

Incorporating Expert Judgement in Operational Risk Quantification

**Critical Systems Conference
15 October, 2002**

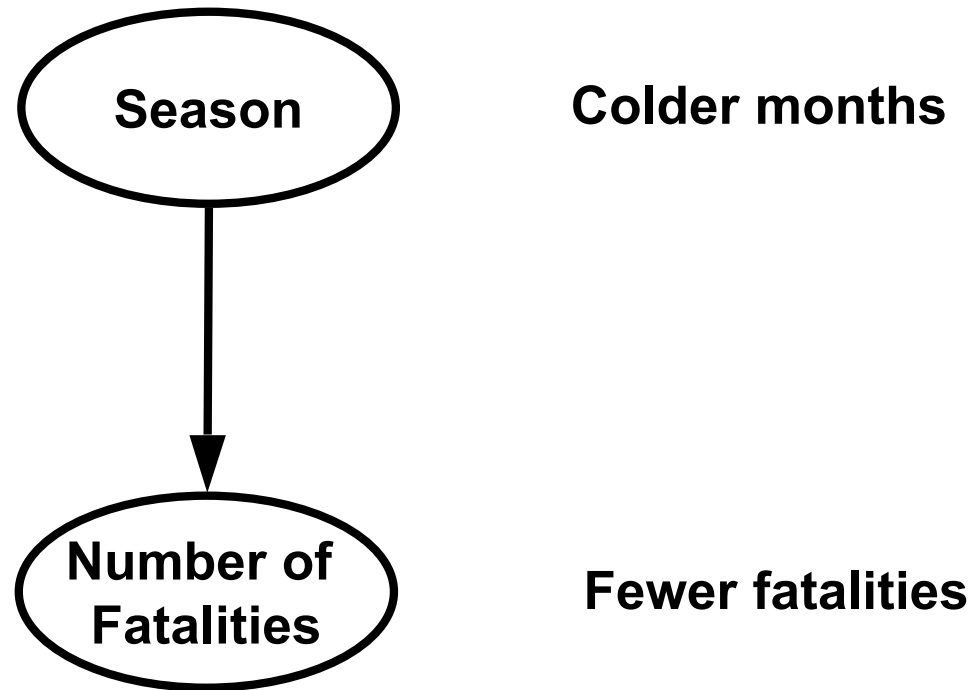
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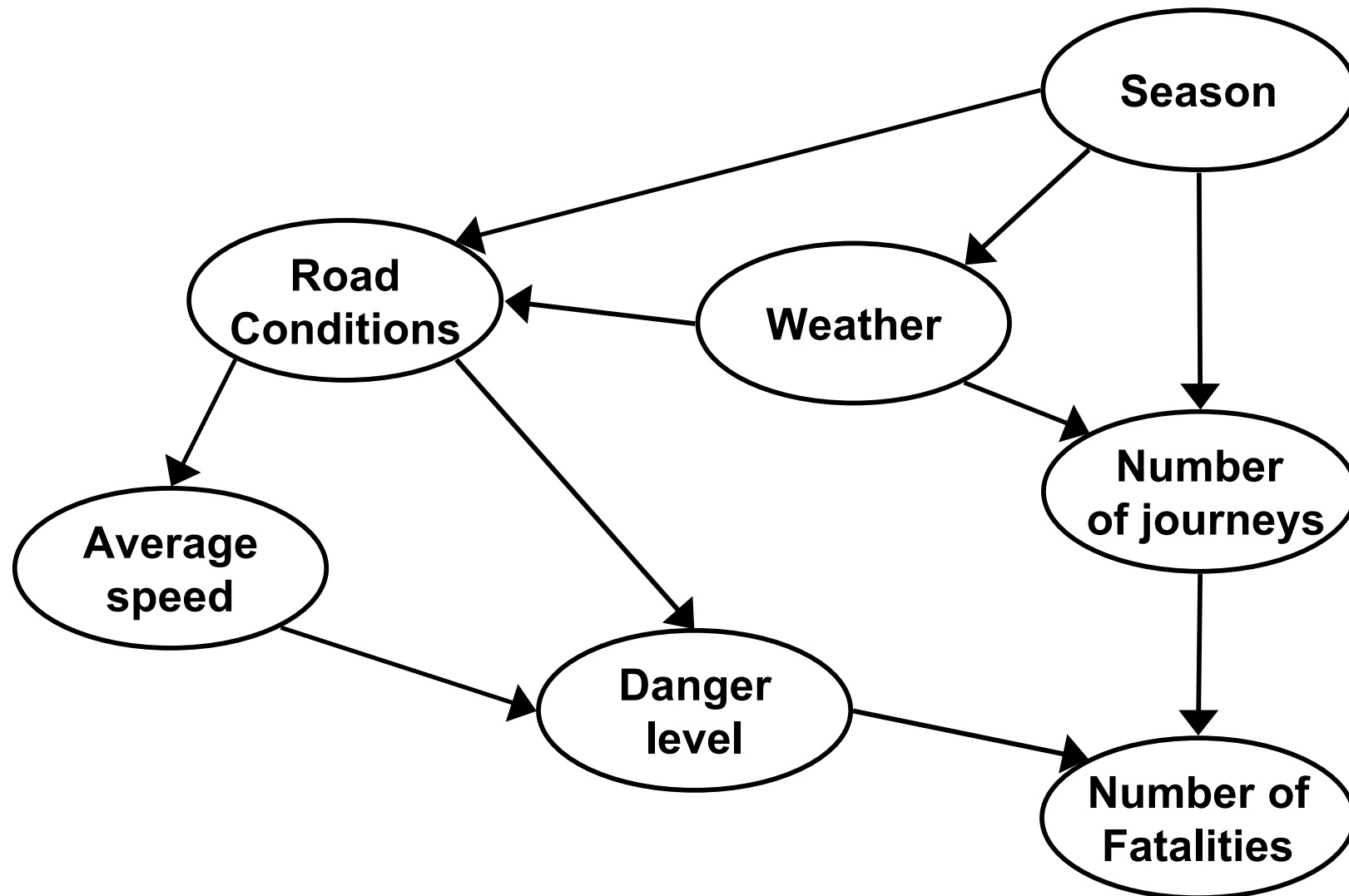
Outline

