



Sources of Uncertainty

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Colleagues,

Steve Wereley points out, obviously quite correctly, that there are sources of uncertainty in play here that can be evaluated by statistical methods, and there are others that have to be evaluated by other methods.

Yesterday I requested that all the expert assessments be expressed as intervals that reflect the uncertainty of the estimates, and that they be accompanied by some indication of the level of confidence that the experts have in them (Very High Confidence, High Confidence, etc.).

The goal is to have the intervals express ALL recognized sources of uncertainty, irrespective of whether they are evaluated by statistical methods or by other methods.

These other methods often will be subjective assessments based on the experts' knowledge of the situation. Also, different experts may produce different uncertainty evaluations for the same source. This is perfectly fine: the harmonization of the varying estimates and assessments happens downstream.

Our position, which is consistent with internationally accepted standard practices, is to treat and merge all uncertainties probabilistically and on a common basis, irrespective of whether they are evaluated statistically or otherwise.

- Antonio

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