

# Uncertainty quantification of Molecular Dynamics Simulations for Crosslinked Polymers

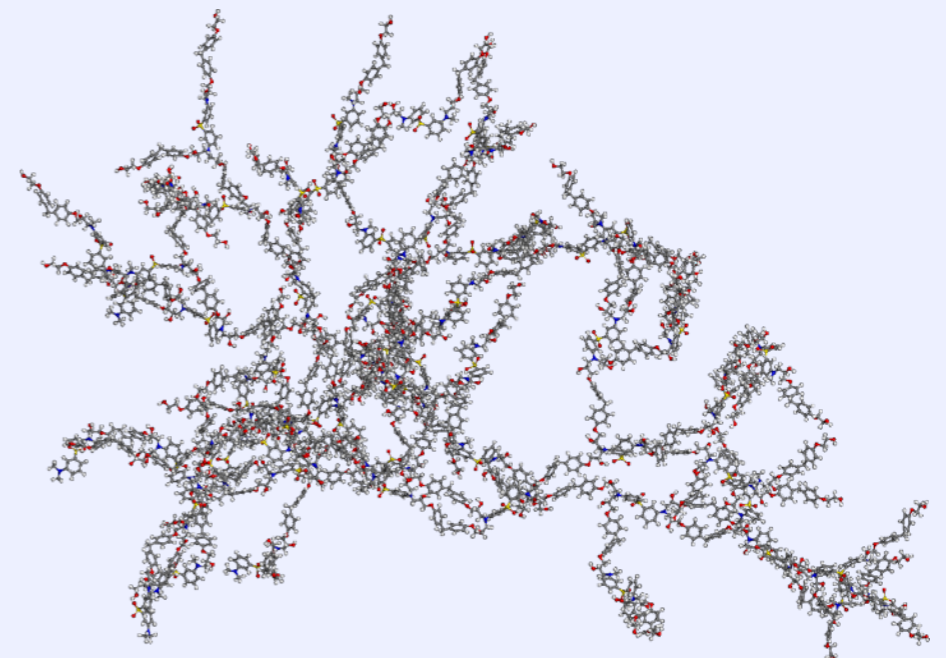
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**IMA** Institute for Mathematics  
and its Applications

**NIST**



# Backstory:

## Macro-economics of materials science

Advent of composites dramatically altered design space in aerospace engineering.

### Example: Boeing 787



1<sup>st</sup> aircraft with majority carbon-composite structural components

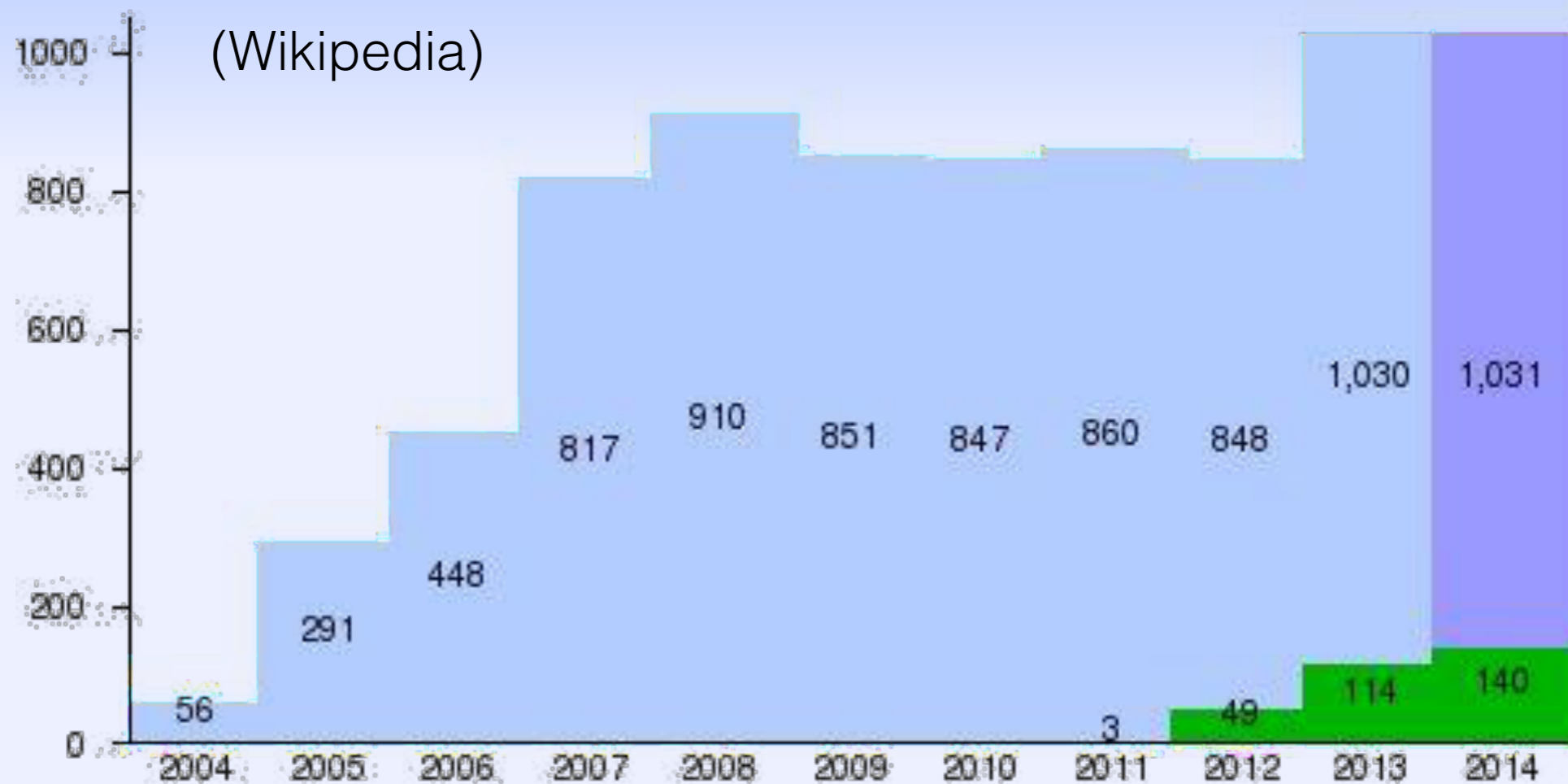
Lighter aircraft → fuel savings (20%)

### Scale of economics

(~ 1000 orders) x (~ \$250 Million / order) = \$250 Billion

# Impact of advanced materials

Cumulative orders of 787 (blue) and deliveries (green)



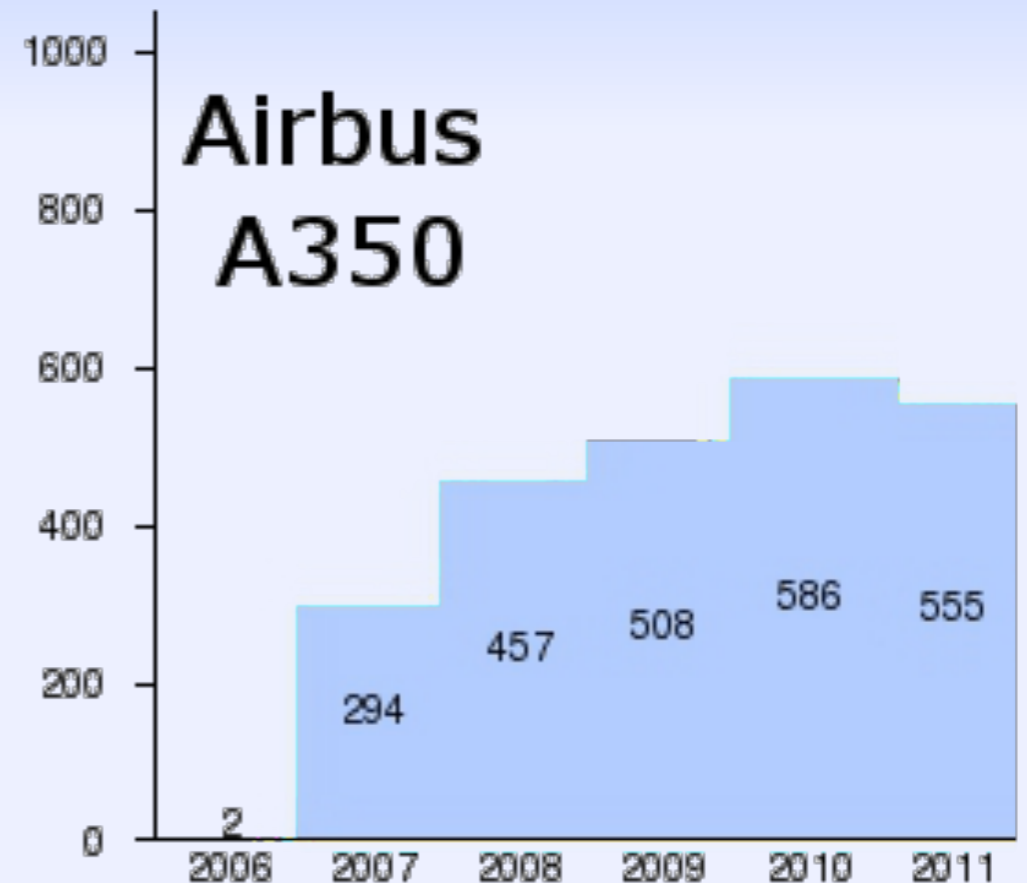
2006 Seattle Times headline

**Airplane kingpin tells Airbus: Overhaul A350**

*“That’s probably an \$8 billion to \$10 billion decision.”*

# Impact of advanced materials

## Cumulative orders of 787 and A350



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# Accelerating market insertion: materials by design

