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# The Use of Agent-Based Modeling and Data Farming for Planning System of Systems Tests in Joint Environments

McDonald, Marry; Upton, Stephen; Horne, Gary

Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

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# The Use of Agent-Based Modeling and Data Farming for Planning System of Systems Tests in Joint Environments

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76th MORSS  
June 2008

**SEED Center Mission: Advance the collaborative development and use of simulation experiments and efficient designs to provide decision makers with timely insights on complex systems and operations**

## Report Documentation Page

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This presentation is believed to be:  SECRET  CONFIDENTIAL  UNCLASSIFIED and will be presented in:  
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# Agenda

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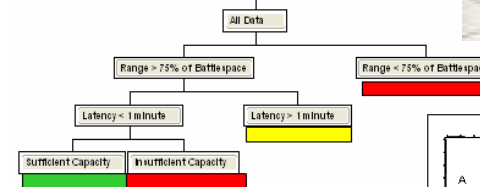
- SEED Center and Philosophy
- Data Farming
- Support to Joint Test and Evaluation Methodology (JTEM)
- Agent Based Modeling
- “TheTester” ABM

# SEED Center in a nutshell...

*Enable rapid and efficient computational experimentation and analysis to be readily available to those informing decision makers*

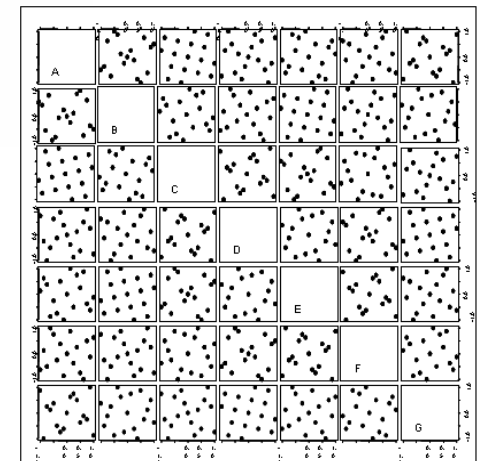
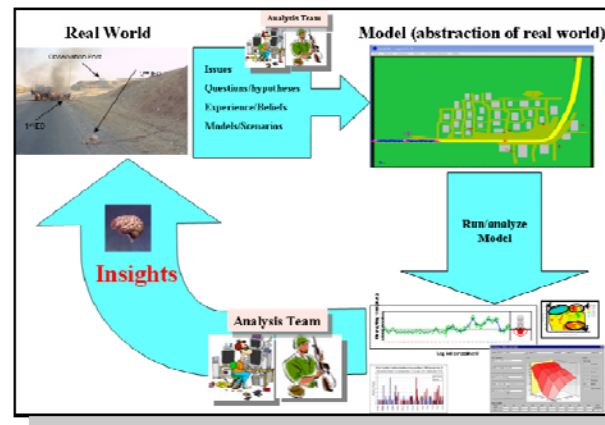
## • Harnessing Enabling Technologies

- High-performance computation
- New Design of Experiments (DOE)
- (Emerging) models
- Data mining and visualization



