

# Examples of Using Data Analytics for Improving the Safety Efficiency and Environmental Impact of Air Transportation

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### Examples of Data Analytics To Improve Operational Performance

- Examples:
- Safety
- Environmental & Fuel Efficiency
- Airport & Air Traffic Performance
- Airport Community Noise Analysis



DFDR Anomaly Detection



Cruise Altitude & Speed Optimization



Runway Occupancy Time, s Runway Occupancy Time Optimization

70

80

90

100

60

0.01

40

50



- Safety
  - Flight Data Recorder Anomaly Detection (Lishuai Li)
  - Degraded Breaking Conditions (Nicolas Meijers)
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#### Commercial Aviation Safety Has Continuously Improved



Source: 2014 Boeing Statistical Summary



### Monitoring and Identification of Emerging Risks

**ICAO Annex 6** • Safety Management Systems Flight Data Monitoring Accidents Incidents **Abnormal Precursor Events Identification** Hazards Investigation **Risk Factors** Implementation Identified **Risks Mitigations** Safety **Research** 

Anomaly Detection as Precursor



- Background:
  - Massive flight data collected through FOQA/FDM; rich information
  - Complicated to analyze
    - $100+ \sim 1000+$  parameters for each flight
- Current practice: Exceedance Detection
  - Detect when a threshold is exceeded under certain conditions
  - List of events believed to be unsafe
  - Limited to known Safety Issues





Event Code	Description					
07A	Approach Speed Low Within 2 mins of T/D					
07B	Approach Speed Low Below 25ft Radio					
08A	Climb Out Speed High Below 400ft AAL					
08B	Climb Out Speed High 400' to 1000' AAL					
08C	Climb Out Speed Low 35' AGL to 400' AAL					

\* Reference: NTSB, "FDR Group Chairmen's Factual Report, DCA09MA027," 2009

# MIT Anomaly Based Monitoring using Data Mining Techniques





#### DFDR Data Mining Cluster Analysis Approach



- Approach
  - Divide data by flight phase; make time series comparable
  - Integrate time series into a vector in a high-dimensional space
  - Cluster analysis of flights
    - Cluster similar flights together
    - · Identify anomalous flights that are different from the majority
- No requirement for pre-defined parameter thresholds
- Also used Gaussian Mixture Models



#### Example Results B-777 Takeoff

Low Power Takeoff

Heavy Takeoff, Double Rotation





#### Example Results B-777 Approach

• Low Approach







# MIT Anomaly Based Monitoring using Data Mining Techniques





## Flight parameters to review for a flight

Music Flight Furumetern			Flight Farameters Related to Ingine				Flight Farameters Related to Brake and Gear				
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 A visualization tool has been developed to guide domain experts to quickly locate anomalies - which parameters at what time are abnormal



### Flight Abnormality Visualization Example





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# Identification of Degraded Braking Conditions

- Runway Excursion a Leading Cause of Fatal Commercial Accidents
- Rain, snow or contamination can result in degraded braking and runway excursion
  - e.g. Southwest Airlines 1248 (MDW)
- Limited success in predicting braking conditions
  - TALPA
- Further efforts needed to understand and predict degraded braking

#### Fatalities by CICTT Aviation Occurrence Categories

Fatal Accidents | Worldwide Commercial Jet Fleet | 2005 through 2014



Note: Principal categories as assigned by CAST. For a complete description of CAST/ICAO Common Taxonomy Team (CICTT) Aviation Occurrence Categories, go to www.intlaviationstandards.org.

