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*Uncertainty Quantification  
in  
Computational Models*

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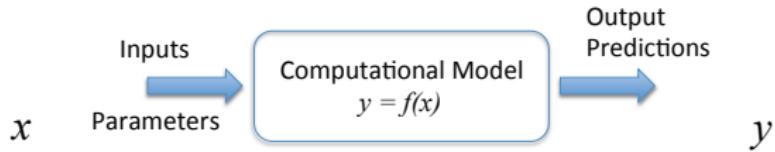
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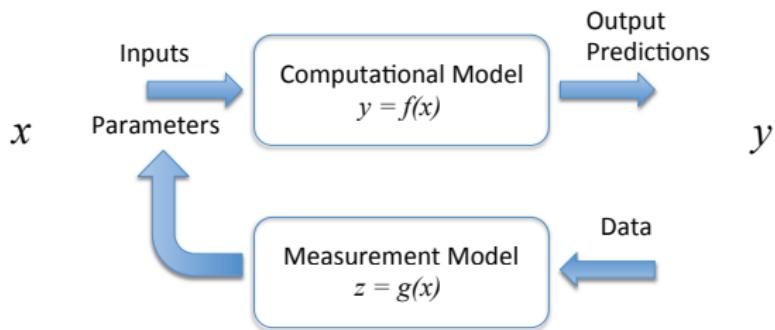
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# Uncertainty Quantification and Computational Science



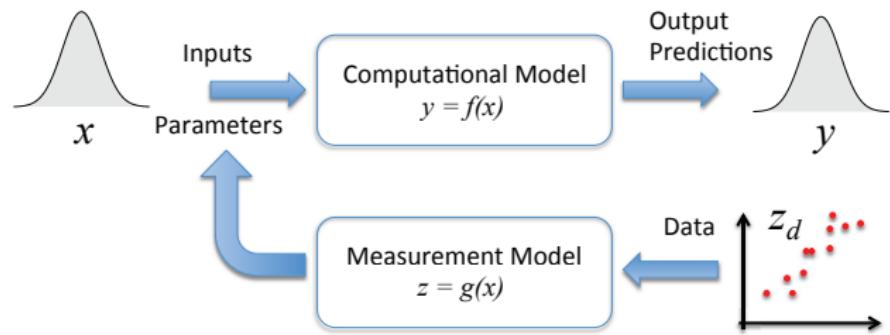
Forward problem

# Uncertainty Quantification and Computational Science



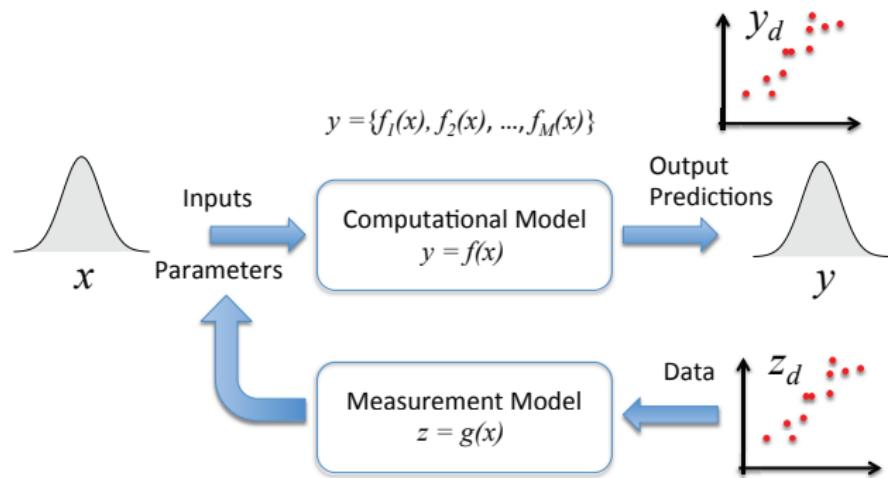
Inverse & Forward problems

# Uncertainty Quantification and Computational Science



Inverse & Forward UQ

# Uncertainty Quantification and Computational Science



**Inverse & Forward UQ**  
**Model validation & comparison, Hypothesis testing**

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Forward UQ - Polynomial Chaos
- 3 Inverse Problem - Bayesian Inference
- 4 Closure

# Forward propagation of parametric uncertainty

Forward model:  $y = f(x)$

- Local sensitivity analysis (SA) and error propagation

$$\Delta y = \left. \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x_0} \Delta x$$

This is ok for:

- small uncertainty
- low degree of non-linearity in  $f(x)$
- Non-probabilistic methods
  - Fuzzy logic
  - Evidence theory - Dempster-Shafer theory
  - Interval math
- Probabilistic methods – this is our focus

## Probabilistic Forward UQ

-

$$y = f(x)$$

Represent uncertain quantities using probability theory

- Random sampling, MC, QMC
  - Generate random samples  $\{x^i\}_{i=1}^N$  from the PDF of  $x, p(x)$
  - Bin the corresponding  $\{y^i\}$  to construct  $p(y)$
  - Not feasible for computationally expensive  $f(x)$ 
    - slow convergence of MC/QMC methods
    - ⇒ very large  $N$  required for reliable estimates
- Build a cheap surrogate for  $f(x)$ , then use MC
  - Collocation – interpolants
  - Regression – fitting
- Galerkin methods
  - Polynomial Chaos (PC)
  - Intrusive and non-intrusive PC methods

# Probabilistic Forward UQ & Polynomial Chaos

## Representation of Random Variables

With  $y = f(x)$ ,  $x$  a random variable, estimate the RV  $y$

- Can describe a RV in terms of its
  - density, moments, characteristic function, or
  - as a function on a probability space
- Constraining the analysis to RVs with finite variance
  - ⇒ Represent RV as a spectral expansion in terms of orthogonal functions of standard RVs
    - Polynomial Chaos Expansion
- Enables the use of available functional analysis methods for forward UQ

# Polynomial Chaos Expansion (PCE)

- Model uncertain quantities as random variables (RVs)
- Given a *germ*  $\xi(\omega) = \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n\}$  – a set of *i.i.d.* RVs
  - where  $p(\xi)$  is uniquely determined by its moments

Any RV in  $L^2(\Omega, \mathfrak{S}(\xi), P)$  can be written as a PCE:

$$u(\boldsymbol{x}, t, \omega) = f(\boldsymbol{x}, t, \xi) \simeq \sum_{k=0}^P u_k(\boldsymbol{x}, t) \Psi_k(\xi(\omega))$$

- $u_k(\boldsymbol{x}, t)$  are mode strengths
- $\Psi_k()$  are multivariate functions orthogonal w.r.t.  $p(\xi)$

# Orthogonality

By construction, the functions  $\Psi_k()$  are orthogonal with respect to the density of  $\xi$

$$u_k(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{\langle u \Psi_k \rangle}{\langle \Psi_k^2 \rangle} = \frac{1}{\langle \Psi_k^2 \rangle} \int u(\mathbf{x}, t; \lambda(\xi)) \Psi_k(\xi) p_\xi(\xi) d\xi$$

## Examples:

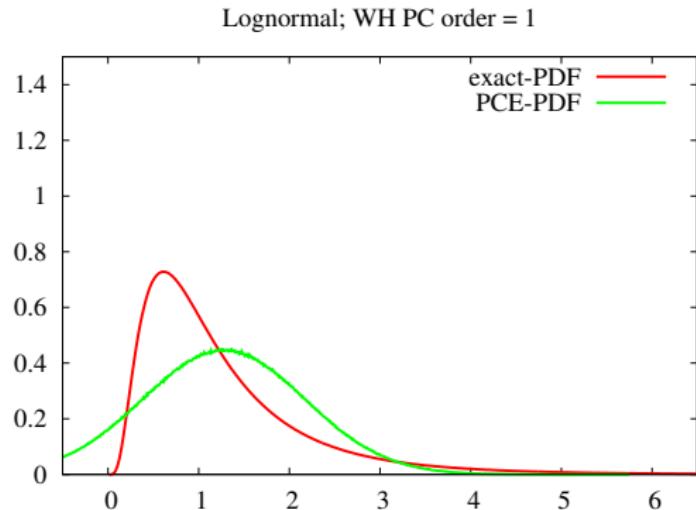
- Hermite polynomials with Gaussian basis
- Legendre polynomials with Uniform basis, ...
- Global versus Local PC methods
  - Adaptive domain decomposition of the support of  $\xi$

