



Comparison of Taxi Time Prediction Performance Using Different Taxi Speed Decision Trees

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 - Spot/In time for arrivals
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Unimpeded Taxi Time Calculation in Tactical Surface Scheduler





- Unimpeded taxi time estimates
 - Provide earliest feasible takeoff times for departures and earliest gate-in times for arrivals
 - (Remaining taxi distance) / (Nominal taxi speed)
 - Airport node-link model and taxi routes
 - Taxi speed decision trees



Initial Taxi Speed Decision Trees



- Taxi speed decision trees in STBO system
 - Two decision trees for estimating taxi-out times of departures and taxi-in times of arrivals
 - Each branch has two taxi speed values both in AMA and Ramp
- Various taxi speed values for each branch
 - Based on previous studies for taxi time analysis at CLT
 - Four criteria applied
 - Runway
 - Spot
 - Ramp area (subdivided sectors in each concourse)
 - Weight class
 - Used actual surface surveillance data at CLT in May through December, 2015 and taxi route data
 - 10th percentile taxi time values (90th percentile taxi speed)



Motivation



Research motivation

- Initial taxi speed decision trees have not been updated.
 - Based on old surface surveillance data
 - More reliable data from STBO systems become available.
- Taxi time prediction accuracy is not satisfactory.
 - Large variations on the difference between actual and predicted times
 - Longer taxi time prediction even in unimpeded conditions
 - Wrong takeoff sequence prediction (see the next slide)

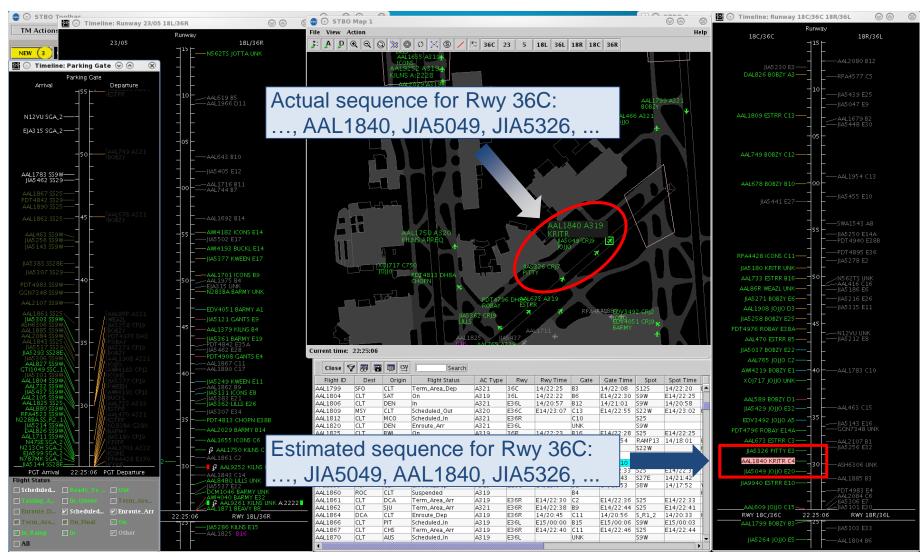
Objective

To find optimal taxi speeds for better taxi time estimation



AT Inaccurate Off Time Estimation: Example





< STBO Client Timeline and Map >



Experiment Set-up



- Experiment procedure
 - Install STBO system software with different taxi speed settings in three test machines
 - Run 1: initial taxi speed decision trees (baseline)
 - Run 2: various taxi speeds by runway-spot-ramp area pairs
 - Run 3: constant taxi speed per runway
 - Run them with live data for a few days
 - Archive output data
 - Actual Spot/Off/In times
 - Undelayed Spot/Off/In times (unimpeded time estimates)
- Test run data
 - 2/13/2017 2PM ~ 2/20/2017 1AM (155 hours in total)



