

Introduction to Uncertainty Quantification

A probabilistic perspective

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28/08/2023

$$\sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_S^2}$$



Outline

1. A simple case study: Fragility curves
2. Uncertainty quantification framework
3. Monte Carlo Simulation
4. Conclusions

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1. A simple case study: Fragility curves

2. Uncertainty quantification framework

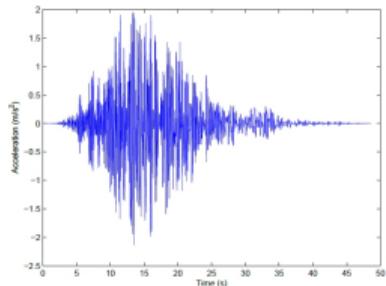
Aleatory vs. epistemic uncertainty
Common framework

3. Monte Carlo Simulation

Moments- and distribution analysis
UQ with Monte Carlo Simulation
Back to EXAR

4. Conclusions

Uncertainties in earthquake engineering



Earthquakes are not predictable in nature. **Historical records** help develop probabilistic models:

- ▶ **Occurrence:** # earthquakes of large magnitude (Gutenberg-Richter law)

$$\log_{10} N_{\text{Mag} > M} = a - b M$$

- ▶ **Attenuation law:** link between local intensity measure (e.g. **Peak Ground Acceleration** (PGA)) and earthquake properties

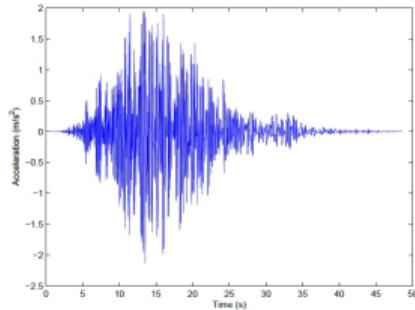
$$\log \text{PGA} = c_1 + c_2 M - c_3 \log R - c_4 R + \varepsilon$$

where M is the magnitude, R is the source-to-site distance

Response of structures to earthquakes

- ▶ The effect of earthquakes on structures may be assessed by finite element models, e.g. **nonlinear transient analysis** under different ground motions (accelerograms)
- ▶ Each accelerogram is characterized by its peak ground acceleration:

$$\text{PGA} = \max_{t \in [0, T]} |a(t)|$$

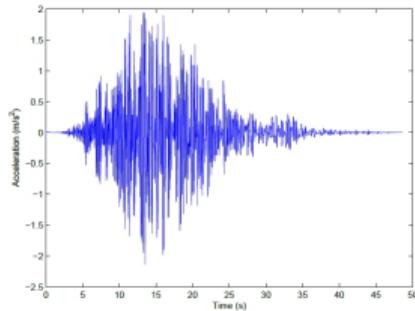


- ▶ Different earthquakes with the same PGA may have a different impact on the structure, e.g. in terms of **maximal interstorey drift**

Response of structures to earthquakes

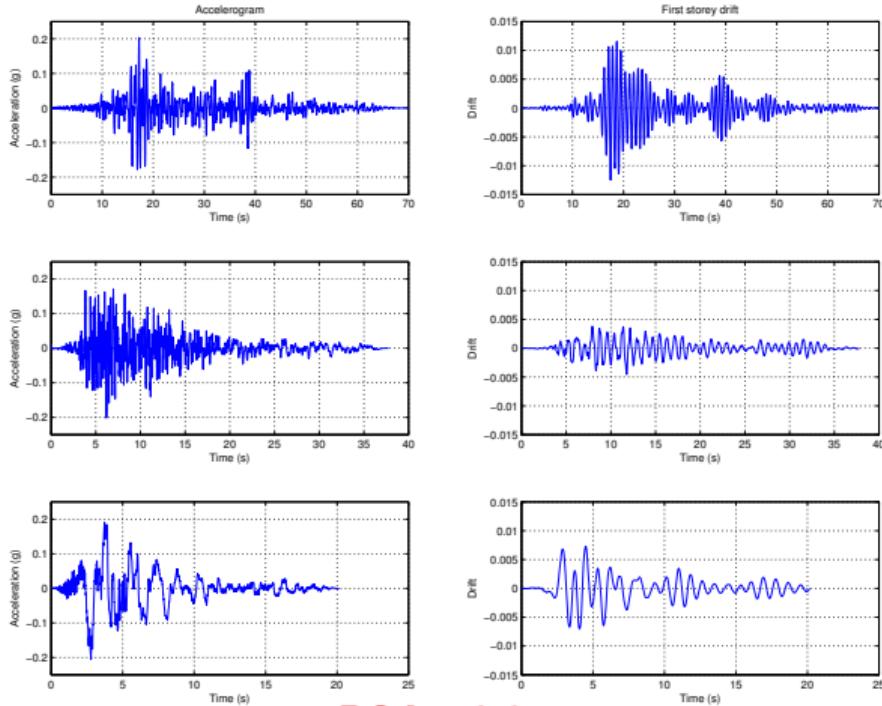
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Example: 3 accelerograms and associated maximal drift



PGA = 0.2 g

Sources of uncertainty

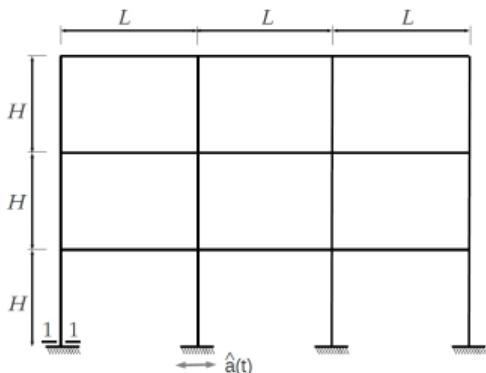
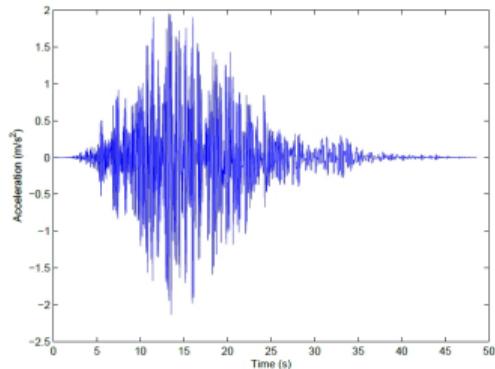
Earthquake

- ▶ Magnitude
- ▶ Duration, frequency content
- ▶ Peak ground acceleration

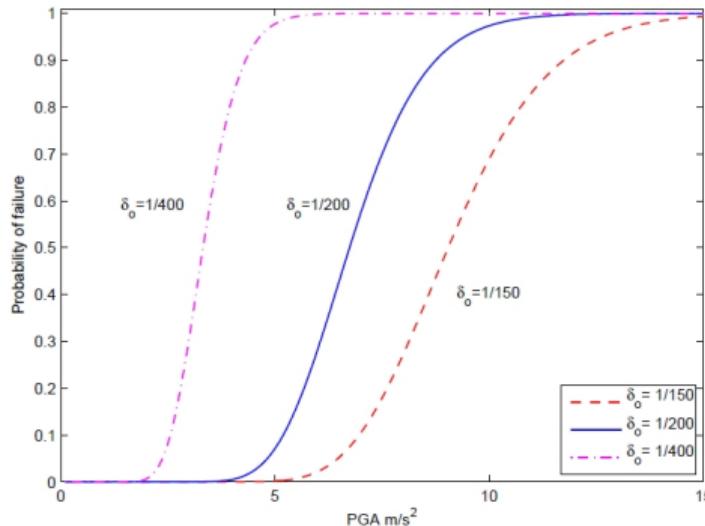
Structure

- ▶ Geometrical description (existing buildings)
- ▶ Material strength
- ▶ Ductility of the connections
- ▶ Damping

As a consequence a quake with given PGA may or may not lead to failure/collapse



Fragility curves



- ▶ An engineering demand parameter (e.g. the maximal interstorey drift Δ) is defined
- ▶ The vulnerability of the structure is represented by a fragility curve:

$$\text{Frag}(\text{PGA}) = \mathbb{P} (\Delta \geq \delta_0 | \text{PGA})$$

- ▶ It is the probability of attaining some state of damage conditionally on the PGA
- ▶ Damage-related costs may be incorporated towards a global risk assessment: performance-based engineering

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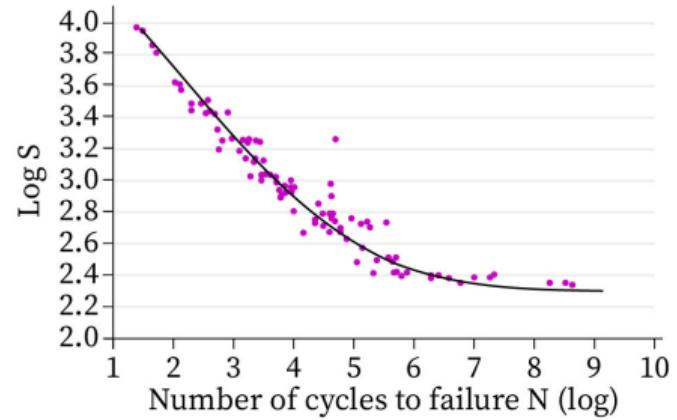
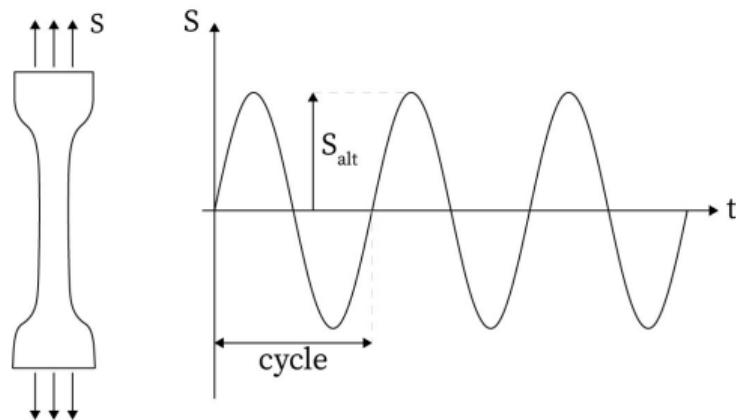
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Aleatory uncertainty

Definition

The parameter under consideration e.g. a material property is “naturally variable” from one specimen to the other: this is called **intrinsic variability**

Example : the fatigue life time of a specimen



Aleatory uncertainty

Dimensions of specimens

- ▶ Size and morphology of people
- ▶ Height / width of concrete beams



Material properties

- ▶ Prefabricated concrete elements
- ▶ Glue laminated beams

Aleatory uncertainty

Time variability



- ▶ When designing offshore structures the wave height and the wind velocity are variable in time at a given point
- ▶ From sufficiently long records this randomness may be analyzed and modelled by **stochastic processes**

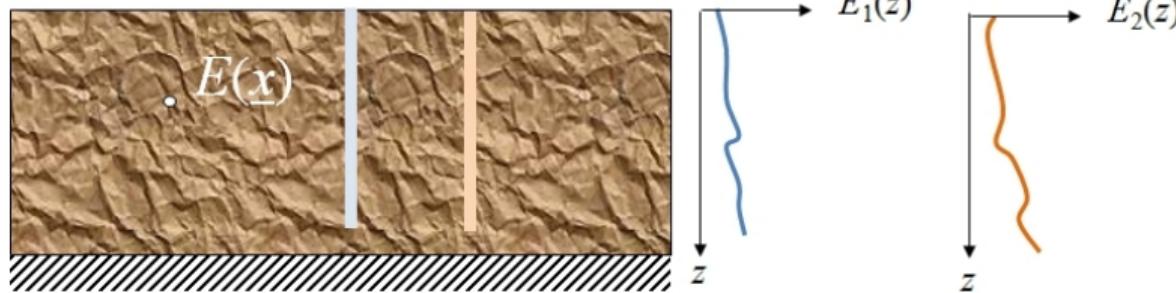
Aleatory uncertainty

Spatial variability



Potrerillos dam, Argentina

- ▶ The soil properties (e.g. friction angle, cohesion) are varying in space within the soil mass
- ▶ From soil core samples the spatial variability may be represented by **random fields**



Epistemic uncertainty

Measurement uncertainty



- ▶ In order to select values as input of computational models, experimental data is gathered through **measurements**
- ▶ Any measurement device has a **limited precision** and resolution which is given by the provider

This **measurement uncertainty** is (theoretically) **reducible** e.g. by using a more accurate device.

