

# **Decision-Making with Machine Prediction: Evidence from Predictive Maintenance in Trucking**

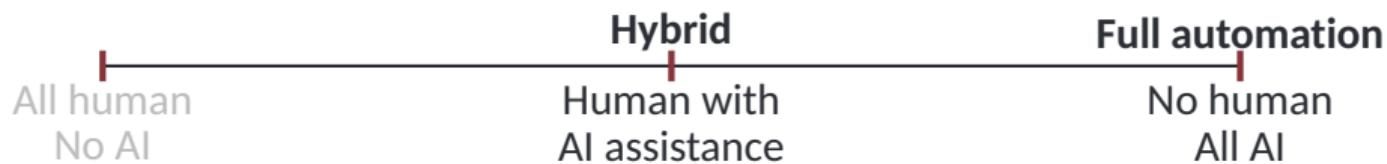
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**Adam Harris (Cornell) and Maggie Yellen (FTC)**

**ESIF Economics and AI+ML Meeting  
August 13, 2024**

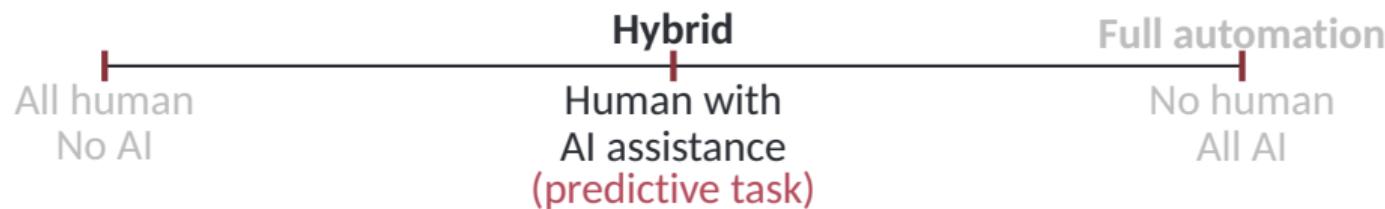
# Prediction, decision-making, and artificial intelligence

- Increasingly, artificial intelligence plays a role in decision-making.



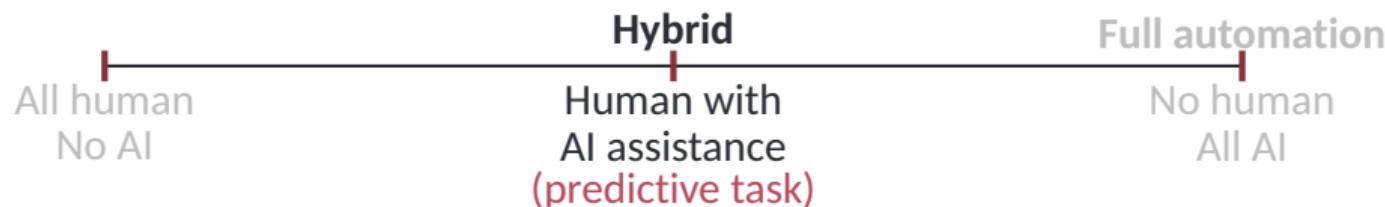
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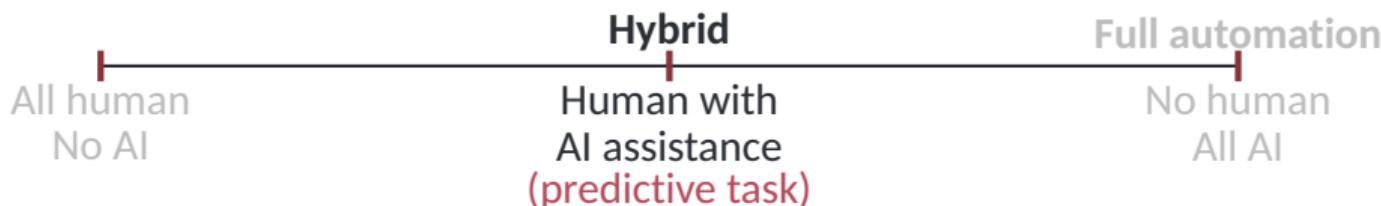
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  - Trade off repair cost and breakdown risk.
  - Relevant data is abundant.
  - We observe decisions from a fleet that introduced AI to predict breakdowns.
- **Objective:** Use **observational data** on decisions to value AI assistance.

## Key findings

### 1. Predictive AI improves decision-making quality.

→ *Ceteris paribus*, AI reduces costs by **\$240-480 / truck / year** (85% of all feasible savings).

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## 2. How are these cost savings achieved?

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## 1. Predictive AI improves decision-making quality.

→ *Ceteris paribus*, AI reduces costs by **\$240-480 / truck / year** (85% of all feasible savings).

## 2. How are these cost savings achieved?

- Without AI, technicians do costly, unnecessary repairs.
- Gains from AI come entirely from reduction in repair costs.

## Setting & data

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- **Technician's choice:** Do an engine repair or send the truck out for its scheduled deliveries?
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- **The AI tool (PredictFix):** Sensor measurements → *alerts*.

## Data

- **Actions, outcomes:** Repairs, breakdowns at the work-order level.
- **AI output:** Alerts. More
- **State:** Everything that technicians see. Truck-generated data

# Descriptive evidence: Five facts

## Overview

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2. PredictFix is a good predictor of breakdowns.
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5. Cost conditions are different in pre and post.

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Does PredictFix *actually* improve decision-making quality? If so, what are the *quantitative* effects?

# Where do we go from here?

*Structural approach*

Observed	
Pre	Post
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**Next steps:**

- 1. Identification:** Describe model of technician decision-making and conditions required for identification.

# Where do we go from here?

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Observed		Counterfactual
Pre	Post	Post'
Without PredictFix Pre costs	With PredictFix Post costs	With PredictFix Pre costs

Next steps:

- 1. Identification:** Describe model of technician decision-making and conditions required for identification.
- 2. Quantification:** Estimate model, evaluate counterfactual Post'.

# Model & estimation overview

## Model elements:

0. Technician's objective: Minimizing  $\text{total cost} = \text{repair cost} + \text{breakdown cost}$ .

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**Challenge 1: Separate identification.** Details

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3. Dynamic considerations.

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Details

**Challenge 1: Separate identification.**

Details

**Objective:** Estimate costs and beliefs from data.

# Counterfactuals

## Overview

	(i) <b>Without</b>	(ii) <b>With</b>
<b>Beliefs</b>	Without PredictFix ( $\rho = \rho_{\text{pre}}$ )	With PredictFix ( $\rho = \rho_{\text{post}}$ )
<b>Costs</b>	Pre costs	Pre costs

Comparing (i) and (ii): How do *total costs* = *repair costs* + *breakdown costs* compare?

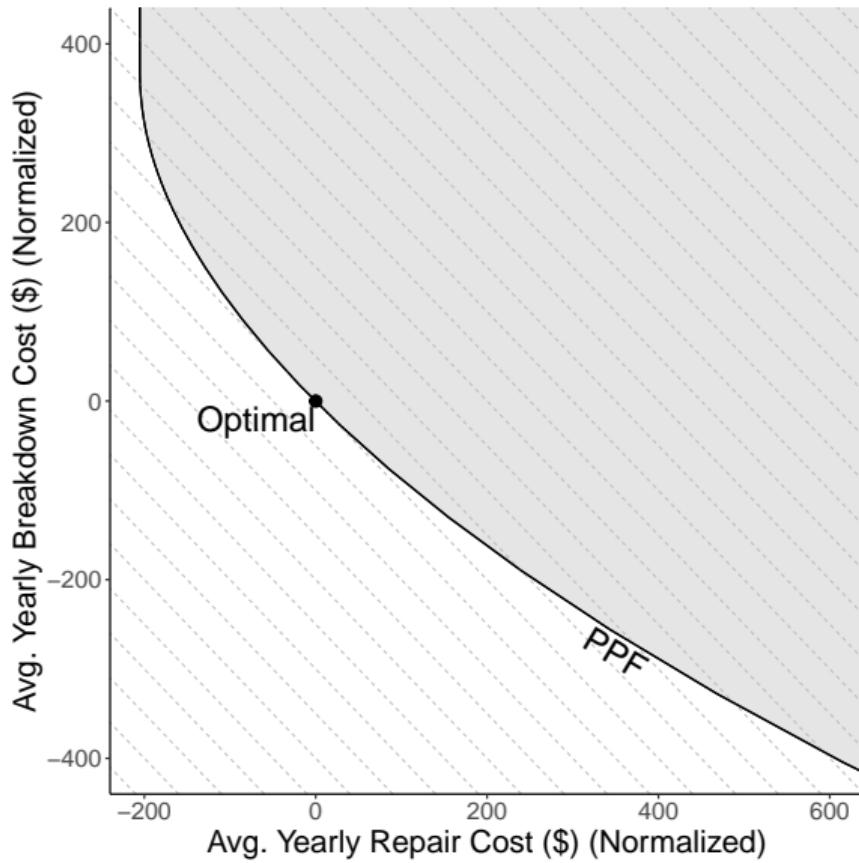
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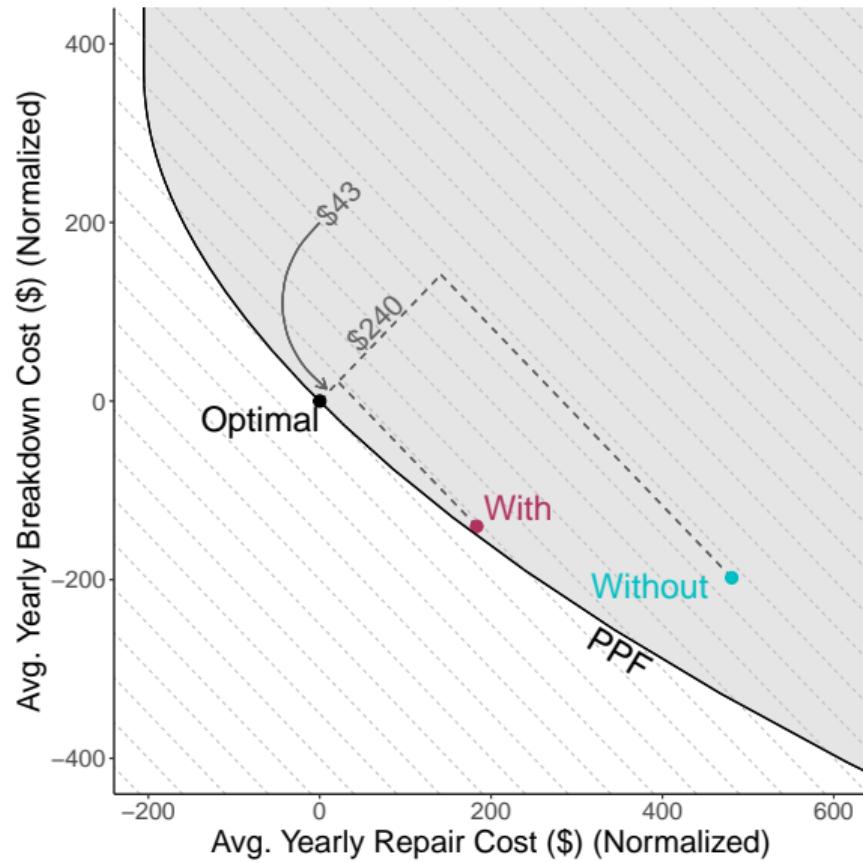
	(i) <b>Without</b>	(ii) <b>With</b>	(iii) <b>Optimal</b>
<b>Beliefs</b>	Without PredictFix ( $\rho = \rho_{\text{pre}}$ )	With PredictFix ( $\rho = \rho_{\text{post}}$ )	True ( $\rho = \pi$ )
<b>Costs</b>	Pre costs	Pre costs	Pre costs

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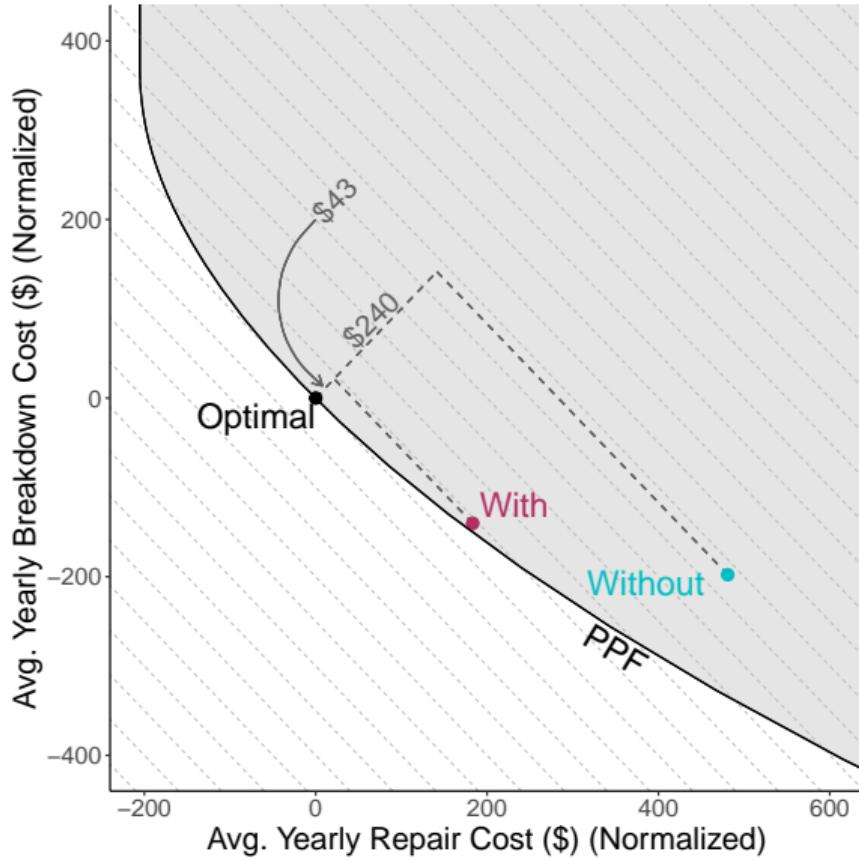
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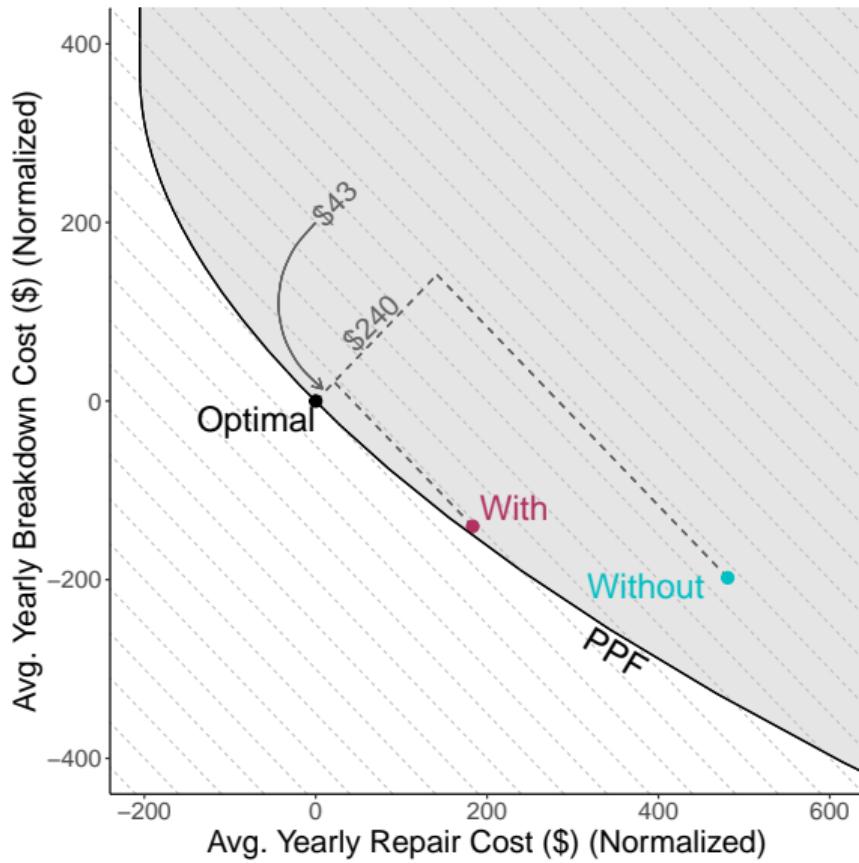
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## Value of PredictFix:

- Total cost reduction: \$240.

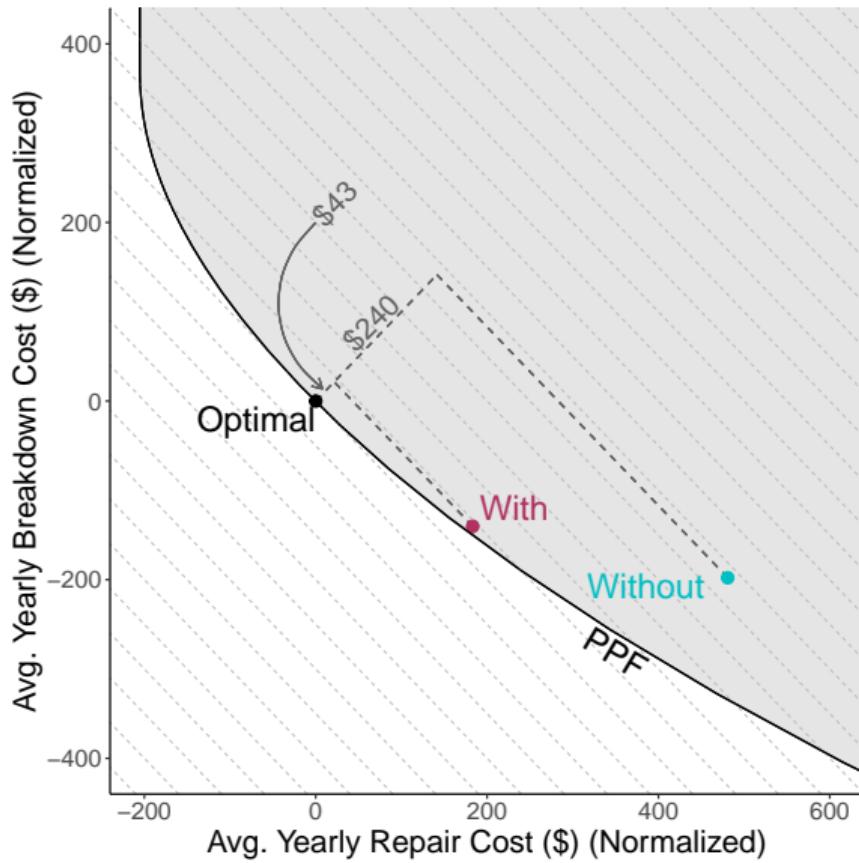
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## Value of PredictFix:

- Total cost reduction: \$240.
- Achieves  $240 / (240 + 43) = 85\%$  of all feasible cost savings.

