**Athena Analyst's Guide**

Athena S&RO Simulation, V5

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# Models

## Introduction

This document presents the models and related constructs implemented in version 4 of the Athena Stability & Recovery Operations (S&RO) Simulation. The models are described in sufficient detail to allow implementation; neither the derivations nor the implementation itself are in the scope of this document. Readers are advised to read this section and Section 2 (Athena Concepts) first, and then the other sections as desired. In addition, the model-related sections of the *Athena User’s Guide* should be read before this document, as topics which are fully and adequately discussed there are not repeated here.

### Overview

The Athena simulation is a decision support tool designed to allow a skilled[[1]](#footnote-1) analyst to consider the intended and unintended consequences of various courses of action that might be taken during Stability & Recovery Operations. Athena is a descendant of the Joint Non-kinetic Effects Model (JNEM), but includes many new models. In addition, where JNEM is a federated simulation intended for use in training, Athena is a stand-alone single-user application intended for use in analysis.

The intent of Athena’s models is first to capture and make explicit a wide variety of first-order causal links, each of which makes sense on the face of it, and then present the second-, third-, and nth- order consequences of events while preserving the causal chain.

### Other Documents

Documentation on using Athena may be found in the on-line help; invoke the Athena Simulation, and select Help Contents from the Help menu. Additional documentation may be found in the "docs" directory of the Athena build tree; open "docs/index.html" in a web browser, and follow the links.[[2]](#footnote-2) The documentation is included with the installed software. Documentation can also be obtained directly from the Athena project; contact [William.H.Duquette@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Willam.H.Duquette@jpl.nasa.gov).

Documentation in the "docs" directory include:

*Athena User’s Guide*

This document combines a high-level introduction to the Athena models and philosophy with information about using the Athena application and hints on how to assemble Athena scenarios.

*Athena Rules*

This document describes the events and situations (drivers) that affect group attitudes, and the Driver Assessment Model (DAM) rule sets that assess attitude change.

*Mars Analyst's Guide*

Athena is built upon a software infrastructure layer called Mars. Models implemented in Mars, including the Unified Regional Attitude Model (URAM), are documented in the *Mars Analyst's Guide* (MAG), which may be found in the Athena documentation tree.

### Changes for Athena 5

TBD.

### Changes for Athena 4

(*This section is retained for comparison.*)

Athena 4 includes the following model changes:

* Athena's Economic model is now based on a six-sector CGE, in place of the old three-sector CGE.
  + Actors now derive income from the economy.
  + Actors can derive income from the international black market, e.g., in drugs, human trafficking, or guns.
* Athena now uses the Unified Regional Attitude Model (URAM) to track group attitudes, rather than the Generalized Regional Attitude Model (GRAM); see the *Mars Analyst's Guide* for details on the differences between the two models. Some highlights:
  + The model of attitude inputs is now more suitable for Athena time horizons.
  + URAM tracks both horizontal and vertical relationships in addition to satisfaction and cooperation.
  + Thus, the vertical relationship rule sets are now part of the Driver Assessment Model, and are documented in the *Athena Rules Document*.
  + Horizontal relationships can now vary with time.
  + Regression of an attitude curve to a natural level is now much simpler.
* Actors can conduct information operations campaigns.
  + Actors can broadcast *Information Operations Messages* (IOMs) to civilian groups.
  + IOMs are broadcast via *Communications Asset Packages* (CAPs); the groups reached by the IOM depend on the CAP.
  + IOMs appeal to civilian groups by means of *semantic hooks*, which relate to the groups' belief systems.
  + IOMs can affect any of the four kinds of attitude.
* The Security model has been enriched:
  + The model now takes into account the stance of force group personnel toward the residents of a neighborhood when computing group force projection.
  + It also takes into account the activities being performed by force group personnel.
  + Civilian groups now spontaneously generate a certain degree of background criminal activity, which lowers security.
  + Law enforcement suppresses this criminal activity, thus improving security.
* The user need no longer enter "status quo" deployments and ENI funding levels to establish the initial conditions for the simulation. Instead, tactics can be flagged to execute "on lock", independent of the conditions normally attached to them.
* Athena now measures time in integer weeks instead of integer days. Most significant events were already taking effect once a week; switching to weeks simplifies the models.

## Athena Concepts

Athena’s models describe, within a region of interest, the significant political, social and economic actors, the actions they take, the effects of those actions on the civilian population of the region, the corresponding changes in political support for the actors, and the resulting effects on the stability and control of the region. Within this feedback loop Athena tracks actor assets, military force levels and activities, civilian attitudes, regional demographics, and the regional economy. Information flows between actors and civilians are modeled implicitly.

This section gives an overview of Athena and its parts, and of the basic concepts that Athena uses. The discussion is kept to a high level; see Sections 3 and following for the detailed models.

### Model Parameters

Many of the Athena models contain numeric parameters that are used to calibrate and tune the results of the models. Athena stores these values as *model parameters* in the *model parameter database*. Although not part of an Athena scenario proper, the model parameters are accessible to the Athena user, who can view them and set them on a scenario-by-scenario basis. When such a parameter appears in a model description, below, a footnote will give its name in the model parameter database. See the *Athena User’s Guide* for more information.

### Simulated Time

Athena uses the following measures of simulated time.

Athena's clock measures time in integer *weeks* since time 0. The week is the smallest time interval with which Athena is concerned; simulation time always advances week-by-week. Weeks are also sometimes referred to as time *ticks*.

Time 0 is mapped to a calendar date by a *start date* set by the user. Athena then outputs simulated time as either some number of integer weeks or as a Julian week string based on the start date (e.g., "2012W02" is the second week of the year 2012.)

Athena is a time-step simulation; many computations take place at each time tick. In past versions of Athena, some models were triggered every so many ticks; these trigger points were called *tocks*. In this version of Athena, all models are triggered every tick.

### Geography

Each Athena scenario is associated with a geographical region called the Athena *playbox*, which is divided into polygonal areas called *neighborhoods*. (Indeed, the playbox is simply the collection of neighborhoods.)

#### Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods are simply a way of dividing the playbox into a number of reasonably homogeneous areas, and may be of any size: country, province, city, town, zip code, or neighborhood proper. Almost everything that happens in Athena happens in the context of a particular neighborhood.

Geographically, neighborhoods are defined as polygons on a map, using some appropriate coordinate system.[[3]](#footnote-3) Neighborhoods may stack, e.g., a city may be a neighborhood within a larger province, and the city may contain several neighborhoods. When stacked, two neighborhoods are said to *nest* if the first is completely contained within the second, and to simply *overlap* if one is stacked on another but is not properly nested. In the diagram below, for example, A is an urban area surrounded by suburban areas B and C; all three lie within D, a county, which abuts E, another county. B and C are nested in D, and A overlaps B and C.

A

B

C

D

E

Note that locations within an inner neighborhood are not also part of the outer neighborhood; in the diagram above, D effectively has a hole cut out of it by B and C, and A cuts sections out of both B and C. Consequently, if a neighborhood is completely tiled by nested neighborhoods, it can be omitted as it contains no locations. If D's surface were entirely covered by suburbs, for example, there would be nothing left of D and no reason to define D within Athena.

Overlapping neighborhoods should be avoided, as they cause visualization problems—when a neighborhood is drawn transparently so that a map is visible underneath, the borders of any neighborhoods it overlaps are also visible, and this can be confusing. In the diagram, then, the borders of B and C should go around A, rather than A being overlaid on top of them.

In practice, however, stacked neighborhoods of either kind are rarely used.

#### Neighborhood Proximity

In Athena, simulation events take place within neighborhoods, and affect the people in the neighborhoods. An event taking place within a neighborhood can have ripple effects in other neighborhoods; the geographic spread of these ripples depends on how nearby other neighborhoods are presumed to be, socially and psychologically rather than geographically. This psycho-social nearness of one neighborhood to another is called *neighborhood proximity*.

A

B

C

D

E

There are four proximity levels: *here, near, far,* and *remote*. In the above diagram, for example, suppose that A is the capital city. From A's point of view, A is *here*, B and C are probably *near* A, and outlying area D is *far* from A. Neighborhood E is *remote*. In other words, a person in A would be concerned by violent events in A, might worry that violent events in B or C could spread to A, might be mildly concerned with riots out in the boondocks of D, and might not think at all of events in E.

Proximity need not be symmetric. A sees D as *far*, but D might see A as *near* because of its prominence in the country as a whole.

#### Local vs. Non-Local Neighborhoods

The playbox usually consists of a single contiguous region, e.g., a country, part of a country, or a set of adjacent countries. It is possible, however, to define *non-local* neighborhoods, representing countries (or simply staging areas) in other parts of the world. For example, the United States could be represented as a neighborhood, both as a place to stash US troops and as a way to track US civilian attitudes with regard to actions elsewhere in the world.[[4]](#footnote-4)

However, such neighborhoods of convenience are outside the economy of the region of interest, also called the *local region*. Thus, neighborhoods are flagged as being *local* or *non-local*, based on whether or not they participate directly in the economy of the local region. If the region of interest is Pakistan, for example, we might include portions of India and Afghanistan in the playbox but exclude them from the local economy.

### Actors

An *actor* is an individual or group of individuals that functions as a significant decision-maker in the politics, economy, and society in the playbox. The relevant actors in a scenario depend on the scope of the scenario. If the action takes place in a single city, the mayor of the city (or those he represents) is likely to be an actor. If the playbox consists of an entire country, individual city mayors might not matter.

Actors can be of different levels of abstraction in the same scenario. If the United States is intervening in the playbox, the “US” will be an actor, even if the playbox represents a portion of a province and most of the other actors are specific individuals. And if the US leads a coalition, the coalition might be represented as a single actor or as a number of actors, depending on what is needed for the scenario.

#### Strategies: Goals, Tactics, and Conditions

Every actor can have zero or more *goals*. A goal is either a state of affairs that the actor wishes to bring about, or a state of affairs that the actor wishes to maintain. For example, the actor might wish to take control of a particular neighborhood. A goal consists of a set of Boolean predicates called *conditions*; the goal is said to be *met*if all of the conditions are true, and *unmet* otherwise. (Conditions are usually said to be true or false, but are also sometimes said to be met if true and unmet if false.)

The actor's strategy for reaching his goals is specified as a prioritized list of *tactics*. Each tactic represents an action the actor can take. Tactics require the use of assets (e.g., money and personnel), and as these are scarce the actor cannot do everything he might want to do.

The actor might have any number of *conditions* attached to a given tactic. The actor will consider executing a tactic only if all of the attached conditions are true. For example, tactics will often have an attached condition specifying the goals that the tactic supports.

#### Support, Influence, and Control

In general, most of the actors’ goals will ultimately involve who is in control of the neighborhoods in the playbox. Note that we are speaking of power on the ground, not of governments or elections. The real power in Pakistan, for example, is not the Pakistani government as such, but the Pakistani military. In some provinces, control lies with the tribes who live there, and the central government is largely ignored.

To this end, we say that actors receive *support* from people in neighborhoods. Actors can use this support for themselves, or lend it to other actors. Actors with enough support in a neighborhood, whether direct or indirect, are said to have *influence* in that neighborhood. When an actor gains sufficient influence, he is said to be in *control* of the neighborhood.

These concepts will all be made precise in Section 4.

#### Stability

Given that we know who is in control in a neighborhood, we may also wish to know whether the neighborhood is *stable*. When the United States pulls out of a country where it has intervened, we would like to ensure that the regime we leave behind is both friendly and stable.

As yet, we do not have a model[[5]](#footnote-5) for computing stability; this is a topic for future work.

### Groups

The people in the playbox are divided into *groups*, of which there are three kinds: civilian groups, force groups, and organization groups.

#### Civilian Groups

Civilian groups represent the population of the playbox, i.e., the people who actually live in the neighborhoods. This population may be broken into groups by ethnicity, religion, language, social class, political affiliation, or any other demographic criteria the analyst deems necessary. Civilian groups are similar to the “market segments” used to target advertising: a group is a collection of people who may be assumed to have similar biases, interests, and behaviors due to their demographic similarity.

Each civilian group resides in some neighborhood; consequently, civilian groups are sometimes referred to as *neighborhood groups*.

Each civilian group’s population is represented in the Demographics model (Section 10), broken down in various ways: the total population, the number of consumers, the number of workers, the subsistence agriculture population, and so forth. In addition, all civilians are also represented in the Ground model in the form of civilian units. People present in units are usually referred to as *personnel*, rather than as *population.* There is no real difference between the two, however; units are simply an aid to visualization of where people are and what they are doing.

Athena models civilian groups in detail, tracking the attitudes of each group as the group’s members are affected by a variety of events and situations.

In Athena 5, civilian groups are allowed to be *empty*, that is, they can a population of zero. Empty groups serve as placeholders for population movements; for example, suppose the scenario involves a large fraction of group A fleeing to neighborhood N. The analyst can include an empty group B in neighborhood N; then, the FLOW tactic can be used to move population from A to B.

#### Force Groups

Force groups represent military forces, such as the U.S. Army, and other groups whose purpose is to apply force in support of policy. There are five types of force group; the force group type affects the degree to which a force group’s units are able to project force vs. other force groups. The types are as follows:

* Regular military, e.g., the U.S. Army
* Paramilitary, e.g., SWAT teams and other combat-trained police units
* Police, e.g., normal civilian police
* Irregular military, e.g., militias
* Criminal, e.g., organized crime

A force group may be *uniformed* or *non-uniformed*; this affects the tactics the force group may use. In an S&RO environment, it is assumed that uniformed and non-uniformed forces usually use asymmetric tactics: the uniformed forces (typically regulars, paramilitary, or police) hunt for cells of non-uniformed forces (typically irregulars), and the non-uniformed forces whittle down the uniformed forces by means of IEDs and hit-and-run attacks.

##### Mobilization, Deployment, and Assignment

Every force group is owned by an actor; when that actor executes his strategy each week, he may mobilize, demobilize, deploy, and assign the forces under his command.

Force group personnel moved into the playbox are said to be *mobilized*; when removed from the playbox, they are said to be *demobilized.* Once in the playbox, all personnel must either be *deployed* to a particular neighborhood or demobilized. Once in a neighborhood, personnel may be *assigned* to do particular activities during the course of the week.

#### Organization Groups

Organization groups represent organizations that are present in the playbox to help the civilians. There are three kinds: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), International or Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs), and Contractors (CTRs). NGOs are groups like the Red Cross or Doctors Without Borders who do humanitarian relief, development, and so forth. IGOs are international organizations like UNESCO. Contractors are commercial firms who are doing development work in the playbox at the behest of some actor.

Like force groups, every organization group must belong to some actor; this may be a real actor, or a fictive actor that exists only to own and direct one or more organization groups. Organization personnel are mobilized, deployed, and assigned using the same mechanisms as force groups, but can only be assigned a limited set of activities.

#### Force, Security, and Volatility

Civilian and force groups, and to a much lesser extent organization groups, have the ability and willingness to project and use force. Athena analyzes the balance of forces in each neighborhood, taking into account the populations and personnel present in the neighborhood, the types of each, and the ability of each group and unit type to project force. As the result of this analysis Athena computes the *security* of each group in each neighborhood. Closely related to security is *volatility*, a measure of the likelihood of random violence within the neighborhood.

A force or organization group’s security in a neighborhood will determine which activities it can perform, if any. Further, a group's security determines the extent to which it can support actors politically.

### Modeling Areas

Athena's models are loosely grouped into a handful of modeling areas. The models themselves will be described in detail in the body of this document; this section gives a brief description of each area and the models within it.

#### Ground

The most basic area is the Ground area. It includes the neighborhoods, groups, and units, as described above, and also the following specific models:

* Force, security, and volatility
* Group activity analysis, including activity coverage and the resulting Activity Situations (actsits).
* The Athena Attrition Model (AAM)
* Environmental Situations (ensits)
* Services

#### Demographics

The Demographics area tracks the civilian population of the playbox by group and neighborhood, and breaks down each group's population in a variety of ways. Populations change as civilian lives are lost due to collateral damage and direct attrition, and as civilians flow to other groups in other neighborhoods. The Demographics model provides population statistics, e.g., the number of consumers and the size of the labor force, to the Economics model, and creates demographic situations (demsits) in response to the rest of Athena.[[6]](#footnote-6)

#### Attitudes

The Attitudes area is responsible for tracking the effects of events and situations (collectively known as *drivers*) on the attitudes of civilian groups. Attitudes currently include the horizontal relationships between groups, satisfaction of civilian groups with respect to a variety of concerns, cooperation of civilian groups with force groups, and the vertical relationships between groups and actors.

Both horizontal and vertical relationships are based on group-to-group and group-to-actor affinities computed from the groups' and actors' belief systems by the Mars Affinity Model (MAM), which is described in the *Mars Analyst's Guide.*

The engine responsible for tracking attitudes and changes to attitudes (including relationships) is called the Unified Regional Attitude Model (URAM); it is also described in the *Mars Analyst's Guide*.

The Driver Assessment Model (DAM) is responsible for assessing the effects of each driver of attitude change, and giving related inputs to URAM. DAM primarily consists of a large collection of rule sets; each rule set is devoted to one particular kind of driver, e.g., civilian casualties or presence of a force group. The DAM rule sets are described in the *Athena Rules* document. A wide variety of drivers already exist: activity situations, environmental situations, demographic situations, and civilian and organization casualties; in addition, the user may create their own *Magic Attitude Drivers* (MADs), in effect writing DAM rules on the fly.

Attitudes for empty civilian groups are fixed at their natural levels.

#### Politics

The Politics area covers actors and their strategies and the computation of actor support, influence, and control.

#### Economics

The Economics area tracks employment and the production of goods and services in the local region. The economy changes in response to changes in neighborhood demographics and production capacity, as well as actor expenditures. It also drives actor incomes.

#### Information

The Information area covers information flow to and among the civilian population, including propaganda and other information operations. Information flow is modeled in three ways:

* In the spread of indirect satisfaction and cooperation effects in URAM, reflecting implicit communication among the civilians.
* In the use of cooperation in the Athena Attrition Model, reflecting implicit communication (or the lack thereof) between civilian groups and force groups.
* Explicitly, when actors conduct information operations campaigns to change the attitudes of the civilian population.

### Simulation States and the Advancement of Time

The Athena simulation has a number of states. When a new scenario is created, Athena is in the Scenario Preparation or **PREP** state. In this state, the analyst creates neighborhoods, groups, and so forth, and sets up their initial attributes.

When the analyst is satisfied with the scenario, the scenario is *locked*. At this time, Athena initializes the simulation resulting in a complete view of the simulated world at time 0. In particular, Athena:

* Initializes the various models
* Executes all tactics whose "on lock" flag is true, to establish the initial state of affairs
* Assesses attitude drivers and gives attitude inputs to URAM, to get the appropriate set of transient attitude effects at time 0.
* Saves the historical data for time 0.
* Enters the **PAUSED** state.

In the **PAUSED** state the analyst may examine the state of the simulation and make changes if desired (though it usually wise to return to the **PREP** state first). Then, the analyst may ask the model to run time forward by some number of weeks. The simulation state changes to **RUNNING**, and time advances week by week.

During each week, Athena performs the following steps:

* Increments the simulation time by one tick (i.e., one week)
* Executes actor's strategies
* Executes any scheduled events (i.e., ensit spawns or resolutions)
* Determines the new state of affairs "on the ground".
* Assesses attitude drivers and gives attitude inputs to URAM.
* Advances URAM, thus applying all of the new attitude inputs.
* Saves a variety of historical data for later access (e.g., plotting)
* Returns to the **PAUSED** state if the stop time has been reached, allowing the analyst to examine the current state and make course corrections.

When Athena is **PAUSED** at time *t*, all simulation events for time *t* have already occurred and all history has been saved. Any steps the analyst might take will have their effect at *t*+1 or later.

## Strategies and Strategy Execution

Section 2.4 gives a brief overview of actors and their strategies: goals, tactics, and conditions. This section goes into more detail about each of these.

The specific tactics and conditions supported by Athena are discussed in detail in the *Athena User’s Guide*.

### Agents

An *agent* is an entity that can have a strategy in Athena. At present there are two kinds of agent: actors, as described in Section 2.4 and below, and the “SYSTEM” agent. In the future, civilian groups might also be agents.

#### The SYSTEM Agent

The SYSTEM agent represents the Athena simulation as a whole, and allows Athena to use the strategy mechanism to execute actions which are conditioned on the state of the simulation but which are not associated with any particular actor. By assigning tactics to the SYSTEM agent, the analyst can cause a number of effects, including stopping the simulation when particular conditions are met, and flowing civilians into other groups. However, the SYSTEM agent is not an actor; it has no assets and plays no role in the politics of the region.

