

# Increased physics, model validation, and explicit uncertainties

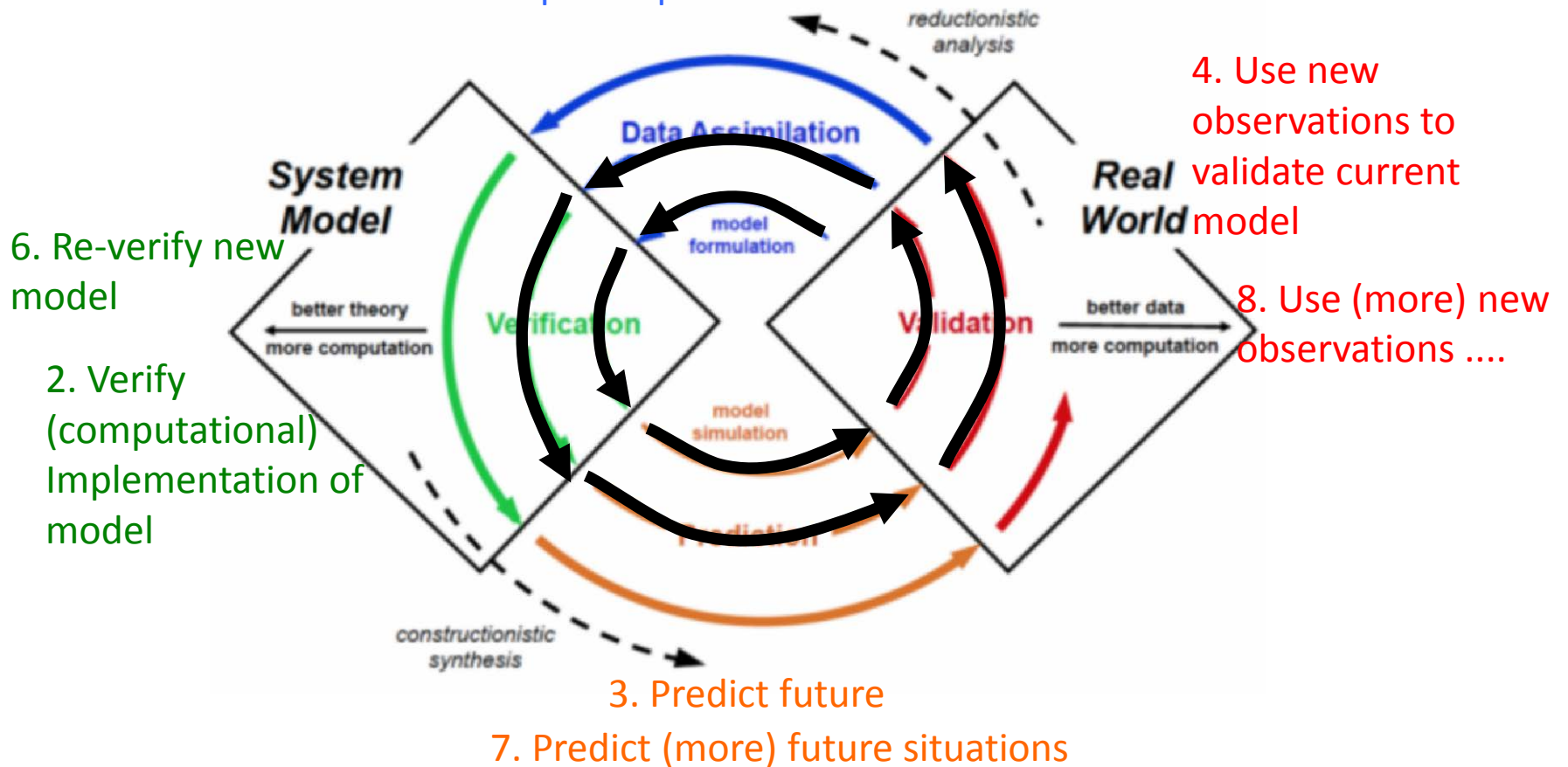
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# Inference spiral of science

