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# Global Sensitivity Analysis: a novel generation of mighty estimators based on rank statistics

Fabrice Gamboa<sup>1</sup>, Thierry Klein<sup>2</sup>, Agnès Lagnoux<sup>3</sup>, and Paul Rochet<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut de Mathématiques de Toulouse and ANITI; UMR5219.  
Université de Toulouse; CNRS. UT3, F-31062 Toulouse, France.

<sup>2</sup>Institut de Mathématiques de Toulouse; UMR5219. Université de  
Toulouse; ENAC - Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile , Université de  
Toulouse, France

<sup>3</sup>Institut de Mathématiques de Toulouse; UMR5219. Université de  
Toulouse; CNRS. UT2J, F-31058 Toulouse, France.

<sup>4</sup>ENAC - Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile , Université de Toulouse,  
France.

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## Abstract

Correction to the proof of Lemma B.2 in Global Sensitivity Analysis: a novel generation of mighty estimators based on rank estimators. F. Gamboa, P. Gremaud, T. Klein, and A. Lagnoux. Bernoulli. (2021) Vol. 28, n°4, pp. 2345-2374.

**Key words** Global sensitivity analysis, Cramér-von-Mises distance, Pick-Freeze method, Chatterjee's coefficient of correlation, Sobol indices estimation.

**AMS subject classification** 62G05, 62G20, 62G30.

The purpose of this note is twofold. First, we correct a mistake in the expression of the limiting variance  $\Sigma_C$  that appears in [1, Lemma B.2]. Secondly, we provide simpler expressions for  $\Sigma_B$  in [1, Lemma B.1] and  $\Sigma_C$ . In particular, the expression of  $\Sigma_C$  does no longer depend on the first derivative of the model  $f$ . Furthermore, the updated formula of the limiting variance is now consistent with the limiting variance  $\sigma_{\text{rank}}^2$  obtained in [2] by other means.

## 1 Computation of the asymptotic covariance matrix $\Sigma_B$

In [1, Section B.2], we obtained:

$$\Sigma_B^{1,1} = \mathbb{E} [\text{Var}(YY'|X)] + 2\mathbb{E} [\text{Cov}(YY', YY''|X)],$$

where we remind that  $Y = f(X, W)$ ,  $Y' = f(X, W')$ , and  $Y'' = f(X, W'')$  with  $W'$  and  $W''$  independent copies of  $W$ . Let us introduce the notation

$$\phi(x) = \mathbb{E}[Y|X = x] \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^2(x) = \text{Var}(Y|X = x).$$

Then, by conditional independence, we get

$$\text{Var}(YY'|X) = \mathbb{E}[(YY')^2|X] - \mathbb{E}[YY'|X]^2 = \mathbb{E}[Y^2|X]^2 - \mathbb{E}[Y|X]^4 = \sigma^4(X) + 2\sigma^2(X)\phi^2(X)$$

so that

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Var}(YY'|X)] = \mathbb{E}[\sigma^4(X)] + 2\mathbb{E}[\sigma^2(X)\phi^2(X)].$$

Analogously,

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Cov}(YY', YY''|X)] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y^2 Y' Y''|X]] - \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[YY'|X]\mathbb{E}[YY''|X]] = \mathbb{E}[\sigma^2(X)\phi^2(X)].$$

Finally,

$$\Sigma_B^{1,1} = \mathbb{E}[\sigma^4(X)] + 4\mathbb{E}[\sigma^2(X)\phi^2(X)].$$

Similarly, the other terms are

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_B^{2,2} &= \mathbb{E}[\text{Var}(Y|X)] = \mathbb{E}[\sigma^2(X)], \\ \Sigma_B^{3,3} &= \mathbb{E}[\text{Var}(Y^2|X)] = \mathbb{E}[\phi_4(X)] - \mathbb{E}[\phi_2(X)^2], \\ \Sigma_B^{1,2} &= \Sigma_B^{2,1} = 2\mathbb{E}[\text{Cov}(YY', Y|X)] = 2\mathbb{E}[\sigma^2(X)\phi(X)], \\ \Sigma_B^{1,3} &= \Sigma_B^{3,1} = 2\mathbb{E}[\text{Cov}(YY', Y^2|X)] = 2\mathbb{E}[\phi_3(X)\phi(X)] - 2\mathbb{E}[\phi_2(X)\phi^2(X)], \\ \Sigma_B^{2,3} &= \Sigma_B^{3,2} = \mathbb{E}[\text{Cov}(Y, Y^2|X)] = \mathbb{E}[\phi_3(X)] - \mathbb{E}[\phi(X)\phi_2(X)],\end{aligned}$$

where  $\phi_i(x) = \mathbb{E}[Y^i|X = x]$  for  $i = 2, 3, 4$ .

