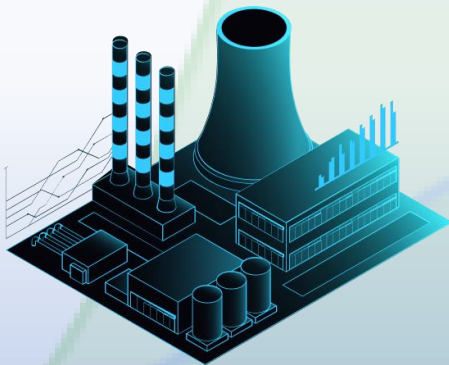




# How Uncertainty Quantification and Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Safety go Hand-in-Hand?



*Speaker: Adolphus Lye, Research Fellow*

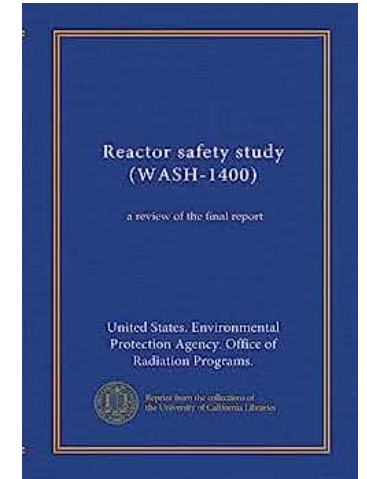
*Date: 18-July-2023*



# PSA in Nuclear Safety and What do we know?

## Conceptual Summary:

- Started with the Rasmussen Report *a.k.a* WASH-1400;
- A data-based stochastic risk modelling approach to study a severe accident;
- A quantitative risk assessment reflecting the probability of occurrence of an event;
- Main objectives:
  - ✓ Identify the different combinations of events leading to the severe accident;
  - ✓ Assessing the corresponding probability of occurrence for each event combination; and
  - ✓ Evaluating the associated consequences for each event combination



# PSA in Nuclear Safety and What do we know?

## Conceptual Summary:

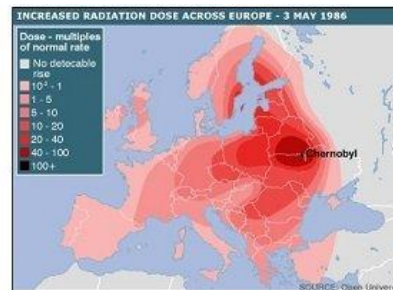
- Scope of Analysis:



**Level 1:**  
Probability of  
core degradation



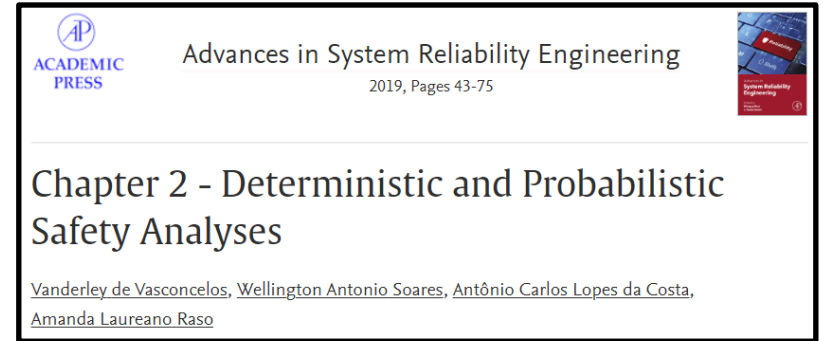
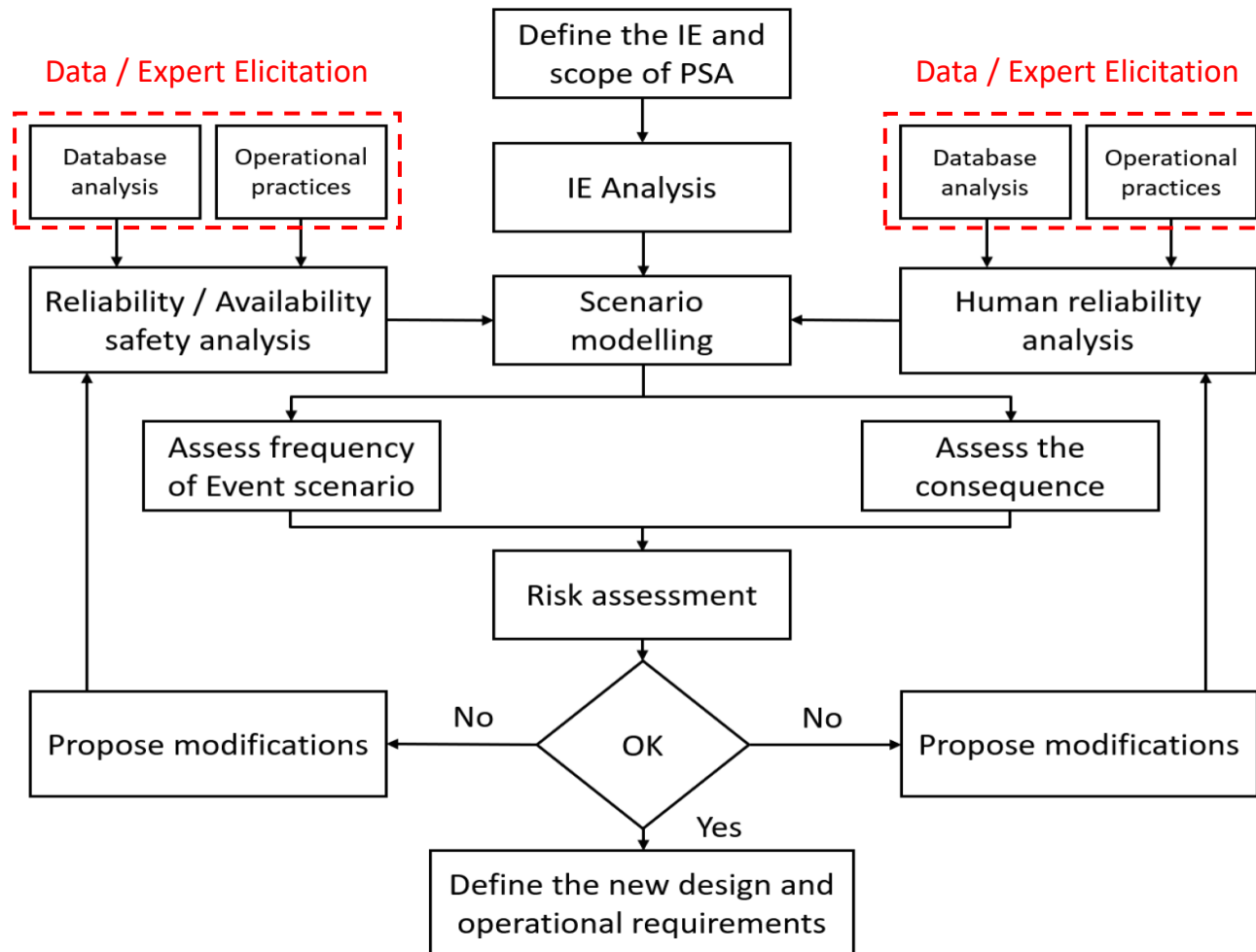
**Level 2:**  
Probability of  
radioactive releases



