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# Future developments in environmental risk assessment - SimpleBoxTreat4Solutions → SimplebBoxTreat4Reach?

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# Technical recommendations

by Jaap Struijs, Dik van de Meent

## 1. SimpleBox, SimpleTreat:

- a) SimpleTreat 4 (2016)
  - b) SimpleBox 4 (2016)
- } the simpler, the better

## 2. Lessons learned from SOLUTIONS

- a) Integrate → SimpleBoxTreat
- b) Integrate Local and Regional → nested loc/reg Unit World; UBA's simple<sup>2</sup>boxtreat?
- c) Substitute  $PEC/PNEC < 1 \rightarrow Pr\{C_W > EC\} < 10^{-6}$
- d) Consider mixtures
- e) 'safe use' = negligible contribution to ambient mixture toxic pressure



## Recommended by Jaap: EUSES 2 / SimpleTreat 3.1 → SimpleTreat 4.0

- Operation characteristics in SimpleTreat 3.1 reflect activated sludge technology in Europe 1980
  - Sludge loading rate = 0.15 kg/kg/d
  - Concentration suspended solids in effluent = 30 mg/L
- Partition coefficients based on:
  - QSARs for hydrophobic chemicals (Koc derived from Kow)
  - acid/base dissociation constants (pKa, pKb)
- In version 4.0 the operation characteristics represent the activated sludge technology in Europe 2010
  - Sludge loading rate = 0.10 kg/kg/d
  - Concentration suspended solids in effluent = 7.5 mg/L
- Partition coefficients based on:
  - New QSARs for Koc for organic chemicals computed from:
    - Chemical class (neutral or acid or base)
    - Acid dissociation constant (pKa)
    - Hydrophobicity (Kow)

## Recommended by Dik: EUSES 2 / SimpleBox 3.1 → SimpleBoxTreat4solutions

- separate STP simulation
  - separate local calculation
  - separate emission estimation
  - $\Pr\{PEC > PNEC\} < 5\%$ 
    - *PNEC* from IUCLID
  - neutral hydrophobics only
  - drizzle precipitation
  - ....
  - ....
  - 40 compartments
- STP simulation integrated
  - local nested inside regional
    - no overshoot local soil
  - emission estimation integrated
  - $\Pr\{PEC > HC50\} < 10^{-6}$ 
    - Van Straalen-Aldenberg integrated
  - partly ionized (organic acids and bases)
  - rain episodes
  - ....
  - ....
  - nested Unit World (simple<sup>2</sup>boxtreat)?



**Recommendation from the SOLUTIONS project:**  
 **$\Pr\{PEC/HC5 > 1\} < 5\% \rightarrow \Pr\{PEC > HC50\} < 10^{-6}$**

- not different
- understandable, meaningful
- simple, robust
- scientifically sound
- ready to go
- demonstrates 'safe use'



<http://www.solutions-project.eu/>



- EU FP7 project 10 M€
- UFZ Leipzig, RIVM, ARES
- ALL currently used substances
- Impacts aquatic ecosystems EU rivers

