

A Wider Perspective on Reducing Fatigue Risk in Aviation

- And the importance of metrics

Tomas Klemets, Head of Scheduling Safety, Jeppesen

What is fatigue? And fatigue risk?

” A physiological state of reduced mental or physical performance capability resulting from sleep loss, extended wakefulness, circadian phase, and/or workload (mental and/or physical activity) that can impair a person’s alertness and ability to perform safety related operational duties.”

ICAO

Time of day



Time awake

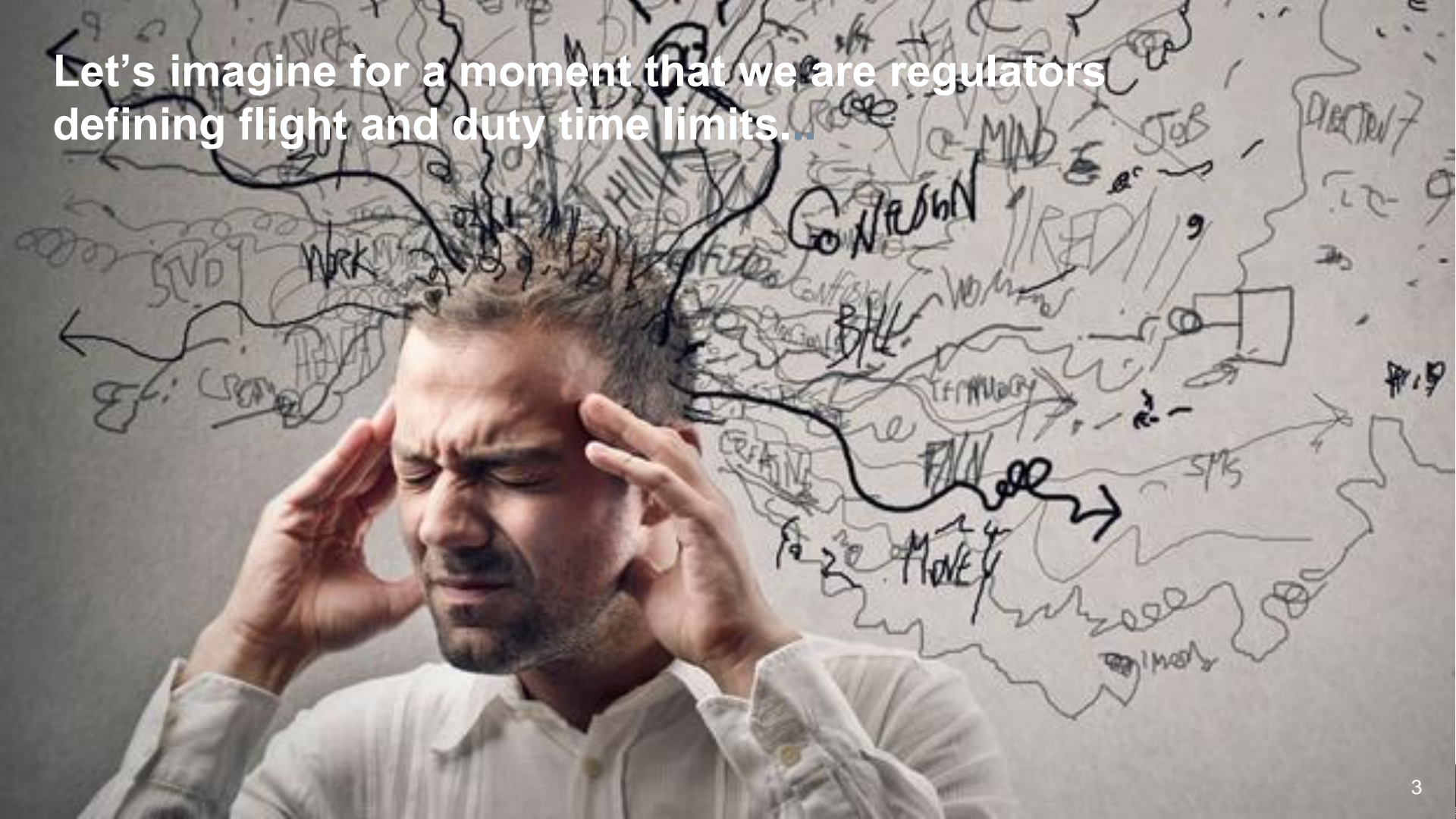


Prior sleep debt

*Fatigue Risk ≈ the risk of a **lapse**, **slip**, **mistake** and/or **violation** by crew as a consequence of reduced alertness, with potentially negative impact on flight safety.*



Let's imagine for a moment that we are regulators defining flight and duty time limits...



We need a quick decision...

In order to reduce fatigue risk, for flight duties starting between 8pm and 5am, should we:

- A Increase max flight duty time with 30 minutes, OR
 (10h → 10h30m)

- B Reduce max flight duty time with 30 minutes?
 (10h → 9h30m)



We need a quick decision...

In order to
starting b

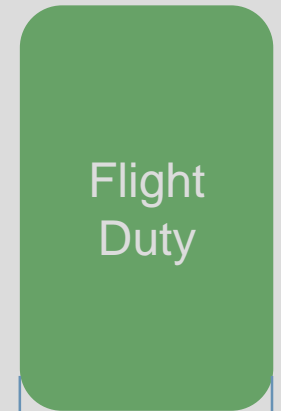
SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!
WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS!

*What Could Possibly
Go Wrong?*

A Increase
(10h → 10h)

B Reduce n
(10h → 9h30)

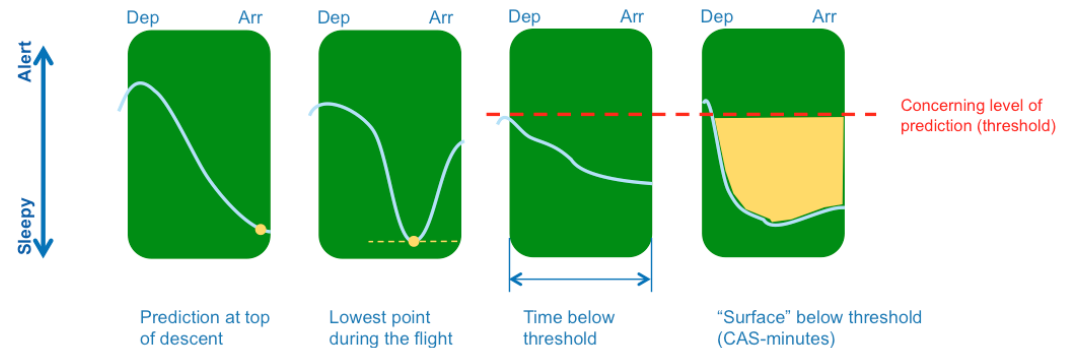
Dep Arr



Max 10h duty
time

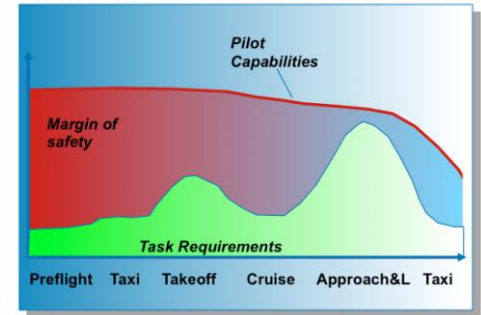
Metrics for more informed decisions

- Can we quantify fatigue risk?
- Perhaps not an absolute quantification, but one allowing us to compare?
- Not just one flight – but the overall risk?
- We do have validated bio-mathematical fatigue models
 - Prediction of alertness/fatigue/effectiveness for a population at any point in time

