

# Process optimisation using machine learning techniques

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# About this workshop....

**Introduction to Perceptive Engineering**

**Challenges in Process Development/Optimisation and How Machine Learning Can Help**

**About the Nelder-Mead Self Learning Optimisation Algorithm**

**Introduction to the Experimental Rig**

**Optimisation runs**

**About Adaptive Model Predictive Control**

**About Gaussian Optimisation**

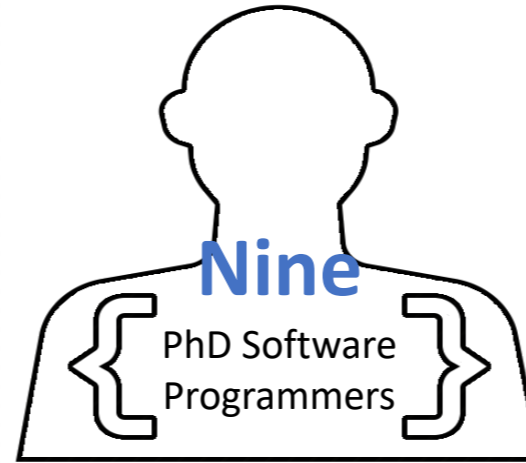
**Results and Discussion**



# Perceptive Engineering

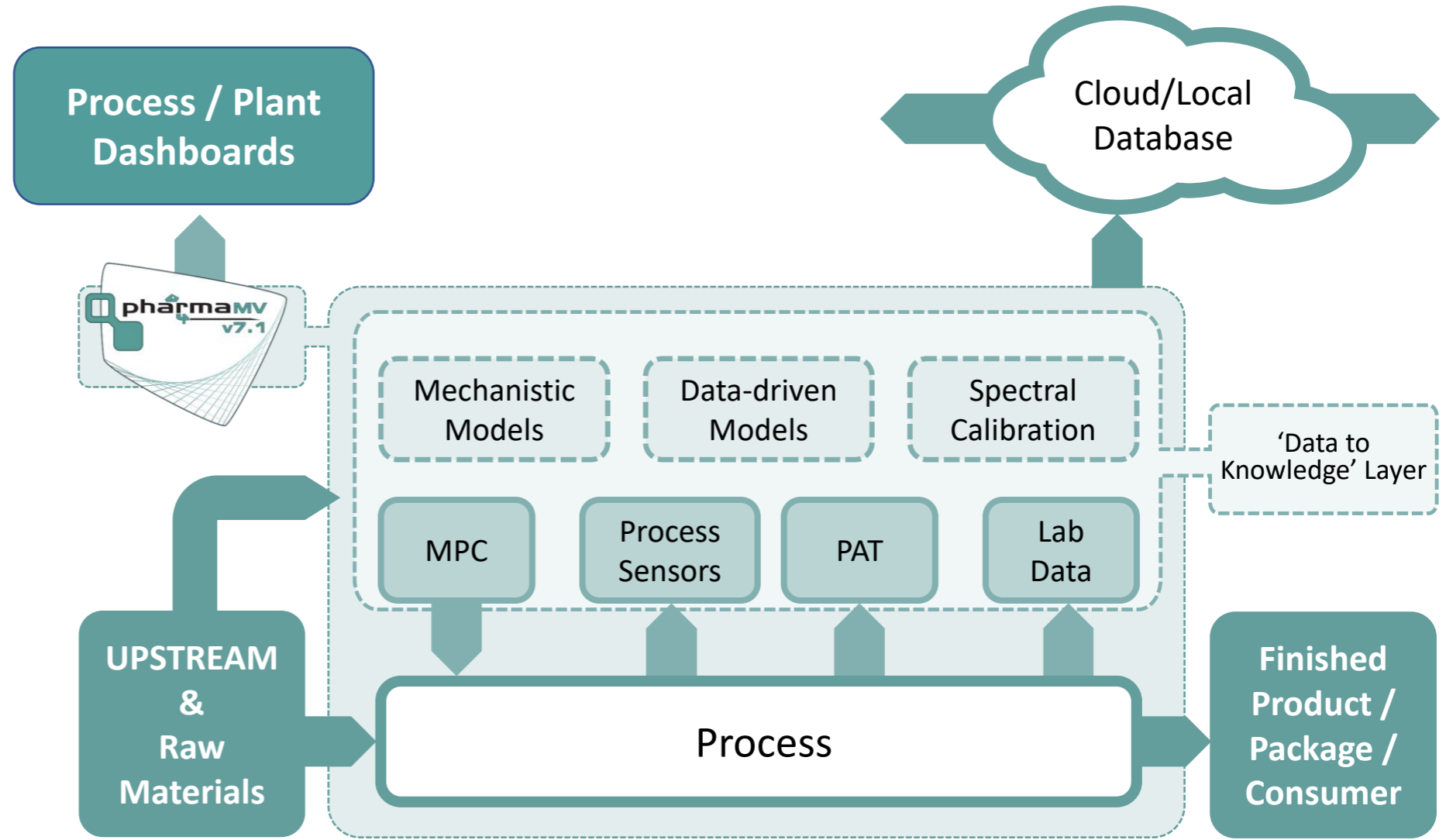
## 2-Minute Capability Pitch

**Solely focussed on software and solutions applying Advanced Process Control techniques**



In the lab, PharmaMV can act as a SCADA/HMI to pull control and monitoring of discrete pieces of equipment into a single interface

allowing **ALL** data to be accessed from a single interface and used in modelling and process understanding



## Philosophy of "Data"

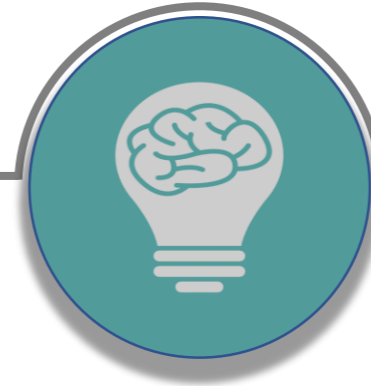
### DATA

- Process
- Lab/Offline
- PAT/Spectral
- Contextual information



### KNOWLEDGE

- DoE Execution
- Rapid Development
- Data-Driven and hybrid modelling



### INFORMATION

- Data Alignment
- Pre-processing
- Pre-treatment
- Key-Performance Indicators



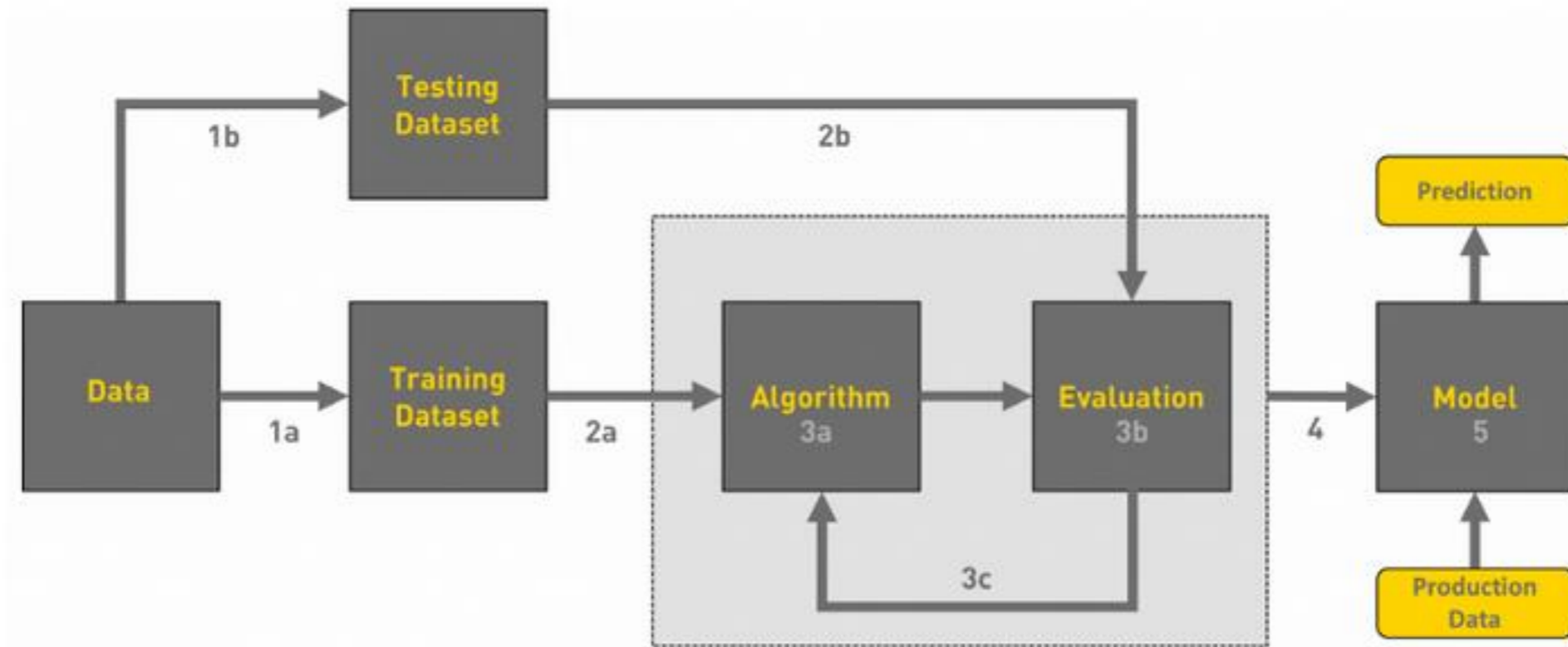
### WISDOM

Robust, real-time prediction, soft-sensors, monitoring, control and optimisation



# Teaching the machine

## Today....



Overview of the Workflow of ML

<https://towardsdatascience.com/workflow-of-a-machine-learning-project-ec1dba419b94>



# Motivations and Benefits

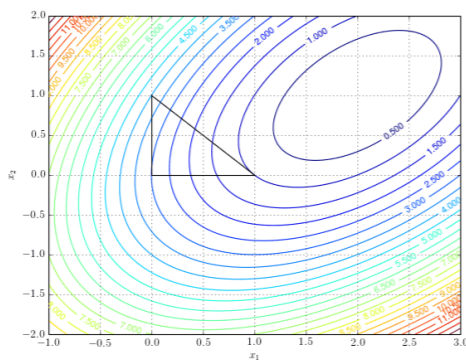
## Process Development Approaches

### Traditional “One at a Time” approach

- Trial and error optimisation of the reaction
- Significant human input – depends of the know-how of the chemist

### Quality by Design Approach

- Application of Design of Experiments
- Automation can be used to execute pre-defined experimental conditions
  - Extensive experimental effort required



Configuration | Execution | Sample Entry | Results

Factor Definition

Set Point Signal	Tag	Descriptor	Units	Factor PV	Low Level	High Level
1.AC		Factor 1			1	10
2.AC		Factor 2			2	20
3.AC		Factor 3			3	30

Response Definition

Signal Id	Tag	Descriptor	Units	Data Source	Time to SS	ROC	Time at SS
1.ME		Response 1		Measured	20.0s	0.10	1m
2.ME		Response 2		Measured	40.0s	0.20	1m
3.ME		Response 3		Measured	1m	0.40	1m
4.ME		Response 4		Measured	2m	0.50	1m
5.ME		Response 5		Measured	2m	0.10	1m

Experimental Plan

Run Name: ExampleRunName

Proceed automatically to next experiment? Max. Experiment Time: 5m

2 Level Full Factorial  
 2 Level Full Factorial with centres  
 2 Level Half Fractional Factorial

Signal ID	1.AC	2.AC	3.AC
1	5.50	11	16.50
2	1	2	3
3	10	2	3
4	1	20	3
5	10	20	3
6	1	2	30
7	10	2	30
8	1	20	30
9	10	20	30
10	5.50	11	16.50

Number of repeats: 1  
Number of centres: 2

Generate Experimental Design

Confirm Experiment Plan

### ML – Recursive Learning Approach

- Automation and online analysis combined with a “curiosity” algorithm
  - Outperforms a human to get to the optimum
  - No human interaction required after initialisation

\*An Autonomous Self-Optimizing Flow Reactor for the Synthesis of Natural Product  
The Journal of Organic Chemistry 2018 83 (23), 14286-14299



## Nelder-Mead Self-Optimisation





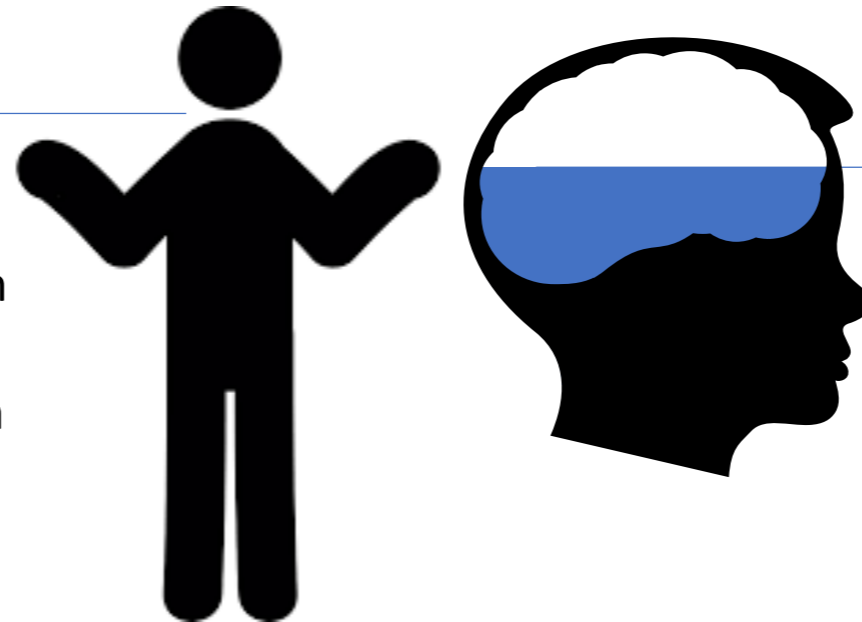
# Smart Data Generation. . . Nelder Mead Method

## What and Why?



### What is it?

Iterative “DoE” which  
calculates next  
experiment based on  
previous results



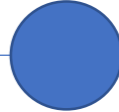
### Why do you want it?

