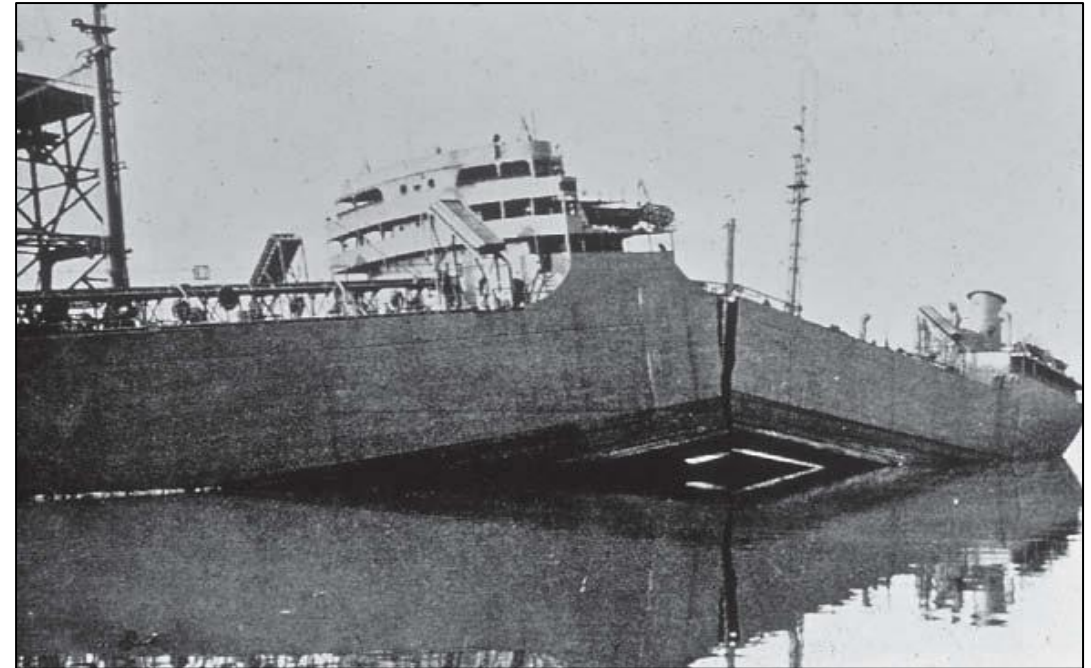


# FATIGUE OF SHIPS AND OFFSHORE STRUCTURES



Source: [https://www.explorermagazin.de/amstar/amaut\\_e.htm](https://www.explorermagazin.de/amstar/amaut_e.htm)



Source: <https://metallurgyandmaterials.wordpress.com/2015/12/25/liberty-ship-failures/>

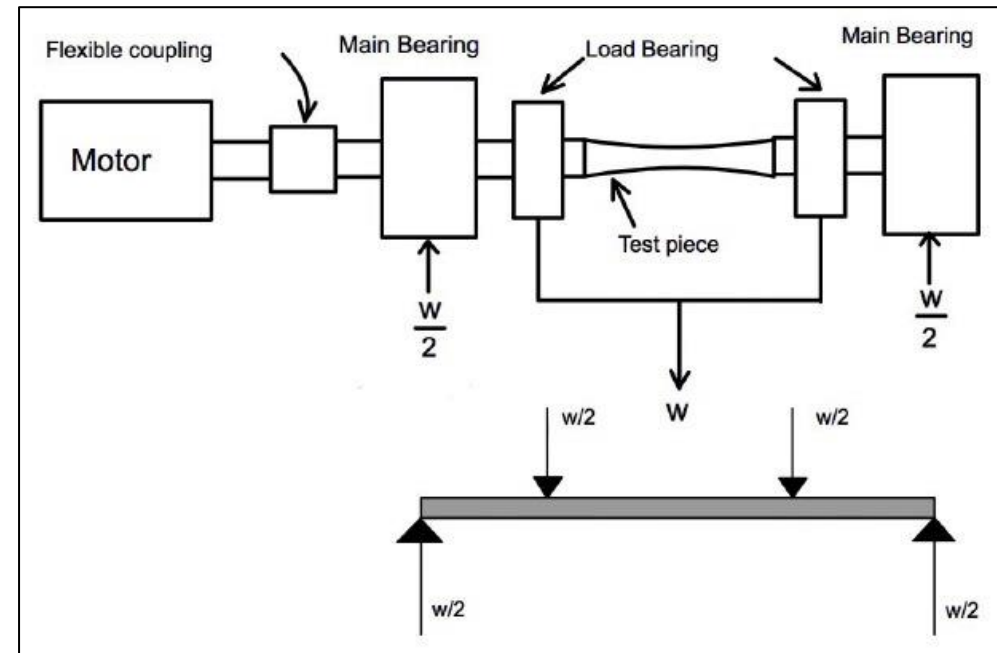
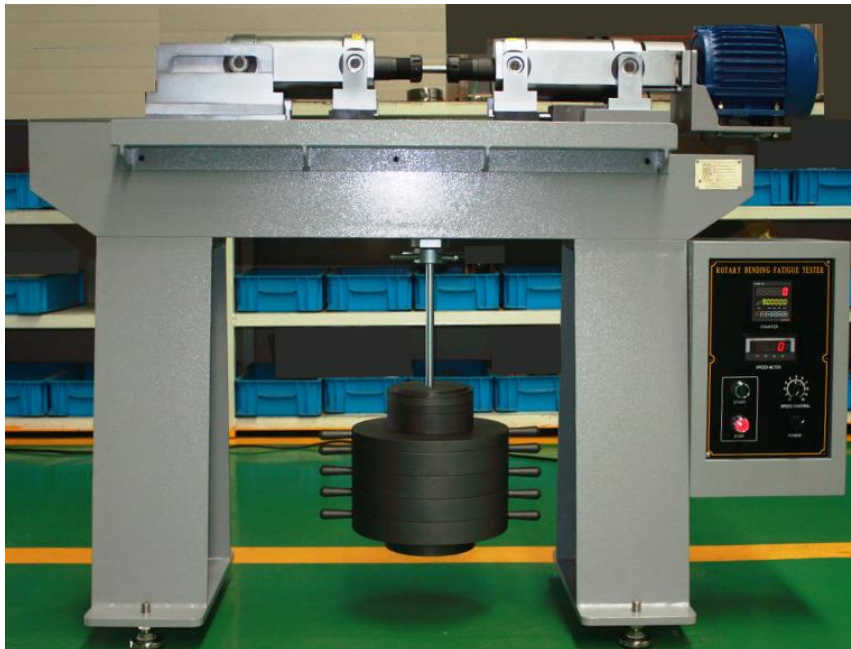
**Nandar Hlaing, Pablo G. Morato  
Philippe Rigo**

<https://github.com/Nandarhline>

Repository: Fatigue\_Lecture

## ❑ Wohler (SN test)

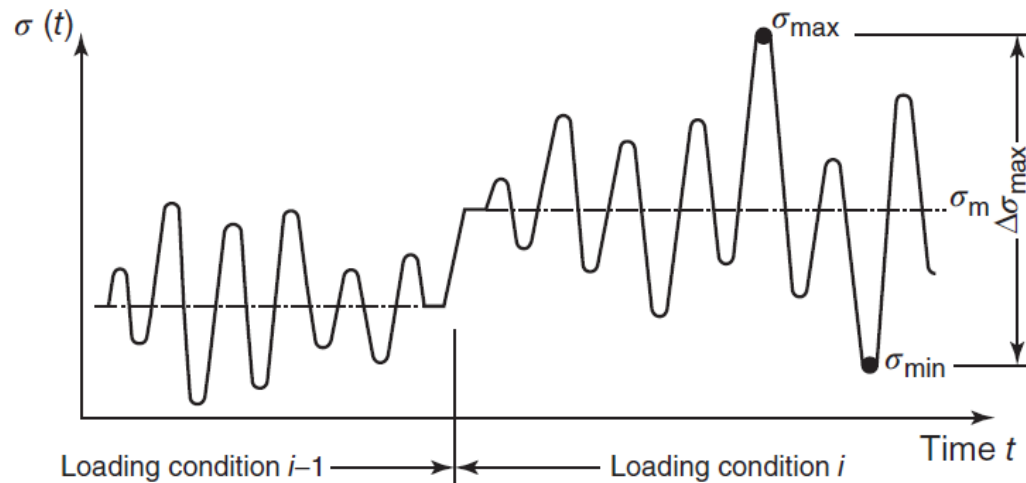
- fixed amplitude
- experimental, numerical



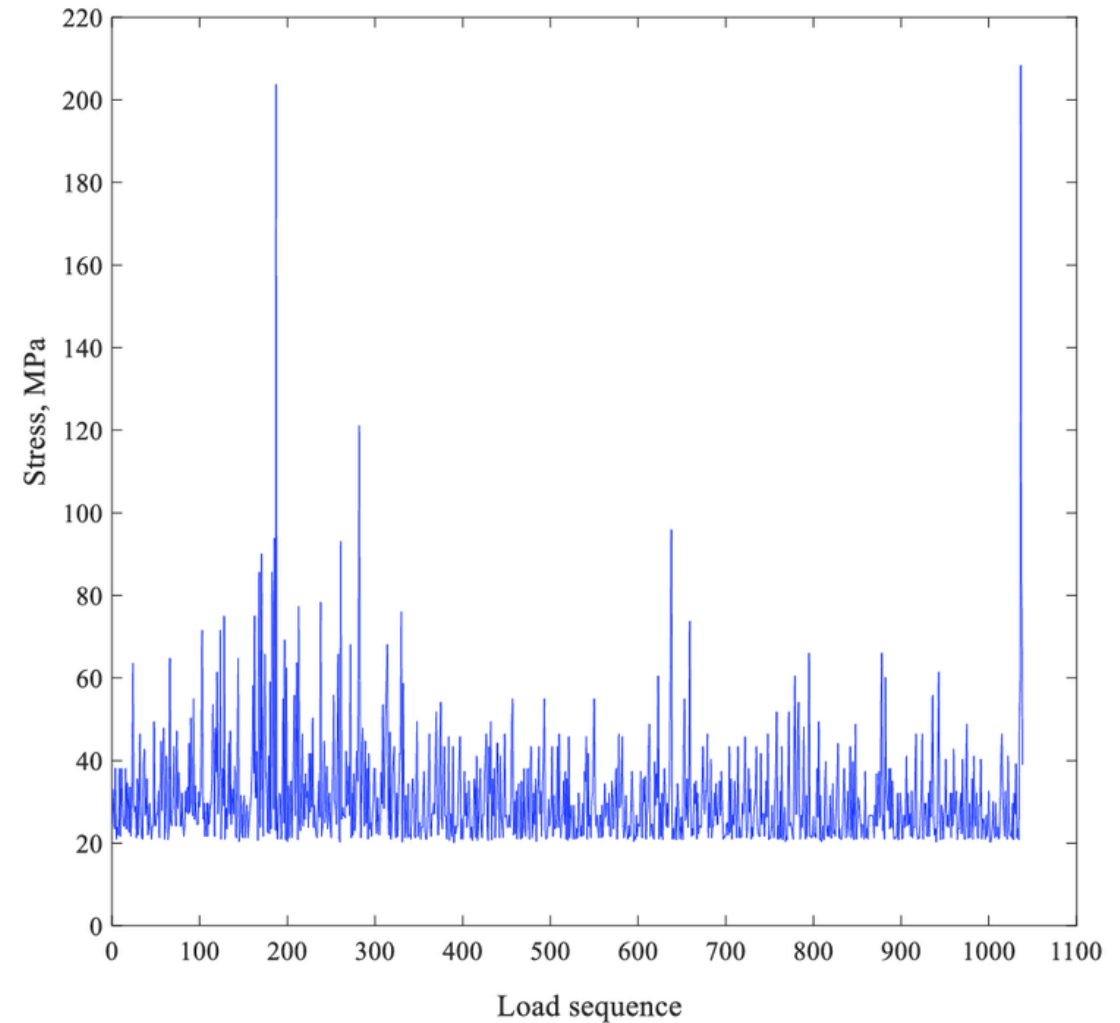
## □ Short-term fatigue assessment

- variable amplitude
- experimental, numerical
- time domain (rainflow counting)
- frequency domain (RAO + Wave spectrum)

