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GC Analytics™



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# Cat Modeling Uncertainty Mind the Gap

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#### Mind The Gap

### Agenda

- CAS Antitrust Statement & Housekeeping
- Cat Models Matter, but Differ
  - Is there a "gap"? Does it matter?
- Modeling Uncertainty, in Theory
  - Define and quantify
- Modeling Uncertainty/Bias, in Practice
  - Data matters a lot
  - Models not total representation
- Multiple Model usage
  - Incorporate all knowledge
  - Avoid analysis paralysis
- Wrap-up

Essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful.

George E. P. Box (statistician, past president American Statistical Assn)

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#### **Antitrust Notice**

& Housekeeping

#### CAS Antitrust Notice

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#### Housekeeping

- Opinions expressed herein are, at best, presenters' opinions, and may not even be that
- Opinions expressed herein are **not** opinions of the CAS or the presenters' employers
- Use of Jargon:
  - Speak up
  - Ask for definition

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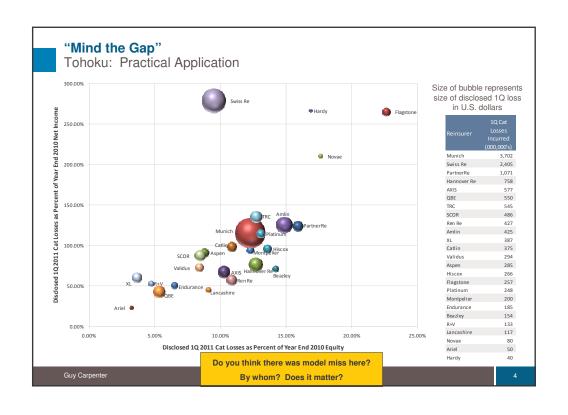
#### Thesis: Models Matter, but . . .

Watch For Delusional Exactitude

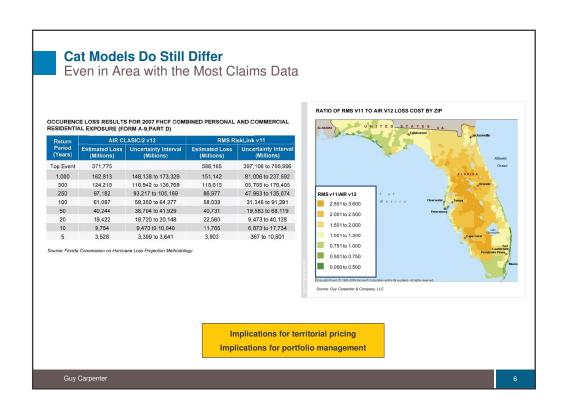
"...the tendency to imagine that models provide precise numbers that can be used to diversify or price catastrophic risk; these risks, by their very nature, defy exact measurement."

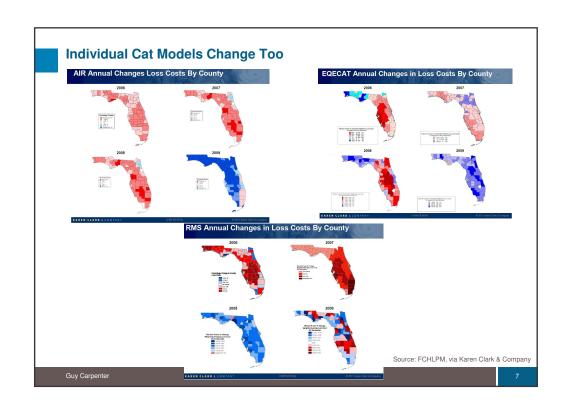
> William I. Riker, (retired) President, Renaissance Holdings Exposure Magazine, Summer 2004, p. 11.