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2014 STATISTICAL SUMMARY, AUGUST 2015 | 22





#### **Exploring data mining** approaches using **large databases** to characterize degraded braking at a macro-scale:

- 1. **Identification** of degraded braking
- Analysis of recurrent patterns 2.
- 3. Prediction of degraded braking





#### **Predictive Modelling Scheme**

Main challenge: Gather reliable truth information about braking  $\geq$ performance



Initial work on understanding and predicting degraded braking:

- Based on Pilot Braking Reports & Field Condition Reports (FICON)
- Proof of concept with Pilot Braking Reports used as a "truth" for

#### degraded braking

- 1. Analysis of **dependency of Pilot Braking Reports with FICON** Data & **exogenous parameters** collected at US airports
- 2. Development of predictive models





 Received 288,000 US FICON NOTAMs for 2017-2018 winters from FAA (5,241 with Pilot reports)





#### FICON NOTAM Reports

Contaminant Ty Conta	ype & Remainder aminant	Contaminant Coverage & Depth	Treatment	Braking Action	Runway Condition Code
<ul> <li>Wet</li> <li>Water Over Ice</li> <li>Water</li> <li>Frost</li> <li>Slush</li> <li>Ice</li> <li>Wet Ice</li> <li>Wet Snow</li> <li>Wet Snow Over Ice</li> <li>Dry Snow Over Ice</li> <li>Compacted Snow</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Dry Snow</li> <li>Water Over Compacted Snow</li> <li>Wet Snow Over Compacted Snow</li> <li>Slush Over Ice</li> <li>Dry Snow Over Compacted Snow</li> <li>Slippery When Wet</li> <li>Ash</li> <li>Oil</li> <li>Sand</li> <li>Mud</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>% of covered area</li> <li>Depth (Inches) for some contamina nts</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Plowed</li> <li>Scarified</li> <li>Swept</li> <li>Sanded</li> <li>Deiced Liquid</li> <li>Deiced Solid</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Nil</li> <li>Poor</li> <li>Medium to Poor</li> <li>Medium</li> <li>Good to Medium</li> <li>Good</li> </ul>	0 1 2 3 4 5 6
≻ Per ru	inway third	➢ Per runway third			Per runway third



## Initial Modelling of Braking Action

Use of an **Ordinal Logistic Regression** model to predict Braking Action

- Prediction of Odds of Braking Action
   for each landing
- Braking Action between j-1 & j predicted when

- Analysis of the impact of each factor on the odds with a single coefficient β
- Method provides:
  - Simple understanding of the impact of each factor on the odds to observe a category of braking

Predicted Braking Action	Threshold Value ()
NIL	
POOR	-5.43 (j=1)
MEDIUM TO	-2.32 (j=2)
POOR	-1.43 (j=3)
MEDIUM	0.14 (j=4)
GOOD TO MEDIUM	0.95 (j=5)
GOOD	<b>.</b>



#### **Identifying Dominant Predictors**





#### **Initial Model Performance**

Predicted Observed	NIL	POOR	MEDIUM TO POOR	MEDIUM	GOOD TO MEDIUM	GOOD
NIL	0.0%	2.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
POOR	0.0%	4.7%	1.2%	2.8%	0.9%	0.2%
MEDIUM TO POOR	0.0%	1.7%	1.4%	1.9%	1.2%	1.4%
MEDIUM	0.0%	0.7%	0.9%	6.8%	6.1%	6.6%
GOOD TO MEDIUM	0.0%	0.2%	1.7%	2.6%	3.1%	4.7%
GOOD	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	2.8%	10.1%	32.3%

Confusion Matrix (48% direct match, 81% within 1 classification group)



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### Identification of Operational Mitigations to Reduce Environmental Impact

- Funding: FAA Office of Environment & Energy (FAA/AEE)
- High-Level objective: Identify & evaluate operational mitigations to reduce environmental impacts of aviation in the near/mid-term with minimal implementation barriers
- Prior work: Identified/evaluated over 60 mitigations
- Current research focus: Quantify benefits and barriers to implementation of:
  - Delayed Deceleration Approach
  - Cruise Altitude and Speed Optimization (CASO)





