Developing Safety and Mission Assurance Cases with AdvoCATE

Ewen Denney

NASA Ames Research Center

Assurance Case Adoption

- Piper Alpha Report (Cullen Inquiry), 1990
  - Recommended application of safety cases to offshore installations
  - Subsequently adopted by UK Ministry of Defense, Def-Stan-00-56 (MOD), 2004
- Now widely used in many safety-critical industries
  - Offshore Oil & Gas (Cullen 1990), Defense, Medical, Transportation (Road, Rail and Air), Nuclear
- Increasing usage in the U.S.
  - FDA – Infusion pumps
  - FAA – UAS operational approval, performance-based regulation
  - NRC – Nuclear waste disposal
- Defense aviation
  - Military aircraft, largely in UK and Australia
  - NAVAIR
- Civil Aviation
  - By ICAO for RVSM implementation over Africa, Asia
  - EUROCONTROL
  - JARUS – UAS
- Automotive
  - ISO 26262 Functional safety
  - ISO 21448 Safety of the intended functionality
  - UL 4600 Safety of autonomous products
- NASA
  - Objective Hierarchies
  - Risk-informed Safety Cases

Safety (Assurance) Case

- Comprehensive, auditable, safety risk management artifact

- Authoritative record that
  - Safety risks have been identified, are well understood
  - Processes and mechanisms in place for risk reduction
    - Driver for development

- Explicit claims and evidence connected by rationale (argumentation)

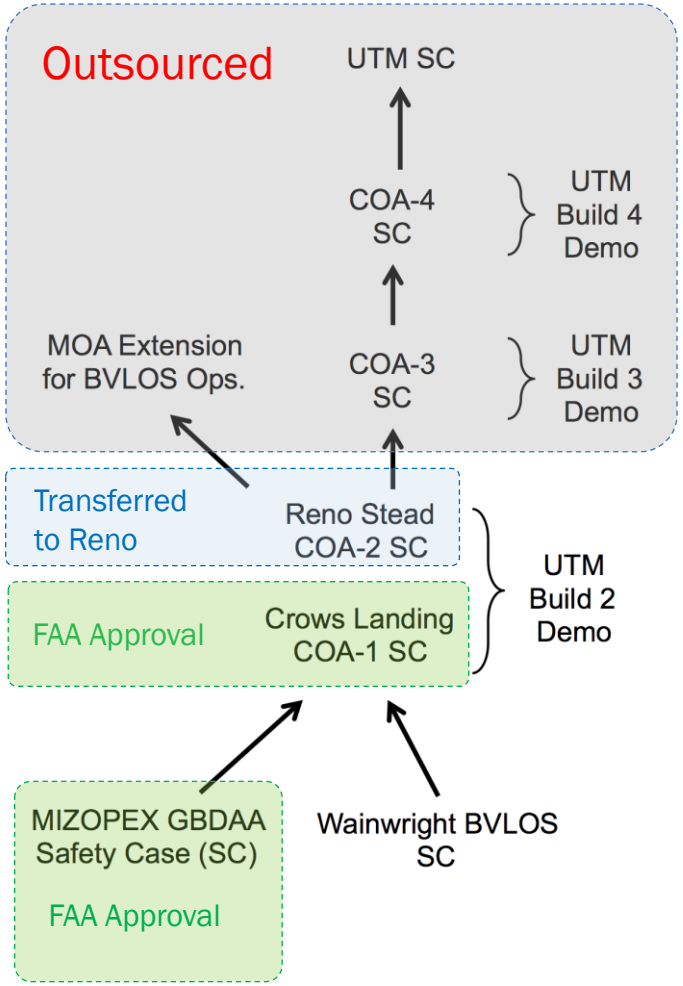
- Properties
  - Compelling, comprehensive, convincing, valid, justifiable, defensible, …

Capturing a Variety of Rationale

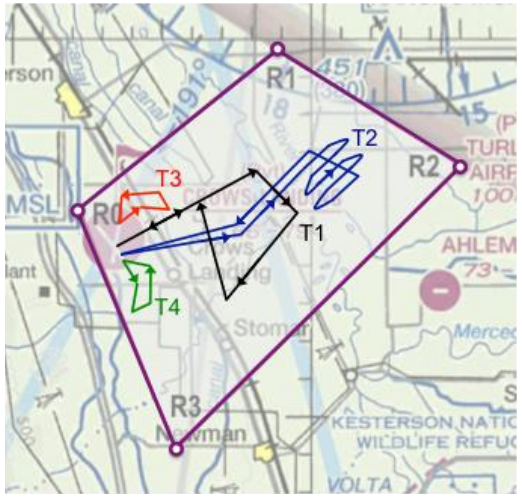
- High-level decomposition of assurance objectives
- How specific claims made about the system follows from the evidence supplied
- Verification is appropriate, evidence is relevant, hazard analysis is comprehensive
- Sub-requirements imply parent requirement
- Justification of quantification
- Counterarguments and how they are managed
- Substantiation of assumptions about
  - System, environment, its operations
  - Supporting analysis, design, verification
- Clarification of the context for claims and evidence
- Independence of mitigations
- Single software failures do not lead to system failure
- ALARP / ASARP

NASA Usage: UTM

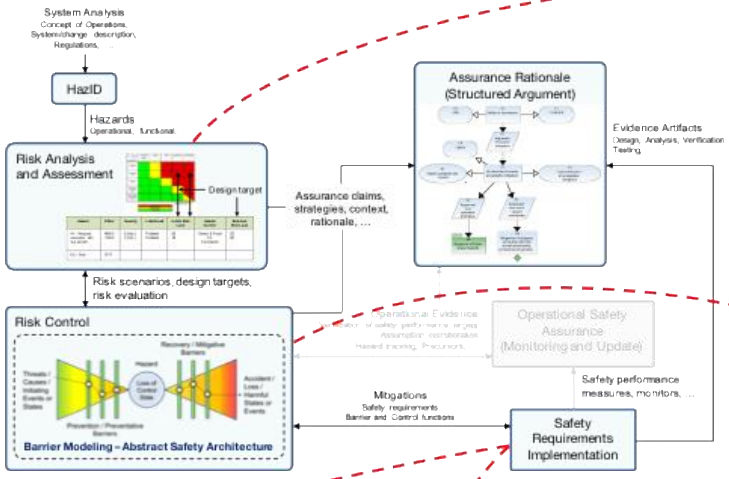
- UAS Traffic Management (UTM)
- Series of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Safety Cases
  - Transit operations
    - Alaska, MIZOPEX / Oliktok for Earth Science Division
    - Alaska, Wainwright for 3rd party in UTM
  - UTM
    - TCL2 (Crows Landing Airfield CA93) – Enabling multiple VLOS and BVLOS UAS flights in a defined operating region with ground-based radar
    - First BVLOS flight approved by FAA in National Airspace System
    - TCL2 (Reno-Stead Airport RTS) – Enabling multiple VLOS and BVLOS UAS flights at non-towered airport with general aviation, using ground-based radar
- Risk-based Safety Assurance
  - Safety measures commensurate with risk posed
    - CONOPS, Vehicle, Area



UAS and UTM Safety

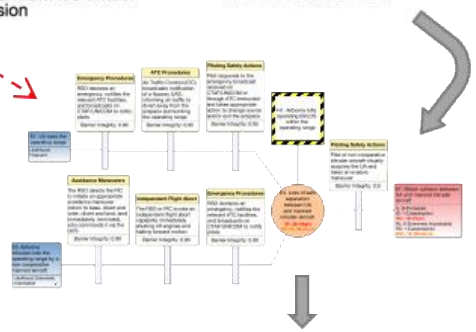


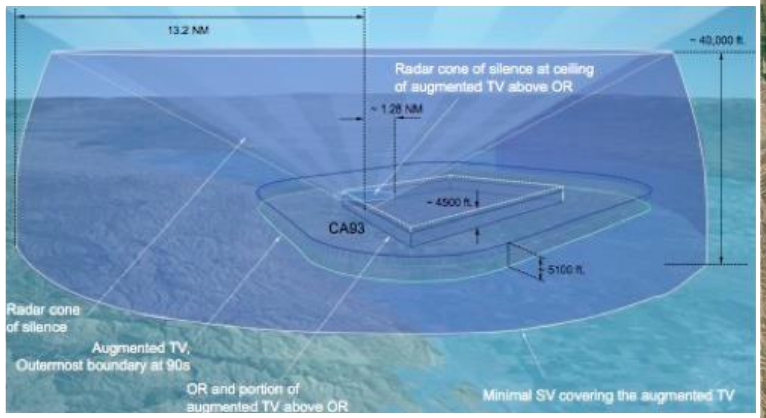
Notional CONOPS



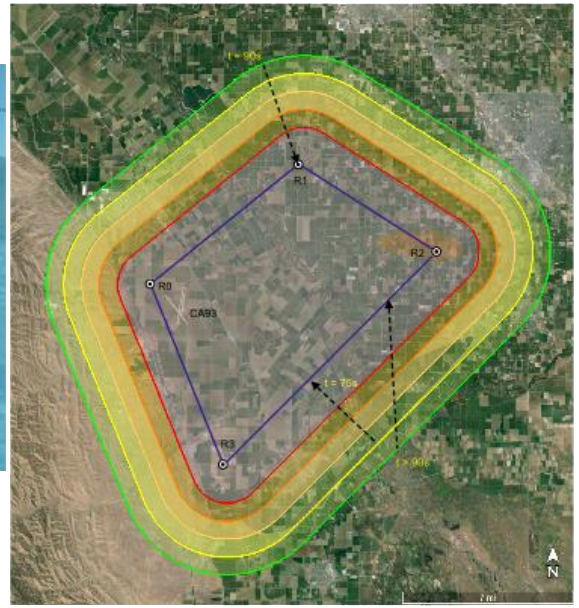
Identified Hazards

- **Primary hazards**
  - PH1: NMAC with non-cooperative airborne entities
  - PH2: NMAC between UAs
  - PH3: Collision into ground / structures / people / vehicles
  - PH4: Rapid onset of inclement weather
  - PH5: GPS signal outage
  - PH6: UAs exiting the OR
- **Secondary hazards**
  - SH1: Lithium fire and/or explosion
- **Contributory hazards**
  - CH1: Loss of surveillance
  - CH2: Loss of command and control (C2) links
  - CH3: Loss of ground control station (GCS)
  - CH4: Unrecoverable UA failures/malfunction in flight
  - CH5: UA deviation from approved flight path and/or exiting the OR
  - CH6: Human factors
  - CH7: Loss of voice communication links





- Surveillance Requirements
- Avoidance maneuvers, Procedures, etc.
- Justification and Rationale



Airspace / Threat Modeling

Cross Reference	Mitigation Barriers		Primary and Secondary Hazards					
			PH1 NMAC with a non-cooperative aircraft or other airspace user	PH2 NMAC between UAs	PH3 Collision into terrain and/or terrestrial entities	PH4 Rapid onset of inclement weather	PH5 GPS Signal Outage	SH1 Alkali metal (Lithium) fire and/or explosion
Section 2.2	M1	Conservative choice of the OR	✓		✓		✓	
Section 3.2	M2	Ground-based surveillance	✓	✓				
Section 3.1	M3	Measures for safe separation	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Section 3.4 and 9.2	M4	Avoidance maneuvers and contingency procedures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
COA Application	M5	Airworthiness, flight readiness and crew qualification	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Section 6.4	M6	On-board equipage and ground-safety equipment		✓				✓
Section 9.3	M7	Redundancy						
Section 9.4	M8	Airspace deconfliction	✓		✓		✓	
Section 6.7	M9	Pre-flight checks, post-flight maintenance and safe nominal operations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COA Application	M10	Spectrum management	✓	✓	✓			
Appendix D	Hazard Analysis Worksheets		Table 9	Table 10	Table 11	Table 12	Table 13	Table 14

