

# LOSS OF CONTROL IN FLIGHT: A REDEFINITION BASED ON QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES

AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY CONGRESS 2019

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# AGENDA



- 1 | THE PROBLEM
- 2 | WHAT IS LOC-I?
- 3 | MOTIVATION AND OBJECTIVES
- 4 | FLIGHT TEST SIMULATIONS
- 5 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
- 6 | CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK



1

# THE PROBLEM

WHY ARE WE SPECIFICALLY STUDYING LOC-I?

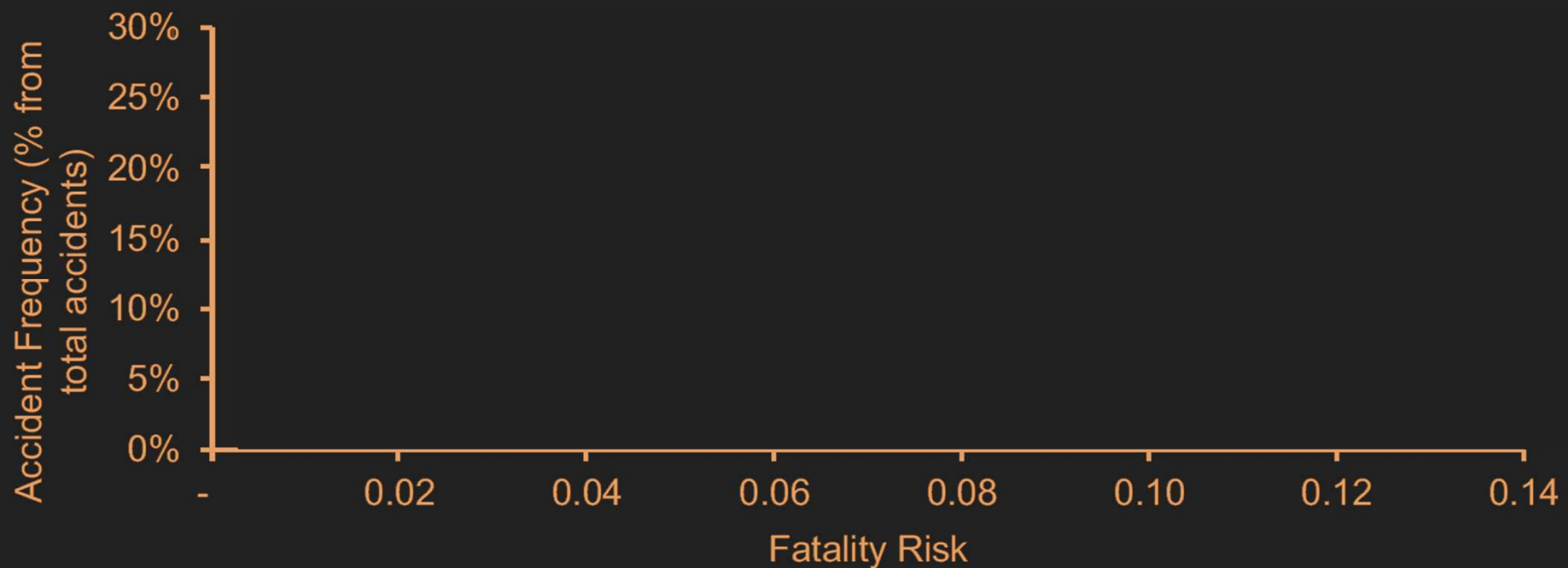
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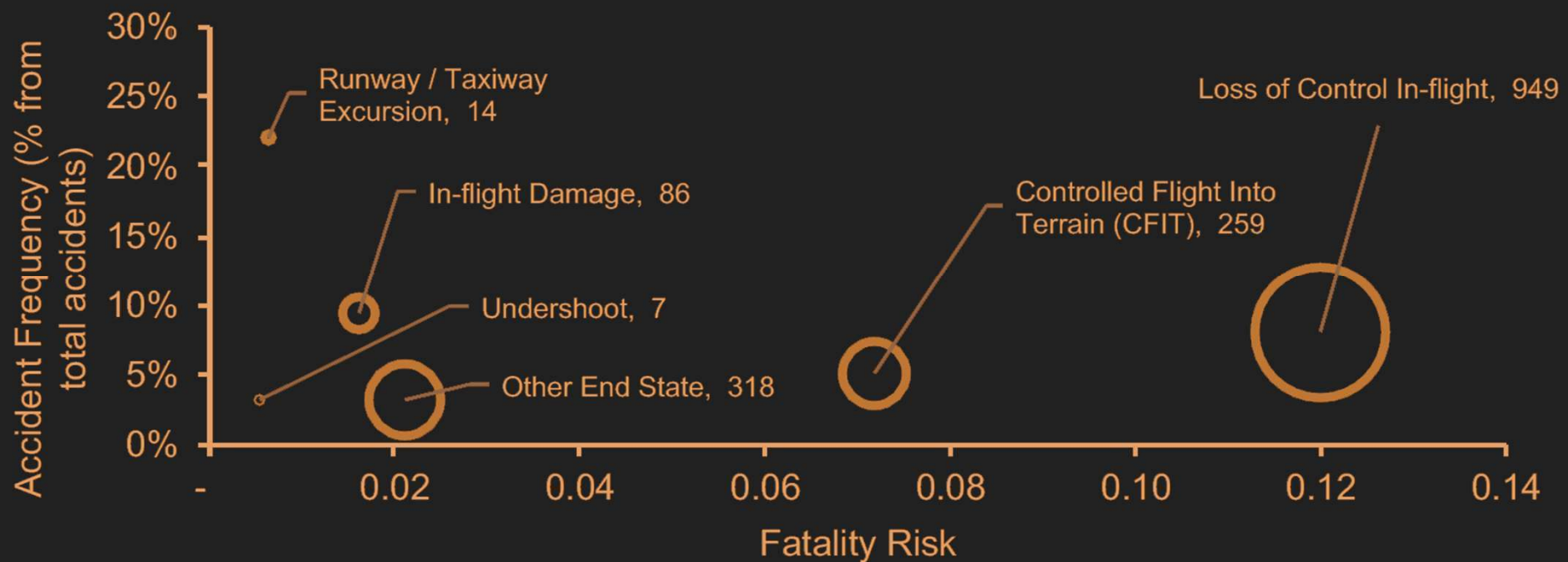
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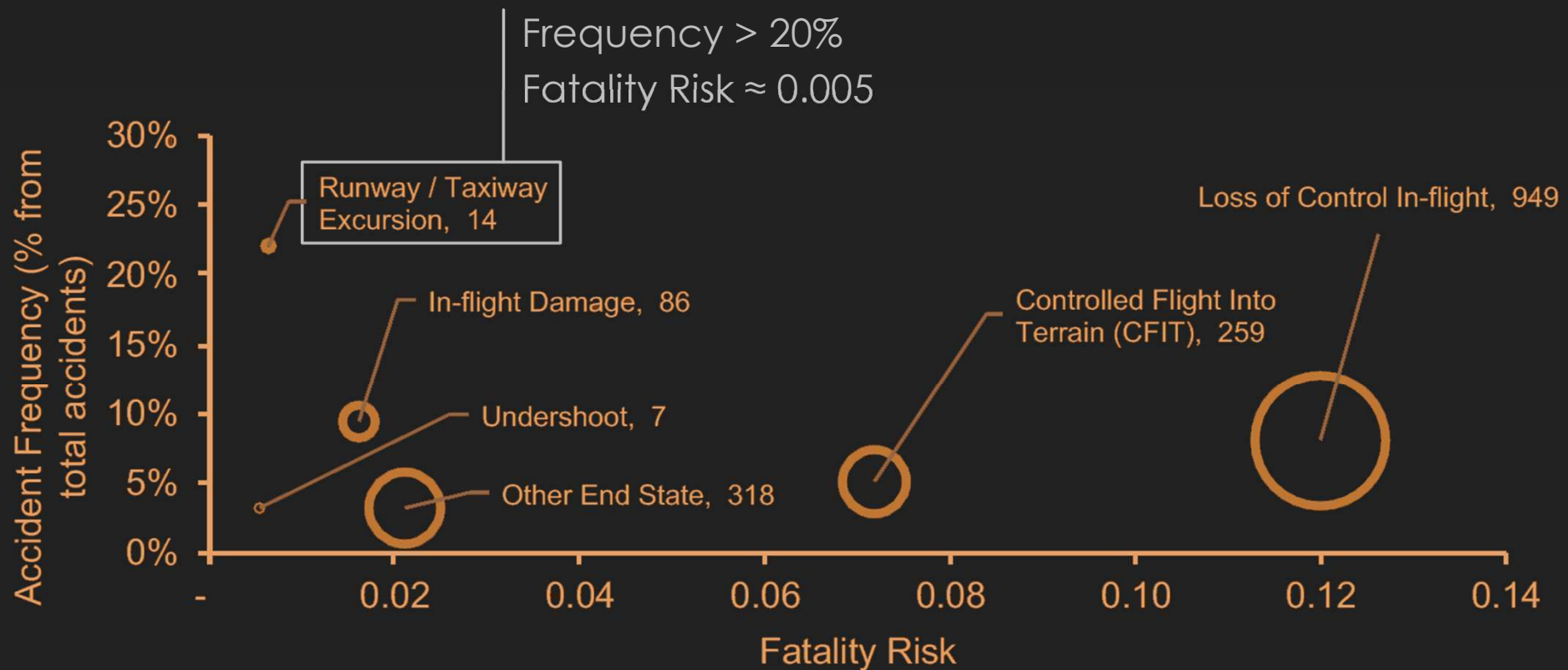
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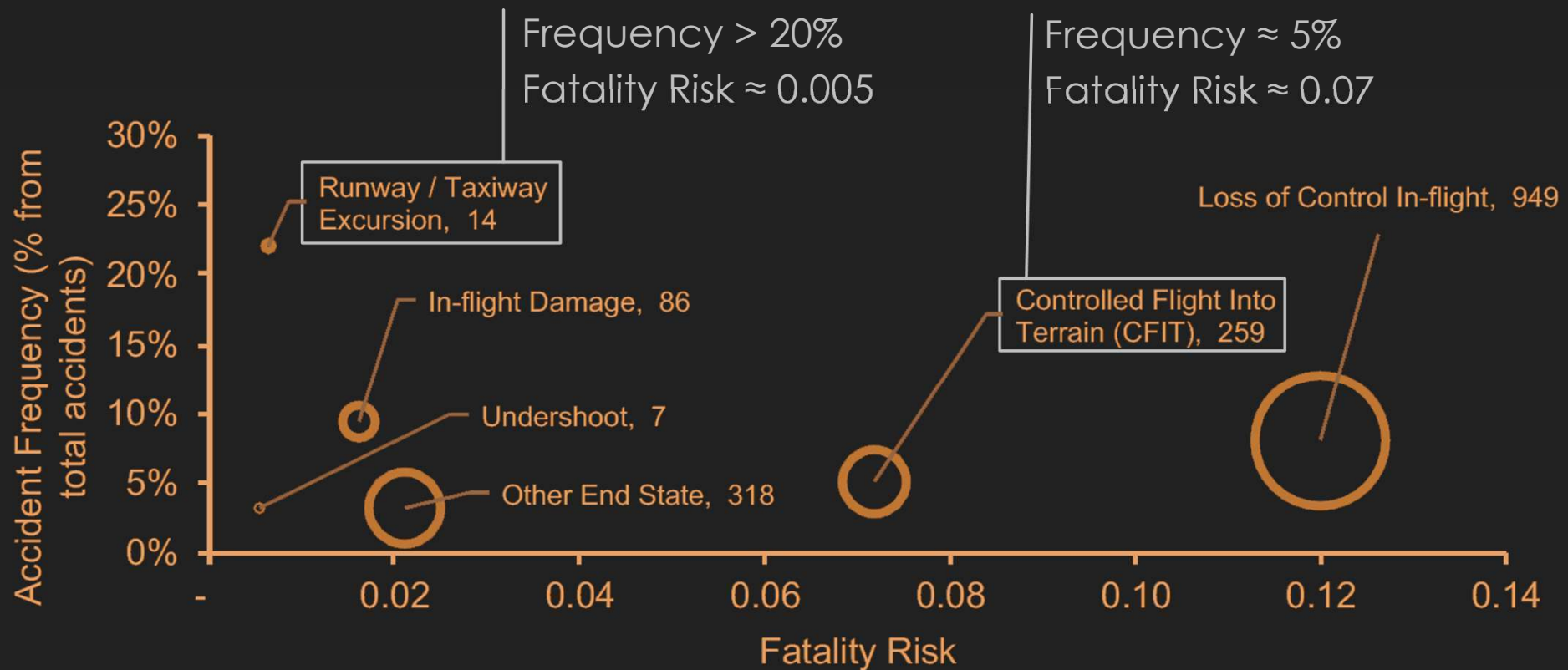


