

# A Pragmatic Approach to Biases in Visual Data Analysis

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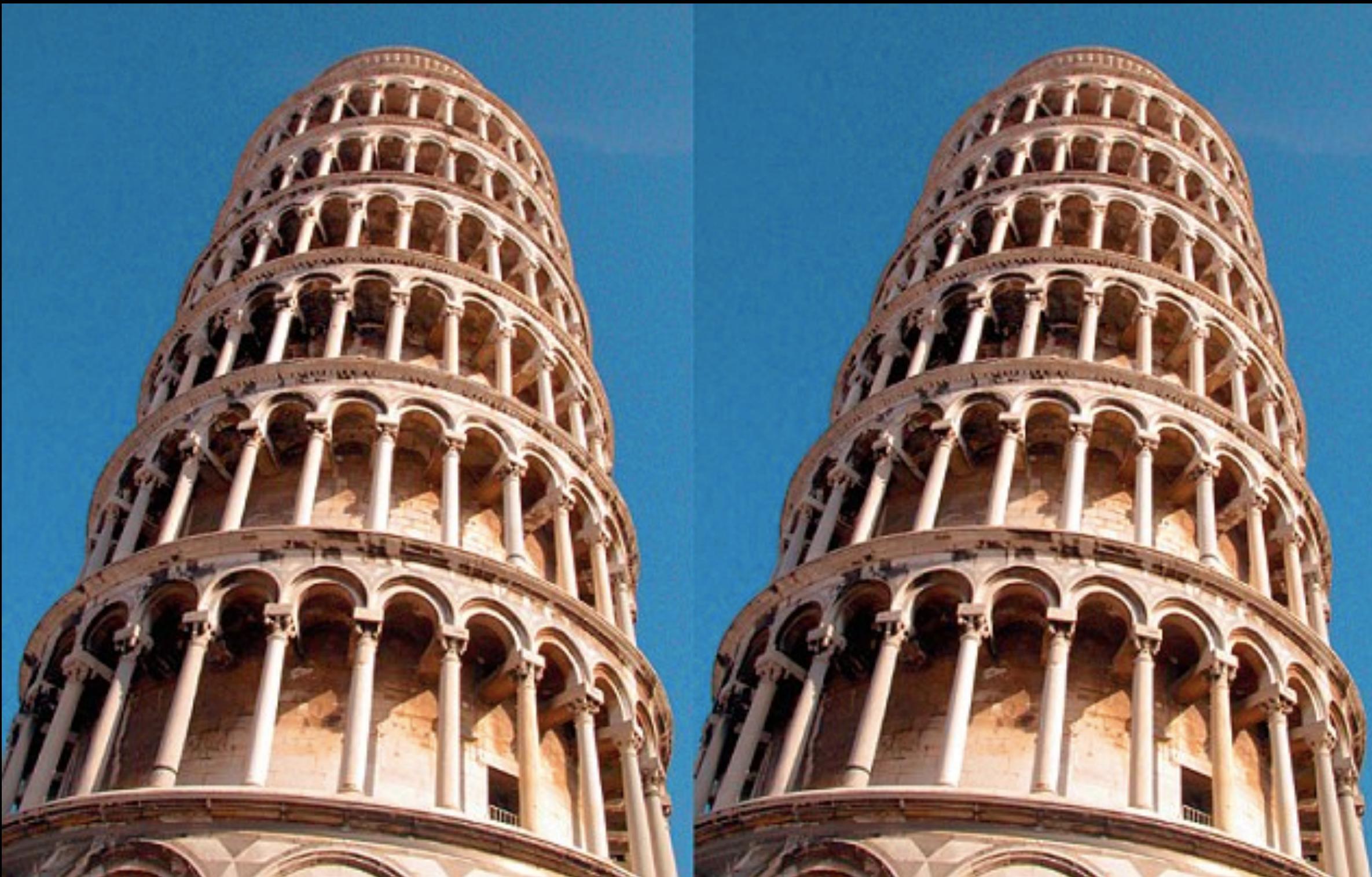
Errors ≠ Biases

