Investigations Involving Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)



Robert L. Swaim

I II

I II

Founder and Contact: www.HowItBroke.com

NTSB Engineering National Resource, Aviation Systems - Retired



Bob Swaim

)=

調

0

1

I G H

hh

1

 NTSB Aviation Major Accident Investigator since 1987

Autopilots and aircraft systems

2013 Launch investigator for JAL 787 fire investigation

Lithium-Ion battery work at UL labs, vehicle, and battery manufacturers

Electric vehicle investigator since 2017

SAE EV SME, Instructor, and J2990 First Responder Safety Committee NFPA EV SME, Instructor











Majority of accidents result in no injuries Most of public is never aware





While some accidents do result in injuries

"That can't happen" or "It doesn't work that way" Usually said by the Design Engineer



0

G

rain

)=

23

ring

1

3

1

Eng

(i) (i) (i)

3

0.5













Aviation Has Had Numerous Autopilot Involved Accidents To Learn From

Boeing 737 MAX, Ethiopian flt 302Boeing 737 MAX, Lion Air flt 810Ethiopia, March 10, 2019, 157 fatalOctober 29, 2018, 189 fatalAOA sensor failure coupled with design error and training leading to improper pilot responses

Boeing 777, Emirates flt 521 Dubai, August 2016, 1 fatal, 38 injured Pilot expected go-around thrust not realizing ground contact changed flight mode

Airbus A330, Air France flt 447 Atlantic Ocean, June 1, 2009, 228 fatal Ice in airspeed probe led to pilot errors

Boeing 737-800, Turkish flt 1951 Amsterdam, February 25, 2009, 9 fatal, 120 injured Radar altimeter input error and Boeing vs Airbus training differences

Boeing 737-800, Kenya Airways flt 507 Douala, May 5, 2007, 114 fatal Lack of feedback that autopilot had not engaged when expected to From Only These Six: 735 fatal, 158 injured



Triple redundant systems in aviation - yet ...

...loss of control found in 43% of 2010-2014 fatal commercial accidents (37)

The #1 Autopilot related cause of accidents is human interface Typically perception of autopilot performance was not what was expected

The #2 Cause was pilots disconnecting or getting "behind" the airplane



"What's it [the autopilot] doing now?" Common airline crew saying

"Disappointment [causing stress and errors] is the gap that exists between our expectation and reality" – Maxwell

Our goal is to not let reality differ from expectations

Accident investigations provide the ultimate test and judgement



Numerous ways to define "safety"

Dictionary:

The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.

The quality of averting or not causing injury, danger, or loss.

The action of keeping safe.

Traditions, Established codes or standards, Regulations,

Statistical definitions: (per FAA Regulation 49 CFR Part 25.1309)

- (1) Probable failure conditions cause loss at a rate of less than 1×10^5
- (2) Improbable failure conditions between $1x10^5$ and $1x10^9$
- (3) Extremely Improbable failure conditions are 1x10⁹ or less

Note: Transport airplanes are designed to a minimum of Extremely Improbable



Numerous ways to define "safety" and risk prevention

The *Swiss Cheese* Model (Reason, 1991)

n g

i li

I' CI

)—

調

ngineering

hh

(i) (i) (i)

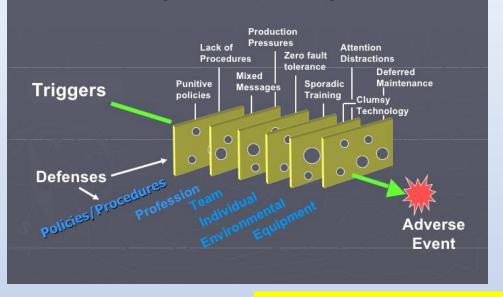
3

101

22

MA (S

-



Chain model that anything is only as strong as weakest link:



But the 5 M's of Deming always apply:

Man Material Machine Method Measurement

Plus Environment



Safety definitions Risk defined by failure probability and consequence

5

rainin

)—

調

ngineering

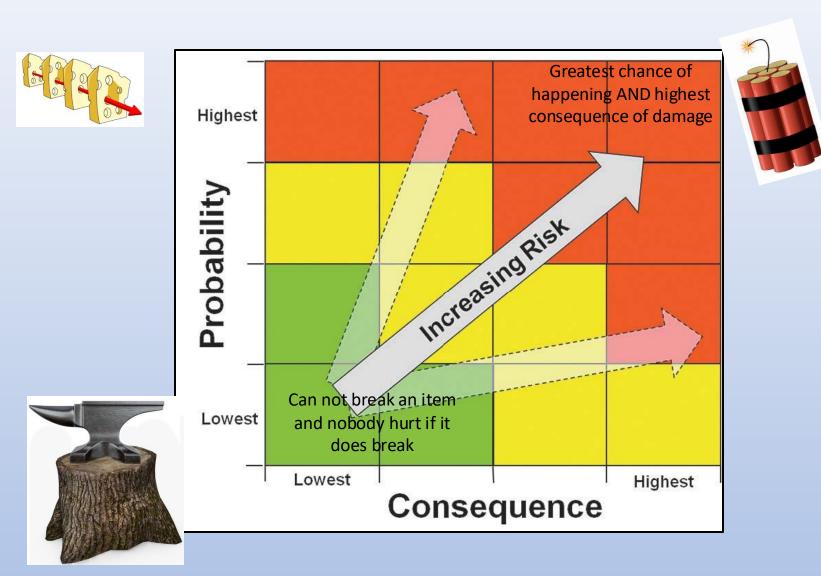
hh

(i) (i) (i)

3

ABrok

O W





Failure is accepted with various levels

0

inin

r a

)-

23

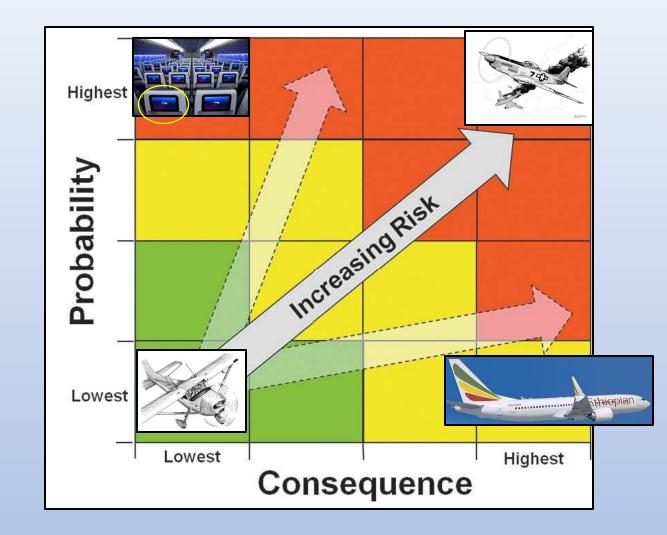
n gin e e rin g creator. All rights reserved. 4/21/2025

hh

(1) (1) (1)

3)

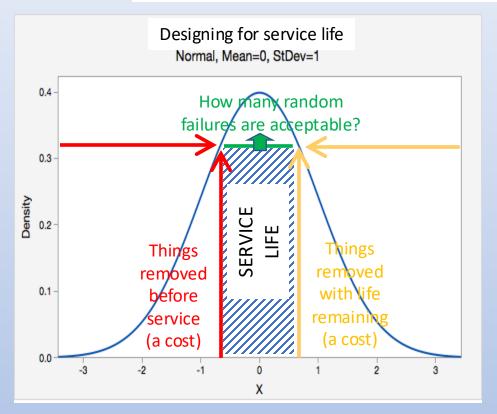
HowlfBrok

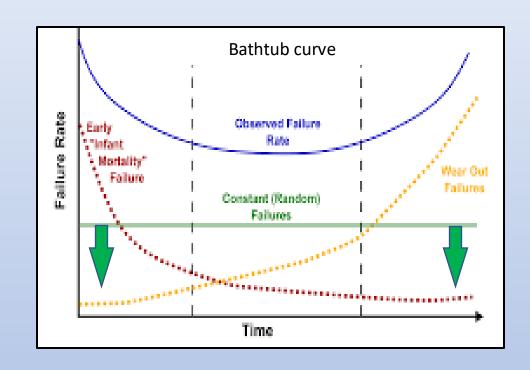




Defining risk and achieving design goals Identify acceptable failure rate

Design standards, pre-test, burn-in, etc address infant mortalities Maintenance, repair, or replacement remove wear-out failures. How to reduce random failures?







Before design risk levels are established Basis for calculations established on other designs

ning

1 700

調

ering

ngine

hh

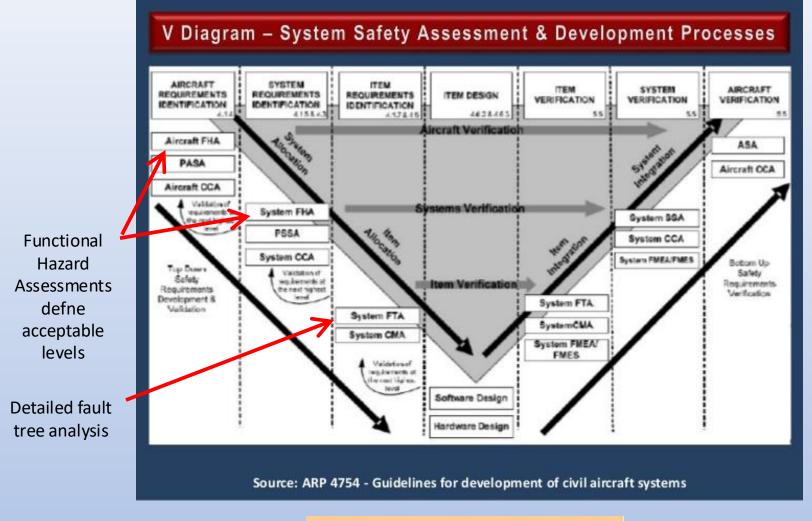
0 E

ω

roke

MA (S

-





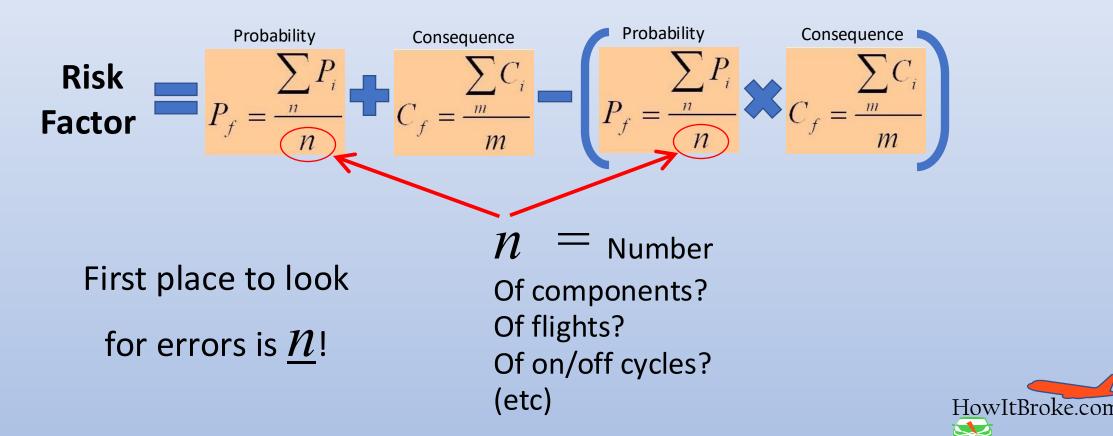


Before design risk levels are established

Basis for calculations established

Risk Factor are derivatives of Probability and Consequence

Remember Extremely Improbable failure conditions of 1x10⁹ or less?



