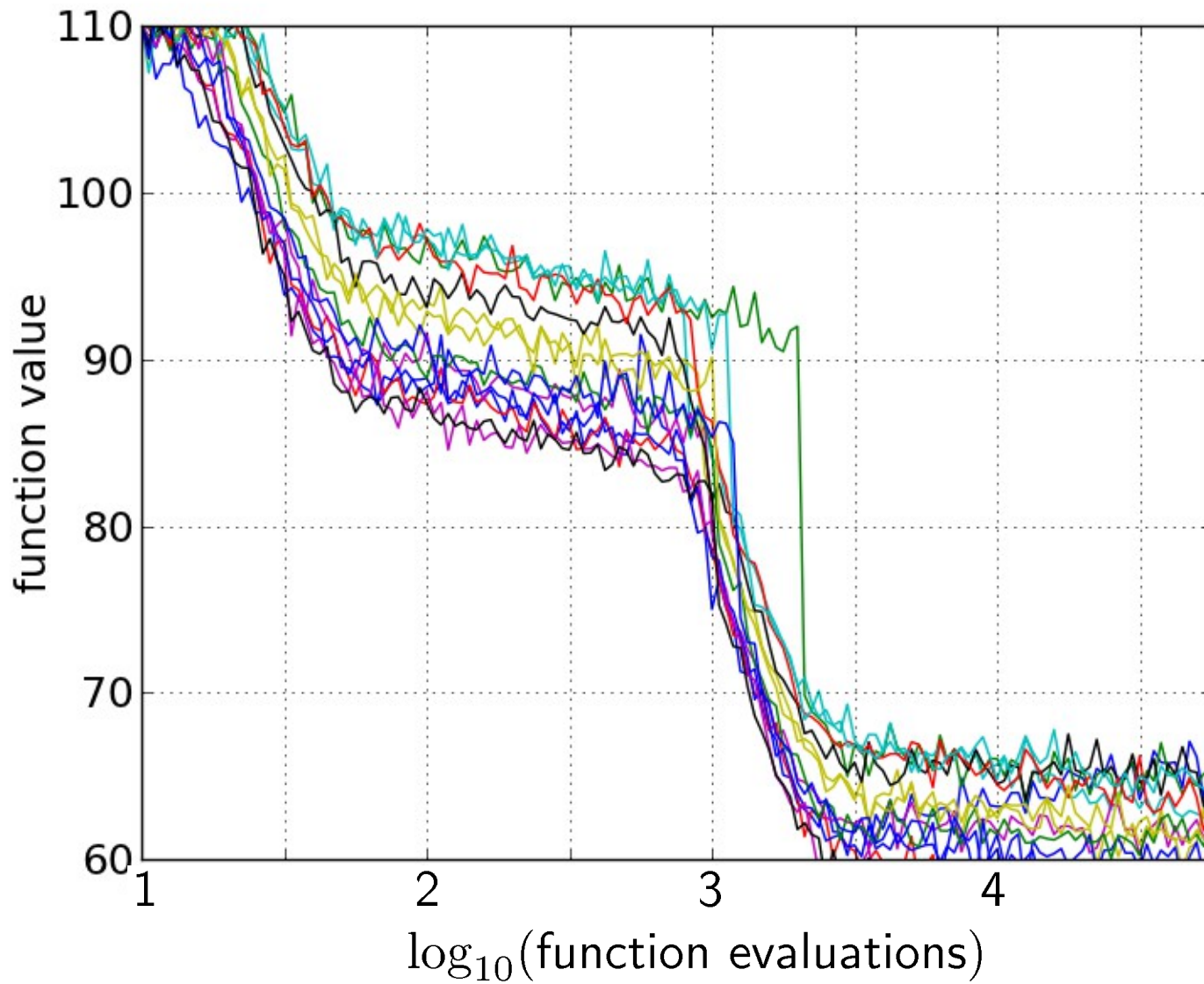


the ECDF recovers  
the monotonous  
graph, discretised  
and flipped

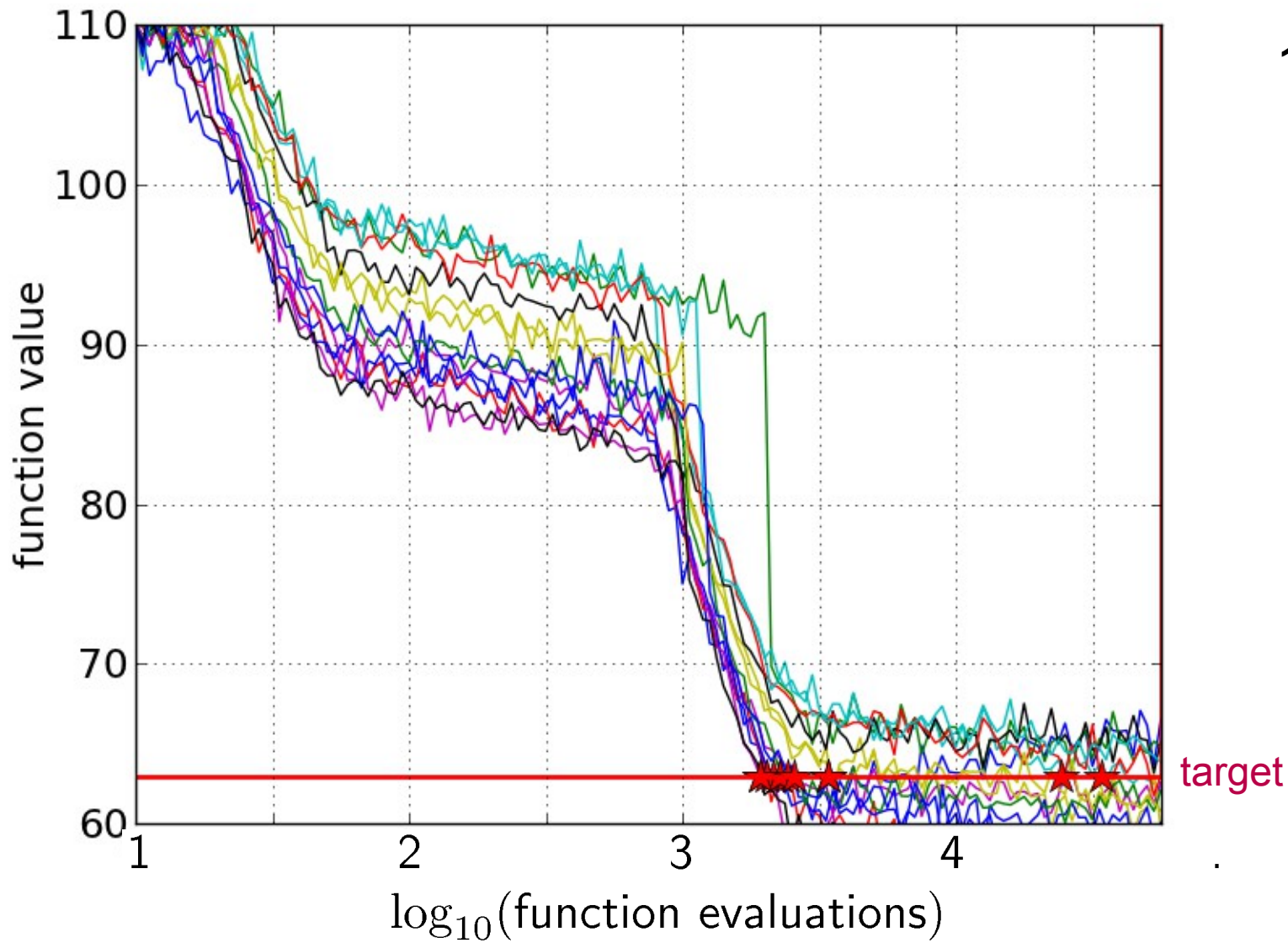


the ECDF recovers the monotonous graph, discretised and flipped

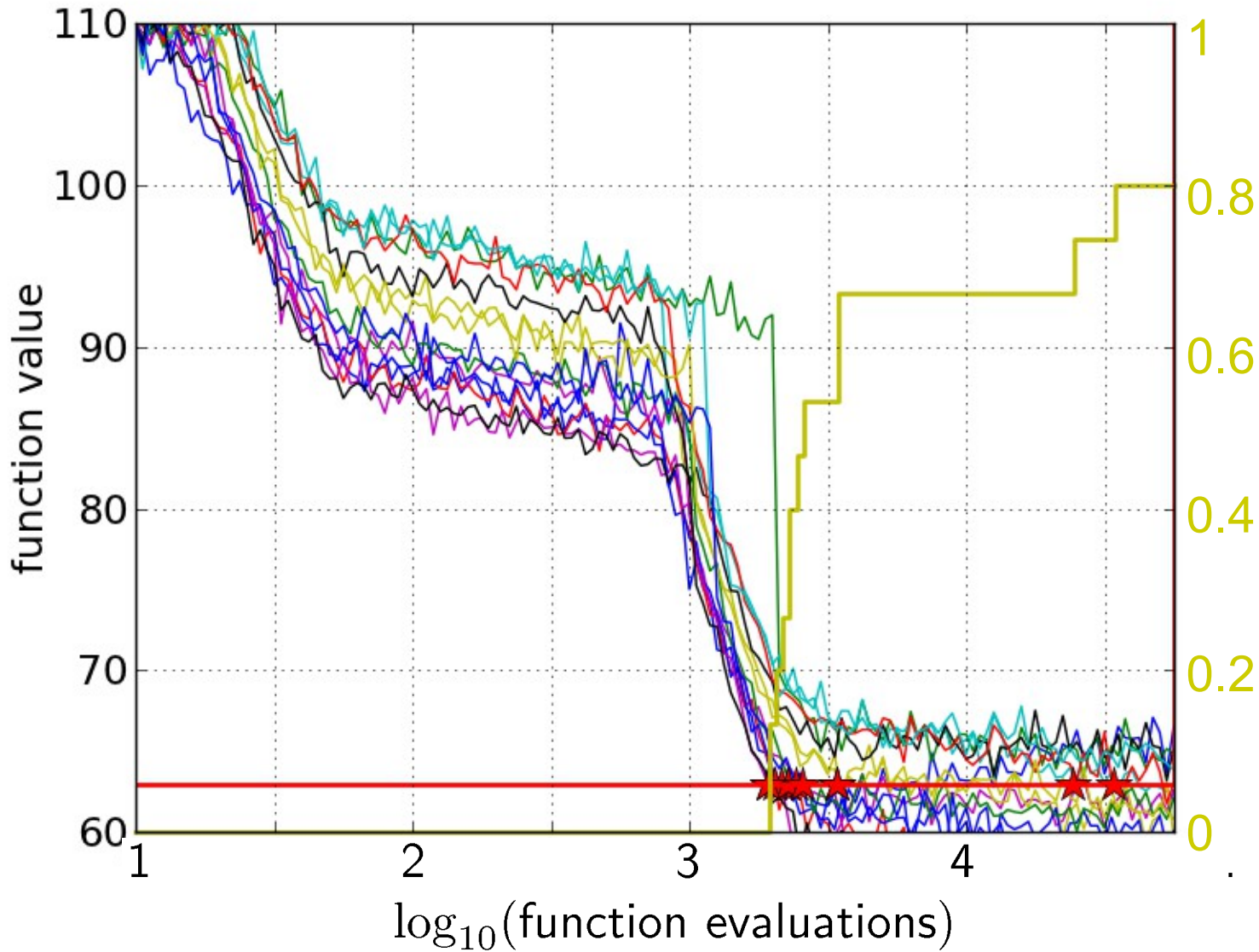
the area over the ECDF curve is the average log runtime (or geometric average runtime)



