## 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

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## 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.

Mastodon Toots by
®AndreaSaltelli

## 5

## Andreasaltelit

"Kaufman, who was
until recently a
senior climate
economist in the
White House,
questioned the need
for the government
to set a single price.
Regulators should
stop "pretending we

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, 2021).


## 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 $\sim 50$ points

## Compute the

 bin's average (pink dots)

Each pink point is $\sim \quad E_{\mathbf{X}_{\sim i}}\left(Y \mid X_{i}\right)$


Taking the variance
of the pink points one obtains a sensitivity

$$
V_{x_{i}}\left(E_{x_{x}}\left(Y \mid X_{i}\right)\right)
$$

measure


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

$$
S_{i}=\frac{V_{X_{i}}\left(E_{\mathbf{X}_{i i}}\left(Y \mid X_{i}\right)\right)}{V(Y)}
$$

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, $\cdots$ interactions among variables 

## All these terms are linked by a formula

## Variance decomposition (ANOVA)

$$
V(Y)=
$$

$$
\sum_{i} V_{i}+\sum_{i, j>i} V_{i j}+\ldots+V_{123 . . k}
$$

## 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 $\mathrm{k}(\mathrm{k}-1) / 2 \cdots$
(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 $f\left(X_{1}, X_{2}, \ldots, X_{3}\right)$
Where the variance decomposition would
read $1=S_{1}+S_{2}+S_{3}+S_{12}+S_{13}+S_{23}+S_{123}$

We compute

$$
\begin{aligned}
& T_{1}=S_{1}+S_{12}+S_{13}+S_{123} \\
& T_{2}=S_{2}+S_{12}+S_{23}+S_{123} \\
& T_{3}=S_{3}+S_{13}+S_{23}+S_{123}
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \frac{V_{X_{i}}\left(E_{\mathbf{X}_{i}}\left(Y \mid X_{i}\right)\right)}{V(Y)}=S_{i} \\
& \frac{E_{\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{-}}}\left(V_{X_{i}}\left(Y \mid \mathbf{X}_{\sim i}\right)\right)}{V(Y)}=T_{i}
\end{aligned}
$$

The formulae!

## Estimation procedures

- No brute force. It is not needed to use a double loop, though the measures are expresses as $\mathrm{V}(\mathrm{E}(\bullet))$ and $\mathrm{E}(\mathrm{V}(\bullet))$.
- For $S_{i}$ quick estimation procedures are available which are k -independent.
- For $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{Ti}}$ estimation procedures are mostly kdependent (unless using emulators…).


## Computing $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{Ti}}$



## Computing $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{i}}$



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

| Journal of the |
| :---: |
| American |
| Statistical | American

Statitical
Association Association

Volume 97, 2002 - Issue 459

## \title{ Primary Article 

 <br> 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 https://doi.org/10.1198/016214502388618447


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

| First order effect | Factor <br> prioritization <br> (orienting <br> research) |
| :---: | :--- |
| Total effect | Factor fixing <br> (model <br> simplification) |



Model complexity

# 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



## 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

## ScienceAdvances

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

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. PIERFRANCESCO BENEVENTANO, SIMON A. LeVIN © . SAMUELELOPIANO TOMMASO PORTALURI, AND ANDREA SALTELU -
SCIENCE ADVANCES • 19 Oct 2022 - Vol 8, Issue 42 - DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.abn9450

Interactions - Up to the $k$ th order

$\downarrow$

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Empirical test } \\
\text { using the SA- } \\
\text { based concept of } \\
\text { effective } \\
\text { dimension }
\end{gathered}
$$

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

R

## 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

Chapter 1 its
exercisess
... but there are other methods that can be used for different settings, e.g. moment independents methods, Shapley coefficients, reduced spaces, VARS …
 where

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

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


$$
s_{i}\left(x_{i}\right):=\int_{\Omega_{Y}}\left|f_{Y}(y)-f_{Y \mid X_{i}=x_{i}}(y)\right| d y
$$

