

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, overlapping circular patterns and numbers, resembling a technical or aviation-themed design. The numbers include 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, and 260, arranged in a circular fashion.

# PROBLEM-SOLVING & PROCEDURES: HOW PEOPLE HANDLE **UNEXPECTED** SITUATIONS

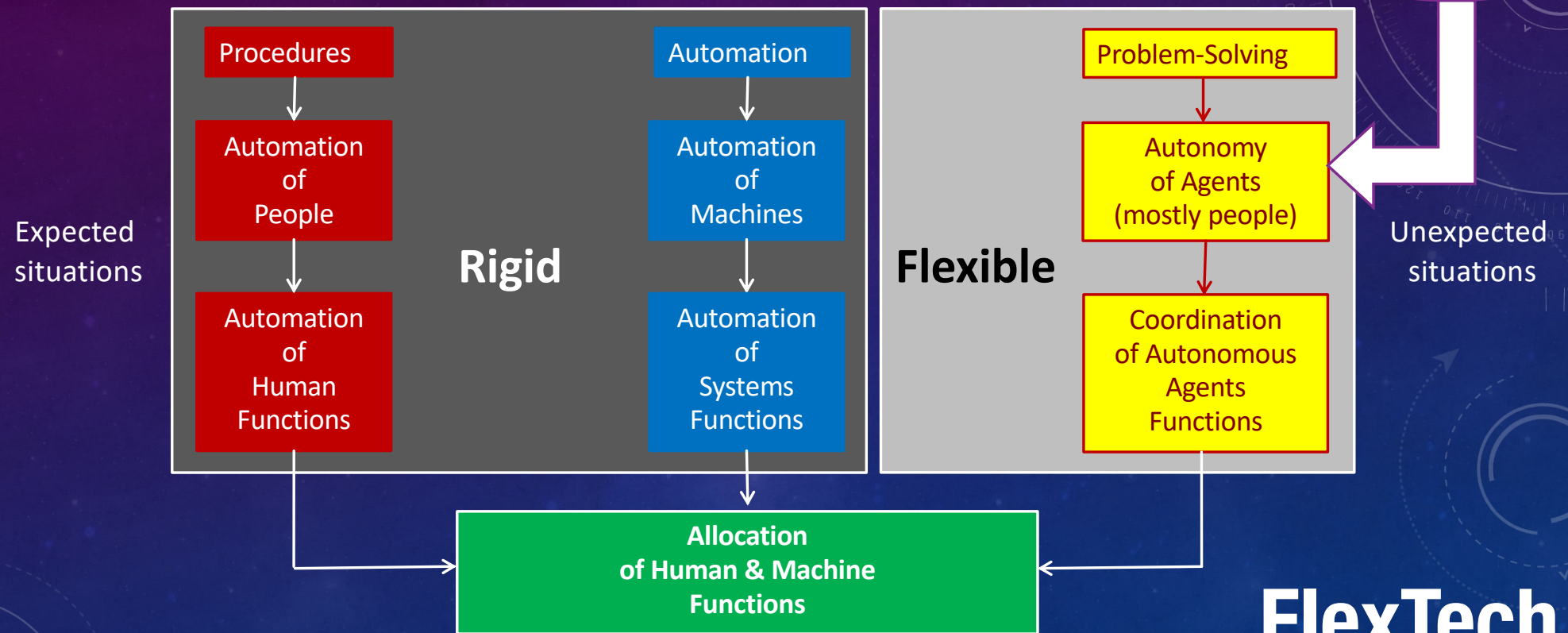
PROF. GUY ANDRÉ BOY

# OUTLINE

- The lecture is about procedures, automation and problem solving in life-critical systems
- What are human factors that matter?
- Talking about competence: combining creativity, knowledge and experience
- Dealing with uncertainty and unexpected events
- How could human and artificial intelligence complement each other?
- The complexity of human machine teaming: the maturity issue
- Constructing a vision: from short-term prediction to longer-term possible futures
- Starting a discussion: Risk taking, prevention and design



