



34th Annual **INCOSE**
international symposium

hybrid event

Dublin, Ireland
July 2 - 6, 2024



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Purdue University

Lifecycle of Accident Pathogens:
Common Systemic Factors in Construction System Accidents



Constructed systems everywhere



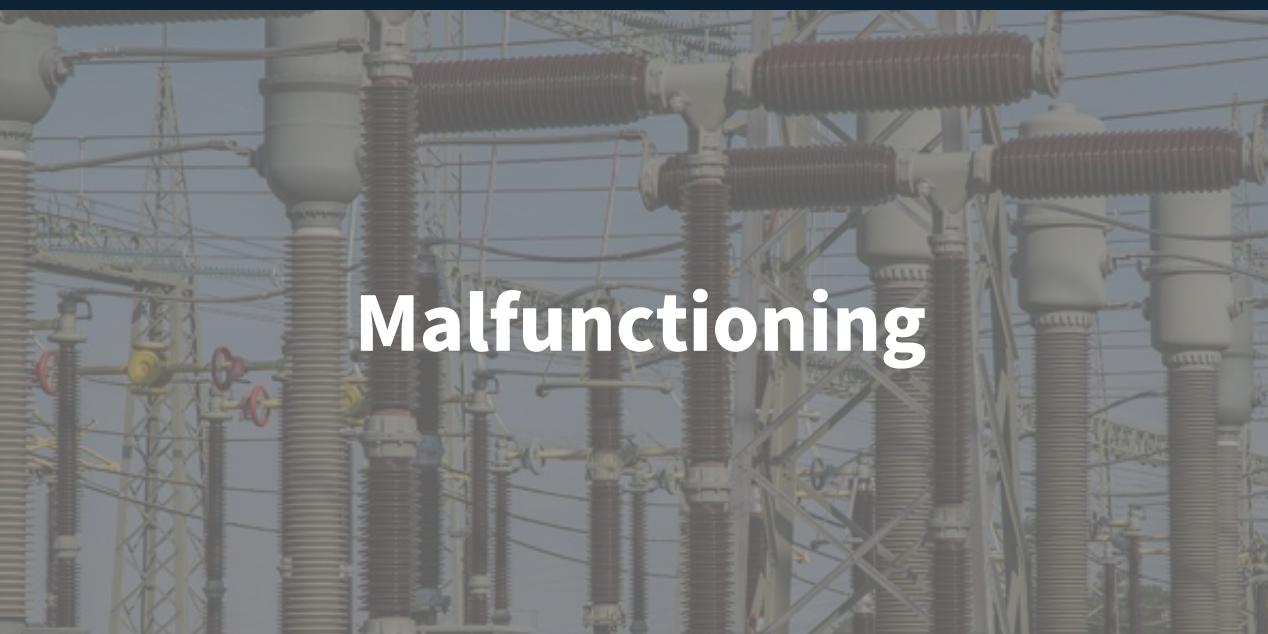


Quality defect



Structural failure

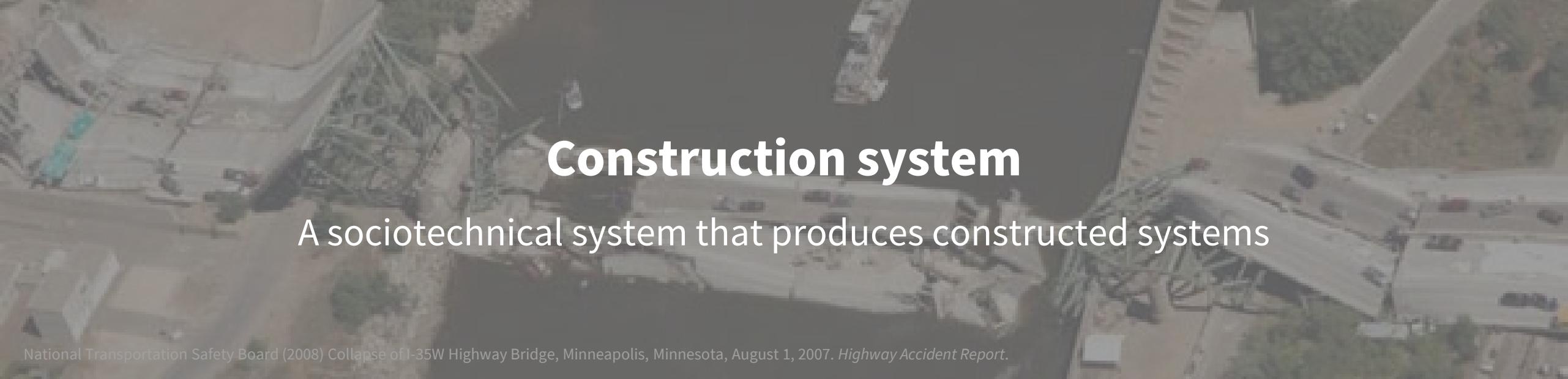
can fail in many ways



Malfunctioning



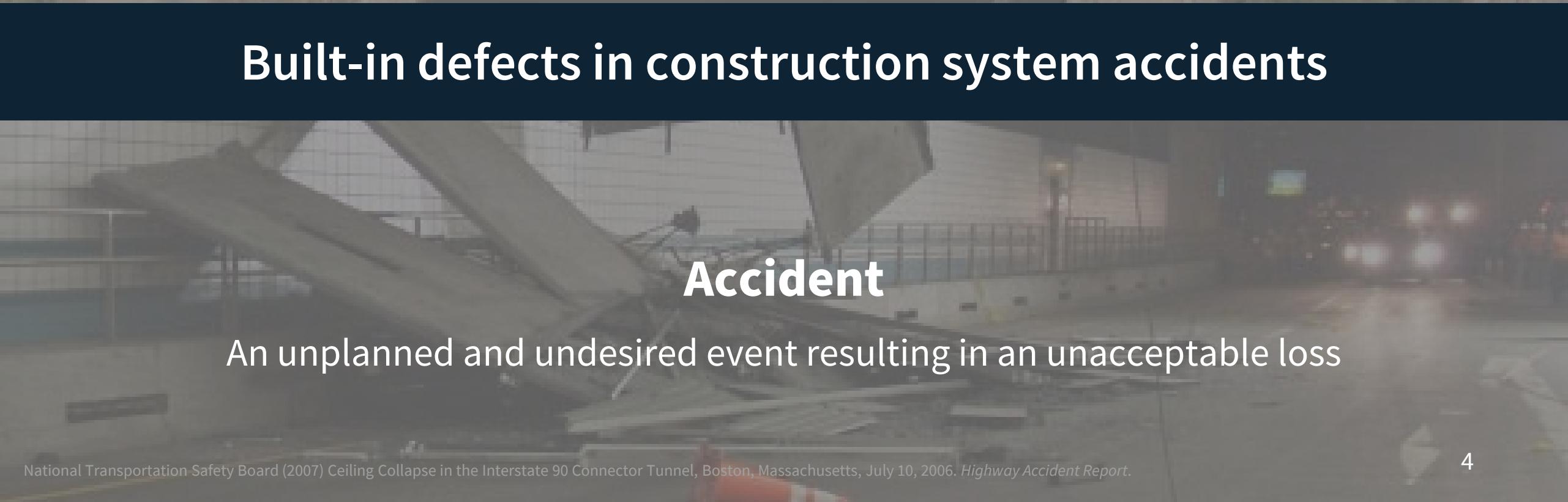
Uncontrolled release of energy



Construction system

A sociotechnical system that produces constructed systems

National Transportation Safety Board (2008) Collapse of I-35W Highway Bridge, Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 1, 2007. *Highway Accident Report*.

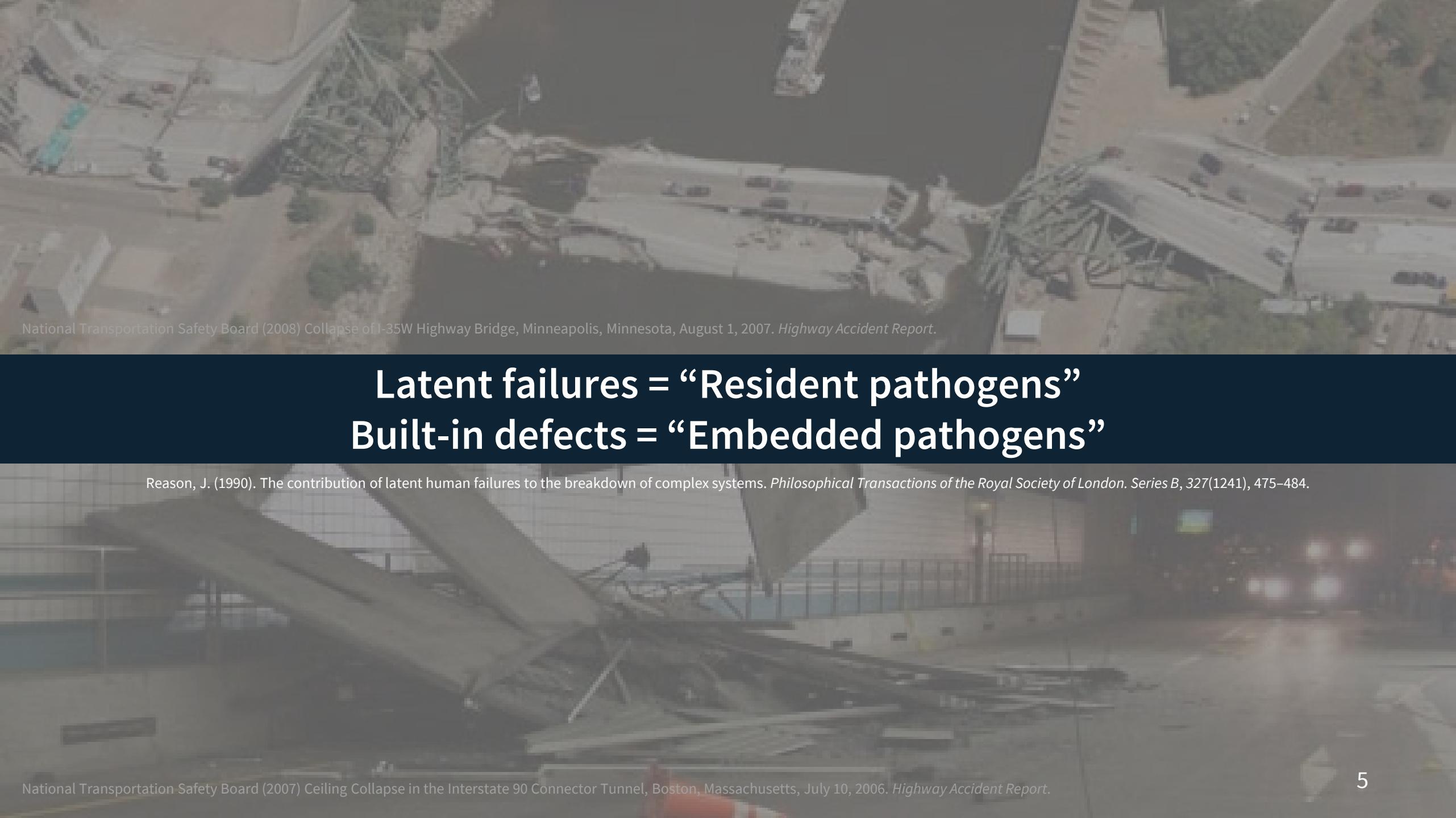


Built-in defects in construction system accidents

Accident

An unplanned and undesired event resulting in an unacceptable loss

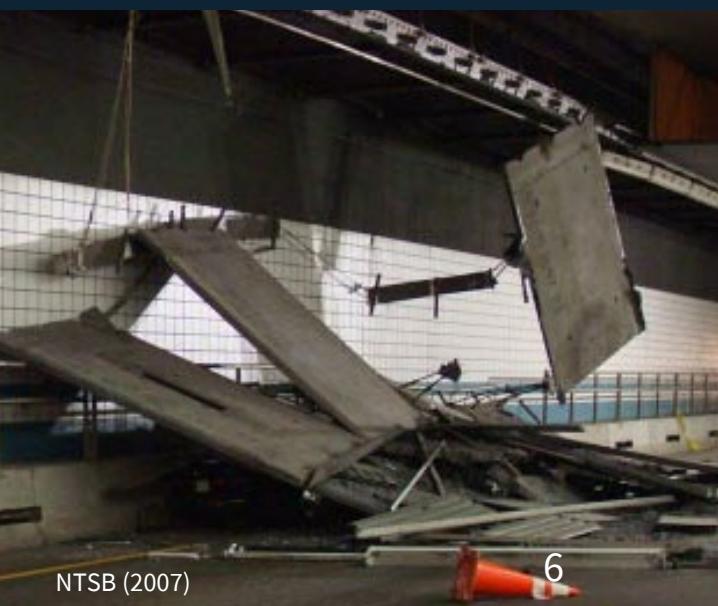
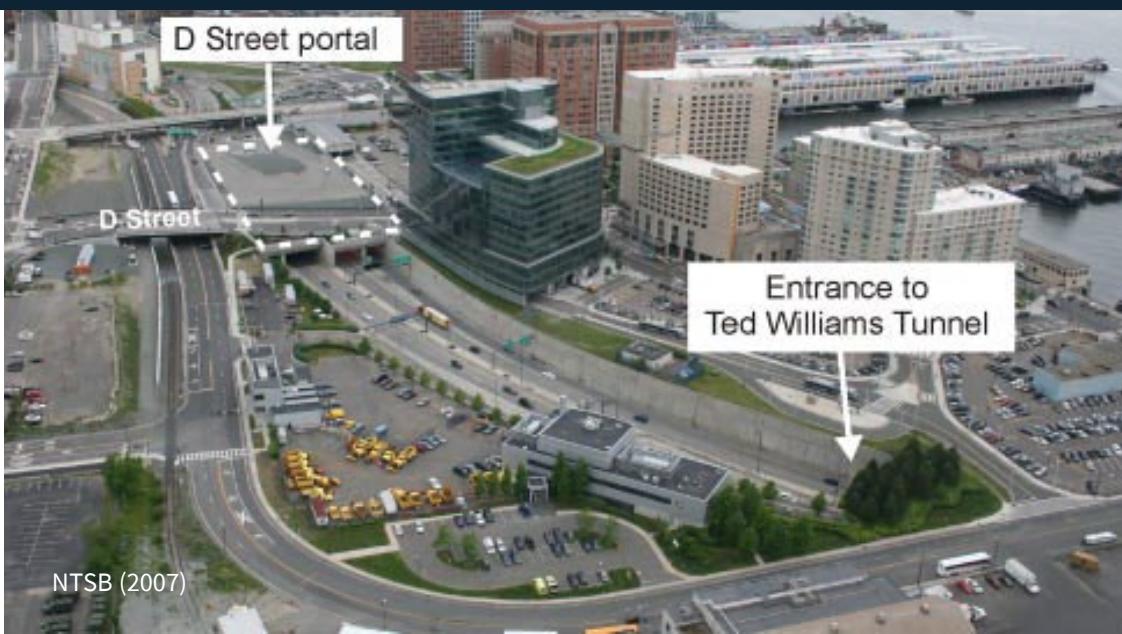
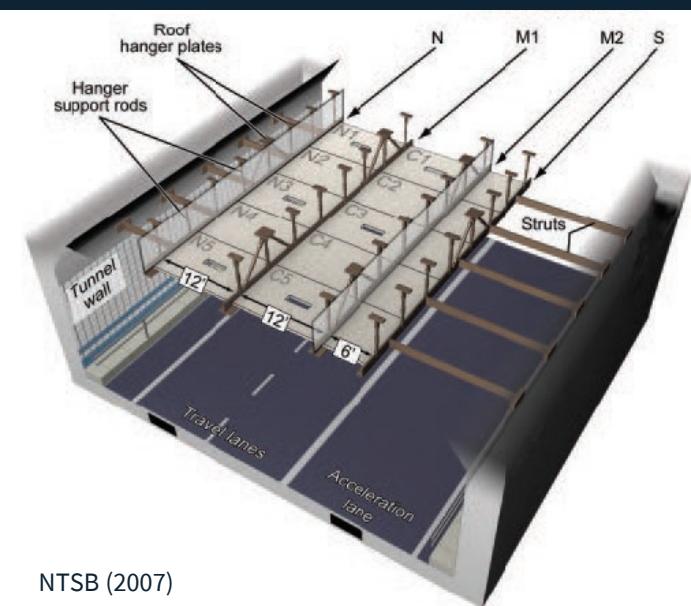
National Transportation Safety Board (2007) Ceiling Collapse in the Interstate 90 Connector Tunnel, Boston, Massachusetts, July 10, 2006. *Highway Accident Report*.



National Transportation Safety Board (2008) Collapse of I-35W Highway Bridge, Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 1, 2007. *Highway Accident Report*.

Latent failures = “Resident pathogens”
Built-in defects = “Embedded pathogens”

Reason, J. (1990). The contribution of latent human failures to the breakdown of complex systems. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B*, 327(1241), 475–484.

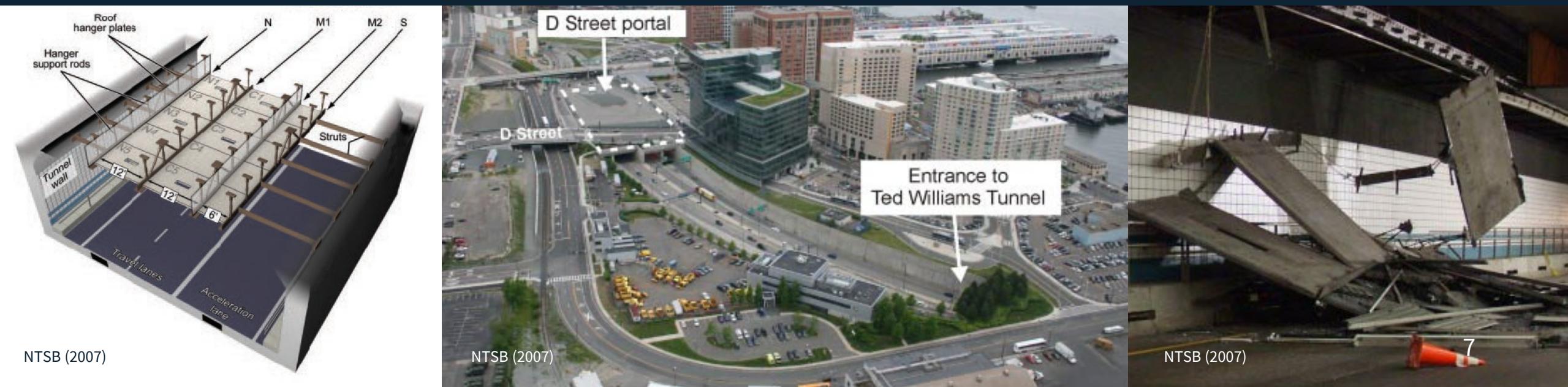




1967 ➤ 2007

2000 ➤ 2006

Embedded pathogens persisting through variable time spans



Difficulty of applying systems engineering

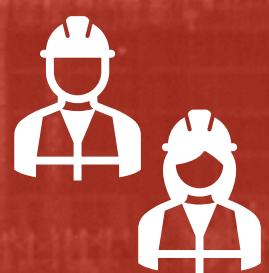
INCOSE Infrastructure Working Group (2012) Guide for the Application of Systems Engineering in Large Infrastructure Projects.

Complexity, dynamism, and ephemerality of construction project organizations

Difficulty of applying safety management concepts



**Government
Regulator
Industry**



**Company
Management
Individual workers**

**Limited applications of
systems perspective in the
construction safety literature**

**Perspectives and frameworks
in the system safety literature
(aviation, nuclear, etc.)
unfit for construction systems**

Accident causation models



- Abstractions of how accidents occur
- Underlie views on accidents in reports, investigations, and analyses

A large construction site featuring a tall, multi-story building under construction. The structure is covered in a dark, textured material, likely concrete or metal. Several construction cranes are visible, with their long arms extending across the site. One crane in the foreground is yellow, while others are grey or black. The sky is overcast and hazy. In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo for 'Cedars' with a stylized 'C' and 'D'.