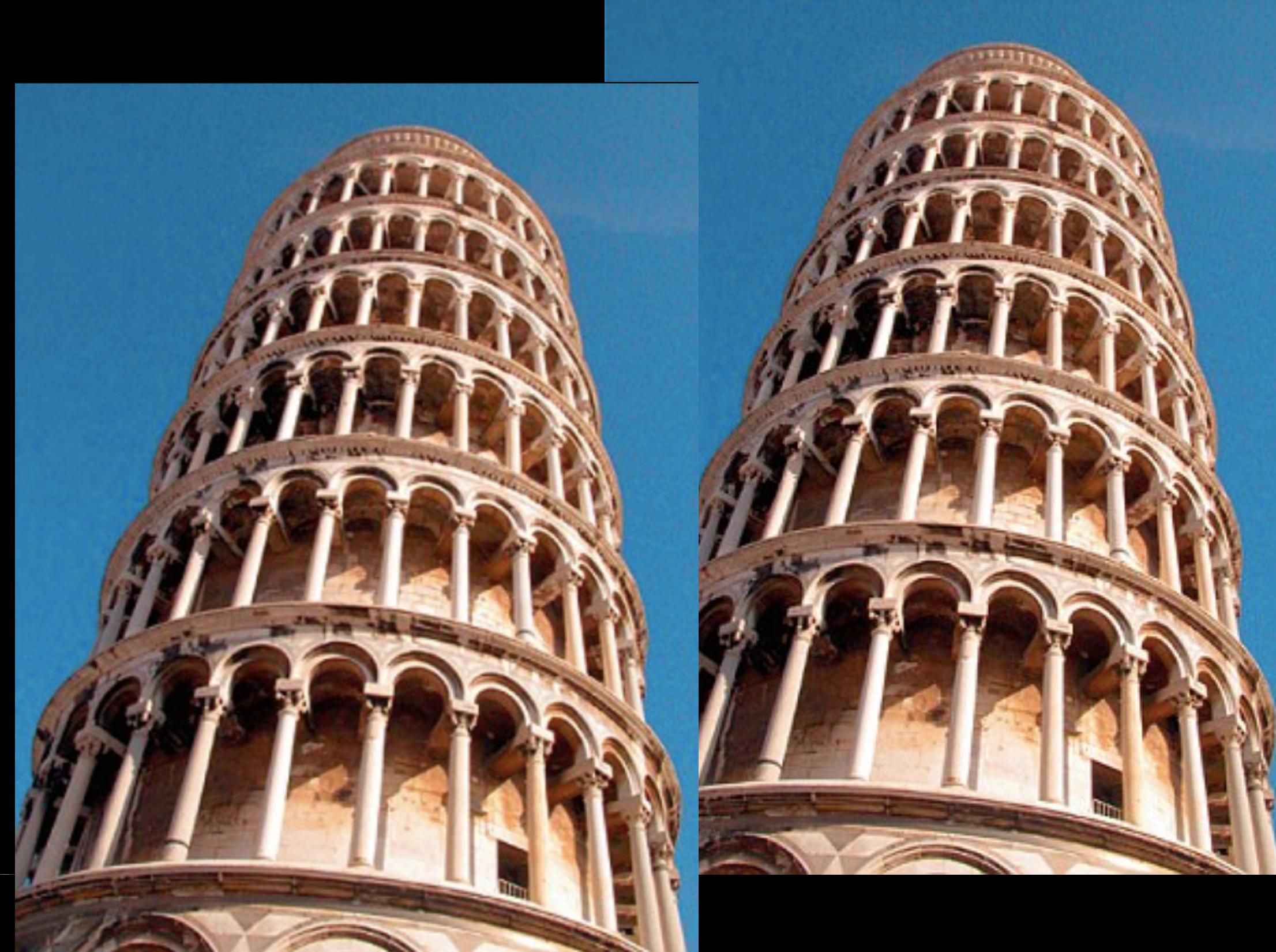


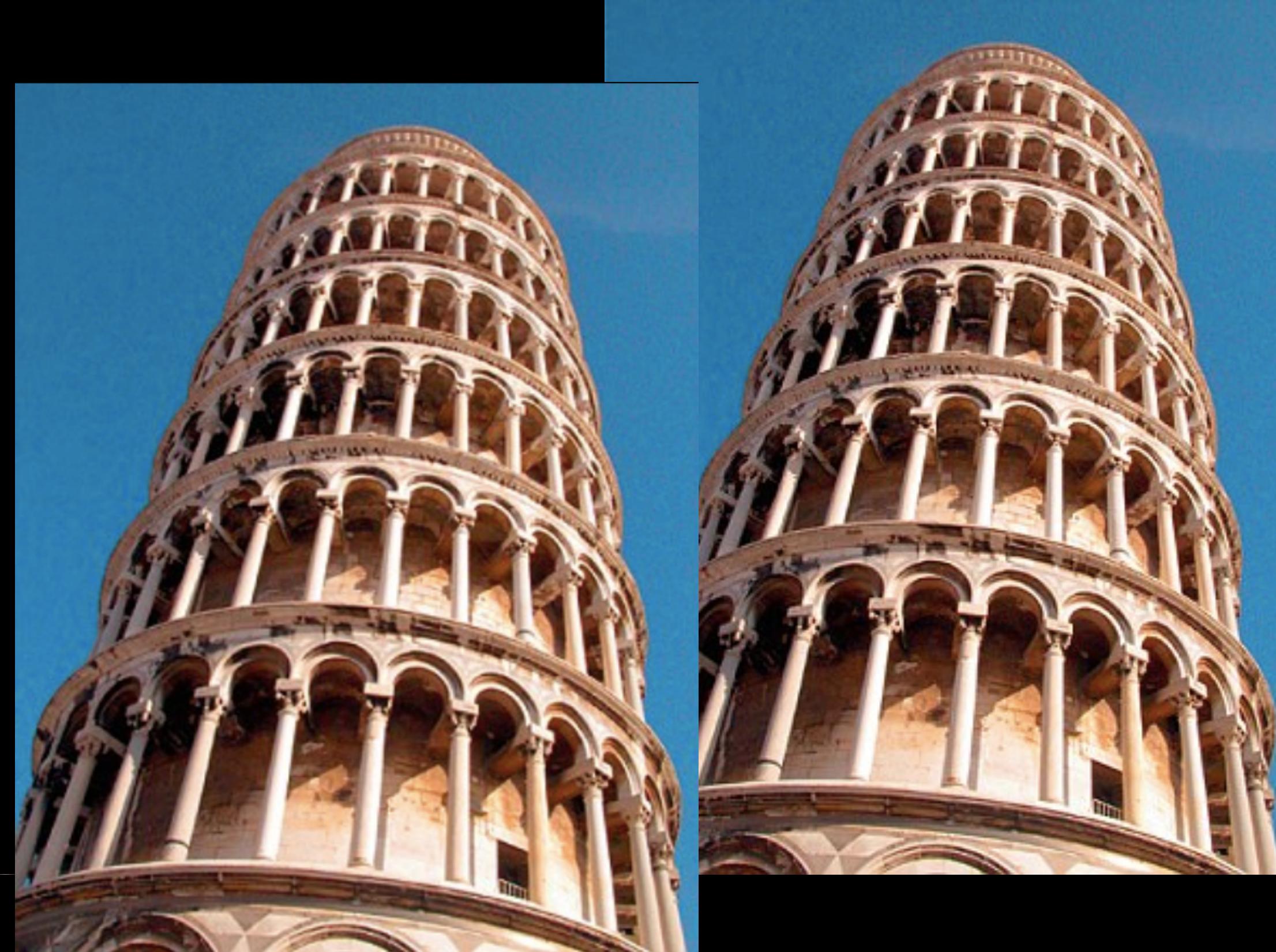


a

# Errors & Biases



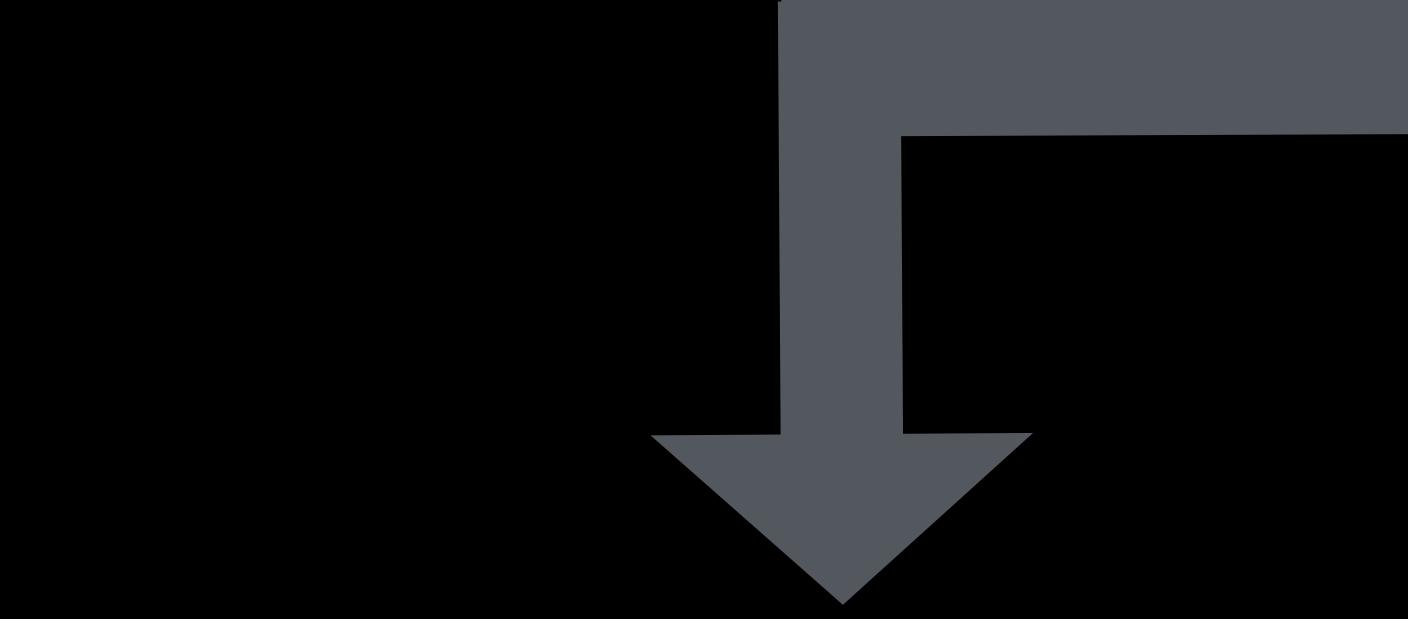




# Errors & Biases

# Errors & ~~Biases~~ Patterns

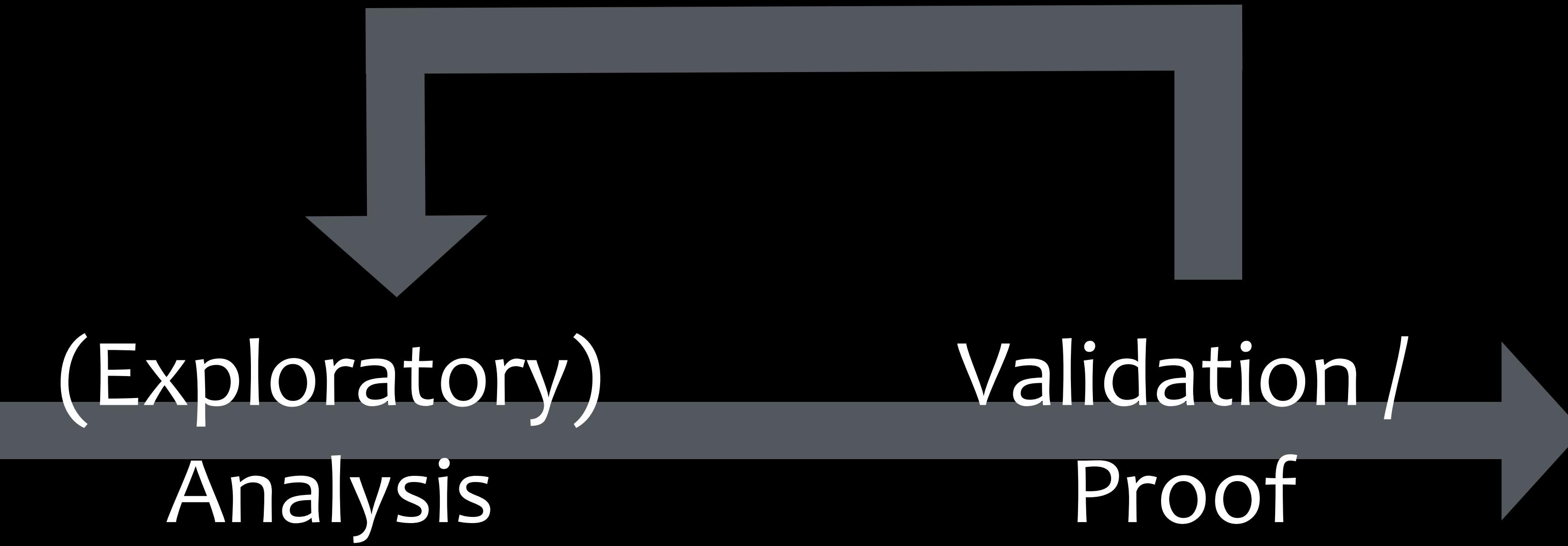
Biases ≠  
Pragmatism



(Exploratory)  
Analysis



Validation /  
Proof



*. . . but what with biases ?*

*. . . but what with biases ?*

Occurrence?

What is the effect ?



**snake**



**no snake**

**snake  
noticed**

**no snake  
noticed**



snake



no snake

snake  
noticed

ok

ERROR

no snake  
noticed

ERROR

ok

Occurrence



snake



no snake

snake  
noticed

ok

People easily react  
to snake-like forms

no snake  
noticed

ERROR

ok

Occurrence



