

# INTRODUCTION TO STAMP

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**Aviation Academy, Amsterdam**

Euro Stamp Workshop  
Reykjavik, September 13th, 2017

Presentation based on:

- STPA Primer, Version 1.0; Leveson N. (2015). STAMP Tutorial, March 2015, MIT, Boston
- Masterclass Risk Assessment, N. Karanikas (2017), Aviation Academy, Amsterdam
- Masterclass Human Factors & Safety, RJ de Boer & S. Dekker (2017), Aviation Academy, Amsterdam
- Graduate thesis of Patrick van der Spek





## OUR OBJECTIVES TODAY

- Comprehend fundamentals (and therefore the advantages) of Systems Thinking and STAMP model.
- Applying the systems theory and the STAMP concept in some short cases

"All models  
are wrong but  
some are  
useful."

-George EP Box  
(Statistician)



# IS IT PRACTICAL?

- STAMP has been or is being used in a large variety of industries (more than 160 published studies):
  - Spacecraft
  - Aircraft
  - Air Traffic Control
  - UAVs (RPAs)
  - Defense
  - Automobiles (GM, Ford, Nissan)
  - Medical Devices and Hospital Safety
  - Chemical plants
  - Oil and Gas
  - Nuclear and Electrical Power
  - CO<sub>2</sub> Capture, Transport, and Storage
  - Finance



## DOES IT WORK?

- In all cases where a comparison was made (to FTA, HAZOP, FMEA, ETA, etc.)
  - STPA found the same hazard causes as the old methods
  - Plus it found more causes than traditional methods
  - In some evaluations, found accidents that had occurred that other methods missed.
  - Cost was orders of magnitude less than the traditional hazard analysis methods.

# ACCIDENT CAUSALITY AND MODELS

[www.international.hva.nl](http://www.international.hva.nl)



## ACCIDENT CAUSALITY MODEL. WHY?

- The underlying accident causality model or assumptions determine the success of our efforts to understand what happened
- We always use an accident model, even unconsciously.

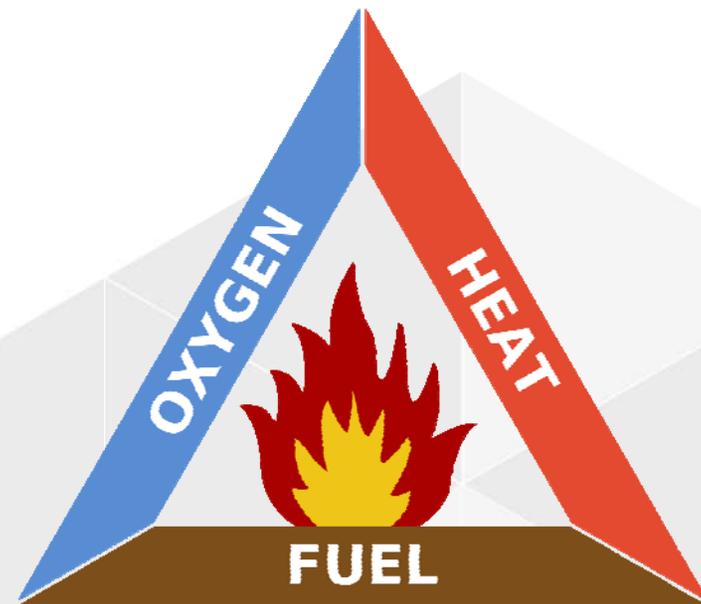


# WHAT ACCIDENT CAUSALITY MODEL DO YOU USE?

- Approaches to accidents:
  - Unfortunate but unavoidable results of random events.
  - Results of individual component failures.
  - Results of simultaneously or consecutively failing protections
  - Results of dysfunctional interactions and inadequately controlled processes in the system.

# WHAT IS A CAUSE?

- Let's examine the example of a fire:
  - What are the conditions?
  - Are all necessary?
  - Is their existence in isolation sufficient to start a fire?
- Causes: Sets of necessary conditions, named causal scenarios.



# CAUSALITY

- The relation among the fire conditions imply:
  - Linear relationship
  - Causality

If "A" occurs  
while "B"  
and "C"

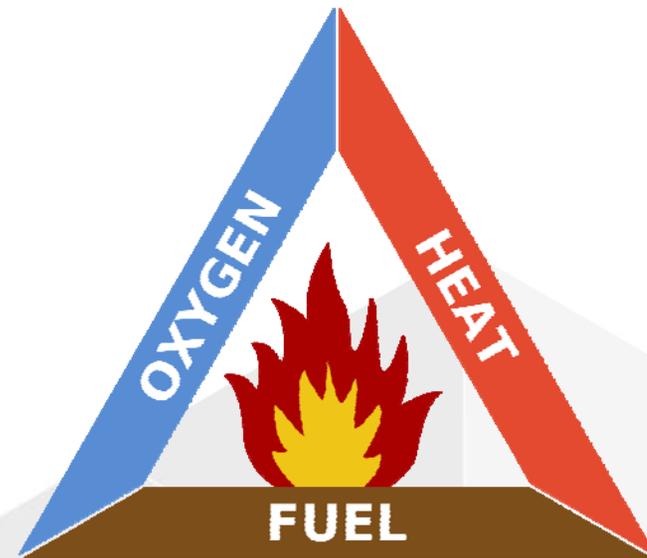


Then "D"  
occurs

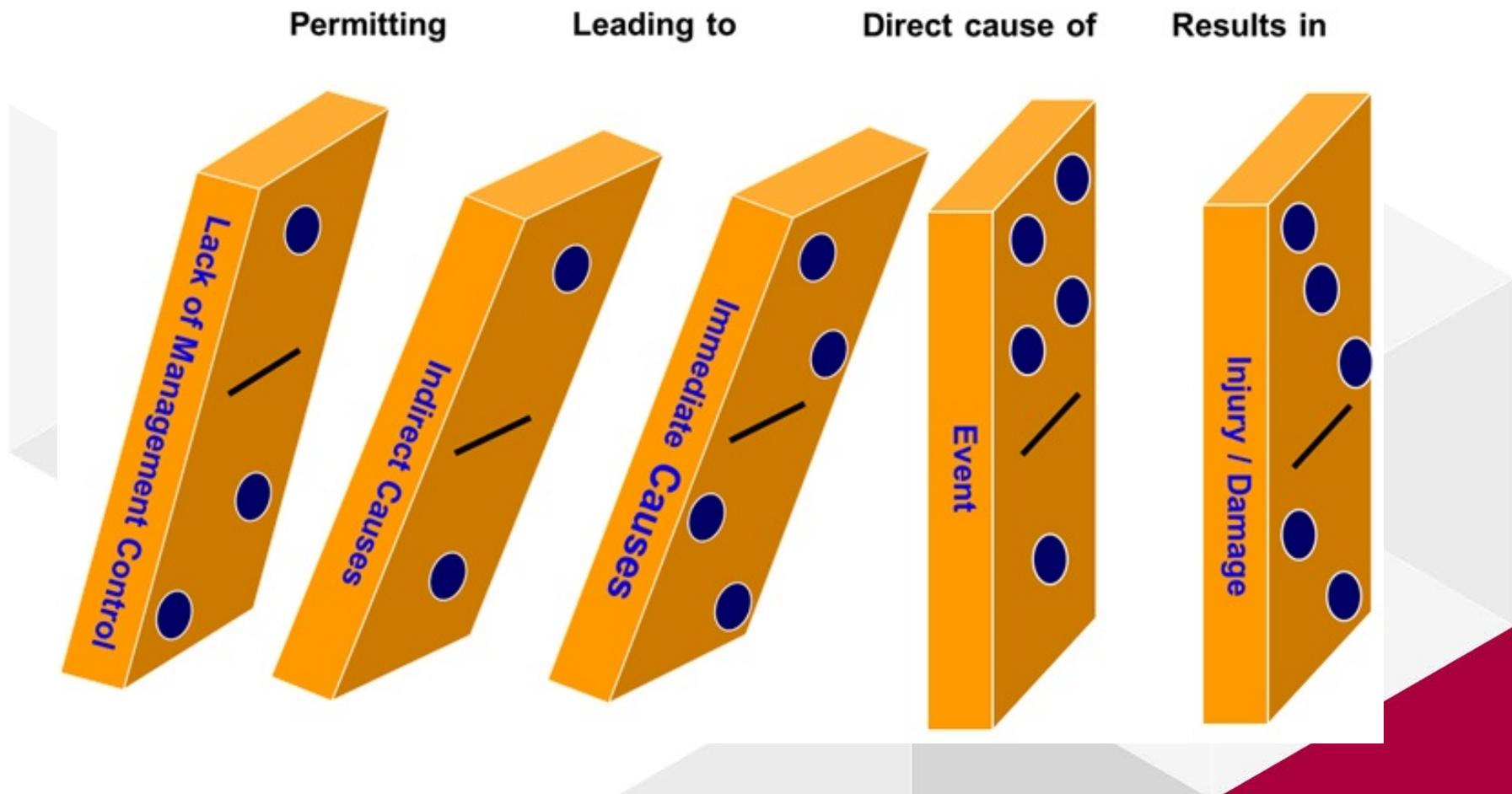
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occurred  
while "B"  
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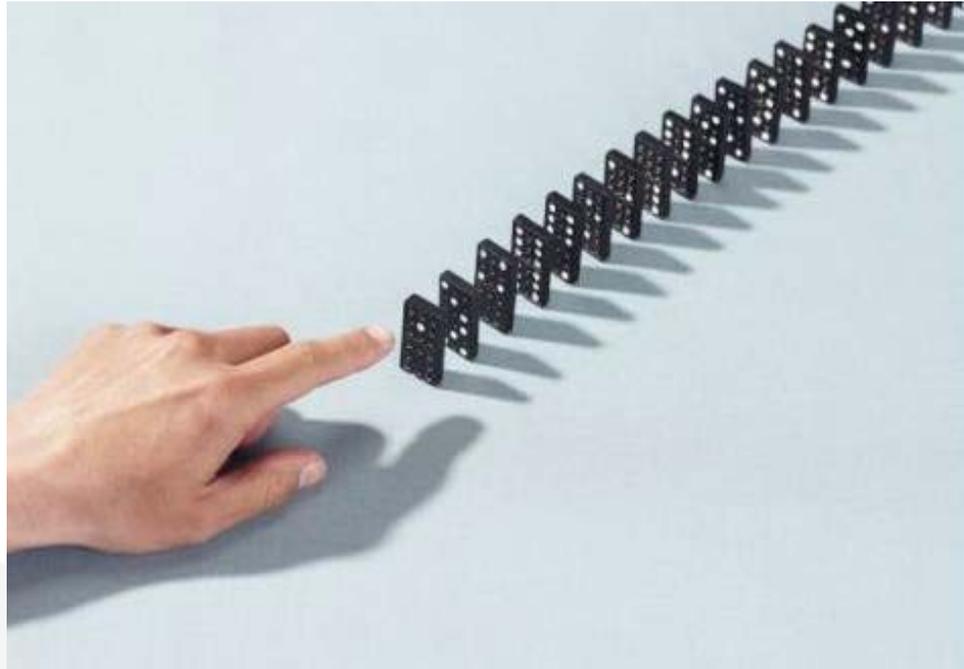


Then "A" has  
occurred

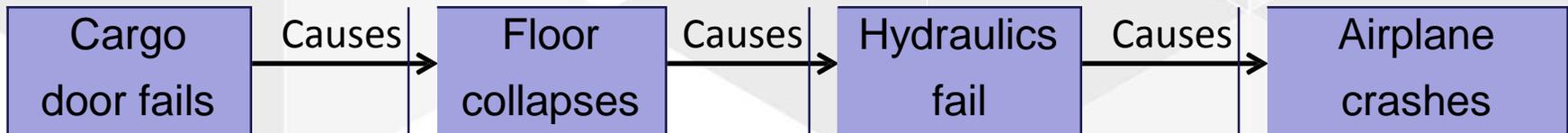


# HEINRICH'S DOMINO MODEL OF ACCIDENT CAUSATION (1932)



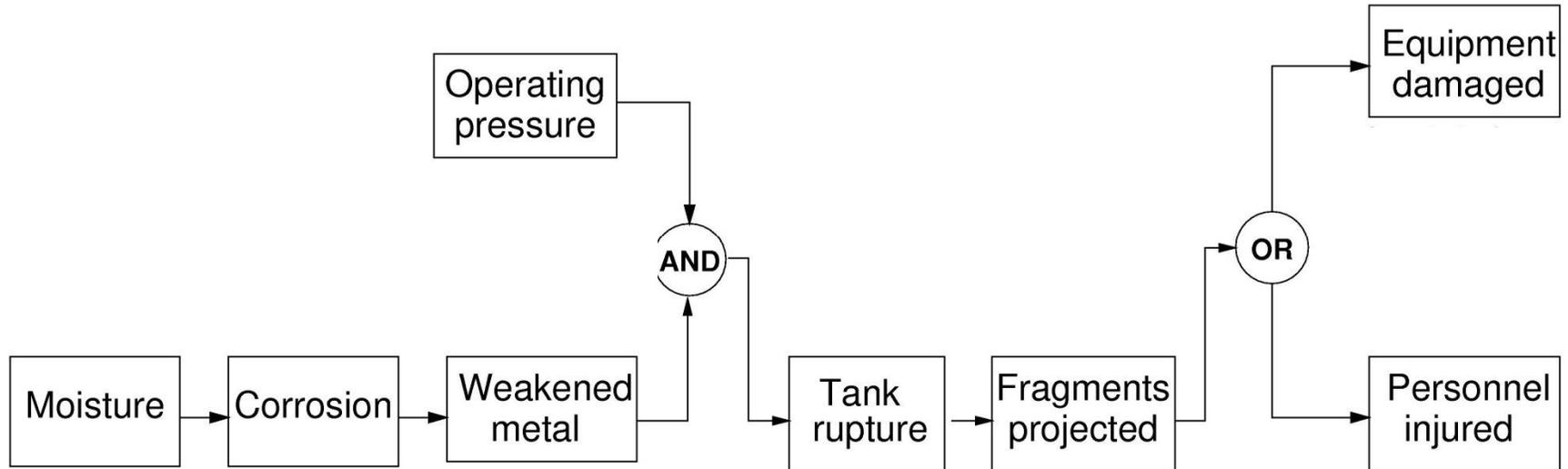


**DC-10:**



**Chain of Failure Events**

# CHAIN-OF-EVENTS EXAMPLE



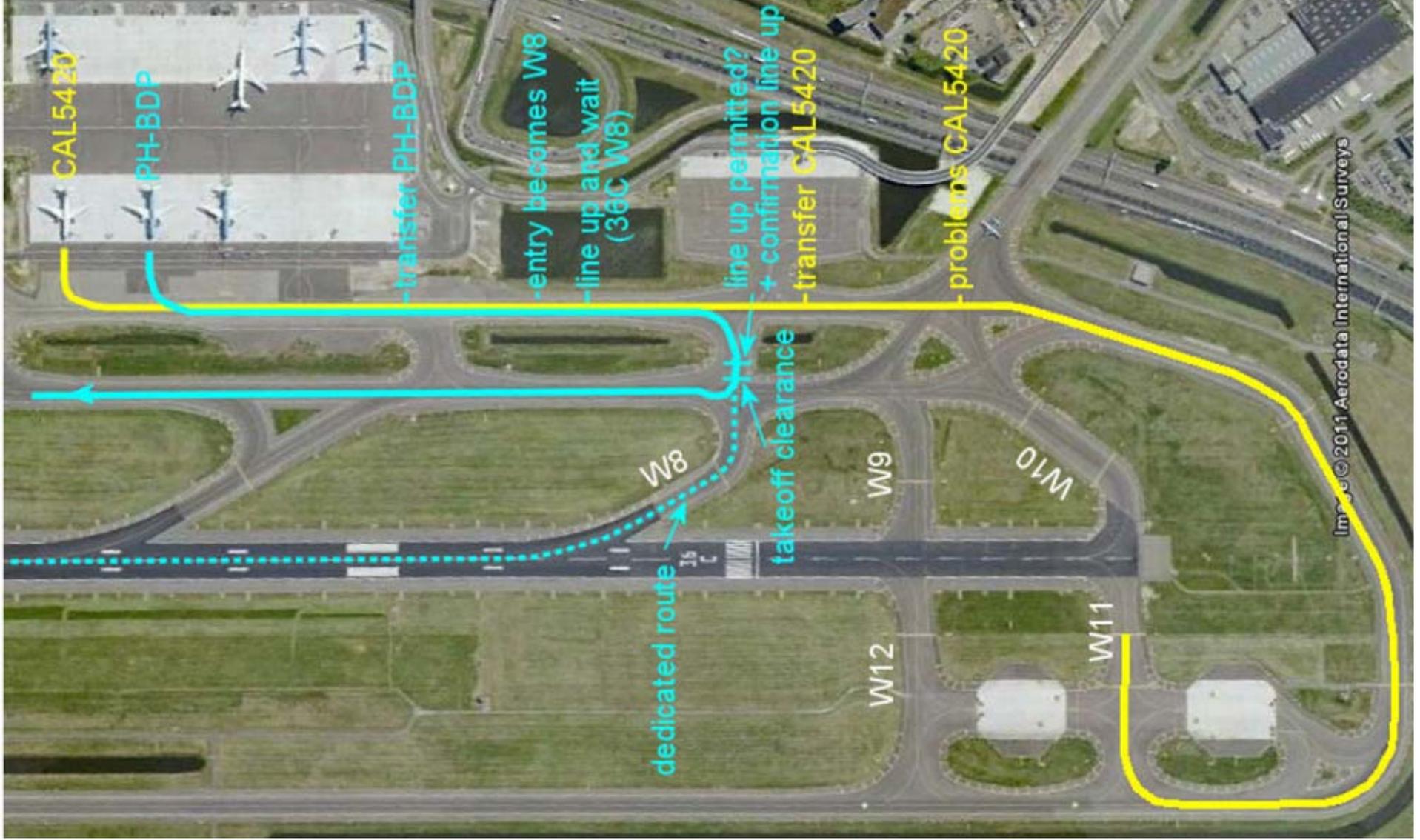
# THE CASE OF THE MISTAKEN TAKE-OFF

- On Feb 10th 2010, a KLM 737 took off from a taxiway



# THE CASE OF THE MISTAKEN TAKE-OFF

- Aircraft had been de-iced on an apron
- Light snow on taxiways.
- ATC instructed to taxi to the departure runway 36C via taxiway 'A'
  - Was against prescribed direction of travel
  - There are two parallel taxiways adjacent to runway 36C
- High workload
- During taxi ATC suggested W8 entry and this was accepted.
- Whilst on W8 received 'line up and wait' and take off clearances in quick succession.
- Neither green taxiway lighting nor yellow taxi lines nor blue markers visible at turn off although the airport complies to ICAO standards.
- Plane turned right again onto taxiway 'B' and began a standing start take off.
- Aircraft was not monitored by ATC between clearance and take-off.
- Air traffic control informed the crew of the incident during climb.





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### Operational Issues



Air Ground Communication

### Human Performance



Airspace Infringement

### Enhancing Safety



Bird Strike



Controlled Flight Into Terrain

### Safety Regulations



Fire Smoke & Fumes



Ground Operations



Airworthiness



Level Bust



Loss of Control



Loss of Separation



Runway Excursion



Runway Incursion



Wake Vortex Turbulence



Weather



Emergency and Contingency

## Highlighted Article

The importance of visually checking the runway for obstructions as you approach touchdown...

posted 6 July 2015 in Category:Accidents and Incidents

On 26 July 2014, the crew of an aircraft which had just touched down at Perth saw the rear of a stationary vehicle on the runway centreline approximately 1180 metres from the landing threshold. An immediate go around was called and made and the aircraft cleared the vehicle by about 150 feet. The same experienced controller who had issued the landing clearance was found to have earlier given runway occupancy clearance to the vehicle.

