



# World-in-the-Loop Simulation for Autonomous Systems Validation

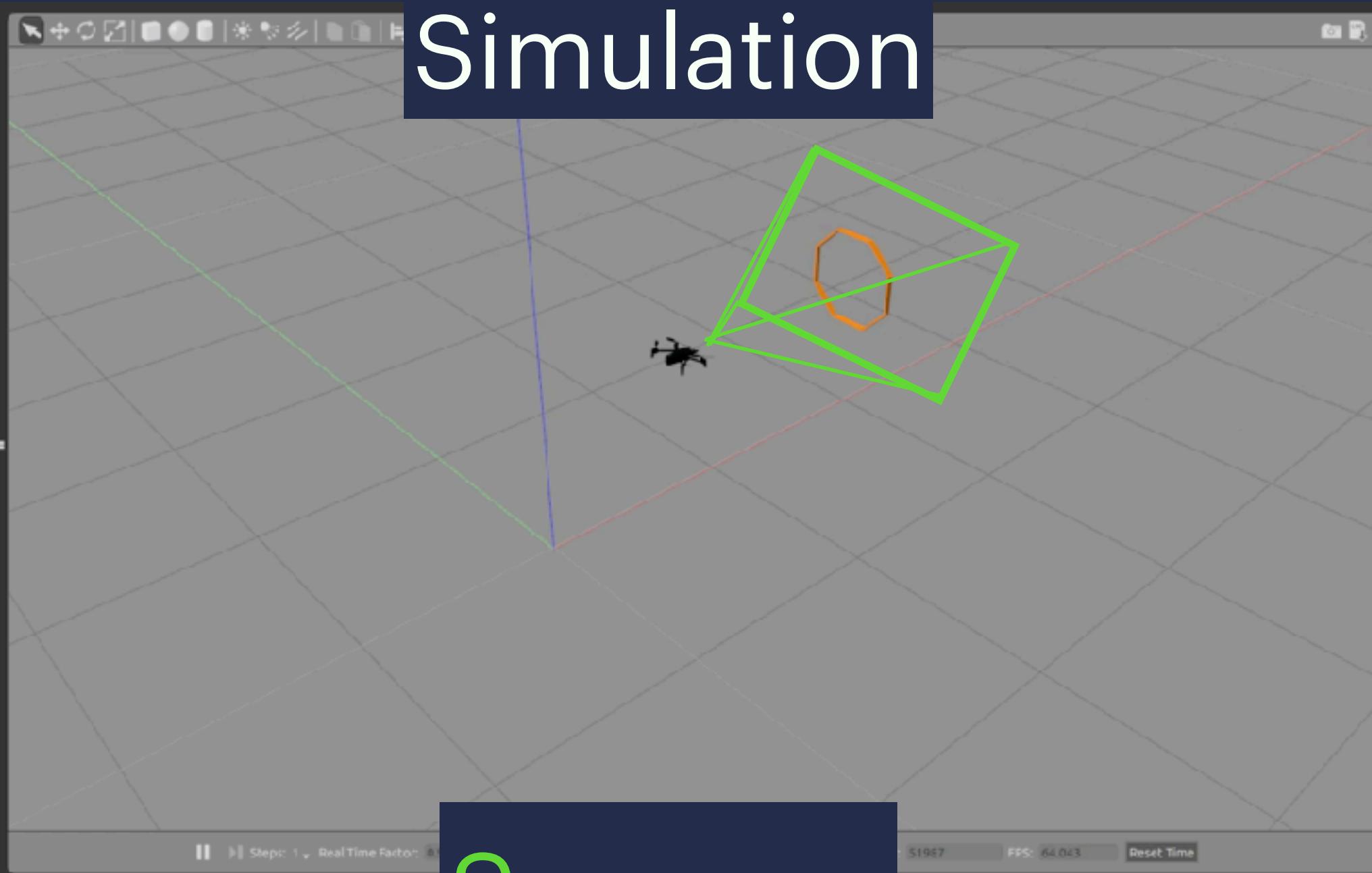
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The University of Virginia

[hildebrandt.carl@virginia.edu](mailto:hildebrandt.carl@virginia.edu)



# Problem

Simulation



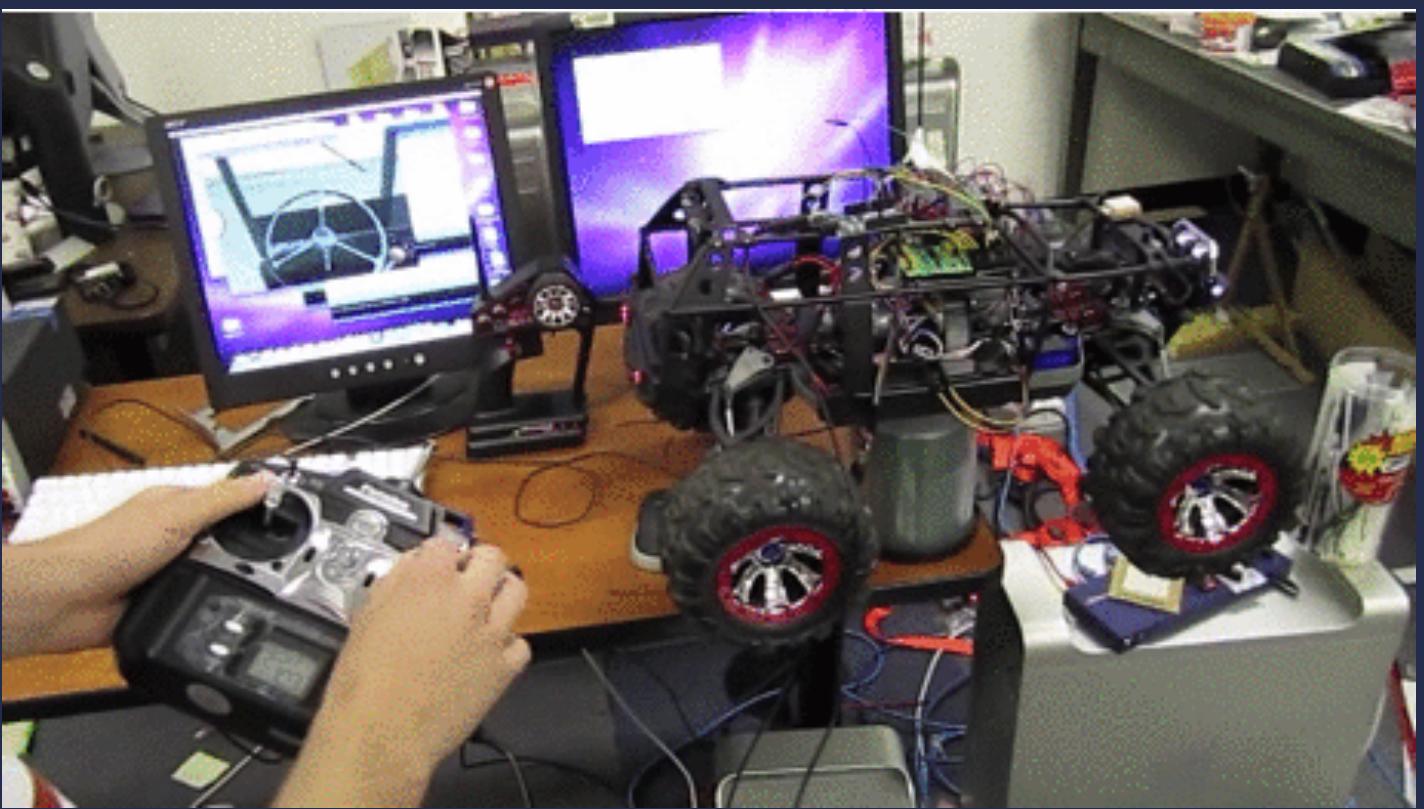
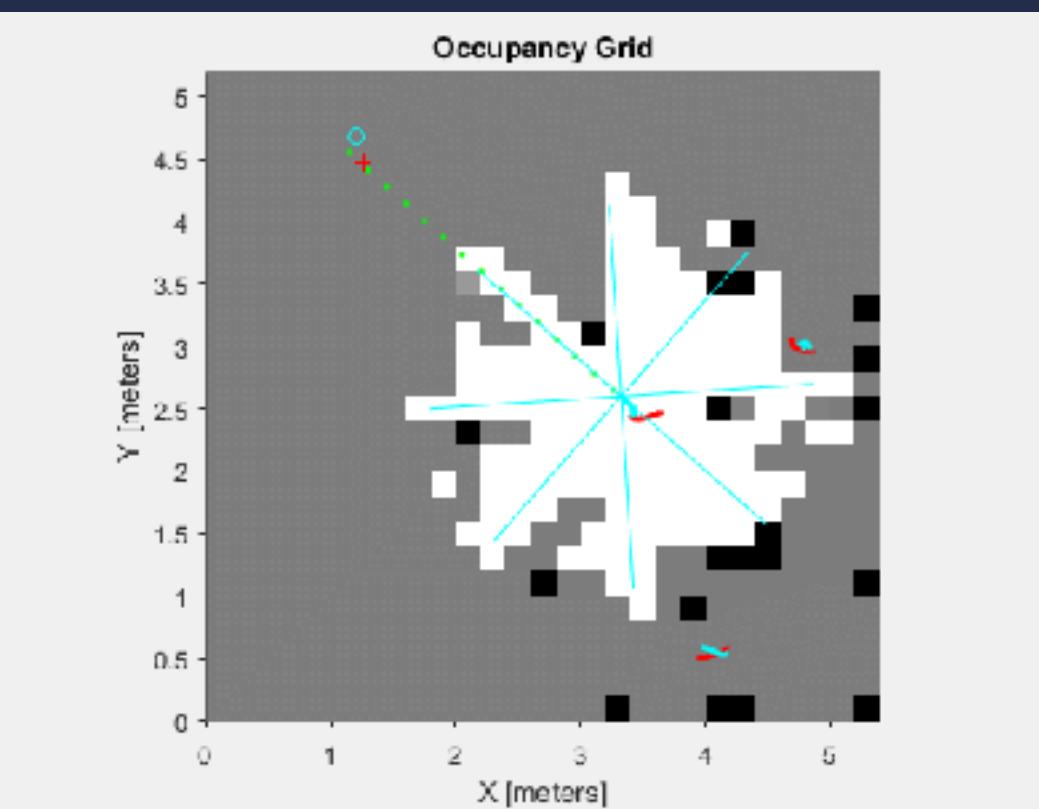
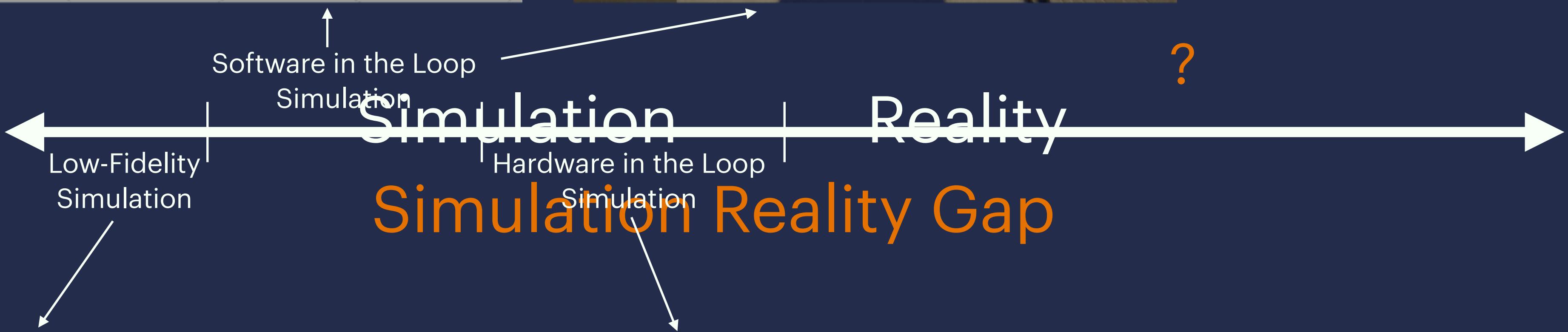
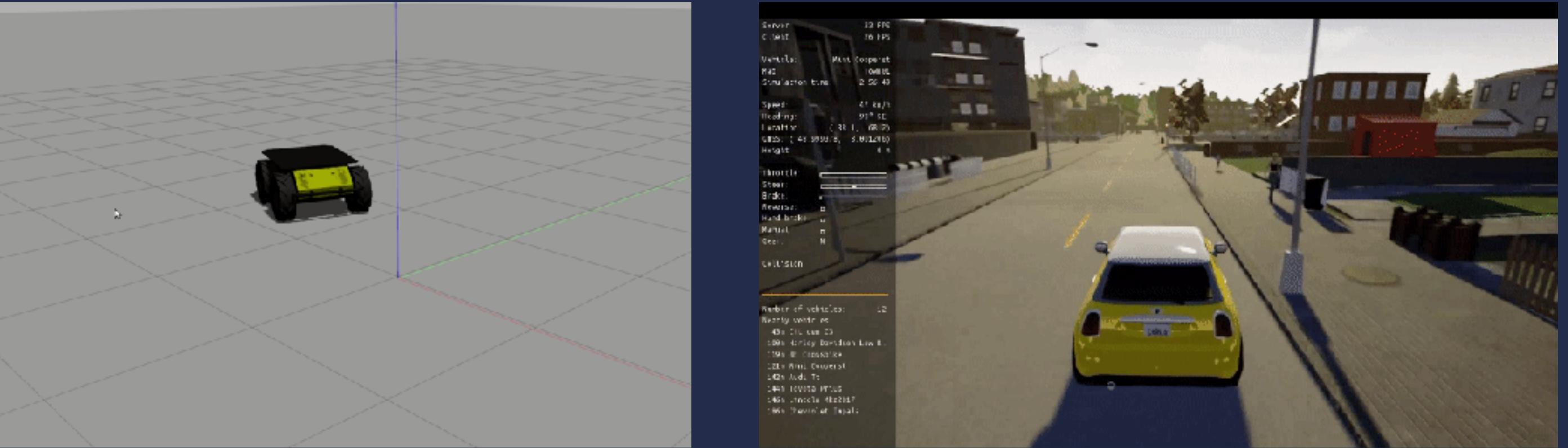
Success

