

Using AgenaRisk to visualise risk and model uncertainty

Martin Neil

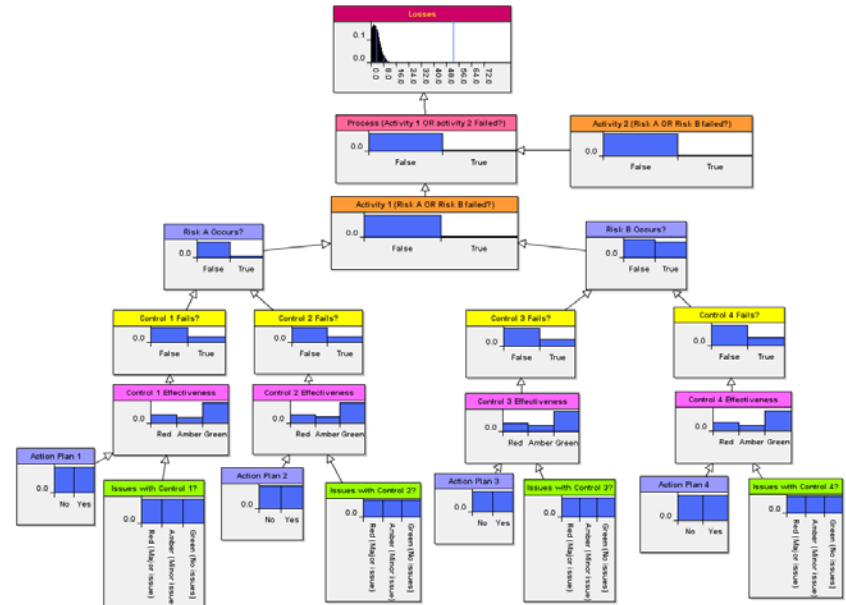
Agena Ltd &
Risk Assessment and Decision Analysis Research Group,
Department of Computer Science, Queen Mary, University of London
London, UK

Web: www.agenarisk.com
Email: martin@agena.co.uk



What is AgenaRisk?

- Helps you model risk, analyse uncertainty and make better decisions
- Combines the benefits of Bayesian networks, statistical simulation and spreadsheet-like analysis
- Is visual, easy to use, intuitive and powerful

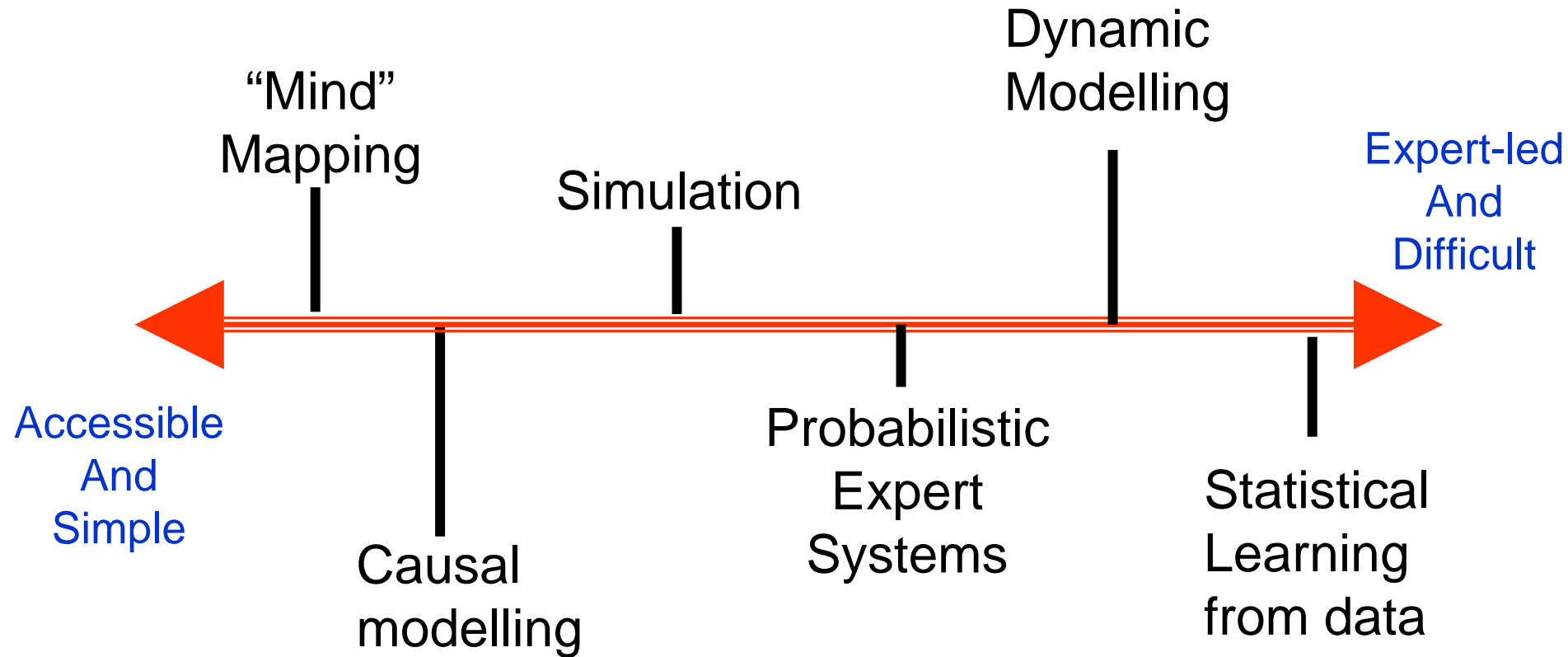


Who should use AgenaRisk?

