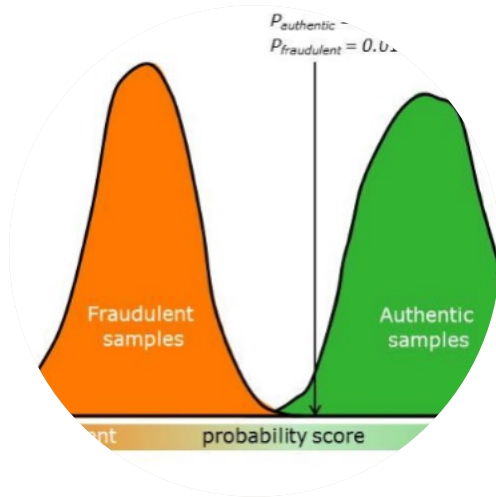


# Validation of non-targeted methods in food fraud area

Martin Alewijn

RIKILT – Wageningen University and Research (NL)

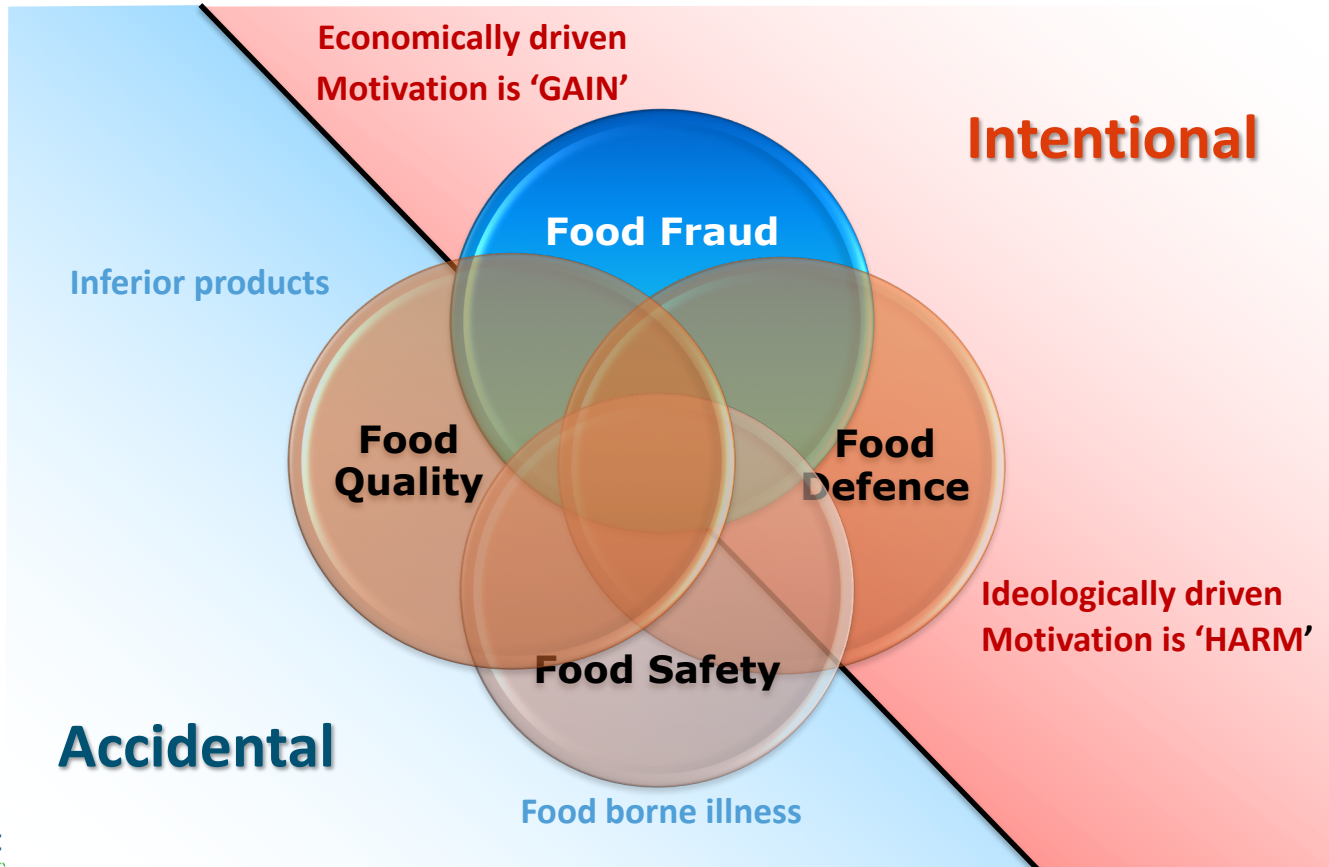


# RIKILT

- Wageningen Food Safety Research, WFSR
- > 200 staff
- Clients: government, national/EU scientific funding bodies, industry, NGOs
- Research themes:
  - Natural and chemical contaminants
  - New risks
  - Residues
  - Feed
  - **Product composition / quality / authenticity**



# Food fraud in perspective



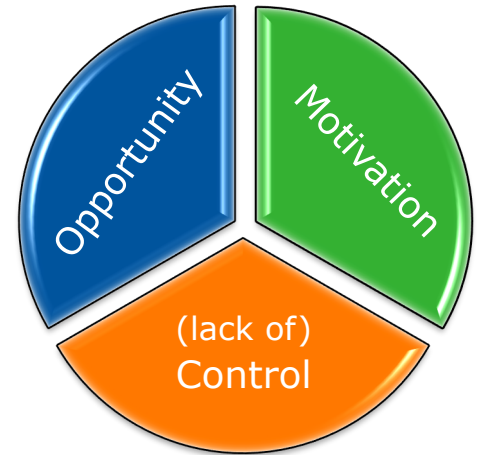
# Food fraud issues

- Ingredient authenticity:
  - Replacing or diluting of the product (low value, species)
