Uncertainty, Stochastics & Sensitivity Analysis

Nathaniel Osgood

MIT 15.879

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Types of Sensitivity Analyses

- Variables involved
  - One-way
  - Multi-way
- Type of component being varied
  - Parameter sensitivity analysis: Parameter values
  - Structural sensitivity analysis: Examine effects of model *structure* on results
- Type of variation
  - Single alternative values
  - Monte Carlo analyses: Draws from probability distributions (many types of variations)
- Frequency of variation
  - Static (parameter retains value all through simulation)
  - Ongoing change: Stochastic process
    - Accomplished via Monte-Carlo analyses
    - Key for DES & ABM

Model Uncertainty

- Here, we are frequently examining the impact of changing
  - Our assumptions about “how the system works”
  - Our decision of how to abstract the system behaviour
- Structural sensitivity analyses
  - Vary structure of model & see impact on
    - Results
    - Tradeoffs between choices
  - Frequently recalibrate the model in this process
- Here, we are considering uncertainty about how the current state is mapped to the next state

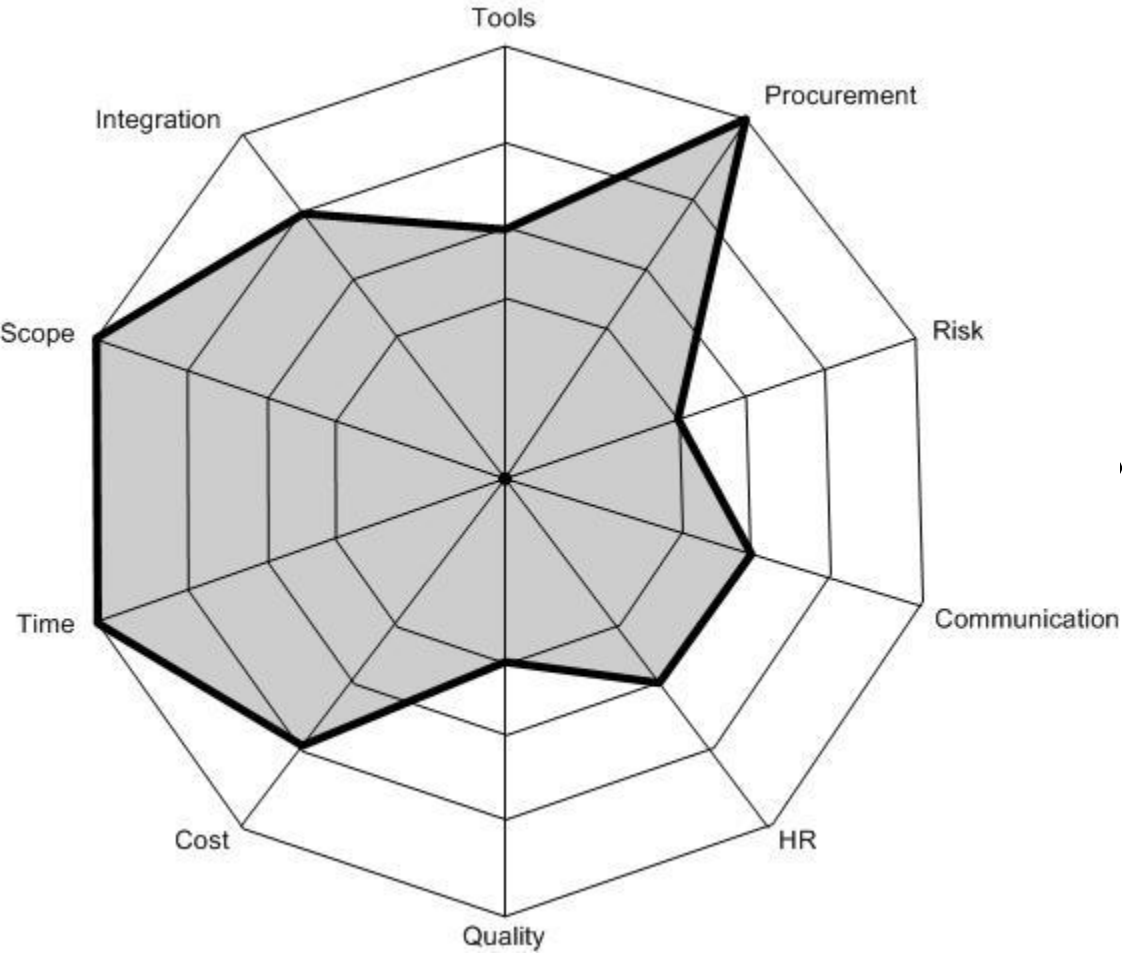
Predictor-Corrector Methods: Dealing with an Incomplete Model

