



“An Airspace Planning and Collaborative Decision Making Model with Conflict, Workload, and Equity Considerations”

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Overview

- Motivation & Background
- APCDM
 - Sector Occupancy (AOM)
 - Workload Constraints
 - Conflict Analysis (PAEM)
 - Conflict Resolution Constraints
 - Equity Considerations
 - Proposed Model
- Research Directions



Motivation & Background

- Congested Airspace
 - Number of aircraft flights increasing 1.5 to 3 percent annually
- Delays
 - Weather Systems
 - Cascading delays through NAS system
 - Impact to hubbed operations
 - Reallocation of resources
- Space Launch
 - 100+ operations annually
 - Special Use Airspaces
 - Proposals for inland spaceports





Motivation & Background

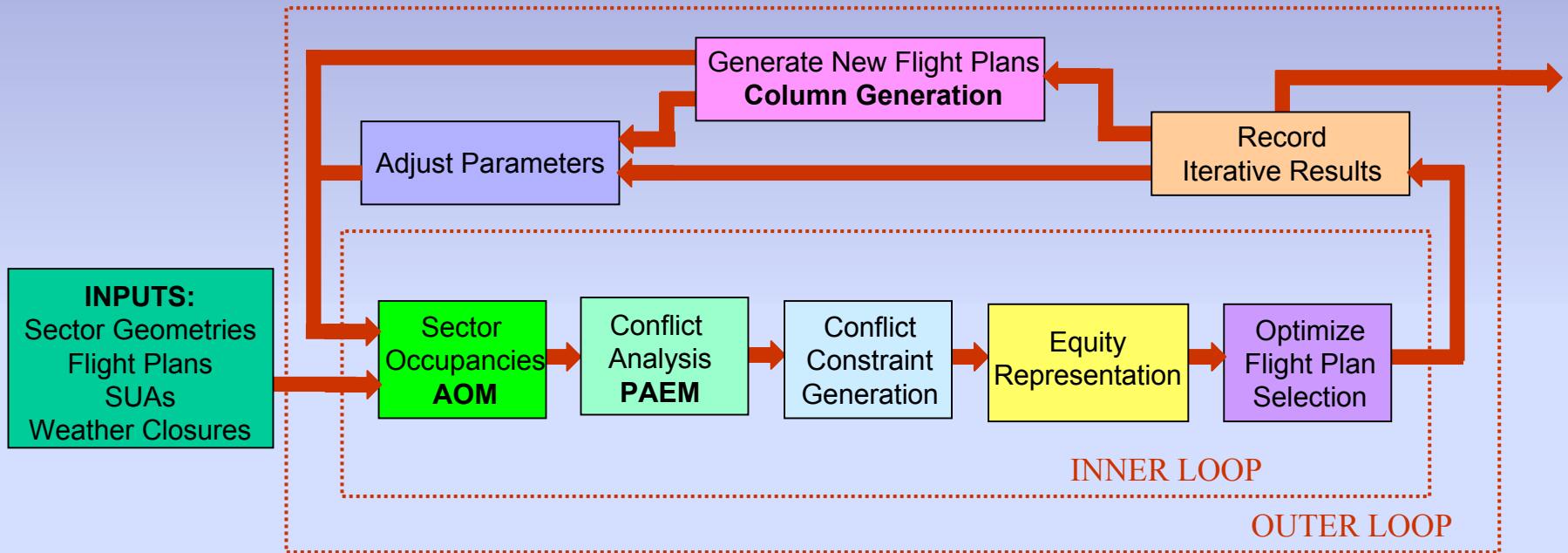
- Airline Competition
 - Fair allocation of constrained resources
 - New entrants and small/medium community service
 - Disparity in distribution of costs
 - Consumer expectations
- Safety and ATC Workload
 - Minimize en-route aircraft conflicts



