

# Simulation-Supported Decision Making

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# Simulation – A Tool for Decision Making

- **Quickly Identify and Understand How a Product Functions:**
  - What are the major variables driving functionality?
  - What are the combinations of variables that lead to problems in complex systems?
- **Ability Exists Today**
  - Due to advances in compute capability

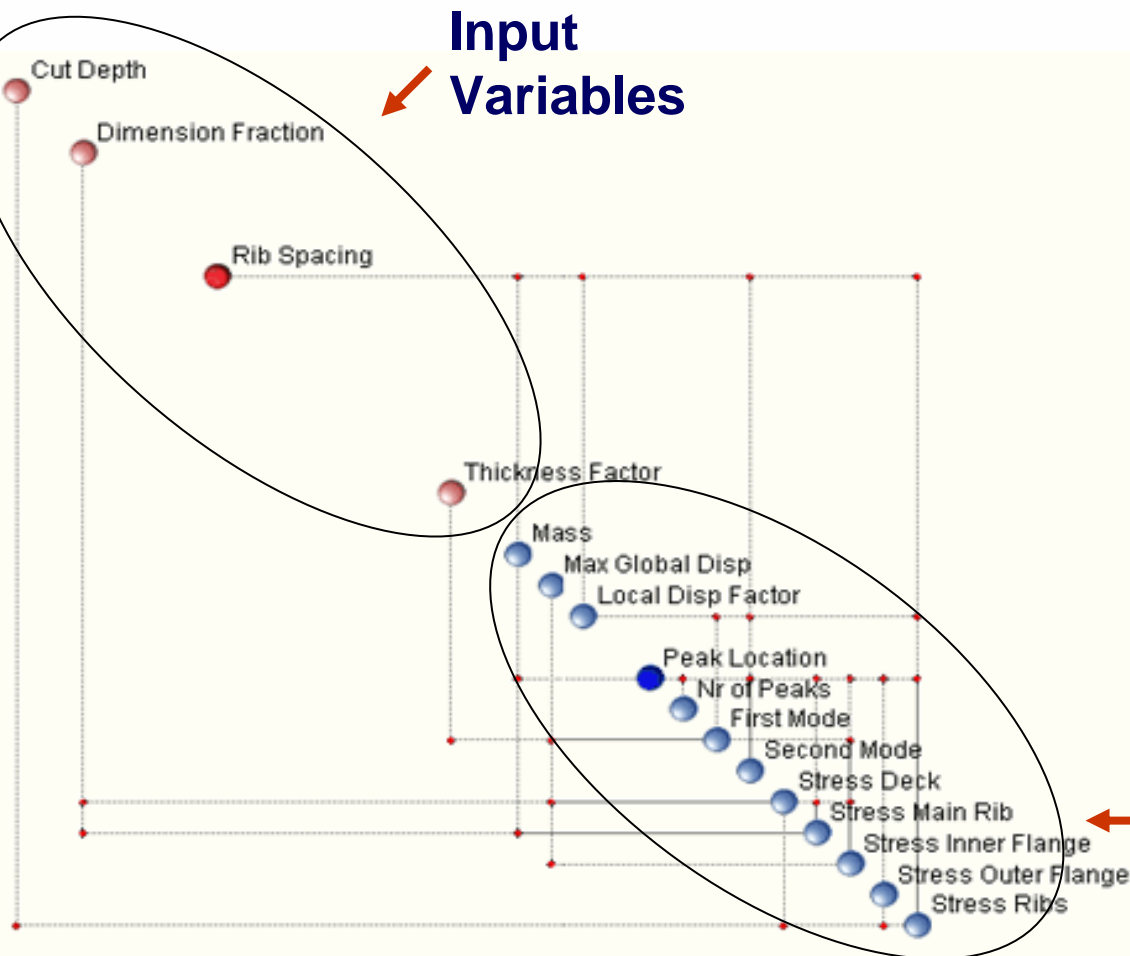
## Decision Maps

# Generation of Decision Maps

**Decision Map – a 2-D view correlating Results generated from Monte Carlo Analysis**

- **Incorporates Variability and Uncertainty**
- **Updated Latin Hypercube sampling**
- **Independent of the Number of Variables**
- **Results with 100 runs**
- **Does Not Violate Physics**
  - **No assumptions of continuity**
- **“Not elegant, only gives the right answers.”**

