

LINEUP WITH MATH

Math-Based Decisions in Air Traffic Control for Grades 5–9

Problem Set F

Resolving 3-Plane Traffic Conflicts by Changing Speed

Teacher Guide with Answer Sheets

In this Problem Set, students will determine whether three planes traveling on different merging routes will line up with proper spacing at MOD (the last intersection before the planes leave the airspace sector). If the spacing is not adequate, students will change the speed of one or more planes to achieve the proper spacing at MOD. In the final problem, students will make both speed and route changes to achieve proper spacing at MOD.

The planes are traveling at the same altitude and the same constant (fixed) speeds.

This is the most challenging of the *LineUp With Math*TM Problem Sets.

This Problem Set also includes an optimal solution time for each Simulator problem. A "target time" is posted on the Simulator screen. This target time is the minimum required for the last plane to reach the intersection at MOD. An on-screen clock keeps track of the flight time for a student's solution.

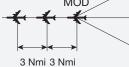
Each problem can be explored with the interactive Air Traffic Control (ATC) Simulator. Four of the problems can be more closely examined with Student Workbook F (print-based). The Workbook provides a structured learning environment for exploring the problems with paper-and-pencil worksheets that introduce students to pertinent air traffic control concepts as well as problem analysis and solution methods.

Students will:

- Analyze a sector diagram to identify spacing conflicts among three planes, each traveling at the same speed.
- Resolve spacing conflicts by changing the speed of one or more planes.
- Resolve spacing conflicts by changing the speed or the speed and route of one or more planes.

Before attempting the current 3-plane Problem Set, it is strongly recommended that students complete Problem Set A that introduces essential air traffic control vocabulary, units, and representations. Students should also complete Problem Sets D and E that introduce speed changes for two planes.

Overview of Problem Set F



Estimated class time: 1.5 to 2 hours

Objectives

Each plane is traveling at 600 knots, the maximum speed allowed. So to resolve a spacing conflict, students must reduce plane speeds.

Prerequisites



Materials	 ATC Simulator (web-based) Student Workbook E (print-based) The materials are available on the <i>LineUp With Math</i>[™] website: <u>http://www.smartskies.nasa.gov/lineup</u>
	A separate student website gives students easy access to the Simulator only (and not to the answers and solutions provided on the teacher website):
	https://atcsim.nasa.gov/simulator/sim2/sector33.html
ATC Simulator	Interactive Air Traffic Control Simulator
A complete description of the ATC Simulator is contained in the Educator	Students can explore Problem Set F with the interactive ATC Simulator. Each problem features 3-plane conflicts that can be resolved by speed changes or by route and speed changes.
Guide for LineUp With $Math^{TM}$.	The Simulator problems for Problem Set F are:
Math ^{IM} . For a simulator quick start guide and an animated tutorial, visit the LineUp With Math TM website.	 3-3*; 3-4*; 3-5*; 3-6*; 3-8, 3-9; 3-10; 3-11; 3-12 Problems with an asterisk (*) are supported by worksheets in Student Workbook E. An optimal solution time ("target time") is displayed on the screen for each Simulator problem. This target is the minimum time required for the last plane to reach the intersection at MOD. An on-screen clock keeps track of the flight time for a student's solution. For a complete set of answers and solutions to all Problem Set F Simulator problems, see Appendix I of this document. For a discussion of the key points associated with the first four Simulator problems, see the worksheet notes in the following Student Workbook section.



Student Workbook

It is recommended that you have a copy of Student Workbook F open while you read these notes.

The worksheet title is the same as the associated Simulator problem.

In the sector diagram, each route flows only **towards** MOD. E.g., a plane may fly from MINAH to OAL, but cannot fly from OAL to MINAH. The Student Workbook consists of four worksheets, one for each of the four featured Simulator problems listed below.

Simulator Problem	Worksheet Title
3-3*	Problem 3-3
3-4*	Problem 3-4
3-5*	Problem 3-5
3-5*	Problem 3-6

Each problem features a spacing conflict with different starting conditions. After the first worksheet, the students will require less guidance and structure, and the subsequent worksheets reflect this.

For a complete set of answers to each worksheet, see Appendix II of this document.

For each worksheet, they key points are briefly described as follows.

Worksheet: Problem 3-3

- On a number line, students plot the relative spacing of each plane at MOD to help picture the arrival order of the planes at MOD, their relative spacing, and any spacing violations.
 - To identify spacing conflicts, students begin by considering the first and second planes to arrive at MOD. Students determine that the second plane needs 2 additional nautical miles of spacing to achieve Ideal Spacing.
- Next, students identify conflicts between the second plane (with its **new** spacing) and the third plane to arrive at MOD. Students determine that the third plane needs 2 additional nautical miles of spacing to achieve Ideal Spacing.
- To achieve Ideal Spacing at MOD between the first and second planes, students slow the second plane. A 60-knot speed decrease achieves the 2-nautical mile additional spacing in 2 minutes. It takes the first plane 3 minutes (30 nautical miles at 600 knots) to arrive at MOD. In a similar manner, students achieve Ideal Spacing between the second and third planes.

