

~~A Comparative Analysis  
of Design Space Optimization Strategies  
for identifying High-Volume Hypercubes,  
including a novel algorithm~~

Sorry,  
I rebranded. 😊

Still same subject.  
See next ... !! 😊



Speeding up Design space exploration by method of moments approximation.

*Is it feasible ?*

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# Terminology

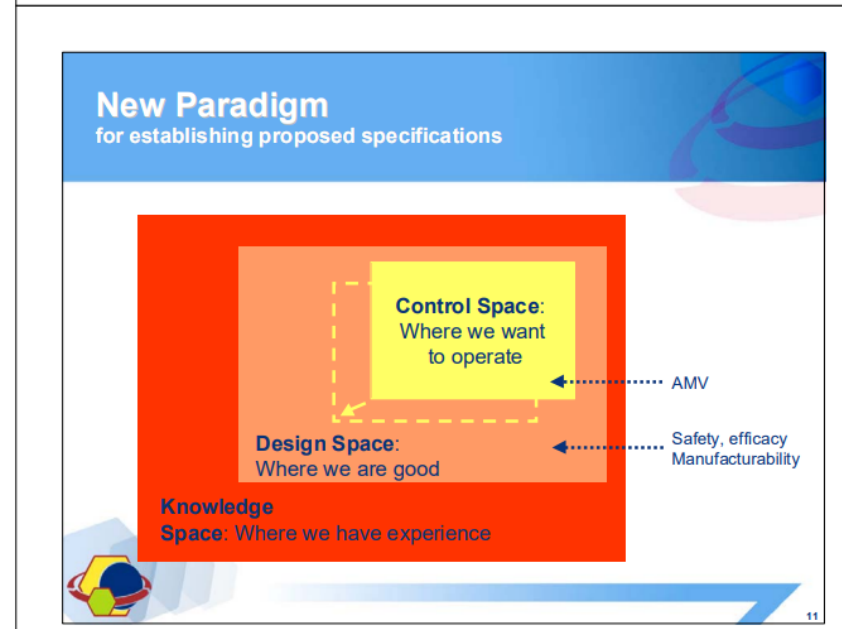
**Design space(Ds):** defined by the multidimensional combination and interaction of input variables (e.g., material attributes) and process parameters that have been demonstrated to provide assurance of quality. (ICH Q8)

**Multivariate acceptable ranges(MAR):** within multivariate acceptable ranges, any combination of input parameters of a unit operation yields the desired product quality and process performance. (Kunzelmann et al., 2024)→

**Hypercube**

**Edge of failure** = hull separating within spec from out of spec. Or a p(within spec) threshold.

**Control space** = Control Space refers to the specific, defined operating conditions (ranges) within the Design Space where the process is actually controlled during routine production. It represents a narrower subset of the Design Space. (Could be a set of in-process-control limits). (Bhutani et al, 2004)



Excerpt from:  
Chen C (2006) Implementation of ICH Q8 and QbD—an FDA perspective. PharmaForum  
Yokohama, June. <https://www.nihs.go.jp/drug/PhForum/Yokohama060609-02.pdf> (accessed on  
2024-SEP-04)

# Current challenges/solutions when exploring Design Space

➤ When in full control of process input parameters, the problem is easy:

- Build a model
- Consider model uncertainty
- Use statistical inference to find the edge of failure
- Find a rules set  $f(\text{inputs}, \text{rules})$  that validate the input settings (the control space).

➔ Often simplified to a list of low-high settings, defining a 'hypercube' within the design space. (like JMP 17.2 Design Space explorer)\*\*

➔ Best hypercube (MAR) can be found without the need for a hyper-dimensional grid by means of nested optimization:

**Outer optimization:** find largest volume

$$\prod [UCL_i - LCL_i * \text{weight}] \quad (U_{pper}/L_{ower} \text{ Control Limit of input } i)$$

for which (**Inner optimization**):

$$\text{optim}(\max(p(\text{failure}) \mid \text{in cube}) < \text{threshold})$$

\*\* For JMP approach, see Lancaster L.(2023)

§ For calculation time examples, see Taillefer V. & Nasir O. (2020)

➤ When process input parameters are variable (i.e. day to day variability, raw material, environmental conditions, ...) the **problem is hard!!**

Need to integrate out model prediction with respect to routine input variability, ideally proportional to their rate of occurrence

Current approach is simulation based: **very tedious!**<sup>§</sup>

• Classic way:

- Build a grid in k dimensions.  
(*r*-points per dimension gives rise to  $r^k$  points)
- $E(\text{model}, \text{inputs})^*$  at each grid point. A.k.a. simulate inputs and perform model prediction *n* times, then take the average.
- Delineate the hull or find inscribed hypercube (as before) where  $p(\text{failure})$  is lower than a threshold. (and use some **interpolation technique for course grids**).



