

# A comprehensive framework for verification, validation, and uncertainty quantification in scientific computing

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# Uncertainty Types

Two types of uncertainty in scientific computing are described

Aleatory  
uncertainty

Epistemic  
uncertainty



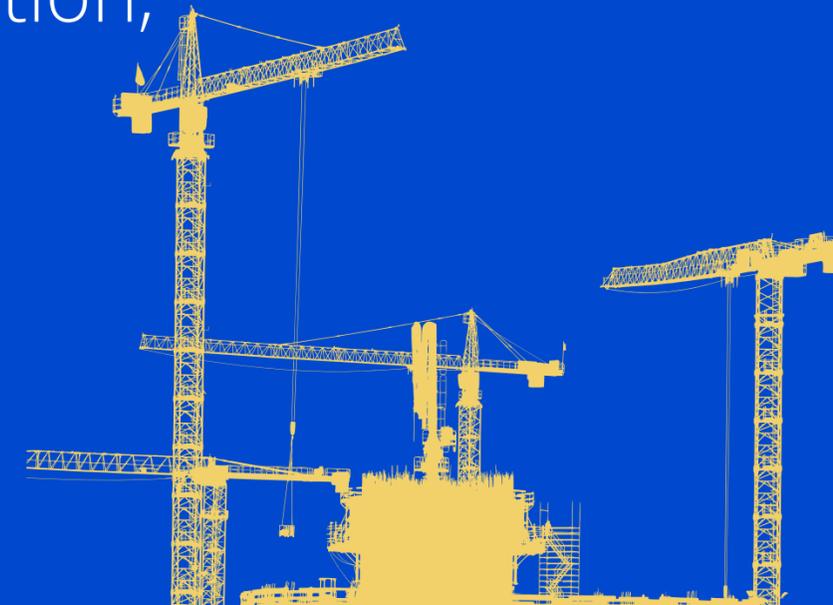
# Uncertainty Types

## Aleatory uncertainty

- Representative of randomness that differ for each iteration for the same experiment.
- Also known as irreducible uncertainty.
- Characterized either by PDF or CDF
- Uncertainty could be changed only if there is a change in manufacturing or quality control process.

## Epistemic uncertainty

- Lack of knowledge during the phase of analysis.
- Also known as reducible uncertainty.
- Characterized by interval.
- Reduced through conducting experiments, Improved numerical approximation, experts opinion etc.

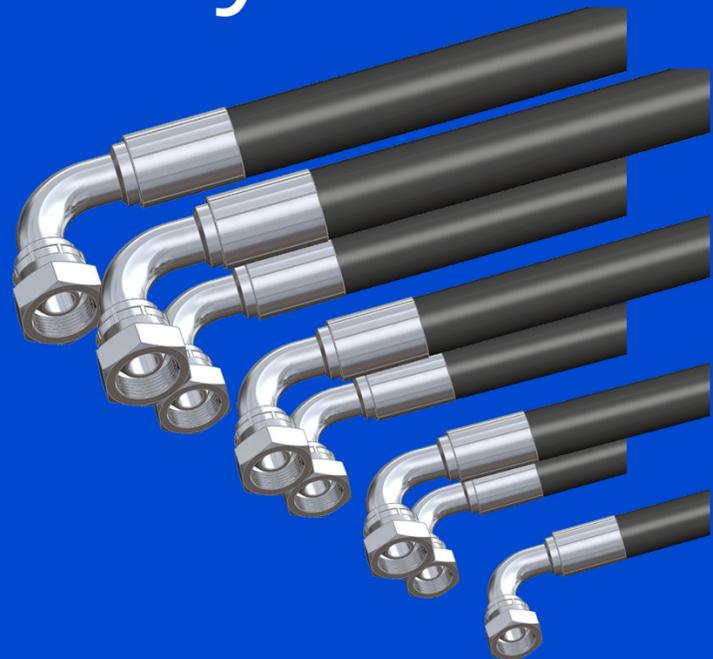


# Aleatoric + Epsidermic uncertainty



- Length of the part random variable -Aleatoric
- Not accuracy because of few samples from a population - Epsidermic