Worksheet: Problem 3-4

- Students use the same problem-solving approach as in Problem 3-3. Minimal structure is provided to lead students to the solution.
- Students first identify spacing conflicts between the first and second planes to arrive at MOD. Then students use the **new** spacing of the second plane to identify the spacing conflict between the second and third planes.



Worksheet: Problem 3-5

- As in Problem 3-3 and Problem 3-4, students first identify spacing conflicts at MOD and resolve these conflicts to achieve Ideal Spacing (3 nautical miles) at MOD.
- In this problem, unlike Problem 3-3 and Problem 3-4, two planes (UAL74 and DAL88) pass through OAL on their way to MOD. Students must determine whether their resolution of the MOD spacing conflict violates the Minimum Separation requirement (2 nautical miles) at OAL.
- At the given starting distances (UAL74 is 17 nautical miles from OAL and DAL88 is 18 nautical miles from OAL) and starting speeds, there will be only 1 nautical mile of spacing between the planes at OAL. This does not meet the Minimum Separation requirement (2 nautical miles). However, after the 60-knot speed reduction for DAL88 (introduced to achieve Ideal Spacing at MOD), DAL88 will achieve an additional 1 nautical mile of spacing in 10 nautical miles. So Minimum Separation is achieved before OAL.

Worksheet: Problem 3-6

- This is the first problem to require students to make a route change and a speed change to achieve Ideal Spacing at MOD.
- In this problem, the original positions of two planes, DAL88 (30 nautical miles from MOD) and UAL74 (34 nautical miles from MOD), will give 4 nautical miles spacing at MOD. This is more than the Ideal Spacing (3 nautical miles). To achieve Ideal Spacing exactly (for efficiency purposes), students can reroute UAL74 and make a speed reduction.
- With the new route, UAL74 is 31 nautical miles from MOD, so an additional 2 nautical miles of spacing are required at MOD. Students can slow UAL74 by 60 knots to achieve the 2 nautical mile additional spacing in 2 minutes. Then, to maintain Ideal Spacing and not fall further behind, students can return UAL74 to 600 knots after 2 minutes.
- With the route change and the speed change, UAL74 now has 3 nautical miles of spacing with respect to each of the other two planes.

Answer Sheets

For a set of answers and solutions to all Simulator problems, visit the LineUp with MathTM website. Answer sheets for each of the Problem Set F Simulator problems can be found in Appendix I of this document.

Answer sheets for each worksheet in Student Workbook F can be found in Appendix II of this document.





APPENDIX 1

Air Traffic Control Simulator

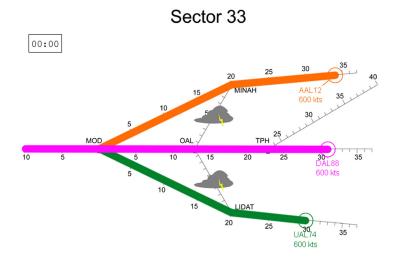
Simulator Solutions for Problem Set F

3-3*, 3-4*, 3-5*, 3-6* 3-8, 3-9, 3-10, 3-11, 3-12

Problems with an asterisk (*) are supported by worksheets in Student Workbook F



Starting Conditions:



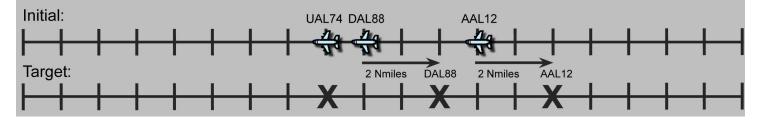
Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH		MOD	34	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	31	600
UAL74	LIDAT		MOD	30	600

- Route from **MINAH** to **OAL is closed**.
- Route from LIDAT to OAL is closed.
- Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

Analysis:

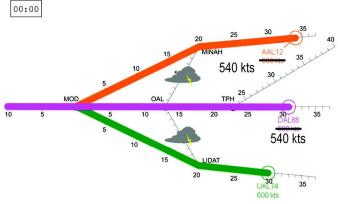
- <u>Conflict</u>: DAL88 will arrive at MOD 1 nautical mile behind UAL74.
- Weather prevents UAL74 and AAL12 from rerouting.
- **DAL88** can slow down to fall back 2 nautical miles. **AAL12** will then need to slow down to fall back 2 nautical miles.

Project Arrival	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
1st	UAL74	30	× . 1
2nd	DAL88	31	
3rd	AAL12	34	>> 3



Solution

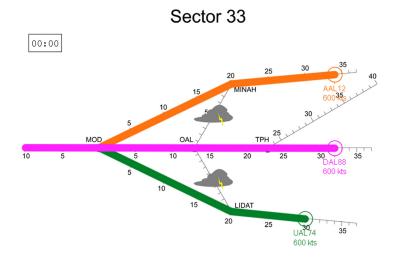




- **AAL12** Slow down to 540 knots for 2 minutes to fall back 2 nautical miles. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- **DAL88** Slow down to 540 knots for 2 minutes to fall back 2 nautical miles. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- Target Time 3 minutes and 36 seconds.



