Operational and Technical Updates to the Object Reentry Survival Analysis Tool

NASA Orbital Debris Program Office

Safety Team

J. Bacon (NASA Lead)
B. Greene
J. Marichalar
J. Opiela
C. Ostrom (Contract Lead)
M. Matney
C. Sanchez
A. Smith
R. Toledo-Burdett

Agenda

- **ORSAT History**
- **Model Updates**
- **AutoORSAT**
- **Satellite Test Case**
- **Conclusions**
- **Future Work**

ORSAT

- **Reentry risk assessments are required for all NASA missions**
  - For uncontrolled reentry, the risk of human casualty from surviving debris shall not exceed 1 in 10,000 (NASA Standard 8719.14A)

- **Object Reentry Survival Analysis Tool (ORSAT) is a high fidelity reentry model developed/maintained by the ODPO to support NASA missions**

Delta II propellant tank (Georgetown, TX, 1997)

Titanium casting of STAR-48B SRM (Saudi Arabia, 2001)

Titanium casting of STAR-48B SRM (Argentina, 2004)

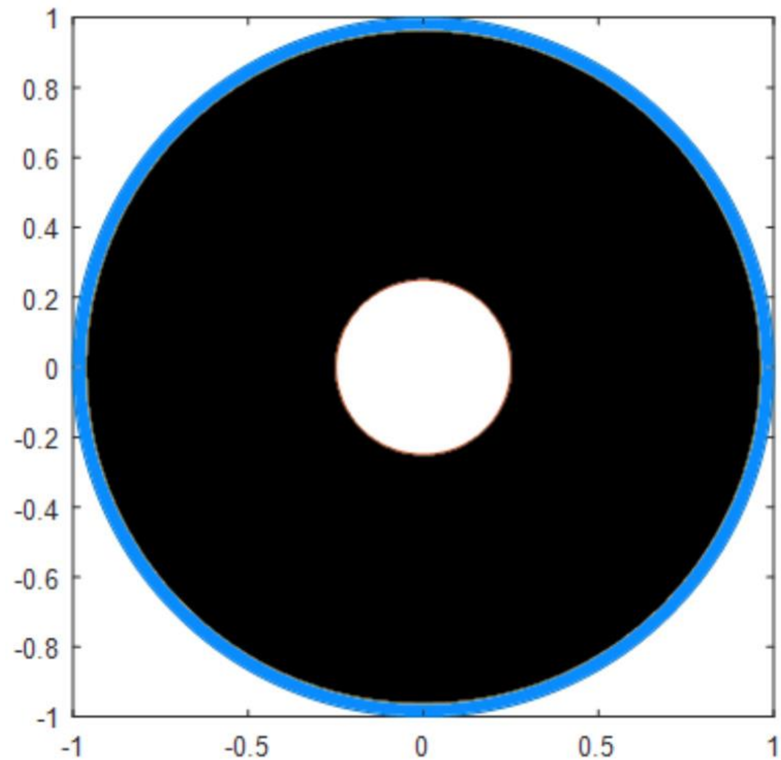
All photos courtesy The Aerospace Corporation

ORSAT History

- **Originally developed in 1994 (version 4.0) to estimate DCA for reentering satellites**
- **Version 5.X developed from 1999-2003**
- **Version 6.0 complete in 2005**
- **Version 6.1 complete in 2008**
- **Version 6.2 and 6.2.1 developed 2017-2019**

Model Updates (1/5)

- **CFRP and GFRP**
  - Previous models assumed no residual strength existed in FRP
  - Tests conducted by ODPO and others indicate that survivability is much higher [1-7]
  - Examples in the media of COPV found on the ground after reentries of spacecraft and upper stages [8-10]
  - “Two-material model” proposed in [7]
    - **If material > 1mm thick, assume fiber fraction will survive to ground**

