

# Recall: Optimization Experiment in AnyLogic

**Stops after best objective ceases to significantly improve**  
**Caveat Modelor: May prematurely terminate the optimization**

**Stops after 500 optimization iterations**  
**Varying these parameters**

**Calibration - Optimization Experiment**

Name: Calibration

Random number generation:

- Random seed (unique simulation runs)
- Fixed seed (reproducible simulation runs)
- Custom generator (subclass of Random)

Objective: minimize `difference( dsInfectiousCurrent, dsInfectiousHistoric )`

Optimization stop conditions:

- Iteration count: 500
- Automatic stop

Parameters:

Parameter	Type	Value		St
		Min	Max	
AverageI...uration	fixed	15		
ContactRate	continuous	0.5	5	0
Infection...bability	continuous	0.1	0.8	0
TotalPopulation	fixed	10000		

# An Optimization Experiment in AnyLogic Using Built-in Difference Function

The screenshot displays the AnyLogic software interface. On the left, a project tree shows a simulation named 'SIR Agent Based Calibration\*' with a 'Main' object containing a 'Calibration' sub-object. The main workspace shows the 'Calibration.java' file with the following code:

```
package sir_agent_based_calibration;

import java.sql.Connection;
import java.sql.SQLException;

import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.Arrays;
import java.util.Calendar;
import java.util.Collection;
import java.util.Collections;
import java.util.Comparator;
import java.util.Currency;
import java.util.Date;
import java.util.Enumeration;
```

A blue text overlay reads: "A built-in objective function (euclidean distance)". A blue arrow points from this text to the 'Objective' field in the 'Calibration - Optimization Experiment' configuration window. In this window, the 'Objective' is set to 'minimize' and the function is 'difference(dsInfectiousCurrent, dsInfectiousHistoric)'. A tooltip for the 'difference' function is visible, providing details about its parameters and return value.

**Calibration - Optimization Experiment**

Name: Calibration Main active object class (root): Main  Ignore   
 Create default UI

Random number generation:   
  Random seed (Unique simulation runs)   
  Fixed seed (reproducible simulation runs) Seed value: 1   
  Custom generator (subclass of Random): new Random()

Objective:  minimize  maximize   
 difference( dsInfectiousCurrent, dsInfectiousHistoric

Optimization stop:   
  Iteration count   
  Automatic stop

Parameters:   
 Parameter   
 AverageI...uratic

**difference** (DataSet ds1, DataSet ds2)

Difference function which is always not-negative and reflects difference between 2 given data sets in their common arguments range

**Parameters:**   
 ds1 - data set   
 ds2 - data set

**Returns:**   
 square root of the average of square of difference between linearly interpolated data sets   
 The integration range is the intersection of argument ranges of data sets

# Finding the Definition

The screenshot shows the AnyLogic University help interface. At the top, the search bar contains the text "difference dataset dataset" and the scope is set to "All topics". The search results are displayed in a list on the left, with the first result selected. The main content area on the right shows the definition for the "difference" function.

**Search Results**

- Collects data (PDF, CDF, etc.) of an array of histograms, each having a certain range of base (x) values and a range of data - y values. When an item (x,y) is added to Hist...**
- Compare Runs Experiment**  
This is an interactive experiment that allows you to input the model parameters, run simulation, and add the simulation output to the charts where they can be compared with...
- Calibration Experiment**  
When you have your model structure in place, you may wish to tune some parameters of the model so that its behavior in particular conditions matches a known (historical) pa...
- Sensitivity Analysis Experiment**  
This experiment helps you to explore how sensitive are the simulation results to changes of the model parameters. The experiment runs the model multiple times varying one o...
- Monte Carlo Experiment**  
Monte Carlo experiment obtains and displays a collection of simulation outputs for a stochastic model or for a model with stochastically varied parameter(s). You can find t...
- AnyLogic Professional**  
edition is the ultimate solution for development of large and complex simulation models and sophisticated animations, embedding models into various IT environments, and cre...
- Statistics**  
The Statistics object calculates statistical information (mean value, minimum, maximum, etc.) on a series of data samples of type double. The object works differently depen...
- AnyLogic 6.5 New Features**  
3D animation Easy access to MS Excel files on all platforms "How to..." models and other materials to support learning Model documentation in one click New objects and improv...
- Parameter Variation**  
AnyLogic affords an opportunity to run model with different model parameters and analyze how some certain parameters affect the model behavior. You don't need to run your m...
- Optimization Experiment**  
If you need to run a simulation and observe system behavior under certain conditions, as well as improve system performance, for example, by making decisions about system p...