What Is An Investigation?

Definition and scope depends on purpose and audience

To the Police officer

When scene is documented, damage recorded, interviews complete, review for traffic violations

To the accident investigator

Probable Cause is established after developing fact based analysis

To the engineer

Review for failure and design corrections

To the lawyer

Collection of potential monetary damage



All Investigations Follow Time-Proven Process

FIRST – Understand who has jurisdiction and responsibility to lead the investigation? (Investigator In Charge, IIC)

Four types of investigation are:

nin

23

hh.

2)

Criminal - Government Safety - Government Civil – Litigation about monetary damages between individuals &/or companies Technical – Typically manufacturers

Government has first rights, especially with fatalities Companies support Government Government must recognize proprietary needs of companies

SECOND – Leadership must agree on process or how to refine to circumstances

THIRD – Gather facts BEFORE analysis



Differences Between Facts, Analysis, Findings, and Probable Cause

| FACTS Documentation of: | ANALYSIS Only after facts collected: | FINDINGS <u>What specific</u> factors led to the | PROBABLE CAUSE Short statement |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Physical evidence | Comparison of facts | accident | The accident was caused by an |
| Maintenance records | such as Physical evidence vs | Define what was not involved | inattentive driver and design unable to |
| Phone records | maintenance records | If this | |
| Medical records | Comparing | Then that | |
| Weather conditions | Interviews | | |
| Interview statements | etc | | |
| etc | | | |

5

rainin

)—

23

Engineerved. 1/2/2025

. 6 0 m

owlibroke



Groups work in defined focal areas, such as:

Driver and human factors

0

- People involved, their training, and backgrounds
- Vehicle(s) and systems design,
 - Previous similar events,
 - Maintenance records,
- Roadway, including barriers, markings, etc
- Weather and other environmental factors,
- Traffic, communications, radar or other recordings,

Conduct daily organizational meetings

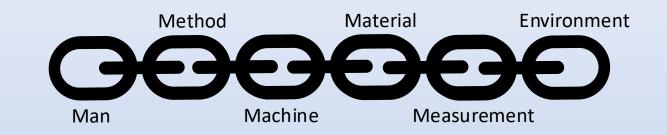
Share factual findings with other groups and leadership





Use Demings "Five M's and E" As The Facts To Look For

The factual links used to document a causal chain.





Numerous Ways To Categorize And Record The Facts Found

0 G

n I

Q

)—

103

n gin e e rin g creator. All rights reserved. 4/21/2025

hh

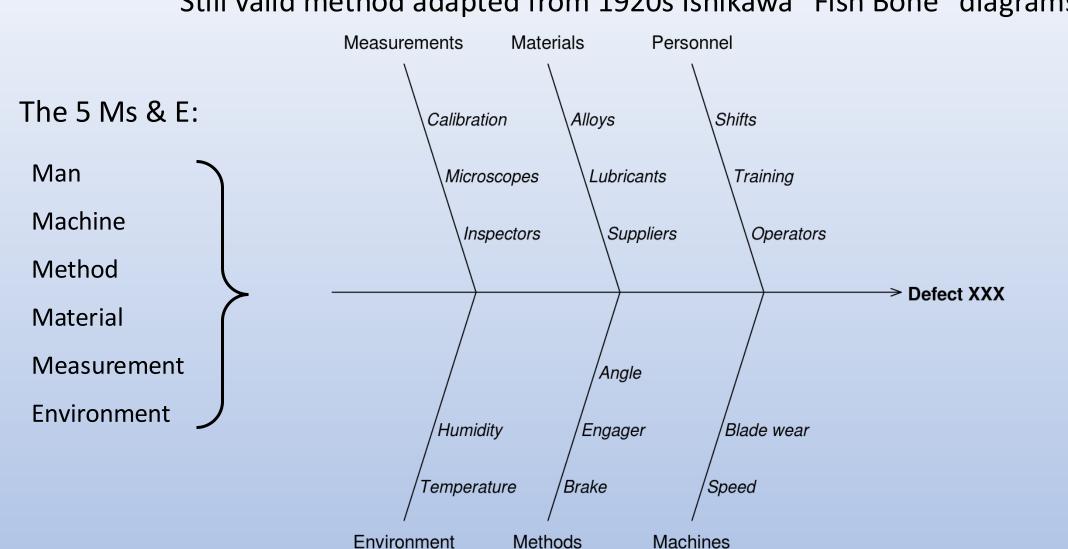
(1) (1) (1)

3

Brok

10

1



Still valid method adapted from 1920s Ishikawa "Fish Bone" diagrams

HowItBroke.com

Software Based Logic Fault Trees Are Needed In Complex Investigations

Risk analysis software tools can have thousands of cells

in g

ų

23

See.

0

iii e

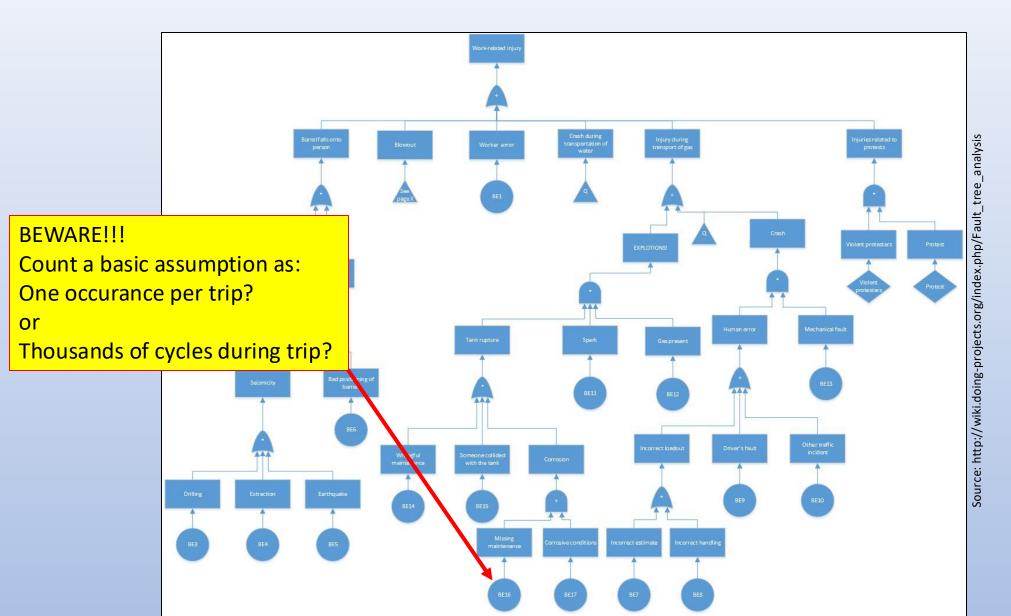
-

6 11

hh

1

Due to compounding of errors, increasing the number of cells results in decreasing validity



HowItBroke.com

-

Summary: Various Investigation Processes Exist & Most Have Validity

Simplest is to keep asking factual "Why?"

5 Why Method:

Why – Battery is dead

Why – No charge system output

Why – Alternator belt broken

Why – Belt worn to failure

Why – Inadequate maintenance

Too simplistic for most problems



Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)

0

u

Q

調

in g

0

hh.

1



Levels Of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)

SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS (SAE) AUTOMATION LEVELS

5

i n

Train

23

0

I'I II

3

ii e

1

1

hh

1

0

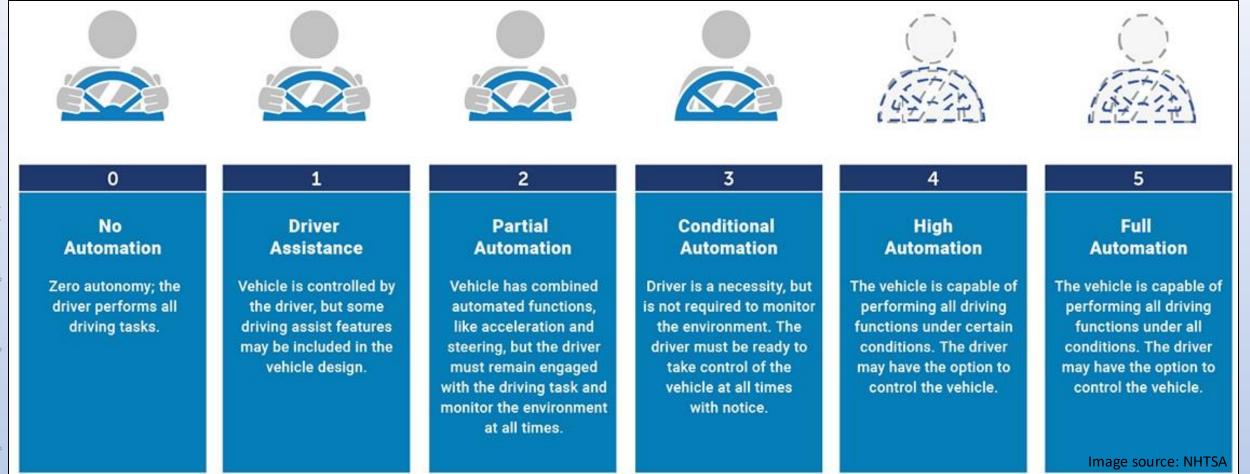
w

3

4

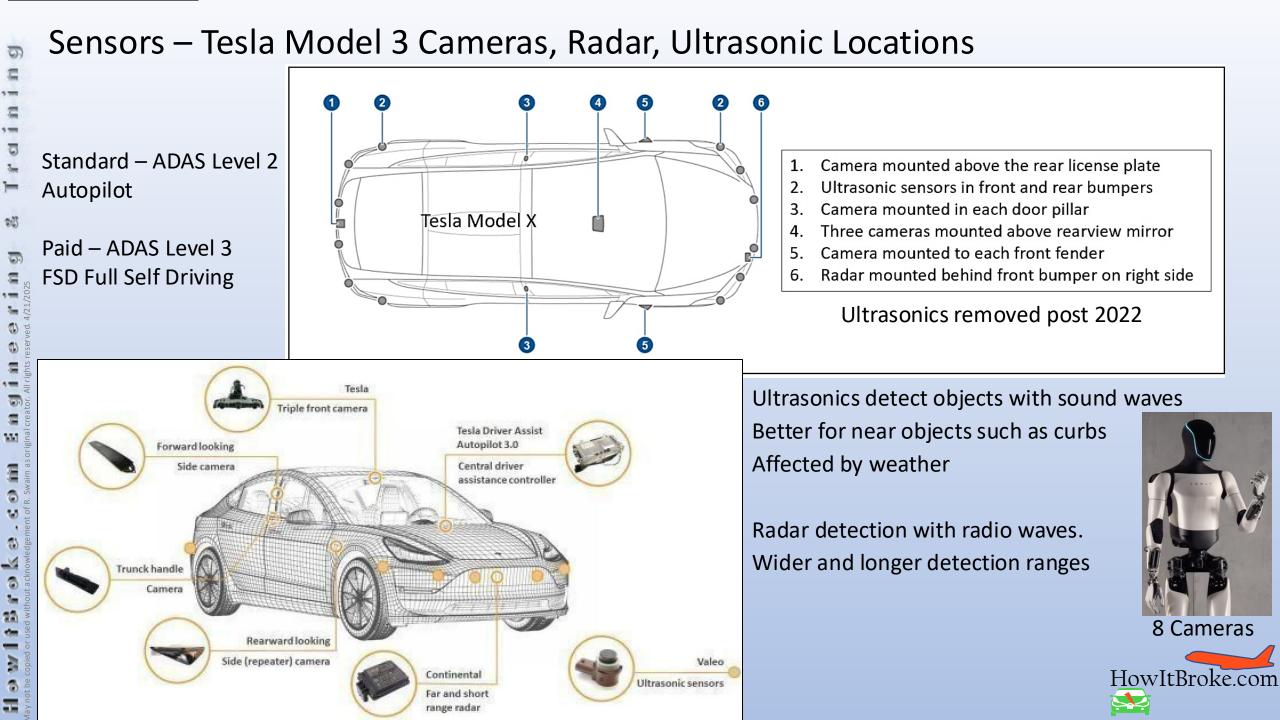
0

22

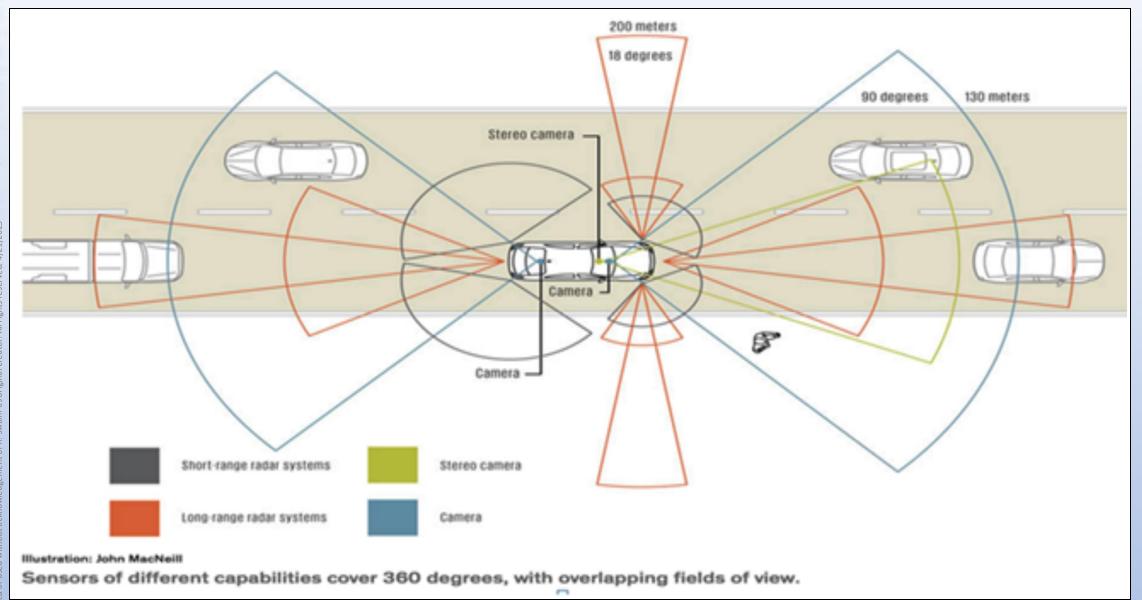


SAE J3016 and ISO 22736 Contain definitions for features and levels of control





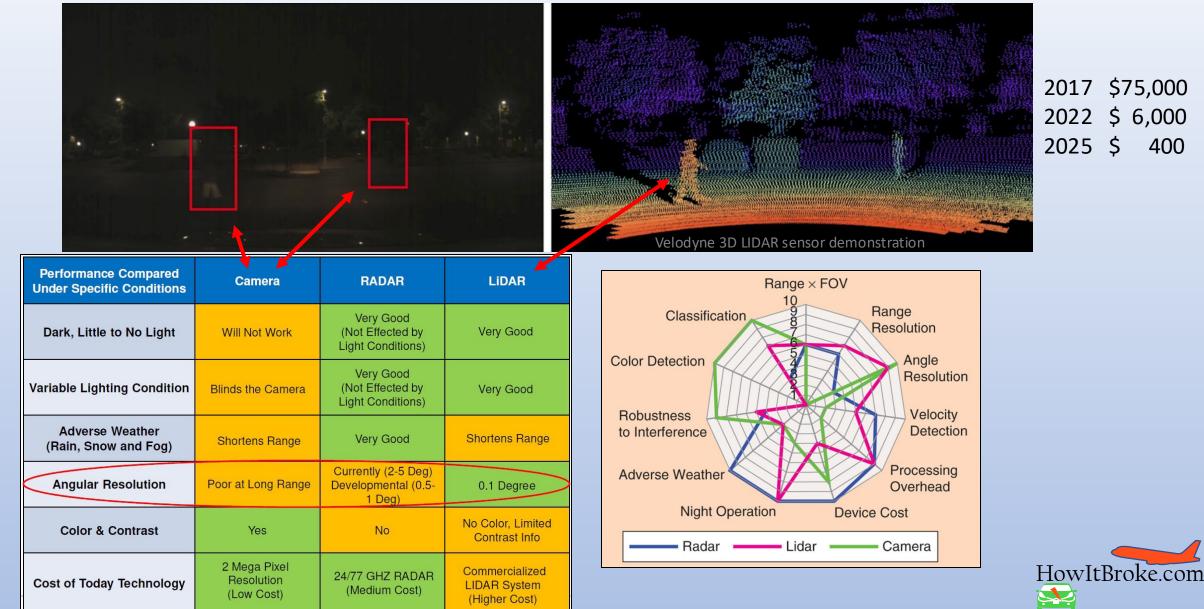
Sensors – Tesla Model 3 Cameras, Radar, Ultrasonic Functions



HowItBroke.com

Ş.

Sensors - Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) **Integrates With Cameras and Radar**



Alphabet (Google) – Waymo ADAS Level 5

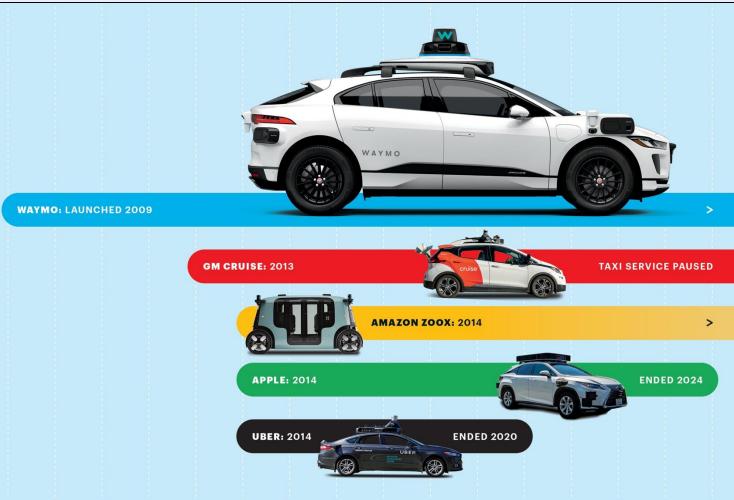
Based in LIDAR, cameras, short & long radar, ultrasonics

Tested in 15 States.