- Production systems:
  - Not meeting corporate social responsibility issues (sustainable, organic, animal welfare, fair trade, etc.)
- Geographical origin
- Typicality



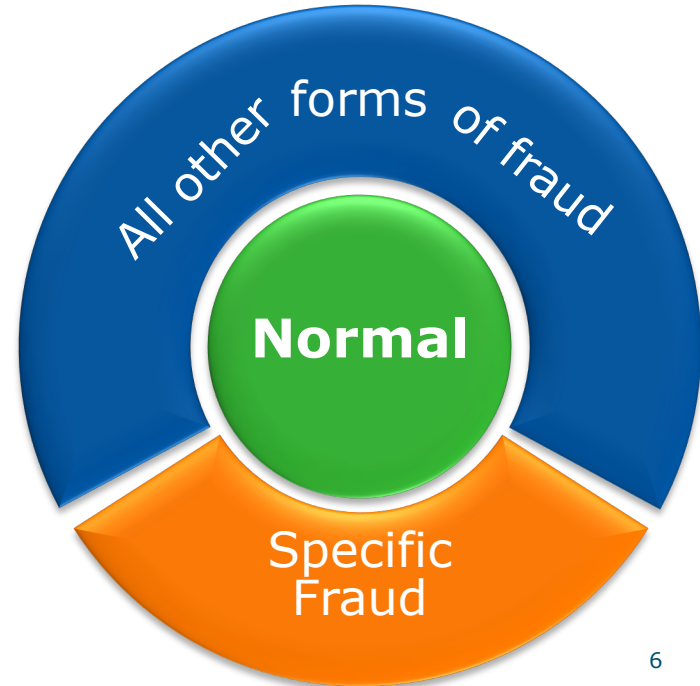
# Food fraud detection tools

- Mass balance, tracking & tracing, blockchain,
- Databases (RASFF, Foodfraud.org, )
- Food fraud vulnerability self assessment
- Monitor global price changes, shortages
- Analyses!



# Food fraud analytical methods

- Targeted (moisture in meat, melamine in milk products, ...)
- Untargeted – fingerprinting
  - Chromatography
  - Non-chromatographic MS
  - Spectroscopy
  - Molecular techniques
  - etc.