Three Different Taxi Speed Settings

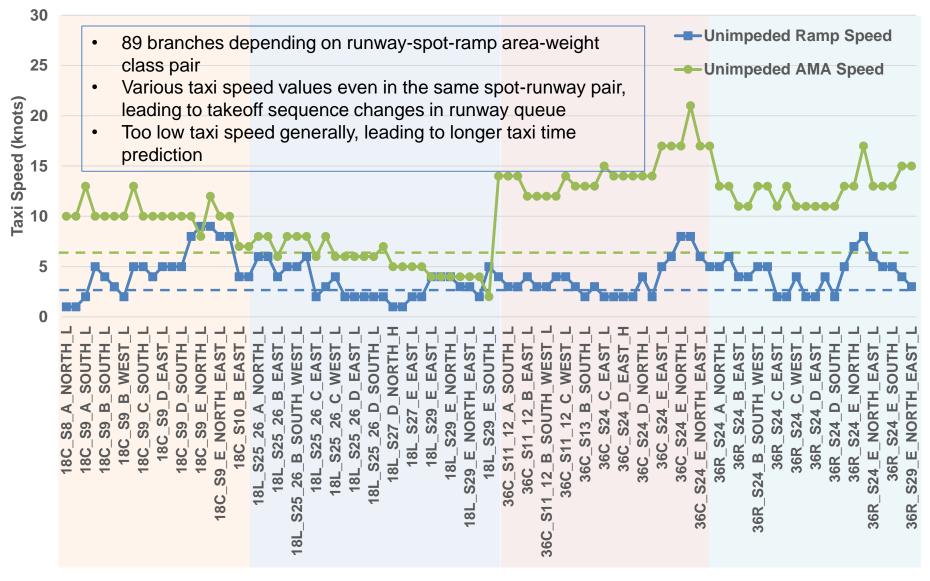


- Run 1: initial taxi speed values (baseline)
 - Use old surface surveillance data (5/1/2015-12/31/2015)
- Run 2: various taxi speed values by runway-spot-ramp area pairs
 - Use recent STBO data (9/18/2016-12/31/2016)
 - 90th percentile taxi speeds in the Ramp and AMA for each runway-spot-ramp area pair
 - AMA taxi speed adjusted to avoid overtaking on taxiways
- Run 3: constant taxi speed values per runway
 - Simplified version of Run 2
 - Use recent STBO data (9/18/2016-12/31/2016)
 - 90th percentile taxi speeds in the Ramp and AMA for each runway



