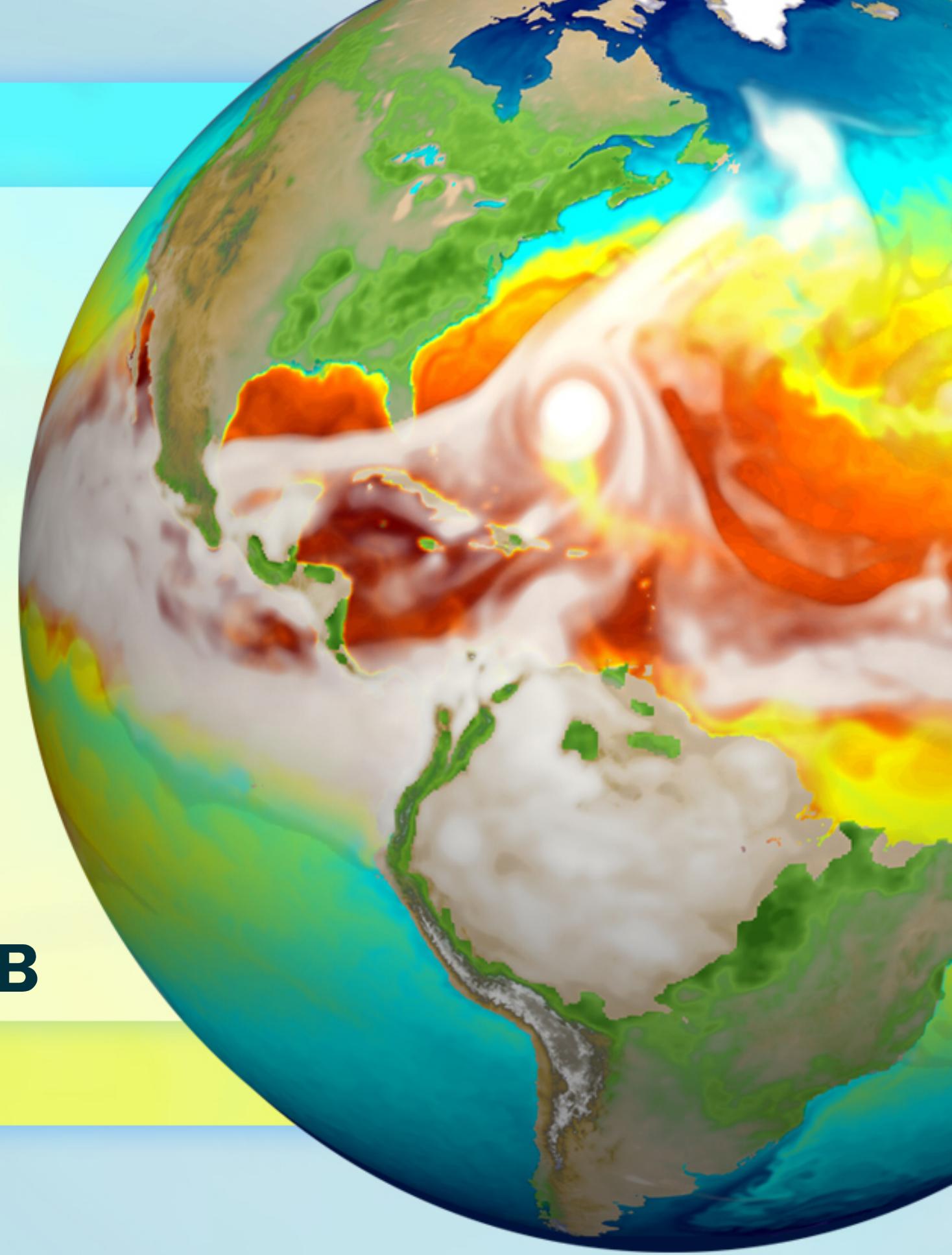


# Parameter Calibration and Structural Error in Land Models

Khachik Sargsyan (SNL), Dan Ricciuto (ORNL), Jennifer Holm (LBNL)



