

# Machine Learning in Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Assessment: A Constructive Critique

---

Henry V. Burton, PhD, S.E.,

Associate Professor and Presidential Chair in Structural Engineering

University of California, Los Angeles

NHERI SimCenter Machine Learning Training in Natural Hazards Engineering

September 26, 2022

# Overview

---

- Machine Learning Applications in Natural Hazards Engineering (ML-NHE): A Timeline
- High Level Basics of Machine Learning
- Supervised Machine Learning: Theory, Intuition and Model Development Workflow
- Types of Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms
- When to Consider ML Applications in NHE

# Overview

---

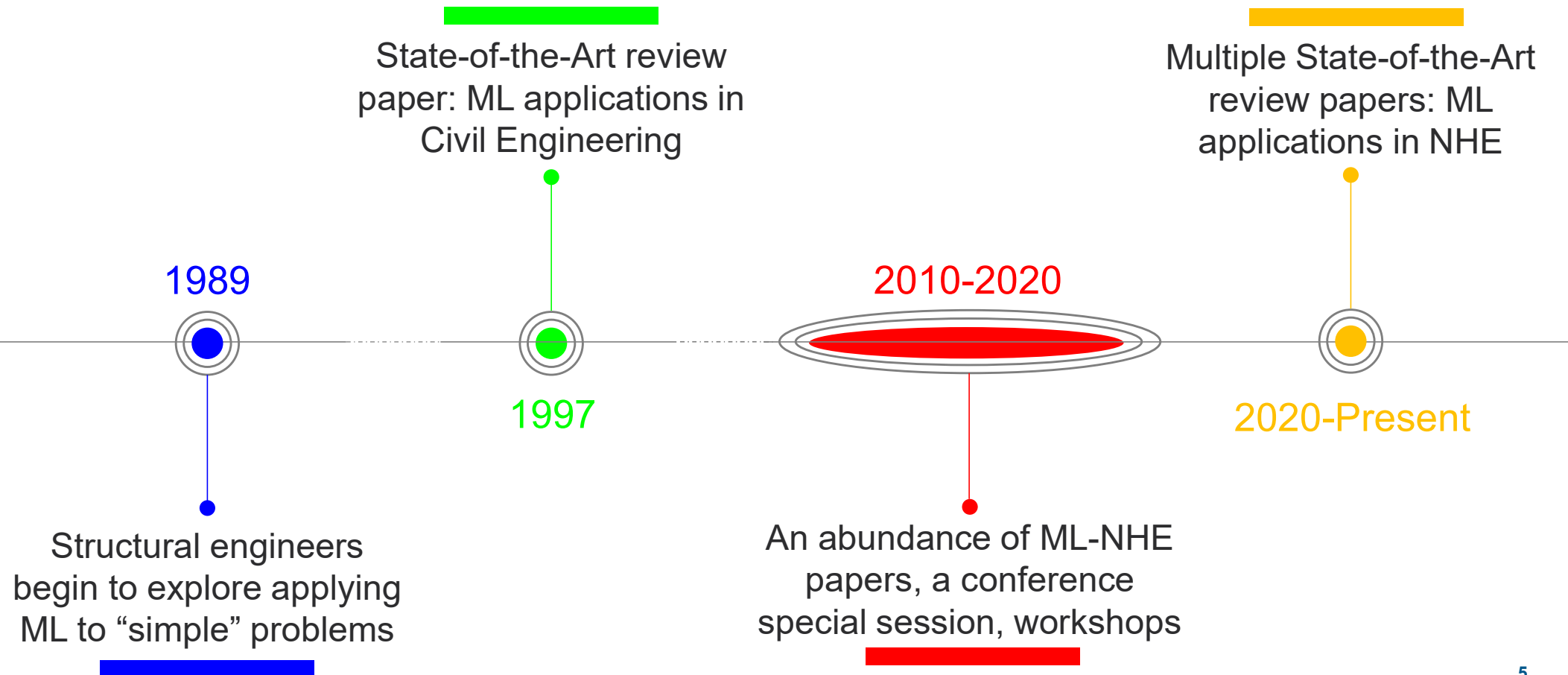
- Opportunities and Challenges: The Next Frontier in ML-NHE
- Final Thoughts

# Overview

---

- Machine Learning Applications in Natural Hazards Engineering (ML-NHE): A Timeline
- High Level Basics of Machine Learning
- Supervised Machine Learning: Theory, Intuition and Model Development Workflow
- Types of Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms
- When to Consider ML Applications in NHE

# ML Applications in Natural Hazards Engineering: A Timeline



# State-of-the-Art Review Papers

---

- Reich, Y. (1997). Machine learning techniques for civil engineering problems. *Computer-Aided Civil and Infrastructure Engineering*, 12(4), 295-310.
- Xie, Y., Ebad Sichani, M., Padgett, J. E., & DesRoches, R. (2020). The promise of implementing machine learning in earthquake engineering: A state-of-the-art review. *Earthquake Spectra*, 36(4), 1769-1801.
- Sun, W., Bocchini, P., & Davison, B. D. (2020). Applications of artificial intelligence for disaster management. *Natural Hazards*, 103(3), 2631-2689.
- Sun, H., Burton, H. V., & Huang, H. (2021). Machine learning applications for building structural design and performance assessment: State-of-the-art review. *Journal of Building Engineering*, 33, 101816.

# State-of-the-Art Review Papers

---

- Mostafa, K., Zisis, I., & Moustafa, M. A. (2022). Machine Learning Techniques in Structural Wind Engineering: A State-of-the-Art Review. *Applied Sciences*, 12(10), 5232.
- Wang, X., Mazumder, R. K., Salarieh, B., Salman, A. M., Shafieezadeh, A., & Li, Y. (2022). Machine Learning for Risk and Resilience Assessment in Structural Engineering: Progress and Future Trends. *Journal of Structural Engineering*, 148(8), 03122003.

# Overview

---

- Machine Learning Applications in Natural Hazards Engineering (ML-NHE): A Timeline
- High Level Basics of Machine Learning
- Supervised Machine Learning: Theory, Intuition and Model Development Workflow
- Types of Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms
- When to Consider ML Applications in NHE



# Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL)

---

## Artificial intelligence

The ability of a machine to perform cognitive functions associated with the human mind, including perceiving, reasoning, learning, and problem solving.

## Machine learning

A branch of artificial intelligence that uses algorithms to find patterns in large datasets and make predictions about the future, enabling machines to learn without receiving explicit programming instruction. The three major types of ML include **supervised learning**, **unsupervised learning**, and reinforcement learning.

## Deep learning

A branch of machine learning that uses artificial neural networks to ingest vast amounts of data (i.e., big data), often producing more accurate results than traditional ML approaches.

# Categories of Machine Learning

---

## MAJOR TYPES OF MACHINE LEARNING

### Supervised learning

Uses training data and feedback from humans to detect patterns and predict next values

*Example:* Predicting the drift capacity of reinforced concrete walls

### Unsupervised learning

Explores unlabeled input data without being provided an explicit output variable to detect patterns

*Example:* Creating subgroups a set of buildings based on structural similarities.

### Reinforcement learning

Learns to detect patterns or perform a task by trying to maximize the rewards it receives for its actions

*Example:* Finding the sequence of pipe repairs in an earthquake-damaged water network that minimizes the cumulative loss of service.

# Categories of Supervised Learning

---

## TYPES OF SUPERVISED LEARNING

### Regression

The outputs or response variables are continuous

*Examples:*

- Drift capacity of reinforced concrete walls
- Drift demands in steel moment frames
- Collapse capacity of woodframe buildings

### Classification

The outputs or response variables are categorical

*Example:*

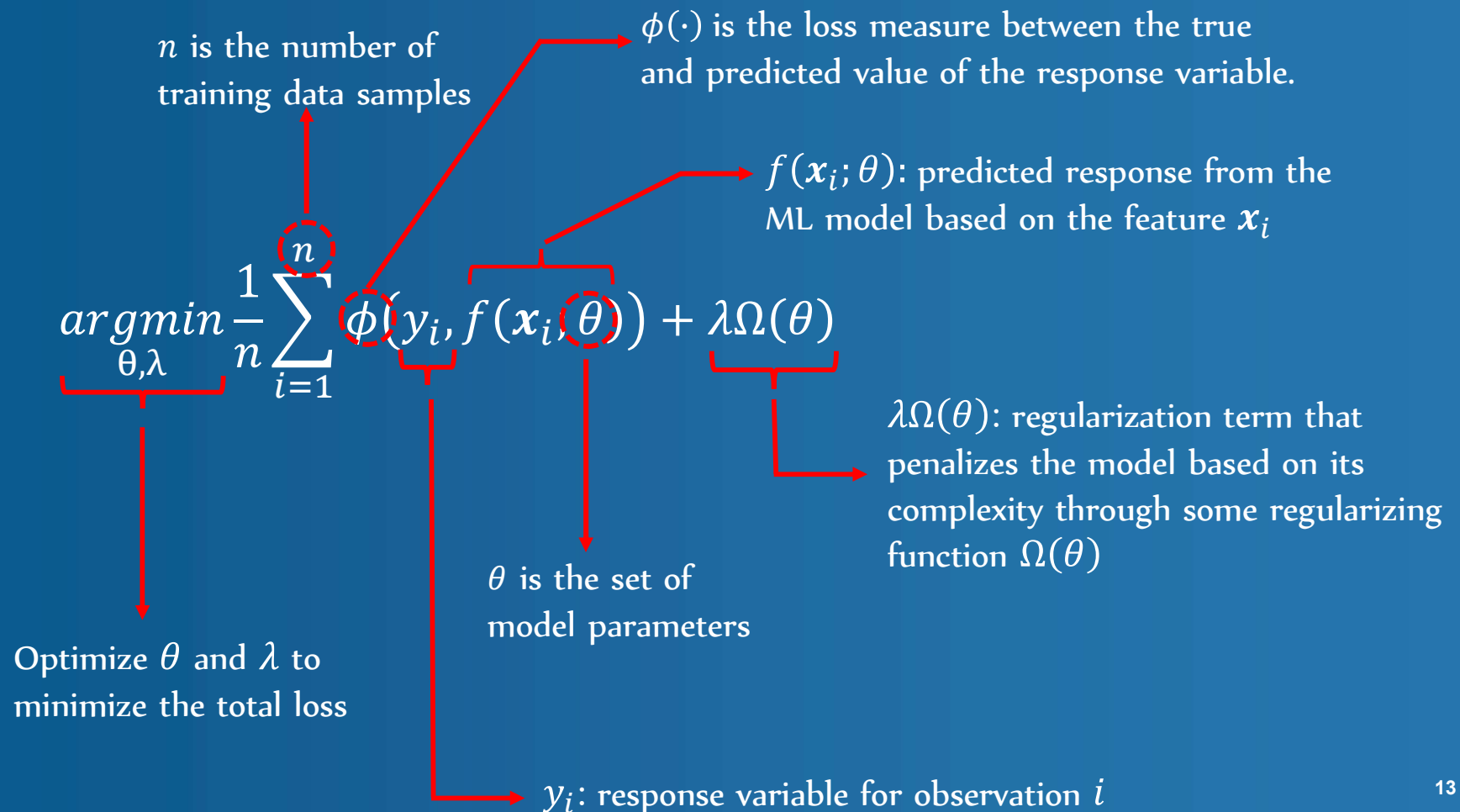
- The damage state of a structure
- The failure mode of a reinforced concrete wall
-

