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Queue-based quantitative approach for border guard operational modelling. Constructive simulator models reflecting border crossings and blockade elements.

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Abstract. The paper presents selected modelling techniques utilised in constructive simulation environment SymSG Border Tactics, which provides tactical training capabilities for Polish Border Guard. Operational responsibilities of BG include policing as well as reconnaissance, transport and traffic control in near border areas. Modelling of such operations require multiresolution approach, as many of operational elements can be modelled as aggregated entities but majority of active simulation elements need to be implemented as individual simulation objects. The behavioural models reflecting BG, perpetrators or society have been modelled as agents and more complex operational elements (e.g. road blockades, control points during temporary restoration of the border control, border crossing) are modelled using queue system. Such approach delivers flexibility of system modelling but most of all is tuned to the calibration parameters provided by the BG analysts. Therefore, developed modelling approach provides flexibility in customisation of the model (simulation element) based on the user and scenario preferences. Constructive simulator has been designed to support brief (up to 4h) live exercises and reflect training of border guard outpost operational tasks. Finally the paper describes architectural solutions developed to support modelling approaches and required functionalities for simulation execution, after-action-review mechanism and remote simulation access.

1 Introduction and research motivation

SymSG Border Tactics [8] is composed of two simulation environments, which provide constructive and virtual types of simulation. The need for constructing two separate simulation modules, comes from separate operational requirements. The constructive simulator supports command level decision making,

performed in map module and SWK imitator (real command support system) used by border guard. The constructive module operates mainly on map view and requires from trainee implementation of decisions in form of tactical symbology [2],[3]. Constructive simulator [10],[11] supports major operational tasks connected with: border patrolling, disclosure of smuggling, blocking and pursuit operations, road checkpoints, border crossing control [1]. The

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simulator contains models reflecting active elements of border guard, police, military, perpetrators and community within given urban areas. The models have been developed according to behavioural models codified in border guard service guidelines. Command Post Constructive Simulator therefore requires operational elements acting as aggregated entities having internal, configurable and adjustable structure. The purpose of this research is to analyse the required behaviour of blockades, check points and border crossings, identify required features and propose measures defining operational processes [15]. The simulator needs to deliver construction of these models during execution of the exercises and calibration of the models during scenario construction. Utilised operational elements features, needed to be verified by BG experts in order to acknowledge their realisms and possibility to calculate them based on real world data gathered from BG decision support tools.

The main motivation for the paper is to present novel approach for modelling simulation entities reflecting stationary or temporal operational elements with complex internal structure and behaviour. Elaborated approach supports addition generation of internal events affecting the efficiency of executed elements' behaviours [10],[7]. Finally, we present implementation insights and map module creator application which supports configuration and monitoring of active elements (blockages, check points, border crossings).

2 SymSG simulator environment

The main objective of the project is to develop a multi-resolution simulation environment for conducting simulation exercises (including simulation verification of procedures and decisions taken by the managers of the Polish Border Guard). SymSG Border Tactics [8], [10] provides a comprehensive approach to training needs defined by the Border Guard Training Centre. The developing environment will offer support to the process of training shift managers

and officers practicing as Operation Commanders – action managers. Parallel to the preparation of the simulation system, training center (CSSG) [6] works are aimed at adjusting training programmes for Border Guard officers and managers, in which the simulation environment is used according to proposed CAX (Computer Assisted Exercises) methodology [10].

Border Guard tactical training environment consisting of:

- Command Post Constructive Simulator [CPCS] –Map Module + Simulation Engine + SWK C2 application + Communication module -IX TRL;
- High-Detail Virtual Simulator [HDVS] (virtual simulator based on VBS3 solution) – 3 functional scenarios -IX TRL;
- Elaborated and implemented Border Guard and supporting services behavioural models delivered as components for CPCS;
- Elaborated and implemented models of objects, equipment, weapons, vehicles, infrastructure delivered as components of HDVS;
- Utility tools for assessing simulation exercises and evaluating the efficiency of trainees – supplemented with After-Action-Review capabilities AAR;
- CAX Methodology – computer assisted exercises – guidelines for simulation environment utilisation in BG training and procedures research;

