

**Measurement Uncertainty – Possibilities with  
testXpert and News from the  
International Standardization (ISO)**

**29th testXpo 2021  
ZwickRoell GmbH & Co. KG  
Ulm**

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- Why do we need measurement uncertainty?
  - Confidence interval for characteristic values
  - Requirements of ISO/IEC 17025
  
- How do the standards developing for testing methods?
  - Examples of an approach to measurement uncertainty
  - Status of discussion in international standardization (ISO/TC 164)
  
- How does ZwickRoell support evaluation of measurement uncertainty
  - Calculation of measurement uncertainty based on calibration certificates
  - Tool for calculation and assigning measurement uncertainty to characteristic values

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No characteristic value and no test result is arbitrary exactly.

Source 1



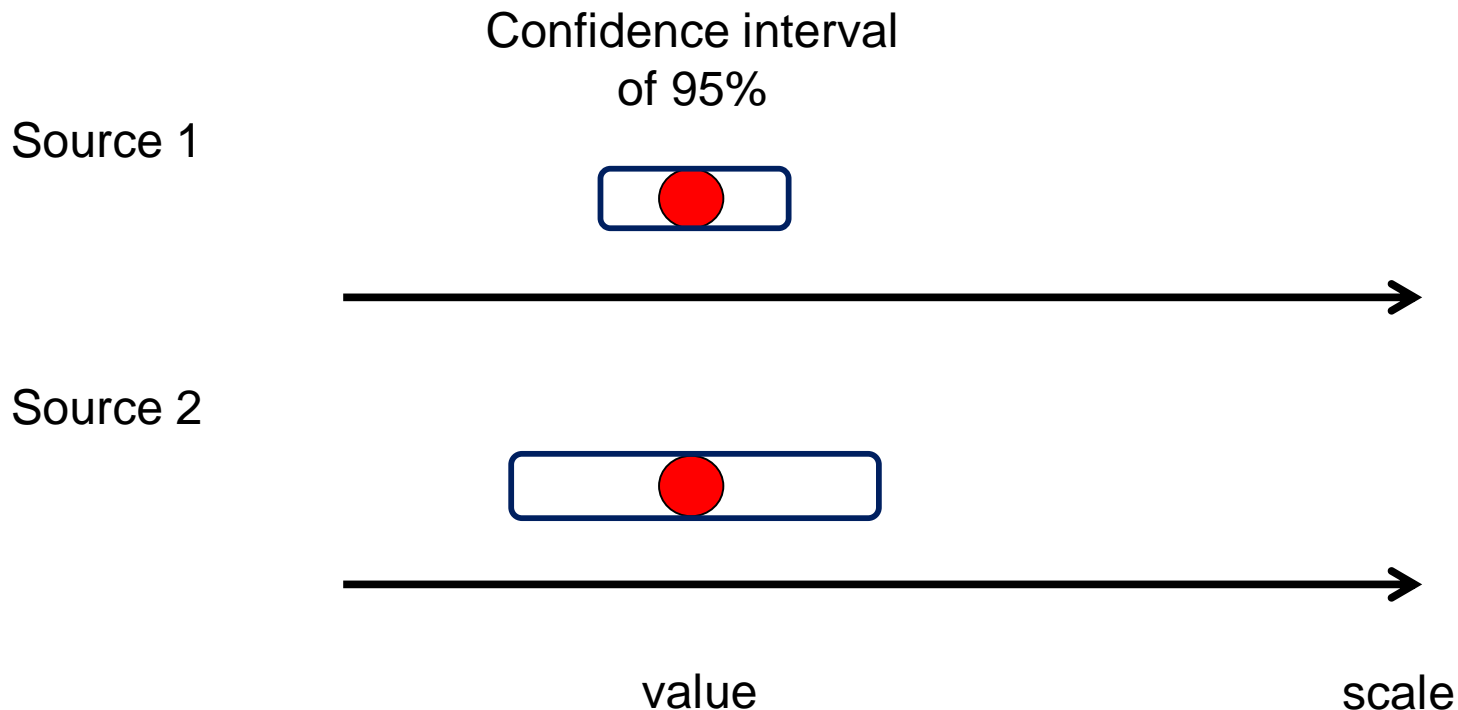
Source 2



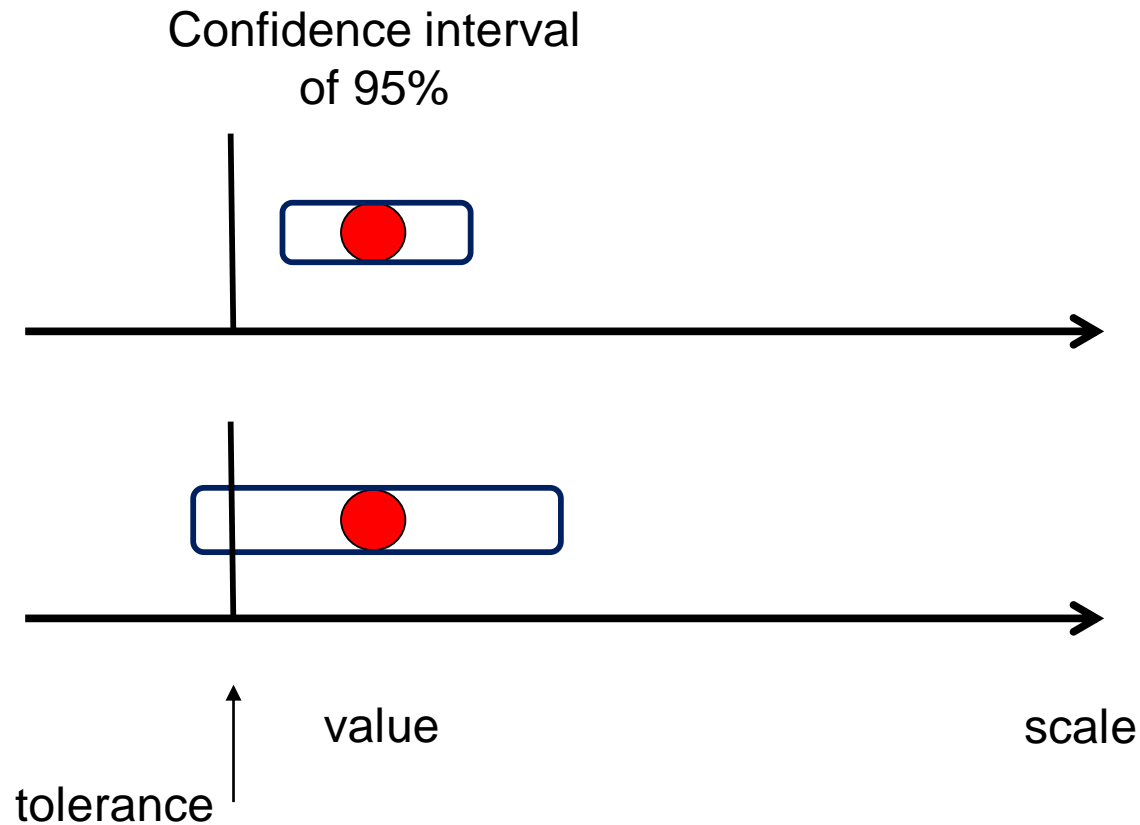
value

scale

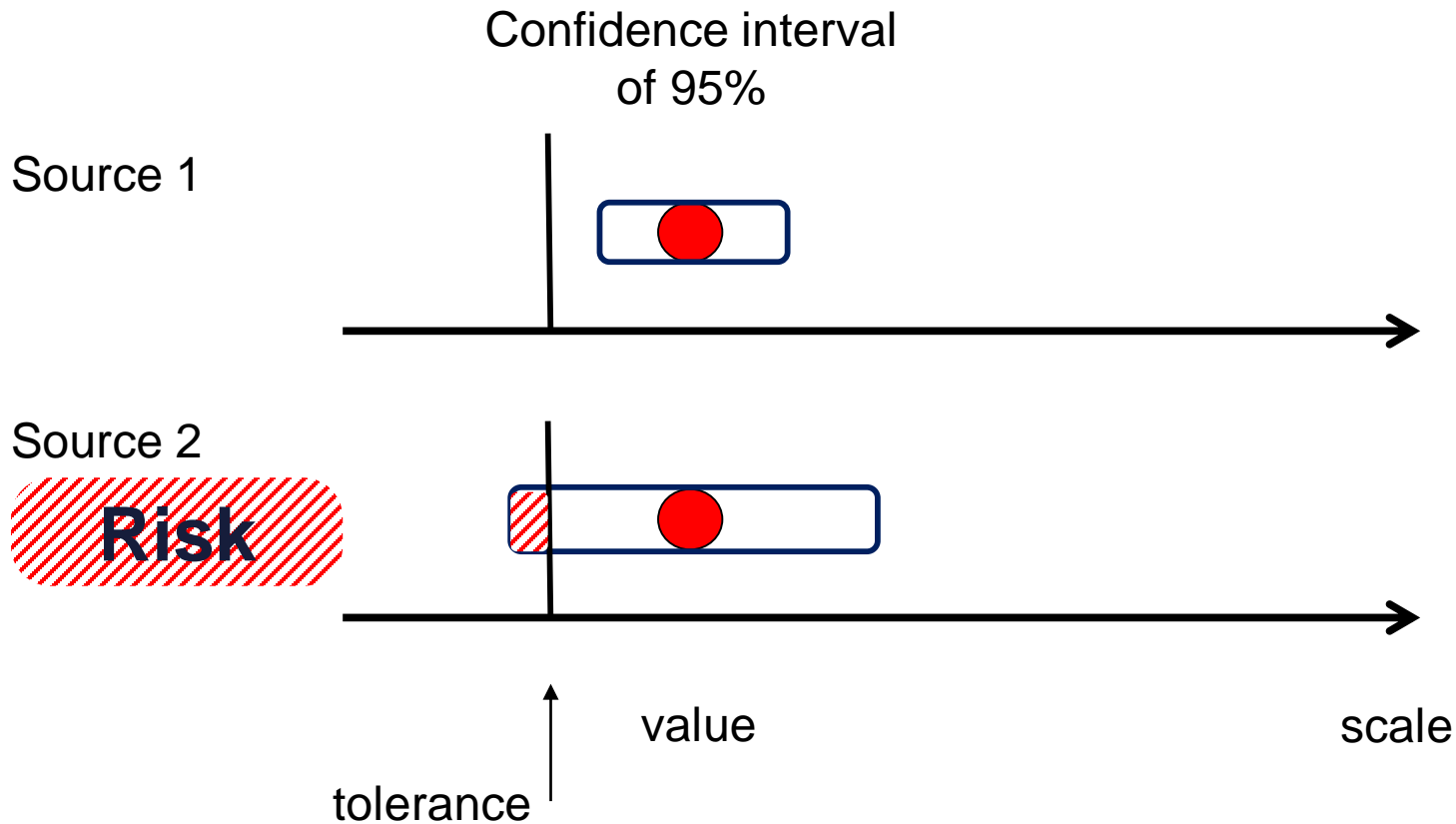
The knowledge, in which interval the true value or the true test result can be expected with which probability, creates trust in values and results.



