



21 July 2017

MassSense 2017

Emergent Pattern Report



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MassSense is a real-time situational assessment tool that presents micro-scenarios to a diverse network who describe their perspective on the issue through indexing on geometric indices, called signifiers. The results, which take the form of visualisation-driven patterns, are then presented back to decision makers to provide deeper insights collected from a panel of experts. In this process, suggestions for responses to situations are also captured. This enables decision-making that is informed by a 'live' human sensor network.

On July 4th, 2017, Pyongyang conducted its first test of an ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile). With this show of the North's dramatic missile progress, began the concerns over the potential disruption in the Korean Peninsula. In collaboration with the 7th International Risk and Horizon Scanning Symposium (IRAHSS2017) hosted by the Singapore Government, Cognitive Edge, together with Futures and Foresight researchers and BBC Monitoring conducted a MassSense study to understand expert perceptions on the topic.

The study aimed to compare different professional and geographic perspectives on the issue - incorporating input and perspectives from Singapore civil servants; the global community of futurists/foresight experts; BBC Monitor's network of 150 journalists around the world; and military/security professionals.



Triad data

The following pages display a series of triangles, each of which contains a series of dots that correspond to the responses received from study respondents. When answering the question, the respondent had to decide which of the competing three elements described on each apex of the triangle was dominant in their experience and to what extent. They then marked their responses accordingly.

When viewing the resultant graphs, the aggregate responses can be seen as a patterns of dots, where the greater the concentration, the more people signified that point as being the correct mix of elements in their story. In this way, issues that are commonly experienced by a majority of people can be quickly identified. By selecting any dot on the resultant graph, the original story can be instantly recalled and read by the analyst to gain deeper understanding of the context behind the response.

Diving into the Data - each data point represents a story, directly accessible to you

In this situation, the most influential actors will be...

**When is a deterrent not a deterrent?
Lessons from the American - North
Korean context**

The most likely outcome is that it will be very little different to today but there are also small probabilities that could be associated with more radical possibilities ... The challenge is to identify and manage scenarios where the probabilities are low but the potential consequences very large The other major challenge is trying to predict the unpredictable -- ie the behaviour of Trump and other key players?

**Acceptors - adapt
situation to suit them**

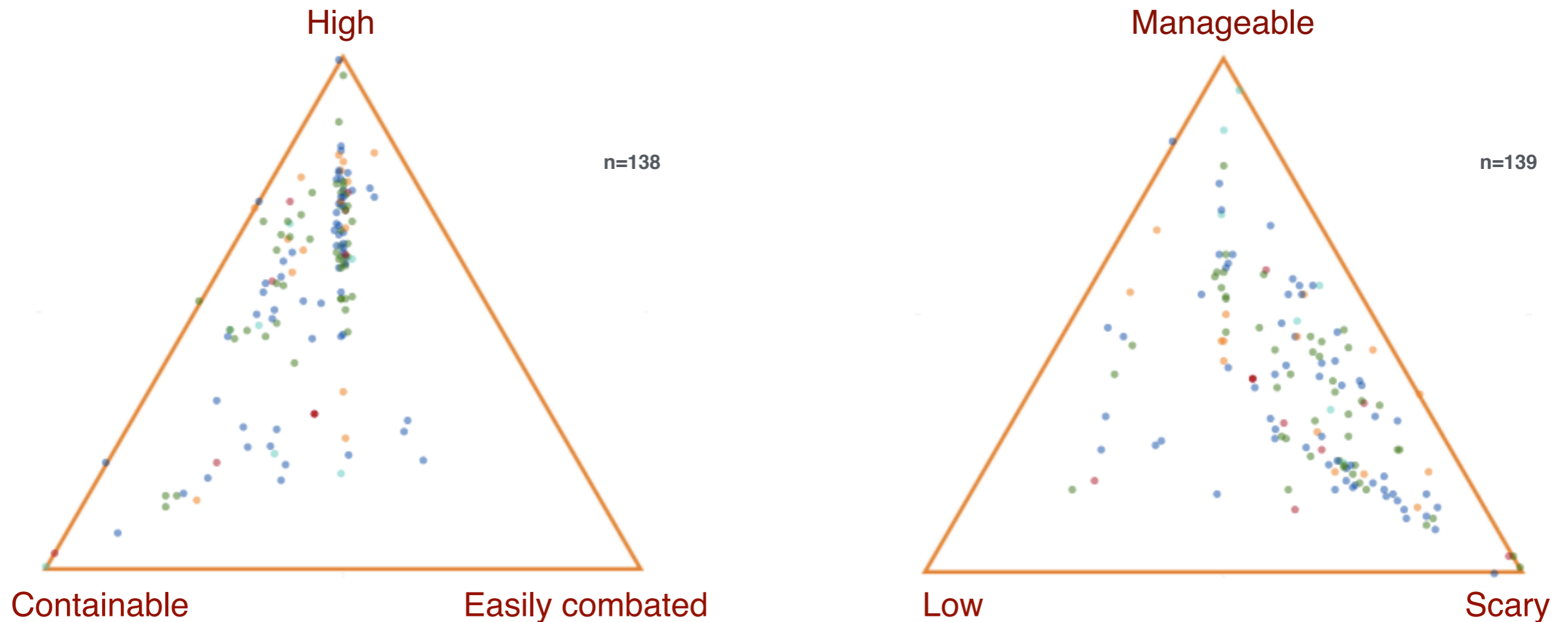
Resistors - put the brakes on the situation