Reality

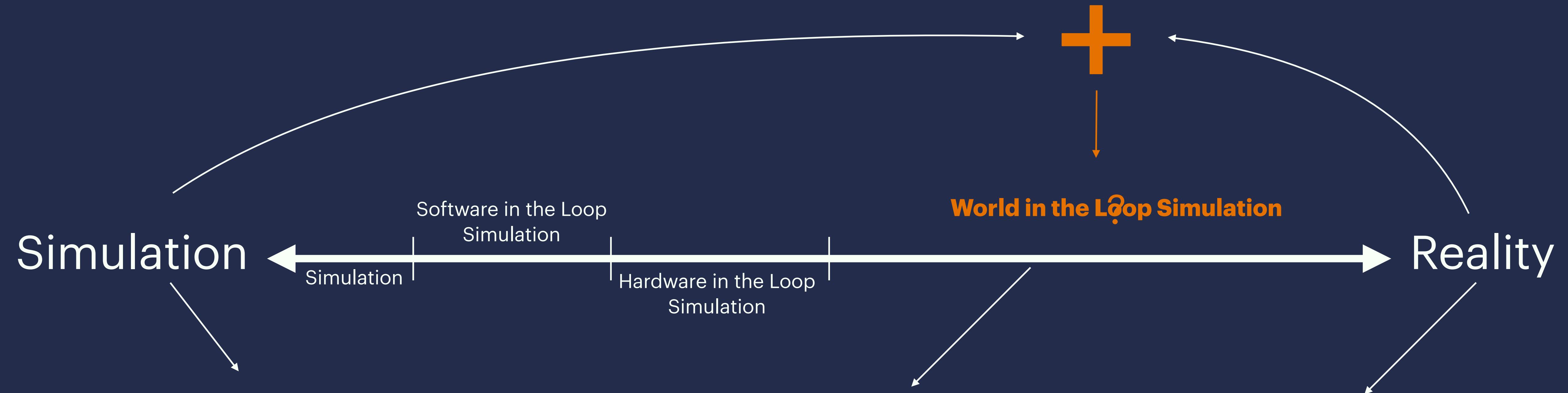


Failure

# Related Work

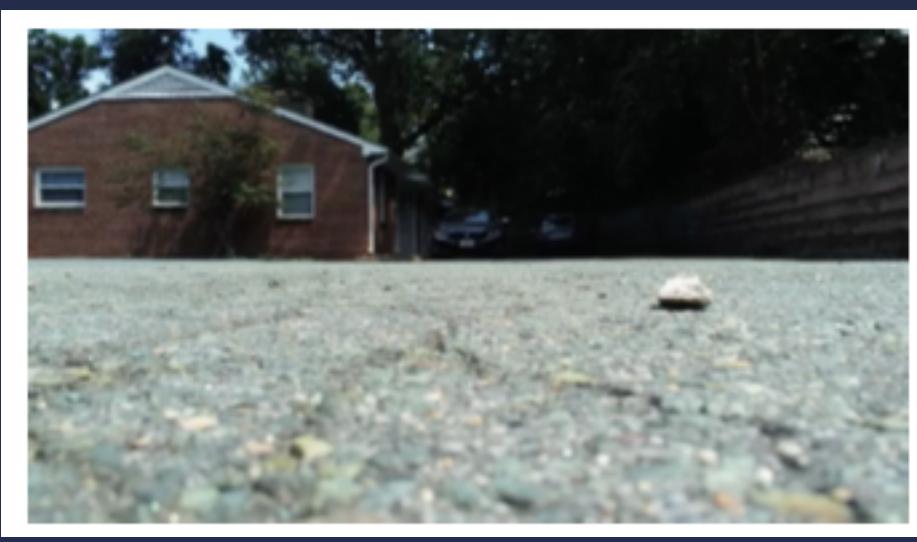


# World in the Loop Simulation



# Challenges

## Sensor and Actuation Synchronization