The size of the confidence interval and the location of the value or result are critical in predicting whether there is a risk in meeting tolerances or not.



The size of the confidence interval and the location of the value or result are decisive in the statement with which risk tolerances can be kept.



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The international standard EN ISO / IEC 17025 - with unrestricted validity also for the EU - requires the determination of the measurement uncertainty.

## Title of the standard:

„General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025:2017)“

**7.6.1** Laboratories shall identify the contributions to measurement uncertainty. When evaluating measurement uncertainty, all contributions that are of significance, including those arising from sampling, shall be taken into account using appropriate methods of analysis.

Quelle: Norm „Allgemeine Anforderungen an die Kompetenz von Prüf- und Kalibrierlaboratorien (ISO/IEC 17025:2017)“, Beuth Verlag, Berlin

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**7.6.3** A laboratory performing testing shall evaluate measurement uncertainty. Where the test method precludes rigorous evaluation of measurement uncertainty, an estimation shall be made based on an understanding of the theoretical principles or practical experience of the performance of the method.

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The international standard EN ISO / IEC 17025 - with unrestricted validity also for the EU - requires the determination of the measurement uncertainty.

7.7.1 The laboratory shall have a procedure for monitoring the validity of results.

The resulting data shall be recorded in such a way that trends are detectable and, where practicable, statistical techniques shall be applied to review the results.

This monitoring shall be planned and reviewed.

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Assistance to determining the measurement uncertainty in the common testing standards are of very different quality and currently always informative.

- **Example ISO 6892-1**
  - Estimated measurement uncertainty shall not be applied in product assessments
  - Annex K: Contributions are estimated on a percentages based on requirements for the sensors
  - Hints for further contributions are given, but no details or figures are given
  - Annex G: two procedures were given with two different results
- **Example ISO 6508-1**
  - Complete determination of measurement uncertainty should be done
  - Option 1: judgement based on direct calibration
  - Option 2: indirect calibration with certified reference blocks. Guideline is given in Annex G
  - Annex G: detailed procedure with examples

The estimation of measurement uncertainty in ISO 6892-1 is only informative.

## 23 Measurement uncertainty

### 23.1 General

Measurement uncertainty analysis is useful for **identifying major sources of inconsistencies** of measured results.

Product standards and material property databases based on this part of ISO 6892 and earlier editions of ISO 6892 have an **inherent contribution from measurement uncertainty**. It is therefore **inappropriate to apply** further adjustments for measurement uncertainty and thereby risk failing product which is compliant. For this reason, the **estimates of uncertainty** derived by following this procedure are **for information only**.

Quelle: Norm „Allgemeine Anforderungen an die Kompetenz von Prüf- und Kalibrierlaboratorien (ISO/IEC 17025:2017)“, Beuth Verlag, Berlin

The estimation of the measurement uncertainty may not be applied to the test conditions or the measurement results in the context of a product evaluation.

## 23.2 Test conditions

The test conditions and limits defined in this part of ISO 6892 **shall not be adjusted** to take account of uncertainties of measurement.

## 23.3 Test results

The estimated measurement uncertainties **shall not be combined with measured results** to assess compliance to product specifications.

For consideration of uncertainty, see Annexes J and K, which provide guidance for the determination of **uncertainty related to metrological parameters** and values obtained from the interlaboratory tests on a group of steels and aluminum alloys.

In Annex K, the percentage influences on the uncertainty in the characteristic values are roughly estimated.

**Table K.2 — Examples of uncertainty contributions for different test results, due to the measuring devices**

Parameter	Uncertainty contribution <sup>a</sup>				
	$R_{eH}$	$R_{eL}$	$R_m$	$A$	$Z$
Force	1,4	1,4	1,4	—	—
Extension	—	—	—	1,4	—
Gauge length, $L_e, L_0$	—	—	—	1	—
$S_o$	1	1	1	—	1
$S_u$	—	—	—	—	2

<sup>a</sup> Values are given for information only.

$$u(y) = \sqrt{(u(x_1))^2 + u(x_2)^2 + \dots + u(x_n)^2}$$

**Table K.4 — Examples for a 95 % level of confidence,  $k = 2$  (based on [Table K.3](#))**

95 % level of confidence, $k = 2$ for different parameters				
%				
$R_{eH}$	$R_{eL}$	$R_m$	$A$	$Z$
1,82	1,82	1,82	1,82	2,58



The simple percentage estimation of the measurement uncertainty in Annex K is supplemented by references to other influencing factors.