Traceability from Hazards to Mitigation Barriers

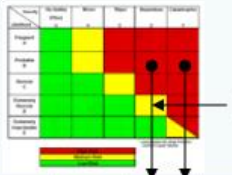
Methodology

System Analysis
Concept of Operations,
System/change description,
Regulations, …

HazID

Hazards
Operational, functional, …

Risk Analysis and Assessment

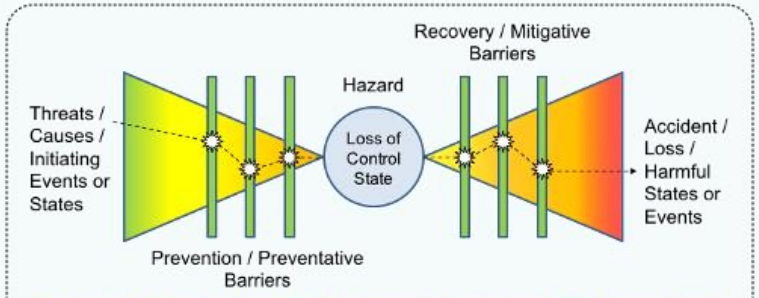


Design target

Hazard	Effect	Severity	Likelihood	Initial Risk Level	Hazard Control	Residual Risk Level
H1 - Airspace encounter with GA aircraft	NMAC / MAC	2 (Haz.) 1 (Cat.)	Probable Probable	2B 1B	Detect & Avoid FB Termination	2D 2D
H2 – Stall	CFIT					

Risk scenarios, design targets, risk evaluation

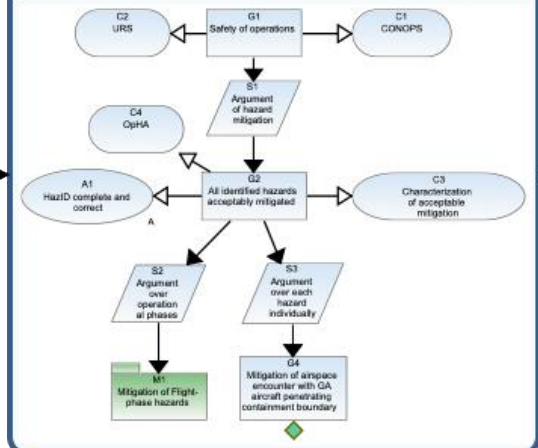
Risk Control



Barrier Modeling – Abstract Safety Architecture

Assurance claims, strategies, context, rationale, …

Assurance Rationale (Structured Argument)



Evidence Artifacts
Design, Analysis, Verification Testing,

Operational Evidence
Verification of safety performance targets
Assumption corroboration
Hazard tracking, Precursors, …

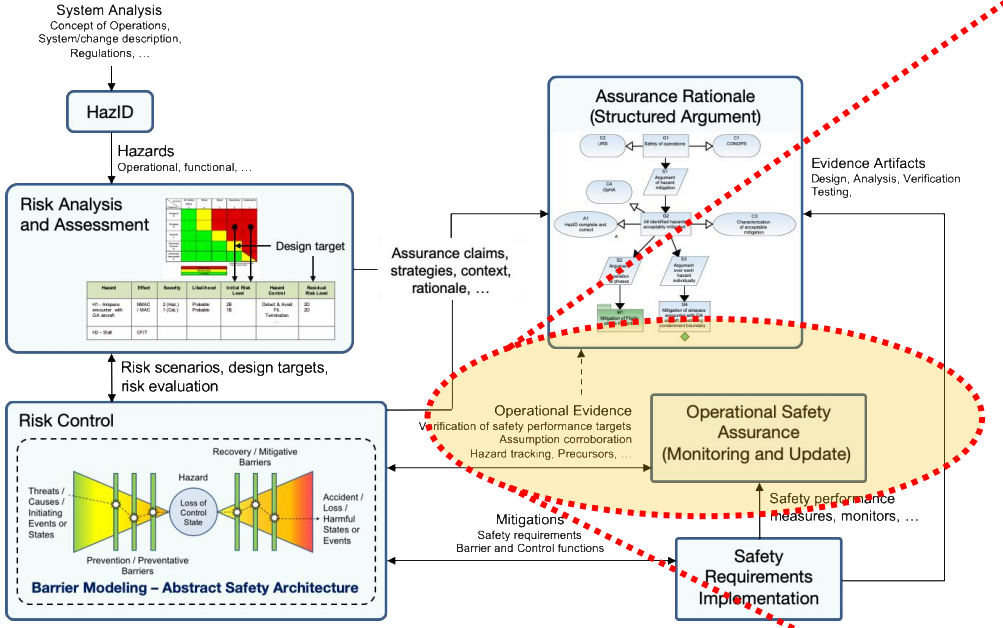
Operational Safety Assurance (Monitoring and Update)

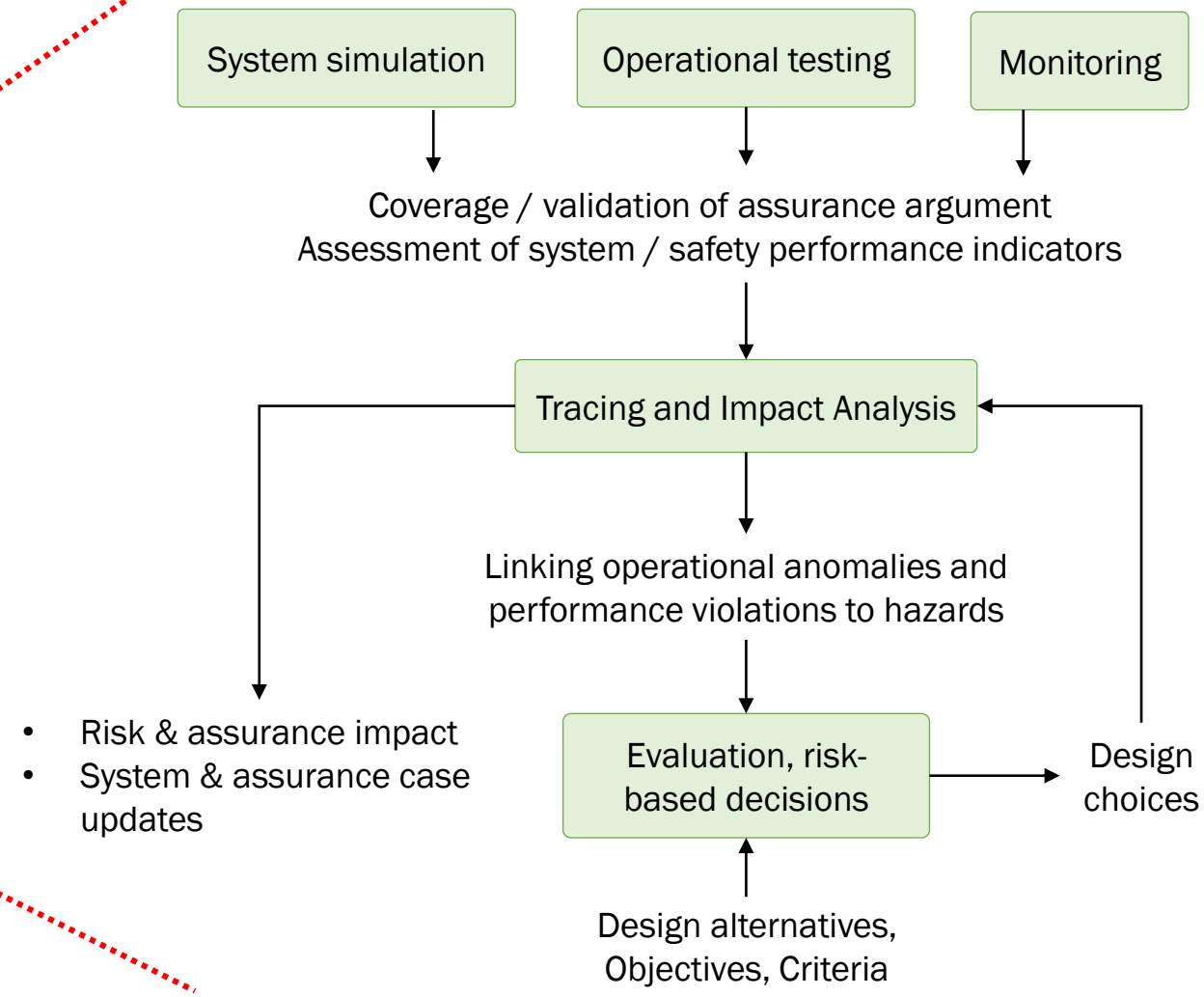
Safety performance measures, monitors, …