Accelerators - pour fuel on the situation

#leadersdilemma

The Korean peninsula is in constant volatile state since 1948. Developments within the Korean peninsula are always in the attention of global leaders and media.

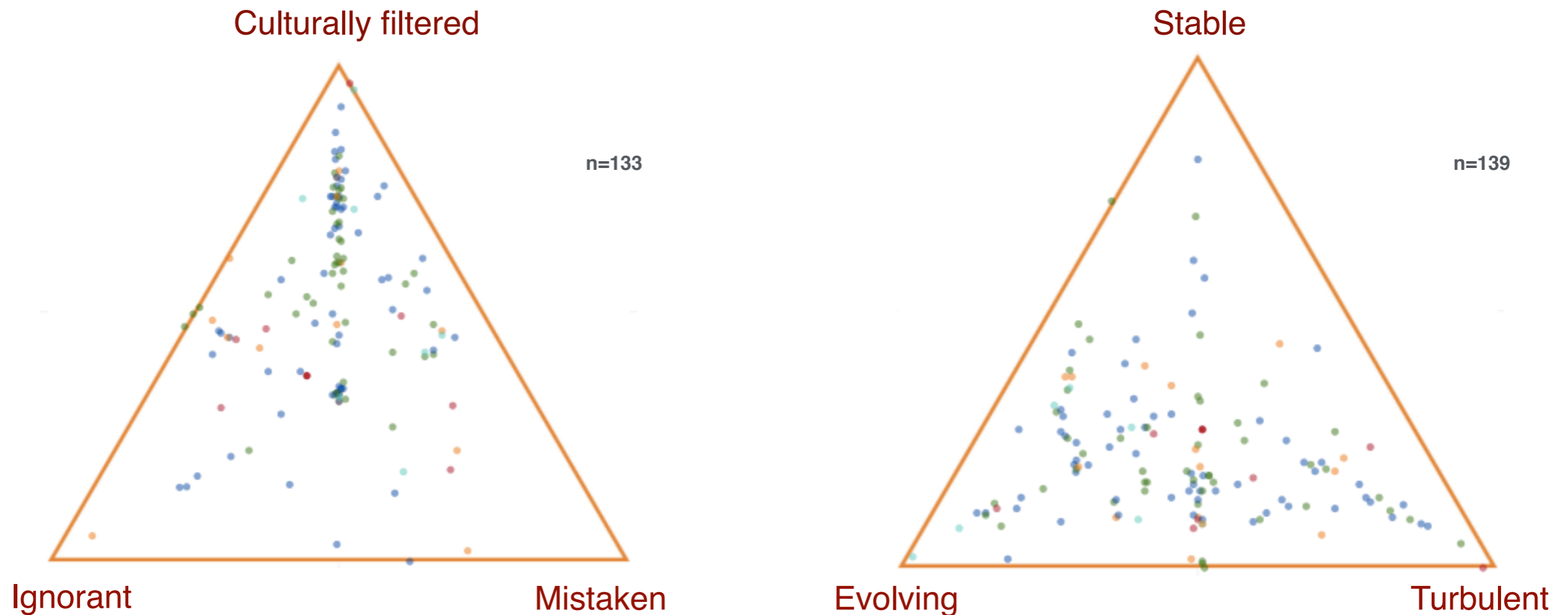
Patterns indicate that the majority view regional vulnerability to the threat as high and that the level of uncertainty is scary but somewhat manageable



