



Uncertainties in techno-economic  
evaluation of innovative processes  
Effect of technology maturity and preparation effort

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Workshop on Breakthrough Post Combustion Capture Technologies  
Oslo, Norway - 13-14 September, 2017



1.

Motivation

2.

Methodology

3.

Application  
example

4.

Conclusions



Innovative process : **partial information** → strong hypotheses

**Uncertainties** during the  
techno-economic analysis  
of an **innovative process** ?

focus  
on

Technology maturity

Preparation effort



lab.  
scale



pilot  
scale



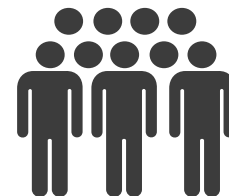
commercial  
scale



conceptual  
design



basic  
design



detailed  
design



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## Process aspects

Equipment,  
installation,  
reactants, utilities, ...

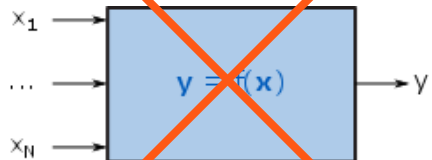
## Project environment

Site adaptation,  
studies, licences,  
owner's cost, ...

## Financial aspects

Levelization, taxes, ...

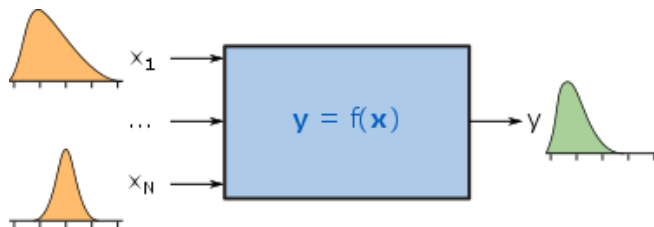
~~Deterministic  
techno-economic model~~



## Economic performance indicators

Levelized cost of production  
Net actual value  
Return on investment  
Internal rate  
...

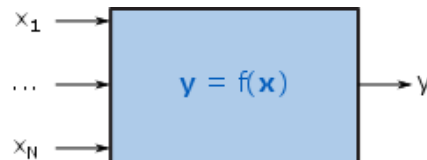
Stochastic  
techno-economic model



1. Economic model creation

**Requirement :  $y = f(x)$  function  
for the calculation of the chosen  
economic indicator**

2. Uncertainties, nature and quantification

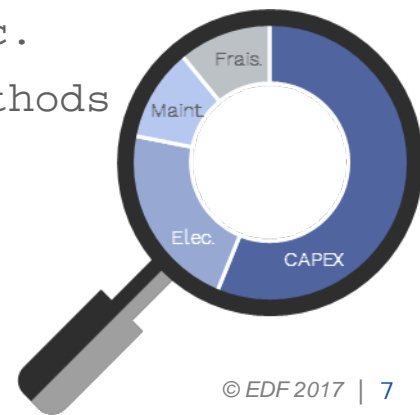


3. Uncertainties propagation

**For CAPEX (Capital Expenditure) → Existing methods**

- o Extrapolation, factorial, detailed etc.
- o Internal, commercial and/or public methods