Geo-fenced to San Francisco, LA, Phoenix Draws on 40 millions miles experience, 20+billion simulation miles

Compared to all traffic:

83% Fewer airbag deployment crashes,81% fewer injury crashes,64% fewer police reported crashes





Tesla Robo Taxi – Attempting ADAS Level 5

Pros:

Based in cameras, short & long radar, ultrasonics

Similar to Model 3 & Y

Extremely limited intro geo-fenced to Austin TX Draws on millions of miles experience in S, 3, X, Y Already mapped roads and conditional variations

Potential drawbacks:

Sensors not optimally placed to see traffic

(Situational awareness)

Camera based system is sensitive to quality of road markings

Lack of method to keep camera and other inputs clean

LIDAR spotted on test vehicles





Comparative Records

Tesla – Many more miles driven without geo-fencing

(Data since 2019)

- 736 crashes
- 17 fatalities

WAYMO – 40 million geo-fenced miles

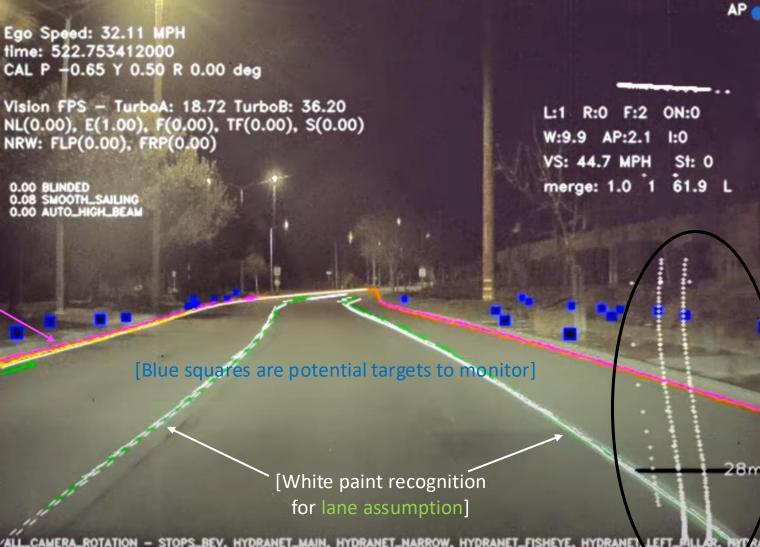
- 2 serious crashes
 - 18 contact events
- 0 injuries



Tesla Integrated Sensor System – Simple background

Ego Speed: 32.11 MPH time: 522.753412000 CAL P -0.65 Y 0.50 R 0.00 deg

Curbs assigned a location and profile



Map view created for what is visible

Map created is continuously compared to GPS map



U 23 gineering hh 回 () 2

Tesla Integrated Sensor System – Urban Environment

i n g

i n

I' CI

)-

調

5

1

1=

5

0

3

偏

-

hh

19

0

6

roke

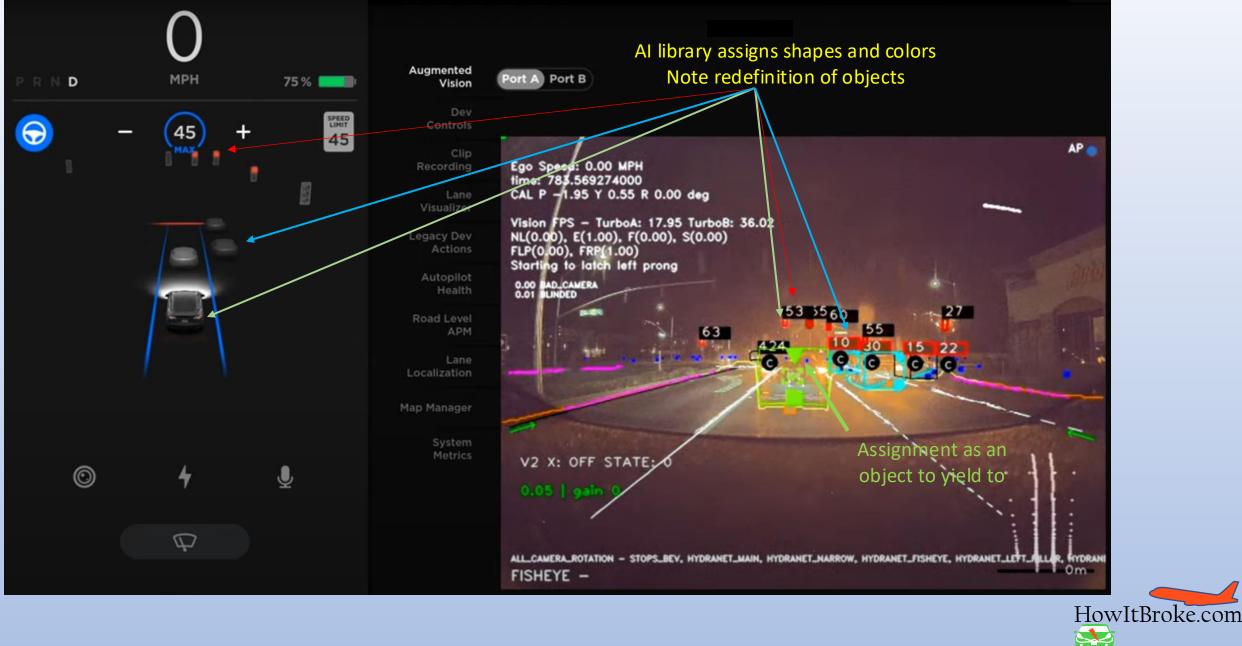
22

100

2

-

() ()



Tesla Integrated Sensor System

MAIN -

Congested area assignment of shapes to vehicles and pedestrian

Ego Speed: 6.01 MPH ime: 799.121357000 CAL P -0.65 Y 0.50 R 0.00 deg vision FPS - TurboA: 18.93 TurboB: 23.70 F:1 ON:0 L:1 R:0 L(0.13), E(0.24), F(0.00), TF(0.00), S(0.02) W:10.3 AP:-0.3 IRW: FLP(0.00), FRP(0.00) VS: 29.2 MPH merge: 1.0 1 36.6 0.00 BLINDED 0.00 SMOOTH_SAILIN

CITY_STREETS - STOPS_BEV, HYDRANET_BACKUP, HYDRANET_SELFIE, OBJECTS3D_MAIN, OBJECTS3D_NARROW, OBJECTS3D_DISHEYE



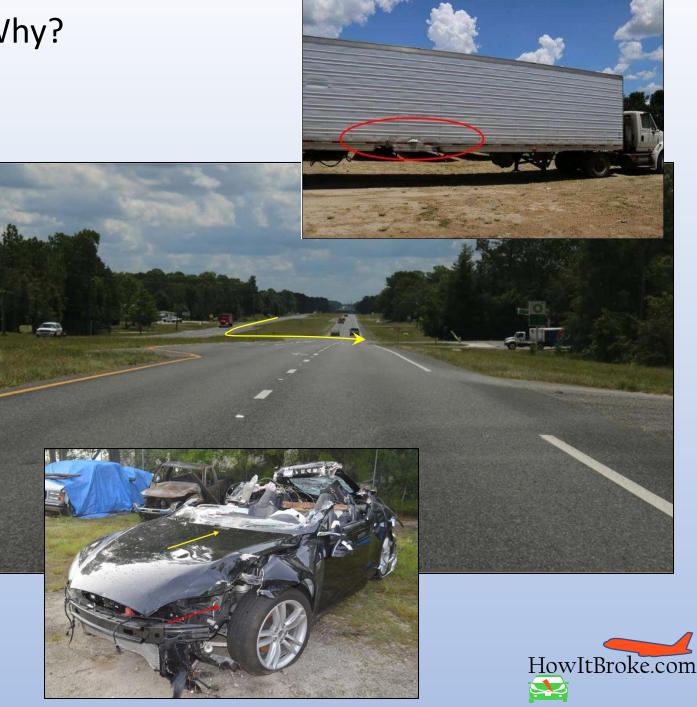
AP



Model S Drove Beneath Trailer - Why?

Williston FL, May 7, 2016, 4:36pm, NTSB/HAR-17/02





Common Theme in ADAS Equipped Vehicle Accidents

Training

23

n e e r i n g Bhts reserved. 4/21/2025

-

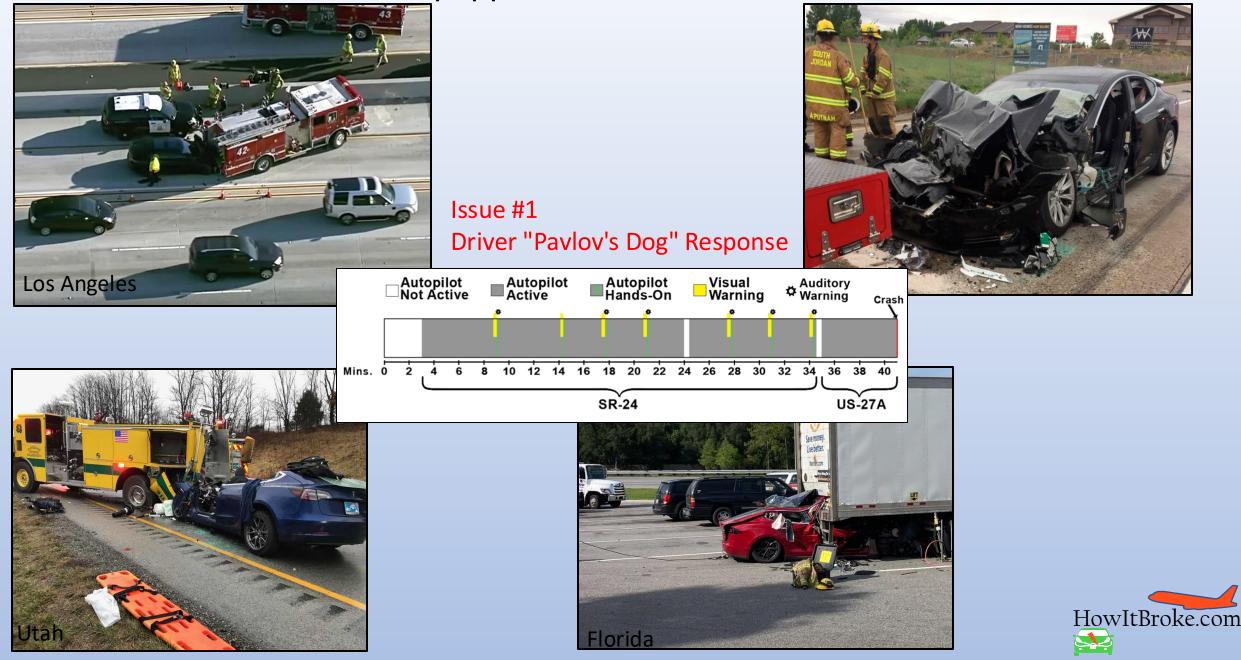
hh

(1) (1) (1)

3

101

1



Issue #2: Cameras assigning block shapes have difficulty in differentiating stationary items high enough to pass under

5

I n

U

0

調

ering

I g i n e e

hh

1

3



Vehicle will drive through photo





Example: Recognition of Crossing Truck at Intersection (Car Stopped)

Is it a truck three feet above the road? An overpass?

A sign to drive under?