Mitigations
Safety requirements
Barrier and Control functions

Safety Requirements Implementation

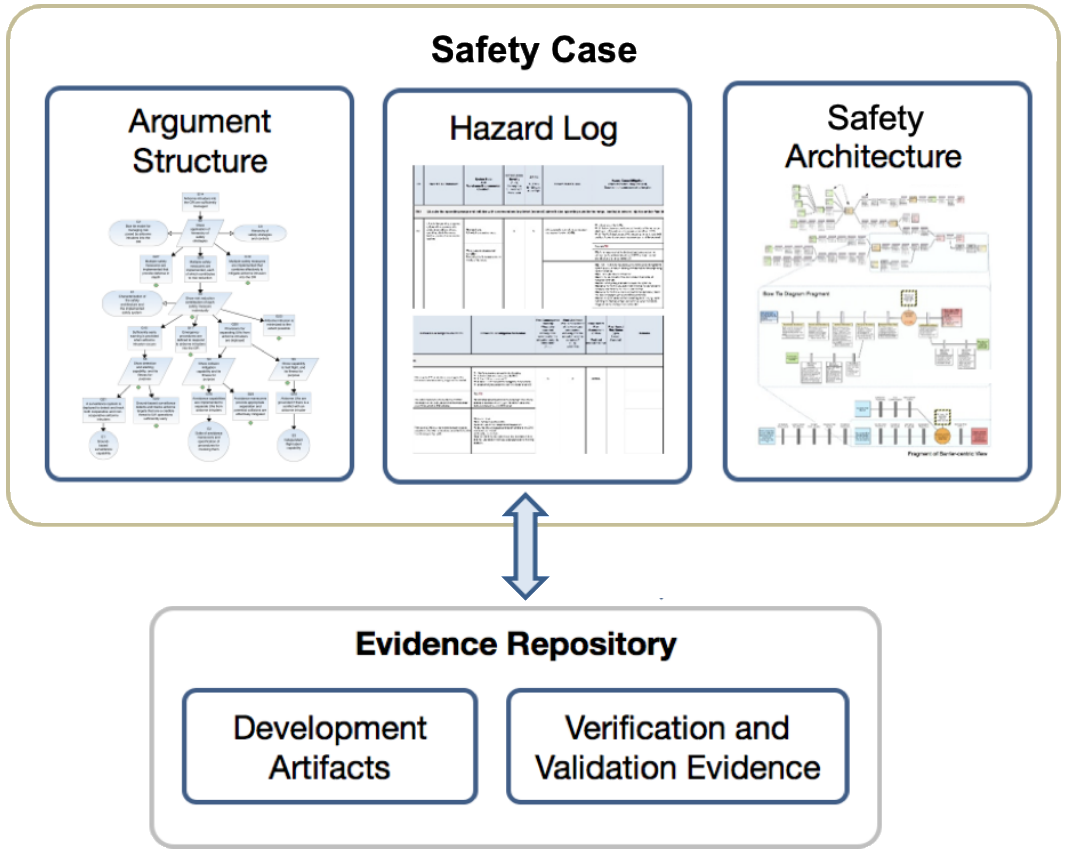
Methodology



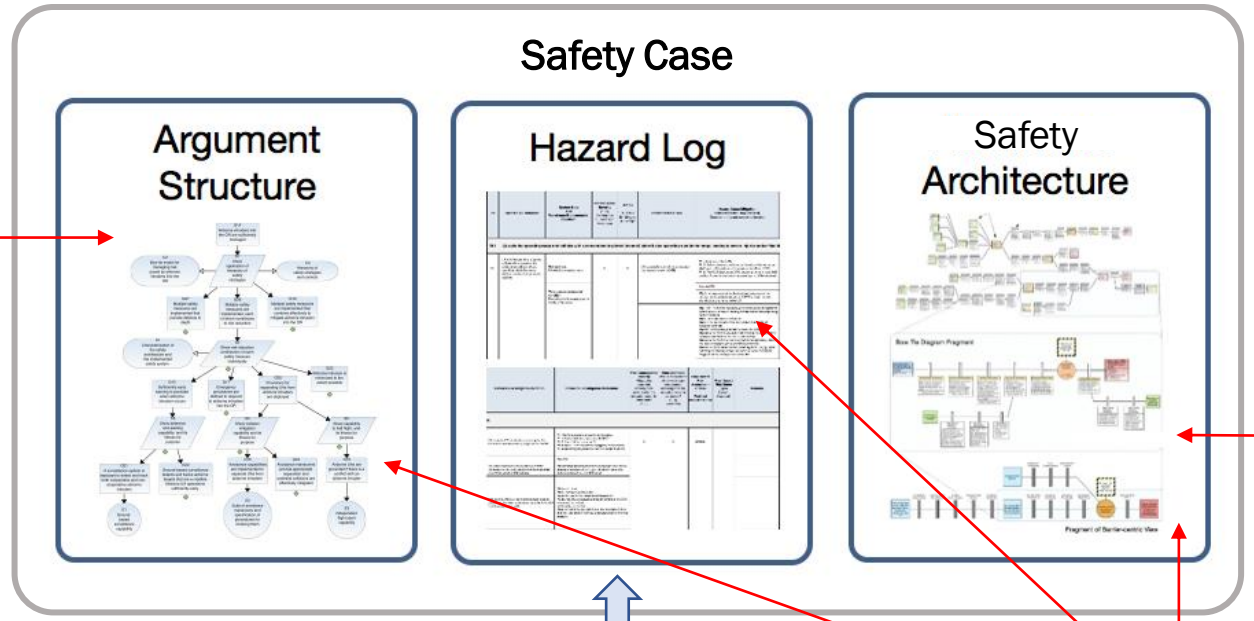


Core Safety Case Components

- Explicit statement of safety assurance objectives
- Heterogeneous evidence
  - Datasheets, design and analysis, verification, operational testing,…
- Structured argument
  - Capturing rationale why evidence supports the claims made
  - Framework to incorporate many standard kinds of evidence and analysis.
- Additionally,
  - Safety architecture providing a risk basis
  - Hazard log and hazard analyses
  - Evidence model



Heterogeneous Evidence



Manufacturer datasheets
Operational testing
Calibration experiments
System/SW safety analyses

Event probabilities and severities,
Mitigation reliability, integrity and effectiveness,
Chains of causality

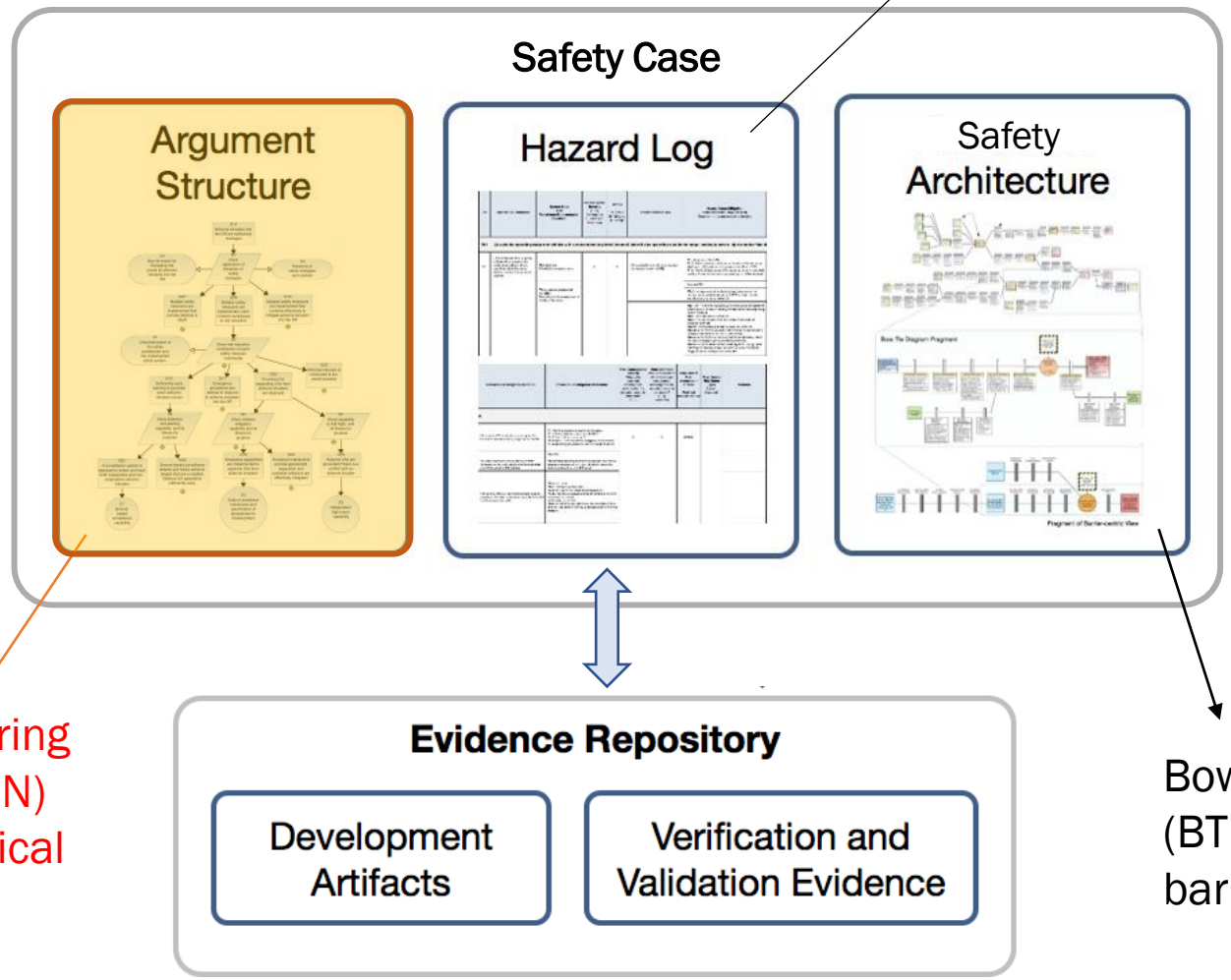
Support for assurance objectives and claims
Context for assurance rationale
Assumptions and Justifications

Mathematical theory
System/SW V&V
System/SW safety analyses
Operational tests
Manufacturer datasheets
Calibration experiments