- **Risk and quantitative analysts**
Currently using spreadsheets wishing to model uncertain variables using probability distributions
- **Bayesian network researchers and designers**
Looking to handle continuous variables for diagnosis in object-based and dynamic models
- **AI researchers and practitioners**
Interested in expert systems and machine learning
- **Statisticians**
Wishing to estimate unknown parameters, from data, using Bayesian inference
- **Engineers and scientists**
Interested in incorporating risk and uncertainty into their models
- **Quality and reliability engineers**
Looking to calculate system or process reliability using fault trees, expert judgement and failure data
- **Academics**
Probability theory, Statistical simulation, Bayesian networks and AI, Risk assessment, Decision analysis, Quality and Six Sigma and Reliability Engineering

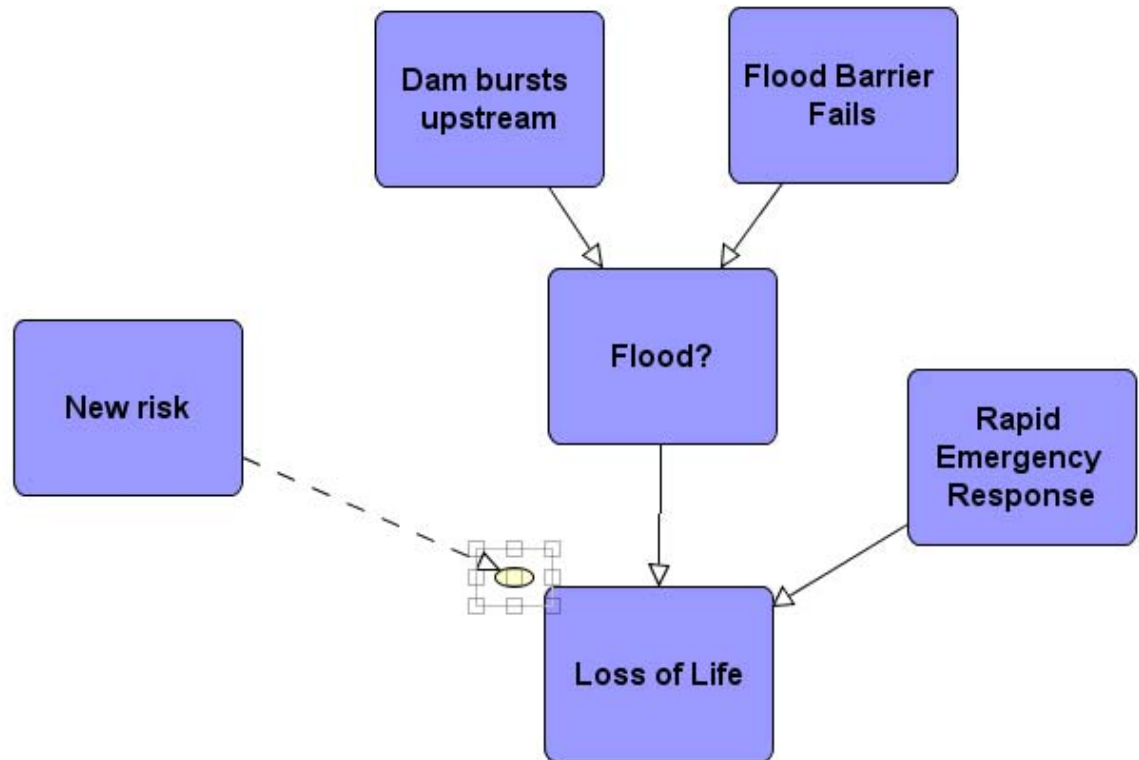


AgenaRisk Modelling Spectrum



Risk Map*

- Nodes represent
 - variables
 - events
 - quantities
- Links represent relationships
 - relevance
 - causality
- Easy to support and understand



* Also known as causal model or Bayesian network

Measuring Scales

- Risk Node Types
 - Boolean (Yes/No, True/False)
 - Labelled (Red, Blue, Green)
 - Numeric (Integer, Continuous, Discrete)
 - Ranked (High, Medium, Low)



