AuE-8360
Scaled Autonomous Vehicles

Simulation Tools for Scaled Vehicle Courses

Chinmay Samak

PhD Candidate, CU-ICAR

csamak@clemson.edu

Tanmay Samak

PhD Candidate, CU-ICAR

tsamak@clemson.edu

List of Simulation Tools for Scaled Vehicle Courses

- TurtleSim
- Official F1TENTH Simulator (Rviz)
- Driving Scenario Designer
- Gazebo Simulator
- F1TENTH Simulator (Gazebo)
- CoppeliaSim (formerly V-REP)
- F1TENTH Simulator (LGSVL)
- Isaac Sim
- AutoDRIVE Simulator

Recommended for Courses/Training

- DRIVE Sim
- CARLA Simulator
- LGSVL Simulator
- AirSim
- AWSim
- RaiSim
- OpenAI Gym
- Ansys Autonomy
- CarMaker
- CarSim
- TORCS

- Deepdrive
- rFpro
- dSPACE AURELION
- PreScan
- Webots
- Cognata
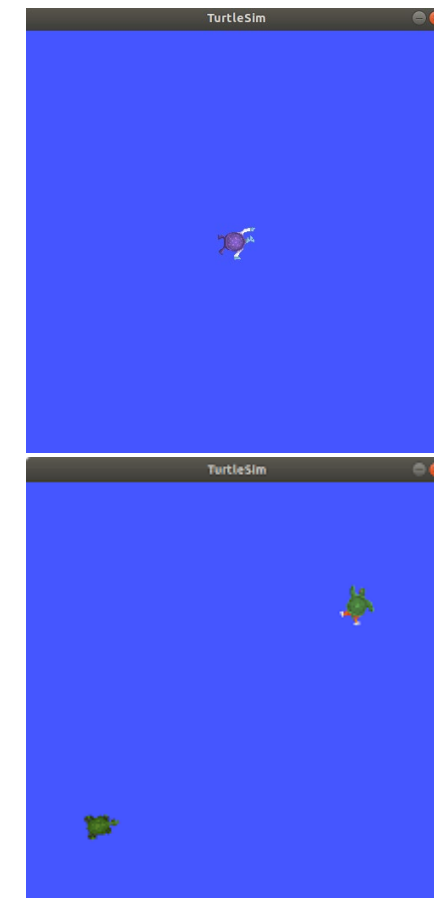- Metamoto
- VIRES VTD
- GTA V
- Project Chrono