# Overview

---

- Machine Learning Applications in Natural Hazards Engineering (ML-NHE): A Timeline
- High Level Basics of Machine Learning
- Supervised Machine Learning: Theory, Intuition and Model Development Workflow
- Types of Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms
- When to Consider ML Applications in NHE

# General Supervised Learning Formulation



# Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) as a Supervised Learning Model

In ordinary least squares (OLS) regression, which is arguably the simplest form of supervised learning, the residual sum of squares ( $RSS$ ) serves as the loss function. model)

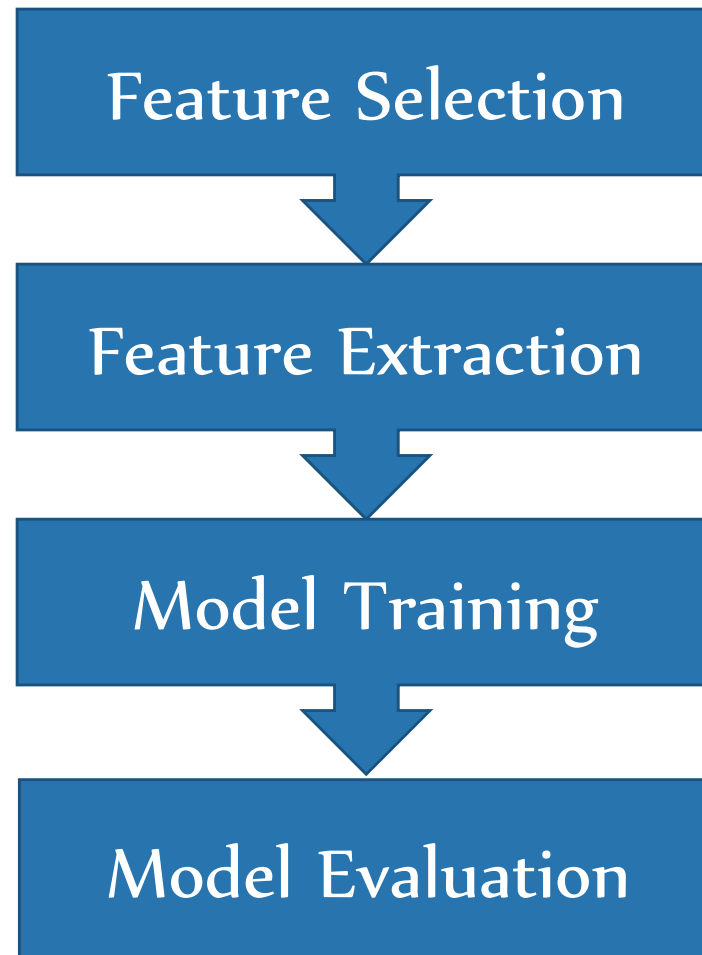
$$y = \hat{y} + \epsilon = X\beta + \epsilon \quad \quad \quad RSS = (y - X\beta)^T (y - X\beta) \quad \left. \vphantom{RSS} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Loss function} \\ (\phi(\cdot)) \text{ in OLS} \end{array}$$

$$\hat{\beta}_{OLS} = \underset{\beta}{\operatorname{argmin}}(RSS) = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y \quad \left. \vphantom{\hat{\beta}_{OLS}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Parameters to be} \\ \text{optimized } (\theta) \text{ in OLS} \end{array}$$

- $\hat{\beta}_{OLS}$ : the predictor coefficients
- $y$  is the observed response variables and  $X$  is the feature matrix
- $\epsilon$  is a vector of residuals

# Supervised Machine Learning Workflow

---



# Overview

---

- Machine Learning Applications in Natural Hazards Engineering (ML-NHE): A Timeline
- High Level Basics of Machine Learning
- Supervised Machine Learning: Theory, Intuition and Model Development Workflow
- Types of Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms
- When to Consider ML Applications in NHE



# Types of Supervised ML Algorithms: Regularized Least Squares

- Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection (LASSO)
- Ridge Regression
- Elastic Net
- Kernel formulation (applicable to all of the above)

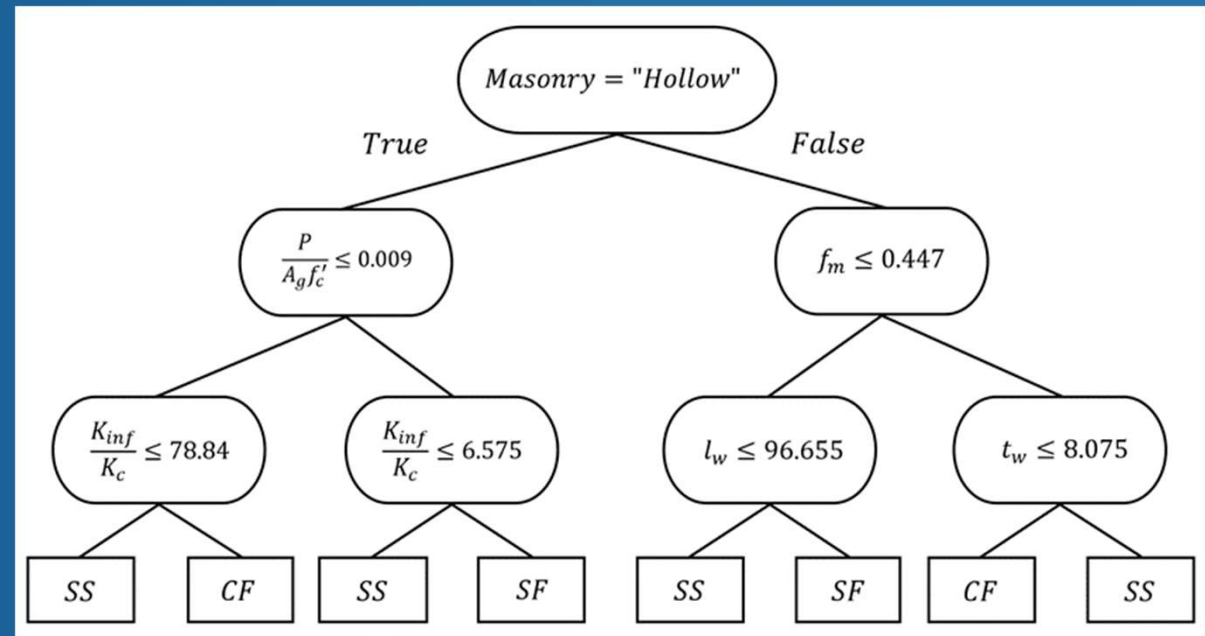
$$\underset{\theta, \lambda}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \phi(y_i, f(x_i; \theta)) + \lambda \Omega(\theta)$$

$$\underset{\beta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta x_i)^2$$

$$\underset{\beta, \lambda}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta x_i)^2 + \lambda \Omega(\beta)$$

# Types of Supervised ML Algorithms: Decision Tree-Based Algorithms

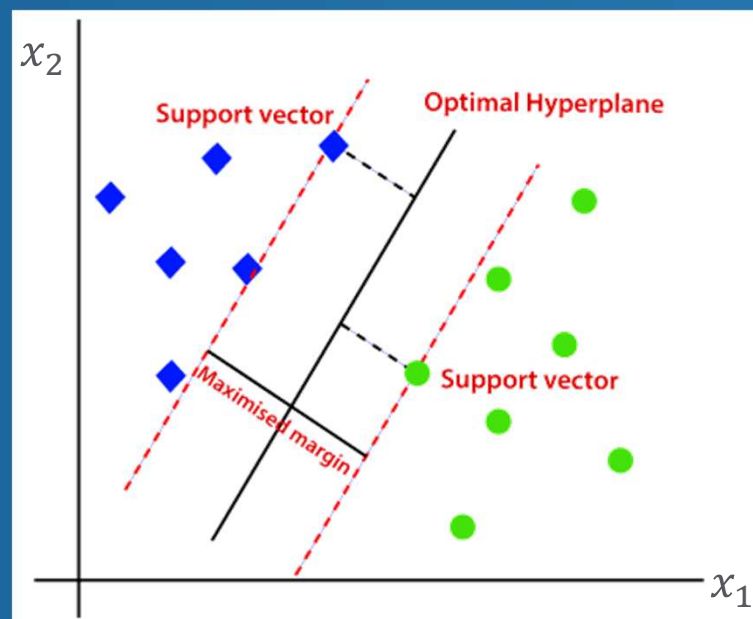
- Decision Trees
- Random Forests
- Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost)
- Adaptive Gradient Boosting



Decision Tree for Classifying Infill Failure Mechanisms

# Types of Supervised ML Algorithms: Support Vector Machines

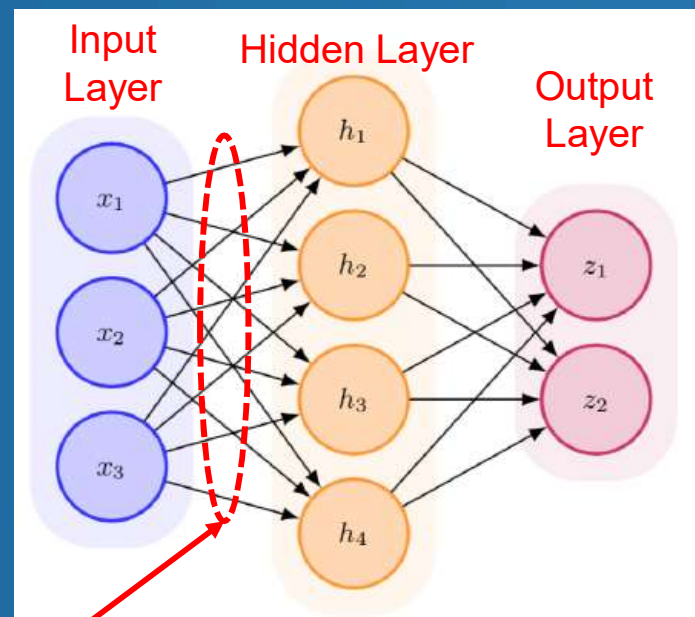
- Support Vector Machines (SVMs) separates hyperplanes
- The output is produced in the form of an optimal hyperplane that categorizes new observations.



$$\underset{\beta, b}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{2} \beta \beta^T \text{ subject to } |y_i - (\beta x_i - b)| \leq \varepsilon$$

# Types of Supervised ML Algorithms: Artificial Neural Networks

- Artificial neural networks (ANNs) operate by recursively (layer-by-layer) applying a series weights ( $W_i$ ) and biases ( $b_i$ ) to the feature matrix ( $x_i$ )
- The output layer is fed into a loss function which is optimized for prediction.