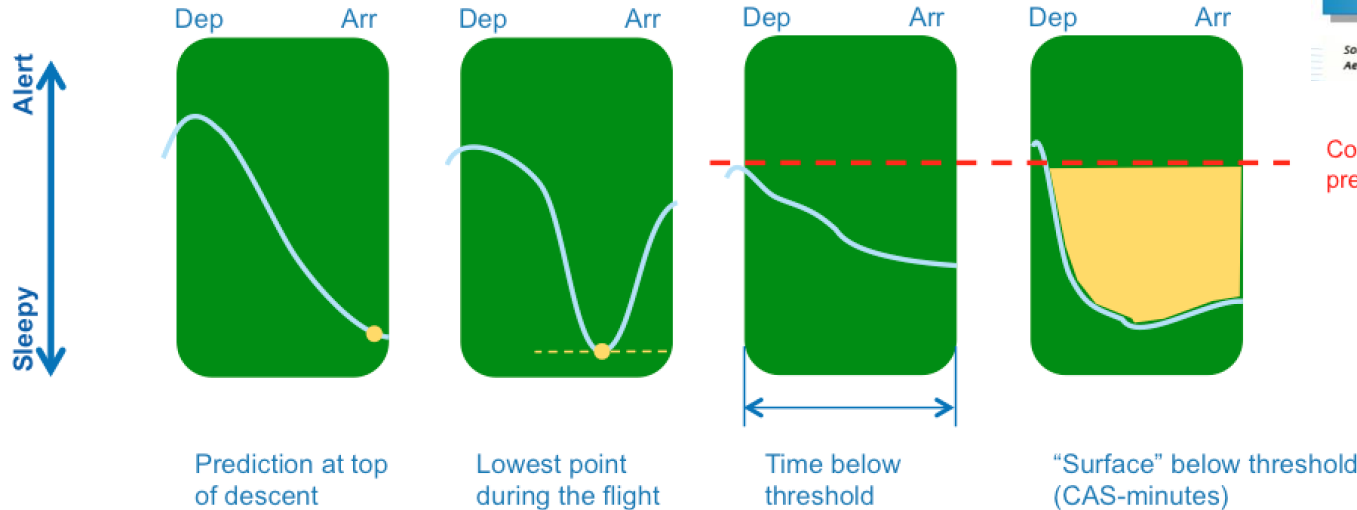


Metrics for more informed decisions

- Starting with one flight



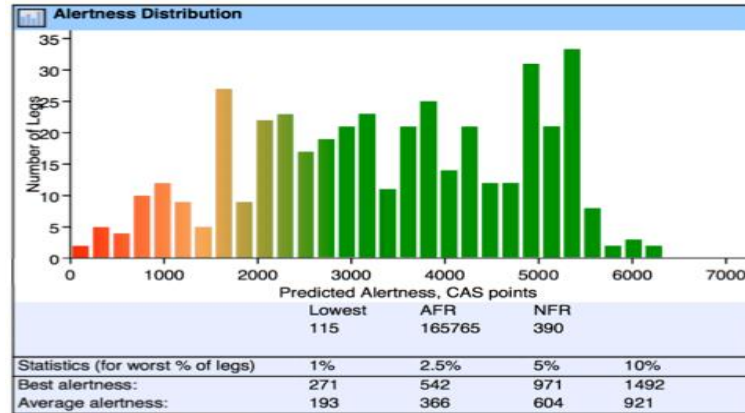
Source: Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge 2004



Concerning level of prediction (threshold)

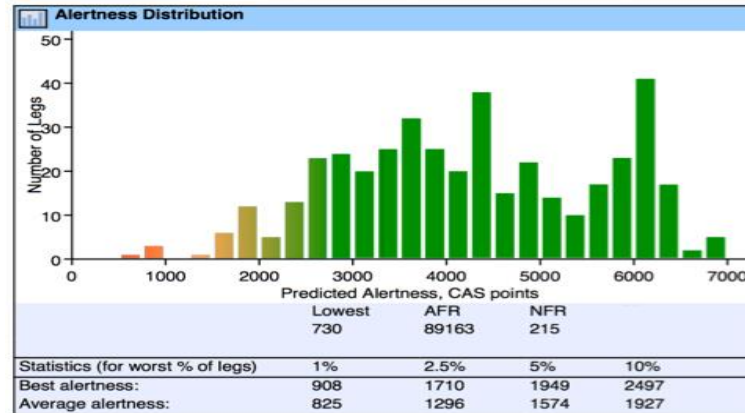
But what about a set of flights?

- How much better is the lower distribution?



Alertness Details

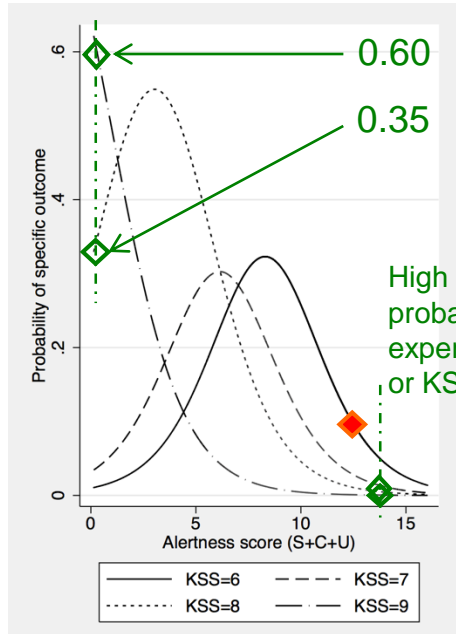
| Alertness Range | Number of legs |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 0-249 | 2 |
| 250-499 | 5 |
| 500-749 | 4 |
| 750-999 | 10 |
| 1000-1249 | 12 |
| 1250-1499 | 9 |
| 1500-1749 | 5 |
| 1750-1999 | 27 |
| 2000-2249 | 9 |
| 2250-2499 | 22 |
| 2500-2749 | 23 |
| 2750-2999 | 17 |
| 3000-3249 | 19 |
| 3250-3499 | 21 |
| 3500-3749 | 23 |
| 3750-3999 | 11 |
| 4000-4249 | 21 |
| 4250-4499 | 25 |