Discrete Probabilities

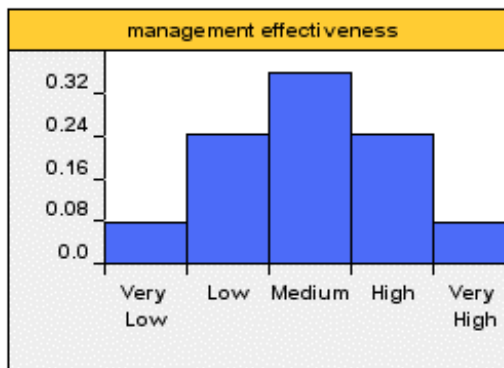
- Prior probabilities

No	0.9
Yes	0.1

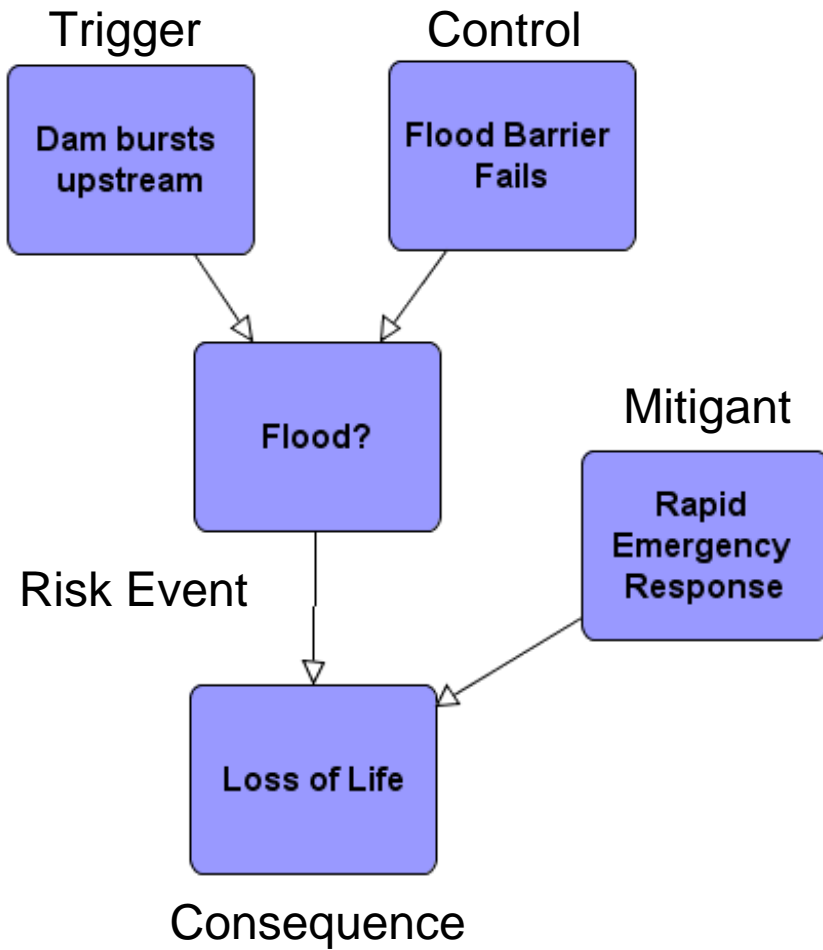
- Conditional Probabilities

Dam bursts...	No		Yes	
Flood Barri...	No	Yes	No	Yes
No	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.0
Yes	0.0	0.2	0.1	1.0

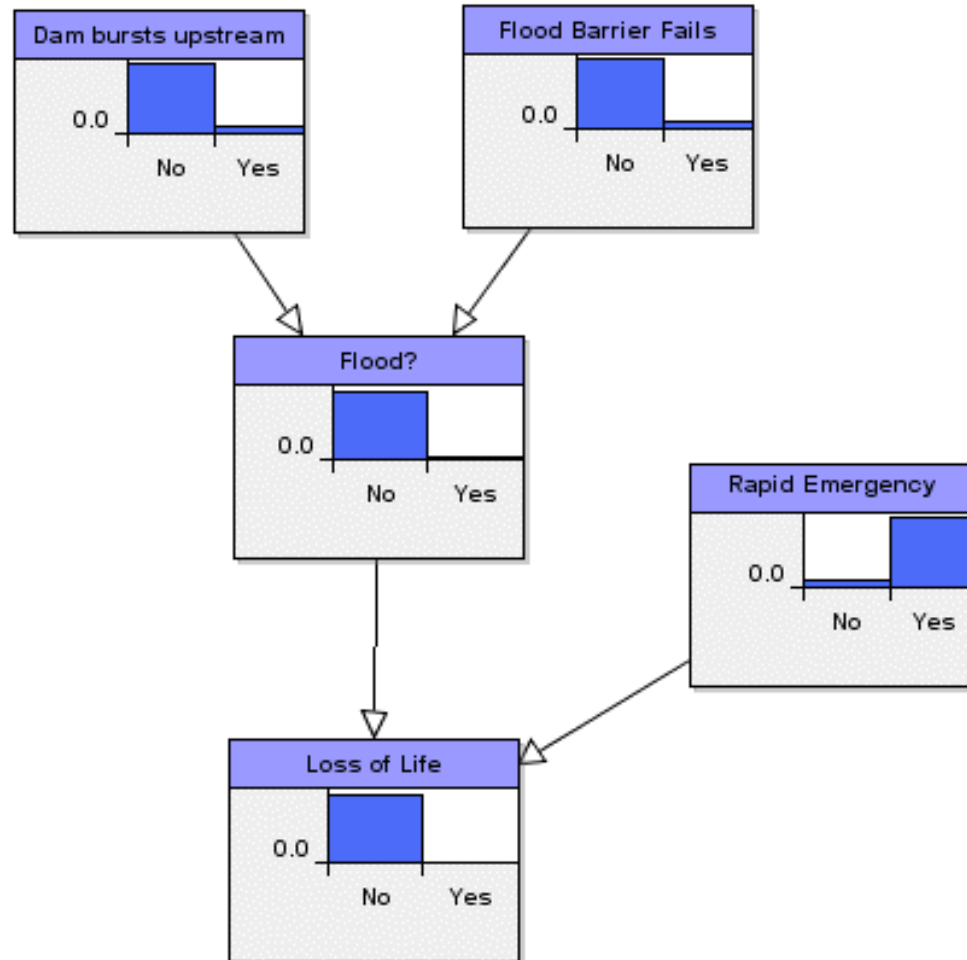
- Result viewed as marginal probability distribution



Town Flood Example

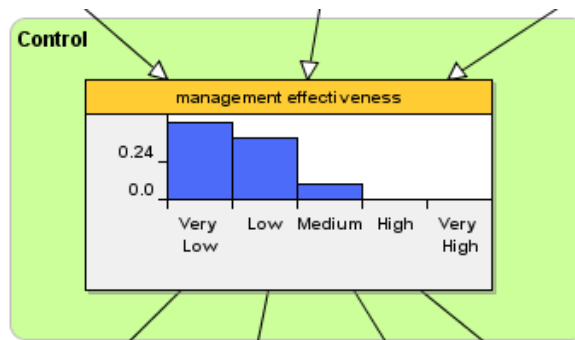


Calculation of Town Flood Risk

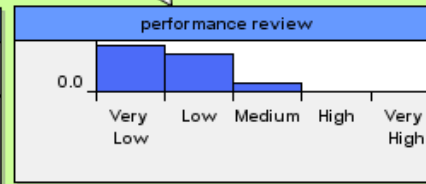
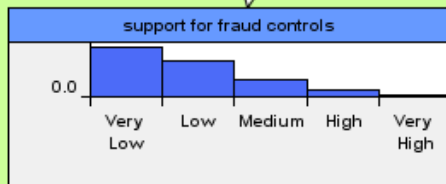
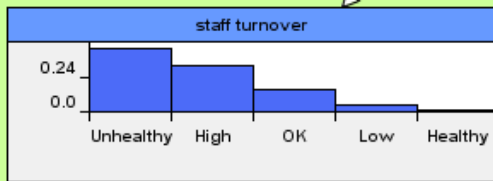


