

# Systems Engineering and Process Safety

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## Fundamental Research

Mathematical  
Optimization under  
Uncertainty



Machine Learning

## Applications

Energy systems  
optimization, chemical  
process design and  
operation, supply chain

Fault detection,  
speech/image  
recognition,  
computational biology,  
Acceleration of  
optimization algorithms

## People and projects

Asha: Distributed manufacturing  
of the electrified processes  
Kaiyu: Integrated scheduling and  
control  
Casper: Electrification of Process  
Heating (co-advised with Dr.  
Cornelius Masuku)

Chi: end-to-end learning of  
optimization problems  
Hao: Explainable ML for fault  
detection  
Yen-Chun: ML for stem cell (co-  
advised with Dr. Xiaoping Bao)

# Mathematical Programming under Uncertainty

- Model **decision-making** process as an **optimization** problem

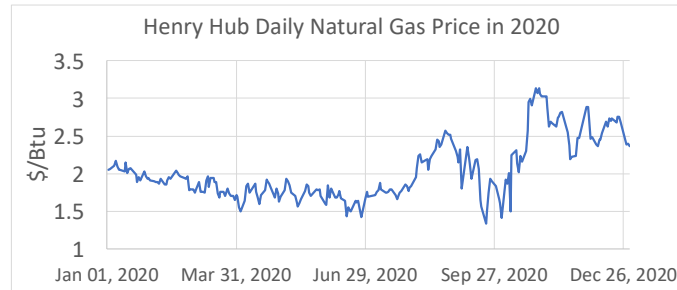
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(x, y, \theta) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x, y, \theta) \leq 0 \\ & h(x, y, \theta) = 0 \\ & x \in X, y \in Y \end{aligned}$$

- **Variables** the capacity of discrete  $x$ , whether to install a process or not ( $y$ )
- **Constraints** the mass balance, to satisfy the customer demand
- **Objective** minimize total cost
- **Parameters** product demand, unit cost, thermal and kinetic properties
- The input parameters  $\theta$  can be uncertain.

# Sources of Parameter Uncertainty



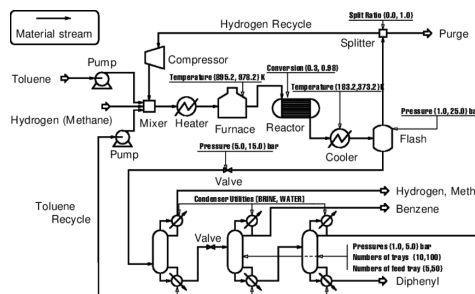
- Long-term forecasts, e.g., natural gas price



- Short-term changing conditions, e.g., extreme weather



- Real-time inaccurate measurement, e.g., temperature, pressure



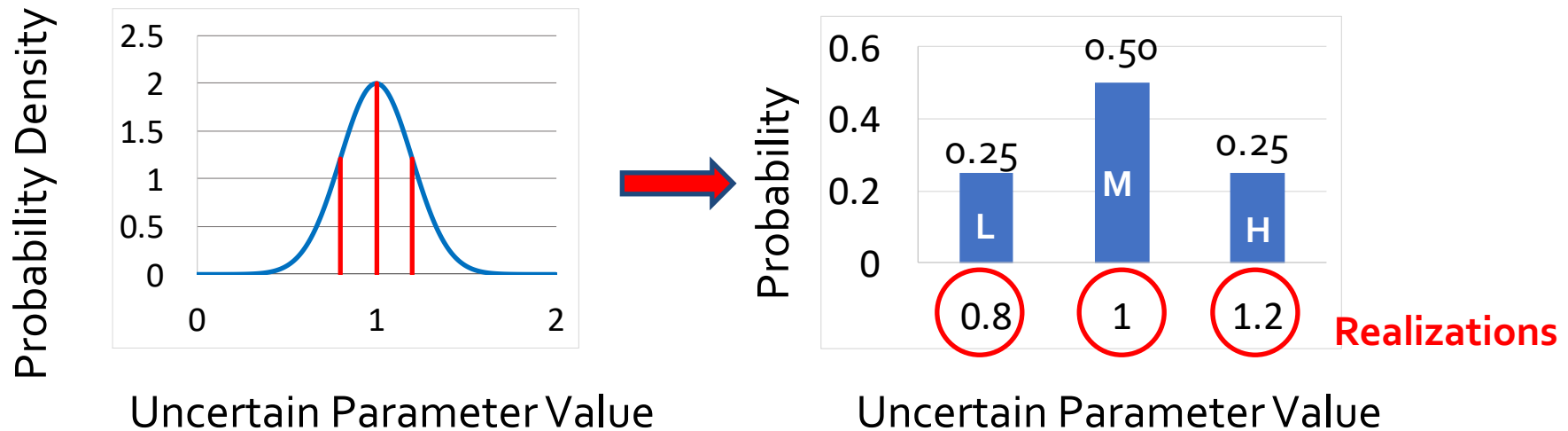
# How Do We Model Uncertainty in Optimization Problems? **P**

- Not a uniquely-defined problem
  - ❑ **Multiple** ways to hedge against uncertainty



**The jungle of stochastic optimization**  
(credit: Warren Powell)

- **Stochastic programming** is a framework for modeling optimization problems that involve uncertainty (Birge and Louveaux, 2011)
- Uncertainty can be characterized by **probability distributions** known *a priori*
  - Continuous distributions → Discrete distributions