## Assume

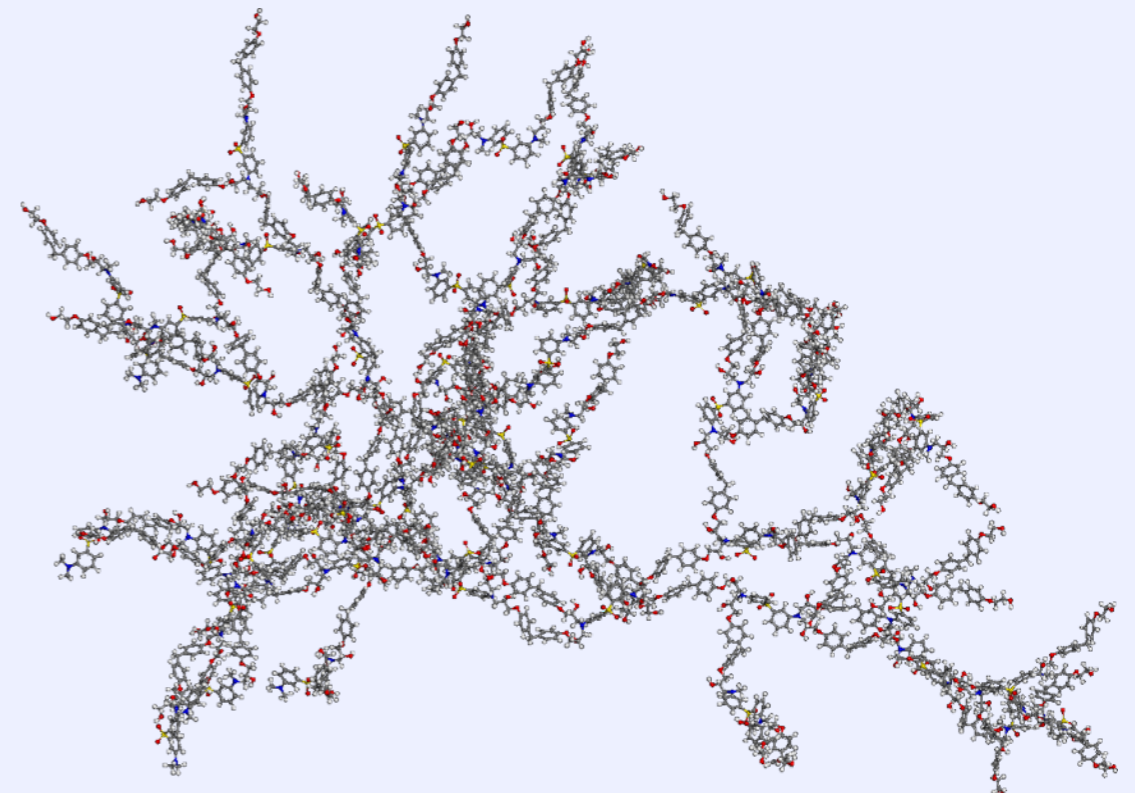
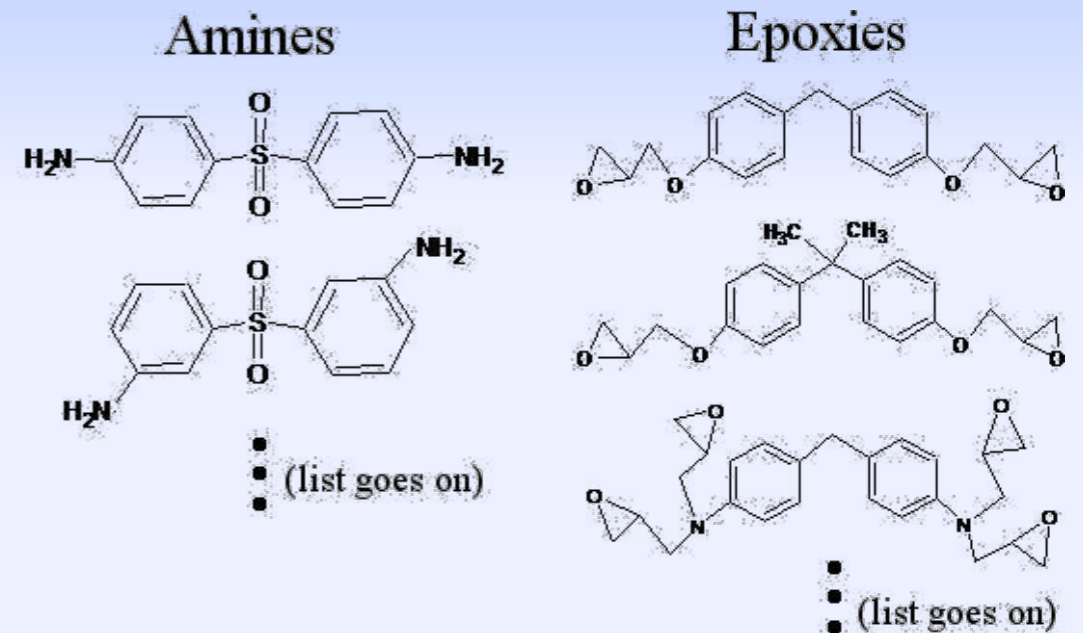
“Design space” of ingredients

Finite simulation resources

(Very) Few experiments

## Goal

Find chemistry with,  
e.g. highest  $T_g$



# Roles of UQ in modeling workflows

## Verification

Check math,  
remove bugs

Does data look  
like I expect?

Data of sufficient quality  
to make predictions?

Compute uncertainties  
arising **from within model**.

**Otherwise assume model  
is valid at this stage**

## Validation

Calibrate model

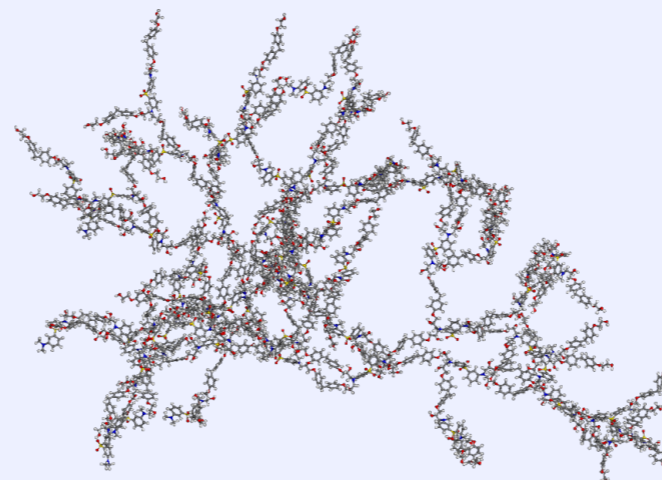
Estimate uncertainties  
arising from ....

calibration parameters

missing physics

model form error

**Test “real-world”  
predictive power**



# Roles of UQ in modeling workflows

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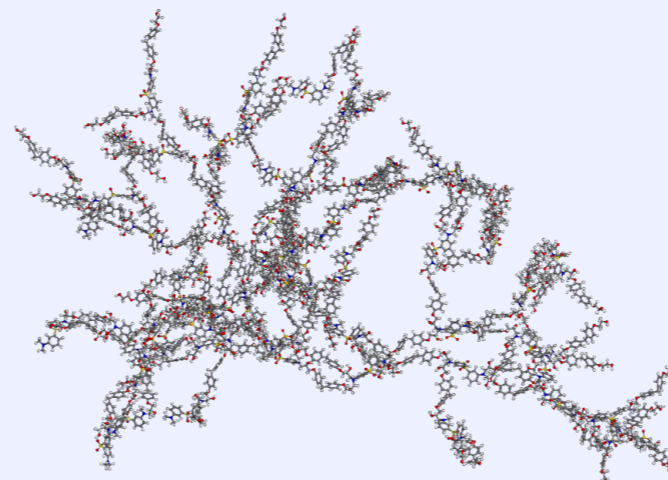
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## Today's focus on verification