Run 1: Initial Taxi Speeds for Departures

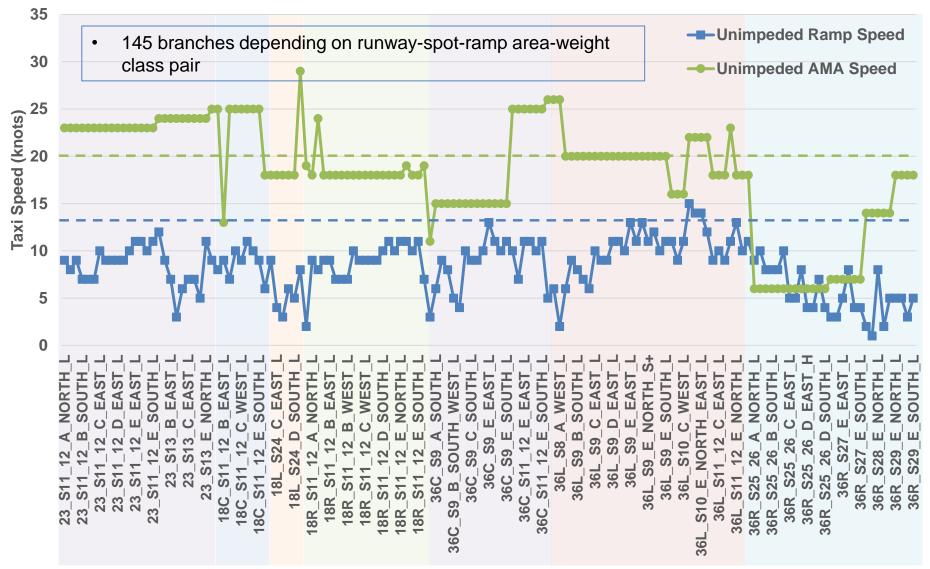






Run 1: Initial Taxi Speeds for Arrivals

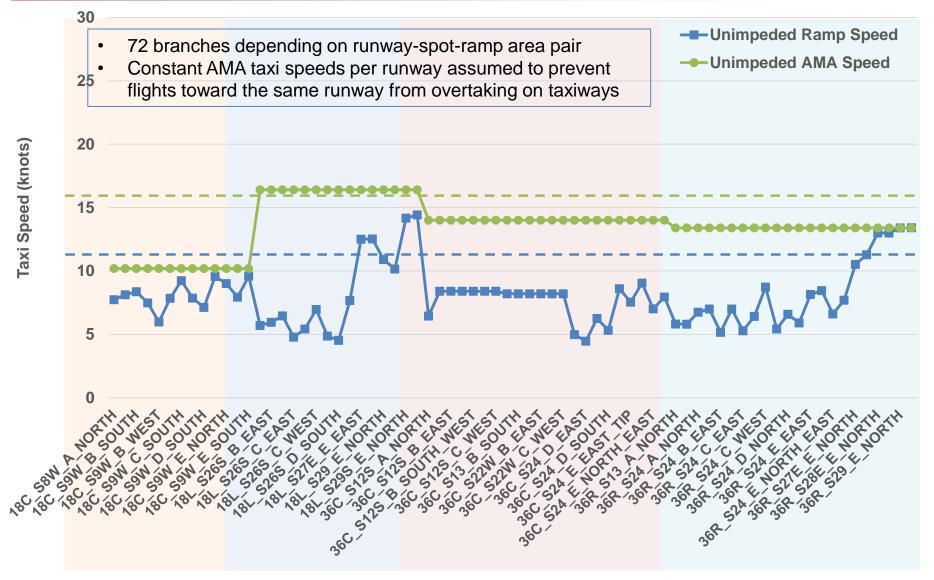






Run 2: Various Taxi Speeds for Departures

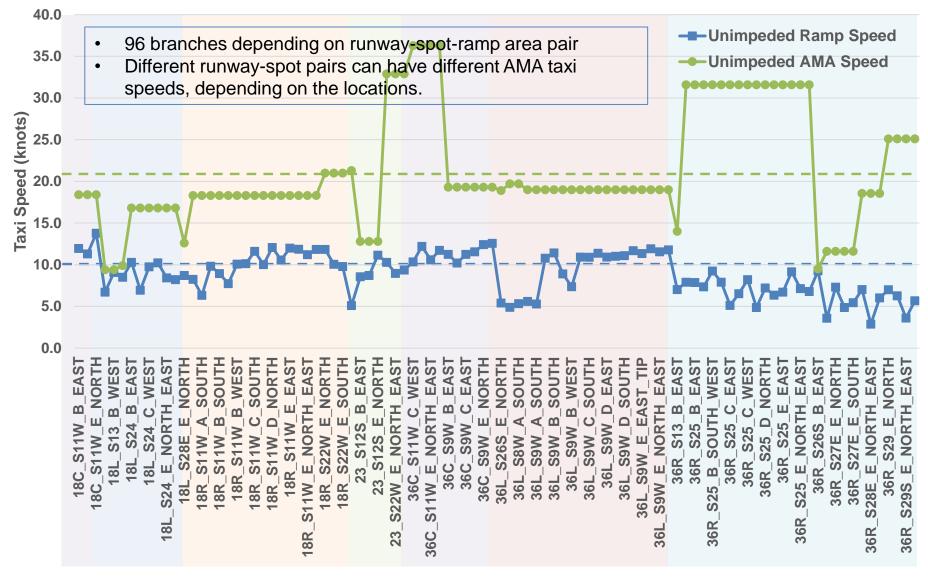






Run 2: Various Taxi Speeds for Arrivals







T 🔃 Run 3: Constant Taxi Speed per Runway 🕟



- Departures: 90th percentile value of taxi-out speeds for all departures going to each runway
- Arrivals: 90th percentile value of taxi-in speeds for all arrivals from each runway