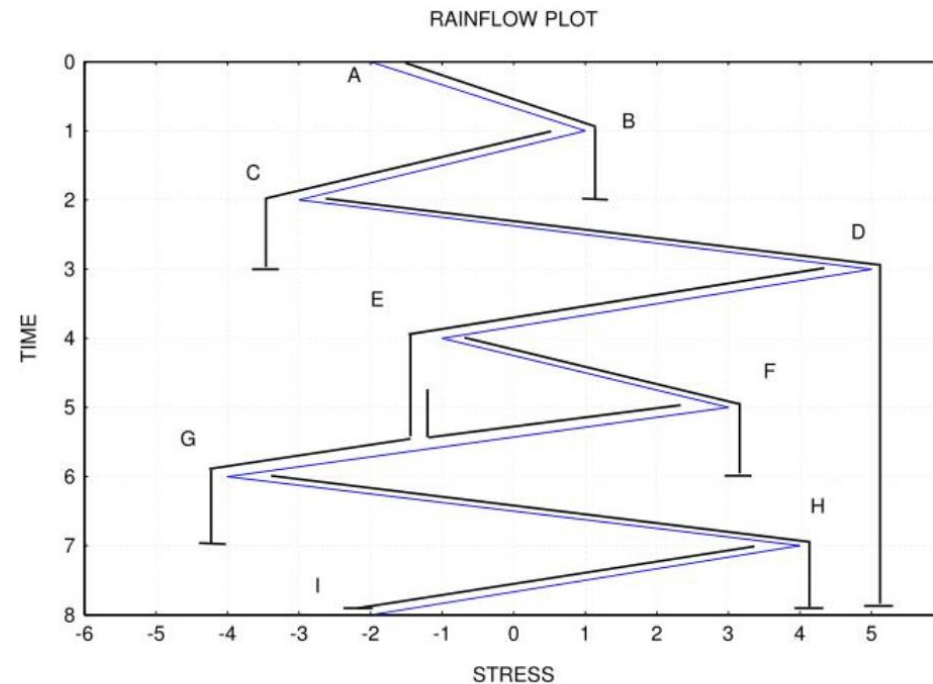
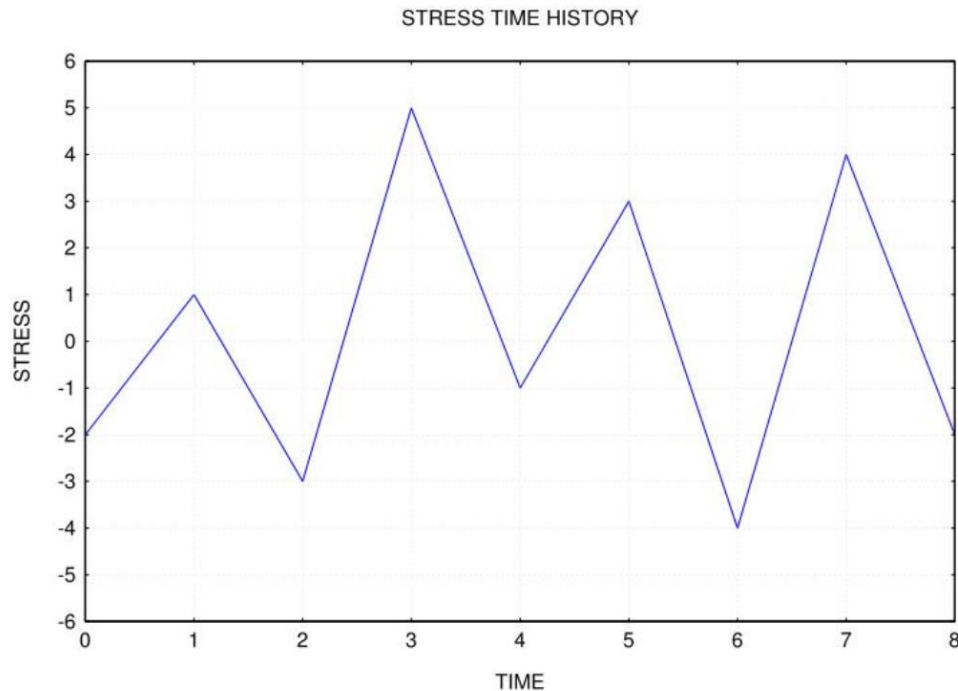
## Time-domain stress history



**Figure 1.** Stress history for superimposed stillwater and wave-induced loads (schematic).



## Rainflow counting



### Rainflow Cycle Counting

Rotate time history plot  
90 degrees clockwise

Rainflow Cycles by Path		
Path	Cycles	Stress Range
A-B	0.5	3
B-C	0.5	4
C-D	0.5	8
D-G	0.5	9
E-F	1.0	4
G-H	0.5	8
H-I	0.5	6



<http://www.maths.lth.se/matstat/wafo/>



## ❑ Long-term fatigue assessment

- variable amplitude
- experimental, (numerical)
- time domain (rainflow counting, load cases + probabilities)
- frequency domain (RAO + Wave spectrum + probabilities )

## ❑ Can we do it more easily?

- simplified fatigue assessment



To understand the simplified fatigue assessment

$$D = \frac{n_t q^m}{K} \Gamma \left( 1 + \frac{m}{h} \right)$$

$D$  = long-term fatigue damage

$n_t$  = total number of stress cycles for the design lifetime

$K, m$  = SN curve parameters

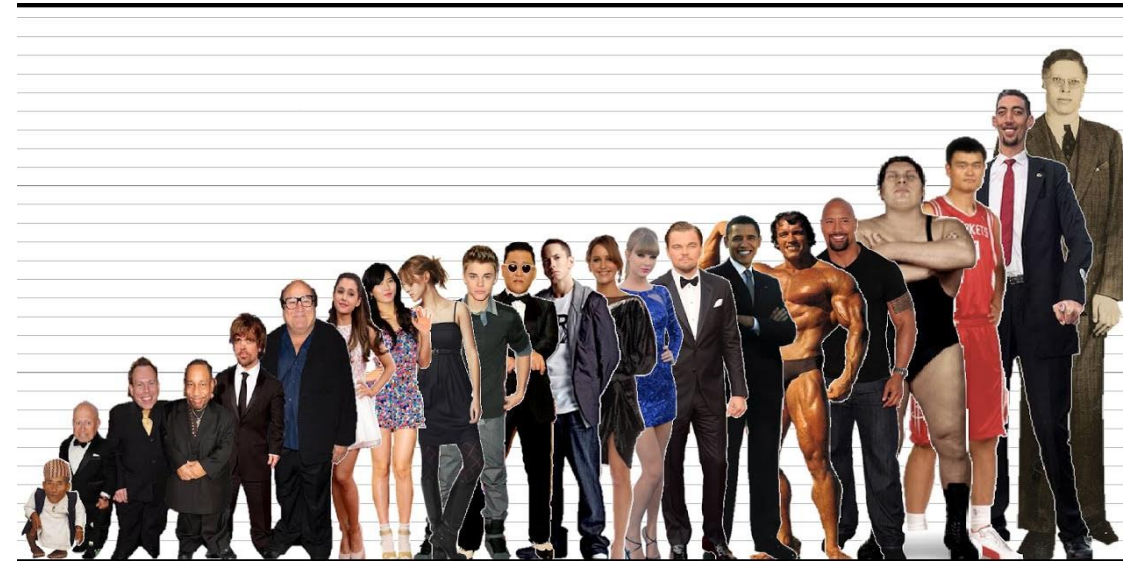
$q, h$  = Weibull scale and shape parameters



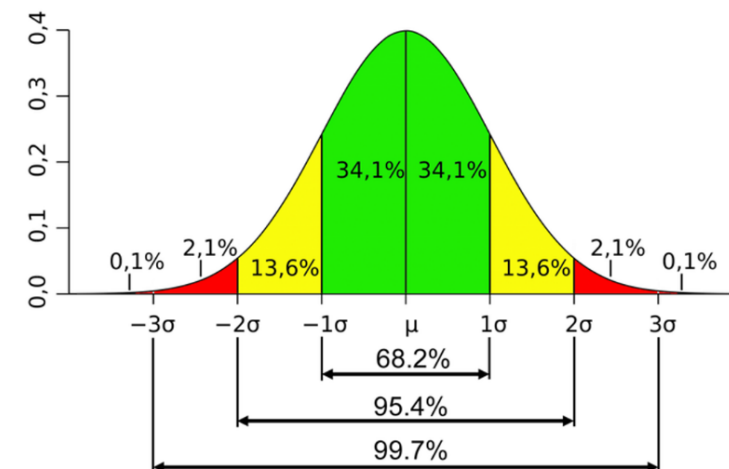
## Probability distributions

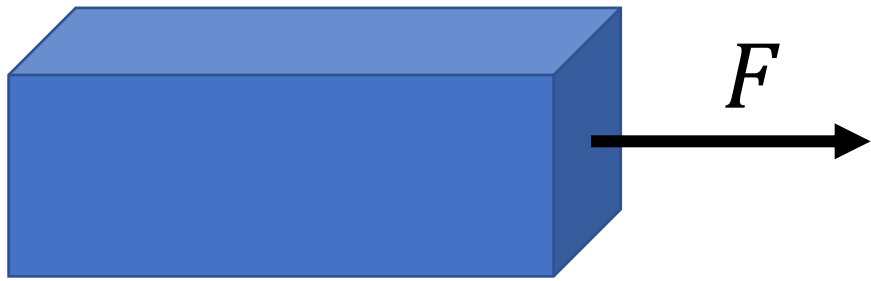


### Discrete



### Continuous





## Deterministic approach

$$A = wh$$

$$h = 10 \text{ mm}$$

$$w = 20 \text{ mm}$$

$$\delta = 1.9 \text{ mm}$$

## Probabilistic approach

$$A = wh$$

$$h = 10 \text{ mm}$$

$$w \sim \textcolor{red}{N}[\mu = 20 \text{ mm}, \text{CoV} = 15\%]$$

$$\text{CoV} = \frac{\sigma}{\mu}, \quad \sigma = 3 \text{ mm}$$

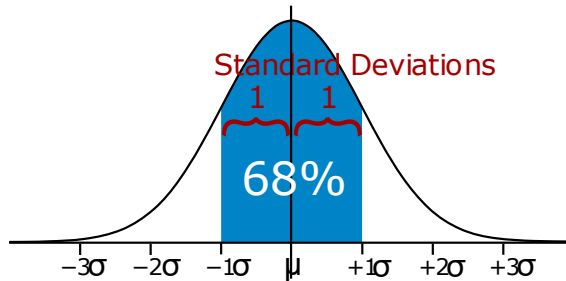
$$L = 2 \text{ m}$$

$$E = 210 \text{ GPa}$$

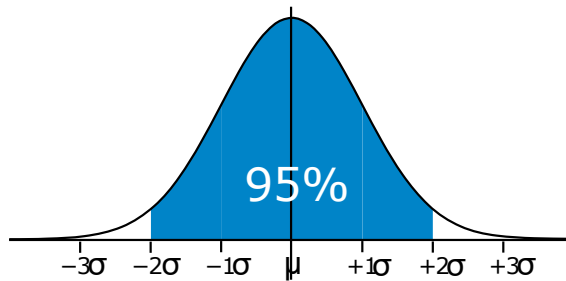
$$F = 40 \text{ kN}$$

$$\delta = \frac{FL}{EA}$$

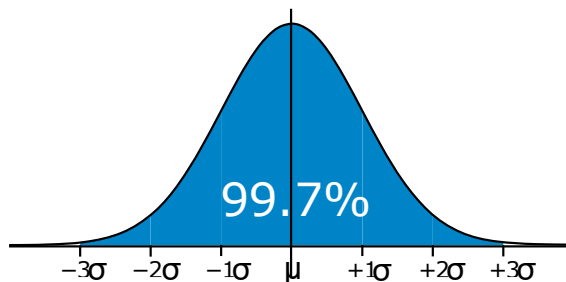
## What is a normal (Gaussian) distribution?



68.2% of the samples are with 1 standard deviation of the mean.



95.4% of the samples are with 2 standard deviation of the mean.

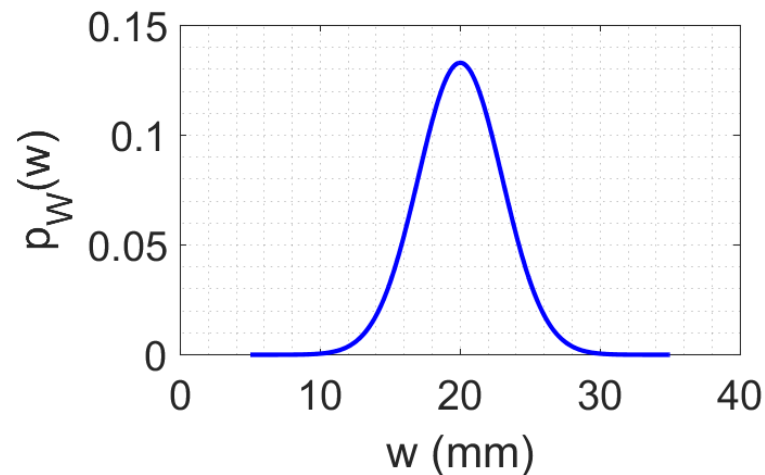


99.7% of the samples are with 3 standard deviation of the mean.



[Carl Friedrich Gauss](#) discovered the normal distribution in 1809.