In order to support integration features an ESB (Enterprise Service Bus) integration environment has been adopted providing communication mechanisms and synchronisation of simulation system components. Additionally, HLA RTI environment [4],[10] has been provided and configured for possible future integration with external simulators interacting in joined CAX. The main task of the integration environment is to provide access to the synchronous and asynchronous communication infrastructure in the simulation environment in order to unify integration standards within the simulation environment (integration of environment

components) on the one hand and to provide mechanisms for integration of external simulation tools and IT systems, including other simulation systems.

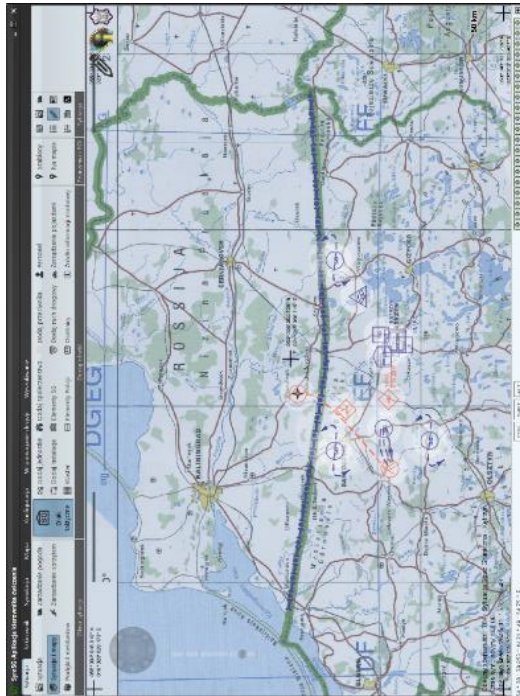


Fig. 1. Command Post Constructive Simulator [CPCS] view operating a simulation scenario in NE Poland involving forceful crossing of border followed by recognised terrorist threat

The simulation environment consists of set of initial 10 simulation scenarios (various size and time spectrum) approved by the experts and prepared based on the hypothetical episodes. The scenarios, reflect training needs at the level of the Shift Commanders and the Operation Coordinators.

The proposed simulation system solution is aimed at the integration of other simulation systems (police force, military combat simulator) reporting, decision support and communication applications. The innovation of applied integration approach is to provide interoperability capabilities for the environment do utilise external tools as interaction or event

generators, operational picture viewers or data editors.

The main objective of the project is to build novel, innovative tools (such as simulation environments) with tailored methodology for conducting CAX exercises delivering new means for efficient training. The project is a pioneer in providing a simulation system that integrates with main tool for managing border guard activities and registered events.

3 Model Requirements

The Polish Border Guard operations are mostly conducted in synchronized, sequenced patterns. A vehicle approaching border crossing need to wait for his turn to be serviced by Border Guard Officer and then by analogy wait for being processed by Customs Officer. Blockade elements work in similar manner. While driver is approaching blockade he can be spotted by observation point and then assigned to be stopped by the checkpoint. When the Border Guard Officers are busy controlling other vehicles the driver need to wait for his turn.

The main difference is that the border crossing is a static element, while blockade can be conducted dynamically on purpose. Patrol or a task group can be used, as a base for preparing the blockade elements including observation and controlling posts, blockade itself and for isolating a pursuit squad. This effects in the necessity of consideration of task group as a separate simulation agent. There are some possibilities that need to be considered while designing the operational element, e. g. the driver's escape or attempt to forcedly exceed border.

A number of these activities can be described as a FIFO (first-in-first-out) queues. This approach represents the real queue of travellers [13],[14]. The extraordinary, uncommon events like fire alarm or force exceeding border need to be treated in different manner as they change the standard flow of service by invoking specialized handling procedures. Elements of significant grouping are modelled as an aggregate.

