THE REINVENTION OF AVIATION

Team Revelation

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TAKEAWAY

To recover from the disruption of Covid-19, the aviation industry must be reinvented.

NASA must focus on: **passenger satisfaction**, **sustainability**, and **collaboration**.

Overview

1. **Setting the Stage**
   The stability of the aviation industry before the pandemic
2. **Models**
   Current and future trends of the disruption in demand
3. **Sectors**
   Covid-19 impacts on each sector of aviation
4. **Recommendations**
   NASA's role in recovery & the path to reinvention
5. **Website Demo**
   Display of our website & additional resources for our work

Setting the Stage

Industry Pre Covid

- Prior to 2020, the industry was experiencing stable growth
- Although the industry went through devastating crises, it has always managed to recover

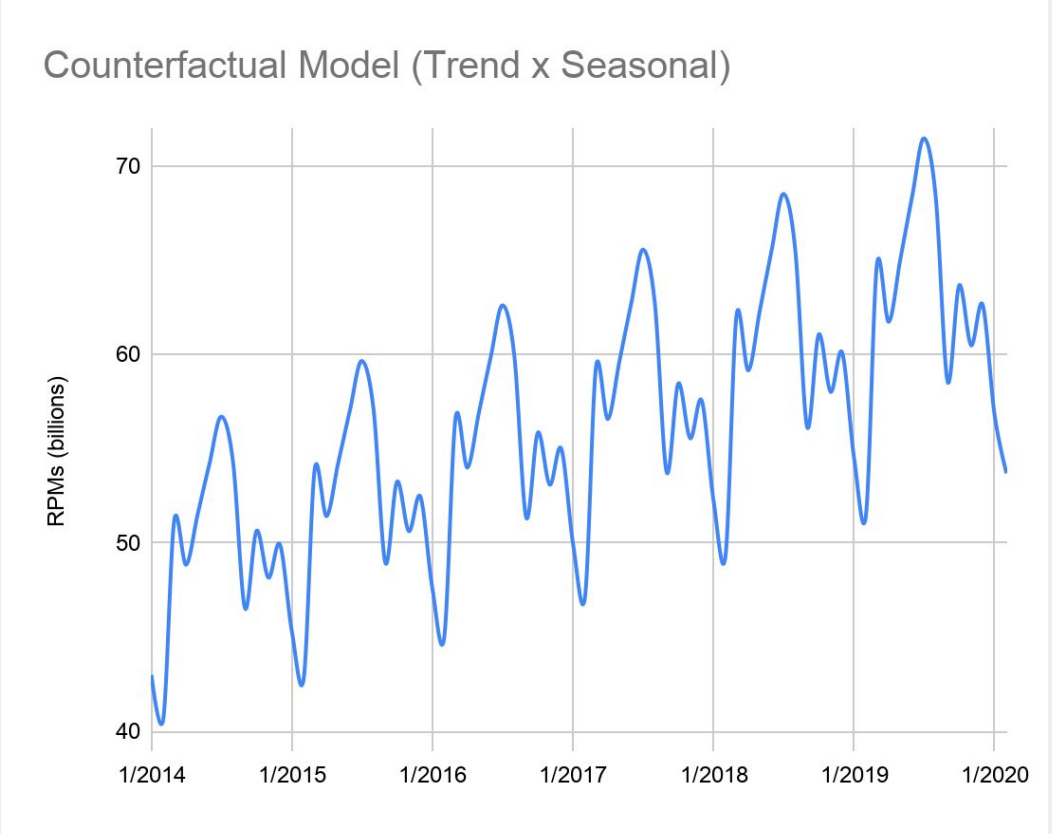
Models

Purpose

- To what extent did Covid-19 impact domestic air travel demand?
- What is the outlook for air travel in the coming months?
- To answer these questions, we developed a counterfactual statistical model and a predictive neural network model

