

Parameters affecting the operational control of log turners

Huitième atelier de résolution
de problèmes industriels de Montréal

7 - 11 août 2017

Eighth Montreal Industrial
Problem Solving Workshop

August 7 - 11, 2017



Jakub Witkowski, jzmwitkowski@gmail.com

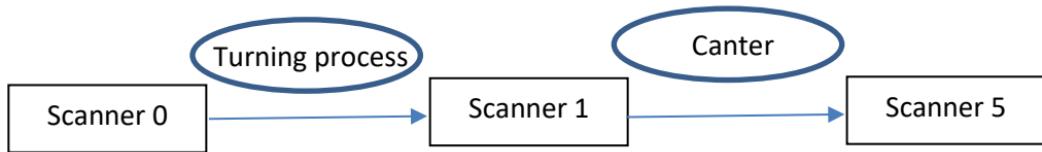
Frédéric Godin, frederic.godin@concordia.ca

Jean-François Plante, jfplante@hec.ca

Yvon Hubert, yhubert@comact.com

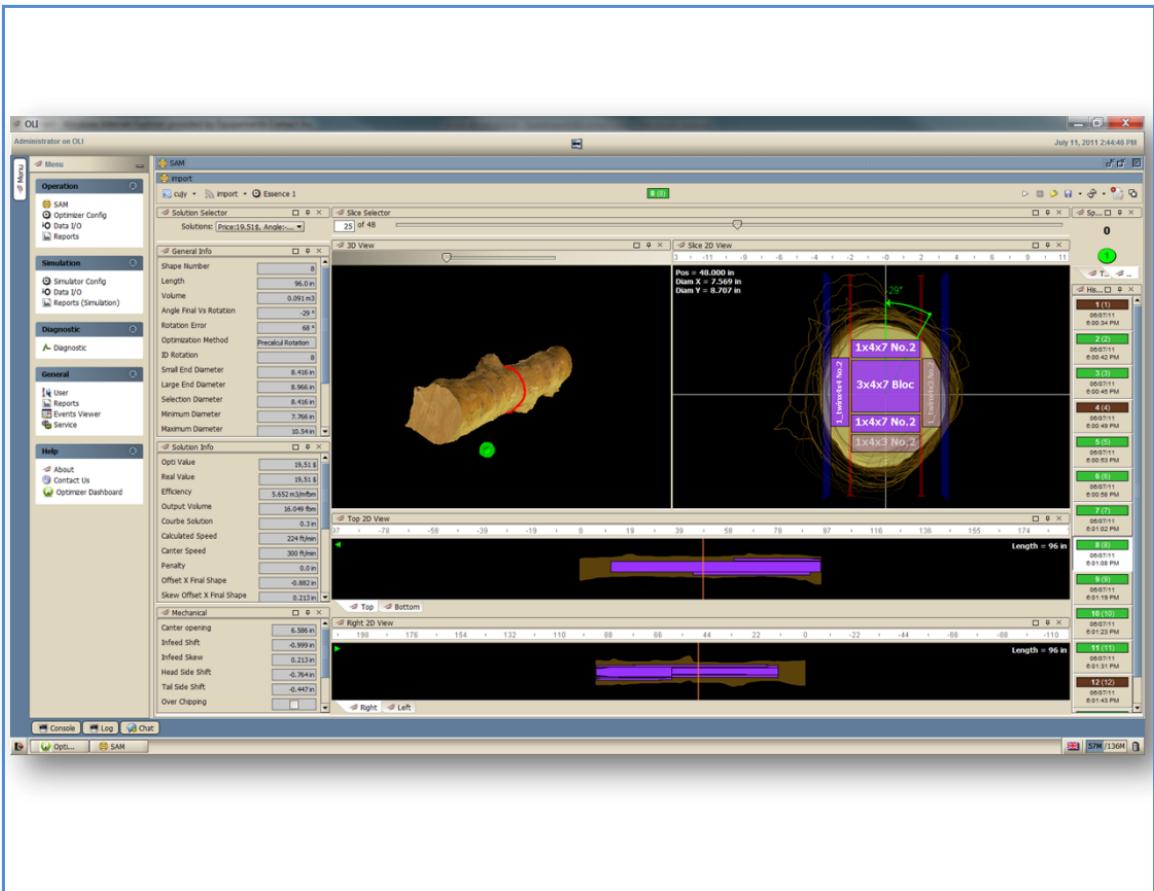
Serge Constantineau, Serge.Constantineau@fpinnovations.ca