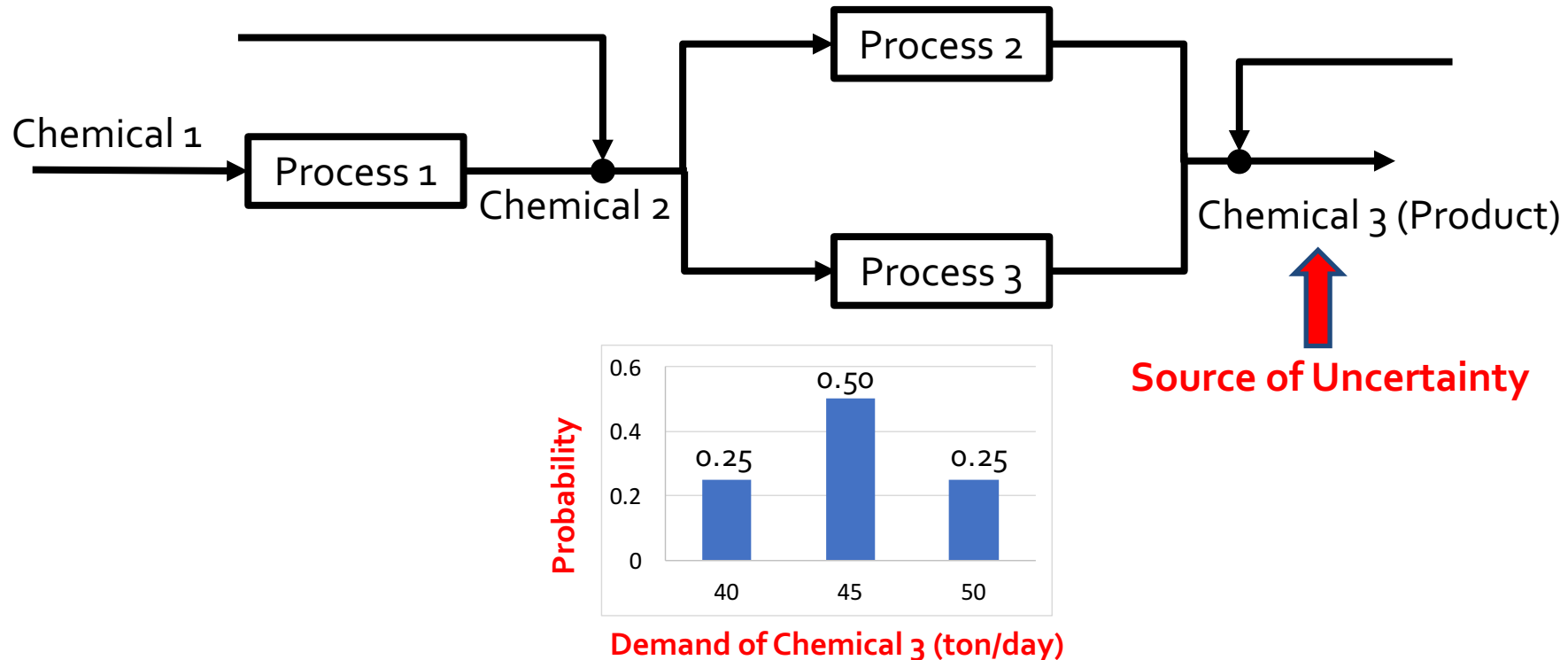


- Each realization of uncertainty parameters is called **a scenario**
- Optimize the **expected value** of the objective over all possible scenarios, i.e., **a risk-neutral approach**
- Common framework: **Two stage stochastic programming**

# A Motivating Example



## ➤ Superstructure



- **First stage decisions:** which process to install, the capacity of each process
- **Second stage decisions:** the mass flow rate of each stream
- **Constraints:** satisfy customer demands, mass balance



- First stage decisions: **Here and now**
- Second stage decisions: **Wait and see, Recourse decisions**

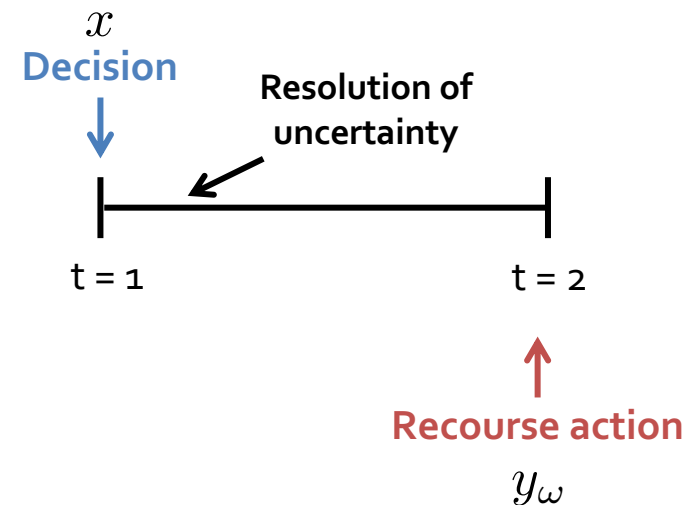
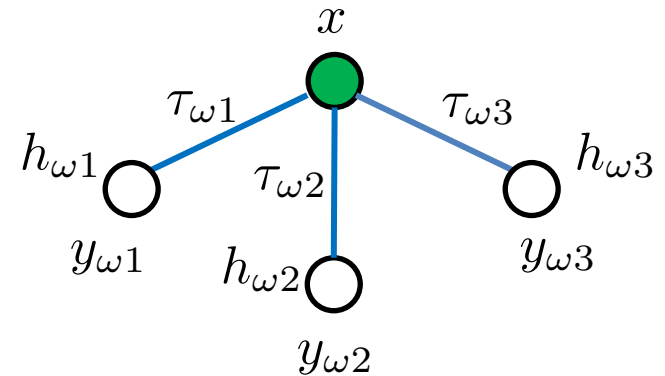
$$\min \quad c^T x + \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} \tau_{\omega} d_{\omega}^T y_{\omega}$$

$$s.t. \quad Ax \leq b$$

$$W_{\omega} y_{\omega} \leq h_{\omega} - T_{\omega} x \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega$$