snake



no snake

snake  
noticed

**RUN !**

no snake  
noticed

ok

Effect



snake



no snake

snake  
noticed

**RUN !**

**RUN !**

no snake  
noticed

ok

Effect



snake



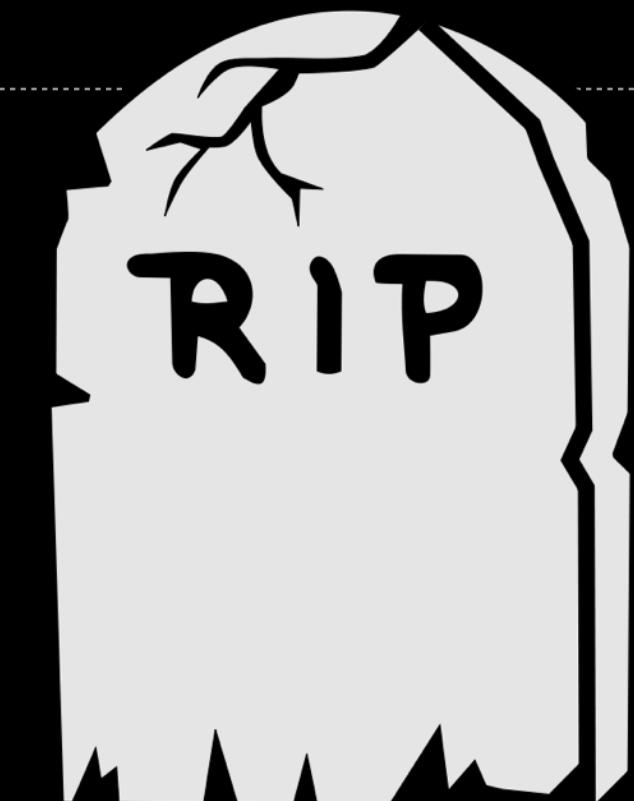
no snake

snake  
noticed

**RUN !**

**RUN !**

no snake  
noticed



ok

Effect



snake



no snake

snake  
noticed



no snake  
noticed



Effect



snake



no snake

snake  
noticed



False Positive  
= Type I

no snake  
noticed

False Negative  
= Type II



*. . . but what with biases?*

Applied . . .

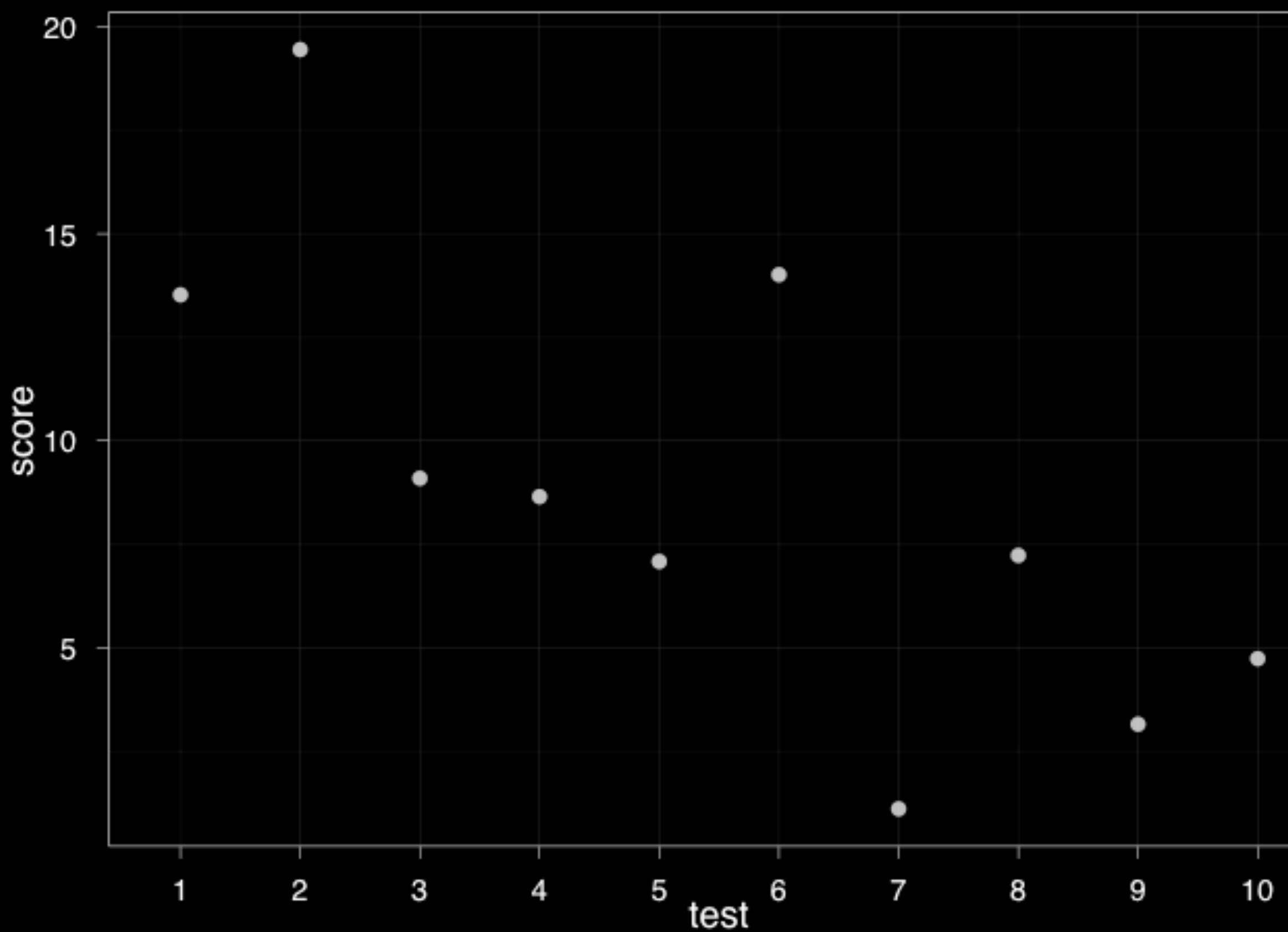
	<p>pattern exists</p>	<p>pattern doesn't exist</p>
<p>pattern noticed</p>	<p><b>to be validated</b></p>	
<p>no pattern noticed</p>		

