

Towards Flight Uncertainty Prediction of Hypersonic Entry Systems

Dr. Serhat Hosder

**James A. Drallmeier Centennial Professor of Aerospace Engineering
Missouri University of Science and Technology**



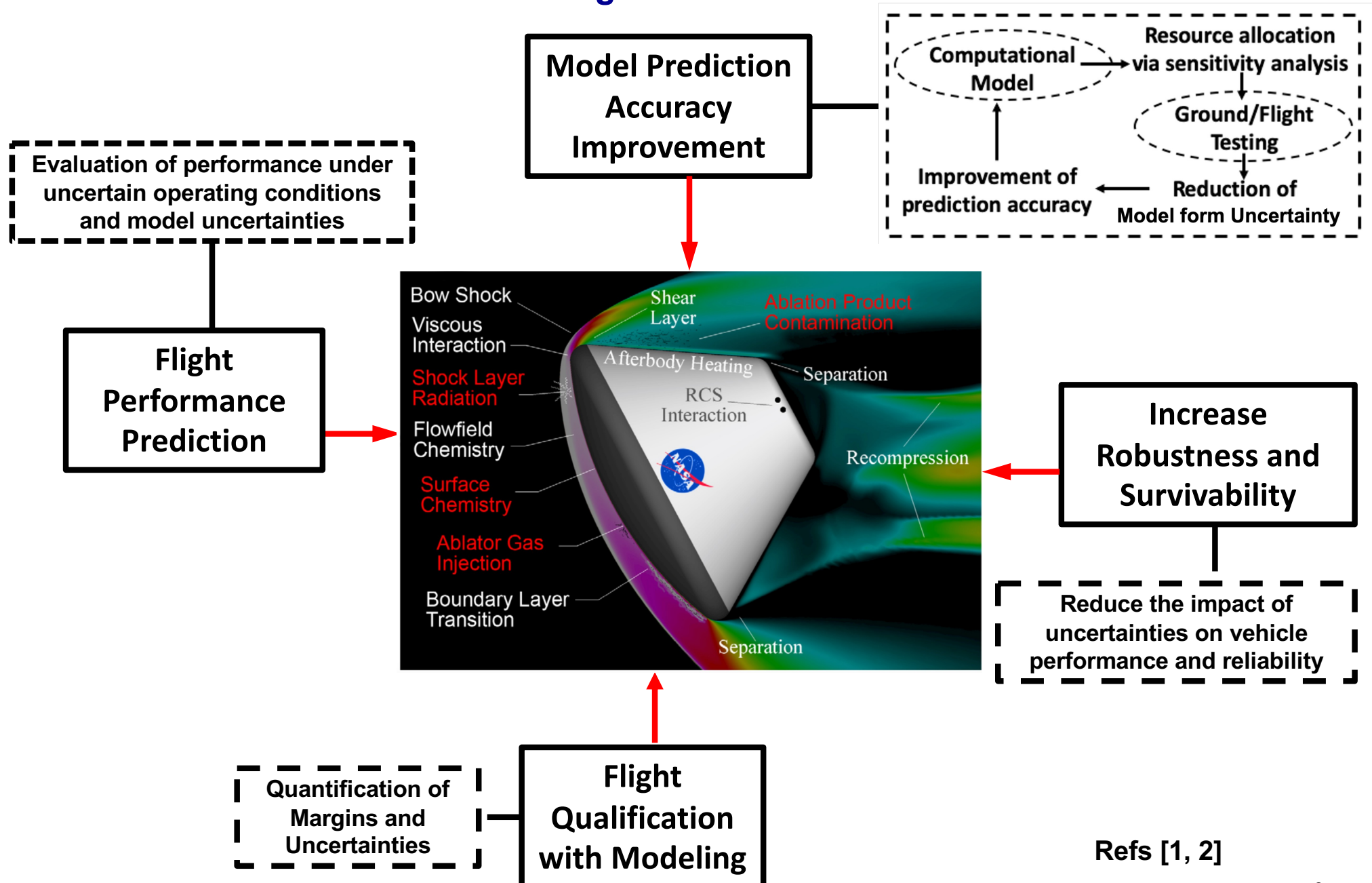
DATAWorks 2025, April 23, 2025



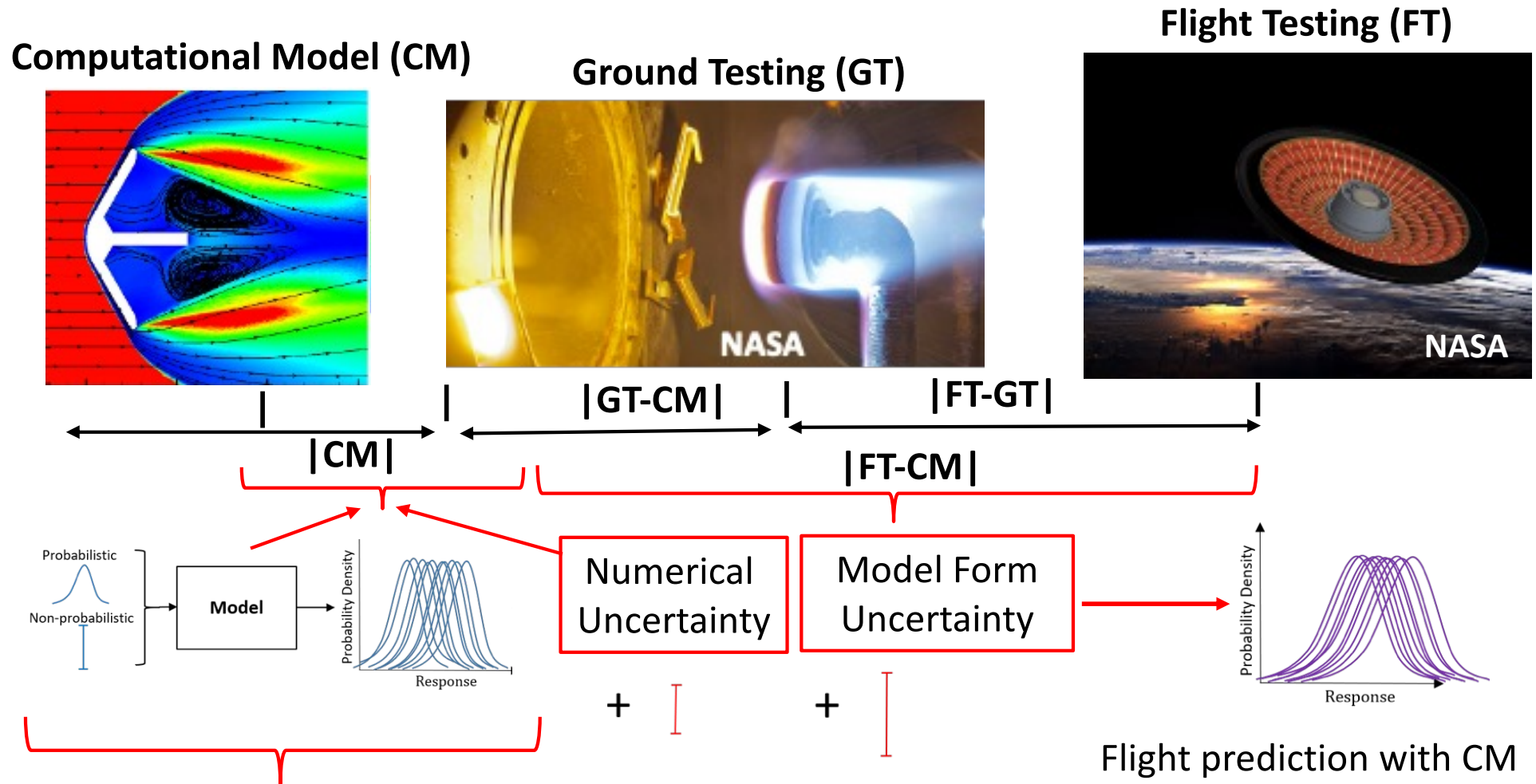
Outline

- **Motivation for Aerothermal Uncertainty Quantification**
- **Flight Uncertainty Prediction Approach**
- **Model Input Uncertainty Quantification Approach**
- **Aerothermal Uncertainty Quantification Applications**
 - Stagnation point heat flux prediction of a hypersonic vehicle with a reduced order correlation
 - Thermal Protection System Response of a Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator
- **Conclusions**

Integrating Uncertainty Quantification to Planetary Entry Systems Modeling and Simulation



Physics-Based Flight Performance Uncertainty Prediction with Computational Models



Model Input Uncertainty: Operating conditions, vehicle shape, parameters in turbulence models, chemical kinetics, ablation, radiation, etc.

Challenges for Aerothermal Uncertainty Quantification

- Significant computational cost for high-fidelity aerothermal modeling
 - Monte Carlo not feasible
 - Utilize stochastic surrogates based on polynomial chaos
- Need a non-intrusive approach so that the computational models (CFD) require no major modification
 - Utilize non-intrusive polynomial chaos (NIPC) [3]
- Large number of uncertain variables
 - Utilize effective global non-linear sensitivity analysis (Sobol indices calculated from PC expansion) for dimension reduction
 - Utilize Sparse Sampling NIPC [4,5]
- Mixed (aleatory + epistemic) uncertainty propagation
 - Utilize nested uncertainty propagation with PC surrogates [6]

Sensitivity and Uncertainty Quantification Approach

Stochastic response
surface based on
polynomial chaos
expansion

$$\alpha^*(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\xi}) \approx \sum_{i=0}^P \alpha_i(\mathbf{x}) \Psi_i(\boldsymbol{\xi})$$

Deterministic Component