5

i n

I II

0

23

0

1

1=

5

0

3

偏

-

.

1

hk]

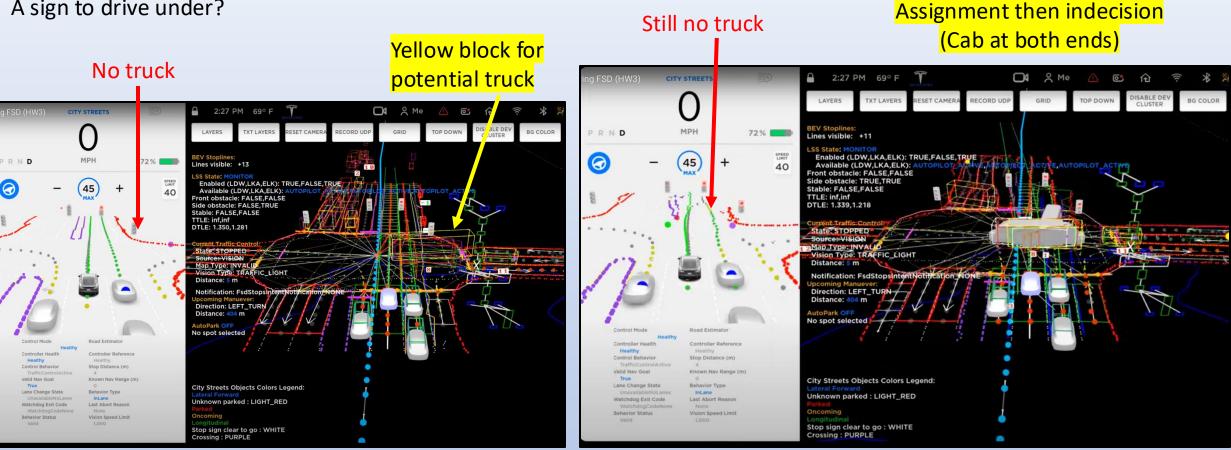
覆

6

6

3

1





Weather and Road Conditions Can Degrade Sensors

ß u

調

n g

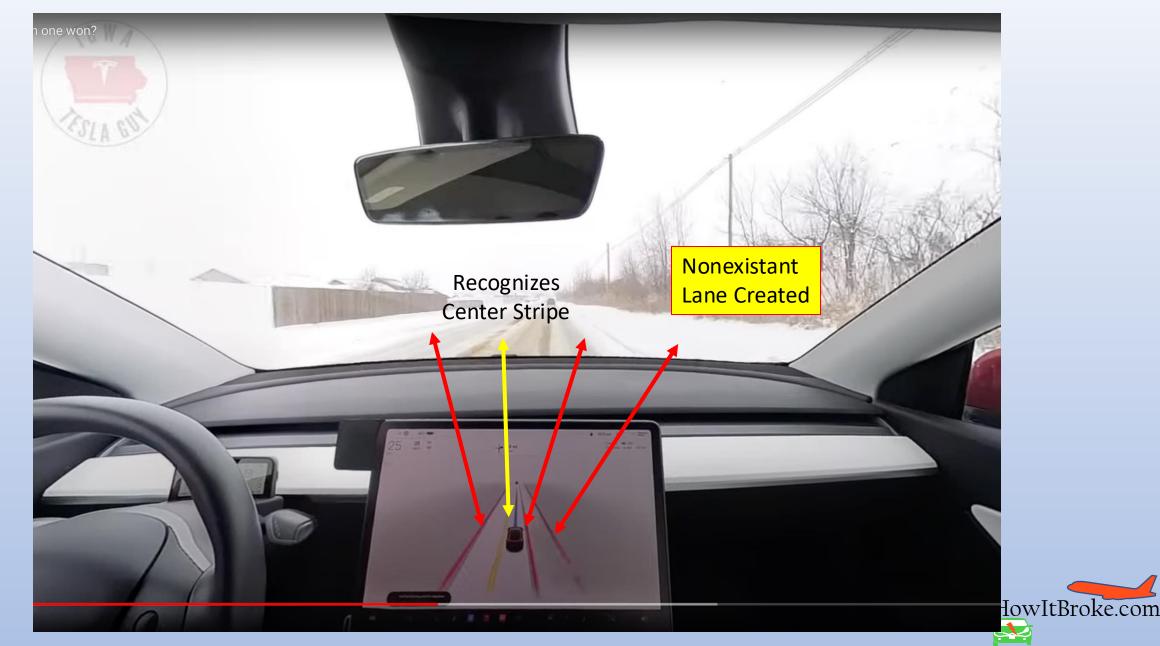
C L

hh

1

1

3



Spoofing Automated Vehicles

Chosen Pattern Injection

Makes vehicles detect items which do not exist Example: Signs printed on T-shirts

Driving Aggressively Makes vehicle yield

Altered speed signs

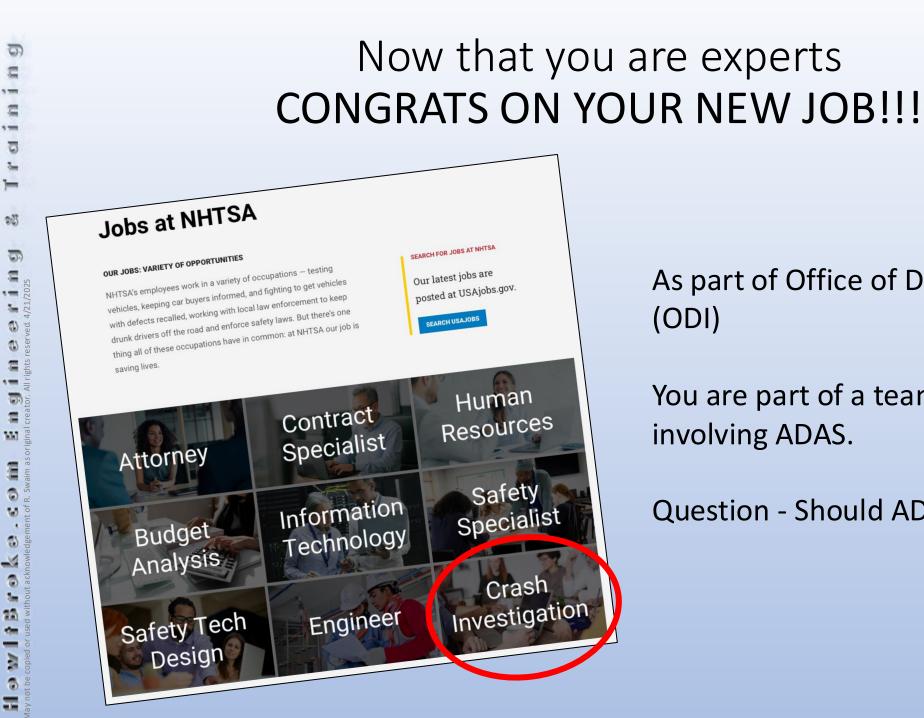
Temporary Physical Items People surround vehicle Cover sensor with aluminum foil Cones



STOP







As part of Office of Defect Investigations (ODI)

You are part of a team investigating accidents involving ADAS.

Question - Should ADAS be banned?



ADAS Accident Investigation in College Park, MD

5

rainin

)-

調

ngineering

hh

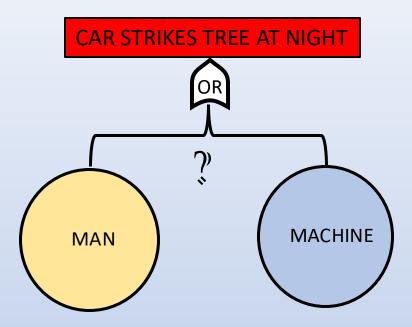
(1) (1) (1)

3

101

O W

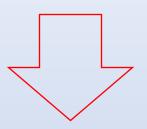
4/21/2025



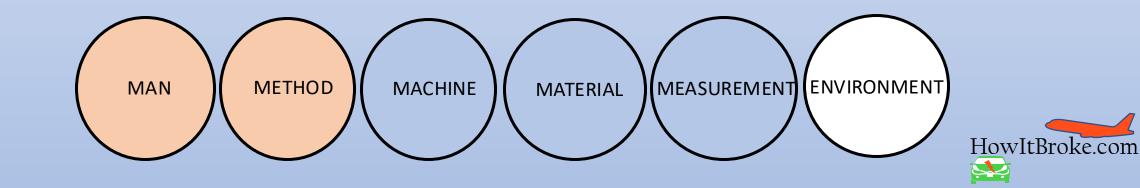


Failure Logic Tree

CAR STRIKES TREE AT NIGHT



Collect basic facts for each of the 5 Ms & E:



U 0 23 ring 0 hh

Interview Notes of driver (Man)

- Time of accident about 1 am.
- Was coming back to school from home in New Haven, CT after early dinner with parents.
- Boring drive due to lots of weekend traffic and sat on I-95 for periods of time.
- Ran out of drinks and wanted one to stay awake. Was waiting to arrive to use toilet.
- Near school was driving through the woods because I-95 was still so backed up. The road is dark but is a good back route.
- At time of accident the car was on autopilot and driver had hand on bottom of steering wheel. It never disengaged.
- The car just decided to turn the wrong way.
- Couldn't use the car phone because she had her boy friend's and it wouldn't hook up to the car. Did have charge cable.
- Driver slammed on the brakes but car wouldn't stop and the steering wheel was torn out of drivers' hands.
- No injuries. Intends to hire lawyer to sue car manufacturer.
- [Police on scene reported no evidence of alcohol or drug impairment. Tesla call center reported collision at 2:21am]







Daisy DooRite, age 21, 123 Snobbish Court, College Park, MD, Tel 301-XXX-YYYY

Start of 48 Hour Driver History (Man)

| Date | Time | ltem | Source | |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| X/13/202X | | [Fill in for previous day] | | |
| X/13/202X | 20:30 | At house of friend | Driver interview | |
| X/14/202X | 00:30 | Went to bed | Driver interview | |
| X/14/202X | 02:30 | End of texting | Phone records | Actual rest started |
| X/14/202X | 07:00 | Awoke to shop with Mother | Mother interview | 4.5 Hours sleep |
| X/14/202X | 17:00 | Departed parents house | Driver interview | |
| X/14/202X | 17:10 | Receipt for Coca Cola and pretzels | Receipt found in vehicle | |
| X/14/202X | 19:30 [est] | Toilet stop | Driver interview | |
| X/14/202X | 22:00 [est] | Toilet stop | Driver interview | |
| X/15/202X | 02:21 | Accident | Vehicle data | 9:21 Underway |