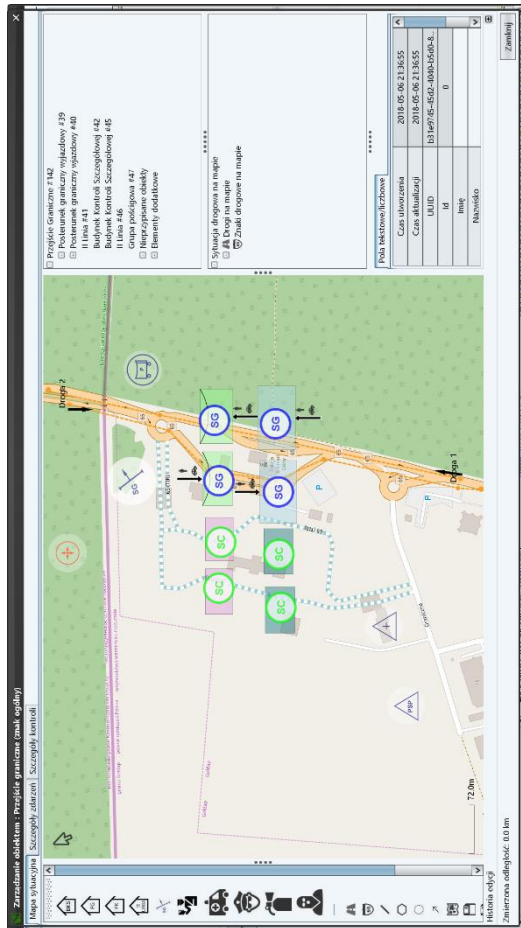


Fig. 2. Example of designed and built border crossing in SymSG simulation environment

The basis of action either of border crossing and blockade is traffic. The traffic is generated from nearby cities which must be set by the script writer during preparation of simulation scenario. These generators are the main determinant of intensity of input flow λ_1 .

4 Formal simulation model

In order to enhance the capabilities of queue-based approach [12],[14], some quantitative parameters were introduced. The queues were

designed as an entry point to simulation model so that each traffic object will be processed [9],[11]. Based on the border crossing structure [15], some points of service can be determined: entry gate, border guard control and customs control. Each post also has queues as an entry point what reflects real situation at border crossing as depicted on (Fig. 3).

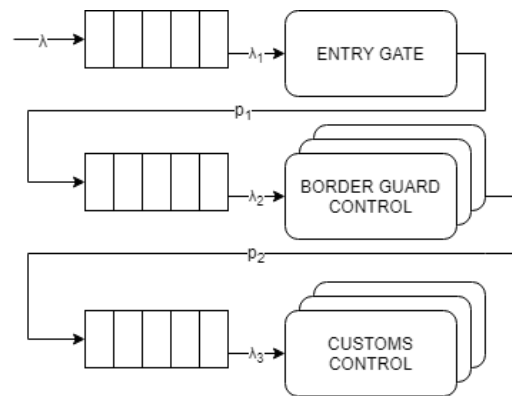


Fig. 3. Border crossing model and simulation flow

Presented diagram reflects standard flow of simulation when no special events occurred. The λ and λ_i symbols describe the intensity of inflow to significant queue while p_i parameters are probabilities of passing to following service slot. In order to provide more accurate model some optional elements were designed, e. g. second line or detailed control point as pictured (Fig.5). The entry gate buffer is unlimited in terms of capacity while the capacity of queues before border guard and customs control points can be configured using SymSG environment.

Similar approach has been applied for blockade elements modelling. There are several points of service discovered: observation post, controlling post, blockade and pursuit squad. Each of them can be described as queue-based element as seen on Fig. 5. Such approach allows also to handle uncommon events which can escape the whole flow or even be processed in parallel.

