



Evaluation of the Terminal Area Capacity Enhancing Concept

February 10, 2004

**Virtual Airspace Modeling and Simulation Program
Technical Interchange Meeting #4**

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Agenda

-
- TACEC Core ideas
 - Anticipated benefits
 - Approach
 - Metrics
 - Results and lessons learned
 - How the results further the concept description
 - Challenges



TACEC Overview

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- **Primary capacity constraints for terminal area operation are;**
 - Wake Vortex Hazard avoidance
 - Runways

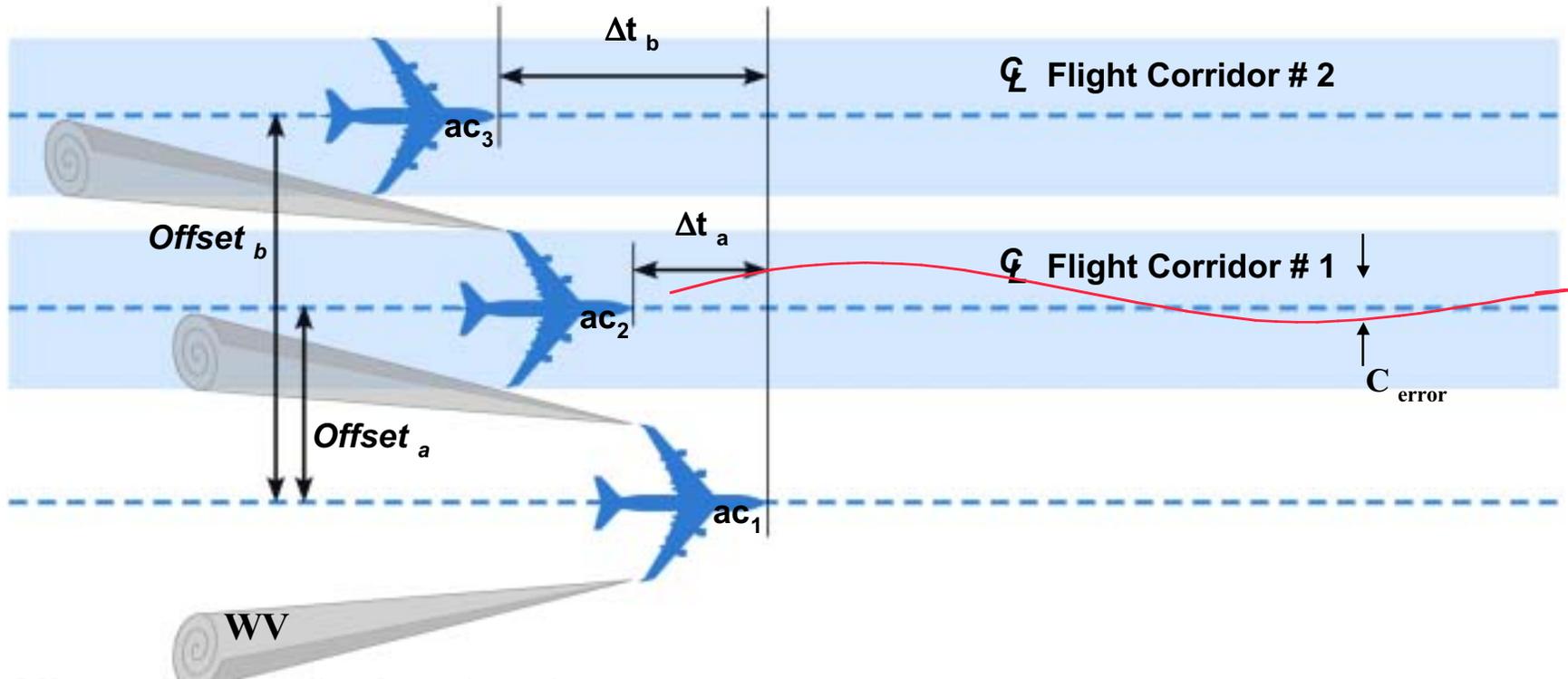
 - **TACEC addresses both areas with the following core ideas:**
 - 1.) **Introducing the concept of closely spaced final approaches defined by wake hazard free “Flight Corridors”¹**
 - 2.) **Optimize terminal area flight paths to stage aircraft for final approach**
 - 3.) **Utilize DGPS based auto-land for all weather operation**
 - 4.) **Use today’s closely spaced parallel runways and/or build additional runways “between” them.**

1. Rossow, V. “Use of Individual Flight Corridors to Avoid Vortex Wakes”, AIAA AFM Conference, August 2002

Core idea #1

Instead of in-trail spacing to avoid wakes

Flight Corridors avoid WV by eliminating uncertainty

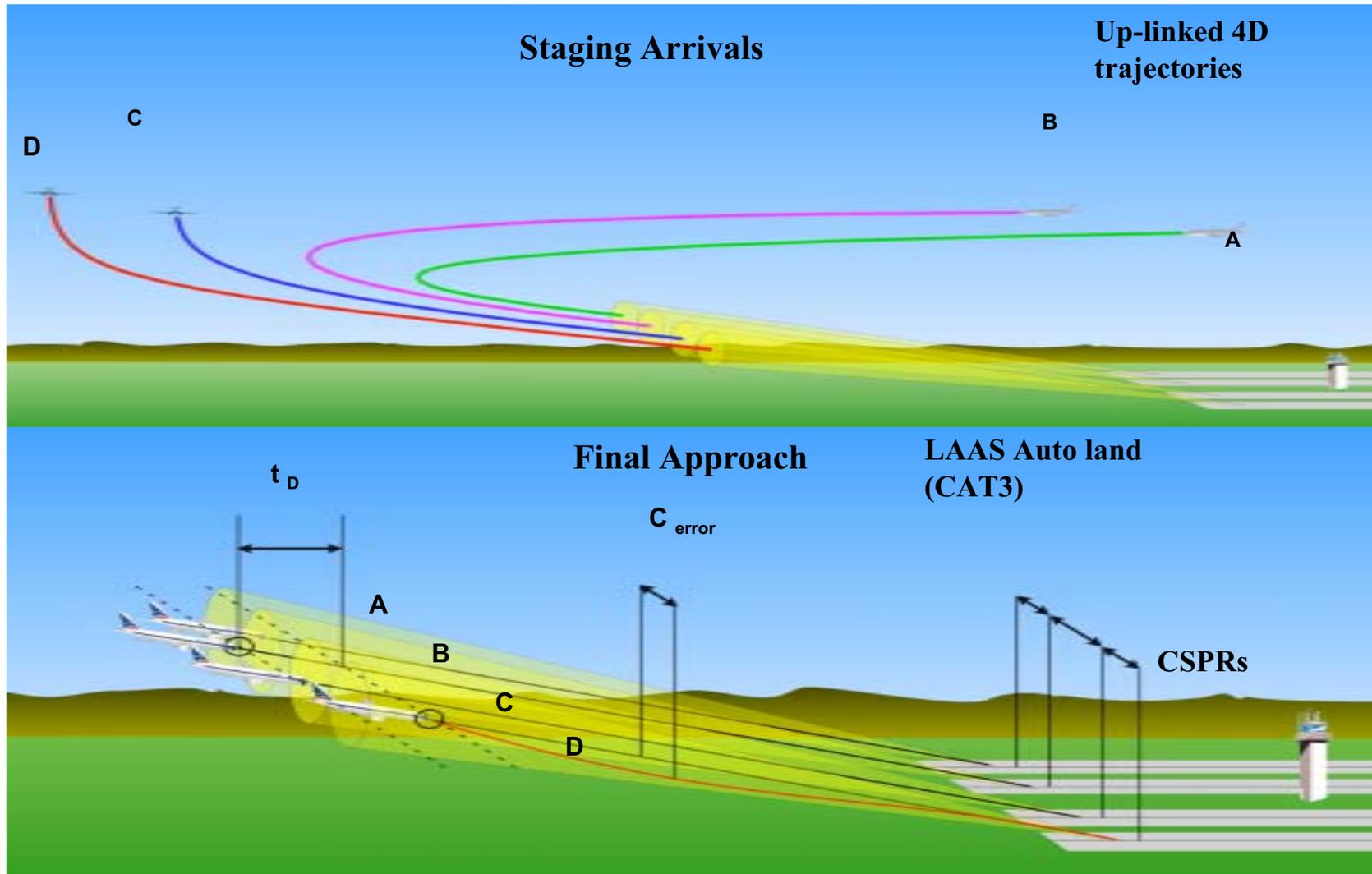


$$Offset_a = WV(ac_1, t) + C_{error}(ac_2, t)$$

$$Offset_b = WV(ac_1, t) + WV(ac_2, t) + C_{error}(ac_2, t) + C_{error}(ac_3, t)$$