Limited understanding of construction system accidents

Research objective

Use an accident model
tailored to
construction systems



Identify common patterns
in the lifecycles of
“accident pathogens”

Devise a systems-based framework
to understand the underlying mechanisms
of construction system accidents

Outline

- The accident causation model
- Sample accident cases
- Model application results
- Discussion & conclusion

Outline

- **The accident causation model**

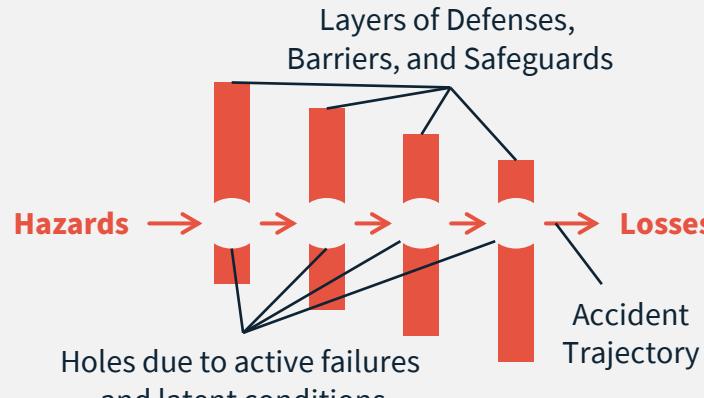
- Sample accident cases

- Model application results

- Discussion & conclusion

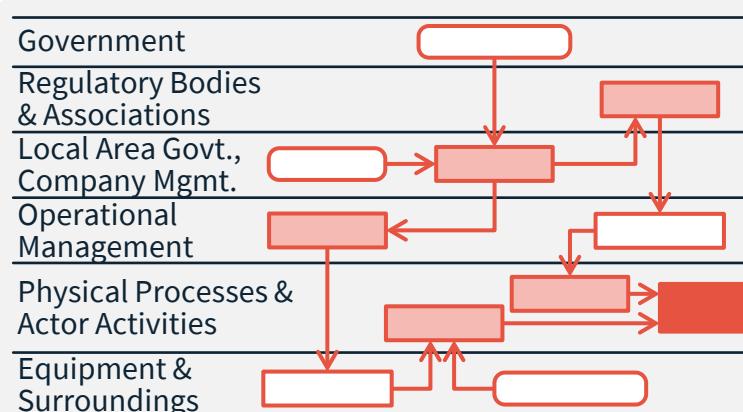
Existing accident causation models

Single direction



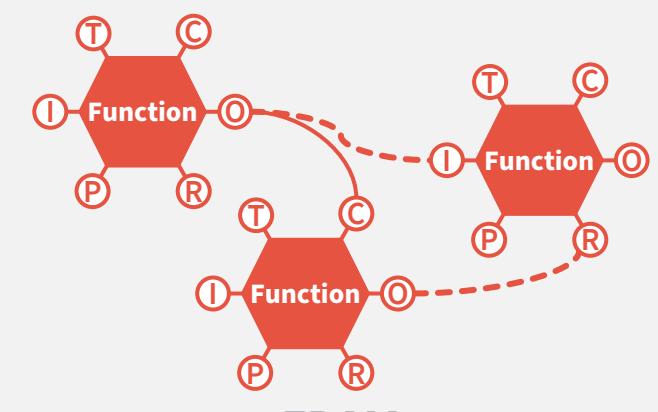
Swiss Cheese Model

Hierarchical



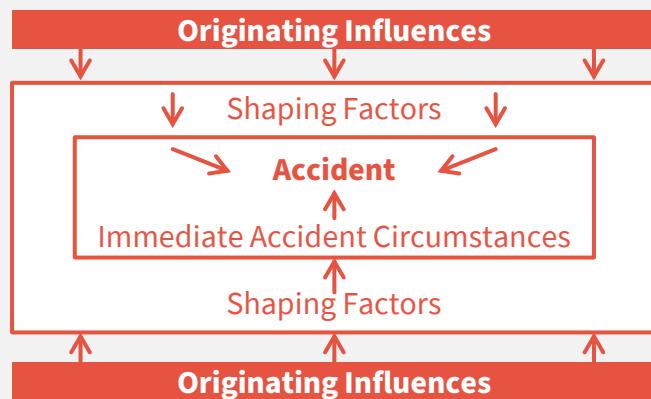
AcciMap

Network graph

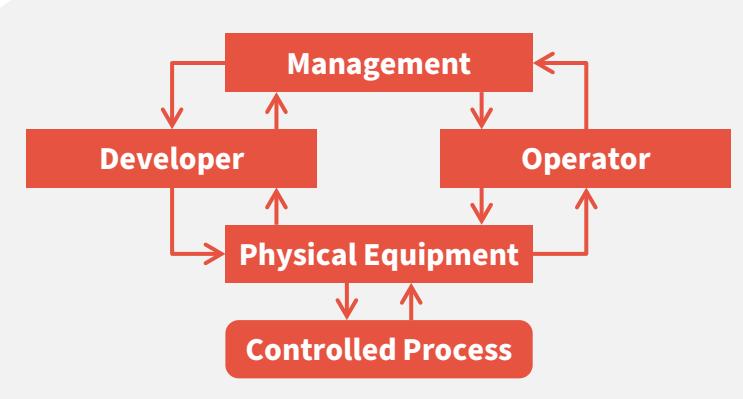


FRAM

(Functional Resonance Analysis Method)

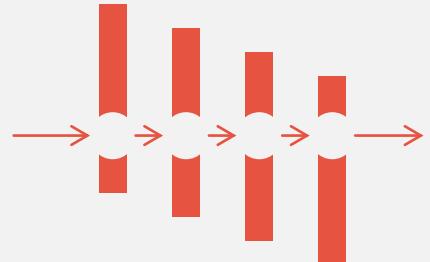


ConAC
(Construction Accident Causation model)

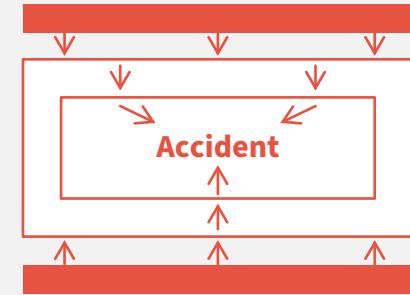


STAMP
(Systems Theoretic Accident Model and Processes)

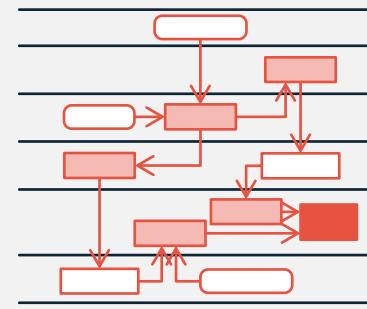
Existing accident causation models



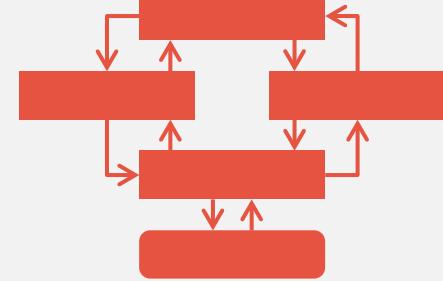
Swiss Cheese Model



ConAC



AcciMap



STAMP



FRAM

Time dimension

Dynamic organizational network structure



Project-based coalition of temporary multi-organizations

Embedded pathogens persisting over time



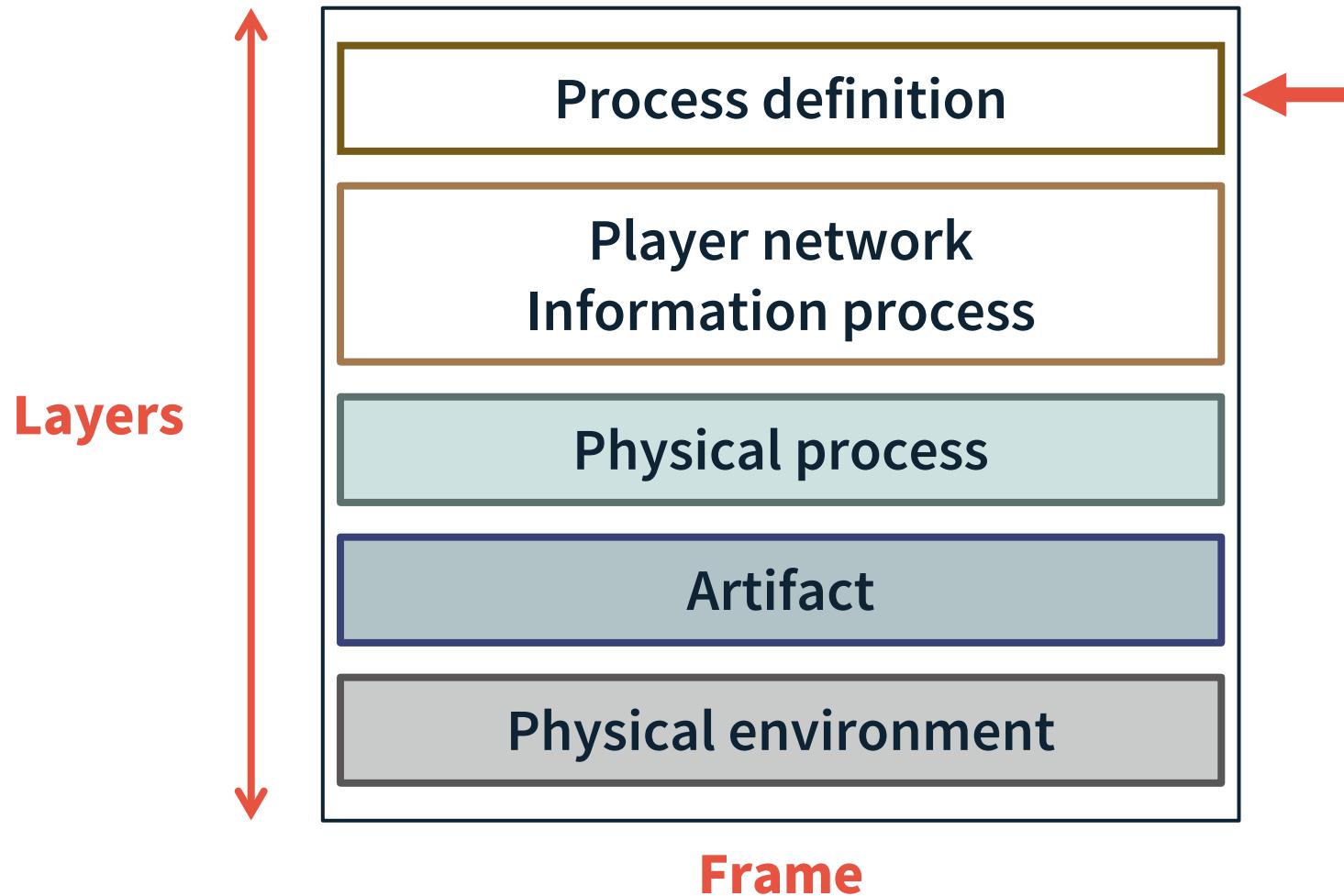
Inspection and maintenance work failing to remove the pathogen

Permanent vs. temporary quality control structure

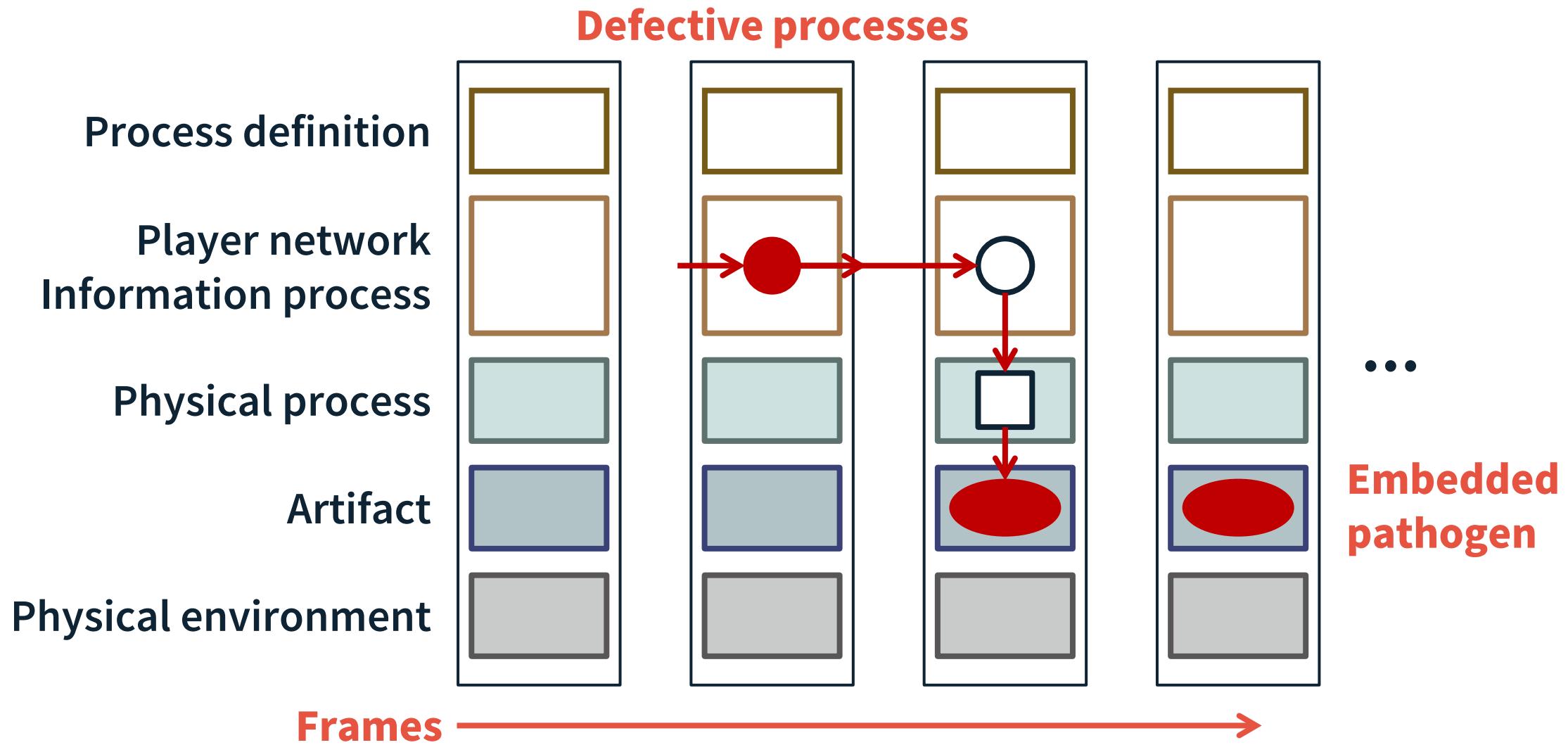


Regulatory/industrial standards vs. project-specific specifications

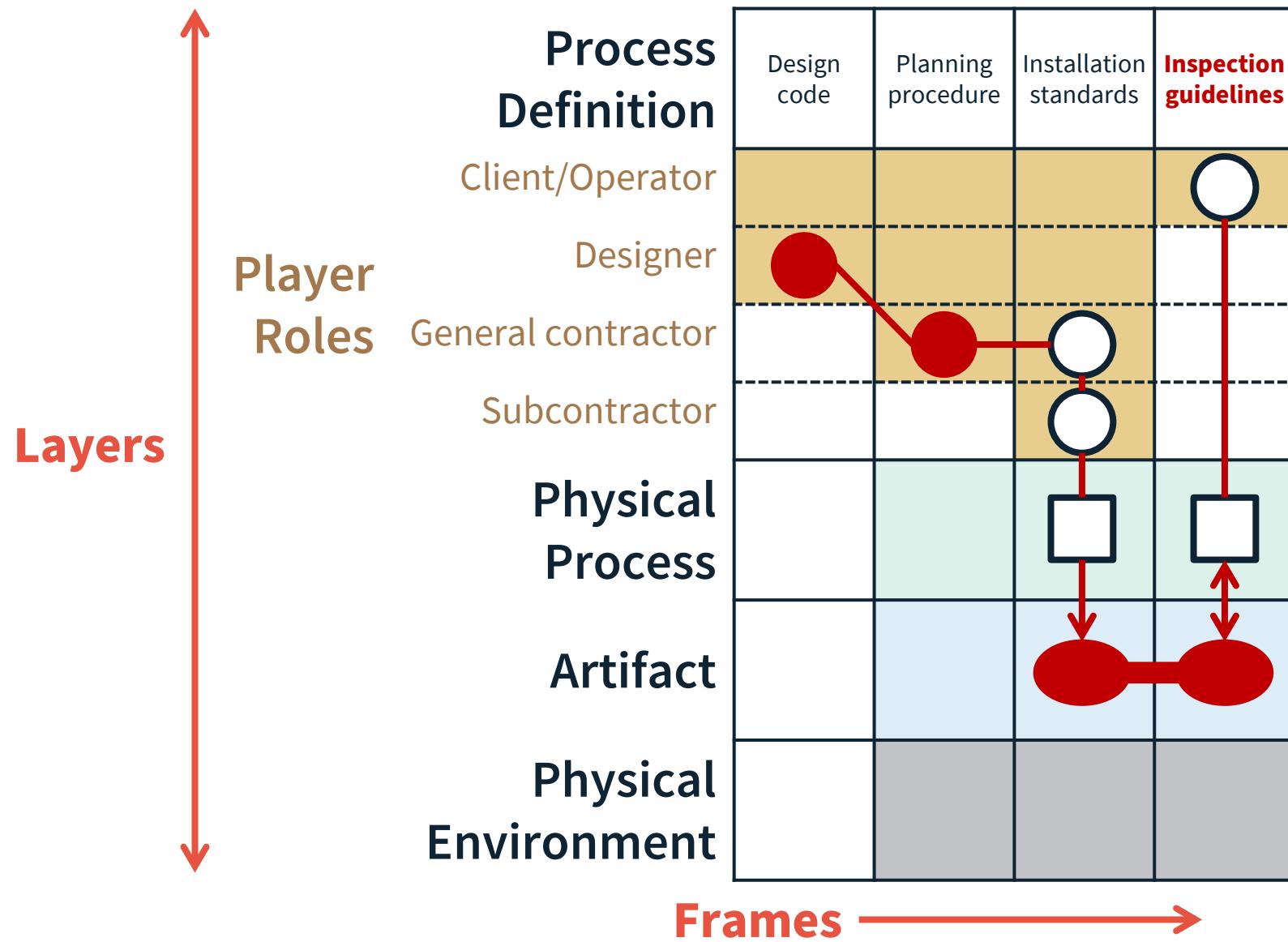
Framed-and-layered accident pathogen propagation model (FLAPP model)



Framed-and-layered accident pathogen propagation model (FLAPP model)



FLAPP Matrix



Inspection guidelines **Inadequate definition**

- **Incorrect process execution**
- **Wrong input executed correctly**
- **Installation of inadequate design**
- **Embedded pathogen**
- ↔ **Inadequate feedback**



FLAPP Matrix demonstration

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

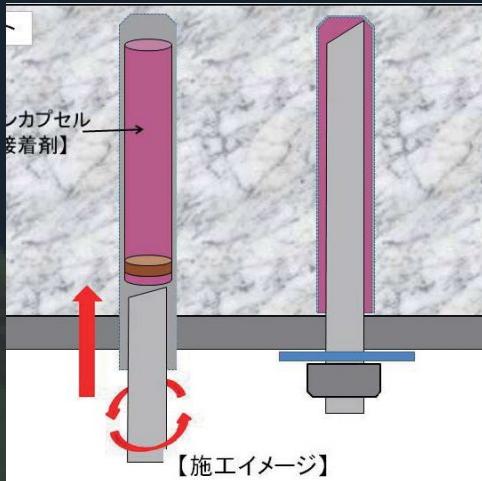
Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