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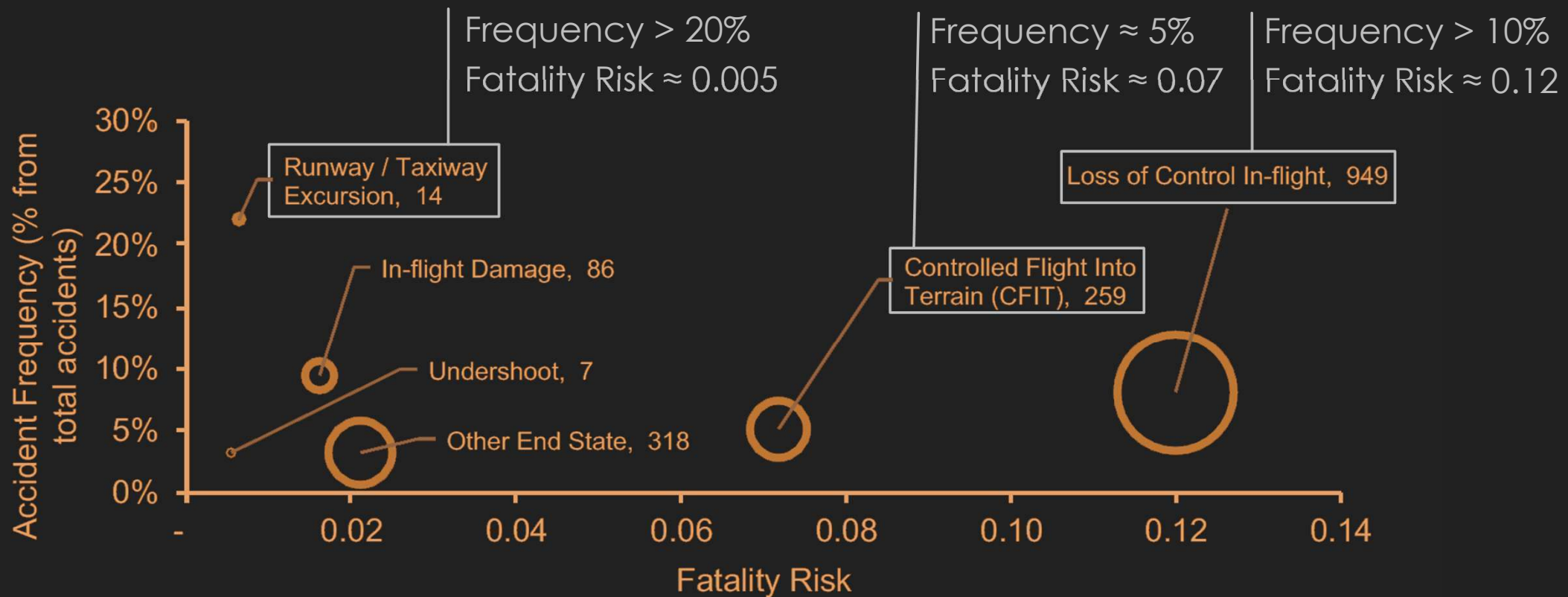
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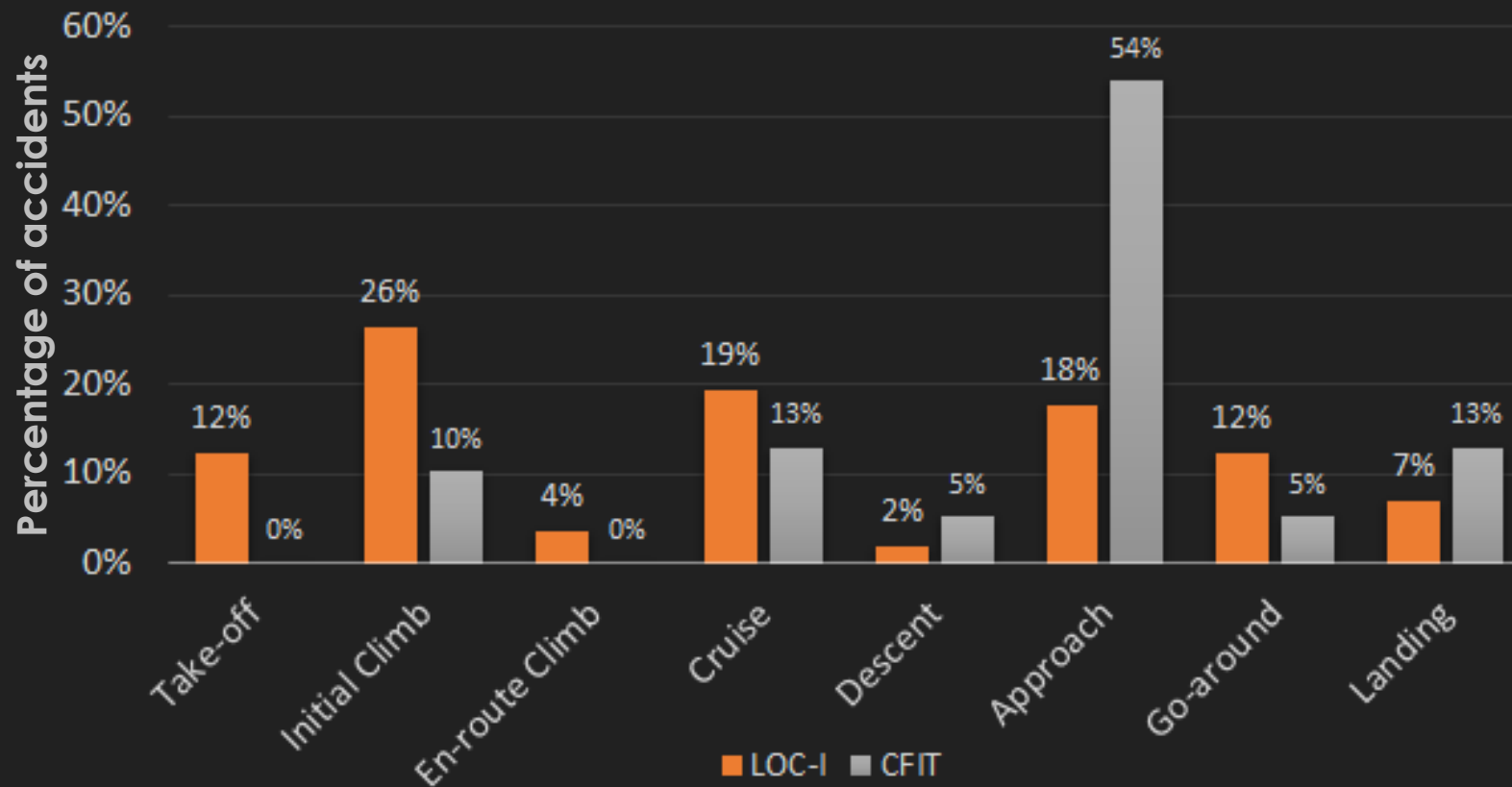
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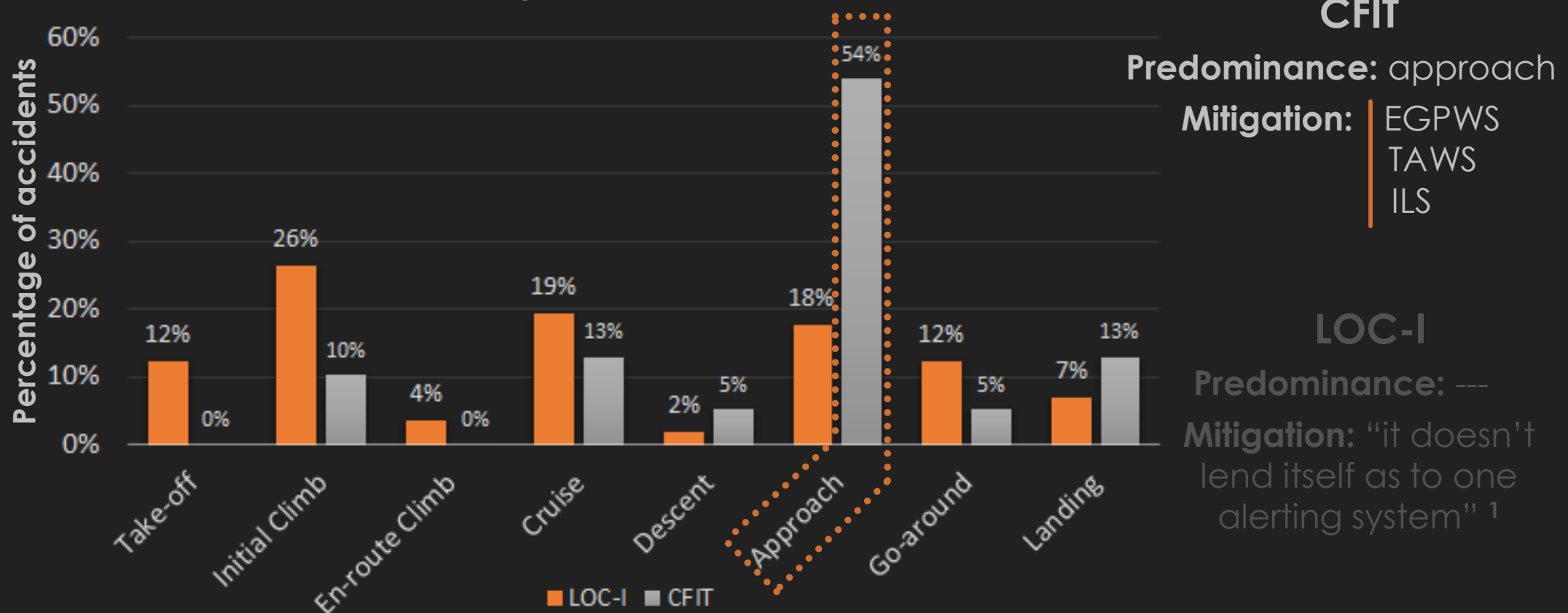
CFIT and LOC-I by phase of flight – 2009 to 2016



Source: (Graph) The author – Data is retrieved from IATA annual Safety Reports - editions 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016

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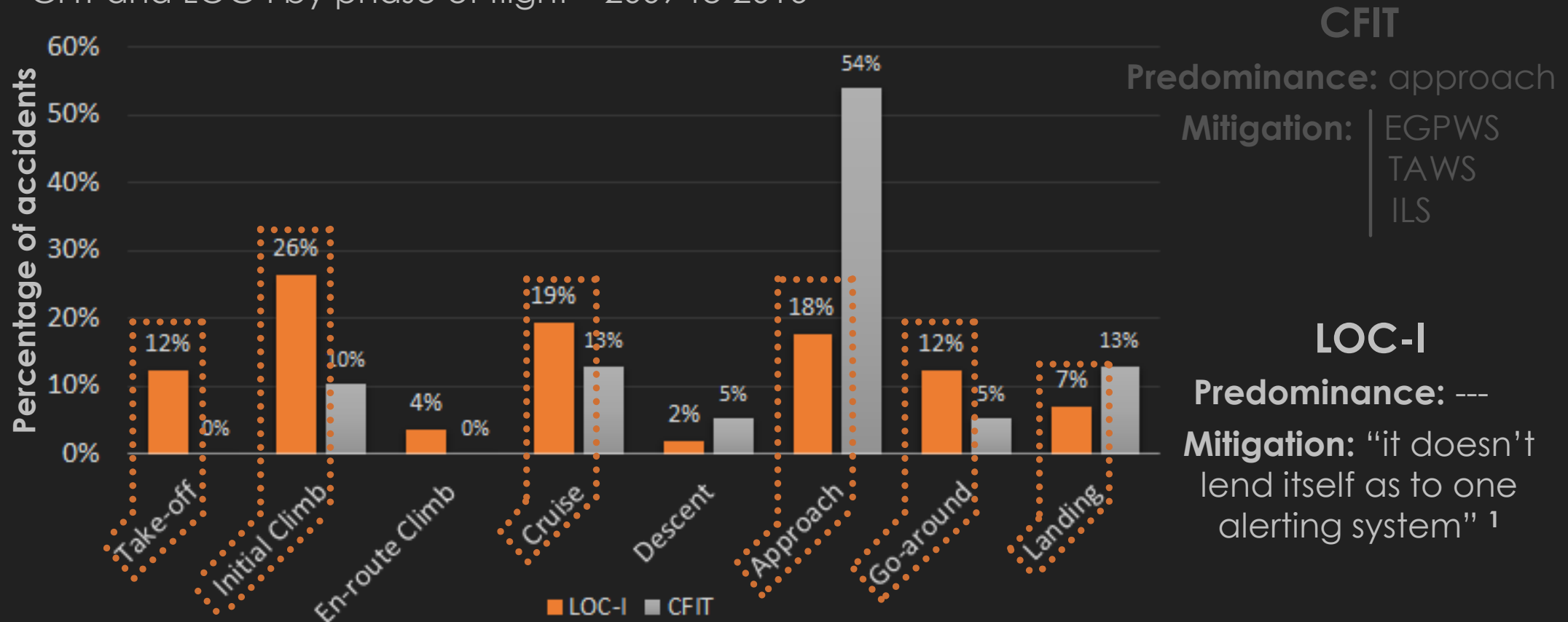
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“(...) to prevent **loss of control** accidents (...)”



“Reduzir o número de ocorrências categorizadas como ‘**alto risco operacional**’”



“Include loss of control in flight in **national State Safety Programmes.**”



“‘Aware Today, Alive Tomorrow’ (...) to **prevent loss of control** accidents (...)”



“**High-Risk Accident** Occurrence Categories

- Runway safety related events;
- **Loss of control in-flight;**
- Controlled flight into terrain (...)”



“(...) accidents involving inflight loss of control (...) **still occur at an unacceptable rate.**”



“The FAA and industry are working together to **prevent Loss of Control** (LOC) accidents and save lives.”



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## 2 | WHAT IS LOC-I?