**All Classes**

- [AbstractShapeGISMap](#)
- [ActiveObject](#)
- [ActiveObjectArrayList](#)
- [ActiveObjectCollection](#)
- [ActiveObjectIntegrationMan](#)
- [ActiveObjectLinkedHashSet](#)
- [ActiveObjectList](#)
- [Agent](#)
- [AgentContinuous](#)
- [AgentContinuous2D](#)
- [AgentContinuous3D](#)
- [AgentContinuousGIS](#)
- [AgentDiscrete2D](#)
- [Area2D](#)
- [Area3D](#)
- [BarChart](#)
- [Camera3D](#)
- [Chart](#)
- [Chart.Properties](#)
- [Chart1D](#)
- [Chart1DSum](#)
- [Chart2D](#)
- [Chart2DPlot](#)
- [Chart2DPlot.Appearance](#)
- [ChartItem](#)
- [Configuration3D](#)
- [CustomDistribution](#)
- [Database](#)
- [DataItem](#)
- [DataSet](#)

**difference**

```
public static double difference(DataSet ds1,
                               DataSet ds2)
```

Difference function which is always not-negative and reflects difference between 2 given data sets in their common arguments range

**Parameters:**

- ds1 - data set
- ds2 - data set

**Returns:**

- square root of the average of square of difference between linearly interpolated data sets
- The integration range is the intersection of argument ranges of data sets

**millisecond**

```
public double millisecond()
```

Returns a time value equal to one millisecond according to the current time unit setting.

**Returns:**

- a time value equal to one millisecond

**second**

```
public double second()
```

Returns a time value equal to one second according to the current time unit setting.

**Returns:**

- a time value equal to one second

**minute**

```
public double minute()
```

Returns a time value equal to one minute according to the current time unit setting.

# An Optimization Experiment in AnyLogic with a custom difference function

**Calibration of Agent Based SIR Model**

Run calibration

	Current	Best
Iteration:	?	?
Objective: ↓	?	?

**Parameters**

ContactRate	?	?
InfectionProbability	?	?

Copy the best solution to the clipboard

copy

**Calibration progress**

Custom distance function

Properties Console

**Calibration - Optimization Experiment**

Objective:  minimize  maximize

difference ()

Optimization stop conditions

Iteration count: 500

Automatic Stop

Parameters:

parameter	type	value		
		min	max	step
AverageL...uration	fixed	15		
ContactRate	continuous	0.5	3	0
Infection...bability	continuous	0.1	0.8	0
AreaSide	fixed	100		
TotalPopulation	fixed	10000		

Varying these parameters

Selection

# Defining a Payoff Function

Caveat: Here, Non-Analytic, Non-Concave

The screenshot shows the AnyLogic Advanced software interface. The main workspace displays a calibration model for an SIR agent-based model. The model includes variables such as `dsInfectiousHistoric`, `dsInfectiousCurrent`, `difference`, and `dsInfectiousBest`. The `difference` function is defined in the console window, and its code is shown in the code editor below. The code calculates the absolute discrepancy between historic and model values at a specific point (index `i`) during realization.

```
Function body:  
int diff = 0;  
for( int i=0; i<dsInfectiousCurrent.size(); i++ )  
    diff += abs( dsInfectiousCurrent.getY(i) - dsInfectiousHistoric.getY(i) );  
return diff;
```

**Computing absolute discrepancy  
Between historic & model values at  
specific point (index i) during realization**

# Historic Data Captured via Table Function

The screenshot displays the AnyLogic University software interface. The main window shows a simulation of an SIR model with a calibration process. A graph on the right plots the objective function against parameters, showing a red line for the current objective and a blue line for the best fit. The console window shows the following text:

```
Iteration: ?  
Replication: infeasible ? infeasible ?  
Objective: ↓ ? ?  
Parameters  
ContactRate ?  
InfectionProbability ?  
Copy the best solution to the clipboard [copy]  
The built-in OptQuest optimizer is used to calibrate  
a compartment-based model of contagious disease diffusion.
```

The Properties window for the **InfectiousHistoric - Table Function** is open, showing the following settings:

- Name: InfectiousHistoric
- Show name:
- Ignore:
- Show at runtime:
- Access: public
- Static:
- Interpolation: Linear
- Out of Range: Error

The Table Data section shows the following data points:

Argument	Value
2	3
4	8
6	24
8	71
10	202
12	558
14	1428
16	3070
18	5014
20	6214
22	6431
24	6083

A graph on the right shows a bell-shaped curve representing the data points, with a red line connecting the points. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 7000, and the x-axis ranges from 0 to 24.