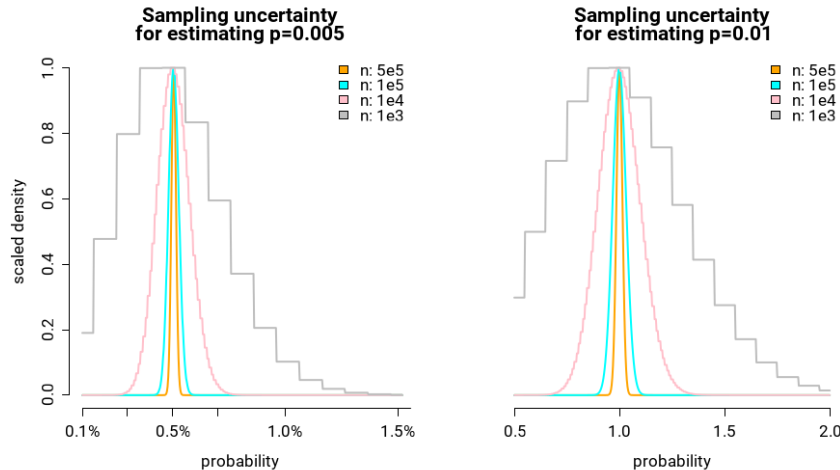
\*  $E(\cdot)$  = expectation function =  $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \text{model} \mid \text{random inputs}$

# Current challenges & solutions: the double curse

When process input parameters are variable (stochastic of nature)

Curse 1: sampling the tails of a distribution is simulation-expensive.

- In a 'quality by design' setting the edge of failure will be defined with very small risks rates.  
i.e.  $p(\text{out of spec}) < 1\%$ ,  $0.1\%$ ,  $0.27\%$  (ideally for  $6\sigma$ )
- Binomial theorem shows high sampling rates are required to have sufficient precision on those small p-values.



generating  $n=100'000$  ( $1E5$ ) samples to capture sufficient certainty around  $0.05\%$  risk is not a luxury

Workaround 1: adaptive sampling: no need to sample expensively everywhere inside the knowledge space. Can be risk-based using binomial confidence intervals as function of current  $n$  and  $E(p)$ :

stop if  $P(E(p_{failure}), n_{current} < threshold) > \beta$

$\beta$  = confidence level

Alt. naming:  $\alpha$  ( $= 1 - \beta$ ) reliability risk

Workaround 2: sample a prediction/confidence/tolerance interval and put confidence level on the simulated intervals. This is not the same as the joint distribution! The idea is to take like 95% of the prediction intervals when simulating inputs (sampling for 5% instead of 0.5% on the joint is less expensive). [Like in MODDE 13](#)

# Current challenges & solutions

➤ When process input parameters are variable (stochastic of nature)

Problem is **2 x cursed**:

**Curse 2**: curse of dimensionality. (Note: also problematic when input factors are fixed but estimates at the points are less expensive)

**Example:**

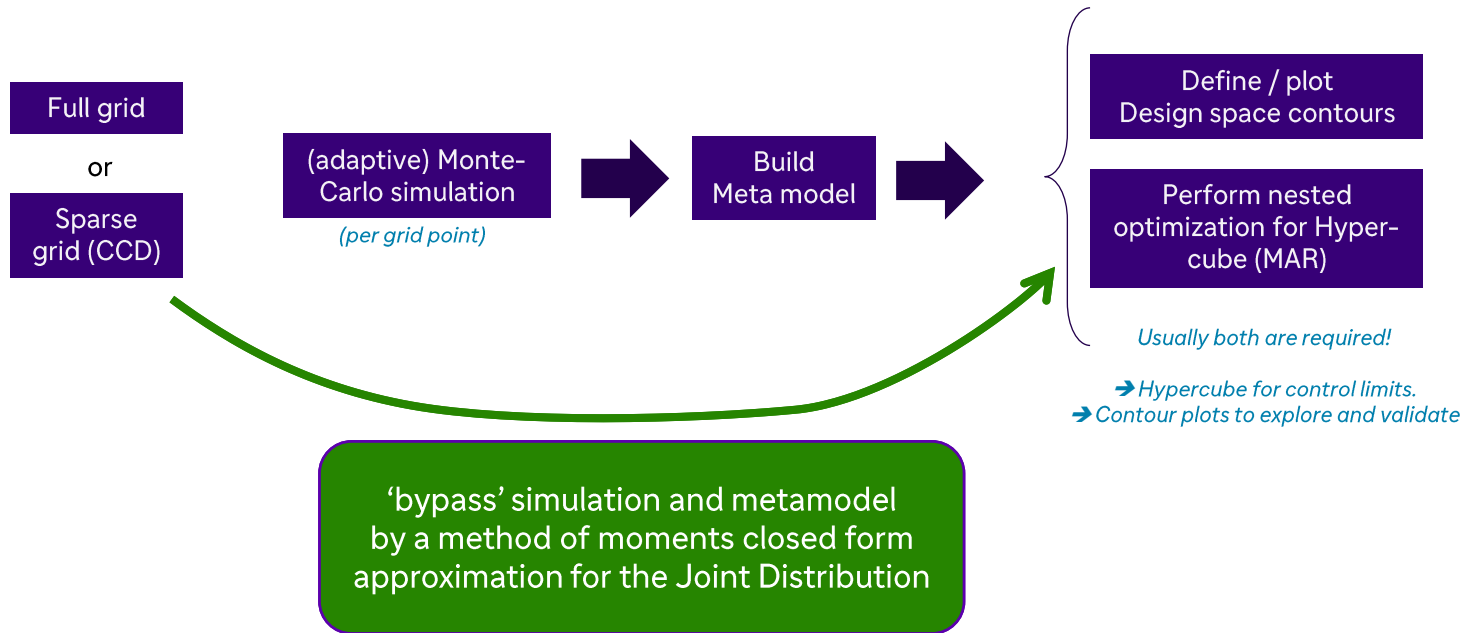
	n factors						
grid size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	256	4096	65536	1048576	16777216	2.68E+08	4.29E+09
32	1024	32768	1048576	33554432	1.07E+09	3.44E+10	1.1E+12
64	4096	262144	16777216	1.07E+09	6.87E+10	4.4E+12	2.81E+14
Central Composite Design*	13	19	29	47	81	147	277

