

# Scenic and VerifAI: Tools for Assured AI-Based Autonomy

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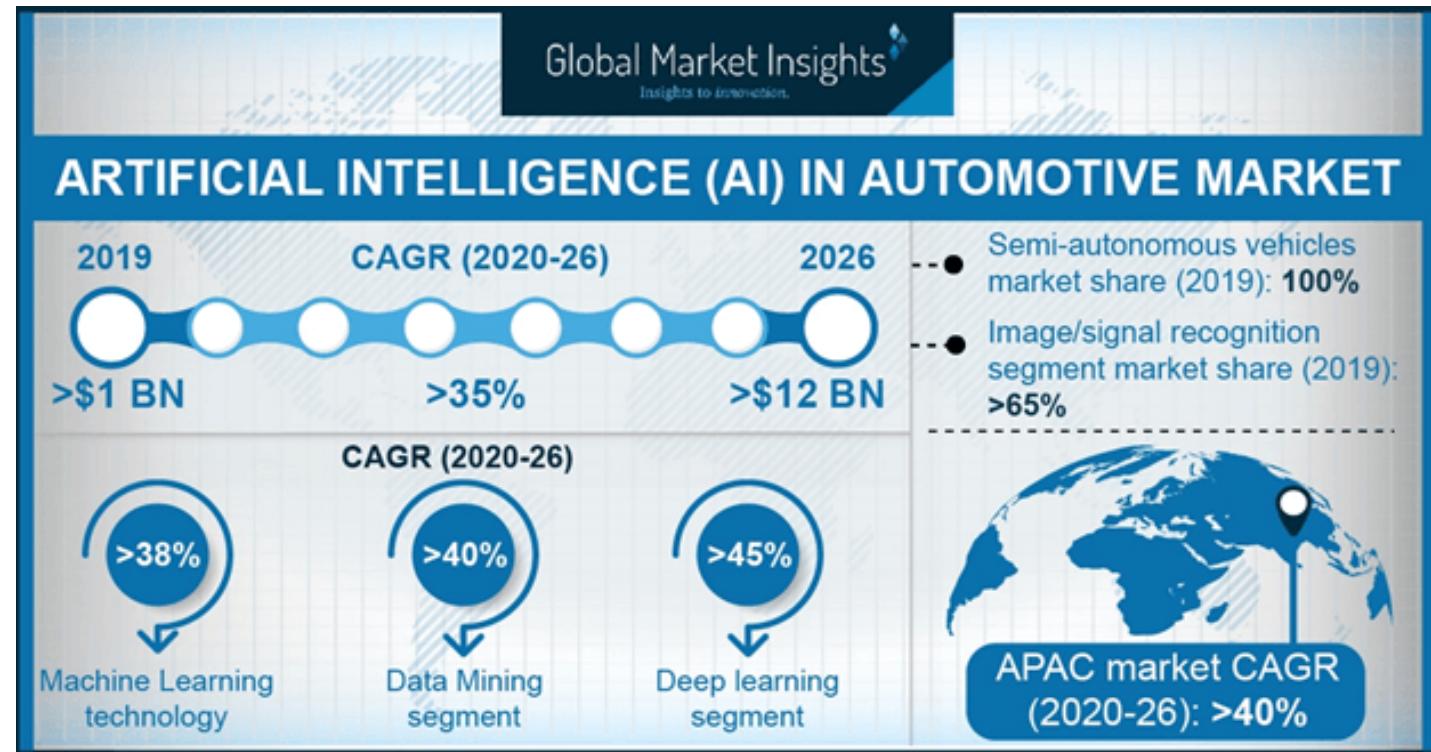
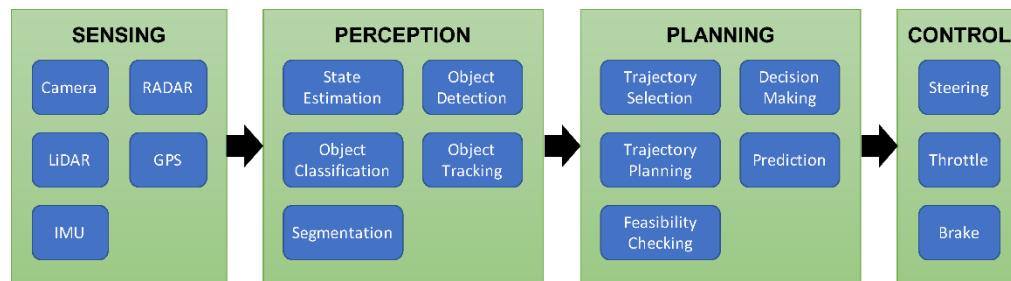
Webinar  
August 20, 2020

# Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Autonomy

Computational Systems that attempt to **mimic** aspects of human intelligence, including especially the ability to **learn from experience**.



# Growing Use of Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence in Safety-Critical Autonomous Systems



## Growing Concerns about Safety:

- Numerous papers showing that *Deep Neural Networks can be easily fooled*
- Accidents*, including some *fatal*, involving potential failure of AI/ML-based perception systems in self-driving cars

Source: gminsights.com

# Can we address the Design & Verification Challenges of AI/ML-Based Autonomy with Formal Methods?

Precise, Programmatic **Environment/Scenario Modeling**



 Mathematical **Specification**  
 $\varphi$  of Requirements and Metrics



Scalable Algorithms for  
Verification and Testing



 Methodologies for **Provably-Robust System Design**



S. A. Seshia, D. Sadigh, S. S. Sastry.

Towards Verified Artificial Intelligence. July 2016. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.08514>.

# Scenic

High-Level, Probabilistic Programming  
Language for Modeling Environment Scenarios



**Open-Source Tools**

<https://github.com/BerkeleyLearnVerify/Scenic>  
<https://github.com/BerkeleyLearnVerify/VerifAI>

for

## Academia

Industry  
Improve assurance  
of the systems you  
build

## Government/ Regulators

Evaluate the safety  
of AI-based  
autonomous systems

Share Scenarios and Metrics

# VerifAI

Requirements Specification + Algorithms  
for Design, Verification, Testing, Debugging

Use these tools in  
your research

Develop Corpus of Tools and Data

Community

# Outline for this Webinar

## Part I: Overview

- Challenges for Assurance of Autonomous Driving Systems
- Overview of VerifAI and Scenic
- Case Study on Formal Scenario-Based Testing in Simulation and on the Road

## Part II: Tutorial

- Spatial modeling, data generation, and debugging ML-based perception with Scenic
- Spatio-temporal scenario modeling, testing, falsification, debugging, retraining with Scenic and VerifAI

