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Using triangulation method to address regression problems for measurements of ultra-high electrical resistance

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**ABSTRACT BOOK  
MATHMET 2025**



## Contents

Invited.....	4
Agentic AI in Medicine: Dangerously Superior? .....	5
Tipping point analysis of real-world complex systems .....	6
Numerical methods for solution of inverse and ill-posed problems .....	7
From Physics to Machine Learning and Back: Applications in Dynamical Systems .....	8
From neural networks to nature: trustworthy AI for environmental measurement and climate action .....	9
Can explainable AI provide quality control for ML? .....	10
Oral .....	11
Special session JCGM-WG1 .....	12
An examples document for the Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement.....	13
Upgrading the JCGM Monte Carlo guide .....	15
Amending an inconsistency in JCGM 100:2008 (GUM 1995 with minor corrections).....	17
Measurement Uncertainty I.....	19
Measuring Uncertainty: Has It Come of Age?.....	20
The three most common needs for training on measurement uncertainty .....	22
Measurement Uncertainty and Time Correlation Effects on Mass Balance Thresholds for Detecting Leaks in Hydrogen Networks.....	23
Propagation of uncertainty through generalized correction schemes for impedance metrology .	24
Quantitative Imaging: propagating uncertainty through the image processing pipeline .....	26
Virtual measurement.....	28
Toward uncertainty assessment of virtual (computational) nanodosimetry .....	29
Bayesian estimation for virtual experiments in metrology featuring semi-parametric modelling using Gaussian processes .....	32
Virtual experiments and digital twins in metrology – challenges and first results of the ViDiT project.....	34
Surrogate Modeling for Flow Field Reconstruction in Pipe Systems Using Computational Fluid Dynamic Simulation and Measurement Data .....	36
3D-1D coupled finite element method for electromagnetic dosimetry assessment of filamentary implantable medical devices at low or medium frequency .....	38
Uncertainty quantification for computationally expensive model .....	41
Model Error Transport for Bayesian Inverse Problems.....	42
PyThia: Surrogate Modelling for Uncertainty Quantification — Least Squares vs Kernel Approaches .....	43
Uncertainty evaluation of image reconstruction for low-field MR .....	44

Localization of missing debris pieces after aircraft crashes - Stochastic simulation and inference .....	46
ML, sensor networks and digitalization .....	48
Enhancing the trustworthiness of model-based evaluation metrics in generative AI with uncertainty quantification.....	49
Statistical methods for autonomous data quality control and self-diagnostics in underwater sensor networks.....	51
Aggregation of reference sensors and fixed and mobile low-cost sensors. Application to producing maps of particle pollution for the Paris region.....	53
QUMPHY - Quantifying uncertainties for machine learning with medical applications.....	55
Modelling and inverse problems.....	56
Modelling of multiphase flow measurements in Coriolis flowmeters: Status, cross-disciplinary applications and future developments .....	57
Development of a computational fluid dynamics-based surrogate model for the improved flow prediction in non-ideal sonic nozzles .....	59
Towards traceable metrology for optical constants and nanostructures: Results from an EMPIR project.....	61
Using deep learning for efficient and independent sampling in high-dimensional linear Bayesian inference problems.....	62
Measurement uncertainty II .....	64
Combination and propagation of measurement uncertainty in the presence of serial correlation	65
Evaluating Uncertainty Propagation in Mass- and Volume-Based Methods for Custody Transfer of Hydrogen.....	66
Using triangulation method to address regression problems for measurements of ultra-high electrical resistance .....	67
Chemometric metrology: Propagating uncertainties through spectroscopic analysis methods ...	70
Conformity assessment .....	72
A Bayesian model for measurements by counting and its application to conformity assessment	73
Proficiency testing of ordinal classifiers using MSA logistic regression .....	75
Assessment of risks of false decisions in analytical chemistry (testing) laboratories.....	78
Trustworthy machine learning.....	80
Efficient ML-Assisted Uncertainty Quantification for Learned Groundwater Contaminant Diffusion-Sorption Processes .....	81
Analytical result for uncertainty propagation through a trained multilayer perceptron regression model.....	83
A framework for evaluating uncertainty calibration in deep learning: a case study in photoplethysmography signal analysis.....	85
Statistical methods for Intercomparison.....	87

