



# Mechanism optimization with Optima++

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# General workflow



## Collection of literature data

- References in review articles/mechanism papers
- Searching for citations (*e.g.* in Web of Science)
- Databases (*e.g.* NIST Chemical Kinetics Database)
- Networking with experimentalists

## Encoding data into a standard format

- 1<sup>st</sup> choice: tabulated values in paper/Supp. Mat.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> choice: requesting raw data from authors
- 3<sup>rd</sup> choice: manual digitization of plots
- Standardized (*e.g.* XML-based) formats recommended → also useful for data storage

## Mechanism optimization

- Assembling an initial mechanism
- Deciding on parameters to be optimized
- Estimating prior rate coefficient uncertainties
- Selection of optimization targets (indirect measurements, direct and theoretical rate determinations)
- Creating restart files and/or response surfaces
- Monitoring the progress of optimization

## Mechanism validation

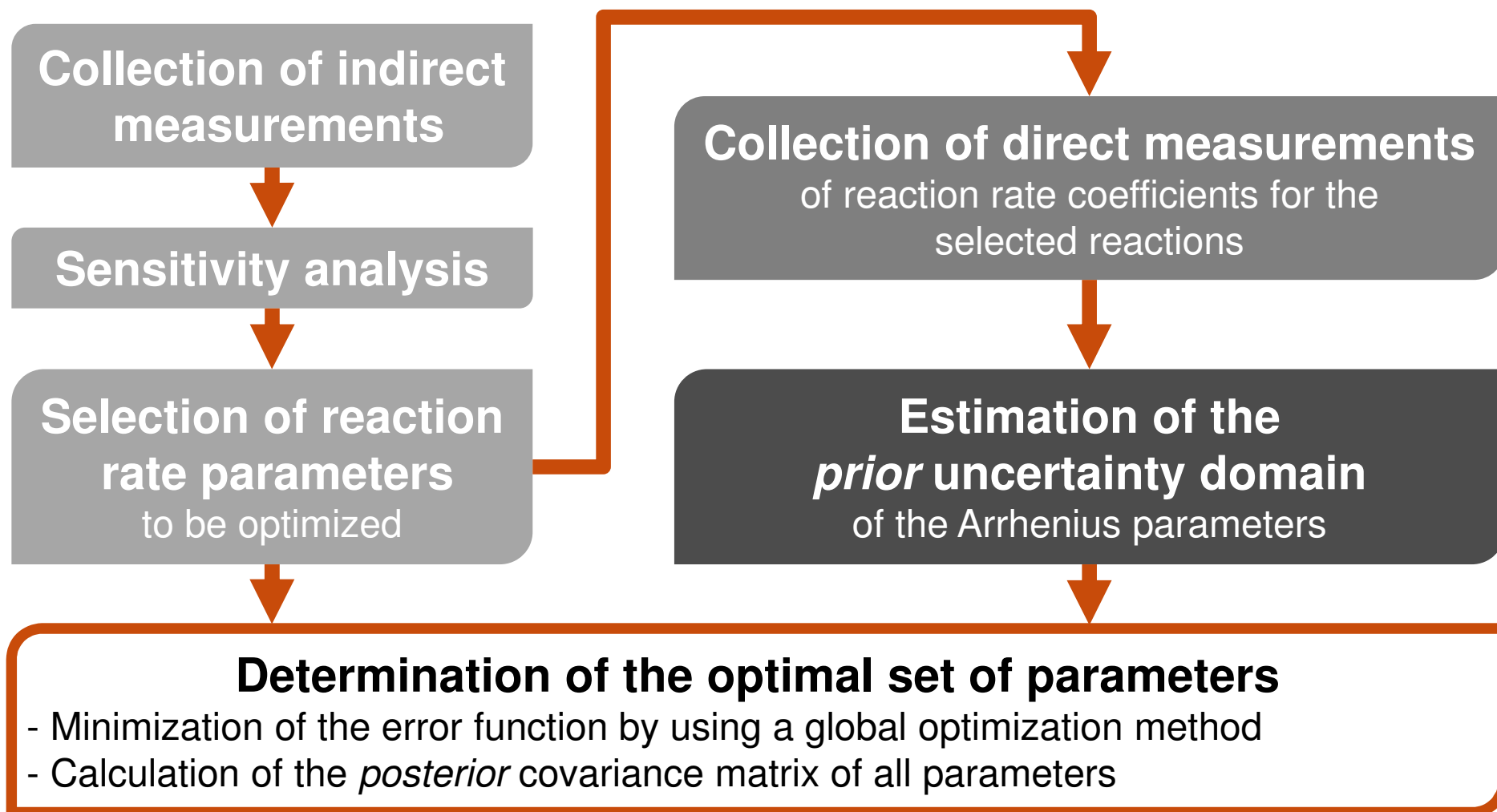
- Collecting reference mechanisms from literature
- Simulations at the conditions of the collected data
- (semi-)automatic comparison via the evaluation of a least-square error function
- Identifying structural differences, comparing sensitivities at various conditions, pathway analysis

