#### Workshop on Modelling, part 1 (WP2 - Robust 4D human driver models under uncertainty):









### Sensitivity analysis made easy

Andrea Saltelli, CNR

#### Where to find this talk: www.andreasaltelli.eu



#### **Coming Out Soon: The politics of modelling**



#### Praise for the volume

"A long awaited examination of the role —and obligation —of modeling."

Nassim Nicholas Taleb , Distinguished Professor of Risk Engineering, NYU Tandon School of Engineering. Author, of the 5 -volume series Incerto.

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"A breath of fresh air and a much needed



Uncertainty analysis: the study of the uncertainty in model output—see also uncertainty cascade

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

Sensitivity auditing : "Sensitivity auditing is a wider consideration of the effect of all types of uncertainty, including structural assumptions embedded in the model, and subjective decisions taken in the framing of the problem" (European Commission, <u>2021</u>).











# An introduction to variance based methods







## Plotting the output as a function of two different input factors

#### Which factor is more important?









~1,000 blue points

Divide them in 20 bins of ~ 50 points

Compute the bin's average (pink dots)







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







Taking the variance of the pink points one obtains a sensitivity measure

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









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





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

#### The partial variance divided by the total variance is the so-called sensitivity index of the first order





#### Is this factor non-important?







For cases where  $S_i$  is zero but the variable is still important we need to compute something else





There are terms which capture two-way, three way, … 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)

The total variance can be decomposed into main effects and interaction effects up to the order k, the dimensionality of the problem (only for independent factors)





If fact interactions terms are awkward to handle: **just** the **second** order terms for a model with k factors are as many as k(k-1)/2 ...

#### (10 factors=45 second order terms)





# How about a single 'importance' terms for all effects?





# In fact such terms exist and can be computed easily, without knowledge of

the individual interaction terms





### Thus given a model $f(X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_3)$

Where the variance decomposition would

read 
$$1 = S_1 + S_2 + S_3 + S_{12} + S_{13} + S_{23} + S_{123}$$

We compute

$$T_{1} = S_{1} + S_{12} + S_{13} + S_{123}$$
$$T_{2} = S_{2} + S_{12} + S_{23} + S_{123}$$
$$T_{3} = S_{3} + S_{13} + S_{23} + S_{123}$$





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

The formulae!





#### Estimation procedures

- No brute force. It is not needed to use a double loop, though the measures are expresses as V(E(•)) and E(V(•)).
- For  $S_i$  quick estimation procedures are available which are k-independent.
- For S<sub>Ti</sub> estimation procedures are mostly kdependent (unless using emulators…).

















#### The measures and their 'settings' = when to use them



Enter keywords, authors, DOI, C

Primary Article

#### On the Relative Importance of Input Factors in Mathematical Models

Safety Assessment for Nuclear Waste Disposal

#### Andrea Saltelli & Stefano Tarantola

Pages 702-709 | Published online: 31 Dec 2011

66 Download citation 2 https://doi.org/10.1198/016214502388618447



979

286

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6

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The measures and their 'settings' = when to use them

First order effect	Factor prioritization (orienting research)
Total effect	Factor fixing (model simplification)







### Model's effective dimension





The difficulty of a function/model is not in its number of dimensions but in the number of effective dimensions, either in the **truncation** or **superposition** sense

truncation sense = how many factors are important?
superposition sense=how high is the highest interaction?





#### Or you can compute the mean dimension directly

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### Efficient Estimation of the ANOVA Mean Dimension, with an Application to Neural Net Classification

Christopher Hoyt and Art B. Owen

https://doi.org/10.1137/20M1350236





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#### Models with higher effective dimensions tend to produce more uncertain estimates



6

9

k

12

15

0.3

0.0

**Empirical test** using the SAbased concept of effective dimension

Model complexit

nadequa





#### Plenty of code available in R, MATLAB, and Phyton



https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/sensitivity/sensitivity.pdf https://cran.rstudio.com/web/packages/sensobol/index.html

https://www.uqlab.com/ (in MatLab, by Bruno Sudret and his team)



SALib https://salib.readthedocs.io/en/latest/

…but there is more, such as Sensobol in R, SALib in Phython …

#### Advantages with variance based methods:

- graphic interpretation scatterplots
- statistical interpretation (ANOVA)
- expressed plain English
- working with sets
- relation to settings such as factor fixing and factor prioritization
- give the effective dimension





... but there are other methods that can be used for different settings, e.g. moment independents methods, Shapley coefficients, reduced spaces, VARS ...





Environmental Modelling & Software Volume 34, June 2012, Pages 105-115

Model emulation and momentindependent sensitivity analysis: An application to environmental modelling

E. Borgonovo<sup>a</sup>, W. Castaings<sup>b, c</sup>, S. Tarantola<sup>d</sup>  $\stackrel{\otimes}{\sim}$  🖾



### Don't use One factor At a Time (OAT)

#### A geometric proof






#### How to avoid a perfunctory sensitivity analysis

#### Andrea Saltelli\*, Paola Annoni

Joint Research Center, Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen, via E.Fermi, 2749, Ispra VA 21027, Italy





Modelling & Softwar

## OAT in 2 dimensions



Area circle / area square =?