## Conclusion & Outlook

## **Challenges for Assuring Safety of ADS**

# What We Mean By Safety in Autonomous Driving

Safety → “absence of unreasonable risk”

SAFETY



RISK



ISO 26262

**Functional Safety (FuSa)**

- Hazards due to E/E system



ISO/PAS 21448

**(SOTIF) Safety of the Intended Functionality**

- Hazards due to nominal system operation

$\text{Risk} = f(\text{Severity}, \text{Exposure}, \text{Controllability})$   
[ASIL, ISO 26262]

→ Severity

- types of injuries

→ Exposure

- frequency of hazards

→ Controllability

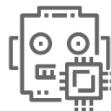
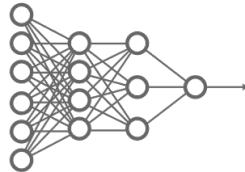
- how much driver can prevent injury

No system has absolutely zero risk

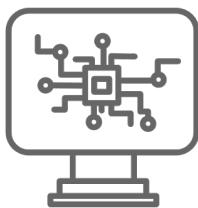
# Improving Safety in Automated Driving Systems: Needs

## Challenges for safety-critical systems

SENSE → PERCEIVE → PREDICT → PLAN → ACT



Handle **complex neural-network based perception** and **prediction** tasks, including planning and control



Toolchain that integrates **design** and **verification** with **data generation** and training/testing of ML components



Simulation is important for complex, **real-world scenarios** for which **real world data is difficult/dangerous**

# Why Testing ADS is Complex



Verification & Validation: Assurance of “*positive risk balance*”  
Scenario-based testing is one standard approach for V&V

*Wide variety of functions and scenarios...*

ADAS

ACC

FCW

CAS

AEB

P-AEB

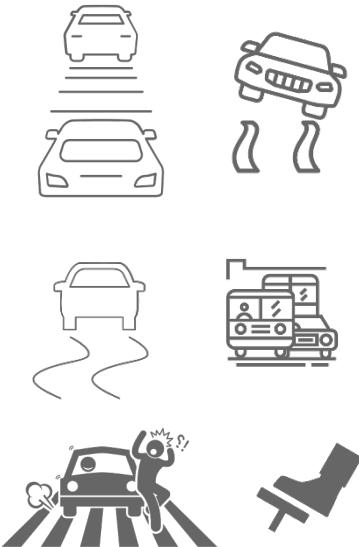
LKA

LDW

BSM

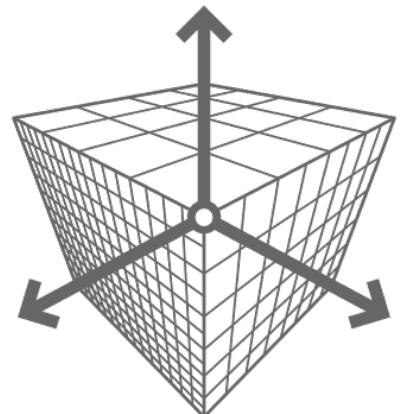
ISA

...



NHTSA, EuroNCAP, JNCAP

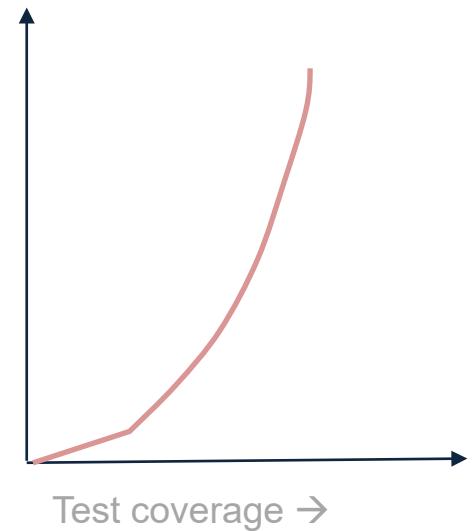
*...lead to high-dimensionality of parameter search*



Test matrix

*...resulting in high complexity*

Resources, complexity →



# Operational Design Domain: What and Why

**Operating environment** within which an ADS can **safely** perform its dynamic driving task (**DDT**)

## Formulation

Category / sub-category / attributes  
Static and dynamic elements  
Additive / subtractive elements

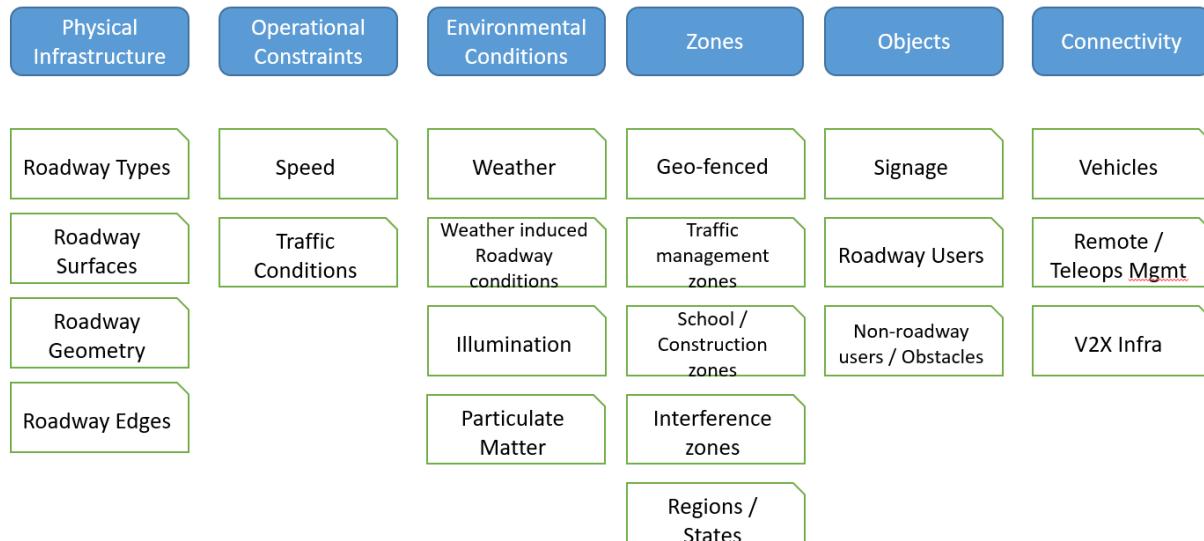
## Requirements

Precisely definable  
Comprehensible (human / machine)  
Measurable  
Monitorable (by ADS / operator)