(expansion coefficients)

Random Basis Functions
(orthogonal polynomials)

- Point-Collocation NIPC: Choose N_s samples to evaluate the deterministic model

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha^*(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_0) \\ \alpha^*(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_1) \\ \vdots \\ \alpha^*(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{(N_s-1)}) \end{pmatrix}_{(N_s \times 1)} = \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_0(\boldsymbol{\xi}_0) & \Psi_1(\boldsymbol{\xi}_0) & \dots & \Psi_P(\boldsymbol{\xi}_0) \\ \Psi_0(\boldsymbol{\xi}_1) & \Psi_1(\boldsymbol{\xi}_1) & \dots & \Psi_P(\boldsymbol{\xi}_1) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \Psi_0(\boldsymbol{\xi}_{(N_s-1)}) & \Psi_1(\boldsymbol{\xi}_{(N_s-1)}) & \dots & \Psi_P(\boldsymbol{\xi}_{(N_s-1)}) \end{pmatrix}_{(N_s \times N_t)} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_P \end{pmatrix}_{(N_t \times 1)}$$

- the total number of output modes (terms in the expansion), N_t

$$N_t = P + 1 = \frac{(n + p)!}{n!p!}$$

p : polynomial order of total expansion

n : number of uncertain variables

Sensitivity and Uncertainty Quantification Approach

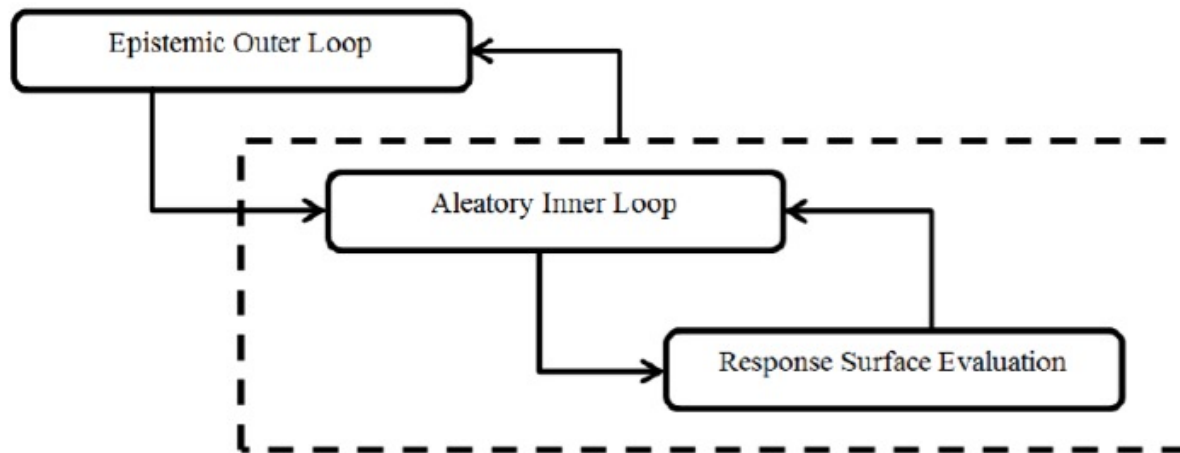
- When $N_s = N_t$: minimum number of samples required to obtain a solution with the determined system (coefficient vector)
- When $N_s > N_t$: Overdetermined system (can define an over sampling ratio, $OSR = N_s / N_t$), solution obtained with Least-Squares approach
- For $N_s = N_t$ and $N_s > N_t$ Computational cost (number of model evaluations) can be very high for large number of uncertain variables
- If $N_s < N_t$, the system is underdetermined (sparse sampling approach) but the most efficient in terms the computational cost
 - Seek a solution to the sparse system with the fewest number of **non-zero** coefficients in the response surface using optimization:

$$\min \|\alpha\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|\Psi\alpha - \alpha^*\|_2 \leq \delta$$