Counterfactual Model

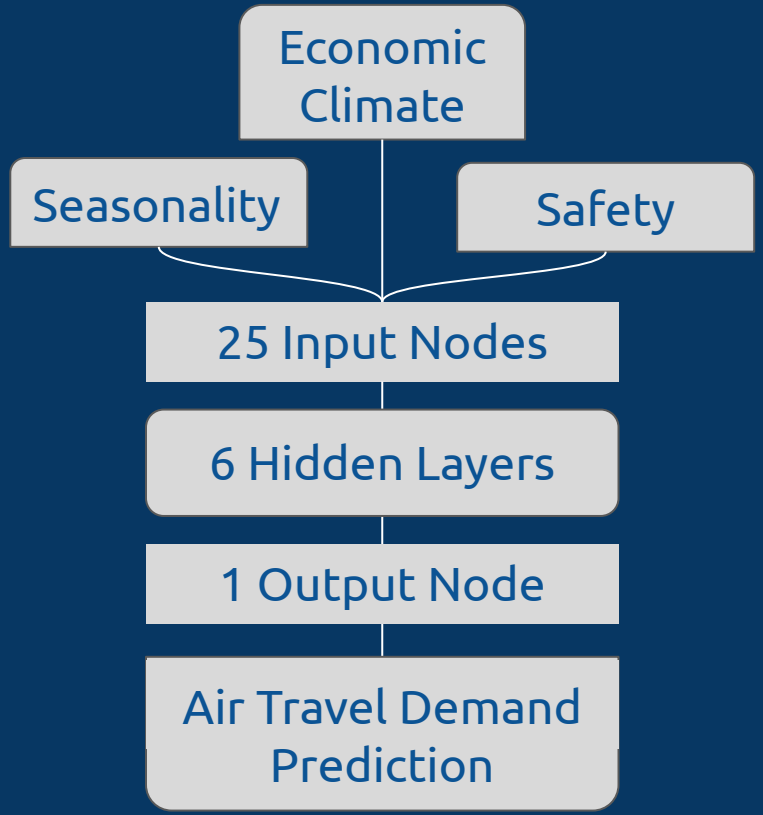
- ✈️ Multiplicative decomposition
- ✈️ Trend and seasonal components used to make predictions
- ✈️ Used as a reference



Predictive Model

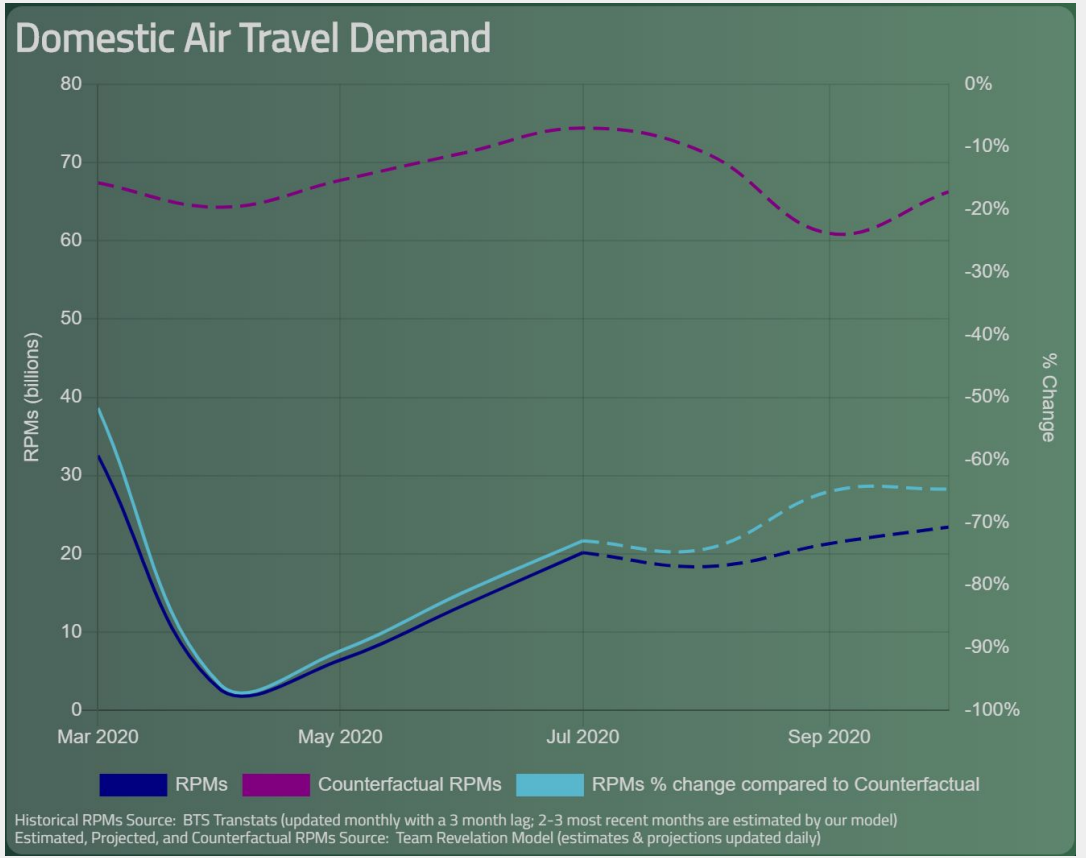
- ✈️ Air travel demand can be predicted with 3 main factors
- ✈️ Complex relationship can be learned with the neural network

