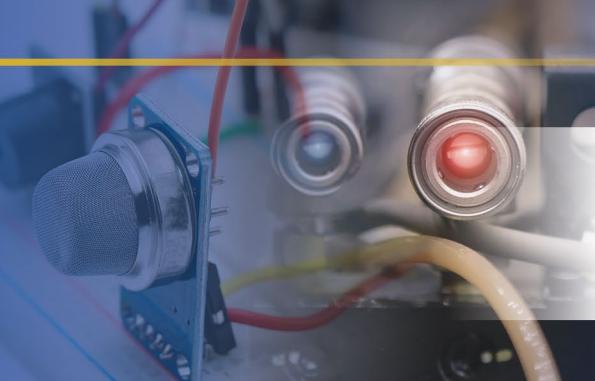




UNIVERSITY OF  
PITTSBURGH  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SENSING

COLLABORATION WORKSHOP



# Digital Twin Models and Interfacing with Real-Time Sensing

**Dr. Lea Boche**

Senior Technical Leader Generation Sector,  
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)



## Dr. Lea Boche

### Senior Technical Leader Generation Sector, EPRI

Lea Boche is a Technical Leader at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). She is responsible for data analytics and machine learning applications in the Enabling Technologies R&D group in EPRI's Generation Sector.

Boche began her work at EPRI in its Heat Rate Improvement R&D program, focused on power plant simulations and project management. Following this she worked in the cross-sector initiative AI.EPRI to help further the use of Artificial Intelligence in the industry.

Boche's previous experience includes project engineer and, later, R&D project management for STEAG Energy Services GmbH, Department System Technologies - Energy Management Systems, where she led development of a decision-support software and was the lead for the innovation management of System Technologies department. She was a lecturer on power plant design studies and simulations at Fachhochschule Dusseldorf and a research associate at TU Berlin, Institute for Energy Technologies.

She has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from RWTH Aachen; a master's degree in energy and process engineering from Technical University Berlin, and a PhD in Energy Engineering from Technical University Berlin.



# Digital Twin Models and Interfacing with Real-Time Sensing

EPRI

**Lea Boche, Ph.D.**  
Sr. Technical Leader Enabling Technologies  
EPRI

Pittsburgh, 8/25/22



# Outline

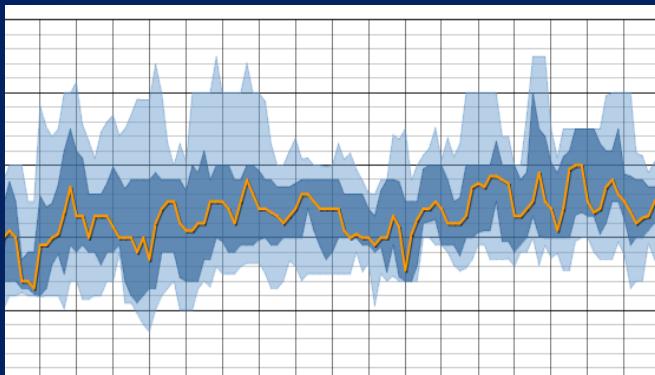
- Discuss AI/ML techniques (bias towards how they are used for DT)
  - Regression (ANN)
  - Calibration
  - Classification
  - Joining a problem to resolve technique
- Digital Twin
  - What is a digital twin – components and challenges?
  - Physical models
    - Requirements
    - Set up
    - Gas Turbine Models
  - How it all gets combined
    - Model creation
    - Model Calibration
    - Model Deployment



## Operational

### Computer-Assisted SME

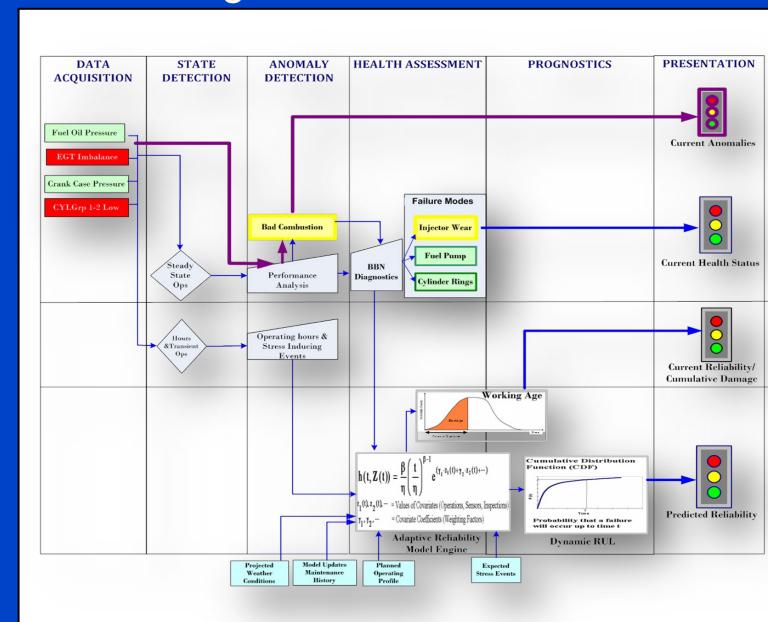
- PI
- Advanced Pattern Recognition (APR)
- Model Development
- Alarm Limits



## Predictive

### SME-Validated

- Advanced Infrastructure
- Edge Analytics
- Prognostics / RUL



## Prescriptive

### Computer-Guided SME

- Integrated Technical / Environment / Business Data
- Embedded Complexity



# Gas Turbine: Typical Monitoring & Challenges



## Current Advanced Pattern Recognition

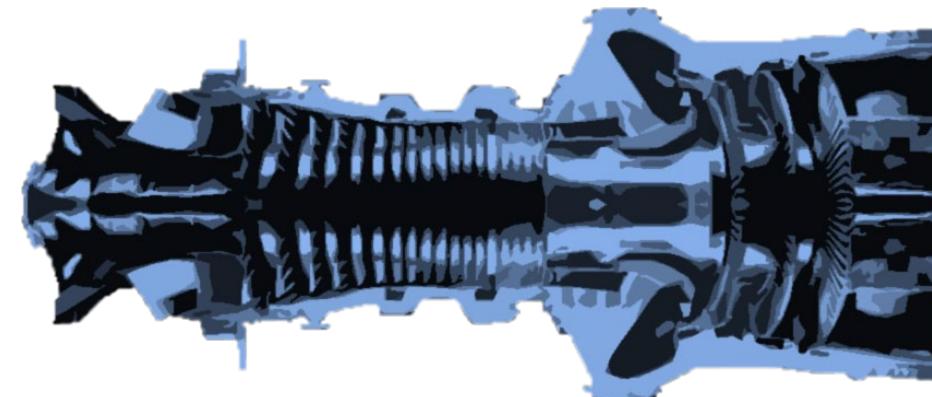
- Great Indicator of Differences
- Lacks Causation Indication
- 90%+ of Alarms Results in Model Retraining