Recommended for Research

TurtleSim

- Advantages
  - [Open source](#)
  - Simple & intuitive
  - Multi-robot support
- Disadvantages
  - 2D kinematic simulation
  - Environments not supported
  - Only differential-drive architecture
  - No cross-platform support
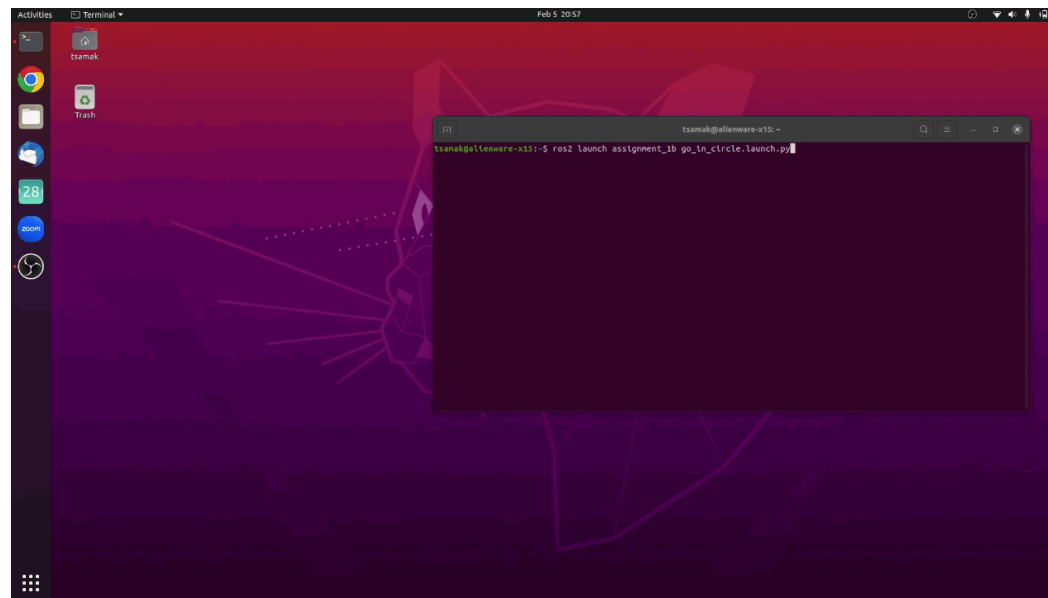
Source: [Tinker Twins GitHub](#)
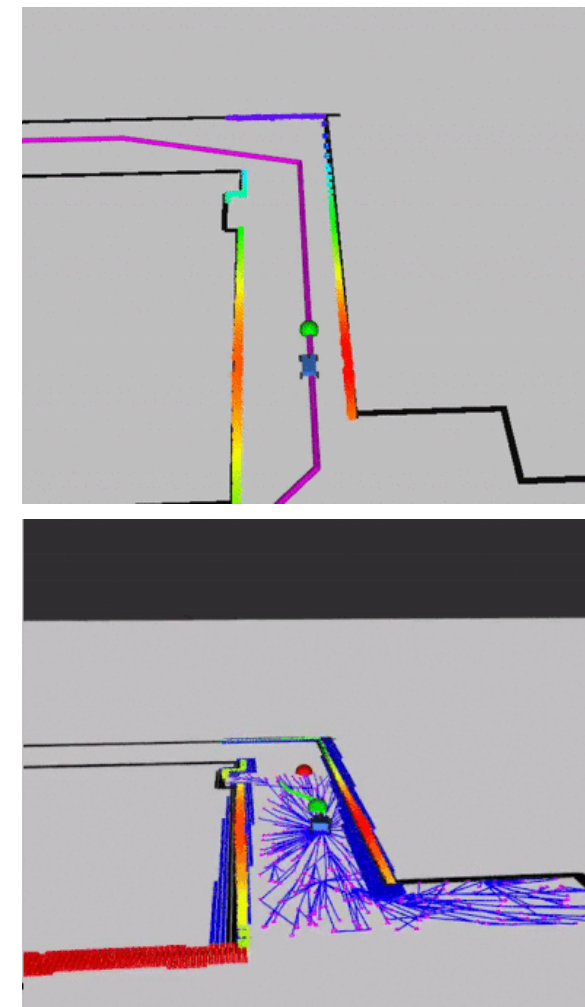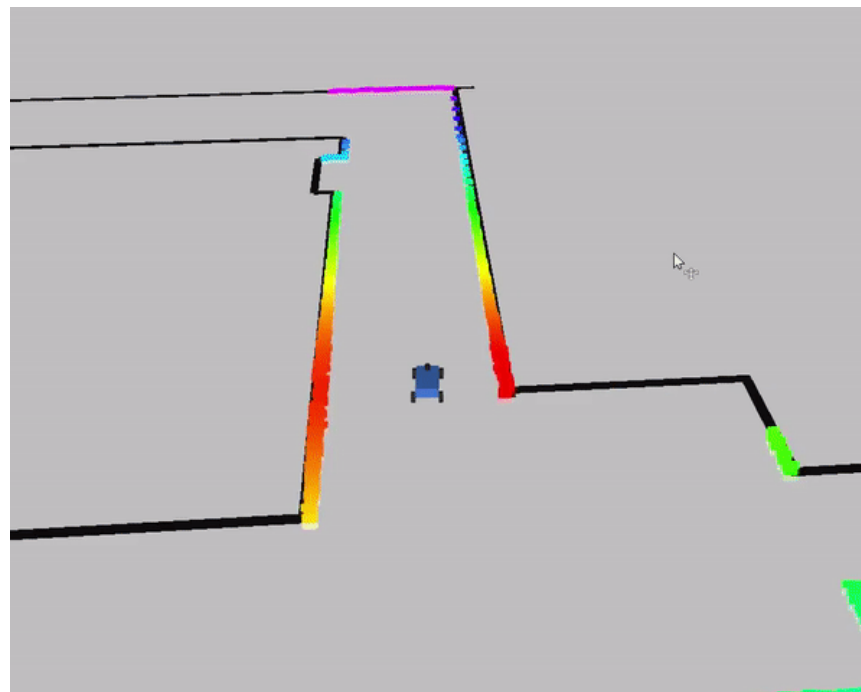

Source: [ROS Wiki](#)

Source: [ROS Core Stacks](#)

Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
2D	Custom (kinematic simulation)	OpenGL	No	Pose	ROS, ROS 2	Open Robotics	Free	Yes	Exploration and understanding