15 runs

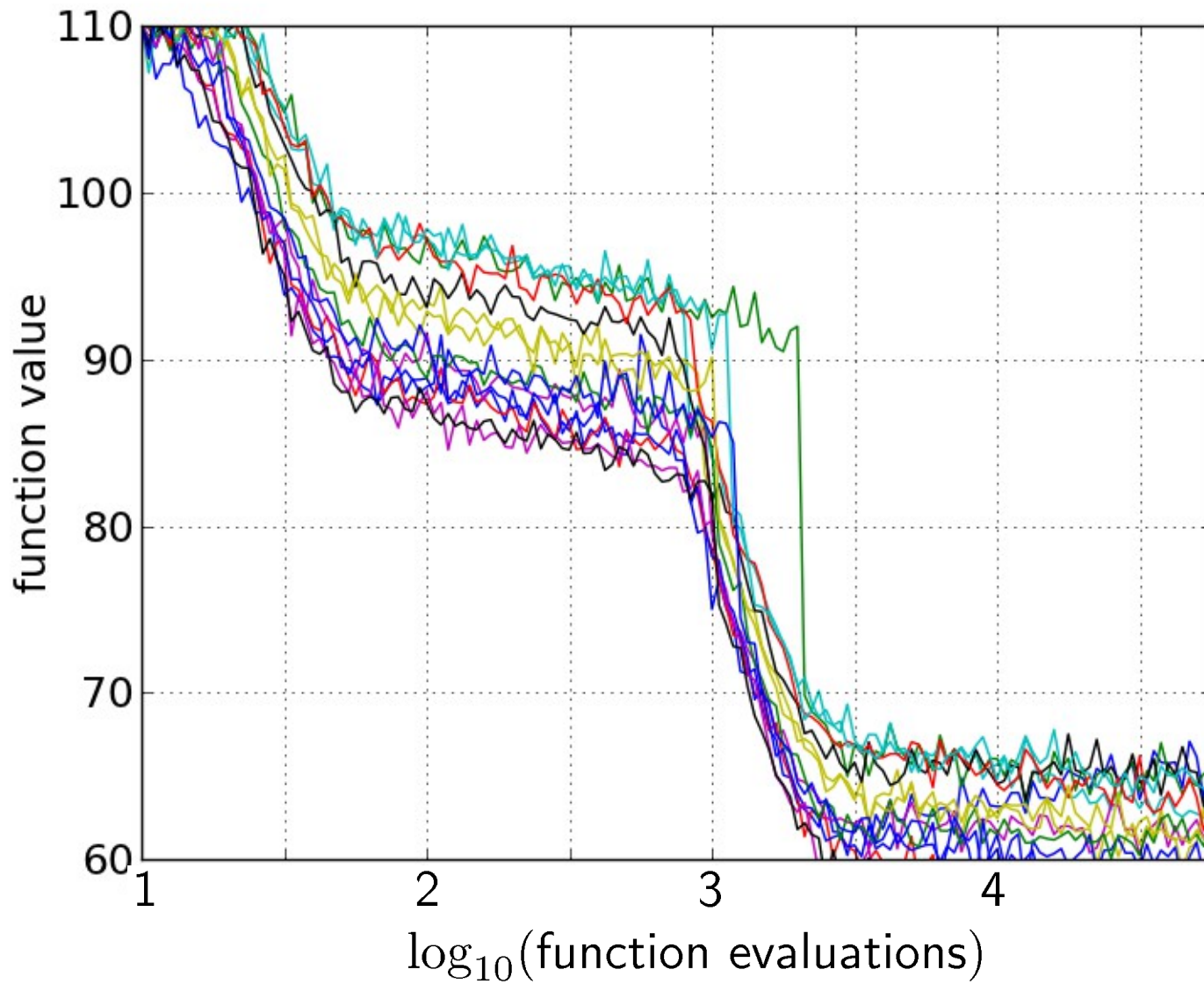


15 runs

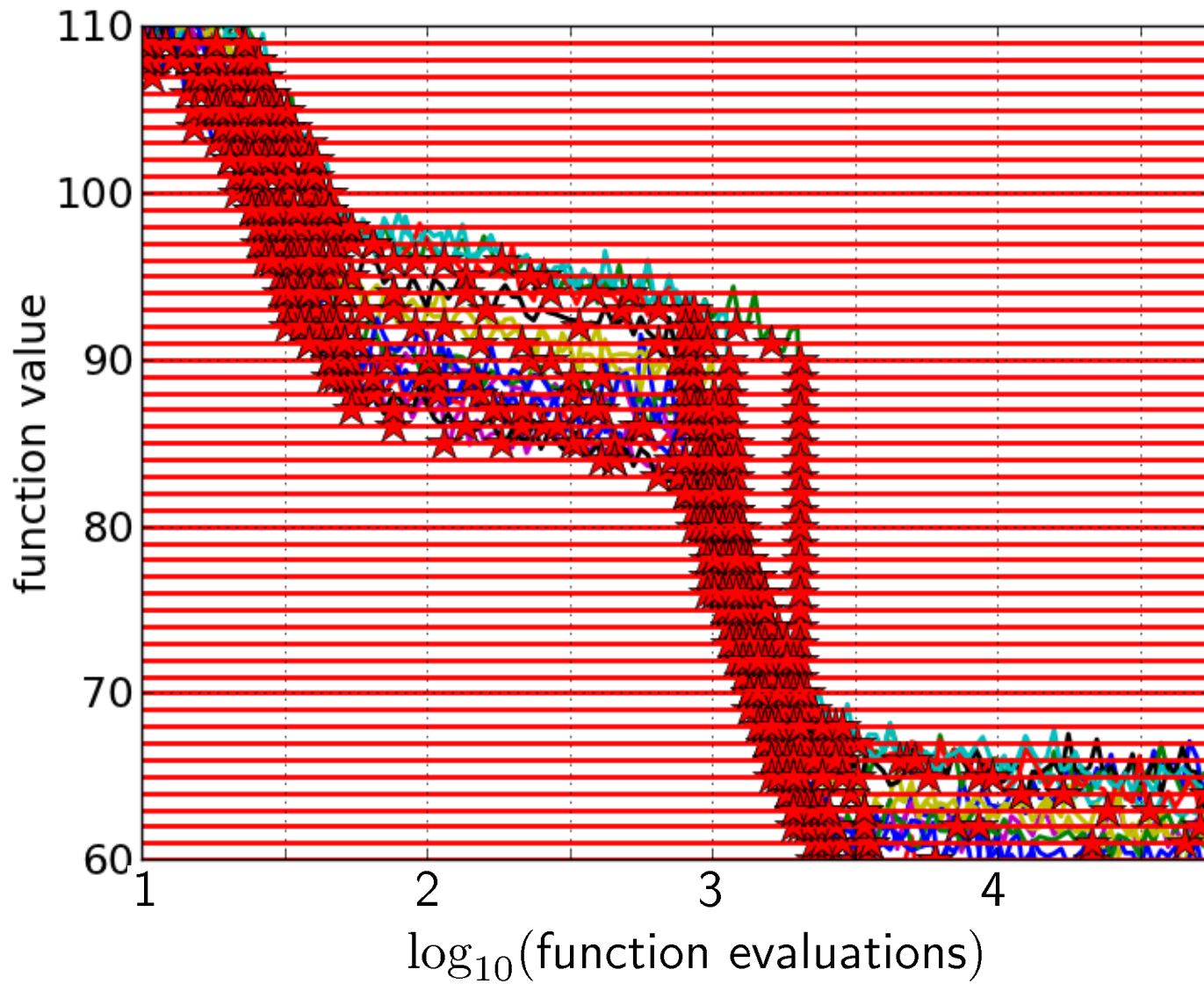


the **ECDF** of run lengths (runtimes)

