



# COTTON

Capacity management Optimisation  
for Trajectory based OperatiOns



## COTTON Objectives:

Develop trajectory-based **Complexity Metrics** more suitable to **Dynamic Airspace Configuration (DAC)** and **Flight Centric ATC (FCA)** mode of operations.

Optimise **Capacity Management** by incorporating **Trajectory Uncertainty** into their Demand and Capacity Balancing (DCB) tools.

Explore the **Integration of DAC and FCA** solutions and the operational requirements for their common implementation.

## COTTON Enhanced Complexity Metrics

**Solution Space**

Aircraft maneuvering space

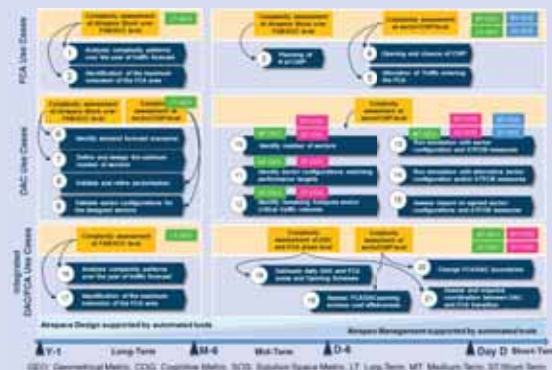
**Cognitive**

Mental abstraction of Traffic and Sector

**Geometric**

Aircraft Proximity and Convergence

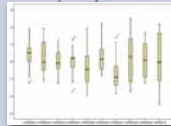
## COTTON Enhanced Capacity Management Use Cases (UCs)



## COTTON Validations

### FCA in the Short-term

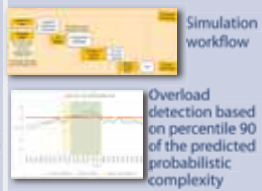
Impact of trajectory uncertainty in FCA short-term planning phase, using Geometrical Complexity (UCs 4 and 5)



Workload Measurement per FCA ATCo after allocation based on Geometric Approach

### DAC in the Short-term

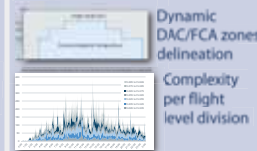
Optimisation of airspace configuration process in the short-term phase, using Cognitive Complexity (UCs 11 and 12).



Simulation workflow  
Overload detection based on percentile 90 of the predicted probabilistic complexity

### Integrated DAC/FCA in the Medium-term

Capacity planning process emulation in medium-term phase, using Geometrical Complexity (UCs 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 18 and 19).



Dynamic DAC/FCA zones delineation  
Complexity per flight level division

## VALIDATION RESULTS

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| FCA                | Allocation strategies based on COTTON Enhanced Complexity have showed a better balance of ATCo Workload.   |
| DAC                | DAC shows that the application of complexity metrics better adapted to a trajectory-based environment allows a sector configuration plan more adapted to the traffic demand, reducing the risk of imbalances.                        |
| Integrated DAC/FCA | DAC/FCA boundary delineation processes with the support of COTTON Enhanced Complexity is defined with sufficient level of detail to demonstrate its technical and operational feasibility and demonstrated a reduction of overloads. |



Integrated DAC/FCA Complexity-based sector configuration



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founding members