Note: WV is also dependent on atmospheric

Core idea #2 & 3 Implementation is a Terminal Area Challenge





Core idea #4 Adding Runways

- **Establish Independent, all weather runway usage with spacing minimums of 500 ft.**
 - **Build new runways between existing parallels**
or
 - **Utilize existing closely spaced dependent runways**

AIRPORT	RW	SPACING (ft)
FORT LAUDERDALE	9L/9R	4000
DETROIT	3L/3C	3800
SALT LAKE CITY	16L/17	3700
PHOENIX	8/8R	3565
MEMPHIS	18L/18R	3400
RALEIGH-DURHAM	5L/5R	3400
MINNEAPOLIS	30L/30R	3380
PORTLAND	10L/10R	3100
KENNEDY	4L/4R	3000
INDIANAPOLIS	5L/5R	2525
DETROIT	3C/3R	2000
ORLANDO	18L/18R	1600
BOSTON	4L/4R	1500
PHILADELPHIA	9L/9R	1400
ST. LOUIS	12L/12R	1300
	17L/17R	1200
DALLAS-FT WORTH	18/18R	1200
PITTSBURGH	10C/10R	1200
	8L/8R	1000
ATLANTA	9L/9R	1000
HOUSTON	14L/14R	1000
LAS VEGAS	7L/7R	1000
NEWARK	4L/4R	900
SEATTLE	16L/16R	800
LAX	7L/7R	750
	1L/1R	750
SFO	28L/28R	750



Benefits

-
- **Primary benefit is the significant capacity increase available by using all possible runways, in all weather for both arrivals and departures.**
 - Reduces delays, hence operating costs for airlines
 - Increases schedule reliability for travelers
 - **Implementing TACEC takes advantage of existing airport facilities**
 - Reduces infrastructure investment needed to build new runways
 - Land acquisition not necessary to add new runways



Self Assessment Approach

Track 1 - Evaluate key performance requirements

- **Hazardous wake vortex characteristics**
 - Defining hazardous wake
 - Crosswind impact
 - Wake position verification integrity
- **Aircraft position accuracy**
 - Aircraft performance
 - Position verification integrity
 - Operating environment
 - Flight Technical Error
- **Safety**
 - Blunder during approach
 - Terminal airspace conflict detection
- **Human performance**
 - Cockpit visualization
 - Ground monitoring

Feasibility assessment for implementing TACEC



Self Assessment Approach

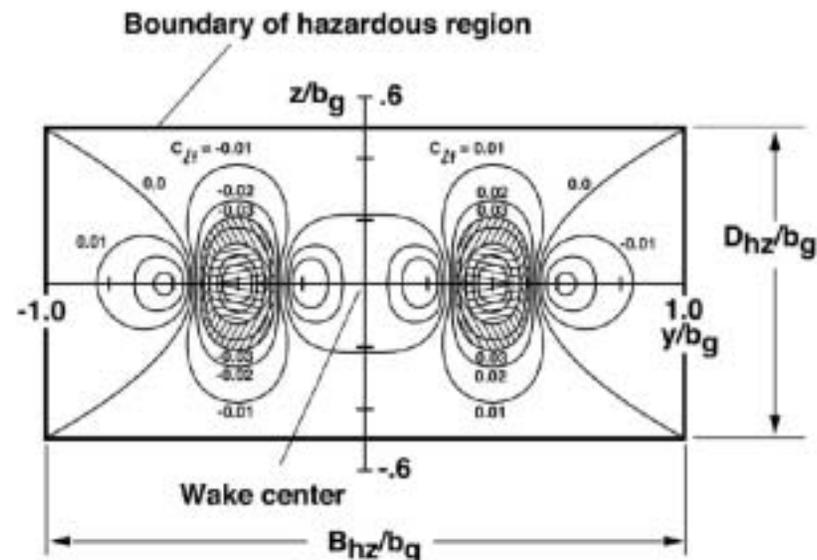
Track 2 - Use ACES to assess terminal area capacity growth and the NAS-wide impact

- **What could the airport's arrival/departure rate become with TACEC?**
 - Time window of arrival time differences of 60 to 300 seconds
 - Geographic arrival points constrained to 90 degrees of assigned runway, or unconstrained arrival points.
 - Number of aircraft in parallel final approach, 3, 5 or no limit.
 - Constraining paired aircraft types in various ways.
 - Time window of departure time difference of 60 to 300 seconds
 - Departure gate (meter fix) constrained to at least 90 degrees.
 - Constraining aircraft types in various ways.

- **What is the increase in capacity of the NAS based on these new airport arrival/departure rates?**

Verify the expected capacity benefits

- **Hazardous Wake Vortex characteristics**
 - Defined as any vortex element that creates an overpowering rolling moment, causing an unplanned roll excursion of 5° or more on the following aircraft.



b_g = generating aircraft wingspan
 b_f = following aircraft wingspan
 B_{hz} = breadth of hazard region
 D_{hz} = depth of hazard region

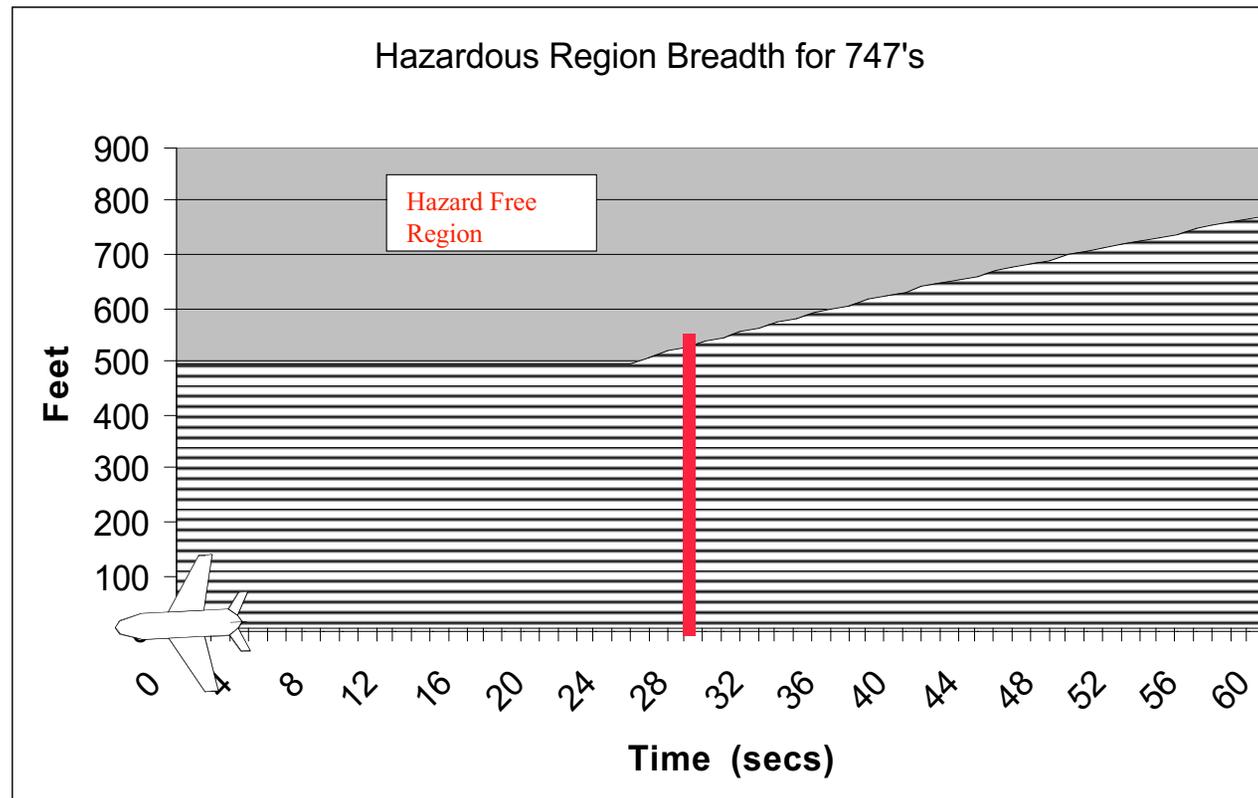
Breadth of the hazardous region is $2 \times b_g$ where $b_f / b_g = 0.29$
 Breadth of the hazardous region is $2.5 \times b_g$ where $b_f / b_g = 1.0$