## Probability density function (pdf)



$$h = 10 \text{ mm}$$

$$w = 20 \text{ mm}$$

$$w \sim N[\mu = 20 \text{ mm}, CoV = 15\%]$$

## Mean $\mu_w$

$$\mu_w = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} w p_w(w) dw$$



$$p_w(w) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{w-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2}$$

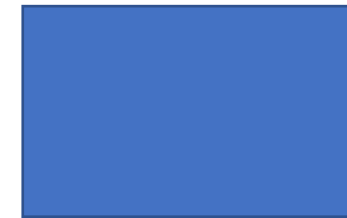
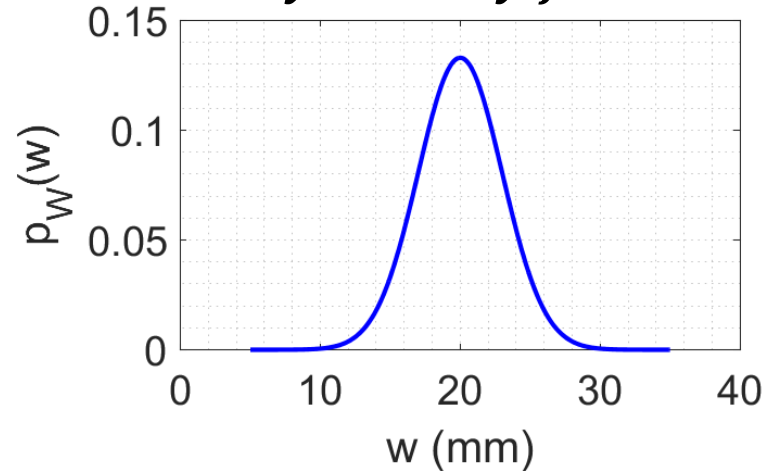
## Variance $\sigma_w^2$

$$\sigma_w^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (w - \mu)^2 p_w(w) dw$$

## Probability (P) – $18 < W < 20$

$$P = \int_{18}^{20} p_w(w) dw$$

## Probability density function (pdf)

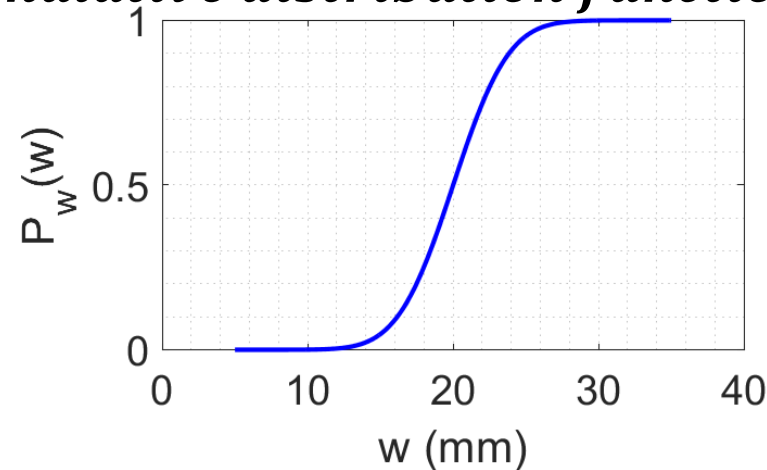


$$h = 10 \text{ mm}$$

$$w = 20 \text{ mm}$$

$$w \sim N[\mu = 20 \text{ mm}, \text{CoV} = 15\%]$$

## Cumulative distribution function (cdf)



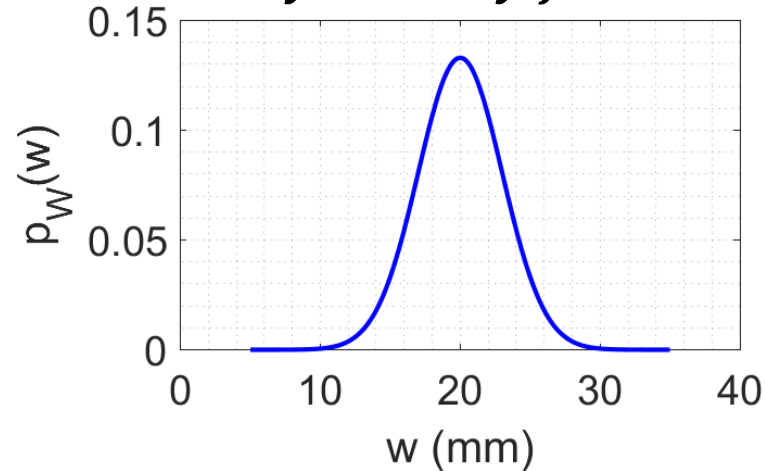
$$P_w(W \leq w_0) = \int_{-\infty}^{w_0} p_w(w) dw$$

## Probability (P) – $18 < W < 20$

$$P = \int_{18}^{20} p_w(w) dw$$

$$P = P_W(20) - P_W(18)$$

## Probability density function (pdf)

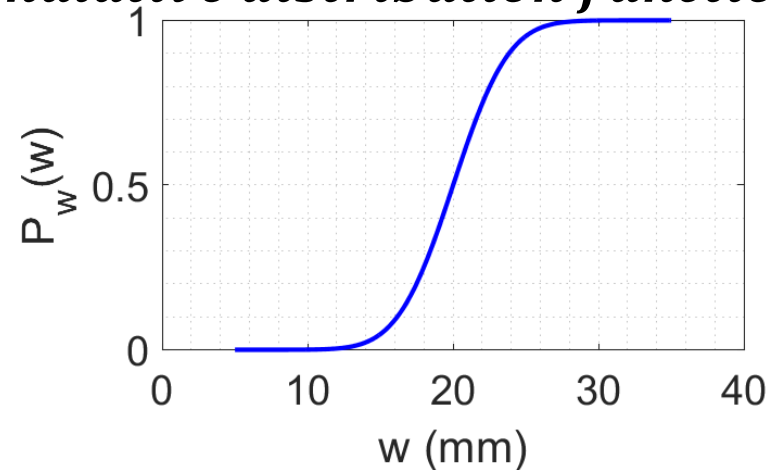


$h = 10$  mm

$w = 20$  mm

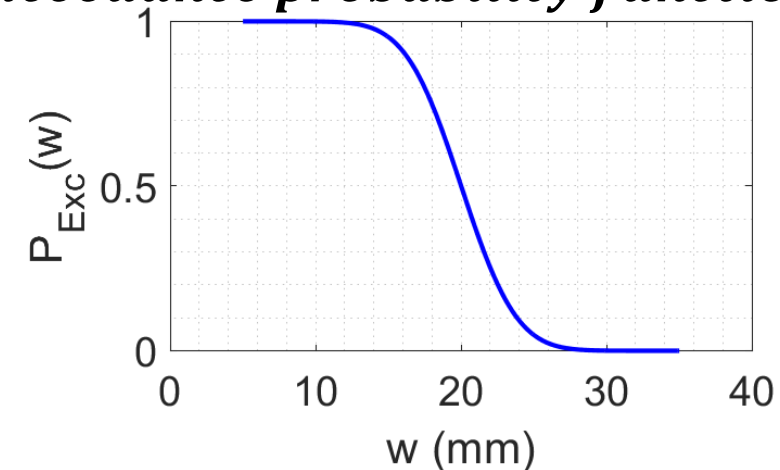
$$w \sim N[\mu = 20 \text{ mm}, CoV = 15\%]$$

## Cumulative distribution function (cdf)



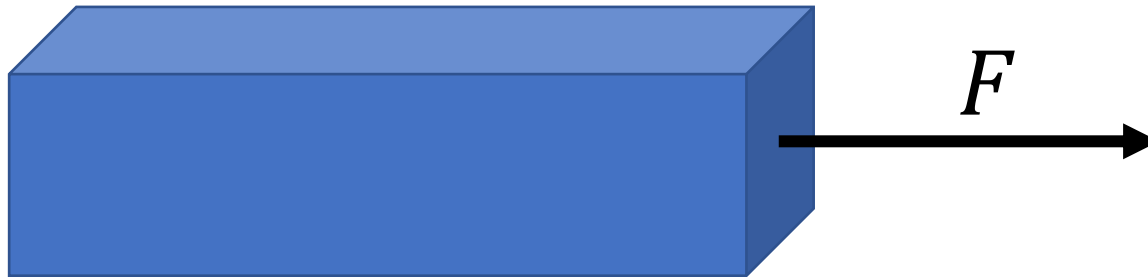
$$P_w(W \leq w_0) = \int_{-\infty}^{w_0} p_w(w) dw$$

## Exceedance probability function



$$P_w(W \geq w_0) = 1 - P_w(W \leq w_0)$$

$$\delta = \frac{FL}{EA}$$



$$L = 2 \text{ m}$$

$$E = 210 \text{ GPa}$$

$$F = 40 \text{ kN}$$

$$A = wh \quad h = 10 \text{ mm}$$

$$w = 20 \text{ mm}$$

$$w \sim N[\mu = 20 \text{ mm}, CoV = 15\%]$$

$$CoV = \frac{\sigma}{\mu}$$

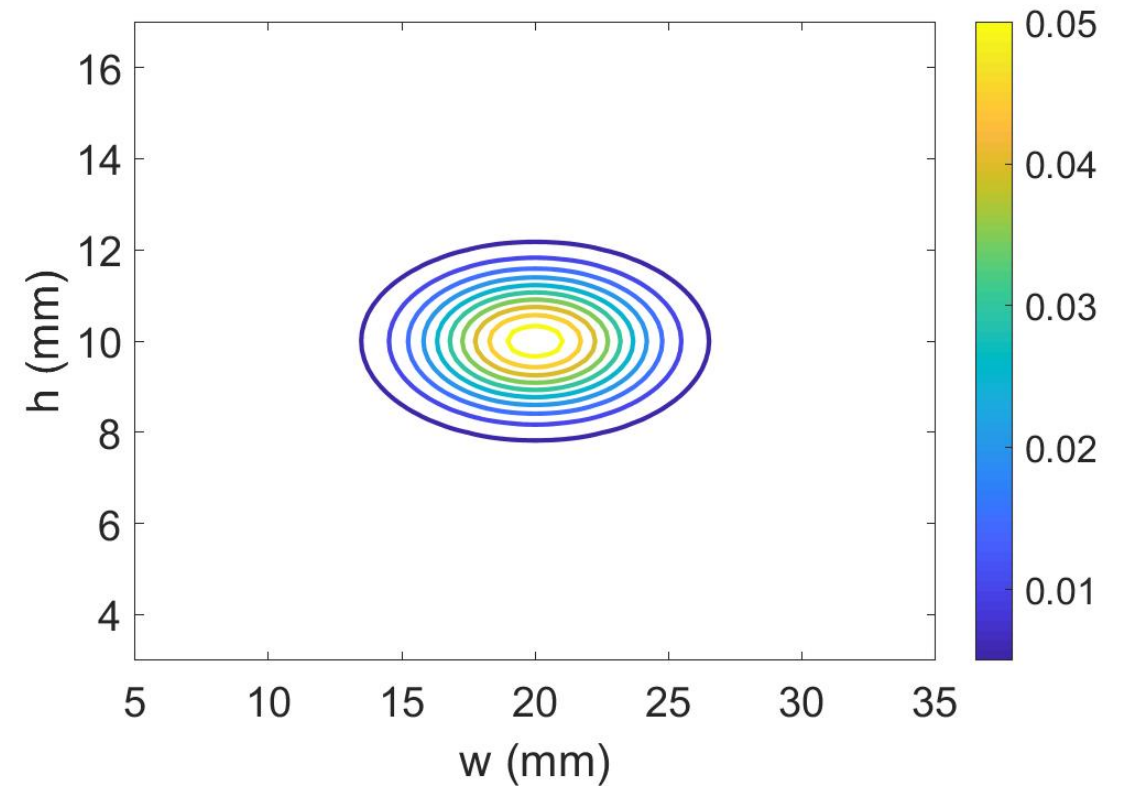
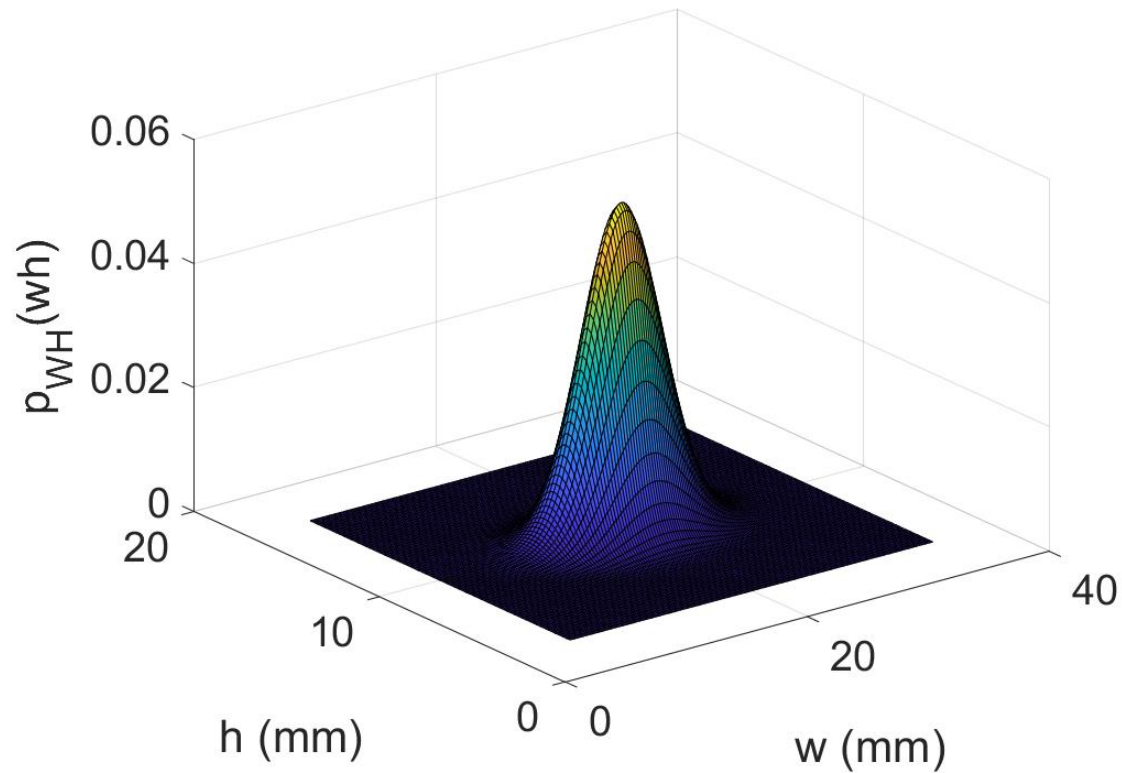
$$\sigma = 3 \text{ mm}$$