5. New observations indicate model deficiencies, improve model theory

1. Initial observational data, simple empirical model

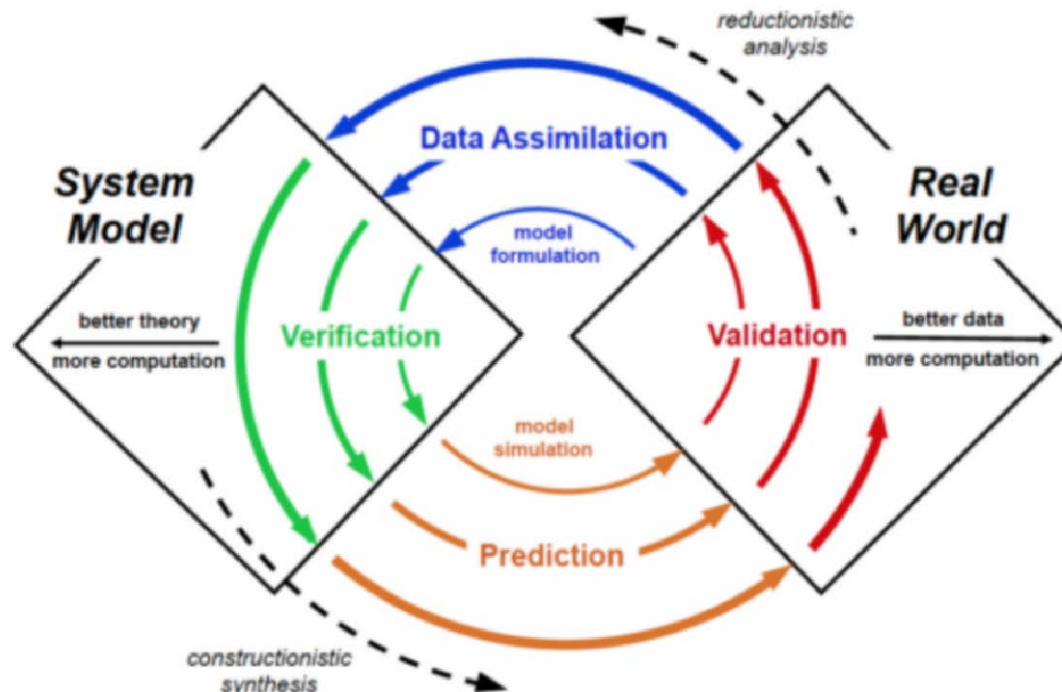


# Inference spiral of science

## How to prevent diminishing returns?

Exponential increase in field observational data [more Eqs(?), better reconnaissance(?)]

1. Improved model formulations (more physics) that allow greater utilization of observations and better assimilation of field, laboratory, and numerical modelling
2. More robust validation (how well do current models actually perform in a 'blind' prospective sense)
3. Understanding uncertainties as a means to identify fruitful areas to concentrate effort (and as a by-product provide predictions with explicit uncertainty estimates)