**Level 3:**  
Probability of impact on  
public and environment



# PSA in Nuclear Safety and What do we know?

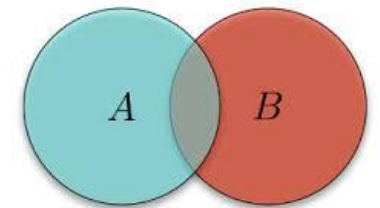
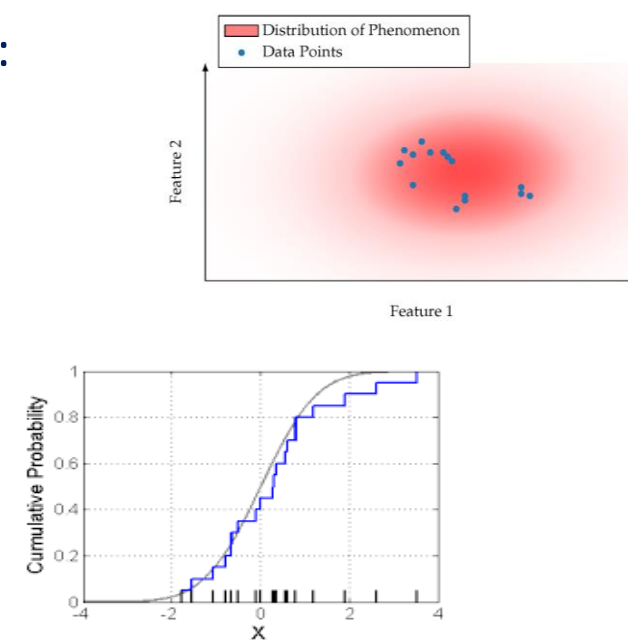


## Tools employed for PSA

ETA	Event Tree Analysis
FTA	Fault Tree Analysis
BN	Bayesian Network Analysis
PN	Petri Net Analysis
BMU	Bayesian Model Updating
RBA	Reliability-based Analysis

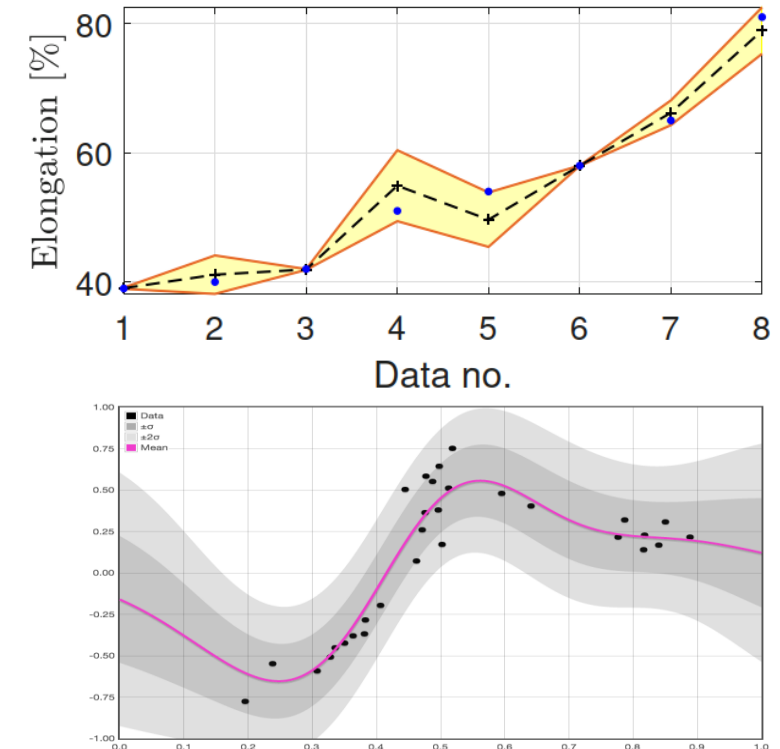
# Challenges with PSA in Nuclear Safety

- Key selling point in PSA is its ability to quantify the risk of a severe accident based on data - e.g. component failure/reliability data or expert judgement;
- However, such technique falls short under the following:
  - ❑ Scarce data / information;
  - ❑ Independence assumption;
  - ❑ Distribution model assumption.



# Challenges with PSA in Nuclear Safety

- **Challenge 1 – Scarce data / information:**
  - Attributed to the high costs, complexity, or the time required to perform experiments – e.g. failure data of a valve or pump;
  - This introduces uncertainty due to lack of knowledge over the probability estimates of root events or component failure;
  - Resulting estimates on the Top event probability would not be meaningful using estimates from the scarce data set (i.e. FTA);
- ❖ **Question: Can we quantify and propagate the uncertainty due to limited data into the resulting probability estimates?**





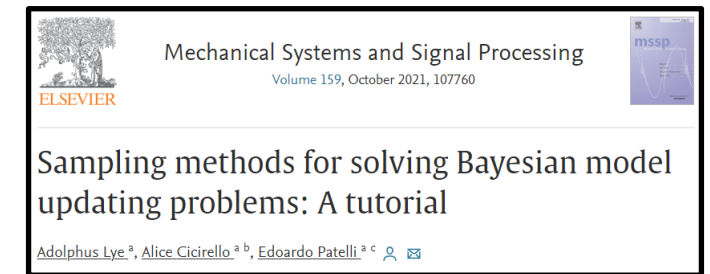
# Solutions and Tools

- **Solutions to Challenge 1:**

- 1) **Bayesian Model Updating**

- ✓ A stochastic approach towards inferring uncertain parameters – e.g. Failure rate parameter;
    - ✓ Based on Bayes' Rule:

$$P(\theta|D, M) = \frac{P(\theta|M) \cdot P(D|\theta, M)}{P(D|M)}$$



- ✓ Estimates are obtained numerically via sampling: Markov Chain Monte Carlo or Sequential Monte Carlo.

- 2) **Interval Arithmetic**

- ✓ To represent uncertain parameters numerically as intervals instead of point values;
    - ✓ Mathematical operations with Intervals:

- $[a, b] \pm [c, d] = [a \pm c, b \pm d]$
      - $[a, b] \times [c, d] = [\min\{ac, ad, bc, bd\}, \max\{ac, ad, bc, bd\}]$
      - $[a, b] \div [c, d] = [a, b] \times \frac{1}{[c, d]}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{[y_1, y_2]} &= \left[ \frac{1}{y_2}, \frac{1}{y_1} \right] && \text{if } 0 \notin [y_1, y_2] \\ \frac{1}{[y_1, 0]} &= \left[ -\infty, \frac{1}{y_1} \right] \\ \frac{1}{[0, y_2]} &= \left[ \frac{1}{y_2}, \infty \right] \\ \frac{1}{[y_1, y_2]} &= \left[ -\infty, \frac{1}{y_1} \right] \cup \left[ \frac{1}{y_2}, \infty \right] \subseteq [-\infty, \infty] && \text{if } 0 \in (y_1, y_2) \end{aligned}$$

# Application Example

## • Solution to Challenge 1: Bayesian Model Updating

Parameter:	Prior:	Likelihood:
Demand failure probability, $\theta$	$P(\theta) = \text{Beta}(\theta; 23, 6717)$	$P(X = 7 \theta) = \text{Bin}(7; 290, \theta)$
Operational failure rate, $\lambda$	$P(\lambda) = \text{Gamma}(22, 2920.63)$	$P(Y = 1 \lambda) = \text{Po}(579.37 \lambda)$

Bayesian Model Updating of Reliability Parameters using Transitional Markov Chain Monte Carlo with Slice Sampling