Performance requirements for wake hazard avoidance (cont'd)

Hazardous region spreading vs time¹:

$$B_{hz}(t) = 0.5b_g \text{sqrt}(t)$$

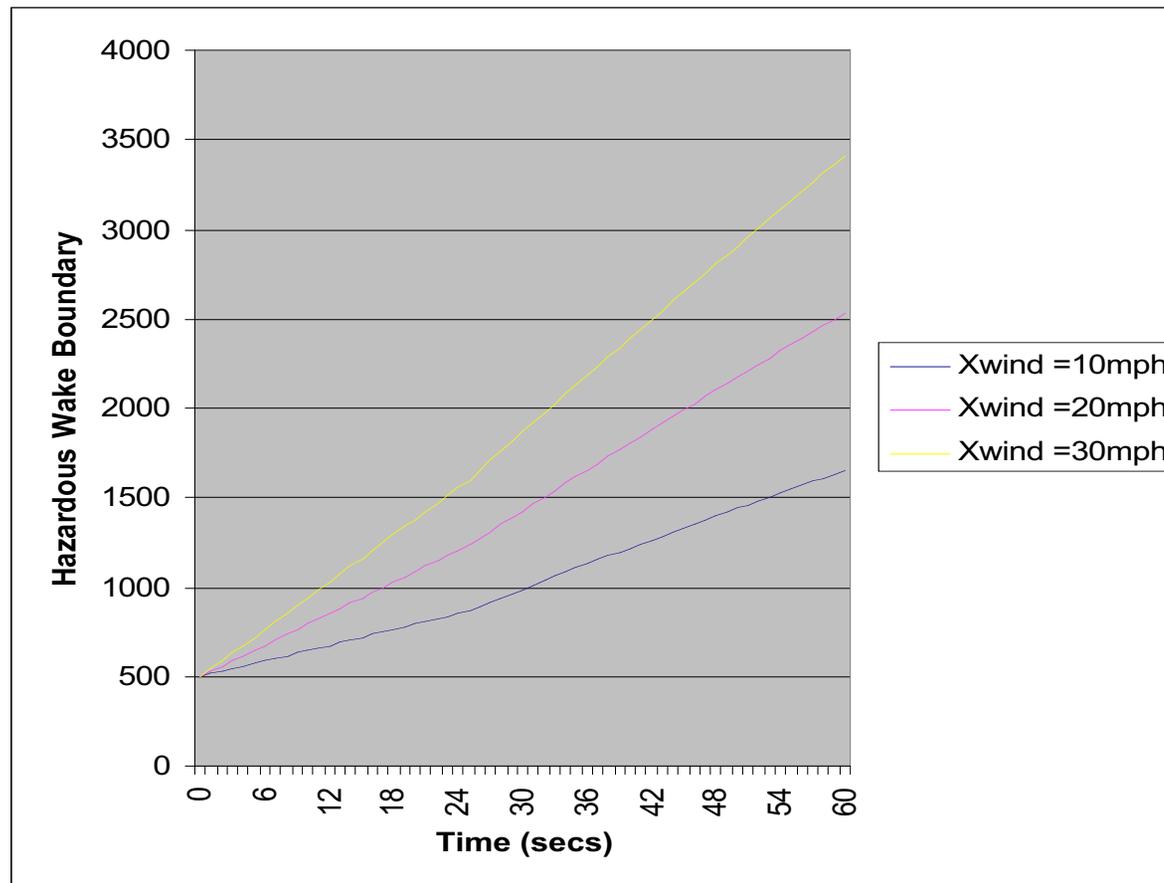


¹Rossow V., "Implementation of Individual Flight-Corridor Concept"
AIAA ATIO, Nov. 2003



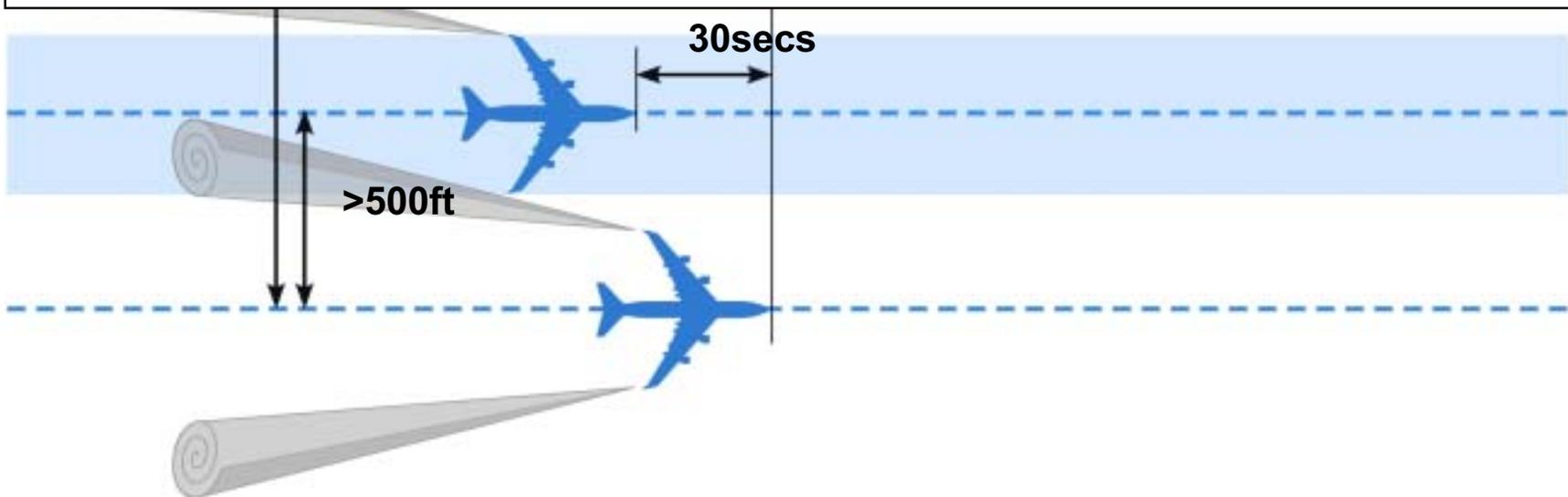
Performance requirements for wake hazard avoidance (cont'd)

Environmental impact, crosswind movement of hazardous region



Performance requirements for wake hazard avoidance (cont'd)

With zero crosswind, two 747's must be within 30 seconds of each other on final to 500 ft RCL's.....or approximately 1.5 m in trail spacing.



As crosswinds increase, RCL's must increase and/or time differential reduced....