#### Benefit

Run **less trials** to find  
optimal process  
parameters

#### Value

Cost & time **savings**, less  
wasted batches

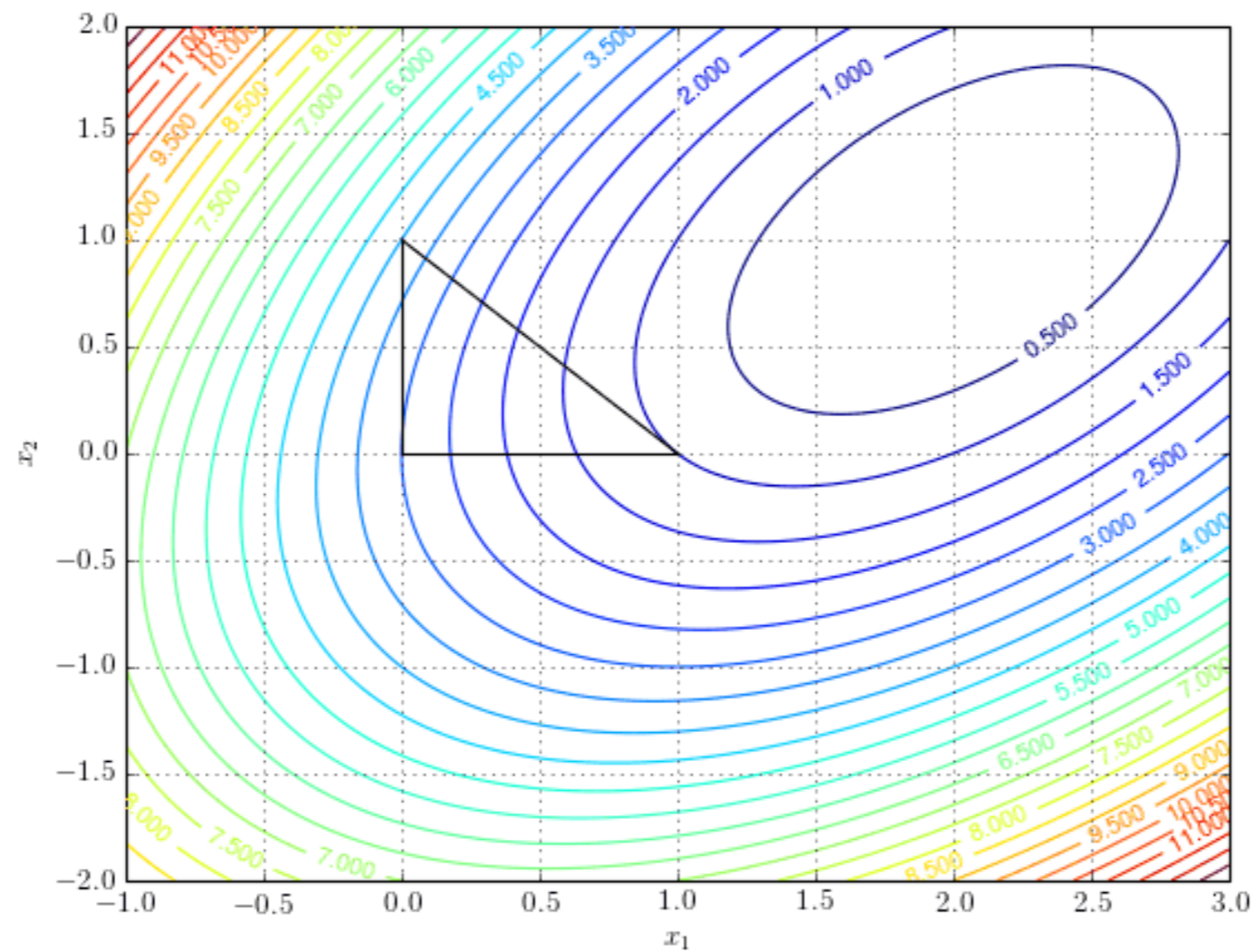


1



# Smart Data Generation. . . Nelder Mead Method

## Simple Overview



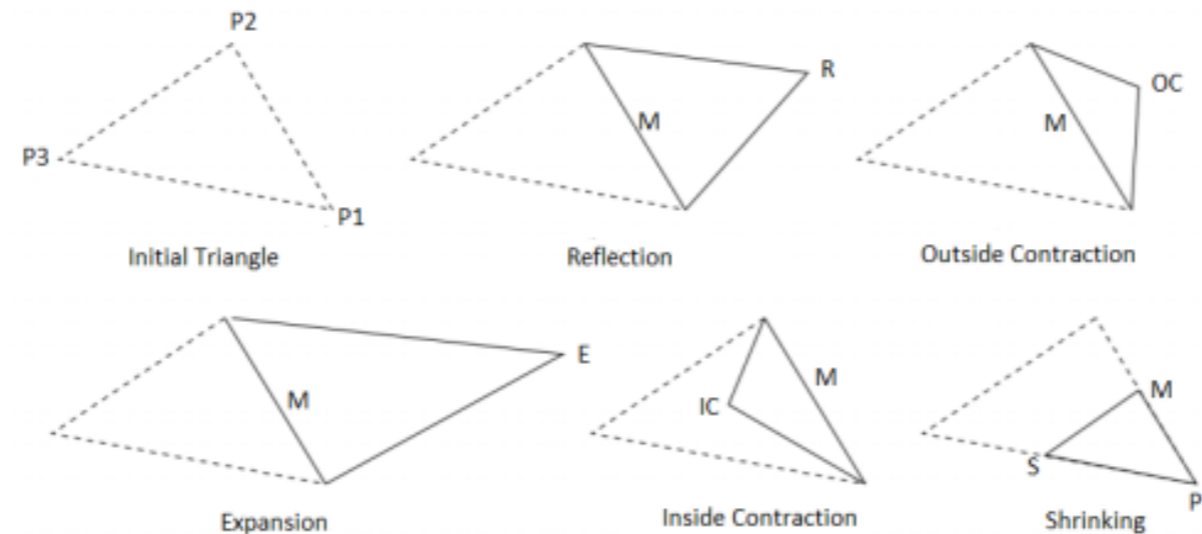
*\*An Autonomous Self-Optimizing Flow Reactor for the Synthesis of Natural Product  
The Journal of Organic Chemistry 2018 83 (23), 14286-14299*



# How?

- Optimisation *via* customised Nelder-Mead type algorithm
- Customised?
  - Objective function style redefined for target-aiming type of problem
    - $f(x) = \sqrt{((Target - Experimental Value)^2)}$
  - Stopping parameters re-defined
    - *i.e.* stop when *Target* is within threshold

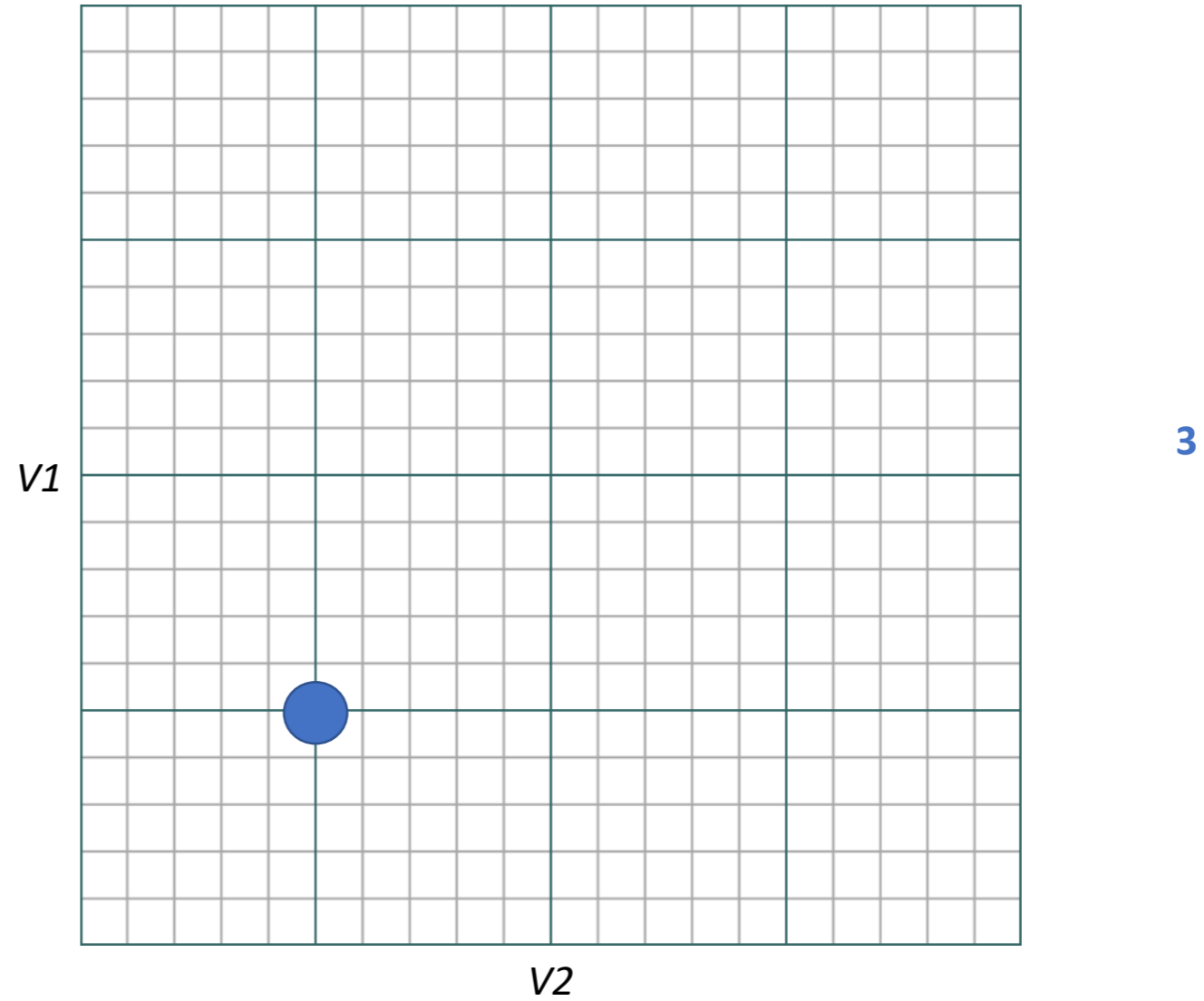
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# How?

