

# Formal Analysis of AI-Based Autonomy: From Modeling to Runtime Assurance

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<http://learnverify.org/VerifiedAI>



UC Santa Cruz



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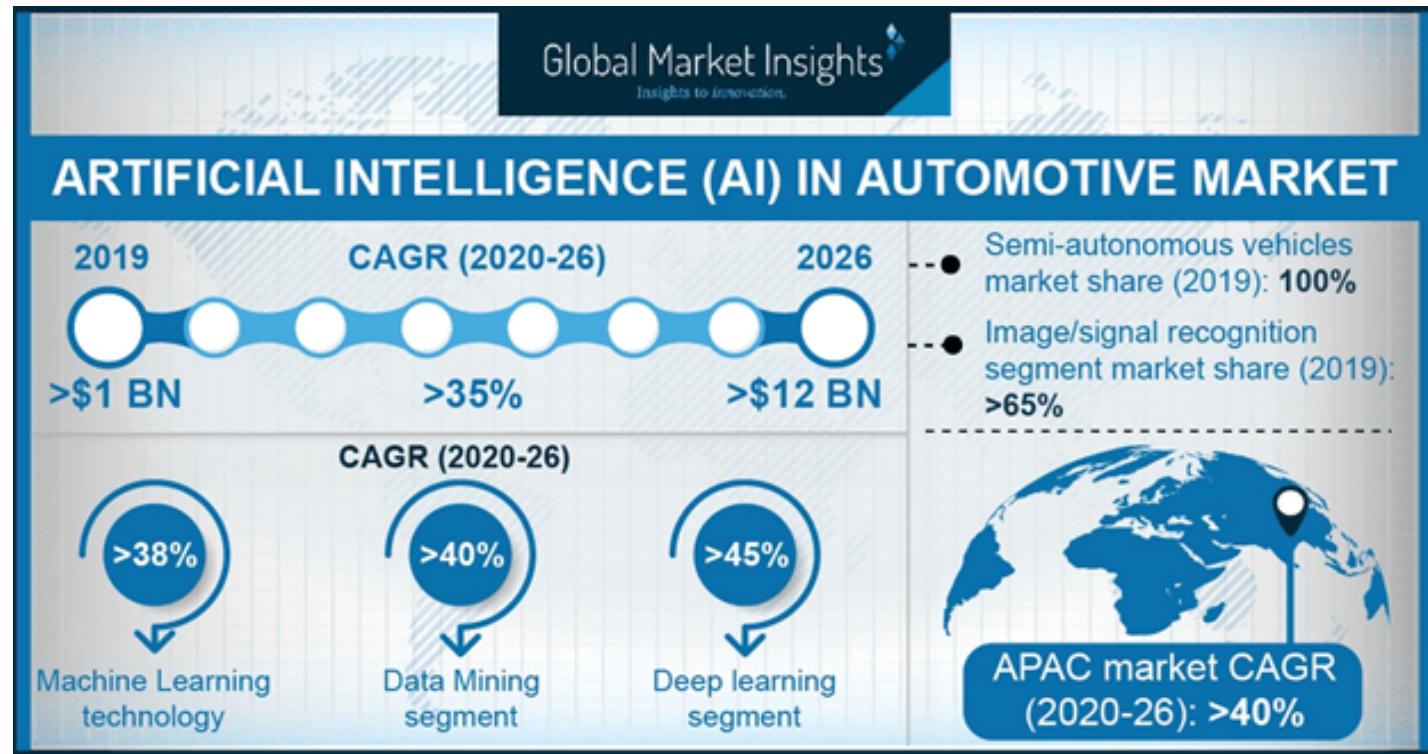
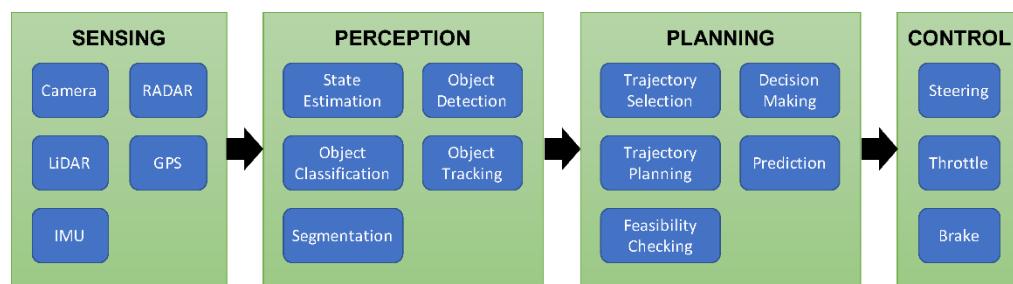
RV 2021 Tutorial  
October 14, 2021

# 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 & Semi-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

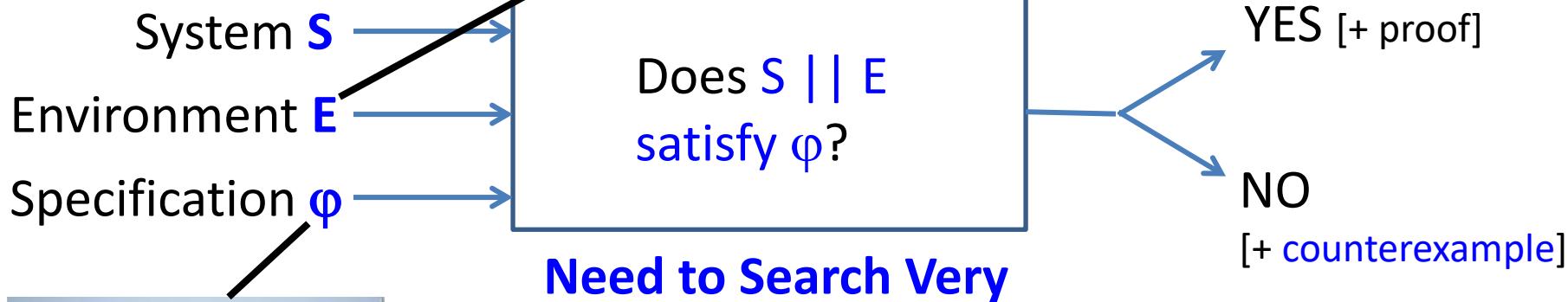
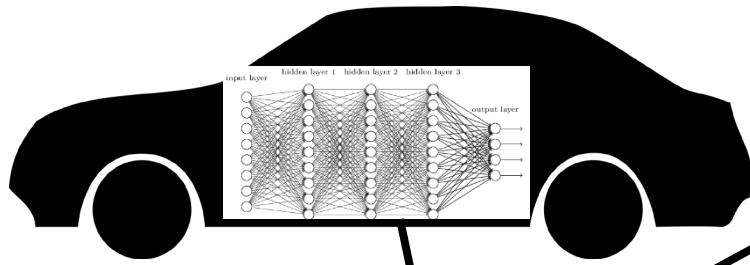
Source: gminsights.com

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

# Challenges for Verified AI

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

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



**Need to Search Very  
High-Dimensional Input  
and State Spaces**

**Design Correct-by-Construction?**

# Need Principles for Verified AI

## Challenges

1. Environment (incl.  
Human) Modeling →
2. Formal Specification →
  
3. Learning Systems  
Representation →
4. Scalable Training,  
Testing, Verification →
5. Design for Correctness →

## Principles

?

S. A. Seshia, D. Sadigh, S. S. Sastry. *Towards Verified Artificial Intelligence*. July 2016. <http://learnverify.org/VerifiedAI>  
<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

## Community

Use these tools in  
your research

Develop Corpus of Tools and Data

# Outline

- Overview of Scenic and VerifAI
  - Basic syntax of the Scenic language
- Falsification
  - Case study in the Webots simulator
- Dynamic Scenarios in Scenic
  - Case study in autonomous driving simulators (e.g., CARLA)
- Falsification → Debugging → Retraining
  - Case study in the X-Plane simulator
- Data-Driven Run-Time Monitor Generation with Scenic & VerifAI
  - Case study in the X-Plane simulator
- Conclusion

# 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

# SCENIC: Environment Scenario Modeling Language

*Scenic* makes it possible to specify broad scenarios with complex structure, then generate many concrete instances from them automatically:

Platoons



Bumper-to-Bumper Traffic

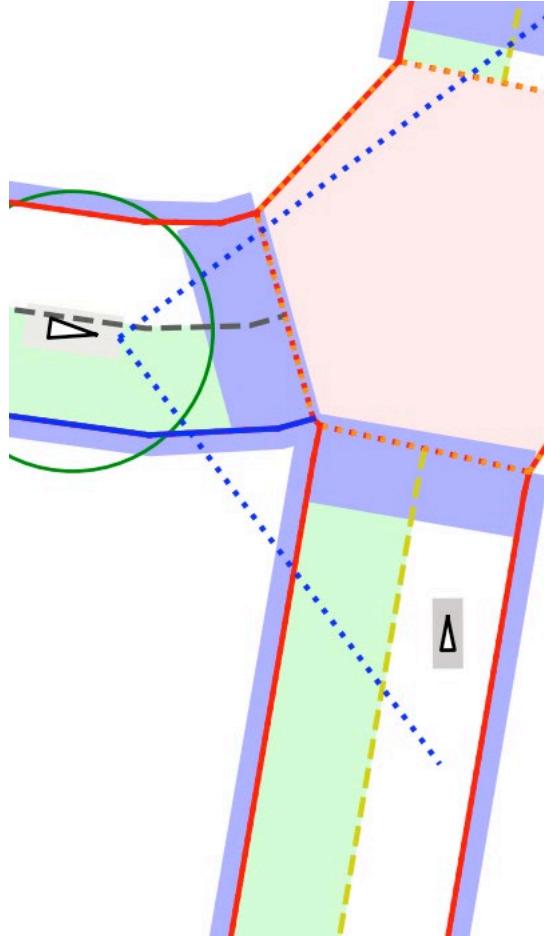


(~20 lines of Scenic code)

## Example: a Badly-Parked Car

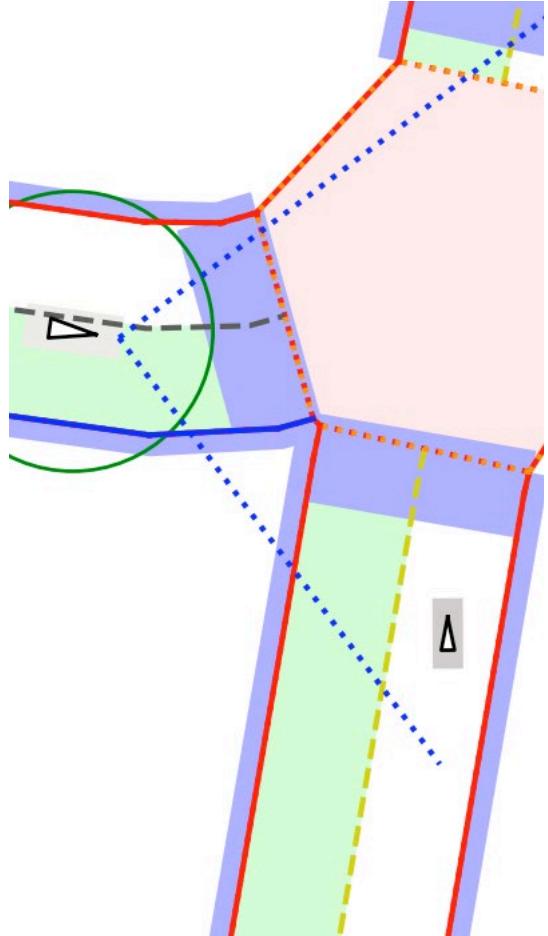


# Example: a Badly-Parked Car



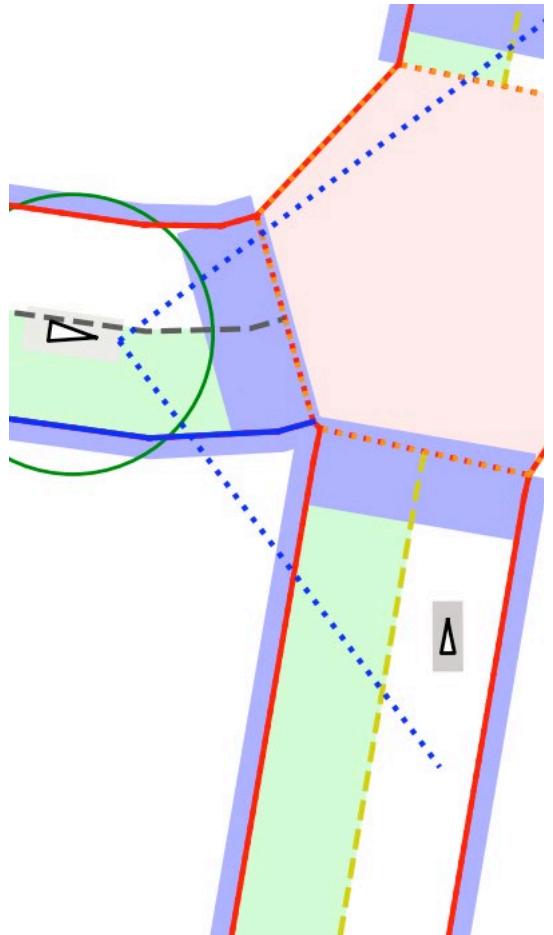
```
model scenic.simulators.gta.model # defines Car, etc.
```

# Example: a Badly-Parked Car



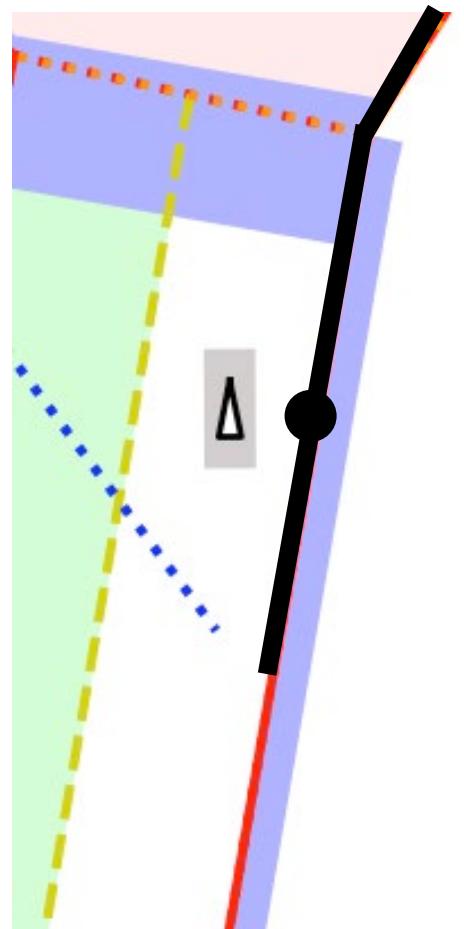
```
model scenic.simulators.gta.model # defines Car, etc.  
ego = Car
```

# Example: a Badly-Parked Car



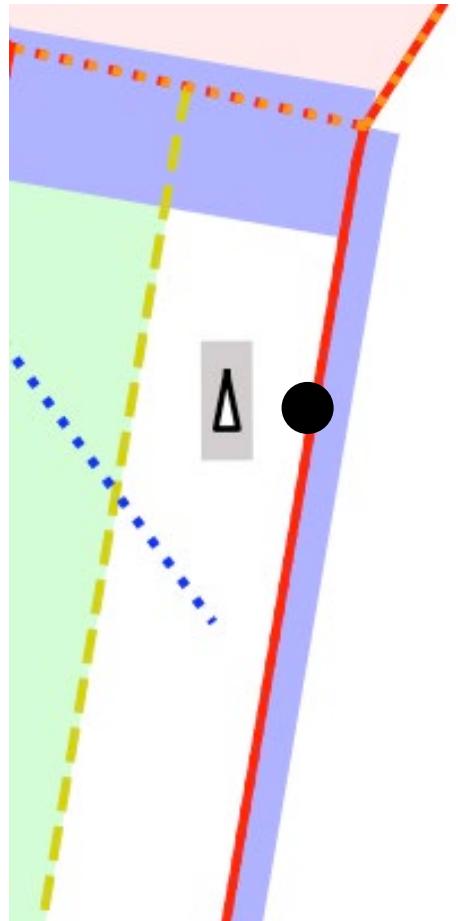
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model scenic.simulators.gta.model # defines Car, etc.  
ego = Car  
spot = OrientedPoint on visible curb
```

## Example: a Badly-Parked Car



```
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ego = Car  
  
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# Example: a Badly-Parked Car



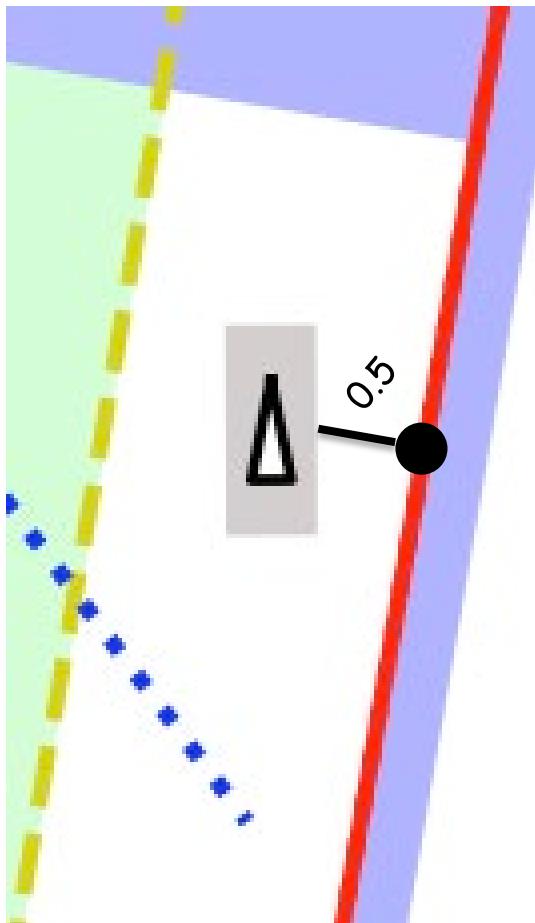
```
model scenic.simulators.gta.model # defines Car, etc.  
  
ego = Car  
  
spot = OrientedPoint on visible curb  
badAngle = Uniform(1.0, -1.0) * Range(10, 20) deg
```

angled left or right  
uniformly at random



uniform  
distribution over  
this interval

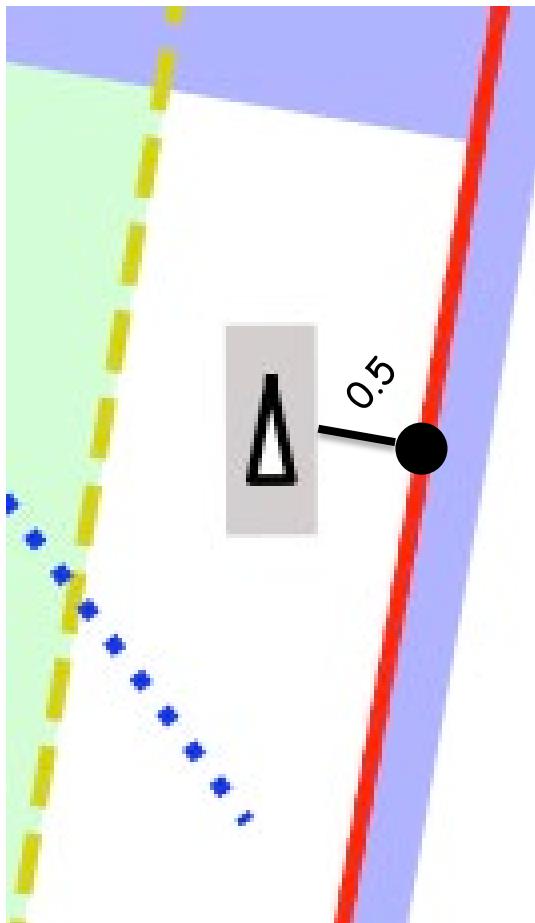
# Example: a Badly-Parked Car



```
model scenic.simulators.gta.model # defines Car, etc.  
  
ego = Car  
  
spot = OrientedPoint on visible curb  
badAngle = Uniform(1.0, -1.0) * Range(10, 20) deg  
Car left of spot by 0.5,
```

↑  
specify offset in  
meters

# Example: a Badly-Parked Car



```
model scenic.simulators.gta.model # defines Car, etc.  
  
ego = Car  
  
spot = OrientedPoint on visible curb  
badAngle = Uniform(1.0, -1.0) * Range(10, 20) deg  
Car left of spot by 0.5,  
facing badAngle relative to roadDirection
```