$W_1$  is the  
weight matrix

First Layer:  $h = f(W_1x + b_1)$

Second (output) Layer:  $z = W_2h + b_2$

# Overview

---

- Machine Learning Applications in Natural Hazards Engineering (ML-NHE): A Timeline
- High Level Basics of Machine Learning
- Supervised Machine Learning: Theory, Intuition and Model Development Workflow
- Types of Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms
- When to Consider ML Applications in NHE

# ML-NHE Applications: When it Makes Sense

---

- Any problem where you were going to use an empirical model anyway.
- Anything involving extracting information from images and/or text (e.g., retrieval of information from “harsh” conditions using robots).
- Optimizing the sequencing of activities such as post-event inspections or scheduled maintenance (reinforced learning).
- Any complex and computationally expensive multi-step workflow that has stochasticity

# ML-NHE Applications: When it Makes Sense

---

- If it allows you to acquire new knowledge about the problem at hand.

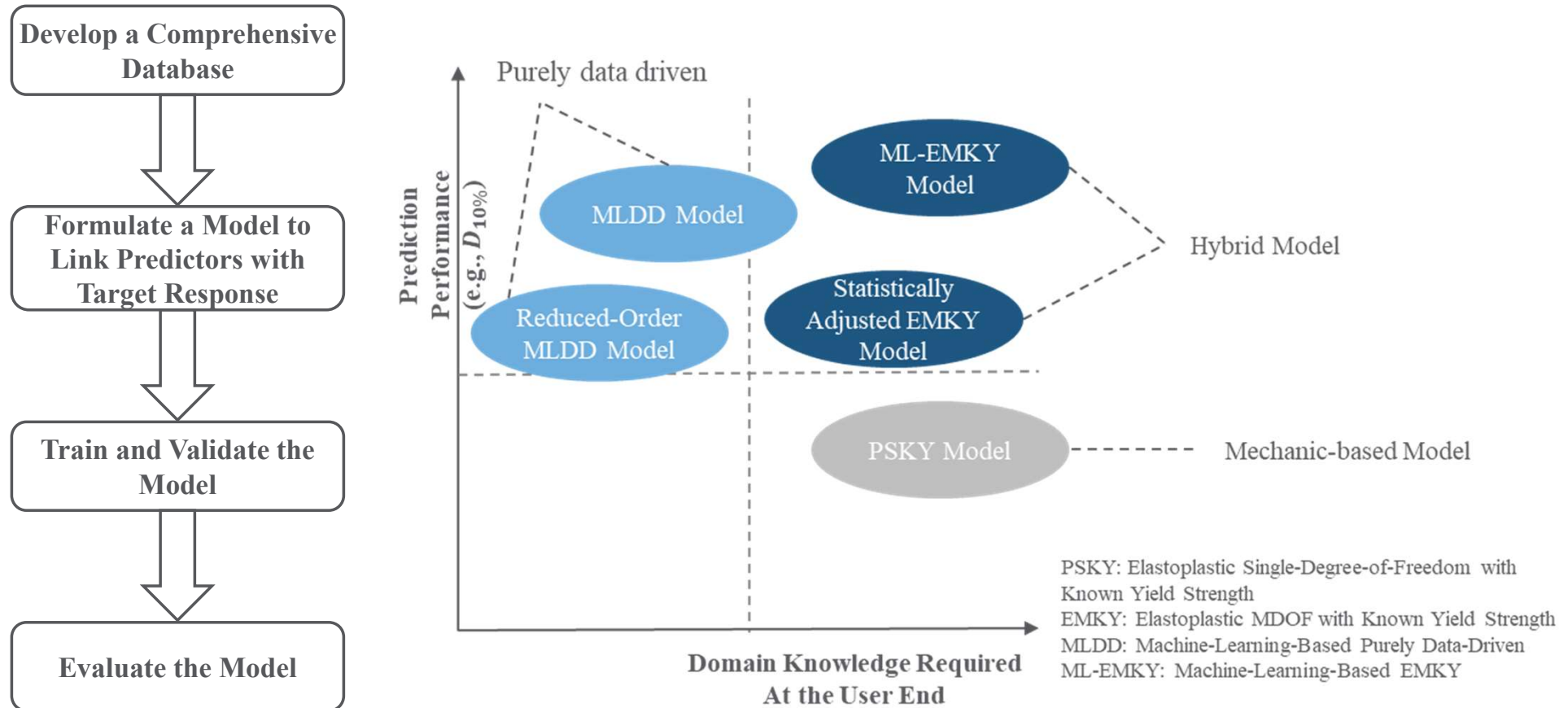
# Overview

---

- Opportunities and Challenges: The Next Frontier in ML-NHE
- Final Thoughts

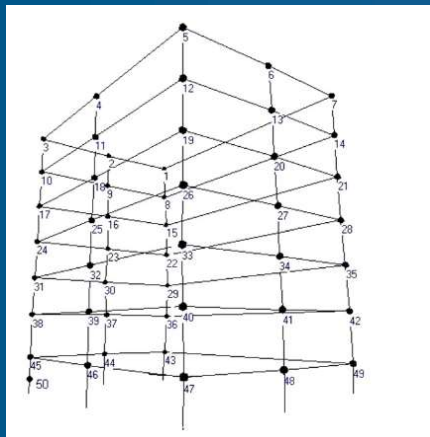


# Surrogate Modeling for Computational Efficiency



Guan, X., Burton, H., Shokrabadi, M., & Yi, Z. (2021). Seismic drift demand estimation for steel moment frame buildings: From mechanics-based to data-driven models. *Journal of Structural Engineering*, 147(6), 04021058.

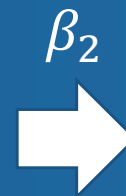
# Machine Learning for Efficiency (Surrogate Models)