4. Indicators analysis





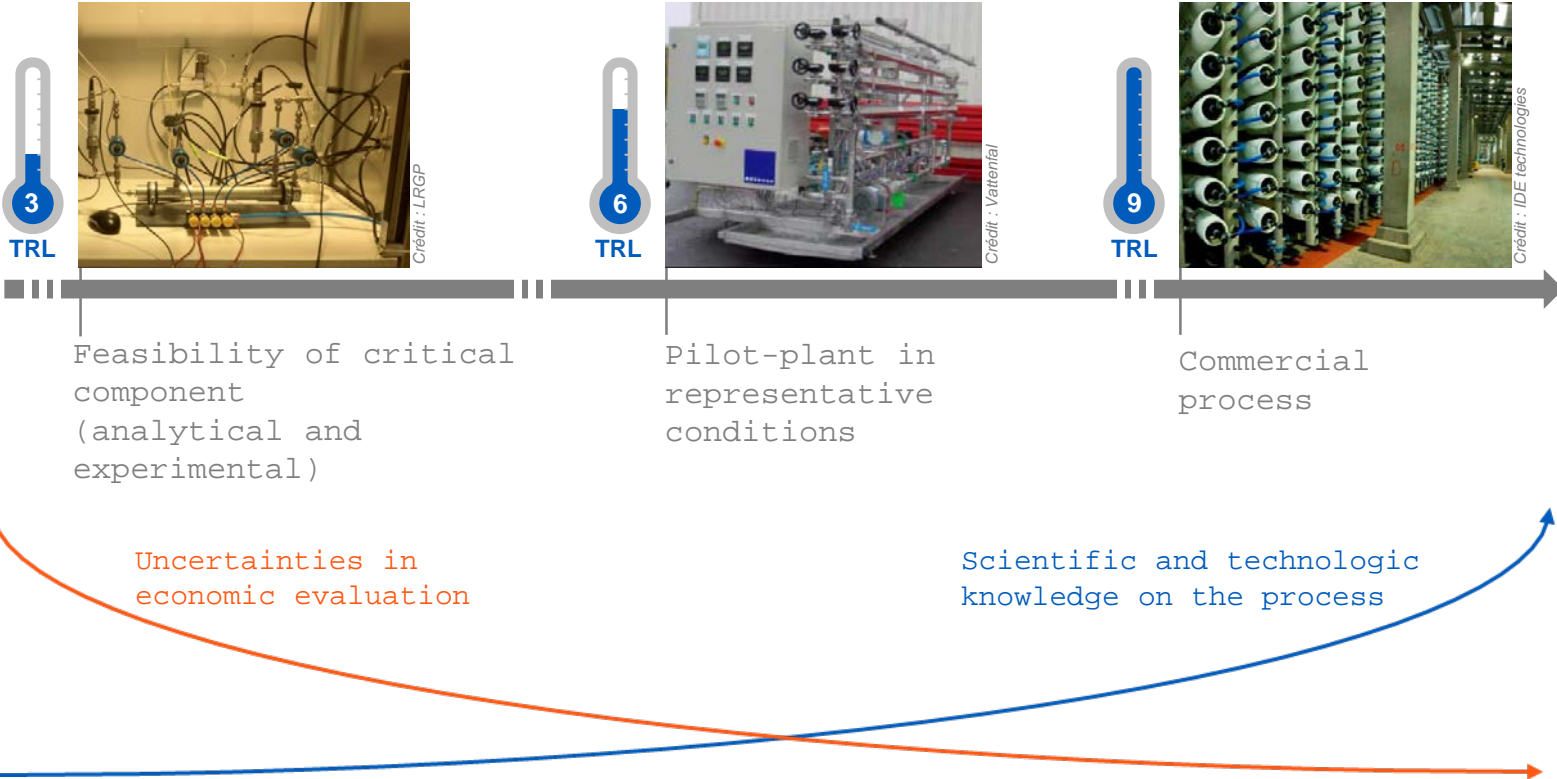


1. Economic model creation

2. Uncertainties, nature and quantification

3. Uncertainties propagation

4. Indicators analysis





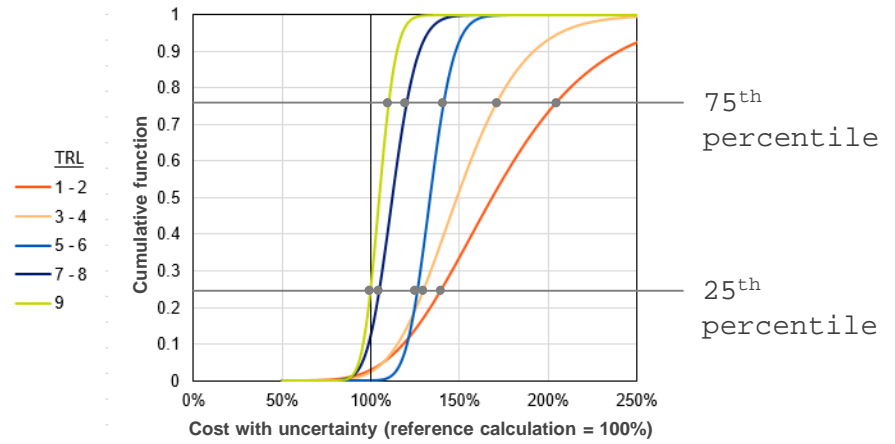
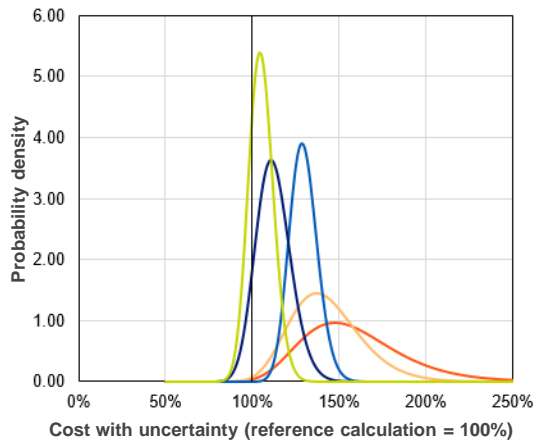
- 1. Economic model creation
- 2. Uncertainties, nature and quantification
- 3. Uncertainties propagation
- 4. Indicators analysis