Epistemic uncertainty

Measurement uncertainty

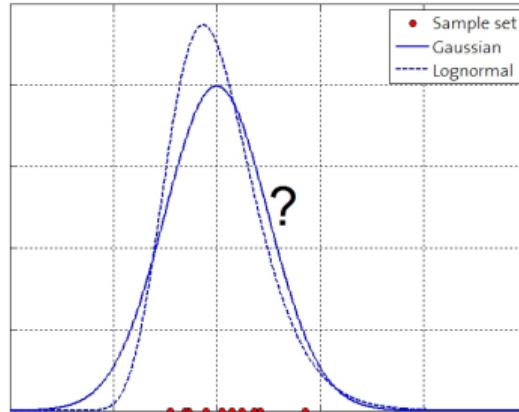


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Epistemic uncertainty

Statistical uncertainty



Given is a sample set of values of concrete strength

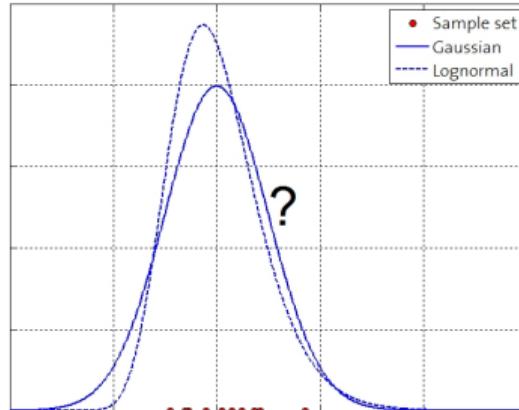
- ▶ What is the 5%-characteristic value that could be used for design ?
- ▶ What is the best fitting distribution (probability density function (PDF))?

- ▶ The number of observations is always limited: **statistical uncertainty**
- ▶ This uncertainty may be **reduced** by increasing the size of the data set

These types of uncertainty are called **epistemic** since they are not intrinsic but result from some lack of information / knowledge

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Classification of uncertainties

Aleatory uncertainty

- ▶ Refers to the natural variability of some parameter
- ▶ Is **irreducible**: more data will exhibit more extreme values

Epistemic uncertainty

- ▶ The name comes from the Greek word *ἐπιστήμη* (épistêmê): science / knowledge
- ▶ Refers to a lack of knowledge or information
- ▶ Is (in principle) reducible

NB:

- ▶ This classification is always related to a specific time- and space description of the system
- ▶ Both types will be modelled by **probability theory** hereon

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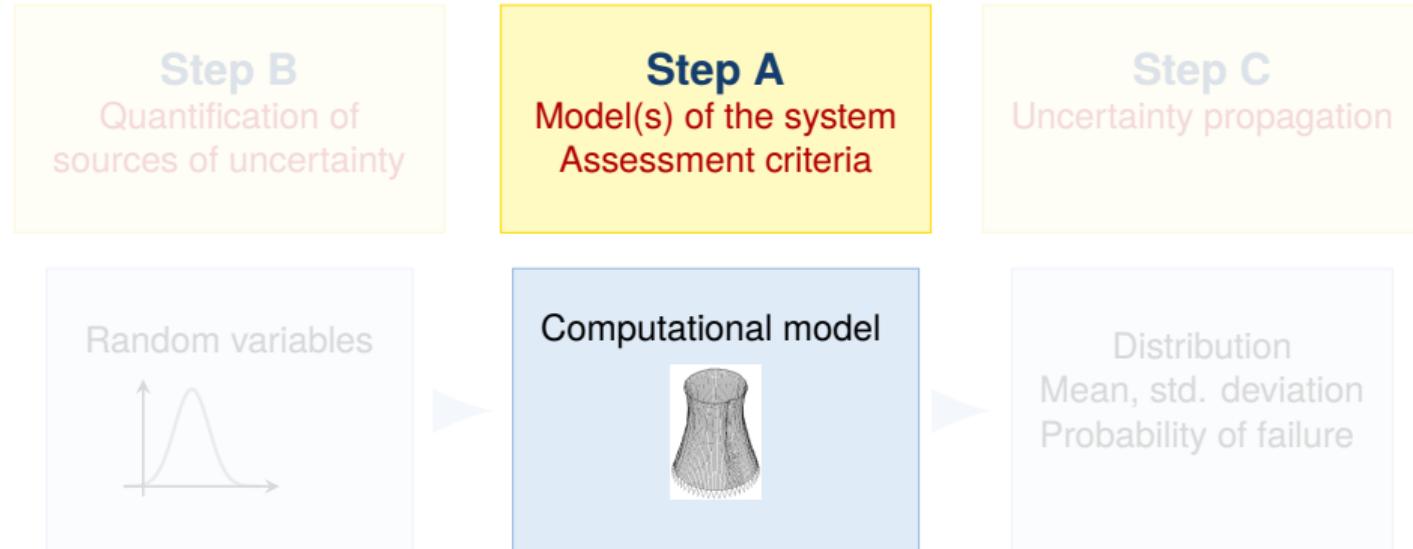
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Common features of the previous examples

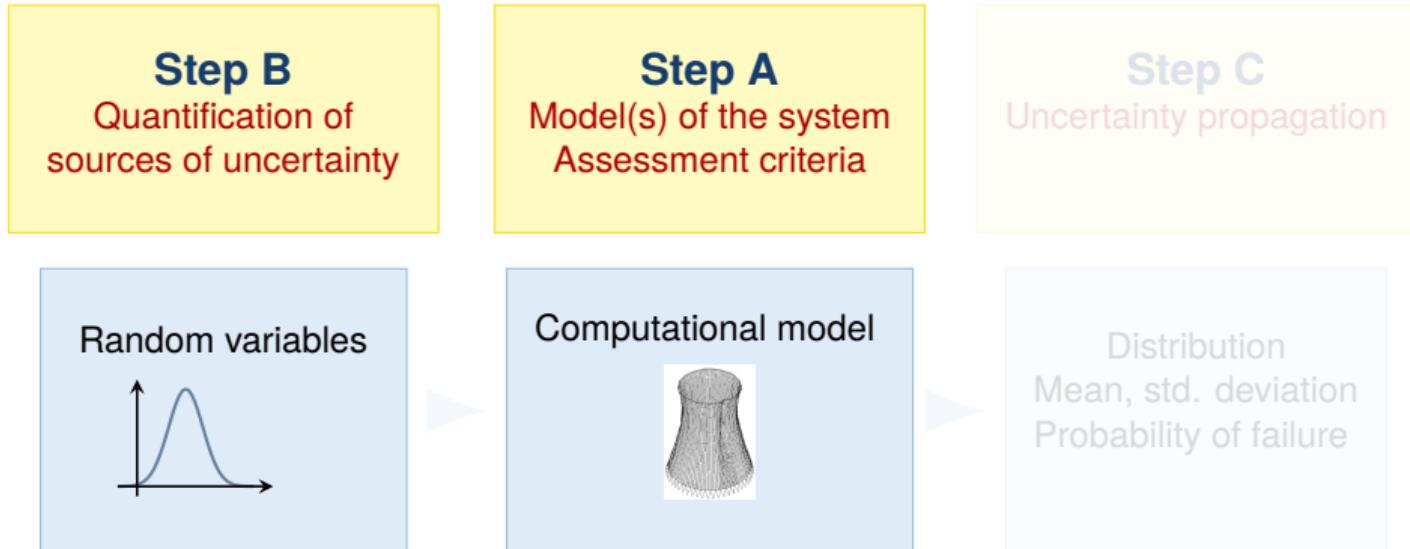
- ▶ A computational model that describes the physics of the problem and computes some quantities of interest which have a meaningful use for decision making
- ▶ Various sources of uncertainty in the parameters
- ▶ Possibly time- or space variability of the uncertain parameters
- ▶ A large spectrum of statistical output quantities:
 - mean, standard deviation
 - distribution, quantiles
 - probability of exceedance/failure