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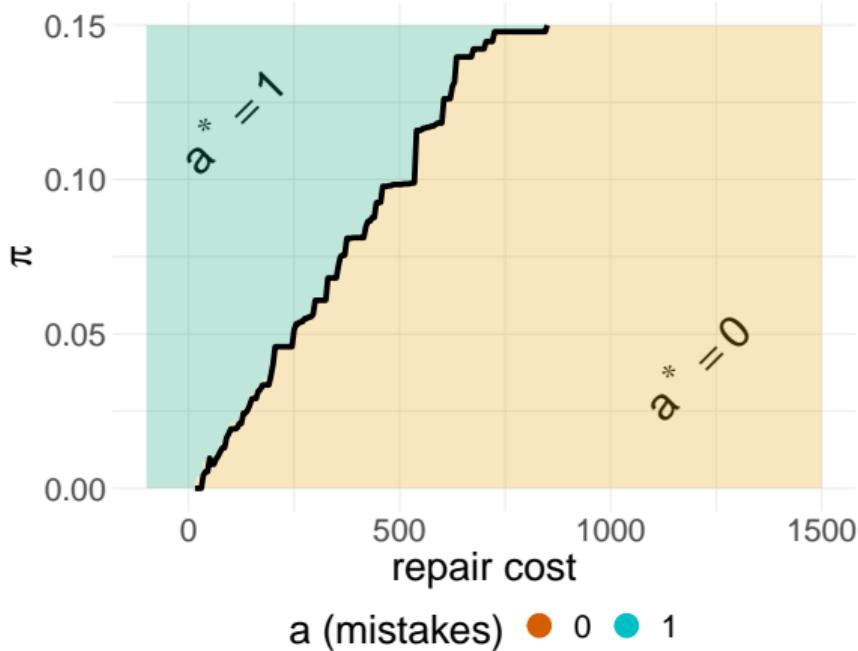
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## How are cost savings achieved?

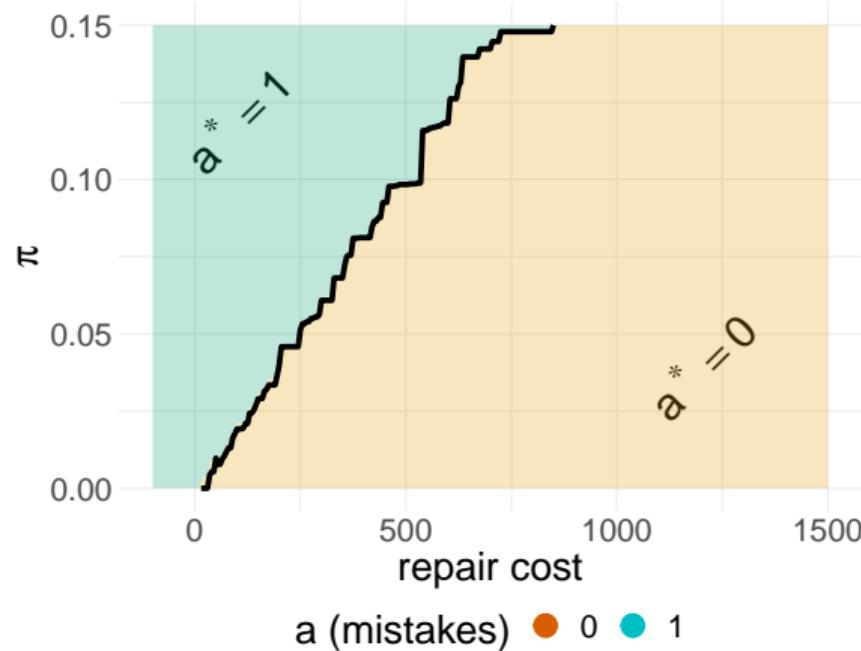
# Unpacking the value of PredictFix

Mistakes with and without PredictFix

Without PredictFix



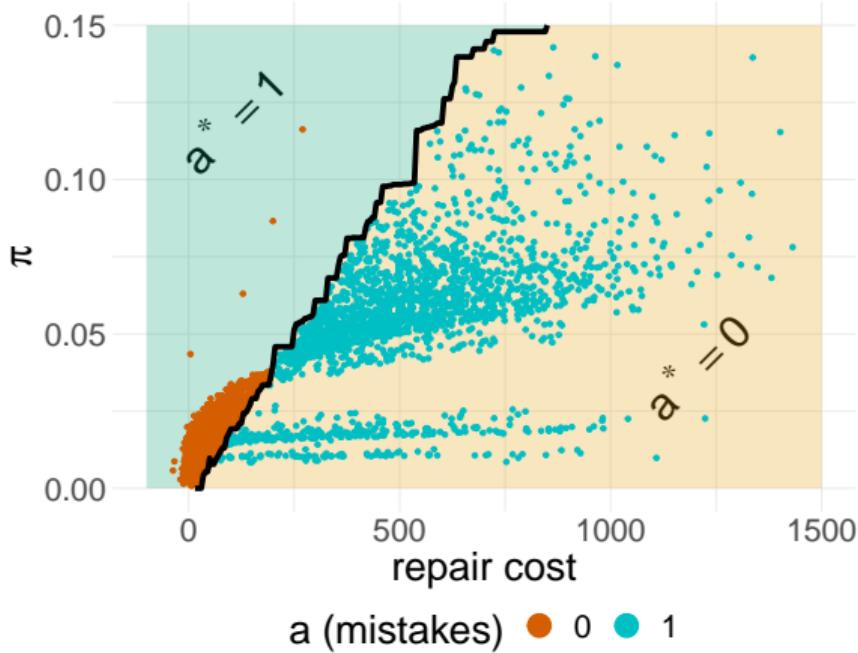
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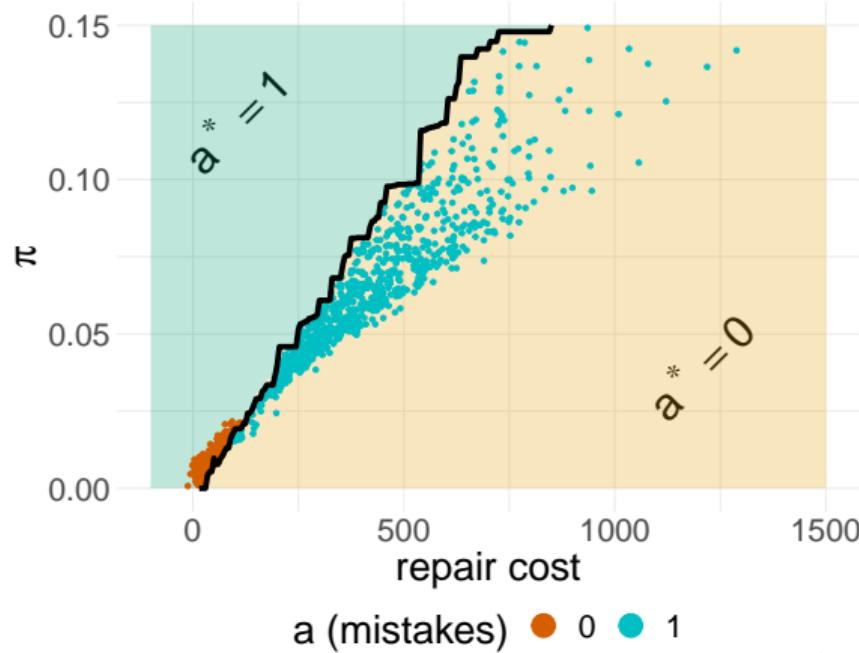
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With PredictFix



# Conclusion

We study the role of AI in repair decisions made by human technicians.

- Use **observational data** to quantify economic value of AI assistance.
  - Separately identify preferences and beliefs.
  - Account for dynamics.
- With AI, expenditures reduced by **\$240-480/truck/year (85% of all feasible cost savings)**.

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More broadly, this is one small step toward quantitatively understanding AI + decision-making.

- AI prediction is stellar, but few settings where AI makes economic decisions alone.
- As long as humans remain in the loop, **understanding how they interact with AI is critical**.

# Thank you!

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# The technician's decision problem

**Question:** Do you do an engine repair or send the truck out for its scheduled deliveries?

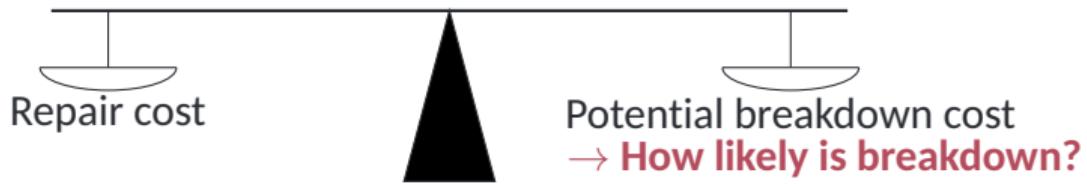
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# What technician sees

*Sensor measurements*

# What technician sees

Faults

## Sensor measurements

Acceleration forward or braking

-1.4...0.9G force



Acceleration side to side

-0.44...0.49G force



⋮

Engine intake manifold 1 temperature

68...138.2F



Engine load

0...100%



⋮

Odometer

537476.5...537867.9mi



Oil pressure

0...47.6psi



⋮

Vehicle programmed maximum road speed limit enabled (1 = enabled)

0...1



# What do you see?

## Sensor measurements

### Oil pressure

0...47.6psi



2/01/23 22:05:39.427	25.5 psi
2/01/23 22:05:40.423	29 psi
2/01/23 22:05:43.423	27.3 psi
2/01/23 22:05:44.423	38.9 psi
2/01/23 22:05:46.423	38.3 psi
2/01/23 22:05:48.423	44.1 psi
2/01/23 22:05:49.423	40.6 psi
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2/01/23 22:05:58.417	38.9 psi
2/01/23 22:06:00.417	34.8 psi
2/01/23 22:06:08.413	37.1 psi
2/01/23 22:06:14.423	34.2 psi
2/01/23 22:06:16.417	25.5 psi
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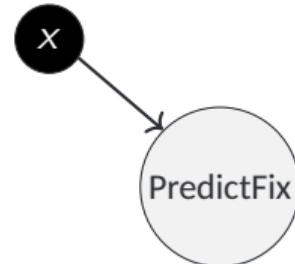
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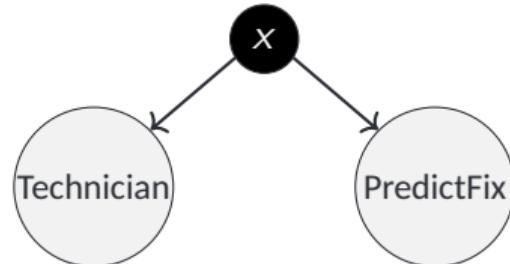
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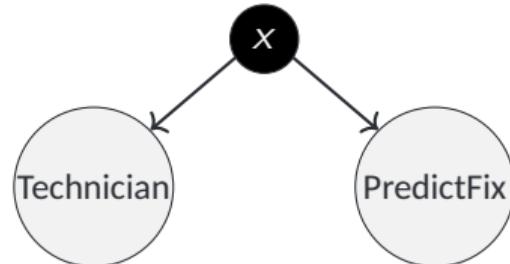
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- **Function of sensor data** → no information that could not have been learned without PredictFix.



# Why this setting?

*Data*

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## Data

We observe:

- **Actions, outcomes:** Repairs, breakdowns at the work-order level.
- **AI output:** Alerts. [More](#)
- **State:** Everything that technicians see.  
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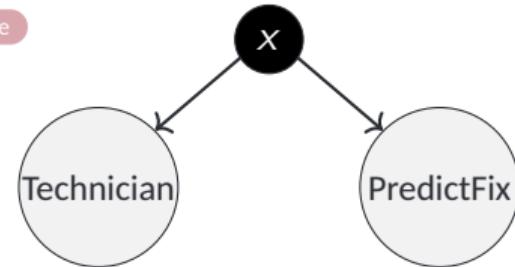
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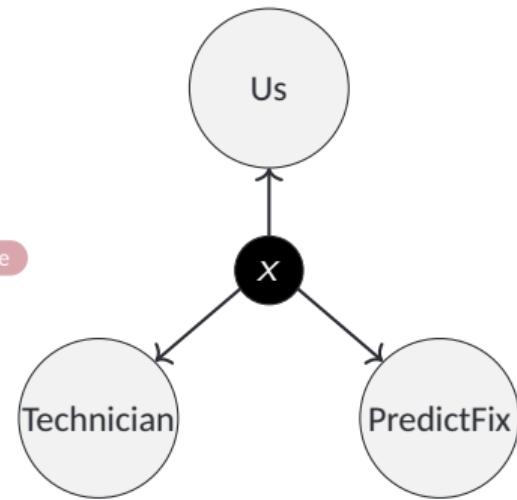


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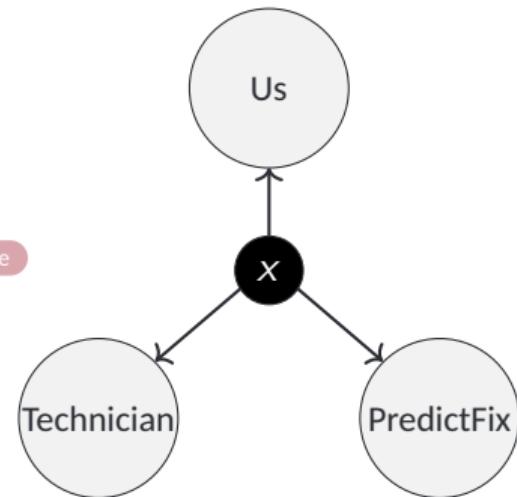


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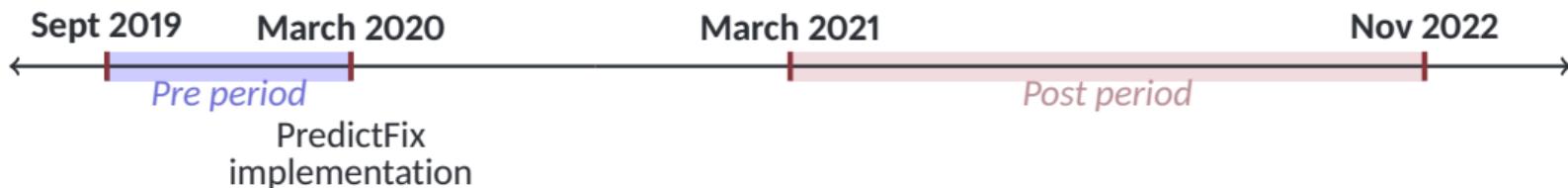
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Two disjoint periods:



# The technician's problem

**Objective: cost minimization.** Costs of repairs/breakdowns include:

- Tangible costs: Labor, materials, towing, etc.
- Intangible costs:
  - Opportunity cost of truck not being on the road.
  - Capacity constraints (shadow costs).
  - Disruption costs of breakdowns:
    - » Damage to relationships with drivers.
    - » Damage to relationships with customers.

# State of the truck

What data do technicians see?

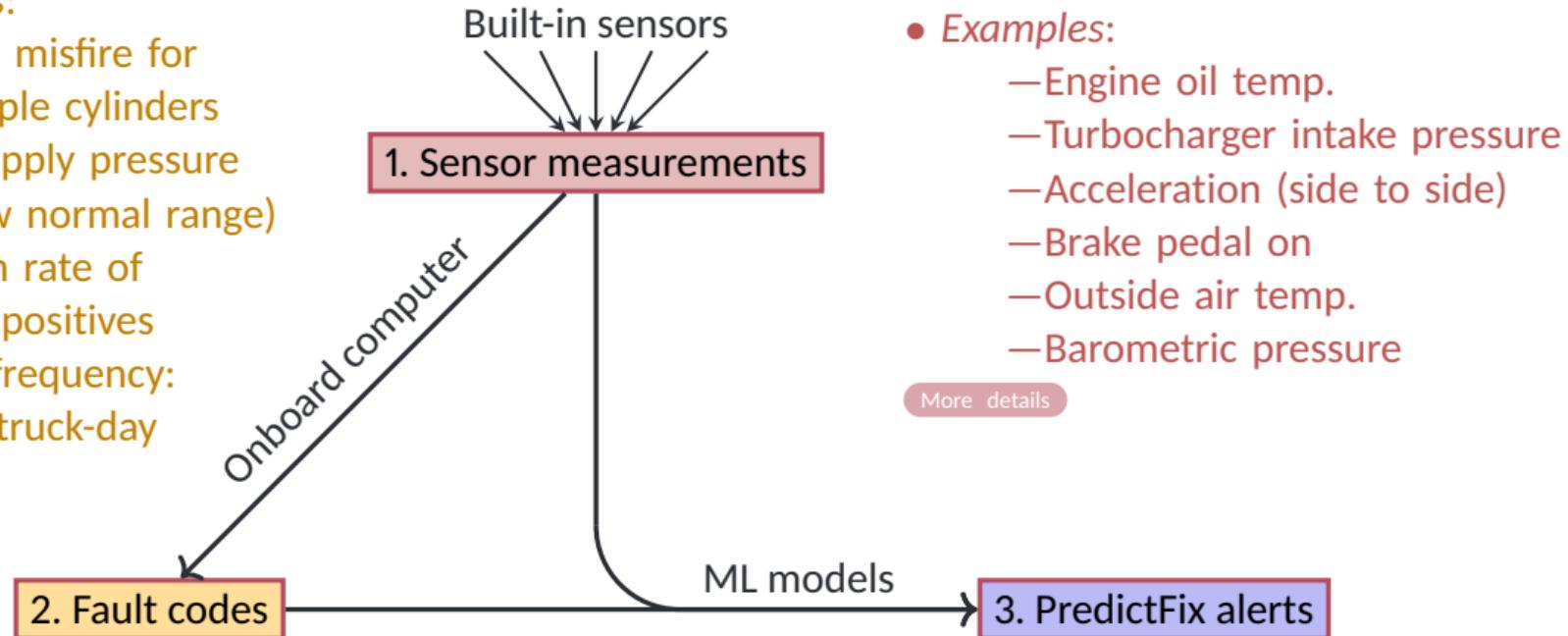
- Examples:

- Engine misfire for multiple cylinders
- Gas supply pressure (Below normal range)