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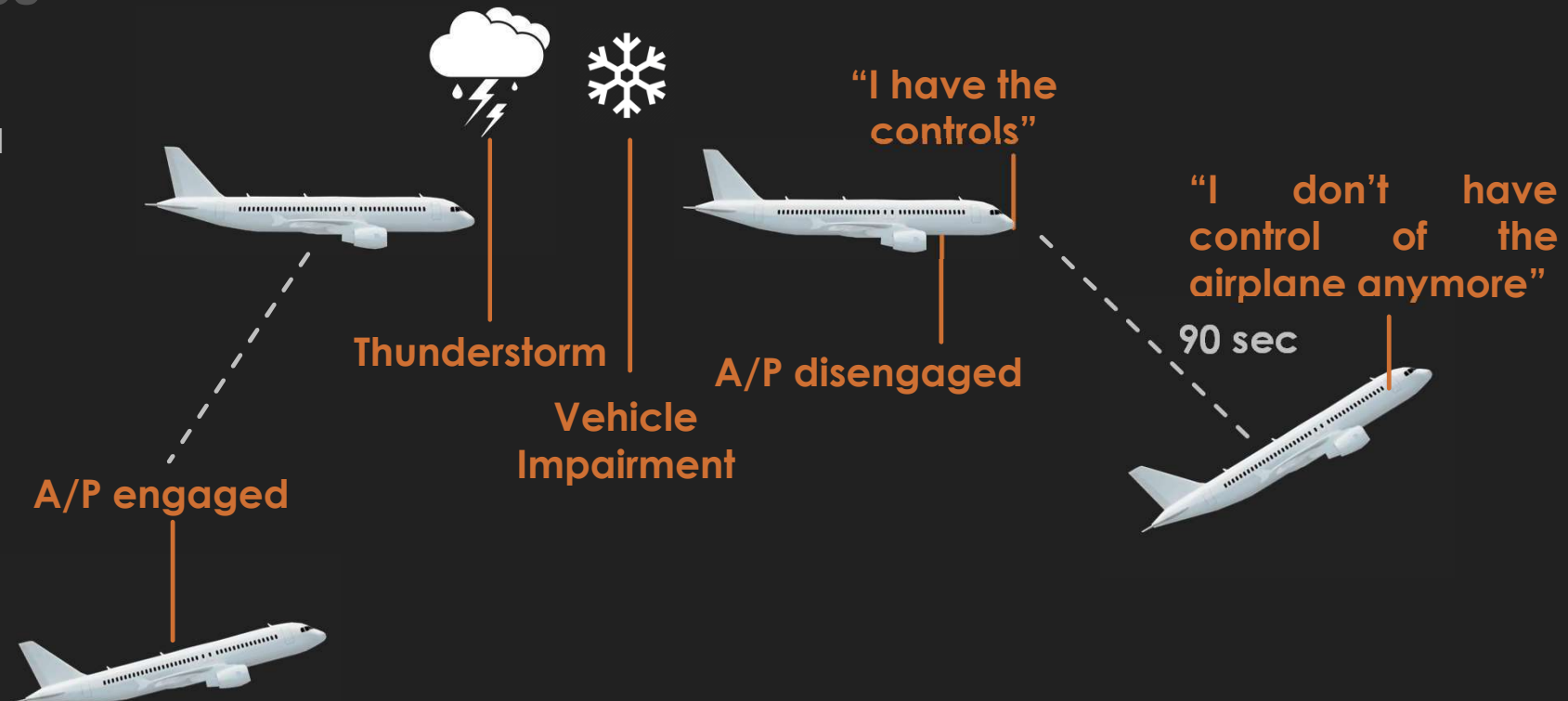
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#### Adverse Onboard Conditions

##### Adverse Vehicle Conditions

- Vehicle Impairment
- System Faults, Failures and Errors
- Vehicle Damage

##### Inappropriate Crew Response

- Pilot-Induced Oscillation (PIO)
- Spatial Disorientation
- Poor Energy Management

#### External Hazards/Disturbances

- Poor Visibility
- Wake Vortices
- Wind Shear, Gusts, Thunderstorms
- Snow, Icing
- Abrupt Manoeuvrings

#### Vehicle Upset Conditions

- Abnormal Attitude
- Abnormal Airspeed
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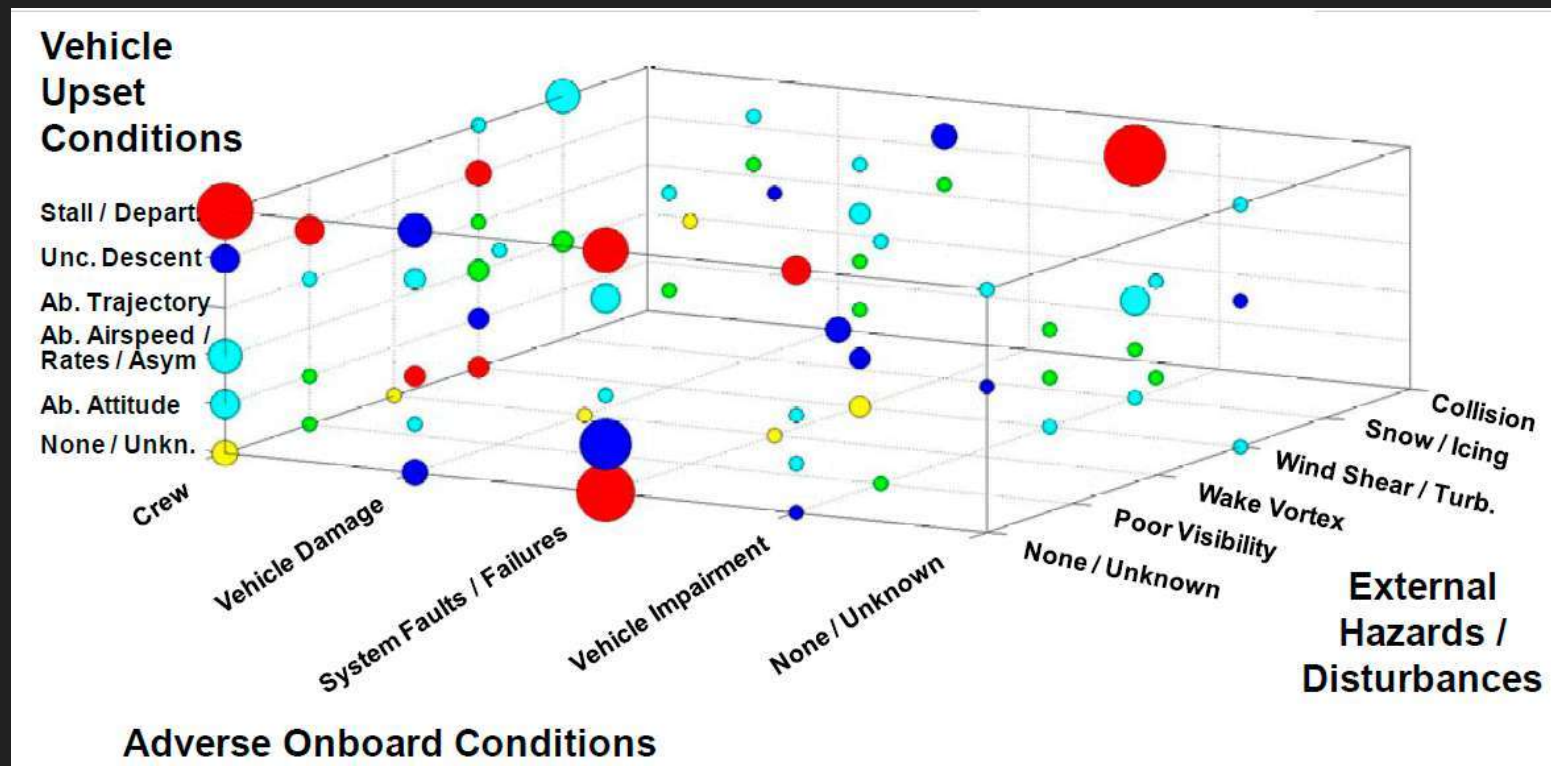
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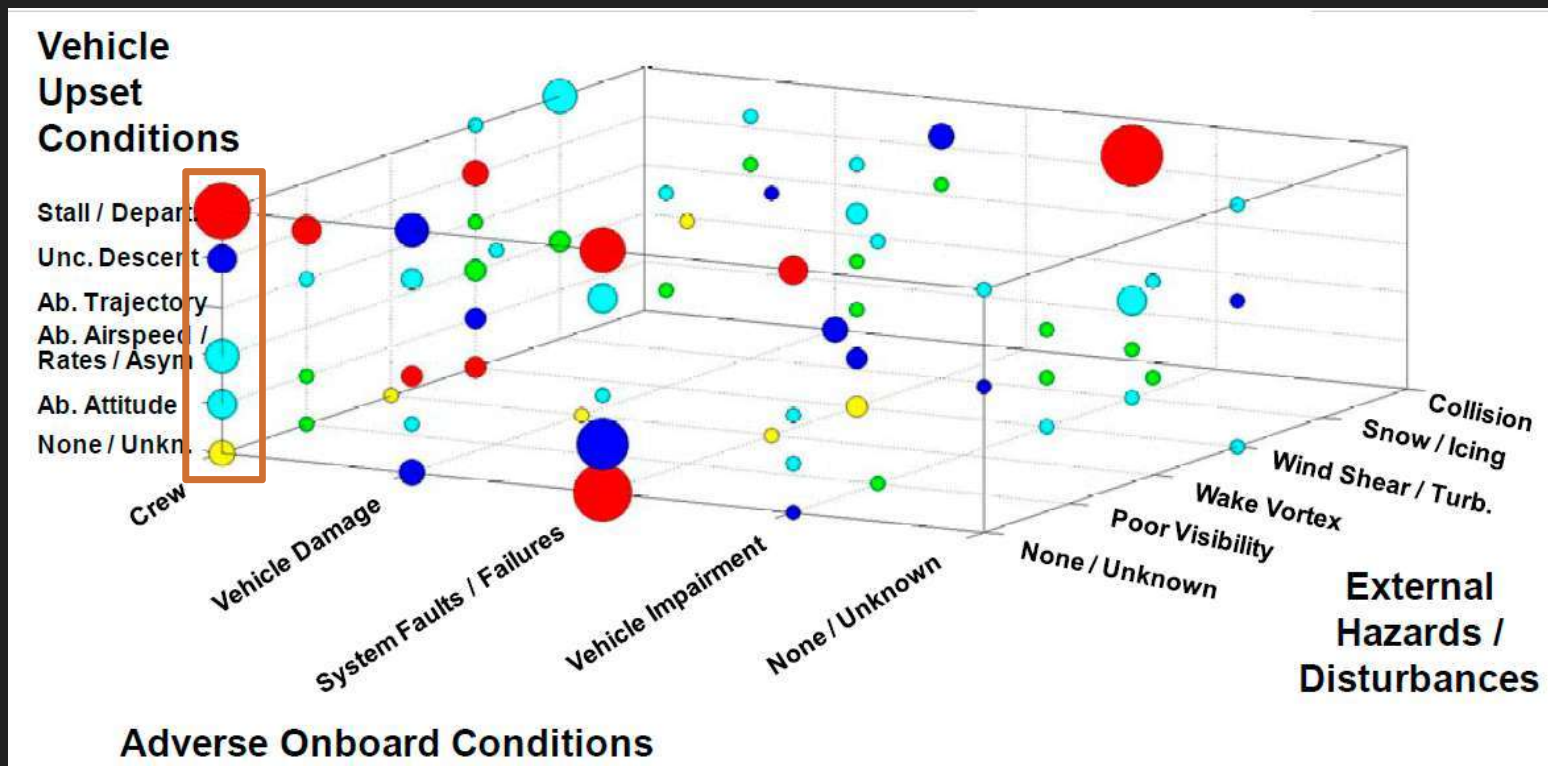
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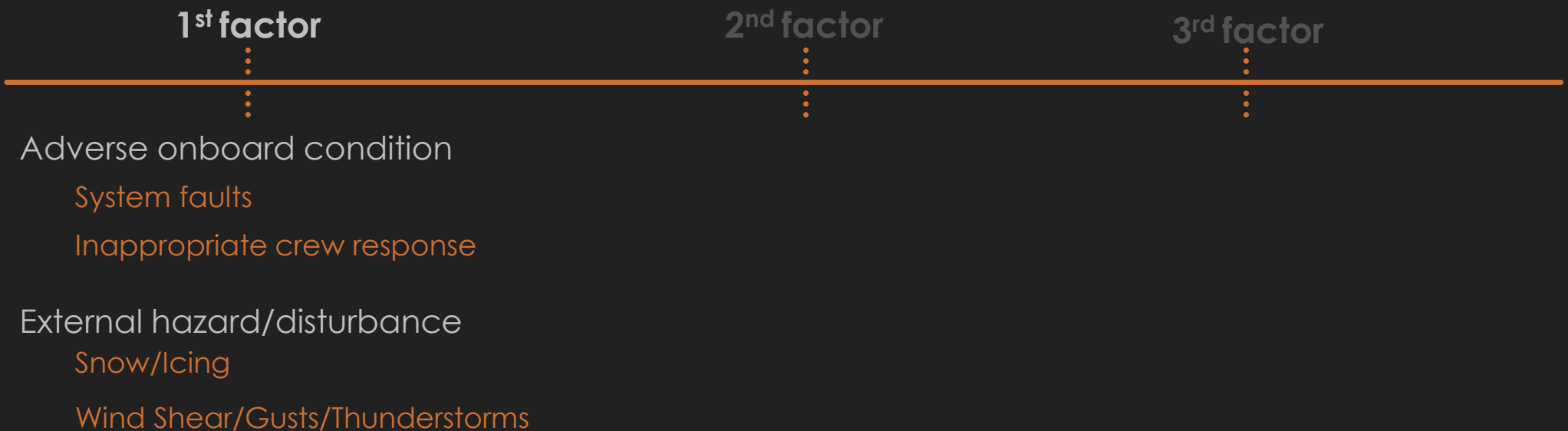
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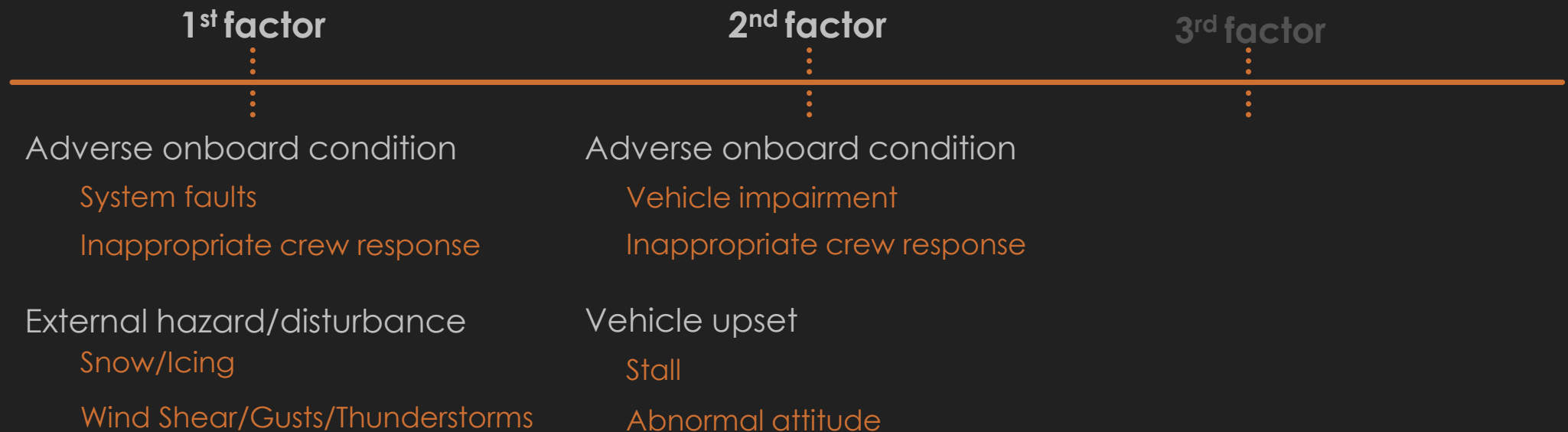
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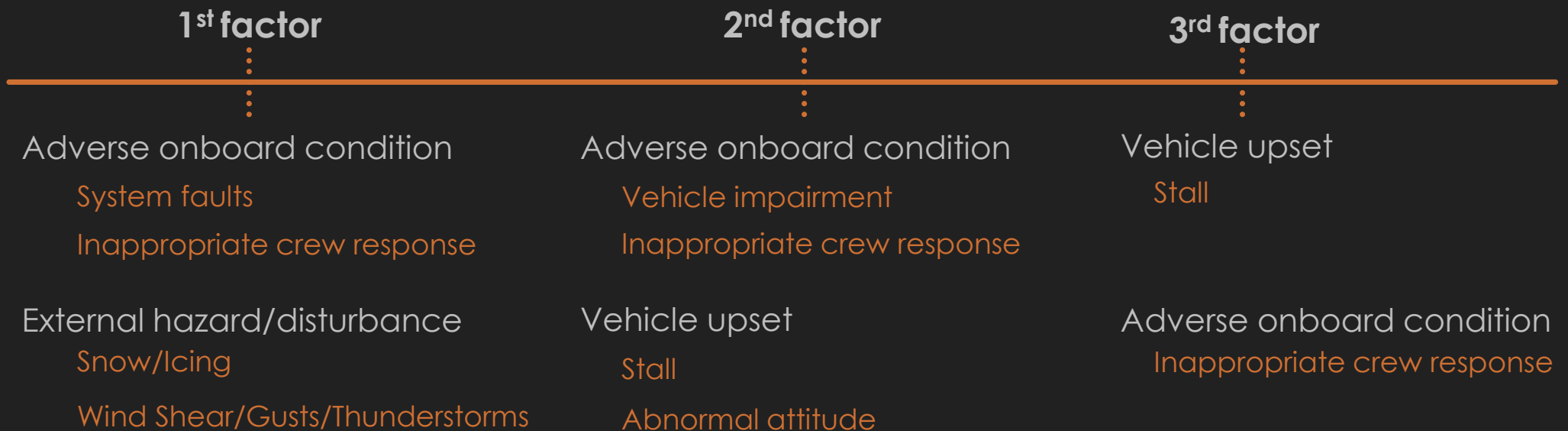
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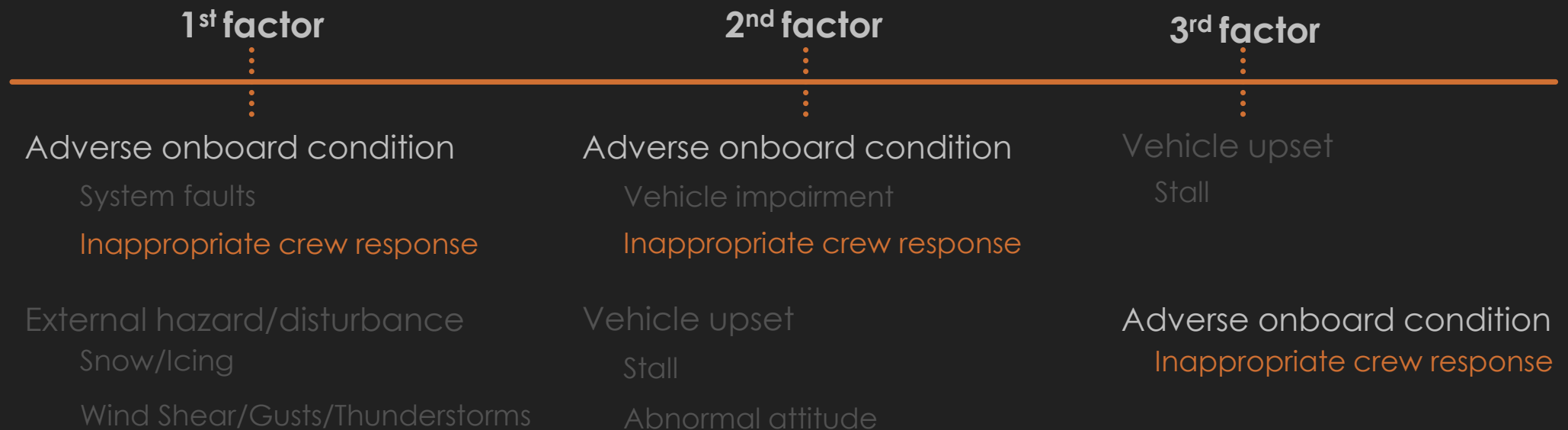
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# 3 | MOTIVATION AND OBJECTIVES