Official F1TENTH Simulator (RViz)

- Advantages
  - Open source
  - Simple & intuitive
  - Uses same stack as real vehicle
- Disadvantages
  - 2D simplistic simulation
  - No vertical/roll/pitch dynamics
  - 2D environment representation
  - No cross-platform support
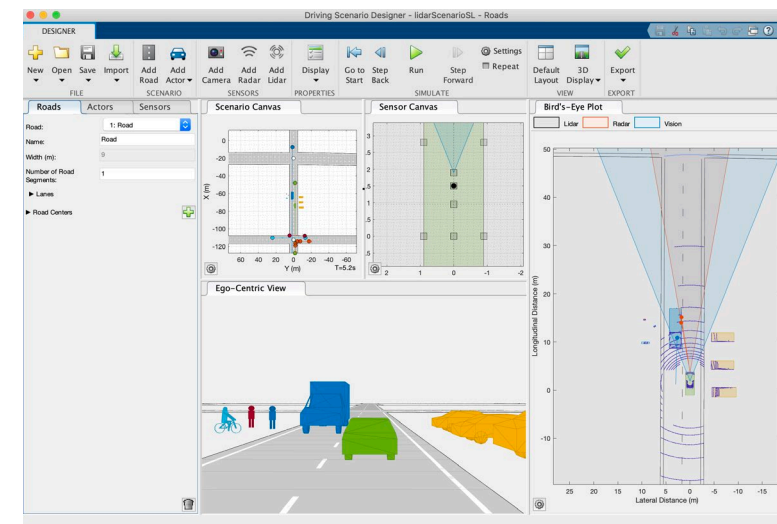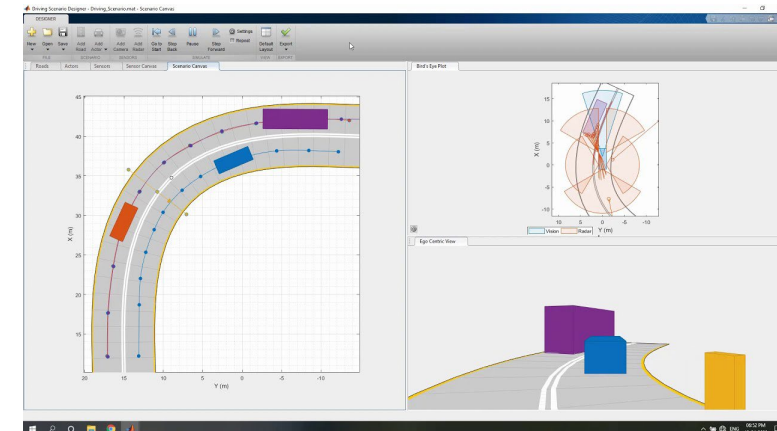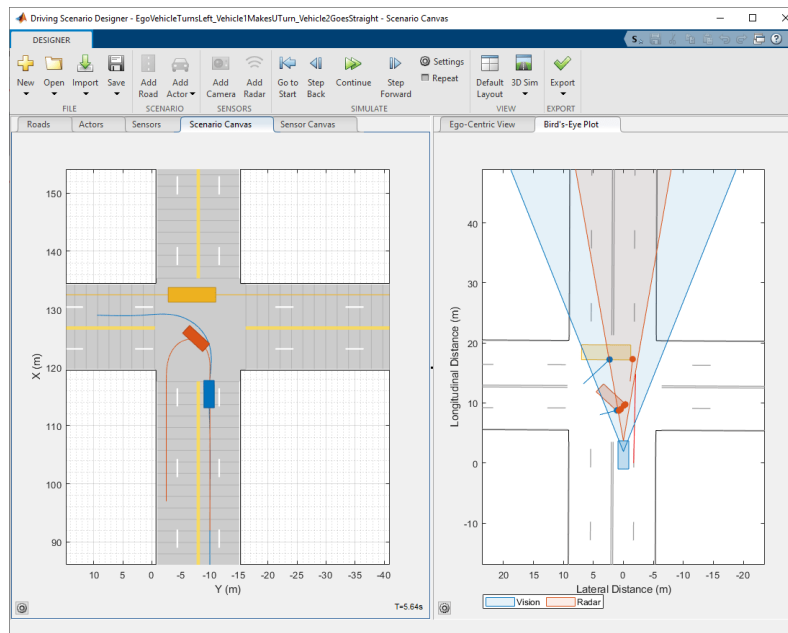 - Inaccuracies (e.g., 360° LIDAR simulation - real is 270°)

Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
2D	Custom (single track dynamics)	RViz	Single-track dynamics	2D LIDAR	ROS, ROS 2, Autoware	UPenn	Free	Yes	Exploration, understanding, course, competition

F1 TENTH

Source: F1TENTH

MathWorks Driving Scenario Designer

- Advantages
  - Simple & intuitive
  - Multi-agent support
  - Comprehensive sensor suite
- Disadvantages
  - Commercial product
  - 2D/3D simplistic visualization
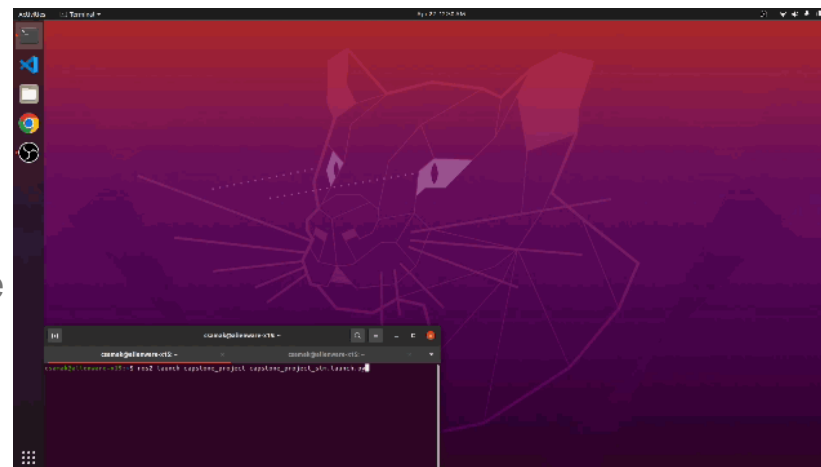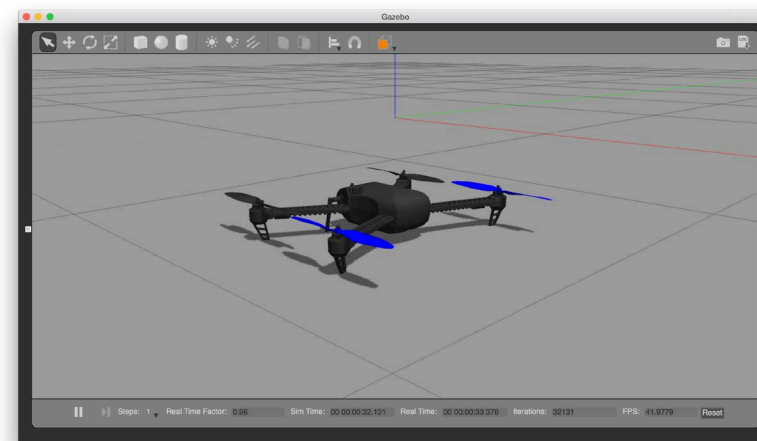 - Simplistic trajectory replay

Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
2D/3D	N/A	MATLAB App	No	Camera, RADAR, LIDAR, INS, Ultrasonic	MATLAB, Simulink	MathWorks	Paid License	No	Exploration and understanding

Source: MathWorks

Gazebo Simulator

- **Advantages**
  - Open source
  - Multi-agent support
  - Comprehensive sensor suite
  - General robotics simulation
- **Disadvantages**
  - Low fidelity dynamics
  - Simplistic visualization
  - No cross-platform support

