COE CST Sixth Annual Technical Meeting

Task 331: Advanced 4D Special Use Airspace Research

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aerospace**design**lab

Team Members

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- Organizations
 - FAA: Drs. Paul Wilde & Dan Murray
 - FAA SVO: Mr. Kevin Hatton (now w/ SpaceX)
 - FAA Tech Center



Agenda

- Disruption to Air Traffic from Space Vehicle Operations
- 4D Compact Envelopes
- An Open-Source Tool to Calculate Risk to Aircraft
- Demonstration of Near-Elimination of Airspace Disruption
- Conclusions & Future Work



Today: Space Operations Disrupt the NAS

- Need To Ensure Safety
- Three Problems
 - Proprietary Software
 - Conservative, Generic
 - Static
- Too much space, too much time
- Reroutes are costly to airlines
- Added distance, fuel burn, and flight time
- This particular launch: 200 aircraft
 - 25nm / aircraft
- What will happen when CST operations are commonplace? Multiple operations / day? Geographically distributed spaceports?

March 1st 2013 Three Hazard Areas Falcon 9 from Cape Canaveral



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4D Compact Envelopes: A New Approach

- **4D Compact Envelopes**: New framework for calculating and protecting against the probabilistic risk to aircraft from space vehicle debris.
- **Provably safe**: to a regulator-specified safety threshold.
- **NextGen**: incorporates many advances in the capabilities of the modern national airspace. Reaction times and dynamicity.
- **Open-source**: tool to calculate the risk to aircraft from space vehicle operations and necessary compact envelopes.
- Near-elimination of disruption: Airspace disruption can be reduced by two orders of magnitude. Virtual elimination of conflicts.



Risk-Based Analyses

Probabilistic Uncertainties

- Probability of Failure
- Failure time distribution
- State vector
- Number of pieces generated
- Imparted velocities
- Aerodynamic properties
- Wind speed and direction
- Atmospheric density



Source: FAA Flight Safety Analysis Handbook

$$\xi^d(\mathbf{r},t)$$

Probability density that piece of debris d is found at location r at time t



4D Compact Envelopes Concept



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Example



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Some Implications



- Suborbital missions may have corridors that are always safe.
- Launch site overflight permitted

- Falcon 9 envelopes much smaller
- Generally, first stage event can be handled reactively





SU-FARM

Stanford University Framework for Aircraft Risk Management

- Calculate the risk to aircraft from space vehicle operations
- Mitigate that risk through the use of 4D Compact Envelopes
- Written in C++, Python
- Open Source, available on github





SU-FARM Typical Scenario





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Case Study: Airspace Disruption

- Quantify the efficiency of compact envelopes
- 8 vehicles, 10 locations, 14 missions
- Traditional hazard area vs compact envelopes
 - Five minute reaction time
 - Simulate 90 days
- Compare disruptions
- Collaboration with FAA NextGen, Tech Center, and Commercial Space





FACET to Measure Disruption



- Future ATM Concepts Evaluation Tool (NASA Ames)
- Simulation environment for preliminary testing of advanced ATM concepts over continental United States
- Uses aircraft performance profiles, airspace models, weather data, and flight schedules, etc.
- Models trajectories for the climb, cruise, and descent phases of flight for each aircraft in the NAS



Results (Traditional Approach)



Traditional: Mean Values of Aggregate Impact (N=90)

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Results (Compact Envelopes)

Envelopes: Maximum Values of Aggregate Impact (N=90)





Conclusions & Significance of Work

- Reduced / eliminated aircraft disruption
- Enables high frequency space travel from an ATM perspective
- Spaceports can be collocated with airports
- As airspace capabilities evolve, Compact Envelope framework can handle them





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