## Bayesian Calibration of Land Models....

### Model Input Parameters

- Critical soil water potential
- Stomatal conductance slope
- Stomatal conductance intercept
- Specific leaf area (canopy top)
- Leaf carbon:nitrogen ratio
- Fraction of leaf N in RuBisCO
- Fine root carbon:nitrogen ratio
- Fine root:leaf allocation ratio
- Critical day length for senescence
- Fraction of C storage allocated
- Bulk denitrification rate
- Base rate for plant respiration
- T sensitivity for plant respiration
- ...

### Land Model

### Model Outputs

- Gross Primary Productivity
- Leaf Area Index
- Latent Heat Flux
- ...
- ...

### FLUXNET Data



**Posterior PDF**  
sampled via Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

$$p(\lambda|D) \propto p(D|\lambda)p(\lambda)$$

### Bayes Formula

## .... Enabled by Surrogate Models

### Key challenge:

Likelihood requires online evaluation of model at candidate values

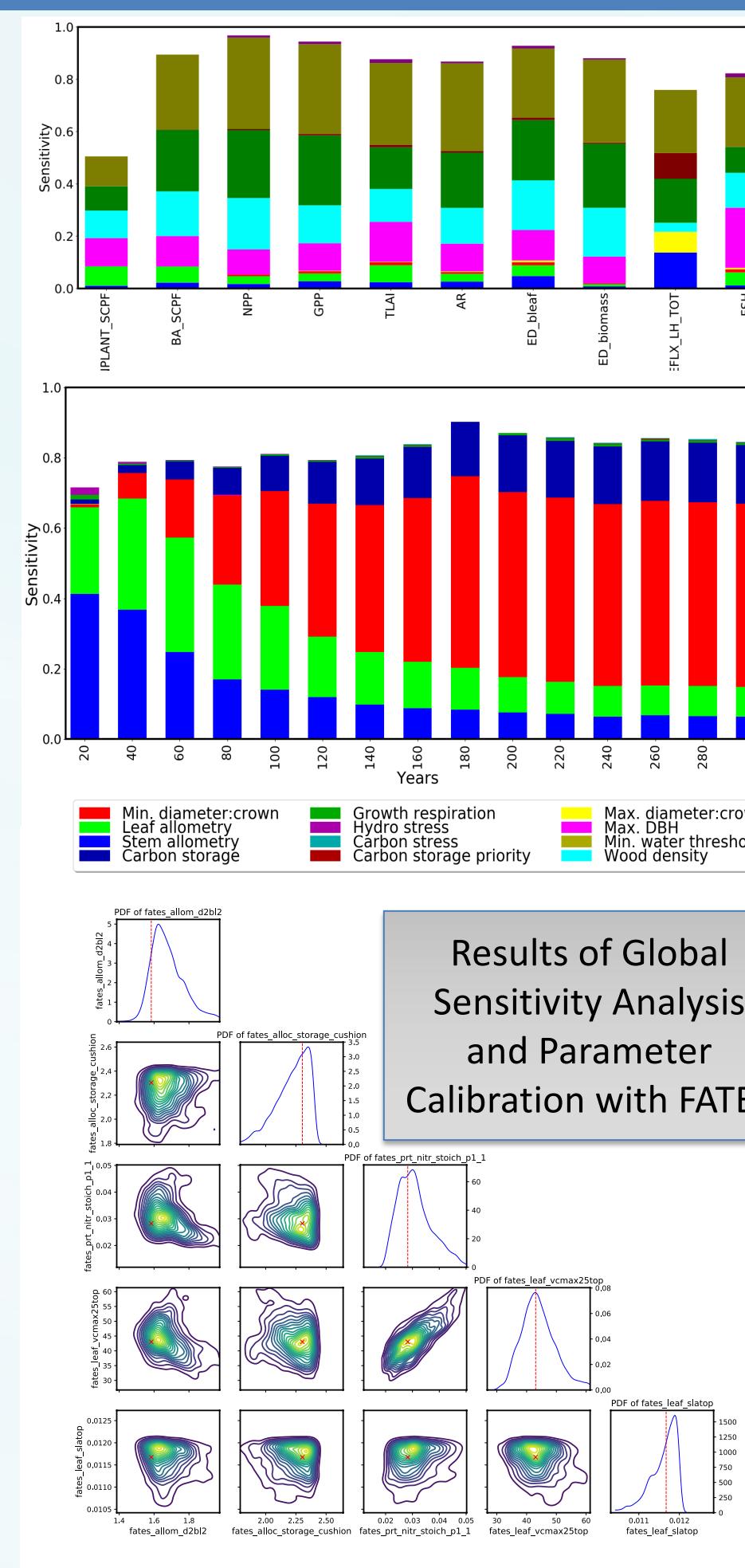
$$\log L(\lambda) \equiv \log p(D|\lambda) = -||D - f(\lambda)||^2$$