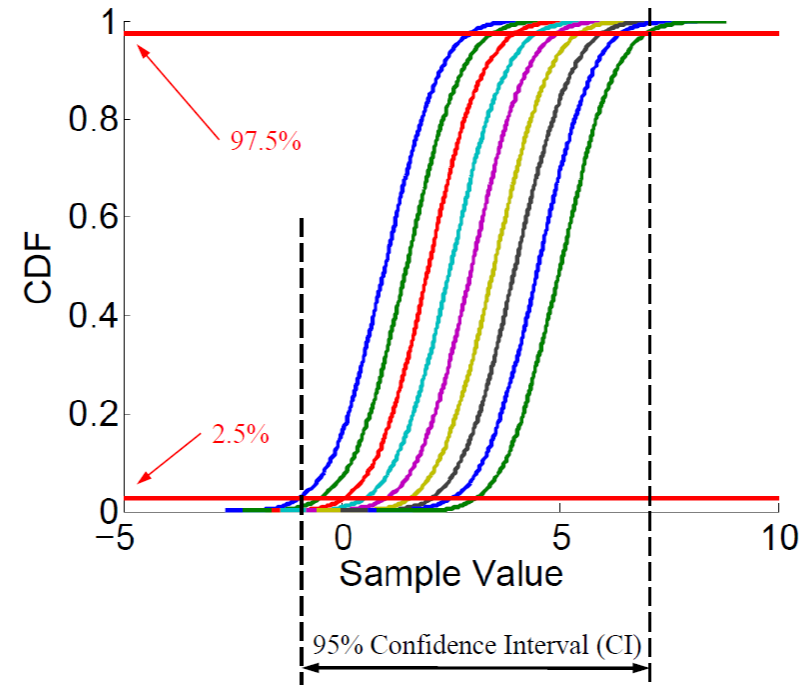
- Incrementally update N_s until convergence achieved. Check convergence at iteration i with an error defined on Sobol indices:

$$\mu_{e,i} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n S_{e_{i,j}} \quad \text{where} \quad S_{e_{i,j}} = \|S_{T,i,j} - S_{T,i-1,j}\|$$

Mixed Uncertainty Propagation



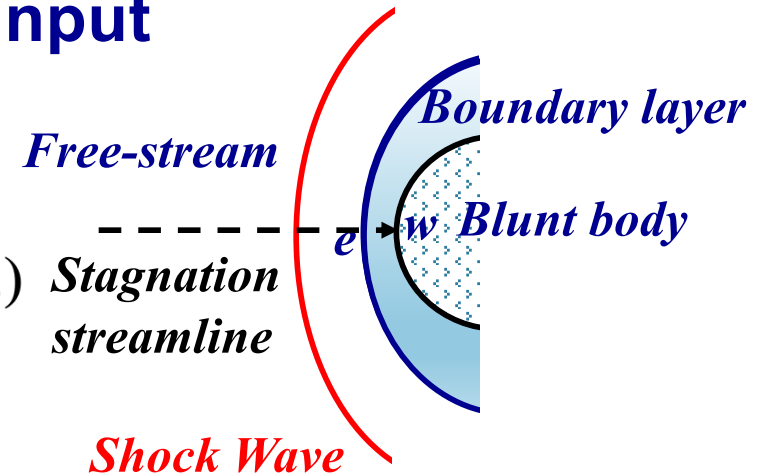
Total # of samples = (epistemic samples) x (aleatory samples)
(each sample corresponds to a CFD simulation)



- Double-loop sampling to generate a set of cumulative density functions (CDFs)
- Generates a probability or “P-box” representation of the mixed uncertainty output
- The bounds of a probability level or statistics (e.g., standard deviation) can be obtained by optimization or sampling over the epistemic variables
- A stochastic response surface used in place of the deterministic code for computational efficiency

Stagnation Point Heat Flux Prediction in Hypersonic Flow with Uncertain Input

Fay-Riddell Correlation (laminar boundary layer in thermo-chemical equilibrium, fully catalytic wall) :

$$\dot{q}_w = 0.76(Pr^{-0.6})(\rho_w\mu_w)^{0.1}(\rho_e\mu_e)^{0.4}\sqrt{\frac{du_e}{dx}}(h_{0_e} - h_w) \times \left(1 + (Le^{0.52} - 1)\frac{h_D}{h_{0_e}}\right)$$


Velocity gradient :

$$\frac{du_e}{dx} = \frac{1}{R_n} \sqrt{\frac{2(P_e - P_\infty)}{\rho_e}}$$

Dissociation enthalpy :

$$h_D = \sum_i c_i (h_f^0)_i$$

Radiative-adiabatic wall BC:

$$\dot{q}_r = \dot{q}_d + \dot{q}_c = \dot{q}_w$$

$$\dot{q}_r = \epsilon\sigma T_w^4$$

Epistemic Uncertain Variables

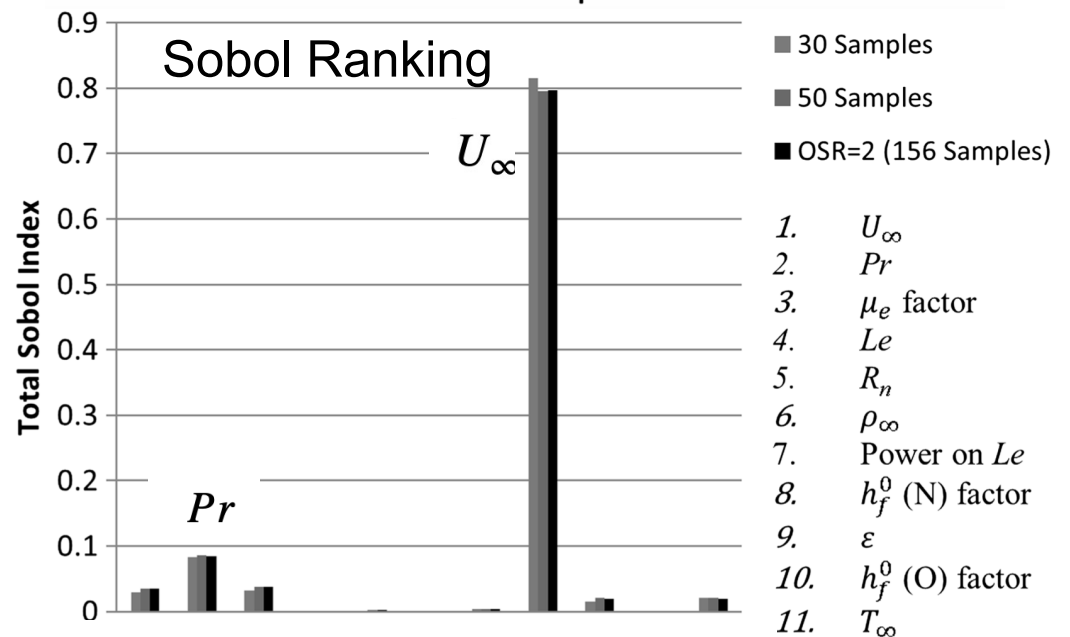
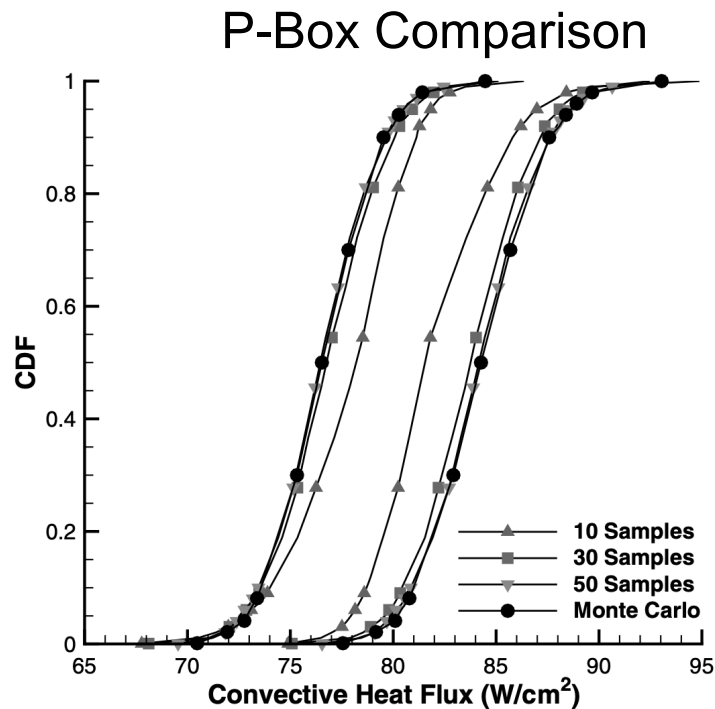
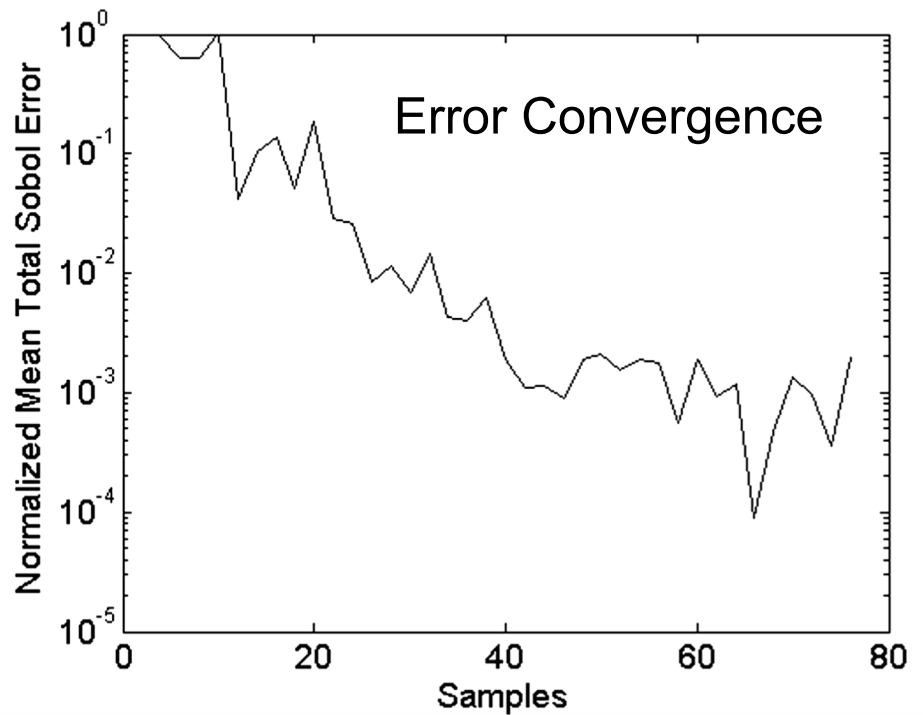
Variable	Minimum	Maximum
Le	1.358	1.442
Pr	0.679	0.721
μ_e factor	0.97	1.03
ϵ	0.776	0.824
h_f^0 (N) factor	0.97	1.03
h_f^0 (O) factor	0.97	1.03
Power on Le	0.5044	0.5356

Aleatory Uncertain Variables

Input	Distribution	Mean	CoV, %
U_∞ , m/s	Gaussian	7.3152e + 03	1
ρ_∞ , kg/m ³	Gaussian	5.30e - 05	1
T_∞ , K	Gaussian	2.1201e + 02	1
R_n , m	Gaussian	3.048e - 01	1

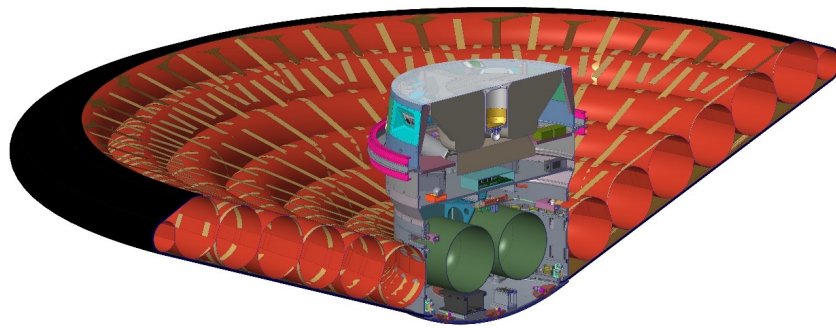
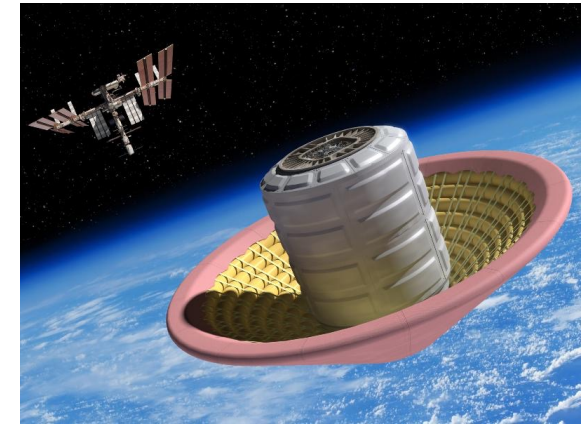
Sparse-Sampling NIPC Results

- 11 uncertain variables, 2nd degree polynomial, $N_t=78$
- When $N_s=50$, Sparse-Sampling NIPC results identical with Monte-Carlo (400,000 Samples) and NIPC with OSR=2 (156 samples)



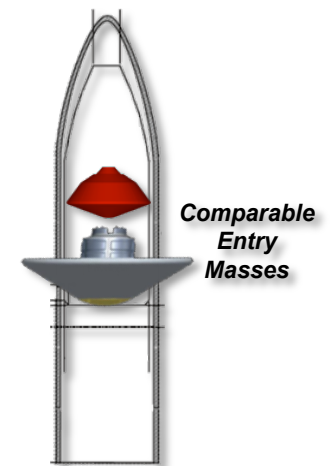
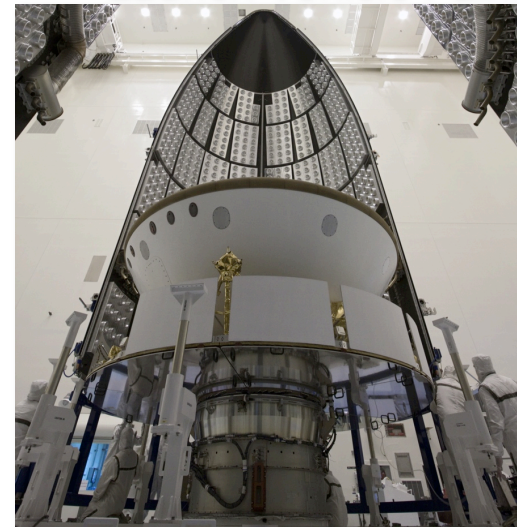
Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (HIAD)