[Read more >>](#)



**2015 Safety Forum Automation and Safety**

One Safety Issue - One Coordinated

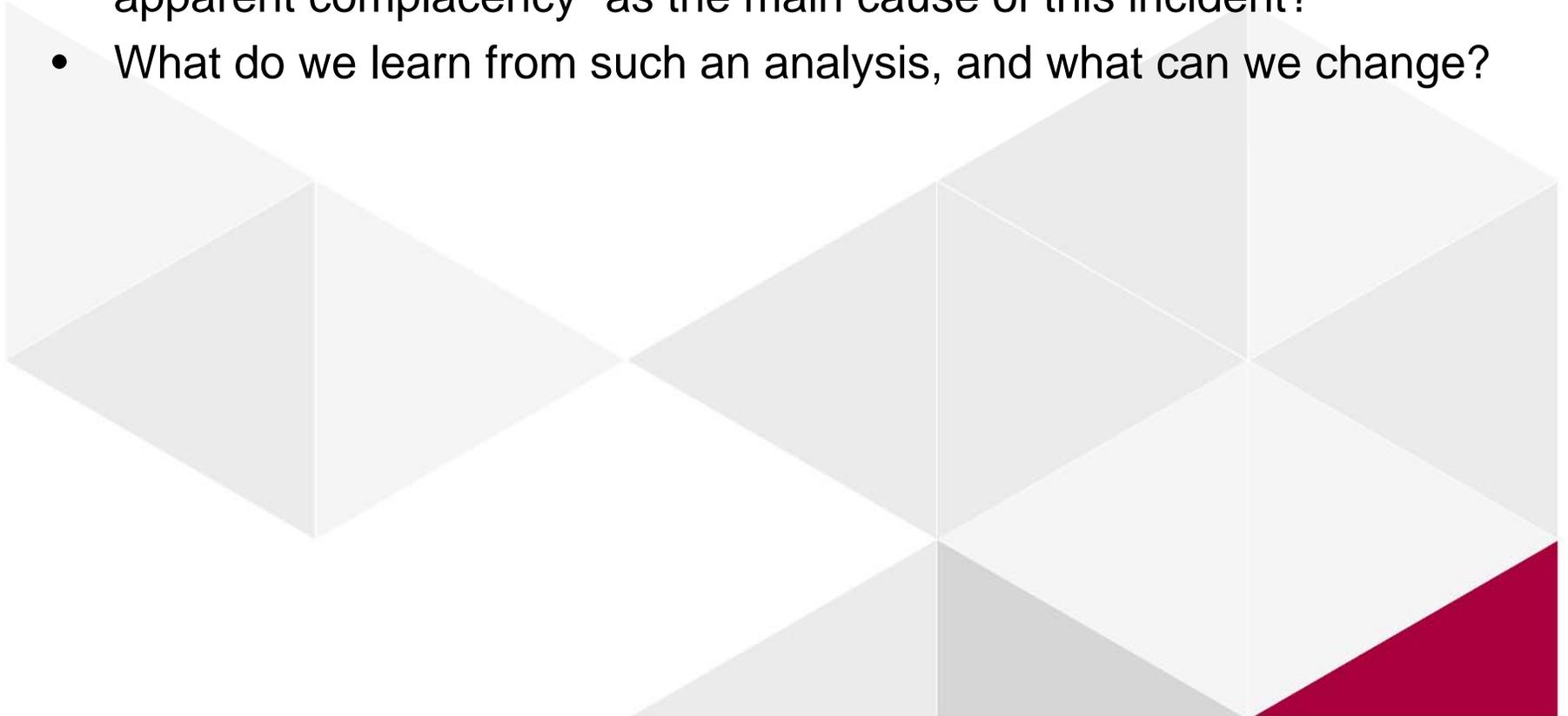
# THE CASE OF THE MISTAKEN TAKE-OFF

- Skybrary summary of the incident:

On 10 February 2010 a KLM Boeing 737-300 unintentionally made a night take off from Amsterdam in good visibility from the taxiway parallel to the runway for which take off clearance had been given. Because of the available distance and the absence of obstructions, the take off was otherwise uneventful. The Investigation noted the familiarity of the crew with the airport and identified apparent complacency.

# THE CASE OF THE MISTAKEN TAKE-OFF: DISCUSSION (1)

- Do you agree with “the familiarity of the crew with the airport and [...] apparent complacency” as the main cause of this incident?
- What do we learn from such an analysis, and what can we change?



# IS OUR PERCEPTION OF LINEAR CAUSES ALWAYS VALID?



IF -> THEN (?)

????

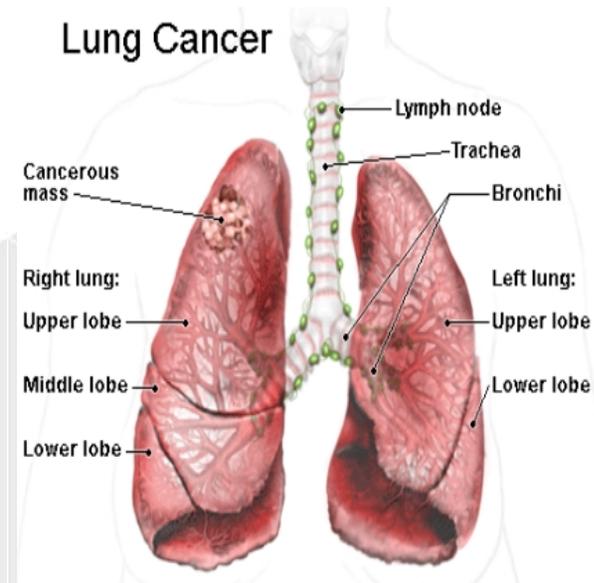


# IS OUR PERCEPTION OF LINEAR CAUSES ALWAYS VALID?



IF -> THEN (?)

????



# IS OUR PERCEPTION OF LINEAR CAUSES ALWAYS VALID?

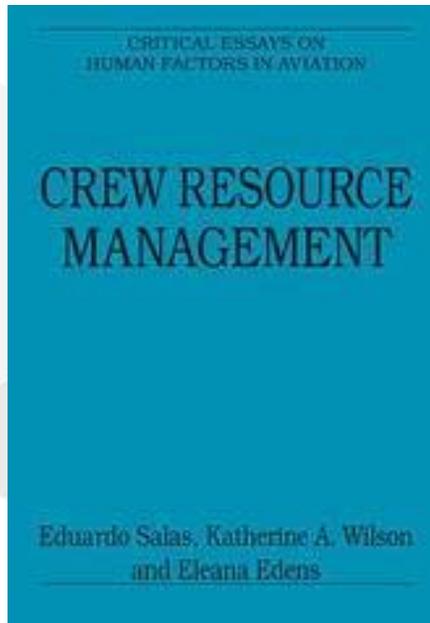


IF -> THEN (?)

????



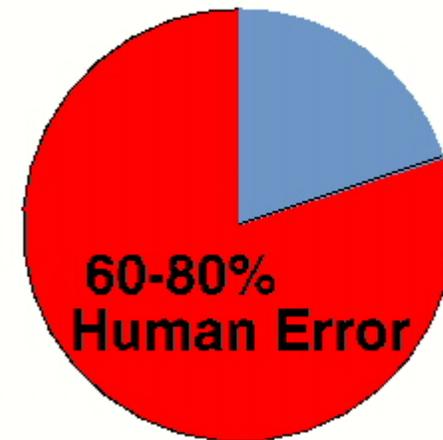
# IS OUR PERCEPTION OF LINEAR CAUSES ALWAYS VALID?



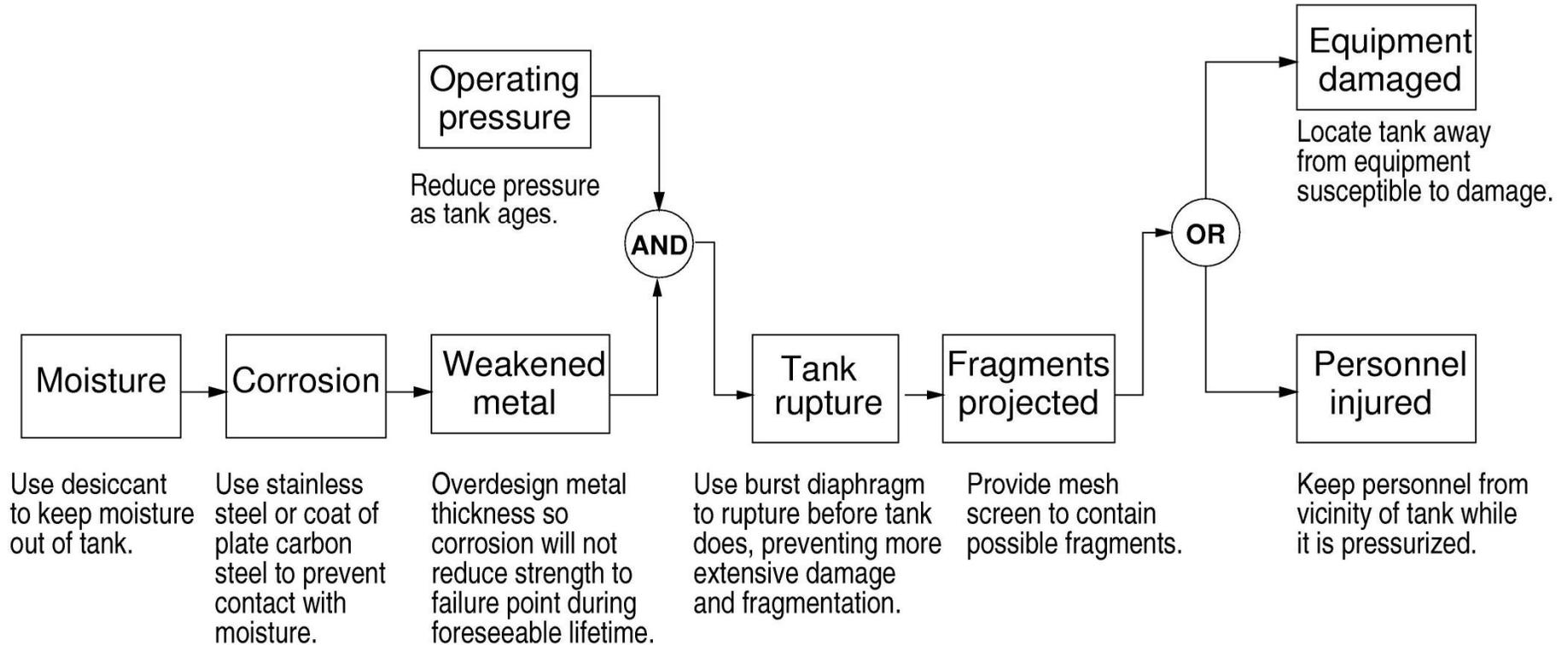
IF -> THEN (?)

????

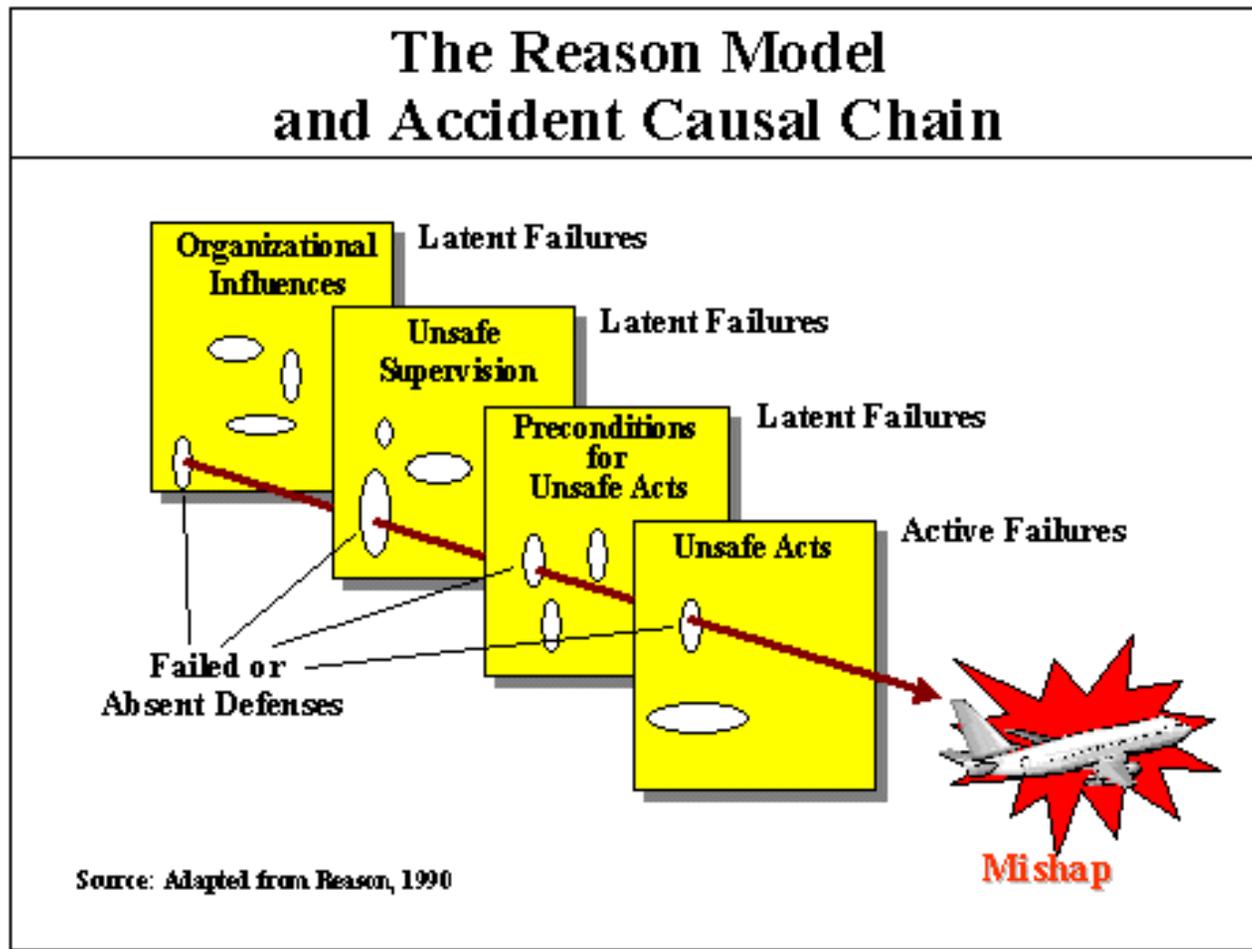
## Aircraft Accidents



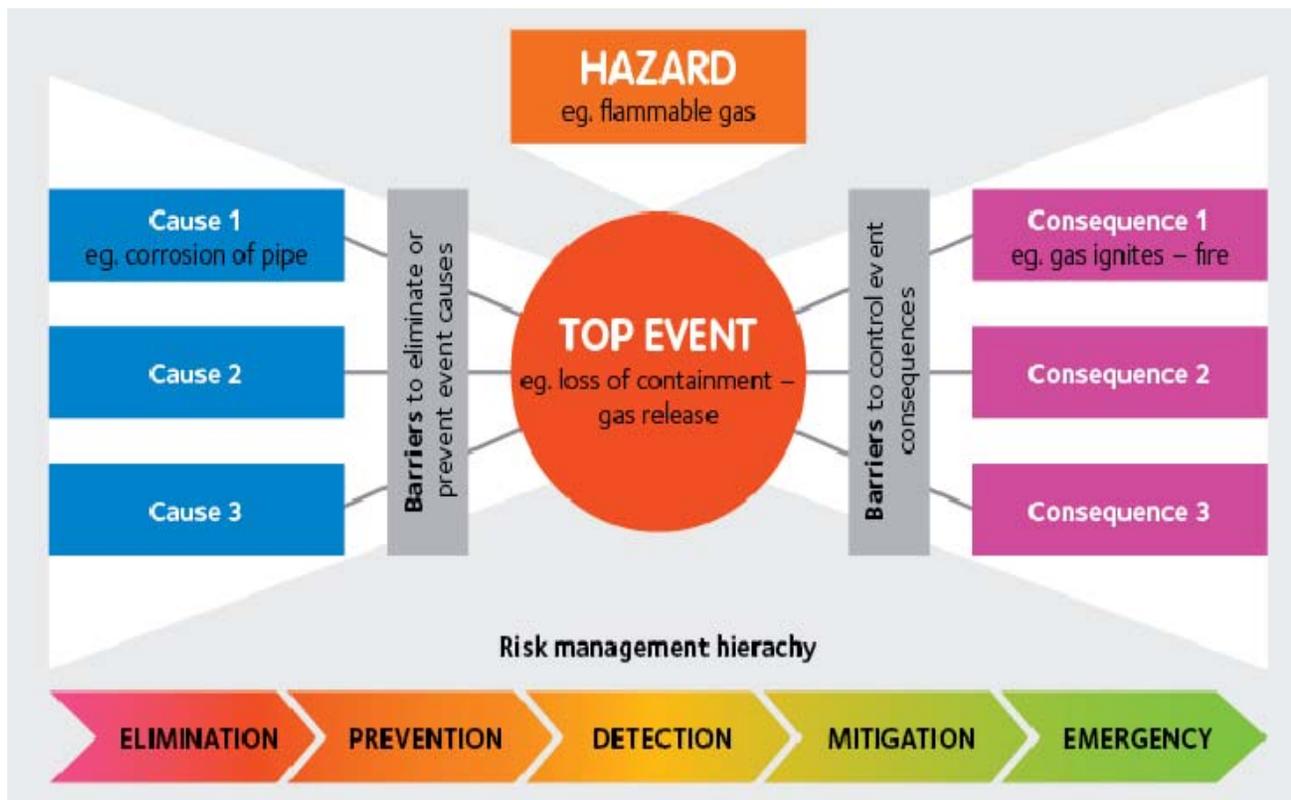
# CHAIN-OF-EVENTS AND BARRIERS EXAMPLE



# CHAIN-OF-EVENTS AND BARRIERS INTO LAYERS



# SETTING MORE BARRIERS



## Typical causal factors:

- Hardware
- Software
- Human errors
- Unleashed energy

## Solutions:

- More barriers
- More reliability

# EPIDEMIOLOGY (CHAIN-OF-EVENTS)

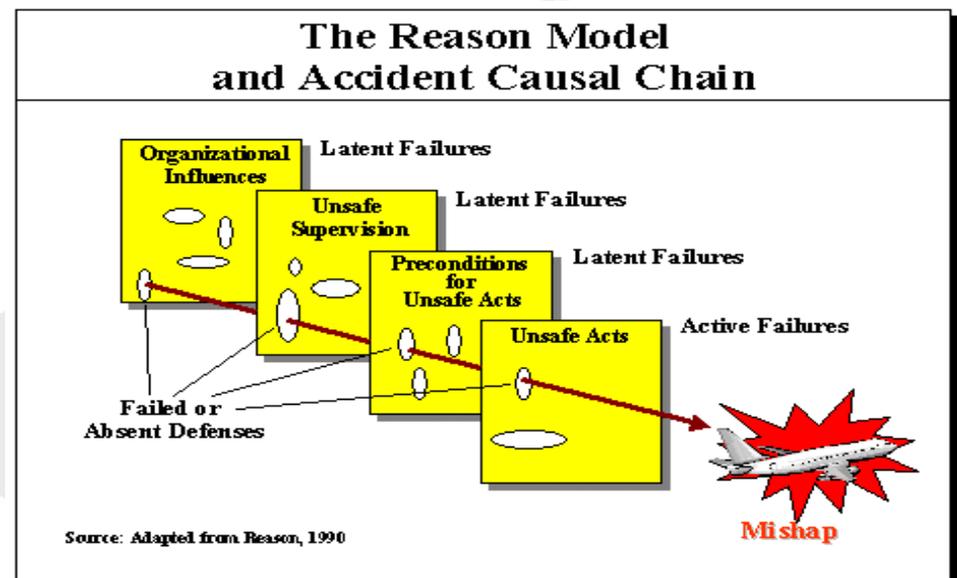
- Descriptive epidemiology: rates associated with characteristics (e.g., age, sex, experience).
- Investigative epidemiology: specific causes of injuries and deaths are collected in order to devise feasible countermeasures.
  - Assumes common factors in accidents, but those can only be determined by statistical evaluation of accident data.
  - Can be used proactively to identify potential causes for accidents in specific system designs.

## THE CASE OF THE MISTAKEN TAKE-OFF (2)

- Using the 'Swiss cheese' model, identify which barriers failed in the case of the mistaken take-off.
- What can we learn from these?