Departure Runway	Taxi Speed (in knots)	
	AMA	Ramp
18C	10.2	8.3
18L	16.4	8.9
36C	14.0	8.4
36R	13.4	7.9
Default	13.6	8.3

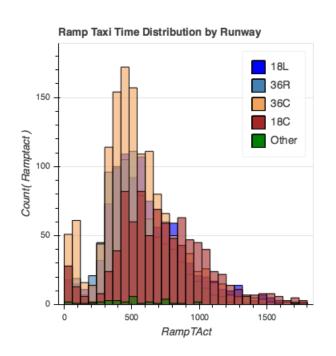
Arrival Runway	Taxi Speed (in knots)	
	AMA	Ramp
18C	17.2	10.5
18L	13.9	8.5
18R	18.3	10.2
23	23.0	9.2
36C	24.8	10.3
36L	18.9	10.7
36R	25.4	7.4
Default	20.6	9.6

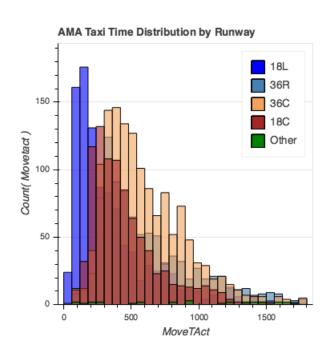


Test Dataset Analysis – Departures



- Taxi-out time histograms
 - Very short ramp taxi time from Concourse A to Runway 18C/36C
 - Short AMA taxi time to Runway 18L
 - Long AMA taxi time to Runway 36C



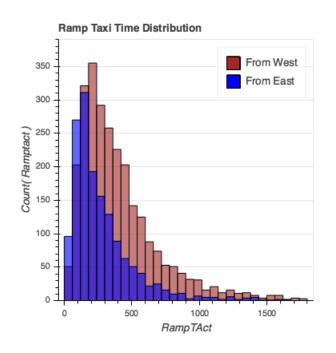


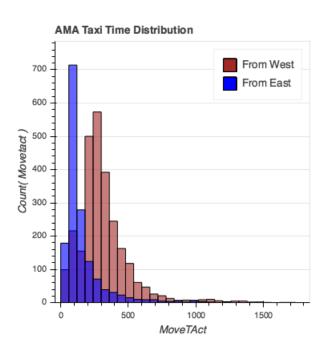


Test Dataset Analysis – Arrivals



- Taxi-in time histograms
 - Shorter taxi times both in the Ramp and AMA, compared to departures
 - Longer taxi-in time from West due to longer taxi distance





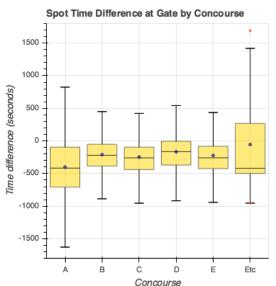


Spot Time Prediction Errors for Departures

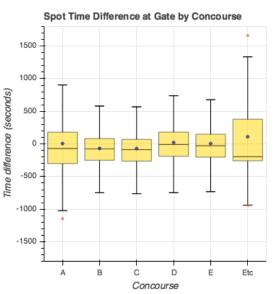


- Box plots for spot time difference at gate by concourse
 - Show ramp taxi-out time prediction accuracy
 - (Actual spot time) (Undelayed spot time estimate)_{@pushback}
 - Run 1: longer ramp taxi times predicted
 - Negative values on y-axis for most flights

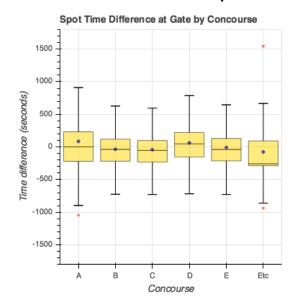
R1: Baseline



R2: Various speeds



R3: Constant speed





Off Time Prediction Errors at Spot



- Box plots for takeoff time difference at spot by runway
 - Show AMA taxi-out time prediction accuracy
 - (Actual off time) (Undelayed off time estimate)_{@spot}
 - Positive mean values are expected because runway separations are accumulated in actual off times.