Source: Tinker Twins GitHub
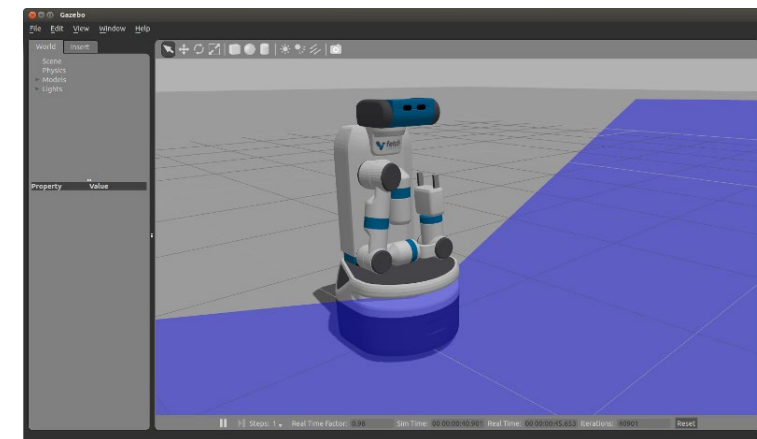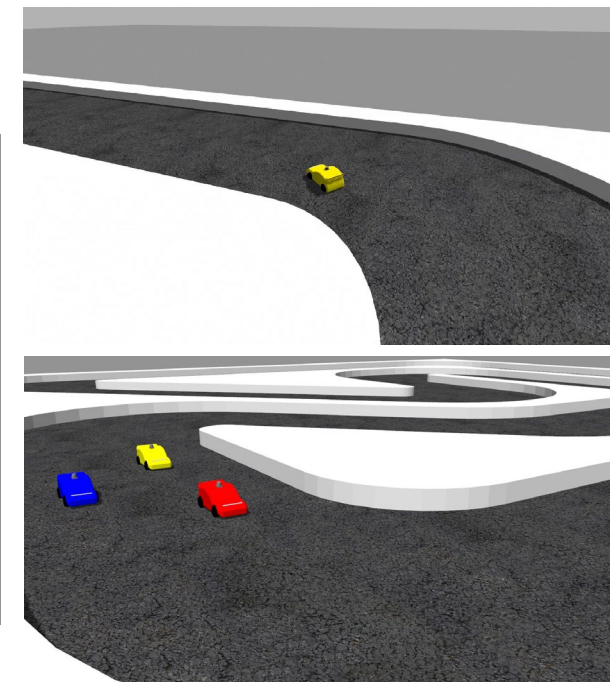

Source: GazeboSim

Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
3D	ODE	Custom	Yes	Pose, Joint States, Camera, LIDAR, IMU, GPS	ROS, ROS 2	Open Robotics	Free	Yes	Exploration and prototyping

F1TENTH Simulator (Gazebo)