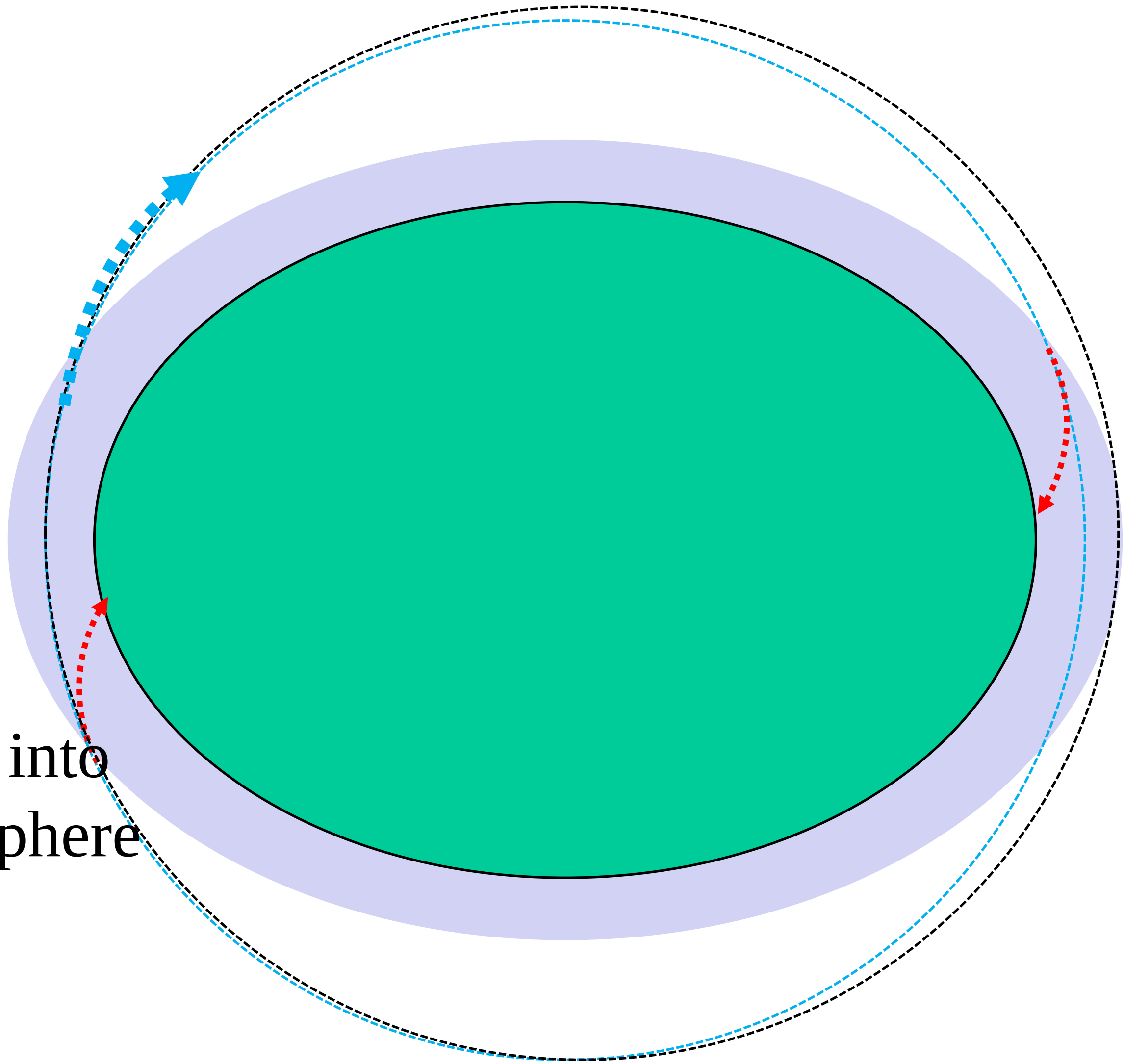


The Basic Effect:
(and why it precedes the nodal crossing)

Atmosphere “falls away” faster than decay rate for most objects that survive passage through the “wall of air”.