Helps modelers to be  
precise about what they mean

Improves reproducibility

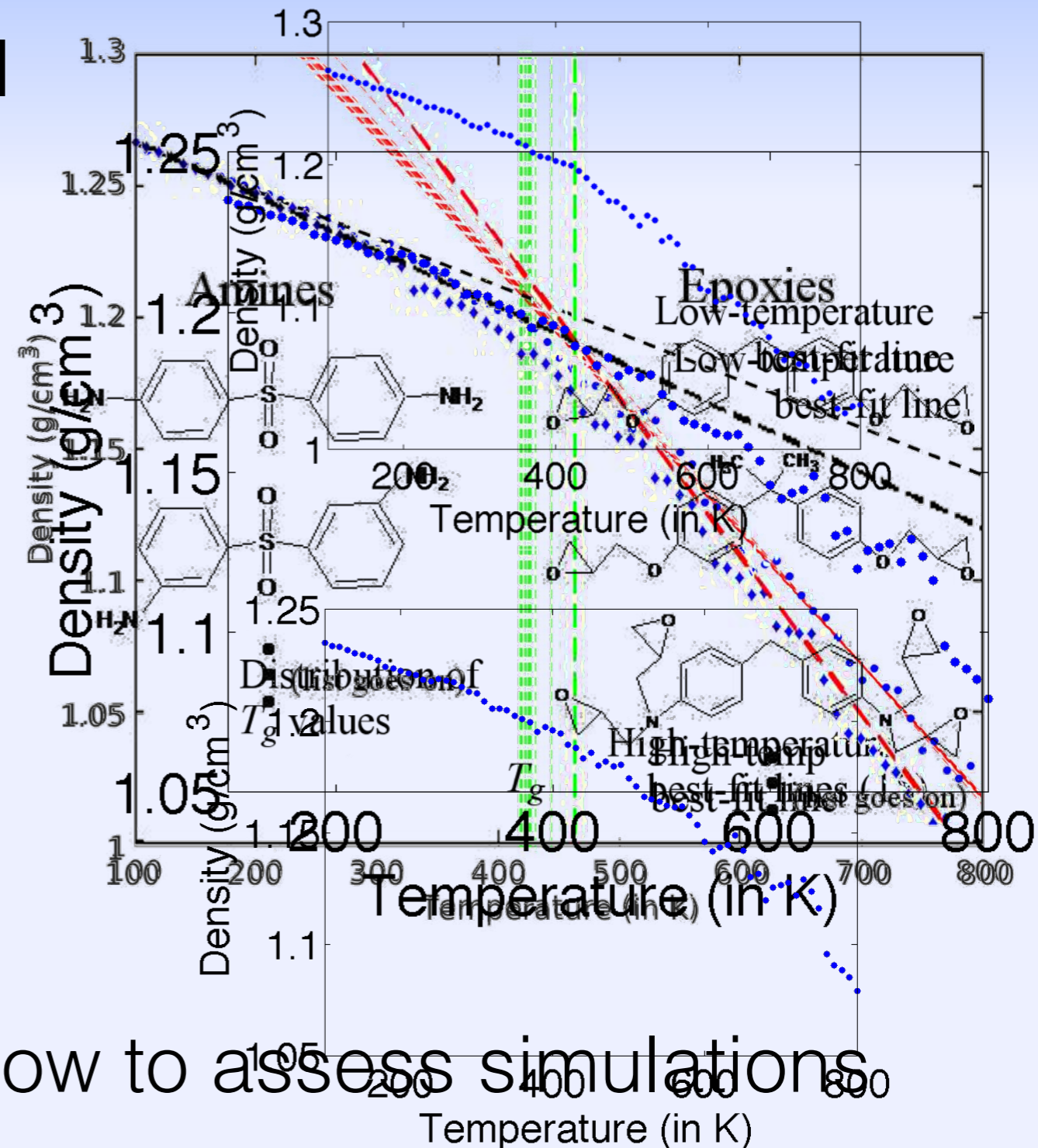
Streamlines validation



# Some complicating issues for T<sub>g</sub>

Incomplete list

1. Can we extract meaningful T<sub>g</sub> from simulated data
2. How to combine data?
3. How to work within non-analytic design space?



Hardened & verified workflow to assess simulations



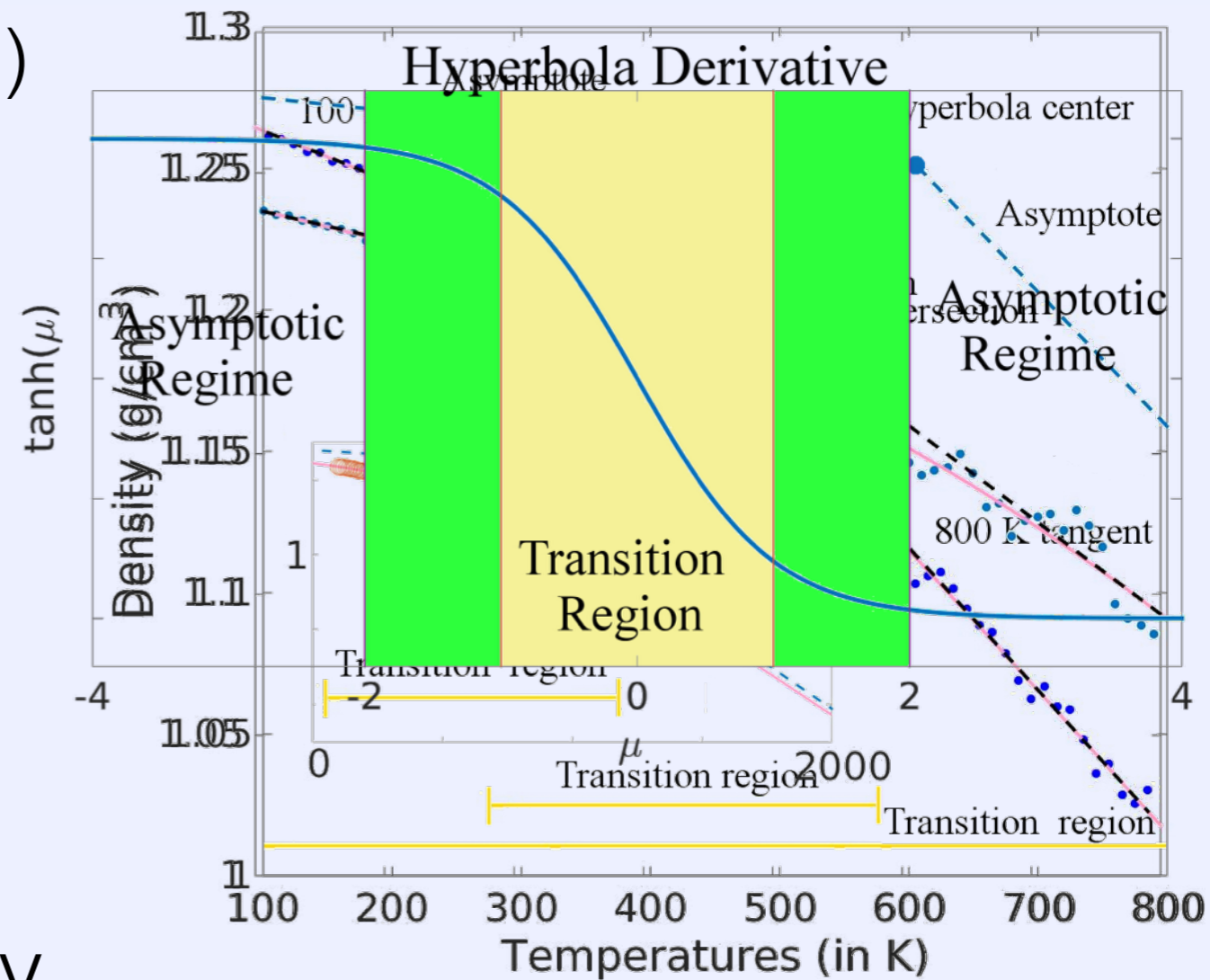
# Assessing ability to extract $T_g$

## Consistency with underlying definitions

$T_g$  defined as hyperbola center  
(same as asymptote intersection)

Automatically finds  
“asymptotic regimes”

