A general problem with the modelling approach is that it relies on having a lot of information about the nature of the target. It is therefore mainly of use when the qualities of the target material are rather predictable, as in many processed materials.

The empirical approach

Empirical methods rely entirely on the replication of sampling to estimate the precision. Of course, the replication has to be randomised in some way, or at least a good approximation to randomised, to obtain a valid precision estimate. For instance, if the sampling protocol requires the collection of a number of increments to form a composite sample, the increments must be collected at random points in the target. For a o4pj9 0 0 9 251.4lectenw8 T16 2t 0 9 n(o4aTm(le,)Tj9 0 0.7i31.4lectenw8 T6 4 0 0 8 Tm(p Tr