

# Linear combinations of uncertain numbers

## A first exercise

Imagine we have measured the two sides of an A4 paper, obtaining

$$a = 29.73 \pm 0.03 \text{ cm}$$

$$b = 21.45 \pm 0.04 \text{ cm}.$$

1. Evaluate (expected values, standard uncertainty and correlation)
  - ▶ their difference ( $d = a - b$ );
  - ▶ their sum ( $s = a + b$ );assuming  $\rho(a, b) = 0$  or  $\rho(a, b) = +0.8$ .
2. Evaluate the same quantities by Monte Carlo simulation.
3. Repeat points 1. and 2. changing  $\sigma(a)$  : 0.03, 0.04, 0.05 cm.