- HIAD concept primarily being developed to address increased capability needed for landing higher mass at higher altitudes on Mars, eventually for human missions

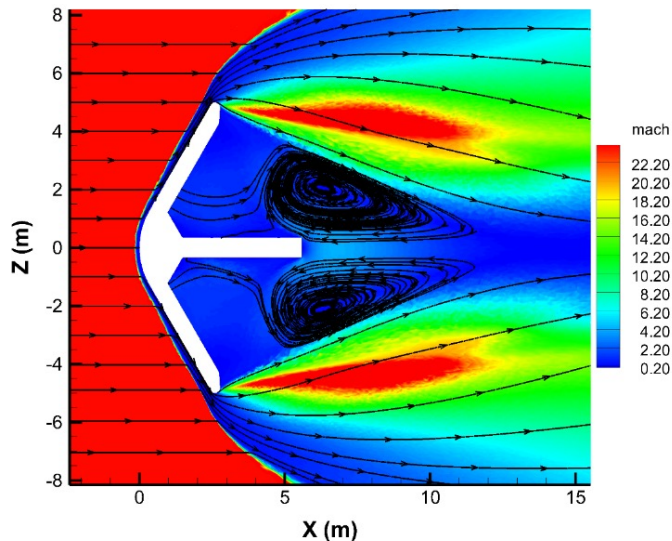


- Uses inflatable concentric toroids to deploy flexible-thermal protection system (f-TPS)

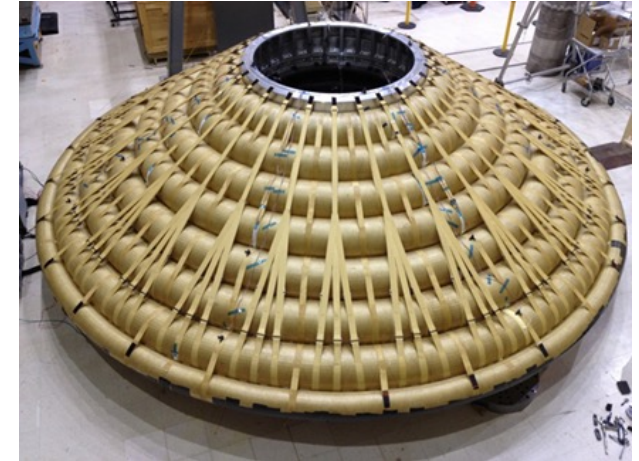
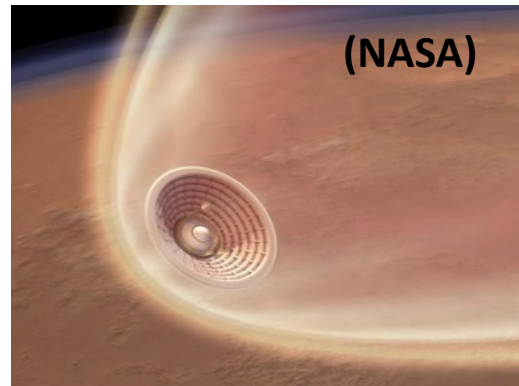
Launch Vehicle Fairing Constraints



UQ for Multidisciplinary HIAD Analysis & Design



Fluid-structure
interaction (FSI)



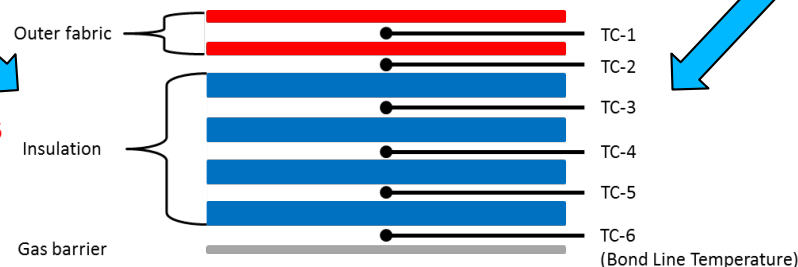
Structural modeling [8]

Material Thermal
Response

Material Thermal
Response

HIAD Modeling Uncertainties:

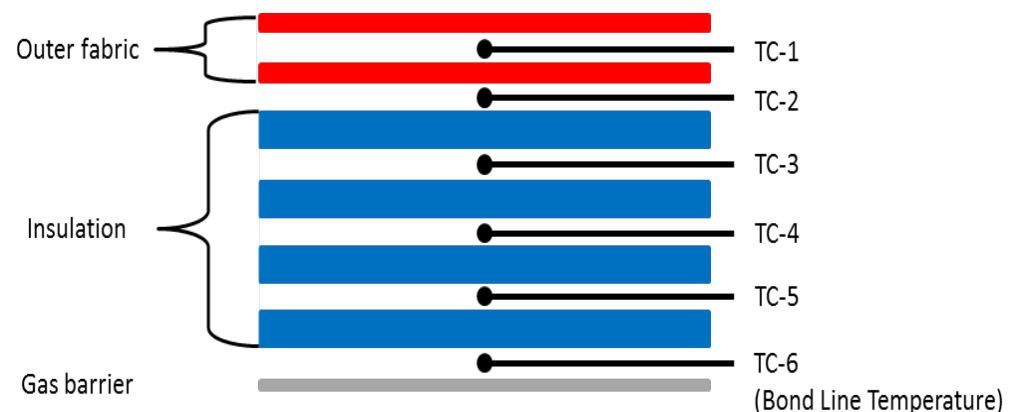
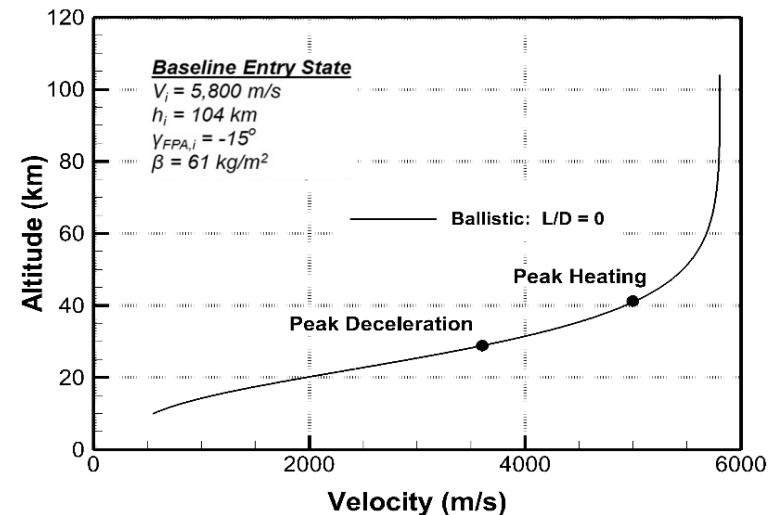
- Operating (freestream) Conditions
- Physics-based modeling parameters
 - Thermochemistry
 - Inflatable Structure Response
 - F-TPS Response



Flexible TPS Modeling [9]