Performance requirements for wake hazard avoidance - Key Issues

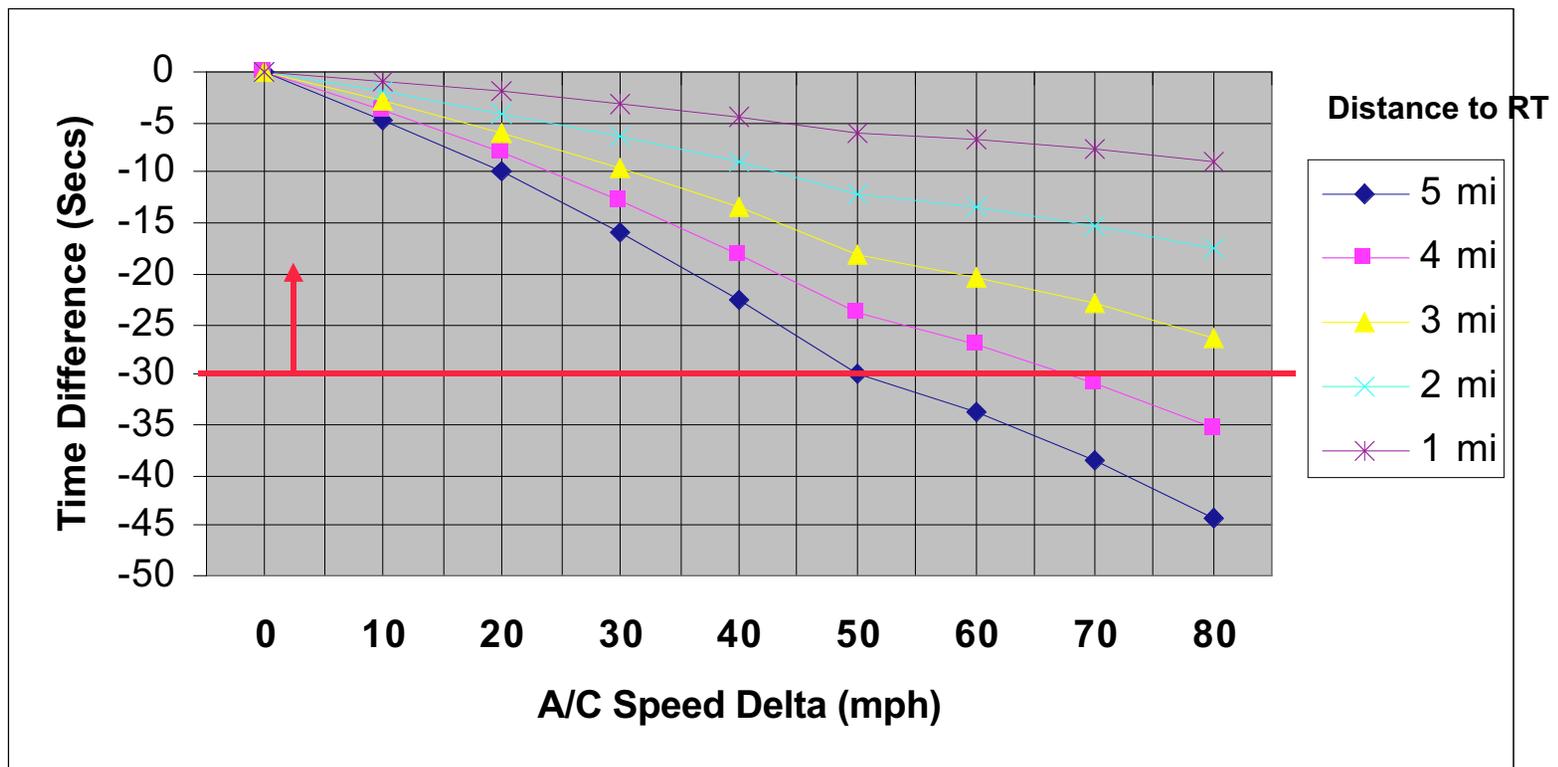
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- **Wake position verification**
 - High integrity, highly reliable terminal area environmental monitoring is required. Wind velocity in final approach region critical.
 - » Time critical wind assessment required.
 - Dynamic wake measurement/monitoring capability along approach corridor can provide additional information.
 - Current WakeVAS development can provide necessary wake hazard position assurance function



Performance requirements for aircraft position

- Aircraft performance - maintaining required aircraft to aircraft position will require groupings for both staging and final approach
 - Time differential at Final Approach Fix + descent delta < 30 seconds



TACEC Operation requires grouping of similar aircraft



Performance requirements for aircraft position

- **Flight Technical Error (FTE)**
 - Definition - FTE is the contribution to aircraft position error that arises from inaccurate aircraft control
 - Total System Error = Navigation + FTE
 - DGPS/LAAS will provide navigational errors in meters

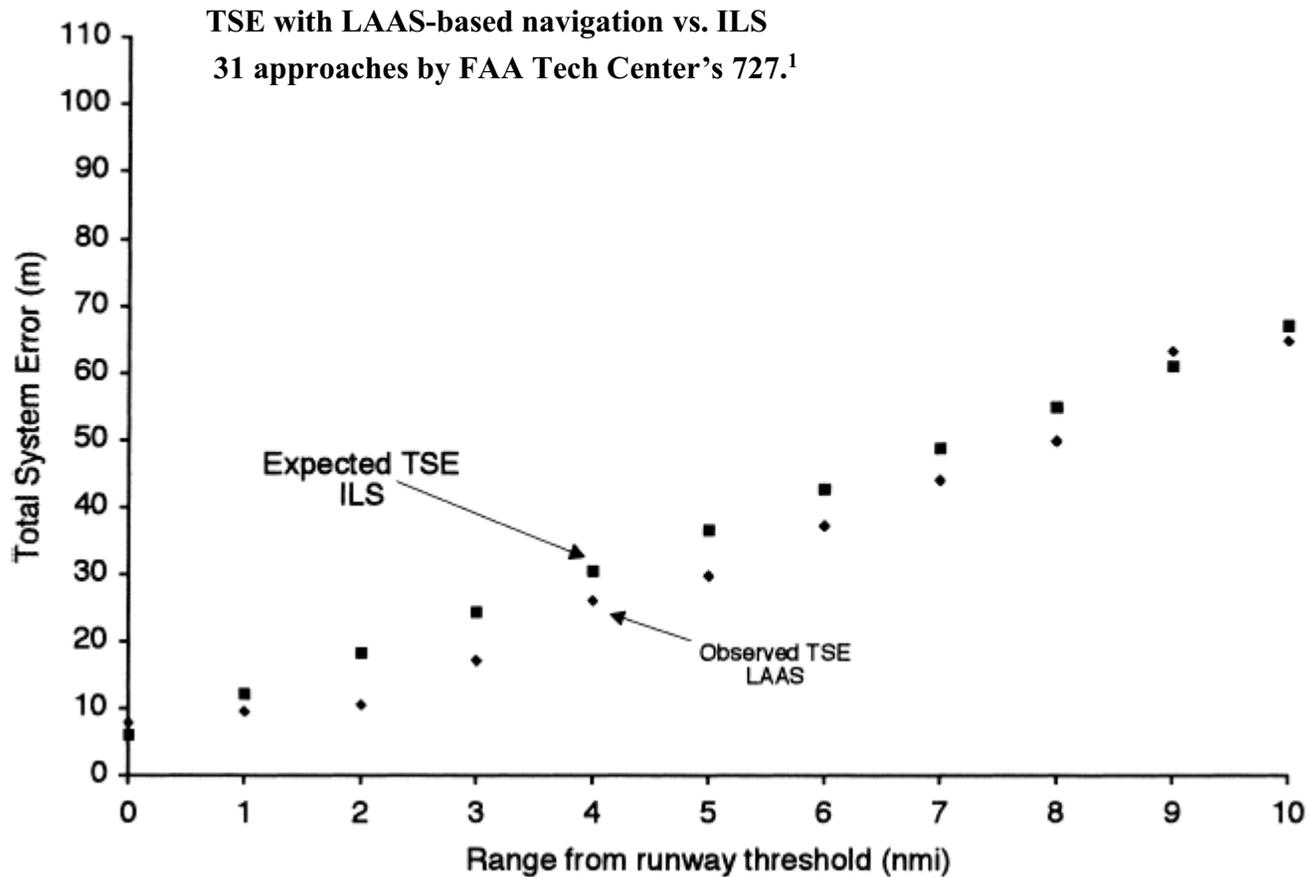
LAAS Requirements

Perf. Type	Accuracy 95% (m)	Integrity risk	Continuity risk	Availability
1	4.39	$2 \cdot 10^{-7}$ /approach	$8.6 \cdot 10^{-6}$ /15s	0.99 to 0.99999
2	2	10^{-9} /approach	$4 \cdot 10^{-6}$ /15s	0.99 to 0.99999
3	2	10^{-9} /approach	Lat $2 \cdot 10^{-6}$ /30s Ve $2 \cdot 10^{-6}$ /15s	0.99 to 0.99999