# Modelling progression

1. Purely empirical functional form (no mechanics basis)

2. Semi-empirical (Part 1)  
[polynomial has physics considerations (albiet oversimplified) ]

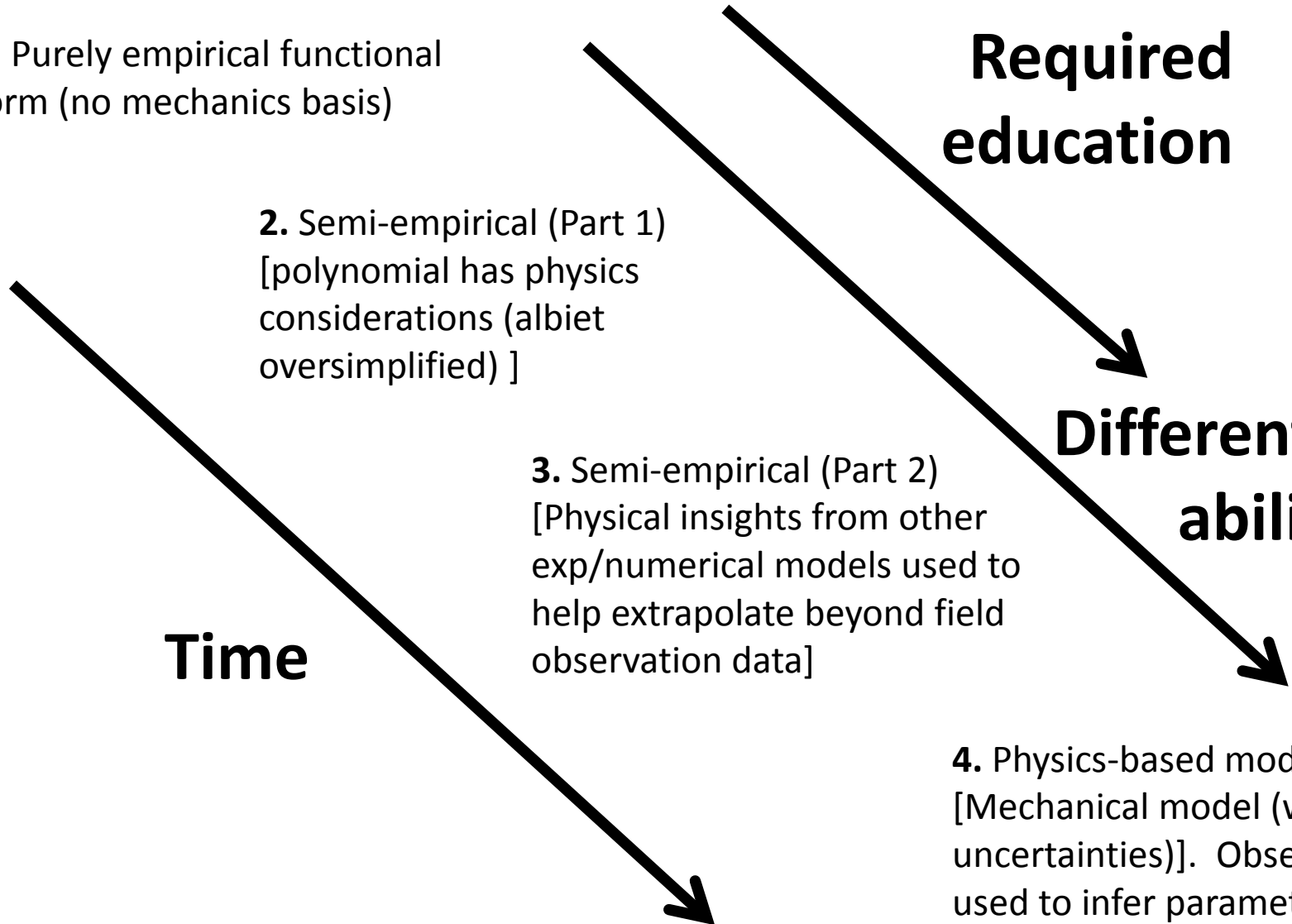
3. Semi-empirical (Part 2)  
[Physical insights from other exp/numerical models used to help extrapolate beyond field observation data]

**Required education**

**Differentiation ability**

**Time**

4. Physics-based model  
[Mechanical model (w spatial uncertainties)]. Observations used to infer parameters and constitutive relations