== 10 minutes ==

- Present your results to the rest of the group



# POSSIBLE FAILING “BARRIERS” IN THE CASE OF THE MISTAKEN TAKE-OFF

- Unusual taxiway direction
- Green centerline lights missing
- No ATC monitoring of airplane
- Pilot missed visual cues
- Pilot did not use ground movement chart

# DUTCH SAFETY BOARD CAUSES

- “The serious incident occurred because of the flight crew’s lack of awareness of the aircraft's position [...]”.
- Contributing factors:
  - Flight crew had less time to check aircraft position due to having to enter changes in flight management computer after accepting shorter route (“workload”)
  - ✓ The crew was not using a ground movement chart “as they felt they were sufficiently familiar with their home base”.
  - The pilot in command was “distracted” by radio traffic with another aircraft
  - The air traffic controller was forced to shift his attention and assumed that the flight crew would follow his instructions correctly
  - ✓ Aircraft was not monitored by ATC between clearance and take-off.
- Also discussed, but not listed as a contributing factor:
  - ✓ Lack of green centerline lights on taxiway
  - ✓ Taxiing against prescribed direction
  - ✓ ATC monitoring and guidance
  - Production pressure



# IN SUMMARY: TWO TRADITIONAL FAMILIES OF SAFETY MODELS

- Single (root) cause models, such as the “Domino” model:
  - Suggest that a triggering event sets a causal sequence in motion that leads to a harmful event (e.g., Underwood & Waterson, 2013).
- Epidemiological (multiple causes) models, such as the “Swiss cheese” model (Reason, 1990):
  - Differentiates between active failures (i.e. actions and inactions) and latent conditions (i.e. individual, interpersonal, environmental, supervisory and organisational factors present before the accident)
  - The use of defences to counteract for possible failures is common across those types of models, such as the bow-tie (e.g., Boishu, 2014), Threat & Error Management (e.g., Maurino, 2005) and Tripod (e.g., Kjellen, 2000).

# THE NEW REALITY: COMPLEX SYSTEMS

[www.international.hva.nl](http://www.international.hva.nl)



## MODERN SYSTEMS

- Human role has shifted: complex decision making, variable cognitive workload, monitoring vs operating etc.
- Nature of human error has changed: mode confusion, complacency etc.



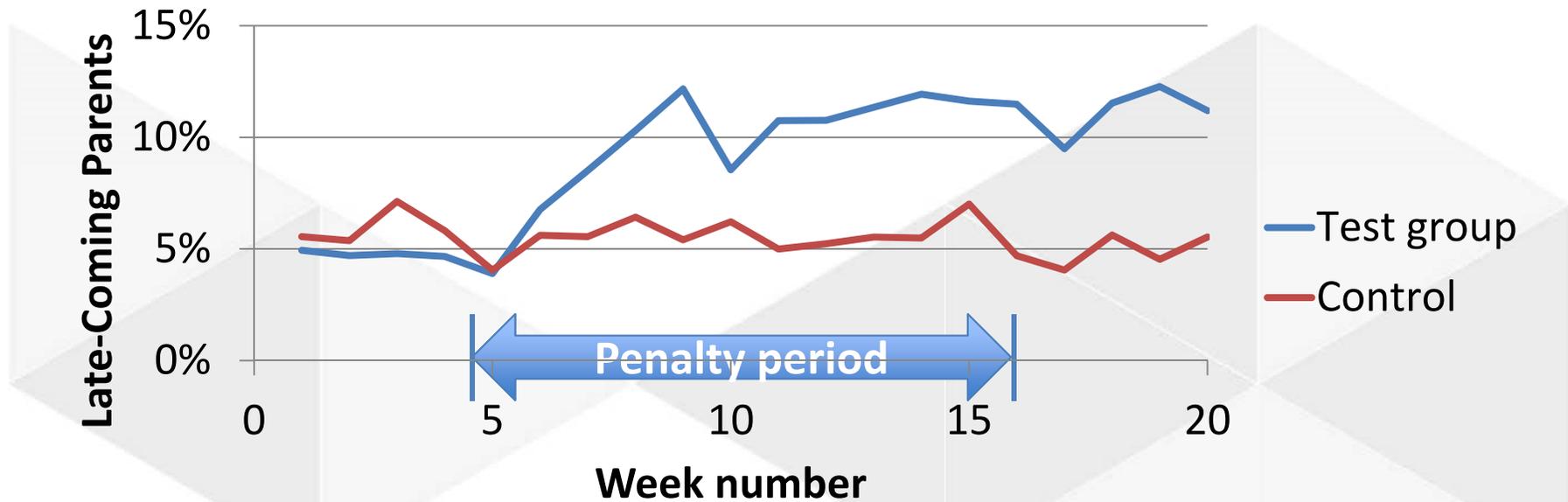
# RULE VIOLATION IN DAY CARE

- 10 day-care centers in Israel
- Operate 07:30 - 16:00
- Frequent late parents (1~2 daily)
  - Teacher has to stay
  - No consequences for parents
  - Parents rarely came after 16:30
- Solution: introduce small \$ penalty for delay > 10 minutes

→ What was the net effect?



# INTRODUCTION OF \$ PENALTIES LED TO A UNYIELDING INCREASE IN RULE VIOLATION



Gneezy and Rustichini 2000









[Video](#)

## THE CASE OF THE MISTAKEN TAKE-OFF (3)

- Recently, so called ‘systemic’ models have been introduced that focus on ‘faulty’ interactions between elements, rather than faults in the elements themselves.
  - Which interactions were relevant in the current case?
  - Which of these can be judged as ‘flawed’?
- What can we learn from these?

== 10 minutes ==

- Present your conclusions to the rest of the group

# THE CASE OF THE MISTAKEN TAKE-OFF

## Relevant 'flawed' interactions

- ATC ⇔ Pilots : unusual taxiway direction, late change of runway entry, early take-off clearance
- Pilots ⇔ aircraft: high work pressure
- Pilot ⇔ taxiway: unusual taxiway, position not monitored
- ATC ⇔ aircraft: position was not monitored
- Pilots ⇔ management: punctuality
- ATC ⇔ management: capacity
- Pilots, ATC ⇔ other traffic: was blocking the way
- Pilots ⇔ environment: light snow, dusk lighting, lights in the distance,
- Pilots ⇔ airport: no green center line
- ICAO ⇔ airport: green centerline not compulsory

# Newtonian-Cartesian

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System behavior can be reduced to  
component behavior

Effects have proportional causes

Harm is foreseeable

Time is reversible

Complete knowledge is possible

Current state known?

Laws by which system operates known?

Then all other states can be  
predicted/postdicted

System behavior cannot be reduced to component behavior:

emergence, relationships

Cause-effect asymmetry

Only probabilities are foreseeable

Time is irreversible

Complete knowledge is impossible:

open systems

multiple legitimate descriptions, always out of date

# MOST ENGINEERED SYSTEMS ARE “COMPLEX”

## Complex system characteristics

- Are open to influences from the environment and vice-versa
  - Components are ignorant of system behavior and effects of own actions on it
  - Interaction is complex, not necessarily the components
  - **Complex systems not in static equilibrium: feedback loops required**
  - **History or path dependence (non-Markov)**
  - **Non-linear interactions (“Butterfly effect”)**
  - **New structures are generated “internally”**
- 

# EMERGENT BEHAVIOR IS..

- A result of interactions of system components
- Therefore not predictable beforehand  
...
- But ... comprehensible in retrospect



# When things fail

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Have no coherent theory for how such complexity develops

Apply linear, componential explanations for when it fails

Our technologies have got ahead of our theories

## Newton

organization as machine  
order through hierarchy, control  
focus on local part  
develop one best method for it  
work describable, predictable  
compliance

## Complexity

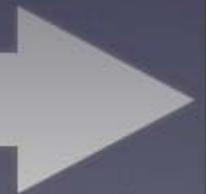
organization as living system  
order emerges  
local decisions, global influence  
balance exploration/exploitation  
never complete description  
diversity

1700

1800

1900

2000



## complicated

ultimately knowable  
complete description  
controllable  
order through one best method  
compliance

## complex

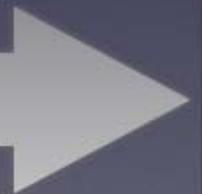
never fully knowable  
never complete description  
mathematically intractable  
order emerges  
diversity

1700

1800

1900

2000



# Complicated or complex?

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# Complicated or complex?

## Boeing 737-800

- 1 Radome with lightning conductor strips
- 2 Weather radar scanner
- 3 LS gliderlope
- 4 Radar scanner tracking mechanism
- 5 Front pressure bulkhead
- 6 Rudder pedals
- 7 Control yoke
- 8 Instrument panel, EICAS displays
- 9 Instrument panel circuit
- 10 Windscreen wipers
- 11 Windscreen panels
- 12 Cockpit eyebrow windows
- 13 Overhead systems control panel
- 14 Co-Pilot's seat
- 15 Captain's seat
- 16 Flight bag/document storage
- 17 Nose undercarriage wheel bay
- 18 Nosewheel doors
- 19 Two nosewheels, forward retracting
- 20 Turbine scissor links
- 21 Hydraulic steering jacks
- 22 Nosewheel leg strut mounting
- 23 Dual pilot heads
- 24 Cockpit bulkhead
- 25 Observer's sliding seat
- 26 Forward toilet compartment
- 27 Cockpit door
- 28 Starboard service door
- 29 Forward galley units
- 30 Closet compartment
- 31 Cabin attendant's folding seat

- 32 Entry lobby
- 33 Forward entry door
- 34 Door-mounted escape chute/slide
- 35 Staircase
- 36 Folding handrail
- 37 Underfloor avionics equipment bay
- 38 Fuselage lower lobe frame and stringer structure
- 39 Passenger oxygen bottle
- 40 Floor beam structure
- 41 Forward underfloor height hold door
- 42 Cabin wall trim paneling
- 43 Overhead environmental distribution ducting
- 44 Cabin floor with continuous seat rails
- 45 Lower LHF antenna
- 46 Six stream passenger seating, 184 passengers in all economy layout or 160 passengers in mixed class arrangement
- 47 Cabin window panels
- 48 Conditioned air distribution system

- 49 Wing inspection light
- 50 Wing spar
- 51 Conditioned air flows by overhead ducting
- 52 Forward and mid cabin air distribution ducting, rear cabin air duct on starboard side
- 53 Starboard engine nacelle
- 54 Hinged cowling panels
- 55 Nacelle pylon structure
- 56 Pressure relieving connection
- 57 Starboard wing integral fuel tank, total fuel capacity 25,035 lb (75,720 imp gal)
- 58 Fuel venting channels
- 59 Overwing filler cap
- 60 Starboard leading edge slat segments, extended
- 61 Leading edge de-icing air duct
- 62 Slat guide rails
- 63 Slat screw jacks, torque shaft driven via central hydraulic motor

- 64 Starboard navigation and strobe lights
- 65 Alt strobe light
- 66 Starboard aileron control
- 67 Aileron tab
- 68 Outboard double-slotted flap segment, down position
- 69 Flap guide rails and carriages
- 70 Outboard flight spoilers
- 71 Spoiler hydraulic jacks
- 72 Single slotted portion of flap (Wing gate segment)
- 73 Inboard flap segment
- 74 Upper LHF antenna
- 75 Inboard ground spoiler
- 76 Anti-collision beacon light
- 77 Overwing emergency exits, two per side

- 79 Fuselage centre section frame and stringer structure
- 80 Wing front spar attachment main frame

- 81 Floor beams
- 82 Wing centre section carry-through
- 83 Centre section integral fuel tank
- 84 Air conditioning pack, port and starboard, in ventral fairing beneath wing box
- 85 Wing root joint strap

- 86 Port main undercarriage wheel bay
- 87 Central flap drive hydraulic motor
- 88 Pressure floor above wheel bay
- 89 Cabin wall insulation blankets
- 90 Rear spar attachment main frame
- 91 Overhead passenger service units
- 92 ADF antenna
- 93 Cabin roof trim lighting panels
- 94 Overhead baggage lockers
- 95 Rear underfloor height hold door

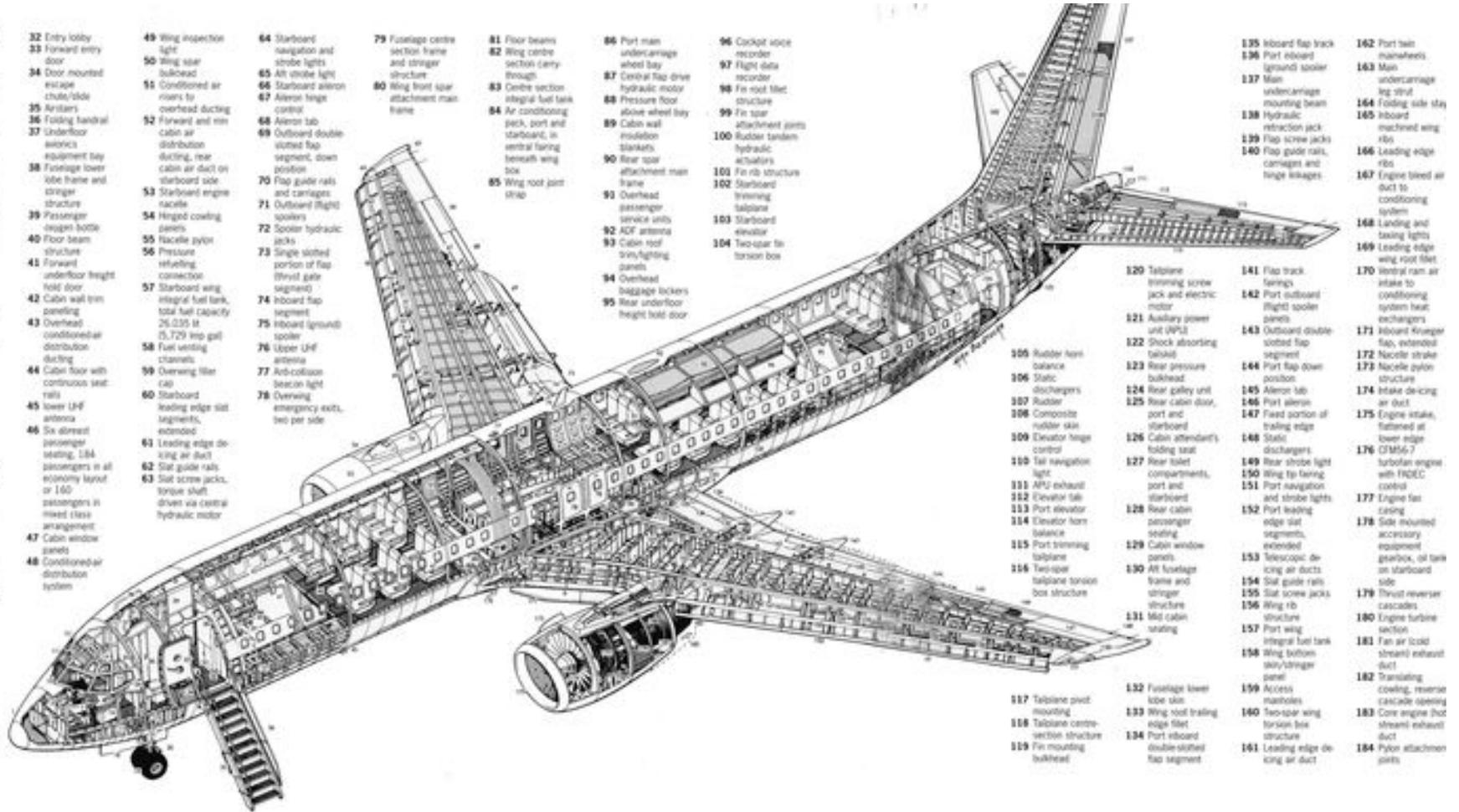
- 96 Cockpit voice recorder
- 97 Flight data recorder
- 98 Fin root fillet structure
- 99 Fin spar attachment joints
- 100 Rubber tandem hydraulic actuators
- 101 Fin rib structure
- 102 Starboard trimming talplane
- 103 Starboard elevator
- 104 Two-spar fin-torsion box

- 105 Rubber horn balance
- 106 Static dischargers
- 107 Rubber
- 108 Composite rubber skin
- 109 Elevator hinge control
- 110 Tail navigation light
- 111 APJ exhaust
- 112 Elevator tab
- 113 Port elevator scuffing
- 114 Elevator horn balance
- 115 Port trimmer talplane
- 116 Two-spar talplane torsion box structure
- 117 Talplane pivot mounting
- 118 Talplane centre-section structure
- 119 Fin mounting bulkhead

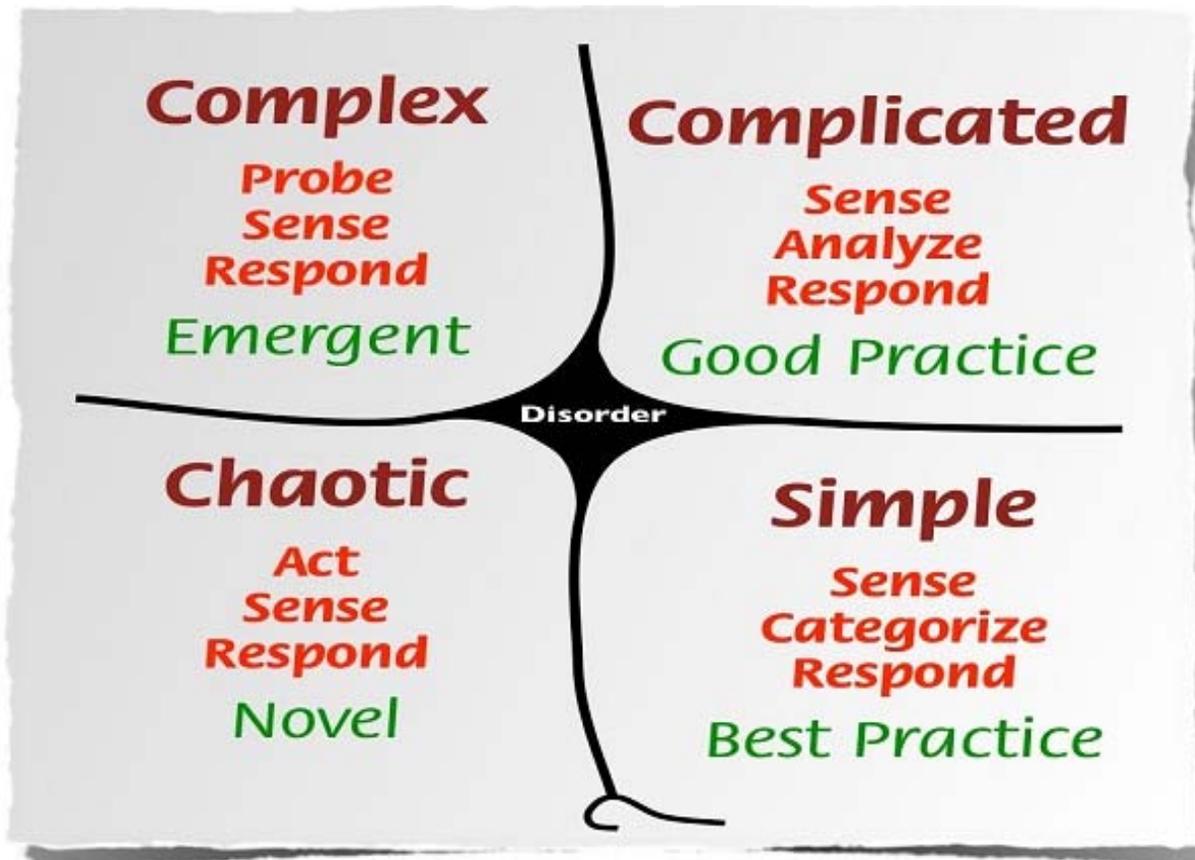
- 120 Talplane trimming screw jack and electric motor
- 121 Auxiliary power unit (APU)
- 122 Shock absorbing tabulet
- 123 Rear pressure bulkhead
- 124 Rear galley unit
- 125 Rear cabin door, port and starboard
- 126 Cabin attendant's folding seat
- 127 Rear toilet compartments, port and starboard
- 128 Rear cabin passenger seating
- 129 Cabin window panels
- 130 All fuselage frame and stringer structure
- 131 Mid cabin seating
- 132 Fuselage lower lobe skin
- 133 Wing root trailing edge fillet
- 134 Port inboard double-slotted flap segment

- 135 Inboard flap track
- 136 Port inboard ground spoiler
- 137 Main undercarriage mounting beam
- 138 Hydraulic retraction jack
- 139 Flap screw jacks
- 140 Flap guide rails, carriages and torque linkages
- 141 Flap track springs
- 142 Port outboard flight spoiler panels
- 143 Outboard double-slotted flap segment
- 144 Port flap down position
- 145 Aileron tab
- 146 Port aileron
- 147 Fast portion of trailing edge
- 148 Static dischargers
- 149 Rear strobe light
- 150 Wing tip fairing
- 151 Port navigation and strobe lights
- 152 Port leading edge slat segments, extended
- 153 Telescopic de-icing air ducts
- 154 Slat guide rails
- 155 Slat screw jacks
- 156 Wing rib structure
- 157 Port wing integral fuel tank
- 158 Wing bottom skin/stringer panel
- 159 Access manholes
- 160 Two-spar wing torsion box structure
- 161 Leading edge de-icing air duct