Recapitulation of the wood-cutting process



- Scanner 0: Gets specifications of log shape (to determine optimal turning)
- Scanner 1: Measures the angular error on the log rotation.
- Scanner 5: Final position of the log
- All scanners give a \$ value estimate of log.
 - The \$ value may go down (e.g. large turning error)
 - The \$ value may go up: the optimal solution is revisited after all scanners. If the log is in a surprising position, a new optimization may be performed.

Objective of the project: explaining and reducing errors from log turners by using explanatory variables.



Sources of Data

We have data for each log processed between June 11th, 2016 to June 29th, 2017.

In total, we have data from 3 scanners with more than 25 variables for each scanner (total 2 651 295 logs).

Response variable:

- *delta_angle*: difference between recommended angle and realized angle of a log (from scanner 1),
- *\$ value of logs* (at each scanner)

Explanatory variables examples:

- *diameter* and *length* of the log
- *curvature* of the log
- *type of wood* (hard vs soft)
- *line speed, turning distance*
- *time stamp*
- *etc.*

Data treatment required a lot of time:

Merging data tables:

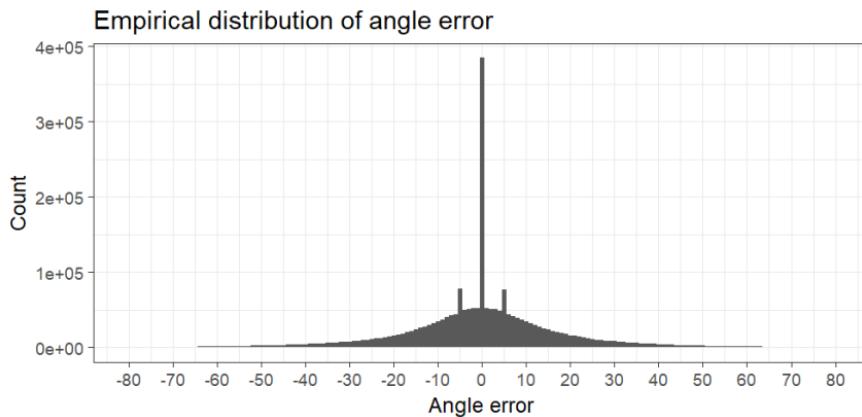
- New SQL extractions to add new variables during the week.
- No unique log ID between scanner 0, 1 and 5.
 - We applied an ad hoc matching based on similitude between log diameters and time stamps.
 - Creates uncertainty with respect to data reliability.
- Type of wood (species) from calendar of production.

Data cleaning

- Remove logs with missing error value
- Remove observations on weekend days and on days with very few logs processed.
- Remove days with mixed wood types.
- Remove variables with zero variance
- Etc.

