

Mathematische Methoden der Unsicherheitsquantifizierung

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Mathematik!
TU Chemnitz

① Introduction

- 1.1 What is Uncertainty Quantification?
- 1.2 Expressing Uncertainty
- 1.3 UQ and Scientific Computing
- 1.4 Random PDEs
- 1.5 A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

② Monte Carlo Methods

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- 1.1 What is Uncertainty Quantification?
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What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

- What is uncertainty quantification (UQ) about?
- What is uncertainty?
- How can uncertainty be described?
- How can the effects of uncertainty be treated and quantified?
- Why isn't this a class on statistics and probability theory?
- Methods for solving the resulting mathematical problems.

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

What is 'uncertain'?

uncertain: *Not able to be relied on; not known or definite.*

Oxford Collegiate Dictionary

uncertain: *not exactly known or decided; not definite or fixed*

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Auf Deutsch?

unsicher: gefährvoll, gefährlich, keine Sicherheit bietend
gefährdet, bedroht
das Risiko eines Misserfolges in sich bergend, keine [ausreichenden] Garantien
bietend; nicht verlässlich; zweifelhaft unzuverlässig
einer bestimmten Situation nicht gewachsen, eine bestimmte Fähigkeit
nicht vollkommen, nicht souverän beherrschend nicht selbstsicher
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ungewiss: fraglich, nicht feststehend; offen
unentschieden, noch keine Klarheit gewonnen habend
(gehoben) so [beschaffen], dass nichts Deutliches zu erkennen, wahrzunehmen
ist; unbestimmbar

Duden Online

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

A poetic description

*There are known knowns;
there are things we know we know.*

*We also know there are known unknowns;
that is to say, we know there are some things we do not know.*

But there are also unknown unknowns – the ones we don't know we don't know.

*Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense
DoD News Briefing; Feb. 12, 2002*

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Historical orientation

- Life is full of uncertainty.
Pre-modern coping mechanisms: religion, divinatory practices, fatalism.

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- Today, computational science can simulate/predict many phenomena, often main limitation is now **data uncertainty**, rather than rounding error, discretization error, simulation cost.
- We need mathematical, numerical and algorithmic techniques for quantifying uncertainty in scientific and engineering computations.

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

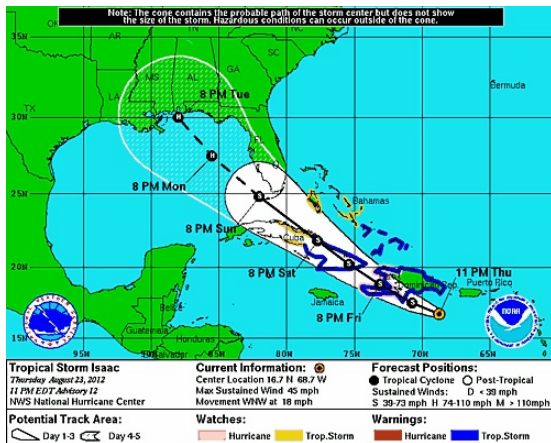
Uncertainty in Modern Life

(Increasingly?) many aspects of modern life involve uncertainty.

- **Social systems:** military, finance, insurance industry, elections
- **Environmental systems:** weather, climate, seismics, subsurface geophysics
- **Engineering systems:** automobiles, aircraft, bridges, structures
- **Biological systems:** health and medicine, pharmaceuticals, gene expression, cancer research
- **Physical systems:** quantum physics, radioactive decay

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Uncertainty in Modern Life

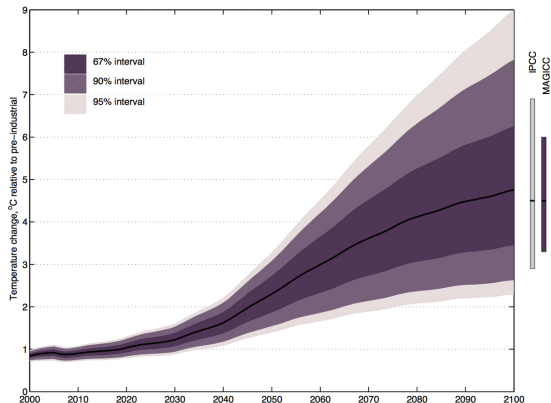


Source: National Hurricane Center, USA

Predicted storm path with **uncertainty cones**.

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Uncertainty in Modern Life

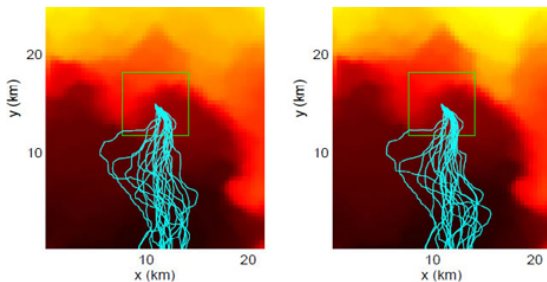


Source: Brodman & Karoly, 2013

Global-mean temperature change for a business-as-usual emission scenario, relative to pre-industrial. Black line: median, shaded regions 67% (dark), 90% (medium) and 95% (light) confidence intervals.

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Uncertainty in Modern Life



Source: K. A. Cliffe, 2012

Sample paths of groundwater-borne contaminant particles emanating from an underground radioactive waste disposal site.

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Examples

Radioactive decay

- Radium-226: half-life of 1602 years
- Decays into Radon gas (Radon-222) by emitting alpha particles.
- Over a period of 1602 years, half the radium atoms in a given sample will decay.
- But we cannot say which half!

This kind of uncertainty seems to be 'built in' to the physical world.

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Examples

Rolling a die (or several dice)

- Cube, 6 faces, numbered 1–6.
- One or more thrown onto a table.
- For “fair dice”, expect to see the numbers 1–6 appear equally often, provided the dice are thrown sufficiently many times.

How does this differ from radioactive decay?

Is this uncertainty also 'built-in' to the physical world, or is it just that we don't know how to calculate what will happen when the dice are thrown?

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Examples

Screening/testing for disease

- Incidence of disease among general population: 0.01 %
- Test has true positive rate (sensitivity) of 99.9 %.
- Same test has true negative rate (specificity) of 99.99 %.
- What is the chance that someone who tests positive actually has the disease?

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- What is the chance that someone who tests positive actually has the disease?

Answer (relative probabilities, conditional probabilities, Bayes' formula)

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{disease}|\text{pos}) &= \frac{P(\text{pos}|\text{disease}) \cdot P(\text{disease})}{P(\text{pos}|\text{disease}) \cdot P(\text{disease}) + P(\text{pos}|\text{no disease}) \cdot P(\text{no disease})} \\ &= \frac{0.999 \cdot 0.0001}{0.999 \cdot 0.0001 + (1 - 0.9999) \cdot (1 - 0.0001)} \\ &\approx 0.4998 \end{aligned}$$

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Examples

Alternative phrasing (of same answer using natural frequencies)

- Think of random sample 10,000 people.
- Of these, on average 1 will have the disease, 9,999 will not.
- The person who has the disease will almost certainly test positive.
- of the 9,999 healthy people, on average one will test (falsely) positive.
- Thus, roughly one out of every two positive patients actually has the disease.

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- Thus, roughly one out of every two positive patients actually has the disease.

In [\[Gigerenzer, 1996\]](#): Medical practitioners were given the following information regarding mammography screenings for breast cancer:

incidence: 1 %; sensitivity: 80 %; specificity: 90 %.

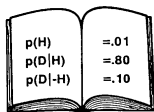
When asked to quantify the probability of the patient actually having breast cancer given a positive screening result (7.5%), 95 out of 100 physicians estimated this probability to lie above 75%.

See also [\[Gigerenzer et al., 1998\]](#) for similar observations in AIDS counseling.

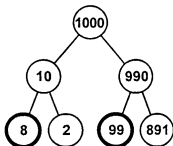
What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Examples

Probability Format



Frequency Format



$$p(\text{disease} | \text{symptom}) = \frac{.01 \times .80}{.01 \times .80 + .99 \times .10}$$



$$p(\text{disease} | \text{symptom}) = \frac{8}{8 + 99}$$



FIGURE 1. Bayesian computations are simpler when information is represented in a frequency format (right) than when it is represented in a probability format (left). $p(H)$ = prior probability of hypothesis. H (breast cancer), $p(D|H)$ = probability of data D (positive test) given H , and $p(D|-H)$ = probability of D given $-H$ (no breast cancer).

Sometimes the description of uncertainty is crucial for its transparent communication.

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Examples

Modeling biological systems

- From one view, biology is **just** very complicated physics and chemistry.
- But even the simplest biological systems are far too complicated to be understood from basic principles at the moment.
- Models are constructed that attempt to capture the essential features of what is happening, but often there are competing models and they may all fail in some way or other to predict the observed phenomena.
- In short, we don't really know what the model is!