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<p>no pattern noticed</p>		

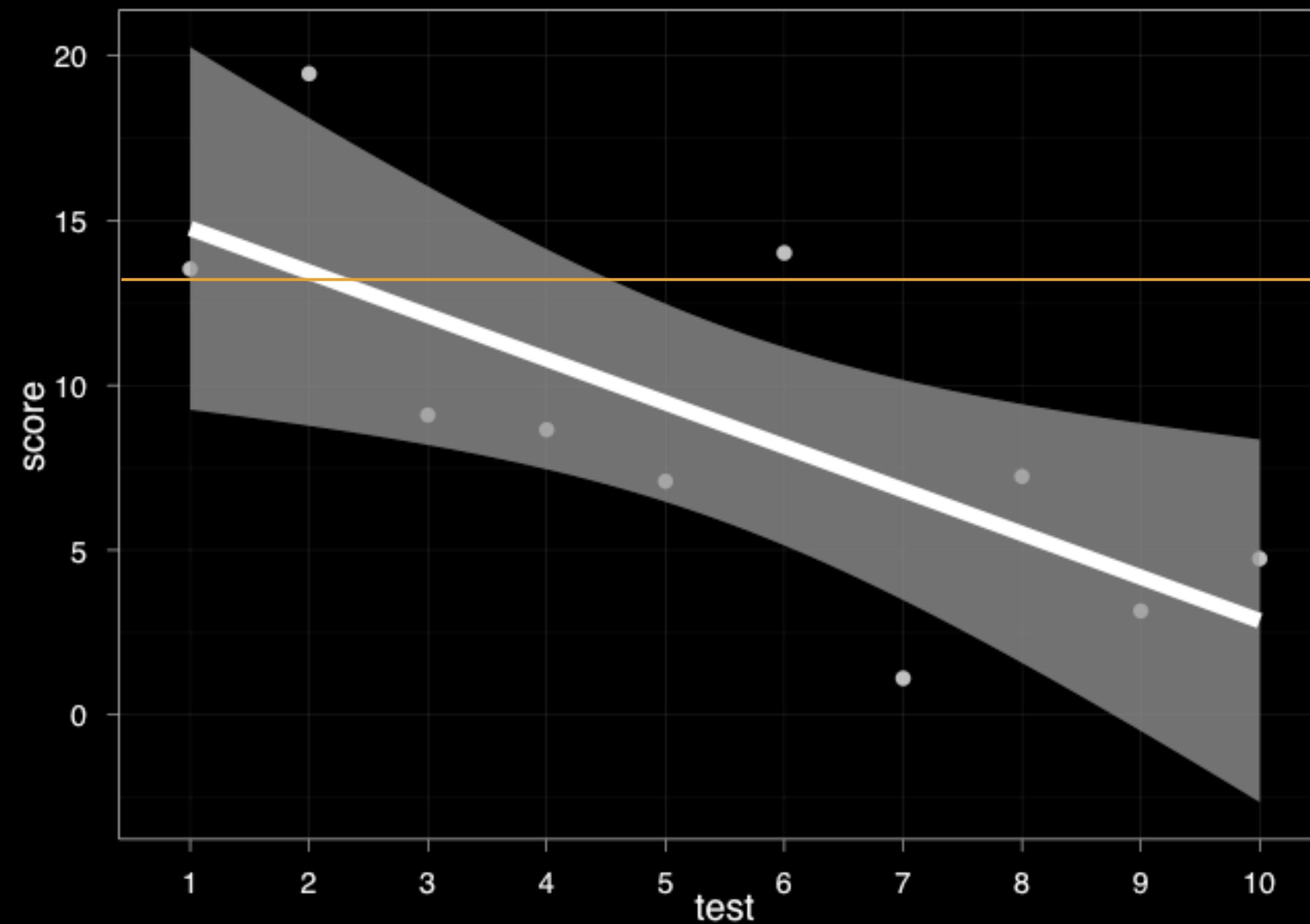
	<p>pattern exists</p>	<p>pattern doesn't exist</p>
<p>pattern noticed</p>	<p><b>to be validated</b></p>	<p><b>to be validated</b></p>
<p>no pattern noticed</p>	<p><b>missed opportunity</b></p>	

Validation ...

1	1	3	.	5
2	1	9	.	4
3	9	.	1	
4	8	.	7	
5	7	.	1	
6	1	4		
7	1	.	1	
8	7	.	2	
9	3	.	2	
10	1	0		
	4	.	7	