Backwards Reasoning

- Estimate causes from effects!
- Useful way to model uncertain indicators

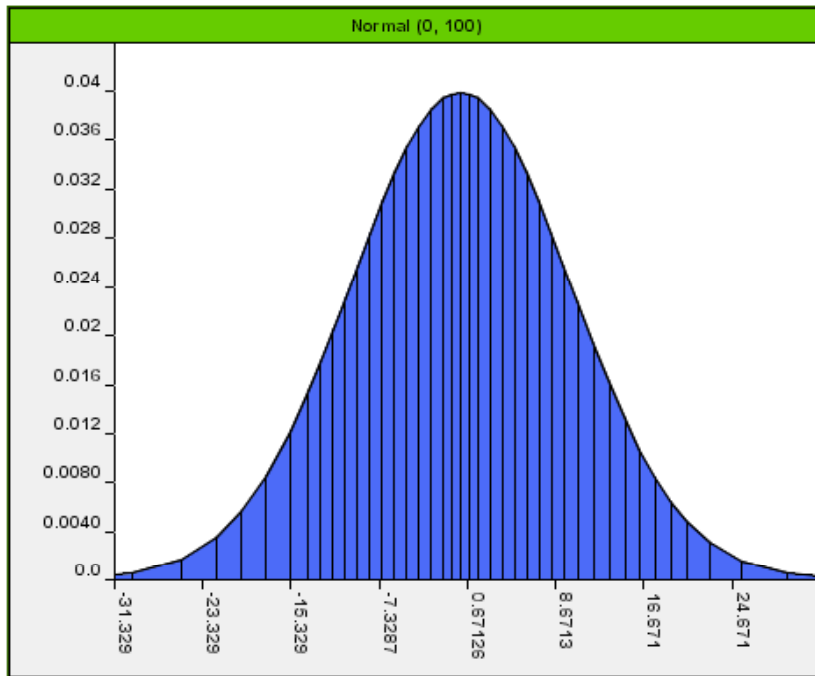


Key Risk Indicators



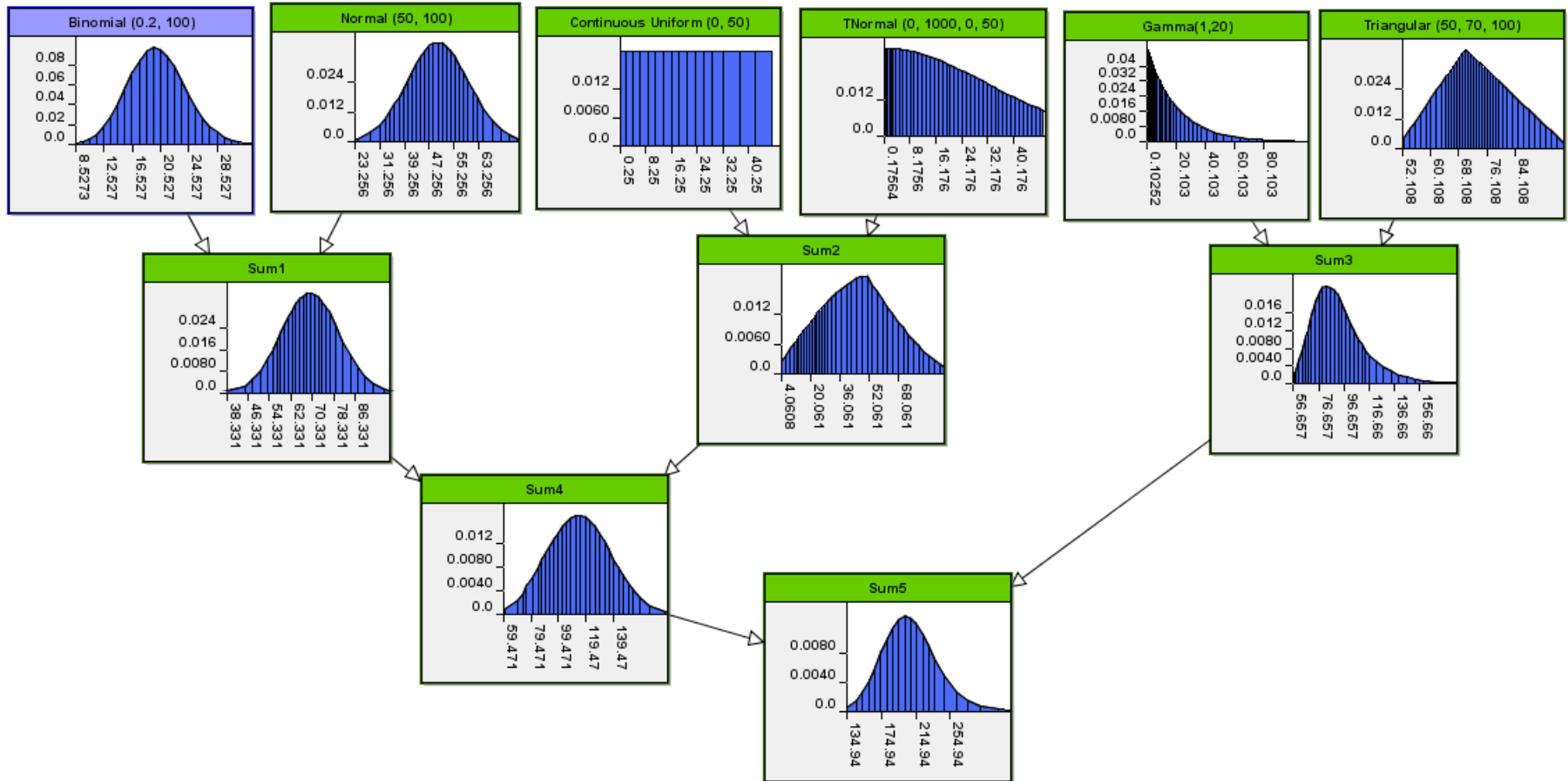