# Purely Aleatoric uncertainty



- With large number of samples, PDF is determined more accurately and precisely

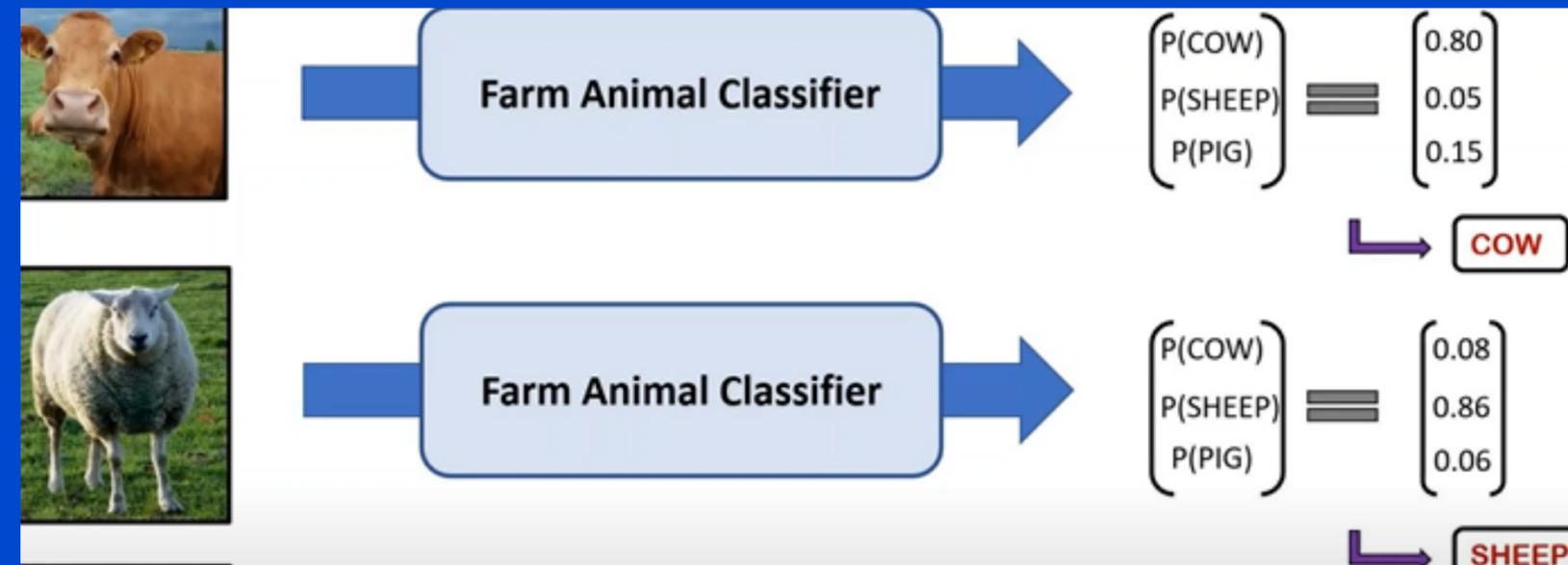
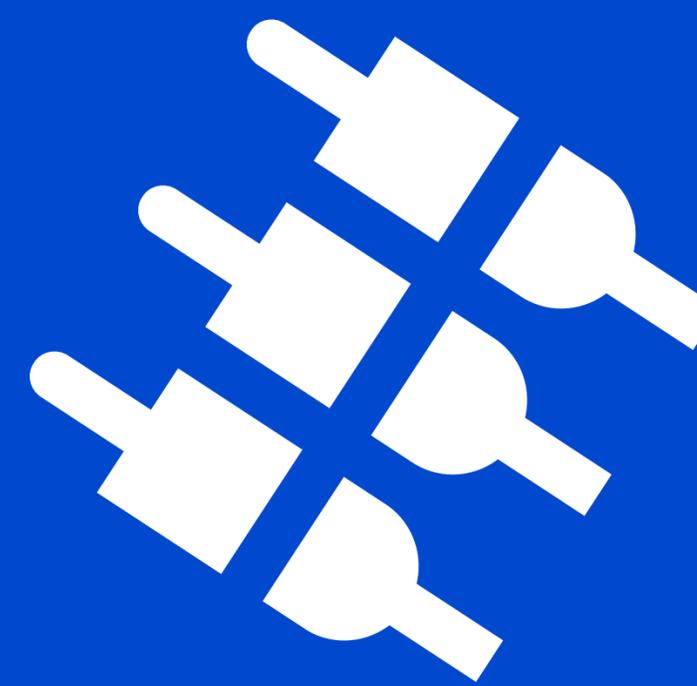


# Sources of uncertainty

- Model Inputs
  - Parameters used in system
  - System surroundings
- Numerical approximations

The iterative convergence error, discretization error, roundoff error and computer programming mistakes.

- Model form
  - Model validation.
  - Epidermic uncertainty.



**Determine total  
uncertainty in  
SRQ**

**Estimate model  
form uncertainty**

**Propagate i/p uncertainties  
through model**

**Estimate uncertainty  
(numerical approximation)**

**Characterize Uncertainty**

**Identify all sources of  
uncertainty**

# Uncertainty framework

The steps in Verification, Validation and Uncertainty framework (Hypersonic nozzle flow)



# Hypersonic nozzle Flow



Arnold Engineering Development Complex crew members lower the NASA/Army Tiltrotor Test Rig into the 40-by 80-foot wind tunnel at Moffett Field in California. (Photo credit: U.S. Air Force)

- Replicates the air movement over aircrafts, vehicles and other objects.
- Engineers use it for further improvement in design, stability and cost effective etc.

# Scenario

- Temperature  $< 80k$  ----> Condensation Occurs
- Decreases the flow quality with that high speed could damage the aircraft model.

## Hypothesis Stated

- To determine that the test section temperature should be greater than or equal to 80k with 95% confidence.

## Findings

- Test section static temperature of 85.3k is resulted through deterministic simulation which is 6% greater than the temperature specified.



# 1. Identify all sources of uncertainty

## *Primary sources*

- Wind tunnel stagnation temperature
- Area downstream of the tunnel throat

## *Other sources*

- stagnation pressure
- Specific gas constant
- Ratio of specific heats
- Tunnel throat radius