Yamanashi, Japan

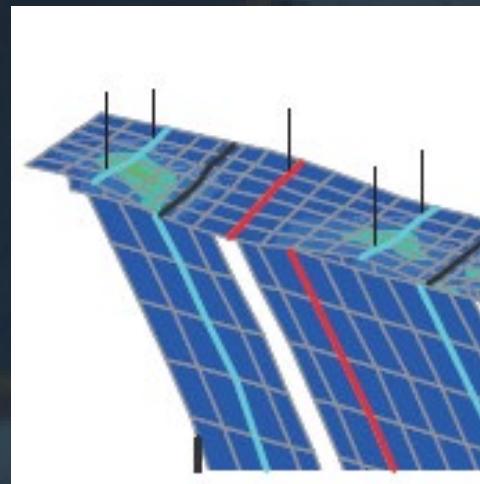
Completed & opened to traffic in 1977

A 130-m section of ceiling panels collapsed on December 2, 2012

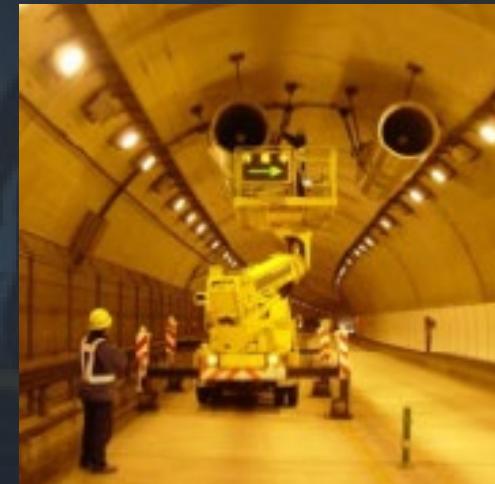
9 fatalities, 2 injuries



Degradation of anchor bolt adhesives



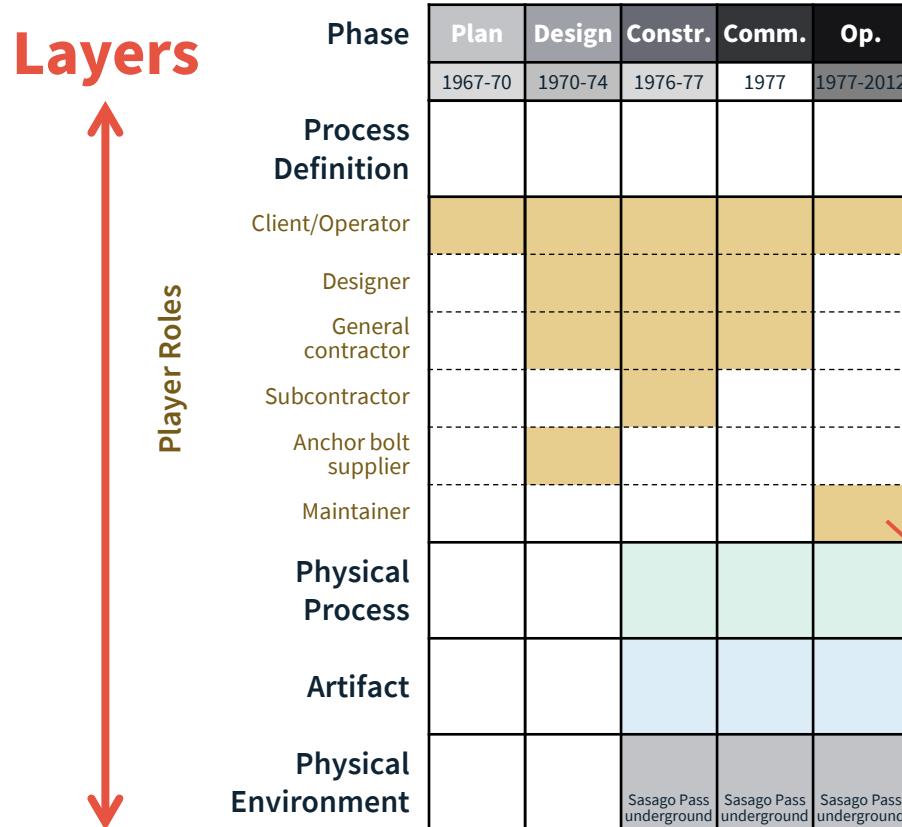
Calculation error of load distribution



No acoustic inspection for >10 years

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

FLAPP Matrix



Project phases

- Planning
- Design
- Construction
- Commissioning
- Operation

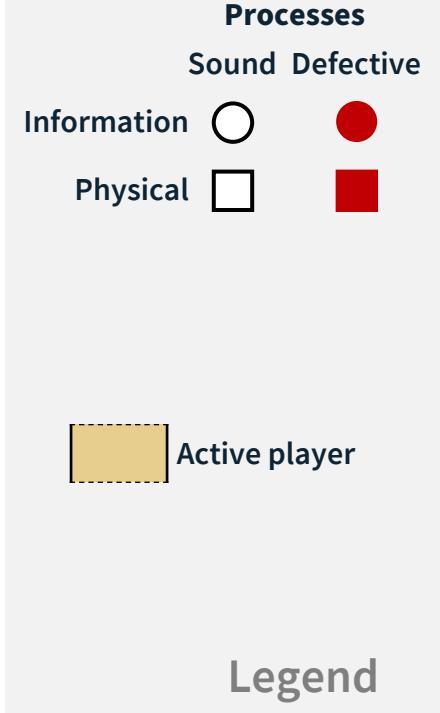
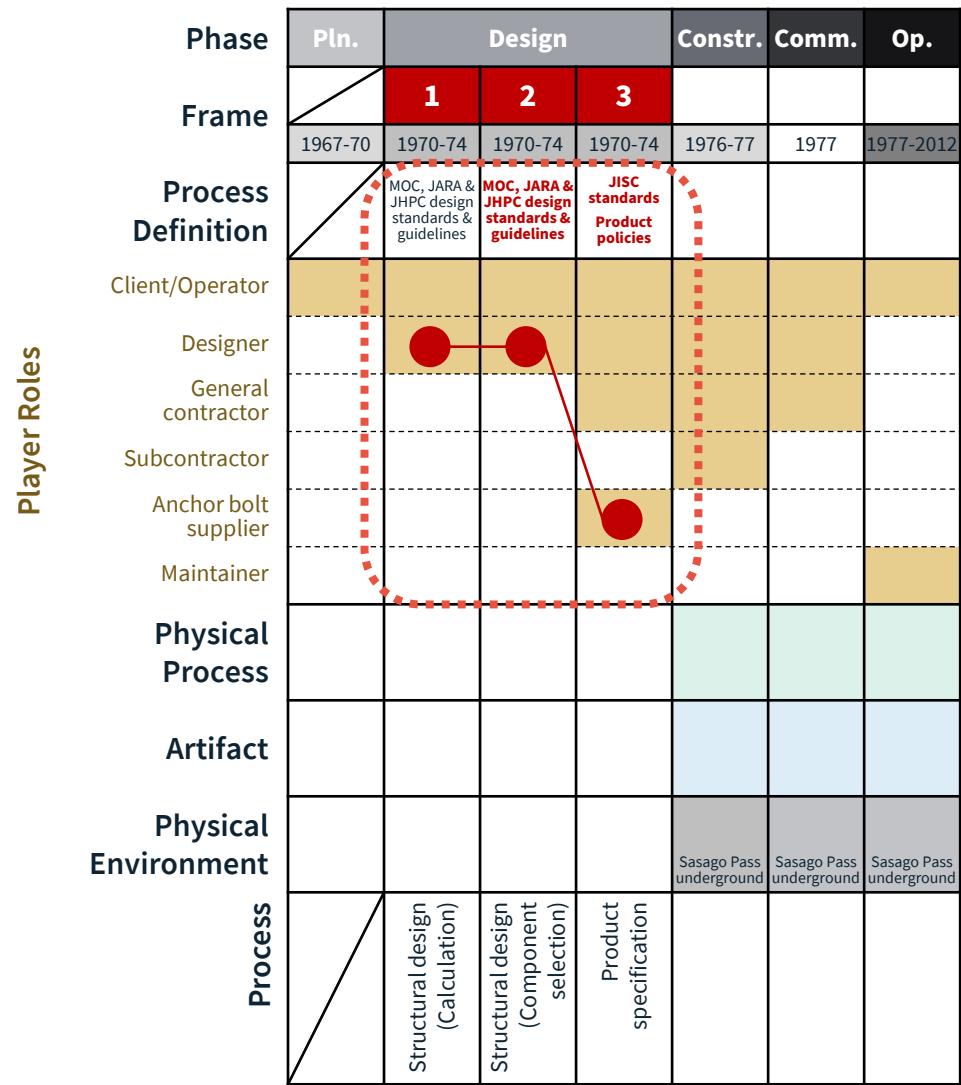
Participating player

Active player

Legend

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

FLAPP Matrix

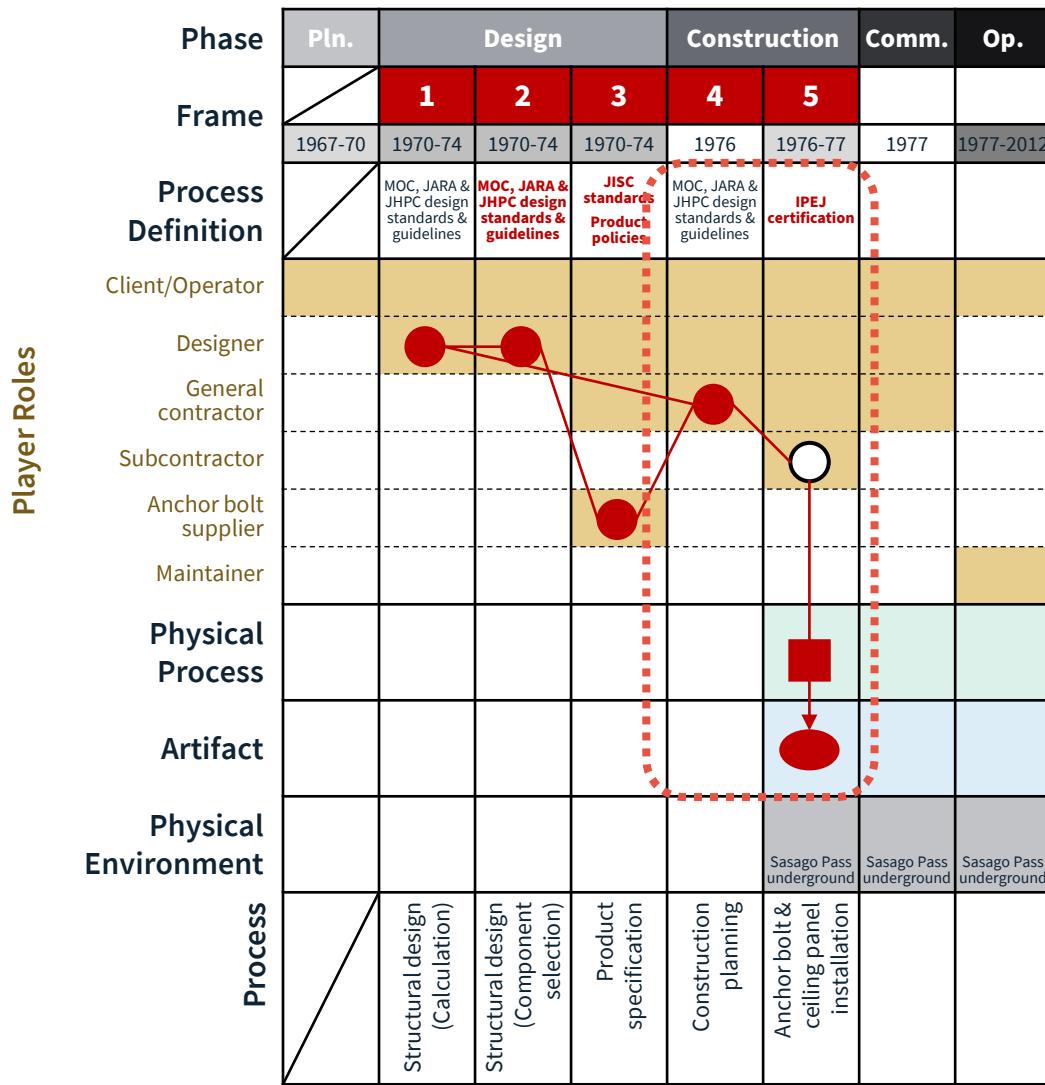


Inadequate structural design

- Structural calculation
- Choice of product
- Product specifications
- Product quality standards

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

FLAPP Matrix

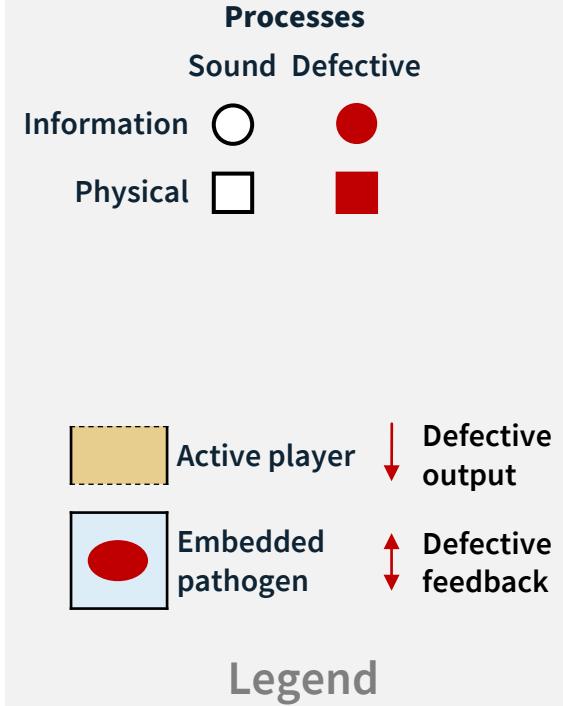
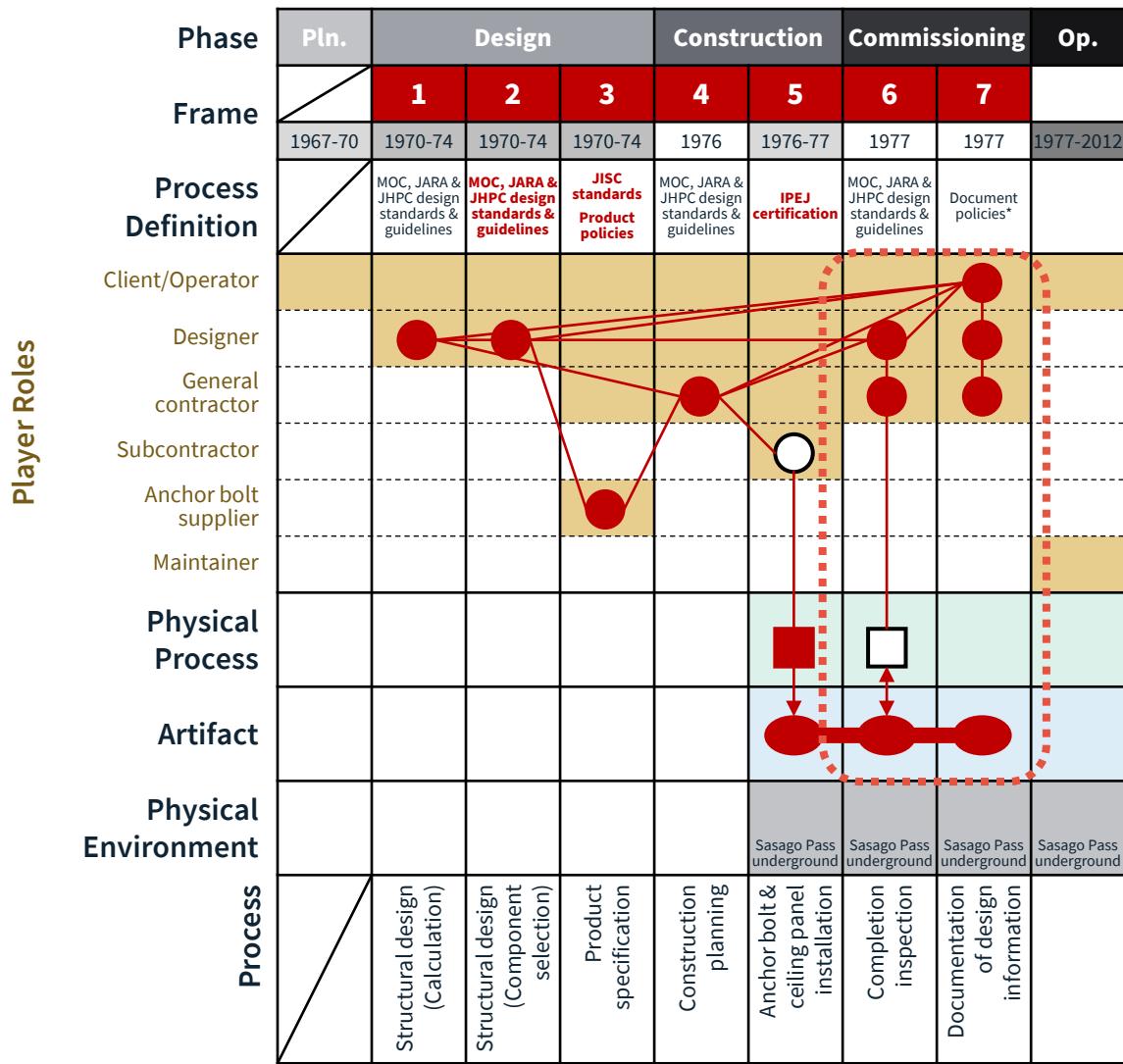


Inadequate anchor bolt installation

- Procedure specification
- Installation quality
- Ceiling panels installed as designed

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

FLAPP Matrix

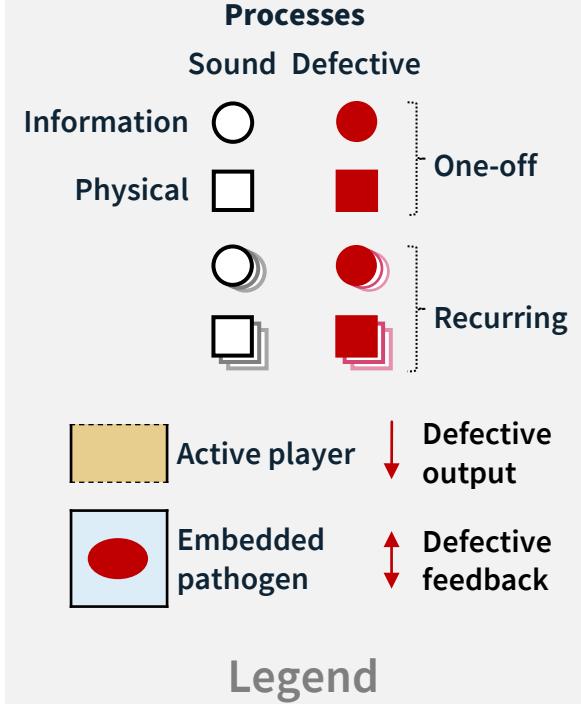
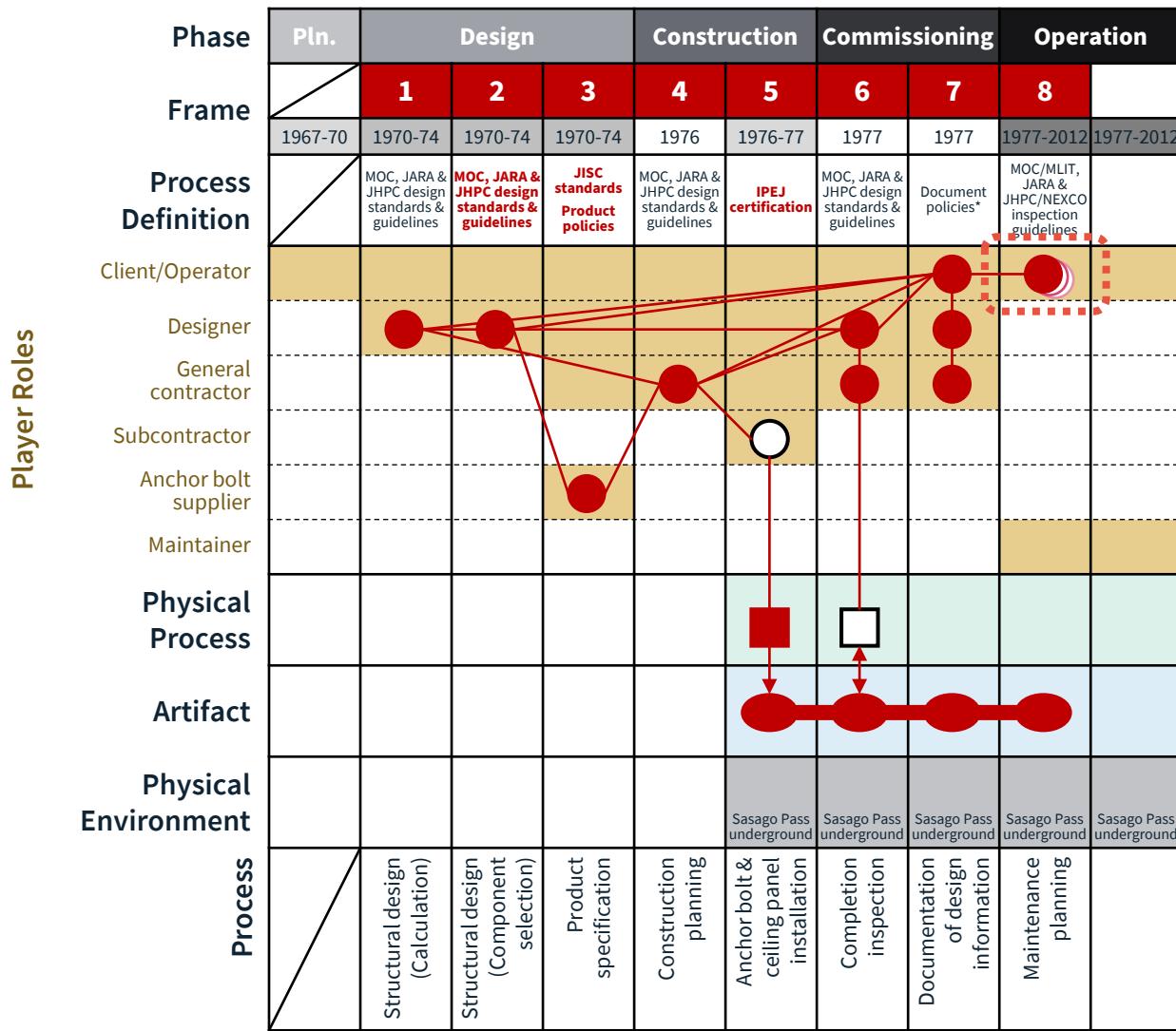