$$x \in \{x = (x_1, x_2) : x_1 \in \{0, 1\}^n, x_2 \geq 0\}$$

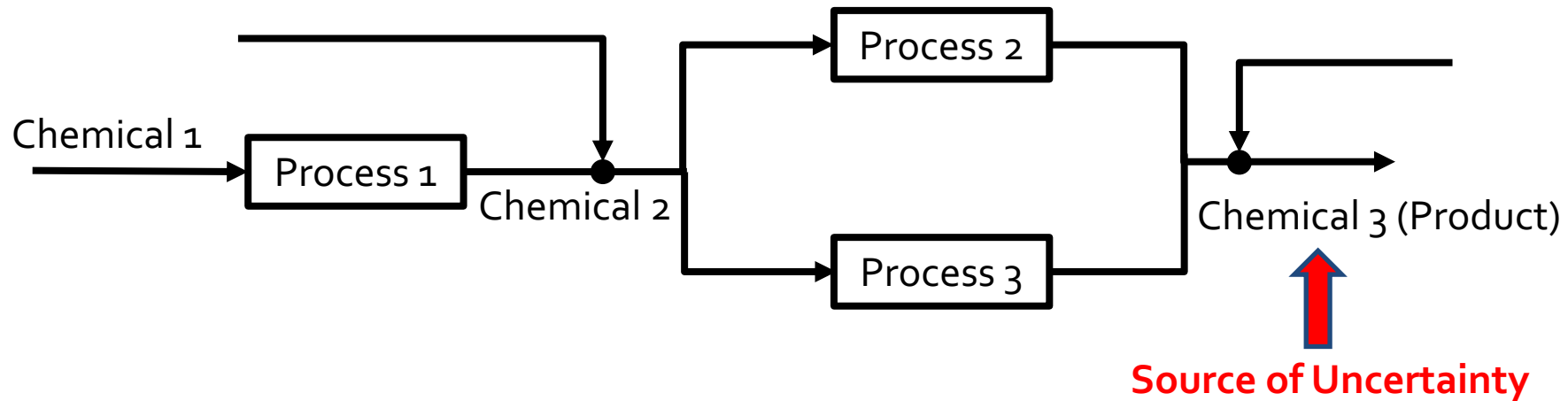
$$y_{\omega} \in \{y : y \geq 0\}$$



**Deterministic Equivalent**

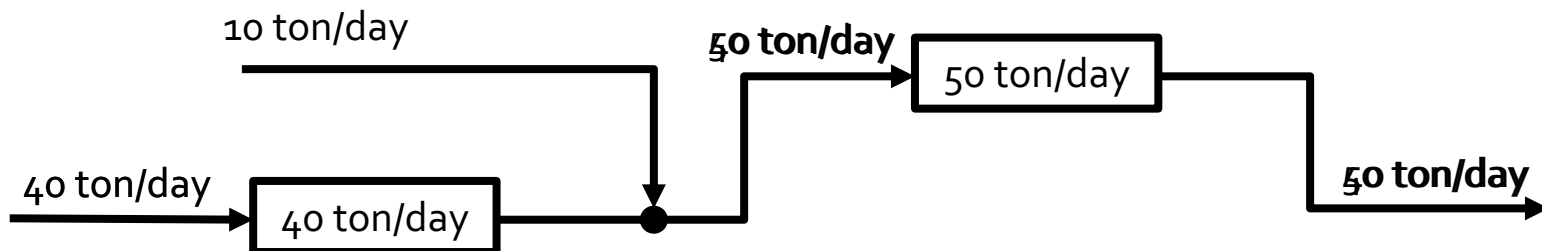
# Investment Planning of Process Networks *P*

## ➤ Superstructure



## ➤ First stage decisions

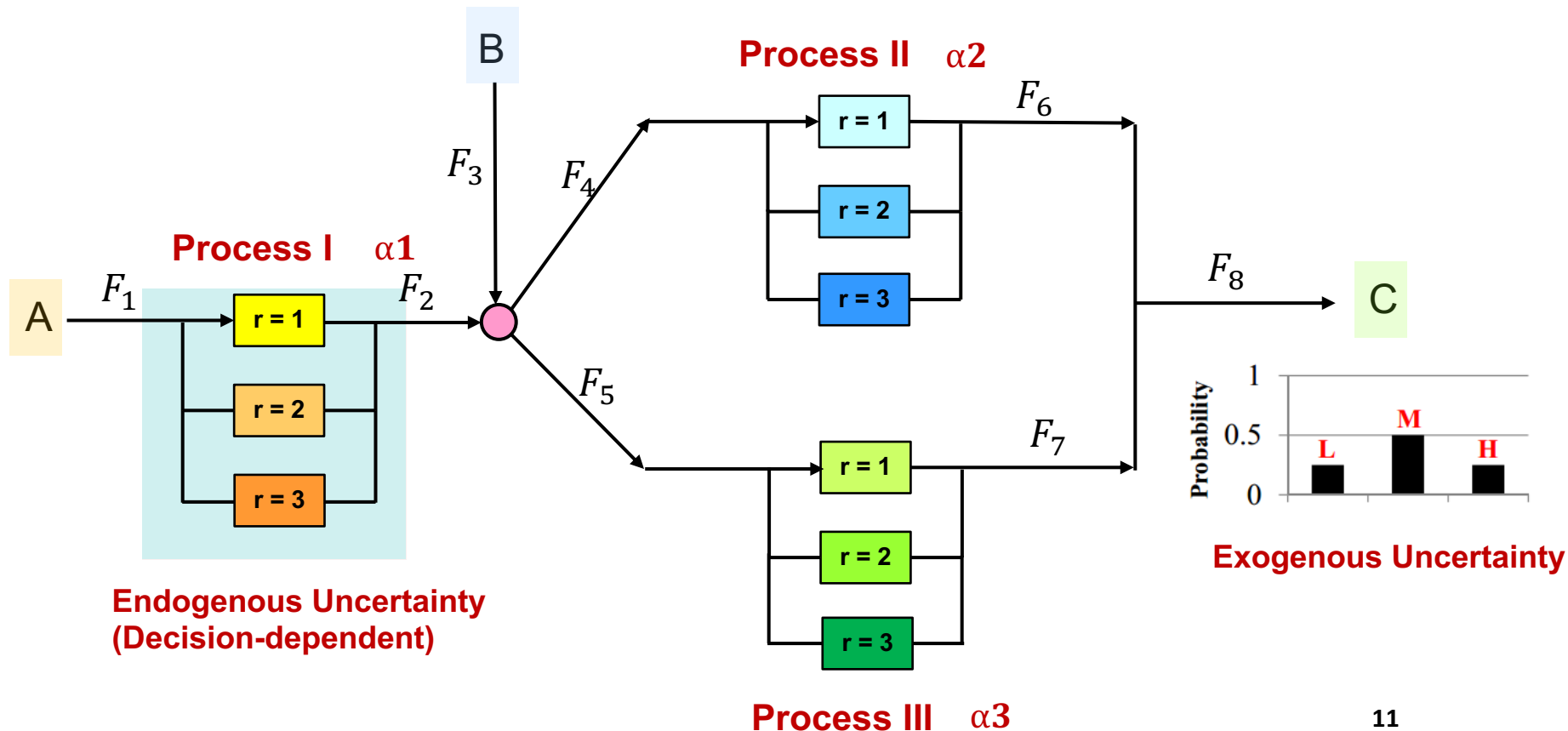
## ➤ Second stage decisions **High demand**



