



Purdue Center for Metal Casting Research  
School of Materials Engineering



# Uncertainty Quantification in Modeling of Solidification Processes

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## Predicting phenomena as single values

Observed phenomena do not have “single point values;” they cannot be predicted or measured with perfect certainty

Predicted performance levels cannot be absolutely assured, but only given in terms of probability

What is that level of uncertainty in the output?

Importance of that uncertainty depends on purpose of model

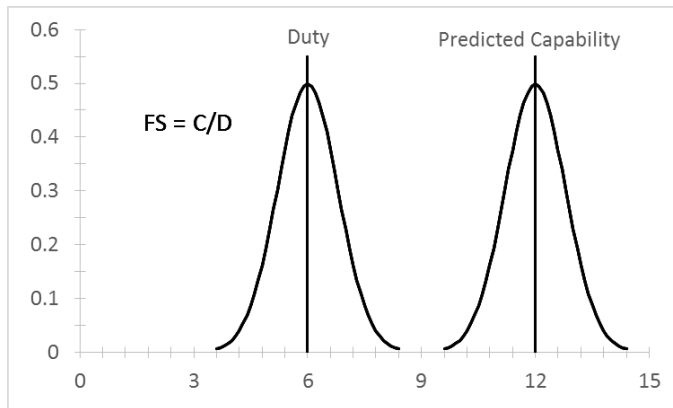


## Three reasons for being concerned about uncertainty in our predictions

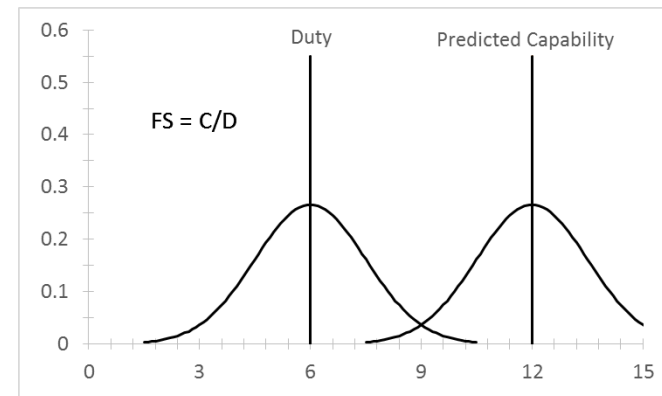
### 1. Limit to uncertainty of output

Question raised by Peter Quested (NPL, UK) at MCWASP (Aachen, 2000):  
how much uncertainty in input data can we tolerate?

### 2. Design with factor of safety



Expected duty of system = 6,  
so design with a factor of safety of 2  
(predicted capability = 12)

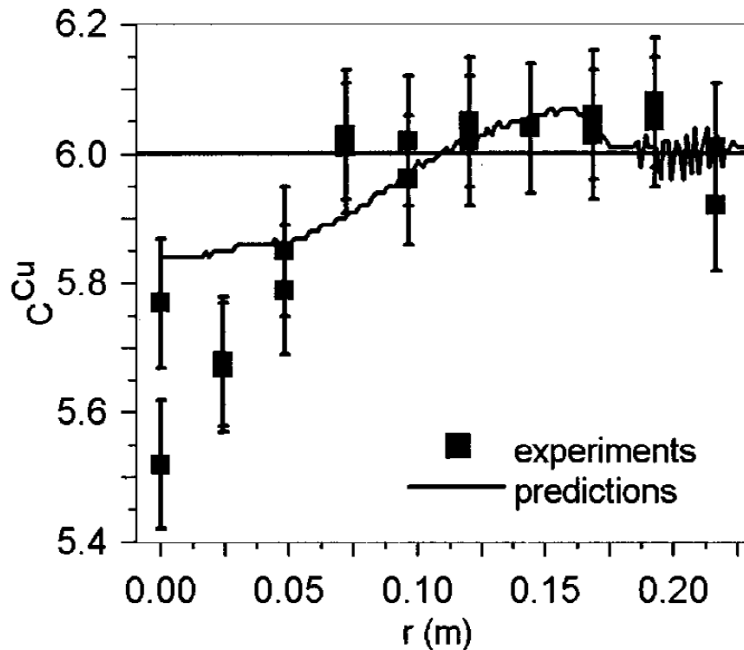


Proper value of factor of safety really informed  
by probability distribution functions of  
the predicted and  
the expected duty of system



## Why are we concerned with uncertainty?

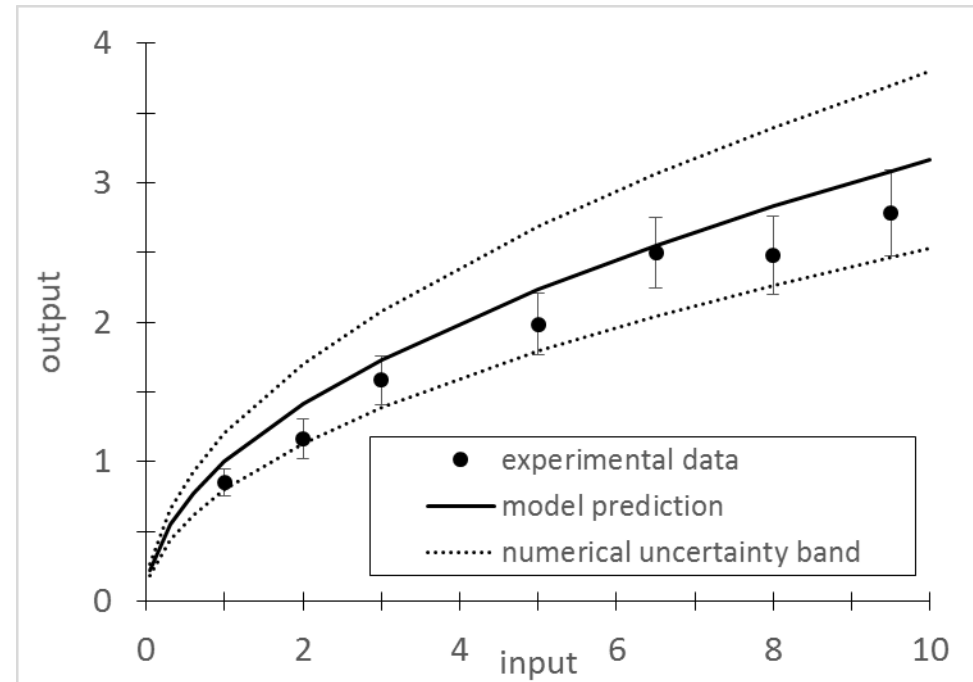
### 3. Validation of model predictions to experiments



Radial copper composition profile  
in DC cast ingot  
(Vreeman et al, *ASME JHT*, 2003)

What is the uncertainty in  
the model?

Do these data validate the model?



Agreement depends on uncertainties of  
experiment and model.



## Sources of uncertainty: Numerical

Numerical uncertainty can usually be reduced by grid refinement, reduction of time step ... within a given method

Exception: singularities

- discontinuous thermal boundary conditions

- leading edge of boundary layers

- crack tips (elastic stress model)

“Verification” uncertainty



## Sources of uncertainty: Epistemic

Epistemic uncertainty = is the model physically correct?

Depends on:

- state of knowledge of physical processes
- what is included in our model

E.g., simple projectile motion – drag?  
orbital mechanics – variable gravitational constants?

Best cure is better/more focused experiments to inform the model building

“Validation” uncertainty



## Sources of uncertainty: Aleatoric

Aleatoric uncertainty =

- result of uncertainty of input values
- input is uncertain because it is variable or there is uncertainty in measurement

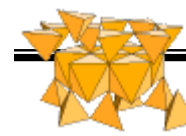
Material properties, initial and boundary conditions are model inputs with (hopefully) well-characterized probability distributions

What kinds of PDFs?

Gaussian, log-normal, uniform, scattered/discrete

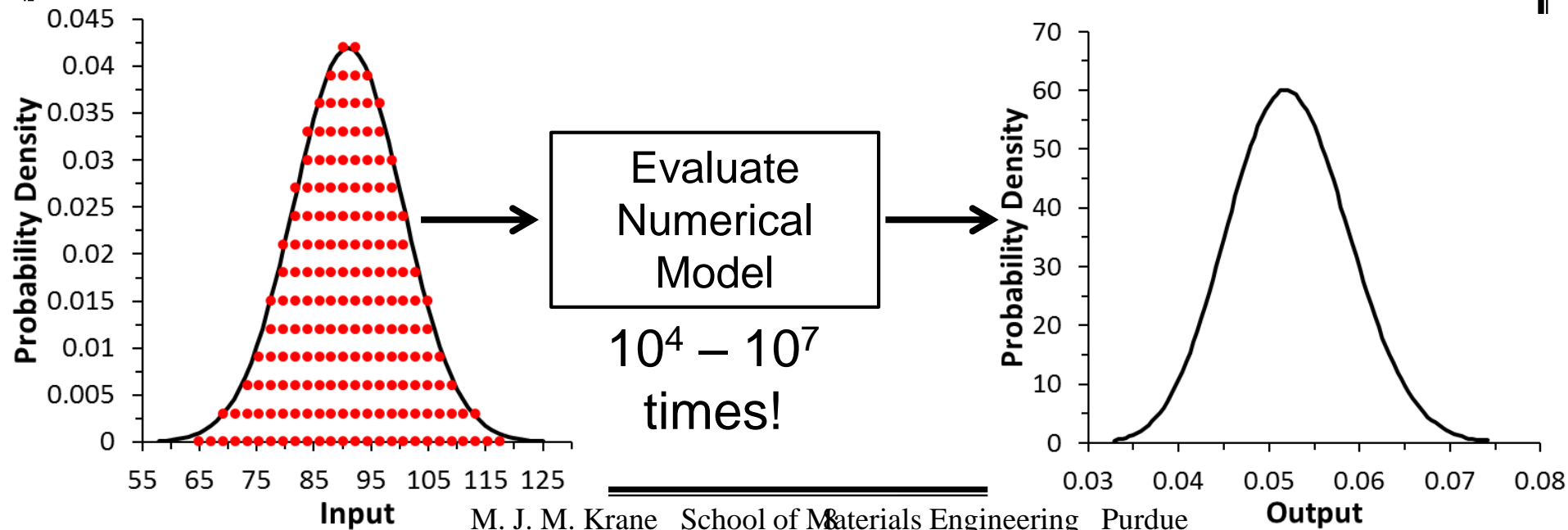
what does your data look like?

We'll focus today on aleatoric uncertainty



# Aleatoric Uncertainty Propagation by Brute Force: Monte Carlo Sampling

- Sampling methods produce probability density functions (PDFs) of outputs
- For each random value, evaluate model and calculate output parameter
- Method is simple and non-intrusive (model can be black box)
- Can become computationally expensive, is there a better way?







## A less expensive approach: Use of a surrogate model

$$q = f(p) \quad p = \text{input} \quad q = \text{output} \quad f(p) = \text{model}$$

random input ( $p$ ) gives random output ( $q$ )

can build surrogate model (response surface),  $\hat{f}(p)$ ,  
that is cheaper than  $f(p)$ , from relatively few model evaluations

surrogate can be:

- subjected to Monte Carlo analysis;

- used to determine sensitivity of output to changes in input

usefulness of surrogate depends on how well  $\hat{f}(p)$  mimics  $f(p)$

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One example of “framework” software using surrogate model:

**DAKOTA** (Sandia National Labs)



## Building the Surrogate: Single Input

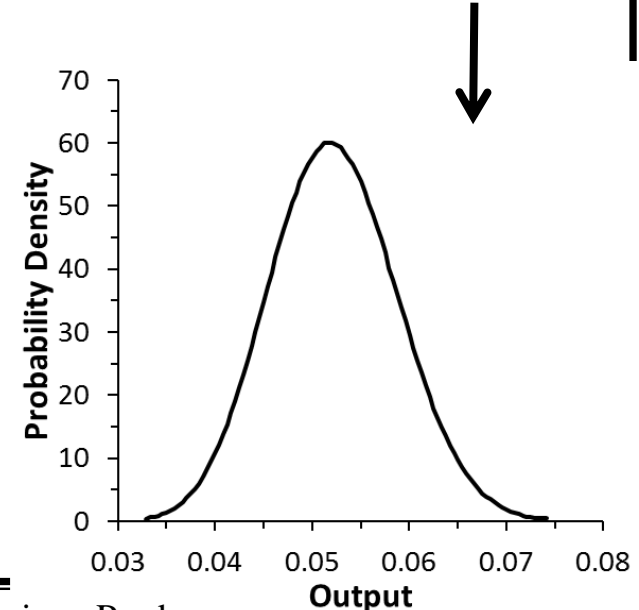
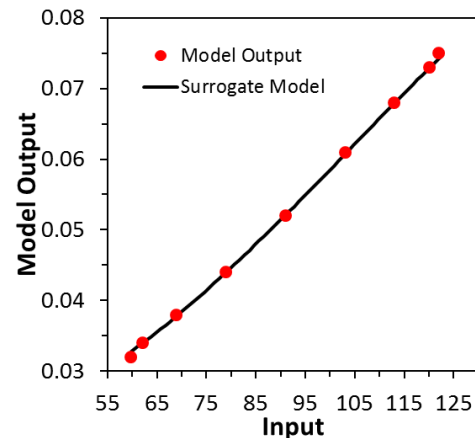
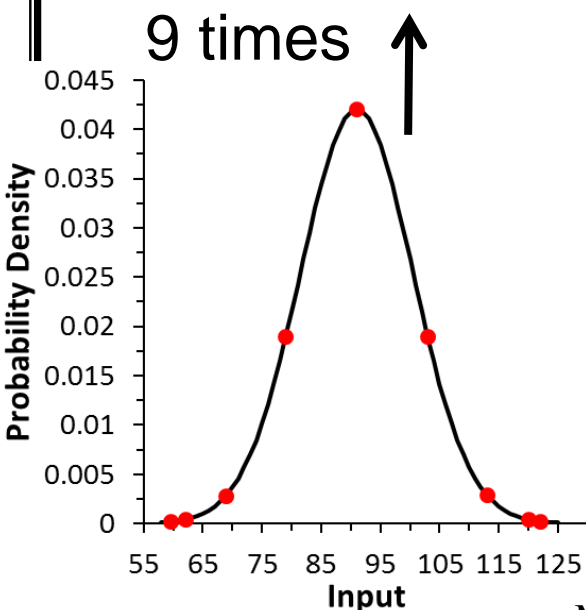
- Use of surrogate model is more computationally efficient
- Reduces the number of numerical model simulations by orders of magnitude

