

The background image shows two fighter jets, likely F-16s, parked on a runway. The sun is setting behind the jets, creating a silhouette effect. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by blues, oranges, and yellows. The text is overlaid in white, bold font.

# **STPA-based Model of Threat and Error Management in Dual Flight Instruction**

**Ioana Koglbauer**  
**Graz University of Technology, Austria**  
**[koglbauer@tugraz.at](mailto:koglbauer@tugraz.at)**

# Threat and Error Management (TEM)

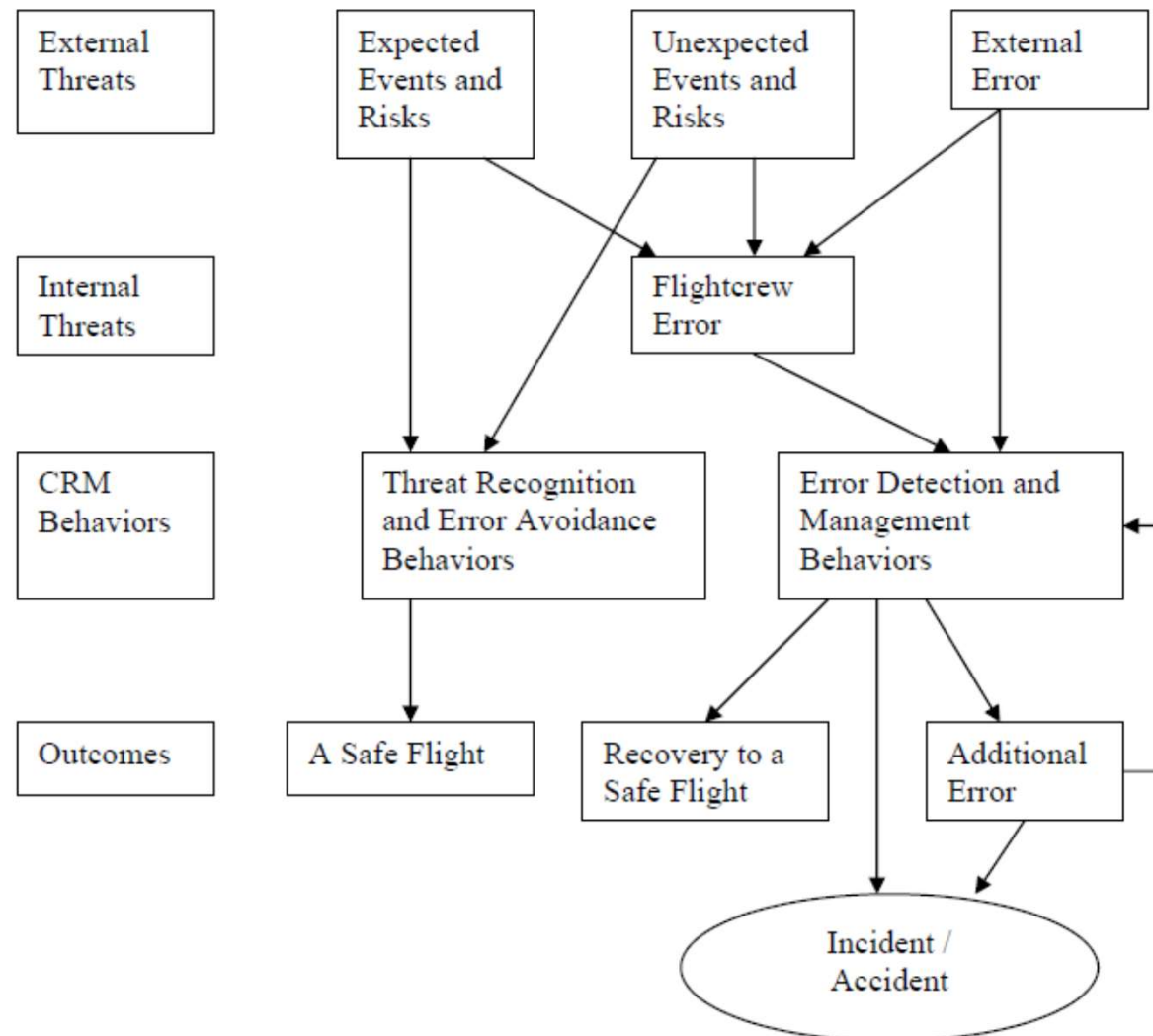
---

Currently the Authorities (EASA, 2011; ACG, 2014) identify TEM as a key ability of:

- Pilots
- Flight instructors
- Flight examiners

# The framework of Threat and Error Management

(Helmreich, Klinect & Wilhelm, 1999)



# Threat and Error Management (TEM) in Practice

(Klinec, 2005)



N=2612 Observations (10 Airlines)	Average Freq.	Range (10 Airlines)	Number of errors	Frequent error types
Flight Crew Errors	80%	62-95%	7257	Use of automation (25% of flights) Systems/Instruments/Radio (24%) Checklist (23%) Manual aircraft handling (22%) Crew communication with others(22%)
Error Mismanagement	27%	18-47%	1825	Manual handling (79% mismanaged) Ground navigation (61%) Automation (37%) Systems/Instruments/Radio (37%) Checklist (15%)

# TEM in Practice

(Klinect, 2005)

N=2612 Observations (10 Airlines)	Average Freq.	Range (10 Airlines)	No. of errors	Frequent errors types (across 10 airlines)
Undesired Aircraft State	34%	24-51%	1347	Incorrect systems configuration (9% of flights) Incorrect automation configuration (6%) Speed deviations (high speed) (6%) Unstable approach (5%) Vertical deviations (3%)
Undesired Aircraft State <b>Mismanagement</b>	13%	5-20%	175	Unstable approach/ <b>no</b> go-around (98% mismanaged) Incorrect systems configuration (8% of flights) Incorrect automation configuration (8%) Incorrect flight controls configuration (8%) Lateral deviation (7%)

# STPA-based model of TEM in flight instruction

---

**Goal:** provide effective flight training

**Accident:** injury, loss of life, damage of aircraft or property

**Hazards:**

Maneuvering the aircraft outside the safety envelope (undesired aircraft state)

Violating separation from other aircraft, terrain, obstacles

**Safety constraints:**

The aircraft must be maneuvered within the safety envelope

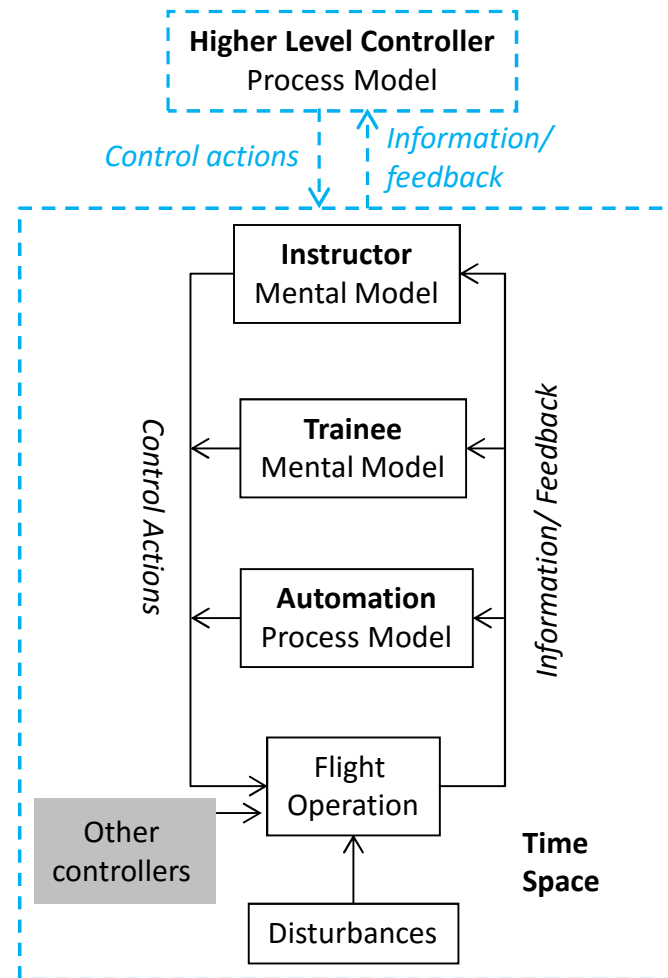
Separation from other aircraft, terrain, obstacles must be maintained

The FI must assist the trainee in enforcing these safety constraints

The FI must take over the control to enforce these safety constraints if necessary

# STPA-based model of TEM in flight instruction

(Koglbauer, 2016)



# Generic unsafe control actions (UCAs)

(Koglbauer, 2016)