### Actors

An actor is an individual or group of individuals that functions as a significant decision maker within the playbox. Actors control assets, and can use them to take action. Actors can control neighborhoods, and lend money and political support to other actors. An actor’s actions are determined by the actor’s strategy, which consists of goals, tactics and conditions.

#### Assets: Cash

Each actor has the following attributes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| *income* | Income in dollars per week. |
| *cash-on-hand* | Cash on hand, in dollars: the money the actor has immediately available to fund tactics. Unspent cash is carried over to the next week. |
| *cash-reserve* | Cash reserve, in dollars. The actor can reserve funds for later use. |

At time 0, each actor starts with a particular amount of cash on hand and in reserve, and a starting income. Each week the actor receives his income, and possibly also funding from other actors; this money appears in his *cash-on-hand*. As part of his strategy, the actor may choose to spend his *cash-on-hand*, transfer a portion of it to or from his *cash-reserve*, or simply let it ride until the next week.

Money is spent by executing tactics; the cost of executing a tactic depends on the tactic type, and on the parameters of the specific tactic. For example, deploying troops to a neighborhood for a week incurs a weekly maintenance cost per person deployed.

An actor's income in a given week is determined by the scenario inputs and by the current state of the economy; an actor's expenditures flow back into the economy. See Section 11.3.1 for details.

#### Assets: Personnel

Each actor can own force groups and organization groups, and then mobilize, deploy, and assign personnel belonging to these groups by executing the relevant tactics (see Section 2.5.2.1). In addition, the presence of personnel belonging to an actor’s groups in a neighborhood contributes to the actor’s support in that neighborhood.

#### Assets: Communications

An actor can own *communications asset packages* (CAPs), e.g., television stations. An actor may use CAPs to conduct information operations campaigns by broadcasting *information operations messages* (IOMs) to the civilian population. The IOMs then affect civilian attitudes.

### Conditions

A condition is a Boolean predicate about some aspect of Athena and its models which can be attached to a goal or tactic to control strategy execution. Athena defines a variety of types of condition; for example,

* Does actor *a* control neighborhood *n*?
* Is actor *a*’s cash-reserve greater than $1,000,000?
* Is group *g*’s mood less than -40.0?

A condition can be evaluated, returning a true or false value. The condition’s truth value depends on the condition type, the condition’s parameters, and on the current state of the simulation.

Each condition has a *state*, one of **normal**, **disabled**, and **invalid**. The user may enable and disable conditions; and conditions may be marked invalid by Athena when particular sanity checks fail. Disabled and invalid conditions have no value and are ignored by Athena during strategy execution.

The set of potential condition types is vast, and is expected to grow over time. Those currently implemented in Athena are documented in the *Athena User’s Guide.*

### Goals

Actors have goals they would like to achieve. In Athena, a goal belongs to an actor and is defined by a set of one or more conditions representing some state of affairs in the simulation; the goal is *met* if all of the attached conditions are true, and is *unmet* otherwise.

A goal can represent either a state of affairs that the actor would like to bring about, or a state of affairs that exists and that the actor would like to preserve. In the former case, the actor will execute tactics when the goal is unmet; in the latter case, when the goal is met.

Each goal has a *state*, either **normal** or **disabled**. Disabled goals are neither met nor unmet, and are ignored during strategy execution. The user may enable and disable goals.

### Tactics

A tactic is an action that the actor can choose to take, possibly in support of one or more goals. For example, an actor can deploy troops, assign group activities, set rules of engagement, fund essential services, broadcast IOMs, and support other actors.

Athena defines a number of kinds of tactic; these are referred to as *tactic types*. The complete set is described in detail in the *Athena User’s Guide*.

A tactic may have a cost in dollars, personnel, or both, depending on the tactic type and its parameters. Dollars spent on a tactic are consumed. Personnel used by a tactic are unavailable for use by other tactics during the same week, but may be reassigned the following week (unless killed or demobilized). Certain tactics might require additional assets; the **BROADCAST** tactic, for example, requires that the actor have access to a CAP. If the required assets are not available, the tactic cannot be executed.

Each tactic has a *state*, one of **normal**, **disabled**, and **invalid**. The user may enable and disable tactic; and tactic may be marked invalid by Athena when particular sanity checks fail. Disabled and invalid tactic are ignored by Athena during strategy execution.

Conditions may be attached to tactics; a tactic will be considered for execution only if all of the attached conditions are met. A tactic can therefore be executed in support of a goal or goals by attaching a condition that is true when the goal or goals is met or unmet.

It is quite possible for an actor to take actions that are counter-productive to his goals. Athena itself has no idea which tactics (if any) will bring about any particular goal or set of goals, nor does it attempt to determine optimal strategies for a set of goals. Rather, it is aimed at modeling the decision makers in the region, along with their limitations and prejudices.

### Strategy Execution

The actor's prioritized list of tactics represents his strategy for achieving his goals. At each tick (nominally one week), the following algorithm is used:

Load working data (see below)

Evaluate all goals.

For each agent:

For each of the agent’s tactics in priority order:

If the tactic’s dependent conditions are met:

Attempt to execute the tactic:

If insufficient resources are available:

Skip this tactic.

Otherwise:

Expend the resources.

Execute the tactic.

Save working data.

This process is called strategy execution. All agents execute their strategies at once, at the beginning of the week; the executed tactics actually play out over the course of the week.

#### Working Data

As actor A executes his strategy, he allocates assets to different uses. As the process goes on, Athena must track how much A has spent, and how much he has left. This presents an issue, because other actors have some insight (via conditions) into A’s resources—the number of troops that A has in the playbox for example, and what they have been doing. Consequently, Athena has to manage what each actor knows, and when he knows it:

* Every actor knows the state of the simulation at the **start** of strategy execution.
* Every actor knows the decisions he has made **during** strategy execution, and what resources he has left.
* No actor knows anything about any other actor’s decisions until **after** strategy execution is complete.

In other words, bright and early the first morning of the week, all of the actors go to their offices, look at the reports from the past week, determine their orders for the following week, and promptly at 8 AM (so to speak) they send them out to their subordinates and go back to watching soap operas for seven days.

Therefore, at the beginning of strategy execution, Athena loads each actor’s “working data”—the actor’s view of those things he can change by his tactics. The conditions are designed, where appropriate, to query the actor’s working data when they apply to the actor himself, and the state of the simulation when they apply to other actors. At the end of strategy execution, the working data is saved, changing the state of the simulation. Thus, each actor knows and can see his own decisions, but not those of his fellows.

### Roads Not Taken

This section records ideas we chose not to implement, with our reasons for not doing so. Some of them we may choose to reconsider in the future, so it seems worthwhile recording them.

#### Goal Extensions

Our original notion of goals was that a goal was like a condition, embodying a Boolean expression, but with additional semantics. We would have a variety of goal types. Over time, though, it became clear that we wanted condition types for all of the same Boolean expressions as we had goals, and we redefined goals as a collection of conditions and discarded the notion of goal types altogether.

The following are some extensions to the original notion of goal.

**Progress Metrics:** A progress metric is a measure of the actor's progress toward a goal, probably expressed as a percentage. This would be nice to have, but is hard to do in practice, likely requiring significant modeling for each goal type. For example, considering the goal of controlling a neighborhood: what is a suitable metric for progress? One could relate the actor’s influence in the neighborhood to that of other actors, which is in some sense a distance measure…but it doesn’t give much insight into the degree of action required by the actor to gain control, or how much work remains to be done. It might take a great deal of slogging (providing services, information operations, and so forth) to gain that last few percent of influence; or a great deal of influence might be gained by one lightning stroke. In short, naïve models are likely to be unsatisfactory, and informed models might be unsatisfactory as well.

**Activation Conditions:** As defined above, the actor pursues goals that are both enabled and unmet, and the analyst controls the goals’ *state* flags. It might be desirable to allow activation conditions to be attached to goals just as they are to tactics; the goal would be enabled only if all activation conditions were met. For example, Goal G1 might be enabled if:

* Goal G2 has been met.
* Goal G3 has not been met.
* The simulation time is less than six months after time 0.

This would allow the actor to pursue chains of goals, and to decide to pursue one goal in preference to another. Note, though, that allowing goals to depend on whether other goals are met or unmet could cause the condition evaluation network to contain cycles; we would need to detect and prevent these.

**Actions on Success/Failure:** A goal succeeds when its condition is met; Ed Upchurch has suggested that a goal fails if an end-time is reached before the goal succeeds. Certain actions could be taken on goal success or failure, such as activating another goal. Note that some of the actions Ed suggests would also be handled by activation conditions, as defined above.

#### Goal Prioritization

As described above, the analyst sets the priority of each of the actor’s tactics; the tactics are then executed in priority order, as resources and conditions permit. Originally we considered a different approach:

* Actor *a*'s goals are prioritized from most important to least important.
* Every tactic is associated explicitly with one or more goal.
* The tactics associated with a goal are in priority order for that goal.

Then, the algorithm is as follows:

For each actor *a:*

Let the *plan* be the empty list.

For each of *a'*s goals *G*, in priority order,

For each tactic *T* associated with *G*, in priority order:

If *T* is already in the *plan*, skip it.

If *T*'s conditions are not met, skip it.

If *T*'s cost exceeds the available resources, skip it.

Reduce *a*'s resources by *T'*s cost.

Add *T* to *a*'s *plan*.

For each tactic *T* in *a'*s *plan*,

Execute tactic *T*.

This is a very natural approach, where you start with goals and then move on to the tactics required to achieve them. Unfortunately, it yields unrealistic results because it assumes that each goal in the list dominates all subsequent goals: the actor will do everything possible to meet the first goal before moving onto the second, and so on. In reality, an actor might wish to push forward towards several goals at once, using the most important tactic for each, before moving on to less important (or less effective) tactics.

By prioritizing the tactics instead of the goals, and attaching "Goal Unmet" conditions to them, we allow the analyst to decide which tactics the actor is likely to use in support of his goals, and to order them to reflect the actor's likely very complex priorities—instead of trying to write a model to do that, and getting it wrong.

## Relationships and Control

Athena models the relationships between groups and between groups and actors. This section describes how relationships are defined and how they vary over time. In addition, it describes the closely related issue of actor support and influence in neighborhoods, and how influence leads to neighborhood control. More particular, this section addresses the following topics:

* Inter-group relationships, also called “horizontal” relationships.
* Group/actor relationships, also called “vertical” relationships.
* How relationships vary with time.
* Support for actors by groups in neighborhoods.
* Support for actors by other actors.
* The influence of actors in neighborhoods due to the support they receive.
* The circumstances under which control of a neighborhood shifts from one actor to another (or to or from no actor at all).
* What happens when control of a neighborhood shifts.

### Relationships and Affinity

Athena defines two kinds of relationship, horizontal relationships and vertical relationships. In each case, a relationship is expressed as a number *X* where . The magnitude of the number indicates the strength of the relationship and the sign indicates whether the related parties are friends or foes. We usually assume that an entity’s relationship with itself is 1.0.

In Athena 4, all relationships are tracked by URAM and are subject to change due to attitude drivers, as described in the *Athena Rules Document*. The baseline and natural levels of each relationship default to the affinity *A* computed by comparing the belief systems of the entities involved, where , as described in the *Mars Analyst's Guide*, though this default may be overridden by the analyst.

Athena uses *quality* data types to relate numeric values to symbolic constants. The qaffinity data type is used with both affinity and relationship values; it is defined as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Narrative | Symbol | Value | Range |
| *a* supports *b* | SUPPORT | 0.8 | +0.7 < *value* ≤ +1.0 |
| *a* likes *b* | LIKE | 0.4 | +0.2 < *value* ≤ +0.7 |
| *a* is indifferent to *b* | INDIFF | 0.0 | –0.2 < *value* ≤ +0.2 |
| *a* dislikes *b* | DISLIKE | –0.4 | –0.7 < *value* ≤ –0.2 |
| *a* opposes *b* | OPPOSE | –0.8 | –1.0 ≤ *value* ≤ –0.7 |

### Horizontal Relationships

The horizontal relationship between group *f* and group *g* is denoted . This is the familiar group relationship from earlier versions of Athena and from JNEM. It is a static, unchanging value that reflects the amity or enmity between the pair of groups. It is not symmetric; it will often be the case that . Athena 4 establishes the natural and baseline levels of horizontal relationships on group affinity as described in this section. Horizontal relationships are tracked in URAM, and may vary dynamically.

#### Force and Organization Group Affinities

Force and organization groups have neither belief systems nor affinities. They are, however, owned by actors, which do. For the purposes of computing initial relationships, we assume that force and organization groups inherit the belief systems and affinities of their owning actors.

To put it another way, each group gets its affinities from its associated *belief system entity*, where:

* The belief system entity for each force and organization group is the actor that owns the group.
* The belief system entity for each civilian group is the group itself.

Thus, when we speak of the affinity of group *f* for group *g*, we are really speaking of the affinity of group *f’*s belief system entity with group *g’*s belief system entity.

#### Computing Horizontal Relationships

The initial baseline horizontal relationship between two groups is then defined as follows:

Basing relationships on affinity provides two ways to allow relationships to vary dynamically: if a group’s belief about a topic changes (perhaps due to information operations), its affinities will change; and relationships can change due to URAM inputs.

The natural level of the relationship is the same as the initial baseline.

### Vertical Relationships

The vertical relationship is a number that determines the extent of group *g*’s opposition to or support for actor *a*. As with , ; unlike , the vertical relationship is unidirectional. We are measuring *g’*s opposition to or support for *a*; *a’*s opposition to or support for *g* will be revealed by *a’*s choice of tactics. Like horizontal relationships, vertical relationships are tracked in URAM and may vary dynamically over the course of the simulation.

The foundation for is the affinity of *g* for *a* based on their belief systems, where force and organization groups inherit their belief systems and affinities from the owning actors, as stated above. is usually static when *g* is a force or organization group[[7]](#footnote-7); for civilian groups, is dynamic, varying over time according to *a*’s actions and *g*’s circumstances. Groups expect things from actors, and the relationship will depend on how well the actors meet those expectations.

See the *Athena Rules* document for attitude drivers that affect vertical relationships (notably the CONTROL, ENI, and MOOD rule sets).

#### Baseline Vertical Relationships

The initial baseline vertical relationship for civilian group *g* with actor *a* is simply the affinity, unless this is overridden by the analyst:

Force and organization groups are owned by actors, and share the relationships of their actors. When *g* is a force or organization group owned by actor *b*, we define the initial baseline vertical relationship, as follows:

That is, a force or organization group has a perfect relationship with its owner, and its vertical relationship with any other actor is simply the affinity of its owner for that actor.

The natural level of the relationship is the same as the initial baseline.

### Actor Support and Influence

An actor receives *support* in a neighborhood from the groups in the neighborhood, and also possibly from other actors. Given enough support, the actor can gain *influence* in the neighborhood, and perhaps even control the neighborhood. This section defines the terms “support” and “influence” as they are used in Athena.

#### Direct vs. Derived Support

An actor’s political influence in a neighborhood derives from the support he receives from the groups in the neighborhood. An actor may make use of this support himself, or he may choose to give his support to another actor. We will call the support an actor receives directly from groups his *direct support*, and support an actor receives from other actors his *derived support*.

#### Direct Support

Actor *a’*s direct support in *n* is determined by:

* The number of people in *n* who favor actor *a* (including personnel from all three kinds of group)
* The strength of their favor, as determined by the vertical relationship between them and actor *a*
* Their ability to move and work within the neighborhood, as determined by their security (see Section 5)

Thus,

where

= The fraction of *n’*s population that is willing and able to support *a*.

= The number of people belonging to *g* in *n*. Group *g* can be a civilian, force, or organization group.

= The total number of people of all groups in *n*.

= The vertical relationship between group *g* and actor *a*.

= The minimum relationship needed to qualify as “support”, nominally 0.2.[[8]](#footnote-8)

= Group *g*’s security factor in neighborhood *n*, as computed from its security using a Z-curve.

The security factor is a number that indicates the fraction of a group that is able to actively support actors given the group’s security level. The security of group *g* in neighborhood *n* is an integer in the range ; the number is interpreted according to the following scale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bin** | **Range** |
| High | 25 < *security* ≤ 100 |
| Medium | 5 < *security ≤* 25 |
| Low | -25 < *security* ≤ 5 |
| None | -100 < *security* ≤ -25 |

We compute the security factor from the security level as follows:

where is a Z-curve:[[9]](#footnote-9)

This Z-curve is based on the assumption that groups with a security of “None” (-25 or less) can’t support anyone, and once a group has a security of “High” (25 or more) it is supporting as much as it can. Increasing security in between increases the group’s support per person directly, as shown. The parameters are defined in the model parameter database, and so can be changed to reflect different assumptions.

#### Derived Support

Actor *a* may do one of three things with his direct support in neighborhood *n*:

* He may use it himself, to try to take control in the neighborhood. In this case, we say that *a* supports himself in *n*.
* He may give it to another actor *b*. In this case, we say that *a* supports *b* in *n*, and that *b* receives derived support from *a*.
* He may choose not to use it at all, that is, he may be *apolitical*. For example, organization groups in Athena must be owned by an actor, but that actor will not usually involve himself in neighborhood politics. He might receive support from the groups in a neighborhood, but will not use that support to take control in the neighborhood. In this case, we say that *a* supports no one in *n*.

Note that derived support is not transitive. If *a* supports *b*, and *b* supports *c*, that does *not* mean that *a* supports *c*. Rather, it means that *b* gets *a’*s direct support, and *c* gets *b*’s direct support.

An actor chooses which actor to support in two ways. First, each actor has an actor that he “usually supports”; this may be **SELF**, **NONE**, or the name of a specific actor. This value is set as part of the definition of the actor during scenario preparation; it can be changed by the analyst as the simulation runs. In the absence of other input, the actor will support the given actor (or none) in all neighborhoods. Thus, for example, an actor that owns humanitarian organization groups like the Red Cross would support **NONE**in all neighborhoods, and would thus not be included in the political process.

Next, an actor can execute the **SUPPORT** tactic[[10]](#footnote-10) to explicitly support another actor. The **SUPPORT** tactic has the following inputs:

* The actor to support
* A list of neighborhoods in which to support him.

The effect of the **SUPPORT** tactic lasts until the next strategy execution, when it can be repeated.

Thus, the political relationships between the actors depend entirely on the actor’s strategies. This is a general rule—**an actor is what an actor does**, and hence **relationships between actors are always mediated by the actors’ strategies**.

#### Total Support

Actor *a*’s total support in *n*, also called his *effective support* in *n*, is computed as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

Note that while can be interpreted as the fraction of the population of *n* that supports *a*, can not. It is simply a score used to compute influence.

Some observations:

* If every actor supports himself, then for all a.
* If no actor supports actor *a*, including himself, then , even if .
* If an actor receives derived support, then his can be greater than 0, even if he gives his direct support away or chooses not to use it.
* If an actor gives his direct support away and receives no derived support, his will be 0.

The third bullet is particularly interesting: an actor can be “in control” of a neighborhood because of support from some other powerful actor, whether he wants to be or not.

#### Influence

Actors have influence in a neighborhood in proportion to their support relative to other actors. In particular, if only actor *A* has support in neighborhood *n*, then only *A* will have influence in *n*. We require an actor to have a minimum of *SupportThreshold* support[[11]](#footnote-11) to have any influence; this prevents an actor with a trivial (though positive) degree of support from taking control of a neighborhood in the absence of other candidates.

Let be the set of actors *a* for which . Actor *a*’s influence in neighborhood *n* is then

Note that and that unless is the empty set, in which case all influence values in *n* are 0.0. Influence is thus a zero-sum game; an actor can increase his influence only at the expense of some other actor.

### Control of a Neighborhood

When the residents of neighborhood *n* see actor *a* as being responsible for causing or fixing the current state of affairs in *n*, then *a* is said to be in control of neighborhood *n*. For *a* to be in control in *n* might involve an official governmental position, or it might simply be a *de facto* status, as when a military commander or warlord takes a neighborhood by force. As shown in Section 4.3, the civilians in *n* will hold *a* responsible for increases or decreases in their mood, and also for the provision of ENI services.

The actor in control of *n* will usually be the actor that has sufficient influence[[12]](#footnote-12) to dominate *n*; however, this is not always the case. Suppose actor *A* has a dominating degree of influence, and is in control of *n*. *A’*s rival, actor *B*, moves troops into *n*, causing a crisis. *B’*s action decreases security levels in *n* for everyone but *B’*s own troops, thus eroding *A’*s influence significantly. Although *A* may no longer be able to dominate the neighborhood, the civilians will continue to hold *A* responsible until he either becomes irrelevant (because he is dominated by *B*) or *B* is able to dominate the neighborhood altogether. If *A* manages to drive *B’*s forces out of *n*, he can maintain control throughout the crisis, even though his actual degree of influence may have been very low at times.