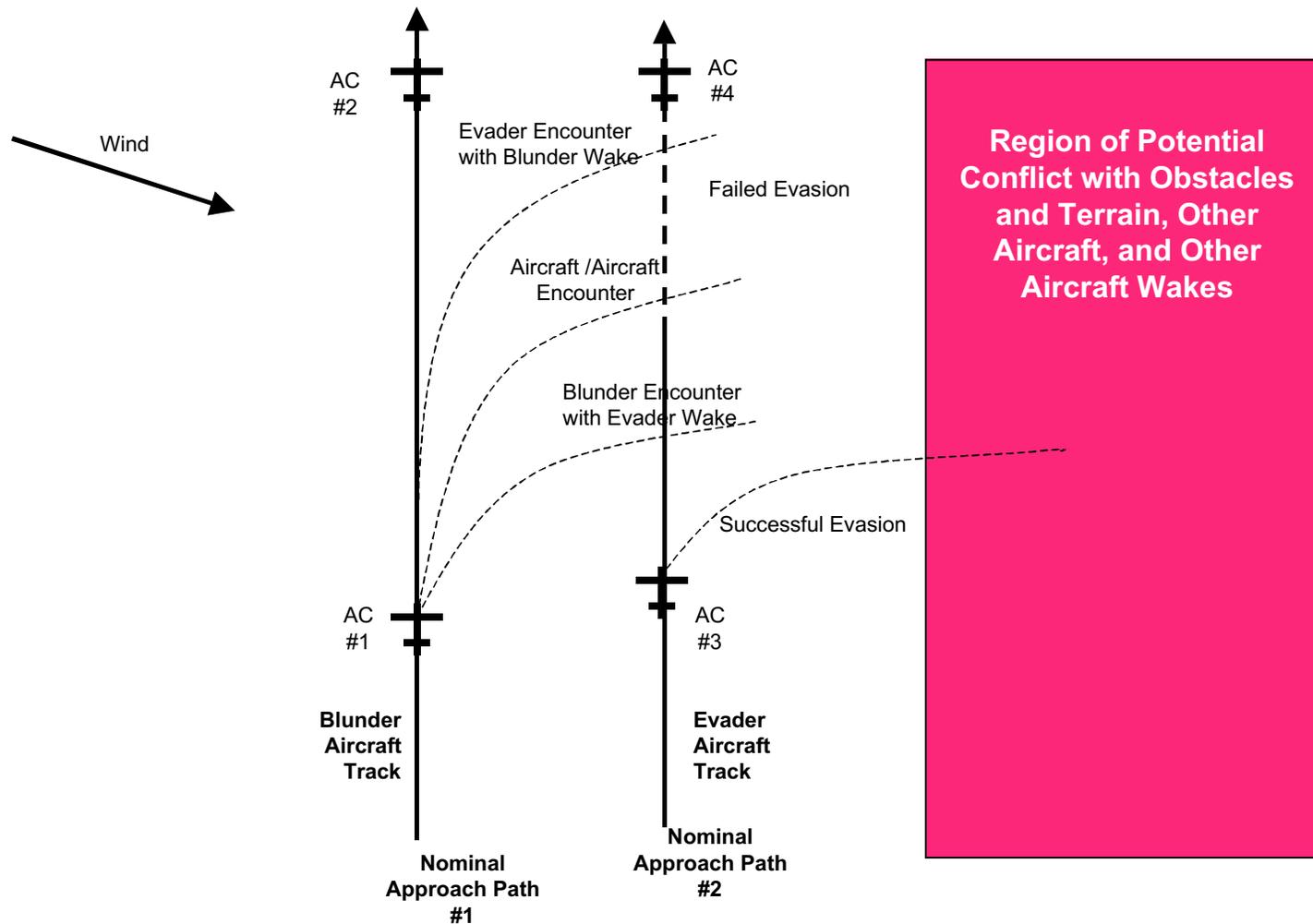
Performance requirements for aircraft position (cont'd)

Required performance must come from FTE improvements



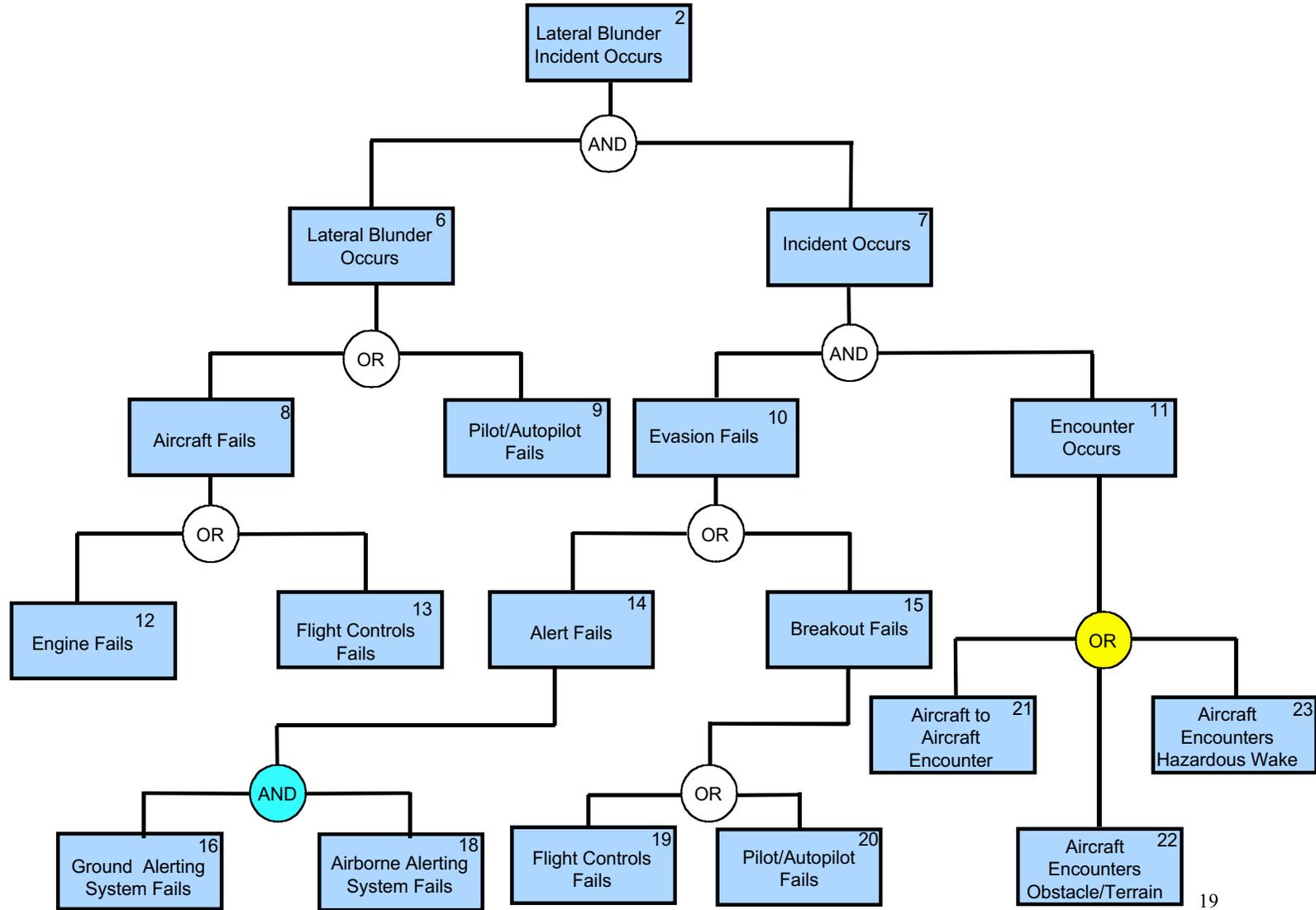
¹Jonathan Hammer CASE STUDY OF PAIRED APPROACH PROCEDURE TO CLOSELY SPACED PARALLEL RUNWAYS , Air Traffic Control Quarterly, Vol. 8(3) 223.252 (2000)

