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TORONTO

**Engineering**

**Long term asset procurement  
strategies**

# Background

- Some projects are very large and span a long timeline
  - Infrastructure, military
- While projects are underway, the world continues to move forward
  - The plans we make may become obsolete during the project
- Factors affected by project duration
  - Scope
  - Exposure to risk
- Continuation of project started by previous student

# Two directions

## Probability distributions

- What are the likely values of projects of different durations?
- Select parameters for exploration
- Simulate uncertainty factors
- Generate distribution

## Duration indifference

- What values do the projects need to have to be the same as each other?
- Compute expected values of different project lengths
- Find the relative value of indifference



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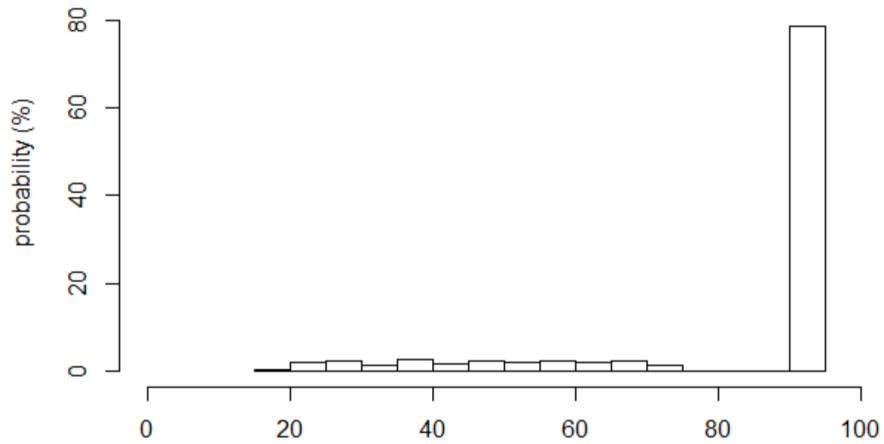
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# Part I: Probability distributions

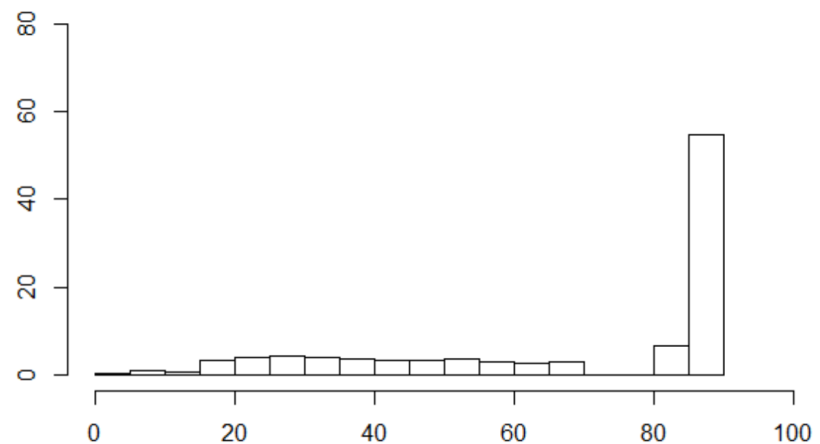
# Problem setup

- Uncertainty parameters:
  - Annual depreciation  $U[0.01, 0.02]$
  - Annual probability of catastrophic event 0.05
  - Percentage of project value lost in the event of a catastrophic event  $U[0.2, 0.8]$
- Project durations of interest:
  - 5, 10, 20
- Only permit 1 instance of step loss per project
- 1000 replications each

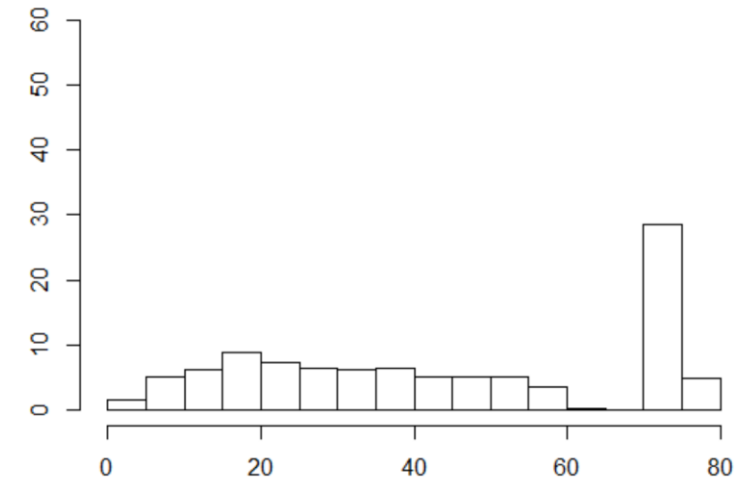
# Results



5 year project



10 year project



20 year project



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## **Part II: Duration indifference**

# How do we equate two projects of different length?

- *“How much does a short project have to be worth in order to be equivalent to a longer project?”*
- Considering 5, 10 and 20-year projects
  - Relative values of projects to make them the same net present value
- Parameters
  - Annual depreciation 1%
  - Annual probability of step event 5%
  - Value lost at step event 50%



# Expected value of any project

- Using total probability law:

$$E(\text{project}) = E(\text{project} \mid \text{catastrophe}) P(\text{catastrophe}) \\ + E(\text{project} \mid \text{no catastrophe}) P(\text{no catastrophe})$$

- The project value considers annual depreciation over  $n$  years ( $n = 5, 10, 20$ ), annual exposure to catastrophe, and a 50% loss if there's a catastrophe

# E(project)

Project duration	E(Project)
5	84.3424
10	72.2935
20	55.5558

- After considering the potential losses over the project duration, these are the expected value of each project (starts at 100%)

# Duration comparison

Project duration	E(Project)
5	84.3424
10	72.2935
20	55.5558

Repeat for all years  
between 5-20

See table in report

- To compare the proportional value of a 5-year project to a 10-year project
  - Let  $x$  be the proportional value of a 5-year project to a 10-year project
$$84.3424x \geq 72.2935$$
  - $x \geq 0.8571$
- A 5-year project whose value is 86% of 10-year project is equivalent
- Similarly, 10 to 20 is 77%