# FROM RIGID AUTOMATION TO FLEXIBLE AUTONOMY



# THE T.O.P. MODEL...

Procedure following  
& problem-solving

Competences

People

Human  
Centered  
Design

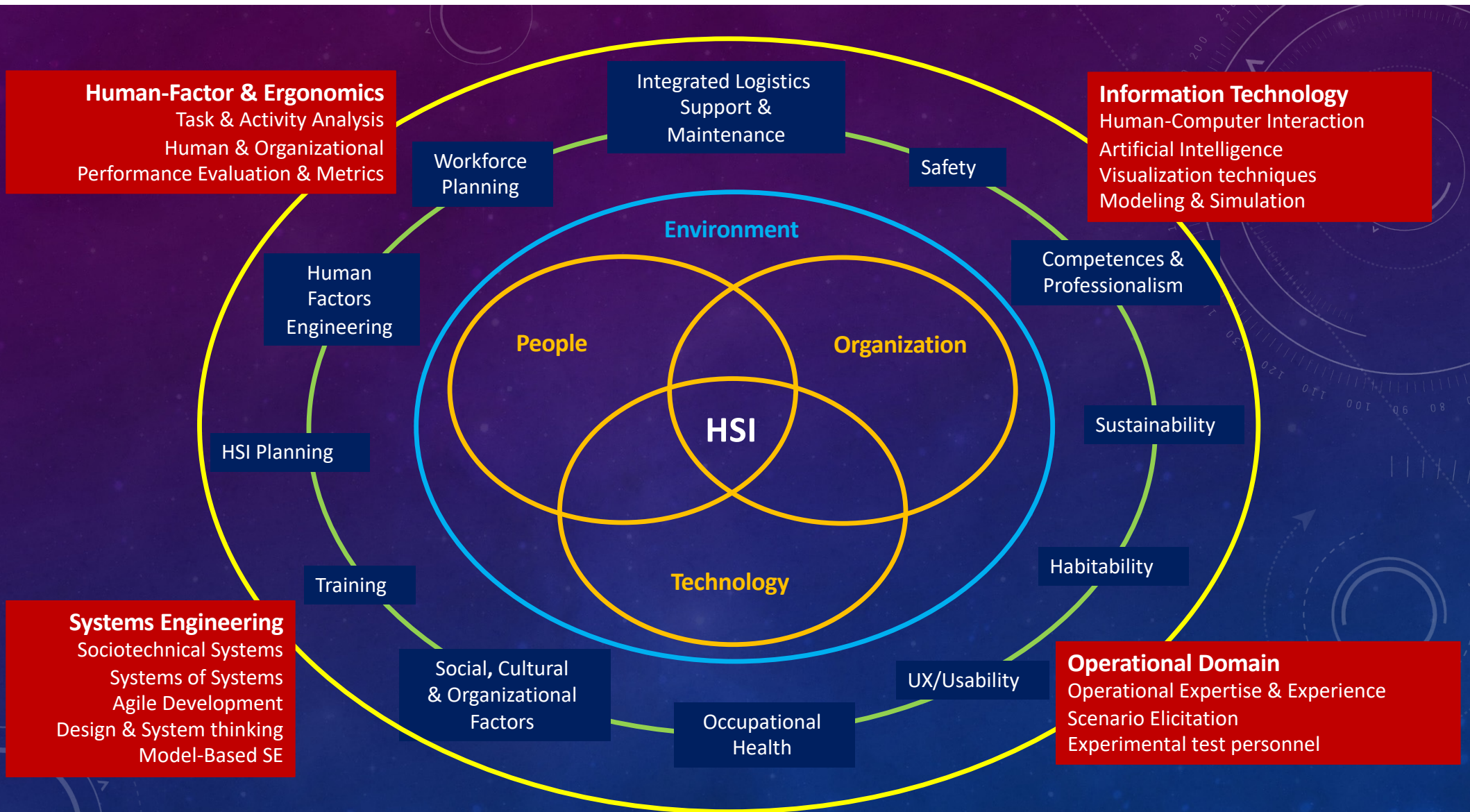
Technology

Organizations

Automation  
AI & Data science

Regulations  
Coordination





# COMPETENCE EVOLUTION...

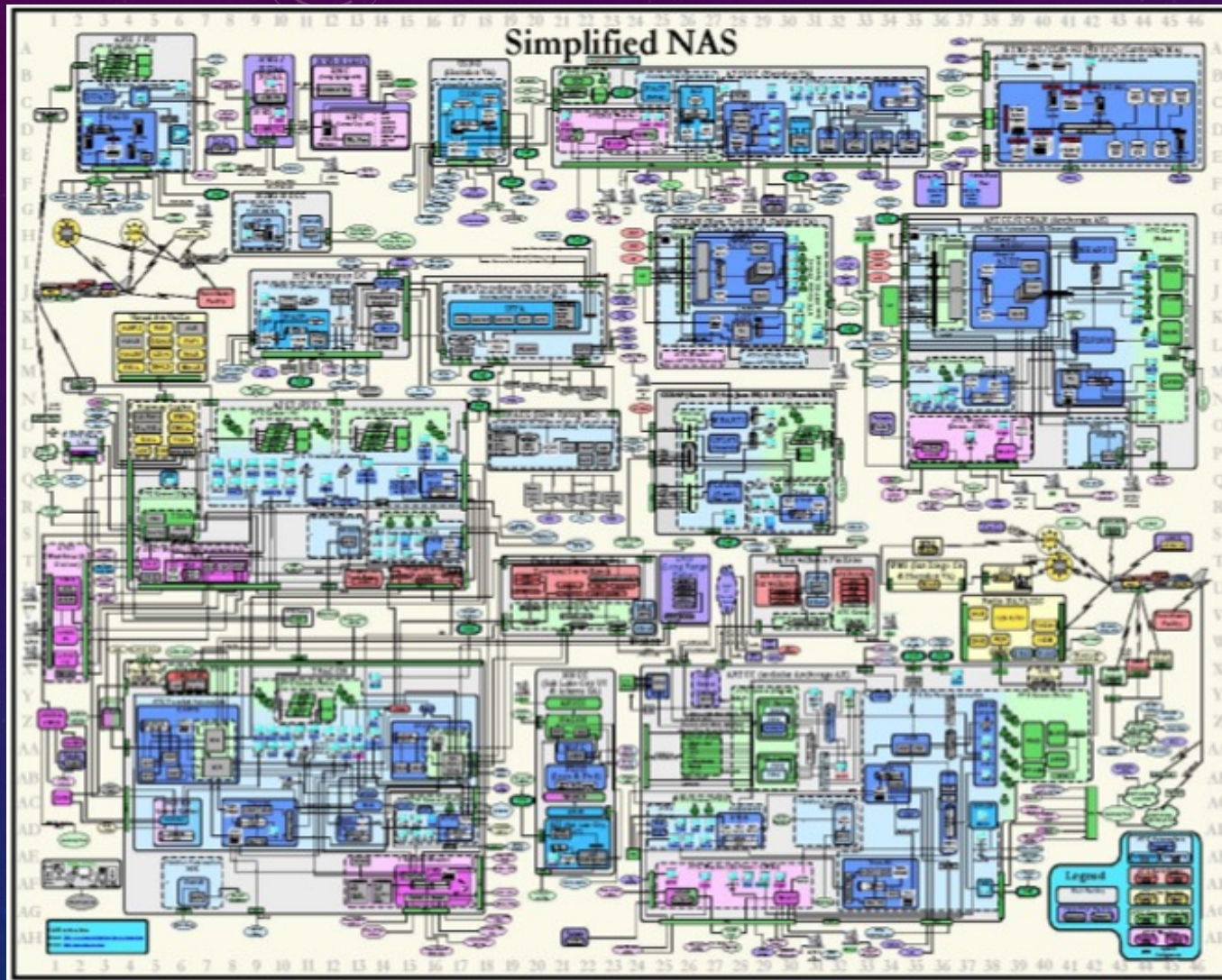
- from flight quality control to management of embedded systems
- teaming up with machines increasingly equipped with artificial intelligence (human-machine teaming)
- integration of software concepts with physical concepts (adaptation to digital, keeping physical skills)
- articulation of physical tangibility [grasping a physical object, touching, physically feeling] and figurative (or cognitive) tangibility [grasping an abstract object, understanding, situation awareness]
- moving from rigid automation (especially in unexpected situations, where procedures and automata are out of context which creates dangerous rigidity) to flexible autonomy (solving problems in action)



# COMPLEXITY MANAGEMENT

- Simplify (use separability property)
- Familiarize
- Categorize
- Collaborative problem solving
- Develop a complexity culture based on experience/knowledge/skills management
- Develop and maintain experience feedback
- Use digital twin technology to support situation awareness, decision making and action taking