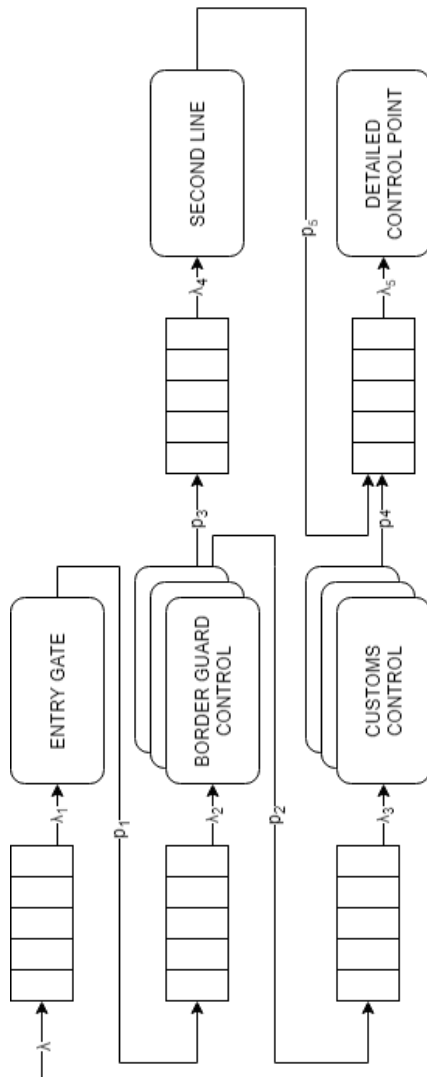


Fig. 4. Border crossing simulation flow enhanced by additional elements

The queues in blockade simulation model are designed with unlimited capacity in order to ensure that each event will be processed and each traffic object will need to be serviced.

The main advantage of queue-based [12] approach is the flexibility of modelling, ease at extension and no restrictions in application of

additional methods to support custom events handling.

The border crossing simulation model implements several non-standard actions. Basing on probability factors traffic objects can carry prohibited subjects including weapons, explosives, drugs etc.

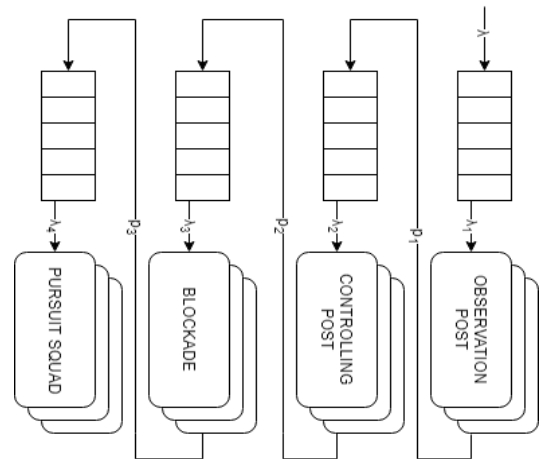


Fig. 5. Blockade model and simulation flow

Another significant functionality is that the model supports simulation of refugees and people smuggling including their aggressiveness and determination factors. When the border guard officer suspects some of these issues he forwards the traveller to second line which depending on type of abuse can process the event itself or pass it detailed control point.

The blockade elements simulation model is capable of supporting unusual events like fire alarms or luggage lost. However, one of the most important flow contains an escape trial. It can be conducted before each of the blockade elements. The traveller can event start to run away in the moment he sees the observation point which is rare because of the camouflage of observation post officers. Most common flee trials are taken during the control. The model support different behaviours of travellers decisions including forced passing the blockade or turning back before obstacle.