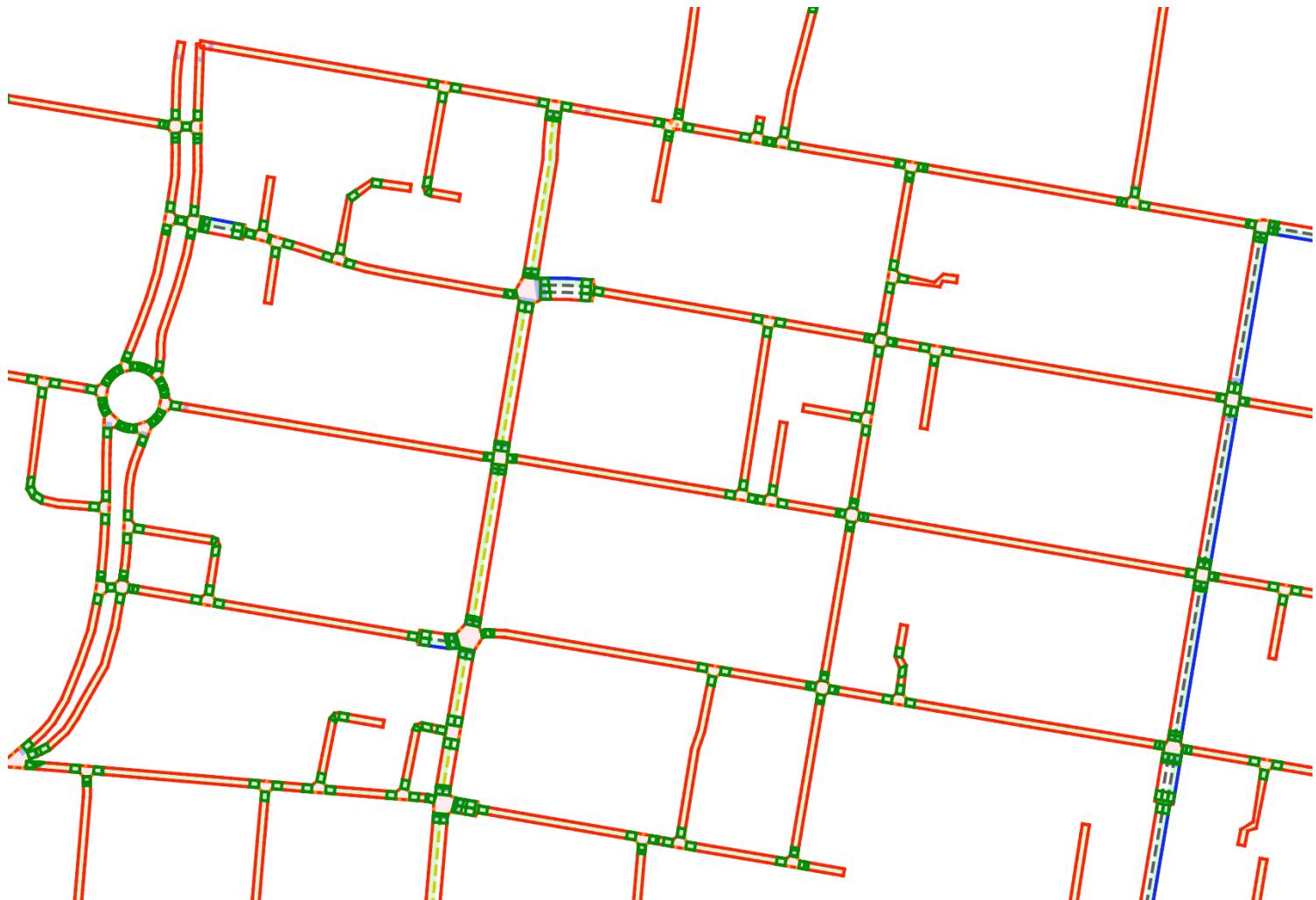
## Example: a Badly-Parked Car, Rendered with GTA-V



# Domain-Specific Sampling Techniques

- Prune infeasible parts of the space by dilating polygons

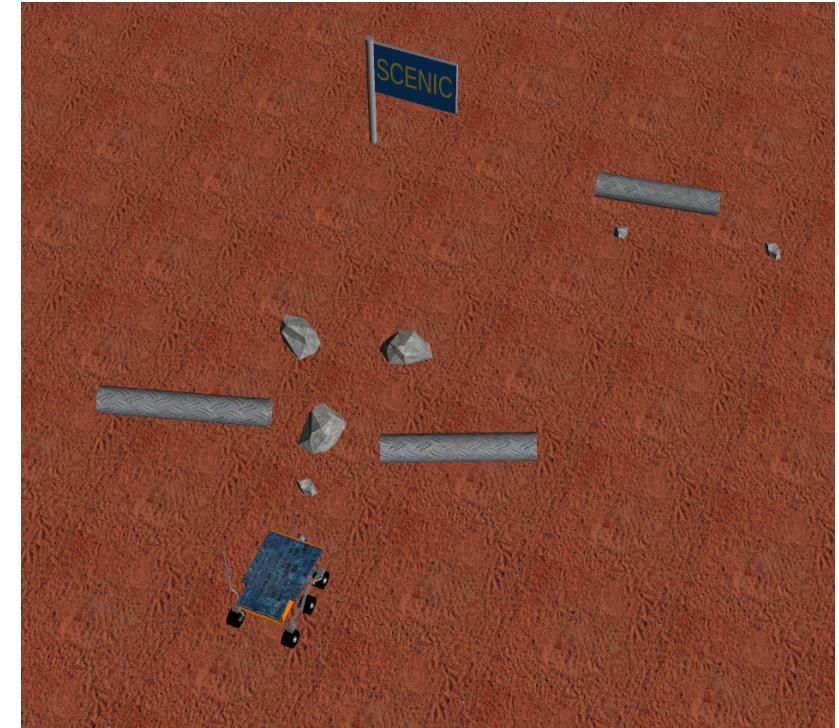
require distance to taxi  $\leq 5$   
require  $15 \text{ deg} \leq (\text{relative heading of taxi}) \leq 45 \text{ deg}$



# Early Applications of Scenic

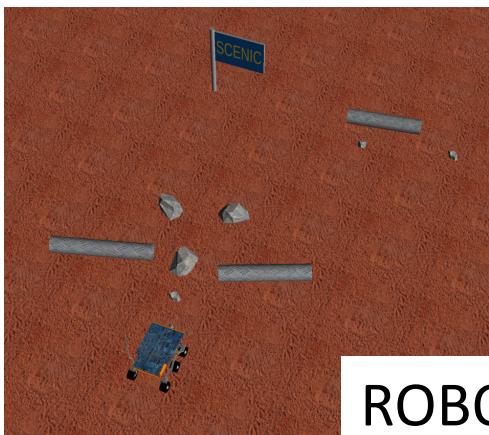
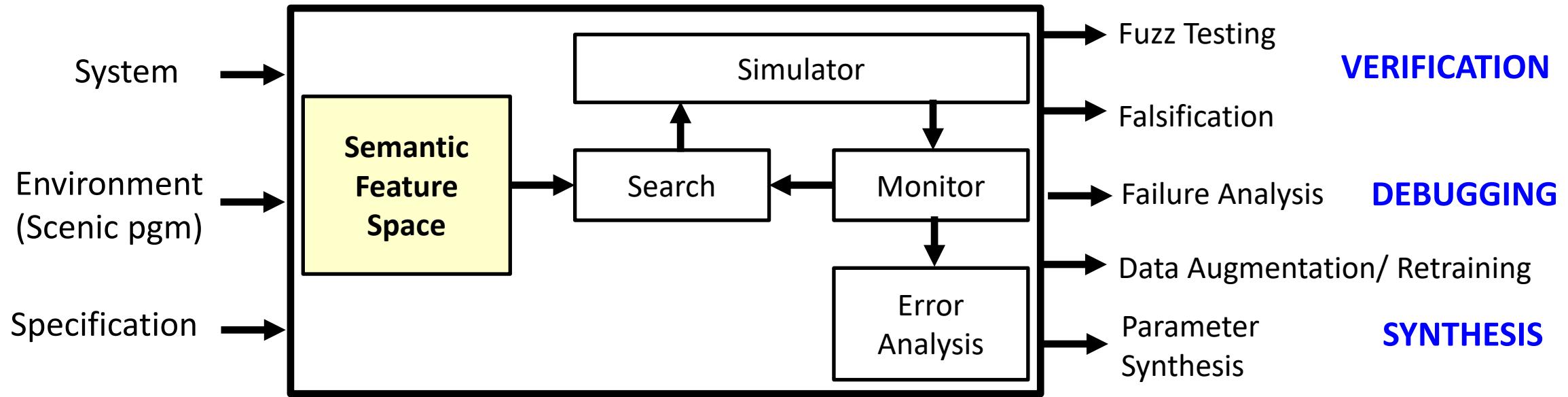
[see PLDI'19 paper]

- Exploring system performance
  - Generating specialized test sets
- Debugging a known failure
  - Generalizing in different directions
- Designing more effective training sets
  - Training on hard cases



# VERIFAI: A Toolkit for the Design and Analysis of AI-Based Systems [CAV 2019]

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



ROBOTICS



AUTONOMOUS DRIVING



AIRCRAFT

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# Simulation-based Falsification: Logical Formulas to Objective Functions

- Use Temporal Logics with Quantitative Semantics (STL, MTL, etc.)
- Example:

$$G_{[0,\tau]}(\text{dist}(\text{vehicle}, \text{obstacle}) > \delta)$$



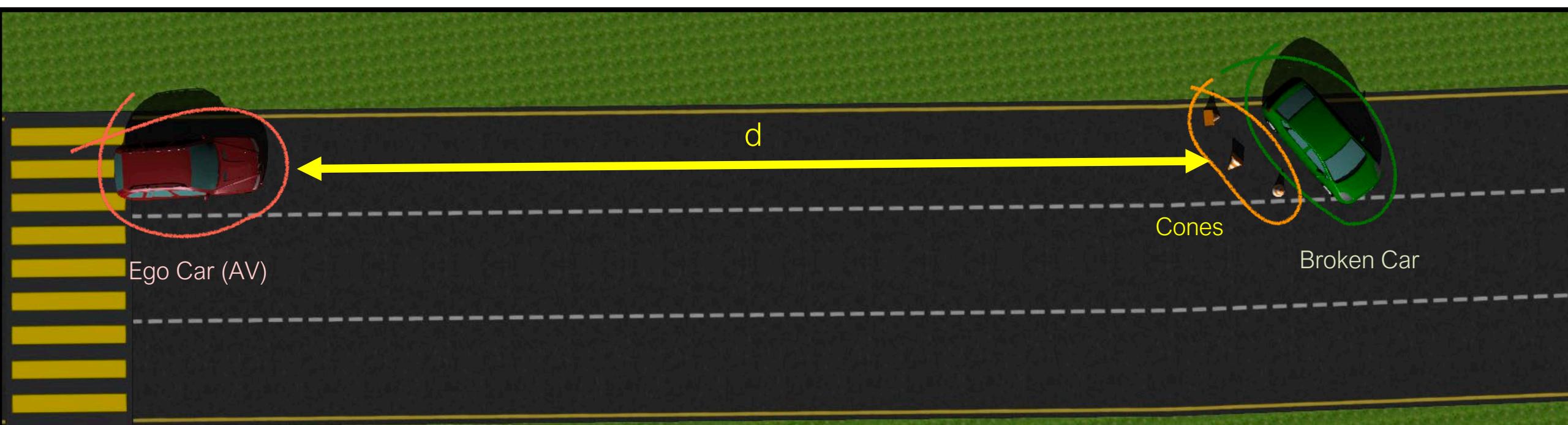
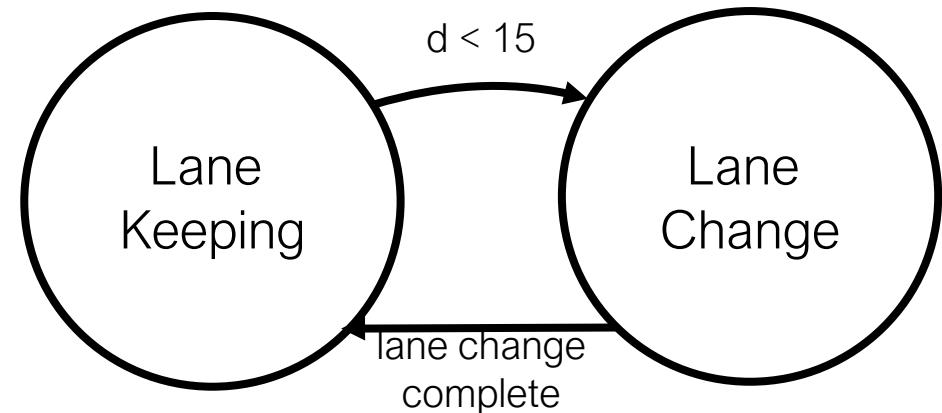
$$\inf_{[0,\tau]} [ \text{dist}(\text{vehicle}, \text{obstacle}) - \delta ]$$

- Verification → Optimization

# Falsification in VerifAI

- Input space is Semantic Feature Space
  - E.g. variables in Scenic program with their value domains / distributions
- Multi-Modal Specification
  - Metric/Signal Temporal Logic
  - Cost Function
  - Custom monitor function <Your formalism here>
- Several Sampling/Optimization Techniques
  - Passive Sampling: Uniform Random, Grid, Halton, Scenic, ...
  - Active Sampling/Optimization: Bayesian Optimization, Cross Entropy, Simulated Annealing, Multi-Armed Bandit, ...
  - <Your falsification method here>
- Parallelized and Multi-Objective Falsification (new feature @ RV'21)

# Case Study: Falsifying a Collision-Avoidance System



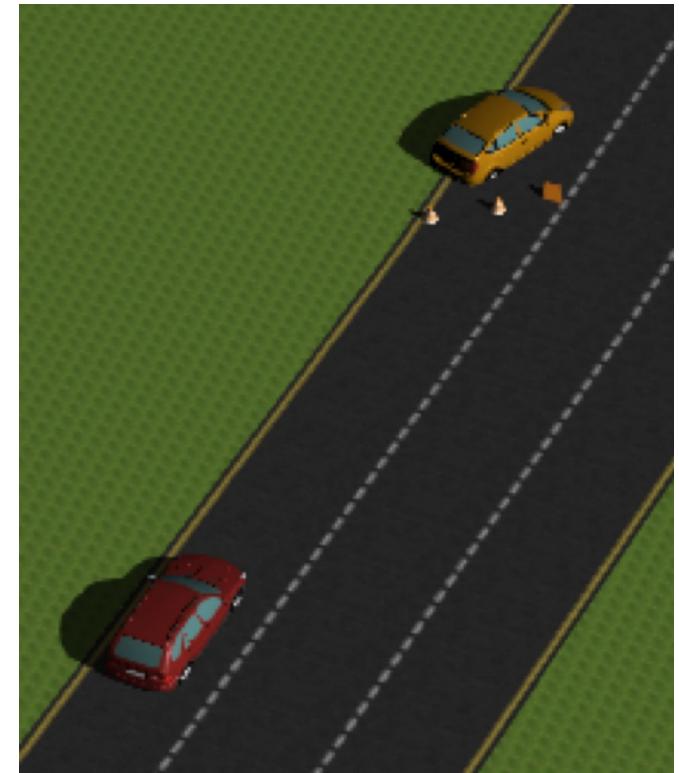
# Using Scenic to Generate Initial Scenes

- A scene can be the initial condition for a simulation

```
# Pick location for blockage randomly along curb
blockageSite = OrientedPoint on curb

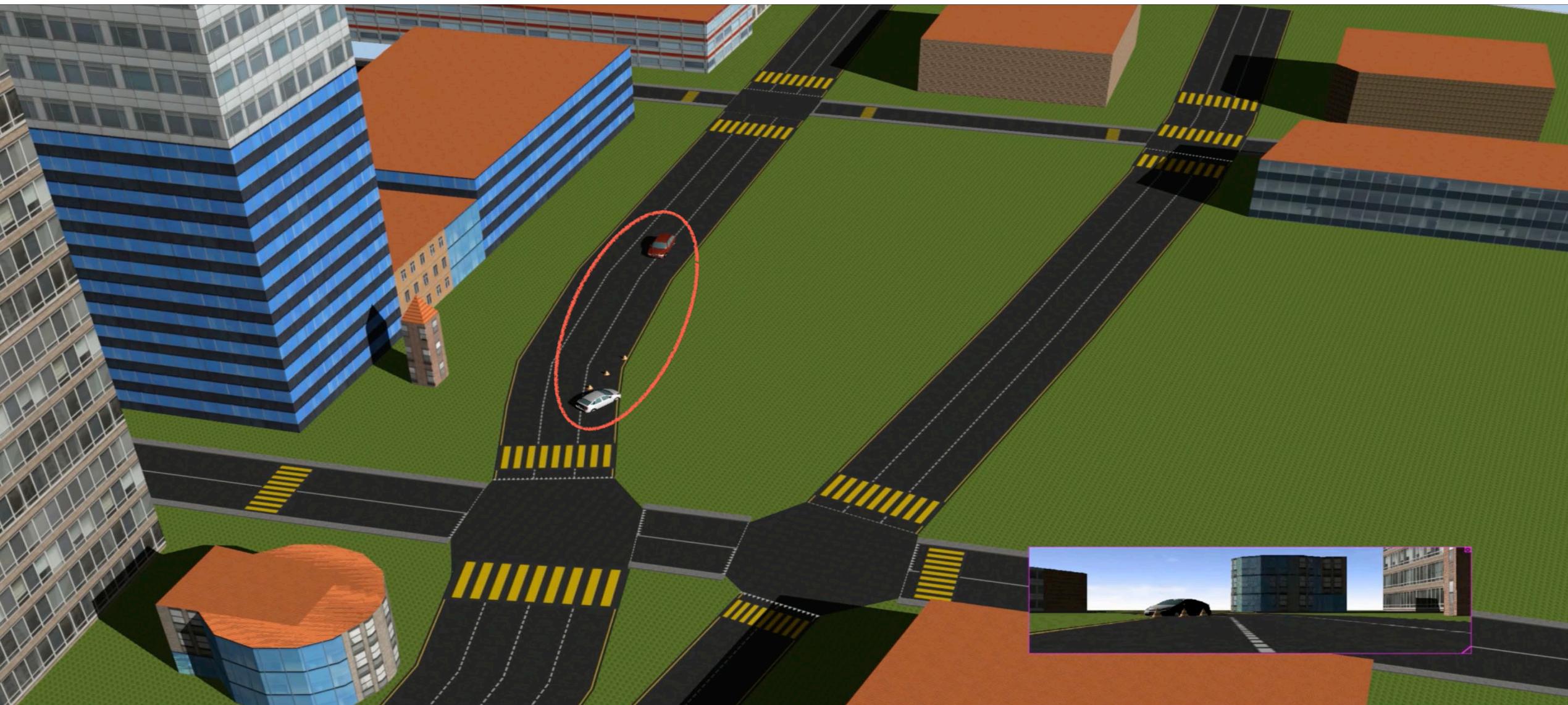
# Place traffic cones
spot1 = OrientedPoint left of blockageSite by (0.3, 1)
cone1 = TrafficCone at spot1,
        facing (0, 360) deg

...
# Place disabled car ahead of cones
SmallCar ahead of spot2 by (-1, 0.5) @ (4, 10),
        facing (0, 360) deg
```