Starting Conditions:



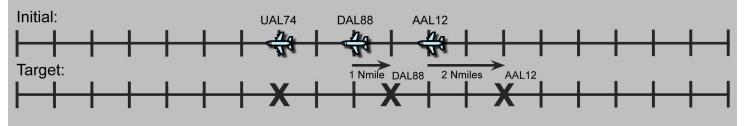
Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH		MOD	34	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	32	600
UAL74	LIDAT		MOD	30	600

- Route from LIDAT to OAL is closed.
- Route from MINAH to OAL is closed.
- Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

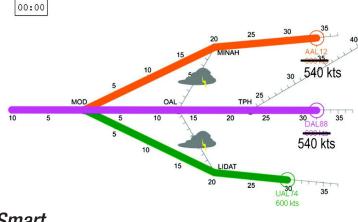
Analysis:

- UAL74 <u>AND</u> DAL88 will arrive at MOD 2 nautical miles apart. AAL12 <u>AND</u> DAL88 will arrive at MOD 2 nautical miles apart.
- Weather prevents UAL74 <u>AND</u> AAL12 from rerouting.
- DAL88 <u>AND</u> AAL12 both need to slow down to fall back 1 and 2 nautical miles, respectively.

Project Arrival	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
1st	UAL74	30	>→ 2
2nd	DAL88	32	
3rd	AAL12	34	>→ 2



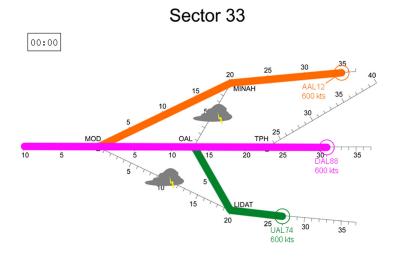
Solution



- **DAL88** Slow down to 540 knots for 1 minute to fall back 1 nautical mile. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- AAL12 Slow down to 540 knots for 2 minutes to fall back 2 nautical miles. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- **Target Time** 3 minutes and 36 seconds.



Starting Conditions:



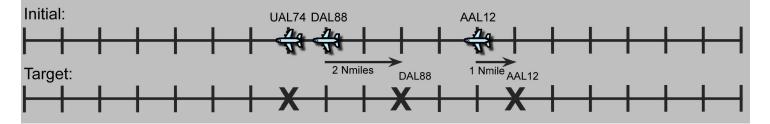
Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH		MOD	35	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	31	600
UAL74	LIDAT	0AL	MOD	30	600

- Route from MINAH to OAL is closed.
- Route from LIDAT to MOD is closed.
- Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

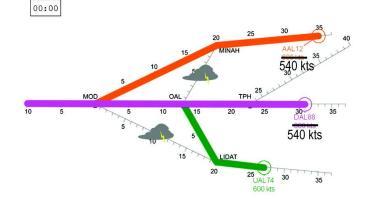
Analysis:

- <u>Conflict</u>: DAL88 will arrive at OAL 1 nautical mile behind UAL74.
- Weather prevents AAL12 AND UAL74 from rerouting.
- **DAL88** needs to slow down to fall back 2 nautical miles (at least 1 nautical mile before OAL).
- AAL12 needs to slow to fall back 1 nautical mile before OAL.

Proje Arriva	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
1st	UAL74	30	× . 1
2nd	DAL88	31	
3rd	AAL12	35	>> 4



Solution

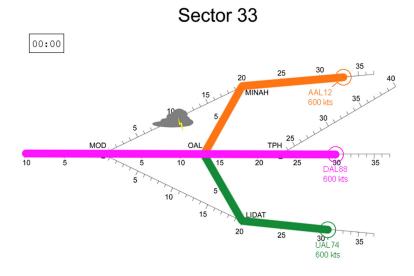


- **DAL88** Slow down to 540 knots for 2 minutes to fall back 2 nautical mils. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- AAL12 Slow down to 540 knots for 1 minute to fall back 1 nautical mile before OAL. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- Target Time 3 minutes and 36 seconds.

Solution



Starting Conditions:



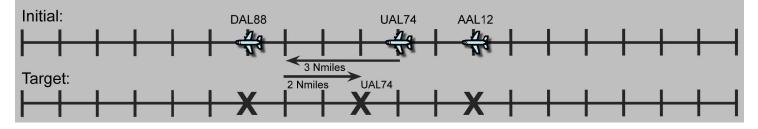
Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH	0AL	MOD	36	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	30	600
UAL74	LIDAT	0AL	MOD	34	600

- Route from **MINAH** to **MOD** is closed.
- Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

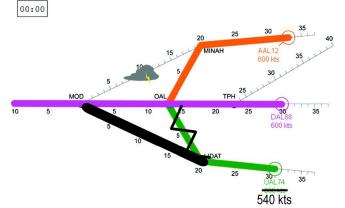
Analysis:

- AAL12 will arrive at OAL 2 nautical miles behind UAL74.
- Weather prevents AAL12 from rerouting.
- **UAL74** can take the shortcut to shorten its travel distance by 3 nautical miles and then can slow down to fall back 2 nautical miles.

Project Arrival	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
1st	DAL88	30	
2nd	UAL74	34	
3rd	AAL12	36	>>2





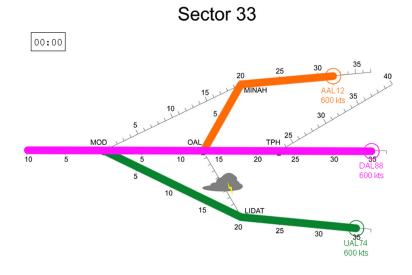


- **UAL74** Slow down to MOD to move forward 3 nautical miles and then slow down to 540 knots for 2 minutes to fall back 2 nautical miles. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- **Target Time** 3 minutes and 36 seconds.