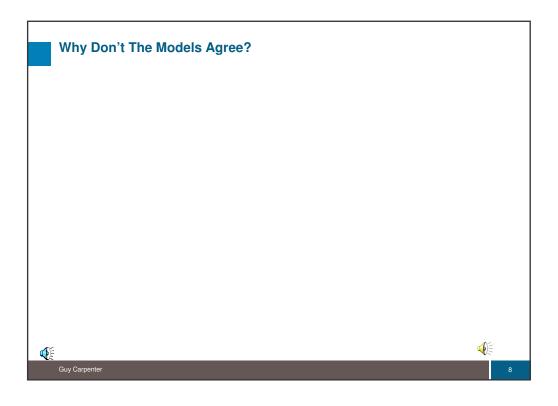
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#### **Modeling Uncertainty**

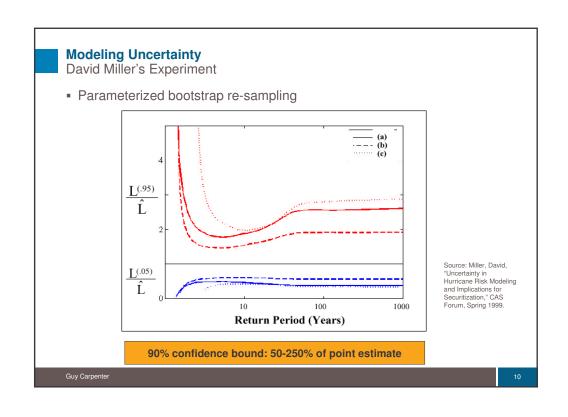
Sources

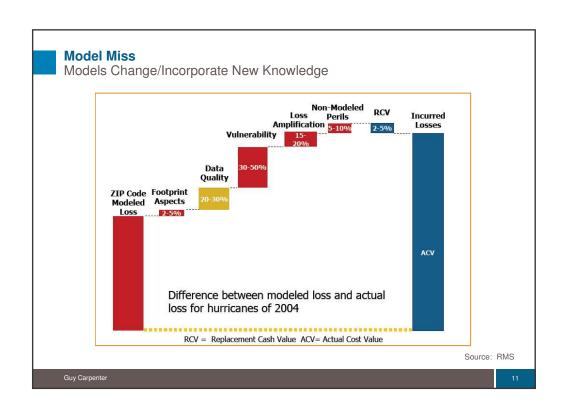
- Uncertainty (not randomness)
  - Sampling Error
    - 100 years for hurricane
  - Specification Error
    - $^{\rm o}$  FCHLPM sample dataset (1996) 1 in 100 OEP of 31m, 38m, 40m & 57m w/ 4 models
  - Non-sampling Error
    - El Nino Southern Oscillation
  - Knowledge Uncertainty
    - Time dependence, cascading, aseismic shift, poisson/negative binomial
  - Approximation Error
    - Original Res Re cat bond: 90% confidence interval, process risk only, of +/- 20%, per modeling firm

Source: Major, John A., "Uncertainty in Catastrophe Models," Financing Risk and Reinsurance, International Risk Management Institute, Feb/Mar 1999.

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#### **Model Miss**

Models Inputs Matter: Underinsurance

Table 1: Comparison of Replacement Values for Representative Properties

	Occupancy	Con- struction	Approx. Gross Area (sq. ft.)	Replacement Value		
				Company Provided Value	AIR Estimate	Ratio
The A	Hotel	Wood Frame	30,000	\$1,692,702 i.e., \$56/sq ft	\$3,509,831	48%
	Retail	Masonry	100,000	\$1,243,816 i.e., \$12/sq ft	\$8,484,046	15%

Overall, nine out of ten commercial properties analyzed had replacement values less than the amount estimated using a standard engineering-based cost estimation process.

AIR, Nov. 2005

- 58 percent of US homes underinsured last year by an average 21%
  - Marshall & Swift/Boeckh, quoted in USA Today, Nov. 1, 2007
- Reconstruction often more expensive than replacement
  - www.nationwide.com/underinsurance.jsp
- Model calibration will pick some underinsurance

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#### **Data Matters**

Policy Capture: The Basic Building Block

- How many policy systems?
- Stat record vs. policy systems
- Manual policies
- Written by foreign office
- Geography
  - All States? Coastal states?
  - States captured for New Madrid?
  - Northwest?
- Lines of business:
  - APD, IM, Floaters, DW Fire
  - Watercraft, Yatchs, Offshore
- New programs, acquisitions
- Business Unit Compliance

Did you capture the policy?

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#### **Data Matters**

From Policy System to Model Input

- Model exception report: Read It
  - geocoded/not geocoded
  - imported/not imported
- Bulk coding on multi-location policies
- Building location/billing location
- Endorsements, sublimits, exclusions
- Construction
  - ISO fire mappings
  - Mixed construction
  - Year built
- HPR, Excess, Blankets
- Secondary Modifiers
  - Lake Wobegon?