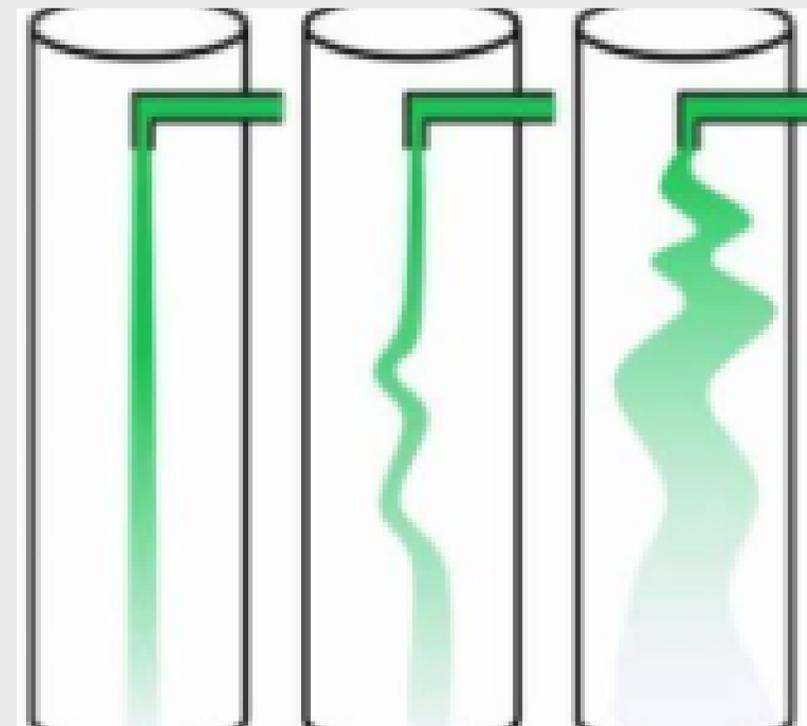


NASA wind tunnel with the scale model of an airplane

## 2. Characterize uncertainties

### *Wind tunnel stagnation temperature*

- It is an aleatory uncertainty
- Through run-to-run experiments, variations are normally distributed with mean stagnation temperature of 1200k with 3.33% coefficient of variation and 40k of standard deviation.



### Area downstream of the tunnel throat

- The wind tunnel side-wall boundary layer is not measured.
- The state of the boundary layer (laminar, transitional, or turbulent) is not known.
- Separate boundary layer simulations are performed (i.e fully laminar and turbulent)
  - Laminar boundary layer - 0.13m
  - Turbulent boundary layer - 0.14m

# 3. Estimate uncertainty due to numerical approximation

## Code Verification

- Removing bugs in the code.
- verification - the exact solution.

## Round-off and iterative error

- Simulations are advanced to achieve a steady state.
- Inserting the current solution of the discrete equations and evaluating the non-zero remainder.
- Iterative residuals are converged 12 orders of magnitude from their initial levels.



## Discretization error

- Estimated by running simulations on three systematically-refined meshes 128, 256, and 512 cells, the test section static temperature was found to be 85.307, 85.824, and 85.954 K, respectively.

## Order of convergence

$$\hat{p} = \frac{\ln \left( \frac{T_{\text{coarse}} - T_{\text{med}}}{T_{\text{med}} - T_{\text{fine}}} \right)}{\ln(r)},$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_0 &= 1200 \text{ K} \\ r_{ts} &= 0.14 \text{ m} \\ r &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Coarse temp} &- 85.954 \text{ K} \\ \text{med temp} &- 85.824 \\ \text{fine temp} &- 85.307 \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{p} = 1.99$$

Richardson extrapolation: Uses two fine grids to obtain an estimate of the value

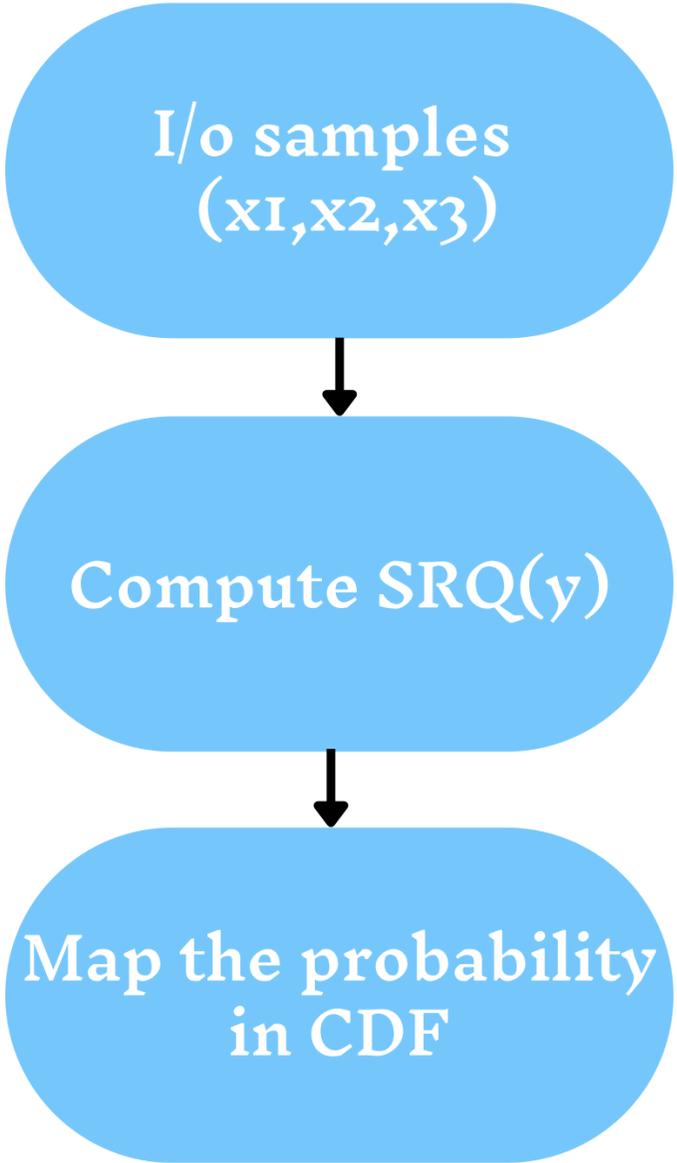
$$\bar{T} = T_{\text{fine}} + \frac{T_{\text{fine}} - T_{\text{med}}}{r^{\hat{p}} - 1} = 85.998 \text{ K.}$$

Roache's Grid Convergence Index uncertainty estimate due to discretization on the coarse mesh of 128 cells