Structural Model



Component-Level Testing



System-Level Testing

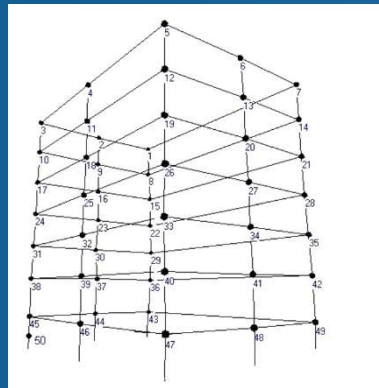


Real Building

$\beta_i$ : Error or uncertainty introduced at step  $i$

$\beta_{TOT}$ : Total error or uncertainty

# Machine Learning for Efficiency (Surrogate Models)



Structural Model



Component-Level Testing



System-Level Testing

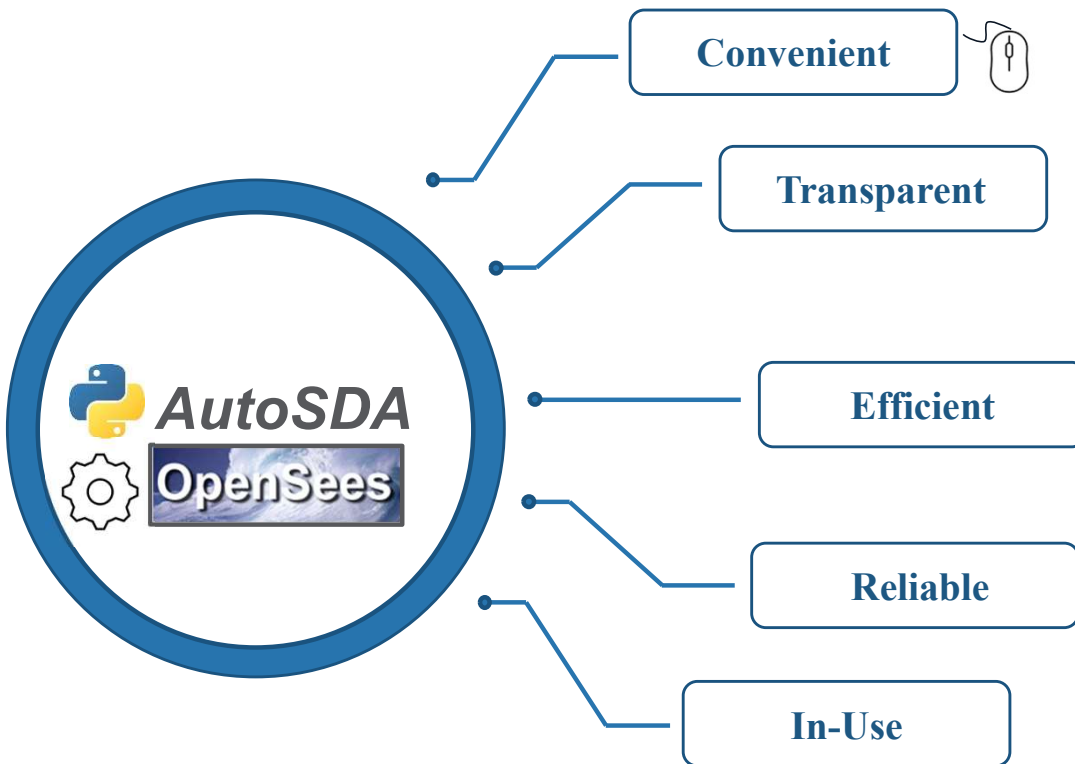


Real Building



Surrogate Model

# What About Automation for Efficiency?



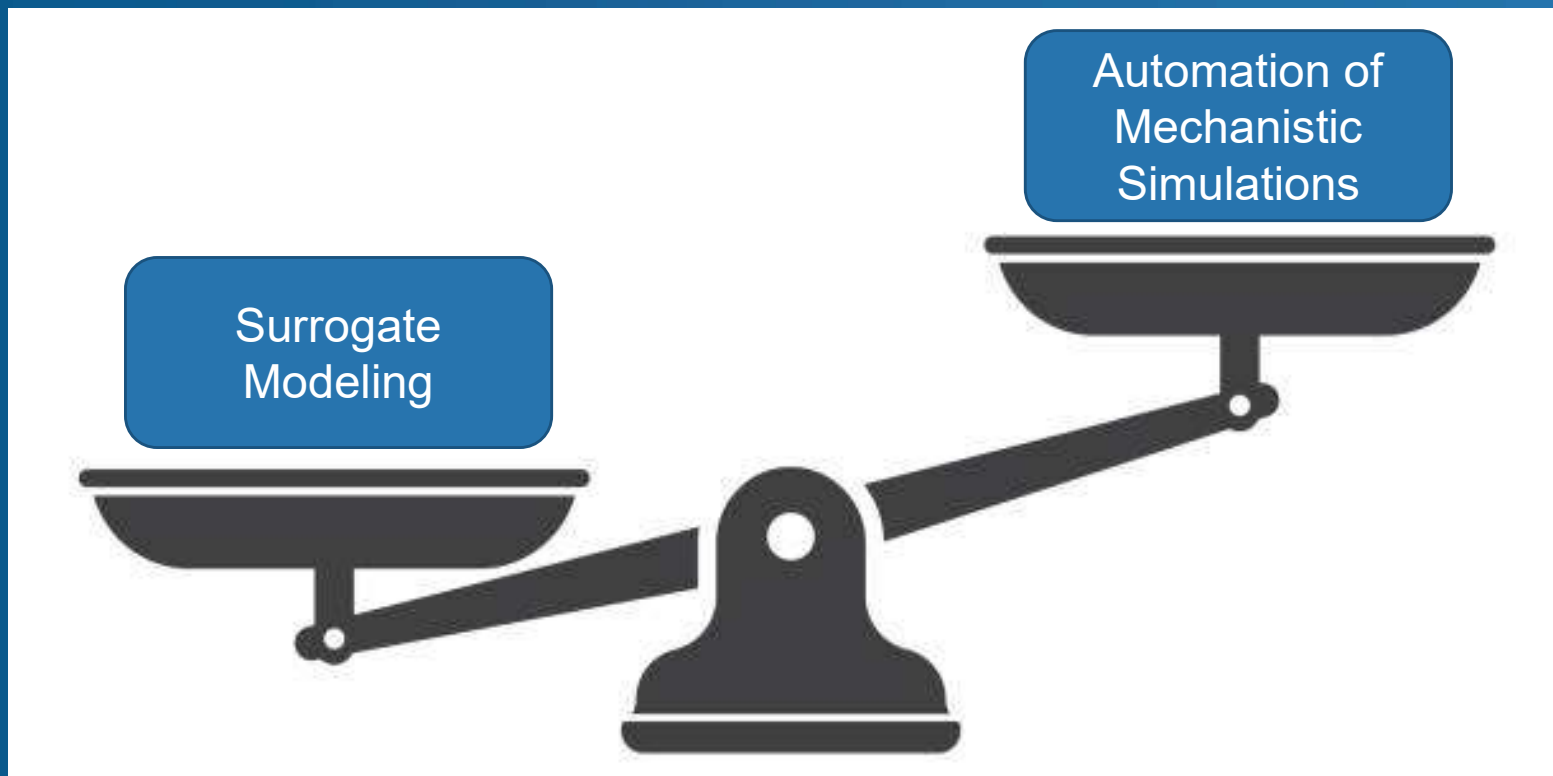
The screenshot displays the 'EE-UQ: Response of Building to Earthquake' software interface. The 'Building Model Generator' tab is active, showing various input fields for building information, ELF parameters, and loading. A red box highlights a citation notice: 'Users should cite this tool as follows: Guan, X., Burton, H., & Sabol, T. (2020). Python-based computational platform to automate seismic design, nonlinear structural model construction and analysis of steel moment resisting frames. Engineering Structures, 224, 111199.'

NSF NHERI EE-UQ framework  
 NHERI: Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure  
 EE-UQ: Earthquake Engineering with Uncertainty Quantification

Guan, X., Burton, H., & Sabol, T. (2020). Python-based computational platform to automate seismic design, nonlinear structural model construction and analysis of SMRFs. Engineering Structures, 224, 111199

Henry V. Burton

# Balancing the use of Automation and Surrogate Modeling for Achieving Scale in Regional Risk Assessments



# Predicting the Drift Capacity of Reinforced Concrete Walls with Special Boundary Elements (SBE) using ML

Abdullah and Wallace (2019) developed an empirical equation to predict the drift capacity of SBE walls based on a dataset that comprises 164 test. The equation is specified in ACI 318-19.

$$\frac{\delta_c}{h_w} (\%) = 3.85 - \frac{\lambda_b}{\alpha} - \frac{v_{max}}{10\sqrt{f'_c} (psi)}$$

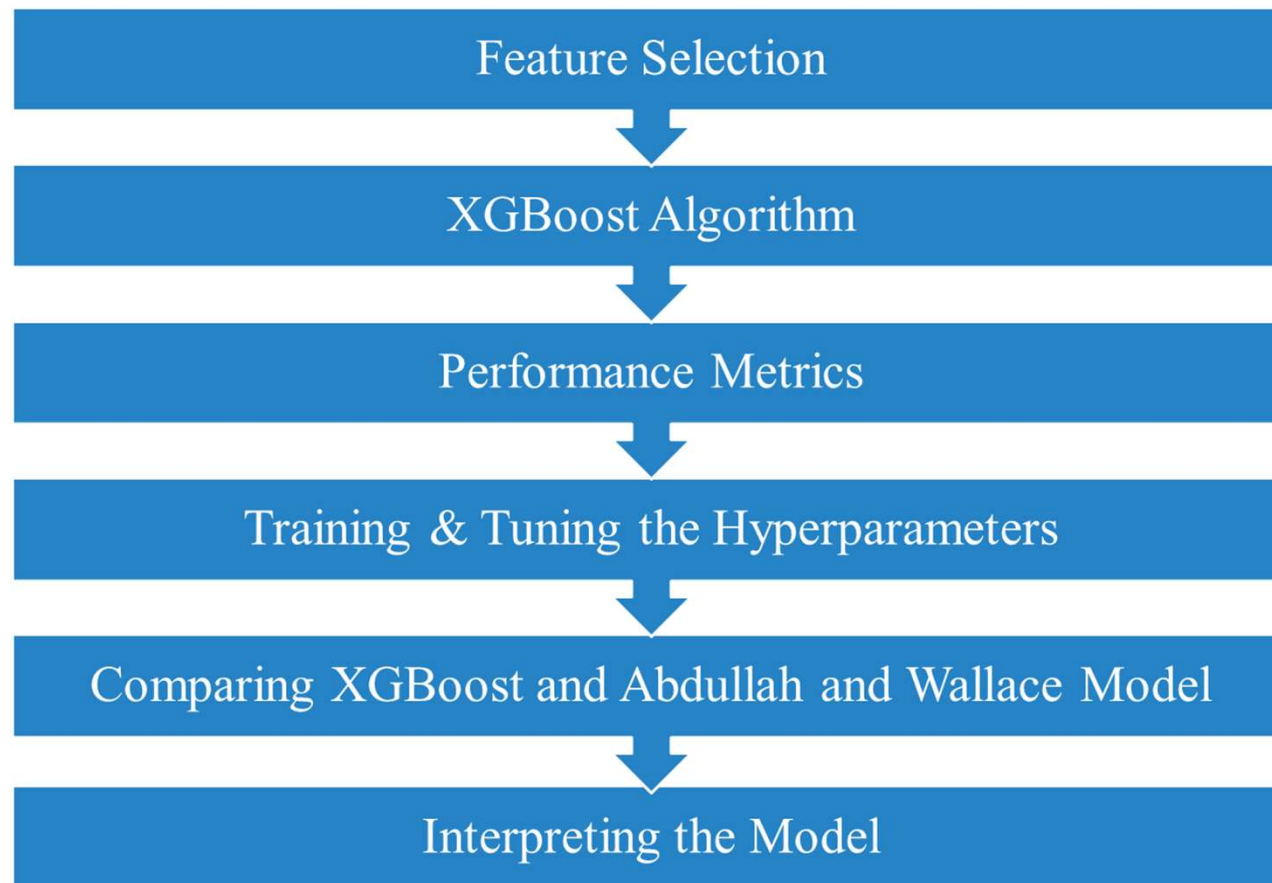
$\lambda_b = \frac{l_w b}{c^2}$  is a slenderness ratio

$\alpha = 60$  for overlapping hoops and 45 for single hoops with crossties

$v_{max}$ : maximum shear stress and  $f'_c$ : concrete compressive strength

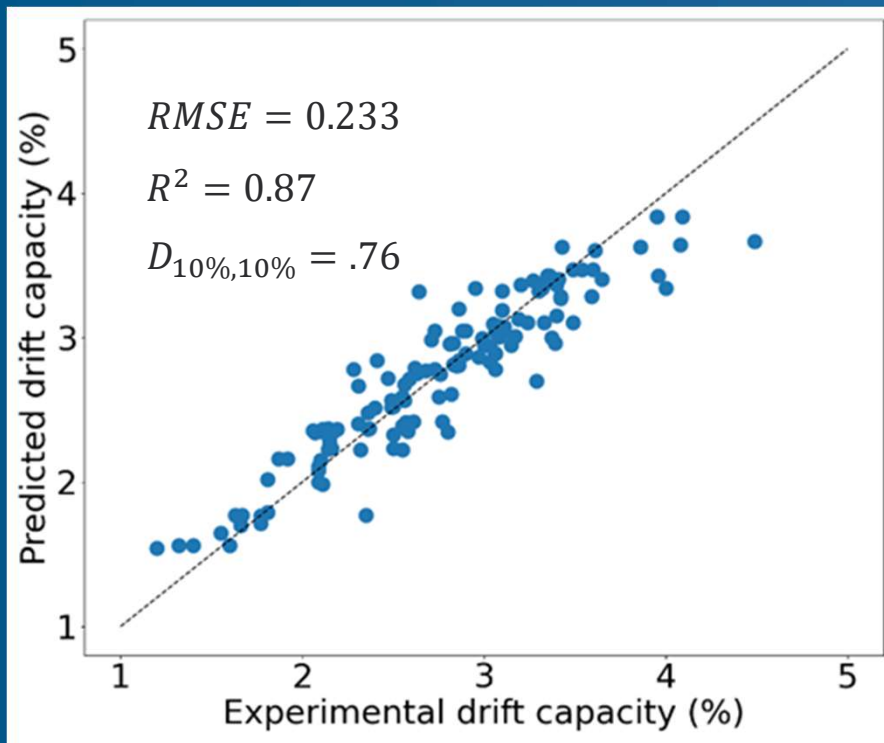
# Overview of ML Model Development Workflow

