

# MEM6810 Engineering Systems Modeling and Simulation



## 工程系统建模与仿真

Theory Analysis

### Lecture 1: Introduction to Simulation

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中美物流研究院 (工程系统管理研究院)

Sino-US Global Logistics Institute (Institute of Industrial & System Engineering)



- 1 What is Simulation?
- 2 Why Simulation?
- 3 How to Do Simulation?
- 4 Models
  - ▶ Definition
  - ▶ Types of Simulation Models
- 5 Examples
  - ▶ Estimate  $\pi$ : Buffon's Needle
  - ▶ Estimate  $\pi$ : Random Points
  - ▶ Numerical Integration
  - ▶ System Time to Failure
- 6 Course Outline



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- Simulation is EVERYWHERE!

# What is Simulation?

Figure: Physical Simulation of Solid-Fluid Interaction (from [Ruan et al. \(2021\)](#))

# What is Simulation?



**Figure:** Pilot Training in Boeing 787 Flat Panel Trainer (from [Boeing](#))



# What is Simulation?

**Figure:** Airport Simulation (*by Vancouver Airport Services*)

[Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuXwEbAvk2Q>]

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Figure: Typhoon Simulation ([image](#) by [Atmoz](#) / [CC BY 3.0](#))

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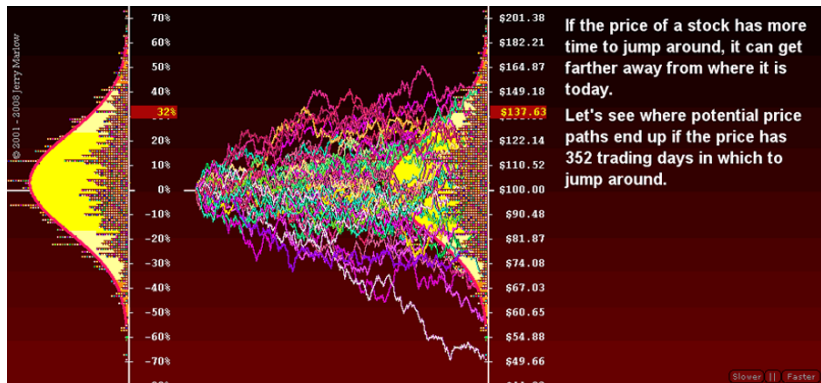


Figure: Financial Analysis

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- With simulation technique, we can easily make change and observe the effect, while keeping high fidelity.

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- Simulation is also an important type of numerical methods.

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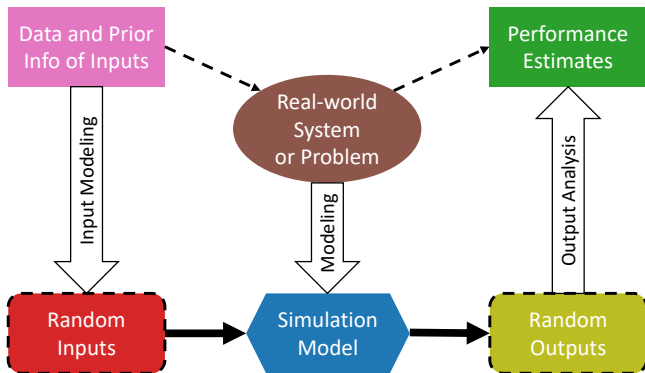


Figure: Basic Paradigm of A Simulation Study

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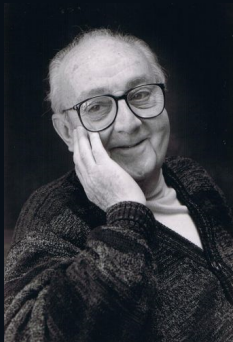
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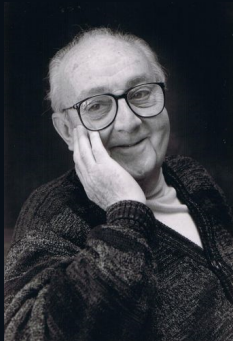
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- A **simulation model** is a particular type of **mathematical model**.





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George E. P. Box (1919.10 – 2013.03) was a British statistician, who worked in the areas of quality control, time-series analysis, design of experiments, and Bayesian inference. He has been called “one of the great statistical minds of the 20th century”.

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- Essentially, running simulation is still one type of numerical methods.
  - Real-world simulation models can be large, and such runs are usually conducted with the aid of a computer.