- Very high rate of false positives

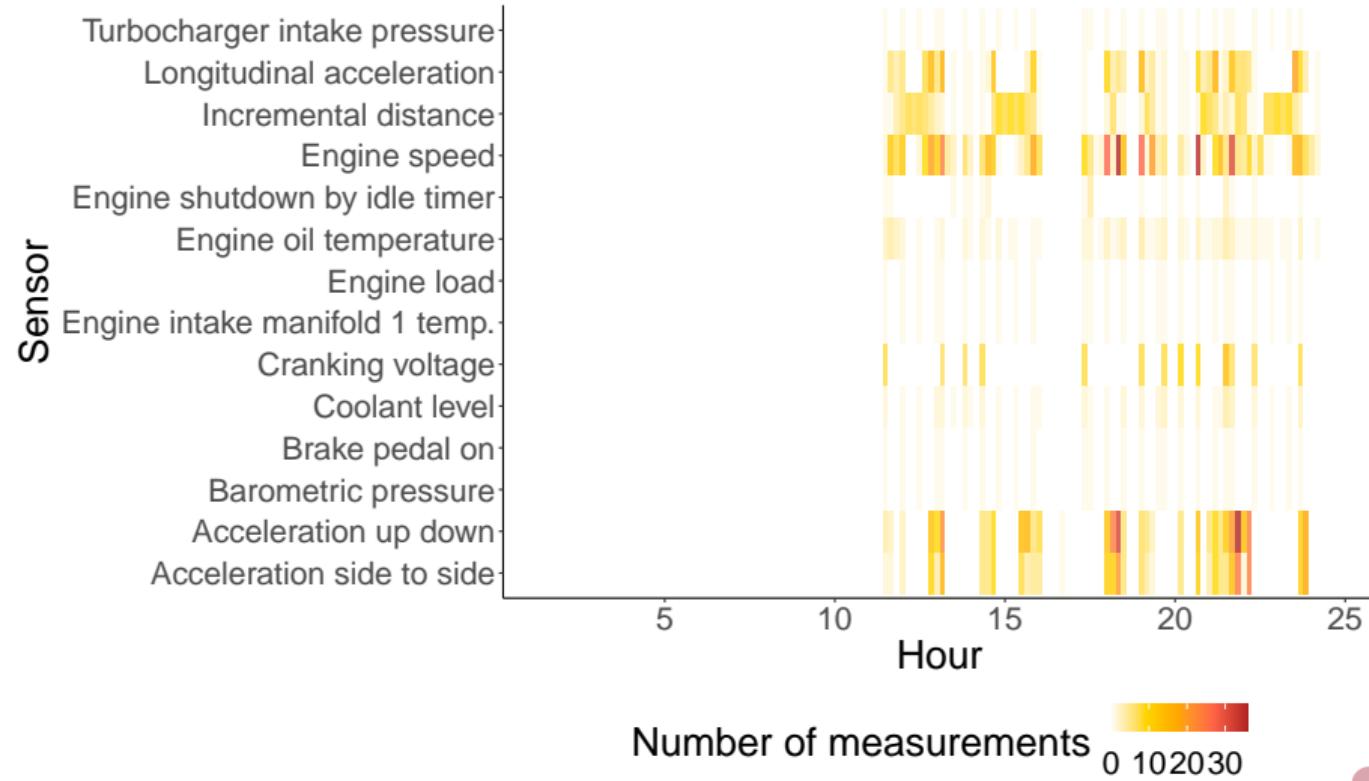
- Median frequency:  
~ 10 per truck-day

[More details](#)



# What do you see?

## Sensor measurement frequency



# State of the truck

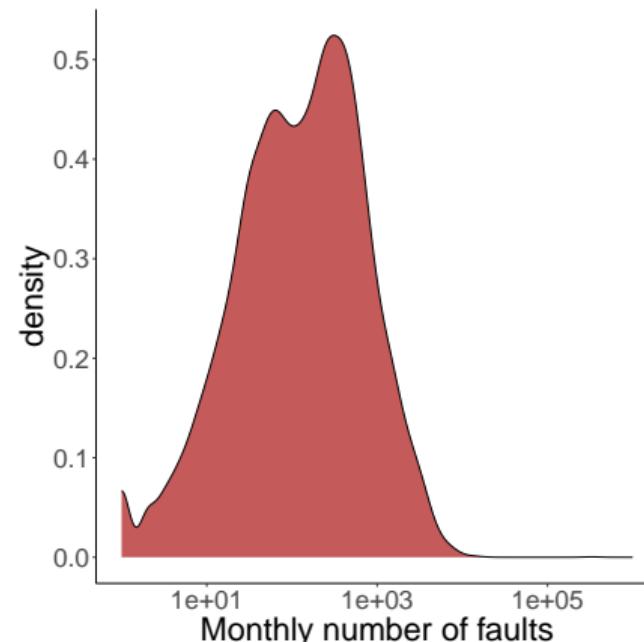
◀ Back

What data do technicians see?

Fault codes. Examples: “Engine misfire for multiple cylinders”,

“Gas supply pressure—Data valid but below normal operational range”.

Is **fault code → repair** the optimal policy? **No; very high rate of false positives.**



# Descriptive evidence: Five facts

## Overview

### Questions:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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[More](#)[AUC Interpretation](#)

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## Constructive argument:

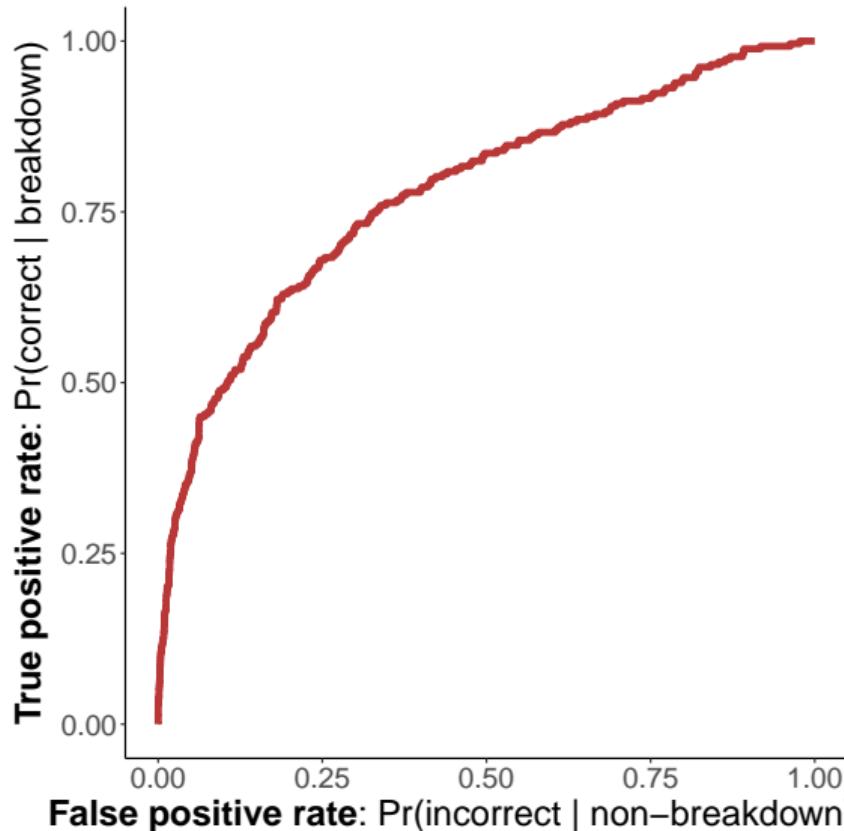
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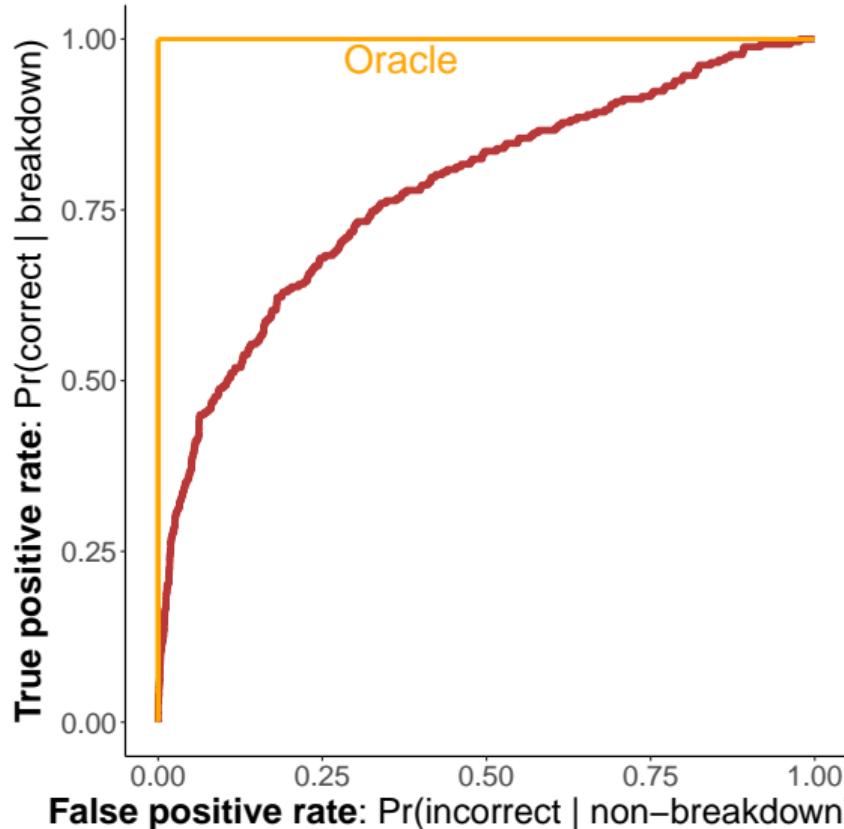


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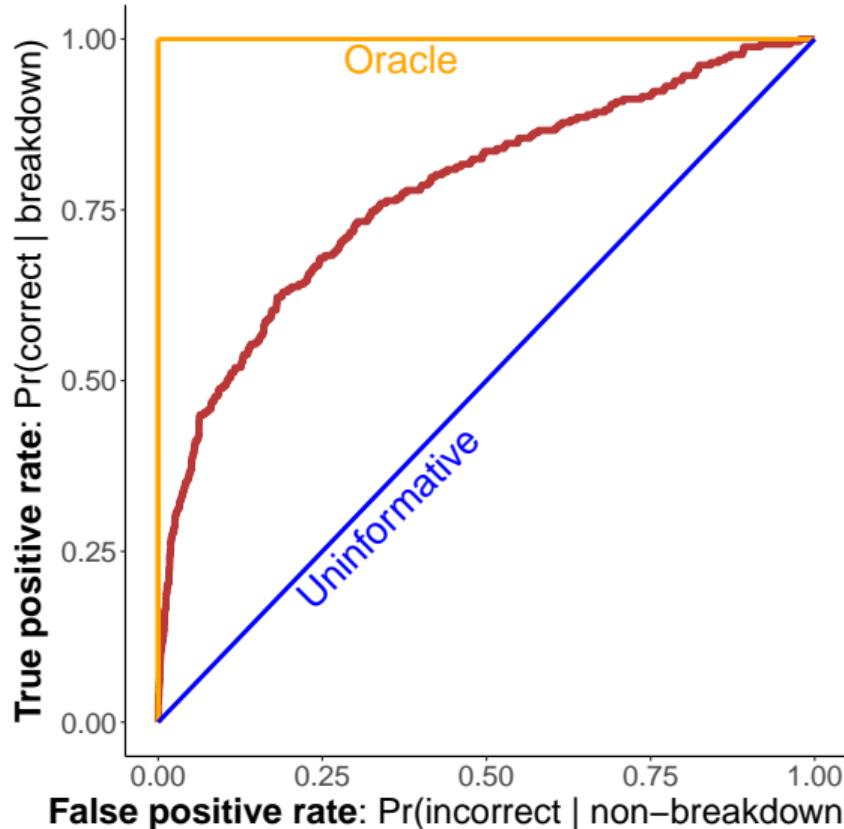


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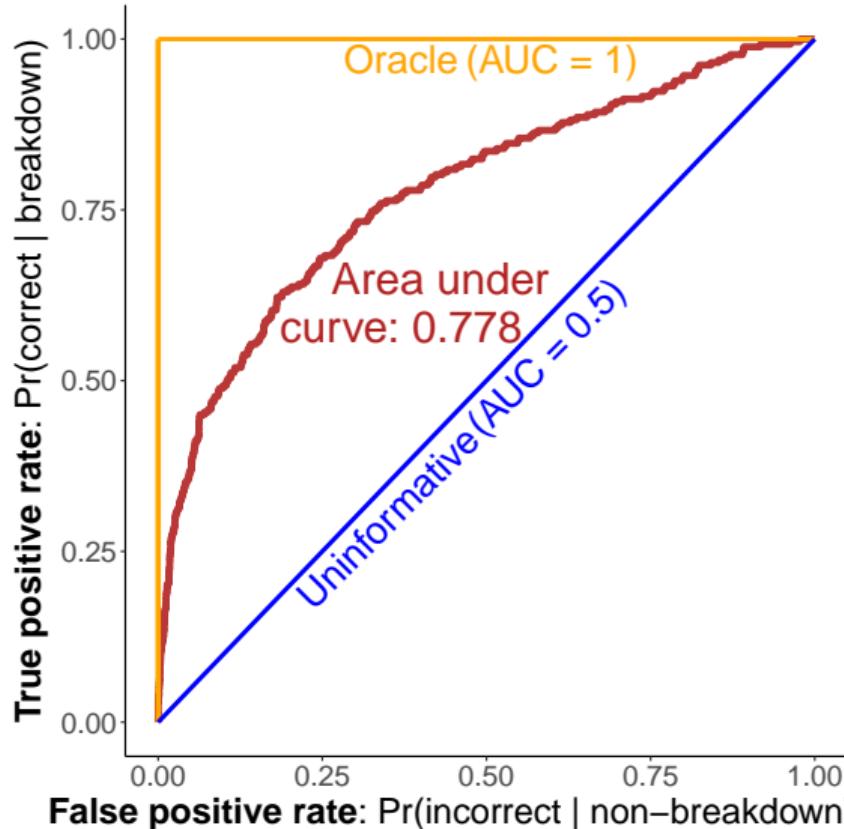


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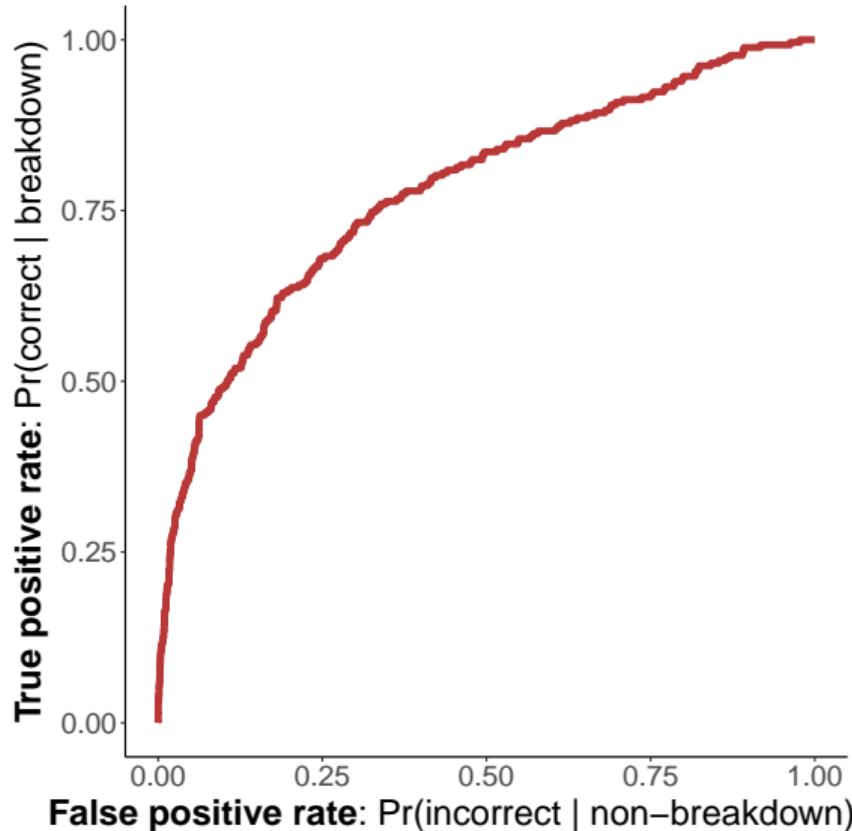
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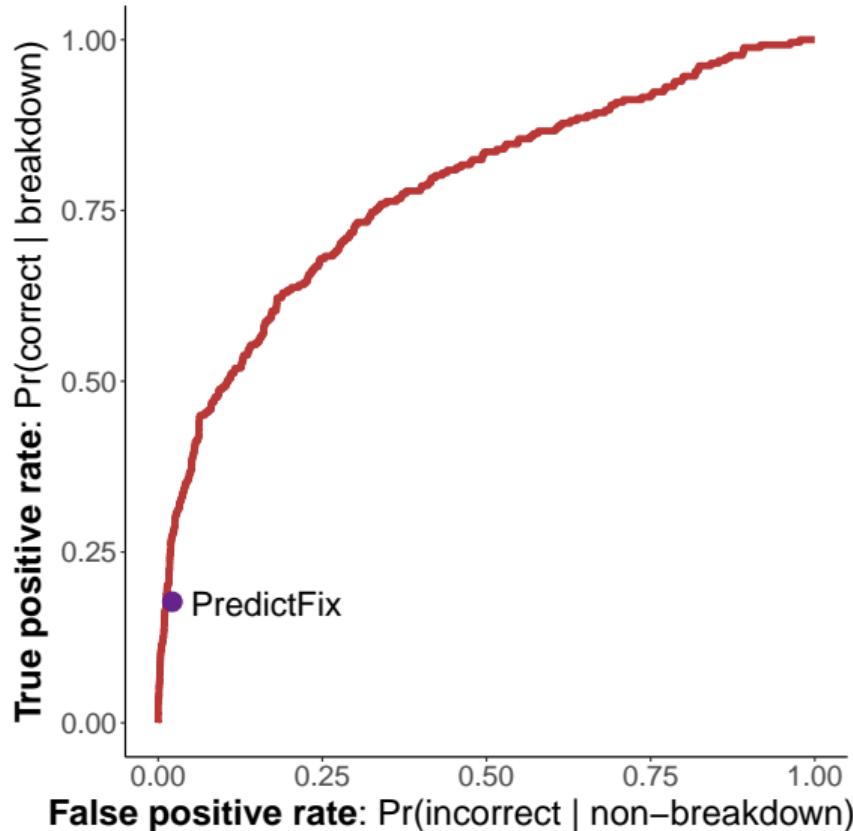
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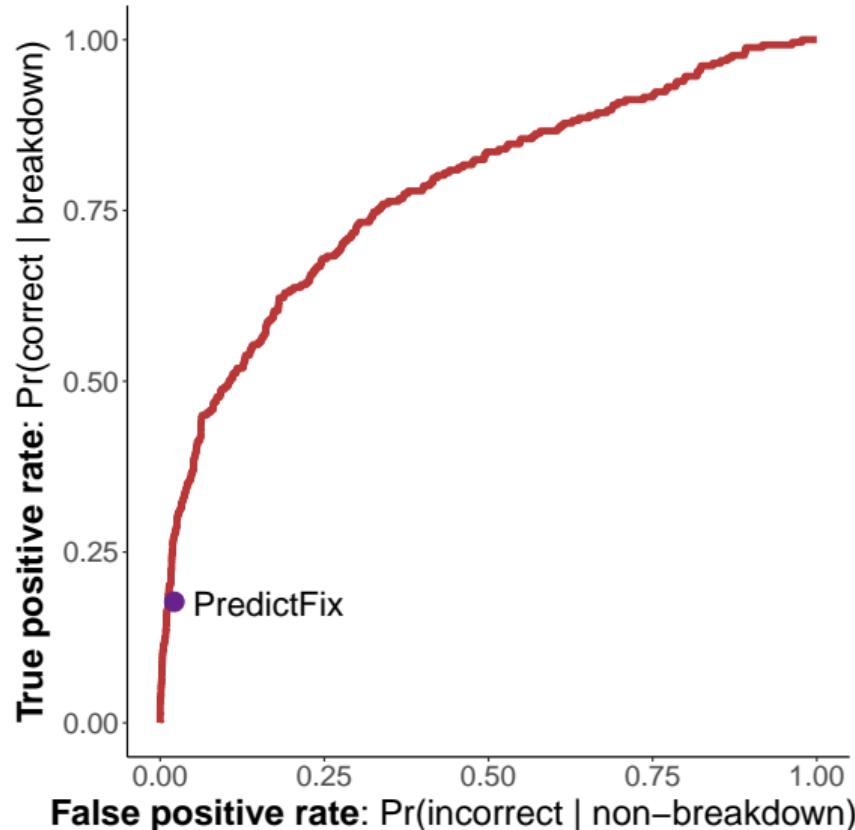