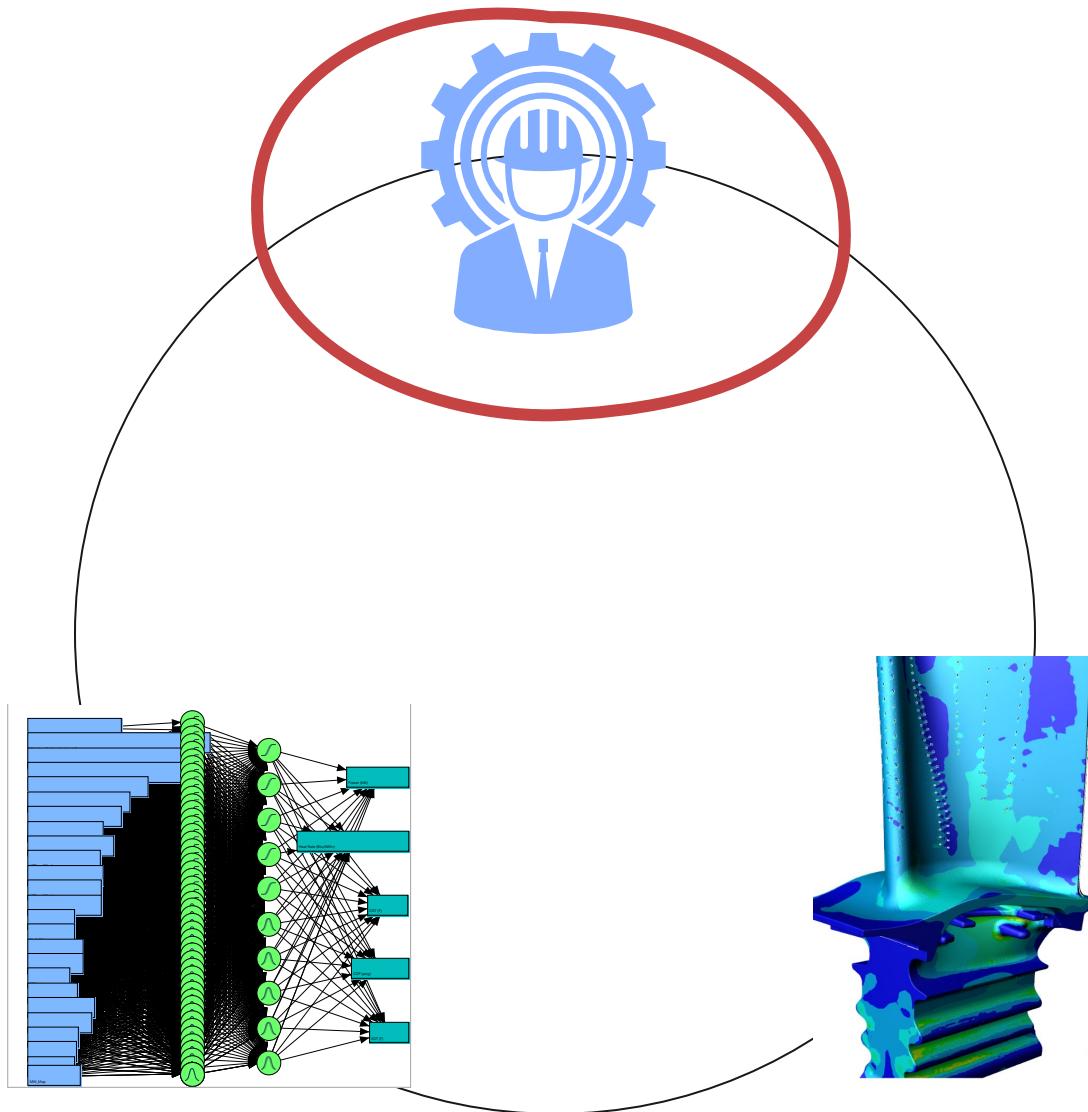
## *Instrumentation Problems*

- Tuning/Performance Deviations*
- Hardware Issue Development*

## Machine Learning & 1<sup>st</sup> Principle Physics

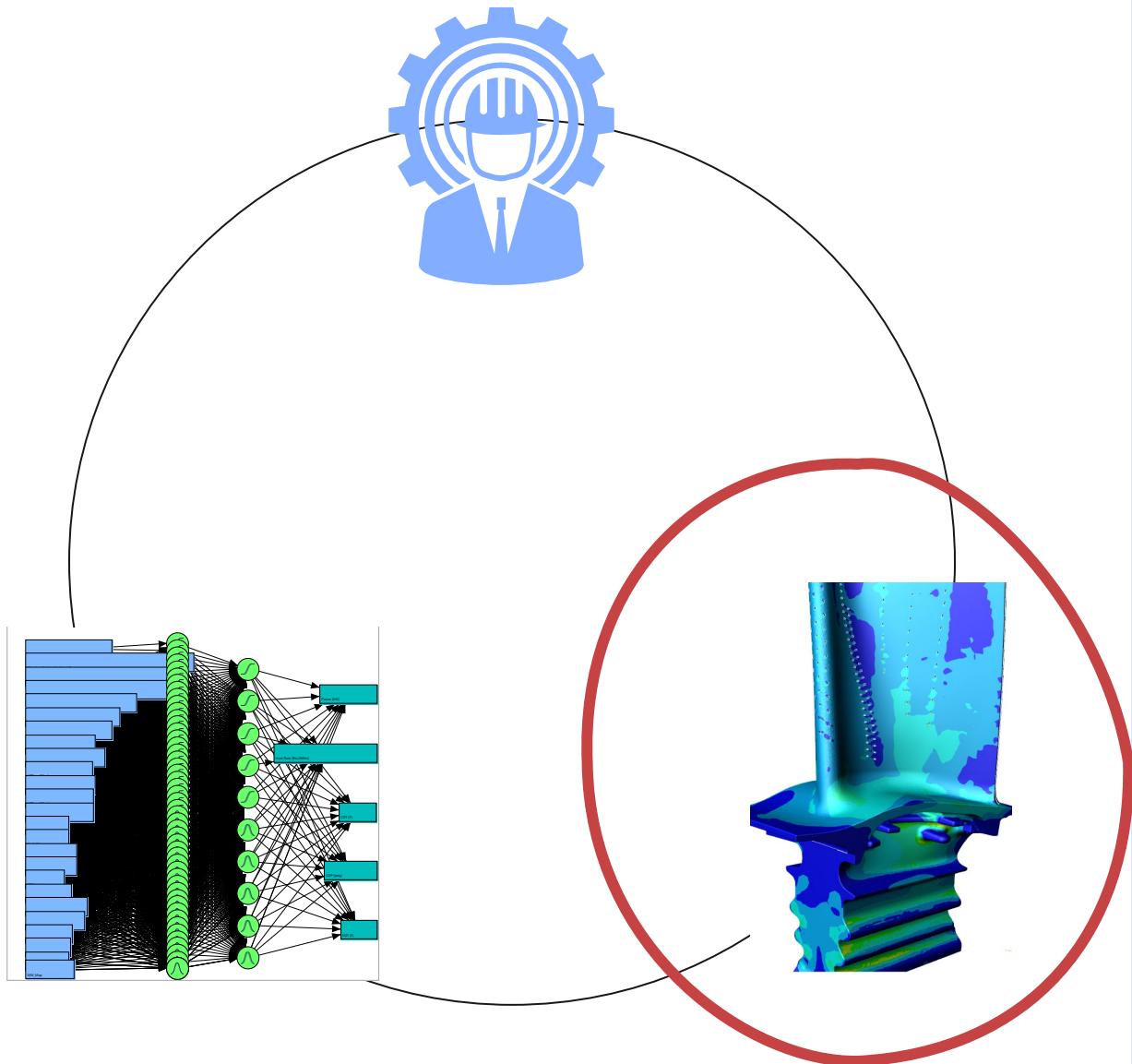
- Increased Sensitivities to Real/Actionable Issues
- Allows for Computer Aided Diagnostics/Prognostics
- Requires Data and SME Knowledge





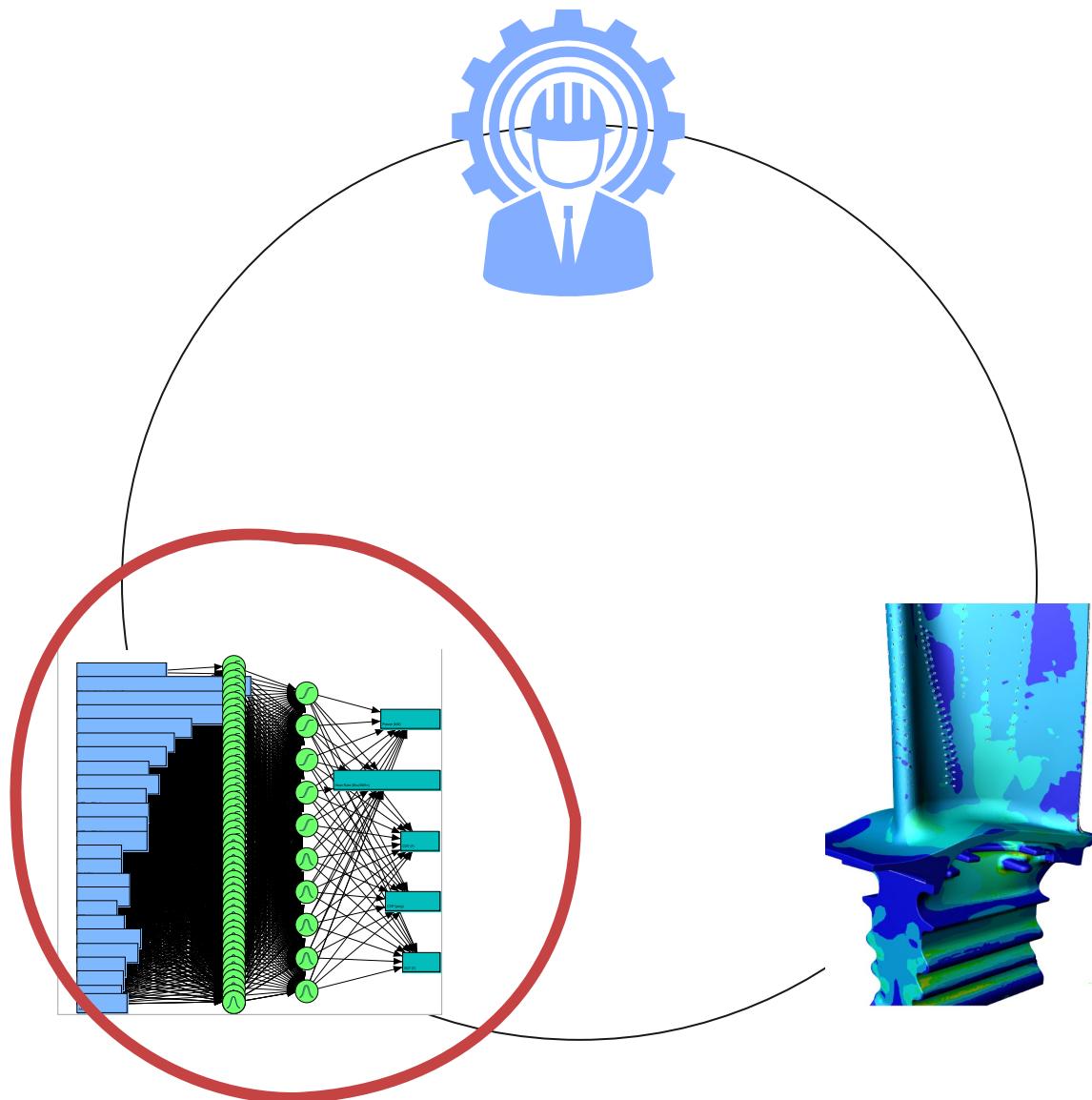
## SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE

- Provides context
  - What data is required?
  - What does the data mean?
  - How should I interpret data?
  - What models are appropriate?
  - How to handle **real-world** systems
  - Establish trust with model
  - Help define use cases



## PHYSICAL MODELING

- Provides ground truth to data
  - Underpins data-driven approaches
  - Independently trusted tool
  - Enables parametric study ('what-if')
  - **Cannot do with data alone**
- Enables intelligent extrapolation
- **Cannot do with data alone**



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / MACHINE LEARNING

- AI Brings it all together!
  - Calibration
  - Acceleration of execution
  - Portable
  - Trend identification
  - Can learn complex relationships
- Dangerous in untrained hands
  - Very easy to create a model that ‘looks good’
  - Often provides erroneous results



# AI/ML Techniques and Categories



You want to be here

## Supervised

- Dataset has known inputs and outputs – **up to engineer to determine causation**
- Dataset can be categorized (labeled) a priori
- Most engineering problems fall into this category
- Includes
  - *Classification* – is this a specific fault?
  - *Regression* – ‘Curve fit’



Most of us are here

## Unsupervised

- Inputs and outputs are abstract or cannot be defined
- Appropriate when relationship between variables is unknown (i.e., social behavior)
- Includes
  - Clustering – **is this different (e.g., APR)**

# What are the Challenges with Supervised Learning?



## Common Challenges

- No process to establish 'what is a good initial model?'
- No process to update and improve model accuracy over time

## Unsupervised learning (APR)

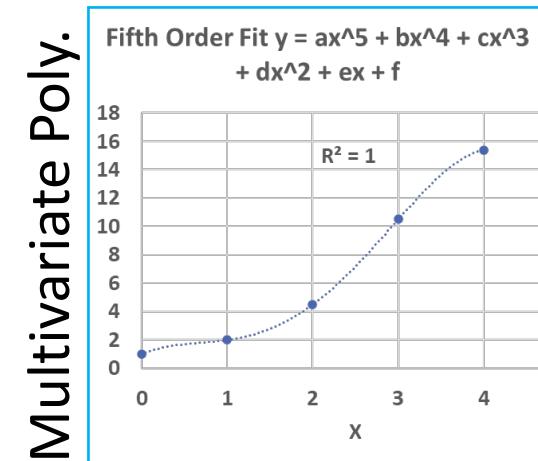
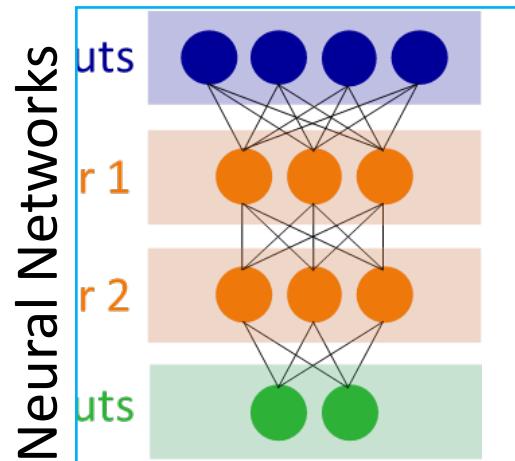
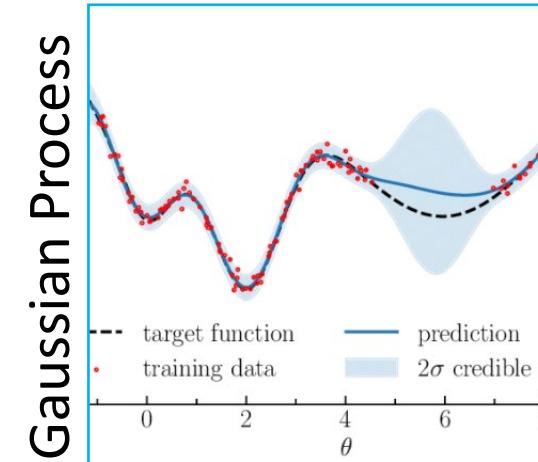
- Requires little problem setup to get running
- Running != useful analysis
- High false alarm rate because you cannot control 'separation' between good and bad

