A New Era in Turbulence Prediction - Rapid ML Iterations and Data Validations



## Flights are busier than ever

# **9.4**B Travelers expected in 2024





Global Passenger Numbers (in billions) vs. Year

<u>Source: ACI</u>



Ride quality is getting worse

**55%** Increase in Clear Air Turbulence





Clear-air turbulence trends over the North Atlantic in high-resolution climate models, Paul Williams, March 2023



## Recent **Turbulence Impact**

#### 7 hurt after Lufthansa flight experiences 'significant turbulence' and diverts to Washington, D.C., area

The plane was flying from Austin, Texas, to Frankfurt, Germany, on Wednesday when it experienced severe turbulence over Tennessee, the FAA said.

#### WORLD NEWS



#### **Passengers feared it was 'the end' as Qatar Airways flight hit extreme** turbulence: 'I'm still shivering'

By Olivia Land Published May 27, 2024 | Updated May 27, 2024, 8:46 a.m. ET



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#### **BUSINESS INSIDER**

Airlines to tighten seatbelt rules and use AI to predict turbulence after Singapore Airlines incident, Emirates boss says



At least 18 passengers were hosp with seven in critical condition. 0:17 / 1:10 



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#### The Problem

- Ride quality is getting worse 1
- Turbulence is hard to predict 2
  - Subgrid problem (predicting 100m-scale phenomena using models with ulletkilometer-scale resolution)
  - Multiple causes: Turbulence can arise from various causes (e.g. clear-air  $\bullet$ turbulence, mountain-wave turbulence, convectively induced turbulence), each with its own set of governing dynamics
  - Hard to spot (not visible via sat / radar)  $\bullet$
  - Not enough observations ullet



SkyPath is Redefining

# Ride Quality

Harness the collective power of live **crowdsourced turbulence data**, seamlessly fused with an **Al-generated turbulence forecast**, for unparalleled safe and informed flying













Patented algorithm tracks ipad accelerometers

A/C normalization, Noise filtering and AI

Software only solution, No Aircraft integration needed.



# How It Works



Data is disributed to all ecosystem users



7

# SkyPath Data







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# **SkyPath Numbers**

**4B** Turbulence Reports (10X YoY increase)

+12M

**Turbulence Notifications** 

**20K** Submitted PIREPs



Number of turbulence reports and PIREPs submissions across the entire SkyPath ecosystem







# **Global Coverage - Growth**

## 2021, 24 hours



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### 2024, 24 hours



# We started with the following hypothesis

Building a Machine Learning Model from the <u>ground up</u> with the vast amount of SkyPath data and atmospheric conditions can yield great results







Turbulence Reports







Atmospheric Conditions



Machine Learning Model

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# Nowcasting

Short-Term Turbulence Prediction



# Meteorological Parameters

- Raw meteorological parameters wind shear, temperature, wind speed, and pressure, etc.
- More complex parameters including topography, land cover, climate belts, and thermodynamic potentials
- Stitching multiple NWP models
- To date, the model uses hundreds of parameters
- It covers all types of turbulence and causes



# Data Science Principles

- Developed an adaptive machine learning model that automatically improves using new observations and adjusts to meteorological changes
- Real time data assimilation
- Frequent training (adaptation to climate change)
- Prediction every 1 hour
- Climate centric post process mechanism





Iterative Approach:

Perfecting Turbulence Prediction









### **UX** Perspective

## Thinking about the users is as important as the data science

- Sweet spot High Resolution VS Actionable 10X10 NM hexagons
- Color coded Light / Mod / Mod-Occ-Sev







#### Visual and vocal notifications to notify the crew





## Nowcasting Results

One snapshot out of many

Predicts very well – validated by the observations in real time 90% accuracy







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## SkyPath Nowcasting in the field

Investigations of recent turbulence events show consistent hits on realworld events.

In all of these events SkyPath Nowcasting had pre-existing information on turbulence which could potentially have averted the event





May 2024



May 2024



May 2024



Mind blown! Thank you for this app. Used it yesterday for the first time and within 10 minutes I realized there was no reason to ask ATC for a ride report. Just like Google Maps and Waze crowd-sourced traffic data, this app is a great tool

A320 Captain



Love the app. I've found it to be the most accurate tool I have for predicting turbulence



# Q&A Thank you

Just wanted to let you know that the SkyPath app is excellent! I love the app because it's real time and allows you the ability to select rides. This is one of the best tools we have!



**B737 First Officer** 



