

# Sensitivity Analysis

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DTU, Lyngby Campus,  
Chemical Engineering,  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

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24/11



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Lovely (also in the sense of 'of love') piece by an Italian scholar [@robertocalasso](https://twitter.com/robertocalasso):

[nybooks.com/articles/2016/...](https://nybooks.com/articles/2016/...)



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sensitivity analysis, sensitivity auditing, science for policy, impact assessment



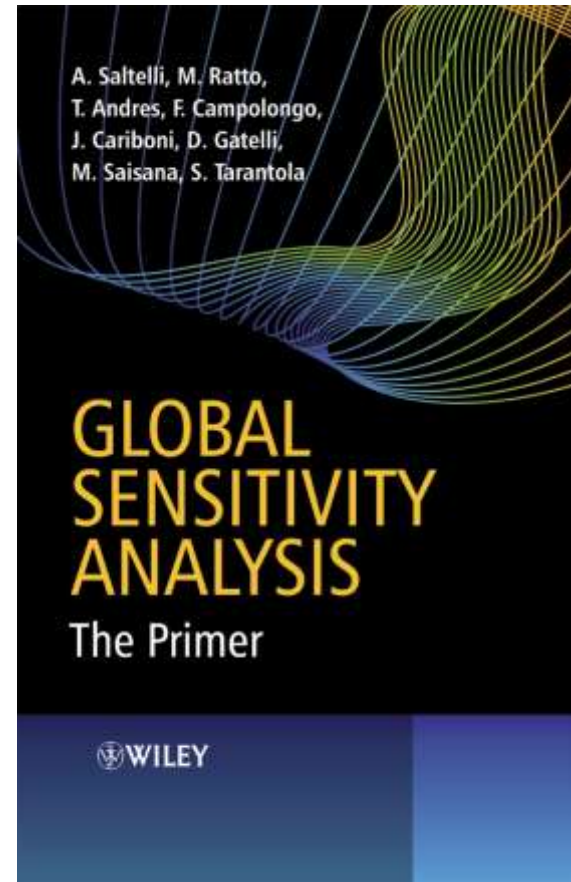
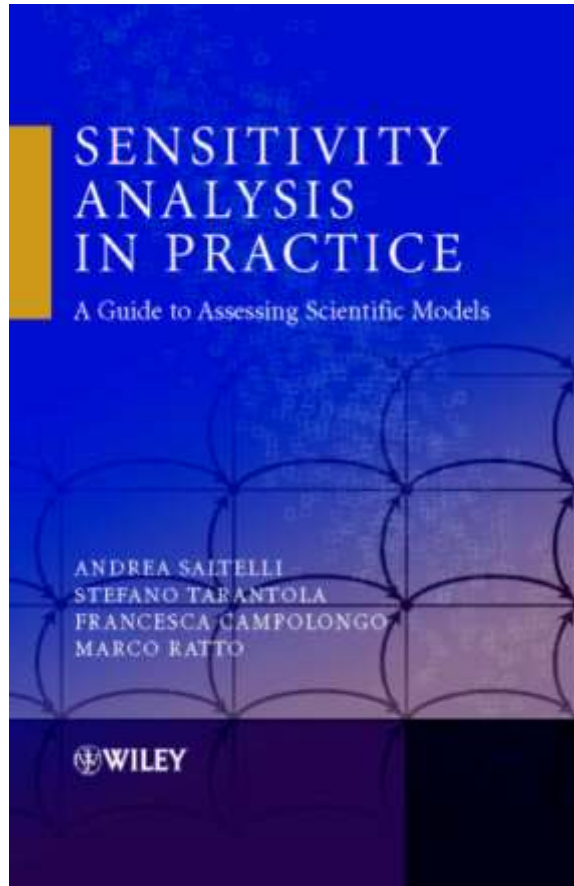
= more material on my web site



= discussion time



# Sensitivity analysis books available on LibGen



What is sensitivity  
analysis?

# Definitions

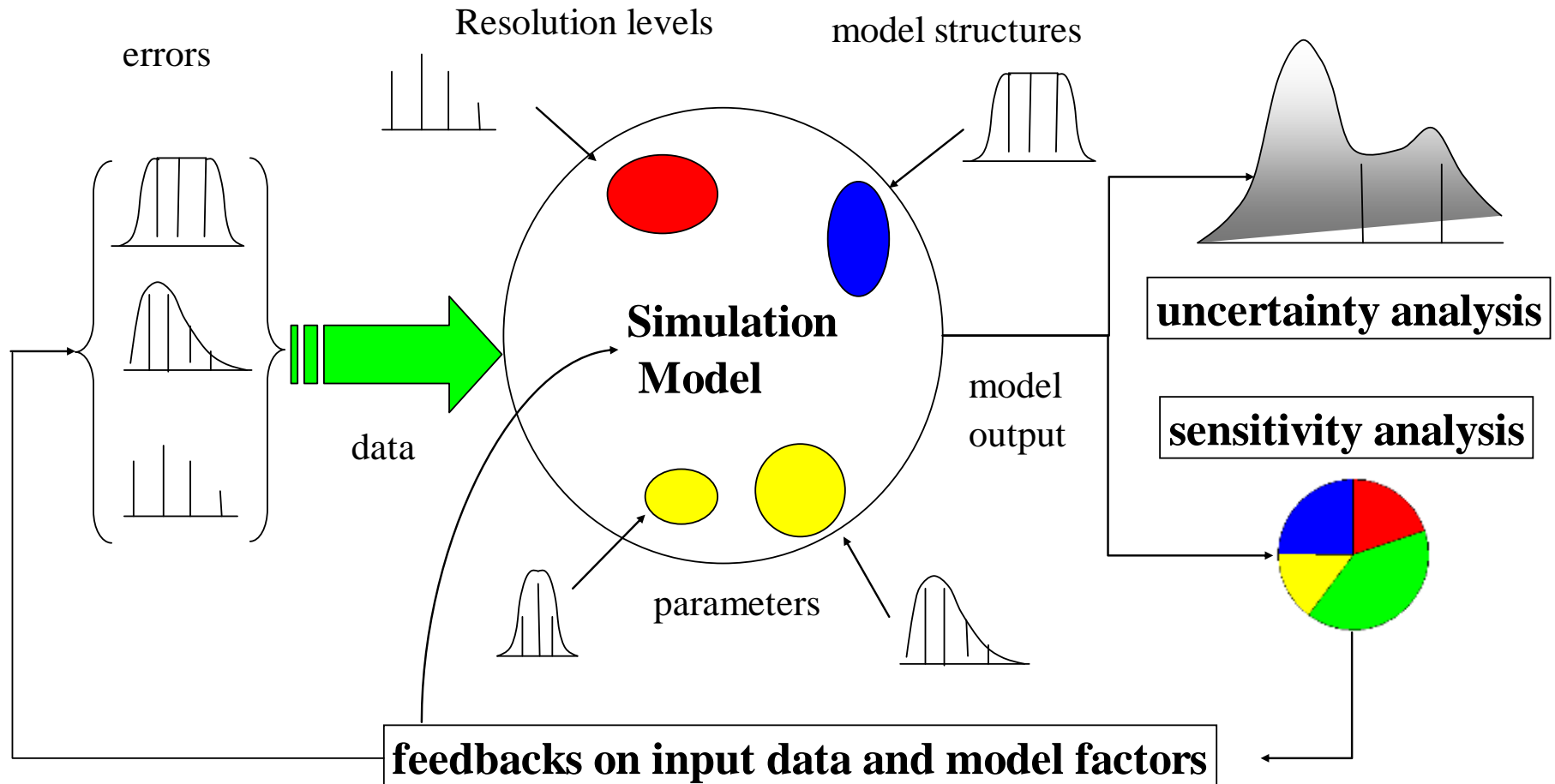
**Uncertainty analysis:** Focuses on just quantifying the uncertainty in model output

**Sensitivity analysis:** The study of the relative importance of different input factors on the model output

[Global\*] sensitivity analysis: “The study of how the uncertainty in the output of a model (numerical or otherwise) can be apportioned to different sources of uncertainty in the model input”

Saltelli A., 2002, Sensitivity Analysis for Importance Assessment, Risk Analysis, 22 (3), 1–12.

# An engineer's vision of UA, SA





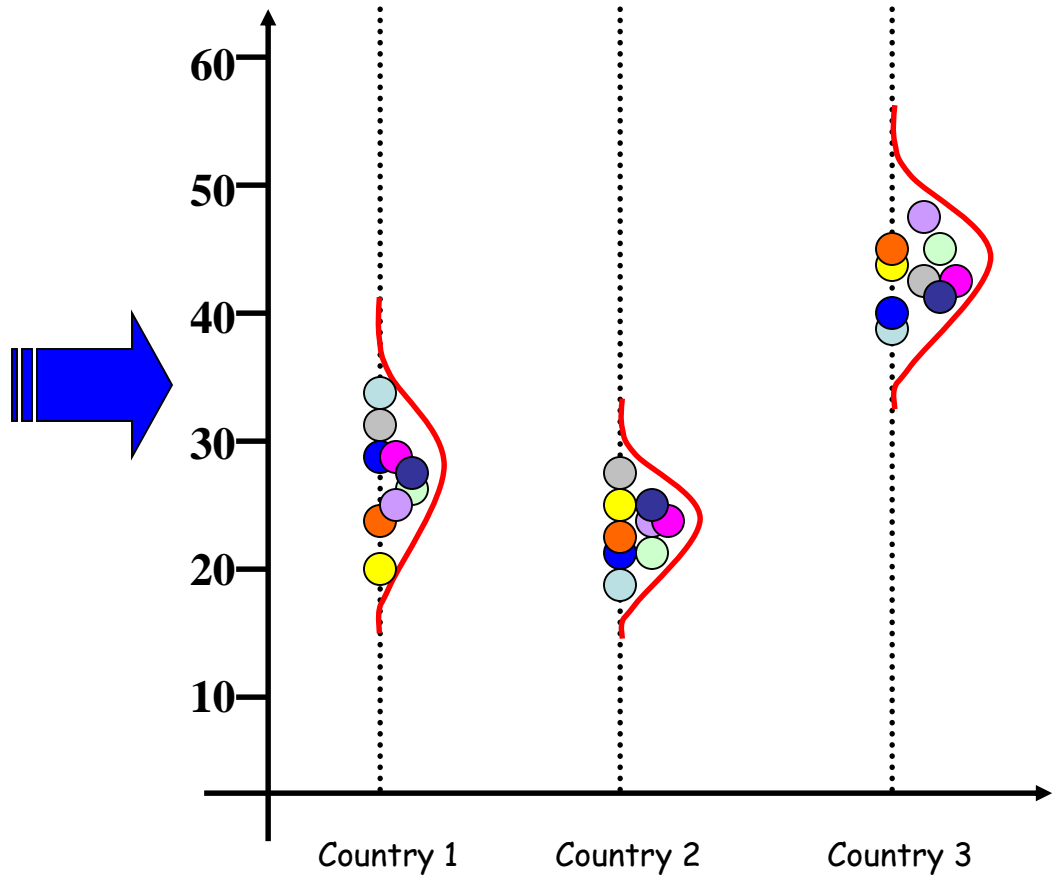
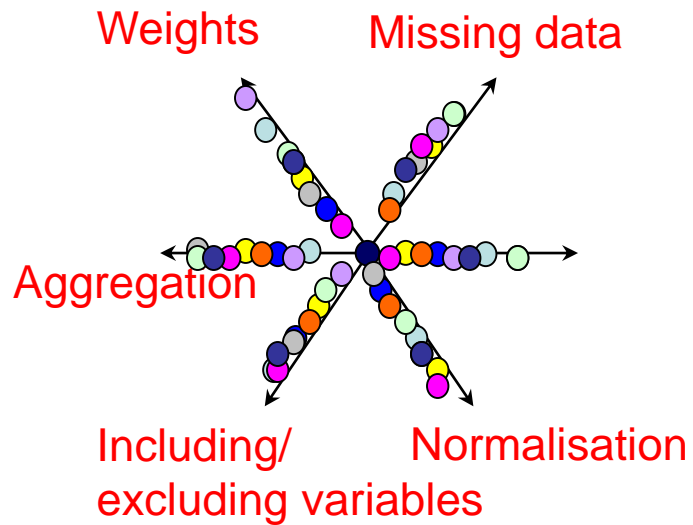
One can sample more than just factors

One can sample modelling assumptions

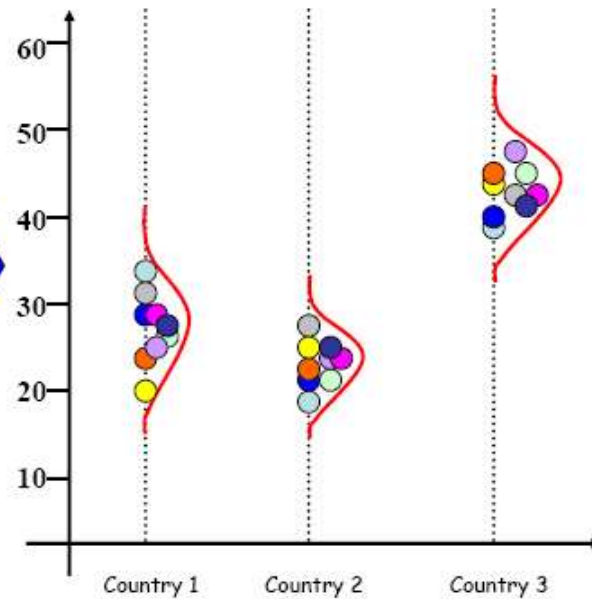
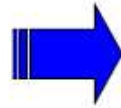
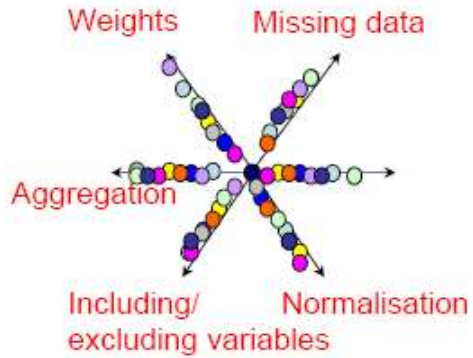
Example: The output is a composite indicator

Assumption	Alternatives
Number of indicators	▪ all six indicators included or one-at-time excluded (6 options)
Weighting method	▪ original set of weights, ▪ factor analysis, ▪ equal weighting, ▪ data envelopment analysis
Aggregation rule	▪ additive, ▪ multiplicative, ▪ Borda multi-criterion

## Space of alternatives

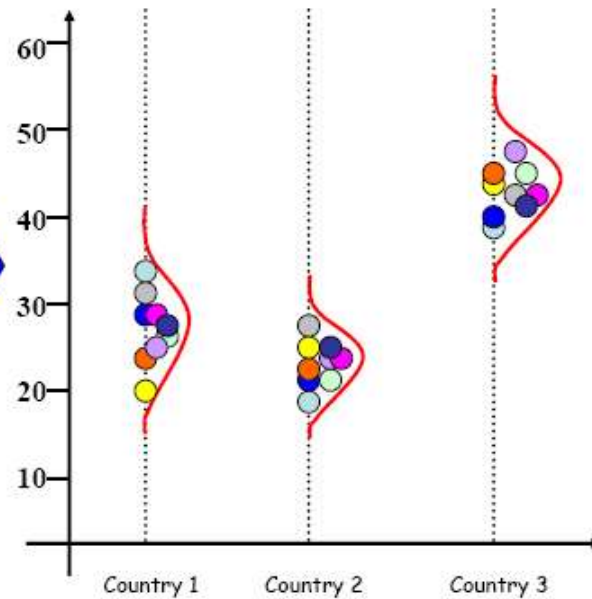
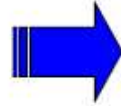
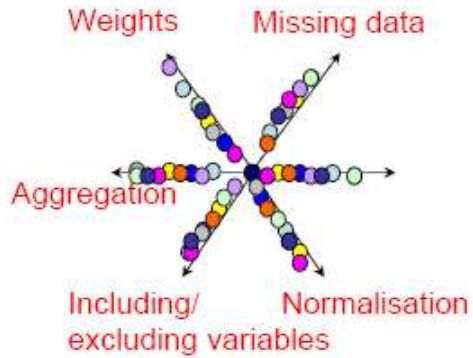


## Space of alternatives



Is this an uncertainty analysis or a sensitivity analysis?

## Space of alternatives



If I did a sensitivity analysis what information would I obtain?

Sample matrix for  
uncertainty and  
sensitivity analysis

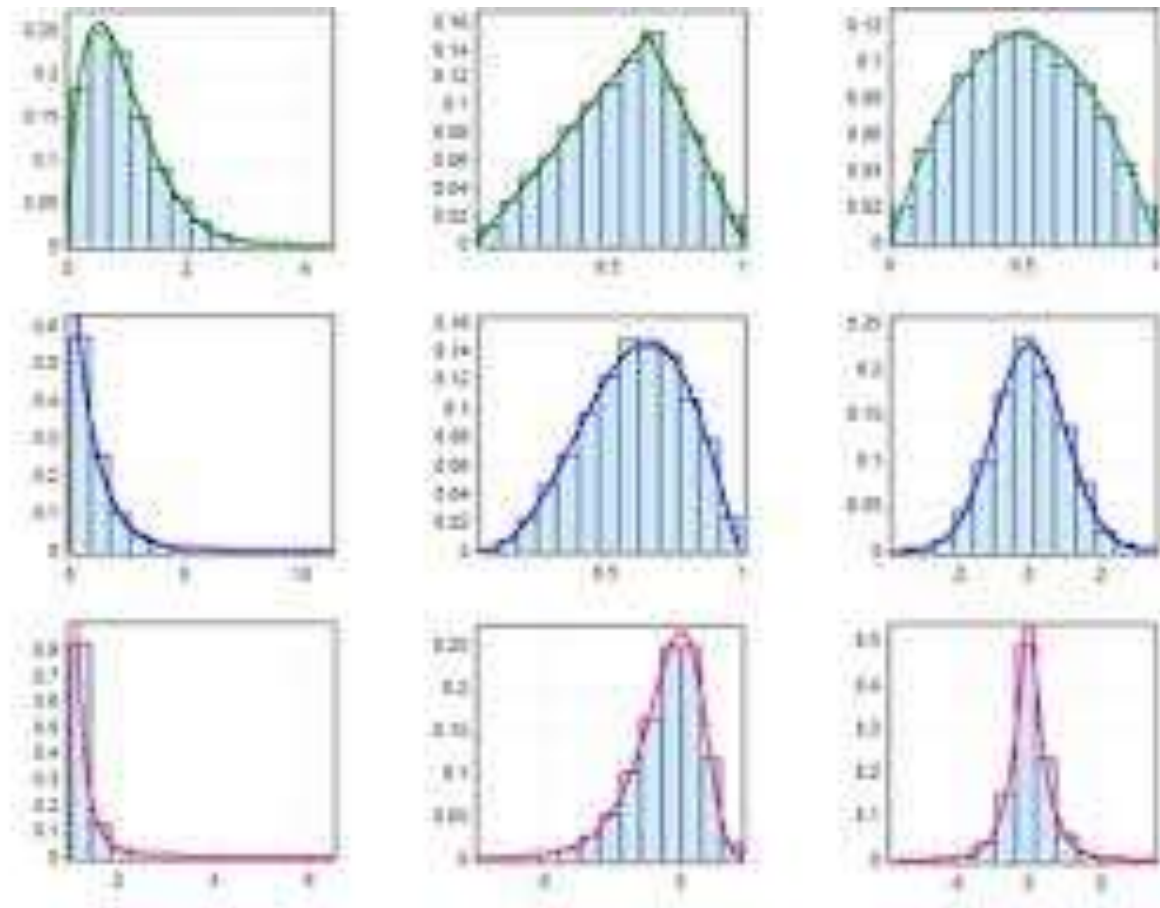
$$\begin{array}{cccc} x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1k} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2k} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ x_{N1} & x_{N2} & \dots & x_{Nk} \end{array}$$

Each **row** is a sample trial for one model  
run. Each **column** is a sample of size N  
from the distribution of the factor.



Each **column** is a sample  
of size N from the  
distribution of factor.

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1k} \\
 x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2k} \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\
 x_{N1} & x_{N2} & \dots & x_{Nk}
 \end{array}$$



Model results:

Each entry is the  
error-free result of  
the model run.

 $y_1$  $y_2$  $\dots$  $y_N$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1k} & & y_1 \\
 x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2k} & & y_2 \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & & \dots \\
 x_{N1} & x_{N2} & \dots & x_{Nk} & & y_N
 \end{array}$$

Input matrix

Output vector:

In the simplest case  $y$  could be a function of – a simple mathematical expression of – the  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$

e.g.  $y = x_1 \sin(x_2)/x_3$

Or it could be a more complicate mathematical model in a computer code to generate  $y$  given  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$

Why Sensitivity analysis?

# European Commission, 2015

## Office for the Management and Budget, 2006

## Environmental Protection Agency, 2009

EPA, 2009, March. Guidance on the Development, Evaluation, and Application of Environmental Models. Technical Report EPA/100/K-09/003. Office of the Science Advisor, Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling, <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P1003E4R.PDF>, Last accessed December 2015.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Better regulation toolbox, appendix to the Better Regulation Guidelines, Strasbourg, 19.5.2015, SWD(2015) 111 final, COM(2015) 215 final, [http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/guidelines/docs/swd\\_br\\_guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/guidelines/docs/swd_br_guidelines_en.pdf).