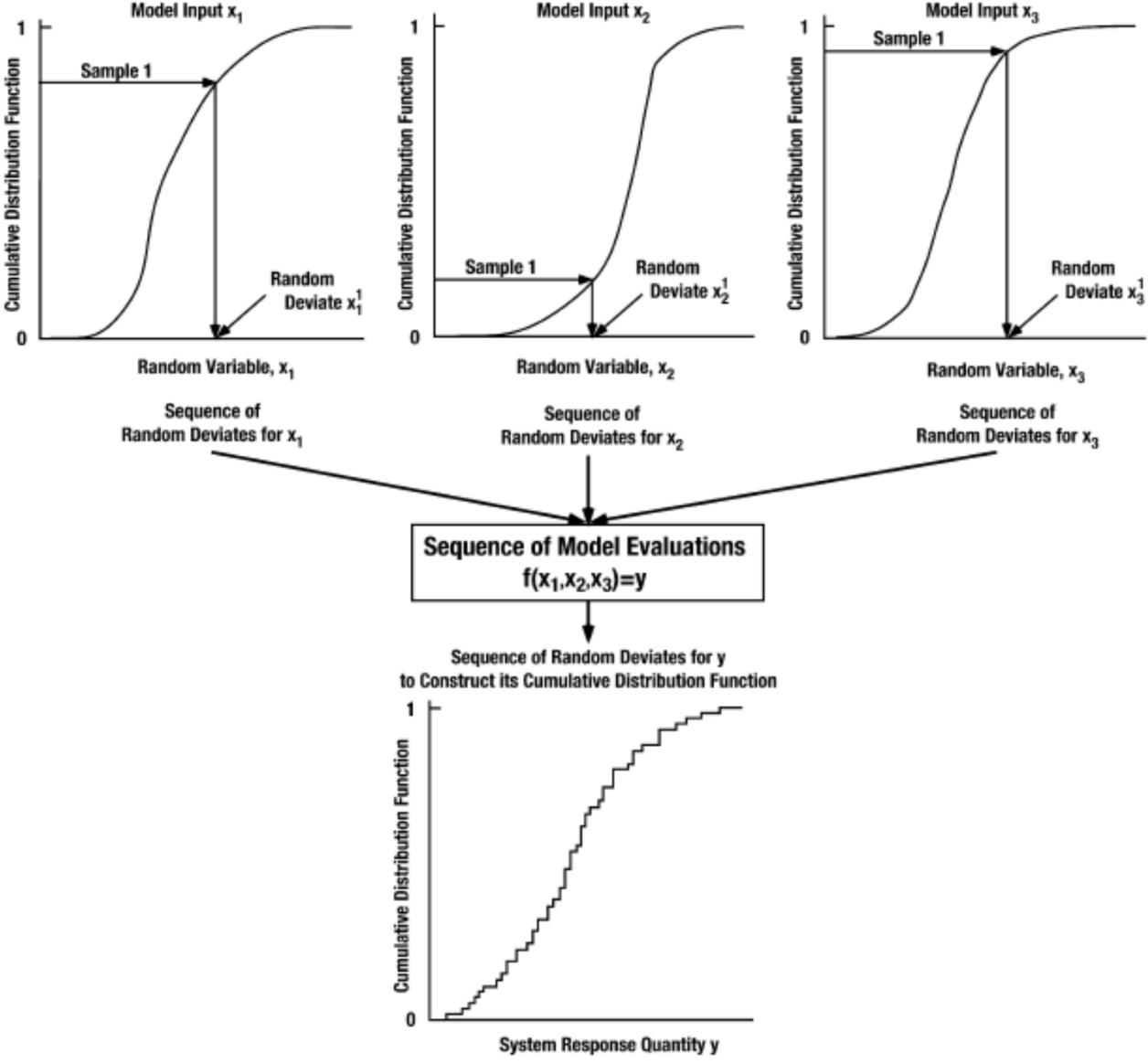
$$U_{\text{NUM}} = U_{\text{DE}} \cong 1.25 |T_{\text{coarse}} - \bar{T}| = 0.86 \text{ K.}$$