#### **K.4 Parameters depending on the material and/or the test procedure**

The **precision of the test results** from a tensile test is **dependent upon** factors related to the material being tested, the testing machine, the test procedure and the methods used to calculate the specified material properties. **Ideally all the following factors should be considered:**

- a) test temperature;
- b) testing rates;
- c) the test piece geometry and machining;
- d) the method of gripping the test piece and the axiality of the application of the force;
- e) the testing machine characteristics (stiffness, drive and control mode);
- f) human and software errors associated with the determination of the tensile properties;
- g) extensometer mounting geometry.

## The estimation of the measurement uncertainty in the ISO 6508-1 (Rockwell hardness test) is only informative.

### G.1 General requirements

The measurement uncertainty analysis is a useful tool that **helps to find sources of error** and to **understand differences in the test results**.

This appendix provides a guide to estimating uncertainty, but the procedures contained herein are **for information only**, unless the customer has specifically stated otherwise. ...

These permissible deviations [in the product specifications] therefore **contain a contribution due to the uncertainty** of the hardness measurement, and it would be **inappropriate to add another component to this uncertainty** ...

## Annex G describes two methods and examples of calculation.

**Table G.2 — Determination of the measurement result according to method M2**

Step	Description	Symbols	Formula	Literature/Certificate	Example [.] = HRC
1	Expanded uncertainty derived from maximum permissible error	$b_E$	$b_E =$ Maximum positive value of permissible bias	Permissible bias $b$ according to ISO 6508-2:2015, Table 2	$b_E = 1,50$
2	The standard deviation of repeatability measurements.	$s_H$	$s_H = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (H_i - \bar{H})^2}$	Five measurements are made by the laboratory on a CRM having a hardness similar to the test sample (see Note)	$s_H = 0,17$ HRC
3	Standard uncertainty due to lack of repeatability	$u_H$	$u_H = t \times s_H$	$t = 1,14$ $n = 5$ (see ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, G.3 and Table G.2)	$u_H = 1,14 \times 0,17 = 0,19$
4	Standard uncertainty due to resolution of the hardness value indicating display	$u_{ms}$	$u_{ms} = \frac{\delta_{ms}}{2\sqrt{3}}$	$\delta_{ms} = 0,1$ HRC	$u_{ms} = \frac{0,1}{2\sqrt{3}} = 0,03$
5	Determination of the expanded uncertainty	$U$	$U = k \times \sqrt{u_H^2 + u_{ms}^2} + b_E$	Steps 1, 3, and 4 $k = 2$	$U = 2 \times \sqrt{0,19^2 + 0,03^2} + 1,50$ $U = 1,88$ HRC
6	Result of the measurement	$X$	$X = x \pm U$		$x = 60,5$ HRC $X = (60,5 \pm 1,9)$ HRC

Quelle: Norm „Allgemeine Anforderungen an die Kompetenz von Prüf- und Kalibrierlaboratorien (ISO/IEC 17025:2017)“, Beuth Verlag, Berlin

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The topic of measurement uncertainty for mechanical testing has been dealt within a working group (WG) since this year.

The goals are:

- We do not want to set up new requirements for product assessments
- We do want to support testing laboratories calculating uncertainties when testing specimens \*)

\*) characterize materials;  
not include materials characteristics into MU

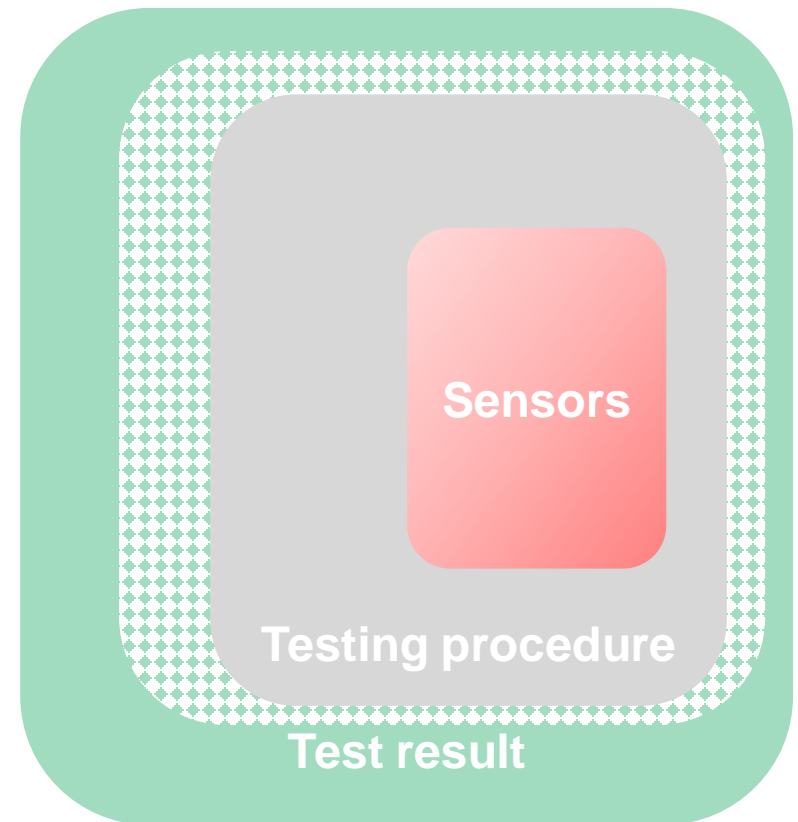
The shell model structures the uncertainty contributions and defines common criteria and procedures.

