

# Modelling the Uncertainty in Winning Grants

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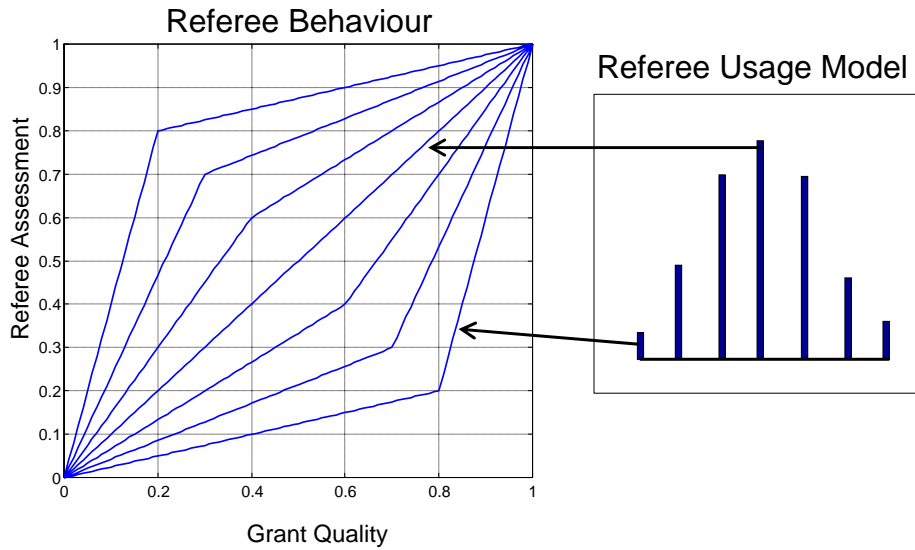
Academic Away-Day, January 2010

“All models are wrong, but some are useful”

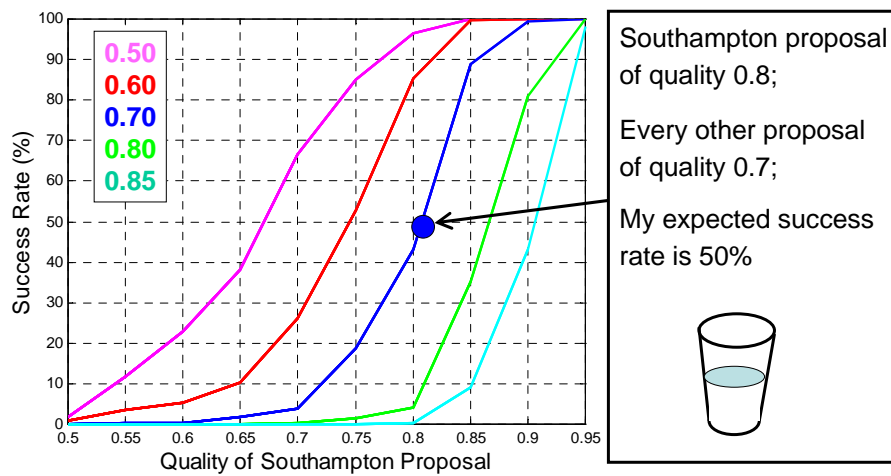
## Motivation

- We need to win externally funded research grants
  - to do better and more research 😊
  - to train the next generation at post-doctoral level 😊
  - to improve our financial sustainability ?
- Context:
  - “In 2009 of the 42 applications to EPSRC from ECS, only 5 were successful 😞”
- We need to consider:
  - Uncertainties in the process ← this talk
  - Cost of grant writing
  - Quality, quantity trade-off

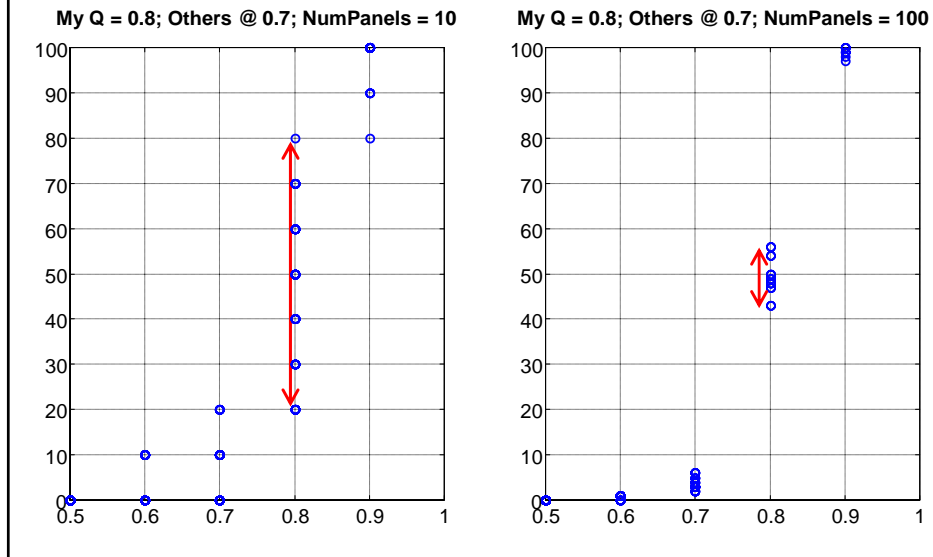
# Referee Model



# Expected Success



## Variance of Estimation



## Conclusions

- Average winning probability
  - We should continue to write good quality grants
- Variance of winning probability
  - Grant winning should **not** be used as a tool for performance management

### Future Work:

- Cost of writing grants Vs Profit from funded projects
- Model quality-quantity trade-off