Example for a 2 variable problem

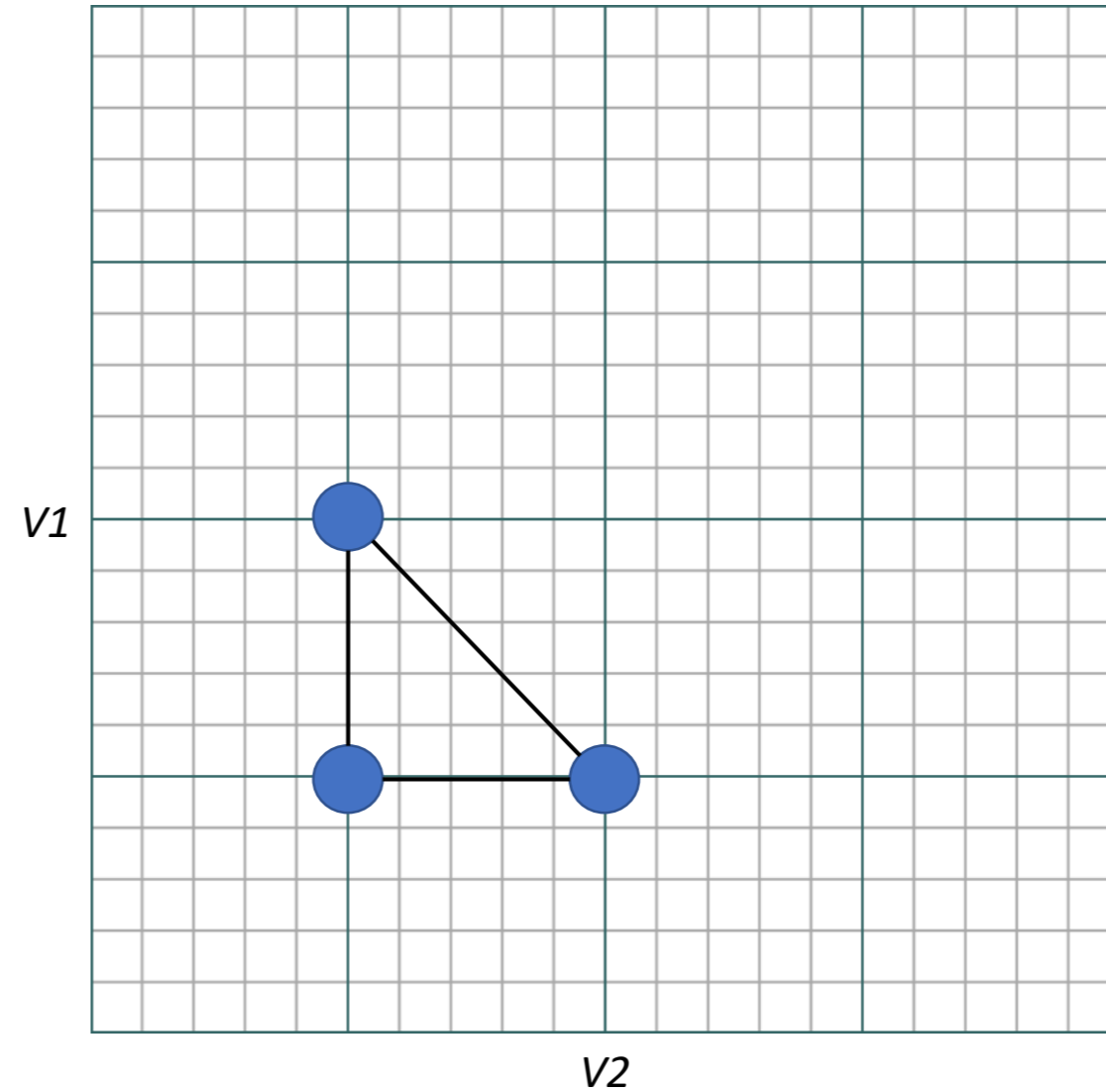
## 1. Initial Parameters



# How?

## Example for a 2 variable problem

1. Initial Parameters
2. Construct initial simplex ( $n + 1$ ) vertices



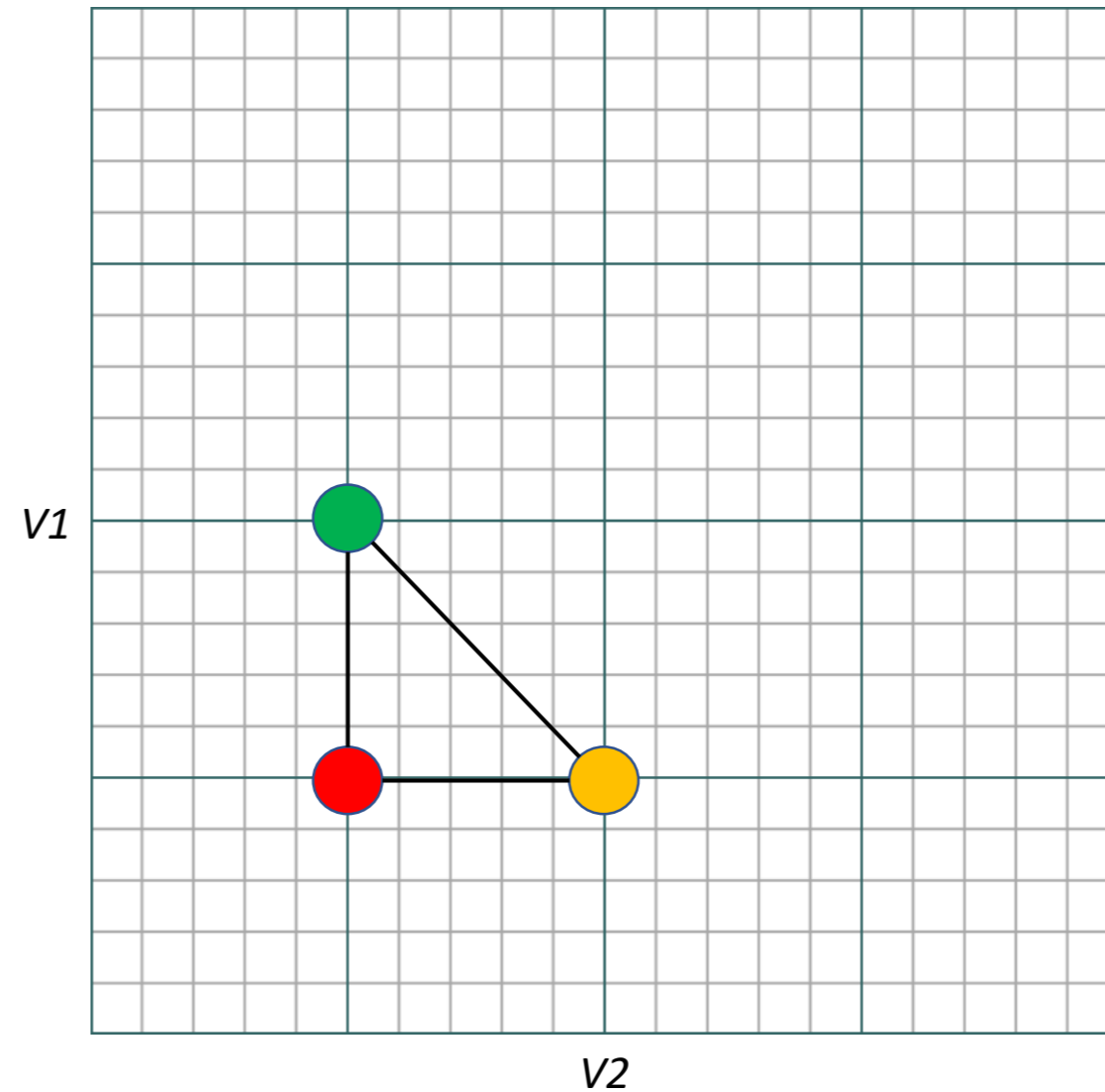
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# How?

## Example for a 2 variable problem

1. Initial Parameters
2. Construct initial simplex ( $n + 1$ ) vertices
3. Evaluate and Rank



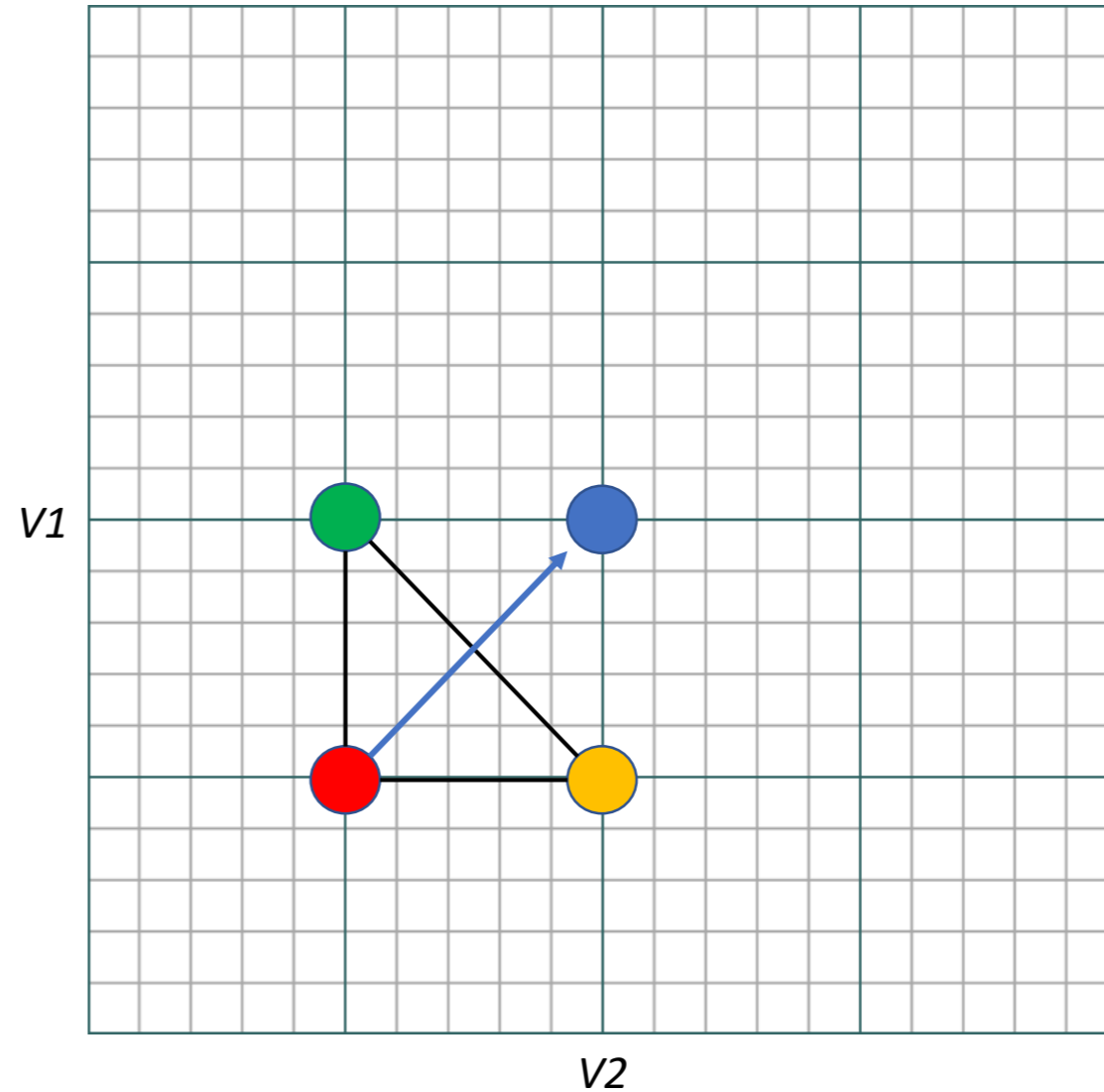
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# How?

## Example for a 2 variable problem

1. Initial Parameters
2. Construct initial simplex ( $n + 1$ ) vertices
3. Evaluate and Rank
4. Reflect away from worst result to generate new set of parameters



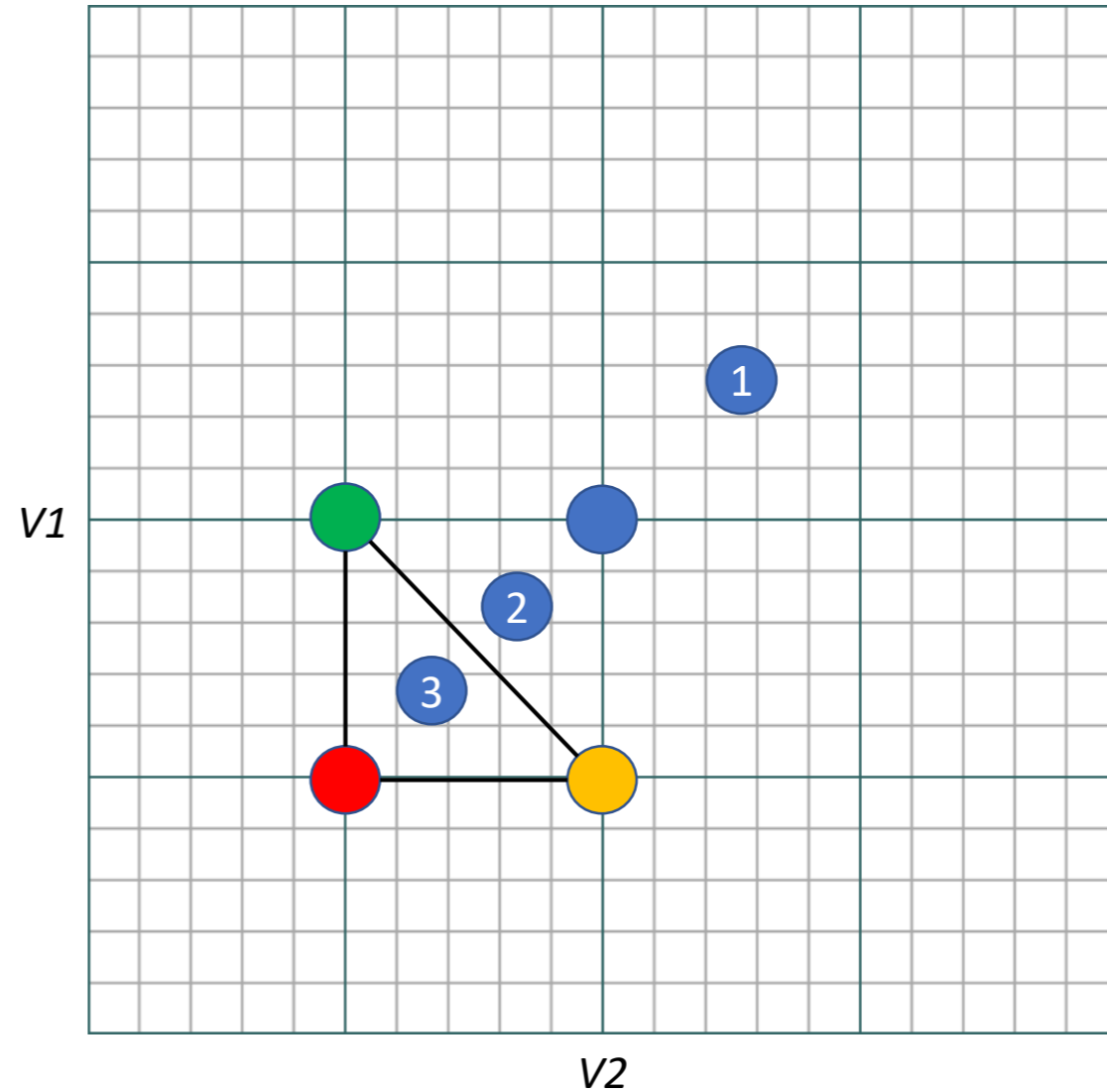
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# How?

## Example for a 2 variable problem

1. Initial Parameters
2. Construct initial simplex ( $n + 1$ ) vertices
3. Evaluate and Rank
4. Reflect away from worst result to generate new set of parameters
5. Evaluate new point, if favourable expand (1), if not contract (2,3)

