

## Measurement uncertainty in MS Excel and R

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## Introduction

- Introduction to numerical methods for uncertainty evaluation
- Kragten's method
- Measurement uncertainty in R
  - The metRology package

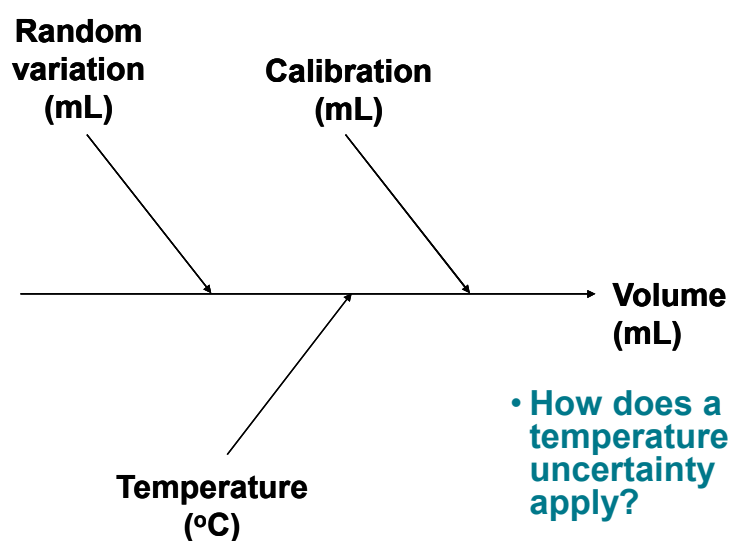
## A volumetric example



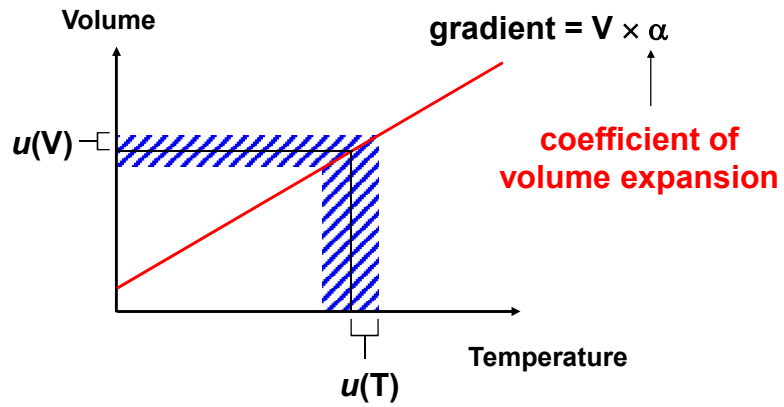
- Dispense 100ml
- from a Calibrated volumetric flask ( $U = 0.2$  ml,  $k=2$ )
- allowing for random filling effects ( $s = 0.1$  ml)
- at a laboratory temperature  $20 \pm 2$  °C
  
- Estimate the uncertainty in dispensed volume at 20 °C



## Example: The effect of temperature on volume



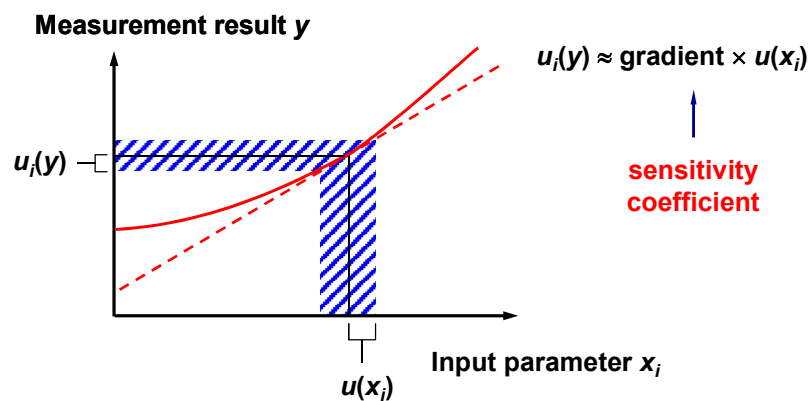
## Example: The effect of temperature on volume



