



**34<sup>th</sup>** Annual **INCOSE**  
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# Risk Assessment Method for Systems-of- Systems Internal and External Interactions

Using a case study of wildfire fighting

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# Presentation Outline



Problem and  
Purpose

Method

Results of  
the case  
study

Discussion

Conclusion

# Problem

We create systems without enough consideration of its impacts

Many diverse stakeholders, both internal and external

Risk assessments are most often done of the development of the internal system and of the technical risks.

Only a few stakeholders are often considered – not the most impacted ones

Leading to unintended consequences

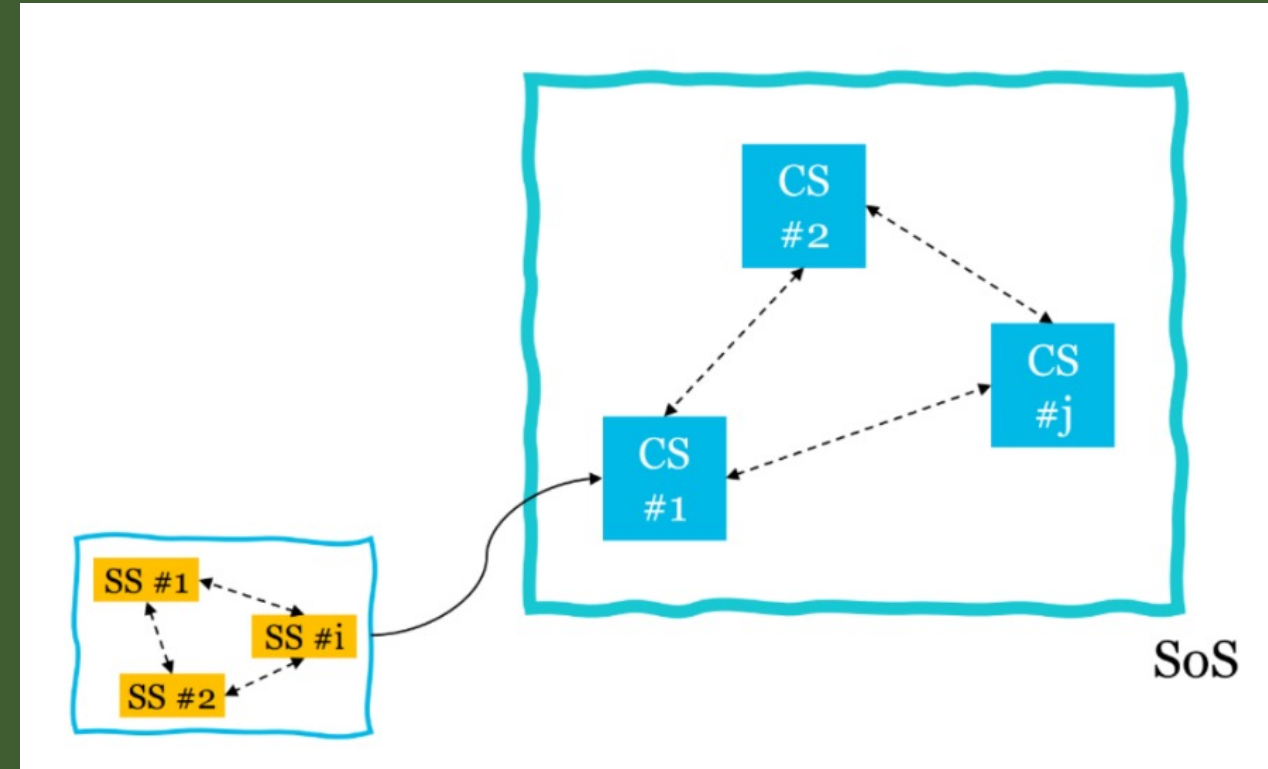
Planetary boundaries

Social inequality

Mental illness

# System-of-Systems

- Collaborative systems
- Five characteristics
- Identified by Interactions (Maier 1998)
- Useful for complex operations and organizations

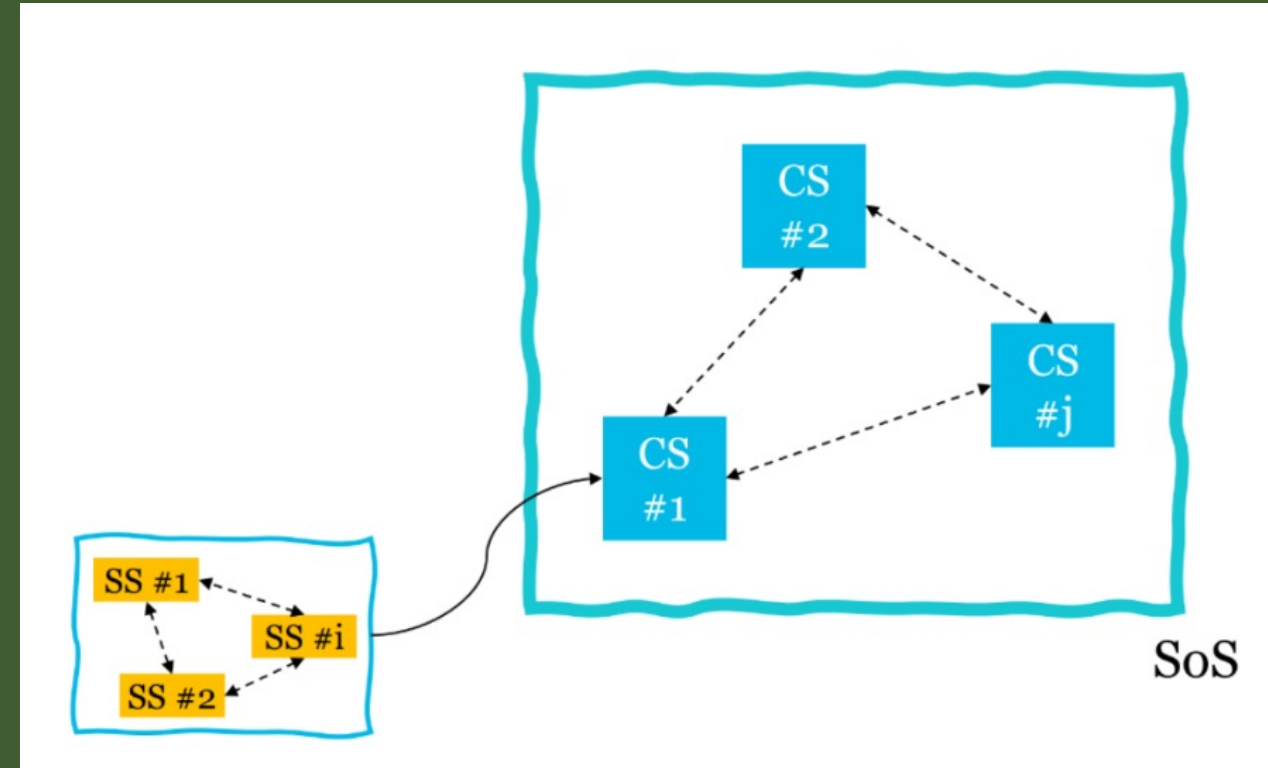


**Source:** Jouannet, C. (2023). *Model Based System of Systems Engineering*. Lecture, Linköping University.



# System-of-Systems

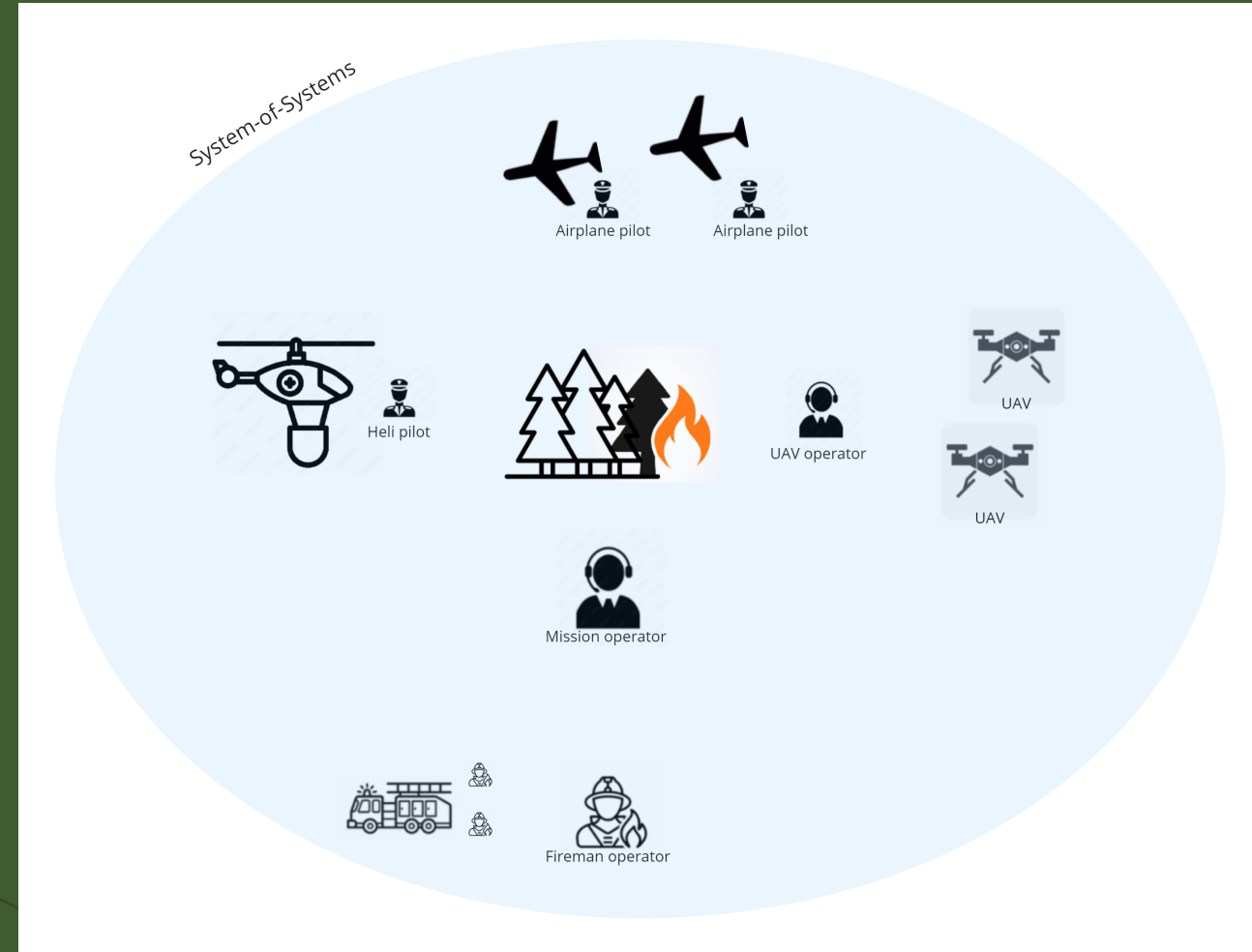
- Collaborative systems
  - Five characteristics
  - Identified by interactions (Maier, 1998)
  - Useful for complex operations and organizations - tools
- 
- Independent management
  - Independent operated
  - Emergent behavior
  - Evolutionary behavior
  - Geographical distribution



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# System-of-Systems

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# Purpose

Present a holistic risk assessment method during early stage Systems-of-Systems development

Benefit SoS developers to create safer system for all stakeholders, including the externally impacted.