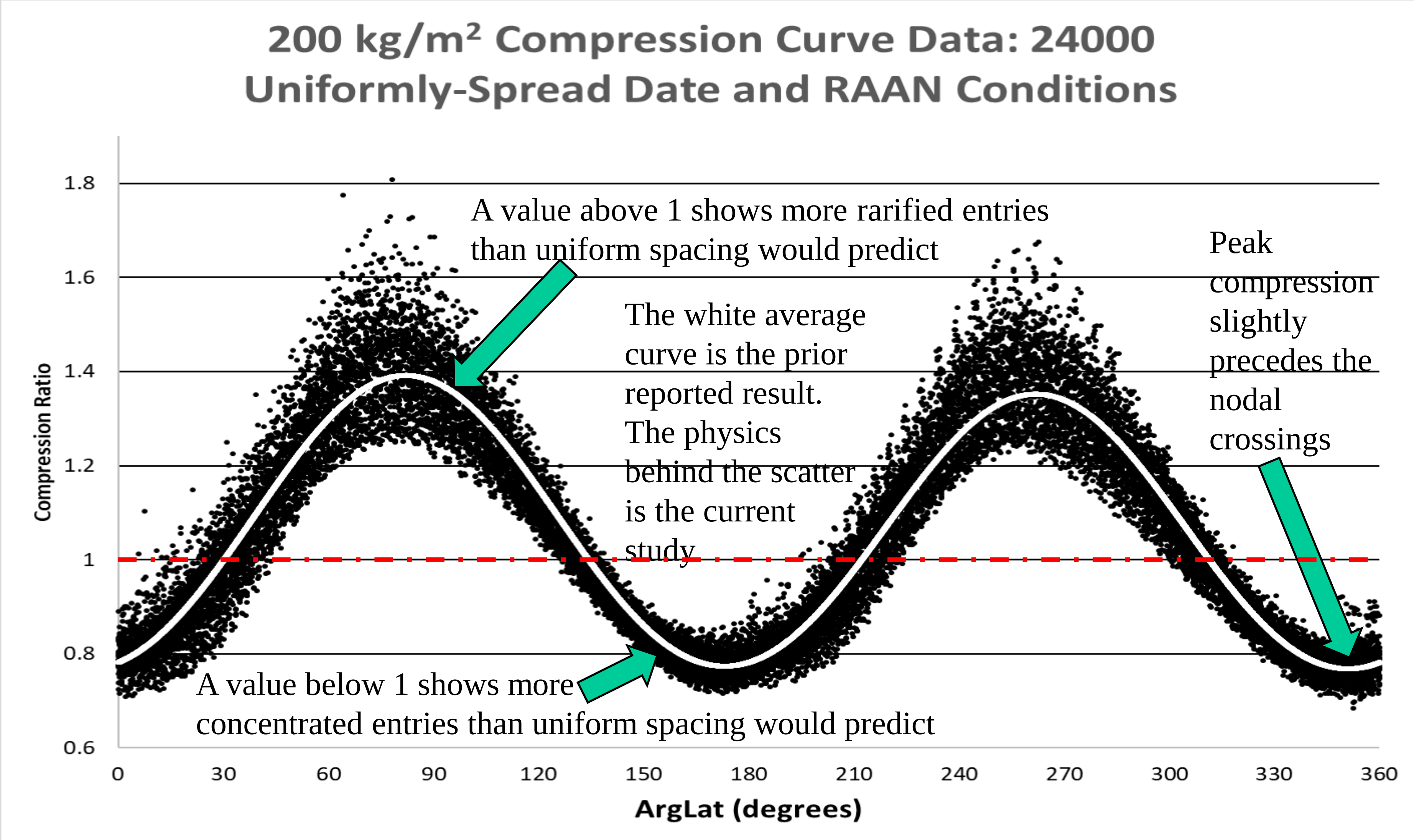
∴

Unlikely to decay in next ¼ orbit



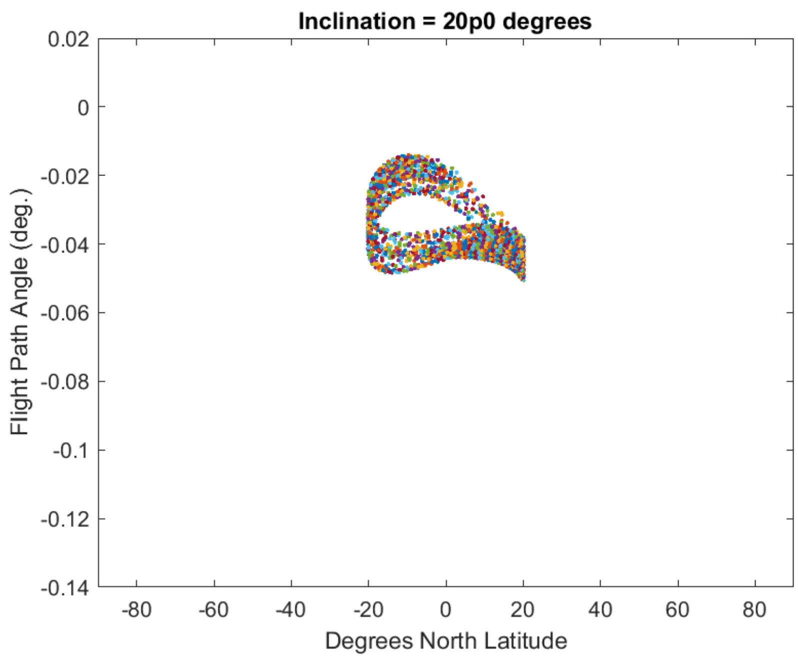
Objects that survive the previous pass have perigee near equator, and