# Physics-based modelling

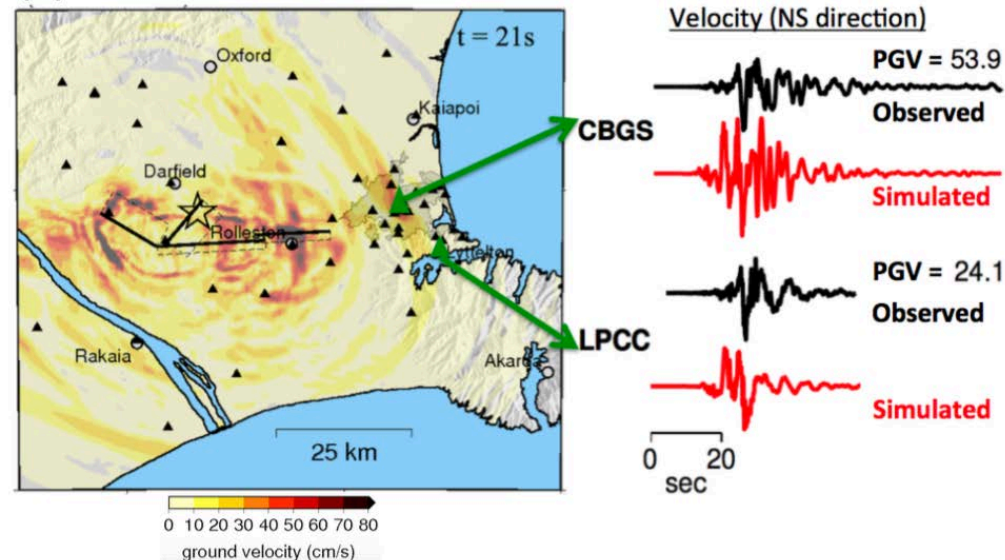
- Empirical liquefaction-induced impact models are tied directly to factor of safety approach used for triggering analyses

## Seismic hazard loading

$$CSR_{M_w 7.5, \sigma'_v} = 0.65 \frac{\sigma_v}{\sigma'_v} \frac{PGA}{g} \frac{r_d(M_w)}{MSF(M_w)}$$

$$\rightarrow CSR = \mathcal{F}(PGA, M_w)$$

- **Inputs:** Ground motion simulation methods are now able to provide seismic hazard directly in the form of acceleration time series
  - How to utilize this within empirical liquefaction impact models? (simply PGA and  $M_w$ ?)
  - [e.g. we know that  $M_w$  alone is a poor proxy for number of cycles (being also a function of distance and deep basin conditions)]
  - Using  $a(t)$  directly?



## Soil element constitutive behaviour

- Modelled directly (.... although we need more test data under complex/realistic loading conditions)

## Modelling system (layer) interactions

- Demand: How dynamic and constitutive response of soil elements modifies the transmitted ground motion to other soil elements in the system
- Capacity: Void redistribution and geometric nonlinearities

# Physics-based modelling



## Pros:

- Governing mechanics
- Develop an understanding of the problem
- 'Extrapolation' to cases of interest is physically based
- A clear framework in which field, laboratory and numerical observations and insights can be integrated
  
- Simulations represent actual sensitivity of reality (?)