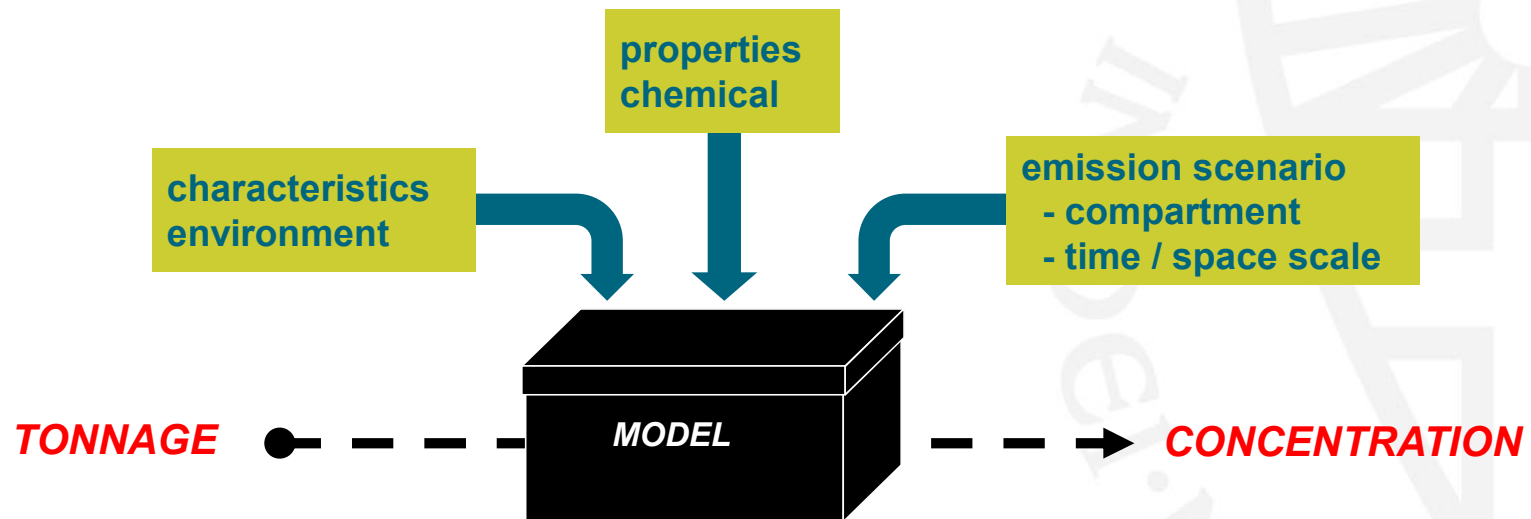
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# SOLUTIONS exposure modeling

- Concentrations proportional to emission rates
- Exposure function of EU tonnage