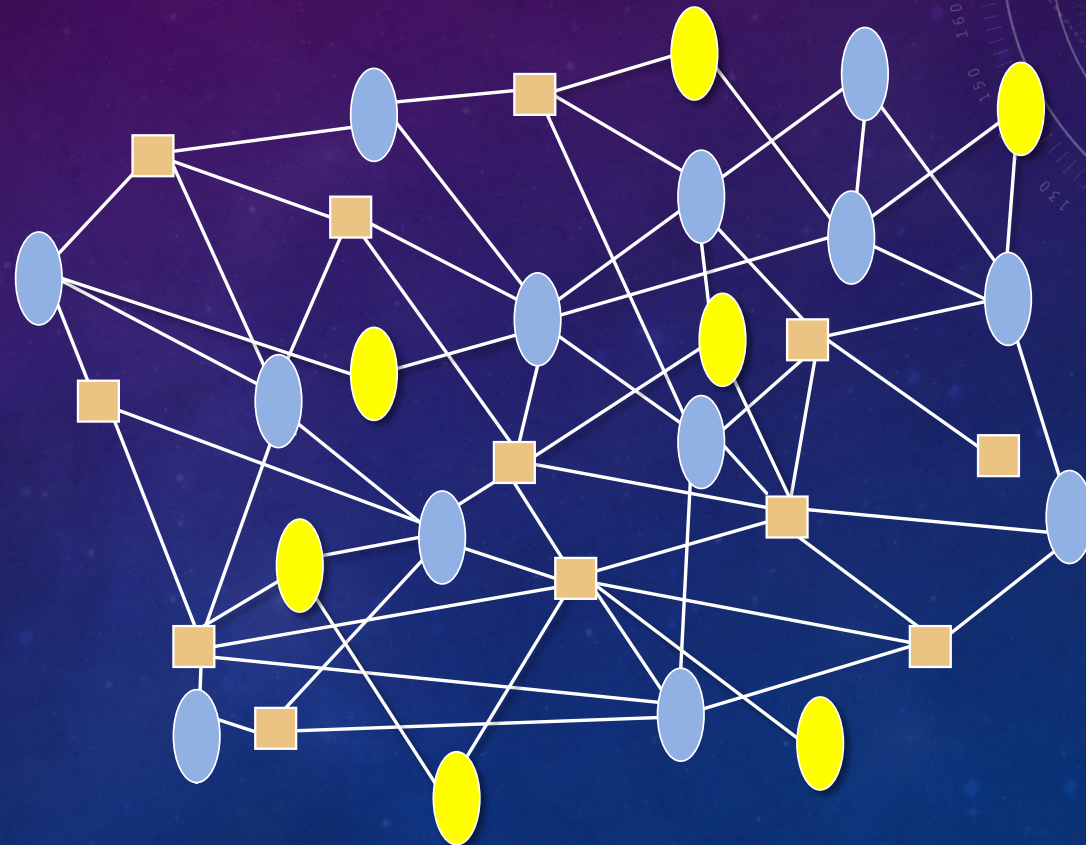


# A COMPLEX SYSTEM AS A LIVING ORGANISM

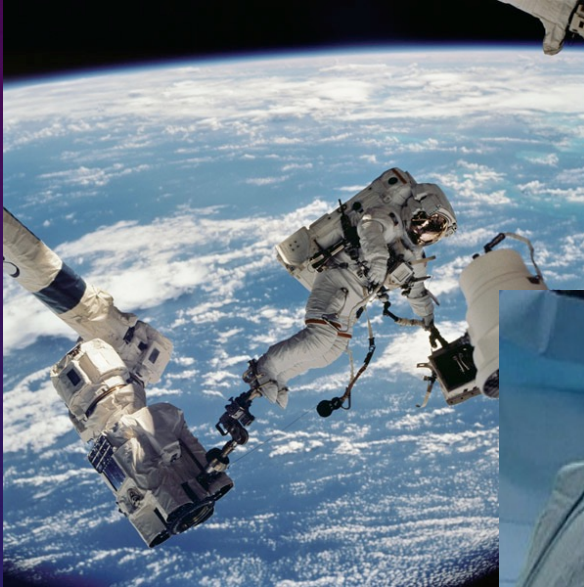
**Separability**  
a crucial issue

**Complexity**  
in the connections  
as well as  
in the agents themselves

**Emergent Functions**  
&  
the **maturity** issue



# LIFE-CRITICAL SYSTEMS...



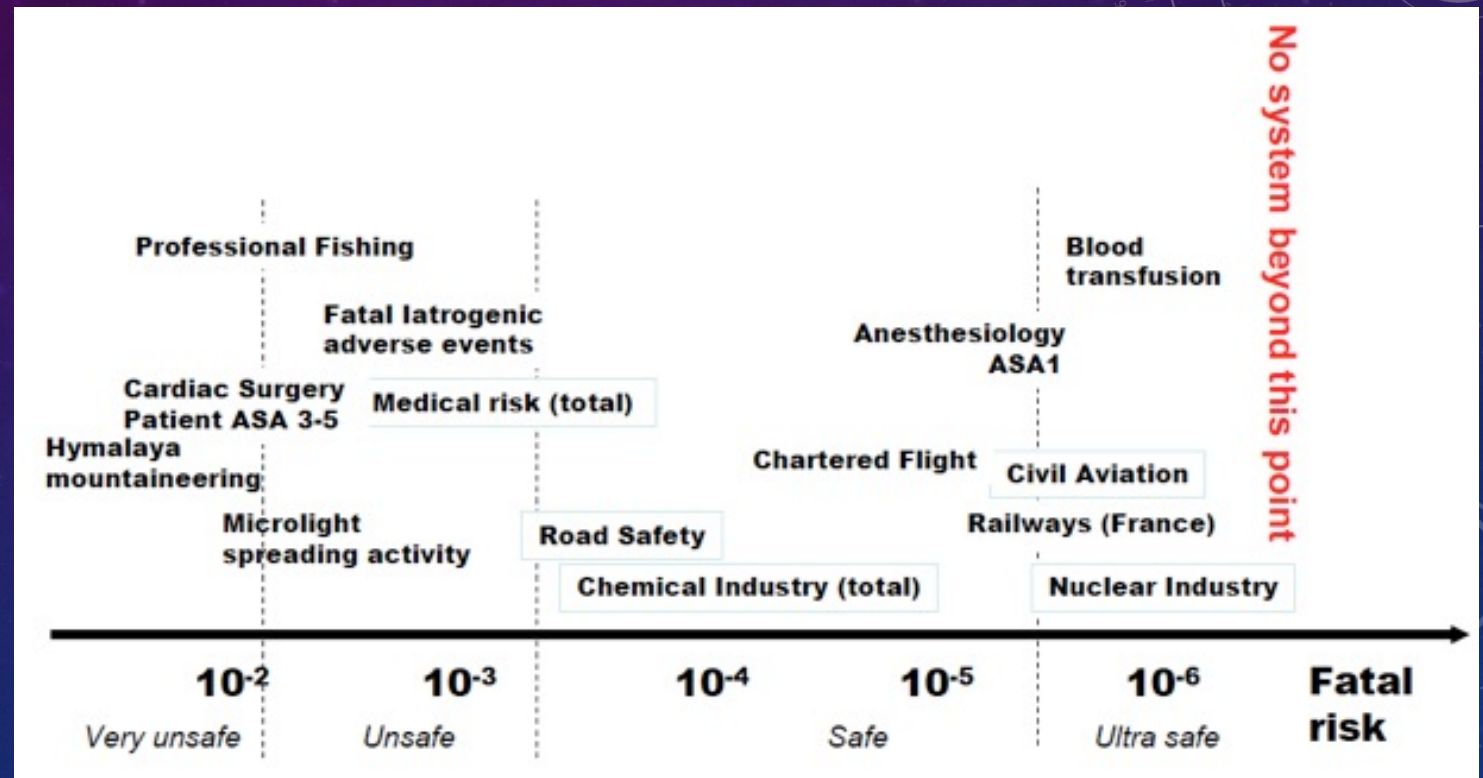
Safety  
Efficiency  
Comfort





# LIFE-CRITICAL SYSTEM CATEGORIES

(AMALBERTI, 2001)



# LIFE-CRITICAL SYSTEMS

Aerospace, nuclear energy, medicine ...

safety cultures

*acceptable domains of risk*

systems engineering

*regulations, operational procedures and training programs*

*system reliability*

*human reliability*

...

Despite this heavy framing work,  
we still have to face **unexpected situations**  
that people have to manage  
in order to *minimize consequences*.



# WHAT IS A LIFE-CRITICAL SYSTEM (LCS)?



# VARIABILITY





# VARIABILITY

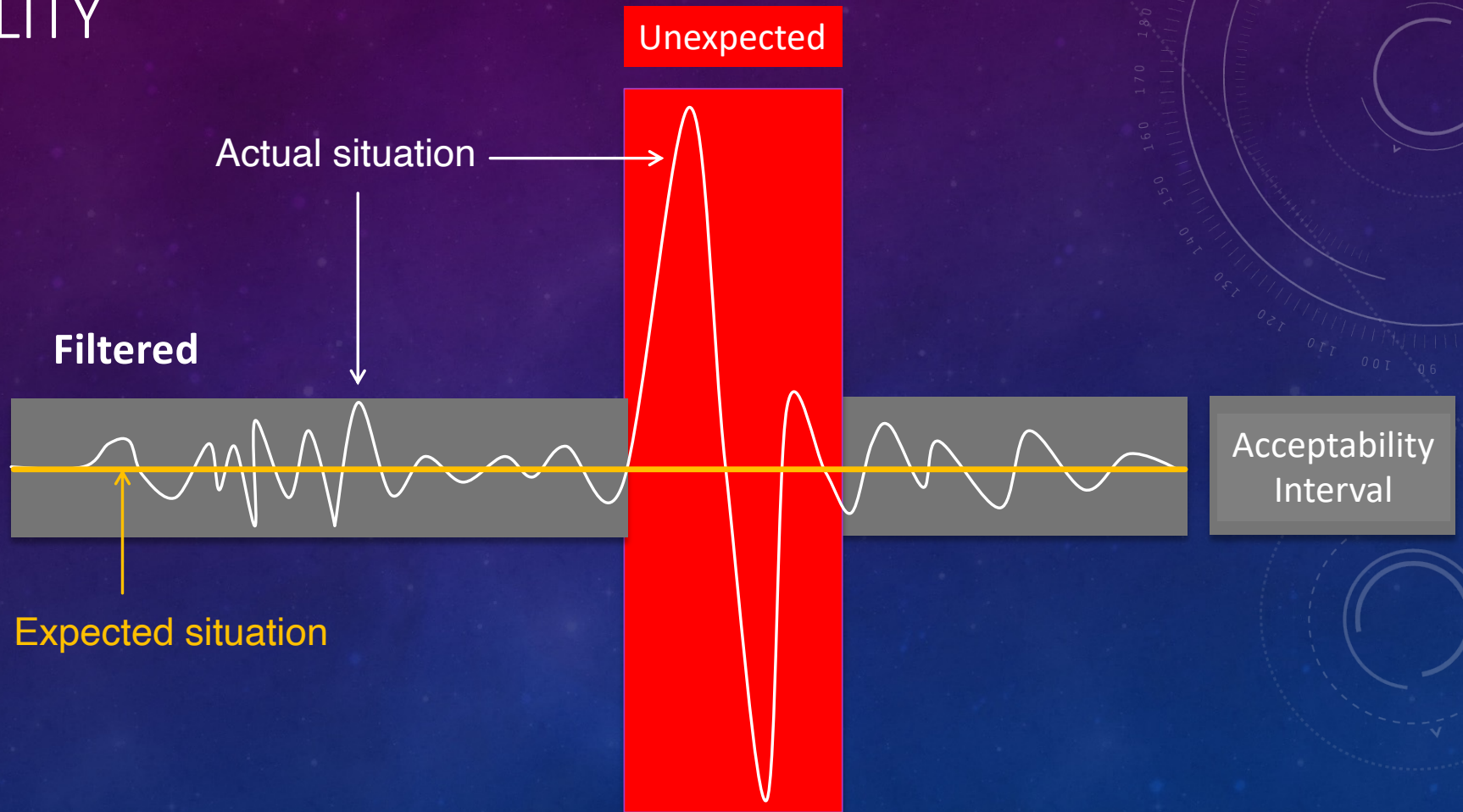


# VARIABILITY

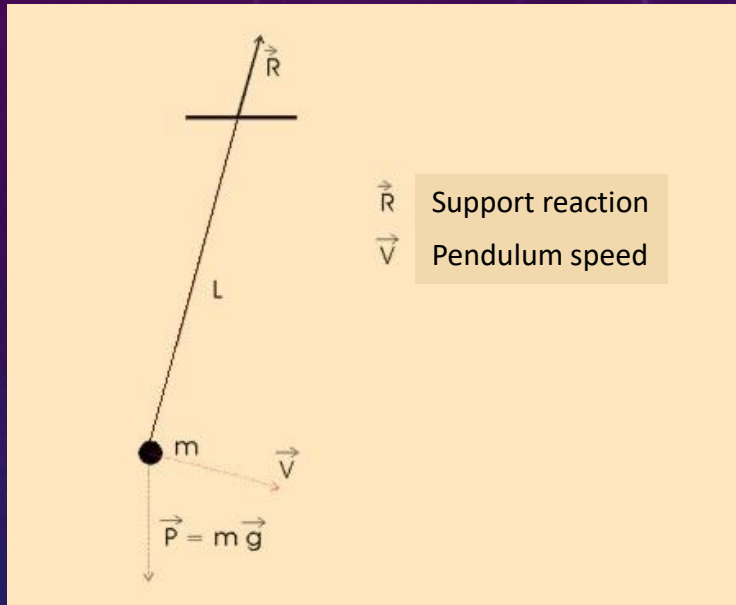




# VARIABILITY



# STABILITY



... stable  
... passive stability



... instable  
... active stability



# SIMPLIFICATION → REDUCTIONIST LIMITATIONS

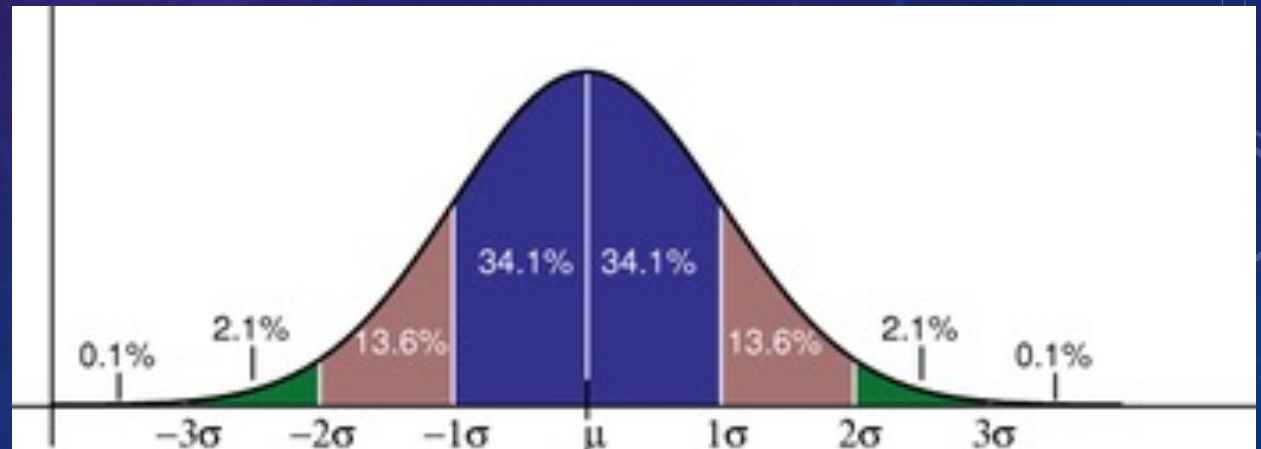
## *linear* approach

*user interfaces and operational procedures based on experience feedback*

deviation from the (linear) norm = noise

➤ *unexpected as an exception*

Context ?!



