

Estimating satellite collision probabilities via the adaptive splitting technique

From Application to Theory

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Iridium and Cosmos
- 3 An adaptive splitting technique
- 4 AST's open issues
- 5 Conclusion
- 6 Publications and communications
- 7 References

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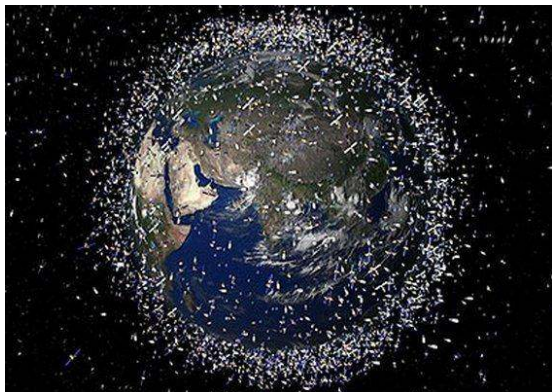
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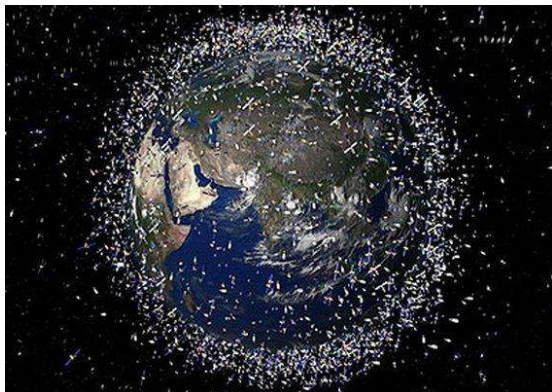
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One would be **wrong!**



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Space debris surround Earth and active orbiting objects.



On Tuesday February the 10th 2009, satellites Iridium and Cosmos collided.



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What was the probability it happened?

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Iridium and Cosmos
 - Sizing, localisation and propagation
 - Probability to estimate
 - Probability estimation via CMC results
- 3 An adaptive splitting technique
- 4 AST's open issues
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Satellites sizing: Rough estimates

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- Radii decided based on **field experience**.

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- Position and motion at measurement time **without accuracy details**.

Satellites localisation: Two line element (TLE)

- Provided by the **NORAD** and the **NASA**.
- Position and motion at measurement time **without accuracy details**.
- **Home made** means of the orbit parameters.

Satellites propagation: Keplerian dynamics

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- **Fast** to compute.

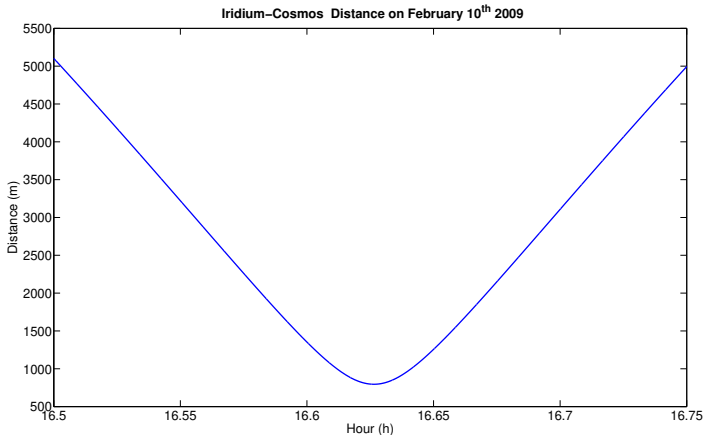
Satellites propagation: Keplerian dynamics

- **Fast** to compute.
- **Easy** to implement.

Satellites propagation: Keplerian dynamics

- **Fast** to compute.
- **Easy** to implement.
- **Less accurate** than the NASA model.

Iridium-Cosmos distance about collision time according to TLE



Randomness at hand: initial conditions

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- Keplerian dynamics is **deterministic once initial conditions are known**.

Randomness at hand: initial conditions

- Keplerian dynamics is **deterministic once initial conditions are known**.
- **We noised the TLE** to cope with their unknown uncertainty.

Notations and Noise

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- Keplerian deterministic dynamics

$$\forall t \in I, \vec{R}_i(t) = \vec{\phi}(t, t_{m,i}, (\vec{r}_{m,i}, \vec{v}_{m,i}) + (\vec{\rho}_{m,i}, \vec{v}_{m,i})).$$

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- **Minimum distance during time interval**

$$\Delta(\vec{\rho}_{m,1}, \vec{v}_{m,1}, \vec{\rho}_{m,2}, \vec{v}_{m,2}) = \min_{t \in I} \{ \|\vec{R}_1(t) - \vec{R}_2(t)\| \}$$

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$$\mathbb{P}[\Delta \leq d_{col}]?$$

Crude Monte Carlo estimation.

$d_{col} = 100m, 100$ estimations based on 300000 throws.

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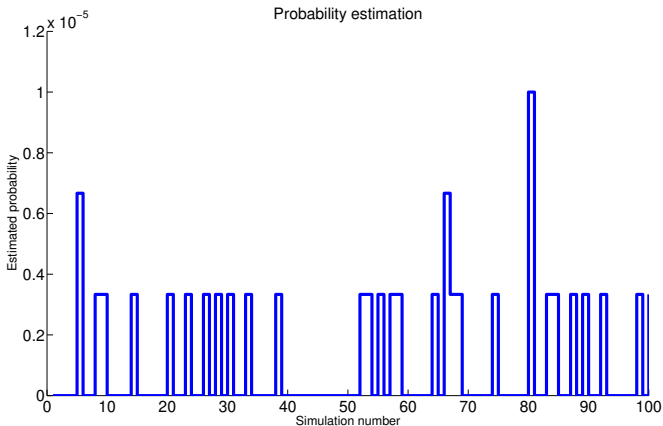
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Figure: Probability estimations

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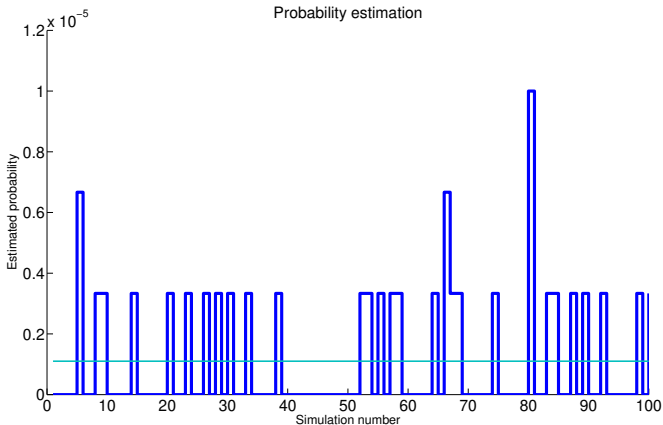
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Figure: Probability estimations with their mean.