Evaluate  
Numerical  
Model

Generate  
Response  
Surface

Monte Carlo  
Sampling

9 times





## Building the Surrogate Model: Multiple Inputs

- More than one uncertain input can be propagated at a time
- Different polynomial orders can be used as a surrogate model
- Computational expense increases with polynomial order

(Hunt et al., *Comp. Phys. Comm.*, 2015)

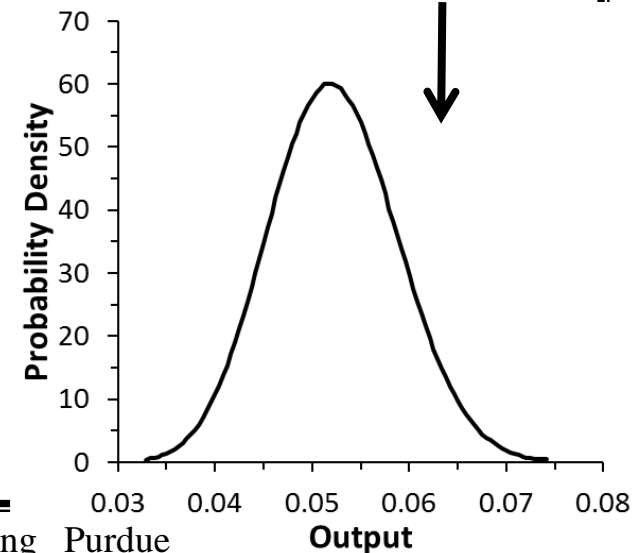
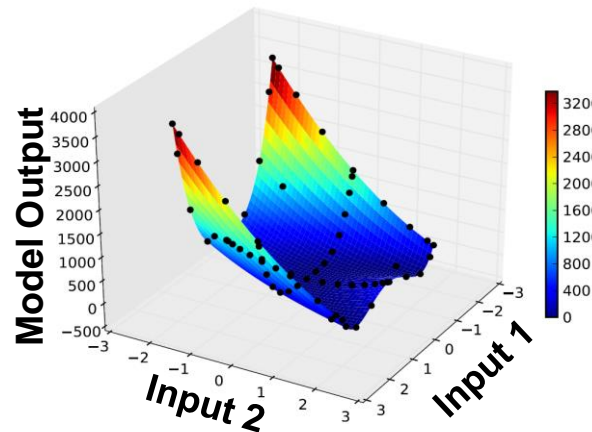
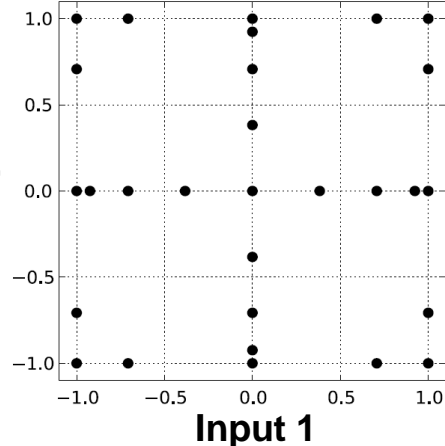
Evaluate  
Numerical  
Model

Generate  
Response  
Surface

Monte Carlo  
Sampling

29 times ↑

Sparse Grid with 29 points (dims=2 level=3)





## Uncertainty quantification with a surrogate

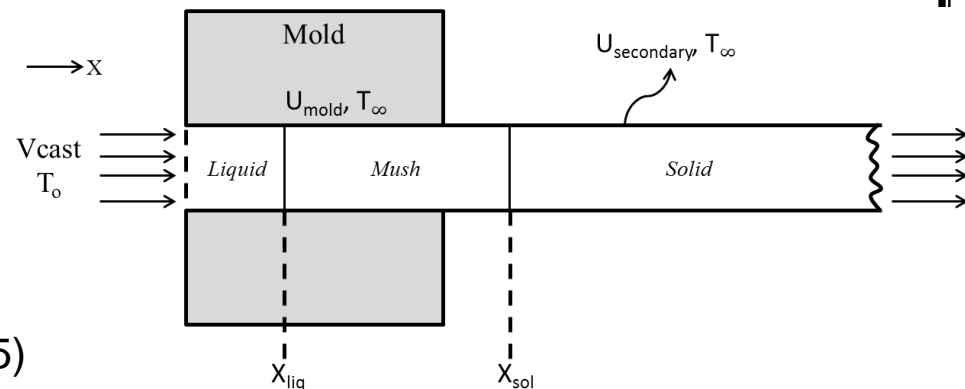
Another example of framework software:

**PUQ** (PRISM Uncertainty Quantification)

(Hunt et al., *Computer Physics Communications*, 2015)

- Freely available on Purdue's NanoHub ([www.nanohub.org](http://www.nanohub.org))
- Can download or run in cloud on NanoHub
- Non-intrusive:
  - input = PDFs of input parameters
  - output = surrogate model, PDFs of output parameters

- Example tools on NanoHub:
- Dislocation dynamics in nanocrystalline material
- 1D solidification model  
(Fezi and Krance, MCWASP conf., 2015)

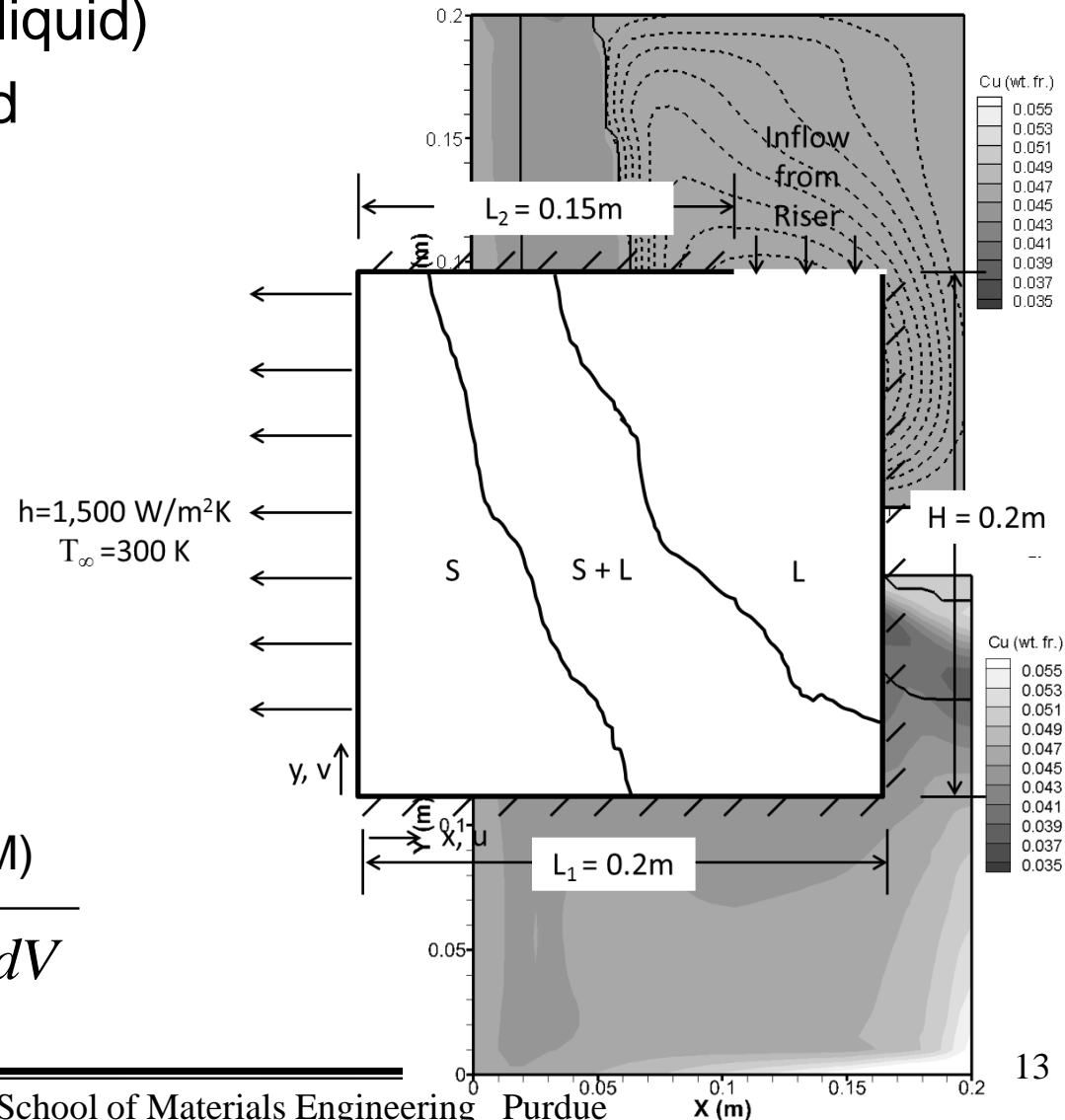




## Application to static casting of Al-5wt% Cu

- Rigid mushy zone (solid + liquid)
- Solidification shrinkage and buoyancy drive liquid flow
- Uncertain inputs:
  - Dendrite arm spacing
  - Heat transfer coefficient
  - Material properties
- Outputs of interest:
  - Solidification time ( $t_s$ )
  - Macrosegregation number ( $M$ )

$$M = \sqrt{(1/V) \iiint (C/C_o - 1)^2 dV}$$





## Mixture transport model for alloy solidification

Conservation of mass:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \bar{V}) = 0 \quad \text{Shrinkage} \quad \rho = \rho_s g_s + \rho_L g_L$$

X-momentum:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho u) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \bar{V} u) = \nabla \cdot (\mu \nabla u) - \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} - \frac{\mu}{K} u + g \rho [\beta_T (T - T_0) + \sum \beta_C^i (C^i - C_0^i)]$$

Buoyancy Force

Y-momentum:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho v) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \bar{V} v) = \nabla \cdot (\mu \nabla v) - \frac{\partial P}{\partial r} - \frac{\mu}{K} v - \mu \frac{v}{r^2}$$

Species transport:

Drag Force  $K \sim \lambda^2$

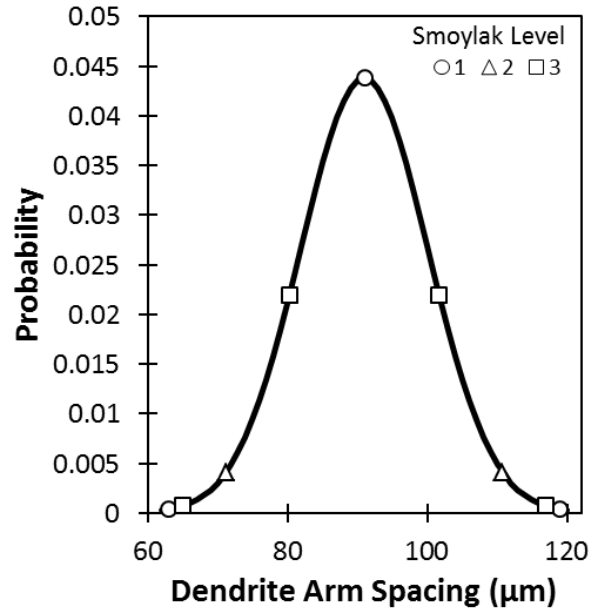
$$\frac{\partial \rho C^i}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho V C^i) = \nabla \cdot (\rho f_l D_l^i \nabla C^i) + \nabla \cdot (\rho f_l D_l^i \nabla (C_l^i - C^i)) - \nabla \cdot (f_s \rho (V - V_s) (C_l^i - C_s^i))$$

Energy transport:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho c_p T) + \nabla \cdot (\rho c_p T \bar{V}) = \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) - \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho f_l L_f) - \nabla \cdot (\rho f_l L_f \bar{V}) - \nabla \cdot \left\{ \rho f_s \left[ (c_{pl} - c_{ps}) T + L_f \right] [\bar{V} - V_s] \right\}$$