Adolphus Lye

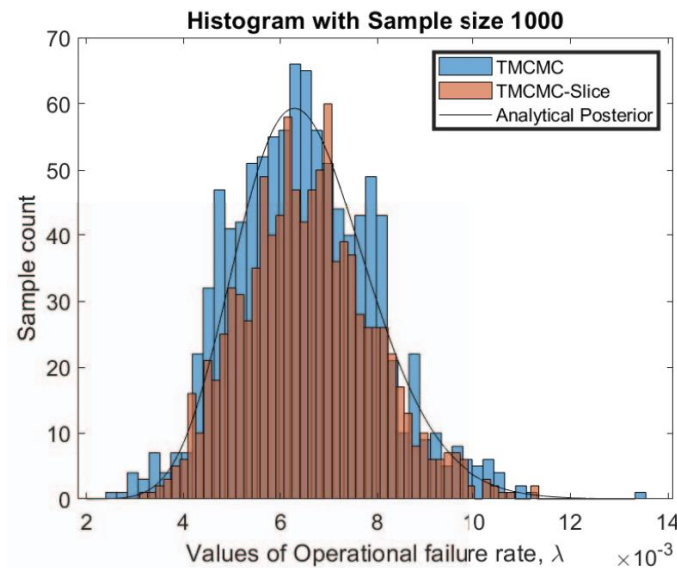
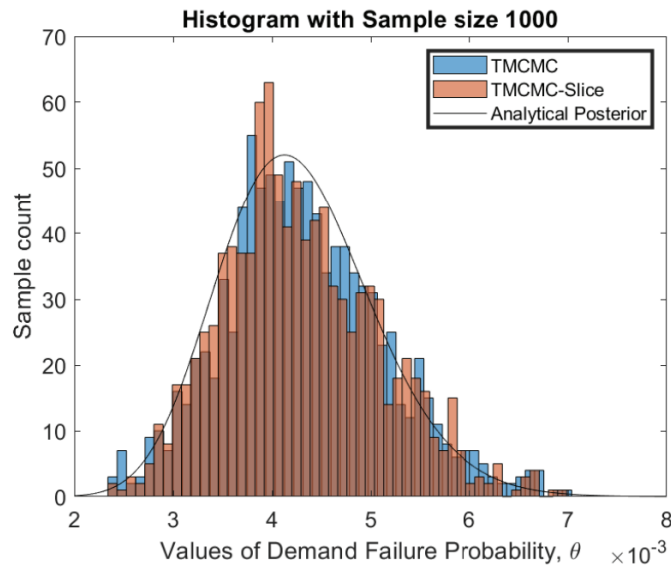
*Institute for Risk and Uncertainty, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.  
E-mail: adolphus.lye@liverpool.ac.uk*

Alice Cicirello

*Dynamics, Vibration and Uncertainty (DVU) Lab, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.  
E-mail: alice.cicirello@eng.ox.ac.uk*

Edoardo Patelli

*Centre for Intelligent Infrastructure, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom.  
E-mail: edoardo.patelli@strath.ac.uk*



Parameter:	TMCMC:	TMCMC-Slice:
$\theta$	$4.32 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $8.16 \times 10^{-4}$ )	$4.29 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $7.92 \times 10^{-4}$ )
$\lambda$	$6.51 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.48 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$6.57 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.34 \times 10^{-3}$ )



# Illustrative Example

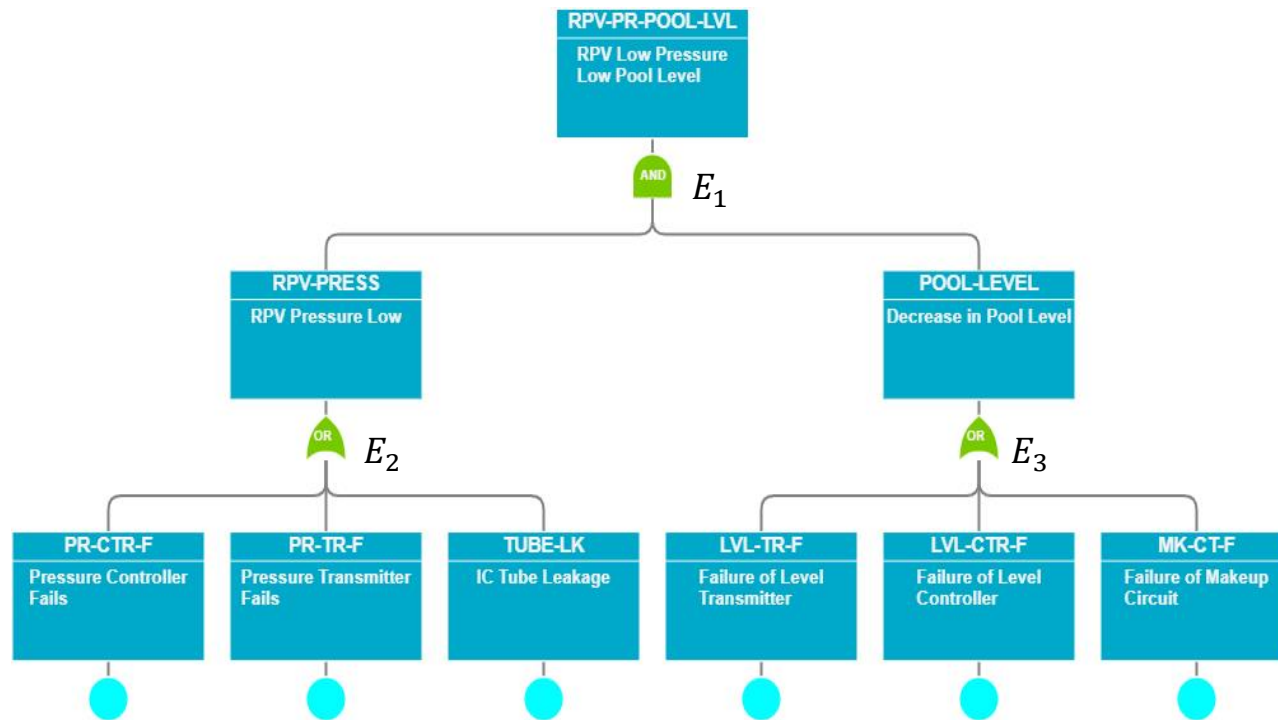
- Solution to Challenge 1: Interval Arithmetic**



ProbabilityBoundsAnalysis.jl:  
Arithmetic with sets of distributions

Ander Gray<sup>1</sup>, Scott Ferson<sup>1</sup>, and Edoardo Patelli<sup>1, 2</sup>

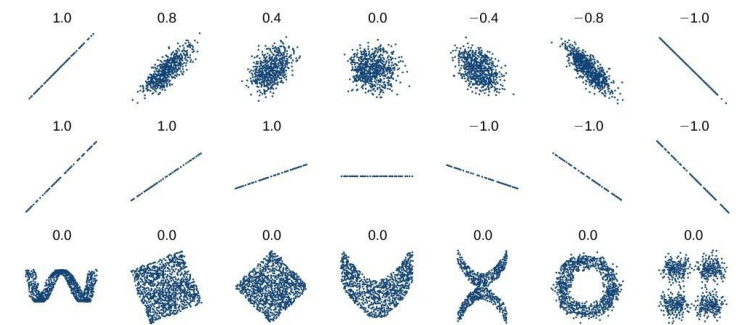
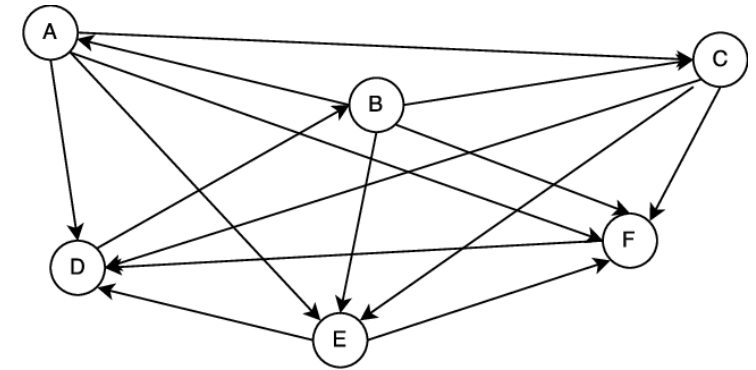
<sup>1</sup>Institute for Risk and Uncertainty, University of Liverpool  
<sup>2</sup>Centre for Intelligent Infrastructure, University of Strathclyde