---

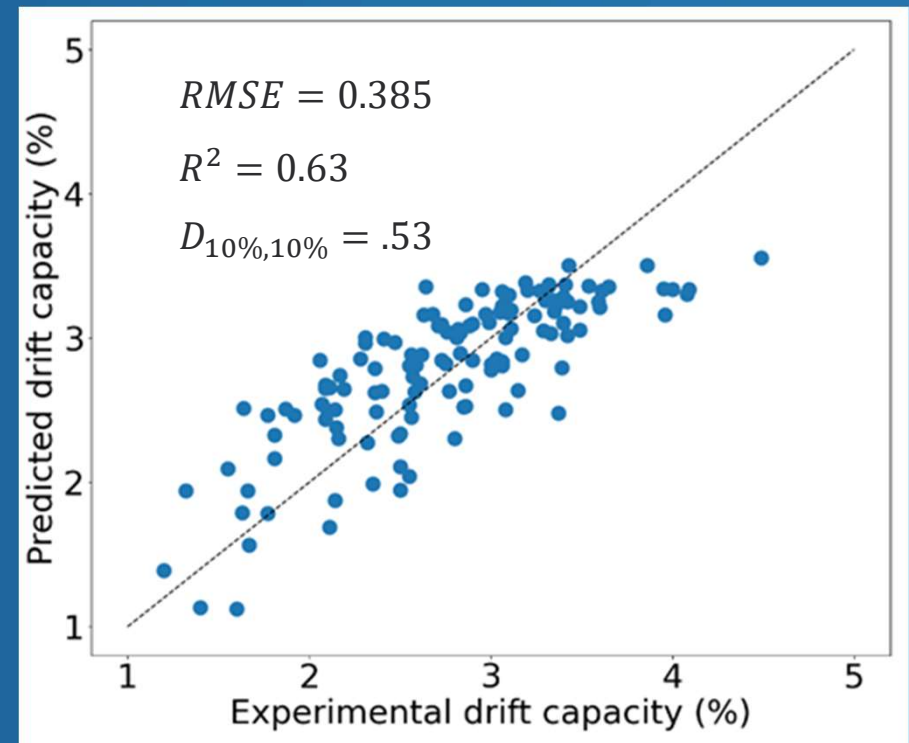




# Comparing Performance of XGBoost and Abdullah and Wallace Models



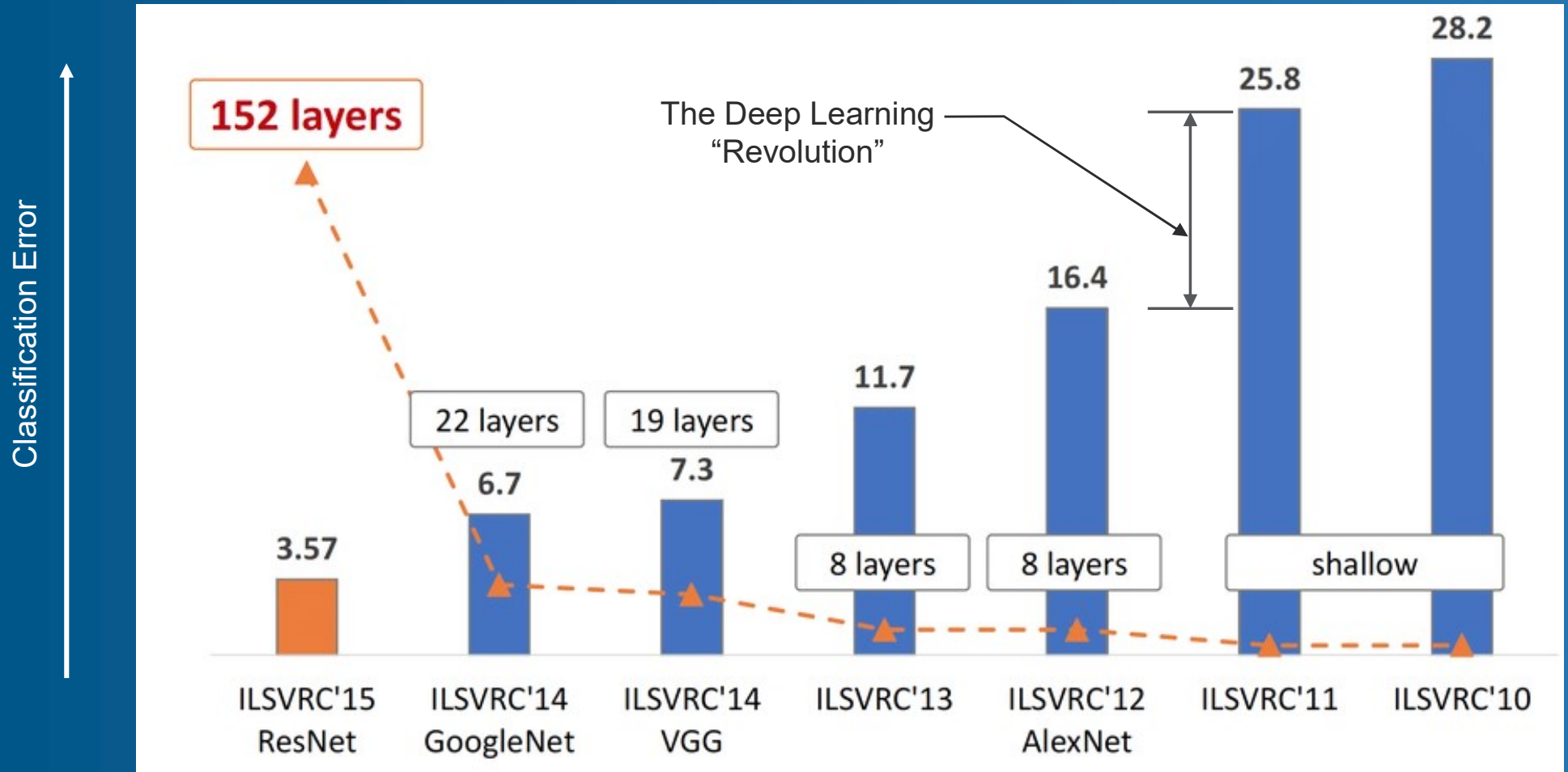
**XGBoost**



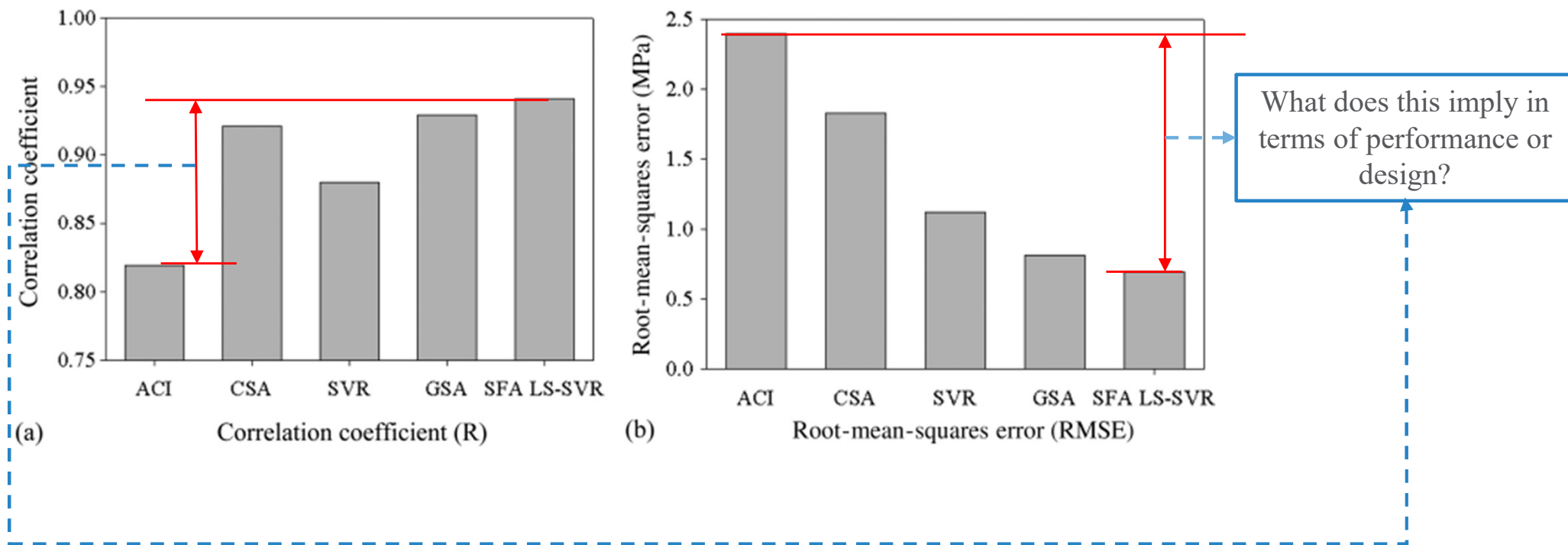
**Abdullah and Wallace**



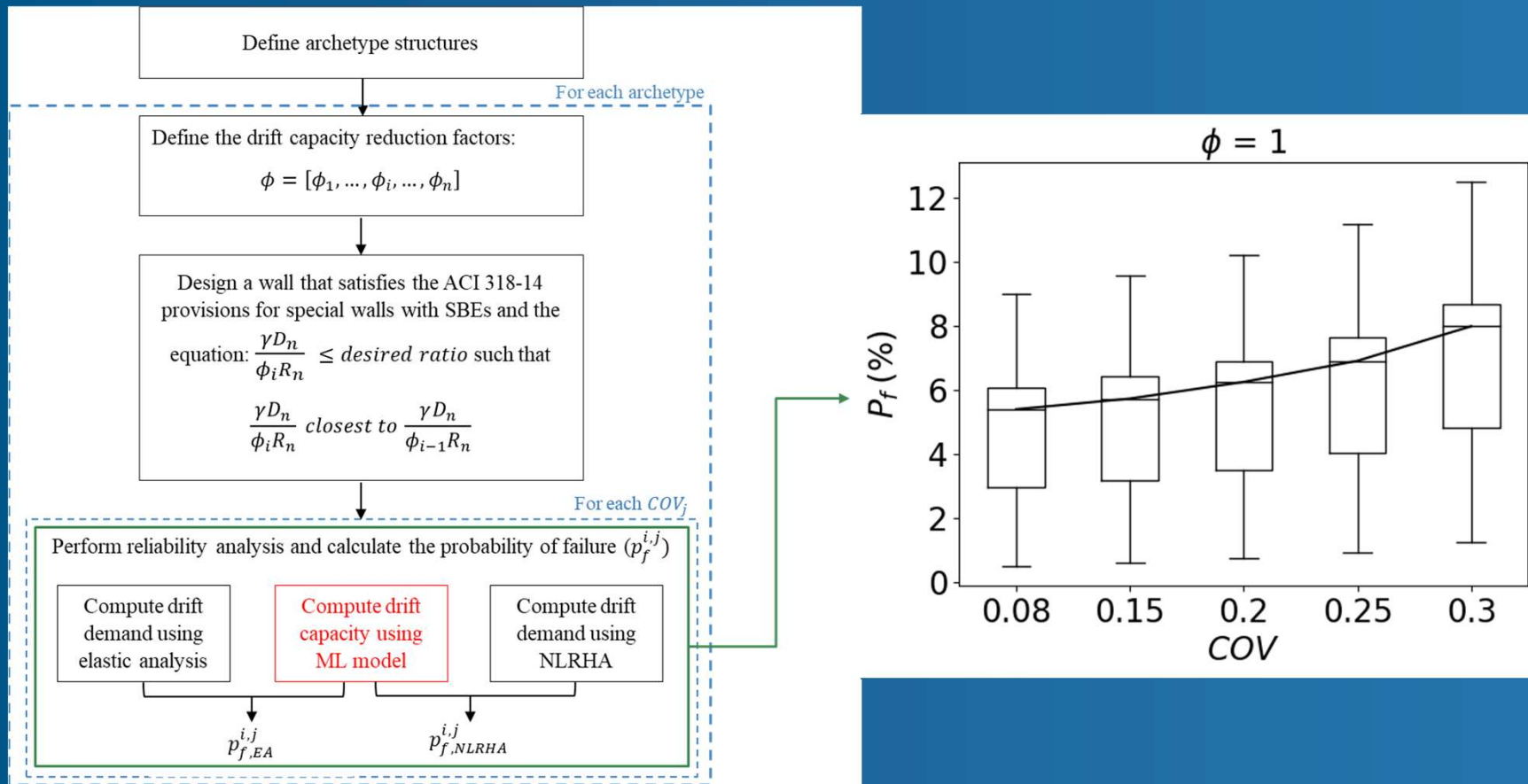
# What is the Value of Increased Predictive Accuracy?



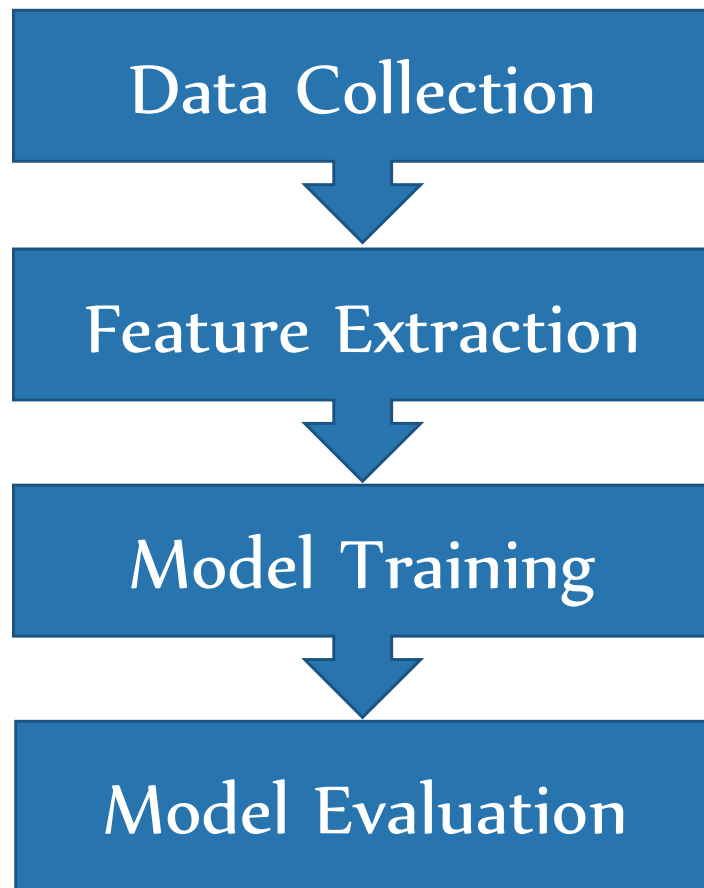
# What is the Value of Increased Predictive Accuracy?




# The Value of Increased Predictive Accuracy: A Reliability-Based Evaluation



# Machine Learning for Regional Impact Assessment (An Alternative to HAZUS)



Predicted Class

	G	Y	R	
Actual Class				
G	141 (20.7%)	129 (18.9%)	0 (0%)	52% <i>1 as a true</i>
Y	74 (10.9%)	302 (44.3%)	4 (0.6%)	79% 