# 4. Propagate input uncertainties through the model

Aleatoric uncertainty

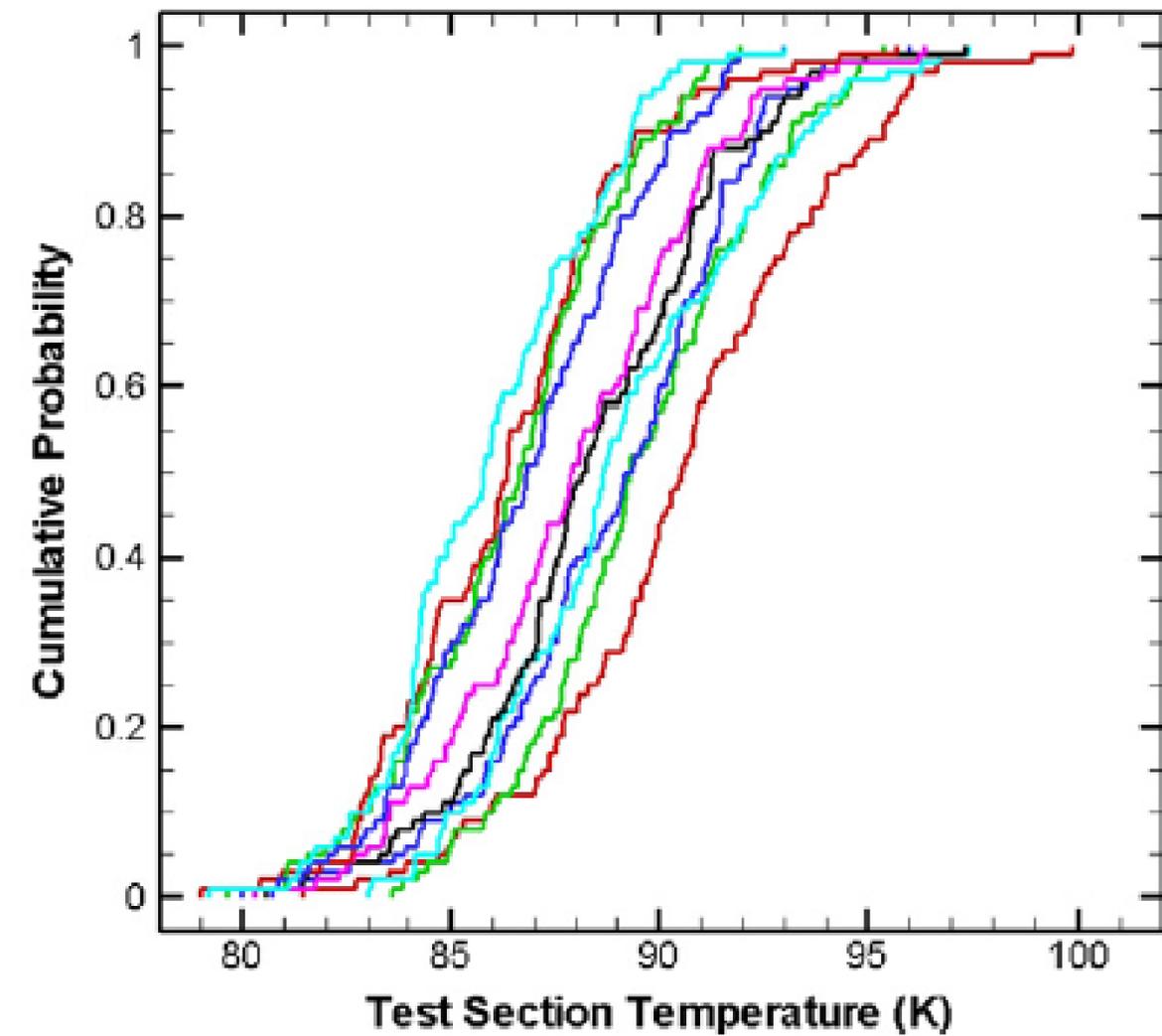
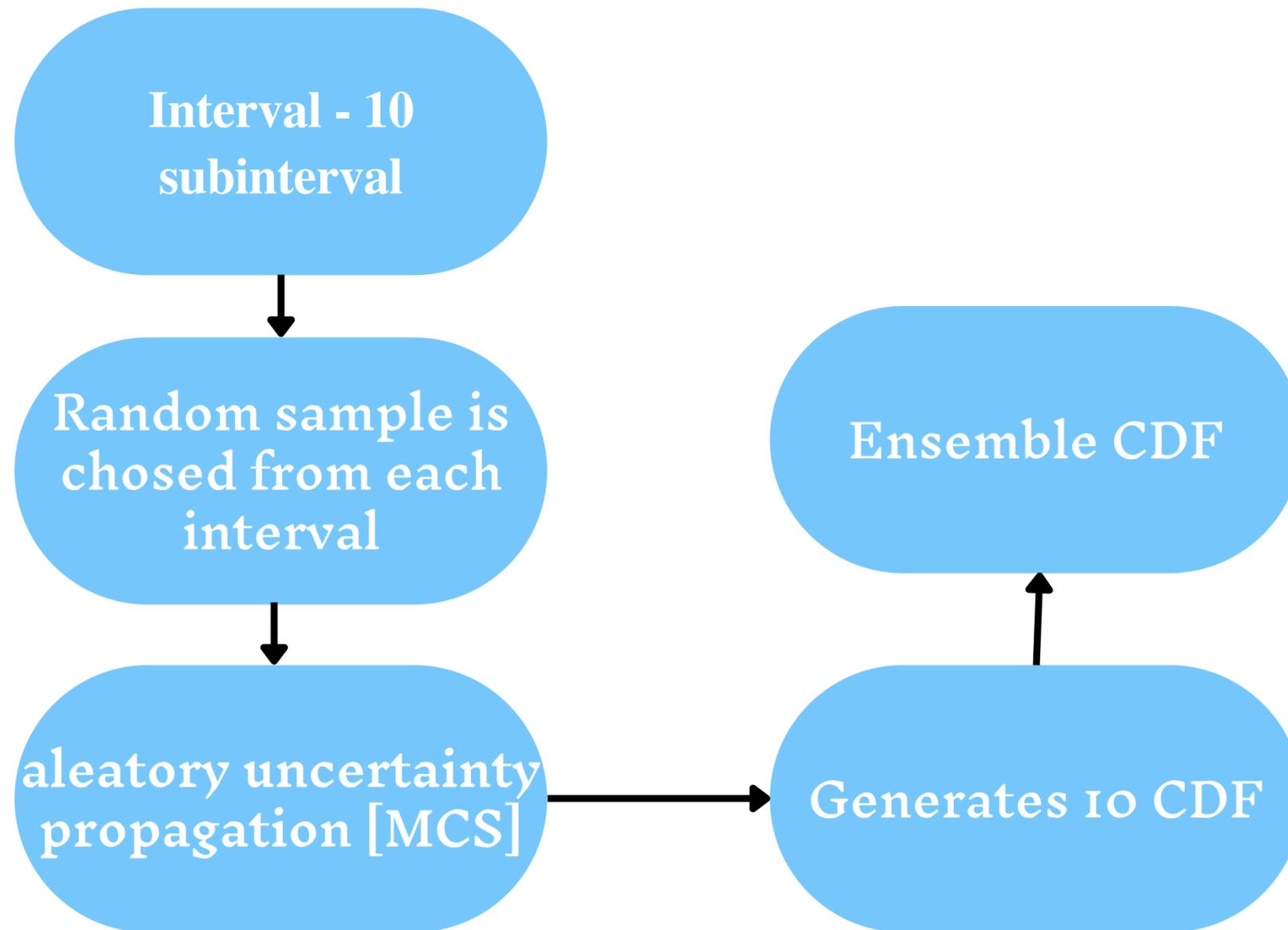