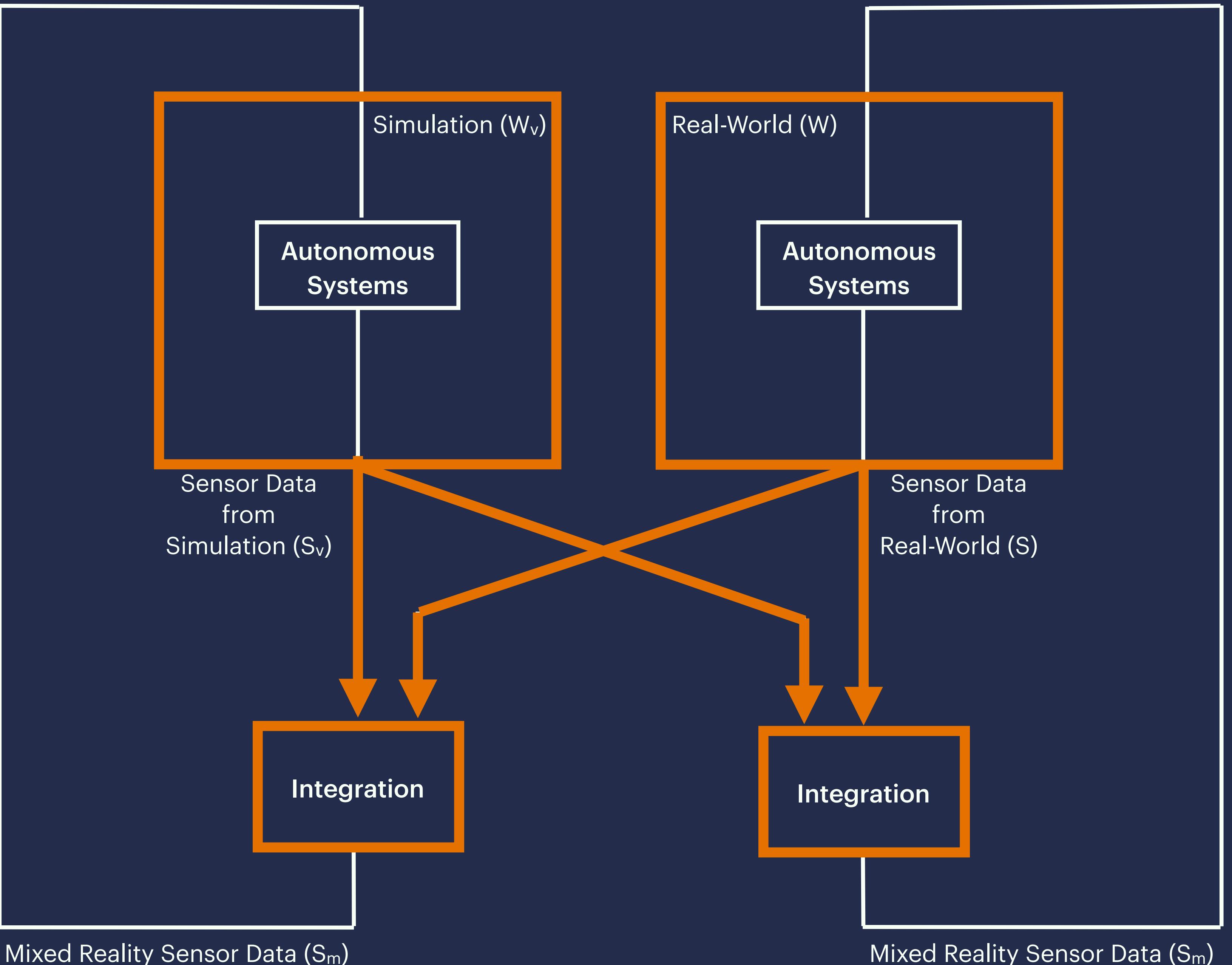


- IMU's
- GPS
- Pressure
- Temperature
- Compass
- ...

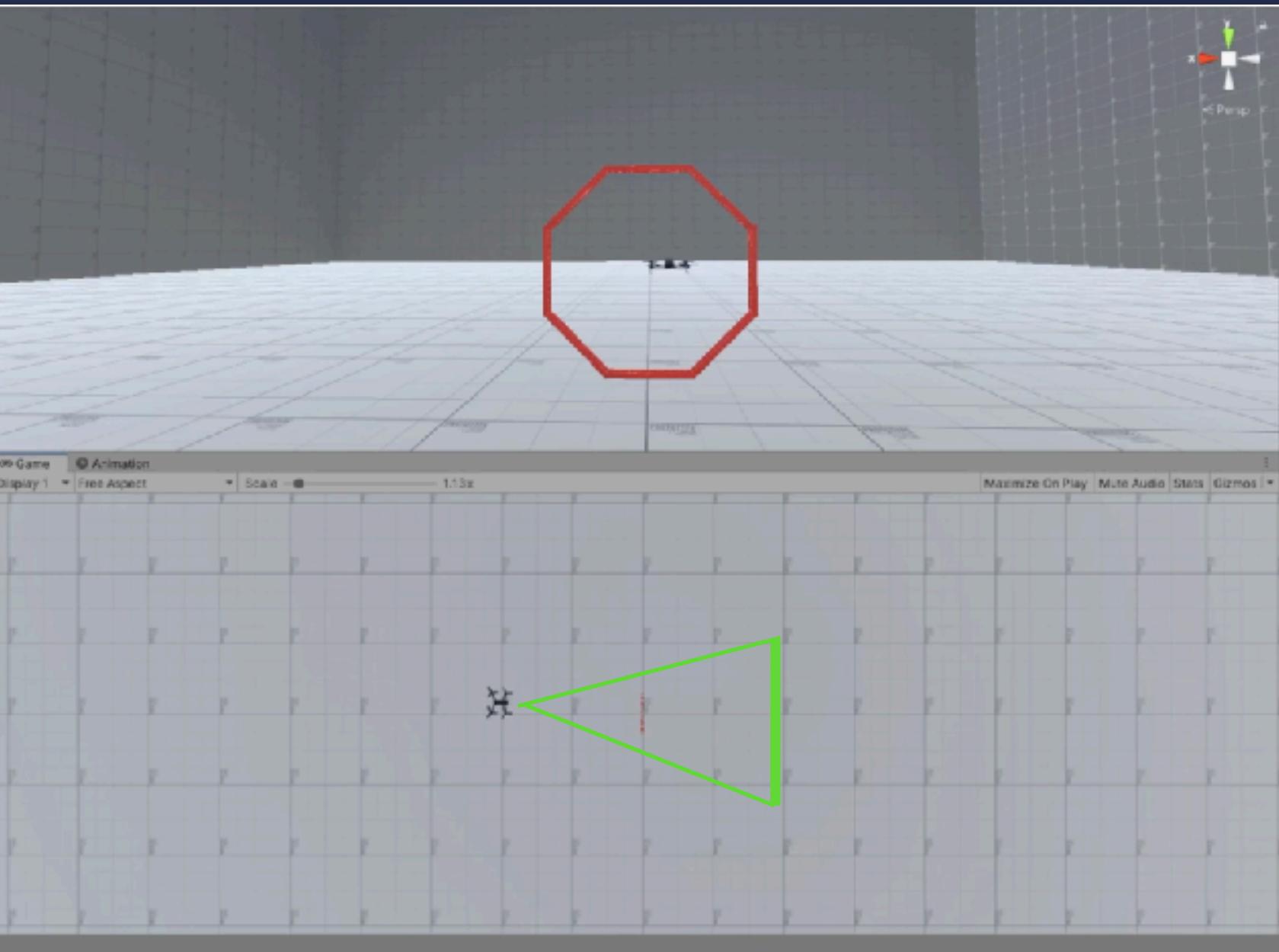
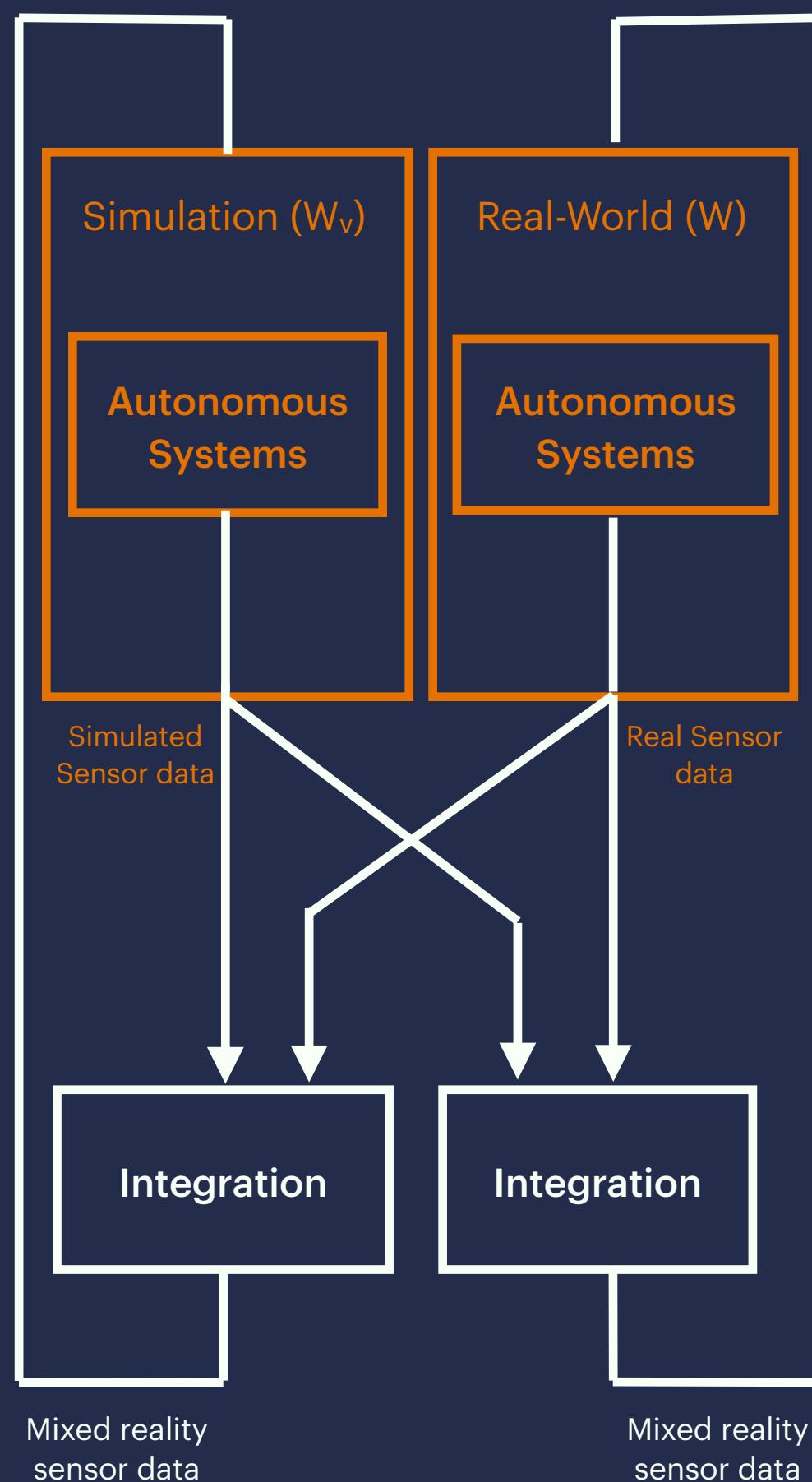
## Diversity of Sensors