01



02

04



Starting point for discussion, how can a broader assessment be carried out?

03

Can be developed into high-level SoS requirements.

Comparing SoS alternatives

# Research Question

- How can risks of a directed SoSs internal and external interactions be assessed at an early stage of SoS development?



# Scope and Limitations

- General and broad risk categories
- First iteration of a method
- Static SoS
- Only high-level SoS risks, not CSs risks



# Method

System-of-Systems internal  
and external interactions

Severity, likelihood,  
interconnectedness

Using systems thinking  
(INCOSE)





# System-of-Systems

## Four different types

Directed – Centralized decision and no other interests.

- Example: Emergency operation.

Acknowledged – Centralized operation but CSs have own interests.

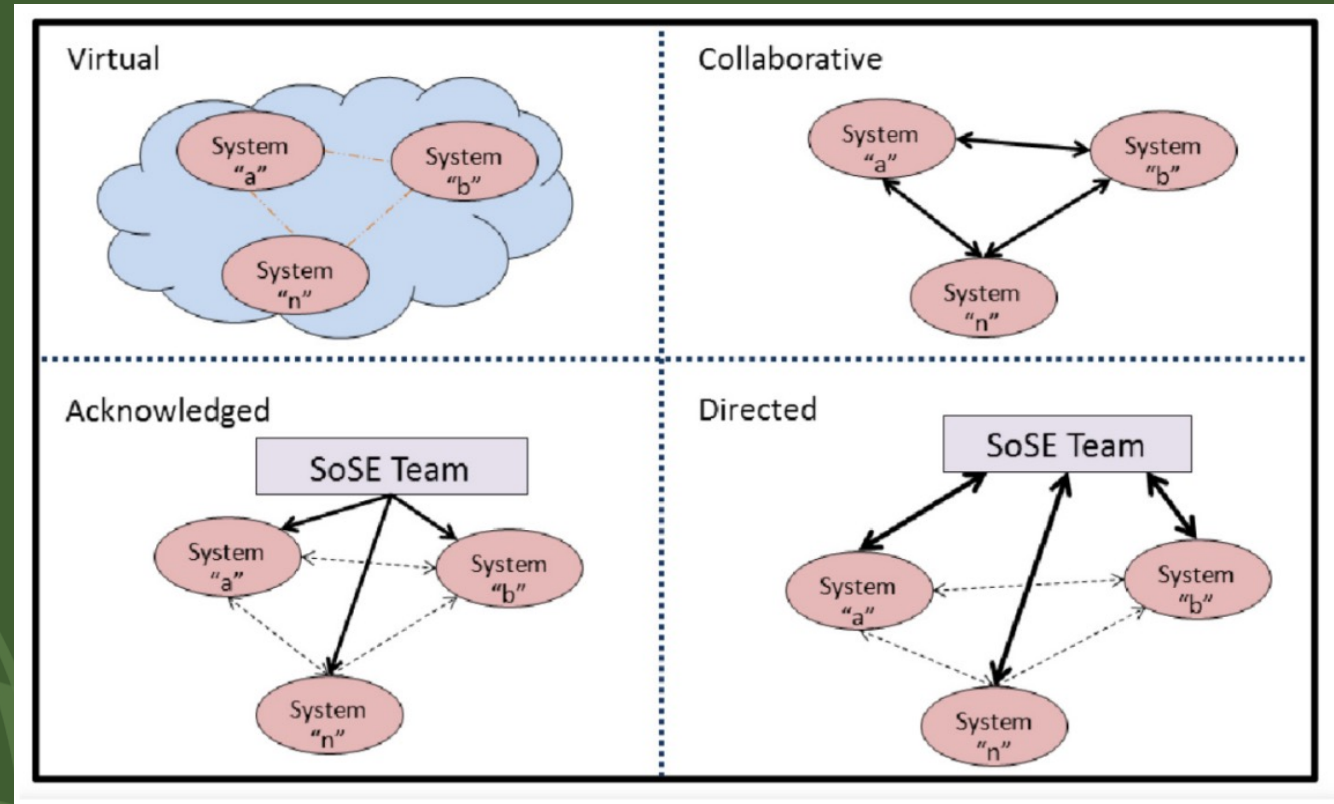
- Example: Air Traffic Management

Collaborative – Decentralized decision making.

- Example: Decentralized energy systems

Virtual – No obvious common goal.