Component:	Imprecise Probabilities:	Event:	Case 1: Independence
PR-CTR-F	$[5.11, 6.25] \times 10^{-6}$	$E_1$	$[2.85, 4.25] \times 10^{-8}$
PR-TR-F	$[4.61, 5.63] \times 10^{-6}$	$E_2$	$[1.54, 1.88] \times 10^{-4}$
TUBE-LK	$[1.44, 1.76] \times 10^{-4}$	$E_3$	$[1.85, 2.26] \times 10^{-4}$
LVL-TR-F	$[7.92, 9.68] \times 10^{-6}$		
LVL-CTR-F	$[5.11, 6.25] \times 10^{-6}$		
MK-CT-F	$[0.90, 1.10] \times 10^{-4}$		

# Challenges with PSA in Nuclear Safety

- **Challenge 2 – Independence assumption:**
  - A common assumption made that the inter-event dependencies can be neglected – this is done to simplify calculations;
  - However, this does not reflect the reality where such dependencies between events may exist – esp. for multi-unit PSA;
  - Such dependencies are usually not known explicitly and present a source of uncertainty;
- ❖ Question: Can we generalise the probability computation by accounting for the uncertain dependencies?



# Solutions and Tools

- Solution to Challenge 2:**

- 1) Probability Bounds Analysis with Fuzzy Logic & Fréchet Bounds**

## Correlated Boolean Operators for Uncertainty Logic

Enrique Miralles-Dolz<sup>1,2(✉)</sup>, Ander Gray<sup>1,2(✉)</sup>, Edoardo Patelli<sup>3</sup>,  
and Scott Ferson<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute for Risk and Uncertainty, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK  
{enmidol,akgray,ferson}@liverpool.ac.uk

<sup>2</sup> United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Abingdon, UK

<sup>3</sup> Centre for Intelligent Infrastructure, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK  
edoardo.patelli@strath.ac.uk

- General Formulation:**

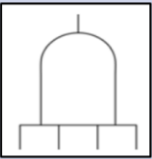
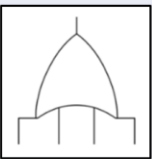
✓ The subset  $S = [\underline{\rho}_{AB}, \overline{\rho}_{AB}] \in [-1, 1]$  are determined as follows:

$$\underline{\rho}_{AB} = \frac{\max(P(A) + P(B) - 1, 0) - P(A) \cdot P(B)}{\sqrt{P(A)P(A')P(B)P(B')}}, \quad \overline{\rho}_{AB} = \frac{\min(P(A), P(B)) - P(A) \cdot P(B)}{\sqrt{P(A)P(A')P(B)P(B')}}$$

✓ As such, to ensure that the answers for  $P(A \cap B) \in [0, 1]$ :

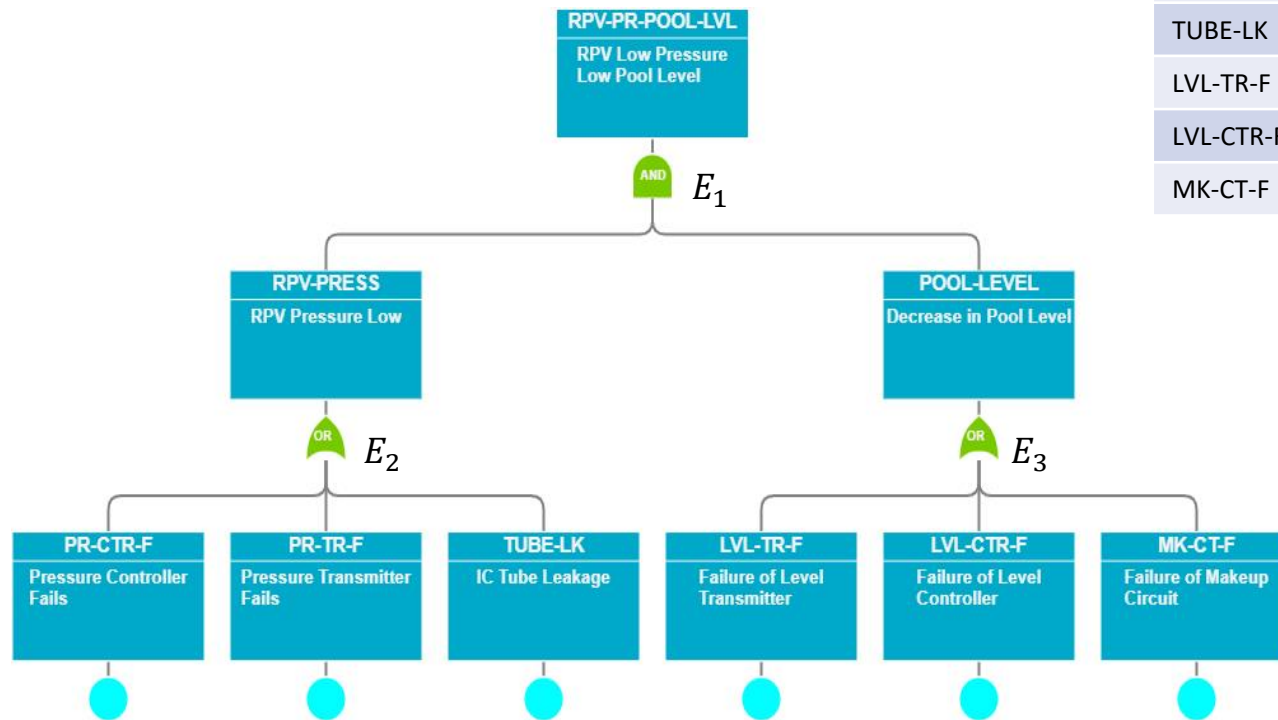
$$P(A \cap B) \begin{cases} \max(P(A) + P(B) - 1, 0), & \text{if } \rho_{AB} \leq \underline{\rho}_{AB} \\ \min(P(A), P(B)), & \text{if } \rho_{AB} \geq \overline{\rho}_{AB} \\ P(A)P(B) + \rho_{AB} \cdot \sqrt{P(A)P(A')P(B)P(B')}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$P(A \cup B) = 1 - P(A' \cap B')$$

Logic Type:	Formula:
 <p>AND</p>	$\max\left(0, \sum_{k=1}^n P(A_k) - (n-1)\right) \leq P\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k\right) \leq \min_k\{P(A_k)\}$
 <p>OR</p>	$\max_k\{P(A_k)\} \leq P\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n A_k\right) \leq \min\left(1, \sum_{k=1}^n P(A_k)\right)$

# Illustrative Example

## • Solution to Challenge 2: Probability Bounds Analysis with Fuzzy Logic & Fréchet Bounds



Component:	Imprecise Probabilities:
PR-CTR-F	$[5.11, 6.25] \times 10^{-6}$
PR-TR-F	$[4.61, 5.63] \times 10^{-6}$
TUBE-LK	$[1.44, 1.76] \times 10^{-4}$
LVL-TR-F	$[7.92, 9.68] \times 10^{-6}$
LVL-CTR-F	$[5.11, 6.25] \times 10^{-6}$
MK-CT-F	$[0.90, 1.10] \times 10^{-4}$

### Correlated Boolean Operators for Uncertainty Logic

Enrique Miralles-Dolz<sup>1,2</sup>, Ander Gray<sup>1,2</sup>, Edoardo Patelli<sup>3</sup>, and Scott Ferson<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute for Risk and Uncertainty, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK  
{enmidol, akgray, ferson}@liverpool.ac.uk