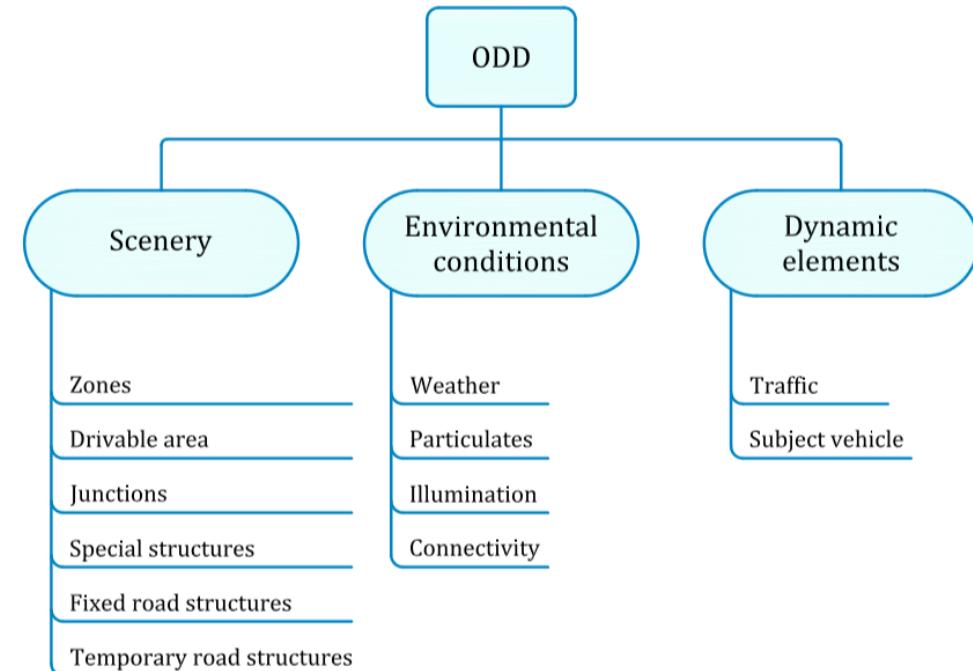
## Boundary conditions

ODD detection / departure  
Min Risk Condition (MRC)  
Min Risk Maneuver (MRM)  
Fail Safe / Fail Operational

## ODD Classification



Source: NHTSA 13882 ADS Scenario Framework



Source: BSI PAS 1883

# Safety Metrics: How is Success / Failure Measured



**System performance** is context-dependent (mission/scenario/test-case/etc.)



**“Disengagement”** is not a safety metric



Standards /  
Proposals...

**ANSI / UL 4600 – “Safety Performance Indicators (SPIs)”**

**IEEE P2846 – “motion control based metrics”**

**Intel’s Responsibility-Sensitive Safety (RSS)**

**NVIDIA’s Safety Force-Field (SFF)**

...Convergence

## Vehicle Dynamics Based

Min Safe Distance Violation  
Proper Response Action  
Min Safe Distance Factor  
Min Safe Distance Calc Error  
Collision Incident  
Rules-of-road violation  
ADS Active  
Human Traffic Control Detection Error Rate  
Time to Collision (TTC)  
Post-Encroachment Time  
Aggressive Driving  
Collision Avoidance Capability (CAC)

## SPIs

Incident rates  
Violation rates  
- By human exposure  
- By item exposure  
Hazard occurrence rates  
Unmitigated hazard rates  
Psychological comfort rates  
ODD departure rates  
...  
Post-deployment defect rates  
Field failure rates  
Misclassification rates  
...

Sources:

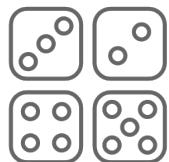
1. “Driving Safety Performance Assessment Metrics for ADS-equipped Vehicles”, Wishart, et al (SAE WCX 2020)
2. “Collision Avoidance Capability Metric”, Silberling, et al (SAE WCX 2020)

# Bridging Simulation and Real World

Testing on road/track is expensive but important, hence



- Need to carefully design road/track tests (e.g. NHTSA, NCAP, IIHS, ...)
- Customize test plans based on ODD, autonomy functions, infra, ...

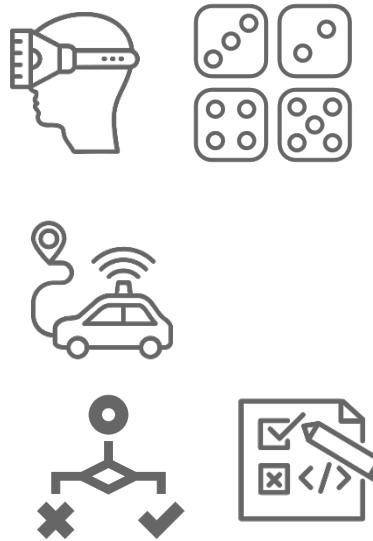


- Ensure that models in sim are fit for their test purpose
- Ensure match between simulation scenarios and road testing scenarios



- Need fallback options (e.g. MRC) in case safety cannot be assured
- Test boundary conditions very well

# Simulation and Formal Methods can Make ADS Testing Efficient and Bridge the Gap with Road Testing

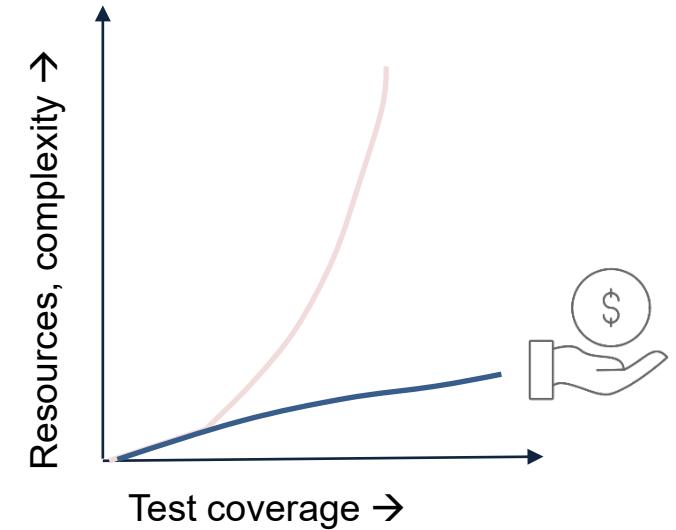


## Simulation

- Efficiently search large space
- Create complex interactions safely

## Formal methods

- Temporal logic
- Falsification
- Counterexample-guided retraining
- Parameter synthesis