How does this situation differ from the previous two?

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Examples

Climate change

*The weight of evidence makes it clear that climate change is a real and present danger. The Exeter conference was told that whatever policies are adopted from this point on, the Earth's temperature will rise by 0.6°F within the next 30 years. Yet those who think climate change just means Indian summers in Manchester should be told that the **chances of the Gulf stream** - the Atlantic thermohaline circulation that keeps Britain warm - **shutting down are now thought to be greater than 50%***

The Guardian, 2005

*Most of the observed increase in globally-averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is **very likely** due to the observed increase in anthropogenic GHG concentrations. It is **likely** there has been significant anthropogenic warming over the past 50 years averaged over each continent (except Antarctica).*

*IPCC Fourth Assessment
Summary for Policymakers.*

What do these statements mean?

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Examples

Unknown unknowns

- Obviously can't give a current example.
- A good example is the state of Physics at the end of the 19th century.

There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now. All that remains is more and more precise measurement.

Lord Kelvin, 1900

- Quantum mechanics and relativity theory were unknown unknowns.

It is easy to underestimate uncertainty.

What is Uncertainty Quantification? (UQ)

Political Implications

Questions:¹

- ① How do we account for all the uncertainties in the complex models and analyses that inform decision makers?
- ② How can those uncertainties be communicated simply but quantitatively to decision makers?
- ③ How should decision makers use those uncertainties when combining scientific evidence with more socio-economic considerations?
- ④ How can decisions be communicated so that the proper acknowledgment of uncertainty is transparent?

¹posed on entry at the 2006 EPSRC Ideas Factory on the topic *Scientific Uncertainty and Decision Making for Regulatory and Risk Assessment Purposes*.

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② Monte Carlo Methods

Expressing Uncertainty

Principle of indifference

The principle of indifference asserts that if there is no known reason for predicating of our subject one rather than another of several alternatives, then relatively to such knowledge the assertions of each of these alternatives have an equal probability.

J. M. Keynes, 1921

- Rule for assigning epistemic probabilities: in the absence of further information, use the uniform distribution.
- Taken as intuitively obvious by [J. Bernoulli, *Ars Conjectandi*, 1713].
- Later used by [Laplace, 1774] to define classical probability.
- Originally known as “*Principle of insufficient reason*”, (cf. Leibniz’ “principle of sufficient reason”²), current term due to [Keynes, 1921].
- Leads to contradictions (numerous paradoxes in literature).

²“For every fact F , there must be an explanation why F is the case.”

Expressing Uncertainty

Bayes' rule (events)

Given **probability space** $(\Omega, \mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{P})$, $A, B \in \mathfrak{A}$, $\mathbf{P}(B) > 0$, then the **conditional probability** of A given B is defined by

$$\mathbf{P}(A|B) := \frac{\mathbf{P}(A \cap B)}{\mathbf{P}(B)}.$$

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Solving for $\mathbf{P}(A \cap B)$, exchanging roles of A and B , assuming $\mathbf{P}(A) > 0$, gives

$$\mathbf{P}(A|B) = \frac{\mathbf{P}(B|A) \mathbf{P}(A)}{\mathbf{P}(B)} \quad \text{Bayes' rule} \quad [\text{Bayes, 1763}]$$

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- A : unobservable state of nature, with **prior probability** $\mathbf{P}(A)$ of occurring;
- B : observable event, probability $\mathbf{P}(B)$ known as **evidence**;
- $\mathbf{P}(B|A)$: probability that A causes B to occur (**likelihood**);
- $\mathbf{P}(A|B)$: **posterior probability** of A knowing that B has occurred.
- Terms: **inverse probability**, **Bayesian inference**.

Expressing Uncertainty

Bayes' rule (partitions)

Given partition $\{A_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ of Ω into exhaustive and exclusive disjoint events, de Morgan's rule and countable additivity give, assuming all $\mathbf{P}(A_j) > 0$,

$$\mathbf{P}(B) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbf{P}(B|A_j) \mathbf{P}(A_j) \quad (\text{law of total probability}),$$

leading to another variant of Bayes' rule:

$$\mathbf{P}(A_k|B) = \frac{\mathbf{P}(B|A_k) \mathbf{P}(A_k)}{\sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbf{P}(B|A_j) \mathbf{P}(A_j)},$$

giving posterior probability of each A_k after observing B .

Expressing Uncertainty

Bayes' rule (densities)

Given real-valued **random variables** X, Y with **probability density functions** (pdfs)

- $f_X(x), f_Y(y)$: density of X, Y at value x, y ,
- $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$: density of $(X|Y)$ at x having observed $Y = y$,
- $f_{Y|X}(y|x)$: analogously.

Then Bayes' theorem states that

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f_{Y|X}(y|x) f_X(x)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{f_{Y|X}(y|x) f_X(x)}{\int f_{Y|X}(y|x) f_X(x) dx}.$$

- $f_{Y|X}(y|x)$ is now called the **likelihood function**.
- $\int f_{Y|X}(y|x) f_X(x) dx$ is called the **normalizing factor** or **marginal**.
- Short form:

$$f_{X|Y} \propto f_{Y|X} f_X.$$

Expressing Uncertainty

Estimating probabilities with Bayes' rule

Problem:

- Given $A \in \mathfrak{A}$, suppose $p := \mathbf{P}(A) \in [0, 1]$ is unknown.
- Assume A has occurred in k out of n independent and identical trials.
- For $0 \leq p_1 < p_2 \leq 1$, what is the probability that $p \in (p_1, p_2)$?

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Solution:

$$\mathbf{P}(p_1 < p < p_2) = \frac{(n+1)!}{k!(n-k)!} \int_{p_1}^{p_2} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} dp.$$

- Classical probability (Bernoulli, Laplace): given probability $p = \mathbf{P}(A)$, how many independent trials n are necessary to be “morally certain” that A occurs $k = pn$ times?
- Bayes: Given occurrence rates and notion of prior probability for A , what is $\mathbf{P}(A)$?

Expressing Uncertainty

Laplace's rule of succession

Problem: A box contains a large number N of black and white balls. We draw n balls with replacement, of which k turn out to be black, $n - k$ white. What is the conditional probability that the next draw will yield a black ball?

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Solution: $n = 5000 \cdot 365.2426 = 1,826,213$, $k = n$,

$$P(\text{sunrise tomorrow}) = \frac{1,826,214}{1,826,215} \approx 0.9999995.$$

But this number is incomparably greater for him who, recognizing in the totality of phenomena the principal regulator of days and seasons, sees that nothing at the present moment can arrest the course of it.

P.-S. Laplace, Essai Philosophique sur les Probabilités, 1814

Expressing Uncertainty

The turkey illusion

[Taleb & Blythe, 2011], [B. Russell, 1912], [Gigerenzer, 2014]

- A turkey is fed by the farmer every day for many months.
- The turkey applies the rule of succession and feels more confident with every passing day.
- ... until Thanksgiving.
- The turkey had too much confidence in his model of uncertainty; he was missing important information (unknown unknowns).
- Fundamental question in **epistemology** (the theory of knowledge), known as the **Problem of Induction** [D. Hume, 1748]
- [K. Popper, 1959] postulated that induction is not possible, that scientific theories can only be falsified.
- The **turkey illusion** is the belief that a risk can be calculated when it cannot.
- [F. Knight, 1921]: distinction between known risk ("**risk**") and unknown risk ("**uncertainty**"). Uncertainty in this sense requires more tools than probability.

Expressing Uncertainty

Further reading

- Prakash Gorroochurn: Classic Problems of Probability. Wiley 2012 (Chapter 14)
- Gerd Gigerenzer: Risk Savvy – How to Make Good Decisions. Penguin 2014.
- Nassim Taleb: The Black Swan – The Impact of the Highly Improbable. Penguin 2007.
- Claudia Klüppelberg et al. (eds.): Risk – A Multidisciplinary Introduction. Springer 2014.
- Joseph Y. Halpern: Reasoning About Uncertainty. MIT Press 2003.