- **A motivating example**
- **Some definitions of operational risk**
- **Identifying the causes**
- **Navigating the risk continuum**
- **“Risk accounting” using Bayesian networks**
- **Example Bayesian network**
- **Conclusions**

Assessing Risk of Road Fatalities: Naïve Approach



Assessing Risk of Road Fatalities: Causal/explanatory model

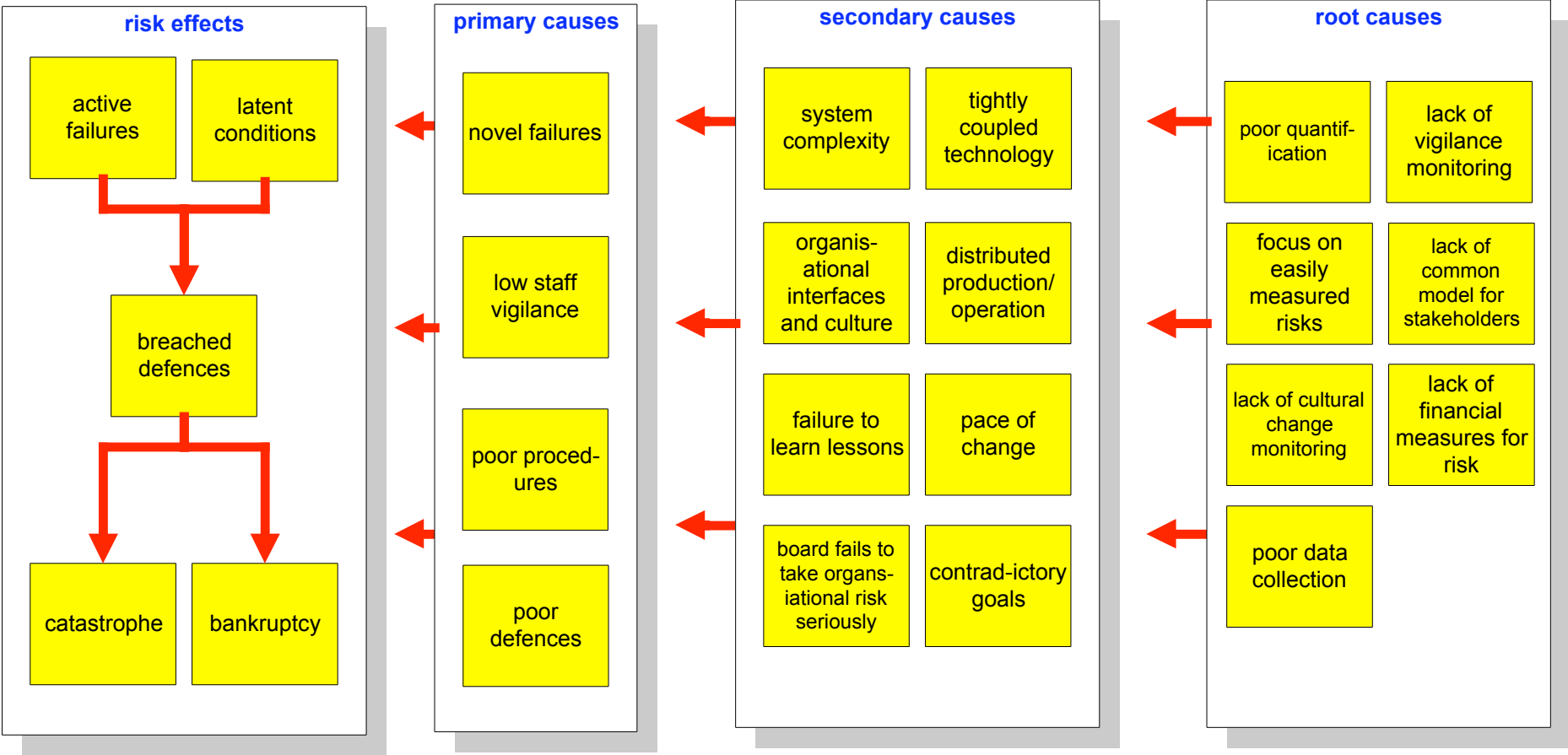


Operational Risk Definition

**The risk of loss resulting from
inadequate or failed internal
processes, people and systems or
from external events**

Basle regulatory committee

Hierarchy of operational risks



Anatomy of a Vulnerable Organisation

- **Risk analysis seen as one off exercise; no ongoing monitoring of performance**
- **Confusion over who is responsible for ensuring risks are monitored**
- **Audit spots problems which day to day monitoring fails to identify and remedy**
- **Data widely collected, but fragmented and not used**
- **Performance indicators not structured to monitor non-production issues**
- **Root causes of accidents tend to be ignored. Incident analysis superficial**

Navigating the Risk Continuum



Difficult Questions

- **Statistical modelling difficult because of lack of catastrophic loss data**
- **Loss data alone is imperfect guide to true risk unless you have experienced many losses**
- **Zero losses wrongly reported**
- **Historical loss data less relevant over time as organisation improves/degrades**
- **As industry improves there will be less data from which to draw credible statistical estimates**

The operational risk assessment challenge

- To produce a *unified* prediction of an organisation's operational vulnerability by:
 - Combining different types of OpRisk evidence
 - Exploiting expert knowledge in a reliable and repeatable manner
 - Making the model visible and auditable to the regulator
- To be able to claim lower levels of risk than is possible from loss data alone

Solution: Bayesian Networks (BNs)

- **Best method for reasoning under uncertainty**
- **Combines diverse data, including subjective beliefs and empirical data**
- **Allows incomplete evidence and still obtain prediction**
- **Performs powerful ‘what-if’ analysis to test sensitivity of conclusions**
- **Compelling visual reasoning tool and a major documentation aid**

Bayes' Theorem

A: 'Person has cancer' $p(A)=0.1$ (*prior*)

B: 'Person is smoker' $p(B)=0.5$

What is $p(A|B)$? (*posterior*)

$p(B|A)=0.8$ (*likelihood*)

$$p(A|B) = \frac{\overset{\text{Likelihood}}{p(B|A)} \overset{\text{Prior probability}}{p(A)}}{\underset{\text{Posterior probability}}{p(B)}}$$

