



SAAB

AIRPORT OPERATIONS ANALYSIS & IMPROVEMENT



Steve Stroiney

2013-04-26

Saab Sensis Corporation

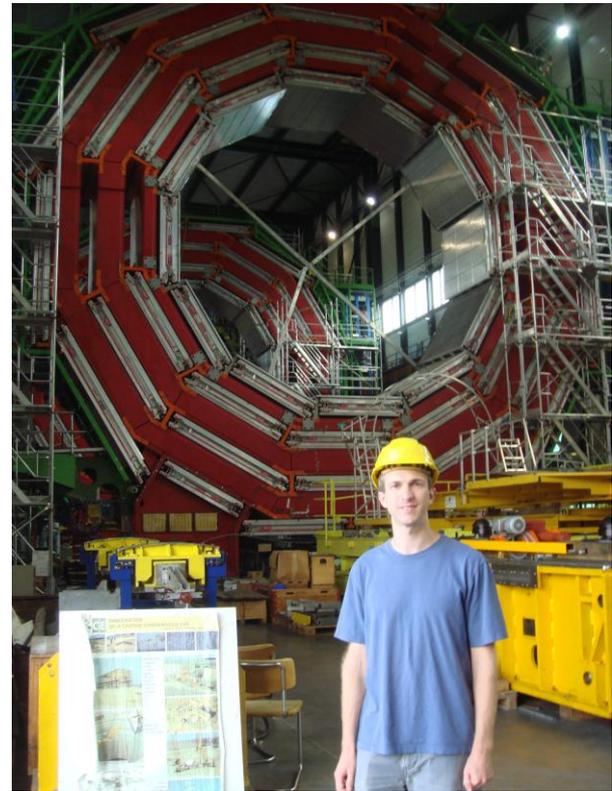
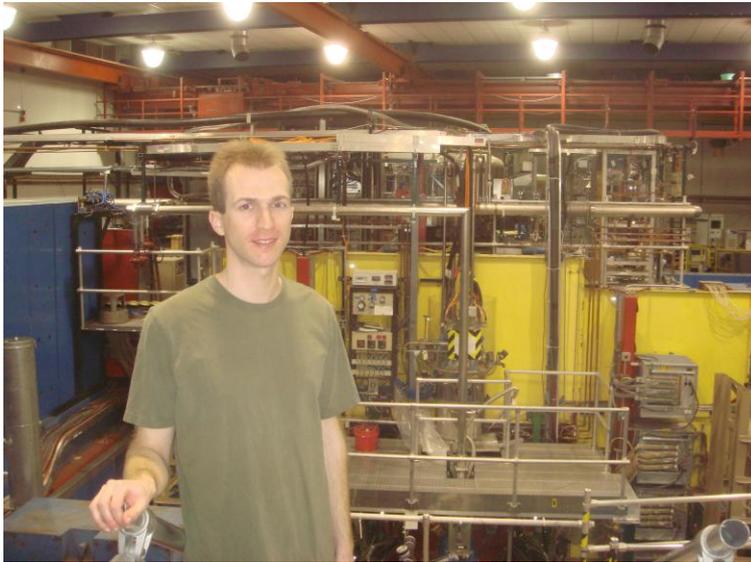
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OUTLINE

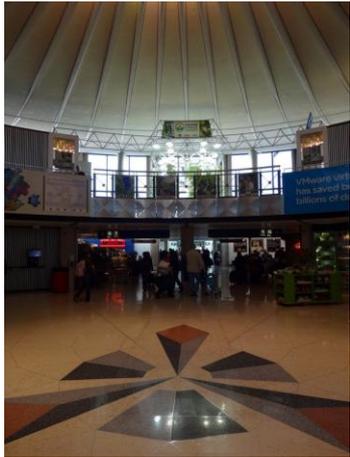
- Myself – my background
- The Collaboration – Saab Sensis
- Background & Motivation – how airports work
- The Hardware – sensors & data sources
- Monte Carlo – simulation of runway safety systems
- Results – departure management at JFK airport
- Final Thoughts – comparison to particle physics

MY BACKGROUND

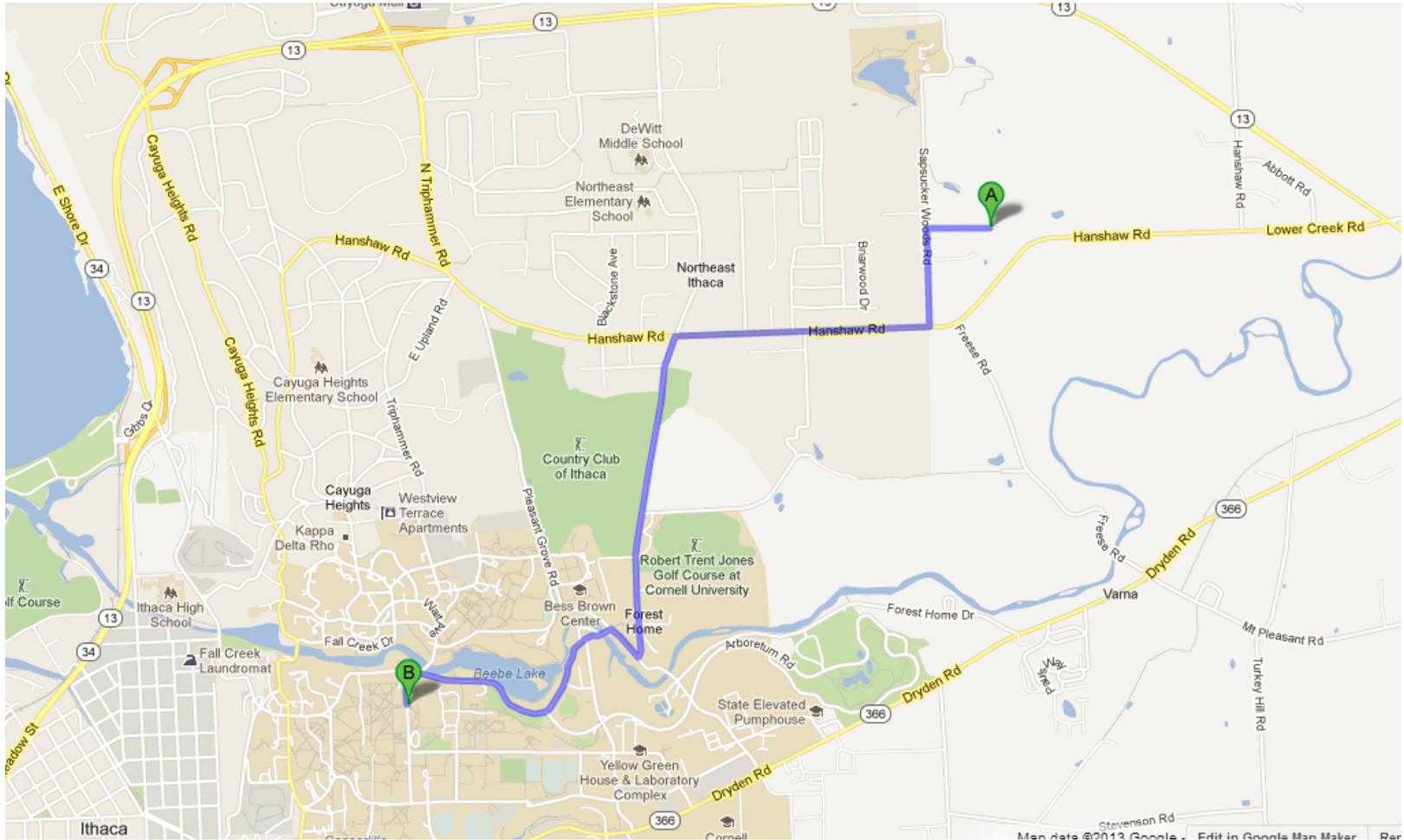
- ▶ Physics grad student at Cornell
- ▶ Started fall 2003, completed Ph.D. in Dec. 2008
- ▶ Advisor: Anders Ryd
- ▶ Worked on the CLEO-c and CMS experiments



EXPLORING AIRPORTS



I'VE COME A LONG WAY TO BE HERE TODAY...



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SAAB

SAAB SENSIS

SAAB SENSIS at a glance

- ▶ A global aerospace and defense company founded in 1985. Specializing in advanced air traffic management and defense radar and security systems.
- ▶ A U.S. company of approximately 500 employees, headquartered in Syracuse.
- ▶ A wholly-owned subsidiary of Saab AB since 2011.
- ▶ With Saab, Saab Sensis has a strong and broad product portfolio, a global presence and the ability to serve customers in the U.S. and world-wide.



OUR CUSTOMERS

- ▶ U.S. Federal Aviation Administration & international counterparts
 - Radar systems
 - Runway safety systems – ASDE-X & Runway Status Lights
 - Data analysis contracts
- ▶ Airports & airlines
 - Surface traffic display & optimization tools – Aerobahn
- ▶ NASA
 - Studies of future air traffic management concepts
- ▶ Department of Defense
 - Military radar systems

OUR CUSTOMERS' GOALS

▶ Safety

- Aviation is already very safe, but we can always do better.
- Will proposed changes reduce safety?

▶ Efficiency

- Reduced taxi times, flight times, & delay
- Improved on-time performance
- Greater flexibility for airlines

▶ Interaction of Safety & Efficiency

- Can we reduce margins to improve efficiency without reducing safety?

▶ “NextGen”

- FAA “branding” for all the improvements they’d like to make

SAAB SENSIS AEROBAHN

The screenshot displays the Saab Sensis Aerobahn software interface. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'System', 'Workspace', 'Settings', 'Tools', 'Reporting', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar, there are icons for 'Legend', 'Playback', 'Pause', and 'Search'. The main window shows a map of an airport with various aircraft icons. Callouts provide status information for specific aircraft: 'XYZ624 Aircraft Ready', 'ABC5243 Cleared to Push', 'XYZ9029 Delayed', 'ABC11 Hold at Gate', and 'ABC252 Hold at Gate'. A 'Chat' window on the right shows a list of chat channels including 'Departure Coordination' and 'XYZ OCC', and a list of users like 'ggabriell (Glenn Gabriele)' and 'rbrown (Rob Brown)'. A 'Selection Details' window for 'XYZ9029' shows a table of workflow states and times.

Aircraft positions plotted on airport map

Integrated data & surveillance

User-configurable alerting

Surface management & collaborative decision making (e.g. DMAN)

Predicted event times

Metrics & reporting

Historical playback

System Workspace Settings Tools Reporting Help
 Legend Playback Pause Search
 Mode: Live
 Map Display
 Chat
 xyz-ops [XYZ Operator]
 Type a contact name
 Chat Channels
 Departure Coordination
 XYZ OCC
 he B
 he C
 he D
 rd (Scott Remillard)
 ggabriell (Glenn Gabriele)
 rbrown (Rob Brown)
 Selection Details
 XYZ9029
 Properties Taxi Route Workflow State History ActiveRules
 Workflow State Entry Time Exit Time Occ. Time
 Aircraft Ready 18:45 18:49 00:04
 Cleared to Push 18:49 18:55 00:06
 Delayed 18:55 00:25
 Departure Coordination Channel
 coordinator [18:20:29]: METERING UPDATE: Metering will continue this afternoon until we recover from this morning's weather
 xyz-ops [18:59:01]: We have a maintenance issue on [XYZ9029]...please stand by for a new estimated off block
 coordinator [19:00:07]: Got it. Let me know and I'll reschedule you.
 atc2 [19:18:02]: Airport configuration changing to West at 20:00
 33 38 27N 84 26 14W [x = -4749.6 ft y = -229.6 ft d=4755.1 ft ang=267.2 deg]

WHAT'S MY JOB?