*“All models are wrong... but some are useful” – George P. Box*

# **Overview of Scenic and VerifAI**

# SCENIC: Environment Modeling and Data Generation

- *Scenic* is a probabilistic programming language defining *distributions over scenes/scenarios*
- Use cases: data generation, test generation, verification, debugging, design exploration, etc.

```
model scenic.domains.driving.model

ego = Car

spot = OrientedPoint on visible curb
badAngle = Uniform(1.0, -1.0) * Range(10, 20) deg
parkedCar = Car left of spot by 0.5,
            facing badAngle relative to roadDirection
```

Example: Badly-parked car



Image created  
with  
GTA-V

```
model scenic.domains.driving.model

behavior PullIntoRoad():
    while (distance from self to ego) > 15:
        wait
        FollowLaneBehavior(lane=ego.lane)

ego = Car with behavior DriveAvoidingCollisions

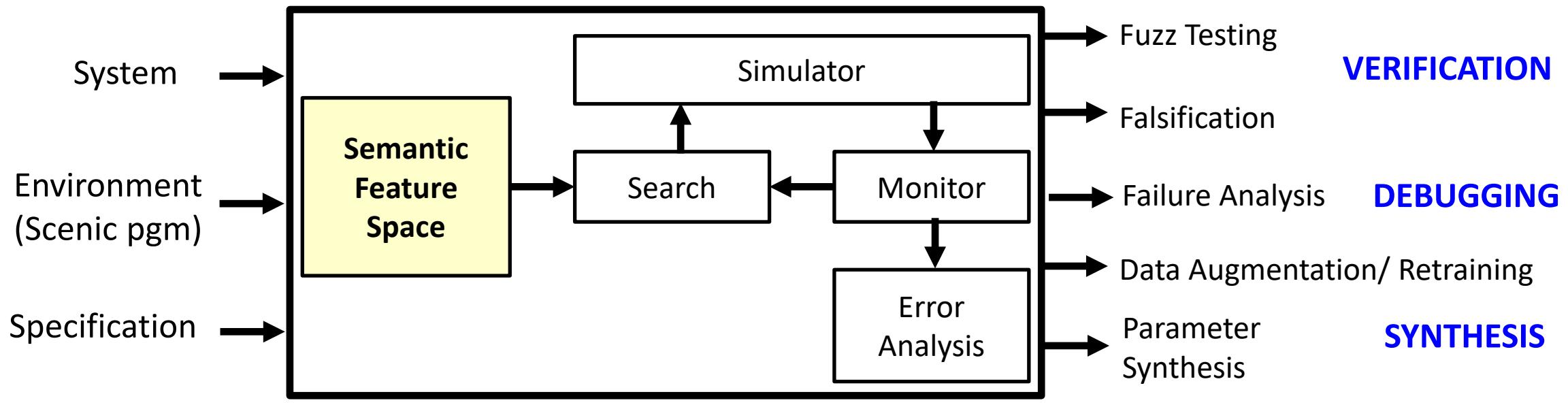
spot = OrientedPoint on visible curb
badAngle = Uniform(1.0, -1.0) * Range(10, 20) deg
parkedCar = Car left of spot by 0.5,
            facing badAngle relative to roadDirection,
            with behavior PullIntoRoad
```



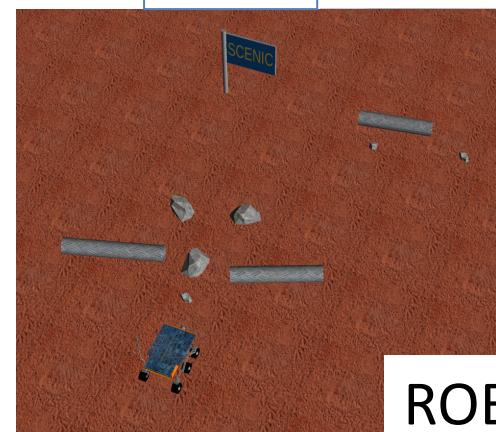
Video  
created  
with  
CARLA

# VERIFAI: A Toolkit for the Design and Analysis of AI-Based Systems

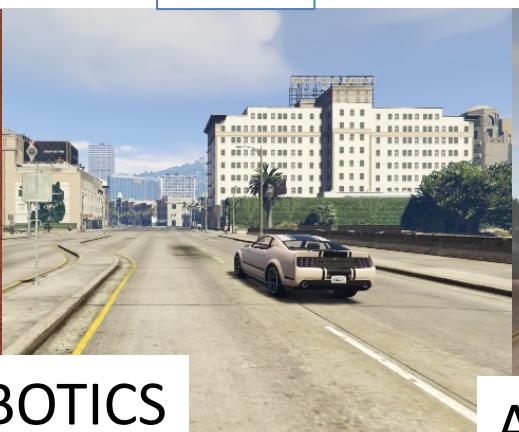
[Dreossi et al. CAV 2019, <https://github.com/BerkeleyLearnVerify/VerifAI>]



Webots



GTA-V



LGSVL



CARLA



X-Plane



ROBOTICS

AUTONOMOUS DRIVING

AIRCRAFT

# Relevant Use Cases for Scenic and VerifAI

- Scenic Programs can specify ODDs and Test Scenarios
- Can specify Safety Properties/Metrics in VerifAI
- Scenic+VerifAI can
  - Automatically generate tests in simulation
  - Automatically find edge cases to safety
  - Generate data for training and testing ML models and perception
  - Automatically synthesize parameters for ML, planning, control
  - Debug and explain the behavior of perception, planning, control systems
  - Bridge the gap between simulation-based assessment and real-world/road testing
  - ...