#### Cruise Altitude and Speed Optimization

- 2012 Radar analysis shows 56% of domestic flight time spent in highaltitude cruise
- Efficiency Metric: "Specific Ground Range"
  - Maximizes ground distance per unit of fuel consumption
  - Accounts for wind and temperature
- Typical airliner cruise conditions are not fuel-optimal with respect to speed and altitude
  - Opportunities in flight planning, dispatch, and cockpit procedures
  - Potential applications in the NextGen ATM framework

#### Typical Narrow Body Jet Efficiency Contours





### **CASO** Analysis Approach





### Estimating Aircraft Weight

- Fuel consumption is dependent on aircraft weight
- Weight is not reported in public data sources
- Estimation method: regression surface using data provided by three major US airlines
  - Regression variables
    - 1. Total flight time
    - 2. Initial cruise altitude
  - 35,131 sample flights including domestic US and long haul flights









#### **Altitude Optimization Tunnel**



#### Joint Altitude and Speed Optimization for 2012 Data By Airline





#### Aggregate Speed Efficiency: 2012 Data





#### Aggregate Speed Efficiency: 2015 Data





#### **Altitude Optimization Tunnel**





- Apply Cruise Altitude and Speed Optimization algorithm in an EFB tool to aid in pilot decision making
- Computes current and future aircraft fuel and schedule performance




### Prototype System



Standalone setup independent of aircraft systems developed for testing, but future integration with aircraft systems envisioned

# Prototype System for Preliminary Flight Trials



- Operational coordination opportunity with airlines
  - NDA signed with a major carrier
  - Preliminary flight trials flown



- Four flights currently conducted:
  - B772
  - LAX-HNL, HNL-SFO, ORD-PVG, PVG-ORD





 Decision support tool run on a computer on the ground and information sent to crews and dispatchers, pending approval for jumpseat access





#### **HNL-SFO** Results



#### **Performance from CEBEN to CREAN**

Trajectory (Source)	Δ Fuel Burn (lbs)	Δ Time (min)
Flight Plan (Flight Plan prediction)	0	0
CASO Recommended (CASO prediction)	3659 lbs savings	1 min. longer
As-Flown (recorded)	3820 lbs savings	4 min. longer



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#### **DFDR Fuel Burn Variability Example** A-330-200





### Example Flight Data Recorder Data

- Flight Data Recorders provide large set of internal states at relatively high resolution
- Data from collaboration with an airline
  - 278,404 flights
  - 14 Aircraft types
  - 2-5 mile resolution





#### Example Correlations with Average Specific Fuel Consumption (kg/km)







n/Distance (kg/km) against Average Static Air Temperature (T





verage Fuel Burn/Distance (kg/km) against Average Exhaust Gas Temperature 1







Average Fuel Burn/Distance (kg/km) against Average Vibration N1 Eng 1





- Preliminary analysis
  - One widebody aircraft type
  - 20,000 segment observations from ~200 flights
  - Predicted variable: segment fuel burn
  - Trained 100 trees for 100 cycles
  - Analysis in process





# Very Preliminary Results from Random Forest Identification (unverified)

 Very preliminary results from random forest to identify important factors





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# **Delayed Deceleration Approach (DDA)**

- Keep aircraft "clean" for longer on ٠ approach when appropriate without impacting terminal area entry or final approach stabilization criteria
  - **Between these** speed gates, Terminal area opportunity for entry speed encouraging more efficient approach speed profiles





#### **DDA Fuel Benefits Potential**





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# **Runway Occupancy Time Optimization**

- Runway Occupancy Time (ROT) is an increasing limitation to Runway Capacity
- Understand factors driving ROT & develop predictive models to optimize ROT
- Analysis of **3 million landings** around US Airports using ASDE-X radar tracks

#### Example: 1 day of ASDE-X tracks



#### **Example: single landing flight**



#### Identifying Factors Driving ROT Using Random Forest

- Estimation of the **relative importance of different factors** to explain the variance of ROT
  - Using the collected **ROT database for US Airports**
  - Using a random forest algorithm : forest of 300 trees of max depth 25