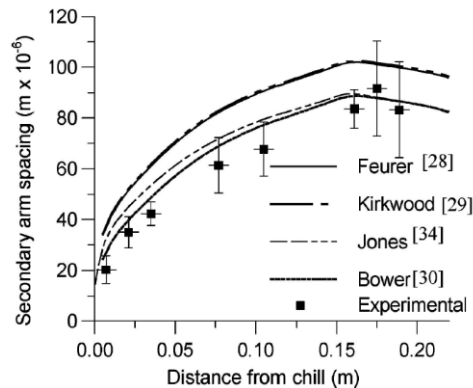
## Uncertainty in dendrite arm spacing



- Begin with one input parameter, SDAS ( $\lambda$ )
- Flow in the mushy zone is damped by the drag on dendrite arms
- Blake-Cozeny model for permeability:

$$K = \frac{\lambda^2 g_l^3}{180 g_s^2}$$

- Experimental measurements used as model inputs, including uncertainty
- Uncertainty captures variation within the part and measurement uncertainties



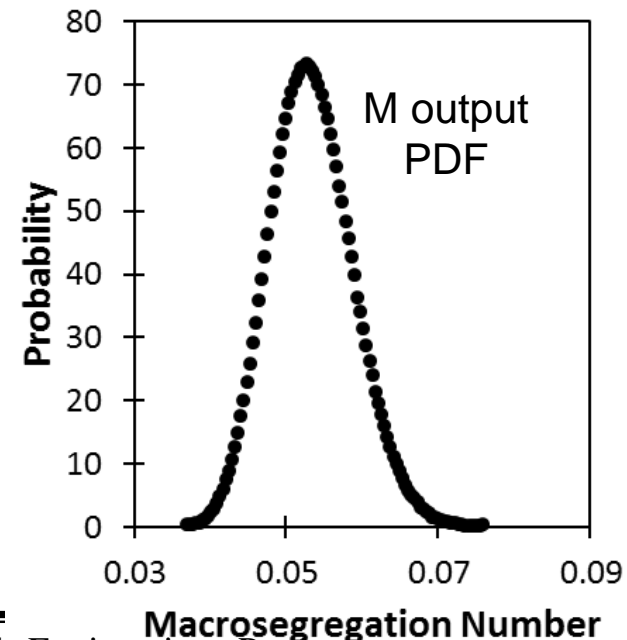
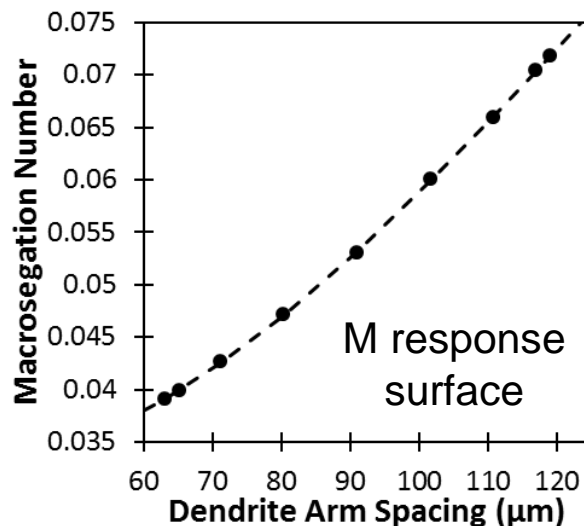
Data from Melo et al., *J. Mater. Sci.*, 2005

Figure 8 Variations in secondary spacing for different models Bower [28] and Jones [32] Feurer [26] and Kirkwood [27] compared to the experimental data for the directionally solidified Al 4.5 wt% Cu alloy.



## Effect of dendrite arm spacing uncertainty

- Solidification time is relatively unaffected by the uncertainty in arm spacing, as flow in mushy zone has little influence.
- For  $t_S$ :  $\mu_o = 1410$  s,  $\sigma_o = 2.3$  s,  $2\sigma_o / \mu_o = 0.16\%$
- Macrosegregation increases with arm spacing
- For  $M$ :  $\mu_o = 0.0534$ ,  $\sigma_o = 0.00543$ ,  $2\sigma_o / \mu_o = 20\%$

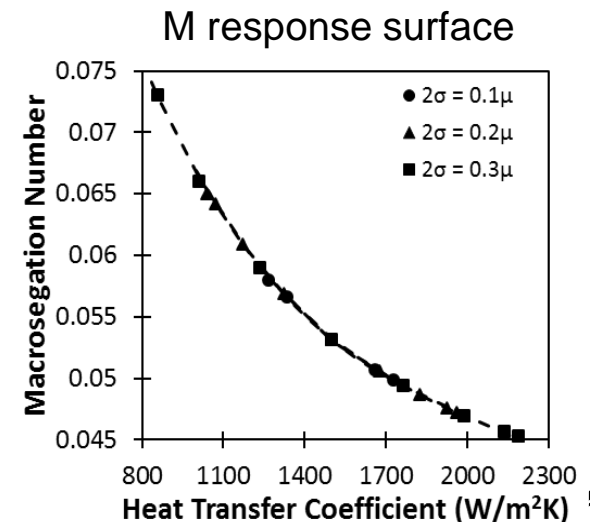
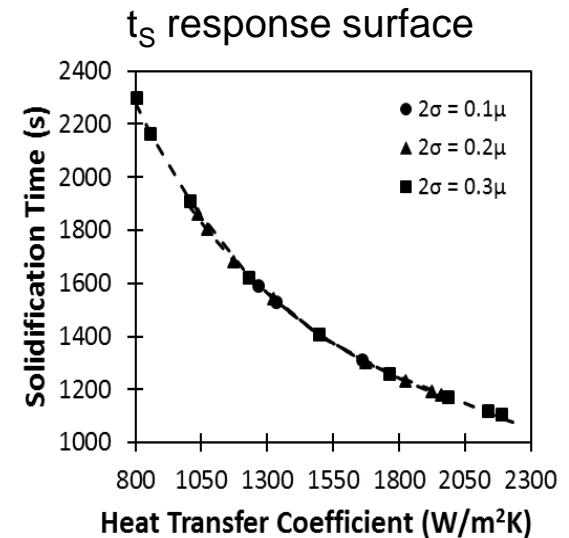






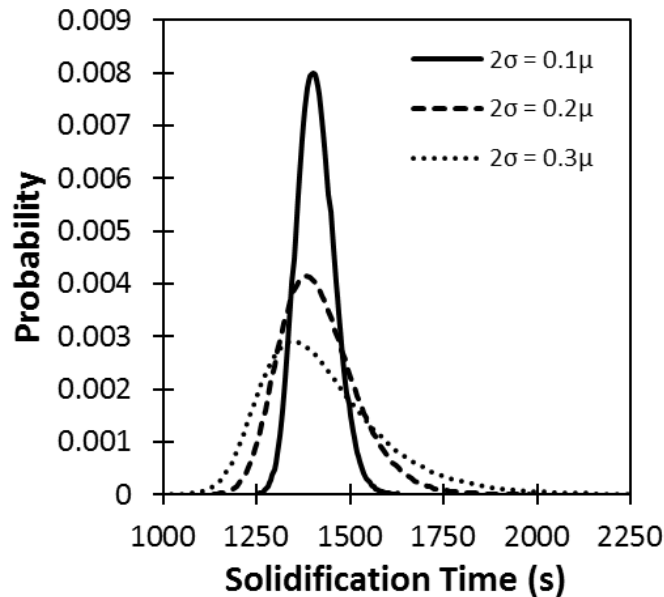
## Uncertainty in heat transfer boundary condition

- Another single input case
- Thermal boundary conditions are difficult to measure
- Frequently, experimental correlations are published without uncertainty information
- Three different input distributions were considered
  - $\sigma = 450 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$  ( $30\% \mu$ )
  - $\sigma = 300 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$  ( $20\% \mu$ )
  - $\sigma = 150 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$  ( $10\% \mu$ )





## Effect of heat transfer coefficient uncertainty: Solidification time



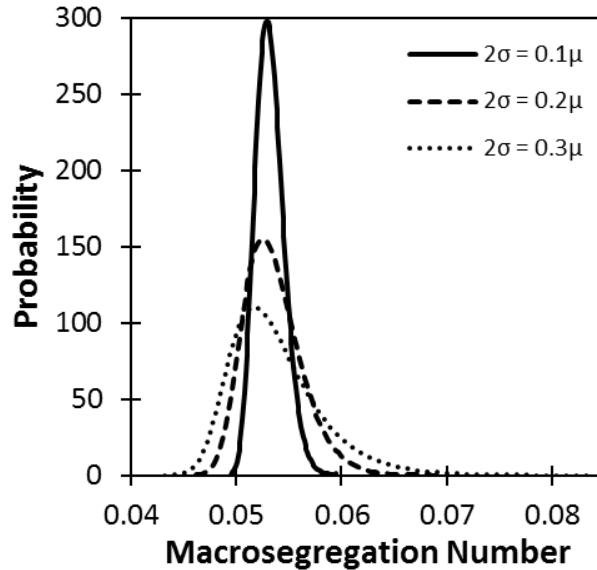
$h \sigma_i$	$ts \sigma_o$
$2\sigma = 30\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 23.2\% \mu$
$2\sigma = 20\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 14.5\% \mu$
$2\sigma = 10\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 7.2\% \mu$

The output uncertainty is lower than the input uncertainties

Boundary conditions need to be known better than 10% to have a solidification time prediction within 5%



## Effect of heat transfer coefficient uncertainty: Macroseggregation



$h \sigma_i$	$M \sigma_o$
$2\sigma = 30\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 16.2\% \mu$
$2\sigma = 20\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 10.4\% \mu$
$2\sigma = 10\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 5.2\% \mu$

Slower heat transfer leads to larger mushy zones and more buoyancy driven macroseggregation

Wider range of mushy zones allows more flow at the low  $h$  side of PDF and less at high  $h$ ; skews PDFs to low  $M$



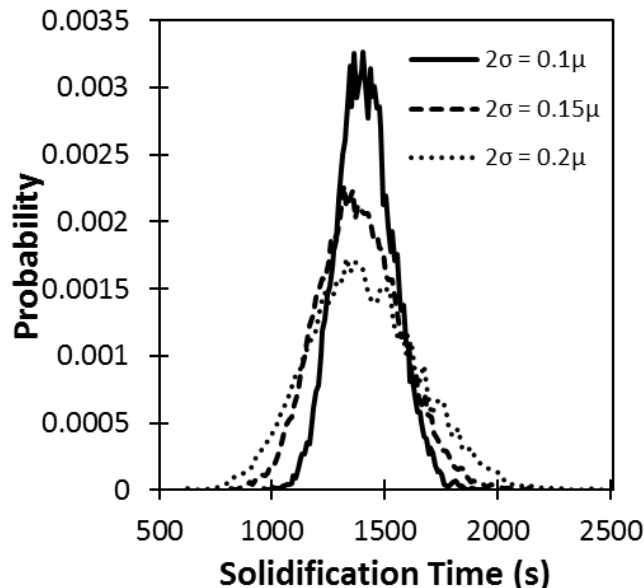
## Uncertainty in multiple inputs: material properties

- Material property values are measured with some uncertainty (is it reported?)
- Three different levels of uncertainty in input distributions were analyzed:
  - $2\sigma = 20\% \mu$
  - $2\sigma = 15\% \mu$
  - $2\sigma = 10\% \mu$

$\rho_s = 2750 \text{ kg/m}^3$
$\Delta\rho = \rho_l - \rho_s = -290 \text{ kg/m}^3$
$k = 137.5 \text{ W/mK}$
$c_p = 1006 \text{ J/kgK}$
$L_f = 390000 \text{ J/kg}$



## Effect of materials property uncertainty: Solidification time



- Uncertainties in these several input parameters combine to cause larger uncertainties in the solidification time than htc alone
- Large uncertainty in  $t_s$  even when the properties are known within 10%

How do the individual properties affect  $t_s$ ?

