

Tutorial on Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization GECCO 2005

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Computer Engineering
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Introductory Example: The Knapsack Problem

weight = 750g
profit = 5

weight = 1500g
profit = 8

weight = 300g
profit = 7

weight = 1000g
profit = 3



Single objective:

choose subset that

- maximizes overall profit
- w.r.t. a weight limit

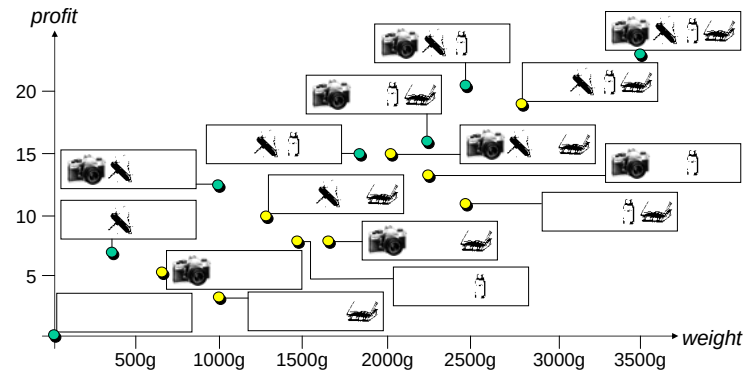


Multiobjective:

choose subset that

- maximizes overall profit
- minimizes overall weight

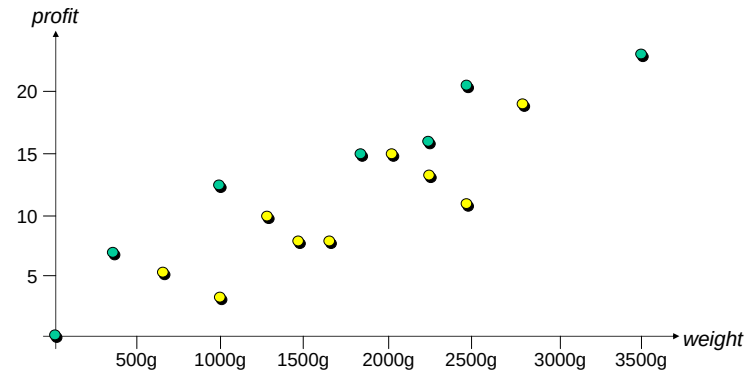
The Search Space

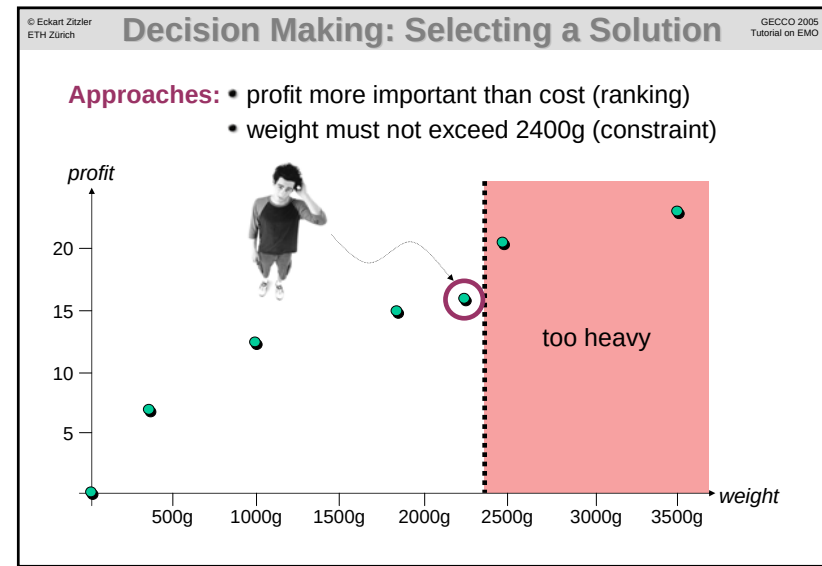
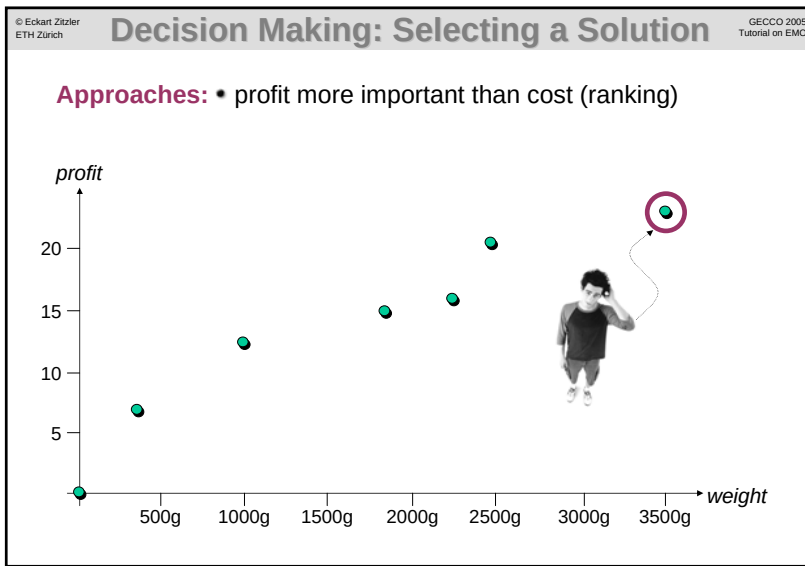
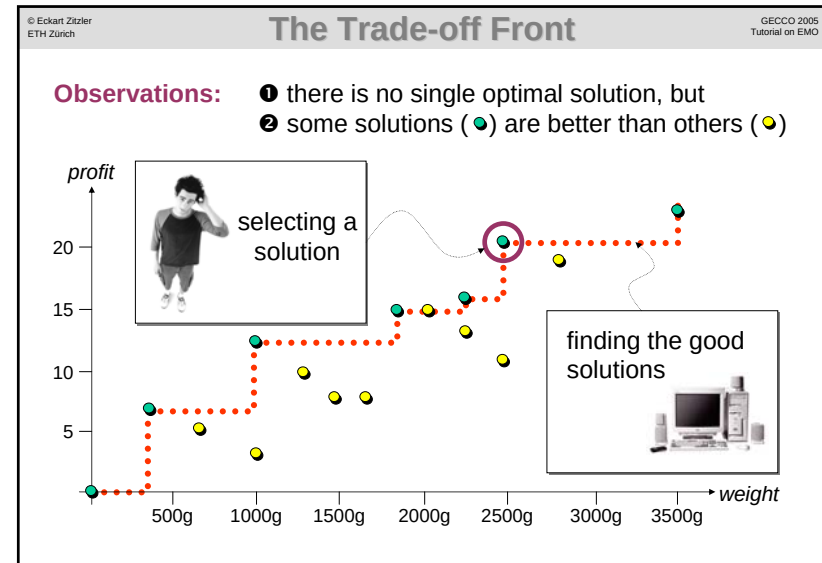
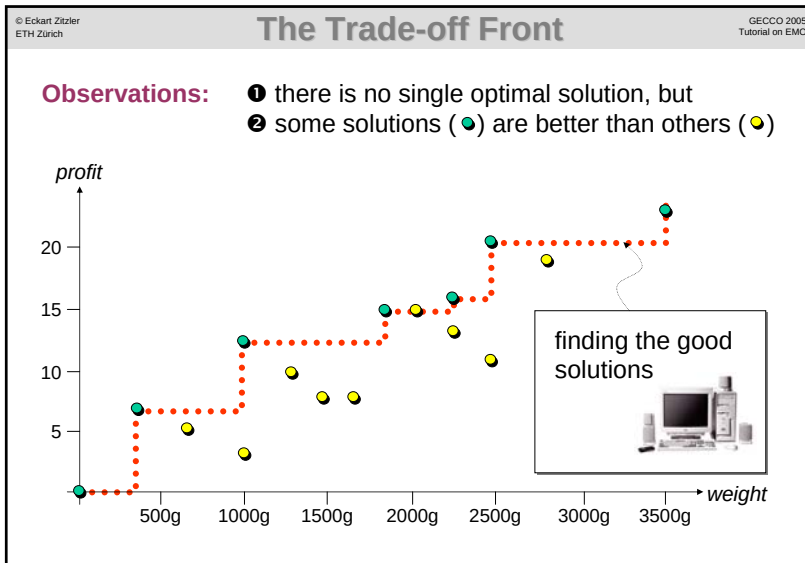


The Trade-off Front

Observations:

- 1 there is no single optimal solution, but
- 2 some solutions (●) are better than others (●)





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When to Make the Decision

Before Optimization:

ranks objectives,
defines constraints,...

searches for one
(green) solution

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When to Make the Decision

Before Optimization:

ranks objectives,
defines constraints,...

searches for one
(green) solution

profit

weight

too heavy

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When to Make the Decision

Before Optimization:

ranks objectives,
defines constraints,...

searches for one
(green) solution

After Optimization:

searches for a set of
(green) solutions

selects one solution
considering constraints, etc.