TACEC Lateral Blunder Scenario

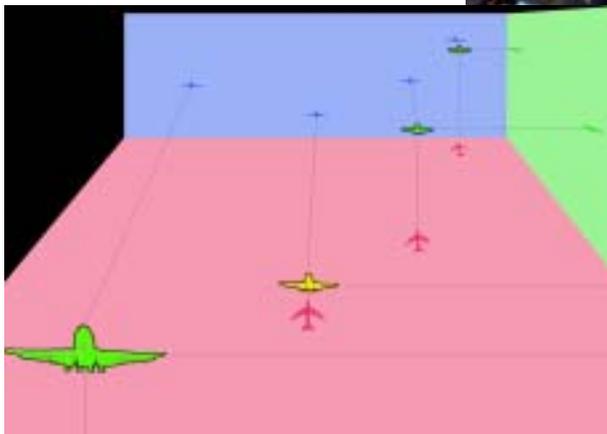




TACEC Lateral Blunder Scenario Fault Trees



- Ongoing effort to address the role of human operator in TACEC
- Focus on cockpit visualization to achieve all weather closely spaced parallel approaches
- Experiment planned for 2004 to evaluate alternative visualizations





Performance results and Lessons learned

- **Flight corridors define a wake vortex hazard free region:**
 - **Lower limit**
 - » Final approach lateral spacing of 500 feet
 - » Time difference on final less than 30 seconds
 - **Crosswind impact on lateral spacing (RCL spacing)**

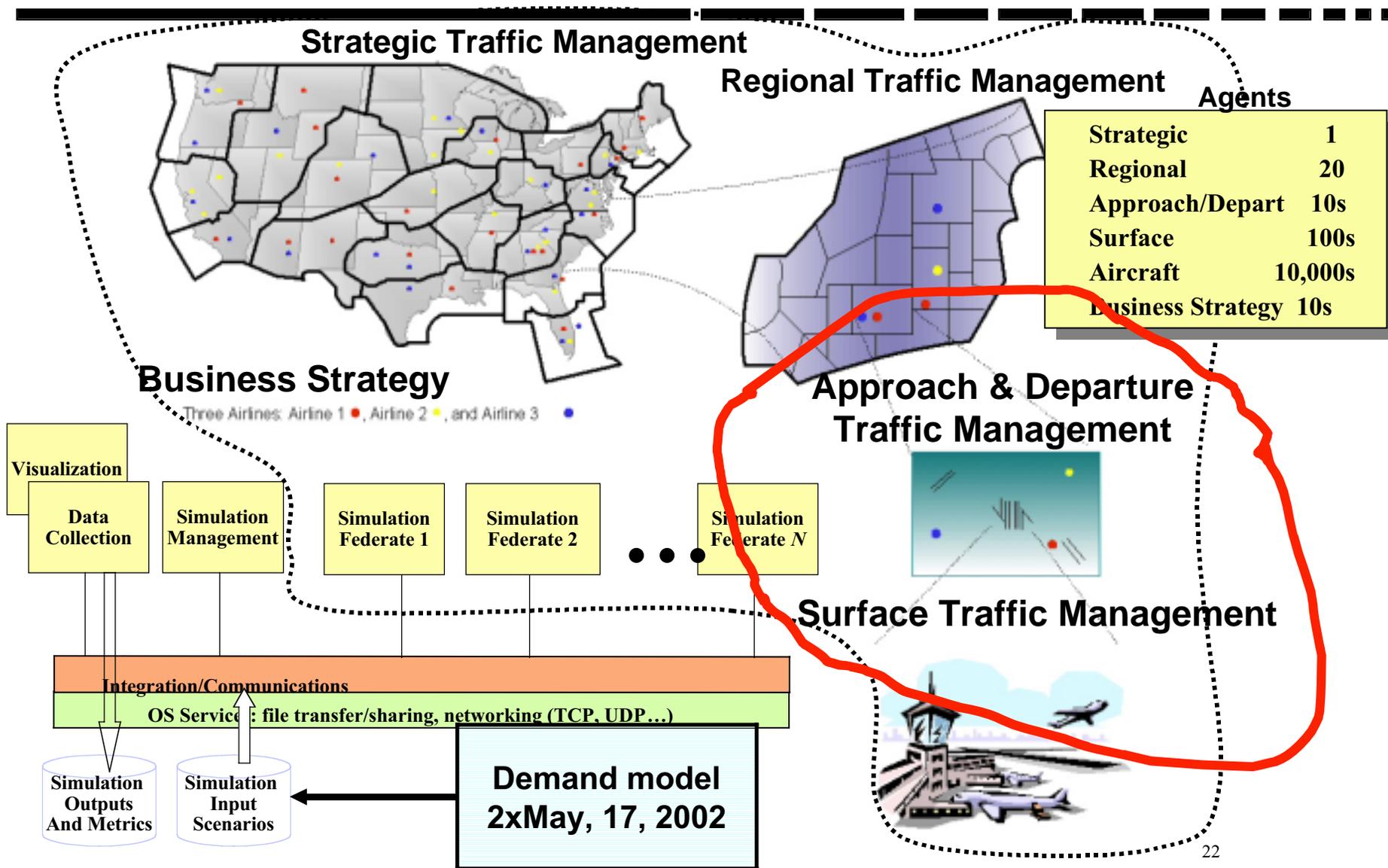
		10 knot	20 knot	30 knot
t_{Δ}	10 sec	650ft	800ft	950ft
	20 sec	800ft	1100ft	1400ft
	30 sec	1000ft	1400ft	1800ft

- **Aircraft position must be controlled within 10 meters to achieve 10 seconds between aircraft**
 - FTE must be improved by an order of magnitude



NAS-wide Assessment using ACES

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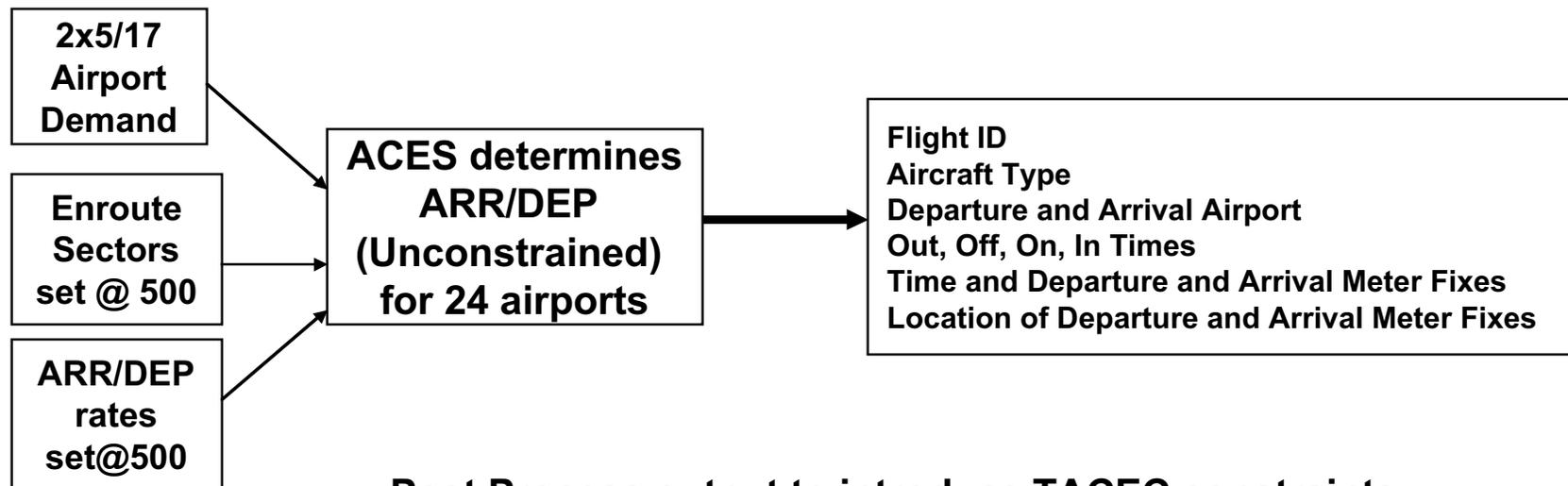
Evaluation Metrics

Metric	Derivation
Block Time	(Actual Gate In) – (Scheduled Gate Out)
Delta Block Time	(Benchmark¹ Block Time) – (Evaluation Case Block Time)
Total Delta Block Time	Sum of Block Time Delta
Potential Capacity Increase	<u># of flights arriving(departing)</u> # of arriving(departing) groups
Delay	Delta Block Time

¹The Benchmark Scenario in the individual airport analysis was the Worst Case (Baseline Sector/Baseline Airport) scenario, while in the NAS-wide analysis it was the Ideal (Sector 200/Airport 200) scenario.