rapidly-rising density on the approach

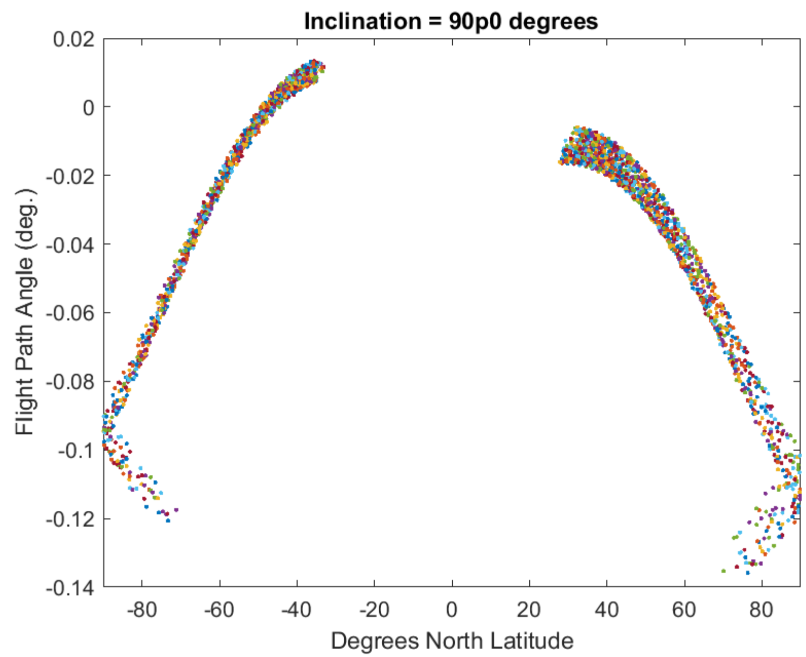
When Ratio'ed to Uniform Spacing, the Spacings of Entry ArgLats Make a "Compression Curve"



Model Updates (2/5)