- 162 Port belt handholds
- 163 Main undercarriage leg strut
- 164 Folding side stay
- 165 Inboard machined wing ribs
- 166 Leading edge ribs
- 167 Engine bleed air duct to conditioning system
- 168 Landing and taxiing lights
- 169 Leading edge wing root fillet
- 170 Ventral ram air intake to conditioning system heat exchangers
- 171 Inboard Krueger flap, extended
- 172 Nacelle strake structure
- 173 Nacelle pylon
- 174 Intake de-icing air duct
- 175 Engine intake, faired at lower edge
- 176 CFM56-7 turbofan engine with FDEEC control
- 177 Engine fan casing
- 178 Side mounted accessory equipment gearbox, oil tank on starboard side
- 179 Thrust reverser cascades
- 180 Engine turbine section
- 181 Fan air (cold stream) exhaust duct
- 182 Translating cowling, reverse cascade opening
- 183 Core engine hot stream exhaust duct
- 184 Pylon attachment joints



# THE CYNEFIN FRAMEWORK



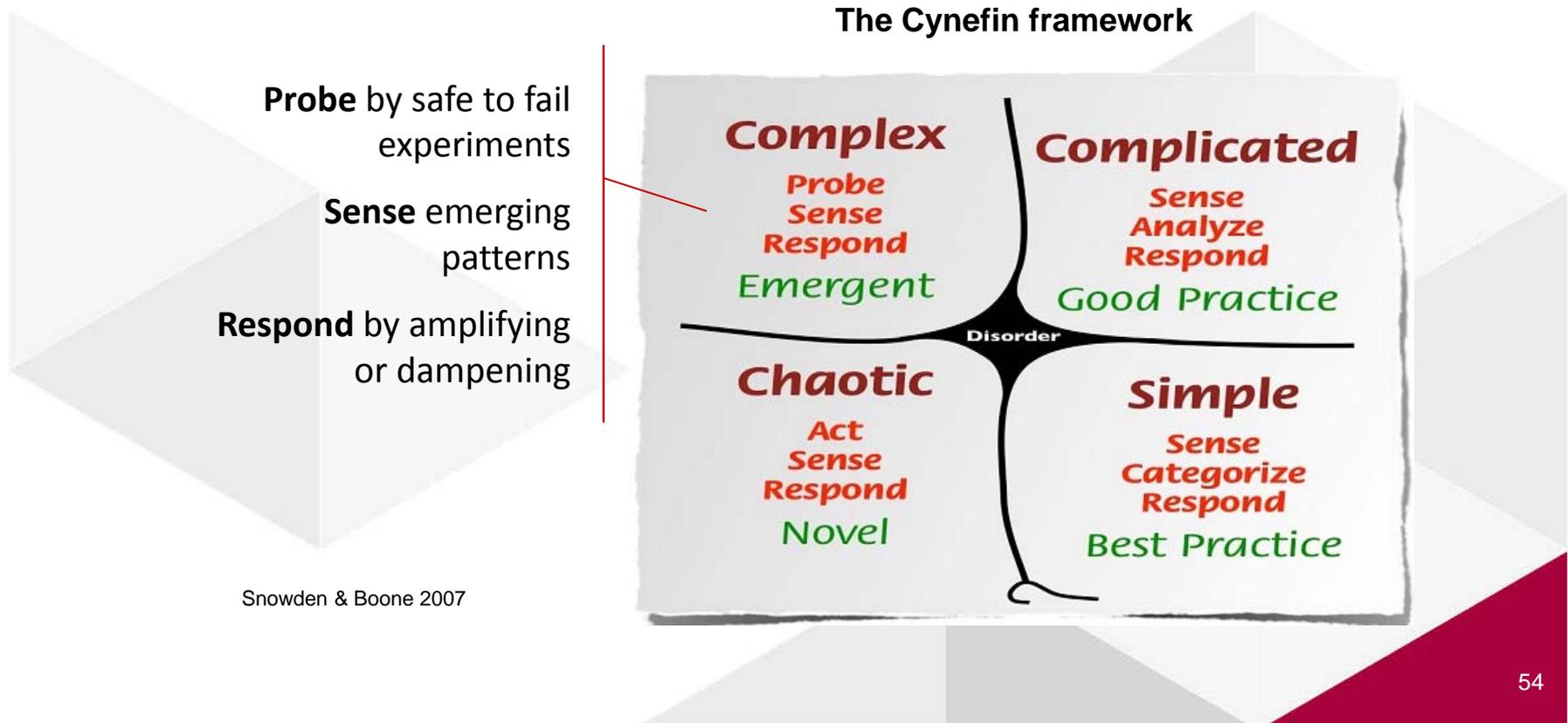
# EMERGENT PROPERTIES IN YOUR SYSTEMS

- What examples of complicated and complex (sub-)systems can you identify in your organization?
- What emergent behavior is apparent in the complex (sub-)systems in your own organization?

The Cynefin framework



# PROBING AND SENSING IS ESSENTIAL IN THE COMPLEX DOMAIN



Snowden & Boone 2007

# COMPLICATED VERSUS COMPLEX

- **Complicated system**

- Interactions governed by fixed relationships
- Reliable prediction of technical, time and costs issues
- E.g. an automobile or even an airplane
- Understanding by breaking it down
- “Good practice”

- **Complex systems**

- Self-organization
- Managerial independence
- Local interactions give rise to novel, nonlocal emergent patterns
- Geographical distribution
- Evolutionary development
- Always the case for a System of Systems (SoS)
- E.g. air transport system
- Understanding by iterative exploration and adaptation
- Holistic approach

# DECISIONS IN COMPLEX CONTEXTS

## Characteristics

- Flux and unpredictability
- No right answers, emergent instructive patterns
- Unknown unknowns
- Many competing ideas
- A need for creative and innovative approaches
- Pattern-based leadership

## Danger Signals

- Temptation to fall back into habitual, command-and-control mode
- Temptation to look for facts rather than allowing patterns to emerge
- Desire for accelerated resolution of problems or exploitation of opportunities

## Response to Danger Signals

- Be patient and allow time for reflection
- Use approaches that encourage interaction so patterns can emerge

## The Leader's Job

- Probe, sense, respond
- Create experiments for patterns
- Increase levels of interaction
- Generate ideas

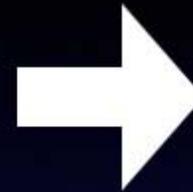
$$\Delta u_n = K_P \cdot \left[ (eP_n - eP_{n-1}) + \left( \frac{T_s}{T_i} \cdot e_n \right) + \frac{T_d}{T_s} \cdot (eDf_n - 2 \cdot eDf_{n-1} + eDf_{n-2}) \right]$$

Variable	Description
$\Delta u_n$	The incremental output
$K_P$	Proportional gain
$eP$	Proportional error with reference weighing
	$eP = \beta \cdot r_n - y_n$
	where:
	$\beta$ : Weighing factor
	$r_n$ : Reference (setpoint)
	$y_n$ : Process value, measured
$e_n$	Error, $e_n = r_n - y_n$
$T_s$	Sampling interval (i.e. $\Delta t$ )
$T_i$	Integrator time
$T_d$	Derivator time
$eDf$	Derivate error with reference weighing and filtering

	$eDf_n = eDf_{n-1} / \left( \frac{T_s}{T_f} + 1 \right) + eD_n \cdot \frac{T_s}{T_f} / \left( \frac{T_s}{T_f} + 1 \right)$
	where:
	$T_f$ : Filter time
	$T_f = \alpha \cdot T_d$ where $\alpha$ usually is set to 0.1
	$eD$ : Unfiltered derivate error with reference weighing
	$eD = \gamma \cdot r_n - y_n$
	where:
	$\gamma$ : Weighing factor
$u_n$	absolute output

$$\Delta u_n = K_P \cdot \left[ (eP_n - eP_{n-1}) + \left( \frac{T_s}{T_i} \cdot e_n \right) + \frac{T_d}{T_s} \cdot (eDf_n - 2 \cdot eDf_{n-1} + eDf_{n-2}) \right]$$

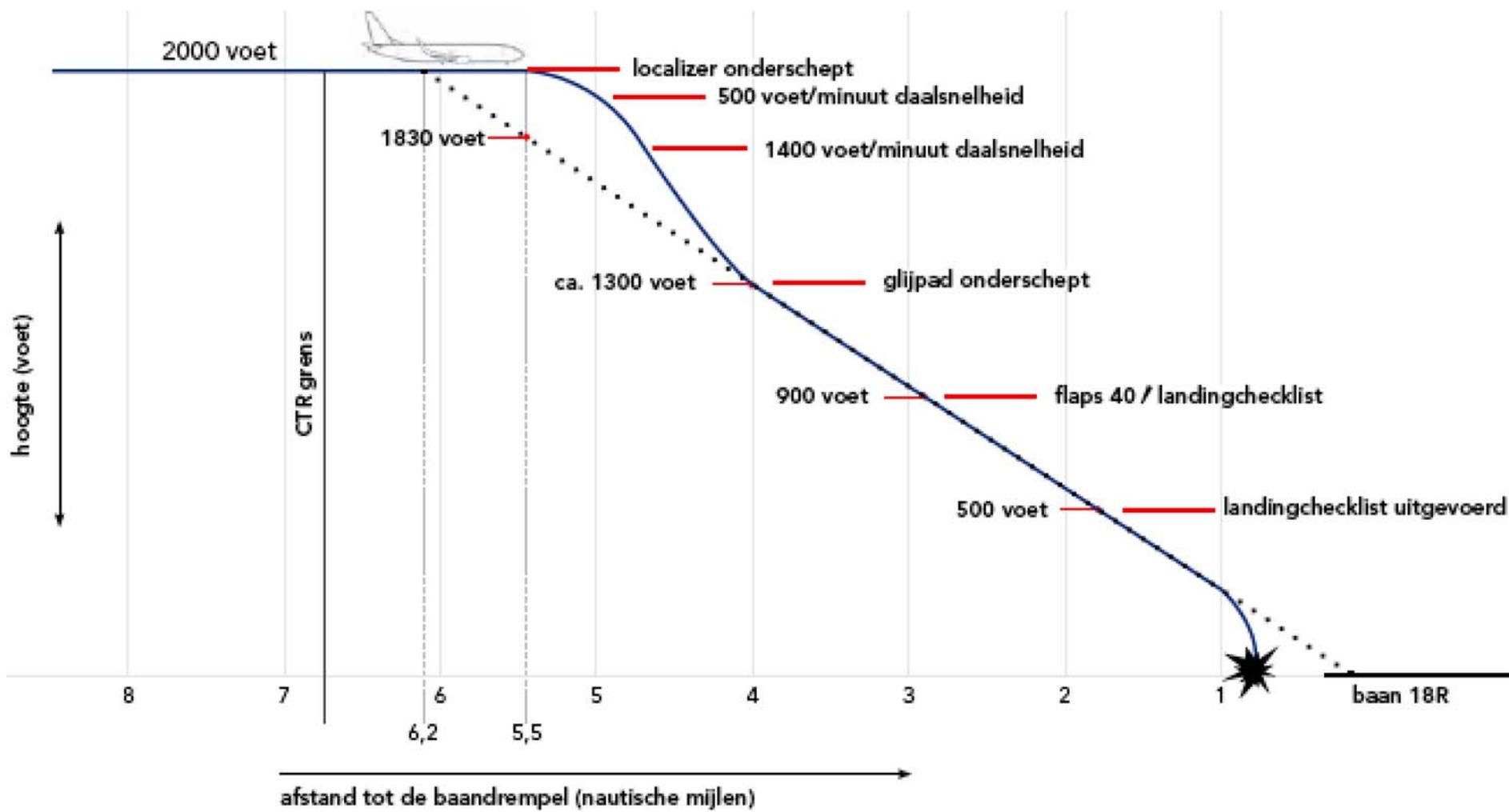
Variable	Description	
$\Delta u_n$	The incremental output	$eDf_n = eDf_{n-1} / (\frac{T_s}{T_f} + 1) + eD_n \cdot \frac{T_s}{T_f} / (\frac{T_s}{T_f} + 1)$
$K_P$	Proportional gain	where:
$eP$	Proportional error with reference weighing	$T_f$ : Filter time
	$eP = \beta \cdot r_n - y_n$	$T_f = \alpha \cdot T_d$ where $\alpha$ usually is set to 0.1
	where:	$eD$ : Unfiltered derivate error with reference weighing
	$\beta$ : Weighing factor	$eD = \gamma \cdot r_n - y_n$
	$r_n$ : Reference (setpoint)	where:
	$y_n$ : Process value, measured	$\gamma$ : Weighing factor
$e_n$	Error, $e_n = r_n - y_n$	$u_n$ : absolute output
$T_s$	Sampling interval (i.e. $\Delta t$ )	
$T_i$	Integrator time	
$T_d$	Derivator time	
$eDf$	Derivate error with reference weighing and filtering	



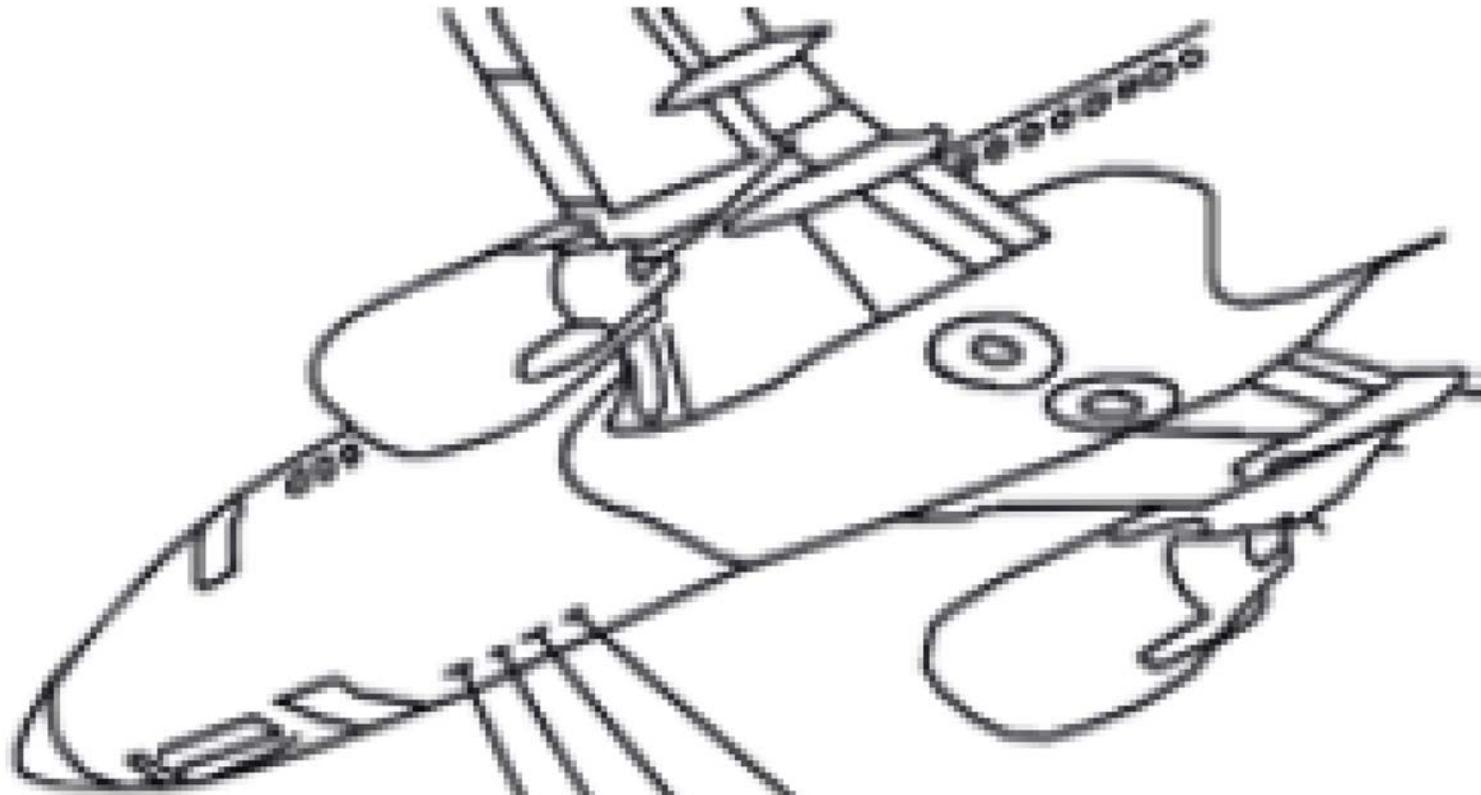
Other automated control systems?

Flight crew?





..... normaal      niet op schaal  
 ————— TK 1951



zendantenne 1

ontvangstantenne 1

ontvangstantenne 2

zendantenne 2

## Anatomy of the TK1951 Automation Surprise

### What is trained:

"One of the FCC's is specified as the master FCC."

"Each FCC continues to calculate thrust, pitch and roll commands"  
"The autothrottle adjusts the thrust levers with commands from the FCC."

"Two independent radio altimeters provide radio altitude to the respective FCC's."

"FCC A controls autopilot A and FCC B controls autopilot B"

(source: Boeing 737 FCOM and Computer Based Training for pilots)

### What a crew could have concluded:

We select FCC B as Master

FCC B calculates thrust commands;  
FCC B is giving the autothrottle its commands

FCC B has its own independent radio altimeter.  
An inoperative RA on the left has no impact, as the left RA goes to FCC A

We fly this approach on autopilot B, which gets its input from FCC B.

### What is actually going on:

FCC B controls autopilot B. Autopilot B is following the glideslope

The autothrottle gets its height information directly from the left radio altimeter, independent of which FCC has been selected Master.

Flying the approach on FCC B does not protect you from a left RA anomaly.

(source: Boeing 737 technical documentation that pilots do not have access to)

## complicated

fully describable

closed system

train to one best method

determinate linear relationships

closed-loop learning

## complex

not fully describable

open to unforeseen interactions

“best” method varies with context

small change—large event

open to societal demands

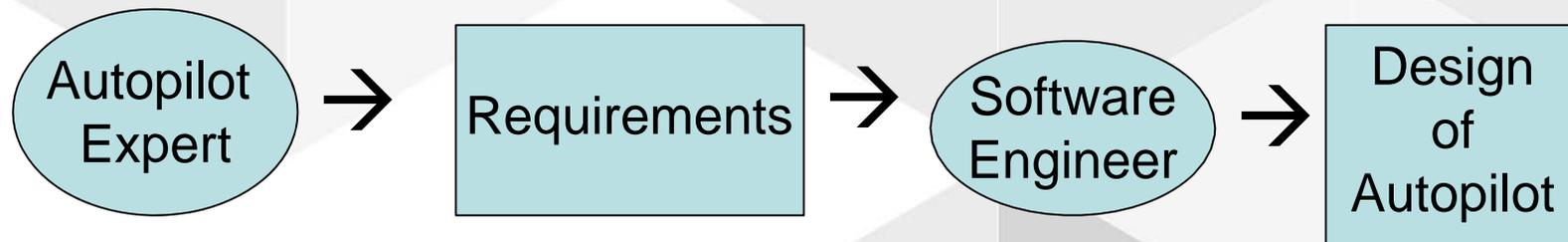
system in design

system in operation



# MODERN SYSTEMS

- Computers and new technology have led to complex designs. Complexity is the new challenge.
- Inability to conduct exhaustive testing of modern systems.
- Critical design errors become visible during operations: we test for what we designed (i.e. identified requirements), not what could happen (exhaustive list of requirements).