## **Industrial Case Study:**

# **Formal Scenario-Based Testing in Simulation and the Real World**

# 3-Way Project Collaboration



Northern California  
Nevada & Utah



A. Acharya, P. Wells, X. Bruso

**GoMentum Station** proving ground  
4Active pulley equipment,  
pedestrian dummy, OxTS IMU,  
dGPS, etc.



S. A. Seshia, D. Fremont, E. Kim,  
Y. V. Pant, H. Ravanbakhsh

**SCENIC** scenario description  
language,  
**VerifAI** toolkit for design and  
verification of AI based systems



LG Electronics R&D

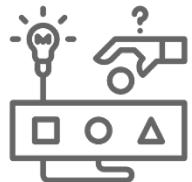
S. Lemke, Q. Lu, S. Mehta

**LGSVL Simulator** (open source)  
LG's research AV with Baidu's  
Apollo autonomy stack

# Key Research Questions



**#1 Safety violations in simulation:** Do they transfer to the **real world**? How well?



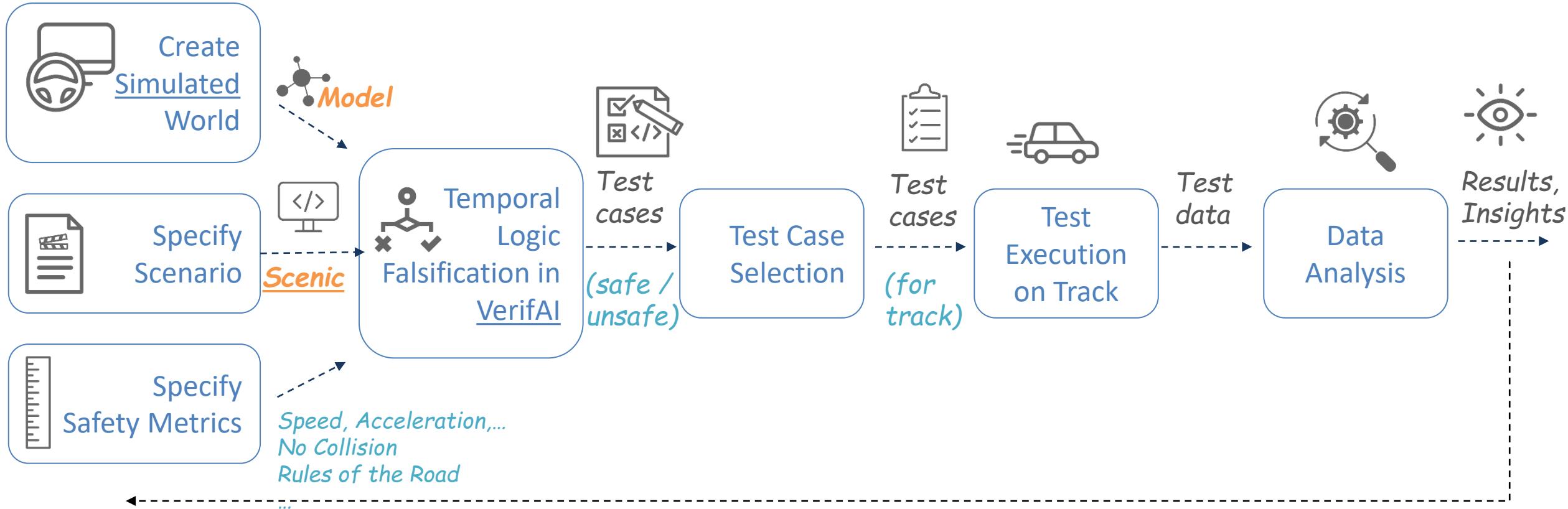
**#2 Effective real-world testing:** Can we use **formally guided simulation** to design effective **real-world tests**?

*First use of formal methods for scenario-based testing of AI-based autonomy in both simulation and real world*



Fremont, Kim, Pant, Seshia, Acharya, Bruso, Wells, Lemke, Lu, Mehta, “**Formal Scenario-Based Testing of Autonomous Vehicles: From Simulation to the Real World**”, Arxiv e-prints, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.07739> [appearing ITSC 2020]

# Formal Scenario-Based Testing (with Scenic and VerifAI)



Source: Fremont et al., “Formal Scenario-Based Testing of Autonomous Vehicles: From Simulation to the Real World”, Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference (ITSC) 2020, to appear. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.07739>

# Scenario Overview: Focus on Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs)

+53%



17%



67%



**Pedestrian fatalities:** 53% increase in the last decade (2009-2019)  
2019: ~6500 (estimated)

Of all traffic fatalities, 17% are Pedestrians

Fatalities at night (low-light, limited vision environment)

Source:

GHSA: [https://www.thecarconnection.com/news/1127308\\_pedestrian-deaths-reach-30-year-high-in-2019](https://www.thecarconnection.com/news/1127308_pedestrian-deaths-reach-30-year-high-in-2019)

IIHS: <https://www.iihs.org/topics/pedestrians-and-bicyclists>

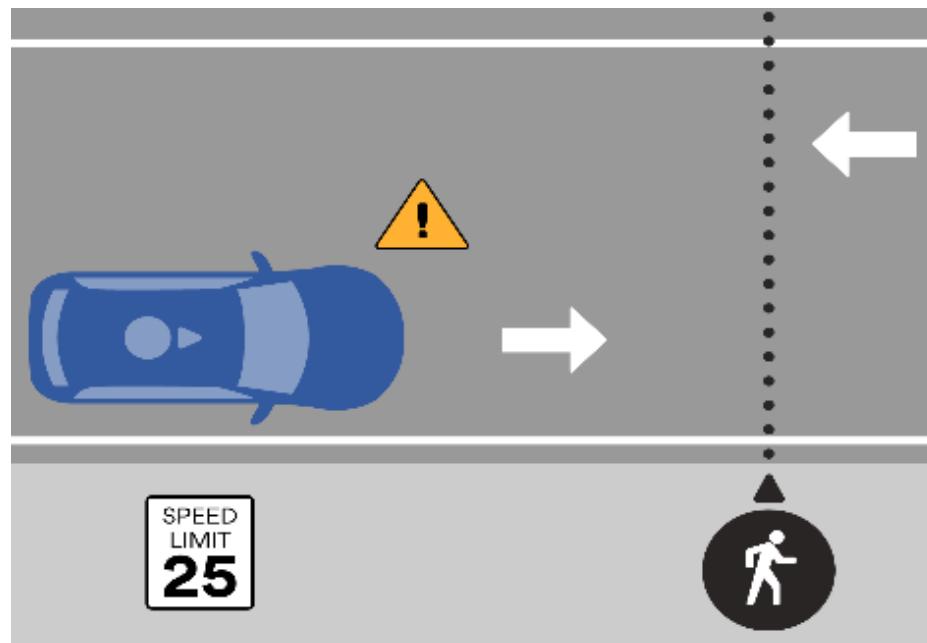
# Test Equipment and Use at AAA GoMentum Testing Grounds

## Robotic platform for Test Targets



## Scenario Execution

[Shows EuroNCAP VRU AEB]



## Scenario Evaluation

### Object & Event Detection/Response: Metrics & Evaluation

- Object detection
- Time to collision
- Separation distance
- Deceleration profile
- Autonomy Disengagement