Alertness Details

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| 1250-1499 | 1 |
| 1500-1749 | 6 |
| 1750-1999 | 12 |
| 2000-2249 | 5 |
| 2250-2499 | 13 |
| 2500-2749 | 23 |
| 2750-2999 | 24 |
| 3000-3249 | 20 |
| 3250-3499 | 25 |
| 3500-3749 | 32 |
| 3750-3999 | 25 |
| 4000-4249 | 20 |
| 4250-4499 | 38 |
| 4500-4749 | 15 |
| 4750-4999 | 22 |

Fatigue Model Accuracy



Low score = **95%** probability for crew experiencing KSS 8 or KSS 9!

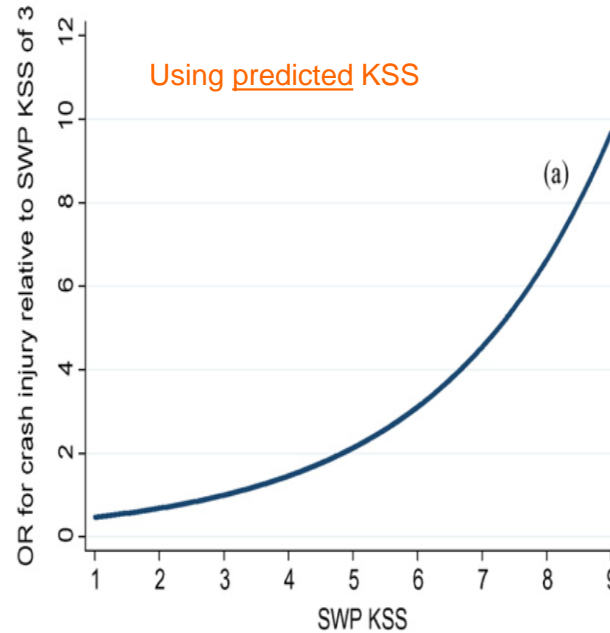
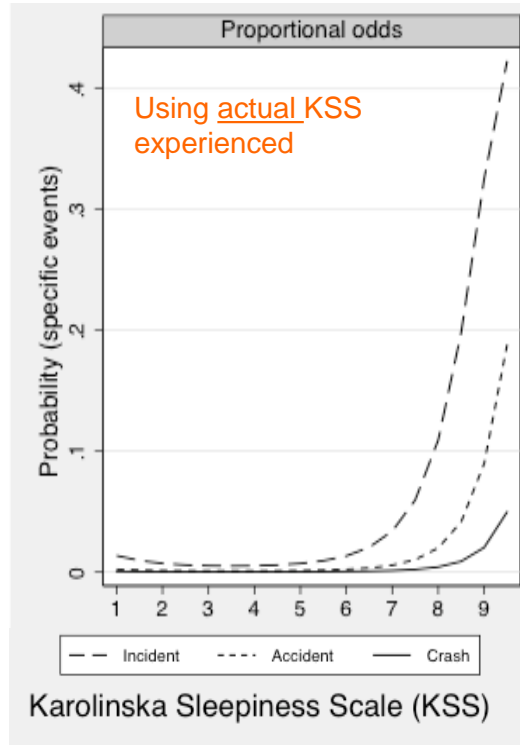
High score \approx **0%** probability for crew experiencing KSS 8 or KSS 9

Reasons for inaccuracy

- Models are not perfect (!)
- Models under-informed
 - Need to predict sleep
 - Habitual sleep length, Diurnal type, Individual commute times etc.
- Mitigations
- Social factors
- Inter-, and intra-individual variation

[doi:10.7910/DVN/26541](https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/26541), 20 Oct 2014
 SRI, Swedish CAA, SAS, Jeppesen

Fatigue Risk – as a function of KSS

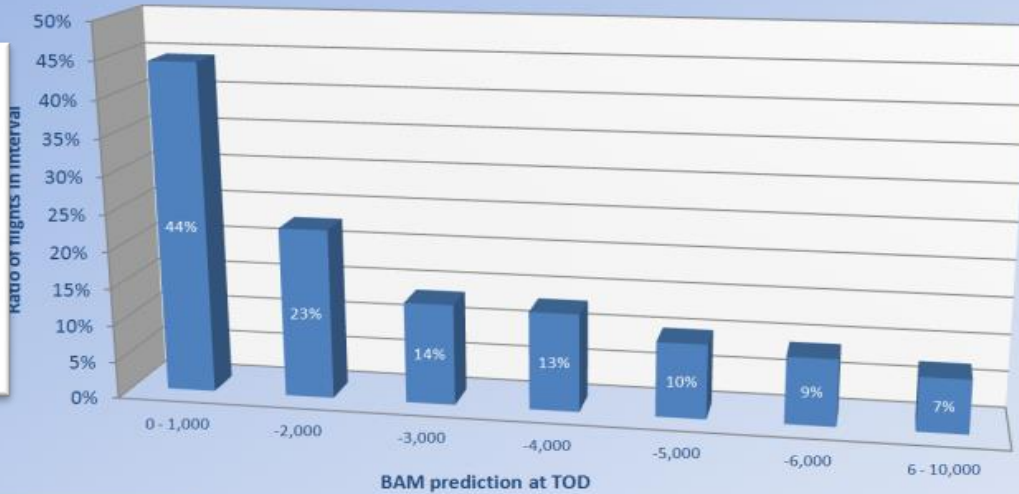


Predicting road crashes from a mathematical model of alertness regulation—
The Sleep/Wake Predictor