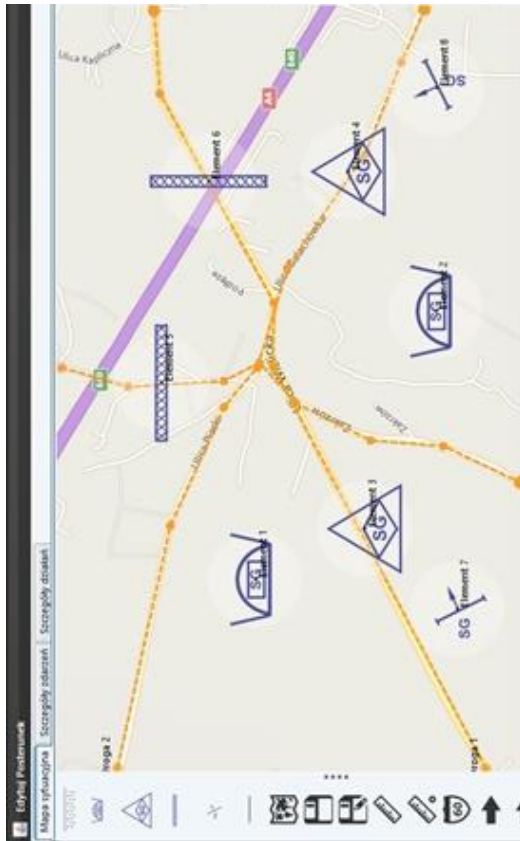


Fig. 6. Blockade elements overview in SymSG environment

When the suspect somehow passed one of these elements the pursuit squad is tasked to catch the opponent. The user of the simulation environment need to take care of logistic supplies including fuel or vehicle assignment to significant elements.

5 Implementation

Presented ideas were implemented in SymSG environment [10] using Java programming language utilising DisSim event-driven simulation engine (and its requirements). In order to provide efficient processing the event-driven simulation design pattern [7] was introduced. DisSim environment besides events provides also

wrappers called action and process. Action is a composition of two events – one at start and one in the end of processing. Process reflects repetition of same events in unit of time.

```
protected void transition() throws
SimControlException {
    List<Person> bguards =
        element.getBorderGuards();
    if (ListUtils.
        isEmpty(bguards)) {
        (...);
        return;
    }

    if (element.isClosed()) {
        (...);
        element.getQueue()
            .add(trafficObject);
        return;
    }
    for (Person p : bguards) {
        if (!p.isBusy()) {
            serveTrafficObject(p);
            return;
        }
        element.getQueue()
            .add(trafficObject);
    }
}
```

Lis. 1. Implementation of transition method of Border Guards control station in border crossing

Presented listings show the complexity of simulation models. Lis. 1 depicts the idea of pushing traffic objects to queue when there are no capabilities of serving. Whereas Lis. 2 addresses the problem of controlling simulation flow by sending significant events.

Border crossing as well as blockade elements were implemented mostly using Action objects in order to maintain high flexibility and readability of the proposed solution.

Queues were implemented using LinkedList to improve performance of removal and addition of elements. The improvement of insertion time in comparison to ArrayList implementation was estimated to about 22% while adding to existing list 100 new objects. Conducted efficiency tests show, that LinkedList performs more efficiently in terms of memory usage, especially while removing elements. The GarbageCollector

mechanism is not able to shrink the ArrayList empty areas. There was made an approach to setup initial ArrayList capacity to 1024 in order to avoid array expansion.

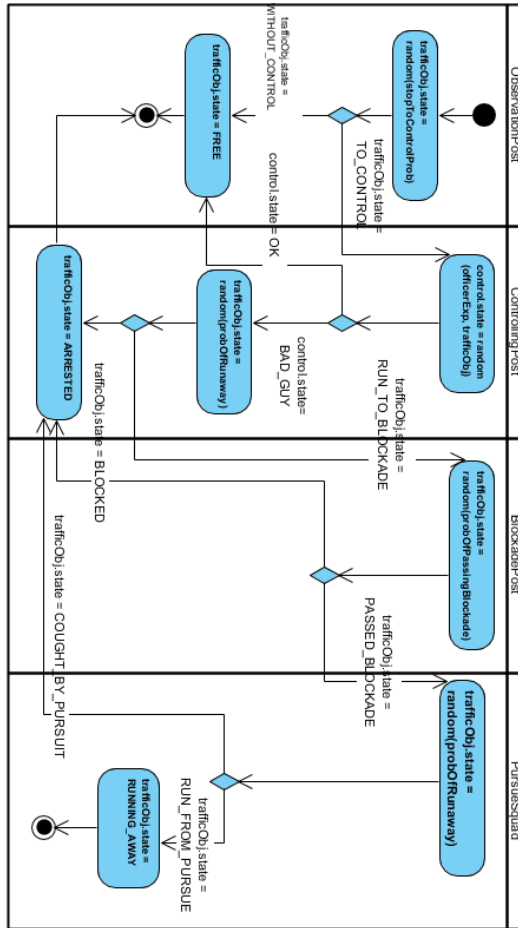


Fig. 7 Road blockade behavioural simulation model - behaviour of BG operational elements (groups of officers or individual actors) acting as active model nodes