### Solution:

- Construct a surrogate, inexpensive approximation of the model, otherwise called a proxy, metamodel, response surface, supervised ML

$$f(\lambda) \approx f_s(\lambda)$$

- We employ Polynomial Chaos surrogates that enable variance decomposition (global sensitivity analysis) and uncertainty propagation.
- Enables uncertainty decomposition due to model parameters, surrogate errors and data noise



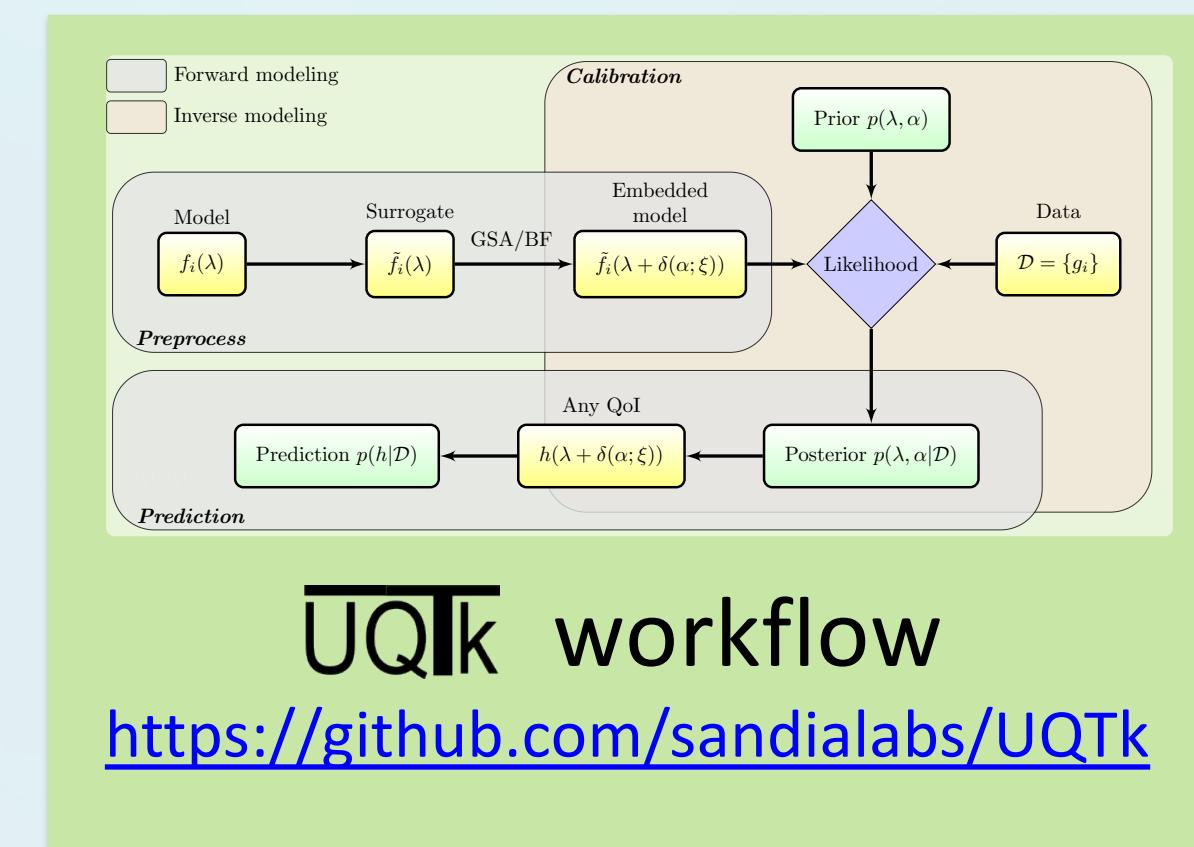
## Model Structural Error

Elephant in the room



### What is Model Error:

- Very loaded concept ... otherwise called (with slightly altered meanings) model discrepancy, model structural error, model inadequacy, model misspecification, model form error, model uncertainty
- Error associated with
  - Simplifying assumptions, parameterizations
  - Mathematical formulation, theoretical framework
- Uncertainty decomposition of model prediction needs to account for model error – often the dominant component of the uncertainty!



Scientific discovery and model development:  
“is it worth resolving details, or just parameterize empirically?”