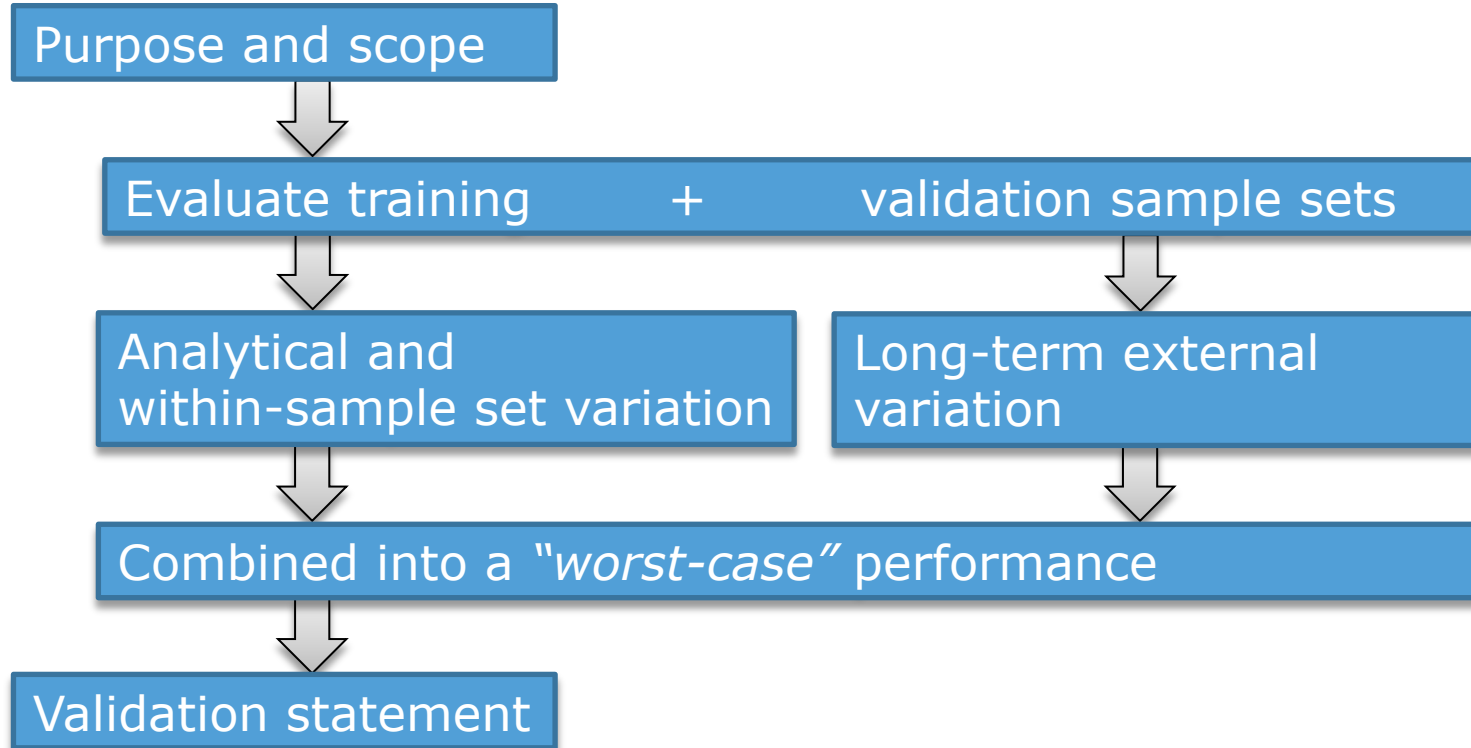
# Issues in validation

- Classification mechanism is usually indirect
- Use of a database of samples to predict future *-unseen-* samples!
- When is a database 'sufficient'?
- How to quantify the certainty of a future result?





# Suggested validation protocol *(binary classification)*



# Sample sets: training and validation set

- Is sampling representative, true, and balanced for:
  - Target class
  - Relevant subgroups (season, variety, storage time, etc.)
- Is the sampling quantitatively sufficient?