### 3 LOC-I: a redefinition based on qualitative **and** quantitative approaches **Motivation and objectives**

If so well described, why **LOC-I accidents still occur at an unacceptable rate** or even why we **could not incorporate widespread defences** to prevent it from happening?

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#### LOC-I accident

Qualitative ..... Quantitative

- Human pilot assessment



- Physical outputs
- Engineering variables



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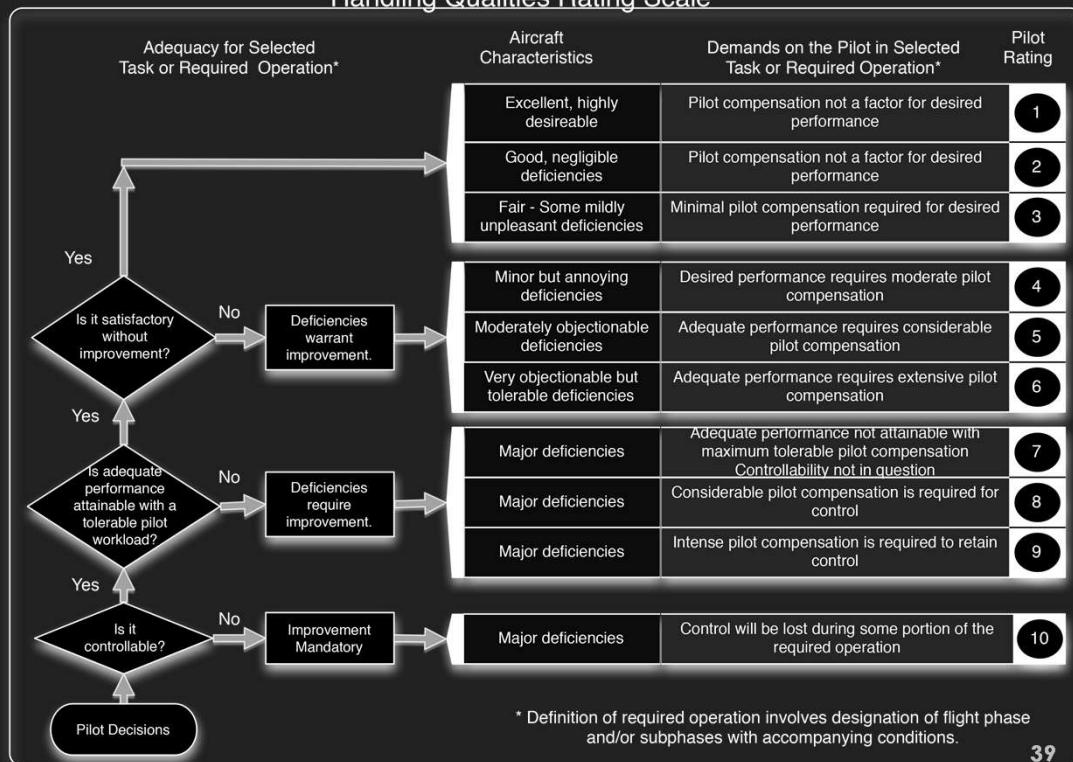
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Handling Qualities Rating Scale



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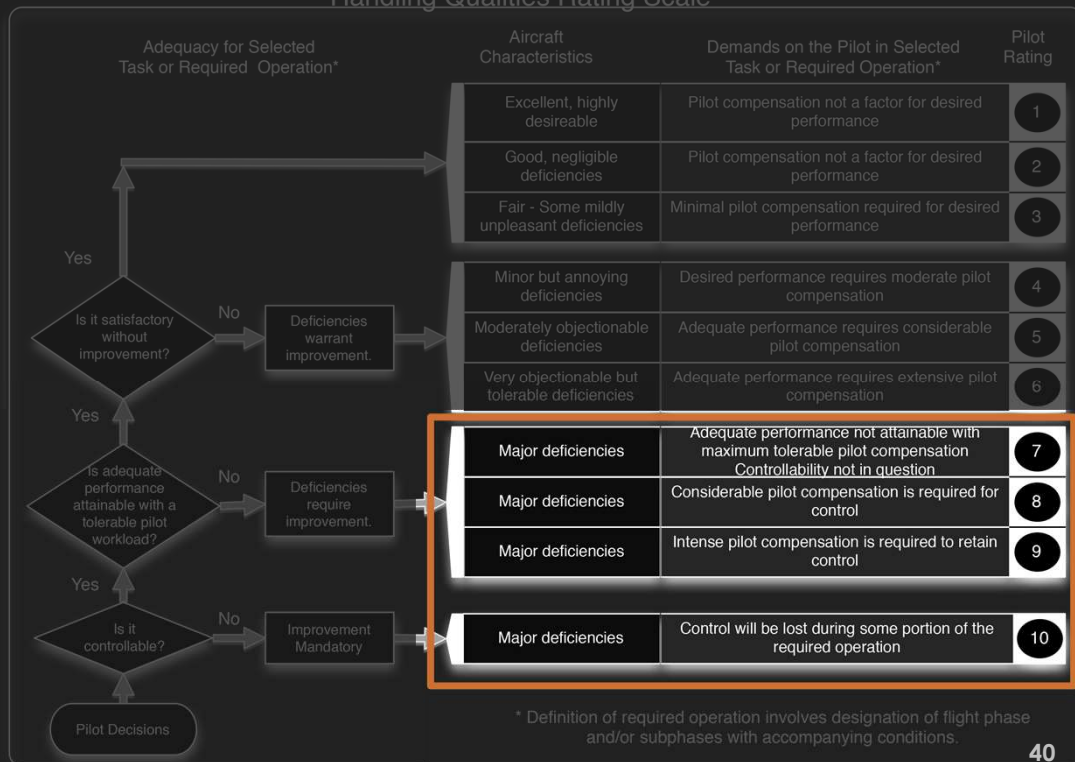
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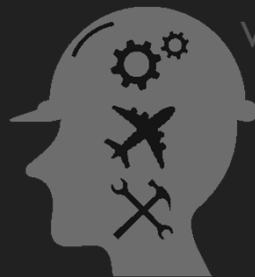
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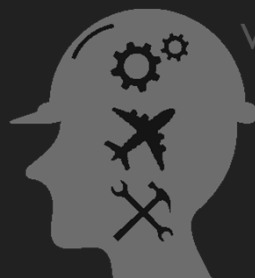
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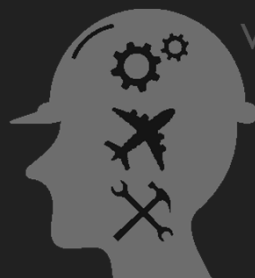
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### Quantitative Loss of Control Criteria – QLC