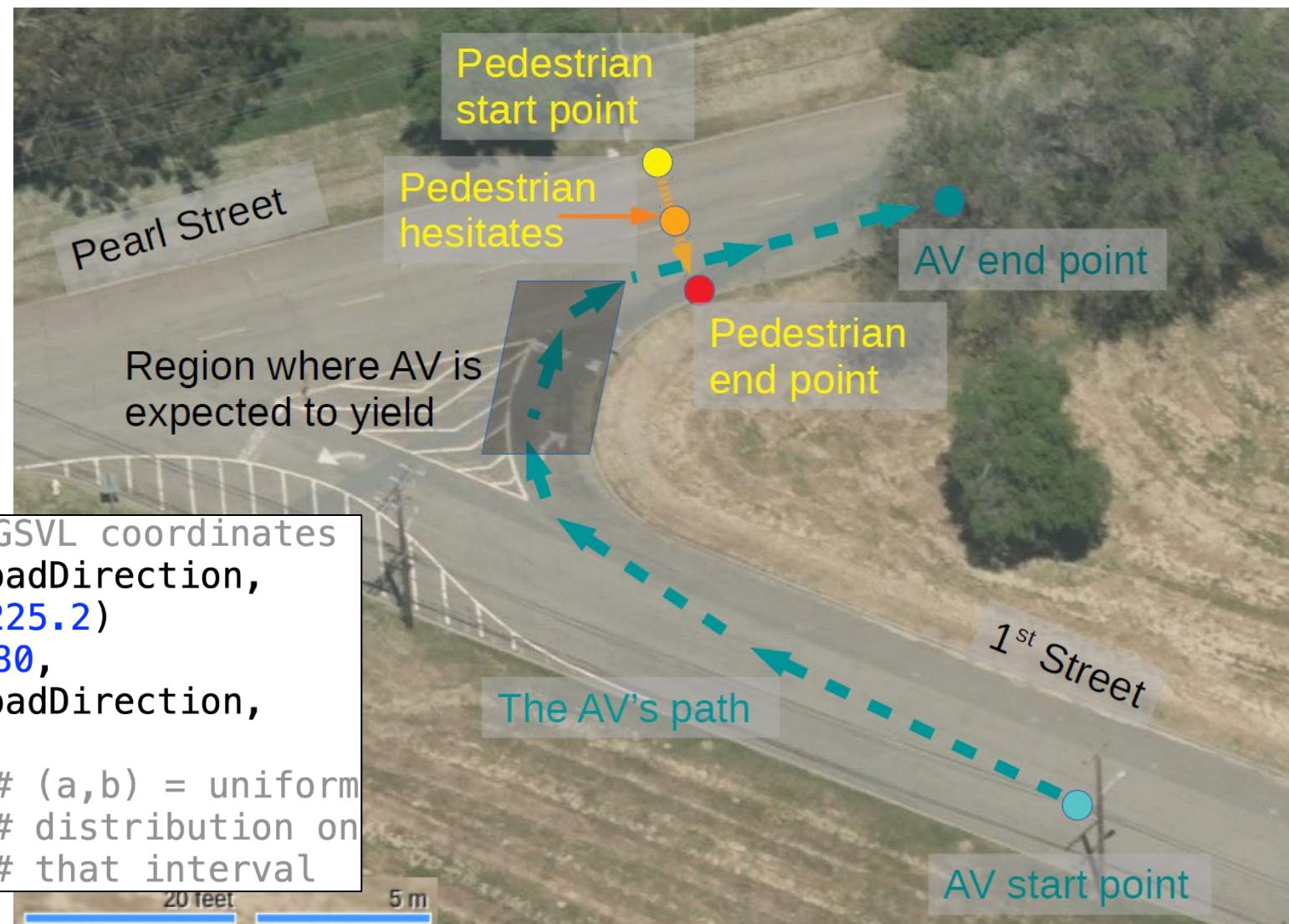
# Example Scenario: AV making right turn, pedestrian crossing



Lincoln MKZ running Apollo 3.5

```
ego = EgoCar at 38.6 @ 183.9, # LGSVL coordinates  
      facing 10 deg relative to roadDirection,  
      with behavior DriveTo(40 @ 225.2)  
ped = Pedestrian at 19.782 @ 225.680,  
      facing 90 deg relative to roadDirection,  
      with behavior Hesitate,  
      with startDelay (7, 15),  
      with walkDistance (4, 7),  
      with hesitateTime (1, 3)
```

Snippet of Scenic program



# Results: Falsification and Test Selection

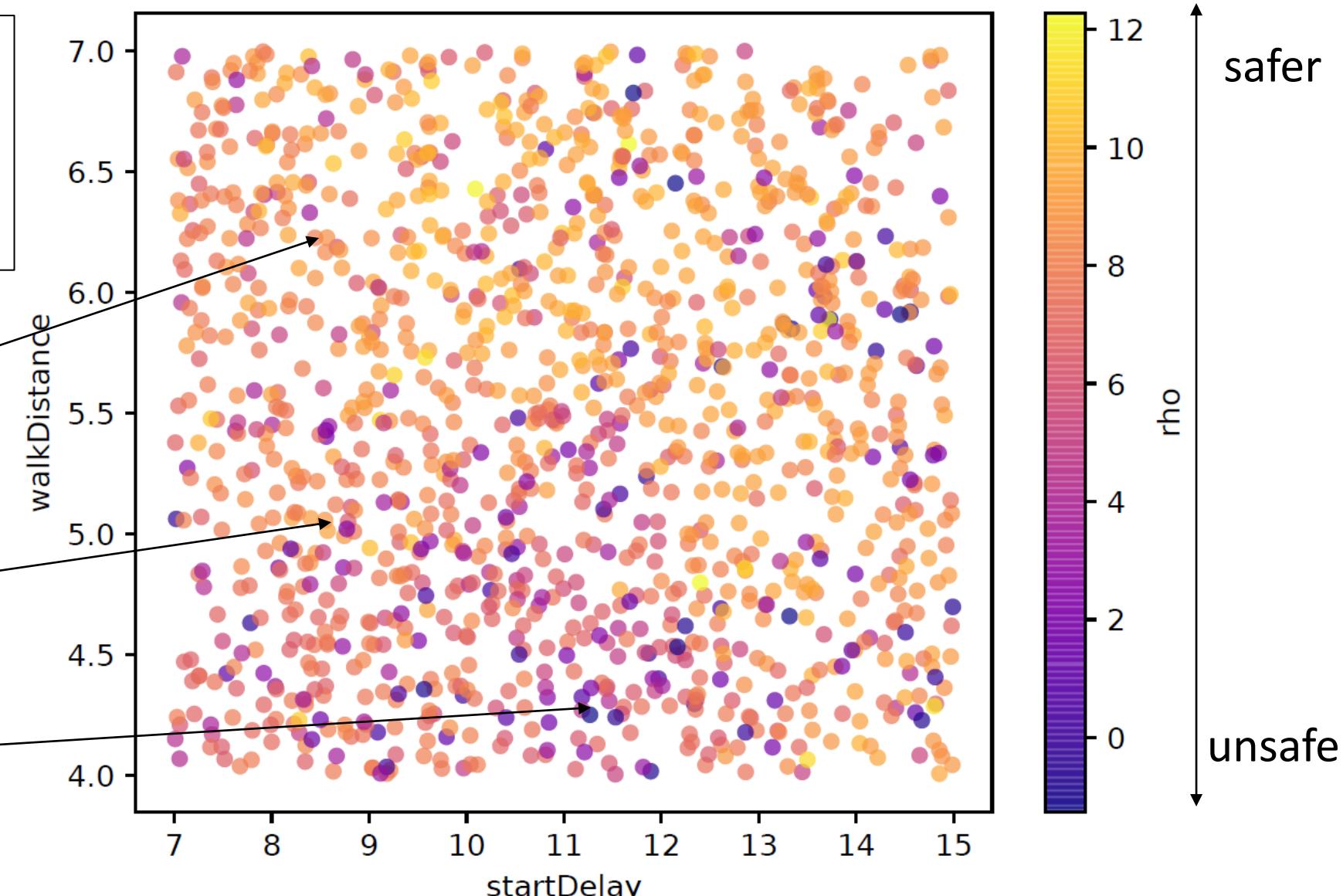
1294 simulations explored  
2% violated safety property