So $p(A|B)=0.16$

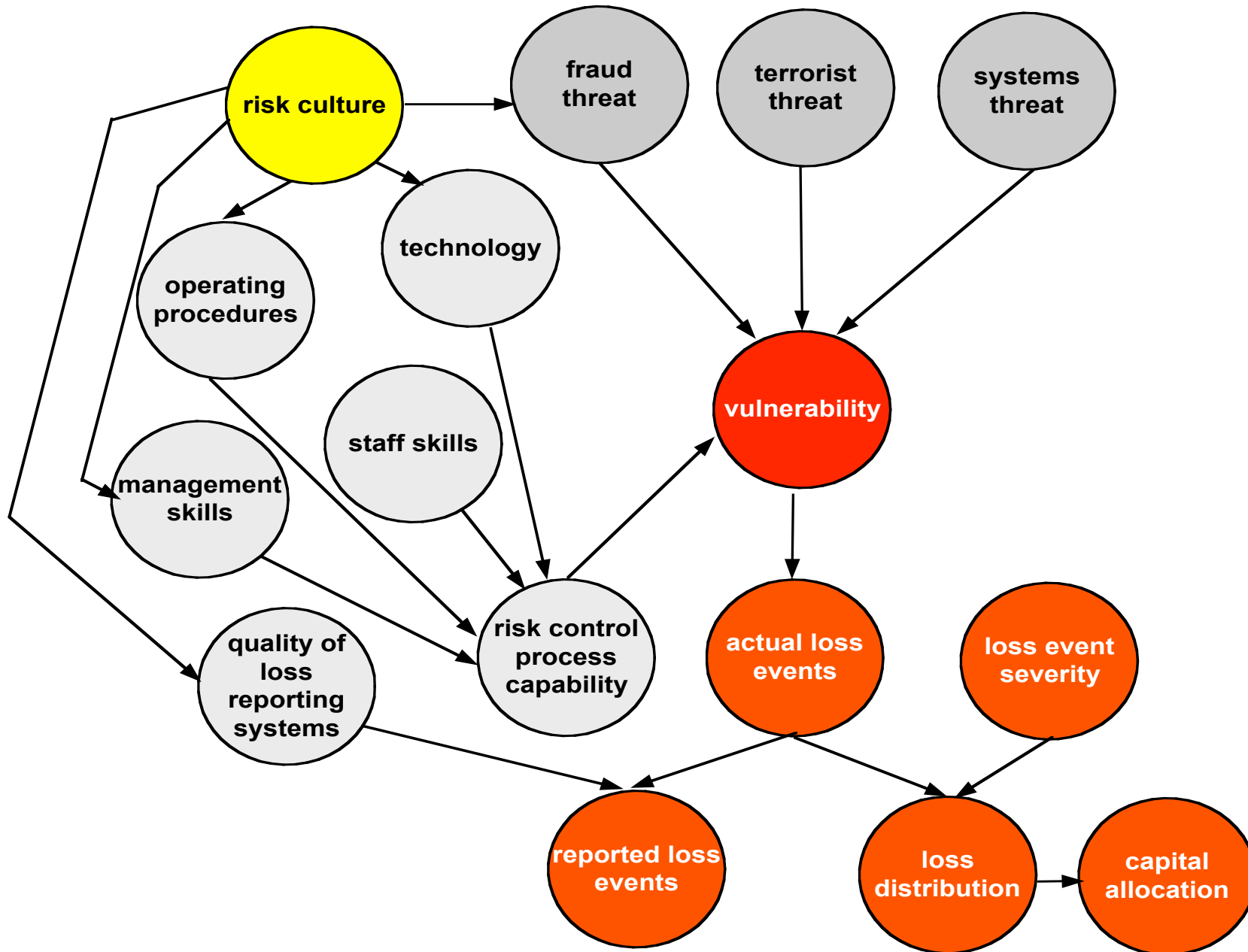
Agena's BN applications

- **TRACS (for QinetiQ) – Provide improved reliability predictions of prototype military vehicles**
- **NATS – Predict effects of changes to ATM (Air Traffic Management) architecture on mid air collision risk**
- **Railtrack – Assess safety of PES components in the railway industry**
- **Motorola – predicting field returns of electronic components**
- **Philips – Predict defect counts for software modules in consumer electronics products**
- ***iRisk* – Quantifying OpRisk in finance**
- **TV Supreme – TV programme personalisation and recommendation system for digital TV**

Risks Factors in OpRisk BN Model

- **Risk Culture as root cause of poor controls and internal fraud threats**
- **Threats and Vulnerabilities (Proactive measures)**
- **Loss Data (Reactive outcome measures)**
- **Assess quality of data collection processes**