Most important predictors appear more often in trees & contribute more to variance decrease



#### Identifying Factors Driving ROT Using Random Forest



#### **Ranking of the importance of ROT factors**

- predictor:
  - Exit location
- Major impact on **ROT**:
  - Aircraft type
  - Airline
  - Exit angle
  - **Final Approach** speed
  - Type of following aircraft

#### MIT

٠

# **Optimizing ROT using Predictive ML Models**

Predictive runway occupancy time model using **Neural Networks** esampled RO lataset # Single ROT Distribution Initial ROT esampled RO predictive models able Dataset dataset # to predict ROT based on Last Feed-Forward airport configuration, fleet Neural Network lataset #1000

> **Example of predicted ROT distributions at major European airport**

Use of predictive models ٠ to propose optimal changes to runway exit systems of airports

**Development of** 

**Machine Learning** 

mix & environment





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#### Comparative Analysis of 3 Metroplexes New York, Hong Kong, Sao Paulo

- 60 days of flight tracks at the NY, HK and SP metro airspace
  - 55% fair weather days and 45% weather-impacted days







### Flight Trajectory Data Analytics Framework



# Analysis of Terminal Airspace Structure

- Spatial trajectory patterns identified with trajectory clustering
  - NY stands out with the highest number of routes; SP and HK have more similar structure



# Analysis of Terminal Airspace Structure

3D trajectory tubes created based on lateral and vertical dispersion of trajectories in each cluster



- Route intersections identified with pairwise analysis of trajectory tubes
  - NY has the most
    conflicted airspace structure
    (especially JFK-LGA)
  - Airspace structures of HK primary airports are highly de-conflicted





# Analysis of Traffic Flow Dynamics

- Knowledge about traffic flow patterns used to identify relevant flow interactions between the metroplex airports
- Route intersections translated into two types of flow interactions





#### Performance Analysis Efficiency

- Metroplex airspace design efficiency
  - HK stands out with the least efficient airspace design (especially driven by HKG)
  - VCP presents the most efficient design

Structural path stretch metric:







#### Performance Analysis *Efficiency*

- Traffic flow efficiency (lateral & temporal)
  - NY presents the highest traffic flow efficiency overall, but is more impacted by weather
  - HK shows considerably lower lateral efficiency

Traffic flow efficiency metric:







#### Data Mining Framework *Clustering at Temporal Scale*

#### Hourly Flow Pattern Vectors

Vector composed of dominant trajectory clusters from each arrival gate to each airport during the specified time scale:

(Csouth-JFK, Csouth-EWR, Csouth-LGA,..., Cnorth-JFK, Cnorth-EWR, Cnorth-LGA)

Dissimilarity Matrix

Hamming distance (fraction of features that differ)





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### Urban Air Mobility and eVTOL Aircraft Development

#### Over 100 companies (of varying credibility) have announced vehicles



MIT estimates over \$2 Billion invested in UAM vehicles, infrastructure, and technology



# Approach to Evaluate UAM Airport and Airspace Integration

1. Case studies at Boston, Atlanta, and San Francisco







3. Determine viable integration pathways, estimate feasible throughput, lay out requirements









- Defined a "containment boundary" to enclose a specified percentile of radar trajectories
- Boundary defined for trajectories based upon same alongtrack distance from the runway end









#### **Containment Boundaries**



Large transport arrivals to Logan for 180 days in 2015-2016



99.5<sup>th</sup> percentile containment boundaries



#### **Containment Boundaries**







trajectory containment boundaries with 99.5% inclusion



# Containment Boundary Variation with Percentile Inclusion and City - Arrivals



Large jet arrivals to runway 4R at Logan



Large jet arrivals in west flow at Atlanta



Lateral width of trajectory containment boundaries for arrivals at case study airports



#### 99.5<sup>th</sup> Percentile Containment Boundaries for 3 Case Study Airports




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### **RNAV Track Concentration**