- Flight Plan Selection
 - For each flight, select one flight-plan from among alternatives
 - Minimize Flight Costs (Objective Function)
 - Subject to Considerations (Penalty Terms in Objective Function)
 - Sector Workload
 - Safety (Conflict Resolution)
 - Equity



APCDM

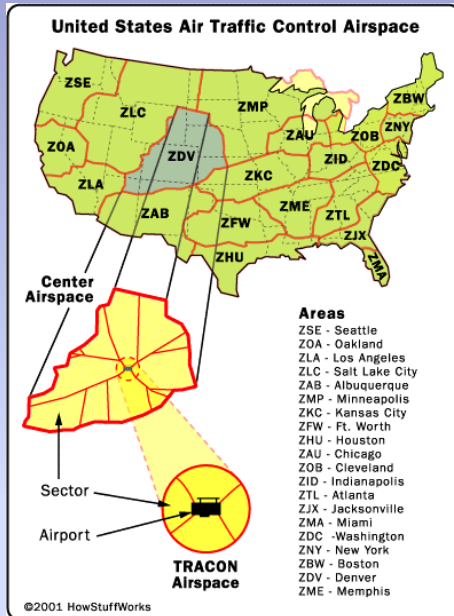




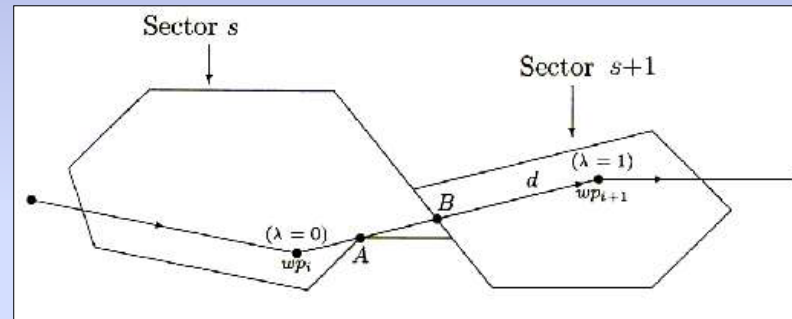
- Aircraft Conflict Analysis
 - Stochastic with respect to aircraft trajectory
 - Conflict risk thresholds
- Conflict Resolution Constraints
 - Continuous time formulation
 - Two new classes of valid inequalities
- Equity Considerations
 - Cost Factors
 - Collaboration Efficiency & Equity
- Dynamic Airspace Closures
 - Weather Systems
 - Special Use Airspaces



Sector Occupancy AIRSPACE OCCUPANCY MODEL



- Mathematical NAS representation
- 20 centers each divided into sectors



- Flight plans processed to determine sector occupancy time intervals
- Occupancy data used:
 - To determine maximum sector workloads
 - As pre-processing data for PAEM conflict analysis