Thus, we define the following rules. Suppose, first of all, that actor *a* is in control of neighborhood *n* before we re-assess each actor’s influence in *n*. Who is in control after the re-assessment is determined by applying these rules:

1. If , then *a* remains in control.[[13]](#footnote-13)
2. If but , then *a* no longer dominates the neighborhood, but remains in control.
3. If for some actor *b*:
   1. If , then actor *b* now dominates the neighborhood and is in control. **Control has shifted.**
   2. Otherwise, actor *a* has clearly lost control, being dominated by *b*, but no other actor dominates the neighborhood. No actor is in control of neighborhood *n*. **Control has shifted.**
4. If no actor is in control of neighborhood *n*, and some actor *b* gains influence such that , then naturally *b* is now in control. **Control has shifted.**

In the future we might want to take time into account: if actor *a* is in control but no longer dominates the neighborhood (i.e., *a* has influence less than the *ControlThreshold*), then after some period time he is no longer deemed to be in control even if no other actor has gained control. Similarly, actor *b* might need to dominate the neighborhood for some period of time to gain control.

#### When Control Shifts

When control shifts:

* Support for actors is now relative to the new political situation, which leads to new values for , , and .
* The change in control is a monitored event that has an effect on the attitudes of every civilian group resident in the neighborhood.

The attitude effects are assessed by the CONTROL rule set, which is documented in the *Athena Rules* document.

## Force Analysis

### Overview

Athena analyzes the forces present in each neighborhood along with the neighborhood demographics to determine the following quantities for each group and neighborhood:

**Security**: A group's level of security in a neighborhood, measured as a score from -100 (very dangerous) to +100 (very safe). A group’s security determines the kinds of things the group can safely do within the neighborhood.

**Volatility:** The volatility of a neighborhood is the likelihood of spontaneous violence within the neighborhood, measured as a score from 0 (least volatile) to 100 (most volatile).

**Force**: A group’s force in a neighborhood is its physical ability to use its assets to control that neighborhood through force. The major component of force is military strength.

In general:

* The primary component of group *g*'s force in neighborhood *n* is group *g*'s assets in the neighborhood. In Athena, a group's assets are its people.
* Friendly military personnel in neighborhood *n*, i.e., those with a positive relationship with *g*, should increase *g*'s force in proportion to their numbers.
* Friendly civilians in *n* should also increase *g*'s force, but by a smaller amount per person than soldiers or militia. However, an aggressive demeanor and a negative mood () can increase a civilian group's force multiplier.
* Friendly contractor personnel in *n* may also increase *g*'s force, but personnel from friendly IGOs and NGOs are expected to remain neutral in case of conflict and do not contribute to the force of other groups.
* Friendly personnel in nearby neighborhoods should also increase *g*'s force, but to a smaller extent than personnel in neighborhood *n*.
* Also of interest is the force aligned against group *g*, from the groups that oppose group *g*. And just as *g* can call in its friends from nearby neighborhoods, so can *g*'s enemies.
* Force groups can be ordered to act as though they had a different relationship than they really do. The extent to which they are able to act as ordered depends on their training and discipline. The resulting *effective relationship* is used when determining friends and enemies.
* The activities performed by force group personnel should influence the degree of force they are able to project.

Using these concepts we build up a notion of force which can be used to define neighborhood volatility, and then a group's security within the neighborhood.

#### Changes in Athena 4

Athena’s security model was first developed for an early version of the *Joint Non-kinetic Effects Model* (JNEM), and had been used more or less unchanged since that time. In Athena 4, we made three significant additions:

**Activity Force Multipliers.** The activities assigned to force group personnel in a neighborhood now affect the force group’s projection of force in the neighborhood. In Athena 3, they did not.

**Force Group Stance.** A force group’s owner can designate the *stance* the group will adopt toward other groups; the stance will affect the security of those groups.

**Background Criminal Activity.** Civilian groups will generate a certain level of background criminal activity, some of which can be suppressed by law enforcement activities. When criminal activity is suppressed, group security will generally be higher.

### Force Group Stance and Effective Relationships

Historically, the focus of the security model was on a force group providing for its own security in order to conduct its various activities. However, a force group can also be tasked to provide security in a neighborhood for the sake of the residents. The previous version of the security model handled this scenario poorly, because it did not take into account the actor’s intent in sending the force group to the neighborhood.

Instead, the security model determined the force group’s intent purely from its relationship with the resident groups. If these relationships were largely positive, then the force group was presumed to be well-disposed toward the civilians, and security would generally increase. If these relationships were largely negative, then the force group was presumed to be hostile towards the civilians, and security would generally decrease. As a result, a force group bent on conquest and subjugation might increase civilian security, and one tasked to do peace-keeping might make security worse.

#### Stance

Athena 4 allows the actor to express his intent via the **STANCE** tactic, which sets , force group *f’*s stance toward group *g*. The variable ranges from -1.0 to +1.0, and can be thought of as a *designated relationship*—essentially, group *f* has been ordered to act as though its relationship with group *g* is rather than , *f’*s true horizontal relationship with *g*.

Thus, the actor can set to a positive number for peace-keeping, and to a negative number for more aggressive activities.

Group *g* can be any group in the playbox (other than *f*, of course). Thus, two antagonistic force groups who are ordered to work together can be given positive stances.

#### Effect of Attacking ROEs

By setting , the STANCE tactic sets *f’*s stance toward *g* wherever *f* and *g* might come into contact in the playbox. However, the ATTROE tactic also defines a stance of sorts: if group *f* is ordered to attack group *g* in neighborhood *n*, then *f* has clearly adopted a negative stance toward *g* in *n*. Therefore, we define , *f’*s stance toward *g* in *n*, which is determined as follows:

First, defaults to . Then,

In other words, can be at most *maxAttackingStance* if *f* is attacking *g* in *n*.[[14]](#footnote-14) It is likely that over time we will discover other similar constraints on stance.

See Section 9 for more on ROEs and the Athena Attrition Model.

#### Group Discipline

Suppose force group *f* is told to adopt a stance of 1.0 toward group *g*, but *f’*s horizontal relationship with *g*, , is −0.5. It’s one thing to tell *f* to love *g*, but it’s another thing for them to do it, and in such a case we’d expect a certain amount of friction between *f* and *g* due to members of *f* who really don’t want to make nice with *g*. Consequently, we introduce the notion of *discipline*, a force group’s ability to obey orders. Further, we assume that discipline increases with training.

To that end, we define:

= The training level of force group *f*, an enumerated value.

= The discipline of force group *f*, a numeric value from 0.0 to 1.0.

The following table gives the default mapping from training levels to discipline values.[[15]](#footnote-15)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training Level | Discipline |
| Proficient | 1.0 |
| Fully Trained | 0.9 |
| Partially Trained | 0.7 |
| Not Trained | 0.4 |

At some future time, training level will likely be redefined as a continuous variable managed by URAM. This will allow training levels to change as the simulation runs, e.g., training activities can increase training levels; prolonged service without training can decrease them.

#### Effective Relationships

Group *f’s* effective relationship with group *g* in neighborhood *n* is then a function of his horizontal relationship with *g*, , his stance toward *g* in *n*, and his degree of discipline. Therefore, we define:

If force group *f* has no specified stance, then will simply be . If *f*’s discipline is perfect, then will be exactly . Otherwise, it will be something in between the horizontal relationship and the stance. For non-force-groups, of course, the effective relationship is simply the horizontal relationship.

We will use when determining a group's friends and enemies in a neighborhood.

### Background Criminal Activity

In Athena 3 and prior, we computed security based on the assumption that almost all violence was due to friction between groups with negative relationships, or in other words, that there was no intra-group violence. However, Rob Crowson of TRISA has pointed out that law enforcement plays a significant role in security through the suppression of criminal activity. Therefore, the Athena 4 security model includes a model of background criminal activity in the civilian population, along with suppression of criminal activity by law enforcement activities.

Organized crime is represented in Athena by means of criminal force groups owned by actors; hence the kind of crime we discuss here is crime among the civilian population, excluding organized crime.

In a nutshell, we assume that some fraction of every civilian group will engage in criminal activities, and that some part of these criminal activities can be suppressed by an appropriate degree of law enforcement activities. Moreover, criminals cause friction not only with their own group, but with every group in the neighborhood.

#### Law Enforcement Personnel

First we determine the effective number of law enforcement personnel in neighborhood *n*, denoted . In computing we consider the following:

* The force group personnel present in *n*
* The activities to which they are assigned
* Each force group’s suitability for law enforcement activities given its force type
* Each force group’s efficiency at performing law enforcement activities given its degree of training.

First, we assume that some force group types are better suited for law enforcement activities than others. Suitability as a function of group type is shown in the following table:[[16]](#footnote-16)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Group Type | Suitability |
| REGULAR | 0.8 |
| PARAMILITARY | 0.6 |
| POLICE | 1.0 |
| IRREGULAR | 0.3 |
| CRIMINAL | 0.6 |

Each member of an actual police group counts fully; members of other group types count less.

Next, we assume that a force group’s efficiency at enforcing the law depends on the group’s training level, as defined in Section 5.2.3.[[17]](#footnote-17) Efficiency as a function of group type is shown in the following table:[[18]](#footnote-18)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training Level | Efficiency |
| Proficient | 1.2 |
| Fully Trained | 0.9 |
| Partially Trained | 0.7 |
| Not Trained | 0.4 |

Next, some force group activities are more effective at law enforcement than others; some do not contribute to law enforcement at all. This is captured as the parameter in the following table:[[19]](#footnote-19)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity *a* |  | Activity *a* |  |
| CMO\_CONSTRUCTION | 0.0 | CHECKPOINT | 0.5 |
| CMO\_DEVELOPMENT | 0.0 | COERCION | 0.3 |
| CMO\_EDUCATION | 0.0 | CRIMINAL\_ACTIVITIES | 0.0 |
| CMO\_EMPLOYMENT | 0.0 | CURFEW | 1.2 |
| CMO\_HEALTHCARE | 0.0 | GUARD | 1.0 |
| CMO\_INDUSTRY | 0.0 | PATROL | 1.0 |
| CMO\_LAW\_ENFORCEMENT | 1.0 | PSYOP | 0.3 |
| CMO\_OTHER | 0.3 | NONE | 0.0 |

We then compute the effective number of law enforcement personnel, , as follows:

where is the number of group *g*’s personnel assigned to do activity *a* in neighborhood *n*.

#### Suppression of Criminal Activity

Law enforcement does not eliminate the criminals; it simply suppresses their criminal activities. Therefore, we define as the degree of suppression of background criminal activities in neighborhood *n*, where ranges from 0.0 to 1.0. At 0.0, no background criminal activities are suppressed; at 1.0 all crime that can be suppressed is suppressed. Per doctrine, suppression of criminal activity is a function of the number of law enforcement personnel relative to the size of the population and the urbanization of the neighborhood. Consequently, we compute suppression using a family of coverage functions,[[20]](#footnote-20) as shown in the following table:[[21]](#footnote-21)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Urbanization | Coverage Function |
| ISOLATED | 1/1000 |
| RURAL | 1/1000 |
| SUBURBAN | 2/1000 |
| URBAN | 3/1000 |

Thus, in an urban neighborhood an of 3.0 per thousand residents will achieve 2/3rds coverage and hence 2/3rds suppression of background criminal activity.

#### Nominal Criminal Fraction

Our initial model of background criminal activity in civilian populations is that the level of criminal activity in a group depends on the group’s demeanor and on the unemployment rate. Athena’s demographic model defines a statistic called , the unemployment per capita percentage. This is the percentage of the group's population that is currently unemployed, and so it is a measure of the degree to which unemployment affects the group at large.

Specifically, a group’s nominal criminal fraction, , is the fraction of the group that will engage in criminal activities in the absence of law enforcement. It is the output of a family of Z-curves.[[22]](#footnote-22) There is one curve for each group demeanor (AGGRESSIVE, AVERAGE, APATHETIC); the curves return given the . The default curves are shown in the following chart:



#### Actual Criminal Fraction

A civilian group *g’*s actual criminal fraction, , is the fraction of the group involved in criminal activities given the current degree of law enforcement in *g*’s neighborhood, *n*:

where

*n* = A neighborhood

*g* = A civilian group residing in *n*

= Suppression of crime by law enforcement in *n*, as defined above.

*suppfrac* = Suppressible fraction: the fraction of crime that can be suppressed by law enforcement activities,[[23]](#footnote-23) nominally 0.6.

= Nominal Criminal Fraction of group *g*.

= Actual Criminal Fraction of group *g*.

In short, the nominal criminal fraction is reduced by law enforcement suppression, but not past the suppressible fraction. The formula for can be simplified as follows:

### Measuring Force

The security of group *g* in neighborhood *n* is based on the balance of forces in the neighborhood. To compute security, then, we must first define each group's projection of force in the neighborhood.

#### A Group's Own Force

First, group *g*'s own force in neighborhood *n*, denoted , is the degree of force projected by its own personnel. Different groups can project a different amount of force per person. In general, then, a group's own force is defined as

where

= A force multiplier for group *g*.

= The number of group *g'*s personnel that are present in neighborhood *n*.

The details differ by group type.

##### Civilian Group Force

The own force of a civilian group is defined to be

where

*w* = A multiplier, [[24]](#footnote-24) nominally 0.01, indicating the fraction of the population available to participate in a violent fracas at any given time.

= The demeanor multiplier.[[25]](#footnote-25)

= The mood multiplier.[[26]](#footnote-26)

= The number of group *g'*s personnel that are present in neighborhood *n*.

It is assumed that the more aggressive *g'*s demeanor and the worse *g'*s mood, the more likely it is that civilians will use force to aid their friends and hinder their foes. Therefore,

Here, *b* is a factor that determines how strongly a group's mood contributes to its force.[[27]](#footnote-27) If *b* is 0.2, for example, the effect of mood will range from 0.8 (when group *g* is perfectly satisfied) to 1.2 (when group *g* is perfectly dissatisfied).

##### Organization Group Force

The own force of an organization group is defined to be

where

= The demeanor multiplier, as above.

= The organization type multiplier, as shown in the following table. [[28]](#footnote-28)

= The number of group *g'*s personnel that are present in neighborhood *n*.

| Organization Type | Multiplier |
| --- | --- |
| NGO | 0 |
| IGO | 0 |
| Contractor | 2 |

##### Force Group Force

The own force of a force group depends not only on its demeanor and group type but also on what it is doing. A group that is patrolling projects more force than one that is providing health care.

where

= The demeanor multiplier, as above.

= The force type multiplier, as shown in the table below.[[29]](#footnote-29)

*a* = A force group activity (see Section 6).

= An activity force multiplier, as shown in the table below.[[30]](#footnote-30)

= The number of group *g'*s personnel that are present in neighborhood *n* and performing activity *a*.

The force type multiplier is defined as follows, given group *g*'s force type.

| Force Type | Multiplier |
| --- | --- |
| REGULAR |  |
| PARAMILITARY |  |
| POLICE |  |
| IRREGULAR |  |
| CRIMINAL |  |

The activity force multiplier is defined in the following table. The multipliers for the CMO activities (other than law enforcement) were originally much less than 0.8; e.g., healthcare was originally given a multiplier of 0.3. After discussion, we decided that a value of 0.3 would make sense at JNEM’s minute-by-minute timescales, but not at Athena’s weekly timescales. Troops assigned to do CMO activities during a current week can be temporarily reassigned to handle security risks over the course of the week as need arises. Thus, while troops assigned to CMO project less force than those assigned to other activities, the loss is small.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity |  | Activity |  |
| CMO\_CONSTRUCTION | 0.8 | CHECKPOINT | 1.5 |
| CMO\_DEVELOPMENT | 0.8 | COERCION | 1.2 |
| CMO\_EDUCATION | 0.8 | CRIMINAL\_ACTIVITIES | 0.7 |
| CMO\_EMPLOYMENT | 0.8 | CURFEW | 1.2 |
| CMO\_HEALTHCARE | 0.8 | GUARD | 1.7 |
| CMO\_INDUSTRY | 0.8 | PATROL | 2.0 |
| CMO\_LAW\_ENFORCEMENT | 1.5 | PSYOP | 1.0 |
| CMO\_OTHER | 0.8 | NONE | 1.0 |

##### Non-Criminal and Criminal Force

As stated in Section 5.3, some fraction of each civilian group consists of unsuppressed criminals who are effectively everyone's enemy. Consequently, for each each group we divide its own force into two components: the group's non-criminal force, , and its criminal force, . For force and organization groups, which we assume not to contain criminals, these are simply:

For civilian groups, the actual criminal fraction are unsuppressed criminals; the remainder are (possibly reluctantly) law-abiding. Thus, we define

### Friends and Enemies

Violence in a neighborhood is caused by enemies (including criminals) and mitigated by friends. Friends and enemies are determined by their effective horizontal relationships, , where friends have a positive relationship and enemies have a negative relationship. We assume that group *f* will assist or oppose group *g* according to the strength of the effective relationship from *f'*s point of view. For convenience we define

Then,

In other words, your friends in the same neighborhood are those groups (including yourself) with whom you have a positive relationship, in proportion to the strength of the relationship, but excluding the criminals in each group. Then, your enemies in the same neighborhood are the non-criminals in those groups with whom you have a negative relationship, in proportion to the strength of the relationship, plus all criminals in every group.

Note that need not be symmetric; if we were to replace with in , then we'd be assuming that group *f* would assist group *g* based on the strength of *g*'s feeling for *f*, which might not be at all the same thing as *f'*s feeling for *g*.

Next, we take neighborhoods into account:

Here, *h* is a factor, nominally 0.3, that reduces the effect of friends and enemies in nearby neighborhoods.[[31]](#footnote-31) The phrase "*m* near *n*" denotes those neighborhoods *m* whose is *near*, that is, those neighborhoods *m* whose inhabitants regard neighborhood *n* as being nearby. As with , need not be symmetric.

In order to create scores, we'll need to normalize these values by the total force in the neighborhood:

Then,

### Volatility

The volatility of a neighborhood is the likelihood of spontaneous violence within the neighborhood. Volatility depends on the balance of forces in the neighborhood, and is a key component of security. For example, an ORG group may hesitate to go into a neighborhood with high volatility, even if the ORG group is on friendly terms with all of the parties present in the neighborhood, simply because the chance of getting caught in a cross-fire is too high.

The volatility of neighborhood *n* can be regarded as a measure of the number of individuals potentially in conflict in neighborhood *n*, using the force values defined above:

ranges from 0 to because it counts every conflict from the point of view of each of the parties involved. Scaling to the range 0 to 100 yields

### Security

A group's security in a neighborhood determines the kinds of activities the group can perform within that neighborhood. Different levels of security are needed for different kinds of operations. The group's level of security depends on the assets present in the neighborhood, including both those belonging to the group and those belonging to friendly and unfriendly groups, as well as on the nature of both assets and groups and the volatility of the neighborhood. In general:

* The presence of friendly forces should increase group *g*’s security in neighborhood *n*.
* The presence of enemy forces should decrease group *g*’s security in neighborhood *n*.
* Increased volatility should decrease group *g*’s security in neighborhood *n*.

The security of group *g* in neighborhood *n* is defined as follows:

where *v* is the volatility scaling factor, nominally 1.0, which can be used to reduce the effects of volatility on security.[[32]](#footnote-32) The denominator scales so that it ranges from -100 to +100.

For use in rules, will often be translated to a symbolic value, as shown in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Range | | | Symbol |
|  |  |  | High |
|  |  |  | Medium |
|  |  |  | Low |
|  |  |  | None |

For some uses, we convert to a multiplicative factor using a Z-curve.

#### Security and Empty Groups

The math allows us to compute even if group *g* has no personnel present in neighborhood *n*. One can think of this as the security of one member of group *g* were he to be dropped into neighborhood *n*; but the presence of significant members of group *g* affects in a non-trivial way, and so this zero-personnel number isn't very useful.

For this reason, and also because non-zero security levels look very odd for empty civilian groups, Athena no longer displays for groups *g* with no personnel in *n*.

## Effects of Unit Activities

An actor’s strategy can deploy group personnel to neighborhoods, and then assign those personnel activities. The end result is a collection of units that contain the personnel and are tagged with the relevant activities.

### Force Presence and Activities

Force units present in a neighborhood can affect civilian attitudes in a neighborhood in two ways: by their mere presence, and by engaging in other activities.