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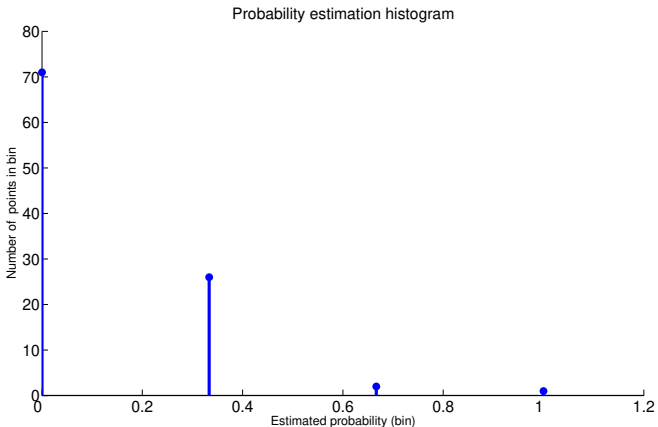
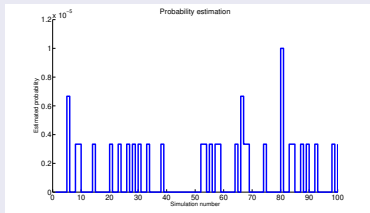
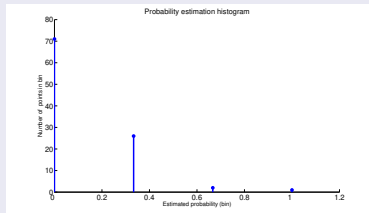


Figure: Probability estimation histogram

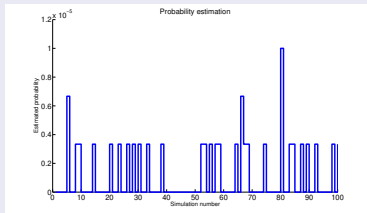
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(a) Probability estimations

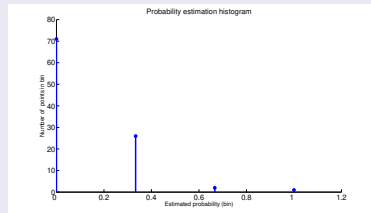


(b) Probability estimation histogram

Figure: 100 estimations based on 300000 exactly simulations.

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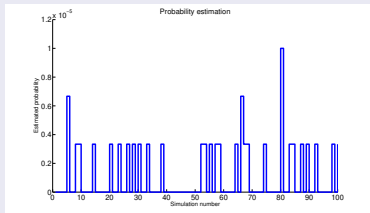
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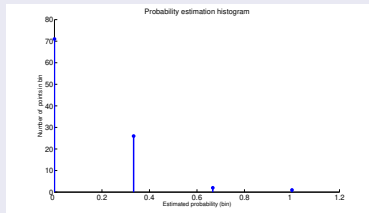
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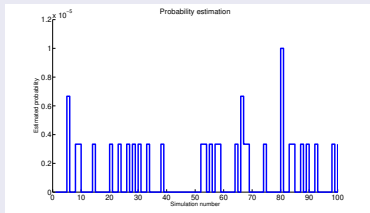


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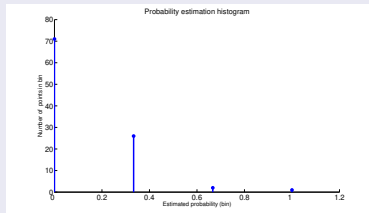
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Need for a well chosen rare event dedicated technique!

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- **Engineer-friendliness:** method should be as self-tuning as possible.

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- 1 Introduction
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- 3 An adaptive splitting technique
 - The algorithm
 - A closer look at Markovian resampling
 - The AST in action
 - Probability estimation via AST results
 - CMC versus AST
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If $\mathbb{P}[\xi \in \mathcal{A}]$ is *small*, Crude Monte Carlo won't do.

The Splitting Technique in a nutshell

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- 1 Rephrase the sought probability

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{R} = \mathcal{A}_0 \supset \cdots \supset \mathcal{A}_\kappa = \mathcal{A} \\ \mathbb{P}[\xi \in \mathcal{A}] = \prod_{i=1}^{\kappa} \mathbb{P}[\xi \in \mathcal{A}_i | \xi \in \mathcal{A}_{i-1}] \end{cases}$$

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From now on, suppose $\mathcal{A} = [T, \infty[$

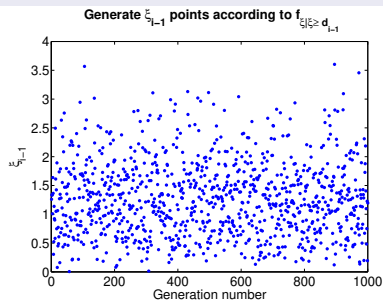
The Adaptive Splitting Technique step by step

The Adaptive Splitting Technique in images

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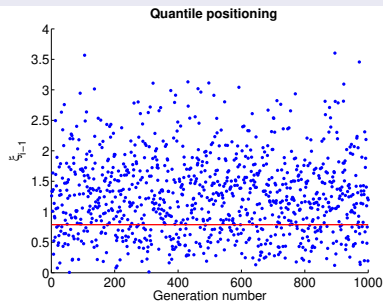
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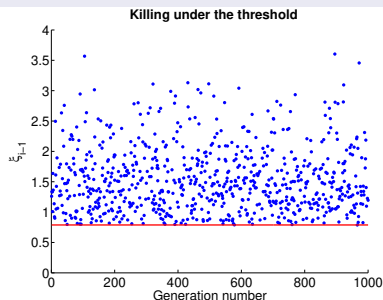
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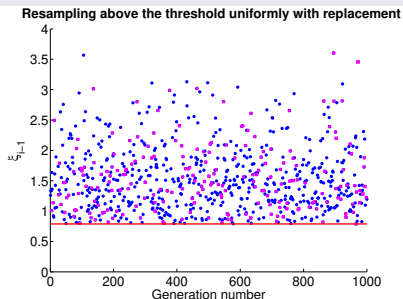
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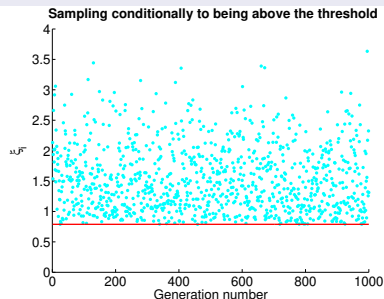
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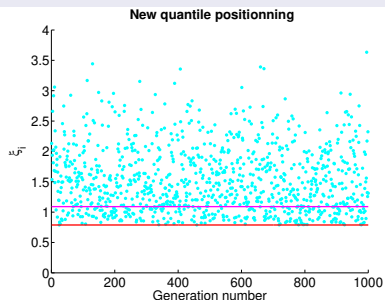
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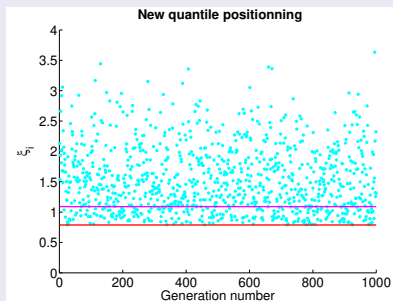
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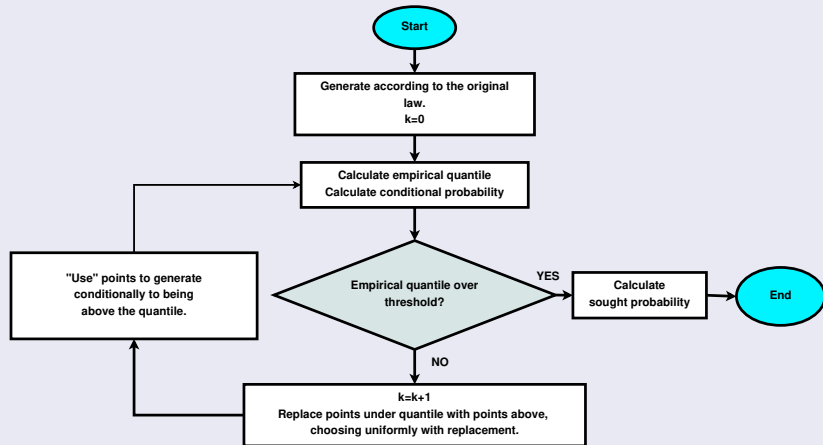
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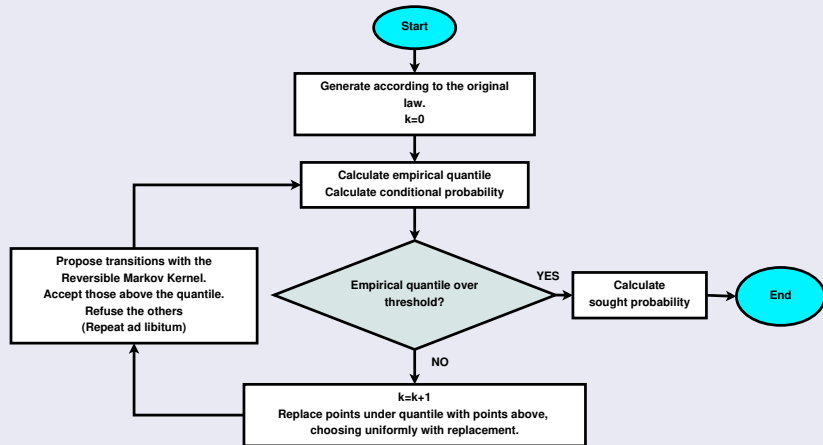
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AST logigram