<sup>2</sup> United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Abingdon, UK

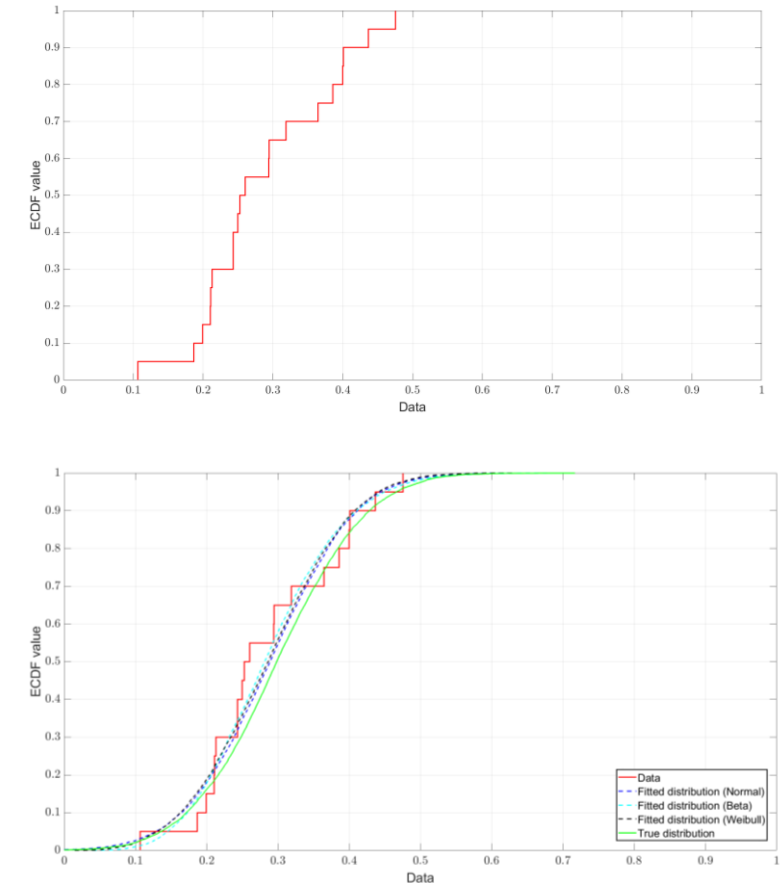
<sup>3</sup> Centre for Intelligent Infrastructure, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK  
edoardo.patelli@strath.ac.uk

Event:	Case 2: Mixed Dependence	Case 3: Uncertain Dependence
$E_1$	$\rho = 0$	$\rho = [-1, 1]$
$E_2$	$\rho = [-0.3, 0.1]$	
$E_3$	$\rho = 0.15$	

Event:	Case 2: Mixed Dependence	Case 3: Uncertain Dependence
$E_1$	$[2.50, 3.86] \times 10^{-8}$	$[0.00, 1.88] \times 10^{-4}$
$E_2$	$[1.48, 1.88] \times 10^{-4}$	$[1.44, 1.88] \times 10^{-4}$
$E_3$	$[1.68, 2.06] \times 10^{-4}$	$[0.00, 1.88] \times 10^{-4}$

# Challenges with PSA in Nuclear Safety

- **Challenge 3 – Distribution model assumption:**
  - Presently, precise distribution models have been fitted on a given data-set, even when the data-set is small;
  - Beta distribution to model Demand-based failure; Gamma distribution to model Failure rate; and Exponential distribution to model Time-based failure;
  - Such assignments are done in a deterministic manner;
  - ❖ Question: Can we loosen the precision or assumption over the distribution of the failure probability?



# Solutions and Tools

- **Solutions to Challenge 3:**

- 1) **Bayesian Model Selection**

- ✓ Based on Bayes' Rule:

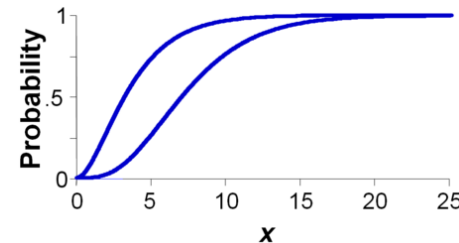
$$P(\theta|D, M) = \frac{P(\theta|M) \cdot P(D|\theta, M)}{P(D|M)}$$

- ✓  $P(D|M)$  is obtained numerically to rank the choice of model: Transitional Markov Chain Monte Carlo.

- 2) **Probability boxes**

- ✓ Imprecise CDF expressed as distributional bounds;
    - ✓ Mathematically expressed as:

$$\underline{F}(x) \leq F(x) \leq \bar{F}(x)$$



- ✓ Mainly categorised into two distinct types:
      - ❑ Distributional – constructed from a known distribution family, e.g. Normal, or Beta
      - ❑ Distribution-free – constructed from empirical distributions or via matching moments



**Transitional Markov Chain Monte Carlo Method  
for Bayesian Model Updating, Model Class Selection,  
and Model Averaging**

Jianye Ching<sup>1</sup> and Yi-Chu Chen<sup>2</sup>

**Constructing probability boxes  
and Dempster-Shafer structures\***

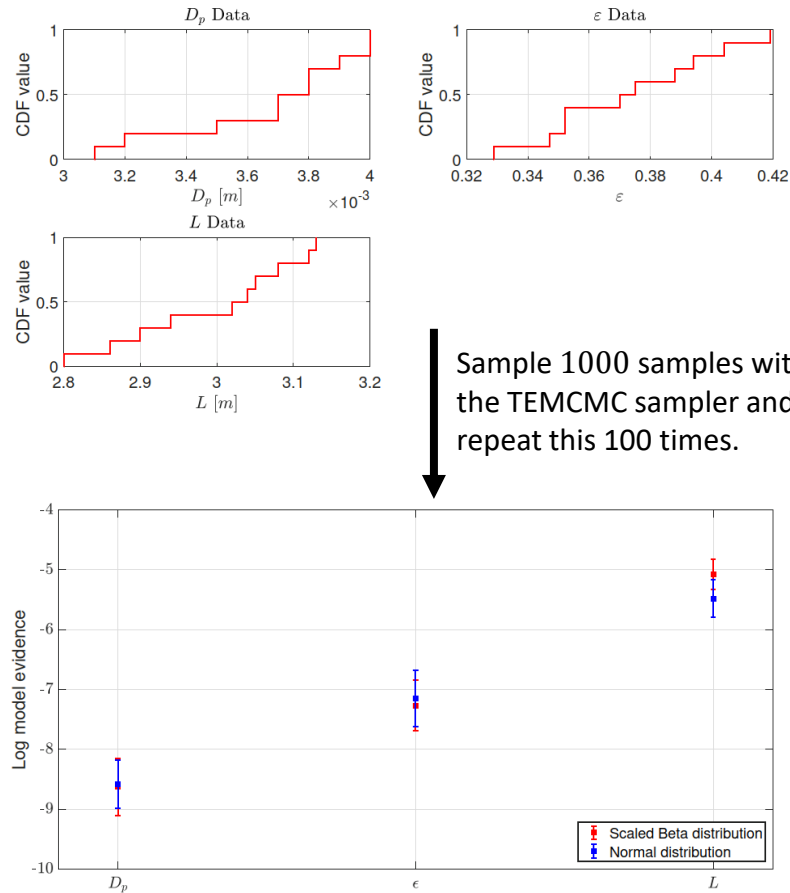
Scott Ferson, Vladik Kreinovich, Lev Ginzburg, Davis S. Myers  
Applied Biomathematics  
100 North Country Road  
Setauket, New York 111733

Kari Sentz  
Systems Science and Industrial Engineering Department  
Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science  
Binghamton University  
P.O. Box 6000  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000



# Illustrative Example


## • Solutions to Challenge 3: Bayesian Model Selection



Sample 1000 samples with the TEMCMC sampler and repeat this 100 times.