## Supervised learning requires additional preparation

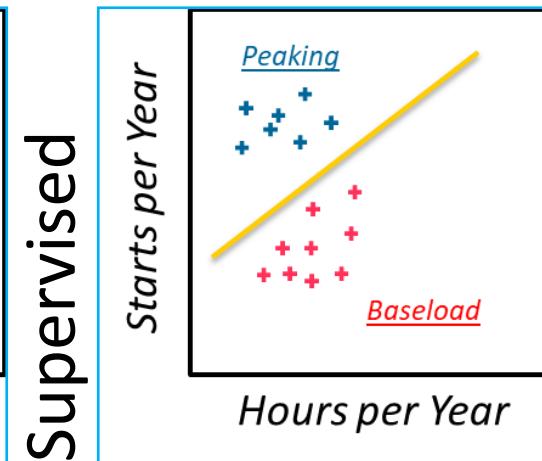
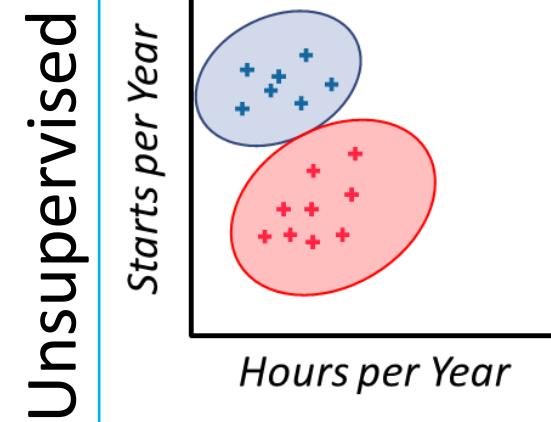
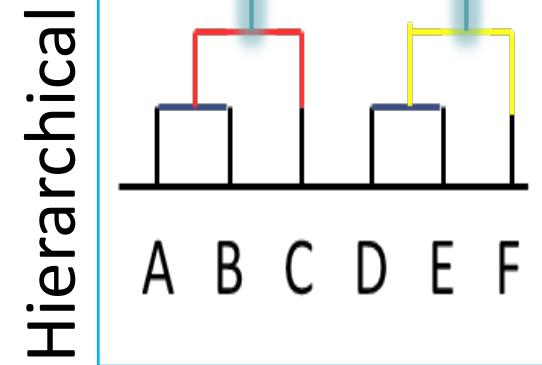
- **Data quality impacts model quality – model must be robust!**
- For classification problems – must label data or develop classification rule
- Often requires additional physics informed modeling to make sense of time-series data

# Classification vs. Regression

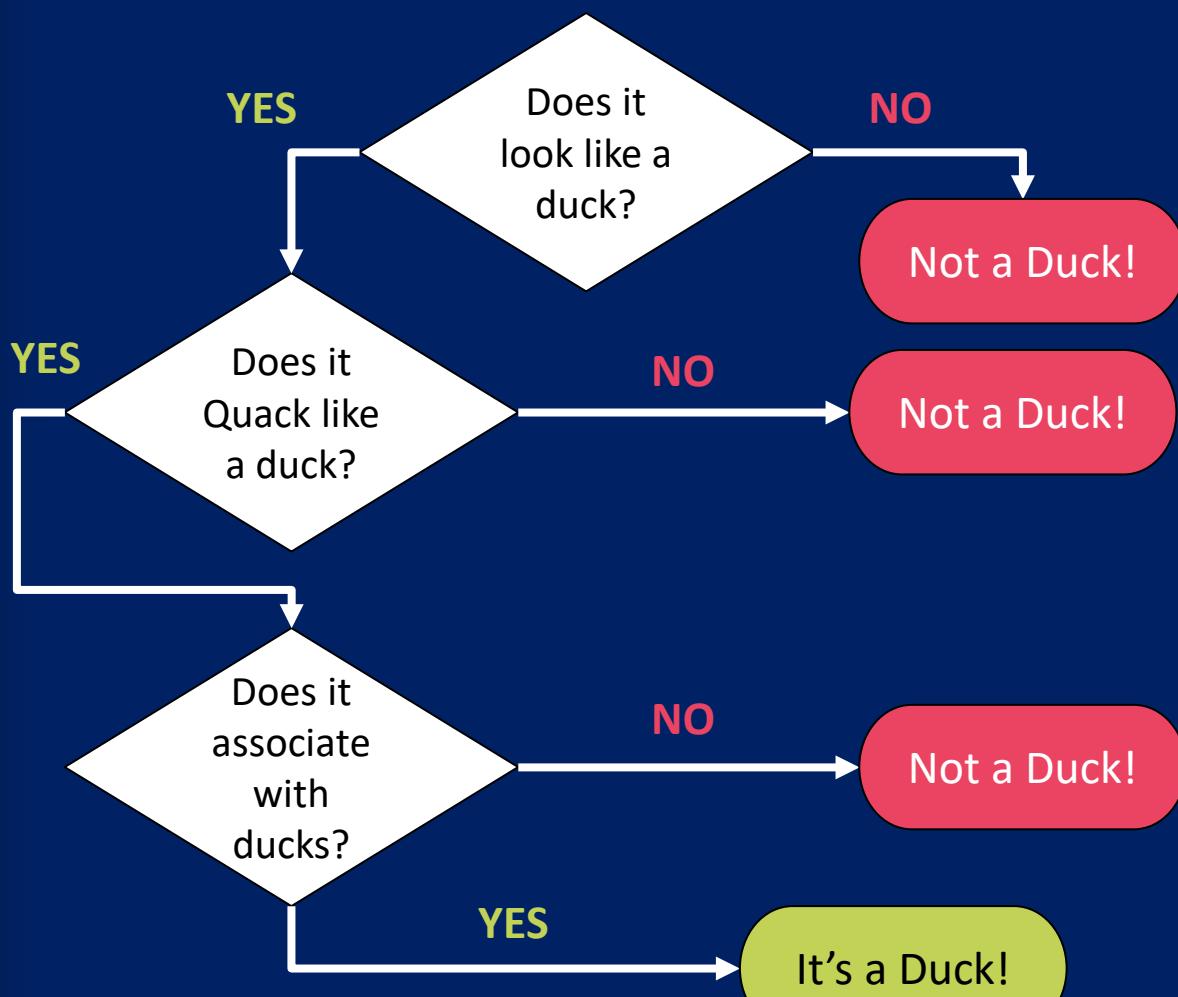
Regression – Predict a value(s)



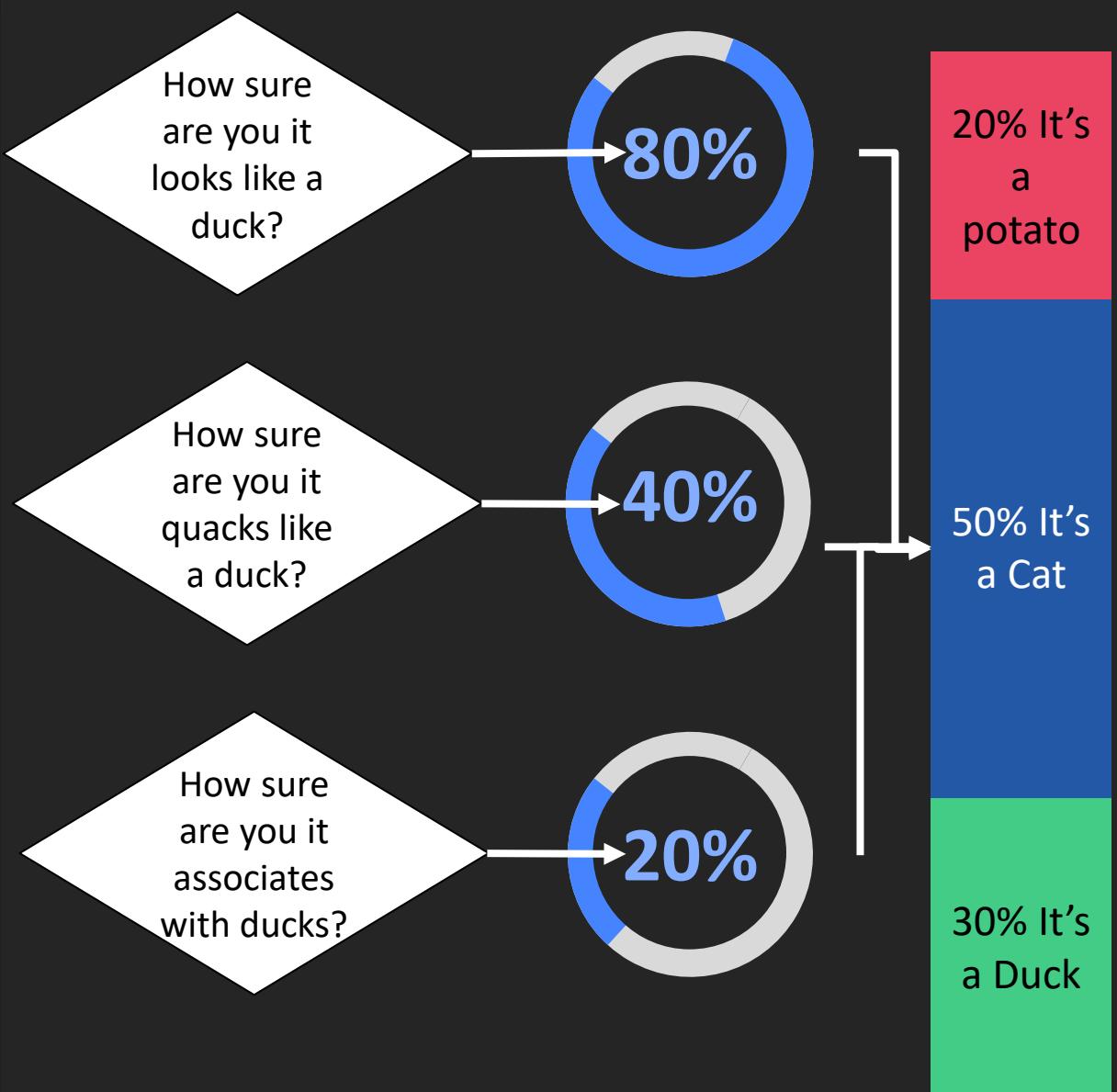
Classification – Where does this ‘thing’ belong?



## WHO TOOK LOGIC IN COLLEGE?



DETERMINISTIC MODELS



PROBABILISTIC MODELS

# One Last Comparison...Probabilistic vs. Deterministic



## Deterministic

- Takes data used for fitting at face value
- Prediction is a single value
  - MW = 186.5
  - The compressor is **faulted**
- **Easiest to use and comprehend**
- Less robust to lack of knowledge
  - Insufficient problem definition
  - Noisy or incorrect data

## Probabilistic

- **Considers uncertainty in fitting data or prediction**
- Prediction is a bounded estimate
  - MW = 181 to 193 MW with 90% confidence
  - The compressor is faulted with 77% certainty
- Many end users struggle since there is not a single value predicted; **however**
  - Very useful for trending noisy data

# A Few Source of Uncertainty

## Measurement Uncertainty

- Intrinsic inaccuracy in sensor
- Drift or noise in measurement
- Error in the recording chain (e.g., charge amp, DAQ, etc.)
- Dropouts (e.g., wireless sensor)
- Sensor placement
- Number of sensors (e.g., exhaust thermocouples)

## Data Storage Uncertainty

- Dropouts from SCADA to Historian
- Data compression settings (inconsistent settings also cause issues)

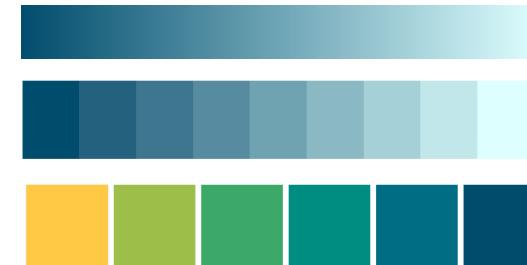


## Model Uncertainty

- Appropriateness of underlying physics
- Assumptions you consciously made
- **Assumptions you didn't even know you made (BIG ONE)**
- Calibration technique
- Model definition
- Garbage in – garbage out

# Characteristics to Consider

- Do I have specific responses (outputs)?
- Are my responses:
  - Continuous? [1.4, 6.7, 10.4]
  - Discrete Numerical? [1,2,3,4]
  - Categorical?
  - Mixed?
- Is the training data synthetic or measured?
  - How much noise in your dataset?
  - Can you denoise the data through signal analysis?
  - Reconcile with a model?
- How noisy is your dataset?





