What Is the Cause of Mid-Air Collisions?: A Study of the Reasons for the High Rate of Collisions in Instructional Flights
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Although aviation is one of the safest forms of travel in the United States, statistics indicate that mid-air collisions during dual instructional flight require additional analysis. In the U.S. the rate of mid-air collisions is relatively low, even though instructional flight collision rates are significantly high. The conventional wisdom relates these high rates to the distraction of flight instructors who are busy teaching students. This study tests an alternative theory to the conventional wisdom, namely that the higher rate of mid-air collisions during dual instructional flight is a result of the dual instructional flights spending more time in flight regimes where mid-air collisions are more likely to occur. The study focuses on instructional flights as compared to other flight operations using General Aviation data.