80% of the runs reached the target

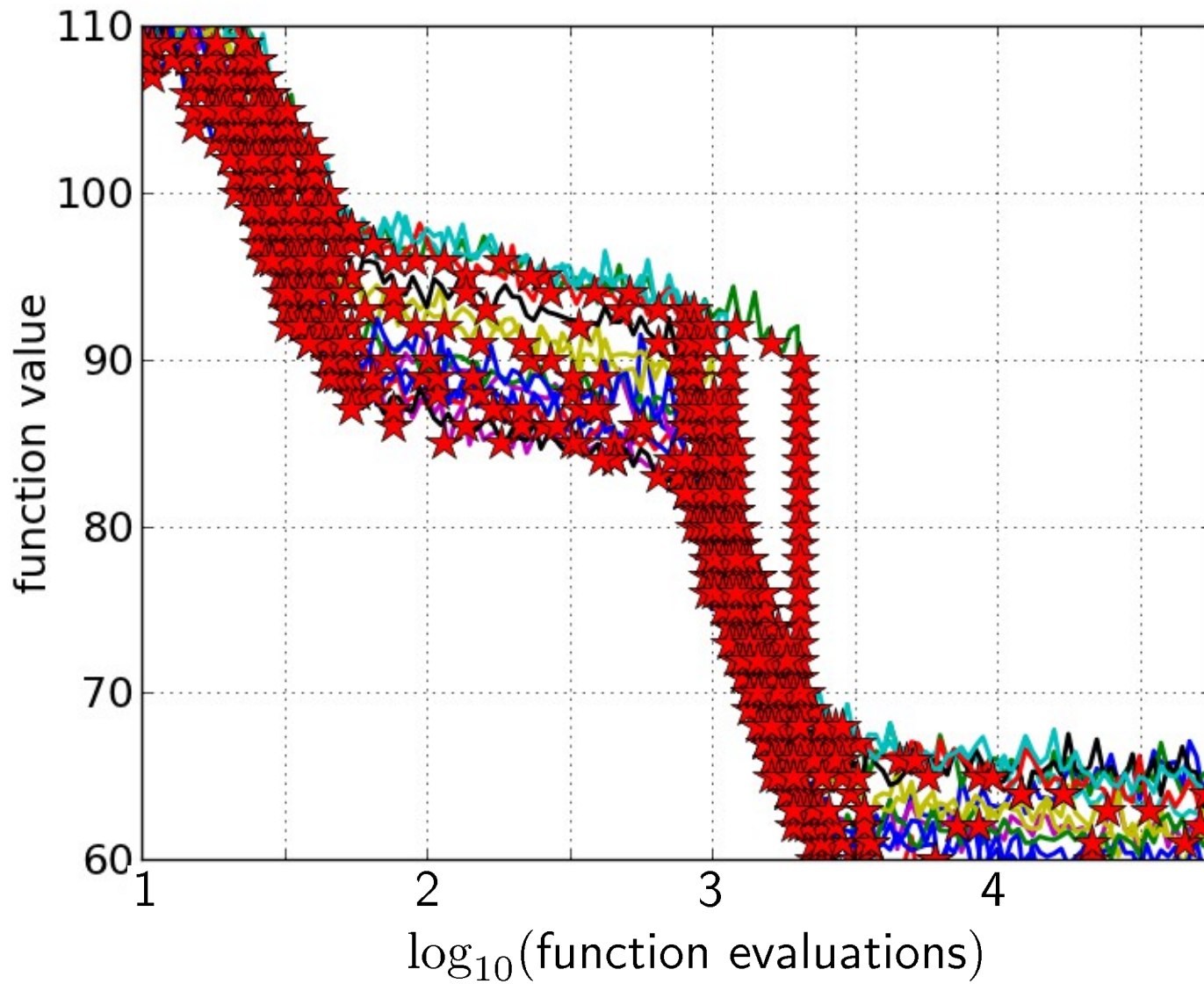


15 runs



15 runs

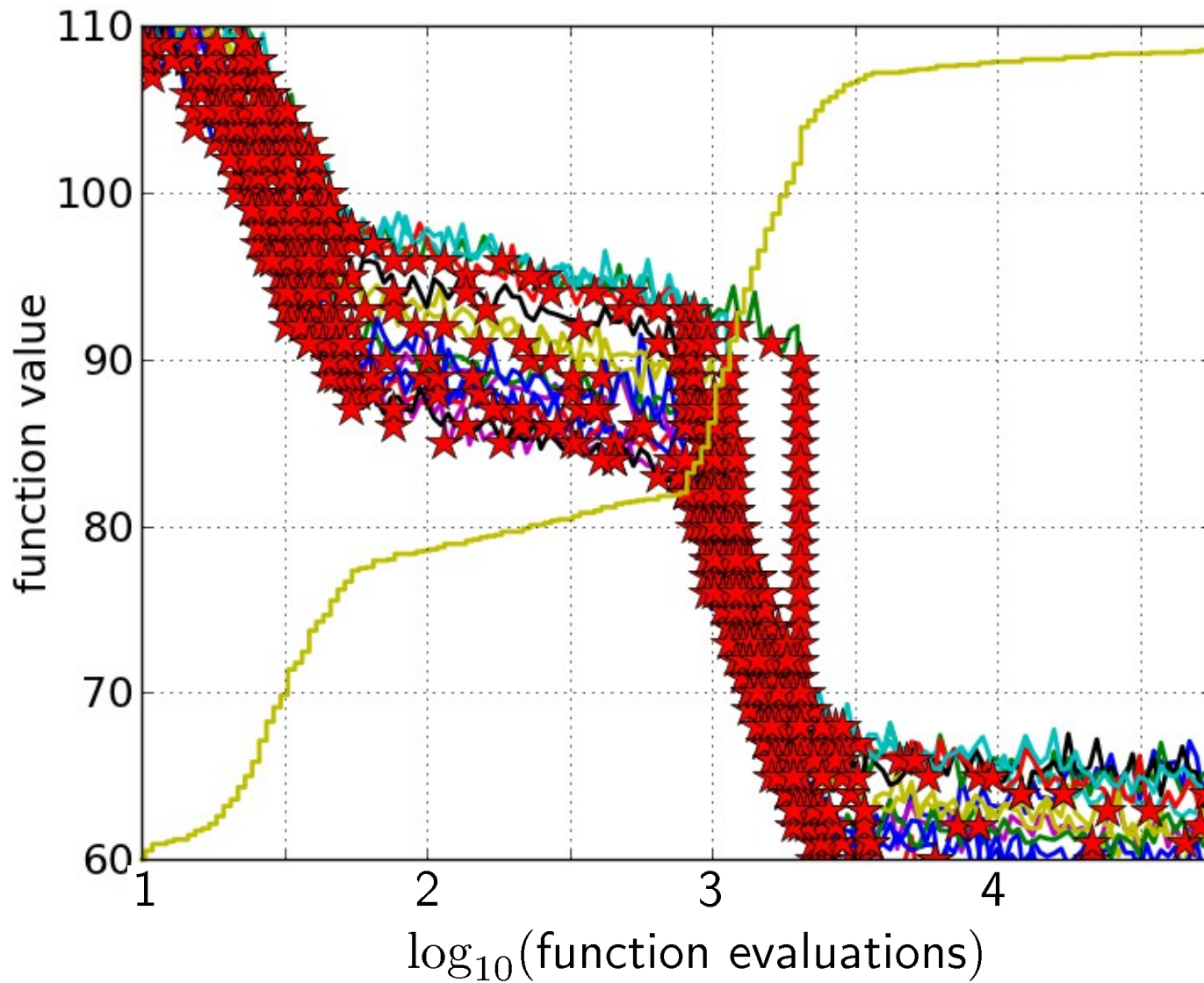
50 targets



15 runs

50 targets

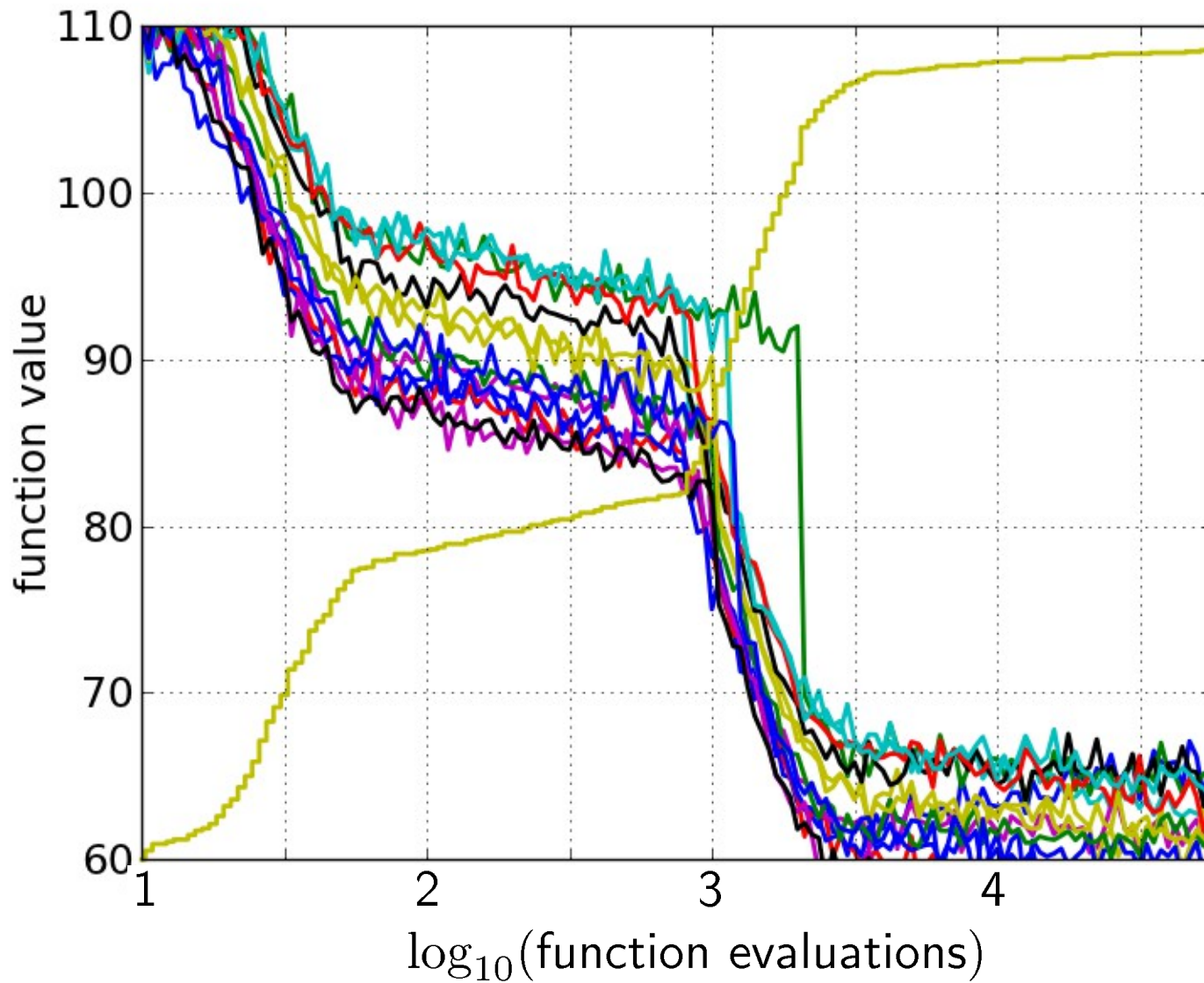




15 runs

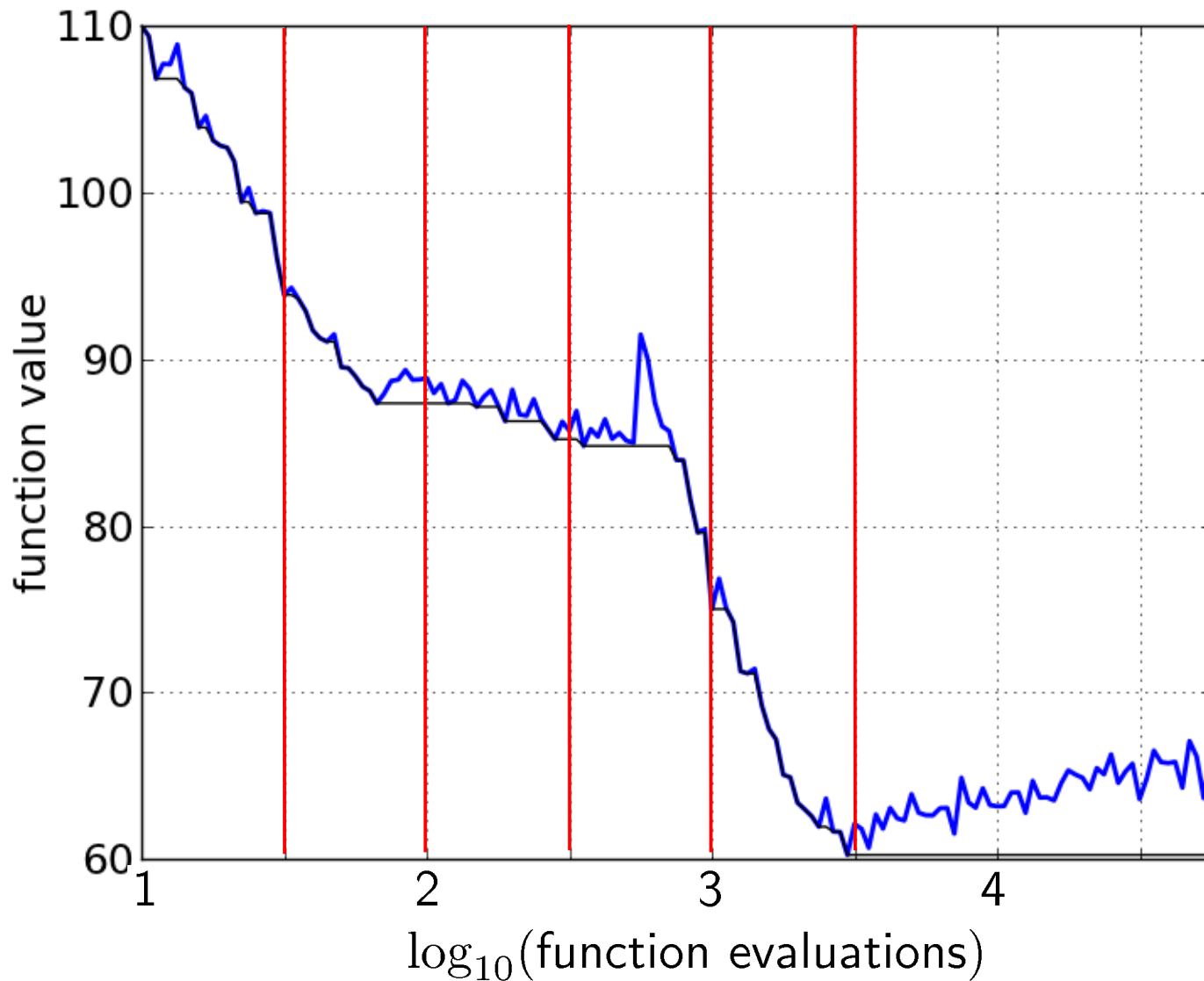
50 targets

ECDF with 750  
steps



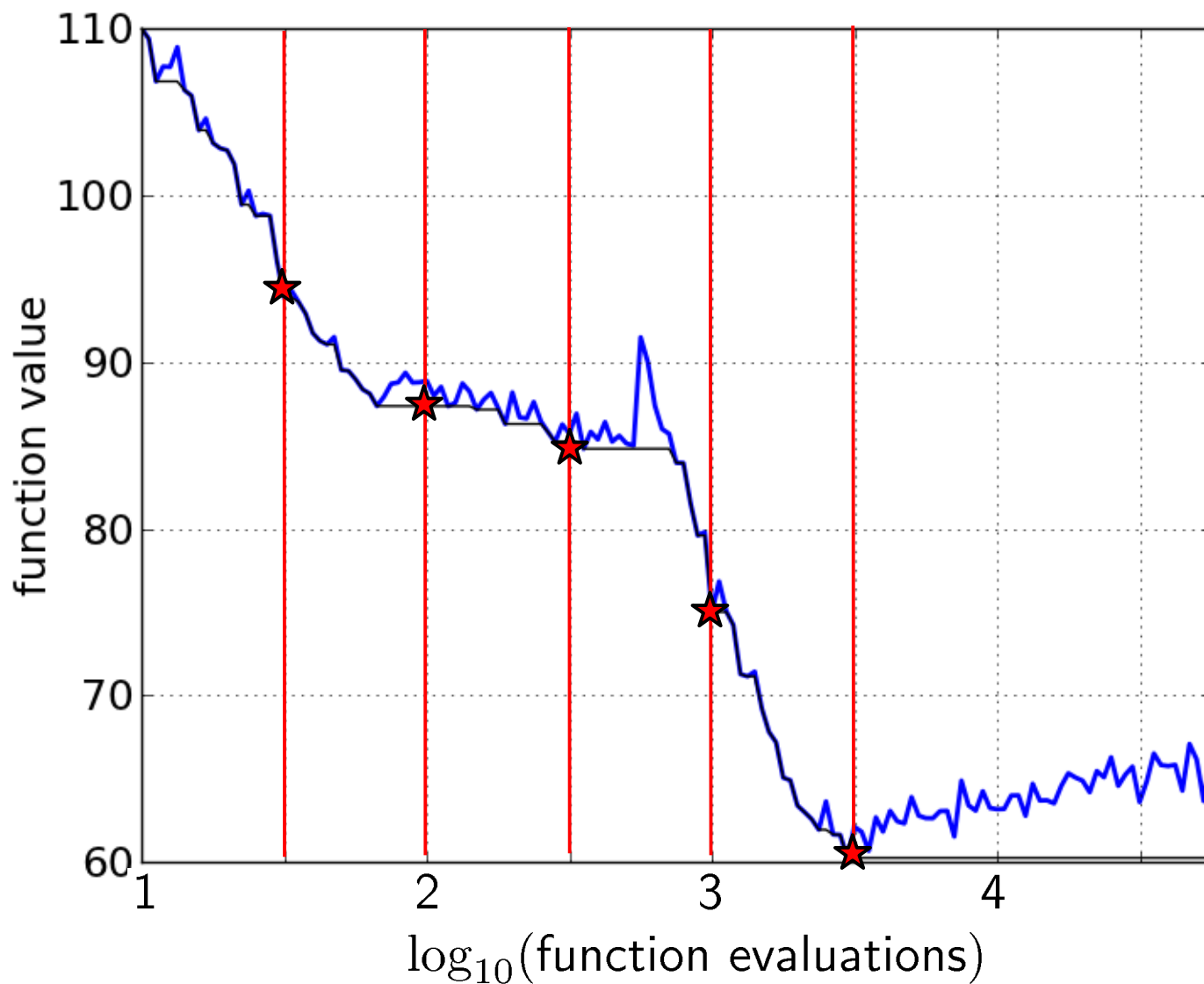
15 runs integrated  
in a single graph

# Target budgets/run-lengths



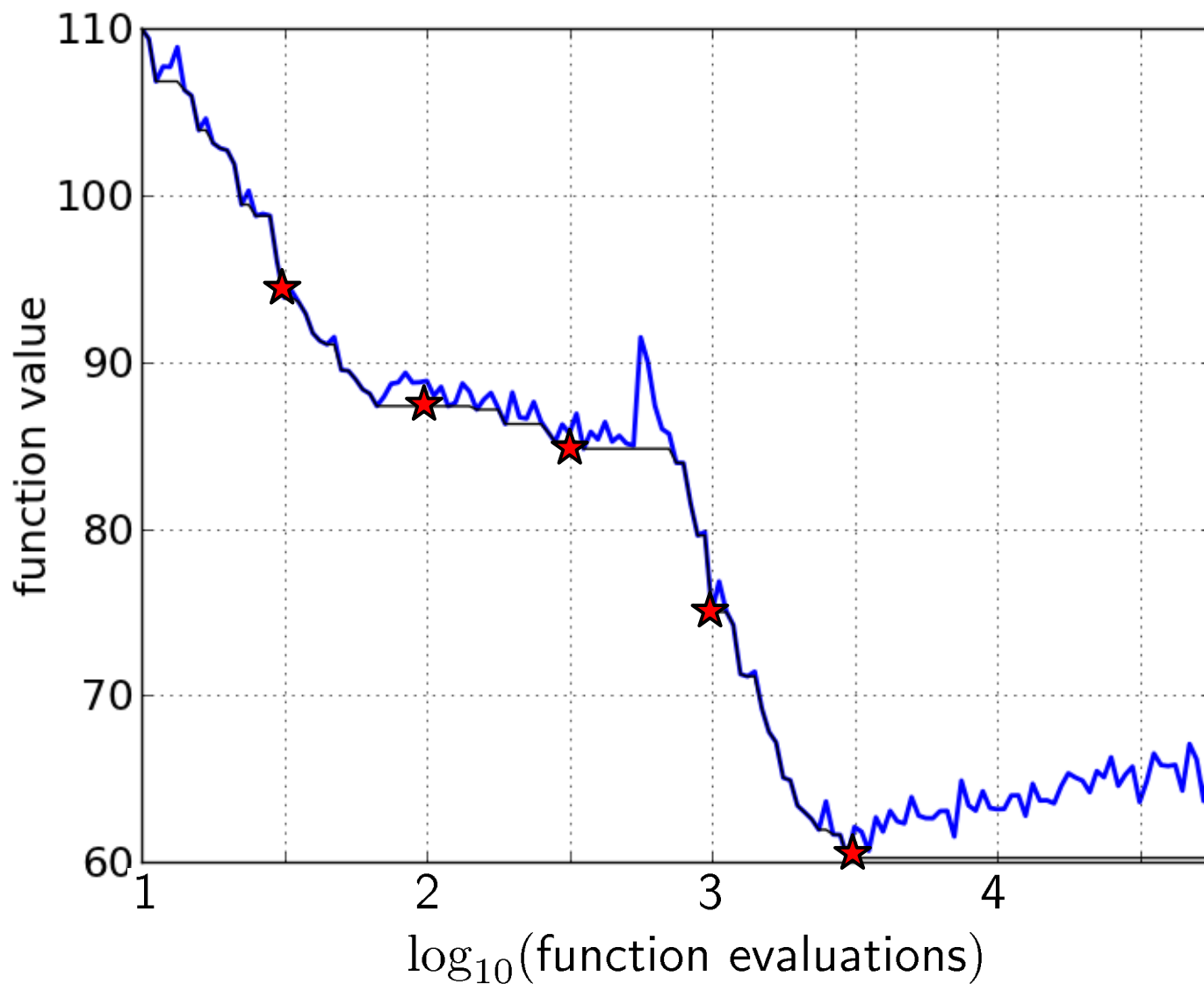
1) define reference target budgets

# Target budgets on the reference algorithm



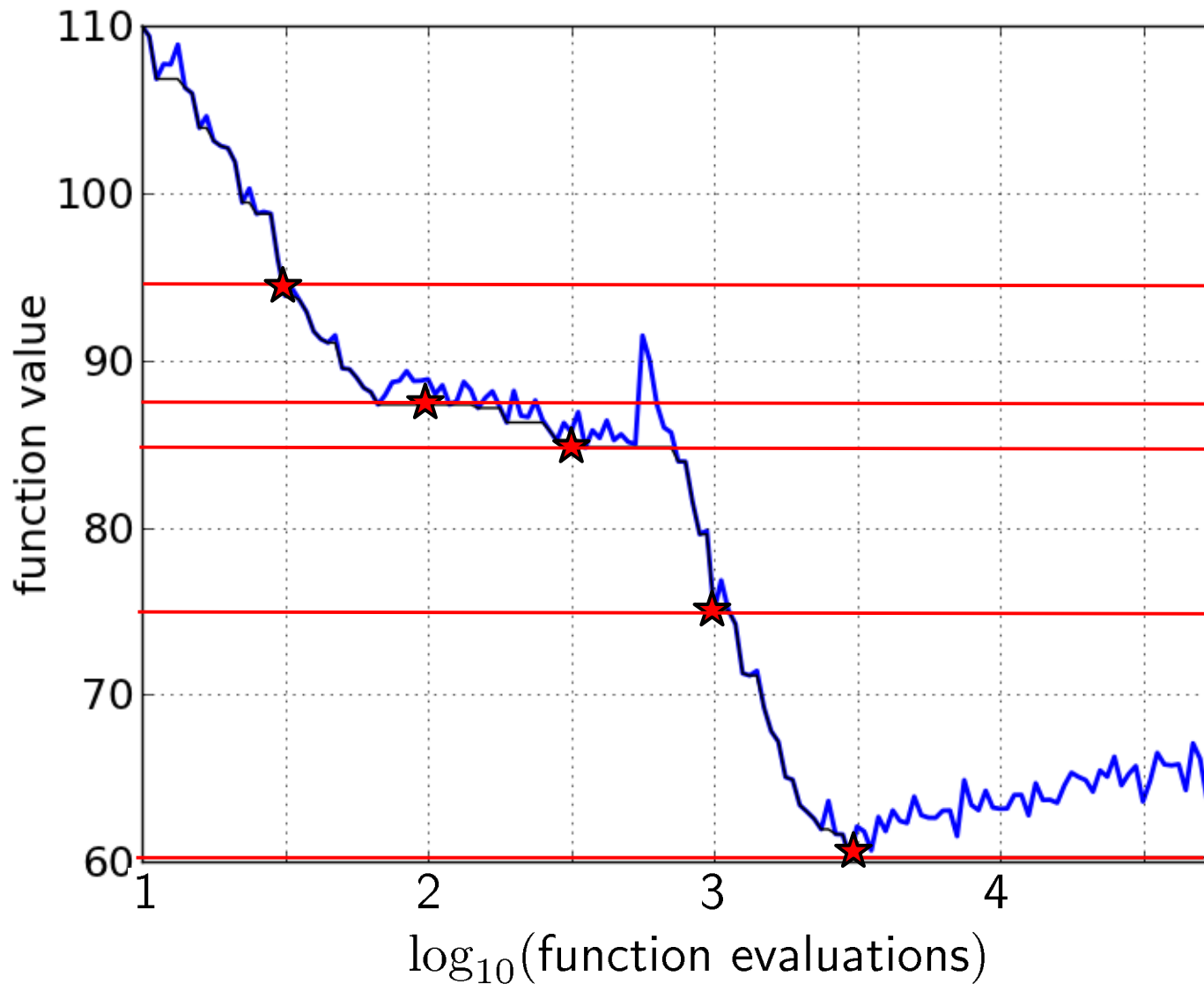
- 1) define reference target budgets
- 2) compute best function value achieved by a reference algorithm