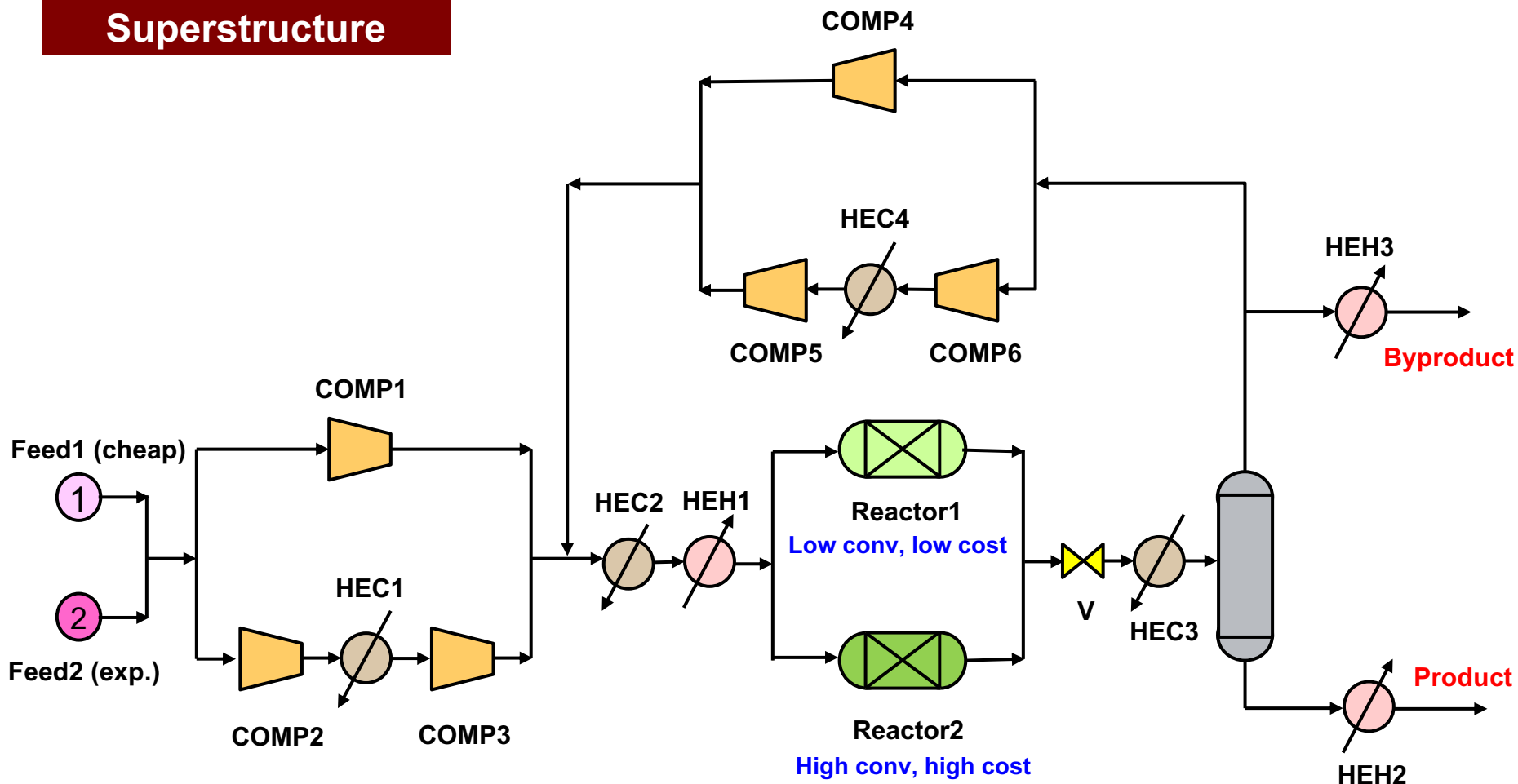
# Extension to Process Reliability



- Motivation: Process units may fail
- Solution: Have backup units to improve reliability
- Trade-off: Investment cost v.s. system reliability



## Superstructure



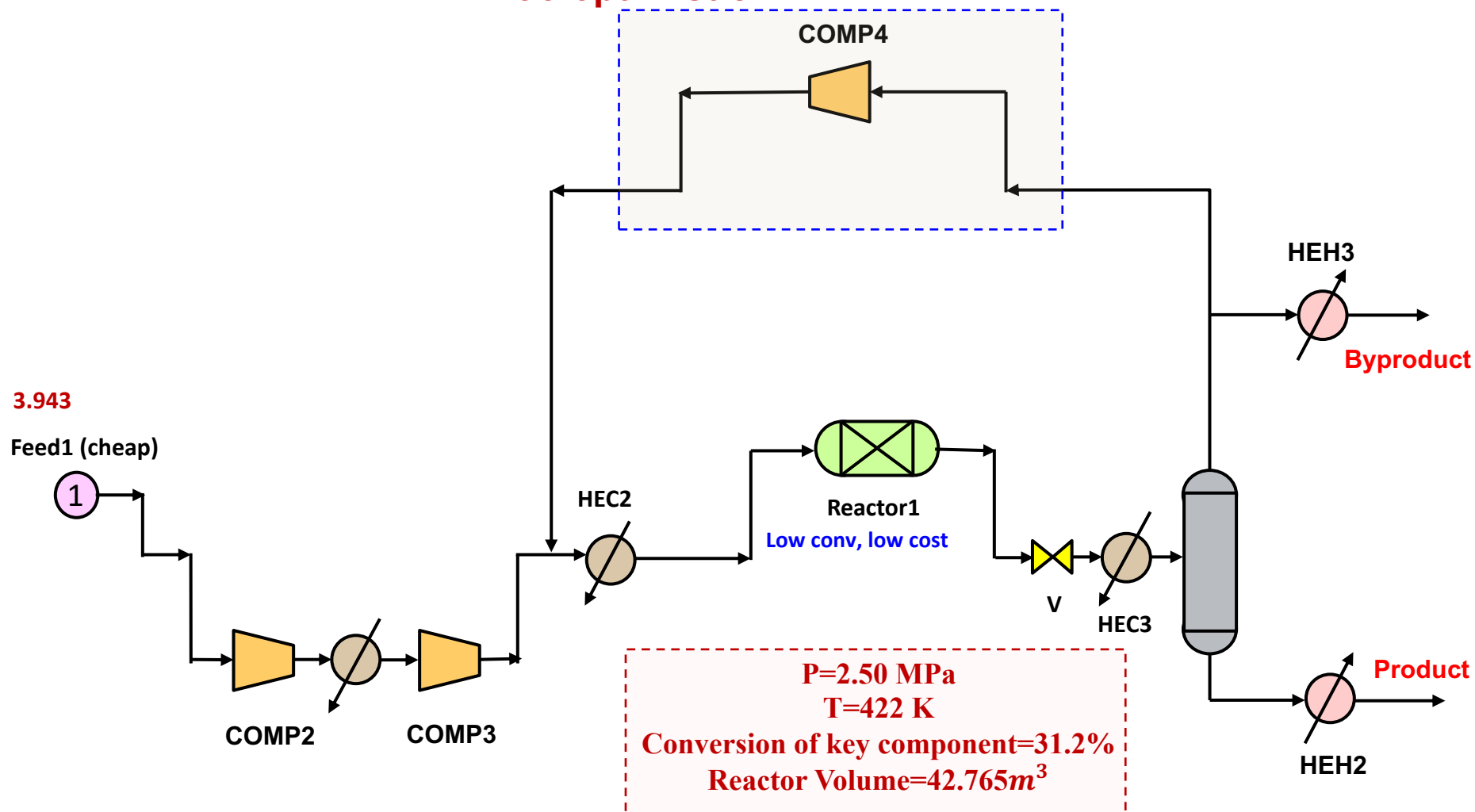
Key optimization variables in the reactors:  
operating pressure and the conversion per pass