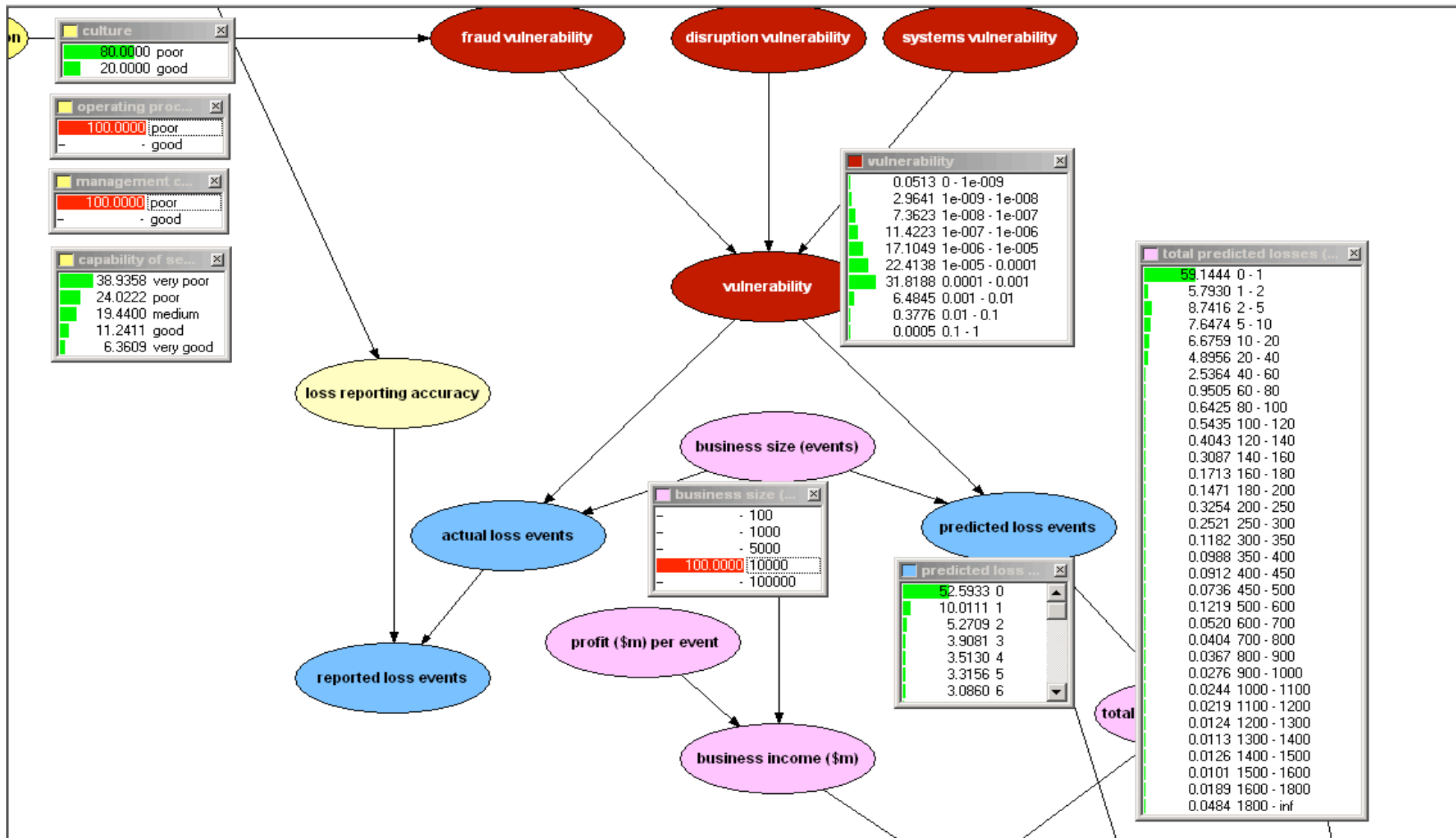
Example OpRisk BN



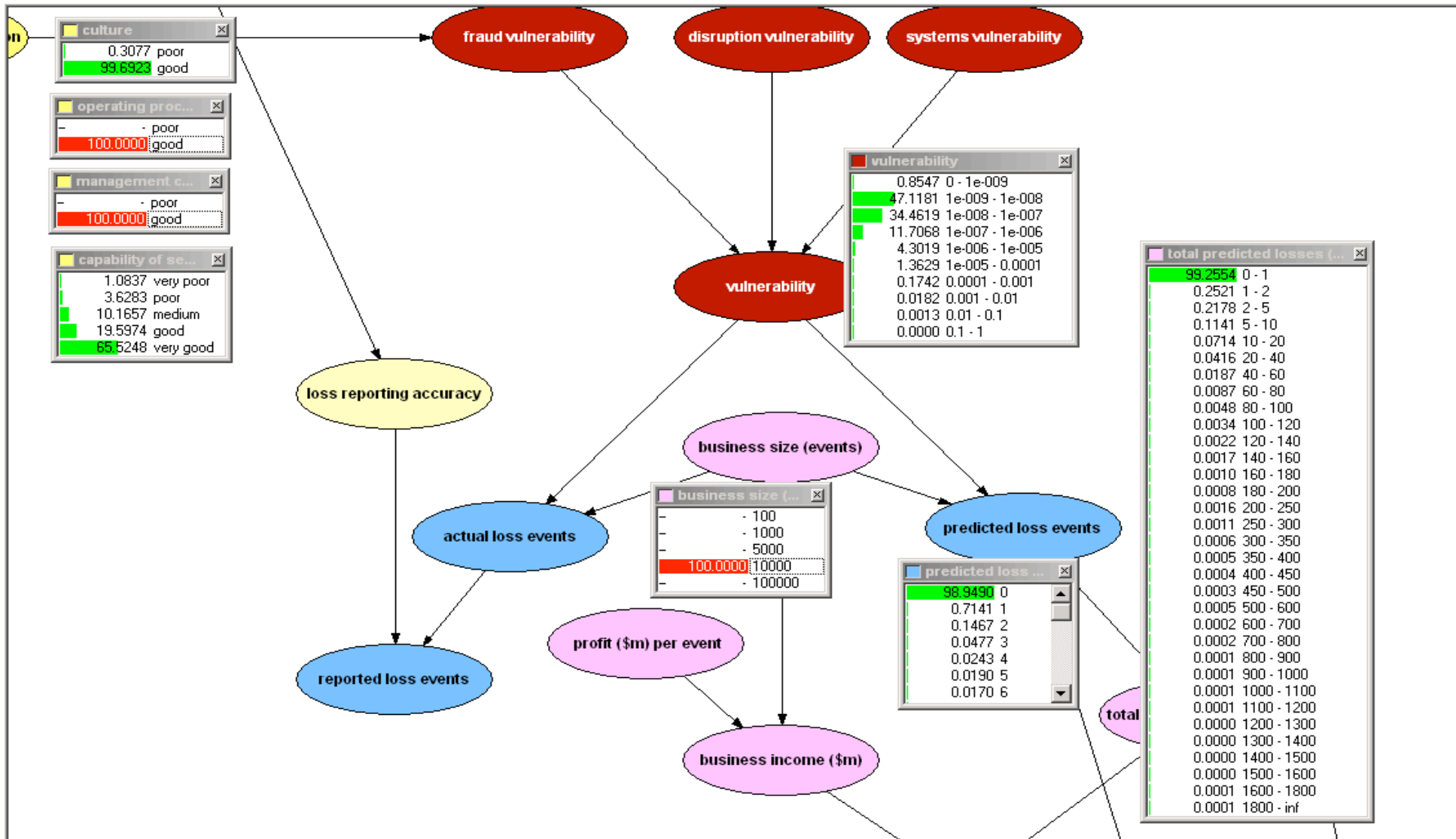
Scenarios

- **Bank A**
 - **Loss frequency unknown**
 - **Poor values for process capability indicators**
- **Bank B**
 - **Loss frequency unknown**
 - **Good values for process capability indicators**
- **Bank C**
 - **One loss reported but very poor reporting system**
 - **Poor risk culture evident from process capability indicators**
- **Bank D**
 - **10 historical loss events**