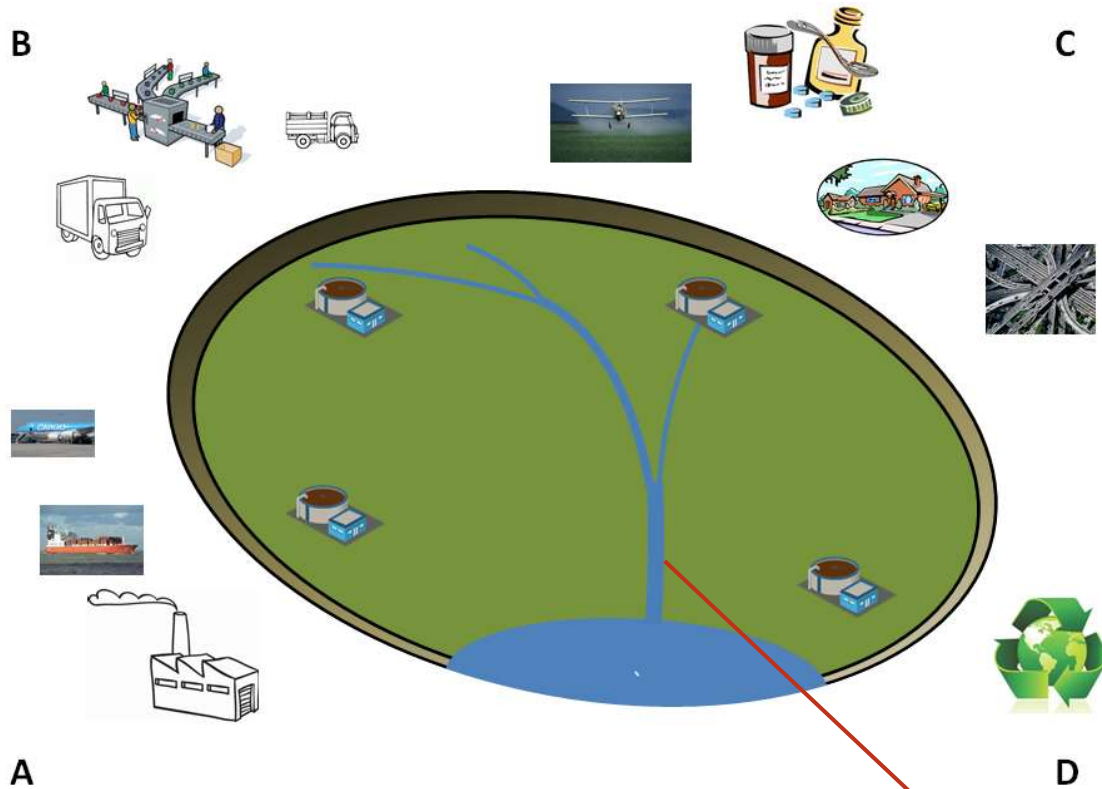


$$C_{W}^{SS} = m(P^s, S^s, K_{OW}, k^{deg}, env) \cdot e$$





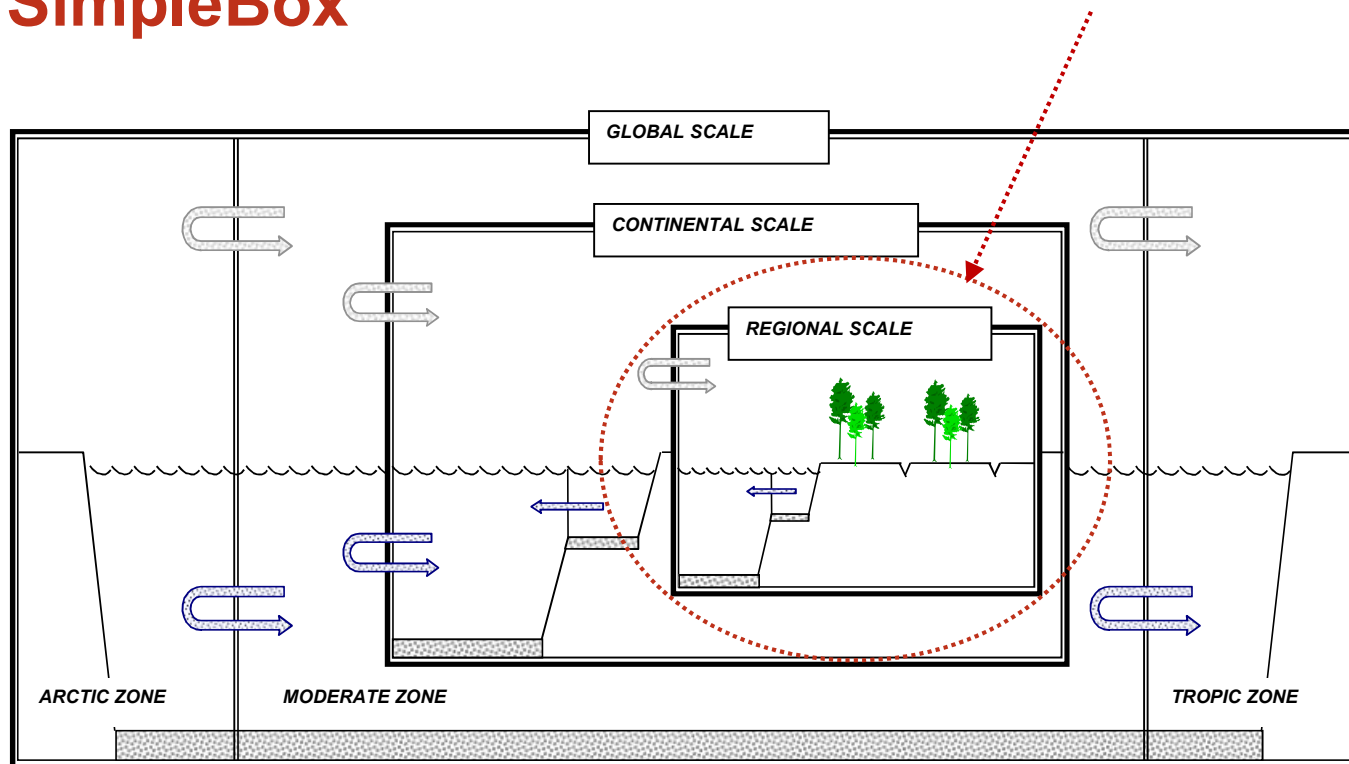
# SOLUTIONS emission estimation



- EUSES 2.1.2: *A/B tables*
  - REACH: **ERC**
  - SOLUTIONS project: **spERC**

$$\text{Release}_i = \sum_i USE_i \cdot RF_i \cdot F_{STP}$$