How to  
interpolate  
("fill in")  
between data  
points

# Populating a Dataset with Historic Data

The screenshot displays the AnyLogic University interface for a calibration experiment. The main workspace shows a table with the following data:

Iteration:	?	?
Replication:	infeasible	infeasible
Objective:	?	?

Parameters:

- ContactRate: ?
- InfectionProbability: ?

A graph on the right shows the 'Current objective' (blue line) and 'Best fit' (red line) over iterations. The 'Best fit' line starts at approximately 0.55 and decreases to about 0.35. The 'Current objective' line starts at 0.55 and remains constant until iteration 0.2, then decreases to 0.35.

The 'Initial experiment setup' field in the 'Calibration - Optimization Experiment' properties panel contains the following code:

```
dsInfectiousHistoric.fillFrom( InfectiousHistoric );
```

A red arrow points from the text box 'Populating the dataset from the previously defined table function' to this code snippet.

Populating the dataset from the previously defined table function

# Stochastics in Agent-Based Models

- Recall that ABMs typically exhibit significant stochastics
  - Event timing within & outside of agents
  - Inter-agent interactions
- When calibrating an ABM, we wish to avoid attributing a good match to a particular set of parameter values simply due to chance
- To reliably assess fit of a given set of parameters, we need to repeatedly run model realizations
  - We can take the mean fit of these realizations

# Recall: Important Distinction (Declining Order of Aggregation)

- Experiment
  - Collection of simulations
- Simulation
  - Collection of replications that can yield findings across set of replications (e.g. mean value)
- Replication
  - One run of the model

# Populating the Appropriate Datasets

**Populates historic data up front from table fn**

**These datasets are within the experiment Persist beyond the simulation**

**Retaining the Current value After the realization (Simulation run)**

**If this is the best iteration, saves away the results**

datasetCurrentObjective  
datasetBestFeasibleObjective

These data correspond to  
ContactRate = 1.5  
InfectionProbability = 0.4

InfectiousHistoric

Run calibration

Current

Iteration: ?  
infeasible

Objective: ↓ ?

Parameters

infectionRate ?  
infectionProbability ?

Only the best solution is kept

Calibration - Optimization Experiment

```
Initial Experiment Setup:  
dsInfectiousHistoric.fillFrom( InfectiousHistoric );
```

Before Each Experiment Run:

```
datasetCurrentObjective.reset();  
datasetBestFeasibleObjective.reset();
```

Before Simulation Run:

After Simulation Run:

```
dsInfectiousCurrent.fillFrom( root.dsInfectious );
```

After Iteration Code:

```
if ( getCurrentIteration() == getBestIteration() )  
    dsInfectiousBest.fillFrom( dsInfectiousCurrent );
```

# Running Calibration in AnyLogic

**Calibration of Agent Based SIR Model**

Run calibration

	Current	Best
Iteration:	5	3
Objective: ↓	120,500	3,895

**Parameters**

ContactRate	2.756	3
InfectionProbability	0.119	0.8

Copy the best solution to the clipboard

In this applet OptQuest optimizer is used to calibrate an agent based model of epidemic spread developed with AnyLogic. In that model each person is represented as a active object (agent) with 4 possible states: Susceptible, Exposed, Infectious and Recovered (SEIR). Initially all but few people are susceptible, and few – exposed. A person can contact another person, and in case one is susceptible and another – exposed or infectious, the first may get infected with a certain probability. The objective is to find the parameters of the agents (contact frequencies and infection probabilities) so that the output of the simulation model fits best with the historical data (in this case – the dynamics of infectious population). As the model is stochastic, the optimization is done under uncertainty, and simulation replications are used.