Inadequate commissioning

- Completion inspection
- Documentation

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

FLAPP Matrix

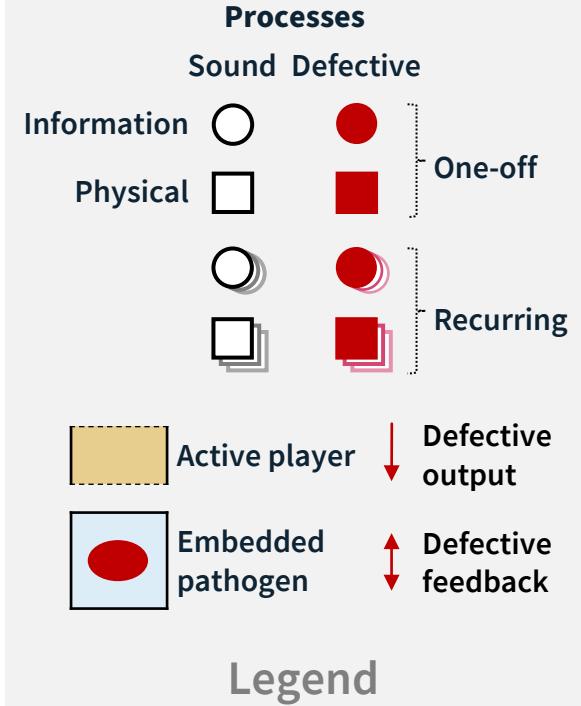
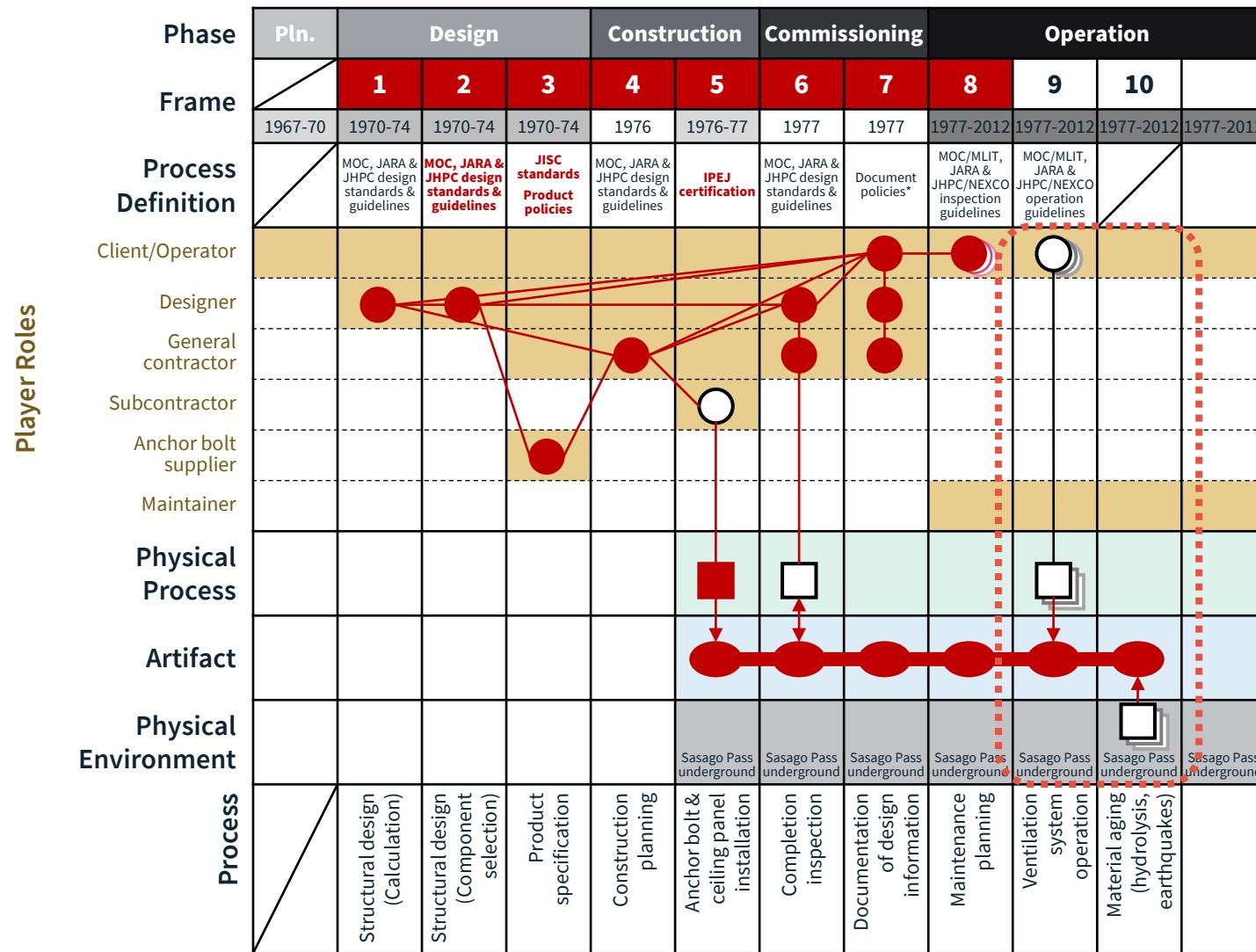


Inadequate maintenance planning

- Inspection & repair history
- Recurring process

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

FLAPP Matrix

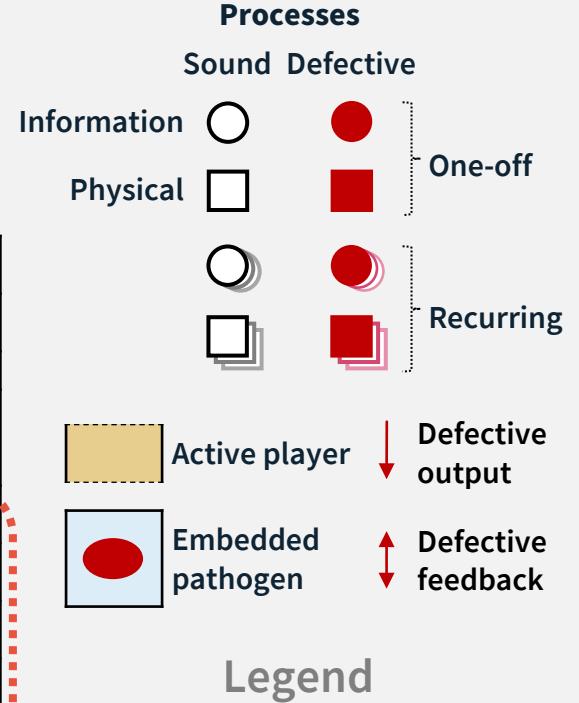
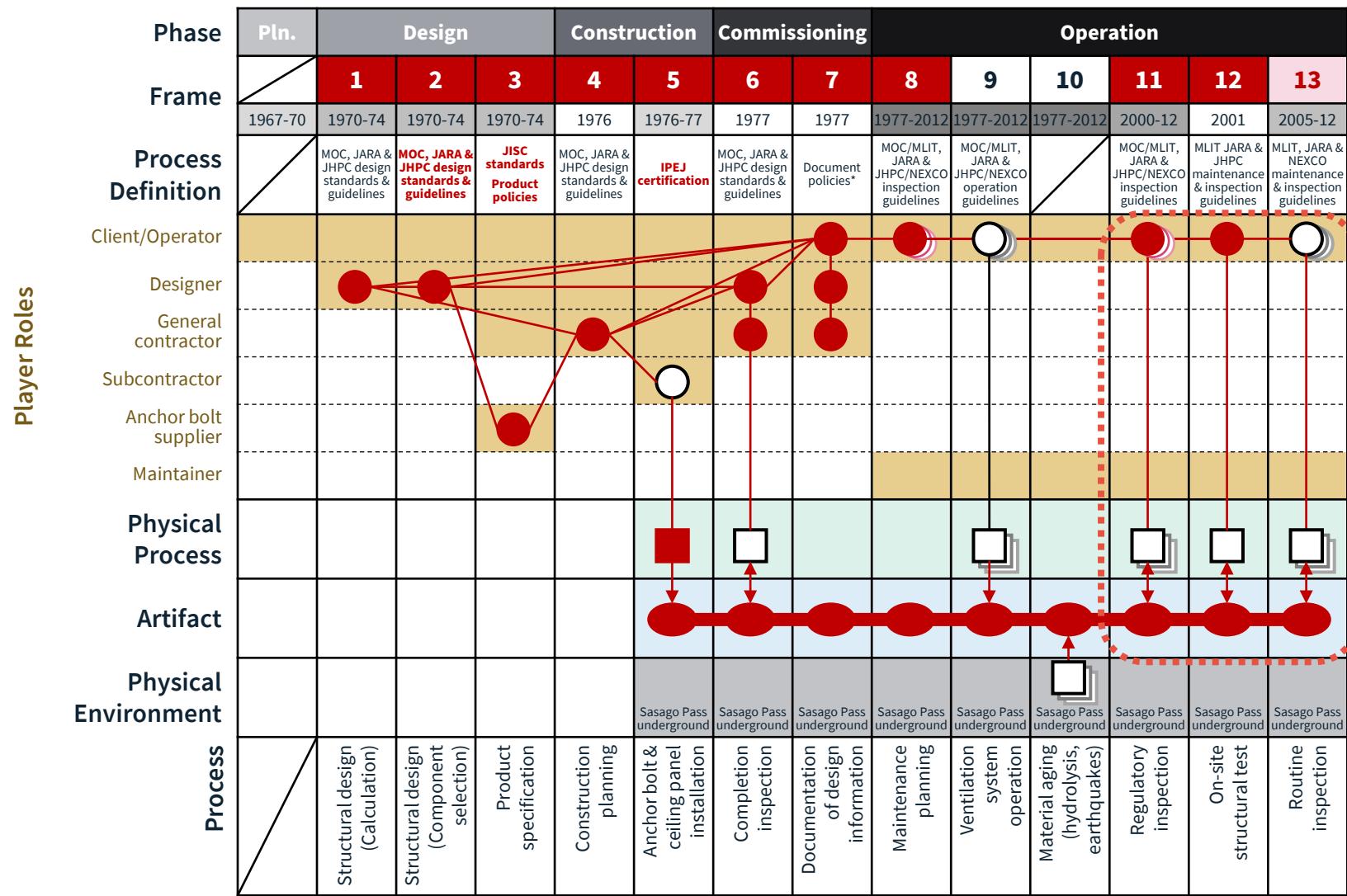


Normal tunnel operation

- Ventilation system
- Natural material aging

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

FLAPP Matrix

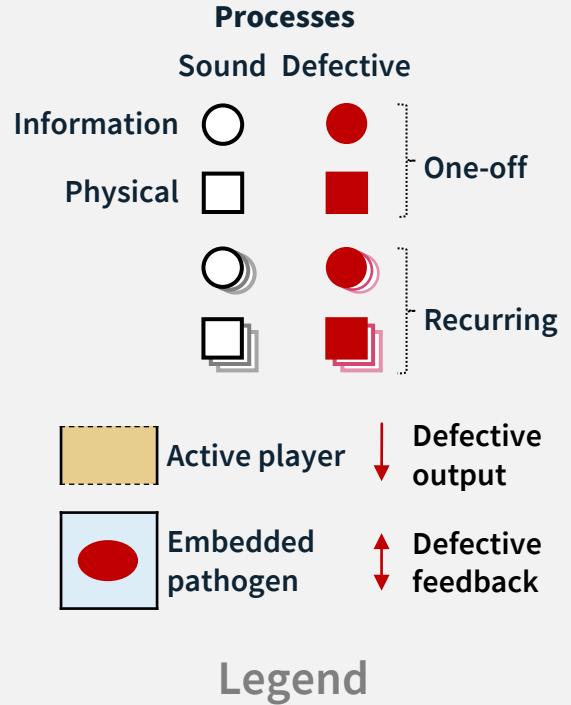
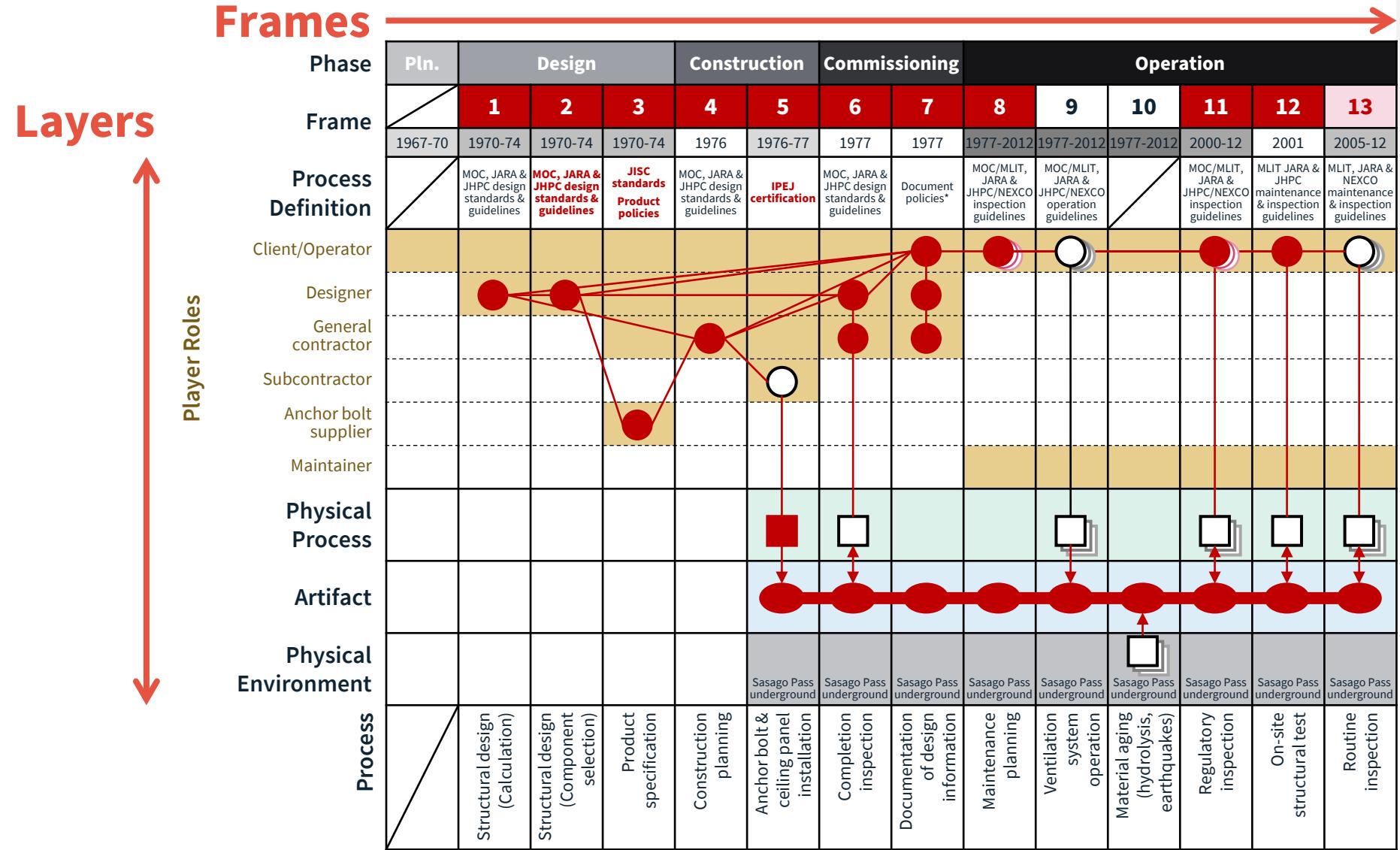


Insufficient testing & inspections

- Routine inspections
- On-site pull-out testing

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

FLAPP Matrix

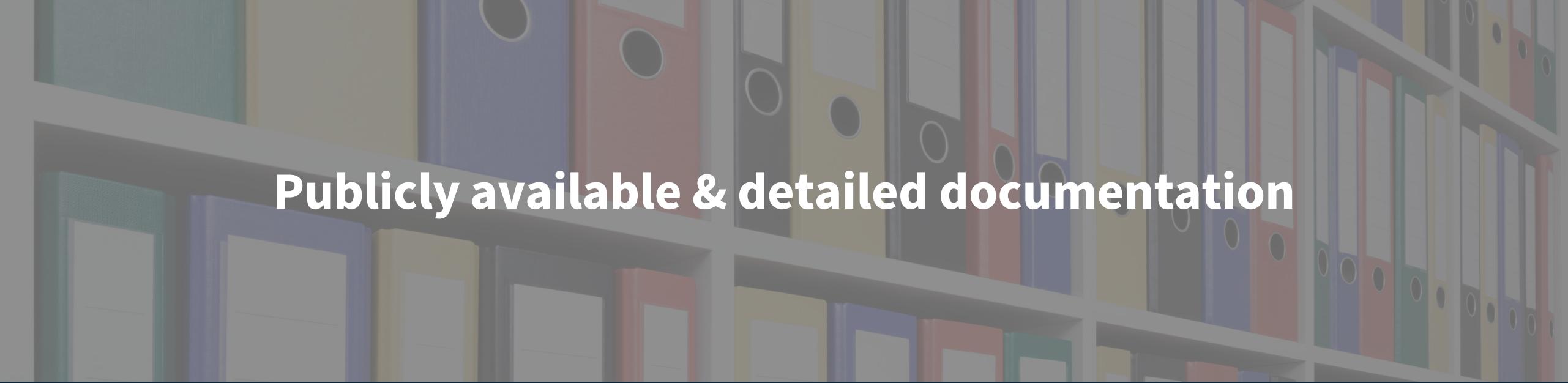


Outline

- FLAPP model
- **Sample cases of construction system accidents**

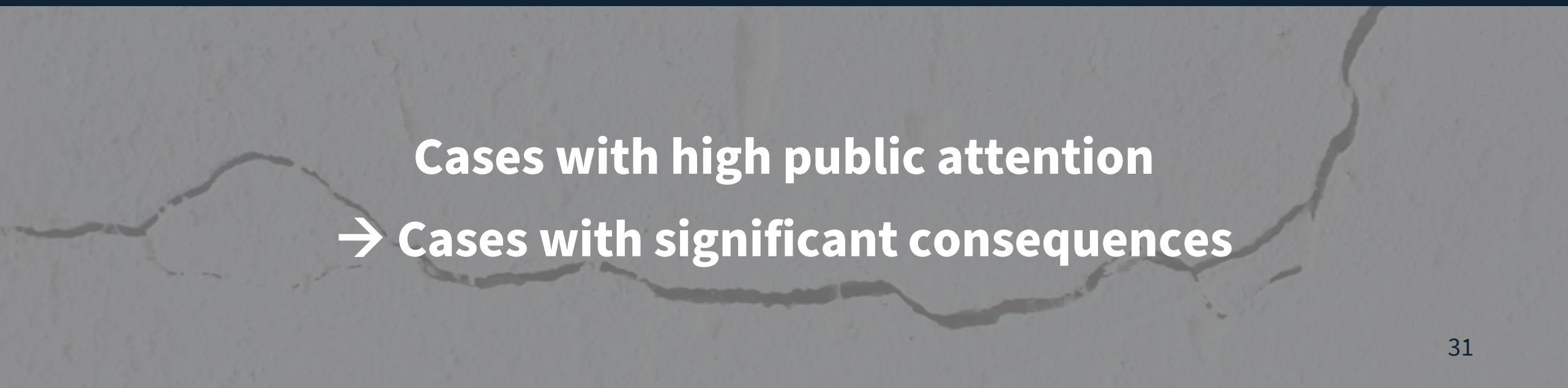
• Model application results

• Discussion & conclusion



Publicly available & detailed documentation

A sample set of accident cases



Cases with high public attention

→ **Cases with significant consequences**

Kings Bridge collapse

1961-1962

Melbourne, Australia



Arecibo Telescope collapse

1963-2020

Puerto Rico, United States



Minneapolis I-35W highway bridge collapse

1967-2007

Minneapolis, United States



Structural failures

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

1977-2012

Yamanashi, Japan



Kansas City Hyatt Regency walkway bridge collapse

1980-1981

Kansas City, United States



Algo Centre Mall roof collapse

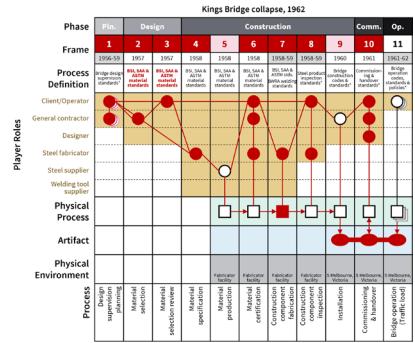
1980-2012

Elliot Lake, Canada



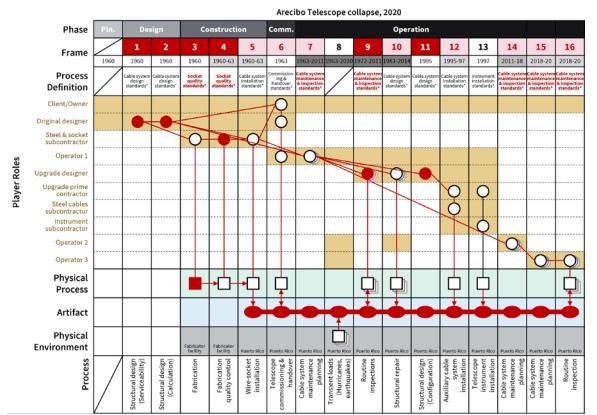
Kings Bridge collapse

1961-1962



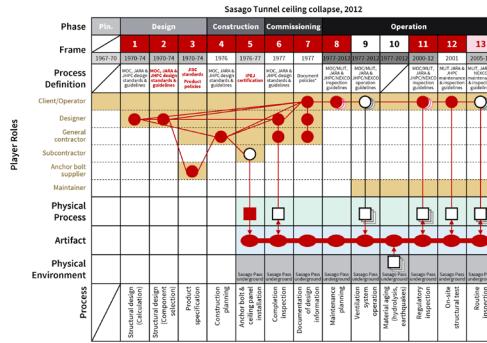
Arecibo Telescope collapse

1963-2020



Minneapolis I-35W highway bridge collapse

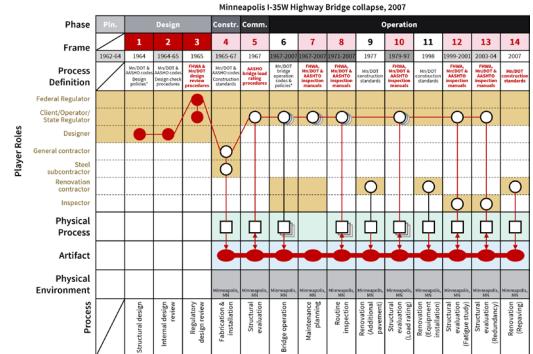
1967-2007



FLAPP Matrix

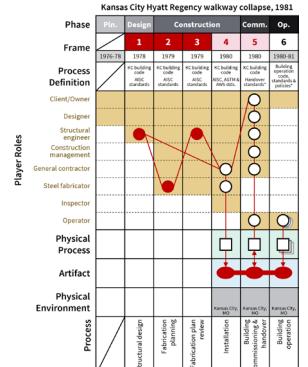
Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