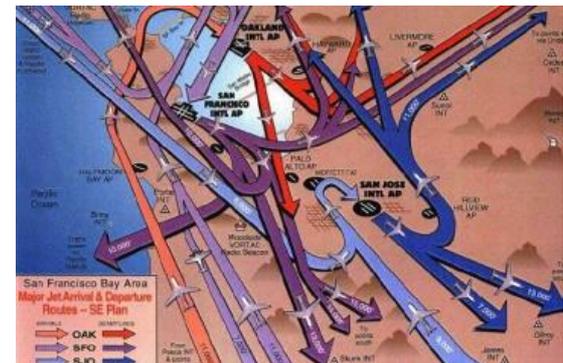
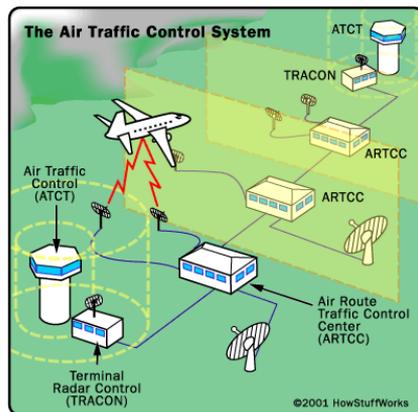
- Title: “Research Engineer” or “Analyst”
- “Advanced Development” division
 - Prototype development, data analysis, benefits studies
 - Wide variety of backgrounds (engineering, math, geology)
- Tools to improve efficiency
 - Led Departure Manager and Managed Gate Operations projects
 - Participated in system design and algorithm development for Aerobahn Departure Metering at JFK airport
- Simulations of future safety systems
 - Developed concepts and algorithms for surface safety systems under NASA projects
- Algorithm development
 - Aircraft movement planning
- Airport data analysis
 - Benefits estimates

WHY THIS JOB?

- ▶ It's near Ithaca
- ▶ I've always loved airports and airplanes
 - (Site visits! 😊)
- ▶ I like to optimize things
- ▶ It's been very interesting and intellectually enriching
 - Artificial intelligence, planning, & optimization algorithms
 - Software development

OUTLINE

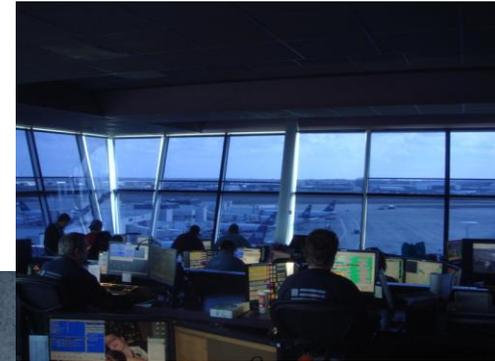
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BEHIND THE SCENES...



BEHIND THE SCENES



Cost of an 8 hour RON running a single APU:

\$1,600.00

Cost of an 8 hour RON using a Ground Power Unit:

\$240.00

Getting the job done in the most cost effective way:

Priceless

If no ground based power source is available, using the GPU rather than the APU saves US approximately \$170.00 per hour.
FOR AN 8 HOUR RON THAT'S A SAVINGS OF \$1,360.00!!
Make the responsible choice and help US save money!

Figures based on Jet A price of \$4.00/gallon, diesel \$4.60/gallon

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HOW AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL WORKS

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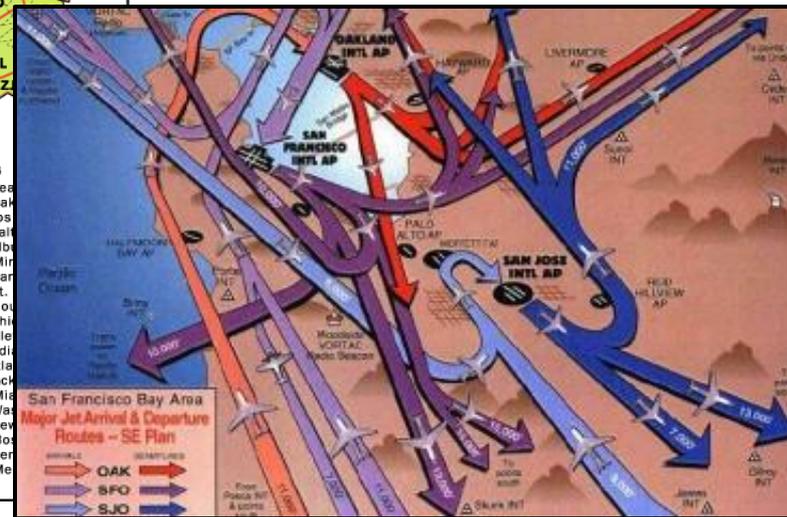
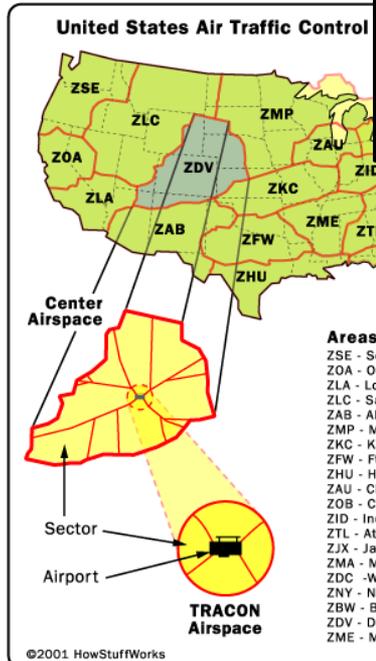
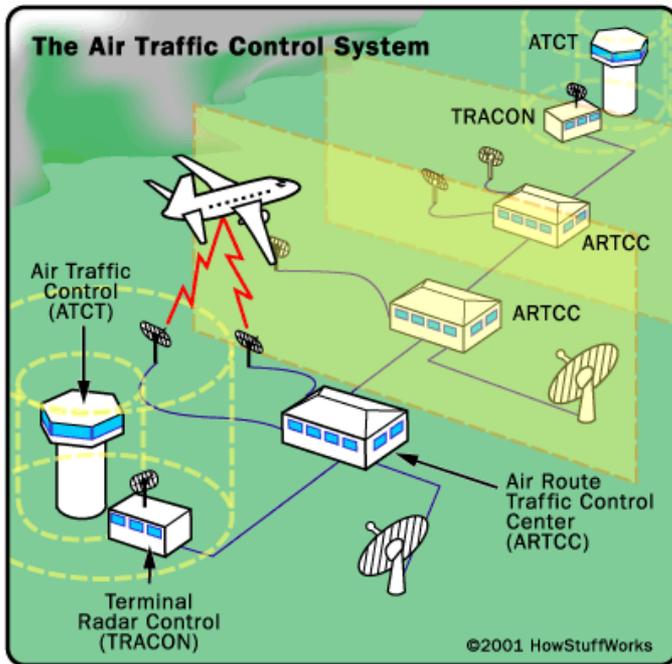
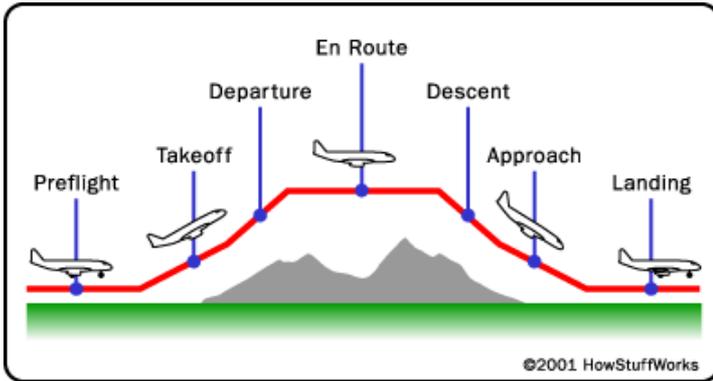


Particle physics usually has a hard time competing with politics and celebrity

hour. This translates to approximately 50,000 aircraft

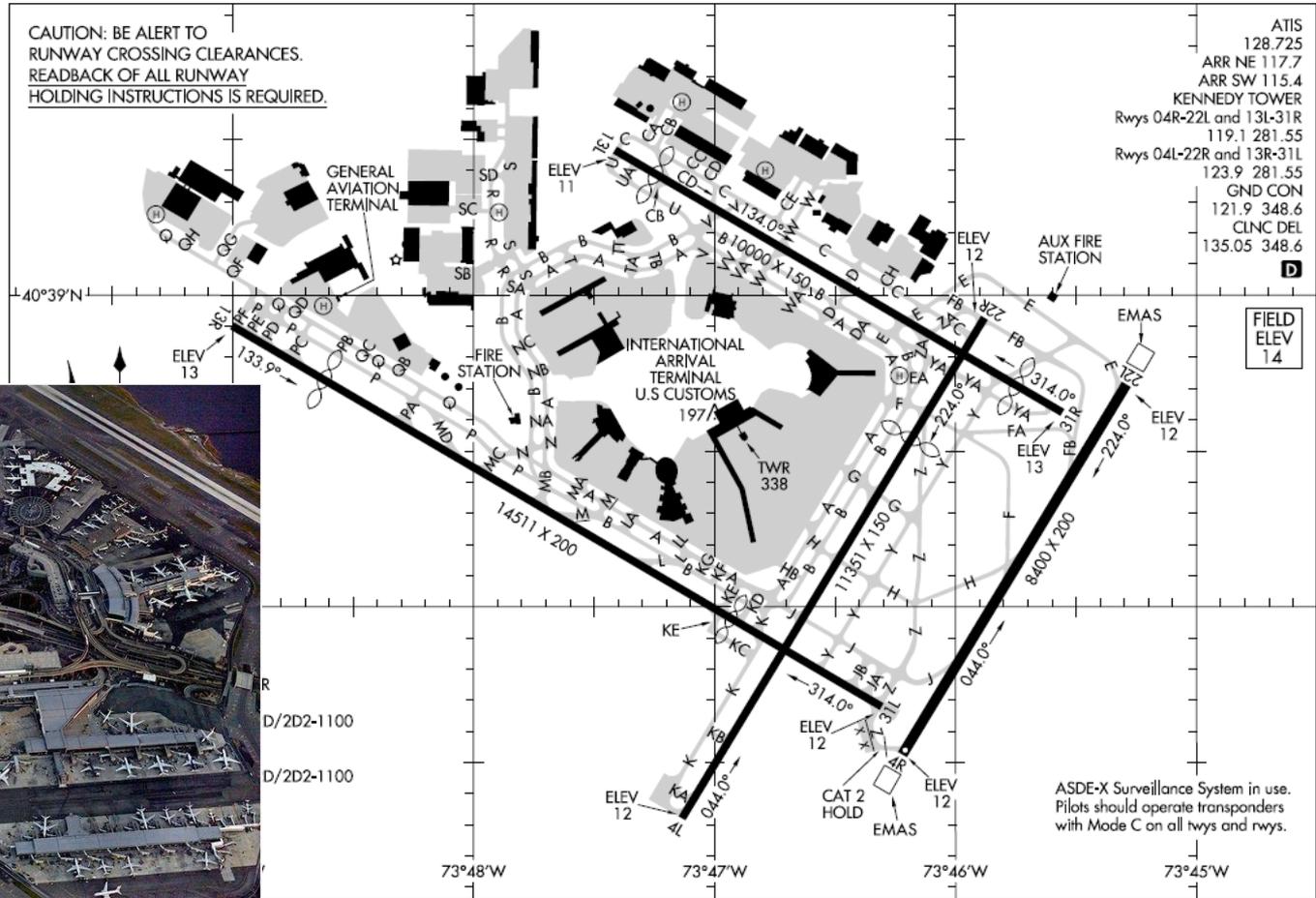
Page 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Keep Reading ▶