R1: Baseline

Off Time Difference at Spot by Runway

1500

1000

1000

1000

1500

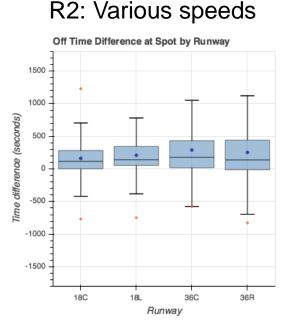
18C

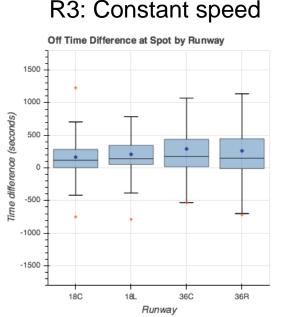
18L

36C

36R

Runway





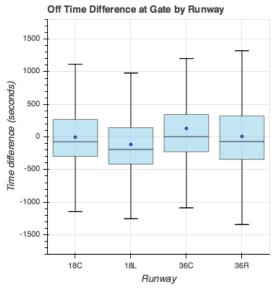


Off Time Prediction Errors at Gate (1/2)

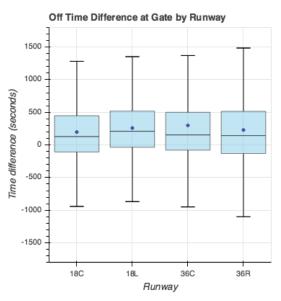


- Box plots for takeoff time difference at gate by runway
 - Show total taxi-out time prediction accuracy
 - (Actual off time) (Undelayed off time estimate)@pushback
 - No significant difference by departure runway

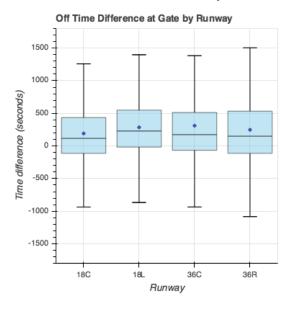
R1: Baseline
Off Time Difference at Gate by Runwa



R2: Various speeds



R3: Constant speed





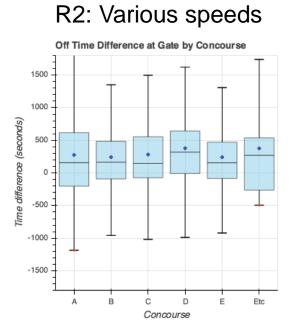
Off Time Prediction Errors at Gate (2/2)

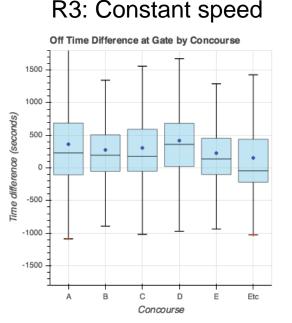


- Box plots for takeoff time difference at gate by concourse
 - Show total taxi-out time prediction accuracy
 - (Actual off time) (Undelayed off time estimate)_{@pushback}
 - Large variations observed in Concourse A and Etc.

R1: Baseline

Off Time Difference at Gate by Concourse





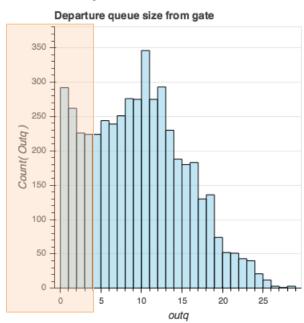


Departures by Queue Size



- Departure queue size histogram from test dataset
 - Count the number of departures going to the same runway on the surface when a flight pushes back from its gate
 - Queue size less than 4 aircraft is assumed to be in unimpeded taxi conditions.
 - Enable to better compare actual and undelayed OFF times