# Decision Maps to Understand Cause & Effect

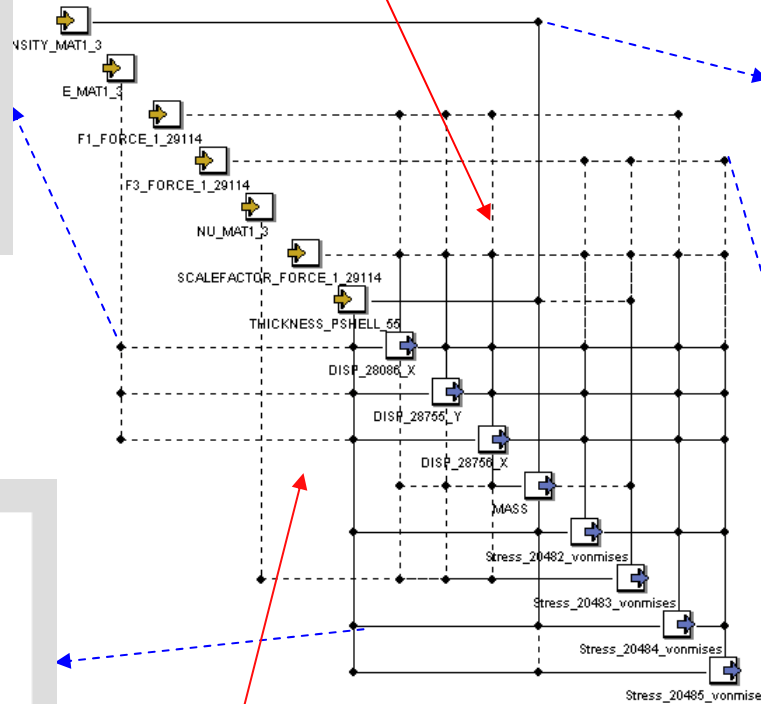
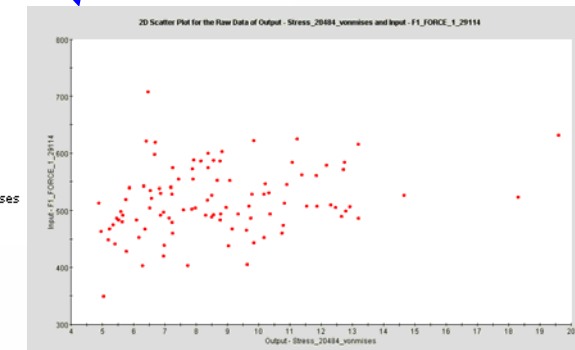
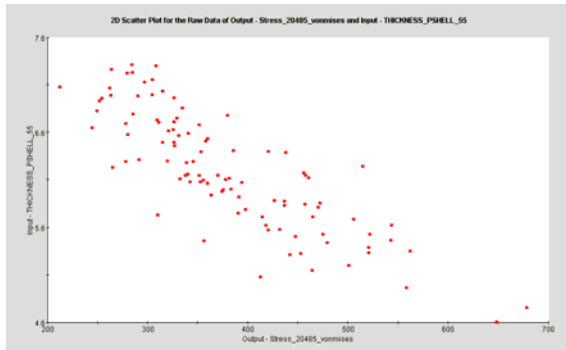
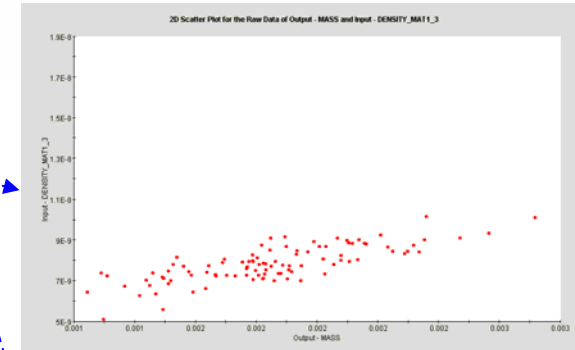
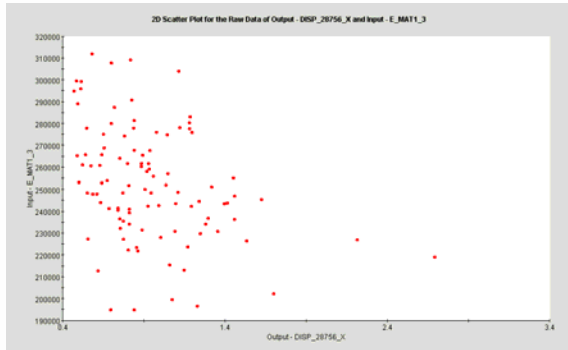


- Ranks input variables and output responses by correlation level
- Follows MIT-developed Design Structure Matrix model format
- Filters Variables Based on Correlation Level