Continuous Probabilities by Simulation

Model Statistical Distributions E.g. Normal



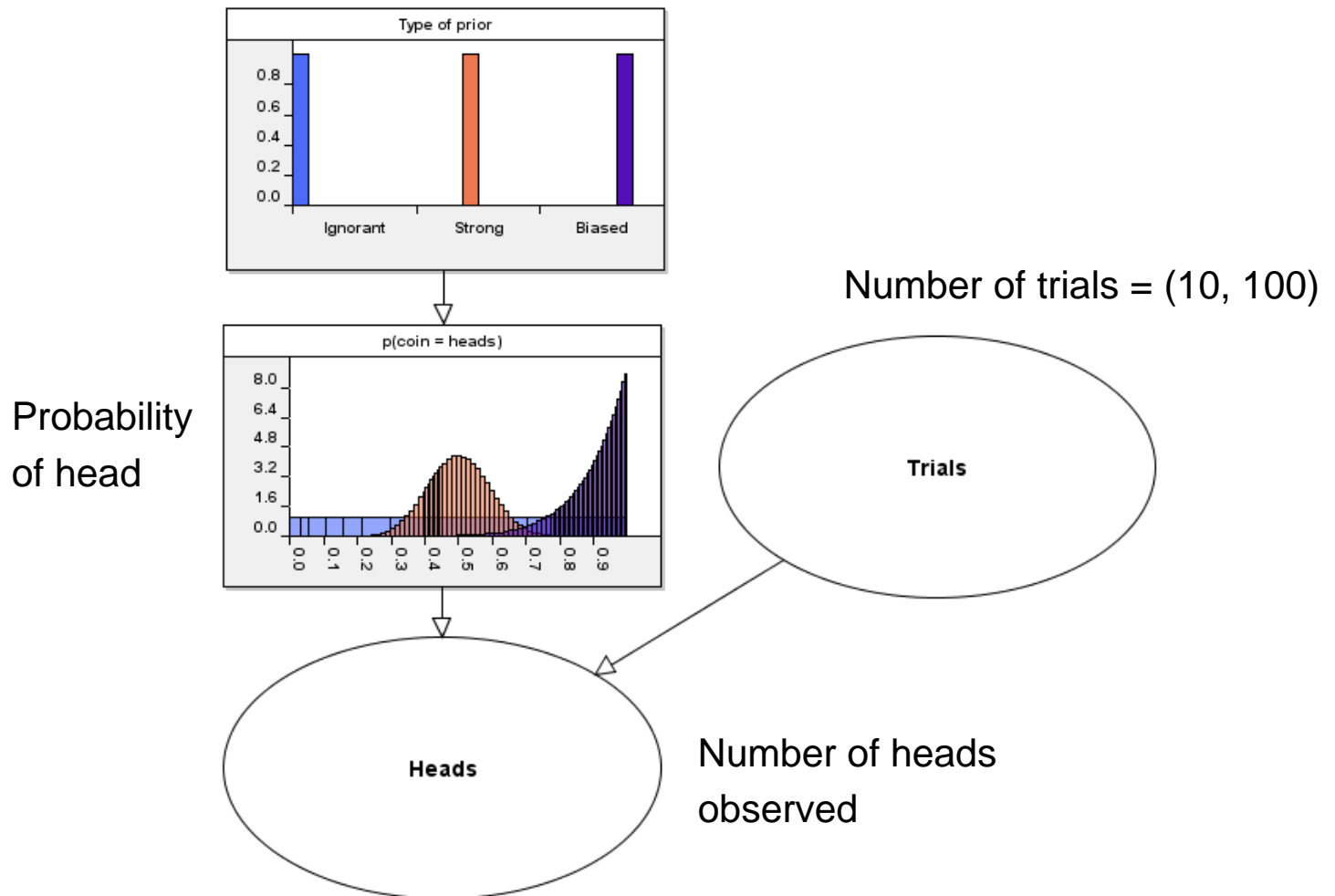
$$p(X) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/(2\sigma^2)}$$