Hazards, Recommended mitigations,
Requirements,
Assurance objectives and claims

NPRs, NPDs, Standards

Models & Notations

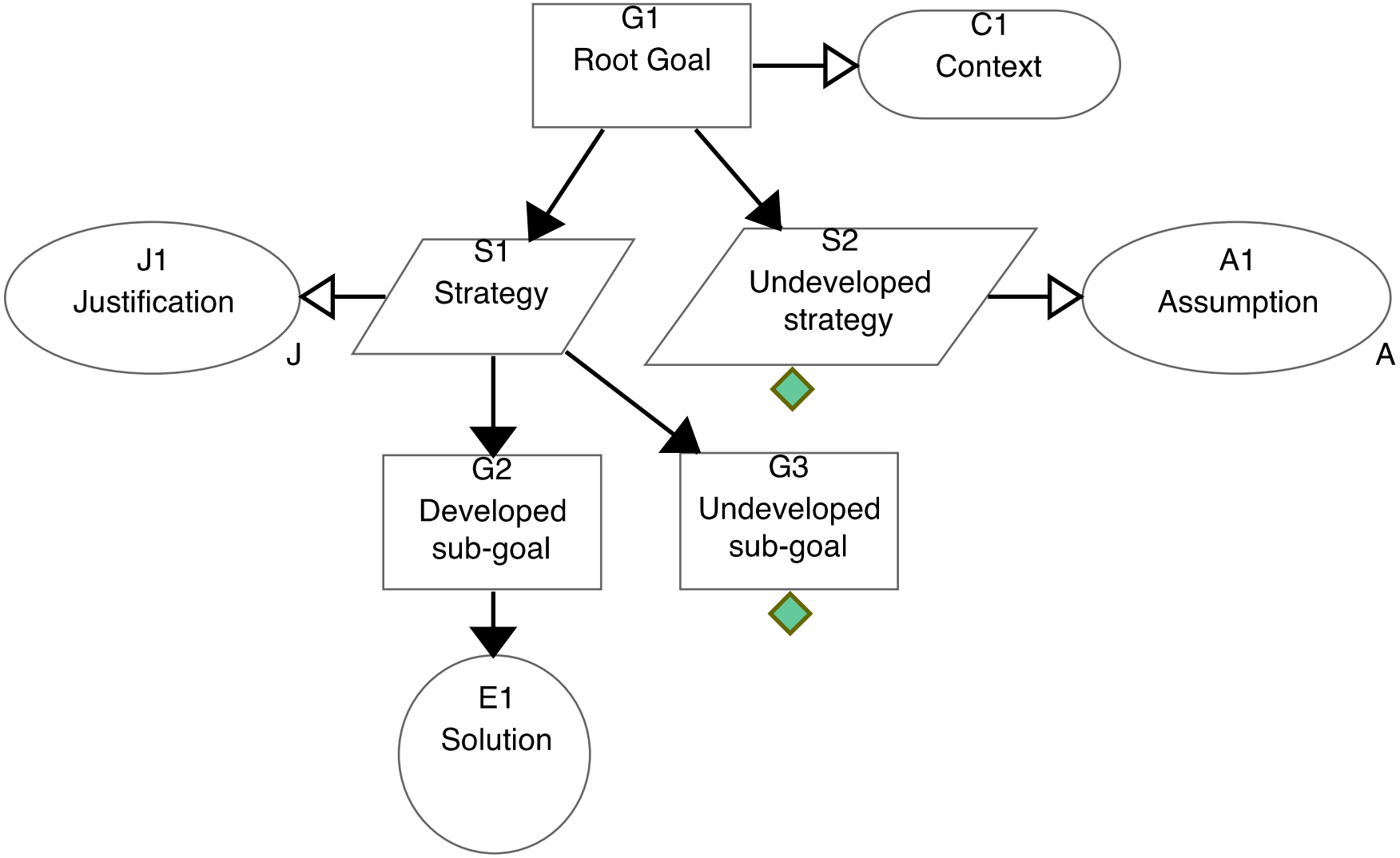


Tabular models

Goal Structuring Notation (GSN) based graphical model

Bow Tie Diagram (BTD) based barrier models

Goal Structuring Notation



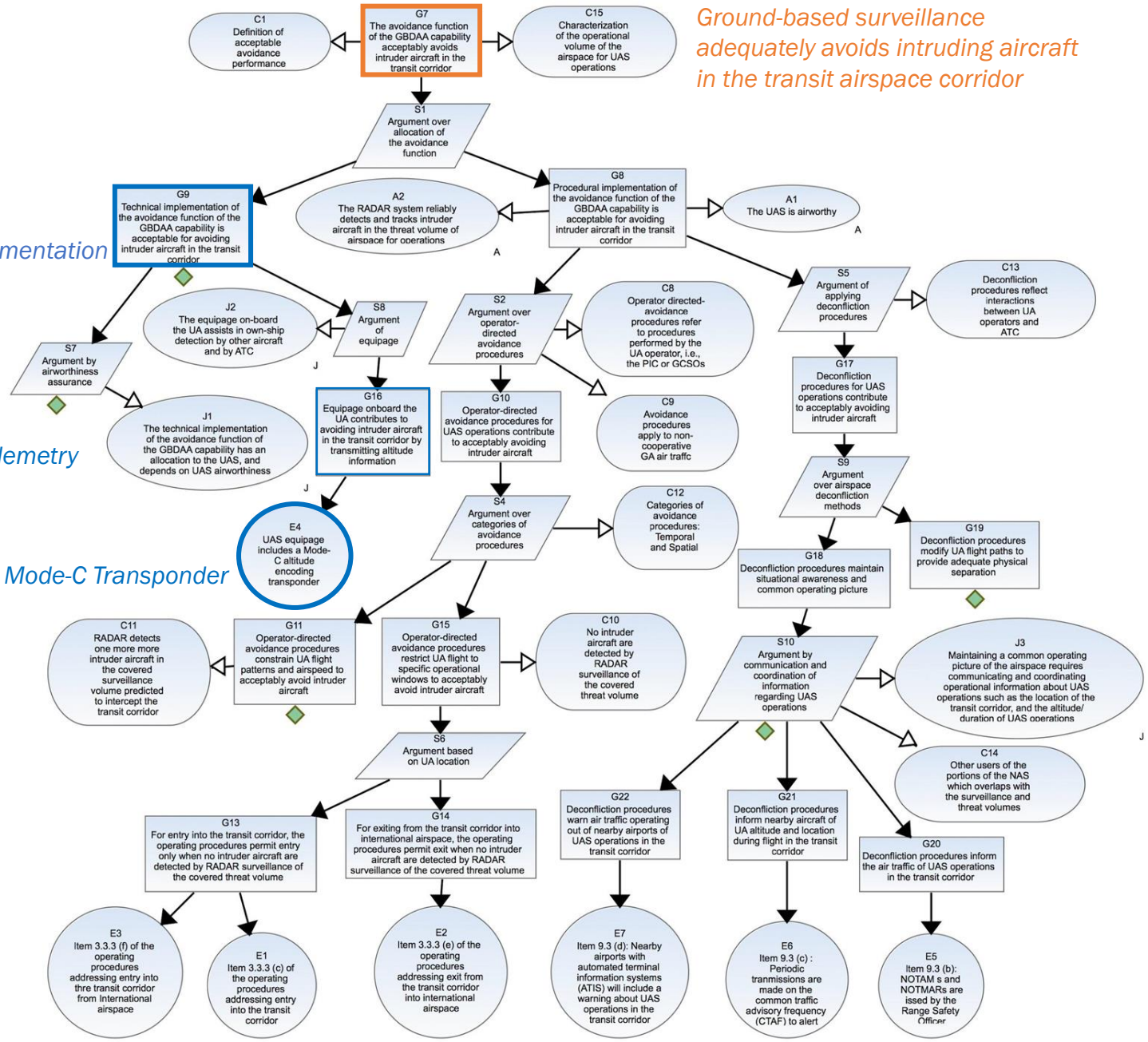
Example

Ground-based surveillance adequately avoids intruding aircraft in the transit airspace corridor