$$h \sim N[\mu = 10 \text{ mm}, CoV = 10\%]$$

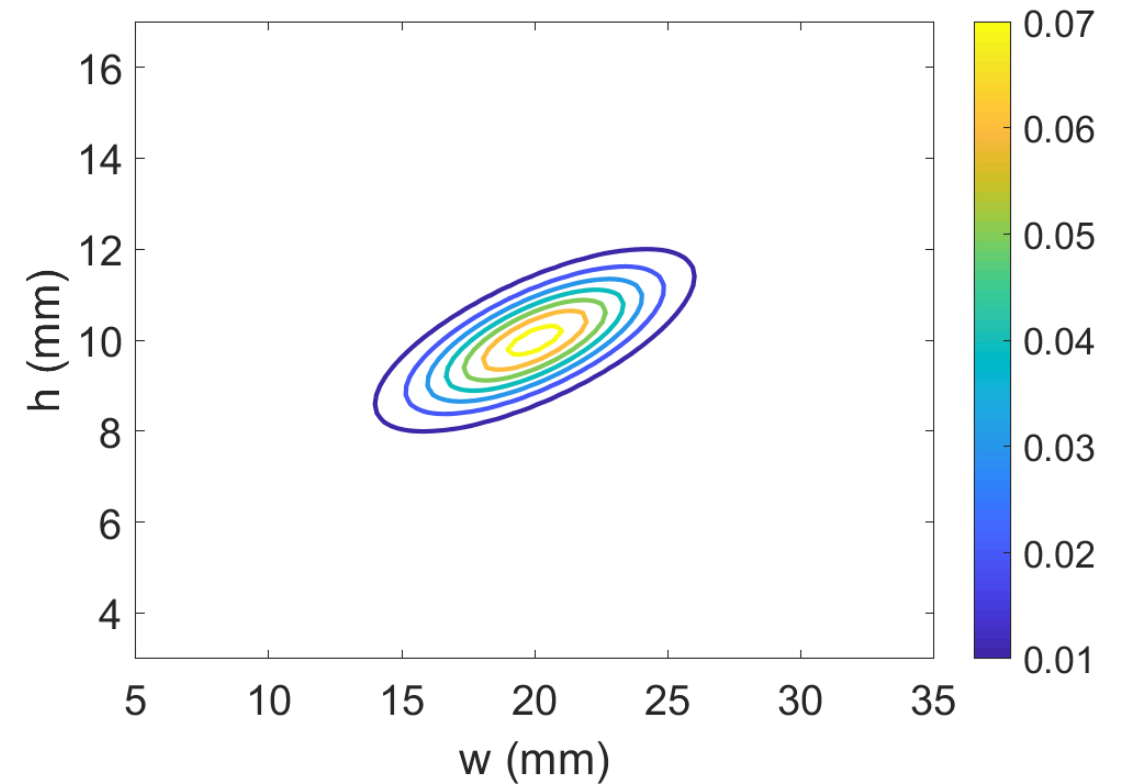
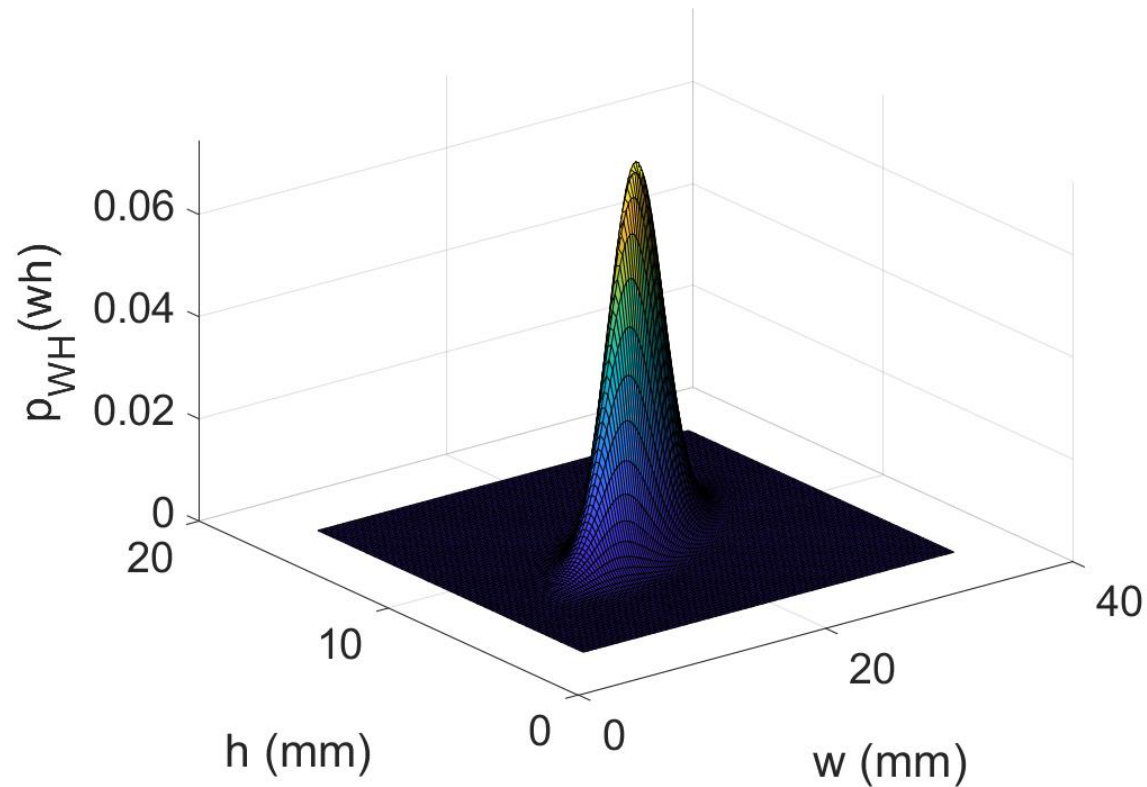
$$\sigma_h = 1 \text{ mm}$$



***Correlation:  $\rho = 0$***

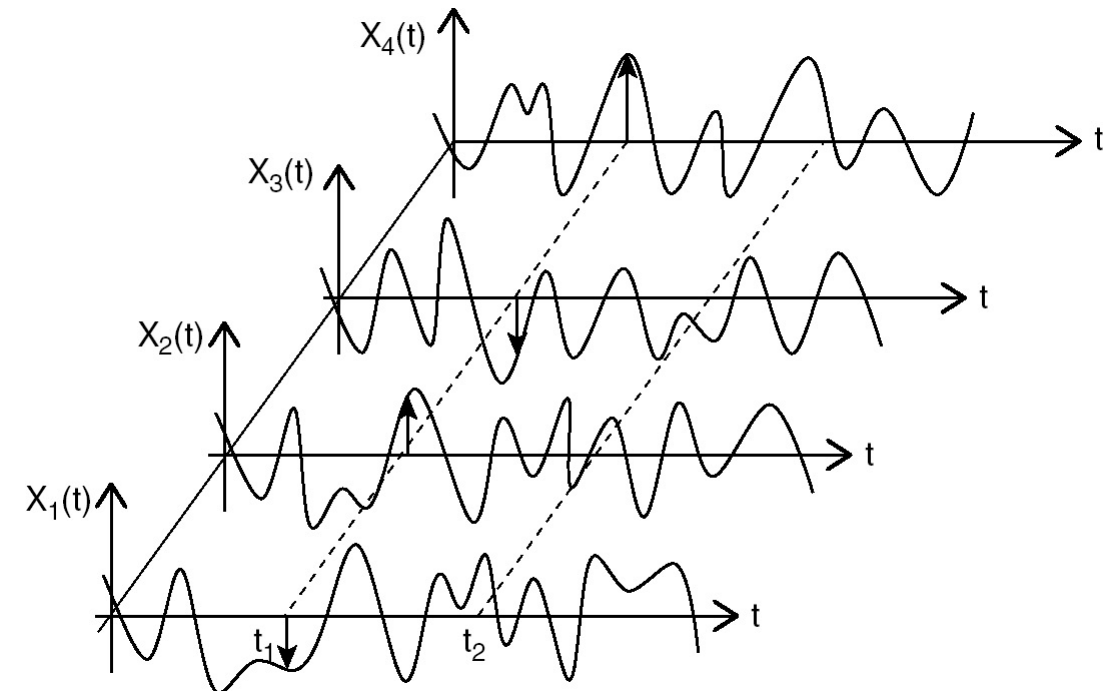
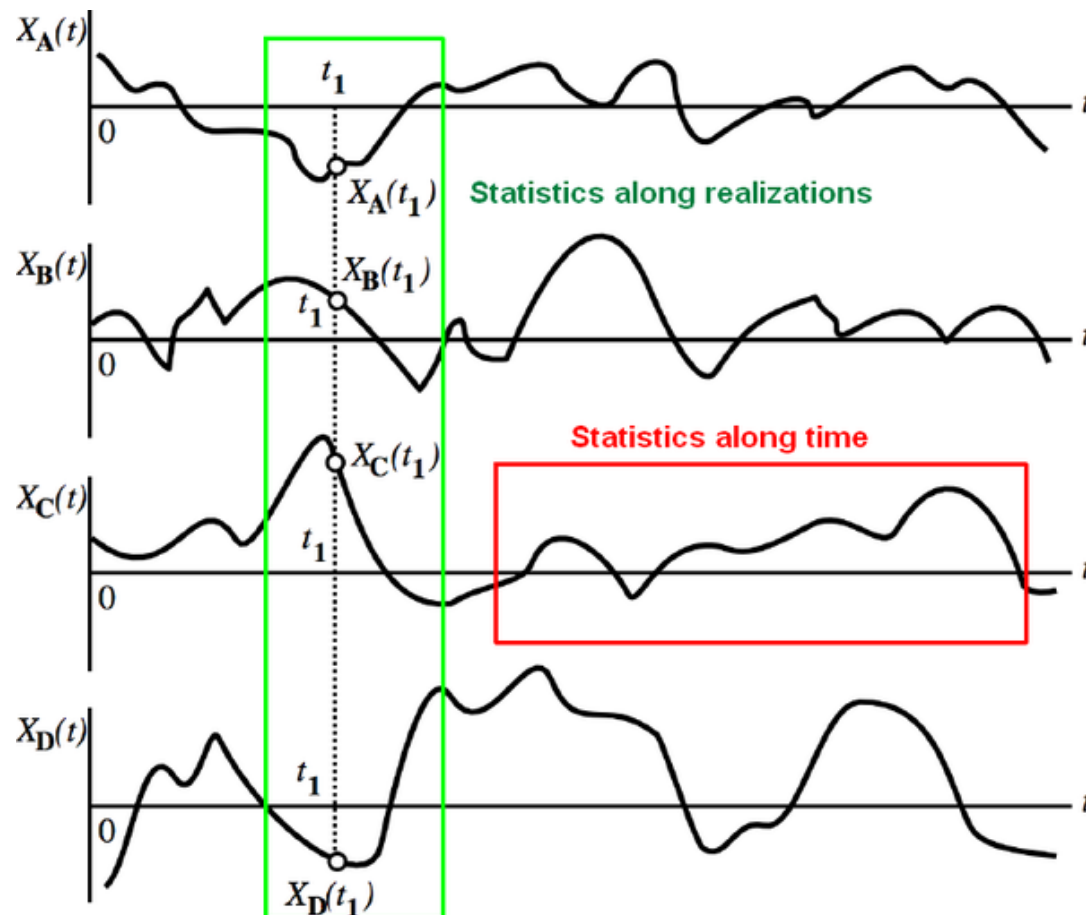


***Correlation:  $\rho = 0.7$***

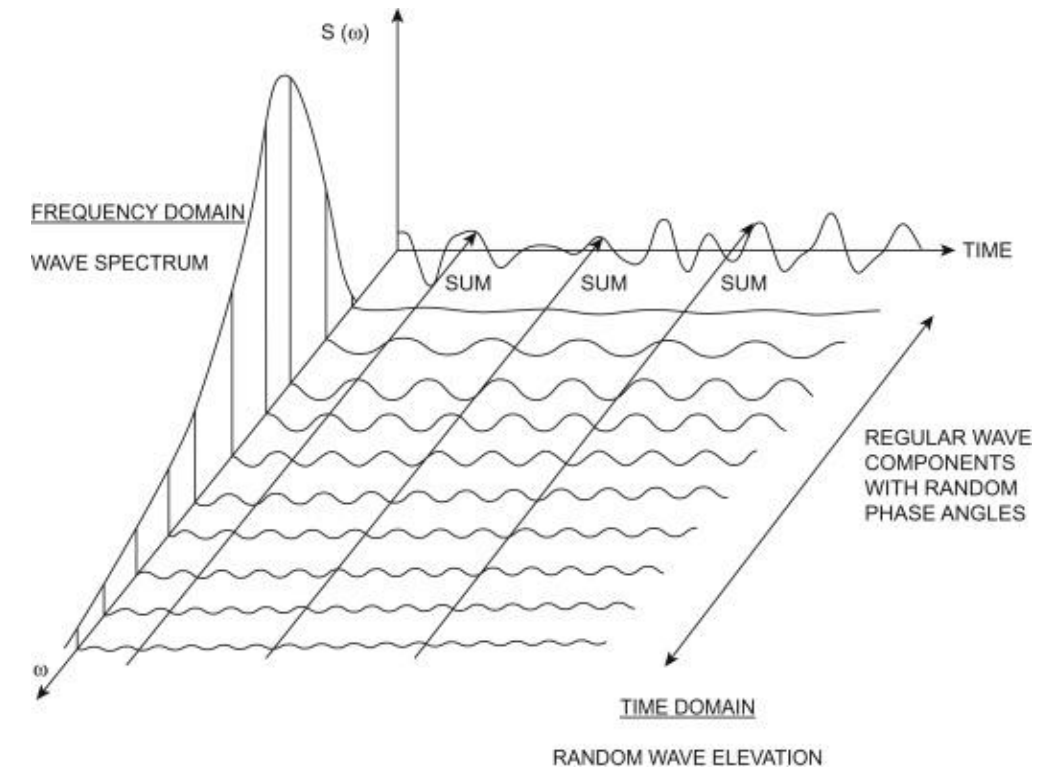
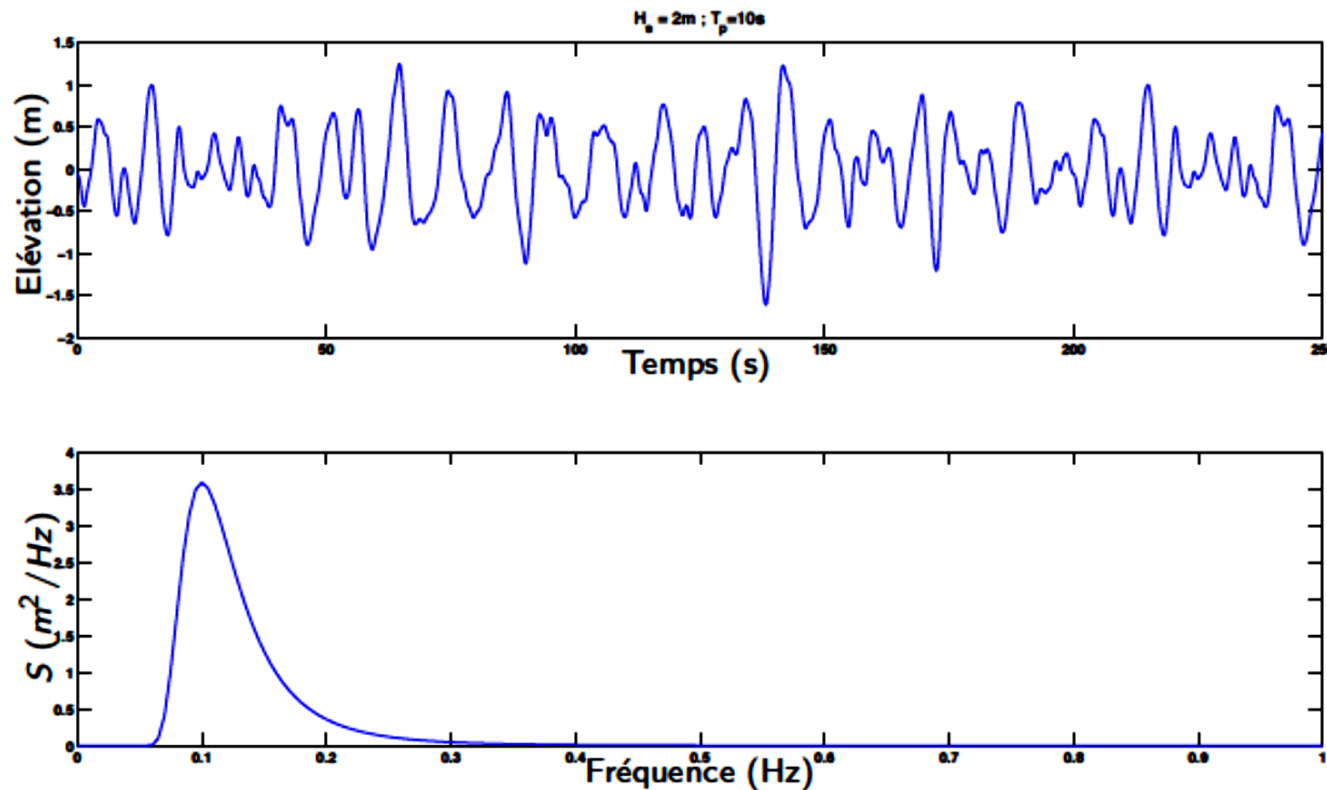