# Approach

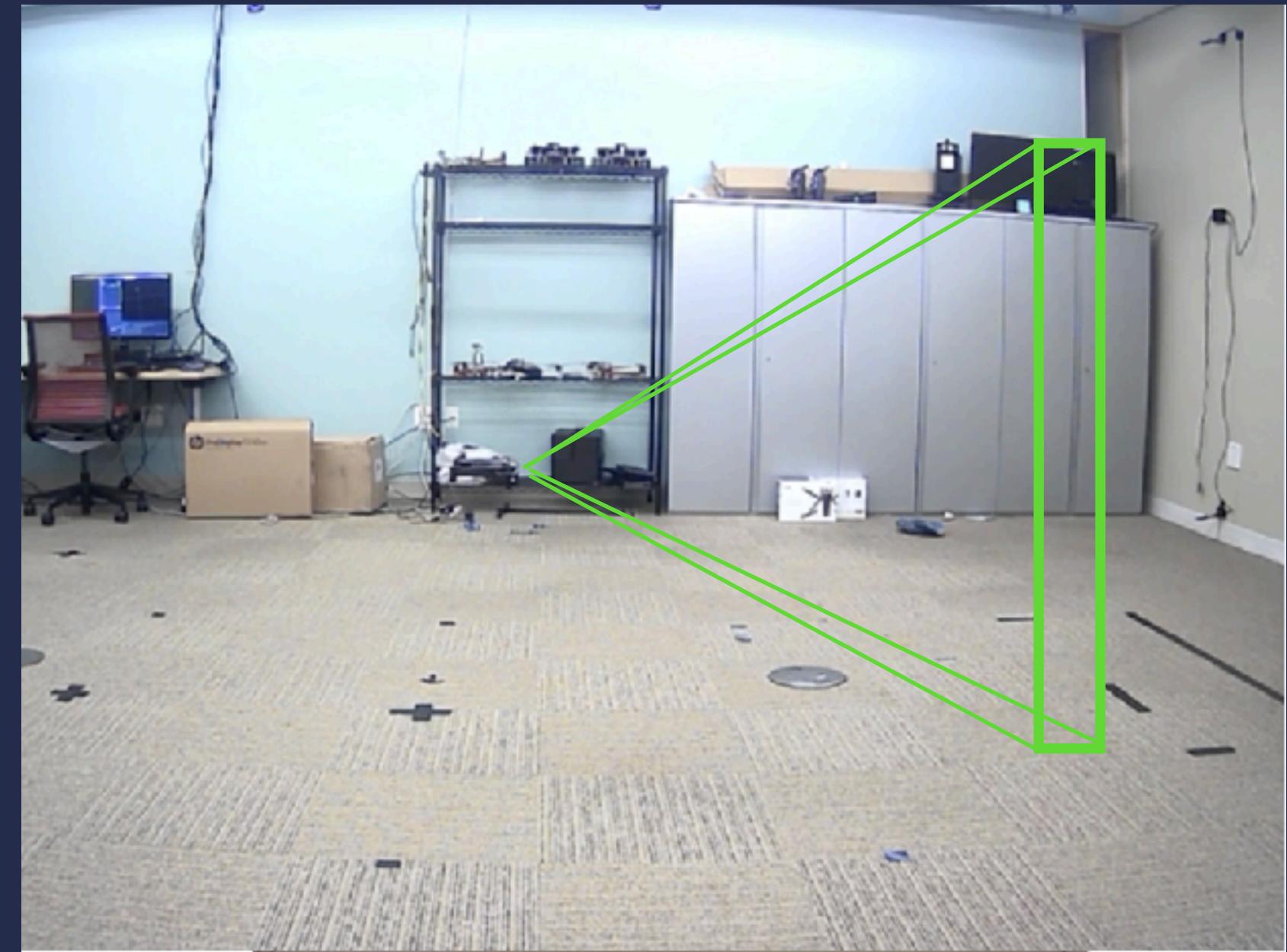
- Major components**
- Parallel execution
  - Pipeline for collecting sensor data
  - Integration mechanisms