Objectives of the HIAD UQ Analysis

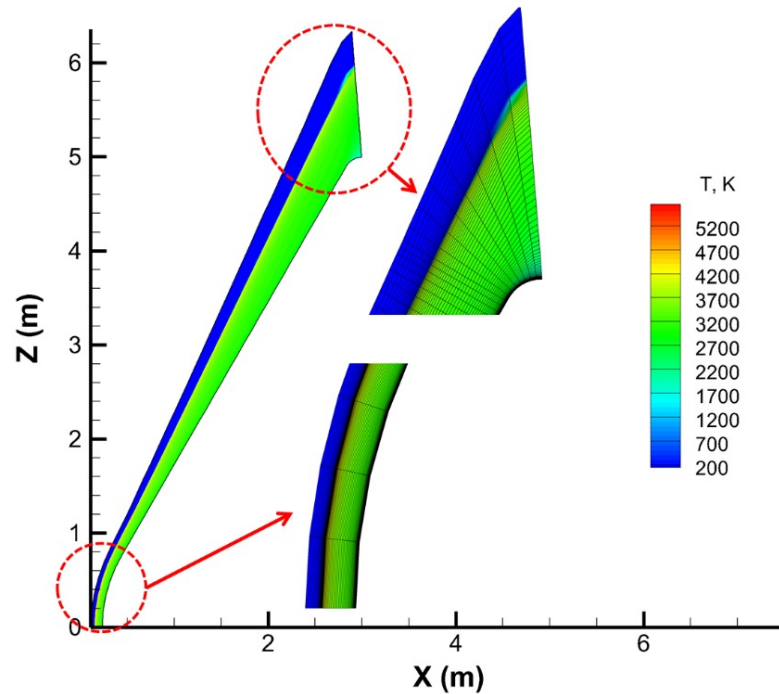
- Consider a 10m diameter HIAD for Ballistic Mars Entry
- Identify significant flow field and FSI uncertainty sources on surface quantities (aerodynamic heating, shear and pressure) for sensitivity and uncertainty analysis of F-TPS response
- Perform sensitivity and uncertainty analysis for F-TPS response
 - Quantify the uncertainty in the bondline temperature of F-TPS layout



Computational Model for F-TPS Analysis

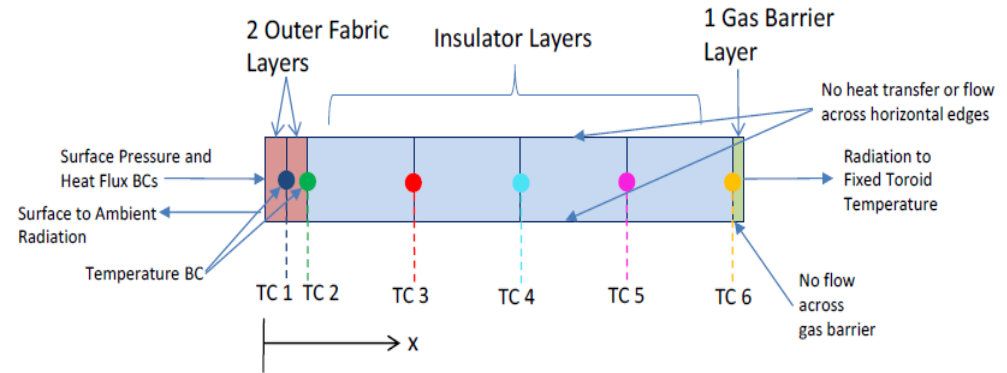
Shock-Layer RANS Solution (CFD)

- NASA LAURA solver
- Two-temperature thermochemical non-equilibrium model by Park with 8-species Mars composition
- 1-D grid adaptation to resolve shock and boundary layer gradients
- Super-catalytic wall and fully turbulent boundary layer assumed for “most conservative” heating conditions



Thermal Response Model

- 1-D solid conduction, radiation, gas conduction, and advection heat transfer modeled through porous media
- Decomposition of the insulation material at elevated temperatures
- Thermal properties of each material layer and gas determined from experimental measurements



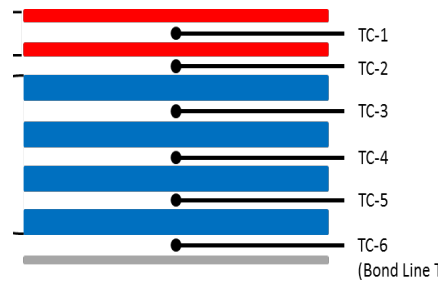
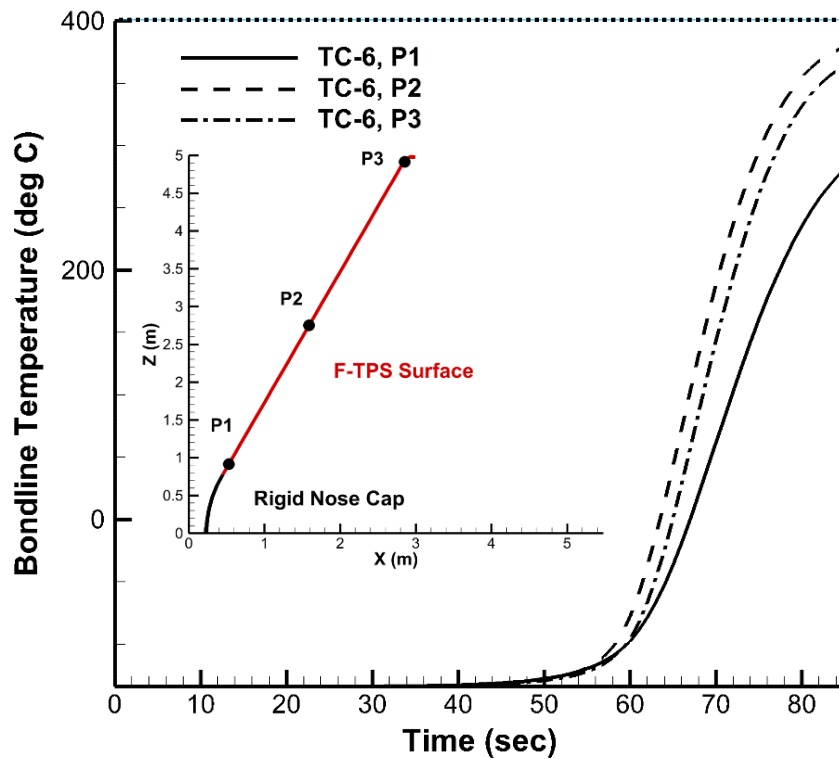
$$\rho_s C_{ps} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) + \rho_g C_{pg} v_{gx} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + H_d \frac{\partial \rho_s}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\phi \frac{\partial \rho_g}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\rho_g v_{gx}) = - \frac{\partial \rho_s}{\partial t}$$