## • Revolution in analysis capabilities

- Quick turnaround...
- Address uncertainties
- Robust solutions

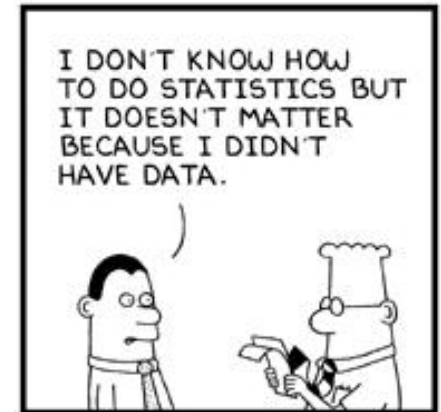


# Resources: SEED Center for Data Farming

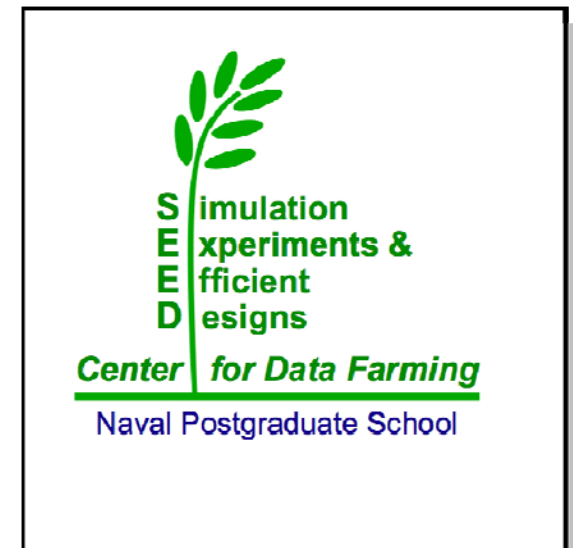
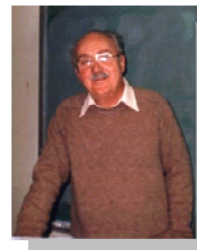
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- spreadsheets & software
- pdf files for several of our publications, publication info for the rest
- links to other resources
- updates



*All models are wrong, but some are useful—George Box*



# Data Farming: Iterative Loop of Loops

- **Data Farming Loop**

- **Scenario/Model Building Loop**

- Iterate model/simulation for experiment definition and analysis to support definition of hypothesis, and areas of interest

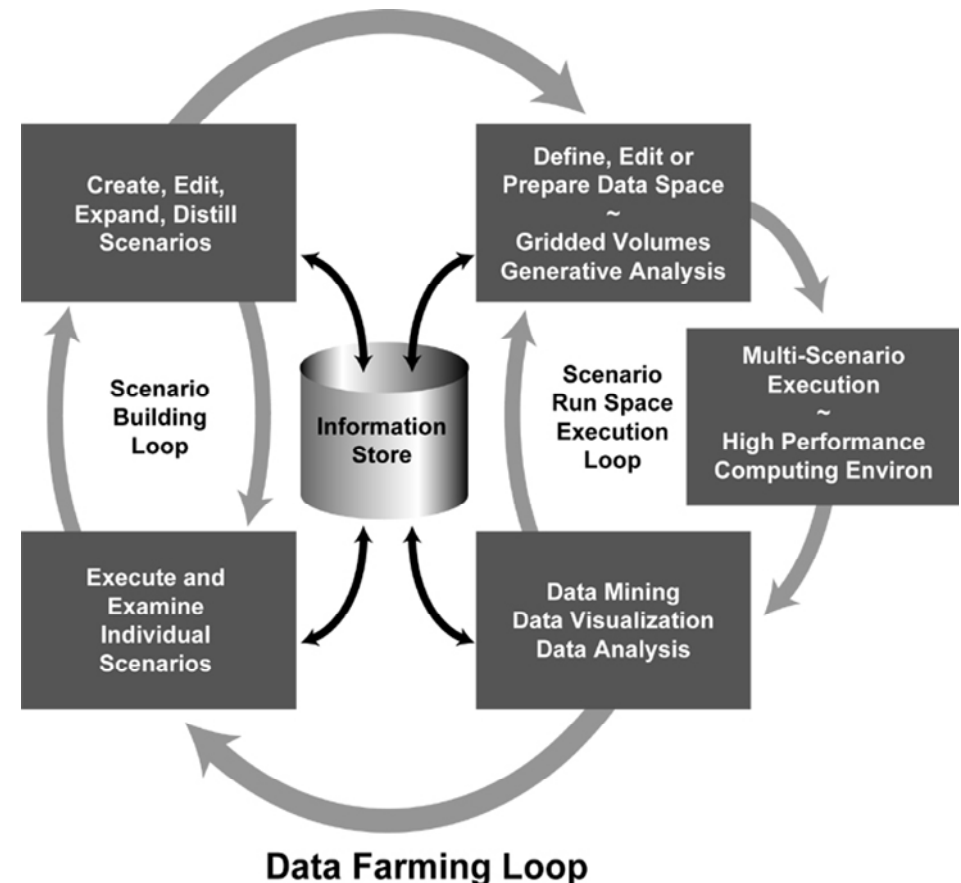
- **Possibility Space Development Loop**

- Iterate model/simulation using high-performance computing to refine analysis, study parameter sensitivity, drill-down into areas of interest, and confirmation or refutation of hypothesis
    - Data exploration, mining

*and then*

- **Adjust-Synthesize (another loop)**

- Adjust model/simulation with knowledge/concepts/intuition from data farming...  
*Repeat*