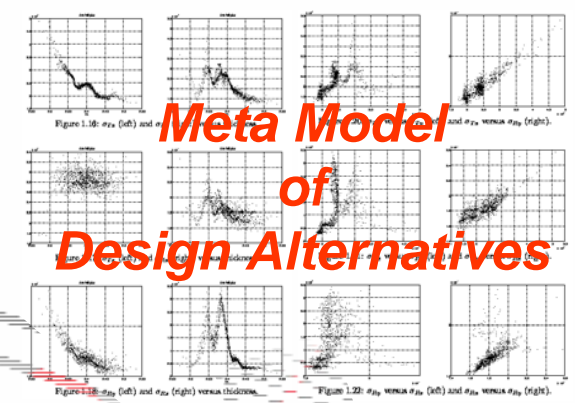
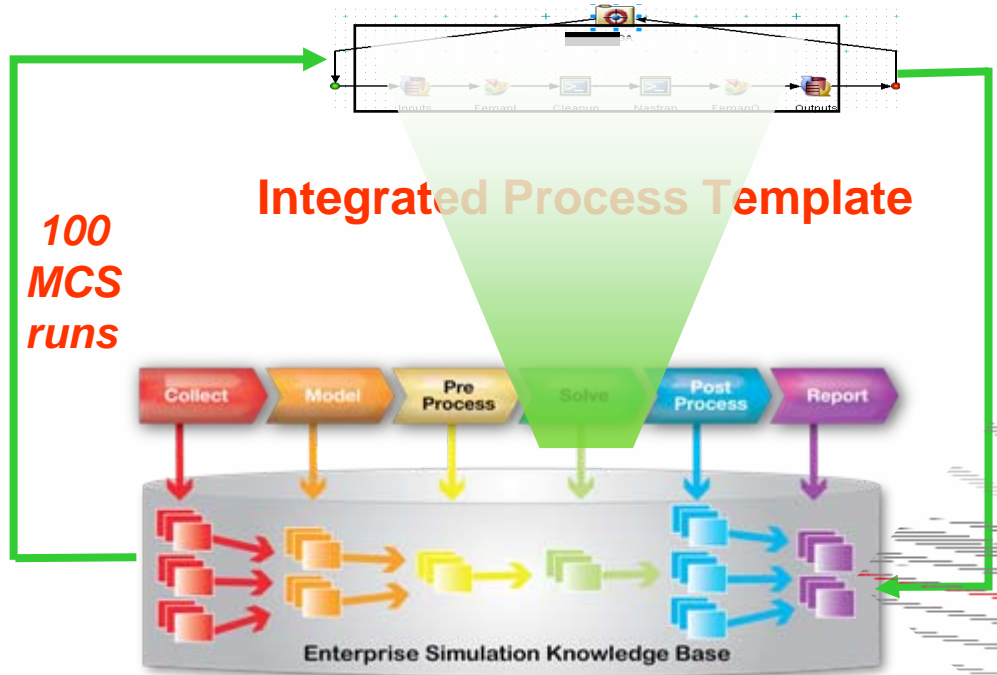
# A Decision Map