# Risk = Probability x Consequence

Very small

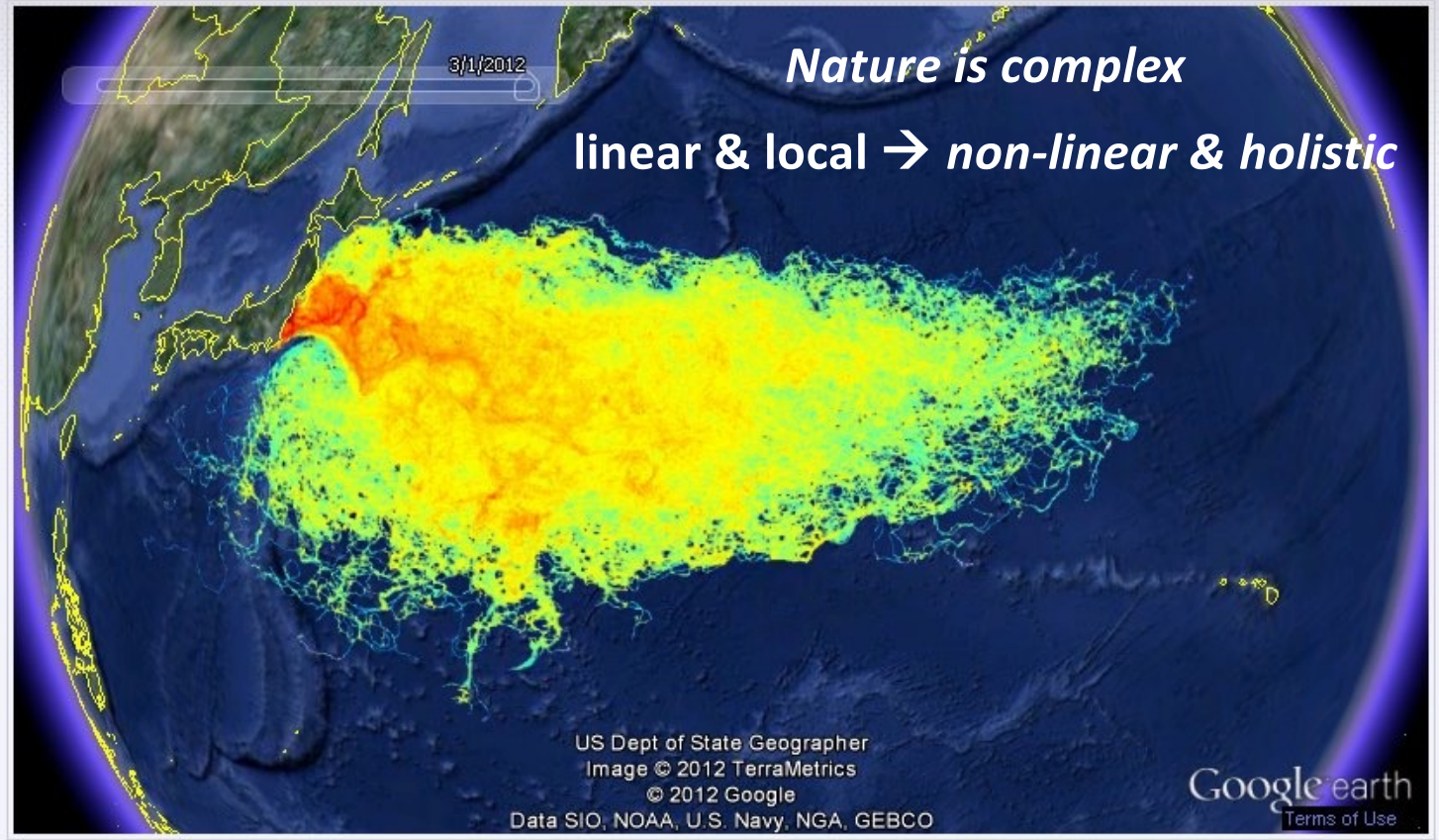
Very big





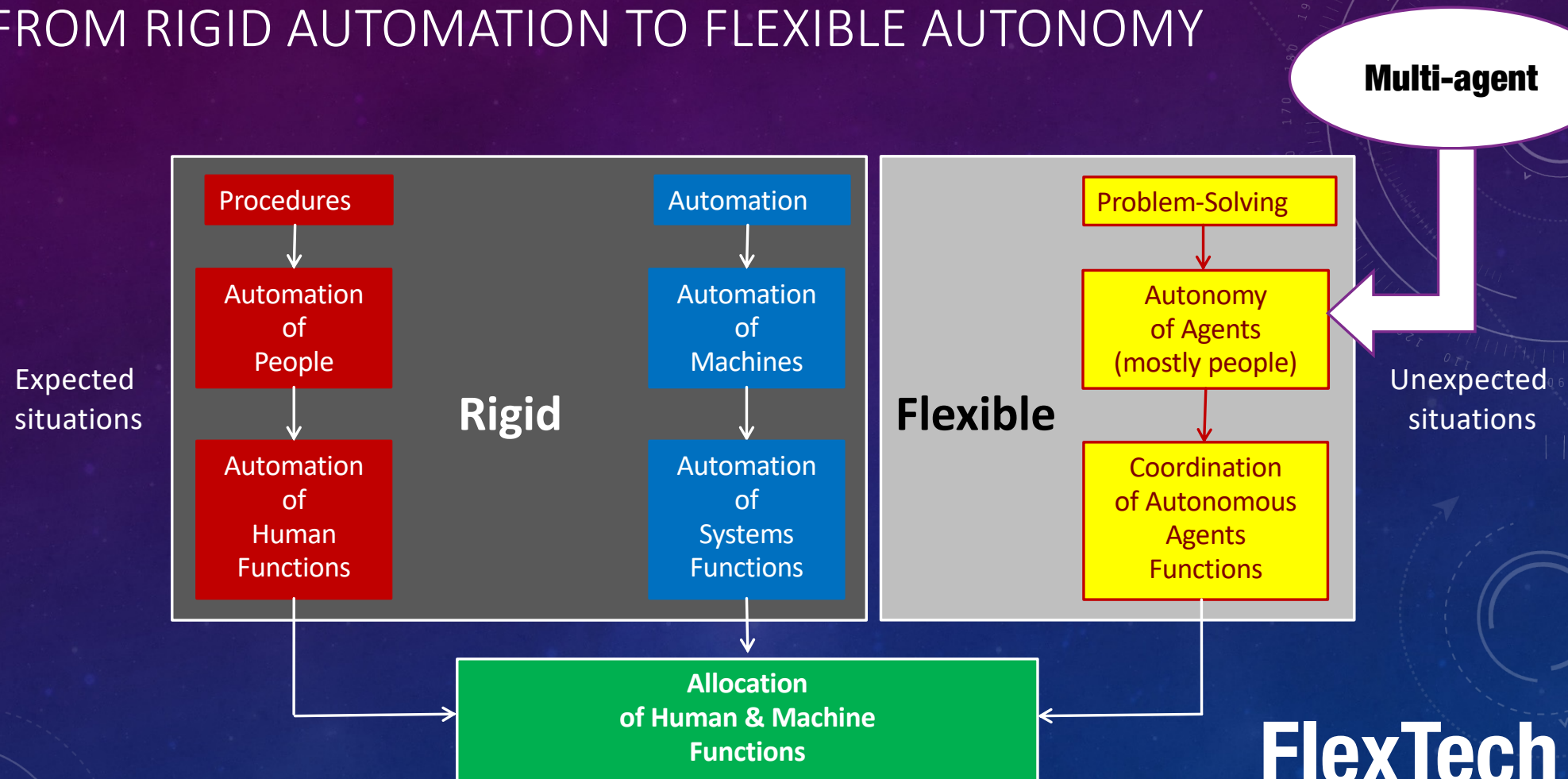
FUKUSHIMA...