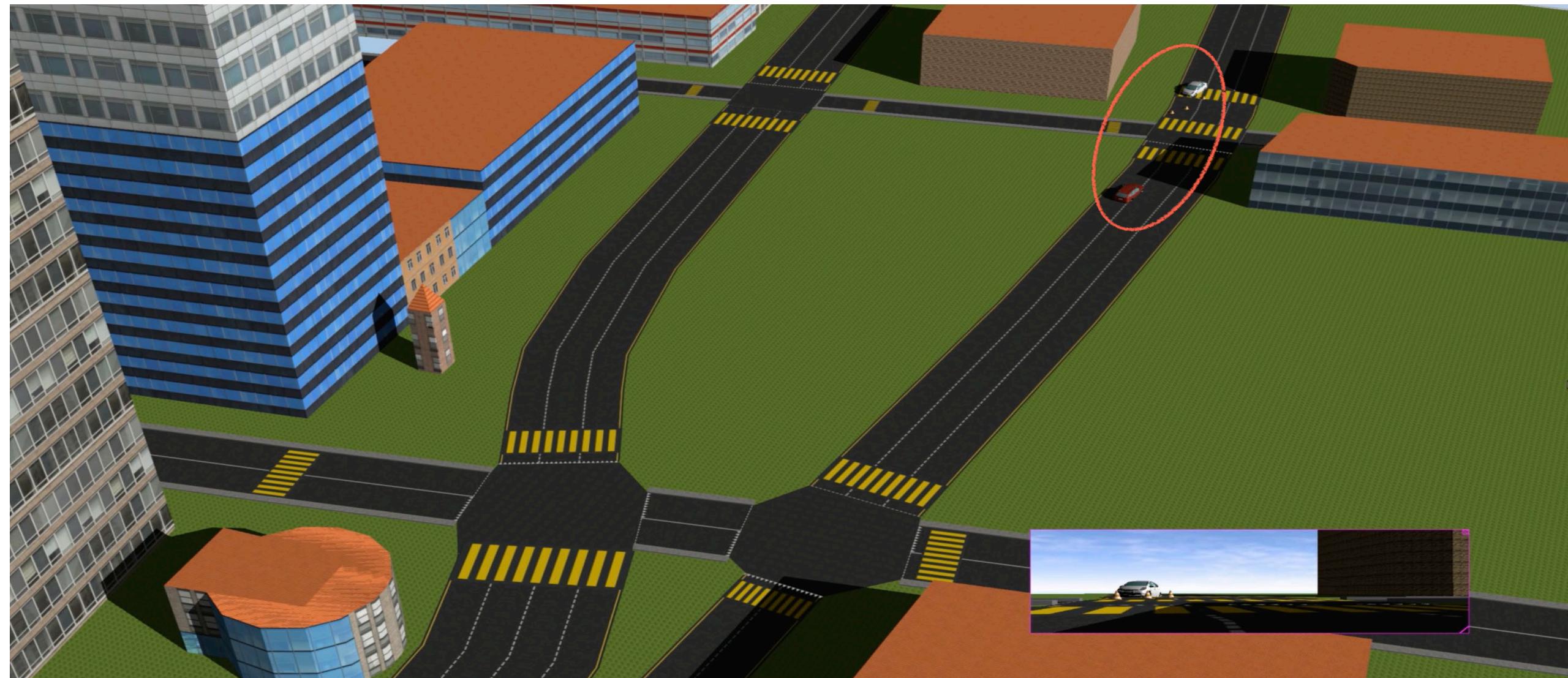


- Can also include parameters for controllers (e.g. reaction time, how quickly to swerve)

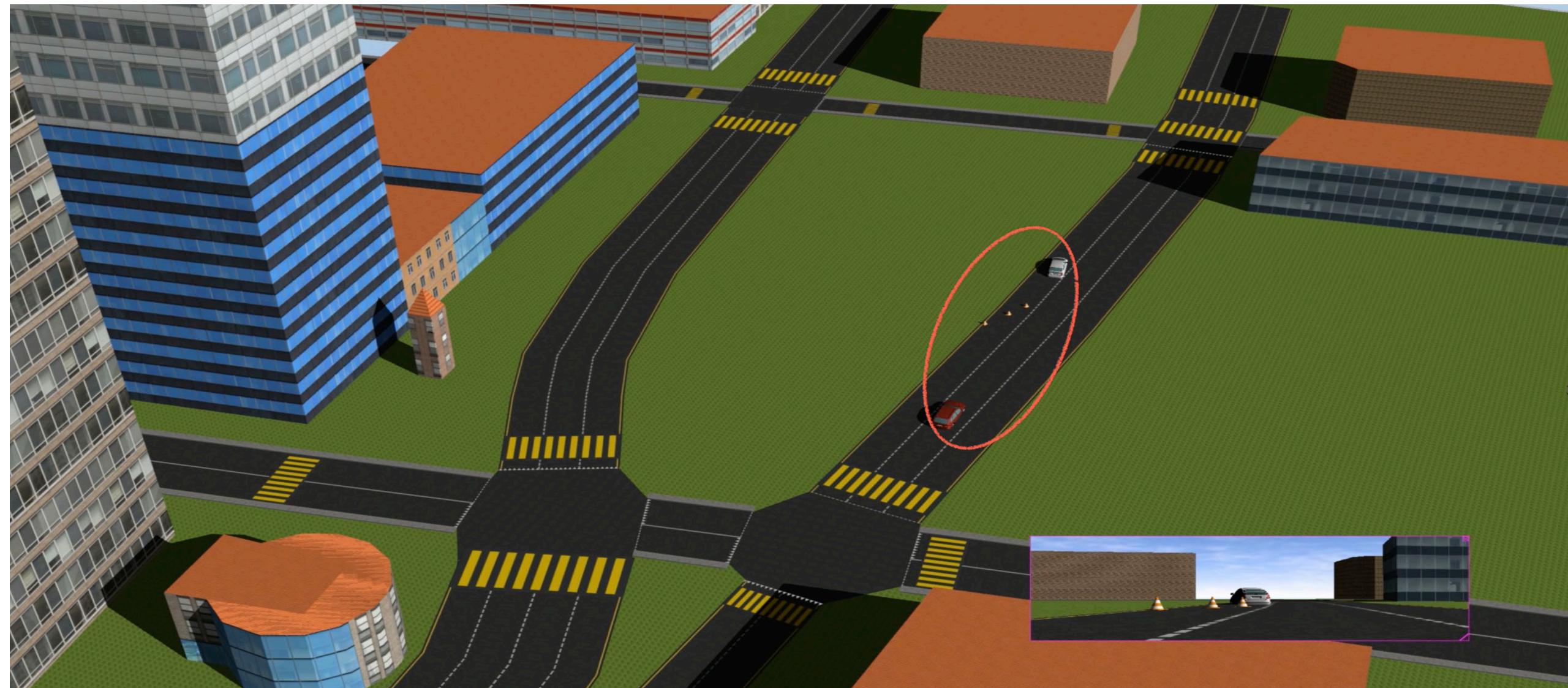
# Using Scenic to Generate Initial Scenes



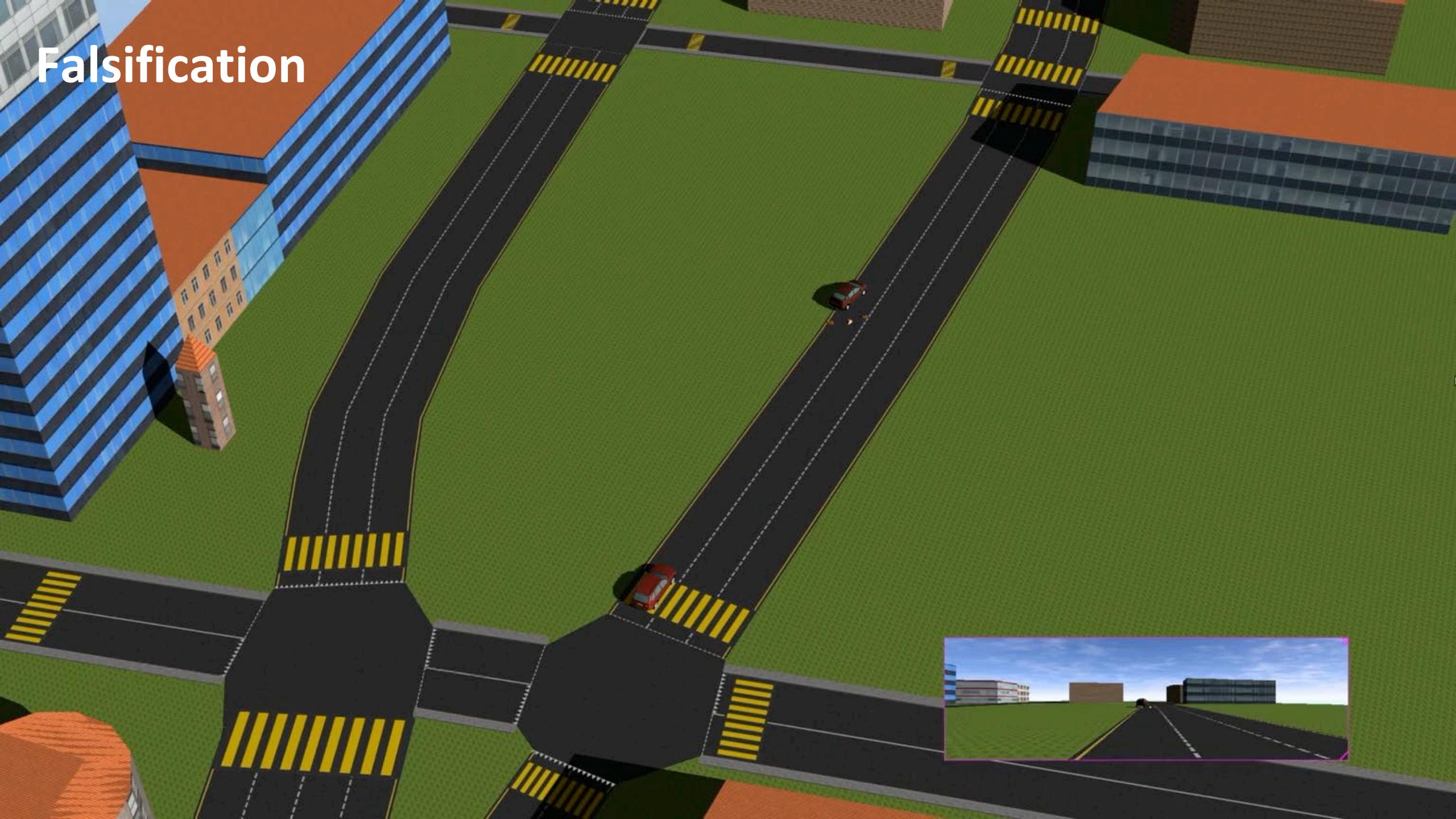
# Using Scenic to Generate Initial Scenes



# Using Scenic to Generate Initial Scenes



# Falsification



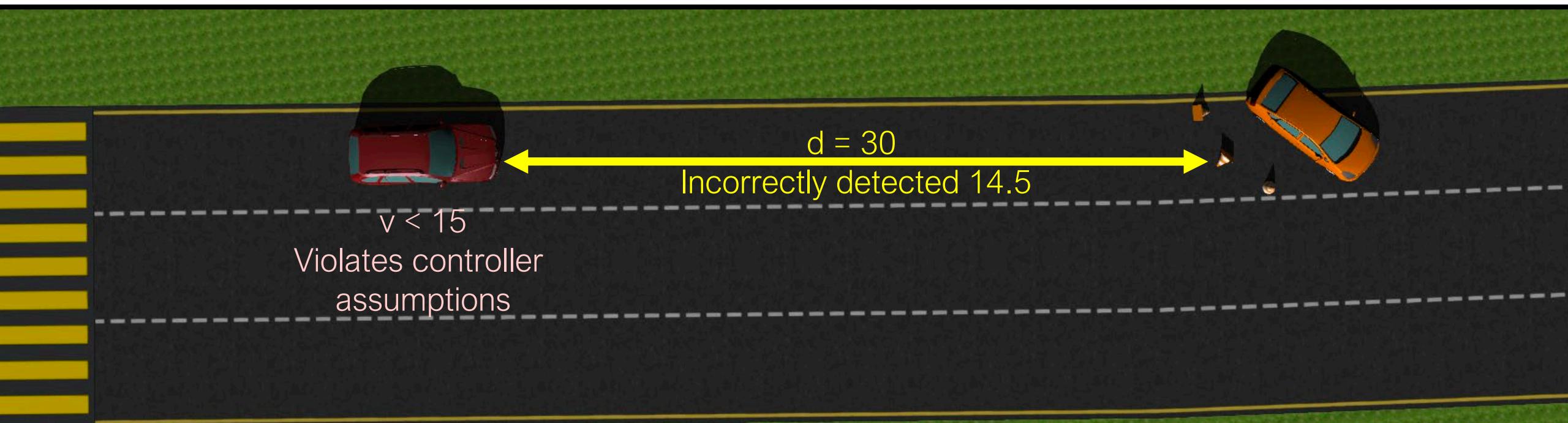
# Analyzing the Failure: Repair and Retraining

Fix the controller:

Update model assumptions  
and re-design controller

Retrain the perception module:

Collect the counter-example images and  
retrain the network [IJCAI'18]



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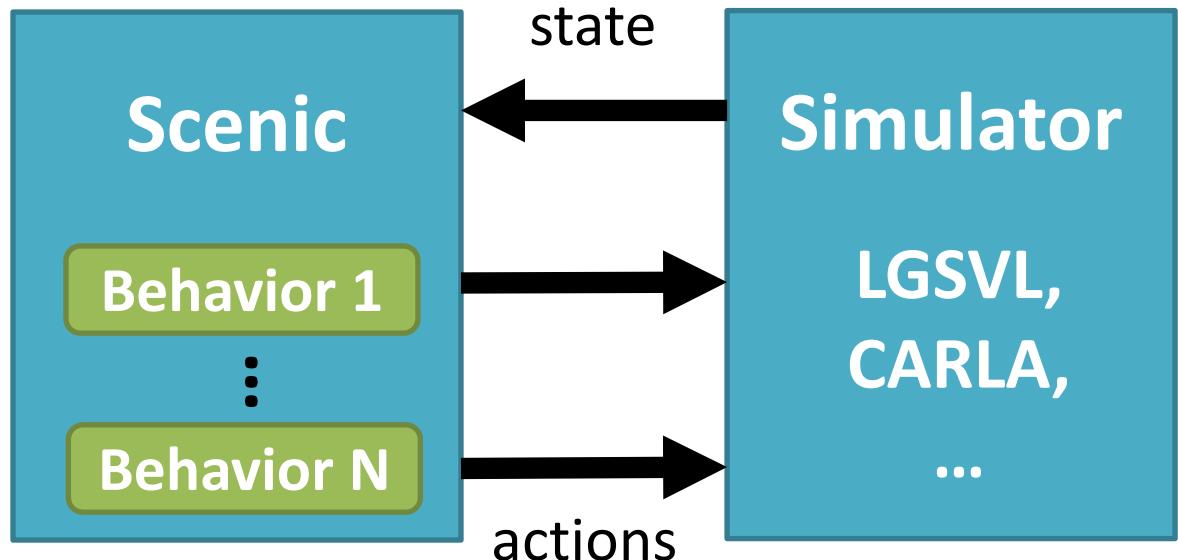
# Going Beyond Initial Conditions

- Scenic can also describe *dynamic agents* which take actions over time, reacting to a changing environment
- Example: "a badly-parked car, which suddenly pulls into the road as the ego car approaches"
- The dynamic actions of the car are specified by giving it a *behavior*

```
parkedCar = Car left of spot by 0.5,  
                  facing badAngle relative to roadDirection,  
                  with behavior PullIntoRoad
```

# Behaviors and Actions

- Behaviors are functions running in parallel with the simulation, issuing *actions* at each time step
  - e.g. for AVs: set throttle, set steering angle, turn on turn signal
  - Provided by a Scenic library for the driving domain
  - Abstract away details of simulator interface
- Behaviors can access the state of the simulation and make choices accordingly



```
behavior FollowLaneBehavior(lane):  
    while True:  
        throttle, steering = ...  
        take (SetThrottleAction(throttle),  
              SetSteerAction(steering))
```

# More Advanced Temporal Constructs

- *Interrupts* allow adding special cases to behaviors without modifying their code

```
behavior FollowLeadCar(safety_distance=10):  
    try:  
        do FollowLaneBehavior(target_speed=25)  
    interrupt when (distance to other) < safety_distance:  
        do CollisionAvoidance()
```

- *Temporal requirements* and *monitors* allow enforcing constraints during simulation

```
require always taxi in lane  
require eventually ego can see pedestrian
```

# A Worked Example

- OAS Voyage Scenario  
2-2-XX-CF-STR-CAR:02
- Lead car periodically stops and starts; ego car must brake to avoid collision
- Cross-platform scenario works in CARLA and LGSVL

```
behavior FollowLeadCar(safety_distance=10):
    try:
        do FollowLaneBehavior(target_speed=25)
    interrupt when (distance to other) < safety_distance:
        do CollisionAvoidance()

behavior StopsAndStarts():
    stop_delay = Range(3, 6) seconds
    last_stop = 0
    try:
        do FollowLaneBehavior(target_speed=25)
    interrupt when simulation().currentTime - last_stop > stop_delay:
        do FullBraking() for 5 seconds
        last_stop = simulation().currentTime

ego = Car with behavior FollowLeadCar(safety_distance=10)
other = Car ahead of ego by 10,
        with behavior StopsAndStarts

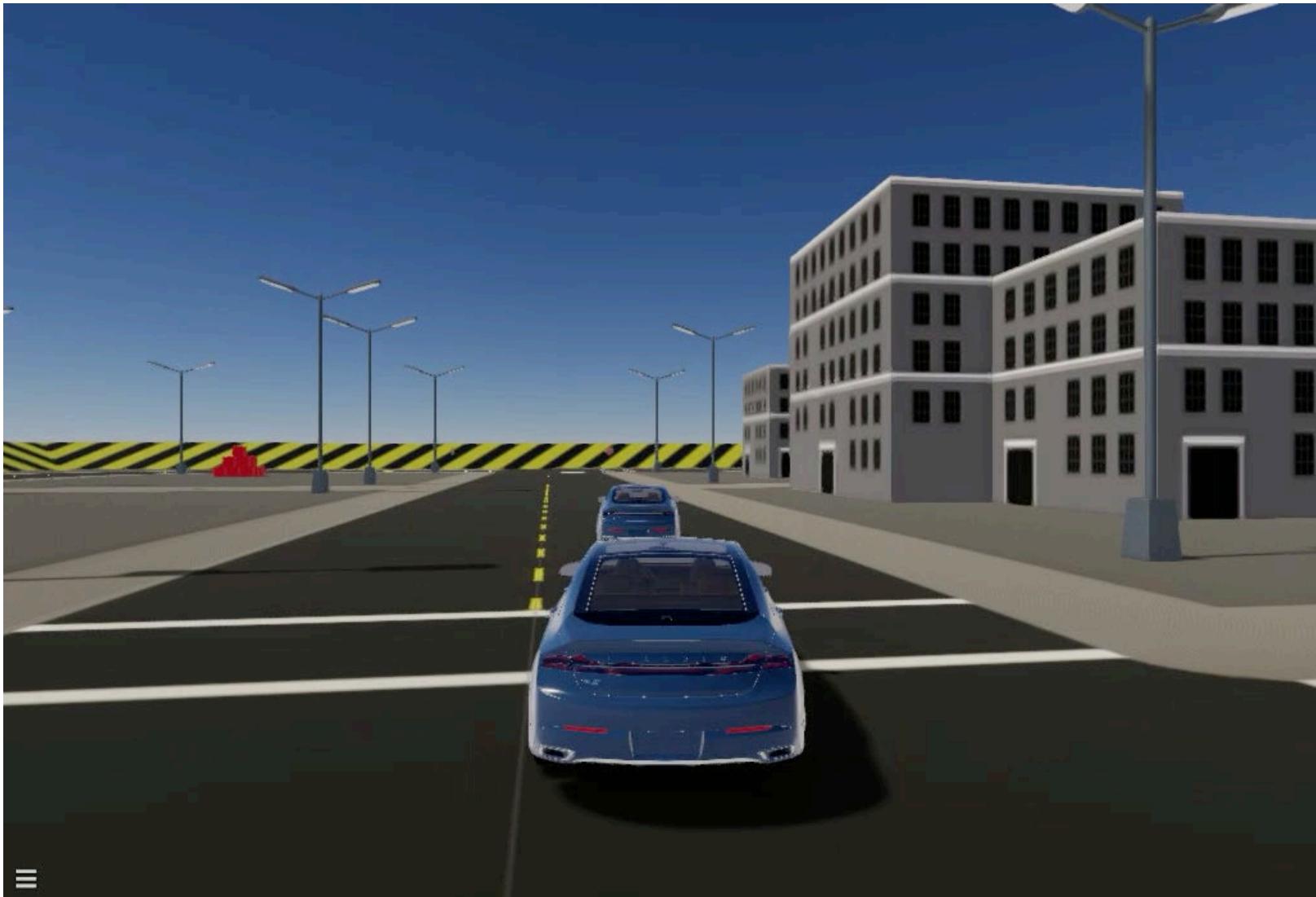
require (Point ahead of ego by 100) in road

terminate when ego._lane is None
```