Upper right –  
positive correlation

Lower left –  
negative correlation

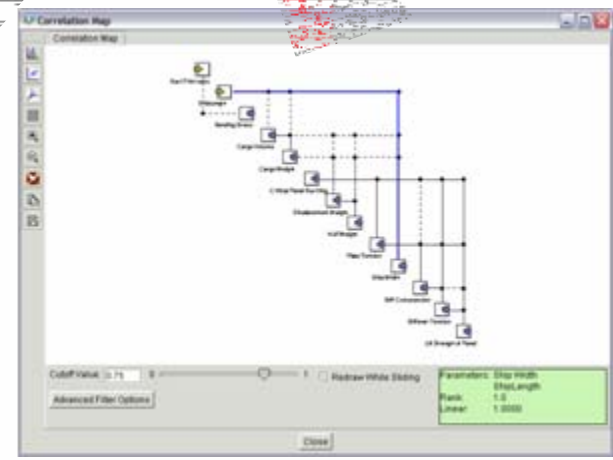


# Generation of Decision Maps

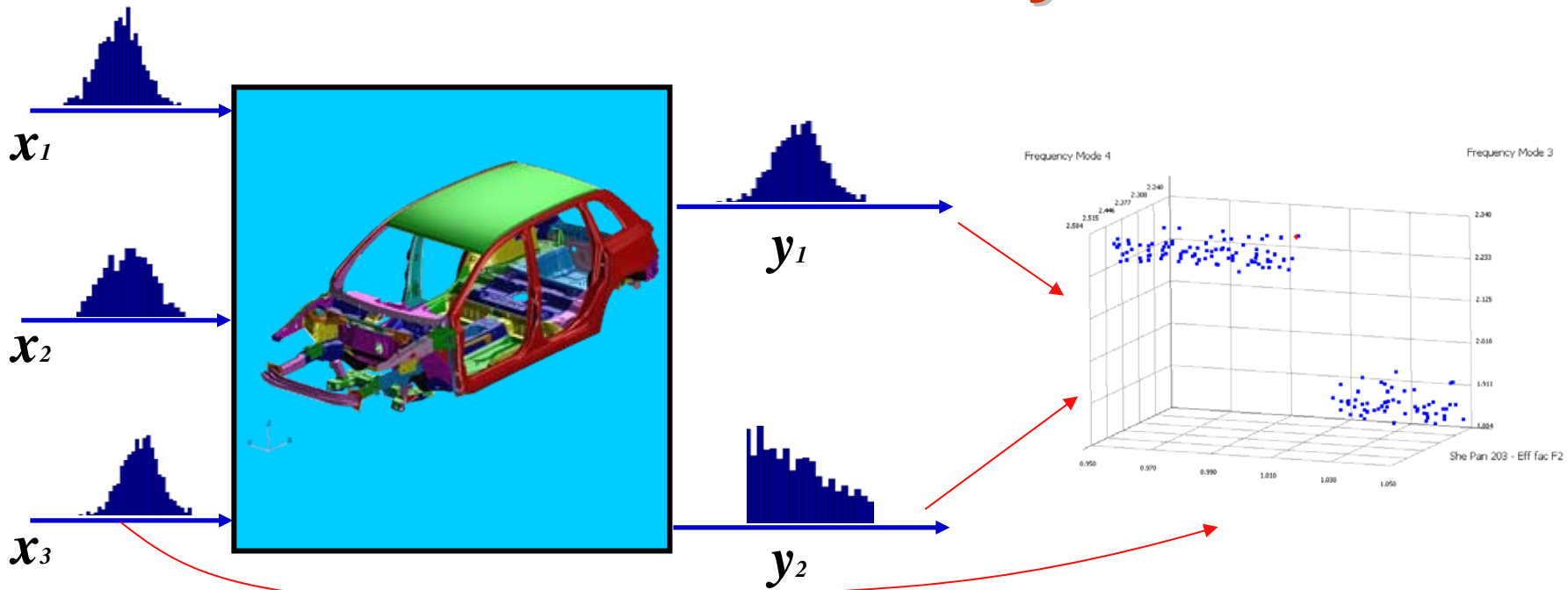


**Meta Model  
of  
Design Alternatives**

- Correlation Map:**
- Includes All Results
  - Highlights Key Variables



# Monte Carlo Analysis



## Sources of Variability

- Material Properties
- Loads
- Boundary and initial conditions
- Geometry imperfections
- Assembly imperfections
- Solver
- Computer (round-off, truncation, etc.)
- Engineer (choice of element type, algorithm, mesh band-width, etc.)

## Solution:

Establish tolerances for the input and design variables.

Measure the system's response in statistical terms.