 = Supported by Modde 13

## Known workarounds

- Use space filling design on a ‘number of points’ budget (! Mind: budget might be too small for a good estimate)
- Rejection sampling like in MCMC, focalizing on the design space or edge of failure hull. See *Kusomo et al., 2020* combining rejection sampling for sampling points (curse 2) with a nested adaptive sampling at the point (curse 1).
- Define meta-model, then seek an optimal experimental plan to fit the model on the samples and substitute tedious further simulation by the meta-model for Ds exploration. See *Oberleitner et al., 2024* using a 2<sup>nd</sup> order response surface ‘meta’-model (RSM) on a central-composite design (CCD)\*.

# Our question:



Is it possible ?

# Method of moments approximation, assumptions

Restricted to:

$$Z_n = [1, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k, x_1x_2, x_1x_3, \dots, x_ix_j, \dots, x_1^2, x_2^2, \dots, x_k^2] \text{ (n terms)}$$

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1x_1 + \dots + \beta_kx_k + \beta_{(k+1)}x_1x_2 + \dots + \beta_{(k+0.5(k(k-1)))}x_kx_{k-1} + \beta_{(k+0.5(k(k-1)+1)}x_1^2 + \dots + \beta_{(k+0.5(k(k-1)+k)}x_k^2$$

$x_1 \dots x_k \sim N(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$  are independent random normal

- Interaction and Quadratic are small compared to main effects  $(\beta_0 \dots \beta_k) > \beta_{interaction}, \beta_{quadratics}$
- There are sufficient main terms in the model and their coefficients are the major contributors
- By central limit theorem the joint distribution should approximate a normal distribution, even when the distribution of individually summed terms are not.

## Important notes

- Calculation will be exact in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> moment even when assumptions do not hold
- Deviation from approximation is by missing solution for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> moment of the joint distribution. I.e. treated as if zero like in a Normal distribution.
- Deviation from the approximation can be checked -> take a corner point, simulate and check distributional properties.



# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> moments for the approximation

## Response Surface Model (RSM)

Define:

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2) \text{ (independent normal random variables)}$$

RSM terms :

$$Z_n = [1, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k, x_1x_2, x_1x_3, \dots, x_ix_j, \dots, x_1^2, x_2^2, \dots, x_k^2] \text{ (n terms)}$$

Expectation:

$$\hat{Z}_n = [1, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k, \mu_1\mu_2, \mu_1\mu_3, \dots, \mu_i\mu_j, \dots, \mu_1^2 + \sigma_1^2, \dots, \mu_k^2 + \sigma_k^2]$$

Variance  $\Sigma_{n \times n} = \text{Var}(\hat{Z})$ :

$$\text{Var}(1) = 0$$

$$\text{Var}(x_i) = \sigma_i^2$$

$$\text{Var}(x_i^2) = 2\sigma_i^4 + 4\mu_i^2\sigma_i^2$$

$$\text{Var}(x_ix_j) = \mu_i^2\sigma_j^2 + \mu_j^2\sigma_i^2 + \sigma_i^2\sigma_j^2$$

$$\text{Cov}(x_i, x_i^2) = 2\mu_i\sigma_i^2$$

$$\text{Cov}(x_ix_j, x_ix_k) = \mu_i\sigma_j^2 + \mu_i\sigma_k^2$$

$$\text{Cov}(x_ix_j, x_kx_l) = 0 \text{ (distinct indices)}$$

## Predictor function

Define:

Model coefficients :

$$\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(\beta, \text{RMSE}^2(X'X)^{-1}) \quad \frac{\text{RMSE}^2}{\text{sigma}^2} \sim \frac{\chi^2(dfe)}{dfe}$$

Predictor function :

$$E(y) = Z'\beta$$

Variance:

$$\text{Model error Var}(y) = \beta'\Sigma\beta + \text{RMSE}(\text{tr}((X'X)^{-1}\Sigma) + \hat{Z}'(X'X)^{-1}\hat{Z})$$

$$\text{Prediction error Var}(y) = \beta'\Sigma\beta + \text{RMSE}^2(1 + \text{tr}((X'X)^{-1}\Sigma) + \hat{Z}'(X'X)^{-1}\hat{Z})$$