Legend:

- Singaporean civil servant
- Journalist
- Expert in conflict and security
- Futures researcher / foresight expert
- Others

Most of the respondents feel that global leaders' knowledge is culturally filtered and that the situation is evolving and turbulent



Legend:

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Majority felt that the initial global response should be to monitor and prepare for action but there was no consensus on what the most influential actors would do

Ignore, it will go away

Acceptors - adapt situation to suit them

n=139

n=139

Brutal, seek and
destroy

Monitor and prepare
for action

Resistors - put the
brakes on the situation

Accelerators - pour fuel
on the situation

Legend:

Singaporean civil servant

Journalist

Expert in conflict and security

Futures researcher / foresight expert

Others

Stones

Stones were originally created as a largely visual form of indexing that could be used in and by the development community, mostly in illiterate communities.

However, the possible utility in journal projects became apparent as it allows for rapid single-screen signification, thus increasing ease of use whilst providing sophisticated metadata for analysis.

Stones also allows clients to make more specific queries without compromising the abductive principles upon which SenseMaker® is based.

THINKING ABOUT THE SITUATION YOU READ ABOUT, WHAT IS THE SEVERITY OF (VERTICAL AXIS), AND YOUR VULNERABILITY TO (HORIZONTAL AXIS):

- This situation**
1
- Its wider implications**
2
- Media spin / focus**
3

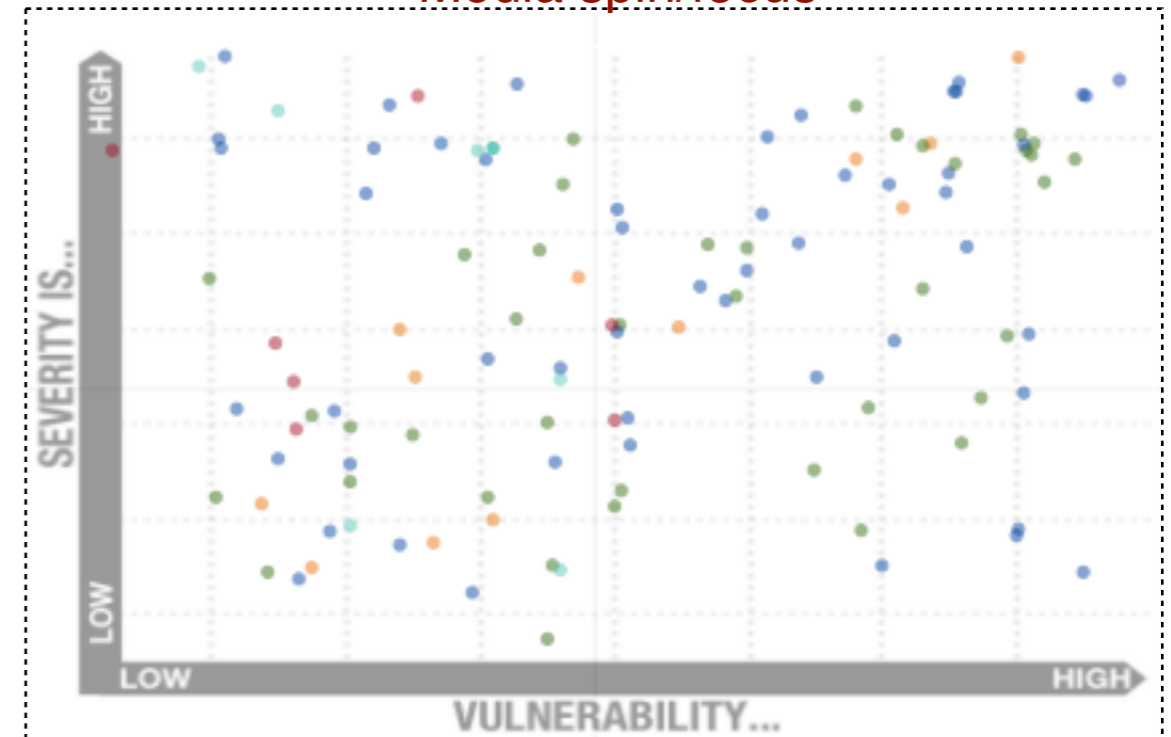


The vulnerability and severity of the situation's wider implications were assessed to be higher than the situation itself and its media spin/focus

Situation on its own



Media spin/focus



Its wider implications



Legend:

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end