Global framework for uncertainty quantification



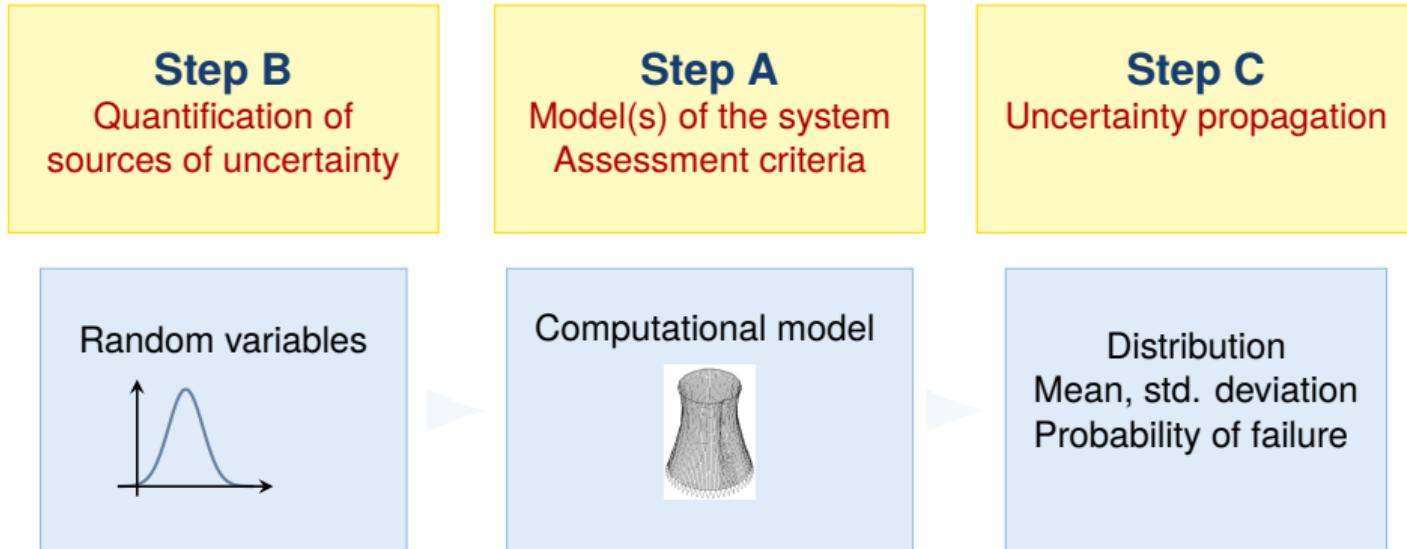
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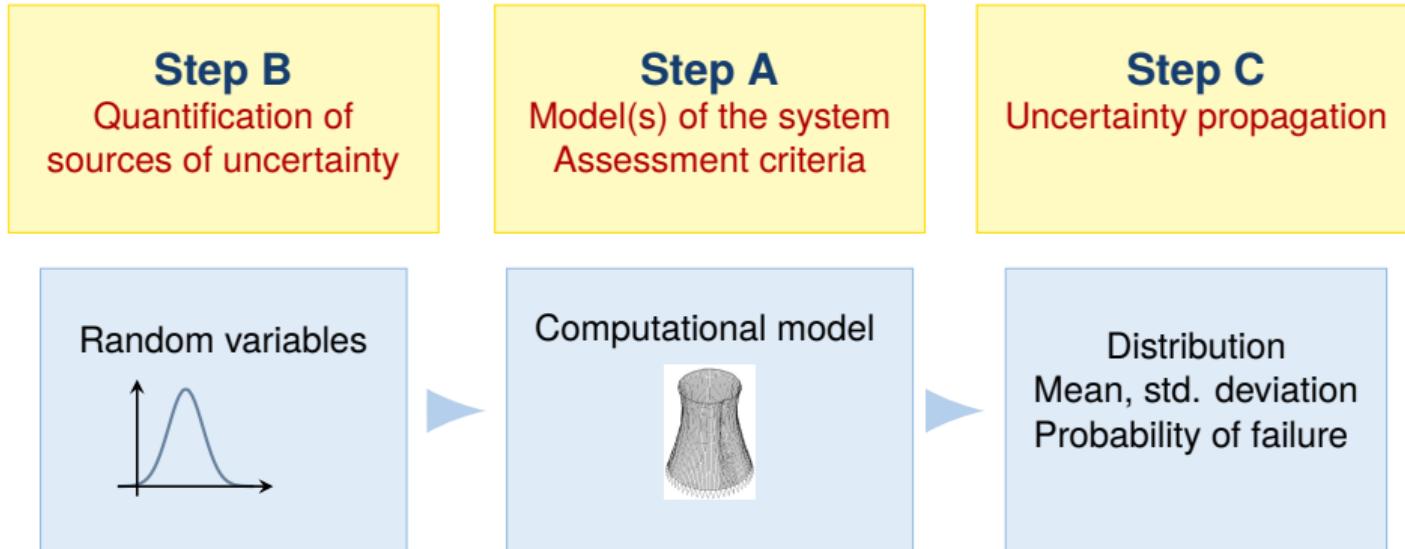
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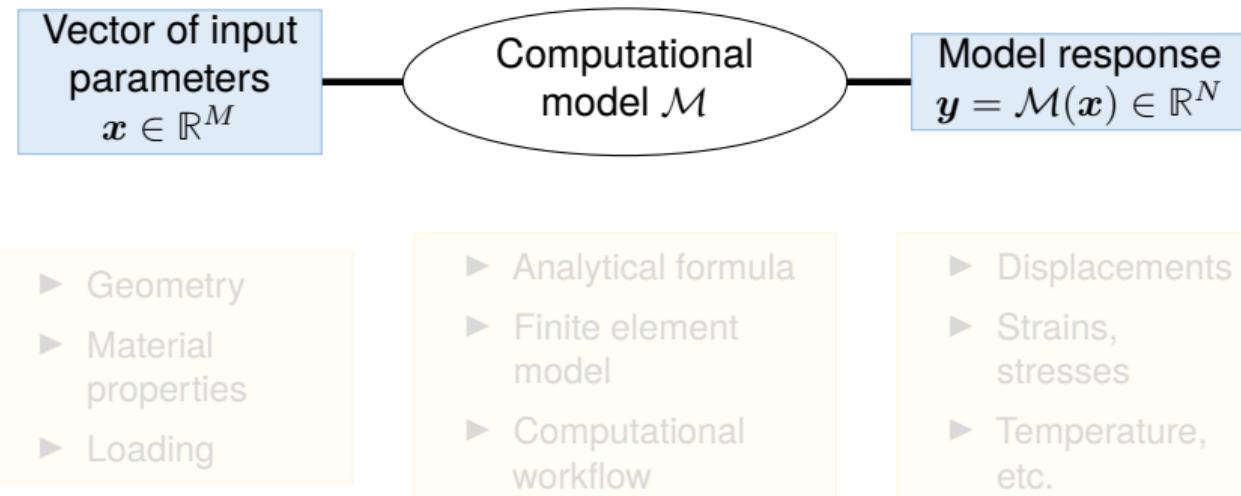
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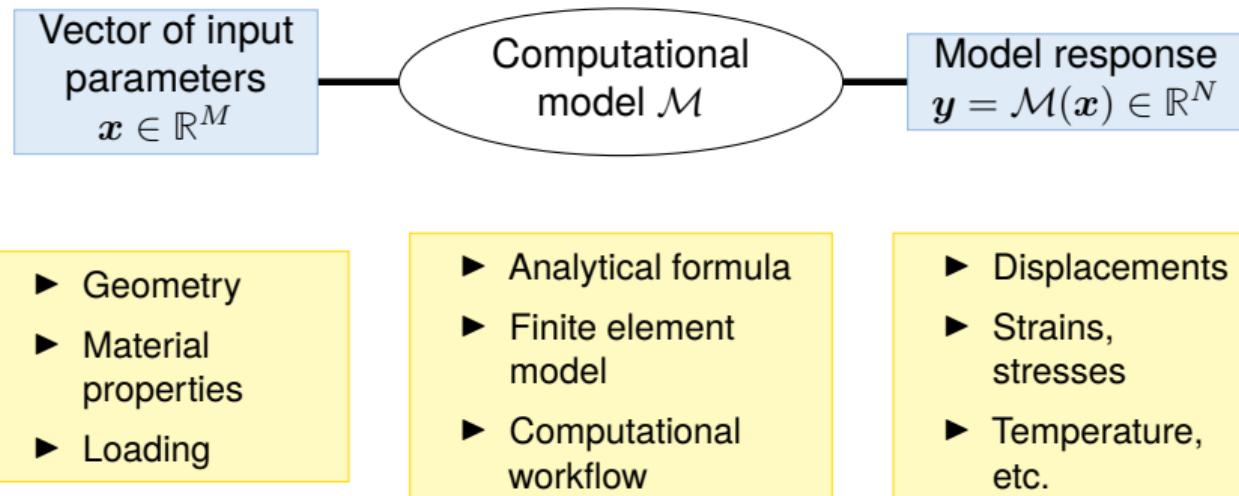


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Step A: computational models



Step A: computational models



Step B: probabilistic models of input parameters

No data exist

- ▶ Expert judgment for selecting the input PDF's of X
- ▶ Literature, data bases (e.g. on material properties)
- ▶ Maximum entropy principle

Input data exist

- ▶ Classical statistical inference
- ▶ Bayesian statistics to handle prior knowledge together with scarce data

Step B: probabilistic models of input parameters

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Step B: probabilistic models of input parameters

Expert judgment

Transform the available information into a relevant probabilistic model

Physical bounds

- ▶ Positive quantities shall be modelled by positive-valued random variables, e.g. lognormal, Gamma distributions
- ▶ Quantities obtained as maxima over time shall be modelled by extreme value distributions, e.g. Gumbel or Weibull distributions
- ▶ Bounded values shall be modelled by bounded distributions: Beta or truncated Gaussian distributions

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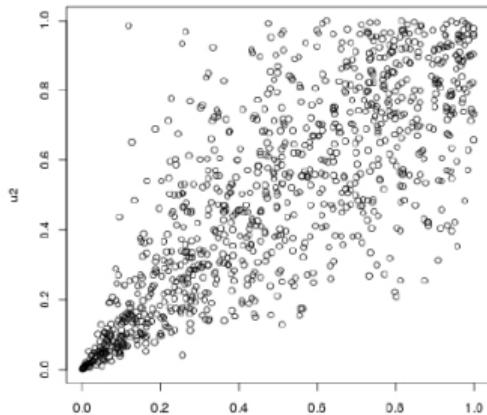
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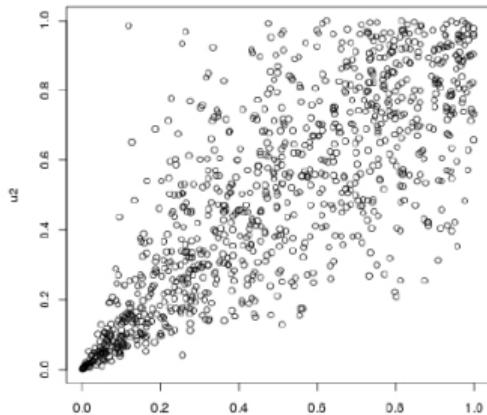


Statistical inference

- ▶ Marginal distributions of each parameter
- ▶ Correlation/dependence between parameters: copula theory

- ▶ Descriptive statistics: graphical representation of the sample set (histograms, scatterplots), numerical descriptors (mean value, standard deviation, correlation coefficients, etc.)
- ▶ Statistical inference: selection of classes of marginal probability distributions $f_X(x; \theta)$ and computation of “the best set” of parameters $\hat{\theta}$ (maximum likelihood method). Selection of a best representative dependence structure.

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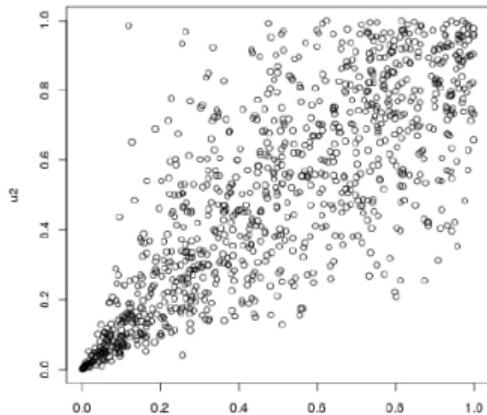


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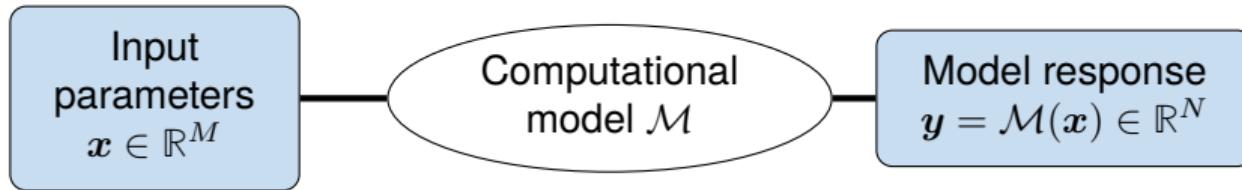


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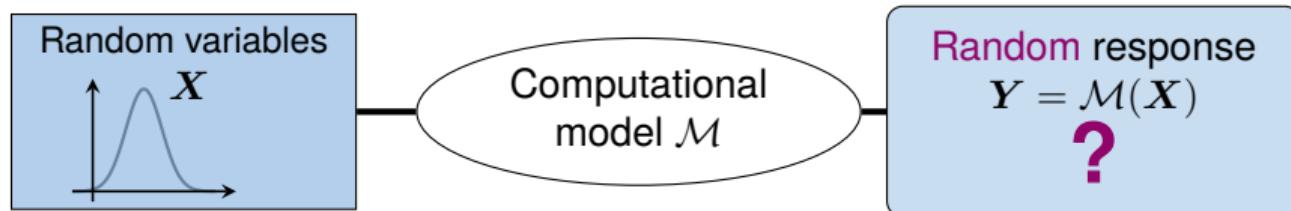
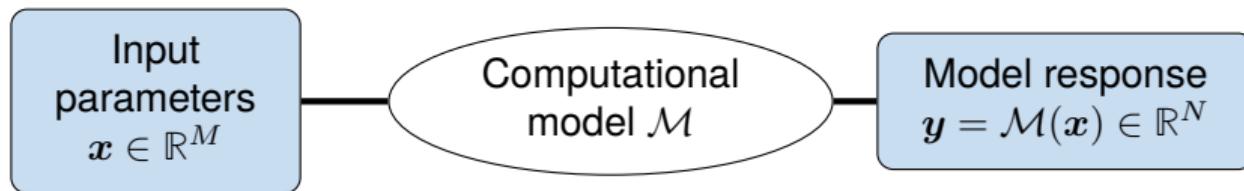
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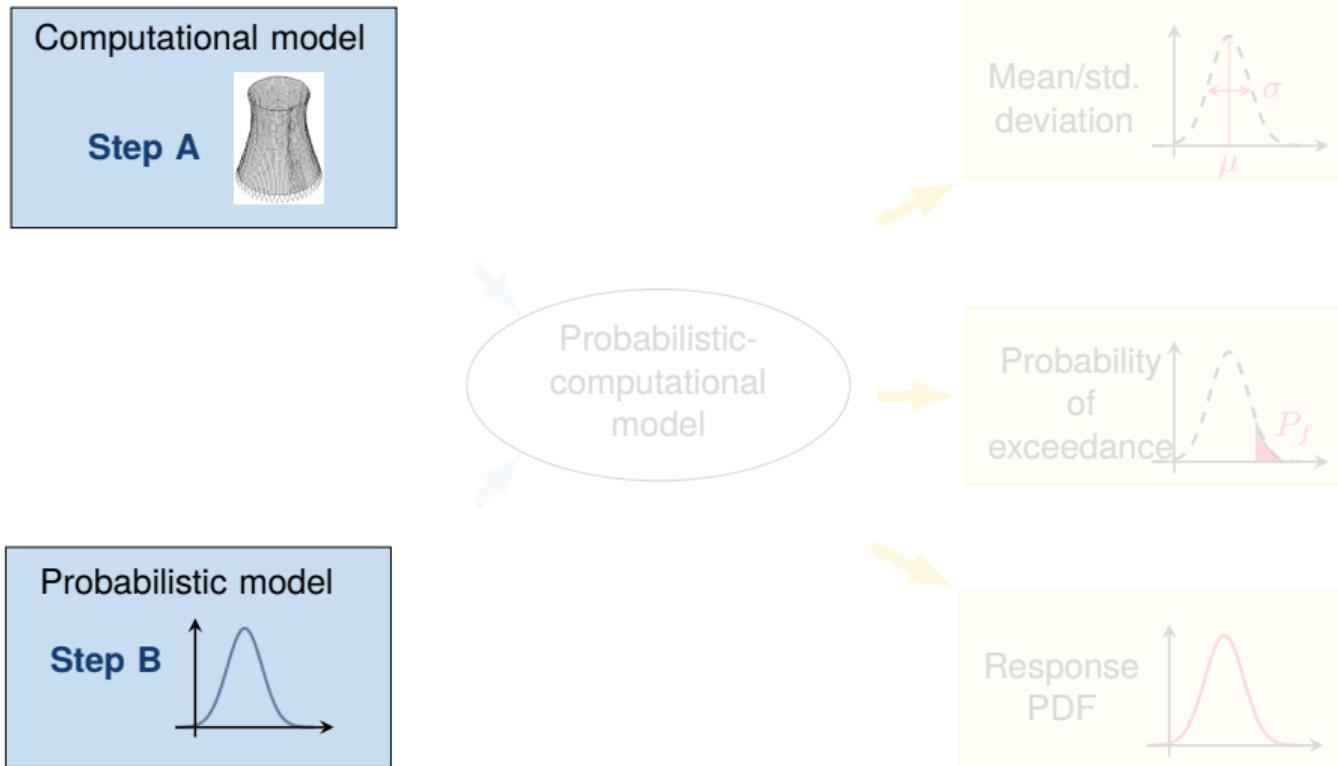
Step C: principles of uncertainty propagation