# A Worked Example: CARLA



# A Worked Example: LGSVL



# Composing Scenarios

- Scenic allows scenarios to be defined modularly and combined into more complex scenarios
- Parallel, sequential, and more complex forms of composition

```
import StopAndStart, BadlyParkedCar

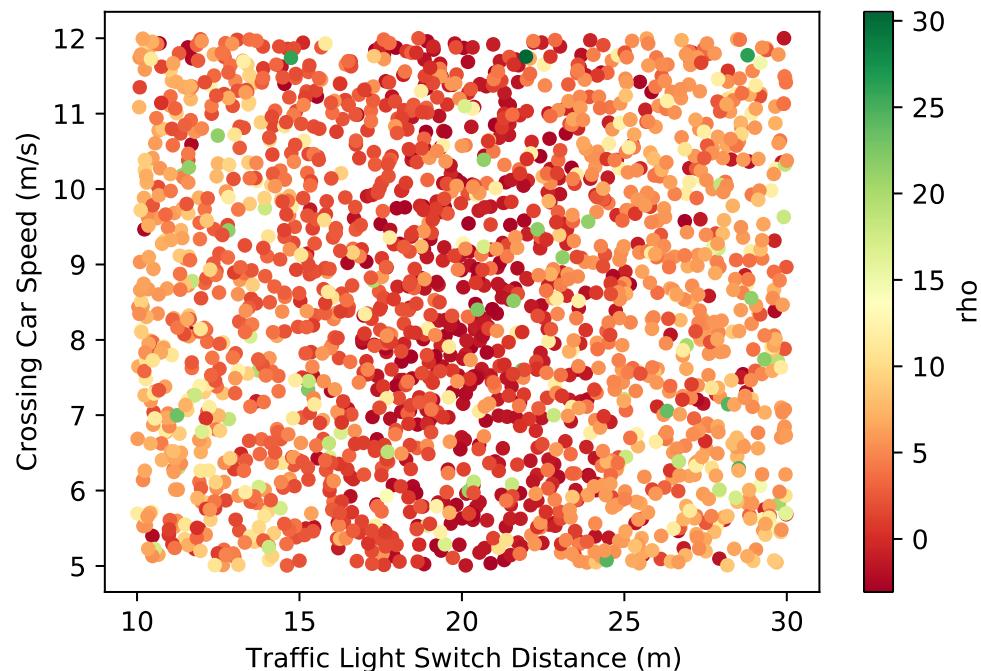
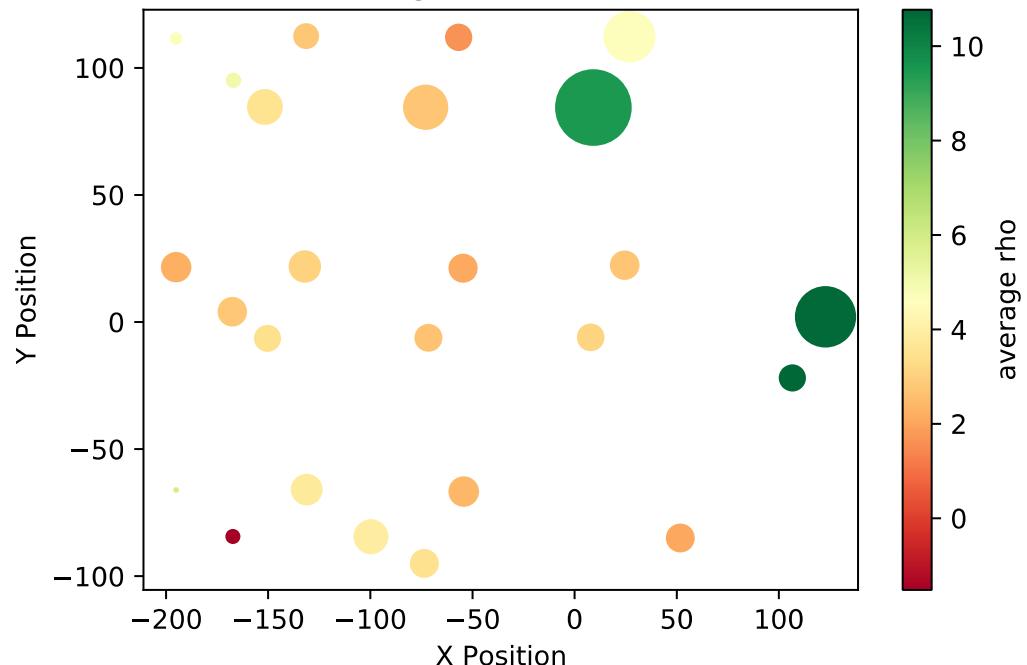
scenario StopStartWithParkedCar():
    compose:
        do StopAndStart(), BadlyParkedCar()

scenario StopStartThenParkedCar():
    compose:
        do StopAndStart()
        do BadlyParkedCar()

scenario StopStartThenParkedCar():
    compose:
        try:
            do StopAndStart()
        interrupt when ....:
            do BadlyParkedCar()
```

# Falsification with a Dynamic Scenario

- Case study in CARLA [Fremont et al. 2021, arXiv:2010.06580]
- AV turns right at a 4-way intersection
  - Traffic light turns green as AV approaches, but another car runs the light
- Semantic features: intersection, traffic light timing, car speed

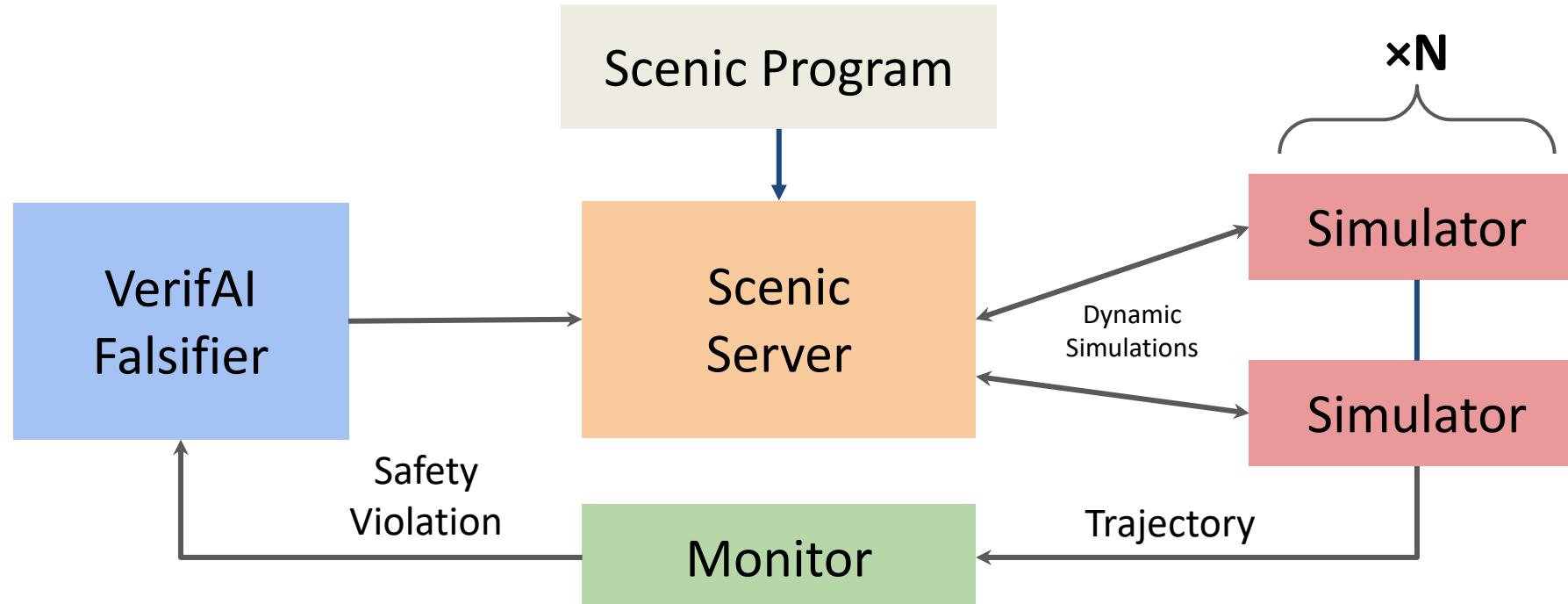


# Falsification Demo

- Using simple Newtonian physics simulator built into Scenic
- To play with it yourself:
  - Install Python 3.8+ and Poetry (<https://python-poetry.org/>)
  - git clone <https://github.com/BerkeleyLearnVerify/VerifAI>
  - cd VerifAI; git checkout av-test-challenge; poetry install; poetry shell
  - cd ..; git clone <https://github.com/BerkeleyLearnVerify/Scenic>
  - cd Scenic; poetry install
  - cd ../VerifAI/experiments
  - python experiments.py --model newtonian --path intersection\_01.scenic

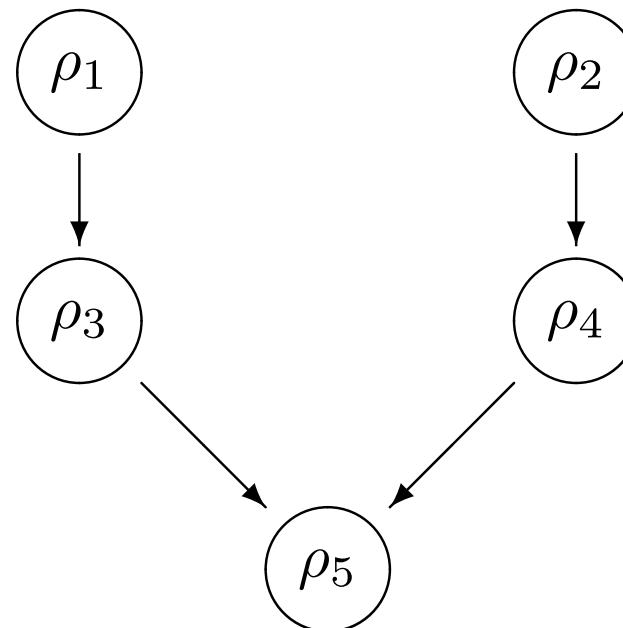
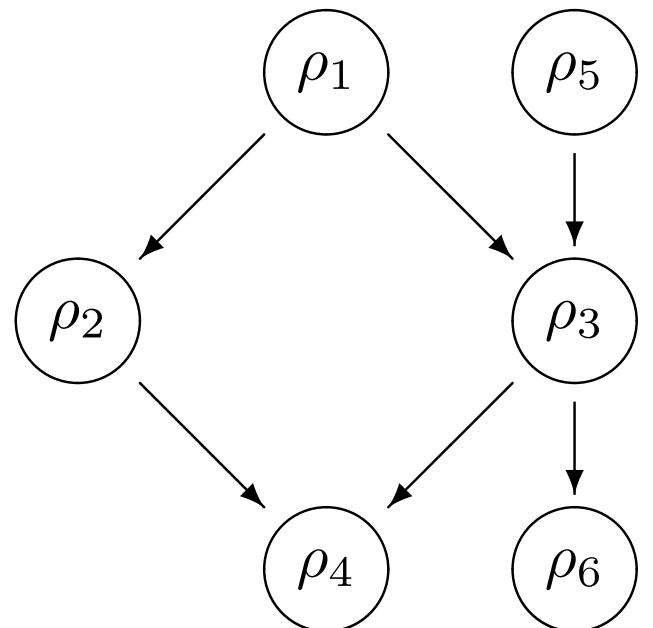
# Parallel and Multi-Objective Falsification

- New features in the VerifAI toolkit [Viswanadha et al., RV'21]
  - Run simulations in parallel for substantial speedups



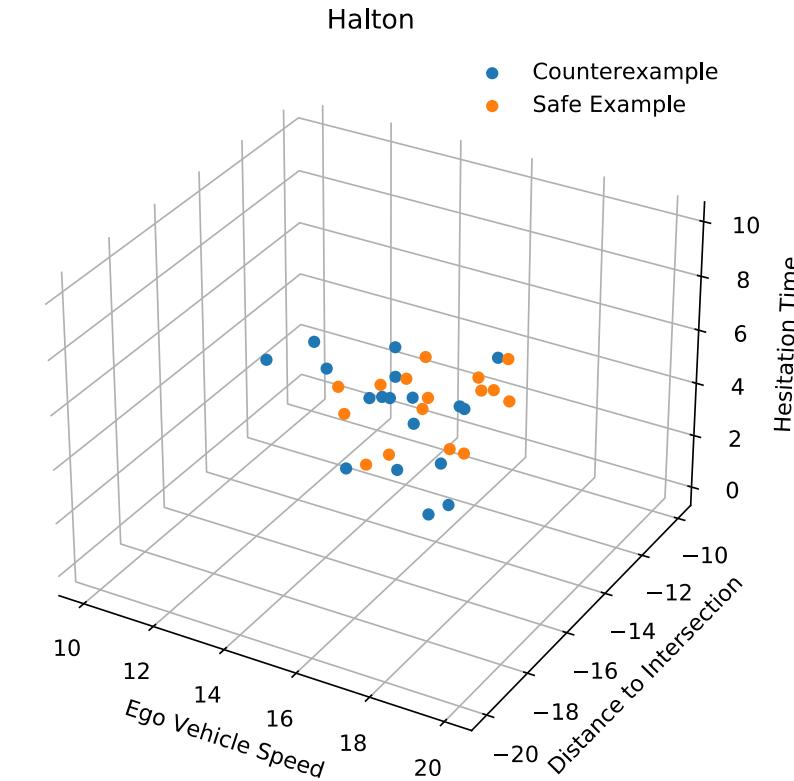
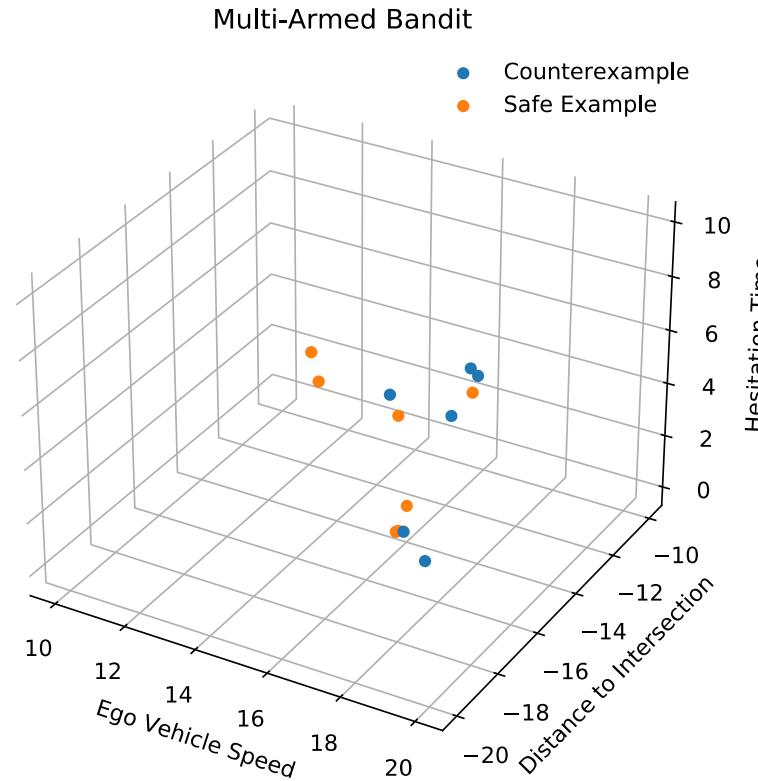
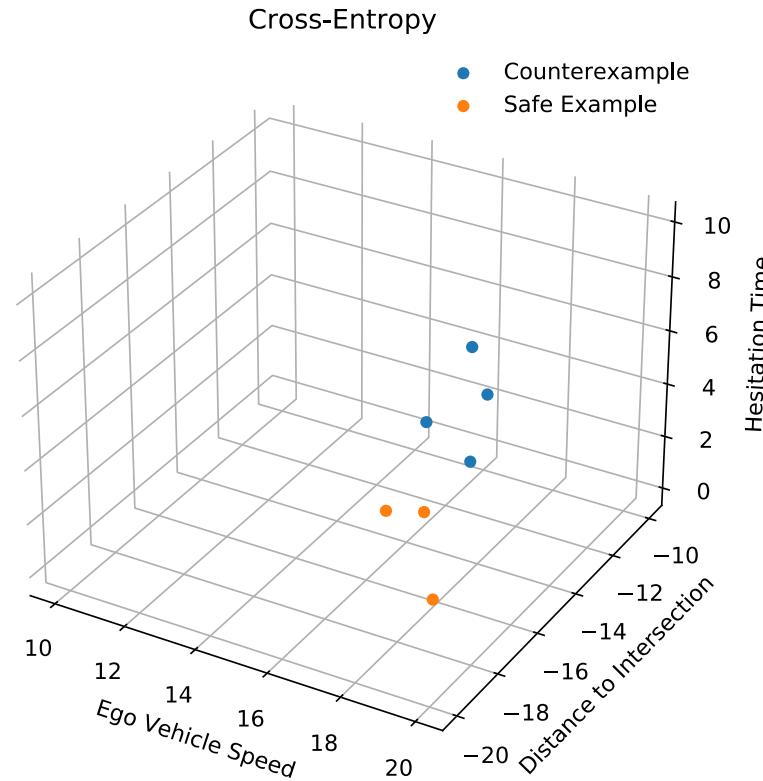
# Parallel and Multi-Objective Falsification

- New features in the VerifAI toolkit [Viswanadha et al., RV'21]
  - Falsify multiple specifications, with priorities



# Parallel and Multi-Objective Falsification

- New features in the VerifAI toolkit [Viswanadha et al., RV'21]
  - Multi-armed bandit sampler trading off exploration and exploitation



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# A Full Design Iteration using Scenic & VerifAI

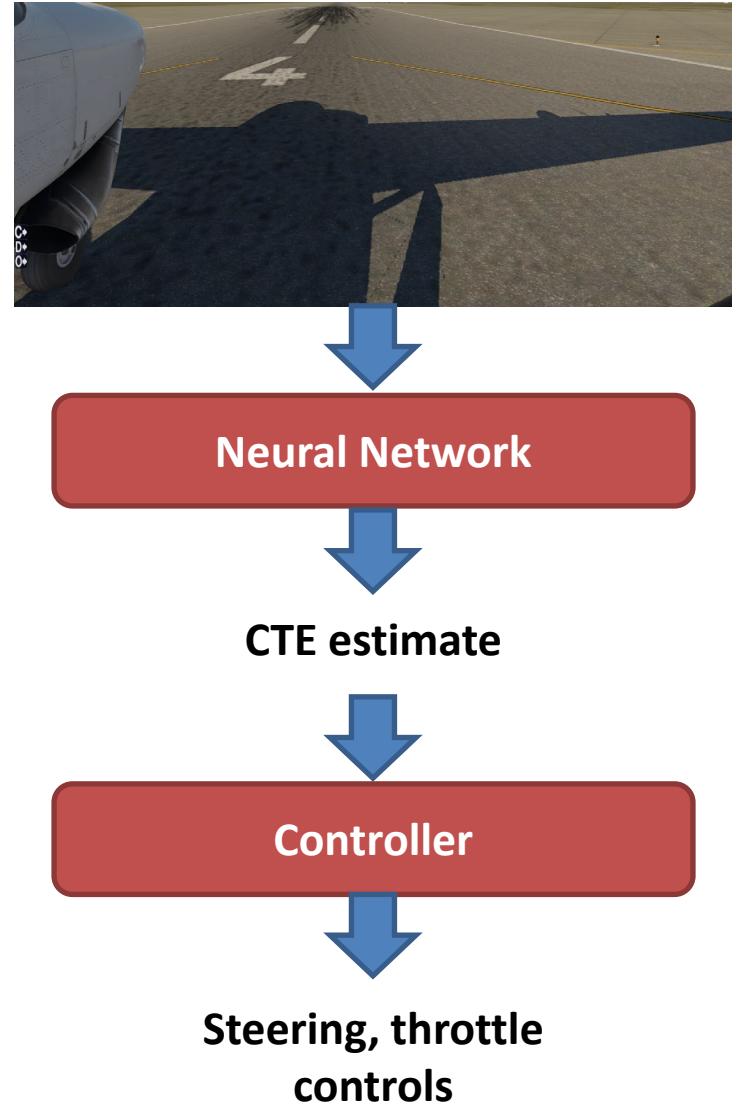
- In addition to discovering failures, VerifAI can help debug and fix them
- Industrial case study on **TaxiNet**, a NN-based taxiing system [CAV 2020]
  - **Modeling** runway scenarios in SCENIC
  - **Falsifying** the system, finding scenarios when it violates its specification
  - **Debugging** to find distinct failures and their root causes
  - **Retraining** the system to eliminate failures and improve performance