Input $\sigma_i$	$t_s \sigma_o$
$2\sigma = 20\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 36\% \mu$
$2\sigma = 15\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 26\% \mu$
$2\sigma = 10\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 18\% \mu$

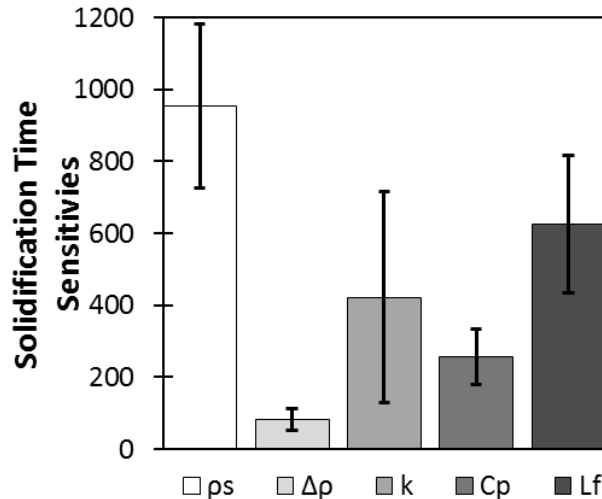


## Sensitivity of solidification time to uncertainty in material properties

- “Sensitivity” is defined as

$$S_i \approx \frac{\overline{\partial \hat{f}}}{\partial p_i} (n \sigma_i)$$

(complete definition in  
Morris, *Technometrics*, 1991, and  
Campolongo and Cariboni, *Env. Mod. Softw.*, 2007)

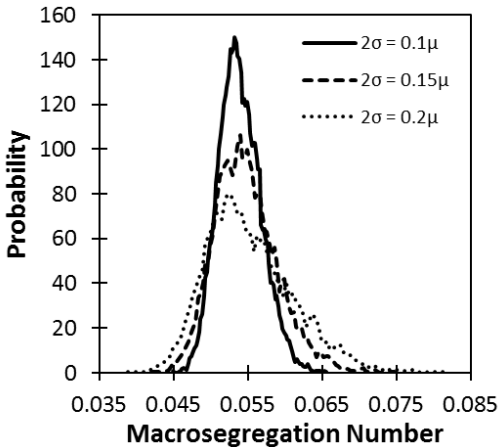


Sensitivities for  $2\sigma=0.15\mu$  case

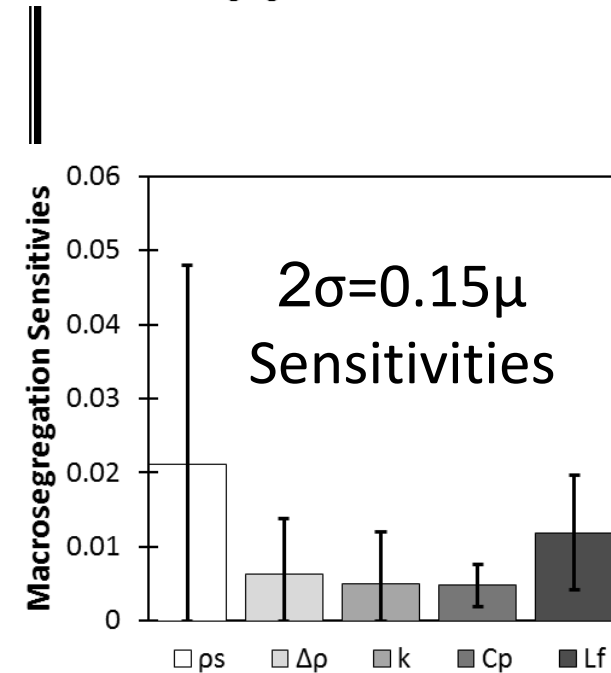
- Density (and liquid density level) has largest effect on solidification time
- Density affects sensible and latent thermal capacity and fluid flow
- Shrinkage driven flow (through  $\Delta\rho$ ) has the smallest effect on  $t_s$
- Latent heat and thermal conductivity are also important



# Sensitivity of macrosegregation to uncertainty in material properties



- $M$  less sensitive than  $t_s$  to properties
- $St \approx 0.2$  for this alloy (mushy zone thermal capacity and thickness dominated by latent heat)
- Macrosegregation is most sensitive to density (inertia, thermal capacity) and latent heat (thermal capacity)
- $M$  is more tolerant of uncertainty in  $k$ ,  $c_p$ , and solidification shrinkage



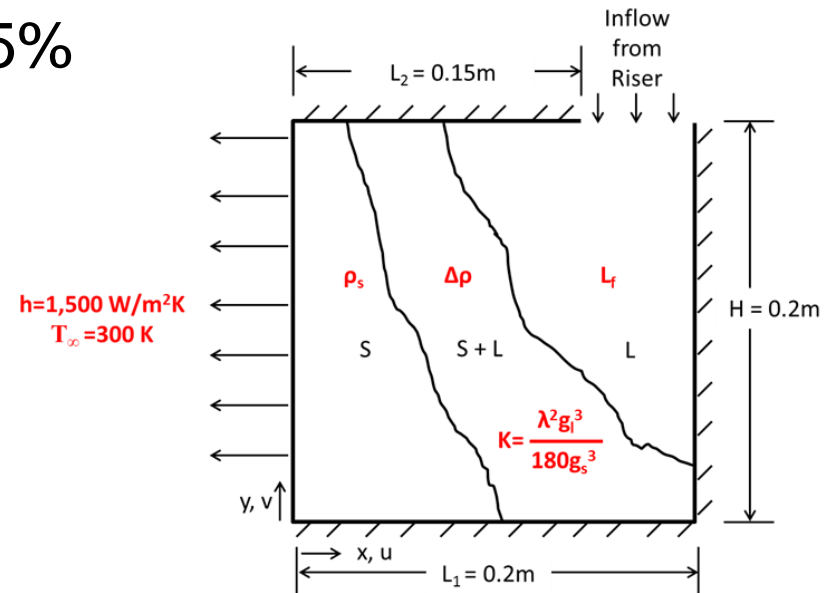
Input $\sigma_i$	$M \sigma_o$
$2\sigma = 20\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 22\% \mu$
$2\sigma = 15\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 15.6\% \mu$
$2\sigma = 10\% \mu$	$2\sigma = 10.6\% \mu$



## Effect on macrosegregation of uncertainty in material properties, heat transfer rate, and dendrite arm spacing

- Heat transfer, material property, and  $\lambda$  uncertainties analyzed together for  $M$
- Dendrite arm spacing:  $2\sigma = 15\%$
- Material properties:  $2\sigma = 15\%$
- Heat transfer:  $2\sigma = 20\%$

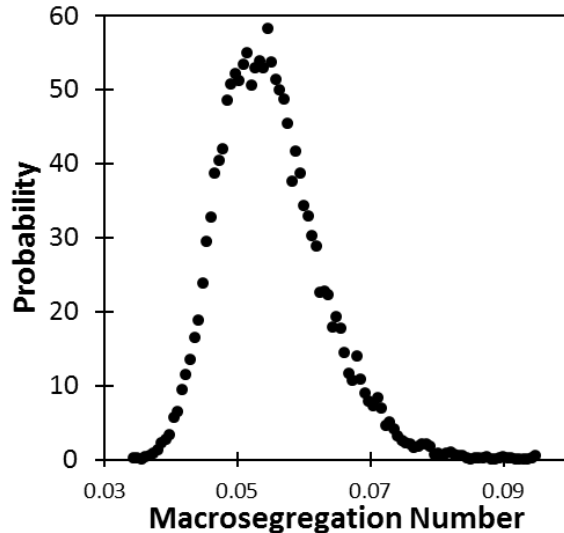
$k$  and  $c_p$  had the least influence on  $M$  and were neglected here



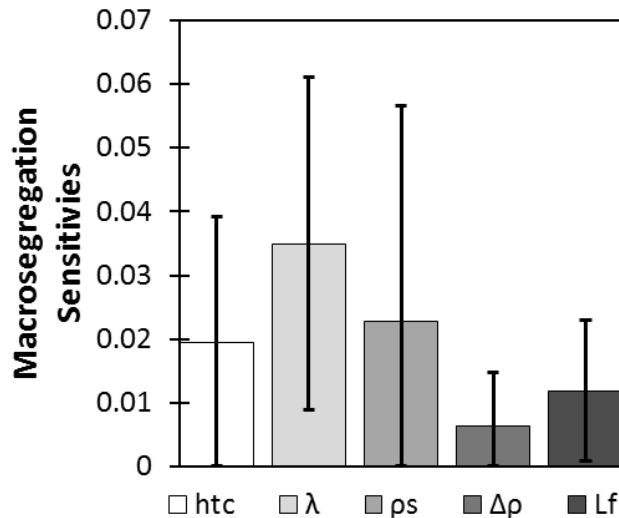




## Macrosegregation Uncertainty and Sensitivity



- Mean  $M = 0.055$
- $2\sigma$  of  $M = 0.0076$  (14%)
- $M$  has the largest average sensitivity to  $\lambda$  (controls flow)
- Heat transfer coefficient and density are next largest
- $M$  has the smallest average sensitivity to solidification shrinkage





## Observations from application to static casting

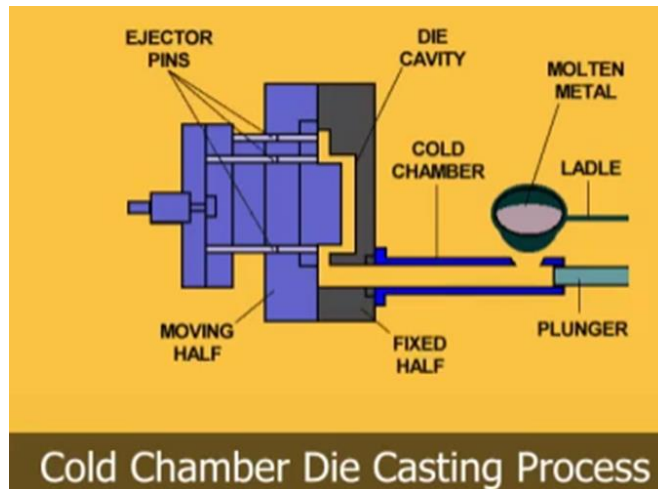
- $M$  and  $t_s$  most sensitive to density, perhaps easiest property to measure with low uncertainty
- Ranking of sensitivity depends on output of interest  
(e.g.,  $\lambda$  important to  $M$  but not  $t_s$ )
- Perhaps it is easier to reduce uncertainties in measurement of properties than, say  $\lambda$  or  $h$  – pick low-hanging fruit that has impact
- This type of analysis can help us answer Dr. Quested's question: what is the payoff to driving the uncertainty in property values lower? (and which property values?)
- But, how do we obtain the uncertainties of the inputs? Is that information available?



## A commercial application: Modeling High Pressure Die Casting

Use UQ process on application in real industrial setting

- High pressure die casting of aluminum part for car transmission
- Use commercial software for process modeling (license)

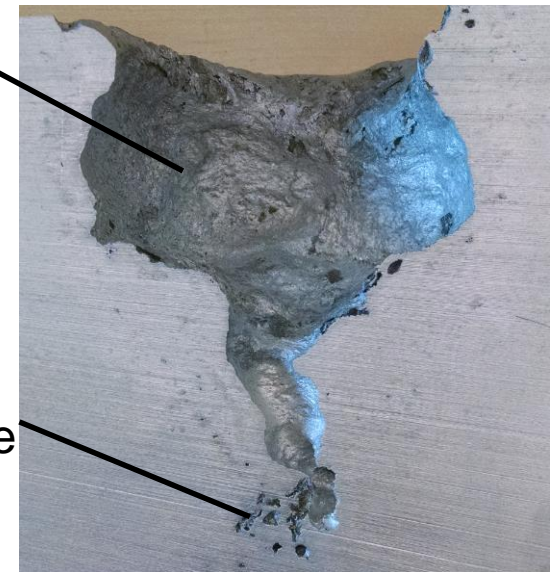


Cold Chamber Die Casting Process

North American Die Casting Association (NADCA)

External shrinkage

Internal shrinkage



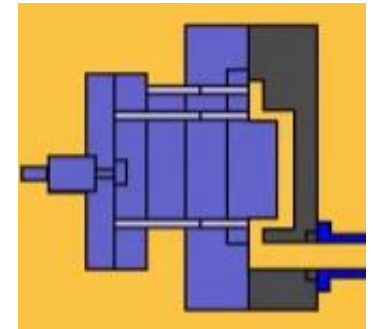
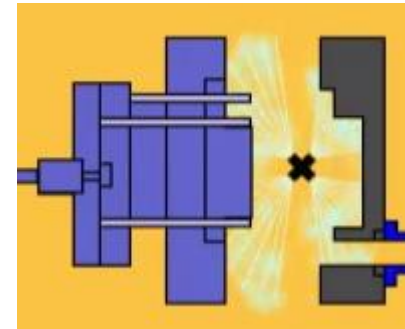
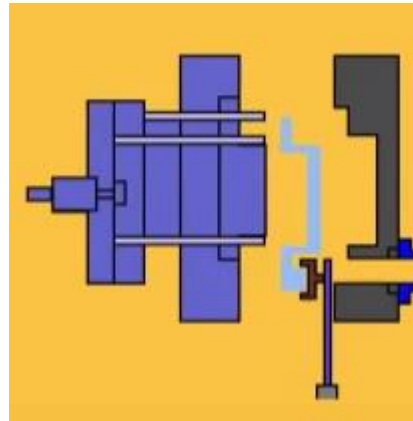
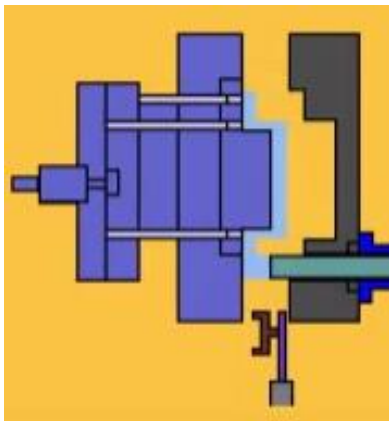
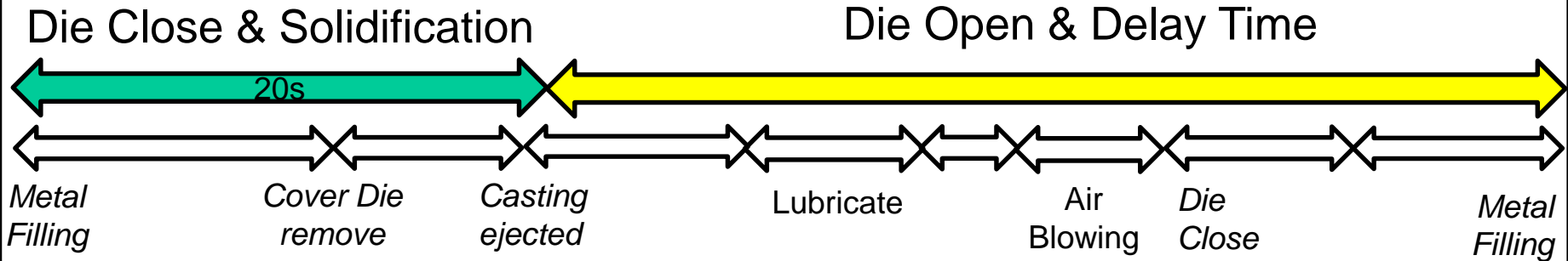
Outputs of Interest:

- Location and extent of porosity
- Solidification time



# High Pressure Die Casting Process

Casting cycle:

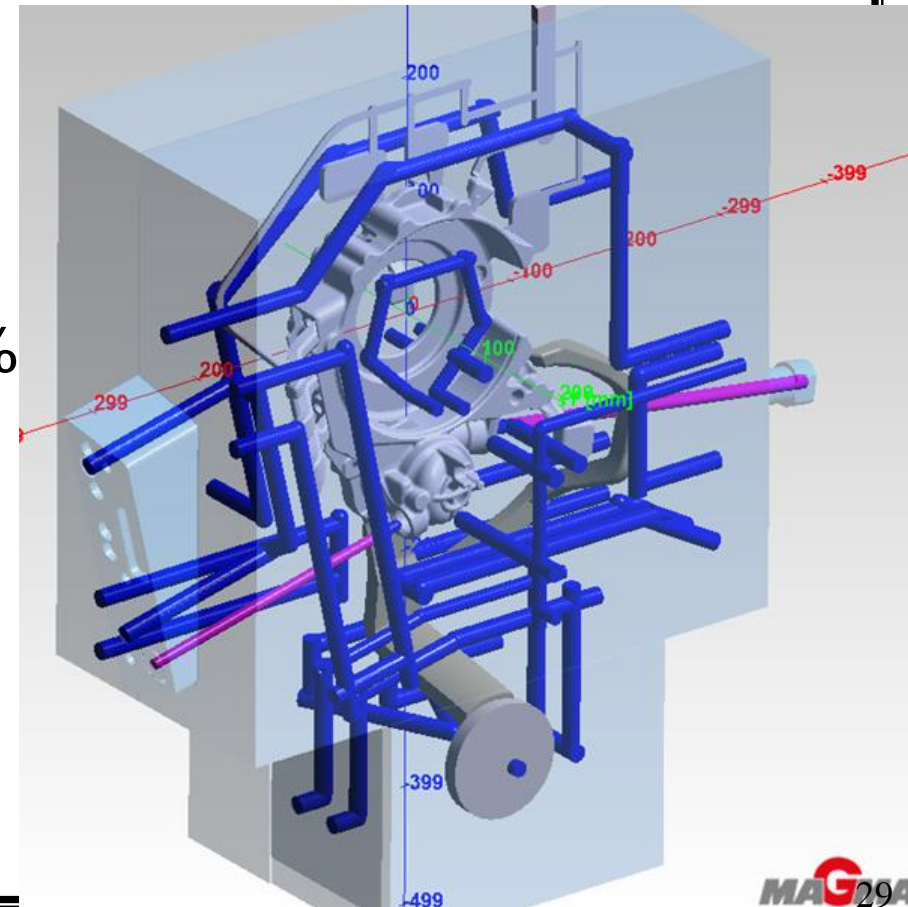


*North American Die Casting Association (NADCA)*



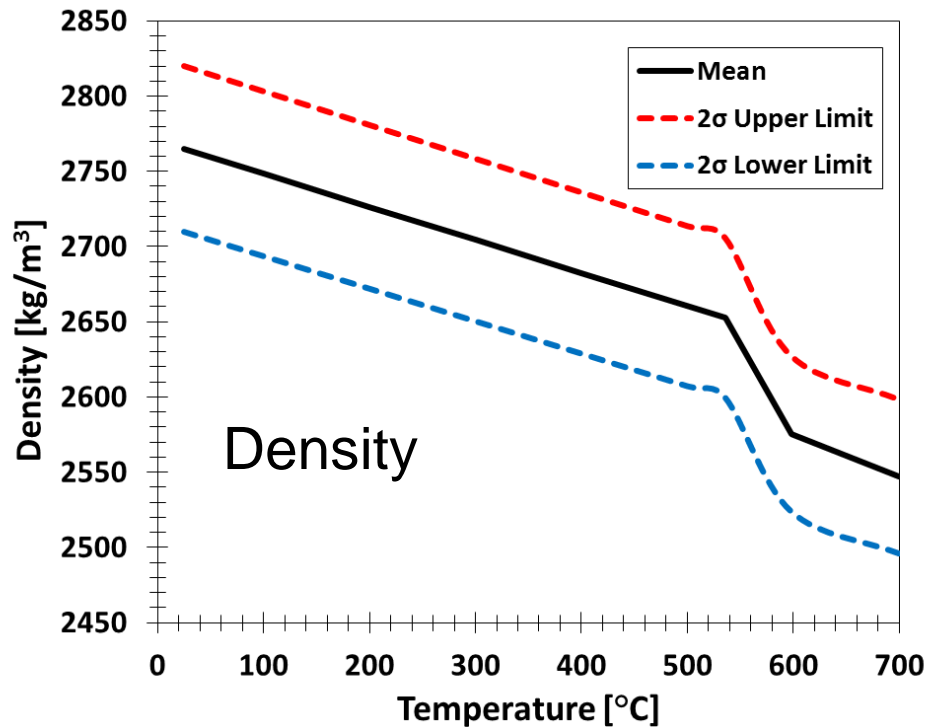
## Simulation of HPDC Process

- Commercial software: MAGMA
- 9 Heating Cycles +  
1 “Production” Cycle
- A380 part, H13 steel mold
- Initial Al temperature = 643 °C
- Initial die temperature = 25 °C
- Default Feeding Effectivity: 30%
- No filling process simulation
- No fluid flow
- Types of uncertainty:
  - Material properties
  - Boundary conditions



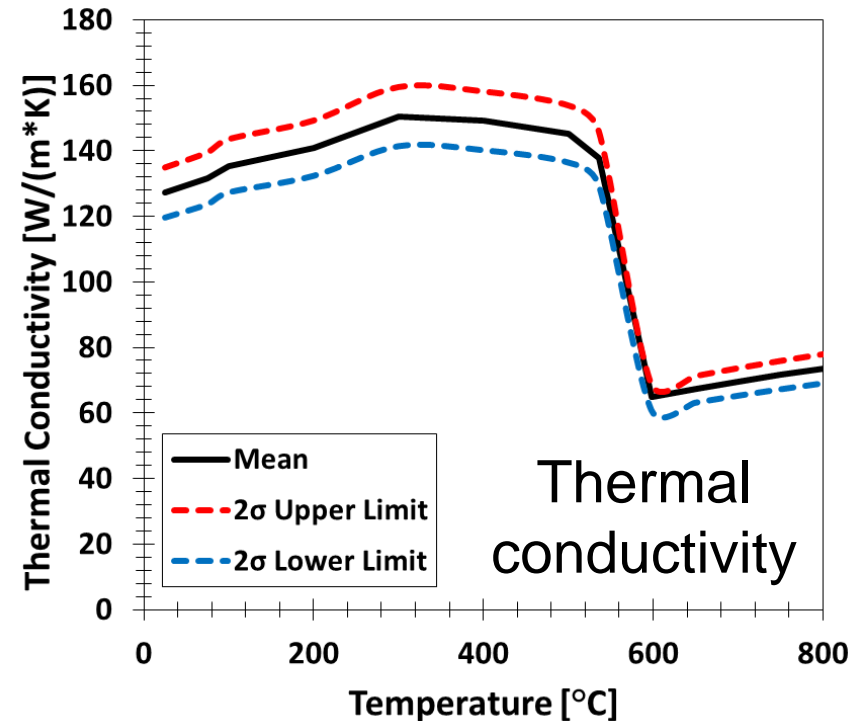


## Property uncertainty: density and thermal conductivity



Experimental uncertainty of  $\pm 2\%$

Overfelt et al., *High Temp.-High Pressures*, 2002



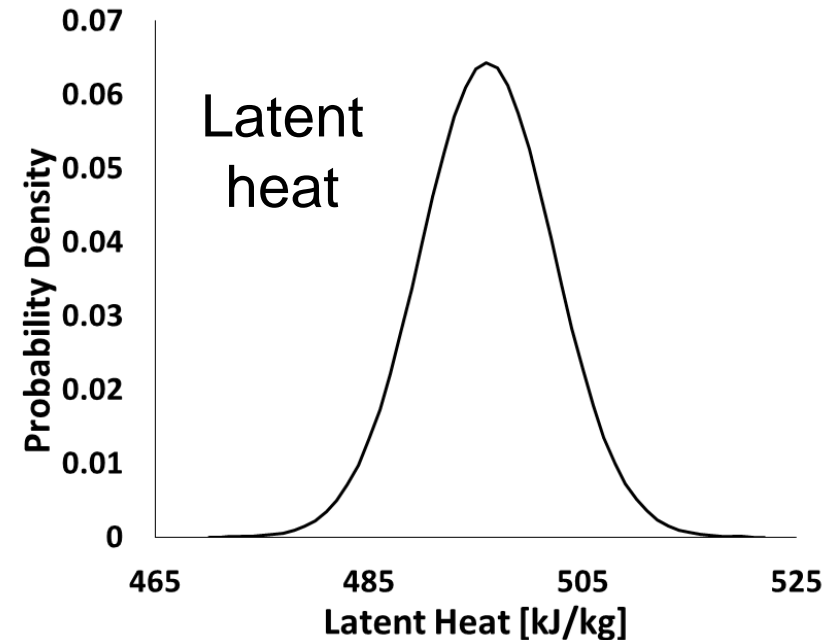
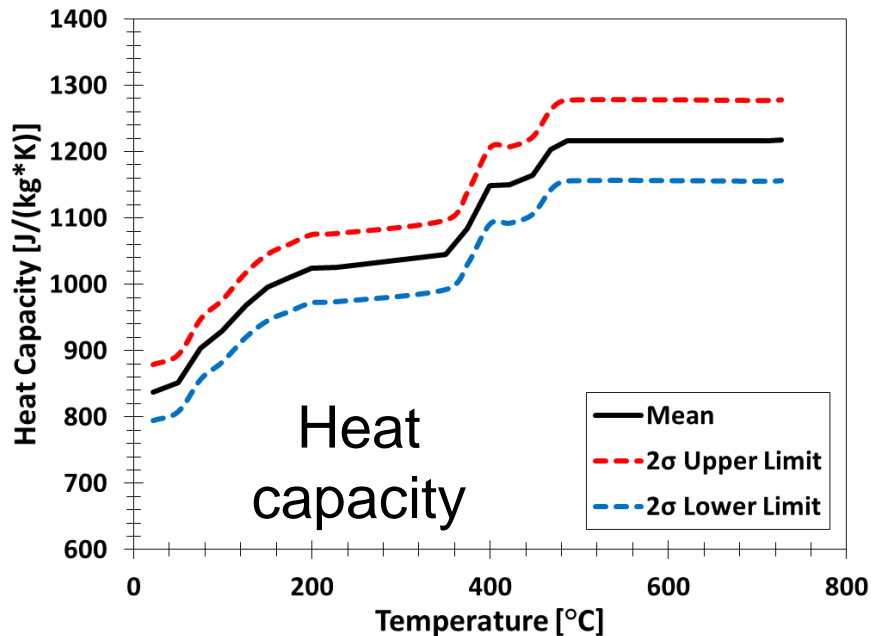
Experimental uncertainty of  $\pm 6\%$

Brandt et al., *Int. J. Thermophysics*, 2007





## Property uncertainty: heat capacity and latent heat

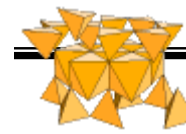


- Data for A380 not available
- Used data for A319 (similar composition)
- Experimental uncertainty of  $\pm 5\%$