- Advantages

  - Open source

  - Multi-agent support

  - Uses same stack as real vehicle

  - 3D simulation environment

- Disadvantages

  - Low fidelity dynamics

  - Simplistic visualization

  - No cross-platform support
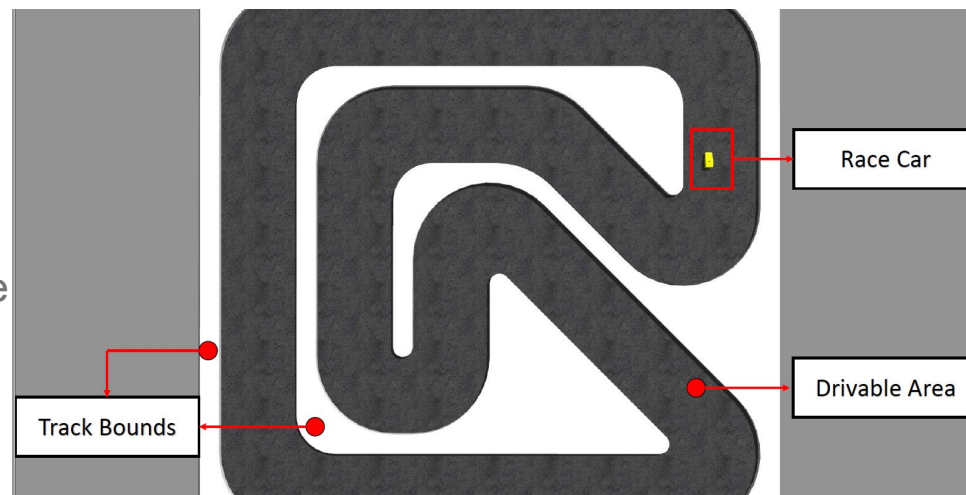

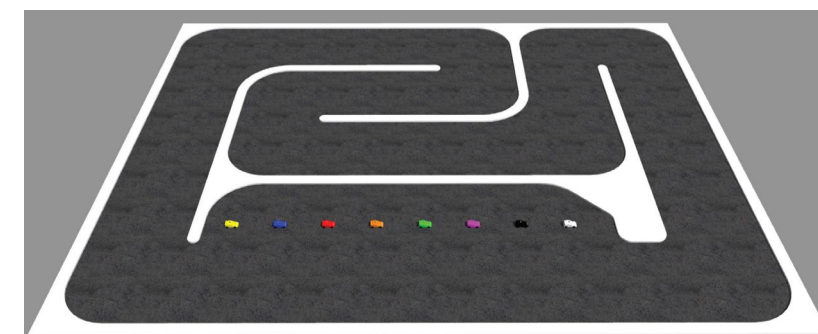Race Car

Drivable Area

Track Bounds

f1tenth.dev

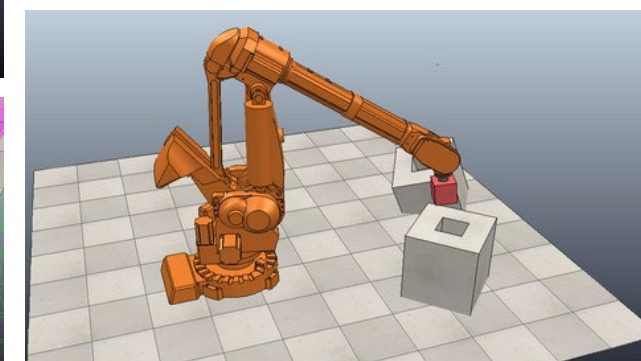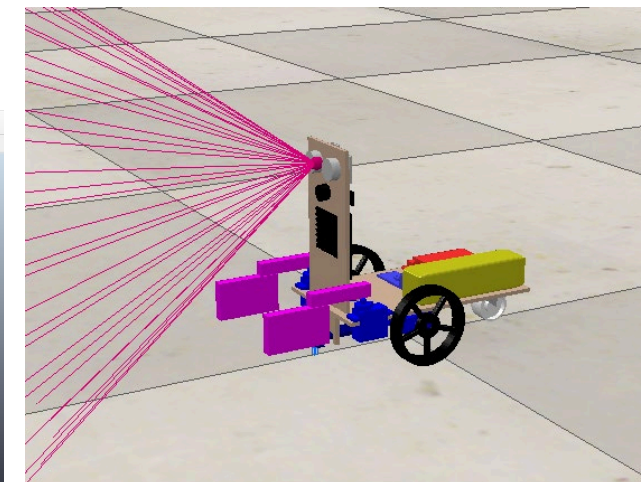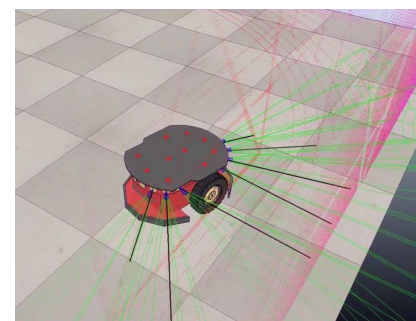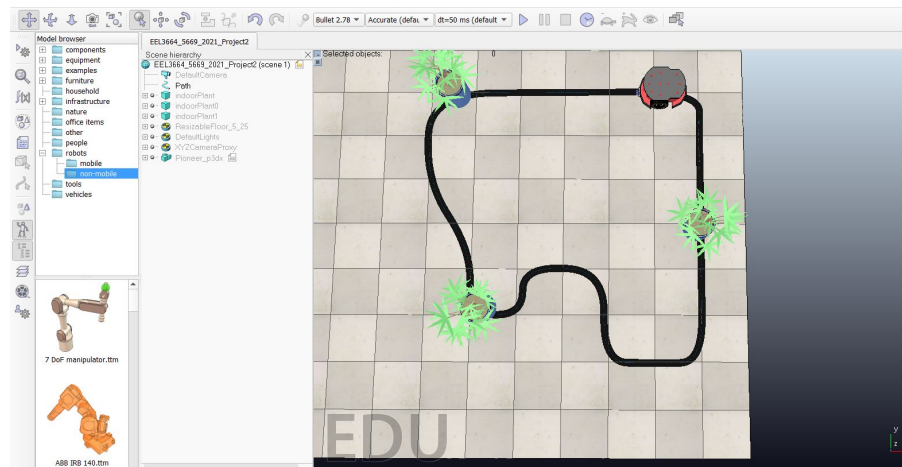| Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
3D	ODE	Gazebo's Custom	Yes	2D LIDAR, Pose TF	ROS	UVA	Free	Yes	Exploration, prototyping, course

Source: f1tenth.dev

CoppeliaSim (formerly V-REP)

- Advantages
  - 3D simulation environment
  - Multiple physics engines
  - Cross-platform support
  - Extended API support
  - General robot simulator

- Disadvantages
  - Moderate compute requirements
  - Medium fidelity graphics

Source: Coppelia Robotics

Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
3D	PhysX, Bullet, Vortex	Custom	Multi-body physics modules can be adapted for vehicle dynamics	2D/3D LIDAR, Camera, GNSS, IMU, Encoders, State Variables	ROS, ROS 2, Python, C++ MATLAB	Coppelia Robotics	Free (Edu)	No	Exploration and education