Total 7 test cases selected

S2: robustly safe

M2: marginally safe

F2: collision



# Results: Does Safety in Simulation → Safety on the Road?

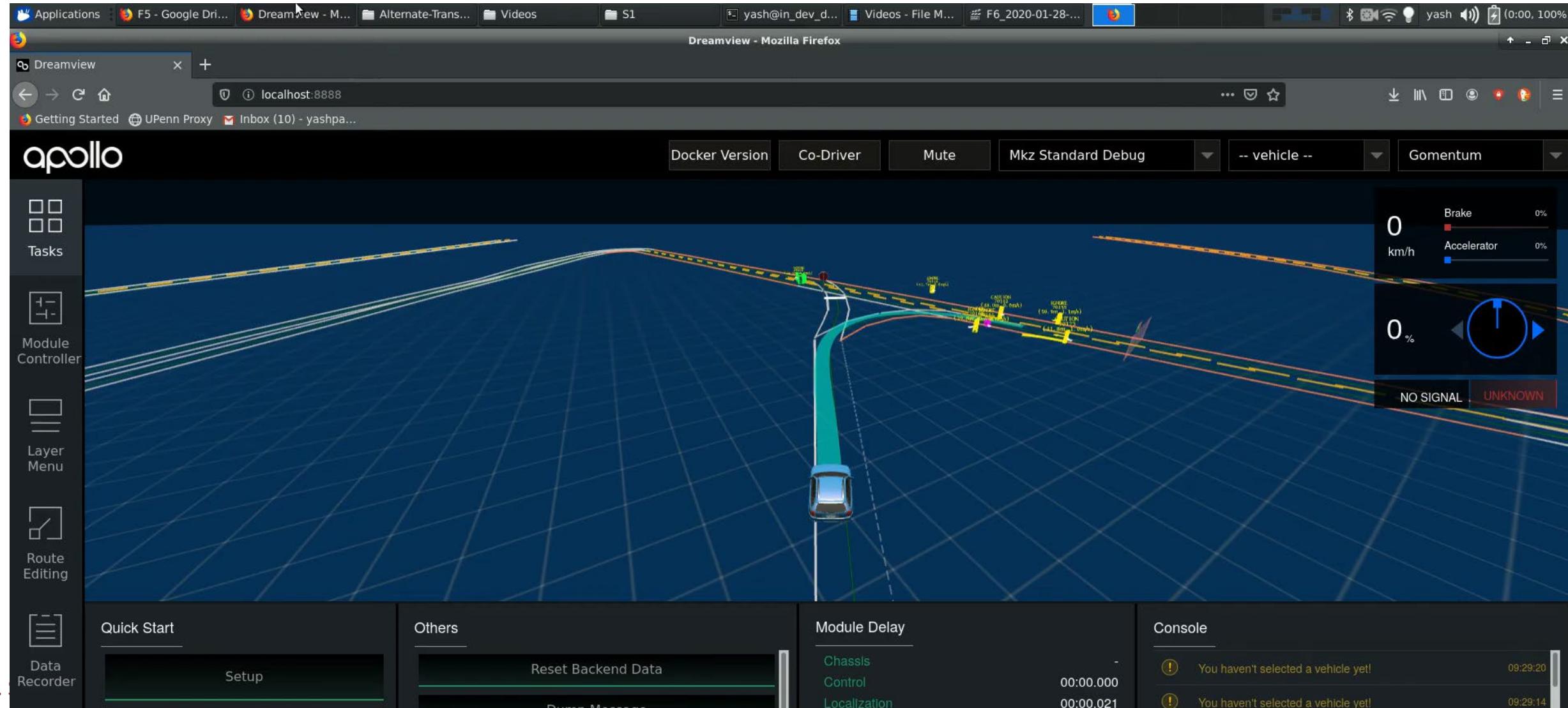
Unsafe in simulation → unsafe on the road: **62.5% (incl. collision)**