**Force Presence:** A force group's presence in a neighborhood is measured as the total number of personnel in units that belong to the group and are present in the neighborhood.[[33]](#footnote-33)

**Force Activities:** A unit assigned an activity is assumed to carry out the activity if it can possibly do so. Each activity requires that the acting group have a minimum level of security in the neighborhood. The following table lists the force activities and the nominal minimum security level for each activity.[[34]](#footnote-34)

| Force Activity | Minimum Security  Required | Shifts | Coverage Function |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Presence | n/a | 1 | 25/1000 |
| CHECKPOINT | Low | 1 | 25/1000 |
| CMO\_CONSTRUCTION | High | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO\_DEVELOPMENT | Medium | 1 | 25/1000 |
| CMO\_EDUCATION | High | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO\_HEALTHCARE | High | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO\_INDUSTRY | High | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO\_INFRASTRUCTURE | High | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO\_LAW\_ENFORCEMENT | Medium | 1 | 25/1000 |
| CMO\_OTHER | High | 1 | 20/1000 |
| COERCION | Medium | 1 | 12/1000 |
| CRIMINAL\_ACTIVITIES | Medium | 1 | 10/1000 |
| CURFEW | Medium | 1 | 25/1000 |
| GUARD | Low | 1 | 25/1000 |
| PATROL | Low | 1 | 25/1000 |
| PSYOP | Medium | 1 | 1/50000 |

Thus, a force group can enforce a curfew or provide law enforcement in a neighborhood only if the group’s security is at least Medium in that neighborhood. The extent to which a group is engaging in an activity in a neighborhood is measured by the total number of personnel in units that:

* Belong to the group
* Are present in the neighborhood
* Are assigned to do the activity
* Are on the current shift (the number of personnel available at any given time is the total divided by the number of shifts defined for the activity type)

This figure is automatically 0 if the minimum security requirement is not met.

**Coverage Fractions:** Whenever a group is present or conducting an activity in a neighborhood, the extent to which its presence or activities affect the local population is termed its *coverage fraction* for the activity. The coverage fraction is a value from 0 to 1; it is computed by comparing the group’s personnel (present, or conducting an activity) with the total population of the neighborhood, using a function like that shown below.

c = 25

1.0

2/3

0.0

In this example, if the group has deployed 25 troops per 1000 people in the neighborhood then the coverage fraction is 2/3, rising exponentially toward 1.0 as the troop density goes toward infinity. The coverage fraction determines how much of the potential satisfaction change is gained or lost by the group’s presence or activity. The x-axis is usually troops per 1000 population, as shown, but can vary; for PSYOP, it is troops per 50,000 population. Thus, the two parameters required to compute a coverage fraction are {*c*, *d*} where *c* is the troop density at the 2/3rds point, and *d* is the population denominator, e.g., 1000 or 50,000. The coverage function is often specified in the form *c*/*d*. In the example shown above, then, the coverage function may be specified as either 25/1000 or {25, 1000}. The actual function is as follows. First, the troop density is

where *p* is the number of personnel engaged in the activity. Then the coverage fraction is

**Example:** Force group *g* has 750 troops in neighborhood *n*, which has a total population of 40,000 people:

*p* = 750

= 40,000

The coverage fraction parameter, *c/d*, is nominally 25/1000 for mere presence. The troop density for group *g* is therefore

The coverage fraction is therefore

A force group *g*'s coverage fraction for activity *a* in neighborhood *n* is denoted *.*

**Composite Coverage Fractions:** If two force groups were cooperating in enforcing a curfew, we would expect the curfew to suppress civilian activities based on the total personnel used in enforcing it, independent of the fact that two groups are involved. In cases like these it is useful to employ a *composite coverage fraction*. This fraction can be computed based on the total troop density across all relevant groups; it can also be computed from each group's coverage fraction for the activity, as follows:

At the present time, Athena does not generally make use of composite coverage fractions.

### Organization Activities

Units belonging to organization groups have no effect on civilian satisfaction due to their mere presence. Organization units may perform the following activities; the effect of these activities is modeled in the same way as force activities are, with these distinctions:

* The minimum security required for an activity depends primarily on the organization type, and not on the activity. NGOs and IGOs require “high” security, while CTRs require “medium” security.[[35]](#footnote-35)
* Organization units can perform only a subset of the activities that a force unit can perform.

| Organization Activity | Minimum Security  Required | Shifts | Coverage Function |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CMO\_CONSTRUCTION | High/Medium | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO\_EDUCATION | High/Medium | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO \_HEALTHCARE | High/Medium | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO \_INDUSTRY | High/Medium | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO \_INFRASTRUCTURE | High/Medium | 1 | 20/1000 |
| CMO \_OTHER | High/Medium | 1 | 20/1000 |

### Civilian Activities

Up through Athena 4, civilian units were allowed to perform the DISPLACED and IN\_CAMP activities. This was a stopgap, only; it allowed personnel to be moved around, but did not properly account for the attitudes of the displaced population. In Athena 5, the FLOW tactic allows civilian personnel to move from group to group, and hence from neighborhood to neighborhood; consequently, these activities are no longer needed.

### Activity Situations

When a group has an activity with coverage greater than 0.0 in a neighborhood, we say that an *activity situation* exists in that neighborhood. The effects of these situations on local attitudes are assessed by the DAM rules; see the *Athena Rules* document. Note that no activity situation is created for the "In Camp" activity.

## Environmental Situations

Environmental situations (ensits) are on-going circumstances in a neighborhood that affect all of the civilian personnel resident in the neighborhood. Environmental situations have a coverage fraction, just as activity situations do; however, for environmental situations the coverage fraction is set by the analyst when the situation is created. The complete set of environmental situation types (and the accompanying DAM rules) are given in the *Athena Rules* document.

### Athena 4 Changes

The ensit rule sets have changed in Athena 4 due to the switch from GRAM to URAM as the underlying attitude model. In past versions, an ensit had these effects on satisfaction during its life-time:

* On inception, an inception penalty (a level effect)
* At each time step (including the first), a satisfaction drain (a slope effect)
* On resolution, a resolution benefit (a level effect)

The notion was that the ensit caused satisfaction to decline until the situation was resolved; the resolution benefit would cause satisfaction to bounce back. The resolution benefit also included another effect: resolution by locals usually caused an added benefit to the group's Autonomy satisfaction.

URAM defines transient and persistent effects rather than level and slope effects (see the *Mars Analyst's Guide*) and so the rule sets had to change. An ensit now has these effects:

* In the first week: a large transient effect, representing the sum of the inception penalty and the first week's drain.
* In subsequent weeks, a smaller transient effect.
* On resolution, Autonomy effects due to local resolution.

There is no need to have an explicit "bounce back" effect; when the on-going transient effects cease, the satisfaction curves naturally bounce back.

## Services

A service is something provided to the civilians, the level of which affects civilian attitudes.

### Overview

At present Athena models one kind of service, Essential Non-Infrastructure (ENI) services (Section 8.2). We expect additional services to be handled in a similar way; this section presents an overview of the general concept.

#### Services vs. Environmental Situations

Athena has historically modeled services (e.g., power and water) using environmental situations, or “ensits” (Section 7). In the ensit model, the service is presumed to be provided unless the related ensit exists, in which case the service is out and there is a satisfaction penalty. However, ensits are not well-suited for Athena time horizons because they do not reflect changing expectations of service. In addition, they do not allow actors to have a role in providing services to the civilians—something an actor does to influence, benefit, and ingratiate the civilians, and to make them dependent on the actor’s leadership. Consequently, we have developed the notion of a provided service. Actors may be directly responsible for providing the service, or may indirectly facilitate provision of the service.[[36]](#footnote-36)

#### Levels of Service

A service is provided to the civilians by one or more actors. It can be provided to a greater or lesser extent, and the primary driver of attitude and relationship change is whether the provided level of service meets or fails to meet the expectations of the civilians. In particular, a service has:

* An Actual Level of Service (*ALOS*): the amount of the service currently being provided. This is a continuous variable which rises and falls over time. The natural units for the level of service will of course vary from one kind of service to another.
* A Required Level of Service (*RLOS*). If the *ALOS* is less than the *RLOS*, serious hardship results.
* An Expected Level of Service (*ELOS*). The *ELOS* will approach the *ALOS* over time. In general, the population grows happier when the *ALOS* exceeds the *ELOS*, and unhappier when the opposite is true.
* A Saturation Level of Service (*SLOS*). When the *ALOS* reaches saturation, the population has all the service they can use; increases beyond SLOS cause no net gain in satisfaction.

For simplicity’s sake, we normalize all of these variables to the Saturation Level of Service. That is, *SLOS* is scaled to be 1.0, and the other variables are all represented as fractions of *SLOS*. As a result,

Note that we allow *ALOS* to exceed the saturation level; the actors might indeed provide a superfluous quantity of the service, although they get no benefit from doing so.

#### Service Cases

As an aid to analysis of attitude and relationship effects, we define a number of cases. At any given time, with respect to a particular group *g* in a particular neighborhood *n*, one of the four following cases obtains:

* **Case R−**: The actual level is less than the required level. The people are hurting, and the expected level doesn’t matter.
* **Case E−**: The actual level is at least the required level, but is less than expected. The people will be unhappy.
* **Case E**: The actual level is close to the expected level. The people are getting what they expect.
* **Case E+**: The actual level is well above the expected level. The people are getting more than they expect, and they like it. (Note that the expected level can approach but never exceed saturation.)

### Essential Non-Infrastructure (ENI) Services

Among the tactics actors can use when trying to achieve their goals is funding of those essential civilian services that do not require significant amounts of infrastructure.[[37]](#footnote-37) To avoid repeating that mouthful every time we want to refer to them, we are calling them “essential non-infrastructure” or “ENI” services, for short. Civilian groups’ support for actors will be affected and their satisfaction levels may change. This section describes how to compute those changes. The model takes into account that the actors will usually be competing.

ENI services include such things as welfare payments, courts, public education, and any other service for which funding alone adequately describes what is needed to “make it happen.” The model can accommodate services that require other assets as well as money if those other assets are used in strict proportion to the funding, but details of how to do so are not suggested here. Athena will not execute any tactic an actor cannot afford (in terms of any asset).

Modeled services do not include provision of water, food, electrical power, or other utilities; shortages of those services are still modeled as *ensits*, which can be mitigated by tactics that specify appropriate force group activities. Nor do they include law enforcement, which can be provided by assigning the CMO\_LAW\_ENFORCEMENT activity.

Other essential services that require substantial amounts of infrastructure, such as public transit and postal service are not covered by this model, nor are the rather distant governmental services of defense, central banking, and law-making.

#### Service vs. Funding

Because ENI services by definition do not require investment in infrastructure, we assume that the amount of service provided at any given time depends on the total funding for ENI services at that time, summed over all actors’ contributions. In particular, let

= A civilian group to whom ENI services are provided.

= The actual level of service for group *g*, as a fraction of the saturation level of service.

= The funding required to saturate the supply of ENI services to group *g*, in $/week.

= Total funding of ENI services for group *g*, in $/week.

= Shape parameter[[38]](#footnote-38) for the service vs. funding curve, where . Values less than 1.0 imply economies of scale. A value of 1.0 indicates that service is directly proportional to funding.

= The urbanization level of the neighborhood in which *g* lives, one of ISOLATED, RURAL, SUBURBAN, or URBAN.

The saturation level of funding, , depends on the quantity of service required per person in the group and the number of people in the group:

= The population of group *g*.

= The per capita cost of providing saturated ENI services in a neighborhood with urbanization *r*.[[39]](#footnote-39)

The nominal values for are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Urbanization** |  |
| URBAN | 0.40 |
| SUBURBAN | 0.20 |
| RURAL | 0.10 |
| ISOLATED | 0.01 |

The resulting cost curve is shown in the figure, below. As drawn, it indicates that there are economies of scale (). Note that very large funding levels can be expected (in the real world) to show diminishing returns; the model can be modified to reflect that expectation if necessary, but the anticipated operating range is well below saturation.



#### Funding by Individual Actors

We assume that an actor can provide ENI services in any neighborhood in which he has at least minimal direct support.[[40]](#footnote-40) Thus, multiple actors can choose to provide ENI services to a particular group. The total funding for ENI services to group *g* is then simply

where

= Actor *a*’s funding for ENI services to group *g*.

Actors choose how much funding to provide for ENI services using the FUNDENI tactic, which is described in the *Athena User’s Guide*.

#### Expected Level of Service

We compute the expected level of service, , by exponential smoothing from the actual level of service and the previous expected level, capping the expectation at the saturation level:

where

= Group *g*’s expected level of service

= Group *g*’s expected level of service at the previous week.

= The actual level of service received by group *g*.

= The exponential smoothing parameter, where

The value of can be thought of as the reciprocal of the average age of data in weeks, i.e., if then the expectation is based on two weeks of data. Greater values of imply that expectations adjust more quickly than lower values. If is 1, the expected level of service will simply be just the actual level of service; the civilians will expect whatever they get. If is 0, then the expected level of service never changes.

We assume that civilians more rapidly grow accustomed to good fortune than to hardship, and consequently the value of depends on whether or not exceeds :

Here, and are model parameters[[41]](#footnote-41), nominally 0.5 and 0.25 respectively.

The initial value for at time 0 is simply the actual level of service at time 0. Thus, the civilians initially expect what they are currently getting.

#### Categorize the Actual Level of Service

To compute the attitude effects, we use the four service cases described in Section 8.1.3: **R−**, **E−**, **E**, and **E+**. The first step is to determine which of the four cases applies:

* If , then the actual is less than required; case **R−** applies.
* If , then the actual is about the same as expected; case **E** applies.
* If , then the actual is less than expected; case **E−** applies.
* Otherwise, the actual is greater than expected, and case **E+** applies.

where

= The actual level of service received by *g*.

= The expected level of service for *g*.

= The required level of service for residents of neighborhoods with urbanization *r*, where *r* is the urbanization of *g*’s neighborhood, as defined above.

= A model parameter, the half-width of the band around the expected value that defines the notion “approximately equal to”.[[42]](#footnote-42)

#### Satisfaction Effects

The rate of change of civilian satisfaction due to the availability of services depends on two major considerations: (1) The difference between the actual level of service and the civilians’ expectation of service and (2) how the actual level compares to minimum (required) and maximum (saturation) levels. In general, satisfaction levels should go down if the civilians are receiving less than the minimum level of service. If the civilians are receiving at least the minimum level of service, then satisfaction should go down if they are receiving less than they expect, and should go up if they are receiving more than they expect.

To capture these two effects, we define two factors: the needs factor, , and the expectations factor, . These two factors are then used in the ENI rule set to assess satisfaction effects; see the *Athena Rules* document for the specifics.

##### The Needs Factor

The factor measures the degree to which the actual level of service received by group *g* is less than or greater than that required for survival. It is based on the piecewise-linear function shown in the following figure:



In this diagram,

= The “needs” factor for group *g*.

= The actual level of service received by *g*.

= The required level of service for residents of neighborhoods with urbanization *r*, where *r* is the urbanization of *g*’s neighborhood.[[43]](#footnote-43)

= A model parameter,[[44]](#footnote-44) the gain on , nominally 2.0.

The nominal values for are shown in the following table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Urbanization** |  |
| URBAN | 0.60 |
| SUBURBAN | 0.40 |
| RURAL | 0.20 |
| ISOLATED | 0.00 |

The function is computed using the following algorithm:

If ,

Let .

If ,

Let .

If , (the only remaining case),

Let .

The result is a number between 0 and , or nominally between 0 and 2.

The current model presumes that providing service in excess of saturation has no additional effect. This is unlikely. Providing excess service might decrease satisfaction with respect to AUT, for example. On the other hand, it might not really be possible to provide service in excess of saturation…which means that excess money spent on it is going for something else, and likely improving *somebody*’s satisfaction, and probably illicitly. In light of the abstract nature of ENI services as modeled in this version of Athena, then, we will continue to assume that the effect of excess service is flat.

##### The Expectations Factor

The rate of change of civilian satisfaction should depend on the difference between the expected and actual levels of service. When expectations are not met, satisfaction should go down; when they are exceeded, satisfaction should go up. The expectation factor, , ranges from and , or nominally between -2 and 2, and is computed simply as follows:

where

= The “expectations” factor for group *g*.

= The actual level of service received by *g*.

= The expected level of service for *g*.

= A model parameter,[[45]](#footnote-45) the gain on , nominally 2.0.

#### Vertical Relationship Effects

Vertical relationship effects between a civilian group and an actor depend on the service case, (**E+**, **E**, **E−**, **R−**), whether the actor is in control of the group’s neighborhood or not, and the actor’s degree of credit for providing ENI services.

First, we compute the credit, , given to each actor *a* for the level of ENI services provided to group *g* as follows.

If there is no funding, nobody gets any credit. This especially includes the actor in control of the neighborhood, if any:

* If , for all *a*.

Otherwise, we give credit to each actor according to the fraction of the total funding that he provides, but only up to the amount needed for saturation. Moreover, we give credit to the actor in control of the neighborhood *first*; if he provides a saturation level of service all by himself, the other actors get no credit. If he provides less than the saturation level of service, the other actors can only take credit for the increment of service provided up to the saturation level.

Let *C* be the actor in control of *g*’s neighborhood. Then,

where

= The funding required to saturate the supply of ENI services to group *g*, in $/week.

= Total funding of ENI services for group *g*, in $/week.

= Actor *a*’s funding for ENI services to group *g*.

We then categorize these contributions as shown in the following table:[[46]](#footnote-46)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contribution** | | | **Categorization** |
| 0% ≤ |  | ≤ 20% | **N**: Actor *a* is providing **negligible** funding. |
| 20% < |  | ≤ 50% | **S**: Actor *a* is providing **some** funding. |
| 50% < |  | ≤ 100% | **M**: Actor *a* is providing **most** of the funding. |

Finally, the vertical relationship changes are computed by the ENI rule set, as documented in the *Athena Rules* document.

#### ENI Services and Empty Civilian Groups

An empty civilian group—a group with zero population—can clearly neither receive ENI services nor have attitudes about them. The actual, required, expected, and saturation levels of service for such a group are all defined to be 0.0.

When population is transferred into such a group, so that it is no longer empty, then the expected level of service, will be started at the actual level of service, , just as happens at time 0 for non-empty groups.

## Athena Attrition Model (AAM)

The Athena Attrition Model (AAM, pronounced “aim”) models attrition to force, organization, and civilian units. AAM provides a basic framework for attrition and attrition-related modeling that includes most areas, but models each area in a simple way that can be improved in later versions.

Unlike traditional, detailed attrition models, which model individual firefights between opposing, detected, uniformed forces at specific points of time at specific locations, AAM models attrition caused by both uniformed and non-uniformed forces over longer periods of time (typically a week) at unspecified—but nearby—locations.

By uniformed forces we are referring to military, paramilitary or other forces wearing uniforms or other outward indication that they belong to a particular force group. By non-uniformed forces we are referring to combatants (typically insurgents) who belong to a particular force group, but who are dressed to blend in with the local civilian population in order to avoid being recognized by enemy forces.

AAM does not explicitly consider the effects of equipment and weapons systems in use by force units (nor are these modeled in Athena). Rather, it is assumed that forces are appropriately equipped for their activities. The effects of equipment and weapons systems are implicit in the parameters of the various equations and algorithms.

In addition, AAM supports magic attrition of individual units, of any specific group in a neighborhood, and of all civilians in a neighborhood.

### Overview

#### Attrition in the Real World

*Attrition* is the death of unit personnel due to inter-group violence, ranging from chance altercations to targeted attacks (assassinations and ambushes) to riots to open force-on-force combat.

In the real world, attrition can be caused by uniformed forces, non-uniformed forces, certain types of organizations (ORGs), hostile/militant civilians who do not belong to any force group, and complex crowds containing various mixes of people: non-uniformed forces, civilian supporters of force groups, "rent-a-crowds," and ordinary folks who are sympathetic to the cause, just looking for some excitement, or just happen to get caught up in things. Attrition can be suffered by all of the above, as well as by peaceful organizations and by innocent civilian bystanders.

At present Athena does not attempt to deal with all of these possibilities; many of them can be handled as special events using magic attrition.