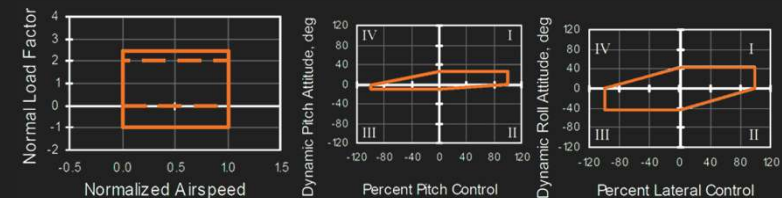
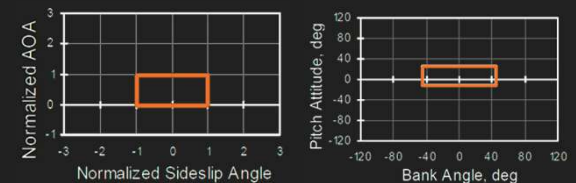
Methodology: parametric analysis

Flight dynamics

Aerodynamics

Structural integrity

Flight control use



Source: (1) (Graph) Wilborn J and Foster J, Defining Commercial Transport Loss-of-Control: A Quantitative Approach, 2004

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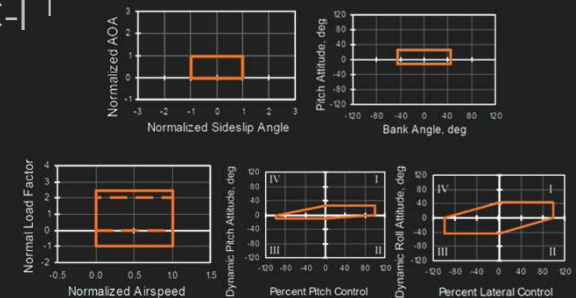
## Quantitative Loss of Control Criteria – QLC

**Criteria:** number of envelopes crossed

**One envelope:** normal manoeuvres, even if aggressive

**Two envelopes:** borderline LOC-I condition

**Three envelopes:** “seems to be a good working definition” for LOC-I <sup>1</sup>



**Source:** (1) (Graph) Wilborn J and Foster J, Defining Commercial Transport Loss-of-Control: A Quantitative Approach, 2004

# 4 | FLIGHT TEST SIMULATIONS

**4** The **handling qualities** of the aircraft are **evaluated** in a **full-flight simulator** for a set of **LOC-I test scenarios** and **different pilots**



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## EESC-USP's 6DOF flight simulator



Boeing 777-200ER

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## 10 scenarios



"Validation of Safety-Critical Systems for Aircraft Loss-of-Control Prevention and Recovery", **Christine Belcastro**, NASA Langley Research Center





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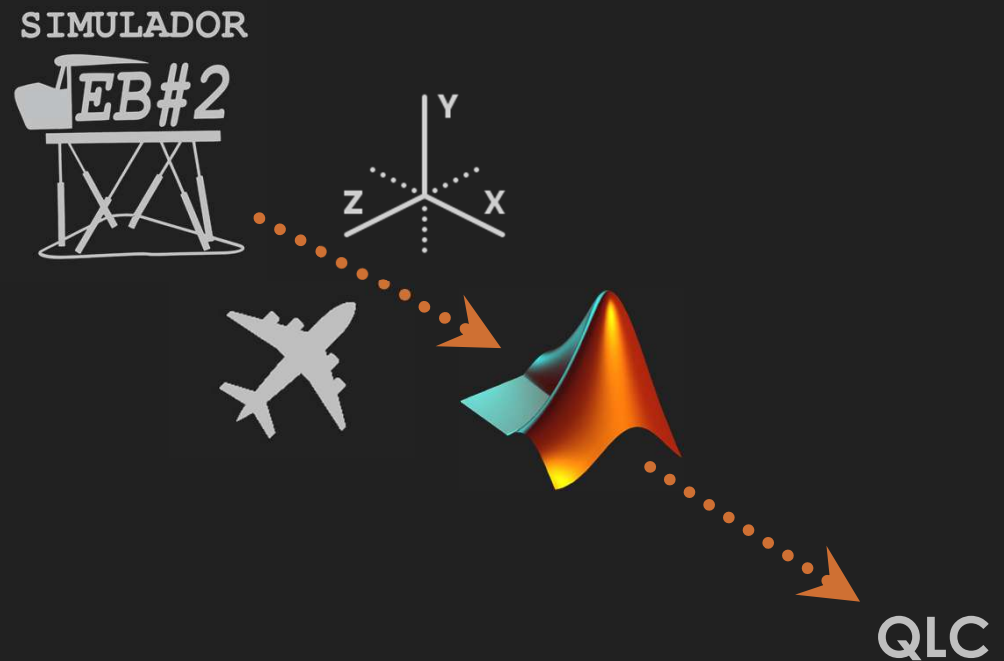


## 3 pilots



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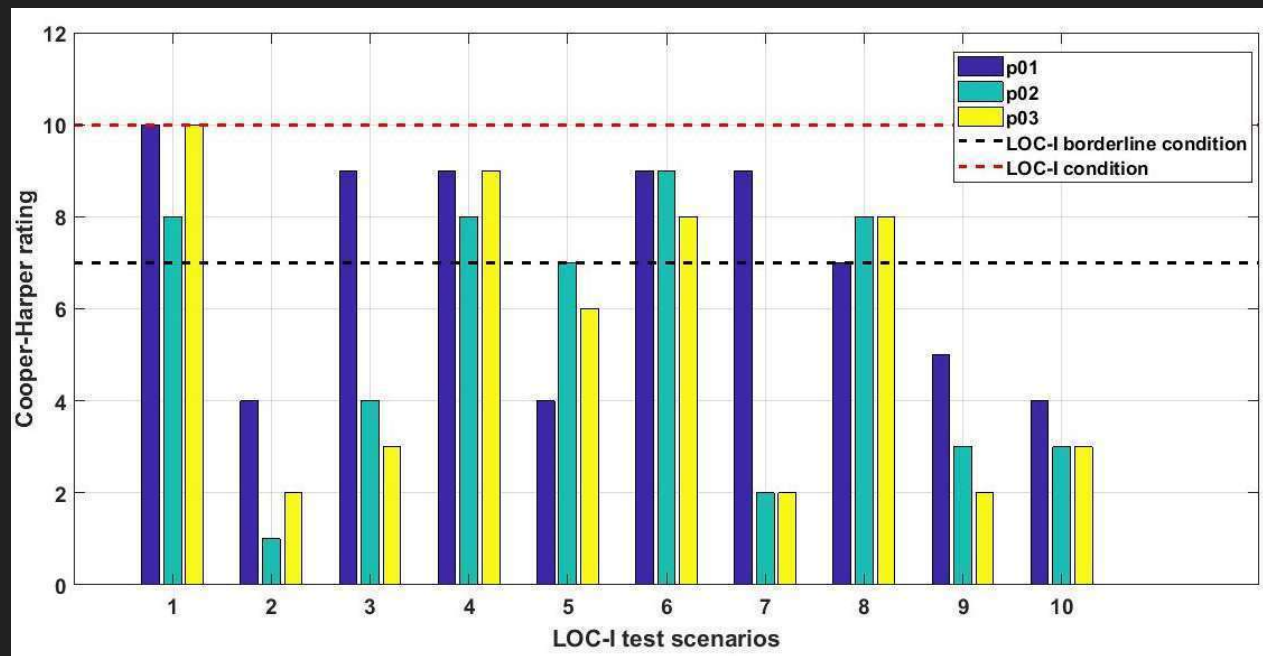
From each simulation, **pilots** are asked to **provide a rating within the Cooper-Harper scale** and the **simulation software is paired with MATLAB** to **transmit and save the variables of interest**



# 5 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## 5 Individual agreements, although no correlation

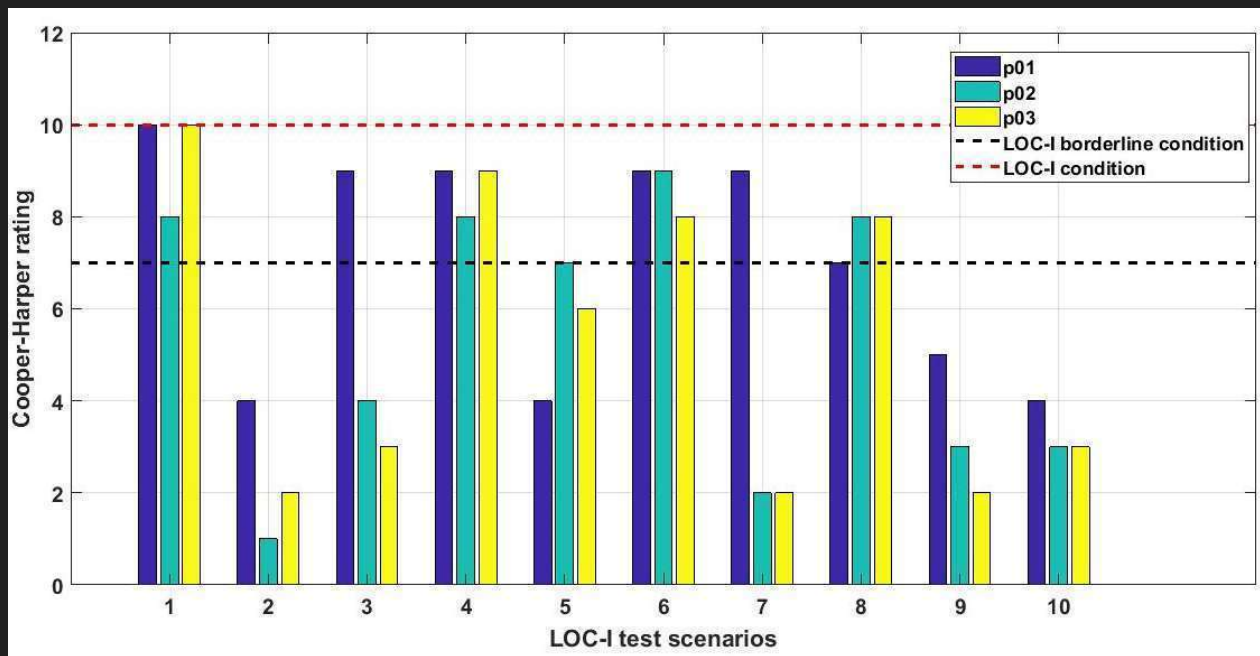
### Human assessment – Cooper-Harper Rating Scale



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Despite the **consonance between pilots** when **individually** looking at the human factor perception about LOC-I potential occurrences and the quantitative definition of the accident, **joint observation** of data reveals that, indeed, there is **no correlation between the approaches**

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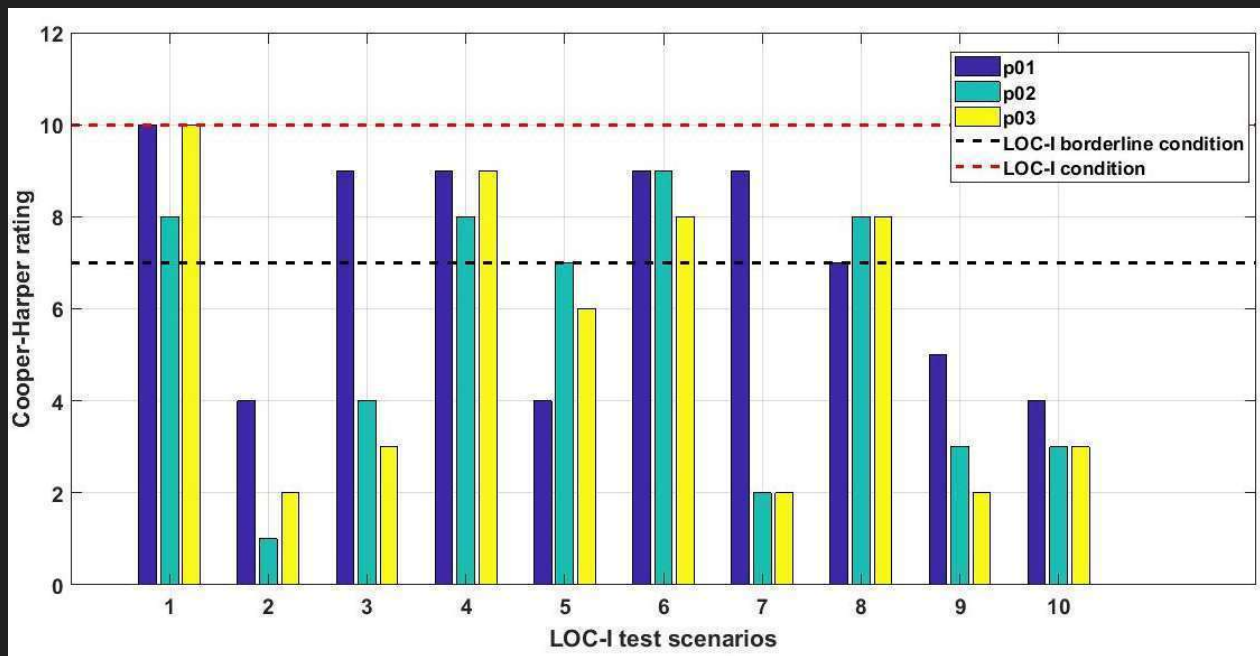