Simulation Model Example



Beta-Binomial Example

Beta prior = belief in fairness of coin

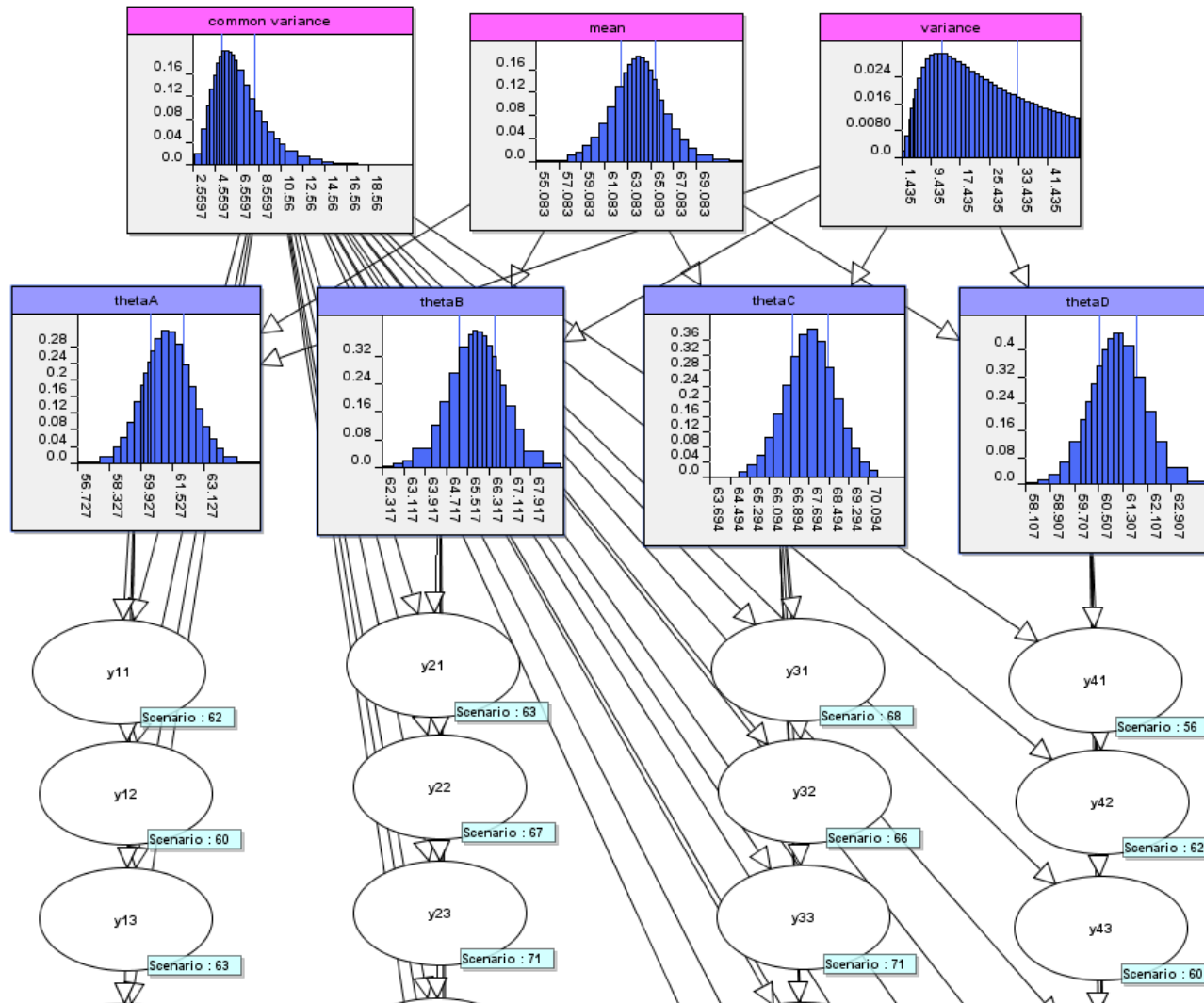


Sensitivity analysis and fast comparison using scenarios

The screenshot shows the 'Risk Explorer' software interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with various icons for file operations and analysis. Below the toolbar, the 'Risk Scenarios' panel is active, showing 'Risk Map' and 'Risk Table' tabs. The 'Risk Table' tab is selected, and a 'New Risk Table' dialog is open. The dialog has three columns: 'Ignorant prior', 'Strong prior', and 'Biased prior'. The 'Type of prior' row is highlighted in blue, and the 'Trials' row is highlighted in grey. The 'Heads' row is empty. The 'Type of prior' row has three dropdown menus: 'Ignorant' (red background), 'Strong' (orange background), and 'Biased' (green background). The 'Trials' row has three dropdown menus: 'No Answer' (blue background), 'No Answer' (blue background), and 'No Answer' (blue background). The 'Heads' row has three empty cells.

	Ignorant prior	Strong prior	Biased prior
New Risk Table			
Type of prior	Ignorant	Strong	Biased
Trials	No Answer	No Answer	No Answer
Heads			