OMB, Proposed risk assessment bulletin, Technical report, The Office of Management and Budget's – Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), January 2006, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/inforeg/proposed\\_risk\\_assessment\\_bulletin\\_010906.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/inforeg/proposed_risk_assessment_bulletin_010906.pdf), pp. 16–17, accessed December 2015.

# <http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/>



Source: IA Toolbox, p. 391





## 4. SENSITIVITY AND UNCERTAINTY ANALYSES

Page 391

Six steps for a global SA:

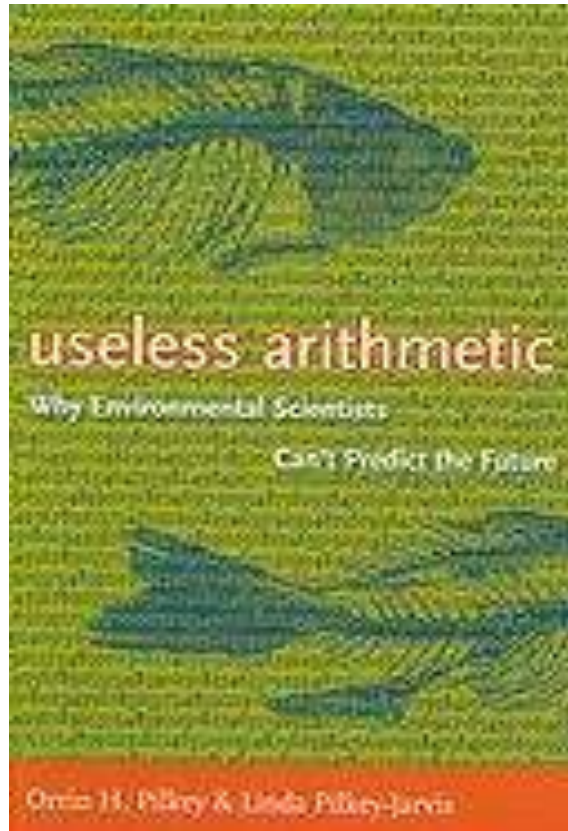
1. Select one output of interest;
2. Participatory step: discuss which input may matter;
3. Participatory step (extended peer review): define distributions;
4. Sample from the distributions;
5. Run (=evaluate) the model for the sampled values;
6. Obtain in this way both the uncertainty of the prediction and the relative importance of variables.

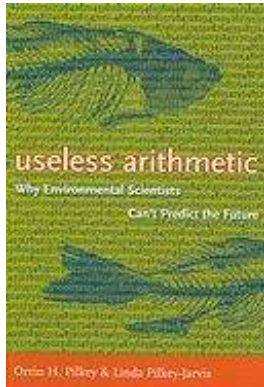
# Limits of sensitivity analysis



Orrin H. Pilkey  
Duke University,  
NC

# Useless Arithmetic: Why Environmental Scientists Can't Predict the Future by Orrin H. Pilkey and Linda Pilkey-Jarvis



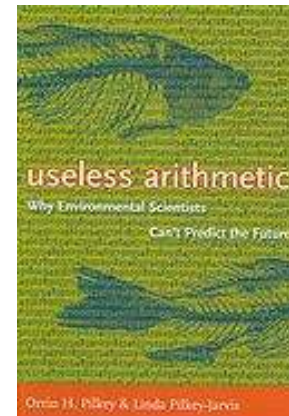


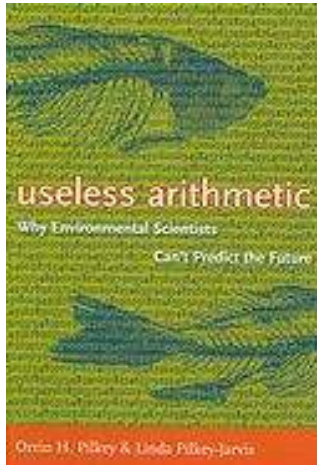
<<It is important, however, to recognize that the sensitivity of the parameter in the equation is what is being determined, not the sensitivity of the parameter in nature.

[...] If the model is wrong or if it is a poor representation of reality, determining the sensitivity of an individual parameter in the model is a meaningless pursuit.>>

One of the examples discussed concerns the **Yucca Mountain** repository for radioactive waste. TSPA model (for total system performance assessment) for safety analysis.

TSPA is Composed of 286 sub-models.

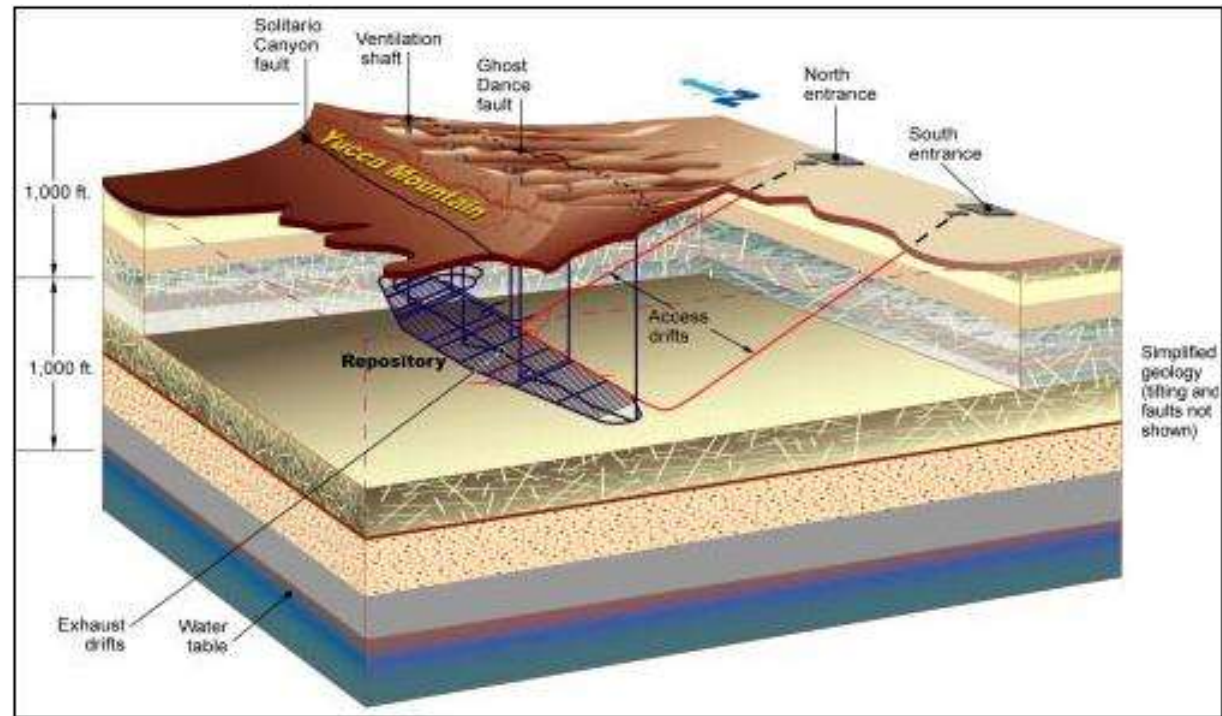
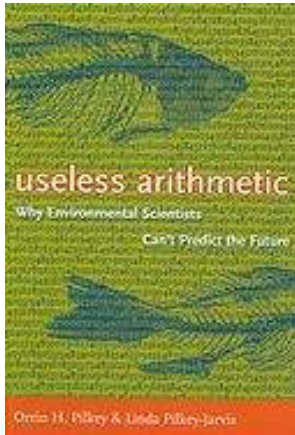




TSPA (like any other model)  
**relies on assumptions** → one is  
the low permeability of the  
geological formation → long  
time for the water to percolate  
from surface to disposal.





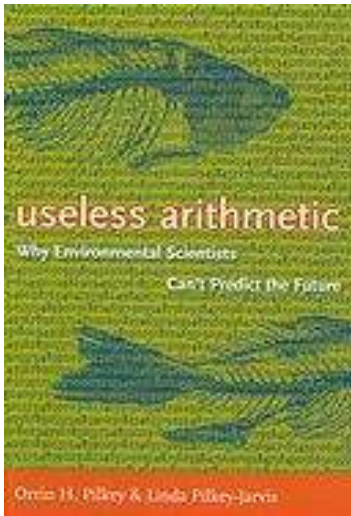


The confidence of the stakeholders in TSPA was not helped when evidence was produced which could lead to an upward revision of 4 orders of magnitude of this parameter (the  $^{36}\text{Cl}$  story)

Type III error in sensitivity: Examples:

In the case of TSPA (Yucca mountain) a range of 0.02 to 1 millimetre per year was used for percolation of flux rate.

→... SA useless if it is instead ~ 3,000 millimetres per year.



“Scientific mathematical modelling should involve constant efforts to falsify the model”

Ref. → Robert K. Merton's 'Organized skepticism'



**Communalism** – the common ownership of scientific discoveries, according to which scientists give up intellectual property rights in exchange for recognition and esteem (Merton actually used the term Communism, but had this notion of communalism in mind, not Marxism);

**Universalism** – according to which claims to truth are evaluated in terms of universal or impersonal criteria, and not on the basis of race, class, gender, religion, or nationality;

**Disinterestedness** – according to which scientists are rewarded for acting in ways that outwardly appear to be selfless;

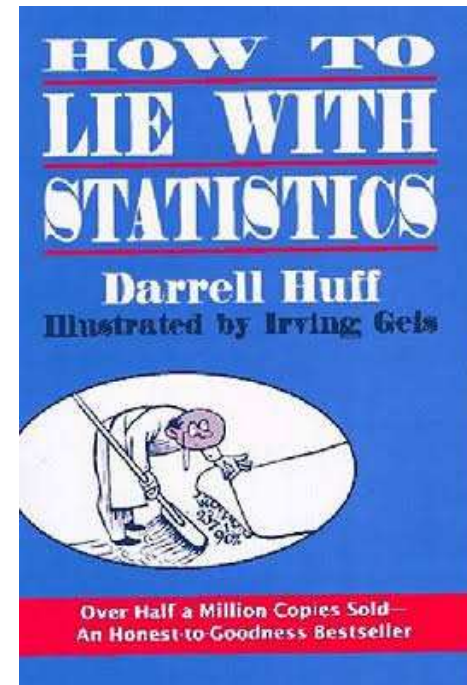
**Organized Skepticism** – all ideas must be tested and are subject to rigorous, structured community scrutiny.

Robert K. Merton

Can I lie with  
sensitivity  
analysis?

Will any sensitivity analysis do the job?

Can I lie with sensitivity analysis as I can lie with statistics?



Saltelli, A., Annoni P., 2010, How to avoid a perfunctory sensitivity analysis, *Environmental Modeling and Software*, **25**, 1508–1517.

# Why not just changing one factor at a time (OAT)?

<<“one-at-a-time” (OAT) approach is most commonly used in Commission IAs>>

Source: IA Toolbox, p. 391



*Better Regulation "Toolbox"*



Why not just changing one factor at a time (OAT)?

“Sensitivity analysis usually proceeds by changing one variable or assumption at a time, but it can also be done by varying a combination of variables simultaneously to learn more about the robustness of your results to widespread changes”.

Source: Office for the management and  
Budget of the White House (OMB),  
Circular A4, 2003

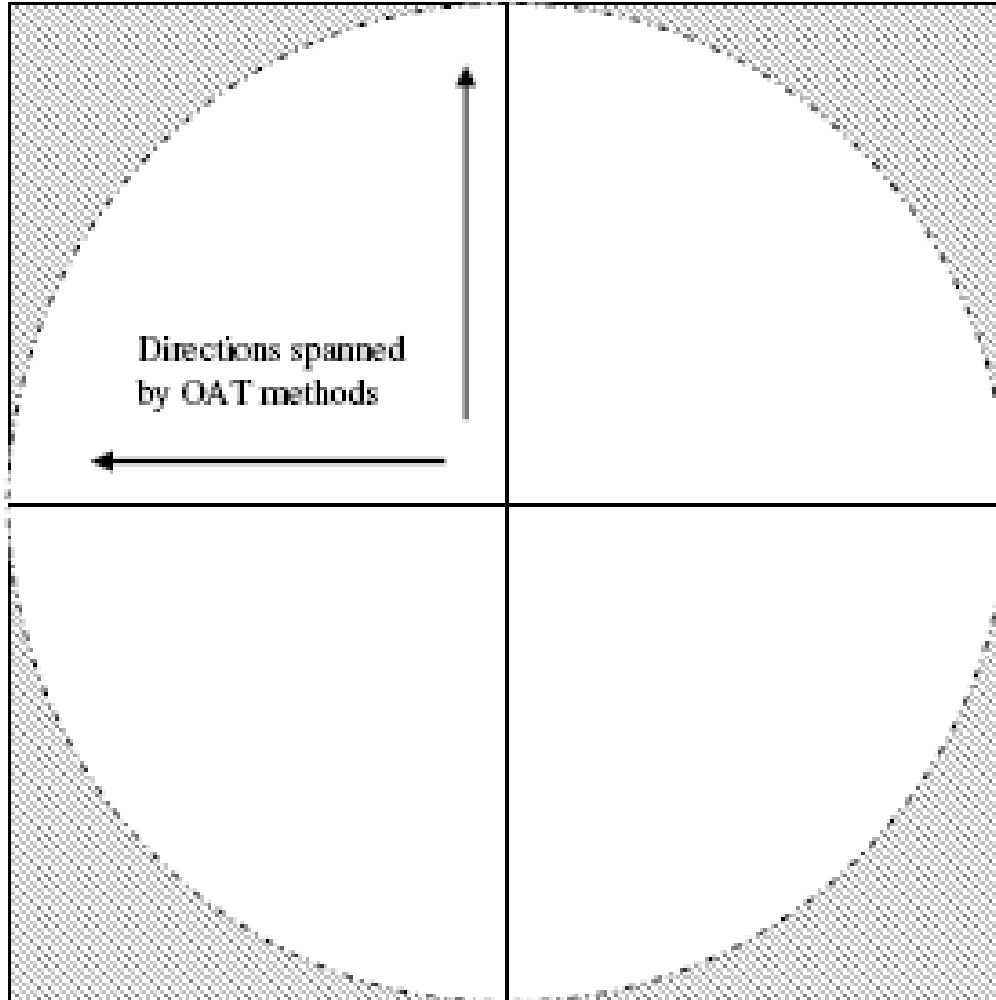
[https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars\\_a004\\_a-4/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a004_a-4/)



Why not just changing one factor  
at a time (OAT)?

Because it is a bad idea!

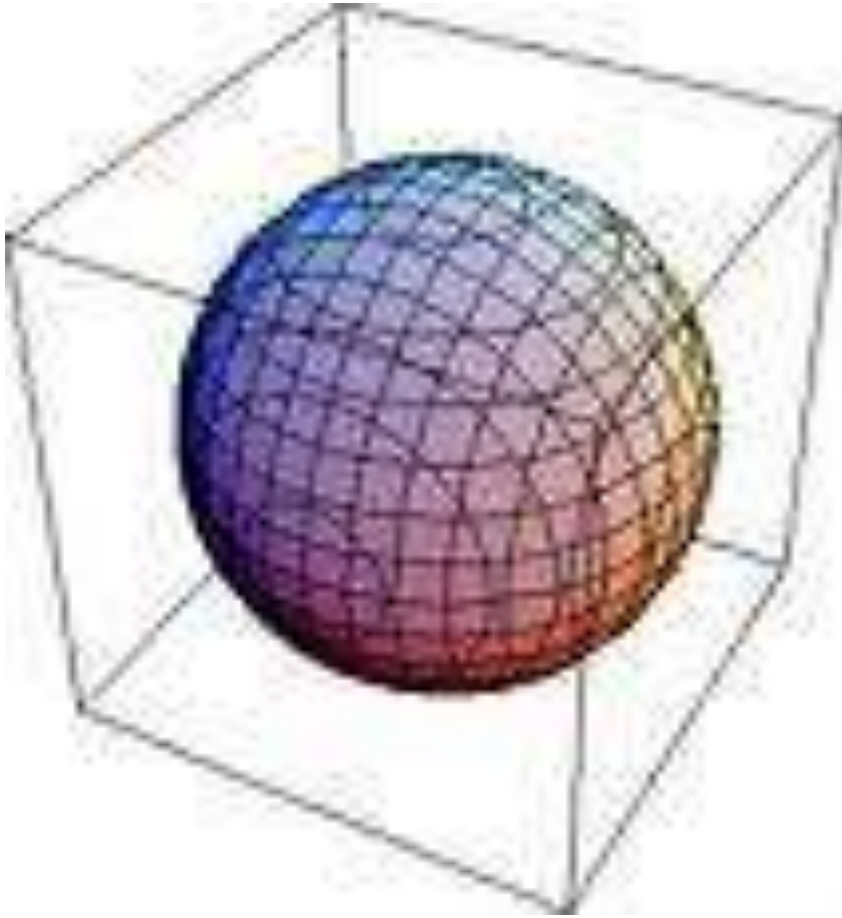
# OAT in 2 dimensions



Area circle / area  
square = ?

$\sim 3/4$

# OAT in 3 dimensions



Volume sphere /  
volume cube =?

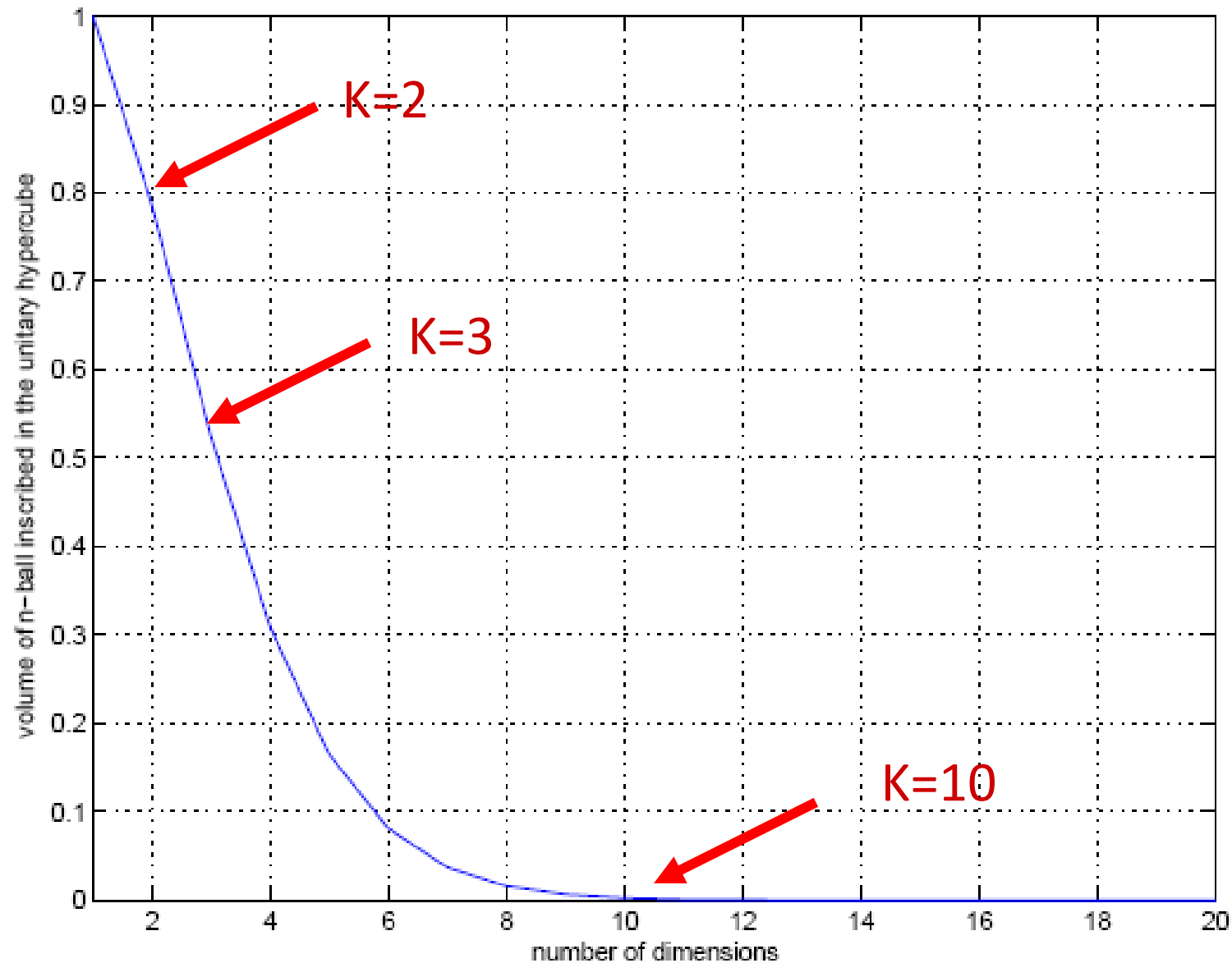
$\sim 1/2$

# OAT in 10 dimensions

Volume hypersphere / volume ten  
dimensional hypercube =? ~ 0.0025



# OAT in $k$ dimensions



Bottom-line: once a sensitivity analysis is done via OAT there is no guarantee that either uncertainty analysis (UA) or sensitivity analysis (SA) is any good:

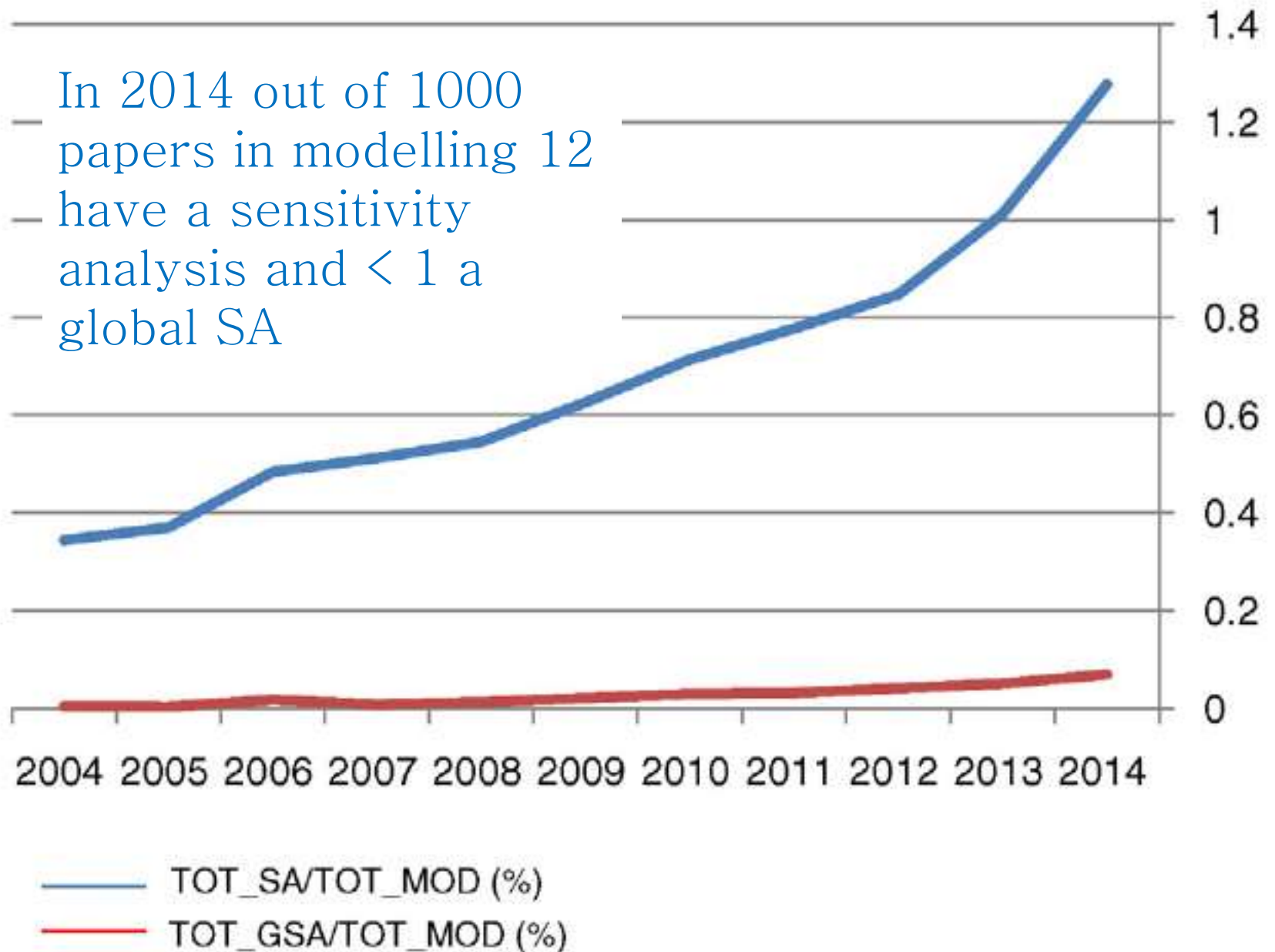
- ➔ UA will be non conservative
- ➔ SA may miss important factors

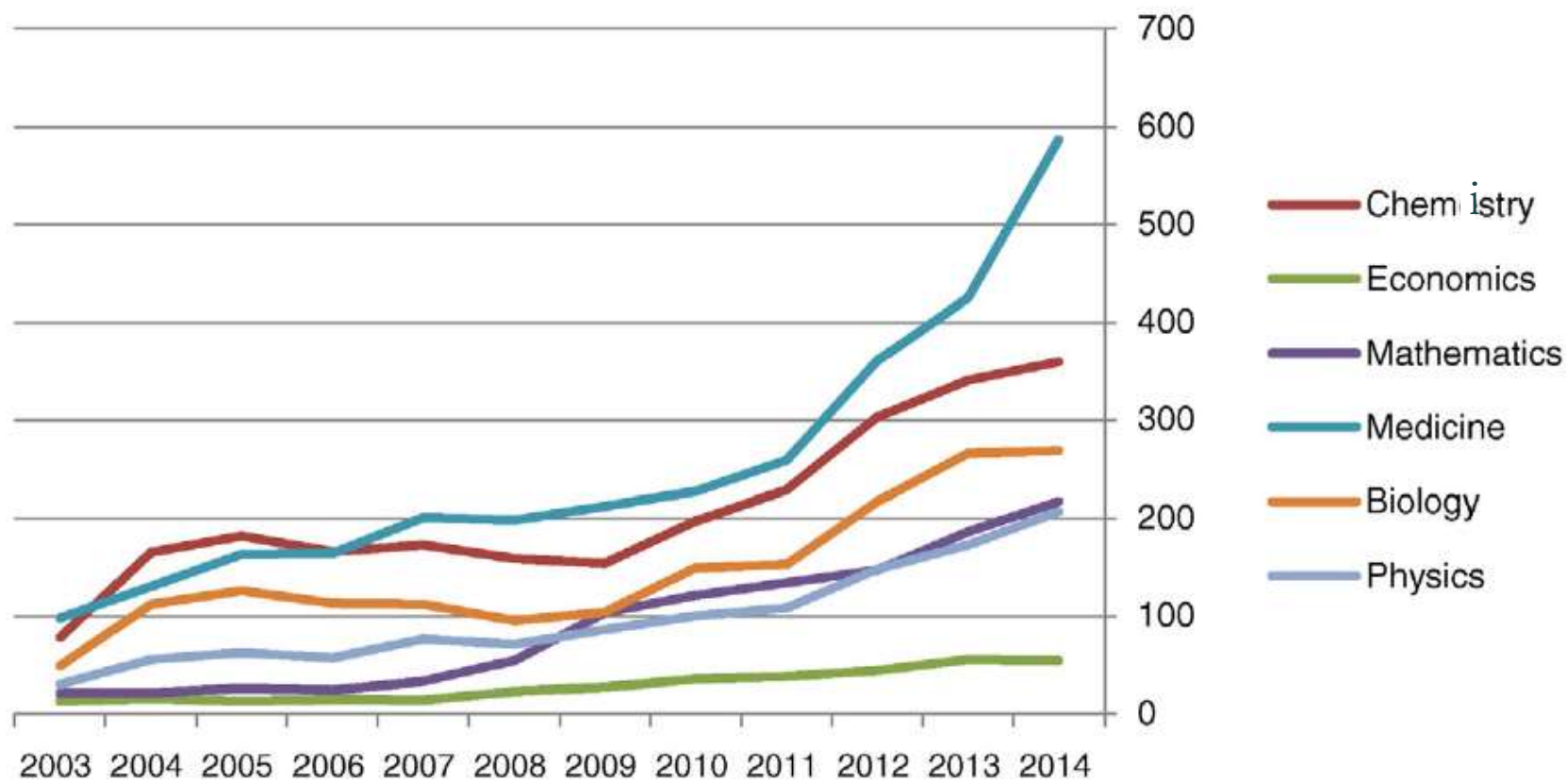
OAT is still the most largely used technique in SA. Out of every 100 papers with modelling & SA only 4 are 'global' in the sense discussed here.

Ferretti, F., Saltelli A., Tarantola, S., 2016, Trends in Sensitivity Analysis practice in the last decade, Science of the Total Environment, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.02.133>



In 2014 out of 1000  
papers in modelling 12  
have a sensitivity  
analysis and < 1 a  
global SA





**Fig. 4.** GSA in the different scientific domains.

## Discussion points (1)



- Is the geometric argument necessary? Anyone experience in design of experiment (DOE)?
- Can OAT be justified in some cases?

## Discussion points (2)



The influence of the key variables should be investigated by a sensitivity analysis.

- Is something wrong about the statement above (p. 384 of EC guidelines)

## Discussion points (3)



- If I keep a parameter fixed I am in error, if I give it a distribution then I struggle to justify it ...

How is sensitivity  
analysis done?

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1k} \\
 x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2k} \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\
 x_{N1} & x_{N2} & \dots & x_{Nk}
 \end{array}$$

Input matrix

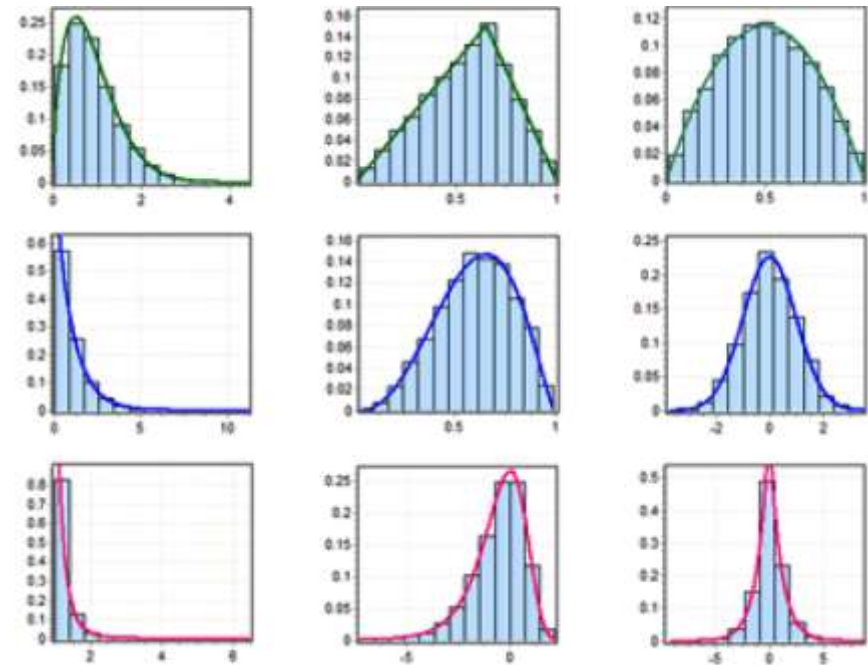
$$\begin{array}{c}
 y_1 \\
 y_2 \\
 \dots \\
 y_N
 \end{array}$$

Output vector:

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1k} \\
 x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2k} \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\
 x_{N1} & x_{N2} & \dots & x_{Nk}
 \end{array}$$

Input matrix:

- Each column is a sample from the distribution of a factor
- Each row is a sample trial to generate a value of  $y$



Examples of distributions of input factors



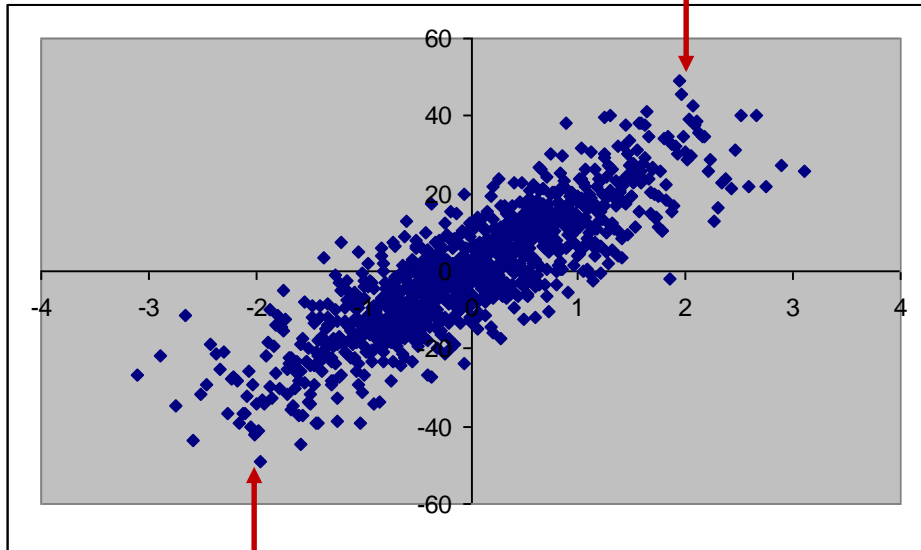
$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1k} & \longrightarrow & y_1 \\
 x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2k} & \longrightarrow & y_2 \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & & \dots \\
 x_{N1} & x_{N2} & \dots & x_{Nk} & \longrightarrow & y_N
 \end{array}$$

Output vector:

- Just one output of interest; but  $y$  could also be a vector (function of time) or a map, etc. ...
- $Y$  can be plotted against any of the  $x_i$

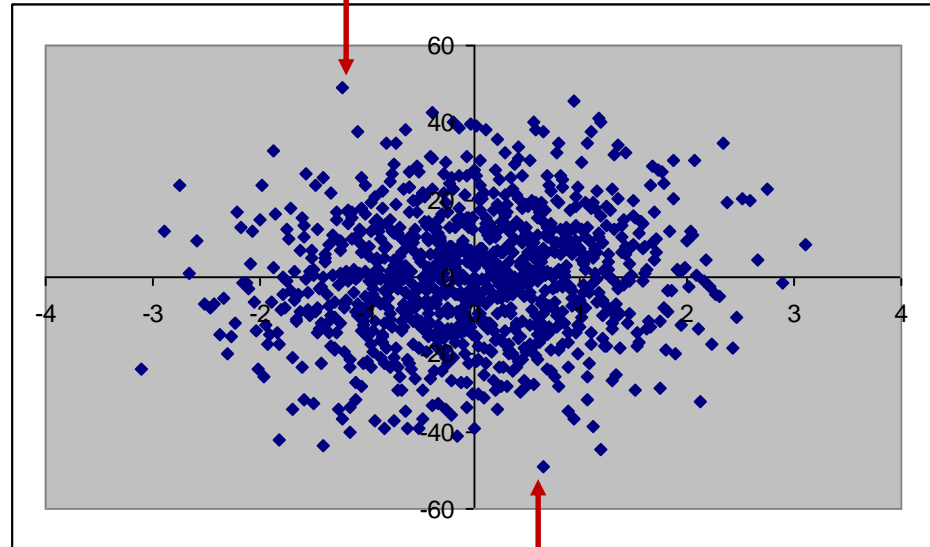
$Y$  plotted against two different factors  $x_i$  and  $x_j$

Output variable



Input variable  $x_i$

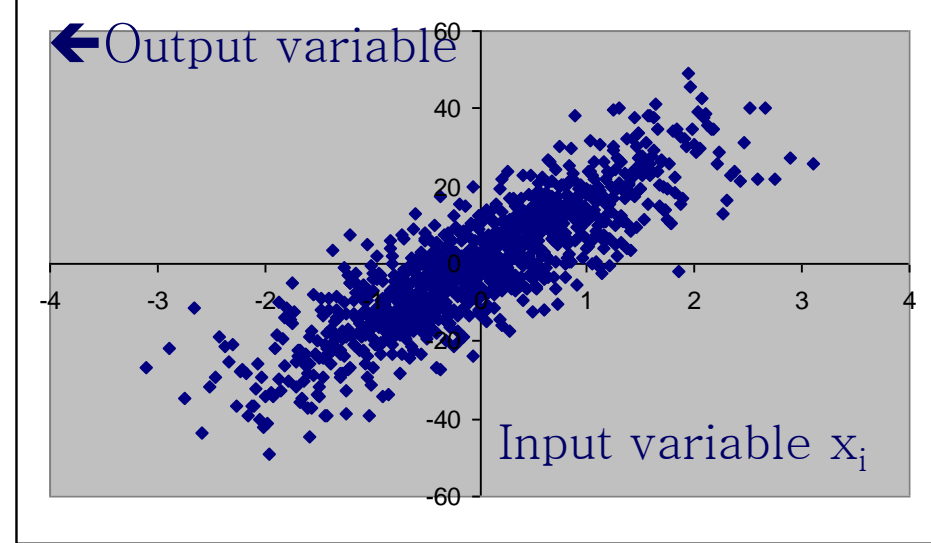
Output variable



Input variable  $x_j$

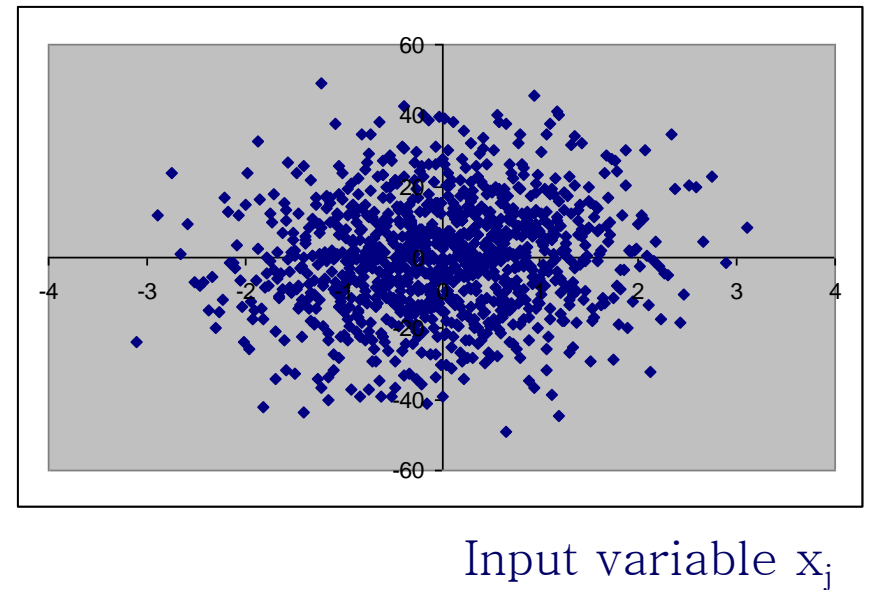
The values of the output on the ordinate are the same

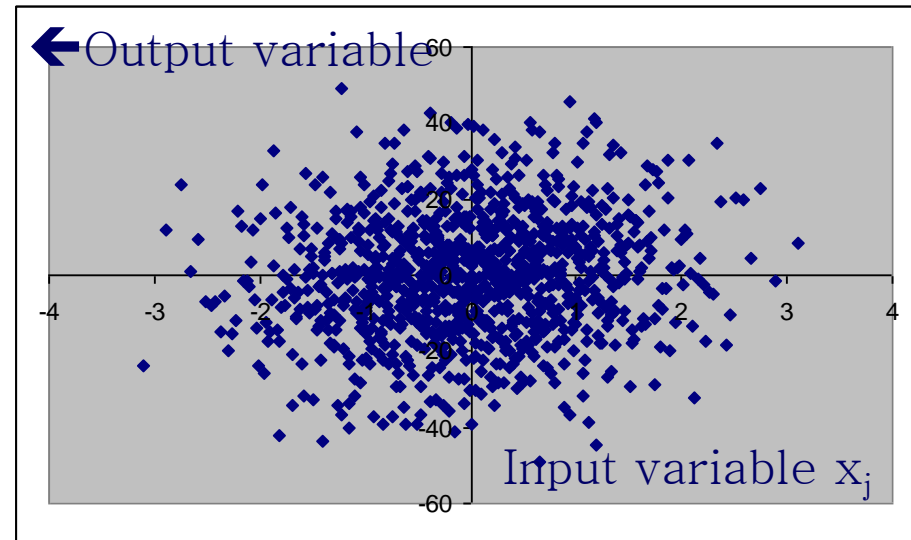
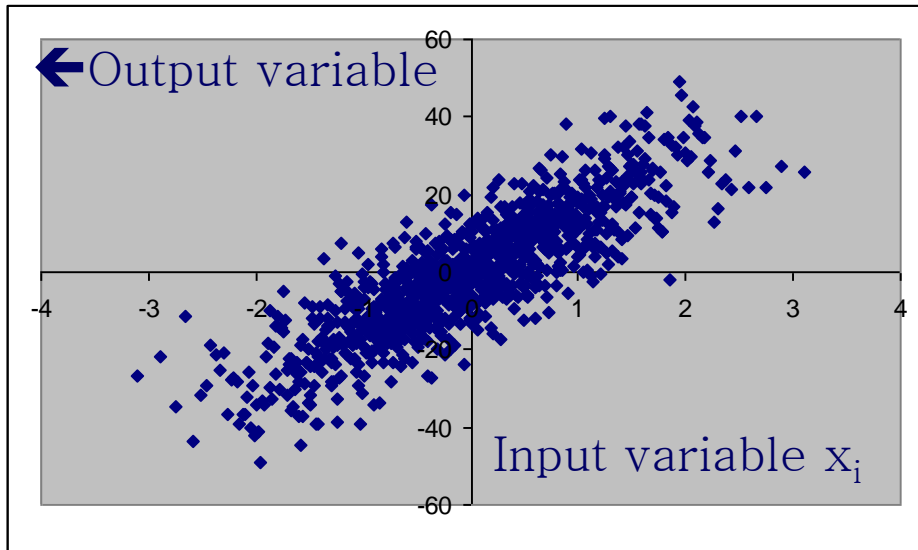
Can I do a  
sensitivity analysis  
just looking at the  
plots?