$$u(V) = \text{gradient} \times u(T)$$



## Uncertainty propagation



## Mathematical form of uncertainty



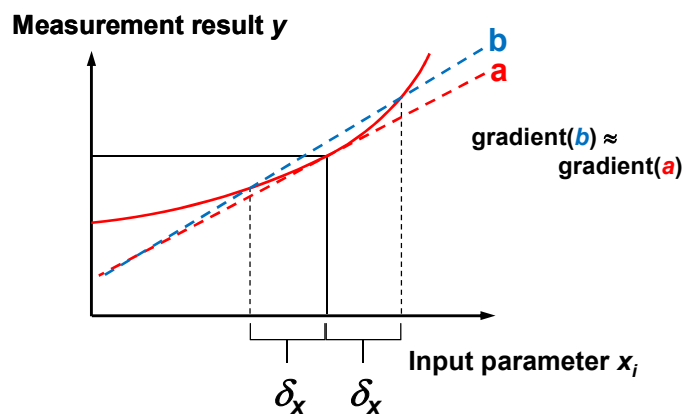
- $x_i$  parameter affecting analytical result  $y$
- $u(x_i)$  uncertainty in  $x_i$
- $u_i(y)$  uncertainty in  $y$  due to uncertainty in  $x_i$

$$u_i(y) = \sqrt{\sum_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right)^2 u(x_i)^2}$$

↑  
**sensitivity coefficient**



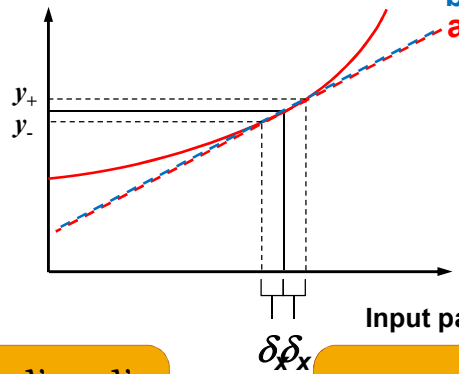
## Finite difference method



# Finite difference method



Measurement result  $y$



$\delta_x \rightarrow 0$   
 gradient( $b$ )  $\rightarrow$   
 gradient( $a$ )

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \approx \frac{y_+ - y_-}{2\delta_{x_i}}$$

$$u_i(y) \approx \frac{y_+ - y_-}{2\delta_{x_i}} u(x_i)$$

# Compare finite difference with the GUM



## GUM first order

Expression:  $a/(b - c)$

Uncertainty budget:

x	u	c	u.c
a	1	0.05	0.05
b	3	0.15	-0.15
c	2	0.10	0.10

y: 1  
 u(y): 0.1870829

## Finite Difference

Expression:  $a/(b - c)$

Uncertainty budget:

x	u	c	u.c
a	1	0.05	1.000000 0.0500000
b	3	0.15	-1.000002 -0.1500003
c	2	0.10	1.000001 0.1000001