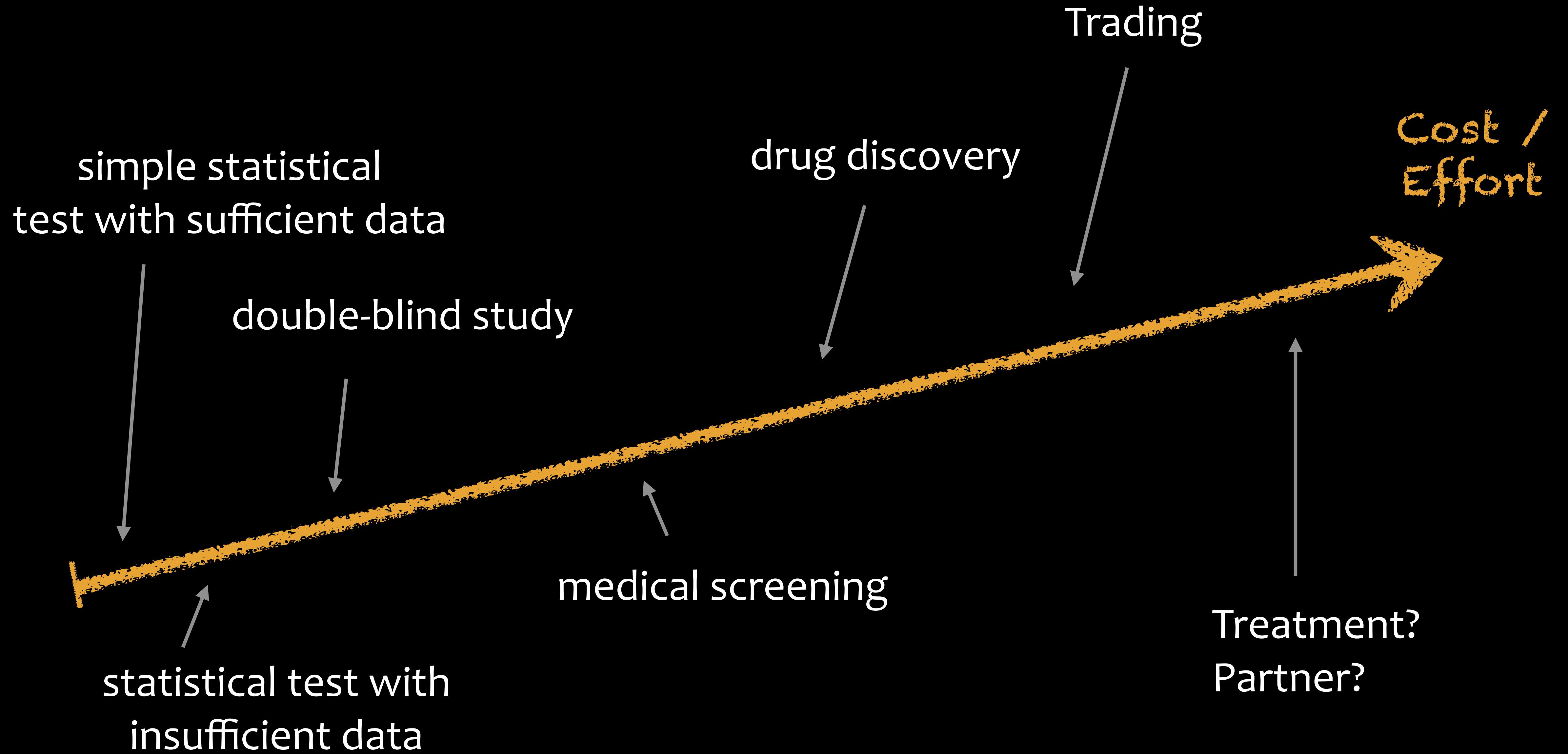


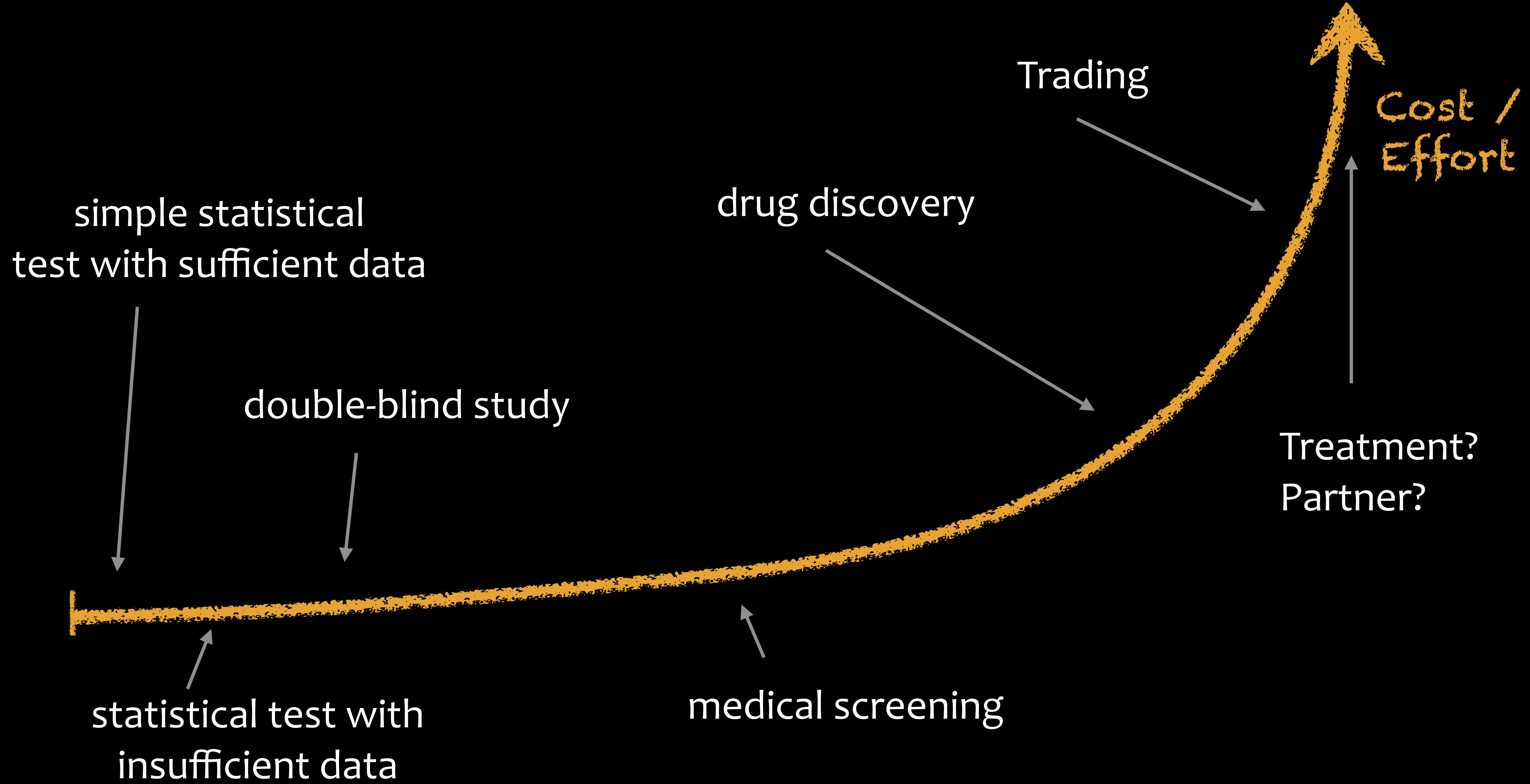
Independent normal variables  
mean: 13, variance: 10