NAS-wide Assessment using ACES - Individual Airport Assessment



Post Process output to introduce TACEC constraints:

- 1. Grouping a/c by performance**
- 2. Time of arrival at Entry Fix**
- 3. Entry fix direction wrt to runway**
- 4. Number of aircraft in group**



NAS-wide Assessment using ACES - Individual Airport Assessment



- Criteria for determining an airports TACEC arrival capacity;
 - they have the same weight descent category
 - and they arrive within delta seconds of each other
 - and the angle between their arrival fix and the runway direction is both within 90 degrees, or they are both not within 90 degrees

Total number of flights (24 hours) 824
 Considered time interval [hr] 1
 Grouping interval [s] 120
 Ignore WDC FALSE
 Interleave TRUE
 Runway Configuration [deg] 90
 Maximum Group Size 3
 Airport EWR
 Number of AC (busiest hour) 73
 Number of Groups 47

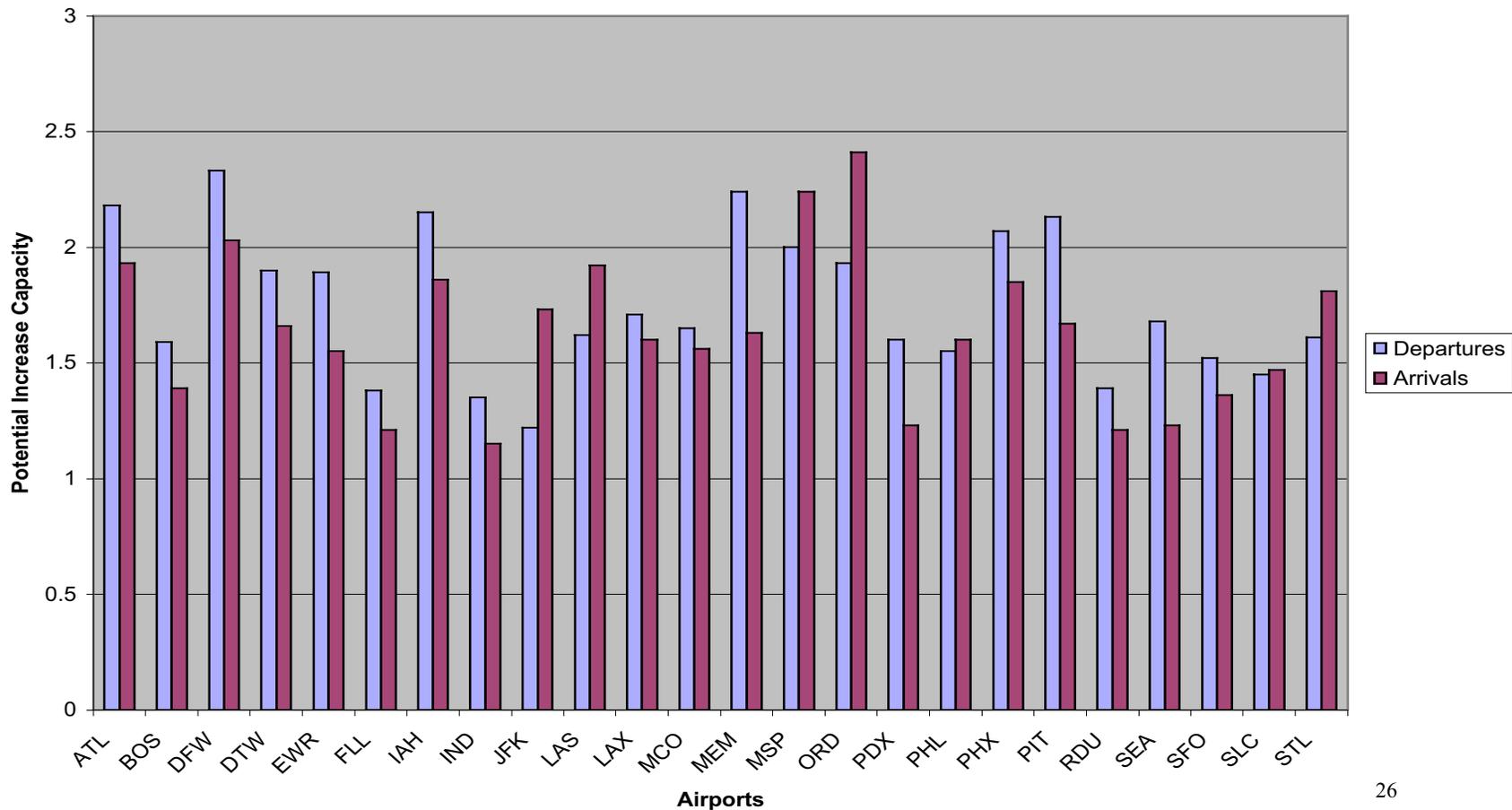
Group	Flight ID	ACID	A/C Type	WTC	OnTime	ArrivalFix
1	1127_1146	USA1053	B733	L2	7:25:10 PM	NW
2	224_225	AAL1698	MD80	L1	7:25:19 PM	NW
2	1125_1144	BTA3495	E145	L1	7:25:51 PM	NW
2	1129_1148	BTA3406	E145	L1	7:26:06 PM	NW
3	1100_1119	COA1783	B733	L2	7:27:47 PM	SW
4	1107_1126	TRS574	DC9	L1	7:28:21 PM	SW
5	147_148	COA1580	B738	L2	7:30:29 PM	NW
5	155_156	COA1049	B737	L2	7:31:35 PM	NW
6	1141_1160	BTA4048	E145	L1	7:30:35 PM	SW