HOW AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL WORKS



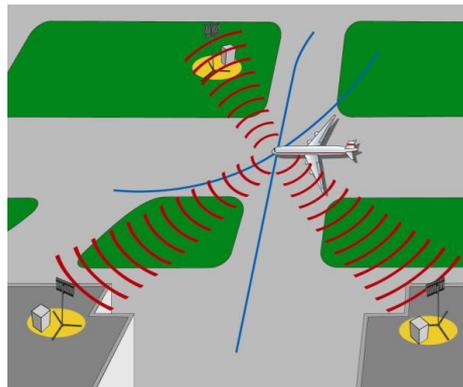
HOW AIRPORTS WORK

New York JFK



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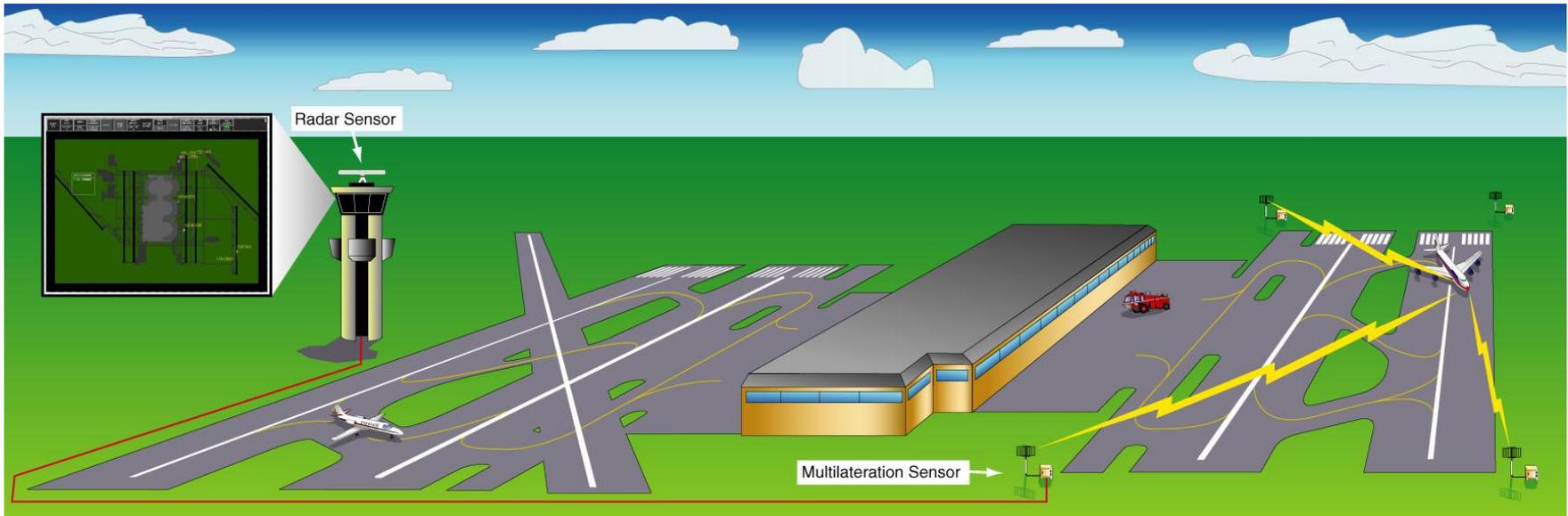
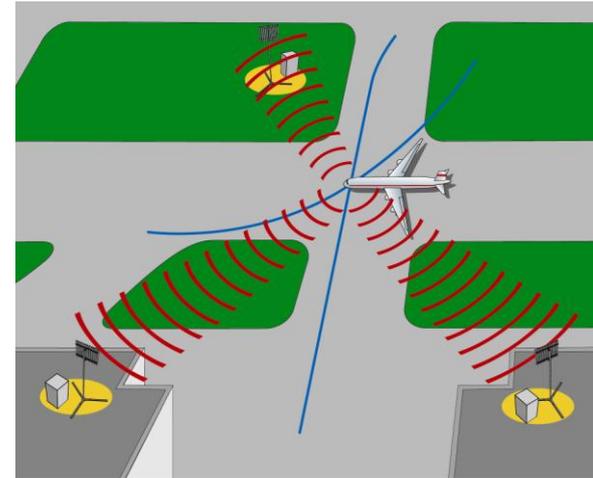


DATA SOURCES

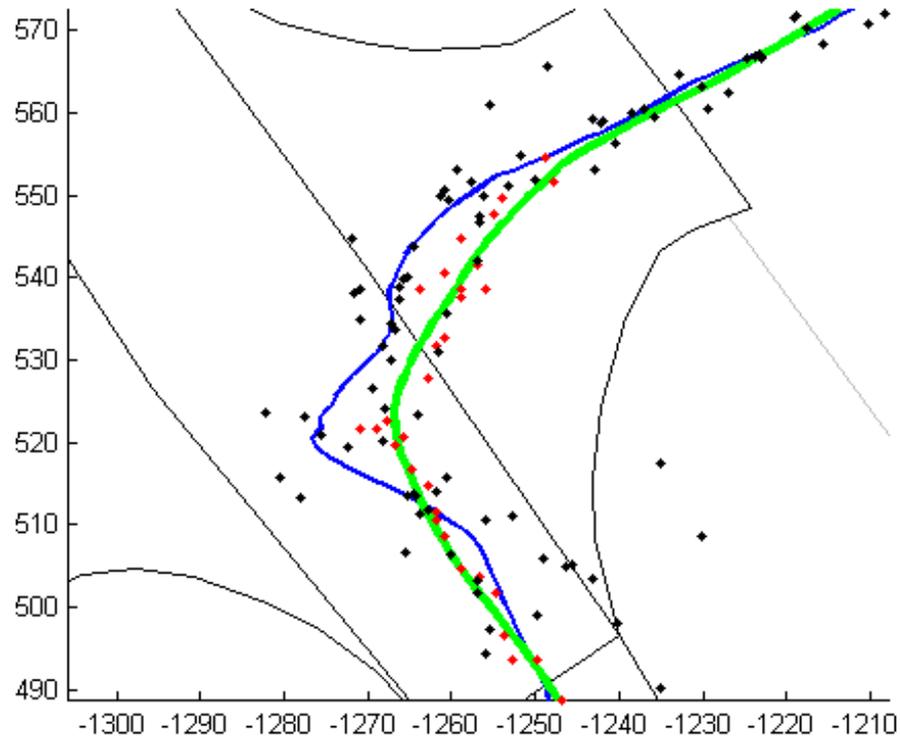
- ▶ Airport Surface Surveillance (ASDE-X)
 - Aircraft positions as a function of time
- ▶ FAA Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM)
 - Airport capacity, throughput, & runways in use every 15 minutes
- ▶ Bureau of Transportation Statistics On-Time Performance Data
 - Scheduled and actual out, off, on, & in (OOOI) times for U.S. domestic flights
- ▶ FAA Aircraft Situation Display to Industry
 - Aircraft positions throughout the country, updated every minute
- ▶ Weather, other scattered items

SURFACE SURVEILLANCE VIA MULTI-LATERATION

- ▶ Estimated aircraft position once per second
- ▶ Displayed live on airport map
- ▶ Used to drive safety alerts
- ▶ Stored for analysis

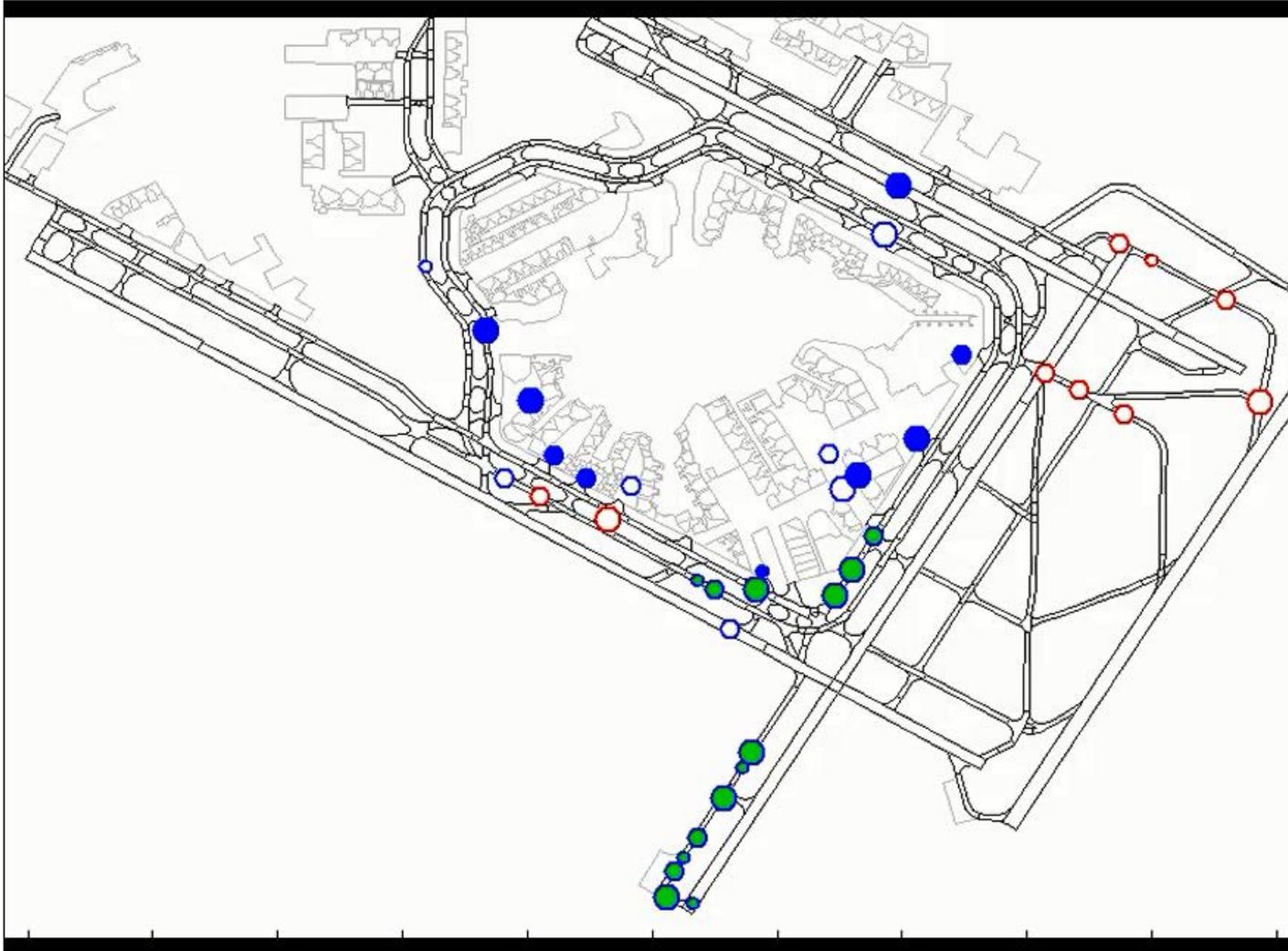


ANALYZING SURFACE SURVEILLANCE DATA



- BLACK:** MLAT Position Data
- RED:** SMR Position Data
- BLUE:** Track Reconstruction (Ver. 3)
- GREEN:** Track Reconstruction (Ver. 4)

ANALYZING SURFACE SURVEILLANCE DATA

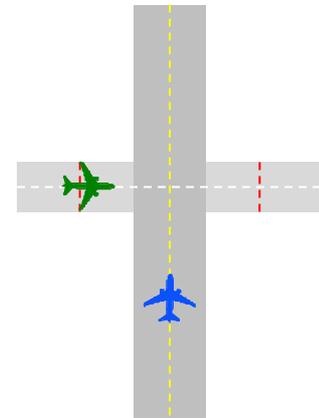
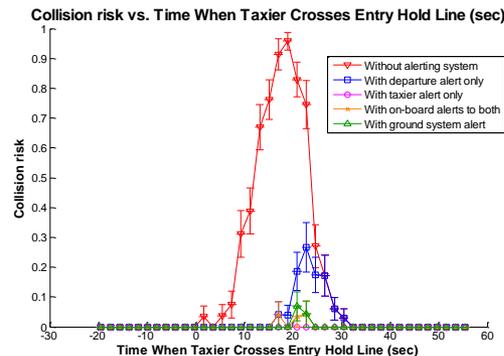


MANAGING THE DATA

- ▶ 1 day of JFK surface traffic data:
 - ~ 1200 flights
 - ~ 200 MB – 1 GB on disk
- ▶ Analysis environment: usually Matlab ☹
- ▶ Issues:
 - Scattered storage
 - Can be memory- and CPU-intensive
 - Versioning of data
 - Versioning of analysis algorithms
 - Distinguishing different sources of the “same” piece of information (e.g. surveillance-derived vs. carrier-reported gate departure)
 - Duplication of effort