Solution



Starting Conditions:



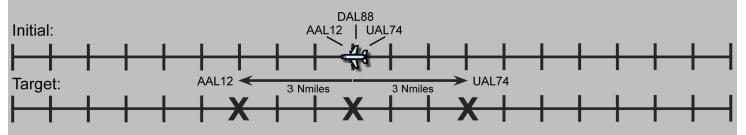
Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH	0AL	MOD	35	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	35	600
UAL74	LIDAT		MOD	35	600

- Route from LIDAT to OAL is closed.
- Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

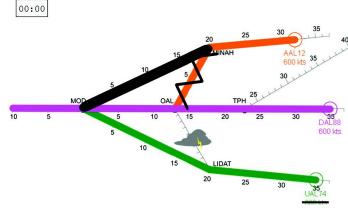
Analysis:

- **<u>Conflict</u>: AAL12, UAL74, <u>AND</u> DAL88** will arrive at MOD at the same time.
- Weather prevents **UAL74** from rerouting.
- AAL12 can take the shortcut to shorten its travel distance by 3 nautical miles. UAL74 can slow down to fall back 3 nautical miles.

Project Arrival	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
1st	AAL12	35	
1st	DAL88	35	
1st	UAL74	35	



Solution

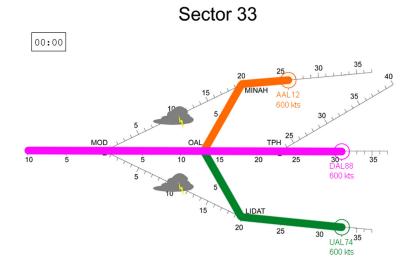


- **AAL12** Reroute direct to MOD to move forward 3 nautical miles.
- **UAL74** Slow down to 540 knots for 3 minutes to lose 3 nautical miles. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- Target Time 3 minutes and 48 seconds.

Solution



Starting Conditions:



Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH	0AL	MOD	29	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	31	600
UAL74	LIDAT	0AL	MOD	36	600

- Route from **MINAH** to **MOD** is closed.
- Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

Analysis:

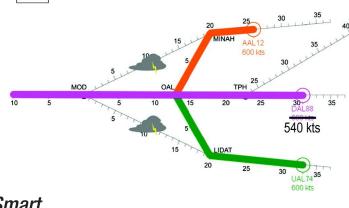
- DAL88 will arrive at OAL 2 nautial mile behind AAL12. UAL74 will be 5 nautical miles behind DAL88.
- Weather prevents UAL74 <u>AND</u> AAL12 from rerouting.
- **DAL88** can slow down to fall back 1 nautical mile.

Project Arrival	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
1st	AAL12	29	>→ 2
2nd	DAL88	31	
3rd	UAL74	36	≻ 5



Solution

00:00

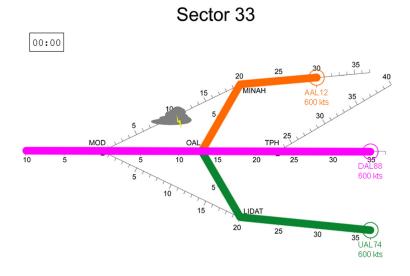


- **DAL88** Slow down to 540 knots for 1 minute to fall back 1 nautical miles. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- **UAL74** Spacing is 4 nautical miles. This is greater than 3 nautical miles Ideal Spacing.
- Target Time 3 minutes and 36 seconds.

Solution



Starting Conditions:



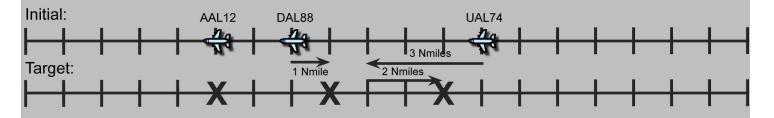
Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH	0AL	MOD	33	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	35	600
UAL74	LIDAT	0AL	MOD	40	600

- Route from **MINAH** to **OAL is closed**.
- Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

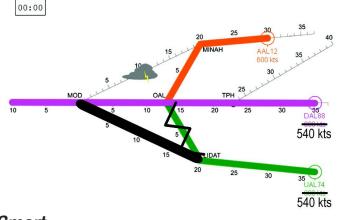
Analysis:

- **DAL88** will arrive at 0AL 2 nautical miles behind **AAL12 UAL74** will be 5 nautical miles behind.
- Weather prevents AAL12 from rerouting.
- **DAL88** can slow down to fall back 1 nautical mile. **UAL74** can take the shortcut to shorten its travel distance by 3 nautial miles and slow down to fall back 2 nautical miles.

Project Arrival	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
1st	AAL12	33	$\rightarrow 2$
2nd	DAL88	35	
3rd	UAL74	40	→ 5



Solution

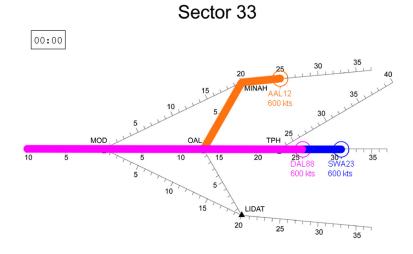


- **DAL88** Slow down to 540 knots for 1 minute to fall back 1 nautical mile. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- UAL74 Reroute direct to MOD to move up 3 nautical miles. Slow down to 540 knots for 2 minutes to fall back 2 nautical miles. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- Target Time 3 minutes and 36 seconds.