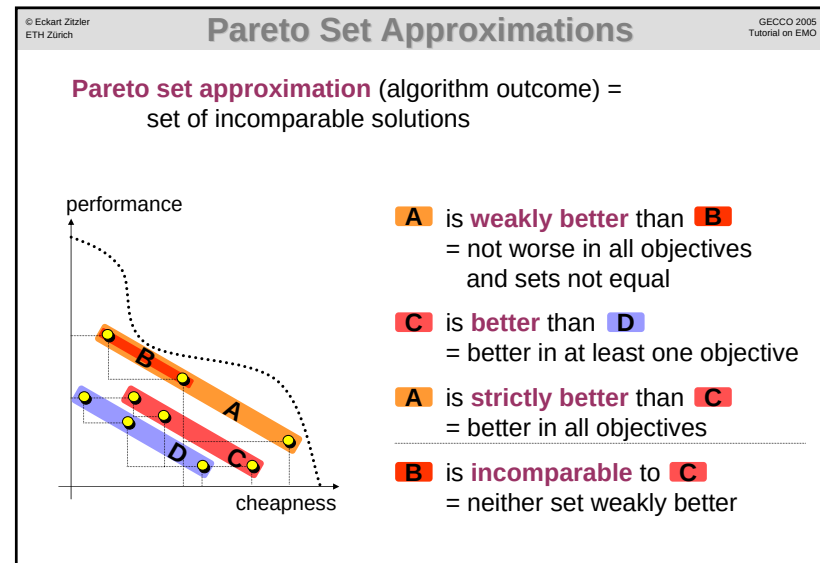
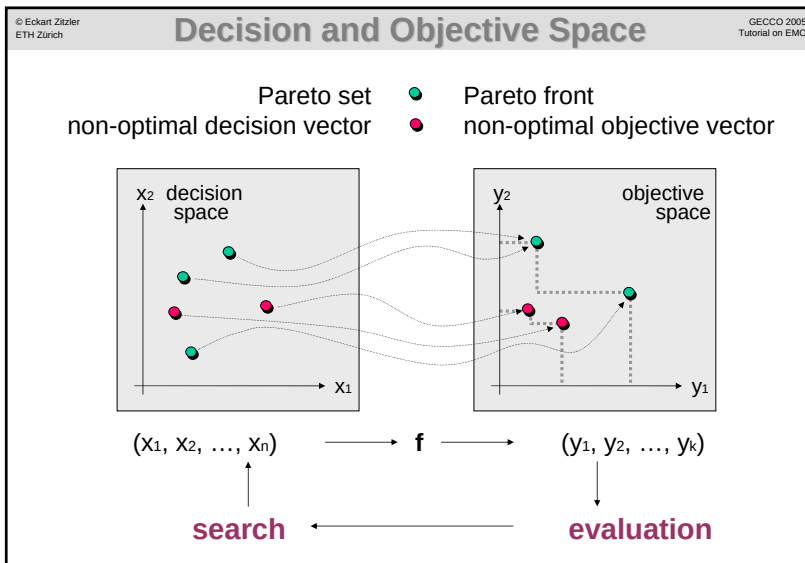
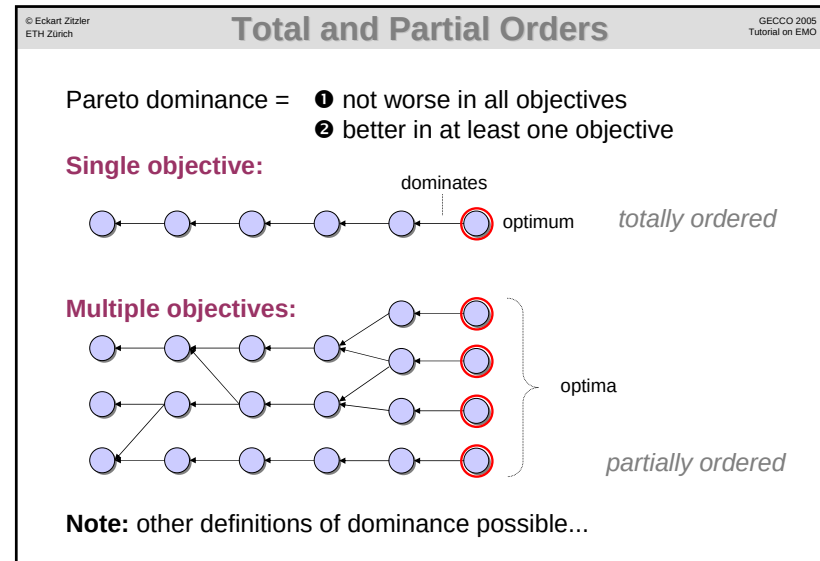
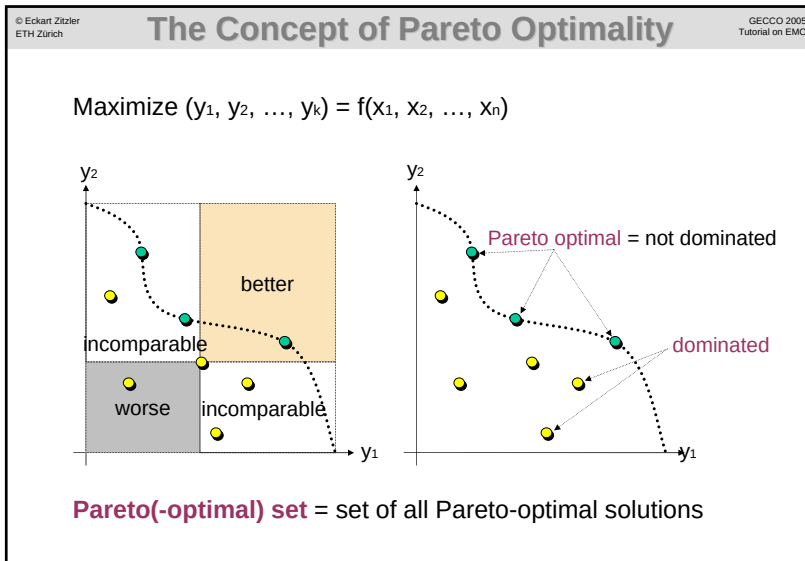
decision making often easier
EAs well suited

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Outline

1. **Introduction:** Why multiple objectives make a difference
2. **Basic Principles:** Terms you need to know
3. **Algorithm Design:** Do it yourself
4. **Performance Assessment:** Once upon a time
5. **Applications Domains:** Where EMO is useful
6. **Further Information:** What else

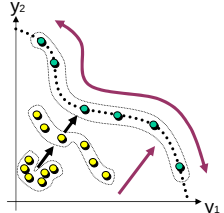


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What Is the Optimization Goal?