### Noise Complaints and RNAV Track Concentration

### 2010

### 2017





### Alternative Metrics to Capture RNAV **Concentration Impacts**

Wellesley

Dedha

Canton

Stoughton

Westwood

Norwood

- RNAV concentration issue • outside of Annual Average DNL 65dB contour
- Analysis performed by ulletthis research team at BOS, MSP, CLT, and LHR indicates that  $N_{60}$  on a Peak Day with 50 overflights represents the noise threshold for complaints

### 2017 6.1 nmi Danvers Billerica Bever Salem Burlington Waltham Newton Brooklin

Quincy

Braintree

Hingham Cohasset

Arrivals

Departures Complaint Locations

Annual Average DNL 65dB

Scituate



### Cluster Analysis to Correlate Complaint Locations with Procedure

LHR

CLT







### Noise Analysis Framework





## BOS N<sub>60</sub> Count Thresholds

 N<sub>60</sub> on a peak day with 50 overflights appears to capture complaint threshold in dispersion analysis



2017 Data



# LHR N<sub>60</sub> Count Thresholds

 N<sub>60</sub> on a peak day with 50 overflights appears to capture complaint threshold in dispersion analysis



Peak Day N <sub>60</sub>	Complaints Captured
25x	91.0%
50x	82.6%
100x	61.4%

Peak Day N <sub>60</sub>	Complaints Captured
25x	93.2%
50x	84.9%
100x	80.2%

2017 Data



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### Delayed Deceleration Approach (DDA)

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### **DDA Fuel Benefits Potential**





### Noise Analysis Framework





### Flight Profile Generation Example for a B737-800 Approach



- Altitude (3000ft level off in this case only) and Velocity is constrained to the medians of this data
- Flaps assumed deployed within their maximum and minimum speed ranges



Resulting thrust profile is determined for these profiles from drag data





### **Delayed Deceleration Approaches**



- Reduce noise by delaying extension of flaps
- Potential concerns from ATC and pilots regarding different deceleration rates and managing traffic
- Must decelerate early enough to assure stable approach criteria

Example Noise Component Breakdown Under the Flight Track





### **Delayed Deceleration Approaches**

Boeing 737-800 ILS approach with 4,000 ft level off Noise Component Breakdown Under the Flight Track





### DDA vs Standard Approach B737-800, 4000 ft Level Off



Preliminary example to evaluate methodology only. Should not be considered representative case.



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### Quality of Life Impact of LHR Airport on Surrounding Communities

#### Quality of Life Attribute Structure

Social Media Analysis



Social Media Analysis is used to provide further insight on the perceptions, sentiments and opinions about London Heathrow in surrounding communities



### **Twitter Sentiment Analysis**

- Analysis for 15 mile and 50 mile collection areas





### **Twitter Sentiment Analysis**

#### Data

- Twitter data: Geolocated and time-stamped
- Data collected since June 13th, 2018 using the Twitter API
- 13 million tweets collected between June 2018 and January 2019
- Initial collection zone: 15 miles of LHR, extended to 50 miles

### Methodology

# SentiStrength Machine Leaning Algorithm

- Ranks the sentiment in tweets on a scale from -4 to 4
- SentiStrength used a training dataset of human-classified MySpace posts and comments



 These tweets were first analyzed as a whole set then using a keyword filter to see general sentiment and sentiment related to aviation + aviation/ noise to extract specific tweets



### **Overall Tweet Sentiment**

**Distribution of Non-Neutral Tweet** 

#### **Distribution of Tweet Sentiments**

*N= 13,039,129* 





## Keyword Specific Tweet Sentiment

#### **Aviation Keywords**: *airport* or *LHR* or *Heathrow* or *airplane* or *aeroplane* or *plane* or *wing*



### **Aviation/Noise Keywords**: words (*noise or noisy*) <u>AND</u> (*airport or LHR or Heathrow or airplane or aeroplane or plane or wing*)