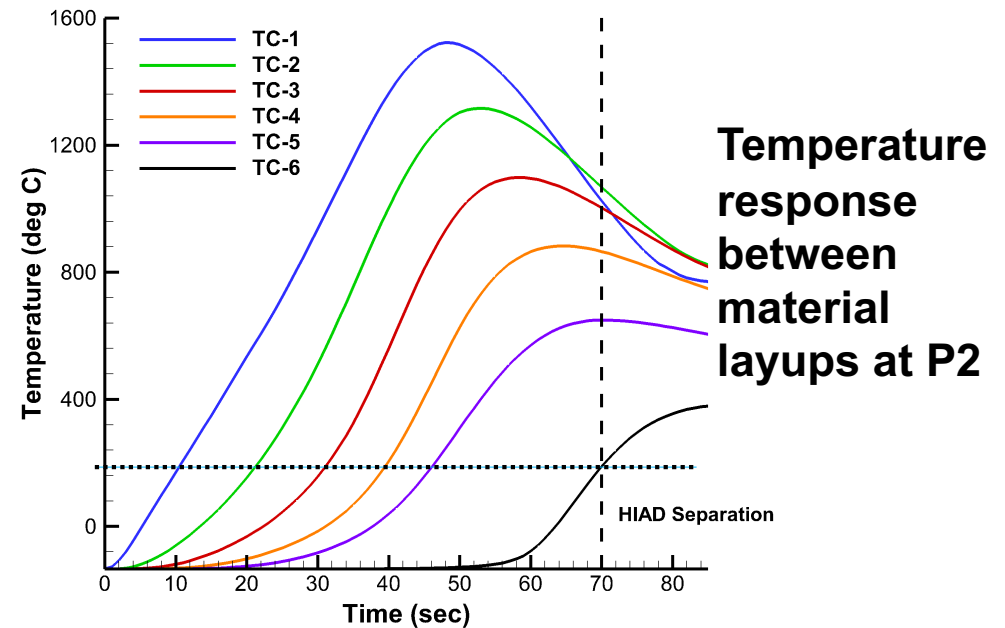
$$v_{gx} = - \frac{k_x}{\mu_g} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$

F-TPS Thermal Model

Baseline Results with No Uncertainty



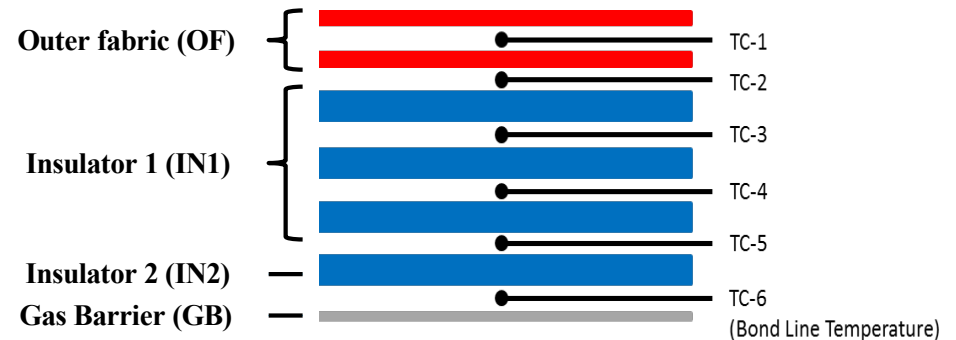
- Critical bondline temperature at 3 locations



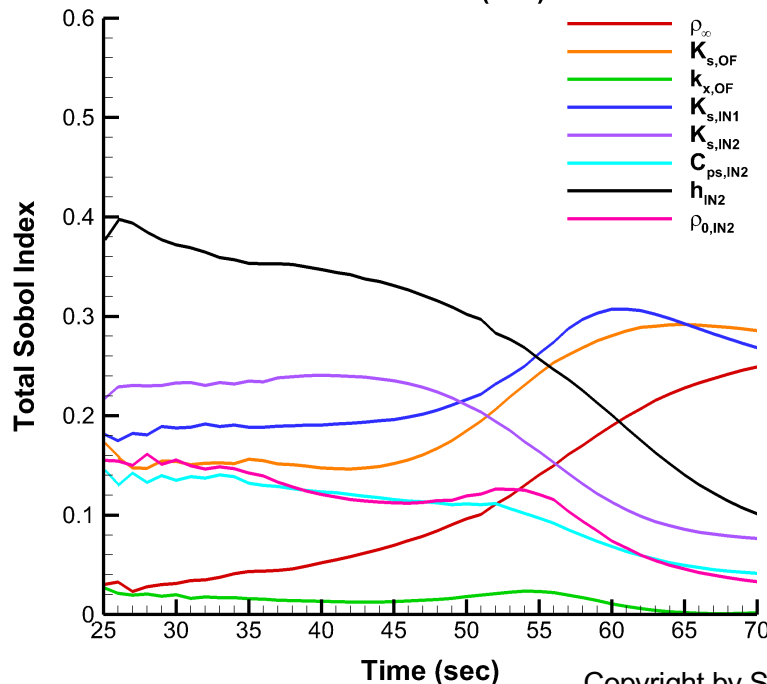
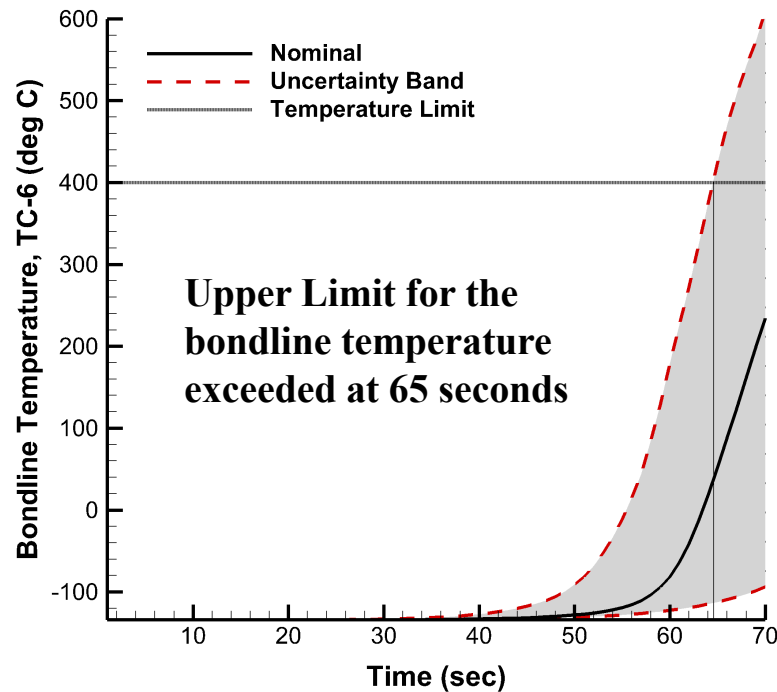
Uncertainty Sources for F-TPS Response Analysis