Solution



Starting Conditions:



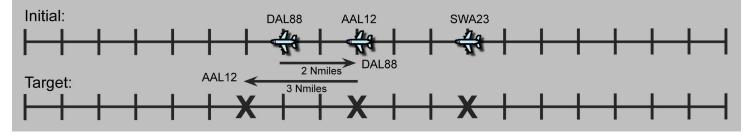
Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH	0AL	MOD	28	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	26	600
SWA23	TPH	0AL	MOD	31	600

• Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

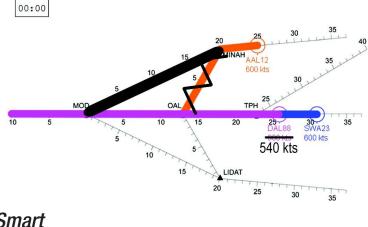
Analysis:

- DAL88 will arrive at OAL 2 nautical miles behind AAL12. UAL74 will be 5 nautical miles behind.
- Weather prevents AAL12 from rerouting.
- **DAL88** can slow down to fall back 1 nautical mile. **UAL74** can take the shortcut to shorten its travel distance by 3 nautical miles and slow down to fall back 2 nautical miles.

Project Arrival	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
1st	DAL88	26	>→ 2
2nd	AAL12	28	
3rd	SWA23	31	>> 3



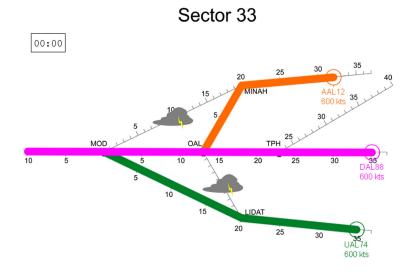
Solution



- **AAL12** Reroute AAL12 direct to MOD to move forward by 3 nautical miles.
- DAL88 Slow down to 540 knots for 2 minutes to fall back 2 nautical miles. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- Target Time 3 minutes and 6 seconds.



Starting Conditions:



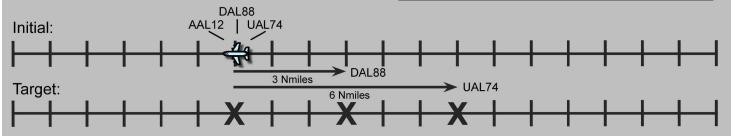
Plane	From	Through	То	Distance	Speed
AAL12	MINAH	0AL	MOD	35	600
DAL88	TPH	0AL	MOD	35	600
UAL74	LIDAT		MOD	35	600

- Route from LIDAT to OAL is closed.
- Route from **MINAL** to **MOD is closed**.
- Ideal spacing at **MOD** is 3 nautical miles.

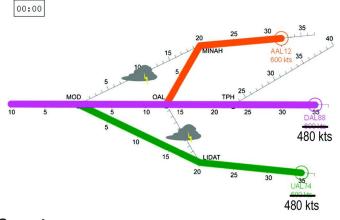
Analysis:

- <u>Conflict</u>: AAL12, UAL74, <u>AND</u> DAL88 will arrive at MOD at the same time.
- Weather prevents UAL74 <u>AND</u> AAL12 from rerouting.
- One plane must slow down to lose 3 nautical miles and one plane must slow down to lose 6 nautical miles.

	Project Arrival	Plane	Distance Along Flight Plan	Initial Spacing
Γ	1st	AAL12	35	
Γ	1st	DAL88	35	
	1st	UAL74	35	$\rightarrow 0$



Solution



- **UAL74** Slow down to 480 knots for 3 minutes to fall back 6 nautical miles (at 5 nautical miles from MOD). Then speed up to 600 knots.
- **DAL88** Slow down to 480 knots for 1.5 minutes to fall back 3 nautical miles (at 2 nautical miles from OAL) before a possible conflict at OAL. Then speed up to 600 knots.
- Target Time 4 minutes and 6 seconds.