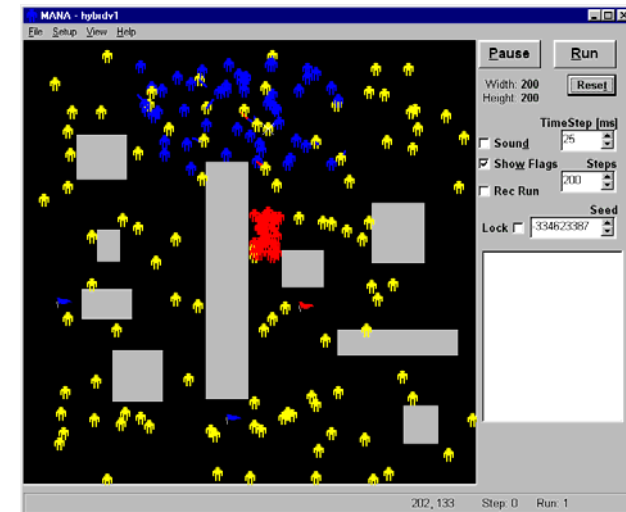
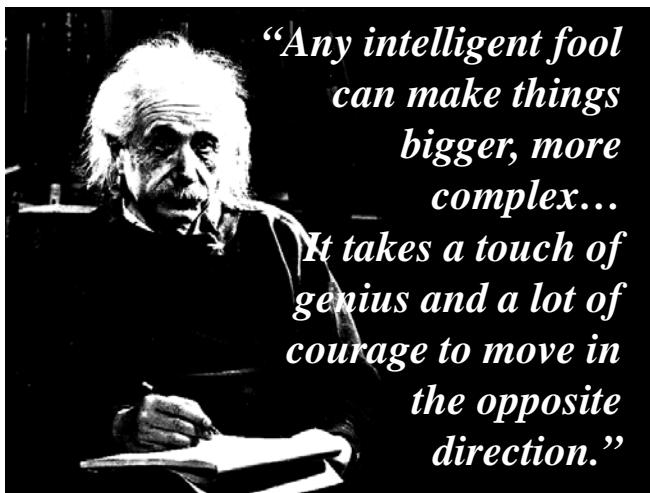
# Support to Joint Test & Evaluation Methodology

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- **Overall Objective:** Determine if analytical techniques employing agent-based models and data farming can be applied to the following areas
  - Helping to select a limited number of test vignettes for accomplishment in an actual L/V/C joint mission environment
  - Determining overall joint mission effectiveness
  - Establishing the relationship between system or system-of-system performance and joint mission effectiveness
- **Previous Effort:**
  - Tested other agent-based models for applicability
  - Ran computational experiments within the SEED Center's Data Farming environment
  - Developed custom-made agent-based modeling environment ("TheTester")

# Agent Based Modeling (ABM)

- **What is an ABM?**
  - Composed of (usually) relatively simple discrete autonomous entities making decisions based on interactions with other agents and their local environment
  - Are characteristically intuitive, transparent, transportable, repeatable, and farmable
  - Have been useful in studying complex adaptive systems in a number of domains
- Several have been developed specifically for military domain (ISAAC, MANA, Pythagoras, SEAS)
- **Scenarios (usually) can be produced in a matter of hours/days vs weeks/months**



# “TheTester” ABM

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- **Motivation:** To address some of the limitations encountered using more traditional agent-based models based on reactive agents, while retaining their strengths in farmability, ease of use, and fast run times
- **Primary Design Goal:** Focus on Systems of Systems testing, initially modeling one aspect (Joint Fires) of the C2 Joint Capability Area (JCA)

# “TheTester”: Model structure

---

- Is written in JAVA, and uses the MASON multi-agent simulation toolkit for its underlying simulation infrastructure  
[www.cs.gmu.edu/~eclab/projects/mason/](http://www.cs.gmu.edu/~eclab/projects/mason/)
- Time-stepped
- Continuous 3D space, flat terrain
- Uses XML for input - working on an Automated Scenario Generator
- Selectable MOEs (CSV output)
- 3D visualization with probes

# “TheTester”: Other Design Goals

---

- Composable

allows users to build up or construct agents using software components specific to the domain

- Extensible

allows users to develop their own software components to extend functionality provided by the basic framework

- Farmable

enhances computational experiments with the model by allowing users to easily vary input parameters associated with the agents