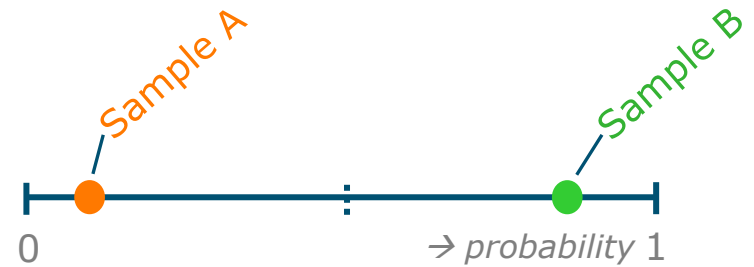
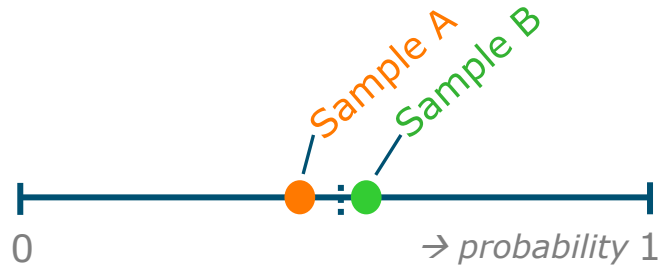
Validation set (system challenge) :

- Is all *additional* variation included?
  - Separate sample source, different time period, use of different equipment/technicians, etc.

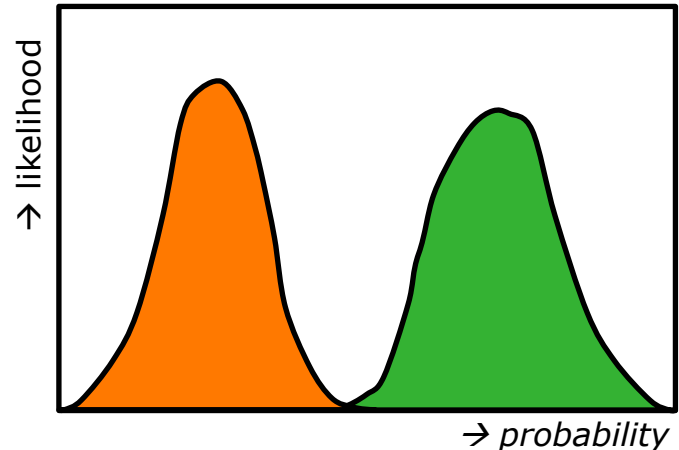


# Performance evaluation

Two examples, the same classification result:

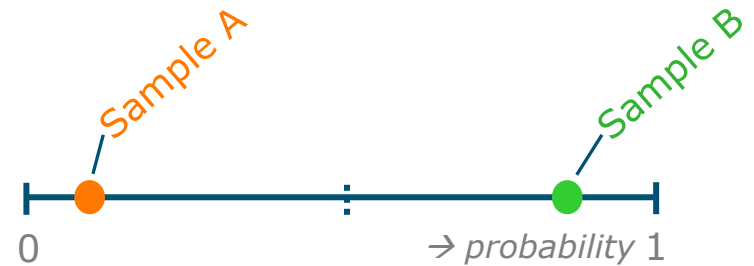
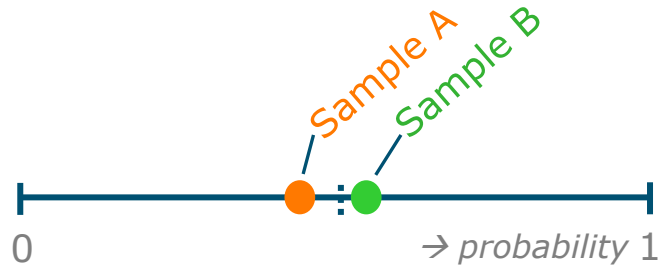


- During evaluation: **go probabilistic!**
- Every algorithm can be made probabilistic or class-distance-based
- Obtain model probability distributions



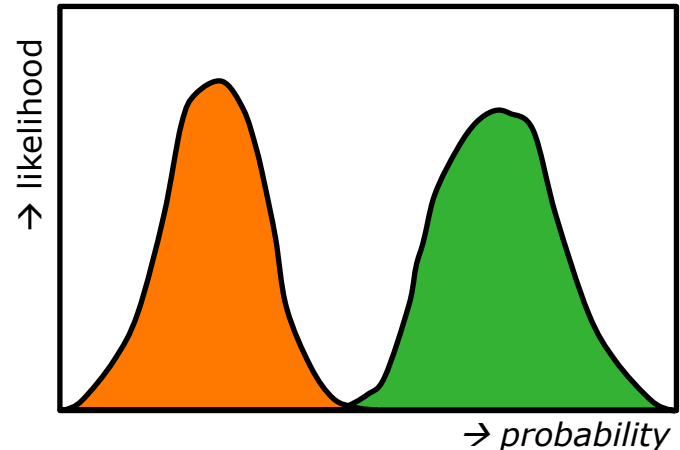
# Performance evaluation

Two examples, the same classification result:



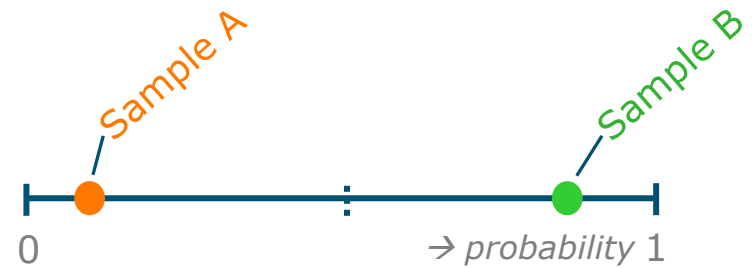
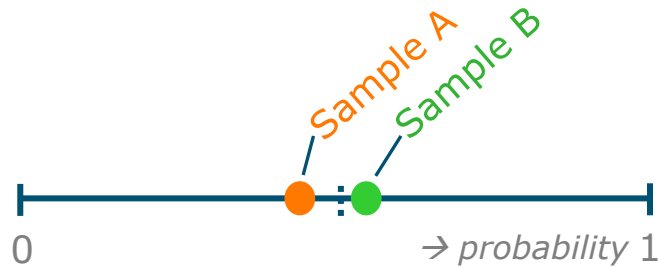
Probability score:

- a candidate QC for *multivariate* **repeatability** and **reproducibility**?



# Performance evaluation

Two examples, the same classification result:



Density →  
Confusion matrix

**Model performance?**

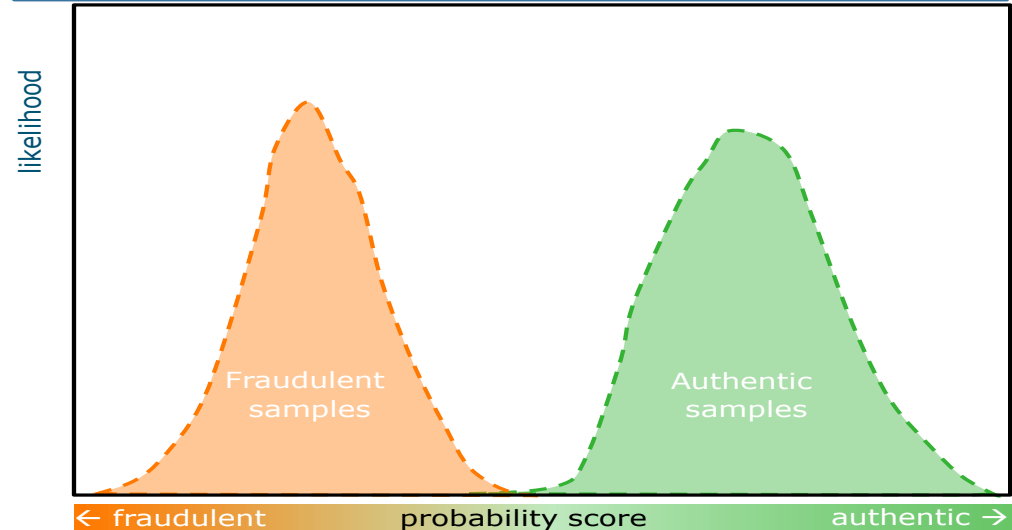
	Predicted: Authentic	Predicted: Fraud
Actual: Authentic		
Actual: Fraud		

# Sources of error/variation: training set

## Error & Variation:

- Analytical variation:
  - all usual analytical variation (for *each* of the variables!)
- Natural variability
- Storage
- Sample handling
- Species
- Regions
- ....