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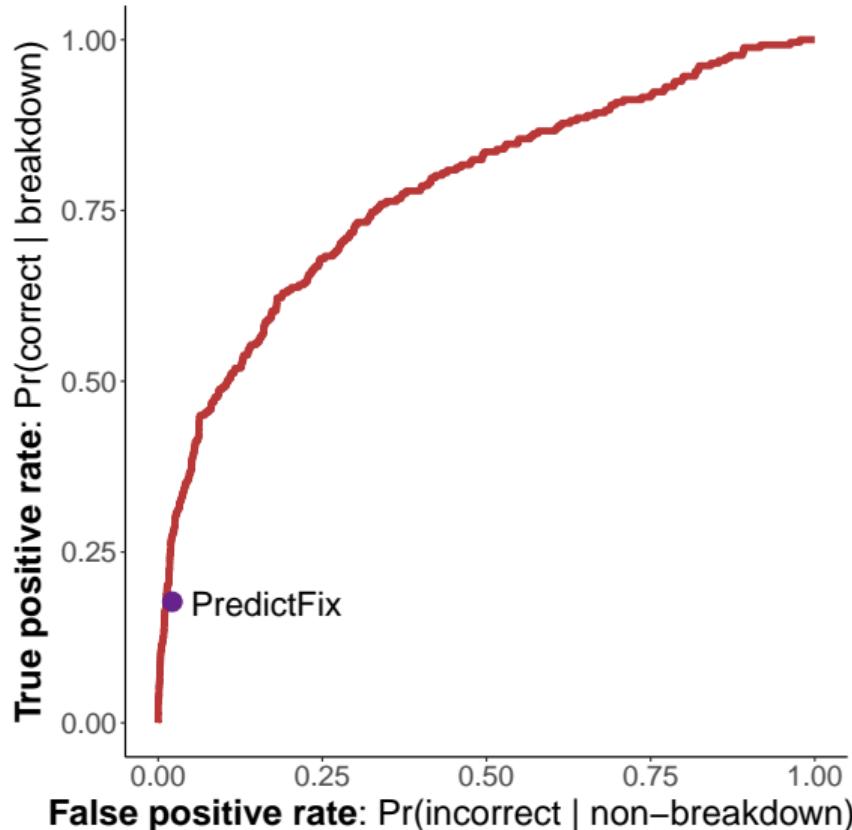
## Fact 2: PredictFix is a good predictor of breakdown risk.

- Among best binary predictors that can be constructed.



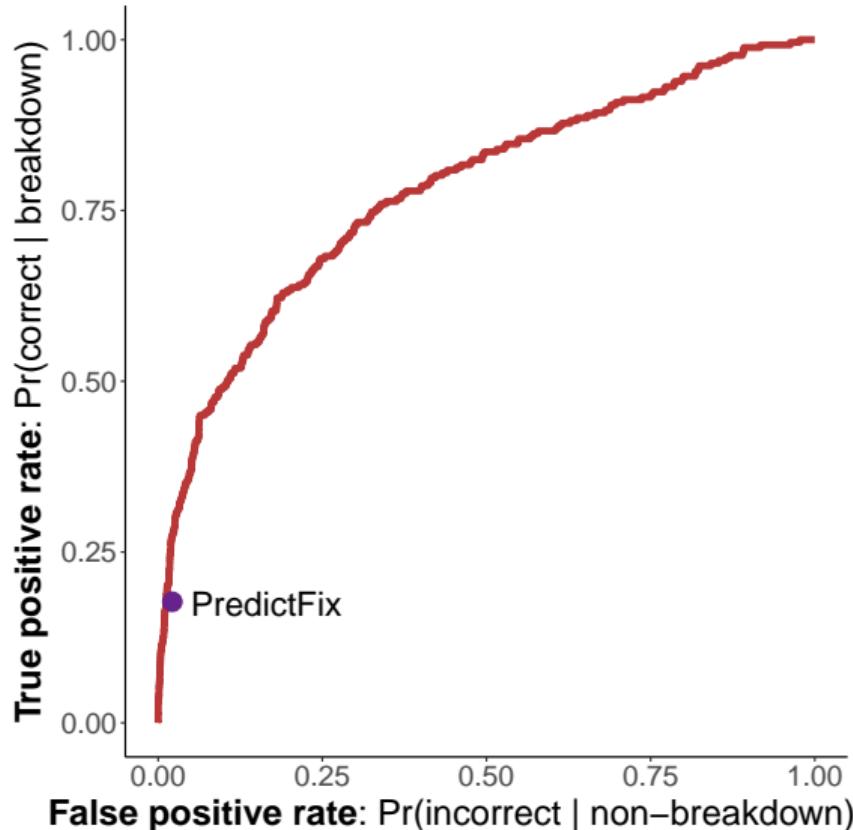
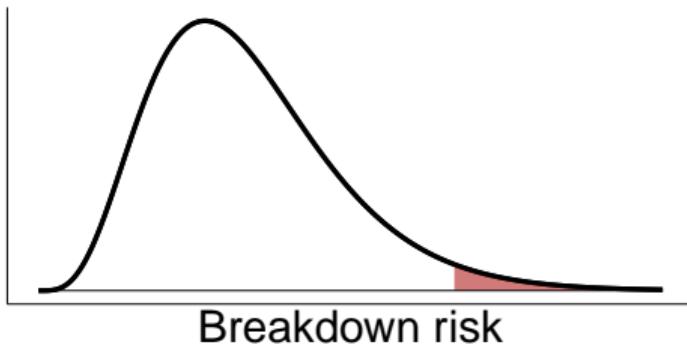
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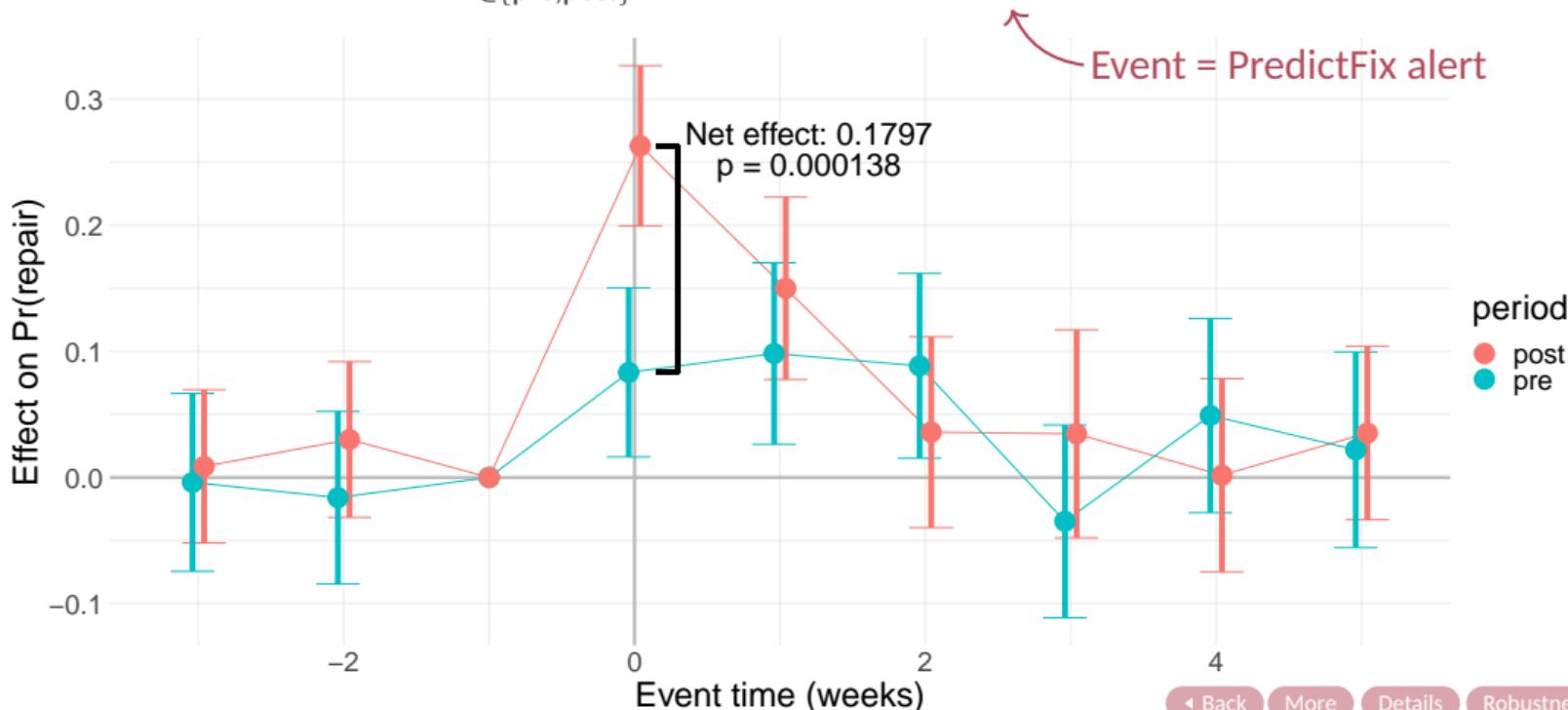
## Fact 3: Technicians respond to PredictFix.

$$\text{Repair}_{i,t} = \alpha_0 + \sum_{k \in \{\text{pre,post}\}} \sum_{\tau=-3}^5 \beta_{\tau}^k \mathbb{1}\{t \in \mathcal{T}_k\} \widehat{\text{PredictFix}}_{i,t-\tau} + \alpha_i + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{i,t}$$

Event = PredictFix alert

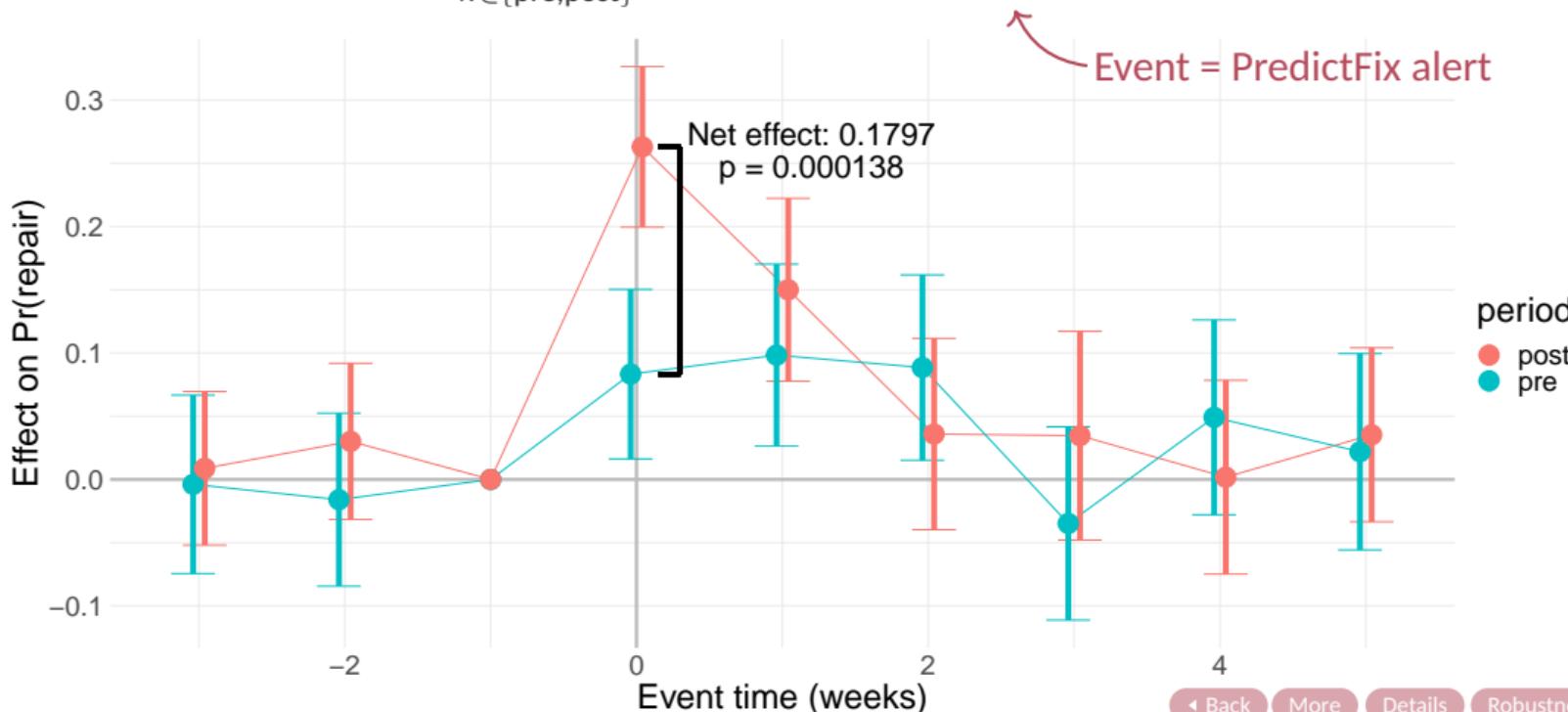
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## Fact 3: Technicians respond to PredictFix, but also ignore many alerts.

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# Descriptive evidence: Five facts

## Overview

### Questions:

1. Are breakdowns predictable? **Yes.**

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Does PredictFix have the *potential* to improve decision-making quality? **Yes.**

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# Combining PredictFix with other information from $x$

If PredictFix is a good predictor of breakdown risk, why might technicians still want to look at  $x$ ?

1. Combining  $x$  and PredictFix to form an optimal classifier.
  - PredictFix is not *on* the ROC curve, so it's not an *optimal* binary classifier.
  - Combine PredictFix alerts with  $x$  to form a binary classifier that is optimal.
2. Variation in cost threshold. Suppose PredictFix were an optimal binary classifier.

$$\text{PredictFix}_i \Leftrightarrow \pi(x_i) \geq \pi^*$$

$$a_i = 1 \Leftrightarrow \pi(x_i) > \frac{\text{Cost of repair}}{\text{Cost of breakdown}} \equiv \tau(v)$$

Table: Optimal decisions given optimal binary signal

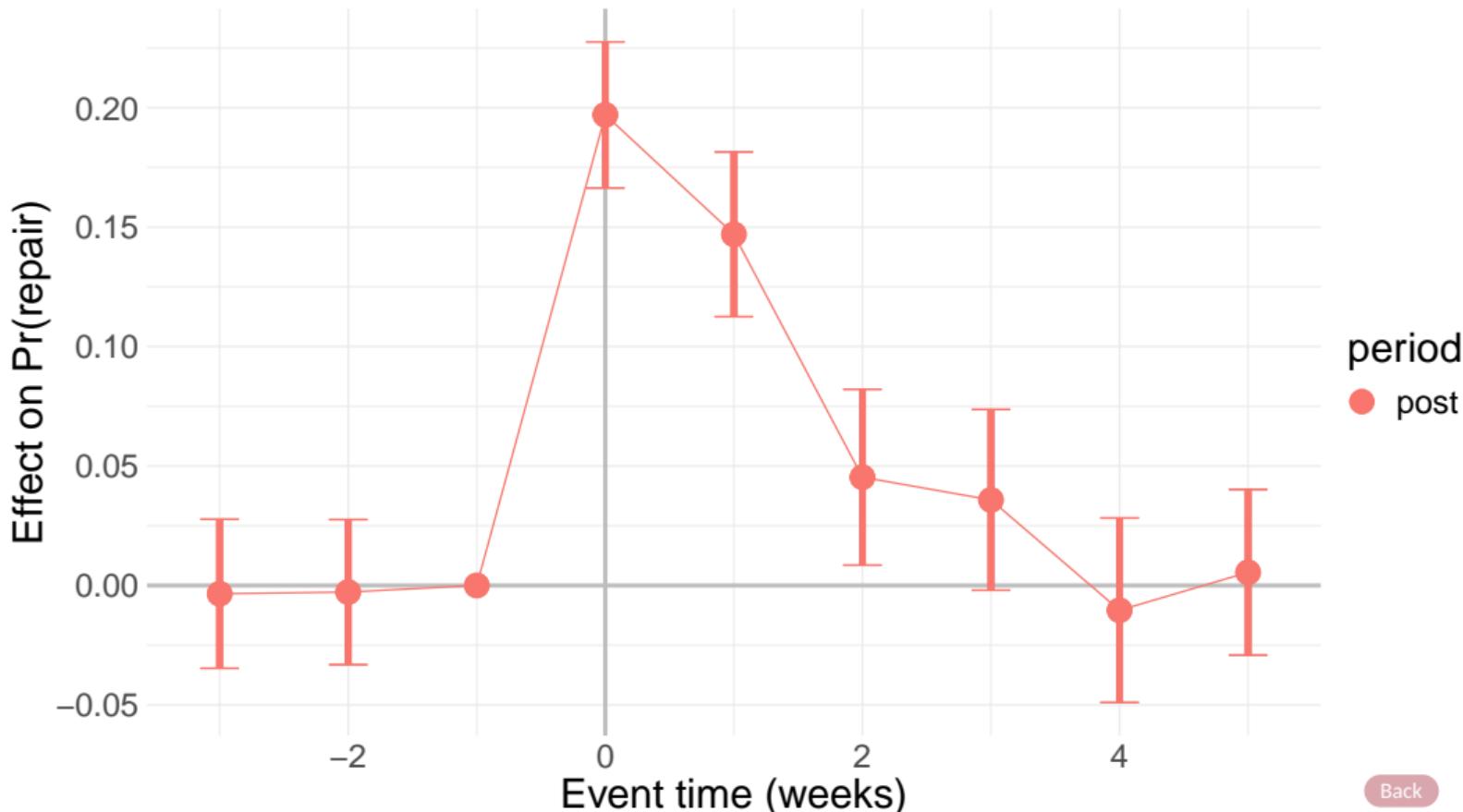
	$\tau(v) \leq \pi^*$	$\tau(v) > \pi^*$
PredictFix alert	Repair	?
No PredictFix alert	?	No repair