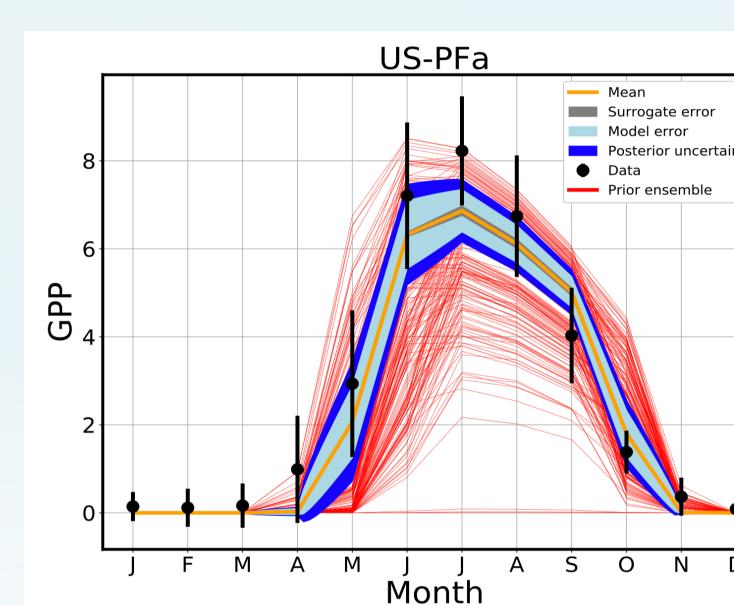
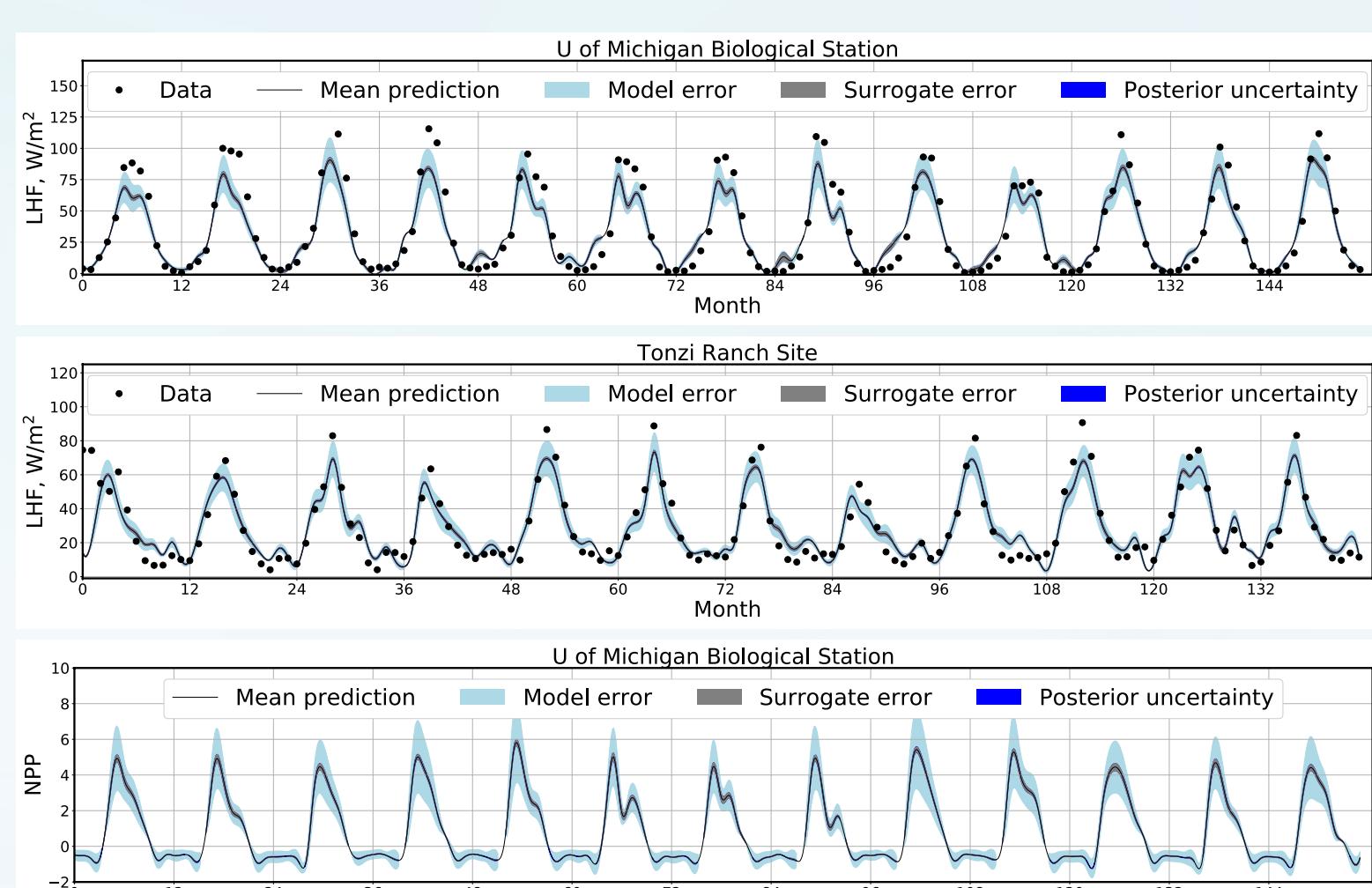
Optimal resource allocation:  
“do I improve my model (e.g. high-res), or run more simulations?”

Param 1 Param 2 Param 4 Param 5 Surr. error Data noise

Prediction variance

### Embedded (but Non-Intrusive!) Model Error approach:

- Model error correction inside the model, parameterized by **polynomial chaos**
- Bayesian inference** of physical parameters and model error parameters
- Calibrated uncertain prediction that is aware of model error
  - Physics-driven model correction
  - Meaningful extrapolation to full set of QoI predictions
  - Disambiguation between model error and data noise
  - Enables model comparison and model selection



**SciDAC Project OSCM:**  
Optimization of Sensor Networks for Improving Climate Model Predictions

- K. Sargsyan, H. Najim, R. Ghanem, “On the Statistical Calibration of Physical Models”, Int. J. Chem. Kinetics, 47(4), 246-276, 2015.
- K. Sargsyan, X. Huan, H. Najim, “Embedded Model Error Representation for Bayesian Model Calibration”, arXiv:1801.06768, in press, Int. J. Uncert. Quant., 2019.