# Passing loop collision risk



Extended overlaps as control

Regional overlaps 1a

# Assessment of overlaps



- Risk model for passing loops
- Cases (size of problem):
  - head on collision (2 scenarios)
  - head to tail (2 scenarios)
- Context of tolerable risk
- Longer overlap as control?
  - Effectiveness
  - Added risk

## Risk model

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#### Bow tie swiss cheese model (after Reason)





#### Head on collision at passing loop



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#### Follow on collision at passing loop





#### Follow on collision at mid-lane signal





#### Head on collision with simultaneous SPAD



### Problem in context



### Tolerable risk (UK)



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# Solution? - extended overlaps

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## • Does it work?:

- Train which sees signal at stop can apply brakes and stop safety
- Though line capacity reduced by approx 10%

## • What proportion of residual risk is thus controlled?

- Do drivers subject to "disregard" stop in braking distance of signal?
- Violet Town (?)
- Beresford (?)
- Few SPADs known where this mechanism has been proved effective

## Risks associated with new control

- Reason: "dangerous defences" (Agincourt)
- AWS at Ladbroke (too much of a good thing)

### A medical case

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### Morbus horibilis - prognosis



# Rail case

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## Accident scenario

- Train sees signal at stop and stop
- Driver applies the rules to pass the signal and proceed forward
- Train collides with train in section
- Too much confidence?

### Noted cases

- Glenfield (NSW 1999)
- Holmesglen (Vic 2000)
- Aircraft (Vic 1999)
- Syndal (Vic 1989)
- Ringwood (Vic 1989)
- South Dynon (Vic 1986)

# Conclusion

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# • The problem of head on collision

- By providing 300m overlap, 94-98% SPADs are contained
- Remaining trains do not reliably stop within extended overlap
- Residual risk: one collision in 780-2300 years gives risk possibly a little higher than average risk on rail in Britain
- The problem of head to tail collision
  - By providing 300m overlap, 94-98% SPADs are contained
  - Residual risk: one collision in 1.4 million years
- Extended overlap as control?
  - Gives driver a last chance to apply brakes safely
  - Reduces line capacity by approx 10%
- Risk associated with this control
  - History of drivers confidently entering occupied sections and colliding