1977-2012



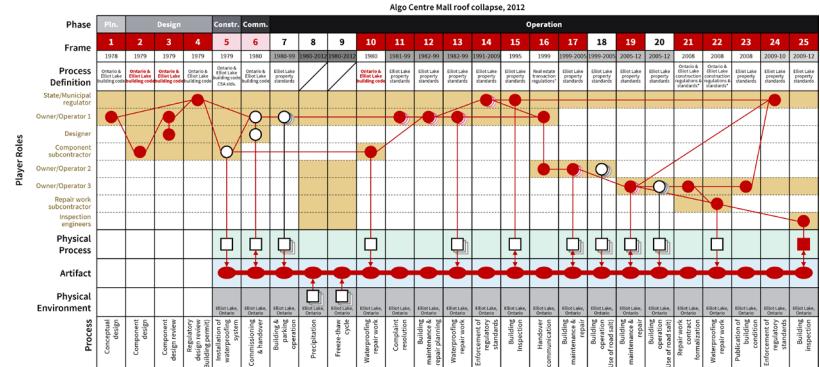
Kansas City Hyatt Regency walkway bridge collapse

1980-1981



Algo Centre Mall roof collapse

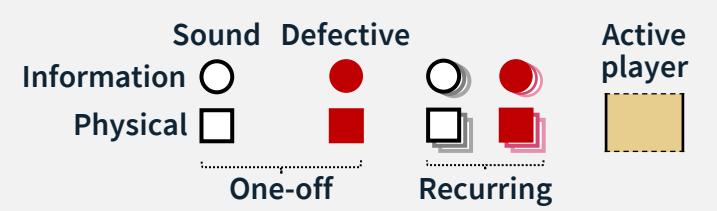
1980-2012



Outline

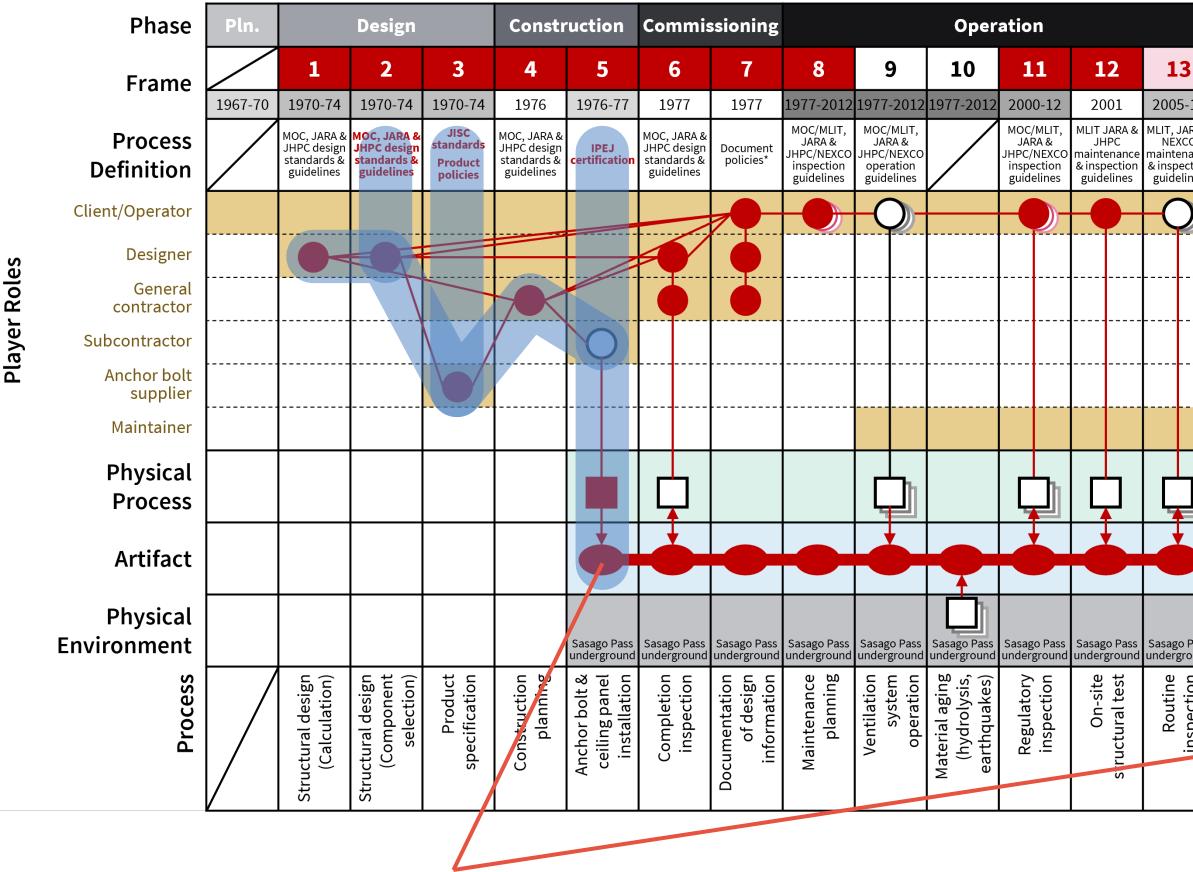
- FLAPP model
- Sample cases of construction system accidents
- **Decomposition of pathogen propagation**

Discussion & conclusion



Pathogen threads

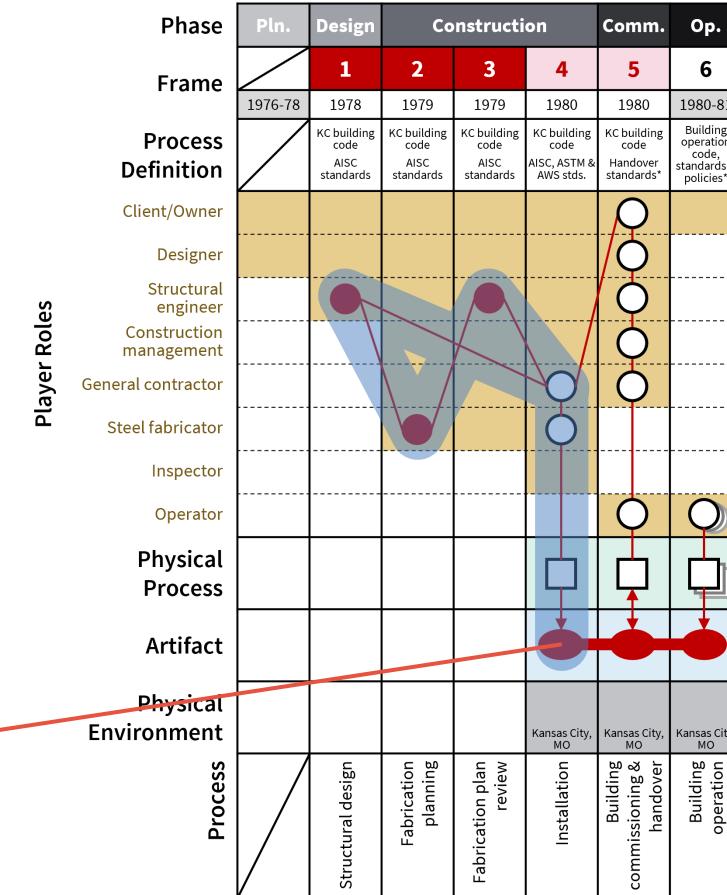
Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

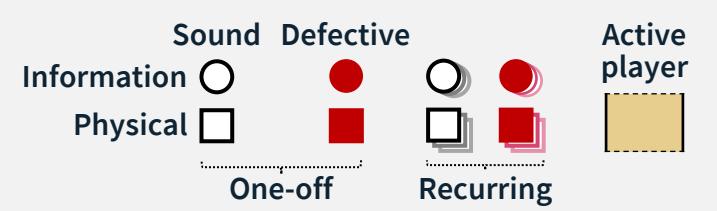


1. Initial injection

Design, fabrication & installation

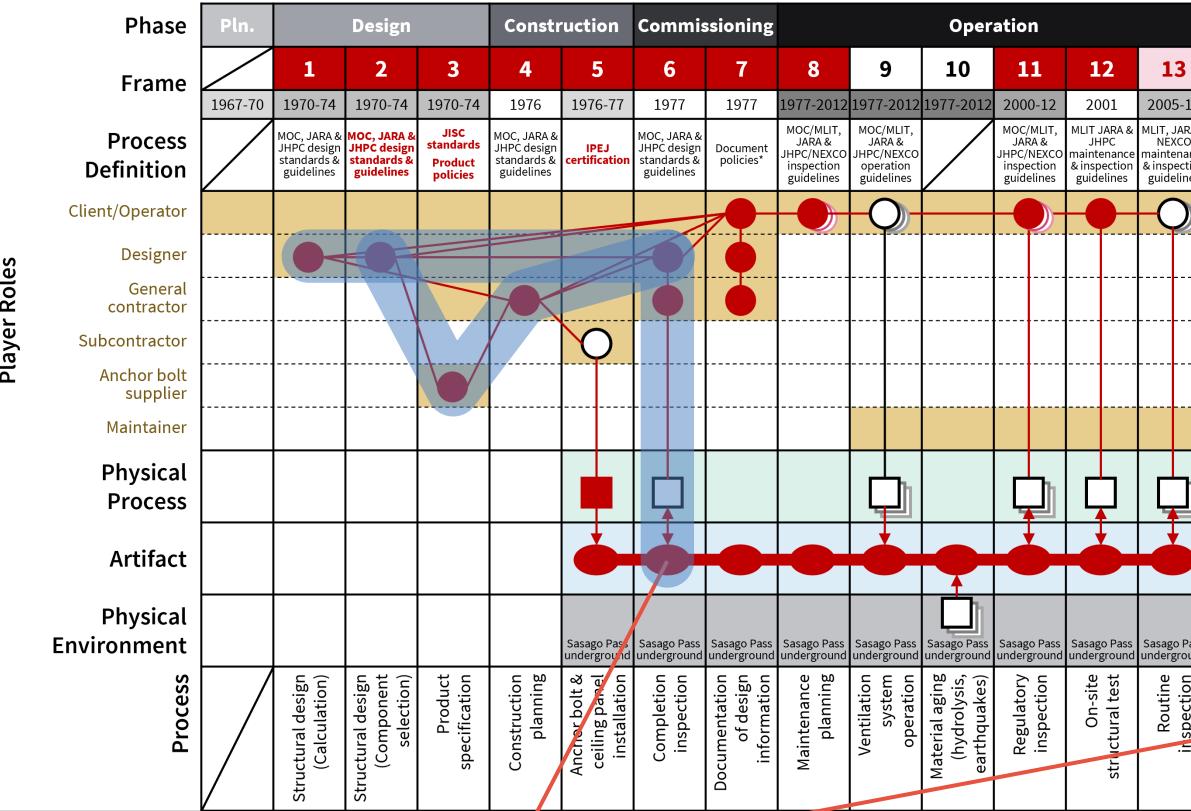
Kansas City Hyatt Regency walkway bridge collapse