Workload Constraints

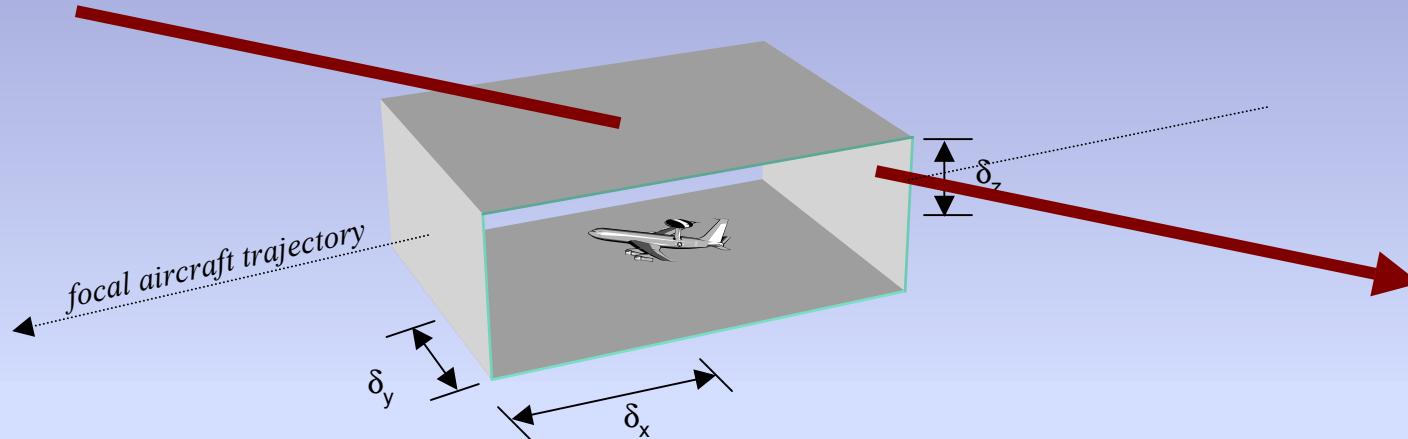
- Workload: maximum number of aircraft present in a sector at a given time
 - Maximum number of overlapping flights n_s in sector s
- Penalty Function: $\mu_{sn} = f(n_s)$
 - Impose a minimum workload (fixed monitoring cost)
 - Impose a maximum workload capacity (\bar{n}_s) for each sector
 - Non-linear penalty function



Conflict Analysis

PROBABILISTIC AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTER MODEL

- Proximity Shell Around Each Focal Aircraft



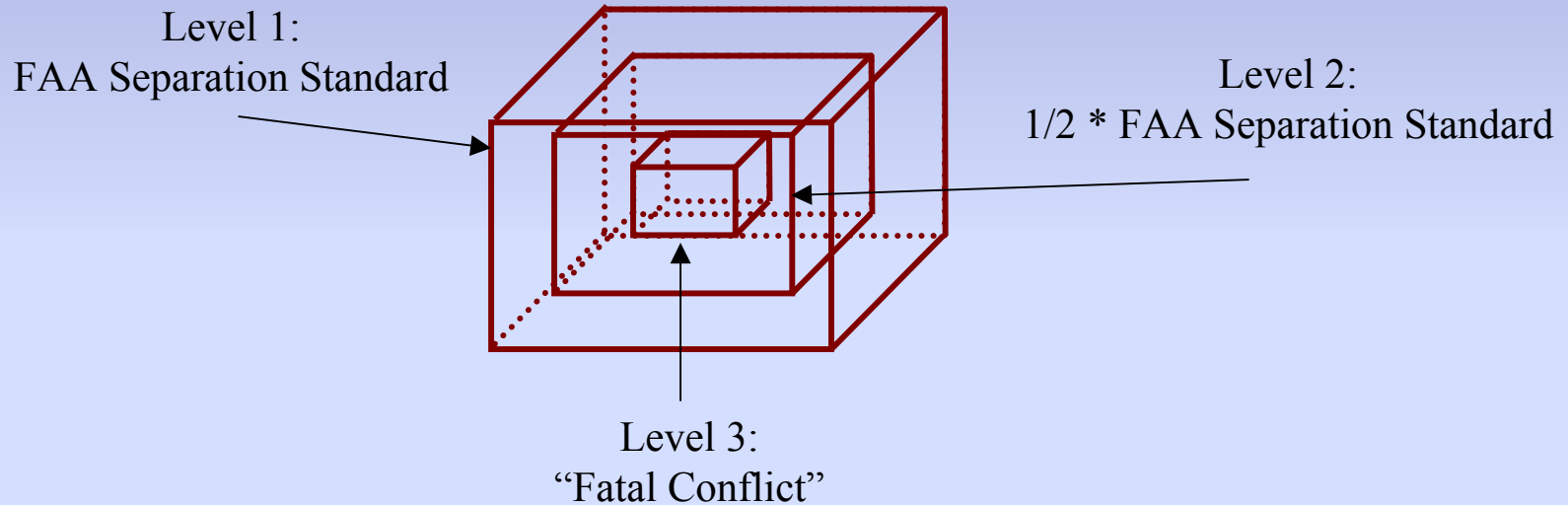
- Moves with aircraft as it traverses its flight trajectory
- Conflict occurs when another aircraft pierces the proximity shell