# PC Illustration: WH PCE for a Lognormal RV

- Wiener-Hermite PCE constructed for a Lognormal RV
- PCE-sampled PDF superposed on true PDF
- Order = 1

$$u = \sum_{k=0}^P u_k \Psi_k(\xi)$$

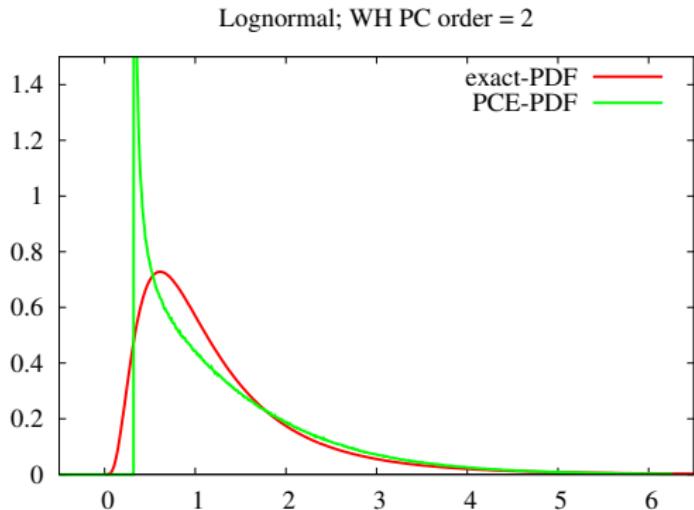
$$= u_0 + u_1 \xi$$



# PC Illustration: WH PCE for a Lognormal RV

- Wiener-Hermite PCE constructed for a Lognormal RV
- PCE-sampled PDF superposed on true PDF
- Order = 2

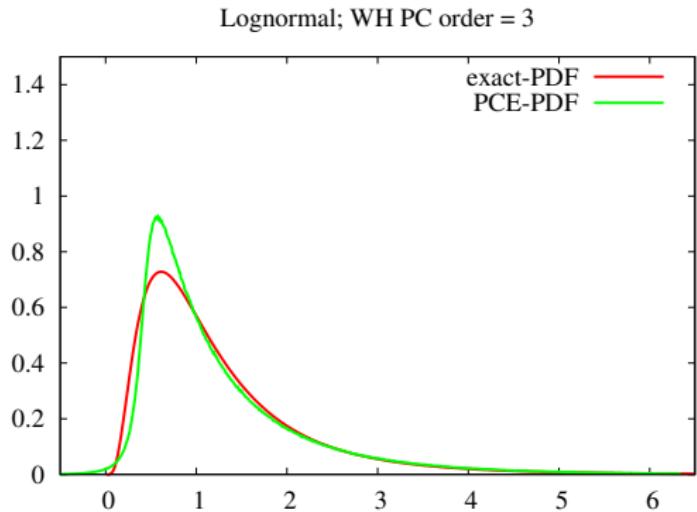
$$\begin{aligned}
 u &= \sum_{k=0}^P u_k \Psi_k(\xi) \\
 &= u_0 + u_1 \xi + u_2 (\xi^2 - 1)
 \end{aligned}$$



# PC Illustration: WH PCE for a Lognormal RV

- Wiener-Hermite PCE constructed for a Lognormal RV
- PCE-sampled PDF superposed on true PDF
- Order = 3

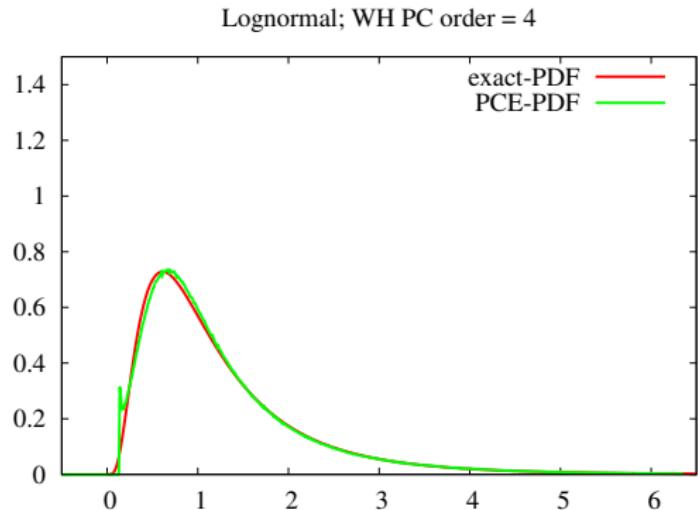
$$\begin{aligned}
 u &= \sum_{k=0}^P u_k \Psi_k(\xi) \\
 &= u_0 + u_1 \xi + u_2 (\xi^2 - 1) + u_3 (\xi^3 - 3\xi)
 \end{aligned}$$



# PC Illustration: WH PCE for a Lognormal RV

- Wiener-Hermite PCE constructed for a Lognormal RV
- PCE-sampled PDF superposed on true PDF
- Order = 4

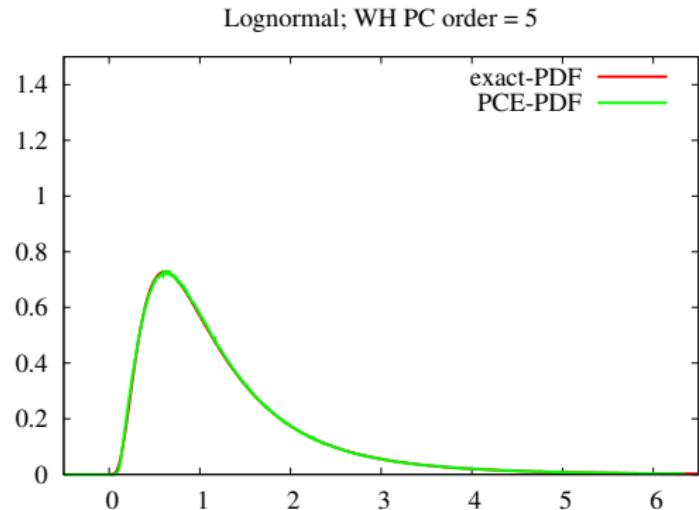
$$\begin{aligned}
 u &= \sum_{k=0}^P u_k \Psi_k(\xi) \\
 &= u_0 + u_1 \xi + u_2 (\xi^2 - 1) + u_3 (\xi^3 - 3\xi) + u_4 (\xi^4 - 6\xi^2 + 3)
 \end{aligned}$$



# PC Illustration: WH PCE for a Lognormal RV

- Wiener-Hermite PCE constructed for a Lognormal RV
- PCE-sampled PDF superposed on true PDF
- Order = 5

$$\begin{aligned}
 u &= \sum_{k=0}^P u_k \Psi_k(\xi) \\
 &= u_0 + u_1 \xi + u_2 (\xi^2 - 1) + u_3 (\xi^3 - 3\xi) + u_4 (\xi^4 - 6\xi^2 + 3) \\
 &\quad + u_5 (\xi^5 - 10\xi^3 + 15\xi)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Random Fields

- A random variable is a function on an event space  $\Omega$ 
  - No dependence on other coordinates –e.g. space or time
- A random field is a function on a product space  $\Omega \times D$ 
  - e.g. sea surface temperature  $T_{ss}(z, \omega)$ ,  $z \equiv (x, t)$
- It is a more complex object than a random variable
  - A combination of an infinite number of random variables
- In many physical systems, uncertain field quantities, described by random fields:
  - are smooth, *i.e.*
  - they have an underlying *low dimensional structure* due to large correlation length-scales

# Random Fields – KLE

- Smooth random fields can be represented with a small no. of stochastic degrees of freedom
- A random field  $M(x, \omega)$  with
  - a mean function:  $\mu(x)$
  - a continuous covariance function:

$$C(x_1, x_2) = \langle [M(x_1, \omega) - \mu(x_1)][M(x_2, \omega) - \mu(x_2)] \rangle$$

can be represented with the Karhunen-Loeve Expansion (KLE)