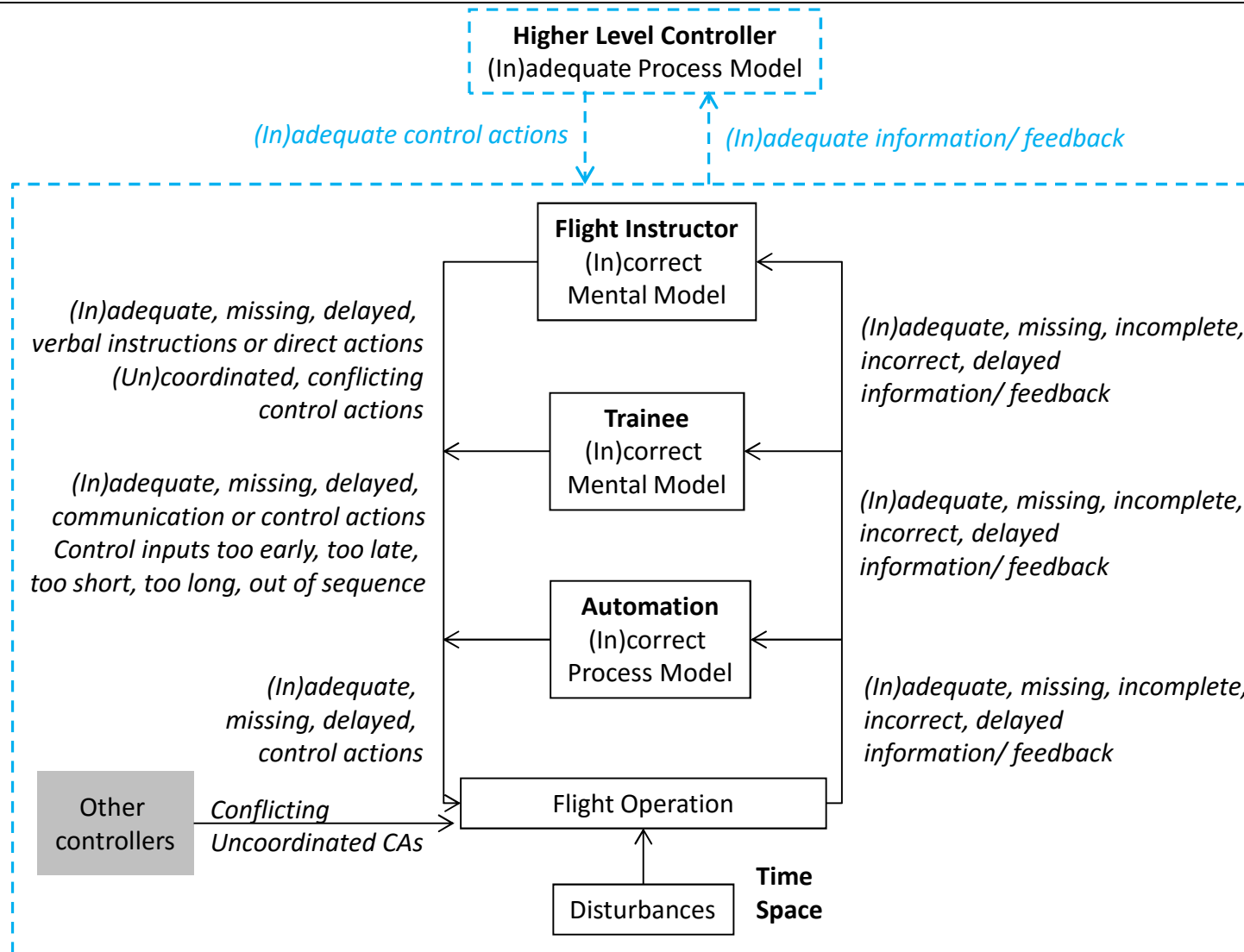
Control Action	CA causes hazard	Lack of CA causes hazard	CA too early/ too late/ wrong sequence	CA too long or too short causes hazard
Instructor UCAs	Conflicting or uncoordinated control inputs;	Does not provide a CA or does not take over the control	Provides control inputs too late; Takes over the control too late;	Provides too short or too long CA
Trainee UCAs	Provides inadequate CAs	Does not perform a required CA; Does not follow the instructor's command	Provides CA too early, too fast, too late or in the wrong sequence;	Provides too short or too long control inputs;
Other controllers	CA causes hazard	Lack of CA causes hazard	CA too early/ too late/ wrong sequence	CA too long or too short





# STPA-based TEM model for flight instruction

(Koglbauer, 2016)



# How control actions can be uncoordinated

(Leveson, 2011)

---

- Misconception of the situation
- Miscommunication between FI, trainee, other controllers
- FI's overconfidence in automation, trainee
- Unclear responsibility
- Delayed control under pressure/ desire to let the trainee fly
- Satisfaction by other controllers' actions (e.g., CA initiated, does not check for feedback)
- Confusion by other controllers' unexpected control actions
- Etc.