Did you model the policy appropriately?

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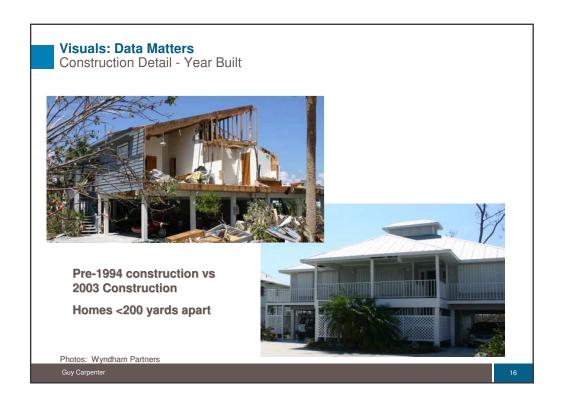
### **Visuals: Data Matters**

Boat Storage Hangar - Contents Matter

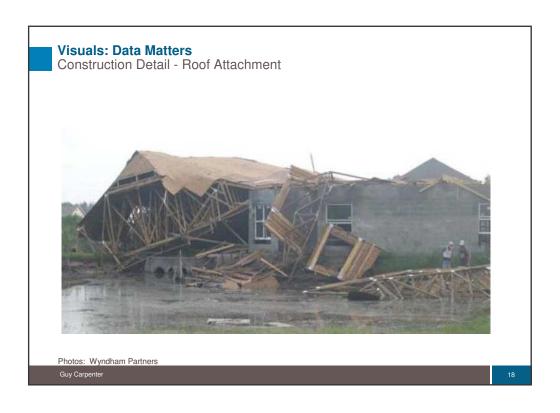


Photo: Wyndham Partners

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## **Models Not Total Representation**

Model Miss (besides data issues)

- How was model run?
- Loss adjustment expense
  - vary by size of loss
  - HU vs EQ vs other
  - employee vs TPA
- Pool assessments
- Insolvency assessments
- Flood (partial, maybe)
- Inland wind (partial)
- Contingent Business Interruption
  - \$1b CBI claim (policy sub-limit) by one insured in Tohoku
- Local ordinances
  - Red flagging, etc
- Non-property lines: WC, Liability, A&H, (Group) Life, LTD, etc.

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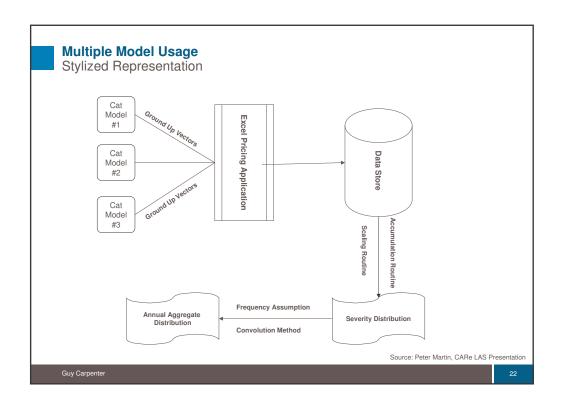
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#### **Multiple Model Usage**

Incorporating Knowledge

- Standard control theory tells a decision maker how to make optimal decisions when his model is correct. The post-modern control theorist regards his model as an *approximation* to an *unknown and unspecified model* that he thinks actually generates the data. He seeks *robust* decision rules and estimators that work over a *set* of models *near* his approximating model."
  - L. P. Hansen and T. J. Sargent, Robustness (2007)
- Adjust model output
  - scalar/vector/non-linear function
  - by region/peril/business unit/etc
  - by layer
- Multiple models (cost vs return issue)
  - Some form of model averaging
    - of results or of inputs?
  - Or primary model with secondaries as modifiers
    - Different primary by region
- Implications for portfolio management

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### **Conclusions**

- Cat Model Distributions Vary
  - More than one point estimate useful
  - Point estimates may not be *significantly* different
  - Uncertainty not insignificant but not insurmountableWhat about uncertainty before cat models?
- Data Inputs Matter
  - Not mechanical process
  - Creating model inputs requires many decisions
  - User knowledge and expertise critical
- Judgment Unavoidable
  - Actuaries well-versed here