## Approval by ISO/TC 164 for project ISO/AWI TR 8463

- First draft; lots of ideas for the content
- First meeting of WG 2 in Aug. 2021
- Second draft under way
- Second meeting of WG 2 in Nov. 2021

## Preliminary determinations in WG 2:

- ❖ First definition of the shells (also number)
- ❖ Description of the shells (including the uncertainty contributions)
- ❖ Considerations for handling the systematic deviation (bias)



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Testing machines are calibrated regularly; the results can be used to determine the measuring system-related measurement uncertainty.

## Calibration data for force



## Calibration data for cross-sectional area calipers



## Calibration data for extensometers



## Calibration data for reduction-in-width devices





**CWA 15261-2:2005 *Measurement uncertainties in mechanical tests on metallic materials — The evaluation of uncertainties in tensile testing*** describes the influences of the measuring systems on the characteristic values in the metal tensile test.

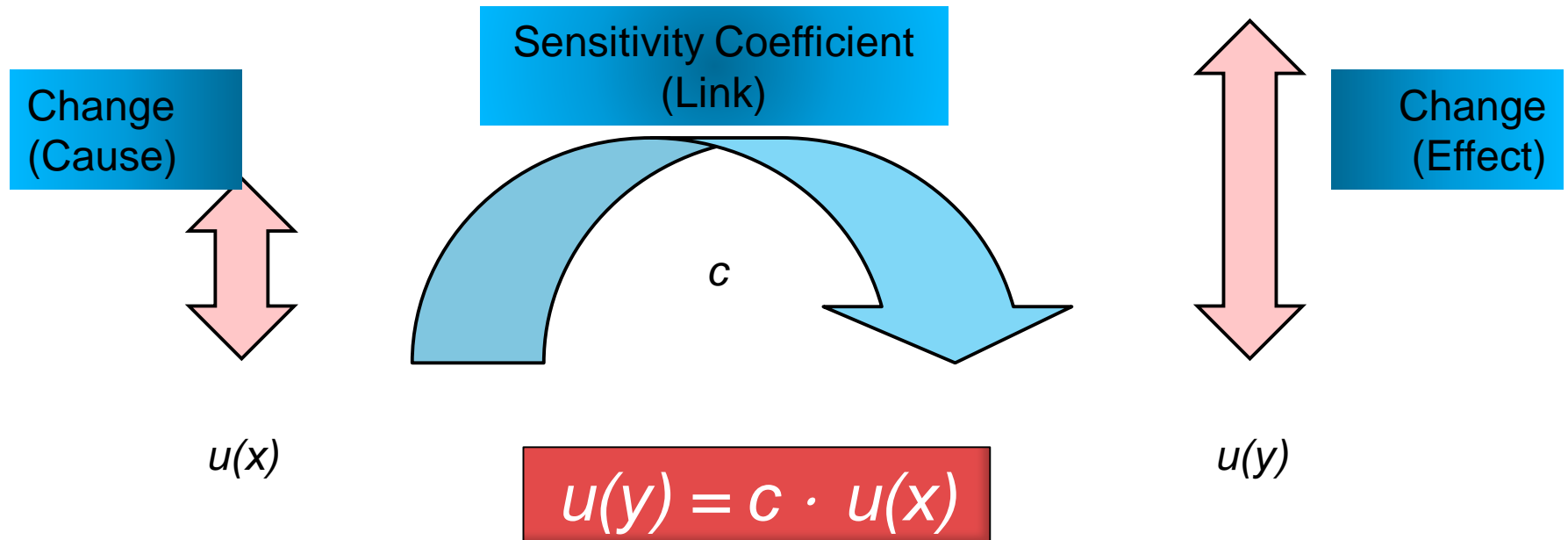
The specifications in the CWA 15261-2 (**shortly published as ISO/TR 15263**) can be used to automatically determine the measurement system-related measurement uncertainties for metal tensile tests for each test.

The measuring system-related measurement uncertainty cannot be undershot.