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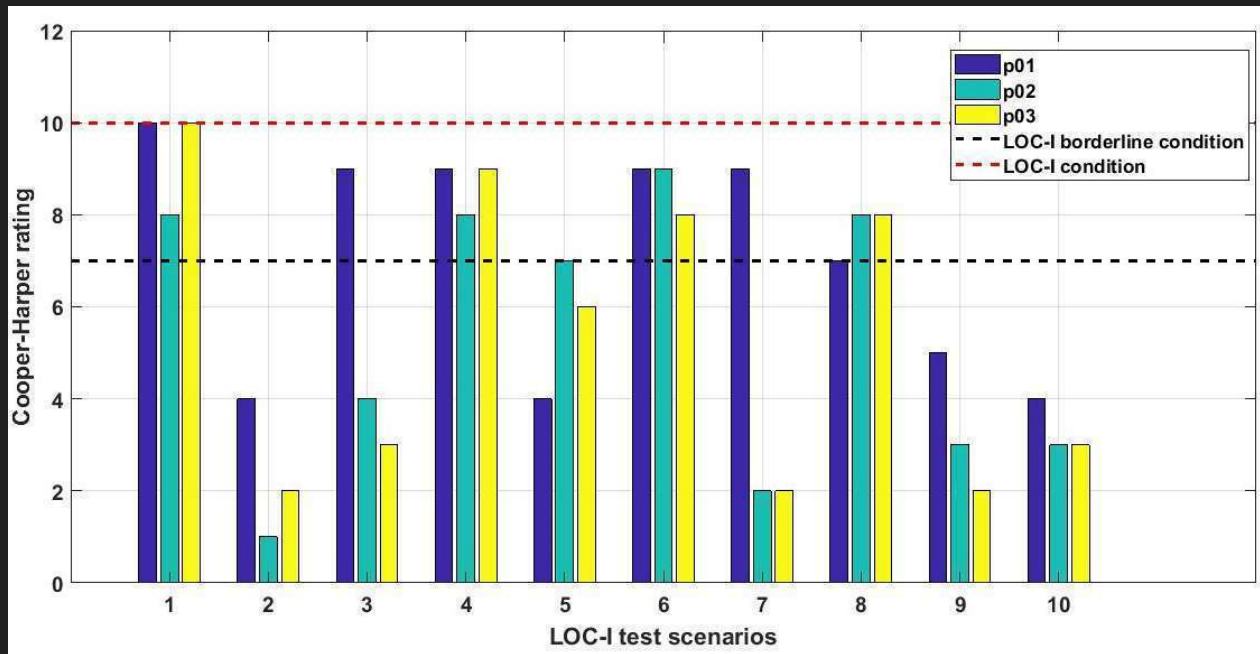
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Agreement about the handling quality category for the majority of the pilots

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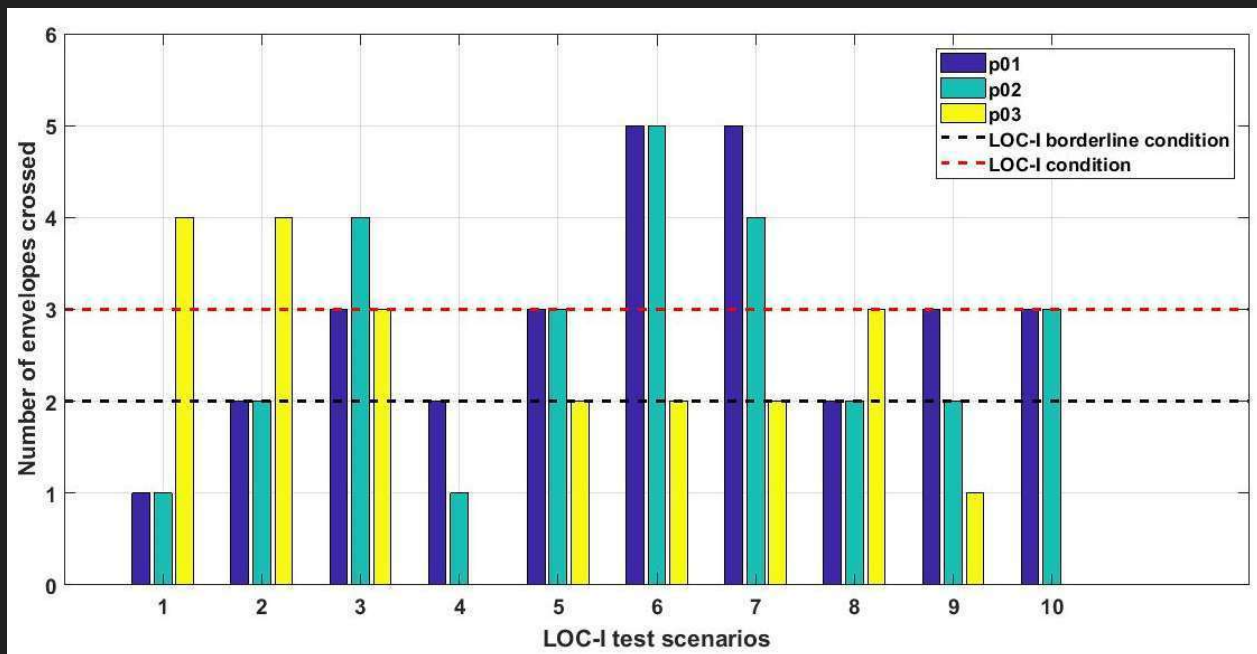
2 Most of the scenarios were capable of bringing at least one of the pilots to a **controllability threshold** (ratings 7 to 9) or even to the **loss of control** condition (rating 10)



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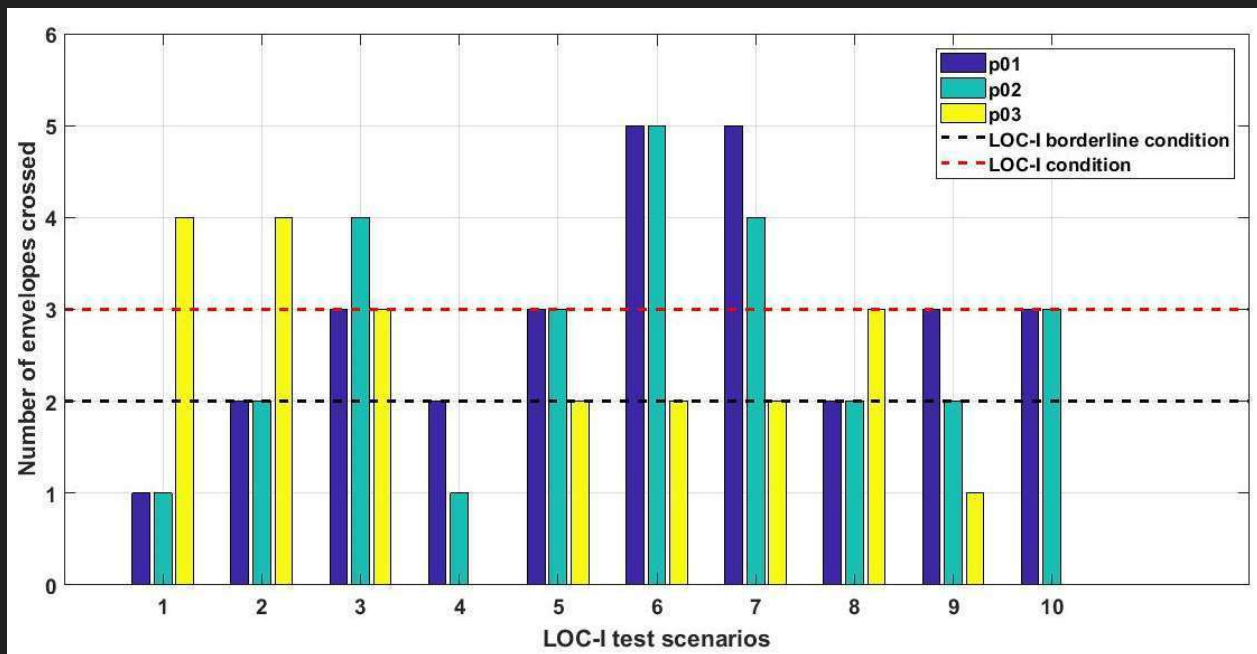
### Aircraft behaviour – Quantitative Loss of Control Criteria



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### Aircraft behaviour – Quantitative Loss of Control Criteria



1

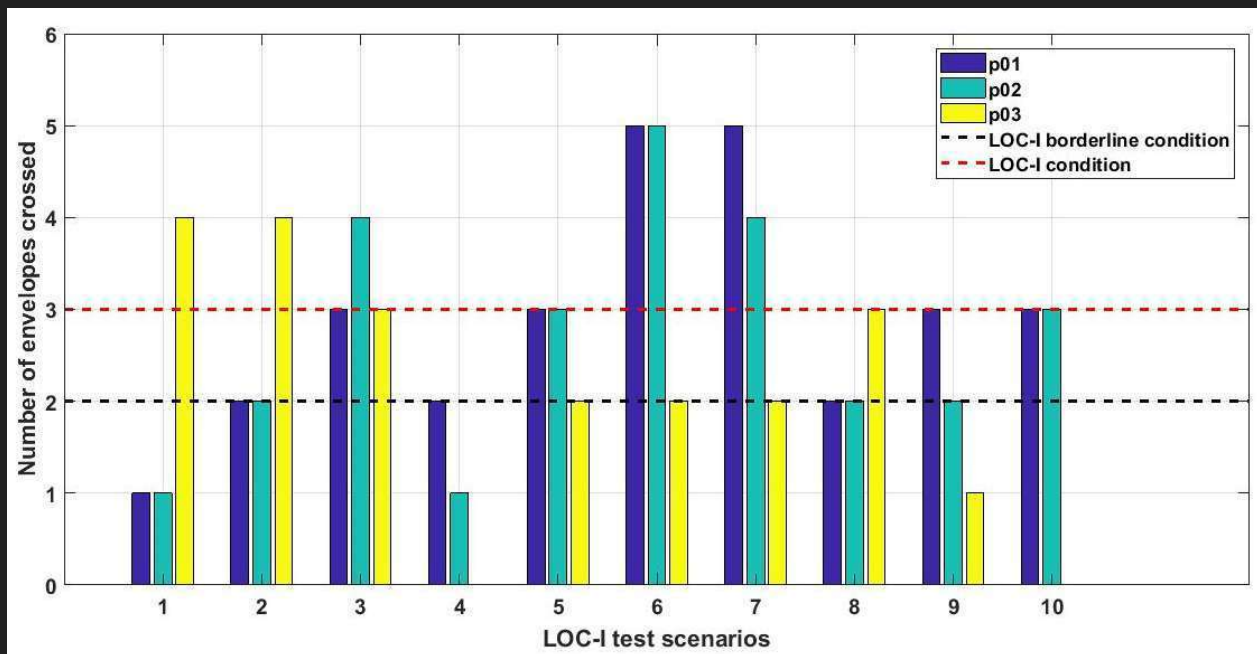
**Agreement about the QLC category** for the majority of the pilots <sup>1</sup>

(1) Exception made for scenario 9

## 5 Individual agreements, although no correlation

Despite the **consonance between pilots** when **individually** looking at the human factor perception about LOC-I potential occurrences and the quantitative definition of the accident, **joint observation** of data reveals that, indeed, there is **no correlation between the approaches**

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**Agreement about the QLC category** for the majority of the pilots <sup>1</sup>

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Every scenario was capable of bringing at least one of the pilots to a **borderline LOC-I condition** (2 envelopes crossed) or even to the **loss of control situation** (3 envelopes crossed)

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### Human assessment **and** Aircraft behaviour

Scenario	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cooper-Harper	LOC-I	-----	-----	Near-LOC-I	-----	Near-LOC-I	-----	Near-LOC-I	-----	-----
QLC	-----	Near-LOC-I	LOC-I	-----	Near-LOC-I	LOC-I	LOC-I	Near-LOC-I	-----	LOC-I

The Table reflects the results for the majority of the pilots

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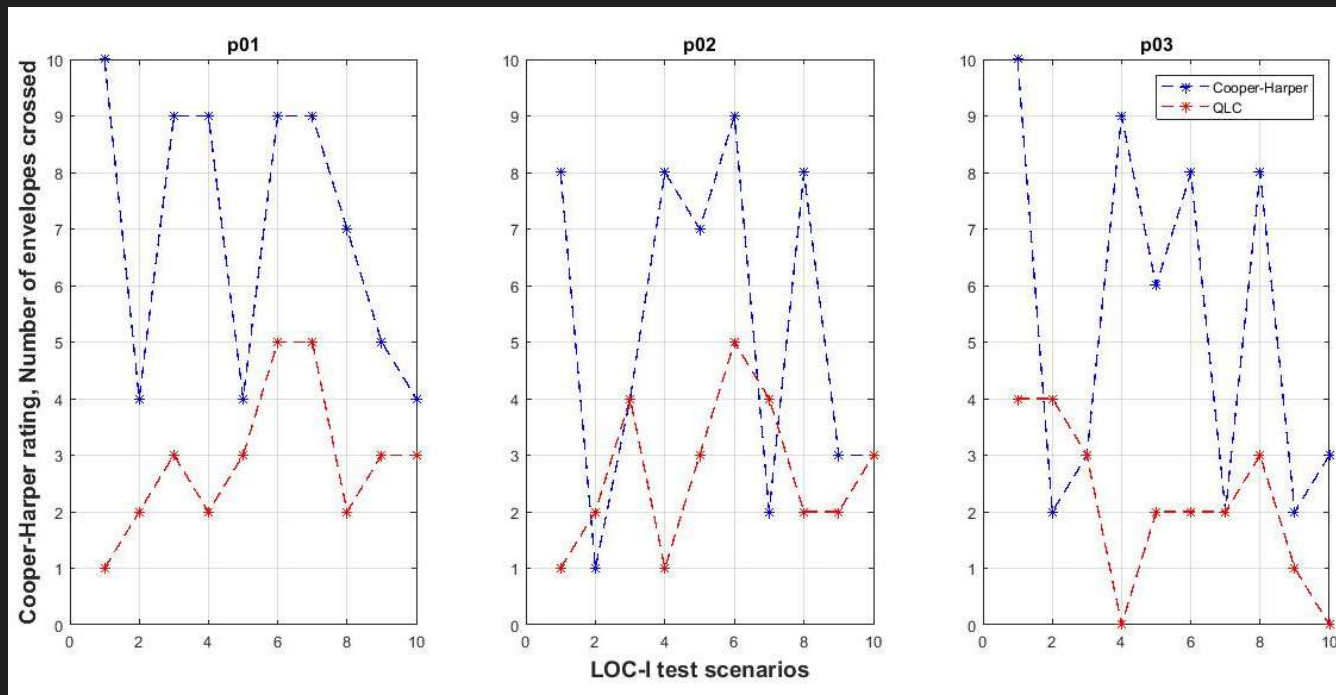
### **Human assessment and Aircraft behaviour**

