

Motivation

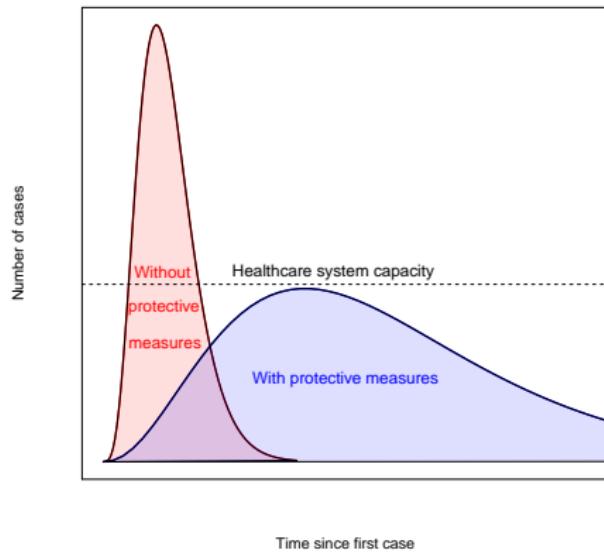
Why Risk Assessment matters?

Risk Analytics

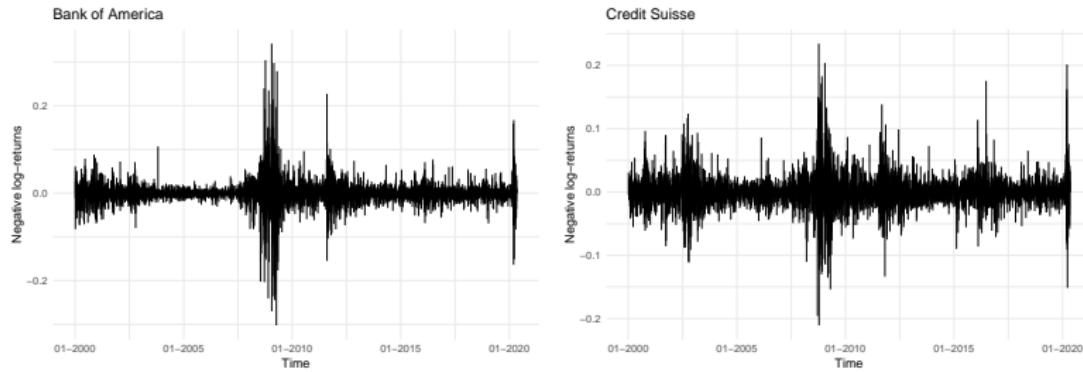
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2025

Risk Assessment Matters: Health Care Risk and Hospital Congestion



Risk Assessment Matters: Financial Risk



Source: Yahoo Finance

Risk Assessment Matters: Environmental Risk



Source: Arolla.org(left) Cieau (right)

Risk Assessment Matters: Environmental Risk → Enterprise/Insurance Risk



Source: 24 Heures (left) Good News Network (right)

Risk Assessment Matters: Cybersecurity/Terrorist Risk → Enterprise/Insurance Risk



Source: Wärtsilä (top) Business Insider (bottom)

Risk Assessment Matters:

Engineering/Technology Risk → Enterprise/Insurance Risk



Source: Welt; deepsense.ai

Challenger Disaster Case I

On January 28, 1986, at 11:38 EST (16:38 UTC) at Kennedy Space Center, Cap Canaveral, the space shuttle Challenger takes off for the last time.

This 24th launch could have been just a routine, but 73 seconds after the launch, at 14,000 meters above sea level, the shuttle suffered a tragic structural failure.