New project



# Optimization methodology of Turányi et al.

T. Turányi et al., *Int. J. Chem. Kinet.* **44** (2012) 284–302



**Better rate parameters + better estimation of their accuracy!**



# Sensitivity analysis



- Useful tool for identifying reactions for which rate parameters can be determined from indirect data
- Local sensitivity analysis

**Simulated value**

$$S_n = \frac{\partial \ln \boxed{Y}}{\partial \ln \boxed{p}} \approx \frac{p}{Y} \frac{Y' - Y}{p' - p}$$

**Model parameter – Typically A Arrhenius parameters**

- In Optima++ normalized sensitivity coefficients are calculated using a brute force method



# Sensitivity analysis

## Input syntax



- Settings
  - MECHANISM – mechanism from a MECHMOD block
  - SOLVER – default “FM”
  - SETTINGS\_TAG – default “default”
  - THREAD\_LIMIT – default 1
  - SPLIT – default 1
- Specifying target conditions
  - NAME myDataFile1.xml POINTS 1 2 3 4 5
  - NAME myDataFile2.xml POINTS all



# Sensitivity analysis

## output



- Header containing basic information about the run
- Result lines containing
  - Name of datafile
  - Point number of the experiment
  - Name of measured species (if applicable)
  - Measured results (see manual for units)
  - Simulated results (see manual for units)
  - Normalized sensitivity coefficients



# Optimization



- By optimization we mean a fitting of (usually kinetic) parameters of a model, to minimize an error function
- Optimization of chemical kinetic models can serve two, closely related purposes
  - Improvement of reproduction of experiments (at certain conditions)
  - Determination of parameters from complex experiments
- Our methods can be used for both purposes, but the primary advantage is the ability to get realistic rate coefficients with realistic uncertainties from fitting to a large amount of data



# Optimization

## Error function



$$E = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{j=1}^{N_i} \left( \frac{Y_{ij}^{\text{mod}} - Y_{ij}^{\text{exp}}}{\sigma(Y_{ij}^{\text{exp}})} \right)^2$$

**Number of data series**

**Number of points**

(division makes data series differing in size equally weighted)

**Estimated standard deviation / scatter**

(makes different types of experiments comparable, accounts for different reliability of data)

**Difference of modeled and experimental value**

(characterizes the prediction of one measured value)

$$Y_{ij} = \begin{cases} y_{ij} & \text{if } \sigma(y_{ij}^{\text{exp}}) \approx \text{constant} \\ \ln y_{ij} & \text{if } \sigma(\ln y_{ij}^{\text{exp}}) \approx \text{constant} \end{cases}$$

**Transformation**

(comparison of experiments with absolute and relative errors)

The **overall agreement between simulations and measurements** can be well characterized quantitatively by this error function





# Optimization

## Transformation



### Transformation

(comparison of experiments  
with absolute and relative errors)

$$Y_{ij} = \begin{cases} y_{ij} & \text{if } \sigma(y_{ij}^{\text{exp}}) \approx \text{constant} \\ \ln y_{ij} & \text{if } \sigma(\ln y_{ij}^{\text{exp}}) \approx \text{constant} \end{cases}$$