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- Find all Pareto-optimal solutions?
 - Impossible in continuous search spaces
 - How should the decision maker handle 10000 solutions?
- Find a representative subset of the Pareto set?
 - Many problems are NP-hard
 - What does representative actually mean?
- Find a good approximation of the Pareto set?
 - What is a good approximation?
 - How to formalize intuitive understanding:
 - close to the Pareto front
 - well distributed



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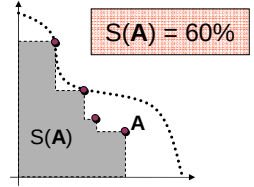
Preference Information

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Preference information (here) = any additional information that refines the dominance relation on approximation sets (partial order $\rightarrow$ total order)

Example:

optimization goal
=
maximize size S of dominated objective space



Note: every algorithm implicitly or explicitly makes assumptions about the decision maker's preferences (limited memory, selection)

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Outline

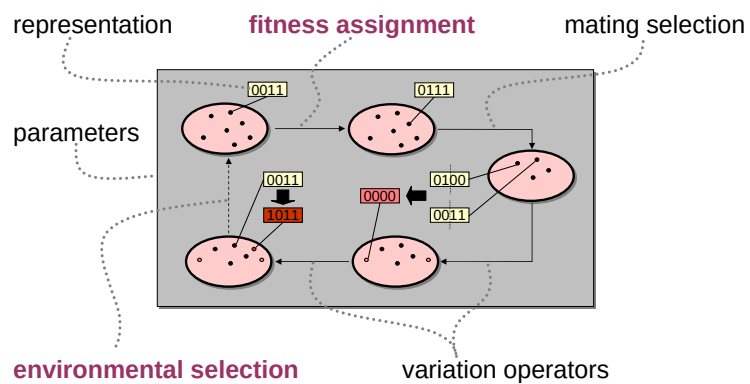
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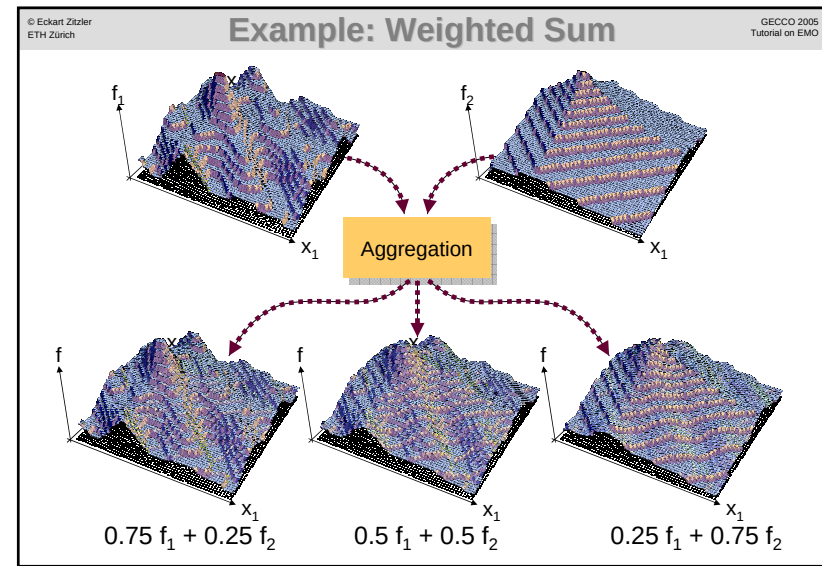
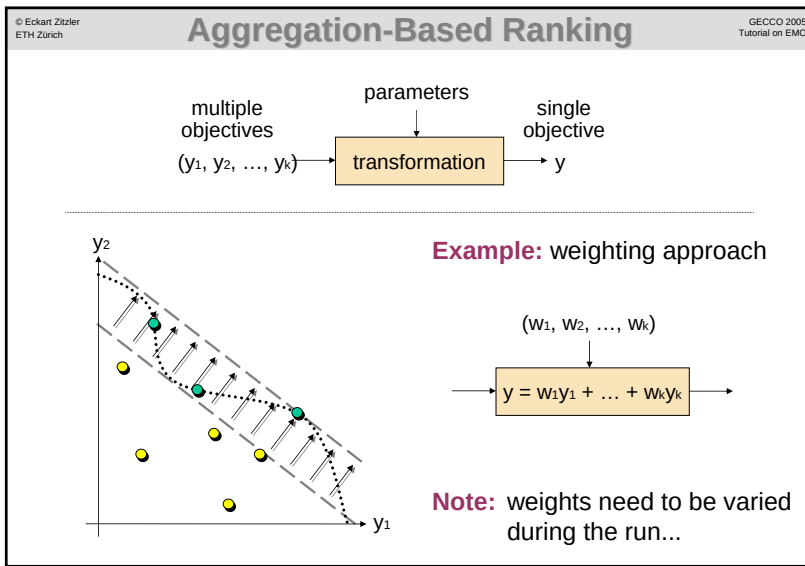
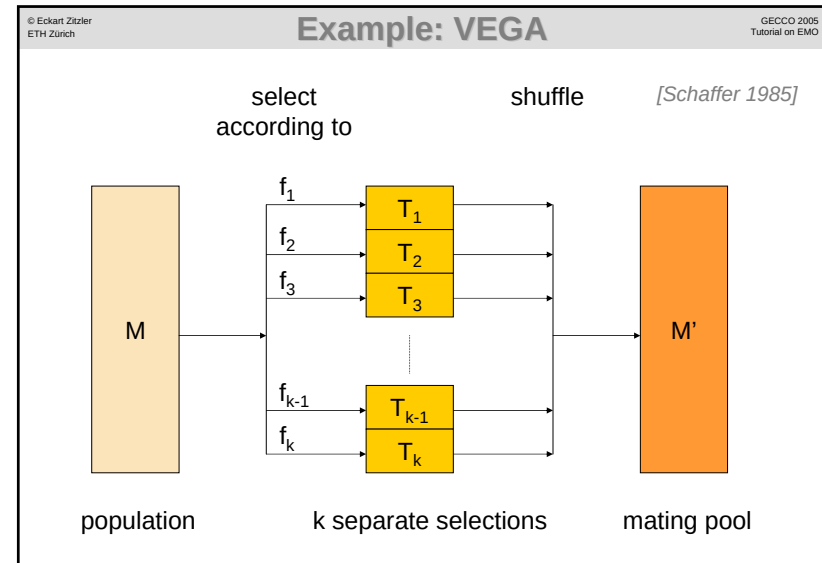
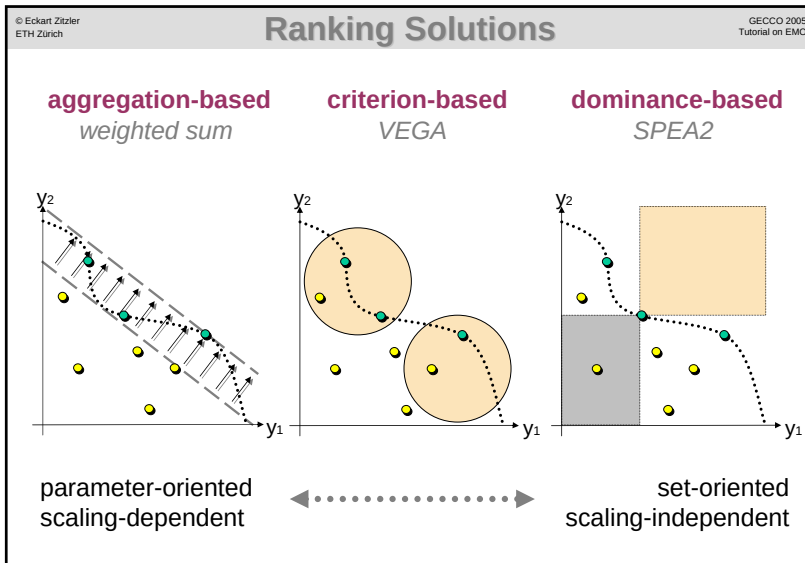
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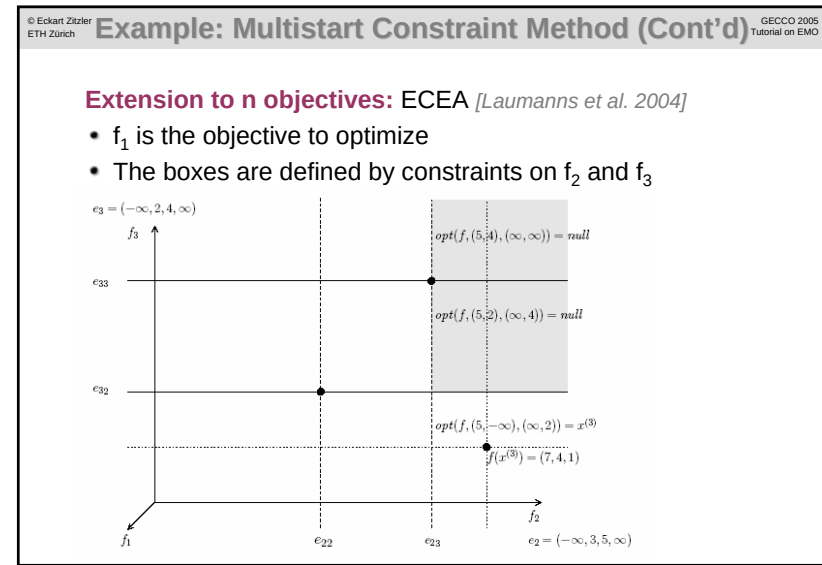
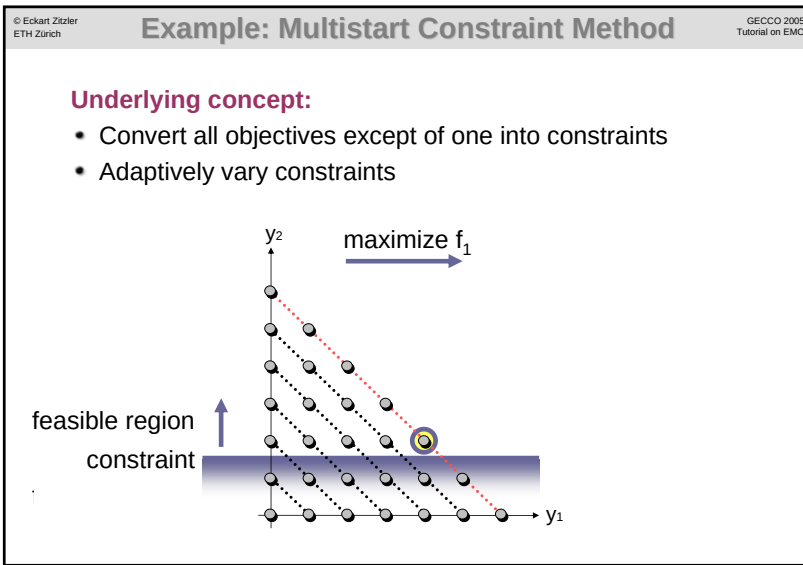
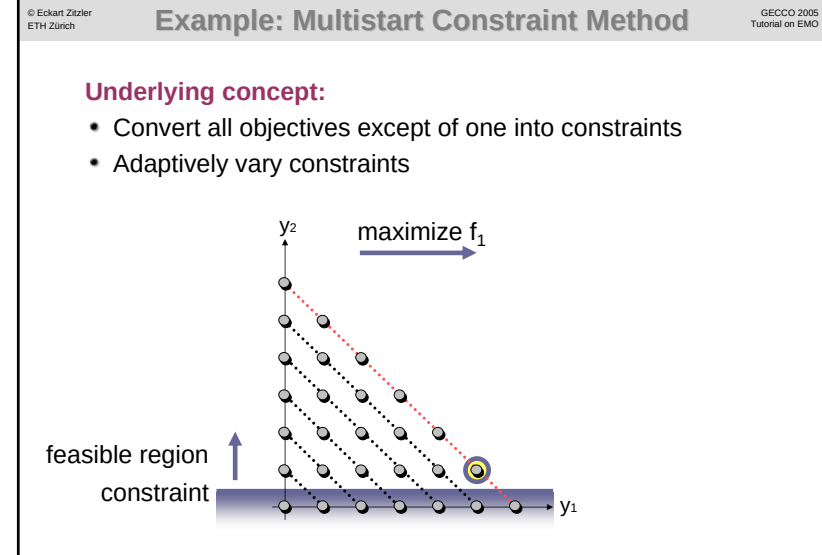
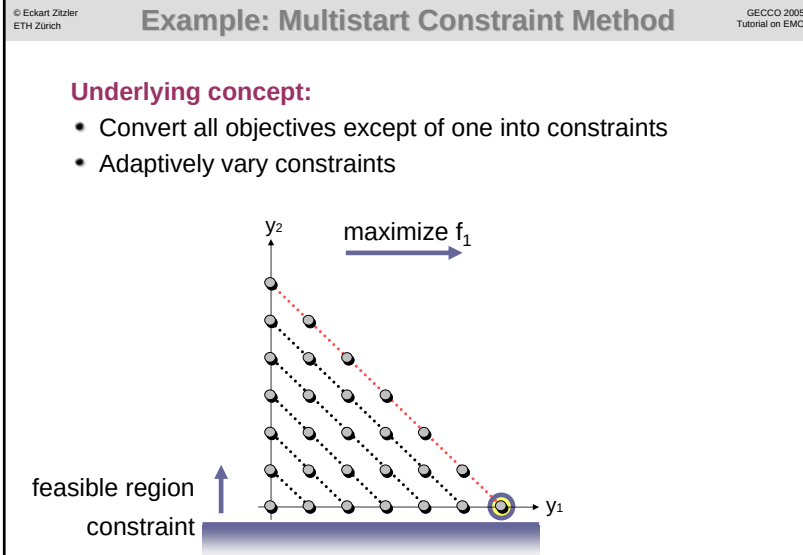
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Design Choices