R	7 (1.0%)	21 (3.1%)	4 (0.6%)	13% <i>if N</i>
Prediction: $\checkmark, \times, \dots$	64%	67%	50%	66% <i>rate predictions each subtree</i>

Multiple trees are "in parallel"

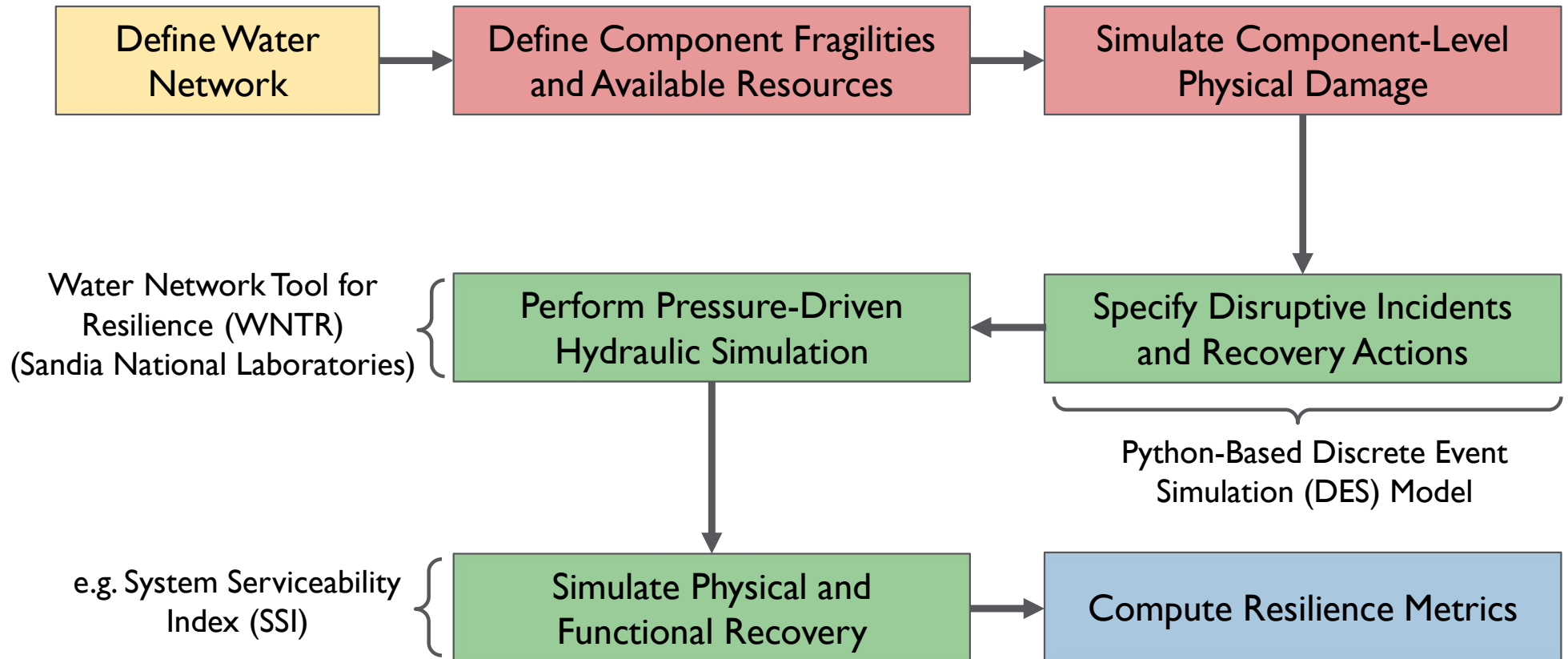
Testing Set

# Machine Learning for Predicting Regional Impacts: Some Critical Questions

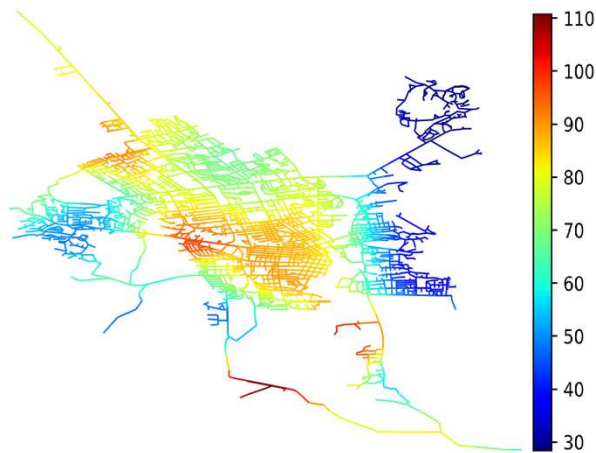
---

- How does the ML approach perform relative to HAZUS?
- Can we make the ML results as interpretable (or even more so) than HAZUS?
- What if I applied my model trained on data from the 2014 South Napa earthquake to the 1994 Northridge earthquake?
- How many events need to be considered in the training data to make the ML model “generalizable enough” ?
- Does a practitioner have to be knowledgeable about ML to apply the model?