Safe in simulation → safe on the road: **93.5% (no collision)**

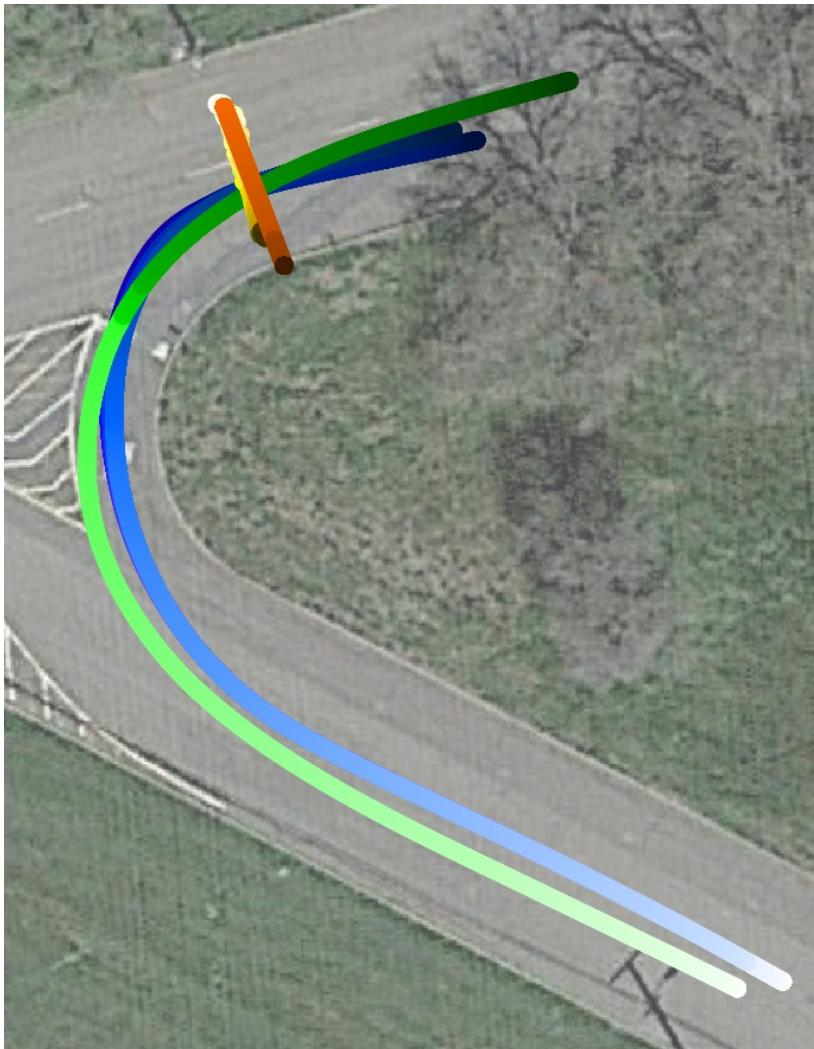


# Results: Why did the AV Fail?

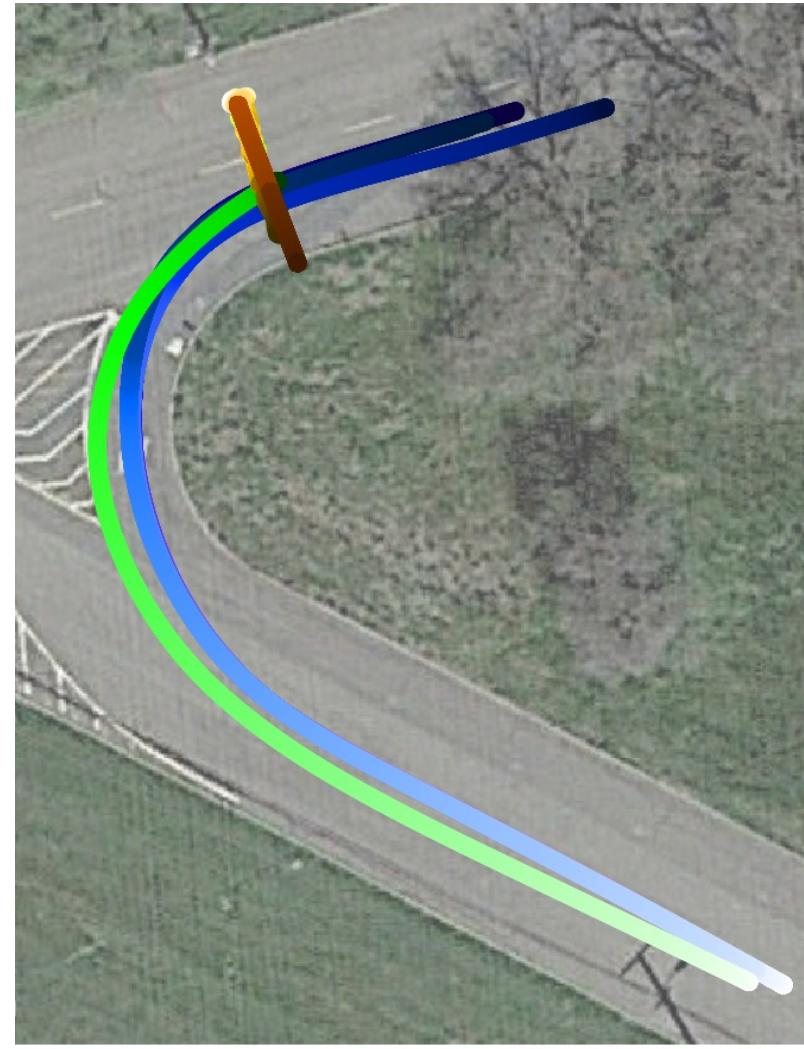
Perception Failure: Apollo 3.5 lost track of the pedestrian several times



# Results: How well do the trajectories match?



S1 Run 2



F1 Run 1

Green – AV real  
Blue – AV sim  
  
Orange – Ped real  
Yellow – Ped sim

# Conclusion

- Scenic allows easy modeling of complex scenarios for AI-based autonomy + associated data generation
- VerifAI covers range of design, verification, and debugging tasks for AI-based autonomy
- ITSC 2020 Case Study: Scenic+VerifAI can be used to bridge the simulation-to-real world testing gap
  - Effectively evaluate safety via formally-guided simulation
  - Reduce expense of real-world testing by orders of magnitude
- Up next: 1 hour tutorial will give further details on Scenic and VerifAI and use cases for both tools

# Ongoing Work and Directions

- Compiling a library of scenarios in Scenic
- Evaluation on more complex, higher-dimensional scenarios
- New algorithms for formal verification and synthesis
- Tools for automated analysis/triage of failure cases
- Improvements in track testing equipment and their connection to simulation

and more...

*We welcome participation from the community!*

<https://github.com/BerkeleyLearnVerify/VerifAI>

<https://github.com/BerkeleyLearnVerify/Scenic/>

# Acknowledgments: Contributors, Co-authors, Collaborators

## UC Berkeley

- Johnathan Chiu
- Tommaso Dreossi
- Shromona Ghosh
- Francis Indaheng
- Sebastian Junges
- Kevin Li
- Yash Vardhan Pant
- Hadi Ravanbakhsh
- Jay Shenoy
- Hazem Torfah
- Marcell Vazquez-Chanlatte
- Kesav Viswanadha
- Xiangyu Yue

## UC Berkeley

- Kurt Keutzer
- Alberto Sangiovanni-Vincentelli
- Pravin Varaiya
- Alex Kurzhanskiy

## UC Santa Cruz

- Ellen Kalvan

## Boeing

- Dragos Margineantu
- Denis Osipychev

## AAA NCU

- Xantha Bruso
- Paul Wells

## LG Electronics

- Steve Lemke
- Shalin Mehta
- Qiang Lu

## NASA Ames

- Corina Pasareanu
- Divya Gopinath

*Thank you!*