AST logigram with Markovian resampling



f_X -reversible Markov Kernel

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Meaning, if from a f_X set, you use M to generate another,

- the new set is distributed according to f_X as well.
- statistically, no one can say which set generated the other.

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i.e. given X_k , $\tilde{X}_k \sim M_k(X_k, dy)$ where

$$\begin{aligned} M_k(X_k, dy) &= \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{A}_k}(s(y))M(X_k, dy) + M(X_k, \mathcal{A}_k^c)\delta_{X_k}(dy) \\ \mathcal{A}_k &= [\delta_k, +\infty[\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} M_k(X_k, dy) &= \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{A}_k}(s(y))M(X_k, dy) + M(X_k, \mathcal{A}_k^c)\delta_{X_k}(dy) \\ \mathcal{A}_k &= [\delta_k, +\infty[\end{aligned}$$

\tilde{X}_k is distributed according to $f_{X|s(X)\geq\delta_k}$ aswell!

Sampling according to $f_{X|s(X)\geq\delta_k}$ using a f_X -reversible M .

Given $X_k \sim f_{X|s(X)\geq\delta_k}$, set

① Z according to $M(X_k, \cdot)$.

② $\tilde{X}_k = \begin{cases} Z & \text{if } s(Z) \geq \delta_k \\ X_k & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

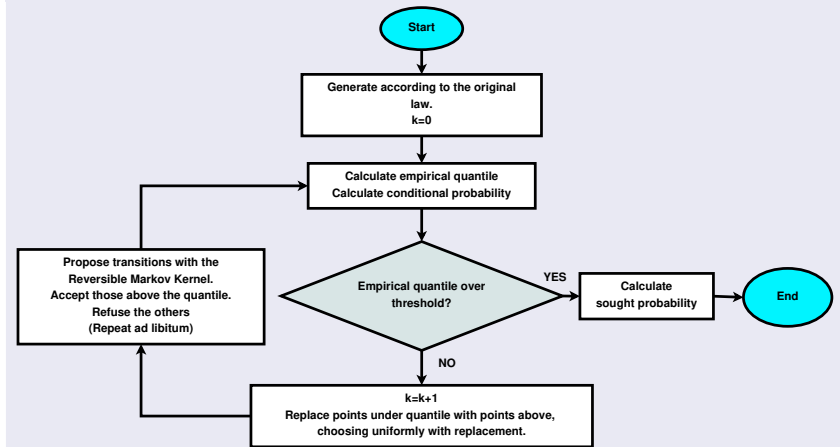
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\tilde{X}_k is distributed according to $f_{X|s(X)\geq\delta_k}$ aswell!

\Rightarrow One can use M to inflate a $f_{X|s(X)\geq\delta_k}$ set!

AST logigram with Markovian resampling



A global understanding of the AST with markovian resampling!

Notations and Noise

Notations and Noise

- Initial conditions given by TLEs $(t_{m,i}, \vec{r}_{m,i}, \vec{v}_{m,i})$.
- Gaussian additive i.i.d. noise $(\vec{\rho}_{m,i}, \vec{v}_{m,i}) \sim \mathcal{N}(0_6, \Sigma^t \Sigma)$.
- Studied time interval $I = [16h30, 16h45]$.
- Keplerian deterministic dynamics
 $\forall t \in I, \vec{R}_i(t) = \vec{\phi}(t, t_{m,i}, (\vec{r}_{m,i}, \vec{v}_{m,i})) + (\vec{\rho}_{m,i}, \vec{v}_{m,i})$.
- **Minimum distance during time interval**

$$\Delta(\vec{\rho}_{m,1}, \vec{v}_{m,1}, \vec{\rho}_{m,2}, \vec{v}_{m,2}) = \min_{t \in I} \{ \|\vec{R}_1(t) - \vec{R}_2(t)\| \}$$

Notations and Noise II

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- $X = (\vec{\rho}_{m,1}, \vec{\nu}_{m,1}, \vec{\rho}_{m,2}, \vec{\nu}_{m,2})$ is the Gaussian input.

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- $\xi = \Delta(X)$ is the random minimum distance during l .

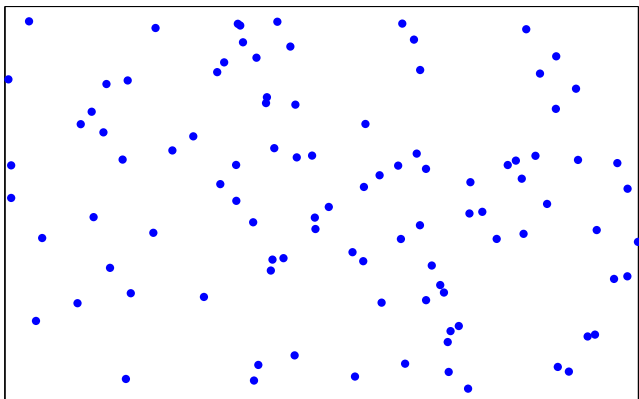
Notations and Noise II

- $X = (\vec{\rho}_{m,1}, \vec{\nu}_{m,1}, \vec{\rho}_{m,2}, \vec{\nu}_{m,2})$ is the Gaussian input.
- $\xi = \Delta(X)$ is the random minimum distance during l .
- $\mathcal{A} = [0, d_{col}]$ is the target score set.