# What is Digital Twin?

# Digital Twin Applications

## Prognostics

- Identifies changes in component performance pre/post outage for assessment of outage success
- Assist in root cause analysis of failures
- Provides component specific degradation information
- Generates fault signatures for APR software
- Reduces uncertainty in APR fault signature identification through addition of virtual sensors

## “What-if” Scenarios

- Provide physics-based prediction of plant performance change due to upgrades (i.e., compressor upgrades, filter changes, HRSG upgrades, control curve changes, other hardware changes)
- Predict impact HRSG and BOP upgrades and controls changes
- Transient Response Optimization for Renewables Integration

## Diagnostics

- Informs condition-based maintenance
- Informs power production planning through accurate short- and long-term future performance prediction
- Couple with APR future prediction trending to predict degradation rates of specific components to inform maintenance planning

# Key Characteristics



## Connectivity

- Can integrate into any M&D setup through AI encapsulated regression model
- Can run in real time using Historian data

## Physics-based

- Individual models created using trusted Physics-based commercial software (NPSS)
- Variable fidelity – can adapt model to varying plant data quality or instrumentation availability

# Digital Twin

## Adjustable

- Can calibrate to any gas turbine for which a physics-based reference model has been created
- Equations created for integrated monitoring are self-calibrating as new data comes in from Historian

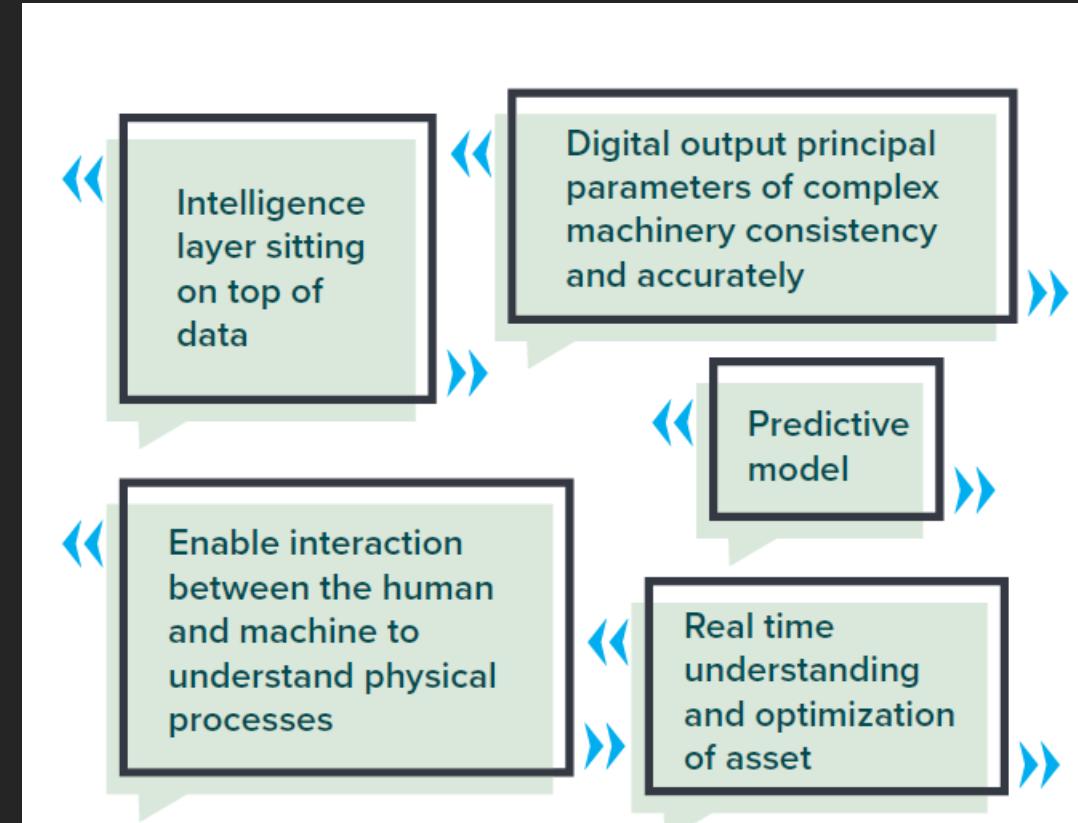
## Modularity

- Can adapt to varying instrumentation loadout
- Can be used to predict virtual sensors (e.g., shaft power in mechanical drive application *or* fuel flow in case of poor measurements)

# The Making of a Digital Twin

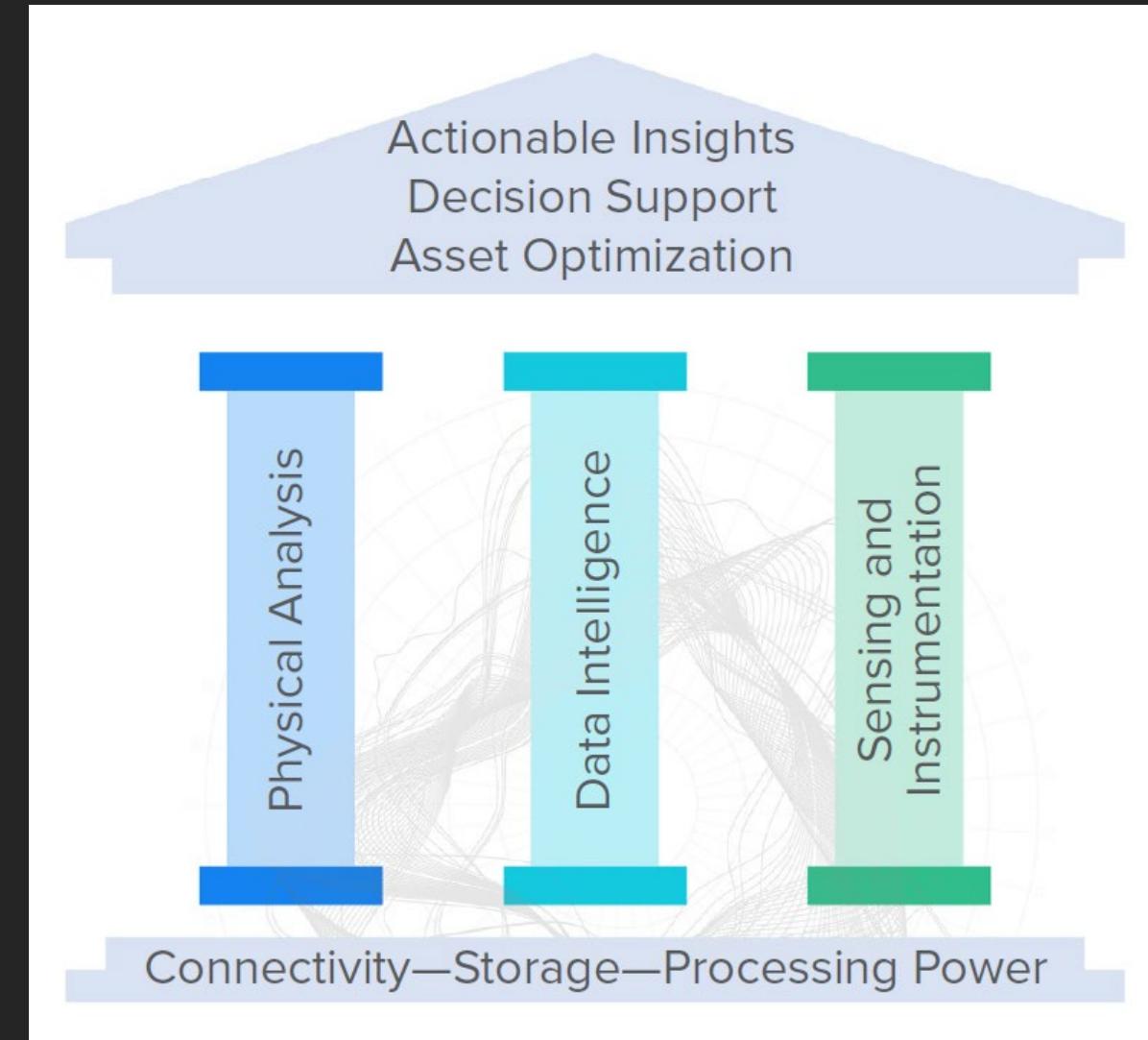
- A DT purposefully integrates trusted tools and techniques to give better insights into assets to improve decision-making
- We asked several EPRI members what DT meant to them
- While varied, a theme emerging:
  - A DT integrates data, models, and human input to provide improved insight

## Real Quotes from Real Engineers



# The Road to Digital Twins

- Like a building a house, foundation of DT
  - Connectivity, Storage, and Processing Power
- In order to use a DT to create actionable insights and support decision making, several key pillars are needed
  - Physics-based Models
    - Allows for advanced computer modeling of the underlying process or system
  - Data-driven Intelligence
    - Includes ML, AI, data-driven modeling and insights (i.e., APR)
  - Sensing and Instrumentation
    - Improved sensing technologies at lower cost enable more information to be obtained about the state of an asset which can be used to improve physics and data models



# The Road to Digital Twins



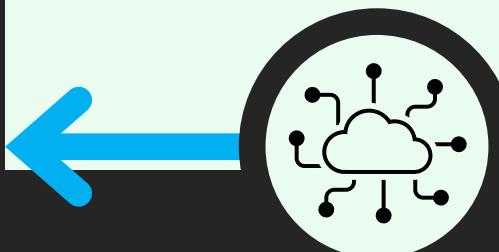
- Once built, a DT provides improved decision making in a multitude of ways.
  1. The integration with physics-based modes provides additional insight into the current health and capabilities of an asset
  2. The improved knowledge supports more informed decision making and optimization on asset operation and maintenance decisions

Digital Twins leverage recent advances in computational, storage, and connectivity to provide integrated decision making based on trusted tools and techniques.