Output variable →

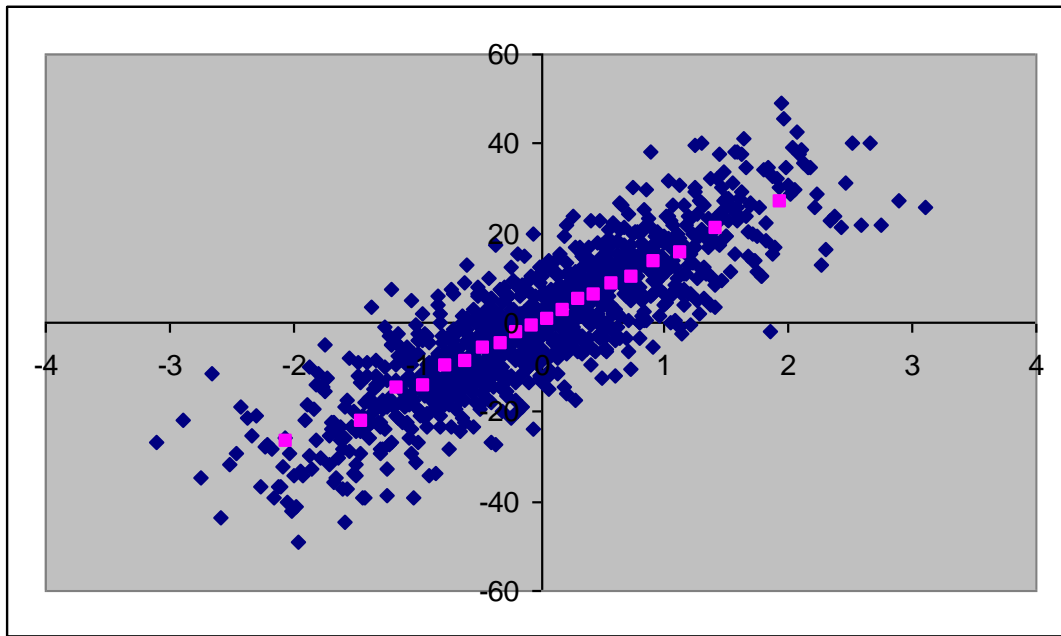
Scatterplots of  $y$  versus  
sorted factors





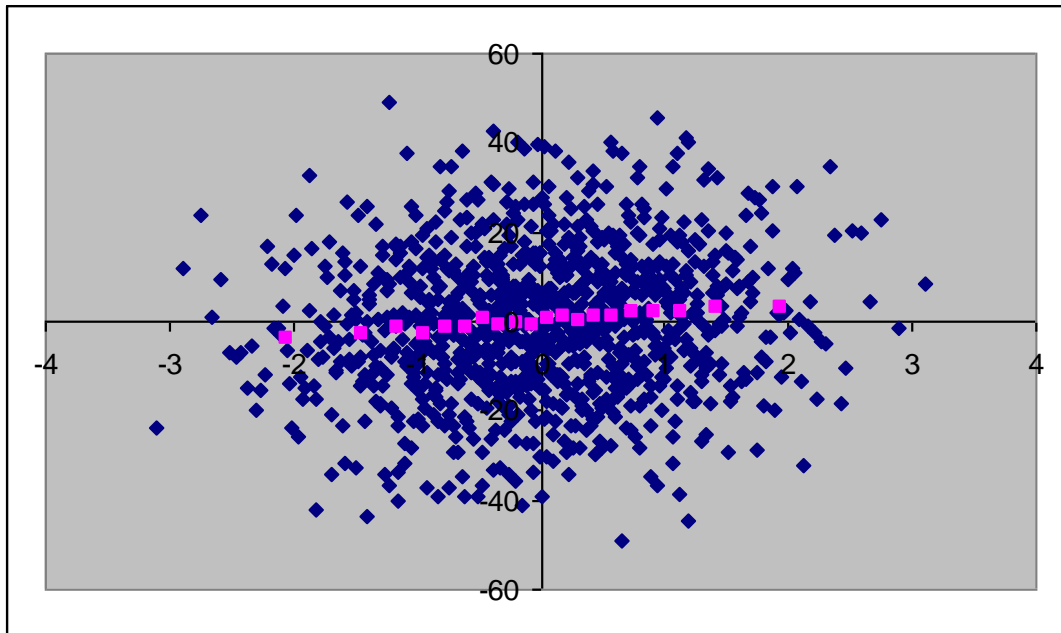
Which factor is more important?

Why?

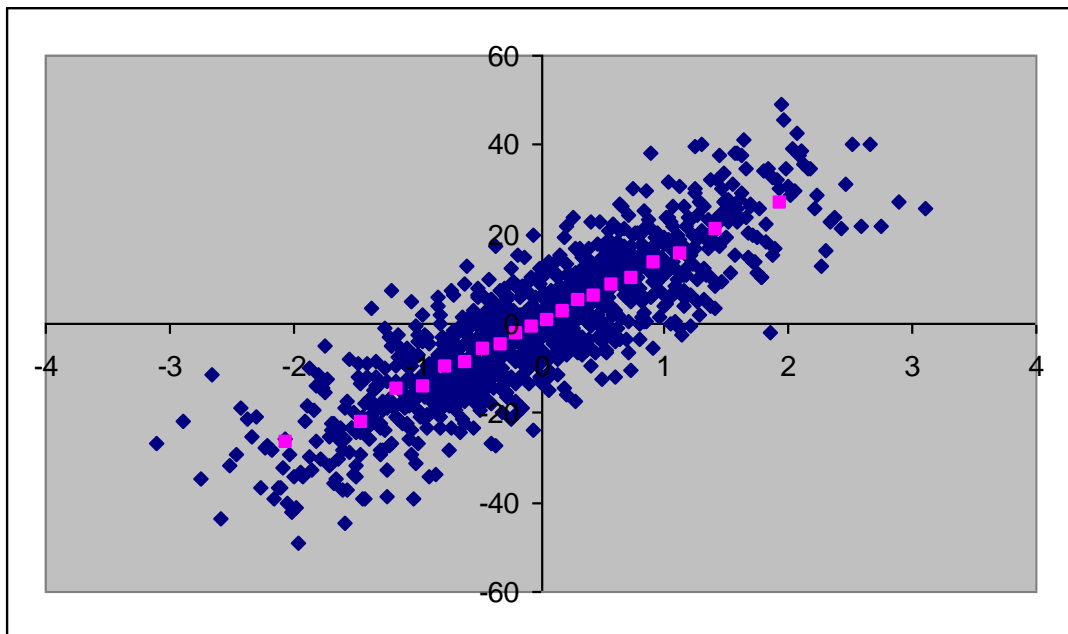


~1,000 blue points

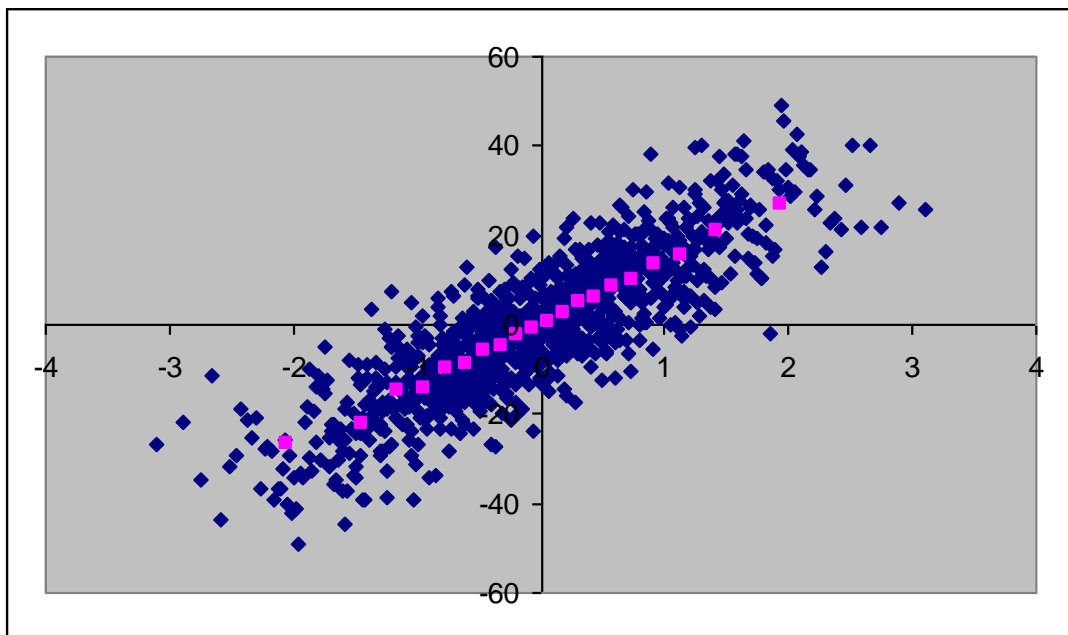
Divide them in 20 bins of ~ 50 points



Compute the bin's average (pink dots)

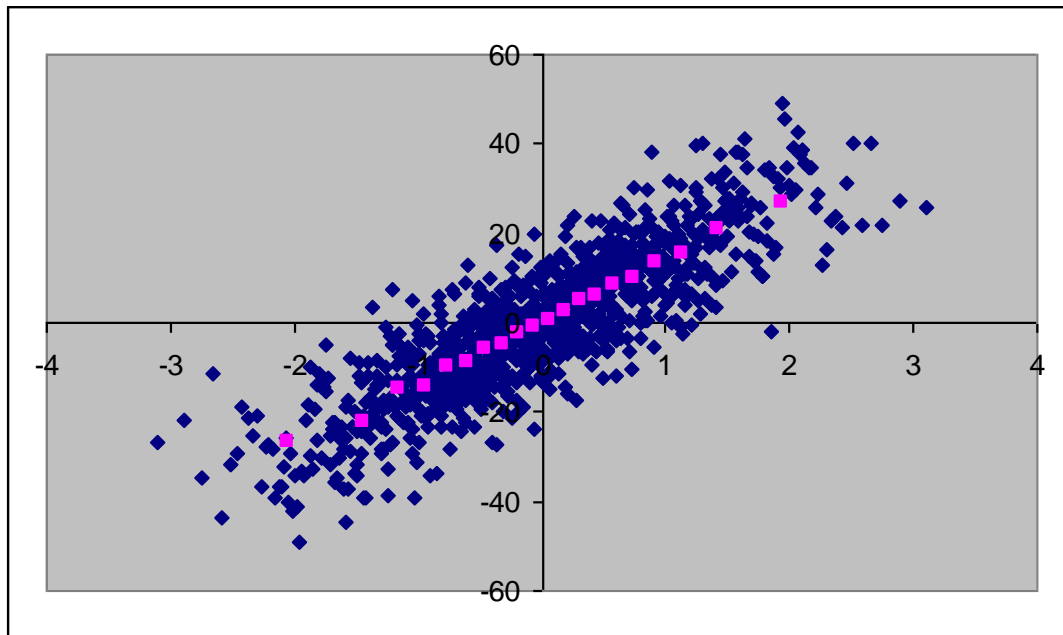


Each pink point is  $\sim E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}}(Y|X_i)$

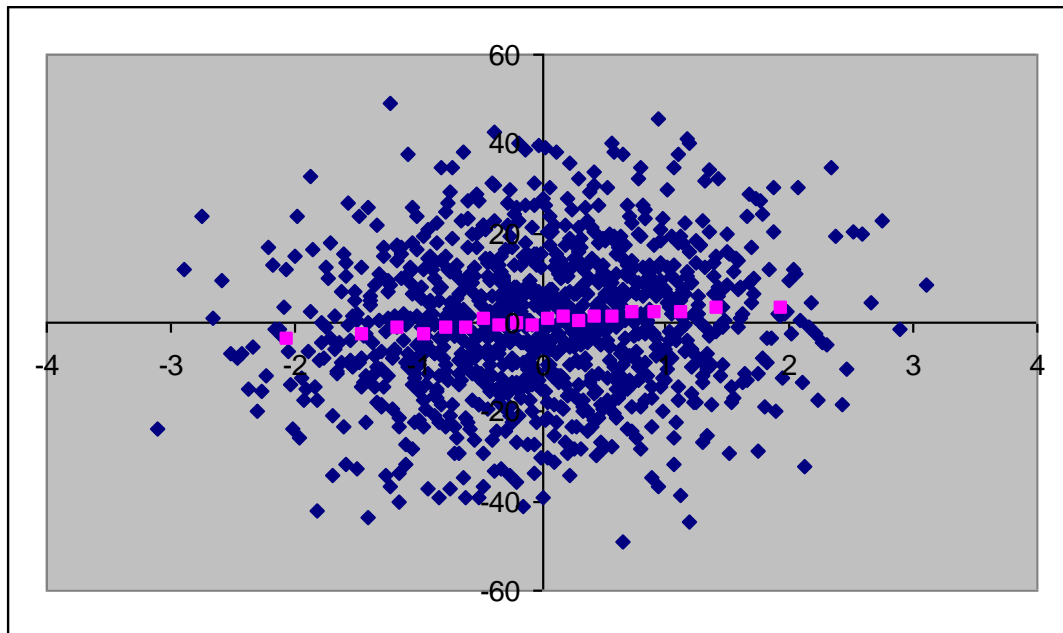


Take the variance of  
the pink points and  
you have a  
sensitivity measure

$$V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right)$$



Which factor  
has the highest  
 $V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right)$  ?





$$S_i \equiv \frac{V\left(E\left(Y|X_i\right)\right)}{V_Y}$$

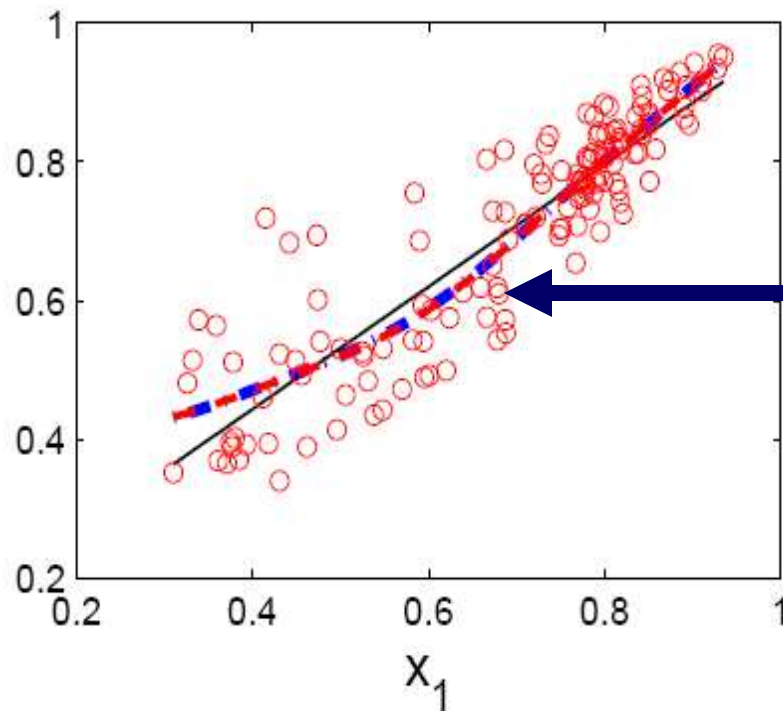
Pearson's correlation  
ratio

Smoothed curve

$$S_i \equiv \eta_i^2 := \frac{V_{x_i} (\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{x}_{\sim i}} (y \mid x_i))}{V(y)}$$

First order sensitivity index

Unconditional  
variance



Smoothed curve

$$\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim i} (y \mid x_i)$$

First order sensitivity  
index:

$$\frac{V_{x_i} (\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim i} (y \mid x_i))}{V(y)}$$

$$V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right)$$

First order effect, or top marginal variance=

= the expected reduction in variance that would be achieved if factor  $X_i$  could be fixed.

Why?

Because:

$$V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right) + \\ + E_{X_i} \left( V_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right) = V(Y)$$

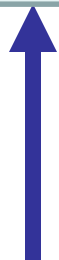
Easy to prove using  $V(Y) = E(Y^2) - E^2(Y)$

Because:

$$V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right) +$$

$+ E_{X_i} \left( V_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right)$

$$= V(Y)$$



This is what variance would be left (on average) if  $X_i$  could be fixed...

... then this ...



$$\boxed{V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right)} + \\ + E_{X_i} \left( V_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right) = V(Y)$$

... must be the expected reduction  
in variance that would be achieved  
if factor  $X_i$  could be fixed

For additive models one can decompose the total variance as a sum of first order effects

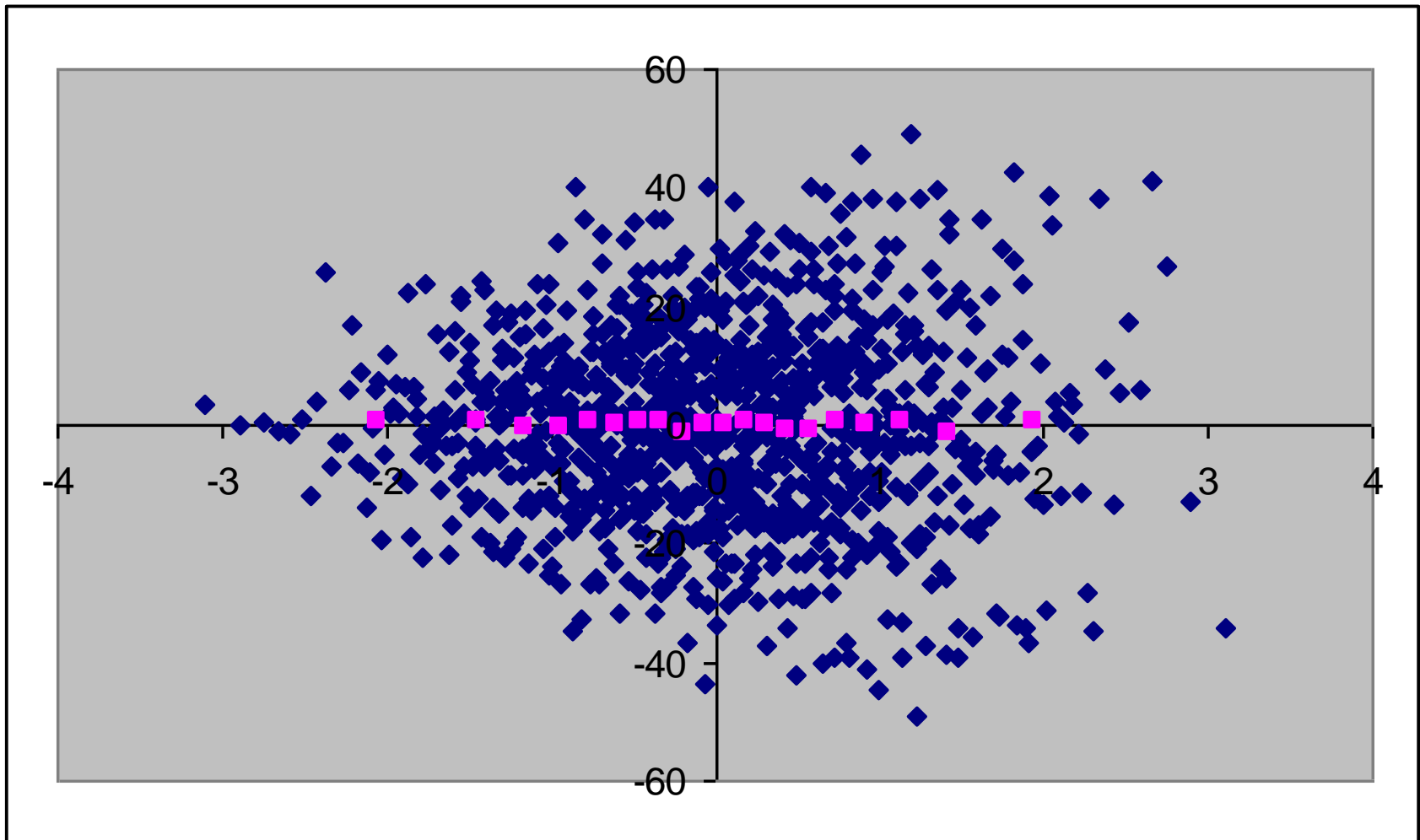
$$\sum_i V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right) \approx V(Y)$$

... which is also how additive models are defined

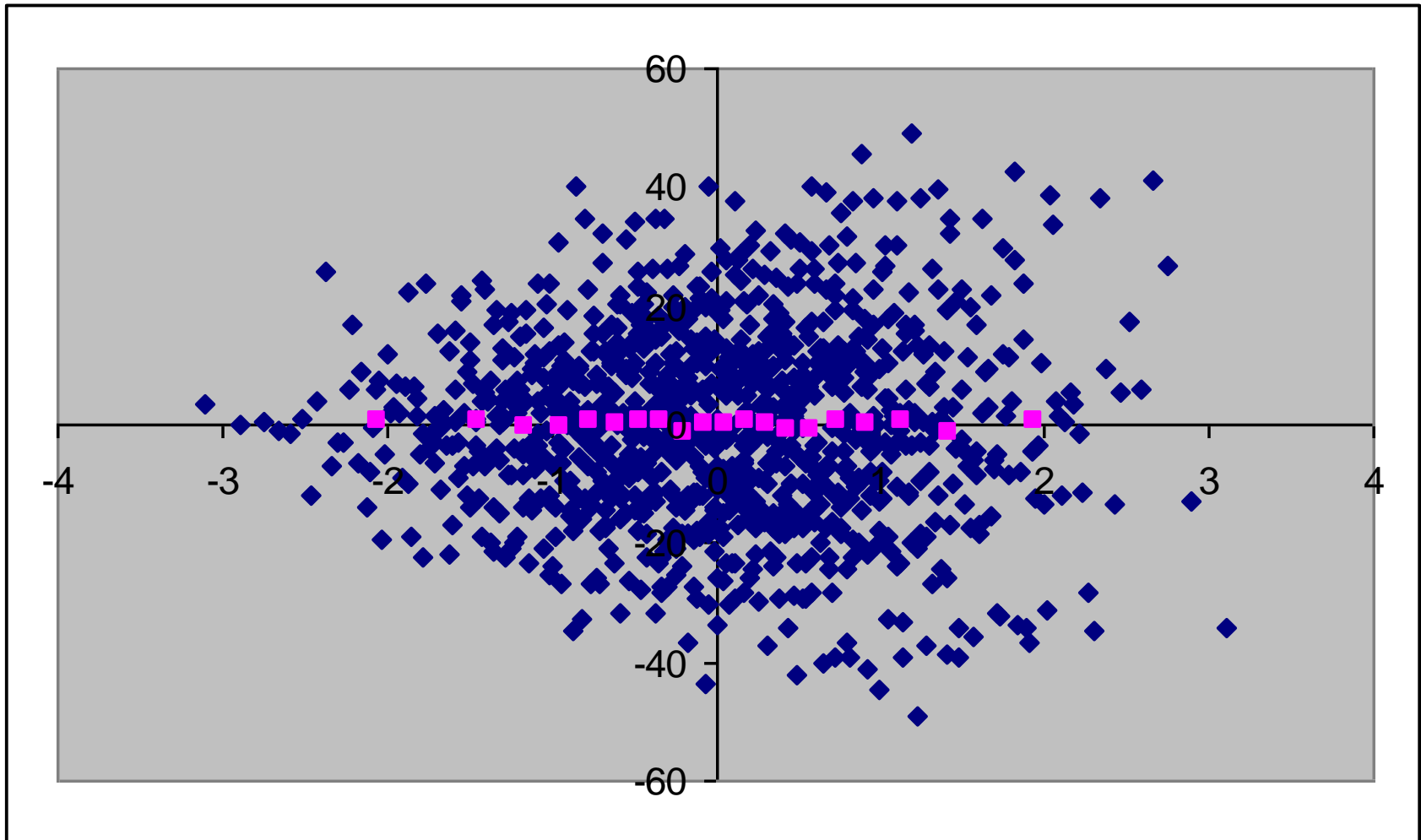


Non additive models

Is  $S_i = 0$ ?