**Calibration progress**

Best payoff (objective) yet reached (lower is better)

**Historic data, best fitting and current simulation output**

Values of parameters being calibrated at best calibration thus far

Run: 4 Running Experiment: 1% Simulation: 5% 11.1 sec

# Optimization Constraints – Tests on Legitimacy of Parameter Values

AnyLogic Advanced [EDUCATIONAL USE ONLY]

File Edit View Model Window Help

Project Search

SIR Agent Based

- Main
  - Parameters
    - AverageIllnessDuration: 15
    - ContactRate: 1
    - InfectionProbability: 0.5
    - TotalPopulation: 250000
  - Plain Variables
  - Environments
    - environment
  - Embedded Objects
  - Presentation
  - Person
    - Plain Variables
    - Statecharts
    - Presentation
  - Simulation: Main
- Influenza
  - Family
    - Main
      - Parameters
        - Plain Variables
        - Embedded Objects
        - Analysis Data

## Calibration of Agent Based SIR Model

Run calibration

Iteration: **infeasible** ?

Objective: ↓ ?

Parameters

	Current	Best
ContactRate	?	?

Calibration progress

### Calibration - Optimization Experiment

Constraints on simulation parameters (are tested before a simulation run):

enabled	expression	type	bound
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Requirements (are tested after a simulation run to determine whether the solution is feasible):

enabled	expression	type	bound
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Palette

Model

- Parameter
- Flow Aux Variable
- Stock Variable
- Event
- Dynamic Event
- Plain Variable
- Collection Variable
- Function
- Table Function
- Port
- Connector
- Entry Point
- State
- Transition
- Initial State Pointer
- Branch
- History State
- Final State
- Environment

Action

Analysis

Presentation

Connectivity

Enterprise Library

More Libraries...

# Optimization Requirements – Tests to Sense Validity of Emergent Results

**Calibration of Agent Based SIR Model**

Run calibration

Iteration: **infeasible** ?

Objective: ↓ ?

**Parameters**

Parameter	Current	Best
ContactRate	?	?

**Calibration progress**

Graph showing progress over iterations. A vertical red line is at iteration 10.

**Calibration - Optimization Experiment**

Constraints on simulation parameters (are tested before a simulation run):

enabled	expression	type	bound
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Requirements (are tested after a simulation run to determine whether the solution is feasible):

enabled	expression	type	bound
<input type="checkbox"/>			

# Enabling Multiple Realizations ("Replications", "Runs") per Iteration

The screenshot displays the AnyLogic Advanced software interface, specifically the Calibration - Optimization Experiment window. The interface is divided into several panes:

- Project Explorer (Left):** Shows a hierarchical tree of the model. The 'Calibration: Main' folder is expanded, showing various components like 'Functions', 'Analysis Data', and 'Presentation'. The 'dsInfectiousBest' component is selected.
- Calibration Experiment Canvas (Center):** Displays a grid with several data points and a text box. The text box contains: "These data correspond to ContactRate = 1.5 InfectionProbability = 0.4". Below this, there are several data points represented by colored circles and labels: 'InfectiousHistoric', 'dsInfectiousHistoric', 'dsInfectiousCurrent', 'difference', and 'dsInfectiousBest'.
- Properties Panel (Bottom Left):** Shows the 'Replications' section with a checkbox labeled 'Use replications' which is currently unchecked.
- Console (Bottom Center):** Displays the title 'Calibration - Optimization Experiment'.
- Right Panel (Right):** Contains a 'Current' section with 'Iteration: ?' and 'Objective: ↓ ?'. Below this is a 'Parameters' section with 'ContactRate' and 'InfectionProbability' both set to '?'. A 'Copy the best solution to the clipboard' button is visible. At the bottom of this panel, there is a descriptive text: "In this applet OptQuest optimizer i calibrate an agent based model o spread developed with AnyLogic. I each person is represented as a : (agent) with 4 possible states: Su Exposed, Infectious and Recovere".
- Palette (Far Right):** Shows a list of model components such as 'Parameter', 'Flow Aux Variable', 'Stock Variable', 'Event', 'Dynamic Event', 'Plain Variable', 'Collection Variable', 'Function', 'Table Function', 'Port', 'Connector', 'Entry Point', 'State', 'Transition', 'Initial State Pointer', 'Branch', 'History State', 'Final State', and 'Environment'.