# New technology

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Introduction of new technology is a theory or hypothesis about how work is done

Hypothesis almost always based on componential, Newtonian view of work

## complicated

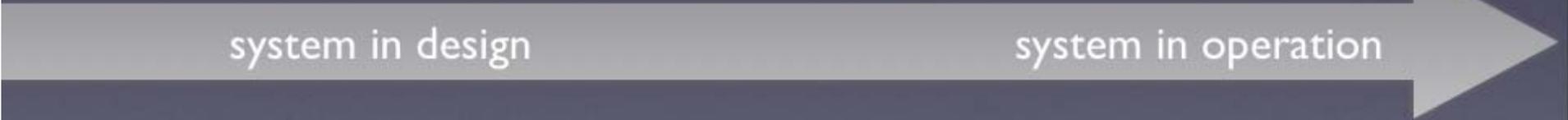
- better results with substitution
- offloads human work
- focuses human attention
- less expertise needed
- fewer errors

## complex

- new roles, transformed relationships
- new kinds of human work
- becomes additional partner
- new kinds of expertise
- new pathways to failure

system in design

system in operation



Open systems

Locality principle

Optimized at edge of chaos

Path dependence

Non-linear interactions

Fuzzy, permeable boundaries

Not clear what is in, what is out

Influences through local connections with  
outside

*“Environment is folded in—everywhere”*

(Paul Cilliers)

# Locality principle

---

Each component largely ignorant of behavior of system as whole

Doesn't know full reverberations of local actions

*“What you do controls almost nothing, but influences almost everything.”* (Paul Cilliers)

Components respond with local inputs to local outputs

No component has full model of complex system

(either would have to be as complex as the system itself, or the system is actually not complex)

Complex system held together by local relationships



Complexity is feature of system, not components

Knowledge of each component local

No component possesses capacity to represent whole complex system

Behavior of system can not be reduced to components

Only characterized, temporarily, by multitude of ever-changing relationships between components (and their environment).

## Optimized at edge of chaos

---

Operate at conditions far from equilibrium  
(i.e. if stop giving inputs ...)

Dynamic stability: requires inputs all the  
time

Best performance extracted at edge of  
chaos (e.g. coffin corner)

Large changes possible as result of small  
inputs: as transgression into chaos is near

# Path dependency

---

Past is co-responsible for behavior in present

Need to take history into account in explaining behavior

# Non-linear interactions

---

Asymmetry between input/output

Small changes create large events

Feedback loops, amplifications,  
multipliers (creating more or less)

(e.g. melting polar ice: black water heats much faster)



## the butterfly effect

CHANGE ONE THING. CHANGE EVERYTHING.

It has been said that something as small as the flutter of a butterfly's wing can ultimately cause a typhoon halfway around the world.

- Chaos Theory

# Studying failure, success

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## System behavior not reducible to parts

Failure and success emerge from same relationships

Model relationships, not component behavior

Locality principle: all postconditions of interventions not foreseeable

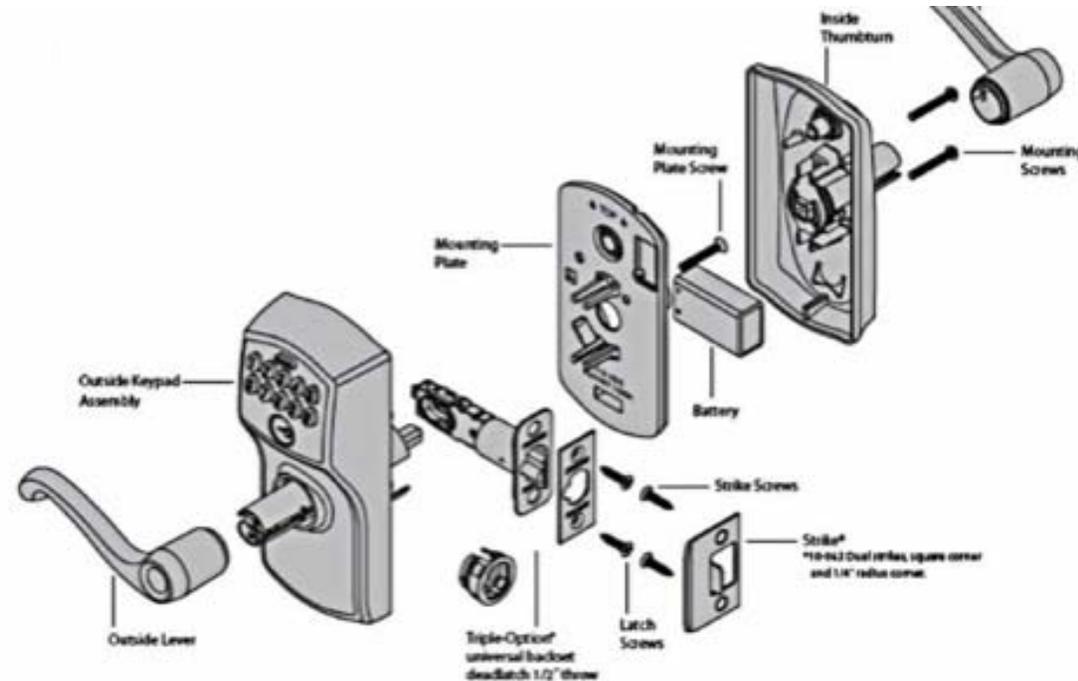
No definitive description of system

Multiple legitimate accounts, not reducible to one another

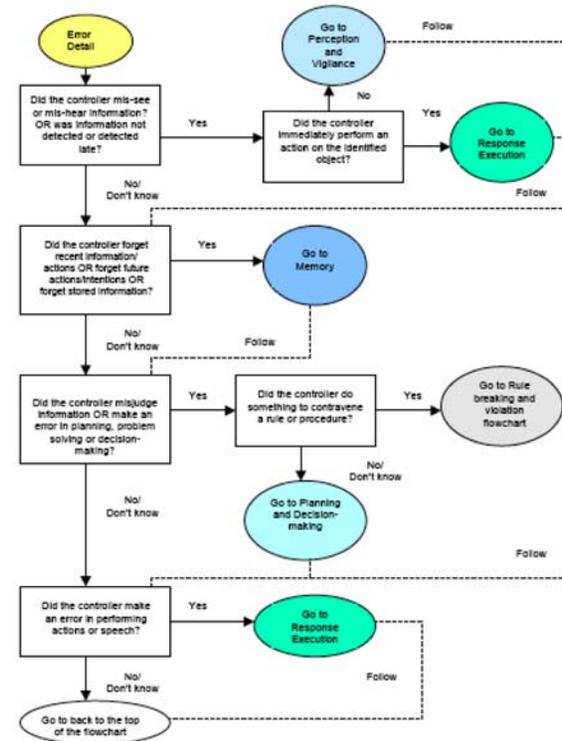
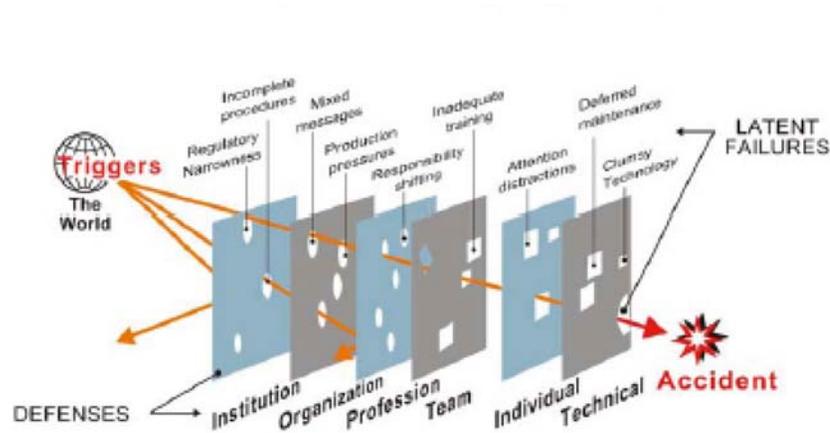
System post-accident not the same as pre

All perspectives make analytic sacrifices

Reductionism: Functioning or malfunctioning of part can explain behavior of whole system

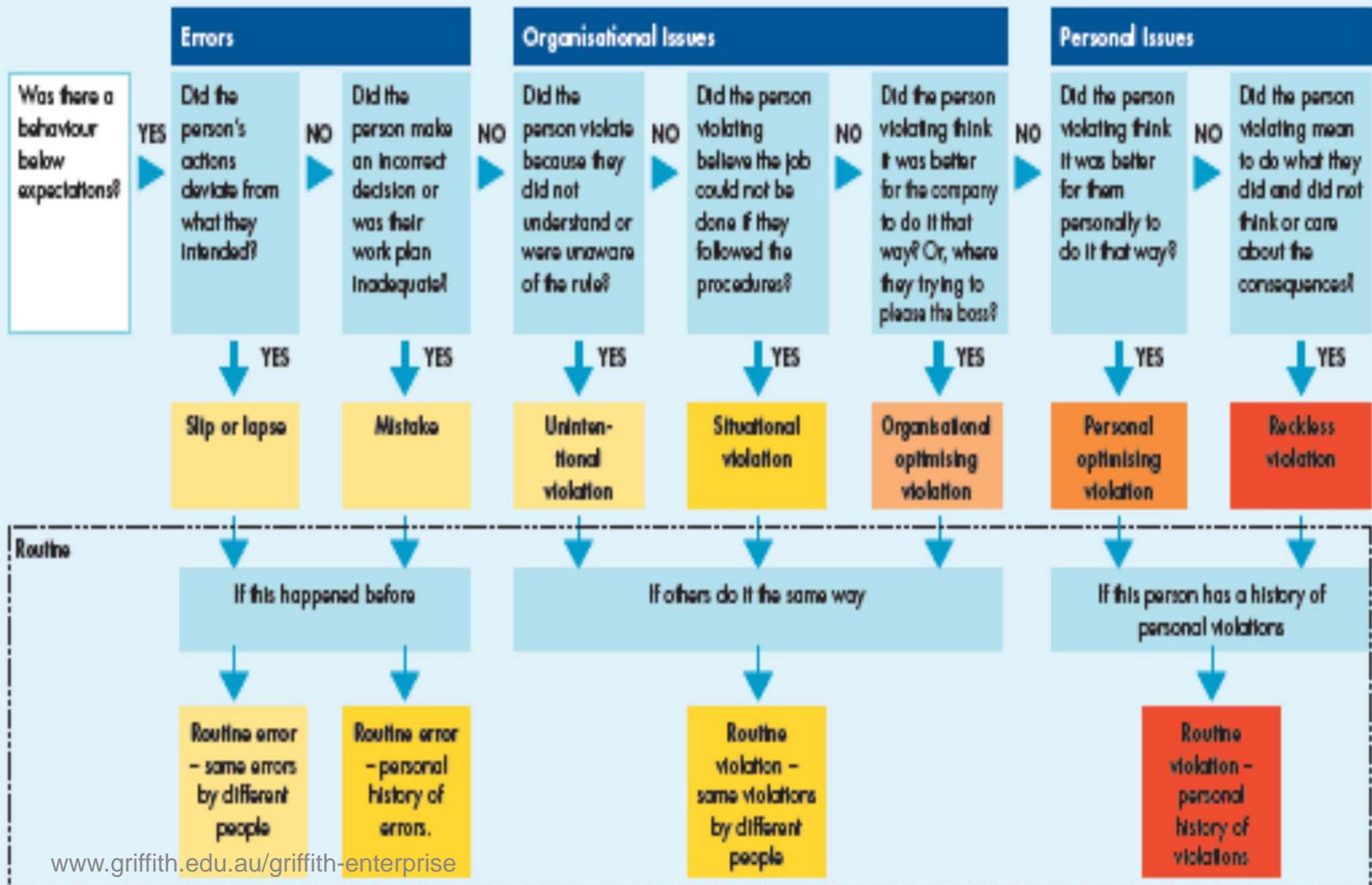
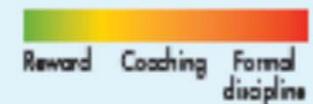


# Complexity only apparent



Decompose into smaller parts, becomes simple

# The Human Error and Violation Decision Flowchart





the aviation co.

ARE YOU A  
LINK IN THE  
ERROR CHAIN ?

Failure and success are the joint product of many related factors, all necessary and only jointly sufficient

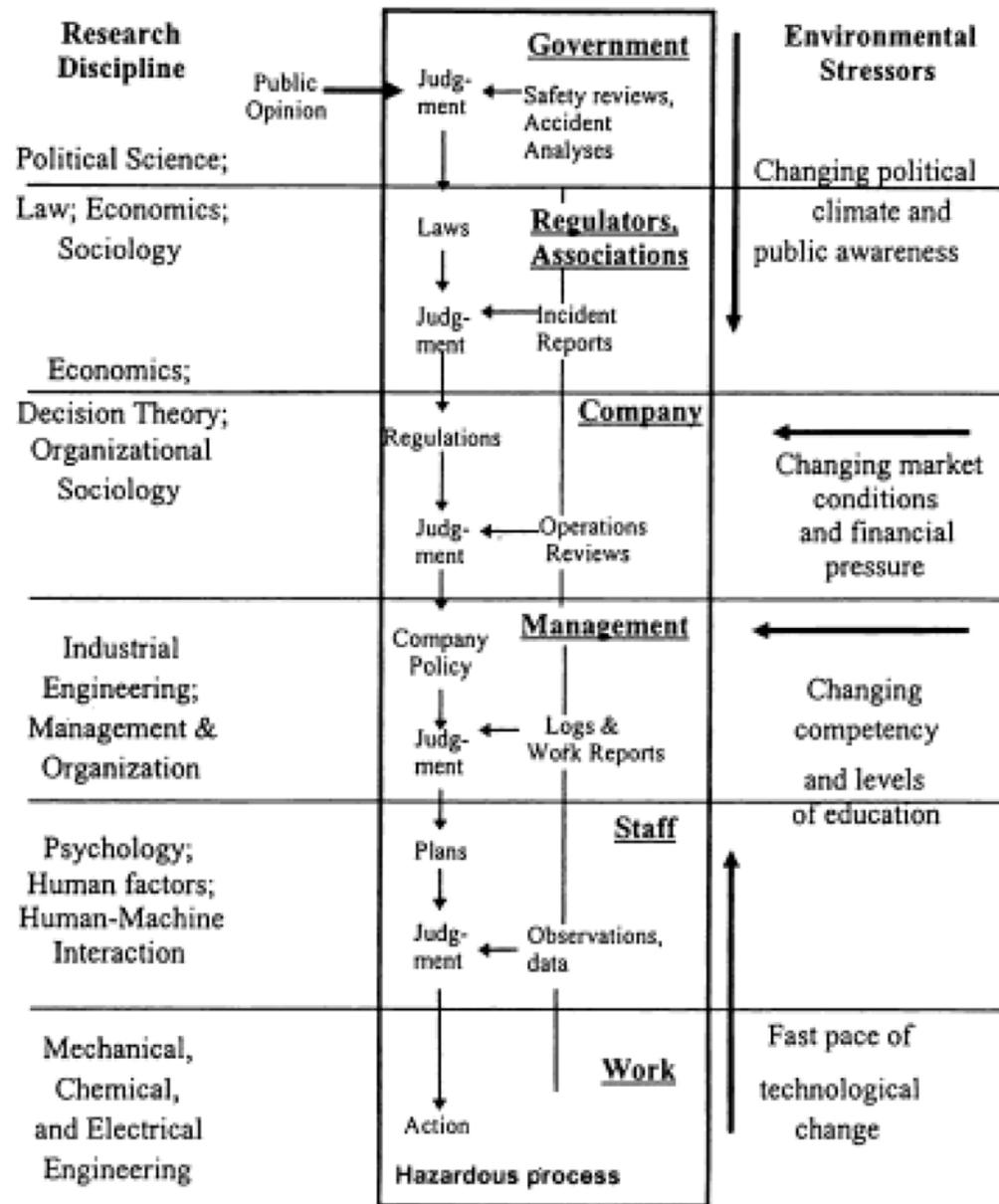
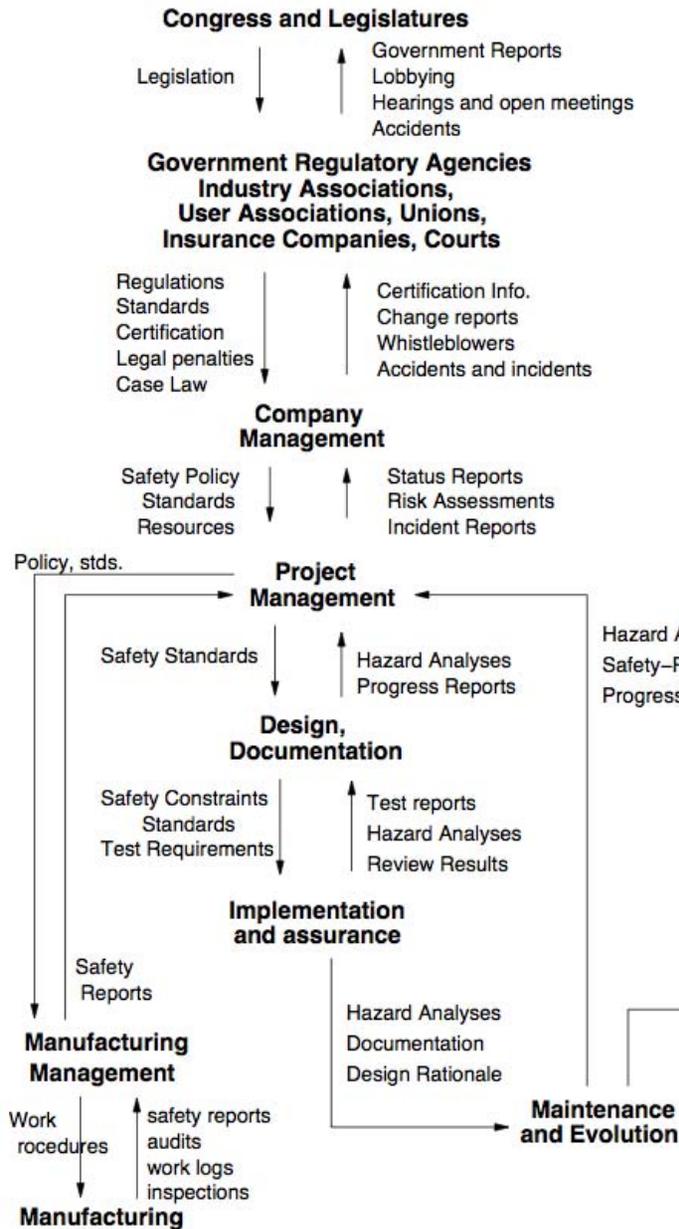
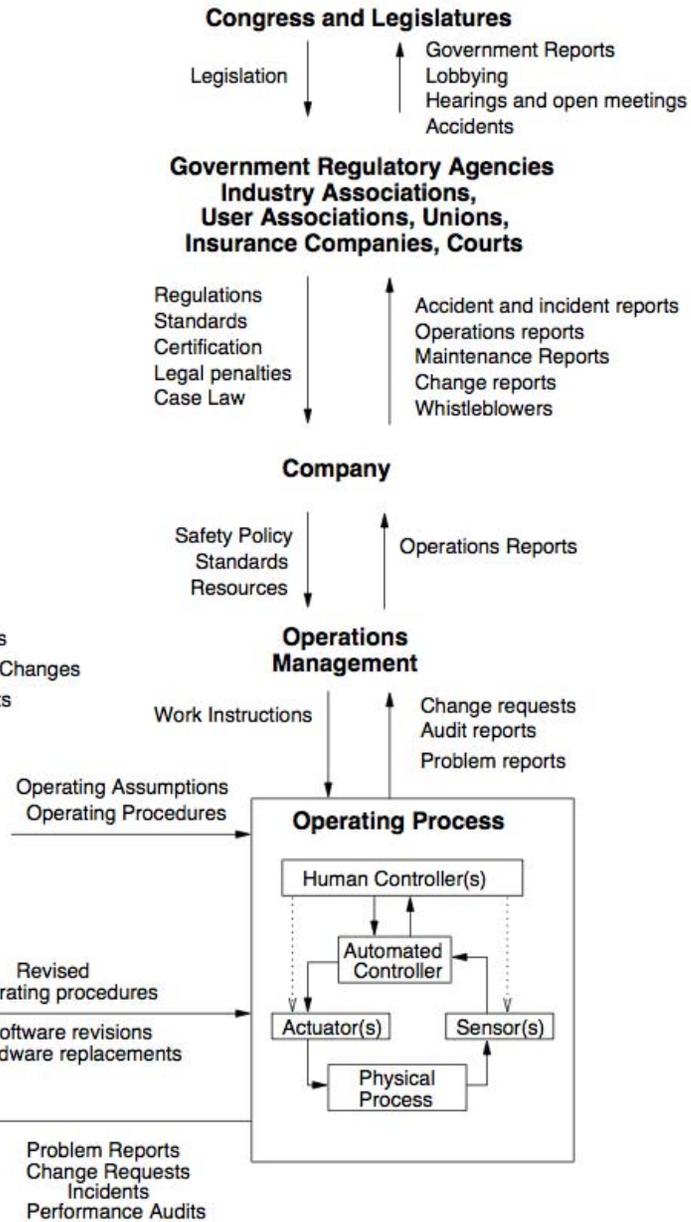


Fig. 2. Hierarchy of decision-making levels in risk management (Rasmussen, 1998).

**SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**



**SYSTEM OPERATIONS**



# IN SUMMARY: A NEW SAFETY MODEL IS NEEDED

- Single (root) cause models, such as the “Domino” model:
  - Suggest that a triggering event sets a causal sequence in motion that leads to a harmful event (e.g., Underwood & Waterson, 2013).
- Epidemiological (multiple causes) models, such as the “Swiss cheese” model (Reason, 1990):
  - Differentiates between active failures (i.e. actions and inactions) and latent conditions (i.e. individual, interpersonal, environmental, supervisory and organisational factors present before the accident)
  - The use of defences to counteract for possible failures is common across those types of models, such as the bow-tie (e.g., Boishu, 2014), Threat & Error Management (e.g., Maurino, 2005) and Tripod (e.g., Kjellen, 2000).
- **Systemic models such as STAMP (Leveson, 2011), FRAM (Hollnagel, 2010) and Accimap (e.g., Rasmussen, 1997) that focus on component interactions rather than single component failures in a dynamic, variable and interactive operational context.**

# INTRODUCING STAMP

[www.international.hva.nl](http://www.international.hva.nl)



# SYSTEMS THEORY (1)

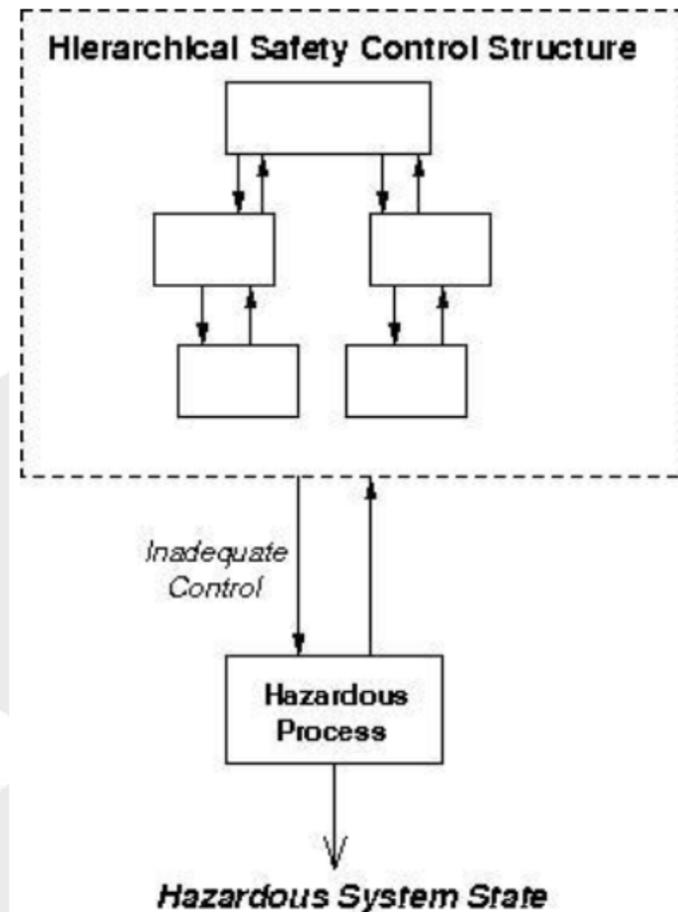
- Developed for systems that are
  - Too complex for complete analysis
    - Separation into (interacting) subsystems distorts the results
    - The most important properties are emergent
  - Too organized for statistics
    - Too much underlying structure that distorts the statistics
    - New technology and designs have no historical information
- First used on ICBM systems of 1950s/1960s
- Basis for system engineering and system safety

## SYSTEMS THEORY (2)

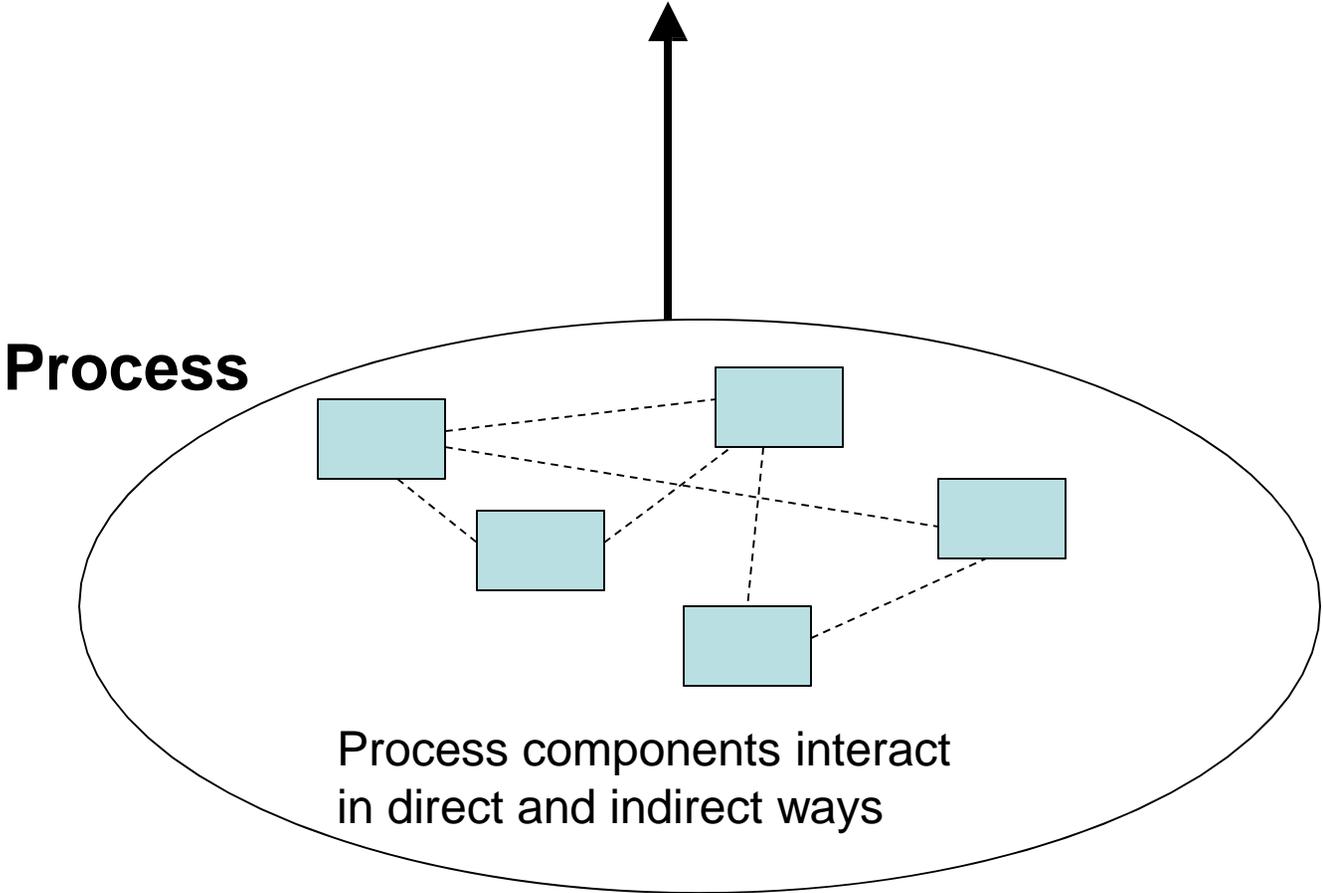
- Focuses on systems taken as a whole, not on parts taken separately
- Emergent properties
  - Some properties can only be treated adequately in their entirety, taking into account all social and technical aspects
- “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts”
  - These properties arise from relationships among the parts of the system
- How they interact and fit together

# BASICS OF SYSTEMS THEORY

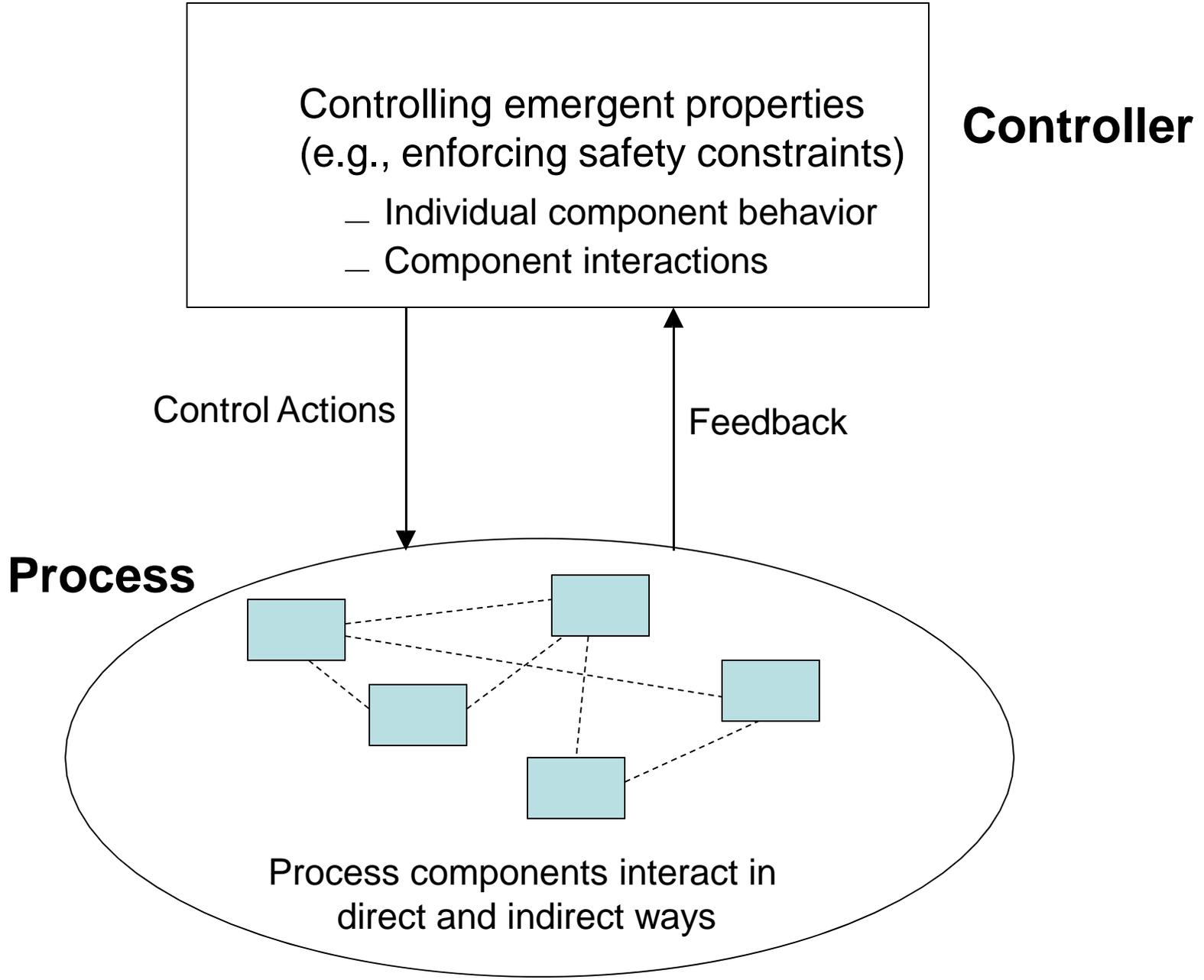
- The whole is not the sum of its parts. It is greater than that.
- Considers relations and interactions among system components.
- Systems are viewed as hierarchy of organizational levels.
- The levels have properties that are not visible in the properties of individual components.
- Each hierarchical level of a system controls the relationships between the components at the next lower level.



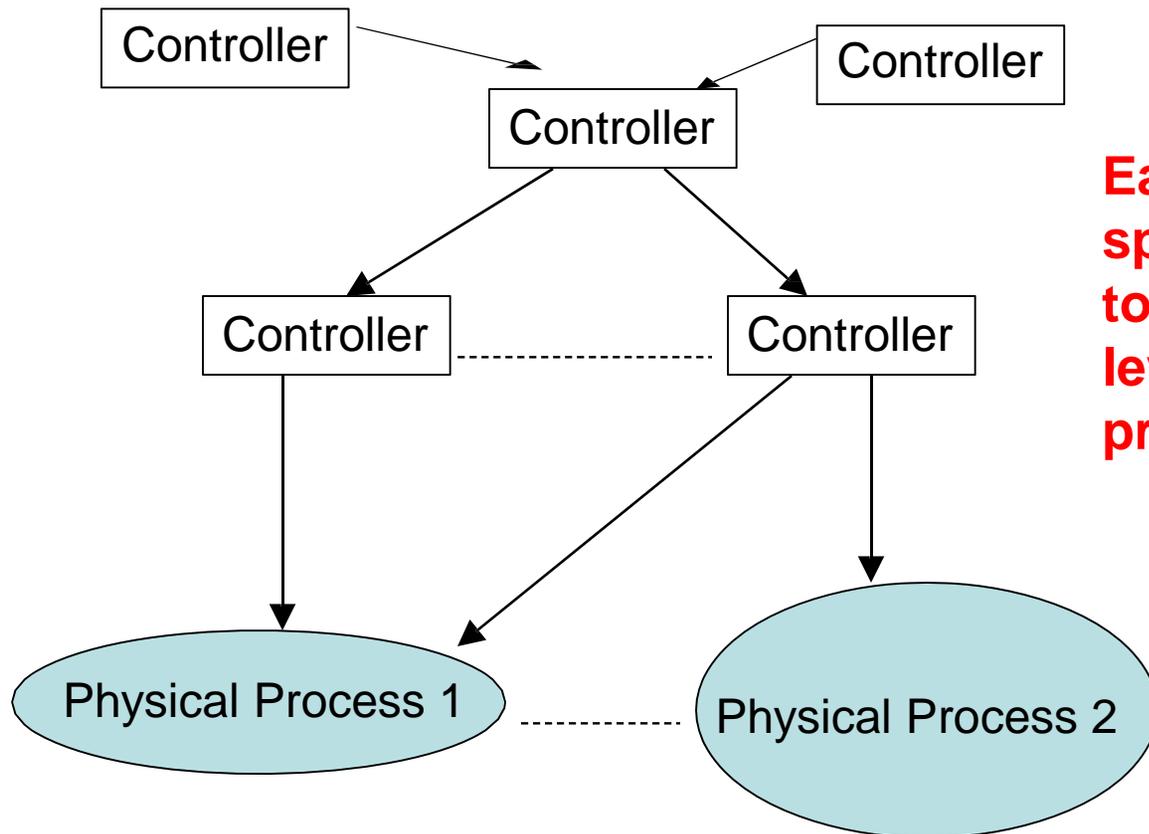
Emergent properties  
(arise from complex interactions)



**Safety is an emergent property**



multiple controllers, processes,  
and levels of control

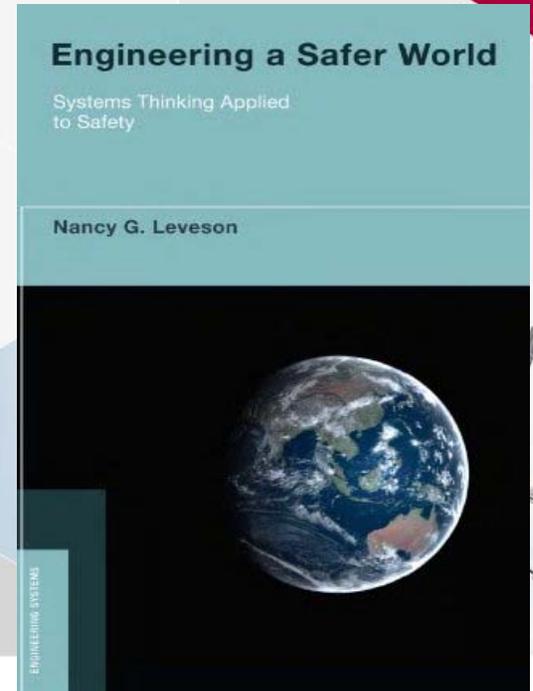


**Each controller enforces specific constraints, which together enforce the system level constraints (emergent properties)**

(with various types of communication between them)

# A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO SAFETY: THE STAMP MODEL

[www.international.hva.nl](http://www.international.hva.nl)

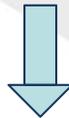


# STAMP (SYSTEM-THEORETIC ACCIDENT MODEL AND PROCESSES)

- Defines safety as a control problem (vs. failure problem)
- Applies to very complex systems
- Includes software, humans, new technology
- Based on systems theory and systems engineering
- Expands the traditional model of the accident causation (cause of losses)
  - Not just a chain of directly related failure events
  - Losses are complex processes

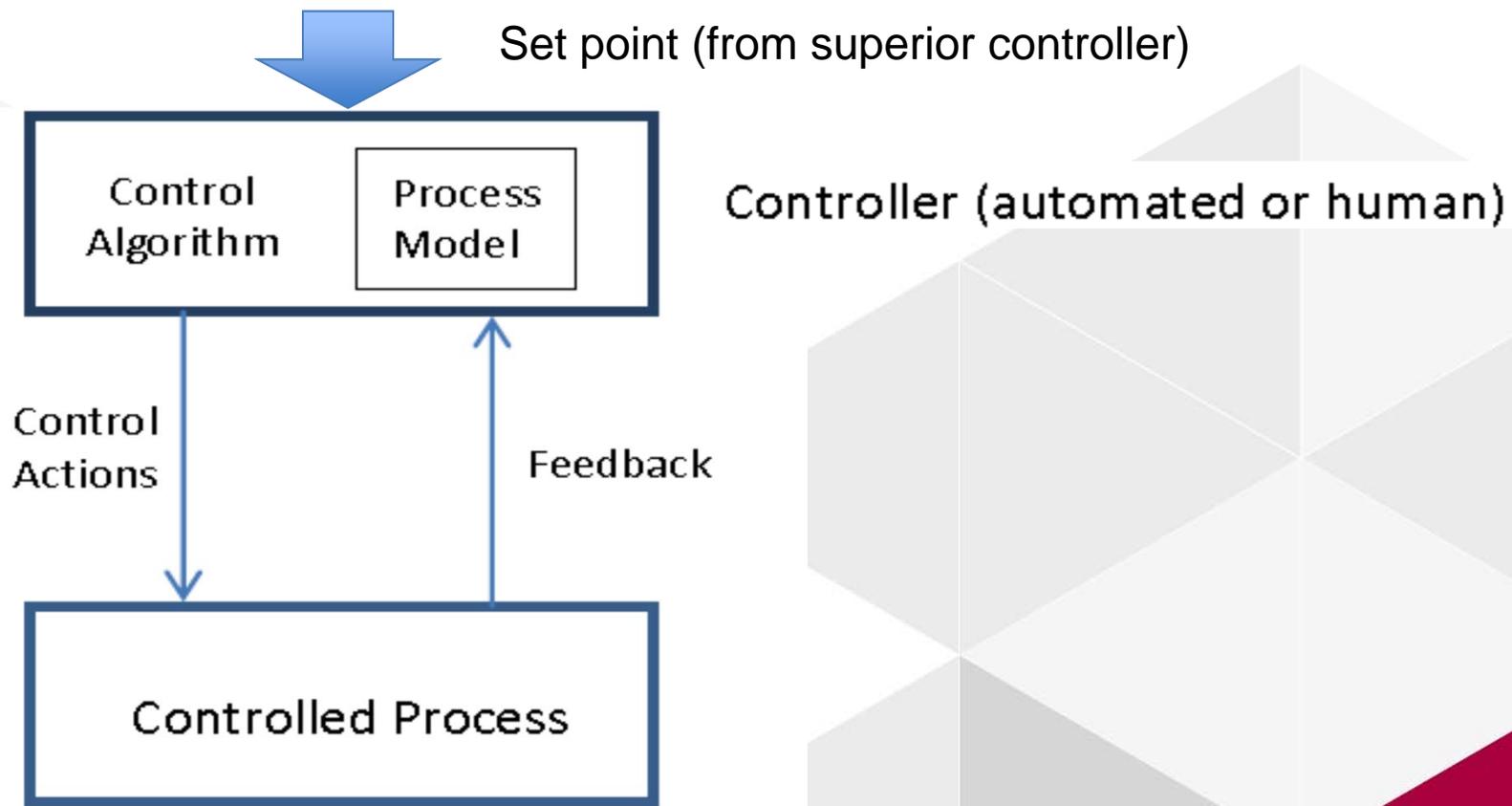
# STAMP: SAFETY AS A DYNAMIC CONTROL PROBLEM