Recommandations of AACE International  
(Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering) [1]

	TRL	Uncertainties
New concept	1 - 2	> +40 %
Bench-scale	3 - 4	+30 à +70 %
Pilot-plant	5 - 6	+20 à +35 %
First of a kind	7 - 8	+5 à +20 %
N <sup>th</sup> of a king	9	0 à +10 %

Uncertainties =  
25<sup>th</sup> et 75<sup>th</sup>  
percentiles

↳ Here: identification of log-normal distributions



[1] AACE, 2003, Conducting technical and economic evaluations - As applied for the process and utility industries, AACE International Recommended Practice No. 16R-90.

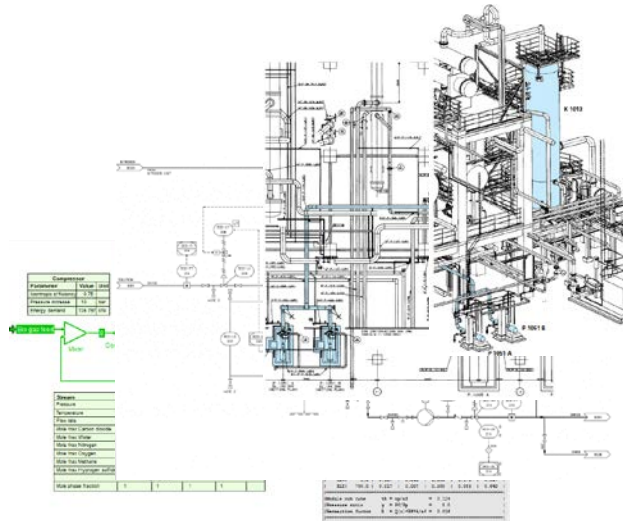
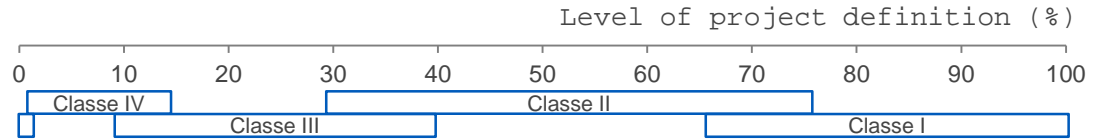
1. Economic model creation



2. Uncertainties, nature and quantification

3. Uncertainties propagation

4. Indicators analysis



[2] AACE, 2011, Cost Estimate Classification System - As Applied in Engineering, Procurement, and Construction for the Process Industries, No. 18R-97.

Recommandations of AACE International [2]

Class	Level of project definition	Purpose	Uncertainties
5	0 à 2 %	Concept screening	-50 à +100%
4	1 à 15 %	Feasibility, studies	-30 à +50 %
3	10 à 40 %	Budget authorization	-20 à +30 %
2	30 à 70 %	Budget control	-15 à +20 %
1	70 à 100 %	Check estimate	-10 à +15 %

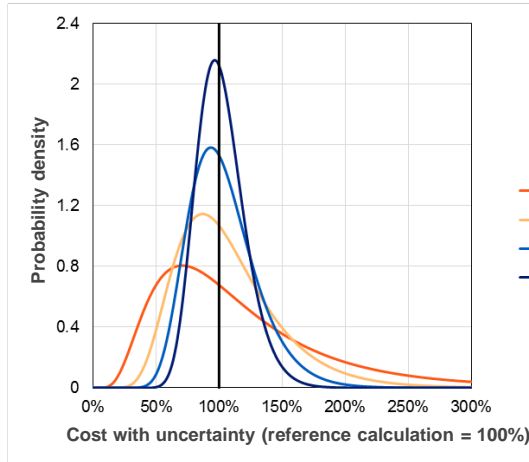
Evaluation of innovative processes  
 Mostly class 4 factorial method