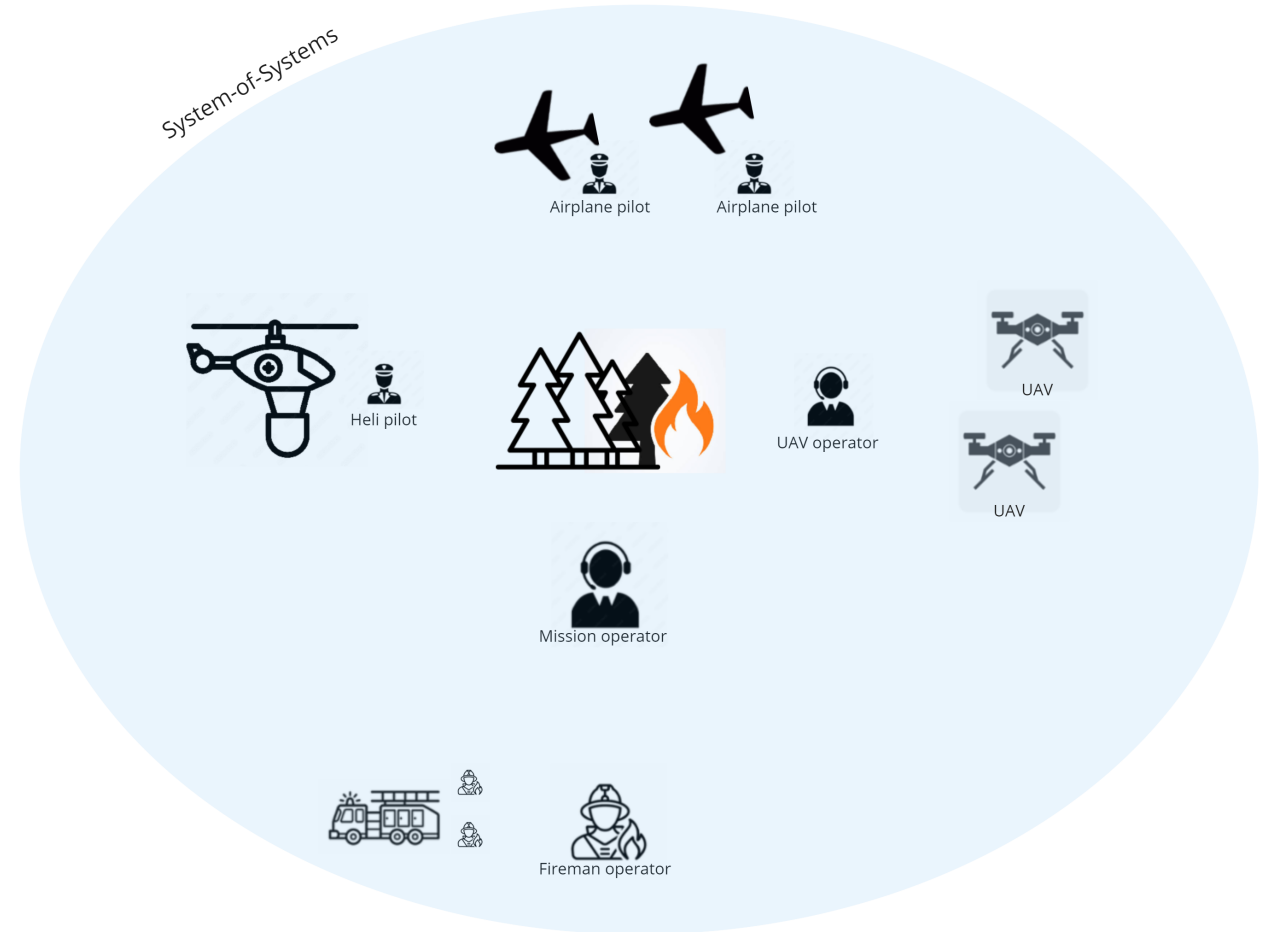
- Example: Internet



**Source:** Jouannet, C. (2023). *Model Based System of Systems Engineering*. Lecture, Linköping University.

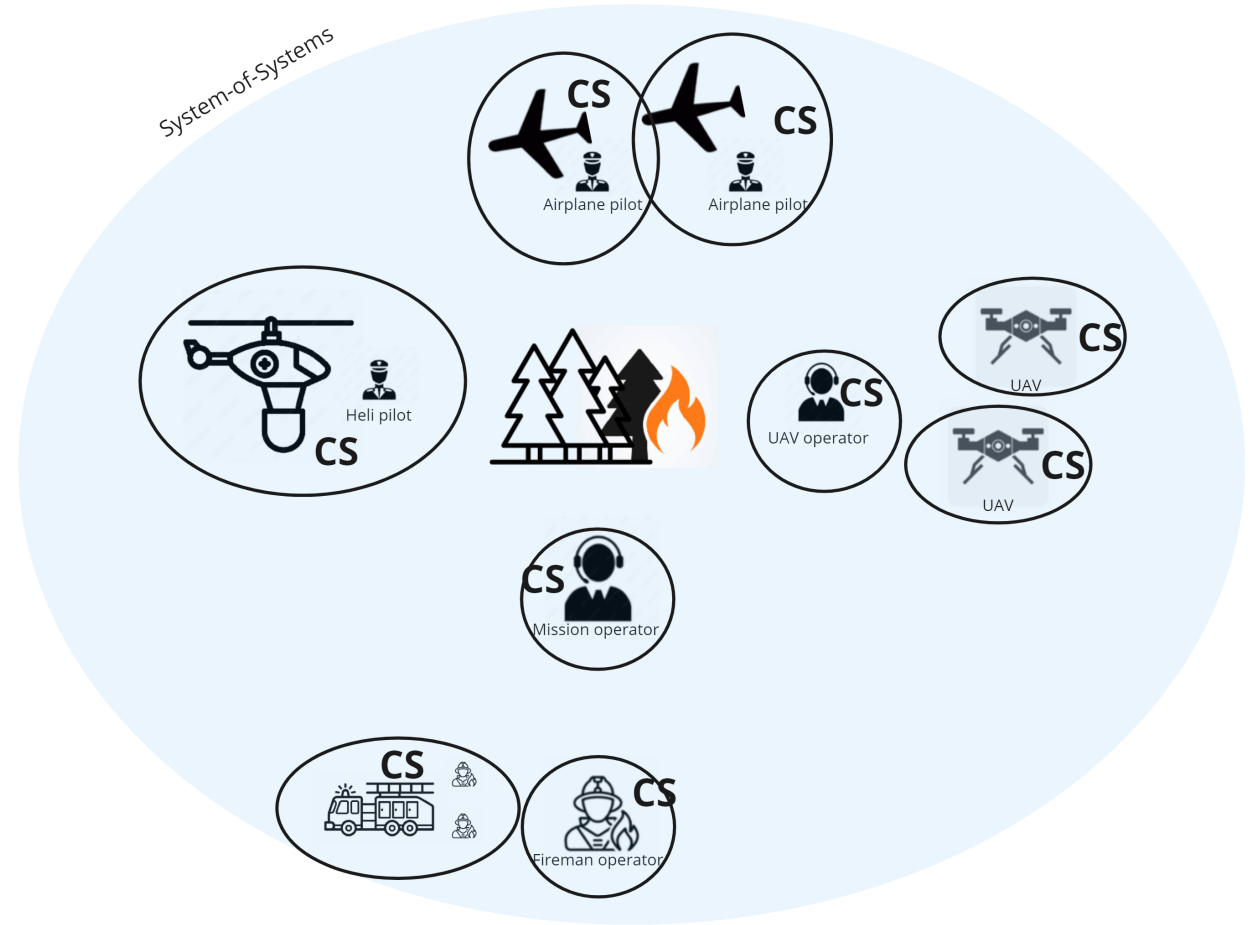
# Case Study

- Wild Fire Fighting - Directed
- Fictional

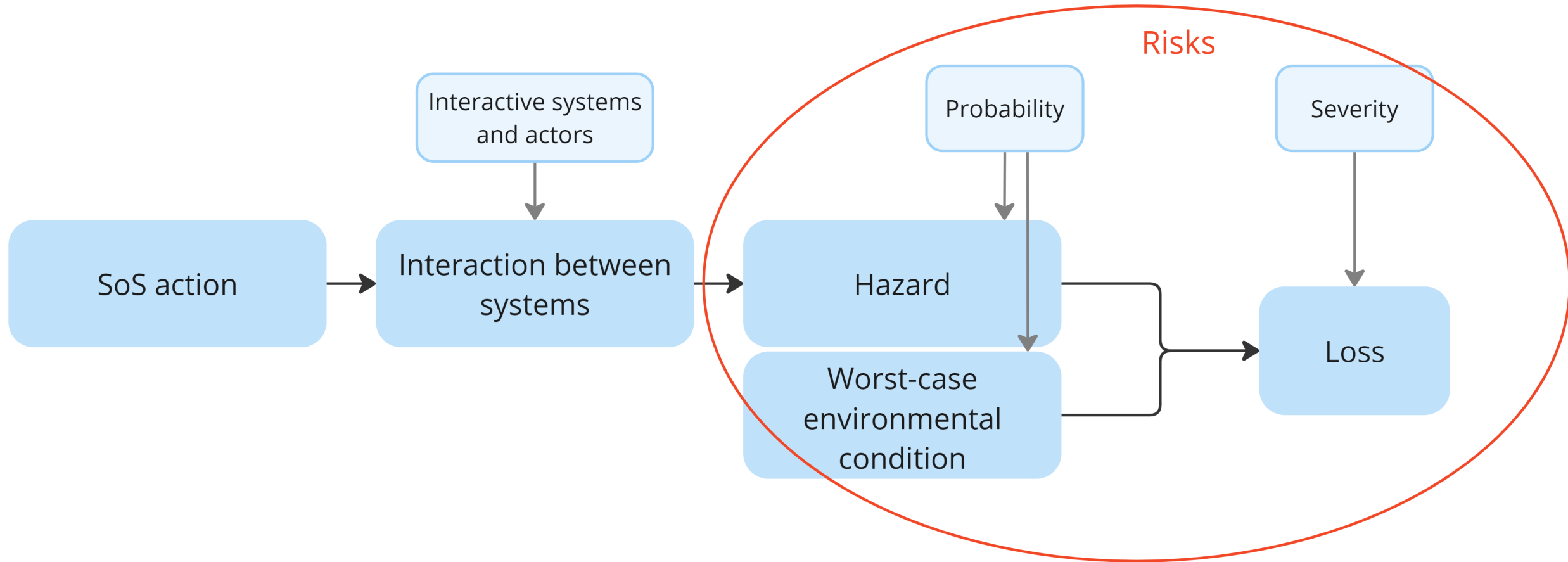


# Case Study

- Wild Fire Fighting - Directed
- Fictional



# Risks Definition



# Risk Assessment Method

1. Goal definition

- Purpose
- System in focus
- Depth of study
- Risk classification

2. Interaction analysis

- Actions
- Interacting systems
- Interactions

Output: Systems representation



3. Loss analysis

- Hazards
- Worst-case environmental conditions
- Losses
- Rank risks

Output: Risk matrix

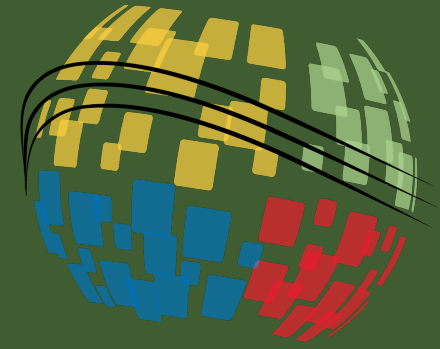


4. Hazard analysis

- Critical hazards

Output: Hazard network



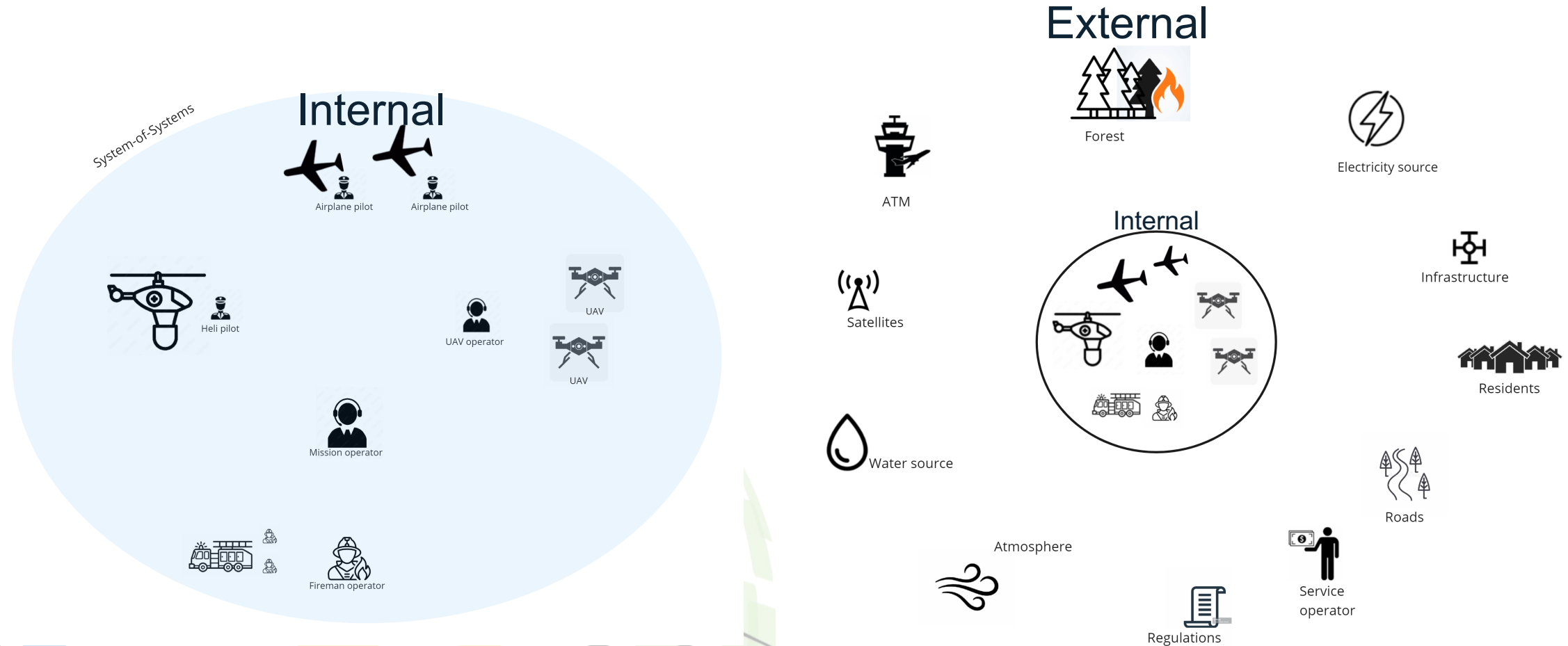


# Results Case Study – Internal and External Interactions of a Wildfire Fighting SoS

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# Internal and External Systems