Radioactive Seawater Impact Map (update: March 2012)



2011

# FROM RIGID AUTOMATION TO FLEXIBLE AUTONOMY



# FlexTech

CentraleSupélec-ESTIA Chair



# DHL A300 CARGO TERRORIST SHOT...

Problem-solving competence



2003

# QANTAS A380 FLIGHT 32 ENGINE

Problem-solving competence



2010



# US AIRWAYS FLIGHT 1549

Problem-solving competence



2009

An iceberg floating in a blue sky with white clouds. The visible tip of the iceberg is outlined in red. A thick red horizontal line extends across the width of the image, separating the sky from the dark blue water below. The text 'conventional reductionism' is written in yellow in the sky area.

conventional reductionism

*complexity science*

catastrophe theory  
bifurcation theory  
chaos theory

sudden “qualitative” or topological change



# MANAGING THE UNEXPECTED

Understand deeper knowledge (the whole iceberg)

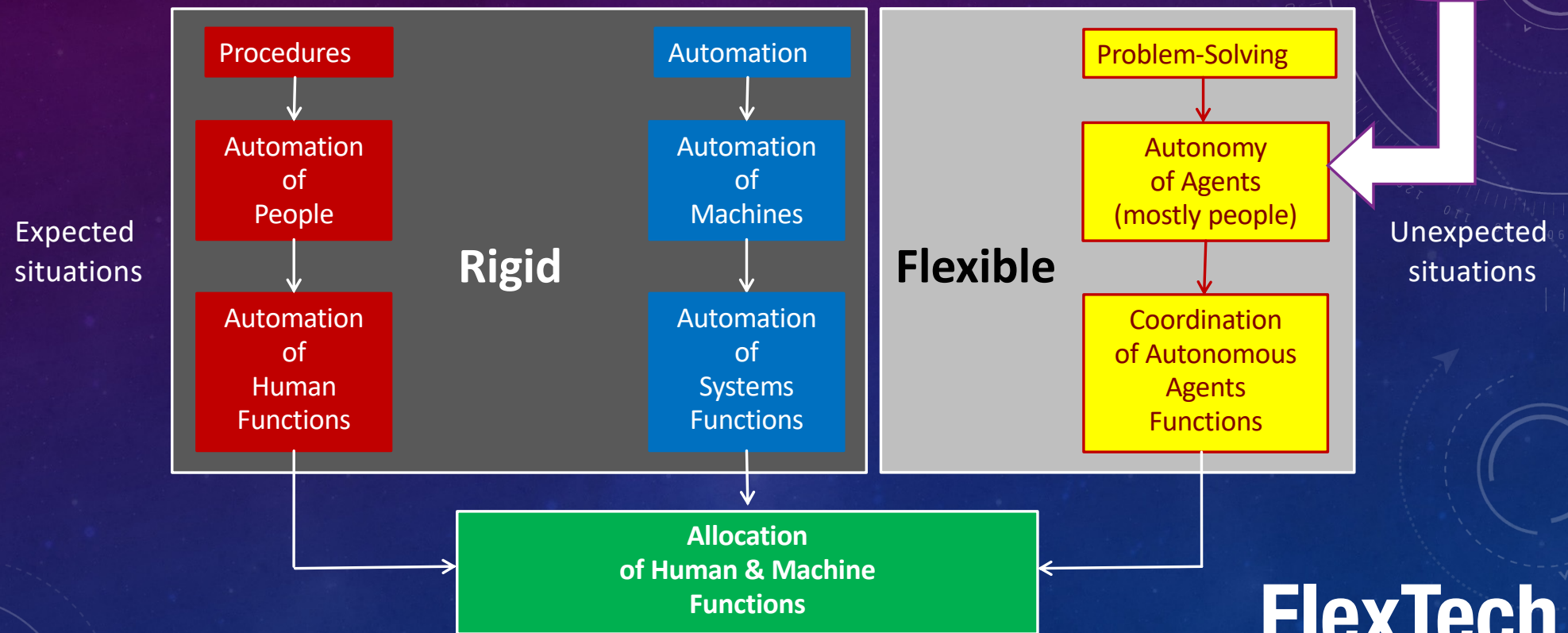
→ extensive training over a long period of time

*Creativity is key*

“creativity” and “procedure following” are contradictory but complementary concepts

fallacious expectation of zero risk

# FROM RIGID AUTOMATION TO FLEXIBLE AUTONOMY





# RISK TAKING

Preparation  
Routine  
Abduction  
Understanding  
Experience  
Discipline (safety margins)  
Availability  
Action



2010

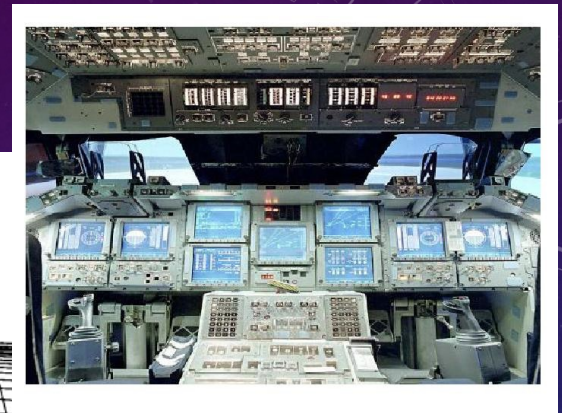
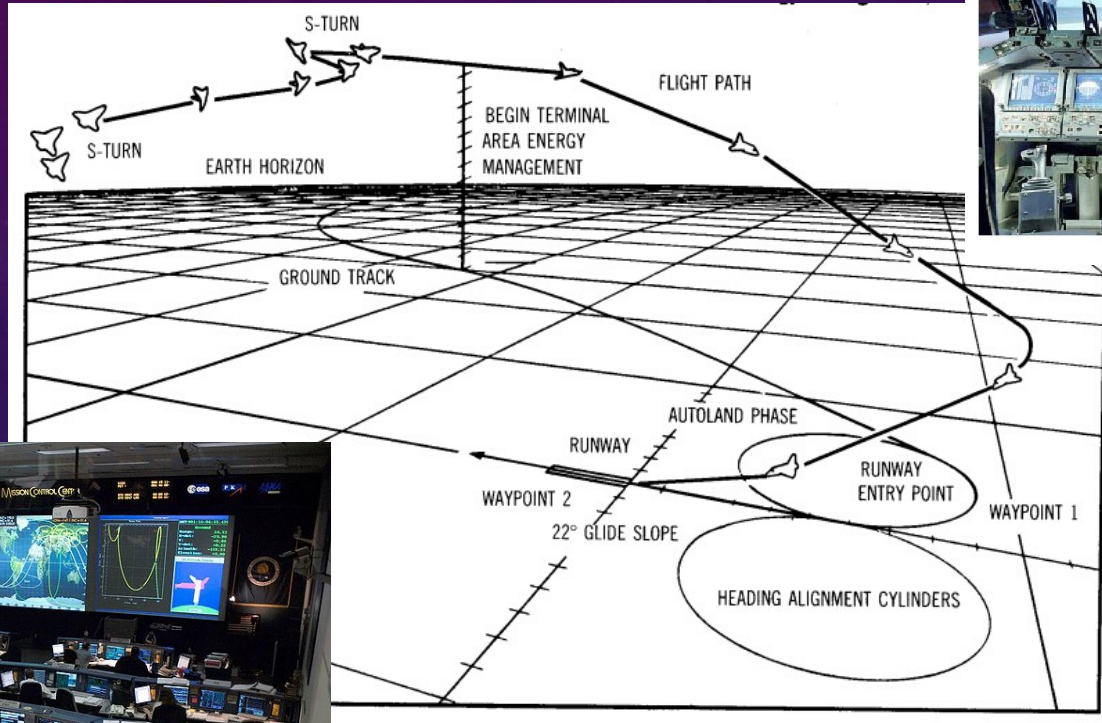
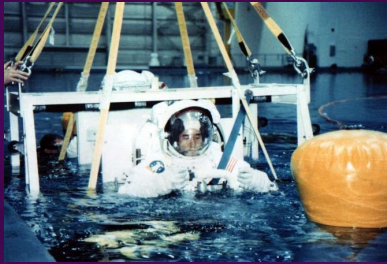
# APOLLO 13 CO<sub>2</sub> ...