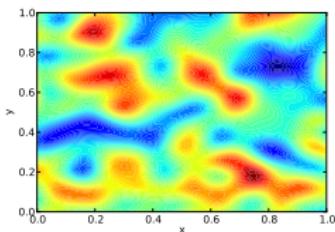
$$M(x, \omega) = \mu(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sqrt{\lambda_i} \eta_i(\omega) \phi_i(x)$$

where

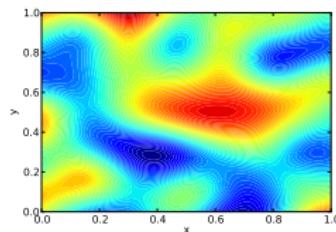
- $\lambda_i$  and  $\phi_i(x)$  are the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the covariance function  $C(\cdot, \cdot)$
- $\eta_i$  are uncorrelated zero-mean unit-variance RVs
- KLE  $\Rightarrow$  representation of random fields using PC

# RF Illustration: KL of 2D Gaussian Process

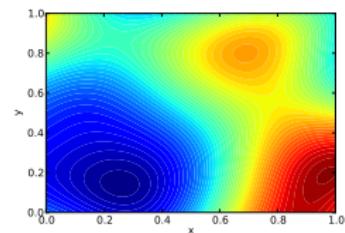
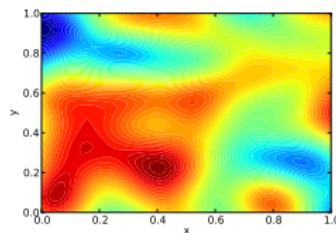
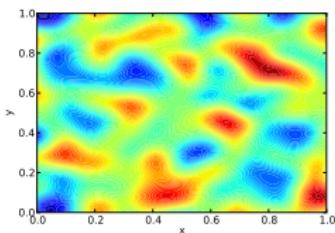
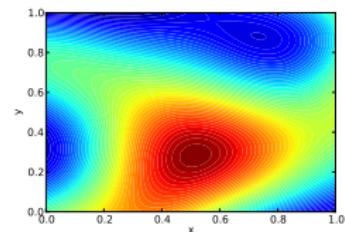
$$\delta = 0.1$$



$$\delta = 0.2$$

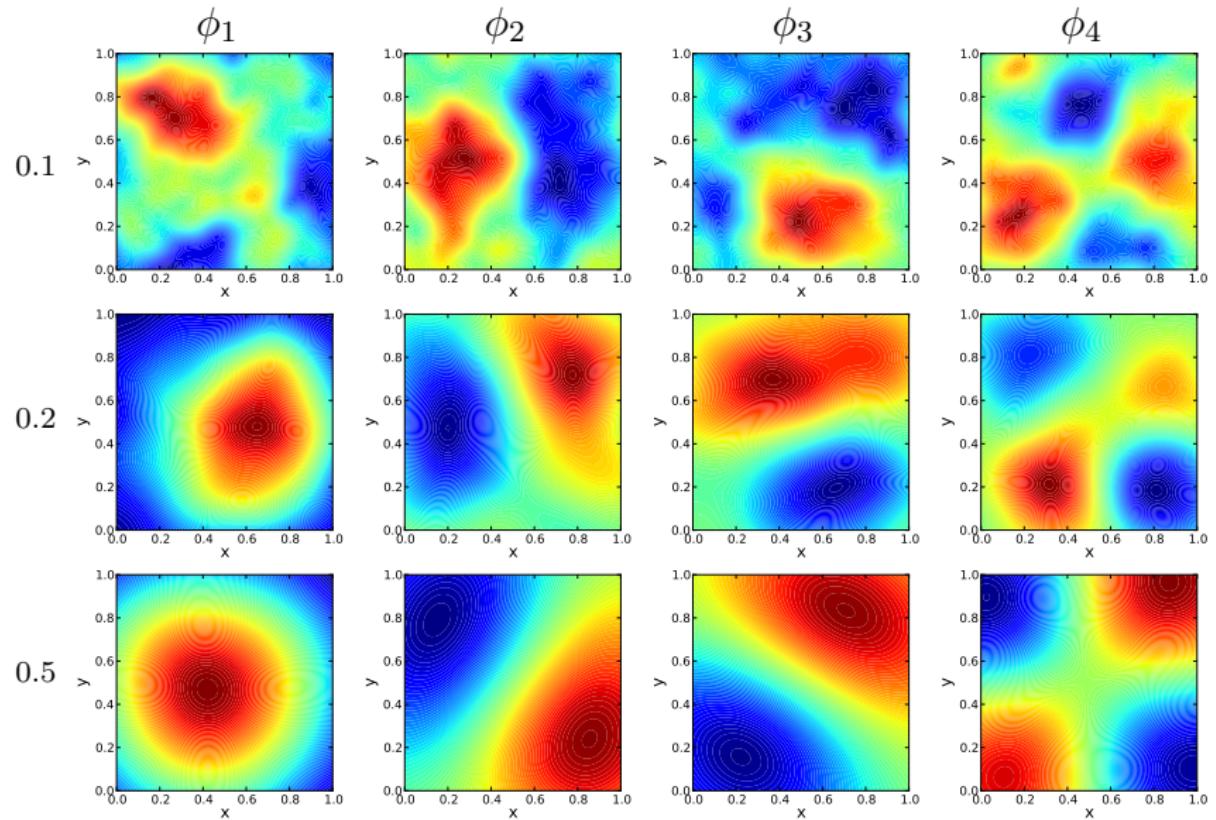


$$\delta = 0.5$$



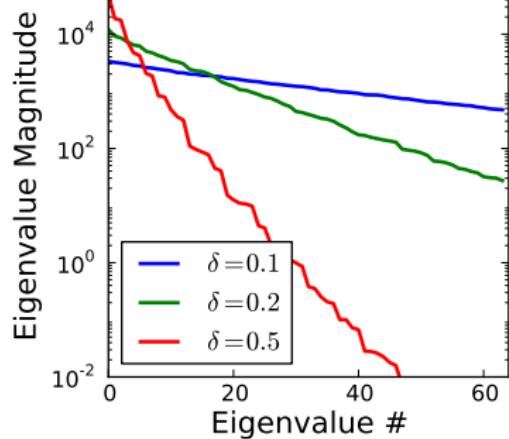
- 2D Gaussian Process with covariance:  

$$C(x_1, x_2) = \exp(-||x_1 - x_2||^2 / \delta^2)$$
- Realizations smoother as covariance length  $\delta$  increases

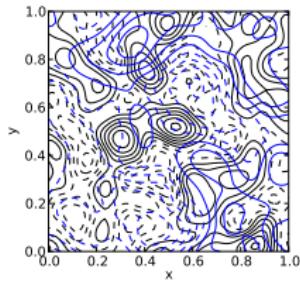
RF Illustration: 2D KL - Modes for  $\delta = 0.1 - 0.5$ 