Data inconsistent with  $T_g$  if  
asymptotic regimes far away



# Assessing ability to extract $T_g$

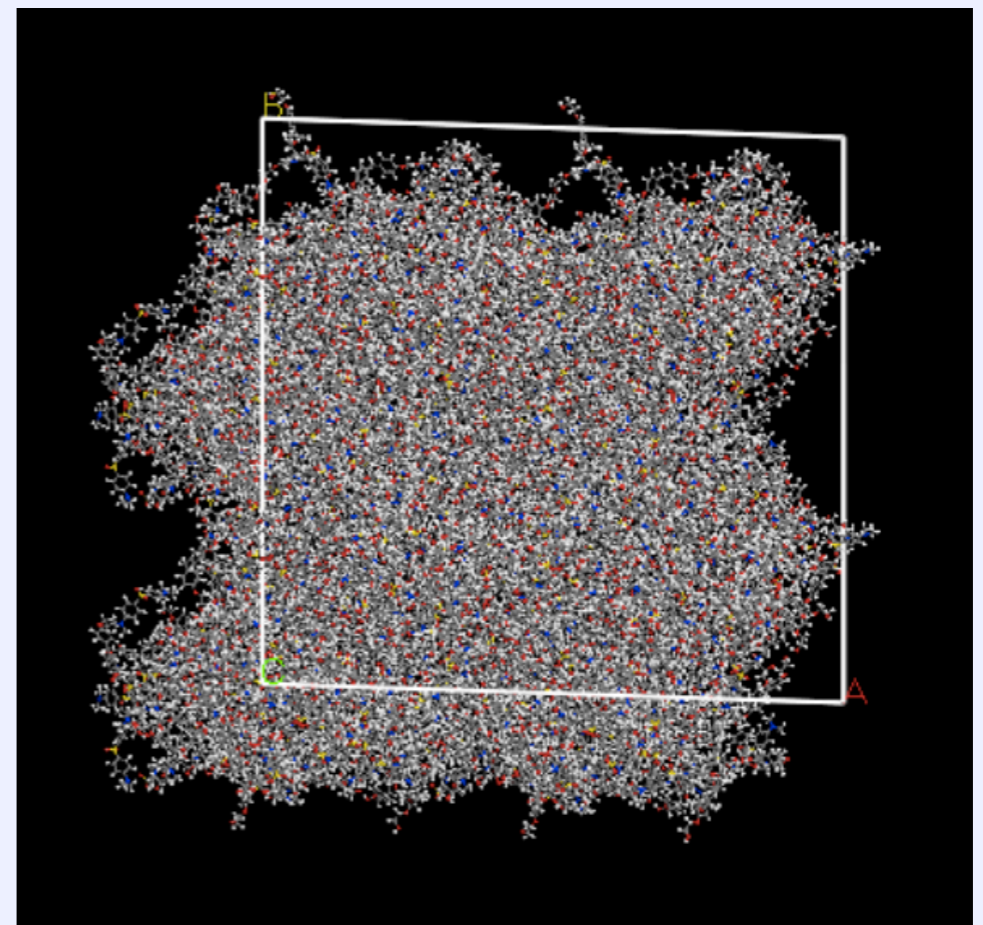
## Convergence to bulk limit

An industry oxymoron:

high-throughput, bulk-scale, atomistic-detail MD

This is not bulk...?

How do we know?



# Observations from statistical mechanics

As # of particles  $N \rightarrow \infty$

- 1) measurable quantities are independent of  $N$
- 2) variances of measurable scale as  $1/N$

Analytically:  $T_g = H(T, \rho)$

Hyperbola fit (**non-linear**)

density data

temperatures

$$\text{As } N \rightarrow \infty, T_g \approx H(T, \bar{\rho}) + \delta\rho(N) \cdot \nabla_{\rho} H \Big|_{(T, \bar{\rho})} + O(\|\delta\rho\|^2)$$

bulk mean

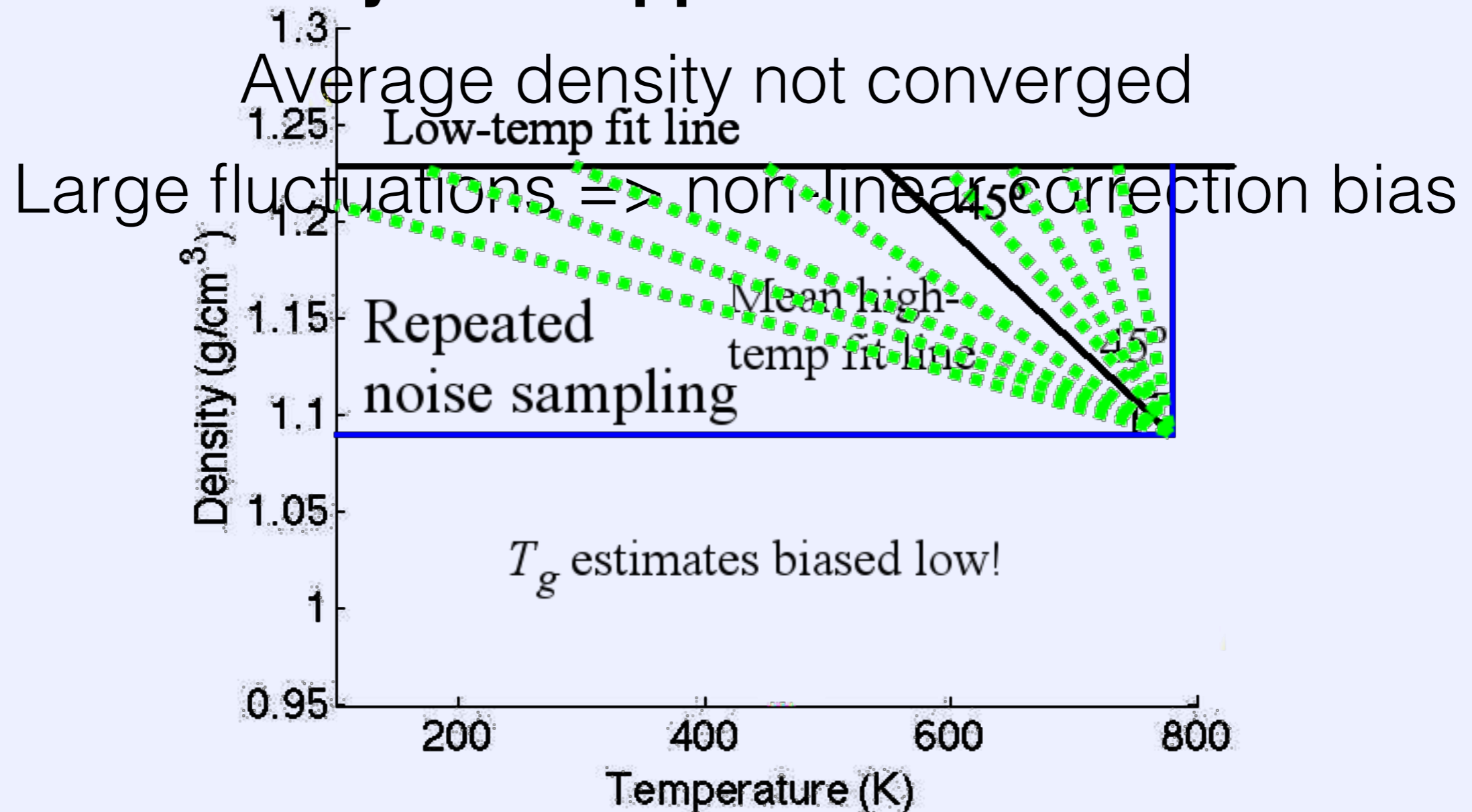
Hyperbola fit approximately linear

fluctuations

# Observations from statistical mechanics

$$\text{As } N \rightarrow \infty, T_g \approx H(T, \bar{\rho}) + \delta\rho(N) \cdot \nabla_{\rho} H \Big|_{(T, \bar{\rho})} + O(\|\delta\rho\|^2)$$

Large fluctuations  $\Rightarrow$  non-linear correction bias  
**Two ways this approximation can fail**