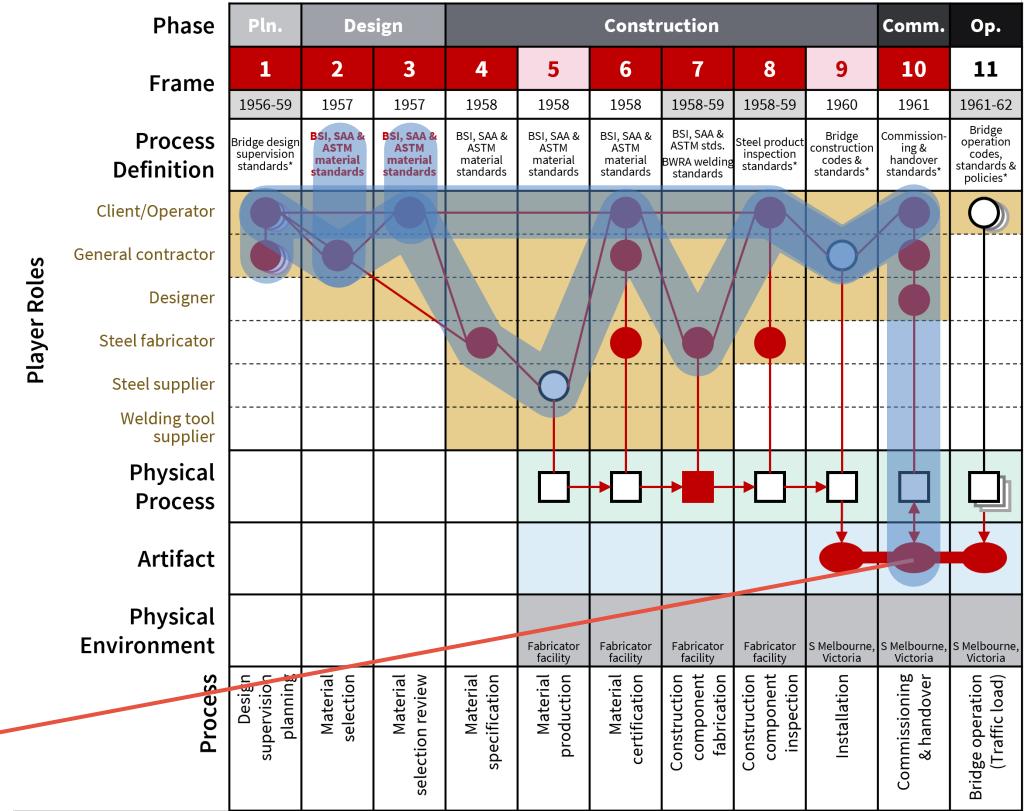


Pathogen threads

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

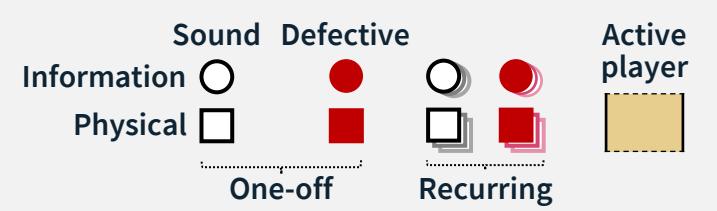


Kings Bridge collapse



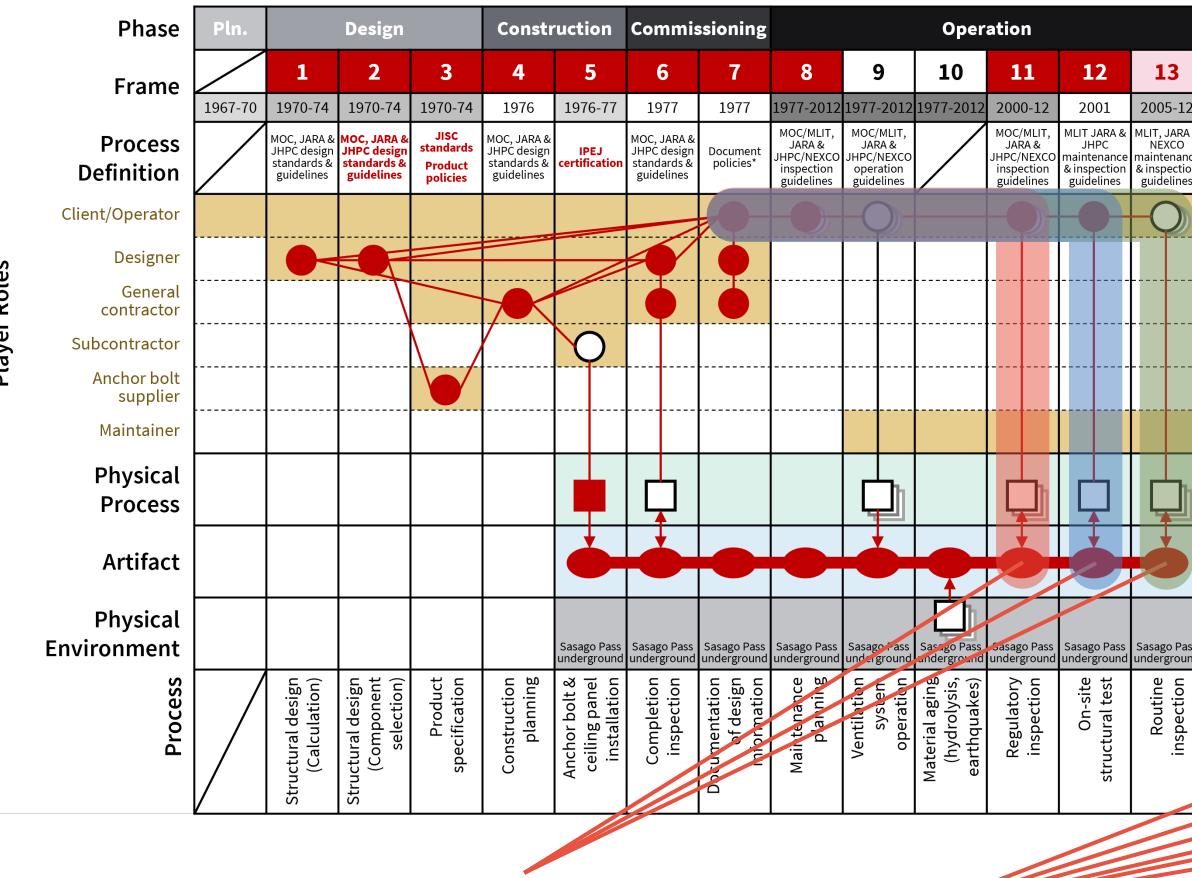
2. Pathogen exposure

Completion inspection, system verification

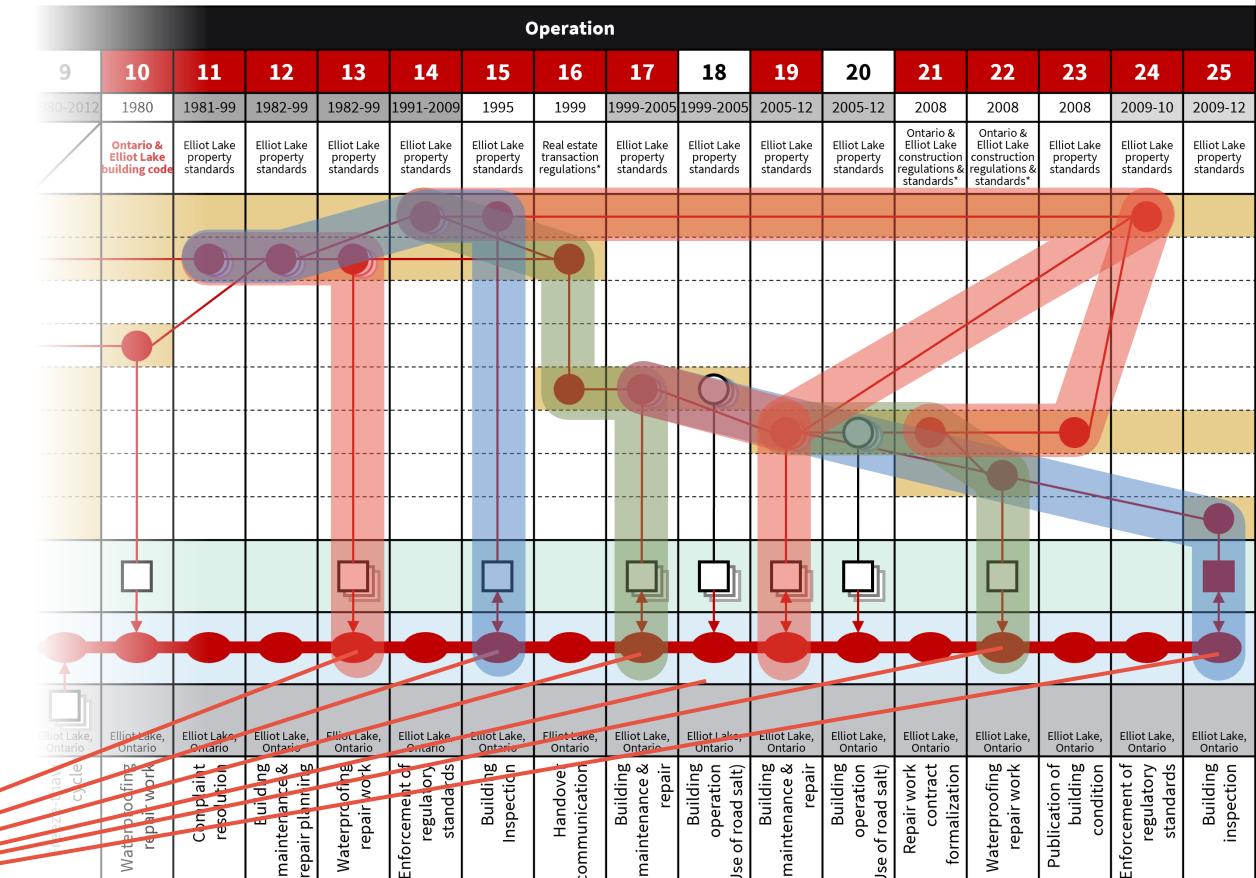


Pathogen threads

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

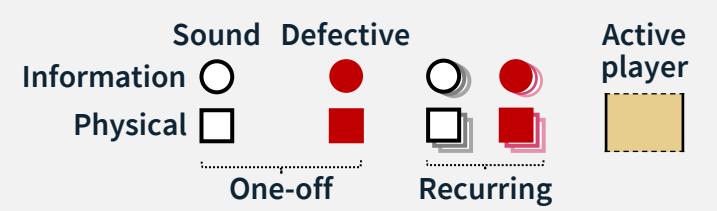


Algo Centre Mall roof collapse



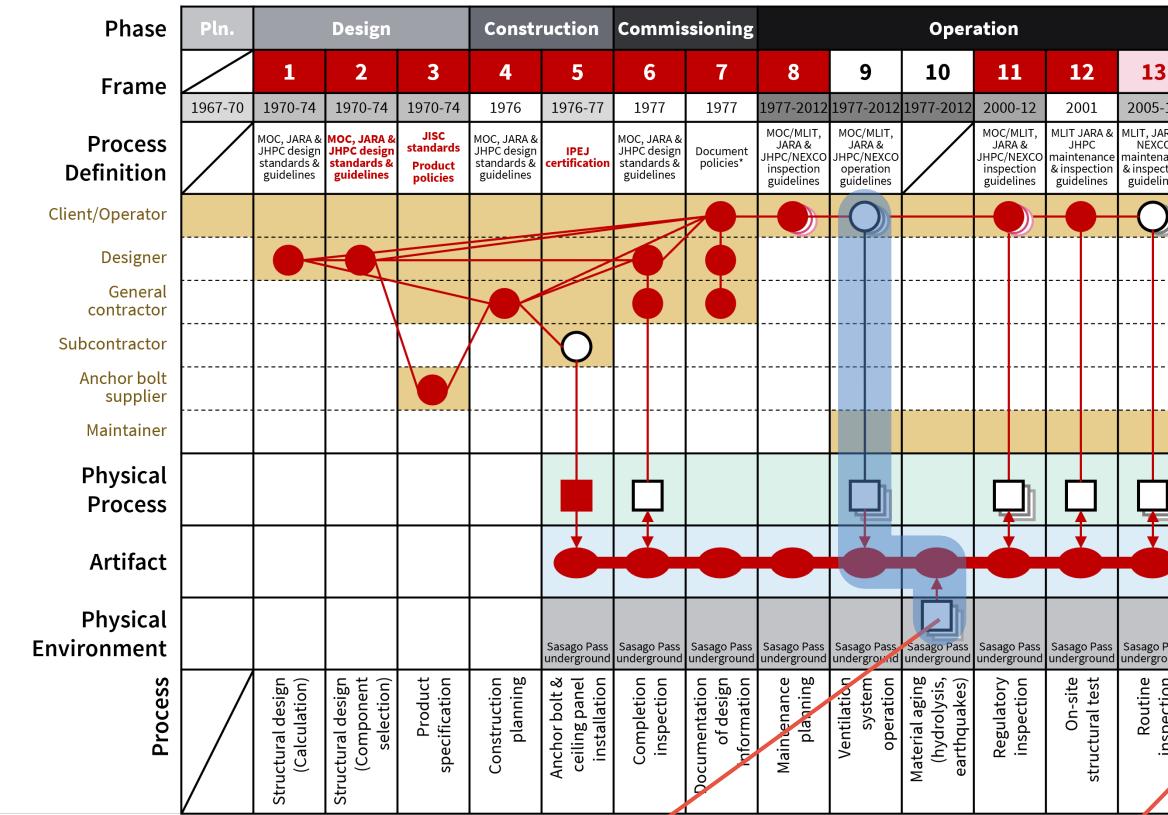
3. Missed opportunities

Routine inspections, maintenance & repair work

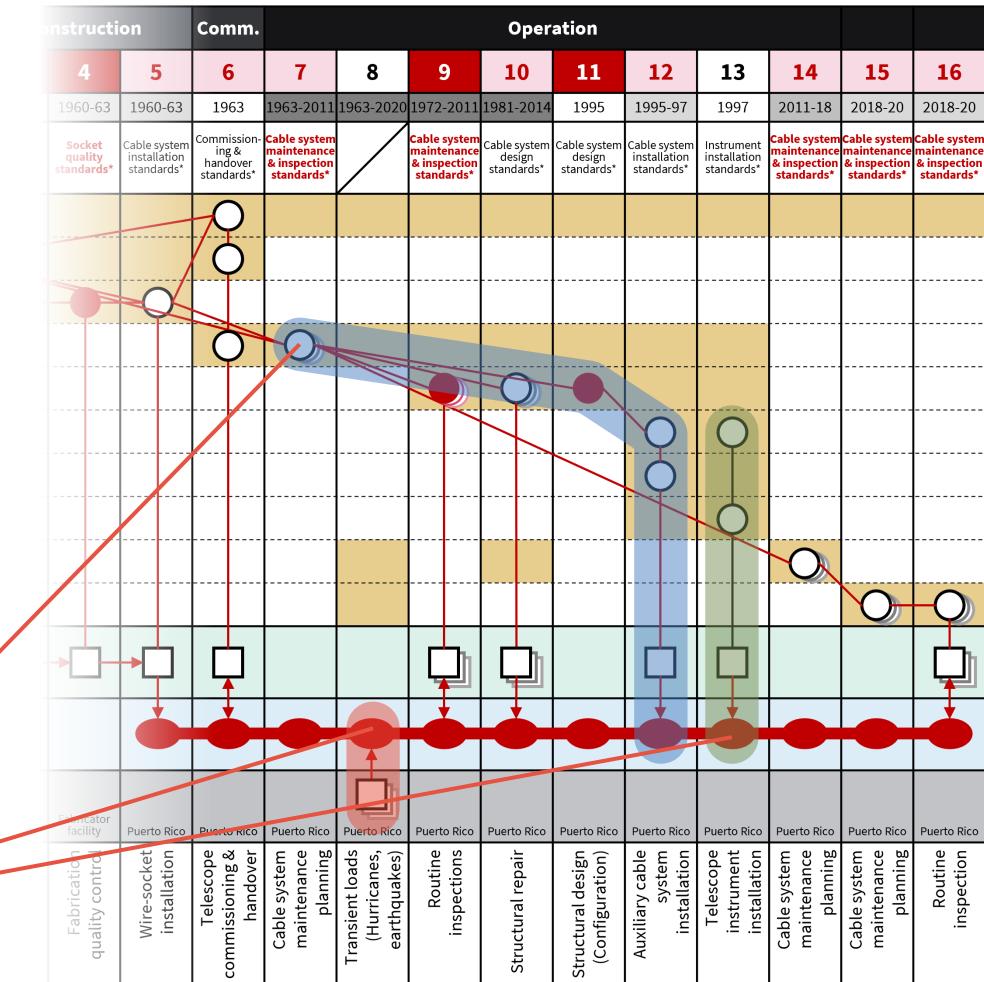


Pathogen threads

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

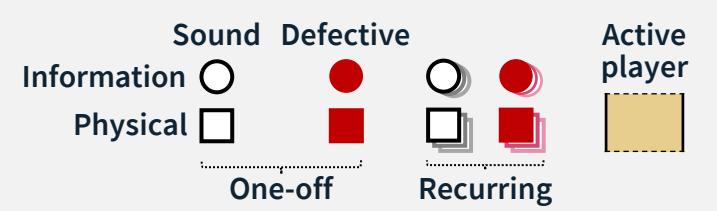


Arecibo Telescope collapse



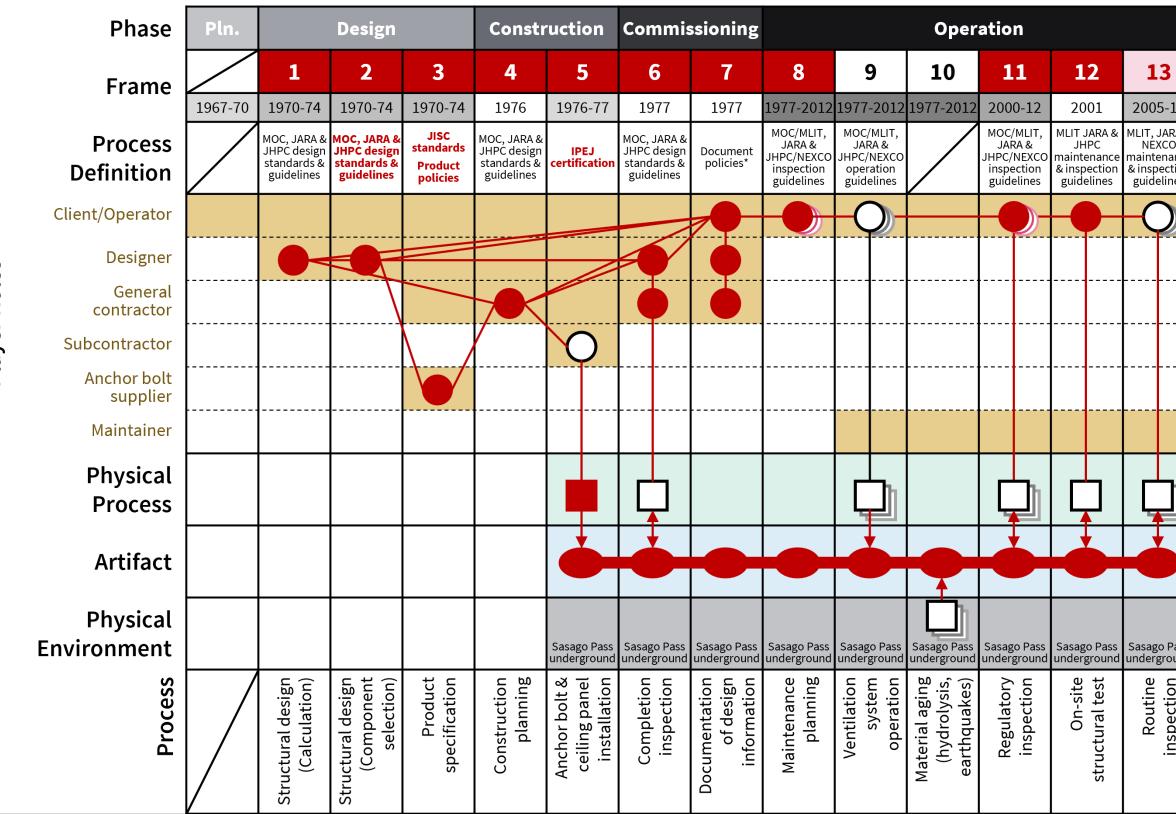
4. Well-intended aggravation

Nominal operations, renovations

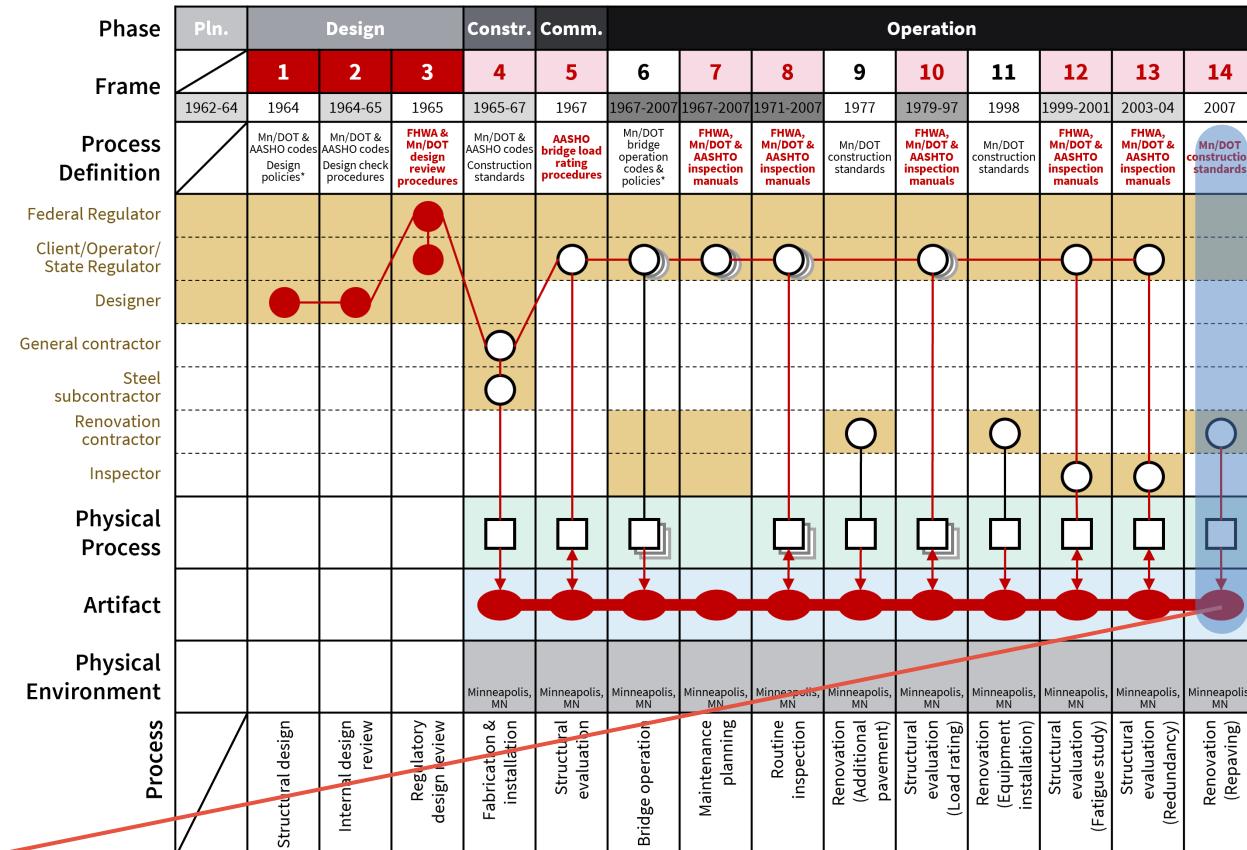


Pathogen threads

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

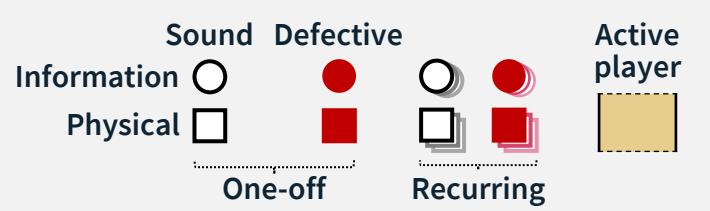


Minneapolis I-35W highway bridge collapse



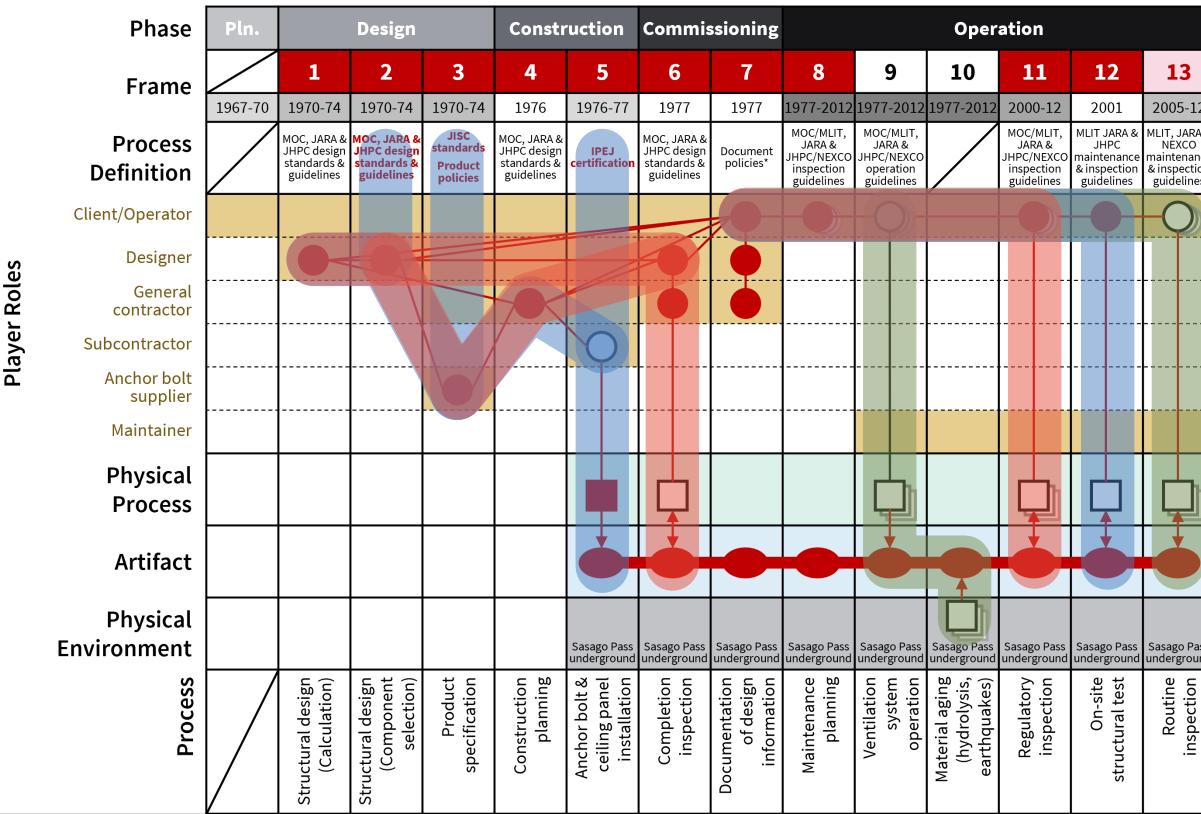
5. Pathogen activation

Final, local trigger of the accident

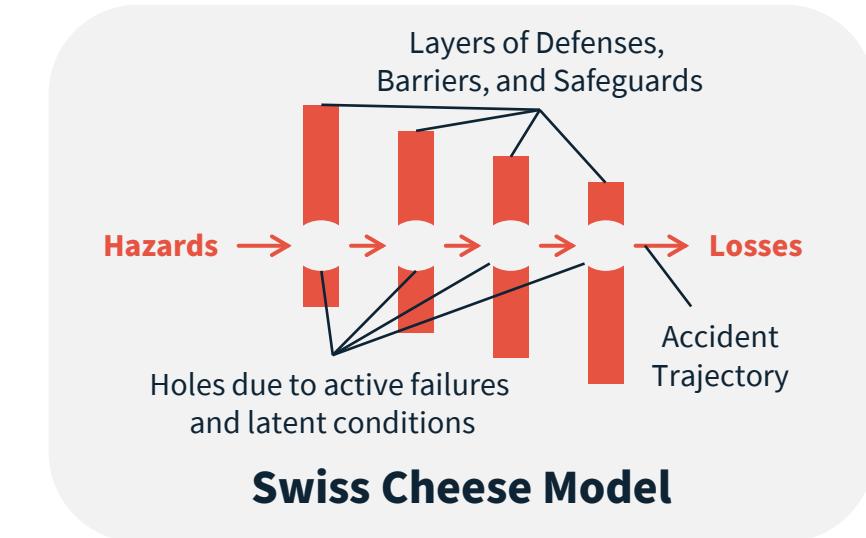


Pathogen threads

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse

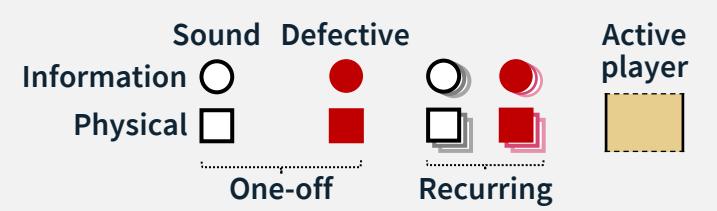


1. Initial injection
2. Pathogen exposure
3. Missed opportunities
4. Well-intended aggravation
5. Pathogen activation



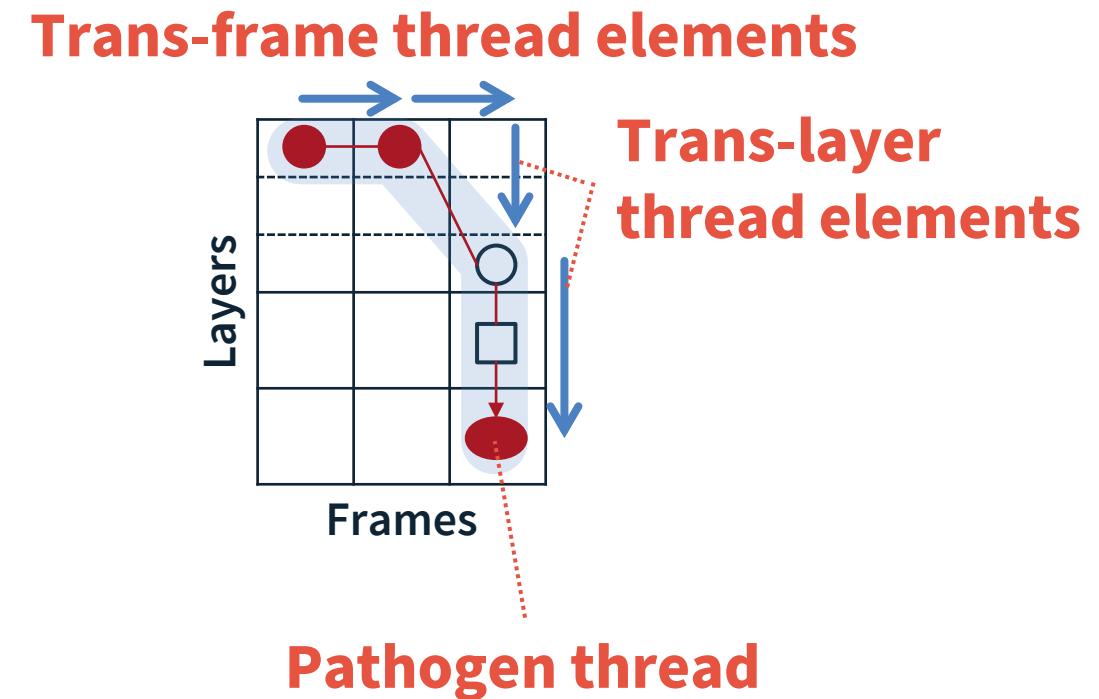
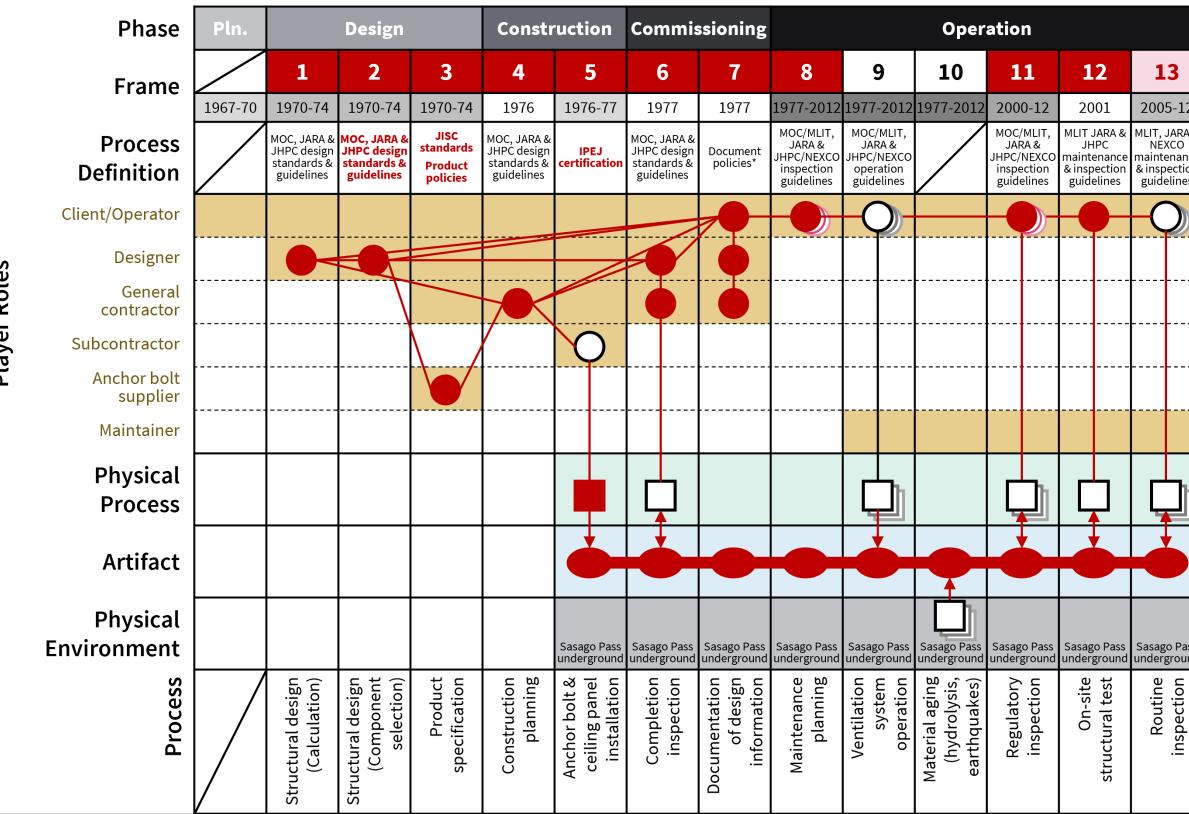
Tangible examples of the metaphors:
“resident pathogen”
“accident trajectory”

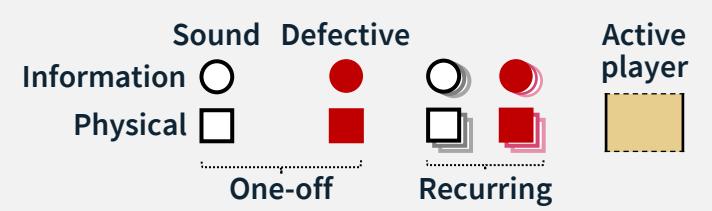