Torbjörn Åkerstedt^{a,*}, Jennie Connor^b, Andrew Gray^b, Göran Kecklund^a

A Real World Example

Low Speed Event Landing - Correlation to BAM Prediction



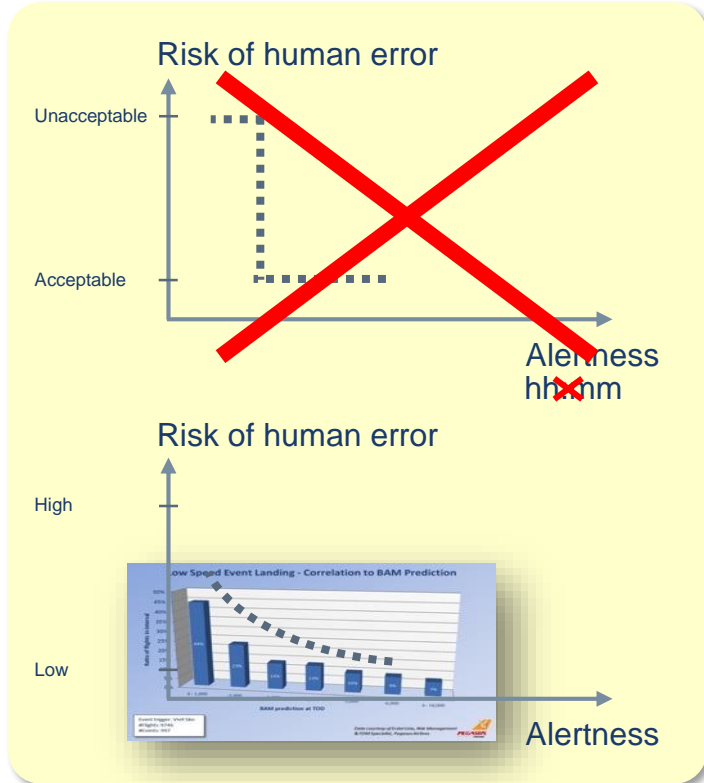
Event trigger: Vref-5kn
#Flights: 9746
#Events: 997



Data courtesy of Erdal Uzlu, Risk Management
& FDM Specialist, Pegasus Airlines

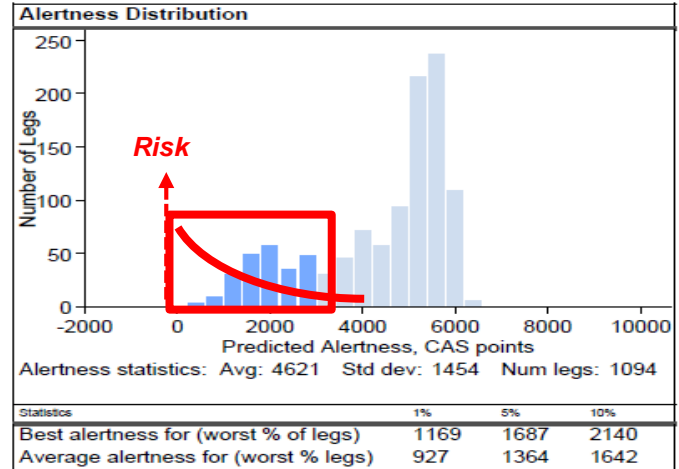


The Risk of Human Error (Lapses, Slips, Mistakes, and Violations)...



Alertness Distribution

Scenario file: FA20110620_01
 Model: BAM Version: 1.1.6 Unit: CAS-50
 Created: 15Aug2011 16:42:50 By: klemets2



The operational risk for the airline is the sum of risk contributions of all the flights (in the tail of the distribution).

Proposed metrics for overall risk

■ AFR, Absolute Fatigue Risk

- A weighted sum over all flights, with an accelerating weight as the prediction approaches zero
- ✓ Detailed representation of risk, as we know it.
- ✗ Becomes a bit abstract.

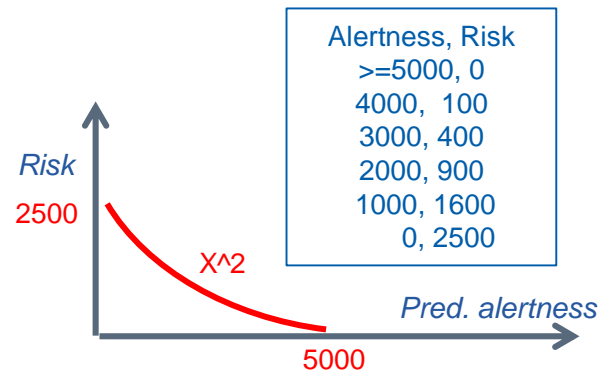
Good for identifying the part of operation at highest (overall) risk.

■ NFR, Normalized Fatigue Risk.

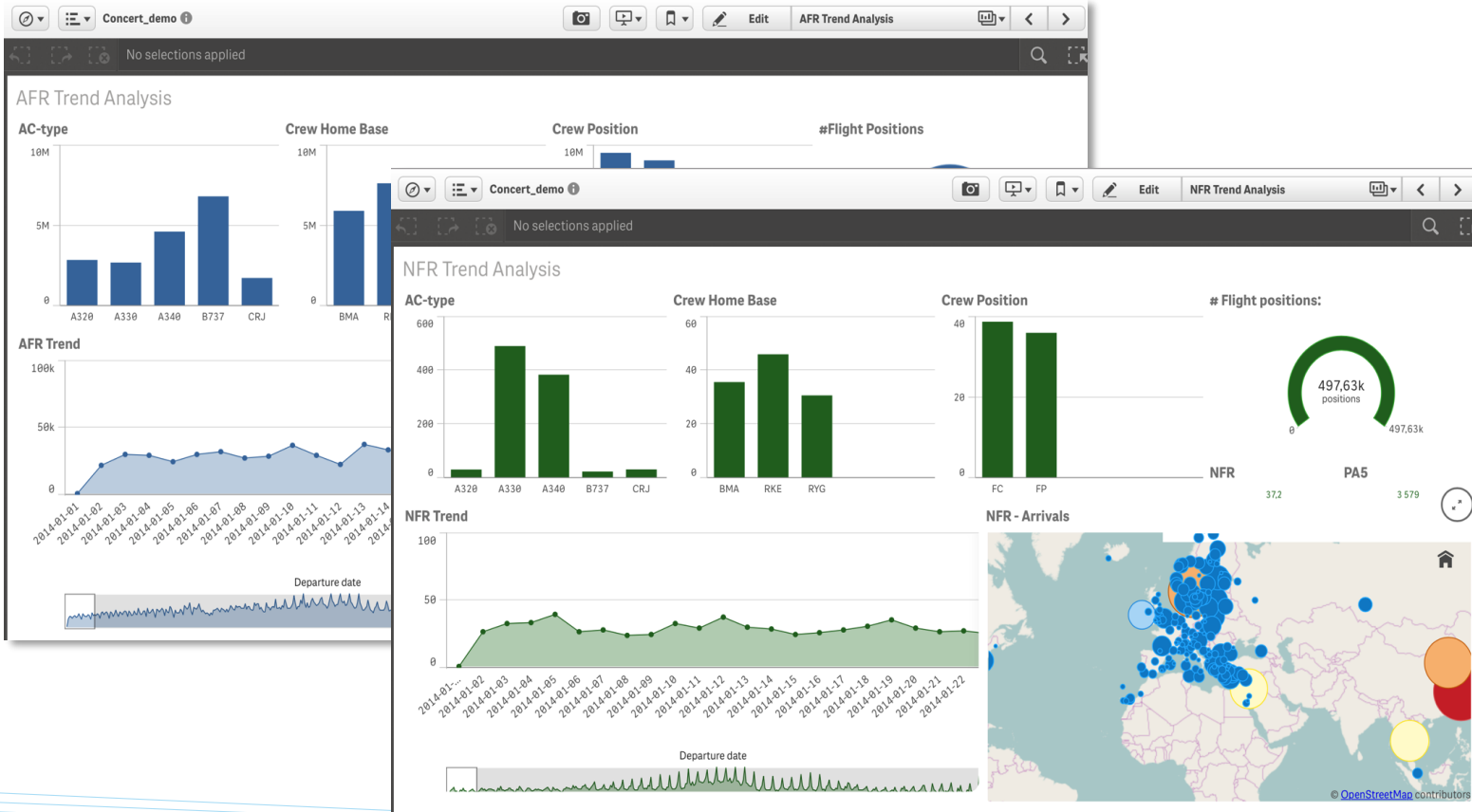
- AFR divided over number of flights.