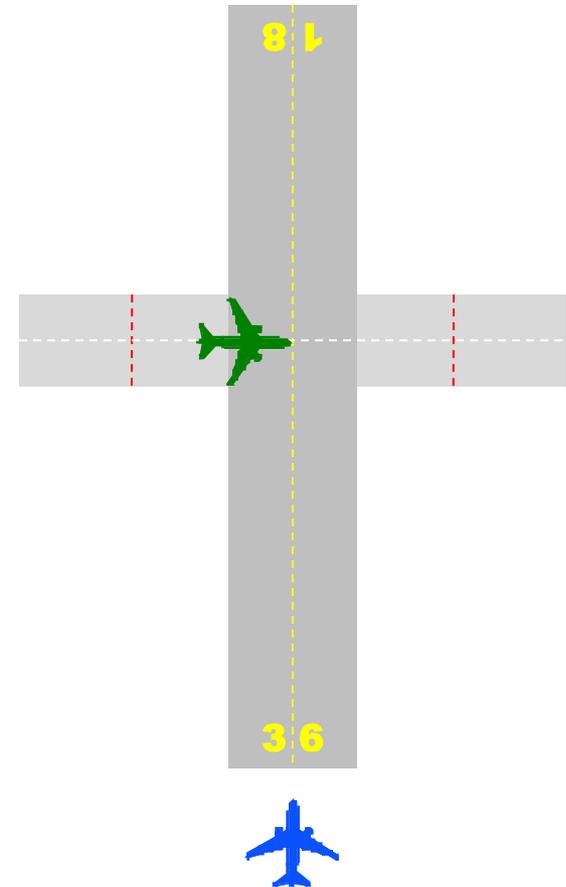
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RUNWAY SAFETY SYSTEMS

- ▶ ASDE-X & similar systems give visible & audible alerts if a dangerous runway situation arises
- ▶ Must have:
 - Prompt detection of dangerous situations
 - Very low nuisance alert rate ($\sim 10^{-6}$) in nominal situations
 - Sophisticated algorithms under the hood
- ▶ Simulations used to:
 - Estimate best possible performance (fraction of collisions prevented)
 - Determine potential benefit of technological improvements, such as more accurate surveillance

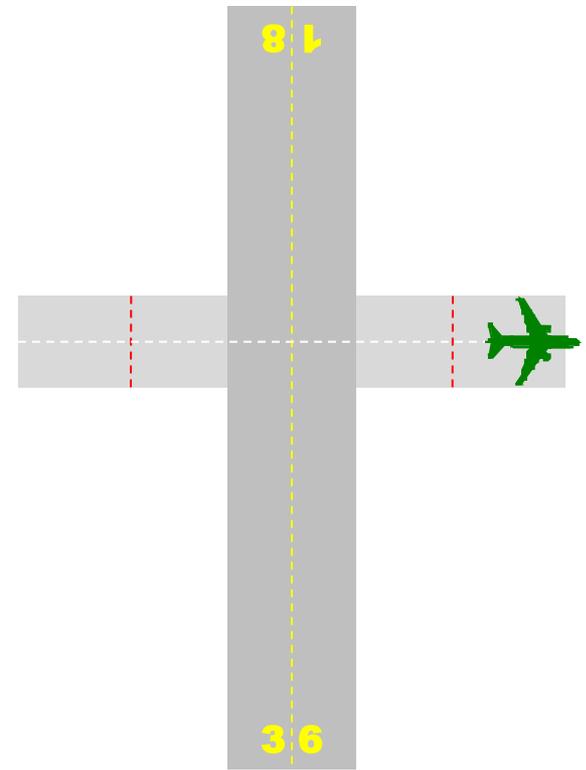
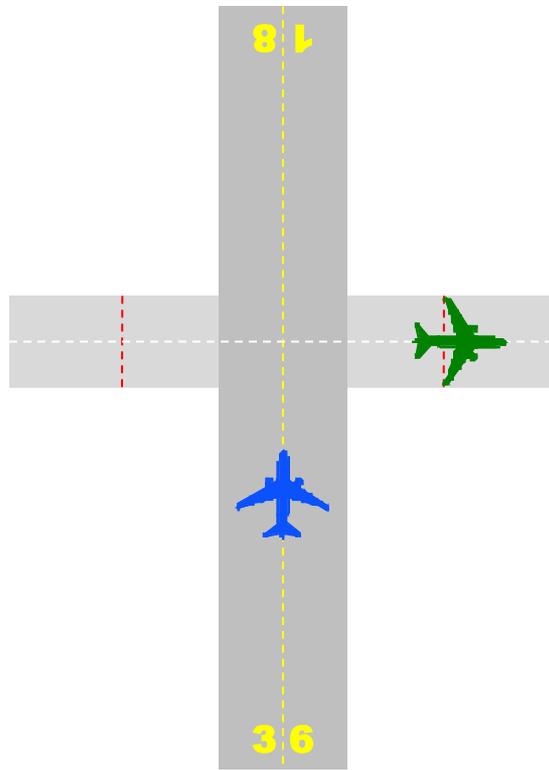
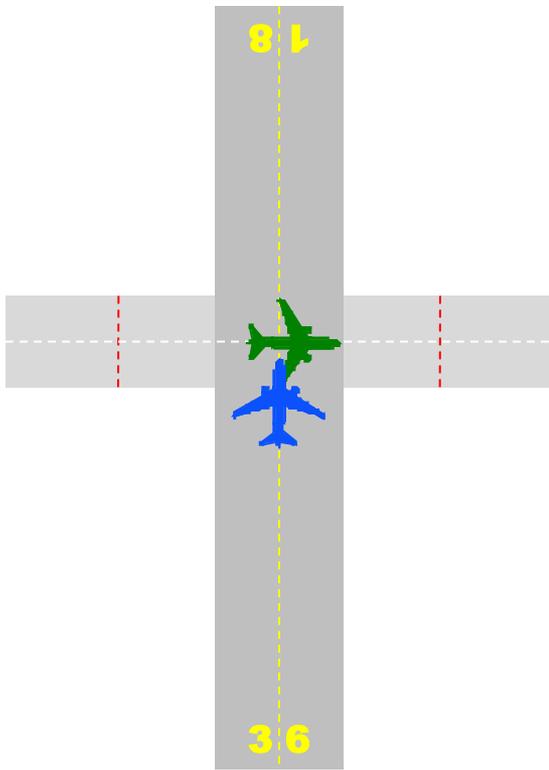


DANGEROUS, RULE-VIOLATING, & SAFE

Unsafe

Safe, but Rule Violated

Safe, No Rule Violated

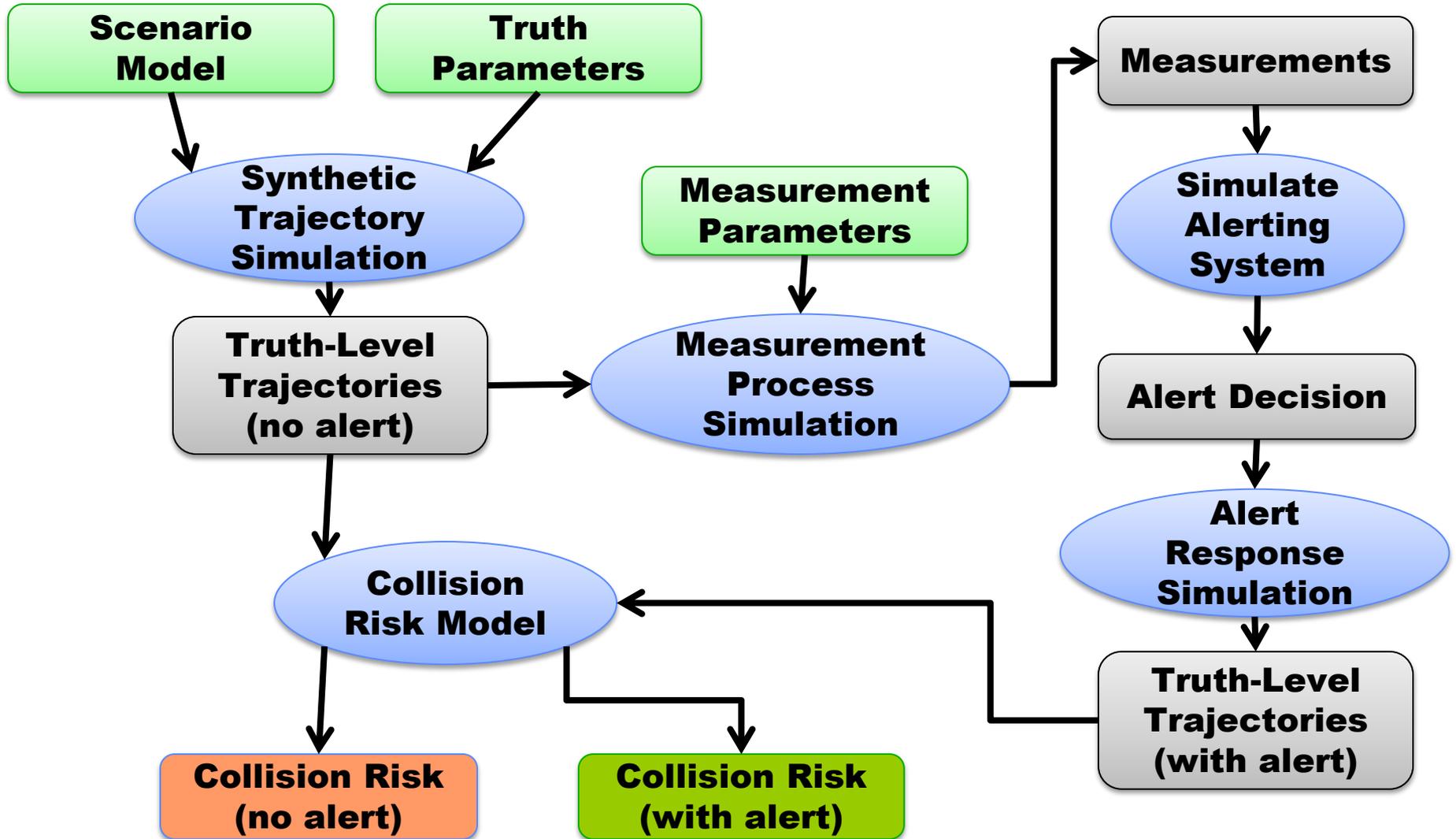


PARTICLE PHYSICS ANALYSIS VS. ALERT DECISION PROBLEM

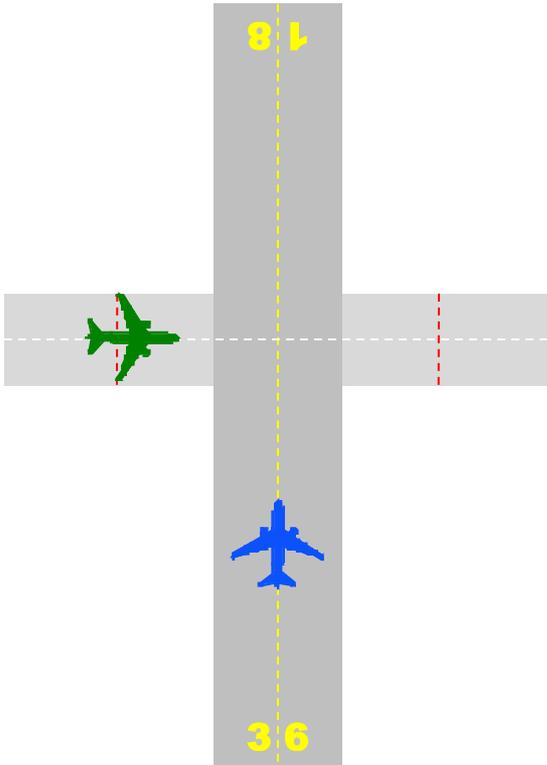
- ▶ From incomplete & noisy data, classify a situation as “interesting” or “not interesting”

Particle Physics	Alert Decision
Signal event	Dangerous situation
Background event	Nominal situation
Signal efficiency	Near-100% rate to detect danger
Background efficiency	Near-100% rejection of nominal
Efficiencies must be precisely known	Efficiencies must be driven to 100/0%
“Unlimited” time to decide	Must decide in time to respond
One chance to make decision	Can wait for more information
Improve via detector & algorithm design	Improve via detector & algorithm design
Physical laws determine limit of sensitivity	Procedure rules determine achievable level of safety