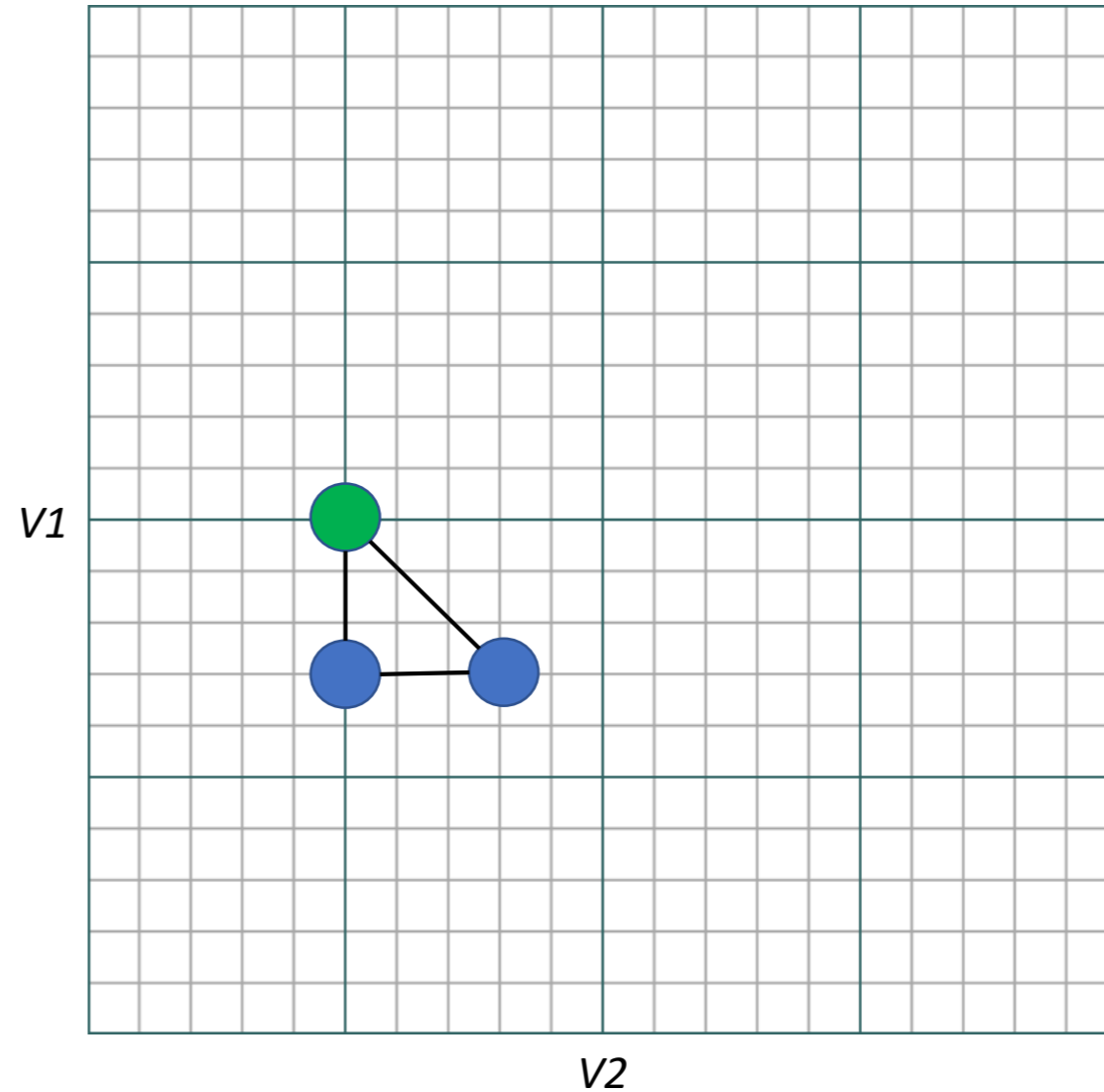




# How?

## Example for a 2 variable problem

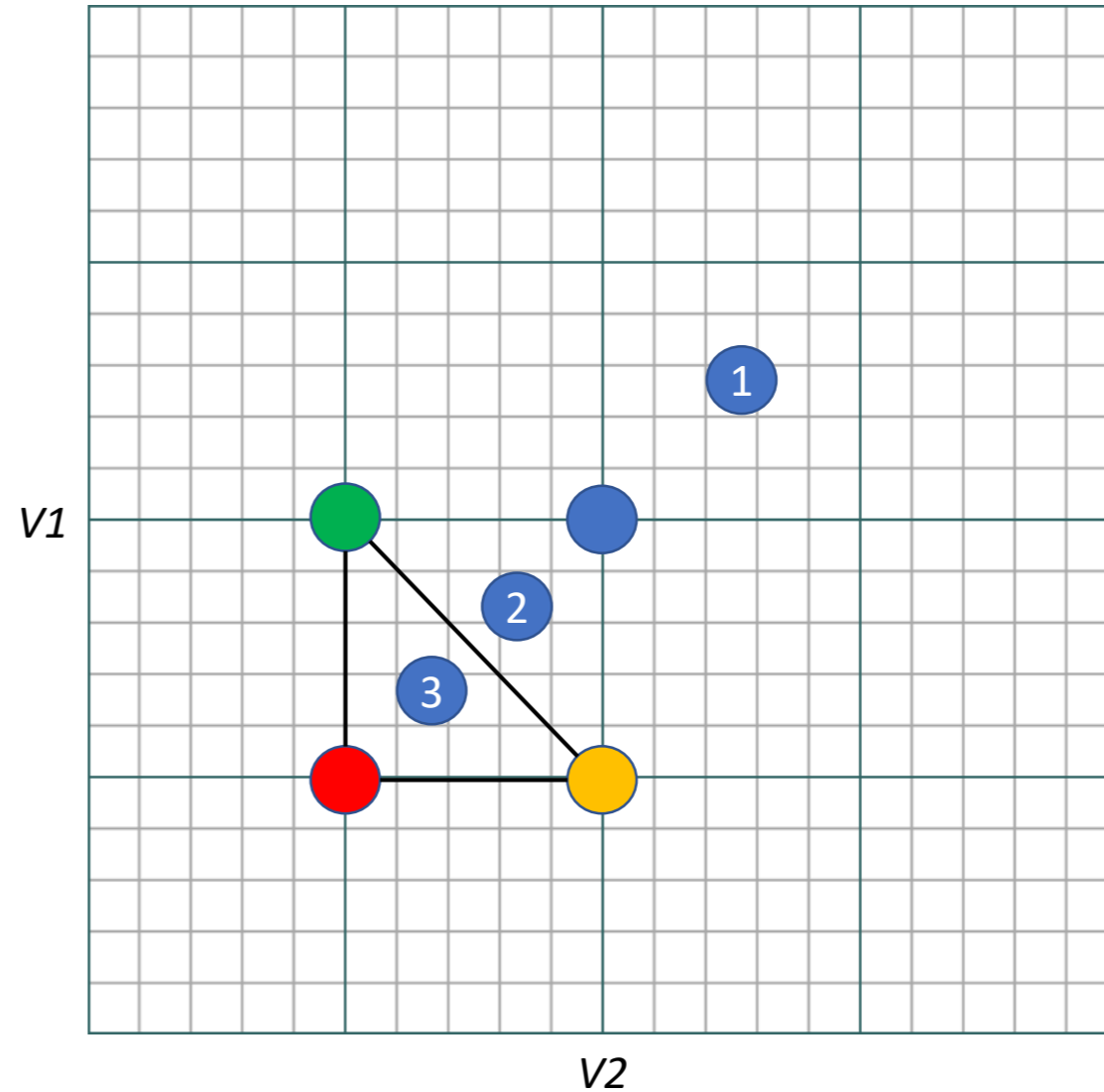
1. Initial Parameters
2. Construct initial simplex ( $n + 1$ ) vertices
3. Evaluate and Rank
4. Reflect away from worst result to generate new set of parameters
5. Evaluate new point, if favourable expand (1), if not contract (2,3)
6. If none of these points are better than the current best then the simplex is shrunk toward the best. But . . .



# How?

## Example for a 2 variable problem

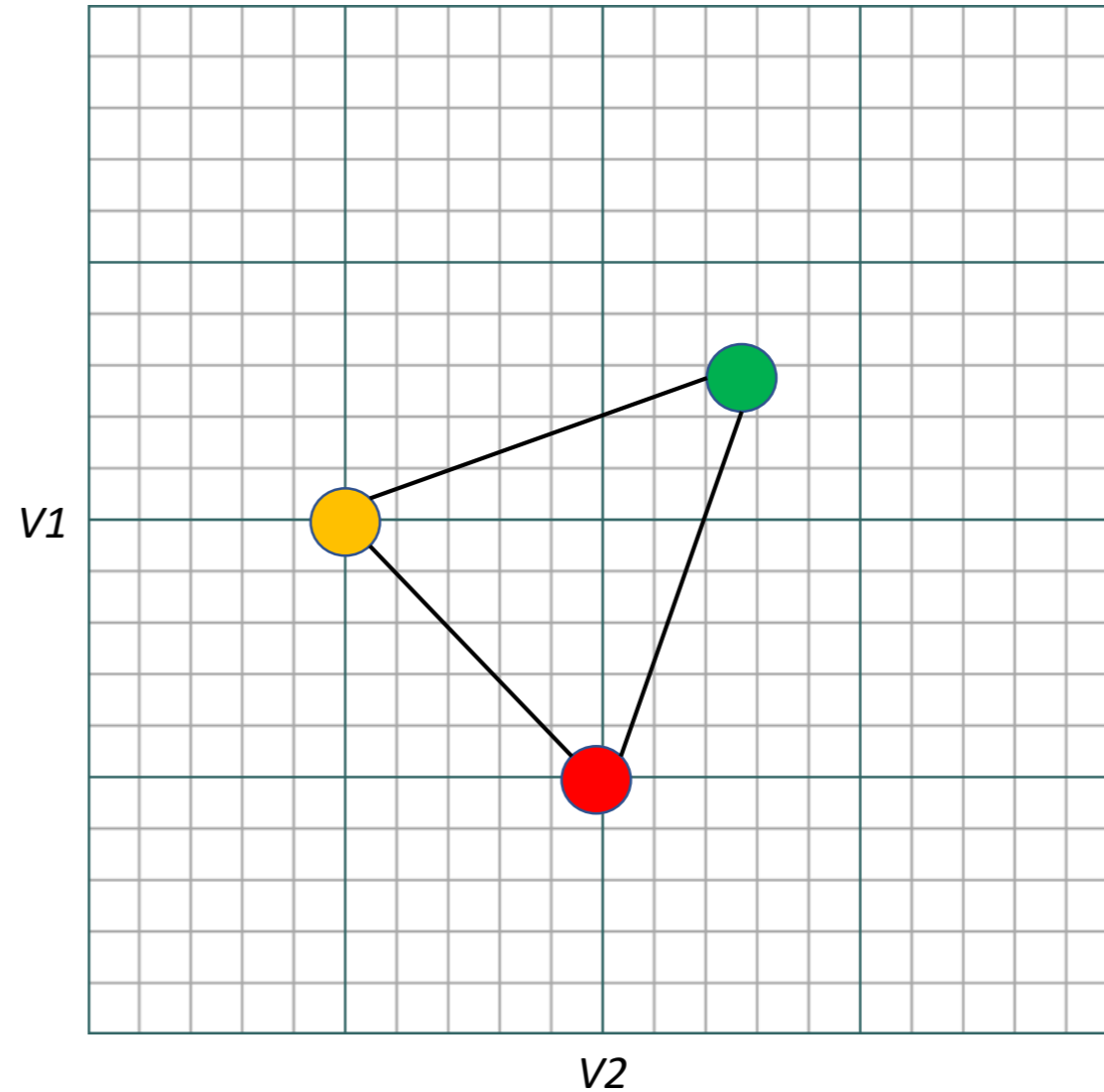
1. Initial Parameters
2. Construct initial simplex ( $n + 1$ ) vertices
3. Evaluate and Rank
4. Reflect away from worst result to generate new set of parameters
5. Evaluate new point, if favourable expand (1), if not contract (2,3)
6. But. .



# How?

## Example for a 2 variable problem

1. Initial Parameters
2. Construct initial simplex ( $n + 1$ ) vertices
3. Evaluate and Rank
4. Reflect away from worst result to generate new set of parameters
5. Evaluate new point, if favourable expand (1), if not contract (2,3)
6. But. . If we accept then the new point becomes part of the simplex



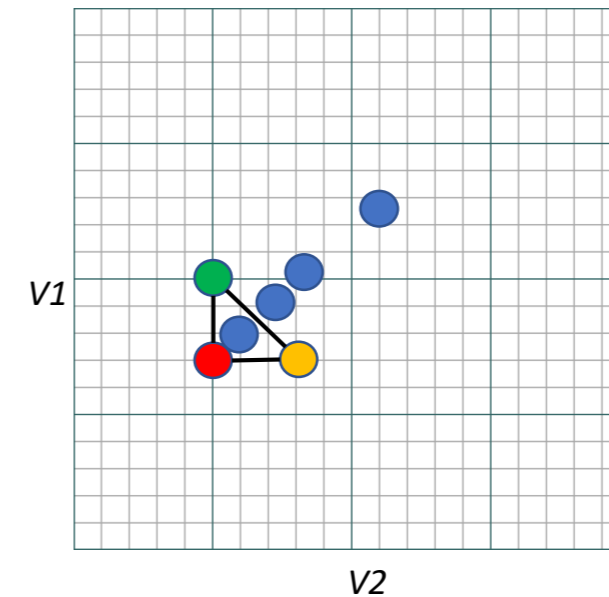
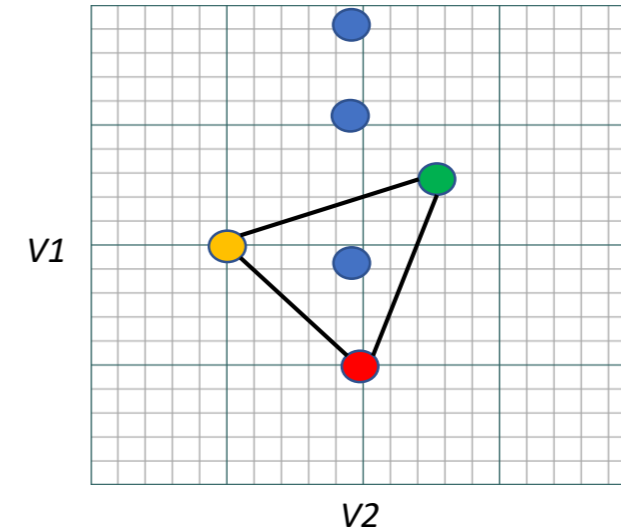
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# How?

## Example for a 2 variable problem

1. Initial Parameters
2. Construct initial simplex ( $n + 1$ ) vertices
3. Evaluate and Rank
4. Reflect away from worst result to generate new set of parameters
5. Evaluate new point, if favourable expand (1), if not contract (2,3)
6. Either way the steps repeat with the new simplex
7. Until the stopping parameter is met



3





## Our Experimental Rig



'Ocean Optics' Halogen light source

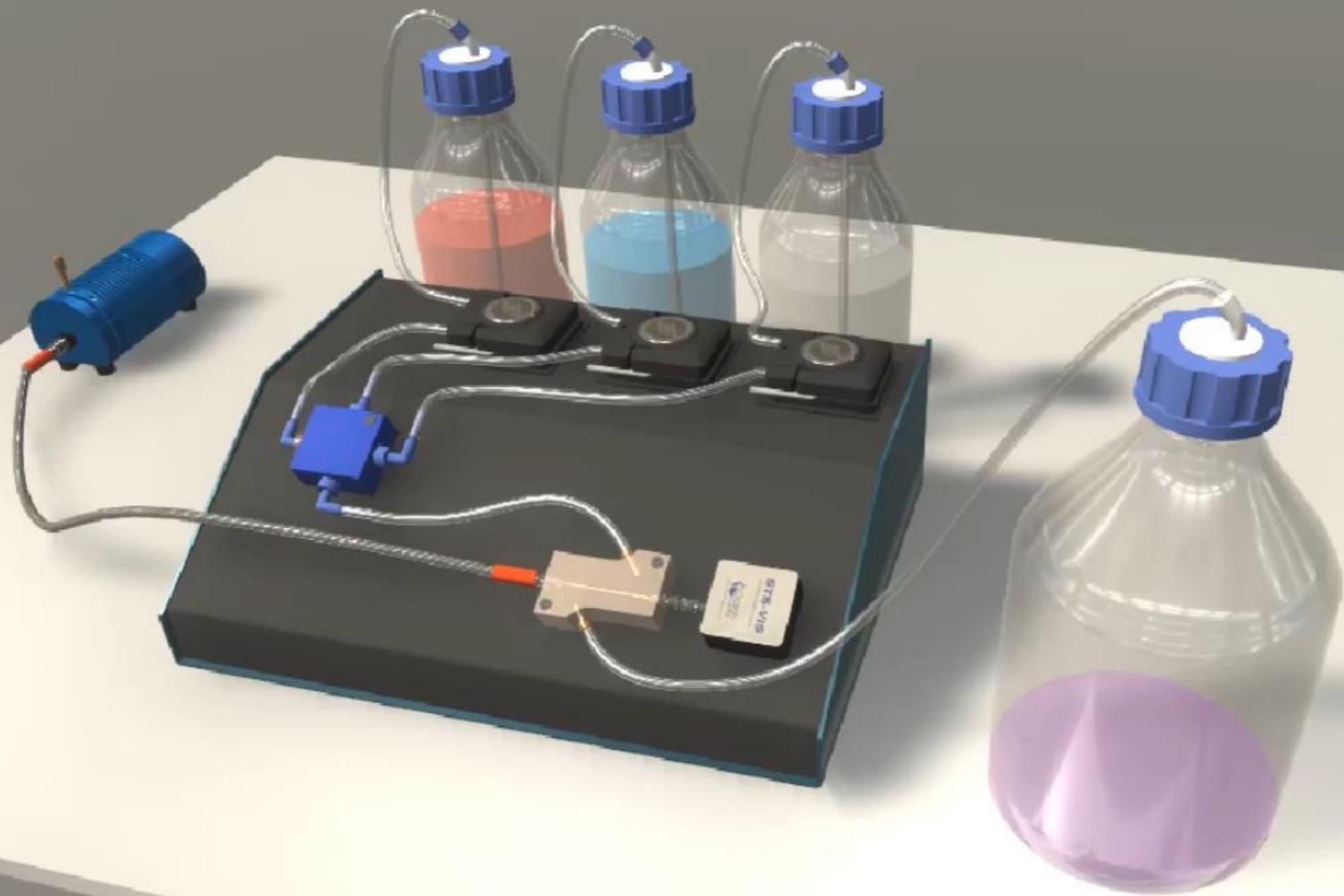
Dye sources ('blue', 'red' and 'clear' (disturbance))