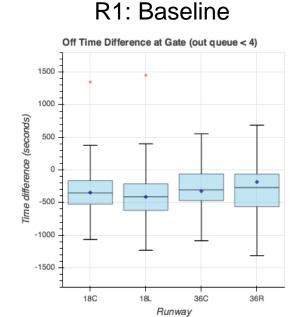


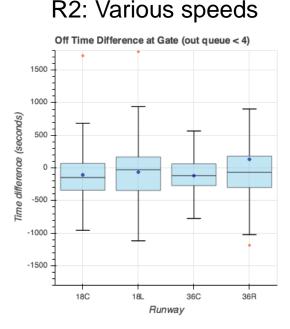


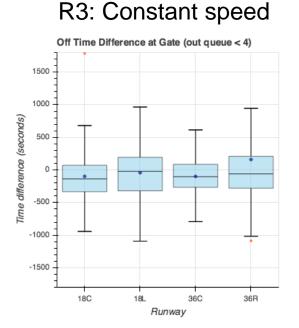
Off Time Prediction Errors at Gate



- Box plots for takeoff time difference at gate by runway
 - Departures only in queue size < 4 (from gate to runway)
 - Longer taxi-out times predicted in Run 1 (baseline)





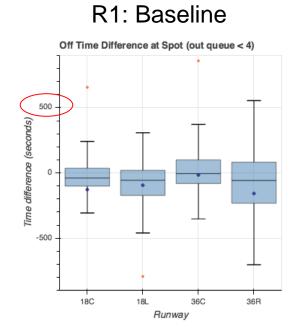


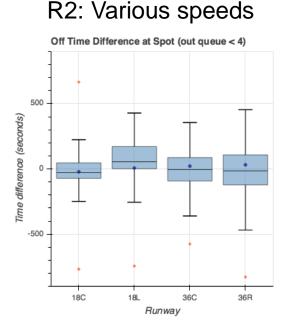


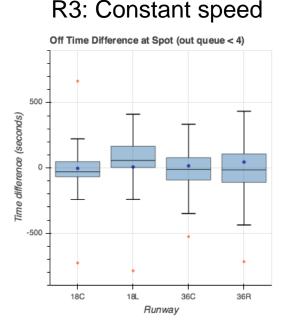
Off Time Prediction Errors at Spot



- Box plots for takeoff time difference at spot by runway
 - Departures only in queue size < 4 (from gate to runway)
 - Better prediction accuracy in Run 2 and 3 for Runway 36R







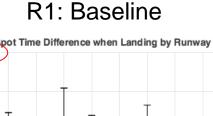


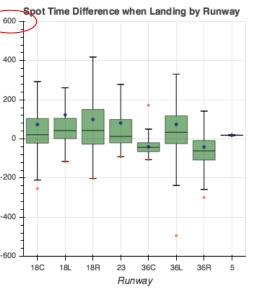
Time difference (seconds)

Spot Time Prediction Errors for Arrivals

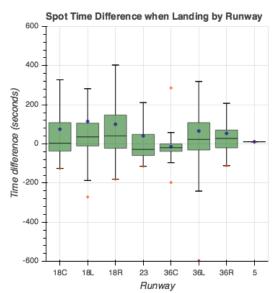


- Box plots for spot time difference when landing, grouped by runway
 - Show AMA taxi-in time prediction accuracy
 - (Actual spot time) (Undelayed spot time estimate)@landing
 - Better prediction performance for arrivals than departures

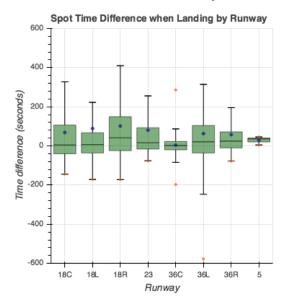




R2: Various speeds



R3: Constant speed

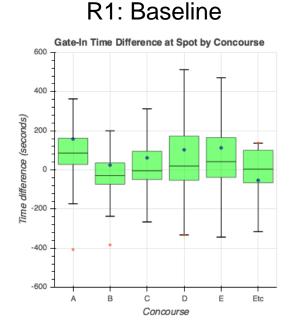




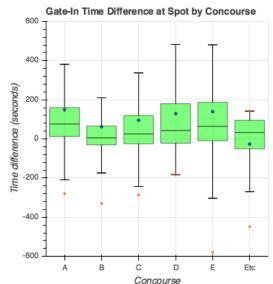
In Time Prediction Errors at Spot



- Box plots for gate-in time difference at spot by concourse
 - Show ramp taxi-in time prediction accuracy
 - (Actual gate-in time) (Undelayed gate-in time estimate)_{@spot}
 - No significant difference between three runs
 - Relatively poor performance for Concourse A