# Assessing ability to extract $T_g$

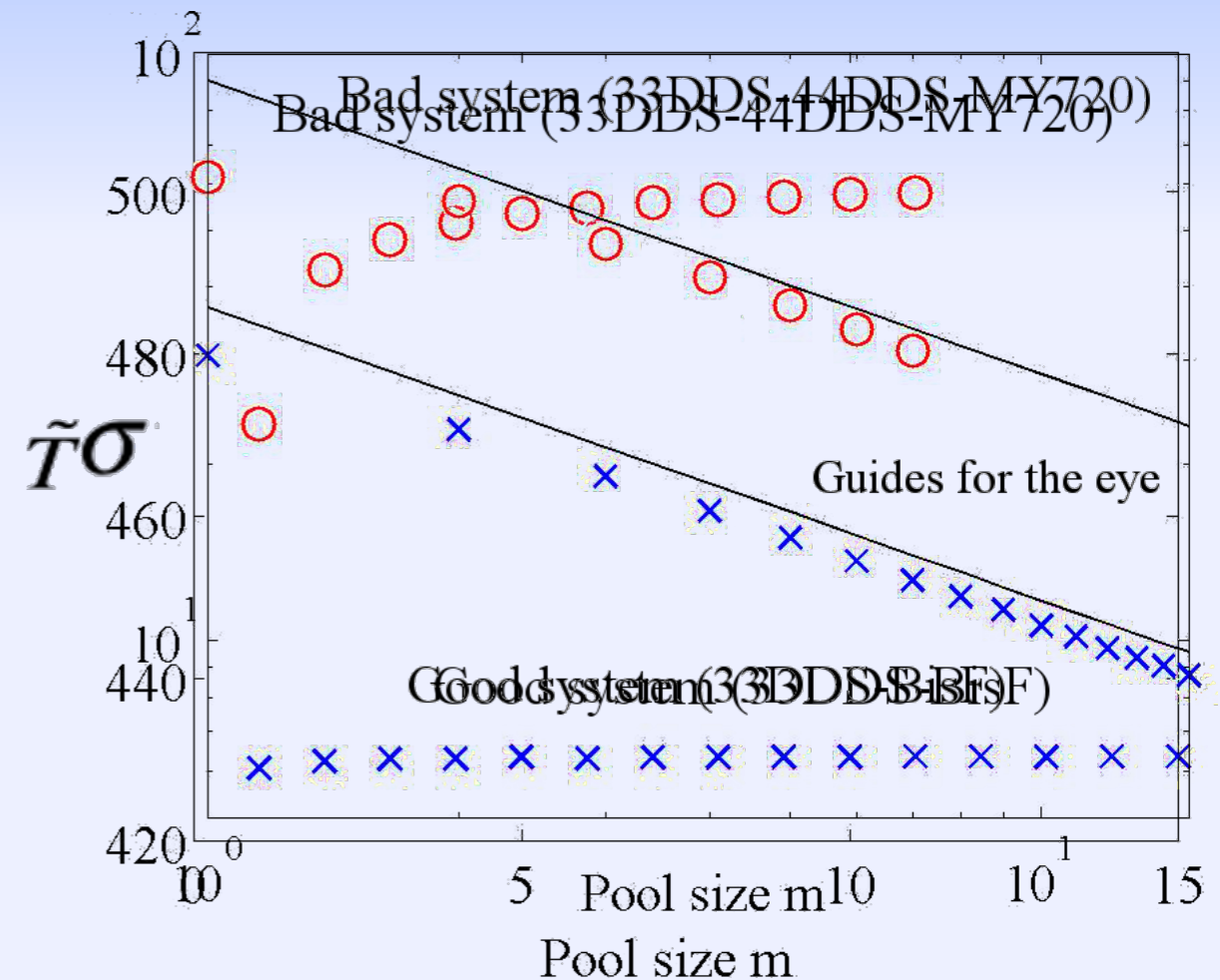
Is hyperbola fit biasing results?

## Test for bias (pooling)

Construct  $\binom{M}{m}$  average  $T_{g,i}$  from every combination of  $m$  data sets chosen from a total of  $M$

$$\tilde{T} = \binom{M}{m}^{-1} \sum_i T_{g,i} = \text{constant}$$

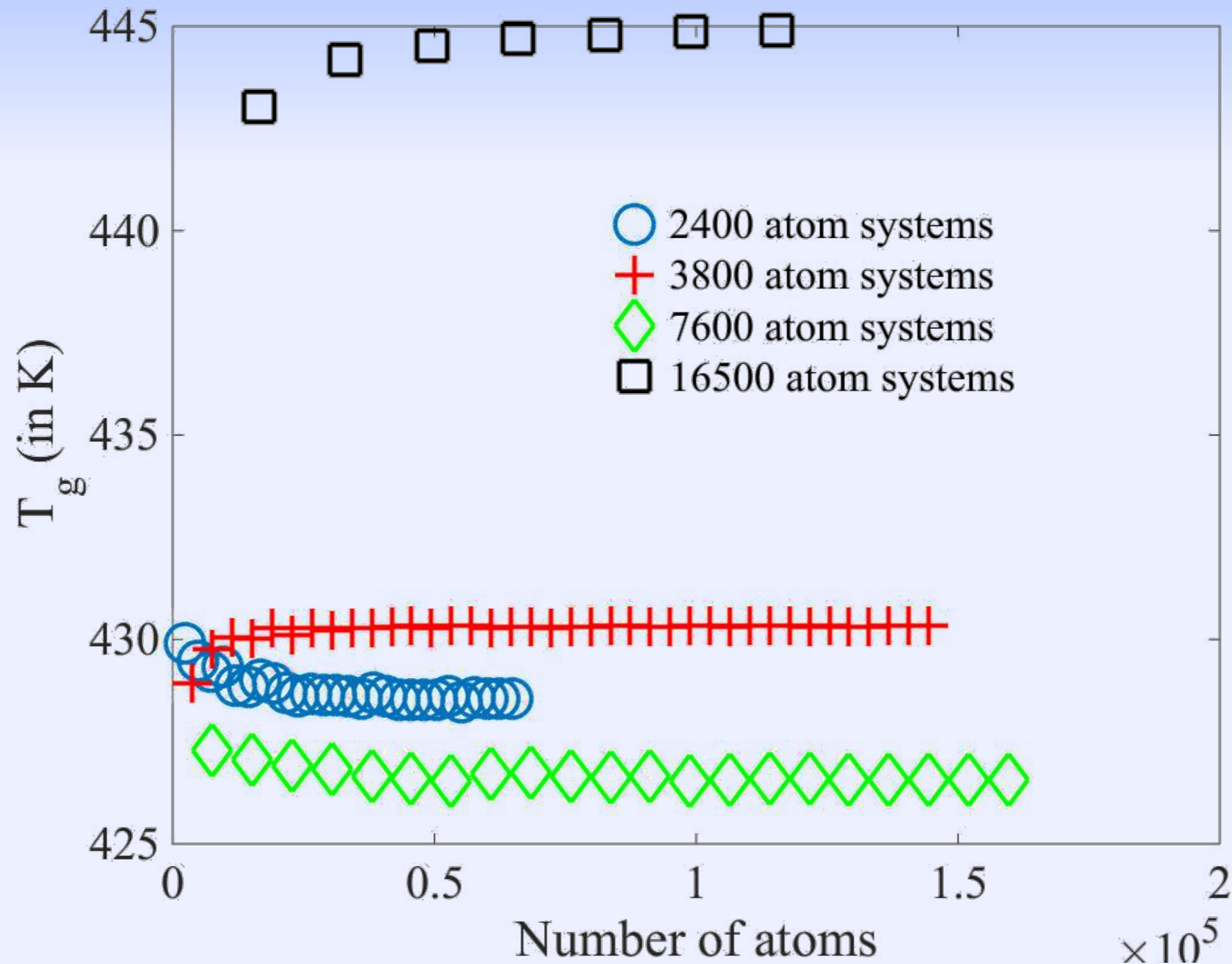
$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{M-m} \sum_i (T_{g,i} - \tilde{T})^2 \propto \frac{1}{m}$$