# Connecting Asset, Data Processing, and Human Interaction

## Identify Easy Wins

- Connected Instrumentation
- Data storage connected to centralized data warehouse
- Appropriate Instrumentation



## Data Processing and Analytics

- Physics-Based Models
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Learning Models
- Predictive Capability



## Insights and Interactions

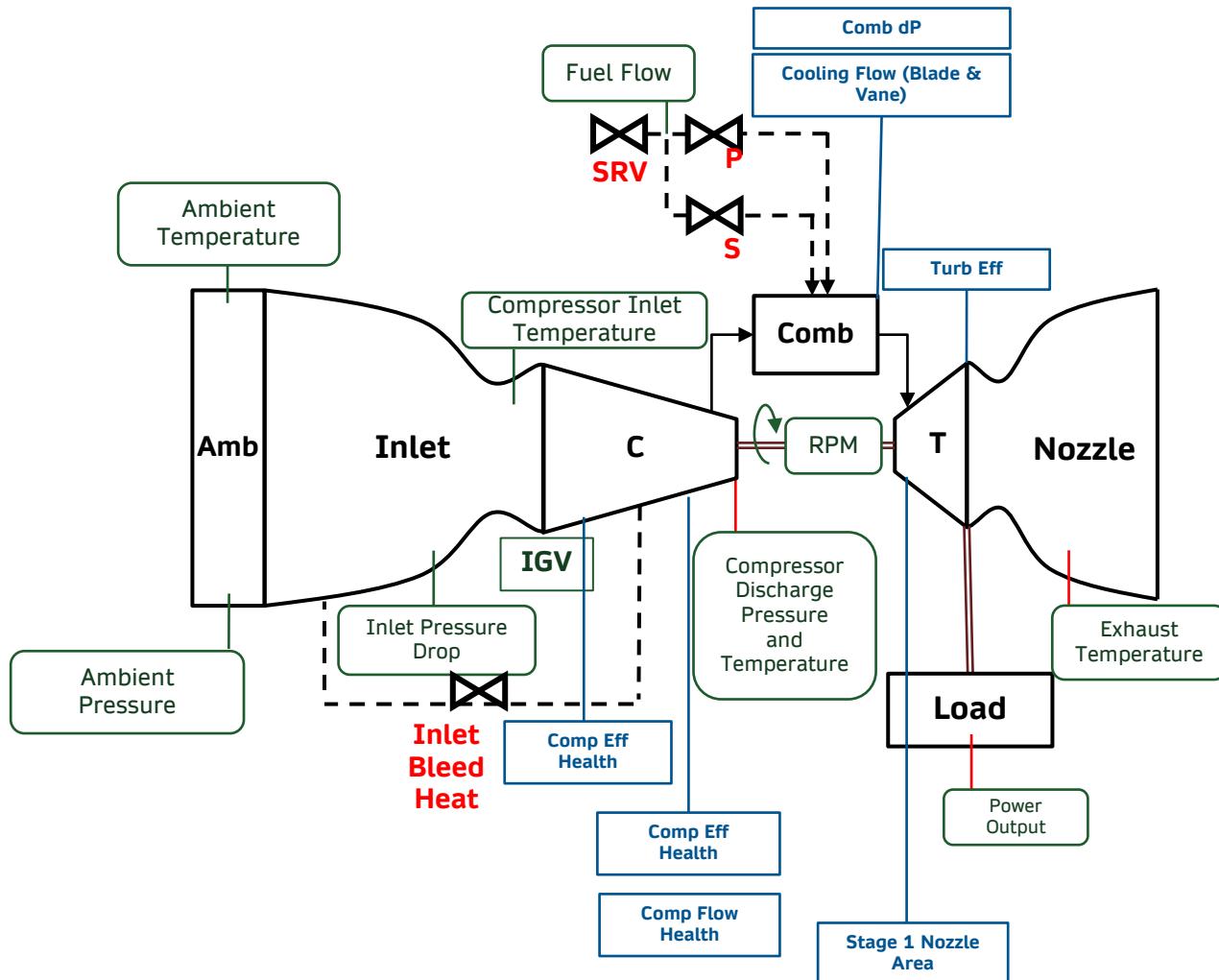
- Design Changes
- Quality Control
- Operations (Performance, Reliability)
- Maintenance Services





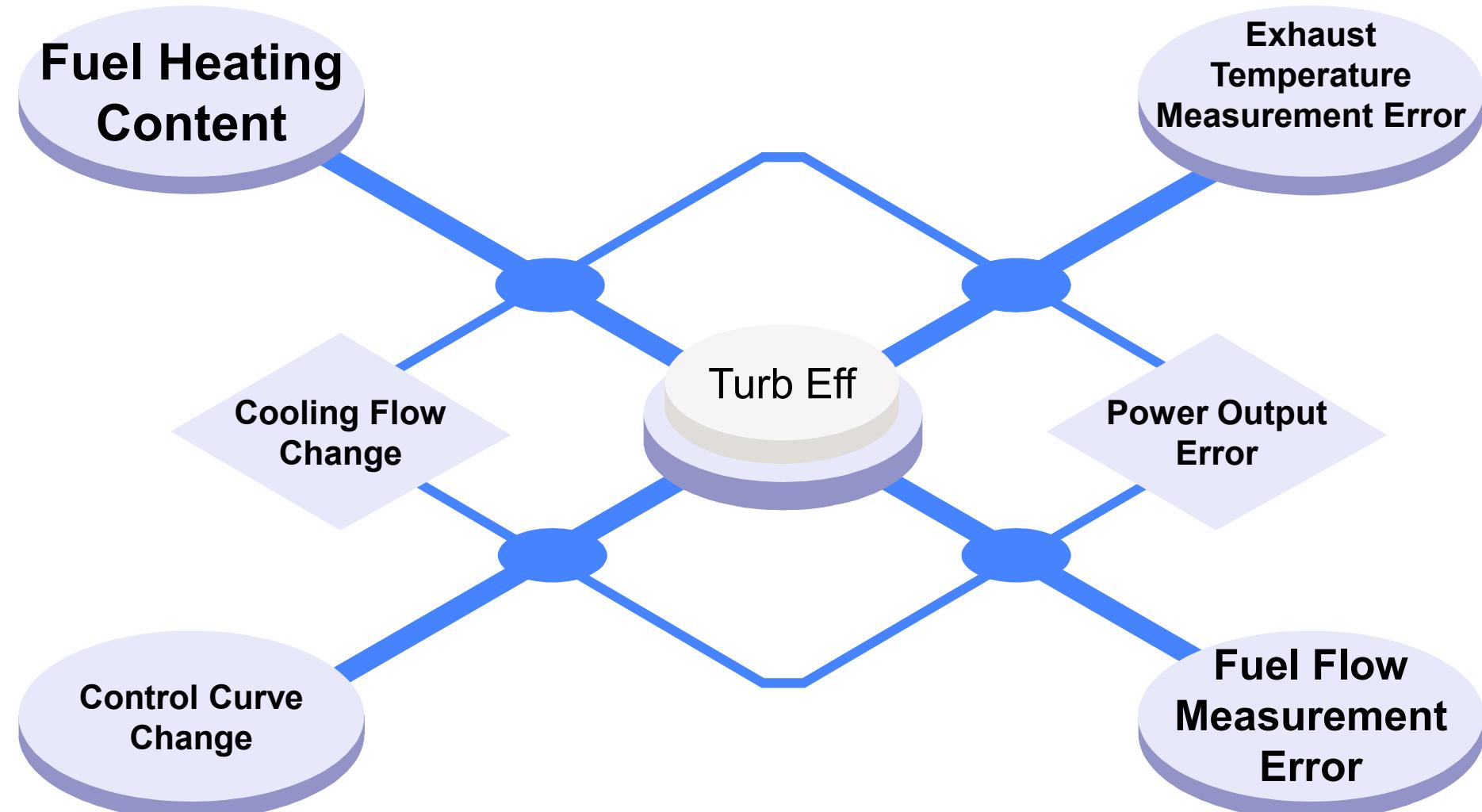
# Physical Model Requirements

# Hybrid Intelligence



- Traditional Sensors
- Virtual Sensors

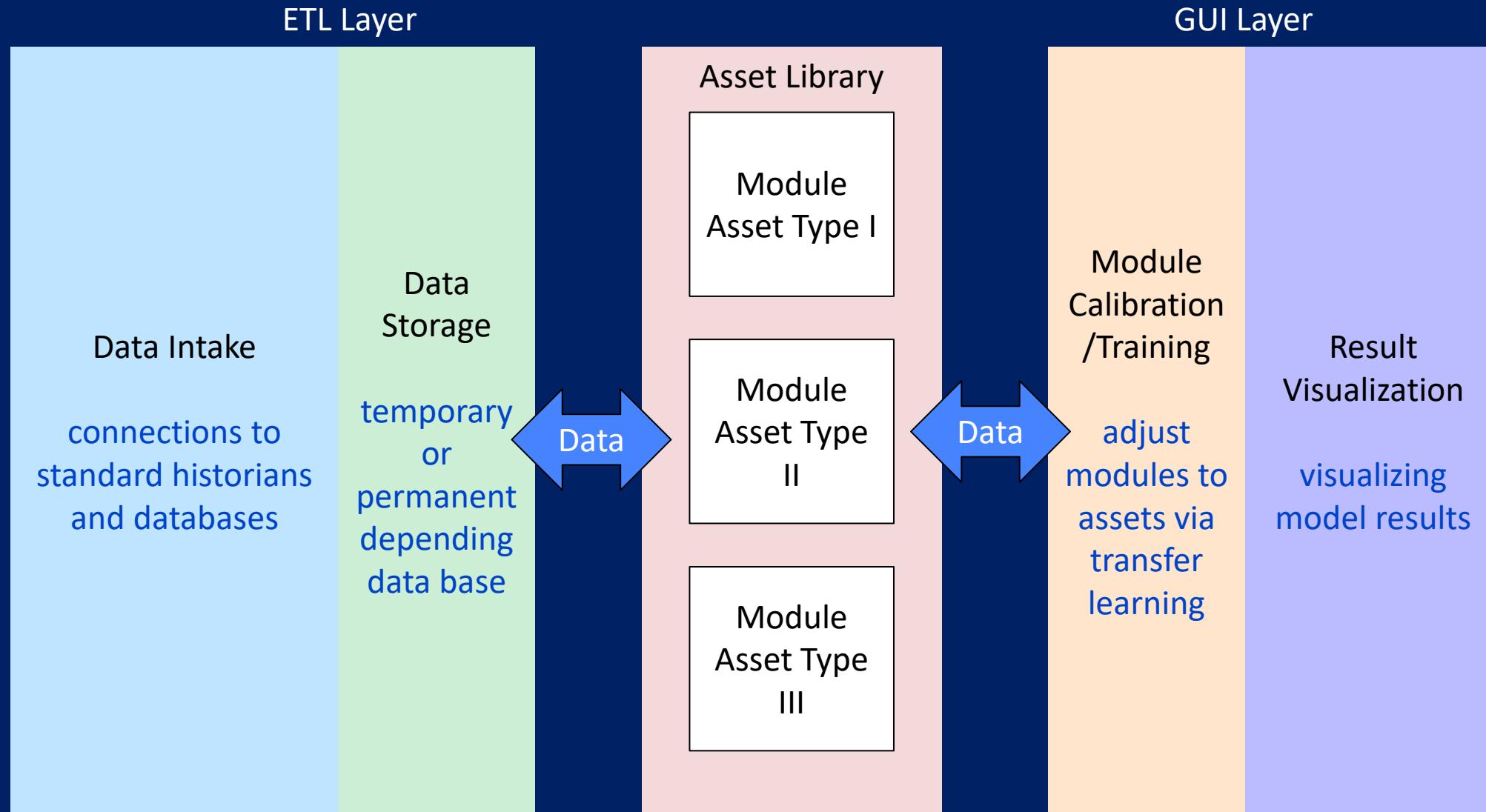
# What Contributed to Turbine Efficiency?