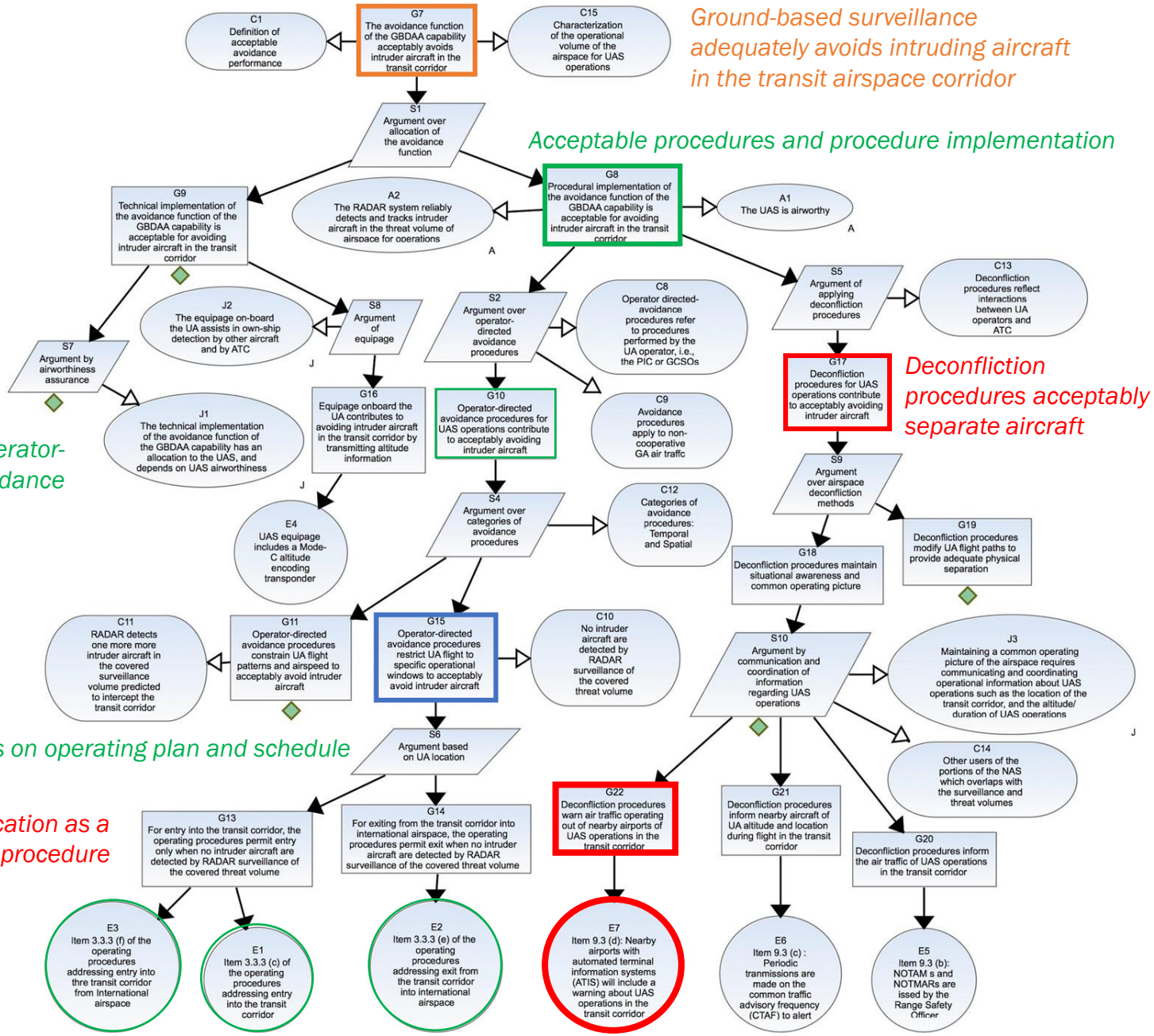
Acceptable technical implementation

Equipage for altitude telemetry

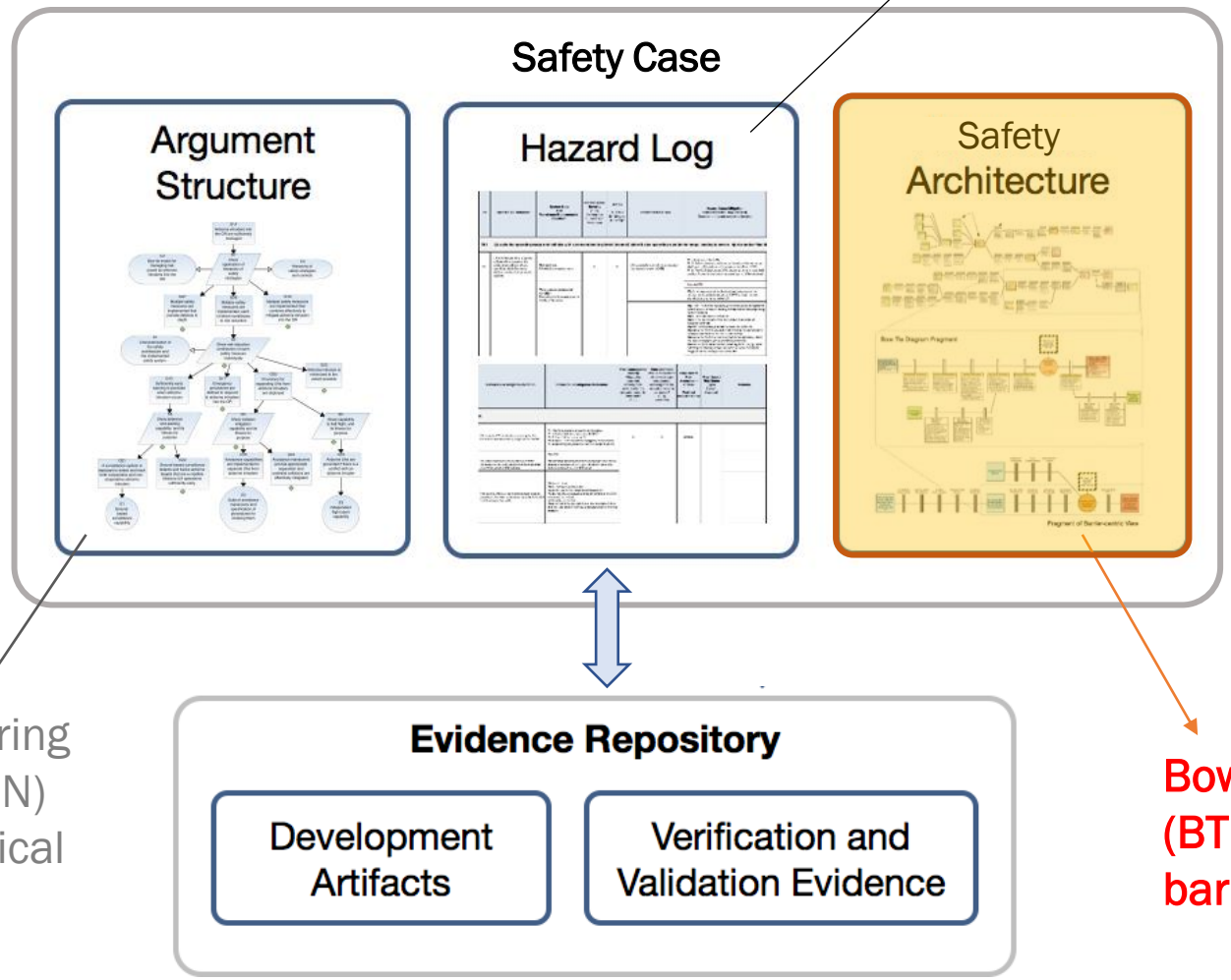
Mode-C Transponder



Example

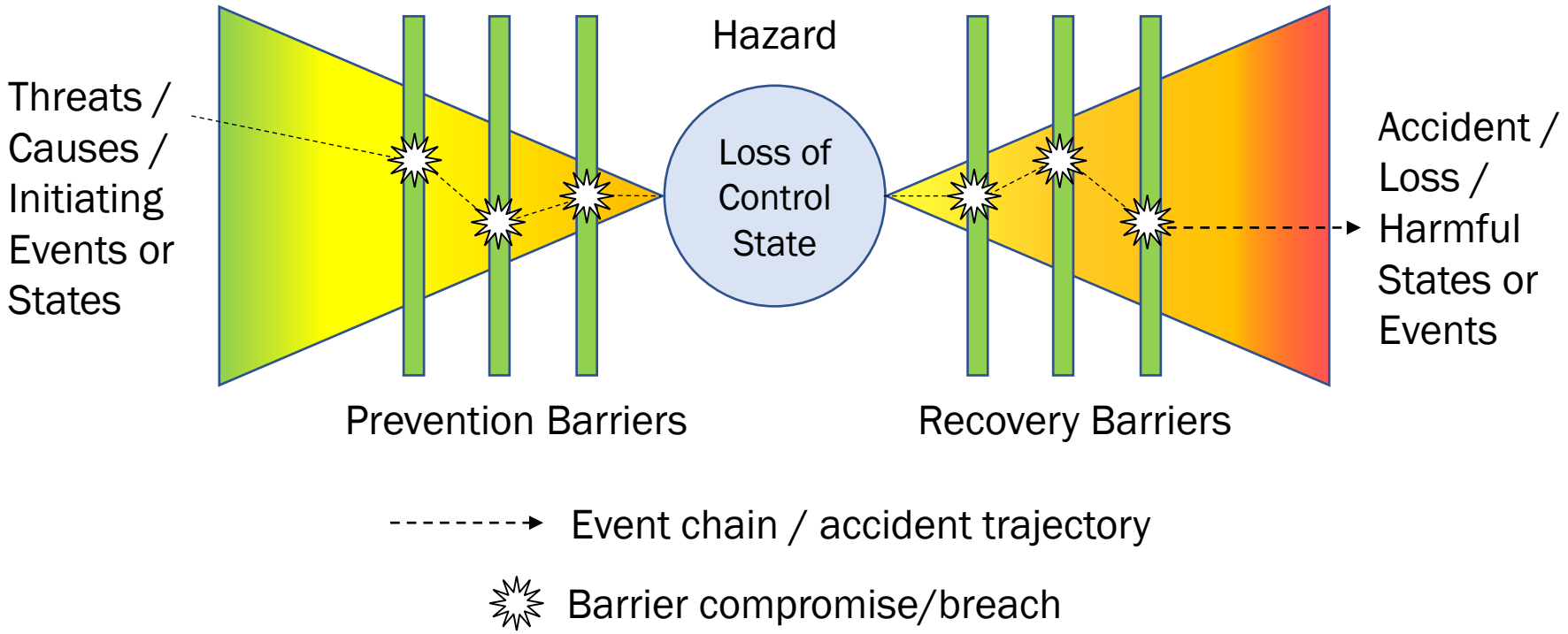

G7
The avoidance function of the GBDAA capability acceptably avoids intruder aircraft in the transit corridor
C1
Definition of acceptable avoidance performance
C15
Characterization of the operational volume of the airspace for UAS operations
Ground-based surveillance adequately avoids intruding aircraft in the transit airspace corridor
S1
Argument over allocation of the avoidance function
Acceptable procedures and procedure implementation
G8
Procedural implementation of the avoidance function of the GBDAA capability is acceptable for avoiding intruder aircraft in the transit corridor
A1
The UAS is airworthy
A2
The RADAR system reliably detects and tracks intruder aircraft in the threat volume of airspace for operations
G9
Technical implementation of the avoidance function of the GBDAA capability is acceptable for avoiding intruder aircraft in the transit corridor
S2
Argument over operator-directed avoidance procedures
C8
Operator directed-avoidance procedures refer to procedures performed by the UA operator, i.e., the PIC or GCSOs
S5
Argument of applying deconfliction procedures
C13
Deconfliction procedures reflect interactions between UA operators and ATC
J2
The equipage on-board the UA assists in own-ship detection by other aircraft and by ATC
S8
Argument of equipage
S7
Argument by airworthiness assurance
J1
The technical implementation of the avoidance function of the GBDAA capability has an allocation to the UAS, and depends on UAS airworthiness
Acceptable operator-directed avoidance
G16
Equipage onboard the UA contributes to avoiding intruder aircraft in the transit corridor by transmitting altitude information
G10
Operator-directed avoidance procedures for UAS operations contribute to acceptably avoiding intruder aircraft
C9
Avoidance procedures apply to non-cooperative GA air traffc
G17
Deconfliction procedures for UAS operations contribute to acceptably avoiding intruder aircraft
Deconfliction procedures acceptably separate aircraft
E4
UAS equipage includes a Mode-C altitude encoding transponder
S4
Argument over categories of avoidance procedures
C12
Categories of avoidance procedures: Temporal and Spatial
S9
Argument over airspace deconfliction methods
G18
Deconfliction procedures maintain situational awareness and common operating picture
G19
Deconfliction procedures modify UA flight paths to provide adequate physical separation
C11
RADAR detects one more more intruder aircraft in the covered surveillance volume predicted to intercept the transit corridor
G11
Operator-directed avoidance procedures constrain UA flight patterns and airspeed to acceptably avoid intruder aircraft
G15
Operator-directed avoidance procedures restrict UA flight to specific operational windows to acceptably avoid intruder aircraft
C10
No intruder aircraft are detected by RADAR surveillance of the covered threat volume
S10
Argument by communication and coordination of information regarding UAS operations
J3
Maintaining a common operating picture of the airspace requires communicating and coordinating operational information about UAS operations such as the location of the transit corridor, and the altitude/ duration of UAS operations
Constraints on operating plan and schedule
S6
Argument based on UA location
C14
Other users of the portions of the NAS which overlaps with the surveillance and threat volumes
Air traffic radio communication as a deconfliction procedure
G13
For entry into the transit corridor, the operating procedures permit entry only when no intruder aircraft are detected by RADAR surveillance of the covered threat volume
G14
For exiting from the transit corridor into international airspace, the operating procedures permit exit when no intruder aircraft are detected by RADAR surveillance of the covered threat volume
G22
Deconfliction procedures warn air traffic operating out of nearby airports of UAS operations in the transit corridor
G21
Deconfliction procedures inform nearby aircraft of UA altitude and location during flight in the transit corridor
G20
Deconfliction procedures inform the air traffic of UAS operations in the transit corridor
E3
Item 3.3.3 (f) of the operating procedures addressing entry into thre transit corridor from International airspace
E1
Item 3.3.3 (c) of the operating procedures addressing entry into the transit corridor
E2
Item 3.3.3 (e) of the operating procedures addressing exit from the transit corridor into international airspace
E7
Item 9.3 (d): Nearby airports with automated terminal information systems (ATIS) will include a warning about UAS operations in the transit corridor
E6
Item 9.3 (c) : Periodic tranmissions are made on the common traffic advisory frequency (CTAF) to alert
E5
Item 9.3 (b): NOTAM s and NOTMARs are issed by the Range Safety Officer
Concrete operating procedures
ATIS system