# Target budgets on the reference algorithm



- 1) define reference target budgets
- 2) compute best function value achieved by a reference algorithm

# Run-length based target $f$ -values

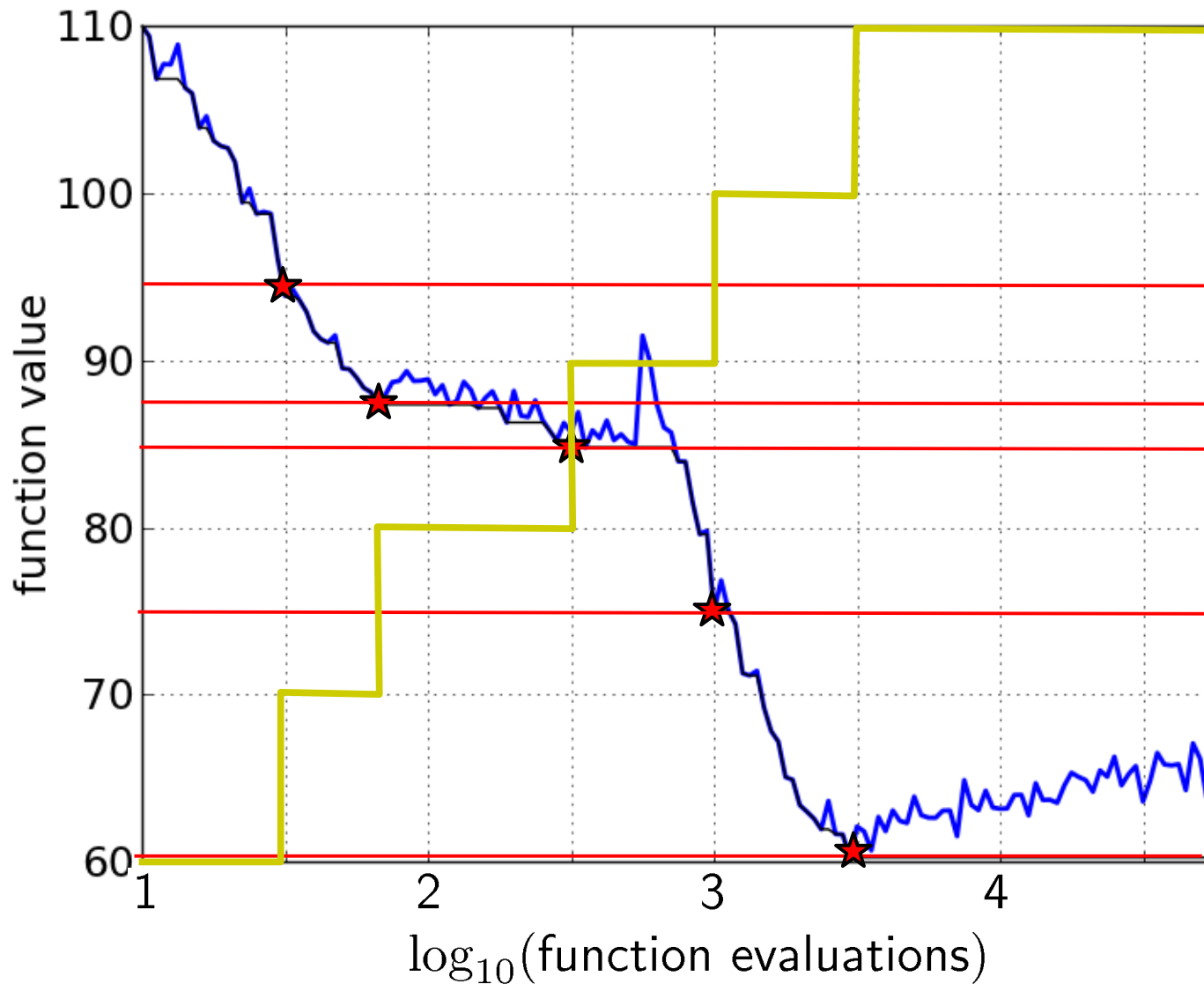


1) define reference target budgets

2) compute best function value achieved by a reference algorithm

=> set of target function values

# Run-length based target $f$ -values



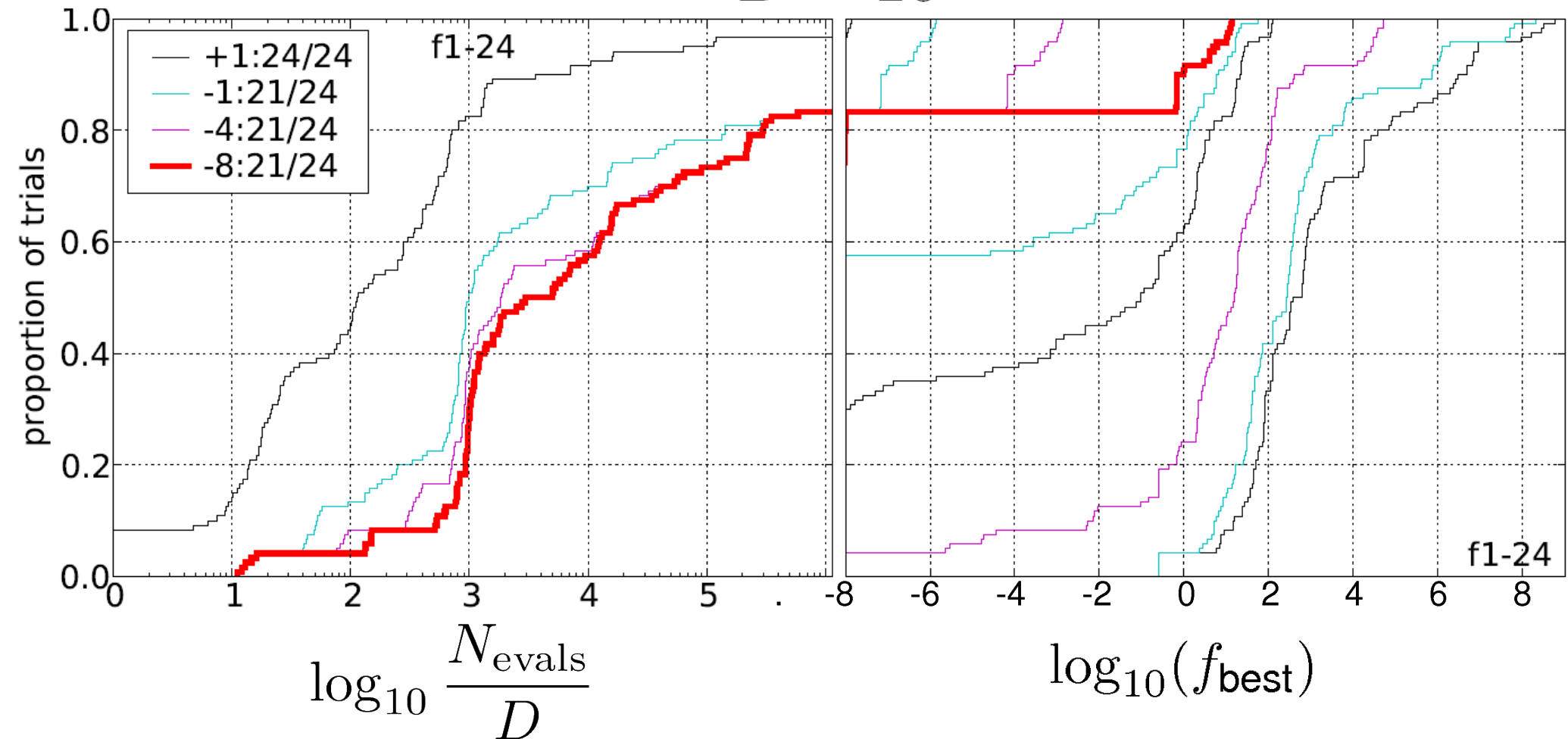
1) define reference target budgets

2) compute best function value achieved by a reference algorithm

=> set of target function values

# Example for ECDFs

$D = 20$

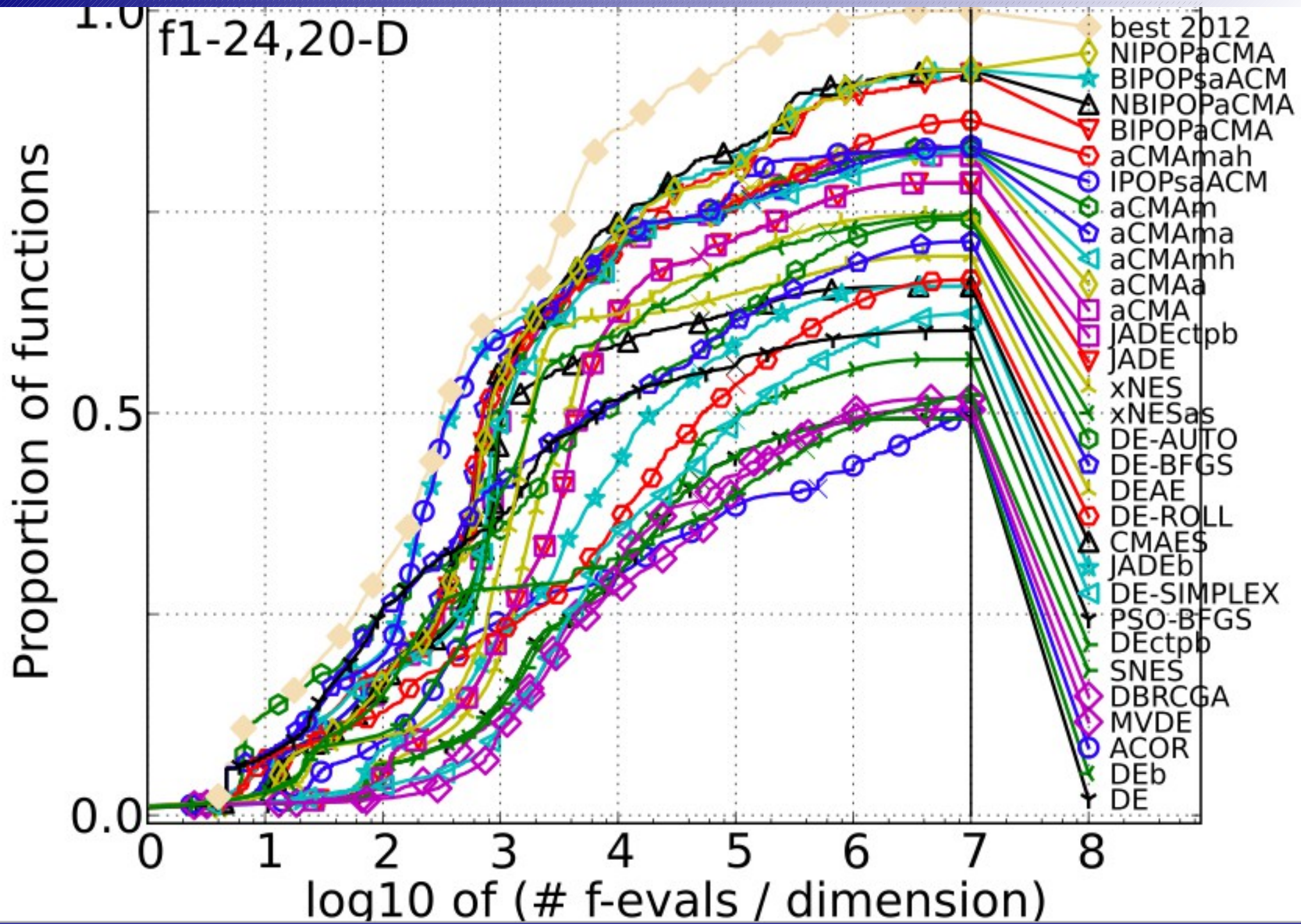


Empirical cumulative distribution functions (ECDFs) of running lengths (left) and function values (right)