# TaxiNet

- Experimental autonomous aircraft taxiing system developed by Boeing
- Neural network uses camera image to estimate the *cross-track error*
  - CTE = distance from centerline
- System-level spec: plane must track centerline to within 1.5 meters

$$\varphi_{\text{eventually}} = \Diamond_{[0,10]} \Box (\text{CTE} \leq 1.5)$$



# Modeling and Falsification

- Semantic features: time, clouds, rain, position/orientation of plane

```
# Time of day: from 6 am to 6 pm. (+8 to get GMT, as used by X-Plane)
param zulu_time = ((6, 18) + 8) * 60 * 60

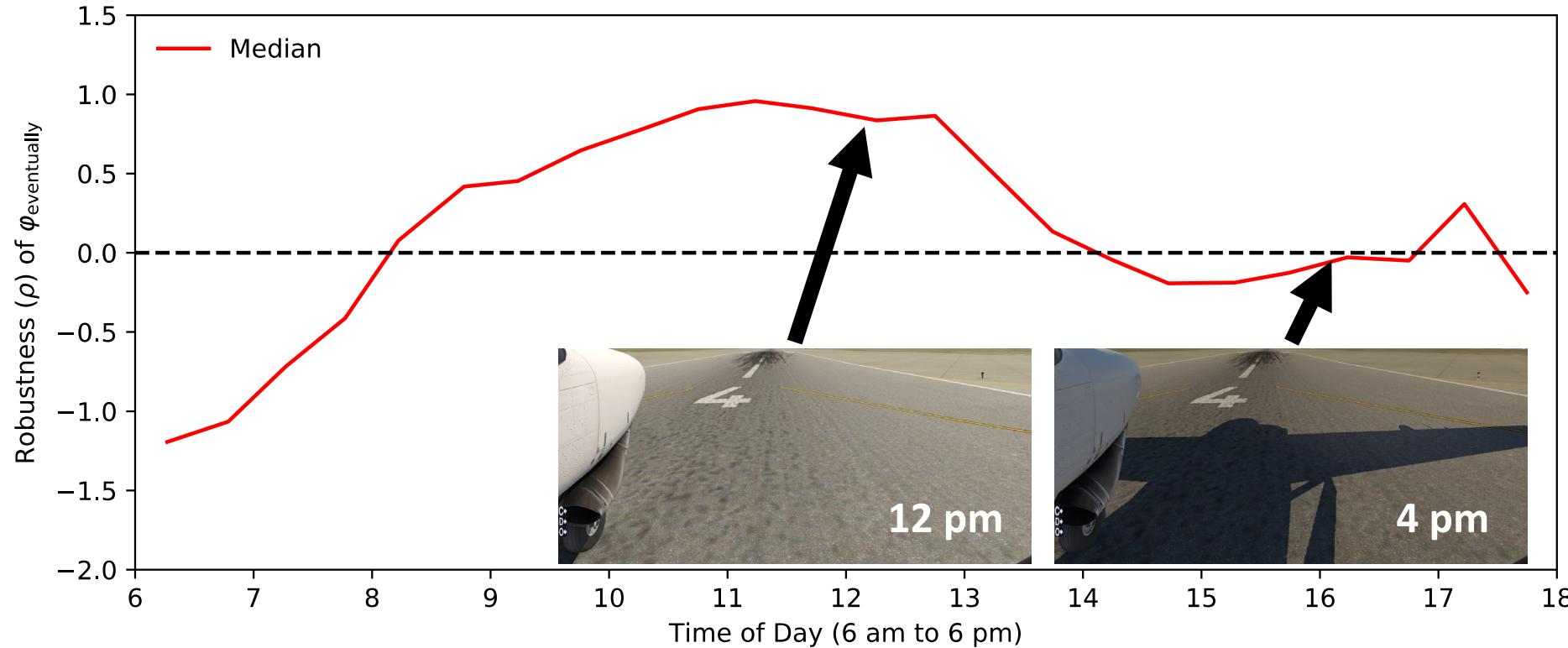
# Rain: 1/3 of the time. Clouds: rain requires types 3-5; otherwise 0-5.
clouds_and_rain = Options({
    tuple([Uniform(0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), 0]): 2, # no rain
    tuple([Uniform(3, 4, 5), (0.25, 1)]): 1    # 25% to 100% rain
})
param cloud_type = clouds_and_rain[0], rain_percent = clouds_and_rain[1]

# Plane: up to 8 m left/right, 2000 m down the runway, 30° left/right.
ego = Plane at (-8, 8) @ (0, 2000),
      facing (-30, 30) deg
```

- Falsification: out of ~4,000 simulations,
  - 45% violated  $\varphi_{\text{eventually}}$
  - 9% left runway entirely

# Counterexample Analysis

- Falsification found several types of failures, e.g. sensitivity to time



- Follow-up experiments confirmed root cause is the plane's shadow

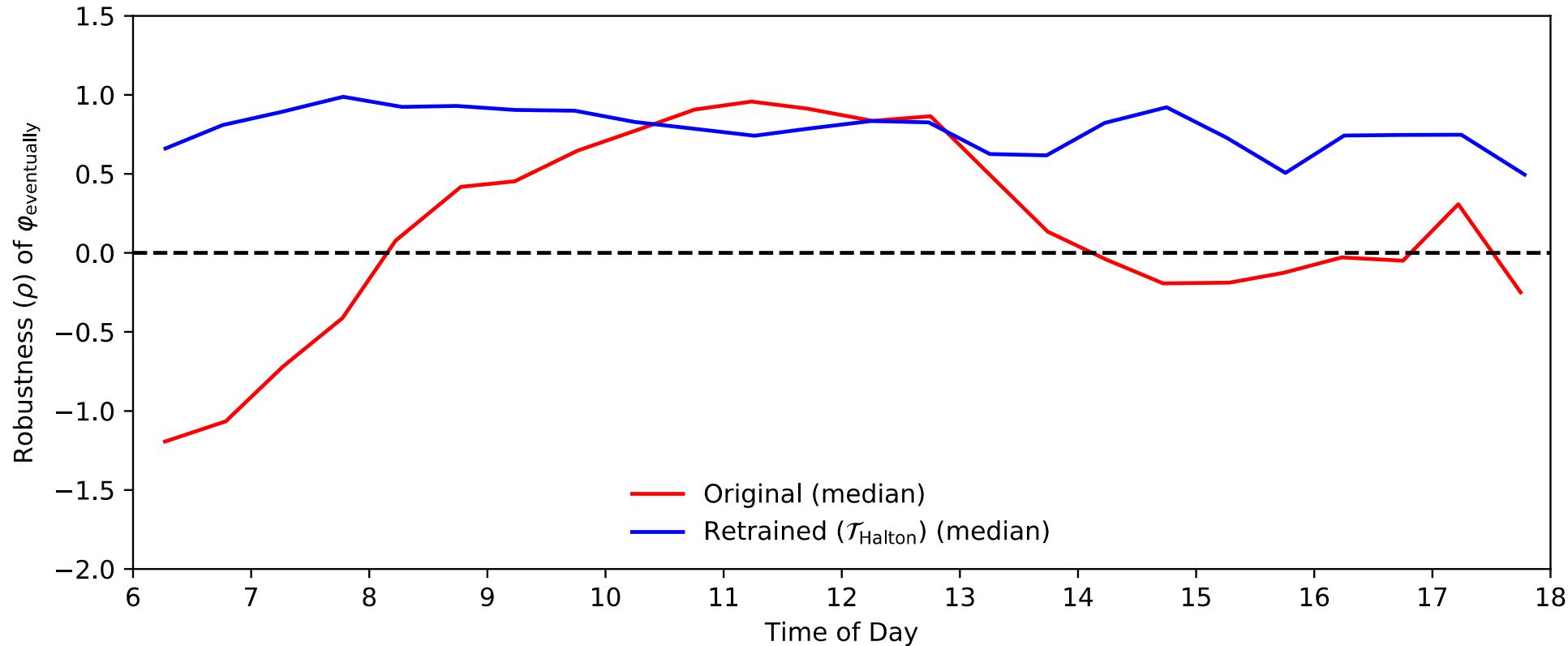
# Retraining

- Use VERIFAI to generate a new training set (same size as original)
- Obtained much better performance
  - **17% violated  $\varphi_{\text{eventually}}$**  (vs. 45%)
  - **0.6% left runway entirely** (vs. 9%)



# Retraining

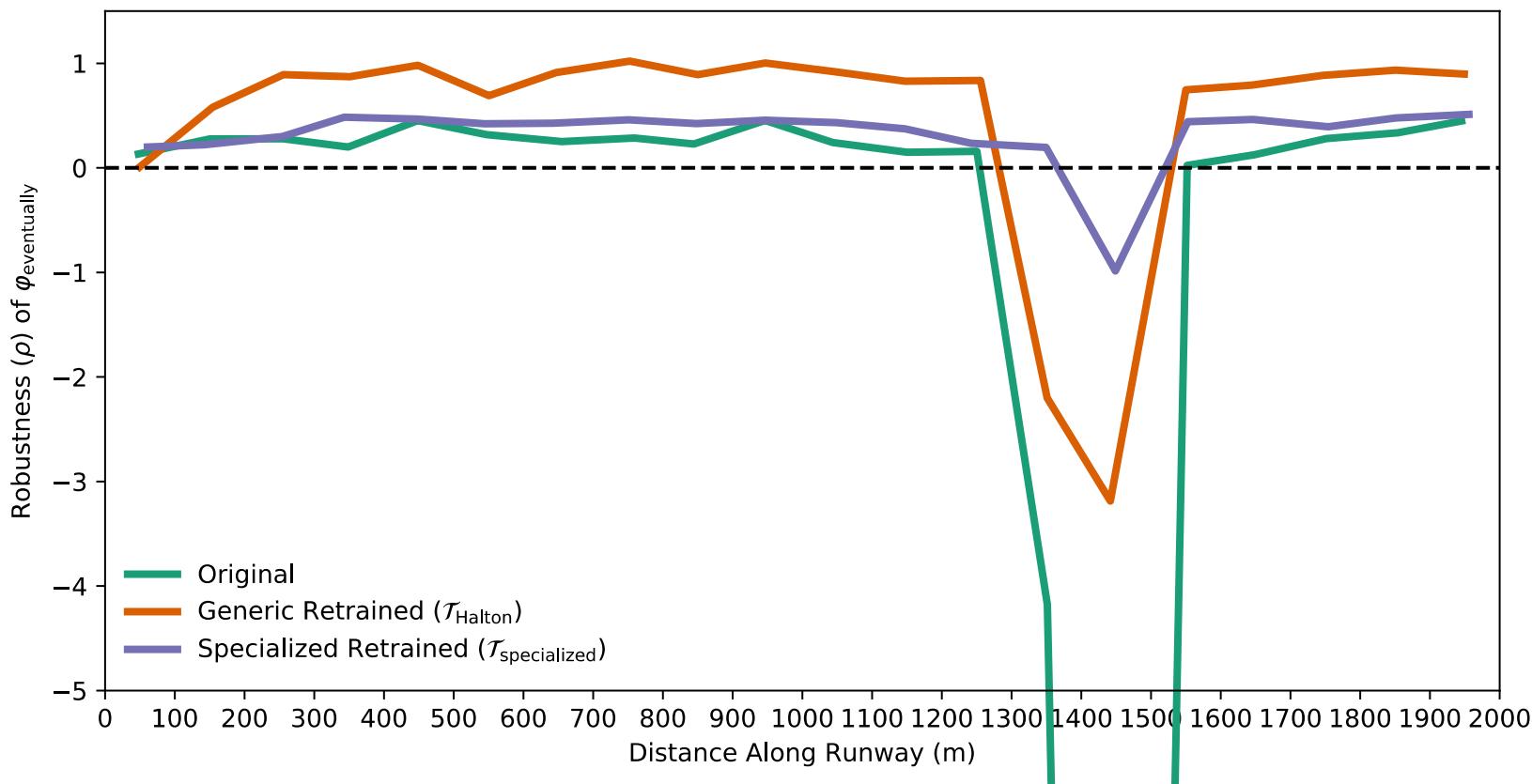
- Eliminated dependence on time of day



- Used cross-entropy method to *learn* good training distributions

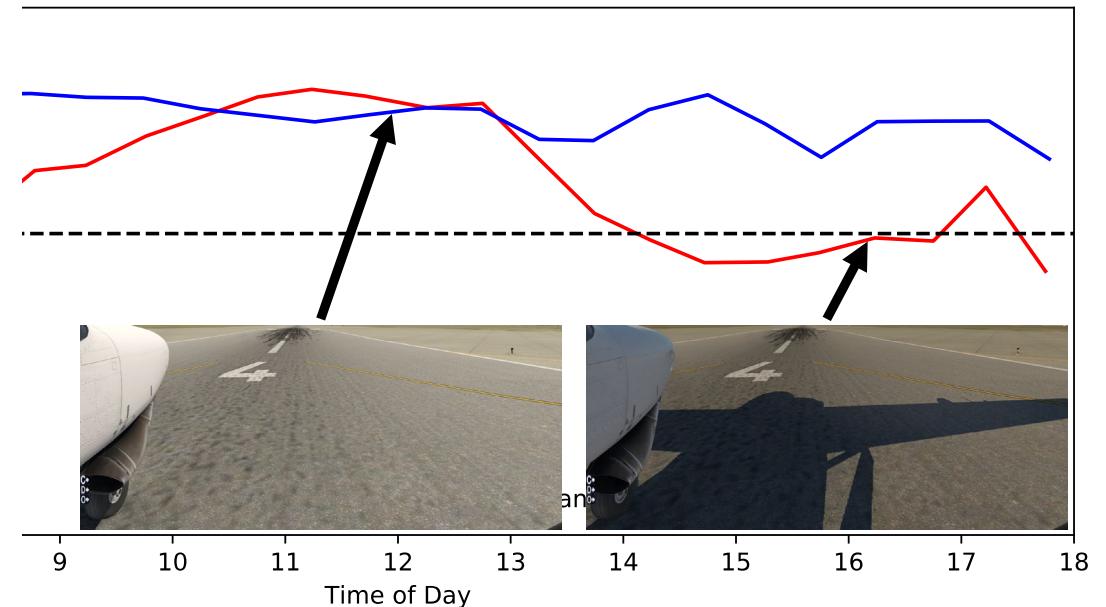
# Retraining

- Improved handling of runway intersections, but still problematic
- Can do better using specialized training
  - Concentrate training distribution around hardest points (using Scenic)
  - *Learn* a suitable distribution using cross-entropy optimization



# Conclusion

- VERIFAI can be applied to realistic, industrial autonomous systems
- We used it to find bugs in TaxiNet, diagnose them, and eliminate some of them through more intelligent training set design
- But not all counterexamples can be eliminated through retraining
  - How can we use the results of falsification to generate runtime monitors?

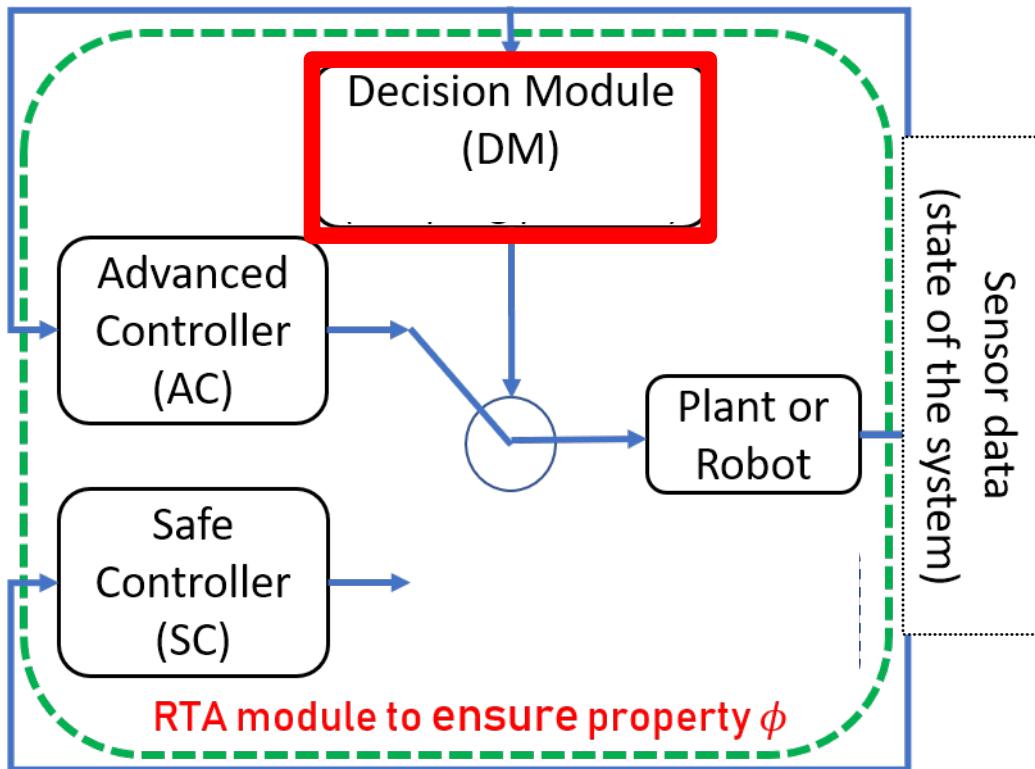


# Outline

- Overview of Scenic and VerifAI
  - Basic syntax of the Scenic language
- Falsification
  - Case study in the Webots simulator
- Dynamic Scenarios in Scenic
  - Case study in autonomous driving simulators (e.g., CARLA)
- Falsification → Debugging → Retraining
  - Case study in the X-Plane simulator
- Data-Driven Run-Time Monitor Generation with Scenic & VerifAI
  - Case study in the X-Plane simulator
- Conclusion

# Simplex Architecture for Run-Time Assurance

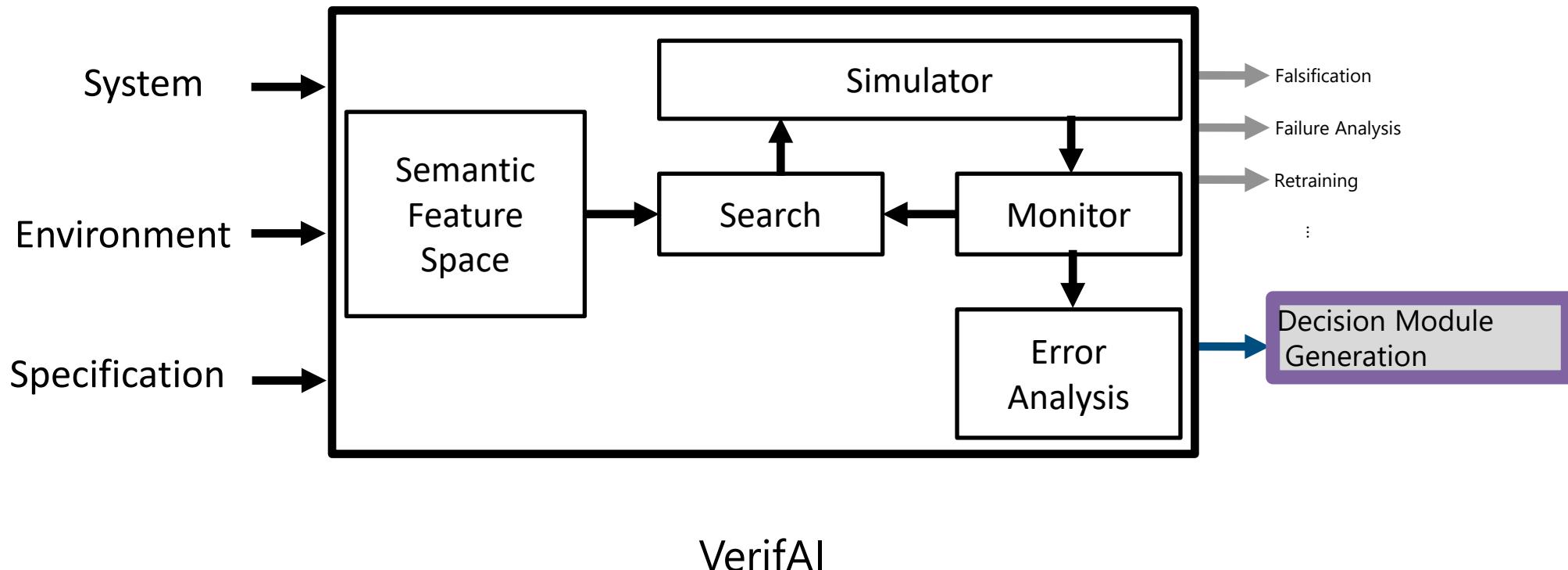
[Lui Sha, RTSS'98]



*How do we generate the switching logic for the Decision Module as a Run-Time Monitor?*

Already used in fault-tolerant CPS (e.g. avionics)

# Extending VerifAI with a Generator for Decision Modules



# Data-driven Monitor Generation On One Slide

- **Naive approach:** Generate positive and negative examples (negative = raise an alert).
- **Goal:** Generalise the negative examples to unseen traces, i.e. generate a decision module for raising an alert.
- Some Challenges:
  - High-dimensional alphabet/space
  - Relevant information may not be observable/reliable at runtime
  - Needs to be predictive