Applied AST in images

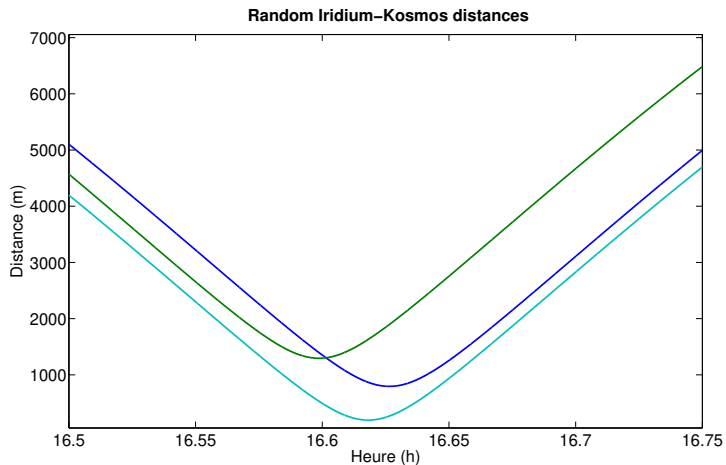
Applied AST in images

Input points



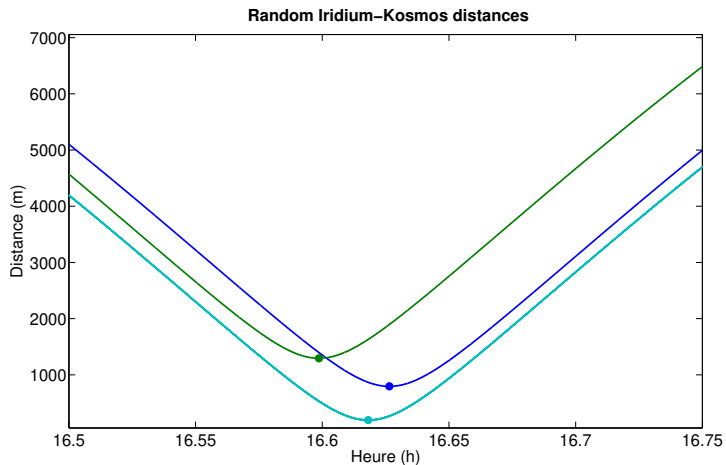
Generate random noises (X_k^1, \dots, X_k^n) .

Applied AST in images



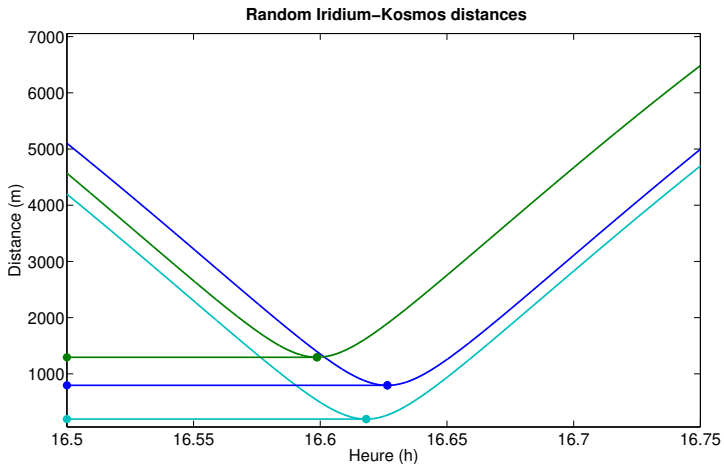
Calculate Iridium-Kosmos distances over time intervalle I .

Applied AST in images



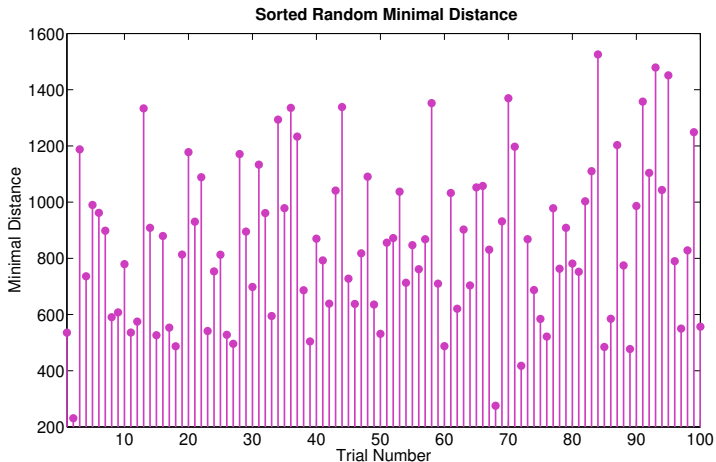
Find minima $(\Delta_k^1, \dots, \Delta_k^n)$.

Applied AST in images



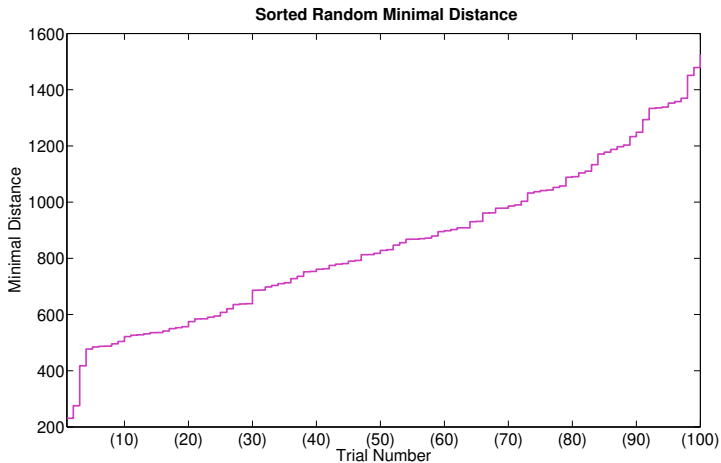
Find minima $(\Delta_k^1, \dots, \Delta_k^n)$.

Applied AST in images



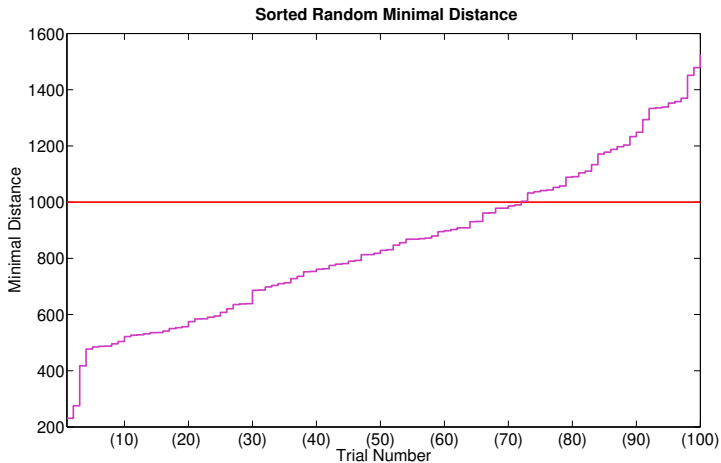
Find minima $(\Delta_k^1, \dots, \Delta_k^n)$.

