

Erratum on statistical error calculation

Raffael Niemczyk, Zeuthen, February 28th 2018

Gaussian error propagation

Adding correlation terms to the Gaussian error propagation formula

$$\epsilon_{\text{geom}} = \sqrt{Vx * Vp - Cov^2}$$

> General EP is
$$\Delta\epsilon = \sqrt{\sum_i \left(\frac{\partial\epsilon}{\partial x_i} \sigma_i\right)^2 + \sum \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{\partial\epsilon}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial\epsilon}{\partial x_j} \sigma_{ij}}$$

- > This yields in a smaller statistical error, 24.2 % instead of 34.0 % (neglecting correlation)
- > **Mistake 1:** I was missing a factor of 2 in the term for the correlation terms
- > **Mistake 2:** In Matlab, rms is defined with $1/N$, while the covariance* goes with $1/(N - 1)$. I mixed them up
- > Considering both things, GEP with correlation terms yields rel. stat error of **0.4 %**
- > Since this is textbook case of error propagation, I'll use that

* Sometimes in literature defined with $1/N$, but MATLAB default is $1/(N - 1)$

[1] K. O. Arras, *An Introduction To Error Propagation [...]*, Technical Report <http://srl.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/papers/arrasTR98.pdf> (visited 2019-04-02)