## Fact 3: Technicians respond to PredictFix, but also ignore many alerts.

$$\text{Repair}_{i,t} = \alpha_0 + \sum_{k \in \{\text{pre,post}\}} \sum_{\tau=-3}^5 \beta_{\tau}^k \mathbb{1}\{t \in \mathcal{T}_k\} \widehat{\text{PredictFix}}_{i,t-\tau} + \alpha_i + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{i,t}$$

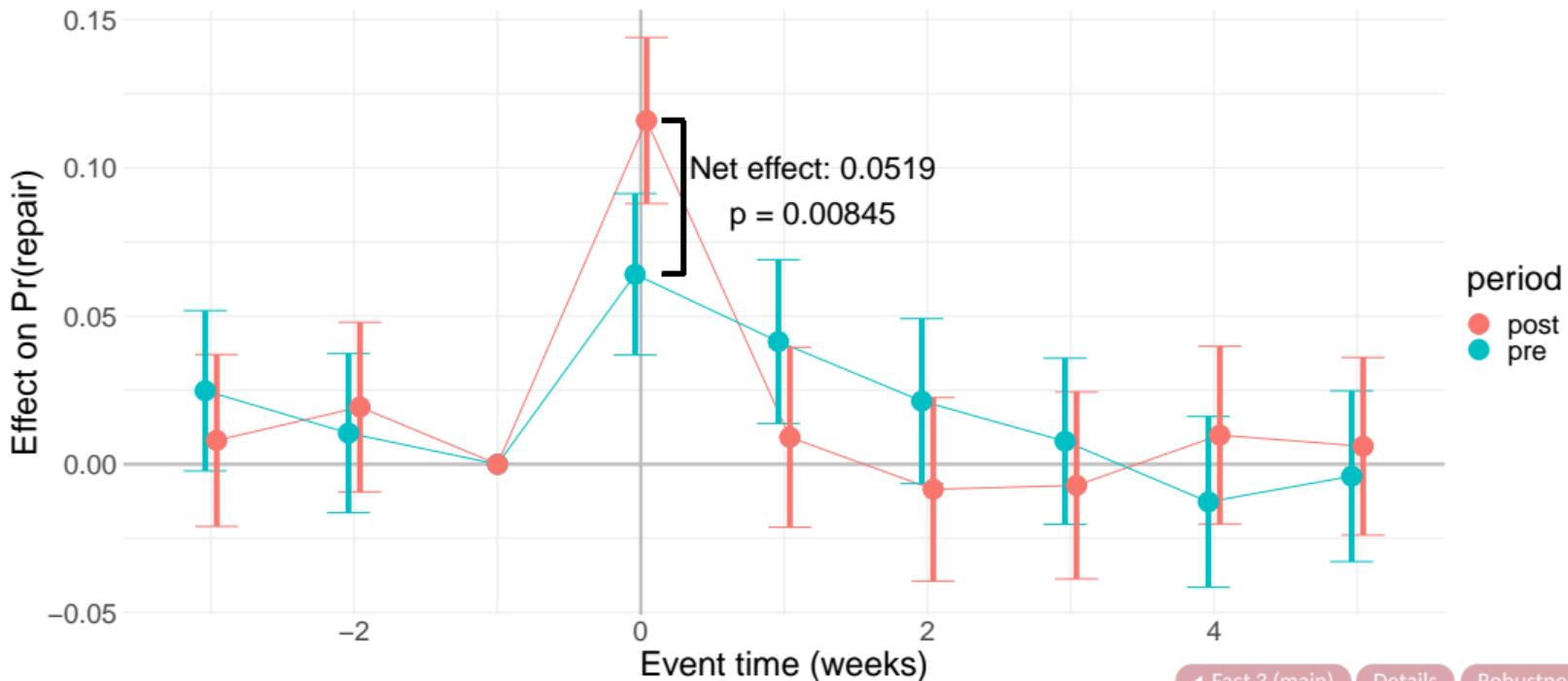
- What PredictFix alerts *would have happened* in pre period?
- Use ML to learn mapping: state  $\rightarrow$  PredictFix alerts.
  - Very high degree of accuracy (AUC = 0.978). [Details](#) [Stability](#)

## Robustness: Actual, rather than predicted, PredictFix alerts



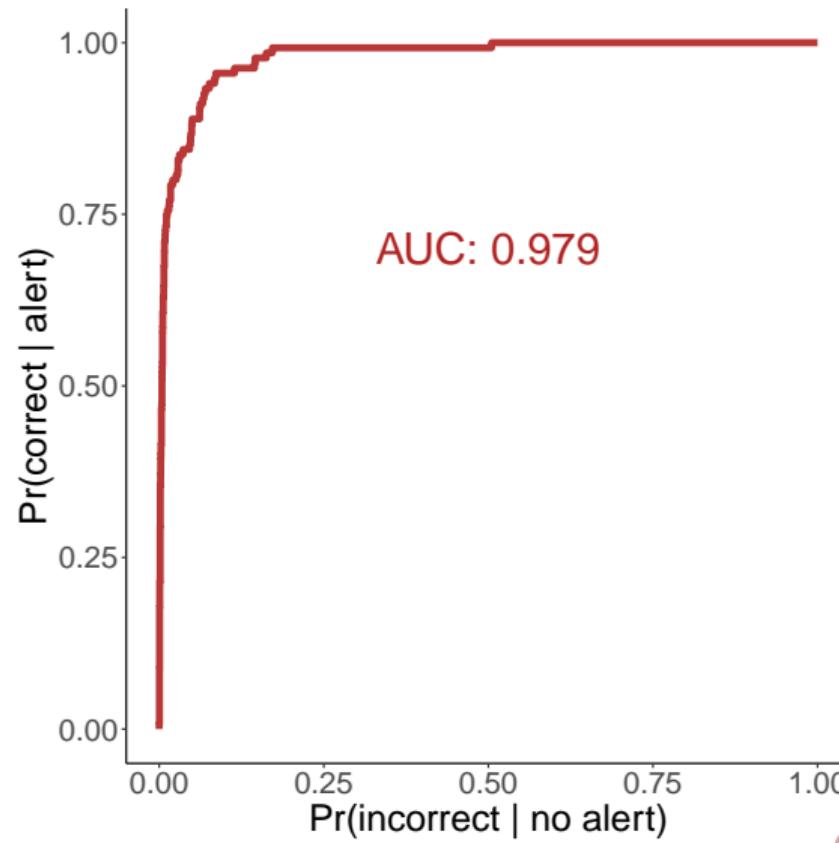
## Fact 3 (Medium-Priority Alerts)

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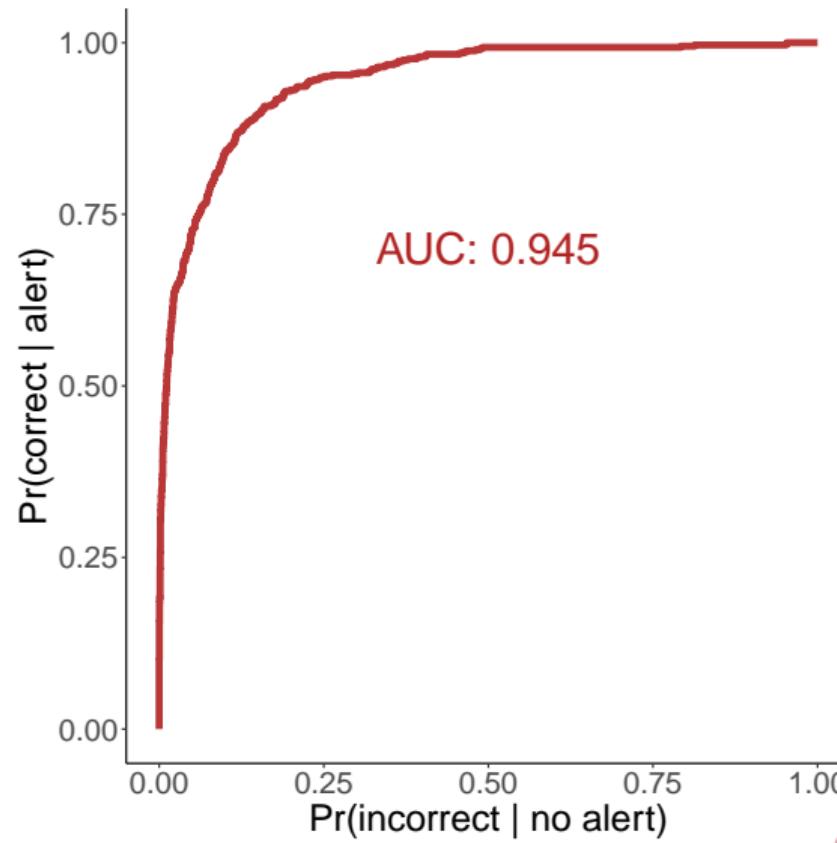
# Predicting PredictFix

ROC curves

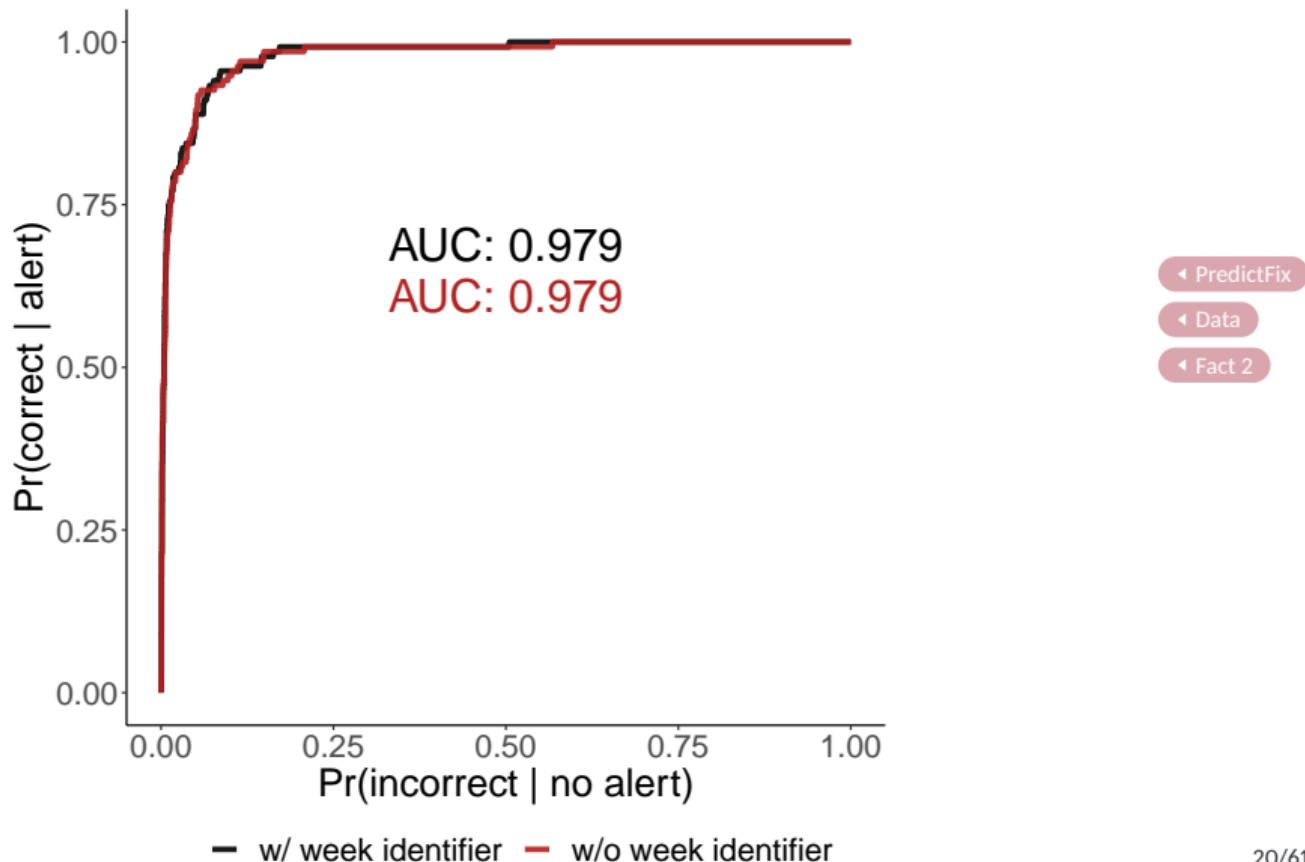


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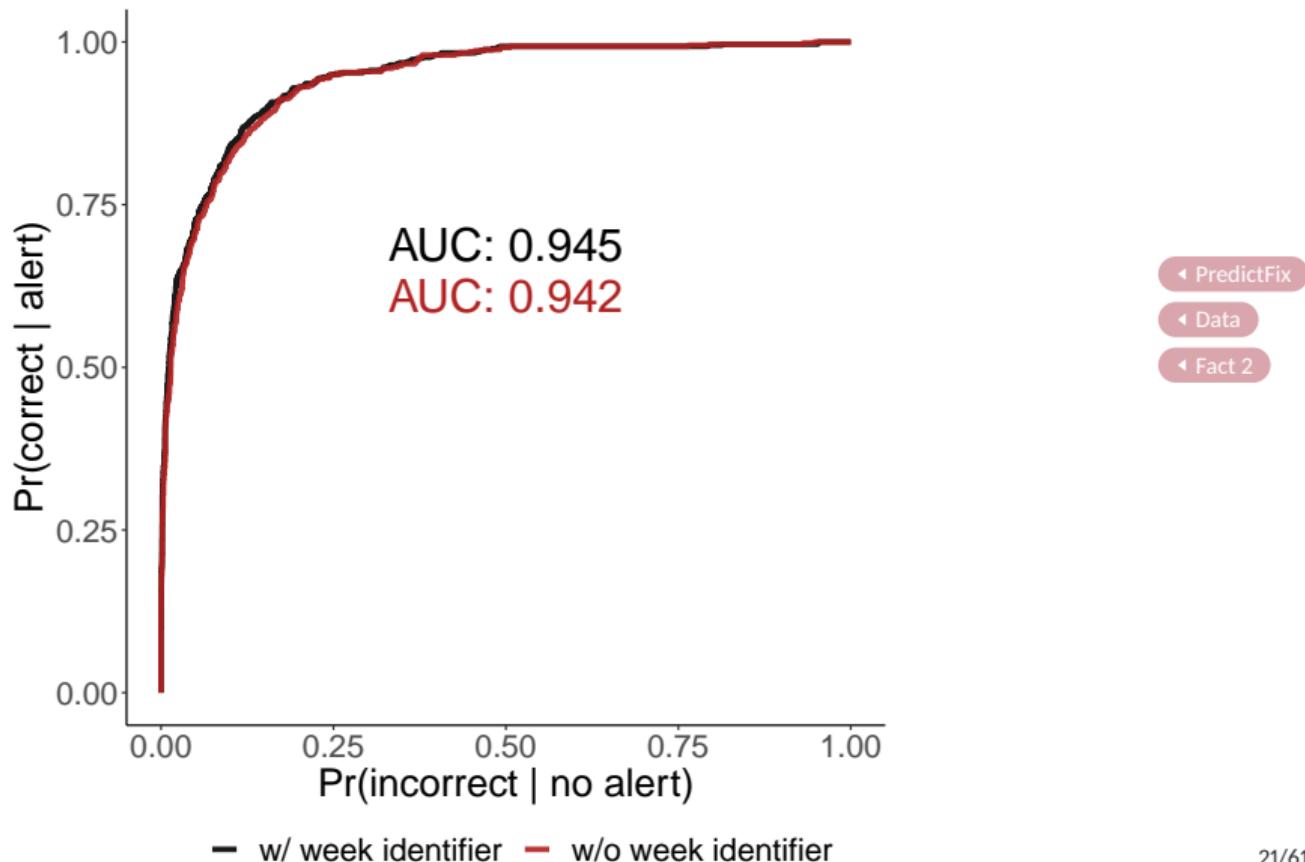
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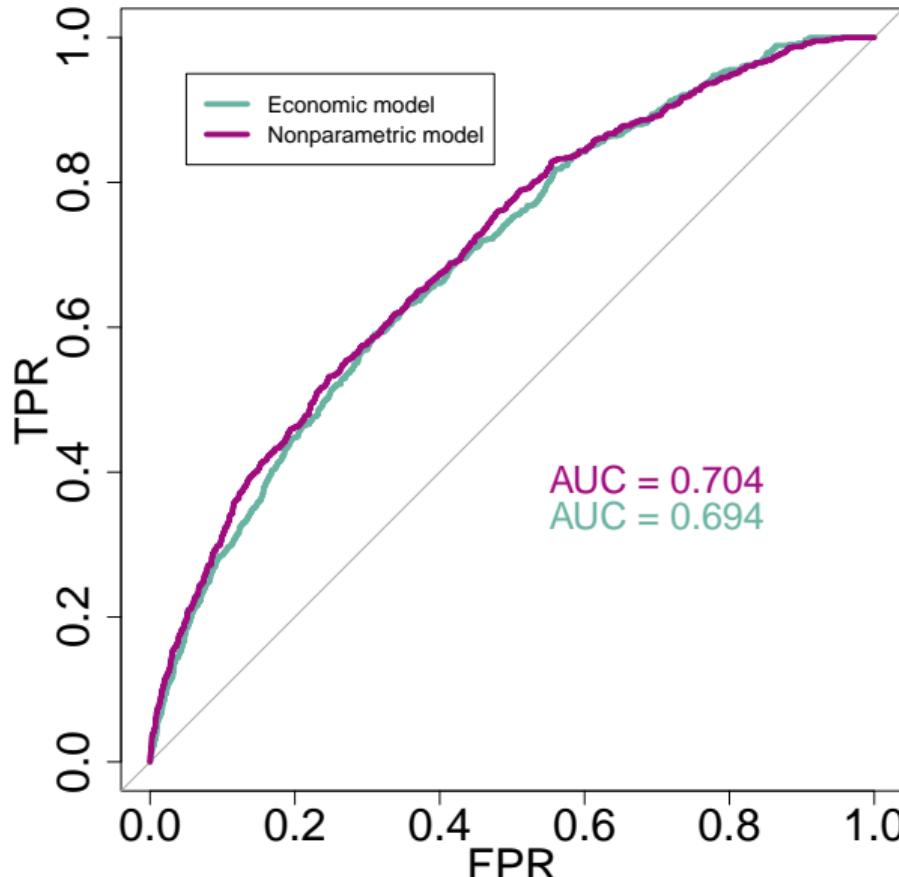
## PredictFix is stable over the post period



## PredictFix is stable over the post period



## Model fit



# Dynamics

**Technician's problem is inherently dynamic.** This week's action → future weeks' states.

## Technician's beliefs about the future

- Potentially incorrect beliefs about future breakdown risk:

$$\rho(x_{t+1}) \stackrel{?}{=} \pi(x_{t+1})$$

- But technician knows the correct distribution of  $t + 1$ 's state given  $t$ 's state and action.

# Toward estimation: The CCP approach

Back

**Standard notation:** The inclusive payoff from choosing  $a$  is

$$v_a(w, x) = u(a, w, x) + \delta EV_a(w, x)$$

where

$$EV_a(w, x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \max \left\{ v_0(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}), v_1(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) + \epsilon_{t+1} \right\} \mid w_t = w, x_t = x, a_t = a \right]$$

**Dynamic choice probability:**

$$\begin{aligned} p(w, x) &= \Lambda(\theta [v_1(w, x) - v_0(w, x)]) \\ &= \Lambda(\theta [-g(w) + \rho(x) \\ &\quad + \delta (EV_1(w, x) - EV_0(w, x))]) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Lambda$  is the Logistic function.