Applied AST in images



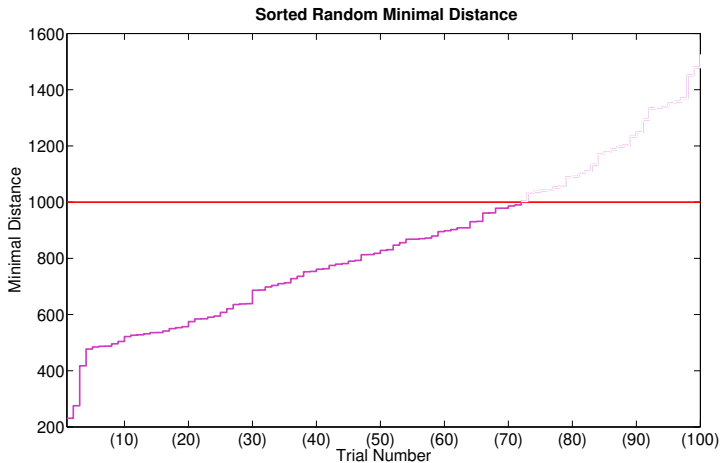
Sort minima to form $(\Delta_k^{(1)}, \dots, \Delta_k^{(n)})$.

Applied AST in images



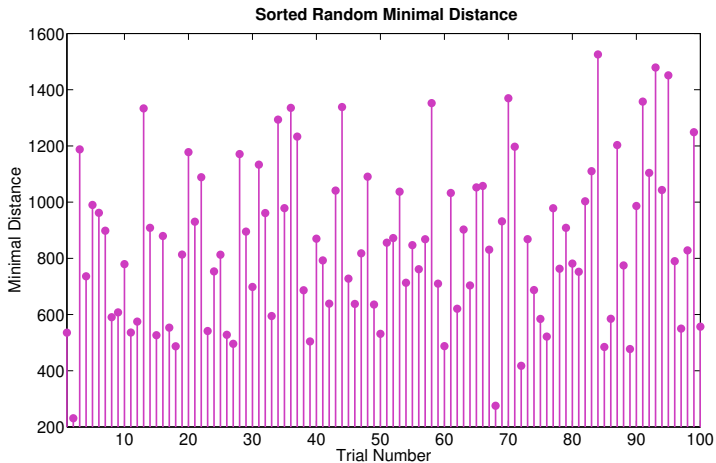
Define quantile δ_{k+1} .

Applied AST in images



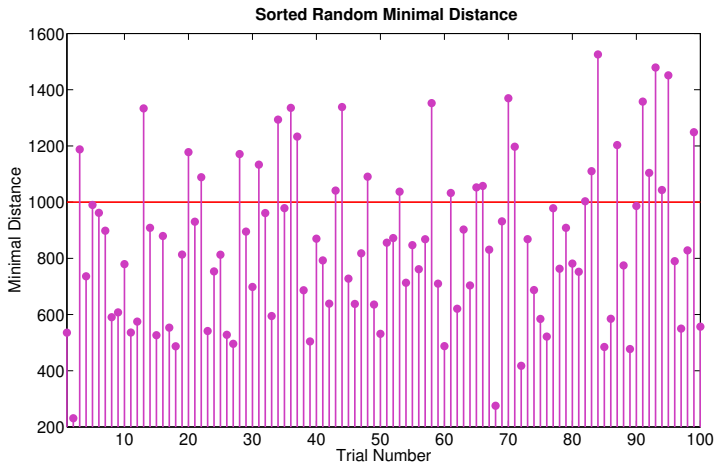
Discard points over quantile.

Applied AST in images



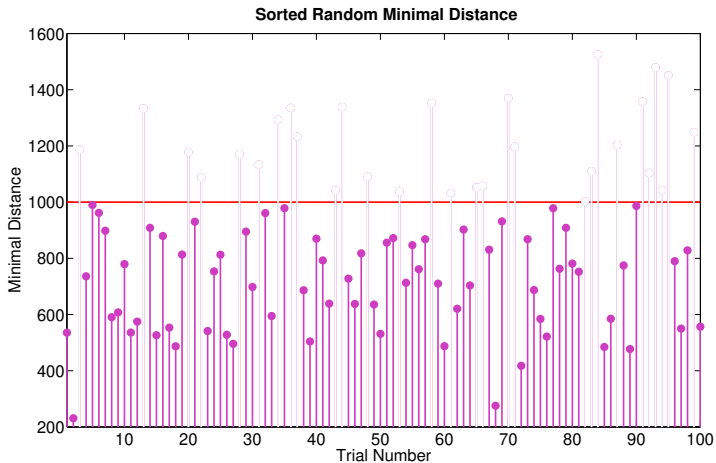
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Applied AST in images



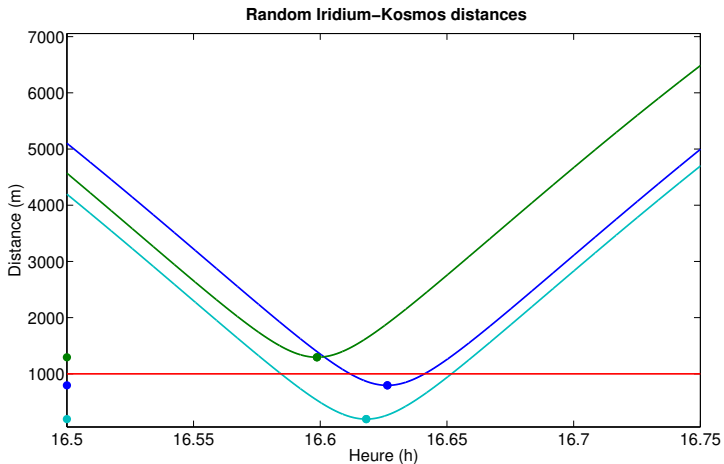
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Applied AST in images



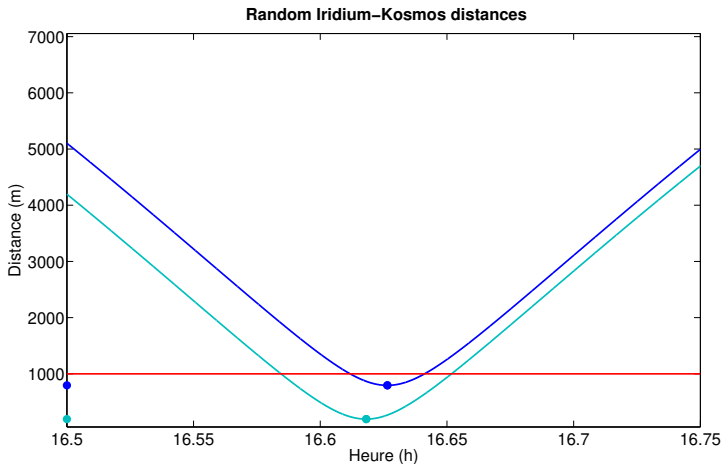
Discard points over quantile.

Applied AST in images



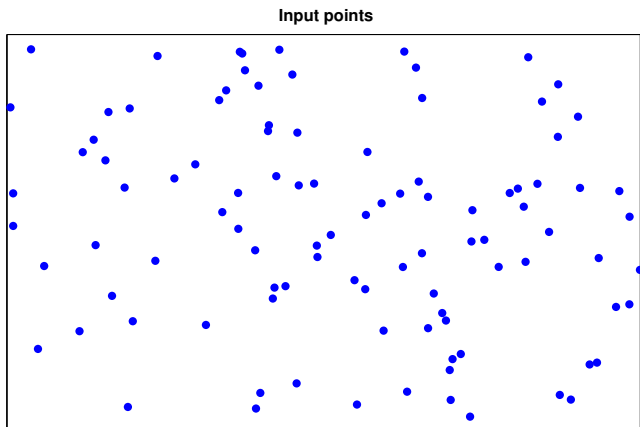
Discard points over quantile.

Applied AST in images



Discard points over quantile.