# Fixed Number of Replications per Iteration

**Specifies stopping Condition once minimum replications have been run. Indicates that the X% confidence interval around the mean is within "Error percent" of the iteration mean obtained as of the most recent replication**

**Calibration - Optimization Experiment**

- Use replications
- Fixed number of replications
  - Replications per iteration: 10
- Varying number of replications (Stop replications after minimum replications, when confidence level is reached)
  - Minimum replications: 10
  - Maximum replications: 10
  - Confidence level: 80%
  - Error percent: 0.5

**Properties**

- dsInfectiousHistoric
- dsInfectiousCurrent
- dsInfectiousBest
- difference
- datasetCurrentObjective
- datasetBestFeasibleObjective
- dsInfectiousHistoric
- dsInfectiousCurrent
- dsInfectiousBest
- Presentation
- MonteCarlo2DHistogram: Main

**Console**

Calibration - Optimization Experiment

Iteration: ?  
Objective: ?

**Parameters**

- ContactRate ?
- InfectionProbability ?

Copy the best solution to the clipboard

In this applet OptQuest optimizer i calibrate an agent based model of spread developed with AnyLogic. I each person is represented as a (agent) with 4 possible states: Su Exposed, Infectious and Recovere

**Model Palette**

- Parameter
- Flow Aux Variable
- Stock Variable
- Event
- Dynamic Event
- Plain Variable
- Collection Variable
- Function
- Table Function
- Port
- Connector
- Entry Point
- State
- Transition
- Initial State Pointer
- Branch
- History State
- Final State
- Environment

**Action**

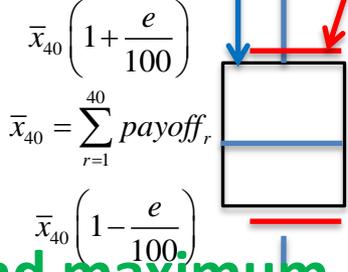
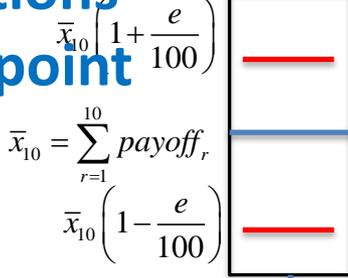
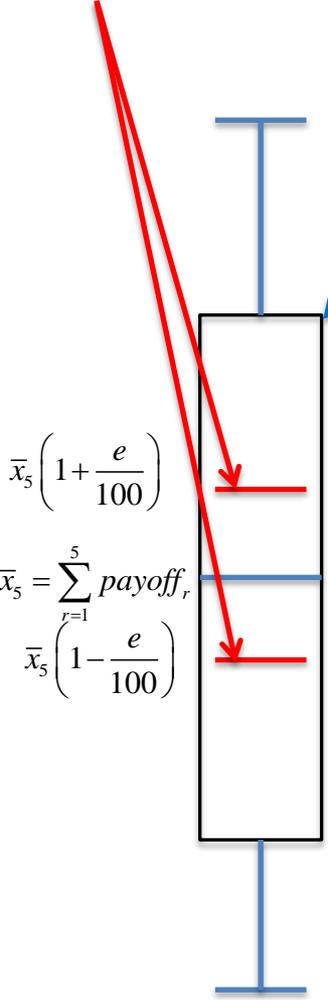
- Action
- Analysis
- Presentation
- Connectivity
- Enterprise Library
- More Libraries...

Bars showing that delineating values within errorPercent% of mean

# Example

Terminates because confidence interval falls within errorPercent% bars

x% (e.g. 80%) confidence interval for sample mean (average) of replications to this point



$$\bar{x}_5 \left( 1 + \frac{e}{100} \right)$$

$$\bar{x}_5 = \sum_{r=1}^5 \text{payoff}_r$$

$$\bar{x}_5 \left( 1 - \frac{e}{100} \right)$$

$$\bar{x}_{10} \left( 1 + \frac{e}{100} \right)$$

$$\bar{x}_{10} = \sum_{r=1}^{10} \text{payoff}_r$$

$$\bar{x}_{10} \left( 1 - \frac{e}{100} \right)$$

$$\bar{x}_{40} \left( 1 + \frac{e}{100} \right)$$

$$\bar{x}_{40} = \sum_{r=1}^{40} \text{payoff}_r$$

$$\bar{x}_{40} \left( 1 - \frac{e}{100} \right)$$

After 5 replications

After 10 replications

After 40 replications  
**Terminates**

Minimum and maximum Observed values from replications

# Automatic Throttling of Replications Based on Empirical Fractiles for the Average of the Differences between Best and Current