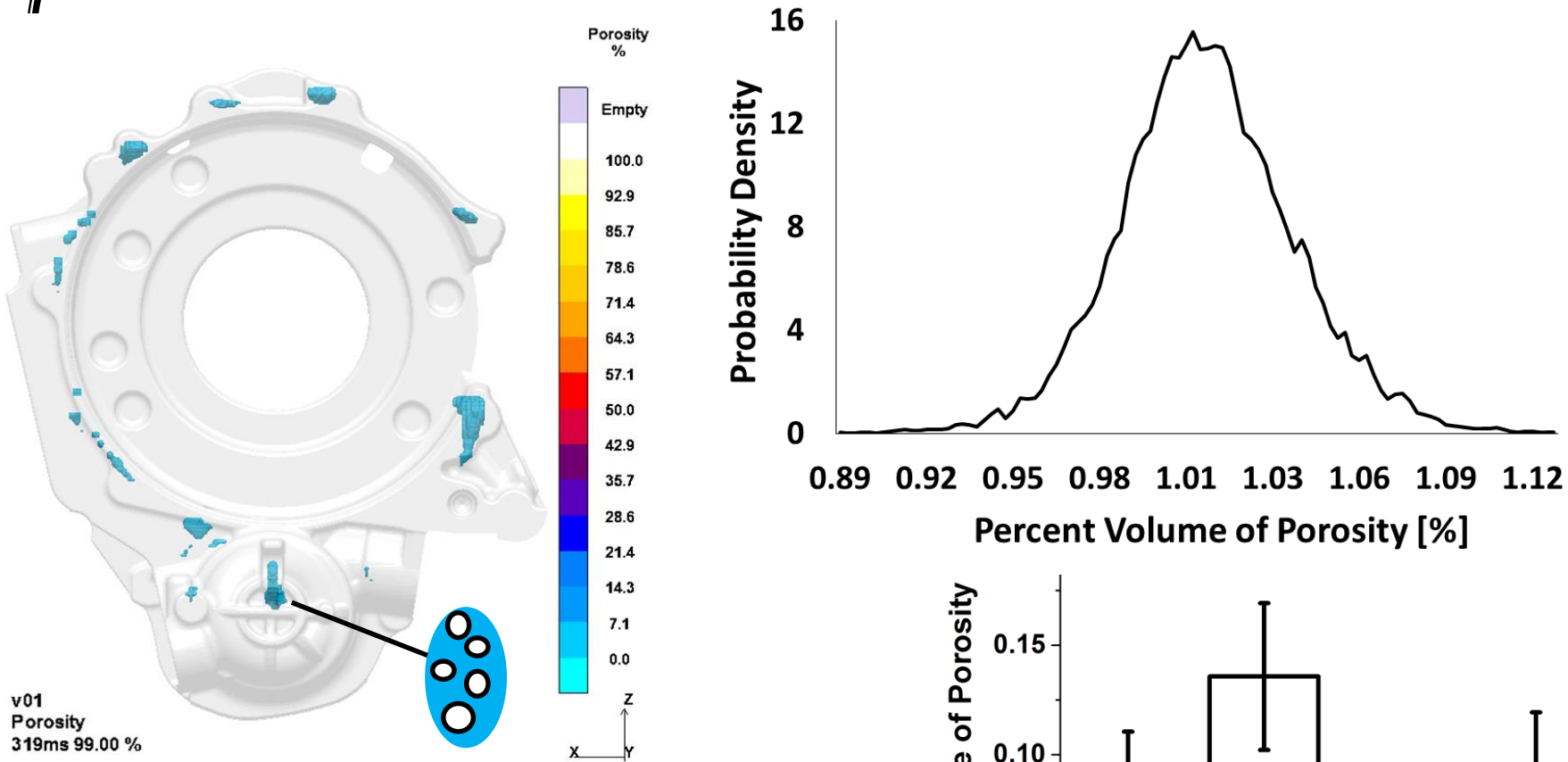
Experimental uncertainty of  $\pm 2.5\%$

Đurđević et al, *Metalurgija*, 2003

Rudtsch, *Thermochimica Acta*, 2002



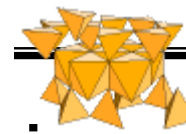
# Uncertainty in Porosity due to property uncertainty



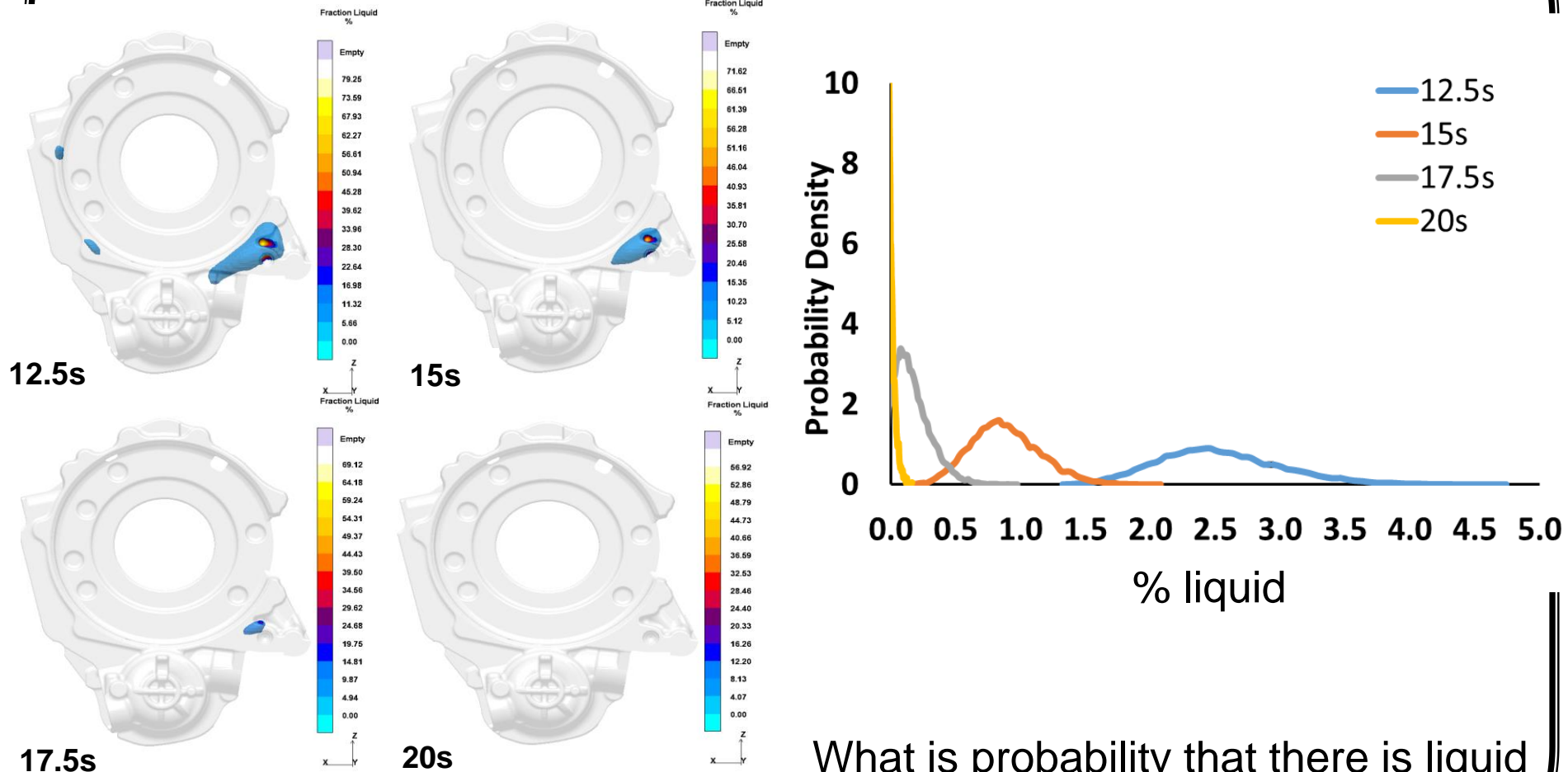
v01  
Porosity  
319ms 99.00 %

- $\mu = 1.01\%$ ,  $\sigma = 0.03\%$ ,  $2\sigma/\mu = 5.9\%$
- Small effect on porosity predictions





# Uncertainty in fraction liquid remaining due to property uncertainty

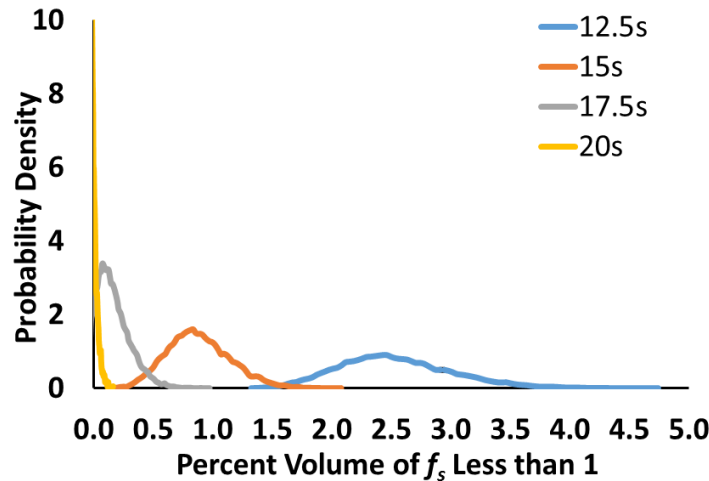


What is probability that there is liquid left at ejection time?

Colored regions are volumes not fully solid

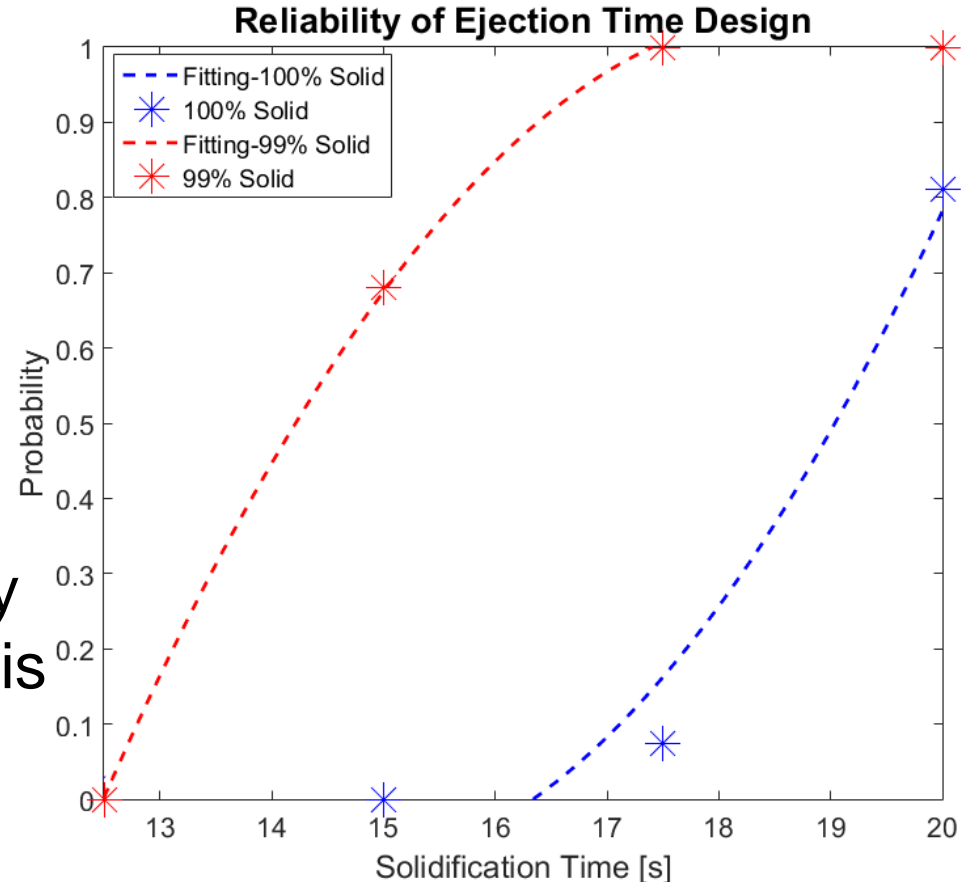


# Uncertainty in fraction liquid remaining due to property uncertainty



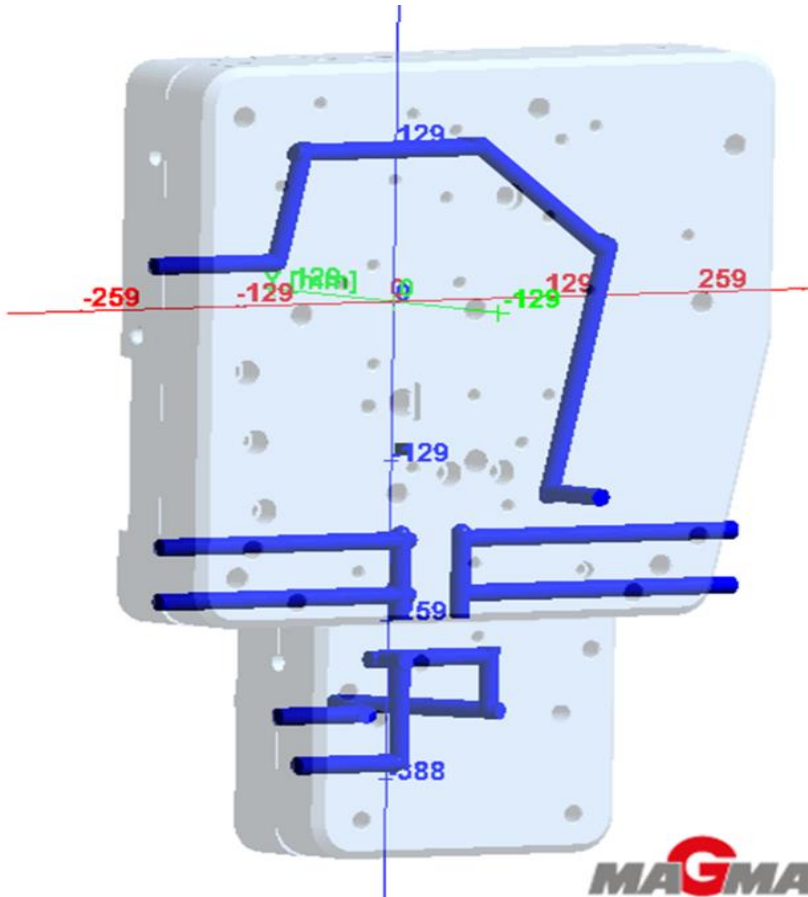
Cannot ensure casting fully solid at 20 s, but 99% solid is possible