# Data-driven Monitor Generation

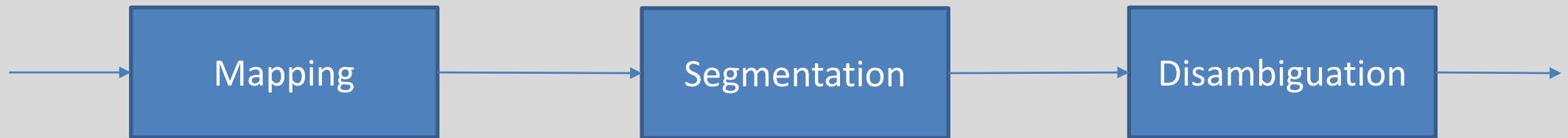
Step 1: Data preparation

Step 2: Monitor generation

Step 3: Monitor implementation

# Data-driven Monitor Generation

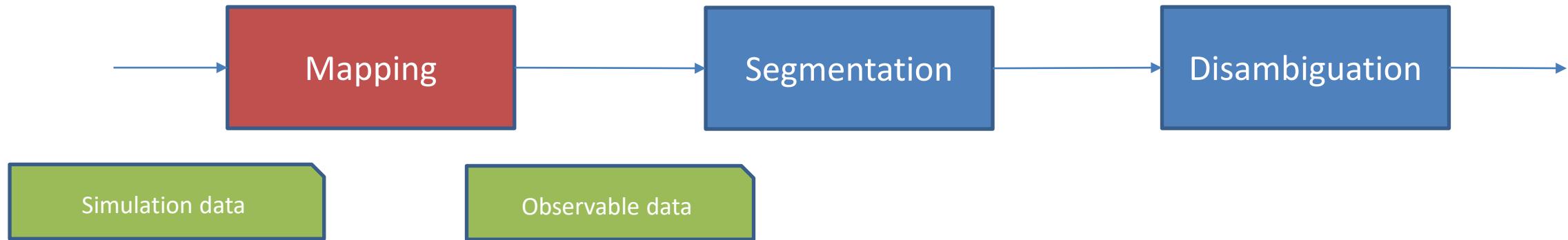
Step 1: Data preparation



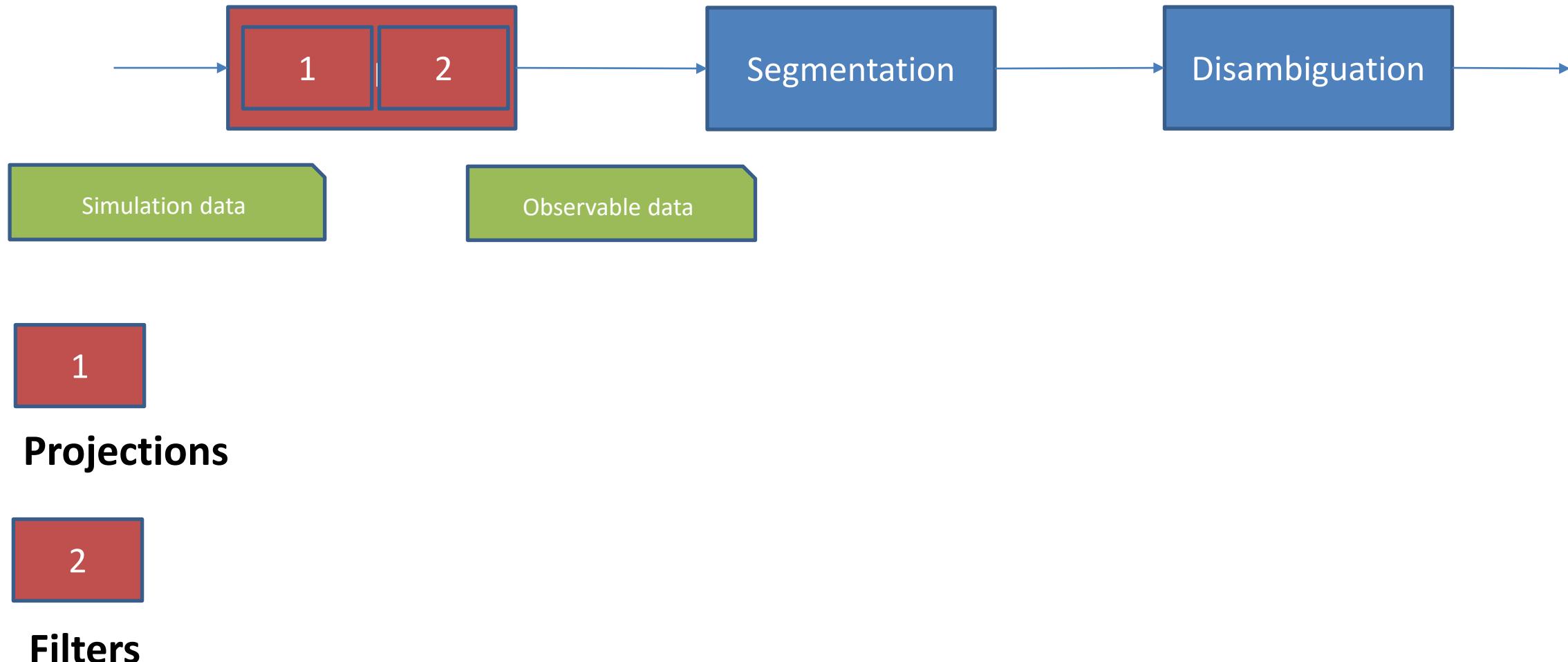
Step 2: Monitor generation

Step 3: Monitor implementation

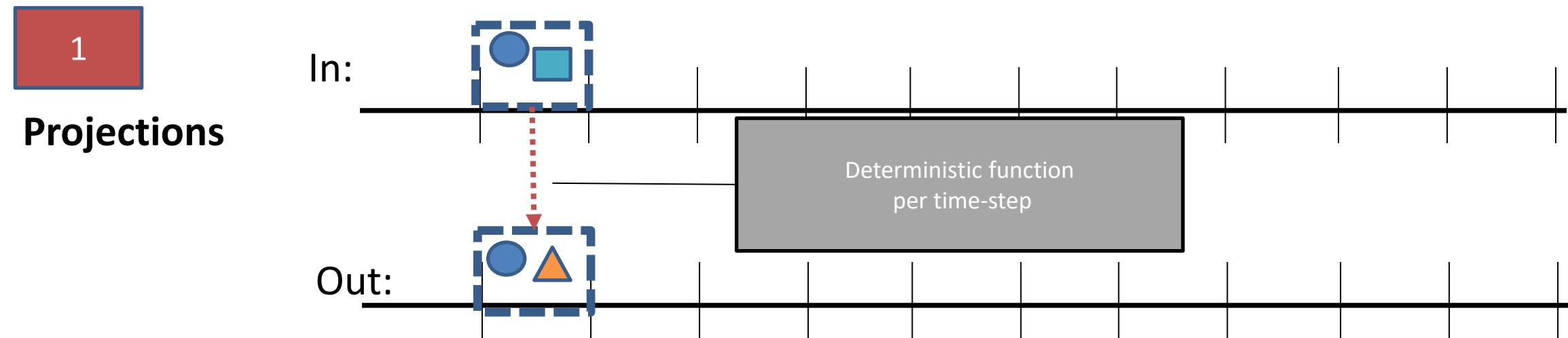
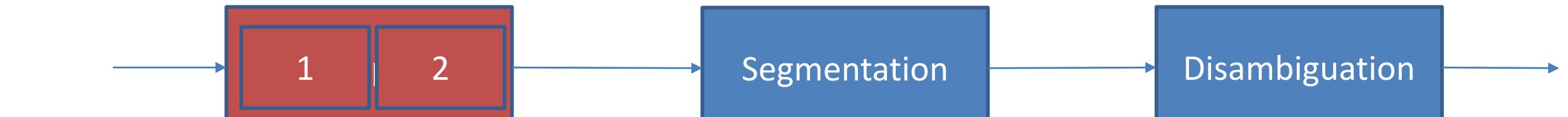
# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces (Mapping)



# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces (Mapping)

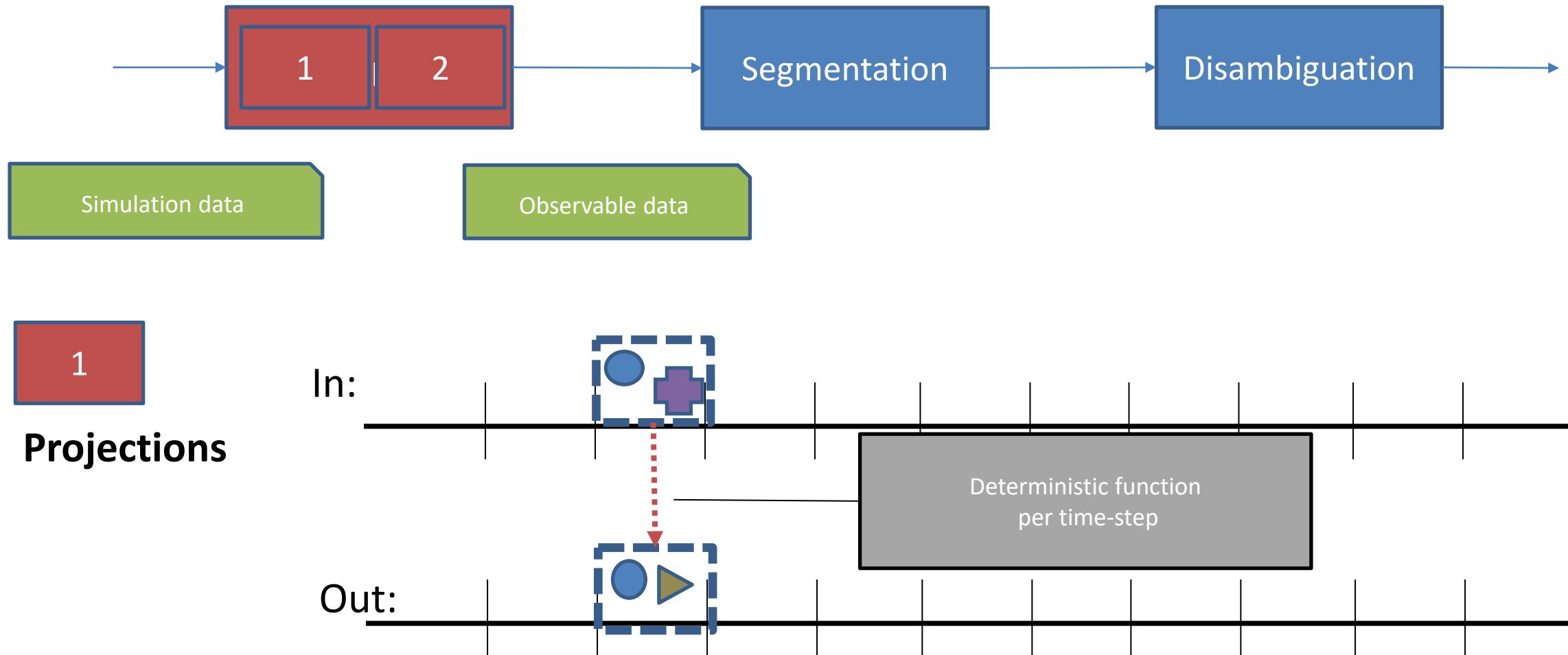


# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces (Mapping)



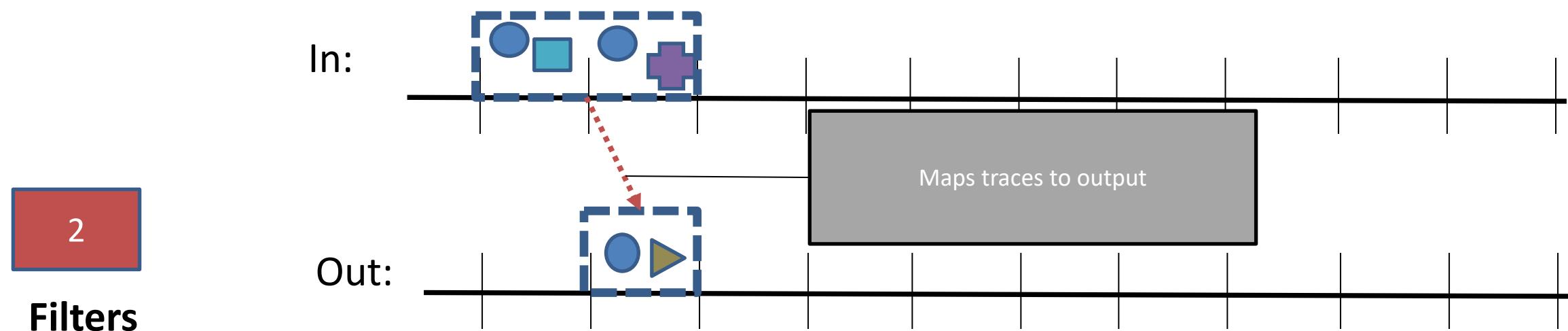
**Rationale: Output alphabet consists of reliably observable data**

# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces (Mapping)

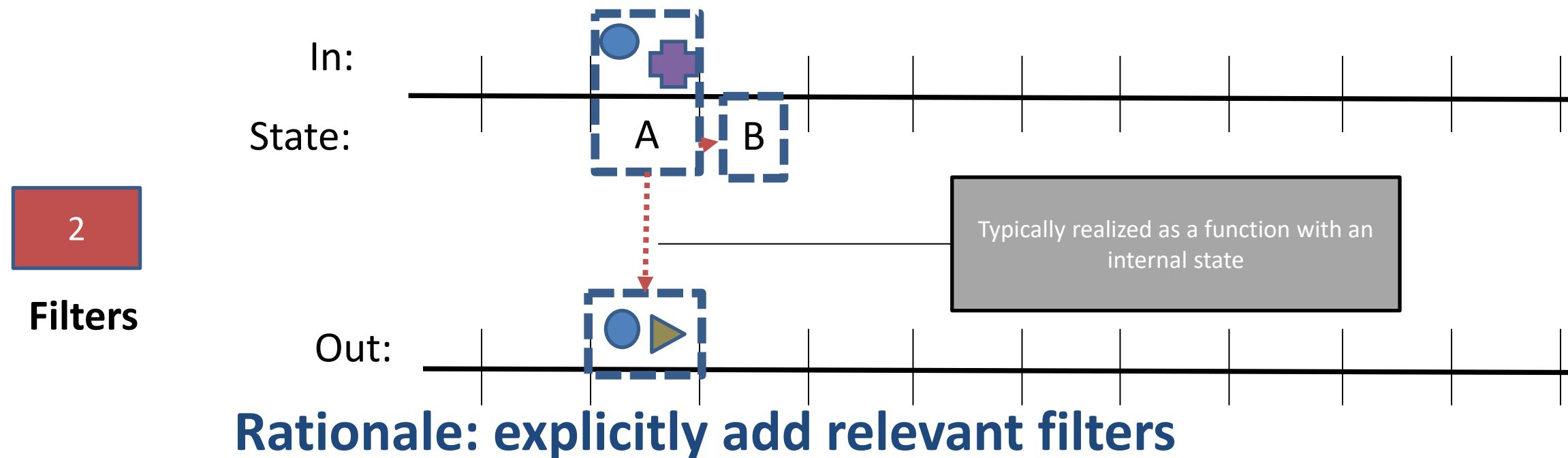
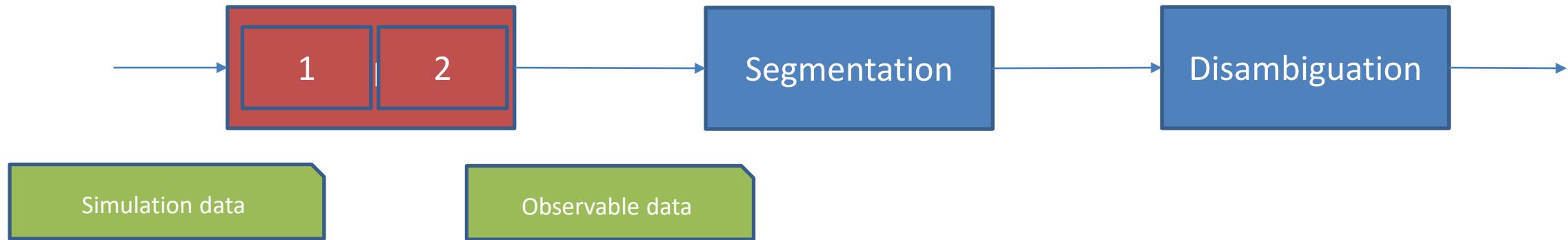


**Rationale: Output alphabet consists of reliably observable data**

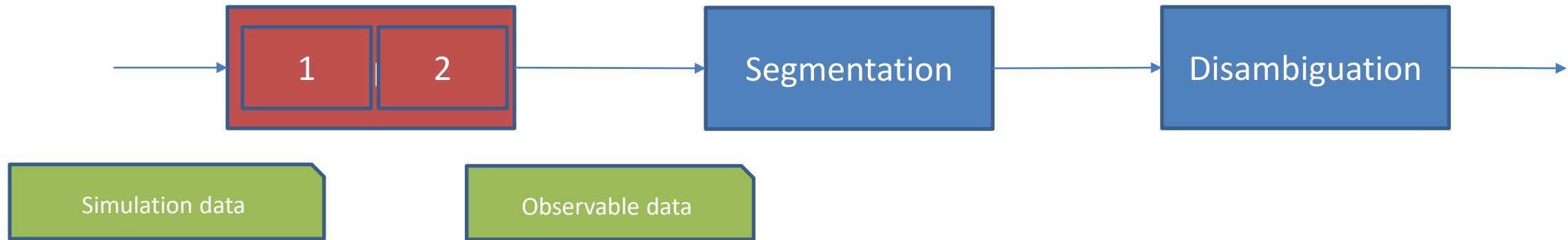
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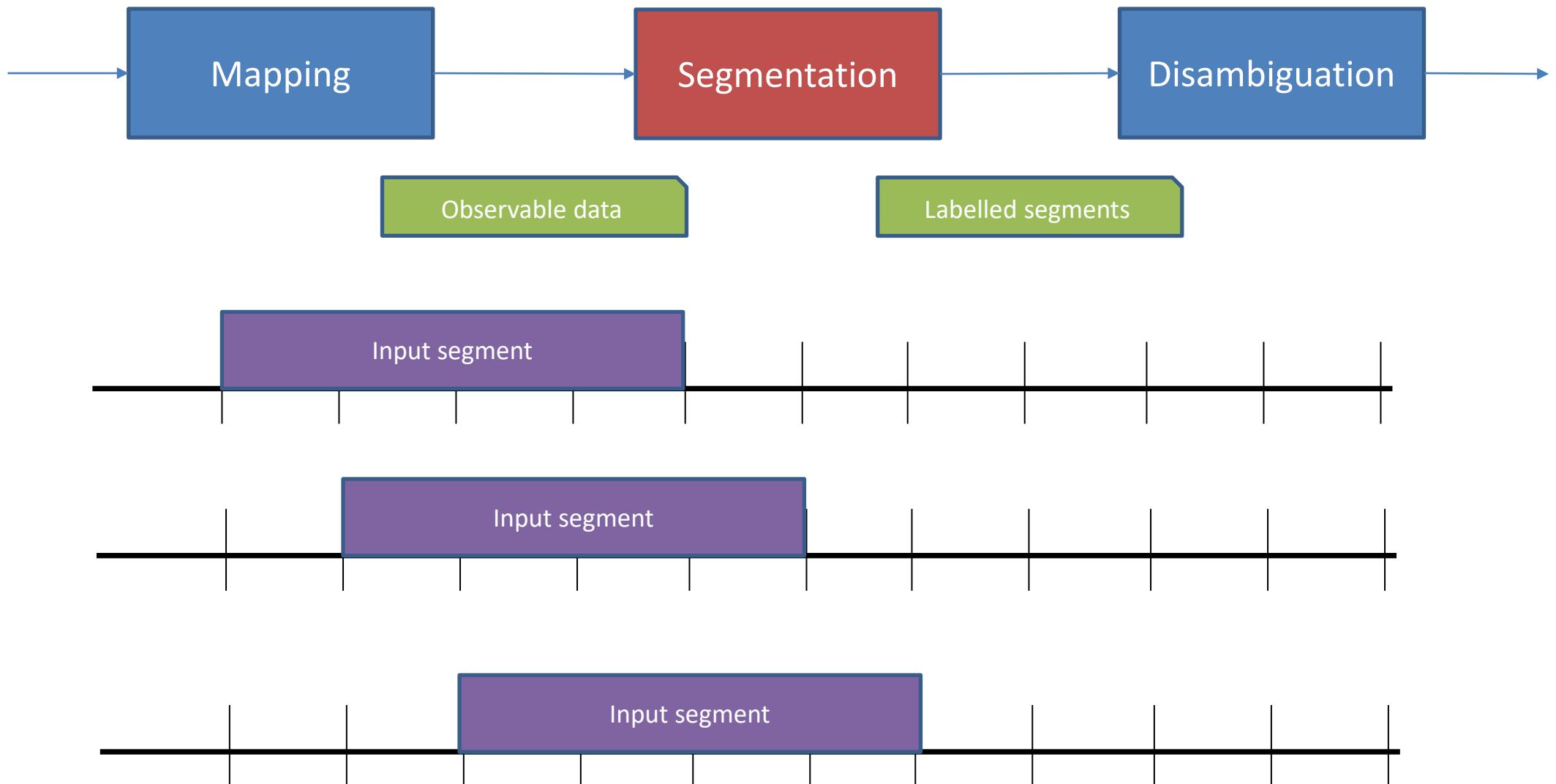
1  
**Projections**