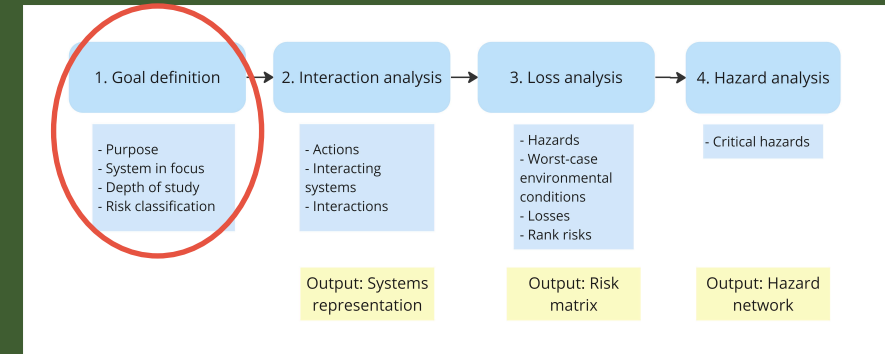
# Internal – 1. Goal Definition

**Purpose** – Do a risk assessment to plan operation execution in early stage.

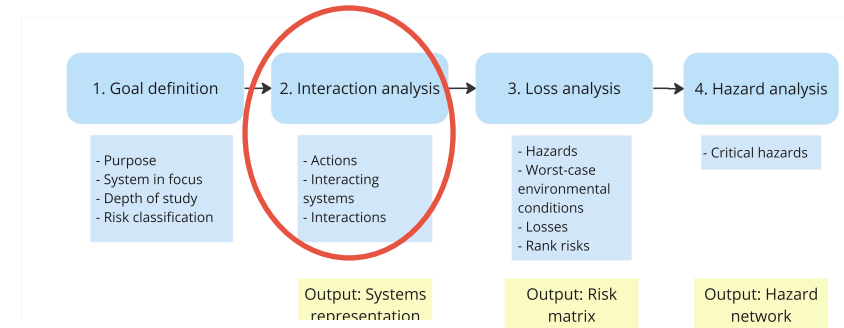
**System in focus** – Wildfire fighting SoS. 1 mission operator, 1 fireman operator and firemen, 1 helicopter with pilot, 2 airplanes with pilots, 1 UAV operator with 2 UAVs.

**Depth of study** – Direct effects.

**Risk classification** – mission delay, human causality, and material loss.

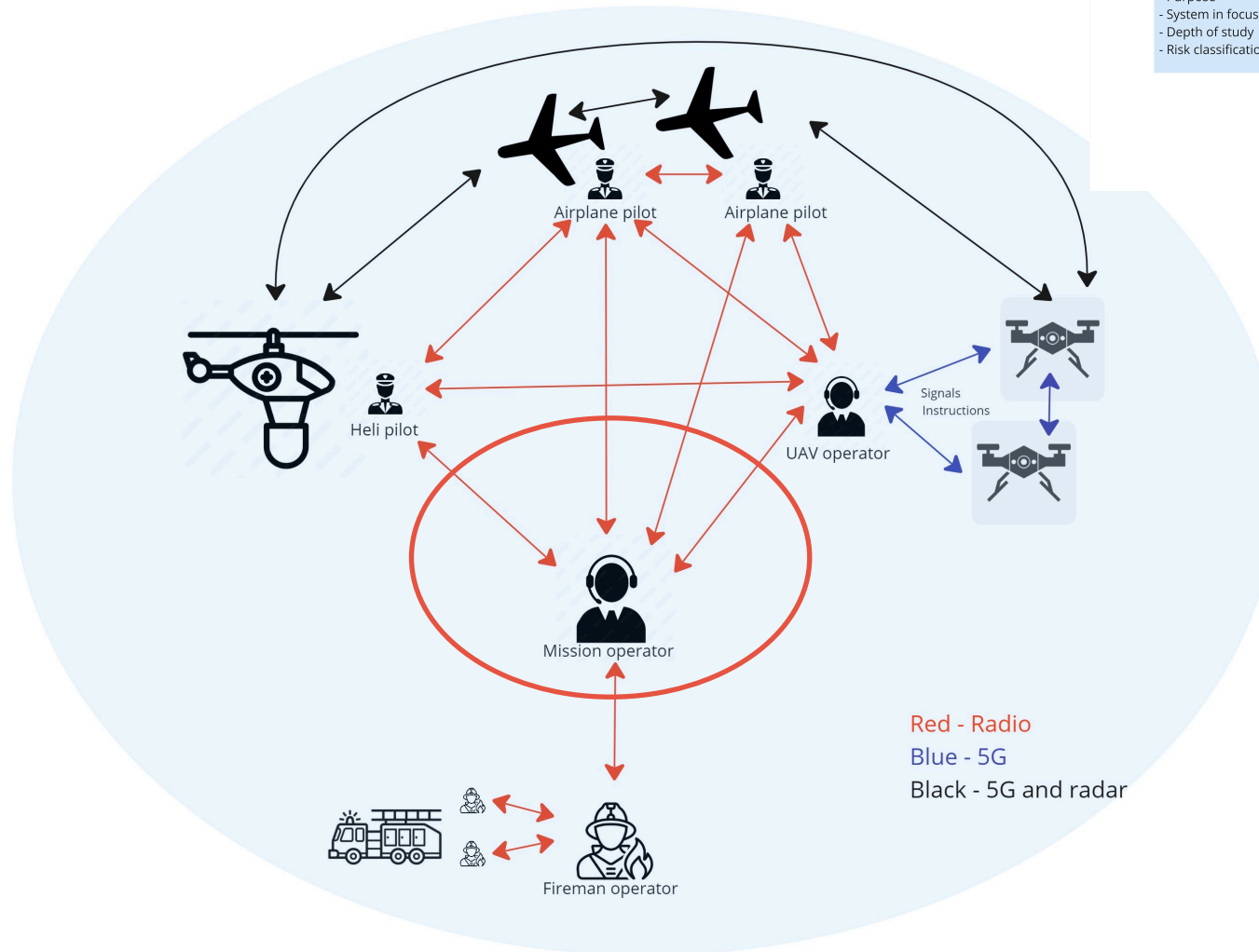
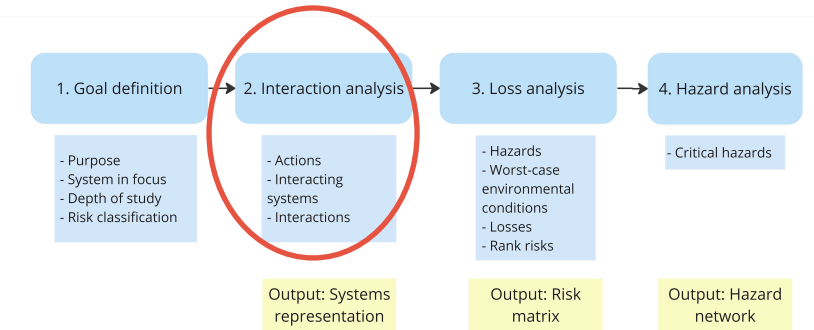


# Internal - 2. Interaction analysis

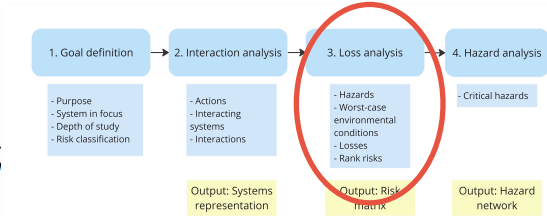


Action	Interactive actors and systems	Interaction
Mission operator gives instructions to active constituent systems	Mission operator, pilots, UAV operator and fireman operator	Radio
UAV operator gives instructions to perform to UAVs	UAV operator and UAVs	Software using 5G
The flying agents share location and uses radar to prevent crashes in a shared airspace	All aircrafts	5G and radar
The pilots and UAV operator communicates about fire state flying condition near the fire and about water dropping location	Pilots and UAV operator	Radio
Fireman operator gives instructions to firemen	Fireman operator and firemen	Radio

# Internal - 2. Interaction analysis



# Internal - 3. Loss analysis



Interaction	Interactive actor or system	Hazard	Type of hazard	Probability
Radio	Mission operator, pilots, UAV operator and fireman operator	1. Mission operator tells faulty instructions	Unwanted outcome of interaction	Medium
		2. Enters radio shadow	Disrupted interaction	Medium
	Pilots and UAV operator	3. Enters radio shadow	Disrupted interaction	Low
		4. Someone gives faulty information	Unwanted outcome of interaction	Low
	Fireman operator and firemen	5. Enters radio shadow	Disrupted interaction	Low
		6. Someone gives faulty information	Unwanted outcome of interaction	Low
Software using 5G	UAV operator and UAVs	7. Enter 5G shadow area	Disrupted interaction	High
		8. Software bug stops communication	Disrupted interaction behavior	High
5G and radar	All aircraft	9. Radar gives faulty information	Unwanted outcome of interaction	Low

## Keywords:

- Disrupted interaction
- Changed interaction behavior
- Unwanted outcome of interaction
- New interaction