Models & Notations

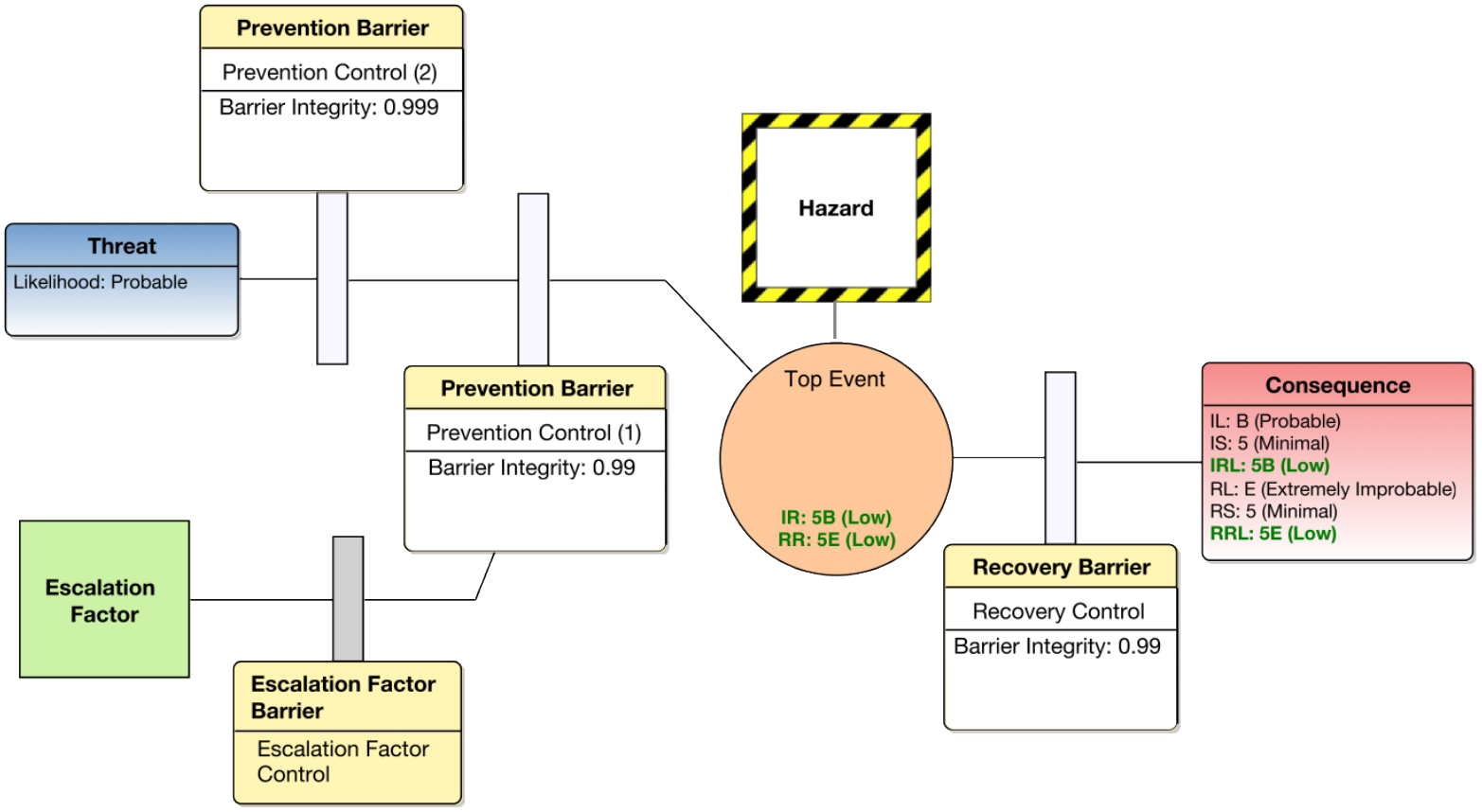


Barrier Models

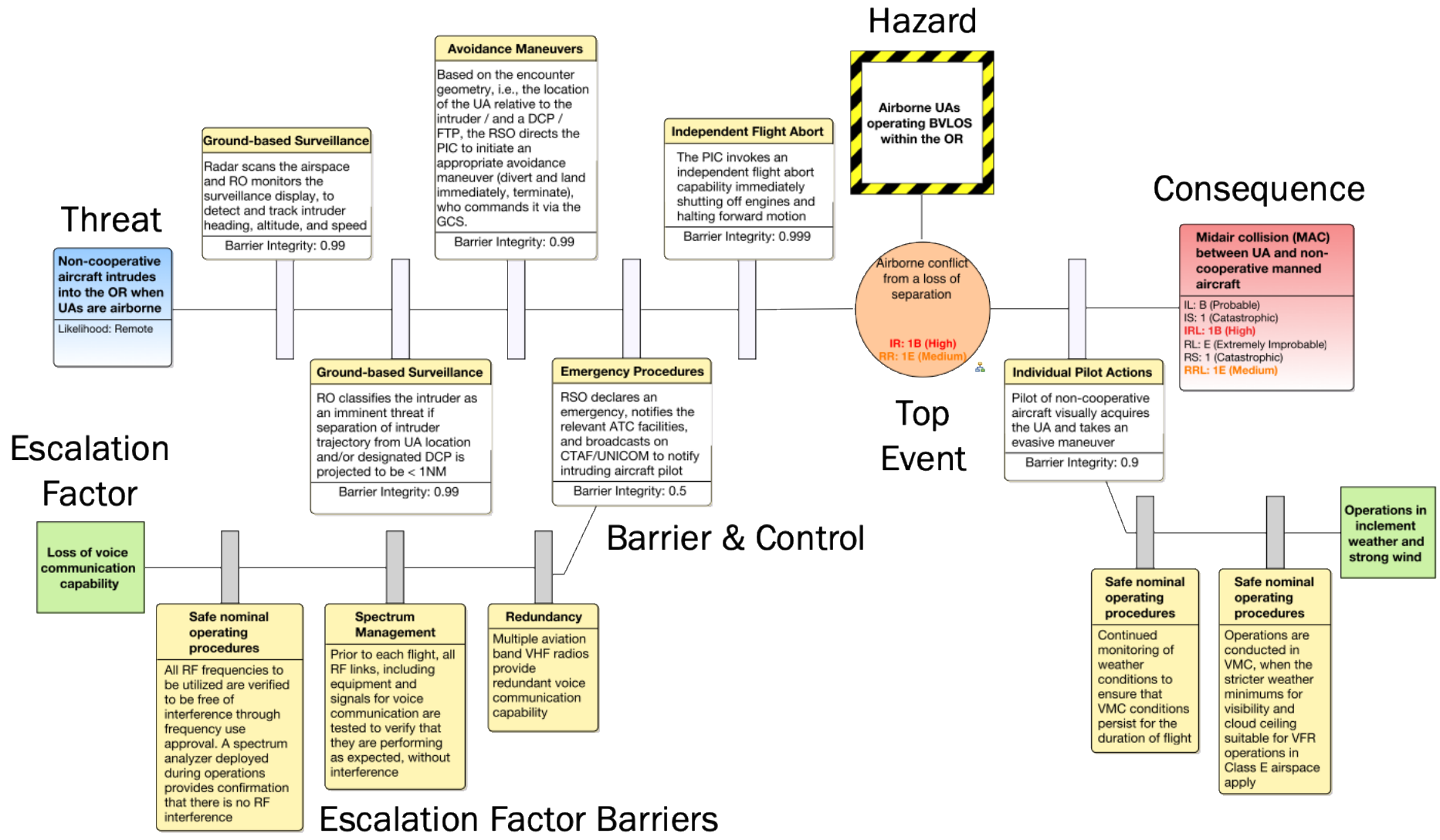
- Scenario-based, event-chain model of risk



Bow Tie Diagrams



Example Bow Tie Diagram – Loss of Separation

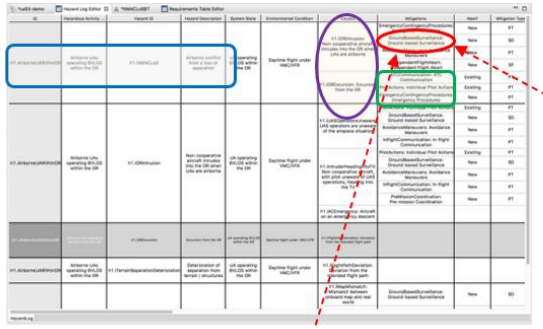


Risk Analysis with Barrier Models

- Concepts of barrier and control *integrity*
  - Probability that barrier performs the required safety function (under all stated conditions, within a stated time)
  - Equivalent to reliability if all barrier/control functionality impacts safety
- Risk computation
  - Path probability as joint probability of events on a path
    - Threats, barrier breach events
  - Probability of an event with multiple source paths using inclusion-exclusion principle
  - Probability propagation from threat to consequence
- Assumptions
  - Both barriers and constituent controls assumed (designed) to be independent (in their failures)
  - Threats are independent
  - P(Top event | Threat, No Barrier) = 1
- Severity propagation from consequence to threat
  - Worst-case severity considered
- Risk as a combination of probability and severity → Risk Matrix
  - Risk levels for events selected from risk matrix

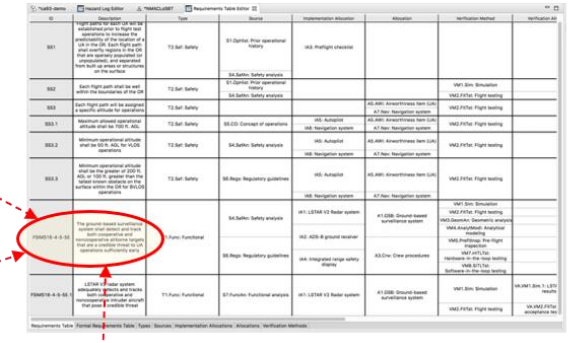
AdvoCATE: Assurance Case Automation Toolset

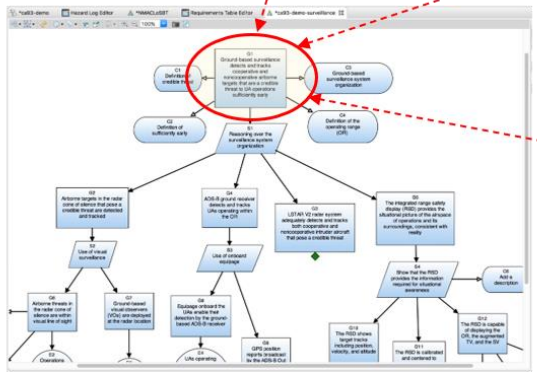
- Hazard analysis and risk assessment
- Safety and assurance requirements capture
- Structured argument development
- Safety architecture development
- Evidence management
- Measures, metrics, indicators
- Traceability and consistency