19:21 Hours awake



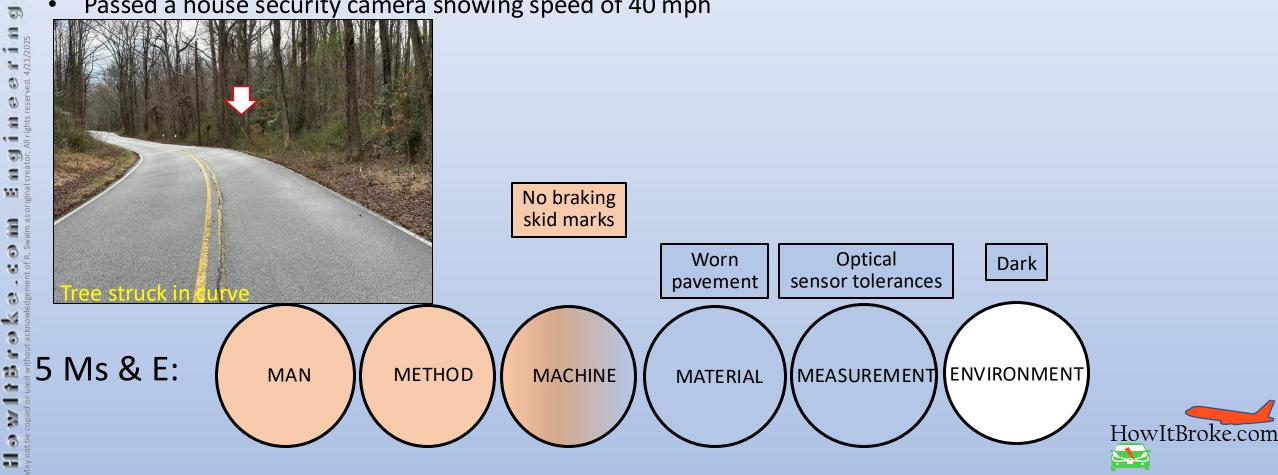
Failure Logic Tree – What do you notice at scene? (Environment)

SCENE:

Trainin

23

- Dark location with no street lights. Posted 35 mph
- Dry pavement with no skid marks observed
- Straight wheel marks through dirt to tree
- Pavement markings worn and road edge partially obscured with leaves
- Passed a house security camera showing speed of 40 mph



Failure Logic Tree – Vehicle (Machine)

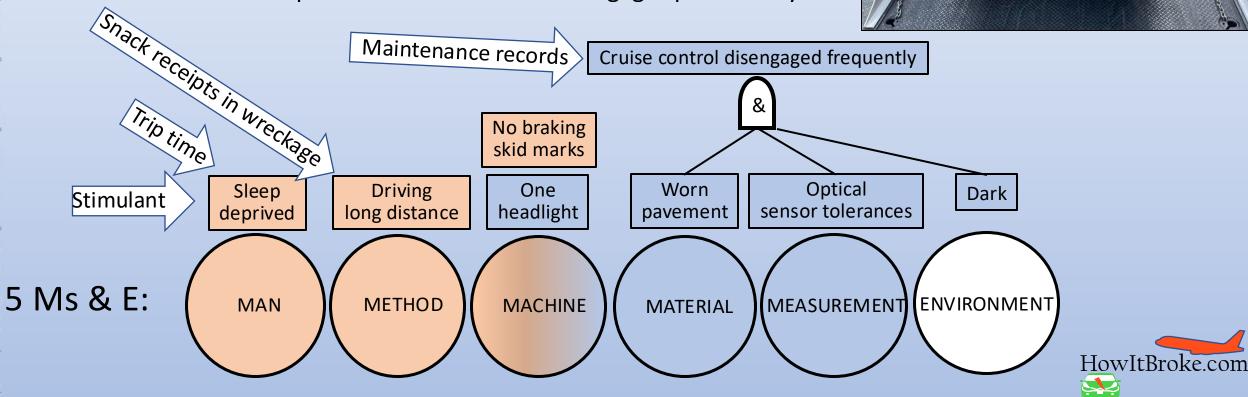
VEHICLE FINDINGS:

調

ring

- Time on receipt for pretzels and Cokes from store in Connecticut
 - Long trip time [9 hours to 2:21 am]
 - Long driving distance [300 miles]
 - Six empty Coca Cola cans [Effects of stimulant wearing off]
- One headlight tested inoperative after accident
- Dirty windshield ahead of driver mirror [Contains triple camera lens]
- Glovebox service receipts state cruise control disengages periodically





Failure Logic Tree – Combined Man and Machine Facts Now it could be the driver OR the car

nin

1 700

1 0

1

23

hh

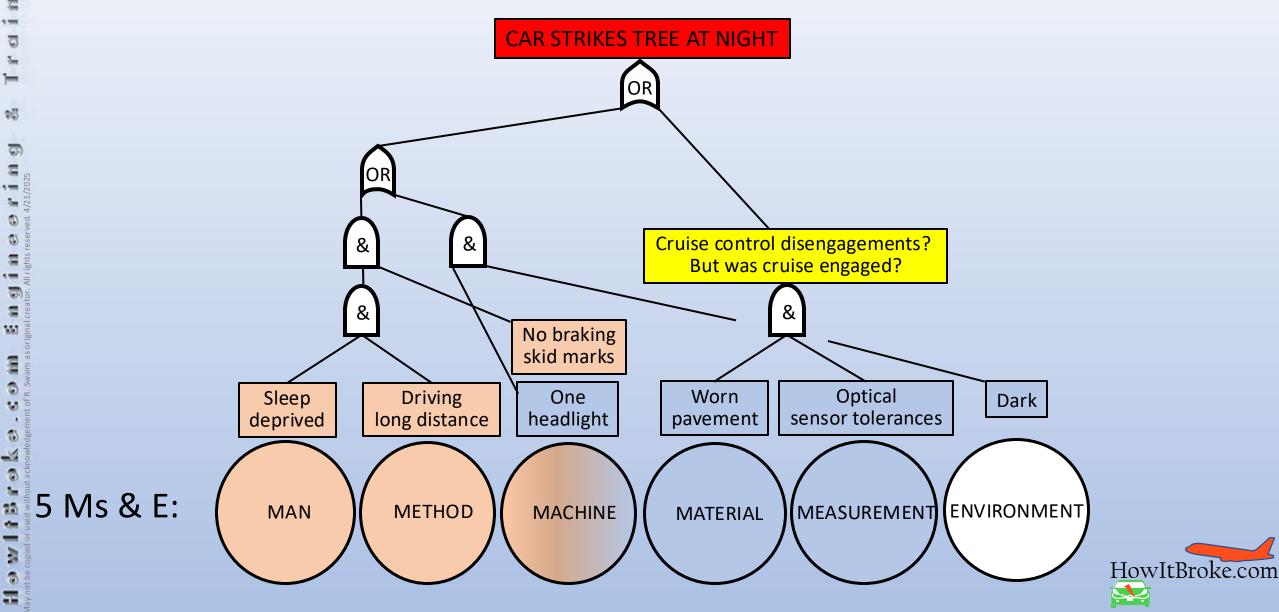
回 ()

S (S

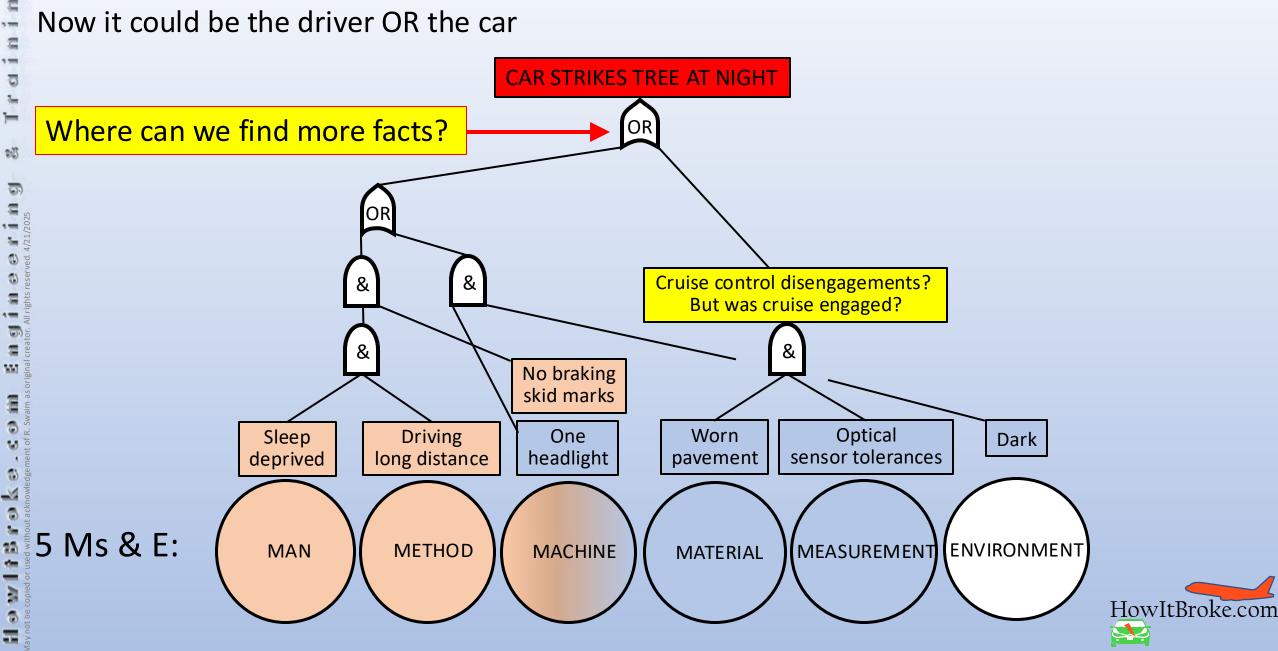
「日日日

NA (S

-



Failure Logic Tree – Combined Man and Machine Facts Now it could be the driver OR the car