# Internal – 3. Loss Analysis

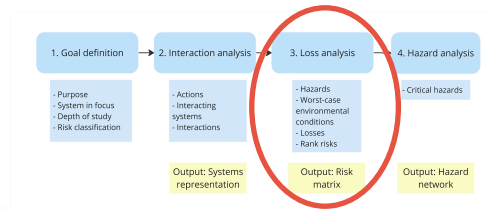
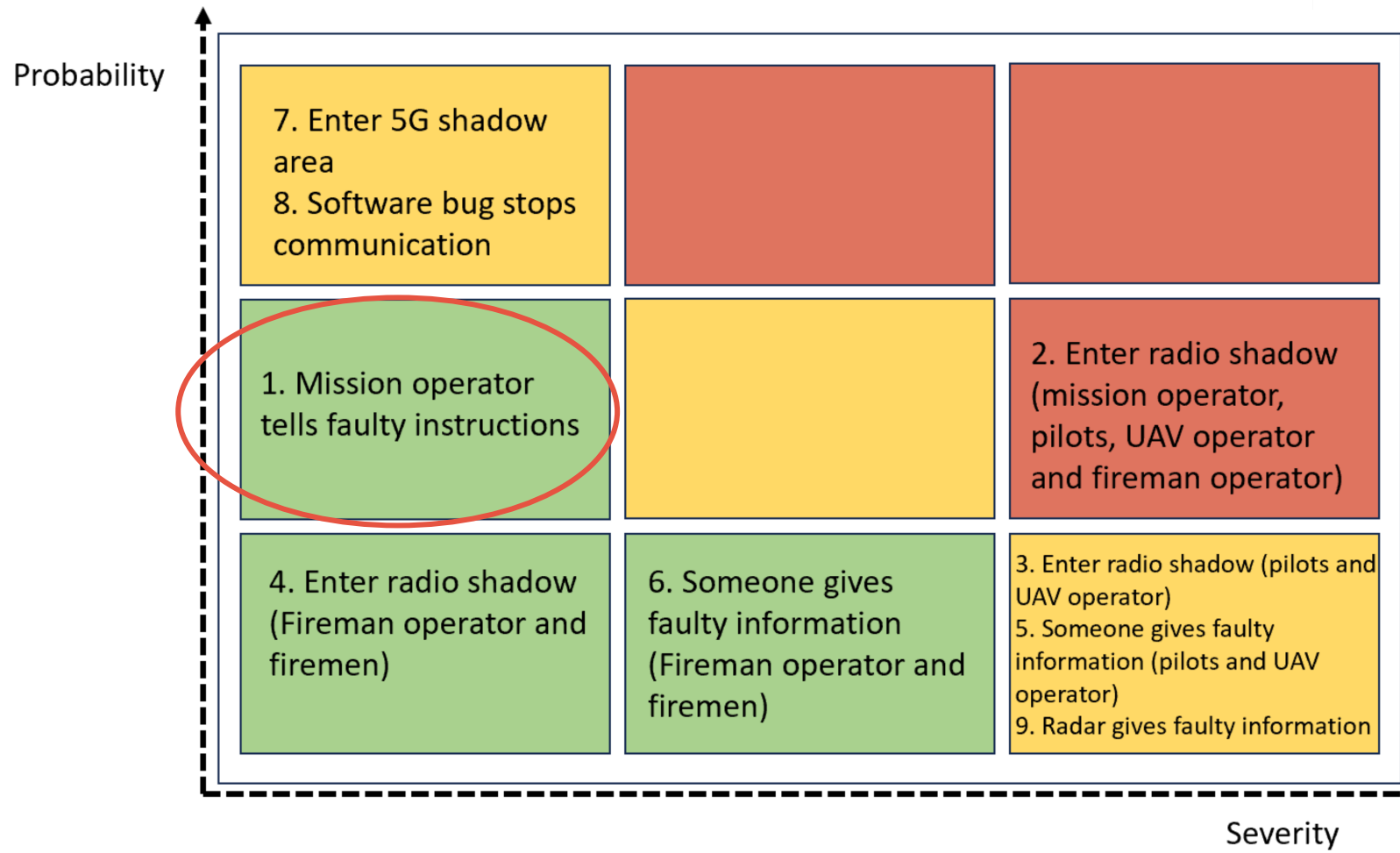
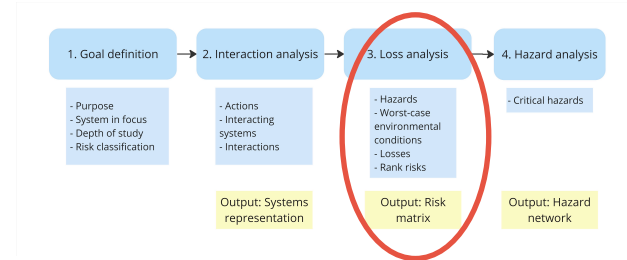


Table 4.3: Internal SoS hazards and environmental conditions leading to losses.

Nr	Hazard	Interactive actor or system	Worst-case environmental conditions	Loss	Severity
1.	Mission operator tells faulty instructions	Mission operator, pilots, UAV operator and fireman operator	Critical point of mission	Mission delay	Low
2.	Enter radio shadow	Mission operator, pilots, UAV operator and fireman operator	Aircraft are close to each other	Human causality, material loss	High
3.	Enter radio shadow	Pilots and UAV operator	Aircraft are close to each other	Human causality, material loss	High
4.	Enter radio shadow	Fireman operator and firemen	Critical point of mission	Mission delay	Low
5.	Someone gives faulty instructions	Pilots and UAV operator	Aircraft are close to each other	Human causality, material loss	High



# Internal – 3. Loss Analysis

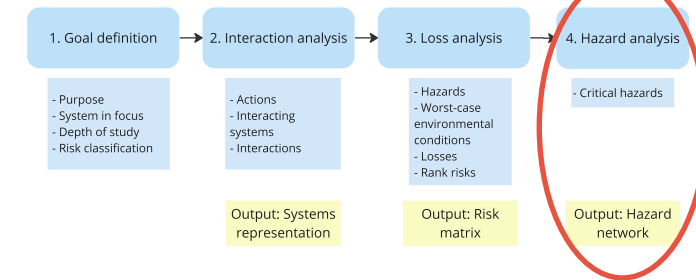
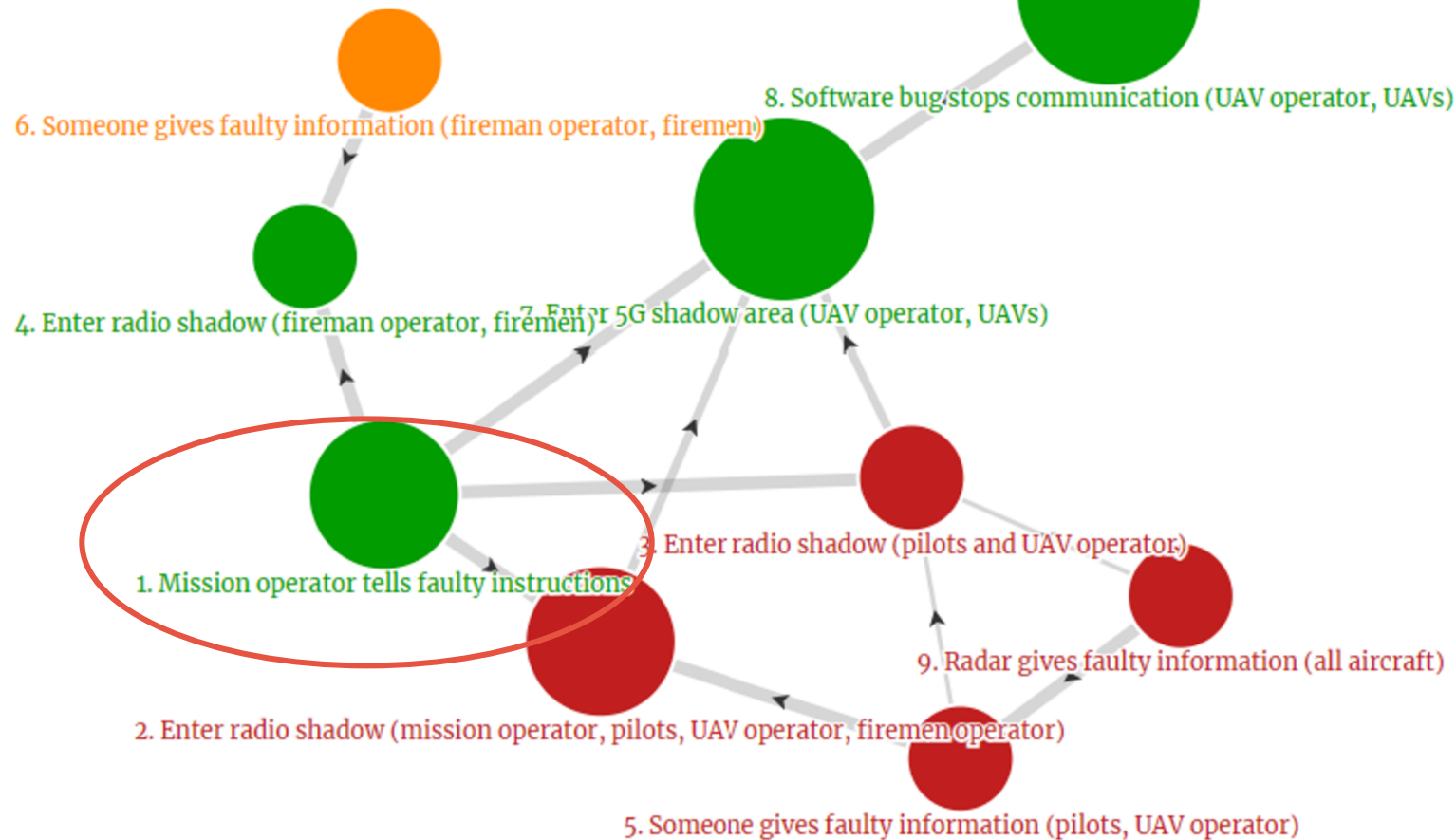