# Active Learning for Event Subset Selection in Distributed Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Assessment



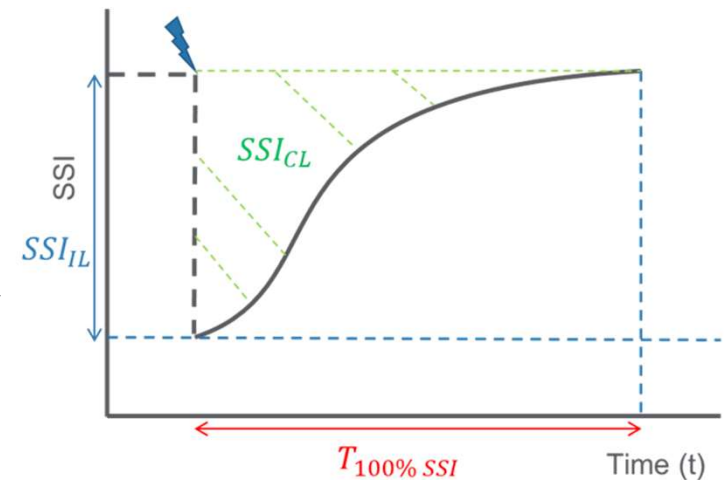
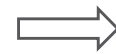
# Active Learning for Event Subset Selection in Distributed Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Assessment



## Single Scenario



## End-to-End Simulation Model

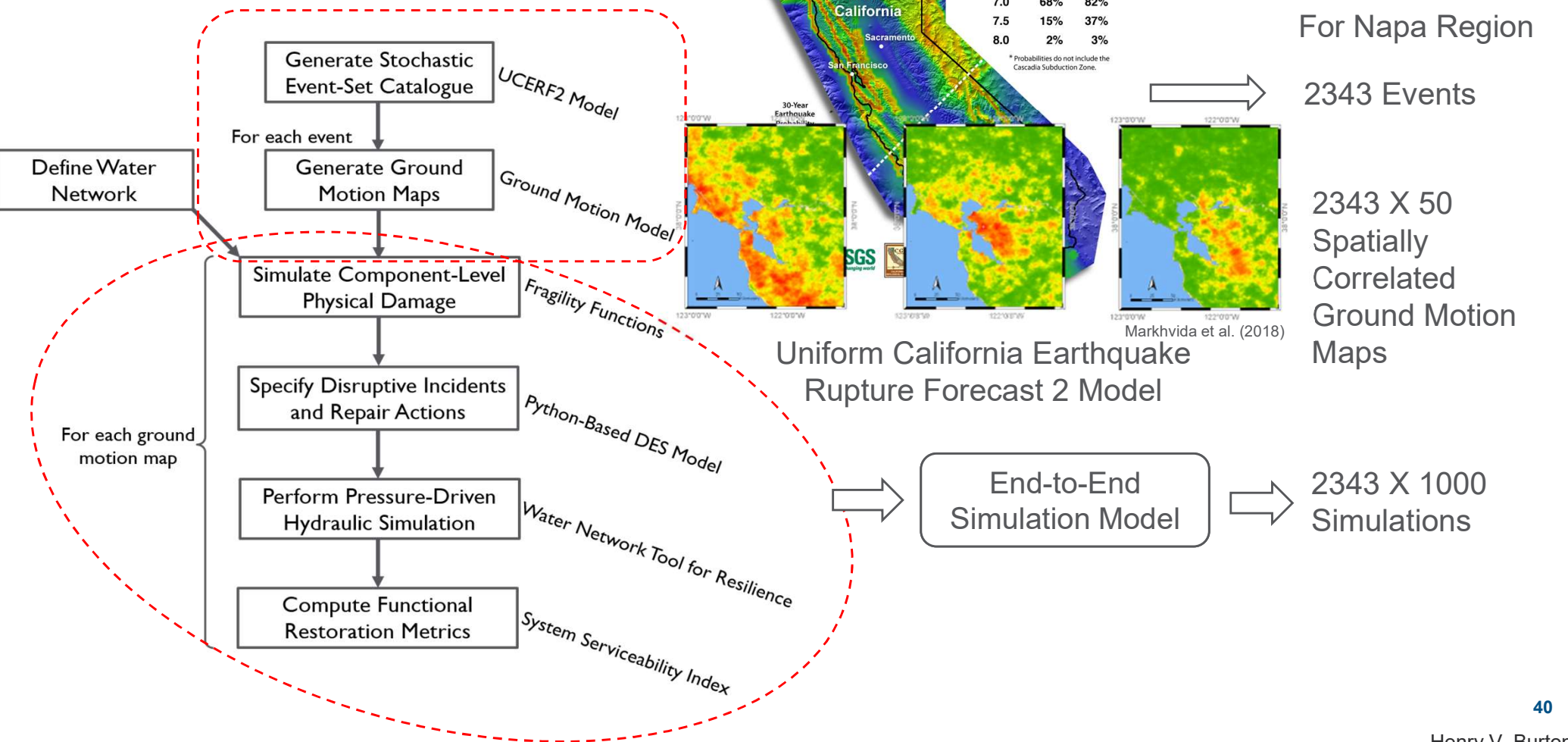


$SSI_{IL}$  SSI Immediate Loss

$T_{100\% SSI}$  Time to reach 100% of SSI

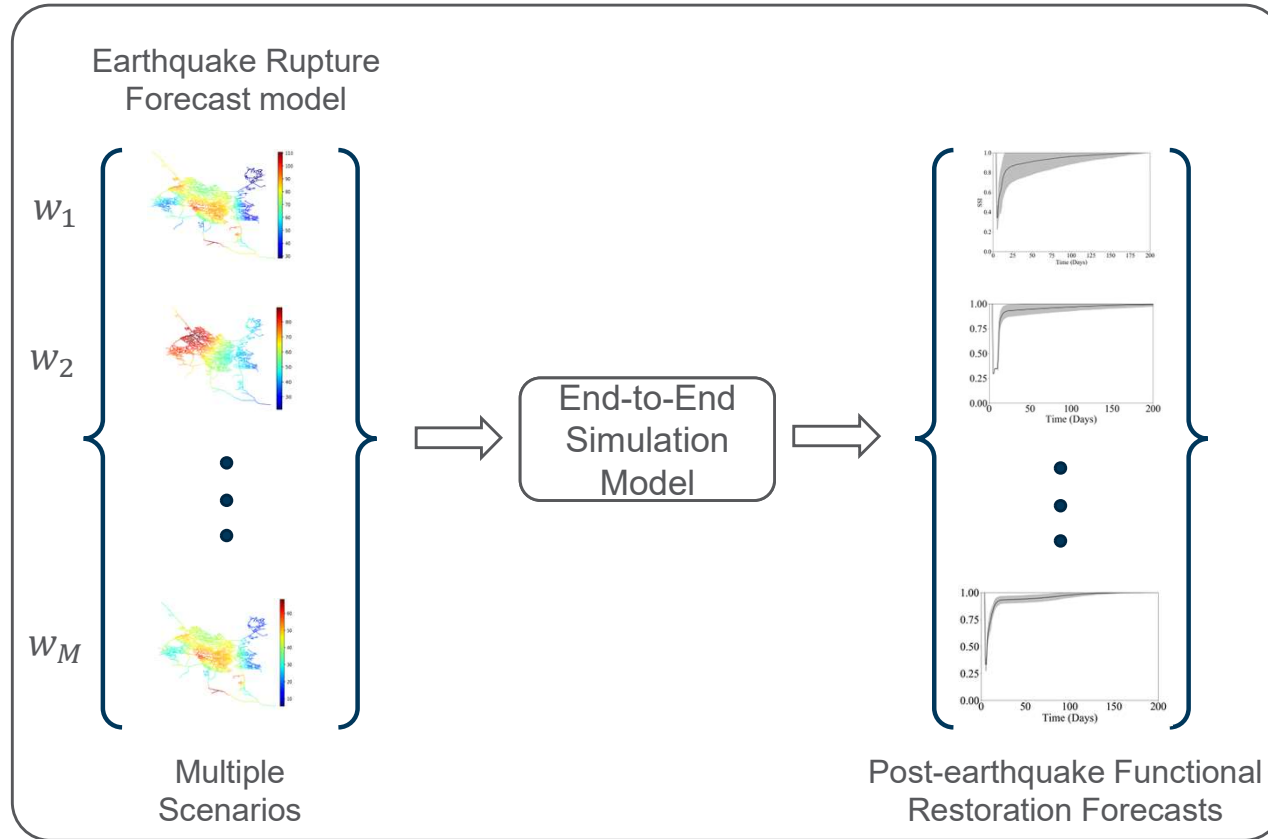
 $SSI_{CL}$  SSI Cumulative Loss

# Risk-Based Assessment of Water System Resilience





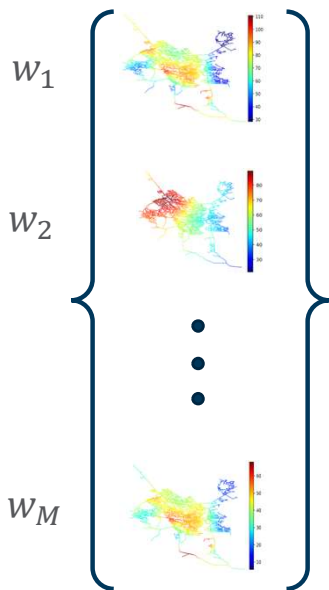
# Computational Challenges of Stochastic Event Set-Based Assessments



- A typical simulation takes between 2 minutes to 6 hours
- We used parallel computing
- Set of all possible scenarios using rupture forecast models:
  - UCERF2 – 2343 scenarios
  - UCERF3 – 236905 scenarios
- Analyzing larger system
  - Napa - 612 km of pipeline
  - Los Angeles County ~ 12000 km of pipelines
- Some network performance metrics require heavy computational power
  - Centrality measures (betweenness)