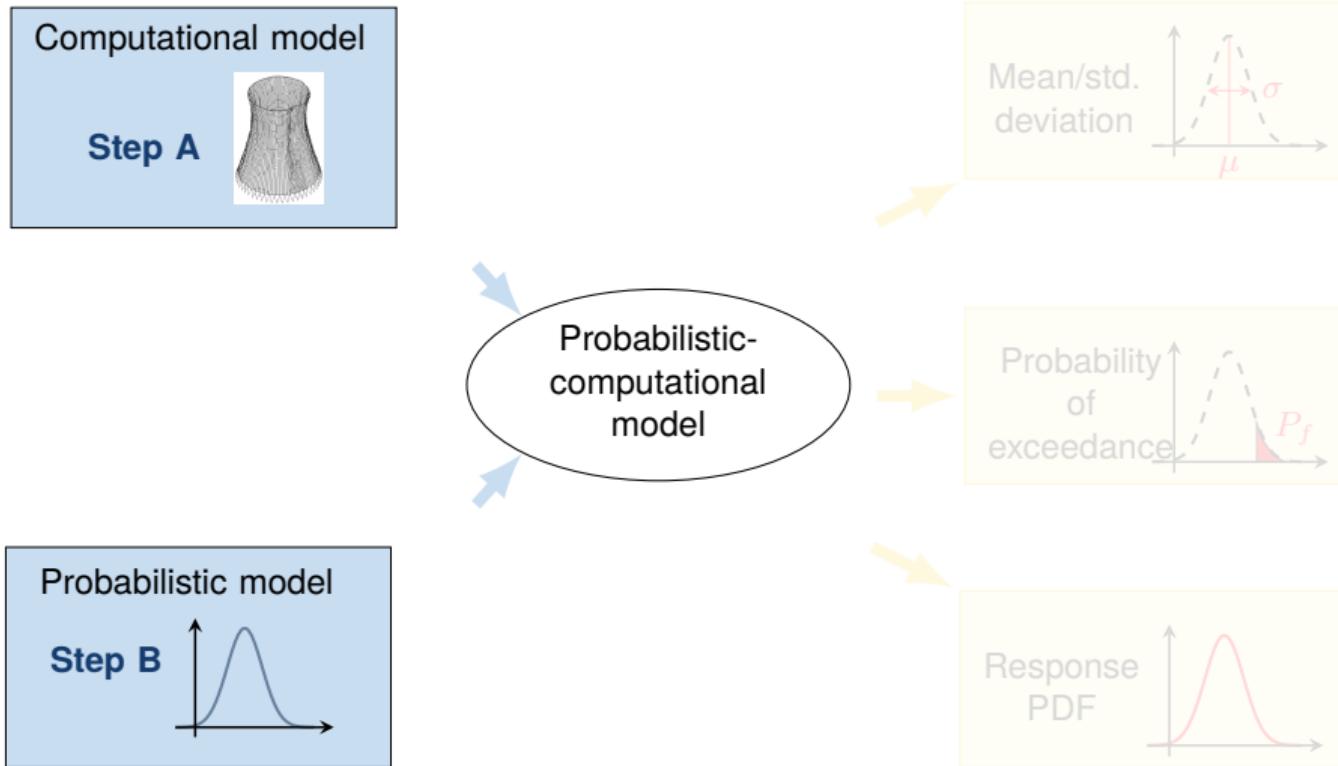
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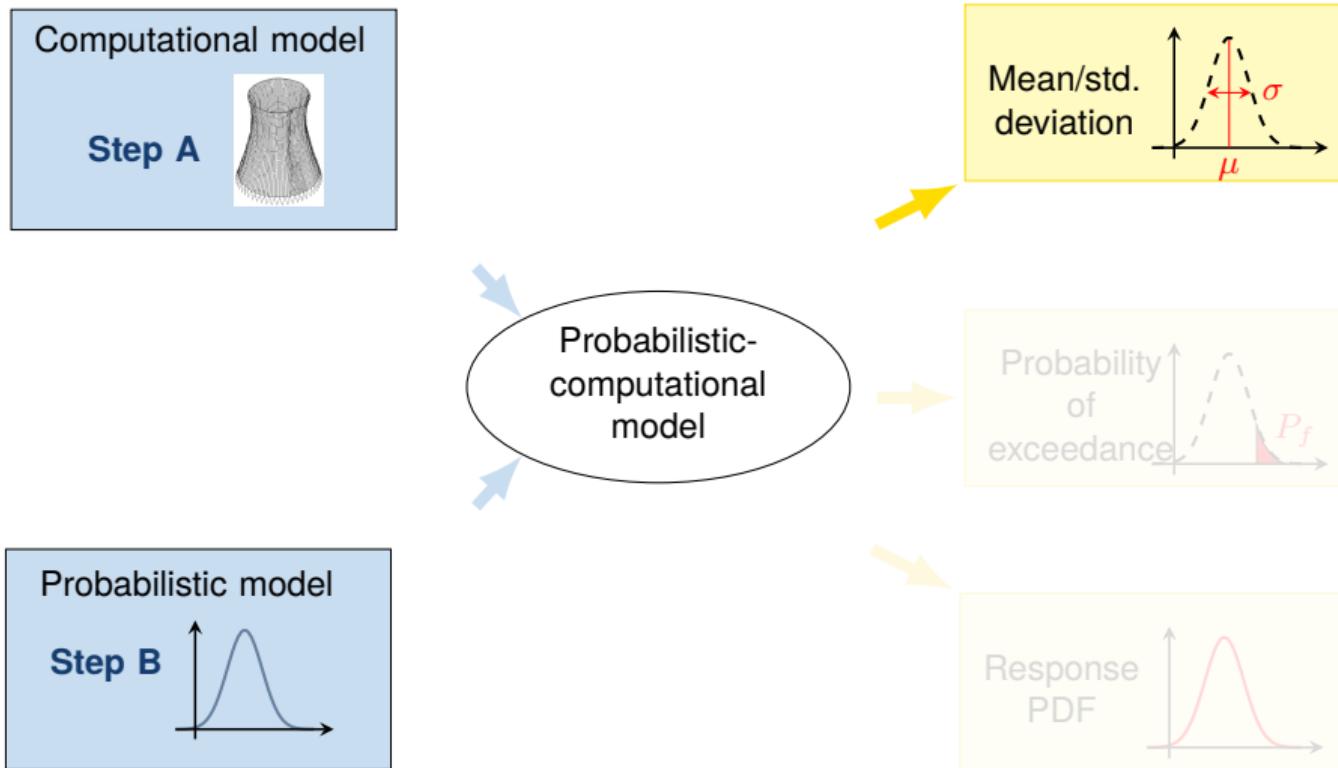
Step C: uncertainty propagation methods



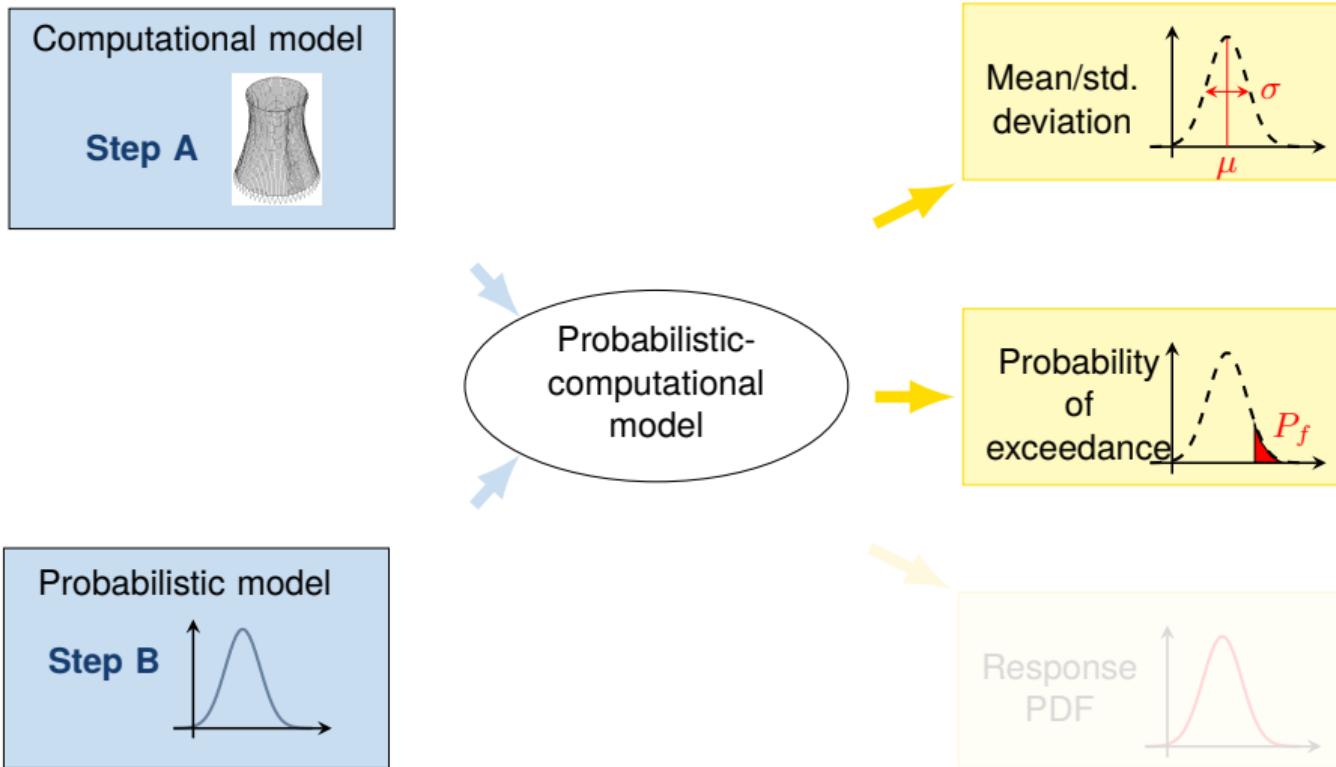
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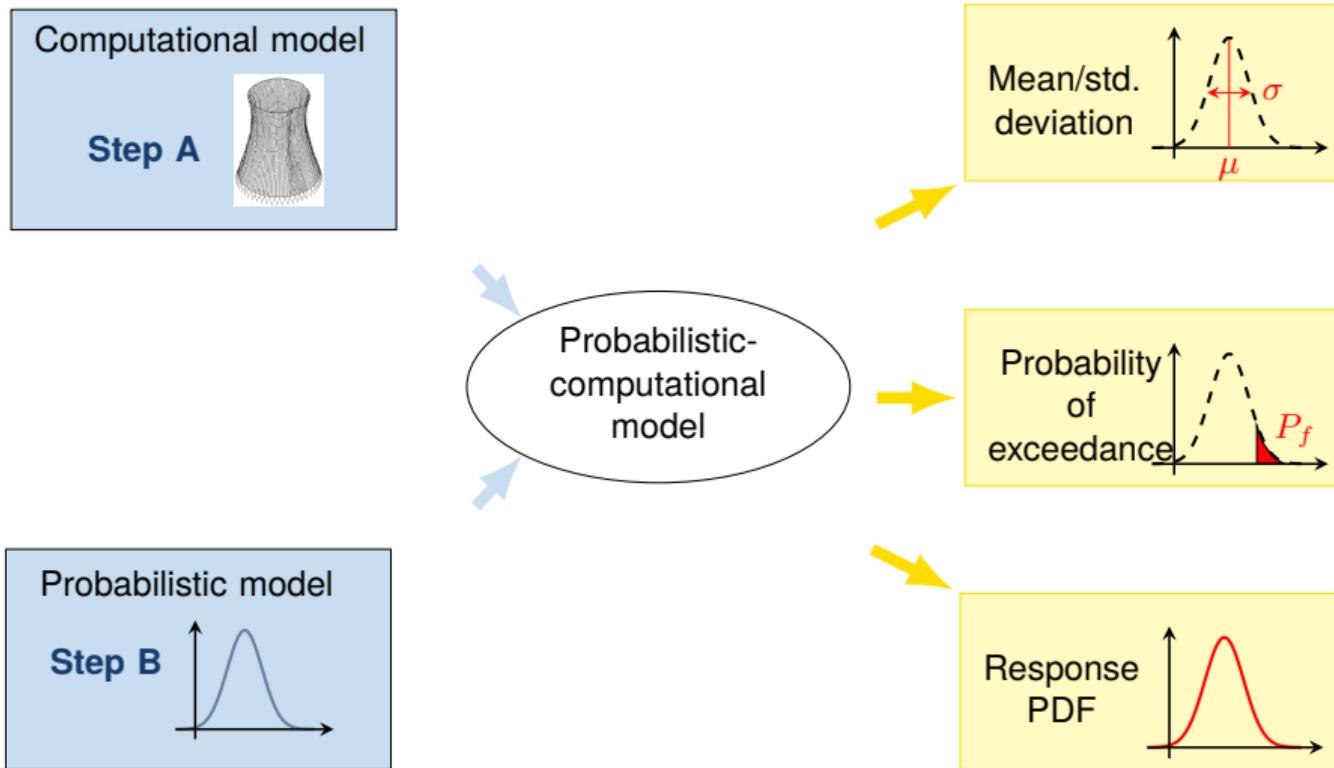
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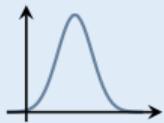
Step C': sensitivity analysis