- **Entry Conditions**
  - Research over past 15-20 years indicates that reentry is not equally likely in time around an orbit (“latitude bias”) [11-16]
  - This bias also creates a bias in conditions at entry interface [17]
  - Effect is not same with varying inclination (or season, or beta) [18]





Model Updates (3/5)

- **Breakup altitude**
  - "Standard" ORSAT assumption is that spacecraft and rocket bodies breakup at 78 km (42 nmi) altitude, based on an Aerospace report [19]
  - Same report suggests that catastrophic breakup occurs when surface radiative equilibrium temperature reaches melting point of structure
  - New ORSAT functionality allows for computation of breakup altitude based on this criterion for each set of entry conditions
  - Objects may now breakup >78km (CubeSats), others lower (steel frames)

Model Updates (4/5)

- **Radiation models**
  - ORSAT 6.0 used "Jones-Park" [20]
  - ORSAT 6.1 added both "Tauber-Sutton" [21] and the program QRAD [22-23]
  - All these models produce minimal effects on entries from circular LEO

Model Updates (5/5)

- **Atmosphere model**
  - MSISe-90 was upgraded to NRLMSISE-00 for analysis of controlled entries

- **DCA Update**
  - New model only requires area of object (previous Opiela-Matney model required both area and perimeter [24])
  - RMSE 1% better with new model

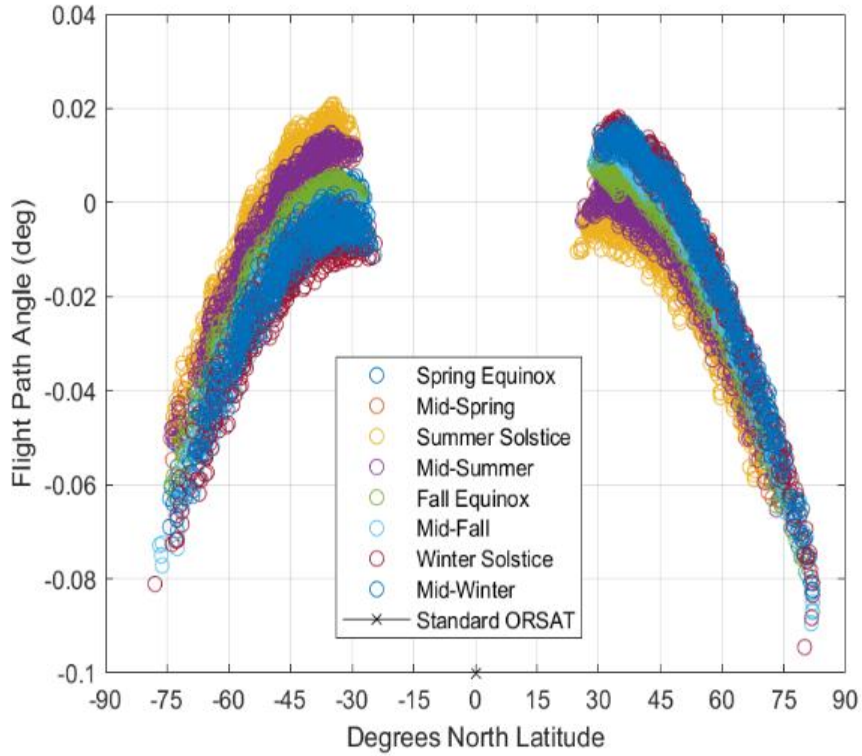
- **Source code**
  - Upgraded from F77 to F95
  - Removed parametric study functionality from within ORSAT proper
  - Improved file IO – new “speed mode”

AutoORSAT

- **Python wrapper developed by Greene and Smith [24]**
- **Improved parametric study capability**
  - ORSAT internal function could only do univariate studies
  - Parallel processing
- **Allows simplification of ORSAT code**
  - Use Fortran for heavy lifting, python for “accounting”
- **Combined with computer cluster, >100K runs per hour**
  - Cf. ORSAT 6.0 – 1 run in ~3-6 hours