# The Fundamental Problem ...





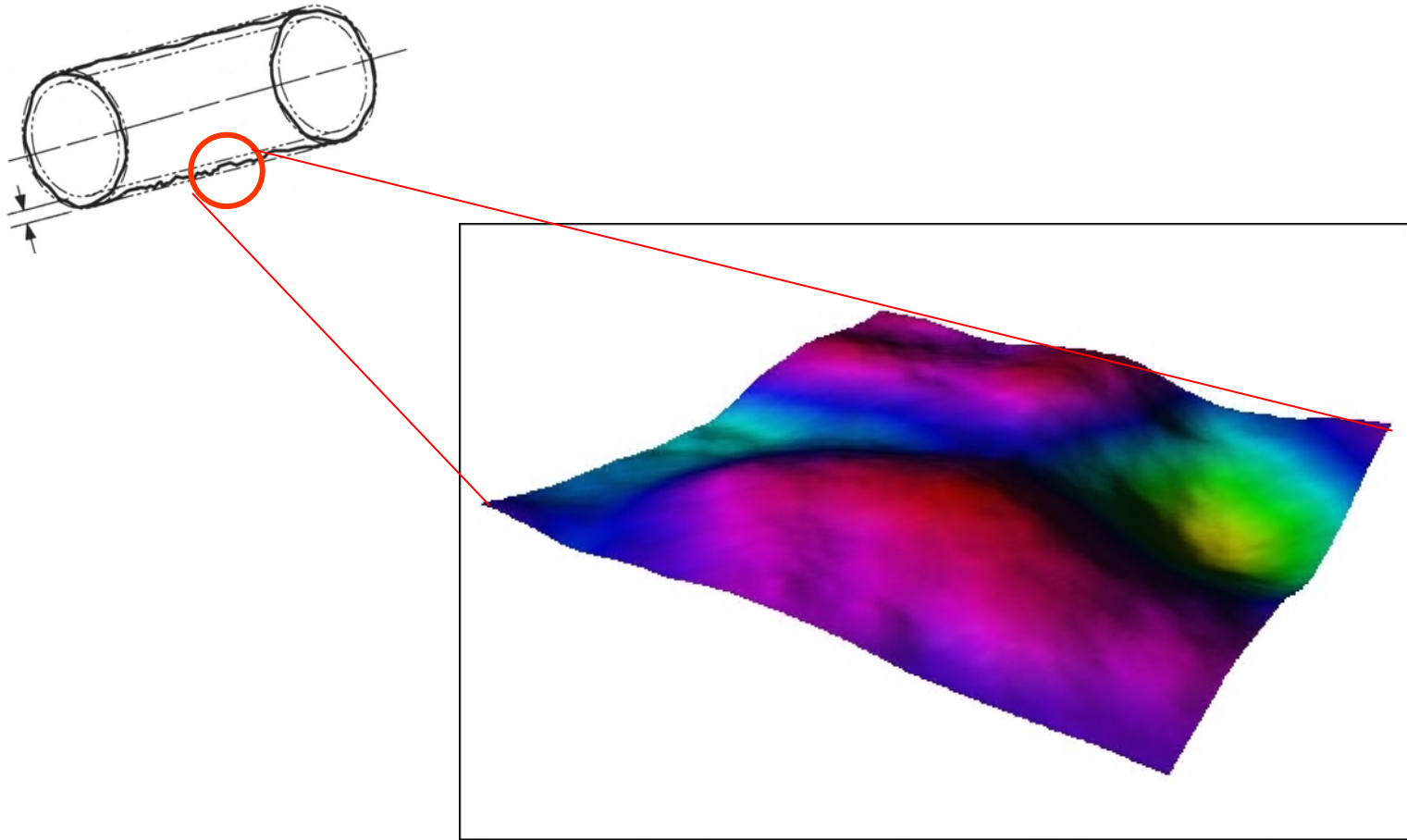
# Structural Material Scatter

| MATERIAL                  | CHARACTERISTIC       | CV     |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Metallic                  | Rupture              | 8-15%  |
|                           | Buckling             | 14%    |
| Carbon Fiber              | Rupture              | 10-17% |
| Screw, Rivet, Welding     | Rupture              | 8%     |
| Bonding                   | Adhesive strength    | 12-16% |
|                           | Metal/metal          | 8-13%  |
| Honeycomb                 | Tension              | 16%    |
|                           | Shear, compression   | 10%    |
|                           | Face wrinkling       | 8%     |
| Inserts                   | Axial loading        | 12%    |
| Thermal protection (AQ60) | In-plane tension     | 12-24% |
|                           | In-plane compression | 15-20% |

Source: Klein, M., Schueller, G.I., et.al., Probabilistic Approach to Structural Factors of Safety in Aerospace, Proceedings of the CNES Spacecraft Structures and Mechanical Testing Conference, Paris, June 1994, Cepadues Edition, Toulouse, 1994.

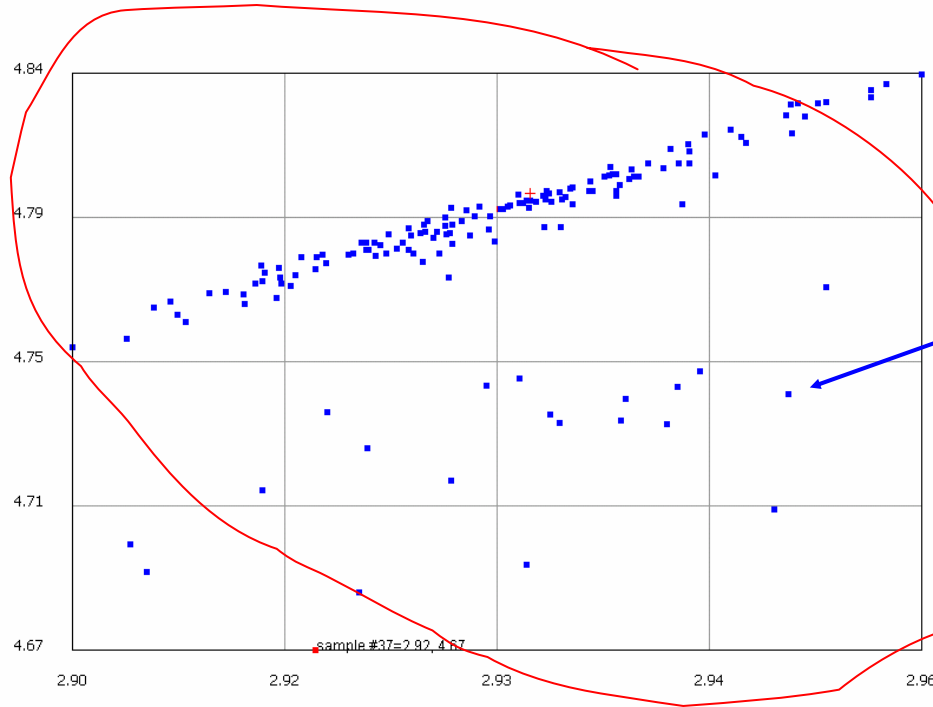
# The Deception of Precise Geometry

Geometry imperfections should be described as stochastic fields.