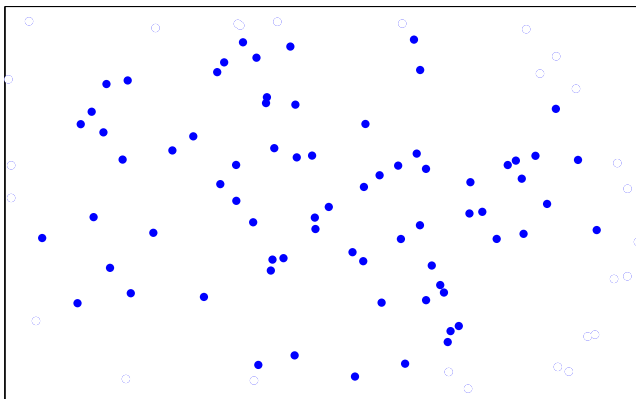
Applied AST in images



Discard points over quantile.

Applied AST in images

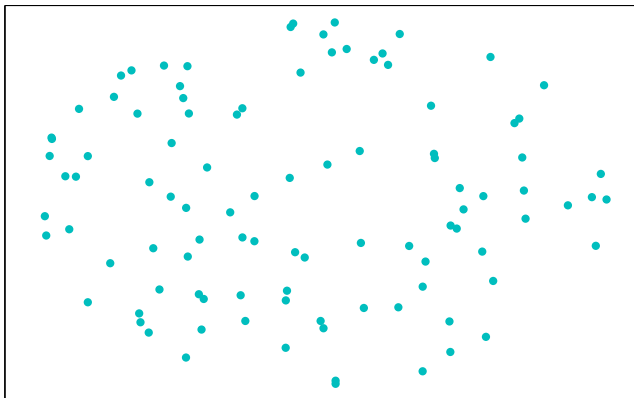
Input points after discarding



Discard points over quantile.

Applied AST in images

Input points after shaking



Use the markov kernel and selected points to regenerate sample.

AST estimation.

$d_{col} = 100\text{m}$, 100 estimations based on 309060($1 \pm 2\%$) throws.

AST estimation.

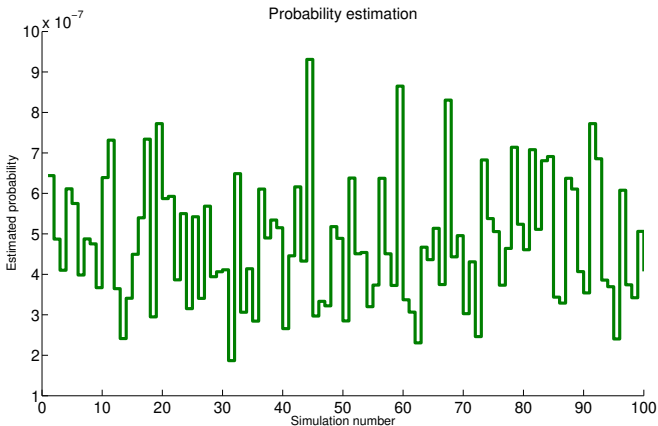
 $d_{col} = 100\text{m}$, 100 estimations based on 309060 ($1 \pm 2\%$) throws.

Figure: Probability estimations

AST estimation.

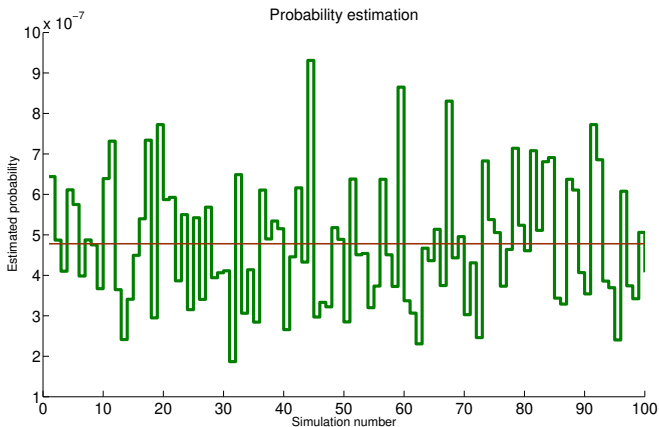
 $d_{col} = 100\text{m}$, 100 estimations based on 309060 ($1 \pm 2\%$) throws.

Figure: Probability estimations with their mean.

AST estimation.

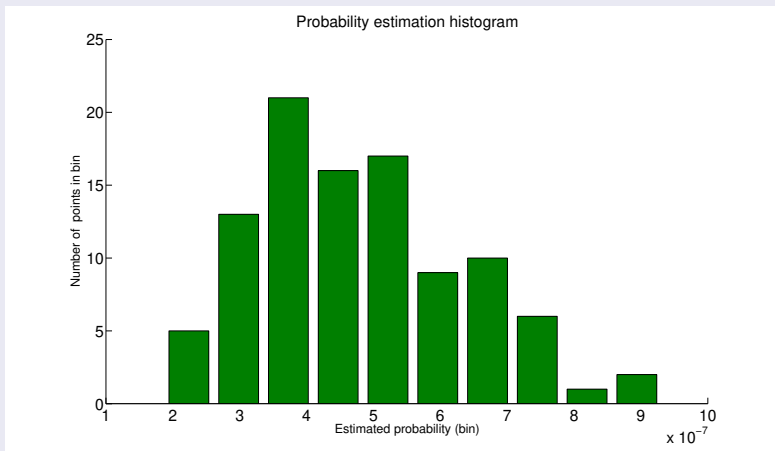
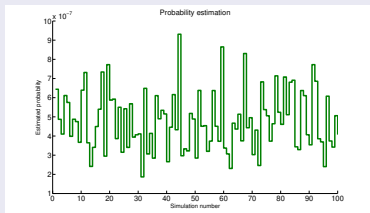
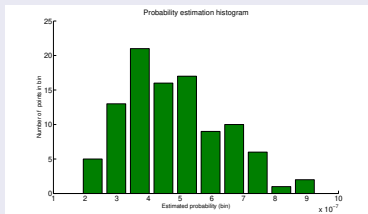
 $d_{col} = 100\text{m}$, 100 estimations based on 309060 ($1 \pm 2\%$) throws.

Figure: Probability estimation histogram

AST estimation. $d_{col} = 100m$

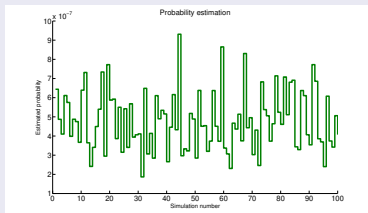


(a) Probability estimations

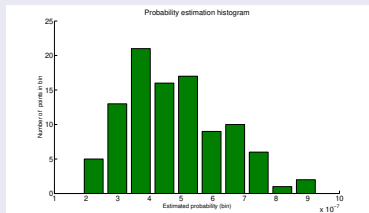


(b) Probability estimation histogram

Figure: 100 estimations based on 309060($1 \pm 2\%$) simulations.

AST estimation. $d_{col} = 100m$ 

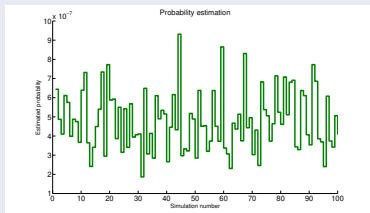
(a) Probability estimations



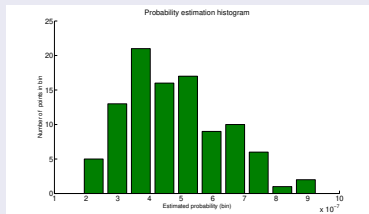
(b) Probability estimation histogram

Figure: 100 estimations based on 309060($1 \pm 2\%$) simulations.