## Random process

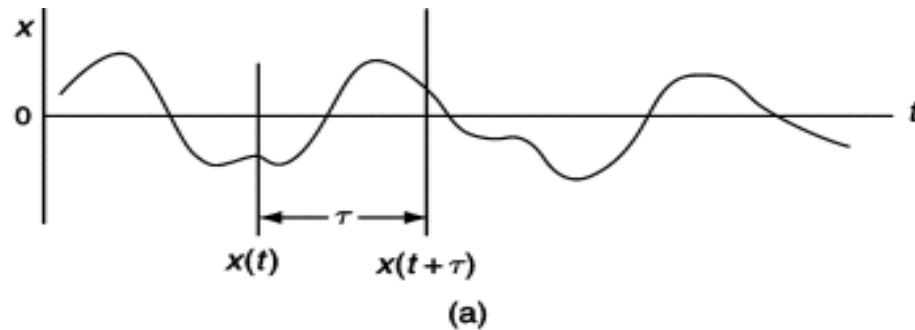
### Ergodic (wide-sense stationary) – Sea state



- A random sea surface is just a sum of several regular periodic waves with different wave frequencies/wavelengths.

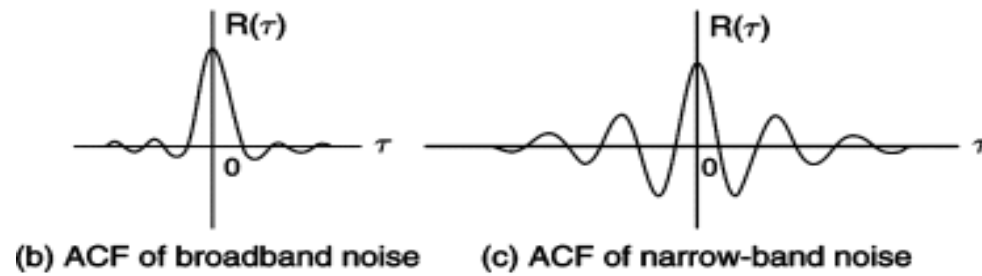


## Autocorrelation / autocovariance



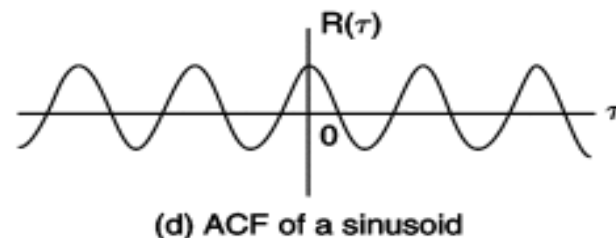
**Continuous signal:**

$$R_{ff}(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t + \tau) \overline{f(t)} dt = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \overline{f(t - \tau)} dt$$



**Discrete signal:**

$$R_{yy}(\ell) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} y(n) \overline{y(n - \ell)}$$

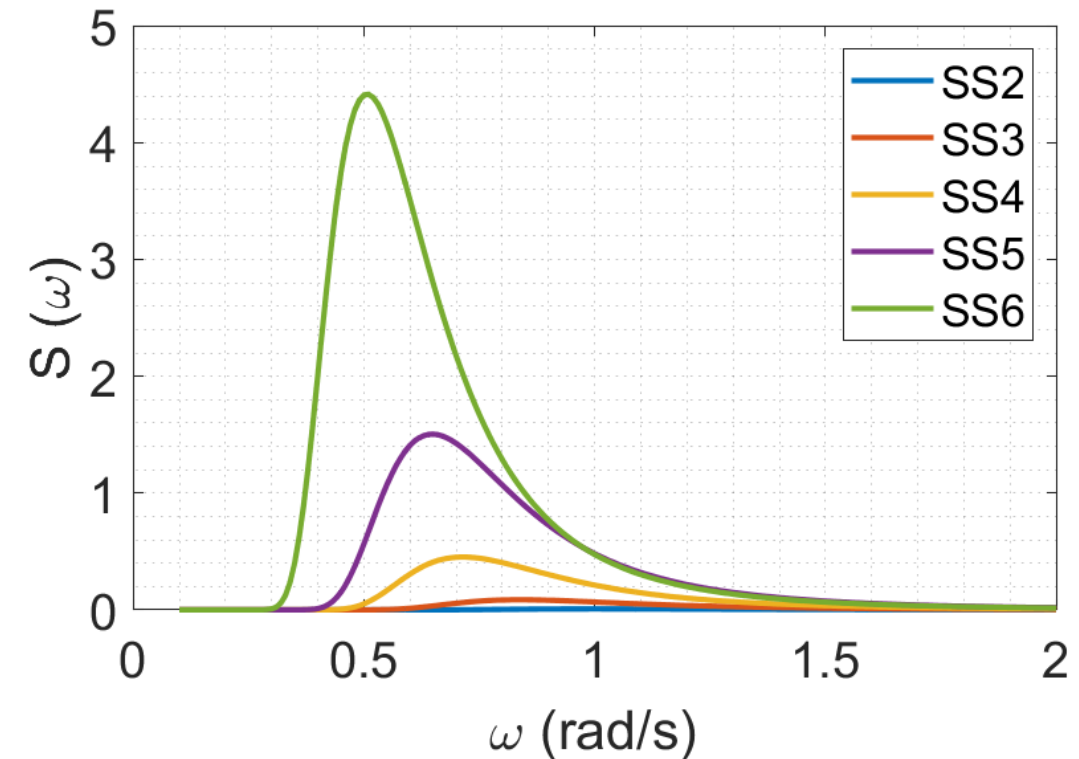


**The Fourier transform of the autocorrelation function gives a wave spectrum, i.e. the distribution of wave energy over various frequencies.**

## Example: Bretschneider Spectrum

$$S(\omega) = \frac{5}{16} \frac{w_m^4}{\omega^5} H_{1/3}^2 e^{-5\omega_m^4/4\omega^4}$$

Sea state (SS)	Peak period $T_m$ (s)	Significant wave height $H_{1/3}$ (m)
2	6.3	0.3
3	7.5	0.9
4	8.8	1.9
5	9.7	3.3
6	12.4	5.0



[https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/mechanical-engineering/2-017j-design-of-electromechanical-robotic-systems-fall-2009/assignments/MIT2\\_017JF09\\_p04.pdf](https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/mechanical-engineering/2-017j-design-of-electromechanical-robotic-systems-fall-2009/assignments/MIT2_017JF09_p04.pdf)



## Response spectrum

Response amplitude  
operator

$$X^2/m^2$$

Wave spectrum  
 $m^2/s$

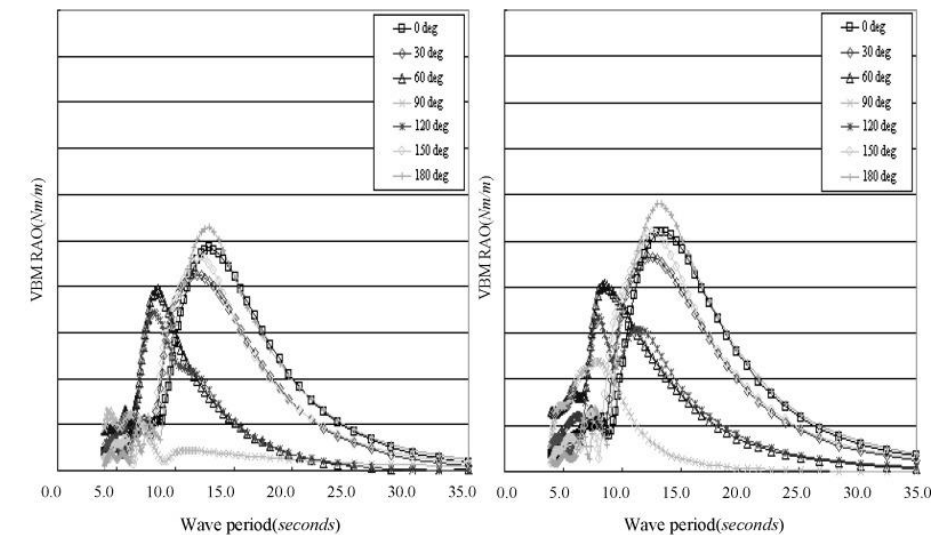
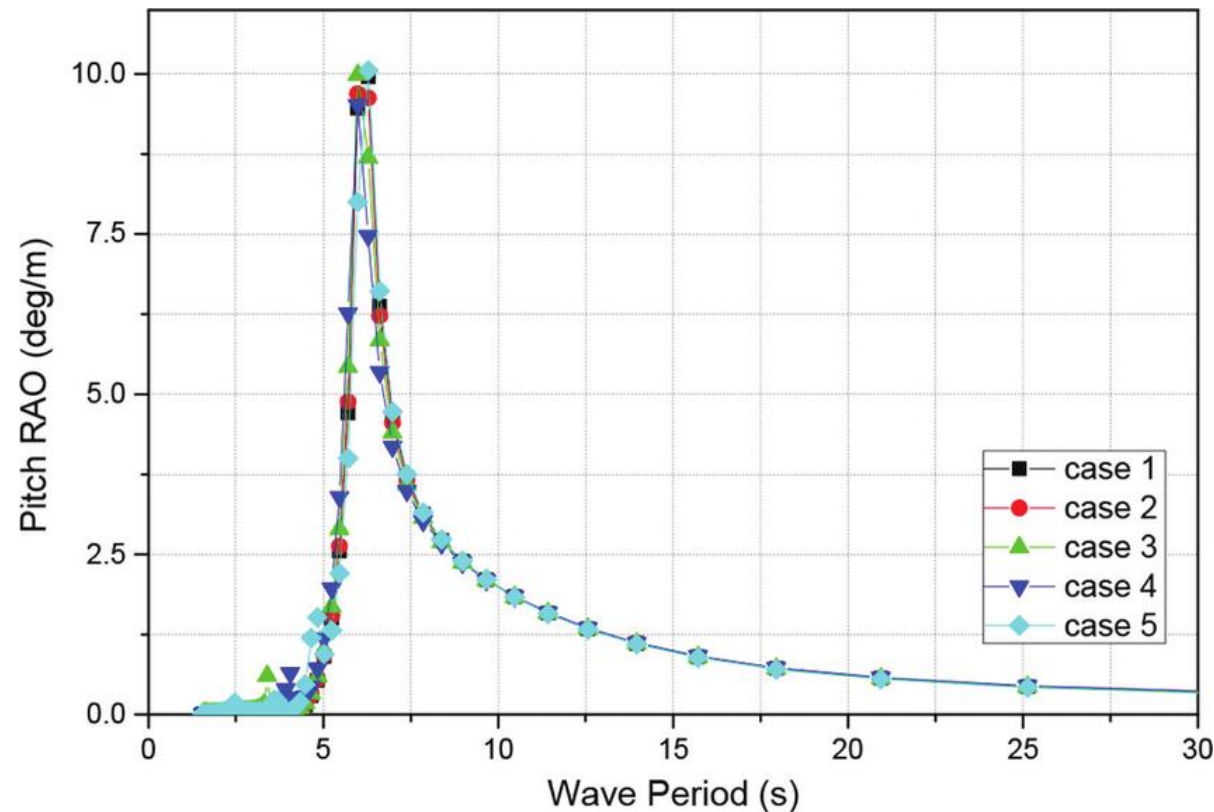
$$S_{\Lambda}(\omega, \phi, V) = |RAO(\omega, \phi, V)|^2 \cdot S_{\omega}(\omega)$$