## RF Illustration: 2D KL - eigenvalue spectrum

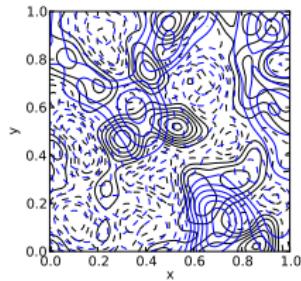
$$\delta = 0.1$$



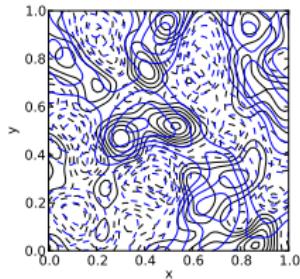
4 terms



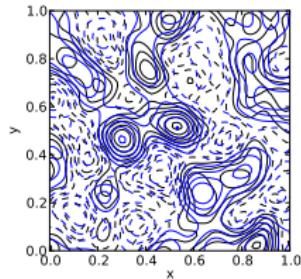
16 terms



32 terms

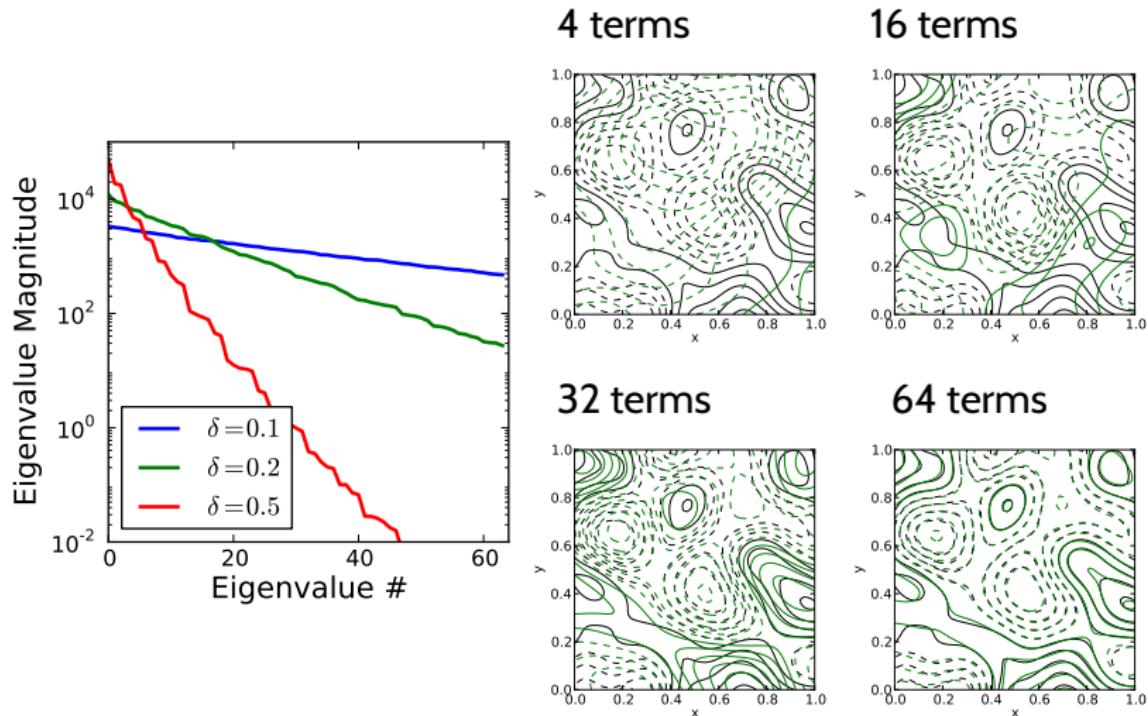


64 terms



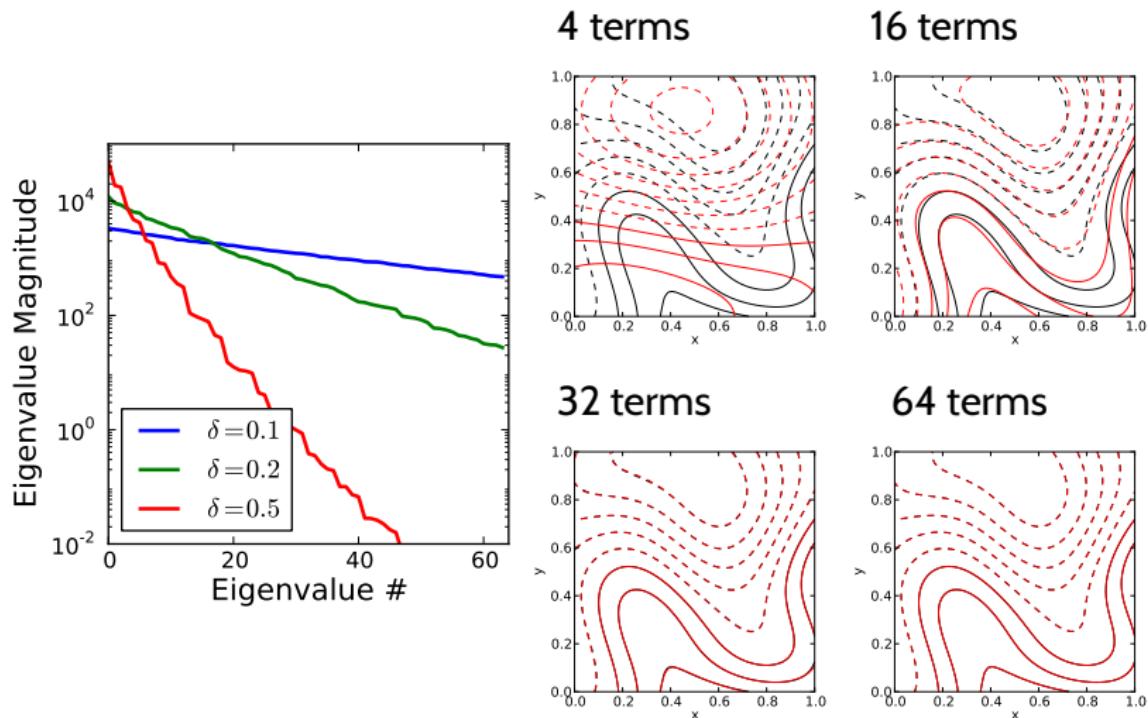
## RF Illustration: 2D KL - eigenvalue spectrum

$$\delta = 0.2$$



## RF Illustration: 2D KL - eigenvalue spectrum

$$\delta = 0.5$$



# Essential Use of PC in UQ

## Strategy:

- Represent model parameters/solution as random variables
- Construct PCEs for uncertain parameters
- Evaluate PCEs for model outputs

## Advantages:

- Computational efficiency
- Utility
  - Moments:  $E(u) = u_0$ ,  $\text{var}(u) = \sum_{k=1}^P u_k^2 \langle \Psi_k^2 \rangle, \dots$
  - Global Sensitivities – fractional variances, Sobol' indices
  - Surrogate for forward model

## Requirement:

- RVs in  $L^2$ , i.e. with finite variance, on  $(\Omega, \mathfrak{S}(\xi), P)$

# Intrusive PC UQ: A direct *non-sampling* method

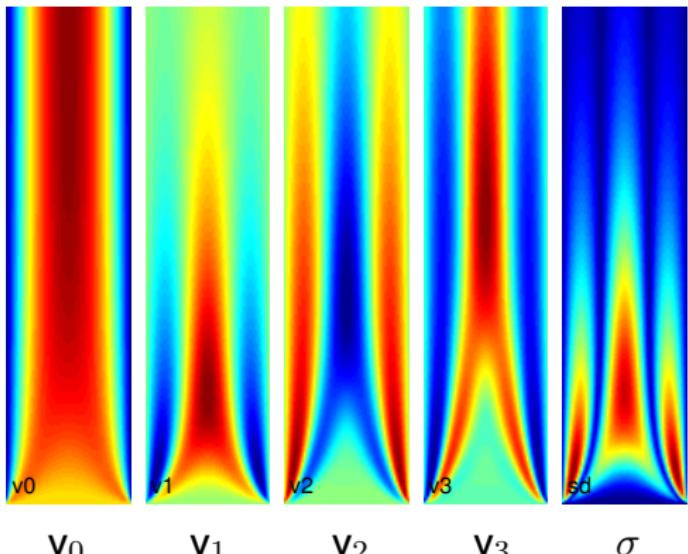
- Given model equations:  $\mathcal{M}(u(\mathbf{x}, t); \lambda) = 0$
- Express uncertain parameters/variables using PCEs

$$u = \sum_{k=0}^P u_k \Psi_k; \quad \lambda = \sum_{k=0}^P \lambda_k \Psi_k$$

- Substitute in model equations; apply Galerkin projection
- New set of equations:  $\mathcal{G}(U(\mathbf{x}, t), \Lambda) = 0$ 
  - with  $U = [u_0, \dots, u_P]^T, \Lambda = [\lambda_0, \dots, \lambda_P]^T$
- Solving this deterministic system once provides the full specification of uncertain model outputs

# Laminar 2D Channel Flow with Uncertain Viscosity

- Incompressible flow
- Viscosity PCE
  - $\nu = \nu_0 + \nu_1 \xi$
- Streamwise velocity
  - $v = \sum_{i=0}^P v_i \Psi_i$
  - $v_0$ : mean
  - $v_i$ :  $i$ -th order mode
  - $\sigma^2 = \sum_{i=1}^P v_i^2 \langle \Psi_i^2 \rangle$



(Le Maître *et al.*, J. Comput. Phys., 2001)

# Intrusive PC UQ Pros/Cons

## Cons:

- Reformulation of governing equations
- New discretizations
- New numerical solution method
  - Consistency, Convergence, Stability
  - Global vs. multi-element local PC constructions
- New solvers and model codes
  - Opportunities for automated code transformation
- New preconditioners

## Pros:

- Tailored solvers can deliver superior performance

# Non-intrusive PC UQ

- *Sampling-based*
- Relies on black-box utilization of the computational model
- Evaluate projection integrals *numerically*
- For any quantity of interest  $\phi(\mathbf{x}, t; \lambda) = \sum_{k=0}^P \phi_k(\mathbf{x}, t) \Psi_k(\boldsymbol{\xi})$

$$\phi_k(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{1}{\langle \Psi_k^2 \rangle} \int \phi(\mathbf{x}, t; \lambda(\boldsymbol{\xi})) \Psi_k(\boldsymbol{\xi}) p_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) d\boldsymbol{\xi}, \quad k = 0, \dots, P$$