Probability distribution obtained using resampling techniques (e.g. *rCV*) on training set

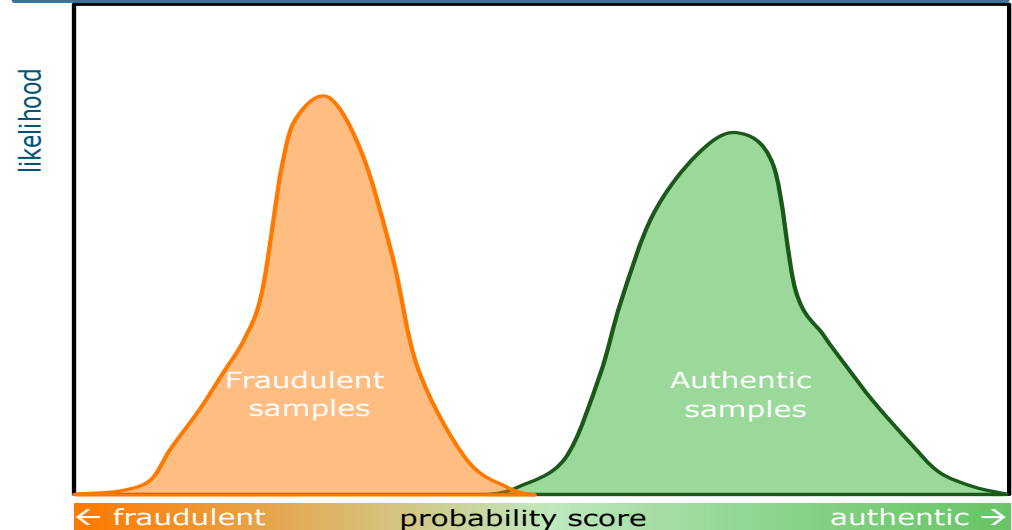


# Sources of error/variation: validation set

*Additional* variation (within scope)  
due to obtained differences in:

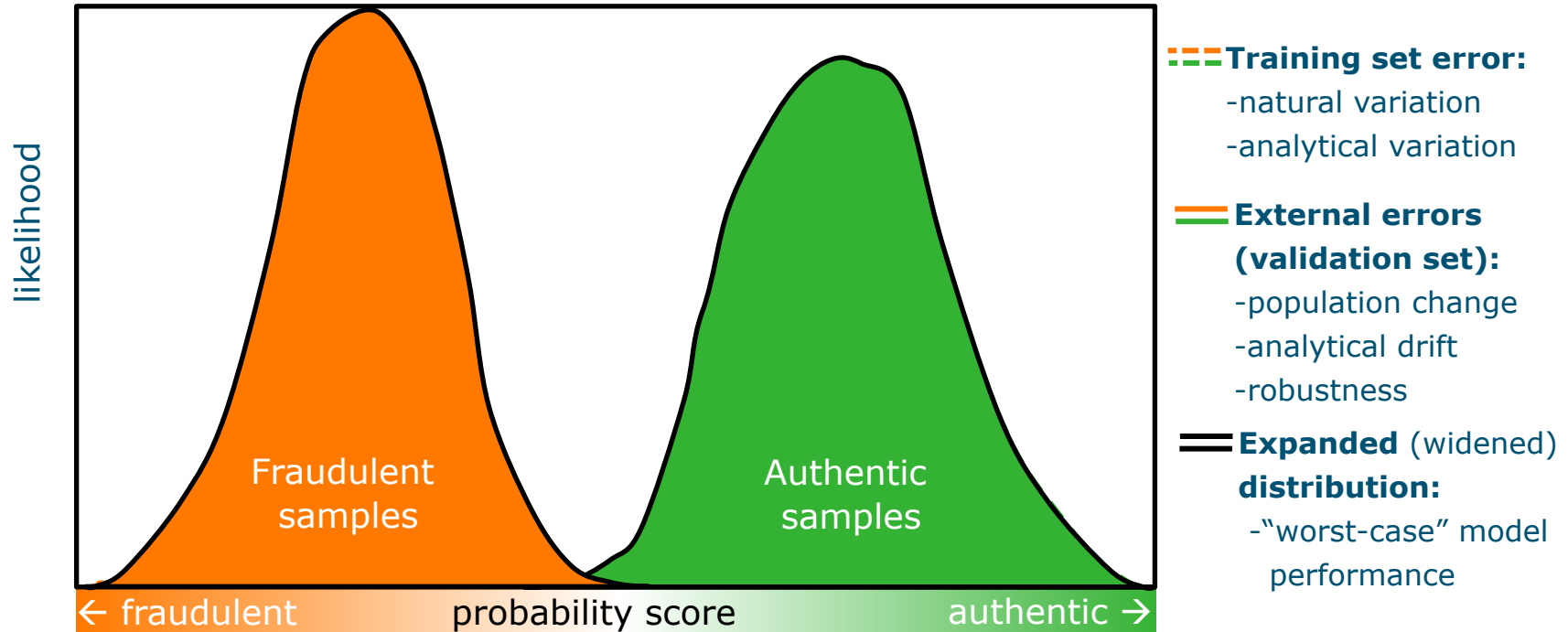
- Harvest
- Producers
- Storage conditions
- ....
- Analytical equipment
- Technician
- Sample preparation
- Solvents
- ...