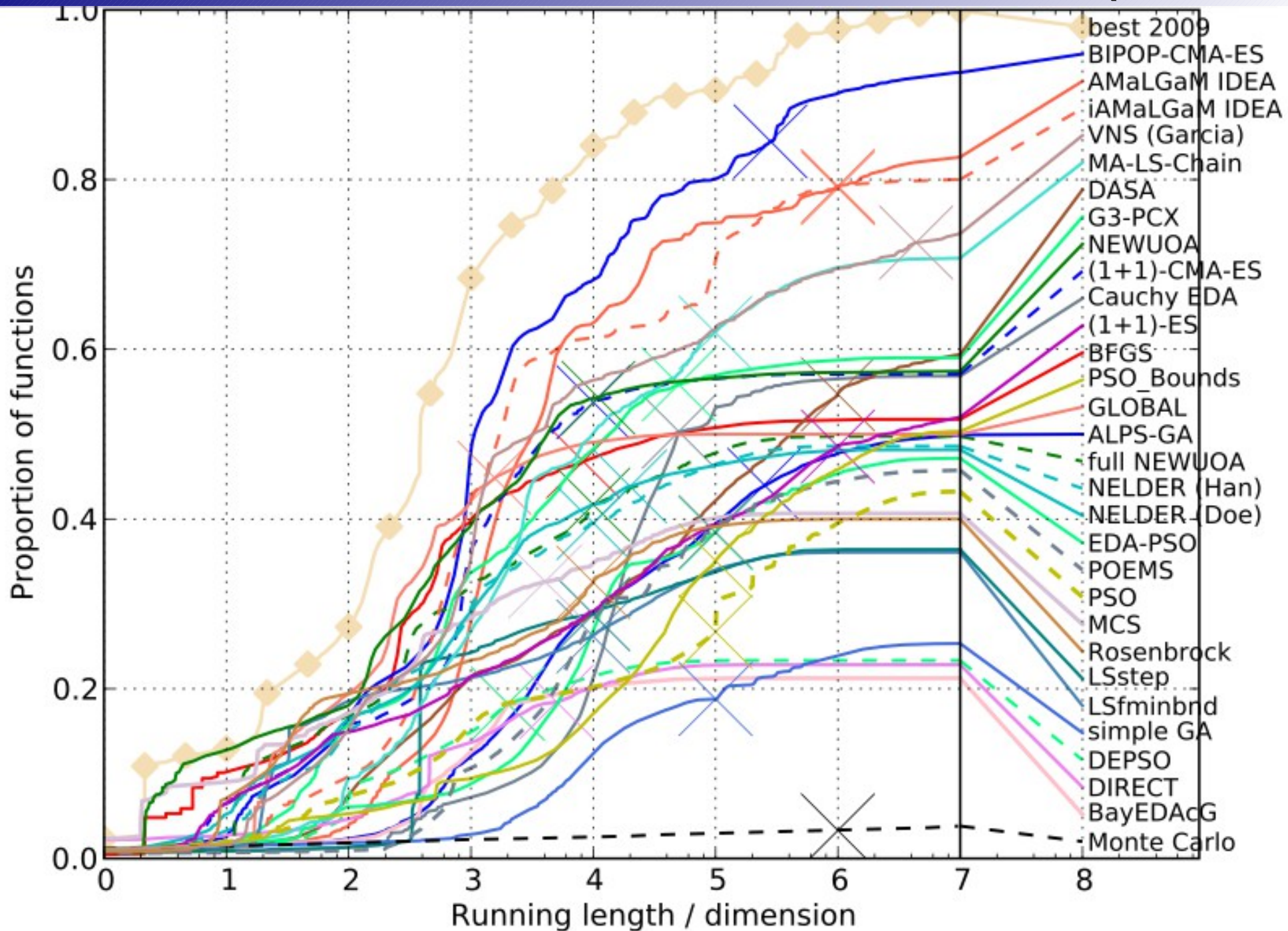


# Results of 2012 (20-D)





# Results of 2009 (20-D)



# ECDF: Summary

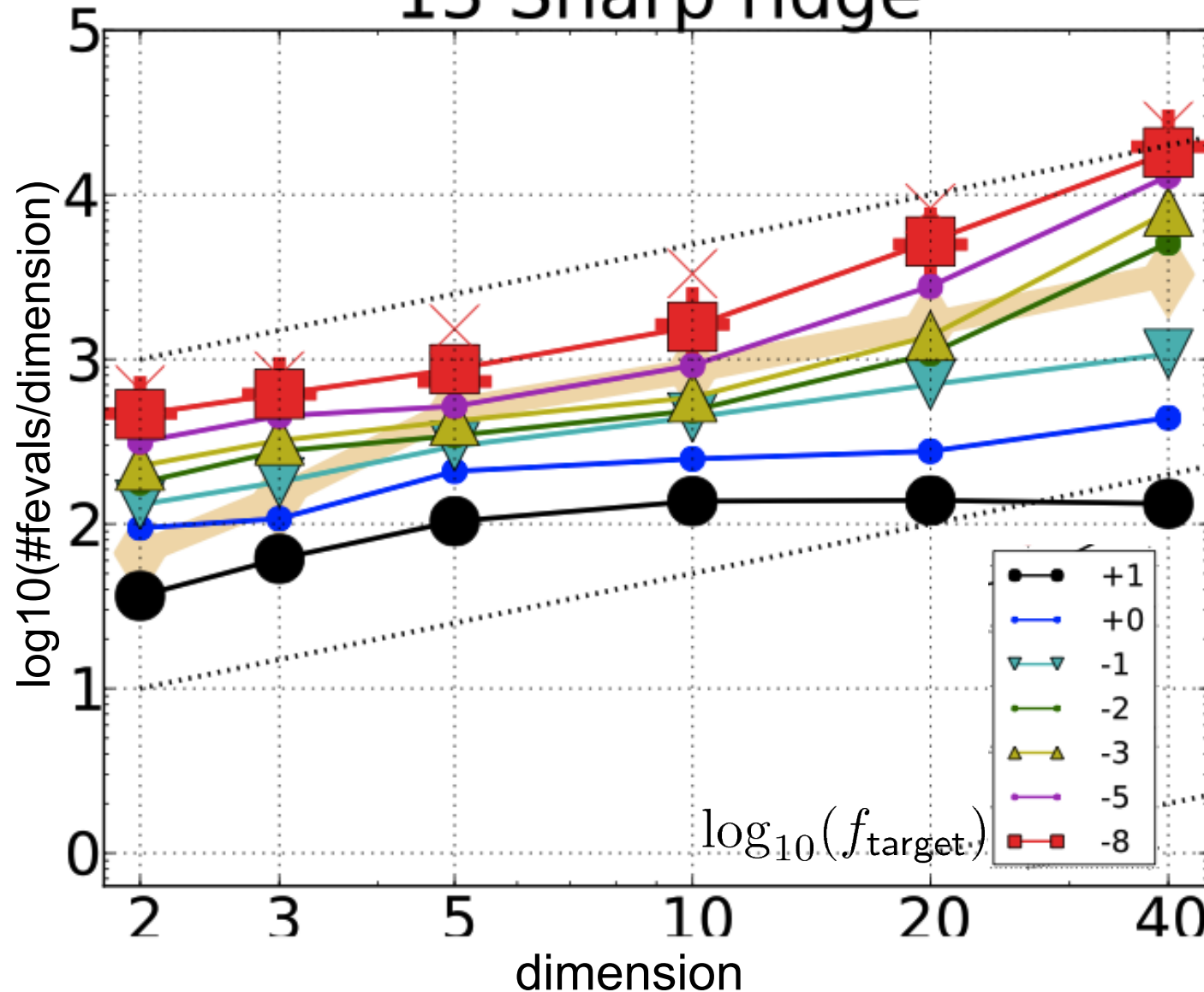
## Empirical Cumulative Distribution Functions

- recover a single convergence graph (and generalize)
- **can aggregate** over any set of functions and target values
  - they display a set of run lengths or runtimes (RT)
- for RT on a single problem (function & target value) allow to estimate **any statistics** of interest from them, like median, expectation (ERT),... in a **meaningful** way
- AKA data profile [Moré&Wild 2009]
- Performance profile [Dolan&Moré 2002]: ECDFs of run lengths divided by the smallest observed run length

# Different Displays of Runtimes

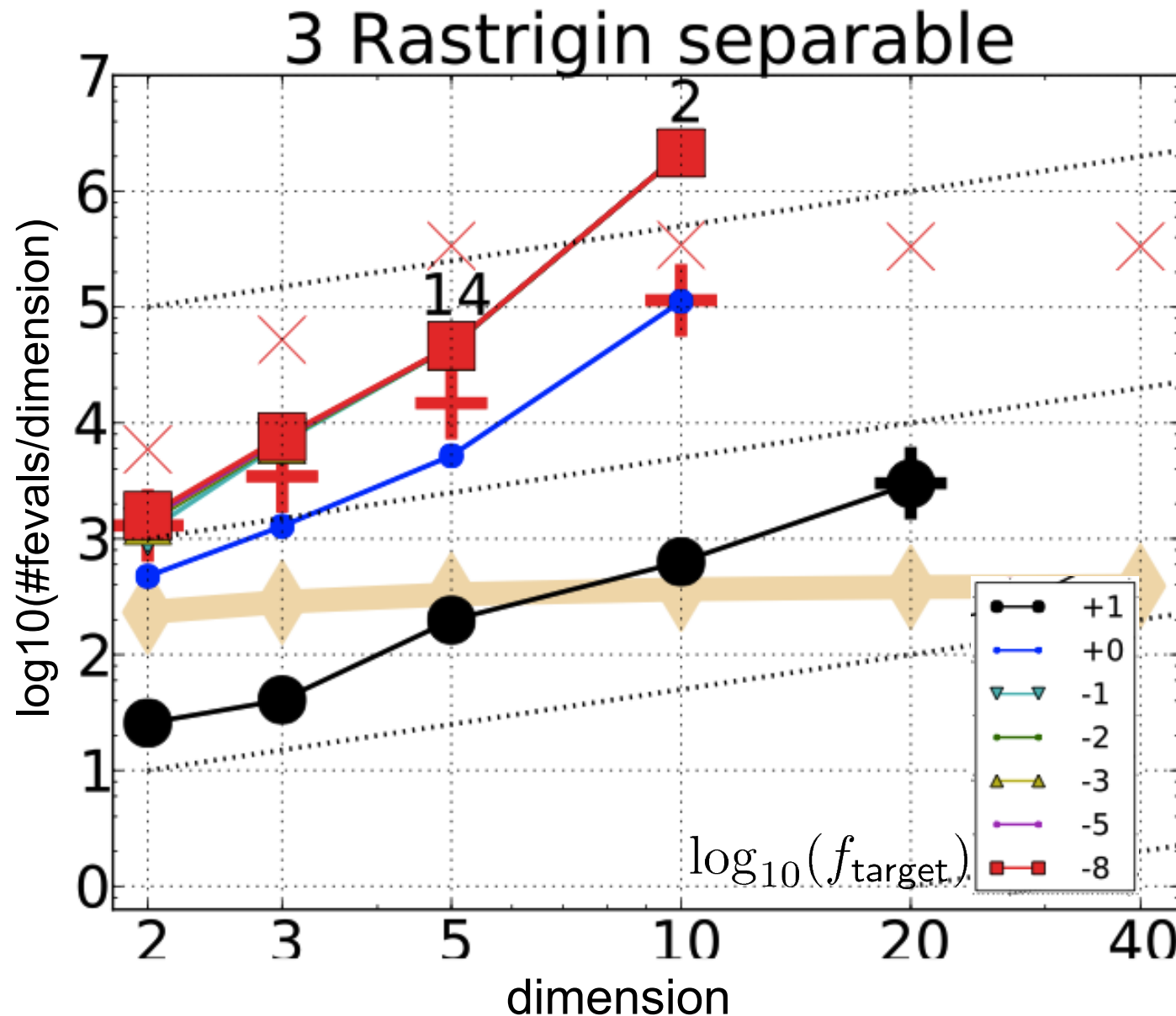
# Scaling Behaviour with Dimension

## 13 Sharp ridge



- slanted grid lines: quadratic scaling
- horizontal lines: linear scaling
- **light brown**: artificial best 2009

# Example: Scaling Behaviour



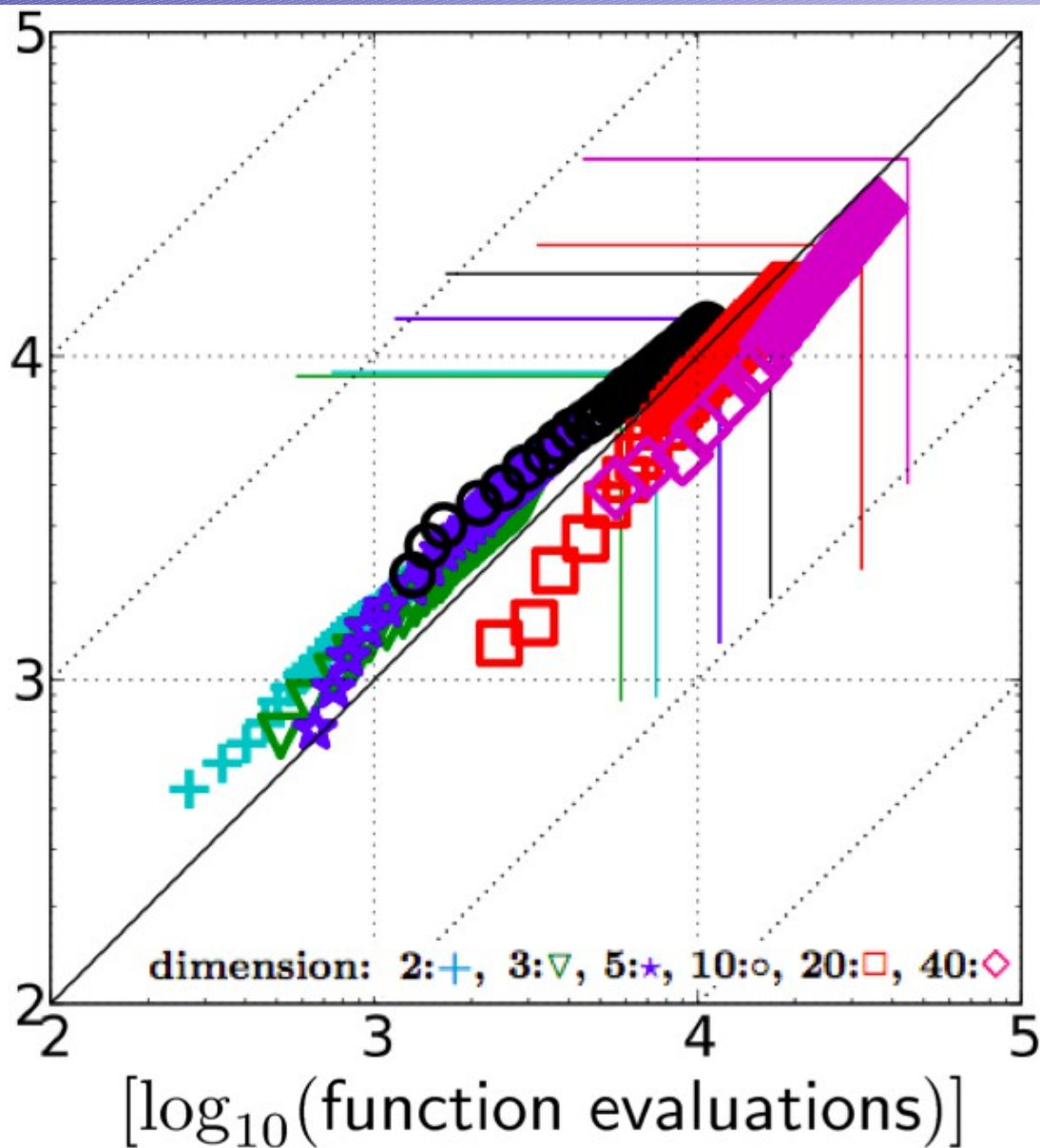
- slanted grid lines: quadratic scaling
- horizontal lines: linear scaling
- **light brown**: artificial best 2009