Organizational problem solving





# HUMAN SYSTEMS INTEGRATION (HSI)...



# Holistic HSI



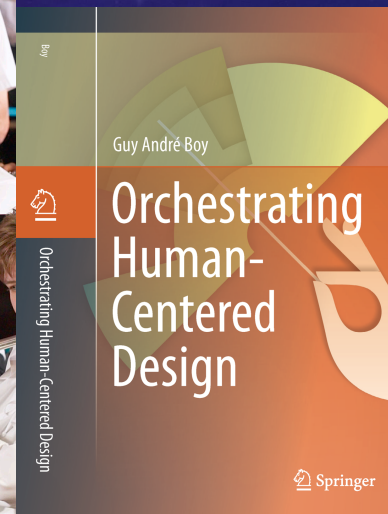
# Holistic HSI





# THE ORCHESTRA MODEL

Music theory  
Scores and composer(s)  
Conductor(s)  
Musicians  
Audience





# AN EXAMPLE OF SITUATION AWARENESS SHARING...

Ground View



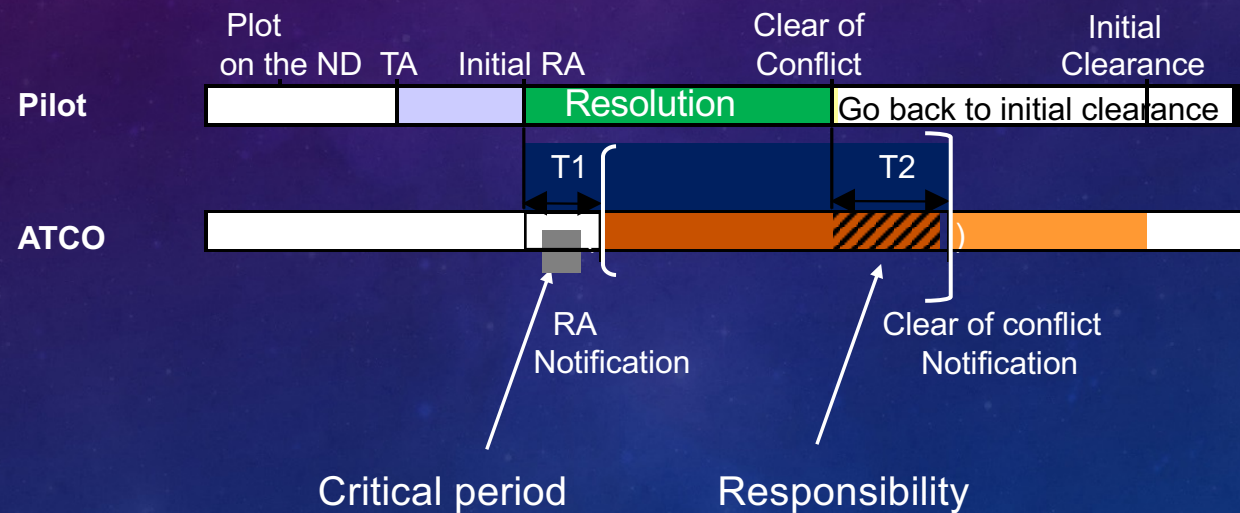
Aircraft View



**Same Situation → 2 Viewpoints  
Intersubjectivity  
Coordination**

# DISCUSSION: TCAS TIME ISSUES

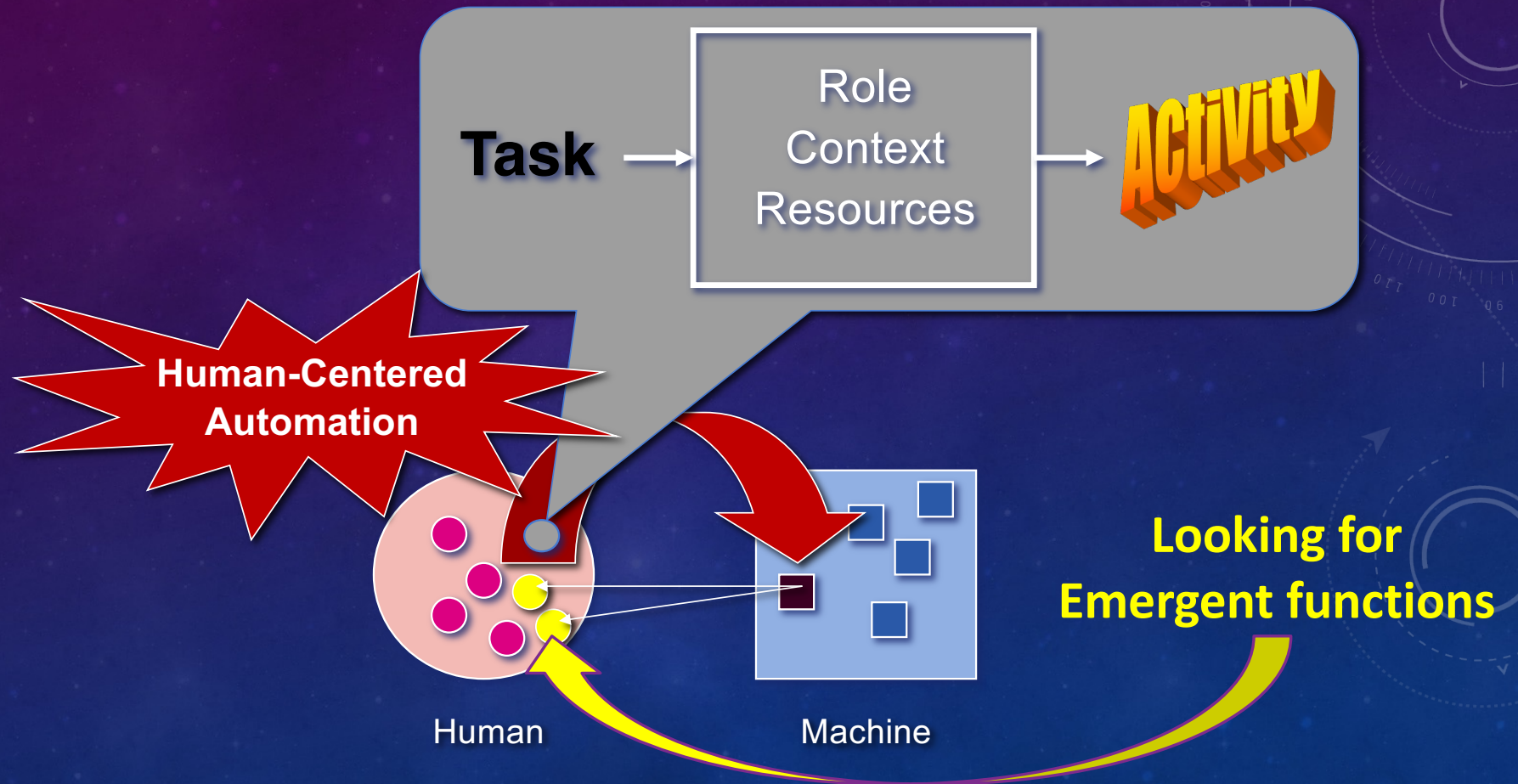
## Traffic-alert & Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) resolution : an interlude in the air-ground dialogue



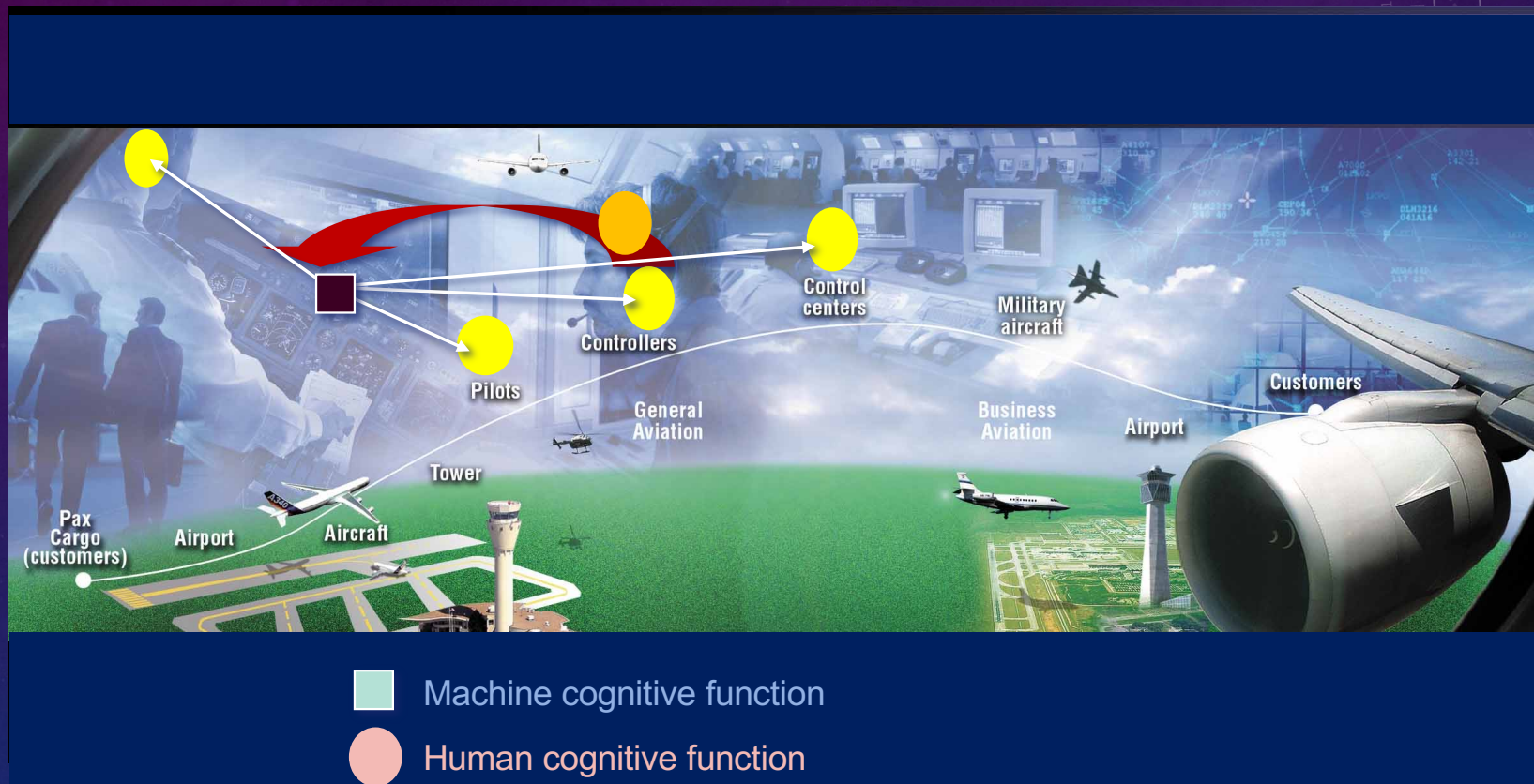
Stress study, DSNA-LAA, 2006



# THE COGNITIVE FUNCTION PARADIGM



# ATM AGENTS AND INTERCONNECTIVITY...







# HUMAN-ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) INTEGRATION

- AI may make decisions in limited contexts (we talk about **machine autonomy**)
- AI affords to assist people in making decisions (we talk about **intelligent assistance**)
- AI affords people to do things that they could not do before
- People's behavior and activities change when they use AI



AI





IS ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
MATURE ENOUGH  
TO BE USED  
SAFELY,  
EFFICIENTLY AND  
COMFORTABLY?