Step B
Quantification of
sources of uncertainty

Step A
Model(s) of the system
Assessment criteria

Step C
Uncertainty propagation

Random variables



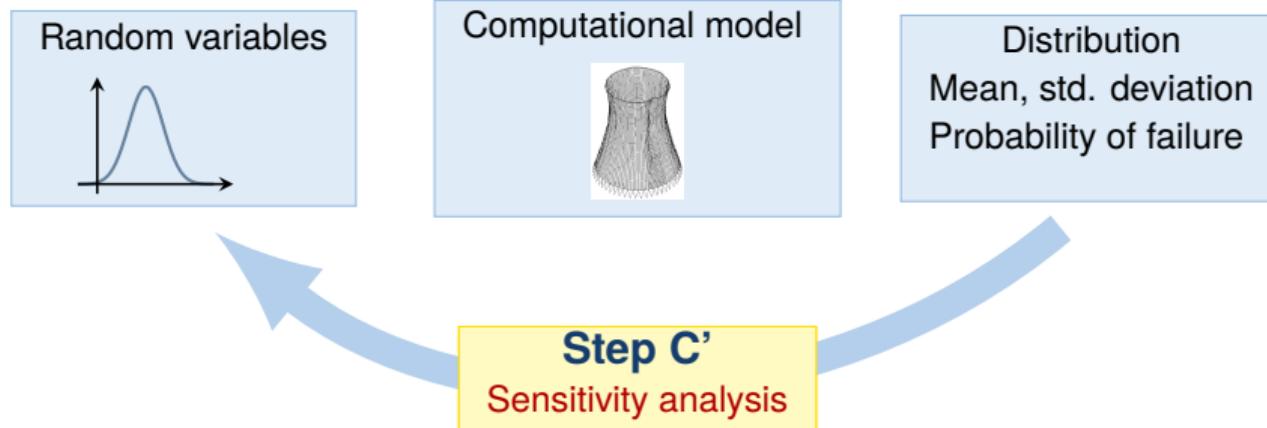
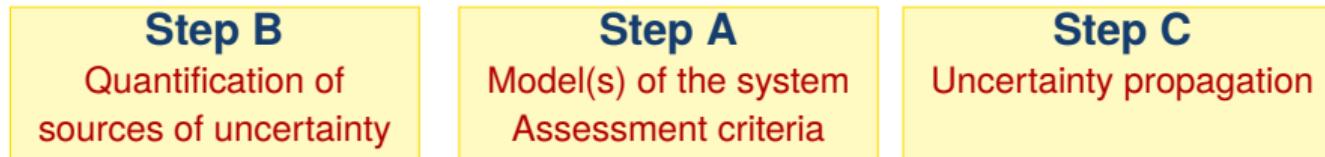
Computational model



Distribution
Mean, std. deviation
Probability of failure

Step C'
Sensitivity analysis

Step C': sensitivity analysis



Step C': sensitivity analysis

Heuristics

- ▶ When considering complex models with a large number of input parameters (say 20-50), **not all** parameters influence the variability of the model output
- ▶ **Sensitivity analysis** aims at finding the “important” parameters, *i.e.* those whose variability explain the output variability
- ▶ Reducing the uncertainty on those parameters will reduce the model output uncertainty
- ▶ Unimportant parameters may be replaced by a fixed value (model simplification)

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Uncertainty propagation using Monte Carlo simulation

Principle: Generate virtual variations of the engineering system using random numbers

- ▶ A sample set of input parameters $\mathcal{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ is drawn according to the input distribution $f_{\mathbf{X}}$
- ▶ For each sample the quantity of interest (e.g. bearing capacity, displacement, global safety factor, etc.) is evaluated, say $\mathcal{Y} = \{\mathcal{M}(x_1), \dots, \mathcal{M}(x_n)\}$
- ▶ The set of response quantities is used for moments-, distribution-, sensitivity or reliability analysis

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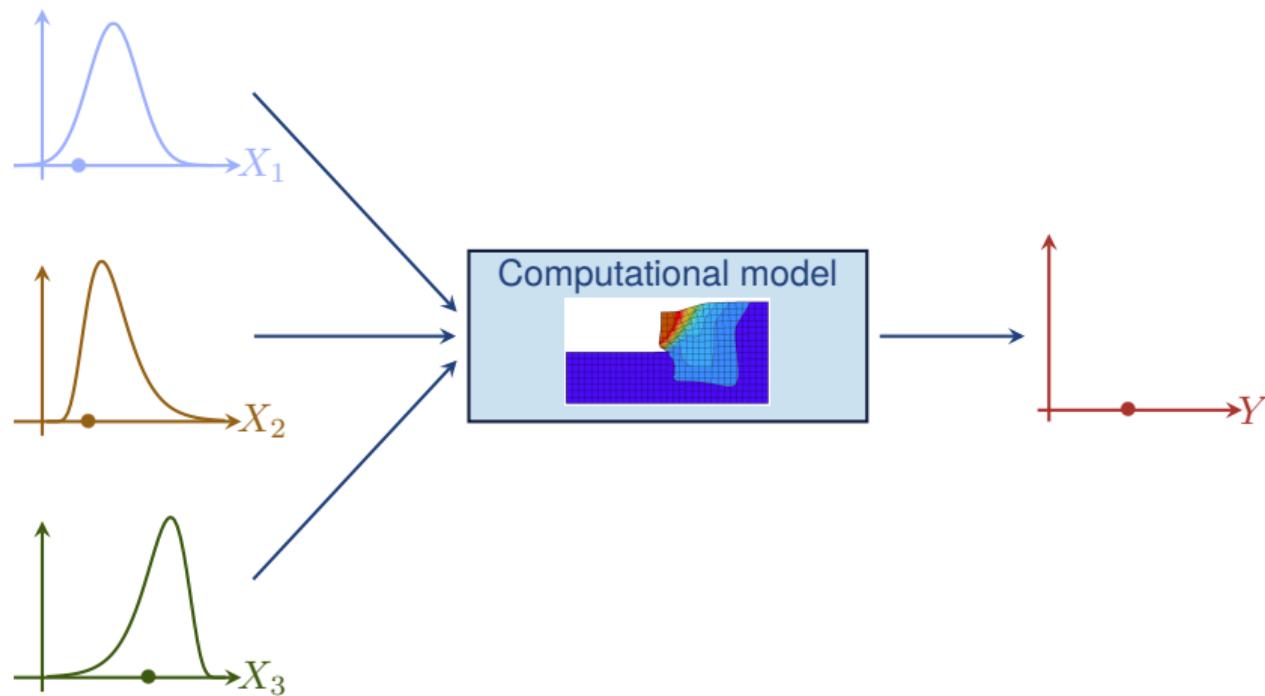
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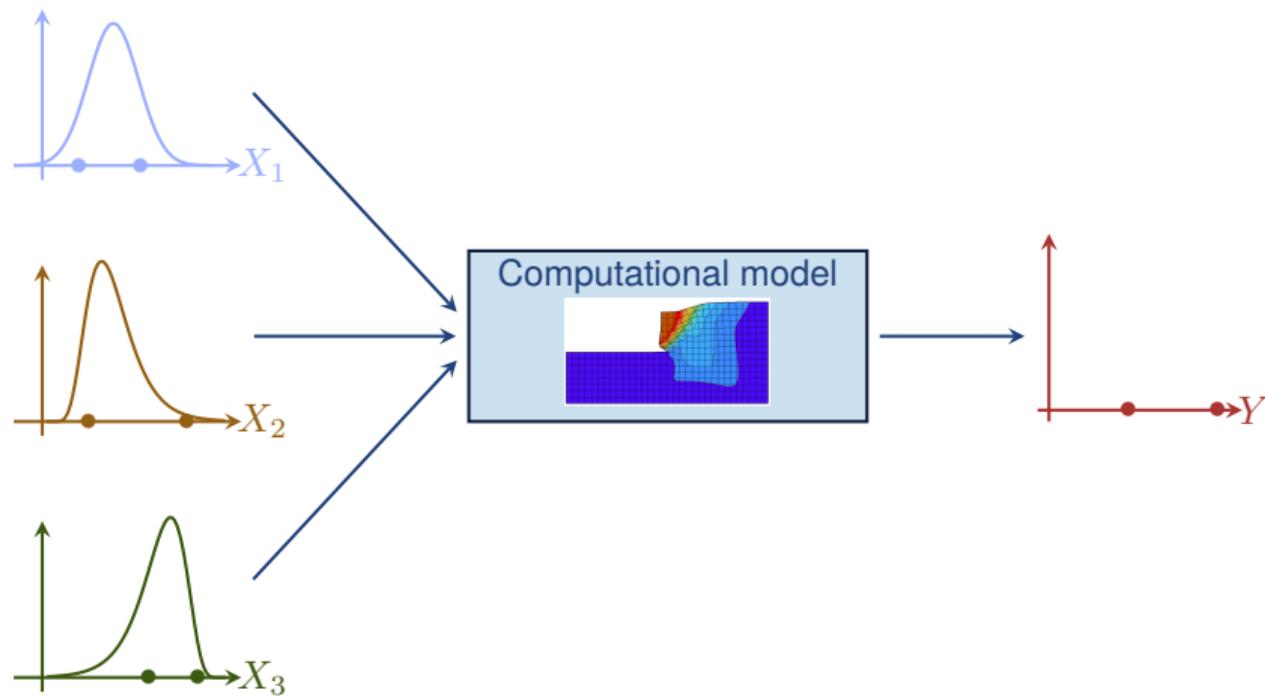
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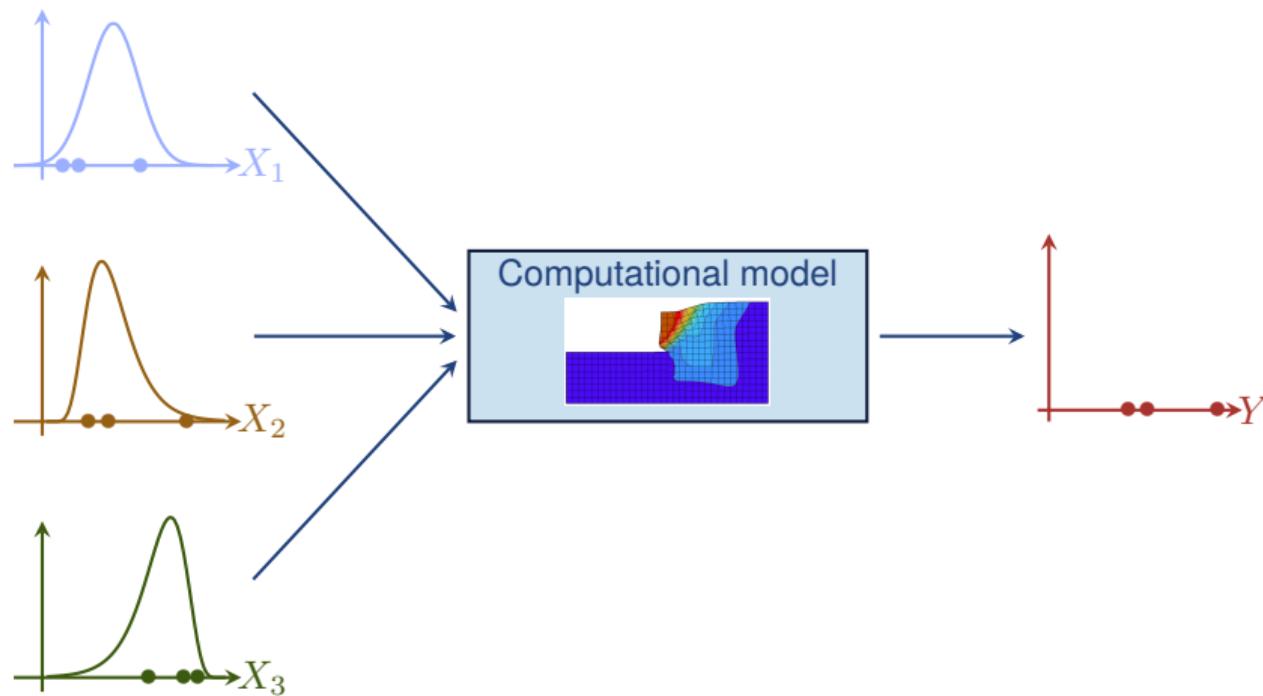
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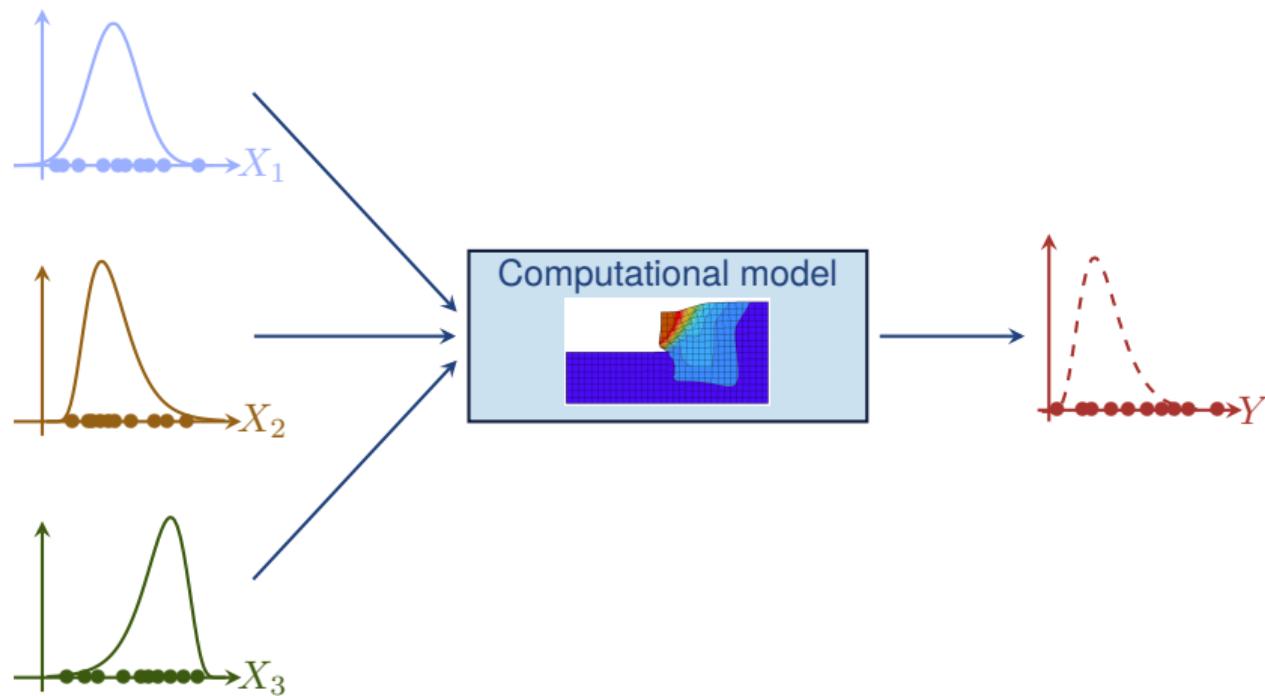
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Uncertainty propagation using Monte Carlo simulation