- Fast-running

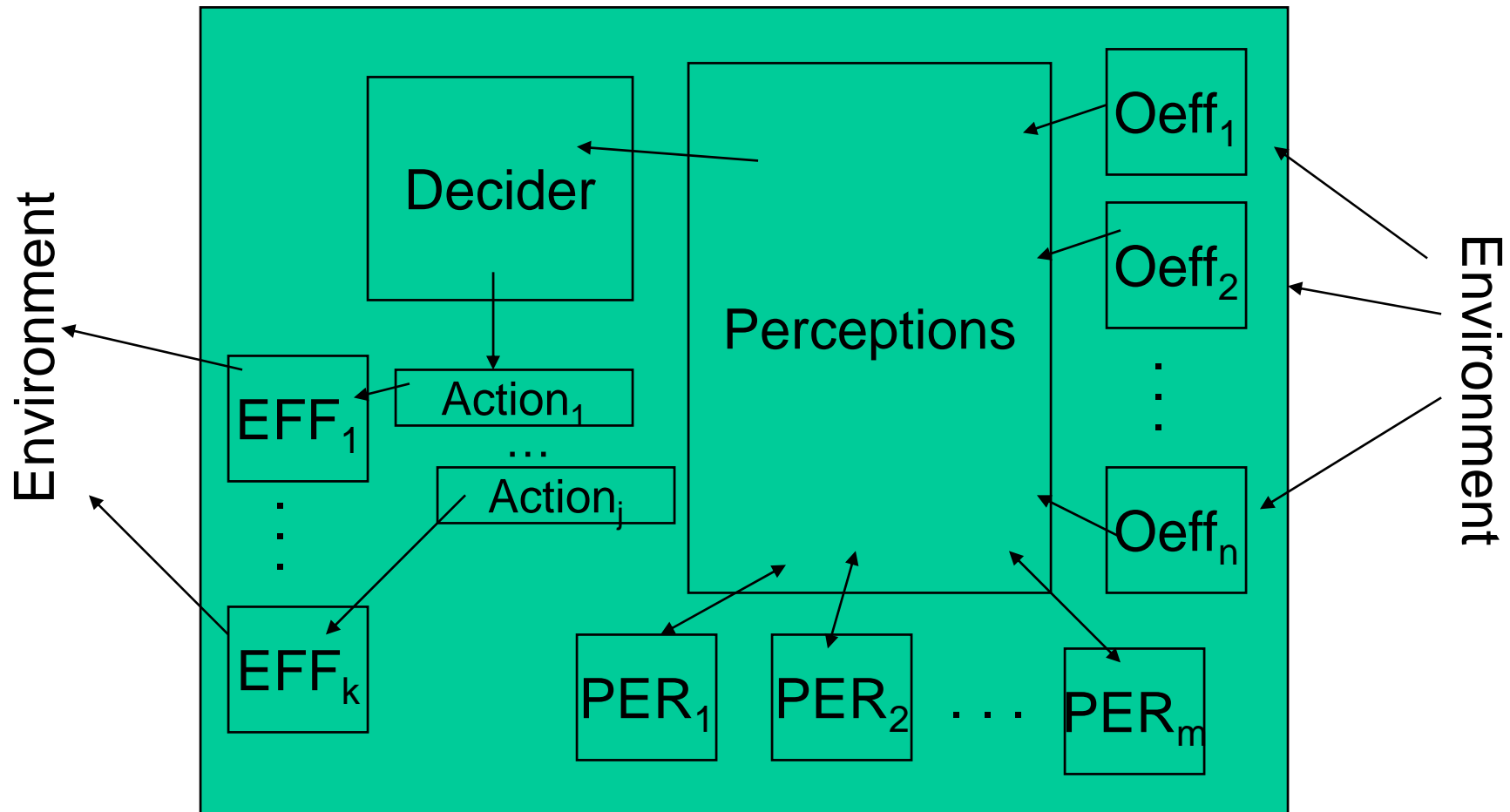
analyses could be completed within a reasonably short period of time, commensurate with our experience with other agent-based models used for similar purposes

# Agent Decision Making

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- Each Agent has OODA loop
- “Observe” - depends on whether Agent has Effector for sensing
- Orient
  - Process Comm messages
  - Update Perceptions from other Perceivers
- Decide
  - Agent Decision Making is based on Deciders: these are composable object structures that base decisions on Perceptions - SimpleRuleBaseDecider currently implemented. Different agents can have different Deciders. SimpleRuleBaseDecider has a set of Rules that are a conjunction of Clauses (Perception Condition Value), with Actions as consequents
  - E.g., If NewEnemyDetected then SendMessageASR
- Act
  - Each Agent has a set of Actions that it can accomplish (based on what Effectors can do)