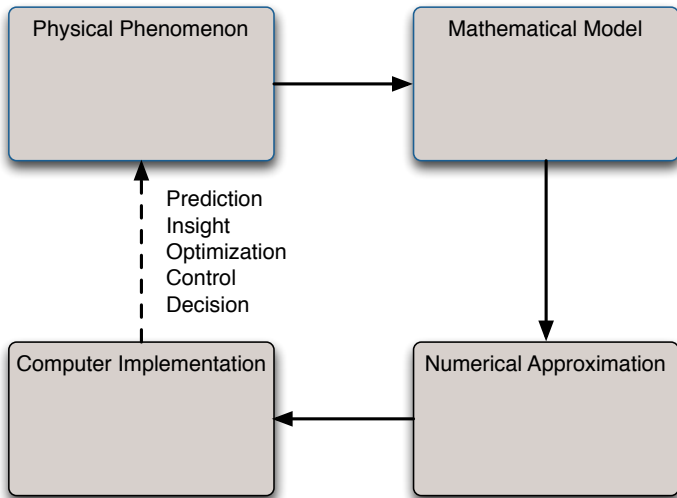
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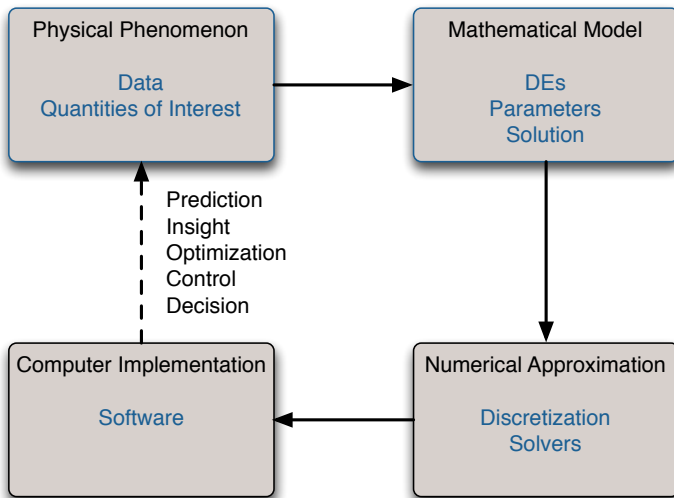
UQ and Scientific Computing

UQ and the scientific computing paradigm



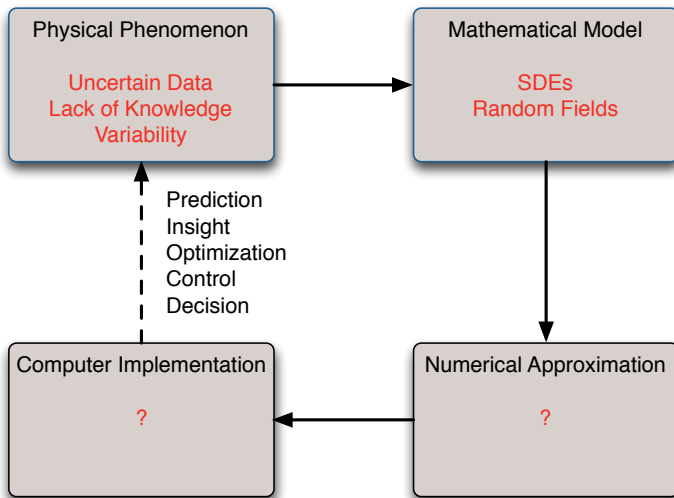
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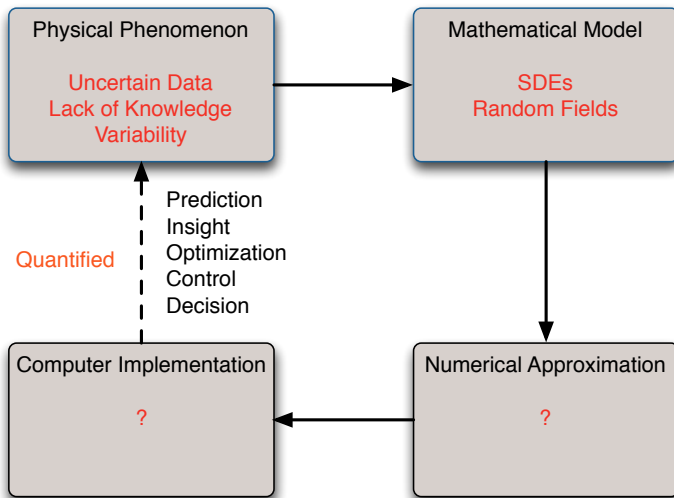
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UQ and Scientific Computing

UQ and the scientific computing paradigm



What confidence can be assigned to a computer prediction of complex phenomena?

Validation: The determination of whether a mathematical model adequately represents the physical or engineering phenomenon under study.

“Are we solving the right problem?”

Is this even possible? (cf. Carl Popper)

Verification: The determination of whether an algorithm and/or computer code correctly implements a given mathematical model.

“Are we solving the problem correctly?”

- code verification (software engineering)
- solution verification (a posteriori error estimation)

Aleatoric Uncertainty: (variability) Uncertainty due to true intrinsic variability; cannot be reduced by additional experimentation, improvement of measuring devices etc.

Examples:

- rolling a die
- wind stress on a structure
- production variations

Epistemic Uncertainty: Uncertainty due to lack of knowledge/incomplete information.

Examples:

- turbulence modeling assumptions
- surrogate chemical kinetics
- the probability distribution a random quantity follows

Note: This distinction is not always meaningful or possible.

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The most popular model problem in the UQ community has become the second-order elliptic PDE with an uncertain coefficient function:

$$-\nabla \cdot (a \nabla u) = f \quad + \text{ domain } D \subset \mathbb{R}^d \quad + \text{ BC.}$$

Rather than the solution u (whatever that may be), typical UQ problems center on some functional Q of the solution, e.g. its value at a point in the computational domain, average over a subdomain, flux across a boundary etc. Such a functional is known as a **quantity of interest (QoI)**.

Examples:

$$Q(u) = u(\mathbf{x}_0), \quad Q(u) = \frac{1}{|D_0|} \int_{D_0} u(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x}.$$

Introduce **input set** V containing all possible inputs a and associated **output set** $W = \{Q(u(a)) : a \in V\}$ as well as mapping $G : V \rightarrow W$ of inputs to outputs.

In what way might uncertainty in the coefficient a be addressed?

Introduce an ϵ -ball around a given function a_0 (in a suitable norm).

Examples:

$$V_\infty := \{a \in L^\infty(D) : \|a - a_0\|_{L^\infty(D)} \leq \epsilon\},$$

$$V_1 := \{a \in W^{1,\infty}(D) : \|a - a_0\|_{W^{1,\infty}(D)} \leq \epsilon\},$$

$$V_{\text{const}} := \{a : a \text{ is constant in } D, |a - a_0| \leq \epsilon\}.$$

Worst case analysis: determine **uncertainty interval**

$$I = \left[\inf_{a \in V} Q(u(a)), \sup_{a \in V} Q(u(a)) \right].$$

The **uncertainty range** of Q is then the length of I .

This is a generalization of **interval analysis**.

Worst-case analysis is a common approach in **robust optimization**.

Idea: Some values (functions) $a \in V$ are more likely than others.

Purely probabilistic approach:

- Introduce probability measure on V .
- (Measurable) mapping $G : V \rightarrow W$ induces probability measure on W . (“uncertainty propagation”).
- Big issue: choice of distribution, too much subjective information?
- Statistical tradition of ‘eliciting probability distributions from expert opinion’.
- Some classical guidelines: Laplace’s principle of insufficient reason, maximum entropy (information theory), etc.
- Choosing distribution based on data is point of departure for Bayesian inverse problem.

Generalizes probabilistic model (also called **Dempster-Shafer theory**)

- Finite or countable family \mathfrak{F} of events.
- Set function $m : \mathfrak{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**belief function**, **support function**) giving likelihood information for each event, satisfies

$$\sum_{A \in \mathfrak{F}} m(A) = 1, \quad m(\emptyset) = 0,$$

but, unlike probability measures, need not satisfy $A \subset B \Rightarrow m(A) \leq m(B)$.

- **Belief** and **plausability** functions for admissible events C

$$\text{bel}(C) = \sum_{A \in \mathfrak{F}, A \subset C} m(A), \quad \text{pl}(C) = \sum_{A \in \mathfrak{F}, A \cap C \neq \emptyset} m(A).$$

provide lower and upper bounds, respectively, on likelihood of event C .

- Likelihood function dependent on expert opinion.

Deterministic approach introduced by [Zadeh, 1965].

- Generalizes “ \in ” relation of classical set theory: for $C \subset V$, in place of exhaustive alternatives $x \in C$ and $x \notin C$, introduces **membership function**

$$\mu_C : V \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

expressing truth degree of statement $a \in C$.

- Important tool: **α -cut** of set C defined by

$$C^\alpha := \{a \in V : \mu_C(a) \geq \alpha\}$$

giving set characterization of uncertainty.

- Mapping G then again propagates **fuzziness** of input set V to output set W .

① Introduction

- 1.1 What is Uncertainty Quantification?
- 1.2 Expressing Uncertainty
- 1.3 UQ and Scientific Computing
- 1.4 Random PDEs
- 1.5 A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

② Monte Carlo Methods

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

- An area where UQ has played a central role in the past 25 years is the assessment of strategies and sites for the long-term storage of radioactive waste.
- Uncertainties arise from technological complexity as well as the long time scales to be considered.
- Many leading industrial countries (USA, UK, Germany) have scrapped previous plans for national long-term disposal sites and are re-evaluating their strategies.
- We consider a basic UQ problem which occurs in site assessment studies.