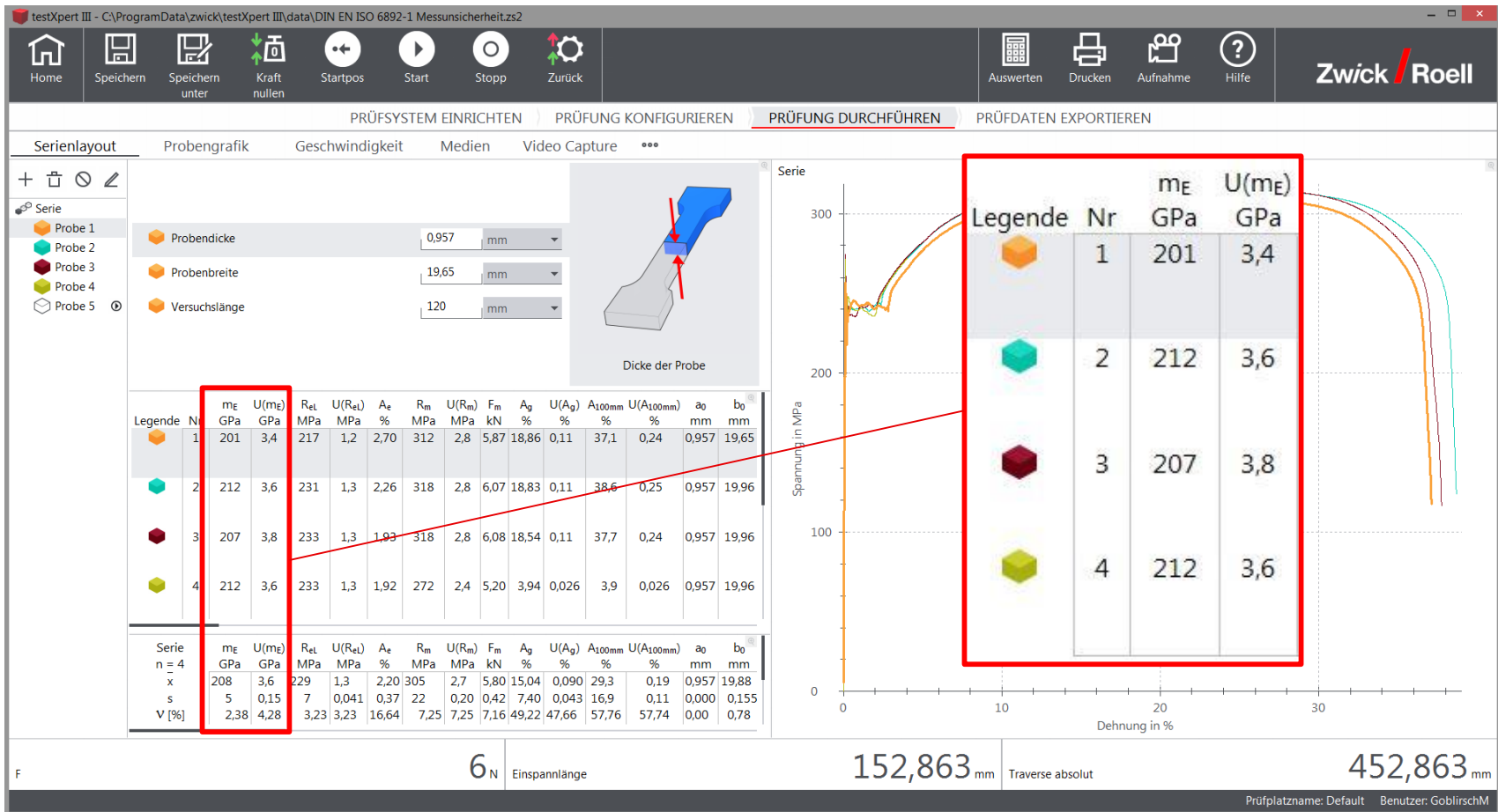
The creation of a total budget for the measurement uncertainty is the responsibility of the laboratories.

## CWA 15261-2:2005 *Measurement uncertainties in mechanical tests on metallic materials — The evaluation of uncertainties in tensile testing*

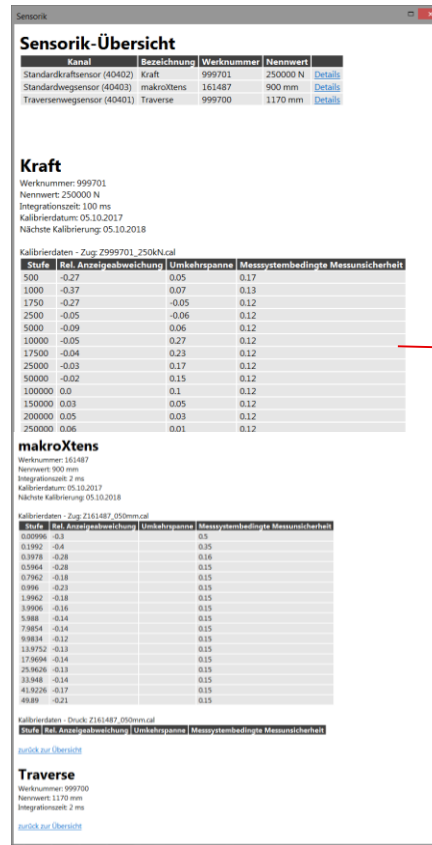
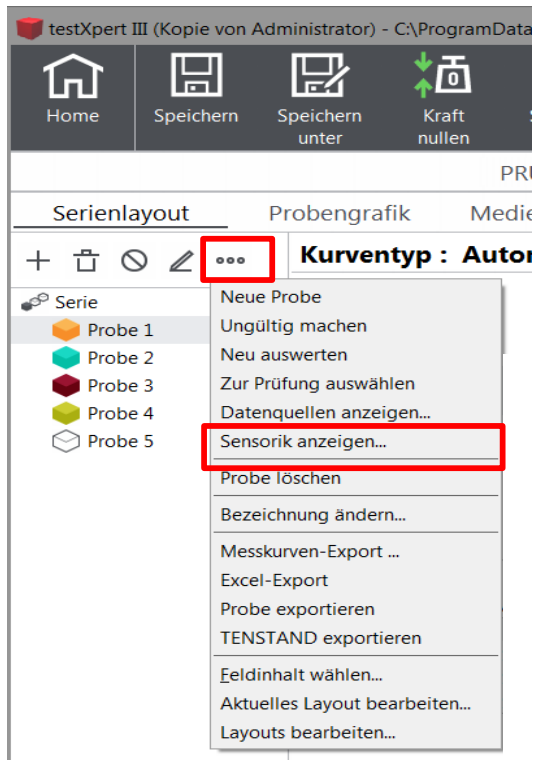
$$u_c(y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n [c_i u(x_i)]^2} \quad c_i = \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}$$