Reason, J. (1990). The contribution of latent human failures to the breakdown of complex systems. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B*, 327(1241), 475–484.



Pathogen thread elements

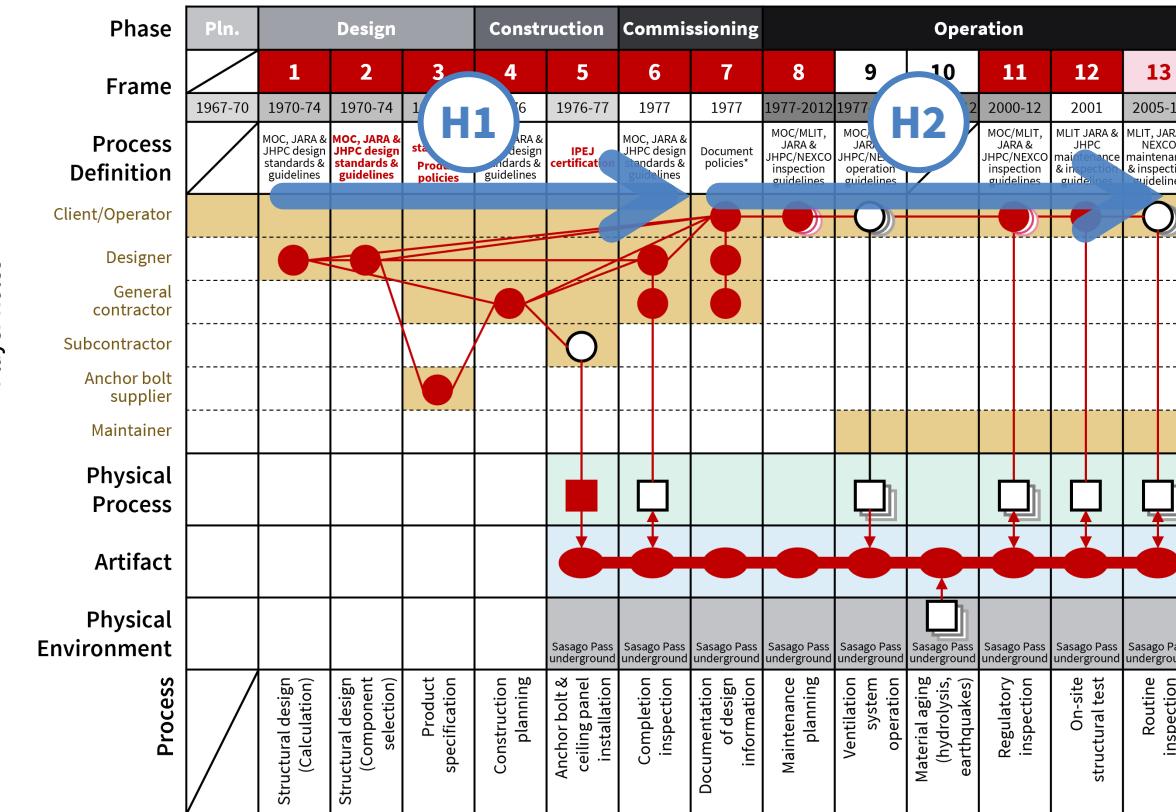
Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse





Pathogen thread elements

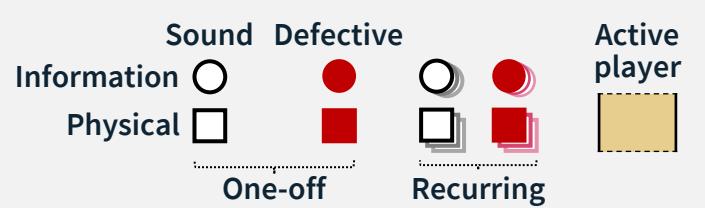
Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse



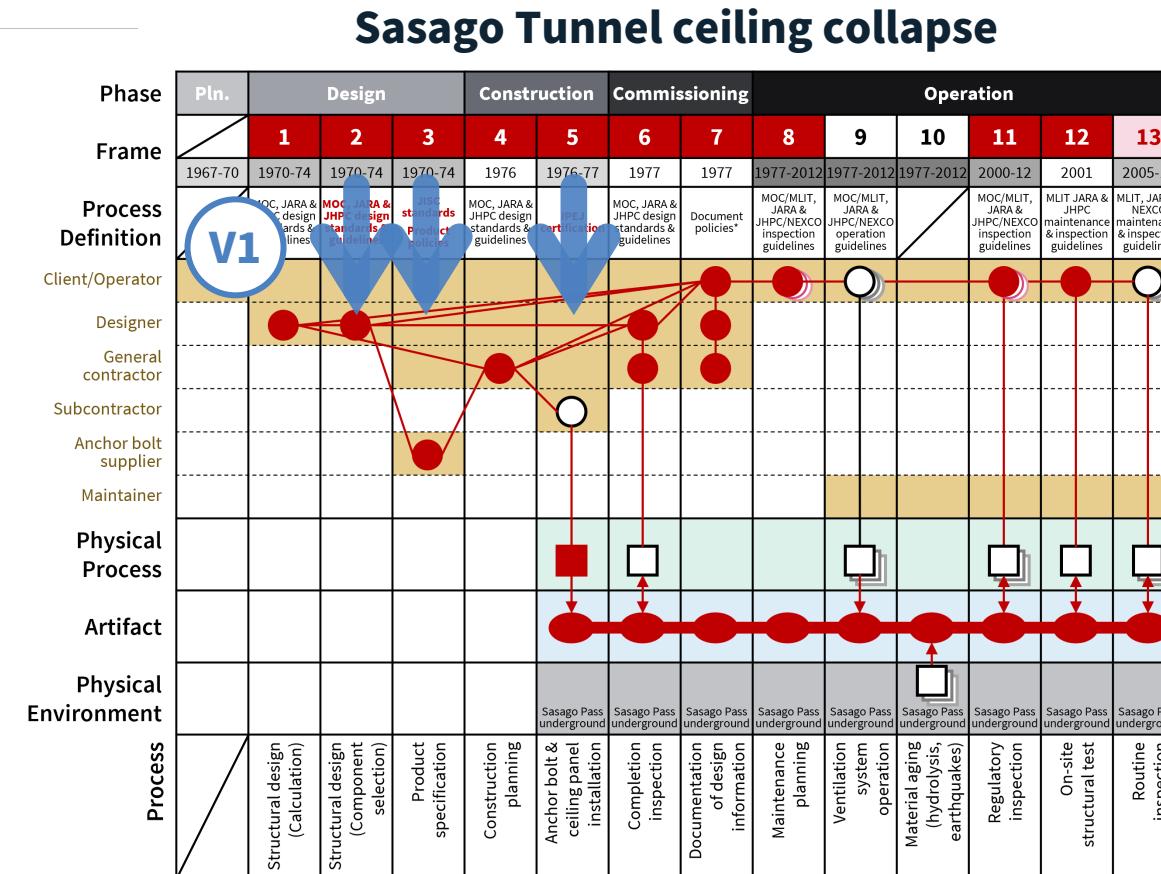
Horizontal (trans-frame) elements

1. Inadequate information reviews
2. Inadequate knowledge transfer

- Design review
- Regulatory approval
- Documentation
- Record maintenance
- Knowledge management



Pathogen thread elements



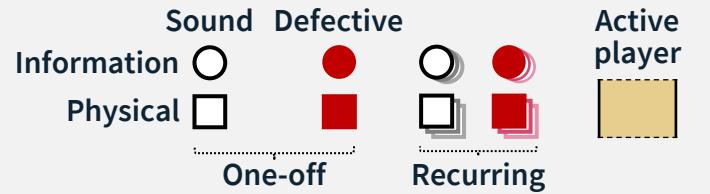
- Design codes, regulations
- Industrial standards
- Internal policies, standard procedures

Horizontal (trans-frame) elements

1. Inadequate information reviews
2. Inadequate knowledge transfer

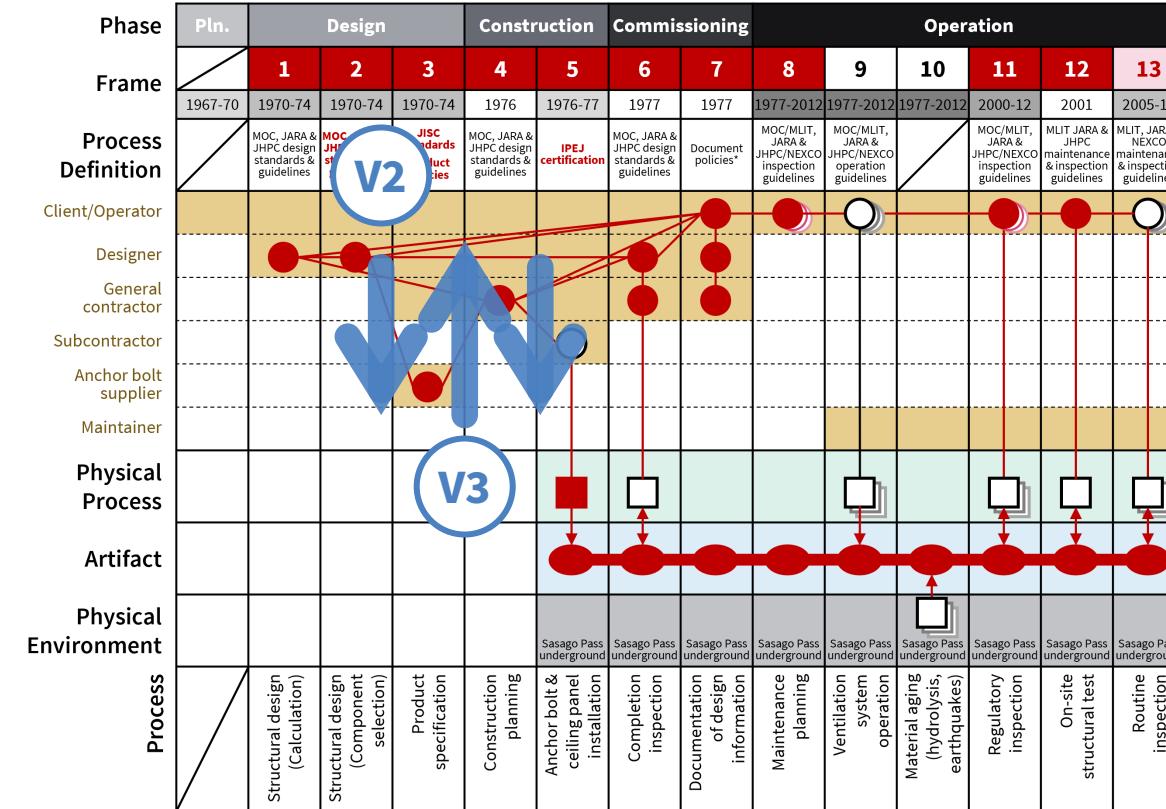
Vertical (trans-layer) elements

1. Inadequate process definitions



Pathogen thread elements

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse



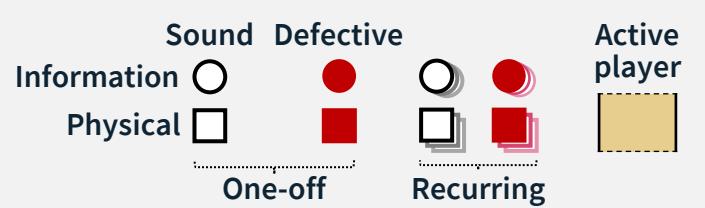
Horizontal (trans-frame) elements

1. Inadequate information reviews
2. Inadequate knowledge transfer

Vertical (trans-layer) elements

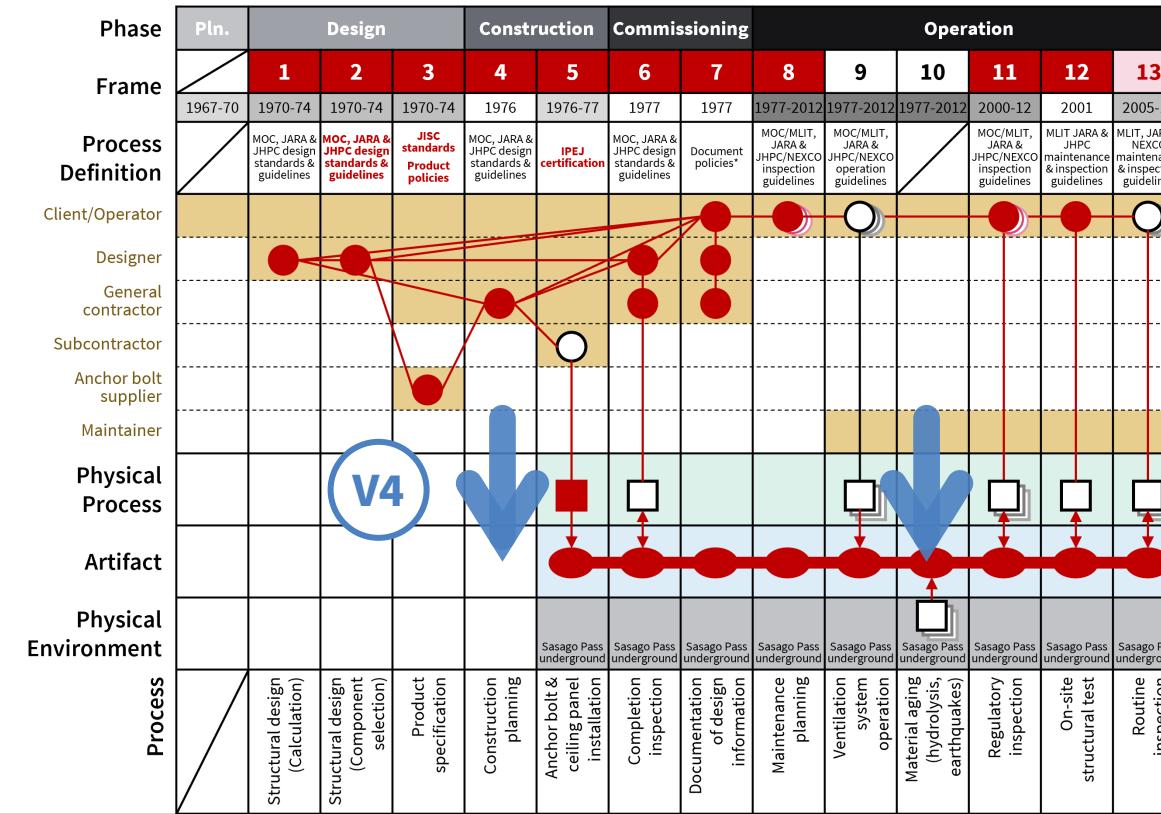
1. Inadequate process definitions
2. Miscommunication of critical high-level information
3. Miscommunication of domain knowledge

- System requirements
- Fabrication/installation procedures
- Subsystem/component performance specifications
- Fabrication/installation status reports



Pathogen thread elements

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse



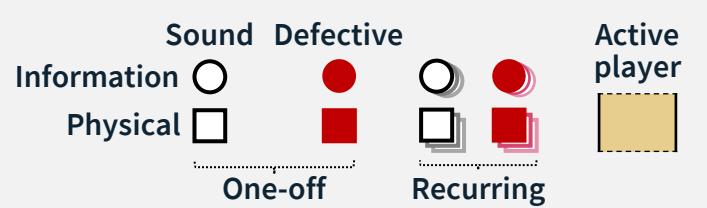
- Physical processes
- Fabrication, installation, modification, etc.