The screenshot displays the AnyLogic Advanced software interface, specifically the Calibration - Optimization Experiment window. The interface is divided into several panes:

- Project Explorer (Left):** Shows a hierarchical tree of model components, including variables like InfectionProbability (0.8), TotalPopulation (10000), and various datasets and presentation elements.
- Main Canvas (Center):** A grid-based workspace containing several data objects and a text box. The text box states: "These data correspond to ContactRate = 1.5, InfectionProbability = 0.4".
- Properties Panel (Bottom Left):** Shows the configuration for the "Calibration - Optimization Experiment".
  - General:**  Use replications
  - Advanced:**  Fixed number of replications;  Varying number of replications (Stop replications after minimum replications, when confidence level is reached)
  - Replications:** Minimum replications: 10; Maximum replications: 100; Confidence level: 80%; Error percent: 0.5
- Console (Bottom Center):** Displays the title "Calibration - Optimization Experiment".
- Right Panel (Right):** Contains a "Current" section with "Iteration: ?" and "Objective: ?" (marked as infeasible), and a "Parameters" section with "ContactRate: ?" and "InfectionProbability: ?". A yellow vertical bar is visible next to the parameters.
- Palette (Far Right):** Lists various model components such as Parameter, Flow Aux Variable, Stock Variable, Event, Dynamic Event, Plain Variable, Collection Variable, Function, Table Function, Port, Connector, Entry Point, State, Transition, Initial State Pointer, Branch, History State, Final State, and Environment.

# Enabling Random Variation Between Realizations (“Replications”)

The screenshot displays the AnyLogic Advanced software interface, specifically the Calibration - Optimization Experiment configuration window. The main workspace shows a grid with several data points and a text box indicating: "These data correspond to ContactRate = 1.5, InfectionProbability = 0.4". A yellow callout points to the "InfectiousHistoric" data point.

The left sidebar shows the Project tree with various model components like InfectionProbability, TotalPopulation, and dsInfectious.

The bottom panel, titled "Calibration - Optimization Experiment", contains the following settings:

- General:** Name: Calibration; Main active object class (root): Main; Ignore: ; Create Def:
- Advanced:** Random number generation:  Random seed (unique simulation runs);  Fixed seed (reproducible simulation runs) with Seed Value: 1
- Objective:**  minimize;  maximize; Objective function: difference()
- Optimization stop conditions:**  Iteration count: 500;  Automatic Stop
- Parameters:** (empty list)

The right sidebar shows the Palette with various model components like Parameter, Flow Aux Variable, Stock Variable, Event, Dynamic Event, Plain Variable, Collection Variable, Function, Table Function, Port, Connector, Entry Point, State, Transition, Initial State Pointer, Branch, History State, Final State, and Environment.

# Understanding Replications: Report Results for Each Replication!

The screenshot displays the AnyLogic Advanced software interface, specifically the Calibration - Optimization Experiment window. The interface is divided into several panes:

- Project Explorer (Left):** Shows a hierarchical tree of model components, including variables like `InfectionProbability: 0.8` and `TotalPopulation: 10000`, and datasets such as `dsInfectiousHistoric`, `dsInfectiousCurrent`, and `dsInfectiousBest`.
- Main Canvas (Center):** Displays a grid with various components and a text box stating: "These data correspond to ContactRate = 1.5 InfectionProbability = 0.4". A yellow box highlights the `InfectiousHistoric` component.
- Properties Panel (Right):** Shows the current state of the experiment, including "Iteration: ?" (marked as **infeasible**) and "Objective: ?". It also lists parameters like `ContactRate` and `InfectionProbability`.
- Code Editor (Bottom):** Contains Java code for the calibration experiment, including:

```
dsInfectiousHistoric.fillFrom( InfectiousHistoric );  
  
Before Each Experiment Run:  
datasetCurrentObjective.reset();  
datasetBestFeasibleObjective.reset();  
  
Before Simulation Run:  
  
After Simulation Run:  
dsInfectiousCurrent.fillFrom( root.dsInfectious );  
traceln("For this particular simulation, the difference is\t" + difference());  
  
After Iteration Code:  
if( getCurrentIteration() == getBestIteration() )  
    dsInfectiousBest.fillFrom( dsInfectiousCurrent );
```
- Console (Bottom):** Displays the output of the simulation, including the difference value.
- Palette (Far Right):** Provides a library of components for building the model, including Parameter, Flow Aux Variable, Stock Variable, Event, Dynamic Event, Plain Variable, Collection Variable, Function, Table Function, Port, Connector, Entry Point, State, Transition, Initial State Pointer, Branch, History State, Final State, and Environment.