Probability distribution obtained  
predicting the validation set samples by the  
model



# "Worst-case" probability distribution

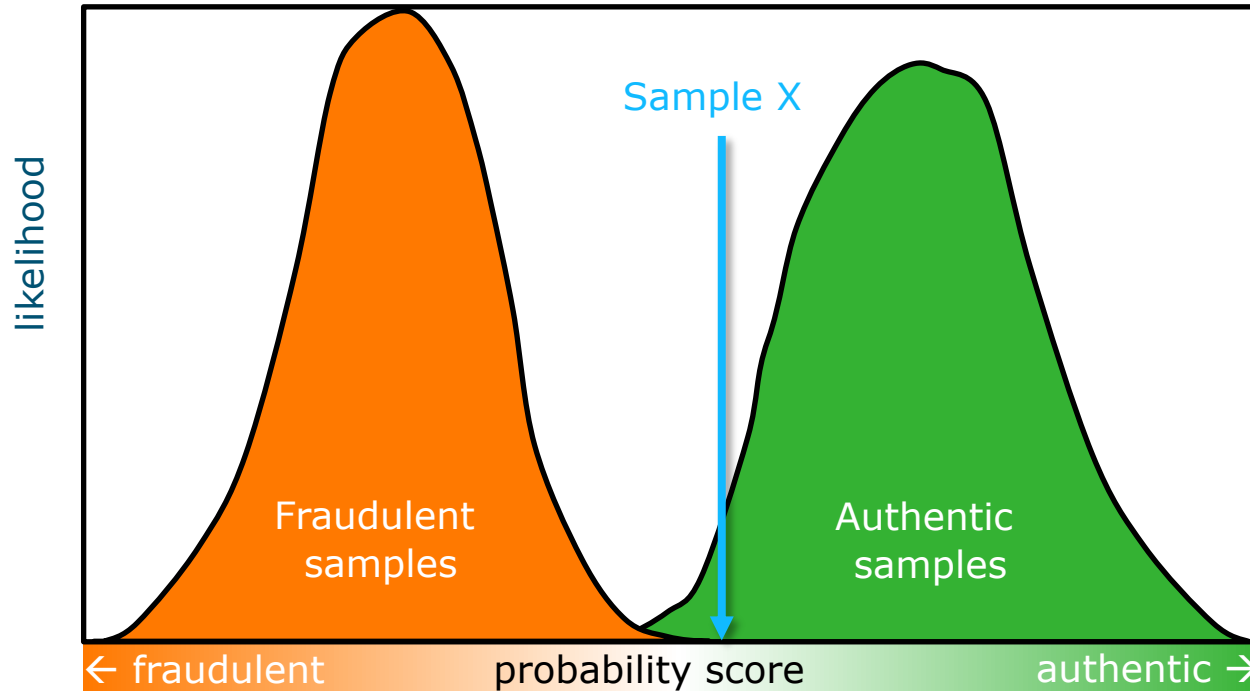
- Combining the sources of error: widening effect





# "Worst-case" probability distribution

- Allows providing certainty statements for future results



*Example*

Sample X:  
score = 0.55

→ *interpretation:*

$P_{\text{authentic}} = 7\%$   
 $P_{\text{fraud}} = 0.05\%$

# Summary of validation approach:

- Evaluates the sum of sample set + analysis + model
- Bases performance on probabilities rather than binary results
- Combines different sources of error into the “worst-case” overall (un)certainty profile
- Allows adding certainty statements to future samples

# Next steps

## ✓ Publication

- International input (CEN TC460 FA)
- Approach for quantitative validation of sample size and composition
- Add “expanded measurement uncertainty” to the final distribution?
- Get a method formally accredited – *in progress*



Thank you  
for your attention



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