Machine - Continuous Loop of Automated Systems

Brain functions consider and create output instructions

For muscles to implement

0

I II

i n

0

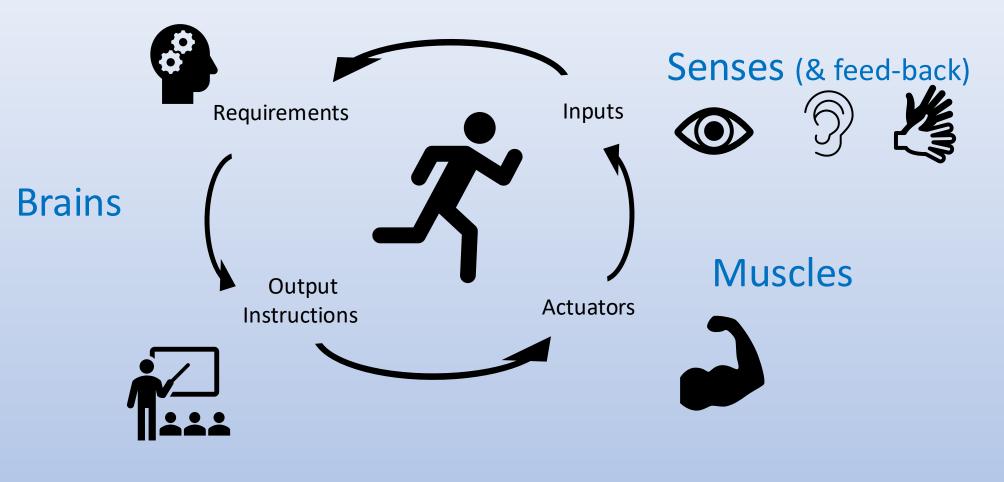
)-

調

hh.

3

Followed by senses reporting status of the movement back to the brain





Continuous Loop of Automation is Similar to Anatomy

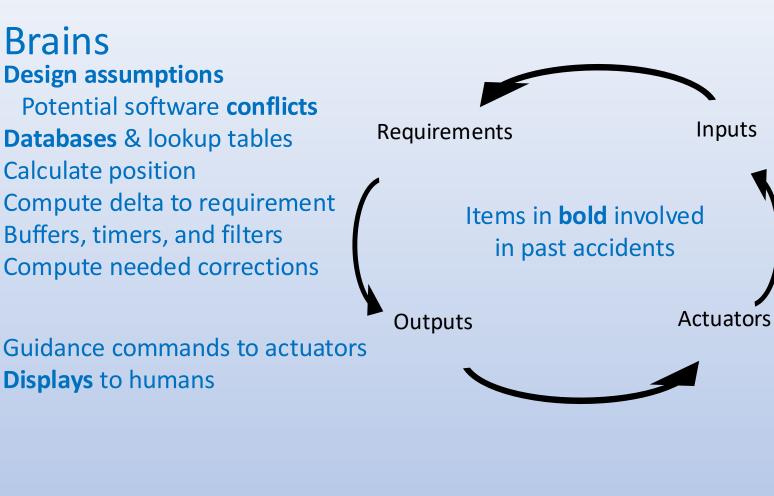
Train

23

e e r i n g eserved: 4/21/2025

hh

国の



Senses (& feed-back) Driver mechanical & switches GPS & other NAV Camera and optical sensors RADAR, LIDAR, & RF based Environmental sensors Feedback of device positions

Muscles Mechanical Electric Hydraulic





Data?

5

nin

<u>a</u> 1

)=

認

n gin e e rin g creator. All rights reserved. 4/21/2025

hh

6 0 iii

ke.

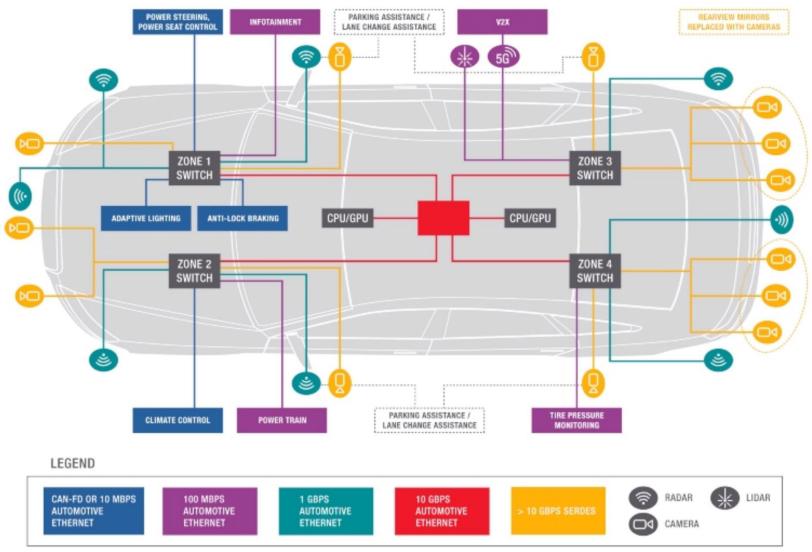
0

-

-

How

Most of these are recorded





Vehicle Data Recorders

Information Access Depends on Type of Investigation

- Criminal Government may not release ANY data
- Safety Government may release partial data, typically not video or audio
 - Typically requires court subpoena. May be denied.

Technical – May or may not get access



Data and Recordings

Frequently embedded in multiple devices for various types of information

Vehicle devices typically not hardened like aviation "Black Boxes

May contain dozens to <u>thousands</u> of parameters such as:

Speed, Lat/Long (GPS), seat belt use, airbag deployment, impact sensor states, fault logging

(OBD), automation engagement and level, cell temps and detailed EV battery data, motor

temp, transmission status, ABS, ESC, throttle position, atmospheric pressure, OAT, headlight

use, wiper use, door alerts, etc,

Parameter recording rates differ

Example: Seatbelt status upon change of state vs vehicle speed at least once/second



Data Sources Restraint Control Module (RCM)

5

I II

i n

r o

)=

23

ngineerved 4/21/2025

hh

. 6 0 III

3

r o k

2

Five Seconds of RCM Data

HWY18FH011, Mountain View CA, 3/23/2018

TESLA

Event Data (Event 1)

| JIA ? | • | 0. | | |
|-------|--|----|-----|---|
| e e | ACTINUE CONTRE MOUL | 18 | | - |
| | 1000757-034 31 80504 0365 021 A C tube 1.000 | | | |
| - | | | | |
| | | - | Nor | |



| Time (sec) | Vehicle Speed (km/h) | Accelerator Pedal (%) | Rear Motor Speed (rpm) | Service Brake | Stability Control | ABS Activity |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| -5.0 | 102 | 0 | 6799 | Off | On | Off |
| -4.5 | 101 | 0 | 6713 | Off | On | Off |
| -4.0 | 100 | 0 | 6641 | Off | On | Off |
| -3.5 | 100 | 0 | 6612 | Off | On | Off |
| -3.0 | 100 | 0 | 6689 | Off | On | Off |
| -2.5 | 101 | 0 | 6766 | Off | On | Off |
| -2.0 | 104 | 0 | 6937 | Off | On | Off |
| -1.5 | 107 | 0 | 7104 | Off | On | Off |
| -1.0 | 109 | 0 | 7284 | Off | On | Off |
| -0.5 | 112 | 0 | 7433 | Off | On | Off |
| 0.0 | 114 | 0 | 7584 | Off | On | Off |

Media Control Unit (MCU)





From Media Control Unit and Autopilot ECU:

Precise time, Speed, Steering wheel position, Accel pedal position, Driver brake pedal, A/P Status, Faults, Longitudinal and Lateral G forces, lead vehicle distance



Example of Carlog Data Showing Driver Taking Control

n g

-

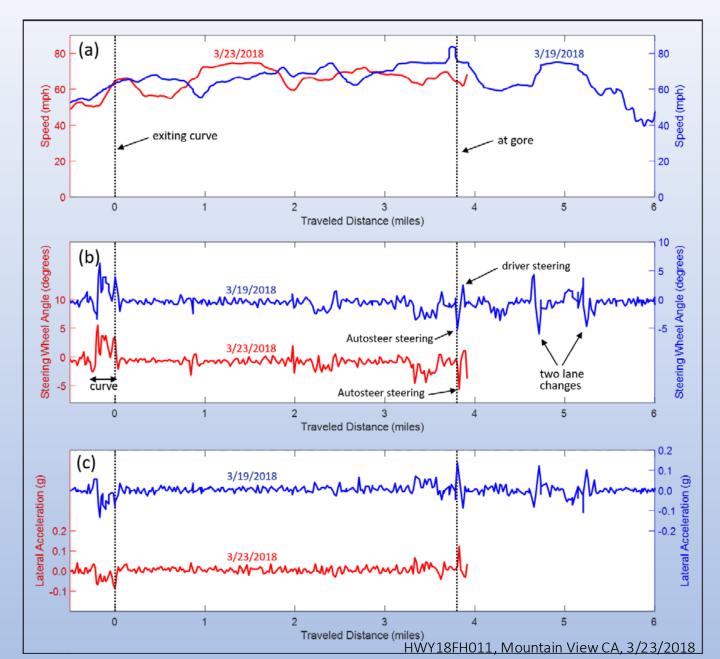
)-

調

0)

-

hh.



Other Parameters Available Include: Speed, Lat/Long (GPS), Sensor buffers for LIDAR/RADAR/etc Seat belt use, Airbag deployment, Impact sensor states, Fault logging (OBD), Automation engagement and level, Cell temps and detailed ev battery data, Motor temp, Transmission status, ABS, ESC, Throttle position, Atmospheric pressure, OAT, Headlight use, Wiper use, Door alerts, Etc,



Recording devices to look for

ON VEHICLE (Some require continuous 12V source)

Vehicle event recorder (Precise time of accident, speed, G forces, etc)

Onboard video recorder

Motor controller memory,

EV Battery Battery Management System (BMS)

Anti-skid braking system memory (ABS)

Other . . .