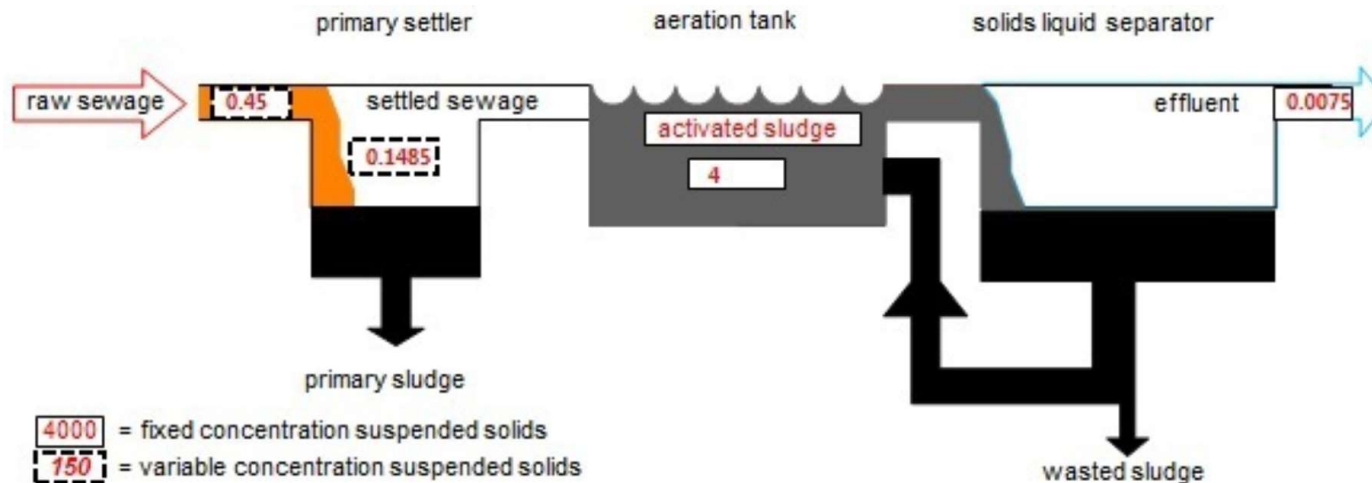
# SimpleBox



- SimpleBox 4.0 (2016); most RIVM-recommended improvements included
- simulates hypothetical 'evaluative' environment
  - Regional scale: Rhine/Meuse/Scheldt catchment
  - Local spatial: 15x15 km, nested in regional (not shown in this Figure)
  - Integrated with SimpleTreat → SimpleBoxTreat