# Internal – 4. Hazard Analysis

Severity ● Low ● Medium ● High

Probability: Bubble size

Connection strength: Line thickness

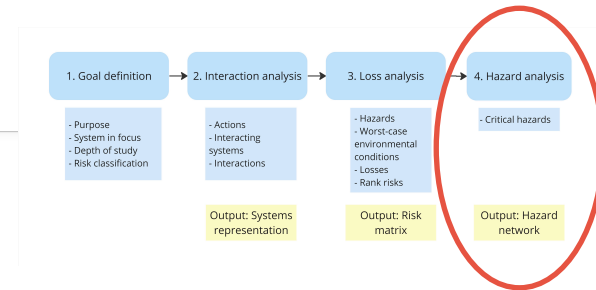
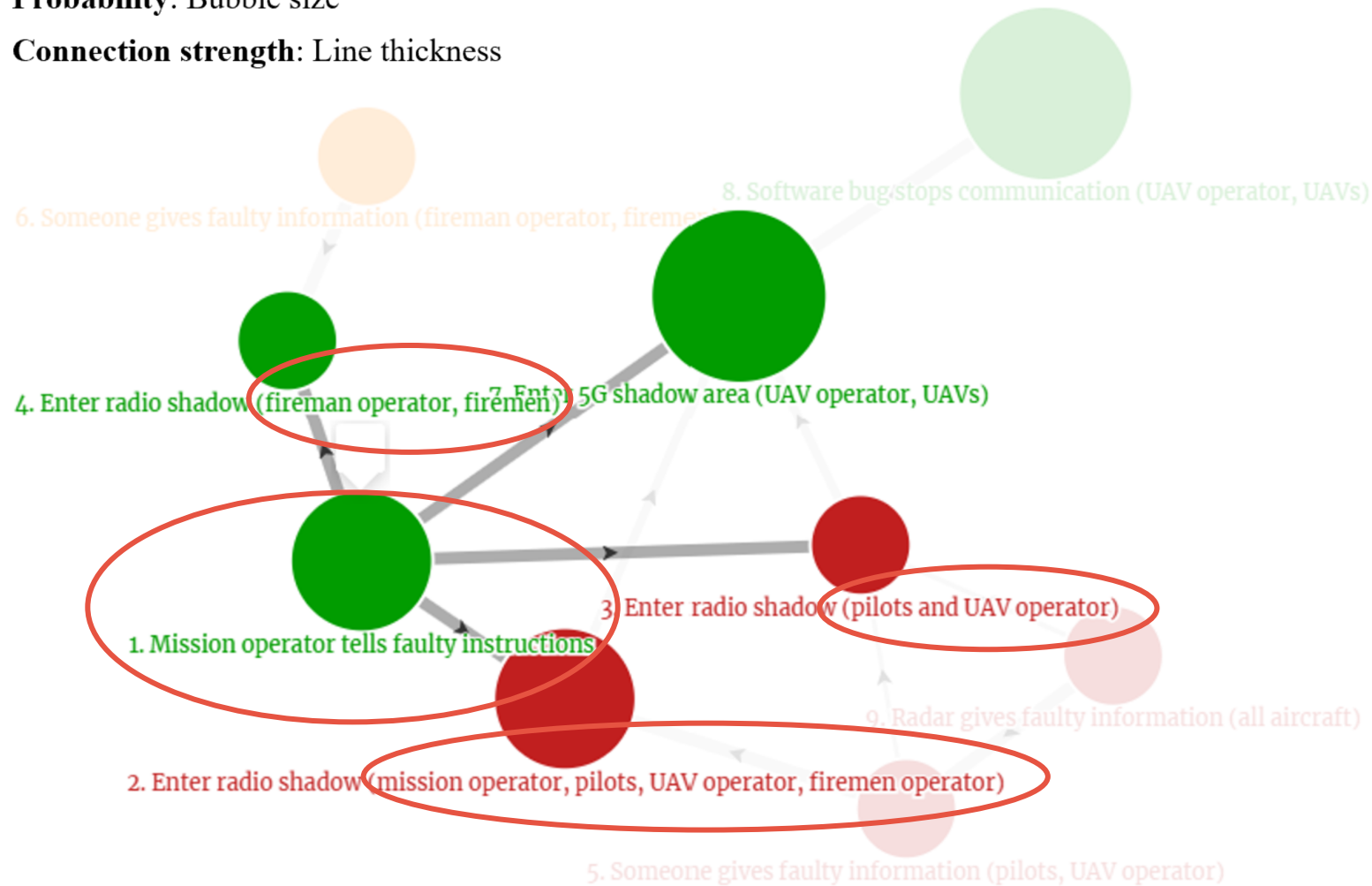


# Internal – 4. Hazard Analysis

Severity ● Low ● Medium ● High

### Probability: Bubble size

**Connection strength:** Line thickness



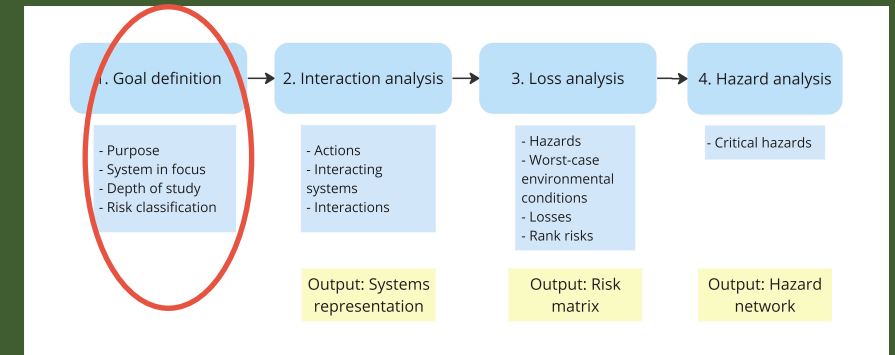
# External – 1. Goal Definition

Purpose – Do a risk assessment to plan operation execution in early stage.

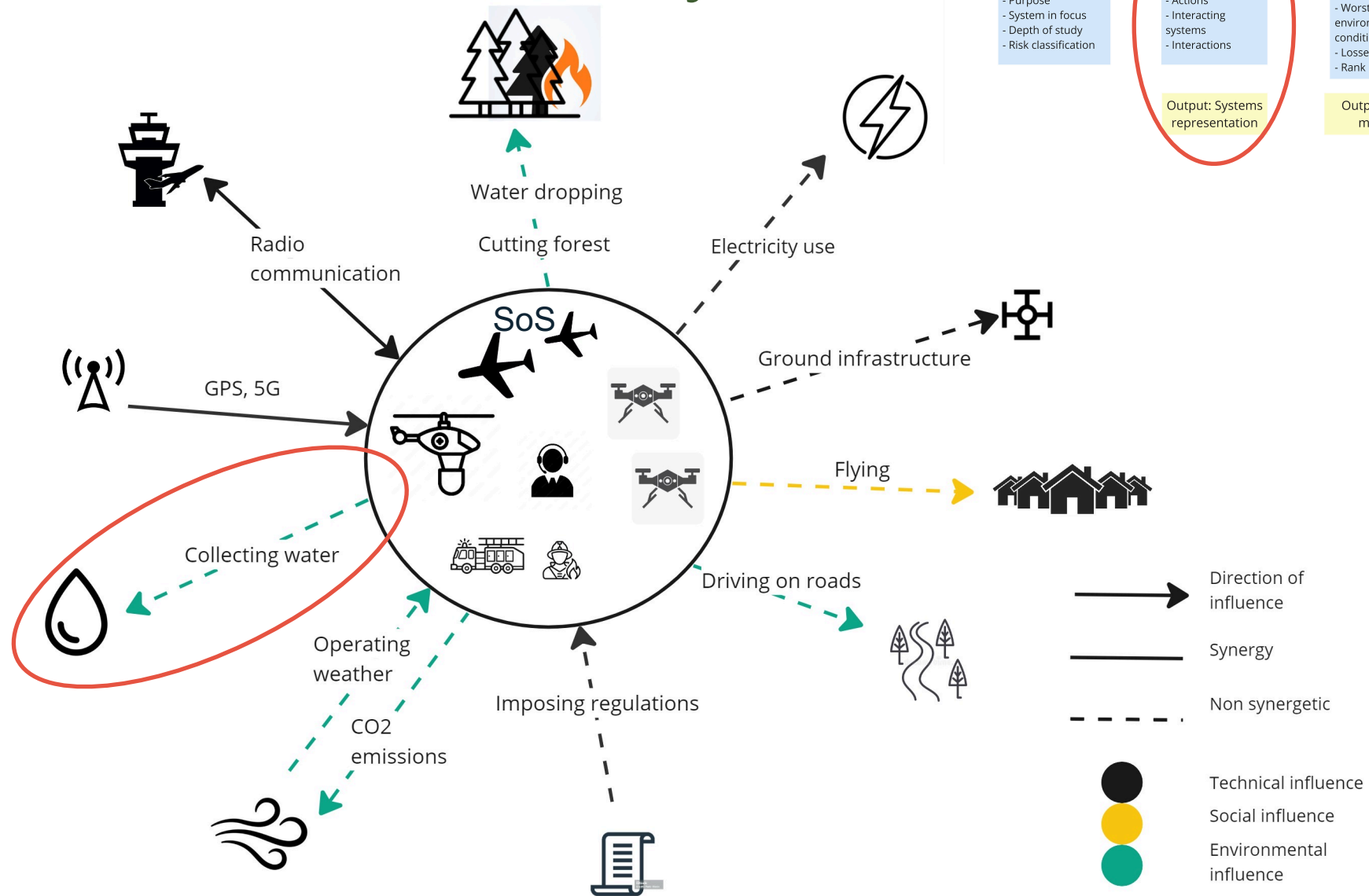
System in focus – Wildfire fighting SoS. 1 mission operator, 1 fireman operator and firemen, 1 helicopter with pilot, 2 airplanes with pilots, 1 UAV operator with 2 UAVs.

Depth of study – Direct effects.

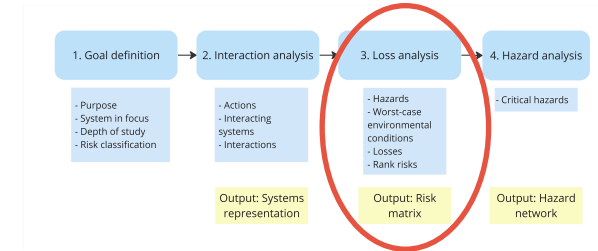
Risk classification – Mission, social, material, and environmental.