## Display of measuring system-related measurement uncertainty takes place as an absolute value.



The calibration data used for the calculation of the measurement uncertainty are stored specimen-specific and traceable.



## Kraft

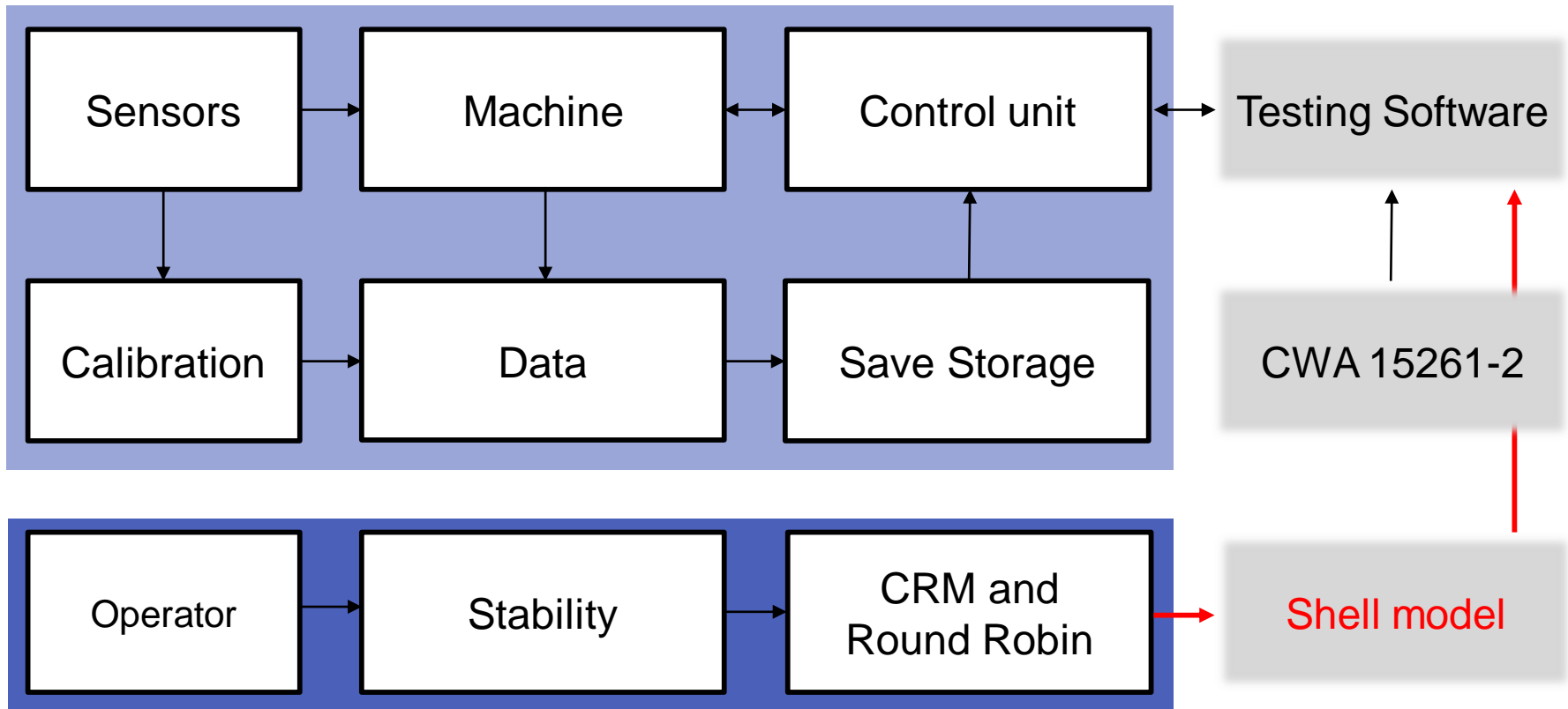
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 Nennwert: 250000 N  
 Integrationszeit: 100 ms  
 Kalibrierdatum: 05.10.2017  
 Nächste Kalibrierung: 05.10.2018

