Modeling System Dynamics

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With Andrew Moore and Robert Ferguson
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What Is Sustainment?



- Sustainment: Everything that happens to a system after the production line is closed down (product maintenance, infrastructure)
- Hardware: Repair, Remove corrosion, Replace worn parts
- Software
 - Corrective Maintenance (Bug fixes)
 - Adaptive (fix for changed environment, e.g., other systems, operating system...)
 - Perfective (New requirements)
 - Preventive (reliability/maintainability fixes)

All software sustainment is engineering work



Why Model Sustainment Dynamics?



Sustainment has

- Many loops
 - bug fixes, small enhancements, large enhancements
- Many stakeholders
 - operational forces, programs, sustainment organizations
- Many funding sources
 - O&M, program procurement, modernization procurement

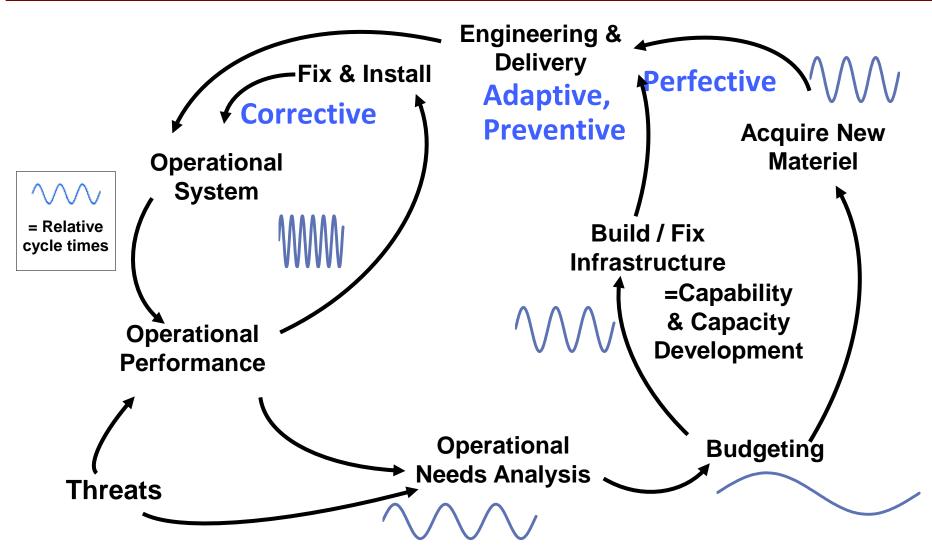
Simple cost/benefit models fail to capture dynamic nature

- Varying time cycles for decisions
- Dramatic consequences: Funding delays can cause a "tipping point": recovery very expensive

Dynamic model allows exploration of funding scenarios



Sustainment Cycles





Factors to Model

Sustainment Capability

skills and knowledge held by staff

Sustainment Capacity

- amount of sustainment work the staff can do
- = # staff * capability

Performance

amount of work the staff does, compared to needed

Productivity

amount of work done per unit cost

Desired output

sustained systems, number of system capabilities added



Systems Dynamics Modeling Software Engineering Institute

Create causal loop diagram

- Stocks (quantities with an amount)
- Flows (change the amount in stocks)
- Relationships (and auxiliary variables)

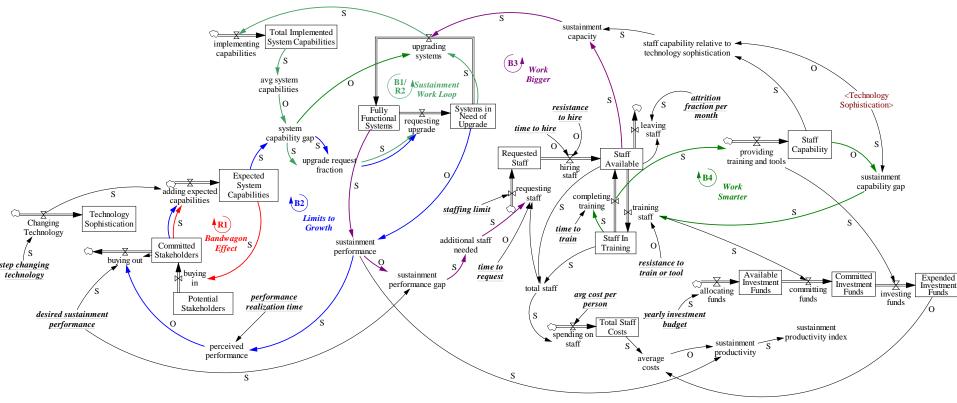
Simulate

- Establish equilibrium
- Pulse
- Understand results

Finalize

- Calibrate
- Publish
- Productize

Sustainment Systems Dynamics Diagram



R1: Represents the need for additional missions and additional capability

B1/R2: Demand for sustaining work and development

B2: Sustainment performance vs. System performance and gaps

B3: Efforts to work overtime and do more with less

B4: Building additional capability and capacity to sustain

Not a loop but lower right: Effects of delayed funding decisions and commitment



Conclusion



- Determined sustainment variables
- Dynamic relationships
- Calibrating with customer now
- Can calibrate to your organization

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Modeling Sustainment Dynamics



BACKUP CHARTS



Calibration and Validation

Comparing performance to goals