# External - 2. Interaction analysis



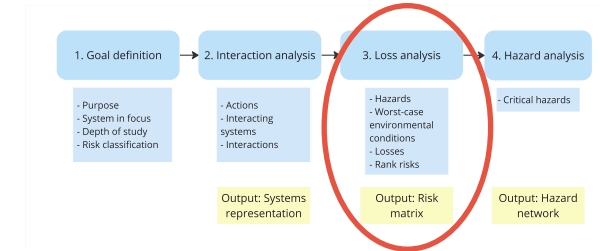
# External - 3. Loss Analysis



Interaction	Interactive actor or system	Hazard	Type of hazard	Probability
Aircraft using airport and vertiports, trucks drive on roads	Ground infrastructure	1. There is not enough ground infrastructure needed by the CSs	Disrupted interaction	Medium
CSs collect water	Water source	2. Water source gets depleted	Unwanted outcome of interaction	Low
		3. Lack of water sources	Disrupted interaction	Medium

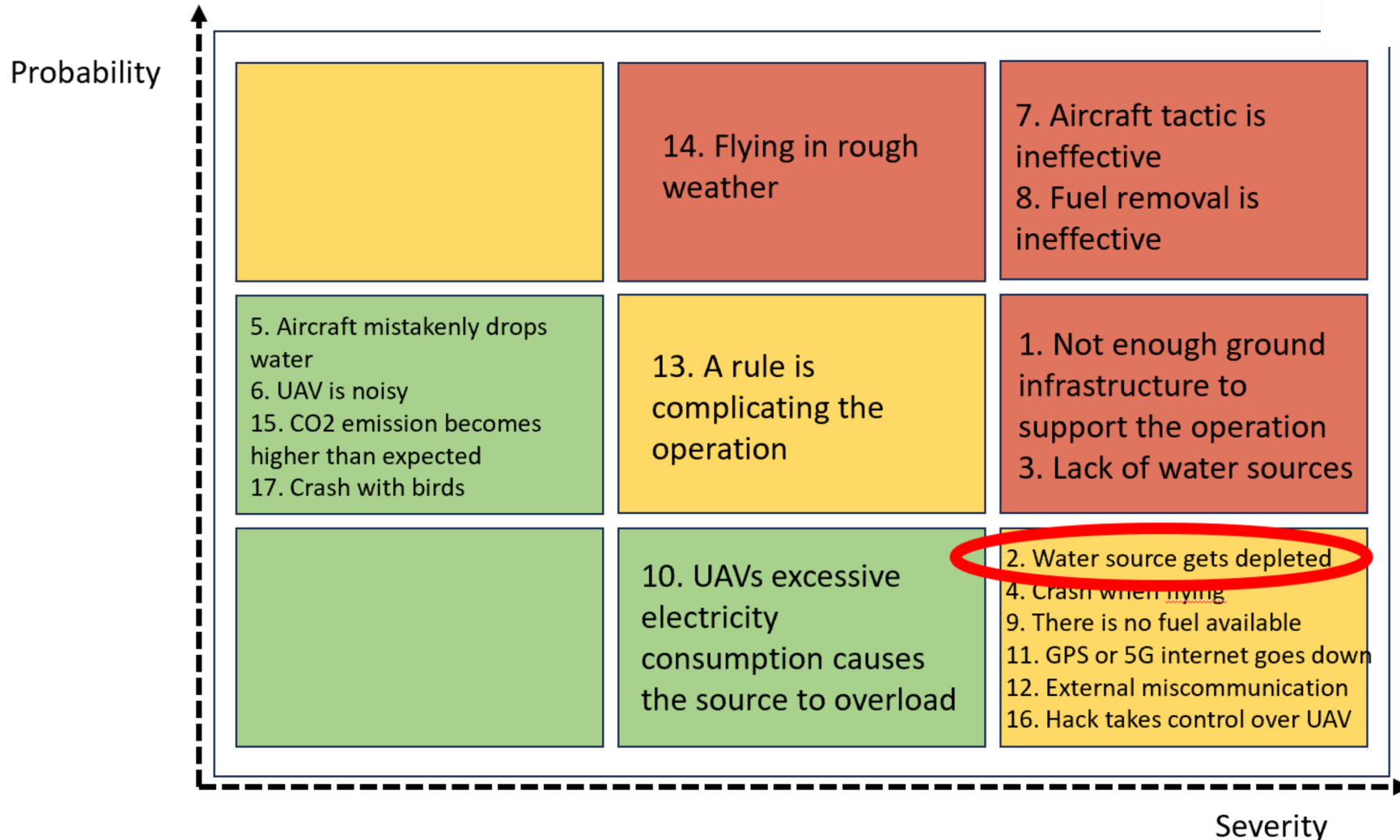
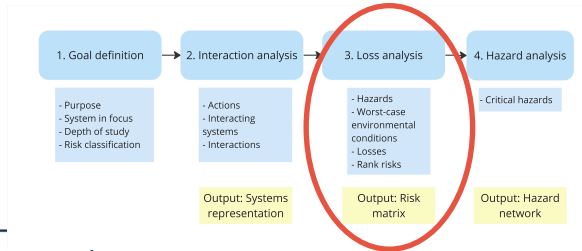


# External - 3. Loss Analysis



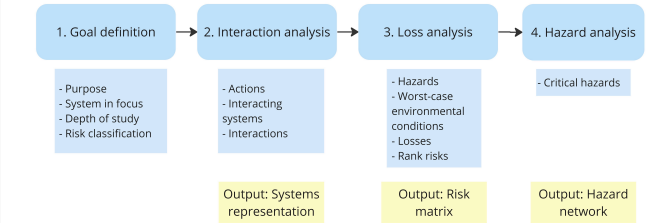
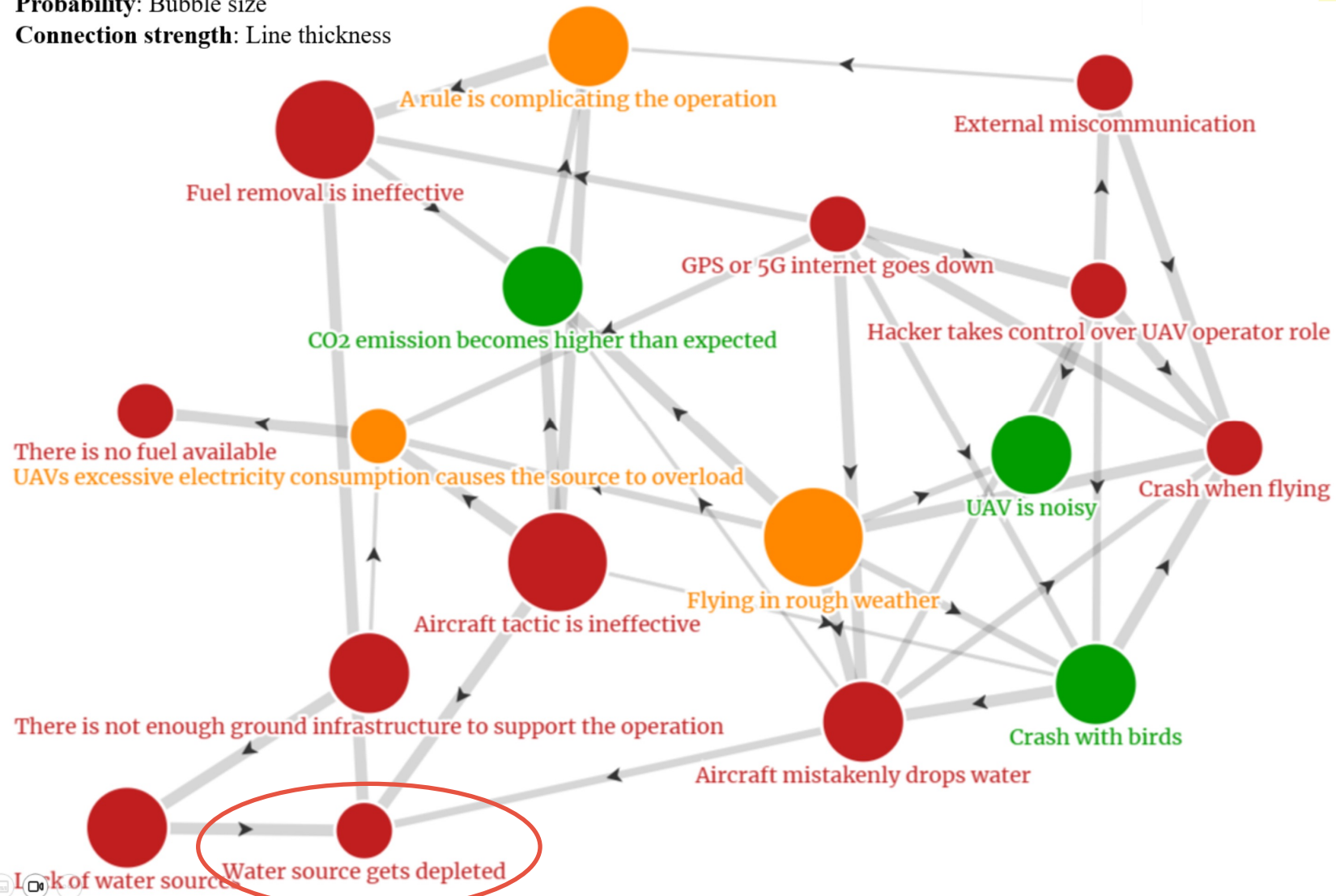
Nr	Hazard	External actor or system	Worst-case environmental conditions	Loss	Severity
1.	There is not enough ground infrastructure to support the operation	Ground infrastructure	Fireline is in inaccessible area	Mission	High
2.	Water source gets depleted	Water source	Other users are dependent on the same water source	Social	High

# External - 3. Loss Analysis



# External – 4. Hazard Analysis

Severity ● Low ● Medium ● High  
 Probability: Bubble size  
 Connection strength: Line thickness