# Approach



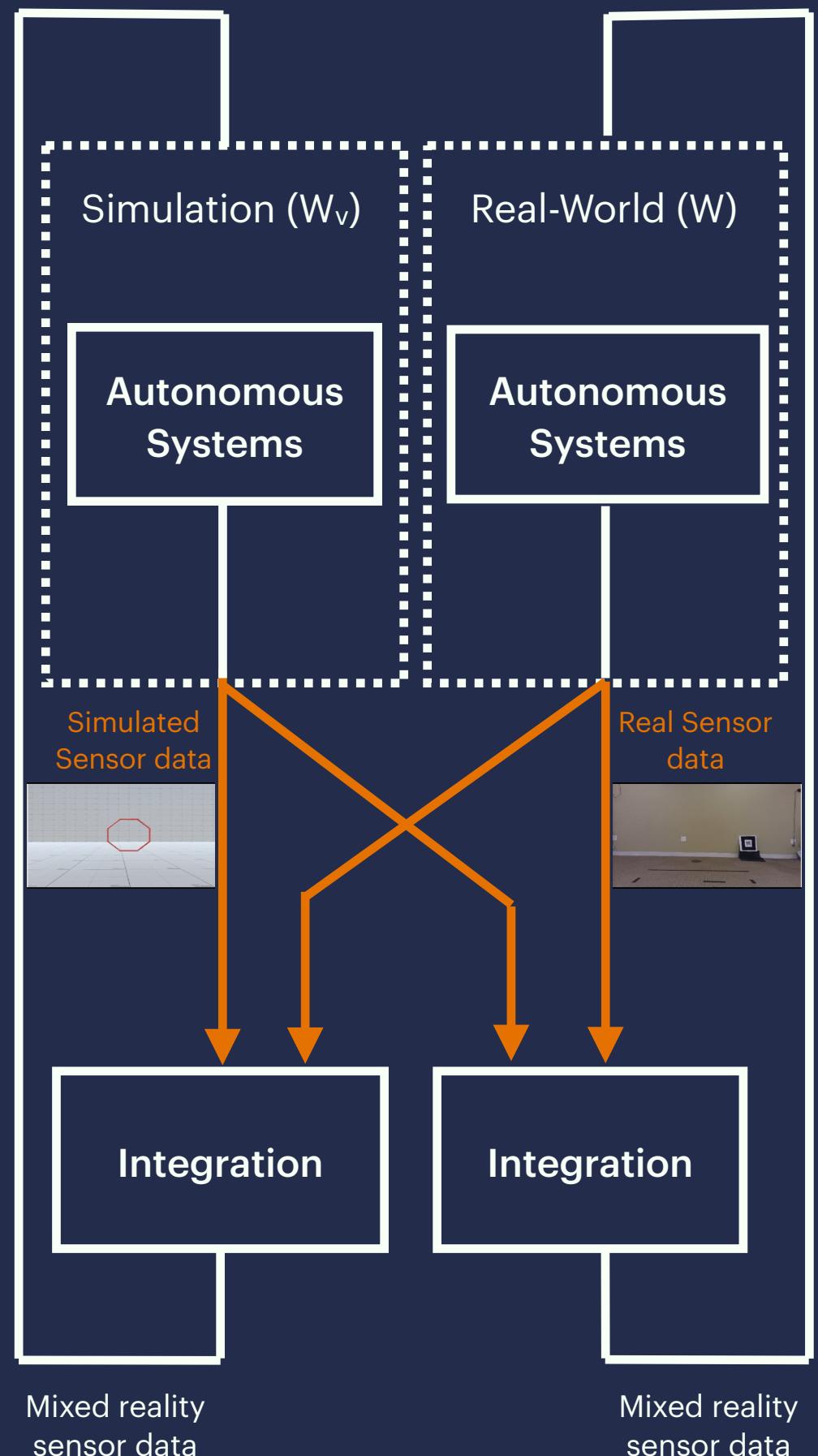
$S_v \downarrow$



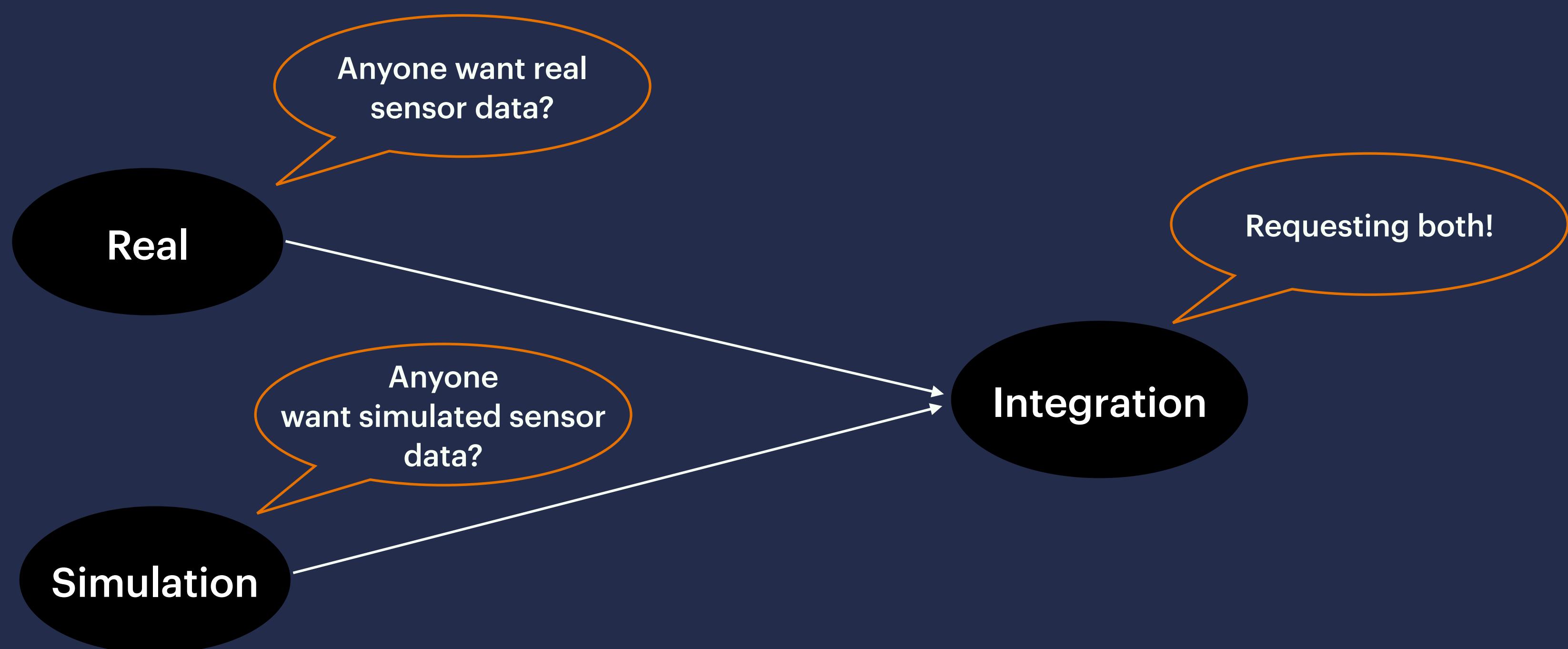
$S \downarrow$

## Sensor Synchronization

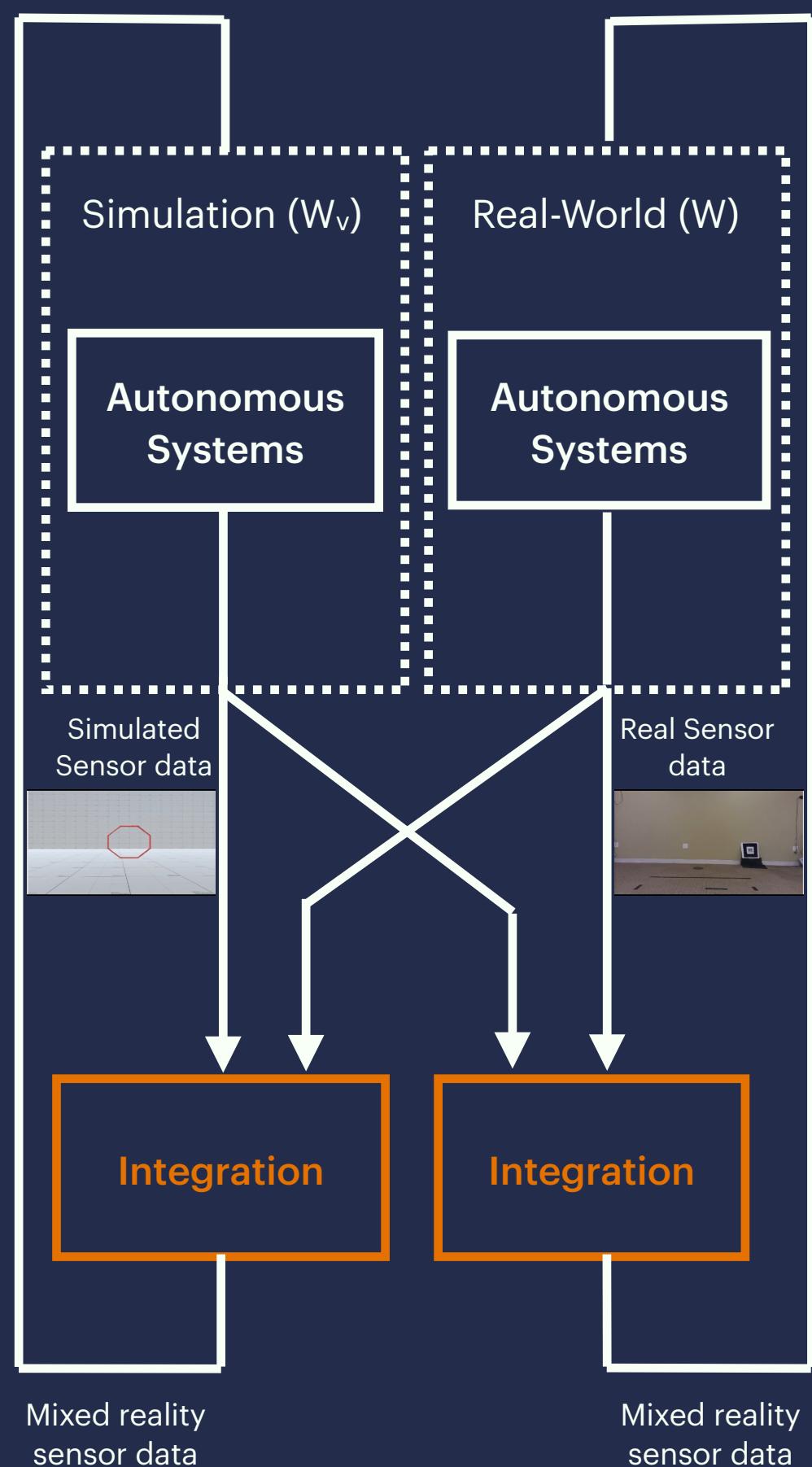
# Approach



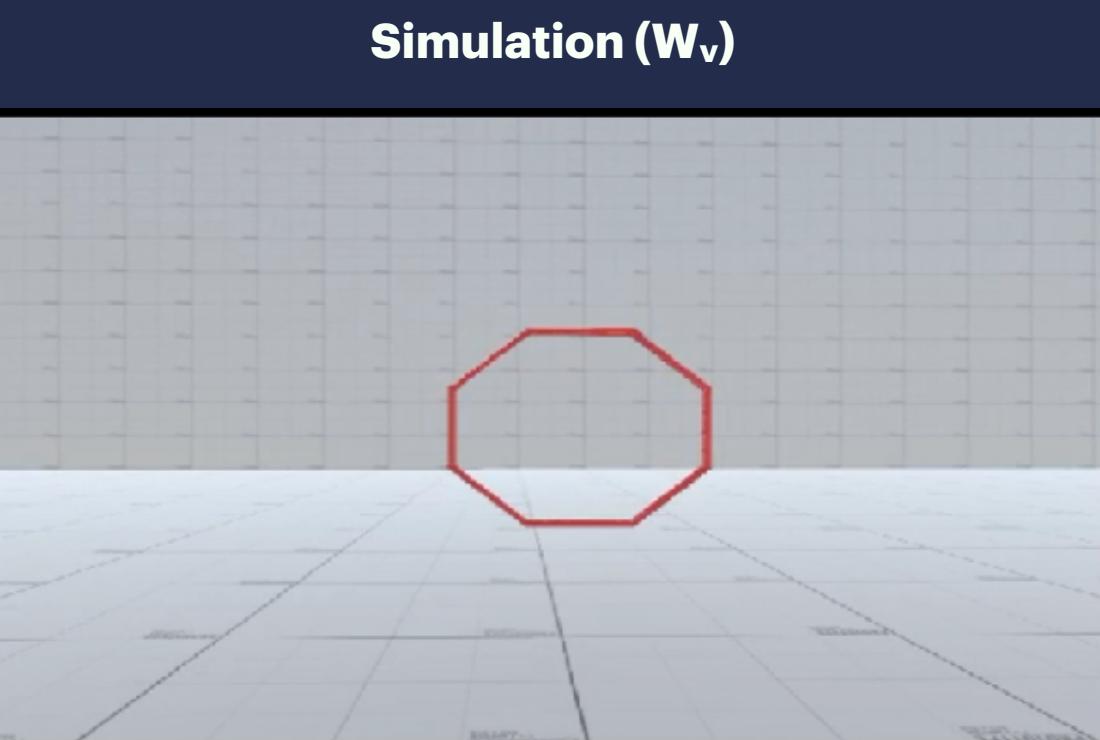
ROS



# Approach



1) Transform

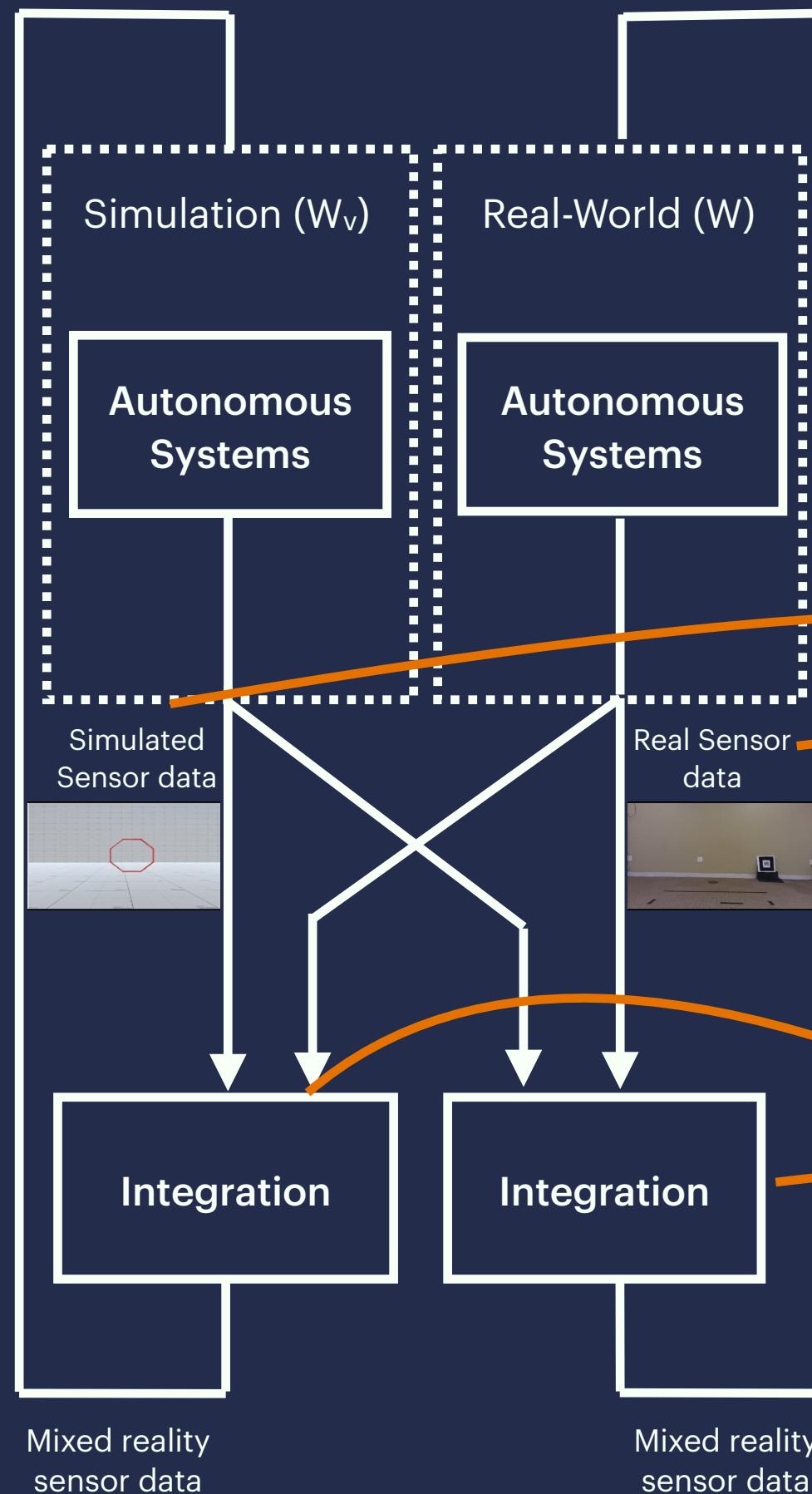


**Real-World ( $W$ )**



Diversity of Sensors

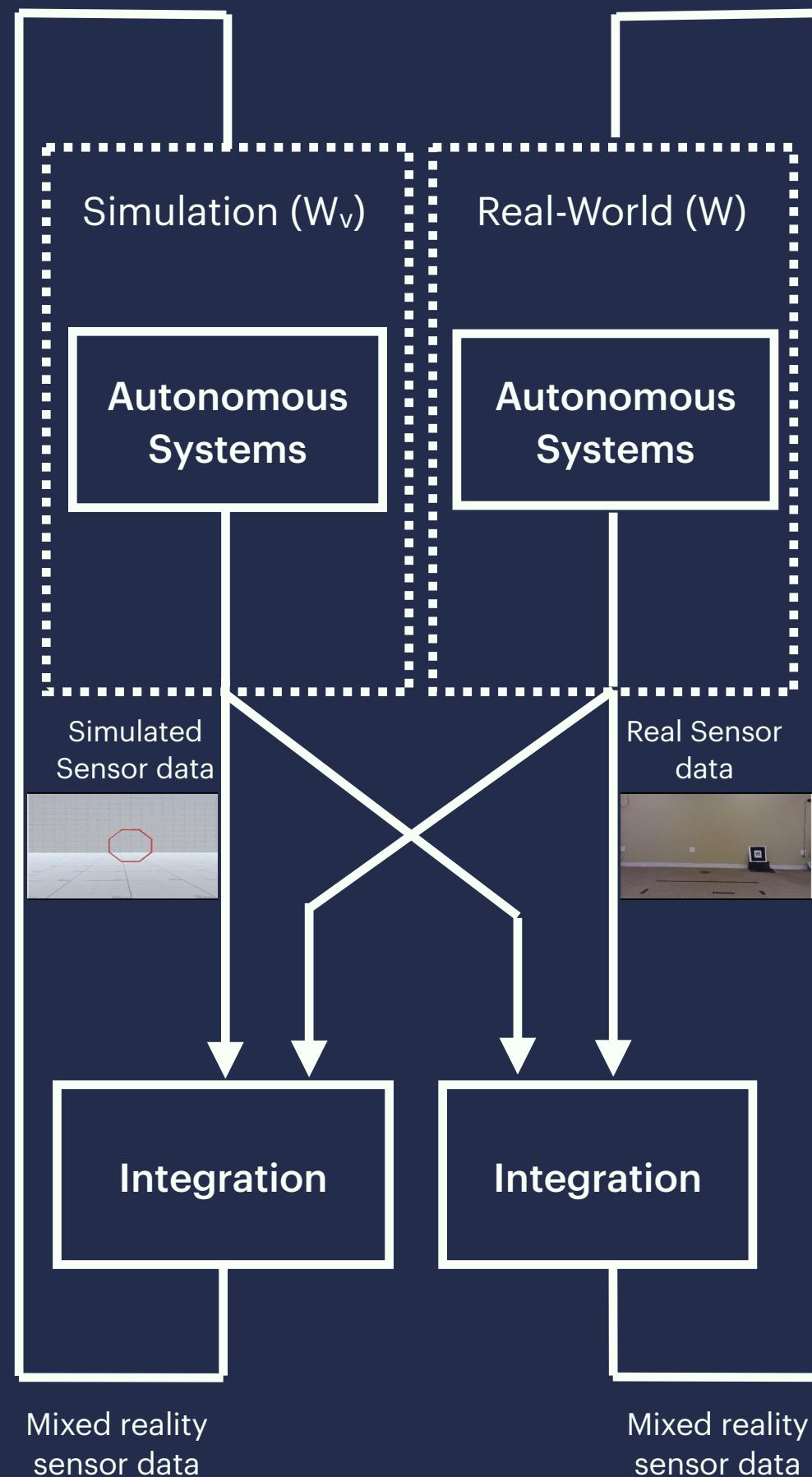
# Implementation



**Listing 1: An example recipe file**

```
<recipe_file>
    <AS_sensors>
        <Camera id="camera1"/>
        <Camera id="camera2"/>
        <Lidar id="lidar1"/>
        <.../>
    </AS_sensors>