Dye pumps

'Final Product' vessel

Static mixing chamber

'Ocean Optics' STS-VIS Miniature Spectrometer





Rig Demonstration Run







## Adaptive Model Predictive Control



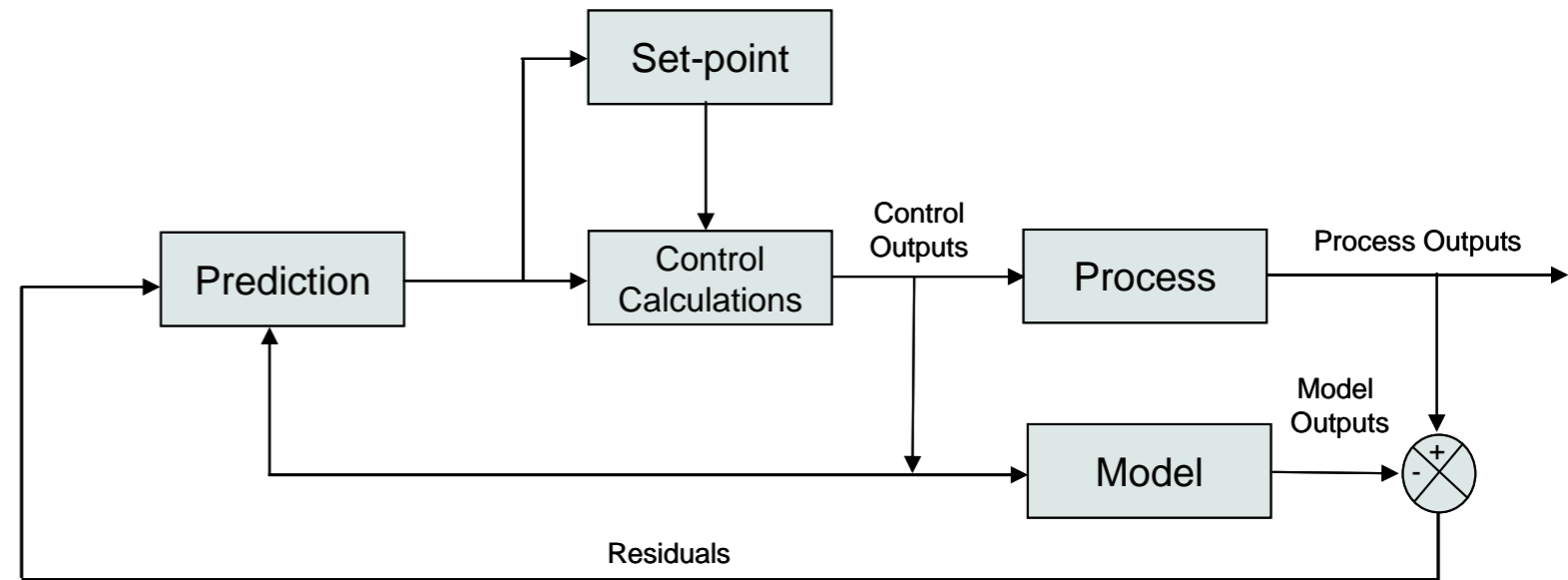
# Model Predictive Control – Principle of Operation

## To obtain control moves, need:

- The current and recent past state of the process
- the model, and
- an optimisation algorithm

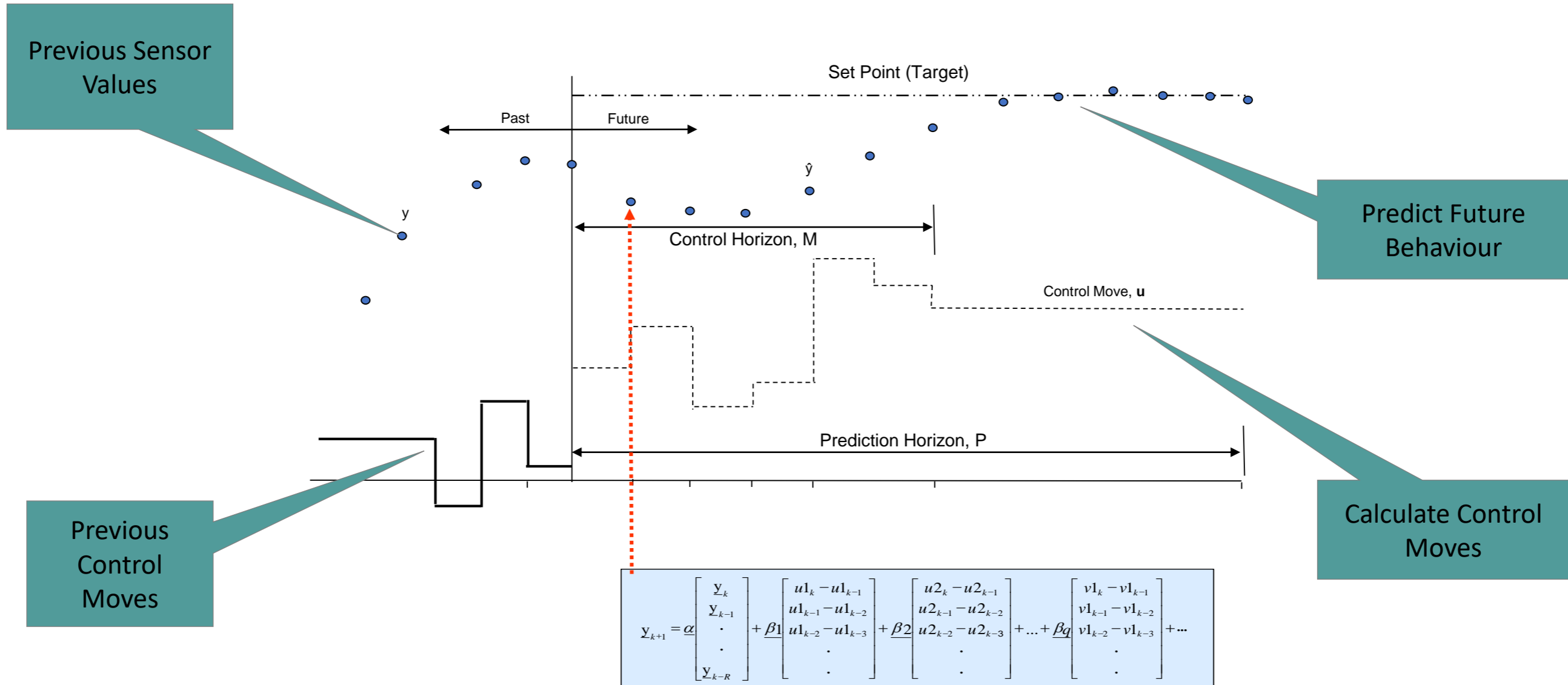
## To calculate the moves

- first, predict the future behaviour of the process (using a model)
- then work out the “best” way to manipulate the MVs in order to achieve the control objectives.
- “Best” is defined through a cost function that is minimised by the optimisation procedure to yield the control moves.
- Minimisation of the cost function can directly consider the process constraints.