Variable:	Distribution candidates:	
$D_p$	Normal ( $\mu, \sigma$ )	$0.0005 \times \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$
$\epsilon$	Normal ( $\mu, \sigma$ )	$0.5 \times \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$
$L$	Normal ( $\mu, \sigma$ )	$5 \times \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$

Variable:	Normal	Beta
$D_p$	-8.5844 (0.4011)	-8.6268 (0.4808)
$\epsilon$	-7.1504 (0.4707)	-7.2679 (0.4195)
$L$	-5.4810 (0.3116)	-5.0708 (0.2526)





Mechanical Systems and Signal Processing

Volume 167, Part B, 15 March 2022, 108471



### An efficient and robust sampler for Bayesian inference: Transitional Ensemble Markov Chain Monte Carlo

Adolphus Lye<sup>a</sup>, Alice Cicirello<sup>a, b</sup>, Edoardo Patelli<sup>a, c</sup>  

### ROBUST PROBABILITY BOUNDS ANALYSIS FOR FAILURE ANALYSIS UNDER LACK OF DATA AND MODEL UNCERTAINTY

Adolphus Lye<sup>1,4</sup>, Ander Gray<sup>2,4</sup>, Marco de Angelis<sup>3,4</sup>, and Scott Ferson<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Singapore Nuclear Research and Safety Initiatives, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
e-mail: snrltsa@nus.edu.sg

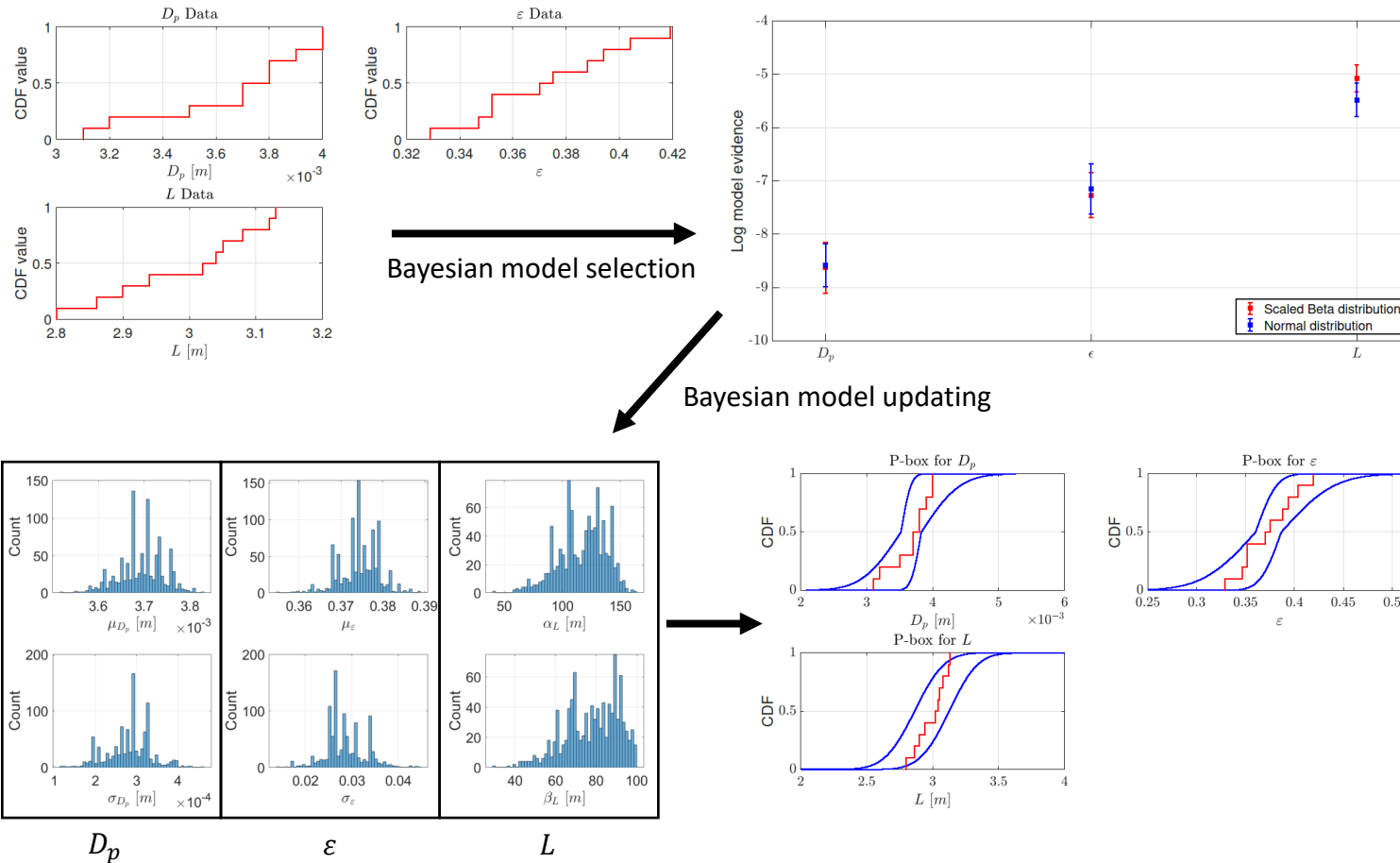
<sup>2</sup> United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, United Kingdom  
e-mail: ander.gray@ukaea.uk

<sup>3</sup> University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom  
e-mail: marco.de-angelis@strath.ac.uk

<sup>4</sup> Institute for Risk and Uncertainty, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom  
e-mail: {adolphus.lye, akgray, mda, ferson}@liverpool.ac.uk

# Illustrative Example

## • Solution to Challenge 3: Probability Boxes (Distributional)



### ProbabilityBoundsAnalysis.jl: Arithmetic with sets of distributions

Ander Gray<sup>1</sup>, Scott Ferson<sup>1</sup>, and Edoardo Patelli<sup>1, 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Risk and Uncertainty, University of Liverpool

<sup>2</sup>Centre for Intelligent Infrastructure, University of Strathclyde

### ROBUST PROBABILITY BOUNDS ANALYSIS FOR FAILURE ANALYSIS UNDER LACK OF DATA AND MODEL UNCERTAINTY

Adolphus Lye<sup>1,4</sup>, Ander Gray<sup>2,4</sup>, Marco de Angelis<sup>3,4</sup>, and Scott Ferson<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Singapore Nuclear Research and Safety Initiatives, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
e-mail: snrltsa@nus.edu.sg