# Monte Carlo Results show Reality

Collection  
of computer  
runs =  
Simulation



Single  
computer  
run =  
Analysis

Understanding the physics of a phenomenon is equivalent to the understanding of the topology and structure of these clouds.

# Understanding MCS Results

- Simulation generates a large amount of data.
  - A typical simulation run requires around 100 solver executions.
  - Each combination of hundreds to thousands of variables produces a point cloud. In each cloud:
    - POSITION provides information on PERFORMANCE
    - SCATTER represents QUALITY
    - SHAPE represents ROBUSTNESS

## KEY:

- REDUCE the Multi-Dimensional Cloud to EASILY UNDERSTOOD INFORMATION
  - Condense into a **DECISION MAP**
  - Variables are sorted by the strength of their relationship

# Monte Carlo Simulation Results

Number of 2D Views of Results = Sum of all integers from 1 to (Number of Variables - 1)

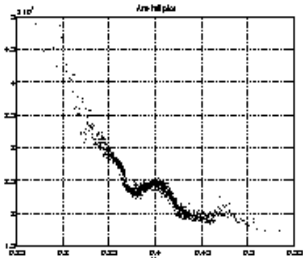


Figure 1.16:  $\sigma_{Tx}$  (left) and  $\sigma_{Ty}$  (right) versus thickness.

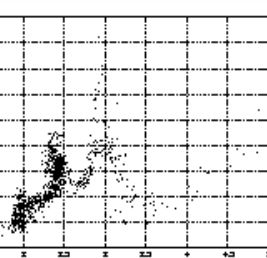
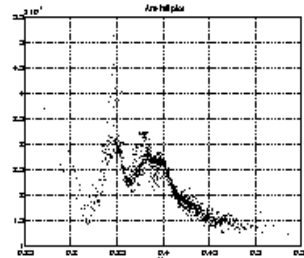


Figure 1.20:  $\sigma_{Tx}$  versus  $\sigma_{Ty}$  (left) and  $\sigma_{Tx}$  versus  $\sigma_{Ry}$  (right).

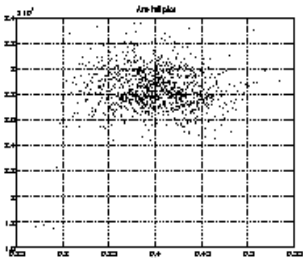
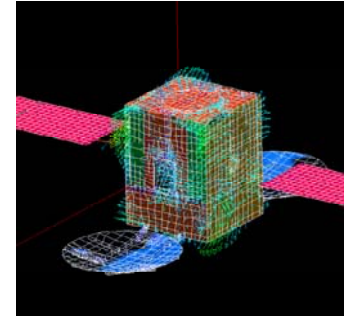
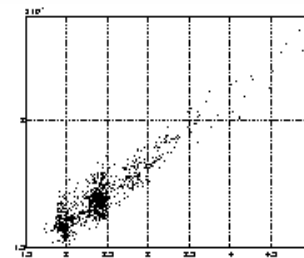


Figure 1.17:  $\sigma_{Tx}$  (left) and  $\sigma_{Rz}$  (right) versus thickness.

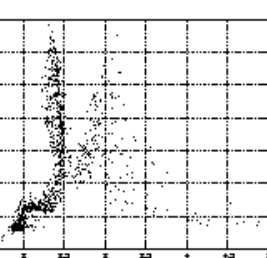
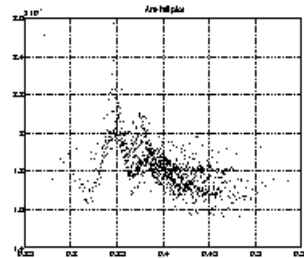
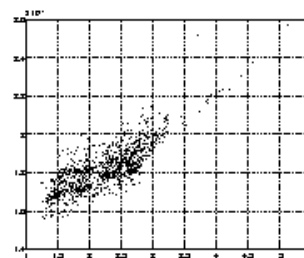


Figure 1.21:  $\sigma_{Tx}$  versus  $\sigma_{Rz}$  (left) and  $\sigma_{Ty}$  versus  $\sigma_{Rz}$  (right).