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Dominance-Based Ranking

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Types of information:

- **dominance rank** by how many individuals is an individual dominated?
- **dominance count** how many individuals does an individual dominate?
- **dominance depth** at which front is an individual located?

Examples:

- *MOGA*, *NPGA* dominance rank
- *NSGA/NSGA-II* dominance depth
- *SPEA/SPEA2* dominance count + rank

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Example: MOGA and SPEA2

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MOGA
[Fonseca, Fleming 1993]

$R \text{ (raw fitness)} = \# \text{dominating solutions}$

SPEA2
[Zitzler et al. 2002]

$S \text{ (strength)} = \# \text{dominated solutions}$

$R \text{ (raw fitness)} = \sum \text{strengths of dominators}$

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Refining Rankings

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ranks	pure dominance rank	refined ranking
1	0	0 0 0
2	0	
3	0	
4	1	0.245 0.311 0.329
5	1	
6	2	
7	2	0 1 2
8	2	
9	3	

no selection pressure within equivalence classes

① density information based on Euclidean distance

② modified dominance relation

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Methods Based On Euclidean Distance

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Density estimation techniques: *[Silverman 1986]*

Kernel
MOGA

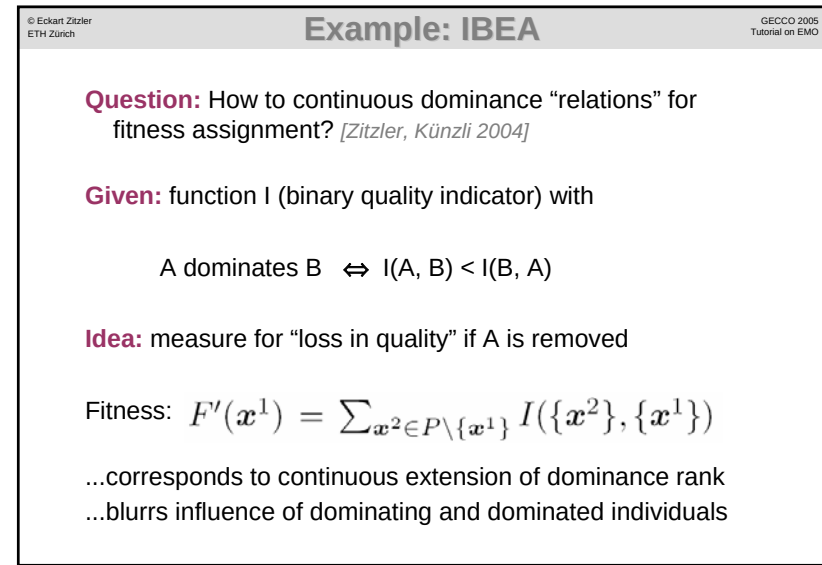
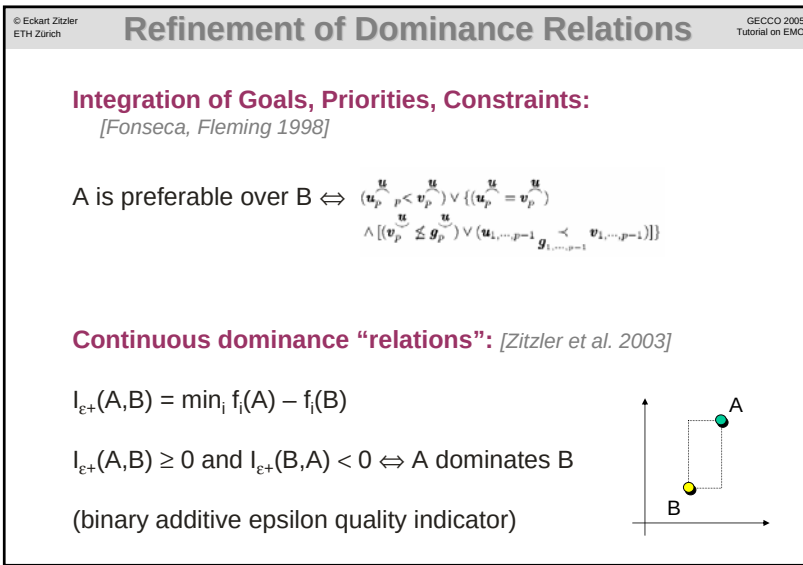
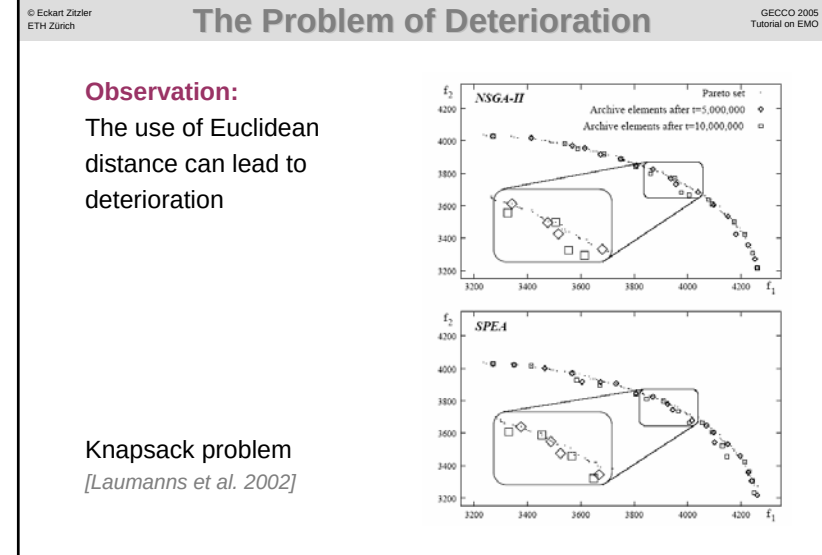
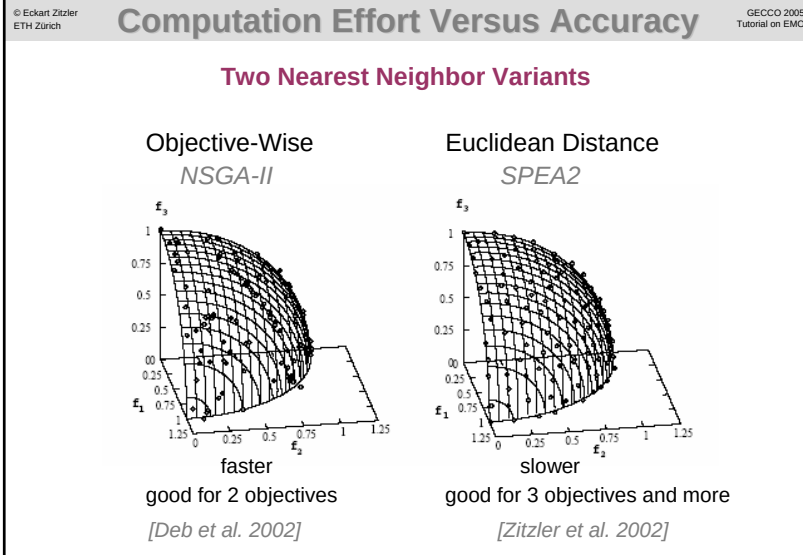
density estimate =
sum of f values
where f is a
function of the
distance

Nearest neighbor
SPEA2

density estimate =
volume of the sphere
defined by the nearest
neighbor

Histogram
PAES

density estimate =
number of
solutions in the
same box



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Example: IBEA (Cont'd)

Fitness assignment: $O(n^2)$

Fitness:
$$F(\mathbf{x}^1) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}^2 \in P \setminus \{\mathbf{x}^1\}} -e^{-I(\{\mathbf{x}^2\}, \{\mathbf{x}^1\})/\kappa}$$

- ▶ parameter κ is problem- and indicator-dependent
- ▶ no additional diversity preservation mechanism

Mating selection: $O(n)$

- ▶ binary tournament selection, fitness values constant

Environmental selection: $O(n^2)$

- ▶ iteratively remove individual with lowest fitness
- ▶ update fitness values of remaining individuals after each deletion

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Further Design Aspects

- **Constraint handling:**
How to integrate constraints into fitness assignment?
- **Archiving / environmental selection:**
How to keep a good approximation?
- **Hybridization:**
How to integrate, e.g., local search in a multiobjective EA?
- **Preference articulation:**
How to focus the search on interesting regions?
- **Data structures:**
How to support, e.g., fast dominance checks?

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Constraint Handling & Multiple Objectives

	penalty functions	constraints as objectives	modified dominance
	Add penalty term to fitness	Introduce additional objective(s)	extend to infeasible solutions
overall constraint violation	[Michalewicz 1992]	[Wright, Loosemore 2001]	[Deb 2001]
constraints treated separately	?	[Coello 2000]	[Fonseca, Fleming 1998]

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Archiving / Environmental Selection

Variant 1: without archive

Variant 2: with archive

deterministic truncation

archive = only nondominated solutions

Additional selection criteria:

- ▶ Density information / other preferences
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Chance

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Once Upon a Time...

... multiobjective EAs were mainly compared visually:

ZDT6 benchmark problem: IBEA, SPEA2, NSGA-II

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Performance Assessment: Approaches

- Theoretically (by analysis):** difficult
 - Limit behavior (unlimited run-time resources)
 - Running time analysis
- Empirically (by simulation):** standard

Problems: randomness, multiple objectives

Issues: quality measures, statistical testing, visualization, benchmark problems, parameter settings, ...

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Two Approaches for Empirical Studies

Attainment function approach:

- Applies statistical tests directly to the samples of approximation sets
- Gives detailed information about how and where performance differences occur