⇒ Experiments in >40-D are more often than not virtually superfluous



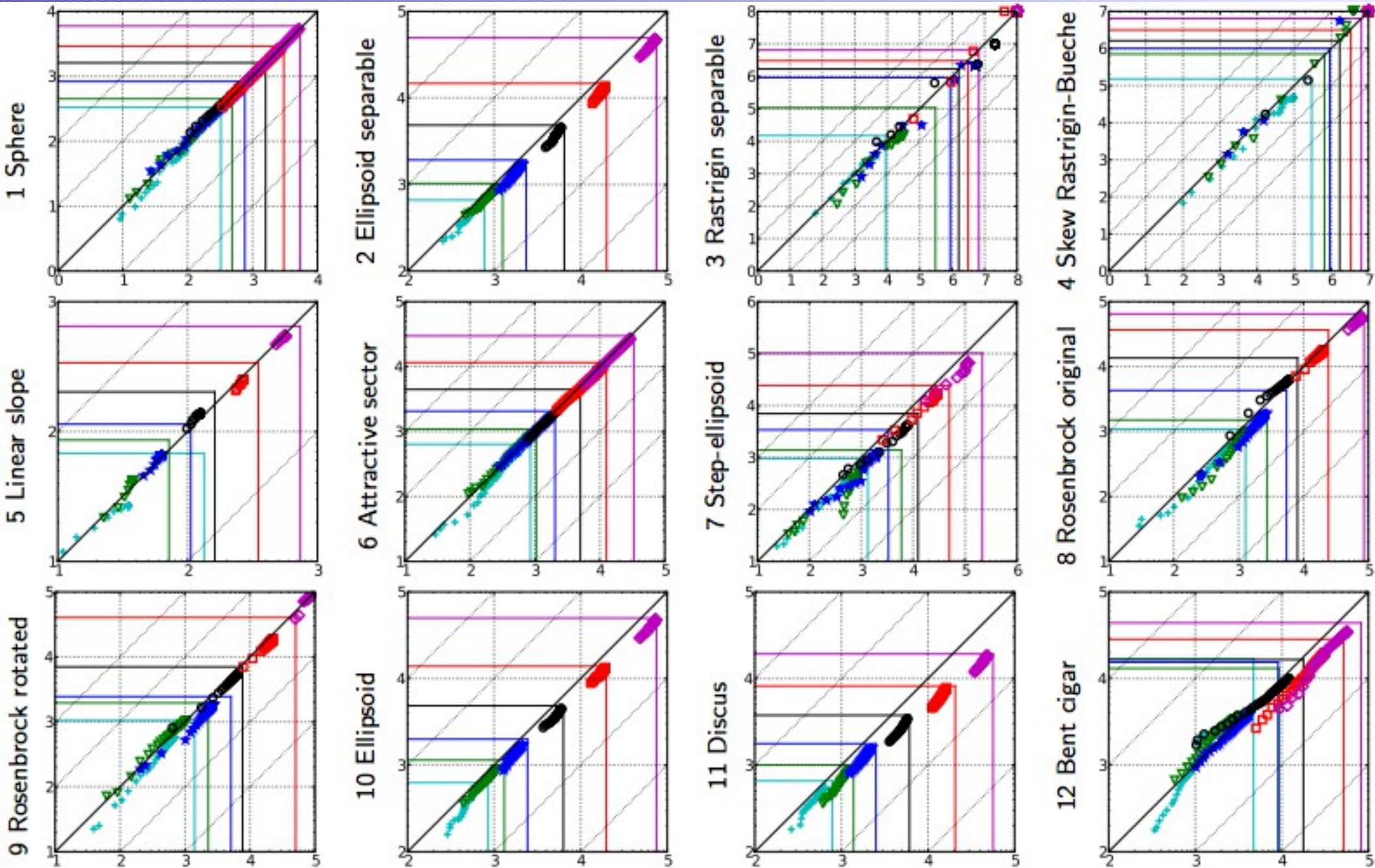
# ERT scatter plots, all dimensions&targets

12 Bent cigar



- estimated Expected Run Time (ERT), two algorithms
- 2-10 D: first algorithm “dominates”
- 20 & 40 D: second algorithm “dominates”

# ERT scatter plots, all dimensions & targets



# Single Function Table

Table 6: 20-D, running time excess  $ERT/ERT_{best}$  on  $f_6$ , in italics is given the median final function value and the median number of function evaluations to reach this value divided by dimension

	6 Attractive sector											
$\Delta t_{target}$	1e+03	1e+02	1e+01	1e+00	1e-01	1e-02	1e-03	1e-04	1e-05	1e-07	$\Delta t_{target}$	
ERT <sub>best</sub> /D	4.03	26	64.7	87.2	123	152	184	219	248	309	ERT <sub>best</sub> /D	
ALPS	59	25	34	54	64	78	100	150	370	<i>14e-7/2e5</i>	ALPS [17]	
AMaLGaM IDEA	26	22	19	22	21	22	22	21	22	22	AMaLGaM IDEA [4]	
avg NEWUOA	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	avg NEWUOA [31]	
BayEDAcG	46	41	<i>60e+0/2e3</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	BayEDAcG [10]	
BFGS	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>	3.6	4.7	4.7	4.9	5	4.8	4.9	61	BFGS [30]	
Cauchy EDA	6200	1500	1e3	1700	<i>17e-1/5e4</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Cauchy EDA [24]	
BIPOP-CMA-ES	2.9	2.2	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	BIPOP-CMA-ES [15]	
(1+1)-CMA-ES	1.9	4.5	13	180	1200	<i>13e-1/1e4</i>	.	.	.	.	(1+1)-CMA-ES [2]	
DASA	12	6.8	9.9	19	25	33	49	58	63	74	DASA [19]	
DEPSO	11	7.5	12	64	<i>13e-1/2e3</i>	.	.	.	.	.	DEPSO [12]	
DIRECT	18	31	<i>40e+0/5e3</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	DIRECT [25]	
EDA-PSO	27	46	40	45	44	44	44	44	44	44	EDA-PSO [6]	
full NEWUOA	5	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	full NEWUOA [31]	
G3-PCX	4.1	1.4	1.4	2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	G3-PCX [26]	
simple GA	320	130	2e3	<i>11e+0/1e5</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	simple GA [22]	
GLOBAL	5	<b>2.9</b>	3.6	4.9	8.5	<i>42e-3/2e3</i>	.	.	.	.	GLOBAL [23]	
iAMaLGaM IDEA	5.1	5.6	5.4	6.8	7.1	7.7	7.8	7.7	8	8.3	iAMaLGaM IDEA [4]	
LSfminbnd	9	31	160	760	1100	960	<i>72e-1/1e4</i>	.	.	.	LSfminbnd [28]	
LSstep	140	260	2300	<i>59e+0/1e4</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	LSstep [28]	
MA-LS-Chain	11	4.9	7.5	8.9	8	7.7	7.2	6.7	6.5	6	MA-LS-Chain [21]	
MCS (Neum)	1.8	33	<i>42e+0/4e3</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MCS (Neum) [18]	
NELDER (Han)	<b>2.2</b>	2.4	<b>2.7</b>	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	7.4	NELDER (Han) [16]	
NELDER (Doe)	1.5	2.3	9.1	20	28	65	110	430	<i>46e-5/2e4</i>	.	NELDER (Doe) [5]	
NEWUOA	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	1	1.3	1.4	1.5	<b>1.6</b>	1.6	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	NEWUOA [31]	
(1+1)-ES	<b>2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	3.9	5.2	6.1	6.5	6.4	6.7	(1+1)-ES [1]	
POEMS	89	26	31	37	36	36	36	35	36	37	POEMS [20]	
PSO	6.4	280	1100	1400	980	820	710	620	570	790	PSO [7]	
PSO_Bounds	9.5	45	120	150	140	140	140	130	160	220	PSO_Bounds [8]	
Monte Carlo	2.4e5	<i>48e+1/1e6</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Monte Carlo [3]	
Rosenbrock	<b>2.1</b>	3.9	31	76	210	230	810	<i>21e-2/1e4</i>	.	.	Rosenbrock [27]	
IPOP-SEP-CMA-ES	3.2	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	IPOP-SEP-CMA-ES [29]	
VNS (Garcia)	5	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	VNS (Garcia) [11]	

# Questions?

# Python

- a **general-purpose**, well-designed, modern high-level **programming language**
- dynamically-typed, highly object-oriented (not enforced), highly modularized
- for scripting, for programming, for interactive usage
- comes with thousands of packages
- the Python *programming language* is much better designed than Matlab/Octave
- IPython can **replace Matlab/Octave for interactive usage**
- (I)Python is free and available on almost every computer

# Popularity of Programming Languages (TIOBE)

www.tiobe.com/index.php/content/paperinfo/tpci/index...

Position May 2013	Position May 2012	Delta in Position	Programming Language	Ratings May 2013	Delta May 2012
1	1	=	C	18.729%	+1.38%
2	2	=	Java	16.914%	+0.31%
3	4	↑	Objective-C	10.428%	+2.12%
4	3	↓	C++	9.198%	-0.63%
5	5	=	C#	6.119%	-0.70%
6	6	=	PHP	5.784%	+0.07%
7	7	=	(Visual) Basic	4.656%	-0.80%
8	8	=	Python	4.322%	+0.50%
9	9	=	Perl	2.276%	-0.53%
10	11	↑	Ruby	1.670%	+0.22%
11	10	↓	JavaScript	1.536%	-0.60%
12	12	=	Visual Basic .NET	1.131%	-0.14%
20	22	↑↑	MATLAB	0.563%	0.00%
24			R	0.480%	

# BBOB with COCO in practice (for dummies)

COCO (COmparing Continuous Optimizers): a tool for black-box optimization benchmarking



# BBOB in practice

downloads [COMparing Cont x]

coco.gforge.inria.fr/doku.php?id=downloads

## [[downloads]]

### COMPARING CONTINUOUS OPTIMISERS: COCO

Show pagesource Old revisions Recent changes Sitemap Login

This is the COCO download page.

Last release: **30/05/2012** v11.06

📄 BBOB (5MB) is all that is needed to run the benchmarking experiments and compile a template paper (gathering post-processed results).

📄 BBOB (35MB) contains all files, as listed below.

- CODE:
  - 📄 tar code in Matlab/Octave to run experiments
  - 📄 tar code in C to run experiments
  - 📄 tar code in Java to run experiments
  - 📄 tar code in Python to run experiments and post-processing and latex templates (3MB)
  - 📄 tar R package to run experiments
- DOCS:
  - 📄 pdf description of experimental procedure
  - 📄 pdf (12MB) noiseless functions documentation with figures
  - 📄 pdf noiseless functions documentation, version without figures
  - 📄 pdf (19MB) noisy function documentation with figures
  - 📄 pdf noisy function documentation, version without figures
  - 📄 pdf software user documentation
  - 📄 html online post-processing package documentation

BUGS for older versions:

- **Bugs in version 11.05:**

Search

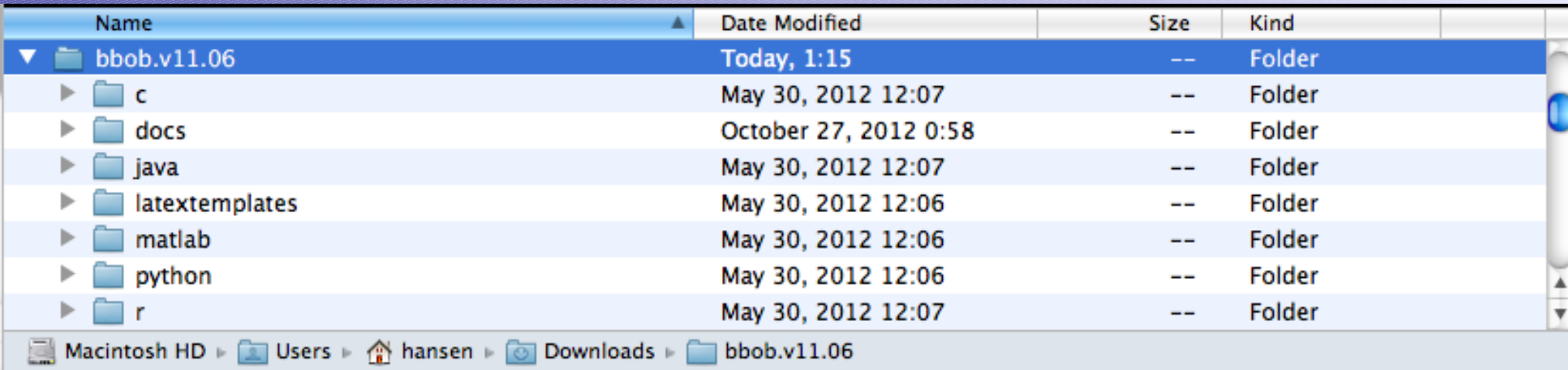
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#### wiki

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- bbob-2009-results
- bbob-2009
- bbob-2010-downloads
- bbob-2010-results

# BBOB in practice

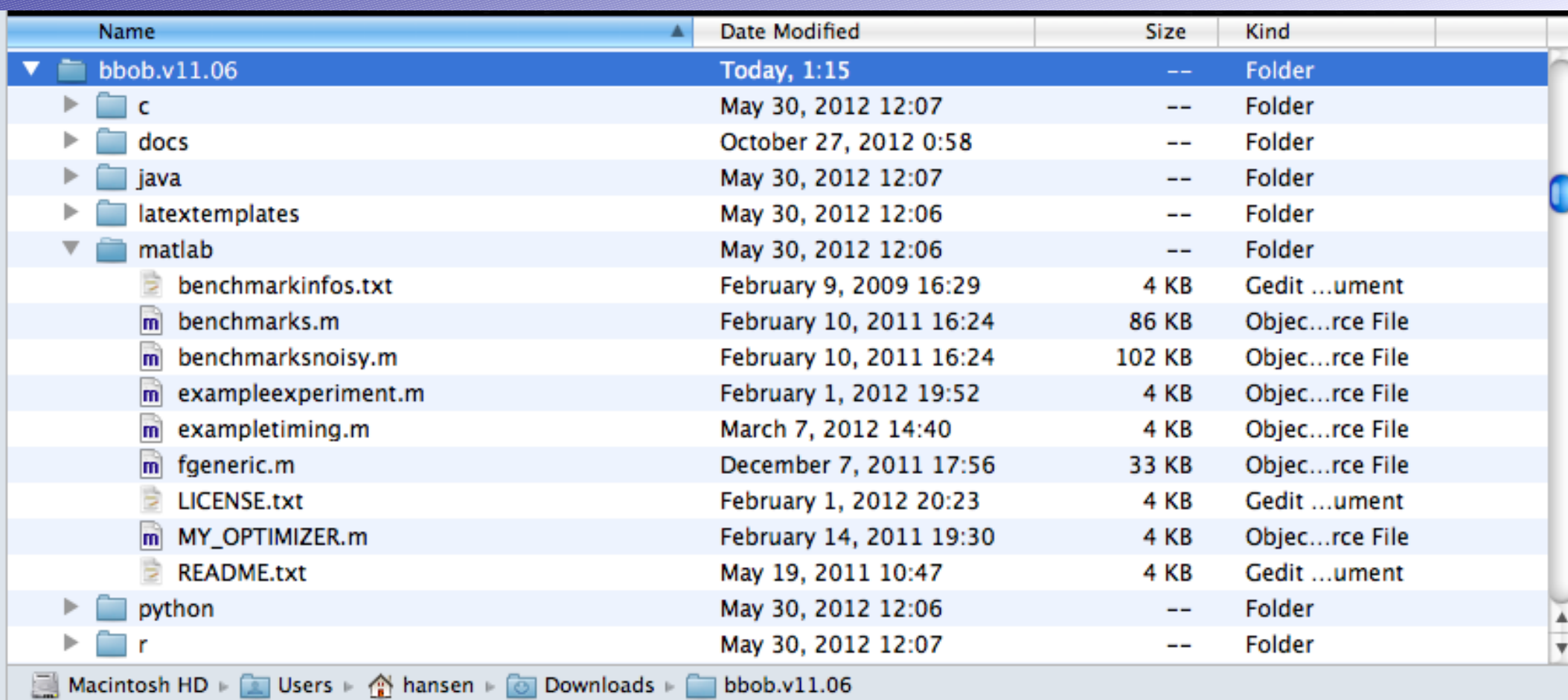


The image shows a screenshot of a Mac OS file browser window. The main content is a table listing the contents of the folder 'bbob.v11.06'. The table has four columns: 'Name', 'Date Modified', 'Size', and 'Kind'. The 'Name' column shows a tree view of folders, with 'bbob.v11.06' expanded to show subfolders: 'c', 'docs', 'java', 'latextemplates', 'matlab', 'python', and 'r'. The 'Date Modified' column shows the last modification date and time for each folder. The 'Size' column shows '--' for all folders, indicating they are empty. The 'Kind' column shows 'Folder' for all entries. The breadcrumb path at the bottom of the window is 'Macintosh HD > Users > hansen > Downloads > bbob.v11.06'.