Current process reasonable, with no one property dominating output uncertainty





# Uncertainty in Cooling Conditions: straight tubes



Dittus-Boelter equation

$$Nu_D = 0.023 Re_D^{0.8} Pr^{0.3}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} 0.6 \leq Pr \leq 160 \\ Re_D \geq 10,000 \\ \frac{L}{D} \geq 10 \end{array} \right]$$

Under process conditions, heat transfer coefficient is (in W/m<sup>2</sup>K):

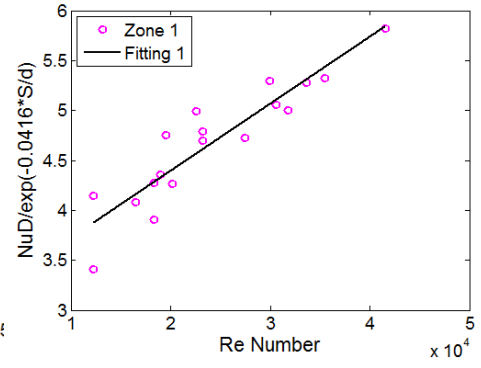
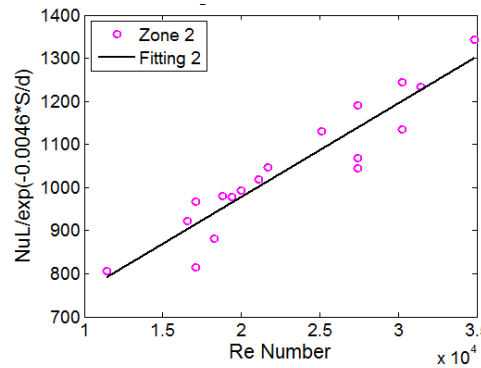
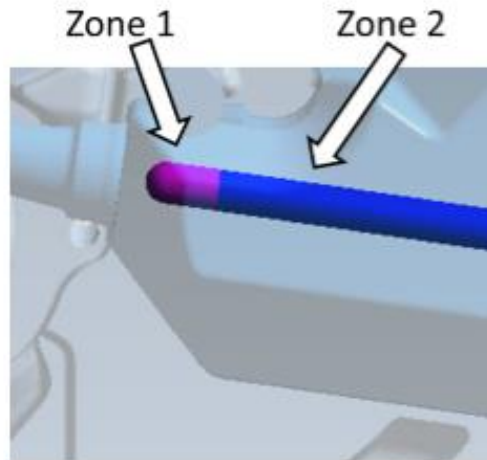
$$\mu = 8000, 2\sigma = 1600$$

(20% uncertainty)

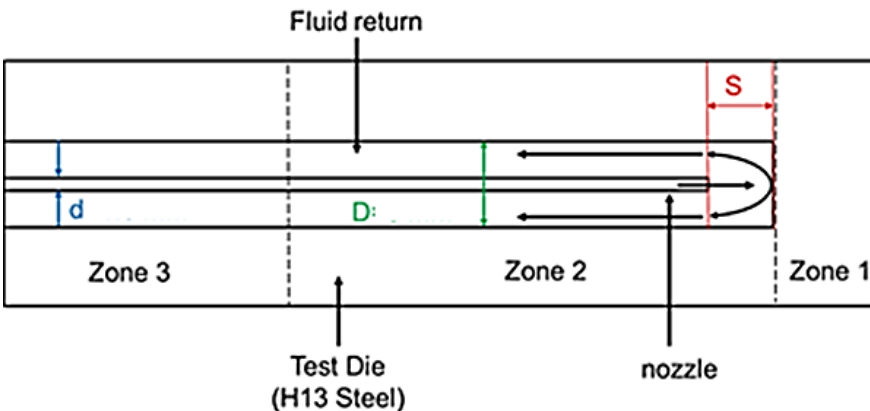
Jo et al., *Nuc. Eng. Tech.*, 2014



# Uncertainty in Cooling Conditions: cooling jets



- Data fit to correlations for heat transfer coefficients as function of water flow rate
- Under process conditions, heat transfer coefficients are (in W/m<sup>2</sup>K):



- Zone 1:  $\mu = 234.01$ ,  $2\sigma = 27.84$
- Zone 2:  $\mu = 3509.18$ ,  $2\sigma = 427.8$
- $2\sigma/\mu \approx 12\%$  for both cases

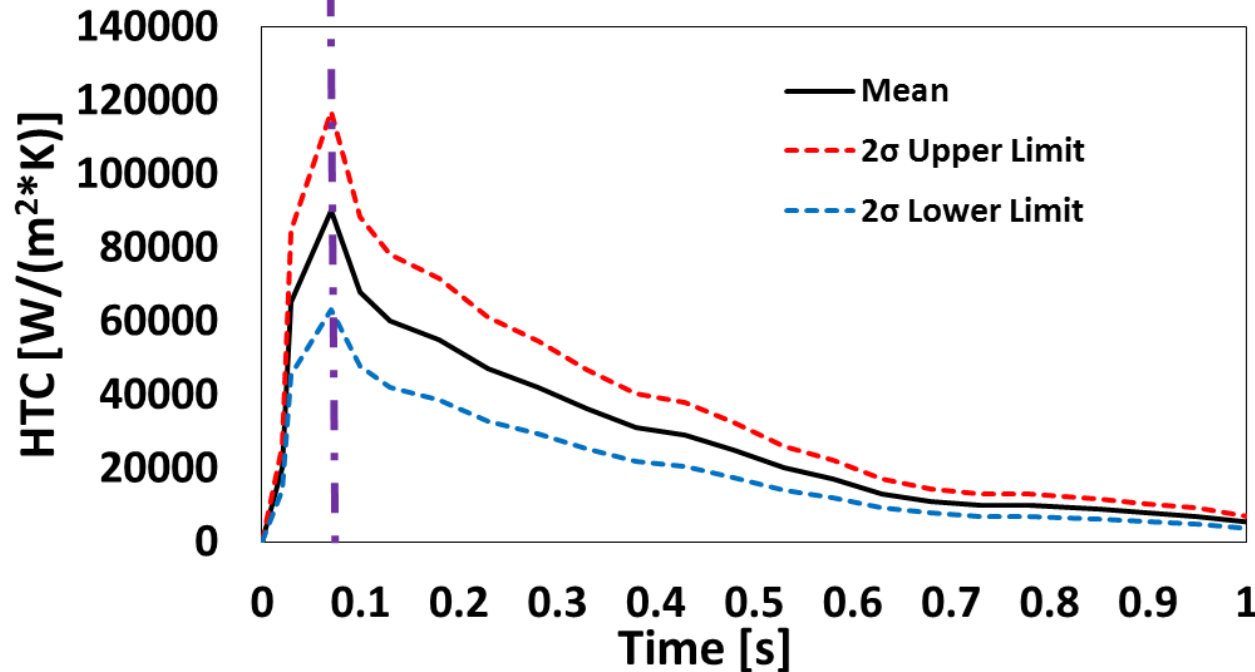


# Uncertainty in Cooling Conditions: metal-die interface

*Filling*

*Solidification*

Dargusch et al, *Adv. Eng. Mater.*, 2007



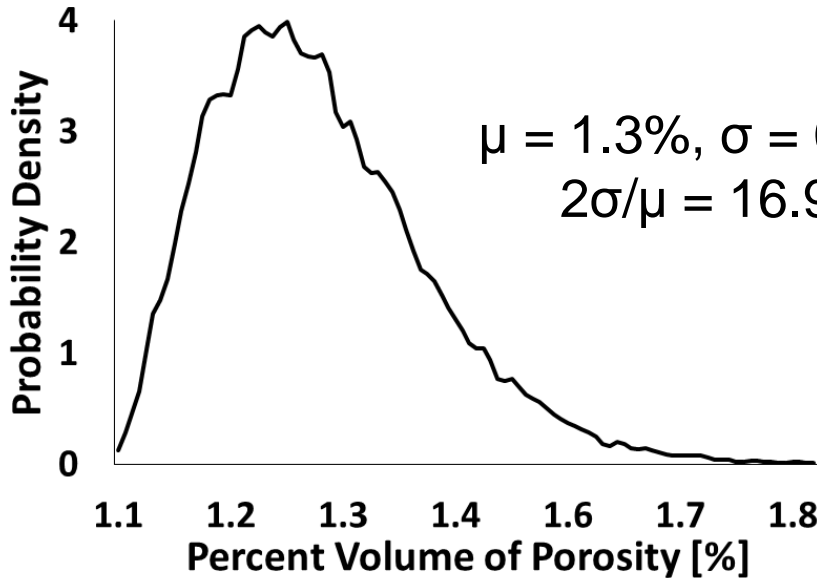
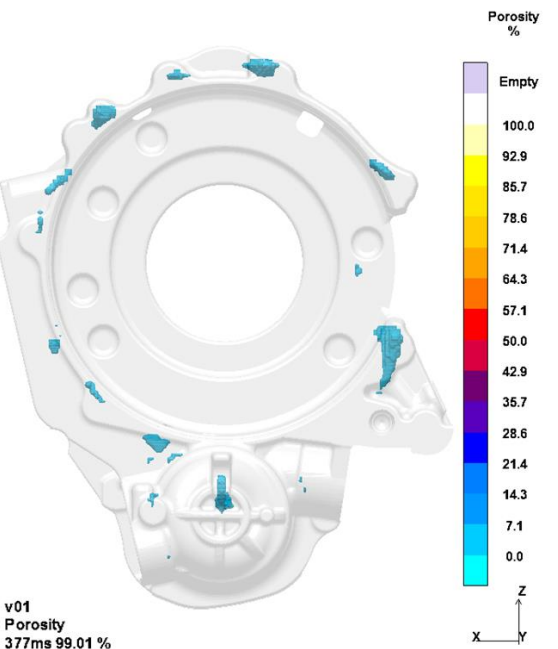
Experimental  
uncertainty of  
 $\pm 30\%$

HTC is highest at end of filling, with pressure on liquid.

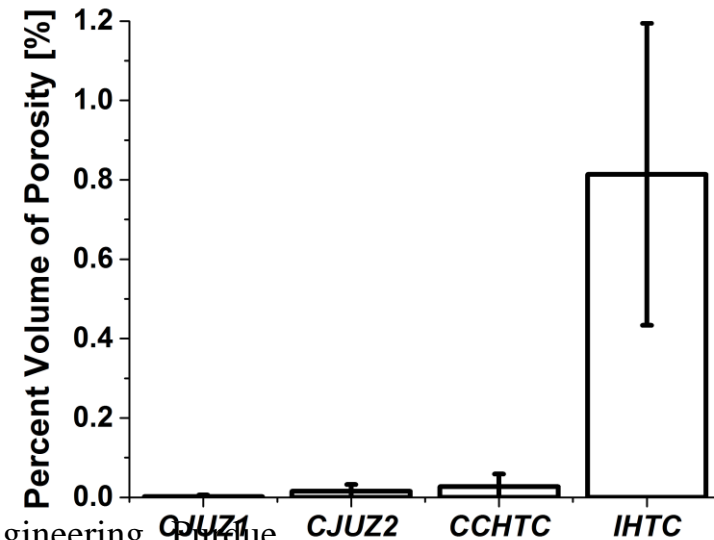
HTC decreases as shrinkage pulls metal from die.