# During First Several Realizations (“Replications”, “Runs”), No Results Appear

**Calibration of Agent Based SIR Model**

Run calibration

Iteration: 1

Objective: ↓ 3,343.5

**Parameters**

ContactRate 1.75

InfectionProbability 0.45

Copy the best solution to the clipboard

**Calibration progress**

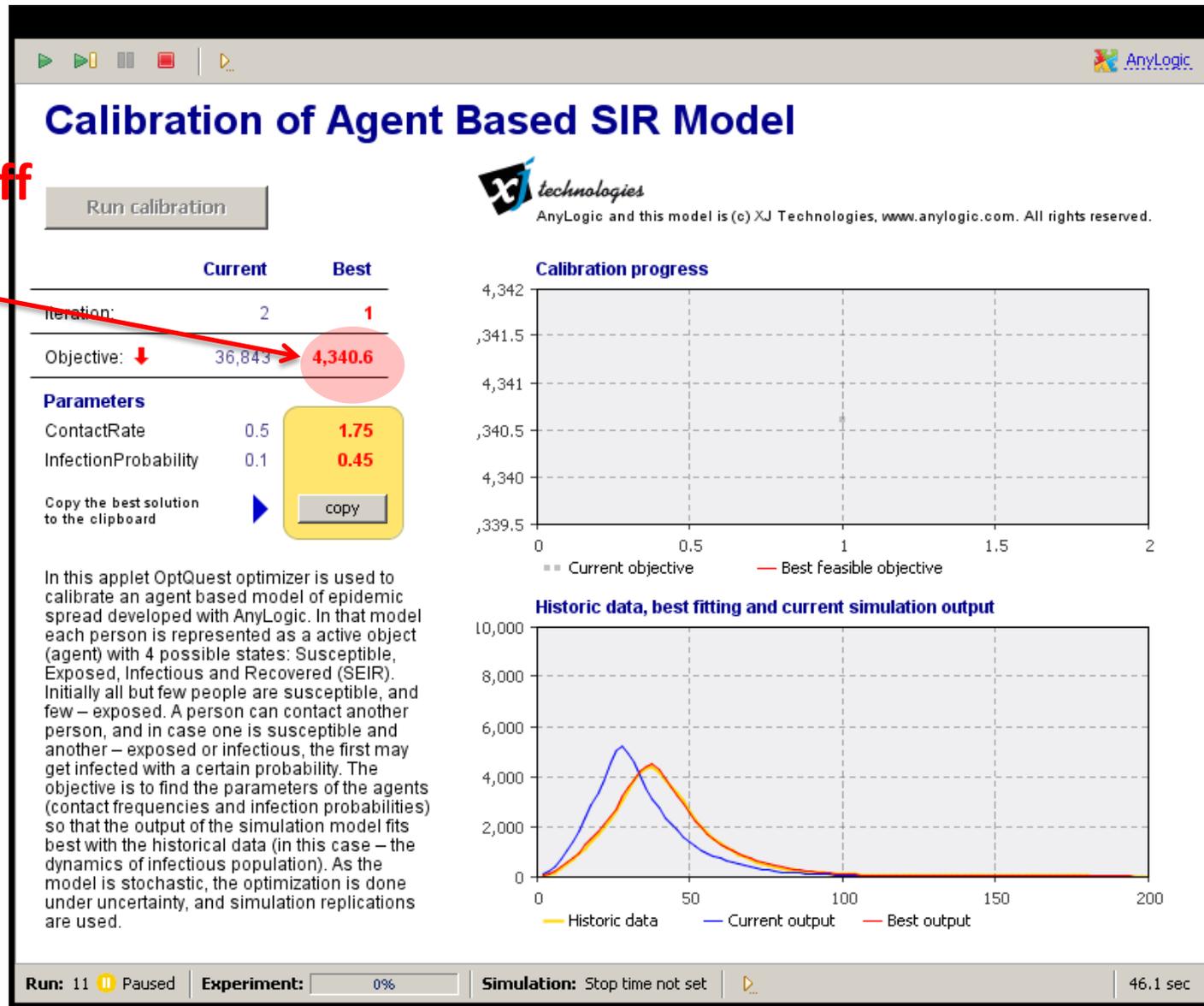
**Historic data, best fitting and current simulation output**