Is this factor non-important?



There are terms which capture two-way, three way,  $\cdots$  interactions among variables.

All these terms are linked by a formula

# Variance decomposition (ANOVA)

$$V(Y) =$$

$$\sum_i V_i + \sum_{i,j>i} V_{ij} + \dots + V_{123\dots k}$$

# Variance decomposition (ANOVA)

$$V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right) = V_i$$

$$V_{X_i X_j} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim ij}} (Y | X_i X_j) \right) =$$

$$= V_i + V_j + V_{ij}$$

...

# Variance decomposition (ANOVA)

When the factors are independent the total variance can be decomposed into main effects and interaction effects up to the order  $k$ , the dimensionality of the problem.

# Variance decomposition (ANOVA)

When the factors are not  
independent the  
decomposition loses its  
unicity (and hence its appeal)



If fact interactions terms are  
awkward to handle: second order  
terms are as many as  $k(k-1)/2 \dots$

Wouldn't it be handy to have just a single 'importance' terms for all effects, inclusive of first order and interactions?

In fact such terms exist and can be computed easily, without knowledge of the individual interaction terms

Thus given a model  $Y=f(X_1,X_2,X_3)$

Instead of

$$\begin{aligned} V = & V_1 + V_2 + V_3 + \\ & + V_{12} + V_{13} + V_{23} + \\ & + V_{123} \end{aligned}$$

Or – divided by  $V$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 = & S_1 + S_2 + S_3 + \\ & + S_{12} + S_{13} + S_{23} + \\ & + S_{123} \end{aligned}$$

We have:

$$S_{T1} = S_1 + S_{12} + S_{13} + S_{123}$$

(and analogue formulae for  $S_{T2}$ ,  $S_{T3}$ )  
which can be computed without  
knowing  $S_1$ ,  $S_{12}$ ,  $S_{13}$ ,  $S_{123}$

$S_{T1}$  is called a total effect  
sensitivity index

$$E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} \left( V_{X_i} \left( Y | \mathbf{X}_{\sim i} \right) \right)$$

Total effect, or bottom marginal variance=

= the expected variance that would be left if all factors but  $X_i$  could be fixed.

$$S_{Ti} \equiv \frac{E\left(V\left(Y|\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}\right)\right)}{V_Y}$$

What is the shortcoming  
of  $S_{Ti}$ ?





$$\frac{V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right)}{V(Y)} = S_i$$

$$\frac{E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} \left( V_{X_i} (Y | \mathbf{X}_{\sim i}) \right)}{V(Y)} = S_{Ti}$$

Scaled to  $[0,1]$ ; first order and total order  
sensitivity coefficient

## Why these measures?

$V_{X_i} \left( E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} (Y | X_i) \right)$  Factors  
prioritization

$E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} \left( V_{X_i} (Y | \mathbf{X}_{\sim i}) \right)$  Fixing (dropping)  
non important  
factors

Saltelli A. Tarantola S., 2002, On the relative importance of input factors in mathematical models: safety assessment for nuclear waste disposal, *Journal of American Statistical Association*, **97** (459), 02–709.

## More about the settings:

• Factor prioritisation  $\rightarrow S_i \equiv \frac{V(E(Y|X_i))}{V_Y}$

If the cost of ‘discovering’ factors were the same for all factors which factor should I try to discover first?

•Factor fixing: Can I fix a factor [or a subset of input factors] at any given value over their range of uncertainty without reducing significantly the output?

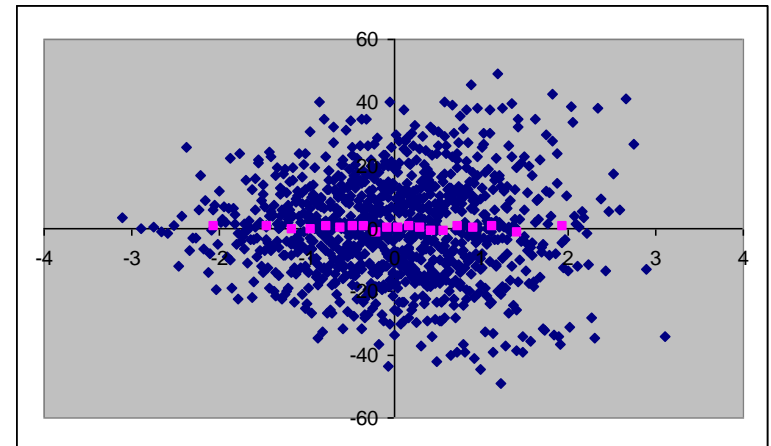
$$S_{Ti} \equiv \frac{E(V(Y|\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}))}{V_Y}$$

Factor fixing is useful to achieve model simplification and ‘relevance’.

Can we use  $S_i$  to fix a factor?



If  $S_i = 0$  is  $X_i$  a non-influential factor?



We cannot use  $S_i$  to fix a factor;  
 $S_i = 0$  is a necessary condition for  
 $X_i$  to be non-influential but not a  
sufficient one

$X_i$  could be influent at the second  
order

Can we use  $S_{T_i}$  to fix a factor?



If  $S_{T_i} = 0$  is  $X_i$  a non-influential factor?



$$E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}} \left( V_{X_i} \left( Y | \mathbf{X}_{\sim i} \right) \right)$$

For a mean of non-negative entries to be zero all entries must be zero

Variance is always a positive number

If  $S_{T_i} = 0 \rightarrow X_i$  is non influent as there is no point in the hyperspace of the input where  $x_i$  has an effect;  $S_{T_i} = 0$  necessary and sufficient condition for non-influence

# Monte Carlo estimation

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1i} & \dots & a_{1k} \\ a_{21} & \dots & a_{2i} & \dots & a_{2k} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{N1} & \dots & a_{Ni} & \dots & a_{Nk} \end{bmatrix}$$

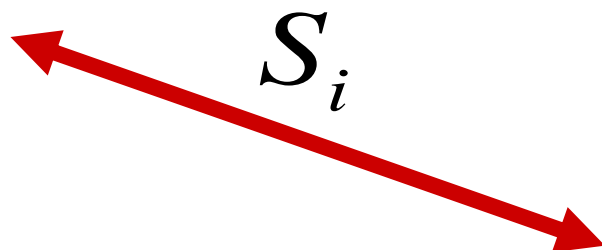
$$B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & \dots & b_{1i} & \dots & b_{1k} \\ b_{21} & \dots & b_{2i} & \dots & b_{2k} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ b_{N1} & \dots & b_{Ni} & \dots & b_{Nk} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1i} & \cdots & a_{1k} \\ a_{21} & \cdots & a_{2i} & \cdots & a_{2k} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ a_{N1} & \cdots & a_{Ni} & \cdots & a_{Nk} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & \cdots & b_{1i} & \cdots & b_{1k} \\ b_{21} & \cdots & b_{2i} & \cdots & b_{2k} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ b_{N1} & \cdots & b_{Ni} & \cdots & b_{Nk} \end{bmatrix}$$

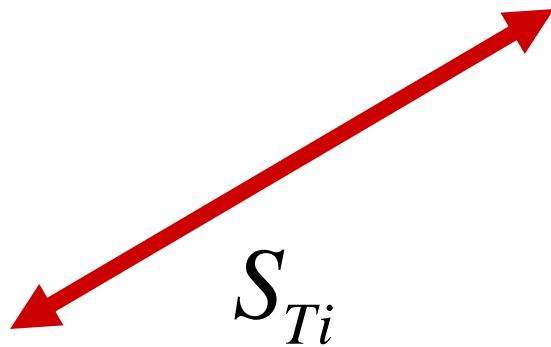
$$B_i = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & \cdots & a_{1i} & \cdots & b_{1k} \\ b_{21} & \cdots & a_{2i} & \cdots & b_{2k} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ b_{N1} & \cdots & a_{Ni} & \cdots & b_{Nk} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1i} & \dots & a_{1k} \\ a_{21} & \dots & a_{2i} & \dots & a_{2k} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{N1} & \dots & a_{Ni} & \dots & a_{Nk} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$B_i = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & \dots & a_{1i} & \dots & b_{1k} \\ b_{21} & \dots & a_{2i} & \dots & b_{2k} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ b_{N1} & \dots & a_{Ni} & \dots & b_{Nk} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & \dots & b_{1i} & \dots & b_{1k} \\ b_{21} & \dots & b_{2i} & \dots & b_{2k} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ b_{N1} & \dots & b_{Ni} & \dots & b_{Nk} \end{bmatrix}$$



In plain English:

To estimate  $S_i$  you keep one factor fixed

To estimate  $S_{T_i}$  you move only factor

The estimate of  $S_{T_i}$  resembles OAT, only it is an iterated OAT

## Summary for variance based measures:

Easy-to-code, Monte Carlo – better on quasi-random points.

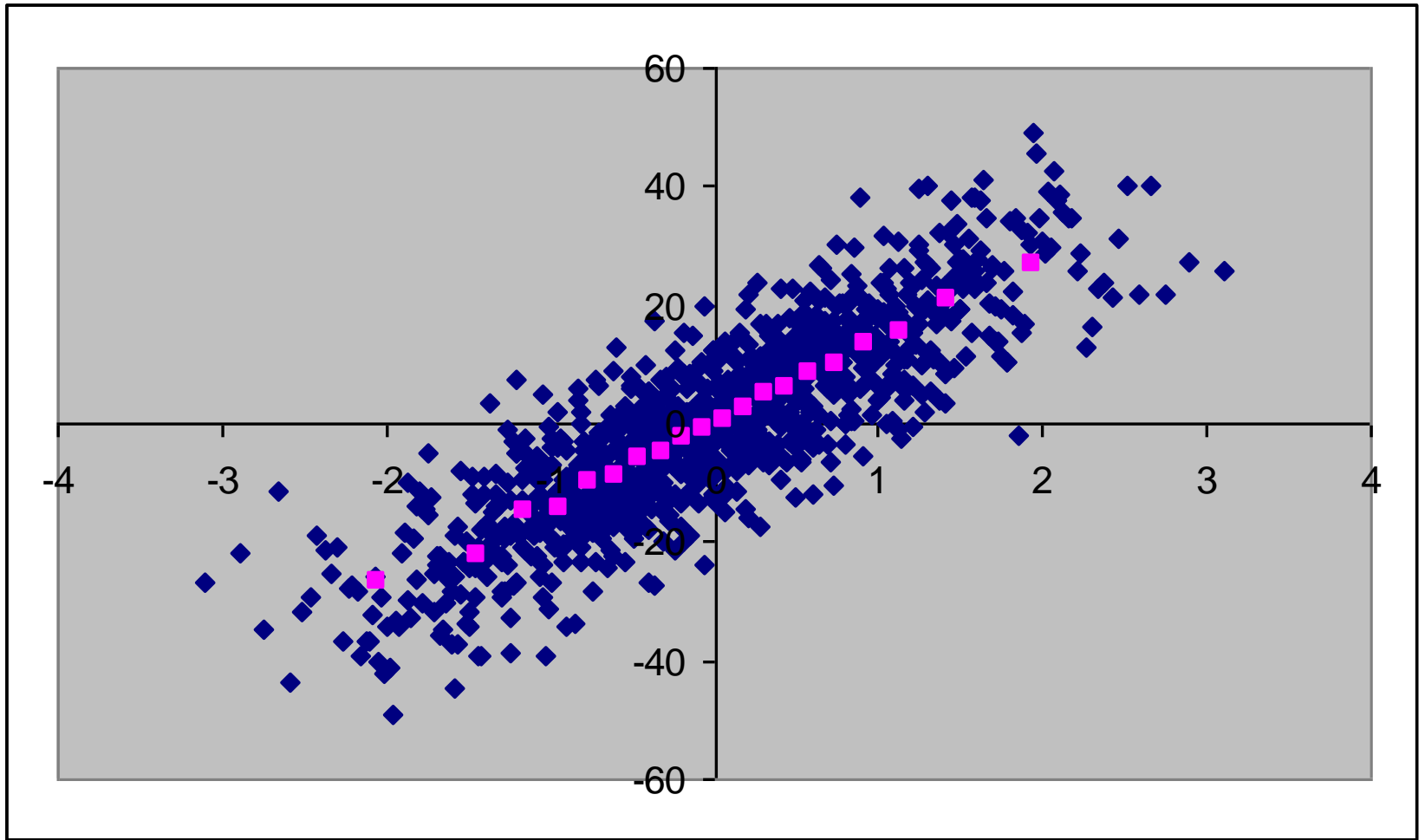
Estimate of the error available (Monte Carlo probable error or boot strap)

## Summary for variance based measures:

The main effect can be made cheap;  
its computational cost does not depend  
upon  $k$ .

Can treat variables in sets  
(total effect of a set + main effect of  
complementary set = 1)





Easy to smooth and interpolate!

## Summary for variance based measures:

The total effect is more expensive;  
its computational cost is  $(k+1)N$   
where  $N$  is one of the order of one  
thousand (unless e.g. using  
emulators ...).

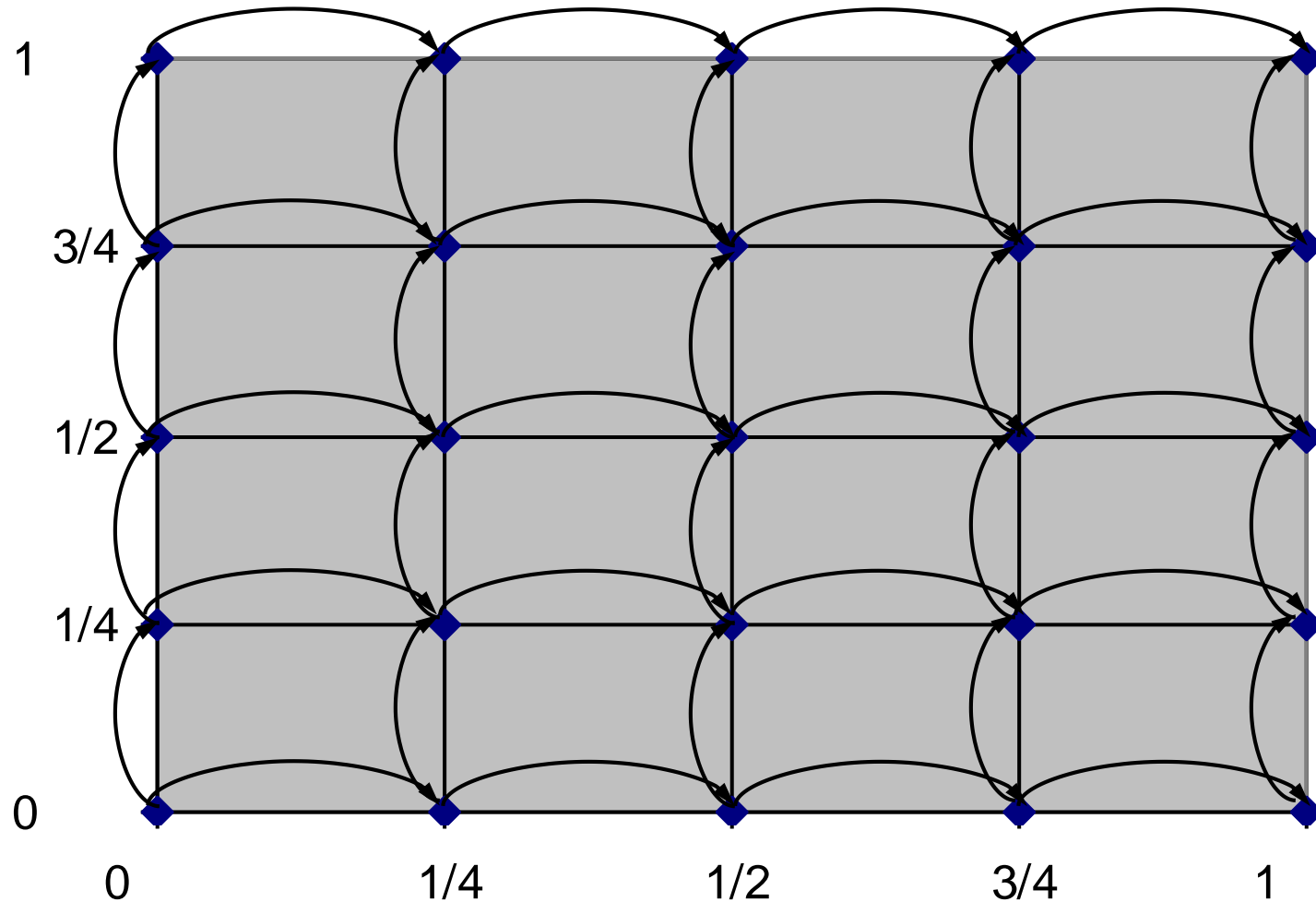
How about other methods?

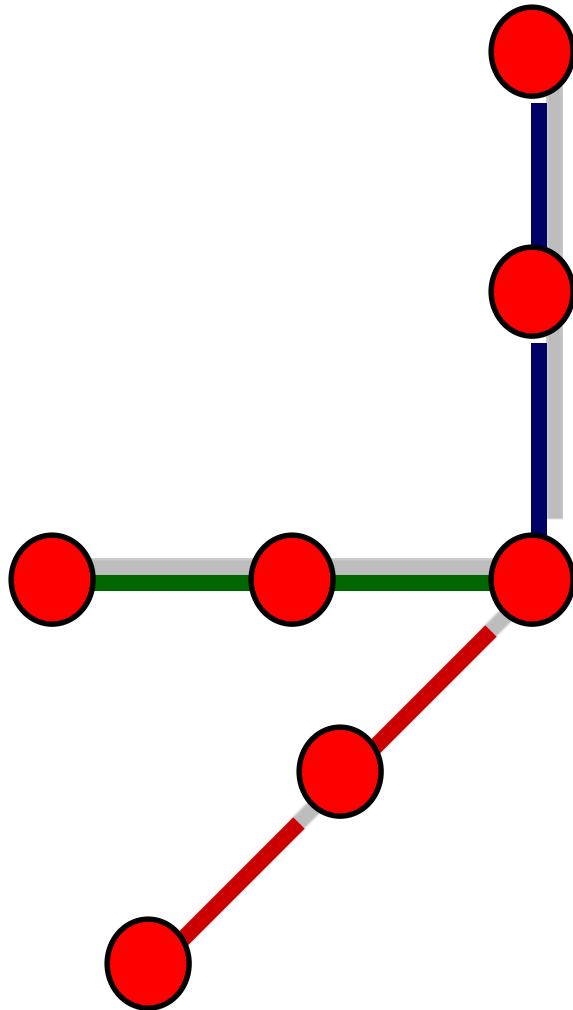
## The method of Morris

Morris, M. (1991), Factorial sampling plans for preliminary computational experiments, *Technometrics*, 33(2), 161–174.