Conflict Analysis

PROBABILISTIC AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTER MODEL

- Conflict Severity

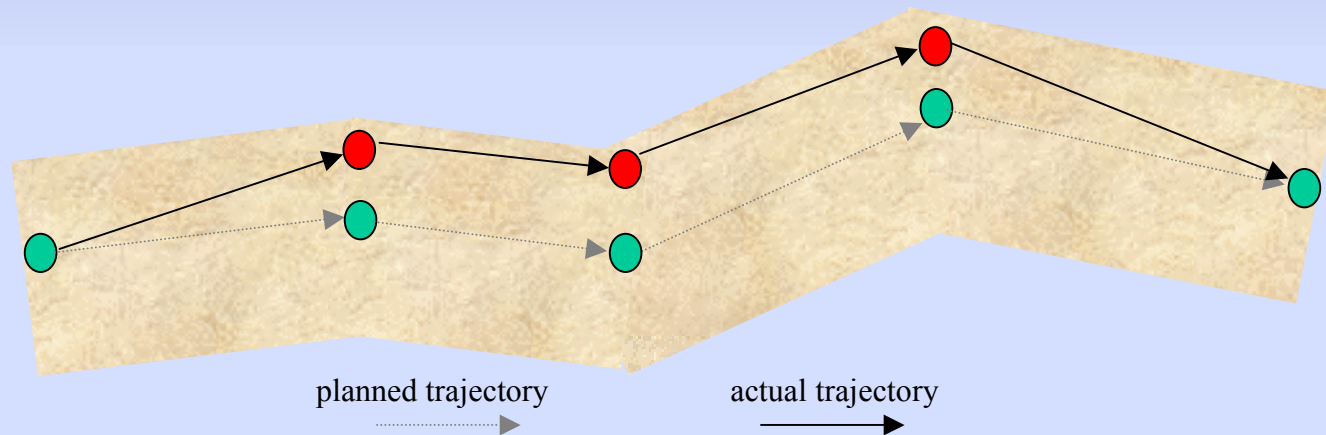




Conflict Analysis

PROBABILISTIC AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTER MODEL

- Aircraft Position & Trajectory Not Known With Certainty
 - Weather Effects
 - Navigation System Inaccuracy
 - Pilot Error