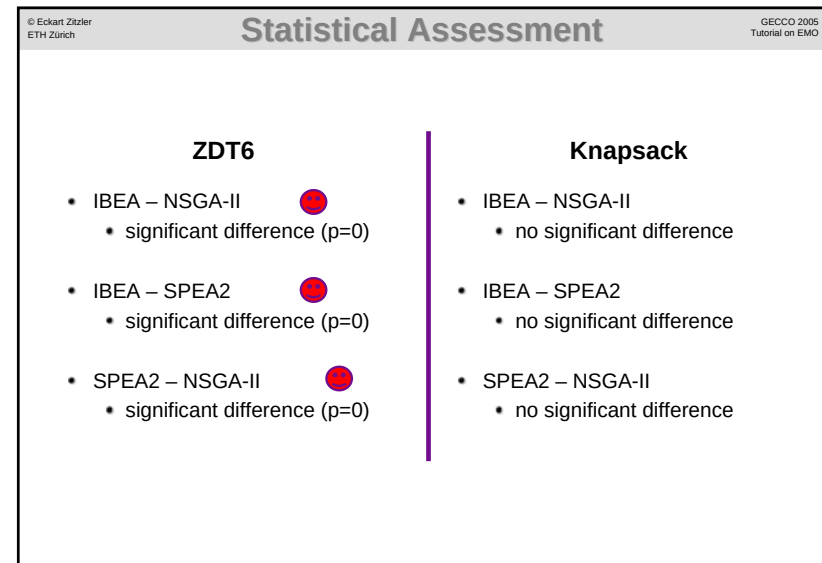
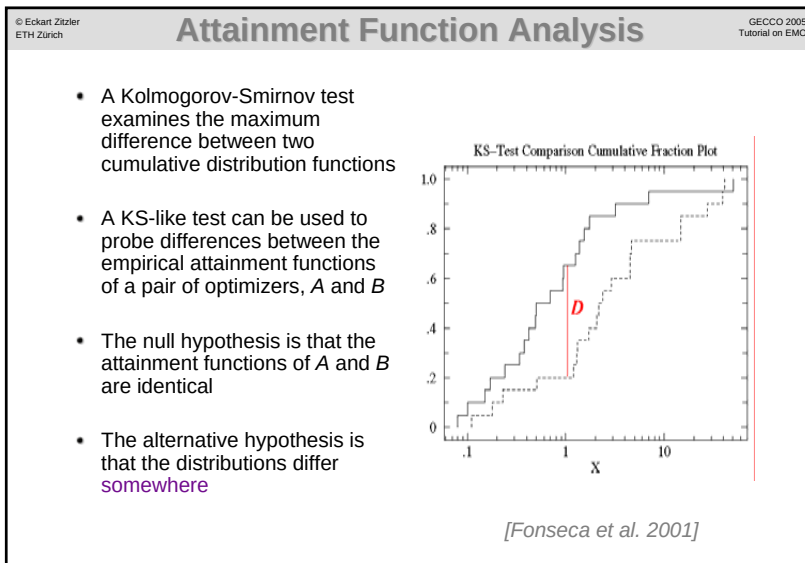
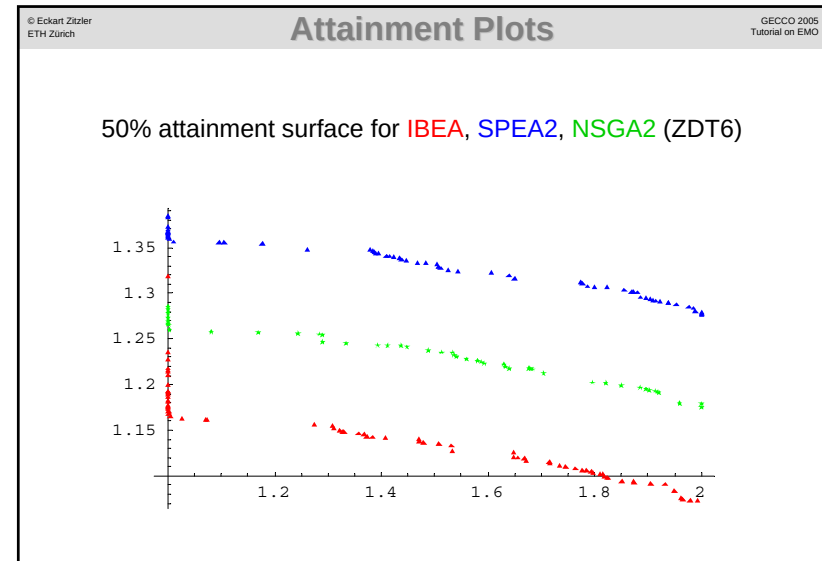
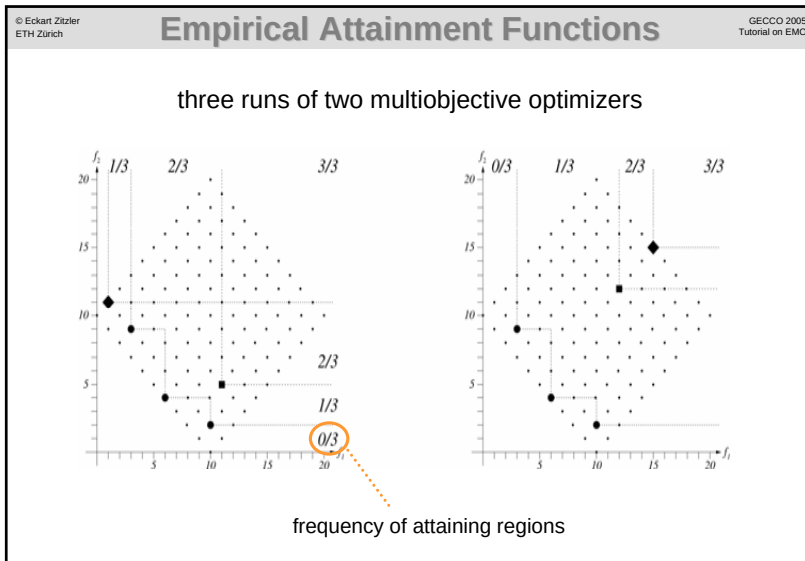
Quality indicator approach:

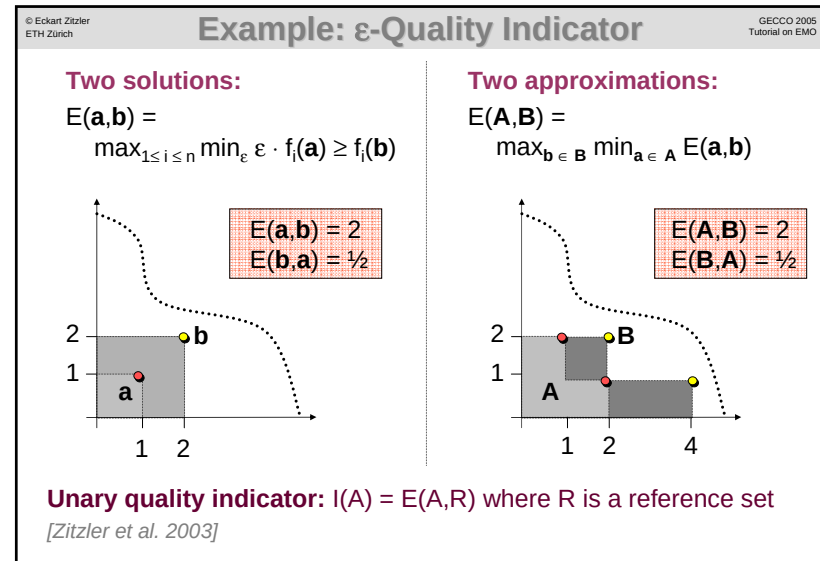
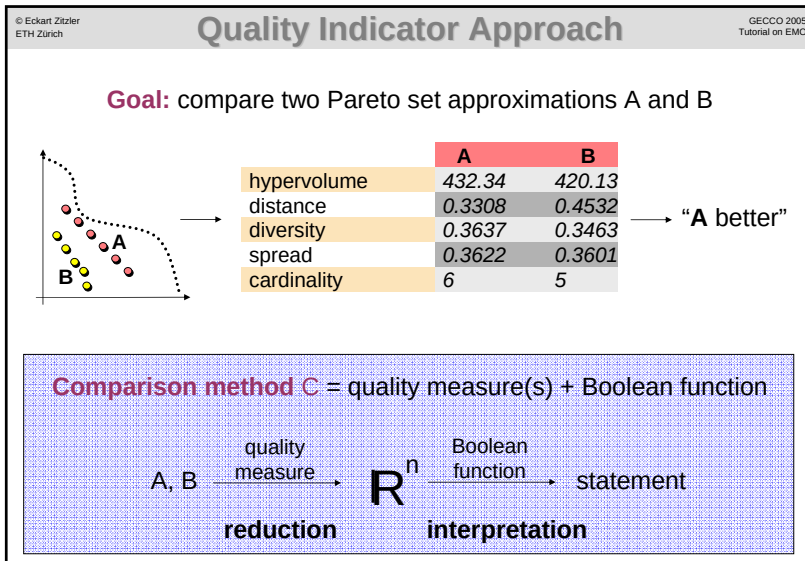
- First, reduces each approximation set to a single value of quality
- Applies statistical tests to the samples of quality values

A attains

B attains

Indicator	A	B
Hypervolume indicator	6.3431	7.1924
ϵ -indicator	1.2090	0.12722
R_2 indicator	0.2434	0.1643
R_3 indicator	0.6454	0.3475