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Background

- Radioactive waste is produced in large part by power plants, in which the heat from controlled nuclear fission is used to produce electric power. (Other sources: medical, weapon production, non-nuclear industries)
- Exposure to high radiation levels seriously harmful to humans and animals; long-term exposure to low-level radiation can cause cancer and other long-term health problems.
- Classification
 - high-level waste (HLW): highly radioactive, produces heat, small quantities.
 - intermediate-level waste (ILW): still very radioactive, does not produce heat.
 - low-level waste (LLW): low radioactivity; packaging material, protective clothing, soil, concrete etc. which has been exposed to radioactivity.
- Quantities in storage (source: IAEA database, <http://newmdb.iaea.org>)
 - Germany: 120,000 m³ (2007)
 - France: 90,000 m³ (2007)
 - UK: 350,000 m³ (2007)
 - USA: 540,000 m³ (2008)

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Management Options

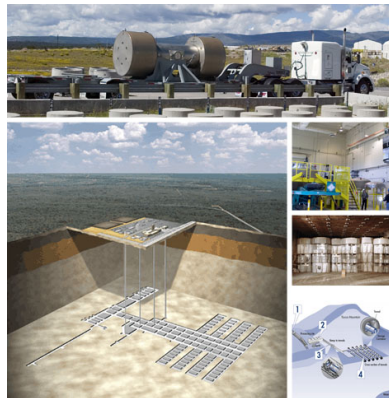
Since this problem has received serious consideration (\approx 1970s), several options have been discussed

- Surface storage: current universal solution, not long-term, risky.
- Disposal at sea: banned by international treaty (London Convention)
- Disposal in space: too dangerous, prohibitive cost (but permanent solution).
- Transmutation: not yet proven technology, would mitigate but not solve the problem.
- Deep geological disposal
 - Favored by nearly all countries with a radioactive waste disposal program.
 - Storage in containers in tunnels, several hundred meters deep, in stable geological formations.
 - Issue: retrievable or not?
 - No human intervention required after final closure of repository.
 - Several barriers: chemical, physical, geological.
 - Substantial engineering challenge (containment must be assured for at least 10,000 years).
 - Main escape route for radionuclides: groundwater pathway.

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

WIPP

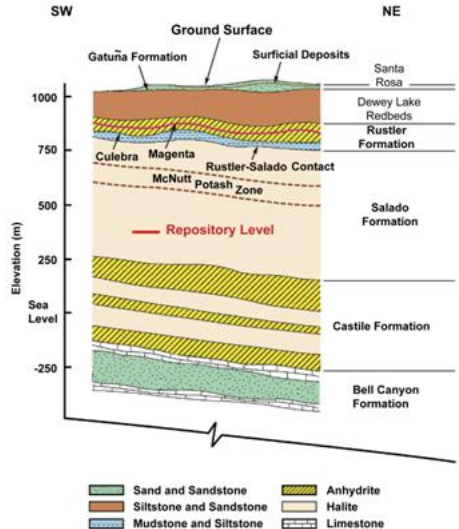
- US DOE repository for radioactive waste situated near Carlsbad, NM.
- Fully operational since 1999.
- Extensive site characterization and performance assessment since 1976, also in course of compliance certification and recertification by US EPA (every 5 years).
- Large amount of publicly available data.
- <http://www.wipp.energy.gov>



A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

WIPP geology

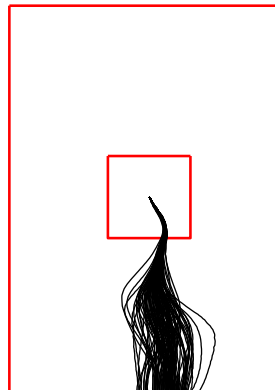
- Repository located at depth of 655 m within bedded evaporites, primarily halite (salt).
- The most transmissive rock in the region is the **Culebra Dolomite**.
- In the event of an accidental breach, Culebra would be the principal pathway for transport of radionuclides away from the repository.



A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

WIPP UQ scenario

- One scenario at WIPP is a release of radionuclides by means of a borehole drilled into the repository.
- Radionuclides are released into the Culebra Dolomite and then transported by groundwater.
- Travel time from release point in the repository to the boundary of the region is an important quantity.
- Flow is two-dimensional to a good approximation.



A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

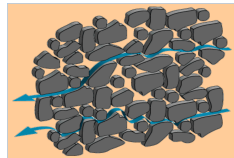
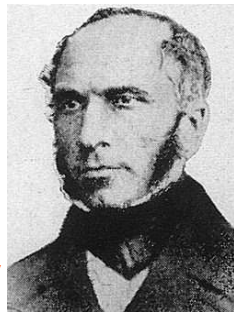
Darcy's law

- The simplest mathematical model for flow through a porous medium (as in groundwater through an aquifer) is given by **Darcy's law**

$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{-\mathbf{k}}{\mu} \nabla p,$$

in which \mathbf{q} denotes the **volumetric flux** or **Darcy velocity** (discharge per unit area in [m/s]), \mathbf{k} the **permeability tensor**, a material parameter describing how easily water flows through the given medium, μ the **dynamic viscosity** of the fluid and p the **hydraulic head** of the fluid.

- The **hydraulic conductivity** tensor is defined as $K := \mathbf{k} \rho g / \mu$, where g is the acceleration due to gravity and ρ the fluid density.
- The actual **pore velocity** with which the fluid particles move through the pores is obtained as $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{q} / \phi$, where $\phi \in [0, 1]$ denotes the **porosity** of the medium.



A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Groundwater Flow Model

Stationary Darcy flow $\mathbf{q} = -K\nabla p$

\mathbf{q} : Darcy flux

K : hydraulic conductivity

p : hydraulic head

mass conservation $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$

\mathbf{u} : pore velocity

$$\mathbf{q} = \phi \mathbf{u}$$

ϕ : porosity

transmissivity $T = Kb$

b : aquifer thickness

particle transport $\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = -\frac{T(\mathbf{x})}{b\phi} \nabla p(\mathbf{x})$

\mathbf{x} : particle position

$$\mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{x}_0$$

\mathbf{x}_0 : release location

Quantity of interest: particle travel time to reach WIPP boundary (actually, its \log_{10}).

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

PDE with Random Coefficient

Primal form of Darcy equations:

$$\nabla \cdot [T(\mathbf{x}) \nabla p(\mathbf{x})] = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in D, \quad p = p_0 \text{ along } \partial D.$$

Model T as a **random field (RF)** $T = T(\mathbf{x}, \omega)$, $\omega \in \Omega$, with respect to underlying probability space $(\Omega, \mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{P})$.

Modeling Assumptions: (standard in hydrogeology)

- T has finite mean and covariance

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{T}(\mathbf{x}) &= \mathbf{E}[T(\mathbf{x}, \cdot)], & \mathbf{x} \in D, \\ \mathbf{Cov}_T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) &= \mathbf{E}[(T(\mathbf{x}, \cdot) - \overline{T}(\mathbf{x})) (T(\mathbf{y}, \cdot) - \overline{T}(\mathbf{y}))], & \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in D. \end{aligned}$$

- T is **lognormal**, i.e., $Z(\mathbf{x}, \omega) := \log T(\mathbf{x}, \omega)$ is a Gaussian RF.
- \mathbf{Cov}_Z is **stationary** and **isotropic**, i.e., $\mathbf{Cov}_Z(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = c(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2)$, and of **Matérn** type.

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Matérn Family of Covariance Kernels

$$c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = c_{\theta}(r) = \frac{\sigma^2}{2^{\nu-1} \Gamma(\nu)} \left(\frac{2\sqrt{\nu} r}{\rho} \right)^{\nu} K_{\nu} \left(\frac{2\sqrt{\nu} r}{\rho} \right), \quad r = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2$$

K_{ν} : modified Bessel function of order ν

Parameters $\theta = (\sigma^2, \rho, \nu)$

σ^2 : variance

ρ : correlation length

ν : smoothness parameter

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Matérn Family of Covariance Kernels

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K_{ν} : modified Bessel function of order ν

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σ^2 : variance

ρ : correlation length

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Special cases:

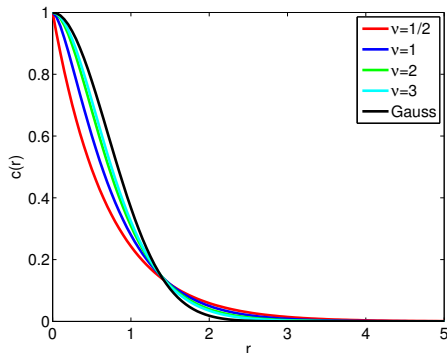
$\nu = \frac{1}{2}$: $c(r) = \sigma^2 \exp(-\sqrt{2}r/\rho)$ exponential covariance

$\nu = 1$: $c(r) = \sigma^2 \left(\frac{2r}{\rho} \right) K_1 \left(\frac{2r}{\rho} \right)$ Bessel covariance

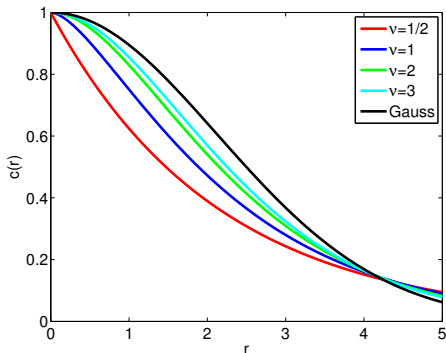
$\nu \rightarrow \infty$: $c(r) = \sigma^2 \exp(-r^2/\rho^2)$ Gaussian covariance

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Matérn Covariance Functions



$\rho = 1$



$\rho = 3$

Smoothness: Realizations $Z(\cdot, \omega)$ are k times differentiable $\Leftrightarrow \nu > k$.