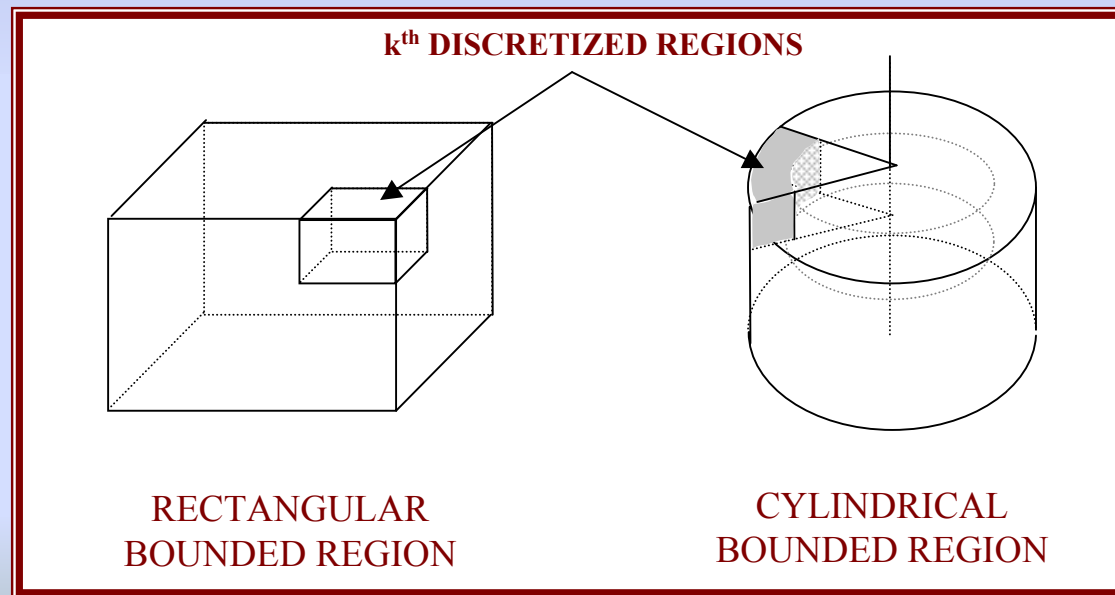




Conflict Analysis

PROBABILISTIC AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTER MODEL

- Bounded Error Regions → Probabilistic Trajectory Corridor
 - Rectangular: randomized errors
 - Cylindrical: wind-induced errors
- Discretize error regions for generating possible realizations having given occurrence probabilities