# Industrial Methanol Synthesis



**Deterministic Model**

**Profit = 4115.3749 (\$1000 PER YEAR)**  
**Too optimistic**



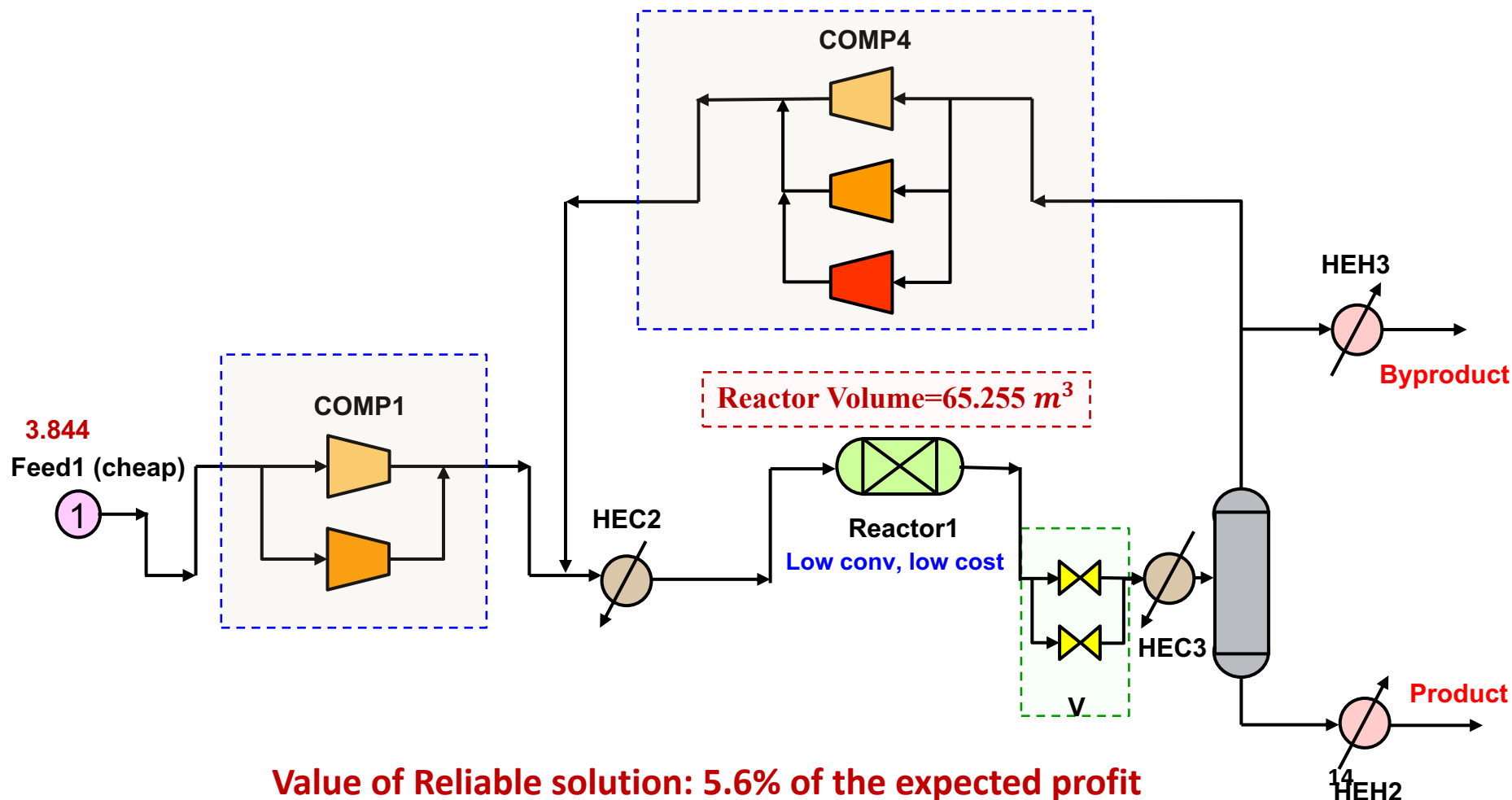
# Industrial Methanol Synthesis



**Stochastic Programming Model**

**Expected Profit = 3203.6879 (\$1000  
PER YEAR)**

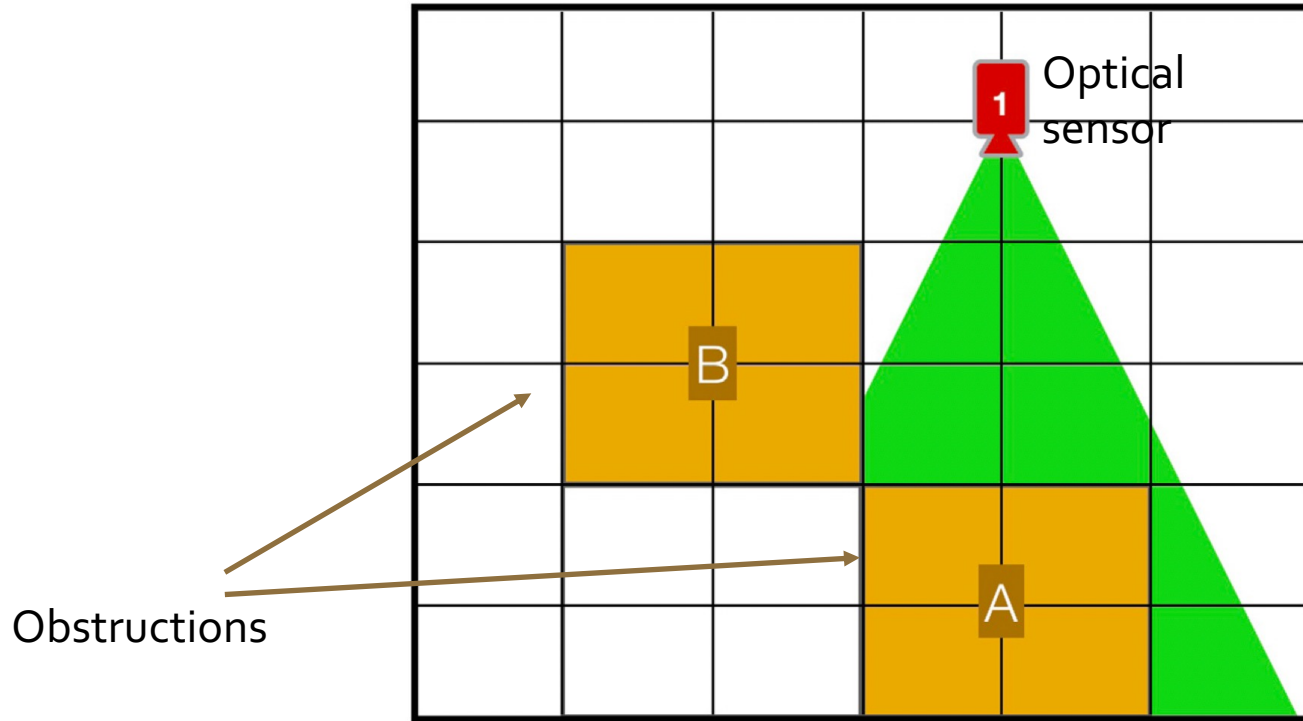
**Consider demand uncertainty and reliability Simultaneously**