1. Economic model creation

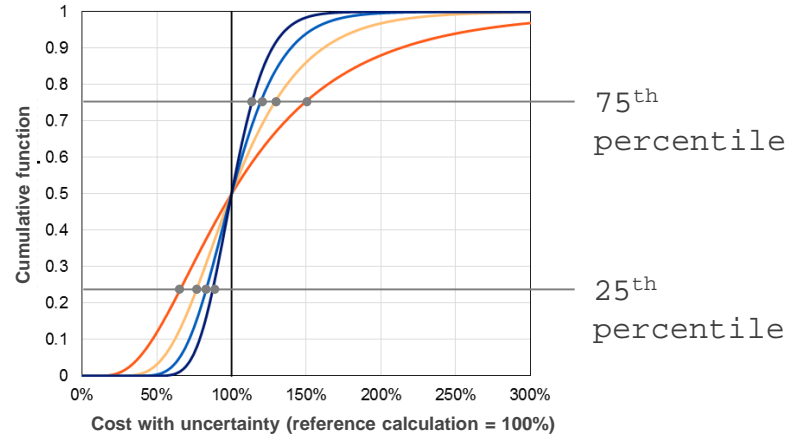
2. Uncertainties, nature and quantification

3. Uncertainties propagation

4. Indicators analysis



— Class 4  
 — Class 3  
 — Class 2  
 — Class 1



75<sup>th</sup> percentile

25<sup>th</sup> percentile

[2] AACE, 2011, Cost Estimate Classification System - As Applied in Engineering, Procurement, and Construction for the Process Industries, No. 18R-97.

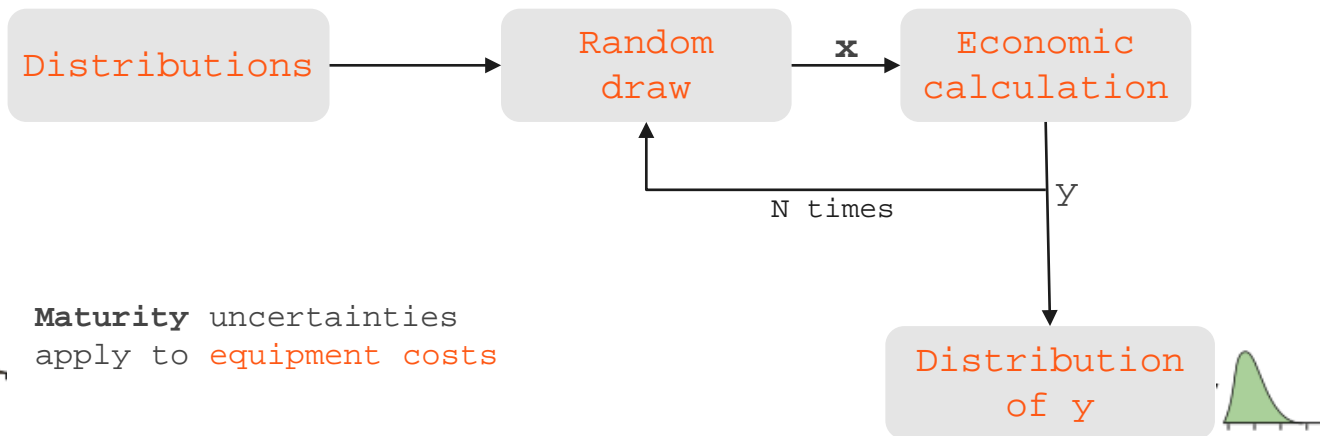
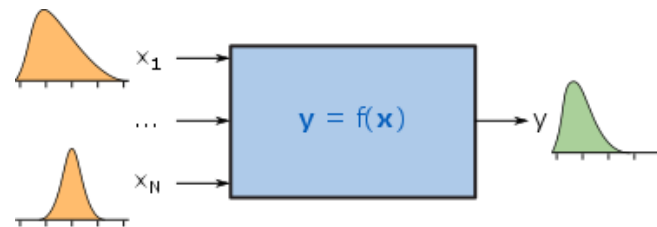
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## Monte-Carlo method