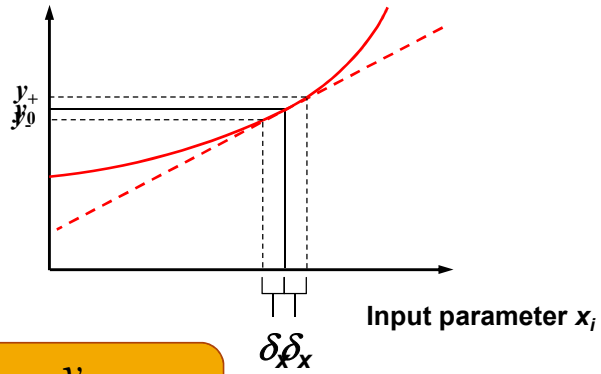
y: 1  
 u(y): 0.1870832



## Kragten's method



Measurement result  $y$



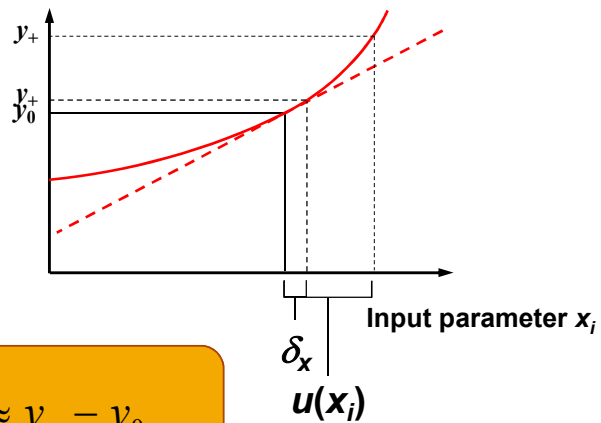
$$u_i(y) \approx \frac{y_+ - y_0}{\delta_{x_i}} u(x_i)$$



## Kragten's method



Measurement result  $y$



$$u_i(y) \approx y_+ - y_0$$



# Compare Kragten with FD



## Finite Difference

Expression:  $a/(b - c)$

### Uncertainty budget:

	x	u	c	u.c
a	1	0.05	1.000000	0.0500000
b	3	0.15	-1.000002	-0.1500003
c	2	0.10	1.000001	0.1000001

y: 1  
u(y): 0.1870832

## Kragten

Expression:  $a/(b - c)$

### Uncertainty budget:

	x	u	c	u.c
a	1	0.05	1.0000	0.05000
b	3	0.15	-0.8695	-0.13043
c	2	0.10	1.1111	0.11111

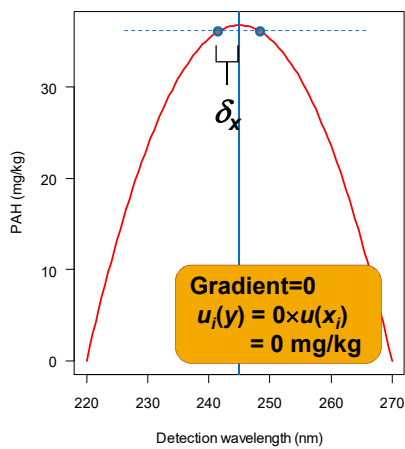
y: 1  
u(y): 0.1784906



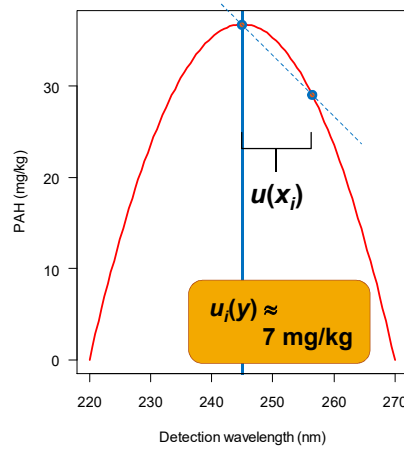
# Why use a 'less accurate' method?



## Finite difference



## Kragten



## Finite difference methods compared



### Finite difference 1<sup>st</sup> order

- Accurate gradient
- Faithfully reproduces 1<sup>st</sup> order GUM uncertainty
- Simple to calculate
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> order GUM is insufficient for highly non-linear cases
  - Needs 2<sup>nd</sup> and higher order

### Kragten

- Exact only for linear examples
- Does not reproduce 1<sup>st</sup> order GUM
- Simple to calculate
  
- Usually adequate for mild nonlinearity
- May be better for highly non-linear cases

Both much simpler than manual differentiation



Measurement uncertainty in R:  
The metrology package





## What is ...



- R

- “R is an integrated suite of software facilities for data manipulation, calculation and graphical display”
  - Free, open source package for statistical analysis and programming
  - Extensible via “packages”

- The metRology package

- An R package for statistics applied to metrology
- metrology: The science of measurement



## Functionality: What does it do?



“metRology provides classes and calculation and plotting functions for metrology applications, including measurement uncertainty estimation and inter-laboratory metrology comparison studies.”