Source: earthsky.org (left) Britanica.com (right)

Challenger Disaster Case II



Source: Wikimedia Commons (left) and Wikipedia (right)

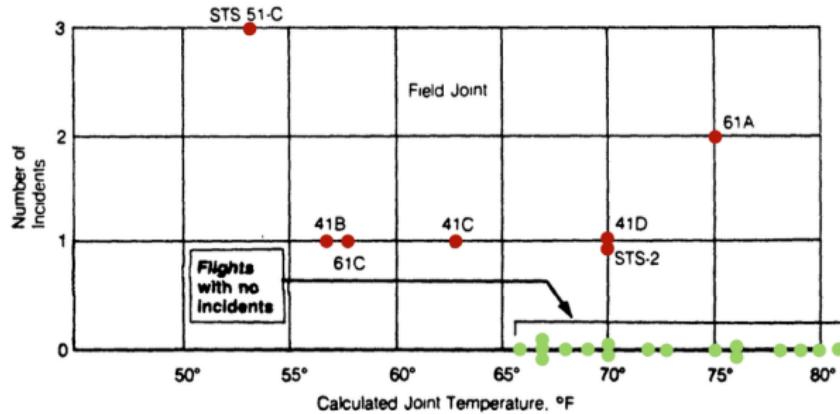
Challenger Disaster Case III: Technical and cultural/Management problems

That day, America lost for the first time, people in space.
A commission reported both technical and managerial or cultural causes:

- On the technical side, a failed o-ring seal in the right solid rocket booster caused by an exceptional cold weather (30.92° F) at launch time.
- On the cultural side, communication problems: failure to report all problems to the launch decision team. The problem of the effect of low temperature on the o-ring performance was known. However, anxious to keep their schedule, the NASA managers did not communicate this information to their superiors and decided to maintain the launch.
Unfortunately.

Challenger Disaster Case IV: NASA Data Analysis

Number of o-ring failures against temperature:



Source: Report of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident, 6 June 1986, Volume 1, page 145, color added by <https://priceconomics.com/the-space-shuttle-challenger-explosion-and-the-o/>

NASA managers excluded the flights where no failures happened.
This data selection mistake leads to “bias selection”.

Challenger Disaster Case V: Logistic Regression

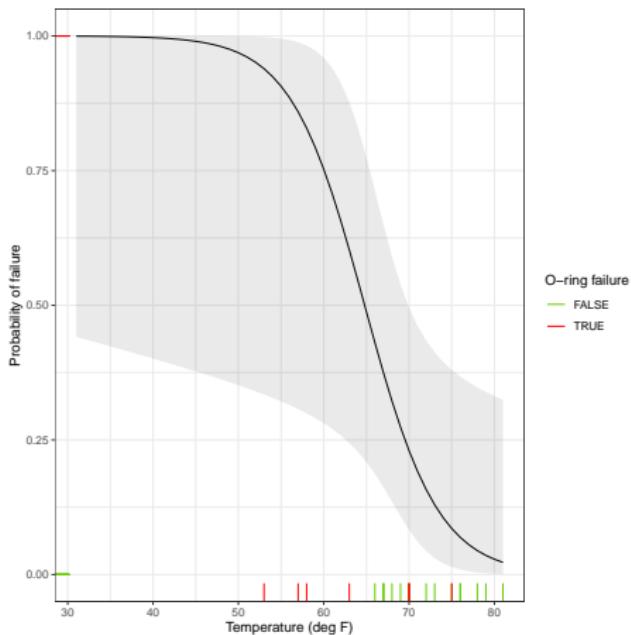
The information coming from the flights with no o-ring failure (especially happening at the lowest temperatures) should have been included !

- Logit model $\log\left(\frac{p(t)}{1-p(t)}\right) = \alpha + \beta t$ where t represents ground temperature at launch time and $p(t)$ represents the probability of O-ring failure at temperature t
- $\hat{\alpha} = 15.0429(7.3786)$ and $\hat{\beta} = -0.2322(0.1082)$
- Point estimate of a probability of failure given a certain temperature t :

$$p(t) = \frac{e^{15.0429 - 0.2322t}}{1 + e^{15.0429 - 0.2322t}}$$

- For $t = 31$, this value is bigger than 0.999 (and check uncertainty!)

Challenger Disaster Case VI: Logistic Regression Fit



Challenger Disaster Case VII: Societal Pressure

Despite the recommendation from the motor engineers, NASA ignored the risk of an O-ring failure.

The pressure to launch was the biggest enemy of this tragedy.

- Political pressure, shareholders pressure
- Public pressure: space discovery, “Teacher in Space” (Christa McAuliffe)

Along with the Space Shuttle Columbia accident on February 1, 2003, during the atmospheric re-entry phase, Challenger accident is one of the most significant in the American conquest of space.