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Karhunen-Loève expansion

Covariance function of RF $Z \in L^2_{\mathbf{p}}(\Omega; L^\infty(D))$

$$c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{Cov}_Z(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) := \mathbf{E} \left[\left(Z(\mathbf{x}, \cdot) - \bar{Z}(\mathbf{x}) \right) \left(Z(\mathbf{y}, \cdot) - \bar{Z}(\mathbf{y}) \right) \right], \quad \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in D,$$

is symmetric in \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} , positive semidefinite, and continuous on $D \times D$ if continuous along 'diagonal' $\{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{x} \in D\}$.

The **covariance operator**

$$C = C_Z : L^2(D) \rightarrow L^2(D), \quad (Cu)(\mathbf{x}) = \int_D u(\mathbf{y}) c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y}$$

is therefore selfadjoint, compact, nonnegative. Its eigenvalues $\{\lambda_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ form a nonincreasing sequence accumulating at most at 0.

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Karhunen-Loève expansion

Denoting eigenfunctions by $\{Z_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ there exists sequence of RV

$$\{\xi_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \subset L^2_{\mathbf{P}}(\Omega), \quad \mathbf{E}[\xi_m] = 0, \quad \mathbf{E}[\xi_k \xi_m] = \delta_{k,m},$$

such that the expansion

$$Z(\mathbf{x}, \omega) = \bar{Z}(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sqrt{\lambda_m} Z_m(\mathbf{x}) \xi_m(\omega)$$

converges in $L^2_{\mathbf{P}}(\Omega; L^{\infty}(D))$.

[Karhunen, 1947], [Loève, 1948]

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Karhunen-Loève expansion

For normalized eigenfunctions $Z_m(\mathbf{x})$,

$$\mathbf{Var}_Z(\mathbf{x}) := c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_m Z_m(\mathbf{x})^2,$$

Total variance:

$$\int_D \mathbf{Var}_Z(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_m \underbrace{(Z_m, Z_m)_D}_{=1} = \text{trace } C.$$

For constant variance (e.g., stationary RF),

$$\mathbf{Var}_Z \equiv \sigma^2 > 0, \quad \sum_m \lambda_m = |D| \sigma^2.$$

Interpretation: M first covariance eigenmodes form best rank- M approximation to C in sense of retaining maximal amount of variance.

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Karhunen-Loève expansion

Truncate KL expansion after M leading terms:

$$Z^{(M)}(\mathbf{x}, \omega) = \bar{Z}(x) + \sum_{m=1}^M \sqrt{\lambda_m} Z_m(\mathbf{x}) \xi_m(\omega).$$

Truncation error

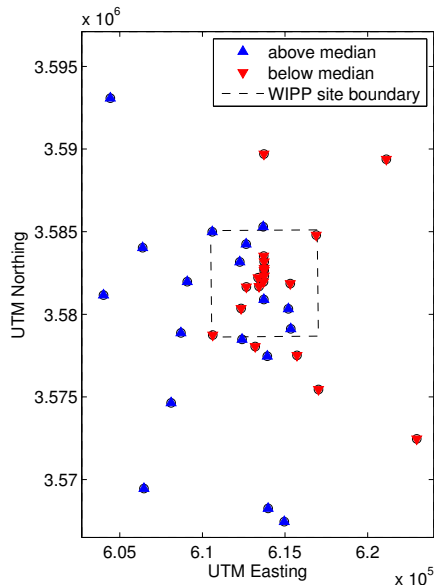
$$\mathbf{E} \left[\|Z - Z^{(M)}\|_{L^2(D)}^2 \right] = \sum_{m=M+1}^{\infty} \lambda_m.$$

Choose M to retain sufficient fraction $\delta \in (0, 1)$ of total variance, i.e.,

$$\frac{\mathbf{E} \left[\|Z - Z^{(M)}\|_{L^2(D)}^2 \right]}{\mathbf{E} \left[\|Z\|_{L^2(D)}^2 \right]} = \frac{\sum_{m=M+1}^{\infty} \lambda_m}{\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_m} = 1 - \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M \lambda_m}{|D|\sigma^2} < \delta.$$

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

WIPP Data



- transmissivity measurements at 38 test wells
- head measurements, used to obtain boundary data via statistical interpolation (kriging)
- constant layer thickness of $b = 8\text{m}$
- constant porosity of $\phi = 0.16$
- SANDIA Nat. Labs reports
[\[Caufman et al., 1990\]](#)
[\[La Venue et al., 1990\]](#)

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Probabilistic Model of Transmissivity

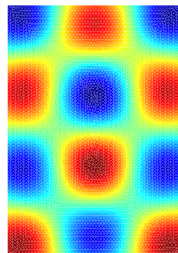
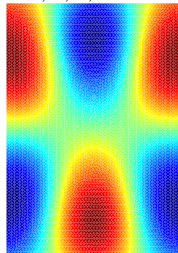
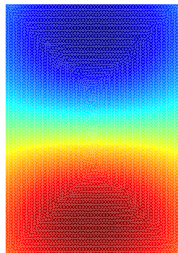
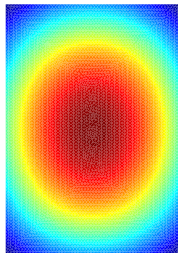
Merge transmissivity data with statistical model:

- (1) Point estimates of parameters σ , ρ and ν via restricted maximum likelihood estimation (REML).
- (2) Condition resulting covariance structure of $\log T$ on transmissivity measurements. (Low-rank modification of covariance operator.)
- (3) Approximate $\log T$ by truncated Karhunen-Loève expansion.

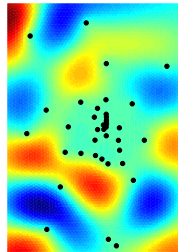
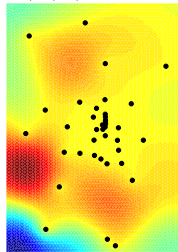
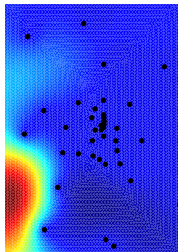
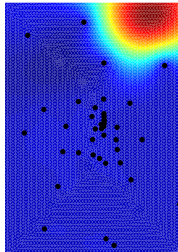
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WIPP KL modes conditioned on 38 transmissivity observations

unconditioned, $m = 1, 2, 9, 16$



conditioned, $m = 1, 2, 9, 16$



A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Deterministic parametric representation

- Parametrize input RF by vector of independent Gaussian RV $\{\xi_m\}_{m=1}^M =: \xi$.
- If ξ_m has density ρ_m and image $\Gamma_m := \xi_m(\Omega)$, then (Doob-Dynkin lemma)

$$L^2_{\mathbf{P}}(\Omega) \simeq L^2_{\rho}(\Gamma), \quad \text{where} \quad \Gamma := \times_{m=1}^{\infty} \Gamma_m, \quad \rho = \prod_m \rho_m.$$

- Replace $Z(\mathbf{x}, \omega)$, $p(\mathbf{x}, \omega)$... with $Z(\mathbf{x}, \xi)$, $p(\mathbf{x}, \xi)$.

BVP becomes purely deterministic with (possibly) high-dimensional parameter space:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot [T(\mathbf{x}, \xi) \nabla p(\mathbf{x}, \xi)] &= 0, & \mathbf{x} \in D, \quad \mathbf{P}\text{-a.s.}, \\ p(\mathbf{x}, \xi) &= p_0(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \partial D, \quad \mathbf{P}\text{-a.s.}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\log T(\mathbf{x}, \xi) = \bar{Z}(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{m=1}^M \sqrt{\lambda_m} Z_m(\mathbf{x}) \xi_m.$$

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Travel-time computations

- Generate sufficiently large ensemble of log-travel times $s(\xi) = \log_{10} t(\xi)$
- Compute empirical CDF to quantify uncertainty in travel time.