<https://r-forge.r-project.org/projects/metrology/>

25 September 2017

- Measurement uncertainty estimation
- Support for interlaboratory studies



## Uncertainty implementations in metRology



- Direct combination of contributions

$$u_i(y) = u(x_i) \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}$$

- Algebraic differentiation of  $f(x_1, \dots)$

- Numerical differentiation

- Kragten's method

$$u(x_i) \partial y / \partial x_i \approx f(x_i + u(x_i)) - f(x_i)$$

- Symmetric finite difference

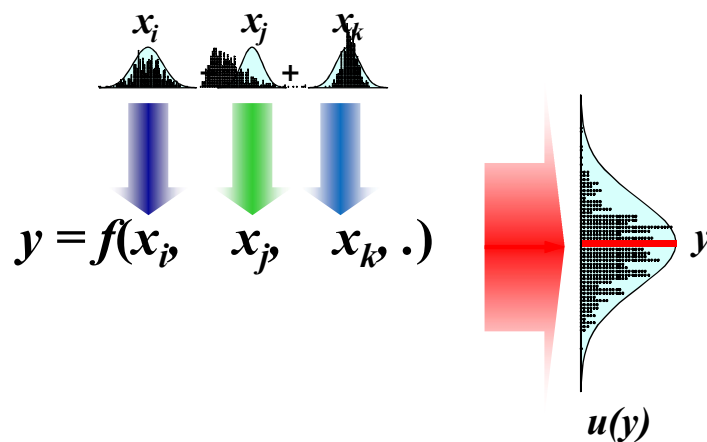
$$\partial y / \partial x_i \approx [f(x_i + \delta x_i) - f(x_i - \delta x_i)] / 2 \delta x_i$$



## Uncertainty implementations in metRology



### 2. Monte Carlo (GUM Supplement 1)



## Examples



```
expr <- expression(a+b*2+c*3+d/2)
# a=1(0.1), b=3(0.3), c=2(0.2), d=11(1.1)
u.expr<-uncert(expr, x, u, method="NUM")
```

```
#Compare with default:
uncert(u=c(0.1, 0.3, 0.2, 1.1), c=c(1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 0.5))
```

```
#... or with function method
f <- function(a,b,c,d) a+b*2+c*3+d/2
u.fun<-uncert(f, x, u, method="NUM")
```

```
#.. or with the formula method
u.form<-uncert(~a+b*2+c*3+d/2, x, u, method="NUM")
```



## Examples (cont.)



Uncertainty evaluation

Call:

```
uncert.expression(expr = expr, x = x, u = u, method = "NUM")
```

Expression:  $a + b * 2 + c * 3 + d/2$

**Evaluation method:** NUM

**Uncertainty budget:**

	x	u	c	u.c
a	1	0.1	1.0	0.10
b	3	0.3	2.0	0.60
c	2	0.2	3.0	0.60
d	11	1.1	0.5	0.55

**y:** 18.5

**u(y):** 1.01612



## A more interesting Monte carlo case



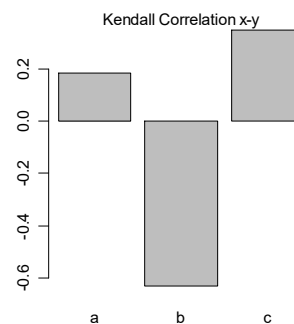
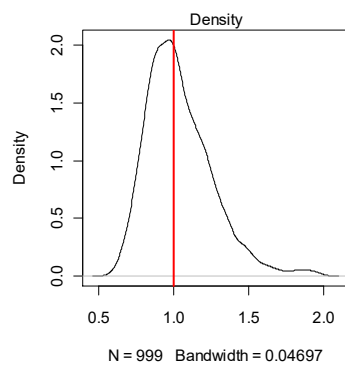
```
expr <- expression(a/(b-c))
x <- list(a=1, b=3, c=2)
Expression: a/(b - c)
y: 1
E(u(y)): 0.2187031
Monte Carlo evaluation using 999 replicates:
y:
  Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
0.6047 0.8845  1.0020  1.0410  1.1630  1.9540
```



