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Air Transportation Management

M.Sc. Program

Air Transportation Systems and Infrastructure

Strategic Planning

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- Airborne: Difference between actual flight time and the planned flight time
- Gate: Difference between actual gate departure and scheduled gate departure
- Unimpeded taxi-out time: Estimated taxi-out time for an aircraft under optimal operating conditions when neither congestion, weather nor other factors delay it during its movement from gate to takeoff
- **Taxi-out delay:** Difference between actual taxi-out time and unimpeded taxi-out time by airport, carrier and season
- **Taxi-in delay:** Difference between actual taxi-in time and unimpeded taxi-in time by airport, carrier and season

Flight delays



Source: Gerasimos Skaltsas, MIT

Boston Logan Intl. Airport taxi-out times (Jan-June 2010)



- **Block time:** The difference in the actual gate to gate time computed from the OOOI data and the scheduled gate to gate time
- Arrival delay: The difference in the actual arrival time and the scheduled arrival time
- Airport delay: The difference in the actual wheels-off and the scheduled gate out plus the unimpeded taxi out time

Variability in actual block times



Schedule padding/ schedule creep

- Estimated using lengths of arrival and departure queues
- Regression model in two variables

• Some issues:

- Model accuracy
- Highest 25 percent of values excluded from regression to remove influence of extremely high taxi-out times
- Different configurations are typically not evaluated
- Flights for which data are available are a subset of actual operations

Taxi-out times as a function of arrivals and departures



- Arrival and departure rates: Information on runway configuration, scheduled demand, arrival and departure rates and actual traffic counts per quarter hour
- Weather: Current weather data from NOAA (ceiling, visibility, temperature, wind angle and wind speed)
- Average taxi times
- Airport capacity envelopes
- Departure throughput curves
- Runway separation times

Airport departure throughput example



[Pujet and Feron 1998; Simaiakis et al., 2011] 10

Average taxi-out times (from ASDE-X)



Runway utilization (from ASDE-X)



[Khadilkar et al. 2011]

Runway utilization (from ASDE-X)



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Runway utilization (from ASDE-X)



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Departure spacing efficiency (from ASDE-X)

- Dashboard with efficiency, demand and departures
- Demand is function of queue size and no. of operations
- Accounts for arrival crossings