Good for spotting trends and picking out base/rank/fleet/station with the relatively highest, or shifting, risk.

So; An operation keeping it's structure but doubling in size will have 2 times the AFR (double risk for fatigue related incident/accident) but the same NFR (risk profile).

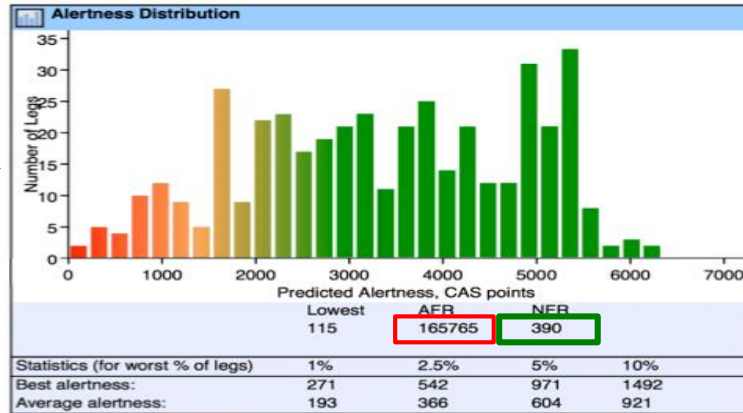


Monitoring Fatigue Risk

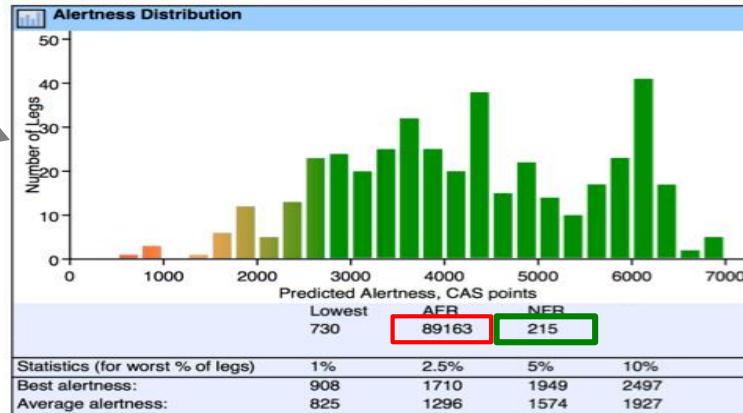


Control of Fatigue Risk

- “Normal” planning rules/focus w/o any true guidance on human physiology
- Same rules but also using a BMM providing an incentive during planning to avoid poorly planned flights.
- Same data. Same rules. Almost identical crew efficiency.



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But much lower risk.

We need a quick decision...

Shorter flight duties → More flight duties → More commute/briefing/debriefing time → More consecutive flight duties → More disrupted physiological nights → More sleep debt → Higher risk?



Quantify the systemic response on real crew plans!

B Reduce r

(10h) → 2h?

Summary

- Traditional rules are blunt instruments. So are cut-offs based on bio-mathematical models
- Output from fatigue models can be used to effectively monitor, prevent and reduce fatigue risk exposure
- The industry would benefit from standards for predictive risk metrics, such as AFR and NFR here presented.
 - What you can't measure...
- Gains are significant...
 - From max 60h to 70h...





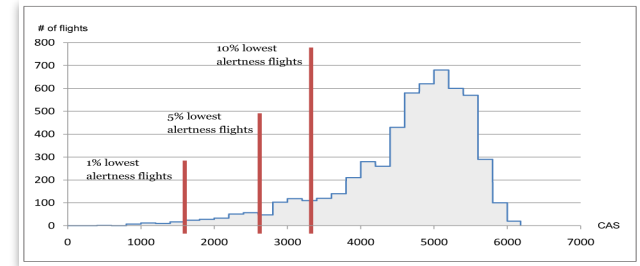
Backup slides from here onwards

The "Comprehensive Study" 2011 - preconditions

- **OAG data for May 2011.**
 - Over 300 planning problems selected, all >200 flights/week
- **Only two-pilot operation**
- **Applying only flight time regulations**
- **Optimal base-distribution of crew.**
- **Aircraft rotations built using FIFO algorithm.**
 - Crew may always follow A/C in turns
- **Deadhead only on own carrier**
- **Pairing construction, striving for efficiency**
 - Minimizing synthetic for US and CA operators
 - Maximizing productivity elsewhere
 - Basic, normal, planning constraints limiting e.g. A/C changes.
- **Evaluation using BAM 1.6.1**
 - PA5 used as main KPI for the safety of a solution
- **In total over 2100 plans built consuming some 4000 CPU hours**