F1TENTH Simulator (LGSVL)

- Advantages
  - 3D simulation environment
  - Photorealistic graphics
  - Cross-platform support
- Disadvantages
  - Inaccurate parameters
  - Heavy compute requirements
  - Discontinued
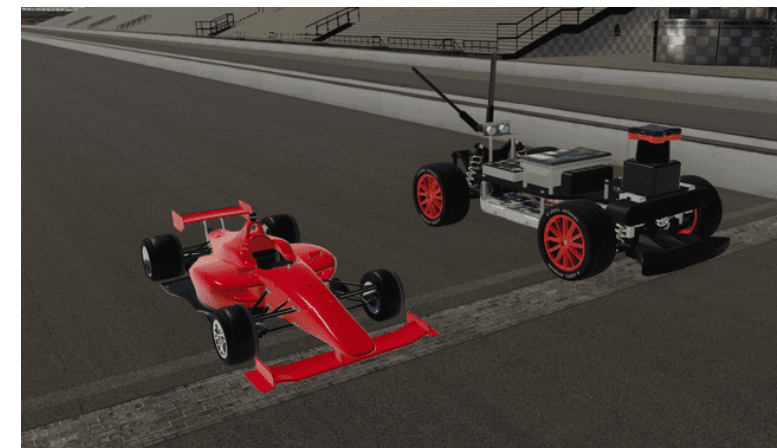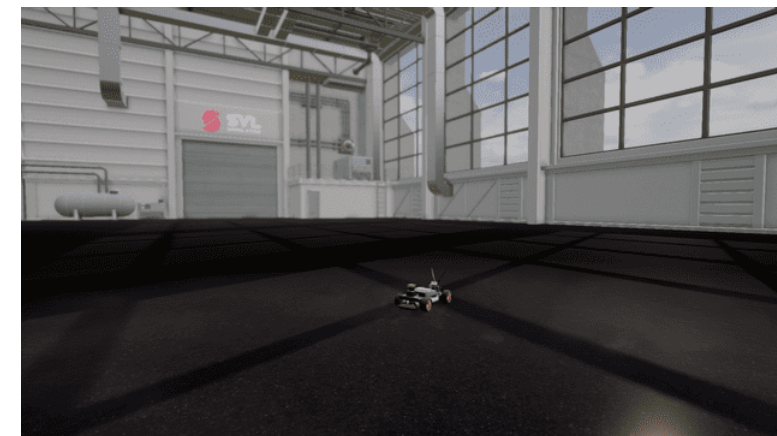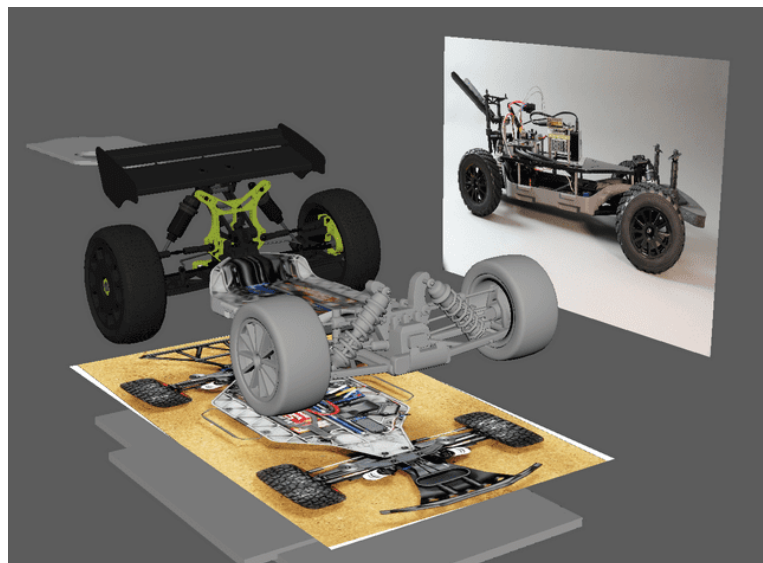
Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
3D	PhysX	Unity HDRP	Wheel torque model	2D LIDAR, Camera	ROS	LG	Free/ Paid	Yes	Exploration and research