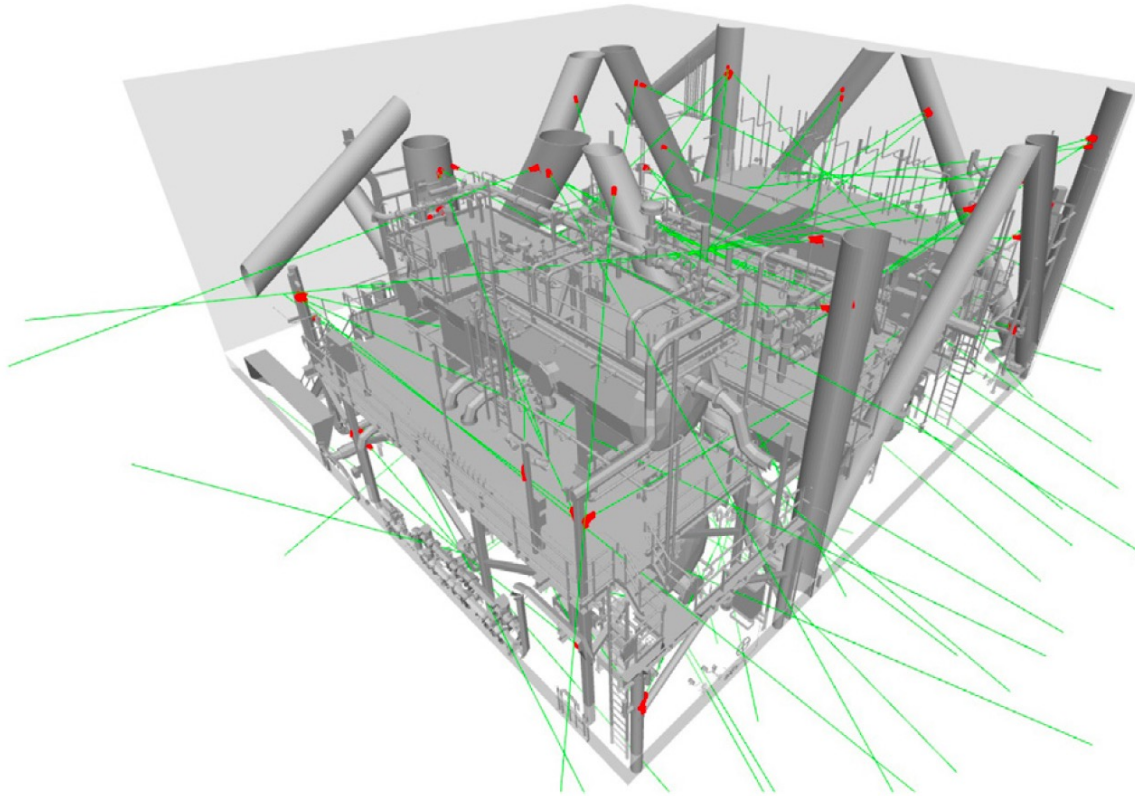
# Sensor Placement under Uncertainty



- Motivation: Determine the optimal configurations of sensors to maximize the probability of detecting safety hazards
- Flame, smoke, and heat detectors using chemical or optical sensors



- Facility with 81 candidate flame detector locations (Kenexis Consulting Corporation)



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- Mixed-integer nonlinear programming (MINLP) formulation

Maximize expected coverage

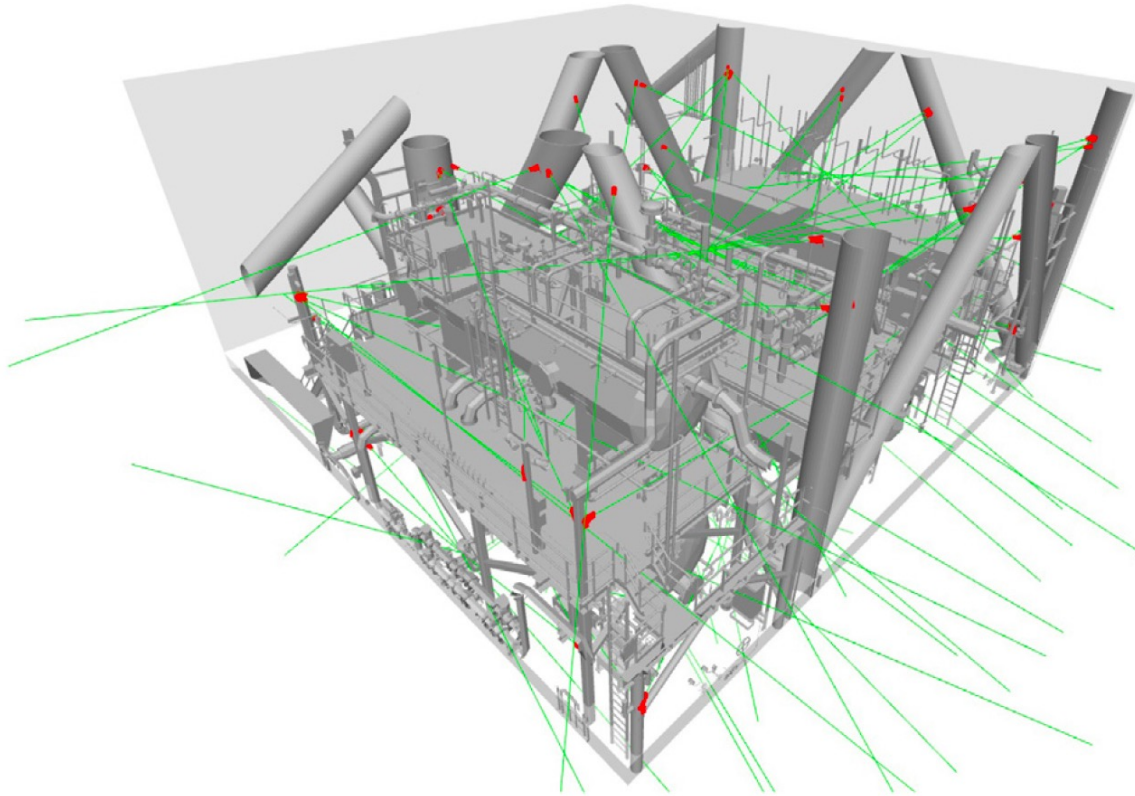
→ maximize  $\sum_{e \in E} \sigma_e w_e$   
 $x, \sigma$

Place at most  $k$  sensors → subject to  $\sum_{l \in L} x_l \leq k$

expected coverage of entity →  $\sigma_e = 1 - 1[\prod_{l \in L_e} (1 - p_{l,e} x_l)] \quad \forall e \in E$

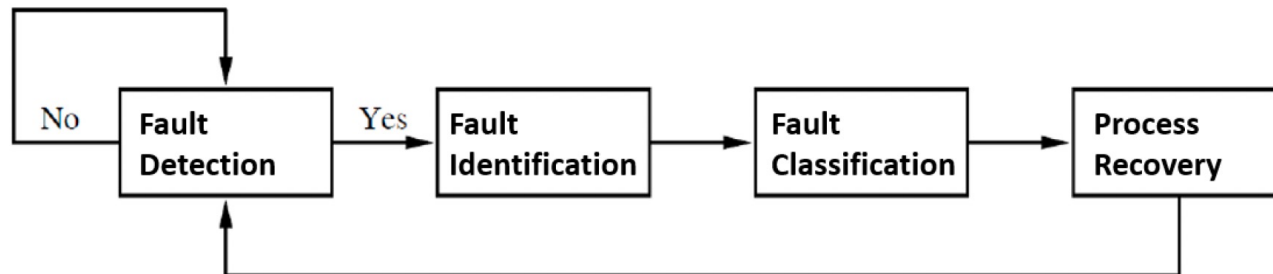
Binary variable, whether to place a sensor at location  $l$  →  $x_l \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall l \in L$   
 $0 \leq \sigma_e \leq 1 \quad \forall e \in E$