Campolongo F, Saltelli A, Cariboni, J, 2010, From screening to quantitative sensitivity analysis. A unified approach, Submitted to *Computer Physics Communication*.

# Example: Two dimensional grid for Elementary effects test



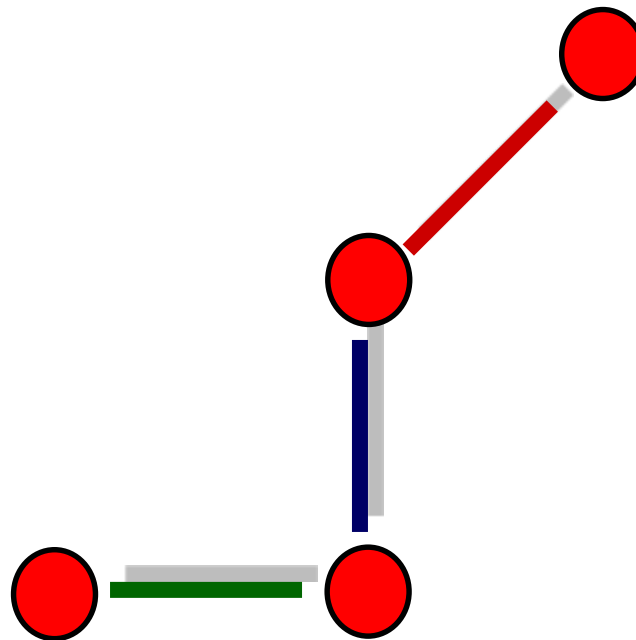
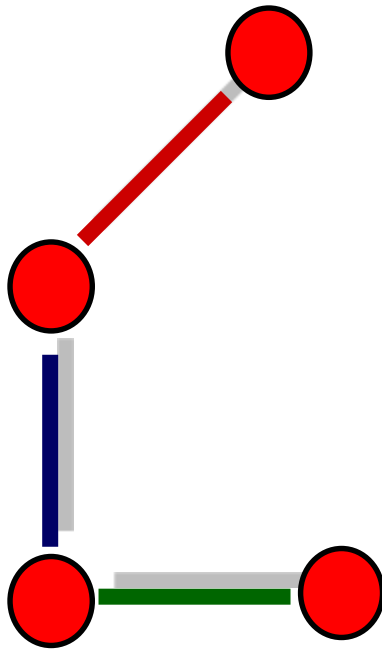


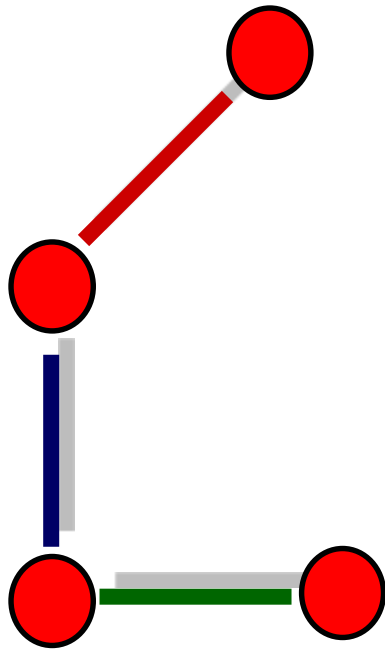
In 3 dimensions,  
OAT, 7 points

This is what is done

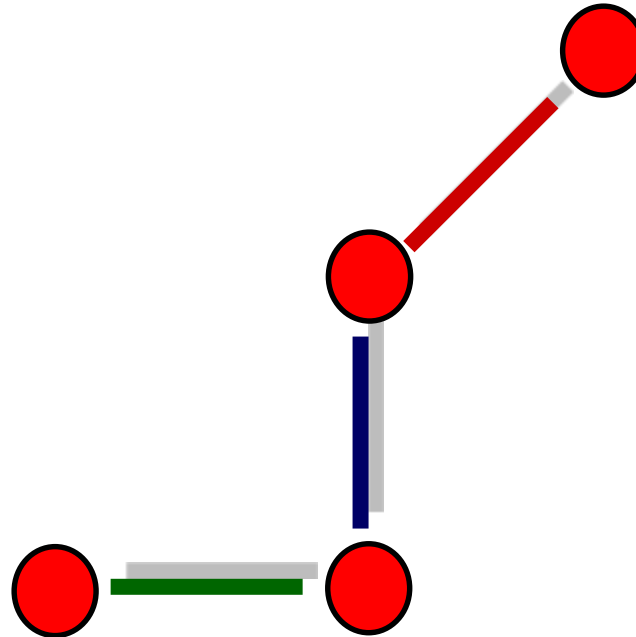
In 3 dimension, 8 screening  
points in a trajectory  
arrangement

This is what could be done





This is a screening method (Morris,  
or method of the elementary  
effects)

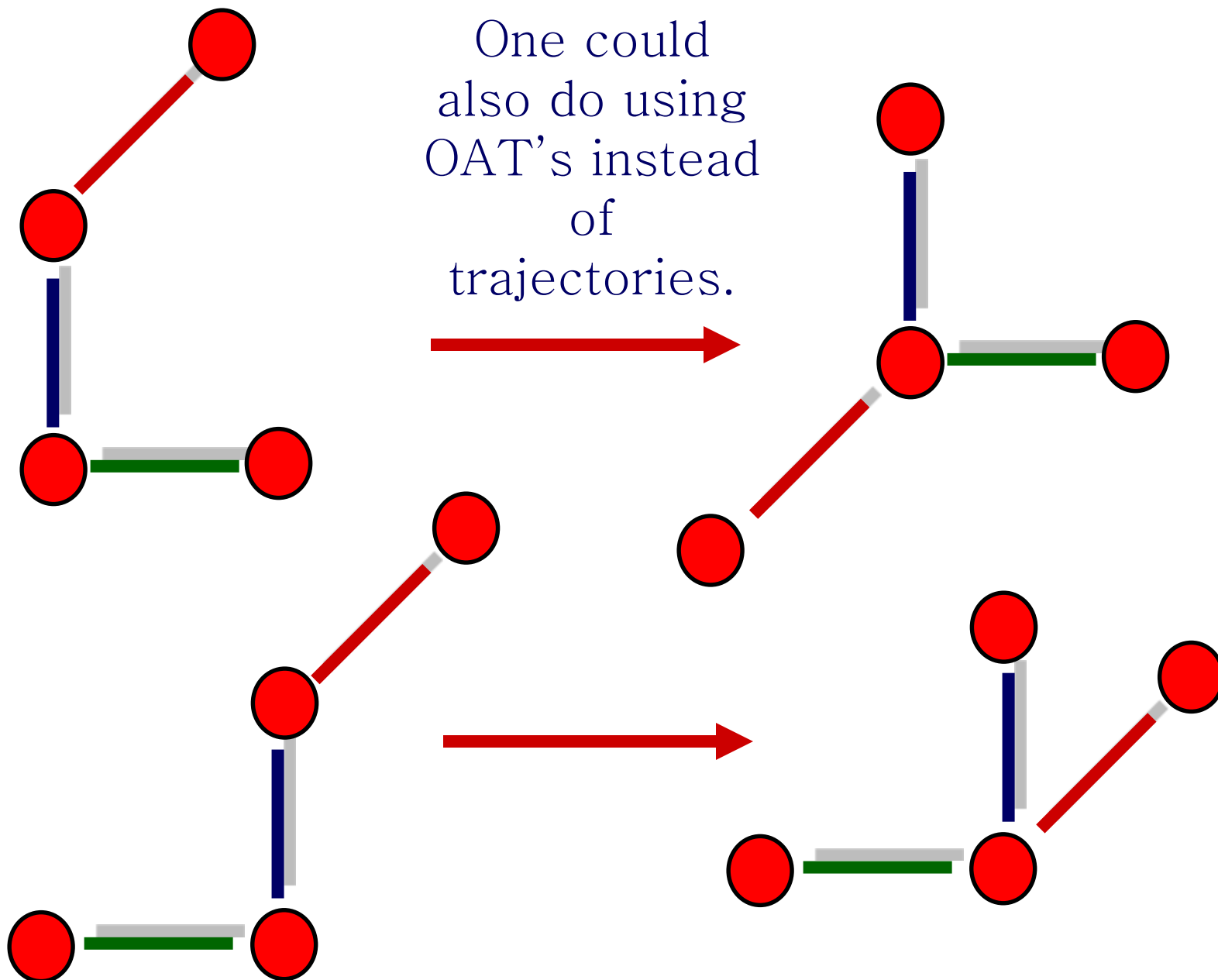


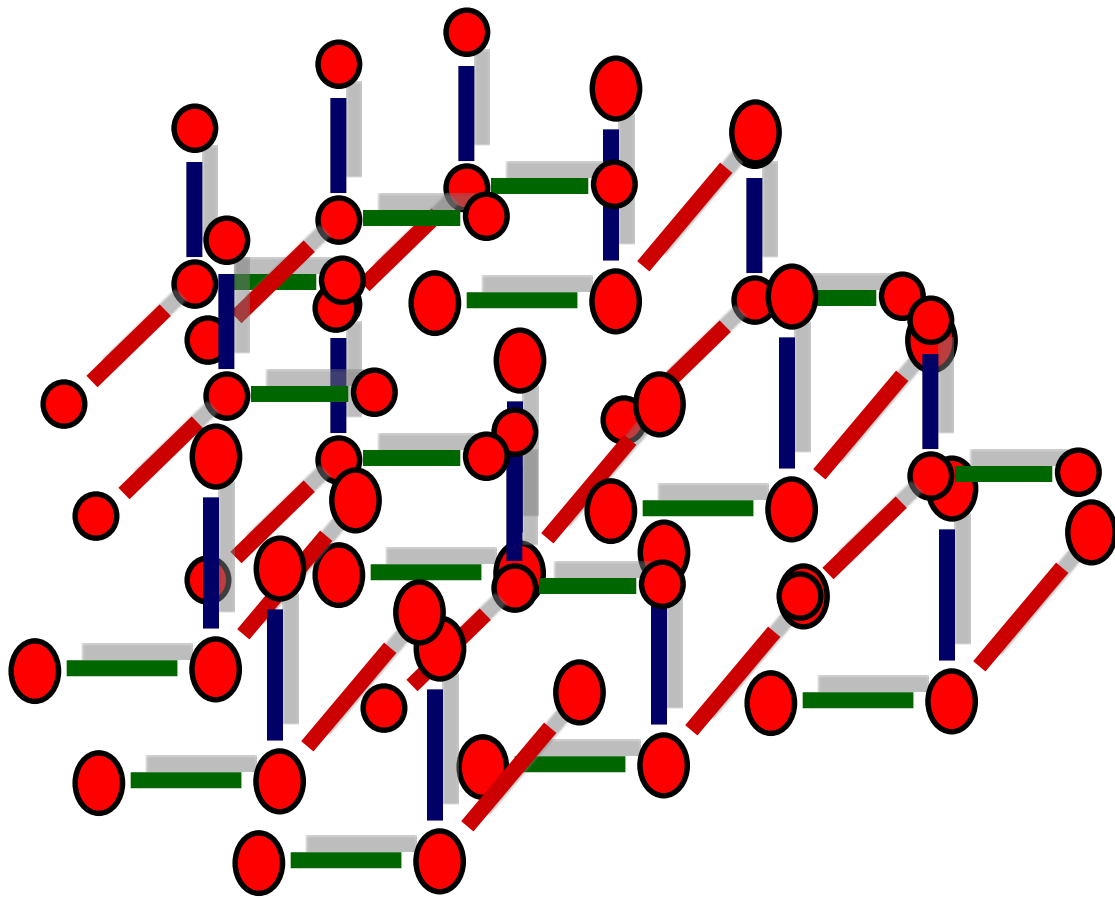
See: Morris, M. (1991), Factorial sampling plans for preliminary computational experiments. *Technometrics*, 33(2), 161–174.

Campolongo, F., Cariboni, J., and Saltelli, A., 2007, An effective screening design for sensitivity analysis of large models, *Environmental Modelling and Software*, 22, 1509–1518.



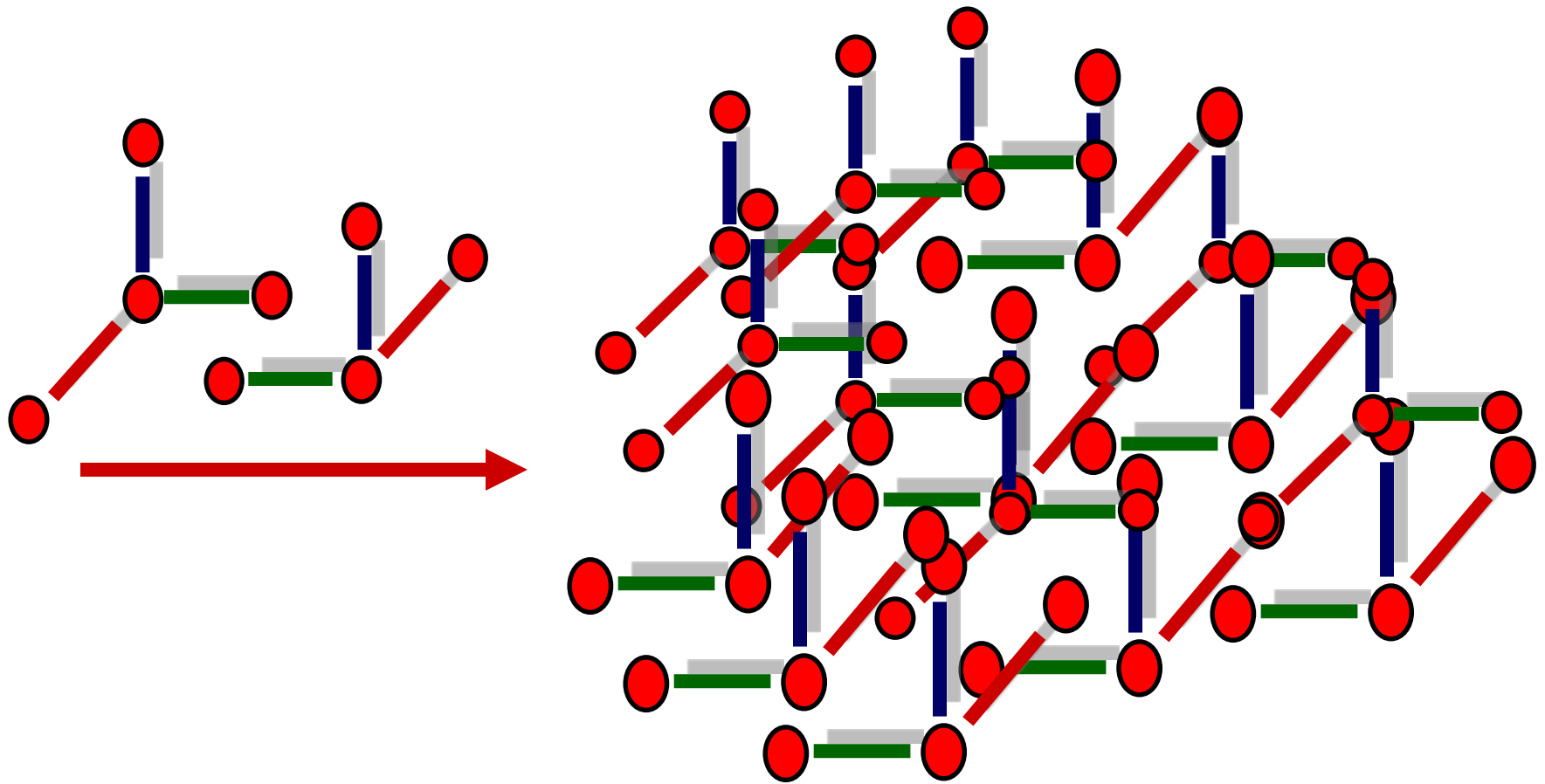
One could  
also do using  
OAT's instead  
of  
trajectories.





Increasing the  
number of OAT's  
the test becomes  
quantitative...

...because this  
design is the same  
used for the total  
sensitivity index ST  
(see next!)



Thus one can start EE-wise (few points) and continue variance-based, without discarding points, by just changing the estimator (from that for EE to that for ST)

Other methods: Monte  
Carlo filtering

# When to use Monte Carlo Filtering?

When we are interested not in the precise value of the output  $y$  but on whether or not this value is 'permitted' or forbidden

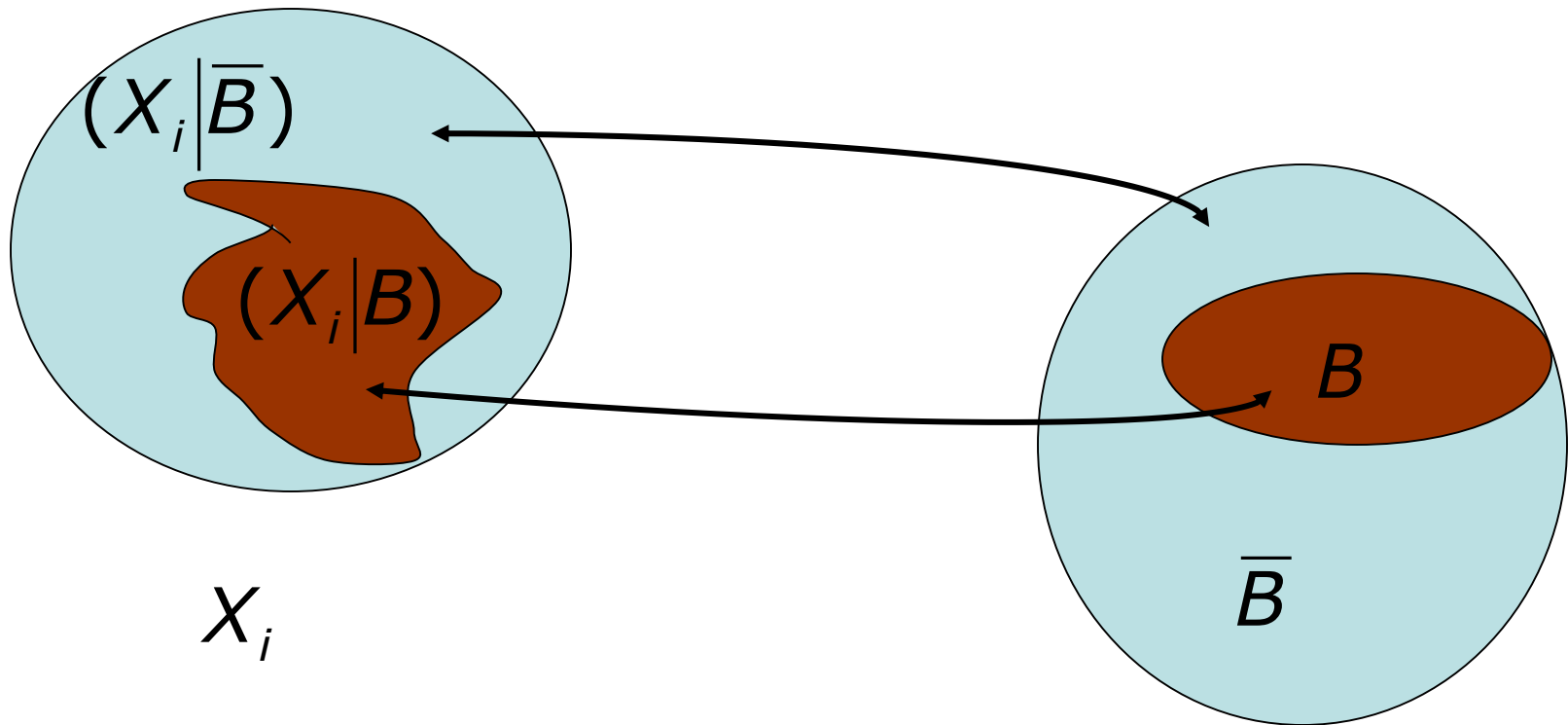
$x_{11}$	$x_{12}$	...	$x_{1k}$	NOT OK	$y_1$	NOT OK
$x_{21}$	$x_{22}$	...	$x_{2k}$	OK	$y_2$	OK
...	...	...	...		...	
$x_{N1}$	$x_{N2}$	...	$x_{Nk}$	NOT OK	$y_N$	NOT OK

Partitioning  $y$  impose a partitioning on each of the  $x_i$ 's

NOT OK	$x_{11}$	$x_{12}$	$\dots$	$x_{1k}$
OK	$x_{21}$	$x_{22}$	$\dots$	$x_{2k}$
	$\dots$	$\dots$	$\dots$	$\dots$
NOT OK	$x_{N1}$	$x_{N2}$	$\dots$	$x_{Nk}$

Taking one column at a time I  
can split the sample of each  
factor into two subsets