- Events result from lack of enforcement of safety constraints in system design and operations.
- Goal is to control the behavior of the components and systems as a whole to ensure safety constraints are enforced in the operating system
- A change in emphasis:
  - “prevent failures at system level”

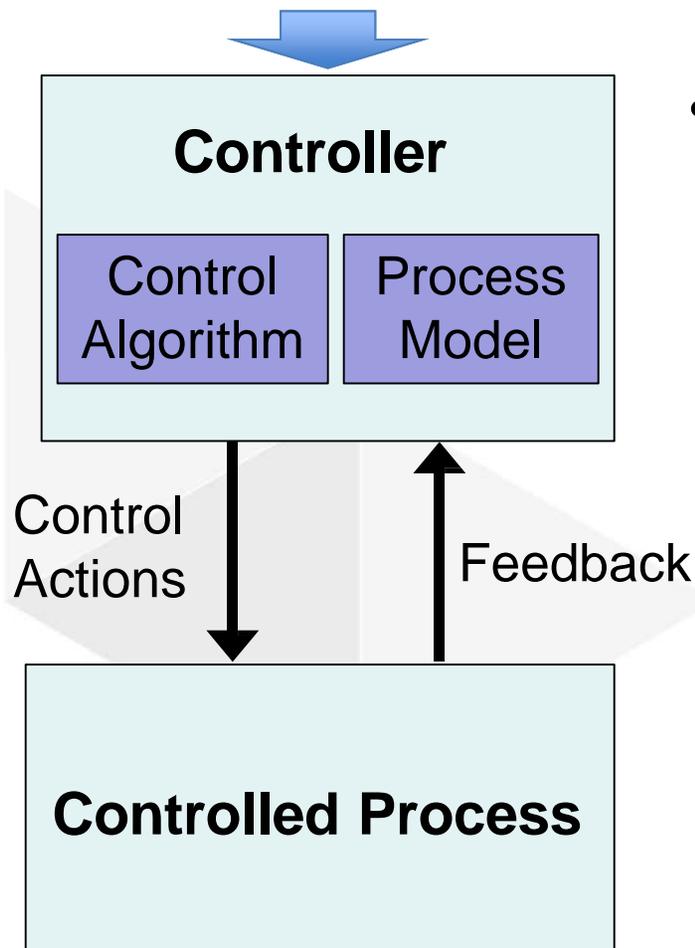


“enforce safety/security constraints on system behavior”

# THE CORE OF STAMP: CONTROL LOOPS

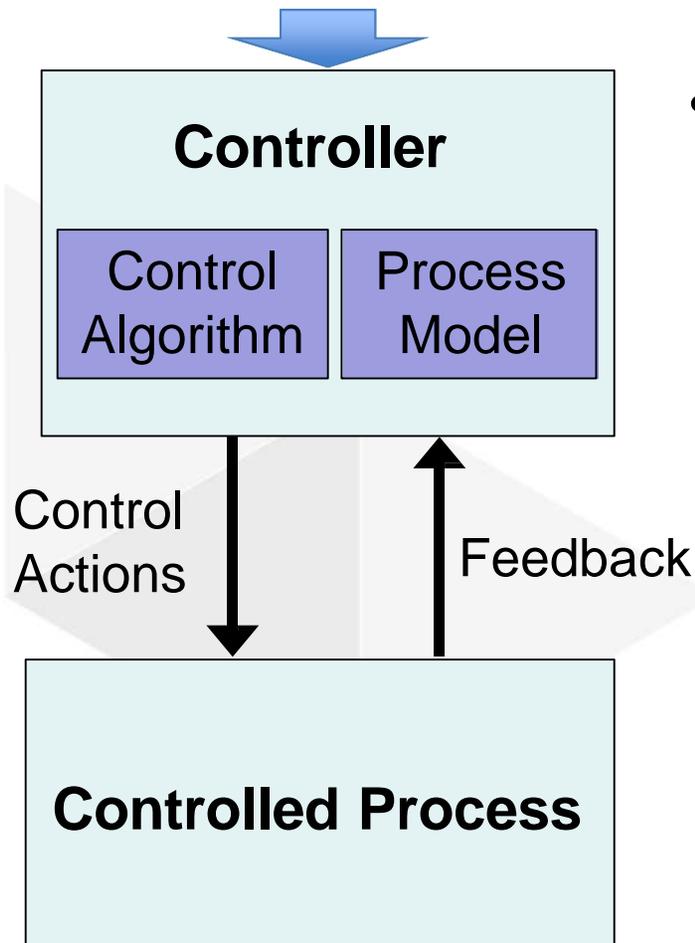


## COMPONENTS OF THE CONTROL STRUCTURE



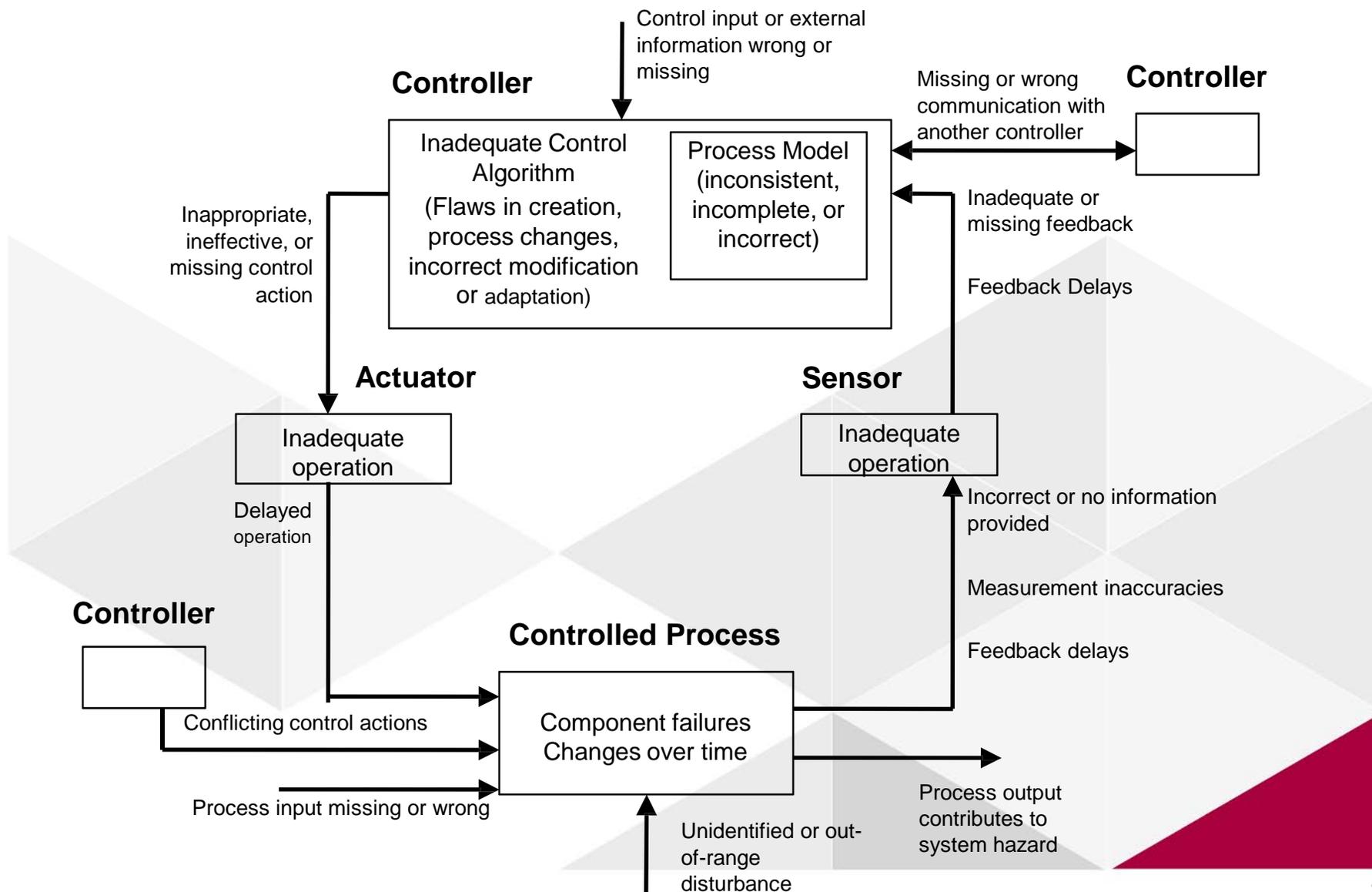
- Controllers (humans & computers) aim to keep the controlled process at target (set by superior controller) by:
  - **Process model** and feedback to determine process state
  - **Control algorithm** devises the appropriate control actions

## COMPONENTS OF THE CONTROL STRUCTURE

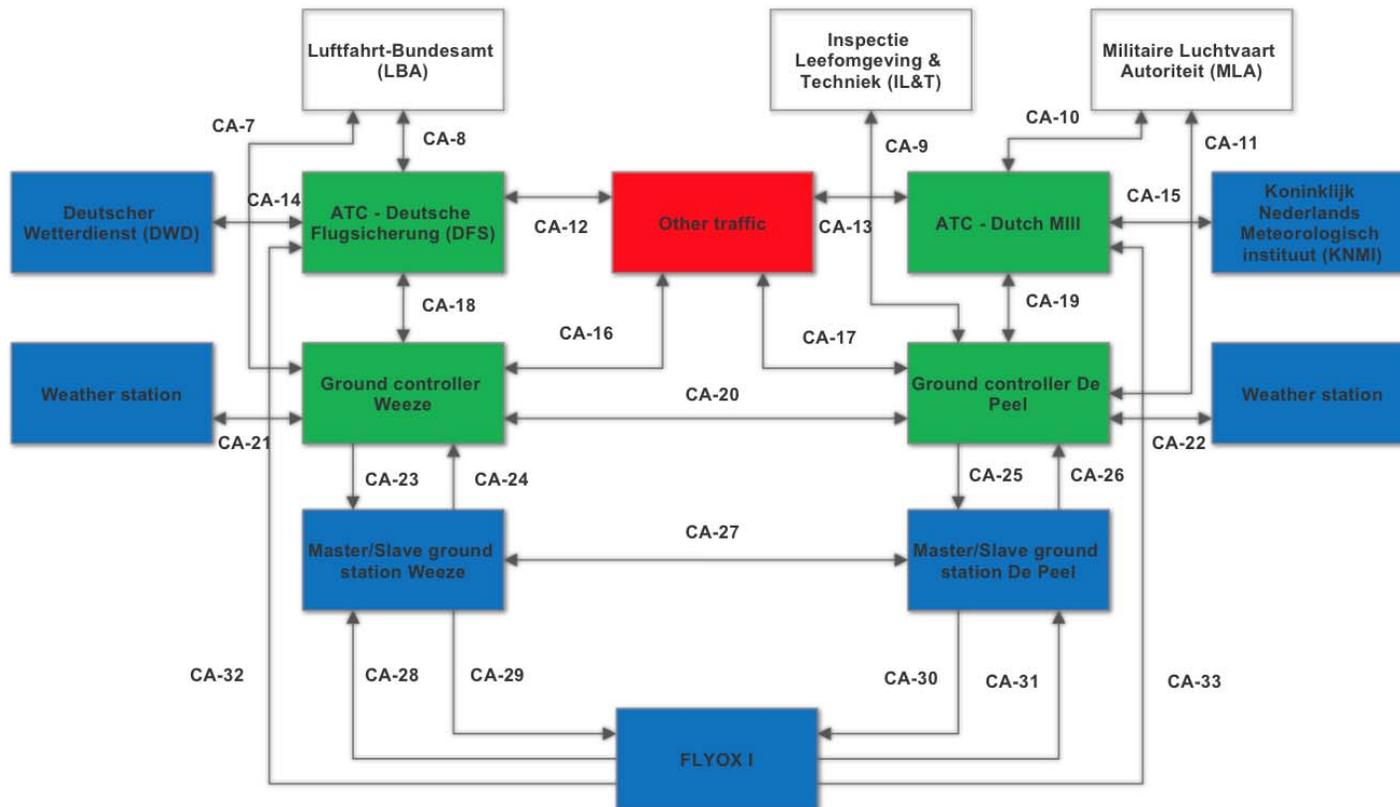


- Accidents might occur when, for example:
  - The control algorithm is outdated, inappropriate etc.
  - The process model is incorrect.
  - Control actions and feedback are (not) provided as designed.
  - The uncontrolled hazards are not monitored.
  - The assumptions made during design and operation become invalid.
  - The reliability of simple sub-systems and components is not achieved.

# POSSIBLE FLAWS IN THE CONTROL LOOP

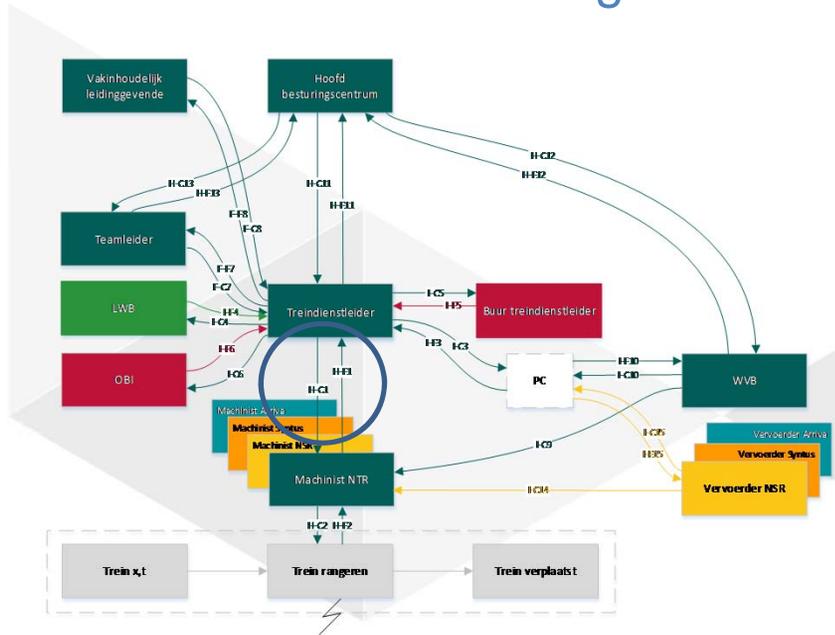


# THE STAMP METHODOLOGY IS USED TO MAP ALL INTERACTIONS AND IDENTIFY FLAWS

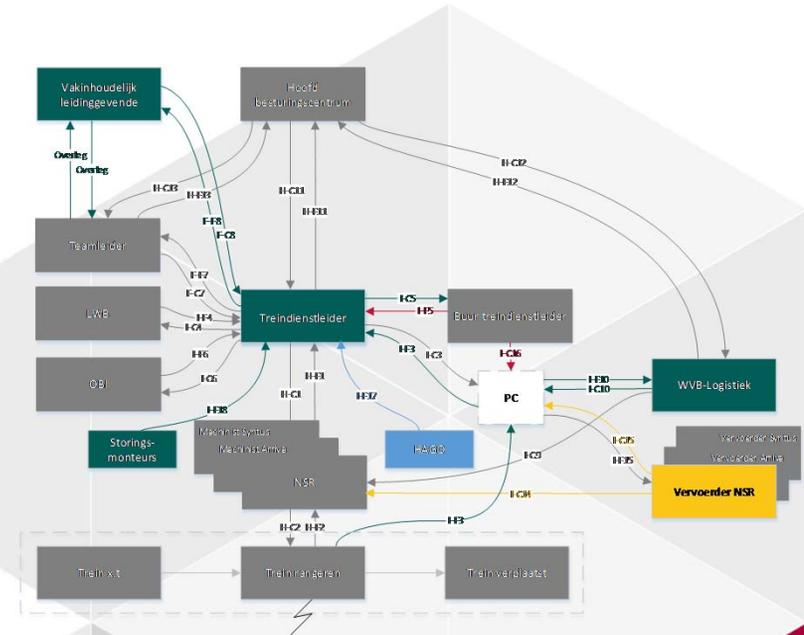


# WORK-AS-DONE VERSUS WORK-AS-IMAGINED

Work-as-imagined



Work-as-done location Zwolle



# FLAWS BOTH IN WAD AND WAI



# CONDUCTING A STAMP ANALYSIS

[www.international.hva.nl](http://www.international.hva.nl)

[www.griffith.edu.au/griffith-enterprise](http://www.griffith.edu.au/griffith-enterprise)



# THE SIX STEPS OF A STAMP ANALYSIS

1. Establish the system engineering foundation for the analysis and for the system development.
2. Create the hierarchical control structure (HCS).
3. Define control actions.
4. Identify potentially unsafe control actions.
5. Use the identified unsafe control actions to create safety requirements and constraints.
6. Determine how each potentially hazardous control action could occur to enable mitigation actions.

# 1. ESTABLISH THE SYSTEM ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

- Identify the system objective. In the objective(s) of the system is defined how the system is expected to behave. This will include the safety objectives and criteria along with high-level requirements and safety design constraints. When a system is under design, the design criteria can also be stated in the system objectives.
- Identify the system accidents. An accident is defined as “an undesired and unplanned event that result in a loss, including a loss of human life or human injury, property damage, environmental pollution, mission loss, financial loss, etc.” (Leveson et al., 2013).
- Identify the system hazards. A hazard is defined as “a system state or set of conditions that together with a worst-case set of environmental conditions, will lead to an accident (loss).” (Leveson et al., 2013).
- Identify the system safety constrains/requirements The safety constrains/requirements are a set of rules that under no circumstances can be broken or violated. They guard the safety of the system and ensure that the defined objectives are met

# IMAGINE AN UNMANNED CARGO AIRCRAFT



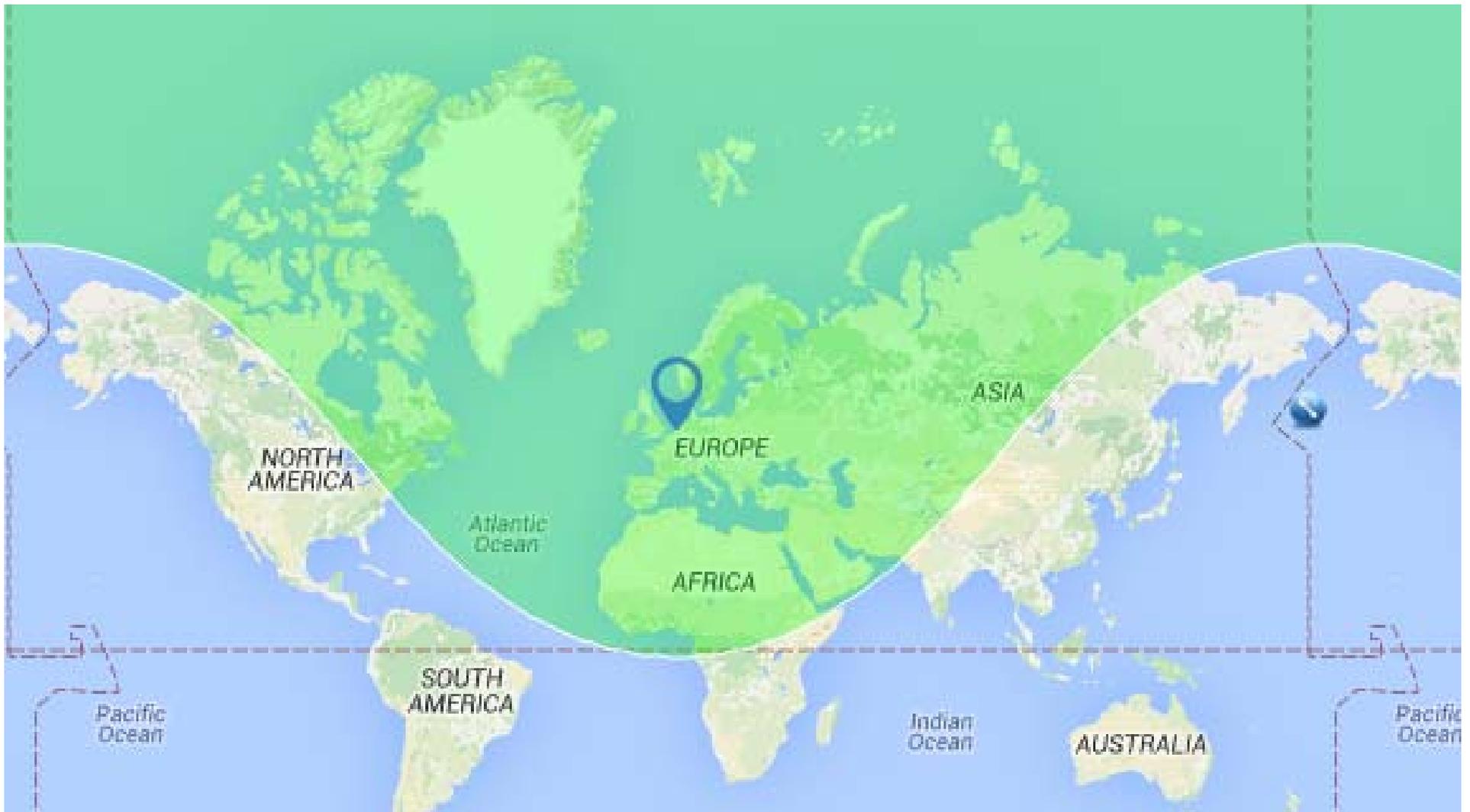
# CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS: UNMANNED CARGO AIRCRAFT

- Without any people on board → no pressurization
- Maximum payload will be 10,000 kg
- Range at least 3,000 km, possibly 6,000 km
- Propulsion:
  - conventional concepts such as a turbo-prop engine or a turbojet engine.
  - Distributed propulsion: many small, electric-driven propellers on the leading edge of the wing.
- Flies a pre-programmed route autonomously
- People monitoring the flights
  - 1 UCA per remote pilot during take-off and landing
  - about 10 UCA per remote pilot during cruise

# 3000 KM RANGE FROM AMSTERDAM



# 6000 KM RANGE FROM AMSTERDAM



# WHAT ARE FOR AN UNMANNED CARGO AIRCRAFT FLIGHT...

- ... the system objectives?
- ... the system accidents (ways the objectives are not met)?
- ... the system hazards (worst cases possibly leading to an accident)?
- ... the system safety constrains/requirements (avoiding hazards)?