## 2 Computation of the asymptotic covariance matrix $\Sigma_C$

In [1, Section B.3], we obtained

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_C^{1,1} &= \int \psi_{100}(x_1, x'_1, x''_1, \chi_1) \psi_{100}(x_2, x'_2, x''_2, \chi_2) x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x'_1 \wedge x'_2 \wedge x''_1 \wedge x''_2 \\ &\quad \times dQ(x_1, x'_1, x''_1, \chi_1) dQ(x_2, x'_2, x''_2, \chi_2) - \left( \int \psi_{100}(x, x', x'', \chi) x \wedge x' \wedge x'' dQ(x, x', x'', \chi) \right)^2\end{aligned}$$

leading to the corrected expression of  $\Sigma_C^{1,1}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_C^{1,1} &= \mathbb{E}[(Y_1 + Y''_1)(Y_2 + Y''_2)f_x(X_1, W'_1)f_x(X_2, W'_2)(X_1 \wedge X_2)] - \mathbb{E}[(Y + Y'')f_x(X, W')X]^2 \\ &= 4\mathbb{E}[Y_1 Y_2 f_x(X_1, W'_1)f_x(X_2, W'_2)(X_1 \wedge X_2)] - 4\mathbb{E}[Y f_x(X, W')X]^2,\end{aligned}$$

where we remind that  $Y = f(X, W)$ ,  $Y' = f(X, W')$ , and  $Y'' = f(X, W'')$  with  $W'$  and  $W''$  independent copies of  $W$  (and analogously for  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$ ). Hence, we remark that  $\Sigma_C^{1,1} = \Sigma_C^{3,3}$ . Considering the second term in  $\Sigma_C^{1,1}$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[Y f_x(X, W') X] &= \mathbb{E}[f(X, W) f_x(X, W') X] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[f(X, W) f_x(X, W') X | X]] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{E}[f(X, W) | X] \mathbb{E}[f_x(X, W') | X]] \quad \text{by conditional independence} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}[X \phi(X) \phi'(X)] = \frac{1}{2} (\phi^2(1) - \mathbb{E}[\phi^2(X)]) \quad \text{by integration by parts.}\end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$4\mathbb{E}[Y_1 f_x(X_1, W'_1) Y_2 f_x(X_2, W'_2) (X_1 \wedge X_2)] = \phi^4(1) - 2\phi^2(1)\mathbb{E}[\phi^2(X)] + \mathbb{E}[\phi^4(X)]$$

that yields

$$\Sigma_C^{1,1} = \phi^4(1) - 2\phi^2(1)\mathbb{E}[\phi^2(X)] + \mathbb{E}[\phi^4(X)] - (\phi^2(1) - \mathbb{E}[\phi^2(X)])^2 = \text{Var}(\phi^2(X)).$$

Finally, the remaining terms of  $\Sigma_C$  (after correction) are:

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_C^{2,2} &= \mathbb{E}[f_x(X_1, W_1) f_x(X_2, W_2) (X_1 \wedge X_2)] - \mathbb{E}[f_x(X, W) X]^2 = \text{Var}(\phi(X)) \\ \Sigma_C^{1,2} &= \mathbb{E}[(Y_1 + Y'_1) f_x(X_1, W'_1) f_x(X_2, W_2) (X_1 \wedge X_2)] - \mathbb{E}[(Y + Y'') f_x(X, W') X] \mathbb{E}[f_x(X, W) X] \\ &= 2\mathbb{E}[Y_1 f_x(X_1, W'_1) f_x(X_2, W_2) (X_1 \wedge X_2)] - 2\mathbb{E}[Y f_x(X, W') X] \mathbb{E}[f_x(X, W) X] \\ &= \text{Cov}(\phi(X), \phi^2(X)) \\ \Sigma_C^{1,3} &= 2\mathbb{E}[(Y_1 + Y'_1) f_x(X_1, W'_1) Y_2 f_x(X_2, W'_2) (X_1 \wedge X_2)] - 2\mathbb{E}[(Y + Y'') f_x(X, W') X] \mathbb{E}[Y f_x(X, W') X] \\ &= 4\mathbb{E}[Y_1 f_x(X_1, W'_1) Y_2 f_x(X_2, W'_2) (X_1 \wedge X_2)] - 4\mathbb{E}[Y f_x(X, W') X]^2 = \Sigma_C^{1,1} \\ \Sigma_C^{2,3} &= 2\mathbb{E}[f_x(X_1, W_1) Y_2 f_x(X_2, W'_2) (X_1 \wedge X_2)] - 2\mathbb{E}[f_x(X, W) X] \mathbb{E}[Y f_x(X, W') X] = \Sigma_C^{1,2}.\end{aligned}$$

Evidently,  $\Sigma_C^{2,1} = \Sigma_C^{1,2}$ ,  $\Sigma_C^{3,1} = \Sigma_C^{1,3}$ , and  $\Sigma_C^{3,2} = \Sigma_C^{2,3}$ .

## References

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