**Question:** How to bring this to the data?

1. Nested fixed-point approach: Rust (1987).  
→ For each parameter set, solve for  $EV_0, EV_1$ .
2. CCP approaches: Hotz and Miller (1993); Arcidiacono and Miller (2011).  
→  $EV_0, EV_1 = f(\text{choice probabilities})$ .

# Toward estimation: The CCP approach

Back

Under this assumption

$$EV_1(w_t, x_t) - EV_0(w_t, x_t) = \Delta Eg(w_t, x_t) + \frac{1}{\theta} \Delta E \log p(w_t, x_t)$$

where

$$\Delta Eg(w_t, x_t) = \mathbb{E}[g(w_{t+1}) \mid w_t, x_t, a_t = 0] - \mathbb{E}[g(w_{t+1}) \mid w_t, x_t, a_t = 1]$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta E \log p(w_t, x_t) &= \mathbb{E}[\log(p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1})) \mid w_t, x_t, a_t = 0] \\ &\quad - \mathbb{E}[\log(p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1})) \mid w_t, x_t, a_t = 1]\end{aligned}$$

**Choice probabilities:**

$$p(w, x) = \Lambda(-\theta g(w) + \theta \rho(x) + \delta [\theta \Delta Eg(w, x) + \Delta E \log p(w, x)])$$

$$p(w, x) = \Lambda(-\theta g(w) + \theta p(x) + \delta [\theta \Delta E g(w, x) + \Delta E \log p(w, x)])$$

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A typical approach:
  1. Nonparametrically estimate CCP function  $p(w, x)$ .
  2. Nonparametrically estimate transition process: Dist. of  $(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1})$  conditional on  $(a_t, w_t, x_t)$ .
  3. Integrate  $\log p(w, x)$  over the transition process.

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  3. Integrate  $\log p(w, x)$  over the transition process.
- When  $(w, x)$  is high-dimensional, 2. is clearly infeasible. Need either
  - very strong functional form assumptions on transition; or
  - a new way to compute the integral  $\Delta E \log p$  without estimating the transition process.

# Taking stock of assumptions

## Most substantive assumptions:

1. No private information.
2. Two known moments:  $f_1(\vec{p}(X))$ ,  $f_2(\vec{p}(X))$ .
5.  $p_{t+1}(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \mid a_t, w_t, x_t \sim \text{Beta}(\mu(a_t, w_t, x_t), \nu)$

## What we have *not* assumed:

- Technician's objective = the firm's objective.
  - Agency problems.
  - Technicians misunderstand firm's costs.
- Technician's risk preferences.
  - These don't affect  $\rho$ , they only affect the interpretation of  $\tau$ .

(Starting in March 2020) **PredictFix alerts.**

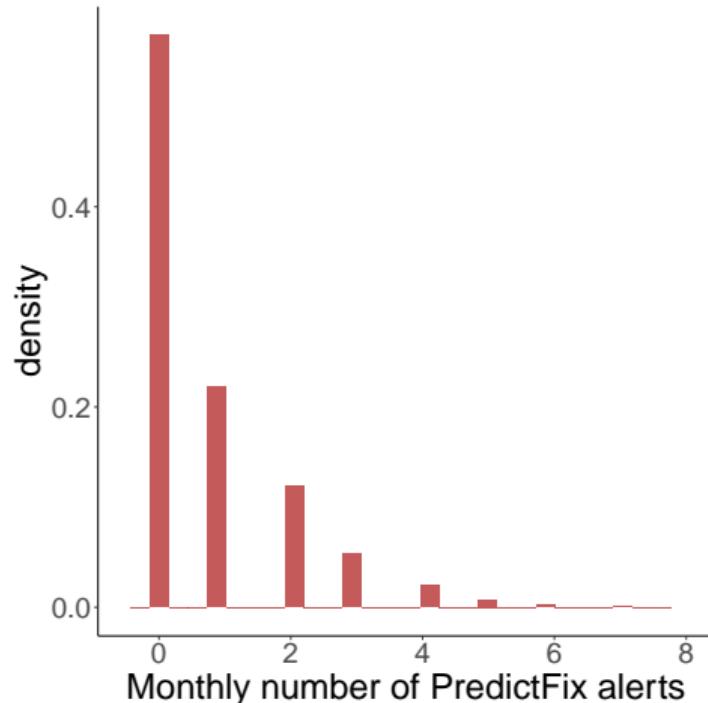
## The PredictFix algorithm.

- PFC purchased PredictFix from a tech firm specializing in industrial ML prediction.
- Different models for different components.

*Examples:*

- “Cylinder issue” → High severity
- “Coolant leak” → Medium severity
- “Engine knocking” → Medium severity
- Each model has a PFC-assigned *severity level* (medium or high).
- Note: **Does not** provide new information.

**Figure:** Number of PredictFix alerts per truck-month



## Fact 4: No change in aggregate outcomes.

Are positive effects of PredictFix evident in aggregate outcomes? **No.**

**Table:** Frequency of repairs and breakdowns

	Pre	Post
Engine Repairs	462 (10.5%)	1,778 (10.5%)
Engine Breakdowns	71 (1.43%)	297 (1.73%)

## Fact 5: Repairs costs are higher, more variable in the post period.

- We observe (accounting estimates of) tangible repair costs.
- Comparison across periods:

	Pre	Post
Mean	\$621	\$721
Std. Dev	\$1118	\$1404

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Constant  $B$

More on payoffs

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More on payoffs

		Potential breakdown	
		$s = 0$	$s = 1$
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State variables:

- $v$ : cost-related variables.
- $x$ : state of truck.

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**Key questions:**

- Does PredictFix move  $\rho$  closer to  $\pi$ ?
- If so, to what extent do better decisions result?

► Results

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# Econometric challenge

Repair if and only if

$$\rho(x) > \frac{c(v, x)}{B} \equiv \tau(v, x)$$

**Goal:** Estimate preferences  $\tau$  and beliefs  $\rho$ .

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$$\rho(x) > \frac{c(v, x)}{B} \equiv \tau(v, x) = g(w, x) + \epsilon \quad \text{where } v = (w, \epsilon), \epsilon \sim \text{Logistic}(\theta)$$

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- ③ Restriction to identify level and scale. → Two restrictions on  $\rho$ .

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# Separate identification of preferences and beliefs

Two restrictions on  $\rho$

— Technician's perceived risk of breakdown risk:

1. is correct on average, i.e.,  $\mathbb{E}_x \rho(x) = \mathbb{E}_x \pi(x)$ ; and
2. attains the zero lower bound, i.e.,  $\min_x \rho(x) = 0$ .

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Two restrictions on  $\rho$

- Technician's perceived risk of breakdown risk:

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- Does not restrict how technicians **order** states by risk.

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Technician's problem is inherently dynamic. This week's action → future weeks' states.

Beliefs

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Details

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◀ Back

Assumptions summary

► Results

34/61

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$$EV_0, EV_1 = \mathbb{E} [f(p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}))]$$

- Challenge: State is high-dimensional.

→ Our solution:  $p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \mid w_t, x_t, a_t \sim \text{Beta}$  → closed-form expression for  $EV_0, EV_1$ .

Formal statement

Parameterization

Details

◀ Back

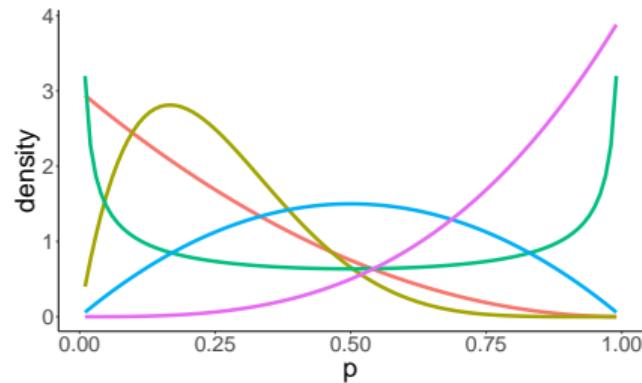
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34/61

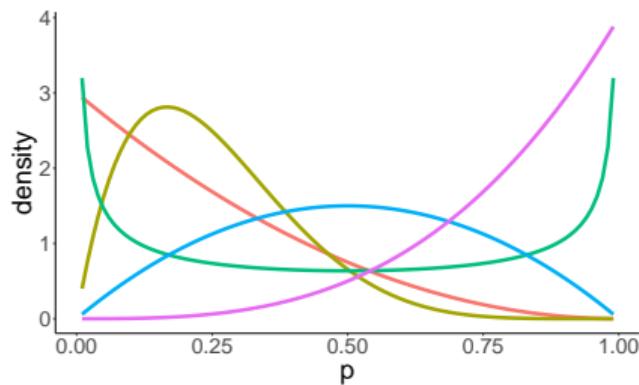
# Beta distribution

(a) Examples: Beta for various parameters

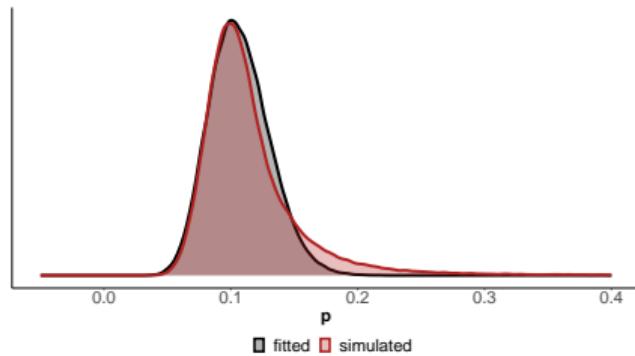


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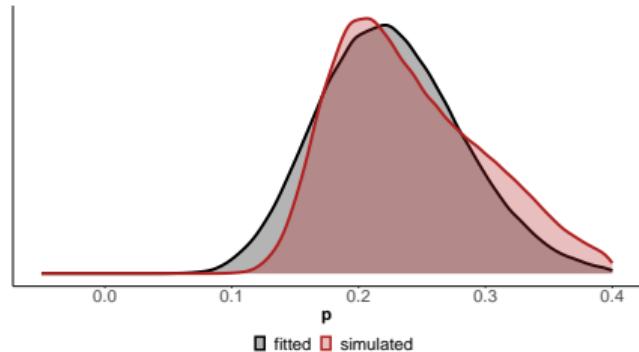
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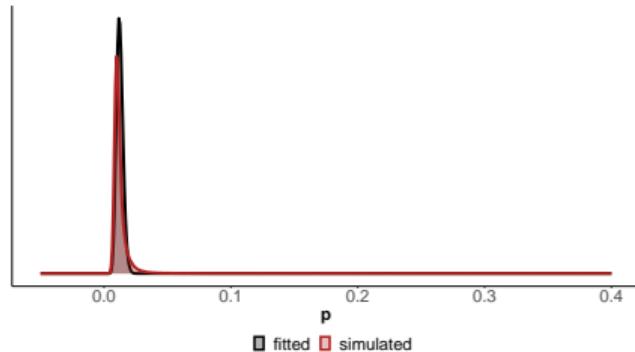
(b) Example 1



(c) Example 2



(d) Example 3



## Model estimation

- Variable selection ( $x$ ):  $\sim 2000$ -dimensional  $\rightarrow$  20-dimensional. [Details](#)
- Functional form for  $\rho$ :  $\rho(x) = \Lambda(\lambda_0 + x'\lambda_1)$
- Functional form for  $g$ :  $g(w, x) = \gamma_0 + w'\gamma_1 + \gamma_2\hat{g}_2(w, x)$ . [Details](#)

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subject to  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \rho(x_i; \lambda) = \bar{\pi} \quad (\text{Correct on average})$

$$\min_x \rho(x; \lambda) \approx 0 \quad (\text{Zero lower bound})$$

where  $\mathcal{L}(a_i, w_i, x_i | \beta) = \begin{cases} 1 - p(w_i, x_i | \beta) & \text{if } a_i = 0 \\ p(w_i, x_i | \beta) & \text{if } a_i = 1 \end{cases}$

## Constant breakdown cost

- Reflects thinking of PFC fleet management team.
- We need not know  $B$ .
- **Not** assuming  $B_{\text{pre}} = B_{\text{post}}$ .

# Finite dependence

## Assumption 3

For every component  $z$  of the state variable  $(w, x)$ , the transition process is such that  $z$  satisfies either of the following conditions:

- (i)  $z$  resets after a repair, i.e., the conditional distribution of  $z_{t+1} | a_t = 1, w_t, x_t$  does not depend on  $(w_t, x_t)$ ; or
- (ii)  $z$  evolves independently and exogenously, i.e., the conditional distribution of  $z_{t+1} | a_t, w_t, x_t$  only depends on  $z_t$ .

$x$  satisfying (i):

- Sensor measurements
- Fault codes

$x$  satisfying (ii):

- Weather-related variables
- Odometer readings

$w$  all satisfy (ii):

- Facility's # of trucks.
- Facility's # of open work orders.
- Month FEs.

# Restriction on private information

We observe: performance of truck components, truck use, and environmental conditions.

→ Leaves little scope for private information about breakdown risk.

## Assumption 1 (No private information on state of truck)

Suppose  $\xi$  is observed by the technician but not by the econometrician. Then,

$$\Pr(\text{breakdown} | x, \xi) = \Pr(\text{breakdown} | x) = \pi(x)$$

where  $x$  is fully observed by the econometrician. Moreover, the technician's perceived risk of breakdown does not depend on  $\xi$ .

### What this assumption buys us:

- Progress toward identification of  $\rho$  and  $\tau$ .
- Identification of  $\pi(x)$ .
  - No selective labels problems.
  - Our ML predictor of breakdown risk has the interpretation of  $\pi(x)$ .

◀ Fact 1

◀ Fact 1 (ROC)

◀ Econometric Challenge

# AUC

## Probability interpretation

- Let  $\mathcal{I}_0$  and  $\mathcal{I}_1$  represent the set of non-breakdown and breakdown observations, respectively.
- Randomly draw  $i_0$  from  $\mathcal{I}_0$  and  $i_1$  from  $\mathcal{I}_1$ .
- Then  $\text{AUC} = \Pr(\hat{\pi}(x_{i_1}) > \hat{\pi}(x_{i_0}))$ .

## 1. Identifying $\theta\alpha$ :

$$\frac{d}{dw_2} \log \frac{p(x, w)}{1 - p(x, w)} = -\theta\alpha \frac{d}{dw_2} g_2(w_1, w_2, x)$$

## 2. Partially identifying $g_1$ : WLOG, $g_1(w_1) = \gamma_0 + \tilde{g}_1(w_1)$ where $\tilde{g}(w_1^0) = 0$ for some $w_1^0$ . Then

$$\frac{d}{dw_1} \log \frac{p(x, w)}{1 - p(x, w)} = -\theta \nabla \tilde{g}_1(w_1)$$

## 3. Partially identifying $\rho$ :

$$\log \frac{p(w, x)}{1 - p(w, x)} + \theta \tilde{g}_1(w_1) + \theta\alpha g_2(w_1, w_2, x) = -\theta\gamma_0 + \theta\rho(x) \equiv \tilde{\rho}(x)$$

**Recall:**  $\tilde{\rho}(x) \equiv -\theta\gamma_0 + \theta\rho(x)$  is identified.

4. **Point identification of  $g_1, \rho$ :** Note that the mean and minimum of  $\tilde{\rho}(x)$  can be written as

$$\mathbb{E}_x \tilde{\rho}(x) = -\theta\gamma_0 + \theta\mathbb{E}_x \rho(x)$$

$$\min_x \tilde{\rho}(x) = -\theta\gamma_0 + \theta \min_x \rho(x)$$

Writing this in matrix form,

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -1 & \mathbb{E}_x \rho(x) \\ -1 & \min_x \rho(x) \end{bmatrix}}_A \begin{pmatrix} \theta\gamma_0 \\ \theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{E}_x \tilde{\rho}(x) \\ \min_x \tilde{\rho}(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

# DDC estimation with high-dimensional state

## Assumption 5

The transition process for state variables ( $w, x$ ) and the technician's conditional choice probability function  $p(\cdot, \cdot)$  are such that

$$p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \mid a_t, w_t, x_t \sim \text{Beta}(\mu(a_t, w_t, x_t), \nu)$$

where  $\mu : \{0, 1\} \times \mathcal{W} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  and  $\nu \in \mathbb{R}^+$ .

Implies that

$$\Delta E \log p(w_t, x_t) = \psi(\mu(0, w_t, x_t)\nu) - \psi(\mu(1, w_t, x_t)\nu)$$

where  $\psi$  is the digamma function, and

$$\mu(a_t, w_t, x_t) = \Pr(a_{t+1} = 1 \mid a_t, w_t, x_t)$$

**Minimally restrictive:**

- Beta is a flexible distribution.
- $\mu$  is function of  $(a_t, w_t, x_t)$ .
- $\nu$  to be estimated.

→ Easy to estimate (offline using GBDT).