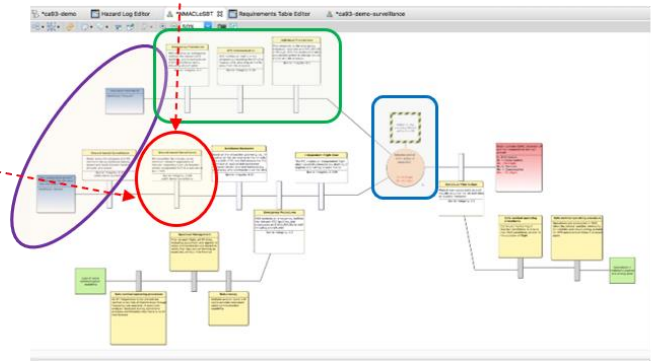
Hazards

Safety and Assurance Requirements



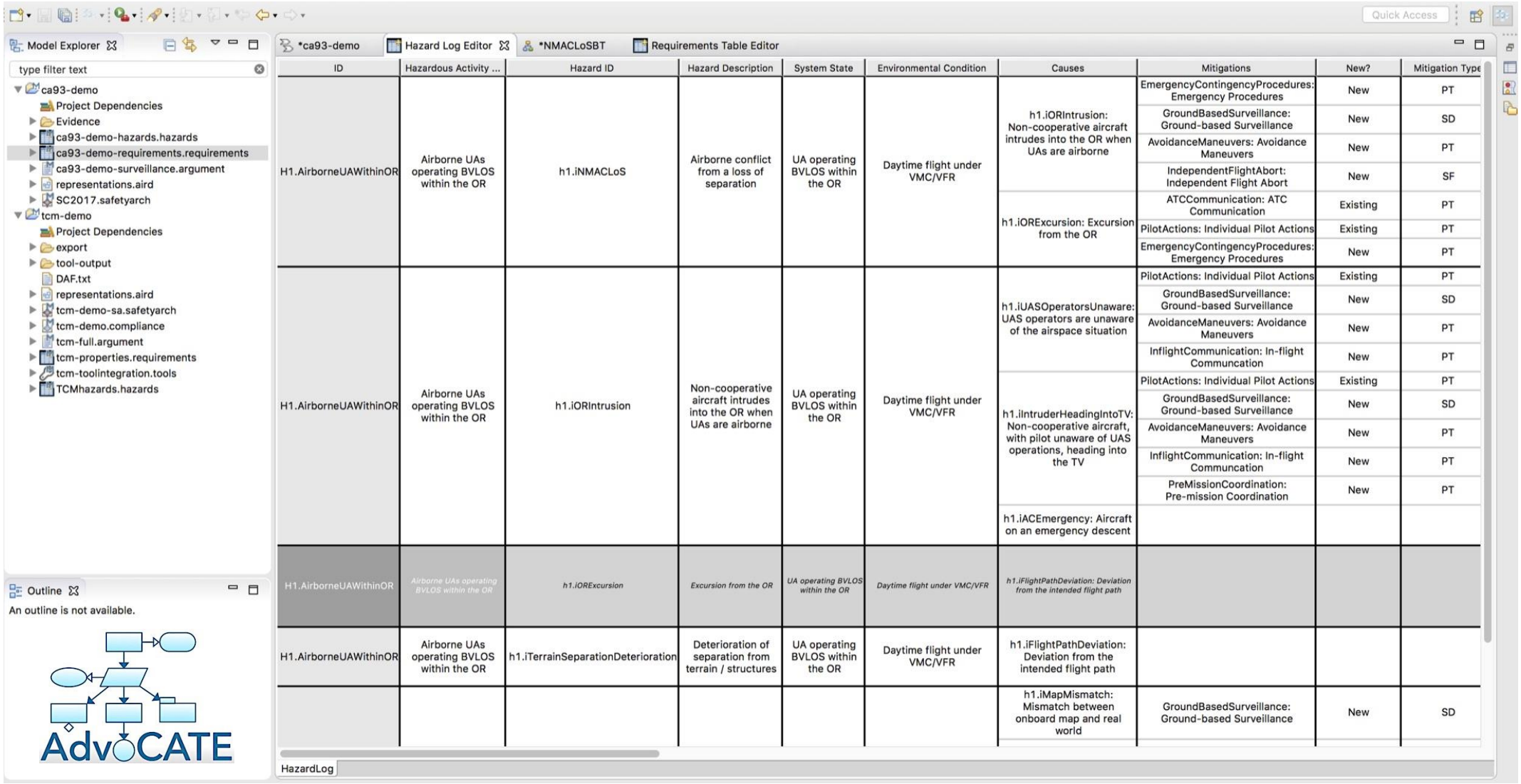


Assurance Arguments / Rationale



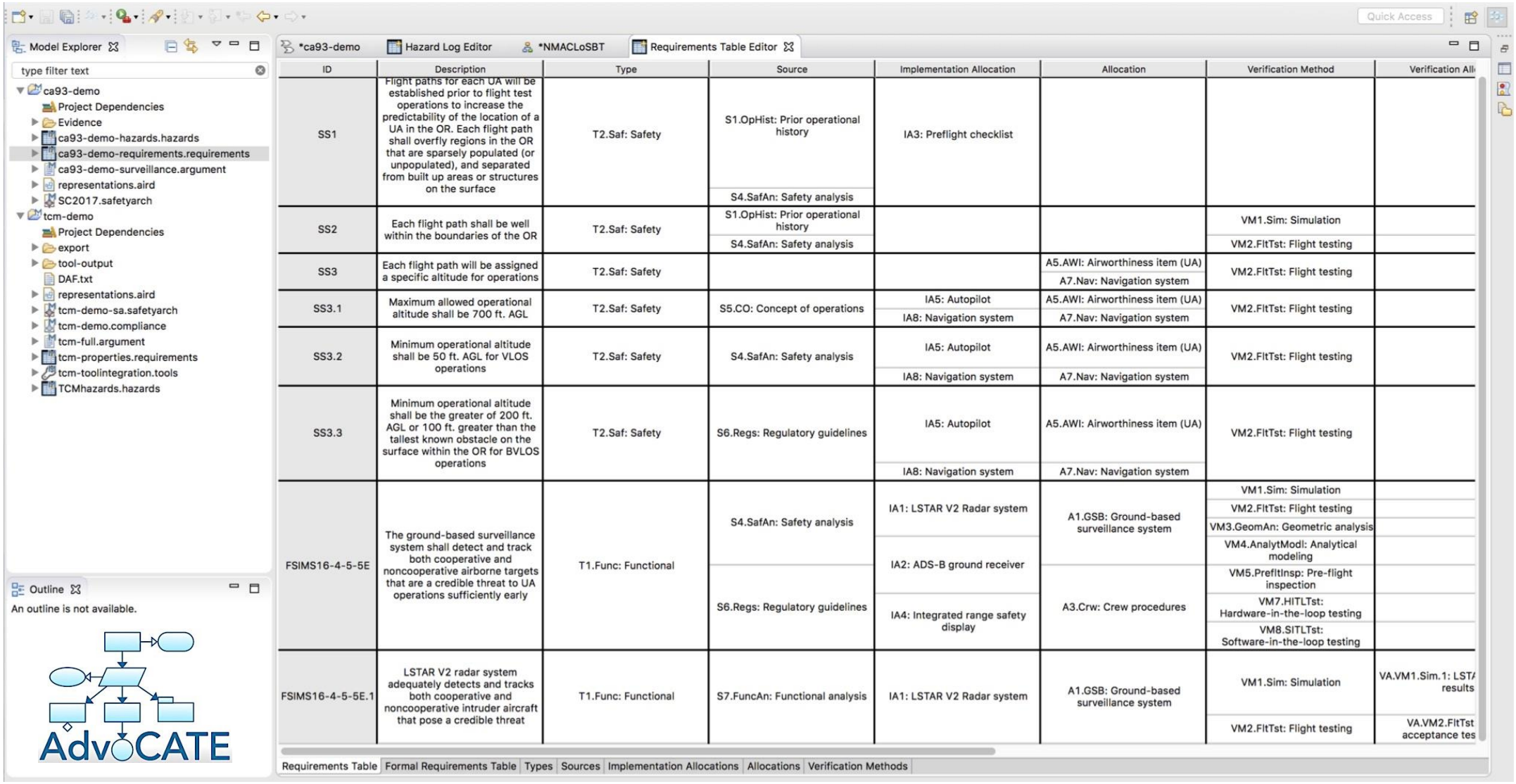
Bow Tie Diagrams / Safety Architecture

Hazard Log



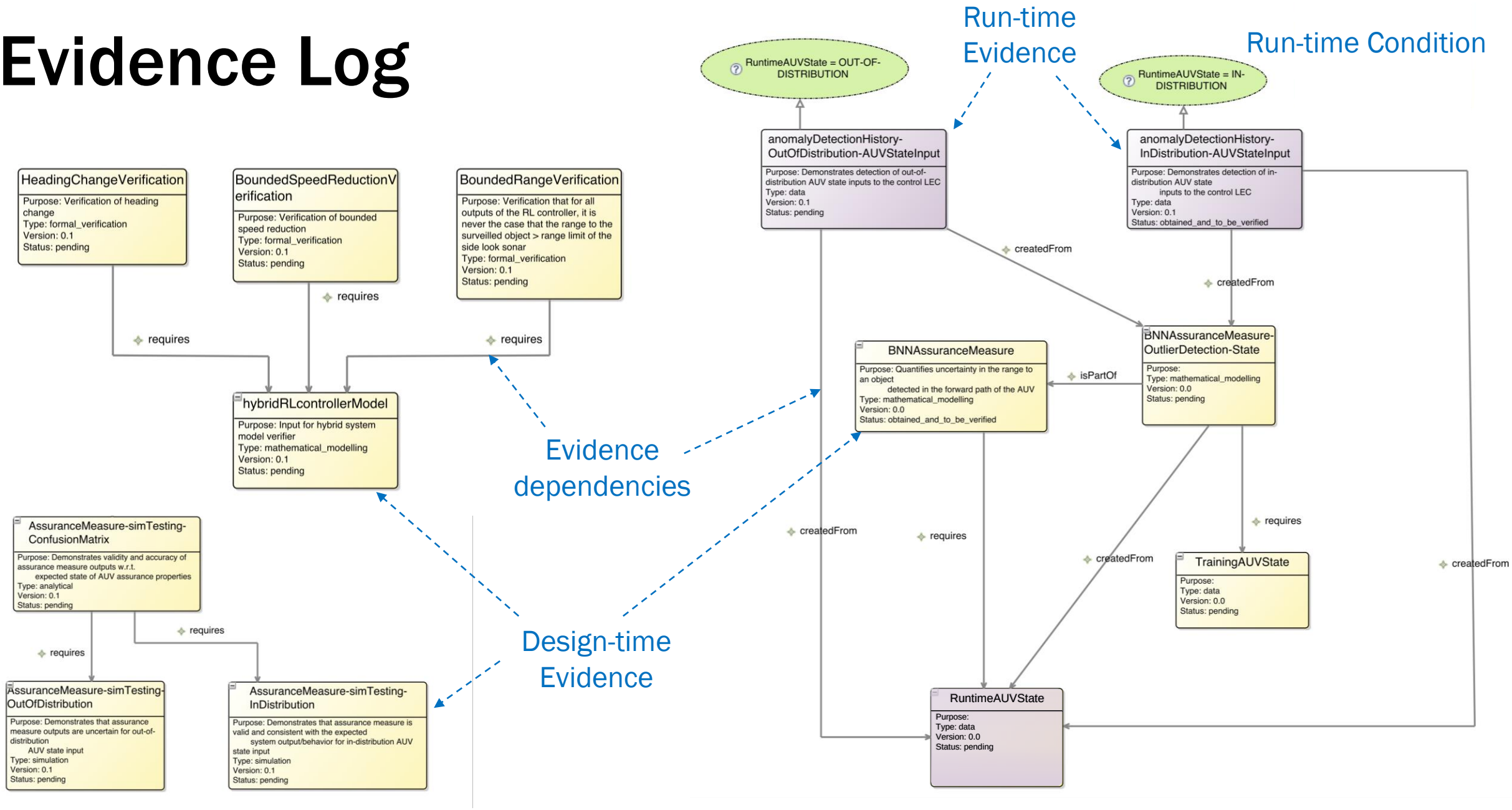
ID	Hazardous Activity ...	Hazard ID	Hazard Description	System State	Environmental Condition	Causes	Mitigations	New?	Mitigation Type
H1.AirborneUAWithinOR	Airborne UAs operating BVLOS within the OR	h1.iNMACLoS	Airborne conflict from a loss of separation	UA operating BVLOS within the OR	Daytime flight under VMC/VFR	h1.iORIntrusion: Non-cooperative aircraft intrudes into the OR when UAs are airborne	EmergencyContingencyProcedures: Emergency Procedures	New	PT
							GroundBasedSurveillance: Ground-based Surveillance	New	SD
							AvoidanceManeuvers: Avoidance Maneuvers	New	PT
							IndependentFlightAbort: Independent Flight Abort	New	SF
						h1.iORExcursion: Excursion from the OR	ATCCommunication: ATC Communication	Existing	PT
							PilotActions: Individual Pilot Actions	Existing	PT
							EmergencyContingencyProcedures: Emergency Procedures	New	PT
H1.AirborneUAWithinOR	Airborne UAs operating BVLOS within the OR	h1.iORIntrusion	Non-cooperative aircraft intrudes into the OR when UAs are airborne	UA operating BVLOS within the OR	Daytime flight under VMC/VFR	h1.iUASOperatorsUnaware: UAS operators are unaware of the airspace situation	PilotActions: Individual Pilot Actions	Existing	PT
							GroundBasedSurveillance: Ground-based Surveillance	New	SD
							AvoidanceManeuvers: Avoidance Maneuvers	New	PT
							InflightCommunication: In-flight Communcation	New	PT
						h1.iIntruderHeadingIntoTV: Non-cooperative aircraft, with pilot unaware of UAS operations, heading into the TV	PilotActions: Individual Pilot Actions	Existing	PT
							GroundBasedSurveillance: Ground-based Surveillance	New	SD
							AvoidanceManeuvers: Avoidance Maneuvers	New	PT
							InflightCommunication: In-flight Communcation	New	PT
							PreMissionCoordination: Pre-mission Coordination	New	PT
						h1.iACEmergency: Aircraft on an emergency descent			
H1.AirborneUAWithinOR	*Airborne UAs operating BVLOS within the OR*	*h1.iORExcursion*	*Excursion from the OR*	*UA operating BVLOS within the OR*	*Daytime flight under VMC/VFR*	*h1.iFlightPathDeviation: Deviation from the intended flight path*			
H1.AirborneUAWithinOR	Airborne UAs operating BVLOS within the OR	h1.iTerrainSeparationDeterioration	Deterioration of separation from terrain / structures	UA operating BVLOS within the OR	Daytime flight under VMC/VFR	h1.iFlightPathDeviation: Deviation from the intended flight path			
						h1.iMapMismatch: Mismatch between onboard map and real world	GroundBasedSurveillance: Ground-based Surveillance	New	SD

