Industrial Mathematics: a Knowledge Exchange Perspective

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Case study 1: Airborne virus transmission



Can I eat dinner with my friends?

Is school safe? Is the gym safe?







The air and virus flow in a room is complicated

University of Oregon (BBC News)

Most models assume the virus is spread uniformly in the room

The risk of infection from SARS-CoV-2 aerosols

I live in an area where \bigcirc 0.81 percent of the population is infected. I'm wearing a mask that is \bigcirc 50 percent effective and have visited a room \bigcirc 20 times—it has \bigcirc 12 square feet of space per person. Everyone else in the room is wearing a mask that is \bigcirc 30 percent effective.

An indoor gathering

A poorly ventilated space with pervasive talking and movement



Jose-Luis Jimenez, University of Colorado, Boulder

The Guangzhou restaurant superspreader incident, January 2020



We model the airflow as a loop pattern:



bit.ly/airvica

Smart Separations invented an air-purifier that removes coronavirus



Computational simulations allow us to model the air flow



Talking across a table with an infected person

Computational simulations allow us to model the air flow



Gino captures the coronavirus air

Knowledge exchange



Academic journals are not always the best way to communicate our work

Close collaboration with industries allows for product tuning and redesign

Are web apps/interactive journals a better way of communicating our work? (eg, visualpde.com)

Case study 2: Extrusion processes



What shape cookie cutter should we use to make a perfect gingerbread man once baked?





Play-Doh Fun Factory

Rigatoni pasta maker

What shaped hole creates a desired final shape?

SCHOTT























Glass manufacture

Our mathematics is now used to make the glass sheets for Samsung and Huawei mobile phones and for the new bendable smartphones and tablets





Knowledge exchange

Simple ways to communicate the ideas may be used for outreach

Schott Simulation Group provide a bridge to technology translation

Similar mathematics can lead to solutions to different problems

Reduced problem approach not always welcomed

Case Study 3: water purification



Bangladesh

Latest

Providing safe water for families in Bangladesh

> Newsline

Statistics

Contact us

Country website



By Naimul Haq

BAGERHAT DISTRICT, Bangladesh, 24 February 2010 — Defying stifling heat and humidity, Maya Begum walks more than an hour from her village to fill two large plastic containers with drinking water for her family of four.

The INDEPENDENT

Arsenic-tainted water from Unicef wells is poisoning half of Bangladesh

PETER POPHAM IN DHAKA Saturday 05 September 1998



Karagas, The Lancet, 2010

A strategy for arsenic removal?

Iron-rich laterite soil removes arsenic





- How do we know when a filter has expired?
- How do we upscale for a school or community?

State of deployment

- Filters serve 150,000 people
- Filters now manufactured by two companies
- UNICEF have deployed 45 community-scale filters
- Now studying fluoride and reactive dye removal



Ambika Soudamini school 1500 litres per day

Dutta Pukur 2000 litres per hour

Knowledge exchange

Chemical engineers acted as a technology translator for practitioners

Videos can give broader reach

International engagement with a developing country

Different timescales for the experimental and theoretical components of the study

Departmental Knowledge Exchange

Public Engagement team

- Social media:
 - 70k Maths Twitter followers
 - 368k Maths YouTube subscribers
 - University social media

We don't know who the audience is

- Public lectures
- Case Studies and videos
- Alumni newsletters >12k
- Knowledge Exchange Hub (Chris Breward, Rachael Harris)



Departmental Knowledge Exchange

Part of the Mathematical Institute is open to the public

Oxford Mathematics Public Lecture

THURSDAY 23.02.23 | 5–6.15PM Mathematical Institute, Oxford

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Cascading Principles Conrad Shawcross and James Sparks with Fatos Ustek

Oxford Mathematics 

Departmental Knowledge Exchange

 Industrial engagement in Oxford culminated in the Industrially Focused Mathematical Modelling (InFoMM) Doctoral Training Centre



 The centre has more than 70 industries engaged:



Closing thoughts

- A good working relationship with the end user
- Be aware of your end user's mathematical level
- An intermediary can be useful
- Identify similar methodologies for different challenges
- Explore different ways to disseminate your work (videos, web apps, social media)
- Be willing to try different approaches (even if they sometimes fail)