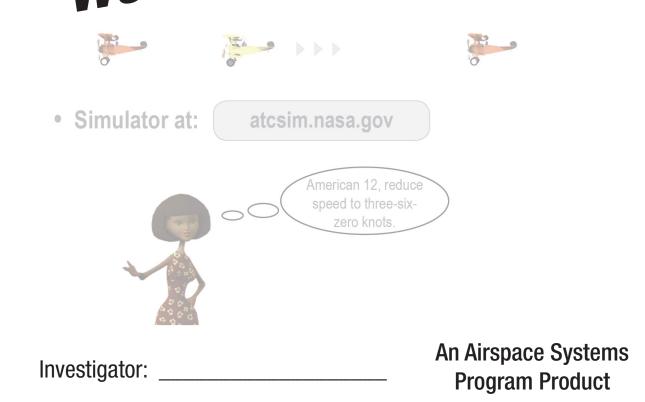


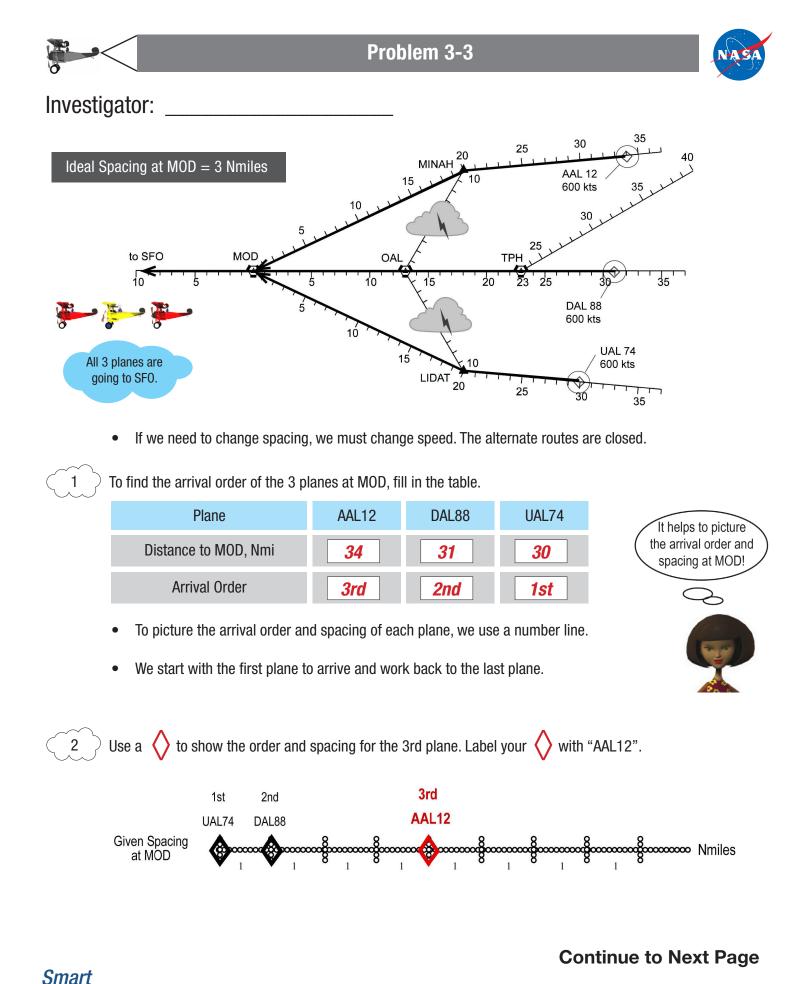
Math-Based Decisions in Air Traffic Control