12 of the 78  
2D views that  
resulted from a  
simulation with  
6 outputs from  
a scan of 7  
inputs with  
uniform  
distributions.

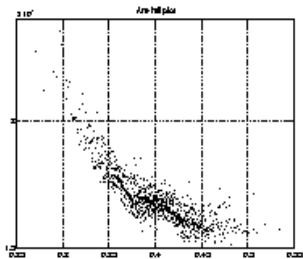


Figure 1.18:  $\sigma_{Ry}$  (left) and  $\sigma_{Rz}$  (right) versus thickness.

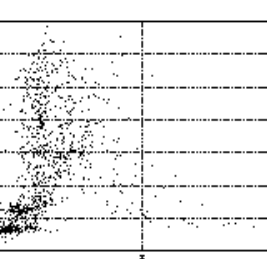
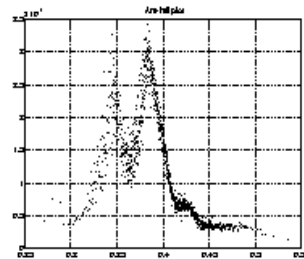
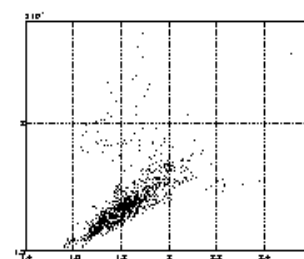


Figure 1.22:  $\sigma_{Ry}$  versus  $\sigma_{Rz}$  (left) and  $\sigma_{Rz}$  versus  $\sigma_{Ry}$  (right).

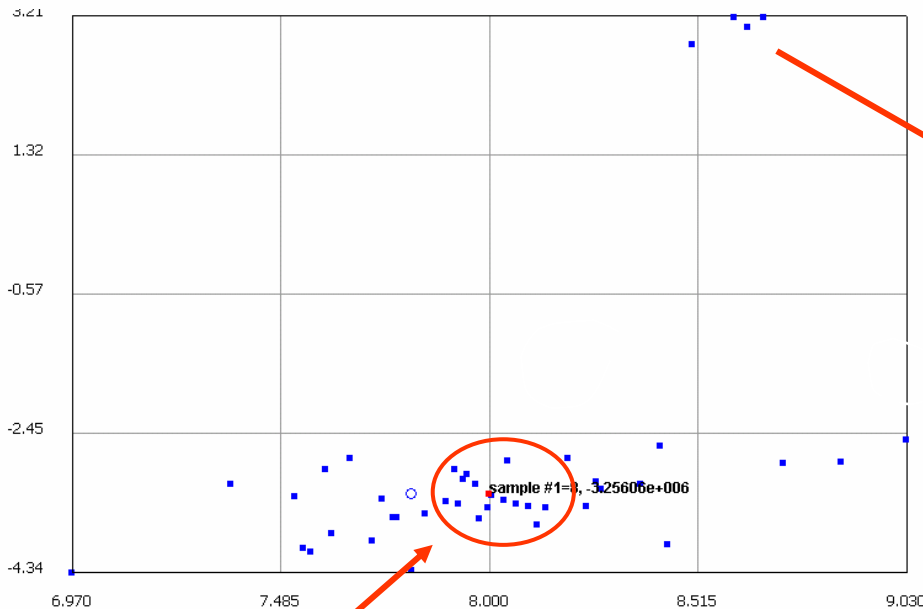


# Decision Maps: Understanding Cause and Effect

- Displays condensed information from hundreds of analysis runs.
- **Decision Map = Structured Information = Knowledge**
- A Decision Map helps an engineer:
  - **Understand** how a system works.
    - How information flows within the system.
    - how variables and components correlate.
  - **Make decisions** on how a design may be improved.
    - Identify dominant design variables.
    - Use as input for stochastic design improvement.
  - Find the **weak points** in a system.
  - Find **redundancies** in a design.
  - Identify **rules** that govern the performance (“if A and B then C”).

**There are NO algorithms to learn. The engineer concentrates on engineering, not on numerical analysis.**

# Outlier Identification



Outliers: may be dangerous:

- System Failure
- Mission Failure

Most likely behavior

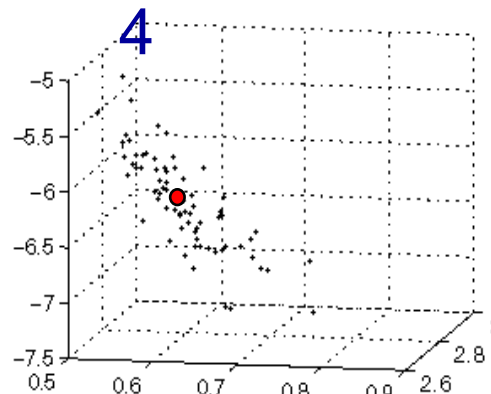
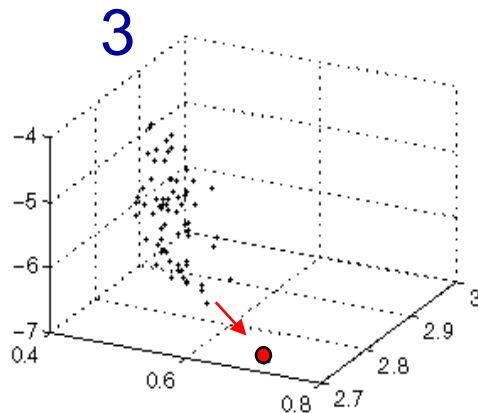
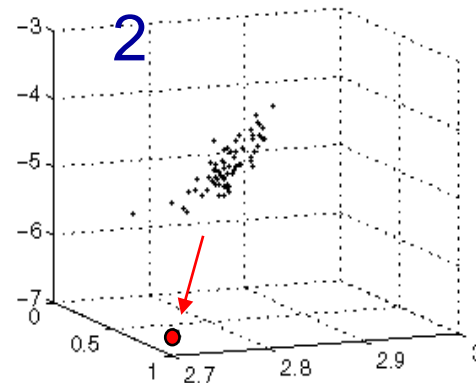
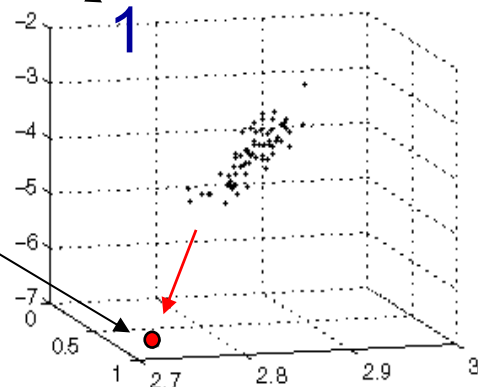
A red arrow points from the circled outlier in the scatter plot to this text.



# Design Improvement Process

Iteration

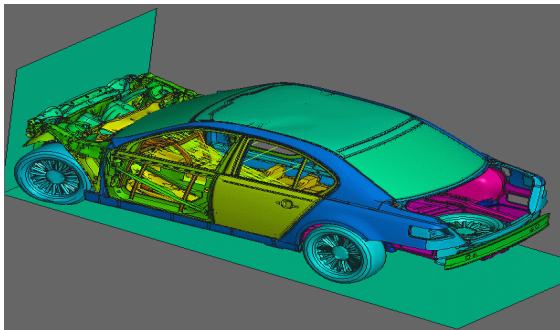
Target Performance



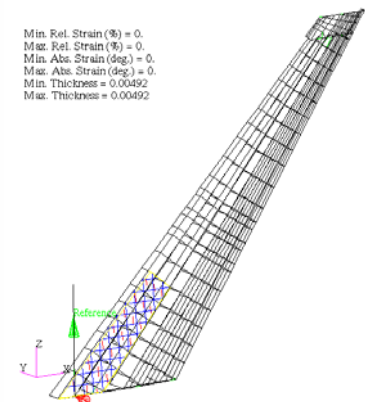


# APPLICATIONS

- Automotive and Aerospace companies have continued to expand use of process since 1997
- BMW, Audi, Toyota, Mercedes, Nissan and Jaguar have expanded Computer Clusters for Stochastic Car Crash Simulation taking 10's of pounds from car model designs.
- Aerospace companies applying to improve aerospace designs. Alenia reduced weight of new commercial airliner tail by 6%.



Courtesy of BMW AG



Min. Rel. Strain (%) = 0.  
Max. Rel. Strain (%) = 0.  
Min. Abs. Strain (deg.) = 0.  
Max. Abs. Strain (deg.) = 0.  
Min. Thickness = 0.00492  
Max. Thickness = 0.00492

Courtesy, Alenia Aeronautica

# Process for Decision Support

- **Model a multi-disciplinary design-analysis process**
- **Randomize the process model**
- **Run Monte Carlo simulation of the model**
- **Process Results**
  - **Correlation Maps showing Cause and Effect**
  - **Outlier identification showing anomalies**
  - **Direction for Design Improvement**

# Correlation Maps - Filter Complexity while Modeling Reality

- Identify what influences functionality
- Address Uncertainty and Variation
  - Provides credibility in modeling & simulation
  - Results clouds represent what is possible
- Easy to use
  - No methods or algorithms to learn
- Reduces risk through better engineering
  - Takes all inputs into account vice using initial assumptions
- **Changing the general engineering process**