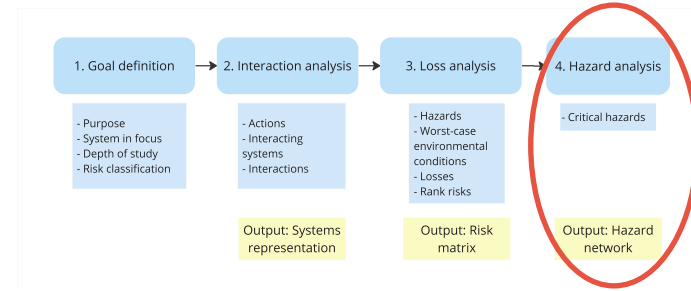
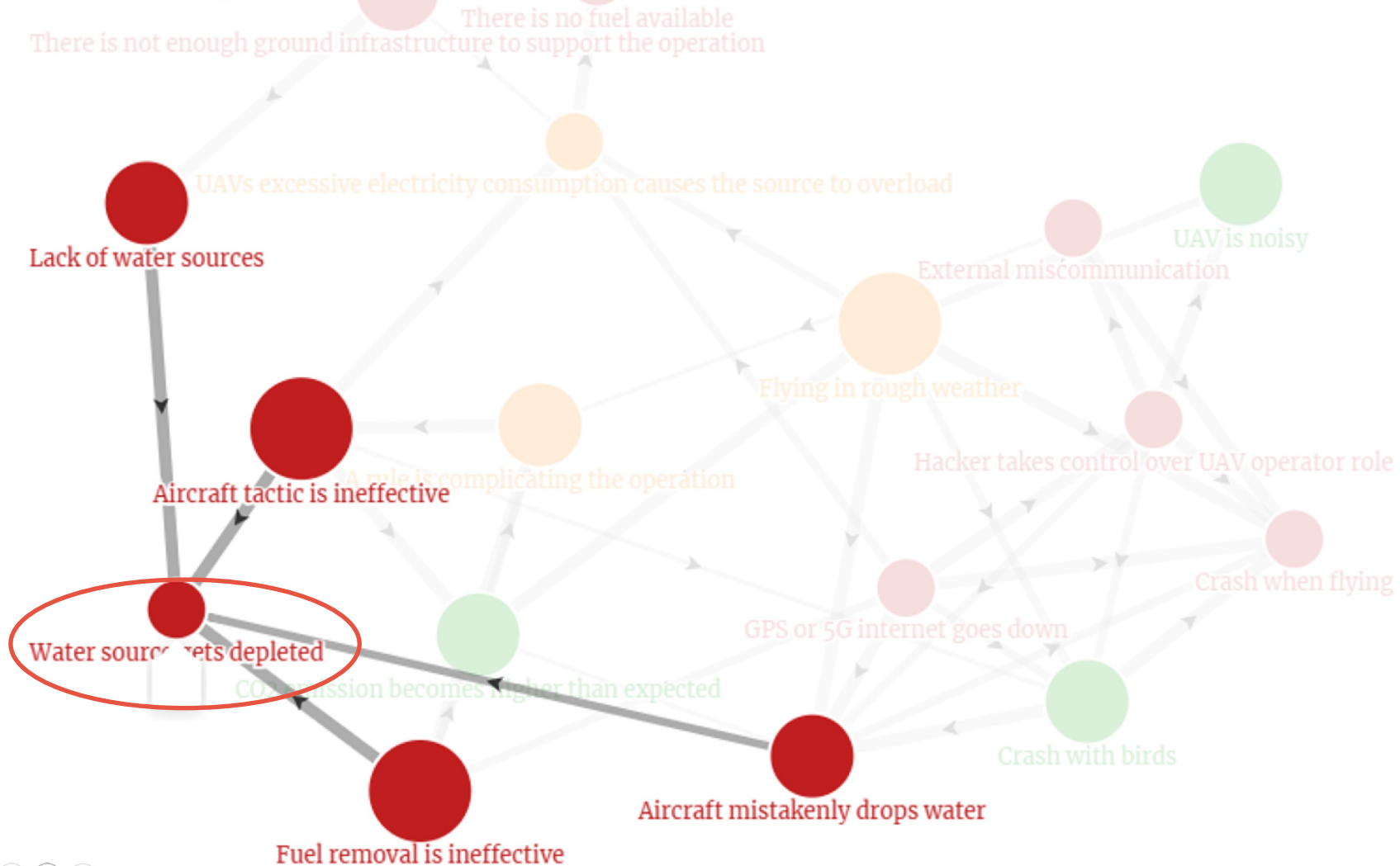


# External – 4. Hazard Analysis

Severity ● Low ● Medium ● High

Probability: Bubble size

Connection strength: Line thickness



# Discussion

Can be integrated  
with LCA for the  
use phase

The hazards can  
be identified with  
historic data or  
domain expertise

It is very broad and  
misses details

Cost-benefit  
analysis

Static model while  
SoSs are dynamic

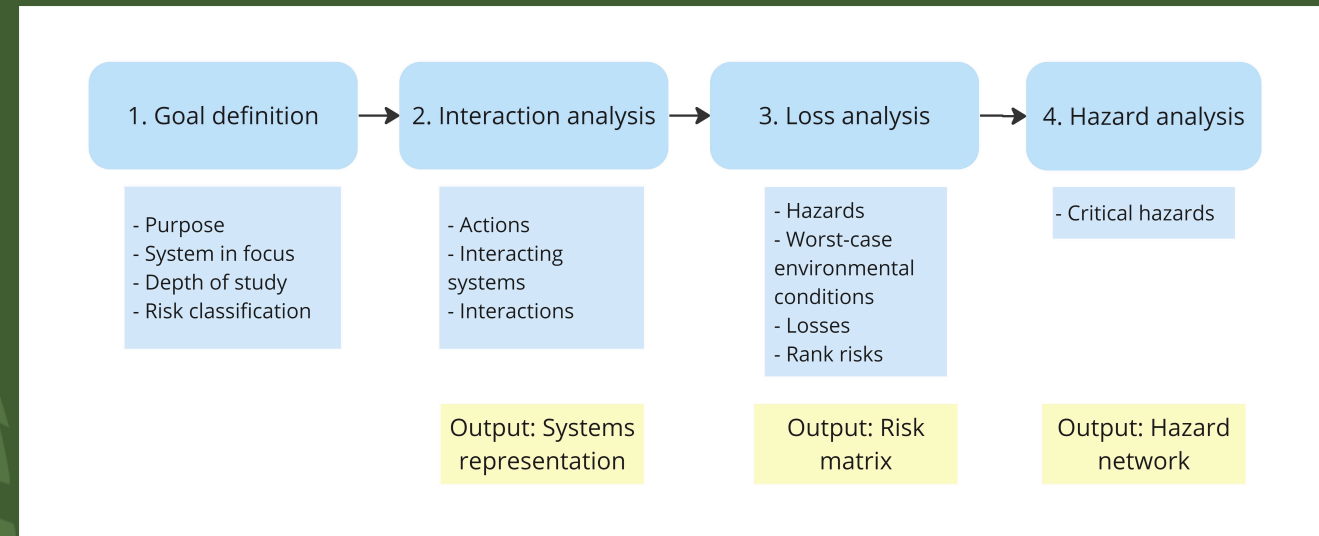
Connection between  
internal and external  
hazards



# Conclusion

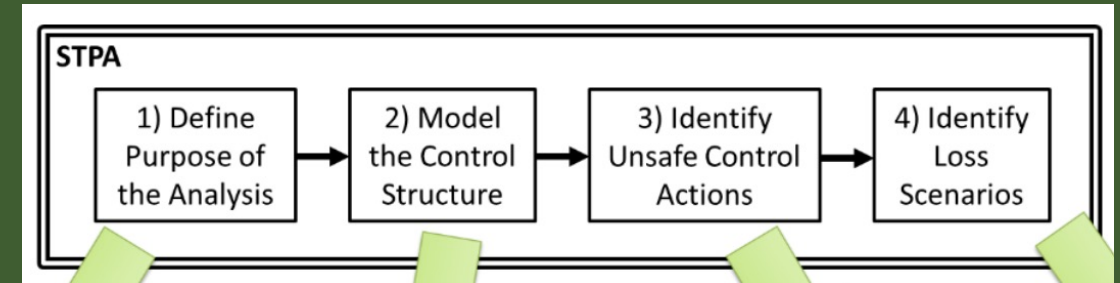
RQ: How can risks of a directed SoSs internal and external interactions be assessed at an early stage of SoS development?

- Using systems thinking
- Dividing interactions into internal and external
- Using system context diagram, risk matrix, and network analysis



# References and Similar Work

- Systems Theoretic Process Analysis (STPA) Nancy Leveson, John P Thomas, 2018
- Mark W. Maier. “Architecting principles for systems-of-systems”. In: Systems Engineering 1.4 (1998), pp. 267–284
- Towards a Risk Analysis Method for Systems-of-Systems Based on Systems Thinking (Jakob Axelsson, Avenir Kobetski, 2018)
- Gaya Herrington. How Schneider Electric’s climate risks interact. Schneider Electric Sustainability Research Institute, 2023







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# Questions

- What similar work is already done?

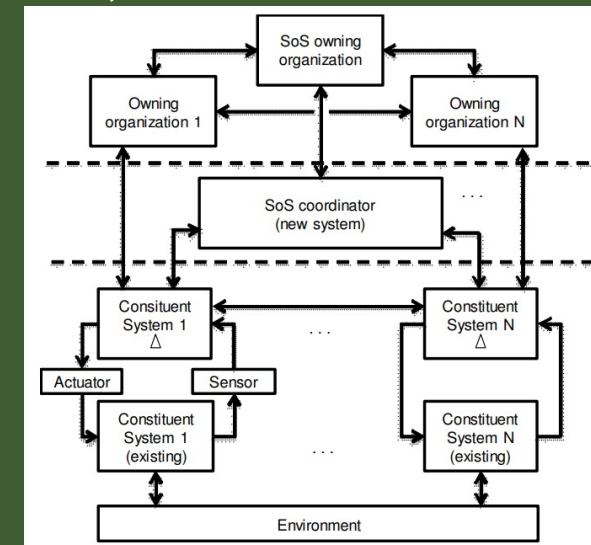
- Life Cycle Analysis – identifying environmental and social impact during product life cycles

- STAMP (System-Theoretic Accident Model and Processes) - using control theory to identify hierarchical risks

- STPA (System-Theoretic Process Analysis)

- HAZOP - Hazard and operability study keywords

- Towards a Risk Analysis Method for Systems-of-Systems Based on Systems Thinking (Jakob Axelsson, Avenir Kobetski, 2018)



# Questions

- What methodology did you do to conduct this work?

Literature review -> a lot of own intuition -> followed my own method

# Questions

- How was the information in the case study collected?

The information is not validated. It is just an example of how it could be.

It could be based on historical data and expertise knowledge.

# Questions

- How high certainty would the results have?

As high as extensive you did the analysis