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## 6 | CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK



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### Parametric analysis of 10 aircraft variables

#### QLC

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#### New proposal

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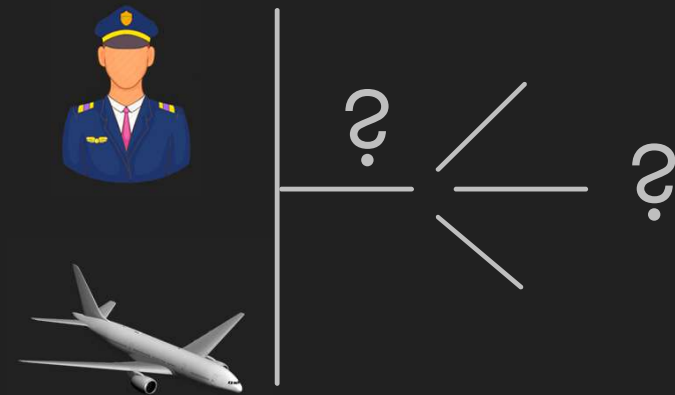


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#### LOC-I rating scale



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Solely with a clearer characterisation defences can be effective to prevent LOC-I accidents from happening and make aviation considerably safer





**AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING**  
**USP SÃO CARLOS**

Many thanks for your attention



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7

## EXTRA SLIDES

HOW SCENARIOS WERE CHOSEN

## 7 The strategy is to **reproduce** some **LOC-I test scenarios** in a **full-flight simulator**

### Choice of scenarios

60 LOC-I test scenarios were developed based on a data set comprising 126 accidents of this type and 6087 fatalities occurred as consequence of them <sup>1</sup>

The approach is to **select a feasible number of LOC-I test scenarios**, considering:

- Representativeness of the problem;
- Research objectives;
- Deadlines



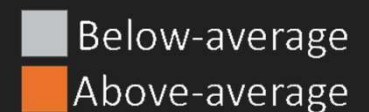
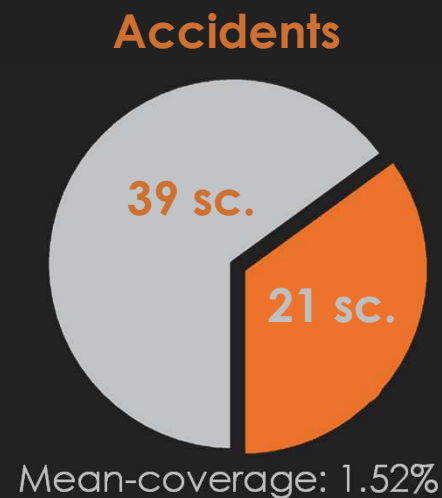
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**Source:** (1) Belcastro C, Validation of Safety-Critical Systems for Aircraft Loss-of-Control Prevention and Recovery, 2012

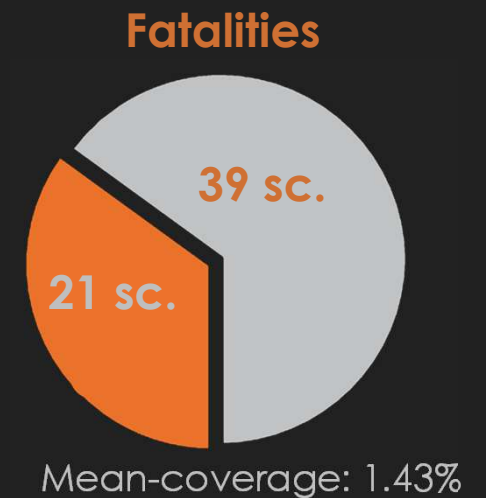
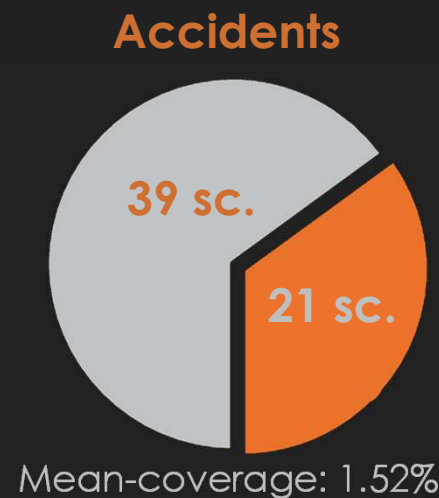
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■ Below-average  
■ Above-average

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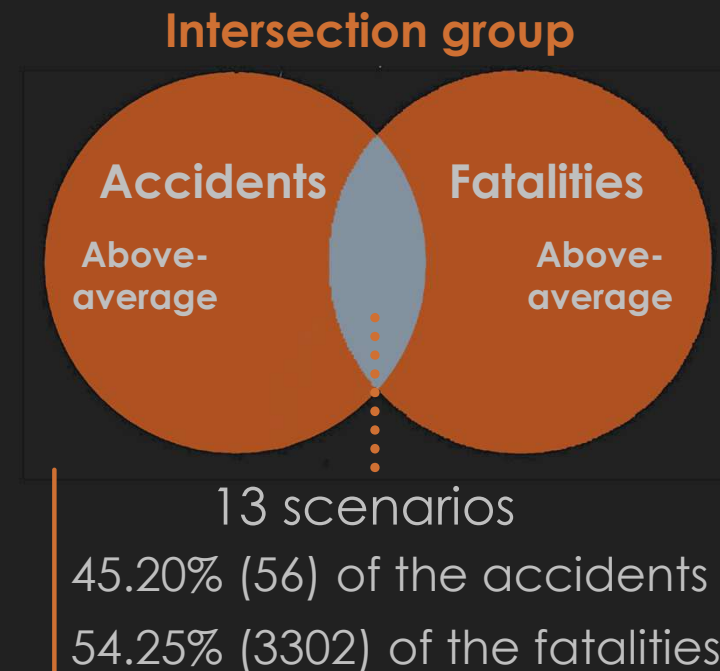
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### Scenario adaptation for simulation purposes

“(...) aircraft LOC-I can result from a wide spectrum of hazards, often occurring in combination, which **cannot be fully replicated during evaluation**”<sup>1</sup>

#### Scenario 1 - Control surface failure during take-off



**Source:** (1) Belcastro C, Validation of Safety-Critical Systems for Aircraft Loss-of-Control Prevention and Recovery, 2012

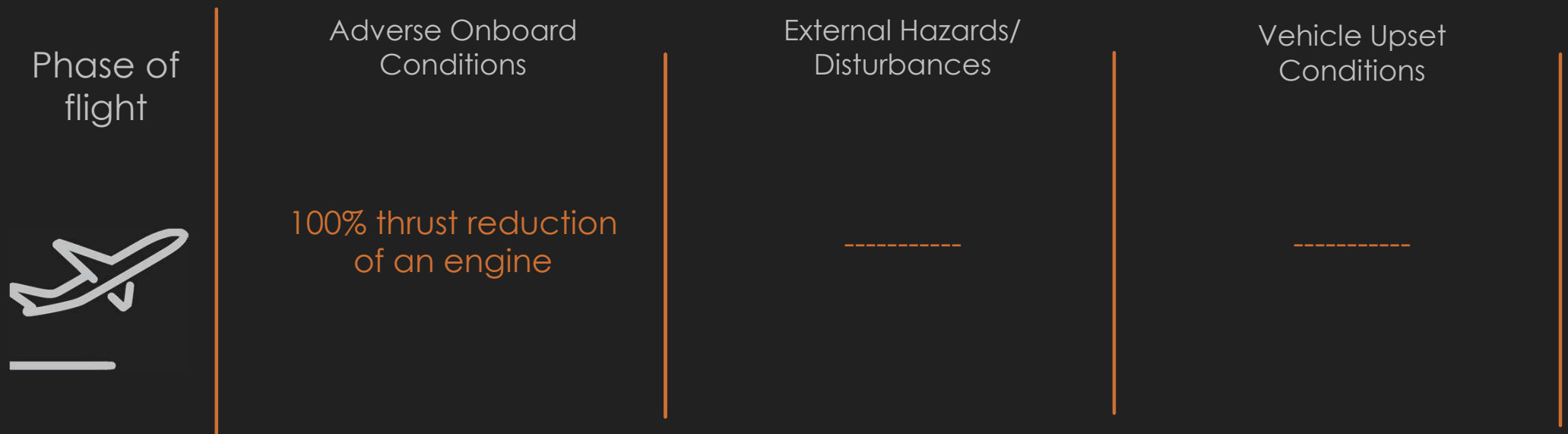


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### Scenario 2 - Engine failure during take-off



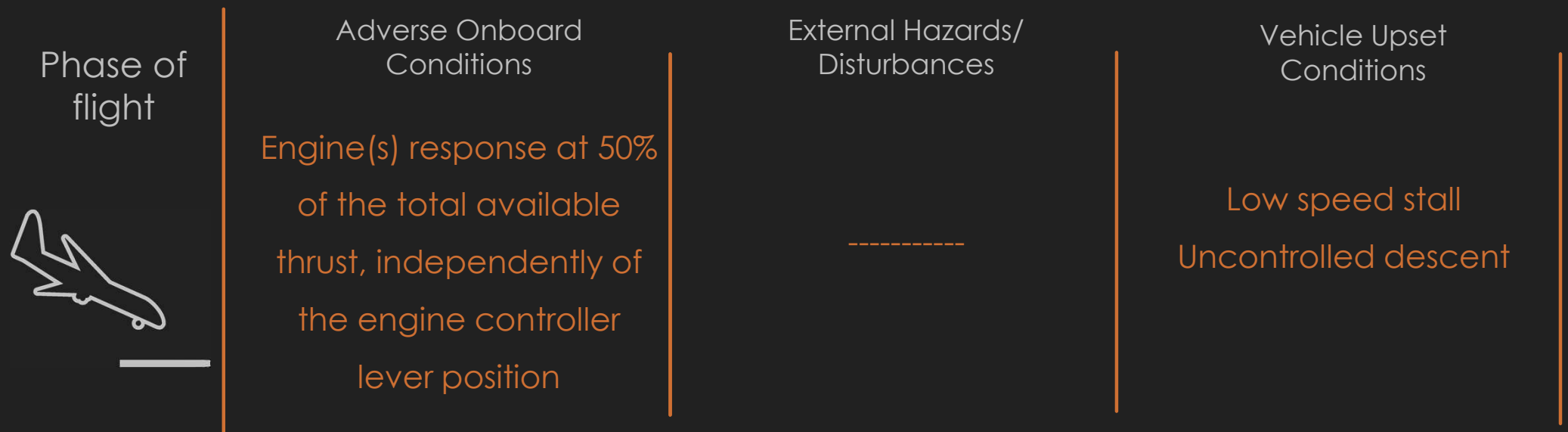
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### Scenario 4 - Unresponsive engines during approach

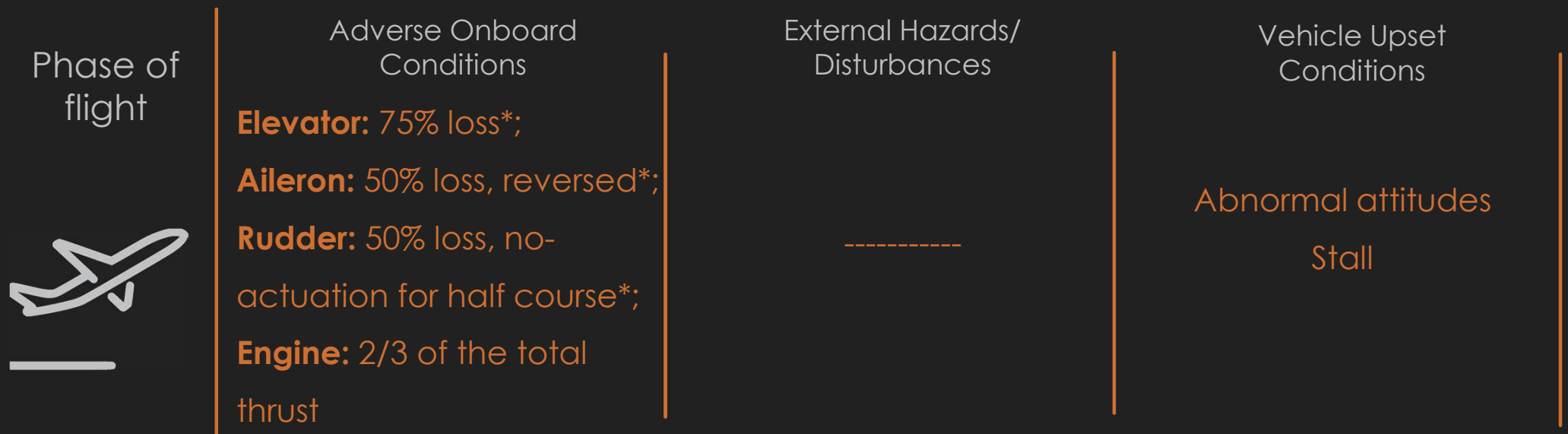


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### Scenario 5 - Icing impairment during take-off