Monte Carlo sampling



C.J. Roy, W.L. Oberkampf / Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg. 200 (2011) 2131-2144

## Epistemic uncertainty



Ensembled CDF

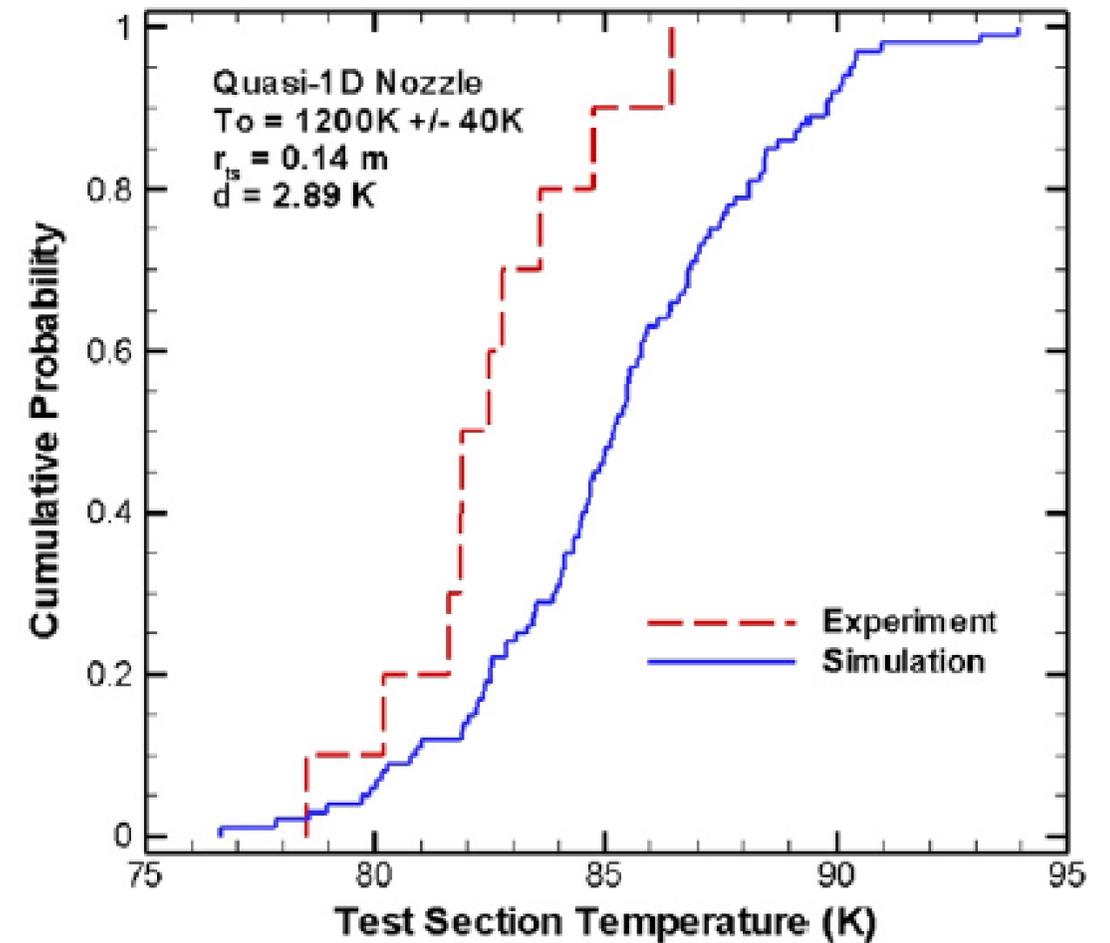
## Latin hypercube sampling

widest extent used to construct P- box

## 5. Estimate model form uncertainty

- Consider an example, for stagnation pressure of 20 MPa, the area validation metric is unknown. Provided three random validation experiment outcomes as sample for stagnation pressure 7MPa,10MPa, 12MPa.

- Ten synthetic measurements of the SRQ (test section static temperature) are chosen to be:  $SRQ_{EXP} = [78.5, 80.2, 81.6, 81.8, 81.9, 82.5, 82.7, 83.6, 84.7, 86.4]$  K
- Propagating the input uncertainty (aleatory and epistemic) through the model to form CDF.
- Retrieving the CDF formed from experimental observation.
- Area between these two CDF is known to be the area validation metric  $d = 2.89$ K.



Computation of Area validation metric  $d$

5. Similarly,

7Mpa - 3.1k

10MPa - 2.89k

12Mpa - 2.8k are computed.

6. Compute Simple Linear Regression from the obtained value considering the stagnation temperature as an independent variable, and area validation metric as the dependent variable

$$\hat{y} = 3.518 - 0.0608x$$

7. Compute prediction interval

$$\hat{y} \pm t_{\alpha/2, N-d} s \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{N} + \frac{N(x - \bar{x})^2}{N \sum_N x_i^2 - (\sum_N x_i)^2}}$$

N - number of validation experiments [N = 3]