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Figure: Monte Carlo Casino (photo by [Cristian Lorini](#) / [CC BY-SA 3.0](#))



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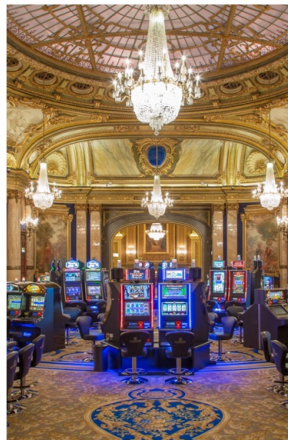


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    - Example 1 – Logistics Management: evaluate the efficiency of a terminal.
    - Example 2 – Service Management: evaluate waiting time of customers under different staff shifts.
    - Often used to simulate the logistics/transportation/service systems, whose status naturally changes over time.



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  - Used much more often (uncertainty is more or less involved in a real-world system).

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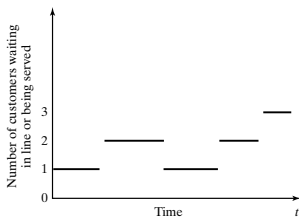


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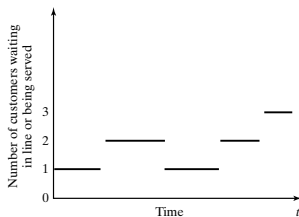


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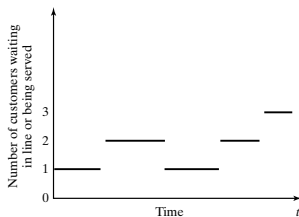


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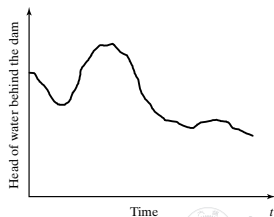


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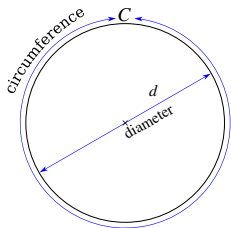
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  - The simulation is called **Discrete-Event System Simulation** (离散事件系统仿真).
  - It is the main **focus** of this course.

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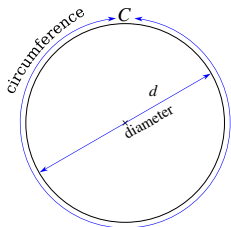
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- It was considered as a quite difficult problem in the history of mankind to find the value of  $\pi$ .

- The earliest written approximations of  $\pi$ :
  - Babylon: A clay tablet (1900–1600 BC),  $\pi \approx \frac{25}{8} = 3.125$ ;
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Figure: Liu Hui (刘徽, 魏晋时期, 225-295 AD)

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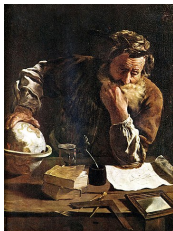


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$$\frac{22}{7} = 3.1428\dots$$



Figure: Liu Hui (刘徽, 魏晋时期, 225-295 AD)

$$\pi \approx 3.1416$$

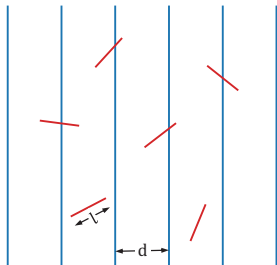


Figure: Zu Chongzhi (祖冲之, 南北朝时期, 429–500 AD) ([statue image](#) by [三猫](#) / [CC BY 4.0](#))

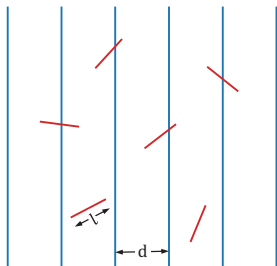
$$\pi \approx \frac{355}{113} = 3.14159292\dots$$

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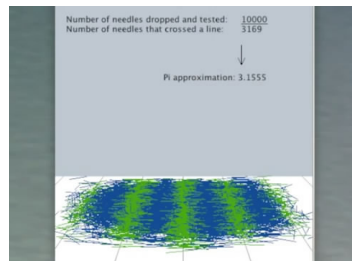


Figure: A Computer Simulation (by Jeffrey Ventrella)  
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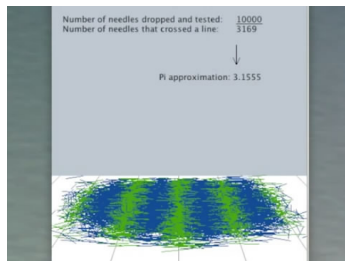


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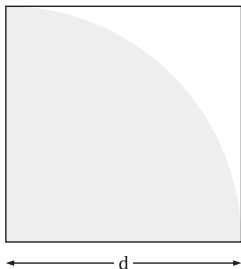
- Try it out!

<https://mste.illinois.edu/activity/buffon>

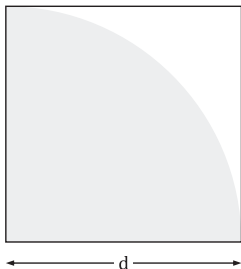
<http://datagenetics.com/blog/may42015/index.html>

- Now consider another simulation to estimate  $\pi$ .

