Why–Because Analysis of the Brazilian Midair Collision, September 2006

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This talk presents a WBA on an accident with incomplete information on the causal factors. The accident is still under official investigation.

On September 30, 2006 a Boeing 737-800 operated by Brazilian carrier GOL Linhas Aereas en route from Manaus to Rio via Brasilia went missing in the Amazonian region of Brazil.

The same day, an Embraer Legacy 600 business jet operated by ExcelAire Service Inc. en route from Sao Jose dos Campos on its delivery flight to the US, landed on a military airfield in the same region after an impact in the air damaged the aircraft, requiring an immediate emergency landing.

The coincidence of these incidents first led to speculation on a mid-air between the Boeing 737 and the Embraer Legacy, which was supported after the wreckage of the Boeing was found.

In the days thereafter, increasingly more information on this incident became available.

In this presentation we demonstrate the application of WBA on the increasingly detailed information on this accident made available in publications such as the New York Times, the International Herald Tribune and other sources.

Making use of uncertain factors in the analysis, questions arise which lead to important information which is not yet available. This information can be used as a guide to further research, either establishing the putative factor or discarding it as not applicable. We thus demonstrate how a WB-Graph can be dynamically constructed, and how the process of construction can guide the search for causal factors.