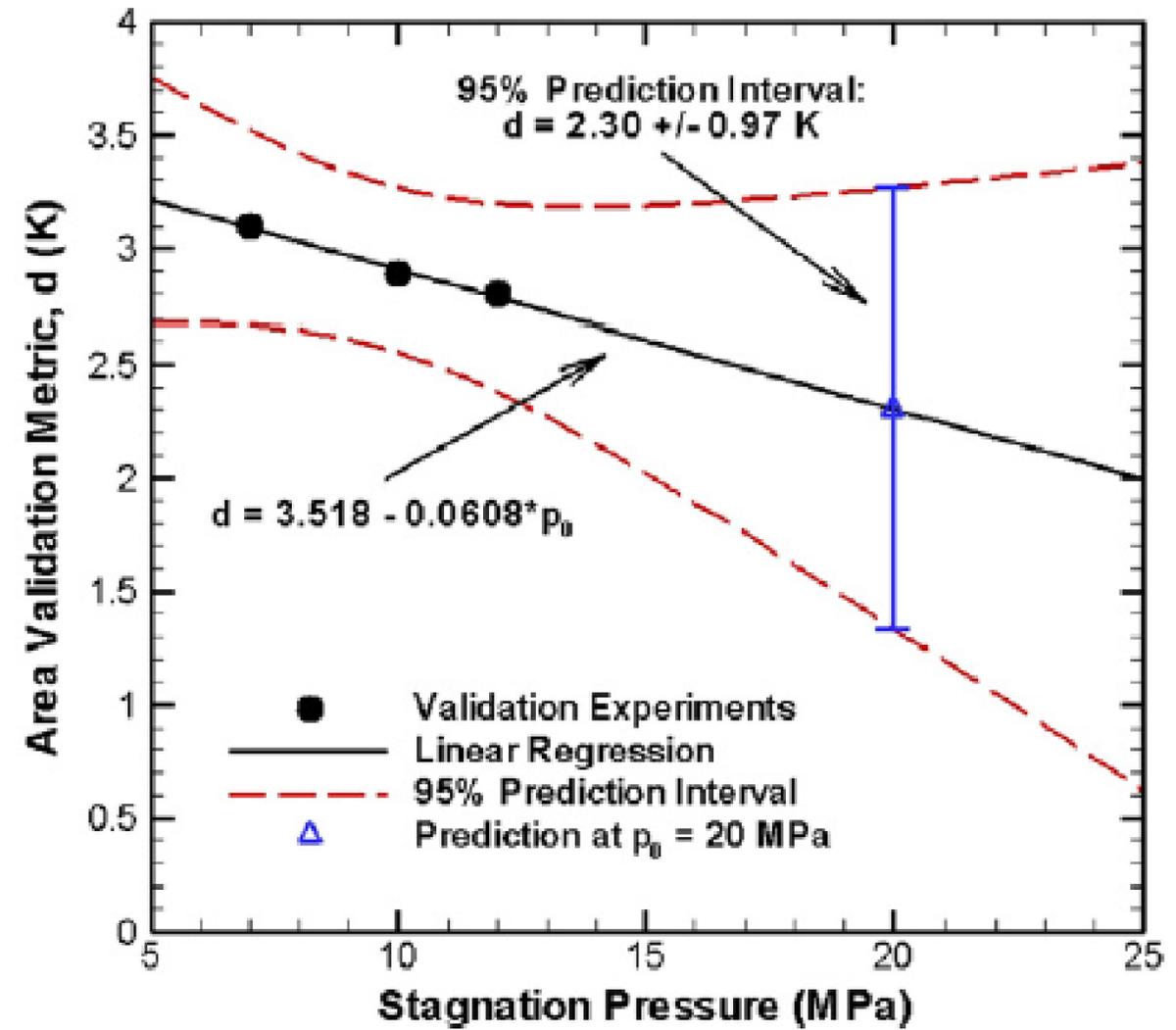
x - stagnation pressure [x=20MPa]

d - degrees of freedom [d=2]

s - sqrt.MSE [s=0.02433k]

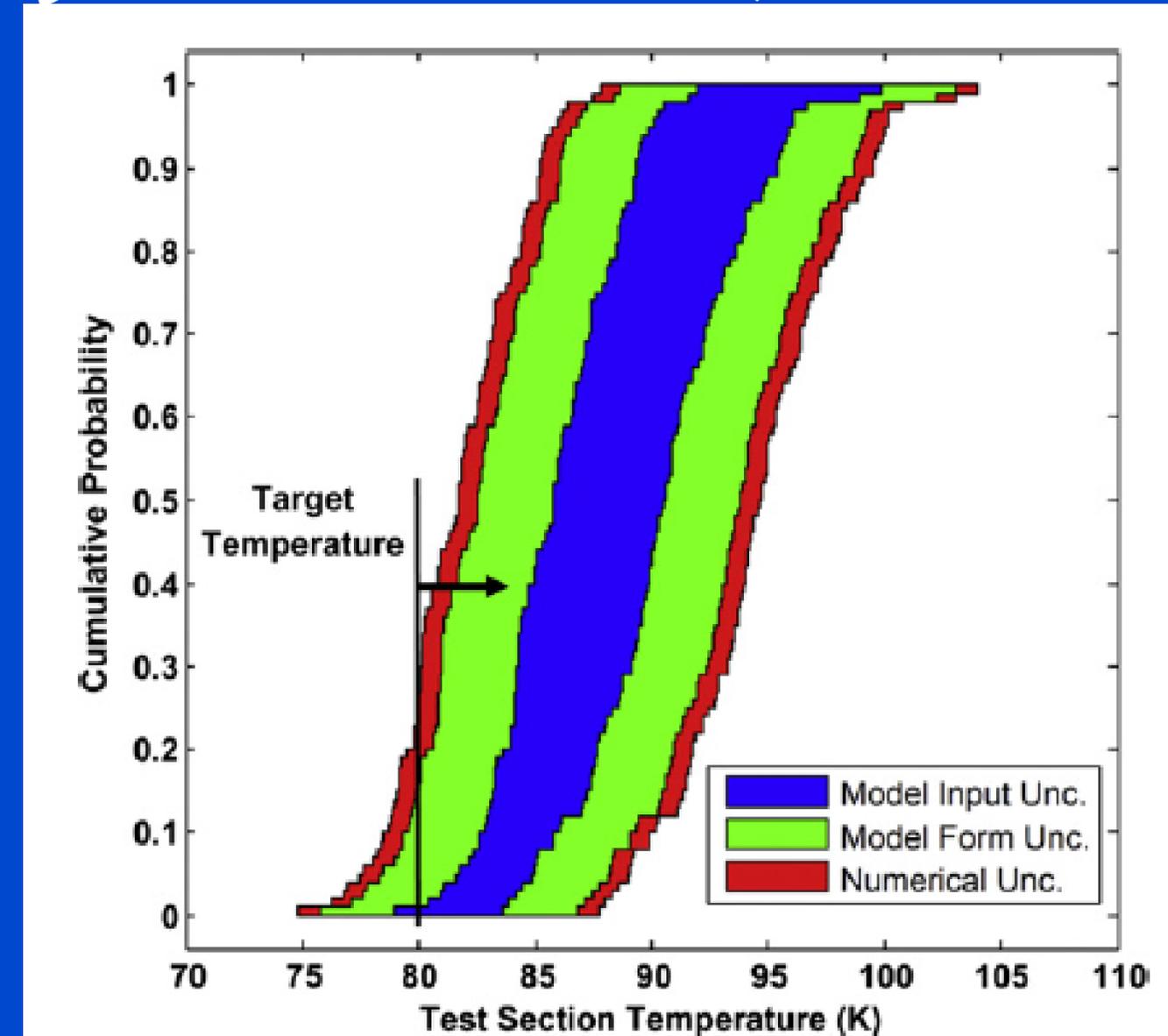
8. The resulting 95% prediction interval for the area validation metric at p = 20 MPa is