- Mean estimate: $4.78 \cdot 10^{-7}$.
- Empirical relative deviation: 0.3232.

AST estimation. $d_{col} = 100\text{m}$ 

(a) Probability estimations



(b) Probability estimation histogram

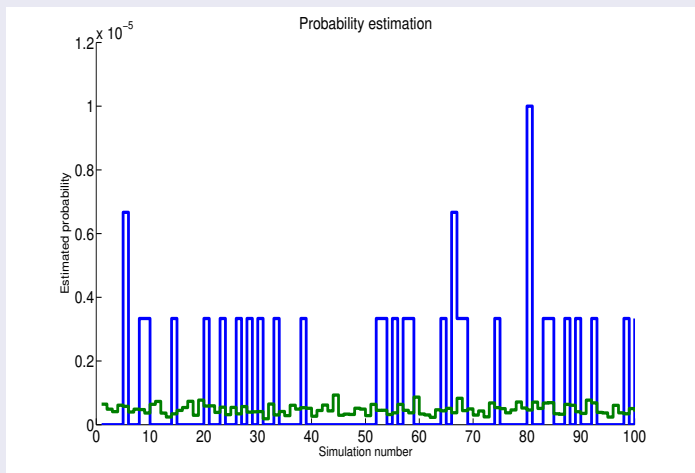
Figure: 100 estimations based on 309060($1 \pm 2\%$) simulations.

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Quite Reliable!

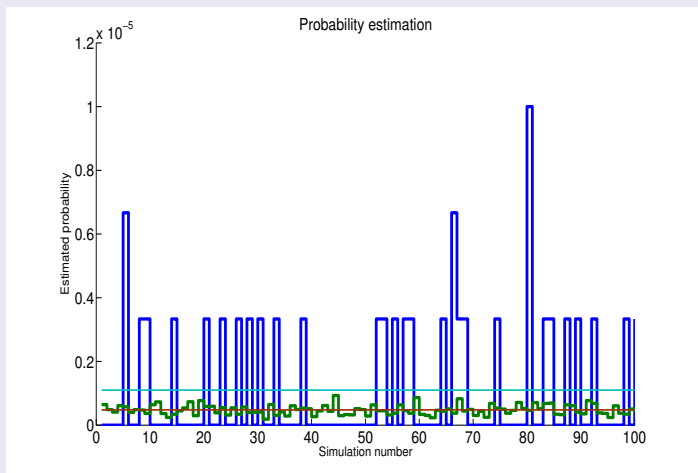
CMC Vs AST

Figure: Estimations



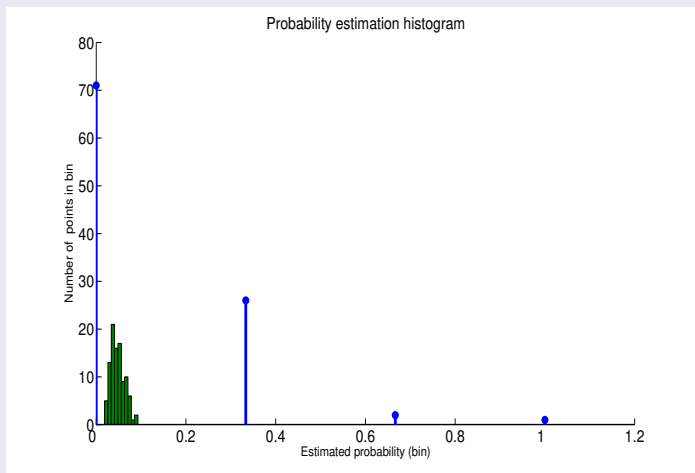
CMC Vs AST

Figure: Estimations and means



CMC Vs AST

Figure: Histograms



CMC Vs AST

Figure: Estimations

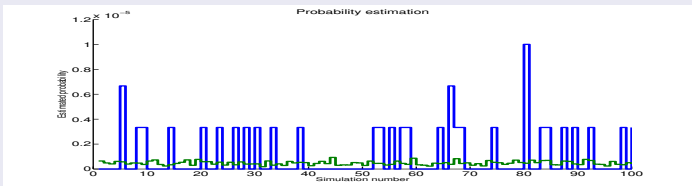
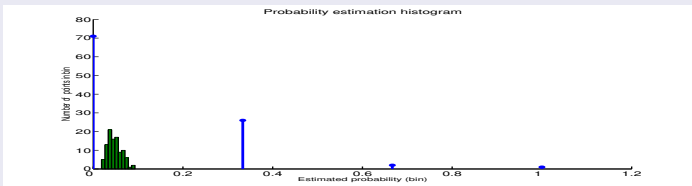


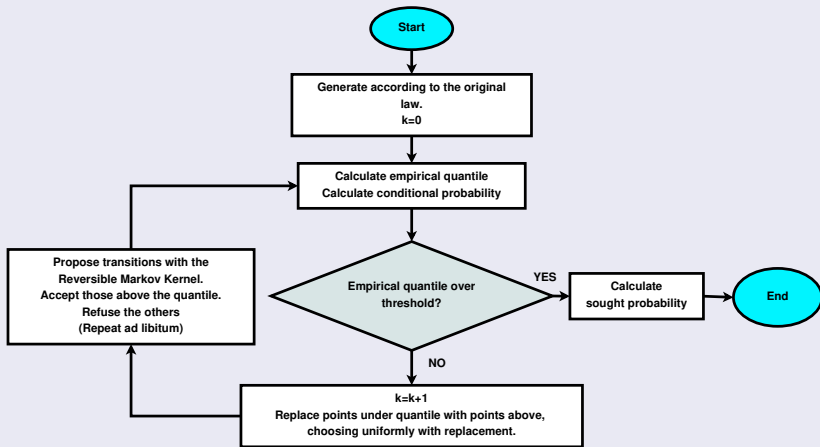
Figure: Histograms



Outline

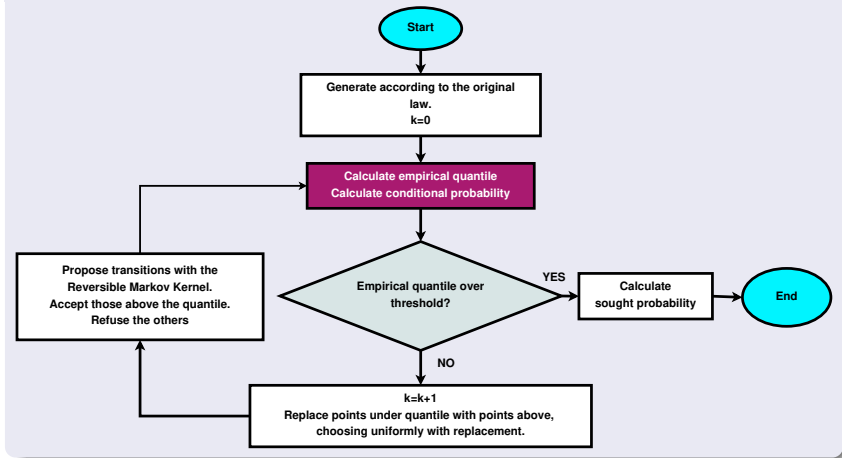
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Iridium and Cosmos
- 3 An adaptive splitting technique
- 4 AST's open issues**
 - The key difficulties
 - Overview
 - The Reversible Markov Kernel
 - Quantile level
- 5 Conclusion