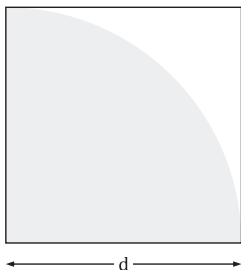
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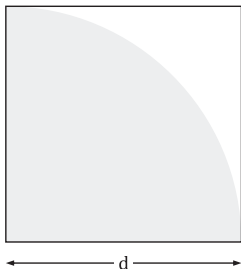


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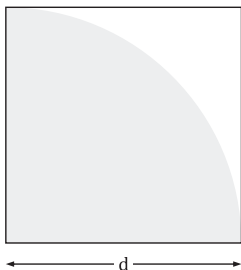


Figure: Animation [\(image by nicoguaro / CC BY 3.0\)](#)

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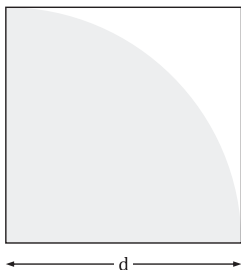


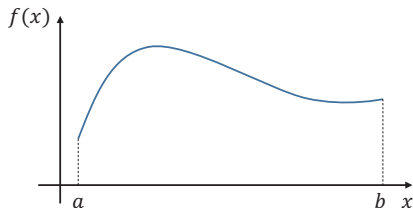
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- Visit <https://xiaoweiz.shinyapps.io/calPi> for interaction.

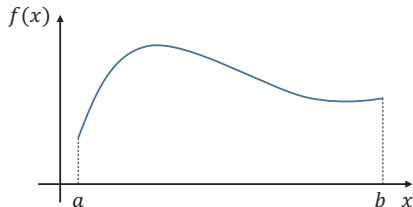


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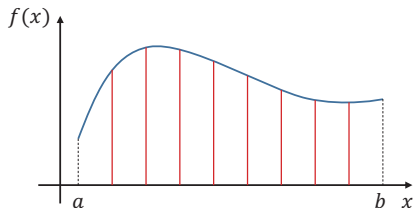


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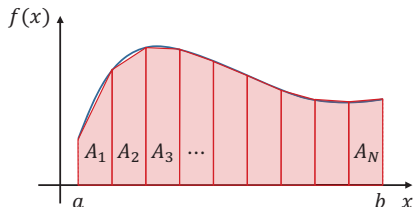
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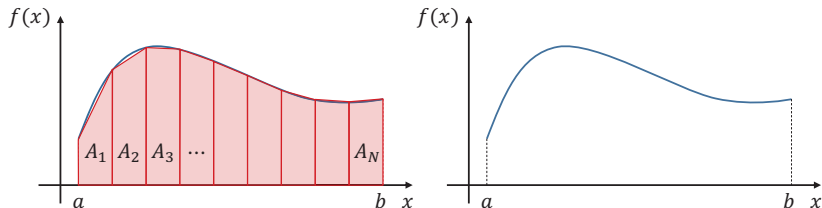
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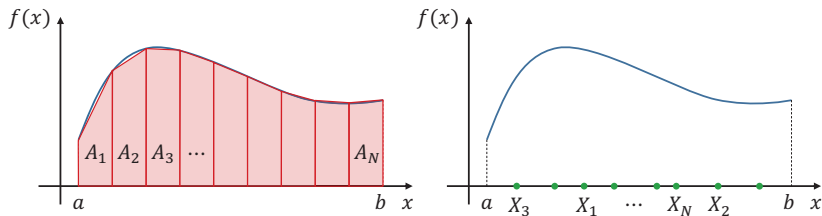
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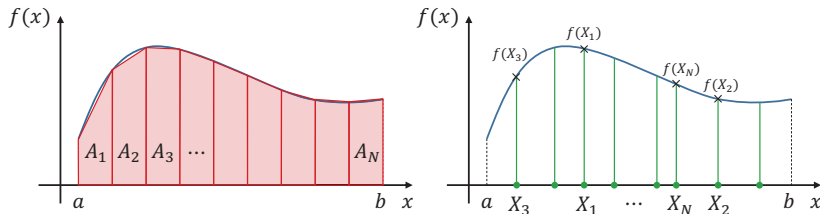