- Some approaches (e.g. Kalman filter, Particle Filter) are motivated by awareness that models are incomplete
- Such approaches try to adjust model state estimates on an ongoing basis,
  - Given uncertainty about model predictions
  - New observations
- Assumption here is that the error in the model is defined by some probability distribution

Static Uncertainty Sensitivity Analyses

- In variation, one can seek to investigate different
  - Assumptions
  - Policies
- Same relative or absolute uncertainty in different parameters may have hugely different effect on outcomes or decisions
- Help identify parameters/initial states that strongly affect
  - Key model results
  - Choice between policies
- We place more emphasis in parameter estimation & interventions into parameters exhibiting high sensitivity

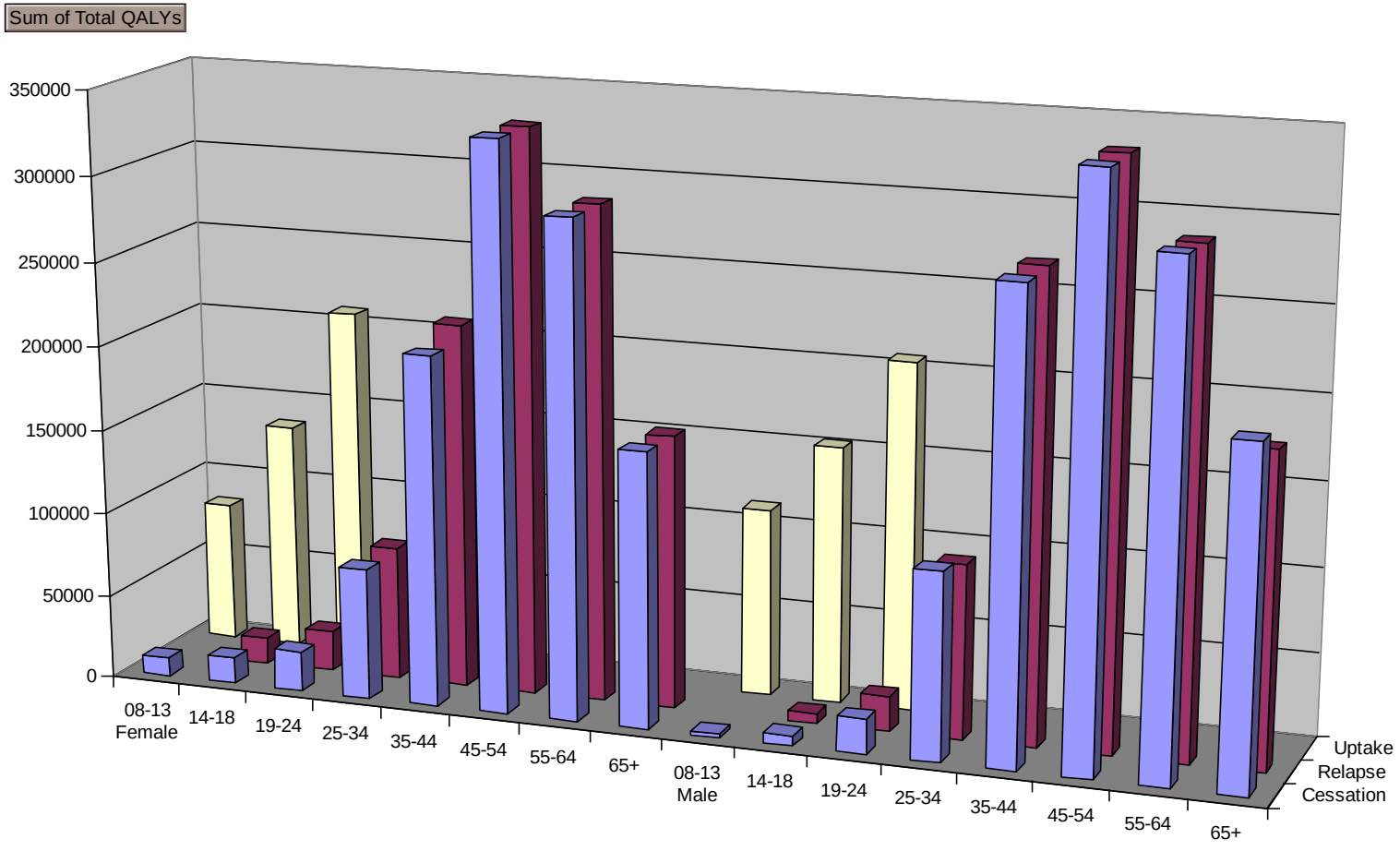
Spider Diagram



- Each axis represents a % change in a particular parameter
  - This proportional change is identical for the different parameters
- The distance assumed by the curve along that axis represents the magnitude of response to that change
  - Note that these sensitivities will depend on the state of system!

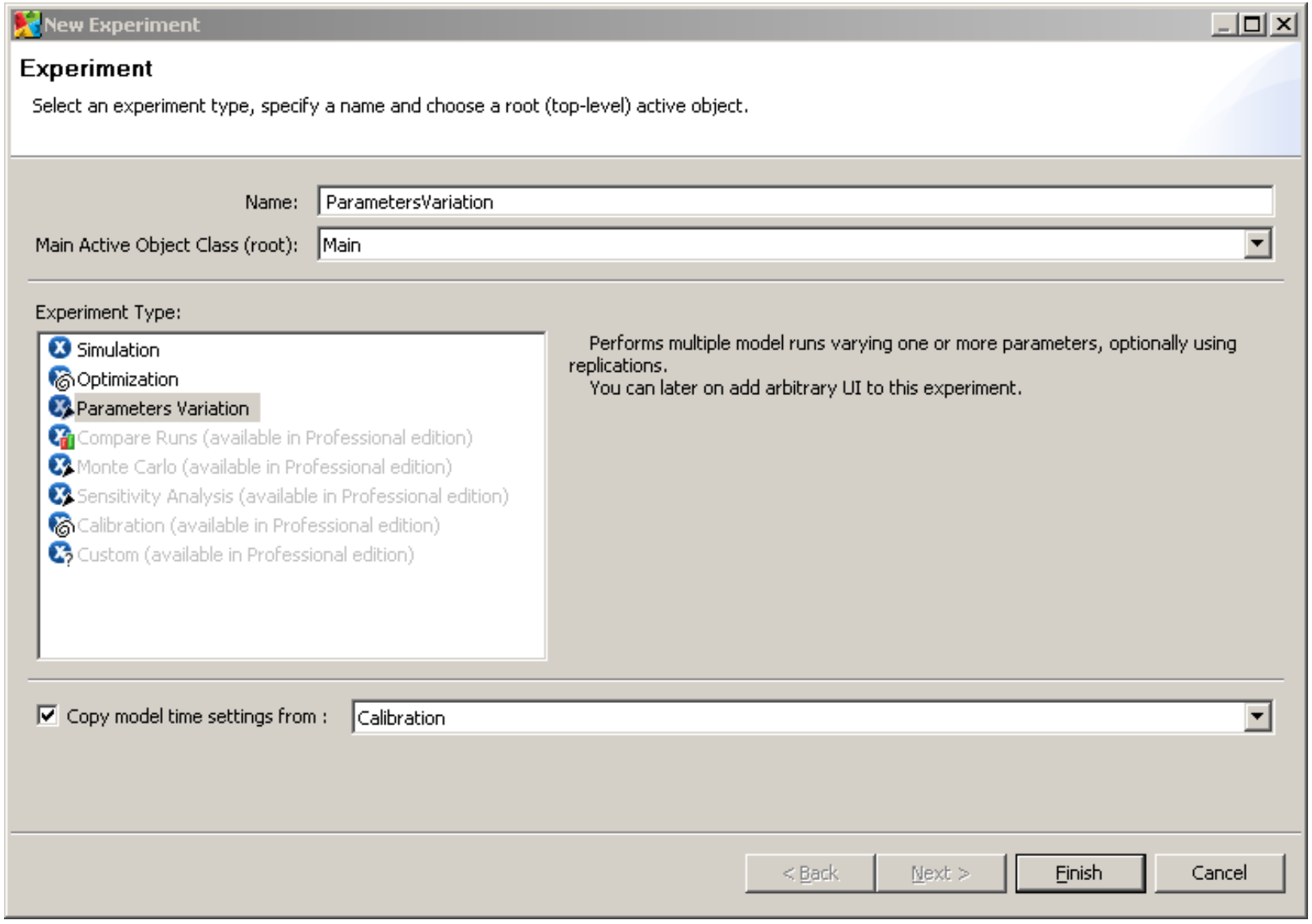
http://www.niwotridge.com/images/BLOGImages/SpiderDiagram.jpg