# Scenario 1: The FI takes over the control too late



(Koglbauer, 2016)

---

Ex. go-around

This scenario could occur in following situations:

- The FI **relies too much on inadequate feedback received from the trainee** and detects too late that trainee's CAs do not have the expected effect,
- The FI has an **inadequate feedback from automation**, believes that the automation will handle some parameters and detects too late that it does not, or
- The FI has an **inadequate mental model for anticipating the trainee's errors**,
- The FI has an inadequate mental model **of the parameters which require her/his intervention** during a mismanaged unstable approach;
- The FI is **confused by unexpected control actions of the trainee or of the automation**
- The FI is distracted, fatigued

# Example: Measures for avoiding scenario 1



(Koglbauer, 2016)

---

- The FI **monitors** the flight situation, instruments, automation and the trainee and avoids distraction;
- The FI **double-checks the information and feedback provided by the trainee and automation**;
- The FI is **trained to anticipate trainees' errors**;
- The FI **specifies or receives from her/ his organization procedures that specify parameters for taking over the control**
- The FI considers factors that could delay her/ his CAs (e.g. fatigue, high workload) and **reacts earlier** than usual (e.g., go-around at 600 or 700 ft instead of 500ft)

**The FI receives recurrent training on these tasks**

**The management re-evaluates the procedures over time**

## Scenario 2: The trainee provides too short CA and brings the aircraft in a hazardous state

---

For example the trainee stops too soon to reduce thrust, resulting in an unstable approach.

This scenario could occur in following situations:

The trainee does not **monitor** the instrument indications for **feedback** because she or he uses an inadequate scanning pattern, or is distracted, or

The trainee has an inadequate mental model:

- of how to adequately **apply the control inputs**
  - **for anticipating** the effects of her/ his control inputs, or
  - of the **required parameters** for the approach, or
  - of **automation** and believes that the automation will handle some parameters when it does not
- (Koglbauer, 2016)

## Example: how can scenario 2 be avoided?

(Koglbauer, 2016)

---

**The FI provides information, checks and gives feedback about the trainees’:**

- scanning pattern
- anticipation of effects of her/ his control inputs
- knowledge of the flight parameters used in approach
- mental model of the automation used in the particular type of aircraft

**The instructor repeats the above actions until the trainee consistently demonstrates an appropriate behavior**

The FI manages the learning environment: long and short briefings, debriefings, simulators (e.g., cockpit simulator, flight simulator, simulation of scenarios of unstable approaches and practices the necessary corrections with the trainee), flight training area, altitude etc.

# Conclusions

---

- The STPA-based model of TEM for flight instruction is **more comprehensive** and gives a new perspective to the whole instruction process
- Addressing safety issues with STPA has a positive effect on the training quality
- The FI candidates like the STPA-based model  
**„this the first time I see a model which is really useful“**

## **Future work with the STPA-based TEM model:**

- Refine the scenarios
- Develop training programs in a research project with the management
- Identify complex scenarios for pilot, instructor, and examiner, CRM training



# Literature

---

ACG AustroControl (2014). Flight Examiner's Manual for Aeroplanes and Helicopters. Doc. HB LSA PEL 002, Version 5.0.

EASA (2011). Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material to Part FCL.

Helmreich, R. L., Klinec, J. R., & Wilhelm, J. A. (1999). Models of threat, error, and CRM in flight operations. In R. Jensen (Ed.) Proceedings of the 10th International Symposium on Aviation Psychology. Columbus, OH: The Ohio State University, 677-682.

Klinec, J.R. (2005). Line Operations Safety Audit: A cockpit observation methodology for monitoring commercial airline safety performance. Dissertation Thesis, University of Texas, Austin.

Koglbauer, I. (2016). A System-Theoretic Model of Threat and Error Management in Flight Instruction. In V. Chis & I. Albuлесcu (Eds.) The European Proceedings of Social & Behavioural Sciences, 241-248.

Leveson, N. (2011). Engineering a safer world. Cambridge, MIT Press.