# T.O.P. READINESS LEVELS

## Technology (TRL)



## Organizations (ORL)

ORL-0	First principles where potential organizational models are explored.
ORL-1	Goal-oriented research that requires making choices from first principles to practical fully digital organizational setups
ORL-2	Proof of principle development, and active R&D is started in a virtual environment
ORL-3	Virtual agile organizational prototype development and first HITLS (virtual HCD)
ORL-4	Proof of organizational concept development using concrete scenario-based design from fully virtual to more tangible environments
ORL-5	Assessing organization capability in terms of authority sharing (responsibility, accountability and control), trust, collaboration and coordination, for example
ORL-6	Real-world use-case tests in a wider variety of situations - tangibilization continues
ORL-7	Practical integration with respect to criteria such as safety, efficiency and comfort, at various levels of granularity of the organization – tangibilization continues
ORL-8	Readiness for effective implementation on a real site (fully tangible) based on personnel feedback for deployment approval
ORL-9	Deployment involving both personnel and real machines

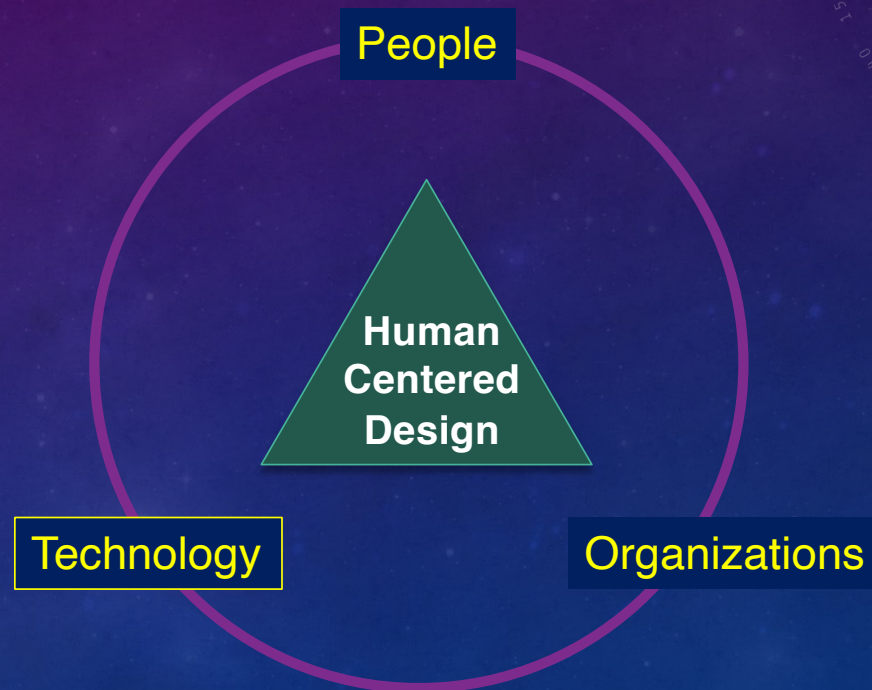
## People (HRL)

HRL	Description
1	Relevant human capabilities, limitations, and basic human performance issues and risks identified
2	Human-focused concept of operations defined and human performance design principles established
3	Analyses of human operational, environmental, functional, cognitive, and physical needs completed, based on proof of concept
4	Modeling, part-task testing, and trade studies of user interface design concepts completed
5	User evaluation of prototypes in mission-relevant simulations completed to inform design
6	Human-system interfaces fully matured as influenced by human performance analyses, metrics, prototyping, and high-fidelity simulations
7	Human-system interfaces fully tested and verified in operational environment with system hardware and software and representative users
8	Total human-system performance fully tested, validated, and approved in mission operations, using completed system hardware and software and representative users
9	System successfully used in operations across the operational envelope with systematic monitoring of human-system performance

# WHAT ARE THE T.O.P. FACTORS THAT MATTER?

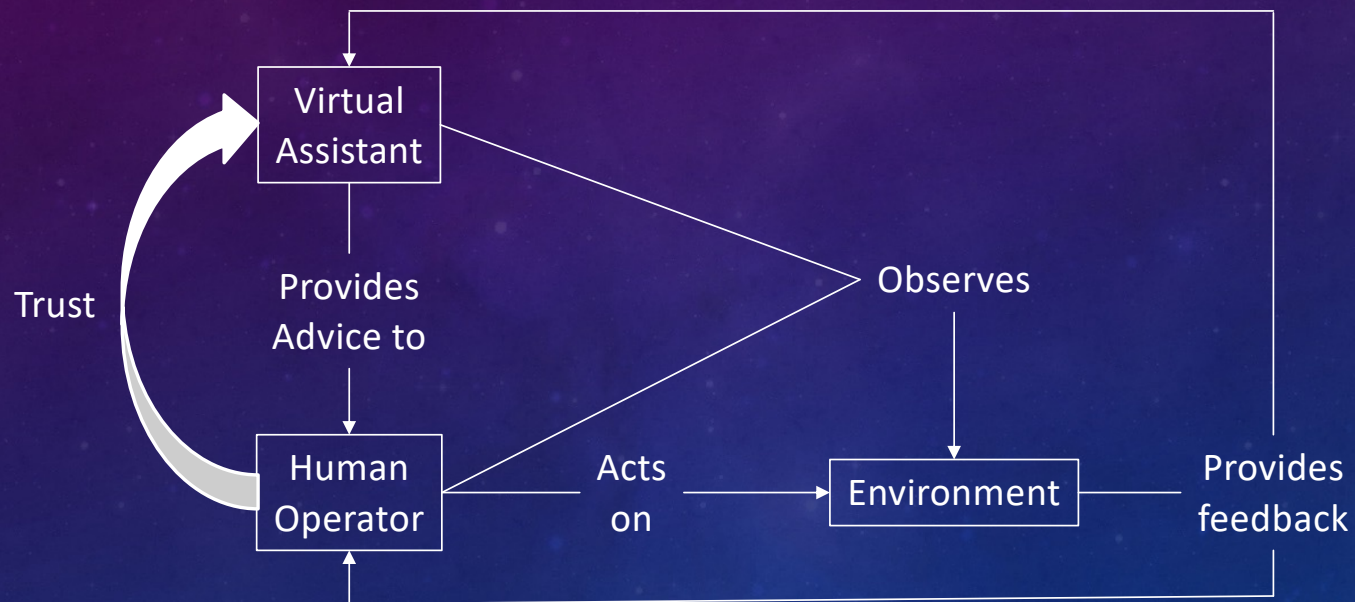
## Technological factors

- Consistency
- Easy access to appropriate information
- Context-sensitive information
- Affordances
- Interruption support
- Physical and cognitive ergonomics





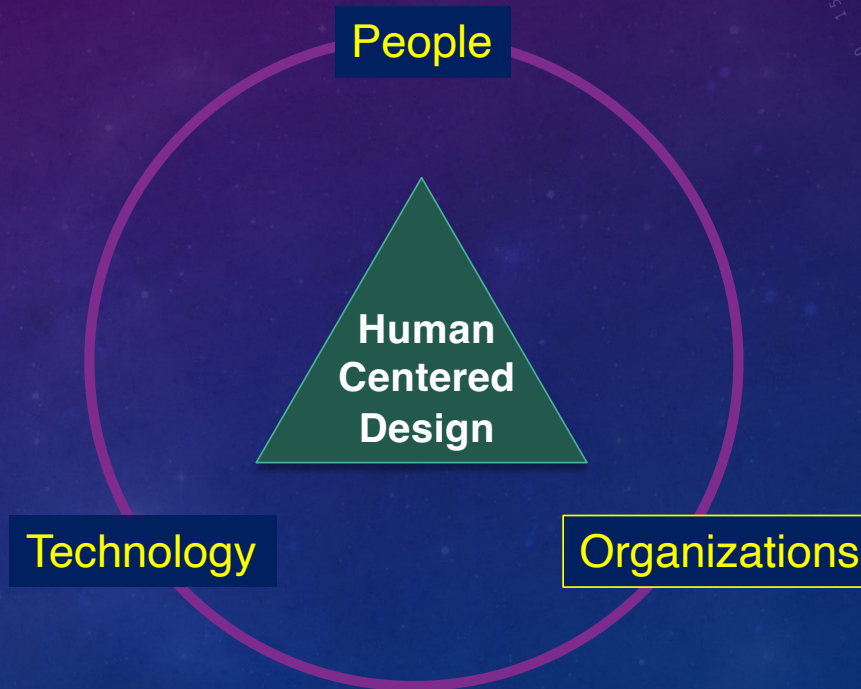
# THIS REQUIRES A FEEDBACK LOOP PROCESS...