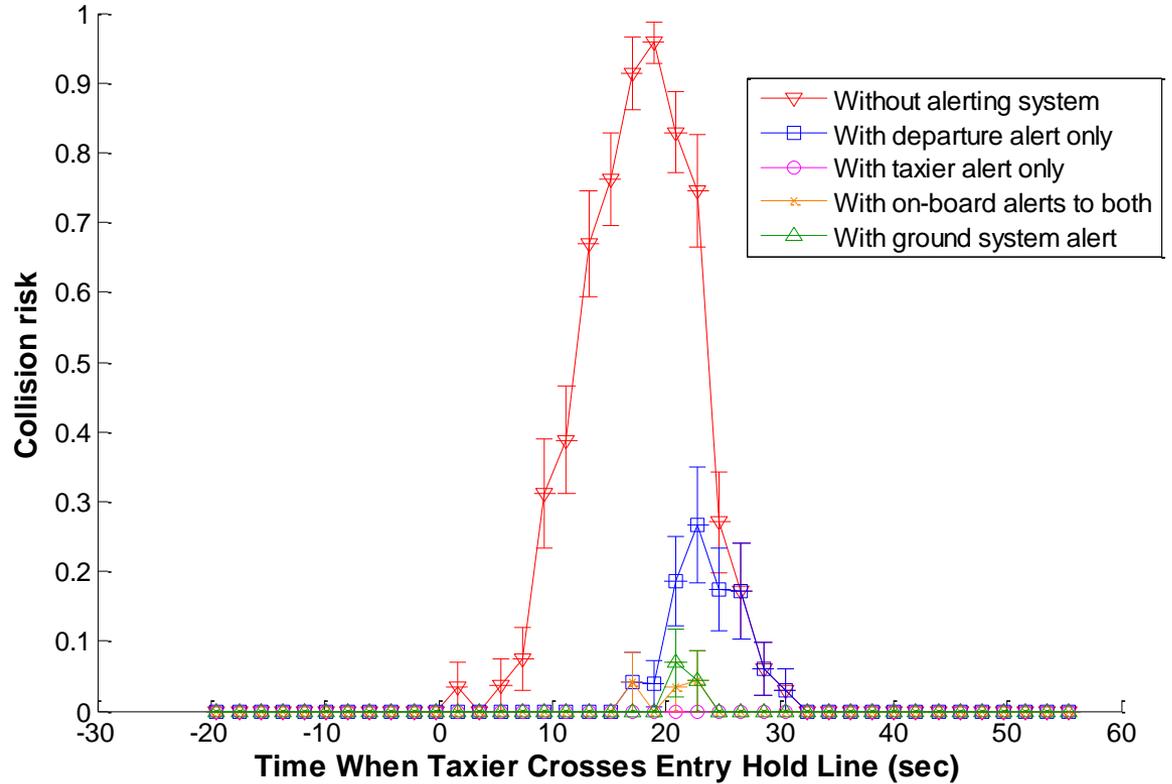
SIMULATION APPROACH



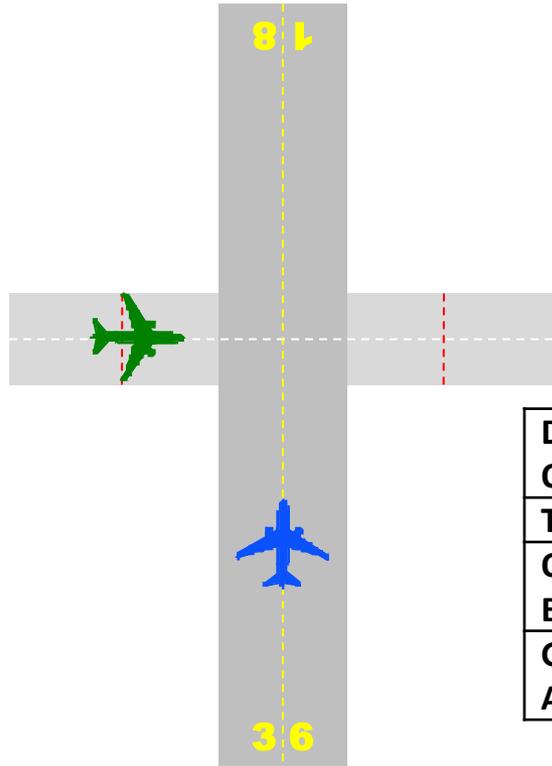
SOME RESULTS



Collision risk vs. Time When Taxiway Crosses Entry Hold Line (sec)



SOME RESULTS



	Fraction of Collisions Prevented
Departure Alert Only	64.6 ± 1.3 %
Taxier Alert Only	98.6 ± 0.2 %
On-Board Alerts to Both	99.3 ± 0.2 %
Ground-Based Alerts to Both	98.1 ± 0.3 %

	Response times x½	Baseline	Response times x2
Departure Alert Only	67.4 ± 1.3 %	64.6 ± 1.3 %	51.6 ± 1.0 %
Taxier Alert Only	99.3 ± 0.2 %	98.6 ± 0.2 %	91.1 ± 0.9 %
On-Board Alerts to Both	99.9 ± 0.1 %	99.3 ± 0.2 %	91.2 ± 0.7 %
Ground-Based Alerts to Both	99.8 ± 0.1 %	98.1 ± 0.3 %	82.7 ± 0.6 %

	2.5m Accuracy	5m Accuracy	10m Accuracy
Departure Alert Only	70.2 ± 1.0 %	64.6 ± 1.3 %	64.5 ± 1.1 %
Taxier Alert Only	98.6 ± 0.2 %	98.6 ± 0.2 %	98.6 ± 0.2 %
On-Board Alerts to Both	99.9 ± 0.0 %	99.3 ± 0.2 %	99.0 ± 0.2 %
Ground-Based Alerts to Both	99.1 ± 0.2 %	98.1 ± 0.3 %	97.9 ± 0.4 %

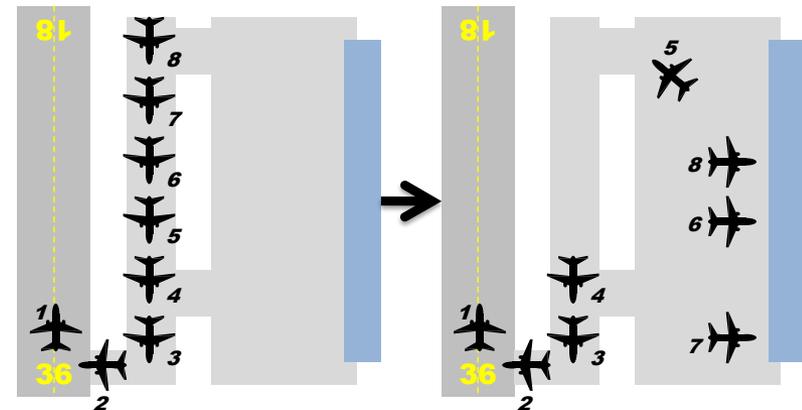
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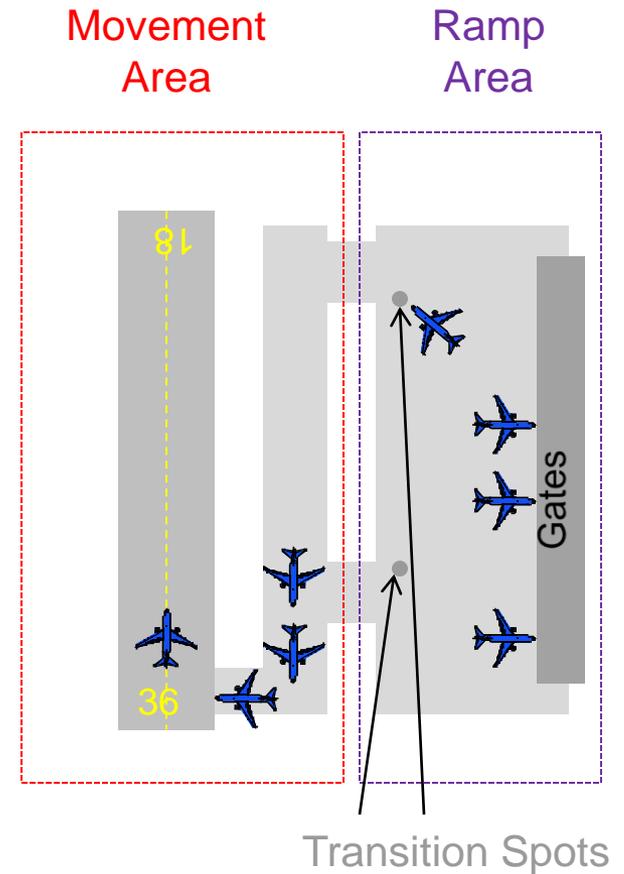
DEPARTURE QUEUE MANAGEMENT (DMAN)

- Operational concept (2009 & before)
- Benefits estimate (2009-2010)
- Prototype development (2010)
- Product development (2011-2012)
- Fielding at JFK (April 2012)
- Performance assessment (Dec 2012)



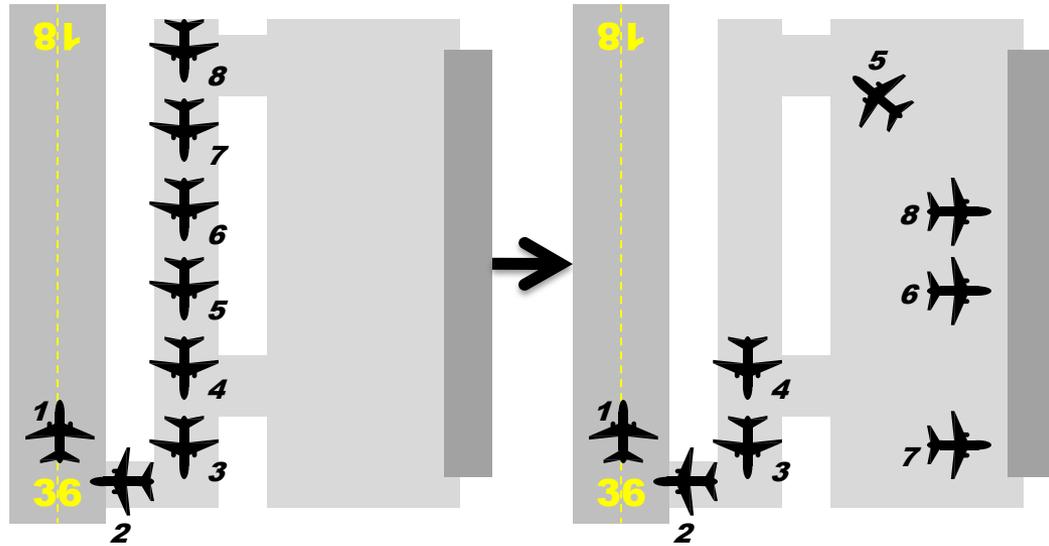
MOVEMENT AREA & RAMP AREA

- ▶ “Movement Area”
 - Areas controlled by FAA ATC Tower:
 - Runways and taxiways
- ▶ “Ramp Area”
 - a.k.a. “Non-Movement Area”
 - Controlled from ramp tower:
 - Gates, parking stands, & nearby tarmac
 - Managed by airline or terminal operator
- ▶ “Transition Spot”
 - Location where pilot calls ATC for clearance to enter the movement area



DMAN CONCEPT

- ▶ A virtual departure queue, rather than a physical queue, to reduce wasteful taxiing & holding
 - DMAN recommends spot release times