Gate-In Time Difference at Spot by Concourse

Concourse

400

-400

īme difference (seconds)

R3: Constant speed

Etc



In Time Prediction Errors When Landing (1/2)



- Box plots for gate-in time difference when landing, grouped by concourse
 - Show total taxi-in time prediction accuracy
 - (Actual gate-in time) (Undelayed gate-in time estimate)@landing



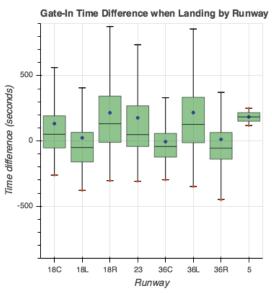


In Time Prediction Errors When Landing (2/2)

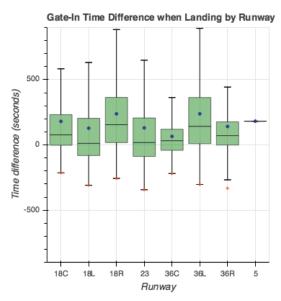


- Box plots for gate-in time difference when landing, grouped by runway
 - Show total taxi-in time prediction accuracy
 - (Actual gate-in time) (Undelayed gate-in time estimate)@landing

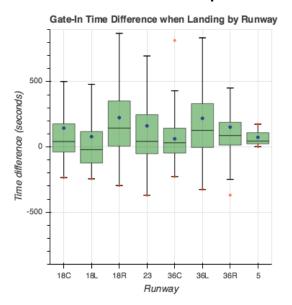




R2: Various speeds



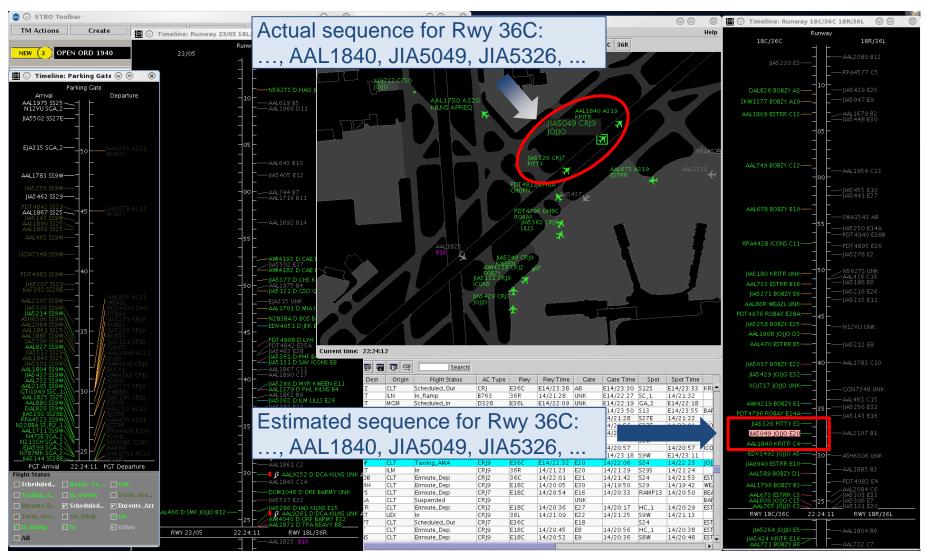
R3: Constant speed





Better Off Time Estimation in Run 3







Summary



- Three different taxi speed settings were tested to obtain the better taxi time prediction.
- Test results showed that
 - The best prediction performance was obtained when using constant taxi speed for each runway (Run 3).
 - Arrivals showed the better prediction accuracy, but there was no significant difference between three runs.
- We still have much room to improve the prediction for:
 - Ramp taxi-out time for non-AAL flights
 - AMA taxi-out time with congestion factor in runway queues
 - Ramp taxi-in time for Concourse A
 - AMA taxi-in time from West (Runway 18C/18R/36L)