Requirements Log

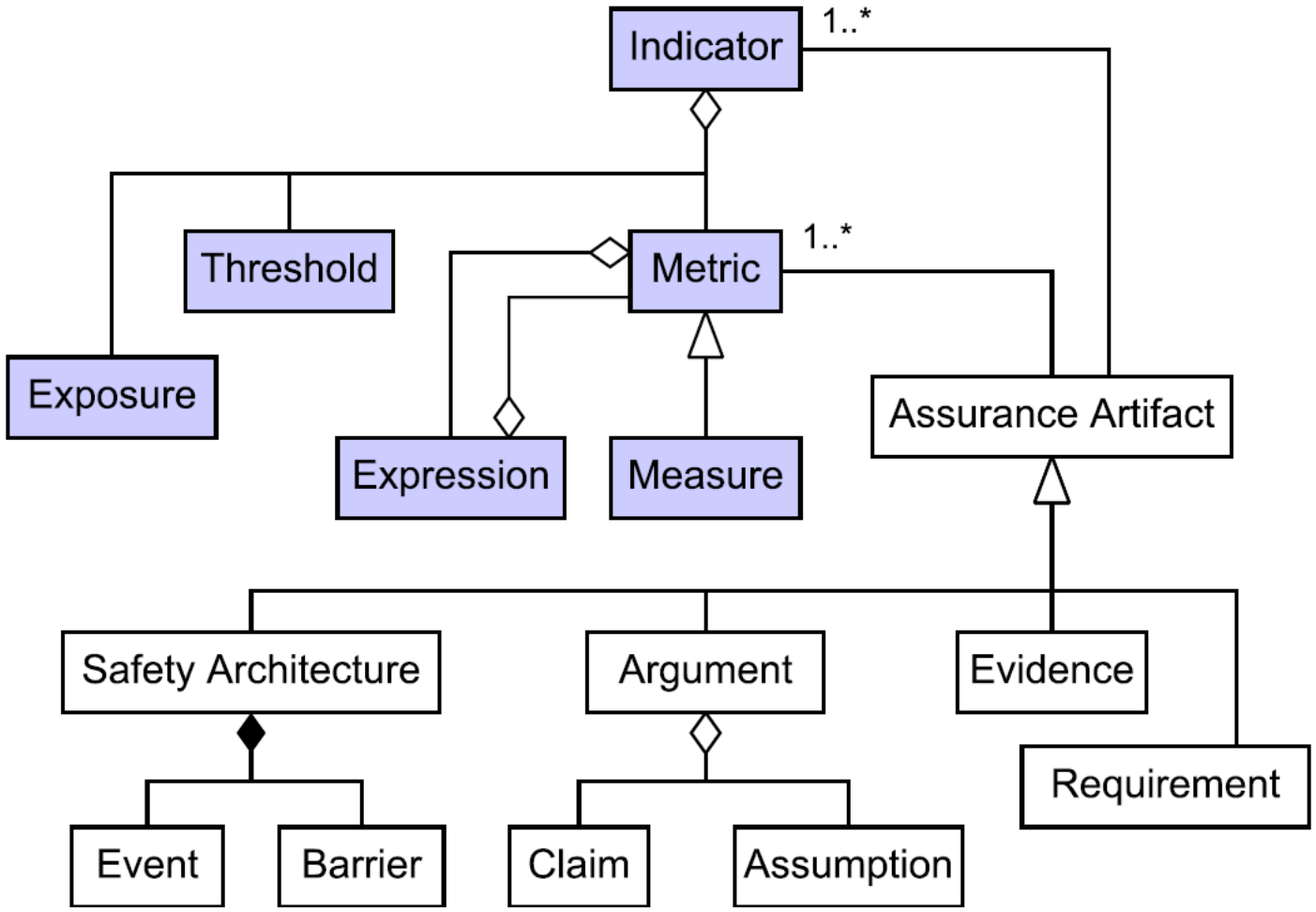


ID	Description	Type	Source	Implementation Allocation	Allocation	Verification Method	Verification All
SS1	Flight paths for each UA will be established prior to flight test operations to increase the predictability of the location of a UA in the OR. Each flight path shall overfly regions in the OR that are sparsely populated (or unpopulated), and separated from built up areas or structures on the surface	T2.Saf: Safety	S1.OpHist: Prior operational history S4.SafAn: Safety analysis	IA3: Preflight checklist			
SS2	Each flight path shall be well within the boundaries of the OR	T2.Saf: Safety	S1.OpHist: Prior operational history S4.SafAn: Safety analysis			VM1.Sim: Simulation VM2.FltTst: Flight testing	
SS3	Each flight path will be assigned a specific altitude for operations	T2.Saf: Safety			A5.AWI: Airworthiness item (UA) A7.Nav: Navigation system	VM2.FltTst: Flight testing	
SS3.1	Maximum allowed operational altitude shall be 700 ft. AGL	T2.Saf: Safety	S5.CO: Concept of operations	IA5: Autopilot IA8: Navigation system	A5.AWI: Airworthiness item (UA) A7.Nav: Navigation system	VM2.FltTst: Flight testing	
SS3.2	Minimum operational altitude shall be 50 ft. AGL for VLOS operations	T2.Saf: Safety	S4.SafAn: Safety analysis	IA5: Autopilot IA8: Navigation system	A5.AWI: Airworthiness item (UA) A7.Nav: Navigation system	VM2.FltTst: Flight testing	
SS3.3	Minimum operational altitude shall be the greater of 200 ft. AGL or 100 ft. greater than the tallest known obstacle on the surface within the OR for BVLOS operations	T2.Saf: Safety	S6.Regs: Regulatory guidelines	IA5: Autopilot IA8: Navigation system	A5.AWI: Airworthiness item (UA) A7.Nav: Navigation system	VM2.FltTst: Flight testing	
FSIMS16-4-5-5E	The ground-based surveillance system shall detect and track both cooperative and noncooperative airborne targets that are a credible threat to UA operations sufficiently early	T1.Func: Functional	S4.SafAn: Safety analysis S6.Regs: Regulatory guidelines	IA1: LSTAR V2 Radar system IA2: ADS-B ground receiver IA4: Integrated range safety display	A1.GSB: Ground-based surveillance system A3.Crw: Crew procedures	VM1.Sim: Simulation VM2.FltTst: Flight testing VM3.GeomAn: Geometric analysis VM4.AnalytModl: Analytical modeling VM5.PrefltInsp: Pre-flight inspection VM7.HITLTst: Hardware-in-the-loop testing VM8.SITLTst: Software-in-the-loop testing	
FSIMS16-4-5-5E.1	LSTAR V2 radar system adequately detects and tracks both cooperative and noncooperative intruder aircraft that pose a credible threat	T1.Func: Functional	S7.FuncAn: Functional analysis	IA1: LSTAR V2 Radar system	A1.GSB: Ground-based surveillance system	VM1.Sim: Simulation VM2.FltTst: Flight testing	VA.VM1.Sim.1: LST/ results VA.VM2.FltTst acceptance tes

Evidence Log



Measures, Metrics, and Performance Indicators



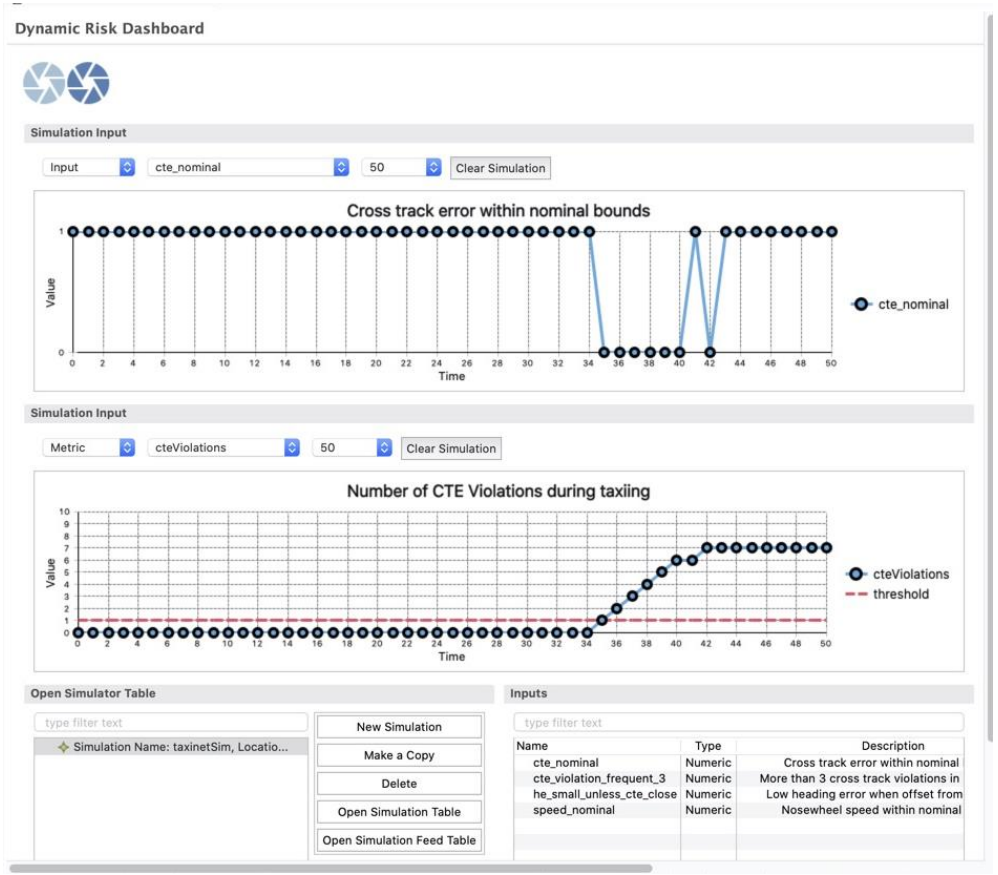
- Measures: Directly observable parameters of the system or environment
- Metrics: Computed value based on measures and other metrics
- Indicator: Target value that a metric reaches in a given duration
  - Safety performance indicators

Visualization of Metrics and Indicators

Reset | Delete Data Run | Create new Data Run | Data Source: LowVizSim | Data Run: D | Start Data Run | Stop Data Run

Metric	Definition	Threshold	Assurance Element	Value	Status
opLatRwyEx: Number of lateral runway overrun events in operation	count (opLatRwyExIn = TRUE) in taxiOpExposure	1	E2: Lateral runway overrun	0	false
opCTEViolations: Number of CTE violations during taxi in operation	count (opCTEViolationsIn = TRUE) in (taxiOpExposure/100)	2	E1: Aircraft deviation from the runway centerline exceeds allowed lateral offset	0	false
opPcpDisEngF: Number of failed disengagements of ML-based perception in operation	count (opPcpDisEngFIn = TRUE) in pfoDemandExposure	2	B3: Perception Failover	4	true
opTxLowVisW: Number of low visibility wet runway no crosswind low speed taxi operations	count (opTxLowVisWIn = TRUE)	-	EC1: Wet runway, no crosswind, low visibility, dusk	10	-
devTxLowVisW: Number of low visibility wet runway no crosswind low speed taxi tests	count (devTxLowVisWIn = TRUE)	-	EC1: Wet runway, no crosswind, low visibility, dusk	10	-
devPcpDisEngS: Number of successful disengagements of ML-based perception in test	count (devPcpDisEngSIn = TRUE) in taxiTestExposure	8	B3: Perception Failover	9	true
opEmBrkF: Number of emergency braking violations in operation	count([(opCTEViolationsIn = TRUE) AND (opEmBrkFIn = FALSE)] OR [(opCTEViolationsIn = FALSE) AND (opEmBrkIn = TRUE)]) in taxiOpExposure	1	B1: Emergency Braking	0	false

Performance indicators table



Metrics Visualization, connected to Simulations

Conclusions

- Development of end-to-end assurance methodology and tool support
- Core assurance case concepts
  - Argumentation
  - Hazard analysis
  - Requirements
  - Barrier models
- Closing the loop between design and operations
  - Monitor indicators during design and operations
  - Maintain consistency of (dynamic) indicators and (static) arguments
  - Generate tasks: update/review
- Advanced assurance case concepts
  - Ontology integration
  - Queries, views
  - Pattern instantiation and composition
  - Round-trip engineering
- Model-based mission assurance
  - Collaborative development and review
  - Version control
  - RESTful API: add, modify, query
    - Synchronization with evidence/external artifacts
    - External tool integration: import/export