- We use the “mean-precision” parameterization of the Beta distribution.
- First parameter can be arbitrary function of state and action.

$$p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \sim \text{Beta}(\mu(a_t, w_t, x_t), \nu)$$

## Dynamics: Toward estimation

$$p(w_t, x_t) = \Lambda(\theta [ -g(w_t) + \rho(x_t) \\ + \delta (EV_1(w_t, x_t) - EV_0(w_t, x_t)) ])$$

Under the finite dependence assumption,

$$EV_1(w_t, x_t) - EV_0(w_t, x_t) = \frac{1}{\theta} \left( \mathbb{E} [\log p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \mid a_t = 0, w_t, x_t] \right. \\ \left. - \mathbb{E} [\log p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \mid a_t = 1, w_t, x_t] \right)$$

**Challenge:** State  $(w, x)$  is high-dimensional.

$$\mathbb{E} [\log p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \mid a_t, w_t, x_t] = \int \log p(w', x') dF(x', w' \mid a_t, w_t, x_t)$$

**Trick:** If  $p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \sim \text{Beta}(\mu(a_t, w_t, x_t), \nu)$ , then

$$\mathbb{E} [\log p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) \mid a_t, w_t, x_t] = \psi(\mu(a_t, w_t, x_t)\nu) - \psi(\nu)$$

## Technical Condition

There exists some state  $(w, x)$  such that

$$\text{sign} \left( \frac{d^2}{dw^j dx^k} f(w, x) \right) \neq \text{sign} \left( \frac{d}{dw^j} f(w, x) \frac{d}{dx^k} f(w, x) \right)$$

where

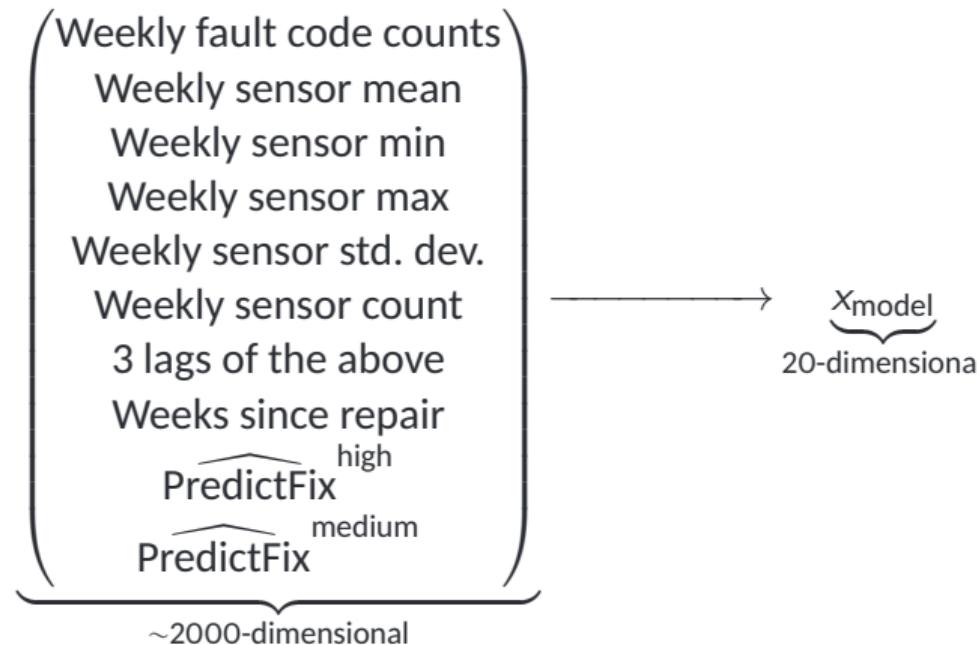
$$f(w_t, x_t) = \mathbb{E} [\log p(w_{t+1}, x_{t+1}) | w_t, x_t, a_t = 0],$$

and  $x^k$  is a resetting variable and  $w^j$  is an exogenously and independently-evolving variable.

**Note:** Need only hold for one state  $(w, x) \in \mathcal{W} \times \mathcal{X}$ .

# Pre-estimation step

## Variable selection



**Method:** Train GBDT to predict  $a_{it}$  conditional on  $(w_{it}, x_{it})$ .

→ Take the  $20 \times$  variables with the highest “gain.”

Back

## Preferences and agency issues

If the technician has **risk-neutral preferences**,

$c(v) \rightarrow$  repair cost to technician

$B \rightarrow$  breakdown cost to technician

If there are **no agency issues**,

$c(v) \rightarrow$  cost of repair to firm

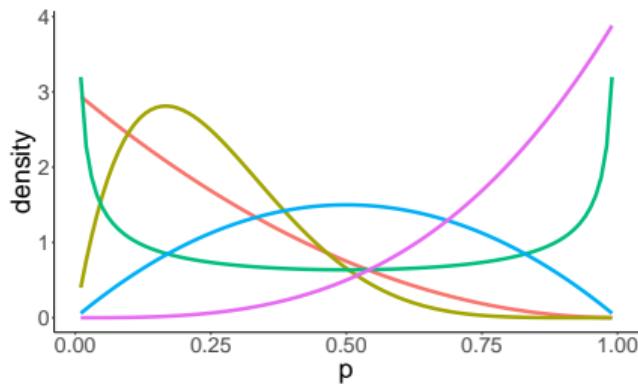
$B \rightarrow$  cost of breakdown to firm

Yet identification/estimation **do not** require these assumptions.

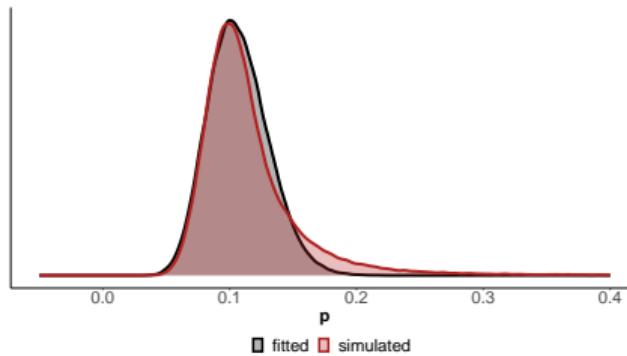
# Beta distribution

[Back](#)

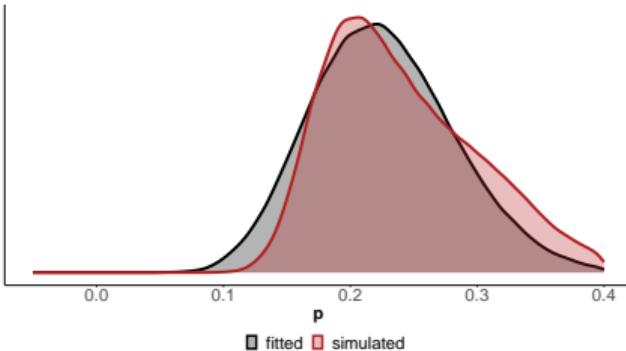
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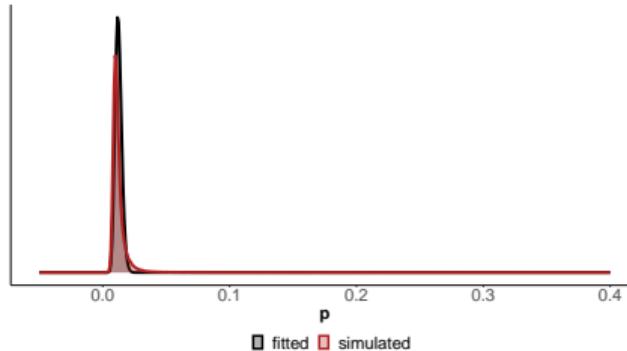
(b) Example:  $a_{it} = 0, g_{it} = 0.1, \pi_{it} = 0.014$



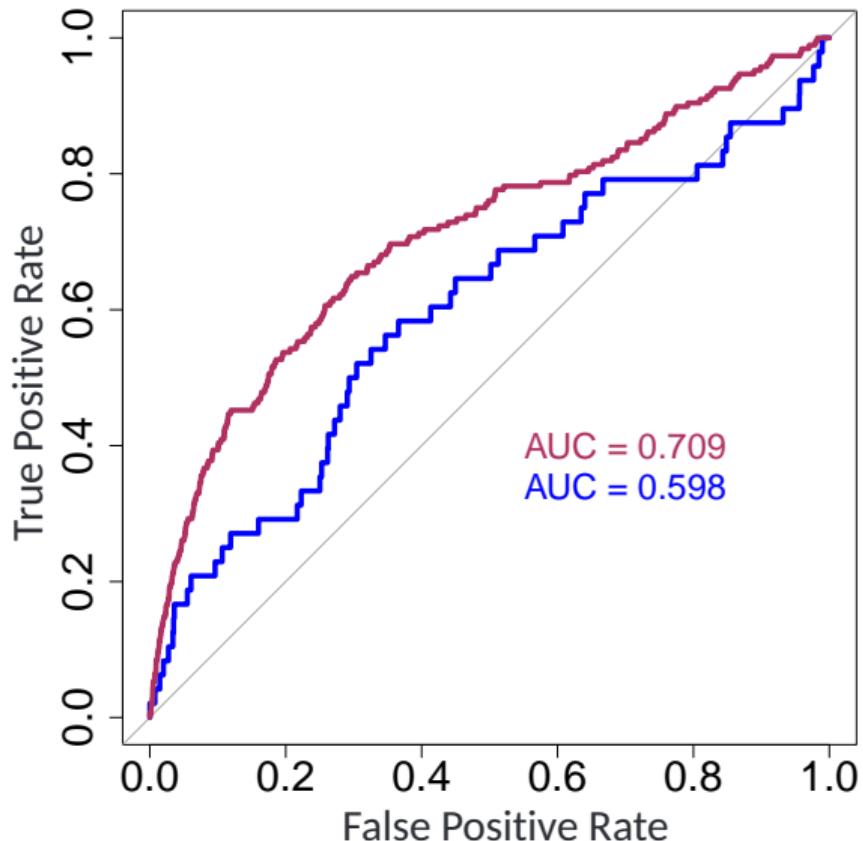
(c) Example:  $a_{it} = 0, g_{it} = 0.04, \pi_{it} = 0.05$



(d) Example:  $a_{it} = 0, g_{it} = 0.24, \pi_{it} = 0.004$



# The effect of PredictFix on technicians' predictions ( $\rho$ )



Predictor

$\hat{\rho}_{\text{pre}}$

Beliefs w/o PredictFix

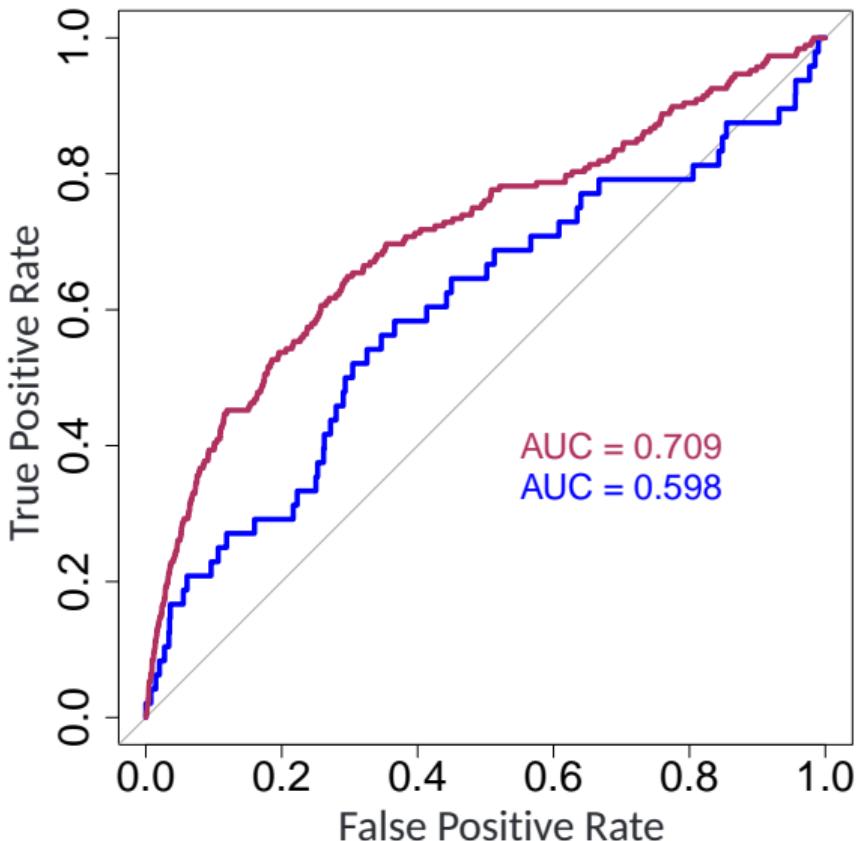
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}}$

Beliefs w/ PredictFix

Note:

- $\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}}$  strictly dominates  $\hat{\rho}_{\text{pre}}$ .

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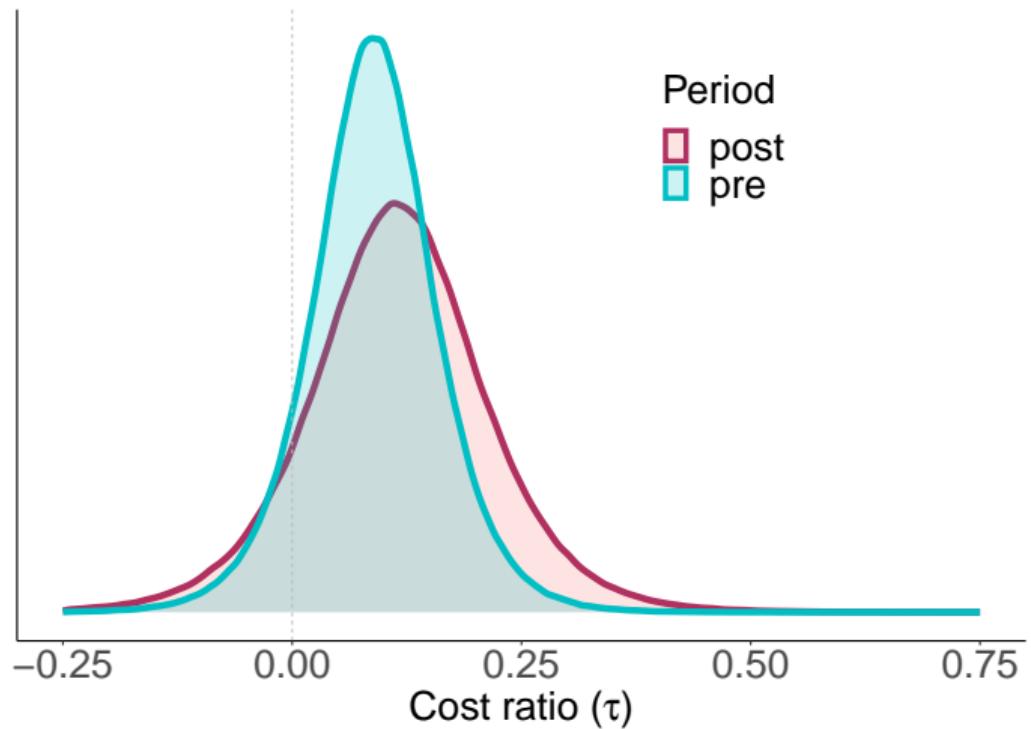


Predictor	
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{pre}}$	Beliefs w/o PredictFix
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}}$	Beliefs w/ PredictFix

## Note:

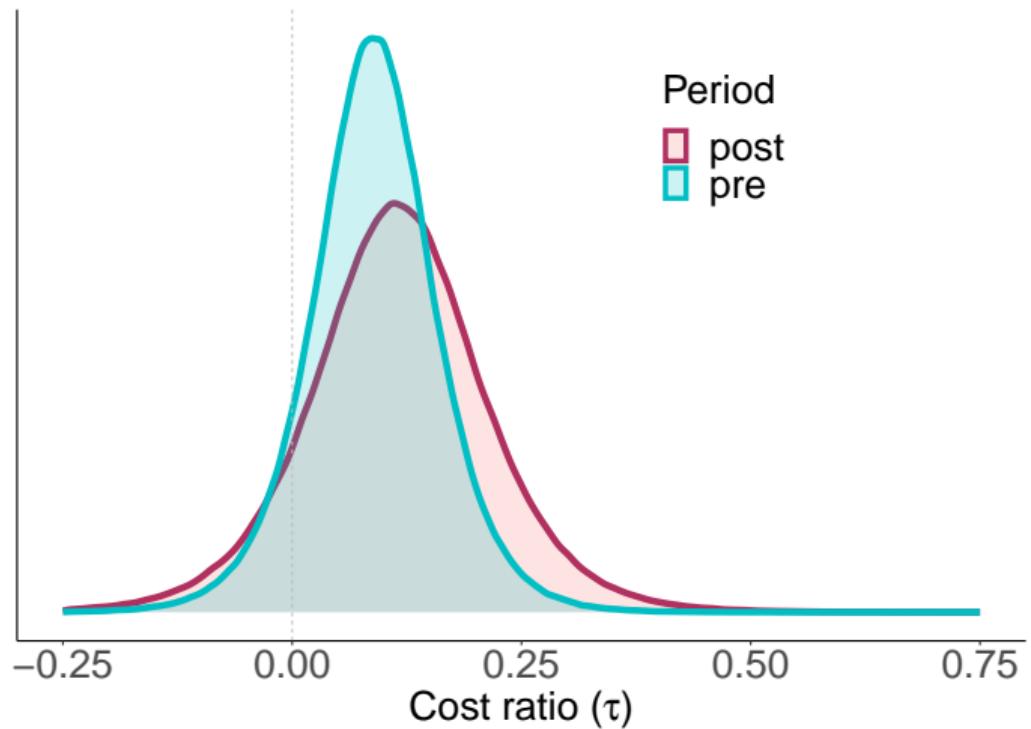
- $\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}}$  strictly dominates  $\hat{\rho}_{\text{pre}}$ .
- **Robust** to relaxation restrictions on beliefs: (1) correct on average and (2) zero lower bound.

Cost ratio ( $\tau$ ) = repair cost / breakdown cost



	Pre	Post
mean( $\tau$ )	0.0892	0.115
std. dev.( $\tau$ )	0.0718	0.102

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- Supply chain disruptions.
- Fact 5: Tangible costs ↑.
- Repair completion time ↑.

## The effect of PredictFix on technicians' beliefs

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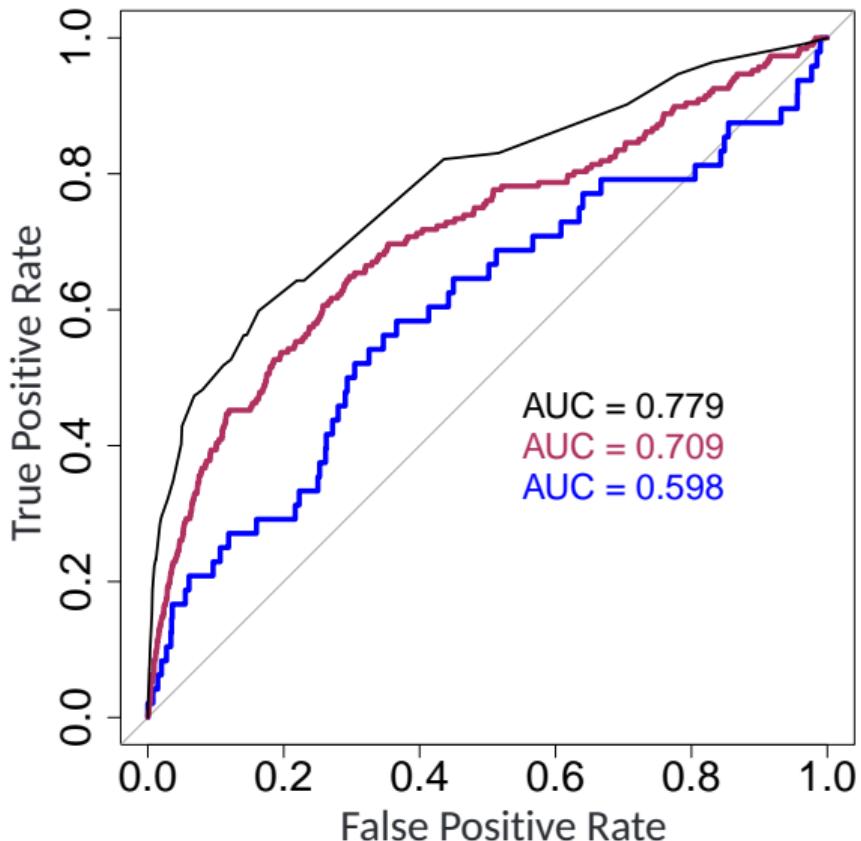
→ Is  $\hat{p}_{\text{post}}$  a better predictor of breakdowns than  $\hat{p}_{\text{pre}}$ ?