- Facility with 81 candidate flame detector locations (Kenexis Consulting Corporation)
- Find the optimal configuration within 2 hours with a tailored algorithm



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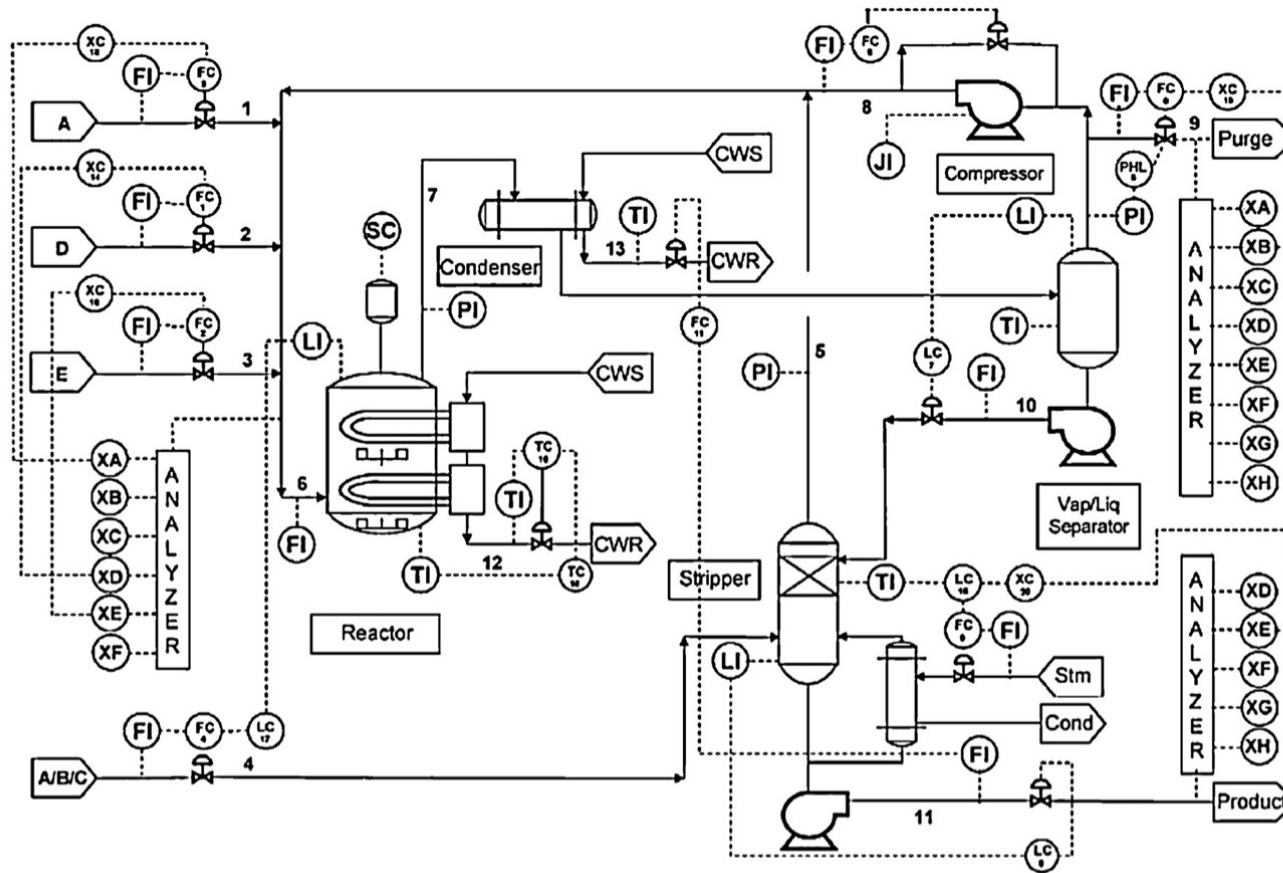
# Machine Learning for Process Monitoring



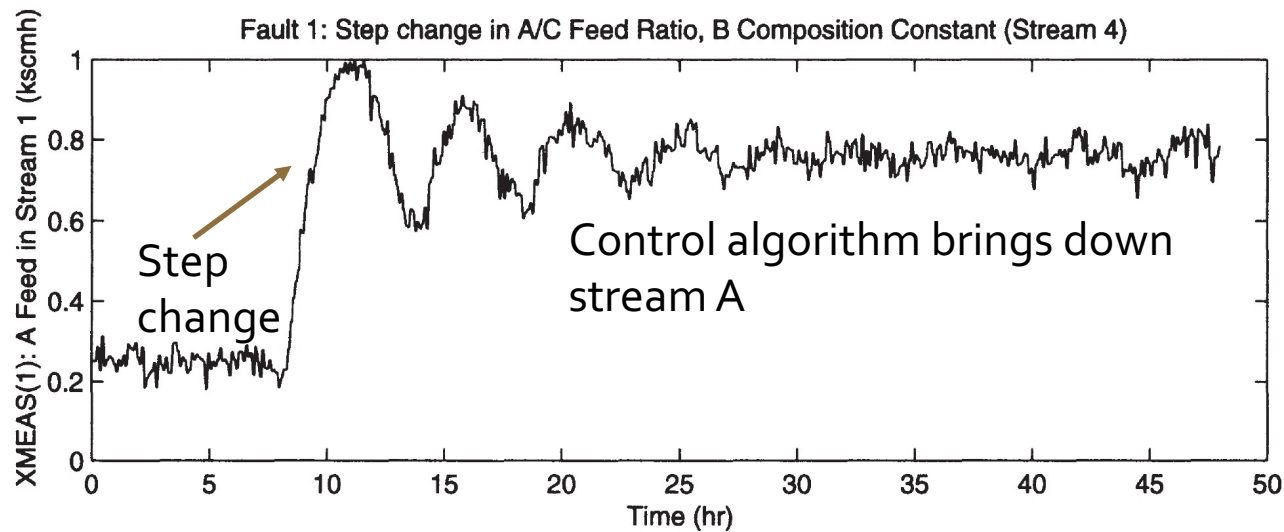
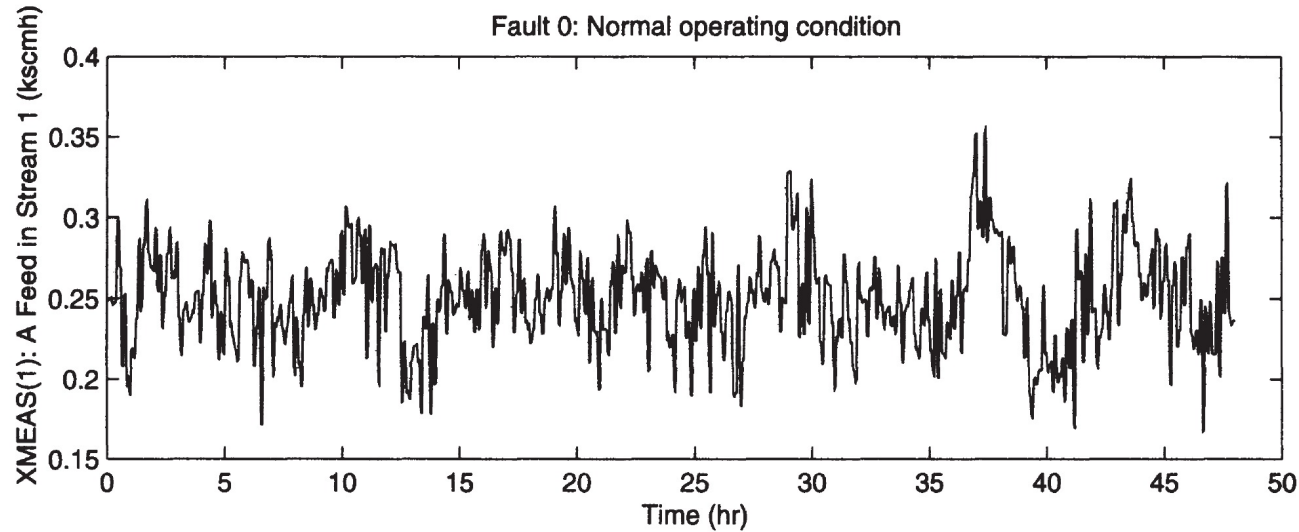
# Tennessee Eastman process