Systematic Examination of Policies

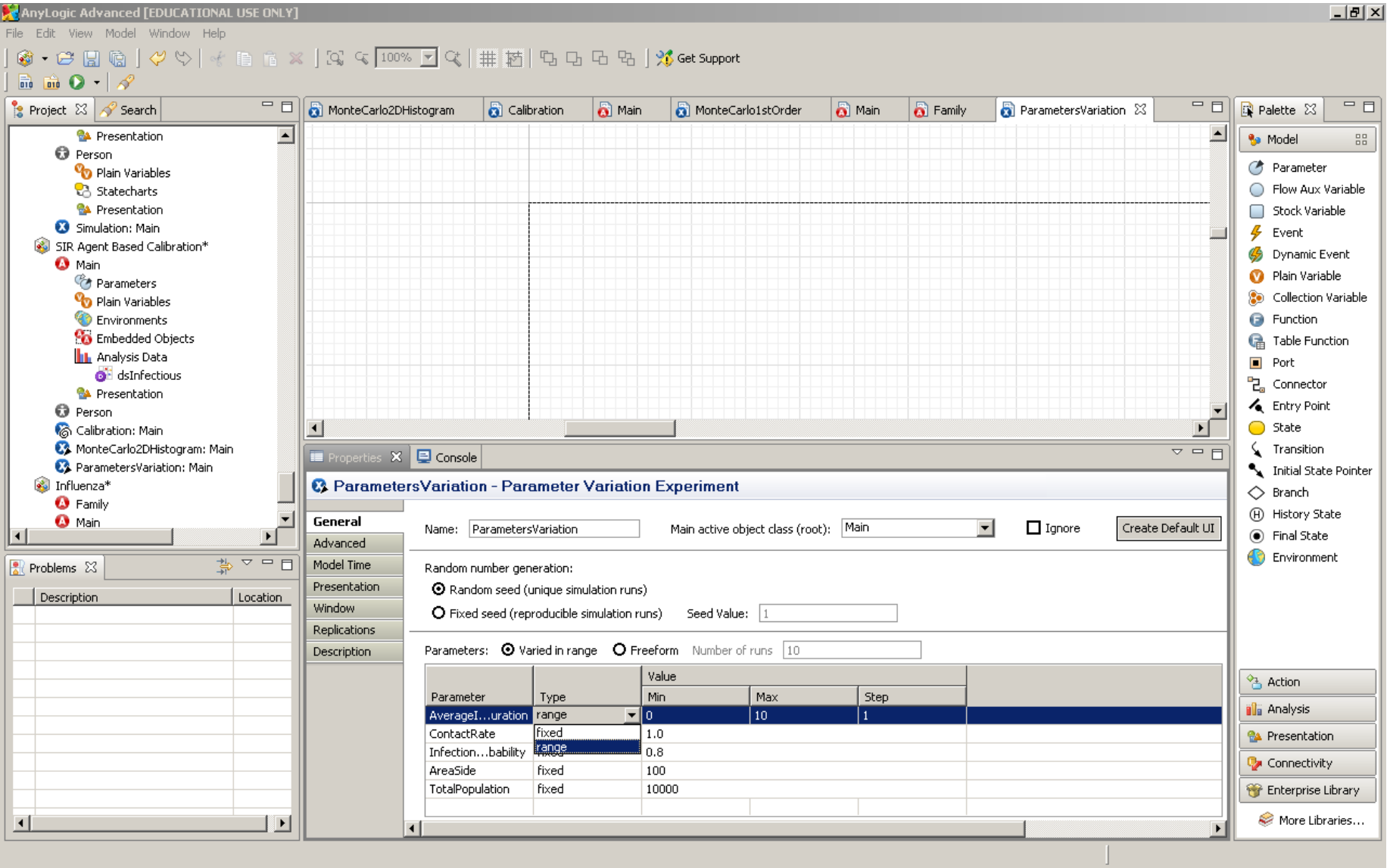


Tengs, Osgood, Lin

Add New “Parameters Variation” Experiment