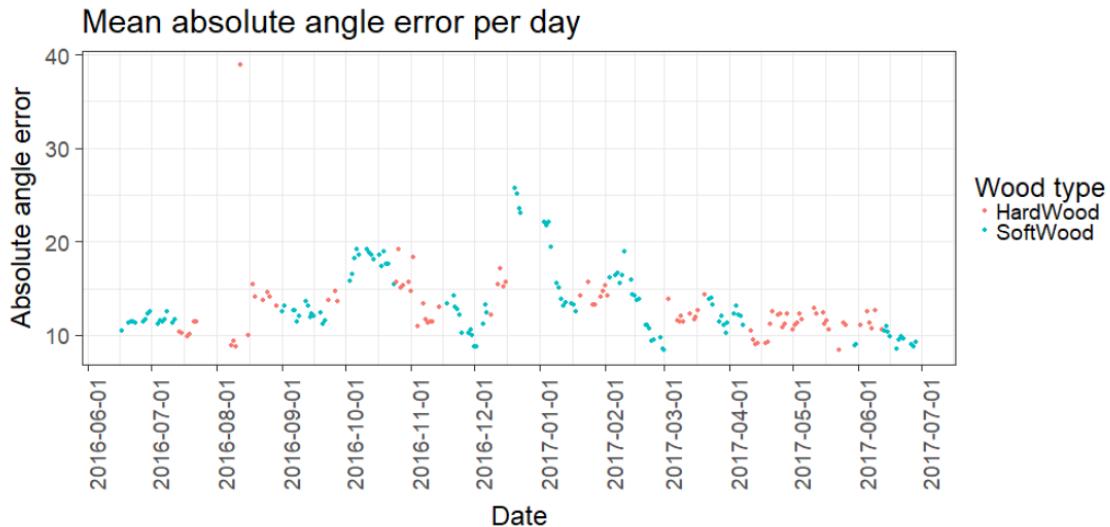
Data uncertainties

- Potential measurement errors
 - E.g. large frequency of angle errors = ± 5 .



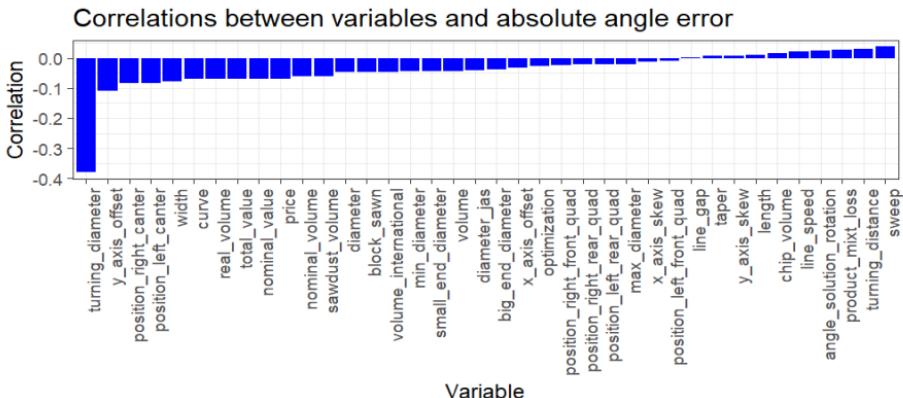
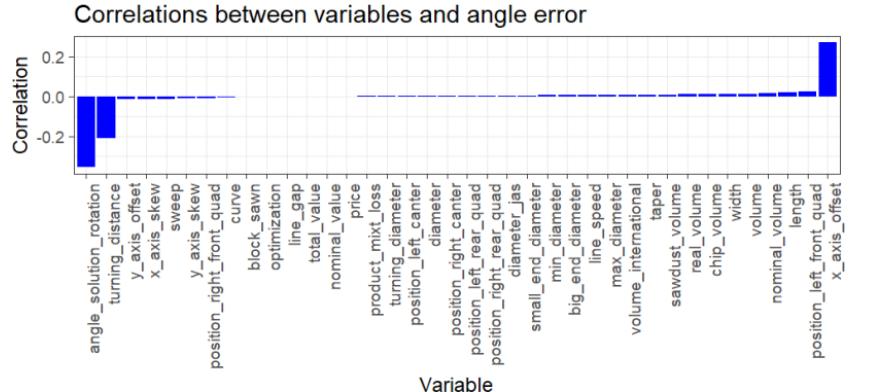
Time series perspective:

- Presence of error clusters for average daily absolute error
- Potential indication of time-varying absolute error mean; maintenance might alter machine operations through time.