**IF linearity holds**

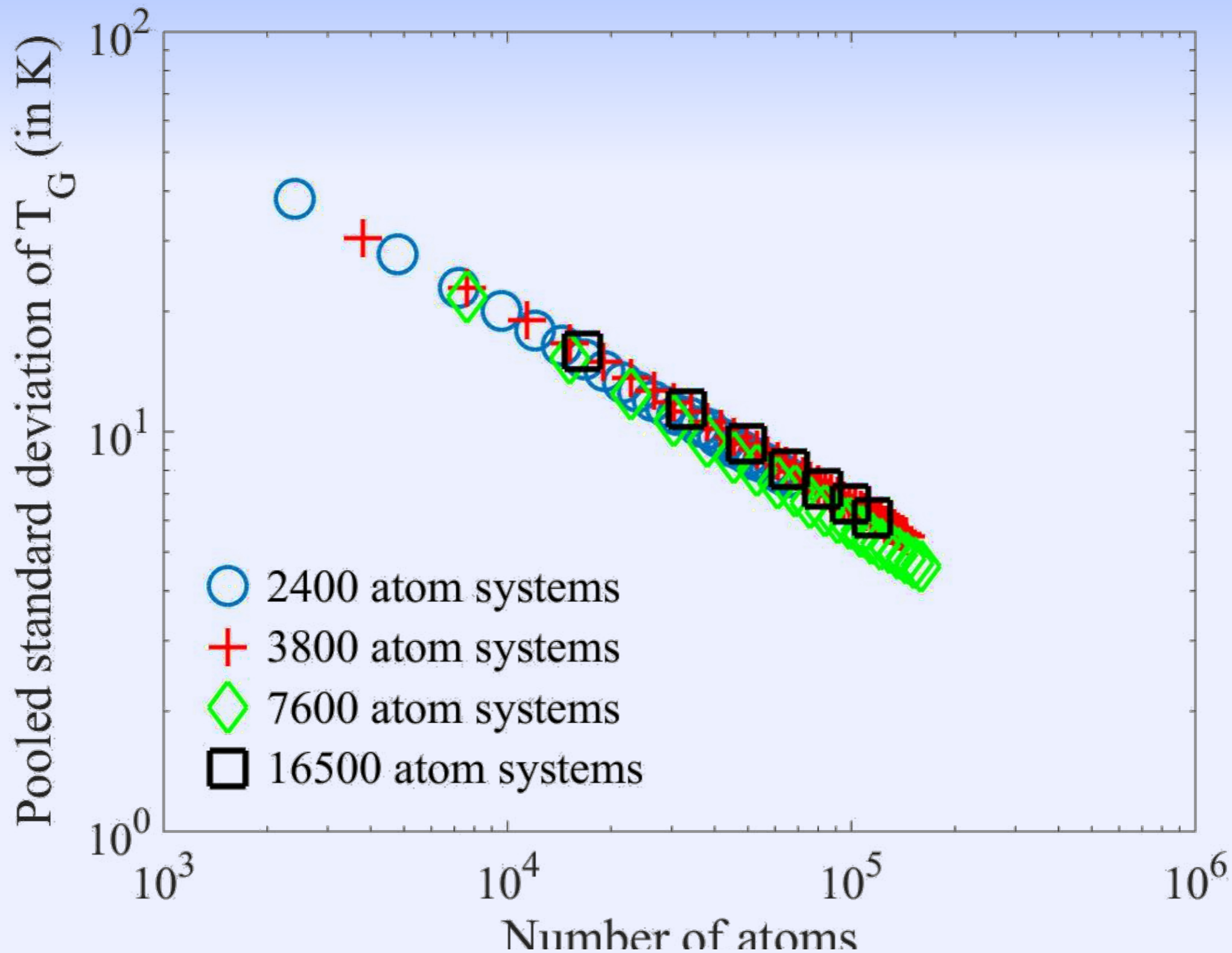
# Assessing ability to extract $T_g$

Is average density converged?



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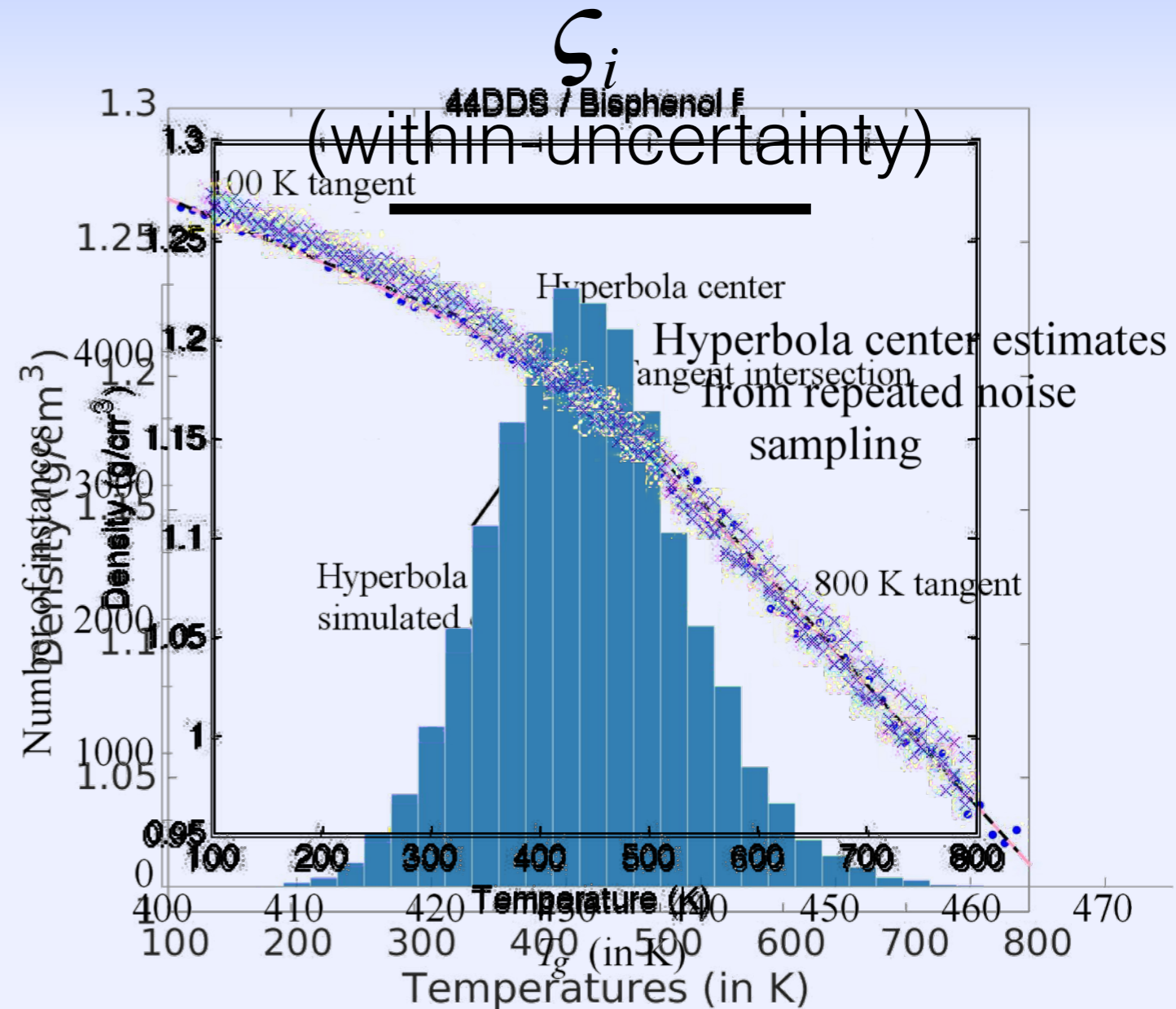
Did we extract a “precise”  $T_g$  value from the fit?