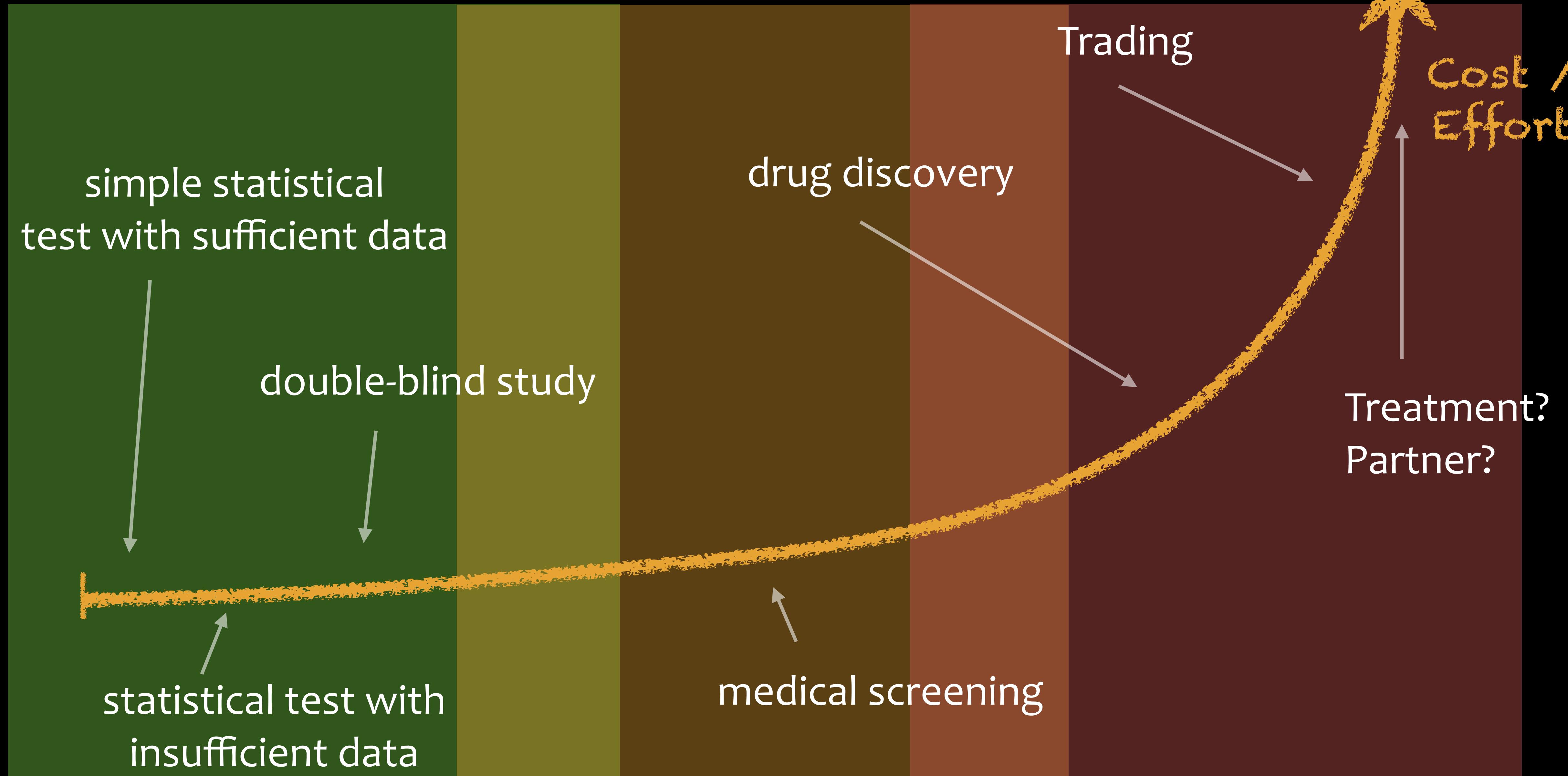


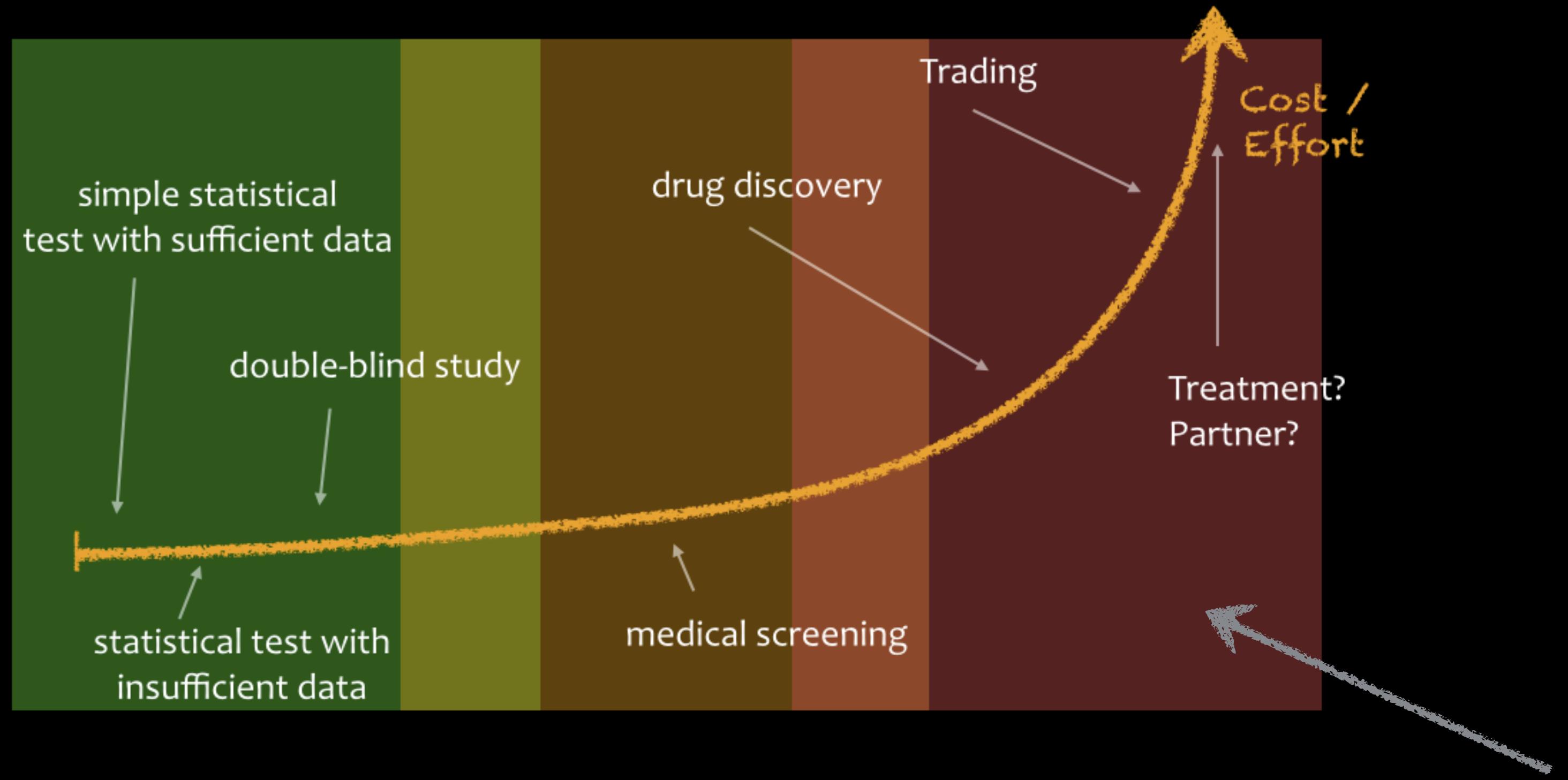
$P(>10 \text{ on next exam}) = 62\%$

Validation Cost







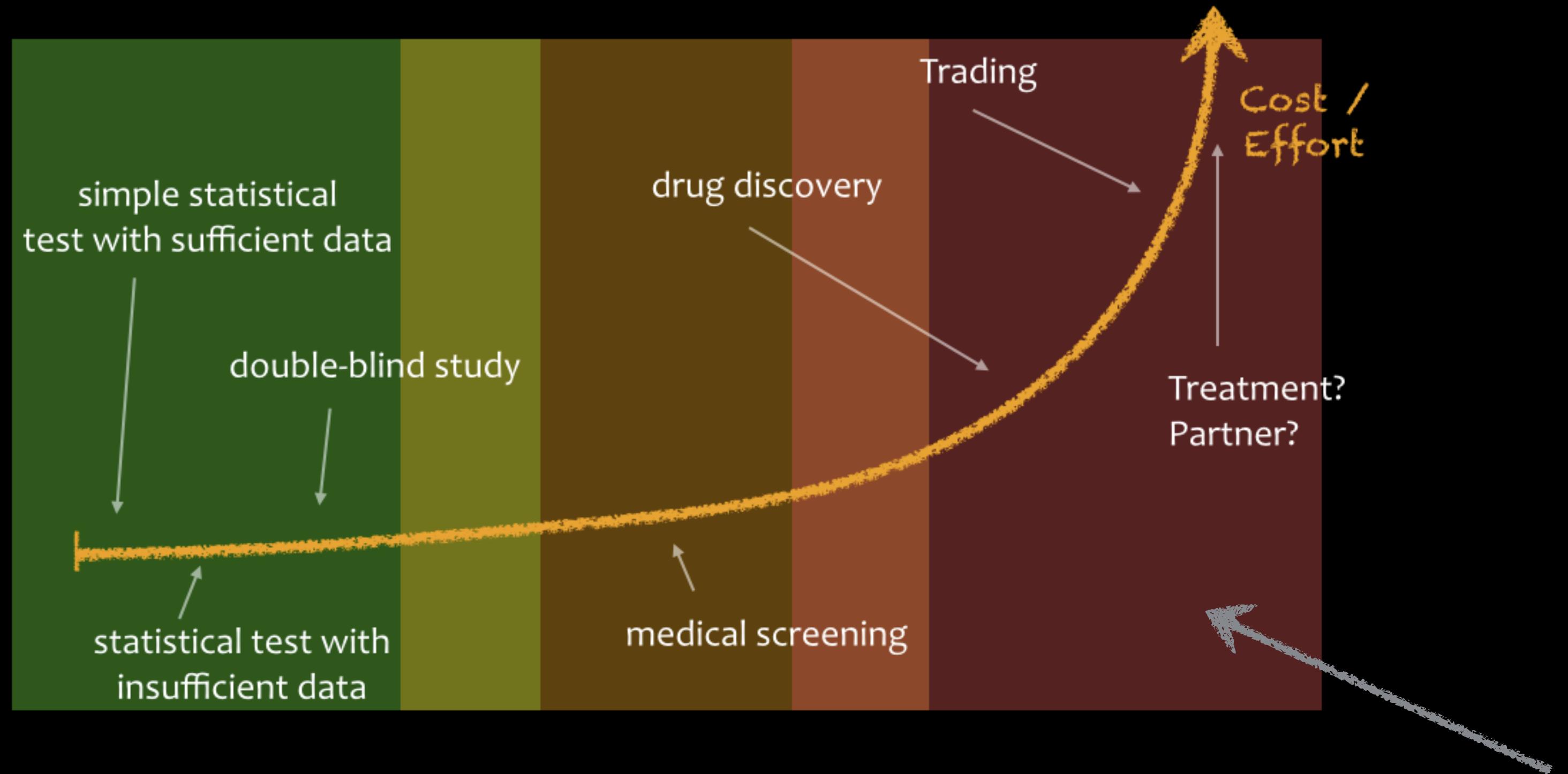


Black Swans ?  