In this applet OptQuest optimizer is used to calibrate an agent based model of epidemic spread developed with AnyLogic. In that model each person is represented as a active object (agent) with 4 possible states: Susceptible, Exposed, Infectious and Recovered (SEIR). Initially all but few people are susceptible, and few – exposed. A person can contact another person, and in case one is susceptible and another – exposed or infectious, the first may get infected with a certain probability. The objective is to find the parameters of the agents (contact frequencies and infection probabilities) so that the output of the simulation model fits best with the historical data (in this case – the dynamics of infectious population). As the model is stochastic, the optimization is done under uncertainty, and simulation replications are used.

Run: 2 Running Experiment: 0% Simulation: 21% 4.6 sec

# Report on Iteration 1 Appears after a Count of Runs Equal to Replications per Iteration

Reports best payoff (objective) yet reached (lower is better), but from where did this number come?







# Considerations

- Adding constraints helps increase identifiability (selection of realistic best fit)
- Adding parameters to tune leads to larger space to explore
- Adding too many parameters to tune can lead to underdetermined situation
- All fits are within constraints of model

# Dealing with Calibration Problems: Experiments

- Try to “outsmart” calibration
  - Adopt best parameter values from calibration
  - Try to adjust parameters to do better than calibration
    - If is better, it may be that the parameter space is too large, or that the range constraints are too tight
    - Typically this does not do as well: Opportunity to learn
      - Model not respond in the way that anticipated to parameter change
      - May just shift the discrepancy from one variable to another
        - » Assumptions of model structure/values may not permit both variables to simultaneously match well!
- Set very high weight on thing that want to match, and see other matches
- Set all other weights to 0 (see if can possibly match)

# Dealing with Calibration Problems: Additional Experiments

- Increase parameter range
- Increase # of parameters
- Examine impact of changed model structure
- Run for larger number of optimization runs
- Find other estimates for uncertain parameters

# Important Cross-Checks: Uniqueness

- Are the calibration values Unique? If so, good; if not,
  - Do they give the same underlying interpretation?
  - Do the different interpretations lead to parameters that “trade off” in some structured way?
- Ways of addressing significantly different interpretations
  - Collect more primary data!
  - Impose additional constraints (in terms of time series, etc.)
  - Simplify model
  - Find other estimates for uncertain parameters

# Important Cross-Checks: Binding Constants

- Look for calibrated parameter values that are at the edges of their permissible ranges
  - If “best” value is at the edge of the range, it may be that even better calibrations would have been possible if continuing in that direction
- To deal with those at the edge
  - Relax constraints
  - Collect more data on plausible values
  - Question model structure

# Capturing Parameter Interdependencies in Calibration

- If we want parameter B adjusted during calibration to be at least as big as parameter A
  - In vensim, we can't enforce this constraint using the typical calibration machinery, because the range limits for parameters must be constants
  - we can accomplish this by calibrating only parameter A, and a parameter representing the ratio B/A.
- If we want to adjust two or more parameters such that they still sum to 1 (e.g. fraction of initial population in each of  $n$  or more stocks), we can adjust each of  $n$  non-normalized weights, and then take the corresponding normalized amount to be frac. falling in that category

# Calibrating Initial Conditions

- The initial conditions can be one of the best values to calibrate
- Sometimes need to divide a fixed population into several stocks

# Calibration & Regression: Similarities & Differences

- Model calibration is similar to regression in that we are seeking to find the parameter values allowing the best match of model & data
  - As in non-linear regression, for non-linear simulation models no “closed form” solution of best parameter values is possible  $\Rightarrow$  optimization is required
- A big difference:
  - **Regression models:** the “functional form” (dependence of model output on par’ms/indep vars) is given explicitly
  - **Simulation models:** behavior is only *implicitly* specified (e.g. via giving differentials); model output is a complex resultant (even emergent) property of structure