

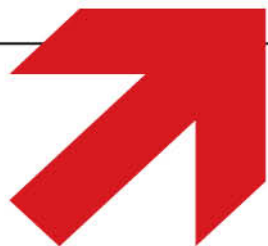


PROJECT PRODUCTION  
INSTITUTE

Inaugural Symposium

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014  
San Francisco

# Application of Simulation Models to Optimize Oil and Gas Well Delivery



Presenter:

**Forest Flager, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate and Lecturer  
CIFE, Stanford University*

# Agenda

---

- ① Current Challenges
- ② Description of Proposed Model
- ③ Case Study Application
- ④ Conclusions / Next Steps



# Overview of Rig Fleet Management

---

**Goal:** Optimize drilling and rig scheduling in consideration of multiple objectives and/or constraints, namely:

- production cost
- production rate.

**Scope:**

- number of rigs
- pad drill strategy
- pad drill sequence

# Current Challenges

- **Problem complexity**

Assuming a single rig:

$$(50_{\text{PADS}})! = 3.04_{\text{E}}64 \text{ POSSIBLE DRILLING SEQUENCES}$$

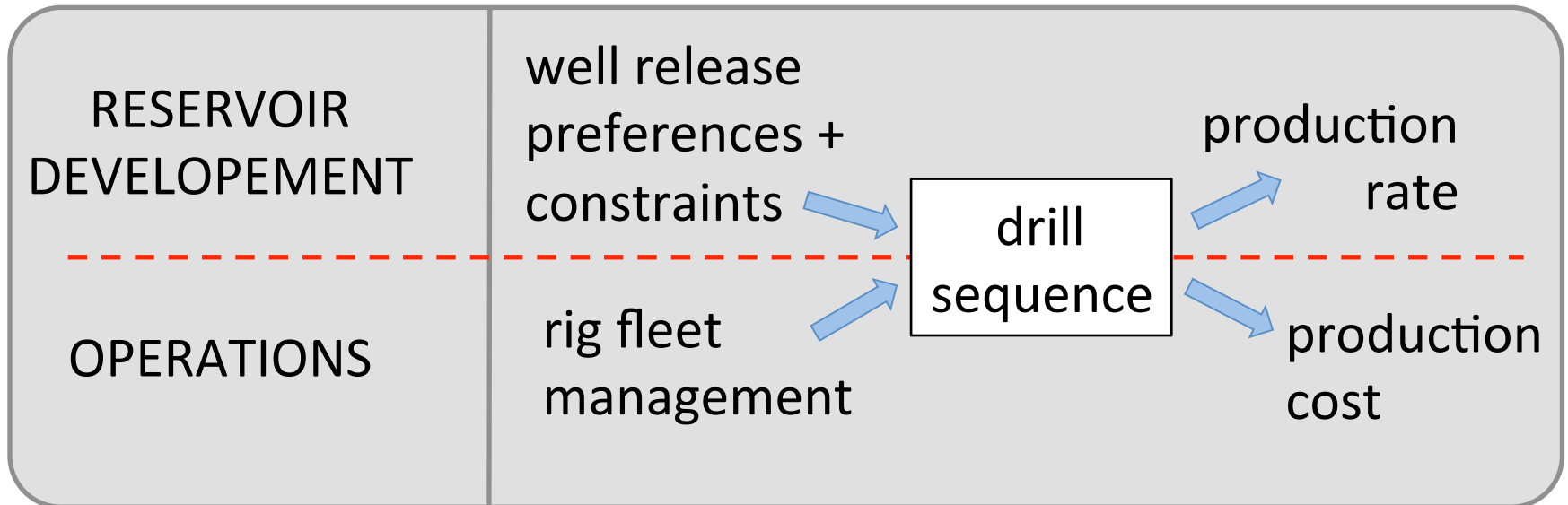
$$(50_{\text{PADS}})!^3 \text{ PAD DRILLING STRATEGIES} = 2.81_{\text{E}}193 \text{ POSSIBLE DRILLING SEQUENCES}$$

Rig counts, well completions and drilling distances continue to increase...