## Hinderances:

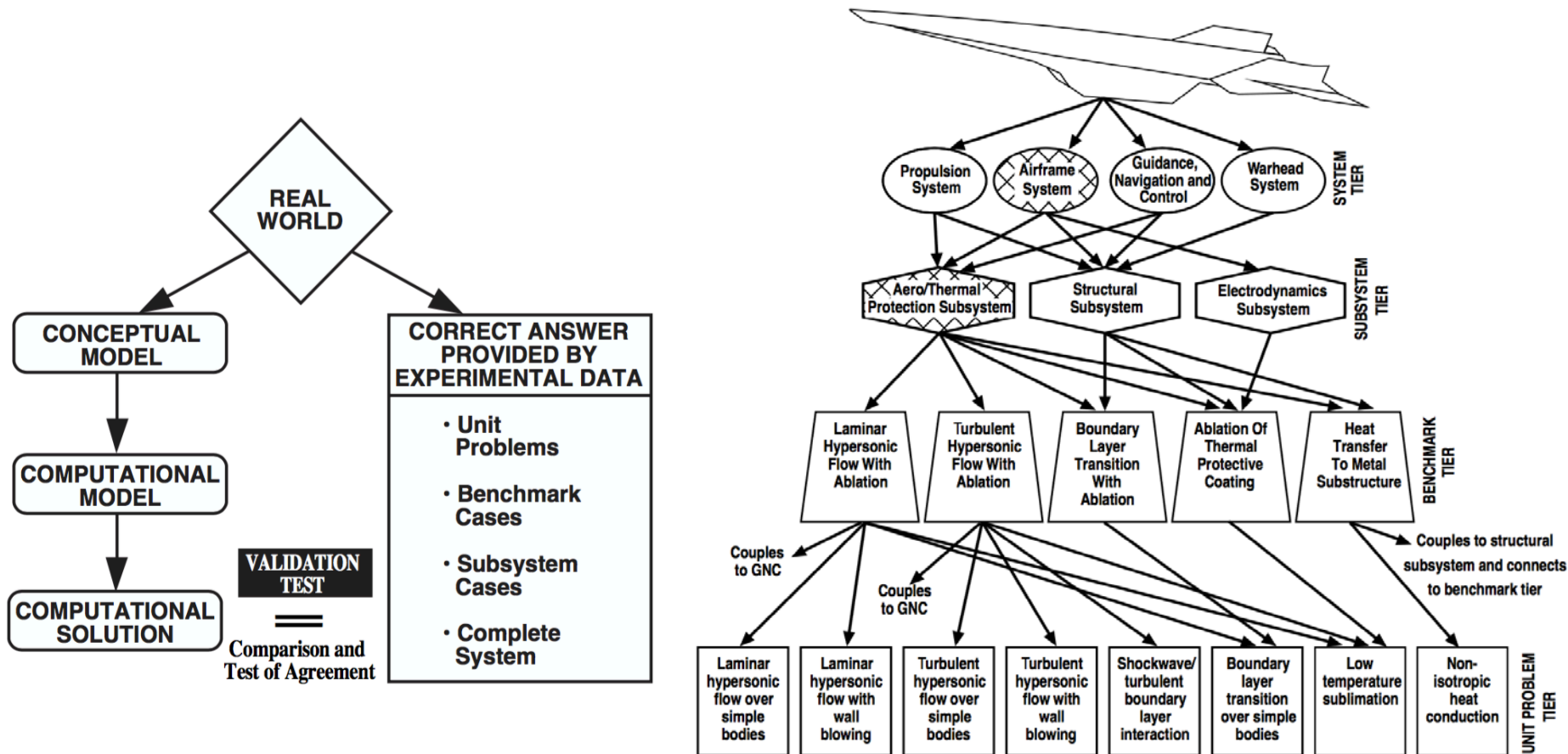
- Methods to determine parameters often not well defined
- Simulations too sensitive to inputs
- Only the person who developed the model(s) can use it
- Validation is often biased because analyst is model developer

**Better documentation**

**Robust validation**

# Validation

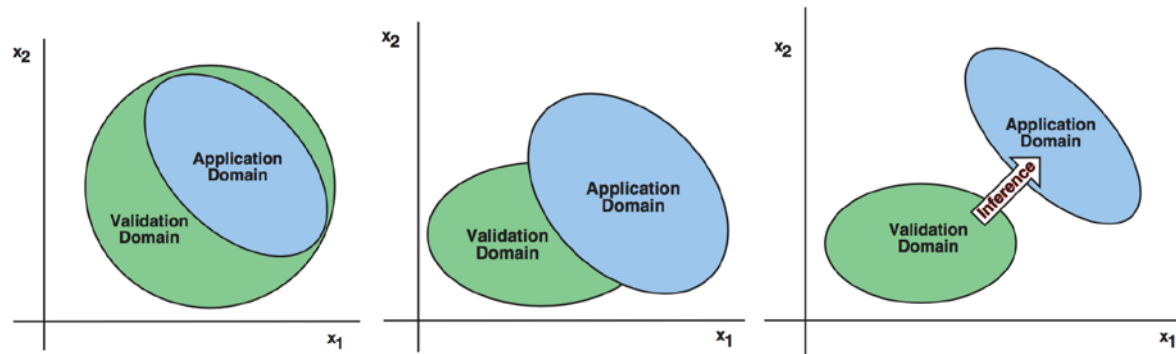
- Unit problems (e.g. lab element tests) -> Complete system