$$RAO = \frac{y_0 Re[e^{i\omega t}]}{x_0 Re[e^{i\omega t}]}$$

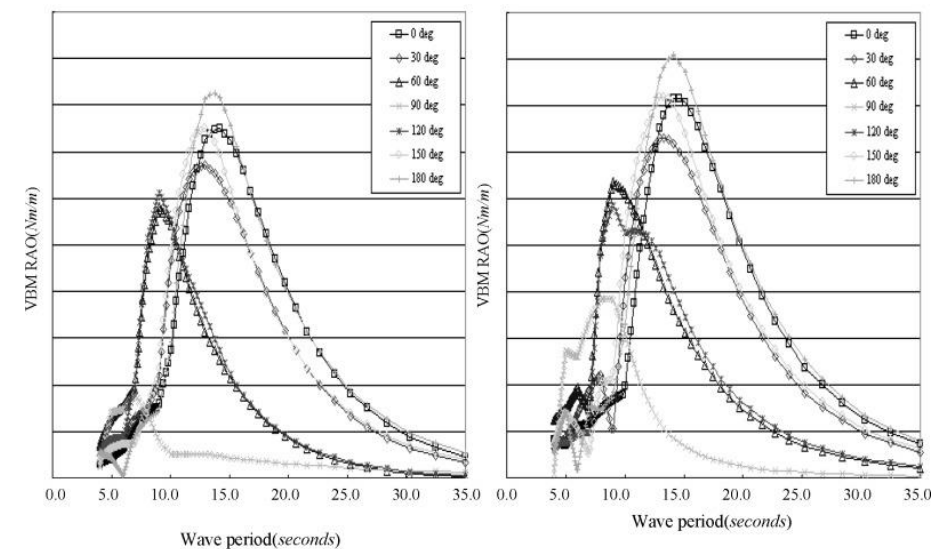




## RAOs



(a) ship A (ballast, full load)



(b) ship B (ballast, full load)

## Short-term structural response

$$S_{\Lambda}(\omega, \phi, V) = |RAO(\omega, \phi, V)|^2 \cdot S_{\omega}(\omega)$$

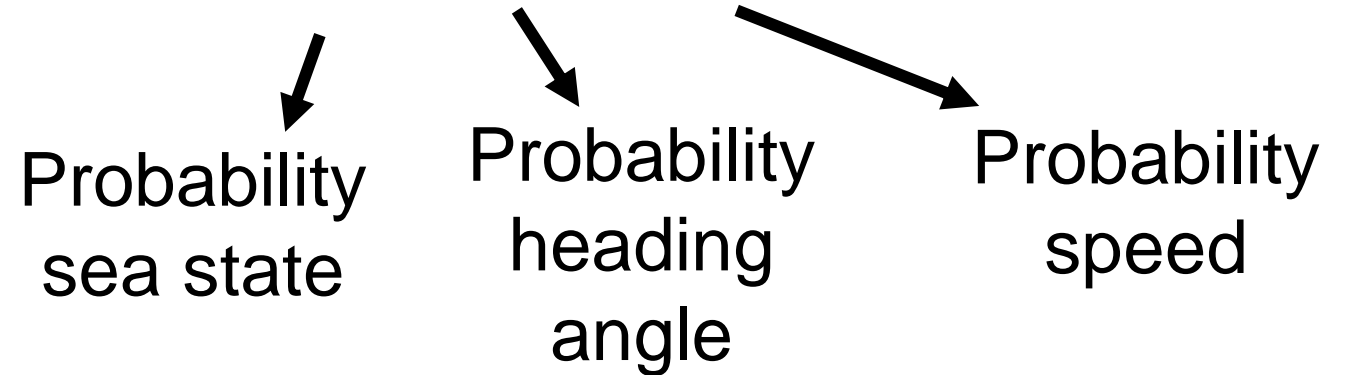
↓  
Wave  
frequency

↙  
Heading  
angle

↘  
Ship speed

## Long-term structural response

$$p(S) = \int \int \int \int S_{\Lambda}(\omega, \phi, V) p(\bar{H}, T_m) p(\phi) p(V) d\phi dV dT d\bar{H}$$



### Weibull distribution

Probability density function

$$p(S) = \frac{h}{q} \left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^{h-1} e^{-\left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^h}$$

Exceedance probability

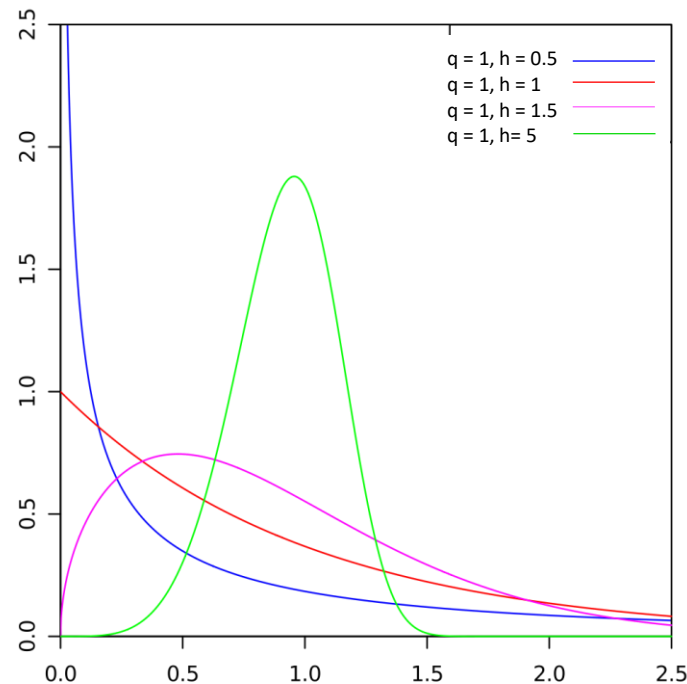
$$p(S > S_0) = e^{-\left( \frac{S_0}{q} \right)^h}$$

## Long-term structural response

### Weibull distribution(q,h)

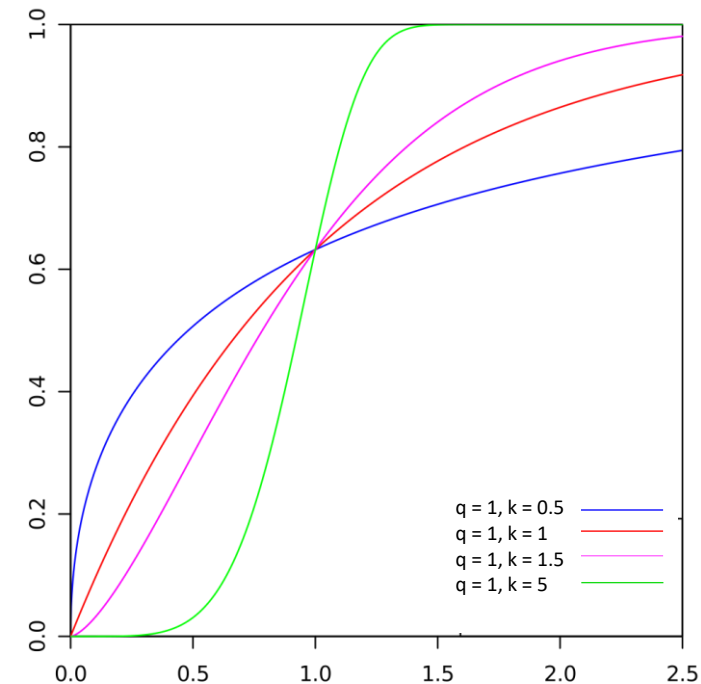
Probability density function

$$p(S) = \frac{h}{q} \left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^{h-1} e^{-\left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^h}$$

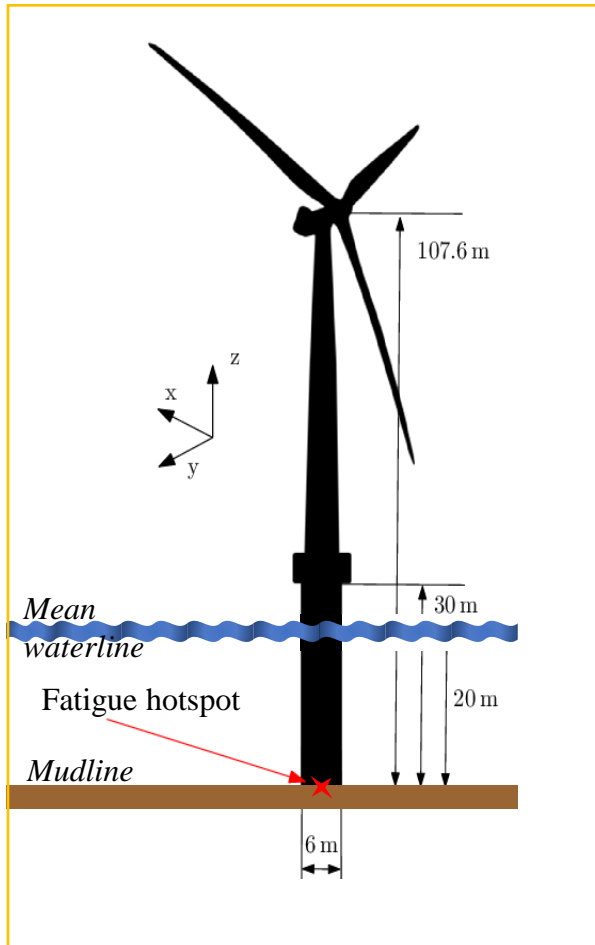


Exceedance probability

$$p(S > S_0) = e^{-\left( \frac{S_0}{q} \right)^h}$$

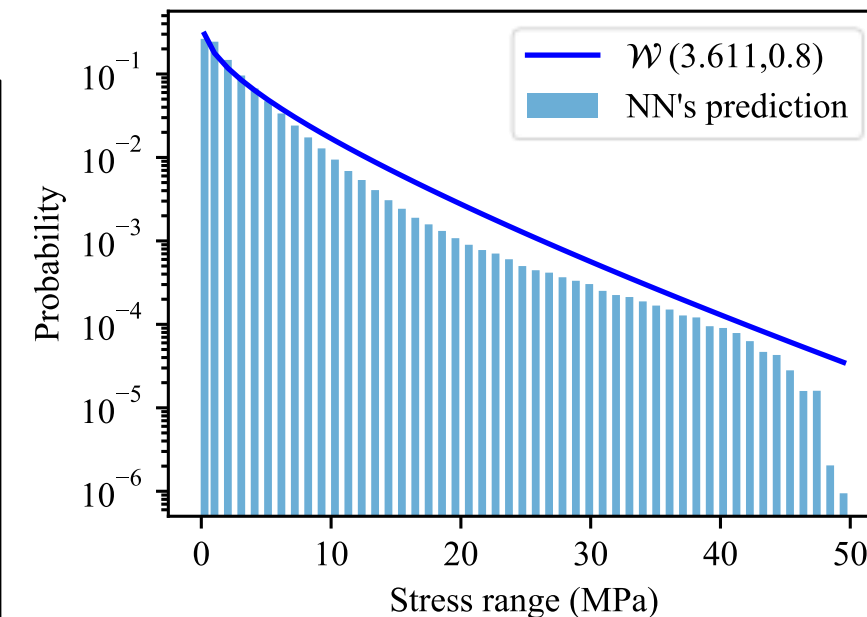


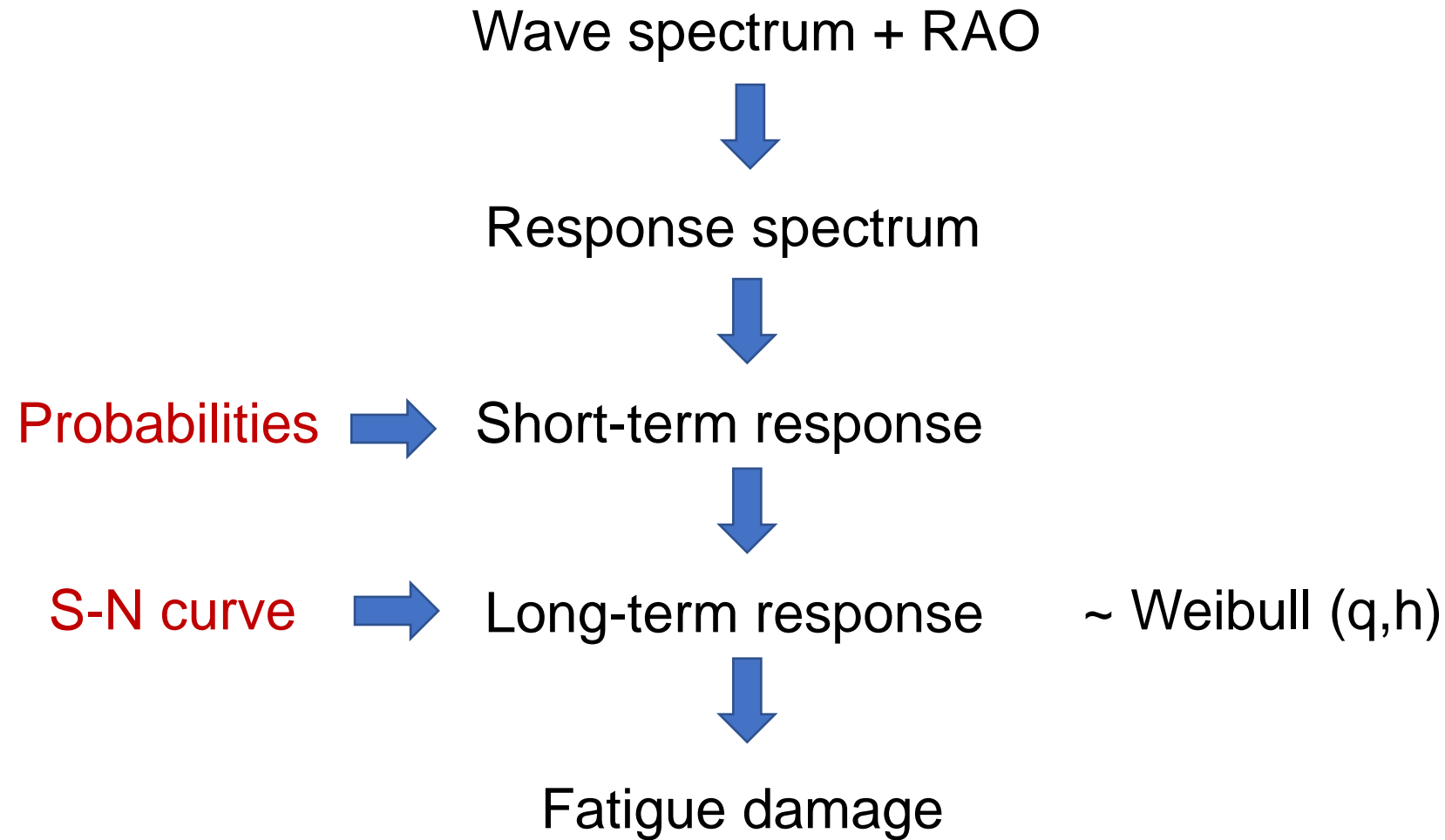
## Example: Long-term structural response at the mudline of the NREL 5-MW offshore wind turbine