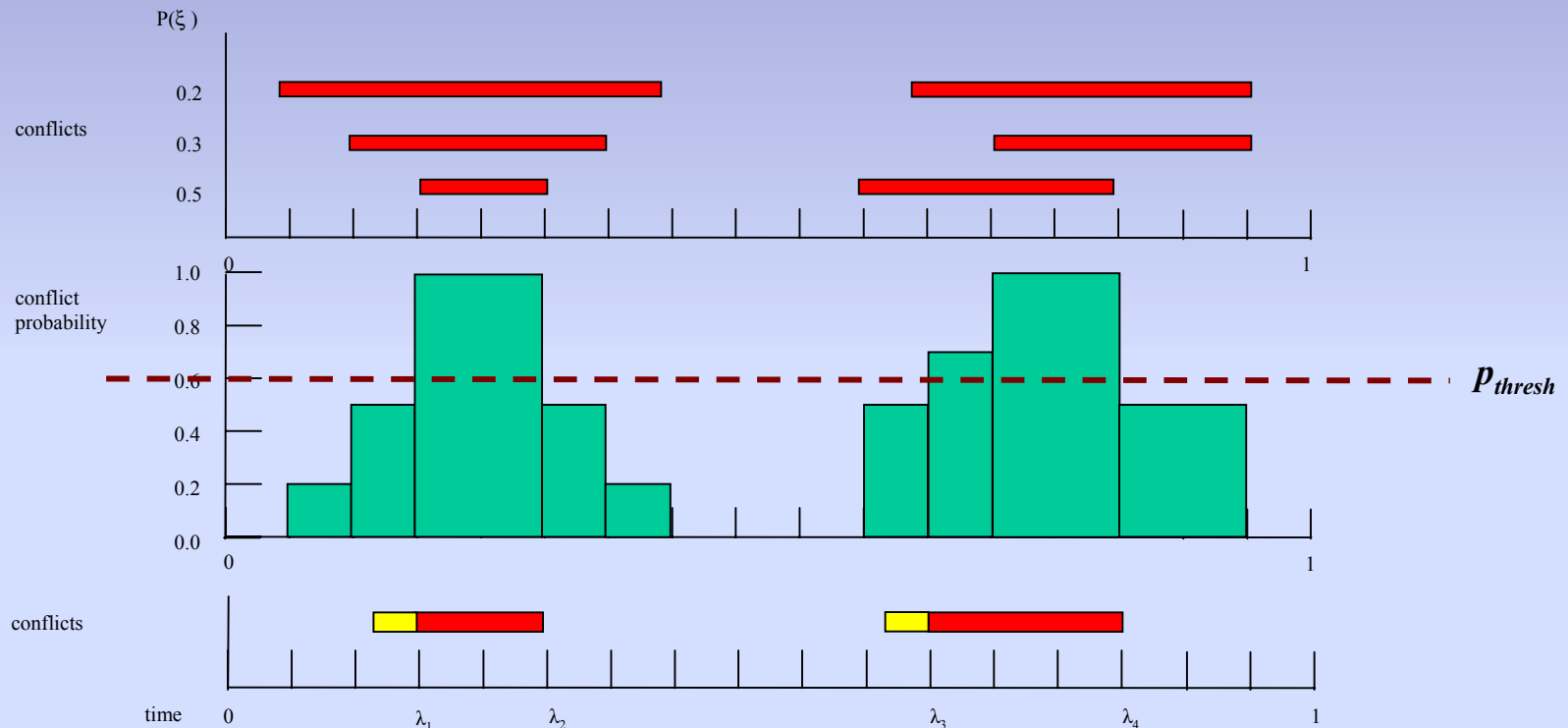




Conflict Analysis

PROBABILISTIC AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTER MODEL

- For each pair of discretized error trajectory realizations (for focal and intruder aircraft) we can compute the Conflict Risk:



- Add prep-buffers to intervals to accommodate conflict resolution setup times



Conflict Resolution Constraints

- Probabilistic conflicts generated by PAEM are fit into constraint structure of APCDM
- Constraints prohibit selection of particular combinations of flight plans
 - Flight-pairs that have a “fatal” conflict
 - Flight combinations that exceed sector ATC capability to simultaneously monitor
 - Flight combinations that exceed sector ATC conflict resolution capability during any specified time interval
- Polyhedral analysis of conflict constraint structure
 - Derived classes of valid inequalities to tighten representation



Equity Considerations

- Optimal Individual Decisions vs. Optimal Group Decision
 - Each participating airline's decisions represent conflicting objectives
 - Possibly no feasible satisfying solution for these conflicting objectives
 - Inefficient overall use of the NAS
- Collaboration Efficiency
 - Percentage increase in costs for each airline, with respect to its individual optimal strategy, incurred due to resolution between the group's conflicting objectives
- Collaboration Equity
 - Aggregate measure of disparity of costs incurred via group decision



Equity Considerations

COLLABORATION EFFICIENCY

- How do we define “cost” ?
 - *Fuel Costs*--function of aircraft flight time
 - *Delay Costs*--function of the difference between intended and actual arrival times
 - *Flight Network Costs*--function of impacted connecting flights (e.g. cascading delays), slot restrictions



Equity Considerations

COLLABORATION EFFICIENCY

- Airline Collaboration Cost:
 - Difference between individually optimized flight plan and collaborative decision

$$d_{\alpha}(x) = \sum_{f \in A_{\alpha}} \sum_{p \in P_f} (c_{fp} - c_f^*) x_{fp}$$

- Airline Collaboration Efficiency:

$$D_{\alpha}(x) = \frac{d_{\alpha}(x)}{\sum_{f \in A_{\alpha}} c_f^*} = \left(\frac{\sum_{f \in A_{\alpha}} \sum_{p \in P_f} (c_{fp} - c_f^*) x_{fp}}{\sum_{f \in A_{\alpha}} c_f^*} \right)$$



Equity Considerations

COLLABORATION EFFICIENCY

- Total Collaboration Efficiency:

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} \omega_{\alpha} D_{\alpha}(x) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} \omega_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\sum_{f \in A_{\alpha}} \sum_{p \in P_f} (c_{fp} - c_f^*) x_{fp}}{\sum_{f \in A_{\alpha}} c_f^*} \right]$$

$$\text{where } \omega_{\alpha} = \frac{|A_{\alpha}|}{F} \Rightarrow \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} \omega_{\alpha} = 1$$