#### Requirements for This Version

* Attrition shall take place in neighborhoods, based on the groups present in the neighborhood.
* All personnel are present in neighborhoods as unit personnel, i.e., as visible unit icons, staffed according to the actors’ strategies.
* Force groups may be designated as *uniformed* or *non-uniformed*.
* Crowds of civilians (simple or complex) will not be represented.[[47]](#footnote-47)
* For convenience,
  + A Uniformed Force (UF) is the collection of all units within a neighborhood that belong to a particular force group that is designated as uniformed.
  + A Non-uniformed Force (NF) is the collection of all units within a neighborhood that belong to a particular force group that is designated as non-uniformed.
* A neighborhood may contain any combination of UFs and NFs.
* Groups may be friendly, enemy, or neutral with each other, based on the value of their relationships.
* Attrition occurs during engagements between enemy forces.
* AAM shall model attrition caused by the following types of engagement:
  + UF hunting down enemy NF.
  + NF ambushing enemy UF.
  + Collateral damage to civilians from all engagements between forces.
* All casualties from attrition will be kills; there will be no computation of wounded.
* All attrition to organization group personnel will be handled by magic input.
* All mass killings of civilians by any group will be handled by magic input.
* Coercion of civilians by force groups is modeled as a force activity; it improves cooperation if the coercing force has sufficient security and coverage. Explicit killing of civilians by UF or NF for the purposes of coercion is not currently modeled.
* A UF can hunt down enemy NF in a neighborhood. In this case, the UF will benefit in the following ways if it can increase the cooperation of the population with itself and decrease the cooperation of the population with the NF:
  + Fewer attacks on UF by NF
  + Better loss exchange rates for UF when NF does attack
  + More attacks by UF against NF with less collateral damage to civilians on each attack.
* To find enemy NF, a UF must have troops present in the neighborhood. Increasing the coverage of the troops will produce more attacks on enemy NF but will also make the UF more vulnerable to attack by NF (up to a point).
* Force groups require funding/resources in order to conduct attacks. Therefore, reducing actor funding reduces the number of attacks the actor's forces can initiate.

#### Requirements for Later Versions

* To find enemy NF, a UF must have troops in the neighborhood with activities that expose them to the local population. Increasing the coverage of such activities will produce more attacks on enemy NF but will also make the UF more vulnerable to attack by NF (up to a point).
* NF can conduct IED attacks against UF.
* Force groups will be allowed to recruit new members from the militant pools of local civilian groups.
  + Under certain circumstances, such as a sustained lack of salary payments, some members may desert.
* Individual units might be designated as Uniformed or Non-uniformed, perhaps according to their activity, allowing a single force group to have both UF and NF.
* AAM will also model attrition caused by the following types of engagement.
  + Civilian vs. Civilian
  + UF vs. UF
  + NF vs. NF
  + Collateral damage to organizations from all engagements between forces.

#### Simplifying Assumptions

In order to keep AAM within the realm of the possible we made the following simplifying assumptions, which are still in force in this version:

* NFs will ambush UFs to inflict a few casualties and then run in order to limit their own casualties
* When a UF discovers an NF cell, the UF will attack with overwhelming force and suffer no casualties
* Neither UFs nor NFs will intentionally kill civilians in this model
* NFs will not explicitly use crowds to promote unrest or otherwise further their agenda.
* UFs will cause collateral damage (the killing of civilian bystanders) when attacking or defending against NFs. NFs will not kill civilians when they attack or are attacked by UF.
* There is no direct UF vs. UF or NF vs. NF conflict within the playbox.

### Uniformed vs. Non-Uniformed Forces

Every force group will have a flag indicating whether it is uniformed or non-uniformed. We expect that regular military, paramilitary, and police groups will usually be uniformed (UF), and irregular military and criminal groups will usually be non-uniformed (NF).

### Units and Unit Activities

Rather than representing a specific body of troops in some location, an Athena unit really represents an allocation of some number of personnel to an activity within the neighborhood, such as PATROL or COERCION. Troops assigned the activity NONE are presumed to be in reserve. At Athena's time scale, it makes no sense to model unit movement or location in any detail. Athena units have a precise location within each neighborhood, but only as an aid to visualization.

Some activities involve more exposure to the local population than others. Increased exposure has a number of effects: the unit is more likely to find enemy units; the unit is more likely to get intel from the local civilians; the unit is more likely to be attacked by enemy units. The following force activities are deemed to involve significant exposure to the local civilians:

CHECKPOINT

CMO\_CONSTRUCTION

CMO\_DEVELOPMENT

CMO\_EDUCATION

CMO\_EMPLOYMENT

CMO\_HEALTHCARE

CMO\_INDUSTRY

CMO\_INFRASTRUCTURE

CMO\_LAW\_ENFORCEMENT

CMO\_OTHER

COERCION

CRIMINAL\_ACTIVITIES

CURFEW

PATROL

PSYOP

However, the results of such increased exposure are being deferred to a later version.

The following activities do not have significant exposure in the sense used here:

GUARD

NONE

### Unit Number and Unit Size

Because units are used to allocate troops to particular activities, rather than to represent any military TOE, the breakdown of a force into units has no tactical significance. Consequently, the breakdown of a force into units will be ignored when computing the amount of attrition each group incurs.

### Attrition and Mobilized Troops

All attrition comes out of the attrited units; but it also comes out of each force group’s pool of mobilized troops, thus reducing the personnel available for deployment and assignment the following week. The following sections will speak only of attrition to units; the effect on the pool of mobilized troops is implicit.

### Magic Attrition

The analyst can attrit units and groups magically. All attrition to civilian units will be assessed by the relevant DAM rule set.

#### Magic Attrition to Units

The analyst can attrit a specific unit, of any type.

#### Magic Attrition to Groups

The analyst can attrit a specific group in a specific neighborhood. If the group is a civilian group, only units present in the neighborhood will be attrited.

#### Magic Attrition to Neighborhoods

The analyst can also choose to apply attrition to all civilian units that happen to be a neighborhood; this is equivalent to collateral damage incurred during normal attrition.

### Antagonists and ROEs

Neighborhood *n* can contain the kinds of forces listed in Section 9.2: NF and UF.[[48]](#footnote-48) Attrition occurs when two forces *a* and *b* are antagonists as defined in this section.

#### Attacking ROEs: Maximum Number of Attacks

Attacking ROEs are specified by the actor that owns the attacking group. Each actor must manage his resources, and consequently each attacking ROE includes a "maximum number of attacks", , as set by the actor in accordance with his strategy and the resources he has available. No group will attack more times in a week than is specified in its ROE.

#### Attacking ROEs: UF

Uniformed forces (UF) may attack non-uniformed forces (NF) in a neighborhood.

A UF will attack a particular NF only when directed to do so by its Rules of Engagement. In principle, each UF has an *attacking ROE* with respect to each NF in each neighborhood. This ROE may be set to one of the following values:

* ATTACK
* DO\_NOT\_ATTACK

In practice, Athena will only track ROEs set to ATTACK; if no ROE is set, no attacks will take place.

For example, consider the following Attacking ROE table, in which BLUE is a uniformed force and ALQ is a non-uniformed force.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nbhood** | ***f*** | ***g*** | **Max Attacks** |
| N1 | BLUE | ALQ | 5 |
| N2 | BLUE | ALQ | 10 |

This table indicates that Blue has been ordered to attack Al Qaeda in neighborhood N1 up to 5 times during one week, and in neighborhood N2 up to 10 times. However, Blue will not attack Al Qaeda in any other neighborhood. In either case, Blue will attack Al Qaeda as many times as it can up to the maximum limit.

The maximum number of attacks is set by the force group’s owning actor, and is constrained in the strategy model by the actor’s cash-on-hand.

#### Attacking ROEs: NF

Non-uniformed forces (NF) may attack uniformed forces (UF) in a neighborhood.

Just as with UFs, an NF will attack a particular UF only when ordered to do so by its Rules of Engagement. In principle, each NF has an *attacking ROE* with respect to each UF. This ROE may be set to

* HIT\_AND\_RUN: The NF will attempt to kill UF troops through ambushes, IED attacks, and so forth, while limiting their own losses by running as soon as possible.
* STAND\_AND\_FIGHT: The NF will attempt to kill UF troops by sucking them into ambushes and pinning them down, so as to kill as many UF troops as possible regardless of their own losses.
* DO\_NOT\_ATTACK

In practice, Athena will not track ROEs set to DO\_NOT\_ATTACK; if neither HIT\_AND\_RUN nor STAND\_AND\_FIGHT is set, no attacks will take place.

For example, consider the following Attacking ROE table, in which BLUE is a uniformed force and ALQ is a non-uniformed force.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nbhood** | ***f*** | ***g*** | **ROE** | **Max Attacks** |
| N1 | ALQ | BLUE | STAND\_AND\_FIGHT | 7 |
| N2 | ALQ | BLUE | HIT\_AND\_RUN | 12 |

Al Qaeda will attack Blue in both neighborhoods. In N1 it will try to attack up to seven times during the week, and will stand and fight, taking greater casualties. In N2, however, it will try to attack twelve times during the week, but will try to conserve its strength by using hit and run tactics. In either case the actual number of attacks is limited by the number of BLUE troops and the cooperation of the neighborhood with both groups.

The maximum number of attacks is set by the force group’s owning actor, and is constrained in the strategy model by the actor’s cash-on-hand.

#### Defending ROEs

In addition to its Attacking ROEs, each uniformed force has a Defending ROE in each neighborhood, which can have one of three values:

* FIRE\_BACK\_IMMEDIATELY: Fire back immediately if fired upon. This will cause collateral damage to civilians whenever the UF defends itself.
* FIRE\_BACK\_IF\_PRESSED: Do not fire back unless the enemy continues to engage. This will cause collateral damage to civilians only when the UF defends itself against an NF with an attacking ROE of STAND\_AND\_FIGHT.
* HOLD\_FIRE: Do not fire back. The UF will never cause collateral damage when defending.

The default is to FIRE\_BACK\_IF\_PRESSED.

### The Attrition Cycle

Attrition will be computed each week. Note that magic attrition is accumulated, and assessed for attitude implications along with the normal attrition.

Each week, the following algorithm will compute the attrition:

For each neighborhood *n*:

Determine each pair *a,b* of antagonists in *n*.

For each pair *a,b*:

Compute attrition for each pair, according to the kind of antagonists.

UF vs. NF

NF vs. UF

Accumulate the attrition to each force.

Apply all attrition at the end.

Note that the outcome is independent of the order in which the pairs are processed, as the attrition is applied to each force after all attrition has been computed. This is standard for Lanchester attrition models: all the bullets are fired, and then they all hit at once.

### Computing Attrition

#### Uniformed vs. Non-uniformed

Non-uniformed forces operate in small cells and hide among the civilian population. ROE and resources[[49]](#footnote-49) permitting, a UF will attack an NF cell every time it gets a chance, and will do so with overwhelming force. Every cell found will be destroyed, and collateral damage to civilians is likely. There will be no UF casualties in this version as a result of UF attacks on NF cells.

The UF must find the NF cells in order to attack them. The number of cells found increases with:

* The number of troops in the UF: the more troops, the more chance of contact.
* Increased cooperation of the civilians with the UF, because the UF will get more intel.
* Decreased cooperation of the civilians with the NF, because the civilians are less likely to warn the NF of an impending attack.
* The number of troops in the NF: the more troops, the easier they are to find.
* In a later version: The exposure of the UF troops to the population (i.e., the UF units are assigned activities that imply contact with the locals); you can't find the bad guys while guarding the base.

Let

= The duration of the attrition interval in days

= The composite cooperation of the civilians in *n* with the NF.

= The composite cooperation of the civilians in *n* with the UF.

= The possible number of attacks by the UF on the NF during the interval.

= The actual number of attacks by the UF on the NF during the interval

= The actual coverage fraction of the UF.[[50]](#footnote-50)

= The nominal coverage fraction of the UF for this algorithm.[[51]](#footnote-51)

= The coverage fraction of the NF.[[52]](#footnote-52)

= The nominal coverage fraction of the NF for this algorithm.[[53]](#footnote-53)

*TF* = The average time to find an NF cell, given equal cooperation and the nominal coverage fractions.[[54]](#footnote-54) This is the parameter that drives this part of the model.

Then, we compute the possible number of attacks as follows:

Thus, when the cooperation levels are balanced (), and when the coverage fractions are at their nominal levels, we get precisely the average number of attacks during the interval:

The possible number of attacks is increased by increased cooperation of the population with the UF, and by increased coverage for either group, and is decreased by increased cooperation of the population with the NF, as desired.

Next, we must determine the actual number of attacks, and the attrition resulting from them. Let

*cellsize* = The average number of troops per NF cell.*[[55]](#footnote-55)*

= The number of NF troops in the neighborhood.

The number of cells available to attack is then

Since each attack kills an entire cell, the actual number of attacks cannot exceed the number of cells; and in addition, the actual number of attacks cannot exceed the specified maximum:

The number of NF troops killed is then

Next, we must compute civilian casualties. Let

= The nominal composite cooperation of the neighborhood with the UF for this algorithm.*[[56]](#footnote-56)*

*ECDA* = The Expected Collateral Damage per Attack, i.e., the number of civilians killed for each attack on an NF cell, assuming nominal cooperation. This value will depend on the urbanization level of the neighborhood (rural, suburban, urban). For example, if *ECDA* is 2.0, then we expect two civilian casualties for each cell killed.*[[57]](#footnote-57)*

Then

If the actual cooperation of the neighborhood with the UF is exactly the nominal (that is, if ) then the civilian casualties will be just as expected. If the nominal cooperation is 50%, then better than nominal cooperation can cut casualties in half—but minimal cooperation (10% or less) can increase casualties by a factor of five.

#### Non-uniformed vs. Uniformed

An NF will attack a UF every time it can (given the ROE to attack), within the specified maximum number of attacks. Obviously, the NF can only attack if both the NF and the UF have personnel in the neighborhood. However, the number of such attacks is limited by the NF's resources[[58]](#footnote-58), the availability of UF target opportunities, the cooperation of the civilian population with the NF, and the desire of the NF to limit their casualties as indicated by their ROE (HIT\_AND\_RUN or STAND\_AND\_FIGHT). In particular, the number of potential attacks should:

* Vary inversely with UF security
* Vary directly with the cooperation of the neighborhood with the NF.
* Vary directly with the coverage of UF units in the neighborhood.

First we compute , the number of potential attacks:

where

*rate* = The nominal attack rate per day.[[59]](#footnote-59)

= The UF's security in the neighborhood. Security ranges from -100 to +100.

= The composite cooperation of the neighborhood with the NF.

= The nominal cooperation of the neighborhood with the NF for this algorithm.[[60]](#footnote-60) This parameter depends on the ROE: HIT\_AND\_RUN or STAND\_AND\_FIGHT.

= The actual coverage fraction of the UF, based on total personnel in the neighborhood.[[61]](#footnote-61)

= The nominal coverage fraction of the UF for this algorithm.[[62]](#footnote-62) This parameter depends on the ROE: HIT\_AND\_RUN or STAND\_AND\_FIGHT.

= The duration of the attrition interval in days.

Now, the maximum number of attacks, , can be thought of as the desired rate of attacks during one attrition interval. Thus, given

the equation for becomes

If is 0, then of course the NF cannot attack. Otherwise, whether the NF will actually attack or not depends on the expected NF casualties, as controlled by the ROE of HIT\_AND\_RUN or STAND\_AND\_FIGHT.

##### Loss Exchange Ratio

The loss exchange ratio (LER) for an attack is the number of NF casualties for each UF trooper killed. If the NF killed four UF personnel at a loss of one NF personnel, that would be an LER of ¼. AAM determines the loss exchange ratio (LER) as follows:

= The Expected Loss Exchange Ratio: the expected number of NF casualties per UF casualty, when the UF fires back. This number depends on the NF's attacking ROE.[[63]](#footnote-63)

= The composite cooperation of the neighborhood with the NF.

= = The composite cooperation of the neighborhood with the UF.

= The maximum loss exchange ratio the NF is willing to accept when attacking with the specified ROE.[[64]](#footnote-64)

Then

In other words, the loss exchange ratio depends on the intelligence available to the NF and to the UF, as indicated by the cooperation of the neighborhood with each. As UF's intel improves, the LER gets larger; as NF's intel improves, the LER gets smaller. If the neighborhood cooperates equally with both, it's a wash and the LER is simply the expected LER.

The NF will only attack if the LER is their favor. That is,

If

Then attack,

Otherwise do not attack.

##### NF and UF Casualties

**Hit-and-Run:** When the ROE is HIT\_AND\_RUN, the NF will husband their forces, trying to do damage to the UF without losing too many people. We assume that the NF wants to inflict casualties on the UF during each attack.[[65]](#footnote-65) Since they would not be attacking unless the Loss Exchange Ratio were in their favor, we know that they are prepared to take casualties in each attack, where

**Stand-and-Fight:** When the ROE is STAND\_AND\_FIGHT, on the other hand, the NF is prepared to suffer significant casualties in order kill UF personnel. We assume that the NF is willing to expend personnel to kill as many UF personnel as they can.[[66]](#footnote-66) Given the LER, they can then kill

In either case, the number of NF casualties actually incurred depends on the Defending ROE of the UF: unless they fire back, no NF personnel will be killed. However, the NF must make their plans presuming that the UF will fire back.

Now, the NF can potentially make attacks, given their access to the UF forces. The actual number of attacks is limited by the NF and UF personnel available. The NF cannot kill more UF personnel than are there, and will do so with the fewest casualties to themselves; and since they must presume that the UF will fire back they cannot schedule more attacks than they have personnel to lose. And, of course, they can make no more than the attacks specified in their ROE. Thus, the actual number of attacks is computed as follows.

Given that an attack is possible, and the LER is in the NF's favor, the NF will **always** attack at least once.

The total number of UF casualties is then

NF and civilian casualties depend on whether or not the UF fires back, as shown in the following table:

| NF Attacks | UF Defends | UF Fires Back |
| --- | --- | --- |
| HIT\_AND\_RUN | FIRE\_BACK\_IMMEDIATELY | Yes |
| HIT\_AND\_RUN | FIRE\_BACK\_IF\_PRESSED | No |
| HIT\_AND\_RUN | HOLD\_FIRE | No |
| STAND\_AND\_FIGHT | FIRE\_BACK\_IMMEDIATELY | Yes |
| STAND\_AND\_FIGHT | FIRE\_BACK\_IF\_PRESSED | Yes |
| STAND\_AND\_FIGHT | HOLD\_FIRE | No |

If the UF fires back, then the number of NF casualties is

Otherwise, no NF casualties are incurred.

##### Civilian Collateral Damage

In this version we assume no collateral damage from the NF attack itself—NF does not want to kill civilians in these attacks, but would be glad if UF fired back and did kill some. Thus, civilian casualties occur only if the UF fires back. In this case, the total number of civilian casualties is

where

= the Expected Collateral Damage per NF Casualty. This is a model parameter which depends on the urbanization level (urban, suburban, or rural) of the neighborhood, and on the NF's ROE.[[67]](#footnote-67)

### Applying Attrition

All attrition is computed before any attrition is applied to the neighborhood. Attrition to a group is applied to each of a group's units in the neighborhood in proportion to its size. The attrition applied to each unit is also applied to the unit's group’s total personnel. Civilian attrition is saved for later assessment by the DAM rule sets.

First, we build a list of the units in the neighborhood that belong to the group being attrited. (Note that civilian units from other neighborhoods are treated as belonging to distinct groups.)

Next, we compute the total number of personnel in the list of units.

Next, we compute the fraction of the total represented by each of the units.

Next, we sort the list of units in decreasing order of size.

Next, we apply attrition to each unit in turn, attriting it by its proportional share of the casualties. Let

*casualties* = The total number of casualties to inflict

*i* = The index of the *i*th unit to receive casualties

= The fraction of casualties to be taken by *i*.

Then,

Let *r* = *casualties*

For each unit *i* to be attrited,

Let *k* =

Apply *k* casualties to *r*.

Let

If *r* is 0, then stop.

This algorithm rounds fractional casualties in favor of the smaller units; the smallest unit will tend to get less than its "fair" share of casualties.

### Assessing the Attitude Implications

Once attrition has been computed and applied, it is necessary to assess the implications for civilian attitudes via the CIVCAS rule set in the Driver Assessment Model (DAM).

#### Contrasted with JNEM

In theory, JNEM assesses civilian casualties incident by incident—in theory, because it is the ground model's responsibility to decide what constitutes an incident, and some ground models do a better job than others. In consequence, JNEM accumulates all attrition to a group occurring within a short window, and calls that an "incident". From this attrition, JNEM computes the effective number of kills, and passes this through a Z-curve to get a multiplier which is used to scale the magnitudes in the CIVCAS rules.

In general, then, attrition happens when it happens, and the attitude effects of different incidents can interfere with each other (based on sharing the same cause) as they play out over time.

In Athena, we assess attrition at each time tick, i.e., once a week, reflecting the incidents that have implicitly occurred over the previous week. So long as we approach attrition in this aggregate way, there's no way to assess it incident by incident. It is clearly wrong to say, "There were 17 fire fights this week in which Punjabis were killed in this neighborhood, so we'll have 17 inputs to GRAM all time-stamped today and all with the same cause." Consequently, we will assess the attitude implications once per week as well, based on the aggregate attrition over the week.

Magic attrition to civilian groups will be applied to those groups as it occurs, but the total attrition will be saved and assessed with the normal attrition at the end of the week.