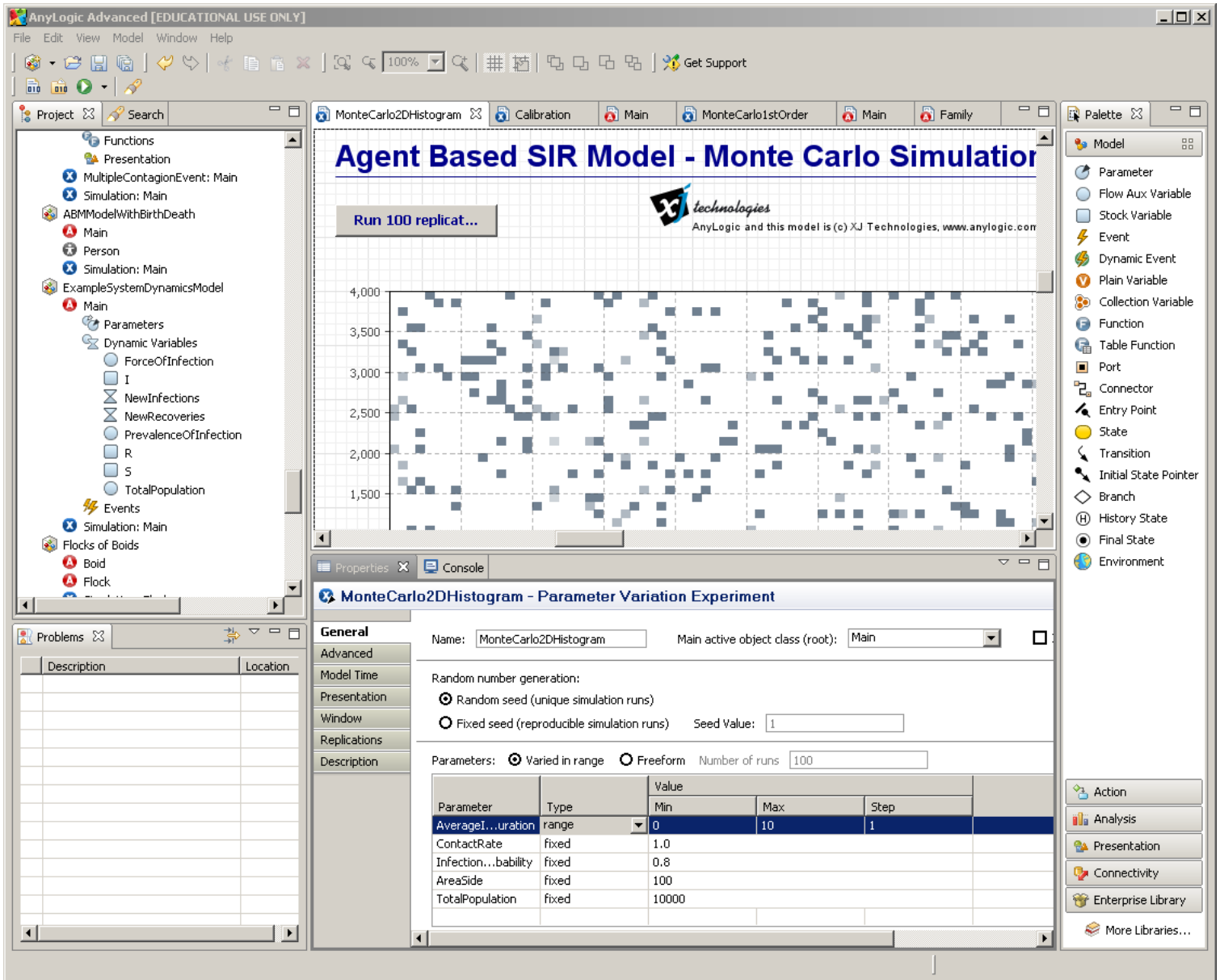


Setting Ranges for Parameter Variation Can Handle 1-Way or (Orthogonal) Multi-Way