# Monte Carlo filtering



$B$  = OK

$\bar{B}$  = not OK

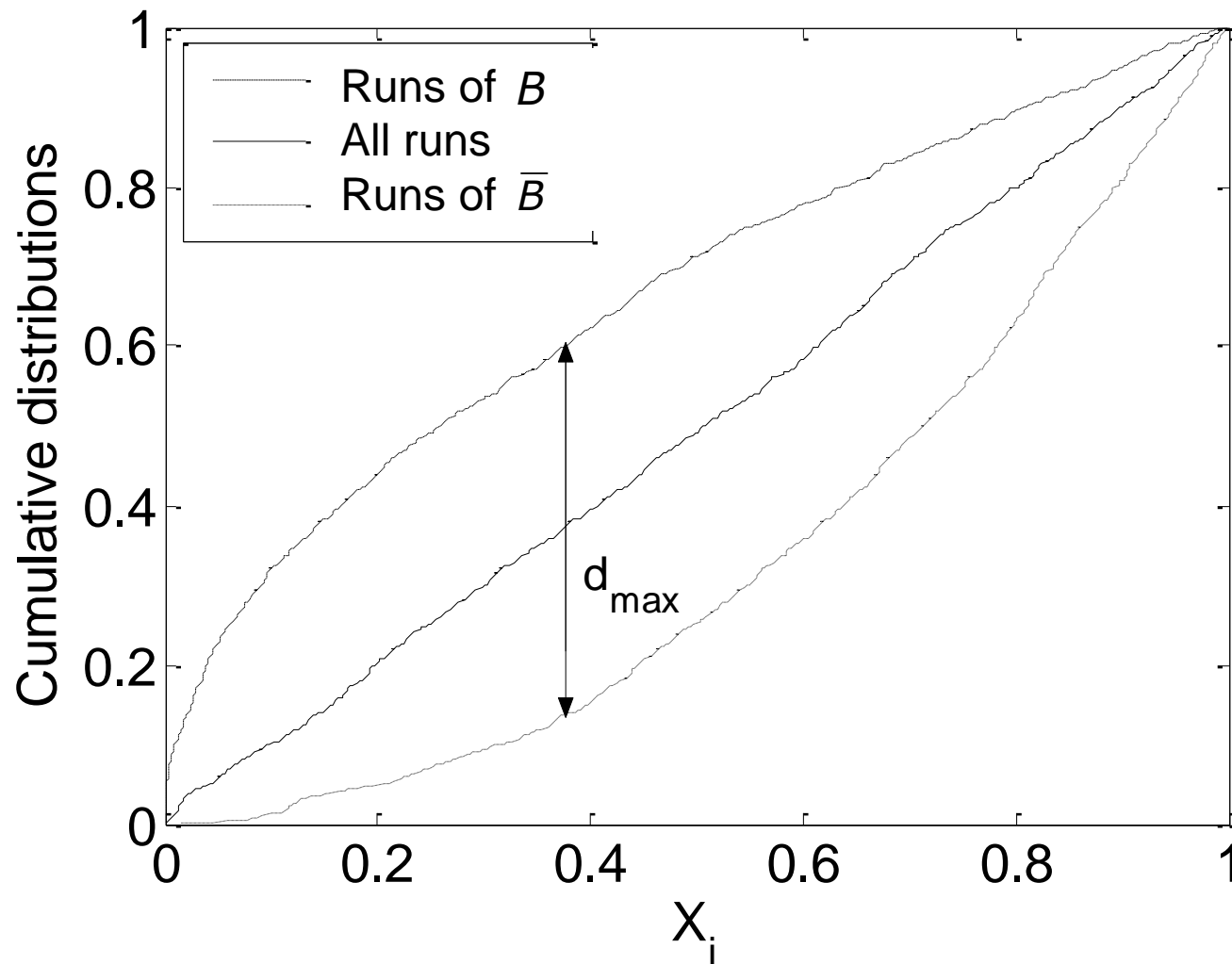


# Monte Carlo filtering

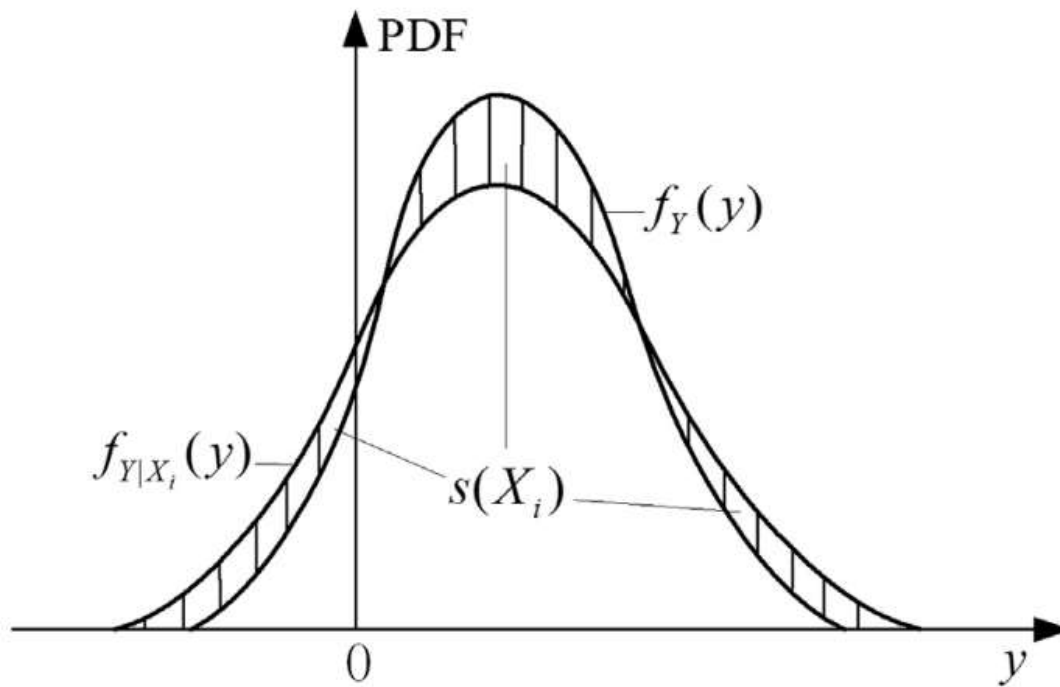
Step by step:

- Classifying simulations as either  $B$  or  $\overline{B}$ . This allows distinguishing two sub-sets for each  $X_i$ :  $(X_i|B)$  and  $(X_i|\overline{B})$
- The Smirnov two-sample test (two-sided version) is performed for each factor independently, analyzing the maximum distance between the cumulative distributions of the  $B$  and  $\overline{B}$  sets.

# Monte Carlo filtering



Other methods: moment  
independent methods

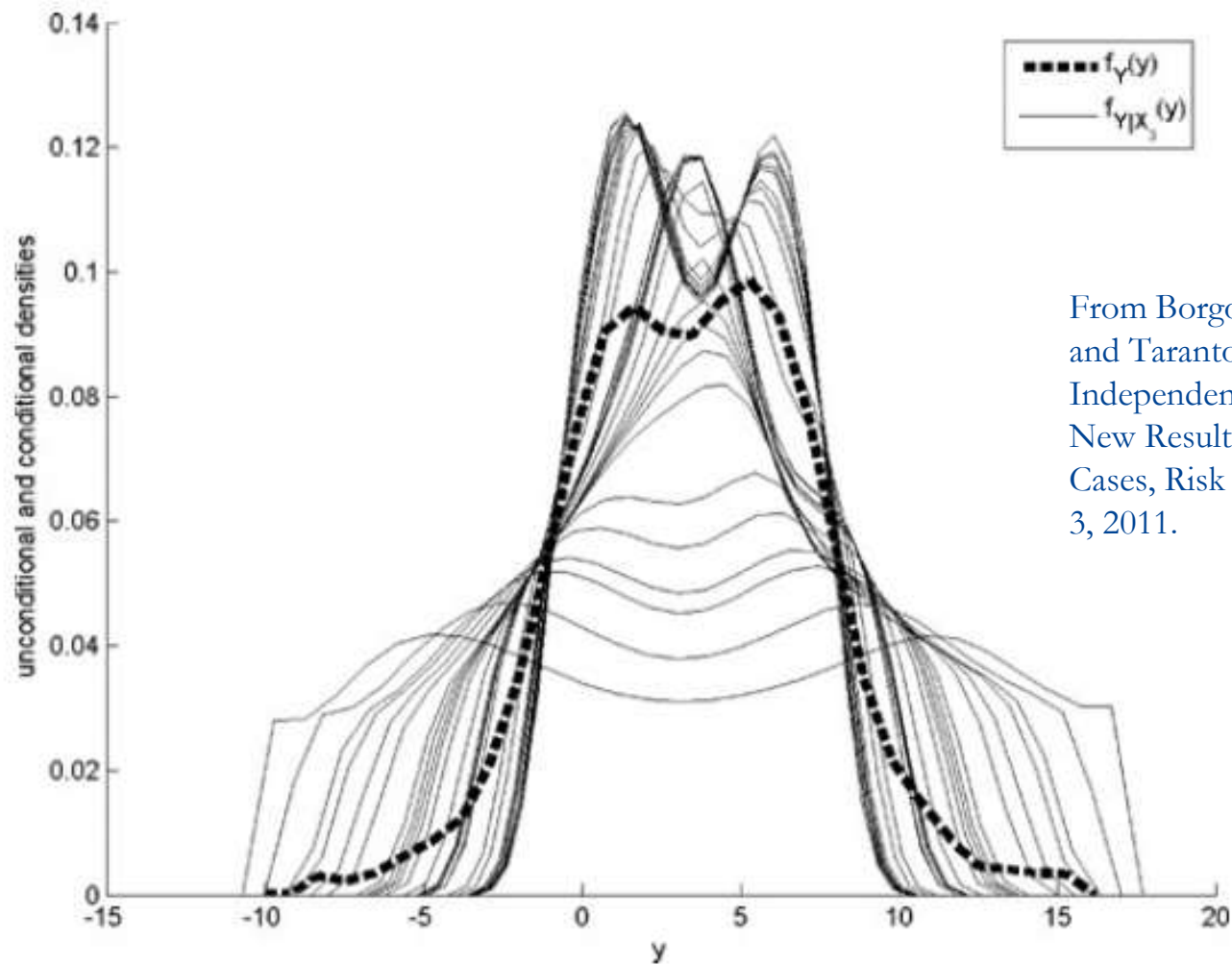


From: Leigang Zhang, Zhenzhou Lu, Lei Cheng, Chongqing Fan, A new method for evaluating Borgonovo moment-independent importance measure ..., Reliability Engineering and System Safety 132 (2014) 163–175.

$$s(X_i) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |f_Y(y) - f_{Y|X_i}(y)| dy$$

$$E_{X_i}[s(X_i)] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{X_i}(x_i) s(X_i) dx_i$$

$$\delta_i = \frac{1}{2} E_{X_i}[s(X_i)]$$

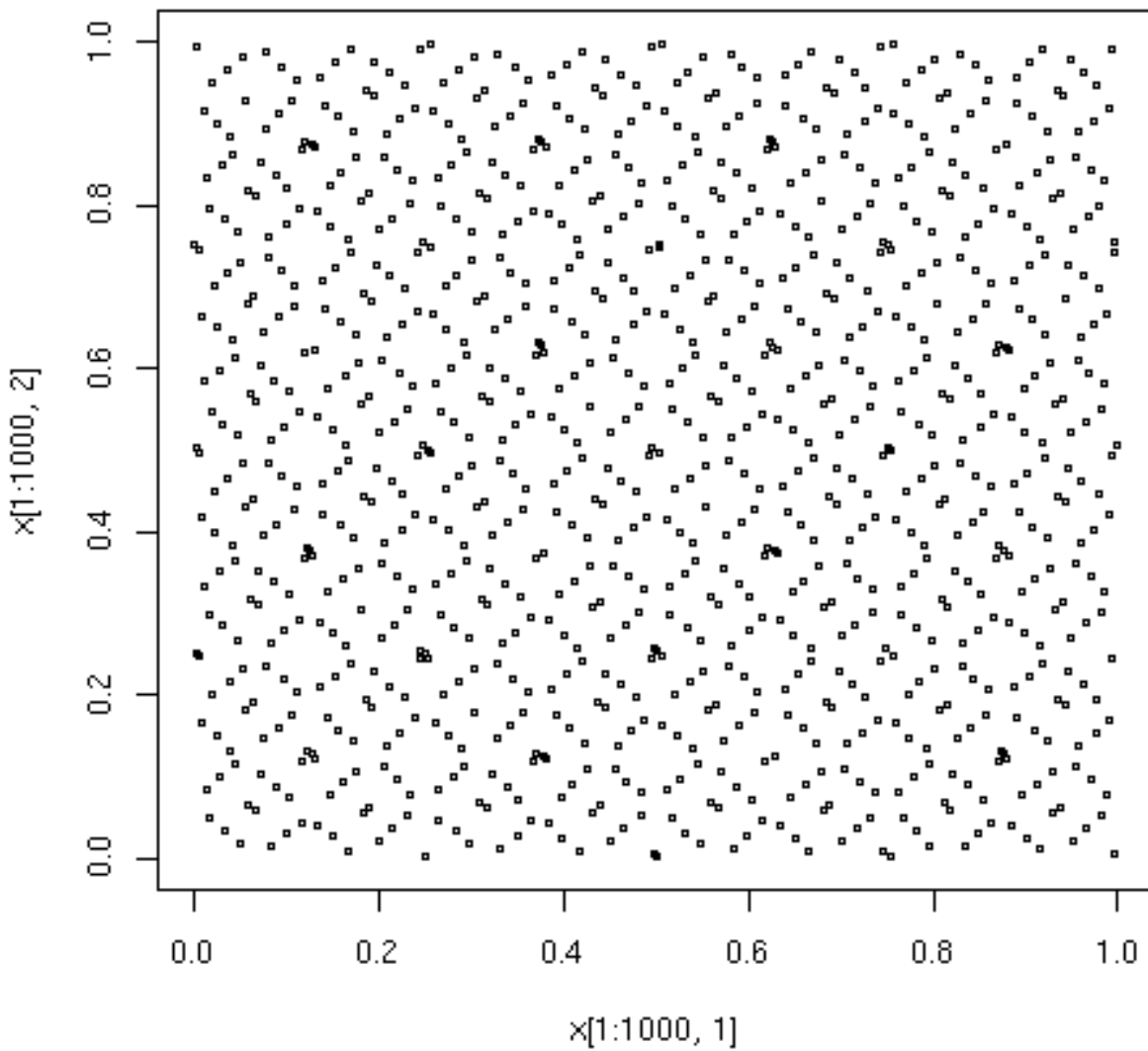


From Borgonovo, E., Castaings, W.  
and Tarantola, S., Moment  
Independent Importance Measures:  
New Results, and Analytical Test  
Cases, Risk Analysis, Vol. 31, No.  
3, 2011.

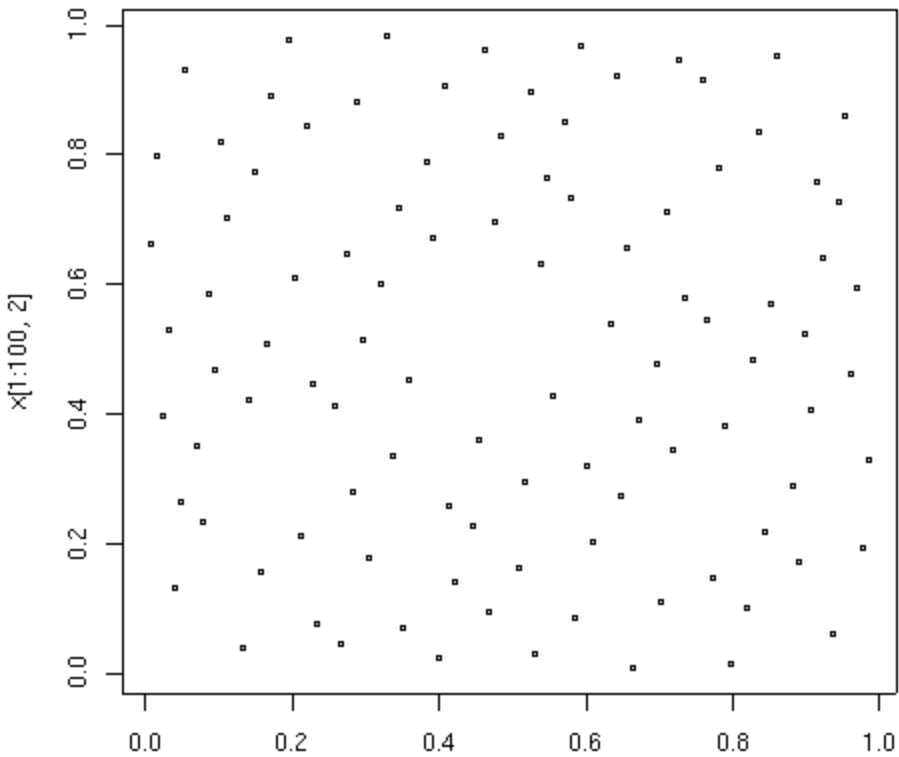


How to generate  
the random  
sample?

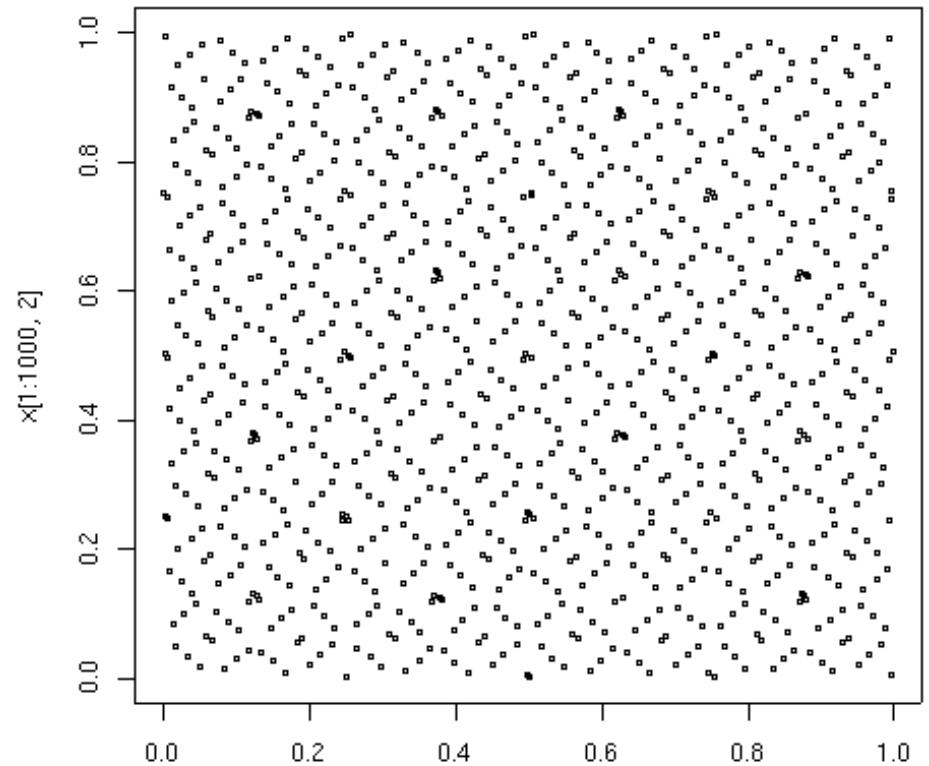
We use quasi  
random  
sequences  
developed by  
I.M. Sobol'