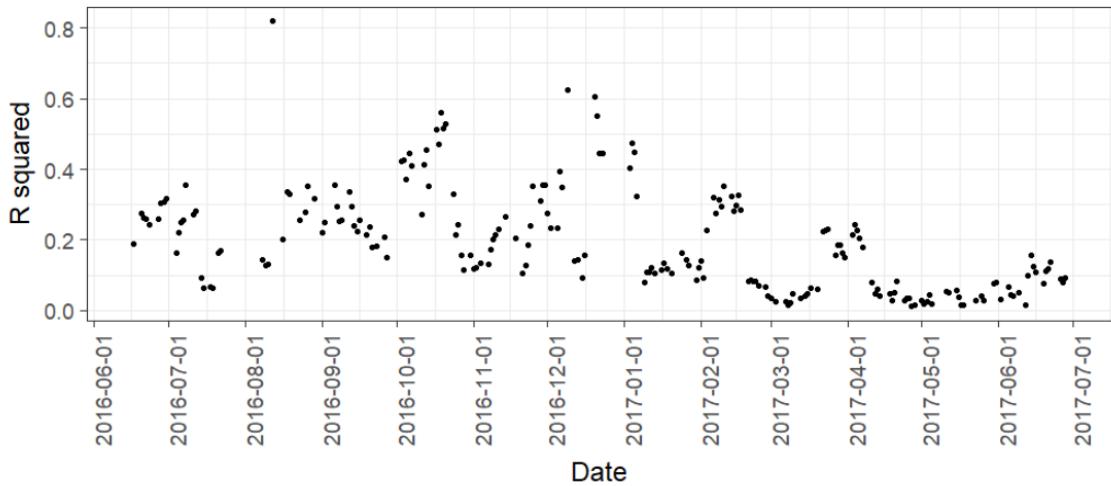
- Within a given day, the error autocorrelation across the logs is typically low.

Correlation between response and explanatory variables for scanner 1 data:



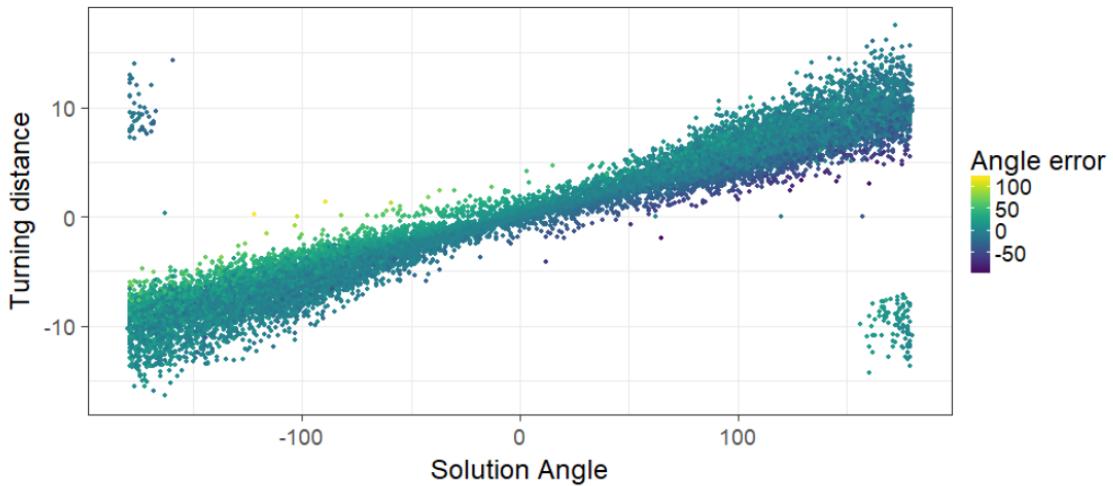
Daily regression for “angle error”

R squared for regression model of angle in time



Linking angular errors and turning distance

Relation between solution angle and turning distance



- Given the solution angle, the angle error is correlated with the turning distance.
- Angle error seems largest when turning is insufficient.
- Possible actionable item.

Can we explain or predict “rotation errors”?

We performed model selection for “rotation error” on all reasonable variables.

Source	DF	Type I SS
volume_international	1	68132.03
turning_distanceSZ	1	60881327.68
angle_solution_rotation	1	12405120.71
turning_d*angle_solution	1	1771657.62
Species	5	207994.73
day	30	364202.42
x_axis_offsetSZ	1	2114571.41
line_speedSZ*Species	6	53500.06

- The best solutions do not exceed an R^2 of 0.2.
- Turning_distance, angle_solution_rotation and x_axis_offset are the most relevant variables.
- The models do not provide additional insight vs the scatter plot.