- From measured state variables, perform fault detection



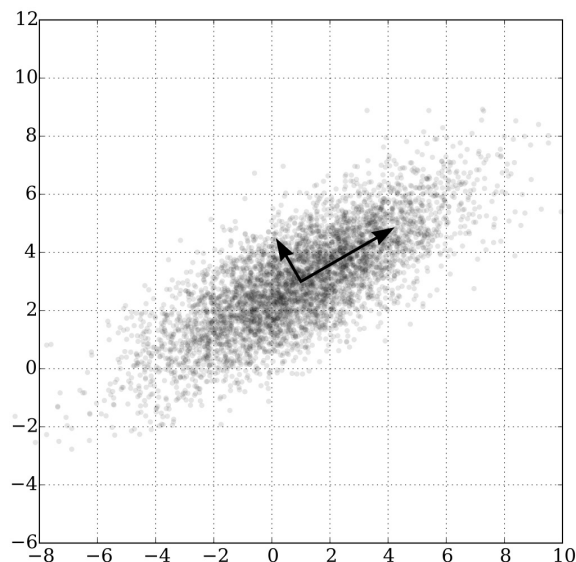
# Example: Change in A/C Feed ratio



# Classical Machine Learning Algorithm



- Principal component analysis: identify the principal components where the data have the largest variance. The non-principal components are “noise”.
- Approach: singular value decomposition
- Pros: Interpretability
- Cons: Low accuracy for nonlinear processes.



$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{orange} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \text{yellow} & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \text{yellow} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{purple} & \text{purple} & \text{purple} & \text{purple} \\ \hline \text{purple} & \text{purple} & \text{purple} & \text{purple} \\ \hline \text{purple} & \text{purple} & \text{purple} & \text{purple} \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{X} \\ n \times m
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{U} \\ n \times n
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{\Sigma} \\ n \times m
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{V}^* \\ m \times m
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \end{array}
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 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \text{teal} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{green} \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{U} \\ n \times n
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{U}^* \\ n \times n
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{I}_n \\ n \times n
 \end{array}$$

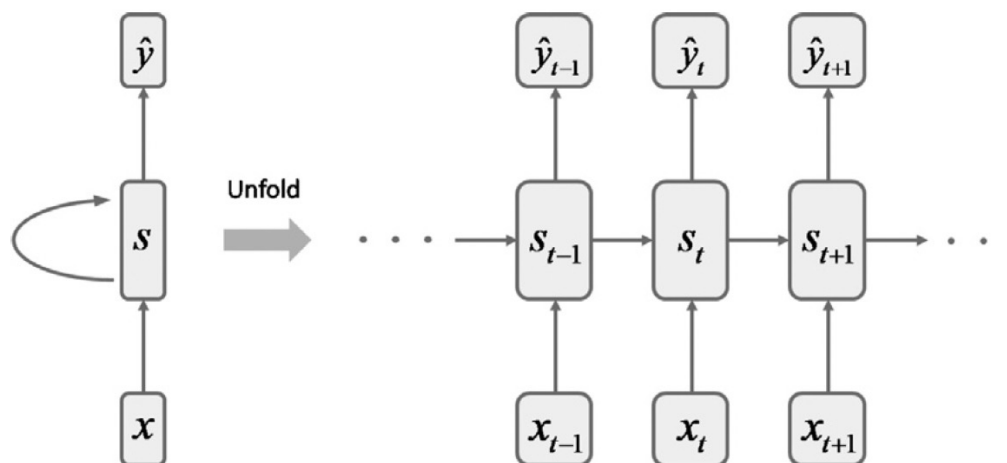
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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{V} \\ m \times m
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{V}^* \\ m \times m
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \mathbf{I}_m \\ m \times m
 \end{array}$$

- Recurrent neural network
- Pros: capable of handling nonlinearity and a high degree of spatio-temporal correlation
- Cons: hard to interpret



$s_t$ : state

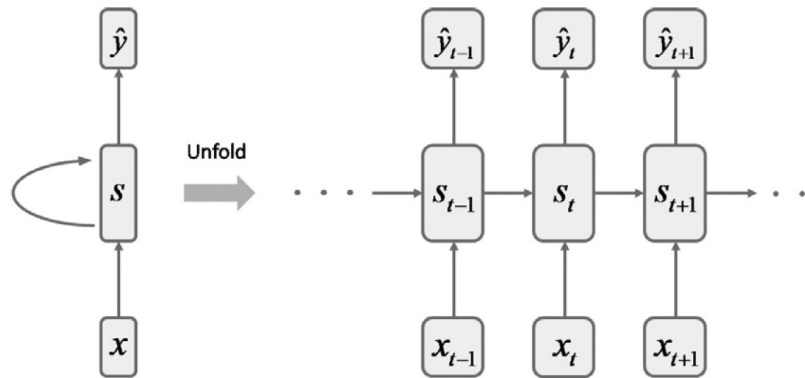
$x_t$ : input

$y_t$ : output

$$\mathbf{s}_t = f_s(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{s}_{t-1} | \theta_s)$$
$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t = \mathbf{W}_y \mathbf{s}_t + \mathbf{b}_y$$

- Ongoing research by PhD student Hao Chen

## Machine learning-based models



Computationally efficient to use online  
Hard to interpret

## Physics-based models

$$\frac{dc}{dt} = \frac{F_0(c_0 - c)}{\pi r^2 h} - k_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E}{RT}\right) c$$

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{F_0(T_0 - T)}{\pi r^2 h} + \frac{-\Delta H}{\rho C_p} k_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E}{RT}\right) c + \frac{2U}{r \rho C_p} (T_c - T)$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{F_0 - F}{\pi r^2}$$

High fidelity but expensive to solve



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