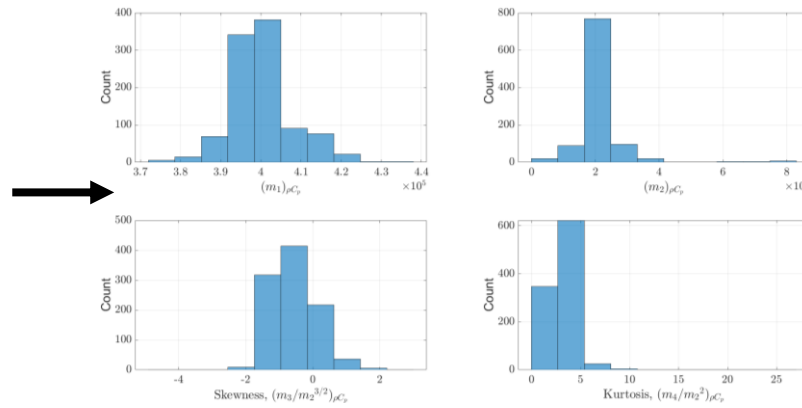
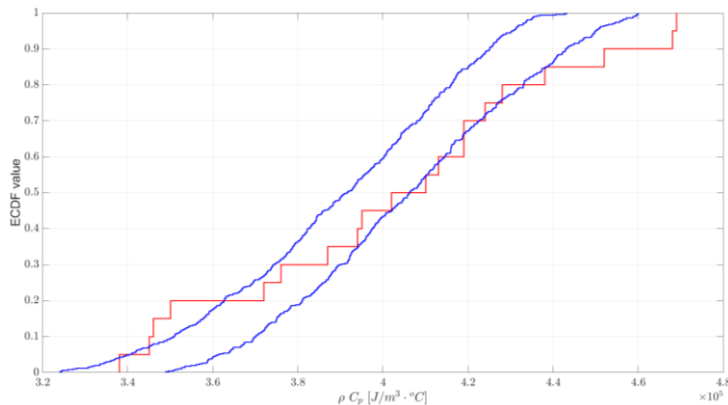
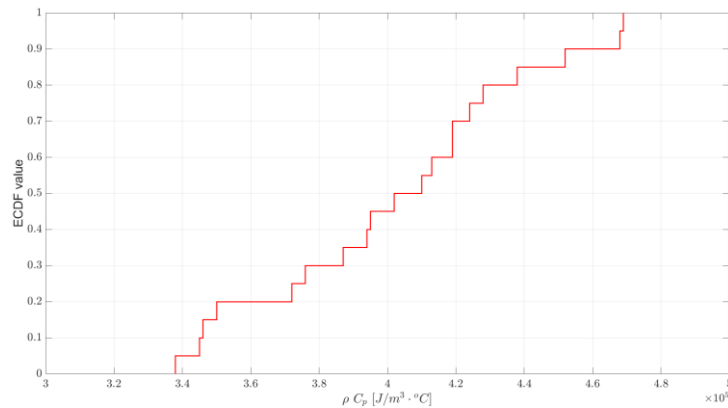
<sup>2</sup> United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, United Kingdom  
e-mail: ander.gray@ukaea.uk

<sup>3</sup> University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom  
e-mail: marco.de-angelis@strath.ac.uk

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e-mail: {adolphus.lye, akgray, mda, ferson}@liverpool.ac.uk

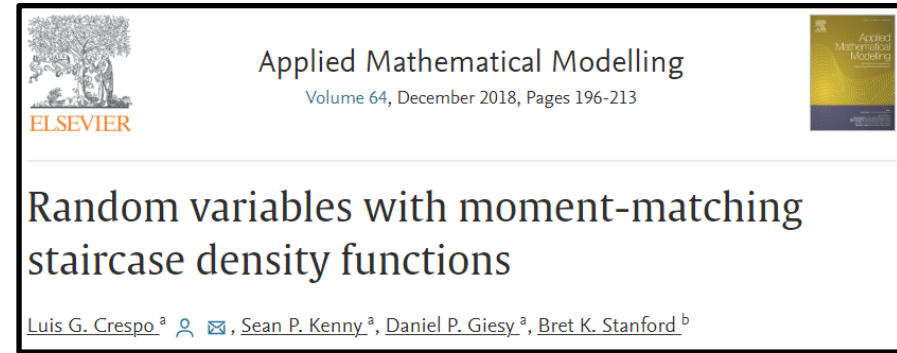
# Illustrative Example

## • Solution to Challenge 3: Probability Boxes (Distribution-free)



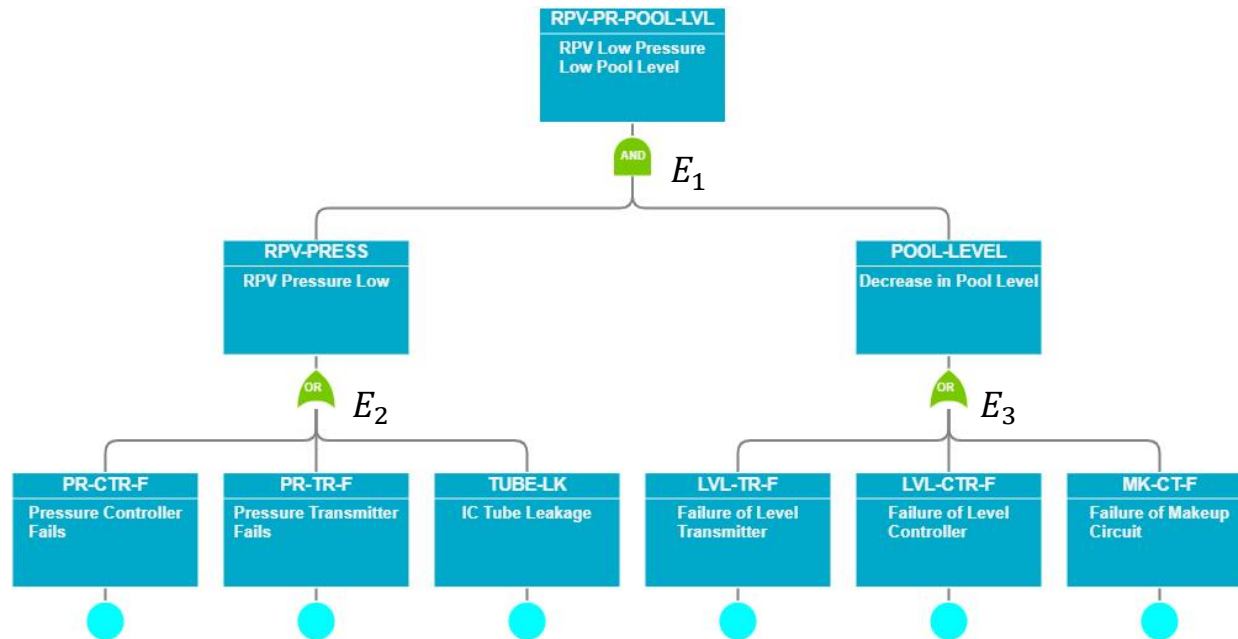
- ✓ The Staircase density function is a meta-model to model distributions using the method of matching moments:

$$m_r = \int (z - \mu)^r \cdot f(z) \cdot dz, r = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$$



# Illustrative Example

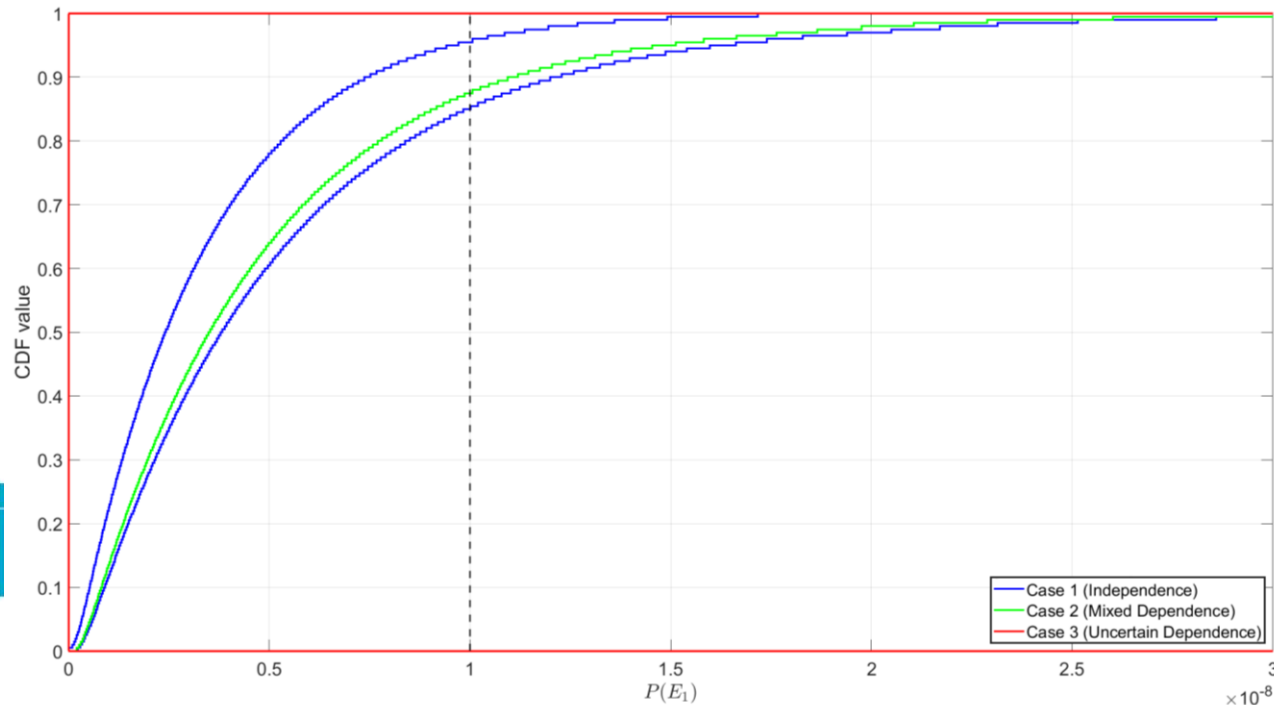
- Solution to Challenge 3: Probability Boxes** (Probabilistic Risk Analysis)