Moments: mean and variance

From the Monte Carlo procedure a sample set of model response quantities is available:

$$\mathcal{Y} = \{y_i = \mathcal{M}(\boldsymbol{x}_i), i = 1, \dots, N_{\text{MCS}}\}$$

Estimators of the moments

- ▶ Mean value:

$$\hat{\mu}_Y = \frac{1}{N_{\text{MCS}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{MCS}}} y_i$$

- ▶ Variance:

$$\widehat{\sigma_Y^2} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{MCS}} - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{MCS}}} (y_i - \hat{\mu}_Y)^2$$

- ▶ Standard deviation / coefficient of variation

$$\widehat{\sigma_Y} = \sqrt{\widehat{\sigma_Y^2}} \quad , \quad CV_Y = \frac{\widehat{\sigma_Y}}{\hat{\mu}_Y}$$

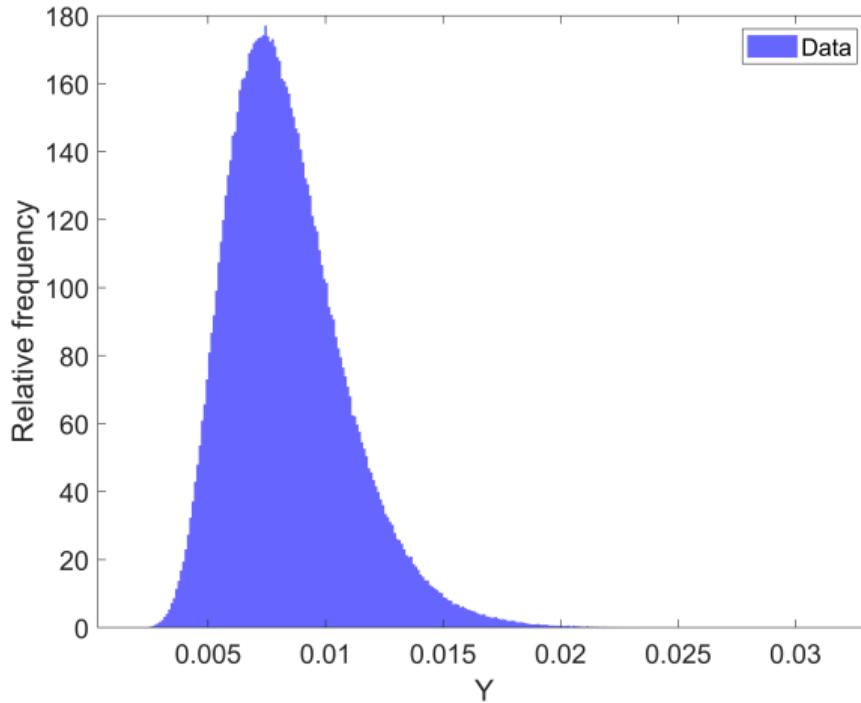
What can we do with MCS?

- ▶ **Uncertainty propagation**
 - Histograms and moments
 - Confidence bounds on the predictions
 - Quantiles, etc.
- ▶ **Reliability analysis (rare event estimation)**
 - Calculate the probability of exceedance
 - Simulate rare events
 - Identify *failure modes*
- ▶ **Sensitivity analysis**
 - Identify the effect of each source of uncertainty on the prediction uncertainty
 - Exclude unimportant variables from the analysis
 - Identify where to invest to reduce uncertainty

Descriptive statistics

From the response sample, different types of properties can be extracted

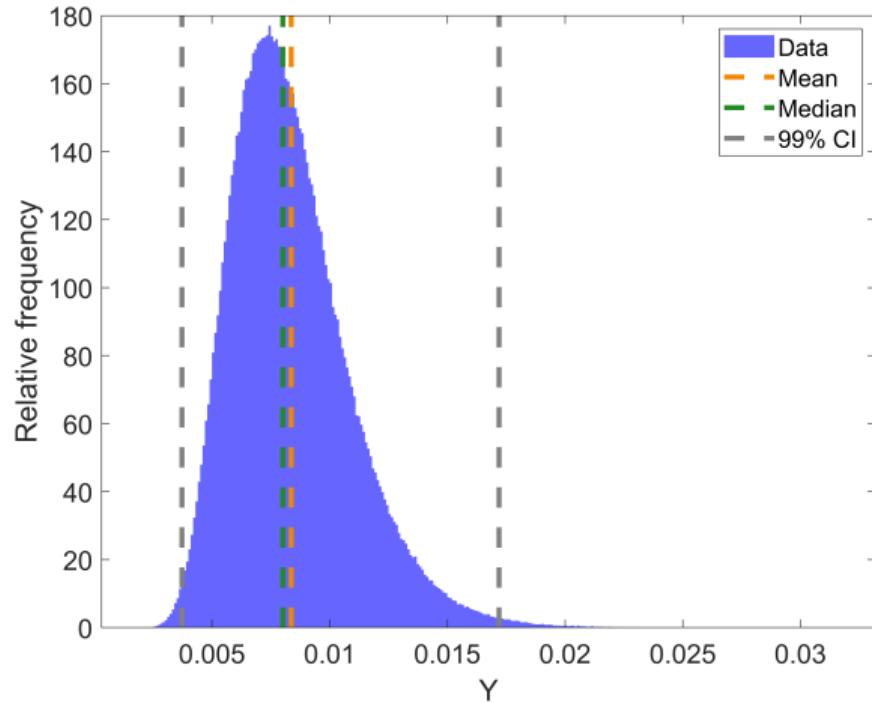
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- ▶ PDF estimation
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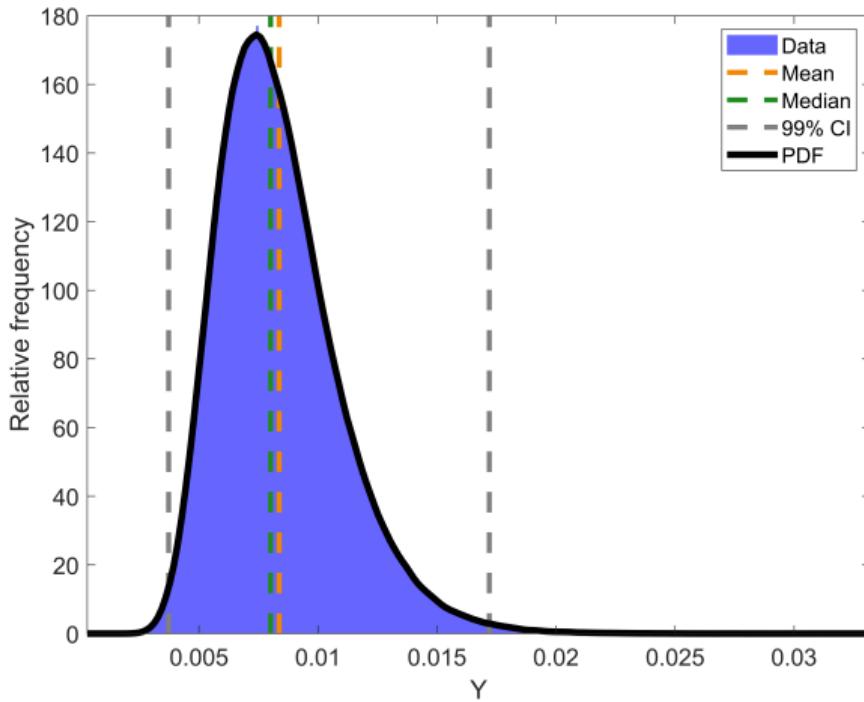
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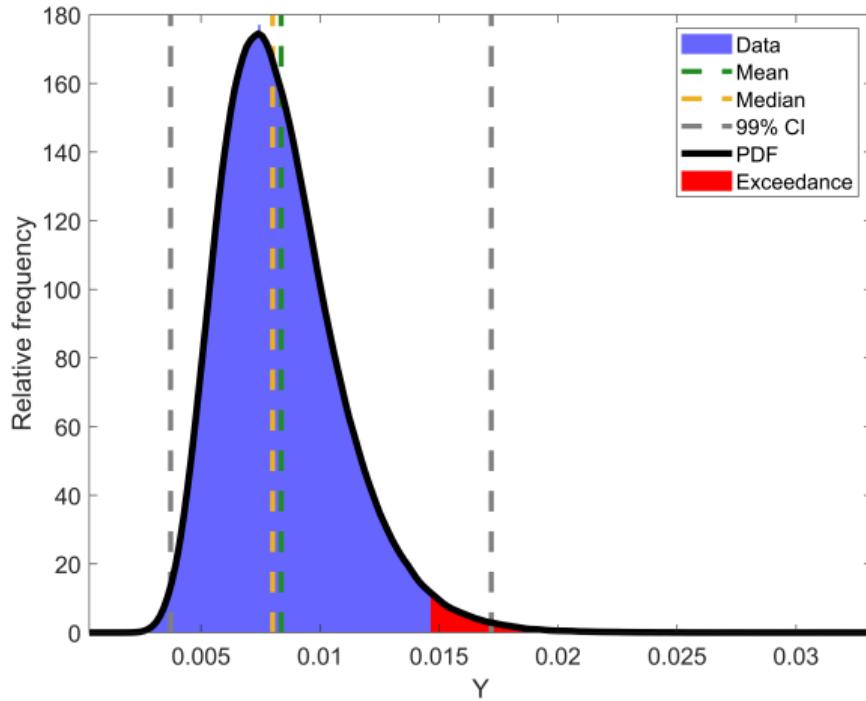
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Caveat