*When rainy, do not include camera in observable data.  
Never include temperature*

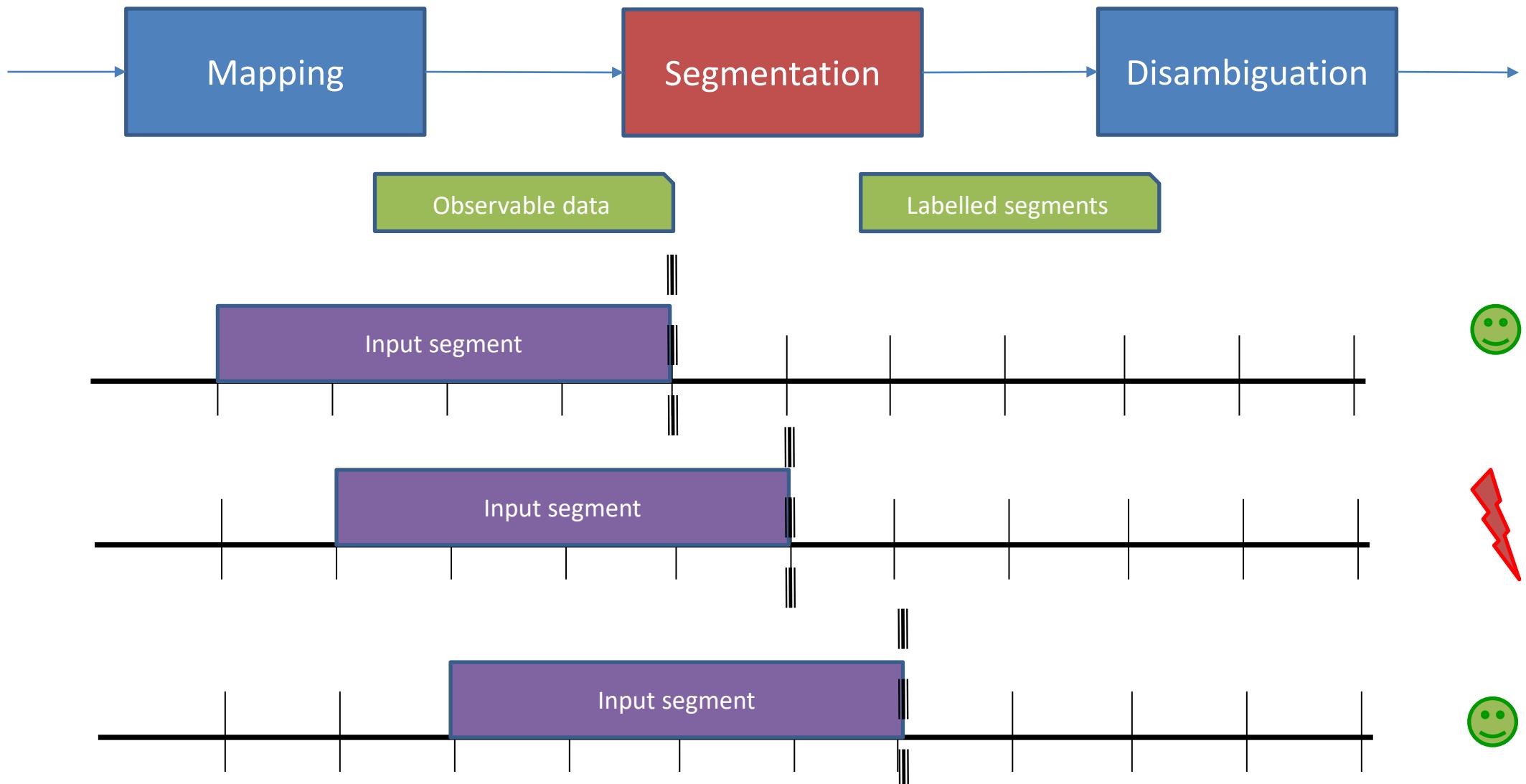
2  
**Filters**

*Aggregate deviations in the past  
Smoothen GPS position*

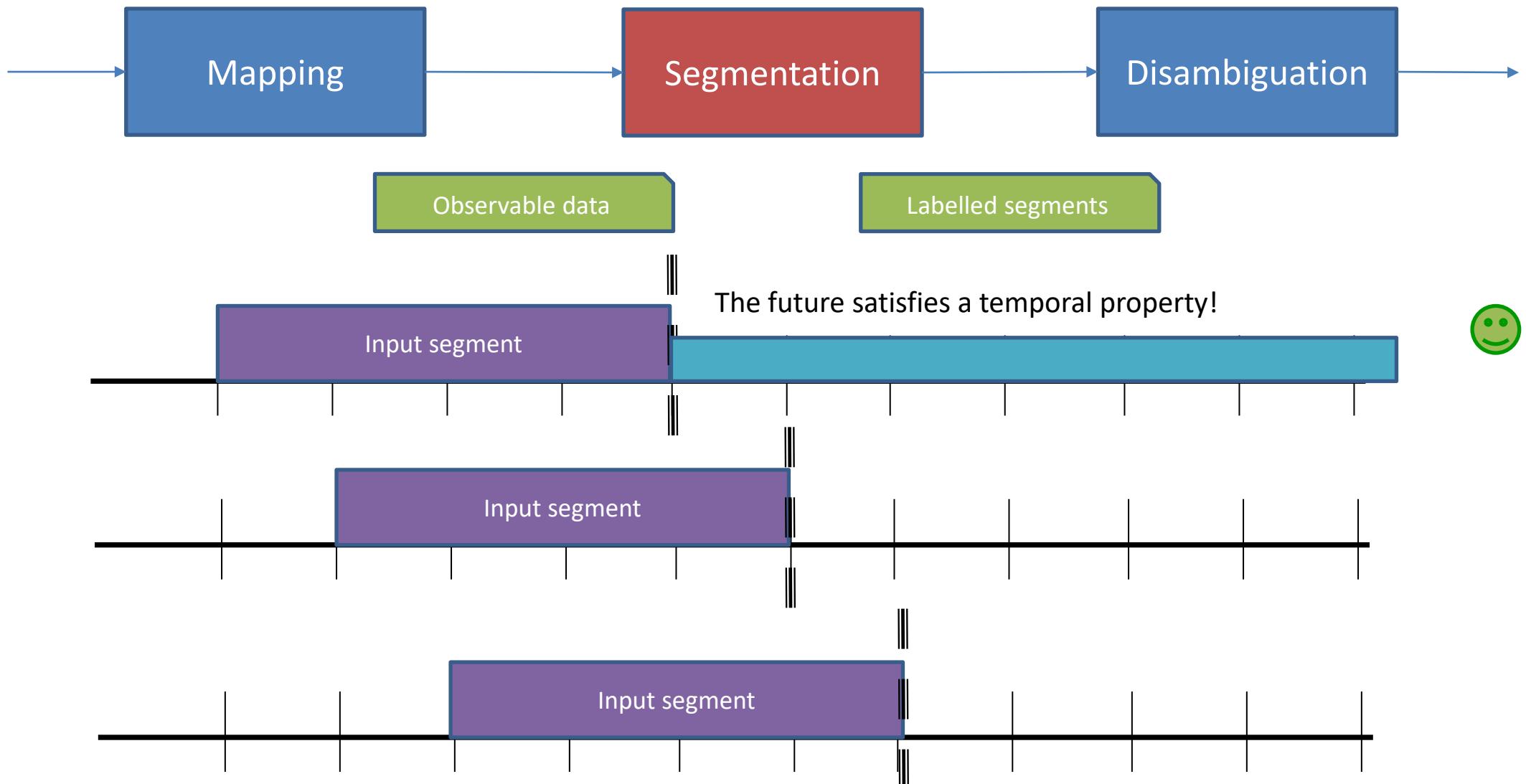
# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces (Segments)



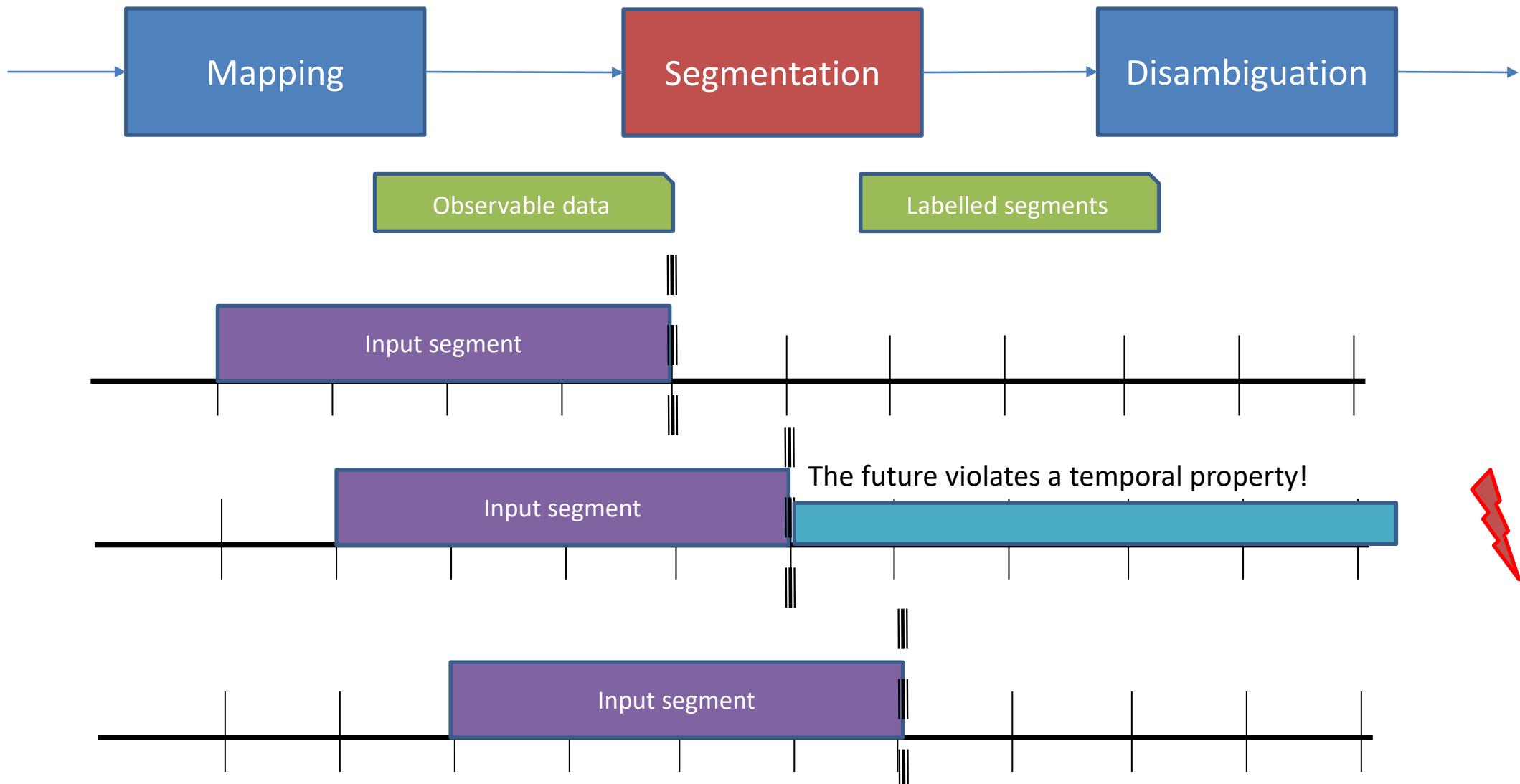
# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces (Segments)



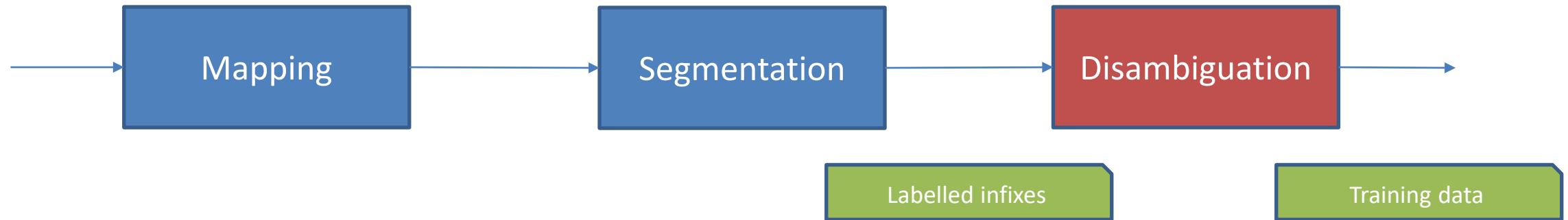
# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces (Segments)



# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces (Segments)



# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Obtaining Traces



**Handle duplicates:** either conservatively or quantitatively

# Data-driven Monitor Generation

Step 1: Data preparation

**Result:** Obtained finitely many positive and negative examples

Step 2: Monitor generation

Step 3: Monitor implementation

# Data-driven Monitor Generation

Step 1: Data preparation

**Result:** Obtained finitely many positive and negative examples

Step 2: Monitor generation

**3 Aspects: Implementability, Quantitative Correctness, Trustworthiness**

Step 3: Monitor implementation

# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Discussion and Desiderata

- Implementability
- Quantitative correctness
- Trustworthiness

# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Discussion and Desiderata

- Implementability
  - Realizability
  - Performance
  - AI systems are often computationally heavy
- Quantitative correctness
- Trustworthiness

# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Discussion and Desiderata

- Implementability
  - Realizability
  - Performance
  - AI systems are often computationally heavy
- Quantitative correctness
  - Overapproximation (e.g. only accepting seen traces) is typically too conservative
  - Quantify false positives and false negatives differently
- Trustworthiness

# Data-driven Monitor Generation (Exact vs Approximate)

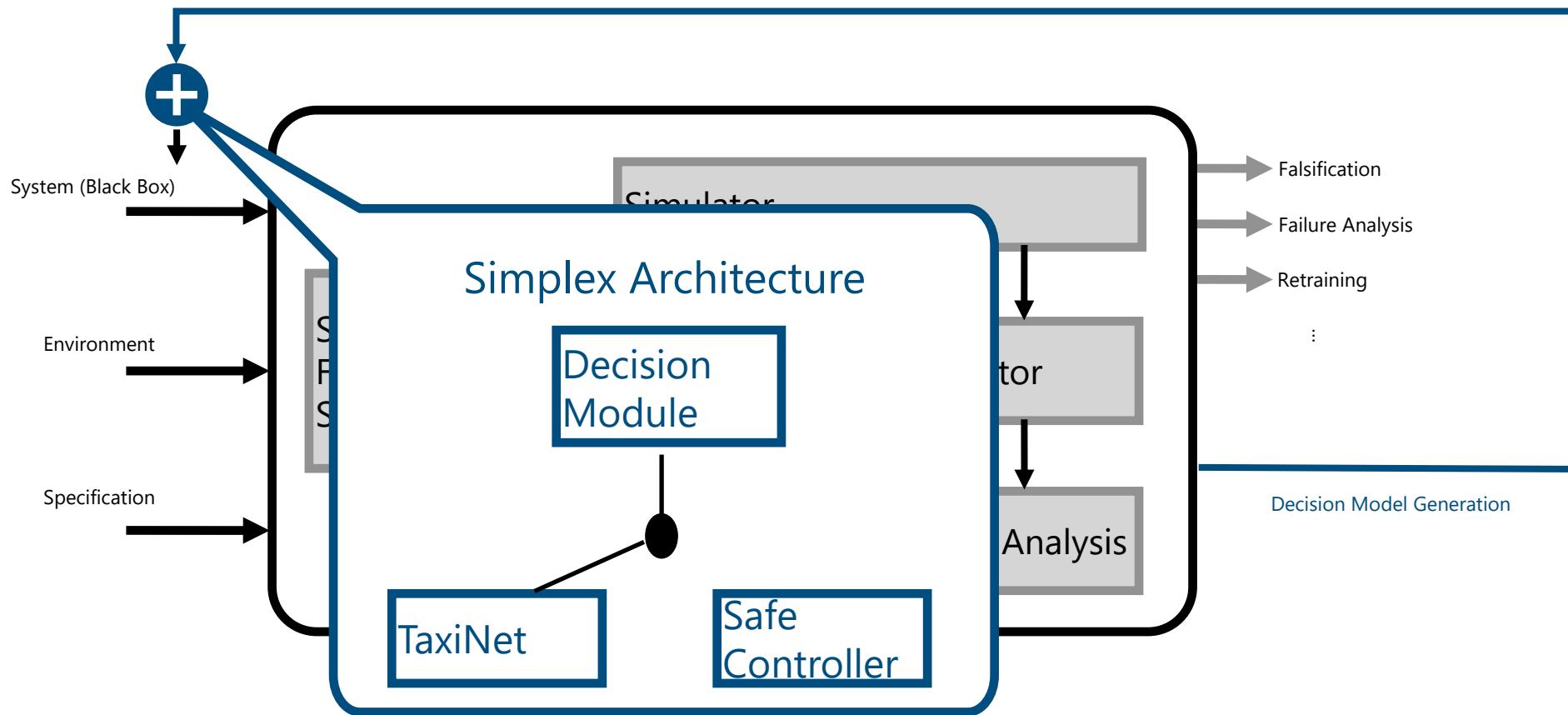
- Exact learning:
  - Guaranteed to be perfect on training set
  - May be overfitting, no guarantees outside training set
- PAC learning:
  - May be arbitrarily off (although this is unlikely)
  - Typically is correct in most cases

**VerifAI-monitor generation currently allows using  
automata learning, decision tree learning and neural network classifiers**

# Data-driven Monitor Generation: Discussion and Desiderata

- Implementability
  - Realizability
  - Performance
  - AI systems are often computationally heavy
- Quantitative correctness
  - Overapproximation (e.g. only accepting seen traces) is typically too conservative
  - Quantify false positives and false negatives differently
- Trustworthiness
  - Quantitative correctness statistical ->  
Monitors should make the system more trustworthy
  - Monitor-in-the-loop testing

# Monitor in the loop



# Data-driven Monitor Generation

Step 1: Data preparation

**Result:** Obtained finitely many positive and negative examples

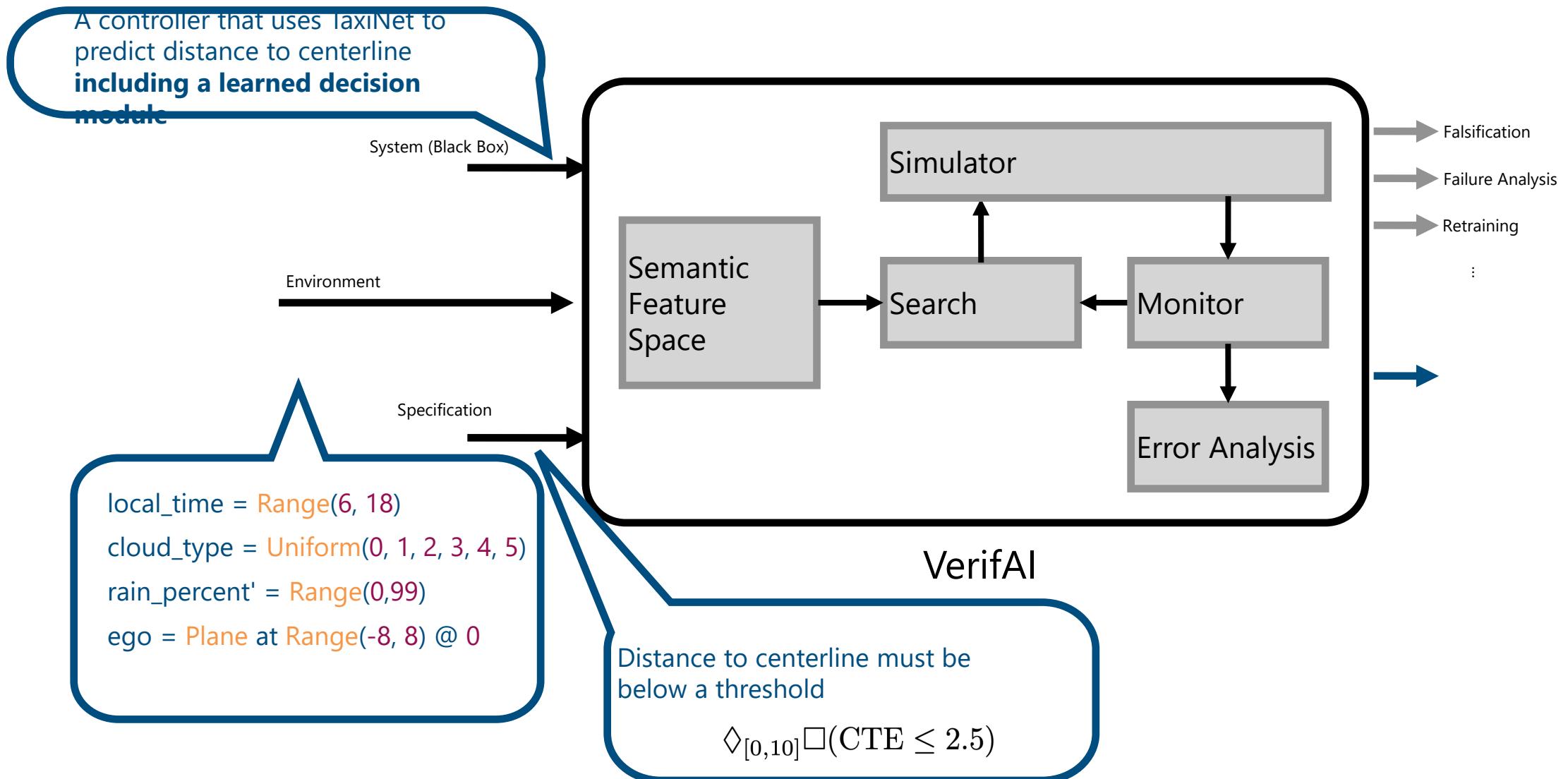
Step 2: Monitor generation

**Result:** Obtained logic that increases system trustworthiness  
(based on formal & reproducible empirical evidence)

Step 3: Monitor implementation

Leverage work by the runtime verification community!