AST logigram with Markovian resampling



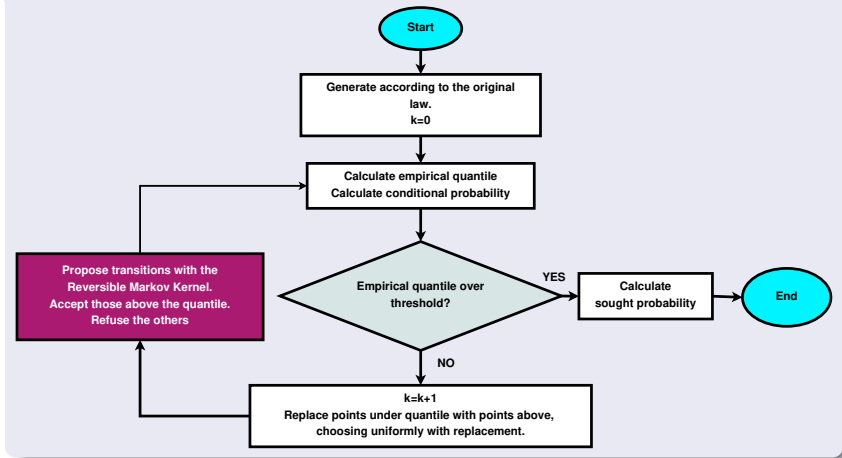
A global understanding of the AST with markovian resampling!

AST logigram with Markovian resampling and difficulties



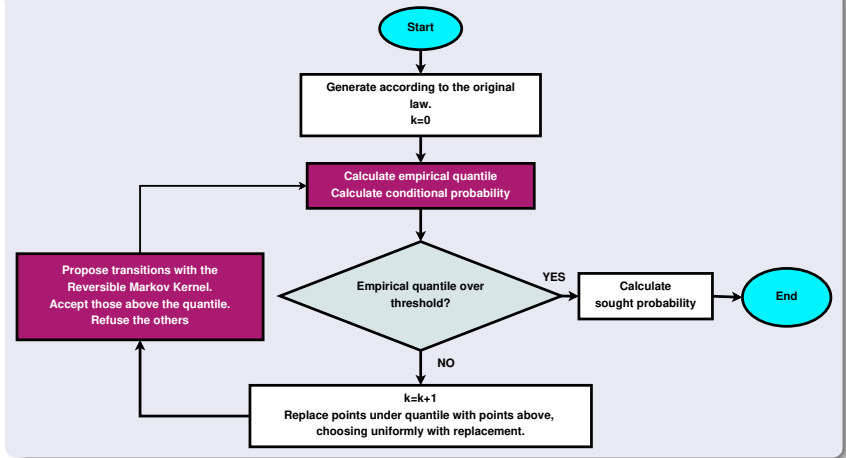
However, no rational quantile level choice...

AST logigram with Markovian resampling and difficulties



...nor Markovian choice and tuning!

AST logigram with Markovian resampling and difficulties



Two issues to tackle!

The Adaptive Splitting Technique is

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- a interacting particle technique [2]

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- a variance reduction method

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- a interacting particle technique [2]
- a variance reduction method
- used as a rare event dedicated Monte Carlo method [5, 6].

Basic Ingredients [1]

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Given

f_X	Input Probability Density Function
T	Threshold to exceed
N	Simulation budget

Known or designed

$M(\cdot, \cdot)$	f_X -reversible Markov Kernel
-------------------	---------------------------------

Decided and deterministic

a_k	k^{th} Quantile level
b_k	k^{th} kernel parameter set
n_k	k^{th} step simulation budget

Observed and random

δ_k	k^{th} empirical quantile
κ	Total number of quantiles

Gaussian-reversible Markov Kernel [1]

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If $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0_d, I_d)$, then a possible kernel choice is

$$M(x, dy) \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{1+b^2}}, \frac{b^2}{1+b^2}\right)$$

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A wider array of density-reversible Markov kernel pair is needed.

Sample dependence

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Samples are **correlated and identically distributed** as they share a common genealogy.

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How to create independence?

How fast is independence reached?

How to create diversity?

Most efficient combination of quantile levels

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According to [4], to minimise variance, under mild assumptions, all quantile levels a_k should be equal, say to a .

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- Extremely high value should be avoided as we want to avoid rare events.

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- Experimentally, $a \in [.20, .25]$ works fine [1].

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- Very low a too, when dealt with carefully [3].

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How to choose a to reduce variance?

How to choose a to respect the simulation budget?

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Iridium and Cosmos
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- 5 Conclusion**
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- 7 References

Key ideas to remember

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- AST widely outperforms CMC when it comes to rare events .

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- Rule of the thumb tuning can do the trick...

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- AST widely outperforms CMC when it comes to rare events .
- Rule of the thumb tuning can do the trick...
- ...but theoretical understanding is needed.

Further work: theoretical mastery

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- Applying it to a wider class of random input via Metropolis-Hasting and using empirical stopping criterion.

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- Using extra knowledge $\mathbb{P}[X \in \mathcal{A}] \in [p_-, p^+]$ to choose parameters.

Further work: theoretical mastery

- Applying it to a wider class of random input via Metropolis-Hasting and using empirical stopping criterion.
- Using extra knowledge $\mathbb{P}[X \in \mathcal{A}] \in [p_-, p^+]$ to choose parameters.
- Should we resample all the points or only the doubloon?

Please, let me answer your questions.

Thank you for your attention.

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Conferences

- 1 Estimating satellite versus debris collision probabilities via the adaptive splitting technique: *8th international workshop on rare event simulation*, Poster, 20-23 June 2010 Cambridge (UK), R. Pastel, J. Morio & F. Le Gland.
- 2 Representing Spatial Distribution via the Adaptive Splitting technique and Isoquantile Curves : *European Meeting of Statisticians 2010*, Présentation Orale sur résumé, 17-22 August 2010 Piraeus (Greece), R. Pastel, J. Morio & F. Le Gland.
- 3 From satellite versus debris collision probabilities to the adaptive splitting technique From Application to Theory : *Rare Event Simulation Workshop*, Présentation Orale sur résumé, 28-29 October 2010 Bordeaux (France), R. Pastel, J. Morio & F. Le Gland.
- 4 Estimating satellite collision probabilities via the adaptive splitting technique : *International Conference in Computer Modeling and Simulation*, Présentation Orale sur article, 7-9 January 2011 Mumbai (India), R. Pastel, J. Morio & F. Le Gland.

Revues

- ① Sampling Technique for launcher impact safety zone estimation : *Acta astronautica*, 66(5-6): 736-741, 2010, J. Morio & R. Pastel.
- ② An overview or importance splitting for rare event simulation : *European Journal of Physics*, 31:1295-1303, 2010, J. Morio, R. Pastel & F. Le Gland.
- ③ Estimation De probabilités et de quantiles rares pour la caractérisation d'une zone de retombée d'un engin : *Journal de la Société Française de Statistique*, pending subject to modifications, J. Morio, R. Pastel & F. Le Gland.

Outline

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- 7 **References**

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