

Interactive comment on “Technical Note: A significance test for data-sparse zones in scatter plots” by V. V. Vetrova and W. E. Bardsley

Anonymous Referee #2

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This paper is an interesting extension of the method proposed in the paper by Barsley et al. (1999). These randomization tests are potentially very useful and the Excel macro will be useful for carrying them out.

My only specific comments are:

- (1) The English needs to be checked and improved in places. For example, on line 11 "to validation plots" should be "two validation plots".
- (2) In the description of the test in Section 2 I think that it should be made clear what a random swapping of data points means. This may be obvious to someone familiar with randomization tests but for someone that has not read about these before it would be good to say that the yearly values are put in a random order.

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- (3) In Figure 1 I suggest saying something like "... the largest possible data-sparse region containing $m = 1$ data points". I say this because in the text Figure 1 is referred to before m is defined.

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