# Current Challenges

---

- Problem complexity
- **Alignment of operational decisions with overall reservoir development strategies**



# Current Challenges

---

- Problem complexity
- Alignment of operational decisions with overall reservoir development strategies
- **Ability to act on available operational data**

Operational situation constantly changing:

- site readiness
- reservoir management requirements
- equipment availability
- weather



# Limitations of Existing Methods

---

- **Alignment of operational decisions with overall reservoir development strategies**
  - Focus is on maximizing rig utilization
  - Assumption: results in  production and  cost

# Limitations of Existing Methods

---

- Alignment of operational decisions with overall reservoir development strategies
  - Focus is on maximizing rig utilization
  - Assumption: results in  production and  cost
- **Ability to act on available operational data**
  - **Probabilistic data exists, e.g., P10, P50, P90 numbers for task durations, but are not incorporated into scheduling**
  - **Robustness of solution is not known**



# Agenda

---

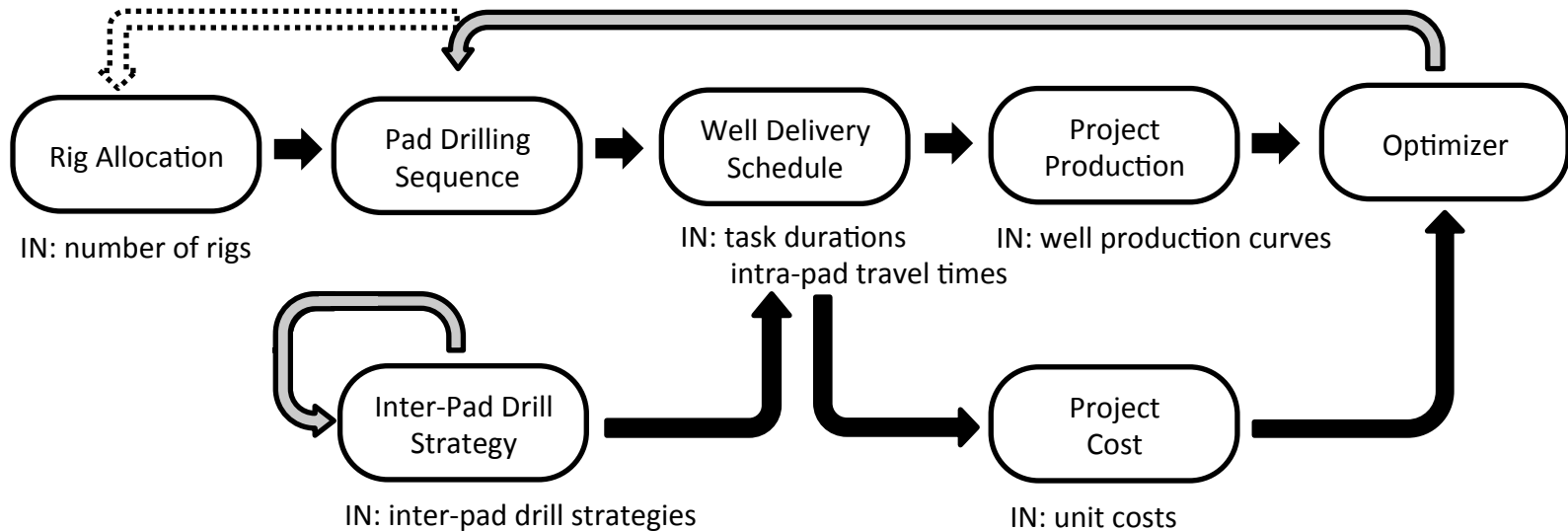
- ① Current Challenges
- ② **Description of Proposed Model**
- ③ Case Study Application
- ④ Conclusions / Next Steps

# Key Model Requirements

---

- Handle multiple objectives without a priori articulation of preferences
- Account for uncertainty in planning assumptions
- Produce solutions in time to act on current information