Kalibrierdaten - Zug: Z999701\_250kN.cal

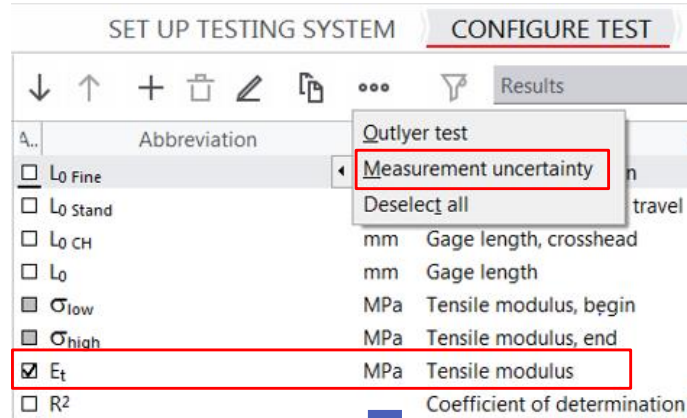
Stufe	Rel. Anzeigeabweichung	Umkehrspanne	Messsystembedingte Messunsicherheit
500	-0.27	0.05	0.17
1000	-0.37	0.07	0.13
1750	-0.27	-0.05	0.12
2500	-0.05	-0.06	0.12
5000	-0.09	0.06	0.12
10000	-0.05	0.27	0.12
17500	-0.04	0.23	0.12
25000	-0.03	0.17	0.12
50000	-0.02	0.15	0.12
100000	0.0	0.1	0.12
150000	0.03	0.05	0.12
200000	0.05	0.03	0.12
250000	0.06	0.01	0.12

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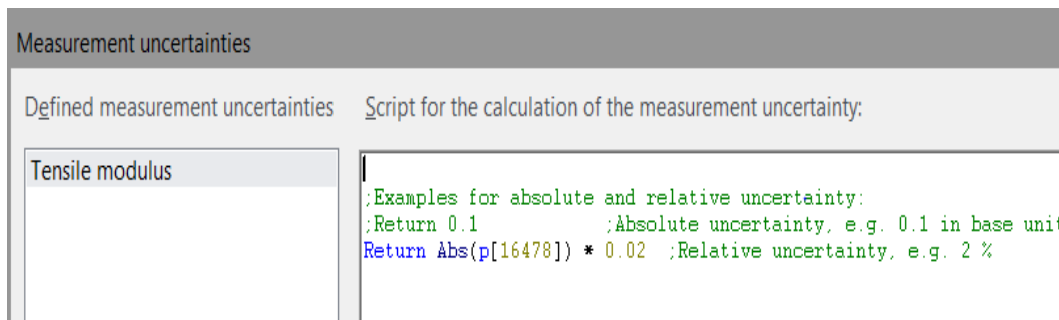
Schematic representation of a structure for determining uncertainties in test results.



The integration of the measurement uncertainty takes place in 3 simple steps.



Example: Tensile modulus

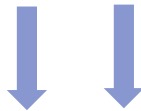


Example: Relative measurement uncertainty of 2%

- In the result dialog, the corresponding measurement uncertainty can be easily stored for each result
- The measurement uncertainty is entered via a ZIMT dialog
- A percentage and absolute measurement uncertainty is generated default
- Ability to enter a complex formula for measurement uncertainty

## The integration of sample- and series-specific measurement uncertainties in a test protocol of testXpert.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $E_t$	MPa	Tensile modulus
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $U(E_t)$	MPa	U(Tensile modulus) ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $\%U(E_t)$	%	$\%U$ (Tensile modulus) ...



- Arrangement of the measurement uncertainties takes place directly under the corresponding result

- In the result table, the measurement uncertainty is displayed in % and "absolute"

➔ Measurement uncertainty for each test

- Can be activated /deactivated individually

- The measurement uncertainties can also be used for the statistics table

Legend	No.	$E_t$ MPa	$U(E_t)$ MPa	$\%U(E_t)$ %	$\sigma_Y$ MPa	$\epsilon_Y$ %
	1	3110	62.17	2.00	66.2	7.1
	2	3070	61.35	2.00	65.3	7.4
	3	3080	61.66	2.00	66.0	7.1
	4	3040	60.76	2.00	65.4	-
	5	3050	60.98	2.00	66.0	7.2

Series	$E_t$ MPa	$U(E_t)$ MPa	$\%U(E_t)$ %	$\sigma_Y$ MPa	$\epsilon_Y$ %
$n = 5$					
$\bar{x}$	3070	61.38	2.00	65.8	7.2
$s$	27.9	0.56	0.00	0.391	0.14
$v$ [%]	0.91	0.91	0.00	0.60	1.91



- There are no measurement or characteristic values without measurement uncertainty
- Known uncertainties create trust in the measured and characteristic values
- The new ISO/IEC 17025 demands the handling of measurement uncertainty
- The method standards are on the way to adopting prescriptions that allow a practical determination of the measurement uncertainty
- Today, test software is able to calculate the measurement system-related uncertainties for many characteristic values (for metal tensile test done)
- Test software is also able to calculate customer-specific uncertainties and assign them to the characteristic values
- The laboratories remain responsible for determining the uncertainty of results