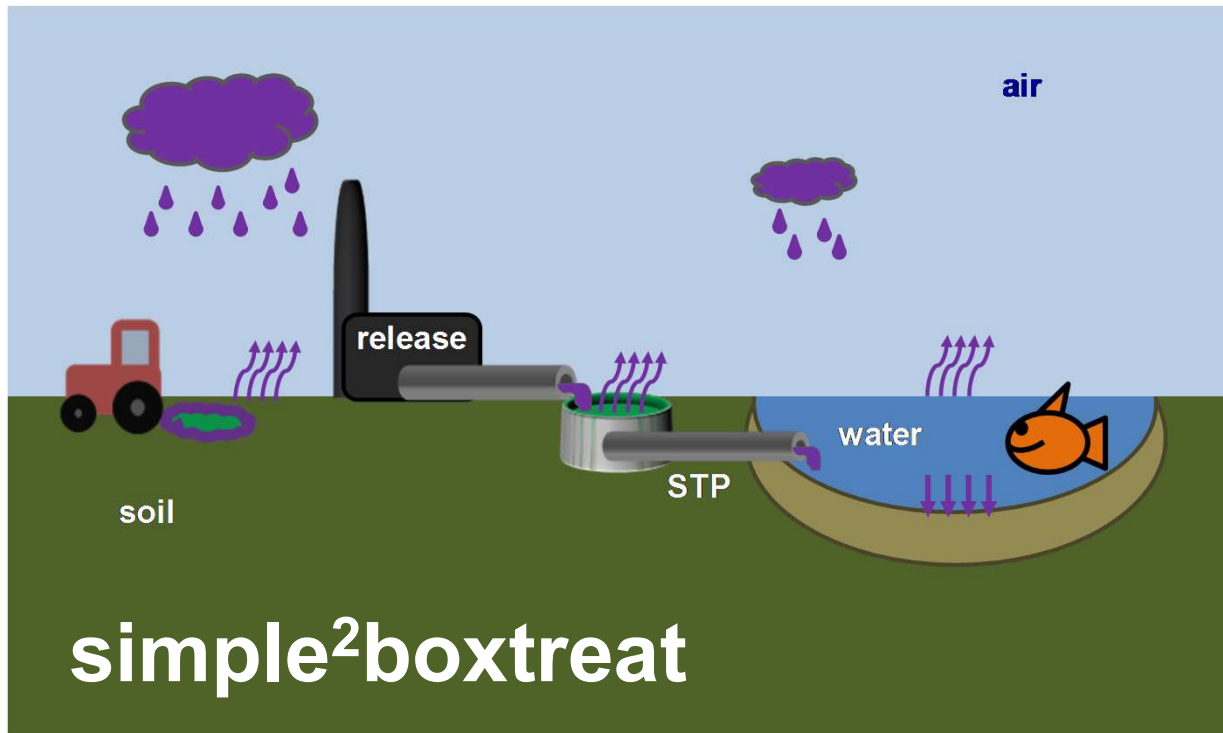


# SimpleTreat



- SimpleTreat 4.0 (2016); most RIVM-recommended improvements included
- Simulates 'Classical Activated Sludge' water treatment system
  - SimpleTreat 4.0 (2016)
  - Integrated with SimpleBox → SimpleBoxTreat

# SOLUTIONS exposure modeling: SimpleBoxTreat



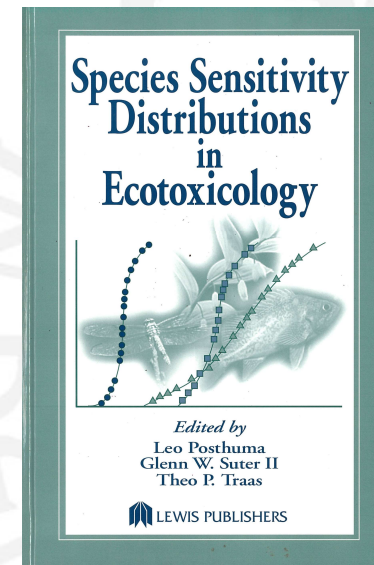
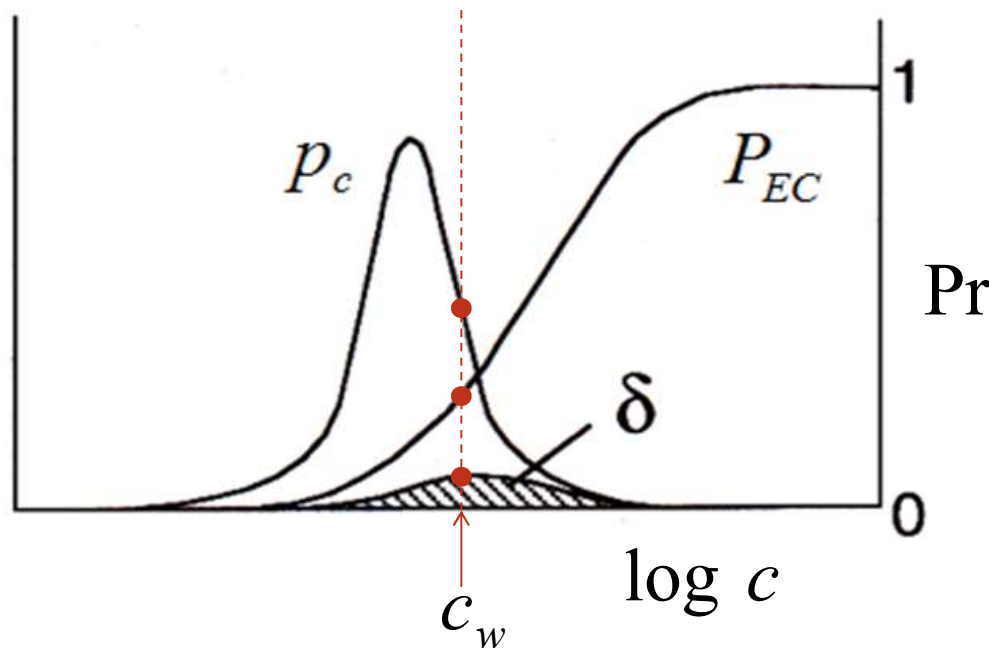
*by Joris Meesters  
Radboud University / RIVM*