## Using triangulation method to address regression problems for measurements of ultra-high electrical resistance

### 4. Statistical calibration and regression problems

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**Abstract:** The triangulation is widely applied in research and surveying and its application in metrology can support the choice of extrapolating measurement values through regression models, a practice that still encounters opposition among metrologists. Triangulation offers an approach to improve the accuracy and reliability of regressions by allowing for the verification of their results against independent measurement techniques or data sources. In general, triangulation involves using independent sources or methods to validate a conclusion or measurement. Within metrology, this means to compare measurements obtained from different instruments or techniques to minimize bias [1] and increase the overall confidence in the final measurement result. Our work focuses on extending the capabilities of high resistance measurement systems, specifically, applying the principles of metrological triangulation. This approach allows us to extend reliably the measurement ranges of these systems, particularly in areas where their performance is limited. First application of the method was on the dual source high resistance bridge (DSB) [2-4], to identify systematic or functional errors in of a commercial DSB [5, 6]. Software tools such as Calibration Curves Computing (CCC) [7] and Excel were employed. This research identifies a more efficient and reliable extrapolation methodology compared to conventional approaches (as extrapolation with Excel or other tools). The DSB method for high and ultra-high value resistance calibration can face limitations at voltages below 100 V due to detector sensitivity, when picoampere-level currents are involved. An example of the application consists of to measure the uncorrelated ratios  $r_1$ ,  $r_2$  and  $r_3$ , on a network of three high value resistors (higher than 1 TΩ  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  with  $R_2$  circa 10  $R_1$  and  $R_3$  circa 10  $R_2$ , according to Fig.1 with the commercial DSB.

Fig.1. Scheme of the triangular ratio method on three high value resistors.

Being the values of  $R_1$  at low voltages extrapolated, for example using the algorithm [7], the fulfilment of the following triangulation rule and allows to be confident that errors introduced with the extrapolation are within the standard deviation of the mean of the  $r_1$ ,  $r_2$  and  $r_3$ .

$$abs(1 - r_3 * r_2 / r_1) * 10^6 < sqrt(s^2_{r1} + s^2_{r2} + s^2_{r3}) \quad (1)$$

where  $s_{r1}$ ,  $s_{r2}$ ,  $s_{r3}$  are the lowest standard deviations of the mean,  $sqrt$  is the square root function and  $abs$  is the absolute value function.

This can support calibration services in compliance with ISO 17025:2018, concerning the risk assessment, and facilitate measurements of bulk resistors or insulation materials within composite thermal shields. Applying the triangulation to the regression analysis can be beneficial in evaluating relationships between different variables. In our case with this method, we can investigate the correlation between voltage and high resistance measurements, especially in voltage ranges outside the typical calibration range of the

measurement system. This approach allows for a more robust assessment of the behaviour of the system under less conventional operating conditions. Our preliminary findings suggest that triangulation can be effectively used to validate a regression model by comparing its predicted values with measurements obtained through:

- Different measurement techniques comparing resistance values measured with well-established high resistance measurement methods [2-4, 8, 9];
- Different data sets: By analyzing measurements of resistance under varying conditions, it is possible to train several regression models and then compare their predictions. Consistency among the predictions from different models or techniques would significantly strengthen the reliability of the regression. Furthermore, comparing resistance values derived from the regression model with those measured by an independent and reliable measurement system can indicate the model's performance and the reliability of the measurement system, provided the values are within a reasonable tolerance, for example in the case of ultra-high value resistors with very low or negligible voltage coefficient. Recognizing certain limitations is essential. It is crucial to select independent sources or methods relevant with the specific measurement context and the characteristics of the regression model. Unfortunately, triangulation can be a time-consuming and resource-intensive process and obtaining multiple independent measurements of the same parameter (i.e. without covariance terms in (1)) may not always be feasible. In conclusion, although the triangulation does not fully solve regression problems, it can be beneficial for improving the reliability of regression models within the domain of high resistance measurements allowing to establish a sort of local multiple ultra-high value resistance standard. The periodical check of the fulfilment of the proposed triangulation rule among the ratios involved in the high resistors network can be a metrological confirmation of the validity of both the chosen regression model and the multiple high resistance standard.

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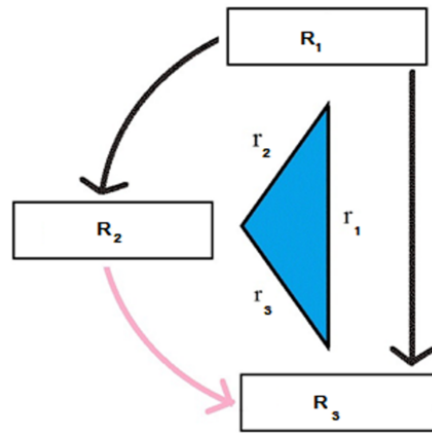


Fig.1. Scheme of the triangular ratio method on three high value resistors.