### Word Cloud for Highly Positive (3, 4) Aviation-Related Tweets

Word Cloud

15 miles

	Frequency	
Word	(%)	
'you'	2.47	
'following'	1.58	
'thank'	1.05	
'great'	1.03	
'good'	1.02	
'please'	0.86	
'appreciated'	0.64	
'london'	0.47	
'heathrow'	0.45	K
'airport'	0.42	lo
'heathrowairport'	0.32	р
'excited'	0.32	
'today	0.32	

Initial Processing:

- Remove non-Latin characters
- Remove weblinks
- Remove profanity
- Remove words shorter than 3 characters
- Remove English stopwords (e.g. able, also, the, and, that)





### Word Cloud for Highly Negative (-3, -4) Aviation Tweets

	Frequency
Word	(%)
'you'	1.43
'following'	0.77
'showing'	0.71
'knowing'	0.70
'airport'	0.65
'your'	0.61
'wing'	0.60
'hate'	0.58
'planet'	0.53
'plane'	0.49
'right'	0.48
'heathrow'	0.46
'heathrowairport'	0.23

Initial Processing:

- Remove non-Latin characters
- Remove weblinks
- Remove profanity
- Remove words shorter than 3 characters
- Remove English stopwords (e.g. able, also, the, and, that)





### Spatial Distribution of Tweet Sentiments and Flight Tracks

Average sentiment of non-neutral tweets Only cells with 5 or more tweets are shown; 1km\*1km grid June 2018-January 2019



#### 15 miles

No statistically significant trend with distance from LHR nor distance to Central London observed







# Example Positive and Negative Aviation

### Tweets

Positive Tweet	Sentiment Score	Negative Tweet	Sentiment Score
Absolutely amazing to see the @rafredarrows fly past @HeathrowAirport!	4	F**** hate living so close to Heathrow airport, planes at night are annoying	-4
Expanding Heathrow Airport will create jobs! It's time for the government to approve it!	4	@Heathrow Why every f**** minute a new noisy smelly plane. What are these noise sewers? You are hurting children. Scum.	-4
Have you been to #London Heathrow Airport??? It's gorgeous and one of the busiest in the world!	3	The thing I hate the most about Heathrow is that they always give the gate information super late. I'm boarding late	-3
Absolutely loving the British Airways Retro Uniforms for 99 Years of BA!! #britishairways #ba #flyba #heathrow	3	@HeathrowAirport complete s*** at T5 transit. One lift and both escalators from T5A departures down to transit are broken	-3





## Approach to Evaluate UAM Airport and Airspace Integration

1. Case studies at Boston, Atlanta, and San Francisco



2. Evaluate air traffic control, airfield infrastructure, terminal buildings, and ground access to support UAM



3. Determine viable integration pathways, estimate feasible throughput, lay out requirements







# MSP $N_{60}$ Count Thresholds

 N<sub>60</sub> on a peak day with 50 overflights appears to capture complaint threshold in dispersion analysis





# CLT N<sub>60</sub> Count Thresholds

- N<sub>60</sub> on a peak day with 50 overflights appears to capture complaint threshold in dispersion analysis
- Communities around CLT appear to have increased sensitivity





55 dB

60 dB

65 dB

# Peak Day DNL

- 45db DNL on a peak day appears to capture complaint threshold in dispersion analysis
- Potentially confusing to explain to stakeholders 2017 Data



20.1%

7.2%

2.1%



Peak Day DNL	Complaints Captured
35 dB	99.9%
40 dB	98.7%
45 dB	92.9%
50 dB	73.1%
55 dB	45.1%
60 dB	5.4%
65 dB	0%

#### BOS 27 Departures Peak Day DNL



Peak Day DNL	Complaints Captured
35 dB	99.8%
40 dB	98.8%
45 dB	95.5%
50 dB	84.9%
55 dB	44.6%
60 dB	4.2%
65 dB	3.0% 104