$$d = 2.30 \pm 0.97 \text{ K [d=3.27k]}$$



# 6. Determine total uncertainty in the SRQ

1. The p-box is determined by propagating aleatory and epistemic uncertainties model inputs through the model in condition ( $p = 20 \text{ MPa}$ ).
2. Append the area validation metric, i.e.,  $d = 3.27 \text{ K}$ , to the left and right sides of the p-box.
3. Uncertainty due to numerical approximation  $UNUM = 0.86 \text{ K}$  is appended to the left and right sides of the p-box.
4. There is a 25% chance that the test static temperature would fall below 80k at 95% CI.



Nondeterministic prediction of uncertainty

# 6. Conclusion

- This predicted uncertainty is precisely shown to the decision-makers to avoid putting customers or environments at risk from uncertainties.
- It separates the aleatory and epistemic uncertainty and focus on numerical solution error and model form uncertainty directly.

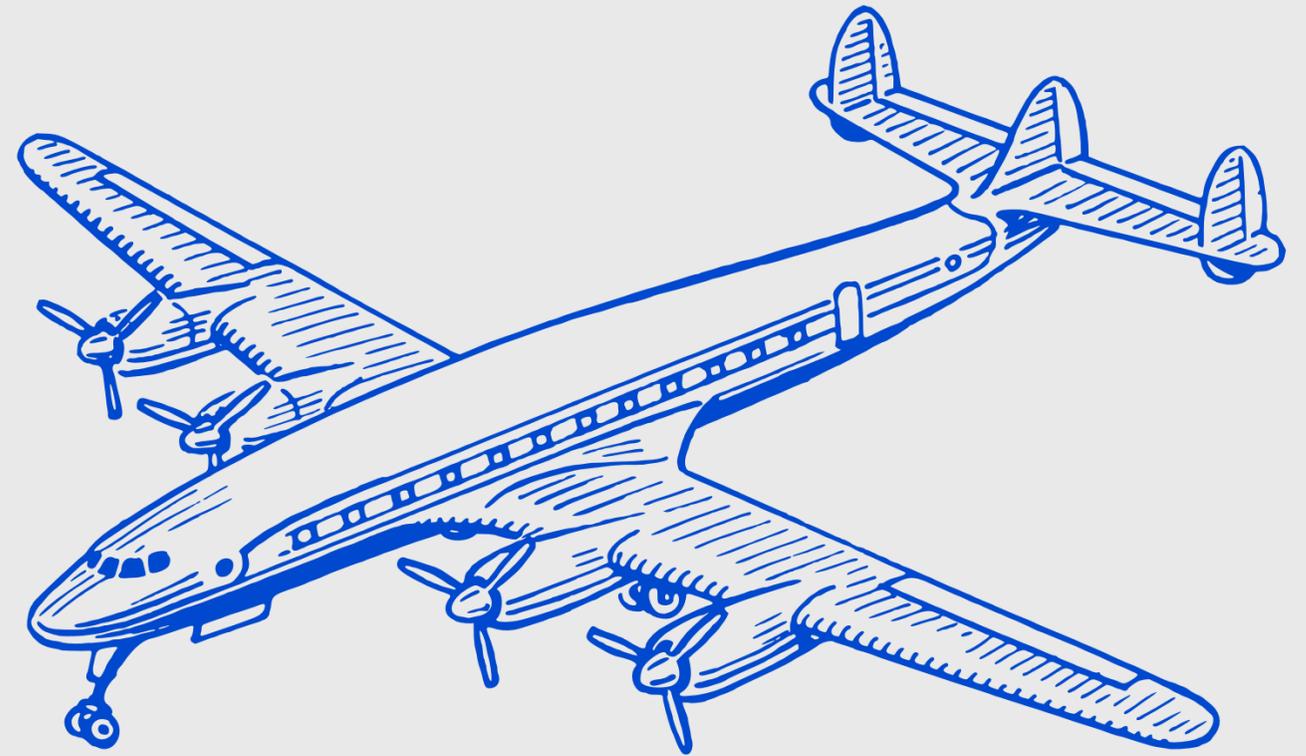


## When it can be used? :

When the decision-makers find the observations or system response quantities to be inaccurate.

## Where it can be used? :

Predictions of high consequences of the system (human lives, national security, safety measures)





**Thank you**

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