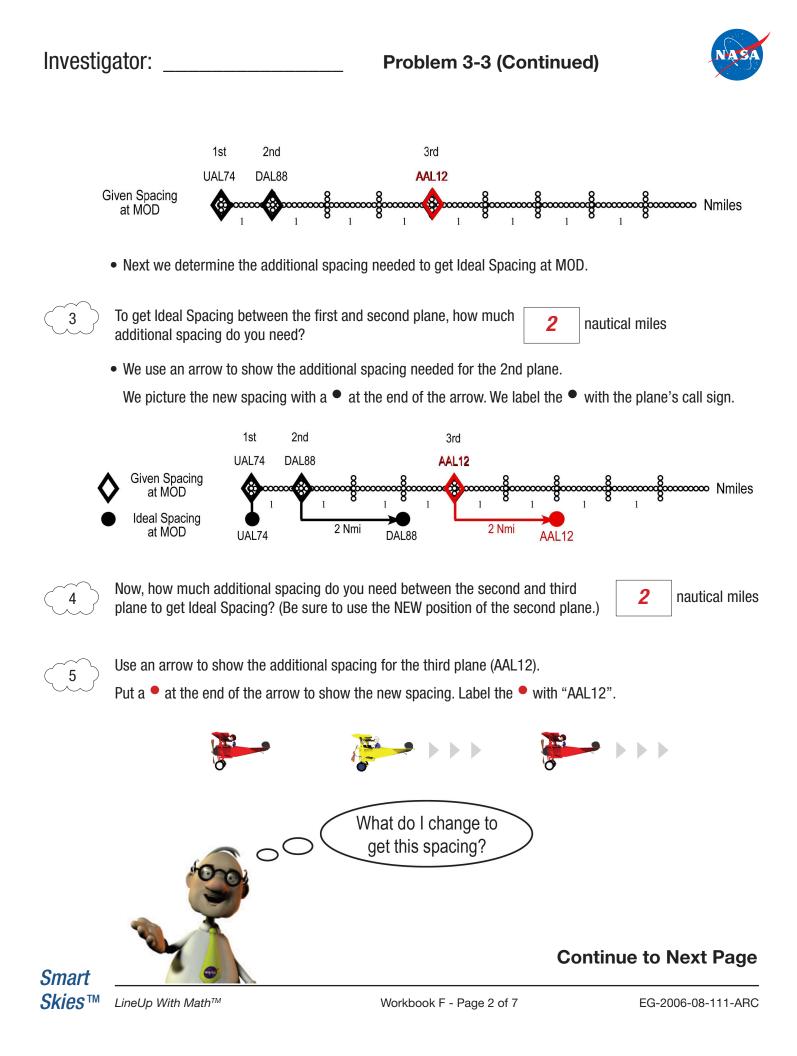
Student Workbook F

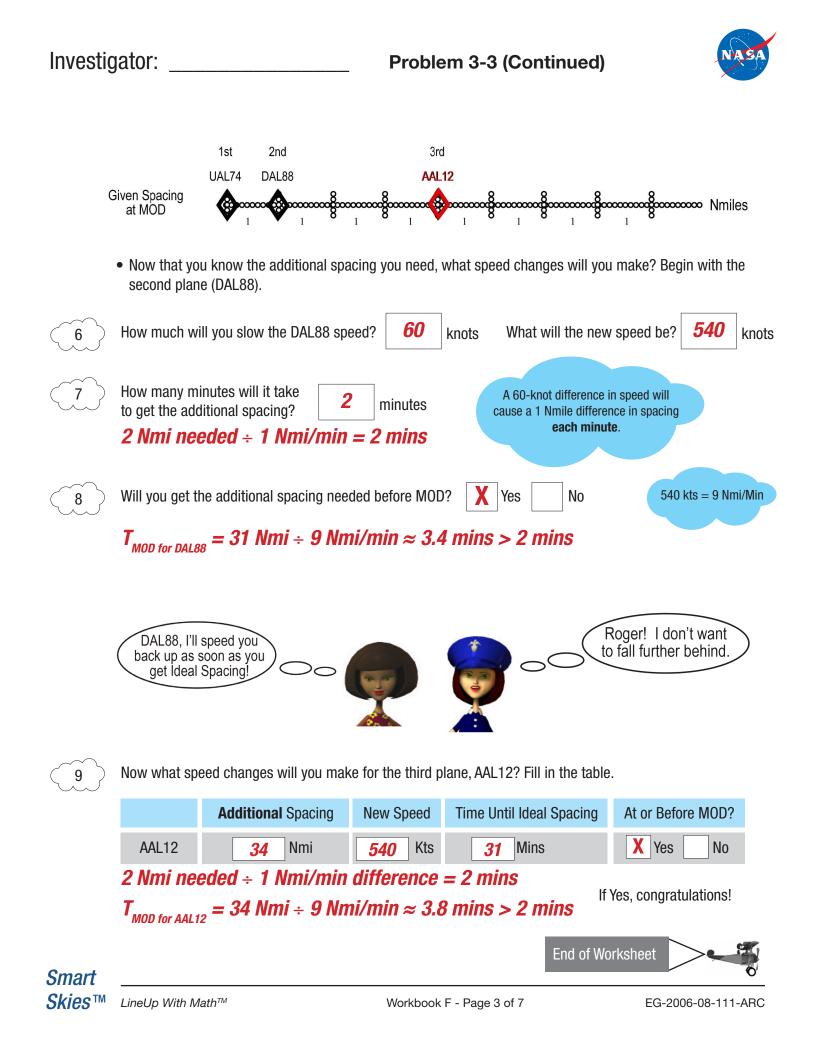
Appendix II

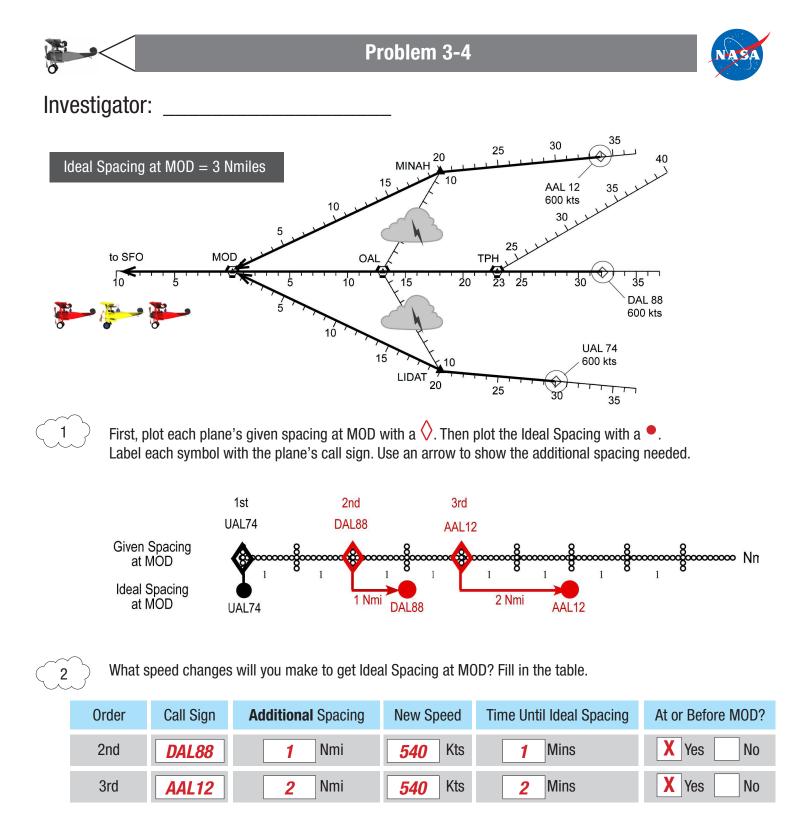








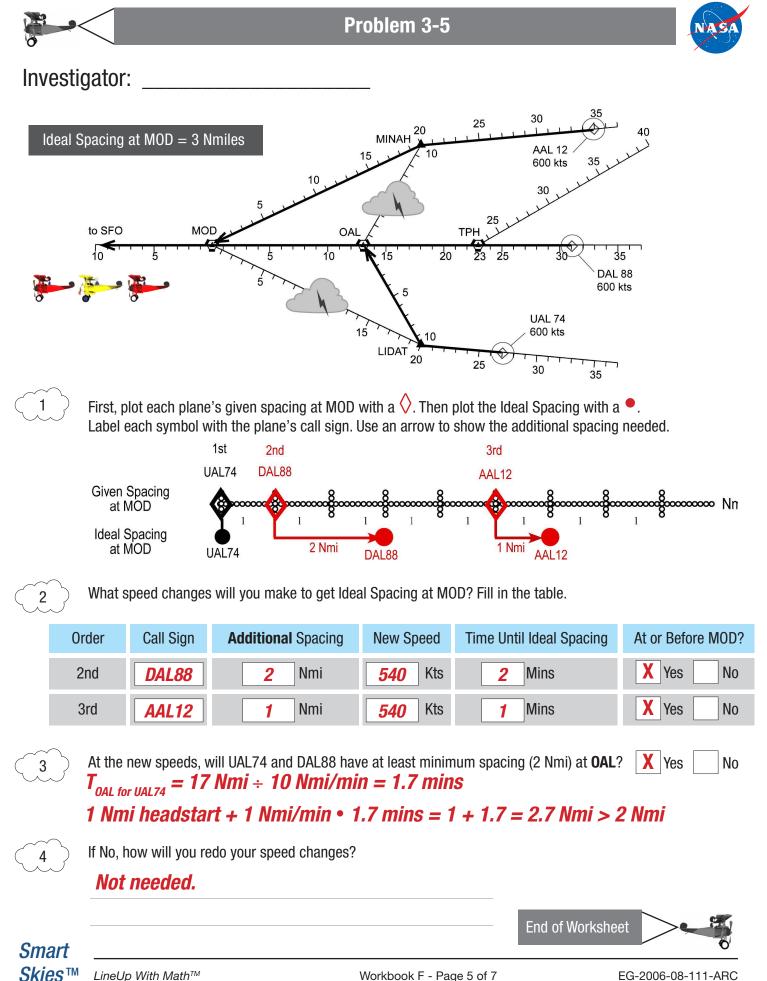


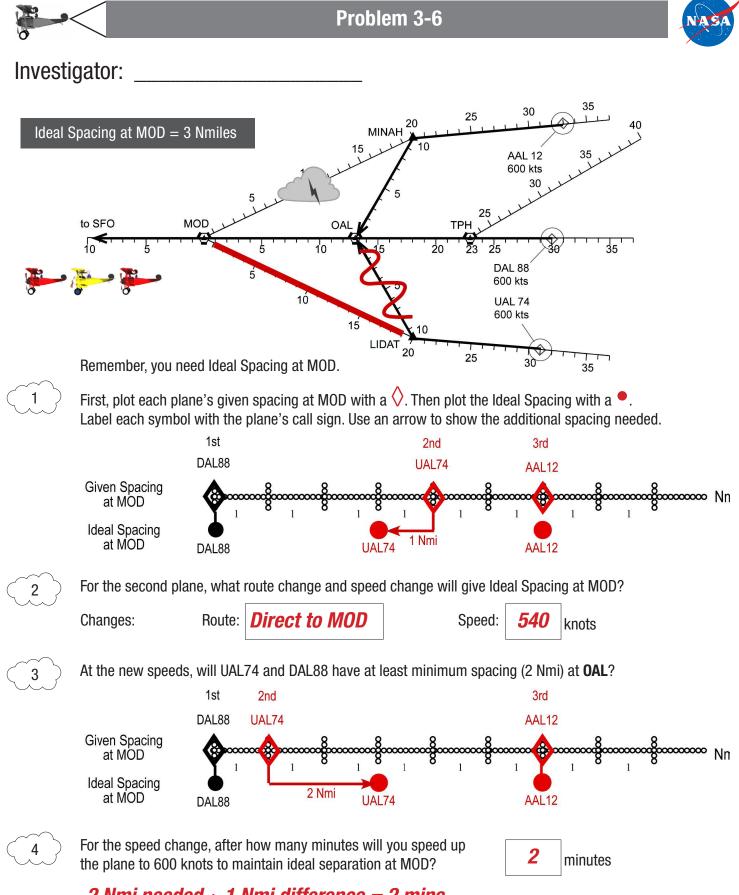


DAL88: $T_{MOD} = 34 \text{ Nmi} \div 9 \text{ Nmi/min} \approx 3.6 \text{ mins} > 1 \text{ min}$ If Yes, congratulations!AAL12: $T_{MOD} = 34 \text{ Nmi} \div 9 \text{ Nmi/min} \approx 3.8 \text{ mins} > 2 \text{ mins}$

Smart

End of Worksheet





2 Nmi needed ÷ 1 Nmi difference = 2 mins

Continue to Next Page

Smart