- Integrals can be evaluated using
  - A variety of (Quasi) Monte Carlo methods
    - Slow convergence;  $\sim$  indep. of dimensionality
  - Quadrature/Sparse-Quadrature methods
    - Fast convergence; depends on dimensionality

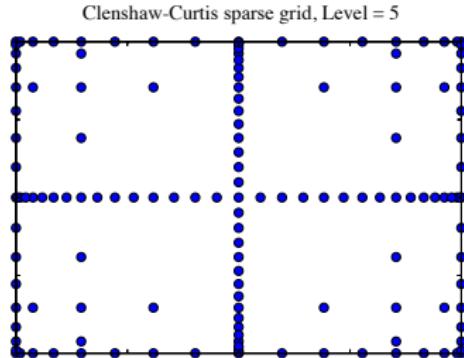
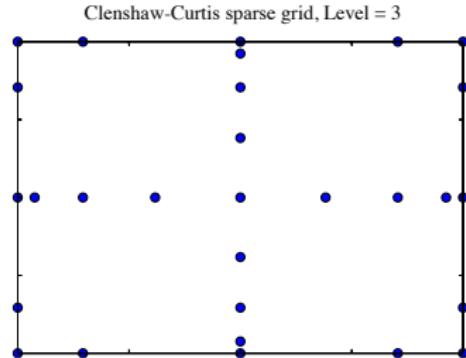
# PC and High-Dimensionality

Dimensionality  $n$  of the PC basis:  $\xi = \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n\}$

- $n \approx$  number of uncertain parameters
- $P + 1 = (n + p)!/n!p!$  grows fast with  $n$

Impacts:

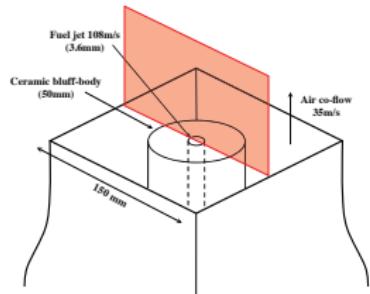
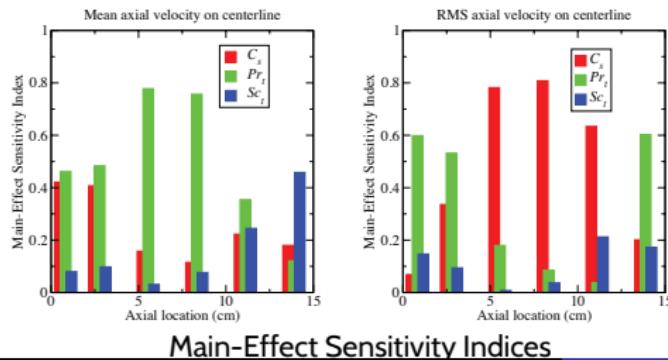
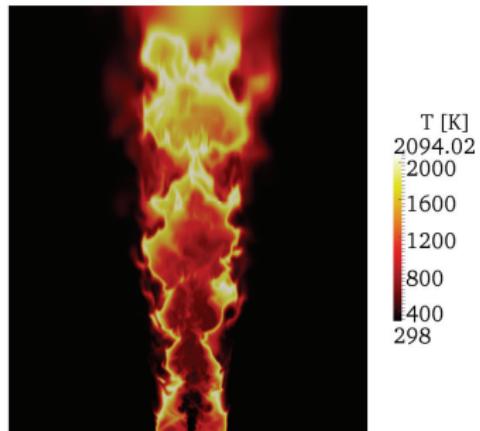
- Size of intrusive PC system
- Hi-D projection integrals  $\Rightarrow$  large # non-intrusive samples
  - Sparse quadrature methods



# UQ in LES computations: turbulent bluff-body flame

with M. Khalil, G. Lacaze, & J. Oefelein, Sandia Nat. Labs

- CH<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub> jet, air coflow, 3D flow
- Re=9500, LES subgrid modeling
- $12 \times 10^6$  mesh cells, 1024 cores
- 3 days run time,  $2 \times 10^5$  time steps
- 3 uncertain parameters ( $C_s$ ,  $Pr_t$ ,  $Sc_t$ )
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-order PC, 25 sparse-quad. pts

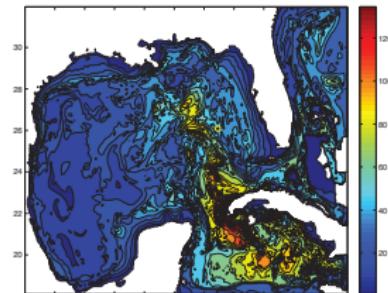
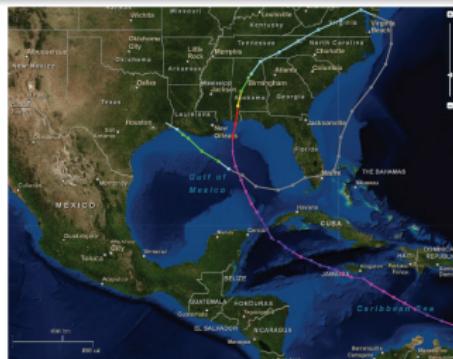


J. Oefelein & G. Lacaze, SNL

# UQ in Ocean Modeling – Gulf of Mexico

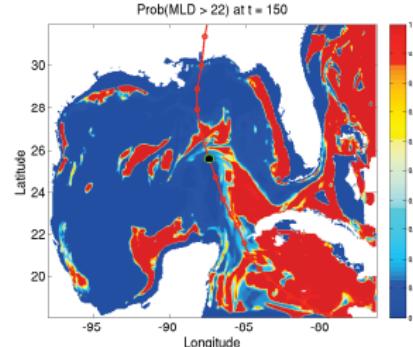
A. Alexanderian, J. Winokur, I. Sraj, O.M. Knio, Duke Univ.

A. Srinivasan, M. Iskandarani, Univ. Miami; W.C. Thacker, NOAA



- Hurricane Ivan, Sep. 2004
- HYCOM ocean model ([hycom.org](http://hycom.org))
- Predicted Mixed Layer Depth (MLD)
- Four uncertain parameters, *i.i.d.* U
  - subgrid mixing & wind drag params
- 385 sparse quadrature samples

(Alexanderian et al., Winokur et. al., Comput. Geosci., 2012, 2013)



# Inverse UQ – Estimation of Uncertain Parameters

Forward UQ requires specification of uncertain inputs

## Probabilistic setting

- Require joint PDF on input space
- Statistical inference – an inverse problem

## Bayesian setting

- Given Data: PDF on uncertain inputs can be estimated using Bayes formula
  - Bayesian Inference
- Given Constraints: PDF on uncertain inputs can be estimated using the Maximum Entropy principle
  - MaxEnt Methods

# Bayes formula for Parameter Inference

- Data Model (fit model + noise model):  $y = f(\lambda) * g(\epsilon)$
- Bayes Formula:

$$p(\lambda, y) = p(\lambda|y)p(y) = p(y|\lambda)p(\lambda)$$

$$p(\lambda|y) = \frac{\text{Likelihood} \quad \text{Prior}}{\text{Posterior}} = \frac{p(y|\lambda) \quad p(\lambda)}{p(y)}$$

Evidence

- Prior: knowledge of  $\lambda$  prior to data
- Likelihood: forward model and measurement noise
- Posterior: combines information from prior and data
- Evidence: normalizing constant for present context

# The Prior

- Prior  $p(\lambda)$  comes from
  - Physical constraints
  - Prior data
  - Prior knowledge
- The prior can be **uninformative**
- It can be chosen to impose **regularization**
- Unknown aspects of the prior can be added to the rest of the parameters as **hyperparameters**
- The choice of prior can be crucial when there is little information in the data relative to the number of degrees of freedom in the inference problem
- When there is sufficient information in the data, the data can overrule the prior