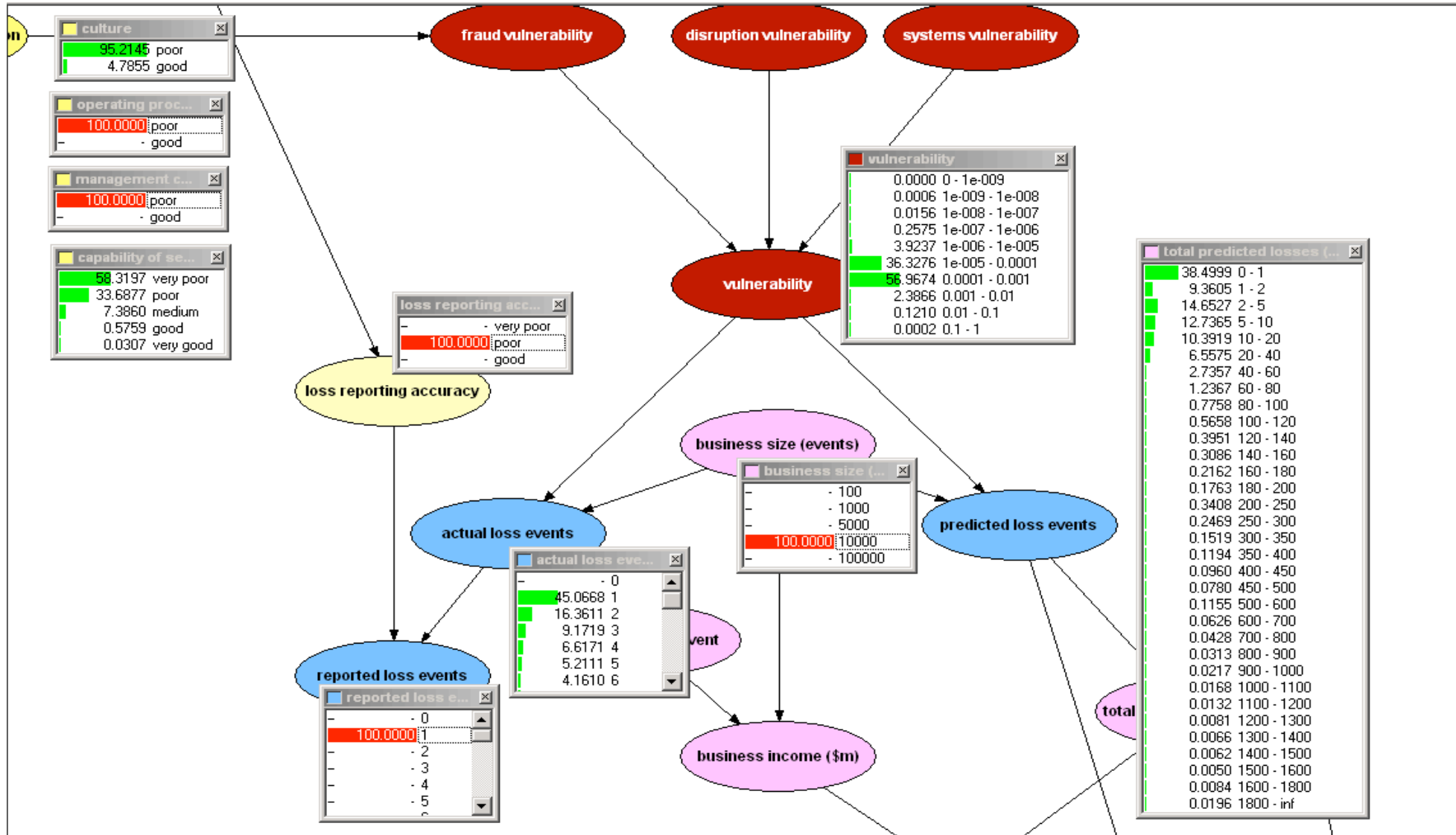
Bank A



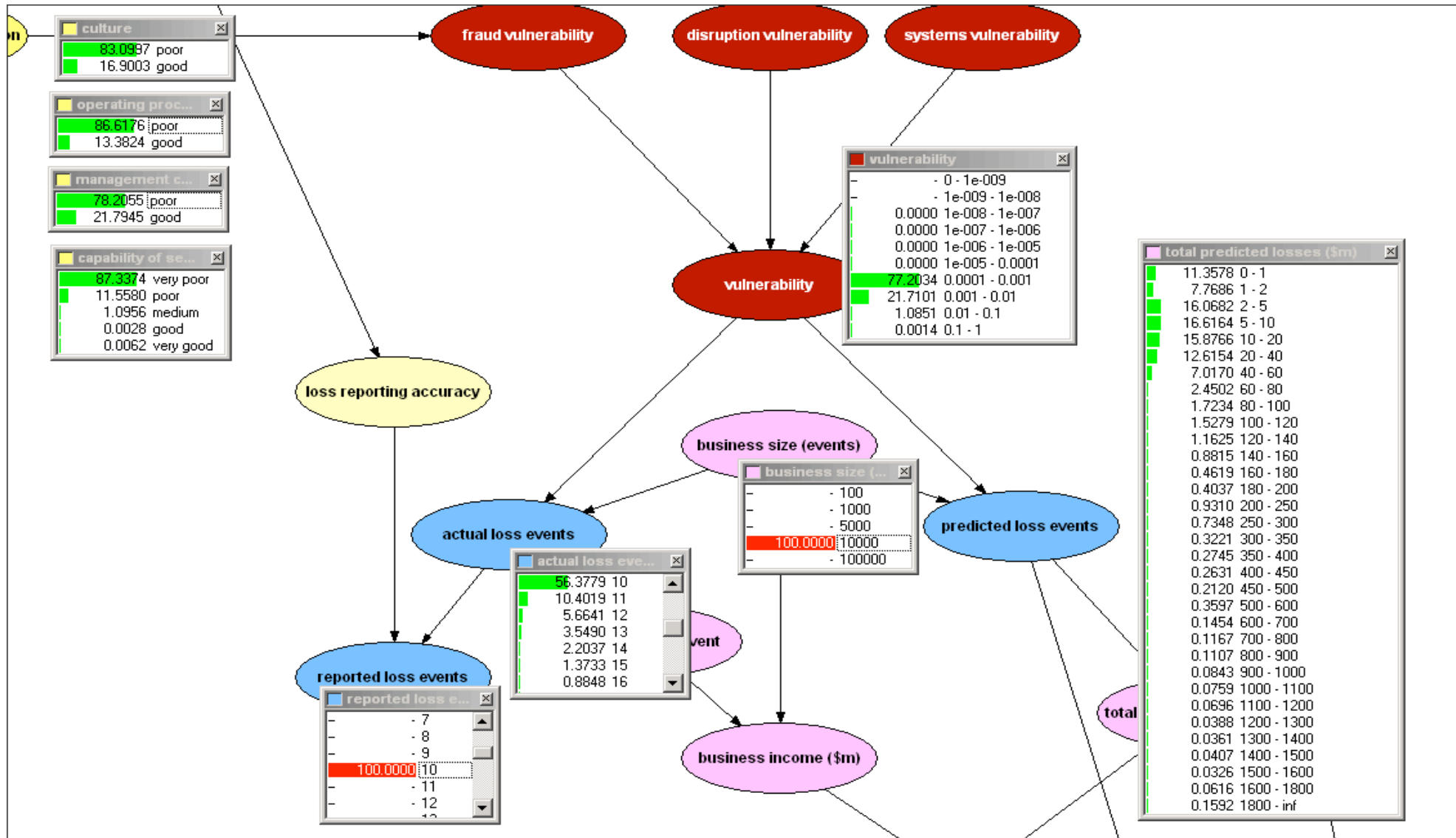
Bank B



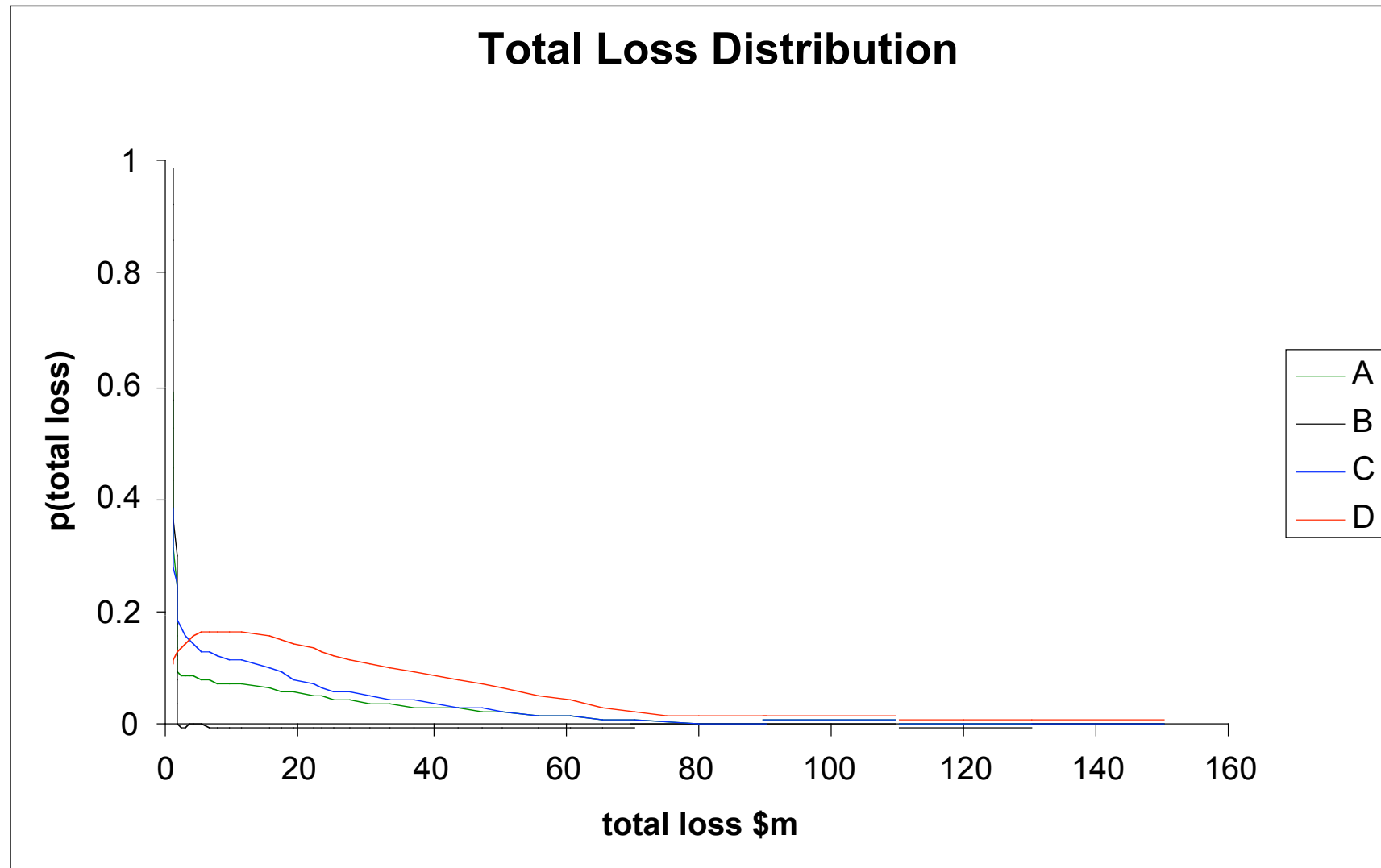
Bank C



Bank D



Predicted Loss Distributions for Banks A, B, C, and D



Creating a BN OpRisk Model

- **The challenge of “scaling-up”:**
 - **Building an operational risk model that fits all organisations in all business sectors is clearly an impossible task**
 - **Creating bespoke models for specific businesses or sectors is equally daunting**
- **Answer:**
 - **Create general risk modules (Bayesian Networks) for specific business areas**
 - **Reuse and tailor risk modules for each operating division**
 - **Use expertise and knowledge available within your organisation to a) identify the threat levels and b) assess the effectiveness of risk controls currently and in the future**
 - **Methodology and tool support is critical**

iRisk System Features

- **Risk prediction by business lines and loss event types**
- **Web-based publishing and execution of operational risk models and questionnaires for use by many users**
- **Loss reporting system, risk questionnaire and Bayesian Models integrated**
- **Editor to design and maintain questionnaires for assessing threats, process capability and residual vulnerabilities for all business areas**
- **Editor for creating and maintaining operational risk models**

Concluding Remarks

- **Operational risk is about avoiding catastrophic losses**
- **Organisations need to know where in the risk continuum they are and, more importantly, where they are headed**
- **Statistical modelling using loss data is *not* enough to predict and reduce OpRisk**
- **OpRisk prediction requires application of subjective (Bayesian) measures of threats, controls and vulnerabilities coupled with objective assessments of process capability**
- **OpRisk models can be built using Bayesian Network technology, statistical assumptions and expert judgements**
- **Recent innovations (iRisk system) mean that risk models can be developed, tailored and deployed throughout an organisation**

Further Details

www.agena.co.uk

www.dcs.qmw.ac.uk/radar