- UBA - KnowSEC
- SimpleTreat vs 4 + local SimpleBox vs 4
- Calculate REACH 'Characterization Factors'



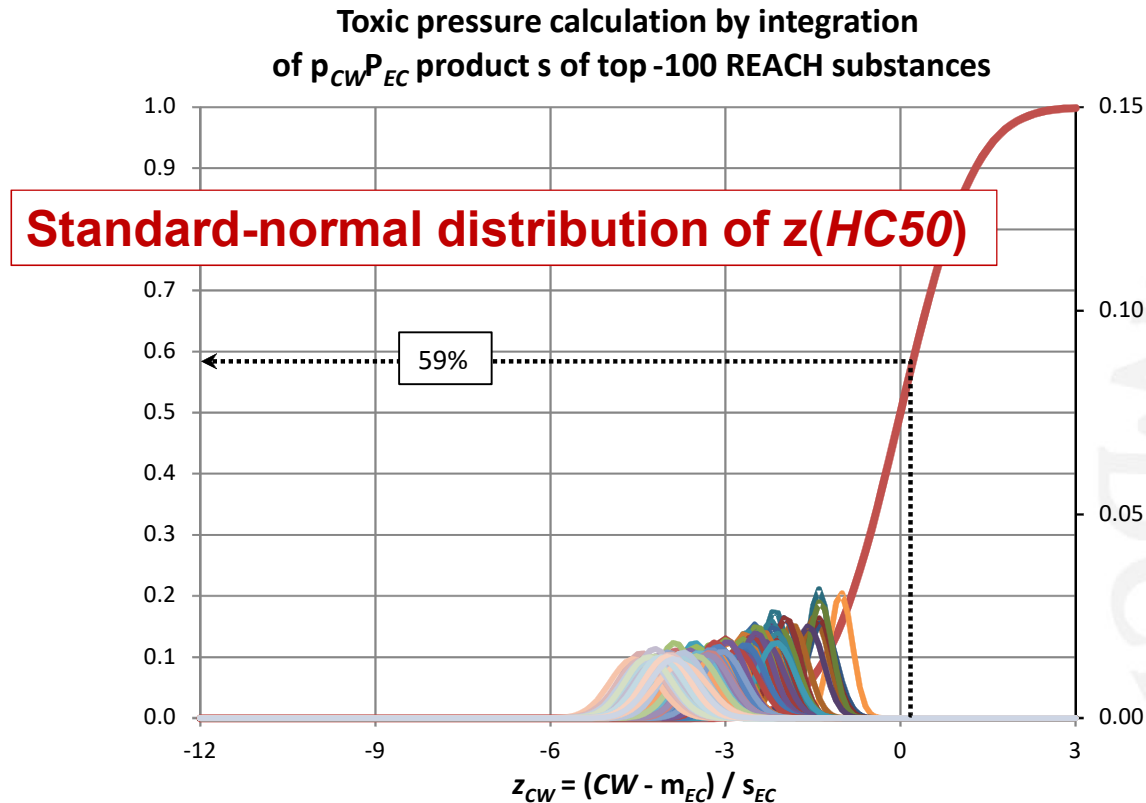
# SOLUTIONS effects modeling: Van Straalen-Aldenberg