# Construction of the Likelihood $p(y|\lambda)$

- Where does probability enter the mapping  $\lambda \rightarrow y$  in  $p(y|\lambda)$ ?
- Through a presumed error model:
- Example:
  - Model:

$$y_m = g(\lambda)$$

- Data:  $y$
- Error between data and model prediction:  $\epsilon$

$$y = g(\lambda) + \epsilon$$

- Model this error as a random variable
- Example
  - Error is due to instrument measurement noise
  - Instrument has Gaussian errors, with no bias

$$\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

# Construction of the Likelihood $p(y|\lambda)$ - cont'd

For any given  $\lambda$ , this implies

$$y|\lambda, \sigma \sim N(g(\lambda), \sigma^2)$$

or

$$p(y|\lambda, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(y - g(\lambda))^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

Given  $N$  measurements  $(y_1, \dots, y_N)$ , and presuming independent identically distributed (iid) noise

$$\begin{aligned} y_i &= g(\lambda) + \epsilon_i \\ \epsilon_i &\sim N(0, \sigma^2) \\ L(\lambda) = p(y_1, \dots, y_N | \lambda, \sigma) &= \prod_{i=1}^N p(y_i | \lambda, \sigma) \end{aligned}$$

# Likelihood Modeling

- This is frequently the *core* modeling challenge
  - Error model: a statistical model for the discrepancy between the forward model and the data
  - composition of the error model with the forward model
- Error model composed of discrepancy between
  - data and the truth - (data error)
  - model prediction and the truth - (model error)
- Mean bias and correlated/uncorrelated noise structure
- Hierarchical Bayes modeling, and dependence trees

$$p(\phi, \theta | D) = p(\phi | \theta, D) p(\theta | D)$$

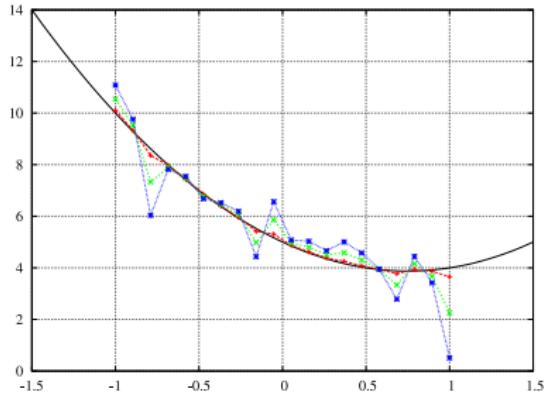
- Choice of observable – constraint on Quantity of Interest?

# Exploring the Posterior

- Given any sample  $\lambda$ , the un-normalized posterior probability can be easily computed

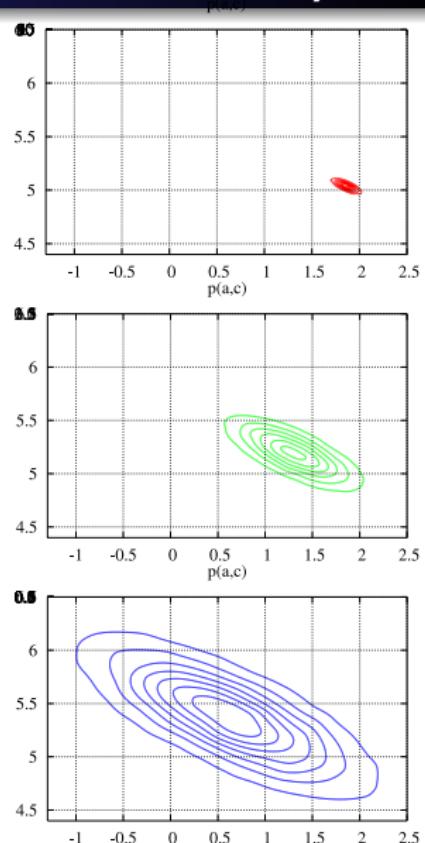
$$p(\lambda|y) \propto p(y|\lambda)p(\lambda)$$

- Explore posterior w/ Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Metropolis-Hastings algorithm:
    - Random walk with proposal PDF & rejection rules
  - Computationally intensive,  $\mathcal{O}(10^5)$  samples
  - Each sample: evaluation of the forward model
    - Surrogate models
- Evaluate moments/marginals from the MCMC statistics

Bayesian inference illustration: noise $\uparrow \Rightarrow$  uncertainty $\uparrow$ 

- data:  $y = 2x^2 - 3x + 5 + \epsilon$
- $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ ,  $\sigma = \{0.1, 0.5, 1.0\}$
- Fit model  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$

Marginal posterior density  $p(a, c)$ :



# Bayesian inference - High Dimensionality Challenge

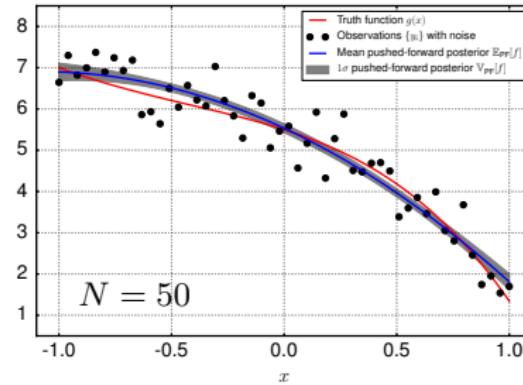
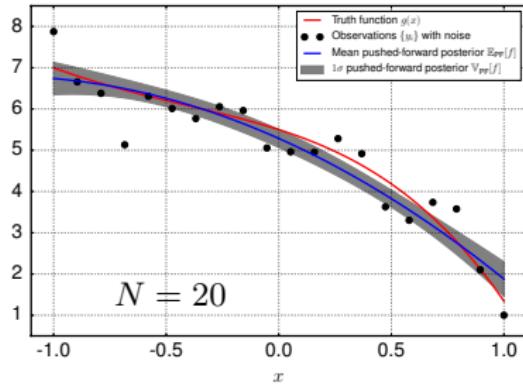
- Judgement on local/global posterior peaks is difficult
  - Multiple chains; Tempering
- Choosing a good starting point is very important
  - An initial optimization strategy is useful, albeit not trivial
- Choosing good MCMC proposals, and attaining good mixing
  - Likelihood-informed
    - Markov jump in those dimensions informed by data
    - Sample from prior in complement of dimensions
    - Adaptive proposal learning from MCMC samples
    - Log-Posterior Hessian  $\Rightarrow$  local Gaussian approx.
    - Adaptive, Geometric, Langevin MCMC
  - Dimension independent
    - Proposal design: good MCMC performance in hiD
  - Literature: A. Stuart, M. Girolami, K. Law, T. Cui, Y. Marzouk  
([Law 2014](#); [Cui et al., 2014,2015](#); [Cotter et al., 2013](#))

# Bayesian inference – Model Error Challenge

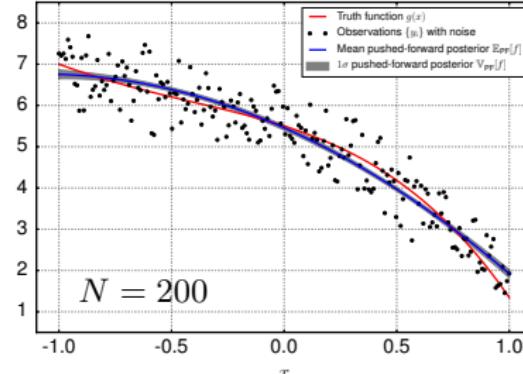
- Quantifying model error, as distinct from data noise, is important for assessing confidence in model validity
- Conventional statistical methods for representation of model error have shortcomings when applied to physical models
- New methods are under-development for model error:
  - physical constraints are satisfied
  - feasible disambiguation of model-error/data-noise
  - calibrated model error terms adequately impact all model outputs of interest
  - uncertainties in predictions from calibrated model reflect the range of discrepancy from the truth
- Embed model error in submodel components where approximations exist

(K. Sargsyan *et al.*, 2015)

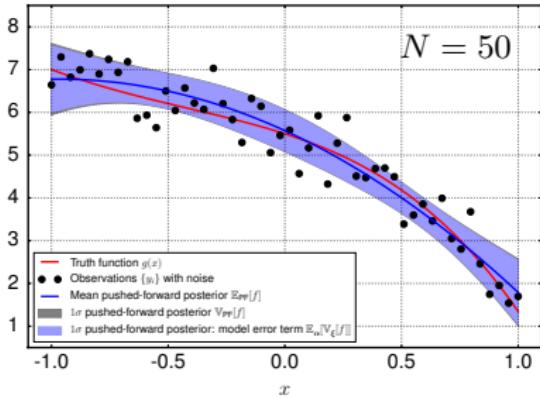
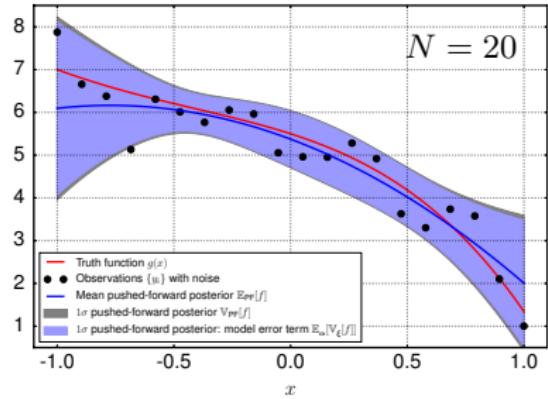
# Quadratic-fit - Classical Bayesian likelihood