Approx. deg. freedom:

$$\beta'\Sigma\beta \text{ has df} = \infty \text{ (under approximation of } \hat{z} \sim \text{MVN}(\hat{Z}_n, \Sigma) \text{)}$$

Using Welsh-Satterthwaite

$$df_{\text{approx}} = \frac{(V_1 + V_2)^2}{\frac{V_1^2}{\infty} + \frac{V_2^2}{dfe}} = \frac{(V_1 + V_2)^2}{\frac{V_2^2}{dfe}}$$

Where:

$$V_1 = \beta'\Sigma\beta \quad \text{and} \quad V_2 = \text{RMSE}^2(1 + \text{tr}((X'X)^{-1}\Sigma) + \hat{Z}'(X'X)^{-1}\hat{Z})$$

# Testcases

- Currently only tested on 2 cases.
  - Small number of factors (3)
  - Relevant quadratic and / or interaction terms
  - Reasonable factor input variability.
  
- Testcase 1: Viable cell Density optimization on 3 factors
- Testcase 2: Formulation optimization for viscosity on 3 factors

# Test case 1, Viable Cell Density optimization (1/3)

+ Factor distribution  
+ Model Error

~ ( Confidence Error )

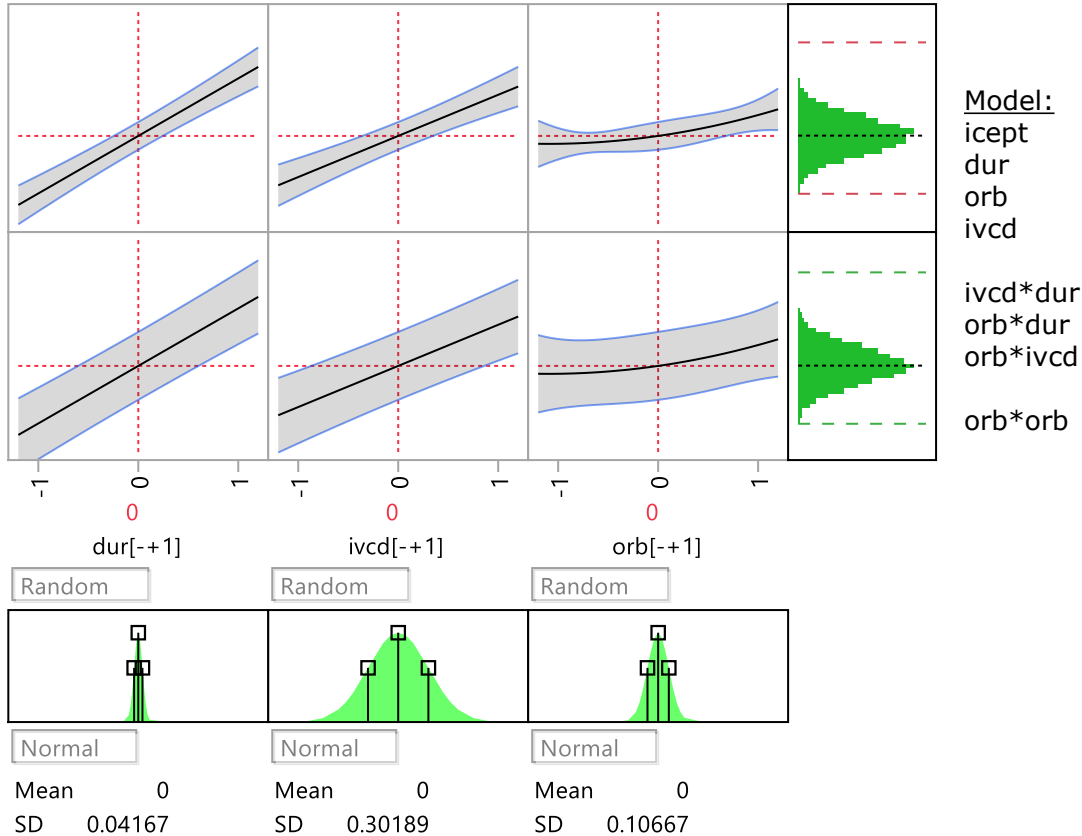
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+ Factor distribution  
+ Model Error  
+ Residual Noise