Statistical Learning Example

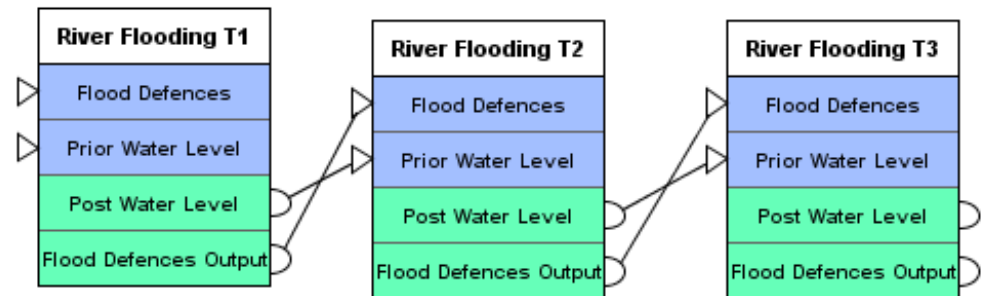


Connecting Risk Maps using Building Blocks

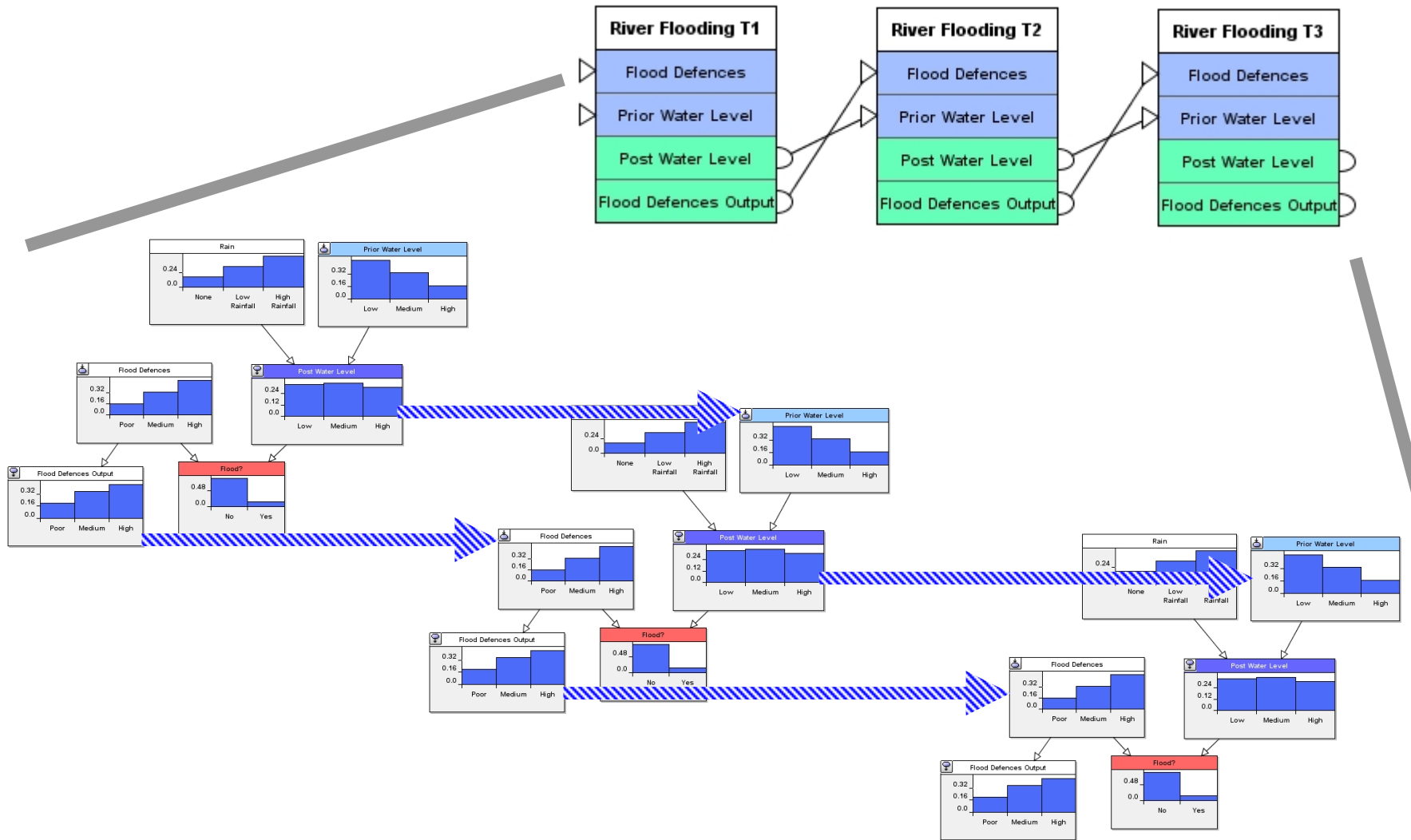
- Connect risk maps via input/output risk nodes