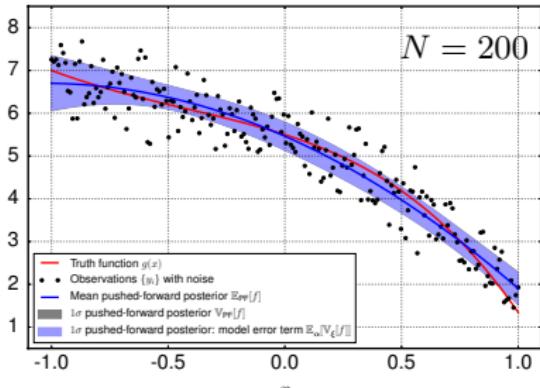
- With additional data, predictive uncertainty around the wrong model is indefinitely reducible
- Predictive uncertainty not indicative of discrepancy from truth



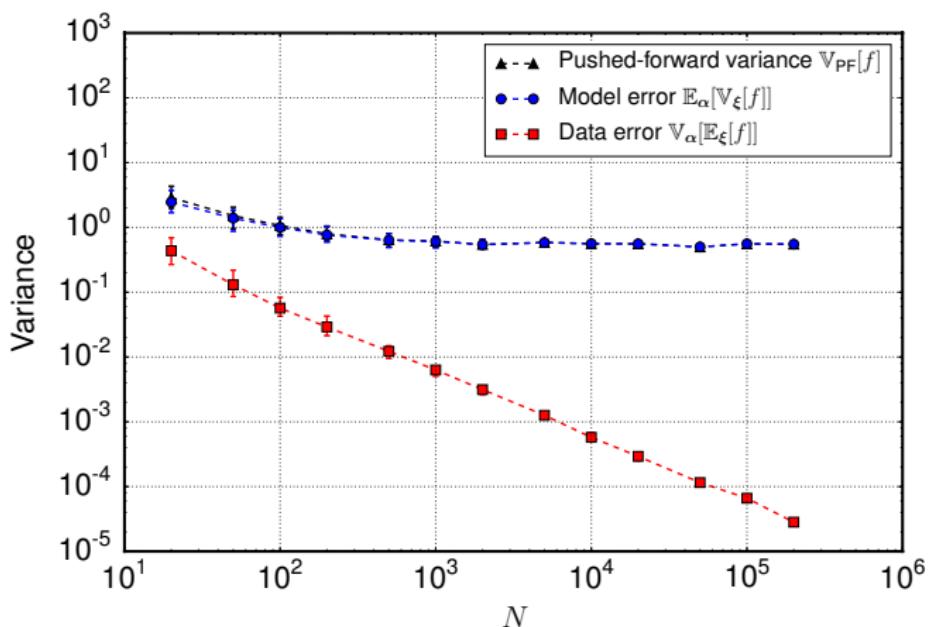
# Quadratic-fit - ModErr - MargGauss



- With additional data, predictive uncertainty due to data noise is reducible
- Predictive uncertainty due to model error is not reducible



## Quadratic-fit - ModErr - MargGauss



Calibrating a quadratic  $f(x)$  w.r.t.  $g(x) = 6 + x^2 + 0.5(x + 1)^{3.5}$

# Model Evidence and Complexity

Let  $\mathcal{M} = \{M_1, M_2, \dots\}$  be a set of models of interest

- Parameter estimation from data is conditioned on the model

$$p(\theta|D, M_k) = \frac{p(D|\theta, M_k)\pi(\theta|M_k)}{p(D|M_k)}$$

Evidence (marginal likelihood) for  $M_k$ :

$$p(D|M_k) = \int p(D|\theta, M_k)\pi(\theta|M_k)d\theta$$

Model evidence is useful for model selection

- Choose model with maximum evidence
- Compromise between fitting data and model complexity
  - Optimal complexity - Occam's razor principle
  - Avoid overfitting

# Too much model complexity leads to overfitting

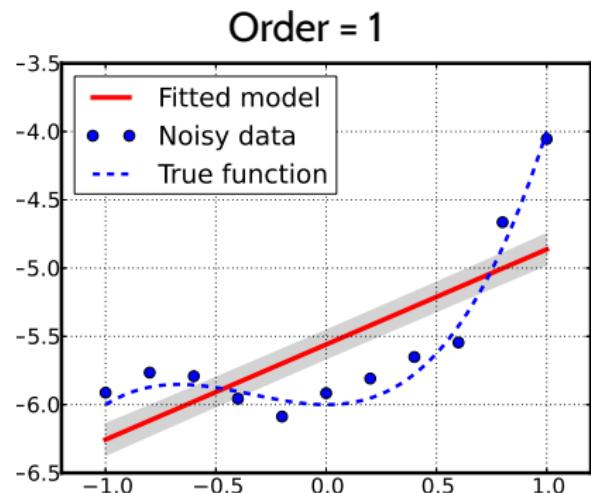
Data model:  $i = 1, \dots, N$

$$\begin{aligned} y_i &= x_i^3 + x_i^2 - 6 + \epsilon_i \\ \epsilon_i &\sim N(0, s) \end{aligned}$$