#### Satisfaction Effects of Attrition

We will assess the satisfaction effects of attrition on a civilian group as follows. First, all attrition occurring during the week, both magic and normal, to group *f* in neighborhood *n* will be accumulated in the **attrit\_nf** table. Let

*n* = The neighborhood. For civilian units, this is the neighborhood of origin, rather than the neighborhood in which the attrition occurred. (They will often be the same, of course.)

*f* = The attrited civilian group.

*casualties* = The total number of casualties to *f* in *n* during the week.

= A Z-curve which converts a total number of casualties into a casualty multiplier used in the CIVCAS satisfaction rules.[[68]](#footnote-68)

*M* = The casualty multiplier.

We compute the casualty multiplier, *M*, as follows:

When the CIVCAS rule set is triggered, it has access to *n*, *f*, *casualties*, and *M.*

#### Cooperation Effects of Attrition

Athena only tracks the cooperation of neighborhood groups with force groups; consequently, we assess cooperation effects only for attrition to civilian groups. The CIVCAS rule set attends to this.

All normal civilian attrition is (at present) due to collateral damage resulting from fighting between two force groups. Magic attrition can optionally be attributed to one or two force groups. As attrition occurs, Athena accumulates the total casualties to group *f* in neighborhood *n* in which force group *g* was in some way involved in the **attrit\_nfg** table. If two force groups are involved in an altercation, as is usually the case, the total civilian casualties are attributed equally to both.

Then, let

*n* = The neighborhood of origin, rather than the neighborhood in which the attrition occurred. (They will often be the same, of course.)

*f* = The attrited civilian group, resident in *n*.

*g* = A force group.

*casualties* = The total number of casualties to *f* in *n* during the past week, in which *g* was involved.

= The relationship between civilian group *f* and force group *g*.

= A Z-curve which converts a total number of casualties into a casualty multiplier used in the CIVCAS cooperation rules.[[69]](#footnote-69)

*M* = The resulting casualty multiplier.

We compute the casualty multiplier, *M*, as follows:

When the CIVCAS rule set is triggered it has access to *n*, *f*, *g*, *casualties*, *,* and *M.* The actual magnitude of the rule firing will be

where M- connotes a medium-sized negative (i.e., -5.0 point) effect and enmore(*R*) is the "enemies more" relationship multiplier function. See the *Mars Analyst’s Guide* for more information on relationship multiplier functions, and the *Athena Rules* document for details on how rule magnitudes are specified.

## Demographics

The Athena Demographics model is responsible for:

* Tracking the civilian population of the playbox, by group, as it changes:
  + Due to births and natural deaths
  + Due to collateral damage
  + Due to explicit flows from one civilian group to another
* Breaking down the population of a group into subcategories, e.g.,
  + The number of consumers
  + The number of workers
  + The number of subsistence farmers and ranchers
* Rolling up the group demographics to the neighborhood and playbox levels.

The initial playbox population is input to the scenario as the *base population* of each civilian group. In addition, each group has a rate of change due to births and natural deaths.

### Connections with Other Models

The demographics model is intended to be as simple as possible while meeting the needs of the other Athena models. In particular:

* URAM requires the current population of each civilian group.
* The Athena Attrition Model (AAM) requires that the civilian population can take collateral damage as the result of combat between forces.
* The Economics Model requires the number of people who participate in the regional economy (the consumers) and the number of people in the potential labor force (the workers).
* The Ground Model requires that civilians can be moved from one group to another, possibly in another neighborhood.

### Simplifying Assumptions

We make the following simplifying assumptions:

* The histogram of group population by age is approximately flat, i.e., if 10 children are added to the population then there are also 10 more people of working age.
* The subsistence agriculture population is simply the population of each subsistence agriculture group.
* The subsistence population is outside the regional cash economy.
* The labor force is a simple fraction of the total consumers in each non-subsistence group.

### Population and Units

Athena 1 had the distinction between explicit population (represented in units) and implicit population (the default). Starting in Athena 3, units are an output rather than an input: the ground model "staffs" units based on resident populations and deployed forces, both for the purpose of visualization and to ease subsequent computations. As a result, every civilian is represented both implicitly and explicitly, and the distinction is no longer of interest.

### Civilian Group Population over Time

The population of civilian group *g* over time is governed by the following equations:

where

= The population of group *g* at time *t*

= The base population of group *g* at time zero, as defined in the scenario.

= The change in the population of group *g* at time *t* due to births and natural deaths.

= The number of people flowing into group *g* from other groups at time *t*.

= The number of people flowing out of group *g* into other groups at time *t*.

= The total number of casualties suffered by group *g* due to collateral damage or other violence at time *t*.

#### Natural Population Change

Athena includes a coarse model of population change. Each group *g* has a yearly rate of population change, , representing the net effect of births and natural deaths. It will be positive if births outnumber deaths, and negative if the reverse is true. It is assumed to be constant for the duration of the simulation.

Since we do not track population cohorts and assume that a constant fraction of each group is in the labor force, we are further assuming that the rate has been constant since the birth of those entering the work force at time zero.

The rate is expressed as the percentage change per year. The population figures will be updated on a weekly basis; thus,

Note that we are effectively compounding the rate weekly; thus the effective annual rate will be very slightly higher than

The other models in Athena expect the population to be an integer; however, the value of natural includes a fractional part, and (especially for small groups) the sum of those fractional parts can be significant. Rather than rounding or truncating , consequently, we will retain the fractional part, so that the fractional change can accumulate over time. Thus we define

so as to have an integer number to work with. Other Athena models will thus refer to .

If , then all of the actual people are gone. We will accordingly set both and to zero; otherwise we will have the embarrassing situation (given a long enough run) of having a person pop out of nowhere due to the application of .

#### Civilian Attrition

Athena's attrition model targets personnel in units created by the ground model, but the actual attrition is applied to the pool of people from which the units are staffed. For civilians, consequently, attrition to a civilian group's population is handled by subtracting the casualties from as shown above.

### Population Breakdowns

The Demographic model breaks each group's population down into categories.

#### Subsistence Population

The subsistence population of civilian group *g*, , is total resident population of the group, or 0 if the group does not do subsistence agriculture:

Note that displaced personnel are *never* part of the subsistence population. When civilians flee their lands, they can no longer raise crops or herd cattle on them. In Athena 5, displacement is modeled by flowing population from the subsistence group into another group; the second group should not be a subsistence group.

On the other hand, a group of nomadic herdsman that travels from neighborhood to neighborhood over the course of a year can be modeled as two (or more) subsistence groups in different neighborhoods; population can flow between them as appropriate.

#### Consumer Population

The consumer population of a civilian group of a group is simply the resident population if the group participates in the regional economy, and 0 otherwise. Thus, we define civilian group *g*'s consumer population as follows:

#### Labor Force

In principle, different civilian groups contribute to the labor force to different degrees, depending on their attributes. At present, however, we assume that the number of workers in a group is a simple fraction of the number of consumers in the group. Thus, we define the labor force[[70]](#footnote-71) of non-subsistence group *g* as follows:

where *LFF* is the Labor Force Fraction. The Labor Force Fractions is a model parameter[[71]](#footnote-72), changeable at run-time.

In Athena 4 and prior, the *LFF* was affected by the activities performed by the civilian group's population; for example, some or all of the group could be *displaced*, which reduced the *LFF*. The civilian activities model has been removed from Athena in preference to the new ability to flow personnel from one group to another; and we expect that prior to the formal release of Athena 5, it will possible to set the *LFF* on a group-by-group basis. A group that represents displaced persons can simply have a lower *LFF* than a group that is "at home".

### Aggregate Statistics

#### Neighborhood Population

The total population of neighborhood *n* is simply the population of all resident civilian groups:

The consumer population and labor force are computed similarly:

#### Regional Population

The regional population, consumers, and labor force are simply summed up across the “local” neighborhoods in the obvious way.

### Unemployment

Unemployment can drive attitude change. The Economics Model computes the unemployment rate, *UR*, for the region of interest.

#### Disaggregation to Neighborhoods

Lacking any better way to disaggregate unemployment, we will assume that *UR* affects each neighborhood in proportion to its labor force. That is, if *UR* is 5%, then 5% of each neighborhood's labor force will be unemployed. The unemployed population for the neighborhood is then :

where

= The number of people in the labor force in neighborhood *n*.

However, the size of the labor force relative to the neighborhood population as a whole depends on the subsistence population. A high unemployment rate may be of little concern in a neighborhood with 90% subsistence. For attitude effects, we are primarily concerned with the ratio of unemployed workers with the total population: the unemployed workers per capita, or *:*

#### Disaggregation to Civilian Groups

Precisely the same logic applies to each group in each neighborhood. The unemployed population for civilian group *g* is :

where

= The number of people from group *g* in the labor force.

And then, the unemployed per capita for each group *g* is:

#### Unemployment Situations

How does unemployment affect the civilians?

* The unemployed civilians take a hit to their satisfaction levels, with the usual indirect effects on other groups. This will particularly affect Quality of Life (QOL), and should depend on each neighborhood group's effective unemployment rate. Subsistence agriculture groups are largely immune to this effect.
* If there are many unemployed civilians, the fact of their presence will become a problem for their neighbors due to increases in crime and other social conflict. This effect will be negligible for small unemployment rates, and dominant for large ones (for some value of "small" and "large"). This will particularly affect Safety (SFT), and possibly Autonomy (AUT), and should depend on the effective unemployment rate of the neighborhood as a whole.

If unemployment in a neighborhood is sufficiently dire, it will engender an UNEMP (unemployment) demographic situation. Following the pattern used for activity situations, we compute a factor, analogous to a coverage fraction, that will be used to scale the magnitudes in the situation's rule set. We will use a Z-curve to convert the unemployment per capita into a multiplicative factor, ranging from 0.0 to 2.0:



The above curve says that the unemployment rules will not begin to affect general attitudes until about 5% of the general population are unemployed; the rules reach their nominal magnitude when 10% of the population are unemployed; and the rules have their maximum effect when 15% are unemployed. This is not to say that problems do not continue to get worse when more than 15% of the population is unemployed; but very high unemployment brings other problems that can't simply be addressed by an attitude rule set.

Using the above curve, we will compute an unemployment attitude factor (UAF) for the neighborhood as a whole, and for each individual group within it:

And

Then, an unemployment situation will exist in neighborhood *n* if , or if for any *g*. The situation is assessed by the UNEMP rule set; see the *Athena Rules* document for details.

We assume that a civilian group's QOL is affected primarily by unemployment within the group, but that SFT and AUT are primarily affected by the number of unemployed workers in the neighborhood as a whole. For example, one would expect the crime rate to rise with the number of unemployed workers.

## Economics

The Athena Economics area models the economy of the region of interest, which can be an entire country, a portion of a country, or several small countries taken together. We will refer to this as the *local economy*. The core of the Economics area is a 6-sector Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model solved as a system of non-linear equations using the Gauss-Seidel algorithm. The inputs to the CGE come from a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) that the user populates with “base case” data to determine the shape of the economy. Other inputs come from the definitions of the actors and their strategies and other scalar inputs such as remittances. Once all inputs are defined, the CGE is calibrated using initial values from the SAM. This document will give an overview of the Economics area, with focus on how the SAM is computed and how actors’ incomes, expenditures and strategies affect the economy. It then explains how the CGE is embedded in it and how it relates to the rest of Athena.

For comprehensive and detailed documentation on the CGE and the theory behind it, see “Athena’s Computable General Equilibrium Model” by Chamberlain, Duquette and Kahovec included with the Athena documentation.

### Sectors

Athena partitions the local economy into six sectors: **goods**, **pop**, **black**, **actors**, **region** and **world**.

**The "goods" Sector:** The **goods** sector includes all production of goods and services in the local region. The unit of production is the *goods basket* (GBasket), a notional basket of goods and services nominally costing about $1.

**The "pop" Sector:** The **pop** sector includes all labor by the workers in the local region, and all consumption by the population of the local region. The unit of production is the work-year of an *average worker*. Just as the goods basket represents a notional bundle of goods and services, the average worker represents a notional bundle of skills and kinds of work.

**The** **"black"** **Sector**: The **black** sector includes any illicit products that are appropriate for the scenario. This could include narcotics, illegal weapons or human trafficking. The unit of production is the metric ton (or tonne). The **black** sector has a unit price, which is exogenous (ie. it is determined by international competition), and is based on one tonne of finished product. The black sector may also need an imported feedstock, the material from which the finished product is made. So, for example, if the product of the black market is opium then the feedstock might be imported poppies or even imported opium. The feedstock price and how much one unit of feedstock is required for one unit of product are also parts of this sector. If the feedstock is not imported, it is obtained from the goods sector and is not modeled explicitly.

**The** **"actors"** **Sector**: The **actors** sector is an aggregation of each of the actors’ revenues and expenditures as they are defined in Athena. This sector’s revenue is determined by individual actors’ incomes from the various sectors and what cut, if any, an actor receives from black market profits.[[72]](#footnote-73) The expenditures in this sector are determined by actors’ strategies and by how much they spend on overhead.

**The "region" Sector:** The **region** sector represents everything in the local economy that isn't covered by the other sectors. For example, the manufacturing infrastructure that provides production capacity to the **goods** and **black** sector is implicit in this sector, which collects revenues for use of those capital goods. As another example, if the economic data describes all of Pakistan, but the scenario is based upon some section of Pakistan (such as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa area) then it would be appropriate to make the rest of Pakistan constitute most of the **region** sector.

**The "world" Sector:** The **world** sector is involved in every monetary or value transaction not covered by the other five sectors. In practice, this means remittances, imports, exports and foreign aid. Products (including the black market) and jobs purchased by the world sector and jobs filled by people from the **pop** sector and paid for by the world sector are exports. Products and jobs supplied by the world sector are imports (black market feedstock can also be an import). Flows of money from the **world** sector to the **region** or **actors** sector are considered to be forms of foreign aid.

### The Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) Tableau

During scenario preparation, the Econ tab displays a matrix of money flows and other inputs used to compute salient outputs and the parameters that define the shape of the economy. This matrix, along with other inputs, is the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for the economy in question. As the inputs to the SAM are made or modified, we say the “shape” of the economy is determined by computing a set of shape parameters. The shape parameters and other outputs are used as inputs to Athena’s Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) matrix which shows the current state of the economy as simulated time advances.

In short, the SAM is used to specify the size of the economy based upon some assumed number of consumers. Then, based upon that assumed size, the shape of the economy is computed which is then handed off to the CGE. Given a varying number of consumers, the CGE is used to compute money flows and derived values based on those money flows, such as Gross Domestic Product and Unemployment Rates that can be used to gauge the health of the simulated economy. The following sub-sections describe the SAM inputs and its computed outputs.

#### SAM Matrix Inputs

The SAM matrix is used to define money flows between the sectors in a notional base case. These inputs are used to determine the shape of the economy. A discussion of the size and shape of the economy is beyond the scope of this document.[[73]](#footnote-74) The form of these inputs is in a spreadsheet-like tableau[[74]](#footnote-75) (note that some values, indicated by non-italicized font, are computed from other values, which are italicized):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **goods** | **black** | **pop** | **actors** | **region** | **world** | **Revenue** | **Price** | **Demand** |
| **goods** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **black** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **pop** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **actors** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **region** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **world** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expense** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

where

= The payment in $/year from sector *j* to sector *i*.

= The total expenditure, in $/year, of sector j.

= The total revenue, in $/year, of sector j.

= The price, in $, of one unit of production of sector i.

= The quantity of *i'*s product demanded per year.

Note: The units of BQDi are goods-baskets/year for the goods sector, tonne/year for the black sector and work-years/year for the pop sector.

*BXbg* is set to 0.0 since we assume the goods sector would not use any black market product. Also, *BXww* is set to 0.0 since the flow of money completely outside the region is meaningless as far as Athena’s economic model is concerned.

Since actors revenues and expenditures are computed by Athena from the actor definitions and their strategies, this row and column cannot be edited. Section 11.3 goes into detail as to how those cells are computed once the scenario is locked.

Each time any input in the matrix is changed the cells on the SAM tab are recalculated and the new values displayed. The following equations are true by definition:

#### Other Inputs

Other inputs to the SAM are summarized in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cell Label** | **Cell Name** | **Meaning** | **Units** |
| Remittances | *BREM* | Money sent back to the populace, in the base case, by those who have gone out of the region to seek their fortunes elsewhere | $/year |
| Black mkt Feedstock Price | *PFwb* | The price of black market feedstock used to make the final product | $/tonne |
| Feedstock per Unit Product | *AFwb* | The number of units of feedstock needed to make one unit of final product | N/A |
| Max Feedstock Avail. | *MFwb* | The maximum amount of feedstock available | tonnes/year |
| Base Consumers | *BaseConsumers* | The number of consumers upon which the SAM data is based | N/A |
| Subsistence Wage | *BaseSubWage* | The wage someone engaged in subsistence agriculture is considered to have earned for the purpose of GDP calculation | $/year |

These values affect some of the outputs from the SAM and some are used directly by the CGE. The following section details the outputs as they are computed from the SAM Matrix and other inputs.

#### SAM Outputs

As values in the SAM Matrix and other inputs are made or modified by the user, the shape of the economy and other salient outputs are computed. The resultant shape parameters are displayed in a spreadsheet-like tableau:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **goods** | **black** | **pop** | **actors** | **region** | **world** |
| **goods** | *fgg* | *Agb* | *fgp* | *fga* | *fgr* | *N/A* |
| **black** | *fbg* | *Abb* | *fbp* | *fba* | *fbr* | *N/A* |
| **pop** | *fpg* | *Apb* | *fpp* | *fpa* | *fpr* | *N/A* |
| **actors** | *tag* | *tab* | *tap* | *faa* | *far* | *N/A* |
| **region** | *trg* | *trb* | *trp* | *fra* | *frr* | *N/A* |
| **world** | *twg* | *twb* | *twp* | *fwa* | *fwr* | *N/A* |

where

= Fraction of total revenue (Cobb-Douglas coefficients where relevant) for payments from sector i to sector j.

= Tax-like rate for payments from sector i to sector *j*.

= Leontief coefficient for payments from sector i to *j*.

These parameters are computed to represent the particular shape of the economy. The CGE is initialized with these values which then determine how much money flows from one sector to another based upon certain algorithms. The following equations are true by definition:

where

where

where and

*fbg* is always 0.0 since, by definition, the goods sector does not use any black sector product. There is no need for shape parameters for expenditures by the world sector, since the money flows from the world sector to other sectors are treated separately using the *BEXPORTSi* described below. A complete discussion of the *fij*, *tij*, and *Aij* coefficients and their use by the CGE is beyond the scope of this document.[[75]](#footnote-76)

The remaining SAM outputs are described in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cell Label** | **Cell Name** | **Meaning** | **Units** |
| Foreign Aid to Actors | *FAA* | Money from the world sector used as income by the actors sector | $/year |
| Foreign Aid to Region | *FAR* | Money from the world sector to the region sector | $/year |
| Per cap. Demand for Goods | *BAgp* | The average per capita demand for goods | GBasket/yr |
| Exports of Goods | *BEXPORTSg* | The amount of exports from the goods sector to the world sector | GBasket/yr |
| Exports from Black Market | *BEXPORTSb* | The amount of exports from the black market sector to the world sector | tonnes/yr |
| Exported jobs | *BEXPORTSp* | The number of jobs exported from the pop sector to the world sector | work-yr/yr |
| Black Market Net Revenue | *BNRb* | The net revenue in the black market sector | $/year |

The cells in this table have the following relationships to other inputs on the SAM tab:

### Computing the Actors Sector

The **actors** sector expenditures and revenues are computed solely from the actors’ definitions and their tactics and strategies. The **actors** sector revenue is determined from the actor definitions alone. It is important to note that when discussing the sector in the economy for actors (which is an aggregation of all actors’ expenditures and revenues), this document uses a bold font. When discussing individual actors or actors together, this document uses a regular font.

The **actors** sector expenditures are determined by two factors: how actors choose to employ their tactics and strategies and if and how much money is spent on overhead. Overhead is simply an aggregation of known costs into a single category that represents the normal day-to-day expenses an actor must make just to keep doing “business as usual”. In this way, the analyst does not need to worry about the details of expenditures made outside those of the specific tactics an actor employs. Overhead is expressed as a percentage of total income, which is then taken off the top of the available cash an actor has prior to employing tactics. Thus, an actor that spends 30% of his cash on overhead has only 70% available for specific tactics.