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

A geometric proof

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Environmental Modelling \& Software

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envsoft
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How to avoid a perfunctory sensitivity analysis<br>Andrea Saltelli*, Paola Annoni<br>Joint Research Center, Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen, via E.Fermi, 2749, Ispra VA 21027, Italy

## OAT in 2 dimensions



## Area circle / area square =?

~ 3/4

## OAT in 3 dimensions



## Volume sphere / volume cube =?

~ $1 / 2$

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## OAT in k dimensions



# OAT does not capture interactions 

## $\rightarrow$ The resulting analysis is non conservative

## Quasi random sequences



Ilya M. Sobol'


## Statistics > Applications

[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

## (爵) Cornell University

aI (iV > stat > arXiv:2206. 13470

## 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

'Stupid’ histograms in the $X_{i j}, Y$ plane, both in $[0,1]$, for different $Y=f\left(X_{i}\right)$

## Bigger 'holes' <br>  <br> Smaller 'holes' <br> $x$



## Existing discrepancies (star, L2, wraparound $\cdot \cdots$ ) are

 expensive to compute; how about an 'ersatz' discrepancy?
## Agreement with $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{i}}$

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
-0.5 & 0.0 & 0.5 & 1.0
\end{array}
$$






 $\mathrm{N}^{\mathrm{O}}$ of model runs

It works!


How about an 'ersatz' discrepancy?


Discrepancy
Is fast!

- centered
- ersatz

- L2
- modified
- star
- symmetric
- wraparound


## Another way to bypass statistics and calculus

INFORMS Transactions on Education

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://pubsonline.informs.org
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 ...


(a)
(b)

# ... without computing sensitivity indices 

| REsults |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Min <br> Expected mean <br> Max | $\begin{aligned} & 100 \varepsilon \\ & 1855 \\ & 3925 \epsilon \end{aligned}$ | Probability of negative NPV Probability of positive NPV Standard deviation | $\begin{gathered} 0 \% \% \\ 100 \% \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Update colors |  |  |
|  | Distribution of NPVS |  | Legend |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | color | Scenario | Investment | Price |
|  |  |  |  | Sc1 | tight | pessimistic |
|  |  | - |  | Sc2 | tight | realistic |
|  |  |  |  | sc3 | tight | optimistic |
|  |  |  |  | SC4 | loose | pessimistic |
|  |  |  |  | sc5 | loose | realistic |
| N0 | - 0 |  |  | sc6 | loose | optimistic |

# 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



# 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 ...



Fishing Boats at Sea, Vincent van Gogh, Pushkin Museum, Moscow, Russia


Jorge Luis Borges
(1899-1986)

Taking different narratives within the same novel like Ts'ui Pên

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*

Andrew Gelman ${ }^{\dagger}$ and Eric Loken ${ }^{\ddagger}$
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*

> Andrew Gelman ${ }^{\dagger}$ and Eric Loken ${ }^{\ddagger}$ 14 Nov 2013

## Why th PNAS

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

[^0]
‥teams' results varied greatly, ranging from large negative to large positive effects" (Breznau et al. 2022)

Funded by

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*

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14 Nov 2013

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

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

$\cdots$ as there are many things that may go wrong (or generate forks in the path)

# 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 

## nature

Explore content $\vee \quad$ Journal information $\vee \quad$ Publish with us $\checkmark$

Five ways to ensure that models serve society: a manifesto

Futures
Volume 144, December 2022, 103041

Unpacking the modelling process via sensitivity auditing


Show more

## 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



# Are we done? 

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the European Union

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

i4Driving

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

i4Driving

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-a $\square$

## Coming next

## More material at www.andreasaltelli.eu

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Andrea Saltelli

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## 72. 18

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[^0]:    Edited by Douglas Massey, Princeton University, Princeton, Nj; received March 6, 2022; accepted August 22, 2022