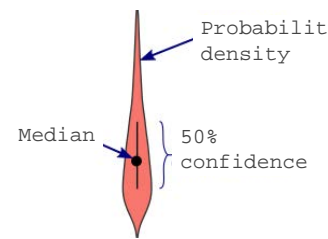
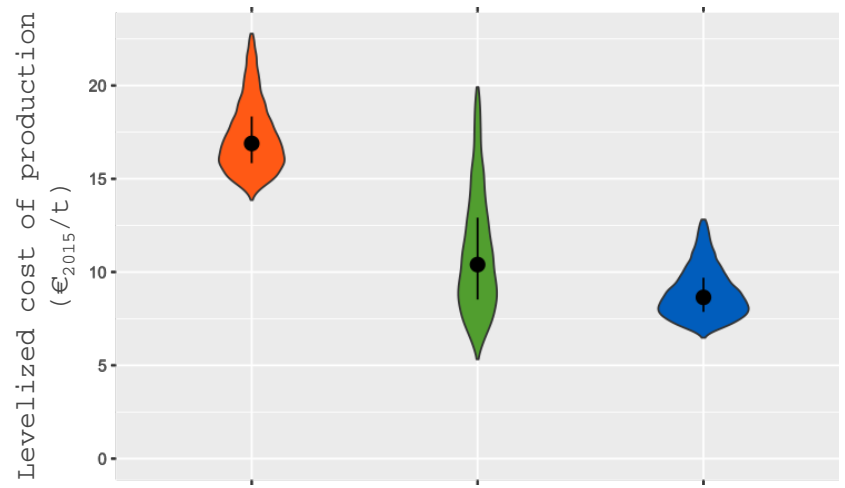


**Maturity** uncertainties apply to **equipment costs**

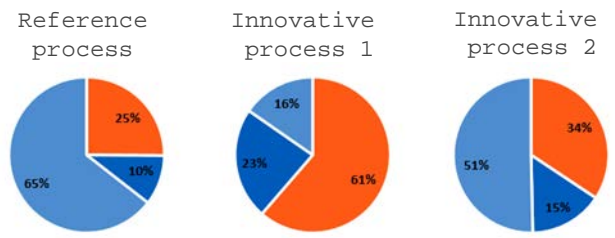


**Effort** uncertainties apply to **fixed capital**

- 1. Economic model creation
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■ Annualized CAPEX  
■ Fixed OPEX  
■ Variable OPEX



$\mathbb{P}(C < C_{ref})$	-	90%	99%
$\mathbb{P}(C < C_{ref}(1 - 30\%))$	-	56%	73%

Support for decision-making



1.

Motivation

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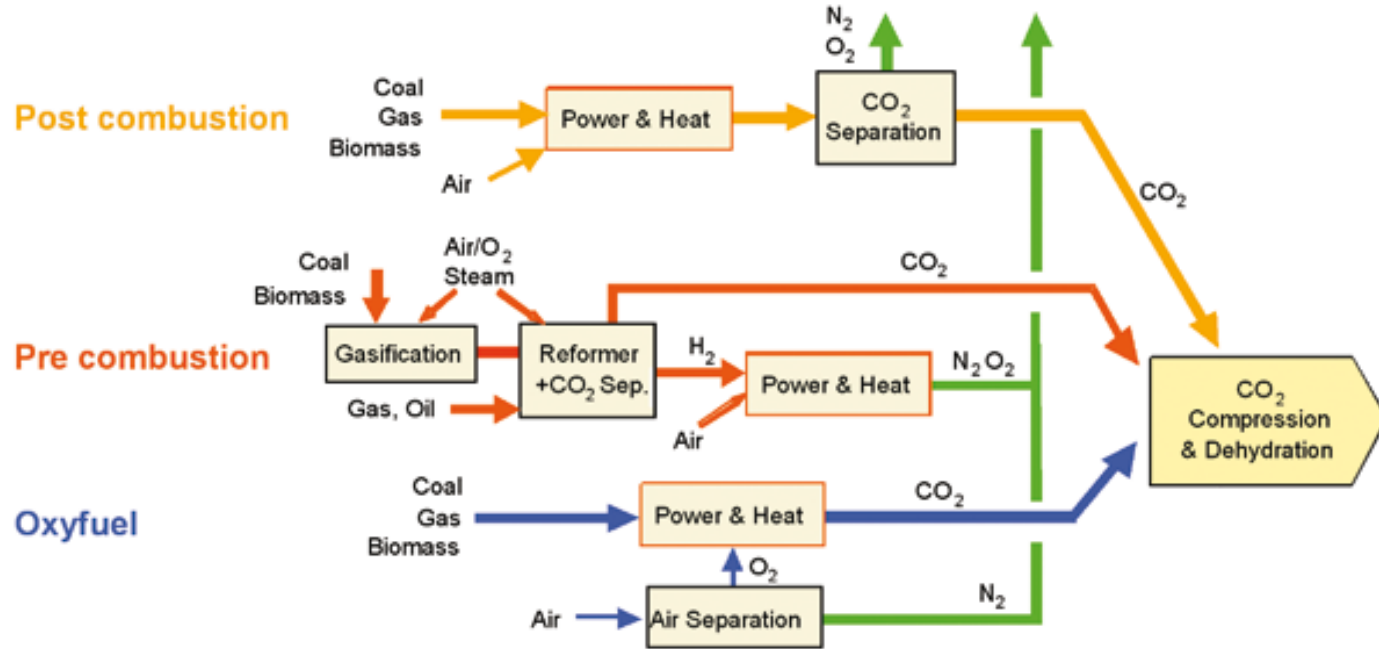
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CO<sub>2</sub> capture systems for thermal power-plants [3]