Three sampling methods:

- (1) Monte Carlo (MC) sampling of RV $\xi \rightarrow s(\xi)$.
(N_{MC} solutions of PDE)
- (2) Stochastic collocation (SC) \rightarrow RF representation of velocity field $\mathbf{u}_{N_{SC}}(\mathbf{x}, \xi)$,
use this to sample $s(\xi)$.
(N_{SC} solutions of PDE)
- (3) Gaussian process emulator: N_{DP} MC samples of $s(\xi)$ used to calibrate
surrogate of mapping $\xi \rightarrow s(\xi)$, use this surrogate to sample $s(\xi)$.
(N_{DP} solutions of PDE)

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Monte Carlo Method

- Draw independent random samples $\{\xi_j\}_{j=1}^{N_{MC}}$ of ξ .
- Solve deterministic PDE for each conductivity $\exp(Z_M(\mathbf{x}, \xi_j))$.
- Solve ODE for each flow field $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, \xi_j)$ and compute $s(\xi_j)$.

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

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How many samples do we need for a desired sampling error of

$$\mathbf{P} \left(\sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}} |\hat{F}_{N_{MC}}(\mathbf{x}) - F(\mathbf{x})| \leq 0.01 \right) \geq 0.95 ?$$

Here F denotes the true CDF of s and $F_{N_{MC}}$ the empirical CDF obtained by N_{MC} samples. By Donsker's theorem we have

$$\sqrt{N_{MC}} \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}} |\hat{F}_{N_{MC}}(\mathbf{x}) - F(\mathbf{x})| \xrightarrow[N_{MC} \rightarrow \infty]{d} \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in [0,1]} |B(\mathbf{x})|,$$

where B is a standard Brownian Bridge on $[0, 1]$.

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Monte Carlo Method

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where B is a standard Brownian Bridge on $[0, 1]$.

This yields $N_{MC} \approx 20,000$. Can we do better than solving 20k PDEs?

A Case Study: Radioactive Waste Disposal

Stochastic Collocation

Evaluate $v : \Gamma \rightarrow V$ at **collocation points** $\Xi := \{\xi_j\}_{j=1}^{N_{SC}} \subset \Gamma$,
approximate $v_w \approx v$ in N_{SC} -dim. function space $\mathcal{V}_\Xi(\Gamma; V)$.

Here: **Smolyak sparse tensor collocation**

$$v_w = \sum_{|i| \leq w} \left[\bigotimes_{m=1}^M \Delta_{i_m}^{(m)} \right] v,$$

where $\Delta_0^{(m)} = 0$, $\Delta_k^{(m)} = I_k^{(m)} - I_{k-1}^{(m)}$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and

$$\left(I_k^{(m)} f \right) (\xi) := \sum_{\xi_j \in \Xi_k^{(m)}} f(\xi_j) \ell_j(\xi), \quad \text{for } f : \Gamma_m \rightarrow V,$$

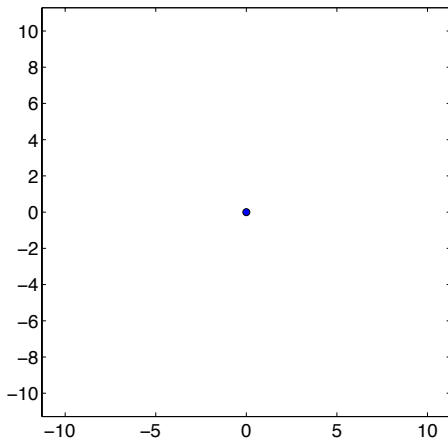
ℓ_j Lagrange polynomials associated with (1D) nodal sets $\Xi_k^{(m)} \subset \Gamma_m$.

Here: $\Xi_k^{(m)}$ are the $(2^{(k-1)} + 1)$ th **Gauss-Hermite nodes**, $\Xi_1^{(m)} = \{0\}$.

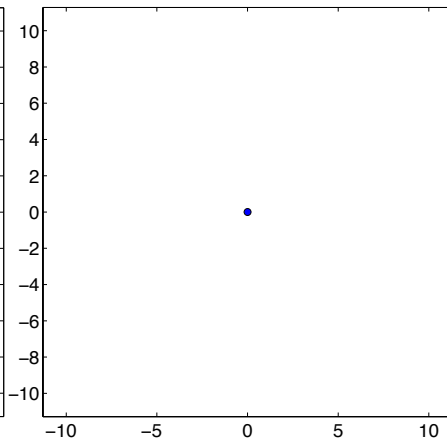
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Smolyak sparse grid based on Gauss-Hermite nodes

$M=2, n_1=1$



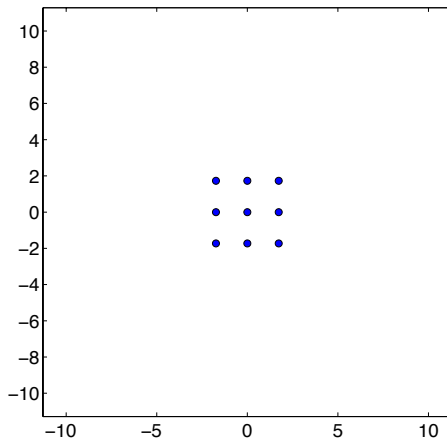
$M=2, q=0$



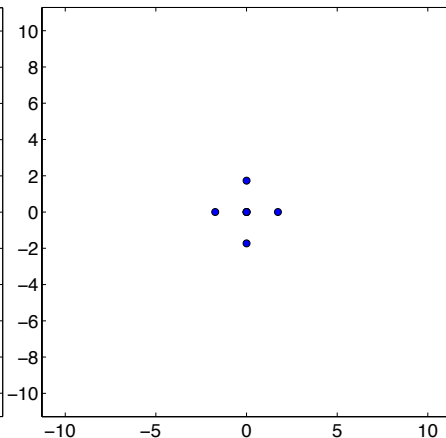
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Smolyak sparse grid based on Gauss-Hermite nodes

$M=2, n_2=3$



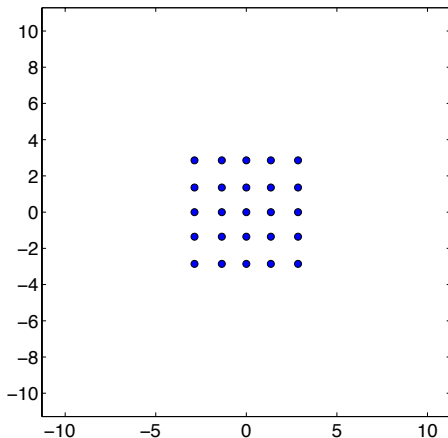
$M=2, q=1$



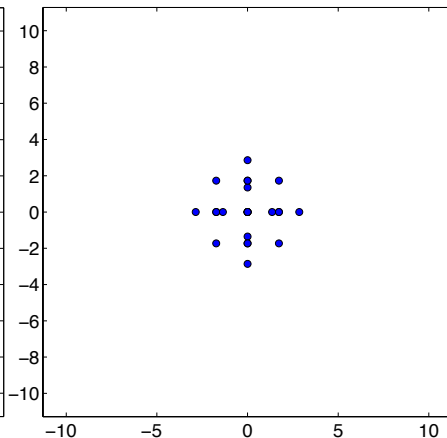
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Smolyak sparse grid based on Gauss-Hermite nodes

$M=2, n_3=5$



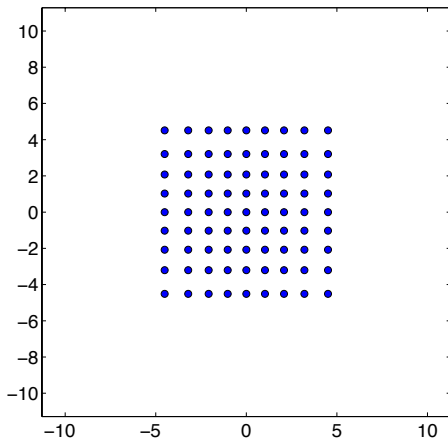
$M=2, q=2$



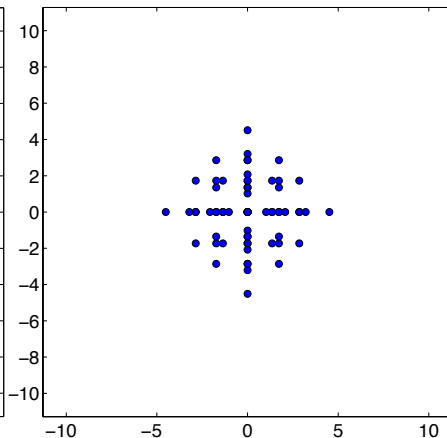
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Smolyak sparse grid based on Gauss-Hermite nodes