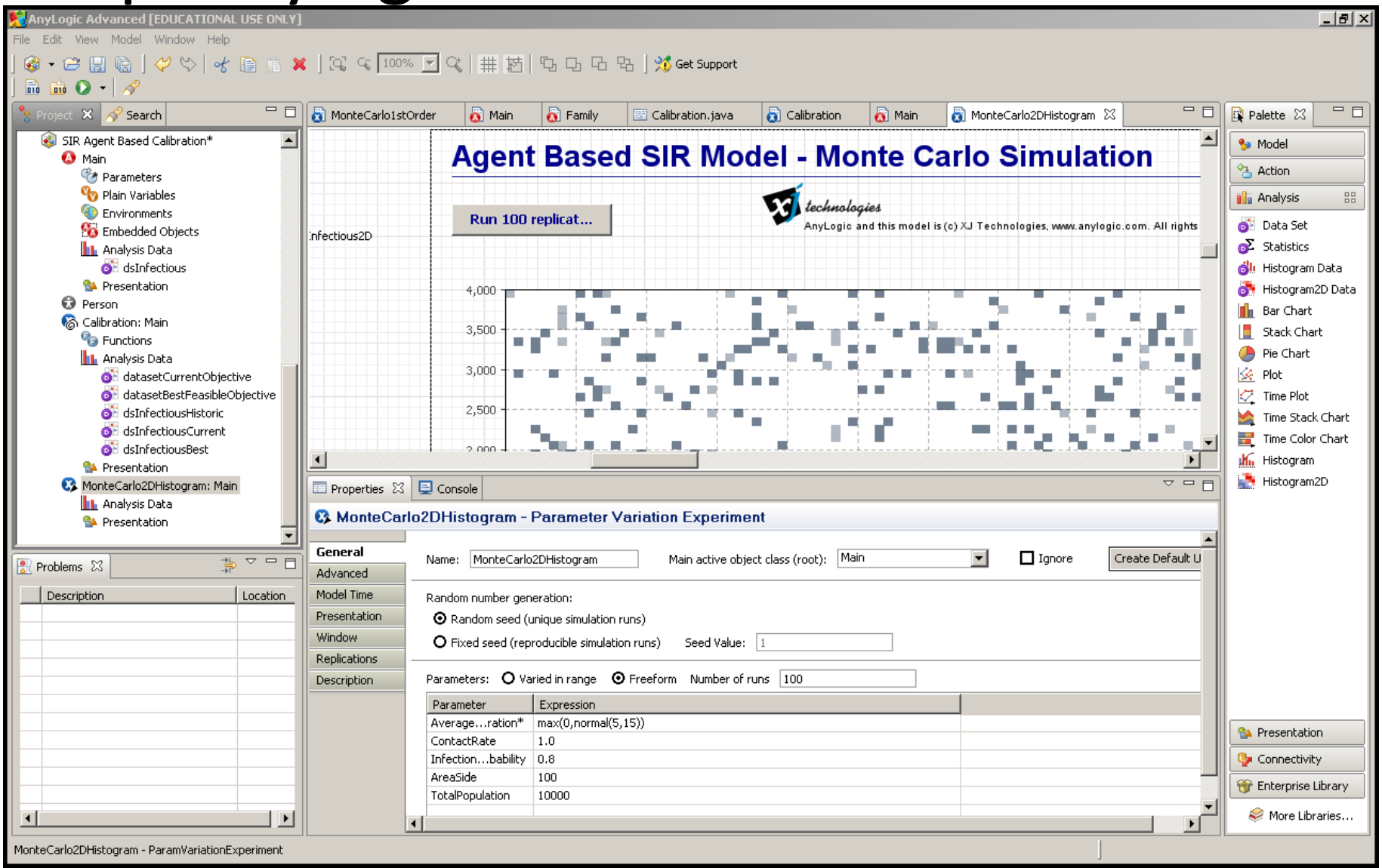


Sensitivity Exploration in AnyLogic