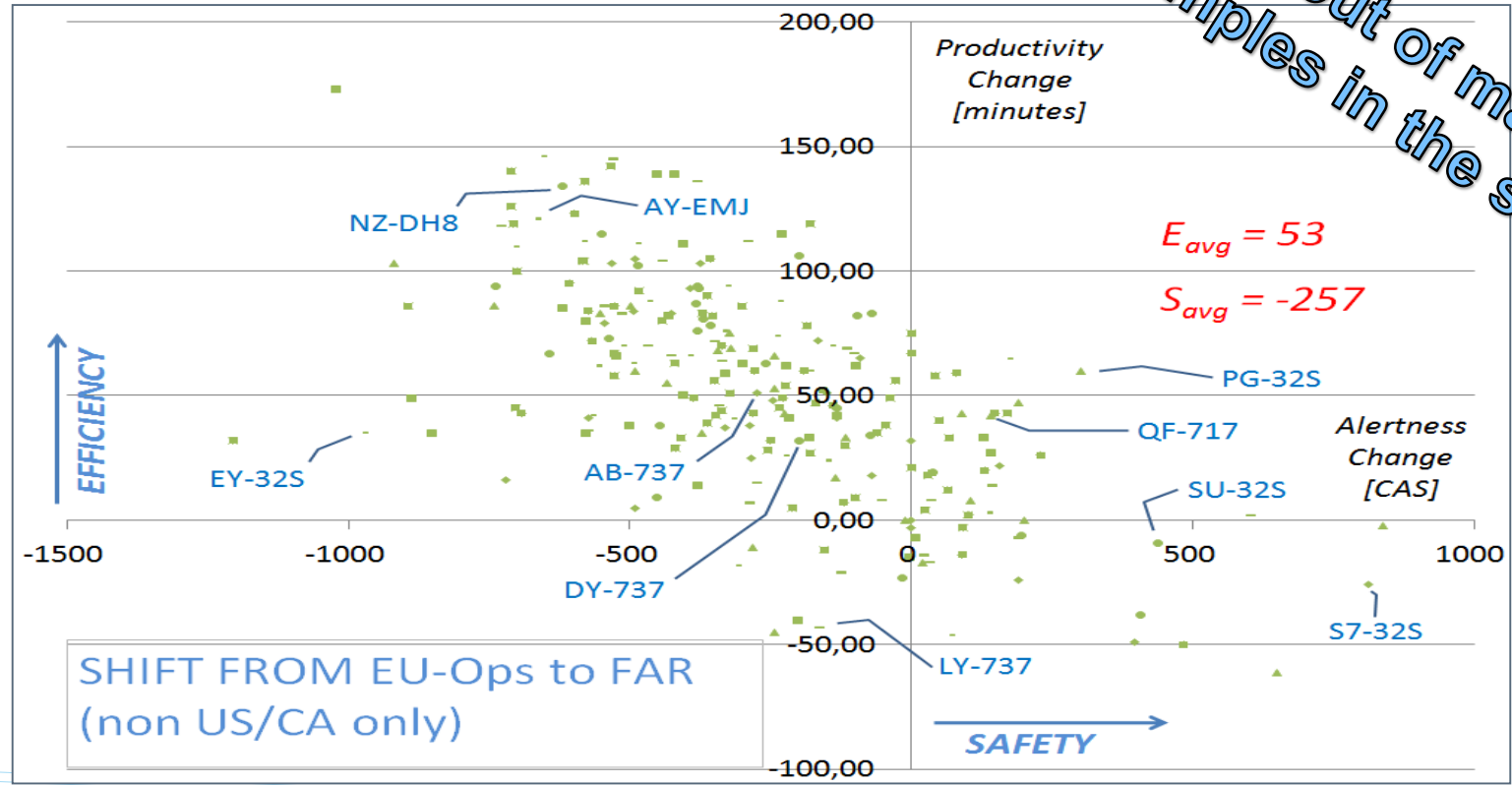


See
[GPA white paper word v1.0.pdf](#)



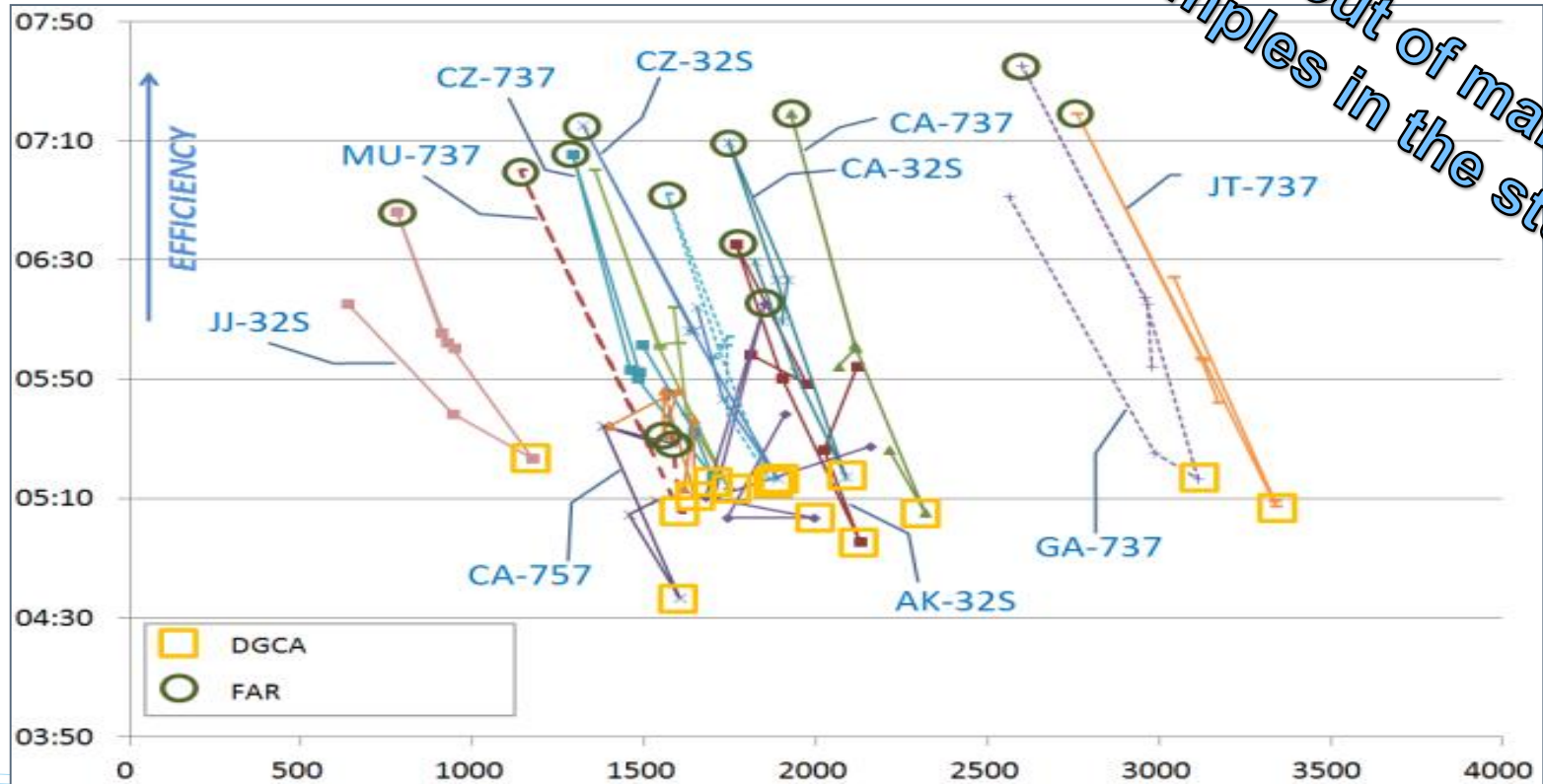
What if changing from EU-Ops to FAR?