- ▶ Improved departure sequence to increase runway throughput & reduce delay

ORIGINAL SEQUENCE		
ACID	WC	DFIX
JBU87	L	WAVEY
DAL42	S	MERIT
DAL98	H	MERIT
AAL50	H	RBV
JBU11	L	RBV

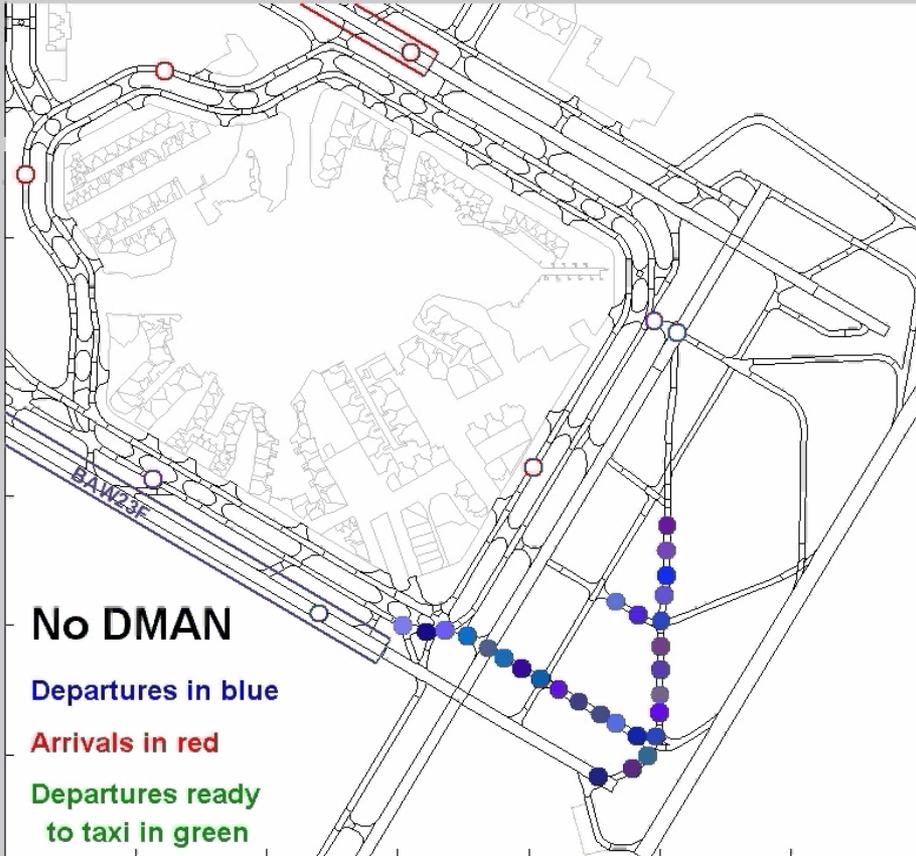


MODIFIED SEQUENCE		
ACID	WC	DFIX
DAL42	S	MERIT
JBU87	L	WAVEY
JBU11	L	RBV
DAL98	H	MERIT
AAL50	H	RBV

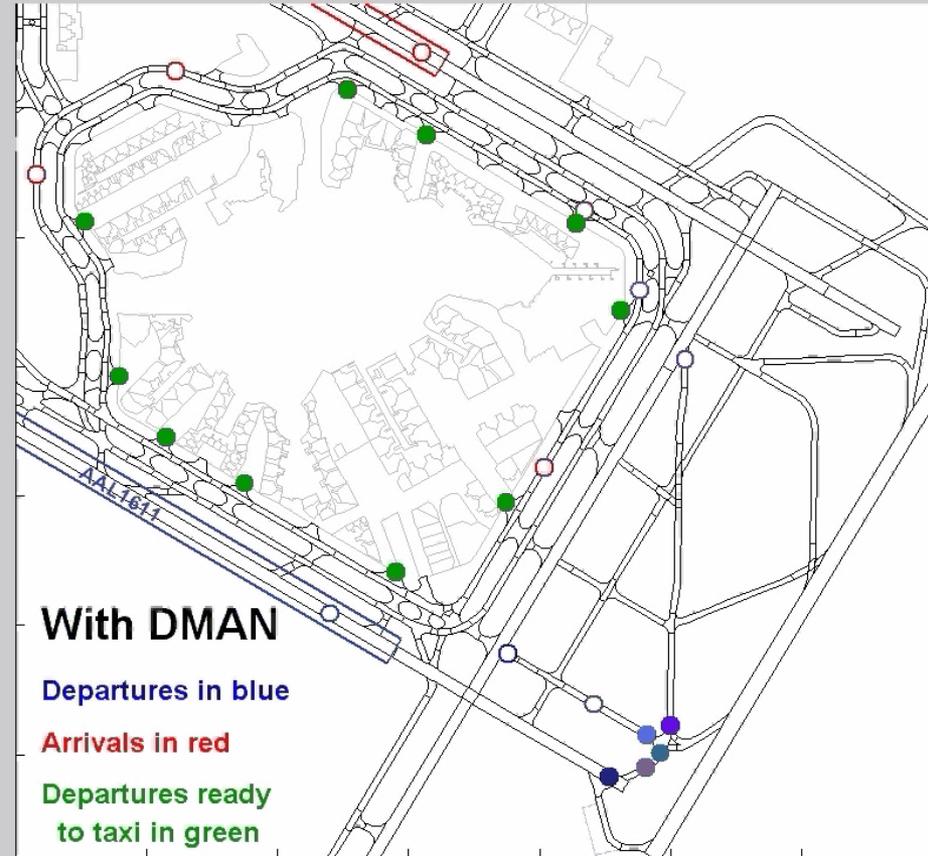
DMAN SIMULATION



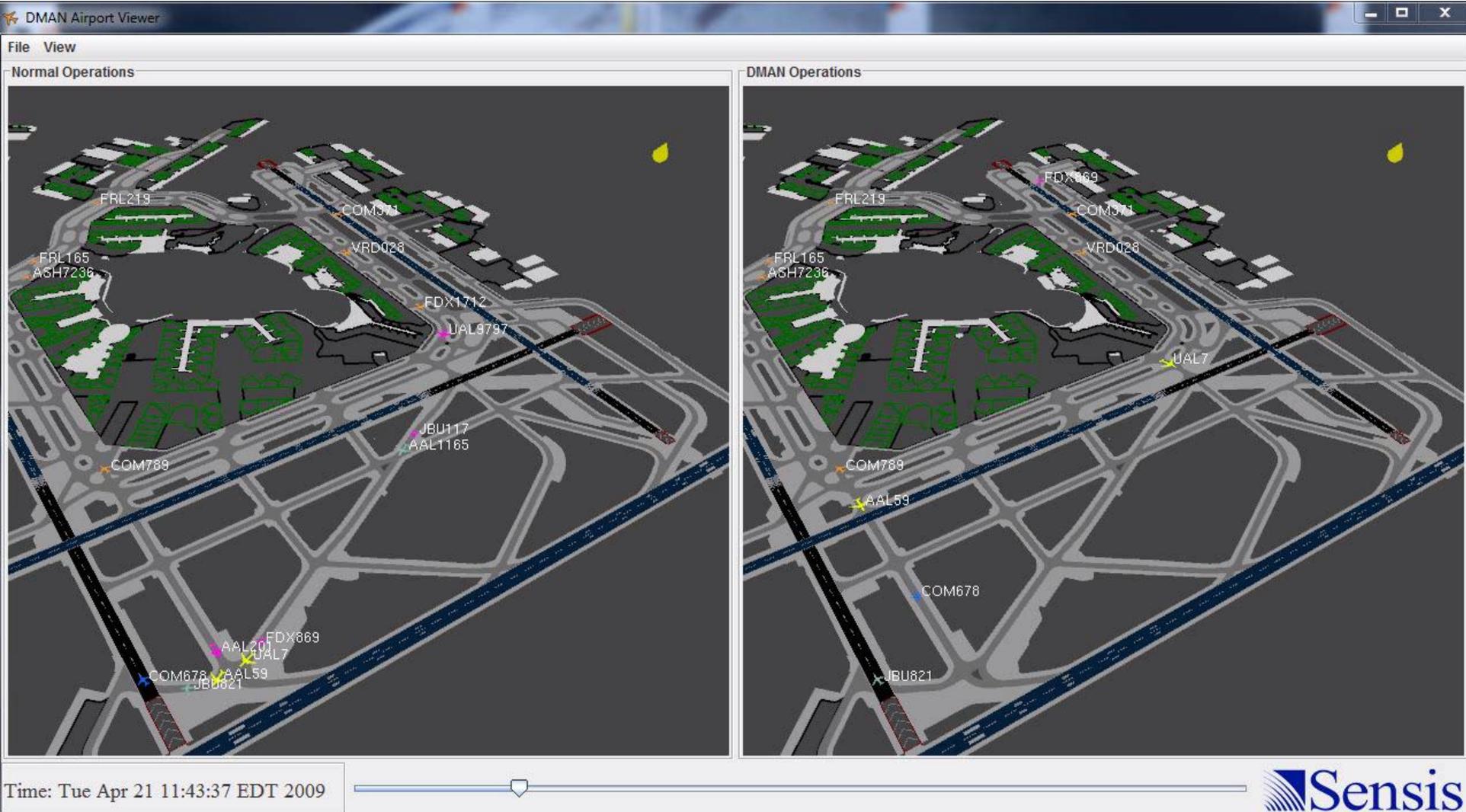
JFK Airport 21-Apr-2009 23:25:00 UTC



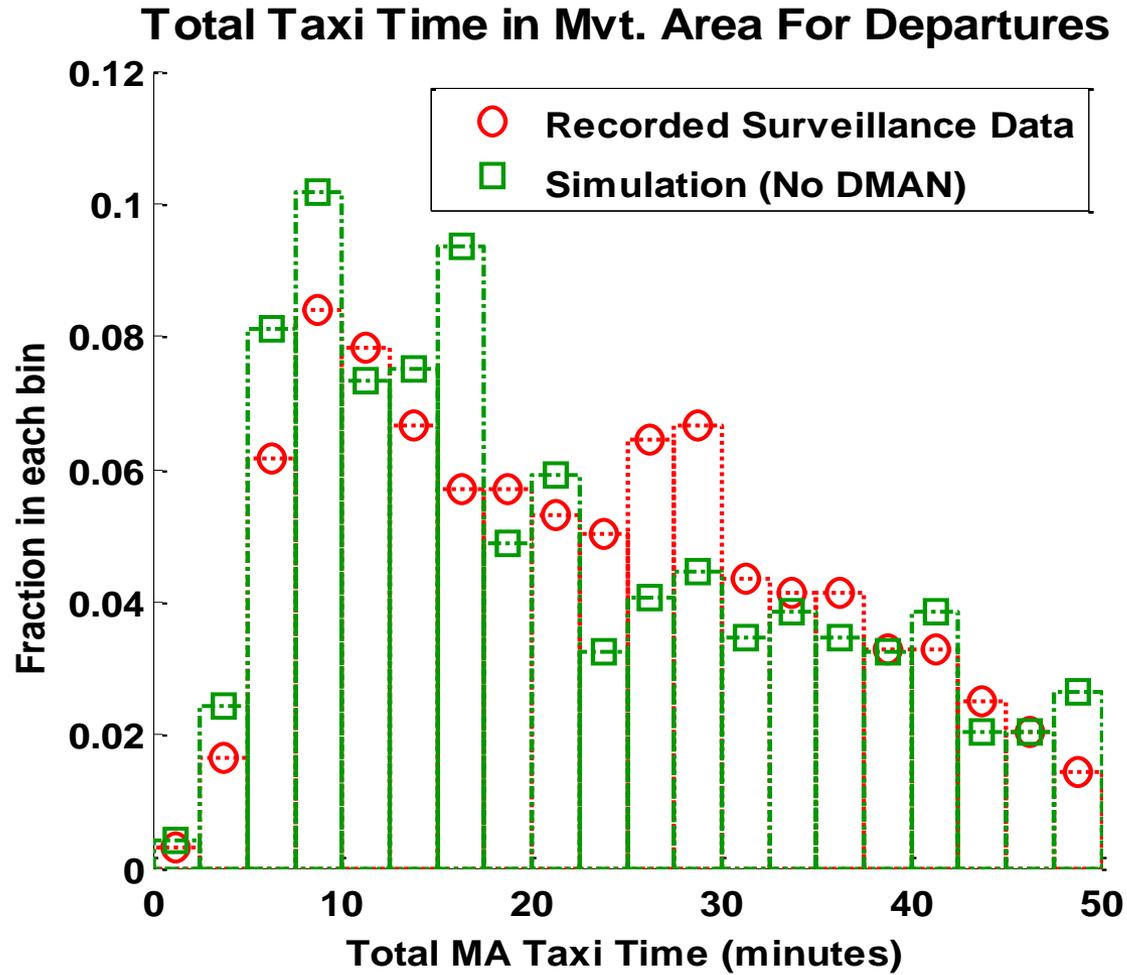
JFK Airport 21-Apr-2009 23:25:00 UTC



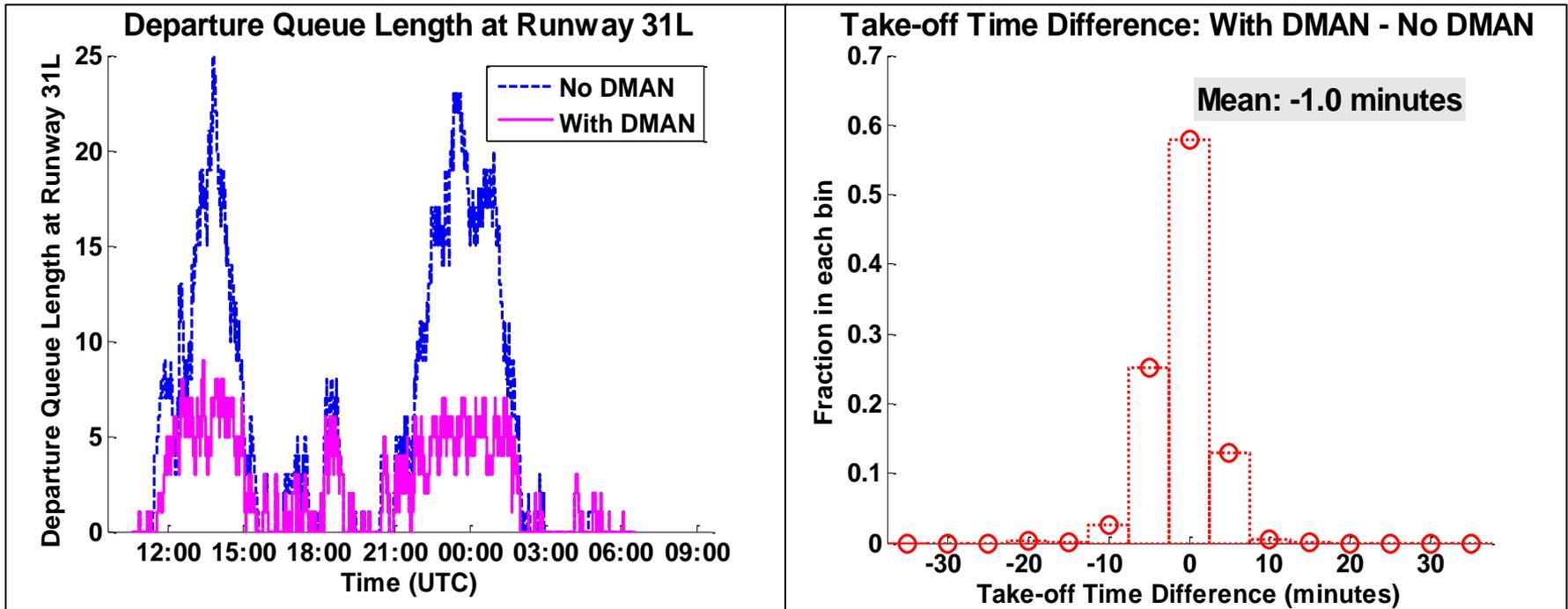
DMAN SIMULATION



VALIDATING THE SIMULATION



DMAN BENEFITS IN SIMULATED DAY

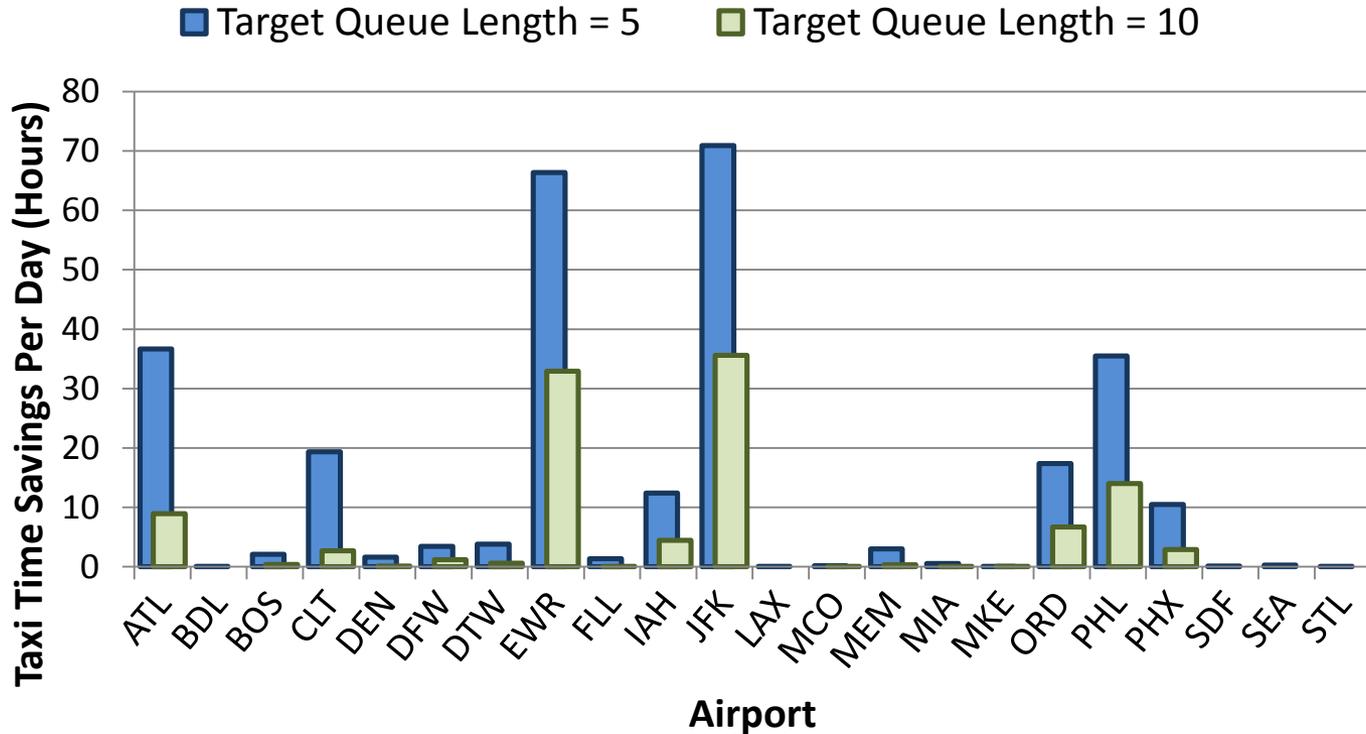


ANNUAL SAVINGS AT JFK DUE TO DMAN (SIMULATED)

Savings Type	Annual Amount
Fuel	10.5 million kg
Fuel Cost	\$10.2 million
CO ₂ Emissions	33,500 metric tons
Take-off Delay	2,900 hours
Taxi-out Time	21,400 hours
Airlines	\$24 million
Passengers	\$33 million

POTENTIAL DMAN BENEFITS ACROSS 22 U.S. AIRPORTS

Taxi Time Savings Per Day Due to DMAN



▶ Based on recorded ASDE-X surveillance data, 3/27 - 4/27/2009

PROTOTYPE & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

DMAN

Tools

Current Time: 19/1848

Filter Current Flights

ALL	4L	4R	31L	31R	13L	13R	22L	22R	ALL	4L	4R	31L	31R	13L	13R	22L	22R
TYPE	ACID	GATE	MP	WVC	FX	STATUS	SGT	TOTD	TOTV	RA	CFT	ONV					
OZ	ICOM81	2-34		LAROE	RBV	AIRBORNE	1918				1847						
OZ	AF1314	1-1		HEAVY	BETTE	AIRBORNE	1820				1845						
OZ	IRI959	5-25		LAROE	WAVEY	AIRBORNE	1810				1847						
OZ	AAL1635	5-03		B757	SHAPP	TAXI					1853						
OZ	JBU119	5-03		LAROE	RBV	TAXI	1835				1859						
OZ	AAL2255	9-45		HEAVY	WAVEY	TAXI	1840				1905						

Close Fix

Apply

Flight Properties

SGTID: 19/1843 TGTID: TGTV: Ramp Delay (in): 42