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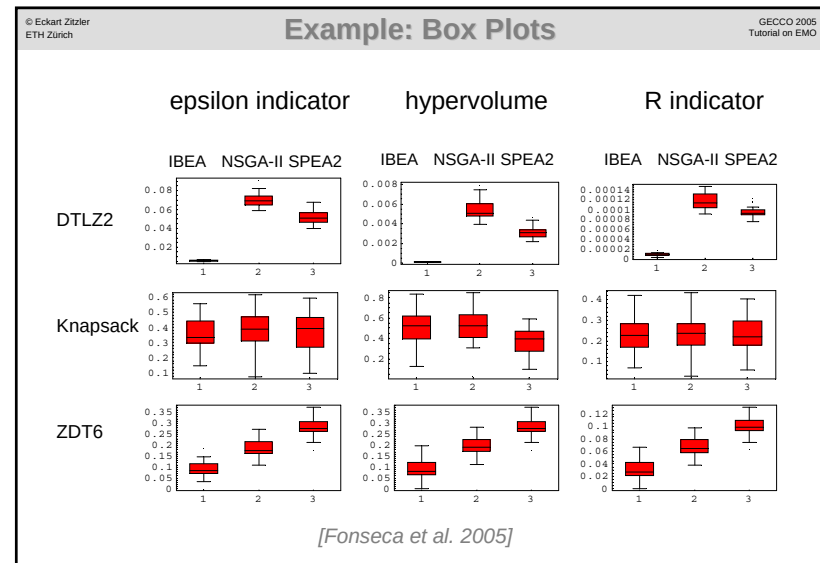
Power of Unary Quality Indicators

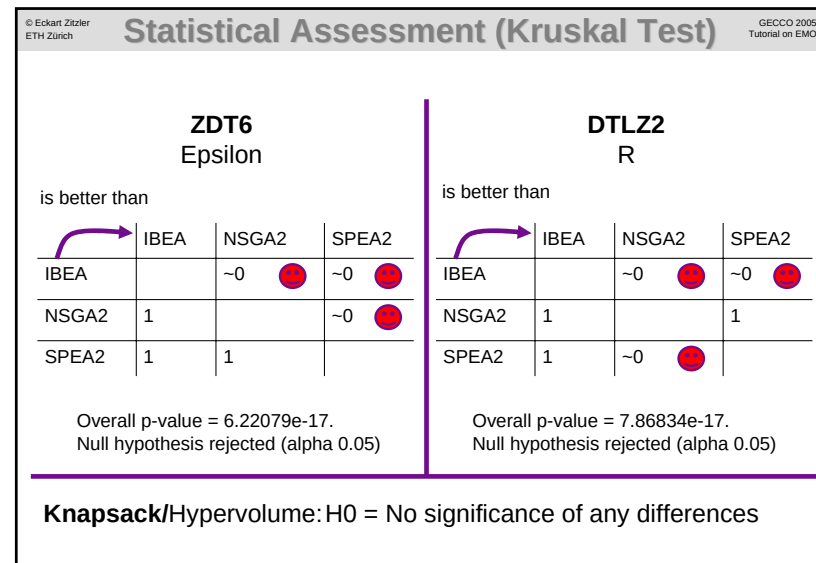
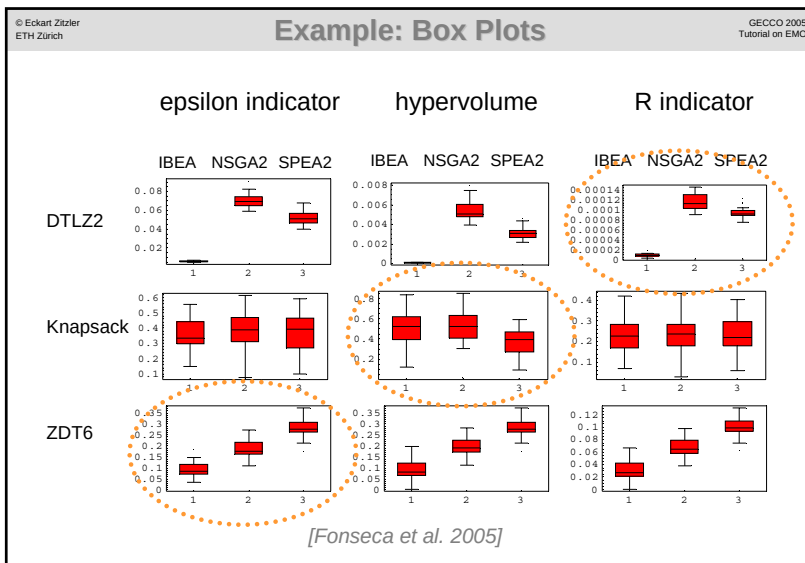
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Important: compliance with dominance relations [Zitzler et al. 2003]

indicator	name / reference	Boolean function	compatibility	completeness
I_{HC}	enclosing hypercube indicator / Section III-B.1	$I_{HC}^A(A) < I_{HC}^A(B)$	>>	-
I_O	objective vector indicator / Section III-B.1	$I_O^A(A) < I_O^A(B)$	>>	-
I_H	hypervolume indicator / [7]	$I_H(A) > I_H(B)$	>>	>>
I_W	average best weight combination / [19]	$I_W(A) < I_W(B)$	>>	>>
I_D	distance from reference set / [20]	$I_D(A) < I_D(B)$	>>	>>
$I_{\epsilon 1}$	unary ϵ -indicator / Section III-B.2	$I_{\epsilon 1}(A) < I_{\epsilon 1}(B)$	>>	>>
I_{PF}	fraction of Pareto-optimal front covered / [22]	$I_{PF}(A) > I_{PF}(B)$	>>	>>
I_P	number of Pareto points contained / Section III-B.2	$I_P(A) > I_P(B)$	>>	>>
I_{ER}	error ratio / [13]	$I_{ER}(A) > 0$	>>	>>
I_{CD}	chi-square-like deviation indicator / [14]	$I_{CD}^A(A) < I_{CD}^A(B)$	-	-
I_S	spacing / [23]	$I_S(A) < I_S(B)$	-	-
I_{ONVG}	overall nondominated vector generation / [13]	$I_{ONVG}(A) > I_{ONVG}(B)$	-	-
I_{GD}	generational distance / [13]	$I_{GD}(A) < I_{GD}(B)$	-	-
I_{ME}	maximum Pareto front error / [13]	$I_{ME}(A) < I_{ME}(B)$	-	-
I_{MS}	maximum spread / [21]	$I_{MS}(A) > I_{MS}(B)$	-	-
I_{MD}	minimum distance between two solutions / [24]	$I_{MD}(A) > I_{MD}(B)$	-	-
I_{CE}	coverage error / [24]	$I_{CE}(A) < I_{CE}(B)$	-	-
I_{DU}	deviation from uniform distribution / [25]	$I_{DU}(A) < I_{DU}(B)$	-	-
I_{OS}	Pareto spread / [26]	$I_{OS}(A) > I_{OS}(B)$	-	-
I_A	accuracy / [26]	$I_A(A) > I_A(B)$	-	-
I_{NDC}	number of distinct choices / [26]	$I_{NDC}(A) > I_{NDC}(B)$	-	-
I_{CL}	cluster / [26]	$I_{CL}(A) < I_{CL}(B)$	-	-

strictly better $\bullet$ not weakly better $\bullet$ not better $\bullet$ weakly better