~ 3/4





## OAT in 3 dimensions



# Volume sphere / volume cube =?

~ 1/2





## OAT in 10 dimensions; Volume hypersphere / volume ten dimensional hypercube =? $\sim 0.0025$











## OAT does not capture interactions

# The resulting analysis is non conservative







Ilya M. Sobol'

## Quasi random sequences





Funded by the European Union



[Submitted on 10 May 2015]

#### Exploring multi-dimensional spaces: a Comparison of Latin Hypercube and Quasi Monte Carlo Sampling Techniques

Sergei Kucherenko, Daniel Albrecht, Andrea Saltelli

Sobol' LP-TAU are used in high frequency trading







Root mean square error with different designs.





## Sensitivity analysis made easy





#### Statistics > Applications

[Submitted on 27 Jun 2022 (v1), last revised 17 Mar 2023 (this version, v2)]

#### **Discrepancy measures for sensitivity analysis**

Arnald Puy, Pamphile T. Roy, Andrea Saltelli





### Do we need to compute indices? Can we do without statistics and calculus









x







HORNING HORNING





#### How about an 'ersatz' discrepancy?







### Another way to bypass statistics and calculus



#### **INFORMS Transactions on Education**

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: <a href="http://pubsonline.informs.org">http://pubsonline.informs.org</a>

Monte Carlo Enhancement via Simulation Decomposition: A "Must-Have" Inclusion for Many Disciplines

Mariia Kozlova, Julian Scott Yeomans

# Colouring the output histogram can give sensitivity insights …







### ··· without computing sensitivity indices

RESULTS						
Min Expected mean Max	100 € 1 855 € 3 925 €	Probability of negative NPV Probability of positive NPV Standard deviation	0% 100% 713€	Update	colors	
	Distrib	JTION OF NPVS	Legend	é –		
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6%				sc1	tight	pessimistic
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11 4% 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9				sc3	tight	optimistic
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## Don't run the model just once

There is much to learn by running the model a few times, especially during model building





### Lubarsky's Law of Cybernetic Entomology: there is always one more bug!







## Model routinely used to produce point estimates may becomes non conservative when the uncertainty is plugged in





#### **Current Models Underestimate Future Irrigated Areas**





**Citation:** 

Solution? Modelling of the modelling process by taking 'all paths in the garden'





## Don't sample just parameters and boundary conditions

## Explore thoroughly the space of the assumptions





One can sample more than just factors:

- modelling assumptions,
- alternative data sets,
- resolution levels,
- scenarios …





# Why bother?





#### Fishing expeditions, forking paths ...











The garden of forking paths: Why multiple comparisons can be a problem, even when there is no "fishing expedition" or "p-hacking" and the research hypothesis was posited ahead of time<sup>\*</sup>

> Andrew Gelman<sup>†</sup> and Eric Loken<sup>‡</sup> 14 Nov 2013

The garden of forking paths: Why multiple comparisons can be a problem, even when there is no "fishing expedition" or "p-hacking" and the research hypothesis was posited ahead of time<sup>\*</sup>

> And rew Gelman<sup>†</sup> and Eric Loken<sup>‡</sup>

> > $14 \ \mathrm{Nov} \ 2013$

Why this matters?

**RESEARCH ARTICLE** 



## Observing many researchers using the same data and hypothesis reveals a hidden universe of uncertainty

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Edited by Douglas Massey, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ; received March 6, 2022; accepted August 22, 2022



PNAS



OPEN



"Will different researchers [73 teams] converge on similar findings when analyzing the same data?

 ...teams' results varied greatly, ranging from large negative to large
1250 positive effects" (Breznau et al. 2022)





The garden of forking paths: Why multiple comparisons can be a problem, even when there is no "fishing expedition" or "p-hacking" and the research hypothesis was posited ahead of time<sup>\*</sup>

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Modellers might (even in good faith) engage in "fishing expeditions"

When they do, they may delude themselves with having nailed an effect ...

... as there are many things that may go wrong (or generate forks in the path) Funded by



Since having one's model replicated by 73 teams is impractical, one needs to check the inference, for example with sensitivity auditing and its modelling of the modelling process

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COMMENT 24 June 2020

#### Five ways to ensure that models serve society: a manifesto

ELSEVIER

Futures Volume 144, December 2022, 103041

*	FUTURES
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Unpacking the modelling process via sensitivity auditing

Samuele Lo Piano ª 🝳 🖾 , Razi Sheikholeslami <sup>b</sup>, Arnald Puy <sup>c d e</sup>, Andrea Saltelli <sup>f</sup>

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## If several formulas / conceptualizations are available for a given phenomenon, use them all

An example: different equations are available for evapotranspiration





#### **Current Models Underestimate Future Irrigated Areas**





**Citation:** 

# Are we done?





We are not! Completing sensitivity auditing requires a of reflexive (sociological) investigation where the i4Driving community (developers and users) is the object of the analysis






Task 8.5: Social sciences and humanities are an integral part of the project … all the activities ... have a point of reference in the cultural, epistemological, intellectual, linguistic and social idiosyncrasies ...









The idea that just because the computers is in charge we solve traffic is fanciful

> Jack Stilgoe, i4Drving Advisory Board



## Dr Jack Stilgoe on self-driving cars and ethics in science

Listen to Dr Jack Stilgoe from UCL Science & Technology Studies talk to our hosts about his research into self-driving cars and artificial intelligence



https://www.ucl.ac.uk/mathematical-physical-sciences/about-faculty/hypot-enthuse-podcast/dr-jack-stilgoe-self-driving-cars-and-ethics-sciences/



# Coming next





## More material at www.andreasaltelli.eu



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