The **actors** sector income is determined from actor definitions. Each actor has the following attributes related to income and overhead:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| *income, GOODS* | Income in dollars per week from the **goods** sector. |
| *income, BLACK NR* | Shares of income from the net revenue of the **black** market. |
| *income, BLACK Tax* | Income in dollars per week from the **black** sector, computed as a tax on revenue. |
| *income, POP* | Income in dollars per week from the **pop** sector. |
| *income, Graft* | Income in dollars per week in graft, money skimmed from foreign aid to the **region** sector. |
| *income, WORLD* | Income in dollars per week in foreign aid from the **world**. |
| *overhead* | The percentage of cash-on-hand used towards funding overhead costs. |
| *cash-on-hand* | Cash on hand, in dollars: the money the actor has immediately available to fund tactics. Unspent cash is carried over to the next week. |
| *cash-reserve* | Cash reserve, in dollars. The actor can reserve funds for later use. |

Note that if the economic model is disabled, then the income an actor has is simply the sum of the incomes specified without regard to whether the money is available within the economic model.

#### Computing Actor’s Expenditures

Athena computes base case expenditures for the SAM when the scenario is locked using the base case revenue. When simulated time advances, expenditures are computed from the percentage each actor spends toward overhead and from each actors tactics. Athena has a family of parameters that govern to which sectors actors’ expenses are allocated depending on tactic type or overhead expense.[[76]](#footnote-77) When the scenario is locked, the base case expenditures in the SAM are those allocated to overhead:

for

where

= Base case flow of money from the **actors** sector to sector *i*.

*ovi* = Fraction of revenue spent on sector *i* due to overhead.

*BREVa* = Base revenue in the **actors** sector as computed from all actor’s income.

The CGE is initialized with these base case expenditures.

As Athena advances simulated time, actors will expend money as their strategies are executed (Section 3). Athena’s “cash” module tracks these expenditures and allocates them to the designated sector as defined by the parameters described above and in the associated footnote. When the economic model executes, these expenditures are then updated in the CGE:

for

where

∑*α* = Indicates that the sum is over all actors.

= Sum of all expenditures by all actors made to sector *i* at the current timestep.

*sharesi* = The number of shares allocated for sector *i* given the expenditure class[[77]](#footnote-78).

*totshares* = Total number of shares given an expenditure class.

*fraci* = The fraction of money in the expenditure class allocated to sector *i.*

*dollarsα* = The total amount of money spent by an actor on an expenditure class.

The constant 52.0 appears in the equation because actors expend cash on a week to week basis, but the CGE accounts for money in per annum quantities.

#### Computing Actor’s Income

In scenario **PREP**, income for an actor is specified as some amount of money from each sector or, in the case of black market net revenues, shares of the total amount. Those amounts of income should be input with the understanding that it is based on an economy with a *BaseConsumers* number of consumers. In Athena it’s possible the actual number of consumers is different from *BaseConsumers* when the scenario is locked. Because of this, total base revenue from a sector is scaled to the actual number of consumers and, thus, total revenue for the sector as a whole is scaled:

for

for

where

= Base rate of money from sector i to the actors sector.

= Sum over all actors income from sector i.

*BaseConsumers* = The base number of consumers from SAM inputs.

*ActualConsumers* = The actual number of consumers as computed by Athena.

= Base revenue in the **actors** sector.

*BNRB* = Base net revenue in the **black** sector.

If no actor is designated to receive any income from shares of the black market net revenue then all black market net revenue is assumed to go the world sector, *BXwb.*

Once base rates and revenues are determined, each actor has tax-like rates computed for use in determining income from each sector as simulated time advances. These tax-like rates represent the shape of the revenue on an actor-by-actor basis which, when summed together, represent the shape of the **actors** sector revenue as a whole. Thus, as revenue streams in all other sectors fluctuate (for whatever reason), the revenue stream in the **actors** sector fluctuates with them. The actor-by-actor tax-like rates are computed using the following equations (the constant 52.0 is for converting from weeks to years):

for

where

= tax-like rate for actor α and sector *i*.

*Iαi* = Weekly income of actor α from sector *i*.

*Iαgraft* = Weekly income of actor α from graft.

*BPi* = Base price in sector *i*.

*BQDi* = Base quantity demanded in sector *i*.

= Base revenue in the **world** sector.

*FAR* = Foreign aid to the region.

= cut of black market net revenue for actor α expressed as a rate.

= Shares of black market net revenue for actor α.

= Total shares of black market net revenue.

= Total net revenue of the black market.

Then, as time advances and revenue in the sectors changes, income to each actor from each sector is determined:

for

where

= tax-like rate for actor α and sector *i*.

= Total revenue in sector *i*.

*Iαi* = Weekly income of actor α from sector *i*.

*Iαgraft* = Weekly income of actor α from graft.

*cutαb* = Fraction of black market net revenue to actor α.

*NRB*= Black market net revenue.

*Iαcut* = Weekly income of actor α from black market net revenue.

### Text Notation

The SAM and CGE are implemented as *cell models*, a pseudo-spreadsheet in which every cell has a name rather than a row and column. The cell model is contained in a text file, and so we also have a plain text notation for each of the mathematical symbols given above:

= X.i.j

= EXP.j

= REV.i

= P.i

= QD.i

When we are referring to a particular sector or sectors, the sector names are spelled out in full in the plain text form:

= X.goods.pop

### Shape vs. Size

For a complete discussion of shape vs. size see “Athena’s Computable General Equilibrium Model” by Chamberlain, Duquette and Kahovec included with the Athena documentation. For reference, a brief description is provided here.

We distinguish between the *size* of the economy, which can be roughly thought of as total revenues, and the *shape* of the economy, or the proportion of revenues across the sectors. The size of the economy is driven by consumption: increase the number of consumers, or the amount consumed by each, and the economy must increase in size. Decrease the amount of consumption, and the economy must shrink. But as the economy increases and decreases in size, its basic shape remains the same, because the basic industries and technologies in use remain the same.

The size is driven by the number of consumers; and the number of consumers is given to the Economic model by the Demographic model. The shape of the economy is determined by providing base case data in the SAM; see Section 11.2.

### Production Functions

The shape of the economy is largely determined by the technologies used by the sectors to produce their products; and these technologies are described by *production functions*.

A production function determines how much product a sector consumes (from its own and other sectors) to produce one unit of its own product. The **goods** and **pop** sectors are modeled using the Cobb-Douglas production function[[78]](#footnote-79), which implies that, when ingredient quantities are chosen to minimize costs, the sector will spend a fixed proportion of its money on each of the three sectors, i.e., 0.5 on **goods**, 0.4 on **pop**, and 0.1 on **black**. As prices change, the Cobb-Douglas production function allows the sectors to trade off their requirements for the product of one sector for the product of another.

These fixed proportions are called the Cobb-Douglas parameters, and are denoted .

The **black** sector is modeled using the Leontief production function, which assumes that input requirements are strictly proportional to the output quantity for every ingredient in an attempt to maximize profit. This is particularly useful for the black market since the price in that sector is exogenous (determined completely outside the economy being modeled).

### Calibrating the CGE

The CGE is calibrated by transferring the shape parameters, money flows and other inputs from the SAM and then initializing the CGE:

* BX.i.j, the money flows used to determine the shape parameters.
* f.i.j, the Cobb-Douglas parameters for all sectors.
* A.i.j, the Leontief coefficients for the black sector
* t.i.j, the tax-like rates in the **goods**, **black** and **pop** sectors.
* BREM, the base remittances in $/year.
* PF.world.black, the black market feedstock price.
* AF.world.black, the black market feedstock per unit of product.
* MF.world.black, the maximum amount of black market feedstock available.
* BaseConsumers, the number of consumers upon which the BX.i.j are based.
* BaseSubWage, the wages associated with subsistence agriculture for the purpose of computing gross domestic product. This is probably near the poverty level.

In theory we should also set the base prices for the **goods** and **pop** sectors; but with the goods basket being the only product, and the base wage the only means of production, it is best to leave the goods basket at $1 and then adjust the base wage up or down to get a reasonable unemployment rate.

#### Set the Base Consumption

Next we need to provide the link between shape of the economy and its size. We do this by setting the base number of consumers.

Per capita demand for goods is determined from BX.goods.pop, BREM and BaseConsumers. Adjusting any of these inputs in the SAM will cause that demand to go up or down. The actual demand, however, is determined when the scenario is locked which causes the actors sector to be computed and the true demographics including the actual number of consumers to be determined.

### Scenario Inputs

The following input values are plugged into the CGE by the ECON model as part of the base scenario. All these values come from the SAM:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cell | Source | Description |
| BaseConsumers | DEMOG | The total number of consumers in the local region at time 0. This number is used to size the economy, and calibrates a number of constants used subsequently. |
| BP.i | ECON | Base prices for sectors that have product: **goods**, **pop** and **black**. |
| BX.i.j | ECON | Base case money flows from sector *j* to sector *i*. This includes the base values computed in the **actors** sector. |
| BQD.i.j | ECON | Base case quantities demanded in the **goods**, **pop** and **black** sectors. |
| f.i.j | ECON | Cobb-Douglas coefficients for the pertinent sectors. |
| t.i.j | ECON | Tax-like rates for the pertinent sectors. |
| A.i.j | ECON | Leontief coefficients for the pertinent sectors. |
| k.goods | ECON | After tax fraction of sales in the **goods** sector. |
| k.pop | ECON | After tax fraction of sales in the **pop** sector. |
| FAA | ECON | Amount of foreign aid to the **actors** sector. |
| FAR | ECON | Amount of foreign aid to the **region** sector. |
| BEXPORTS.i | ECON | Amount of exports from the **goods**, **pop** and **black** sectors. |
| BA.goods.pop | ECON | Base case per capita demand for goods. |
| Bgraft | ECON | Base case graft, the amount skimmed off FAR by the actors sector. |
| BREM | ECON | Base case remittances. |

### Run-time Inputs

The following input values are plugged into the CGE by the ECON model at each "tock", that is, at each update of the CGE as time passes (the “::” notation is a software construct, it can be thought of, for purposes of this document, as part of the cell name):

| **Cell** | **Source** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| In::Consumers | DEMOG | The number of consumers in the local region at the current time. This number drives consumption, which determines the size of the unconstrained economy. |
| In::LF | DEMOG | The number of workers in the local economy at the current time. This number determines the production constraint for the **pop** sector, and also drives the computation of unemployment. |
| In::LSF | ECON,  Ground | The Labor Security Factor, a number from 0.0 to 1.0. The LSF decreases with neighborhood security; (1-LSF) is the fraction of the work force that stays home from work out of fear for their lives. Thus, this number also affects the production constraint for the **pop** sector. |
| In::CSF | ECON,  Ground | The Consumer Security Factor, a number from 0.0 to 1.0. The CSF decreases with neighborhood security; (1-CSF) is the fraction of consumers that stay home out of fear for their lives. Thus, this number also affects the production constraint for the **pop** sector. |
| In::Subsisters | DEMOG | The number of people actually engaged in subsistence agriculture. These people are not part of the **pop** sector, since they do not make real wages. They do, however, contribute to GDP based upon the subsistence agriculture wage, BaseSubWage. |
| In::X.world.actors,  In::X.region.actors,  In::X.goods.actors,  In::X.black.actors,  In::X.pop.actors | ECON | Based upon each actors strategies and overhead spending, these are the aggregate money flows from the **actors** sector to the various other sectors. |

### Outputs

The CGE produces the following output values.

| **Cell** | **Used By** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Out::P.*i* | Display | The price of one unit of sector *i*, in dollars. |
| Out::QS.*i* | Display | The quantity supplied for sector i, i.e., the number of units produced. |
| Out::REV.*i* | Display | The revenue of sector *i*, that is, Out::P*i*\*Out::QS.*i* in dollars. |
| Out::EXP.*i* | Display | The expense of sector *i*, that is, the dollars spent on the ingredients for the product of sector *i*. |
| Out::QD.*i.j* | Display | The quantity of sector *j*'s output purchased by sector *i*. |
| Out::X.*i.j* | Display | The dollars spent by sector *i* on sector *j'*s output. |
| Out::LATENTDEMAND.*i* | Display | The additional quantity of sector *i'*s product that the economy would purchase if it could be produced. (**goods**, **pop** and **black** only) |
| Out::IDLECAP.*i* | Display | The additional quantity of sector *i'*s product that the sector could produce if only there were demand for it. (**goods**, **pop** and **black** only) |
| Out::SHORTAGE.*i* | Display | Shortages in sector *i.* This is the amount in demand minus the amount in supply. |
| Out::Unemployment | Display | The number of workers who are currently unemployed, including normal turbulence. |
| Out::UR | DEMOG | The unemployment rate, as a percentage. |
| Out::GDP | Display | The Gross Domestic Product, in dollars: the total revenue of the economy, excluding the **world** sector. |
| Out::CPI | Display | The Consumer Price Index, which measures changes in buying power since the start of the simulation. |
| Out::DGDP | Display | The Deflated Gross Domestic Product, i.e., the GDP divided by the CPI. This is the current size of the economy, in "time 0" dollars. |

### Ways to Affect the Economy

The Economy is affected at each economic tock by the inputs listed in Section 11.9. Consequently, the following things taking place in Athena as a whole will affect the economy:

* Civilian casualties can decrease the number of consumers and workers.
* Subsistence population, when displaced from their land, willy-nilly become consumers; they might not be able to contribute to the work force, depending on the manner of their displacement.
* When a civilian group's security in a neighborhood decreases, workers stay home out of fear, thus reducing the effective size of the work force. This is measured by the Labor Security Factor (LSF).
* When a civilian group's security in a neighborhood decreases, consumers stay home out of fear, thus reducing the number of people buying goods. This is measured by the Consumer Security Factor (CSF).
* Each neighborhood's Production Capacity Factor can be increased or decreased, reflecting building of new plant or destruction of existing plant with the consequent effect on CAP.goods.
* Actors strategies change which may, in turn, change how their money is spent on the other sectors. Actors may also become bankrupt which means they cannot afford strategies that cost money.

### Ways the Economy Affects Athena

There are many ways in which the economy *should* affect Athena; at present, the only implemented effects are:

* Unemployment on the civilian population. This is done in the Demographic model. See Section 10.
* Income to actors may be affected by changes in revenue in the sectors from which they draw income.
* Income to actors may be affected if black market profits can be diminished.

## Communications Infrastructure

Athena contains a simple model of broadcast communications infrastructure, as an adjunct to the information operations model (Section 13). The model conflates all forms of broadcast media, with an emphasis on coverage areas; in short, by choosing a broadcast outlet, an actor chooses an audience. This section describes the communications infrastructure model in detail.

### Communications Asset Packages

A *communications asset package* (CAP), is a collection of hardware, personnel, and other infrastructure that in some way affects communications to and among the civilian population. Examples of CAPs include newspapers, television stations, the cellular telephone network, the Internet, websites of various kinds, and so forth. For Athena 4 we focus strictly on the broadcast usage mode, and (except in the simplest possible way) we ignore damage to, repair and maintenance of, and investment in, the actual infrastructure. This allows us to take a simple view of CAPs for the near term.

### CAP Capacity

Each CAP *k* has a capacity value, denoted , where . This indicates the CAP's degree of repair. When , the CAP is fully functional; when

, the CAP is non-functional.

defaults to 1.0, and is changed only at the analyst's request. In particular, the analyst may write an **EXECUTIVE** tactic to change a CAP's capacity using the **CAP:CAPACITY** order.[[79]](#footnote-80) This is a proxy for a more detailed infrastructure model.

In particular, if an actor wishes to shut down a CAP, and is (in the analyst’s view) in a position to do so, the actor may use an **EXECUTIVE** tactic to reduce the CAP’s capacity to 0.0.

### CAP Neighborhood Coverage

Every CAP has a coverage area: the neighborhoods in which it can be heard (including partial neighborhoods). If the CAP is a web site, this would be every neighborhood with internet access; if the CAP is a traditional television station, this would be every neighborhood in range of the station's transmitter.

Thus, we define to be the fraction of the people in neighborhood *n* who can in theory receive messages from CAP *k*; thus, the values for for CAP *k* define *k*’s coverage area. The CAPs that are likely to be of interest cover many neighborhoods, so the value of this metric will usually be 1.0. However, numbers less than 1.0 may be appropriate for large neighborhoods or for neighborhoods on the fringe of a CAP’s coverage area.

is a scenario input.

### CAP Group Penetration

Just because a CAP's signal can reach everyone in a neighborhood doesn't mean that everyone in the neighborhood pays attention. Thus, we define to be CAP *k*’s market penetration into group *g*, i.e., the fraction of the people in group *g* that will watch, listen to, or read messages that are offered by CAP *k*, given the opportunity.

is a scenario input.

### CAP Audience

The primary output of the CAP model is CAP *k*’s audience, denoted : the fraction of group *g* that receives and understands messages transmitted by CAP *k* (independent of the message content). is computed as follows:

In other words, if the CAP is in good repair () and has complete coverage of a given neighborhood (), then the CAP's audience in the neighborhood is simply that fraction of each group in the neighborhood that pays attention to that CAP. If the neighborhood coverage is less than one, the audience decreases accordingly; and if the CAP's capacity is reduced, the audience decreases accordingly.

**Note:** in earlier memos, and in the Athena 4 code, the variable , called the "CAP coverage", was used instead. This caused confusion with the neighborhood coverage, , and so the term was adopted late in the development cycle.

### Broadcast Cost

Each CAP *k* has a broadcast cost, , in dollars per message per week. An actor must pay this cost in order to send a message via CAP *k* during a given week.[[80]](#footnote-81)

### CAP Ownership and Access Control

Each CAP is owned by some actor in the scenario, and of course the owning actor may use his CAPs to broadcast his information operations campaigns (Section 13) as he pleases. Often, however (as when a CAP is owned by a party outside the region of interest), an actor will need to make use of CAPs belonging to others. Thus, we need a model of access control.

The owner of a broadcast CAP can choose to grant access to other actors, or alternatively to block access. In practice there can be many forces acting on the owner of the CAP that will determine whether or not he chooses to grant access, or is forced to grant access. To take one example, consider a small town newspaper. Suppose that a warlord takes control of the entire town. Can the warlord force the CAP owner to grant him access? Possibly; or possibly the CAP owner might choose to destroy the CAP’s infrastructure. Or, possibly, the warlord might seize the CAP and its infrastructure, thus effectively becoming the new owner.

Rather than trying to model relationships between actors, we model their behavior:

* The warlord can use an **EXECUTIVE** tactic with the **CAP:UPDATE** order to make himself the owner of the CAP. As owner, he automatically has all of the access he needs.
* The CAP owner can use the **GRANT** tactic to give other actors access to a given CAP or set of CAPs.
* Whether these tactics are executed will depend on the attached conditions. Thus, the CAP owner might choose to grant access to the warlord if and only if the warlord controls the neighborhood containing the CAP.[[81]](#footnote-82)

See the *Athena Analyst's Guide* and on-line help for information on tactics and orders.

## Information Operations

Actors can use *information operations campaigns* to affect civilian attitudes. In particular:

* An actor may send an *information operations message* (IOM) via a *communications asset package* (CAP).
* The IOM will be heard by the audience of the chosen CAP (see Section 12.5).
* The IOM consists of:
  + A description: a brief English-language statement of the message, as an aid to the analyst.
  + A *semantic hook*, by which it appeals to the groups in the CAP's audience.
  + One or more *payloads*, by which it affects specific attitudes.
* The IOM results in attitude inputs to URAM. These inputs depend on:
  + The audience.
  + The *resonance* of the semantic hook with the audience.
  + The relationship of the audience with the actor perceived to be sending the IOM.
  + The payloads.

An Athena IOM is a highly abstract creature. A real-world IOM can be a smoothly produced piece of work with significant informational and emotional content. Athena is not able to parse and understand even the informational content, let alone the choice of colors, graphics, music, timing, and so forth in a typical radio, television or magazine spot. It is up to the analyst to analyze the message and its effects into terms that Athena can do something with.

The following subsections will define the semantic hook and the payloads, and how the actual effect is determined. Finally, Section TBD gives a complete example. The example presumes the material that precedes it; nevertheless, it might be useful to refer to it before proceeding.

### Semantic Hooks, Congruence, and Resonance

An IOM captures an audience by appealing to the audience's beliefs. We use the Theory of Homophily[[82]](#footnote-83) to assert that the group will accept the payload to the extent that there is a high degree of resonance between the group’s beliefs and the semantic hook. Thus, a semantic hook is just a set of positions on one or more belief system topics, using the same scale as is used when defining a group or actor’s position on a topic. The topics used in a hook may include those used for computing group-to-group and group-to-actor affinity; however, it is also possible to define additional topics purely for use in semantic hooks. (See Section 4.1 and the discussion of the Mars Affinity Model in the *Mars Analyst's Guide* for more information about belief systems and affinity.)

A semantic hook may be more or less congruent with a given civilian group’s belief system, as described in the *Mars Analyst's Guide*. Looking only at the topics included in the hook, we compute the civilian group’s affinity with the beliefs expressed in the hook. We call this affinity-like measure the *congruence* of the hook with the group’s belief system.