Neural Network Overview



Results

- In April, air travel demand bottomed out at 4.0%
- Demand recovery disrupted by summer spike
- 35.2% recovery by October



Screenshot of Team Revelation Website

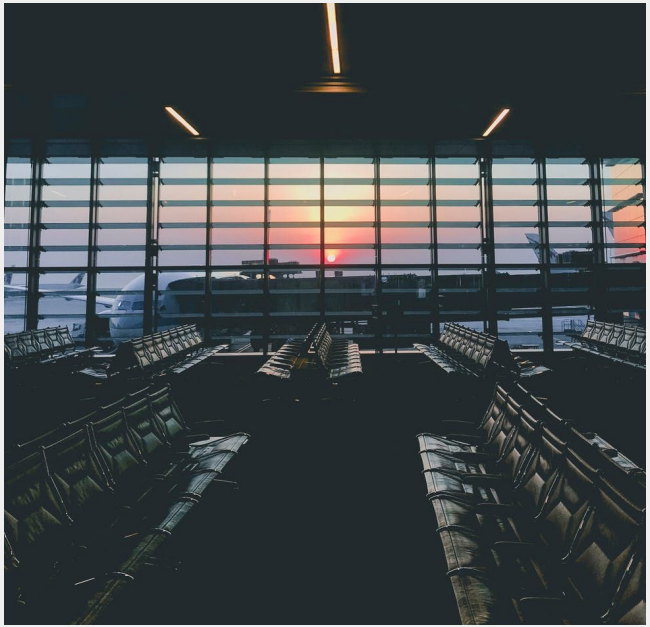
Sectors

Passenger Travel

- Passenger travel demand flourished while the passenger experience suffered
  - Inefficient system
    - → Flight cancellations
    - → Excessive crowding
    - → Cramped flight seating
    - → Overbooking

Passenger Travel

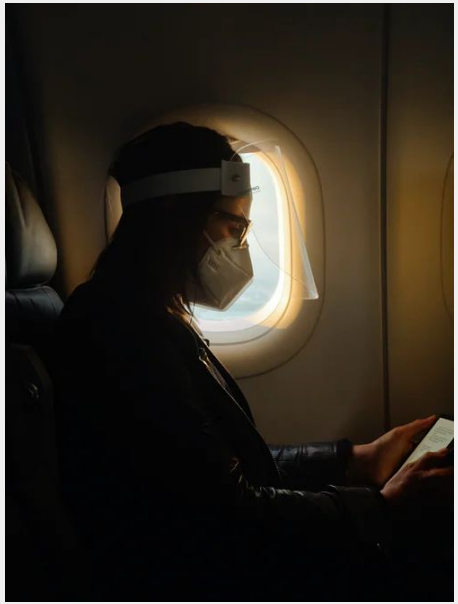
- Covid-19 has caused sweeping impacts
  - Plunge in demand
  - Huge losses of money
  - *Air travel is no longer seen as safe and trusted*



Passenger Travel

- Systems have currently made small changes…
  - Social distancing on flights
  - Electromagnetic spraying
- *Need for new developments*

These changes must be expanded.
Technological advances are needed to revive demand.