- Create complex time based or complex structural models

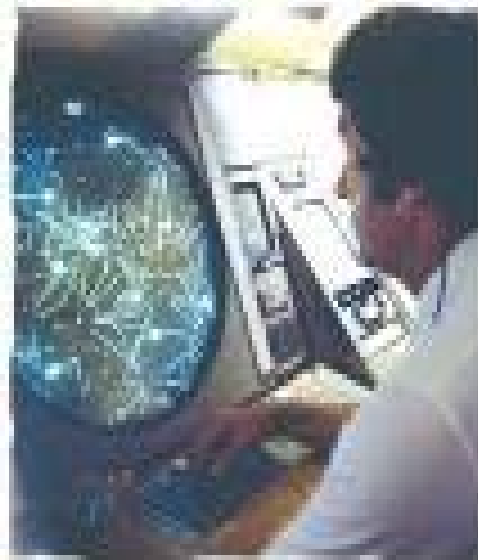


Dynamic Flood Example

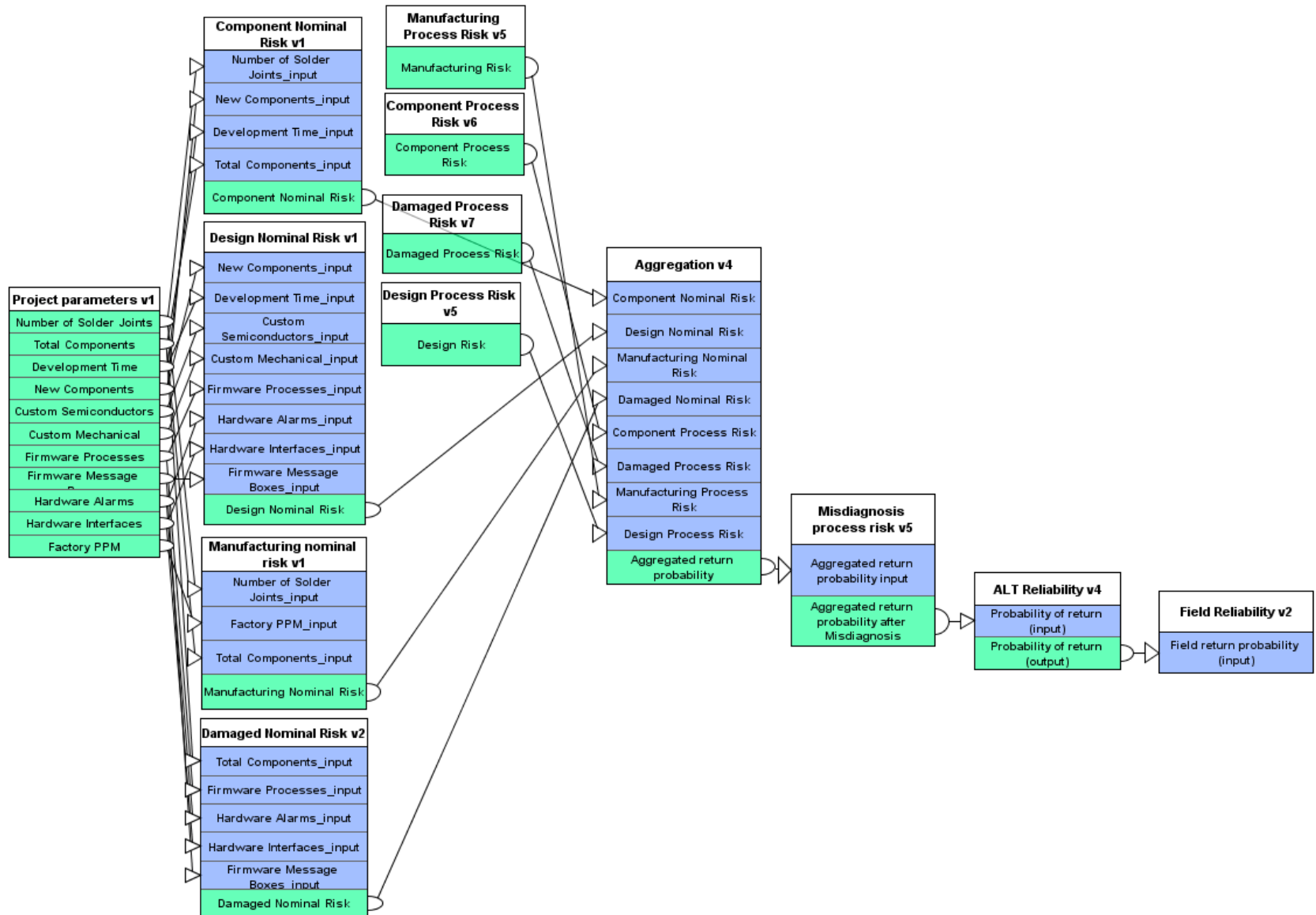


“Risky” Applications

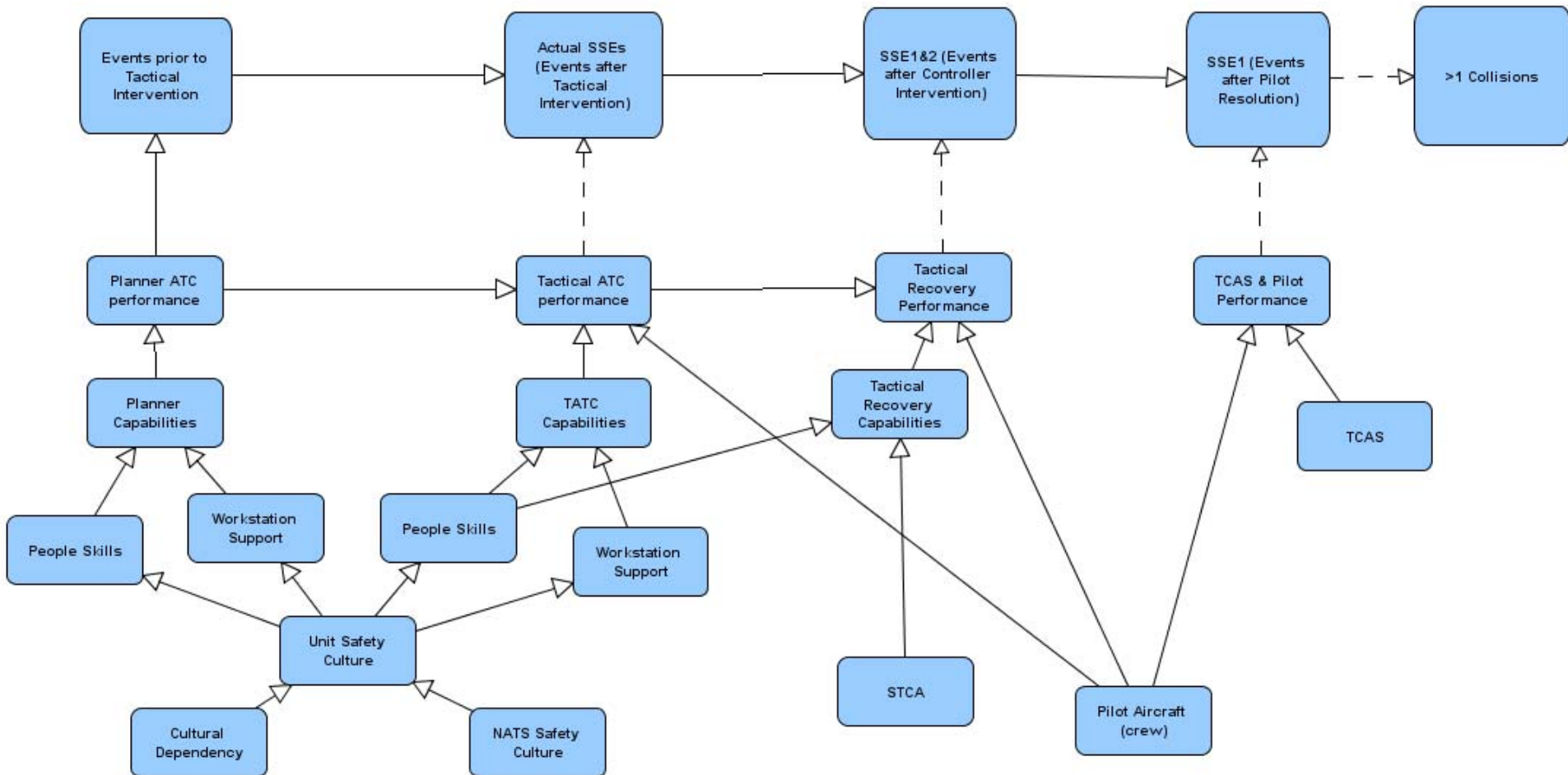
- Aircraft Mid-air collision
- Software defects
- Systems reliability
- Warranty return rates of electronic parts
- Operational risk in financial institutions
- Predict hazards in petrochemical industry
- Project portfolio risk profiling



Six Sigma Quality Control



Mid Air Collision Prediction



Final Remarks

- **Structured Method**
 - Based on 300 year old proven Bayes' theorem
 - Enabled by modern computer power & technology
 - Beyond current statistical & Monte Carlo techniques
 - Combines subjective judgements with data
- **Risk Maps enable Visual Communication**
 - Managing risk through pictures
 - Useable by risk novices as well as experts
 - Makes complex risk problems easily communicable
- **AgenaRisk is Industrial Strength**
 - Enables scalable, reusable & auditable risk models
 - Integrates easily with DBMS & Excel
 - Enables professional developers to build end-user applications