Noise affects fit, & hence our  $T_g$  estimate

Noise model for residuals

$$\rho(T) = \bar{\rho}(T) + \eta$$

Sample noise  $\eta$  & fit hyperbola to yield new  $T_g$





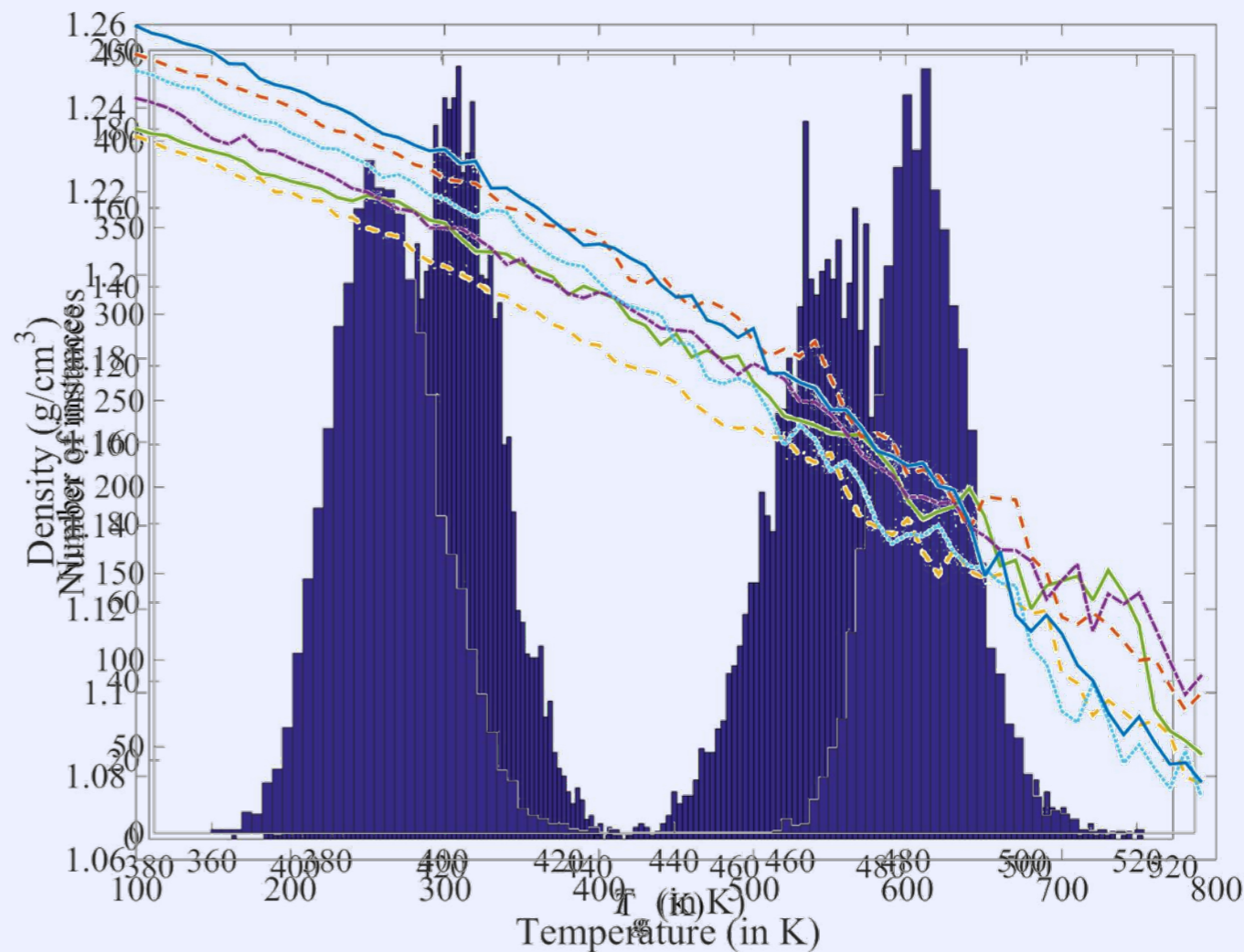
# Combining data

Should all data sets be treated equally?

Two simulations may yield different within-uncertainties

Worse, predictions may not overlap

How do we account for missing physics?



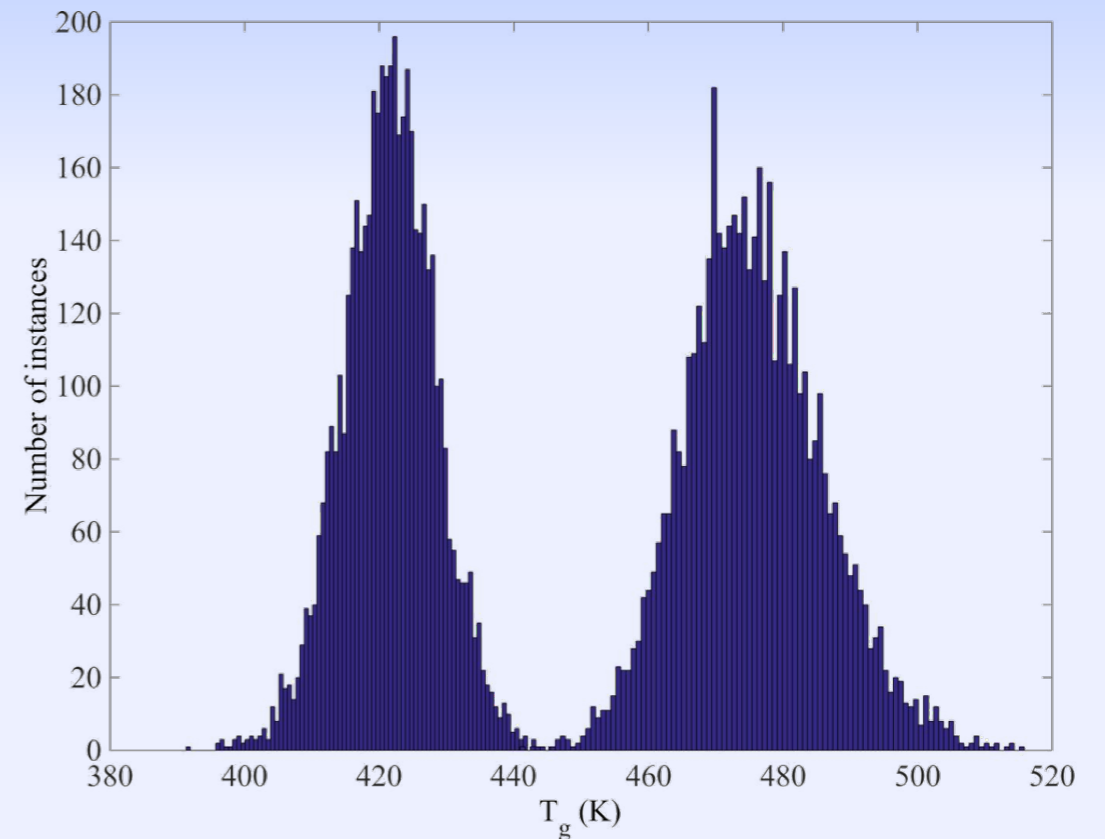
# Combining data

Should all data sets be treated equally?

Weighted-mean statistic model:

$$\tau = \left[ \frac{1}{\sum_i y^2} \right]^{-1} \sum_i \frac{T_{g,i}}{y^2}$$

$T_g$  from  $i$ th simulation  
↓  
↑  
uncertainty from under-modeled physics

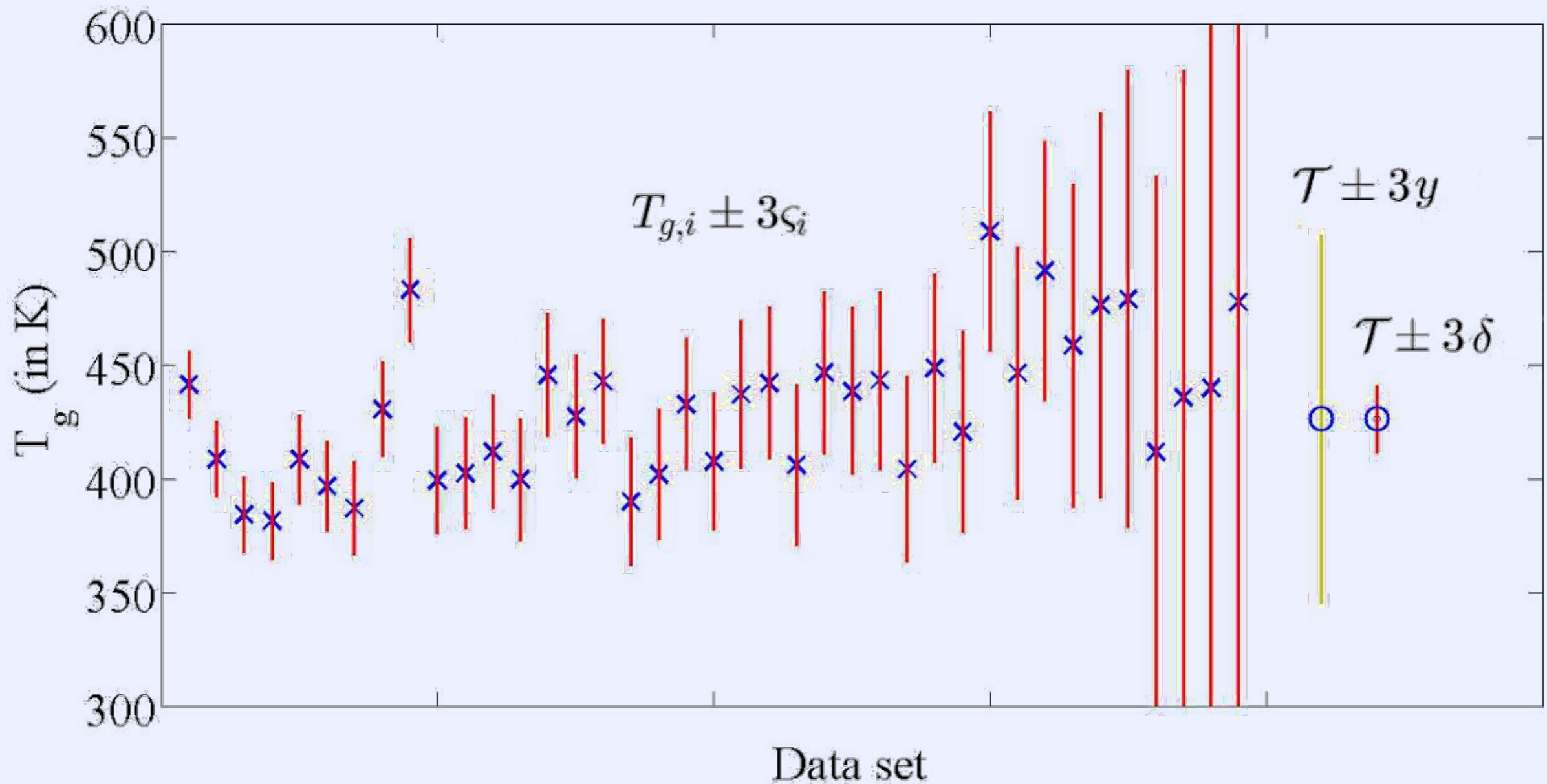


de-weights “imprecise”  
& overconfident  $T_i$

Solve for  $y$  using maximum likelihood analysis (MLE)

