

Research Article

Future Aerial Car Approach: Risk-On/Risk-Off Sensor Model

Lie Chun Pong

MEd, CUHK (Chinese University of Hong Kong), MSc, HKUST (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

Email: vincentcplie@yahoo.com.hk

Received: September 07, 2025

Accepted: September 27, 2025

Published: October 03, 2025

Abstract

Many AI-driven autonomous driving systems are used to operate vehicles, advancing autonomous vehicle tech. However, these systems struggle with safety margins and engagement, causing fatalities and injuries, especially with autonomous tech. This research introduces a Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) model, a safety framework to improve reliability and resilience in autonomous systems. (RORO) aims to provide safety guarantees, vital for emerging modes like autonomous flying cars that require higher safety standards for aerial navigation and collision avoidance. Our goal is to use this approach to ensure safer air travel, benefiting society and enabling the deployment of safe, reliable urban air mobility solutions.

Keywords: Risk-On/Risk-Off, Risk-On/Risk-Off Sensor Model, (RORO), Aerial Car, Automotive.

Introduction

Current autonomous systems mainly optimize routes and reduce travel time but overlook risk mitigation, leading to more traffic collisions. Recent studies show a rise in frequent and severe automotive accidents, including more autonomous vehicle incidents [1, 2]. This highlights the need for better safety measures. This research presents a comprehensive safety-critical autonomous navigation framework for aerial vehicles like flying cars with VTOL tech, incorporating our Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) stabilizer. This innovative approach focuses on safety assurance, real-time obstacle detection, adaptive control, and resilient decision-making for performance in complex, dynamic settings.

The spread of AI models in autonomous driving has improved smart transportation by supporting vehicle control, navigation, and perception, creating safer, more efficient mobility. However, challenges remain in safety, reliability, and driver engagement, leading to fatalities and injuries, especially in high-stakes autonomous vehicle operations.

To enhance safety system resilience, this study presents an innovative advanced Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) modeling framework for the emerging sector of piloted and autonomous flying cars. The (RORO) framework employs an adaptive risk management strategy that integrates sophisticated probabilistic modeling, real-time sensor data fusion, and machine learning-based hazard prediction algorithms. These components work synergistically to generate real-time risk assessments, allowing the system to detect, assess, and react to evolving operational hazards effectively.

This innovative framework aims to develop a safety system that handles complex risks of autonomous aerial mobility, supporting safe, reliable, and scalable flying cars. It seeks to enable navigation in city environments, ensure passenger safety, and meet regulations, ultimately advancing urban air mobility, societal acceptance, and a more connected, efficient, sustainable safety system.

The Risk-On/Risk-Off Sensor (RORO) model explains how users respond to environmental conditions by shifting between high-risk and low-risk behaviors, like aggressive aerial driving actions. It highlights the cyclical decision-making process, aiding targeted interventions to extend risk-off periods and reduce collisions and accidents. When combined with engineering solutions, such as improved safety systems, the (RORO) model provides a comprehensive approach to lowering injuries and fatalities in aerial vehicle networks.

Methodology

The methodology uses an innovative Risk-On/Risk-Off sensor framework with advanced fusion and probabilistic models. It adapts flying cars' behavior by continuously assessing real-time risks, marking a shift in automated mobility safety. By integrating high-fidelity sensors with risk algorithms, it aims to enhance safety margins and resilience of autonomous aerial vehicles in complex urban airspace.

Literature Review

Numerous studies [1-3] demonstrate that driving behaviors frequently entail heightened caution prompted by factors such as safety education, adverse weather conditions, and traffic conditions enforcement. Research [4-7] indicates risky behaviors occur when aerial drivers speeding, aggressiveness, or distraction. To address this, we analyze decision-making processes using the Risk-On/Risk Off (RORO) model, incorporating systems like adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping, and collision avoidance to extend Risk-Off periods and reduce crashes. These strategies, involving adaptive tech and automation, are vital for safer traditional and aerial vehicle operations, helping decrease accidents and promote safer transportation.

Discussion

In real-world environments, failures can occur during emergencies or unexpected situations beyond standard setups. To mitigate this, we're using the advanced Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) sensor system for aerial vehicles. This model assesses both expected and unexpected scenarios, enhancing safety. Unlike traditional method, this innovative approach features a proximity alert optimized for complex navigation. When an autonomous aerial or VTOL aircraft enters a set safety distance, the system triggers risk protocols. Sensors analyze in real time to identify hazards, enabling adaptive responses to protect the vehicle, systems, and passengers in dynamic conditions.

This Risk-On/Risk-Off model is flexible and adaptable, suitable for any conditions and handling unpredictable situations. It can metaphorically prevent accidents with emerging tech like flying cars, similar to avoiding traffic collisions in aerial vehicles. Its dynamic system enables toggling between safe and conservative modes to optimize safety and performance in volatile environments.