One out of many examples in the study



Some absolute numbers – APAC

One out of many examples in the study



Conclusions of the study

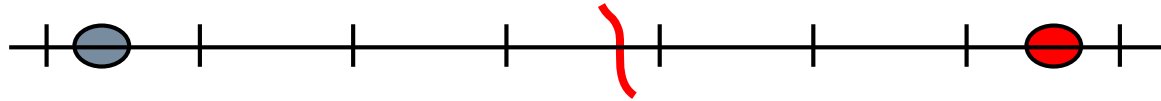
- Fatigue is significantly linked to the business model of the operator.
- FTLs in current form do not limit fatigue effectively.
- Current FTLs have a more significant effect on efficiency than on fatigue risk.
- FAR allows for the highest efficiency, but is also the FTL least protective from fatigue.
- DGCA is the most protective FTL for fatigue risk but is generally most restrictive on efficiency.
- Fatigue models are needed to provide direction within FTLs. And also for improving them...



The Misalignment btw Fatigue and Work load...

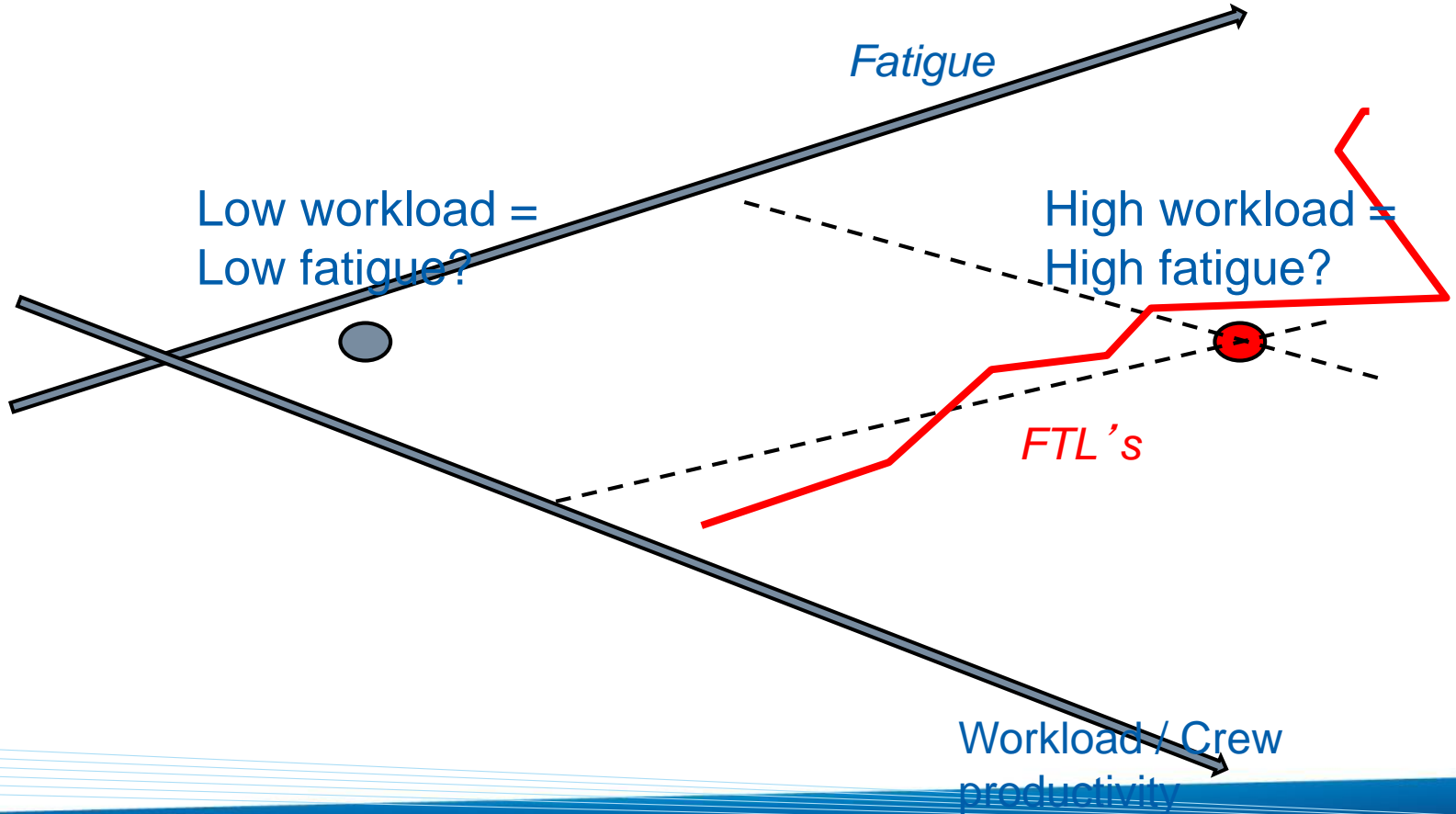
Low workload =
Low fatigue?

High workload =
High fatigue?