Uncertain Component	Uncertain Parameter	Description	Classification	Uncertainty	Ref.
Aerodynamic heating (convective), surface pressure	ρ_∞	Freestream Density	Aleatory (Uniform)	$\pm 30\%$	AIAA 2015-3581 ²⁴ JSR Vol. 52, No. 3 ¹⁶
	V_∞	Freestream Velocity	Aleatory (Normal)	$0.5\% C_oV$	
	$A_{CO_2-CO_2}$	CO ₂ -CO ₂ Binary Collision	Epistemic	$\pm 30\%$	
	A_{CO_2-O}	CO ₂ -O Binary Collision	Epistemic	$\pm 30\%$	
Nicalon SiC outer fabric (2)	$K_{s,OF}$	OF Thermal Conductivity	Epistemic	$\pm 30\%$	Same as IN1 uncertainties
	$k_{x,OF}$	OF Permeability	Epistemic	$\pm 30\%$	
	ϵ	OF Emissivity	Epistemic	$\pm 10\%$	
	$C_{ps,OF}$	OF Specific Heat	Epistemic	$\pm 20\%$	
KFA5 insulator layers (3)	$K_{s,IN1}$	IN1 Thermal Conductivity	Epistemic	$\pm 30\%$	Expert Opinion
	$k_{x,IN1}$	IN1 Permeability	Epistemic	$\pm 30\%$	Expert Opinion
	$C_{ps,IN1}$	IN1 Specific Heat	Epistemic	$\pm 20\%$	Expert Opinion
	$h_{1,IN1}$	IN1 Layer 1 Thickness	Aleatory (Normal)	$3\% C_oV$	Expert Opinion
	$h_{2,IN1}$	IN1 Layer 2 Thickness	Aleatory (Normal)	$3\% C_oV$	Expert Opinion
	$h_{3,IN1}$	IN1 Layer 3 Thickness	Aleatory (Normal)	$3\% C_oV$	Expert Opinion
Pyrogel 2250 insulator layer	$K_{s,IN2}$	IN2 Thermal Conductivity	Epistemic	$\pm 30\%$	Expert Opinion
	$k_{x,IN2}$	IN2 Permeability	Epistemic	$\pm 30\%$	Expert Opinion
	$C_{ps,IN2}$	IN2 Specific Heat	Epistemic	$\pm 20\%$	Expert Opinion
	h_{IN2}	IN2 Layer Thickness	Aleatory (Normal)	$10\% C_oV$	Expert Opinion
	$\rho_{0,IN2}$	IN2 Virgin Density	Aleatory (Normal)	$10\% C_oV$	Expert Opinion
	$E_{a,IN2}$	IN2 Activation Energy	Epistemic	$\pm 20\%$	AIAA 2016-1513 ³⁴
Kapton LN backing material	$K_{s,GB}$	GB Thermal Conductivity	Epistemic	$\pm 15\%$	Expert Opinion
	$C_{ps,GB}$	GB Specific Heat	Epistemic	$\pm 5\%$	Expert Opinion
TOTAL	22				

- Significant aero-heating uncertainty sources determined from the sensitivity analysis of hypersonic flow field (out of 59 variables)
- F-TPS thermal model uncertain variables introduced for the material thermal properties, layer thicknesses, and decomposition phenomena



F-TPS Bondline Temperature Uncertainty and Sensitivity



- Greatest uncertainty occurs just prior to HIAD separation at 70 seconds – transition to secondary descent technology
 - 125% above and 75% below the nominal bondline temperature values
- Increase in bondline temperature uncertainty beyond 40 sec due to thermal gradients in outer fabric and insulator 1 layers; freestream density at lower altitudes near peak deceleration

Uncertain Component	Uncertain Parameter	Description
Aerodynamic heating (convective), surface pressure	ρ_{∞} 3	Freestream Density
	V_{∞}	Freestream Velocity
	$Ac_{CO_2-CO_2}$	CO_2 - CO_2 Binary Collision
	Ac_{CO_2-O}	CO_2 -O Binary Collision
Nicalon SiC outer fabric (2)	$K_{s,OF}$ 1	OF Thermal Conductivity
	$k_{x,OF}$	OF Permeability
	ϵ	OF Emissivity
	$C_{ps,OF}$	OF Specific Heat
	$K_{s,IN1}$ 2	IN1 Thermal Conductivity
KFA5 insulator layers (3)	$k_{x,IN1}$	IN1 Permeability
	$C_{ps,IN1}$	IN1 Specific Heat
	$h_{1,IN1}$	IN1 Layer 1 Thickness
	$h_{2,IN1}$	IN1 Layer 2 Thickness
	$h_{3,IN1}$	IN1 Layer 3 Thickness
	$K_{s,IN2}$	IN2 Thermal Conductivity
Pyrogel 2250 insulator layer	$k_{x,IN2}$	IN2 Permeability
	$C_{ps,IN2}$	IN2 Specific Heat
	h_{IN2}	IN2 Layer Thickness
	$\rho_{0,IN2}$	IN2 Virgin Density
	$E_{a,IN2}$	IN2 Activation Energy
	$K_{s,GB}$	GB Thermal Conductivity
Kapton LN backing material	$C_{ps,GB}$	GB Specific Heat

Conclusions

- Outlined a framework for flight uncertainty prediction of hypersonic entry vehicles
- Described efficient aerothermal uncertainty quantification with stochastic expansions
- Demonstrated the uncertainty quantification approach on thermal protection system response of an HIAD for Mars entry
- Integrating uncertainty quantification to entry vehicle development (e.g., HIAD) early in the design process also important for timely changes in vehicle configuration, TPS selection/sizing, increasing robustness, and resource allocation for ground and flight testing

References

1. A. Brune, T. West and S. Hosder, “Uncertainty Quantification of Planetary Entry Technologies”, *Progress in Aerospace Sciences*, Vol. 111, (2019), pp. 100574.
2. T. West, S. Hosder, and T. Winter, “Quantification of Margins and Uncertainties for Integrated Spacecraft Systems Models,” *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, Vol. 52, No. 2, (2015), pp. 450-461.
3. S. Hosder, R. W. Walters, and M. Balch, "Point-Collocation Non-Intrusive Polynomial Chaos Method for Stochastic Computational Fluid Dynamics", *AIAA Journal*, Vol. 48, No. 12, (2010), pp. 2721-2730.
4. T. West and S. Hosder, “Uncertainty Quantification of Hypersonic Reentry Flows using Sparse Sampling and Stochastic Expansions,” *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets* Vol. 52, No. 1, Special Section on Numerical Simulation of Hypersonic Flows, (2015), pp. 120-133
5. T. West, C. Johnston, S. Hosder, “Uncertainty and Sensitivity Analysis of Afterbody Radiative Heating Predictions for Earth Entry,” *Journal of Thermophysics and Heat Transfer*, Vol. 31, No. 2, (2017), pp. 294-306. (NASA Langley Henry J. E. Reid Award)
6. S. Hosder and B. Bettis, “Uncertainty and Sensitivity Analysis for Reentry Flows under Inherent and Model-Form Uncertainties,” *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, Vol. 49, No. 2, (2012), pp. 193-206.
7. A. Brune, T. West, S. Hosder, and K. Edquist, “Uncertainty Analysis of Mars Entry Flows over a Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator,” *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, Vol. 52, No. 3, (2015), pp. 776-788
8. A. Brune, S. Hosder, and K. Edquist, “Uncertainty Analysis of Fluid-Structure Interaction of a Deformable Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator,” *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, Vol. 53, No. 4, (2016), pp. 654-668.
9. A. Brune, S. Hosder, K. Edquist, and S. Tobin, “Thermal Protection System Response Uncertainty of a Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator,” *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, Vol. 54, No. 1, (2017), pp. 141-154.