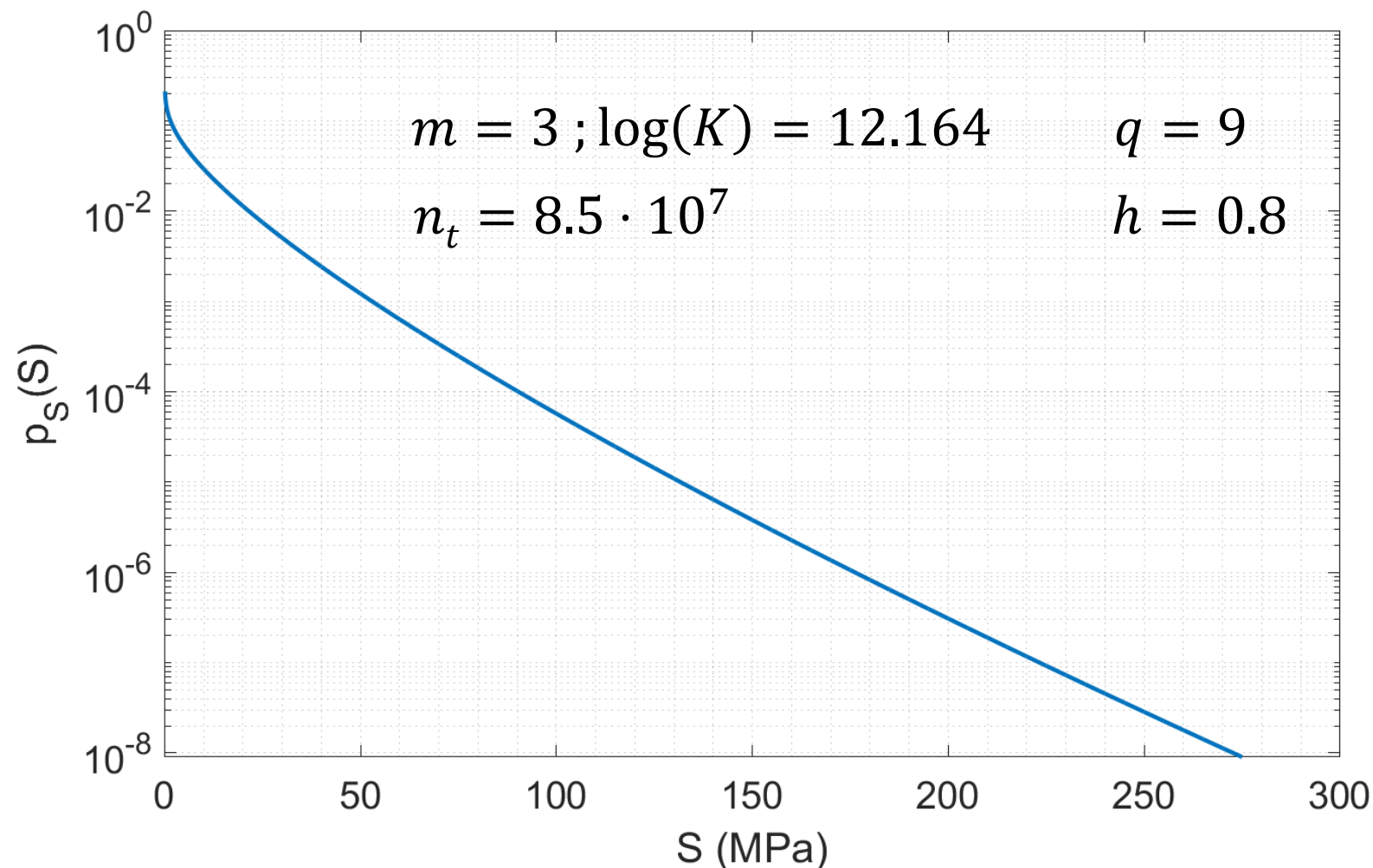
Wind turbine: Monopile-supported NREL 5MW  
Location: Ijmuiden site (Dutch North Sea)

Variable	Description
Wind speed ( $V_w$ )	$V_w \sim \text{Weibull}$ (scale = 10.49, shape = 2.08)
Wind direction ( $\theta_{wind}$ )	$P(\theta_{wind}, \theta_{wave}   V_w)$
Turbulence intensity ( $I$ )	IEC-3 ( $I_{15 \text{ m/s}} = 0.14$ )
Significant wave height ( $H_s$ )	$P(H_s, T_p   V_w)$
Peak period ( $T_p$ )	$P(H_s, T_p   V_w)$
Wave direction ( $\theta_{wave}$ )	$P(\theta_{wind}, \theta_{wave}   V_w)$
Rotational speed ( $\omega$ )	$f(V_w)$
Yaw error ( $\theta_{yaw}$ )	$\theta_{yaw} \in [-10, 10]$





**\*Assumption:** The long-term stress range is represented by a Weibull distribution.



Fatigue  
damage  
**D?**



$$(1) N = K \cdot S^{-m}$$

$$(2) D = \sum_S \frac{n_i}{N_i}$$

If  $S$  is infinitesimal, then (2) becomes:

$$(3) D = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{n_t p(S) dS}{N(S)} \quad \text{Combining (1) and (3):} \quad (4) D = \frac{n_t}{K} \int_0^{\infty} S^m p(S) dS$$

The stress range is represented by a Weibull distribution:

$$(5) p(S, q, h) = \frac{h}{q} \left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^{h-1} e^{-\left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^h}$$

\*Where  $q$  and  $h$  are the scale and shape parameters respectively

Replacing  $f(S)$  in (4) from (5):

$$(6) D = \frac{n_t}{K} \int_0^\infty \mathbf{s}^m \frac{h}{q} \left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^{h-1} e^{-\left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^h} dS$$

# Introducing a new variable 'x':

$$(7) x = \left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^h \begin{cases} dx = \frac{h}{q} \left( \frac{S}{q} \right)^{h-1} dS \\ S = x^{1/h} q \\ \mathbf{s}^m = x^{m/h} q^m \end{cases}$$

Combining (6) and (7):

$$(8) D = \frac{n_t}{K} \int_0^\infty q^m x^{m/h} dx e^{-x}$$

$$(8) D = \frac{n_t q^m}{K} \int_0^\infty x^{m/h} e^{-x} dx$$

\*Gamma function:

$$(9) \Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty x^{z-1} e^{-x} dx$$

Combining (6) and (7):

$$(8) D = \frac{n_t}{K} \int_0^{\infty} q^m x^{m/h} dx e^{-x}$$

$$(8) D = \frac{n_t q^m}{K} \int_0^{\infty} x^{m/h} e^{-x} dx$$

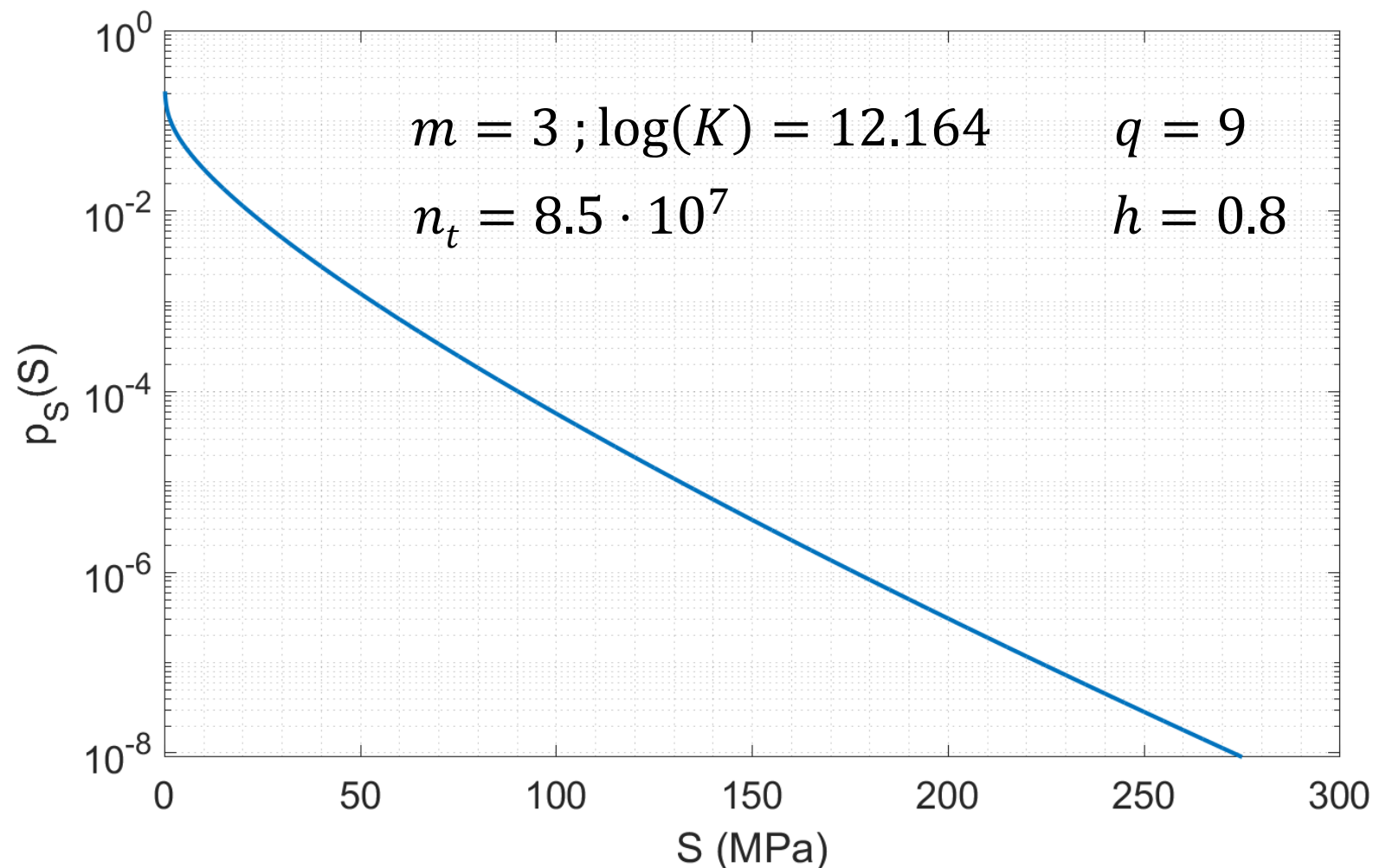
\*Gamma function:

$$(9) \Gamma(z) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{z-1} e^{-x} dx$$

A **closed-form equation** is obtained for the fatigue damage:

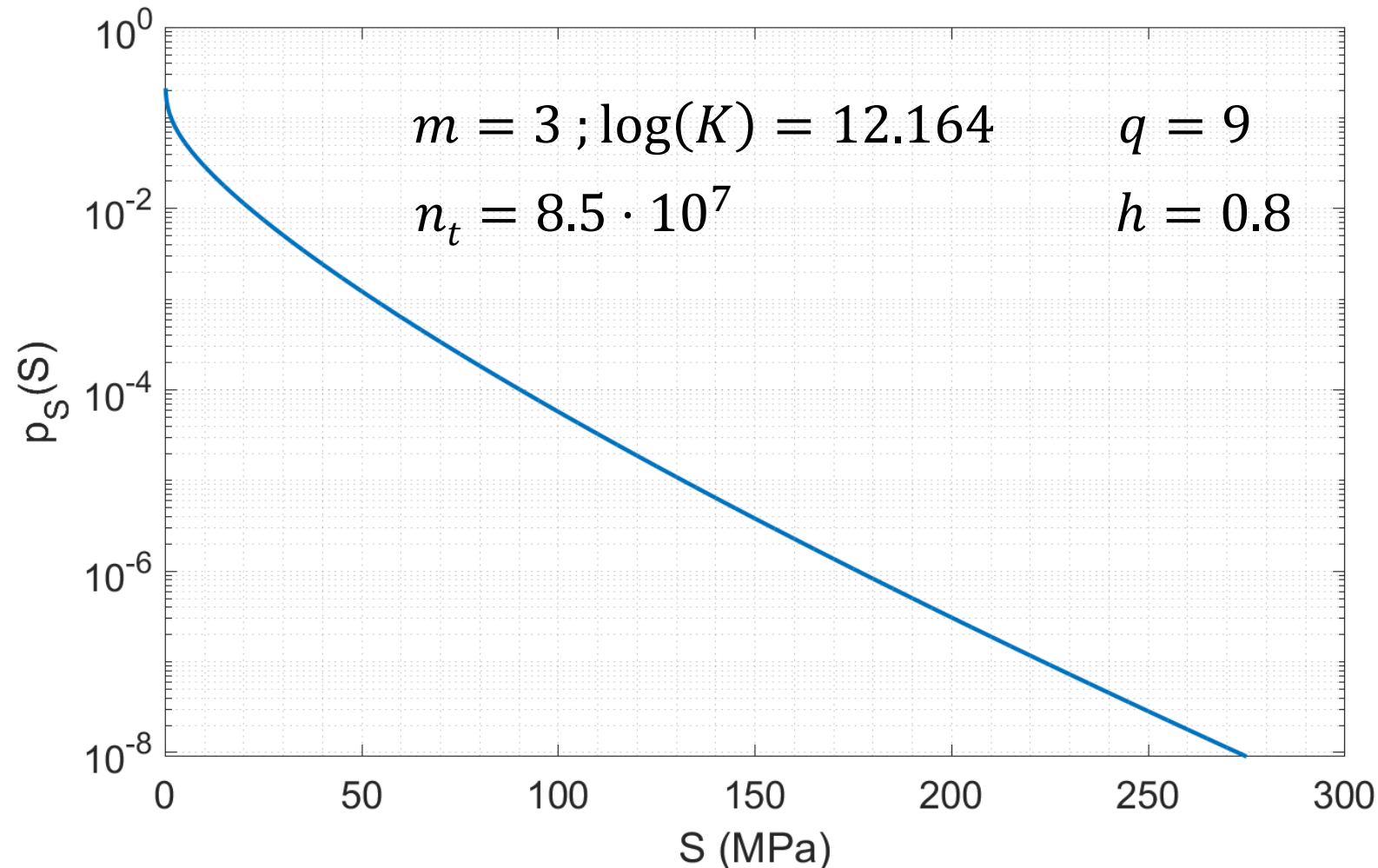
$$(10) D = \frac{n_t q^m}{K} \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{m}{h}\right)$$

**\*Assumption:** The long-term stress range is represented by a Weibull distribution.



Fatigue  
damage  
**D?**

**\*Assumption:** The long-term stress range is represented by a Weibull distribution.



Fatigue  
damage  
 **$D = 0.7$**

Closed-form equation - fatigue damage:

$$(10) D = \frac{n_t q^m}{K} \Gamma \left( 1 + \frac{m}{h} \right)$$

Exceedance probability – ‘Weibull’

$$(11) p_{exc}(S_0) = \exp \left( -\frac{S_0}{q} \right)^h = \frac{1}{n_0}$$

NB: if  $p_{exc}(30 \text{ MPa}) = 0.01$ , 1 out of 100 stress cycles will exceed 30 MPa.

Rearranging (11):

$$(11) q = \frac{S_0}{[\ln(n_0)]^{1/h}}$$

Replacing ‘ $q$ ’ from (11) into (10):

$$(12) D = \frac{n_t S_0^m}{K [\ln(n_0)]^{m/h}} \Gamma \left( 1 + \frac{m}{h} \right)$$

Scale parameter:

$$(11) \quad q = \frac{S_0}{[\ln(n_0)]^{1/h}}$$

Exceedance probability – ‘Weibull’

$$(13) \quad p_{exc} = \exp\left(-\frac{S}{q}\right)^h = \frac{1}{n}$$

Re-arranging (13):

$$(14) \quad S = q [\ln(n)]^{1/h}$$

Replacing ‘ $q$ ’ from (11) into (13):

$$(15) \quad S = S_0 \cdot \left[\frac{\ln(n)}{\ln(n_0)}\right]^{1/h}$$





To understand the simplified fatigue assessment

$$D = \frac{n_t q^m}{K} \Gamma \left( 1 + \frac{m}{h} \right) = \frac{n_t S_0^m}{K [\ln(n_0)]^{m/h}} \Gamma \left( 1 + \frac{m}{h} \right)$$

$D$  = long-term fatigue damage

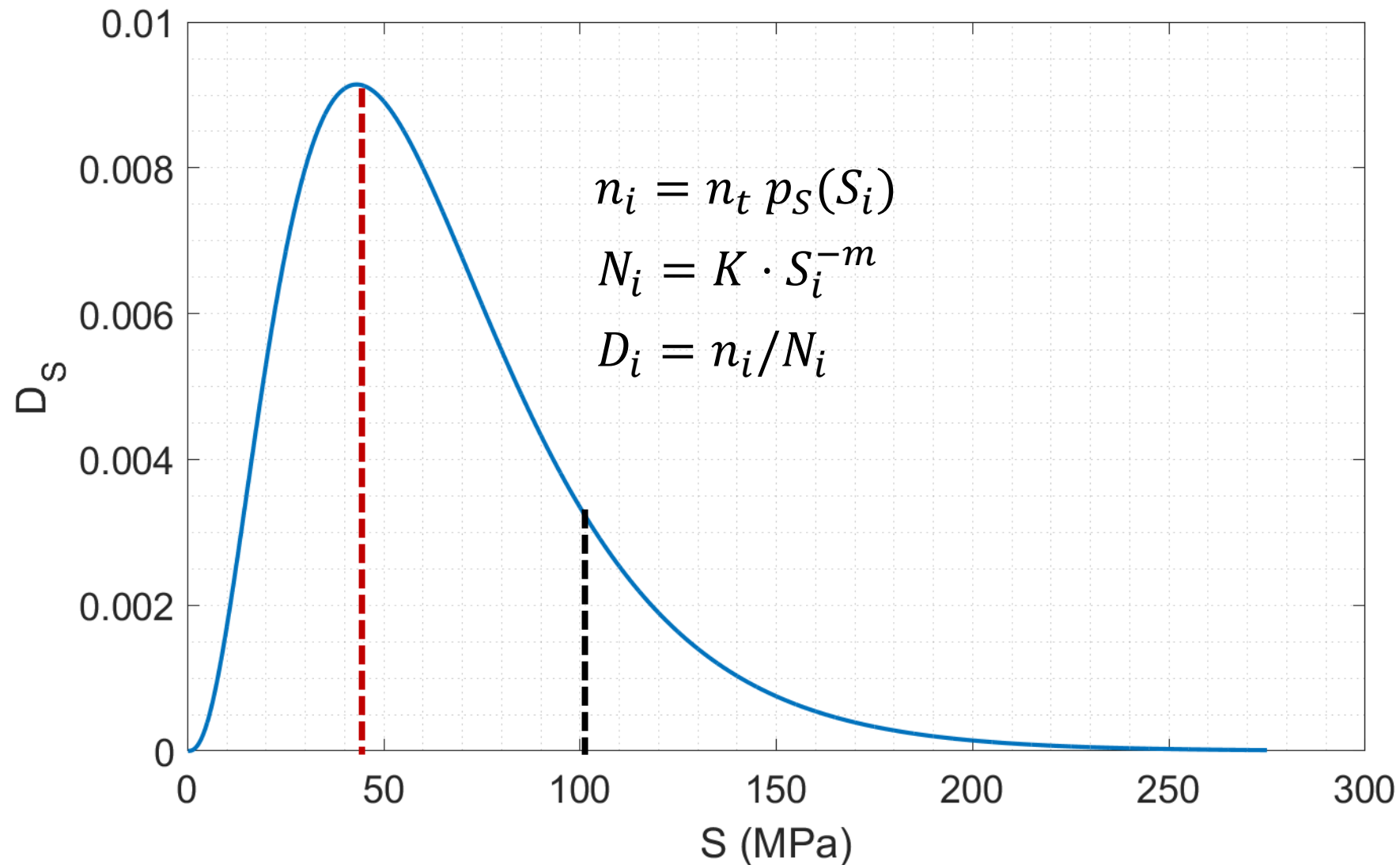
$n_t$  = total number of stress cycles for the design lifetime

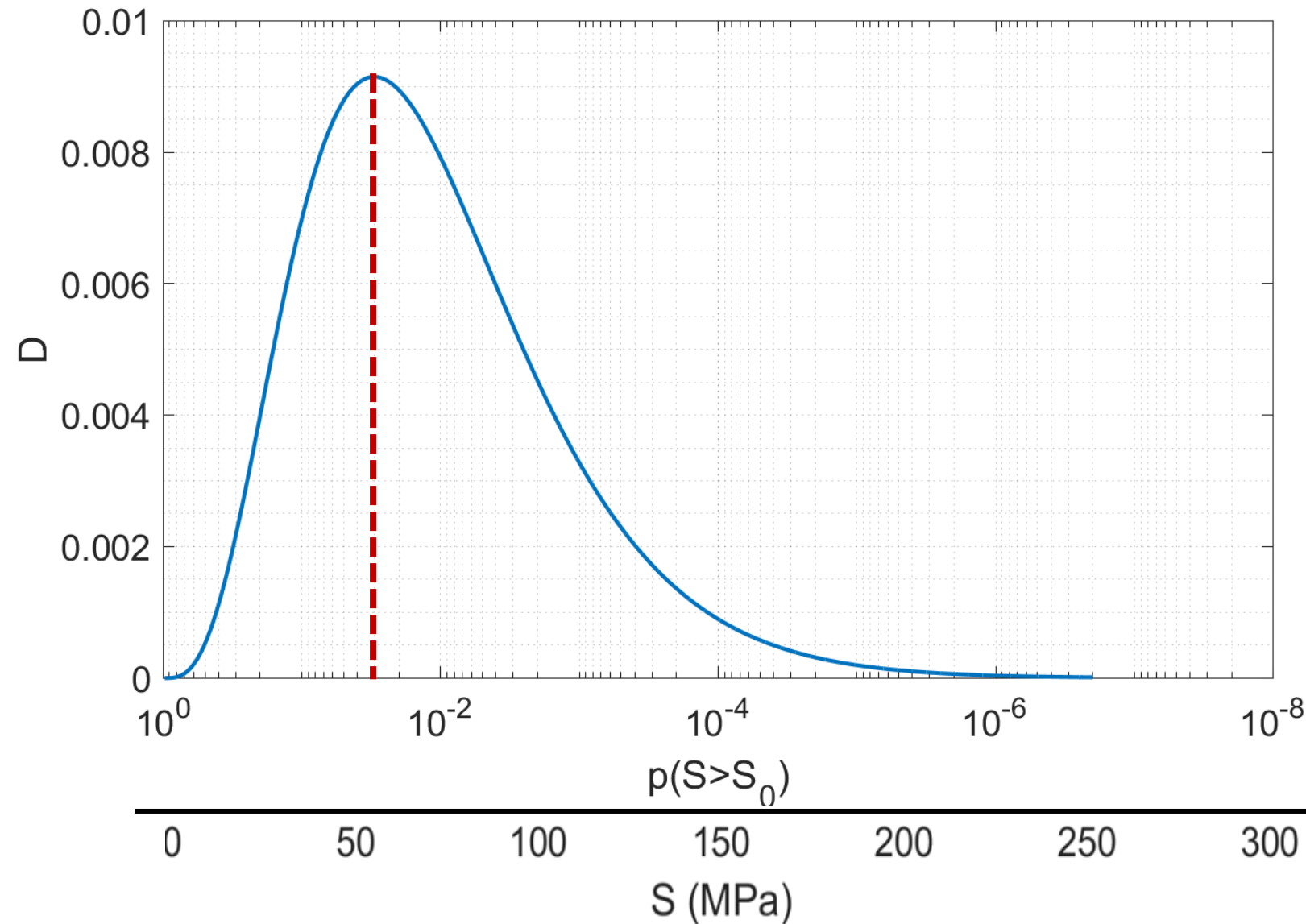
$K, m$  = SN curve parameters

$q, h$  = Weibull scale and shape parameters

$S_0$  = Stress range at the reference probability of exceedance of 0.01 in Mpa

$n_0$  = number of cycles corresponding to the reference probability of exceedance of 0.01,  
i.e.,  $n_0 = 100$

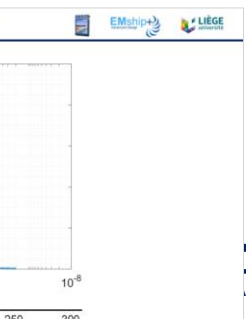




## Uncertainties involved in the fatigue assessment

- Uncertainty of SN test.  $\log K \sim \text{Normal}(\text{mean} = 12.164 + 2\text{std}, \text{cov} = 0.2)$
- Uncertainty of Miner's rule  $\Delta \sim \text{Lognormal}(\text{mean} = 1, \text{cov} = 0.3)$
- Uncertainties of RAO, environmental models  $q \sim \text{Normal}(\text{mean} = 9, \text{cov} = 0.2)$

Probabilistic fatigue assessment:  $D = \frac{n_t q^m}{K} \Gamma \left( 1 + \frac{m}{h} \right)$



Perform the sensitivity analysis of the fatigue failure probability with respect to the varying uncertainty degrees of the stress scale parameter.

$$m = 3$$

$$n_t = 8.5 \cdot 10^7$$

$$\log K \sim \text{Normal}(\text{mean} = 12.164 + 2\text{std}, \text{cov} = 0.2)$$

$$\Delta \sim \text{Lognormal}(\text{mean} = 1, \text{cov} = 0.3)$$

$$q \sim \text{Normal}(\text{mean} = 9, \text{cov} = [0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3])$$

$$h = 0.9$$

$$\text{Probabilistic fatigue assessment: } \mathbf{D} = \frac{n_t \mathbf{q}^m}{\mathbf{K}} \Gamma \left( 1 + \frac{m}{h} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{P}_f = P(\mathbf{D} > \Delta)$$