Component:	Imprecise Distributions (P-box):
PR-CTR-F	$\exp([6.39, 7.81] \times 10^{-7})$
PR-TR-F	$\exp([5.76, 7.04] \times 10^{-7})$
TUBE-LK	$\exp([1.80, 2.20] \times 10^{-5})$
LVL-TR-F	$\exp([0.99, 1.21] \times 10^{-6})$
LVL-CTR-F	$\exp([6.39, 7.81] \times 10^{-7})$
MK-CT-F	$[0.90, 1.10] \times 10^{-4}$

# Illustrative Example

- Solution to Challenge 3: Probability Boxes (Probabilistic Risk Analysis)**



Event:	Case 1: Independence	Case 2: Mixed Dependence	Case 3: Uncertain Dependence
$E_1$	$\rho = 0$	$\rho = [-0.01, 0]$	$\rho = [-1, 1]$
$E_2$		$\rho = [-0.3, 0.1]$	
$E_3$		$\rho = 0.15$	

- Consider the case where the required failure probability of the tank be no more than  $10^{-8}$  such that  $P(E_1) \leq 10^{-8}$ :

Event:	Case 1: Independence	Case 2: Mixed Dependence	Case 3: Uncertain Dependence
$E_1$	[0.850, 0.955]	[0.875, 1.00]	[0.00, 1.00]

# Summary



## Challenge 1 – Scarce data / information

- Can we quantify and propagate the uncertainty due to limited data into the resulting probability estimates?



### Solutions to Challenge 1:

- Bayesian Model Updating
- Interval arithmetic

## Challenge 2 – Independence assumption

- Can we generalise the probability computation by accounting for the uncertain dependencies?



### Solution to Challenge 2:

- Probability Bounds Analysis with Fuzzy Logic & Fréchet bounds

## Challenge 3 – Distribution model assumption

- Can we loosen the precision or assumption over the distribution of the failure probability?



### Solutions to Challenge 3:

- Bayesian model selection
- Probability boxes (Distributional or Distribution-free)

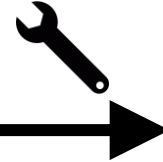


# Summary



## Solutions to Challenge 1:

- Bayesian Model Updating
- Interval arithmetic



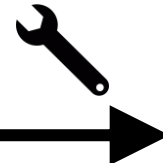
### Tools available:

- Transitional Ensemble Markov Chain Monte Carlo  
([https://github.com/Adolphus8/Transitional\\_Ensemble\\_MCMC.git](https://github.com/Adolphus8/Transitional_Ensemble_MCMC.git))
- Probability Bounds Analysis Julia Package  
(<https://github.com/AnderGray/ProbabilityBoundsAnalysis.jl.git>)



## Solution to Challenge 2:

- Probability Bounds Analysis with Fuzzy Logic & Fréchet bounds



### Tools available:

- Uncertain Boolean Logic Julia Package  
(<https://github.com/Institute-for-Risk-and-Uncertainty/UncLogic.jl.git>)
- Probability Bounds Analysis Julia Package  
(<https://github.com/AnderGray/ProbabilityBoundsAnalysis.jl.git>)



## Solutions to Challenge 3:

- Bayesian model selection
- Probability boxes (Distributional or Distribution-free)



### Tools available:

- Transitional Ensemble Markov Chain Monte Carlo  
([https://github.com/Adolphus8/Transitional\\_Ensemble\\_MCMC.git](https://github.com/Adolphus8/Transitional_Ensemble_MCMC.git))
- Staircase Density Function  
(<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apm.2018.07.029>)



# Conclusion

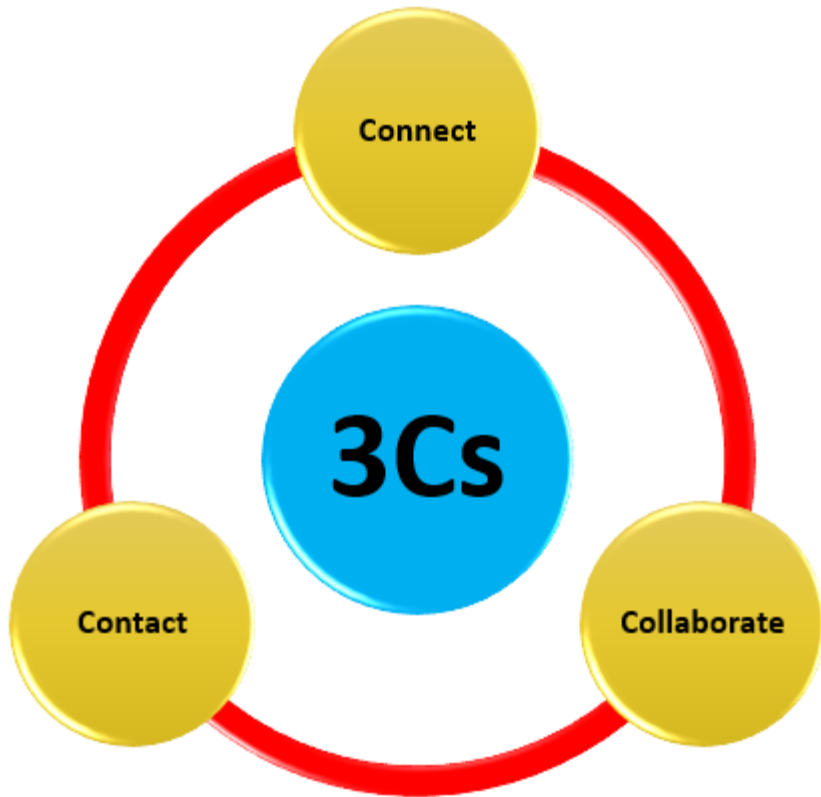
- As useful as PSA is in quantifying the risk of a severe accident, its capabilities are limited by the data size and the underlying assumptions made in the calculations involved;
- These challenges bring forth the need for UQ tools to address the problems highlighted and to loosen the underlying assumptions;
- In doing so, it provides for a more realistic and robust PSA framework as the uncertainty is quantified and reflected in resulting risk estimates;
- There remains opportunities to extend current methods in twinning PSA with UQ to bring forth “fuzzy” yet meaningful bounds on the risk estimates and a distribution-free approach towards the risk analysis.

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