# “TheTester”: Agent structure



# Examples (Implemented So Far)

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- Observe-type Effectors
  - CookieCutterSensor
- Perceivers
  - SimpleThreatPerceiver
  - BasicMessageProcessor
  - MessageSentTracker
  - MemoryContactFilter
- Other Effector types
  - MoveAlongWaypoints
  - AgentCarrier / AgentCarried
  - BasicMessageSender
  - SingleMissionEffector
  - MultipleMissionEffector
  - FiresMissionTasker
  - BasicIndirectWeapon



# Examples (cont.)

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- Perceptions (concepts an agent “knows about”)
  - AgentPercept
  - LocationPercept
  - MessagePercept
  - Observation
  - RestrictedOperatingZone
  - SimplePercept
  - TargetPercept
- Deciders (used to choose an action, based on the current state of perceptions)
  - SimpleMoveDecider
  - RuleBaseDecider

# Comm modeling

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- CommLinks
  - Explicit communication links specified in input file
  - Reliability for the link
  - Range for the link
- MessageData – for each message class
  - messageClass for each message
  - probUnderstood
  - inProcessTime, inProcessTimeOffset
  - outProcessTime, outProcessTimeOffset
  - probability distribution used for times
- MessageHandlers - for inserting and extracting content
- Implemented Message Handlers
  - CallForFireMessageHandler
  - FiresMissionMessageHandler
  - GoToRequestMessageHandler
  - ThreatLocationMessageHandler

# FY07 Scenario Comm Matrix

|                     | <i>RSTA</i>  | <i>BNFSE</i> | <i>BDEFSE</i>          | <i>CAOC/JAOC</i>     | <i>ASOC</i>                             | <i>AWACS</i>                | <i>FIRE BN</i>   | <i>NLOS/FSPM</i>   | <i>JSTARS</i>      | <i>JTAC</i>                       | <i>CAS_AIRCRAFT</i> | <i>MEV</i>                                |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <i>RSTA</i>         |              | CFF          |                        |                      |   |                             |                  |                    |                    |                                   |                     |   |
| <i>BNFSE</i>        |              |              | RELAY-CFF              |                      |   |                             |                  |                    |                    |                                   |                     |   |
| <i>BDEFSE</i>       |              |              |                        | ACMREQ1;<br>RFZ      | ACMREQ1-COPY;<br>ACMREQ2; RFZ           |                             | FIREMISSION      |                    |                    |                                   |                     |   |
| <i>CAOC/JAOC</i>    |              |              | RELAY-ACMF<br>APPROVAL |                      | ACMREQ1-APP<br>COPY; ACMREQ<br>APPROVAL | ACMREQ1-<br>COORD           |                  |                    | ACMREQ2<br>APPROVA |                                   |                     |   |
| <i>ASOC</i>         |              |              | ACMREQ2-<br>COORD      |                      |   | ASR-<br>APPROVAL<br>TASKING |                  |                    |                    | ASR-APPRO<br>TASKING              |                     |   |
| <i>AWACS</i>        |              |              |                        | ACMREQ1-<br>APPROVAL |   |                             |                  |                    |                    |                                   | CASMISSION          |   |
| <i>FIRE BN FSE</i>  |              |              |                        |                      |   |                             |                  | RELAY-<br>FIREMISS |                    |                                   |                     |   |
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| <i>JSTARS</i>       |              |              |                        |                      |   |                             |                  |                    |                    | THREATLOC                         |                     |   |
| <i>JTAC</i>         |              |              | ASR                    |                      |   |                             |                  |                    |                    |                                   | 9LINE-ORDE          | RETARGET-<br>ORDER                        |
| <i>CAS_AIRCRAFT</i> |              |              |                        |                      |   |                             |                  |                    |                    | ONSTATION<br>WPN-COOR<br>TRANSFER |                     | THREATLOC<br>LAUNCHOR<br>HANDOFF<br>ORDER |

# Short Term Future Work on “TheTester” Will Include ...

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- Expert System / Fuzzy Logic Decider (JESS, Fuzzy JESS)
- Move to a Discrete Event Framework
- GUI / Automated Scenario Generator

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# QUESTIONS?