# Shaking Intensity Map Subset Selection using Active Learning

Earthquake Rupture  
Forecast model



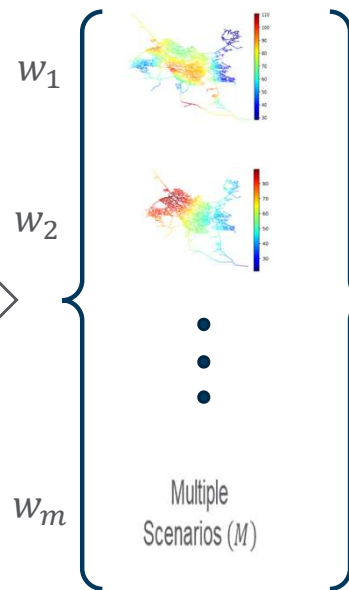
Multiple  
Scenarios ( $M$ )



Active Learning

End-to-End  
Simulation  
Model

$M \gg m$



Selected  
Scenarios ( $m$ )

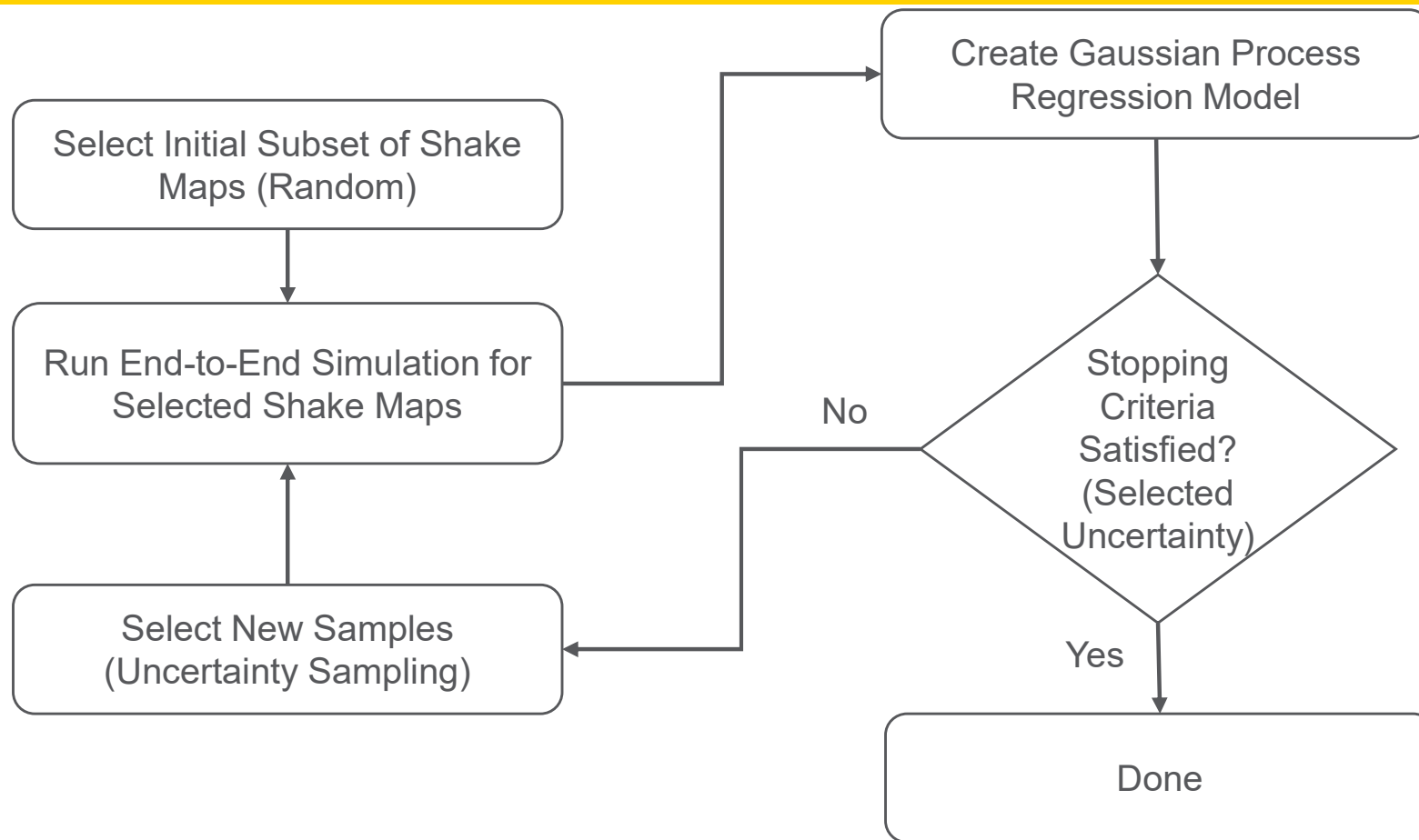


End-to-End  
Simulation  
Model



Post-earthquake Functional  
Restoration Forecasts  $m$   
Scenarios

# Active Learning for Map Subset Selection



## Selected Uncertainty Stopping Criterion

---

The variance of the top- $m$  selected samples (i.e.,  $m$  most uncertain cases) at each learning cycle will be a good signal of the confidence in the current model.

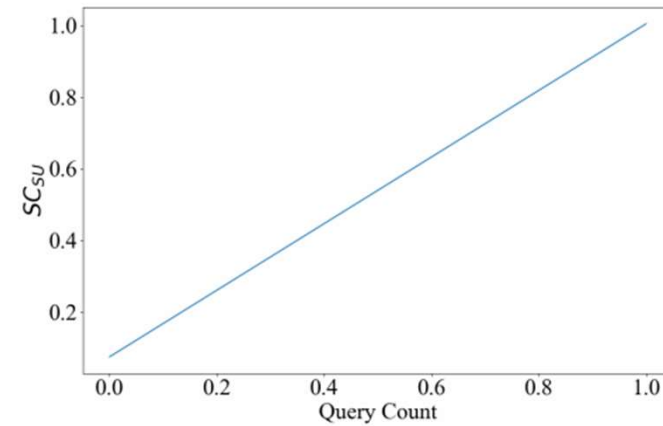
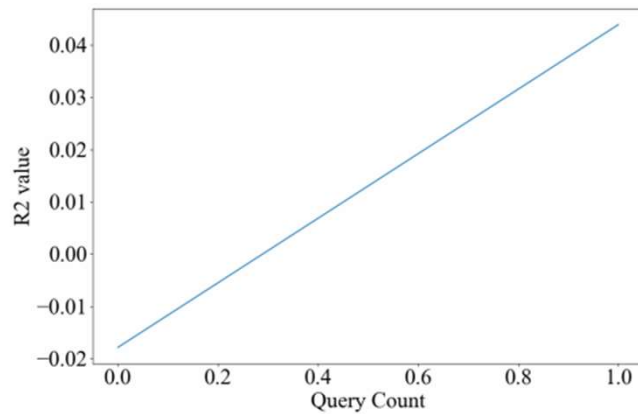
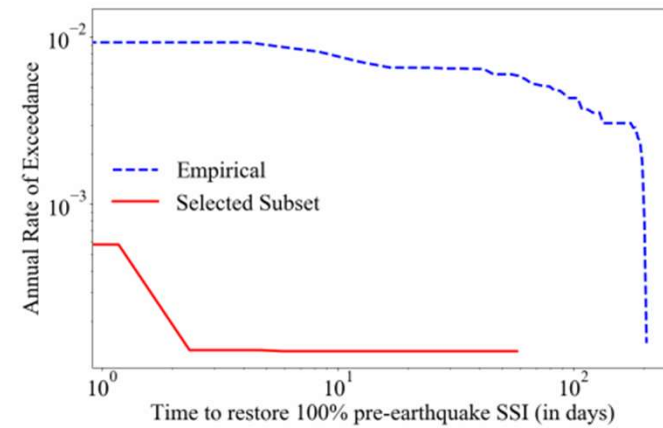
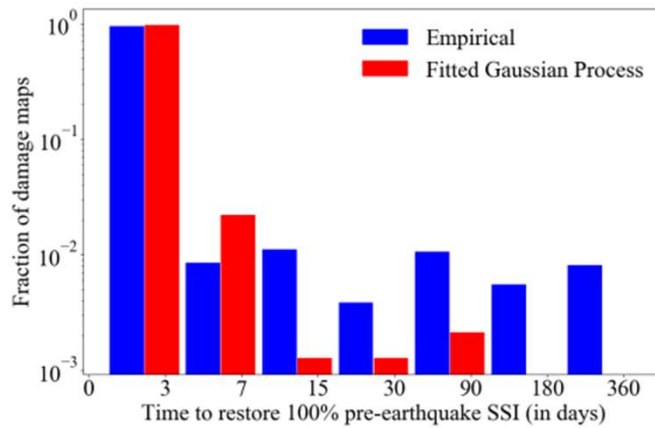
$$SC_{SU}(C) = \begin{cases} 1, & \frac{\sum_{x \in C} Var(x)}{m} < \delta_{SU} \\ 0, & otherwise \end{cases}$$

where  $\delta_{SU}$  is the user-predefined variance threshold,

$C$  is the set of top- $m$  selected unlabeled samples,

$Var(x)$  evaluates the variance on set  $C$  based on the current model.

# Active Learning Results for $T_{100\%SSI}$



## Active Learning: Magic Bullet, or No?

---

- Active learning is a powerful because it allows to learn from incrementally generated mechanistic simulations.
- The earlier approach to “event subset selection” used an optimization framework where the mechanistic assessment for the complete event set was used.
- The complete event set mechanistic simulation is not required in active learning.
- However, careful thought and effort needs to be placed in establishing the stopping criteria.

# Overview

---

- Opportunities and Challenges: The Next Frontier in ML-NHE
- Final Thoughts

# Final Thoughts

---

- For us (natural hazard engineers), ML is “just a tool”, but it can be an extremely powerful tool in the right context (and if applied correctly).
- It’s not about the algorithms themselves, it’s about the problems that are able to solve by applying them.
- In our current paradigm, all machine learning models are based on associational (not causal) relationships (more on this later).
- As a community, we need to move ML-NHE applications beyond “exploration” to real “problem solving”.



# The End