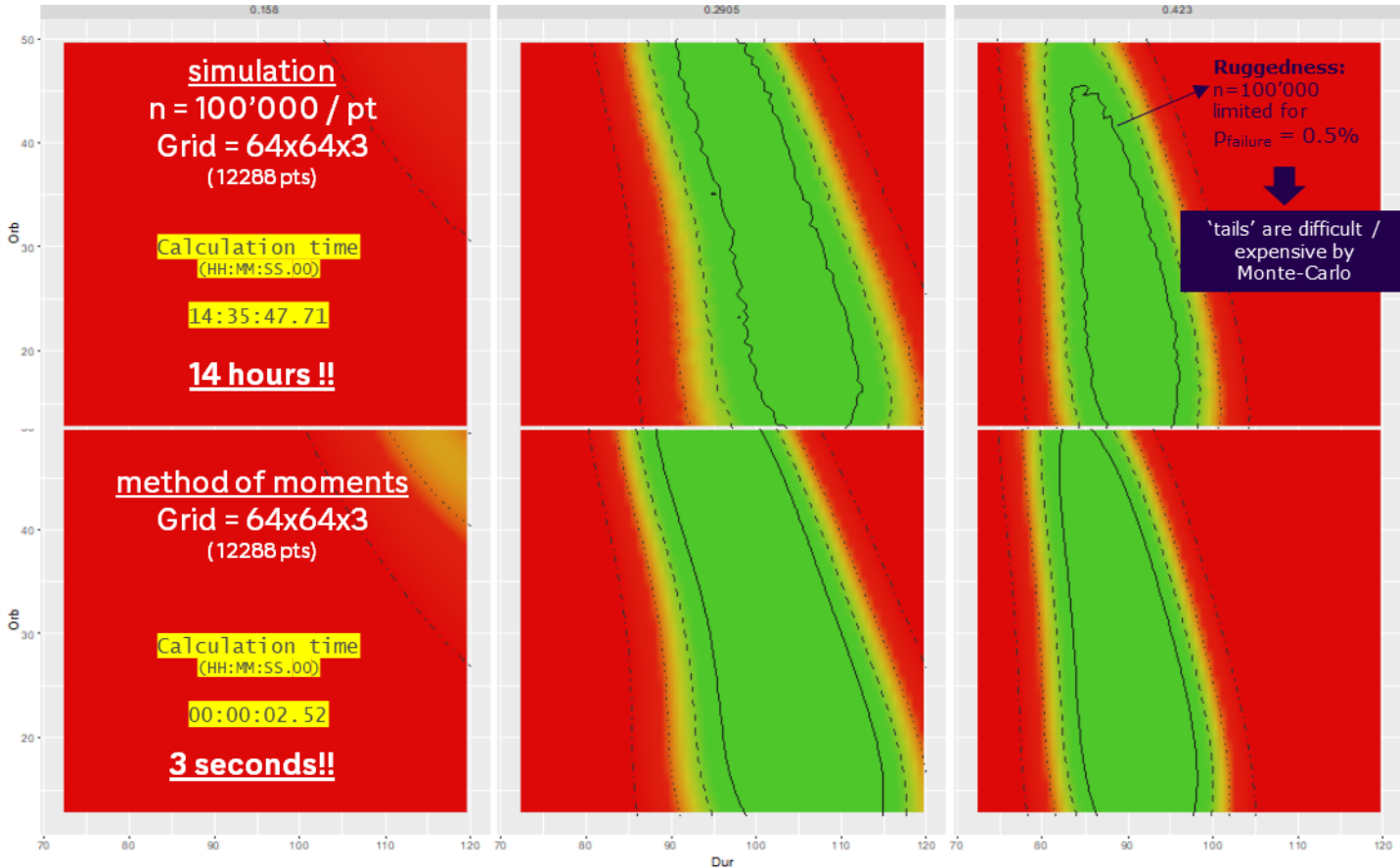
~ ( Prediction Error )

