Assessing Tactical Scheduler Options for Time-Based Surface Metering

Shannon Zelinski
Robert Windhorst

NASA Ames Research Center

Time-Based Surface Metering

- Improve efficiency
- Improve predictability

**Tactical Scheduler**

- earliest pushback times
- target pushback times

**uncertainty**

- hold advisories
- pushback clearance

- taxi and departure clearances
- ready for pushback

**Airline Ops**

**ATCT Control**

**Pilot**

**Ramp Control**
ATD-2 Parallel Efforts

- Field Demonstration
  - Demonstrate viability of ATD-2 tools in the real operating environment

- Human-In-The-Loop simulation
  - Develop/test human factors interfaces and procedures

- Fast-time simulation
  - Extrapolate field results
  - Refine scheduler for future phases of field demonstration
  - Easily adapt concepts to other airports
Objective

- Benchmark evaluation of the ATD-2 tactical scheduler in fast-time simulation
- Parametric analysis of taxi time delay buffer mitigation of surface congestion uncertainty
Outline

Tactical Scheduler

Fast-Time Simulation

Evaluation Results
Tactical Scheduler

- Trajectory Prediction
  - Earliest Pushback Time
  - Earliest Runway Time

- Runway Scheduling
  - Target Runway Time
  - Target Pushback Time

- Advisory Generation
  - Target Pushback Time

- Flight state and intent
- Separation constraints
- Taxi time delay buffers

Surface congestion
Advisory Generation

Target Pushback Time = Target Runway Time - Unimpeded Transit Time

Surface Congestion

Advisory Generation

- A accounts for congestion along route
- B accounts for congestion at runway

Taxi Time Delay Buffers
Outline

Tactical Scheduler

Fast-Time Simulation

Evaluation Results
Fast-Time Simulation

Surface Operations Scheduler & Simulator (SOSS)

Charlotte Douglas International (CLT)

South flow configuration
Traffic Scenario

4 hours from 3/11/2016, high demand, low weather impact
Traffic Scenario

4 hours from 3/11/2016, high demand, low weather impact

- 18L dep
- 18C dep
- 18C arr
- 18L arr

ops per 15-min

simulation time (min)
Traffic Scenario

4 hours from 3/11/2016, high demand, low weather impact

ops per 15-min

simulation time (min)
Simulation Parameters and Variables

- **SOSS**
  - 0.5 sec time step
  - Surface congestion uncertainty modelled

- **Tactical Scheduler**
  - called every 10 sec
  - Delay Buffers
    - A = 1.05
    - B = {0, 1, 2, …} min

**Evaluation Metrics**
- Departure Delay
- Runway Time Prediction
- Throughput Prediction
- Departure Queue
Departure Delay Results

Best job moving delay to gate without increasing total much

- AMA
- Ramp
- Gate
- Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>taxi time buffer B (min)</th>
<th>delay (min)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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Runway Time Prediction Results

- Departures are late on average
- Predictability (stdev) worsens quickly as taxi time buffer is increased
Throughput Prediction Results

Predictability (stdev) independent of buffer

Better to under predict throughput slightly to keep pressure on the runways
## Departure Queue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departure queues</th>
<th>Number of departures:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ramp</strong></td>
<td>In ramp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMA</strong></td>
<td>In Active Movement Area (AMA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taxi = Ramp + AMA</strong></td>
<td>In ramp and AMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Queue</strong></td>
<td>in line from runway within 200m of each other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Departure Queue Results

Maximum queue lengths for 18L (0-120 min)

- Taxi, AMA, and Queue increase with buffer
- Taxi begins to saturate
- Queue > AMA when line extends into the ramp
- Ramp saturates quickly and does not increase with taxi delay buffer
Maximum Queue Length Example

Runway 18L

\[ B = 10 \text{ min} \]

\[ q_{\text{AMA}} = 11 \]

\[ q_{\text{line}} = 12 \]
Maximum queue lengths for 18L (0-120 min)
## Summary and Conclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departure Delay</th>
<th>Move as much delay to gate without increasing total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Runway Time Prediction</td>
<td>Keep buffers small for better predictability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throughput Prediction</td>
<td>Under-predict slightly to maintain pressure on runways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departure Queue</td>
<td>Avoid saturating the Taxi and AMA queues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Buffer B**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
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Recommend buffers between 2 and 5 minutes for future simulations.
Future Work

- Add other uncertainties
- Add traffic management initiatives
- Add airline priority
Questions

Shannon.j.zelinski@nasa.gov