Digital Twin Can Help “De-Convolute” Compounded Influences

# Digital Twin Model Calibration Setup and Deployment

# Proposed Digital Twin Framework





Together... Shaping the Future of Energy®

# Virtual Sensor List and Descriptions



| Virtual Sensor        | Description / Usage  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Comp Eff. Health      | Unbiased estimate of compressor efficiency. Provides a shift relative to ideal conditions such that the signal is invariant to operating conditions or load.   |
| Comp. PR Health       | Unbiased estimate of compressor pressure ratio. Provides a scale factor relative to ideal conditions such that the signal is invariant to operating conditions or load.  |
| Comp. Flow Health     | Unbiased estimate of compressor mass flow capability. Provides a scale factor relative to ideal conditions such that the signal is invariant to operating conditions or load.  |
| Stage 1 Nozzle Area   | Turbine nozzle choke area  |
| Turbine Eff           | Unbiased estimate of turbine efficiency. Provides a shift relative to ideal conditions such that the signal is invariant to operating conditions or load.  |
| Cooling Flow          | Unbiased estimate of chargeable and nonchargeable cooling flow from the compressor to the turbine. Provides a scale factor relative to ideal conditions such that the signal is invariant to operating conditions or load. |
| Comb. dP              | Unbiased estimate of combustor pressure drop. Provides a scale factor relative to ideal conditions such that the signal is invariant to operating conditions or load.  |
| Ambient Pressure Bias | Estimated error in ambient pressure measurement  |
| CDP Bias              | Estimated error in CDP measurement   |
| EGT Bias              | Estimated error in EGT measurement   |
| IGV Bias              | Estimated error in IGV measurement   |

# Case Studies



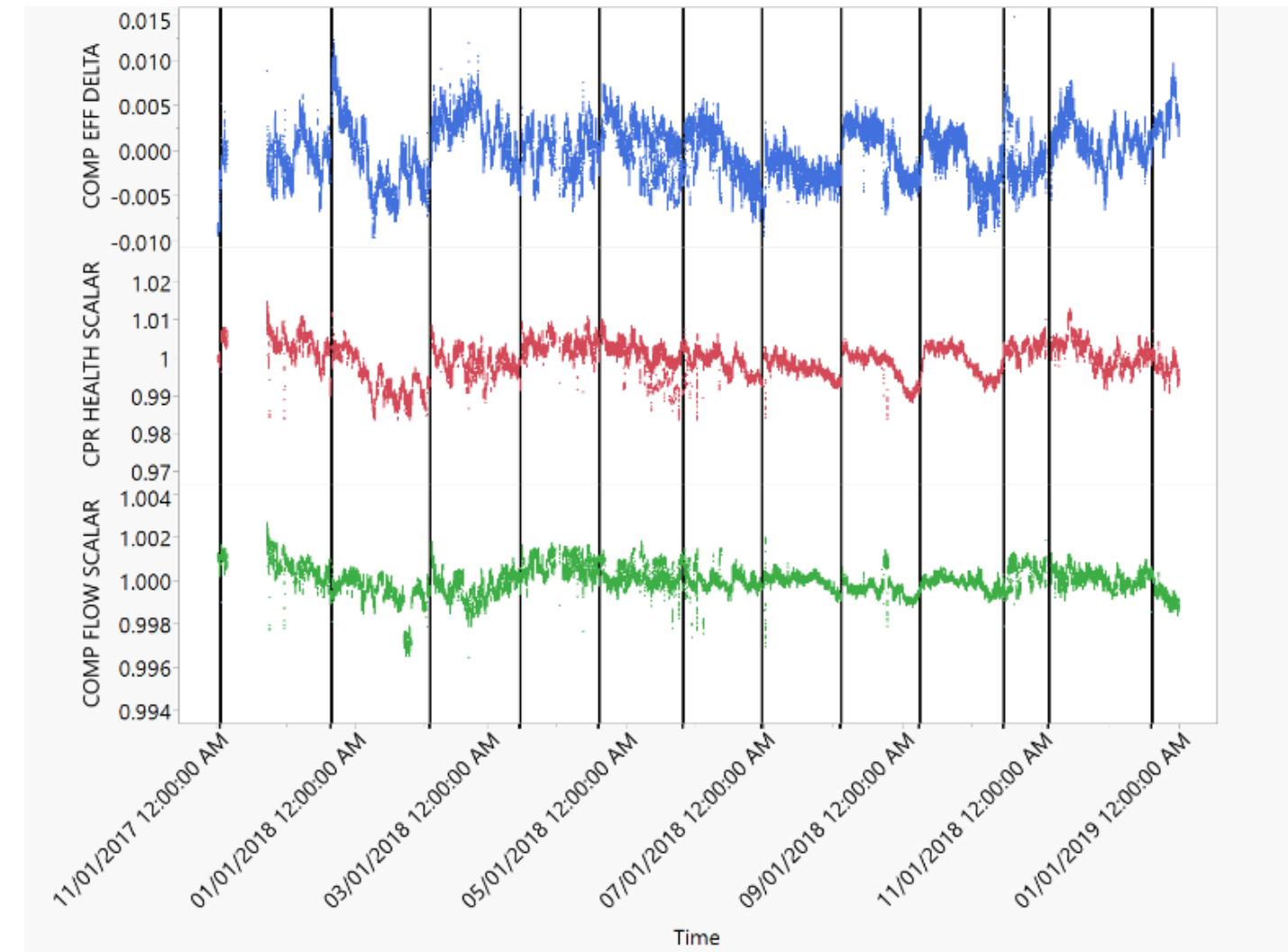
- Power Loss Due to Compressor Degradation
- Compressor Liquid Fouling Event
- Post Major-Outage MW Reduction
- Majority taken from:

The EPRI Gas Turbine Digital Twin – a Platform for Operator Focused Integrated Diagnostics and Performance Forecasting  
*Proc. ASME. GT2021, Volume 4: Controls, Diagnostics, and Instrumentation; Cycle Innovations; Cycle Innovations: Energy Storage; Education; Electric Power, V004T09A009, June 7–11, 2021*

- **Paper No:** GT2021-59572

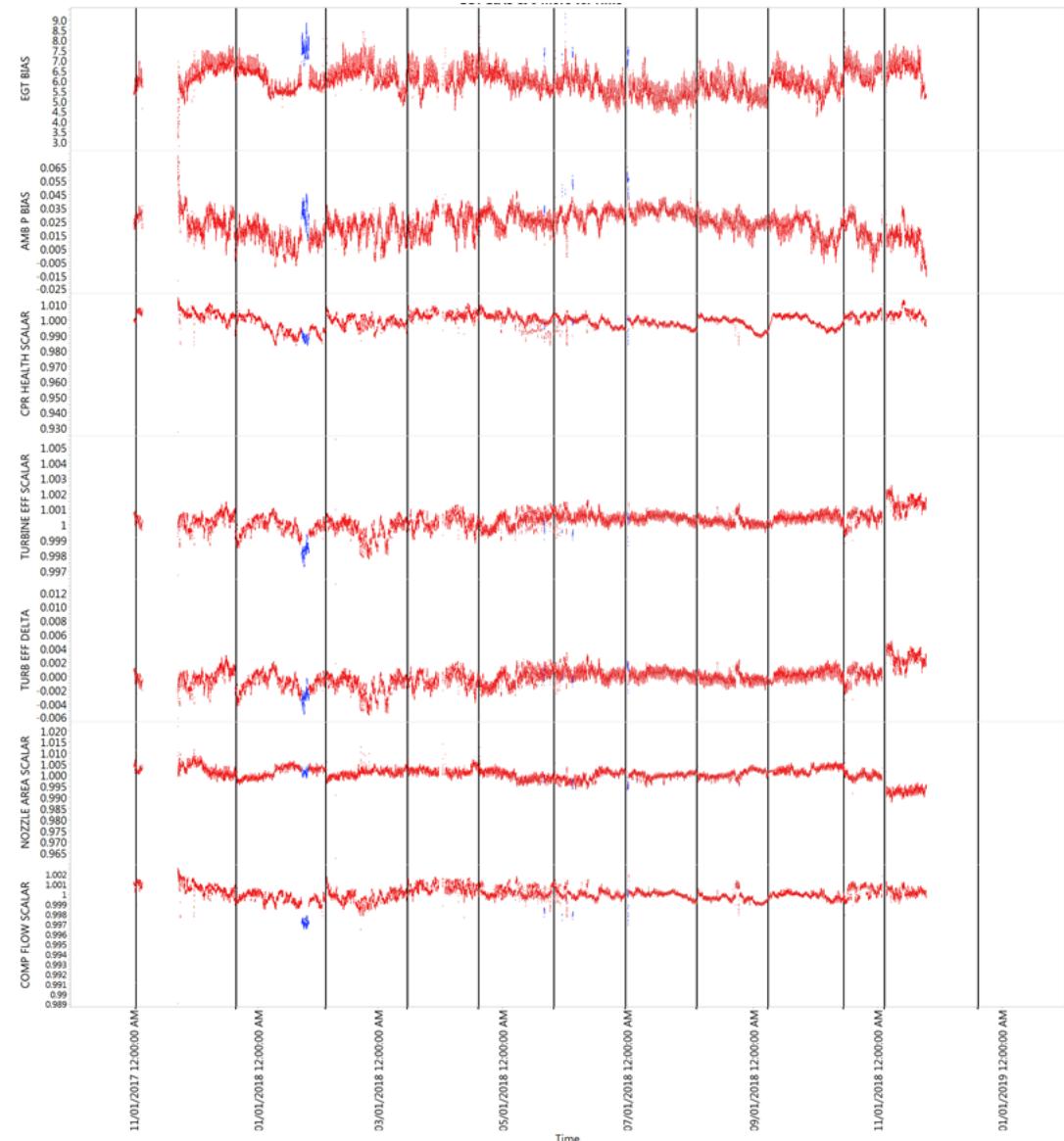
# Estimating Water Wash Impacts

- Plot shows one year+ of compressor health parameters
  - Vertical lines show offline water washes
- Can clearly see sawtooth pattern from offline washes
- Used Digital Twin to Predict potential power recovery from wash