# Uncertainty in Porosity due to HTC uncertainty

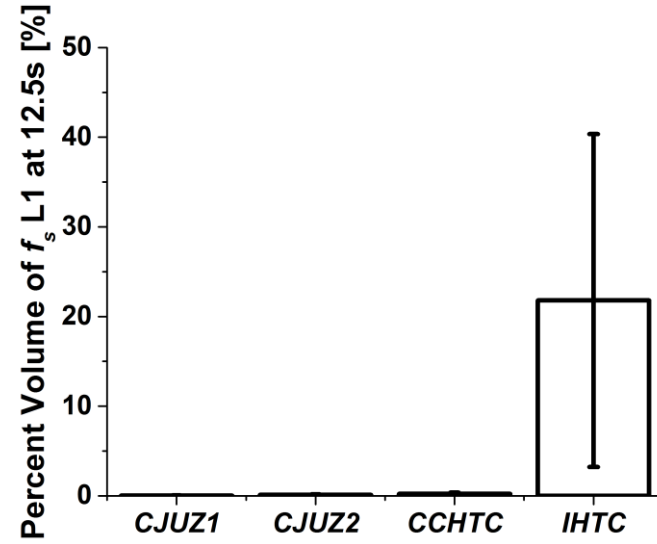
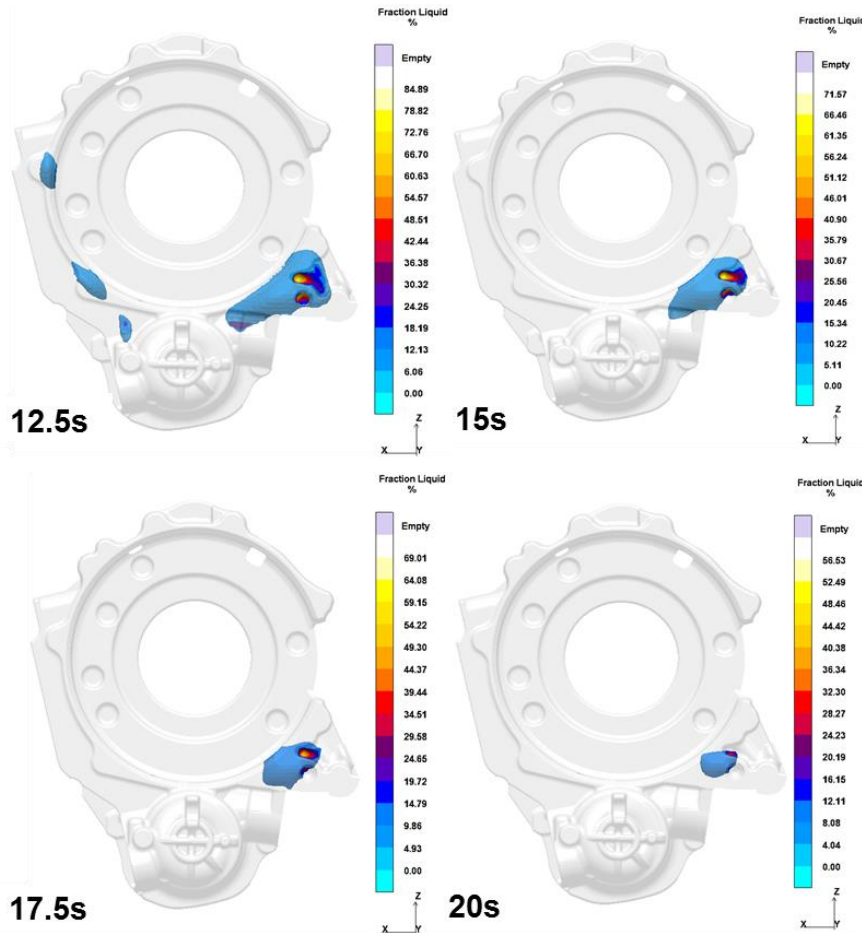


- Predicted porosity uncertainty is nearly 3 times larger than that due to material properties
- Only interfacial heat transfer has an effect on porosity development (dominant cooling mechanism)



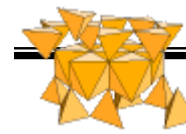


# Sensitivity of fraction liquid remaining to HTC uncertainty

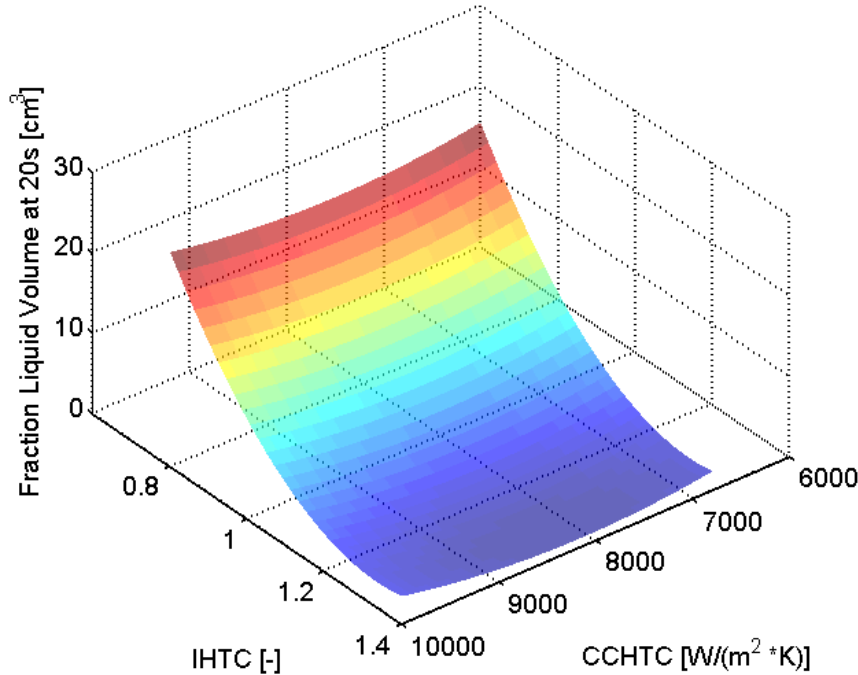


Fraction liquid results are most sensitive to uncertainty in interfacial heat transfer



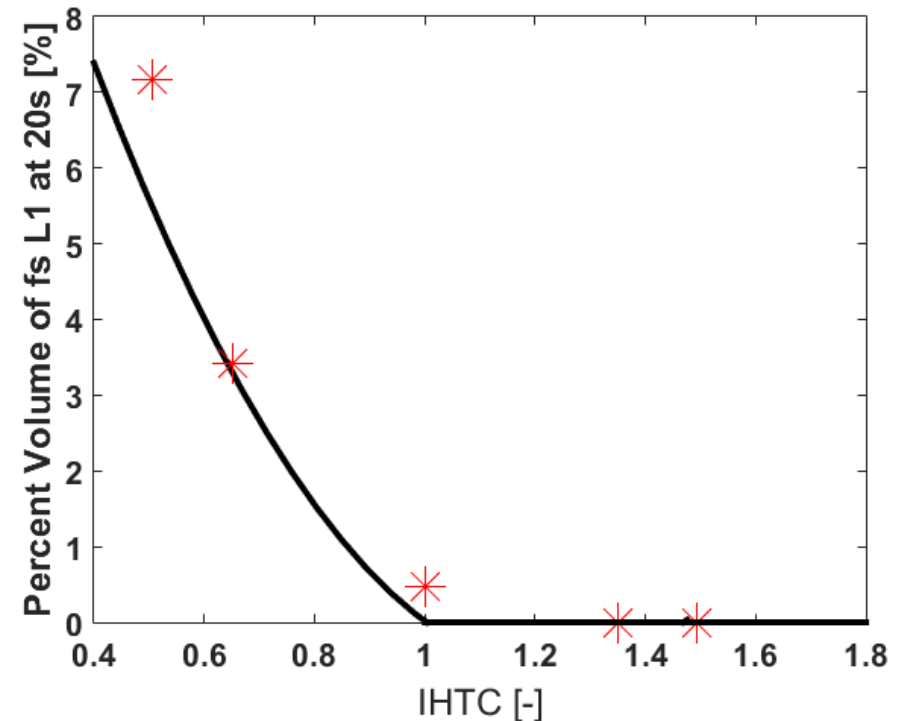


## Response surface for fraction liquid remaining due to HTC uncertainty



Use of polynomials for response surfaces can lead to nonphysical results (e.g., fraction liquids < 0)

Need to correct surrogate model as a function of IHTC

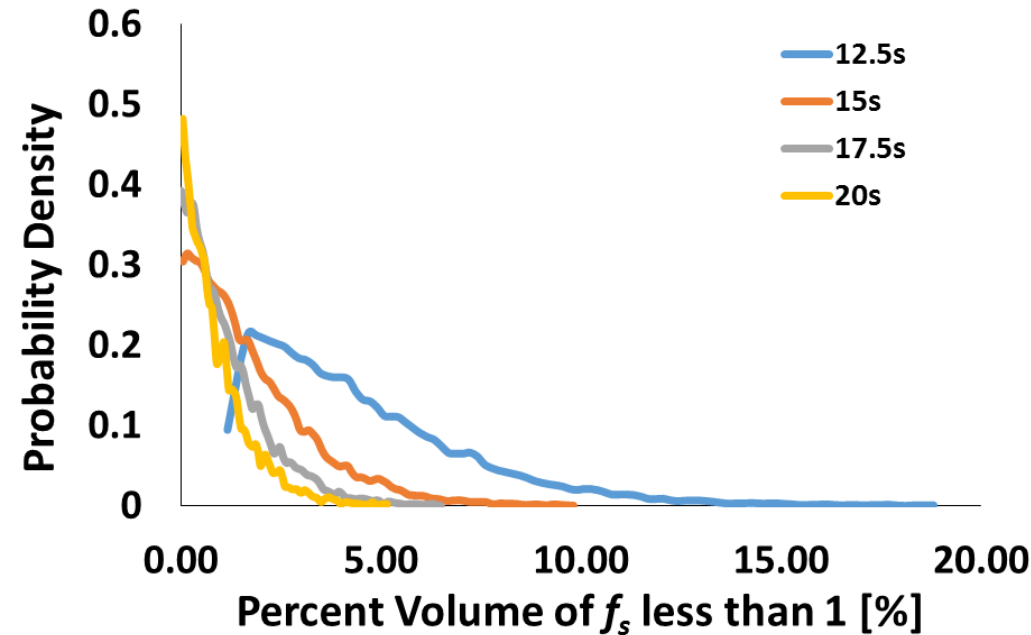




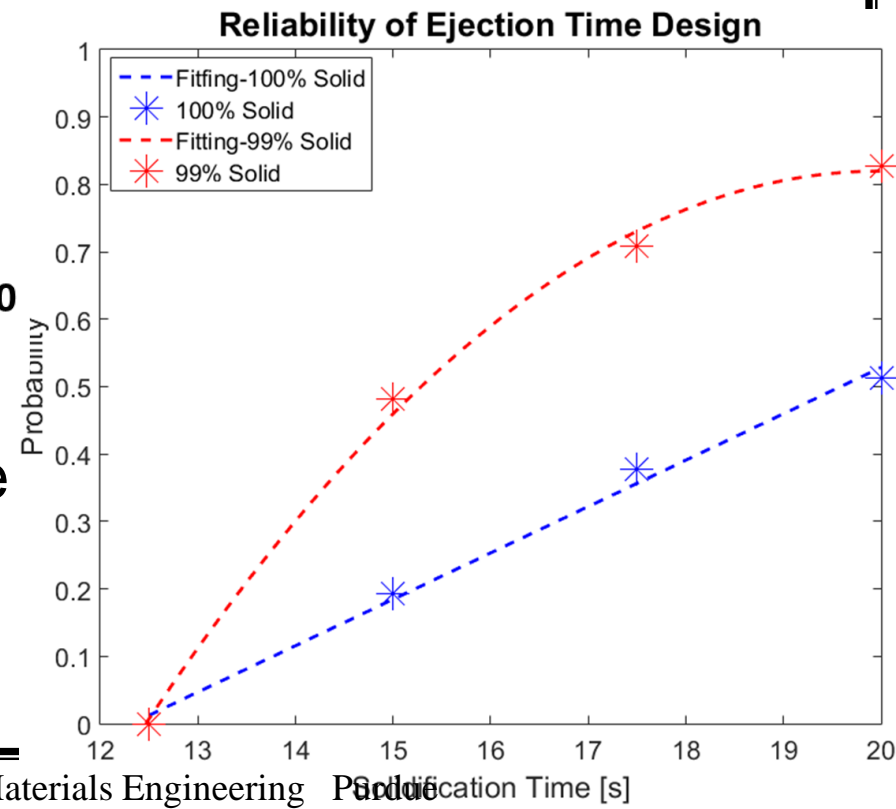


## Uncertainty in fraction liquid remaining due to HTC uncertainty

Uncertainty in interfacial heat transfer produces large uncertainty that all metal is solid at ejection



Current analysis suggests that the highest fraction solid with almost 100% certainty is ~98%





## Observations from application to commercial HPDC process

- Ranked influence of material property and boundary condition uncertainty on PDFs of porosity and remaining liquid
- Most important factor is uncertainty in interfacial heat transfer
  - Uncertainty in other thermal conditions not critical for predicting outputs of interest
  - Material properties have only small influence
- Under current conditions, there is a probability that some liquid may remain at part ejection: Is this a problem?
- Can use UQ process in alterations of old or design of new processes



## Recent and forthcoming articles on this topic

- K. Fezi and M.J.M. Krane, “Uncertainty Quantification in modeling equiaxed alloy solidification,” *International Journal of Cast Metal Research*, published online, 8/10/16.
- K. Fezi, M. J. M. Krane, "Uncertainty quantification in solidification modeling," in *Modeling of Casting, Welding and Advanced Solidification Processes - XIV*, H. Yasuda et al (eds.) IOP (2015).
- K. Fezi and M. J.M. Krane, “Uncertainty Quantification in modeling metal alloy solidification,” in review.
- A. Plotkowski and M.J.M. Krane, “Quantification of epistemic uncertainty in grain attachment models for equiaxed solidification,” in review.
- K. Fezi and M. J. M. Krane, “Uncertainty propagation in numerical modeling of aluminum direct chill casting,” in review.