EXTERNAL

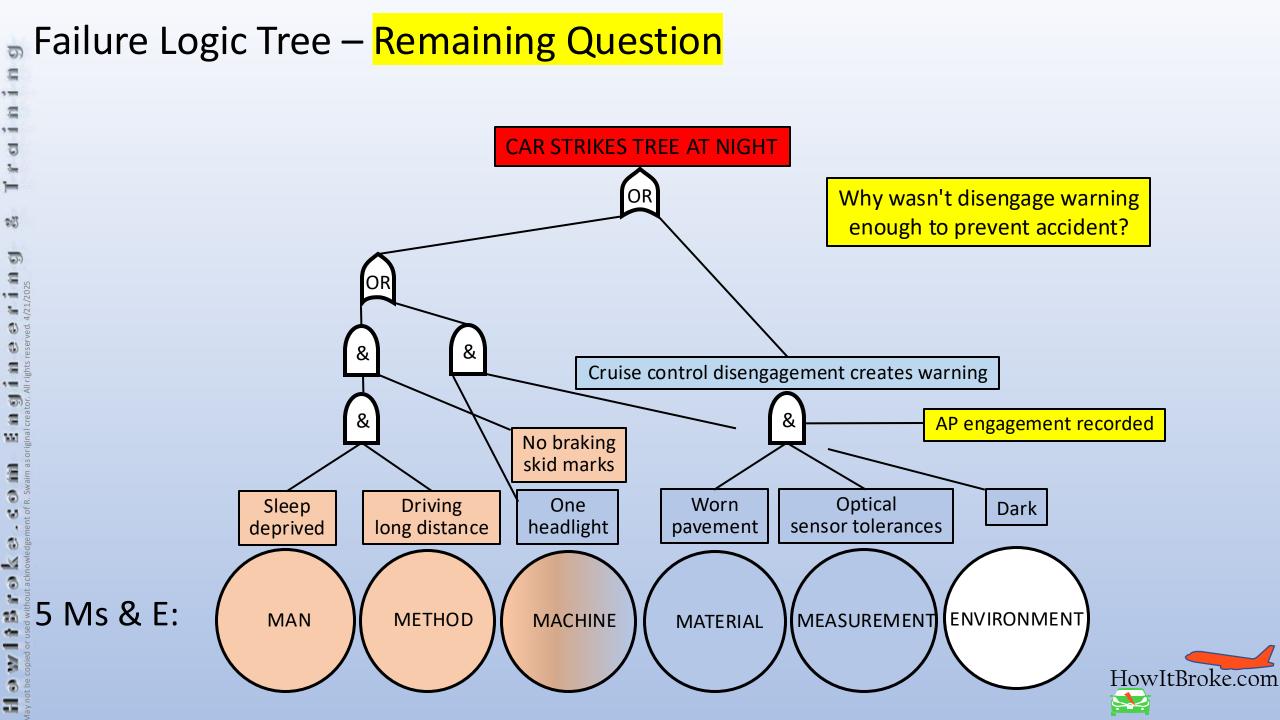
Cell phone – phone, data, GPS, camera

Roadway system - traffic video, timers, and other devices

Stores and other business security cameras

DATA IS SELDOM COMPLETE. For example the following items are frequently not all available at same time: Look up maps – Need constant update GPS Optical – Road markings, sign markings, surrounding structure, other objects LIDAR/RADAR/WAVE





Failure Logic Tree – Subpoena Phone Records

Driver iniated 11 separate calls during trip and received 5.

C.

23

ering

ngine

hh

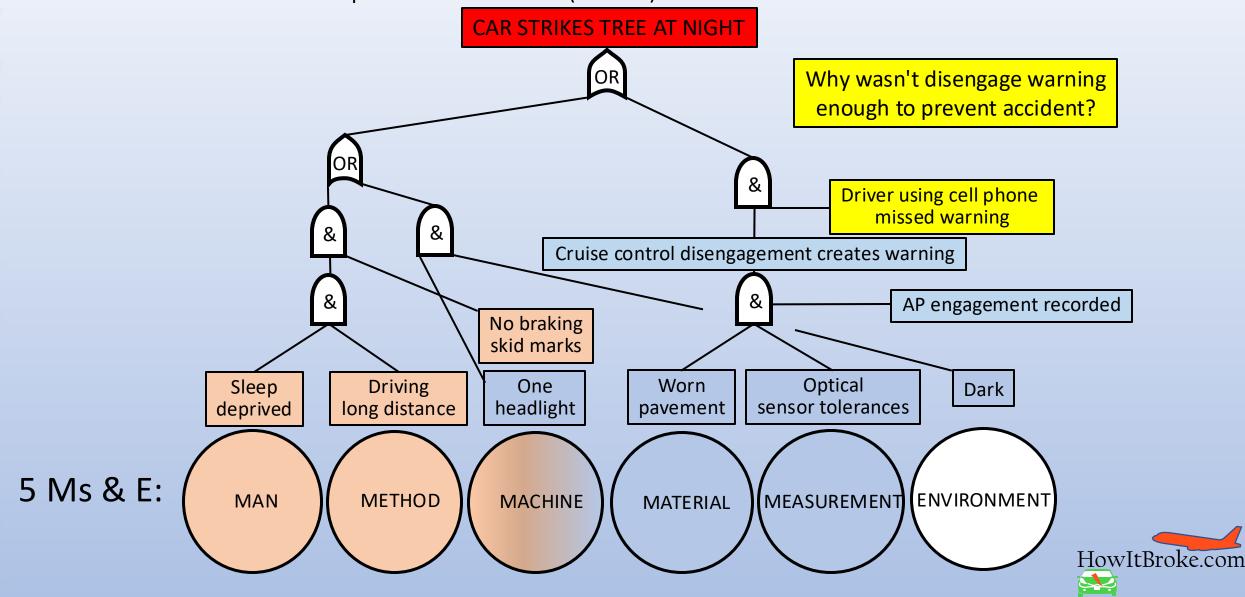
1

3

1 Brok

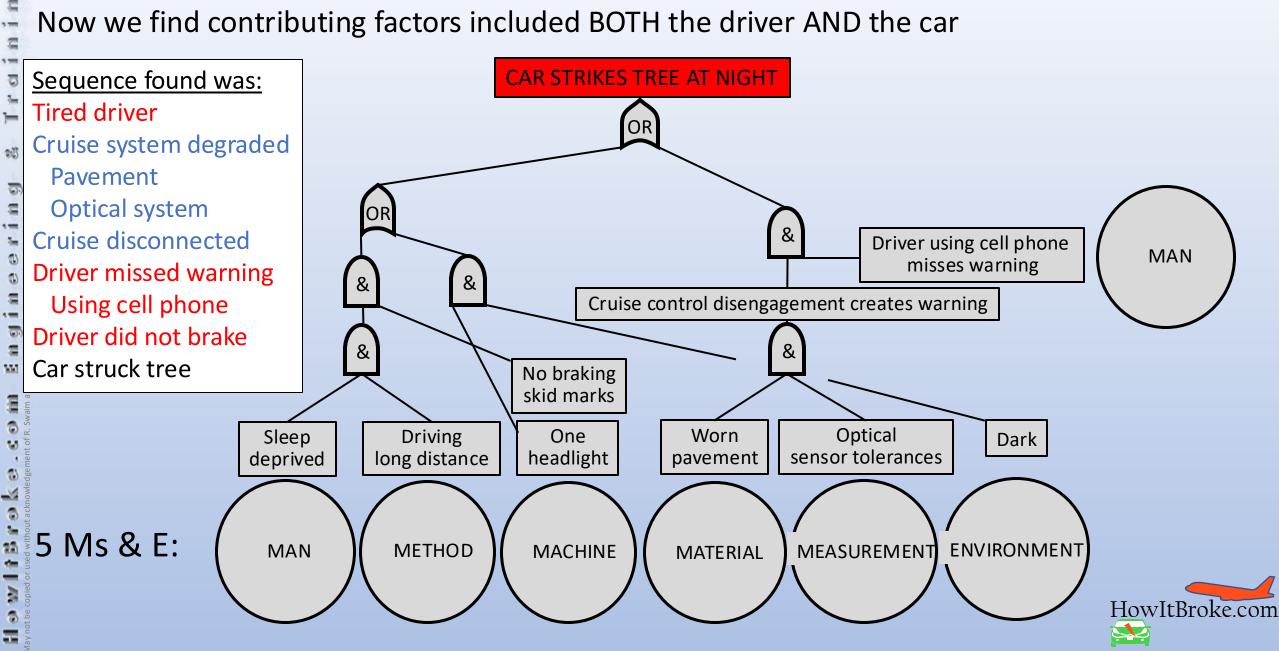
MA (S

Most recent call initiated 7 minutes prior to accident time (2:21am).



Failure Logic Tree – FACTS LEAD TO ANALYSIS / SEQUENCE

Now we find contributing factors included BOTH the driver AND the car



Chronology and Contributing Factors

As a result of the investigation and collection of all possible facts, a chronology for the accident was established which led to identification of the Contributing Factors:

Degraded / Fatigued driver: The accident time was at a low circadian rythym hour, driver cited sugar withdrawal symptoms, had driven a long distance, and been in vehicle for 9 hours.

The Cruise system operation was degraded due to: Worn pavement markings Optical system operation at the limits of design perception with the degraded pavement Dirt found over camera sensor array

The Cruise system disconnected.

The driver using the hands-on cell phone likely missed the warning that the automation system had disconnected.

The driver did not apply brakes on pavement.

The vehicle struck a tree.



Probable Cause

The Probable Cause for a case such as this example would likely identify the driver's degraded responsiveness and distraction as the primary cause.

The failed headlight and degraded Level 2 automation might be considered as Contributing Factors.



Numerous points create cybersecurity vulnerabilities

Attacks have taken place in aviation

Despite ISO 26262*, monitor for:

Intentional Database corruption

5

See.

hh

須

Vehicle antenna inputs Sensor entries

Software attacks

Unintentional EMI/HIRF environment Software conflicts Sensor conflicts



HowItBroke.com

ISO 26262 - Road Vehicles Functional Safety Package

A Lesson From Aviation In Closing

Kettering Bug cruise missile 1918

Lawrence Sperry patented first autopilot in 1912 Triple redundant systems in airlines today - yet ...

...loss of control found in 43% of 2010-2014 fatal commercial accidents (37)

The #1 Autopilot related cause of accidents is human interface Typically perception of autopilot performance was not what was expected

The #2 Cause was pilots disconnecting or getting "behind" the airplane



"What's it [the autopilot] doing now?"

Common airline crew saying on Cockpit Voice Recorder (CDR)

"Disappointment [causing stress and errors] is the gap that exists between our expectation and reality" – Maxwell

Examine to make sure that reality does not differ from expectations



Questions?

Robert L. Swaim