- Selection of the error scale is always up to the user
- What we recommend is
  - Flame speeds – abs
  - Concentration measurements – abs
  - Ignition delays – abs ln
  - Rate coefficients – abs ln



# Optimization

## Estimation of uncertainties



- Calculation of the covariance matrix of the estimated parameters based on linear error propagation:

Covariance matrix  
of experiments

Discrepancy between  
experiments and model

$$\Sigma_p = \left[ \left( \mathbf{J}_o^T \mathbf{W} \Sigma_Y^{-1} \mathbf{J}_o \right)^{-1} \mathbf{J}_o^T \mathbf{W} \Sigma_Y^{-1} \right] (\Sigma_Y + \Sigma_\Delta) \left[ \left( \mathbf{J}_o^T \mathbf{W} \Sigma_Y^{-1} \mathbf{J}_o \right)^{-1} \mathbf{J}_o^T \mathbf{W} \Sigma_Y^{-1} \right]^T$$

- Standard deviations of rate coefficients can be calculated from the covariance matrix of its Arrhenius parameters

$$\underbrace{\ln\{k(T)\}}_{\kappa(\theta)} = \underbrace{\ln\{A\}}_{\alpha} + \underbrace{\frac{n}{\theta}}_n \cdot \underbrace{\ln\{T\}}_{\theta} - \underbrace{\{E/R\}}_{\varepsilon} \cdot \underbrace{\{T\}^{-1}}_{\theta}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \ln \theta & -\theta^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_{\kappa}(\theta) = \sqrt{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \Sigma_p \boldsymbol{\theta}}$$



# Optimization

## Algorithm



- Generate random sample of rate parameters
- Evaluate error function  $E$  at each parameter set
- Select parameter set that gave the lowest  $E$  values as the present optimal set
- Calculate new covariance matrix of the parameters (optional)
- IF  $E$  could be not decreased then reduce the scaling of the sampling range
- IF  $E$  could be decreases then increase the scaling of the sampling range



# Optimization

## Parameter sampling



- Parameters can be sampled uniformly or normally
- Uncertainty range defined with a mean, covariance matrix, and cutoff in sigma (typically 3)
- Sampling range is defined with (a potentially different) mean and covariance matrix
- The sampling covariance matrix can be scaled according to a “focus level” to help focus on parameter regions where the minimum is expected

$$f_{\sigma} = N_{\text{sample}}^{-2 \cdot N_{\text{focus}} / N_{\text{parameters}}} \quad \log f_{\sigma} = -\frac{2 \cdot N_{\text{focus}}}{N_{\text{parameters}}} \log N_{\text{sample}}$$

- Arrhenius parameters of the same reaction are sampled together
- The cutoff is applied in rate coefficients in a finite temperature range



# Optimization

## Input syntax



- Same settings as SENSITIVITY, but need to specify parameters for optimization and uncertainties for target experiments
- Parameters
  - Select reaction
  - Select parameters – A, n, E and third body collision effs.
  - Define initial sampling range
  - Define uncertainty bounds for optimization (hard limits)
- Data uncertainties
  - SIGM – standard deviations
  - SIGMSCALE – scale of uncertainties (abs/absln)
  - SIGMUNIT – unit of uncertainties for abs scale



# Optimization

## Reaction blocks



Start block with REACTION, and close with END

- REACNUM – number of the reaction
- REACSTRING – reaction string, cross-checked with reacnum
- UNC\_MEAN and UNC\_COVMAT – defines uncertainty range
- INIT and INIT\_COVMAT – defines initial sampling range
- TEMPRANGE – defines T limits for uncertainty range
- SIGMARANGE - uncertainty range with in  $\sigma(\ln k)$ -s



# Optimization

## Results



- Error function over iterations
- Error functions for each dataset
- Parameter sets
- Optimal parameter set and covariance matrix at each iteration