---

Joint  
Distribution



# Test case 1, Viable Cell Density optimization (2/3)

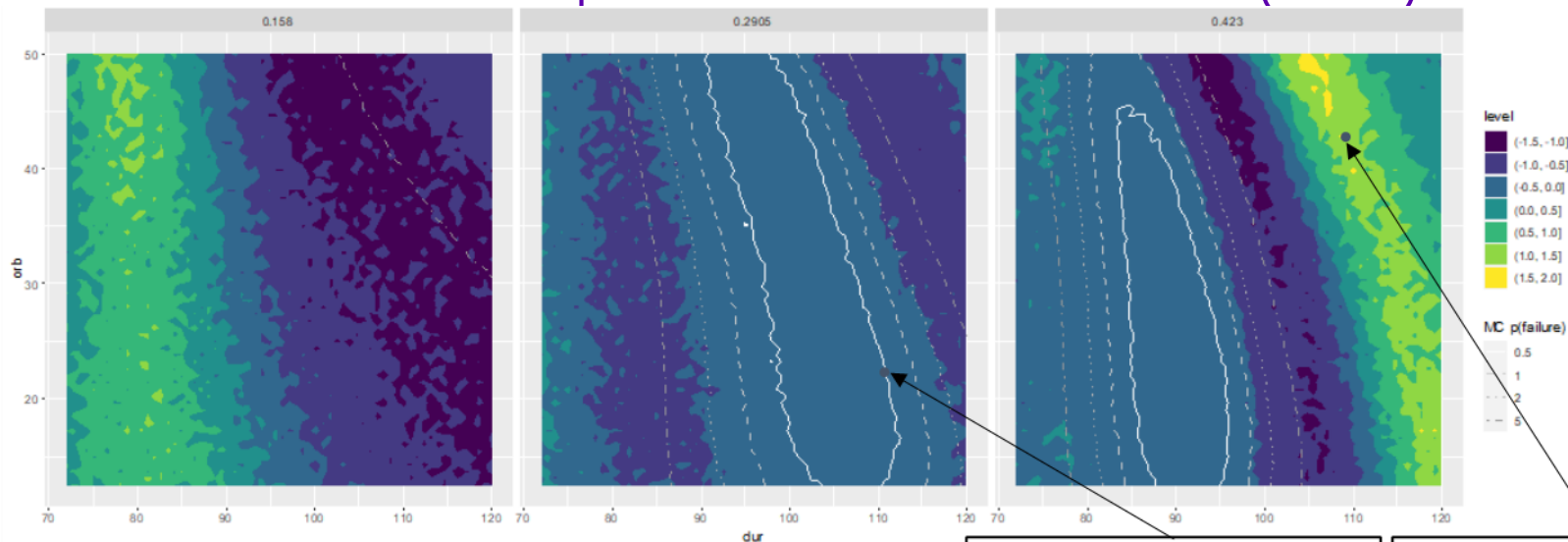


→ Very comparable results for 'method of moments' compared to simulated reference.

→ Huge difference in calculation times !

# Test case 1, Viable Cell Density optimization (3/3)

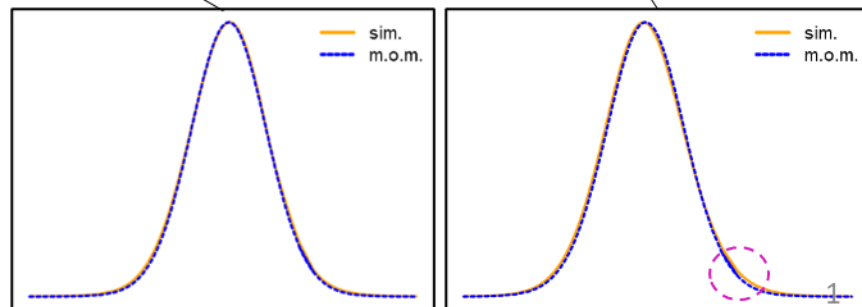
Method of moments compared to simulation reference: P(failure)-value difference



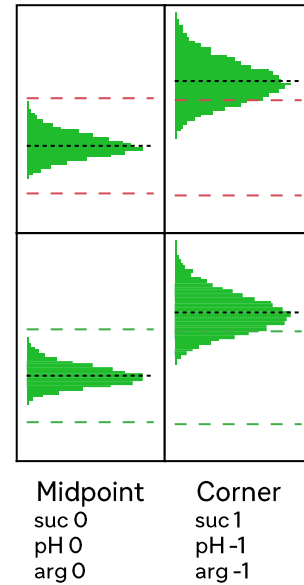
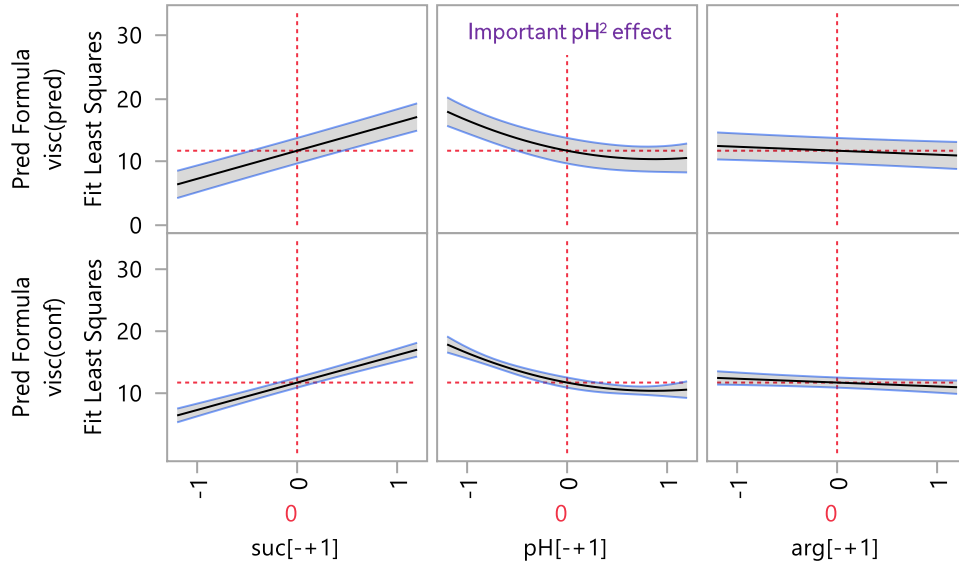
- Differences are not bigger than  $p(\text{mom}) - p(\text{sim}) \pm 2\%$
- In the region of interest (0.5% to 1% failure risk) it is smaller (-0.5 to 0 %)

**Conclusion:** Differences appear acceptable.

**Remark:** the difference is close to binomial sampling uncertainty when estimating a prob of 0.5% with  $n=100'000$  simulations.