    <combine id="camera1">
        <transform> camera_transform.py </transform>
        <filter> color_isolation .py </filter>
        <merge> prioritize_overlay .py </merge>
    </combine>
    ...
    <combine id="lidar1">
        ...
    </combine>
</recipe_file>
```

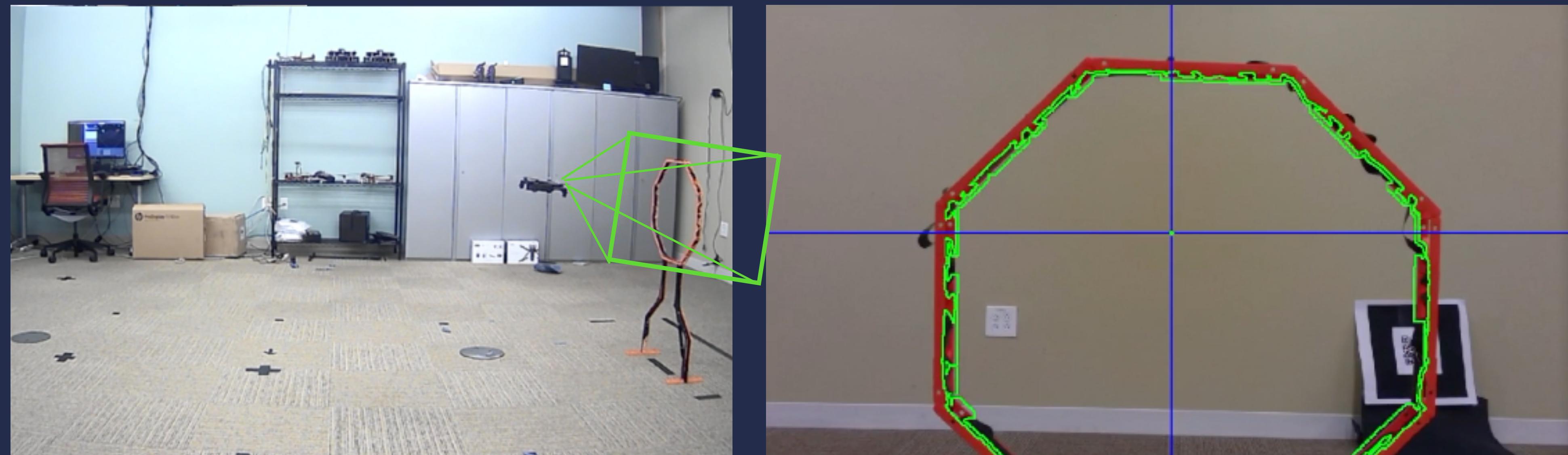
# Implementation - Limitations



Simulators required to have read and write access



Current implementation only focus's on Cameras



## Study - Question

The aim was to assess the potential of WIL to reduce the simulation-reality gap and uncover the implications such as failure detection before real-world deployment