[3] Carbon Capture and Storage, technical summary, IPCC 2005



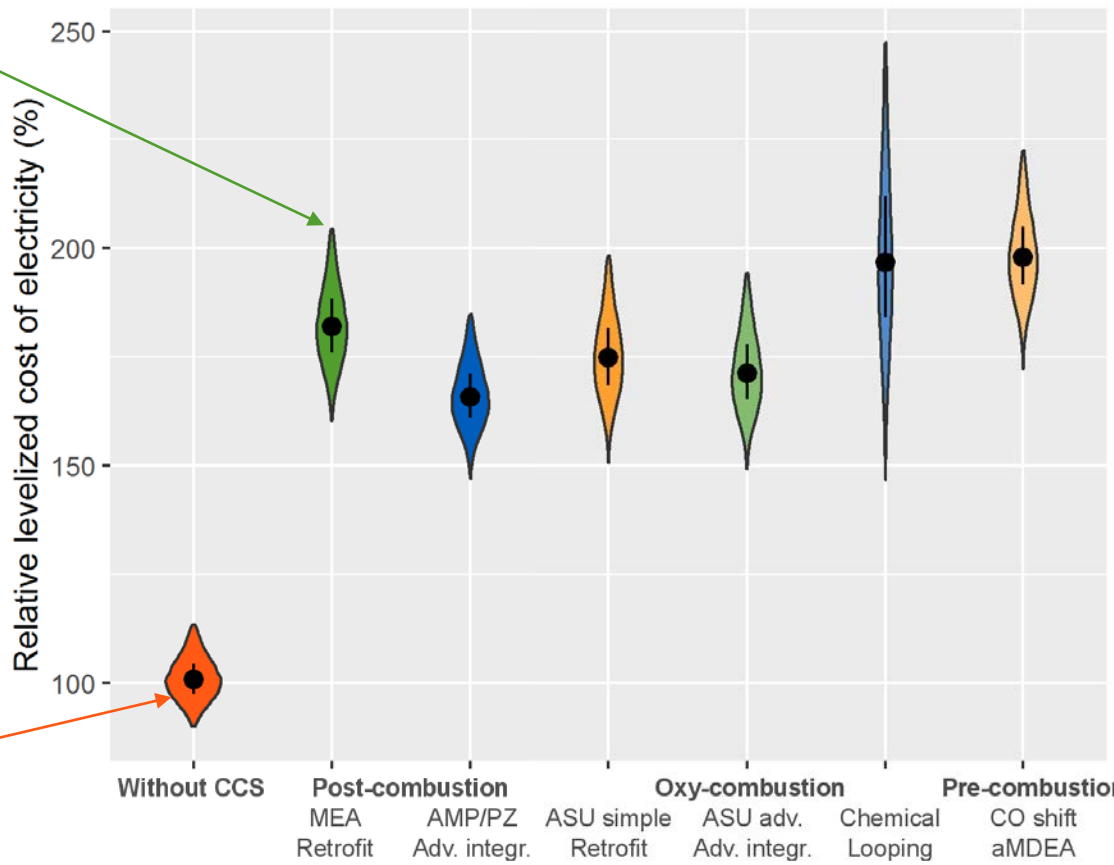
Pathway	Post-combustion		Oxy-combustion		Pre-combustion
Technology	Amine absorption	NH <sub>3</sub> absorption	Cryogenic	Chemical Looping	Chemical absorption
<b>Maturity (TRL)</b>	6-7	6-7	6-7	4-5	7
<b>Net efficiency loss</b>	7-8 %-pts	7-8 %-pts	7-8 %-pts	4-5 %-pts	6-7 %-pts
<b>Energy performance</b>	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	☹️
<b>Economic performance</b>	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😞
<b>Operability</b>	☹️	😞	☹️	😞	😞
<b>Flexibility</b>	😊	☹️	☹️	😞	😞
<b>Risk</b>	☹️	😞	😊	☹️	☹️
<b>Market</b>	Retrofit New built	Retrofit New built	(Retrofit) New built	New built	New built
<b>Interest</b>	Maturity	Stable and cheap solvent	Maturity No chemicals	Performance	Maturity Polygen. possible
<b>Technological gap</b>	Pollutant emission Solvent degrad.	Seasonal variation Precipitation	Start-up duration	Complexity O <sub>2</sub> carrier solid	Operability Flexibility