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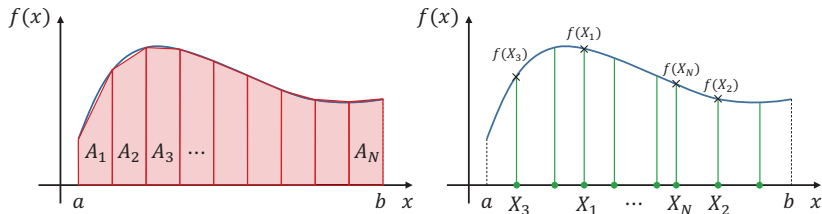
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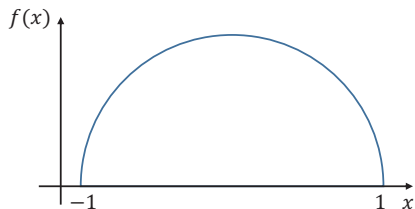
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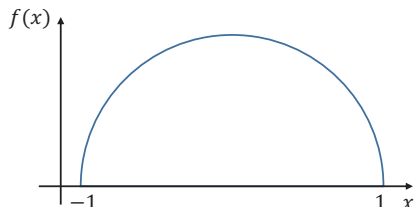
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  - $\int_a^b f(x)dx \approx \frac{b-a}{N} [f(X_1) + f(X_2) + \dots + f(X_N)]$ .
- Monte Carlo method will be much more **efficient** when the dimension is high! (E.g.,  $\int_{[a, b]^d} f(x)dx$  for large  $d$ .)

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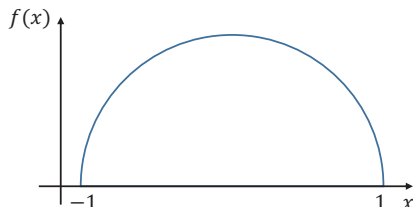


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- So we have another way to estimate  $\pi$  using Monte Carlo simulation (provided we know how to compute square root).

- There is a system:
  - Two components work as active and spare, so the system fails if both components are failed.
  - Suppose the time to next component failure is random (when there is at least one functional components), which follows a known distribution, and we know how to generate it.
  - To make it simple, suppose the time to next failure is equally likely 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 days (no memory).
  - Repair takes exactly 2.5 days (only one at a time).



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- What can we say about the time to failure for this system?
- Let's run a simulation by hand!
  - Let the system **state** denote the number of functional components.
  - The **events** are the failure of a component and the completion of repair.

Clock	System State	Event Calendar	
		Next Failure	Next Repair
0	2		

Clock	System State	Event Calendar	
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0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	

Clock	System State	Event Calendar	
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Clock	System State	Event Calendar	
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0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	$\infty$
5	1		

Clock	System State	Event Calendar	
		Next Failure	Next Repair
0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	$\infty$
5	1		$5 + 2.5 = 7.5$

Clock	System State	Event Calendar	
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0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	$\infty$
5	1	$5 + 3 = 8$	$5 + 2.5 = 7.5$



Clock	System State	Event Calendar	
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0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	$\infty$
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7.5	2		

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8	1		

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7.5	2	8	$\infty$
8	1		$8 + 2.5 = 10.5$

Clock	System State	Event Calendar	
		Next Failure	Next Repair
0	2	$0 + \mathbf{5} = 5$	$\infty$
5	1	$5 + \mathbf{3} = 8$	$5 + 2.5 = 7.5$
7.5	2	8	$\infty$
8	1	$8 + \mathbf{6} = 14$	$8 + 2.5 = 10.5$

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10.5	2	14	$\infty$
14	1		$14 + 2.5 = 16.5$

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0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	$\infty$
5	1	$5 + 3 = 8$	$5 + 2.5 = 7.5$
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8	1	$8 + 6 = 14$	$8 + 2.5 = 10.5$
10.5	2	14	$\infty$
14	1	$14 + 1 = 15$	$14 + 2.5 = 16.5$
15	0		

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- We can observe:

- Time to failure = 15
- Average number of functional components =

$$\frac{1}{15-0} [2(5-0) + 1(7.5-5) + 2(8-7.5) + 1(10.5-8) + 2(14-10.5) + 1(15-14)] = \frac{24}{15}$$



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- Some questions:
  - How to deal with the randomness?
  - How to generate the time interval of component failure?

- 1 What is Simulation?
- 2 Why Simulation?
- 3 How to Do Simulation?
- 4 Models
  - ▶ Definition
  - ▶ Types of Simulation Models
- 5 Examples
  - ▶ Estimate  $\pi$ : Buffon's Needle
  - ▶ Estimate  $\pi$ : Random Points
  - ▶ Numerical Integration
  - ▶ System Time to Failure
- 6 Course Outline



- Introduction to Simulation
- Elements of Probability and Statistics
- Queueing Models
- Random Variate Generation
- Input Modeling
- Verification and Validation of Simulation Models
- Output Analysis I: Single Model
- Simulation in Excel and FlexSim
- Output Analysis II: Comparison
- Output Analysis III: Optimization