# Study - Setup

Gate  
Navigation

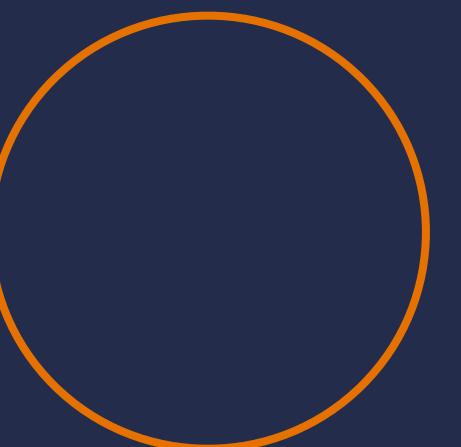
Person  
Following

Obstacle  
Avoidance

Pass



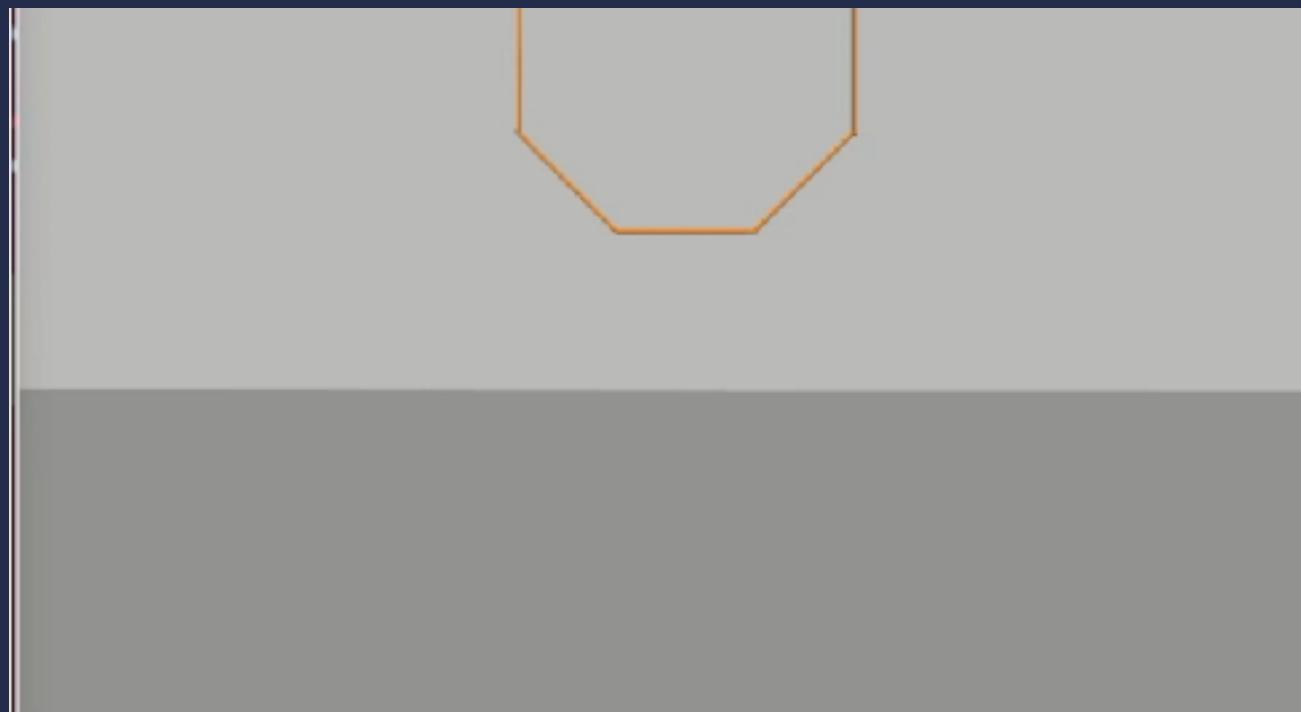
Failure



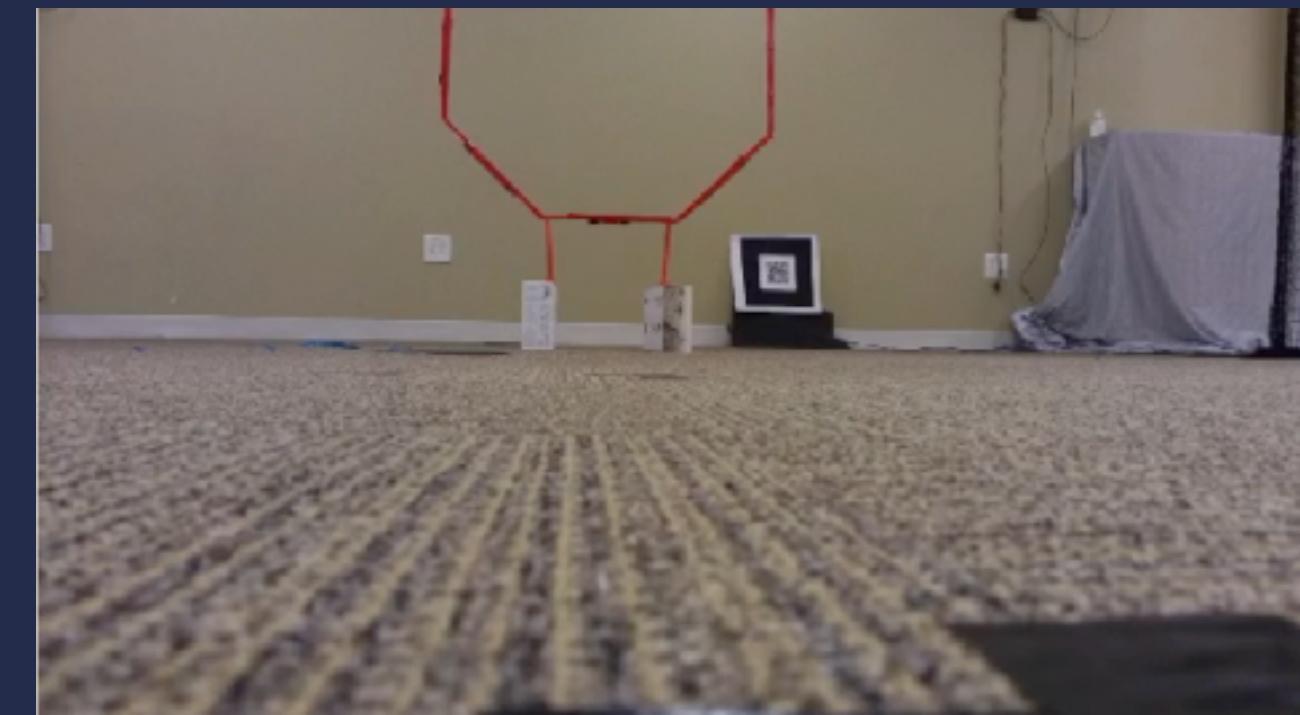
# Study - Setup

Gate  
Navigation

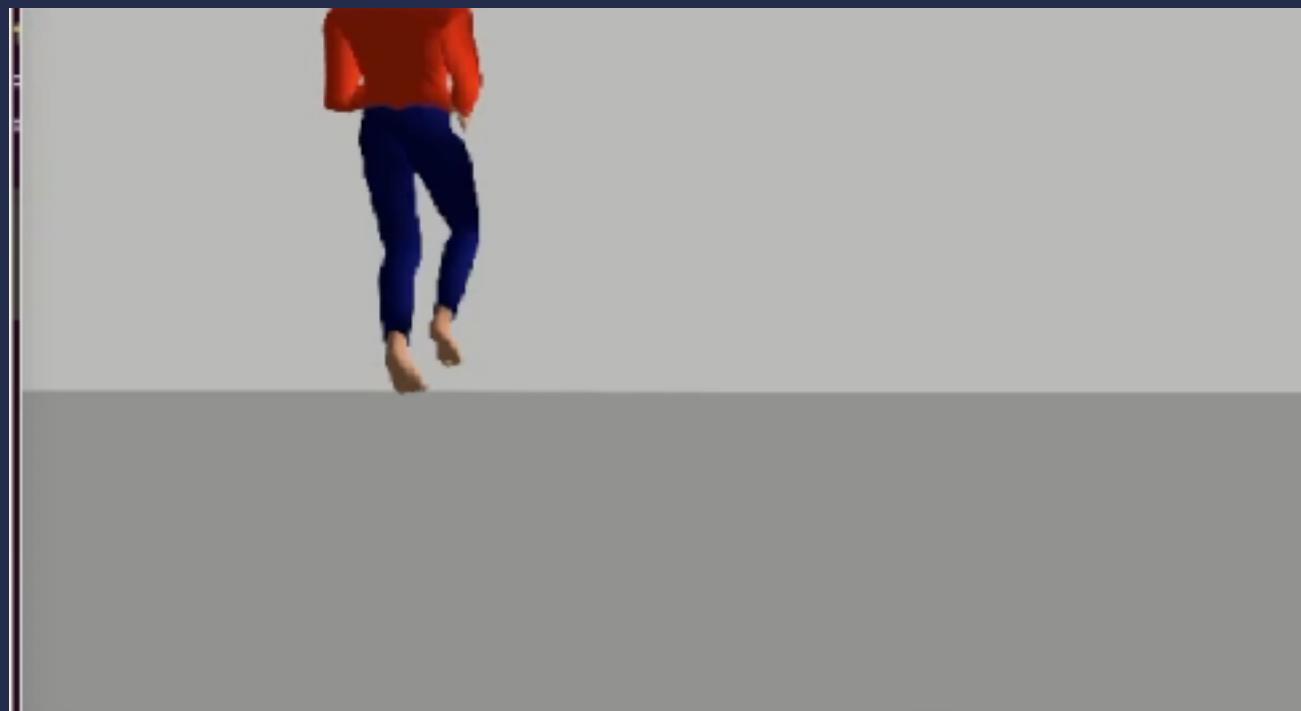