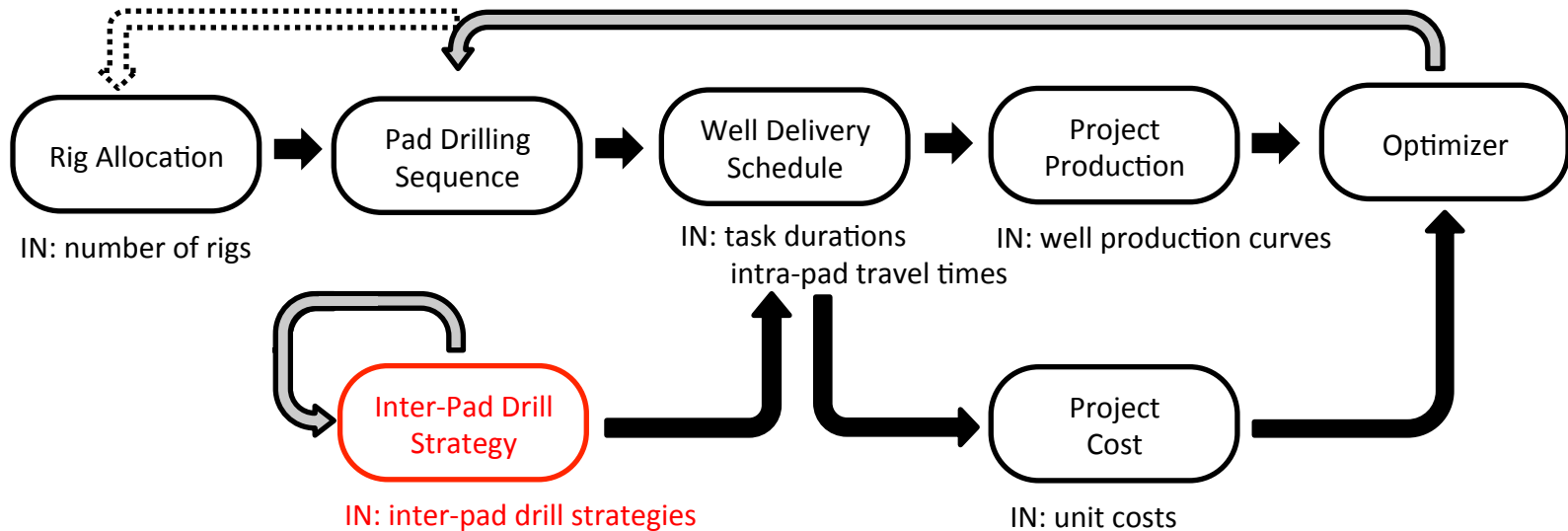
# Model Description



## KEY

- = manual iteration
- = sequential iteration
- = automated iteration

# Model Description



## KEY

- = manual iteration
- = sequential iteration
- = automated iteration

## INTERPAD DRILLING STRATEGIES:

MTVL = 

Rig Move	Top Hole	Vertical	Lateral
----------	----------	----------	---------

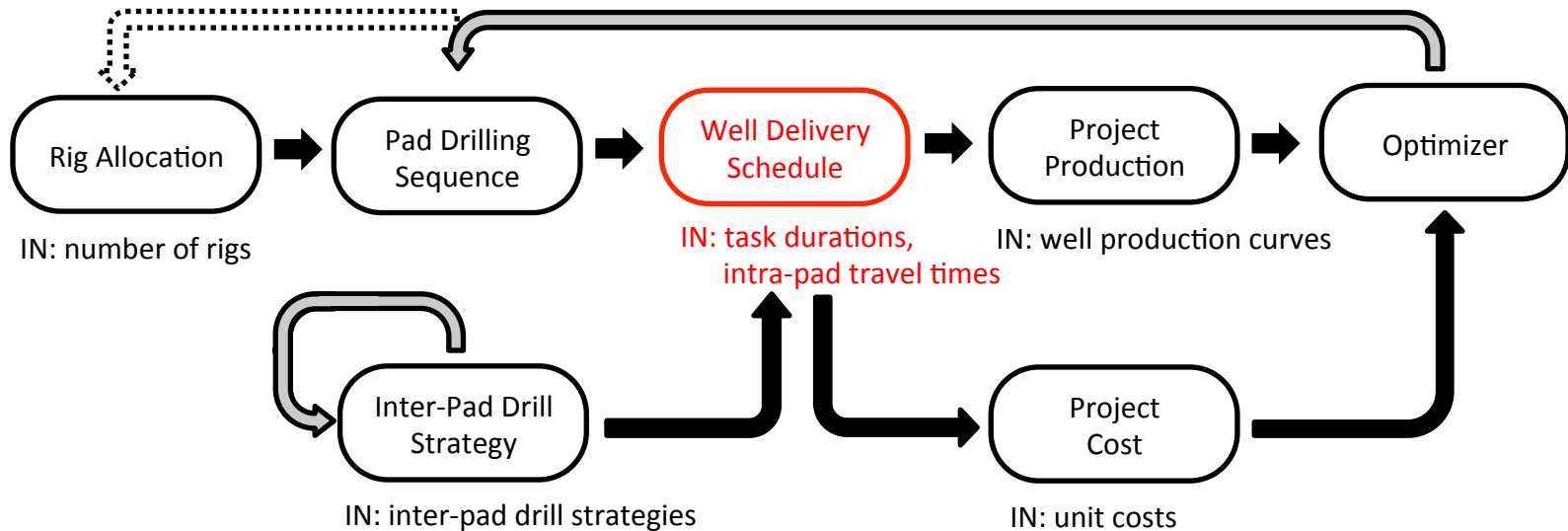
MTV = 