Air Freight

- E-commerce has grown significantly
  - Shift towards online shopping and need for emergency deliveries
    → Rise in “panic buying”
  - Reconfiguration of passenger aircraft for freight
  - This has opened a window for **UAM** to play a significant role

Urban Air Mobility (UAM)

- ✈️ UAM was a new yet thriving industry with lots of predicted growth
- ✈️ Autonomous Aerial Vehicles (AAVs) & delivery drone usage has increased during the pandemic
  - Rise of ecommerce
  - Drones could replace existing last-mile delivery services

Urban Air Mobility (UAM)

- Public acceptance of UAM has grown
  - Past concerns: safety and autonomy
- Work is still needed to be done
  - UAM needs to be safe, comfortable, & affordable

Commercial Aircraft Manufacturing

- Aviation manufacturing was in state of decline prior to 2020
  - Boeing 737 MAX grounding
    - → Careless innovation
    - → What needs to change?
  - Manufacturing levels expected to grow in 2020

Commercial Aircraft Manufacturing

- Pandemic has intensified problems from before
  - Production rates further reduced and paused
- Wide-body aircraft
- Market for commercial aircraft will look different
  - **Industry needs to reinvent itself**
    - Innovation process needs to change for safer flights

National Airspace System

- COVID-19 effects on the NAS (National Airspace System)
  - Airports have lost more than 50% of passenger traffic, over 97 billion dollars
  - 41.3% fight cancellation rate in April
  - 750, 000 people are employed by the industry

National Airspace System

- CARES act will fund airports
  - Better safety
  - Infrastructure improvements
- NextGen
  - FAA's pursuit in modernizing the NAS
  - More efficient and safe
- NASA System-Wide Safety (SWS)
  - Research towards advanced aviation system, technology, automation and strategies that will assure safety in the industry

Environment

Aviation has an enormous environmental impact

- Global aviation produced 915 million metric tons of CO2 in 2019
- Growing overall operations and little improvement in sustainability
- Various goals relating to: aircraft noise, air quality, energy use, and water quality

Environment

Severity of the problem:

- UN declared that the globe has 10 years before the effects of climate change are irreversible
- The industry is on track to triple its emissions by 2050
- Large anticipated increase in overall aviation operations due to UAM

The future of aviation is *sustainable* aviation.

OVERALL,

The effects of Covid-19 on aviation are widespread and persistent.

But they have created a unique opportunity for change.

Instead of returning to its former state, the industry must pave a path towards **reinvention** - the only way to ensure *lasting* recovery.

Recommendations

Recommendations

NASA must take significant action to support the reinvention of aviation, accelerating innovation in:

Sustainability and **Passenger Satisfaction**,

and increasing **Collaboration** to ensure the prompt *reinvention*.

Recommendations - Sustainability

NASA must “transition to zero carbon propulsion”.

Consideration of sustainability across all projects and programs

Develop both *evolutionary* and *revolutionary* aircrafts, plus operational changes.

Recommendations - Passenger Satisfaction

Fast and convenient technologies geared towards **efficiency** will shorten flight lengths and improve system issues, benefiting **passenger experience**.

This brings a *new motivation* for innovation in methods of air transport.

Sustainable supersonic aircraft are the future.

Recommendations - Passenger Satisfaction

Air travel is now seen as a *threat* to safety. For this to change, a *shift* to non-contact, automated technologies is **crucial**.

In light of Covid-19, NASA has been working with hospitals to develop technologies that address the dangerous virus.

NASA must similarly **collaborate** with groups to develop sanitary technologies for airlines that mitigate health risks, ensuring **safety**.

Recommendations - Collaboration

Industry reinvention is difficult. How do we get there?

"All hands on deck" mindset:

NASA must provide a **platform** for a variety of different partners (traditional and non-traditional) to **innovate.**

Recommendations - Collaboration

The innovation cycle of aviation is notoriously slow, and must be **accelerated**.

This is crucial in reinventing the industry. However, it must be done *responsibly*.

IN CONCLUSION,

Reinvention not regression.

NASA must pave the way for innovation, and focus on:

Passenger Satisfaction, Sustainability, and *Collaboration*

Website

Thank You!

References