Some might argue this autonomous driving framework isn't entirely novel, as traditional autonomous vehicles mainly focus on reaching destinations efficiently. However, these older models often can't handle sudden, unpredictable events like obstacles or collisions. In contrast, the proposed Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) model offers a broader approach, suitable for urban air mobility solutions like flying cars and aerial taxis. It features multi-modal sensor fusion, real-time environmental analysis, and adaptive algorithms to enhance safety, reliability, and resilience in complex environments.

Our state-of-the-art autonomous mobility system features 14 advanced sensors arranged strategically for full environmental awareness and collision prevention. It includes 4 high-resolution lidar sensors placed on the top and bottom, and 3 ultrasonic or detector sensors on each side, granting 360-degree detection of ground and obstacles. This sensor integration delivers real-time, detailed perception of terrain, nearby aerial vehicles, and moving objects, supporting accurate spatial analysis.

The system monitors nearby flying vehicles and objects, maintaining safe distances. When risk assessment algorithms detect an imminent collision, the risk detection protocol activates. The proprietary Risk On/Risk Off (RORO) logic then evaluates the threat's severity and urgency, calculating a dynamic risk level based on factors like speed, trajectory, and conditions.

When a high-risk situation like overspeed or safety threats occurs, our autonomous "risk off" control immediately intervenes, triggering automated risk mitigation. This includes alerts to pilot and ground control, collision avoidance with sensor data and trajectory adjustments, and emergency protocols like controlled landings or evasive maneuvers to ensure safety and mission continuity. This safety system underscores our commitment to resilient autonomous urban air mobility, emphasizing safety, redundancy, and aviation standards.

Our (RORO) model employs a probabilistic approach for assessing flying road path risk over time. It uses logarithmic transformations to estimate risk levels within a stratified system, starting with a steady baseline and adding dynamic trends to simulate risk evolution. The model features a transition mechanism to reduce collisions and improve safety, making it adaptable to new transportation types like autonomous flying vehicles and urban air mobility solutions.

Likelihood of the car crash risk anchor formula

Absolute [log (expected aerial vehicle crash (roadpath) risk–Actual aerial vehicle crash (roadpath) risk/Mean of actual aerial vehicle (roadpath) risk *100%)] absolute

Table 1. The likelihood of a flying car crash risk as an anchor in a tiered approach (Author's view).

Threat	Tier 1
Risky	Tier 2
Safe	Tier 3

The risk-off framework will analyze expected and unexpected scenarios across variables and outcomes, then determine tailored risk mitigation strategies for transportation modes like flying cars. This ensures a thorough assessment of risks and strategies in advanced multimodal transport network.

Suggestion

This innovative autonomous safety tier approach is vital for advanced vehicle tech, especially flying cars. It monitors sensors and environment to assess collision risk. When the distance alarm activates-indicating a potential obstacle-the 'risk off' system takes control of the vehicle's flight and navigation, after confirming the maneuver is safe and won't conflict with other functions. The system seamlessly integrates with other control modules, improving safety, redundancy, and interoperability in complex airborne and ground environments.

Additionally, the Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) operational model includes an advanced autonomous deceleration system. This system acts as an intelligent collision avoidance tool, using real-time sensors and predictive analytics to identify potential threats from nearby vehicles or obstacles. When a collision risk is detected, such as an approaching air vehicle entering the flight path, the system automatically activates air braking to reduce impact or prevent a collision. This high-level safety feature is integrated smoothly into the vehicle's flight control system, embodying the Risk-On/Risk-Off concept by turning safety protocols on or off based on environmental risk assessments.

When the proximity detection system senses another aerial vehicle too close ahead, our risk management protocol, integrated into the autonomous deceleration system, triggers alerts in a Risk-On/Risk-Off model. Upon detecting imminent collision risk, the system automatically activates the air-decelerating mechanism, deploying precise measures to reduce impact and maintain safe separation, thus lowering collision chances during high-speed or complex flights.

Our innovative Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) sensor alert system utilizes advanced risk assessment techniques, combining state-of-the-art sensor technology to continuously monitor the proximity of the vehicle to surrounding objects. It precisely measures the safe distance between vehicles, providing real-time risk evaluations. When a high-risk situation is detected, prompting immediate action, the system issues an alert and switches the vehicle into risk-on or risk-off modes. These modes dynamically adjust driving settings to enhance safety and operational efficiency.

Additionally, the system uses advanced algorithms to analyze expected and observed event data, providing a thorough assessment of risk patterns. This data-driven method allows for quick response adjustments, improving aerial vehicle control strategies and maintaining safe distances. By combining real-time sensor input with adaptive control logic, our innovation seeks to enhance the safety, dependability, and autonomous capabilities of flying cars in complex airspace environments.

Table 2. Framework in the risk-on/risk-off sensor (RORO) model (Author's view).