Price movement through the scanners

After matching, merging and cleaning, 1 373 272 logs with full confidence.

The MEANS Procedure					
Variable	N	Mean	Sum	Minimum	Maximum
priceSZ	1373272	14.9785662	20569645.53	0	246.5700000
priceSD	1373272	14.7461509	20250476.18	0	246.5700000
priceSF	1373272	9.5790514	13154643.04	0	246.5700000

- Loss from error in log turner: 320 000 \$.
 - For the full production, about 600 000 \$.
- Loss from canter operation: 7 000 000 \$
 - Is the estimated value of scanner 5 reliable?
 - Are the side boards (cut out right after scanner 5) not included in that value?

We will focus on the price difference between scanners 0 and 1.

Does “angle error” explain loss of value?

Regression of $|\text{angle error}|$ on Δprice :

- Significant: expected because of the large sample size
- $R^2 \approx 0.01$: the angle error does not explain well the loss of value

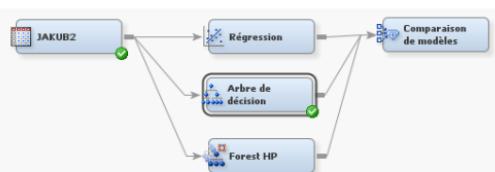
Surprising... we expected that “angle error” would be the main driver of value loss!

- Did we look at the relevant operation (turning vs canters vs alignment)?
- How reliable is the angle error measurement?
- How important are measurement errors in general for this data? Are they hiding the effects?
- How well can the subsequent optimizations fix a rotation problem?
- Is the loss in value caused by something else? Not by other things we have measurements for: a model selection procedure cannot reach $R^2 = 0.05$.

Other data mining tools

At different stages of the exploration, decision trees and random forests were tried, but they do not change the conclusions.

Here, loss of value explained with a regression tree. Angle error is the most important variable, but



Nom de la variable	Libellé	Nombre de règles de découpe	Importance
absdelta angle		8	1.0000
position right front quadSZ		4	0.8917
nominal valuesSZ		10	0.6310
sweepSZ		9	0.6288
nb solSZ		4	0.5920
position left front quadSZ		3	0.5314
turning diameterSZ		2	0.2683
x axis offsetSZ		2	0.2030
small end diameterSZ		3	0.1699
delta angleSO		1	0.1696
real volumeSZ		2	0.1284
widthSZ		2	0.1225
min diameterSZ		1	0.1062
line speedSZ		1	0.0878
max diameterSZ		1	0.0809
position left centerSZ		1	0.0665
turning distanceSZ		1	0.0289
nominal volumeSZ		1	0.0276
volume internationalSZ		1	0.0093
line gapSZ		0	0.0000
angleSZ		0	0.0000
gap too longSZ		0	0.0000
butt firstSZ		0	0.0000
gap too shortSZ		0	0.0000
position left rear quadSZ		0	0.0000
position right centerSZ		0	0.0000
diameterSZ		0	0.0000
tapersZ		0	0.0000
day		0	0.0000
lengthSZ		0	0.0000
volumeSZ		0	0.0000
big end diameterSZ		0	0.0000
position right rear quadSZ		0	0.0000
curveSZ		0	0.0000
x axis skewSZ		0	0.0000
y axis offsetSZ		0	0.0000
y axis skewSZ		0	0.0000

Conclusion

- A substantial part of the work consisted in data treatments.
- Exploratory analyses were performed on the data.
- Actionable item:
 - Biases identified in incorrect turning distances conditional on the solution angle lead to higher errors, which could be corrected.
- Recommendations for data quality improvement
 - Ensure that unique ID's are saved to logs to facilitate matching of data across scanners.
 - Obtain new variables with potential to improve predictions :
 - Generate variables from raw scanner data,
 - New scanners e.g. for humidity, temperature.
 - Get feedback on timing and type of maintenance operations that were performed throughout the year.