Rig Move	Top Hole	Vertical
----------	----------	----------

MT = 

Rig Move	Top Hole
----------	----------

# Model Description



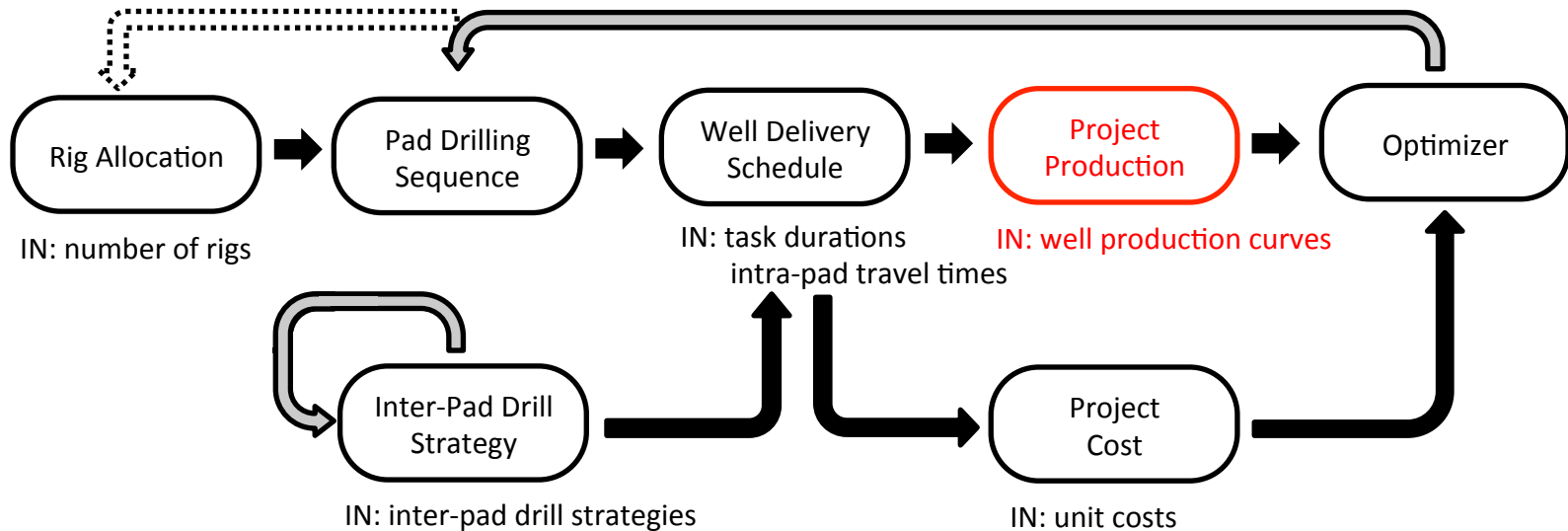
## KEY

- = manual iteration
- = sequential iteration
- = automated iteration

## TASK DURATIONS:

Duration by Activity (days)	P10	P50	P90
Rig Move	1	5	8
Drill Top Hole	3	5	6
Drill Vertical	12	16	22
Drill Lateral	13	15	21
Rig Down	3	3	4
Well Completion	8	10	14