CFT Time: Unfreeze 19/1930 Predicted ONOFF: 19/1953 ACID: JBU711 Metering Point:

Gate: 5-20 Weight Class: LAROE DFKAFX: RBV Runway: 13R

Rwy Entry/Exit Point: Full-length Status: GATE: CFT compliance: 2m before to 8 m after Orig Dest: JFK-LAS

Type:

Route of Flight:

Advanced Development DMAN Prototype (2010)

Aerobahn
Departure Metering (2012)

Aerobahn :: TaxiView :: John F. Kennedy International Airport

System Workspace Settings Tools Reporting Help

Legend Playback Pause Search

Mode: Live

Past TMAT Flights

Flights at Gate Metering Point past TMAT - All Carrier Groups (6)

Owner	TMAT (Aero...)	FR ID (Aero)	Dest	First Fix	Gate Asgn (...SOBT (Aero)...	TOBT (Manual... ROBT (Aero)...	Mtrg Dly (min)
JBU	19:28	JBU723	NAS	WAVEY	Gate_T5_19	18:59	19:22 23
JBU	19:28	JBU63	TPA	RBV	Gate_T5_26	19:10	19:23 13
JBU	19:28	JBU981	FLI	WAVEY	Gate_T5_2	19:11	19:21 10
T7	19:28	BT45712	IAD		Gate_T7_11	19:17	19:21 4
DAL	19:28	FL03461	BOS	MERIT	Gate_T2_2	19:21	19:23 2
GA	19:28						

Assigned Flights

All Carrier Groups (50 Flights)

Owner	TMAT (Aero...)	FR ID (Aero)	Dest	First Fix	Gate Asgn (...SOBT (Aero)...	TOBT (Manual... ROBT (Aero)...	Mtrg Dly (min)
JBU	19:43	JBU1010	BOS	MERIT	Gate_T5_17	19:20	19:37 17
GA	19:43	AIC102	DEL	MERIT	*4-	19:25	19:38 13
AAL	19:43	AAL2035	MIA	WAVEY	Gate_T8_C...	19:30	19:36 6
AAL	19:43	EOJ4454	DCA	WAVEY	Gate_T8_C...	19:30	19:38 8
GA	19:43	EJA922	PBI	WAVEY		19:30	19:38 8
T7	19:43	UAL587	SFO	GAYEL	Gate_T7_10	19:30	19:33 3

Unassigned Flights - All Carrier Groups (1)

Owner	FR ID (Aero)	Dest	First Fix	Gate Asgn (Aero)	SOBT (Aero) Schedul...	TOBT (Manual) Targe...
JBU	JBU137	RSW	RBV	Gate_T5_23	20:30	

Compliance Monitor

Summary Non-Compliant Flights

Carrier	% U...	# U...	% C...	# C...	# N...
EVA	0	0	1	0	0
CAL	0	0	2	0	0
Am...	92	36	3	40	14
AAR	0	0	2	0	0
Ter...	67	2	1	100	2
...