# Validation

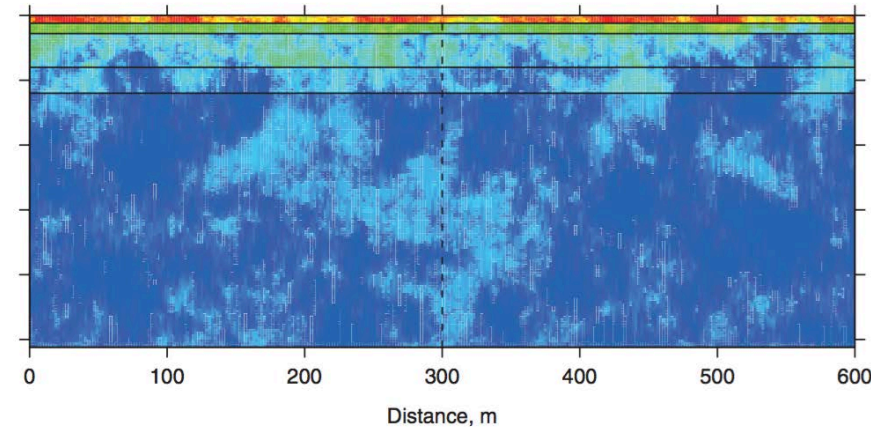
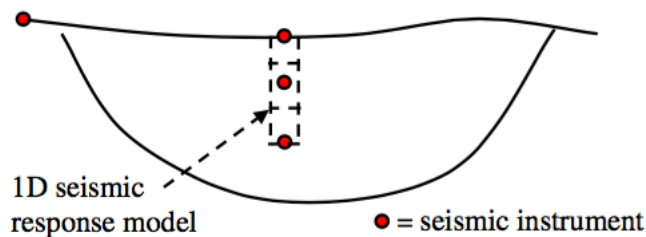
- Unit problems (e.g. lab element tests) -> Complete system
- Recognition of extrapolation inherent in prediction



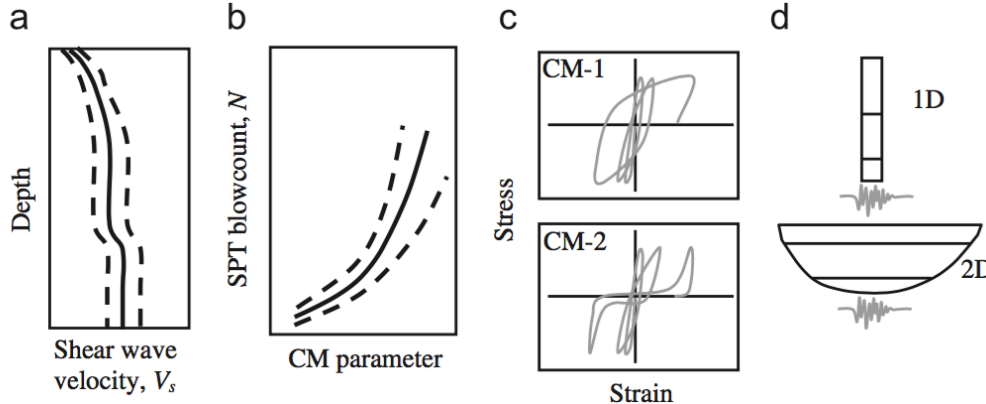
- Transparency and reproducibility of validation:  
Usually (apparent) validation performed by the same people who are proponents (and often developers) of the numerical tools used
  - Open-source validation datasets (e.g. NGL)
  - Multi-year and multi-investigator validation initiatives (e.g. LEAP)

# Uncertainties

- Explicit consideration of uncertainties lags behind engineering seismology and structural earthquake engineering
- Consideration of uncertainties is critical to:
  - Transparent predictive precision of model
  - Identify principal sensitivities in problem <- places for further research



**Site characterization uncertainty**



(a) Site characterization; (b) constitutive parameters;  
(c) constitutive models; (d) model methodology