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
bbob.v11.06	Today, 1:15	--	Folder
c	May 30, 2012 12:07	--	Folder
docs	October 27, 2012 0:58	--	Folder
java	May 30, 2012 12:07	--	Folder
latextemplates	May 30, 2012 12:06	--	Folder
matlab	May 30, 2012 12:06	--	Folder
python	May 30, 2012 12:06	--	Folder
r	May 30, 2012 12:07	--	Folder

Macintosh HD > Users > hansen > Downloads > bbob.v11.06

# BBOB in practice



Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
bbob.v11.06	Today, 1:15	--	Folder
c	May 30, 2012 12:07	--	Folder
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latextemplates	May 30, 2012 12:06	--	Folder
matlab	May 30, 2012 12:06	--	Folder
benchmarkinfos.txt	February 9, 2009 16:29	4 KB	Gedit ...ument
benchmarks.m	February 10, 2011 16:24	86 KB	Objec...rce File
benchmarksnoisy.m	February 10, 2011 16:24	102 KB	Objec...rce File
exampleexperiment.m	February 1, 2012 19:52	4 KB	Objec...rce File
exampletiming.m	March 7, 2012 14:40	4 KB	Objec...rce File
fgeneric.m	December 7, 2011 17:56	33 KB	Objec...rce File
LICENSE.txt	February 1, 2012 20:23	4 KB	Gedit ...ument
MY_OPTIMIZER.m	February 14, 2011 19:30	4 KB	Objec...rce File
README.txt	May 19, 2011 10:47	4 KB	Gedit ...ument
python	May 30, 2012 12:06	--	Folder
r	May 30, 2012 12:07	--	Folder

Macintosh HD > Users > hansen > Downloads > bbob.v11.06

# BBOB in practice

Matlab script (exampleexperiment.m):

```
dimensions = [2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 40]; % small dimensions first, for CPU reasons
functions = benchmarks('FunctionIndices'); % or benchmarksnoisy(...)
instances = [1:5, 31:40]; % 15 function instances
-
for dim = dimensions-
    for ifun = functions-
        for iinstance = instances-
            fgeneric('initialize', ifun, iinstance, datapath, opt); -
            MY_OPTIMIZER('fgeneric', dim, fgeneric('ftarget'), eval(maxfunevals) - f,
            disp(sprintf([' f%d in %d-D, instance %d: FEs=%d with %d restarts, fbes:
            fgeneric('finalize');-
        end-
        disp(['          date and time: ' num2str(clock, ' %.0f')]);-
    end-
    disp(sprintf('---- dimension %d-D done ----', dim));-
end-
```

# BBOB in practice

## Running the experiment at an OS shell:

```
$ nohup nice octave < exampleexperiment.m > output.txt &  
$ less output.txt
```

```
GNU Octave, version 3.6.3  
Copyright (C) 2012 John W. Eaton and others.  
This is free software; see the source code for copying conditions.  
[...]  
Read http://www.octave.org/bugs.html to learn how to submit bug reports.
```

```
For information about changes from previous versions, type `news'.
```

```
f1 in 2-D, instance 1: FEs=242, fbest-ftarget=-8.1485e-10, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 2: FEs=278, fbest-ftarget=-6.0931e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 3: FEs=242, fbest-ftarget=-9.2281e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 4: FEs=302, fbest-ftarget=-4.5997e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 5: FEs=230, fbest-ftarget=-9.8350e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 6: FEs=284, fbest-ftarget=-7.0829e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 7: FEs=278, fbest-ftarget=-6.5999e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 8: FEs=272, fbest-ftarget=-8.7044e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 9: FEs=248, fbest-ftarget=-2.6316e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 10: FEs=302, fbest-ftarget=-4.6779e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 11: FEs=272, fbest-ftarget=-5.1499e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 12: FEs=260, fbest-ftarget=-8.8635e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 13: FEs=266, fbest-ftarget=-2.5484e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 14: FEs=218, fbest-ftarget=-9.9961e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f1 in 2-D, instance 15: FEs=248, fbest-ftarget=-7.5842e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
    date and time: 2013 3 29 19 59 26  
f2 in 2-D, instance 1: FEs=824, fbest-ftarget=-7.0206e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
f2 in 2-D, instance 2: FEs=572, fbest-ftarget=-9.2822e-09, elapsed time [h]: 0.00  
[...]
```

# BBOB in practice

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
▼ bbob.v13.05	March 8, 2013 13:04	--	Folder
▶ c	March 5, 2013 23:04	--	Folder
▶ docs	March 6, 2013 13:56	--	Folder
▶ java	March 5, 2013 23:04	--	Folder
▶ latextemplates	March 5, 2013 23:04	--	Folder
▶ matlab	March 5, 2013 23:02	--	Folder
▼ python	Today, 20:08	--	Folder
▶ bbob_proc	March 5, 2013 23:03	--	Folder
bbobbenchmarks.py	November 12, 2012 16:56	74 KB	Python script
benchmarkinfos.txt	February 9, 2009 16:29	4 KB	Gedit ...ument
exampleexperiment.py	February 22, 2013 14:26	4 KB	Python script
exampletiming.py	November 12, 2012 16:56	4 KB	Python script
fgeneric.py	March 3, 2013 19:33	25 KB	Python script
LICENSE.txt	February 1, 2012 20:23	4 KB	Gedit ...ument
README.txt	November 12, 2012 16:56	4 KB	Gedit ...ument
▶ r	March 5, 2013 23:05	--	Folder

Macintosh HD ▶ Users ▶ hansen ▶ Downloads ▶ bbob.v13.05 ▶ python ▶ bbob\_proc

# BBOB in practice

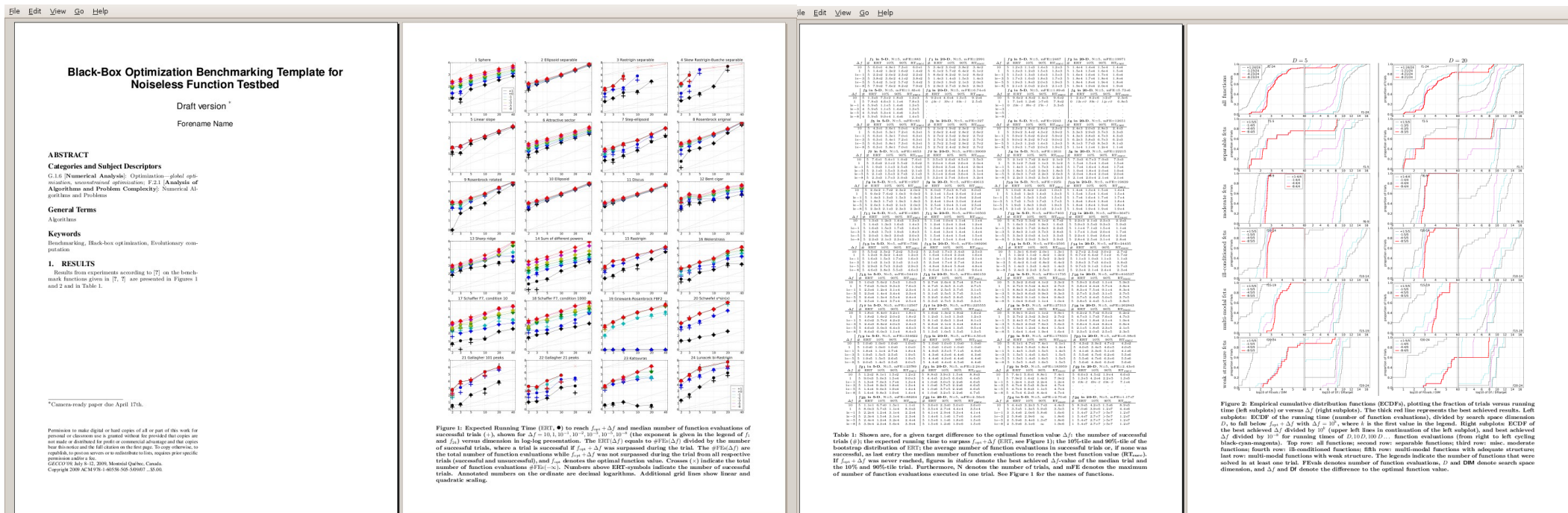
## Post-processing at the OS shell:

```
$ python codepath/bbob_pproc/rungeneric.py datapath
```

```
[...]
```

```
$ pdflatex templateACMarticle.tex
```

```
[...]
```



# BBOB in practice

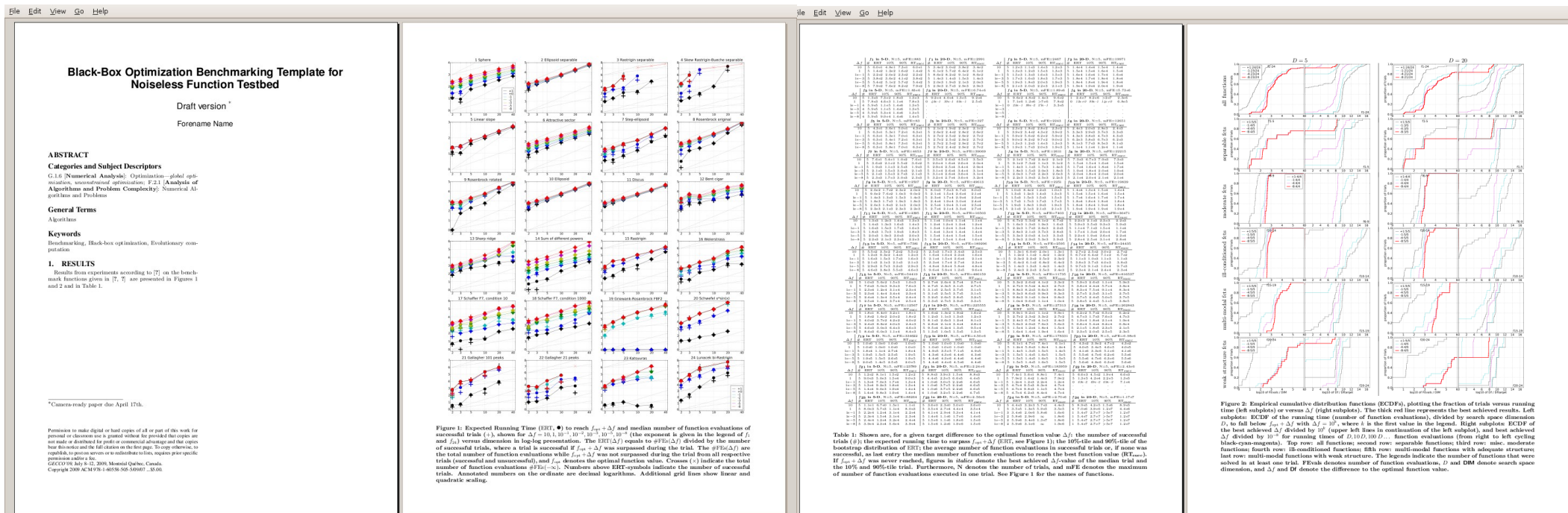
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```

```
[...]
```

```
$ pdflatex templateACMarticle.tex
```

```
[...]
```





# Black-Box Optimization Benchmarking Template for Noiseless Function Testbed

Draft version \*

Forename Name

## ABSTRACT

### Categories and Subject Descriptors

G.1.6 [Numerical Analysis]: Optimization—*global optimization, unconstrained optimization*; F.2.1 [Analysis of Algorithms and Problem Complexity]: Numerical Algorithms and Problems

### General Terms

Algorithms

### Keywords

Benchmarking, Black-box optimization, Evolutionary computation

## 1. RESULTS

Results from experiments according to [?] on the benchmark functions given in [?, ?] are presented in Figures 1 and 2 and in Table 1.

\*Camera-ready paper due April 17th.