# Model Predictive Control

## Simple Overview



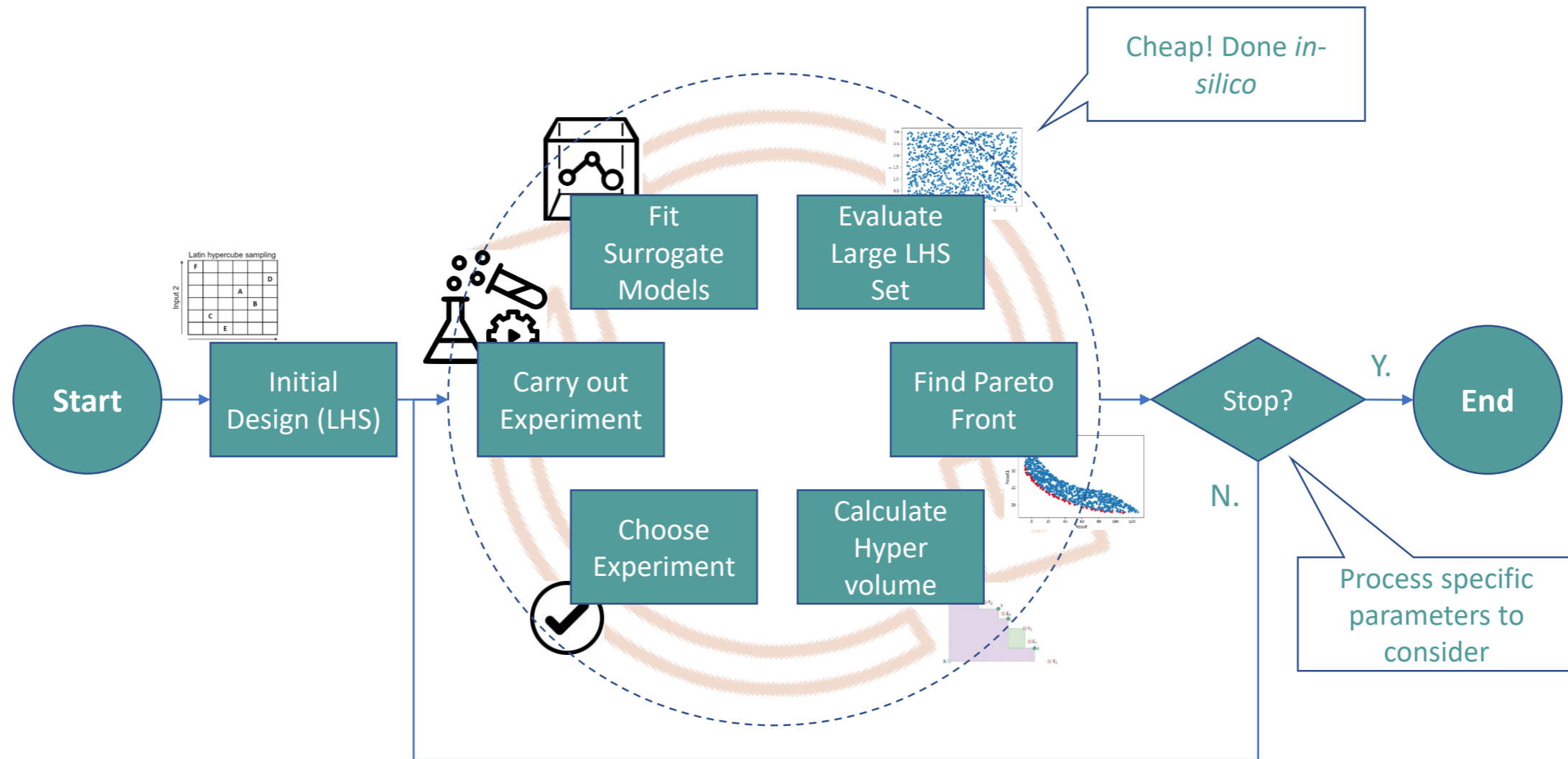


'Gaussian' Multi-Objective Optimisation



# True Multi-objective Optimisation

## Gaussian Search



# True Multi-objective Optimisation

## Gaussian Search



### Gaussian Search Overview

#### Current Operating Mode

Pump Layout: Normal

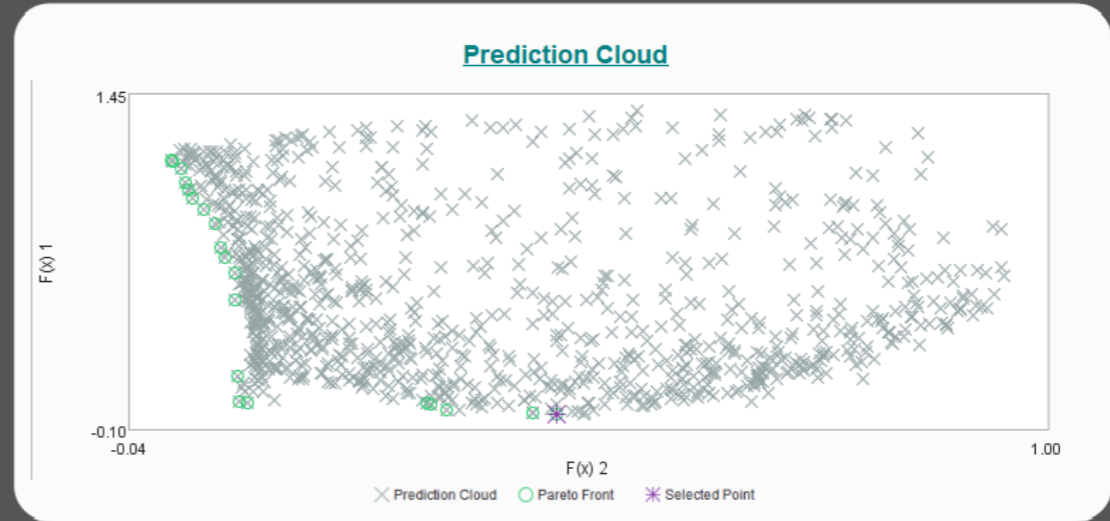
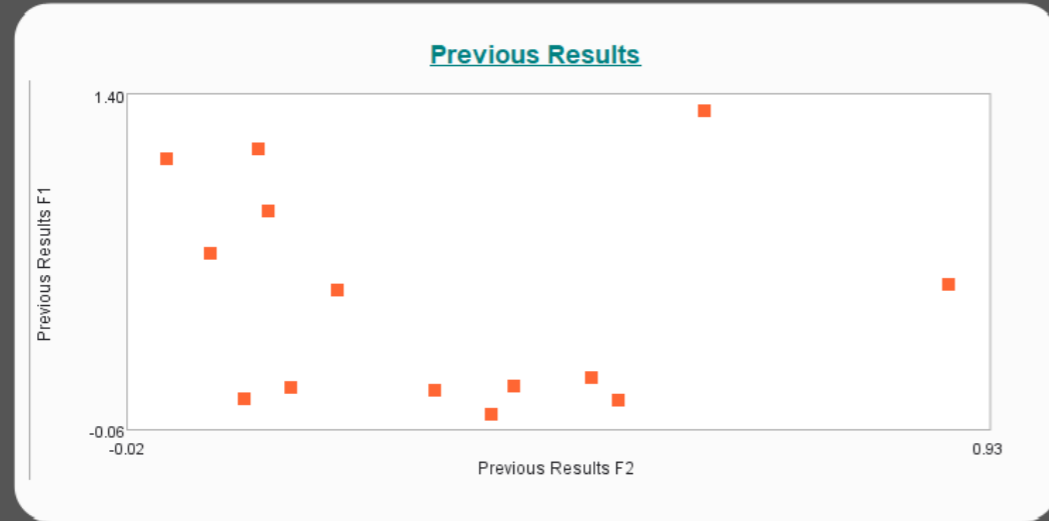
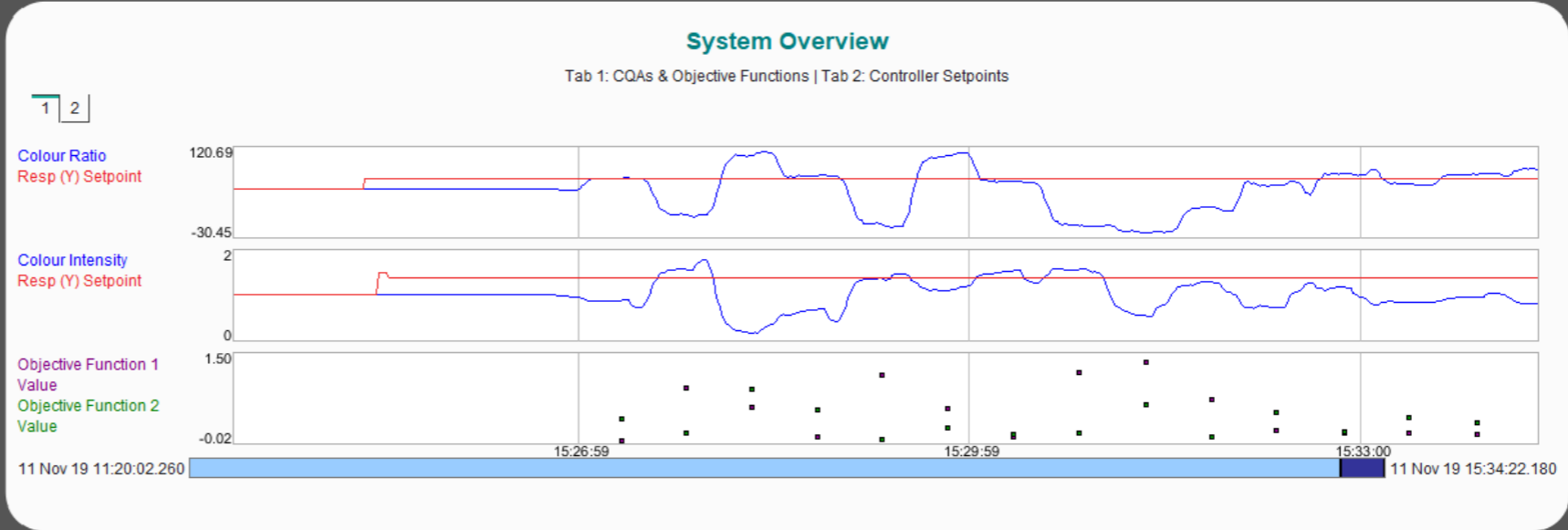
**Mode: Self-Optimising - Gaussian**

- 1. Open-Loop
- 7. Self Optimising (Gaussian)

#### Optimiser Configuration

Targets

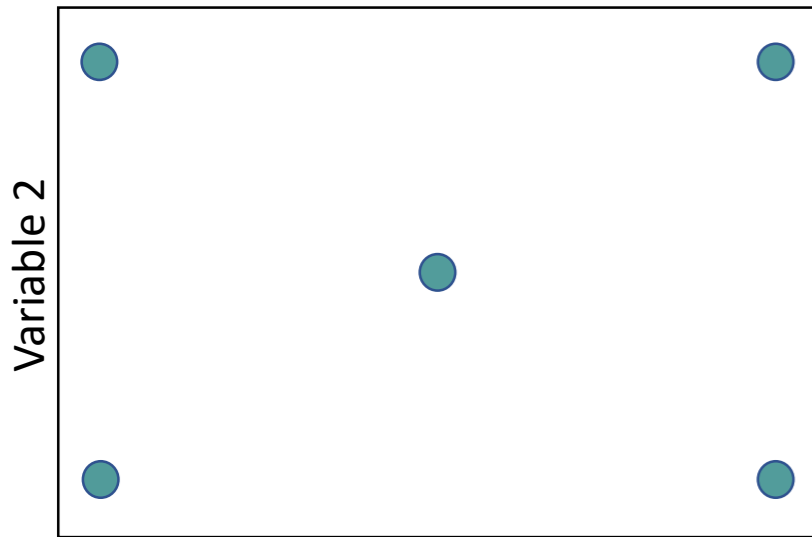
Ratio SP	68
Intensity SP	1.40



# Data Generation

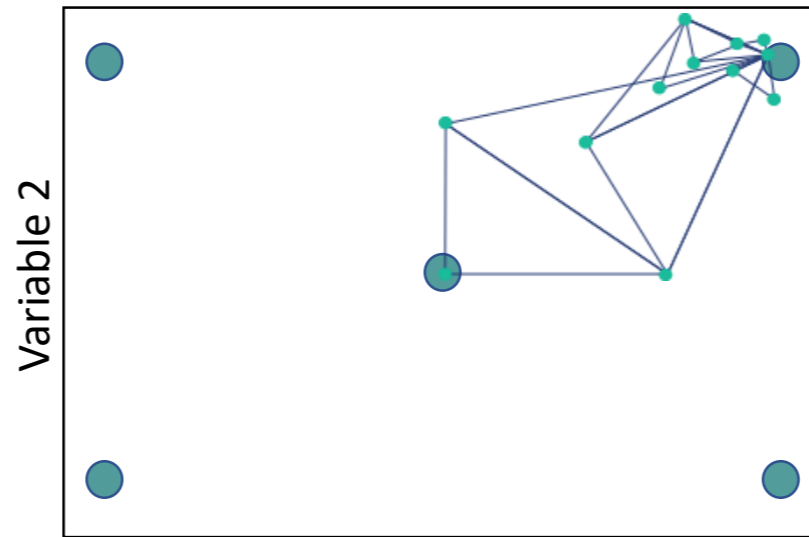
## Exploration vs Exploitation

DoE:  
Pure Exploration



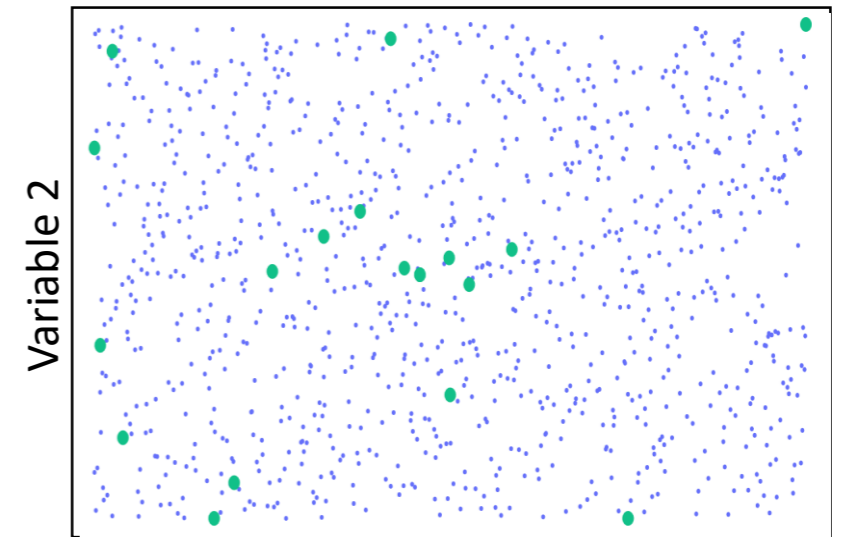
Variable 1

Nelder-Mead:  
Pure Exploitation



Variable 1

Gaussian Search:  
Both via Surrogate Models



Variable 1

Surrogate Points  
Experiment Points

# Nelder Mead and MPC

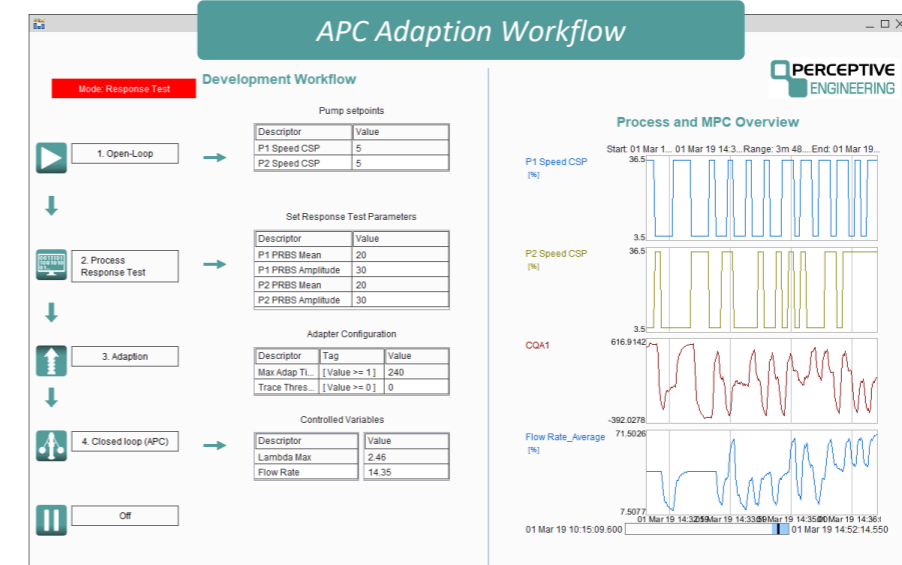
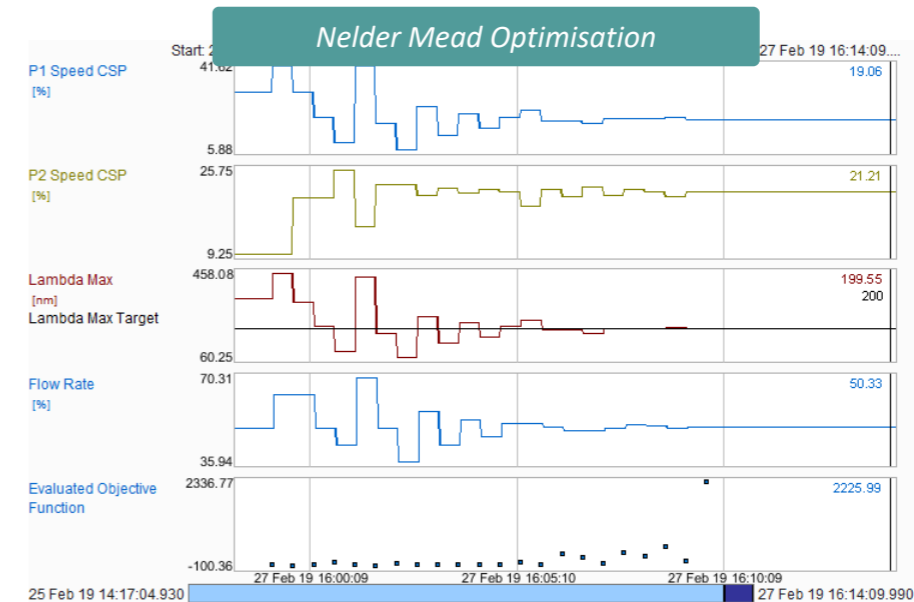
## Does each algorithm *Learn*?

**The Nelder Mead curiosity algorithm doesn't *learn* in the same way as other AI (Neural Networks for example):**

- Constrained "trial and error" learning
- Minimising or maximising the objective function.
- Systematic approach leads to a (local) optimum
- No "predictive" capacity

**MPC *predicts* future behaviour using it's dynamic model.**

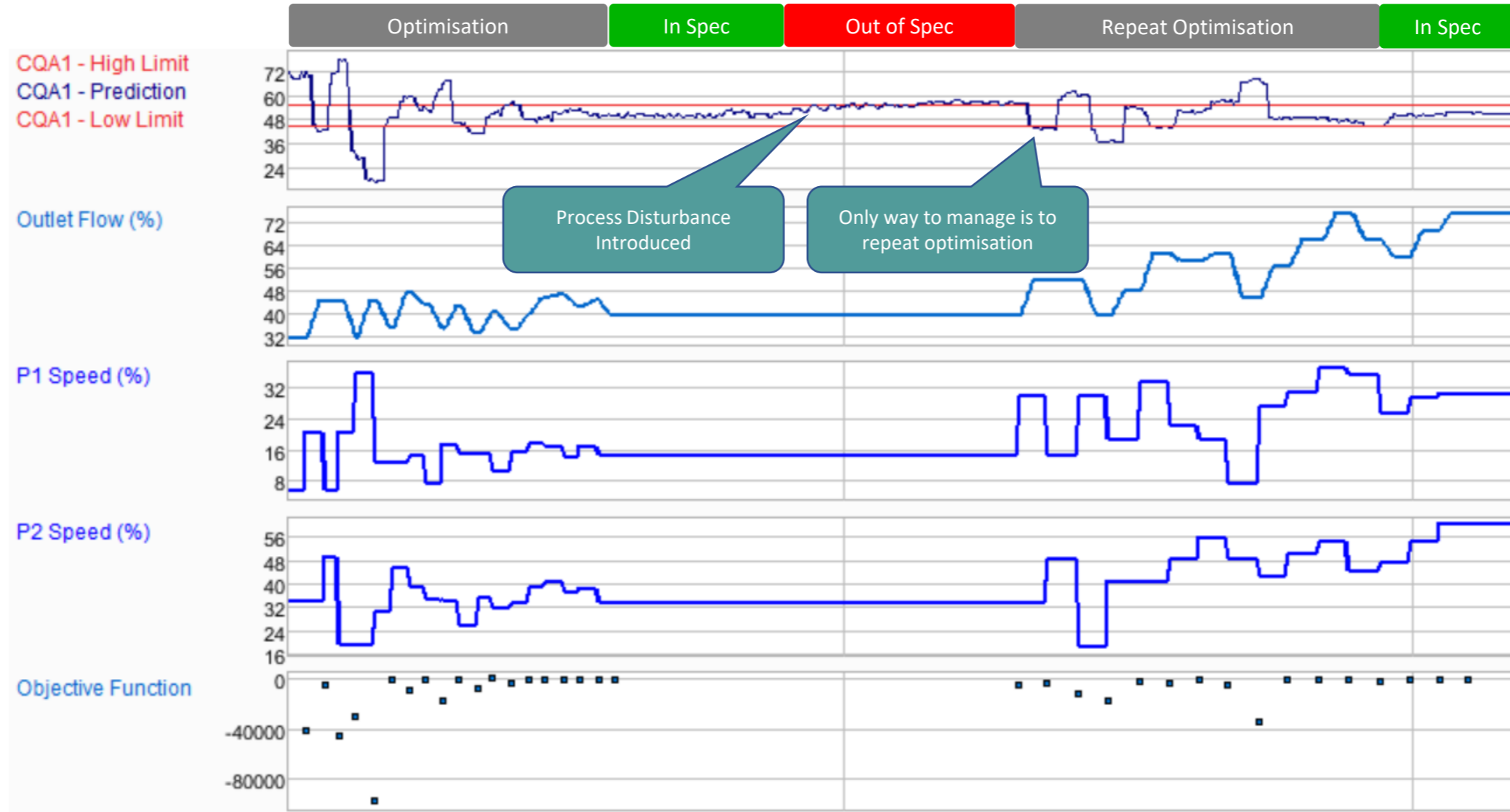
- Traditionally the model is built offline from process data
- A linear representation around a defined operating point
- Online Adaption can be used to update the model (regression based on new information).
- Narrow learning under human supervision.