## A more interesting Monte carlo case



```
> par(mfrow=c(2,2))
> plot(u.invexpr, which=1:4, pch=20, method="k")
# method="k" gives Kendall correlation
```



## Other MU diagnostics and utilities



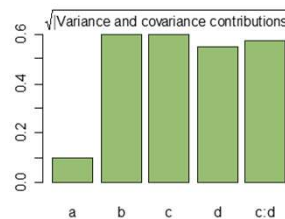
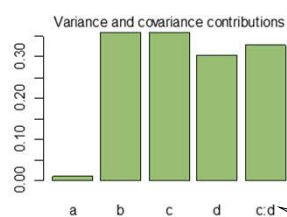
```
#An example with correlation
> u.cor<-diag(1,4)
> u.cor[3,4]<-u.cor[4,3]<-0.5
> u.formc<-uncert(~a+b*2+c*3+d/2, x, u, method="NUM",
+ #Which uncertainties matter most?
> par(mfrow=c(2,2))
> plot(u.formc)
```

Builds a correlation matrix

Plots for exploring uncertainty budgets

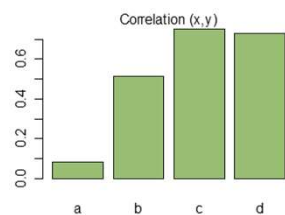
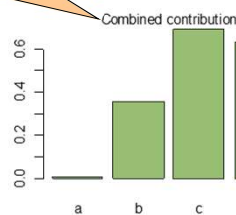


## Other MU diagnostics and utilities: plot.uncert



Sum of all relevant covariance terms

Significant covariance included automatically



## Other MU diagnostics and utilities

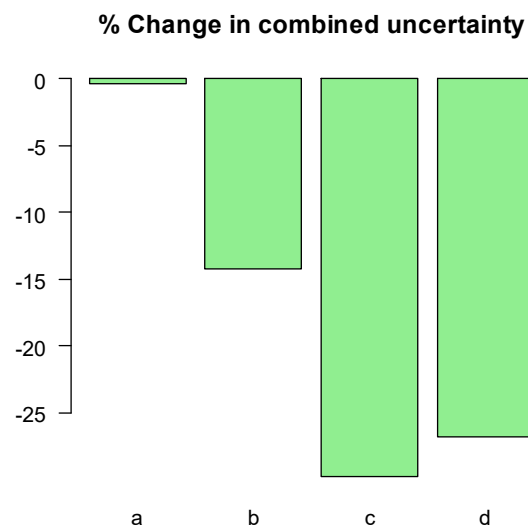


```
#An example with correlation
> u.cor<-diag(1,4)
> u.cor[3,4]<-u.cor[4,3]<-0.5
> u.formc<-uncert(~a+b*2+c*3+d/2, x, u, method="NUM",
+ #Which uncertainties matter most?
> par(mfrow=c(2,2))
> plot(u.formc)

#What happens if we reduce one uncertainty? Drop each
> barplot(drop1(u.formc) ) term successively
```



## Other MU diagnostics and utilities: drop1



## Other MU diagnostics and utilities



- **update**
  - Modifies uncertainty budgets (for example, changing an individual uncertainty or the method of evaluation)
- **w.s, welch.satterthwaite**
  - Welch-Satterthwaite effective degrees of freedom
- **buildCov, buildCor**
  - simplifies assembly of correlation or covariance matrices by taking a short list of labelled off-diagonal terms



## Who owns metRology?



- **metRology is an open source project**
- **No single 'owner'**
- **Licence is GPL**
  - Copyright is held by code contributor
  - Contribution is conditional on granting full permissions under the GPL:
    - right to distribute and modify under the same terms



## Location: Where is metRology?



- CRAN:

```
install.packages("metRology")
```

- R-Forge: metRology

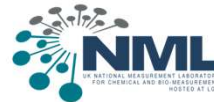
<https://r-forge.r-project.org/projects/metrology/>

- Code access via SubVersion (svn)

- Tortoise SVN for Windows



## Acknowledgements



- NIST Statistical Engineering Division

- Support and code contribution