Horizontal (trans-frame) elements

1. Inadequate information reviews
2. Inadequate knowledge transfer

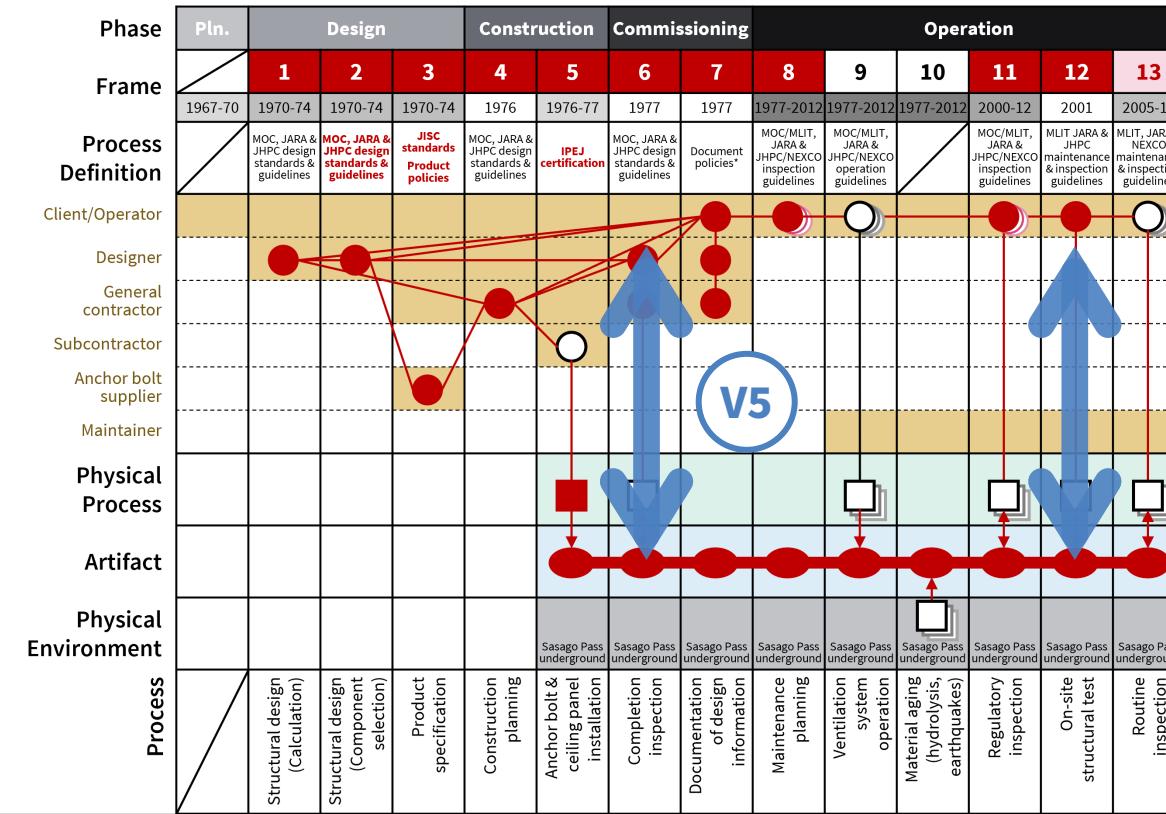
Vertical (trans-layer) elements

1. Inadequate process definitions
2. Miscommunication of critical high-level information
3. Miscommunication of domain knowledge
4. Inadequate establishment or alteration of the artifact



Pathogen thread elements

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse



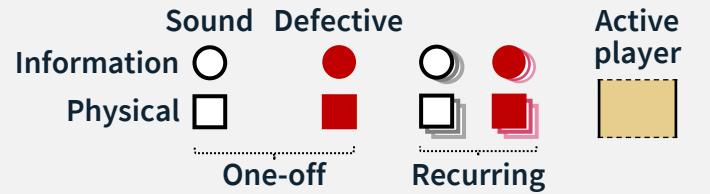
- Physical feedback
- Inspection, monitoring, etc.

Horizontal (trans-frame) elements

1. Inadequate information reviews
2. Inadequate knowledge transfer

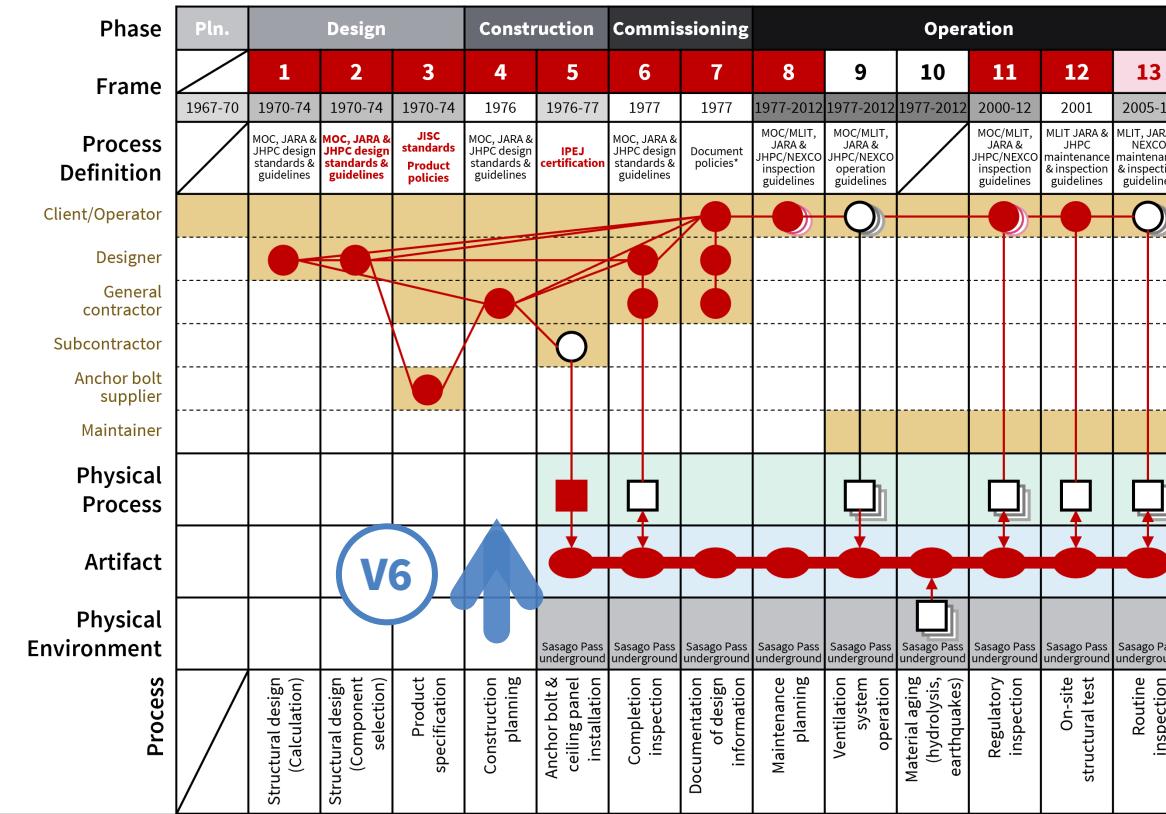
Vertical (trans-layer) elements

1. Inadequate process definitions
2. Miscommunication of critical high-level information
3. Miscommunication of domain knowledge
4. Inadequate establishment or alteration of the artifact
5. Inadequate perception of the artifact



Pathogen thread elements

Sasago Tunnel ceiling collapse



- Physical environmental effects (expected)
- Weather, earthquakes, chemical process, etc.

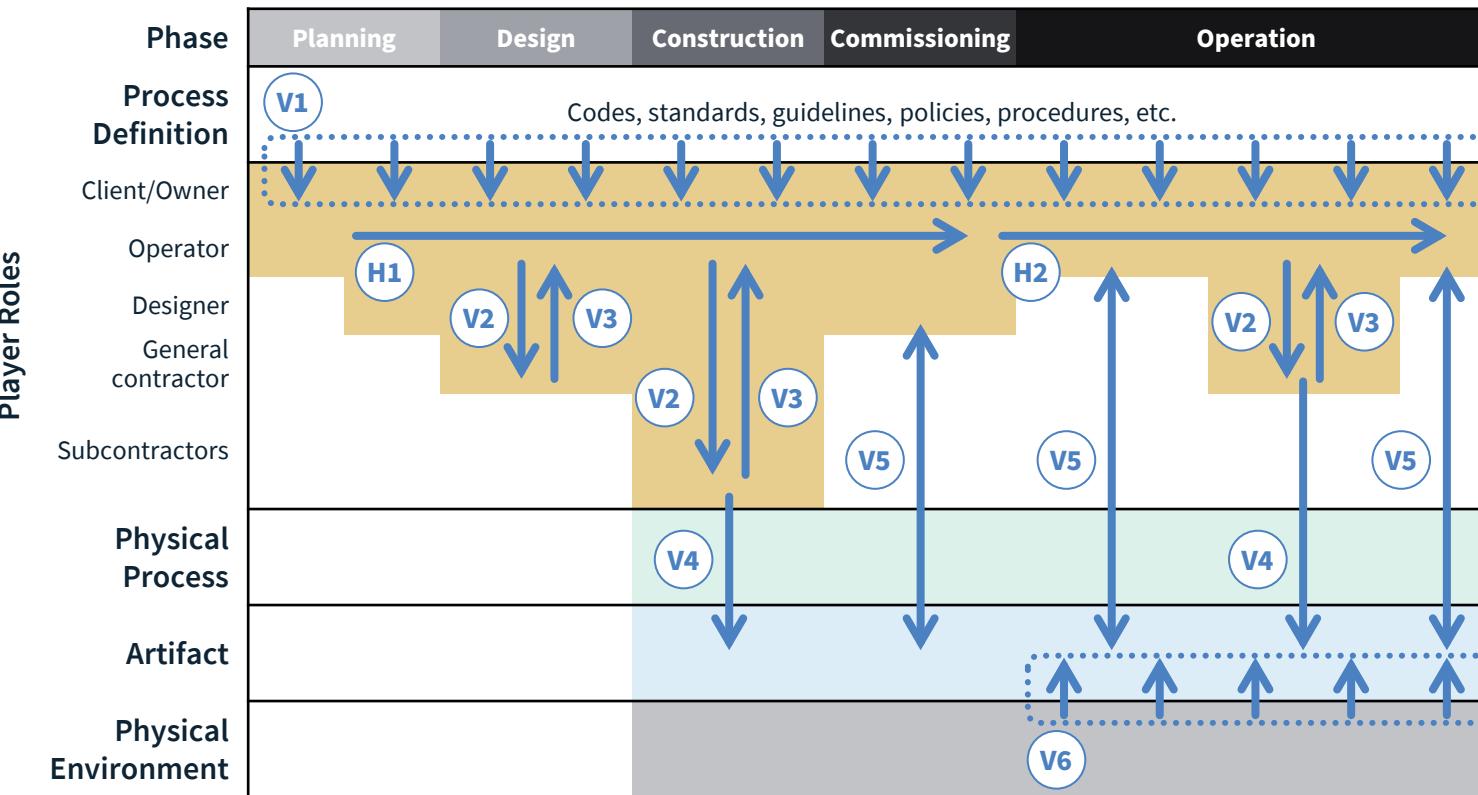
Horizontal (trans-frame) elements

1. Inadequate information reviews
2. Inadequate knowledge transfer

Vertical (trans-layer) elements

1. Inadequate process definitions
2. Miscommunication of critical high-level information
3. Miscommunication of domain knowledge
4. Inadequate establishment or alteration of the artifact
5. Inadequate perception of the artifact
6. Adverse effects of benign environmental effects and processes

Pathogen thread elements



Horizontal (trans-frame) elements

1. Inadequate information reviews
2. Inadequate knowledge transfer

Vertical (trans-layer) elements

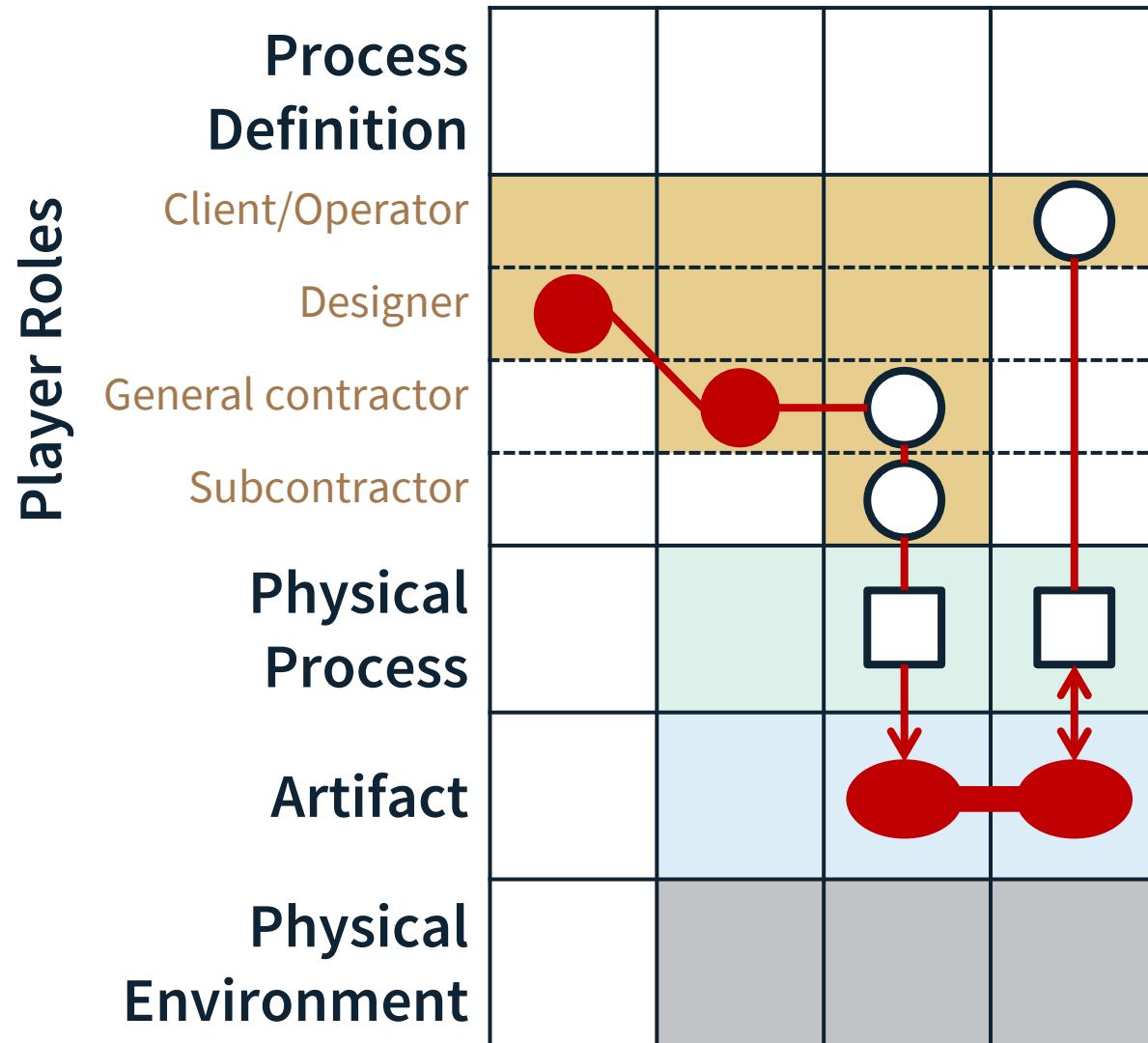
1. Inadequate process definitions
2. Miscommunication of critical high-level information
3. Miscommunication of domain knowledge
4. Inadequate establishment or alteration of the artifact
5. Inadequate perception of the artifact
6. Adverse effects of benign environmental effects and processes

A generic FLAPP Matrix

- A typical transition of organizational network across project phases
- Any of the thread elements can occur at any point in the system lifecycle

Why do pathogen threads appear?

FLAPP Model's conceptual explanation



Pathogen susceptibility

- What makes the matrix cells susceptible to “red” elements
- Field property of the time-organization continuum
- Human/organizational factors and external pressures

Pathogen transmissibility

- Easiness of the “red” elements to transmit through cells
- Certain types of information/components can be more transmissible than others
- Long-lasting regulations/standards, repeatedly referenced information, “invisible” components, etc.

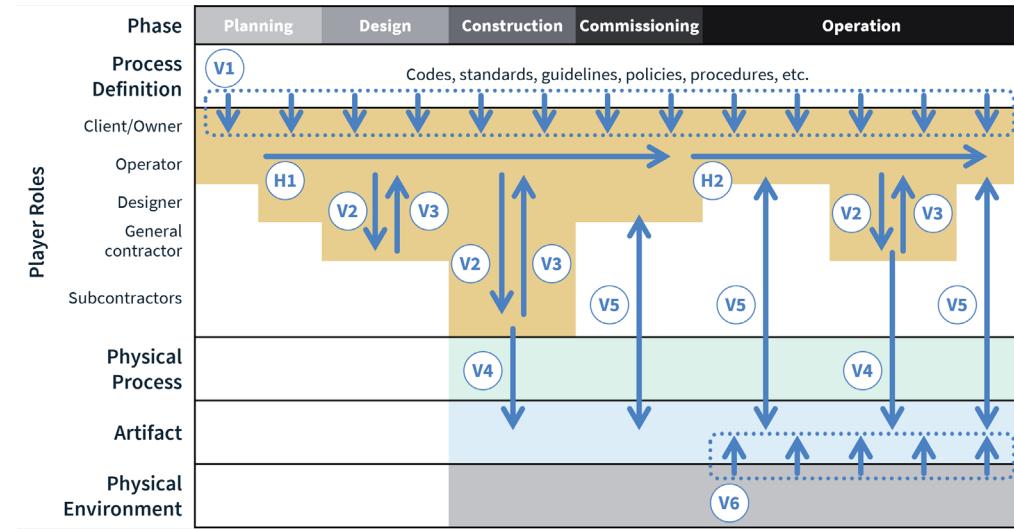
Outline

- FLAPP model
- Sample cases of construction system accidents
- Decomposition of pathogen propagation
- **Discussion & conclusion**

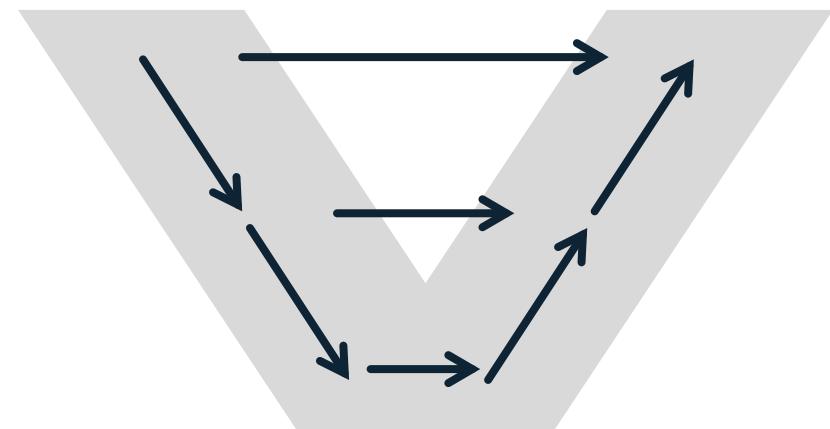
Systems engineering implications

Extension of the SE Vee model

- Additional layers (process definition, physical process, environment)
- Communication across multiple Vee's



A generic FLAPP Matrix

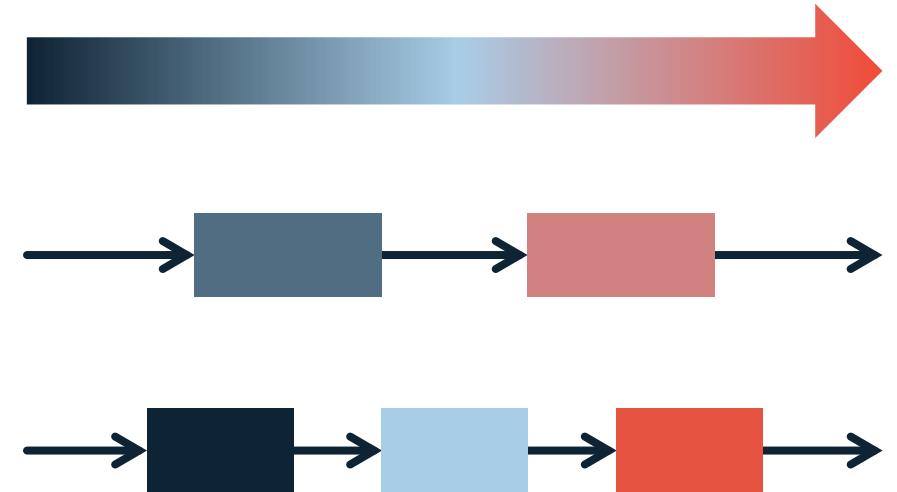


The SE Vee

Limitations & future work

Node-edge representation

- Discrete and binary abstraction
- Exist/not exist, defective/non-defective
- Difficult to capture continuous, uncertain, or ambiguous phenomena and relationships



Extend to non-structural failures

- Cases with different types of failures
- Cases with detailed records



Quality
defect



Malfunctioning

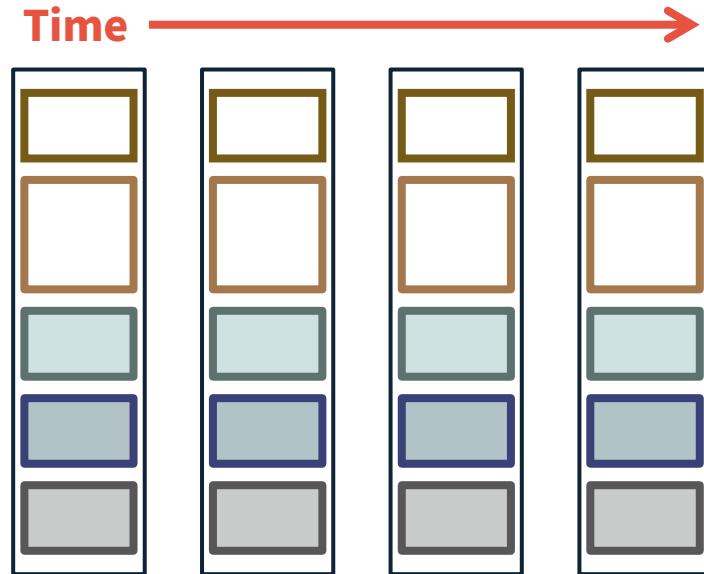


Uncontrolled
release of
energy

Conclusion

Addition of time dimension

- Simple modification of hierarchical models
- Unfolds the critical aspect of accident causation in construction systems



Taxonomy of propagation structure

- Potential applications outside construction
- Systems with long lifespans involving dynamic network of project organizations



Aerospace



Software



Supply chain



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