Models ?  
Statistical analysis ?  
Visualization ?

Errors & Biases

# Heuristics

(Minimize the *harmful effects of being wrong*)



Encounter a snake

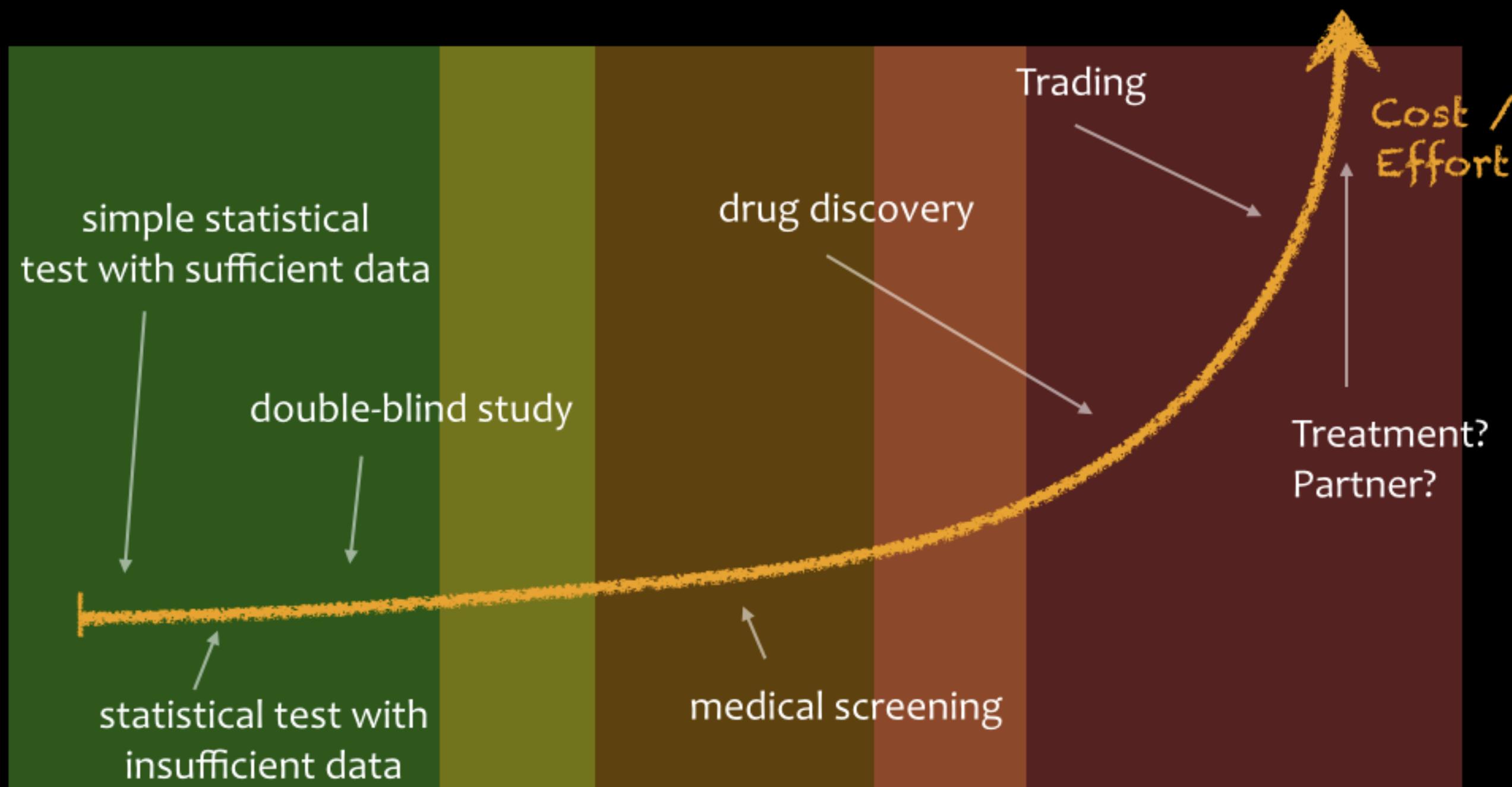
So ...