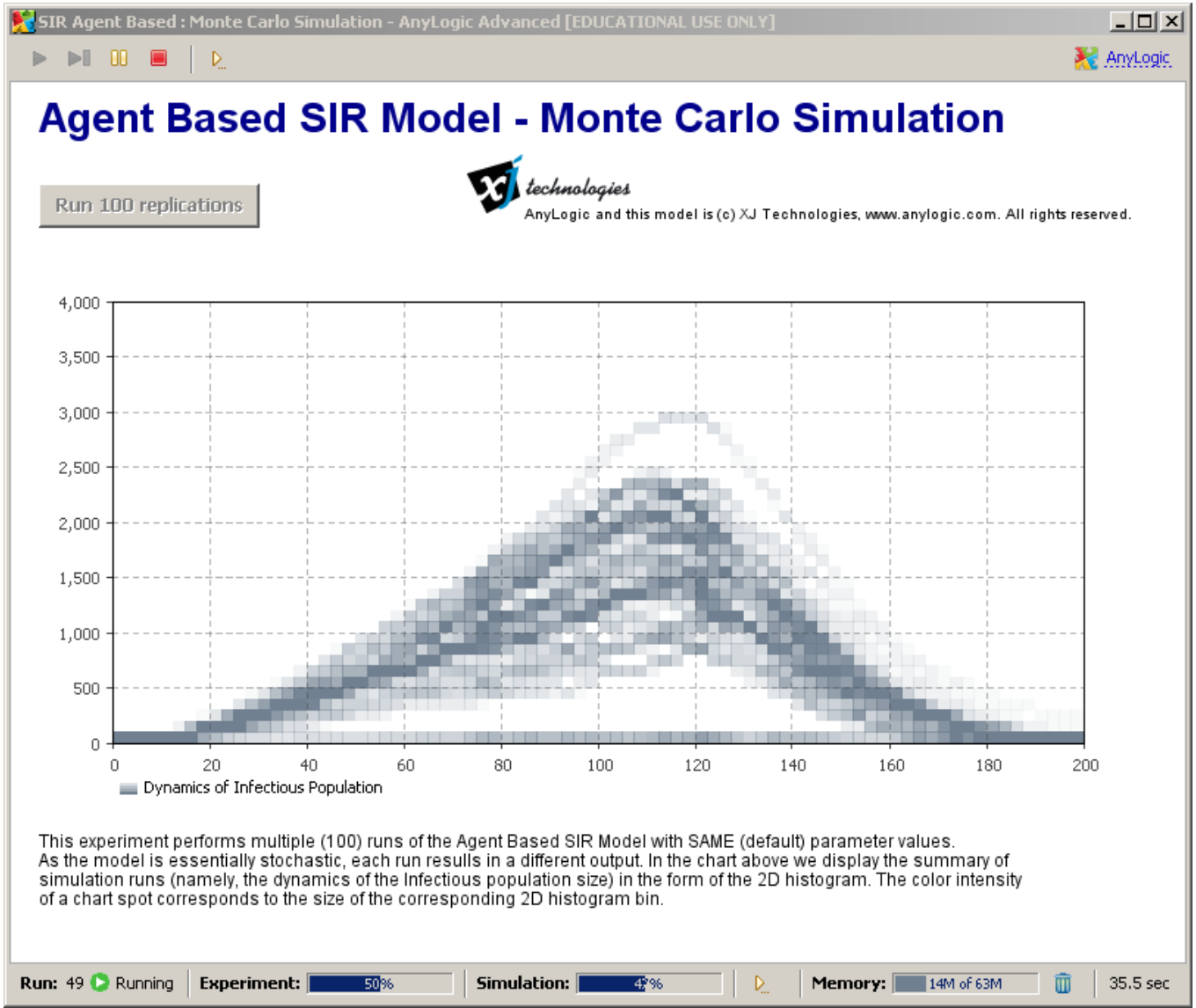
Performing 1 Way Sensitivity (for now…)