Satellite Test Case (1/)

- **1100 kg S/C**
  - 150 unique components
- **98.0° inclination**
- **8640 trajectories simulated in GMAT to generate the entry conditions**
  - Varying time of year, RAAN, dithered BC
- **"Standard" ORSAT analysis for comparison**

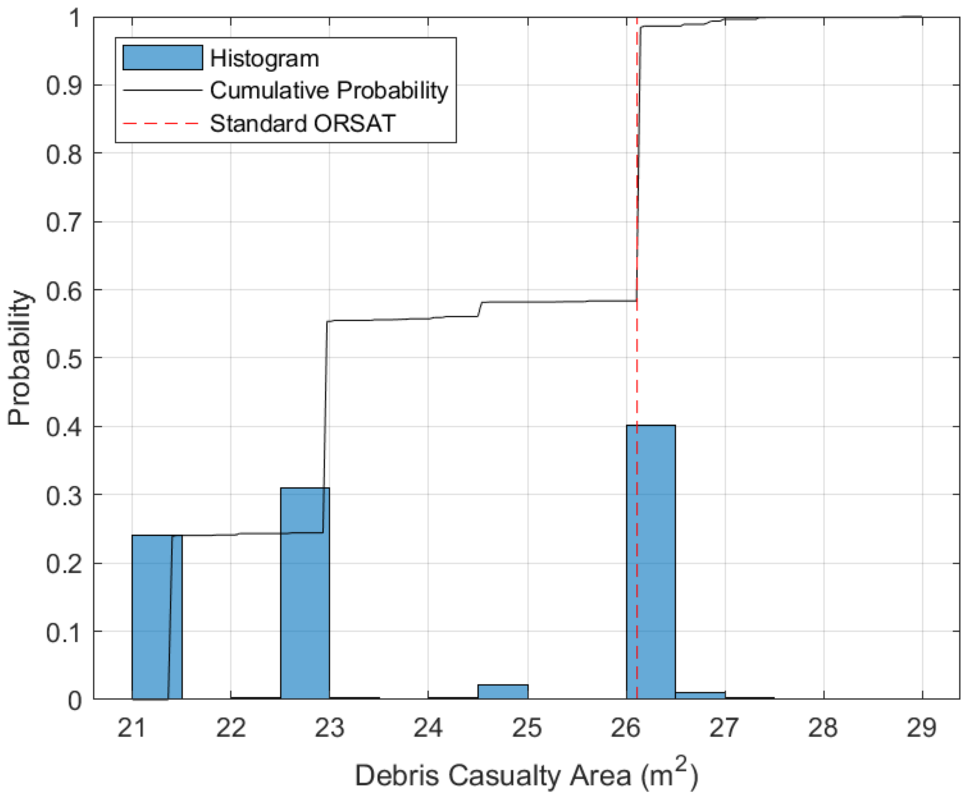


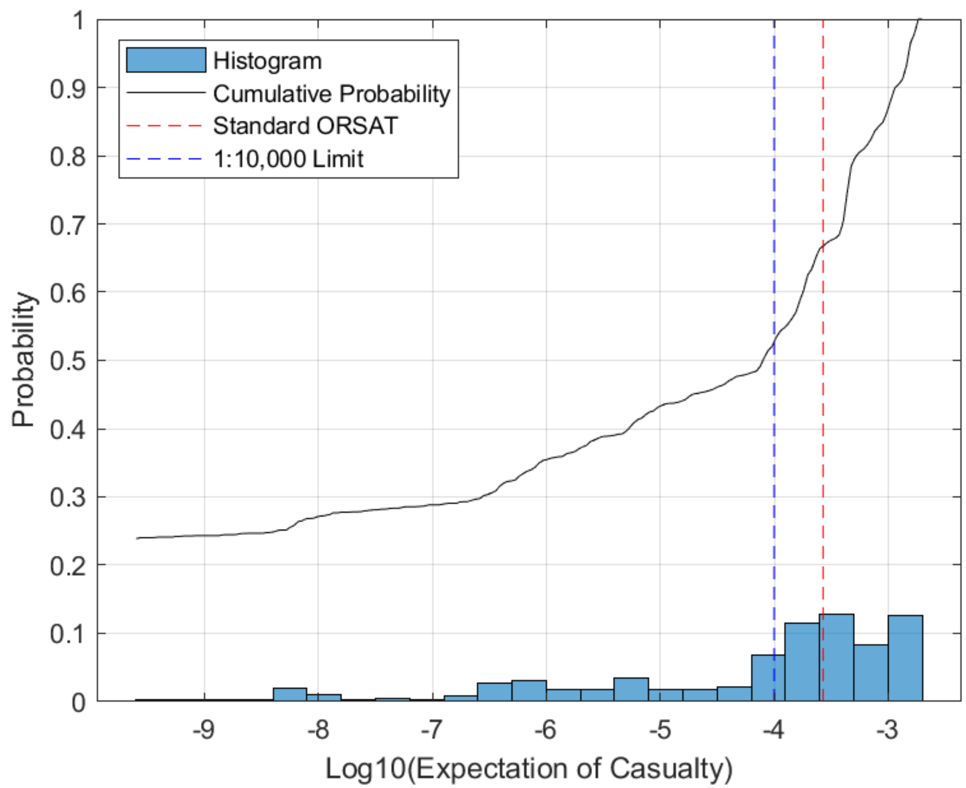
Satellite Test Case (2/)

- **STD ORSAT**
  - 43 surviving components
  - 26 m^2 DCA
  - Ec 1:2700 (using equal temporal likelihood-based population density)

- **AutoORSAT**
  - DCA between 21-29 m^2, depending on conditions
  - Ec depends on where objects land (latitude binning)
  - Average Ec 1:3300
  - Median Ec better than 1:10K (Compliant?)
  - Worst Ec ~1:500

Satellite Test Case (3/)





Conclusions

- **ORSAT 6.2.1 up to 100x faster than v6.0 (single-thread)**
- **AutoORSAT allows for significant exploration of parametric space**
- **Simplification and update allows for faster development going forward and more robust code**

Future Work

- **Design-for-demise (D4D)**
  - Sensitivity to breakup altitude (see Lips [25])
- **Statistics!**
  - Ability to quickly see effects of each parameter (which to ignore and which to refocus on)
- **Improving FRP ablation/demise models**
- **Hollow object modeling**
  - Currently all objects treated as solid, but with less area if hollow
  - New models for transitional flow being developed (see Marichalar [26])

Questions

Thanks for your time!

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7. 10th IAASS – "Demisability of Various Reinforced Polymer Components of Reentering Orbital Debris: Phase I Test Results"
8. https://www.campograndenews.com.br/cidades/objeto-que-caiu-em-chacara-e-tanque-de-combustivelestrangeiro-diz-aeb
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14. 7th ESDC – “Fast Re-Entry Deorbitation with Acceptable Risk Level”
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21. Tauber and Sutton. “Stagnation-Point Radiative Heating Relations for Earth and Mars Entries”
22. Page et al. “Radiative Transport in Inviscid Nonadiabatic Stagnation-Region Shock Layers“, 1968
23. JSC-26059 – “User's Manual for QRAD Entry Radiation Program”
24. 1st IOC – “Development and Analysis of the Automated Object Reentry Survival Analysis Tool’s Parametric Study Wrapper
25. 10th IAASS – “Probabilistic Casualty Risk Assessment and Labeling for the Re-Entry of Spacecraft Components”
26. 1st IOC – “Estimating Drag and Heating Coefficients for Hollow Reentry Objects in Transitional Flow Using DSMC”