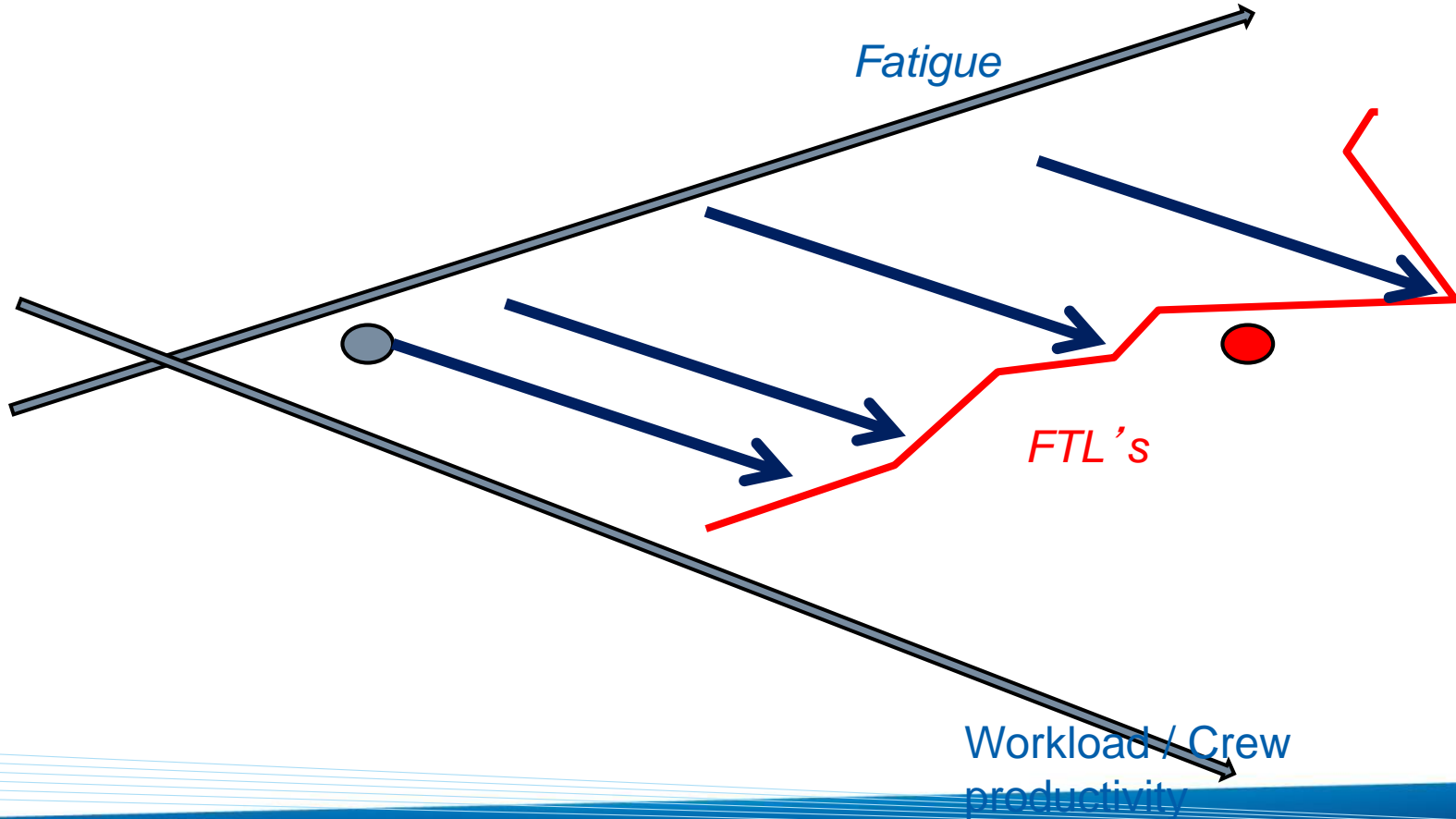


*FTL 's: FAA, EASA, CASA,
CAAC, national CAA 's...*

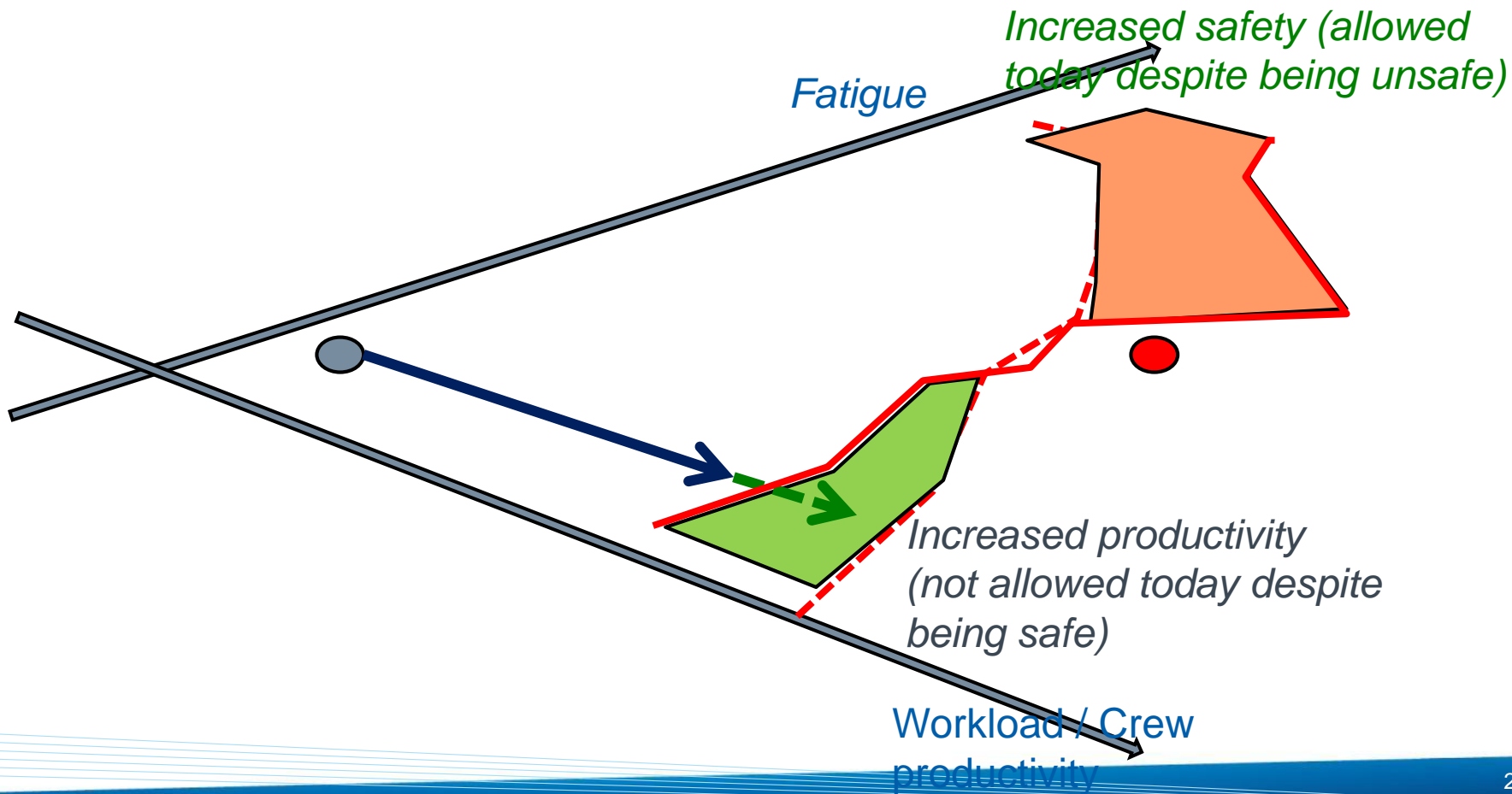
The Misalignment btw Fatigue and Work load...



Operator objective (in part) – crew productivity



Fatigue (Risk) Management – if done right...



The value of an FRMS approach

- Safety (lower risk of incidents/accidents)
- Crew quality of life
- Compliance / liability / goodwill
- Crew efficiency!