Bayesian regression with Legendre PCE fit models, order 1-10

$$y_m = \sum_{k=0}^P c_k \psi_k(x)$$

Uniform priors  $\pi(c_k), k = 0, \dots, P$



Fitted model pushed-forward posterior versus the data

# Too much model complexity leads to overfitting

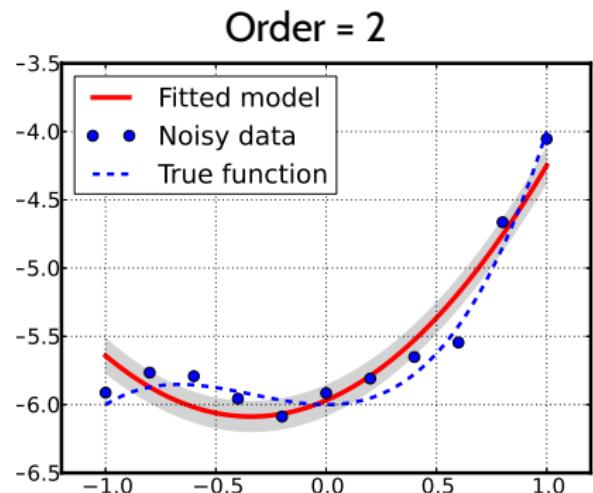
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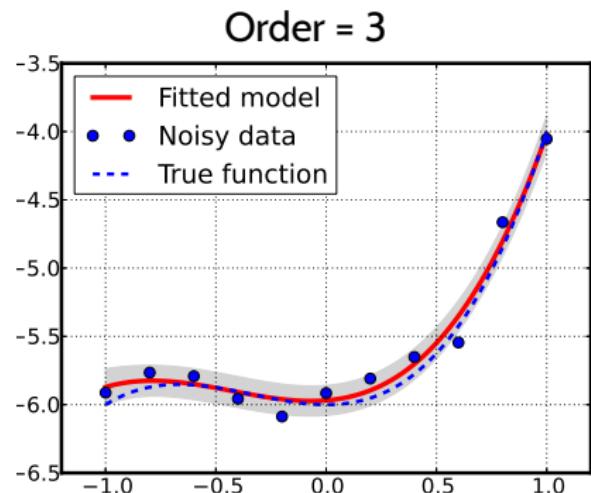
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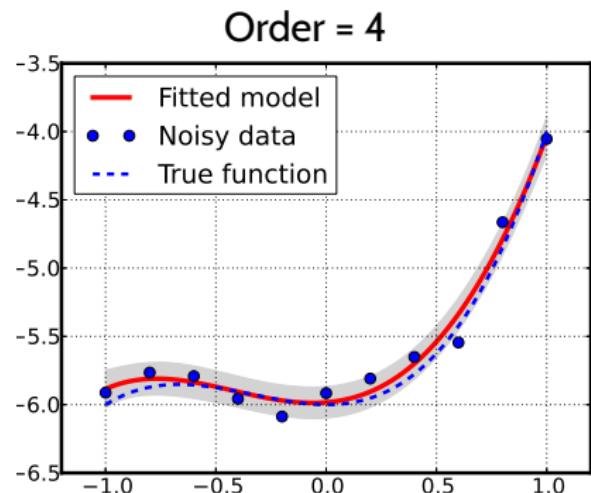
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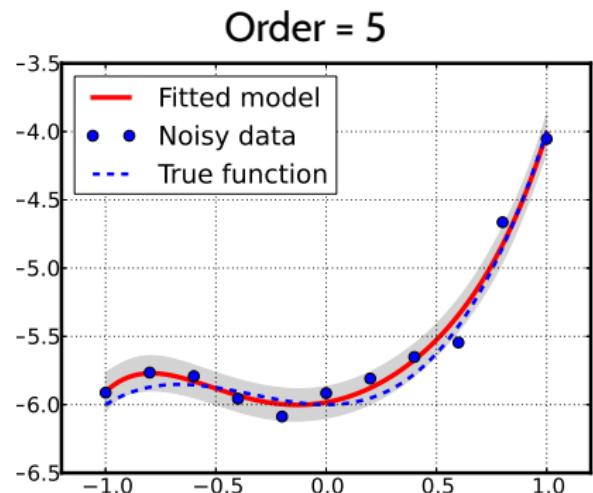
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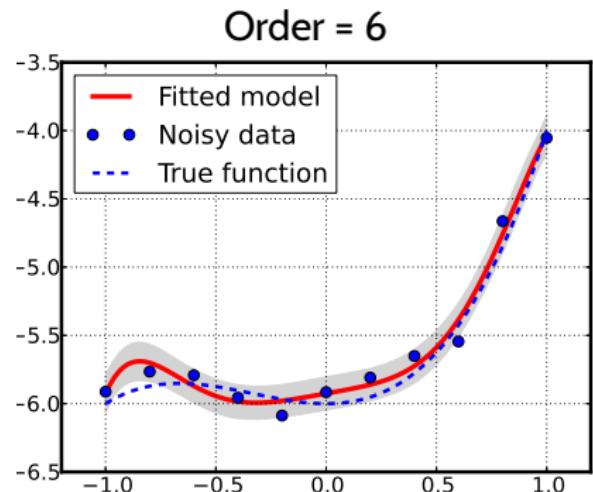
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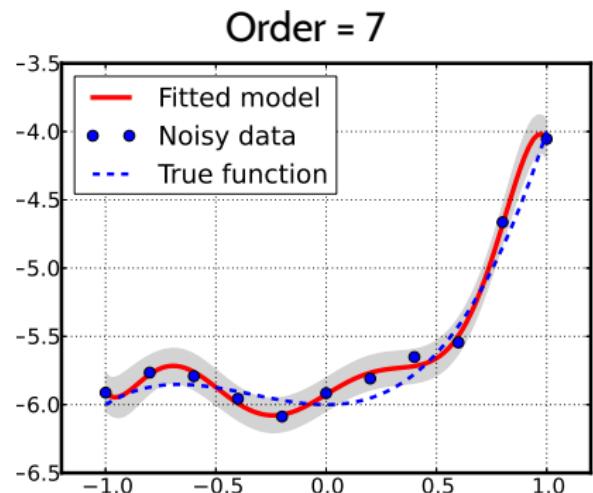
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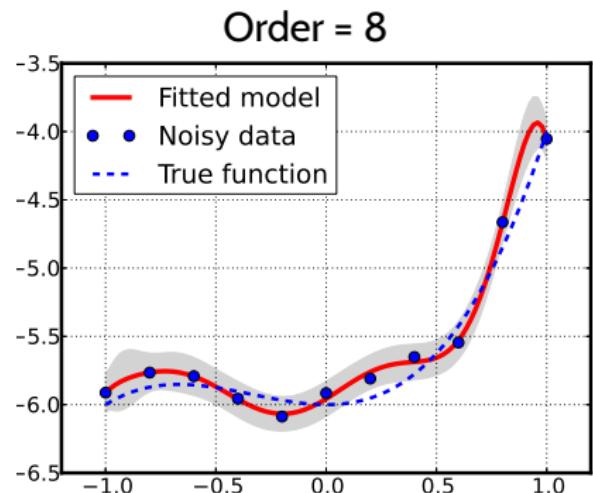
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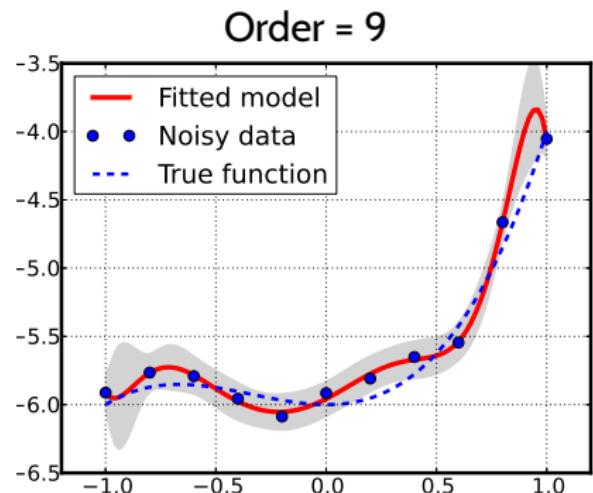
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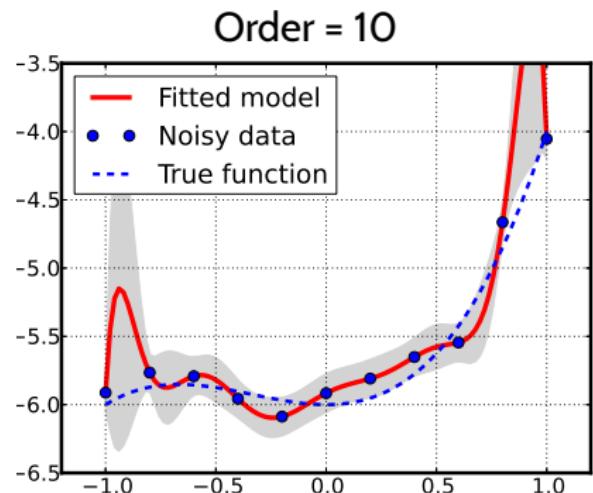
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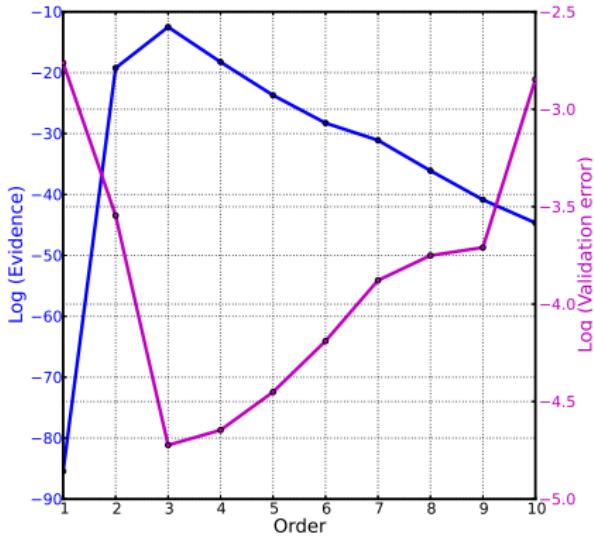
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Fitted model pushed-forward posterior versus the data

# Evidence and Cross-Validation Error

- Model evidence peaks at the true polynomial order of 3
- Cross validation error is equally minimal at order 3
- Models with optimal complexity are robust to cross validation



Cross validation error and model evidence versus order

# Closure

- Probabilistic UQ framework
  - Polynomial Chaos representation of random variables
- Forward UQ
  - Intrusive and non-intrusive forward PC UQ methods
- Inverse UQ
  - Parameter estimation via Bayesian inference
  - Model error
  - Model complexity
- Challenges
  - High dimensionality
  - Intrusive Galerkin stability
  - Nonlinearity
  - Time dynamics
  - Model error