# Optimisation as a controller?

## Effect of Process Disturbances



# Self-Optimising Reactor Case-Study

## Combining algorithmic approaches

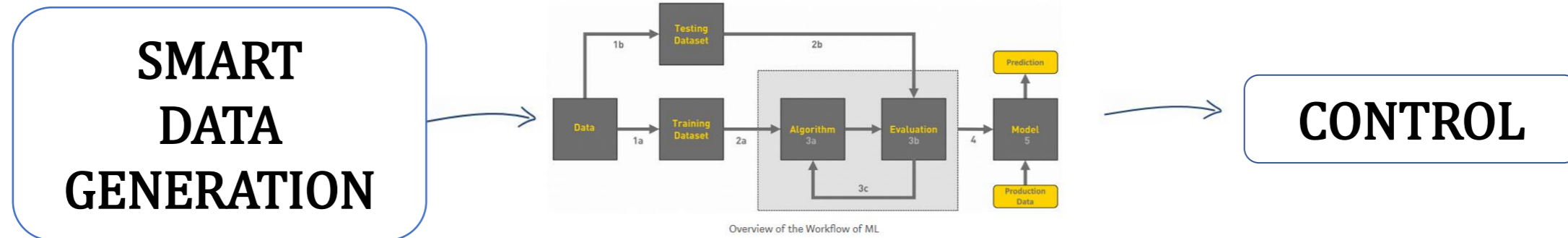
These two approaches are complimentary:

### Self Optimisation

Hit the optimum efficiently and generate useful data in doing so.

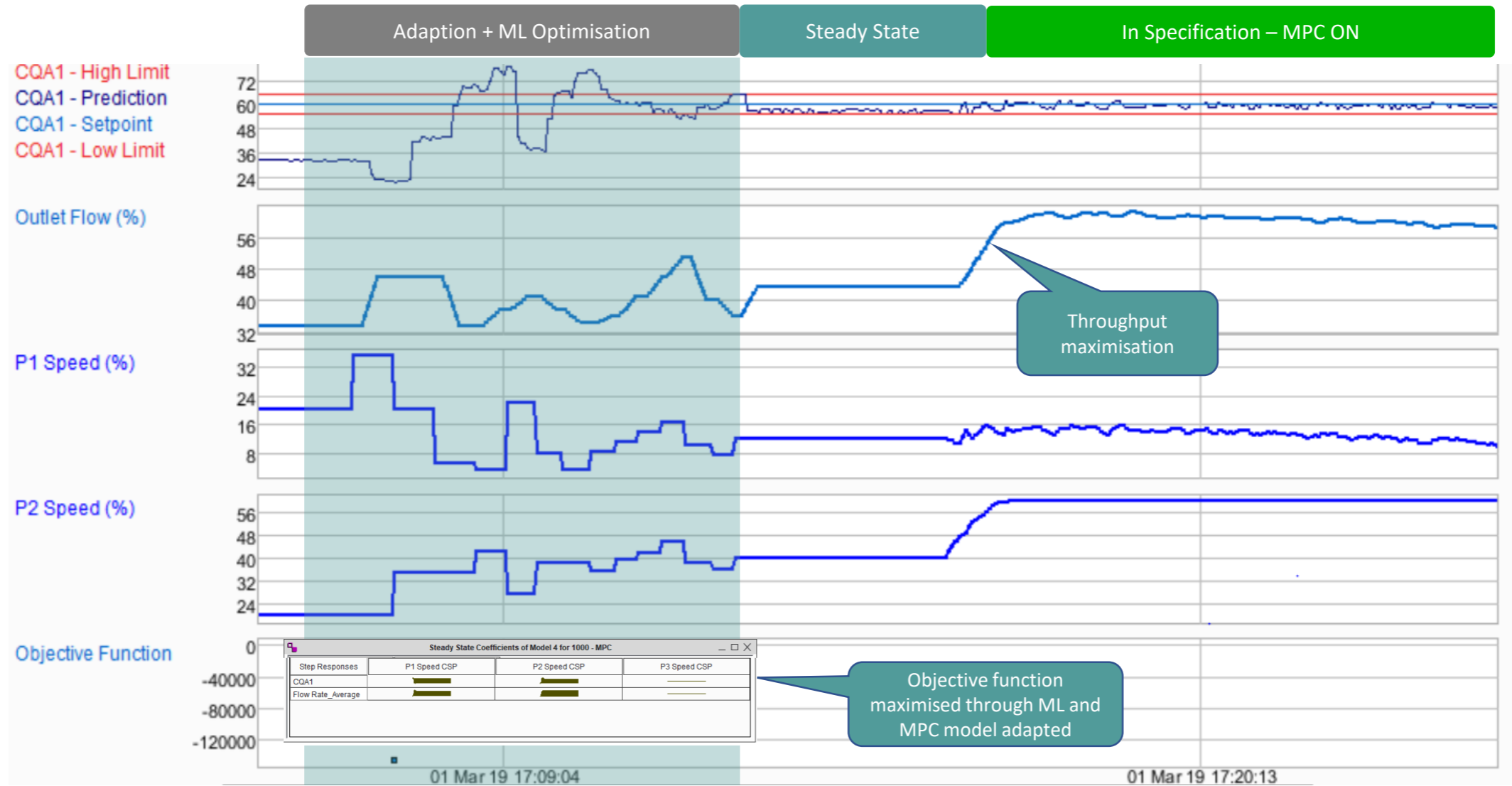
### Advanced Control

build model on process data, keep the process at that optimum, whilst compensating for raw material and process disturbances.

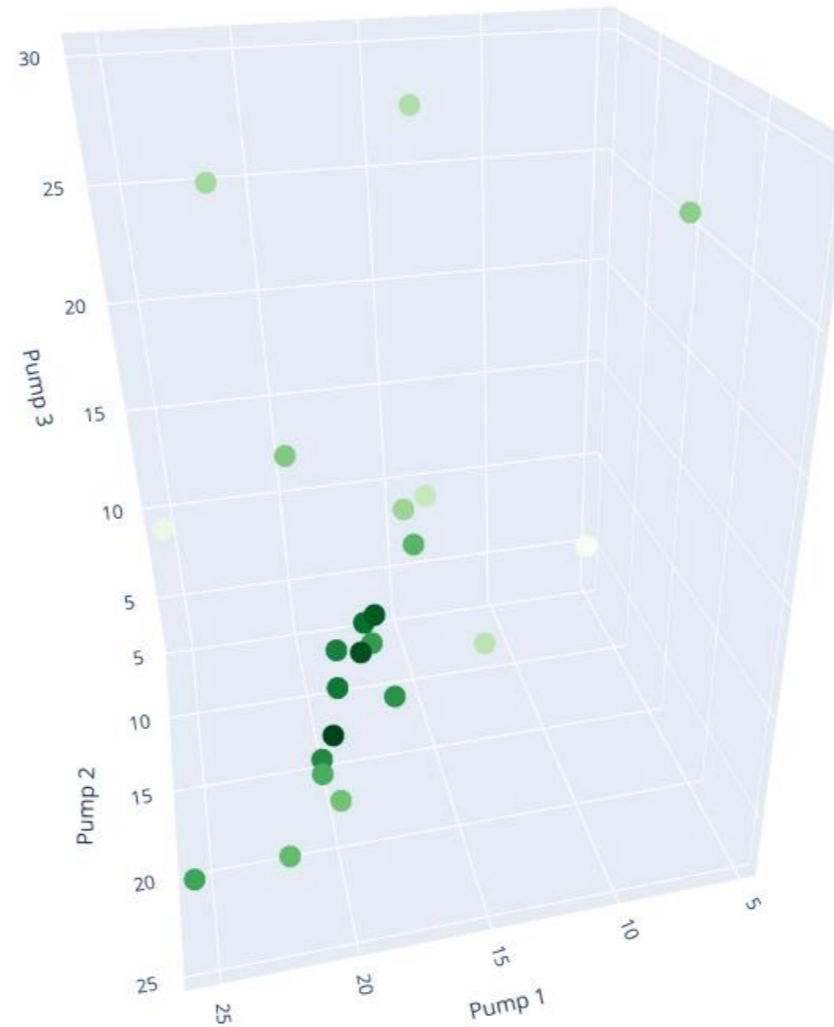
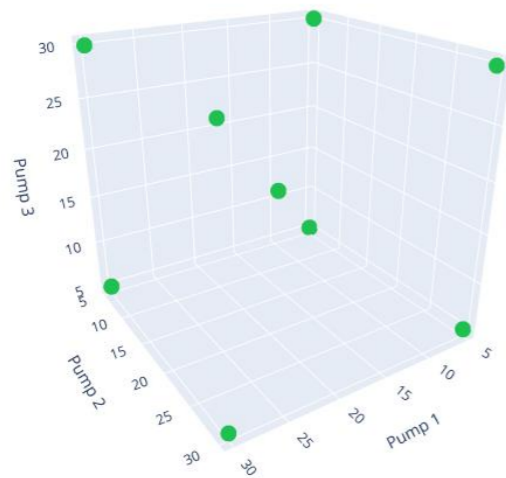


Self Optimisation + Model Predictive Control

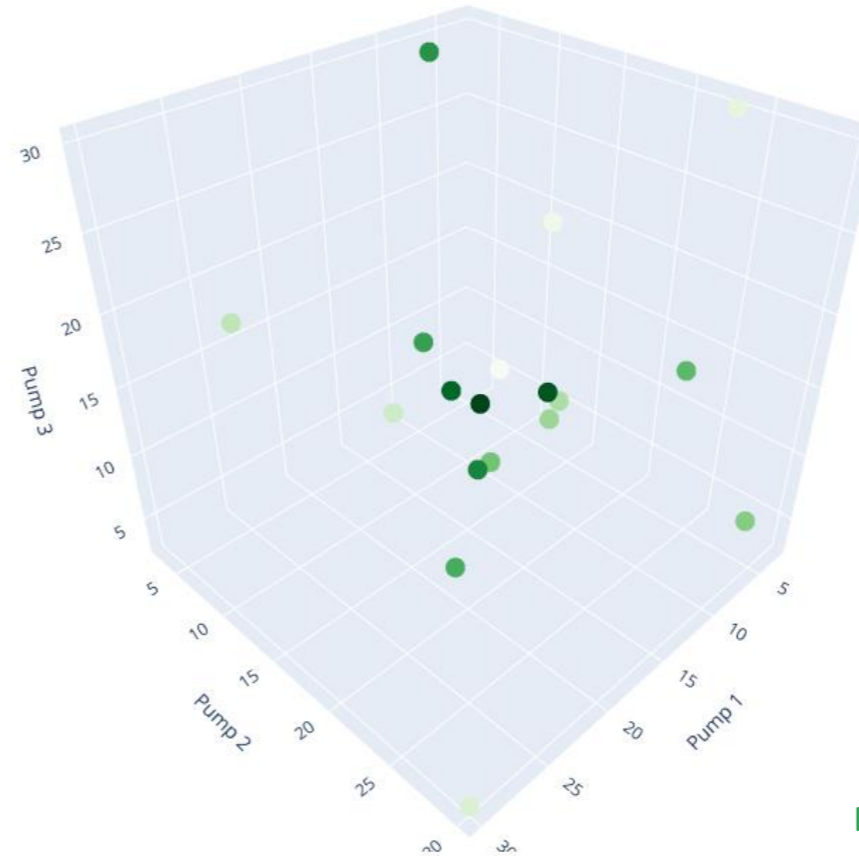
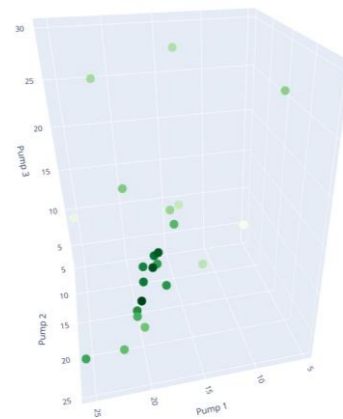
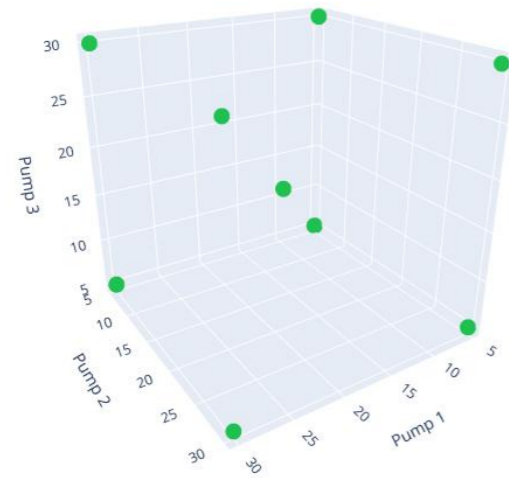
# Combined Advanced Process Control And Machine Learning Example