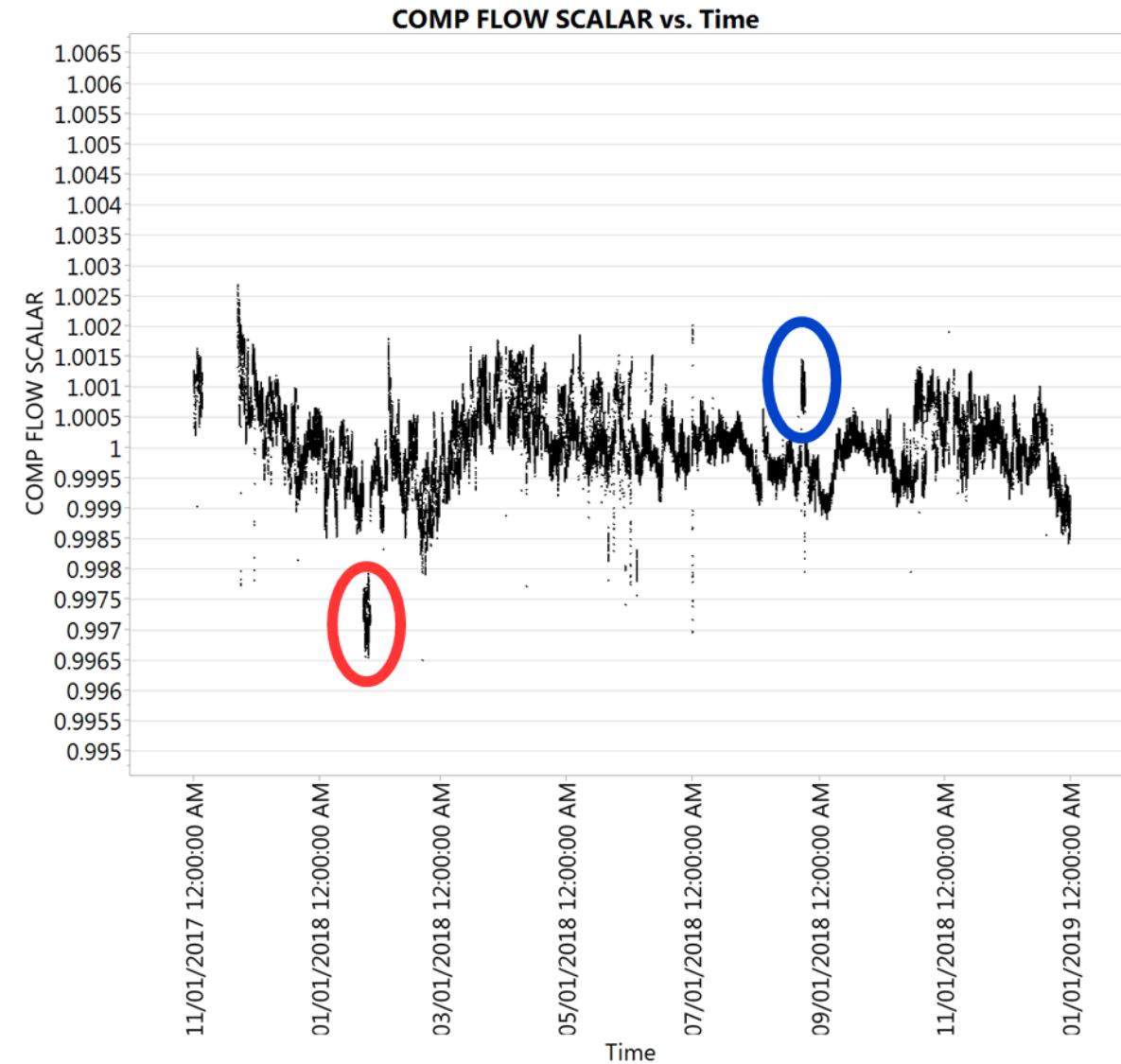
# Fault Diagnostics (2020 Reports)

- All Virtual Sensors – 7EA with Virtual Sensor Excursion



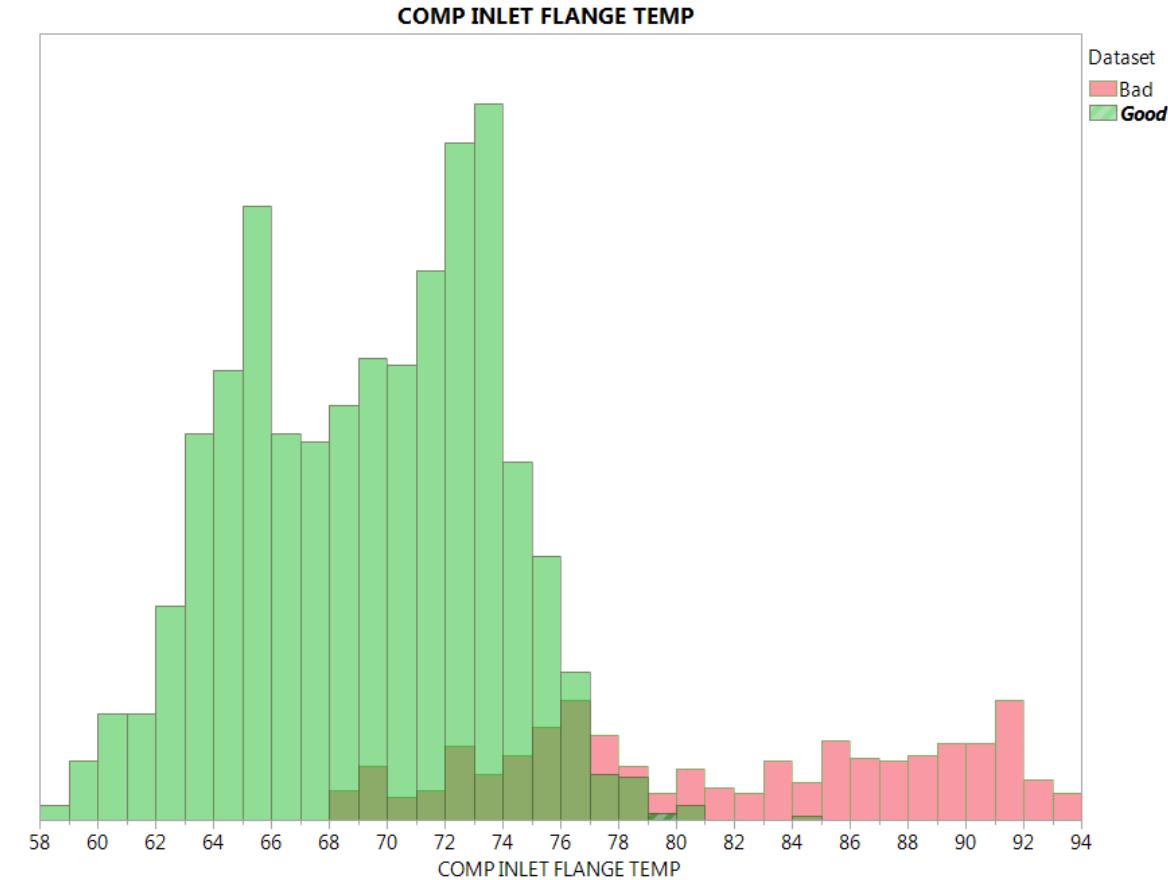
# Fault Diagnostics (2020 Reports)

- Virtual Sensor 7EA – Compressor Anomalies

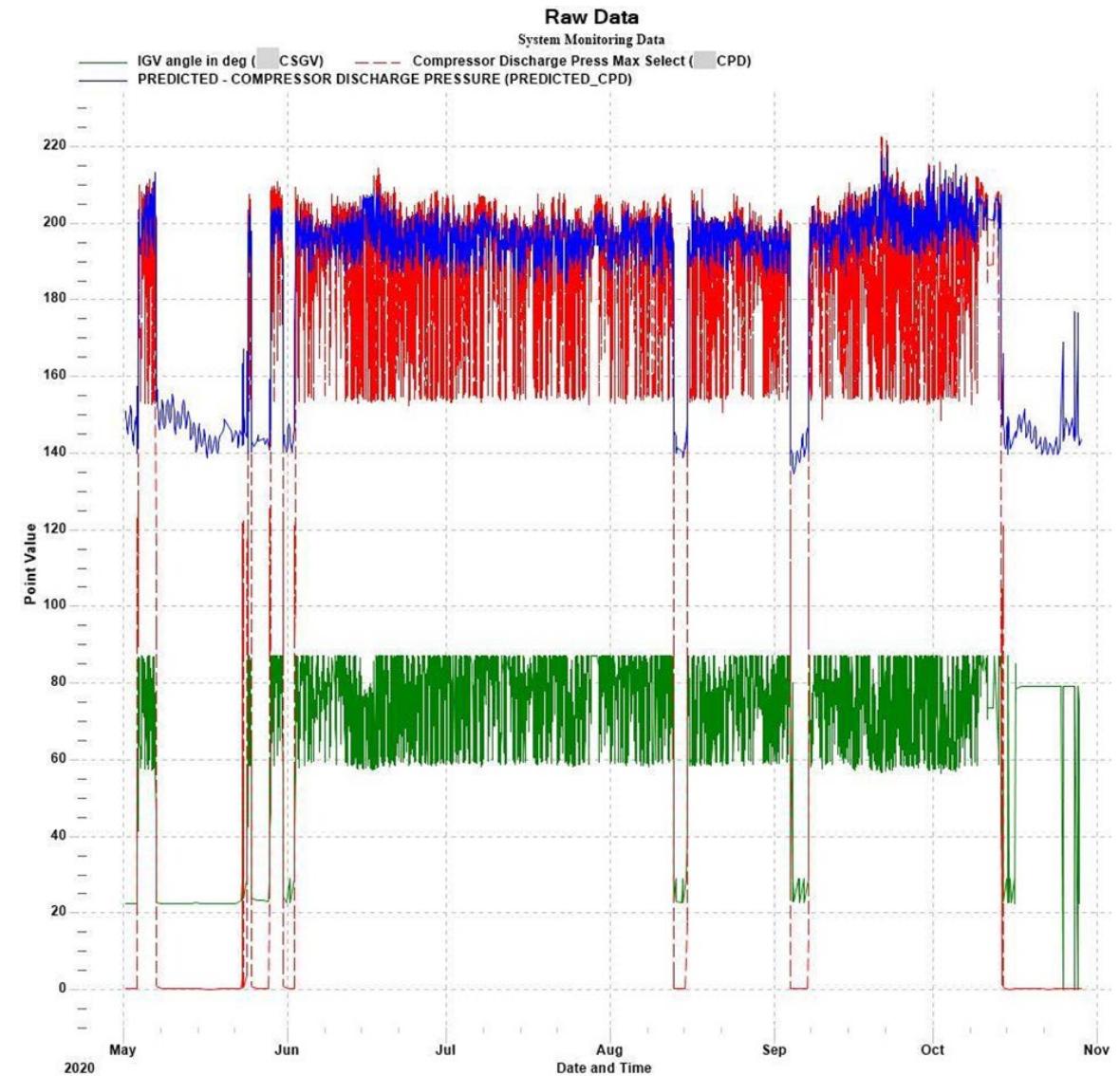
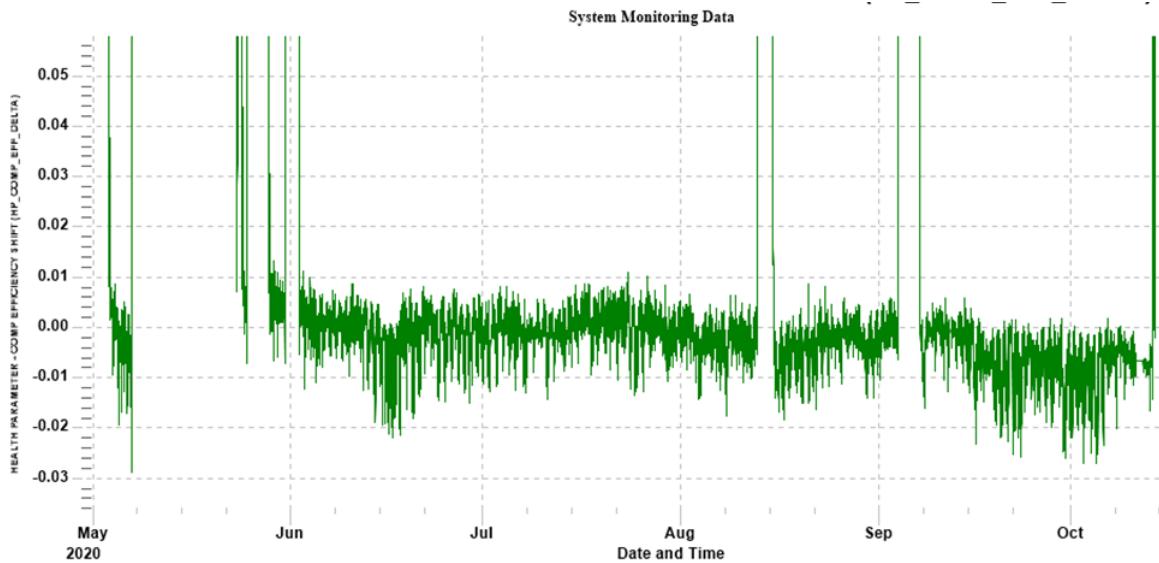