It improved the time of insertion in first period of simulation but it caused higher memory usage because it is impossible to assess the required capacity not knowing the exact amount of traffic generator nests and their efficiency.

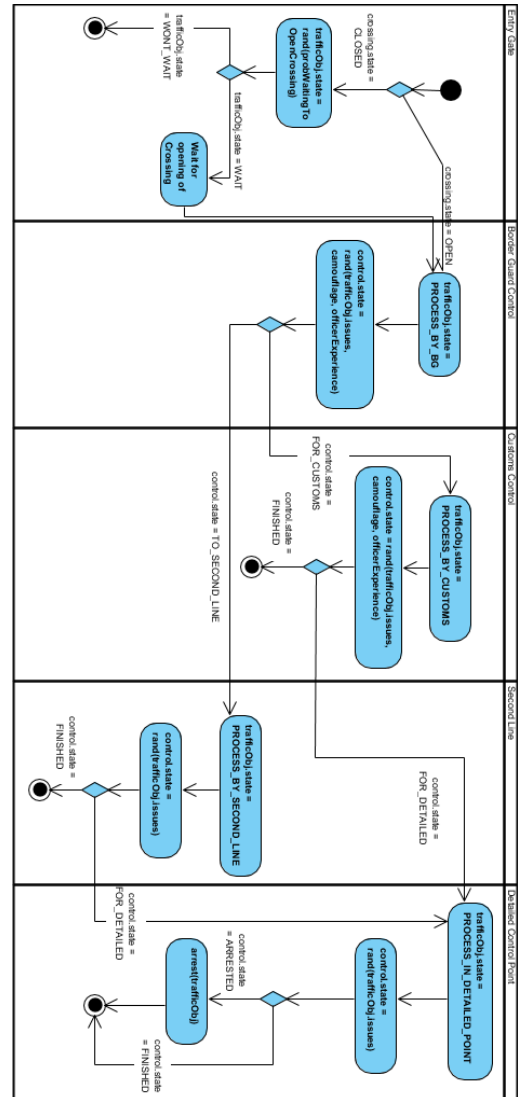


Fig. 8 Border Crossing behavioural simulation model - behavior of operational elements acting as active model nodes

```
protected void transition() throws
    SimControlException {
    if (randomizeIfTrafficObjectIs
        Caught()) {
    if (randomizeIfTrafficObjectFlee
        FromControl()) {
        trafficObjectFleeFromControl();
        element.setBusy(false);
    }
    }
}
```



```

        return;
    }
    catchTrafficObjectAtControl();
} else {
    trafficObjectPassesControl();
}
element.setBusy(false);
}

```

Lis. 2. Implementation of transition method of Controlling Post Officer within blockade

6 Evaluation environment

The architecture of developed software combines three main elements: a constructive simulator, a high-resolution simulator (virtual simulator) and an integration environment with support toolkit. Depicted simulation environment contains two modules: a constructive simulator which represents central component of the system aimed at training the Shift Supervisors and high-resolution (virtual) simulator which enhance the capabilities of exercise course of the officers responsible for command operations. The evaluation has been conducted using constructive simulation environment. The scenarios were prepared utilising built-in creators for blockade elements and border crossings. They have been persisted and reloaded for next evaluation passes. Measurements has been collected during 30 minutes of simulation. Each scenario has been run 5 times in order to provide adequate results. The generator nest has been configured with the same values in each of the scenarios. Probabilistic parametrization has been also constant during each of the evaluations.