Risk-on-risk-off model						
The latest aerial road-path risk ratings	➡	Authentic aerial road-path review	➡	Aerial road-path safety outlook and access	➡	Objectives (flying vehicle) and other object particulars
Allocation and aerial road-path data				Aerial road-path safety data, unit anchor data, ratios, and simulation		

If the opposing aircraft is ahead of our vehicle during flight, the onboard autonomous system operating in Risk-On/Risk-Off mode will activate safety protocols. This includes sending alert signals to the user and

engaging the automatic braking (deceleration) system. The system will maintain controlled deceleration until a safe, predefined distance from the leading aircraft is reached, ensuring collision avoidance and maintaining optimal flight safety margins.

Advantages of Innovative Model

- ☞ Our Risk-On/Risk-Off Sensor (RORO) model ensures interoperability in autonomous aerial systems through industry-standard protocols and scalable architecture. It interfaces with sensors and actuators to deliver real-time risk detection and decision-making, ensuring safety and reliability for crewed and uncrewed flying vehicles in various environments. This supports scalable deployment from urban mobility to long-range autonomous systems.
- ☞ Additionally, our Risk-On/Risk-Off Sensor model utilizes a real-time analytical engine that incorporates machine learning and high-frequency data processing. It assesses sentiment fluctuations along flight paths instantly, offering granular, time-sensitive market insights. Unlike traditional batch systems, it provides continuous, real-time insights-enabling swift, data-driven decisions in fast-changing environments. This tech boosts strategic responsiveness, like a high-velocity, multi-dimensional aerial corridor with precision and agility.
- ☞ Also, our Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) strategy is fully integrative and interoperable, connecting a diverse array of sensor systems. Its modular design ensures system cohesion, avoiding conflicts. Using advanced protocols and standardized interfaces, it enables efficient data exchange and real-time coordination across various sensor platforms. This framework improves the accuracy and responsiveness of risk assessments, especially in complex environments, ensuring agility, resilience, and optimal performance in evolving threat landscapes.
- ☞ Furthermore, our Risk-On/Risk-Off (RORO) paradigm offers a flexible, comprehensive framework for diverse conditions, integrating advanced risk assessment methods like statistical models, machine learning, and high-performance computing from road safety engineering. This enables nuanced, precise risk evaluation, improving predictive robustness and accuracy over time and regimes. These analytical capabilities position our framework at the forefront of quantitative risk management, supporting informed decisions in volatile environments.
- ☞ Our (RORO) model uses advanced algorithms and data methods for real-time monitoring and predictive analytics in high-stakes environments. By integrating machine learning and high-frequency data, it detects early signs of system issues quickly, enabling prompt intervention. When a risk is identified, it automatically activates suspension and contingency measures to minimize risk, maintain system reliability, and ensure continuous resilience, aligning with top operational and risk management standards in innovative mobility.

Conclusion

Our Risk-On/Risk-Off Sencer (RORO) model innovative ideas are crucial in aerial transportation tech like flying car, autonomous flying vehicles and advanced safety systems. Our innovative concepts highlight strategic risk management and analysis, key to developing and adopting innovative mobility solutions.

The (RORO) architecture offers ultra-reliability, with risk-avoidance features that boost resilience and ensure operational continuity in complex environments. Deploying these systems can advance urban air mobility, making transportation safer, more efficient, and scalable. We hope this research provides valuable insights into the evolution of revolutionary transportation tech, improving aerial safety for society.

Declarations

Acknowledgments: The author would like to acknowledge the independent nature of this research, which was conducted without institutional or external support.

Author Contribution: The author confirms sole responsibility for the following: study conception and design, data collection, analysis and interpretation of results, and manuscript preparation.

Conflict of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Consent to Publish: The author agrees to publish the paper in International Journal of Recent Innovations in Academic Research.

Data Availability Statement: All relevant data are included in the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Research Content: The research content of the manuscript is original and has not been published elsewhere.

References

1. Kontaxi, A., Ziakopoulos, A. and Yannis, G. 2025. Exploring the impact of driver feedback on safety: A systematic review of studies in real-world driving conditions. *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour*, 114: 118-140.
2. Hussain, Z., Mohammed, S.S., Dias, C., Hussain, Q. and Alhajyaseen, W.K. 2025. Empirical analysis of car-following behavior: Impacts of driver demographics, leading vehicle types, and speed limits on driver behavior and safety. *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour*, 108: 188-205.
3. Birrell, S.A. and Fowkes, M. 2014. Glance behaviours when using an in-vehicle smart driving aid: A real-world, on-road driving study. *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour*, 22: 113-125.
4. Wenzel, T.P. and Ross, M. 2005. The effects of vehicle model and driver behavior on risk. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 37(3): 479-494.
5. Evans, L. 2004. *Traffic safety*. Bloomfield, Mich: Science Serving Society.
6. Johansson, R. 2009. Vision zero—implementing a policy for traffic safety. *Safety Science*, 47(6): 826-831.
7. Reason, J. 1990. *Human error*. Cambridge University Press.

Citation: Lie Chun Pong. 2025. Future Aerial Car Approach: Risk-On/Risk-Off Sensor Model. *International Journal of Recent Innovations in Academic Research*, 9(4): 1-5.

Copyright: ©2025 Lie Chun Pong. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.