Equity Considerations

COLLABORATION EQUITY

- Relative Collaboration Efficiency: $D_{\alpha}^r(x) = \left| D_{\alpha}(x) - \left(\sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} \omega_{\alpha} D_{\alpha}(x) \right) \right|$
- Collaboration Equity: $\sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} \omega_{\alpha} D_{\alpha}^r(x)$
- APCDM Formulation:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \dots + \mu_r^e x_r^e + \mu_e^D \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} \omega_{\alpha} D_{\alpha}(x) \\ \text{subj to:} \quad & \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} w_{\alpha} D_{\alpha}^r \leq x_r^e \\ & x_r^e \leq v_r^e, \quad D_{\alpha}(x) \leq D_{\max}, \quad D_{\alpha}^r(x) \leq D_{\max}^r \end{aligned}$$

- Formulation linearizes the $\bar{\alpha}$ absolute value terms



Equity Considerations

COLLABORATION EQUITY

- Motivating Example
 - Suppose we have the following two feasible solutions involving six participants

S1: $D_1(x) = 5, D_2(x) = 5, D_3(x) = 8, D_4(x) = 8, D_5(x) = 9, D_6(x) = 10$

S2: $D_1(x) = 5, D_2(x) = 6, D_3(x) = 7, D_4(x) = 8, D_5(x) = 9, D_6(x) = 10$
 - For both of these solutions, the minimal, maximal, and hence the range, are identical
 - **S1:** $\alpha=1$ and $\alpha=2$ have preferential solutions
 - **S2:** uniform cost distribution
 - Collaboration Equities (using $\omega_\alpha = \frac{1}{6}, \forall \alpha$):
 - **S1:** 1.67
 - **S2:** 1.50



Model APCDM

$$\min \sum_{f=1}^F \sum_{p \in P_f} c_{fp} x_{fp} - \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{n_s=1}^{\bar{n}_s} \mu_{sn} y_{sn} + \mu_r^e x_r^e + \mu_e^D \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} \omega_{\alpha} D_{\alpha}(x)$$

subj to: $\sum_{p \in P_f} x_{fp} = 1$

Workload Constraints

Conflict Resolution Constraints

Equity Constraints

$$\sum_{(f,p) \in C_{si}} x_{fp} \leq n_s \quad \forall i=1, \dots, M_s, s \in S$$

$$n_s = \sum_{n=1}^{\bar{n}_s} n y_{sn} \quad \forall s \in S$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\bar{n}_s} y_{sn} = 1 \quad \forall s \in S$$

$$y_{sn} \geq 0 \quad \forall n=1, \dots, \bar{n}_s, s \in S$$

$$D_{\alpha}(x) = \left(\frac{\sum_{f \in A_{\alpha}} \sum_{p \in P_f} (c_{fp} - c_f^*) x_{fp}}{\sum_{f \in A_{\alpha}} c_f^*} \right) \quad \forall \alpha = 1, \dots, \bar{\alpha}$$

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^{\bar{\alpha}} \omega_{\alpha} D_{\alpha}^r \leq x_r^e$$

$$D_{\alpha}(x) \leq D_{\max}^r, \quad D_{\alpha}^r \leq D_{\max}^r, \quad x_r^e \leq v_r^e$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in A_{sk}} z_{ij} \leq r_s, \quad \forall (s,k)$$

$$\sum_{j \in J_{sk}(i)} z_{(ij)} \leq r_s x_i, \quad \forall i \in N_{sk} \text{ s.t. } |J_{sk}(i)| \geq r_s + 1, \quad \forall (s,k)$$

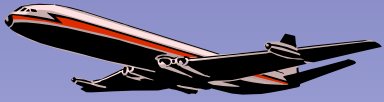
$$z_{ij} \geq x_i + x_j - 1 \quad \forall (i,j) \in A$$

$$z \geq 0, \quad x \text{ binary}$$



Research Directions

- Alternate Utility Theory based equity considerations
- Enhancements to workload formulation
- Aircraft trajectory error analysis
- Computational experience using alternative conflict resolution constraint formulations
- Flight cost modeling
- Flight plan generation
- Dynamic Airspace Issues
 - Weather Systems
 - Space Launch SUAs
 - Dynamic Resectorization
- Strategic and tactical scenario tests



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