Monte Carlo simulation is one of the most powerful techniques available...

However

- ▶ It can require many model runs
- ▶ Not feasible for complex engineering models
- ▶ Much more advanced tools are available:
 - **Surrogate models:** replace the computational model with a cheap but accurate copy
 - **Structural reliability analysis:** forget most of the output, only focus on exceedance
 - **AI-based learning:** mix surrogate models and machine learning to perform propagation and reliability analysis at very low costs

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Monte Carlo simulation is one of the most powerful techniques available...

However

- ▶ It can require many model runs
- ▶ Not feasible for complex engineering models
- ▶ Much more advanced tools are available:
 - **Surrogate models**: replace the computational model with a cheap but accurate copy
 - **Structural reliability analysis**: forget most of the output, only focus on exceedance
 - **AI-based learning**: mix surrogate models and machine learning to perform propagation and reliability analysis at very low costs

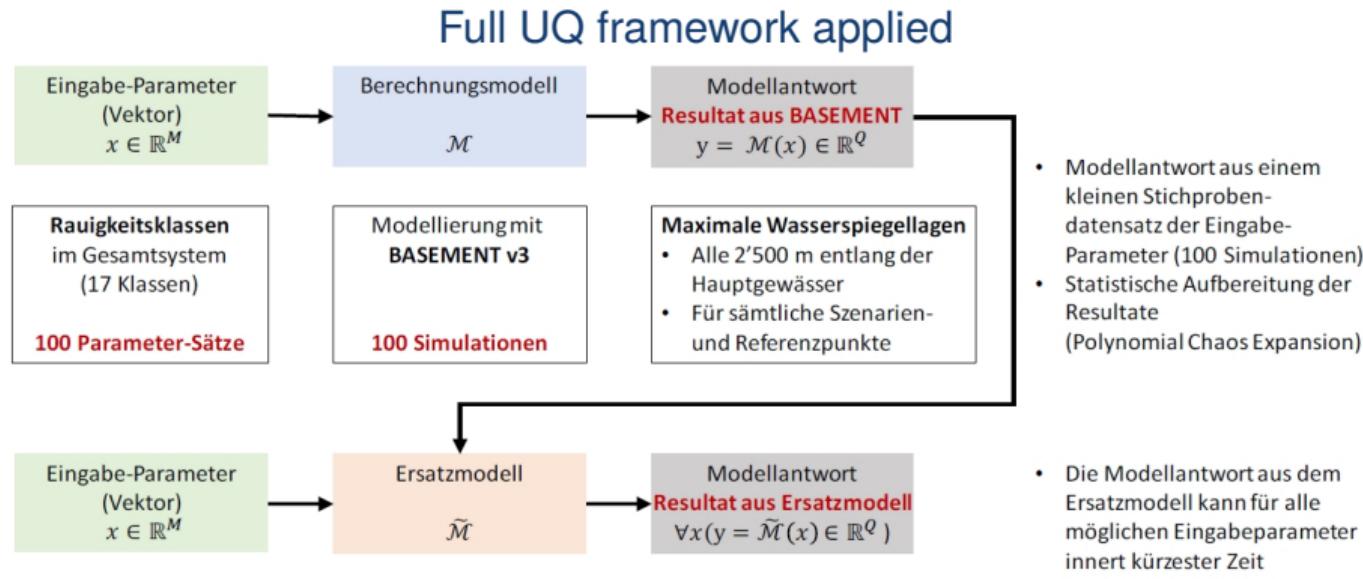
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Back to EXAR 1: UQ approach



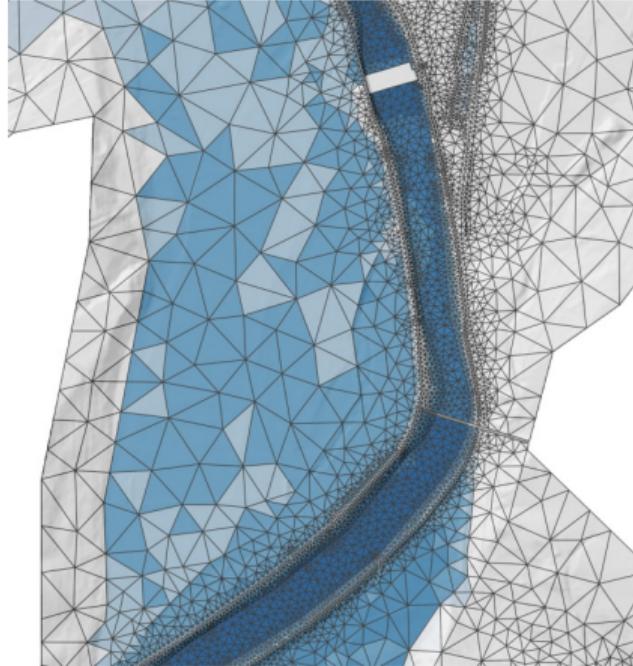
EXAR detailed report E

Pfäffli, M., Baer P., Sutter A., Irniger, A., Hunziker, R. 2021: Extremhochwasser an der Aare. Detailbericht E Projekt EXAR. Hydraulische Modellierungen. ARGE GEOTEST-HZP-IUB. Zollikofen, Aarau, Bern

Back to EXAR 2: Computational model

High resolution 3D **BASEMENT** flood-propagation model

- ▶ A high resolution hydraulic mesh,
- ▶ with a landslide,
- ▶ and **sharks!**
- ▶ calibrated on real data,
- ▶ that accounts for meshing errors



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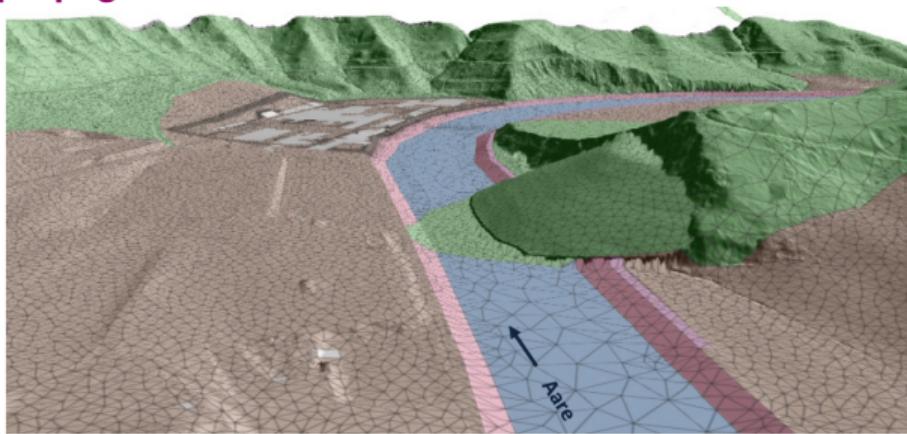


Abbildung 13: Beispiel einer Rutschung, welche physisch in das Höhenmodell eingebaut wurde, mit darüber gelegtem Berechnungsgitter für die Gefährdungsbeurteilung. Rutschung Brättele, nahe des Beurteilungsperimeters Mühleberg.

Back to EXAR 2: Computational model

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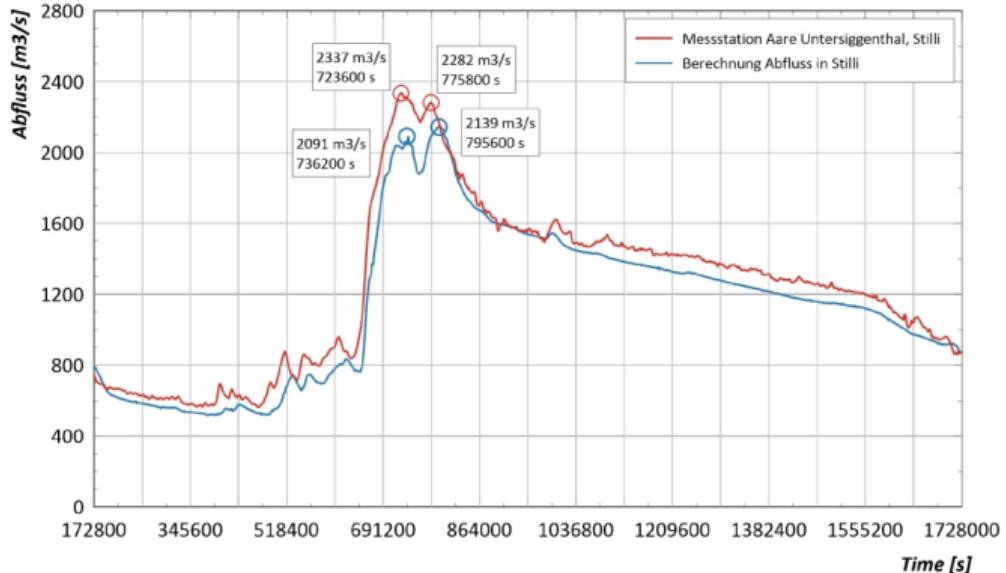


Abbildung 22: Ganglinienvergleich zwischen der Messstation Aare Untersiggenthal, Stilli und der Berechnung im 2D-Modell für das Hochwasser 2005.