# Combining data

Final uncertainty estimate:  $\delta^2 = \left[ \frac{1}{\sum_i y^2 + \zeta_i^2} \right]^{-2} \sum_i \frac{(T_{g,i} - \tau)^2}{(y^2 + \zeta_i^2)^2}$

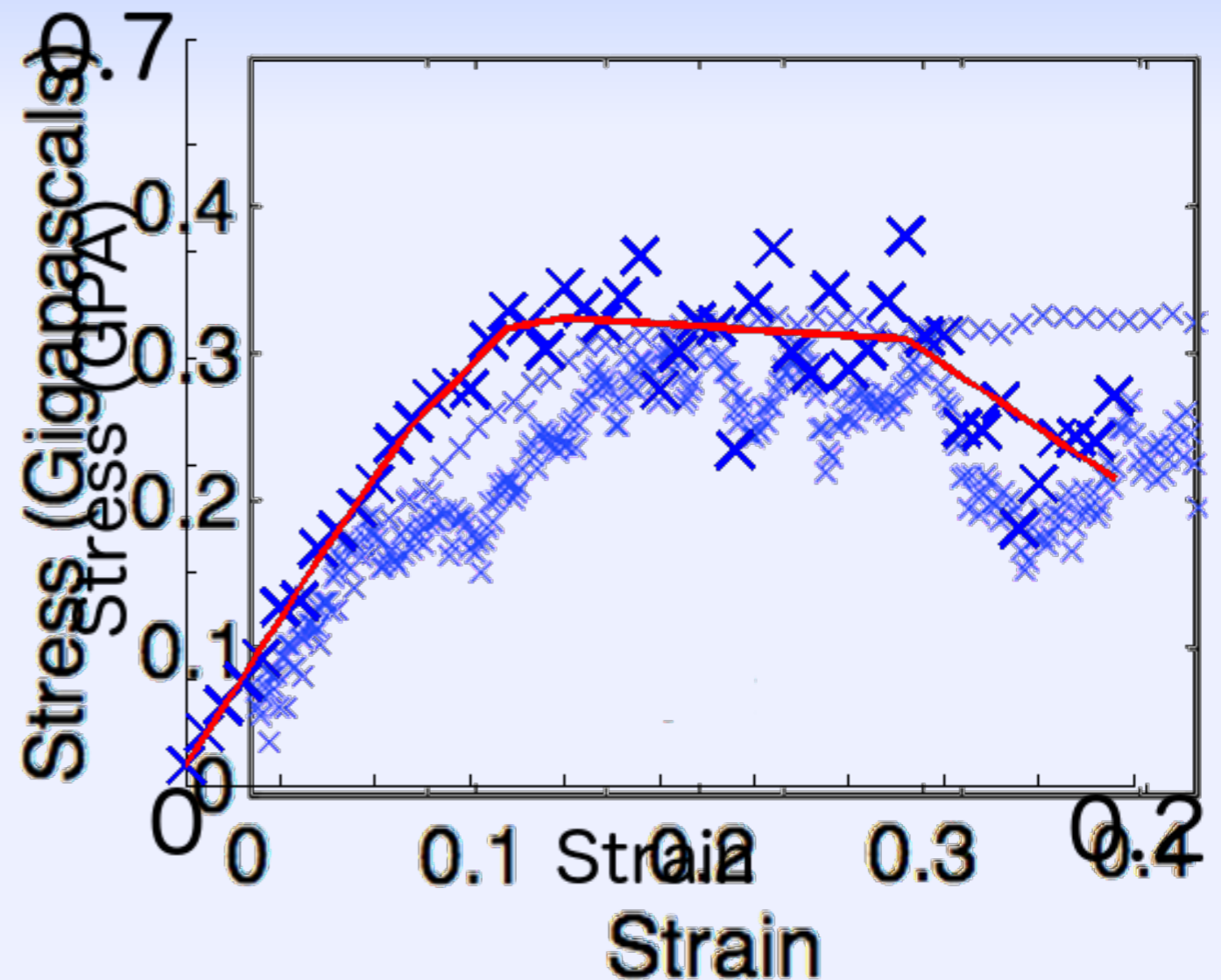


# Open problems: yield strain

Strain at which material no longer resists a load

Identified as maximum of stress-strain curve

How do we deal with noisy data?



Analysis using convex functions.

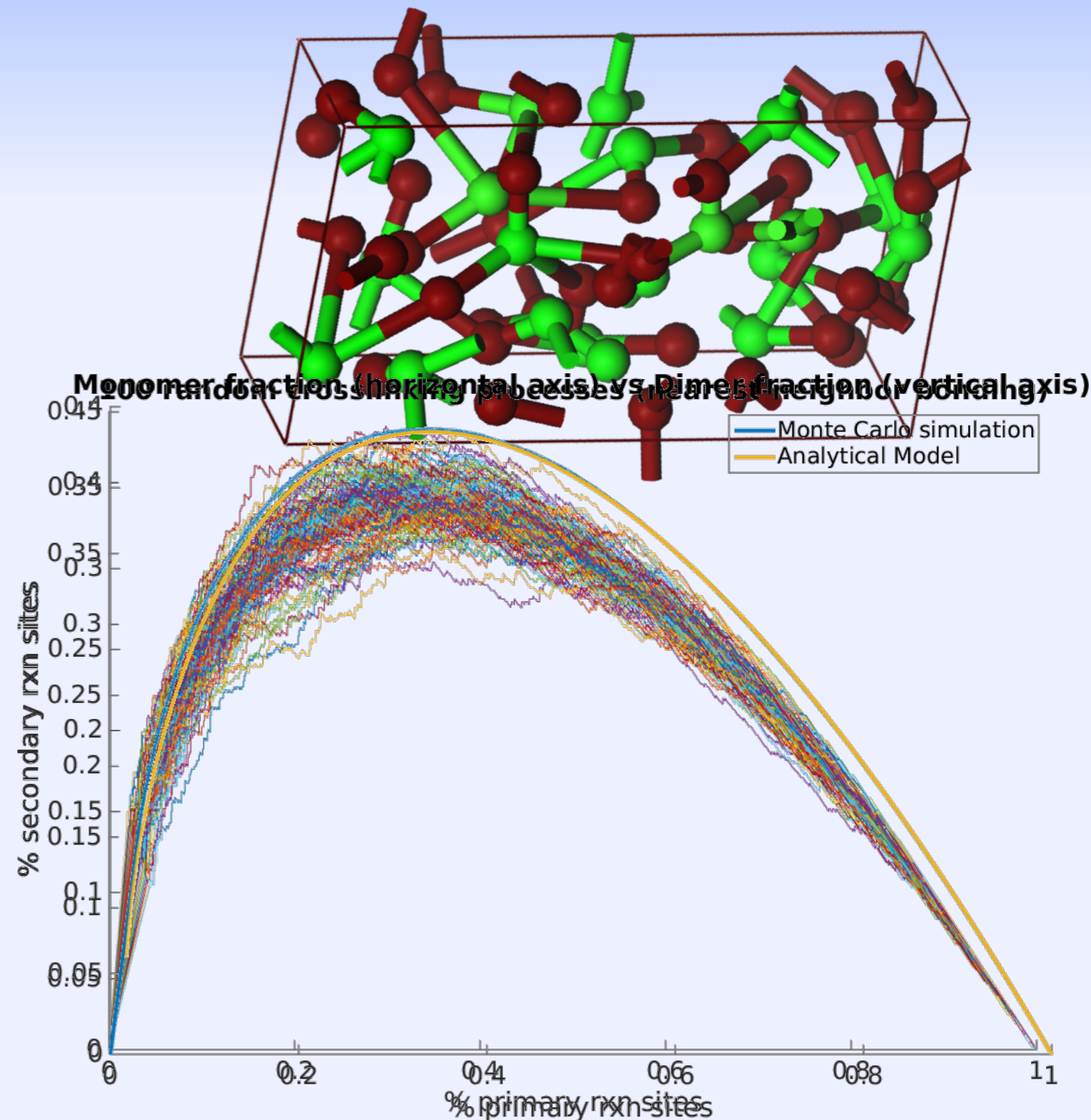


# Open problems: understanding statistics of “realistic” crosslinked networks

What is mean number of edges at a given vertex?

Depends on x-link algorithm:  
e.g. random bonding,  
nearest neighbor....

Analytical (probabilistic)  
models to describe  
simulated predictions



# Conclusions

MD is driving development of materials & other disruptive technologies

UQ can help industry assess usefulness of their simulations

Lots of open problems