An  $LP_\tau$  sequence



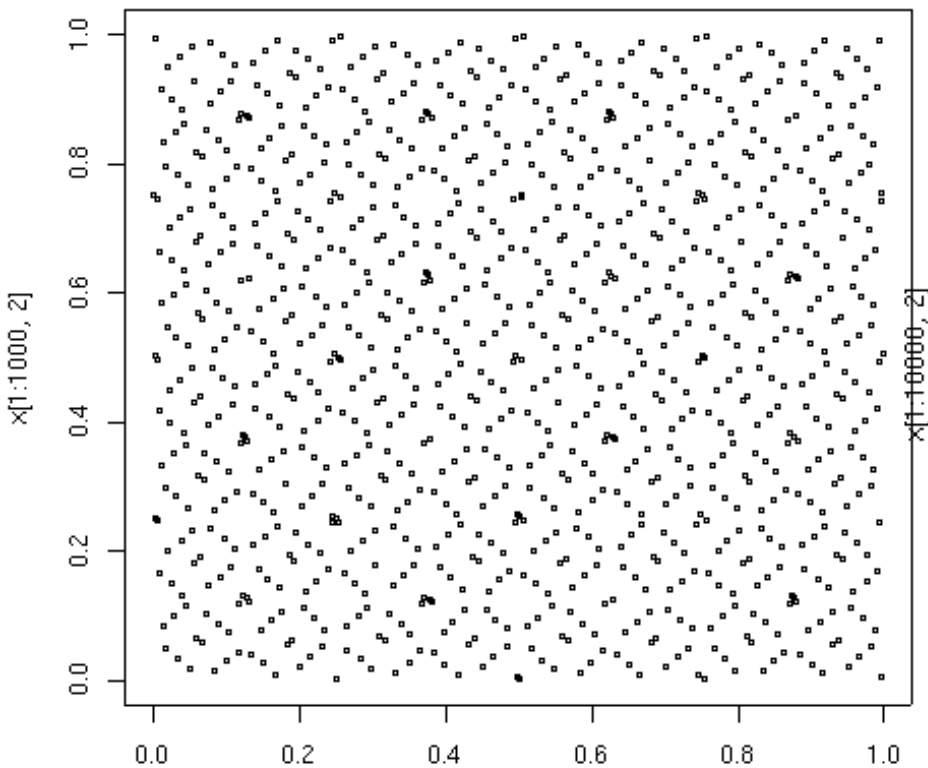
$X_1, X_2$  plane, 100 Sobol' points



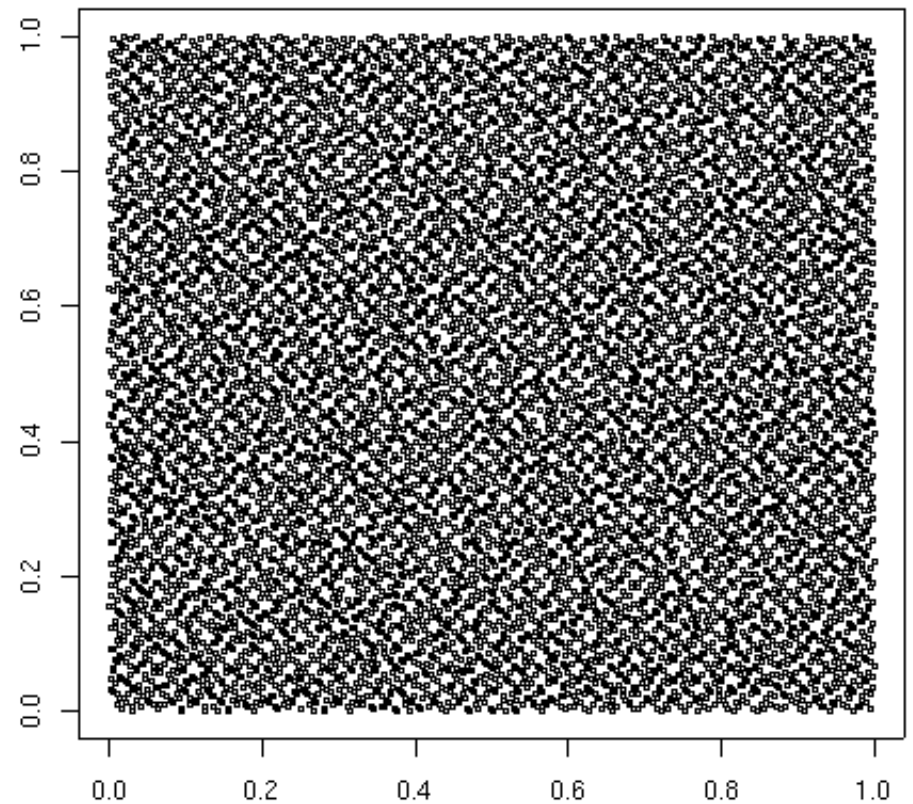
$X_1, X_2$  plane, 1000 Sobol' points

Sobol' sequences of quasi-random points



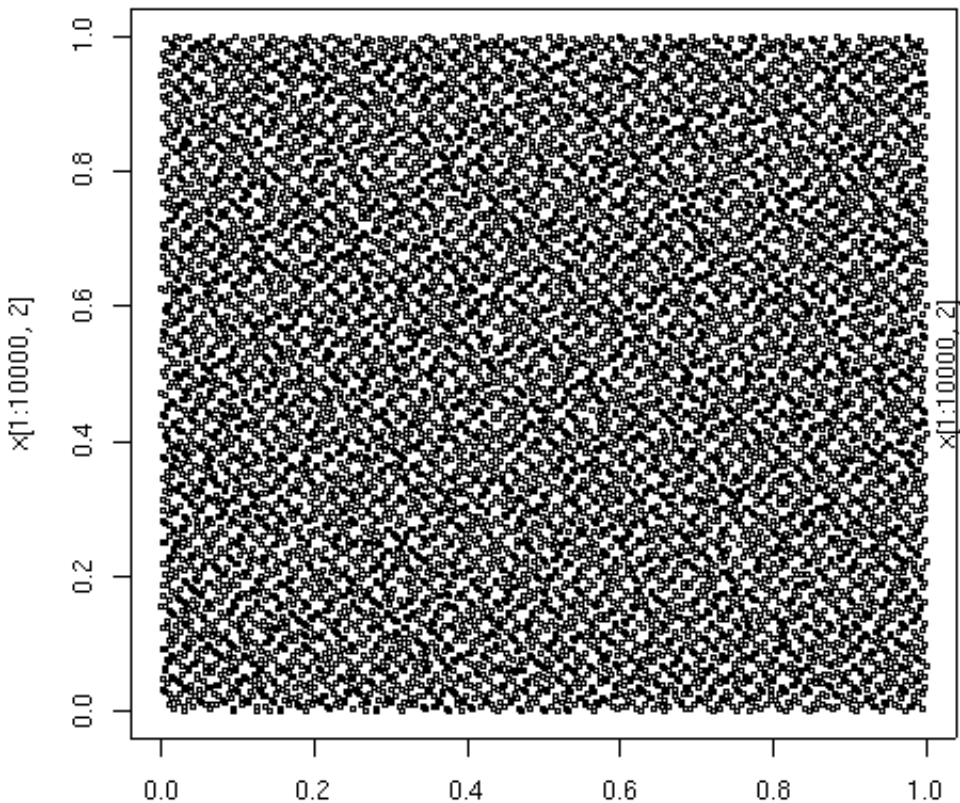


$X_1, X_2$  plane, 1000 Sobol' points

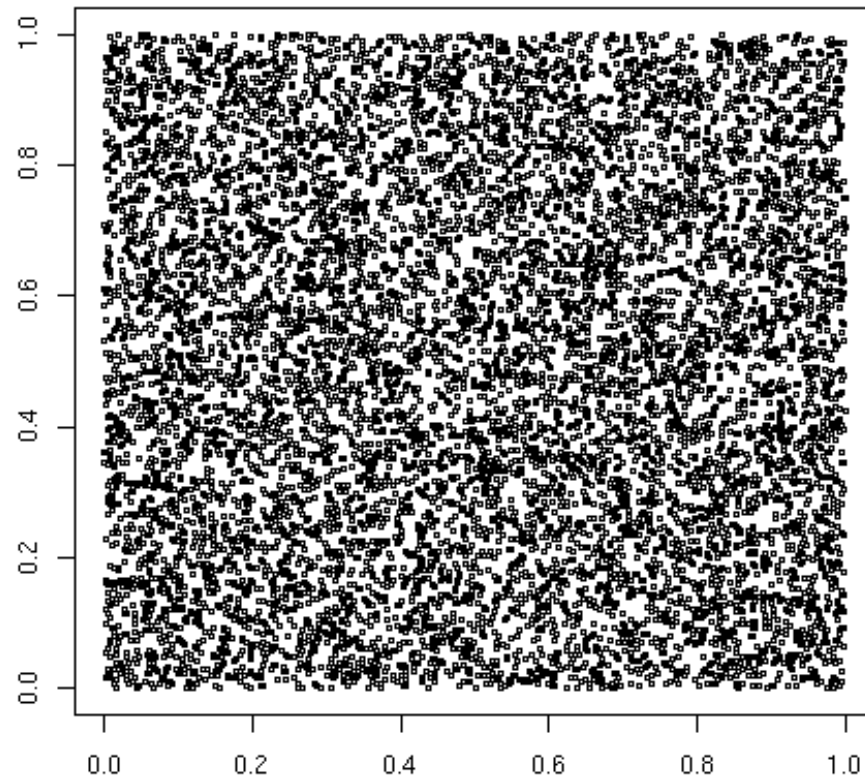


$X_1, X_2$  plane, 10000 Sobol' points

Sobol' sequences of quasi-random points



$X_1, X_2$  plane, 10000 Sobol' points



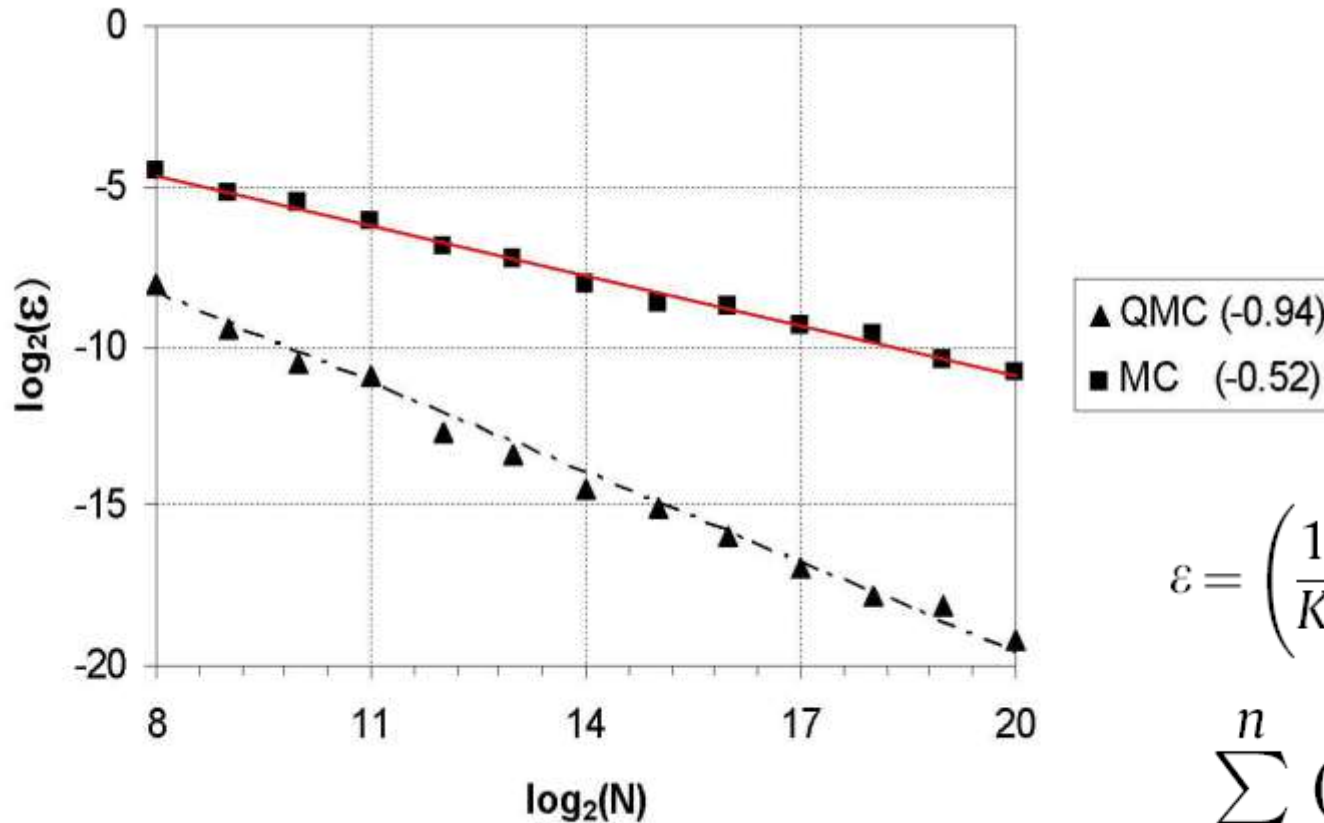
$X_1, X_2$  plane, 10000 random points

Sobol' sequences of quasi-random points  
against random points

# Why quasi-random



Sergei Kucherenko,  
Imperial College  
London



$$\varepsilon = \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K (I[f] - I_k[f])^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i \prod_{j=1}^i x_j$$

Root mean square error over  $K=50$  different trials. The error refers to the numeric-versus-analytic value the integral of the function (for  $n=360$ ) over its dominion.

**Source:** Kucherenko S., Feil B., Shah N., Mauntz W. The identification of model effective dimensions using global sensitivity analysis Reliability Engineering and System Safety 96 (2011) 440–449.

Variance based measures are:

- well scaled,
- concise,
- easy to communicate.

Further

- $S_i$  reduces to squared standard regression coefficients for linear model.
- $S_{Ti}$  detect and describe interactions and
- Becomes a screening test at low sample size

# Secrets of sensitivity analysis

First secret: The most important question is the question.

Corollary 1: Sensitivity analysis is not “run” on a model but on a model once applied to a question.

First secret: The most important question is the question.

Corollary 2: The best setting for a sensitivity analysis is one when one wants to prove that a question cannot be answered given the model

It is better to be in a setting of falsification than in one of confirmation (Oreskes et al., 1994 ).

[Normally the opposite is the case]

Second secret: Sensitivity analysis should  
not be used to hide assumptions  
[it often is]





Third secret: If sensitivity analysis shows that a question cannot be answered by the model one should find another question/model which can be treated meaningfully.

[Often the love for the model prevails]

Badly kept secret:

There is always one more bug!

(Lubarsky's Law of Cybernetic  
Entomology)

And of course please don't ...

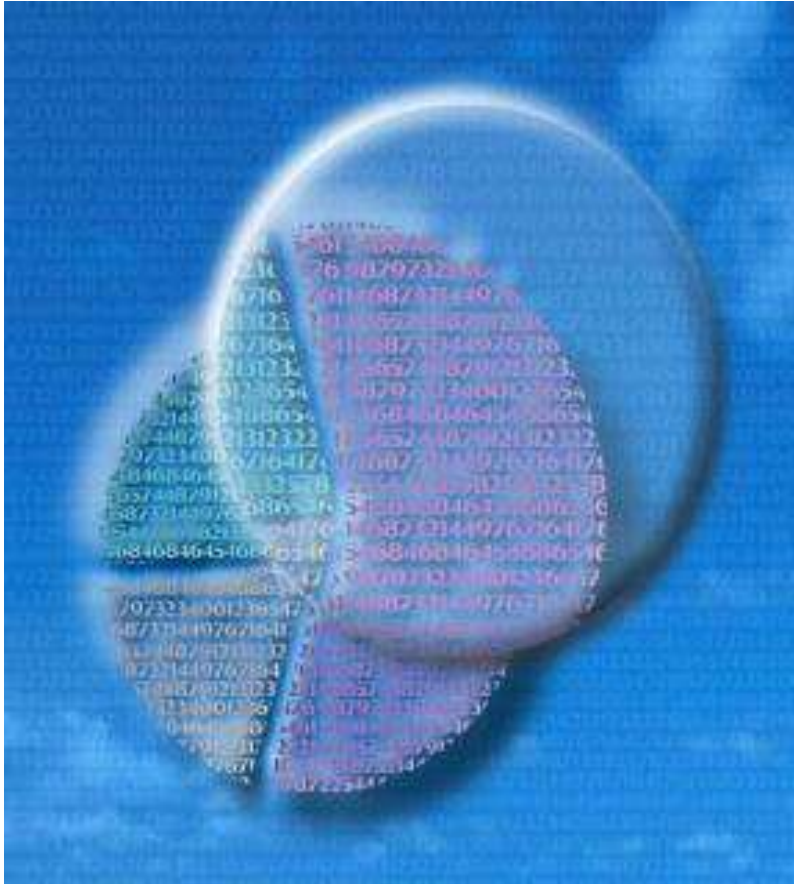
... run a sensitivity analysis where each  
factors has a 5% uncertainty



# Discussion point



- Why should I not run a sensitivity analysis where each factors has a 5% uncertainty



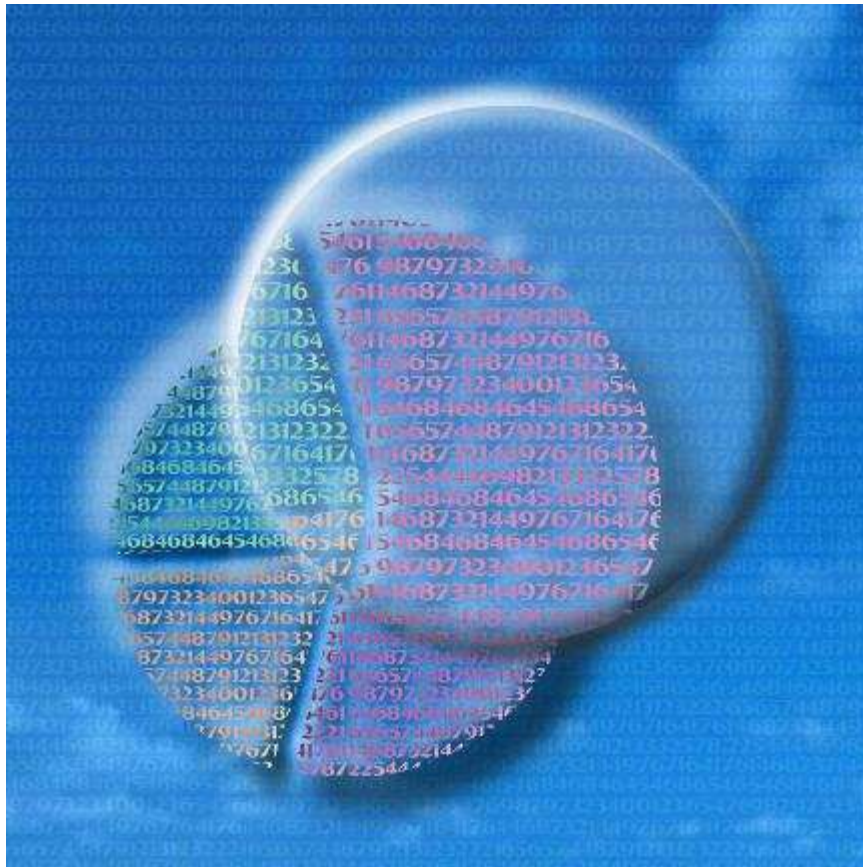
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Twitter:  
[@andreasaltelli](https://twitter.com/andreasaltelli)

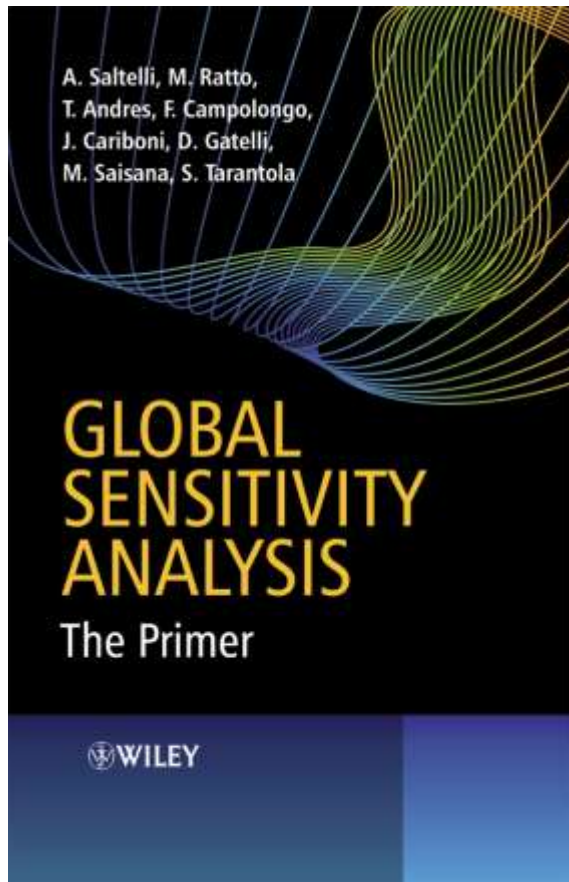
# Practicum

Andrea Saltelli

Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the  
Humanities (SVT) – University of Bergen (UIB)  
Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals (ICTA) –  
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)



Where to find more exercises:



(policy) prioritization (experiments)

verify the model (QA)

prior to optimization

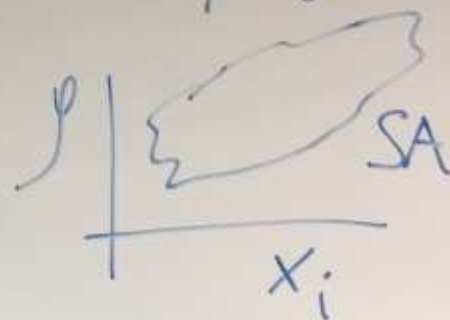
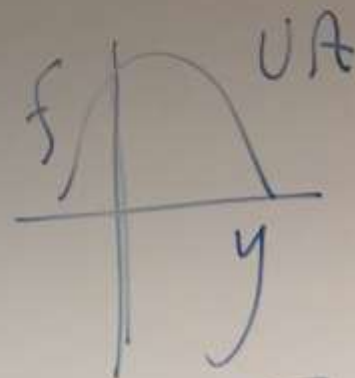
model simplification, encoding

debunk spurious quantification (UA)

check effect of missing data

" " " modelling assumptions

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y \end{bmatrix}$$





# Problem 1

Is it true that

$$V(Y) = E(Y^2) - E^2(Y)?$$

## Problem 2

Is it true that if  $f(x_1, x_2)$  is additive then fixing anywhere  $x_1$  or  $x_2$  decreases the variance of  $f(x_1, x_2)$

# Exercise

Let's frame together a  
sensitivity analysis



# END

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