$M=2, n_4=9$



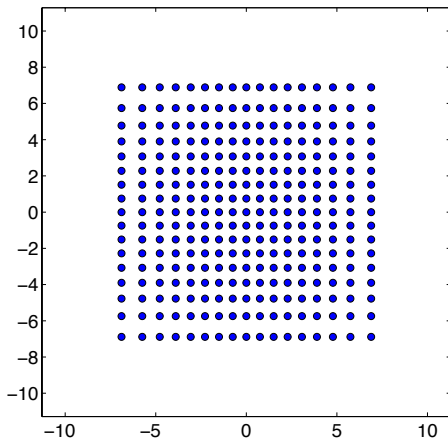
$M=2, q=3$



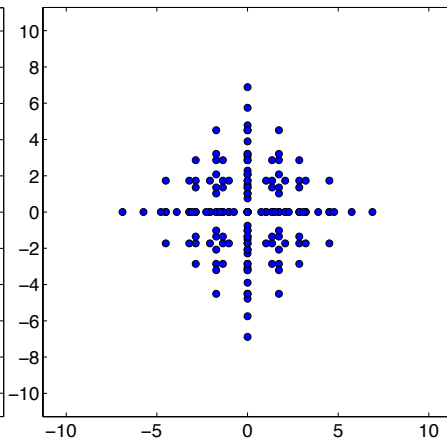
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Smolyak sparse grid based on Gauss-Hermite nodes

$M=2, n_5=17$



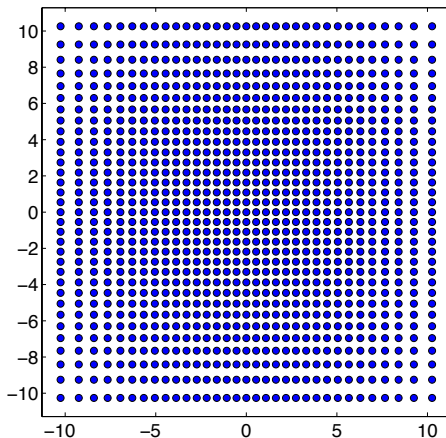
$M=2, q=4$



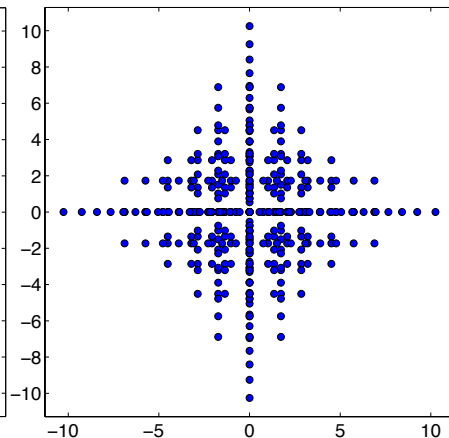
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Smolyak sparse grid based on Gauss-Hermite nodes

$M=2, n_6=33$



$M=2, q=5$



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Gaussian Process Emulators

An **emulator** is a statistical approximation to the output of a computer code

$$\mathbf{y} = f(\mathbf{x}).$$

Basic idea:

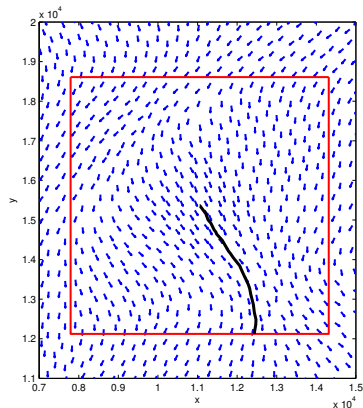
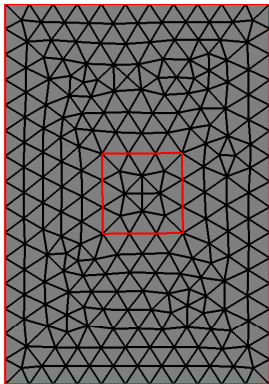
- (1) Represent the code, $f(\cdot)$ as a **Gaussian stochastic process**.
- (2) Run model for sample of **design inputs** \mathbf{x} and observe outputs \mathbf{y} .
- (3) Condition GP on observed outputs \mathbf{y} .
- (4) Emulator provides a distribution function for the output of the computer code.
- (5) Use emulator as a **surrogate for computer model** when performing MC analysis.

[Kennedy & O'Hagan, 2001], [Stone, 2011]

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Spatial Discretization

- Mixed FE discretization:
lowest order RT elements for \mathbf{u} , pcw. constants for p .
- Fixed mesh, 29 208 triangles, (73 234 DOF)
- Flow divergence-free \Rightarrow discrete fluxes pcw. constant,
(makes particle trajectory calculation trivial).

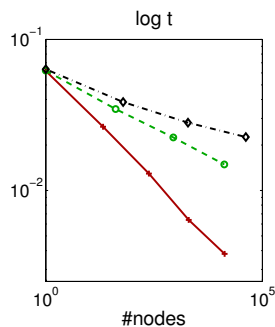
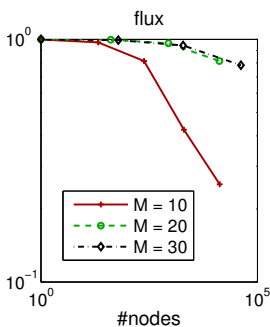
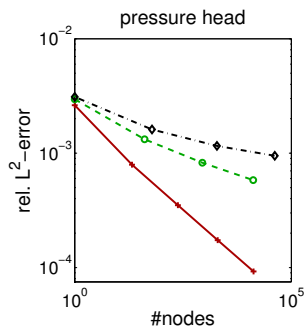


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Collocation error

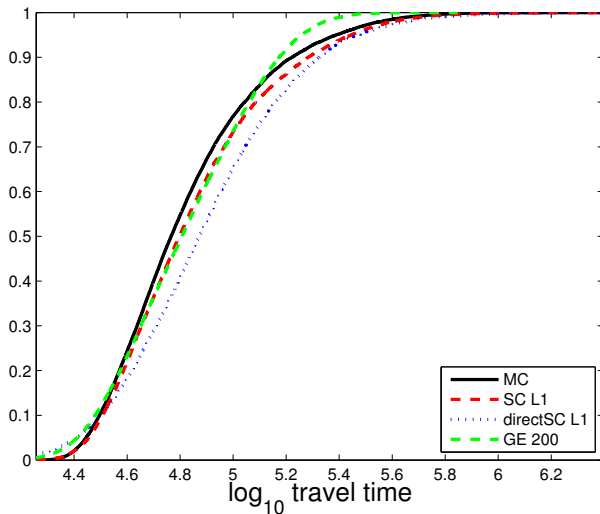
Error w.r.t. MC reference calculation with $N_{MC} = 20,000$.

Errors measured in $L^2_\rho(\Gamma; L^2(D))$, $L^2_\rho(\Gamma; H(\operatorname{div}, D))$ resp. $L^2_\rho(\Gamma; \mathbb{R})$ norms.



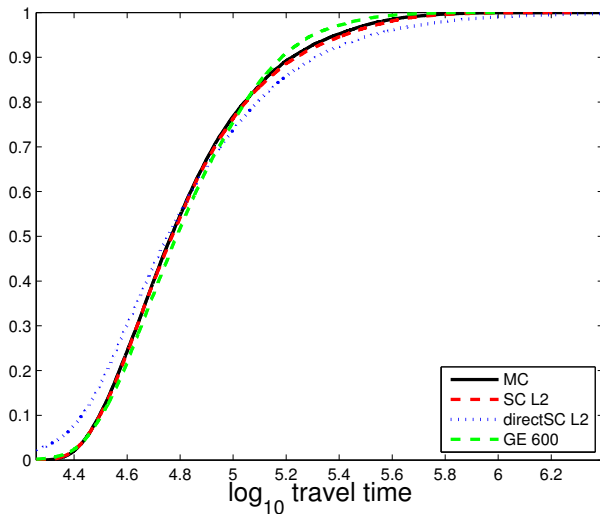
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Travel Time CDFs for $M = 20$ KL modes



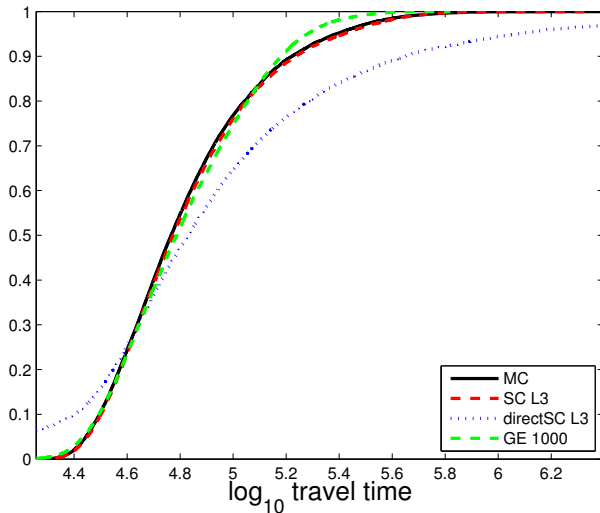
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Travel Time CDFs for $M = 20$ KL modes



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Travel Time CDFs for $M = 20$ KL modes



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Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

Statistical test to determine whether the random evaluations of the surrogates were drawn from the same distribution as pure MC.