[4] Kanniche M, Le Moullec Y, Authier O, Hagi H, Bontemps D, Neveux T, Louis-Louisy M. Up-to-date CO<sub>2</sub> Capture in Thermal Power Plants. Communication au GHGT-13 (nov. 2016, Lausanne), to appear in Energy Procedia

# Cost comparison

Reference (historical) capture process

Coal-fired power plant without CO<sub>2</sub> capture



$P(C < C_{\text{MEA retrofit}})$	-	84%	72%	80%	9%	27%
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## Evaluation of innovative processes

- Variable maturity  
Concept, lab., pilot
  - Variable efforts  
e.g. conceptual design  
→ early stages
- Sources of uncertainties

## Uncertainties propagation

- Probability density function defined
  - Propagation easy to implement
- Step back on estimates

## Possible extensions

- Other sources of uncertainties  
(e.g. price of reactants)
- Distinguished uncertainties  
(equipment, civil engineering etc.)

## Limitations

- To be re-evaluated during  
technology development
- To be integrated with  
other indicators



# Thank you

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# Appendix

- **Log-normal** probability density function:  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\ln x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$

- **Efforts**

Class	Project definition	AACE data		Param.		Percentiles calculation				
		P25	P75	$\mu$	$\sigma$	P25	P50	P66	P75	P95
4	1 à 15 %	70%	150%	0	0.5887	67%	100%	127%	149%	263%
3	10 à 40 %	80%	130%	0	0.3733	78%	100%	117%	129%	185%
2	30 à 70 %	85%	120%	0	0.2606	84%	100%	111%	119%	154%
1	70 à 100 %	90%	115%	0	0.1880	88%	100%	108%	114%	136%

- **Process maturity**

Statut	TRL	AACE data		Param.		Percentiles calculation				
		P25	P75	$\mu$	$\sigma$	P25	P50	P66	P75	P95
New concept	1 - 2	140%		0.5218	0.2748	140%	169%	189%	203%	265%
Bench scale	3 - 4	130%	170%	0.3965	0.1989	130%	149%	161%	170%	206%
Pilot unit	5 - 6	120%	135%	0.2891	0.0795	127%	134%	138%	141%	152%
First of a kind	7 - 8	105%	120%	0.1156	0.0990	105%	112%	117%	120%	132%
N <sup>th</sup> of a kind	9	100%	110%	0.0477	0.0707	105%	105%	108%	110%	118%



**Knowing:** the probability density functions of two processes costs (obtained by uncertainties propagation)  $f_C$  and  $f_{C_{ref}}$  and associated cumulative functions  $F_C$  et  $F_{C_{ref}}$

$\mathbb{P}(C \leq C_{ref} - a)$ , the probability that the process cost ( $C$ ) be inferior to the cost of reference process ( $C_{ref}$ ) minus a margin ( $a$ ), is given by:

$$\mathbb{P}(C \leq C_{ref} - a) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F_C(t) f_{C_{ref}}(t + a) dt$$