There is one additional input needed to compute the congruence. In its belief system, each group and actor has its *entity commonality fraction*: its degree of participation in the dominant culture in the playbox. The semantic hook’s entity commonality derives from the perceived source of the IOM, as discussed in Section 13.3.

We denote the congruence of message *m*'s hook with group *g'*s belief system This is later used to compute resonance, as described in Section 13.3.2.

### Payloads

Every IOM has one or more payloads: attitude effects on the receiving civilians. The payloads are specified by the analyst, and Athena determines (based on the choice of CAP, the perceived source of the IOM, the hook, the payloads themselves, and the recipient) the actual magnitude of the effect.

At present, there are four payload types; each identifies a particular set of the recipient’s attitudes to modify, and a nominal magnitude by which to modify them. When the message is broadcast, the payloads are applied to the civilian groups *f* covered by the CAP.

Cooperation Payload (COOP)

The COOP payload affects civilian group *f’*s cooperation with some specific force group *g*.

Horizontal Relationship Payload (HREL)

The HREL payload affects civilian group *f’*s horizontal relationship with some specific group *g*, of any group type.

Satisfaction Payload (SAT)

The SAT payload affects civilian group *f’*s satisfaction with some specific concern *c*.

Vertical Relationship Payload (VREL)

The VREL payload affects civilian group *f’*s vertical relationship with some specific actor *a*.

Each payload has a nominal magnitude *mag*, stated using one of Athena’s usual magnitude symbols, and representing a percentage change in the attitude curve from its current level toward the relevant extreme, i.e., a 5.0 point change moves a satisfaction level 5% of the way toward +100.0.

It might seem odd that the analyst must enter the magnitude of the change. As noted in Section 13, however, a real-world IOM has informational and emotional content that Athena simply cannot assess. Establishing the magnitude for each payload is part of the analysis the analyst must do while defining the IOM. Note, however, that the payload magnitude is only a nominal magnitude. It must be adjusted by the CAP coverage, the resonance of the semantic hook, and the regard of the recipient group for the perceived sender, as described in Section 13.3, before it is given to URAM.

### Broadcasting an IOM

Actor broadcast IOMs using the **BROADCAST** tactic, which has the following parameters:

* The CAP by which the IOM will be broadcast.
* The Perceived Source.
* The IOM to broadcast.
* The production cost.

The CAP and IOM have been described above.

**Perceived Source.** The Perceived Source is the actor who will be seen as the source of the IOM, the actor who is trying to influence public opinion. This might be the same as the True Source, the actor who executes the BROADCAST tactic; it might be some other actor; or there might be no Perceived Source, as when an IOM is seen as straight reporting.

The True Source might very well wish to hide their identity, and make it look like the IOM is coming from some other source. Athena does not attempt to adjudicate this. Rather, it is up to the analyst to decide which actor (if any) will be perceived as the source, whether this perception accords with the True Source’s wishes or not.

**Production Cost.** The cost of broadcasting an IOM is assumed to have two components: the production cost and the transmission cost. The transmission cost is a function of the chosen CAP; the CAP’s cost per message per week is part of the CAP’s definition. However, the cost of producing the message for transmission is a function both of the message itself and of the medium by which it is broadcast, and can’t be defined as simply a part of either CAP or the IOM. Thus, we allow the analyst to enter it here.

Note that the magnitude of the production cost affects only the resources consumed by the broadcast, not how effective the broadcast is. That is determined by the payload magnitudes.

Because different media have different production costs, and different CAPs may have different media types, it may be necessary to define multiple versions of an IOM that is intended for use in multiple media. Alternatively, the analyst can set the production costs to $0 and assume that production is part of the transmission cost.

#### Access to the Broadcast CAP

An actor may always broadcast using his own CAPs; however, CAP ownership can change and access to CAPs belonging to other actors can be granted or revoked as the result of strategy execution, and hence the IOMs cannot actually be broadcast until after strategy execution has concluded. At that time Athena broadcasts all IOMs for which the sending actor has access to the chosen CAP. If an actor's IOM cannot be broadcast on the chosen CAP then the money he spent on it is refunded.

#### IOM Acceptability

When IOM *m* is successfully broadcast, we next determine the acceptability of the IOM to each group *g* in the audience of the CAP used to broadcast the IOM, that is, each group *g* for which , where

where

*m* = The IOM

*g* = A group in the CAP's audience

*a* = The actor perceived to have sent the IOM

= The resonance of the IOM's semantic hook with group *g*

= The regard ofgroup *g* for actor *a*.

**Resonance.** The purpose of the IOM's semantic hook is to catch the civilians in the audience; the greater the value of , the more civilians are caught. However, we can't use congruence directly, as (being an affinity value) it ranges from −1.0 to +1.0. While it is possible that negative values of congruence should negate the attitude effects of the payloads, this effect should be muted. Hence, we define the resonance of the message as

where is a Z-curve with default parameters *lo*=0.0, *a*=0.0, *b*=0.6*,* and *hi*=1.0.[[83]](#footnote-84) With these settings, groups ignore messages with negative congruence, and a message achieves a resonance of 1.0 for any congruence greater than 0.6. The parameters can be adjusted to give negative congruence a slightly negative effect, as shown in the following graph:

*hi*

*lo*

*a*

*b*

+1.0

+1.0

–1.0

–1.0

0

0

*congruencegm*

*resonancegm*

**Regard.** A group's willingness to be affected by messages from an actor depends on how much they trust that actor; we use the vertical relationship as a proxy for that trust. Like congruence, ranges from −1.0 to +1.0, which is too broad a range; if a group has no trust at all for the sending actor, should be zero. As it happens, our *relationship multiplier functions*, defined in the *Mars Analyst's Guide*, were designed for exactly this purpose. Using the rationale that messages should be able to affect even those who hate the perceived source to some extent, but that friends should be affected much more suggests using the **frmore** function.

However, the group might not know the source. Messages ascribed to anonymous sources are not ignored; in fact, a great deal of credence is usually given to what "everyone says." Thus, we define as follows:

#### Payload Magnitudes

Each payload affects a particular set of attitude curves, as described in the *Athena User's Guide*, and has a nominal magnitude *M* chosen by the analyst. The analyst chooses *M* using one of the same magnitude symbols (e.g., **XL+**) used in the *Athena Rules* document to state the effect of various rule sets. The analyst should choose *M* based on the following assumptions:

* The IOM will be completely acceptable () to the targeted group.
* The IOM will have 2/3rds coverage of the targeted group.

The actual magnitude given to URAM by the IOM rule set is then

where defaults to 2/3rds.[[84]](#footnote-85) This is consistent with the use of coverage in the activity situation rule sets.

#### Summary

Thus, when an IOM *m* is successfully broadcast via CAP *k*, Athena does the following:

For each group *g* in *k*'s audience:

Compute

For each payload in *m*

Compute the magnitude, .

Give inputs to URAM for each attitude curve affected by the payload.

### IOM Example

TBD: Possibly this example should go in the *Athena User's Guide*.

The small country of Elitia is divided into two provinces, Elitia proper and Peonia, with one major city, the Capital. There are two significant ethnic groups in Elitia, the Elitians and the Peons. The provinces are predominantly rural. Elitia is inhabited only by Elitians, and Peonia only by Peons, while the Capital is inhabited by both. Thus, we have four civilian groups: Urban and Rural Elitians (ELU and ELR), and Urban and Rural Peons (PEONU and PEONR).

There are three significant actors in the country: the Government Party (GOV), which dominates the country and consist mostly of Elitians; the Peonian Liberation Front (PELF), which is working toward Peonian independence and a democratic Peonian state; and the Elitian People’s Party (EPP) which is trying to break the Government Party’s stranglehold on the state and bring about a democratic revolution. The EPP is weakly in favor of Peonian independence, but mostly because PELF activities keep government forces focused on Peonia and out of Elitia, the EPP stronghold.

The rural Elitians are great dog breeders, and love their dogs very much; the Elitian Hound is the mascot of the EPP, and government forces have been increasingly aggressive toward dogs when putting down protests. Hence, the EPP might wish to broadcast the following IOM with the intent of decreasing support for the Government Party:

**Gov’t ministers eat puppies for breakfast!**

It is up to the analyst to take this description, and turn it into a semantic hook and one or more payloads.

One of the belief system topics is **DOGS**; actors and civilians can be for or against dogs. Both the EPP and the rural Elitians are passionately for **DOGS**, and this forms our semantic hook:

**DOGS: Passionately For**

Note that this topic need not have any role in determining group and group/actor affinities; but it is something that the civilian groups care more or less about, and which can be used to hook them.

Next, we must determine the payload. In the context of Elitian politics, these are some likely ones: the rural Elitians will support the government less, like the Elitian army less (because it’s a tool of the government), cooperate with the army less, and feel that their ancient dog-breeding culture is being denigrated.

* **Change vertical relationships with GOV by XXL−**
* **Change horizontal relationships with the ARMY by L−**
* **Change cooperation with the ARMY by L−**
* **Change satisfaction with CUL by XL−**

Note that the analyst must specify the nominal magnitude of each effect. This is because the effect of a real-world IOM depends on many factors, only a few of which are visible to Athena. Is the content of the message about something vitally important, or about something small? Is the message well written and produced, or is it lacking? Thus, the payload magnitudes reflect the analyst’s own assessment about the importance of the message content and the quality of production. Athena can then go on to assess the relative effects of the message on the recipients given the congruence of the semantic hook with their beliefs.

Eventually the EPP elects to send this message using their party newspaper, the Dog-Breeder’s Digest. They write it up as straight reporting, but the analyst determines that everyone who receives it will know that the Digest is an EPP publication, and sets EPP as the perceived source of the message. (They’d get wider circulation with a television spot, and might be able to present a more powerful message, but the state television station is controlled by the Government, and is too expensive besides.)

The Digest has wide circulation in Elitia, reaching 85% of the population; it is less widely read in the Capital, where it reaches 25% of the urban Elitians. Peons are generally cat people, and having their own concerns tend to ignore the Digest completely, though a few of the urban Peons read it just to keep an eye on things.

The semantic hook has high congruence with the beliefs of rural Elitians, and hence has a high resonance. The urban Elitians are much less in favor of dogs, having mostly left Elitia for the city to get away from them; still, they do not hate dogs, and so the hook has a low but not zero resonance with them. The urban Peons are against dogs, and hence the hook has no resonance with them at all.

Rural Elitians have a high vertical relationship with and hence high regard for the EPP. Only a vanishingly small fraction of urban Elitians have power in the government (even though many of them are government employees); hence, many of them secretly support the EPP even if not very strongly. Regard is low, but positive.

Thus, the above payloads will have a strong effect on the rural Elitians, a weak effect on the urban Elitians, and no effect on any of the Peons.

The Government Party, faced with a public relations disaster, orders its troops to stoop killing dogs, and puts out its own message, which might be stated as follows:

**Gov’t ministers are dog owners; only cat owners hate the government!**

This message might have a more complex semantic hook:

**DOGS: Weakly For**

**CATS: Passionately Against**

**GOVT: Strongly For**

And naturally it will have payloads intended to increase support for the Government Party and its forces, and decrease support for the PELF. The effect might not be what was intended, however. The hook fails to catch the rural Elitians, who are passionately for dogs, don’t care much about cats either way, and truly hate the government. The urban Elitians, who are the real target of the message, are only weakly caught. They are weakly for dogs themselves, but they are only weakly against cats (associating them with the lower class urban Peons), and they are only weakly for the current government. Thus, resonance is low. Further, their vertical relationship with GOV is rather lower than it could be, so their regard is low, too. The message will go some way to propping up the current regime, but is unlikely to be terribly effective.

(The Peons, naturally, reject the government and its anti-cat message; and expecting nothing better from these evil tyrants, are not affected at all.)

# Appendices

## Acronyms

AAM Athena Attrition Model

AUT Autonomy (concern)

CIV Civilian

CMO Civil/Military Operations

CTR Contractor

CUL Culture (concern)

DAM Driver Assessment Model

ECDA Expected Collateral Damage per Attack

ECDC Expected Collateral Damager per NF Casualty

ELER Expected Loss Exchange Ratio

FRC Force

GRAM Generalized Regional Attitude Model

IED Improvised Explosive Device

IGO International or Inter-Governmental Organization

JNEM Joint Non-lethal Effects Model

LER Loss Exchange Ratio

LFF Labor Force Fraction

MAD Magic Attitude Driver

MAG Mars Analyst's Guide

NF Non-uniformed Force

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

ORG Organization

QOL Quality of Life (concern)

ROE Rules Of Engagement

S&RO Stability & Recovery Operations

SFT Safety (concern)

UF Uniformed Force

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

1. i.e., knowledgeable about both the problem domain and Athena’s models. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. When installed on the Windows operating system, this documentation is also available from the Windows start menu. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Athena uses neighborhoods as homogeneous bins; map coordinates and distances are of interest only for visualization and have no effect on the model results. This may change in future versions. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Note that Athena does not directly model the effect of foreign actions on US civilian attitudes, but “magic” attitude inputs could be used for this purpose. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Or models! Stability has social, economic, and political dimensions. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. In Athena 3.1 there is only one demsit type, Unemployment; see the *Athena Rules* document for details. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Static, that is, unless magic attitude drivers (MADs) are used to change them. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Model parameter: control.support.vrelMin, nominally 0.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Model parameter: control.support.Zsecurity [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. See the *Athena User’s Guide* for specifics about tactic types. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Model parameter: control.support.min , nominally 0.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. We will make this notion more precise below. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Model Parameter: control.threshold, nominally 0.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Model parameter: force.maxAttackingStance, nominally −0.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Model parameters: force.discipline.\*. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Model parameters: force.law.suitability.\*. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. It is true that different kinds of force group are trained for different things; however, this is accounted for under suitability. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Model parameters: force.law.efficiency.\*. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Model parameters: force.law.beta.\*. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. See Section 6 for more on coverage functions. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Model parameters: force.law.coverage.\*. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Model parameters: force.law.crimfrac.\*. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Model parameter: force.law.suppfrac [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Model parameter: force.population. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Model parameter: force.demeanor.\*. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. See the *Mars Analyst's Guide* for the computation of mood. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Model parameter: force.mood. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Model parameters: force.orgtype.\*. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Model parameters: force.forcetype.\* [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Model parameters: force.alpha.\* [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Model parameter: force.proximity. An appropriate value of *h* should be selected during exercise construction to reflect the criteria used for selection of neighborhood boundaries. Normally, a playbox with large neighborhoods would have a smaller value for *h* than one with small neighborhoods. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Model parameter: force.volatility [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Ideally, the nature of each unit would also be taken into account, at least at the level of "boots, wheels, or tracks," i.e., the number of personnel on foot, in wheeled vehicles, and in tracked vehicles. Tanks tear up the pavement, for example, and thus should have an increased negative effect on QOL. At present, Athena does not model units to this level of detail. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Model parameter database, activity.FRC.\* [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Model parameter: activity.ORG.\* [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. In future versions, actors may also be able to interfere with the provision of a service. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Services that require infrastructure are significantly more complicated; and moreover, each kind of service is likely to require its own unique infrastructure model. Thus, for this version we have limited ourselves to the simplest case. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Model Parameter: service.ENI.beta.*urbanization*, nominally 1.0 for all urbanization levels. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Model Parameter: service.ENI.saturationCost.*urbanization*. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Model parameter: service.eni.minSupport, nominally 0.0. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Model parameters: service.ENI.alphaA, service.ENI.alphaX. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Model parameter: service.ENI.delta, nominally 0.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Model parameter: service.ENI.required.urbanization. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Model parameter: service.ENI.gainNeeds. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. Model parameter: service.ENI.gainExpect. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. This table is defined in the code using the qcredit(n) quality type. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. At Athena's timescale, most crowd-related phenomena are events rather than situations. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. We are ignoring civilian and organization group "forces" for the time being. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Each force group has a cost per attack, set as part of the scenario by the analyst. The force group cannot attack without the required funds. [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. Computed in-line using a coverage function; model parameter: aam.UFvNF.UF.coverageFunction [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. Model parameter: aam.UFvNF.UF.nominalCoverage e.g., 0.3 (depends on what would be expected as average in this scenario) [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Computed in-line using a coverage function; model parameter: aam.UFvNF.NF.coverageFunction. This is identical to the default COERCION coverage function. [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. Model parameter: aam.UFvNF.NF.nominalCoverage, e.g., 0.4 [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. Model parameter: aam.UFvNF.UF.timeToFind, e.g., 5 days [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. For now, this is a model parameter, aam.UFvNF.NF.cellSize, e.g., 7 NF/cell in every neighborhood. Later, it might be allowed to vary by group and by neighborhood. [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. Model parameter: aam.UFvsNF.UF.nominalCooperation, e.g., 35 % [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Model parameter: aam.UFvsNF.ECDA.*urbanization*, e.g., 1 in rural, 3 in suburban, and 5 in urban. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Each force group has a cost per attack, set as part of the scenario by the analyst. The force group cannot attack without the required funds. [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. Ideally, the number of attacks should depend on the NF's resources, so that attacking the resources will reduce the number of attacks. Our notion is that the nominal number of attacks is determined by a Z-curve whose X-axis is a measure of the resources available to the NF. The currently envisioned model is that this measure is the weighted sum of the economic clout of the actors that have influence over the NF, weighted by the relationships between the NF and the actors. All this must wait until a later spiral, however. For now, the attack rate per day is part of the NF's attacking ROE. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Model parameter: aam.NFvsUF.*roe*.nominalCooperation, e.g., 50%. [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. Model parameter: aam.NFvsUF.UF.coverageFunction, e.g., {25 1000}. [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. Model parameter: aam.NFvsUF.UF.nominalCoverage, e.g., 0.2 [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. Model parameter, aam.NFvsUF.*roe*.ELER, e.g., 0.33 for HIT\_AND\_RUN, 3.0 for STAND\_AND\_FIGHT. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Model parameter, aam.NFvsUF.*roe*.MAXLER, e.g., 0.25 for HIT\_AND\_RUN, 4.0 for STAND\_AND\_FIGHT. [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Model parameter, aam.NFvsUF.HIT\_AND\_RUN.ufCasualties, e.g., 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Model parameter, aam.NFvsUF.STAND\_AND\_FIGHT.nfCasualties, e.g., 20 [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. Model parameter: aam.NFvsUF.ECDC.*urbanization*, e.g., 0.1 for RURAL, 0.15 for SUBURBAN, 0.2 for URBAN [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. Model parameters: dam.CIVCAS.Zsat [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. Model parameter: dam.CIVCAS.Zcoop [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. By "labor force" we mean that portion of the population that seeks to be employed, whether they are in fact employed or not. [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
71. demog.laborForceFraction.NONE, nominally 0.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
72. Actors may have up to two forms of income from the black market: a tax-like rate on gross revenue and shares of net revenue. [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
73. See “Athena’s CGE Model” by Chamberlain, Duquette and Kahovec included with the Athena documentation. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
74. The cell variable names all begin with ‘*B’* to indicate that these are “base” values used to initialize Athena’s Computable Equilibrium Model (CGE) when the scenario is locked [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
75. See “Athena’s CGE Model” by Chamberlain, Duquette and Kahovec included with the Athena documentation. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
76. econ.shares.*tt.i* is the family of parameters where *tt* is tactic type or “overhead” and *i* is the sector. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
77. An expenditure class is a tactic type (ASSIGN, DEPLOY, etc…)or “overhead”. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
78. The pop sector can be thought of as having a production function, but more accurately, labor is not a product, and people are not driven by technology. Rather, they choose how they are going to spend their income. Assuming they maximize a Cobb-Douglas utility function produces the same result as if the labor were driven by a Cobb-Douglas production function: the sector will spend fixed proportions of its money on each of those three sectors. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
79. See the *Athena User's Guide* and on-line help for details on orders and tactics. [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
80. Given the wide variety of CAPs in the real world, and the vastly different economics of running a television station vs. a newspaper vs. a website, it is difficult to come up with a one-size-fits-all cost model that truly makes sense. Hence, our goal here is simplicity, in accordance with the Metivier Principle. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
81. Because CAPs do not yet have explicit infrastructure, they do not yet have home neighborhoods. However, the identity of the CAP’s neighborhood is presumably known to the analyst, and can be used when defining the conditions on the GRANT tactic. [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
82. The “Theory of Homophily” may have a good formal definition somewhere, but we have not taken the time to search the literature to find it. Wikipedia defines homophily as “the tendency of individuals to associate and bind with similar others.” We are extending the notion beyond willingness to associate with other people to willingness to associate with other ideas. Wikipedia says the “original formulation” was in [Lazarsfeld 1954] and that [McPherson 2001] is an “extensive review paper”. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
83. Model parameter: dam.IOM.Zresonance. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
84. Model parameter: dam.IOM.nominalCAPcov. [↑](#footnote-ref-85)