# WHAT ARE THE T.O.P. FACTORS THAT MATTER?

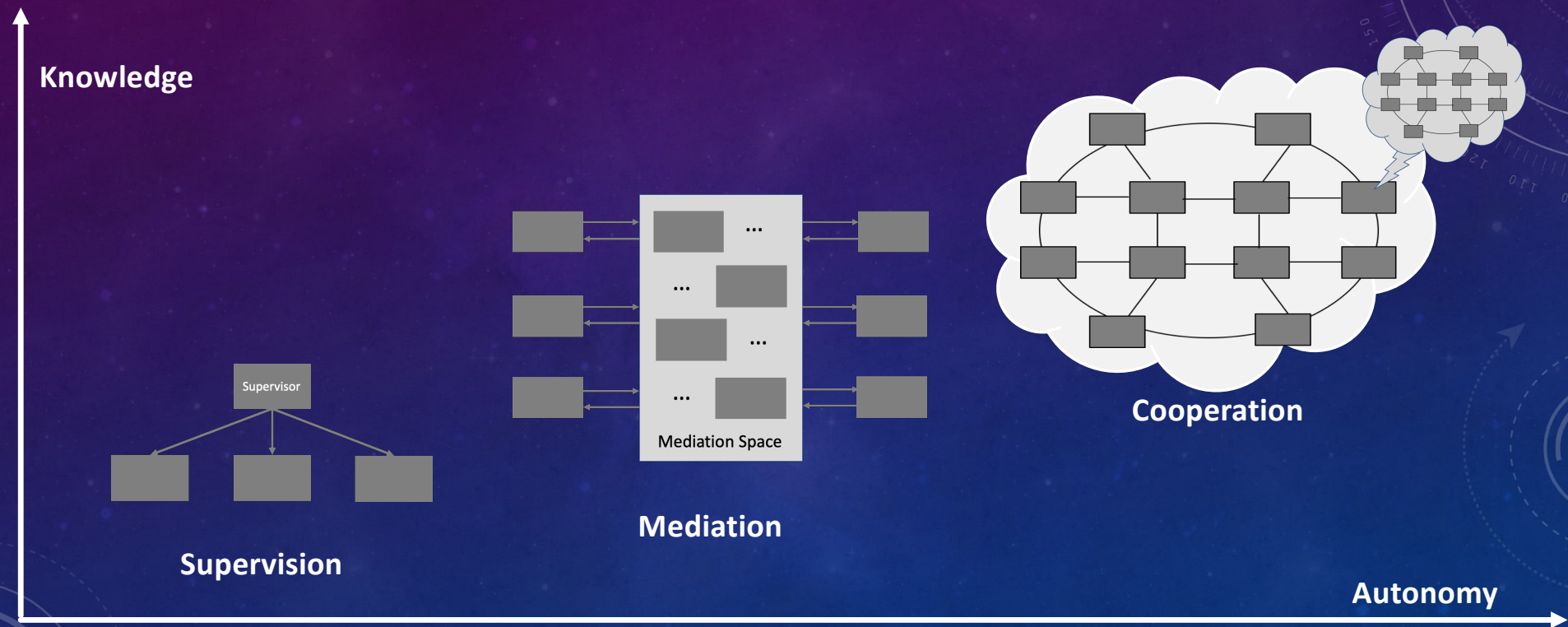
## Organizational factors

- Communication
- Supervision
- Mediation
- Cooperation
- Coordination
- Conflict and priority management





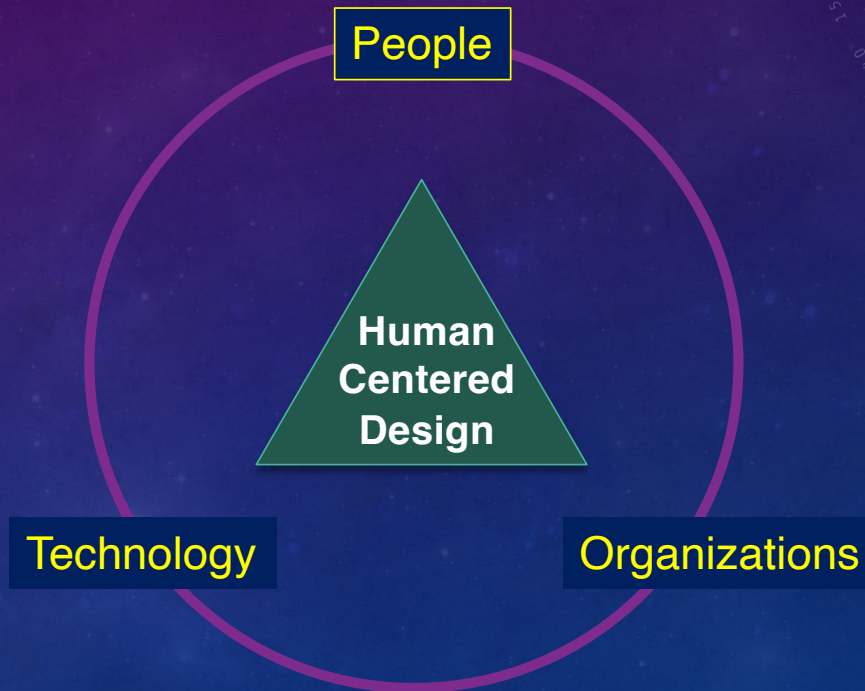
# SYSTEMIC INTERACTION MODELS... ... AND AUTHORITY SHARING



# WHAT ARE THE T.O.P. FACTORS THAT MATTER?

## Human factors

- Situation awareness
- Decision making
- Risk taking
- Workload
- Performance
- Trust
- Collaboration







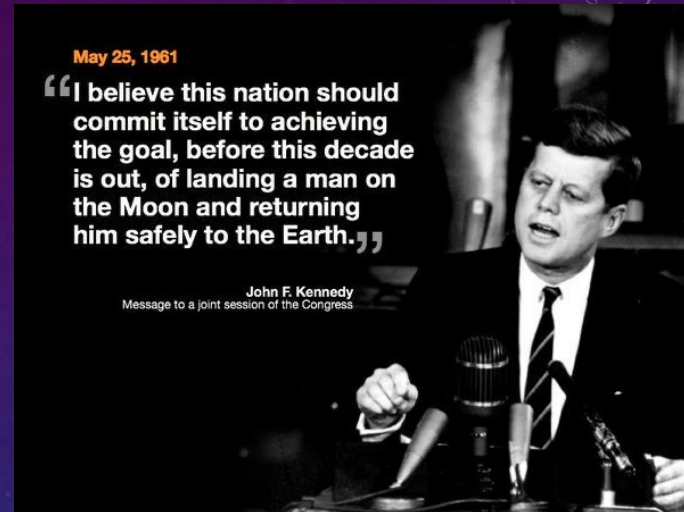
Technology-Centered Engineering

From Means to Purpose

Reactive (Event-driven)

Prediction

**Short Term**



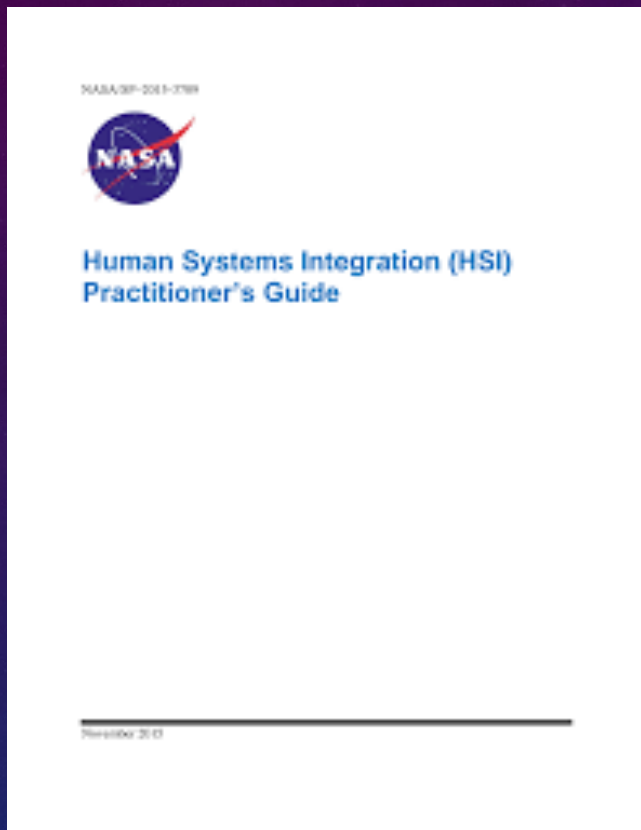
Human-Centered Design

From Purpose to Means

Proactive (Goal-driven)

Possible Futures

**Longer Term**





# SOURCES

## *Air Transport Pilots facing the Unexpected*

Air and Space Academy International Conference  
November 29, 2011



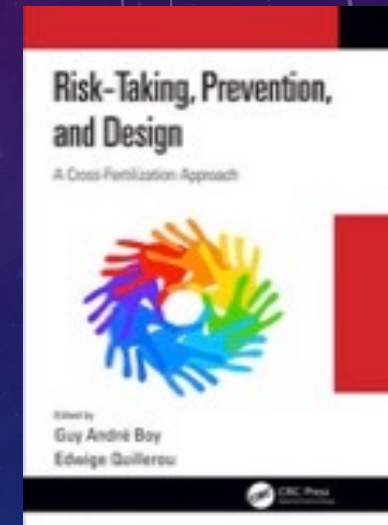
HCI-Aero Conferences (1998-2016)  
→ HSI Conferences (2019-Present)

Aircraft accident investigations...

Boy, G.A. (2013). Dealing with the Unexpected in our Complex Socio-Technical World. Proceedings of the 12th IFAC/IFIP/IFORS/IEA Symposium on Analysis, Design, and Evaluation of Human-Machine Systems. Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.



2010



2022



# Future Integrated Automation in Aviation

[Home](#)

[Content](#)

[Schedule](#)

[Registration](#)

[Downloads](#)

[Contacts](#)

## A Training Program

From March 2025 to October 2026

Work with worldwide recognized experts

4 sessions in Biarritz, France + Online project development

Compare the way problems are stated and solved by peers (Cultural fertilization)





TANK YOU...

[guy.andre.boy@gmail.com](mailto:guy.andre.boy@gmail.com)