- Van Straalen and Aldenberg et al. (2002). In SSD-book, pp 37-102



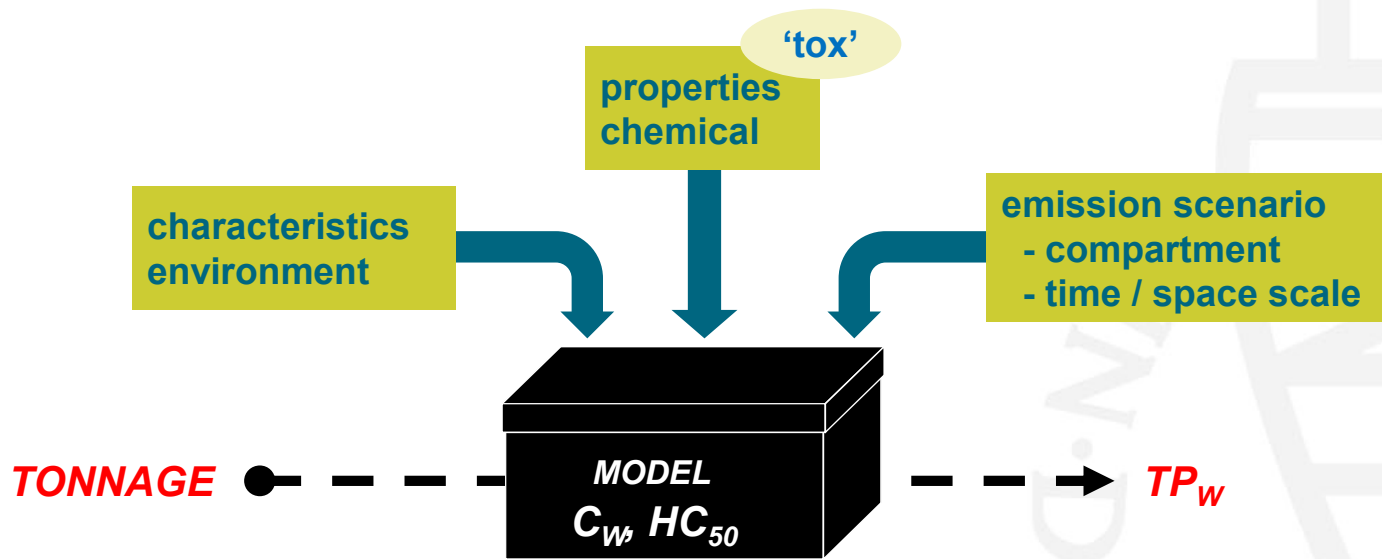
$$\text{Toxic Pressure} = \text{PAF} = \Pr\{EC < c_w\} = \Pr\{c_w > EC\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \text{pdf}(C_w) \cdot \text{CDF}(EC) dc = \delta$$

# Van Straalen-Aldenberg applied to 6409 substances under uncertainty



- Concentration distributions of top-100 REACH substances overlap EC-distribution
  - means and standard deviations of exposure concentrations modeled by SimpleBoxTreat
  - mean and standard deviations of substance-specific HC50-acute from registration data

# SOLUTIONS impact modeling



$$TP_W = f(\mu_{C_W}, \sigma_{C_W}, \mu_{EC_{50}}, \sigma_{EC_{50}})$$

- Toxic Pressure =  $\Pr\{C_W > EC\}$  simple (model) function of EU tonnage
- Robust, useful



# SOLUTIONS impact assessment: findings/conclusions

1. Estimated emission rates greatly uncertain  
*'right on average, but wrong most of the time'* (V Forbes, 2010)  
but good enough to serve the purpose
2. Estimated emission rates + simple unit world model  
good enough to rank substances
3. Pareto distributions (*'80-20 rule'*)
  - a) of  $C_W$
  - b) of  $\Pr\{C_W > EC\}$
  - c) Pareto ratio 95-5
4. Most  $\Pr\{C_W > EC\}$  small (below  $10^{-6}$ )
5. >95% 'negligible risk'



# SOLUTIONS impact assessment: recommendations to EUSES updating

1. Parsimony principle confirmed in SOLUTIONS
  - a) Exposure modeling
  - b) Impact modeling
  - c) SimpleBoxTreat4solutions recommend to EUSES/REACH
2. Recommended for exposure modeling
  - a) Emission estimation integrated
  - b) STP simulation integrated
  - c) Nested local/regional Unit World
3. Recommended for impact assessment
  - a) Van Straalen-Aldenberg integral for calculating  $\Pr\{C_W > EC\}$   
mean + standard deviation  $C_W$  + mean and standard deviation  $EC50$
4. Recommended for demonstrating possibility of 'safe use'
  - a) with  $EC = EC50$ ,  $\Pr\{C_W > EC\} < 10^{-6}$



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