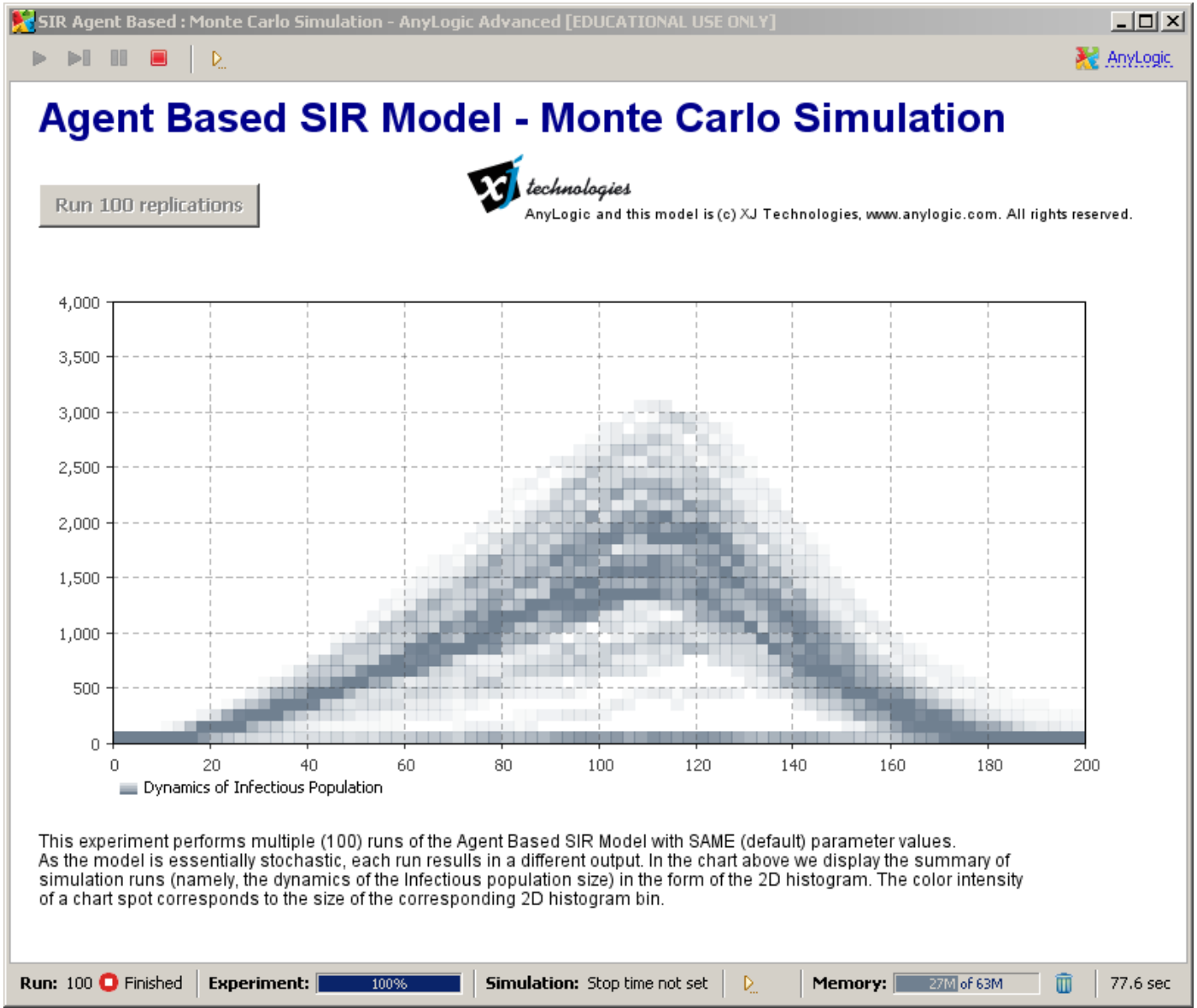
Monte Carlo Analyses in AnyLogic: Specifying Distributions for Parameters



Monte Carlo Output After Some Runs



Monte Carlo Output After All Runs



Sensitivity in Initial States

- Frequently we don't know the exact state of the system at a certain point in time
- A very useful type of sensitivity analysis is to vary the initial model state
- In Aggregate models, this can be accomplished by
  - Varying the number of people in the stock via a parameter to adjust
- In an agent-based model, state has far larger dimensionality
  - Can modify different numbers of people with characteristic, location of people with characteristic, etc.

Imposing a Probability Distribution Monte Carlo Analysis

- We feed in probability distributions to reflect our uncertainty about one or more parameters
- The model is run many, many times (realizations)
  - For each realization, the model uses a different draw from those probability distribution
- What emerges is resulting probability distribution for model outputs

Multi-Way Sensitivity Analyses

- When examining the results of changing multiple variables, need to consider how multiple variables vary together
- If this covariation reflects dependence on some underlying factor, may be able to simulate uncertainty in underlying factor