**Tool:** ROC curves.

**Table:** ROC curve specifications

Predictor	Outcome
$\hat{p}_{\text{pre}}$	Breakdowns
$\hat{p}_{\text{post}}$	Breakdowns

# The effect of PredictFix on technicians' predictions ( $\rho$ )

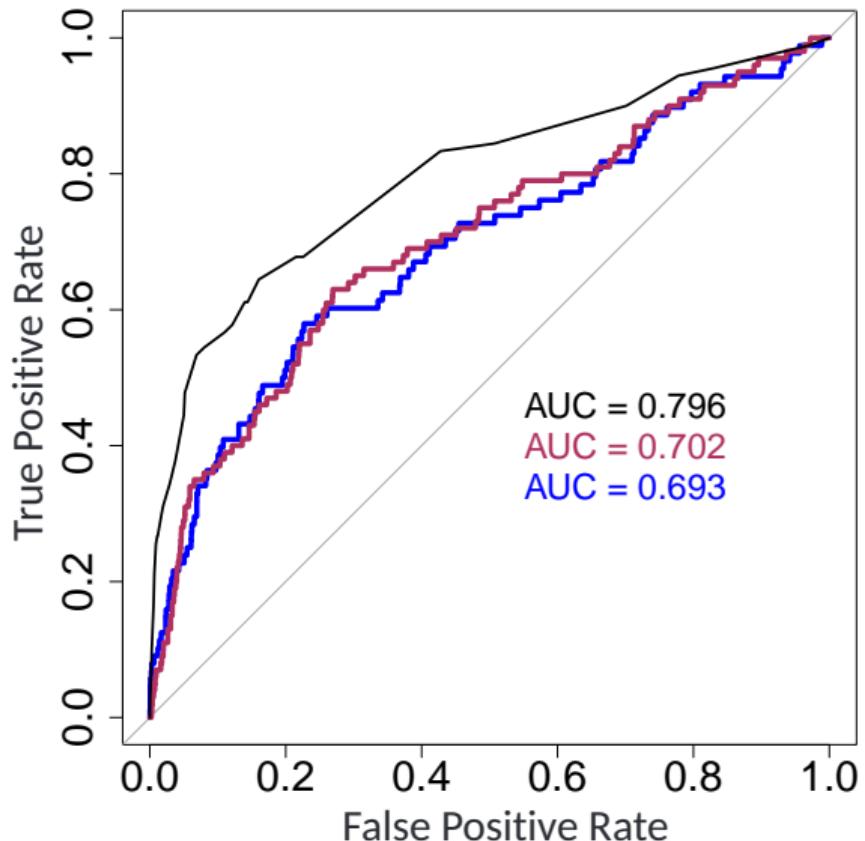


Predictor	
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{pre}}$	Beliefs w/o PredictFix
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}}$	Beliefs w/ PredictFix
$\hat{\pi}_{\text{ML}}$	Benchmark

Note:

- $\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}}$  strictly dominates  $\hat{\rho}_{\text{pre}}$ .
- Robust to relaxations of “correct on average” and “zero lower bound” assumptions.

## Differences in $\rho$ within the post period



Predictor	Beliefs
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}} \text{ (first half)}$	
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}} \text{ (second half)}$	Benchmark

Back to ROC curves

## What do we need to evaluate these counterfactuals?

- Need to know the transition process.
- Express it in terms of lower-dimensional objects:

$$g_{it+1}, \rho_{it+1}, \pi_{it+1} \mid g_{it}, \rho_{it}, \pi_{it}$$

[Details](#)

rather than

$$w_{it+1}, x_{it+1} \mid w_{it}, x_{it}$$

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- To get dollar interpretation, set value for  $B$ . A reasonable range: \$5,000-\$10,000.

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## Gaussian Mixture Regression of $y$ on $x$ (Sung (2004))

Suppose that the vector  $(x, y)$  is distributed as a mixture of  $M$  Gaussians, i.e., its pdf is

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \sum_{m=1}^M \kappa_m \phi((x, y)' ; \mu_m, \Sigma_m)$$

where  $\{\kappa_m\}$  are weights with  $\sum_{m=1}^M \kappa_m = 1$ . We estimate  $\{\kappa_m, \mu_m, \Sigma_m\}$  using the EM algorithm.

Then, the distribution of  $y$  conditional on an observed value  $x$  is

$$f_{Y|X}(y|x) = \sum_{m=1}^M \omega_m(x) \phi(x; \mu_{mX}, \Sigma_{mX})$$

where the mixing weights  $\{\omega_m\}$  are derived using Bayes' Rule:

$$\omega_m(x) = \frac{\kappa_m \phi(x; \mu_{mX}, \Sigma_{mX})}{\sum_{m'=1}^M \kappa_{m'} \phi(x; \mu_{m'X}, \Sigma_{m'X})}$$

## Counterfactual details

Joint transition process for  $(\pi_{it}, \rho_{it})$ :

- Let  $\iota_{it} = \Lambda^{-1}(\pi_{it})$ .
- $\iota_{it+1} | \iota_{it} \sim F^{\iota}(\cdot; \iota_{it}, a_{it})$ , where we estimate  $F^{\iota}$  using Gaussian mixture regression.
- Relationship between  $\iota$  and  $\rho$ : For each  $j \in \{\text{pre, post}\}$ ,

$$\pi_{it} = \Lambda\left(\phi_0^j + \phi_1^j \Lambda^{-1}(\rho_{jit}) + \zeta_{it}\right) \quad \text{or, equivalently,} \quad \rho_{jit} = \Lambda\left(\frac{\iota_{it} - \phi_0^j - \zeta_{it}}{\phi_1^j}\right)$$

where  $\zeta_{it} \sim N(0, \sigma_j)$ .

- Find  $(\phi_0^j, \phi_1^j, \sigma_j)$  such that simulation matches actual AUC and logistic regression results.

# The effect of PredictFix on technicians' predictions

**A key question:** With PredictFix, do technicians exhibit better ability to predict breakdowns?

**Tool:** ROC curves.

**Table:** ROC curve specifications

Predictor	Outcome	Sample restriction
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{pre}}$	Breakdowns	$a_{it} = 0$
$\hat{\rho}_{\text{post}}$	Breakdowns	$a_{it} = 0$
$\hat{\pi}$	Breakdowns	Test sample and $a_{it} = 0$

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[Back: ROC Curves](#)

# The effect of PredictFix on technicians' predictions ( $\rho$ )

What about miscalibration?

**Logistic regression:**

$$\Pr(\text{Breakdown}_{it} | \rho_{jit}) = \Lambda(\phi_0 + \phi_1 \Lambda^{-1}(\rho_{jit}))$$

# The effect of PredictFix on technicians' predictions ( $\rho$ )

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Logistic regression:

$$\Pr(\text{Breakdown}_{it} | \rho_{jit}) = \Lambda(\phi_0 + \phi_1 \Lambda^{-1}(\rho_{jit}))$$

	$\rho = \pi$	$\rho_{\text{pre}}$	$\rho_{\text{post}}$
$\Lambda^{-1}(\rho)$	1		
Constant	0		

# The effect of PredictFix on technicians' predictions ( $\rho$ )

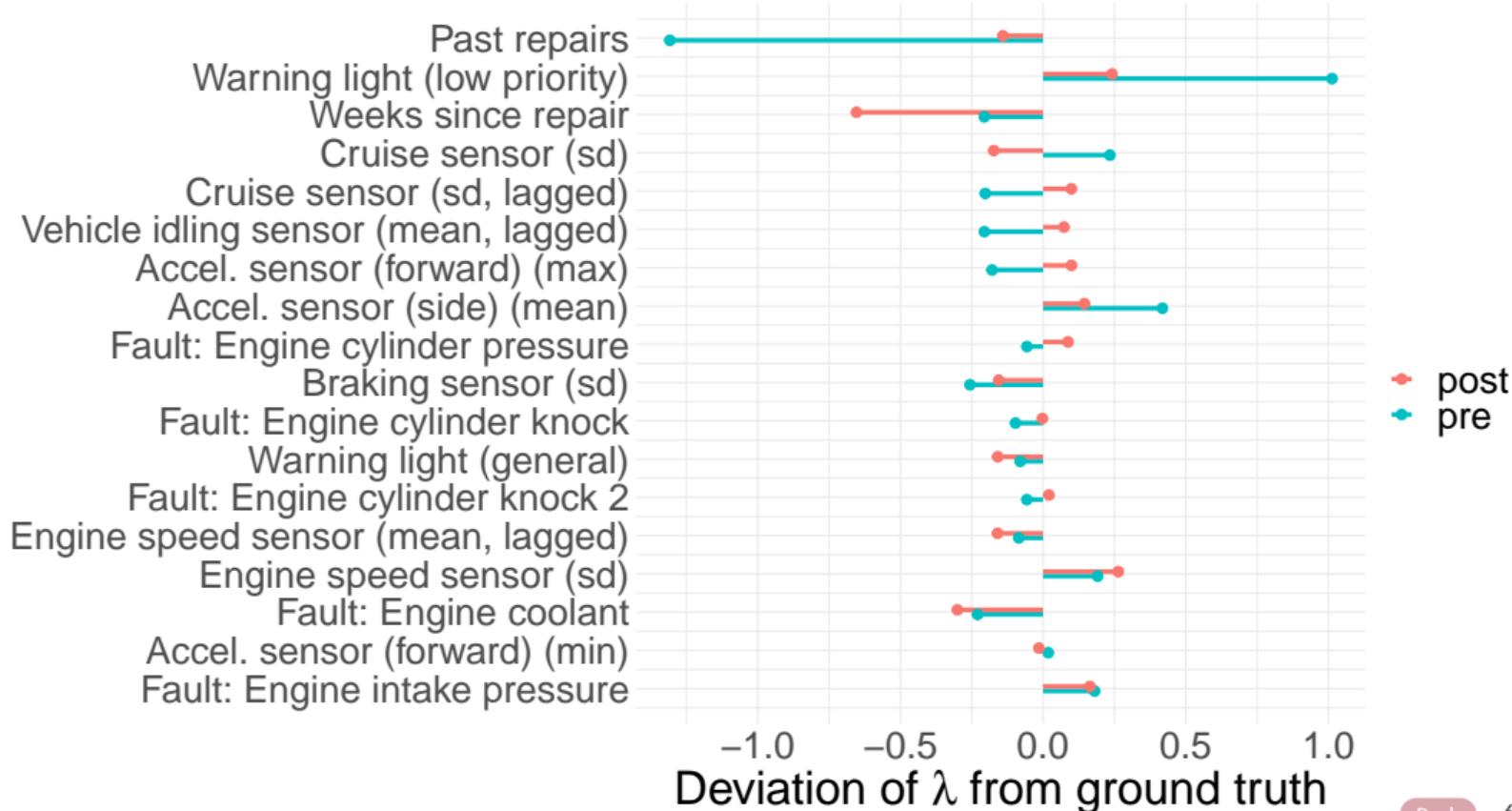
What about miscalibration?

Logistic regression:

$$\Pr(\text{Breakdown}_{it} | \rho_{jit}) = \Lambda(\phi_0 + \phi_1 \Lambda^{-1}(\rho_{jit}))$$

	$\rho = \pi$	$\rho_{\text{pre}}$	$\rho_{\text{post}}$
$\Lambda^{-1}(\rho)$	1	0.233*** (0.0435)	0.814*** (0.0764)
Constant	0	-3.198*** (0.218)	-0.817* (0.318)
N		19091	19091

# Why do technicians overestimate risk?



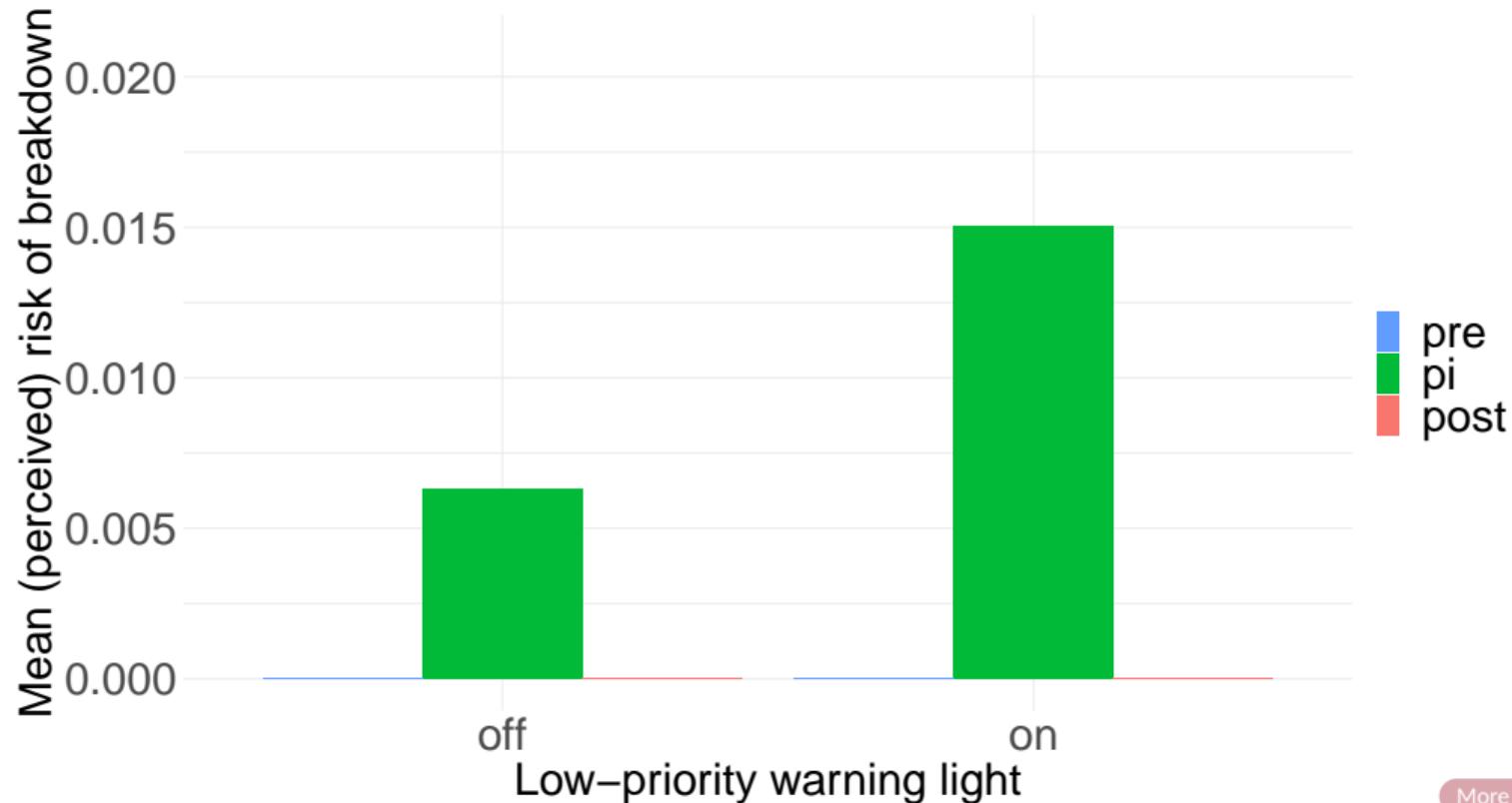
# Where do technicians make mistakes?

An illustrative example: How technicians respond to dashboard warning lights



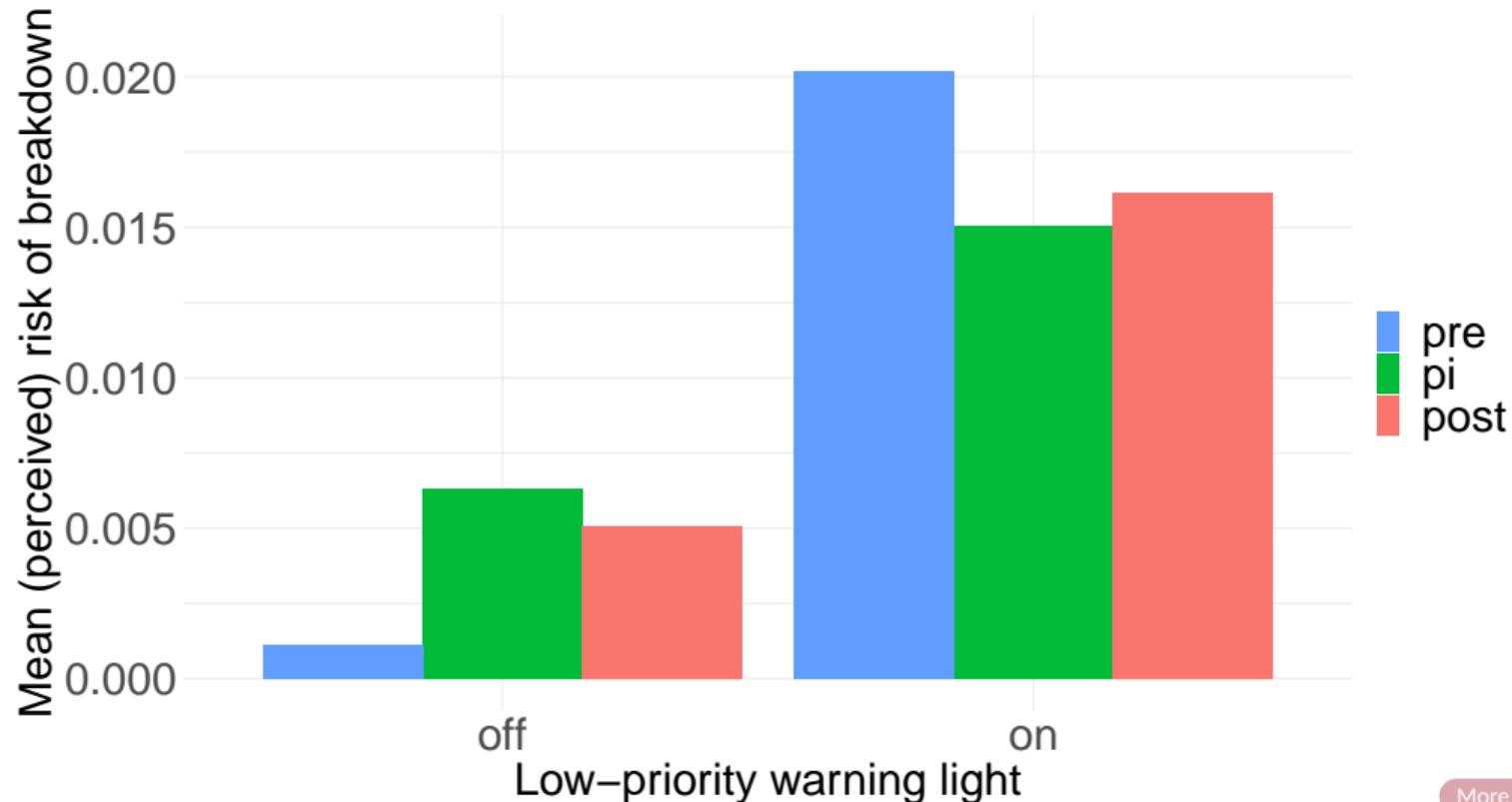
# Where do technicians make mistakes?

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