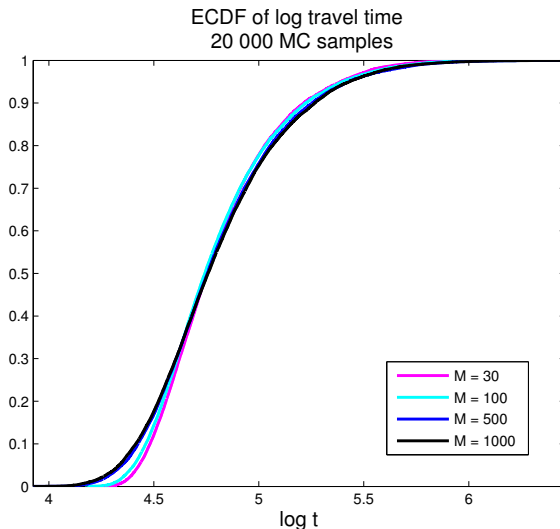
Significance level: $\alpha = 0.05$. KL length: $M = 20$.

Surrogate	$N_{\text{surrogate}}$	KS-test (1K)	KS-test (20K)
SC	41	✗	✗
	881	✓	✓
	13201	✓	✓
GPE	200	✗	✗
	400	✓	✗
	600	✓	✗
	1000	✓	✗

Basically the same results for $M = 10$ and $M = 30$.

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Neglected Variance



Empirical CDF of log t based on KL approximations of different length

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Add observational data: parameter identification problem

Recall parametrized Darcy flow model (primal form):

$$\nabla \cdot (T(\mathbf{x}, \xi) \nabla p(\mathbf{x}, \xi)) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in D, \xi \in \Gamma, \quad p = p_0 \text{ along } \partial D.$$

- Observations $\{p(\mathbf{x}_k)\}_{k=1}^K$ of PDE solution at locations $\mathbf{x}_k \in D$.
Denote by **observation operator** $\mathbf{Q} : H^1(D) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^K$.
- **Forward map** (parameter-to-observable map):

$$\xi \xrightarrow{\text{parametrization}} T(\cdot, \xi) \xrightarrow{\text{PDE}} p(\cdot, \xi) \xrightarrow{\text{observation}} \mathbf{Q}(p(\cdot, \xi)) =: \mathbf{y}.$$

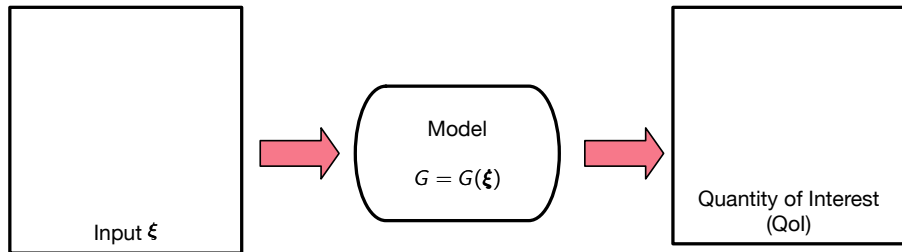
Summarize as **parameter identification problem**: given data \mathbf{y} , determine parameter ξ such that

$$\mathbf{y} = G(\xi).$$

- **Note:** depending on parametrization, ξ may be finite or infinite-dimensional.

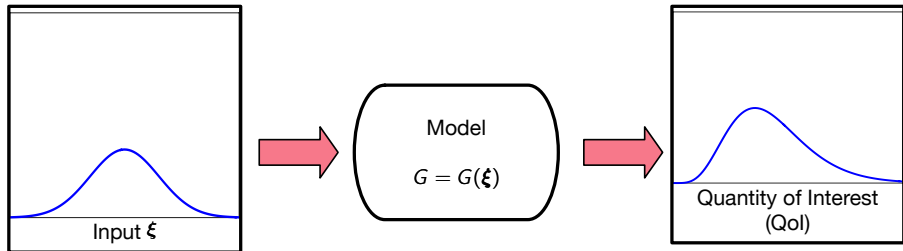
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Uncertainty propagation vs. Bayesian inversion



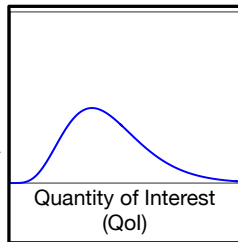
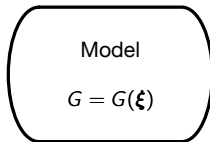
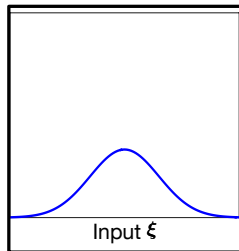
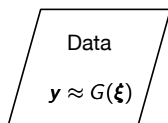
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Uncertainty propagation vs. Bayesian inversion



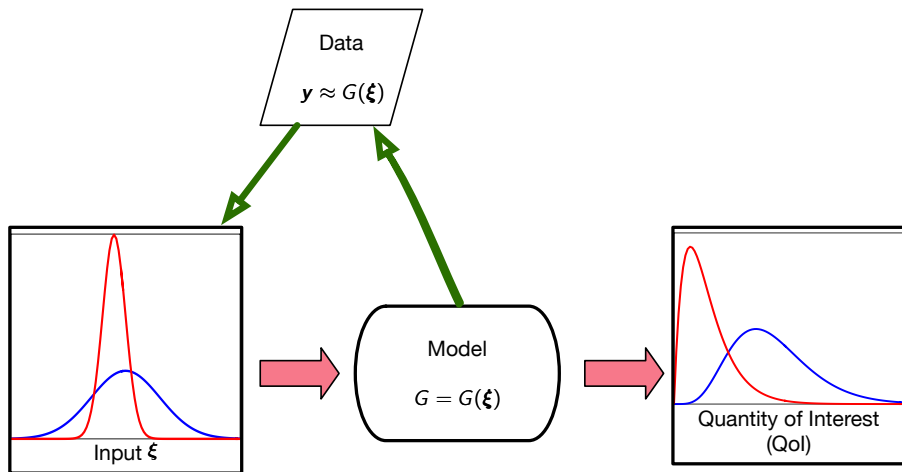
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Uncertainty propagation vs. Bayesian inversion



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Uncertainty propagation vs. Bayesian inversion



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Bayesian Approach to Inverse Problems

Given **forward map** $G : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$, \mathcal{H} a separable Hilbert space, and **noisy data**

$$\mathbf{y} = G(\xi) + \varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^K,$$

we wish to infer $\xi \in \mathcal{H}$.

Bayesian approach:

- ε is a realization of **random noise**
- ξ is a realization of a **prior probability measure** μ_0 on \mathcal{H}

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Bayesian approach:

- ε is a realization of **random noise**
- ξ is a realization of a **prior probability measure** μ_0 on \mathcal{H}
- “Inversion”: **Condition** $\xi \sim \mu_0$ on the event that

$$G(\xi) + \varepsilon = \mathbf{y},$$

obtain **conditional probability measure** $\mu^{\mathbf{y}}$ on \mathcal{H}

$$\mu^{\mathbf{y}}(A) := \mathbf{P}(\xi \in A \mid G(\xi) + \varepsilon = \mathbf{y}), \quad A \in \mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{H}).$$

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Bayesian Approach to Inverse Problems

- Random noise is **multivariate Gaussian**: $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \Sigma)$
- Prior measure is **Gaussian measure** on \mathcal{H} : $\mu_0 = N(0, C_0)$
- Forward map $G : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ is **continuous** and $\forall \alpha > 0 \exists K_\alpha < \infty$:

$$|G(\xi)| \leq K_\alpha \exp(\alpha \|\xi\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2).$$

- $\xi \sim \mu_0$ and $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \Sigma)$ are **independent**

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Then the conditional probability measure μ^y is given by **Bayes' rule**:

Theorem 1.1 (Bayes' rule [Stuart (2010)], [Dashti & Stuart (2016)])

The **posterior measure** μ^y is given by

$$\mu^y(d\xi) \propto \exp(-\Phi(\xi; y)) \mu_0(d\xi), \quad \Phi(\xi; y) = \frac{1}{2} \|y - G(\xi)\|_{\Sigma^{-1}}^2.$$

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Bayesian Approach to Inverse Problems