# Fault Diagnostics (2020 Reports)

- Investigation of Performance Excursion for Compressor Inlet Temperature

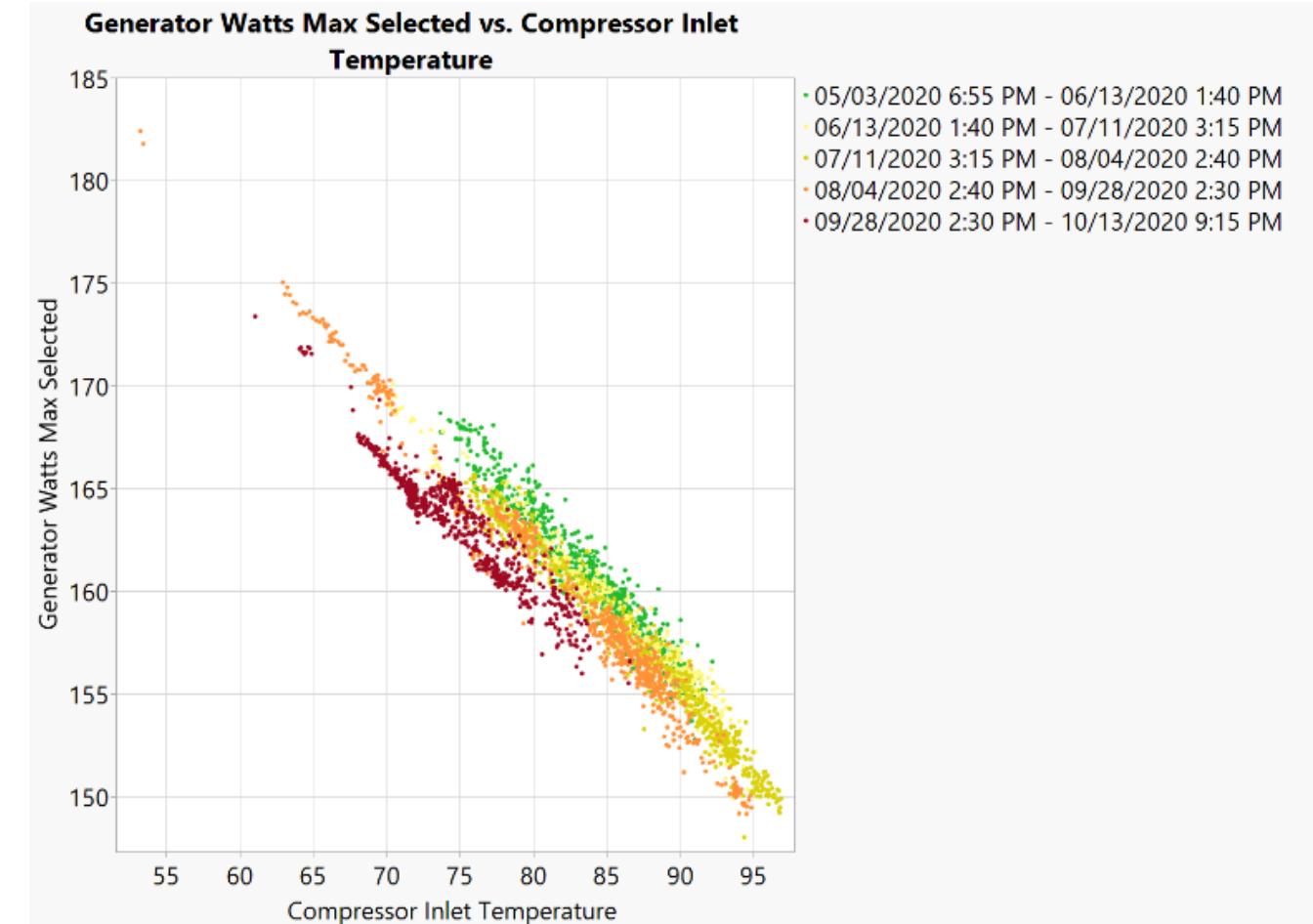
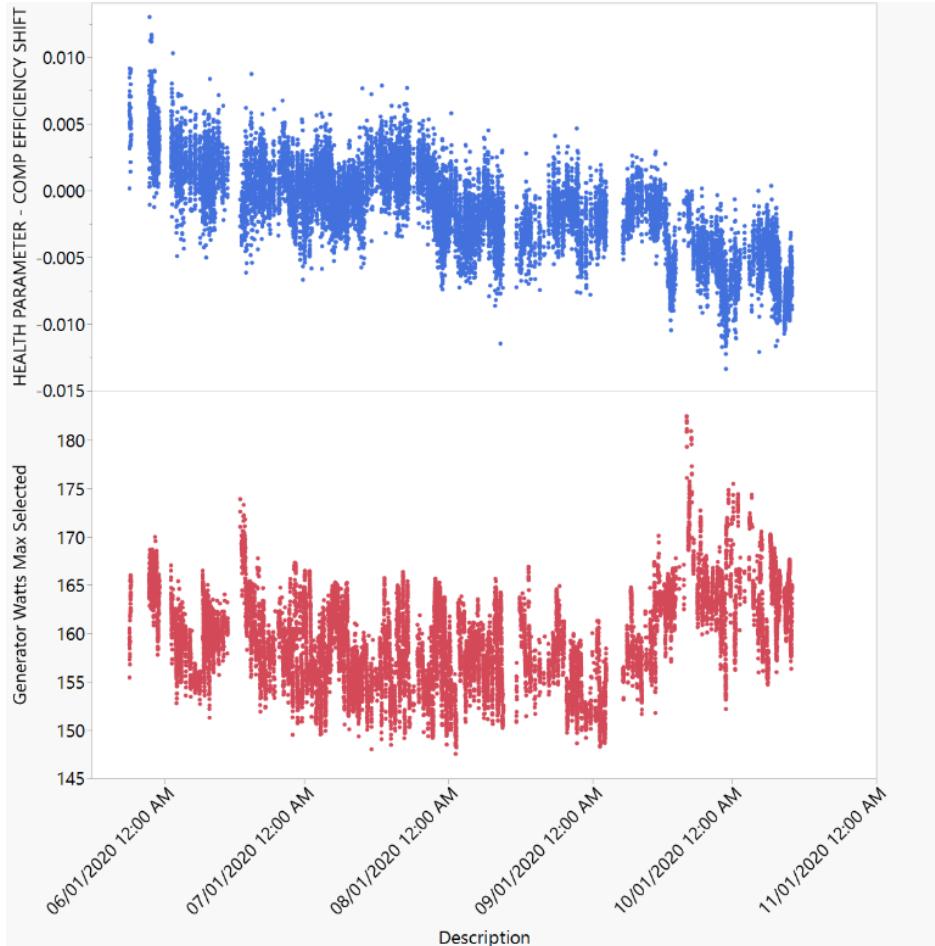


# Integration with APR (2021 Turbo Expo)



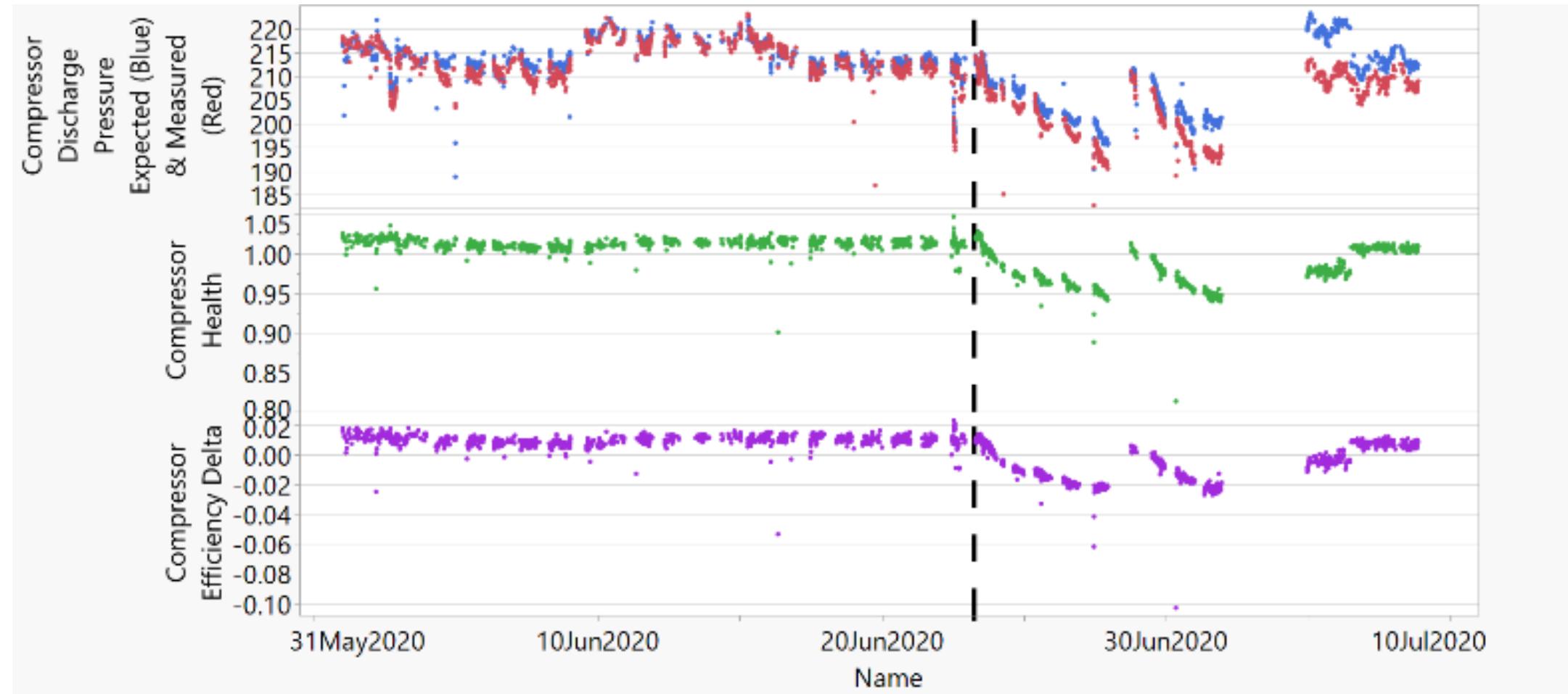
# Power Loss Due to Compressor Degradation

- Using Compressor Health parameters helped identify capacity degradation and to eliminate other causes



# Compressor Liquid Fouling Event

- Liquid foreign substance immediately showed rapid degradation in compressor metrics



# Post Major-Outage MW Reduction

- Digital Twin comparison of compressor discharge pressure alerted to decrease in CPR after major outage
- Expected DT MW was compared before and after – identified 1 MW reduction in output – cause still unknown, but verified through additional analysis