7 Evaluation examples

Constructed models have been evaluated in order to estimate the adequacy of presented algorithms and to verify whether queue-based approach provides required configuration capabilities. The first stage of tests involved constructing prepared variants of BG structures: road blockades, check points and border crossings. The second stage of

tests verified the adequacy of models that is evaluation of The evaluation has been conducted using SymSG environment in aspect of creating and modelling border crossing and blockade elements.

In order to achieve more reliable results all the tests were made on the same machine in similar conditions. There are a few factors that were measured: average time of traffic objects generation, average time of service in each nest of measuring object and probabilities of changing significant logic flow between simulation actors.



Fig. 9 Preparation of evaluation scenario - blockade elements creator view

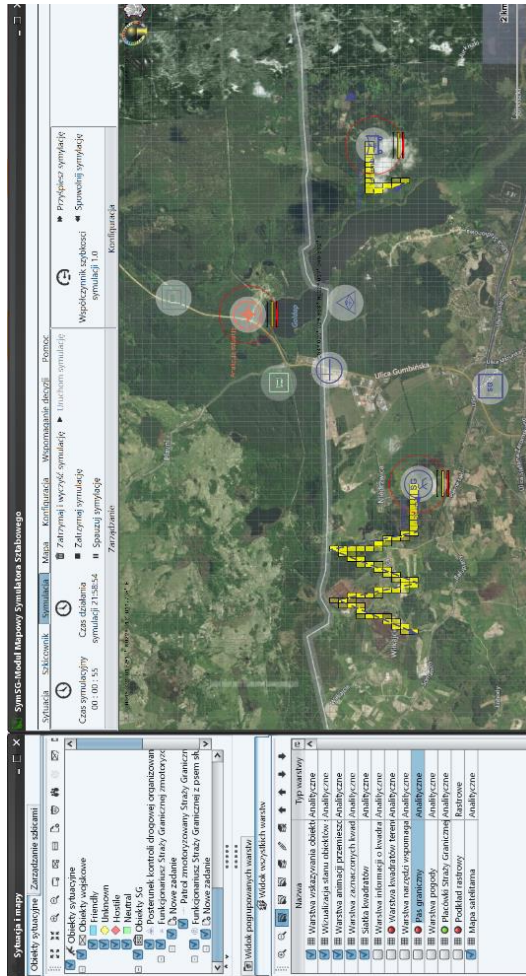


Fig. 10 Example of executing simulation exercise with active elements actions visualisation (routes) and data describing conducted tasks

Tab. 1 Evaluation results of border crossing simulation

Element	Average time of service [s]	Average traffic serviced	Time of service standard deviation
Entry gate	10	180,00	2,60
Border guard control	313	5,75	174,65
Customs control	132	13,64	87,02
Second line Detailed	488	3,69	224,00
Control point	1184	1,52	267,49

Tab. 2 Evaluation results of blockade elements simulation

Element	Average time of service [s]	Average traffic serviced	Time of service standard deviation
Observation post	6	300,00	3,16
Controlling post	217	8,29	66,84
Blockade post	97	18,56	26,29
Pursuit squad	343	5,25	37,35

The results above show that the model reproduces the reality in good manner. The aim of simulation exercises is to allow students to work with unusual situations what is the case of higher probability of extraordinary issues like second line control or pursuit.

8 Summary

Presented in the paper method for modelling of aggregated simulation entities using queue models has proven to be a valid and valuable approach. It delivers configurability and provides parametrisation as well as calibration characteristics aligned with the operational data gathered by the border guards. Application support provided by the SymSG [8] constructive simulator supplements the models with required operational element (border crossing, blockade, check point) design details. Implemented simulation models provide additional tuning features, which can be used to redesign border guard behavioural models, add new special events affecting the efficiency of designed que systems. Further research will be aimed at extending functionality of operational nodes by delivering declarative scripting engine which will equip the operational analyst with the tool to graphically reorganise behavioural models of nodes composing the que system.

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