NAS-wide Assessment using ACES - Individual Airport Assessment

TACEC capacity increase potential at the 24 selected airports

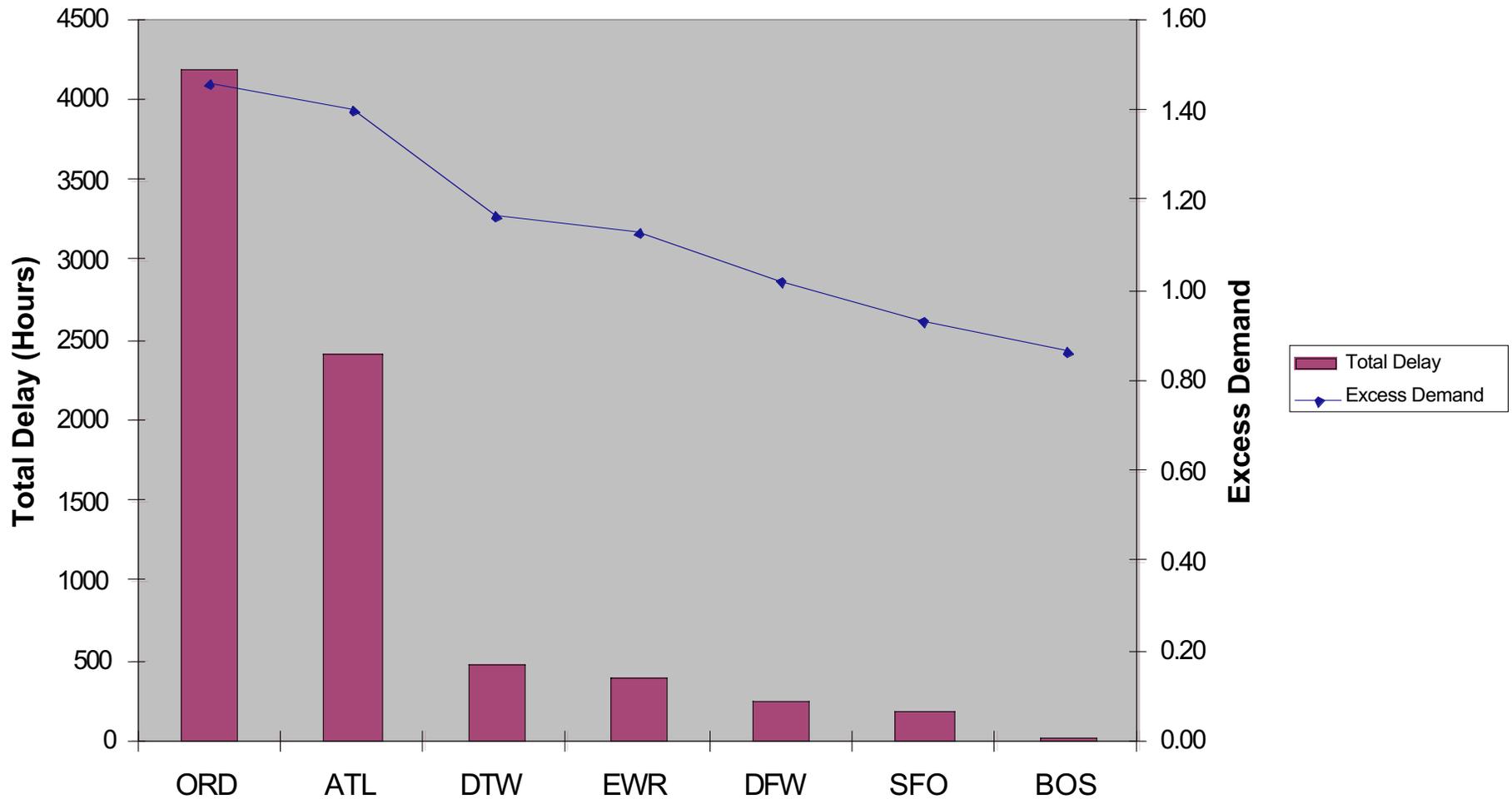
Parameters - Use WDC, Group Size 3, 120 seconds, Interleave





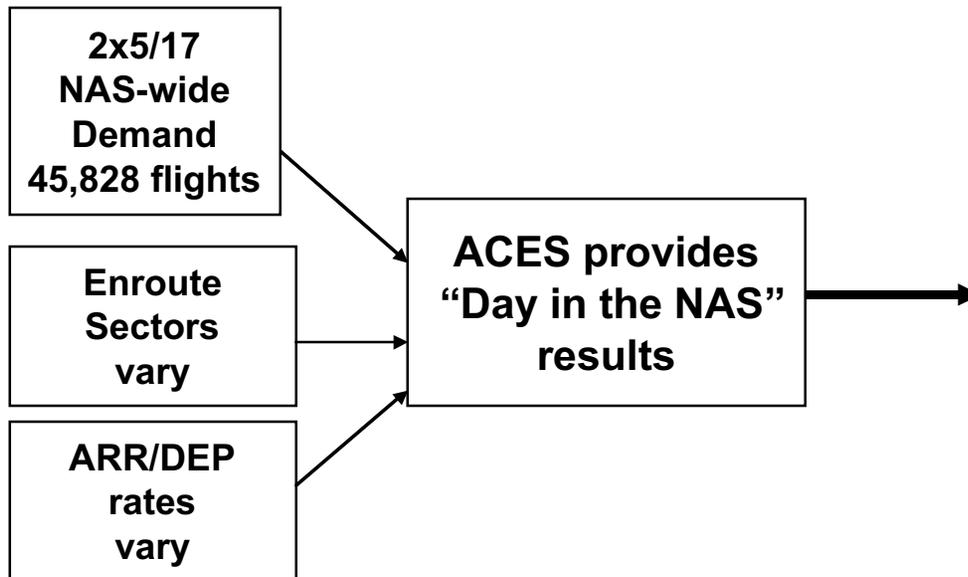
NAS-wide Assessment using ACES - Individual Airport Assessment

TACEC capacity increase reflects the airport's demand.....





NAS-wide Assessment using ACES



- The Baseline Sector/Baseline Airport will be evaluated to determine the Worst-case delay
- The sectors will be held fixed at baseline capacities, and the airport adjusted to the nominal TACEC case (Use WDC, Size 3)
- The sectors will be set to 200 and the airports set back to baseline.
- The sectors will be set to 200 and the airports adjusted to the nominal TACEC Case.
- A comparison of runs 3 & 4 will establish the delay reduction produced by TACEC.
- The sectors will be set to 200 and TACEC will be adjusted to Use WDC, Size 2
- The sectors will be set to 200 and TACEC will be adjusted to Ignore WDC, Size 3



NAS-wide Assessment using ACES



Airport Capacity

		Airport Capacity	
		Baseline	TACEC
Sector Capacity	Baseline	1) Baseline/Baseline	1) Baseline Sectors, TACEC=Use WDC, Group Size 3
	200	1) Sectors=200, Baseline Airport	1) Sectors=200, TACEC=Use WDC, Group Size 2 2) Sectors=200, TACEC=Use WDC, Group Size 3 3) Sectors=200, TACEC=Ignore WDC, Group Size 3



NAS-wide Assessment using ACES



- Block Time results for 3 a/c group

	Ideal, Sector & Airport 200	Scenario A, Base Sector Base Airport	Scenario B, Base Sector TACEC Airport	Scenario C, Sector 200, Base Airport	Scenario D, Sector 200, TACEC Airport
Total Block Time (Hrs)	86245	134109	121135	115505	93311
% Block Time Increase		0.55	0.40	0.34	0.08

- Block Time results for 2 or 3 a/c group

	Ideal, Sector & Airport 200	Sector 200, Use WDC & Size 2	Sector 200, Use WDC & Size 3	Sector 200, Ignore WDC & Size 3
Total Block Time (Hrs)	86245	93559	93311	93337
% Block Time Increase		0.08	0.08	0.08



NAS-wide Assessment using ACES - Results and lessons learned



- Comparing the “ideal” across the scenarios.....

	Ideal, Sector & Airport 200	Sector 200, Use WDC & Size 2	Sector 200, Use WDC & Size 3	Sector 200, Ignore WDC & Size 3
Total Block Time (Hrs)	86245	93559	93311	93337
% Block Time Increase		0.08	0.08	0.08

- TACEC can provide; 92% of the ideal NAS 41,000 hrs less delay than OEP

	Scenario A, Base Sector, Base Airport	Scenario B, Base Sector, TACEC Airport	Scenario C, Sector 200, Base Airport	Scenario D, Sector 200, TACEC Airport
Delay (Hrs)				
Total	47864	34890	29261	7067
Min	0	0	0	0
Max	28.74	25.27	14.9	10.35
Average	1.04	0.76	0.64	0.15

- ARR/DEP groupings of 2 or 3 aircraft provide similar performance
- Demand drives results, May 17th is not sufficient to drive conclusions



How the results further the concept description

-
- **Crosswinds**
 - The ability for three or more aircraft to use 500 ft RCL spacing is eliminated with crosswinds >10mph.
 - By controlling in trail spacing to within 10 secs, RCL spacing < 1,000 is possible for 3 or more aircraft.
 - **Aircraft Position**
 - Flight Technical Error (FTE) will limit the ability of up-linked 4D trajectories to achieve space/time position. Certification of more accurate Flight Control Systems is required.
 - **Capacity Gains for 2 or 3 aircraft grouping is similar**
 - Need significantly more demand “scenarios” to assess the need for more than 2 closely spaced runways.



Challenges

-
- **Data analysis using ACES**
 - visualization tools needed
 - **Terminal area fidelity in ACES**
 - Build 3 needed to assess impact of airport surface, terminal airspace trajectories, and complex geometry
 - **Wake Vortex characteristics and analysis**
 - better fidelity vs time
 - establishment of “safe” vortex encounter
 - **Safety**
 - **Human Factors**