Source: SVLSimulator

Isaac Sim

- Advantages
  - 3D simulation environment
  - Photorealistic graphics
  - Realistic physics
  - Cross-platform support
  - Indoor robot simulator
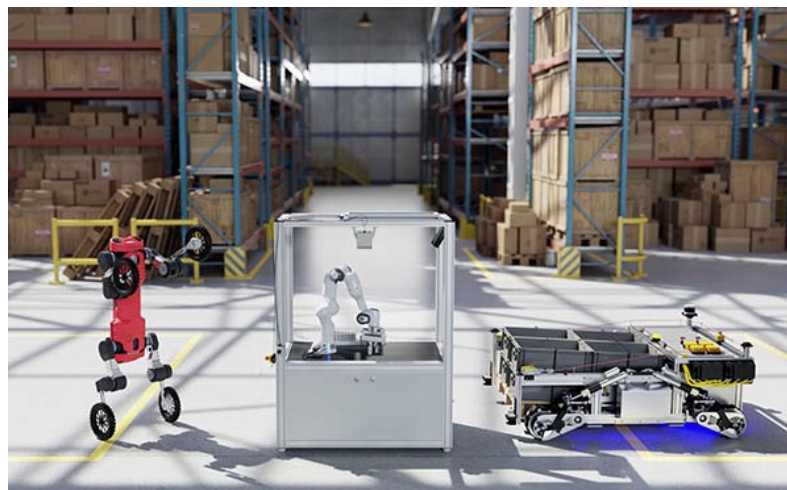- Disadvantages
  - Extreme compute requirements
  - Only NVIDIA RTX supported

Source: Isaac Sim

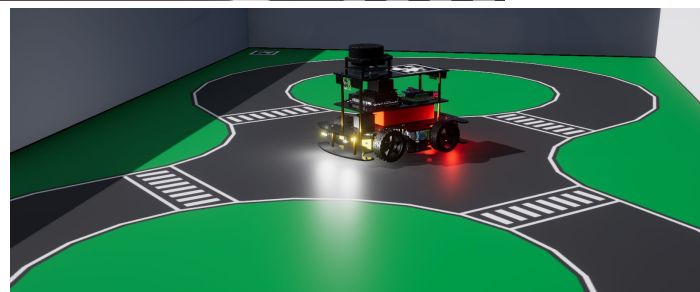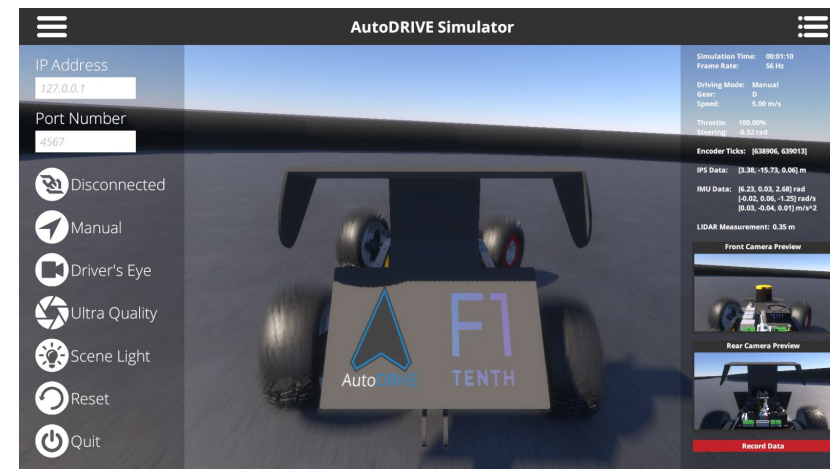| Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
3D	PhysX	Omniverse	Multi-body physics modules can be adapted for vehicle dynamics	2D/3D LIDAR, Camera, GNSS, IMU, Encoders, State Variables	Python, ROS 2*	NVIDIA	Free	No	Exploration, education and research

AutoDRIVE Simulator

- Advantages
  - 3D simulation environment
  - Photorealistic graphics
  - Realistic physics
  - Cross-platform support
  - Extended API support
  - On/off road AVs across scales
- Disadvantages
  - Moderate compute requirements

Source: AutoDRIVE Ecosystem

Simulation Quality	Physics Engine	Graphics Rendering	Vehicle Dynamics Support	Sensor Support	API Support	Developer	Cost	Open Source	Applications
3D	PhysX	Unity HDRP	Full car model for lateral, longitudinal, vertical and RPY dynamics with tire-terrain interaction	2D/3D LIDAR, Camera, GNSS, IPS, IMU, Encoders Steering Feedback, Throttle Feedback, State Variables	ROS, ROS 2, Python, C++, MATLAB, Simulink, Webapp	CU-ICAR, NTU, SRMIST	Free	Yes	Exploration, education and research

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