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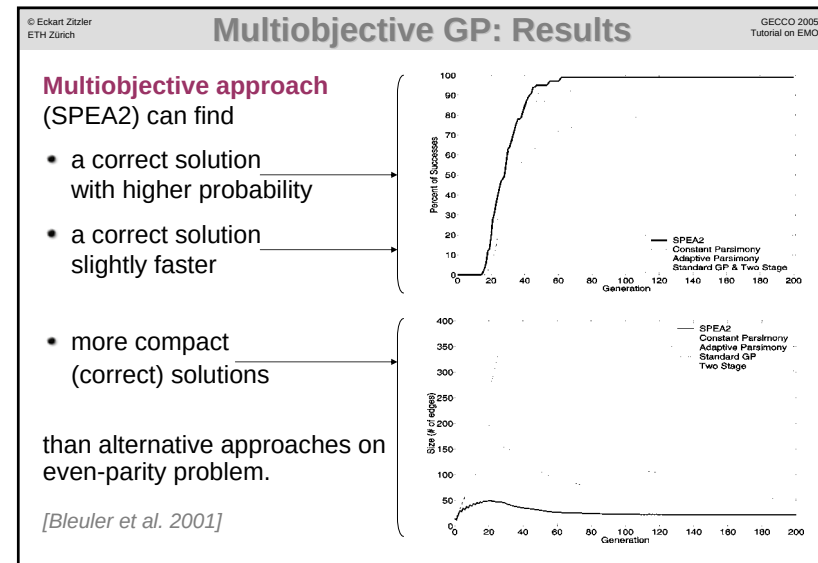
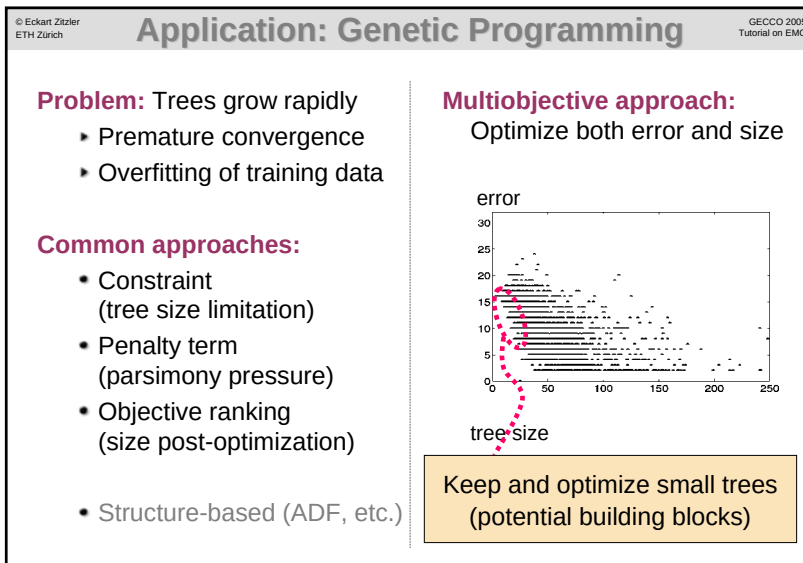
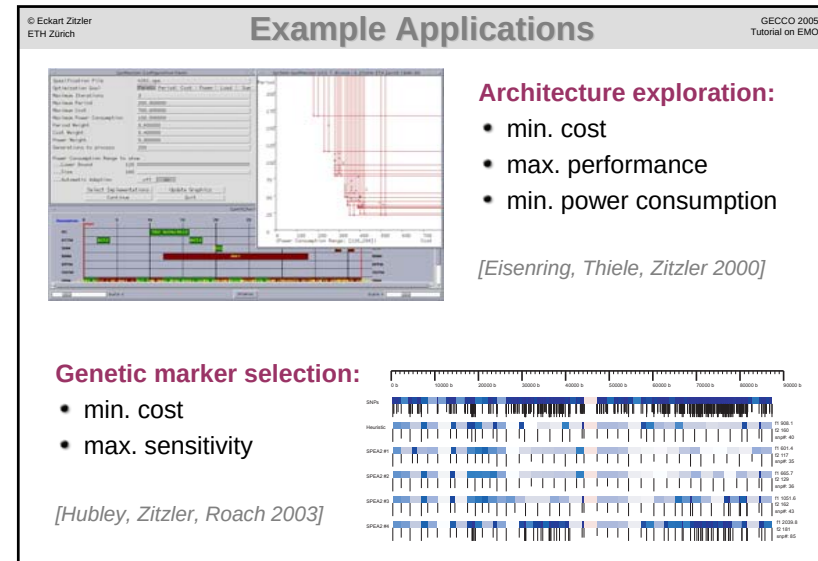
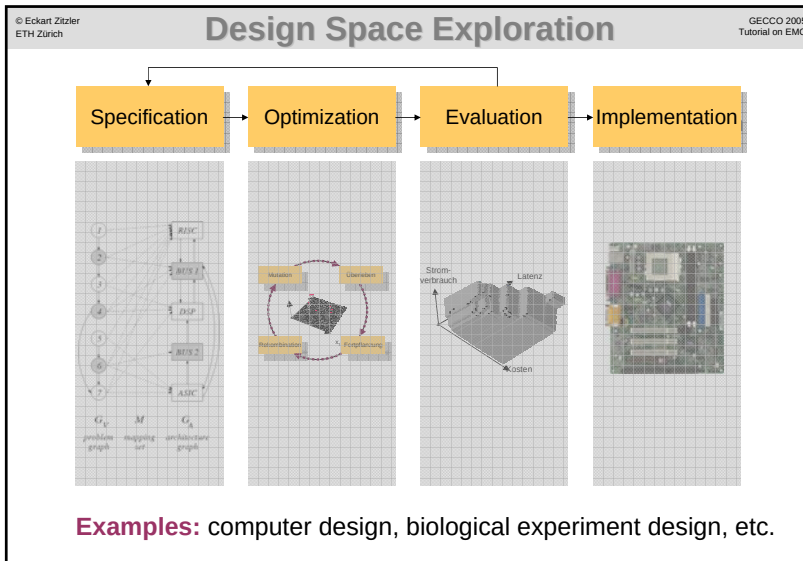
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Performance Assessment Tools

- Reference set calculation
- Attainment function calculation
- Indicators
- Statistical testing procedures

<http://www.tik.ee.ethz.ch/pisa>

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- ### Outline
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The Concept of PISA

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The diagram illustrates the PISA concept as a text-based interface. On the left, under 'Algorithms', are SPEA2, NSGA-II, and PAES, each represented by a blue puzzle piece. On the right, under 'Applications', are knapsack, TSP, and network design, each represented by a green puzzle piece. A red puzzle piece in the center represents the 'text-based' interface. A dashed vertical line separates the algorithms from the applications, with the red piece acting as a bridge. Below the diagram, the text reads: 'Platform and programming language independent Interface for Search Algorithms [Bleuler et al.: 2003]'.

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PISA: Implementation

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The diagram shows the PISA implementation architecture. A 'selector process' (represented by a desktop computer icon) and a 'variator process' (represented by a laptop icon) are connected to a central 'shared file system' (represented by a cloud icon). Below the cloud icon is a box labeled 'text files'. Arrows indicate the flow of data between the selector process, the shared file system, and the variator process.

application independent: • mating / environmental selection • individuals are described by IDs and objective vectors	handshake protocol: • state / action • individual IDs • objective vectors • parameters	application dependent: • variation operators • stores and manages individuals
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PISA Website

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The screenshot shows the PISA website interface. It is divided into two main sections: 'Optimization Problems (variator)' and 'Optimization Algorithms (selector)'. The 'Optimization Problems' section lists LOTZ, LOTZ2, Knapsack Problem, DTLZ, BBV, and MLOTZ. The 'Optimization Algorithms' section lists SEMO, SEMO2, SPEA2, NSGA2, ECEA, and IBEA. Each entry includes a link to a 'Demonstration Program' and a list of source code links for C, Solaris, Windows, and Linux. A large blue box with the URL <http://www.tik.ee.ethz.ch/pisa> is overlaid on the website content.

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PISA Example

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knapsack_nsga2.10
variator: knapsack
selector: nsga2
generation: 10
all runs

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The EMO Community

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Links:

- EMO mailing list:
<http://w3.ualg.pt/lists/emo-list/>
- EMO bibliography:
<http://www.lania.mx/~ccoello/EMOO/>

Events:

- Conference on Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimization (EMO 2007 to be held in Japan)

Books:

- **Multi-Objective Optimization using Evolutionary Algorithms**
Kalyanmoy Deb, Wiley, 2001
- **Evolutionary Algorithms for Solving Multi Evolutionary Algorithms for Solving Multi-Objective Problems Objective Problems**, Carlos A. Coello Coello, David A. Van Veldhuizen & Gary B. Lamont, Kluwer, 2002

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