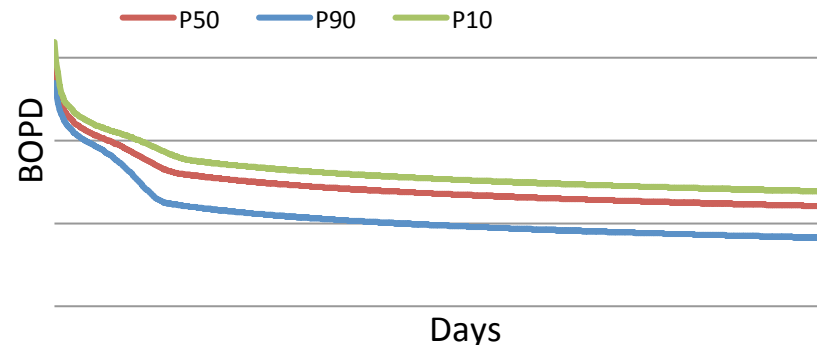
# Model Description



## KEY

- = manual iteration
- = sequential iteration
- = automated iteration

## WELL PRODUCTION CURVES:





# Agenda

---

- ① Current Challenges
- ② Description of Proposed Model
- ③ **Case Study Application**
- ④ Conclusions / Next Steps

# Project Overview

---

## Location:

- Northern United States

## Well Description:

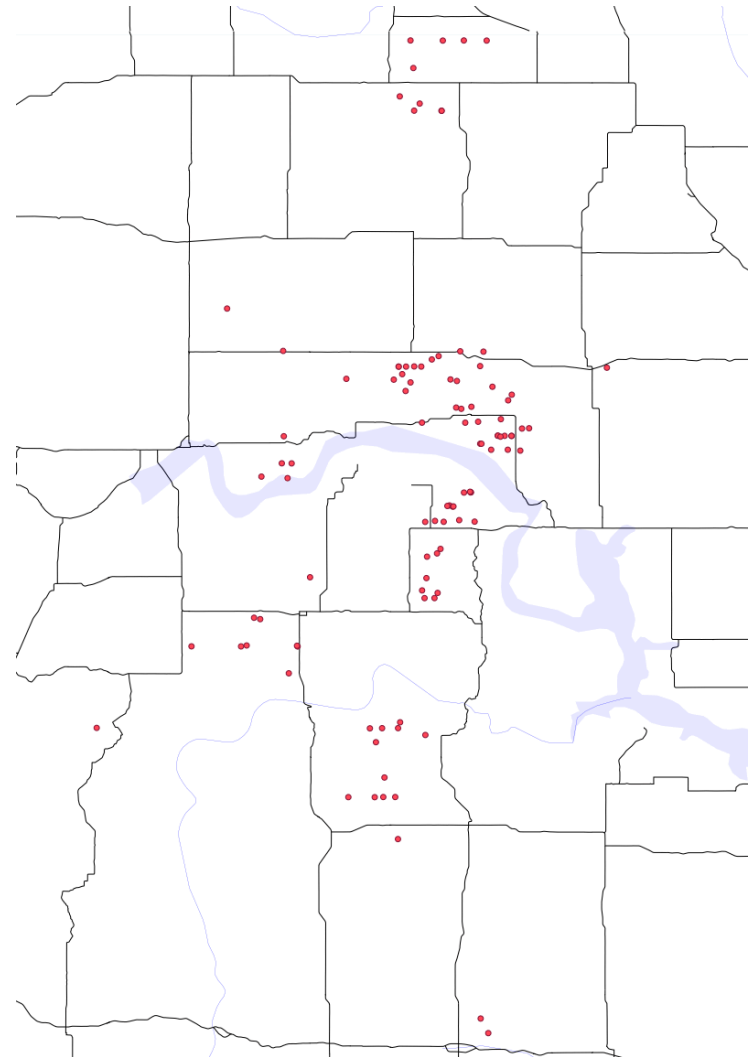
- 237 wells
- 103 pads

## Drilling Distance:

- 316km (196 miles) max

### KEY

- = public road
- = pad



# Experiment 1: Problem Formulation

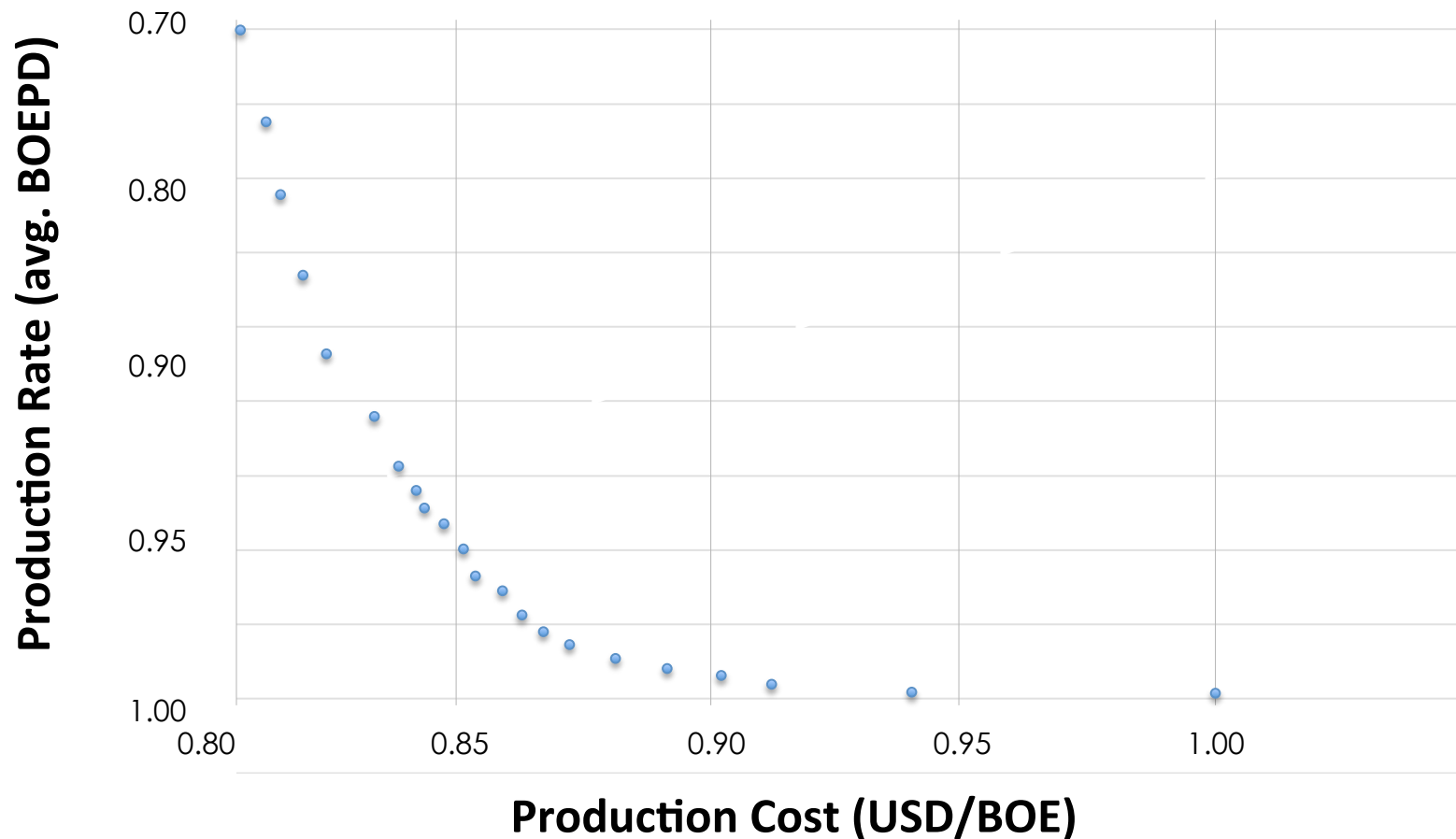
---

- Objectives:**
- *minimize* **production cost** (USD/BOE)
  - *maximize* **production rate** (avg. BOEPD)
- Variables:**
- **number of rigs** (1-5)
  - **pad drill strategy** (MTVL, RTV, RT)
  - **pad drill sequence** (1,2, ... , 103)
- Algorithms:**
- DAKOTA multi-objective genetic algorithm
  - Monte Carlo DOE

# Experiment 1: Results

---

Production Rate versus Production Cost



# Experiment 2: Problem Formulation

---

**Objective:** - *minimize production cost* (USD/BOE)

**Constraints:** - **quarterly production rate** (BOEPD x 10<sup>3</sup>)

2014				2015				2016			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
77.5	80.0	82.5	85.0	87.5	90.0	92.5	95.0	97.5	100.0	102.5	105.0