Map Display

JFK GROUND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- ▶ Departure metering
 - System determines available capacity
 - System allocates capacity among carriers
 - System assigns a TMAT (spot release) to each departure
 - Carriers retain flexibility to swap flights and manage ramp
 - FAA manages the movement area as normal
- ▶ Shared information, common software platform & tools
- ▶ On-site staffed Coordination Center to coordinate among carriers and manage challenging conditions
- ▶ Regular, frequent discussions among stakeholders
- ▶ An ongoing process, not just technology

IN THE FIELD: JFK METERING COORDINATION CENTER



AEROBAHN DEP. METERING UI

Aerobahn :: TaxiView :: John F. Kennedy International Airport
_ □ ×

System Workspace Settings Tools Reporting Help
Aerobahn

Legend Playback Pause Search

Mode: Live 02/21/2012 18:53:30 UTC

Past TMAT Flights

Flights at Gate/Metering Point past TMAT - All Carrier Groups (0)

Owner	TMAT (Aero) ...	Flt ID (Aero)	Dest	First Fix	Gate Asgn (A...	SOBT (Aero) S...	TOBT (Manual...	ROBT (Aero) ...	Mtrg Dly (min)

Assigned Flights

All Carrier Groups (60 Flights) Departing on 31L
Metering currently active

Owner	TMAT (Aero...	Flt ID (Aero)	Dest	First Fix	Gate Asgn (...	SOBT (Aero)...	TOBT (Manu...	ROBT (Aero)	Mtrg Dly (min)
5/6									19:15 - 19:30
31L 5/6									
JBU	19:28	JBU723	NAS	WAVEY	Gate_T5_19	18:59		19:22	23
JBU	19:28	JBU63	TPA	RBV	Gate_T5_26	19:10		19:23	13
JBU	19:28	JBU981	FLL	WAVEY	Gate_T5_2	19:11		19:21	10
T7	19:28	BTA5712	IAD		Gate_T7_11	19:17		19:21	4
DAL	19:28	FLG3461	BOS	MERIT	Gate_T2_2...	19:21		19:23	2
GA	19:28								
6/6									19:30 - 19:45
31L 6/6									
JBU	19:43	JBU1010	BOS	MERIT	Gate_T5_17	19:20		19:37	17
GA	19:43	AIC102	DEL	MERIT	*4-	19:25		19:38	13
AAL	19:43	AAL2035	MIA	WAVEY	Gate_T8_C...	19:30		19:36	6
AAL	19:43	EGF4454	DCA	WAVEY	Gate_T8_C...	19:30		19:38	8
GA	19:43	EJA922	PBI	WAVEY		19:30		19:38	8
T7	19:43	UAL587	SFO	GAYEL	Gate_T7_10	19:30		19:33	3

Unassigned Flights

Unassigned Flights - All Carrier Groups (1)

Owner	Flt ID (Aero)	Dest	First Fix	Gate Asgn (Aero)	SOBT (Aero) Schedul...	TOBT (Manual) Targe...
JBU	JBU137	RSW	RBV	Gate_T5_23	20:30	

Compliance Monitor

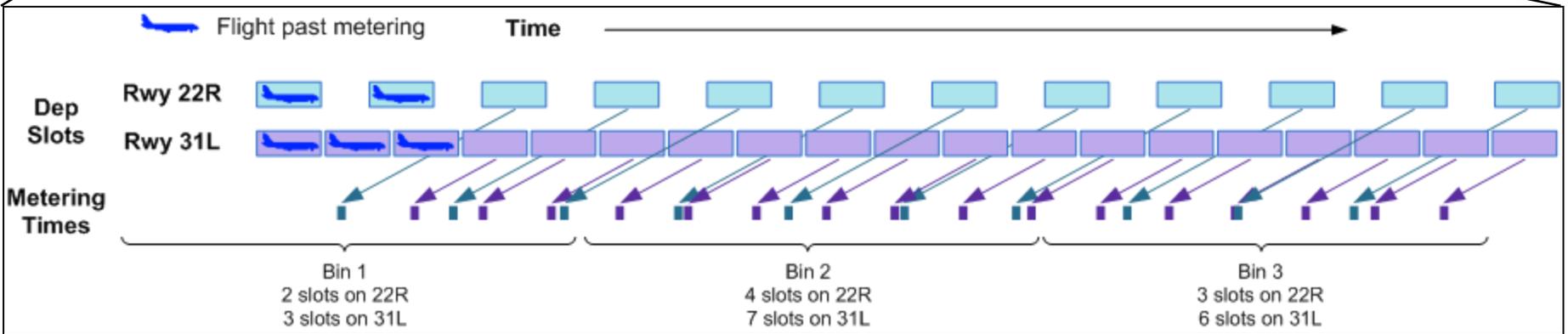
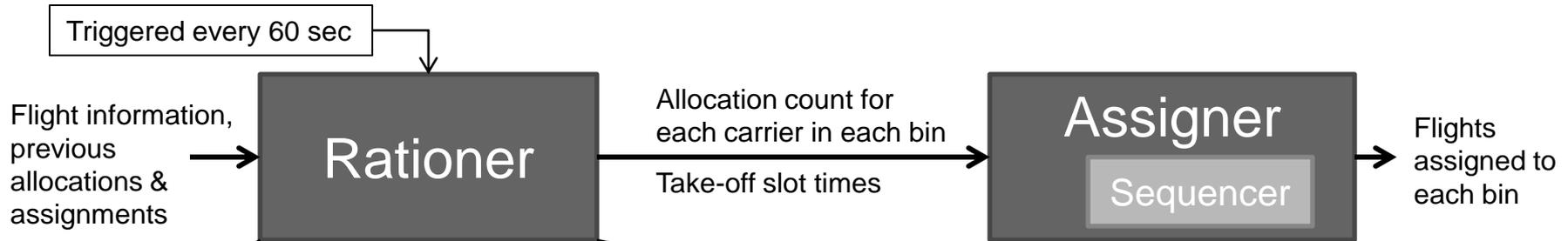
Summary Non-Compliant Flights

Compliance by Carrier Group since Midnight Local Time (last updated 18:51 UTC)

Carr...	Carrier	% U...	# U...	# U...	% C...	# C...	# N...
EVA		0	0	1		0	0
CAL		0	0	2		0	0
Am...		92	36	3	40	14	21
AAR		0	0	2		0	0
Ter...		67	2	1	100	2	0
DLU		0	0	1		0	0

Map Display

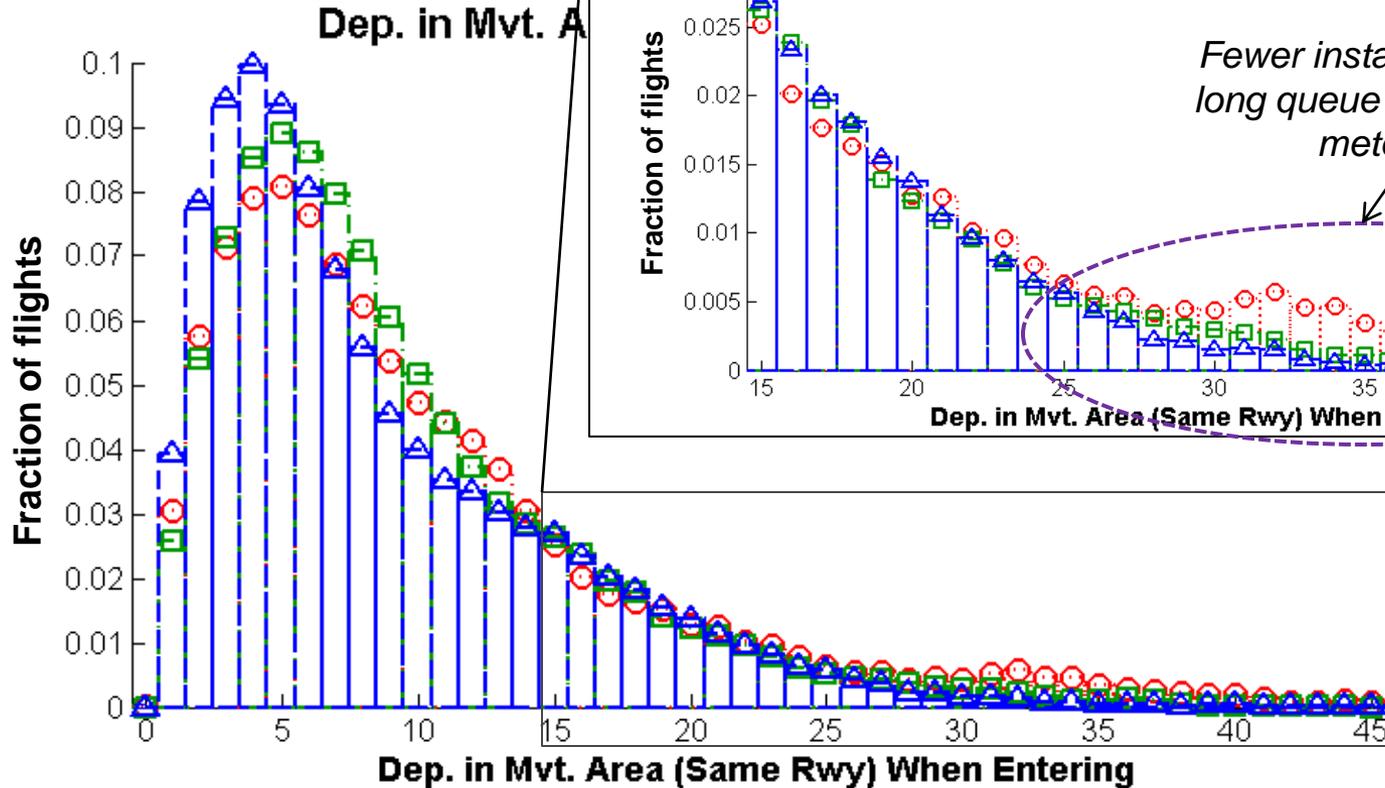
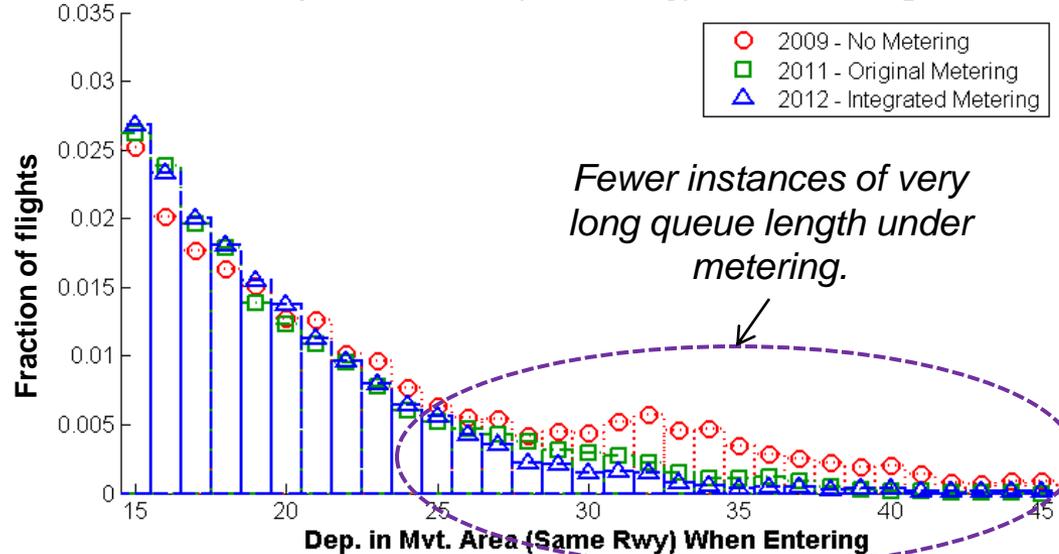
UNDER THE HOOD



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: SHORTER DEPARTURE QUEUES

Number of flights in movement area bound for same runway

Dep. in Mvt. Area (Same Rwy) When Entering



Departure Performance Improvement at JFK Compared to 2009

Improvement Per Month During Summer
Compared to 2009

Approximately 20-40% of this is savings due to metering gate holds.

Improvement Type	Monthly Amount
Taxi-out Time	2,100 hours
Fuel	1.0 million kg
Fuel Cost	\$1.0 million
CO ₂ Emissions	3,200 metric tons
Take-off Delay	2,400 hours
Passenger Time	12,600 person-days
Passenger Time @ \$30/hr	\$9.0 million

Multiply by 10 for approximate annual value

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- ▶ Fewer missed passenger connections
- ▶ Ability for airlines to prioritize high-value flights through flight swapping
- ▶ Lower taxiway maintenance costs
- ▶ Reduced workload for controllers
- ▶ Smoother runway configuration changes
- ▶ Greater airport capacity
- ▶ Three-hour rule compliance
- ▶ Reduction in delays propagated to other airports

OUTLINE

- ▶ Myself – my background
- ▶ The Collaboration – Saab Sensis
- ▶ Background & Motivation – how airports work
- ▶ The Hardware – sensors & data sources
- ▶ Monte Carlo – simulation of runway safety systems
- ▶ Results – departure management at JFK airport
- ▶ Final Thoughts – comparison to particle physics

GENERAL THOUGHTS ON MY TRANSITION

▶ Applicable skills:

- Analysis of large data sets
- Statistical reasoning
- Simulation design & validation
- Computer programming
- Presentation & public speaking
- Technical writing

▶ Not as applicable:

- Physics
- Advanced math

▶ What's different:

- Shorter deadlines
- Less rigorous
- Windows ☹️

▶ New skills:

- Air traffic management domain knowledge
- Artificial intelligence & optimization
- Software development practices
- Interaction with non-technical collaborators & audiences

▶ Perks:

- Visiting air traffic control facilities
- Talking with airport management & operations personnel
- Influencing ongoing improvements

THANK YOU!

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