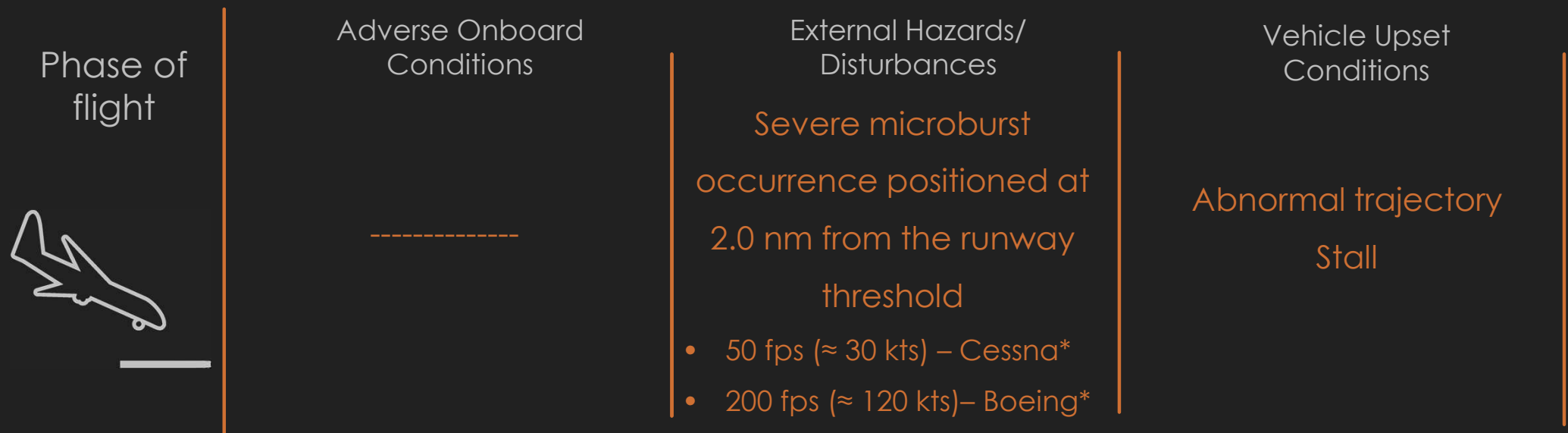
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### Scenario 6 - Microburst encounter during final approach



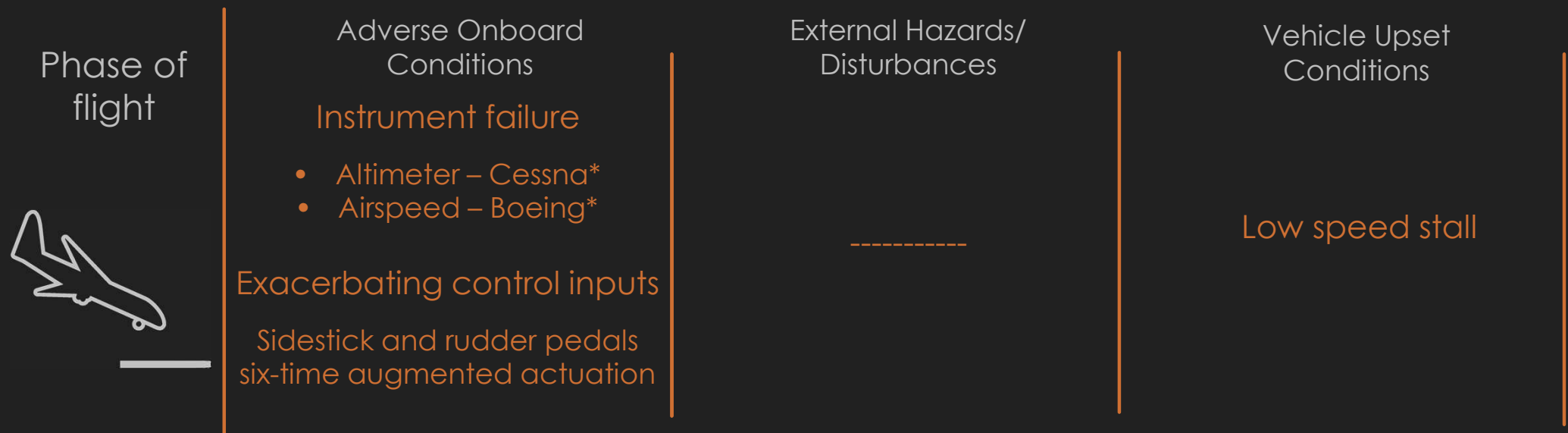
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**Scenario 7** - Instrument indication failure together with inappropriate crew response during approach

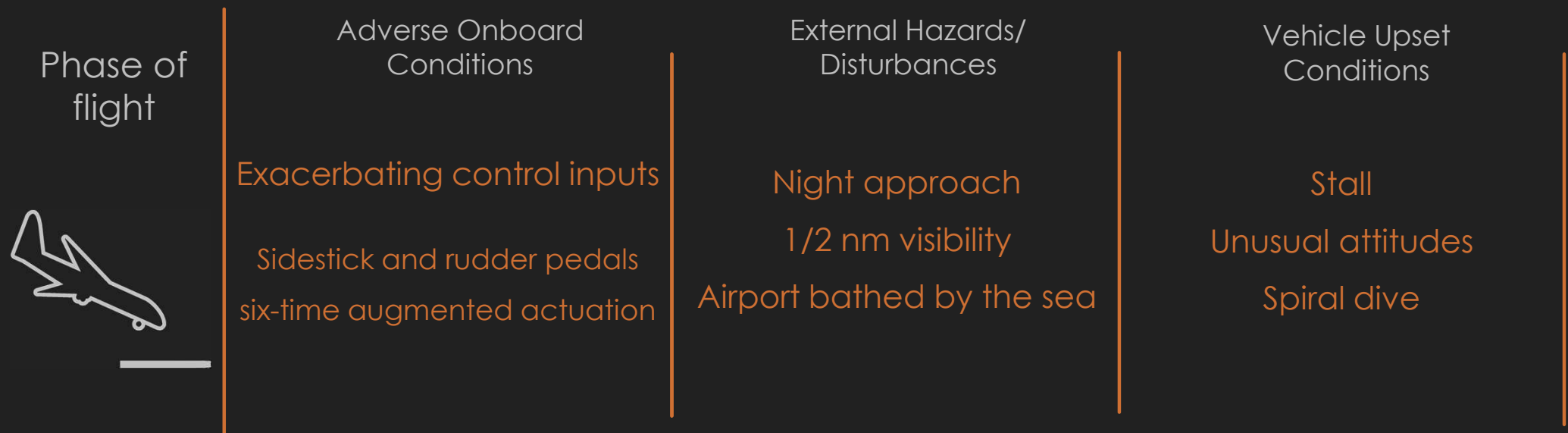


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**Scenario 9** - Spatial disorientation together with inappropriate crew response during approach




**Source:** (1) Belcastro C, Validation of Safety-Critical Systems for Aircraft Loss-of-Control Prevention and Recovery, 2012

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**Scenario 10** - Microburst encounter together with inappropriate crew response during approach

Phase of flight	Adverse Onboard Conditions	External Hazards/ Disturbances	Vehicle Upset Conditions
	Exacerbating control inputs  Sidestick and rudder pedals six-time augmented actuation	Severe microburst occurrence positioned at 2.0 nm from the runway threshold <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 50 fps (≈ 30 kts) – Cessna*</li><li>• 200 fps (≈ 120 kts)– Boeing*</li></ul>	Velocity excursions  Rapid descent  Stall

**Source:** (1) Belcastro C, Validation of Safety-Critical Systems for Aircraft Loss-of-Control Prevention and Recovery, 2012

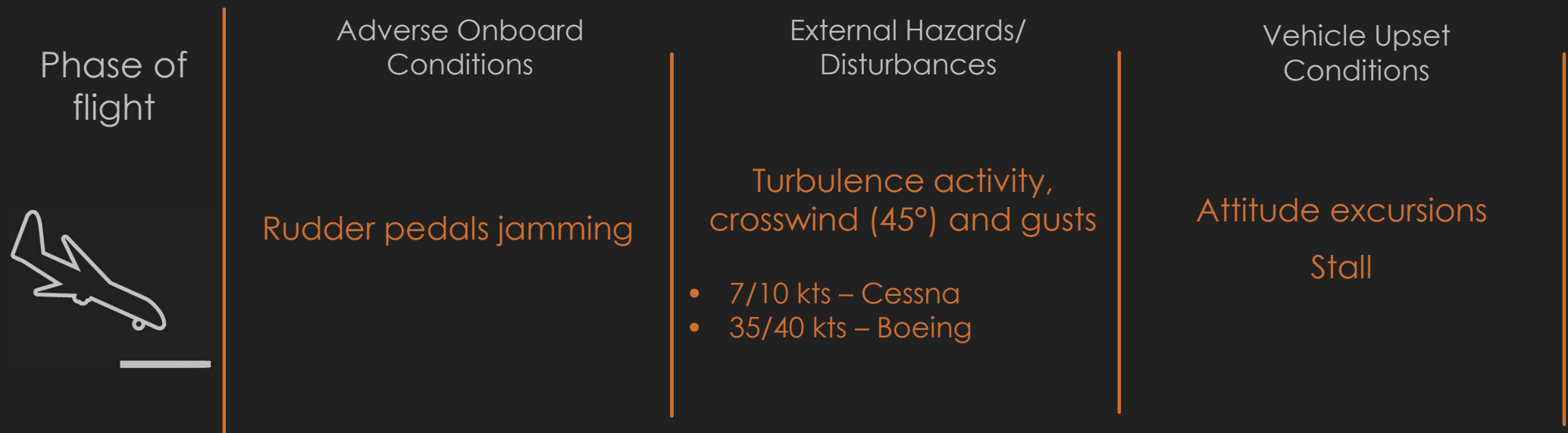


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**Scenario 11** - Bad meteorological condition together with control surface jamming during approach\*



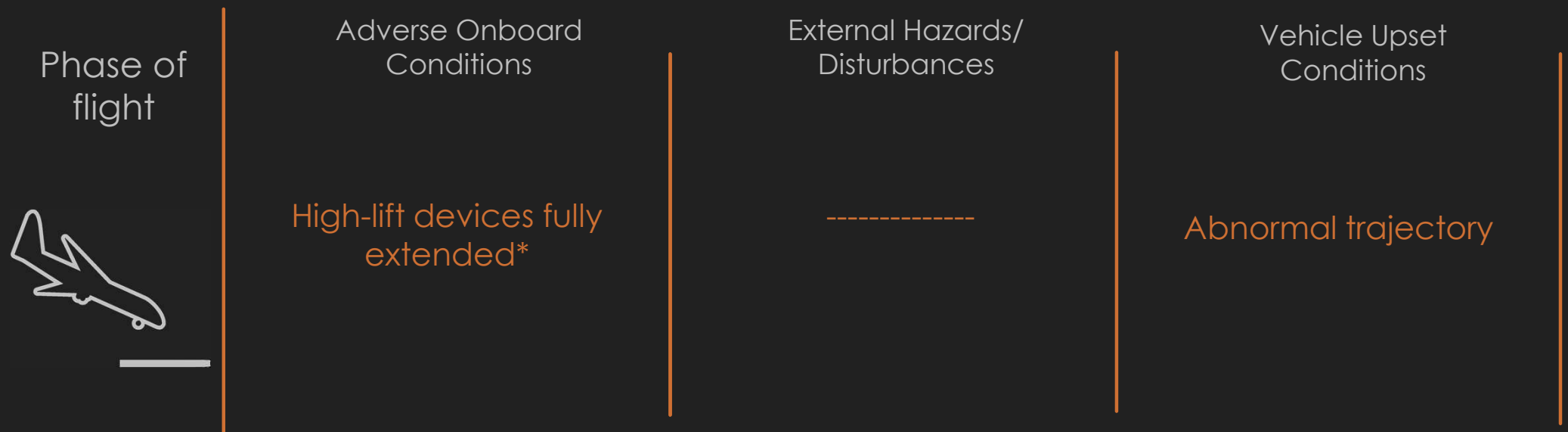
**Source:** (1) Belcastro C, Validation of Safety-Critical Systems for Aircraft Loss-of-Control Prevention and Recovery, 2012

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**Scenario 12** - Improper vehicle setting during a go-around



**Source:** (1) Belcastro C, Validation of Safety-Critical Systems for Aircraft Loss-of-Control Prevention and Recovery, 2012