**Variables:**

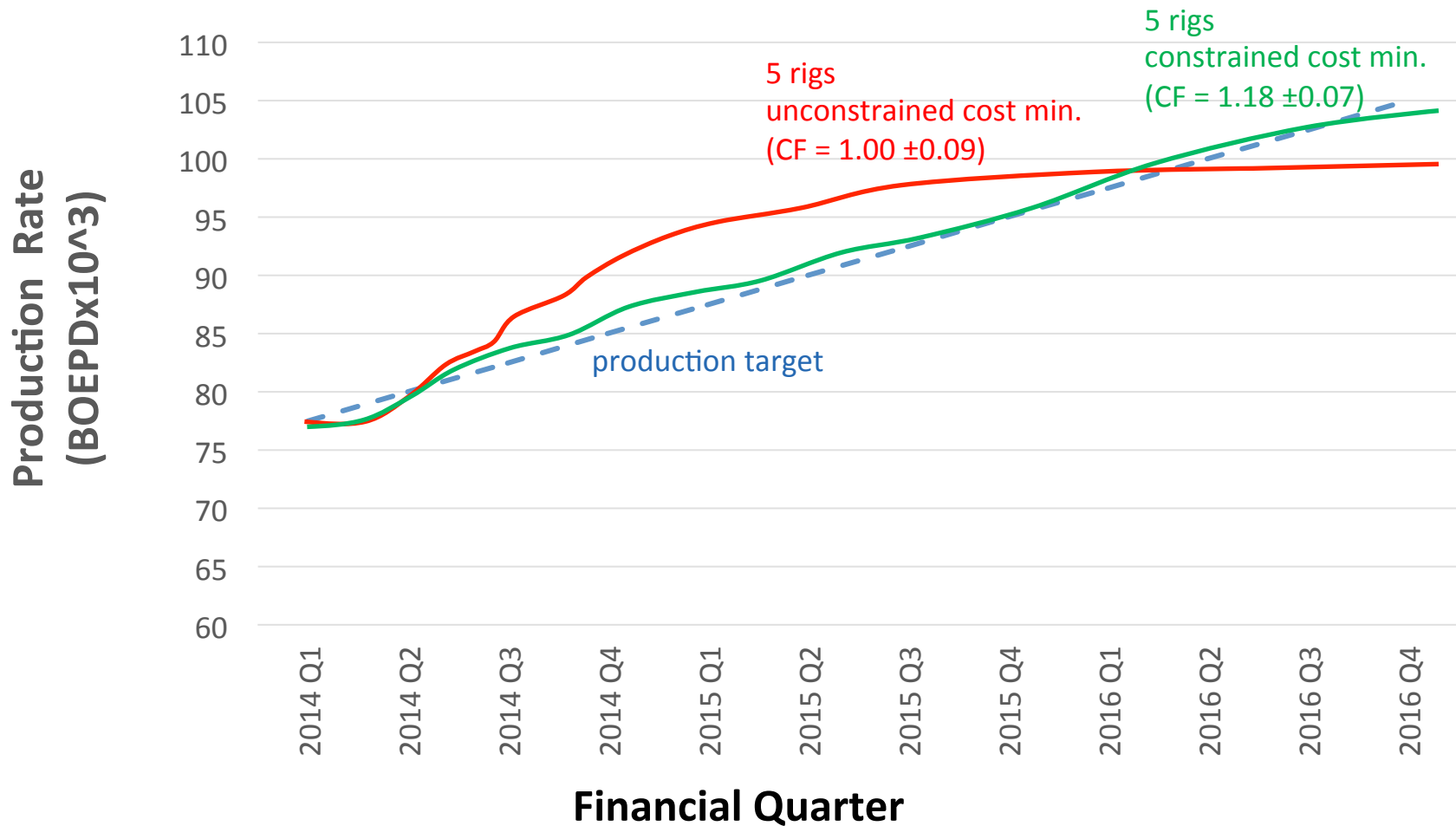
- **number of rigs** (1-5)
- **pad drill strategy** (MTVL, RTV, RT)
- **pad drill sequence** (1,2, ... , 103)

**Algorithm:**

- Darwin genetic algorithm
- Monte Carlo DOE

# Experiment 2: Results

## Production Flow Rate Over Scheduled Horizon





# Agenda

---

- ① Current Challenges
- ② Description of Proposed Model
- ③ Case Study Application
- ④ **Conclusions / Next Steps**

# Conclusions

---

- Case study data supports the hypothesis that optimizing for rig utilization / cost does not necessarily best satisfy project production rate objectives
- Significant variations in production rate (30%) and costs (19%) are possible depending on management decisions

# Future Work

---

- More detailed modeling of well completion activities
- Better analysis and representation of solution uncertainty
- Improve algorithms to reduce feedback latency

# Thank You

---