# Nelder-Mead Space Filling



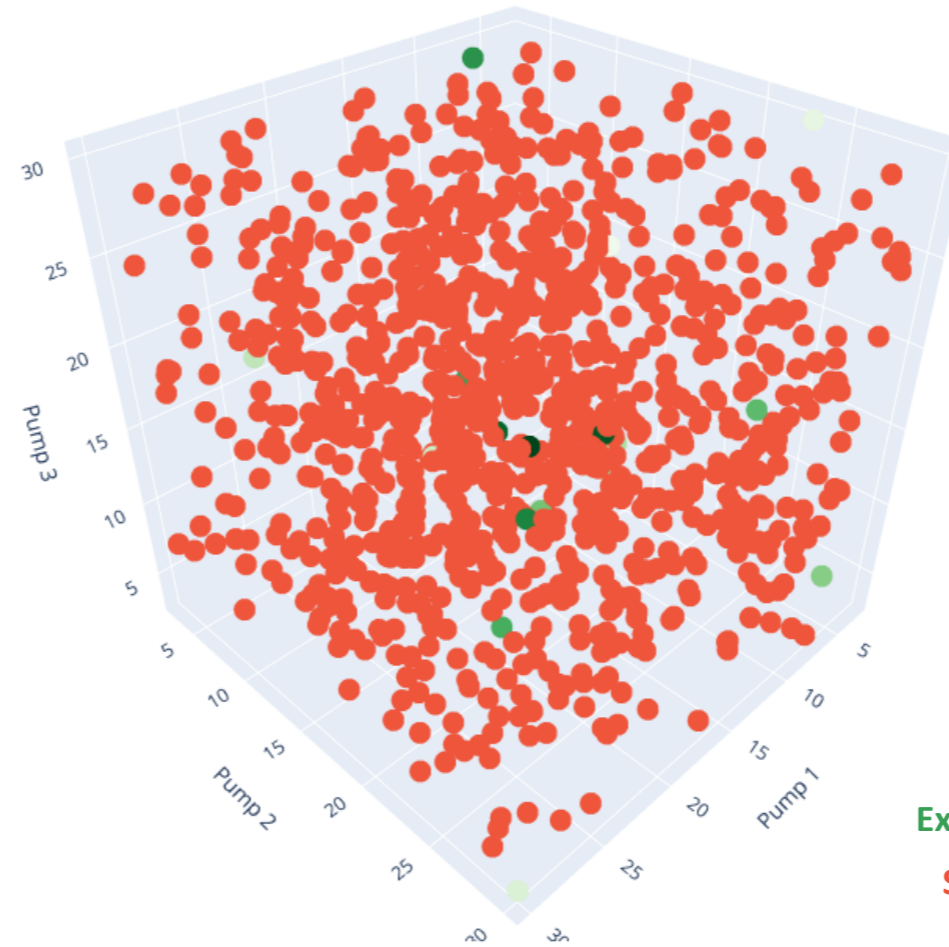
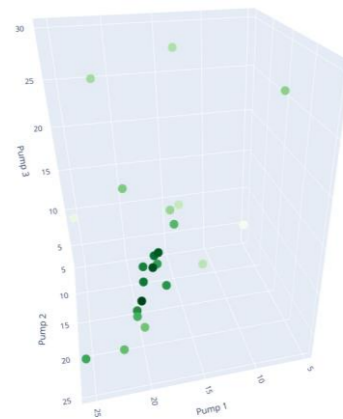
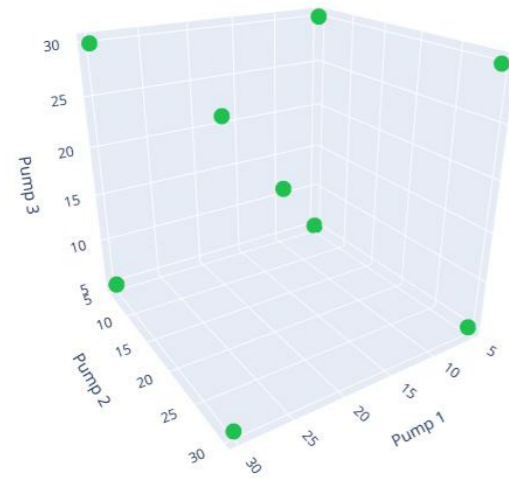
# Gaussian Search Space Filling



Experimental Points



# Gaussian Search Space Filling



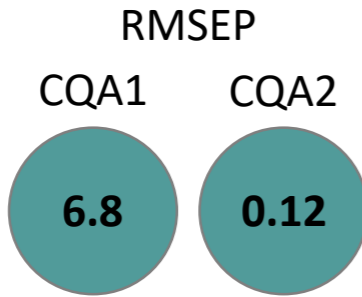
Experimental Points

Surrogate Points

# Smart Data Creation

## How 'Rich' is the Data for Generating an MPC Model?

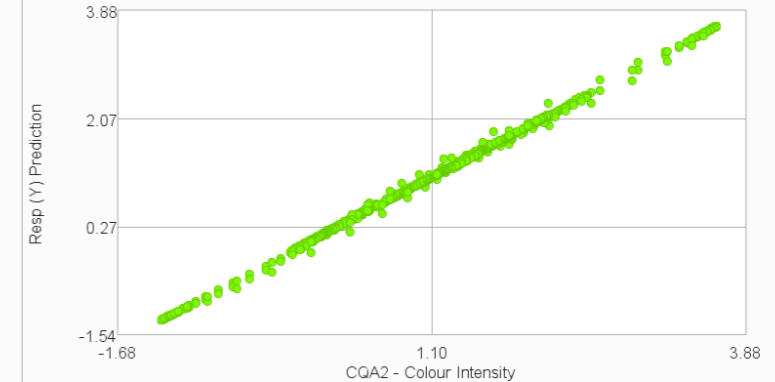
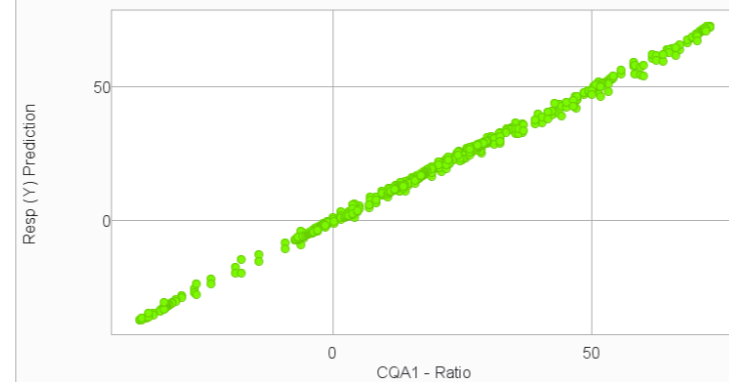
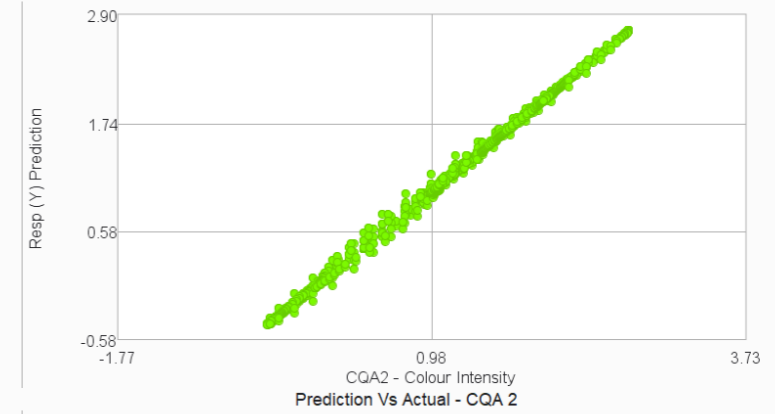
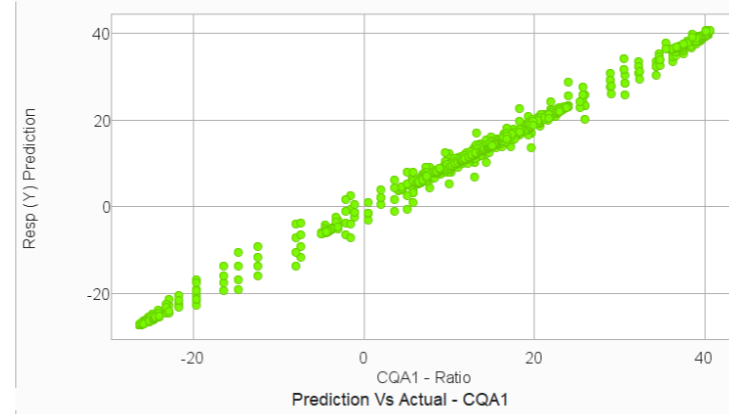
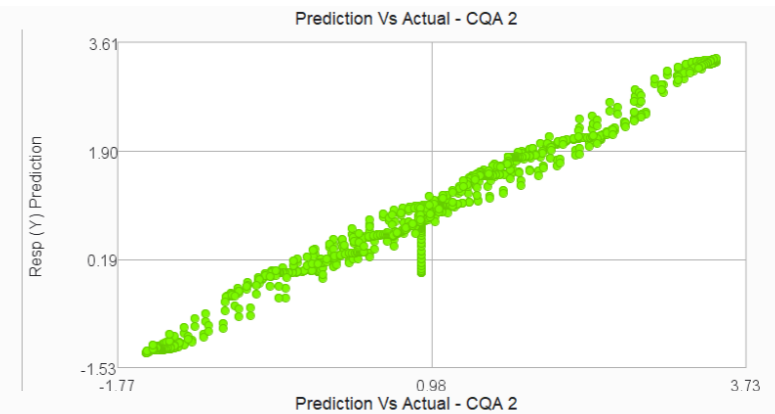
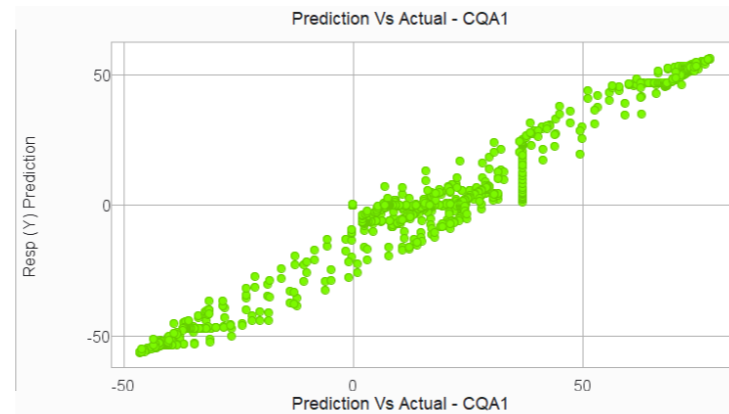
DoE



NM



GS



# Comparison

Does the Machine Learning algorithm do what we want?

	Automated DoE	Adaptive MPC	Nelder-Mead	Gaussian Search
Optimised Process	✗	✗	“Single Objective” Pseudo-Multi-Objective Possible	“Multi-Objective”
Static Process Model	Anova and Linear Model at Best (Further Modelling Step)	✓	(Further Modelling Step)	Linear and/or Non-Linear for Each Objective
PAT Calibration	Unlikely	Unlikely	✓	✓
Rich enough Data for MPC	✗	✓	Sometimes	✓



# Real-Time Machine Learning for Process Optimisation

## Webinar Summary

**ML has brought along with it a whole new set of terminology for existing techniques**  
**The potential of these techniques is significant provided they are selected with care**

Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies, 2017

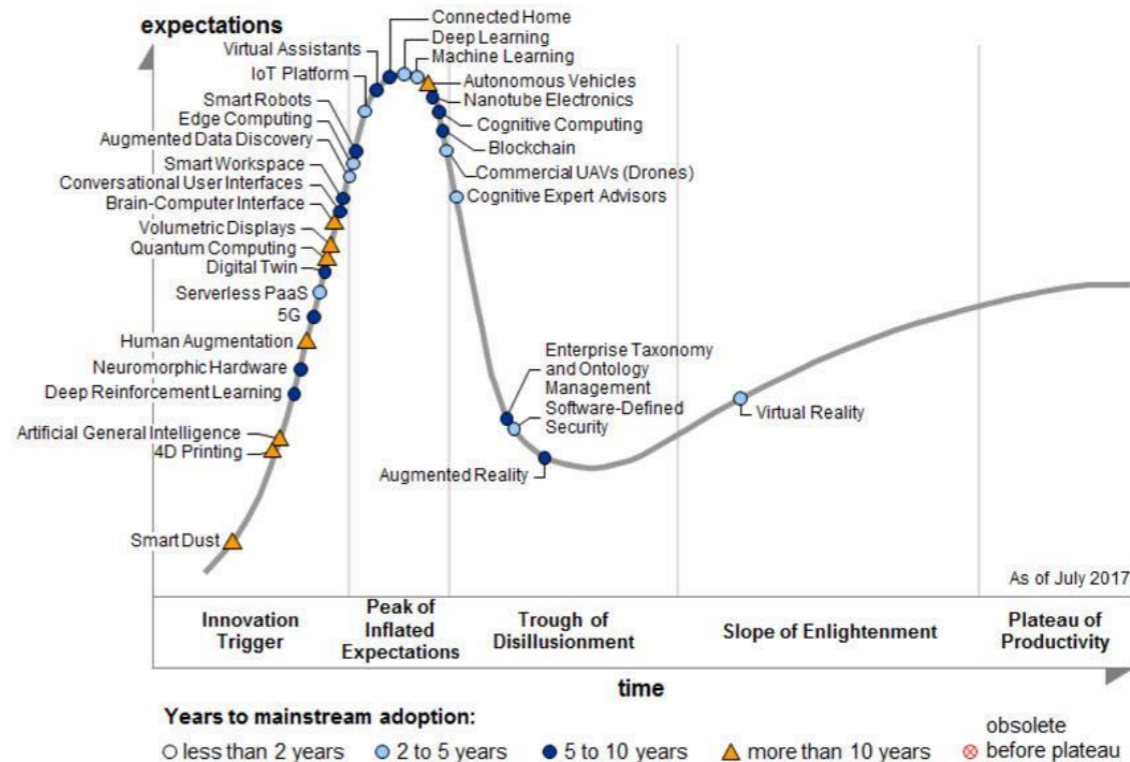
### Beyond the Hype:

Within ML are a lot of methodologies that bring genuine value

Most appropriate when dealing with large data sets

Like all technology, these have strengths and weaknesses

These methodologies require insightful application



Note: PaaS = platform as a service; UAVs = unmanned aerial vehicles

Source: Gartner (July 2017)

Gartner Hype Cycle for Emerging Tech (2017)



# Thank you for listening!

To learn more:

[www.perceptiveapc.com](http://www.perceptiveapc.com)

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