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GECCO'09, July 8–12, 2009, Montréal Québec, Canada.  
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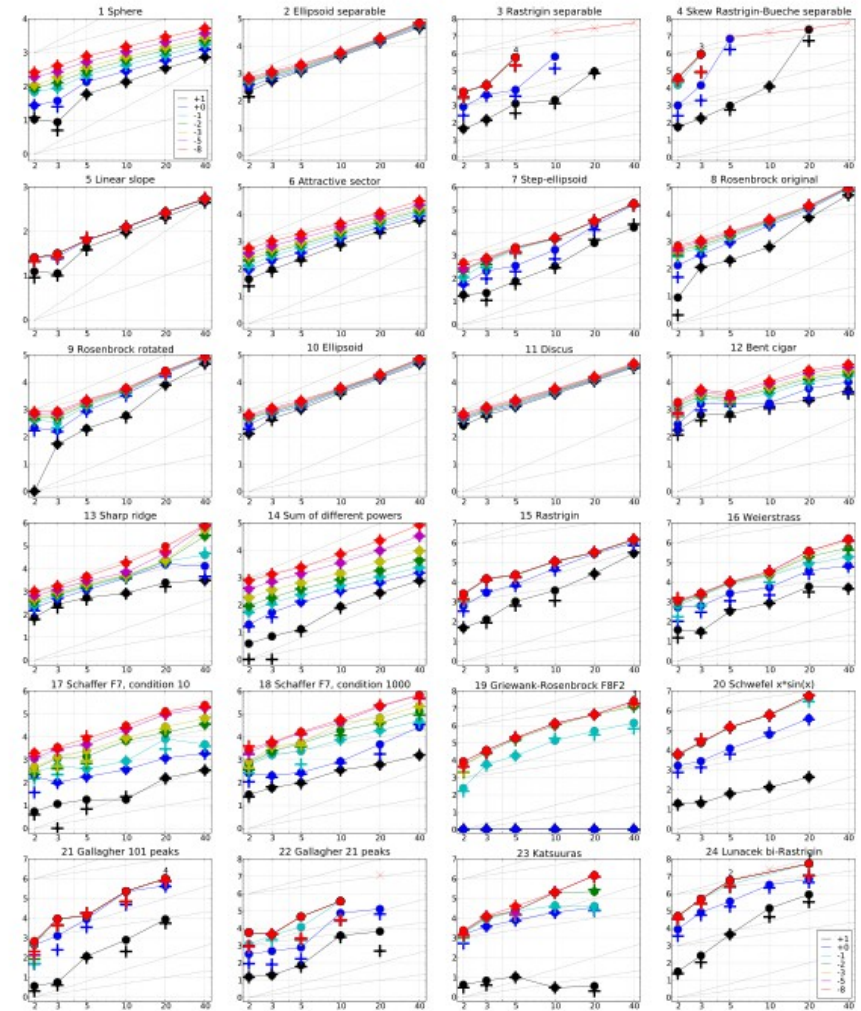


Figure 1: Expected Running Time (ERT, ●) to reach  $f_{opt} + \Delta f$  and median number of function evaluations of successful trials (+), shown for  $\Delta f = 10, 1, 10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-5}, 10^{-8}$  (the exponent is given in the legend of  $f_1$  and  $f_{s_i}$ ) versus dimension in log-log presentation. The  $ERT(\Delta f)$  equals to  $\#FEs(\Delta f)$  divided by the number of successful trials, where a trial is successful if  $f_{opt} + \Delta f$  was surpassed during the trial. The  $\#FEs(\Delta f)$  are the total number of function evaluations while  $f_{opt} + \Delta f$  was not surpassed during the trial from all respective trials (successful and unsuccessful), and  $f_{opt}$  denotes the optimal function value. Crosses (x) indicate the total number of function evaluations  $\#FEs(-\infty)$ . Numbers above ERT-symbols indicate the number of successful trials. Annotated numbers on the ordinate are decimal logarithms. Additional grid lines show linear and quadratic scaling.

		$f_1$ in 5-D, $N=5$ , mFE=883				$f_1$ in 20-D, $N=5$ , mFE=2991				
$\Delta f$	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	6.041	4.861	7.341	6.041	5	3.442	3.092	3.862	3.442
1e-1	5	1.462	1.262	1.642	1.462	5	6.162	5.762	6.462	6.162
1e-1	5	2.262	2.062	2.362	2.262	5	8.662	8.262	9.162	8.662
1e-3	5	3.862	3.662	4.262	3.862	5	1.463	1.363	1.563	1.463
1e-5	5	5.462	5.162	5.762	5.462	5	2.063	1.963	2.163	2.063
1e-8	5	7.962	7.662	8.262	7.962	5	2.963	2.763	2.963	2.963
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	1.363	1.263	1.463	1.363	5	9.244	1.044	1.385	9.244
1e-1	5	7.863	7.363	8.363	7.863	5	0.18-1	0.08-1	0.08-1	0.18-1
1e-1	4	5.965	1.165	1.465	1.365					
1e-3	4	5.965	1.165	1.465	1.365					
1e-5	4	5.965	1.165	1.465	1.365					
1e-8	4	5.965	1.165	1.465	1.365					
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	4.361	3.661	5.061	4.361	5	2.162	1.924	2.362	2.162
1e-1	5	6.361	5.361	7.361	6.361	5	2.662	2.462	2.862	2.662
1e-1	5	6.361	5.361	7.361	6.361	5	2.762	2.562	2.962	2.762
1e-3	5	6.361	5.361	7.361	6.361	5	2.762	2.562	2.962	2.762
1e-5	5	6.361	5.361	7.361	6.361	5	2.762	2.562	2.962	2.762
1e-8	5	6.361	5.361	7.361	6.361	5	2.762	2.562	2.962	2.762
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	7.661	5.461	10.661	7.661	5	3.563	2.663	4.563	3.563
1e-1	5	3.662	2.162	3.662	3.662	5	2.064	1.664	2.064	2.064
1e-1	5	1.963	1.163	2.563	1.963	5	2.964	2.564	3.464	2.964
1e-3	5	2.163	1.563	3.063	2.163	5	3.164	2.664	3.464	3.164
1e-5	5	2.163	1.563	3.063	2.163	5	3.164	2.664	3.464	3.164
1e-8	5	2.163	1.563	3.063	2.163	5	3.164	2.664	3.464	3.164
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	2.062	1.762	2.362	2.062	5	8.063	7.363	8.763	8.063
1e-1	5	9.062	7.662	10.662	9.062	5	2.164	1.964	2.664	2.164
1e-1	5	1.463	1.163	1.563	1.463	5	2.264	1.964	2.664	2.264
1e-1	5	1.863	1.763	1.963	1.863	5	2.464	1.964	3.064	2.464
1e-3	5	2.063	1.863	2.163	2.063	5	2.564	1.964	3.164	2.564
1e-5	5	2.363	2.163	2.563	2.363	5	2.764	2.464	3.464	2.764
1e-8	5	2.363	2.163	2.563	2.363	5	2.764	2.464	3.464	2.764
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	1.363	1.263	1.463	1.363	5	1.164	1.064	1.164	1.164
1e-1	5	4.463	3.163	4.663	4.463	5	1.264	1.264	1.264	1.264
1e-1	5	1.663	1.563	1.763	1.663	5	1.364	1.264	1.364	1.364
1e-3	5	1.863	1.763	1.963	1.863	5	1.464	1.364	1.464	1.464
1e-5	5	2.063	1.963	2.163	2.063	5	1.564	1.464	1.564	1.564
1e-8	5	2.263	2.163	2.363	2.263	5	1.664	1.564	1.664	1.664
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	5.562	3.562	7.262	5.562	5	2.563	1.763	3.463	2.563
1e-1	5	1.263	0.963	1.463	1.263	5	1.664	1.064	2.264	1.664
1e-1	5	1.663	1.563	1.763	1.663	5	2.164	1.564	2.664	2.164
1e-3	5	2.163	2.163	2.163	2.163	5	2.364	1.764	2.764	2.364
1e-5	5	2.263	2.763	3.263	2.263	5	4.864	3.864	5.864	4.864
1e-8	5	4.663	3.863	5.663	4.663	5	9.664	8.264	10.664	9.664
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	1.861	1.461	3.261	1.861	5	1.662	1.162	1.962	1.662
1e-1	5	1.862	1.662	2.062	1.862	5	1.263	1.163	1.363	1.263
1e-1	5	4.062	3.762	4.262	4.062	5	8.163	2.663	1.264	8.163
1e-3	5	2.463	2.463	4.063	2.463	5	5.664	2.164	3.464	5.664
1e-5	5	4.663	3.063	4.663	4.663	5	9.564	6.264	11.364	9.564
1e-8	5	8.463	6.063	11.663	8.463	5	1.365	1.065	1.565	1.365
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	5	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060
1e-1	5	1.864	1.164	2.764	1.864	5	4.960	3.565	7.165	4.960
1e-1	5	1.965	1.565	2.565	1.965	5	4.366	4.366	4.466	4.366
1e-5	5	1.965	1.565	2.565	1.965	5	4.466	4.366	4.466	4.466
1e-8	5	2.065	1.465	2.065	2.065	5	4.466	4.466	4.566	4.466
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	1.262	8.161	1.562	1.262	5	8.863	3.963	1.564	8.863
1e-1	5	9.063	5.063	12.663	9.063	5	4.465	2.365	6.665	4.465
1e-1	5	1.364	7.063	1.364	1.364	5	1.066	3.765	2.266	4.665
1e-3	5	1.364	9.263	1.364	1.364	5	4.166	3.765	2.266	4.665
1e-5	5	1.464	9.063	1.464	1.464	5	4.166	3.765	2.266	4.665
1e-8	5	1.464	9.063	1.464	1.464	5	4.166	3.765	2.266	4.665
$\Delta f$	#	ERT <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th> <th>#</th> <th>ERT</th> <th>10%</th> <th>90%</th> <th>RT<sub>succ</sub></th>	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT <sub>succ</sub>
10	5	1.163	4.763	1.163	1.163	5	3.660	2.160	3.660	3.660
1e-1	5	8.063	5.763	1.164	8.063	5	3.564	2.764	4.464	3.564
1e-1	5	2.264	1.264	3.164	2.264	5	4.164	2.964	5.364	4.164
1e-3	5	2.364	1.364	3.264	2.364	5	4.164	1.164	4.666	4.164
1e-5	5	2.464	1.264	3.264	2.464	5	4.164	1.164	4.666	4.164
1e-8	5	3.964	2.364	5.664	3.964	5	1.566	1.266	1.966	1.566

Table 1: Shown are, for a given target difference to the optimal function value  $\Delta f$ : the number of successful trials (#); the expected running time to surpass  $f_{opt} + \Delta f$  (ERT, see Figure 1); the 10%-tile and 90%-tile of the bootstrap distribution of ERT; the average number of function evaluations in successful trials or, if none was successful, as last entry the median number of function evaluations to reach the best function value (RT<sub>succ</sub>). If  $f_{opt} + \Delta f$  was never reached, figures in *italics* denote the best achieved  $\Delta f$ -value of the median trial and the 10% and 90%-tile trial. Furthermore,  $N$  denotes the number of trials, and mFE denotes the maximum number of function evaluations executed in one trial. See Figure 1 for the names of functions.

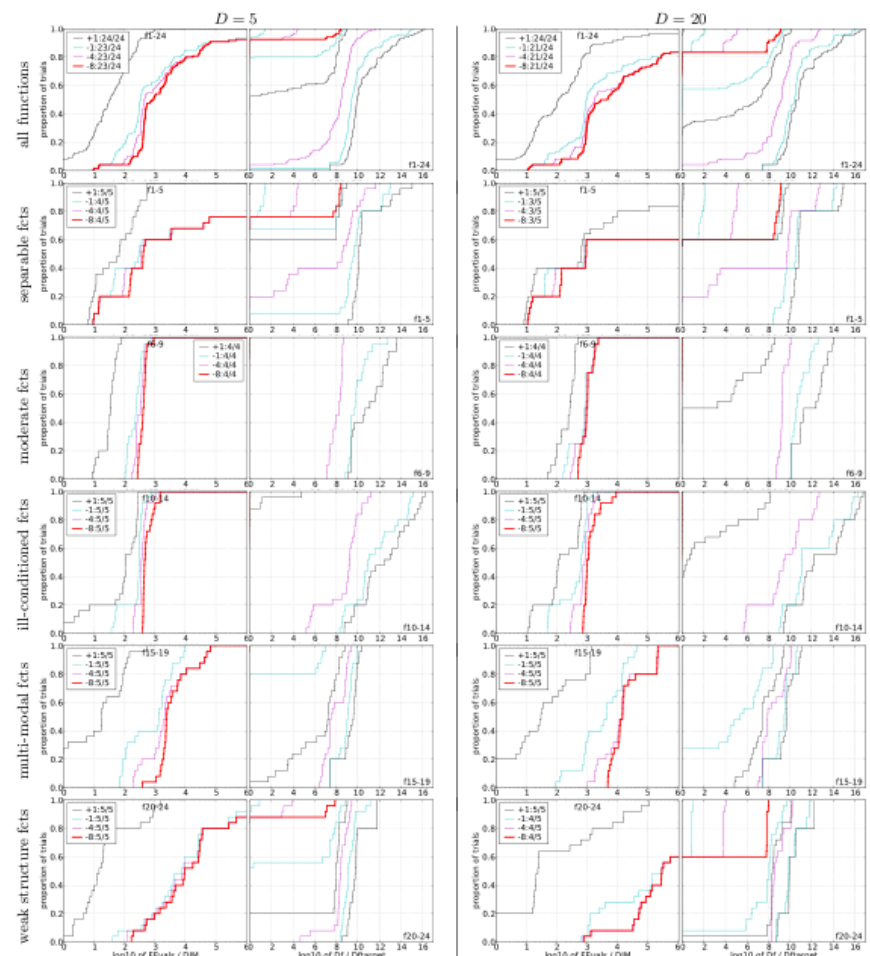


Figure 2: Empirical cumulative distribution functions (ECDFs), plotting the fraction of trials versus running time (left subplots) or versus  $\Delta f$  (right subplots). The thick red line represents the best achieved difference. Left subplots: ECDF of the running time (number of function evaluations), divided by search space dimension  $D$ , to fall below  $f_{opt} + \Delta f$  with  $\Delta f = 10^k$ , where  $k$  is the first value in the legend. Right subplots: ECDF of the best achieved  $\Delta f$  divided by  $10^k$  (upper left lines in continuation of the left subplot), and best achieved  $\Delta f$  divided by  $10^{-8}$  for running times of  $D, 10D, 100D, \dots$  function evaluations (from right to left cycling black-cyan-magenta). Top row: all functions; second row: separable functions; third row: misc. moderate functions; fourth row: ill-conditioned functions; fifth row: multi-modal functions with adequate structure; last row: multi-modal functions with weak structure. The legends indicate the number of functions that were solved in at least one trial. FEvals denotes number of function evaluations,  $D$  and DIM denote search space dimension, and  $\Delta f$  and Df denote the difference to the optimal function value.

# Test Functions

## Test functions

- define the "scientific question"
  - the relevance can hardly be overestimated
- should represent "reality"
- are often too simple?
  - remind separability
- a number of testbeds are around

# GECCO-BBOB

## Test Functions

<b>1</b>	<b>Separable functions</b>	
1.1	Sphere Function	.....
1.2	Ellipsoidal Function	.....
1.3	Rastrigin Function	.....
1.4	Büche-Rastrigin Function	.....
1.5	Linear Slope	.....
<b>2</b>	<b>Functions with low or moderate conditioning</b>	
2.6	Attractive Sector Function	.....
2.7	Step Ellipsoidal Function	.....
2.8	Rosenbrock Function, original	.....
2.9	Rosenbrock Function, rotated	.....
<b>3</b>	<b>Functions with high conditioning and unimodal</b>	
3.10	Ellipsoidal Function	.....
3.11	Discus Function	.....
3.12	Bent Cigar Function	.....
3.13	Sharp Ridge Function	.....
3.14	Different Powers Function	.....
<b>4</b>	<b>Multi-modal functions with adequate global structure</b>	
4.15	Rastrigin Function	.....
4.16	Weierstrass Function	.....
4.17	Schaffers F7 Function	.....
4.18	Schaffers F7 Function, moderately ill-conditioned	.....
4.19	Composite Griewank-Rosenbrock Function F8F2	.....
<b>5</b>	<b>Multi-modal functions with weak global structure</b>	
5.20	Schwefel Function	.....
5.21	Gallagher's Gaussian 101-me Peaks Function	.....
5.22	Gallagher's Gaussian 21-hi Peaks Function	.....
5.23	Katsuura Function	.....
5.24	Lunacek bi-Rastrigin Function	.....

# Questions?