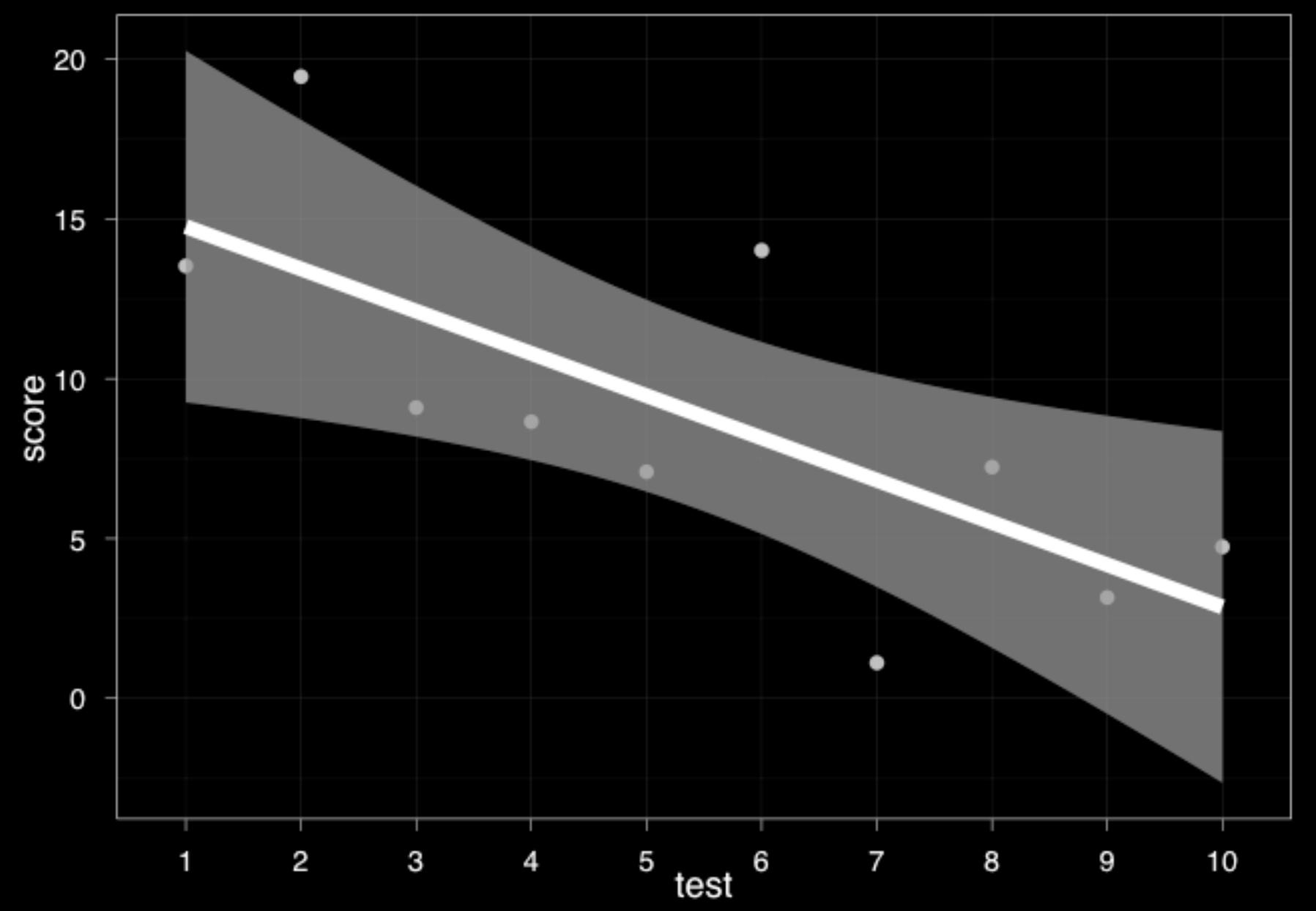
# Be pragmatic !

Know the *region* you're in

Validation !

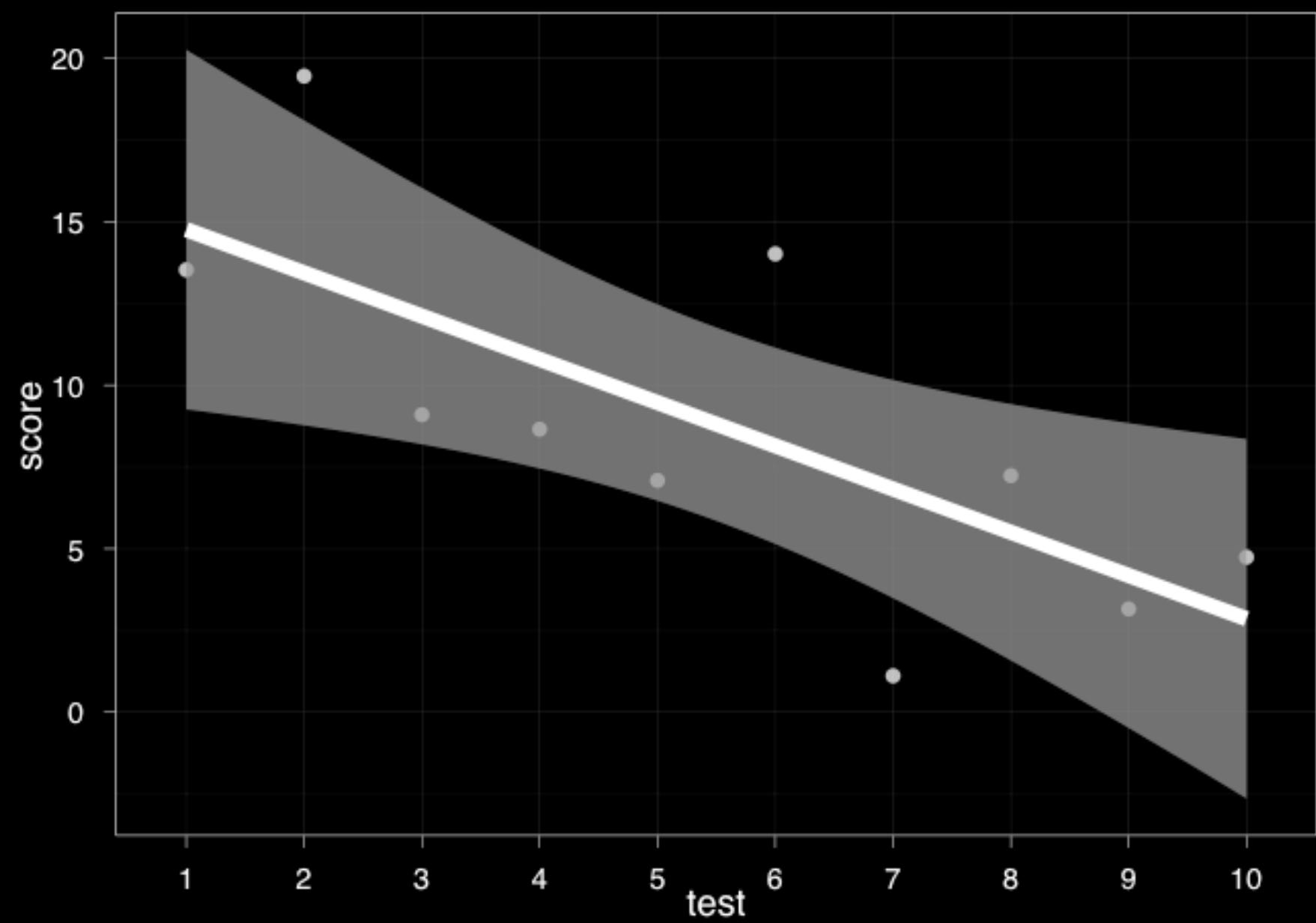
Heuristics





‘Never trust the one who came  
up with the artificial dataset’

*T. Verbeiren*



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