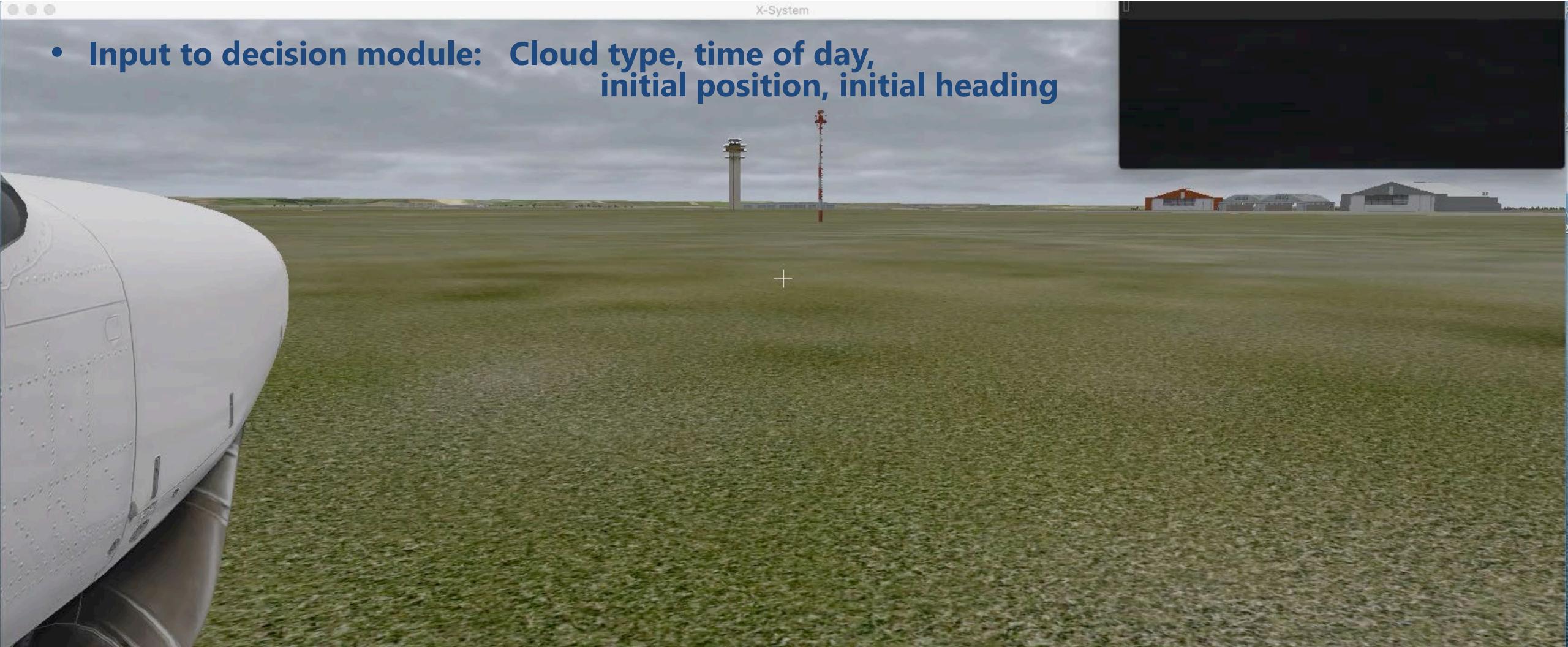
# Application to TaxiNet



# Learning Decision Modules over “Static” Features

Make decision at beginning of simulation: decision made based on initial values

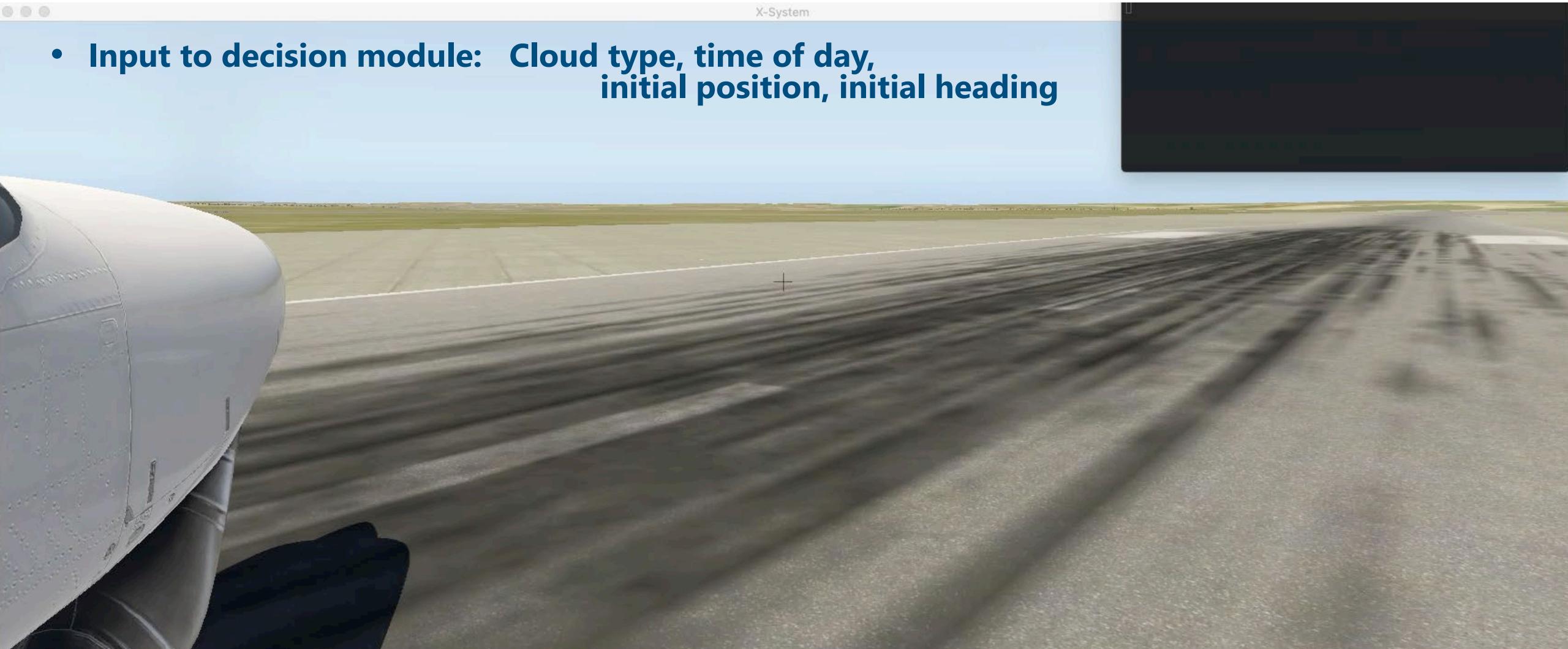
- **Input to decision module:** Cloud type, time of day, initial position, initial heading



# Learning Decision Modules over “Static” Features

Make decision at beginning of simulation: decision made based on initial values

- **Input to decision module:** Cloud type, time of day, initial position, initial heading



# Learning Decision Modules over “Dynamic” Features

Make decision at beginning of simulation: decision made based on recent history

- **Input to decision module:** **Cloud type, time of day, initial position, initial heading and current position**

```
2021-01-19 13:38:35.619897: I tensorflow/compiler/jit/xla_cpu_device.cc:41] Not creating XLA devices, tf_xla_enable_xla_devices not set
2021-01-19 13:38:35.620456: I tensorflow/core/platform/cpu_feature_guard.cc:142] This TensorFlow binary is optimized with oneAPI Deep Neural Network Library (on eDNN) to use the following CPU instructions in performance-critical operations: AVX2 FMA
To enable them in other operations, rebuild TensorFlow with the appropriate compiler flags.
Loading scenario...
Initialized sampler
Please start a new flight and then press ENTER.
```

No Simplex

# Learning Decision Modules over “Dynamic” Features

Make decision at beginning of simulation: decision made based on recent history

- **Input to decision module:** **Cloud type, time of day, initial position, initial heading and current position**

```
2021-01-19 13:36:47.707469: I tensorflow/compiler/jit/xla_cpu_device.cc:41] Not
creating XLA devices, tf_xla_enable_xla_devices not set
2021-01-19 13:36:47.708066: I tensorflow/core/platform/cpu_feature_guard.cc:142]
This TensorFlow binary is optimized with oneAPI Deep Neural Network Library (on
eDNN) to use the following CPU instructions in performance-critical operations:
AVX2 FMA
To enable them in other operations, rebuild TensorFlow with the appropriate comp
iler flags.
Loading scenario...
Initialized sampler
Please start a new flight and then press ENTER.[]
```

With Simplex

# Summary

- **Learn decision modules** from data sampled and processed with VerifAI
- **Evaluate system with the monitor** within VerifAI
- Plenty of **open and ongoing topics**:
  - Create efficient implementations from the logic described by our monitors
  - Feature selection for monitors
  - Use information from scenic-program or other models
  - Integrating learning
- Happy to cooperate!

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# Scenic and VerifAI: Summary of Features and Use Cases

- Classes, Objects, Geometry, and Distributions
- Local Coordinate Systems
- Readable, Flexible Specifiers
- Declarative Hard & Soft Constraints
- Externally-Controllable Parameters
- Agent Actions and Behaviors, Interrupts, Termination
- Monitors, Temporal Constraints
- Scenario Composition



- Synthetic Data Generation
  - Test Generation, Fuzz Testing
  - Requirements Specification
  - Falsification
  - Debugging and Error Explanation
  - Data Augmentation
  - Goal-Directed Parameter Synthesis
  - Run-Time Monitor Generation
- ...



# Documentation on Scenic and VerifAI – linked from GitHub

The image shows two documentation pages side-by-side, both titled "Welcome to [Tool]'s documentation!" and featuring a "Search docs" bar at the top.

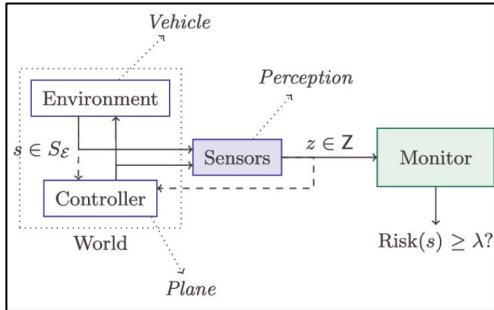
**Scenic Documentation:**

- Header: "Scenic" logo, "latest", "Search docs".
- Content:
  - Scenic is a domain-specific probabilistic programming language for modeling the environments of cyber-physical systems like robots and autonomous cars. A Scenic program defines a distribution over *scenes*, configurations of physical objects and agents; sampling from this distribution yields concrete scenes which can be simulated to produce training or testing data.
  - Scenic was designed and implemented by Daniel J. Fremont, Tommaso Dreossi, Shromona Ghosh, Xiangyu Yue, Alberto L. Sangiovanni-Vincentelli, and Sanjit A. Seshia. For a description of the language and some of its applications, see [our PLDI 2019 paper](#); a more in-depth discussion is in Chapters 5 and 8 of [this thesis](#). Our [publications](#) page lists additional papers using Scenic.

**VerifAI Documentation:**

- Header: "VerifAI" logo, "latest", "Search docs".
- Content:
  - Docs » Welcome to VerifAI's documentation!
  - [Edit on GitHub](#)
  - Welcome to VerifAI's documentation!
  - VerifAI is a software toolkit for the formal design and analysis of systems that include artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) components. VerifAI particularly seeks to address challenges with applying formal methods to perception and ML components, including those based on neural networks, and to model and analyze system behavior in the presence of environment uncertainty. The current version of the toolkit performs intelligent simulation guided by formal models and specifications, enabling a variety of use cases including temporal-logic falsification (bug-finding), model-based systematic fuzz testing, parameter synthesis, counterexample analysis,

# Ongoing/Future Directions



## Run-Time Monitoring in MDPs

monitoring partially observable systems with nondeterministic and probabilistic dynamics [CAV 2021]



## Verified Human-Robot Collaboration

Learning Specifications from Demonstrations, Interaction-Aware Control, etc. [IROS 2016, NeurIPS 2018, CAV 2020]

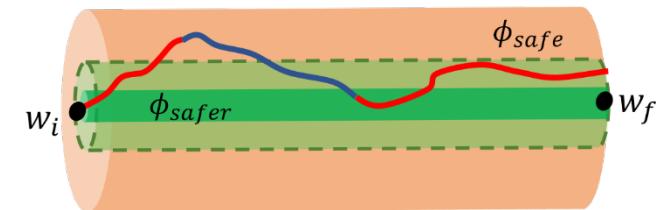


## Bridging Simulation & Real World

Metrics to compare simulated vs real behaviors [HSCC 2019]  
Using falsification to design real world tests [ITSC 2020]

## Run-Time Assurance

SOTER framework based on Simplex architecture [DSN 2019, RV 2020]



## Explaining Success/Failures of Deep Learning

Automated approach using Scenic [CVPR 2020]

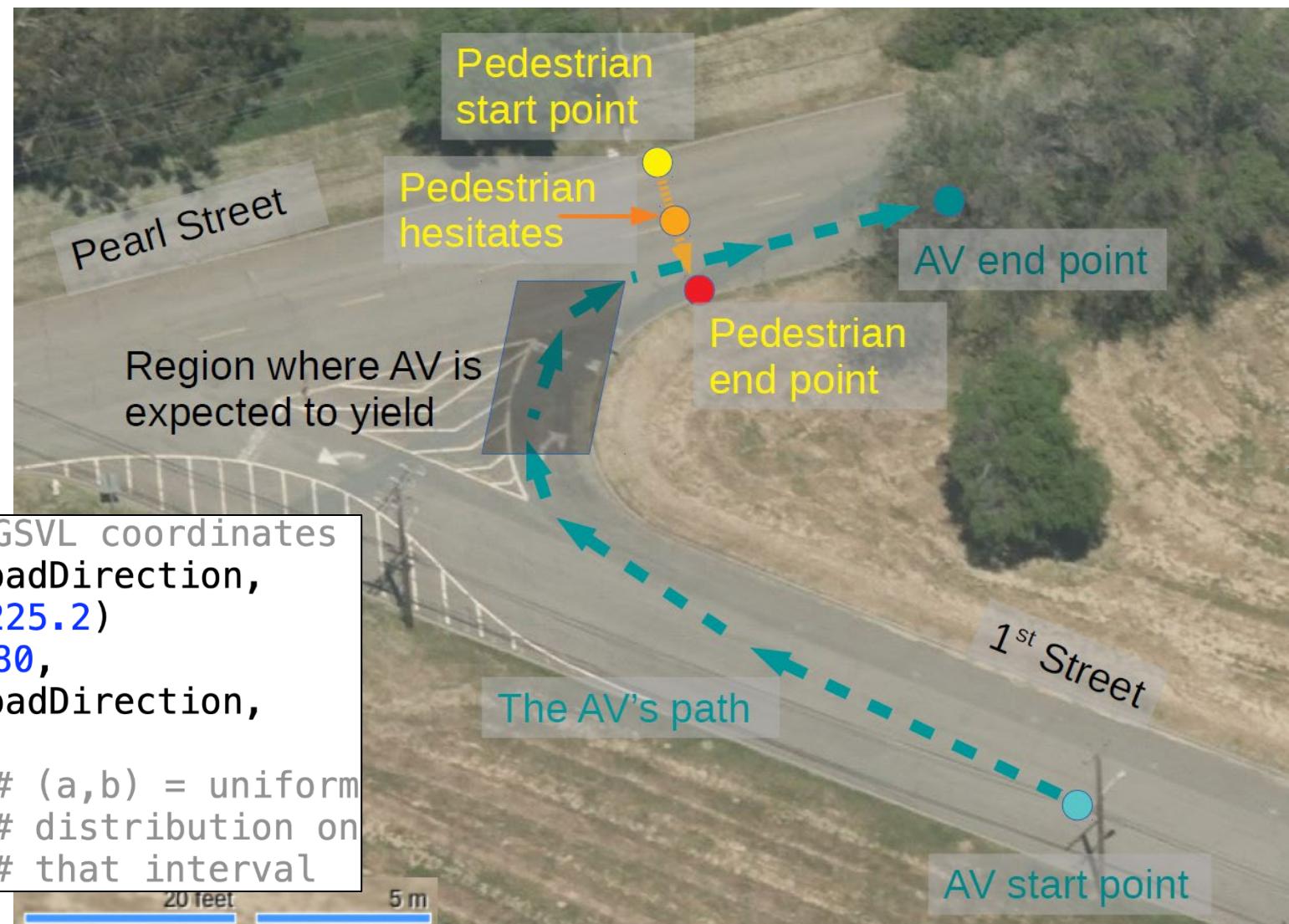
# Example Scenario: AV making right turn, pedestrian crossing



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



# Safety in Simulation → Safety on the Road? [Fremont et al., ITSC 2020]

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

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



[joint work with  
American  
Automobile  
Association and  
LG Electronics]

# Conclusion: Towards Verified AI/ML based Autonomy

## Challenges

## Core Principles

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Environment (incl.<br>Human) Modeling        | → Data-Driven, Introspective, Probabilistic<br>Modeling                           |
| 2. Specification                                | → Start with System-Level Specification,<br>then Component Spec (robustness, ...) |
| 3. Learning Systems<br>Complexity               | → Abstraction, Semantic Representation,<br>and Explanations                       |
| 4. Efficient Training,<br>Testing, Verification | → Compositional Analysis and Semantics-<br>directed Search/Training               |
| 5. Design for Correctness                       | → Oracle-Guided Inductive Synthesis;<br>Run-Time Assurance                        |

*Exciting Times Ahead!!! Thank you!*

# List of References

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- Ankush Desai, Shromona Ghosh, Sanjit A. Seshia, Natarajan Shankar, and Ashish Tiwari. SOTER: A Runtime Assurance Framework for Programming Safe Robotics Systems. In IEEE/IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN), June 2019.
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- Kesav Viswanadha, Edward Kim, Francis Indaheng, Daniel J. Fremont, Sanjit A. Seshia: Parallel and Multi-objective Falsification with Scenic and VerifAI. RV 2021