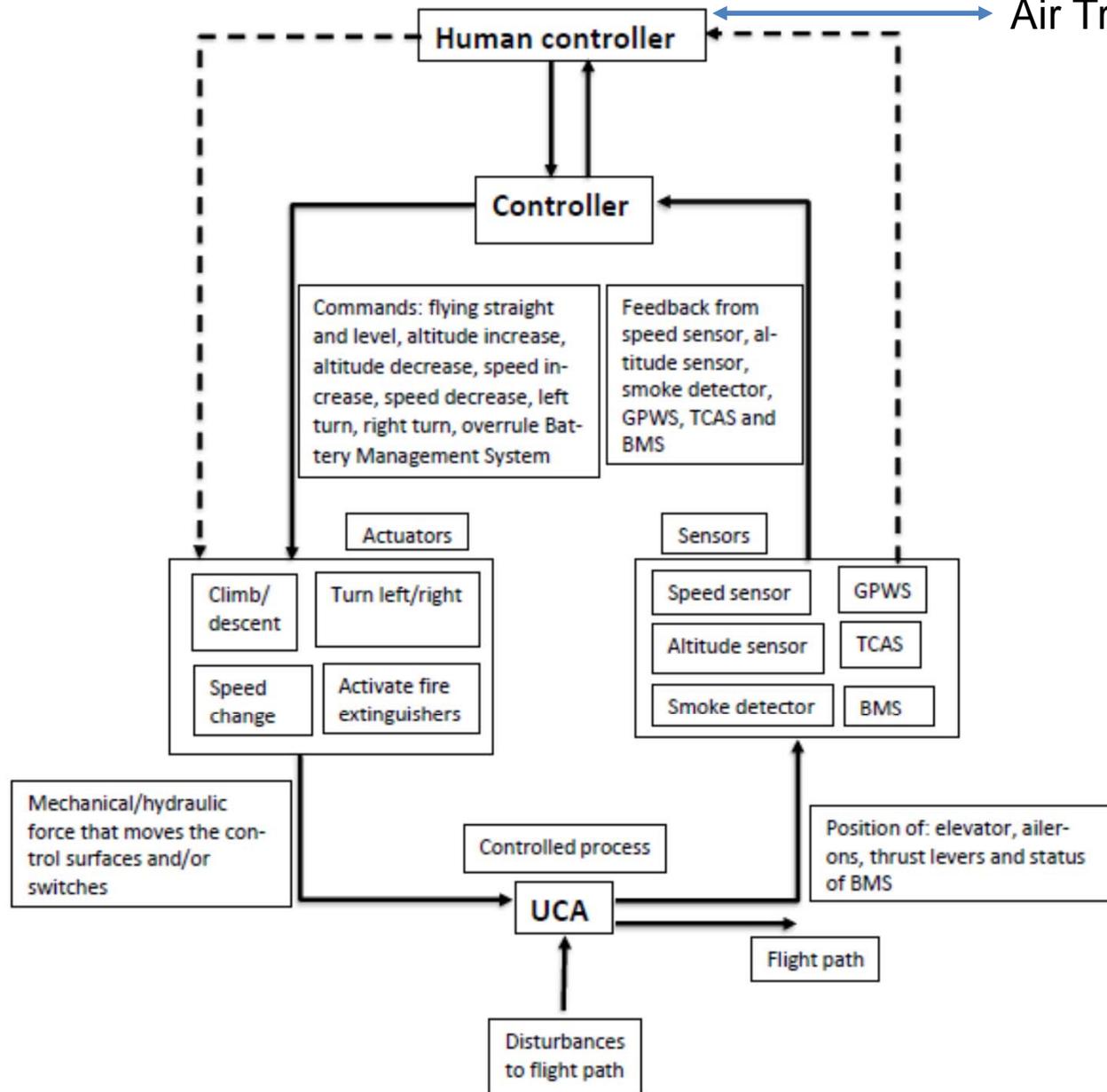
Accidents	Description	Related ICAO occurrence categories
UCA collides with other aircraft	The UCA gets so close to another aircraft, manned or unmanned, that a collision cannot be avoided anymore.	MAC, FUEL, ATM, LOC-I, MED, NAV, SFC-NP, SFC-PP
UCA collides with ground/objects on the ground during flight	A collision with the ground cannot be avoided anymore.	CFIT, FUEL, ATM, LOC-I, MED, NAV, SFC-NP, SFC-PP
UCA crashes during take-off or landing	During the take-off or landing, control over the aircraft is lost or the UCA approaches stall speed, causing the UCA to crash during take-off or landing.	ARC, CTOL, RE, RI, USOS, FUEL, LOC-I, LOC-G, MED, SFC-NP, SFC-PP
Disintegration/major damage of UCA during mission	The UCA is damaged so that the mission cannot be continued or control is lost during the mission.	BIRD, EXTL, F-NI, ICE, TURB, WSTRW, GCOL, RAMP,
Mission (delivering cargo) fails while structural integrity of UCA is maintained	The mission fails if the cargo is not delivered correctly at the required destination and at the required time, even though the structural integrity of the UCA is being maintained.	AMAN, TURB, WSTRW, ATM, NAV
Table 5.1 Accidents		110

Hazards	Description	Related accidents
<b>UCA violates separation minima in relation to other aircraft in controlled flight</b>	If UCA violates separation minima in relation to other aircraft, this could relate into colliding with that aircraft, manned or unmanned.	1, 5
<b>UCA violates separation minima in relation to the ground</b>	If the UCA fly too close to the ground, this could result in colliding with the ground, even though control is not lost (CFIT).	2, 5
<b>UCA control is lost</b>	If UCA control is lost, neither the automated controller nor the human controller can do anything about it.	1, 2, 3
<b>UCA approaches stall speed</b>	If the UCA approaches the stall speed, this often means that some of the altitude will be lost as well.	2, 3
<b>Short circuit within electrical circuit</b>	Short circuit in electrical circuit causes heat in the batteries, which on its turn could cause the batteries to catch fire.	4, 5
<b>Overcharging of Li-ion batteries</b>	Overcharging of batteries causes heat and the heat could cause fire.	4, 5
<b>Take-off or land without permission</b>	The UCA needs permission in order to take-off or land.	2, 3
<b>Cargo is damaged</b>	Cargo can be damaged in different ways. One can think of water damage from the fire extinguishers, fire, or from the self-destruct function. The damaged cargo could also have consequences for the rest of the UCA, when for example dangerous goods are being transported.	4, 5

## 2. CREATE THE HIERARCHICAL CONTROL STRUCTURE (HCS) & 3. CONTROL ACTIONS

- Go on, do it...





<b>Control actions</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1. Control autopilot and FMS</b>	The human controller can set up the autopilot and FMS for take-off and landing before the flight by entering the departure runway, SID, route waypoints, altitudes, speeds, STAR, arrival runway, and parking position.
<b>1. Flight path control</b>	The automated controller and human controller control the flight path of the UCA. The human controller monitors the variables during the flight that he/she has put in before take-off. The automated controller makes sure that the entered variables, the process model, is met during the flight. The automated controller can also make corrections in order to keep the UCA within the tunnel in the sky.
<b>1. Activate fire extinguishers</b>	The automated controller and the human controller have the ability to activate the fire extinguisher when there is a fire.
<b>1. ATC control</b>	The human controller is responsible for keeping contact with ATC. He/she is responsible for responding to ATC, complying with ATC instructions and for requesting possible diversions, for example for weather.

## 4. IDENTIFY POTENTIALLY UNSAFE CONTROL ACTIONS

- Four scenarios:
  - When a control action is not provided it causes a hazard
  - When a control action is provided it causes a hazard
  - When a control action is provided at the wrong time or order it causes a hazard
  - When a control action is stopped too soon or applied too long it causes a hazard

Control action	Not provided (*)	Provided incorrectly (*)	Too early, too late or wrong order (*)	Stopping too soon/applying too long (*)
<b>1. Control autopilot and FMS</b>	Violate separation minima (1, 2) Approach stall speed (4) Control loss (3) T/O or land without permission (7)	Violate separation minima (1, 2) Approach stall speed (4) Control loss (3) T/O or land without permission (7)	Not hazardous	Violate separation minima (1, 2) Approach stall speed (4) Control loss (3) T/O or land without permission (7) Not hazardous
<b>2. Flight path control</b>	Violate separation minima (1, 2) Approach stall speed (4) Control loss (3)	Violate separation minima (1, 2) Approach stall speed (4) Control loss (3)	Violate separation minima (1, 2) Approach stall speed (4) Control loss (3)	Violate separation minima (1, 2) Approach stall speed (4) Control loss (3)
<b>3. Activate fire extinguishers</b>	Cargo damage (8) Control loss (3)	Cargo damage (8)	Cargo damage (8) Cargo damage (8) Control loss (3) Not hazardous	Cargo damage (8)
<b>4. ATC control</b>	Violate separation minima (1, 2) T/O or land without permission (7)	Violate separation minima (1, 2) T/O or land without permission (7)	Not hazardous Violate separation minima (1, 2) Not hazardous	Violate separation minima (1, 2)

## 5. USE UCA TO CREATE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS & 6. TO ENABLE MITIGATION

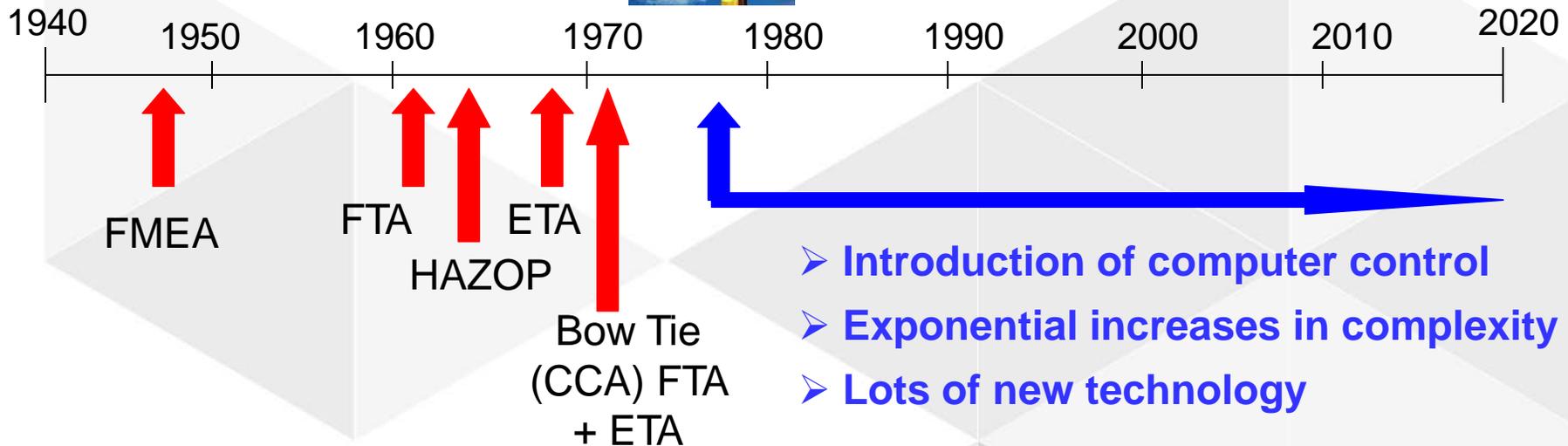
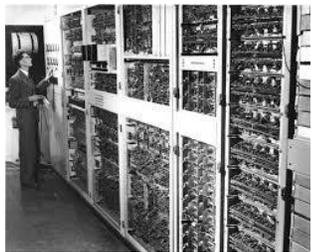
Scenario	Associated Causal Factors (*)	Rationale/Notes
<b>Activate fire extinguishers – Too early, too late or wrong order</b>	Output of controlled process contributes to system hazard (1)	The output of the controlled process contributes to the system hazard that cargo is damaged. This is acceptable.
	Sensor measurement delay (2)	The activation of the fire extinguishers could be started too late because of sensor measurement delay.
	Sensor to controller signal inadequate, missing, or delayed: Communication bus error (4)	The signal from the sensor to the automated controller could be delayed because of a communication bus error, causing the fire extinguishers to be activated too late.
	Controller to actuator signal ineffective, missing, or delayed: Communication bus error (6)	The signal between the automated controller and the fire extinguisher activation actuator could be delayed because of communication bus error.
	Actuation delivered incorrectly or inadequately: Actuation delayed (8)	The late actuation of the fire extinguishers could happen when the actuation of the fire extinguishers is performed incorrectly. This means that the actuation is delayed.

# CONCLUSIONS

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# OUR CURRENT TOOLS ARE ALL 40-65 YEARS OLD BUT OUR TECHNOLOGY IS VERY DIFFERENT TODAY

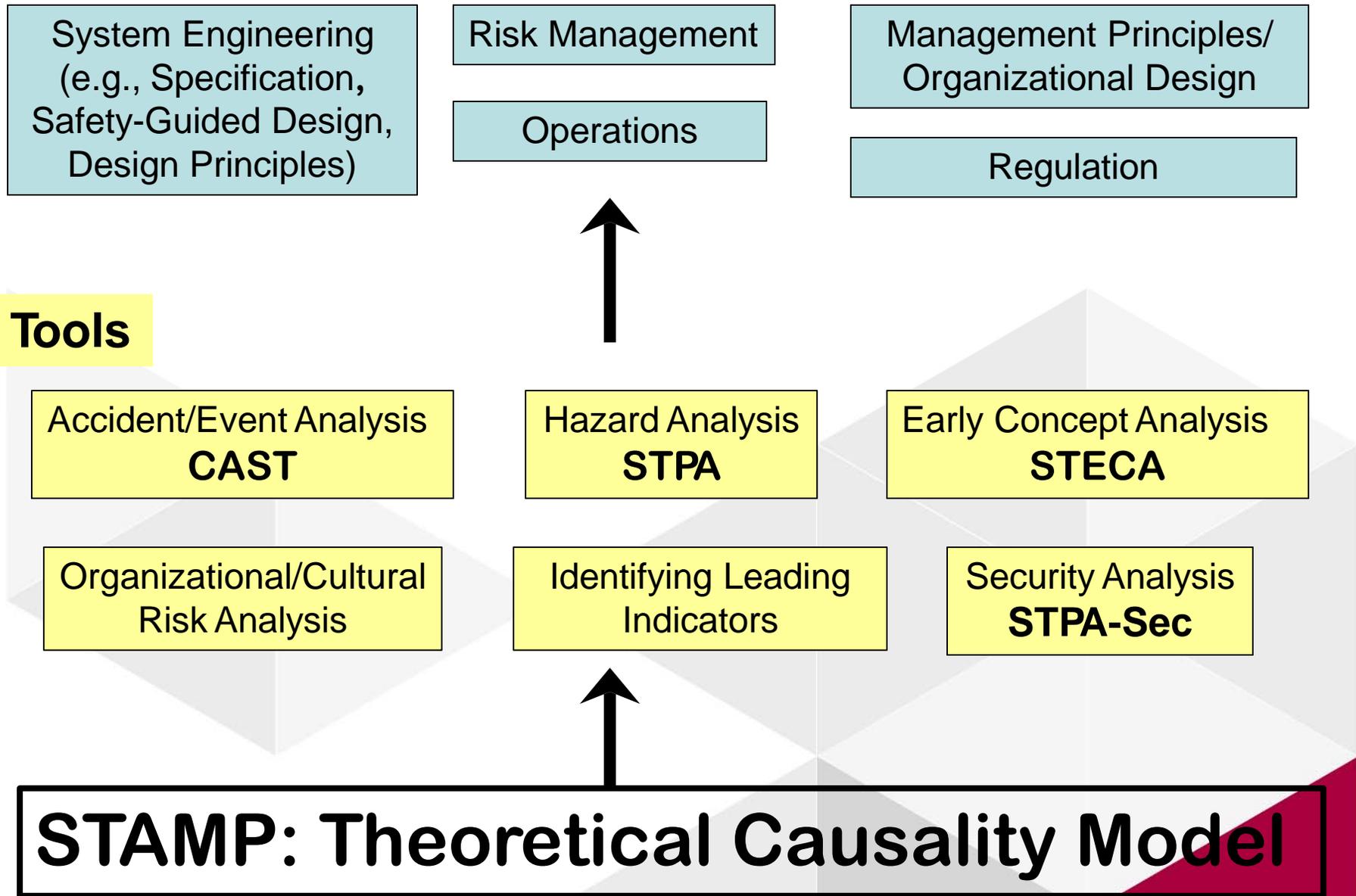


# STANDARD HAZARD ANALYSIS METHODS DO NOT HANDLE:

- Component interaction accidents
- Systemic factors (affecting all components and barriers)
- Software and software requirements errors
- Human behavior (in a non-superficial way)
- System design errors
- Indirect or non-linear interactions and complexity
- Migration of systems toward greater risk over time (e.g., in search for greater efficiency and productivity)

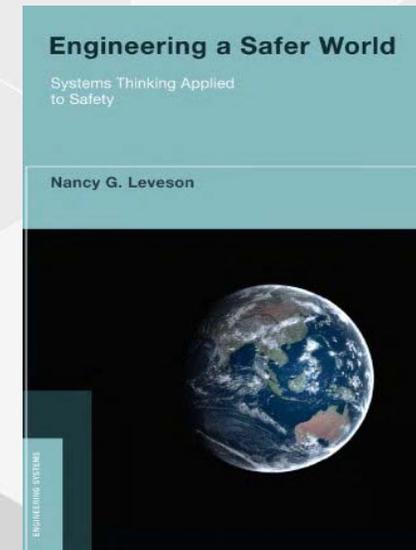
# WHAT IS STAMP ABOUT?

- It addresses interconnections of system components (hardware, humans, software etc.).
- It provides structured guidance for hazard identification at the first stages of the design / analysis (STPA method).
- It combines and extends concepts and advantages of traditional hazard analysis methods.
- It still relies on reliability theory and human performance when reaching down to the component level.
- It leads to identification of more hazards than the current methods do.
- It depends on experience and expertise of the analyst.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- STPA Primer: Written for industry to provide guidance in learning STPA
- Website: [mit.edu/psas](http://mit.edu/psas): Previous MIT STAMP workshop presentations
- Book: “Engineering a Safer World” by Nancy Leveson
- [Sunnyday.mit.edu](http://Sunnyday.mit.edu): Academic STAMP papers, examples



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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