# Test case 2, Viscosity response in a formulation (1/3)



+ Factor distribution  
 + Model Error  
 + Residual Noise

---

~ ( Prediction Error )

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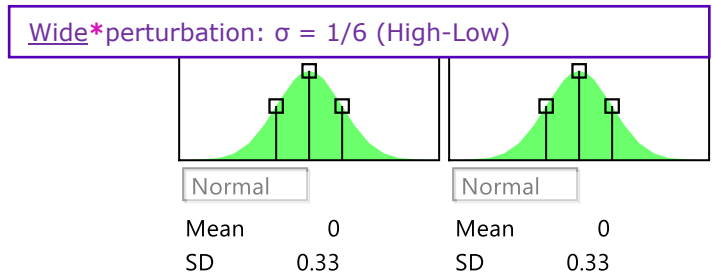
+ Factor distribution  
 + Model Error

---

~ ( Confidence Error )

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Joint Distribution

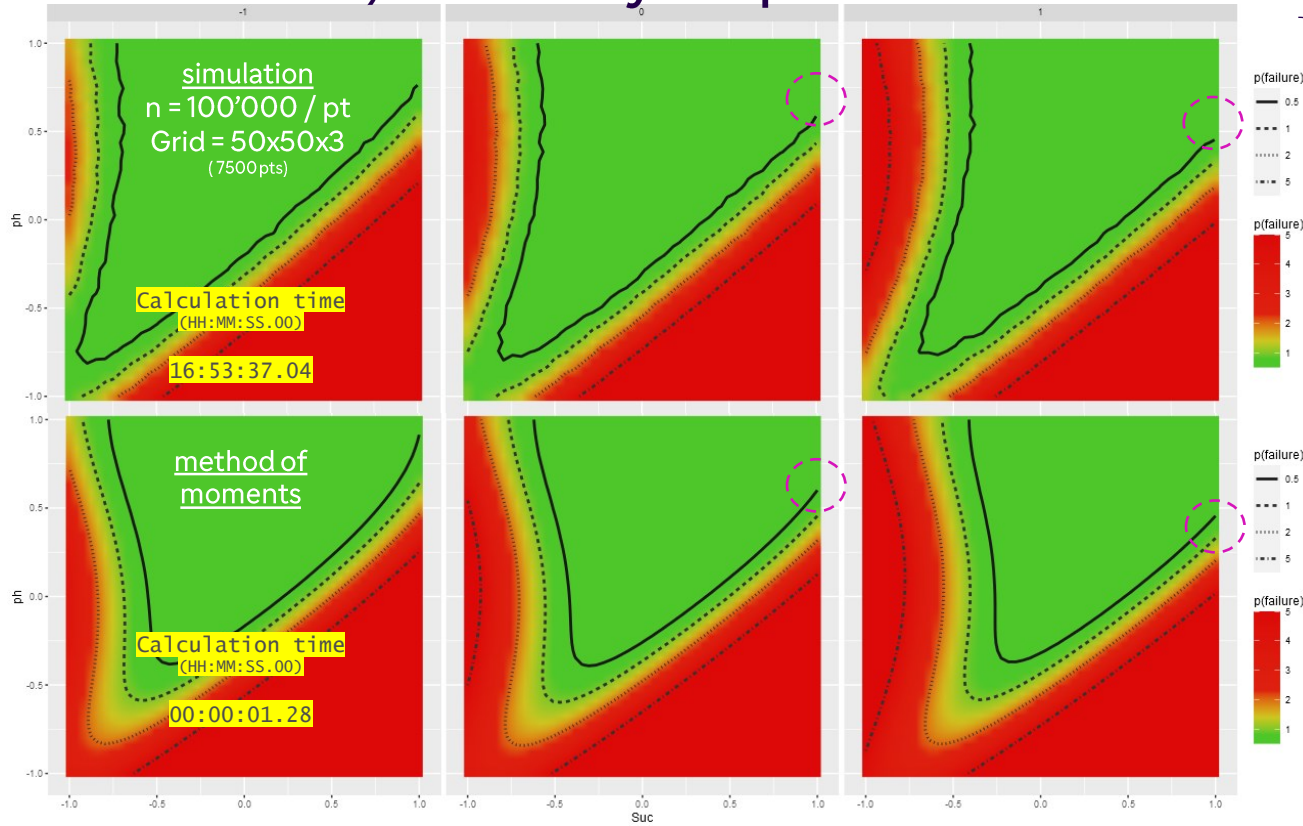


Fixed  
 0

Model: \_\_\_\_\_  
 icept suc\*pH  
 suc pH\*pH  
 pH  
 arg

\*  $\pm 3\sigma$  covers entire DOE range

# Test case 2, Viscosity response in a formulation (2/3)

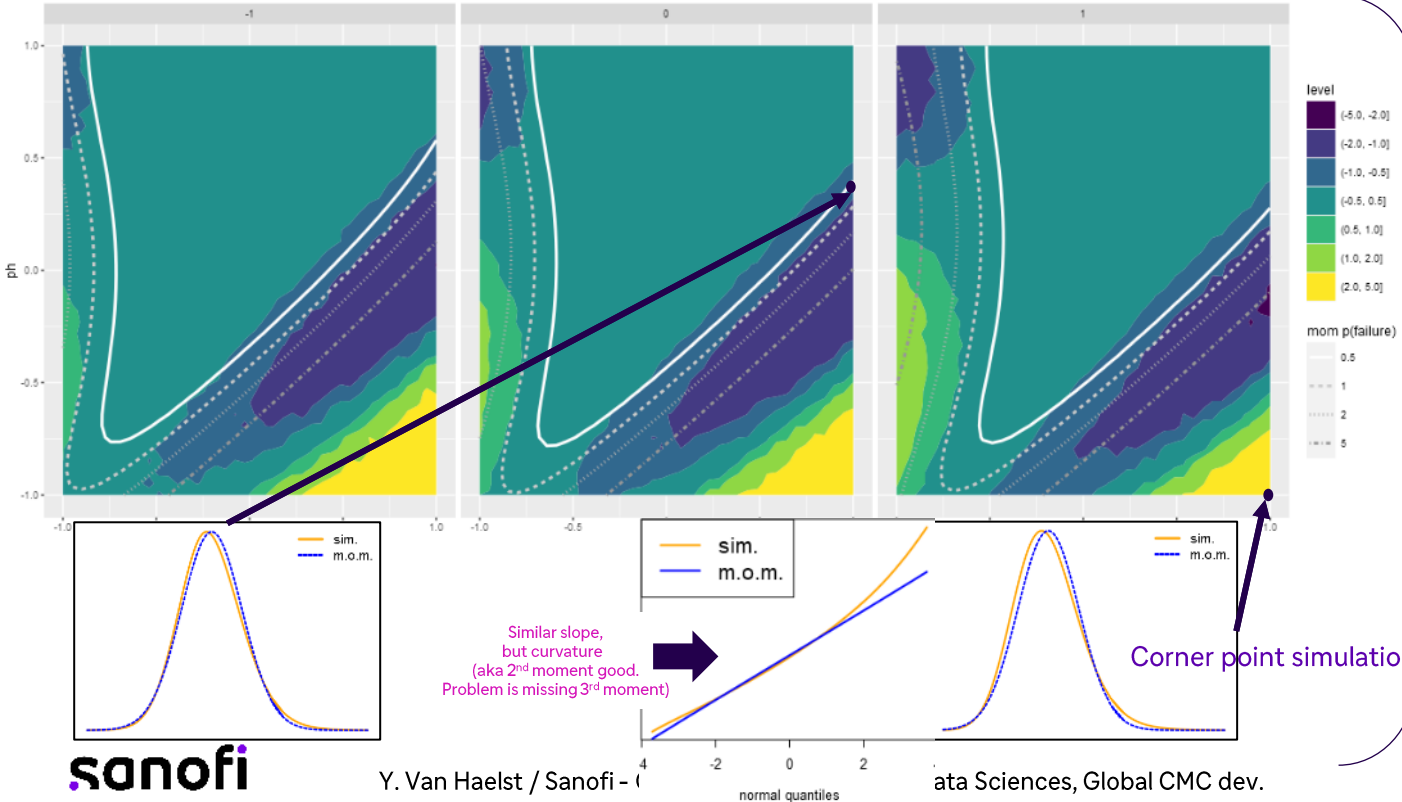


- Differences between simulation and mom are apparent
- Appears to be shifted to the right on 'suc' scale.

# Test case 2, Viscosity response in a formulation (3/3)

## Method of moments compared to simulation reference: P(failure)-value difference

p(Failure) difference between method of moments(MOM) compared to Monte-Carlo(n=1e5) reference  
Factor precision + model error + prediction error



- ➔ Differences are present
- ➔ leads to underestimation:
  - p=0.5% in mom underestimates by 0.5-1%
  - p = 1% in mom underestimates by 1-2%
- ➔ QQ-plot evaluation indicates result of unaccounted skewness.

**Conclusion:**

- Differences are small but sufficient relevant to further investigate
- Since qq-plot indicates mostly skewness misspecification, elucidating 3rd moment could correct



# References

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Oberleitner, T., Zahel, T., & Herwig, C. (2024). Identifying design spaces as linear combinations of parameter ranges for biopharmaceutical control strategies. *Computers & Chemical Engineering*, 183, 108555.

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## Authors & responsibilities

Cesaraccio, Gaelle (AIXIAL GROUP): providing TestCase 1 + porting TestCase 2 to R and test-running the simulations

Van Haelst, Yannick (Sanofi): literature + mathematical conceptualization + coding R framework + presentation

Caroline Leveder (Sanofi) slides review; Vincent Taillefer (Sanofi) Modde expertise & initial PAR work (APEX 2022)



Is RSM m.o.m. good enough ?

Could we leverage a simplified 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> moment function ?

Should we use CCD, and an RSM metamodel on sampled moments ?

**We appreciate your input !**



**sanofi**

Thank  
*you*



sanofi