Back to EXAR 2: Computational model

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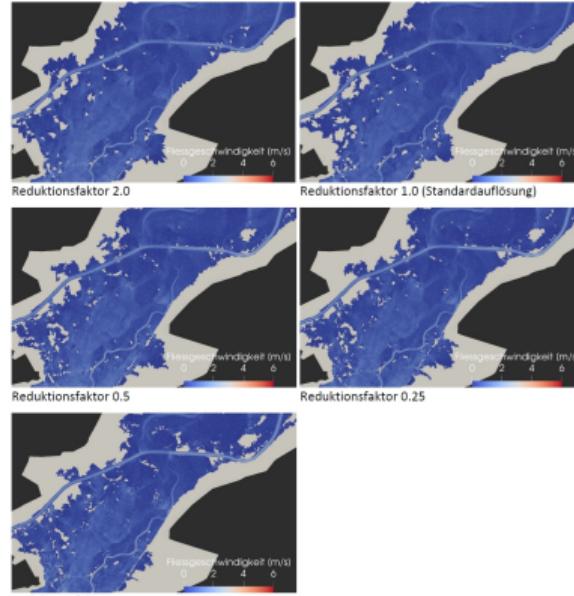
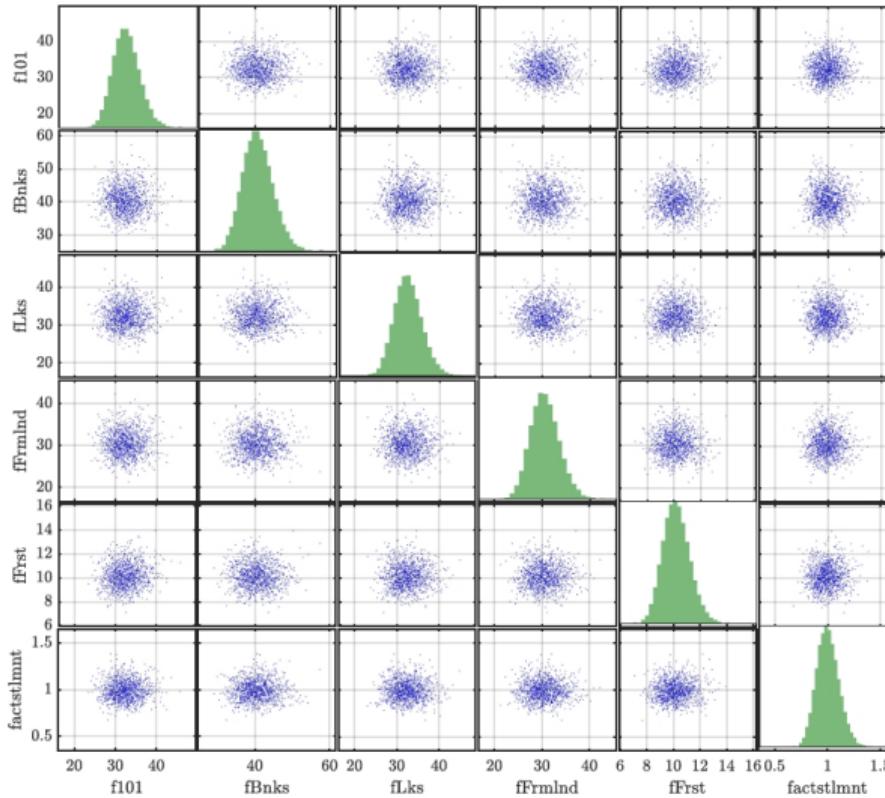


Abbildung 34: Überflutungsfläche im Bereich der Mündung der Alten Aare in die Aare bei Büren an der Aare. Dargestellt ist das hydrologische Top-Ereignis im Bereich des Spitzennabflusses für verschiedene Auflösungen der Modellgeometrie

Back to EXAR 3: Input distributions

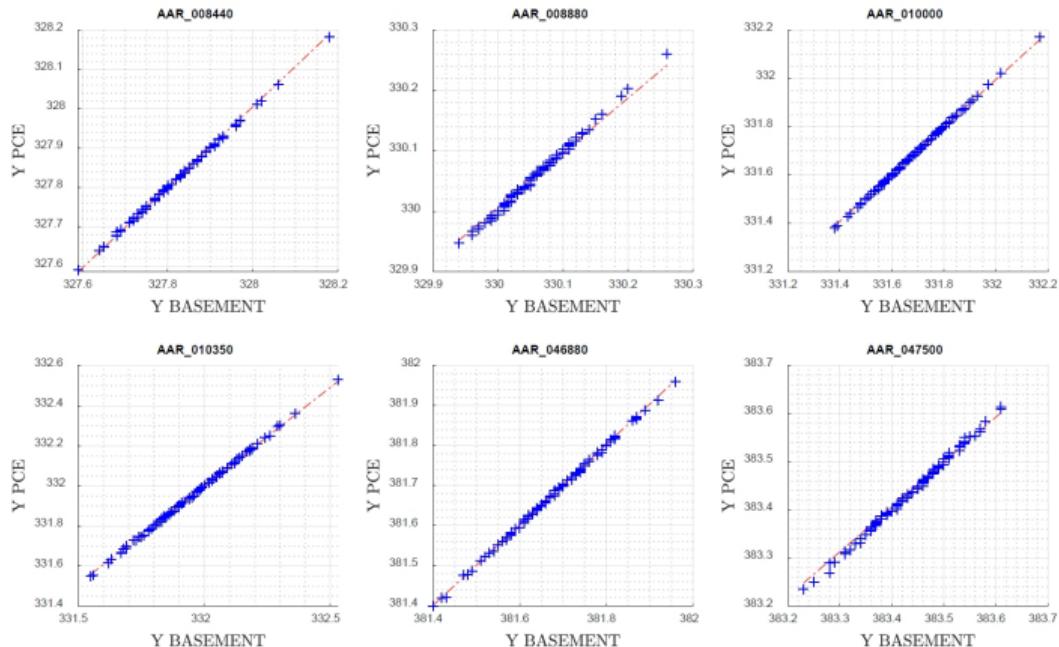


Back to EXAR 4: Surrogate models

- ▶ Limited computational budget: only $N = 100$ runs
- ▶ Surrogate model needed
- ▶ Sparse polynomial chaos expansions (PCE)
- ▶ Very good accuracy

Back to EXAR 4: Surrogate models

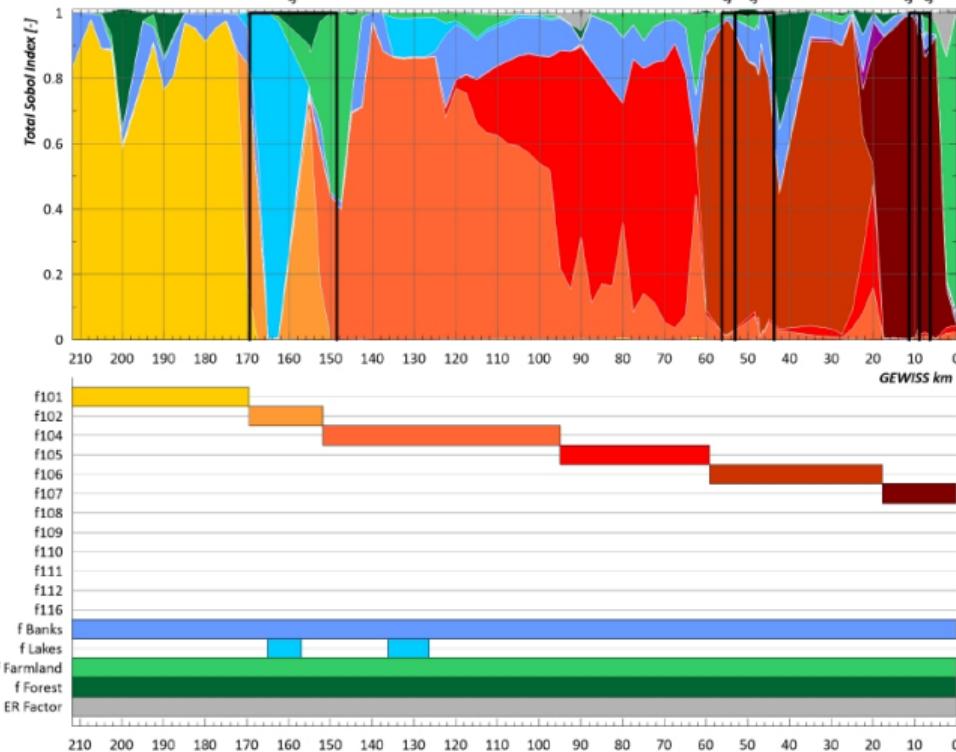
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Back to EXAR 5: Sensitivity analysis

Question: which uncertainties affect the water level the most?

- ▶ Space dependent problem
- ▶ Once again surrogate model-based
- ▶ Sobol' indices as a function of coordinate along the river s
- ▶ Some variables “activate” only in specific regions



Back to EXAR 6: Prediction Confidence bounds

5%-95% bounds on the predicted water levels at different stations

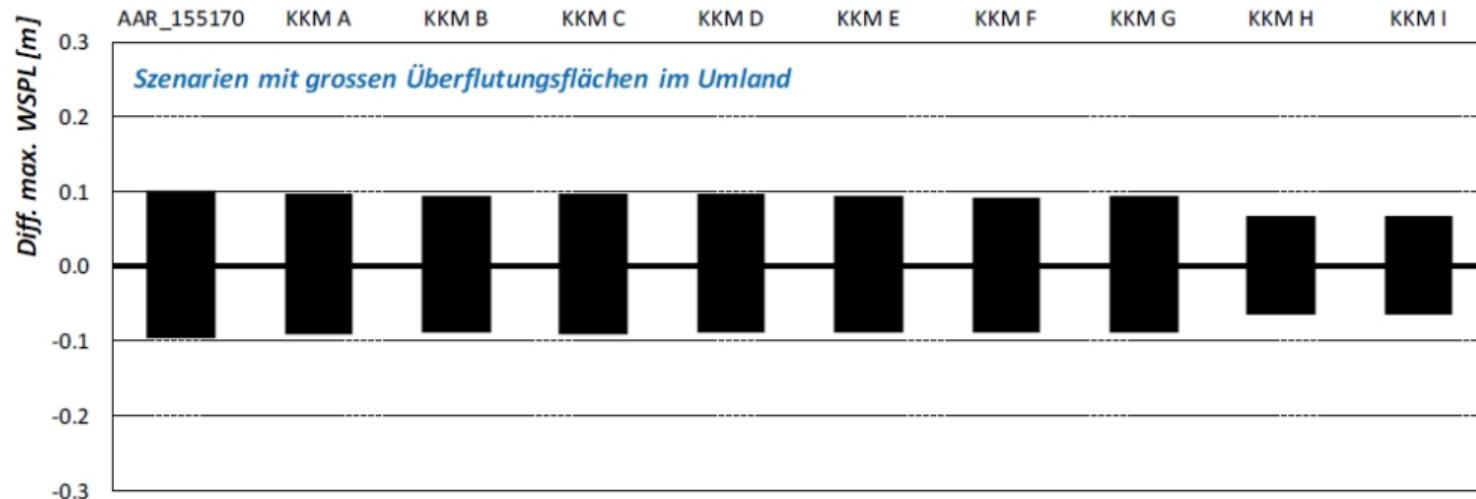


Abbildung 52: *Hydraulische Unsicherheiten für die Szenarien- und Referenzpunkte im Beurteilungsperimeter Mühleberg für Szenarien mit grossen Überflutungsflächen.*

Back to EXAR 6: Prediction Confidence bounds

5%-95% bounds on the predicted water levels at different stations

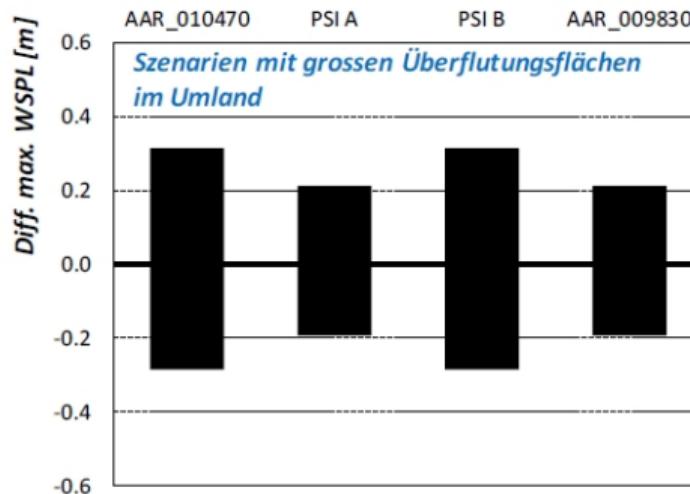


Abbildung 57: *Hydraulische Unsicherheiten für die Szenarien- und Referenzpunkte im Beurteilungsperimeter PSI für Szenarien mit grossen Überflutungsflächen.*

Outline

1. A simple case study: Fragility curves

2. Uncertainty quantification framework

Aleatory vs. epistemic uncertainty

Common framework

3. Monte Carlo Simulation

Moments- and distribution analysis

UQ with Monte Carlo Simulation

Back to EXAR

4. Conclusions

Conclusions

- ▶ Computational models only provide an approximate description of real-world engineering or natural systems
- ▶ Uncertainties in the geometry, material properties, environmental conditions, etc. preclude using a single set of parameters in the analysis
- ▶ Uncertainty quantification techniques allow us to:
 - set up the problem
 - quantify the sources of uncertainty
 - and study their impact onto the model predictions and the system performance
- ▶ According to the problem under consideration (reliability analysis, robust estimations, sensitivity analysis, etc.), many different methods can be applied to propagate uncertainties

Thank you very much for your attention!

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