Simulation



Reality



Person  
Following



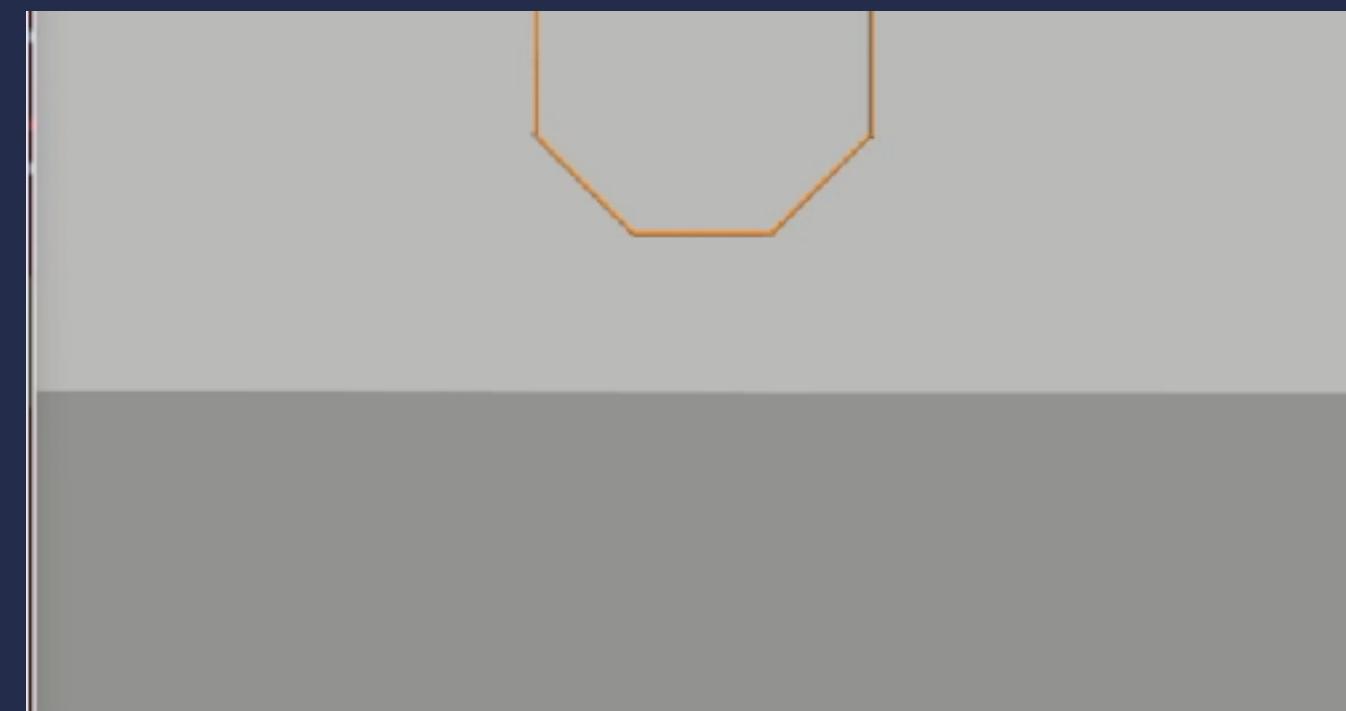
Drone  
Avoidance



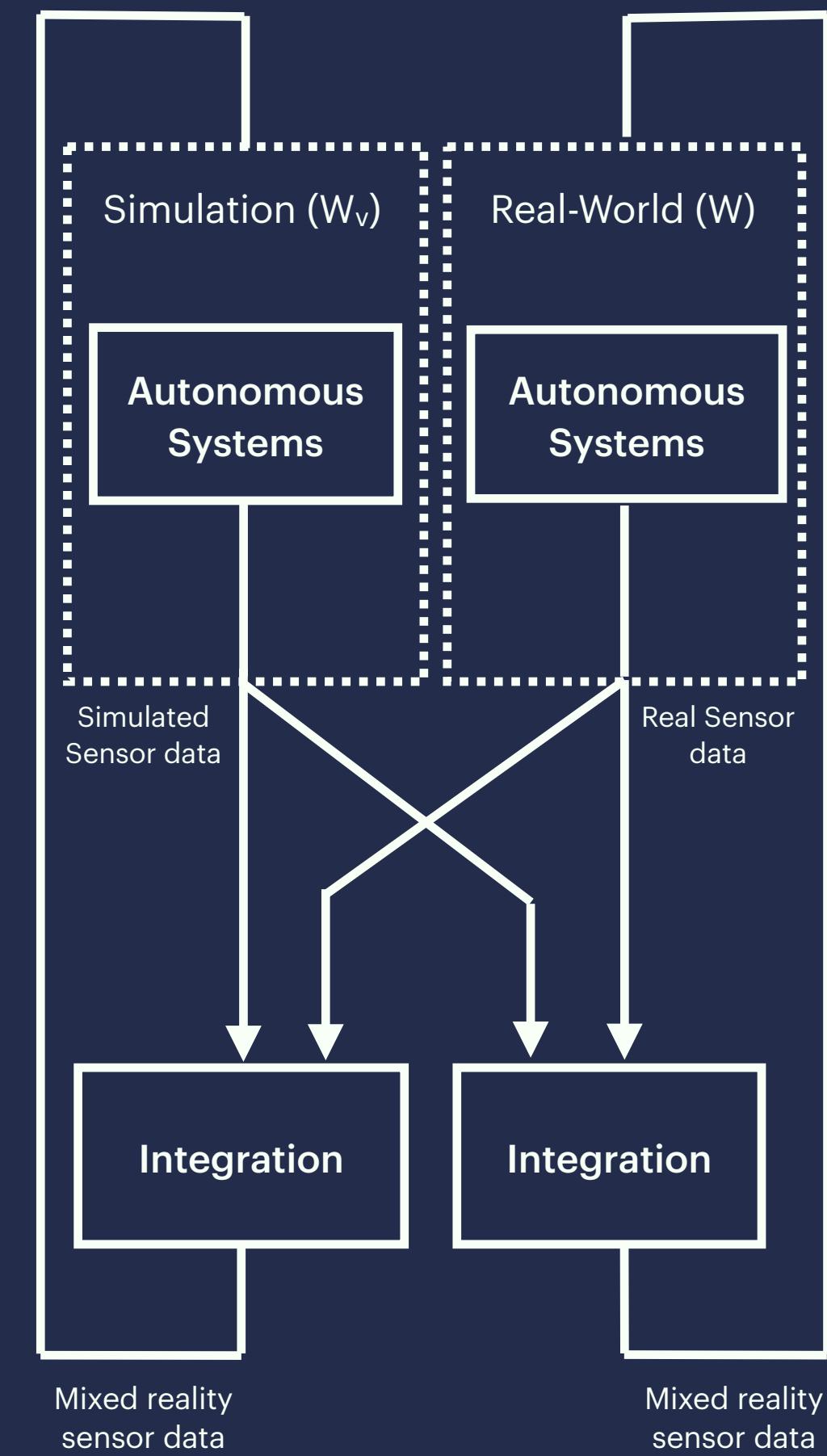
# Study - Setup

Gate Navigation  
Person Following  
Drone Avoidance

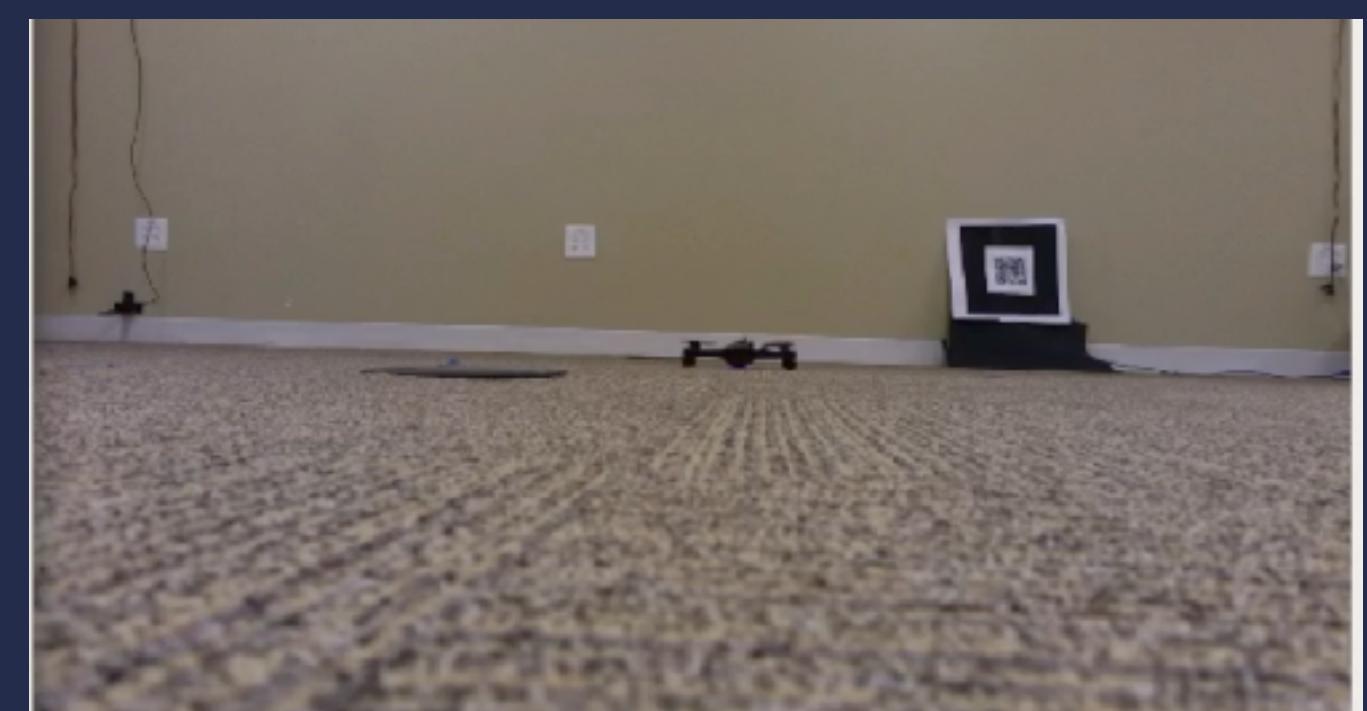
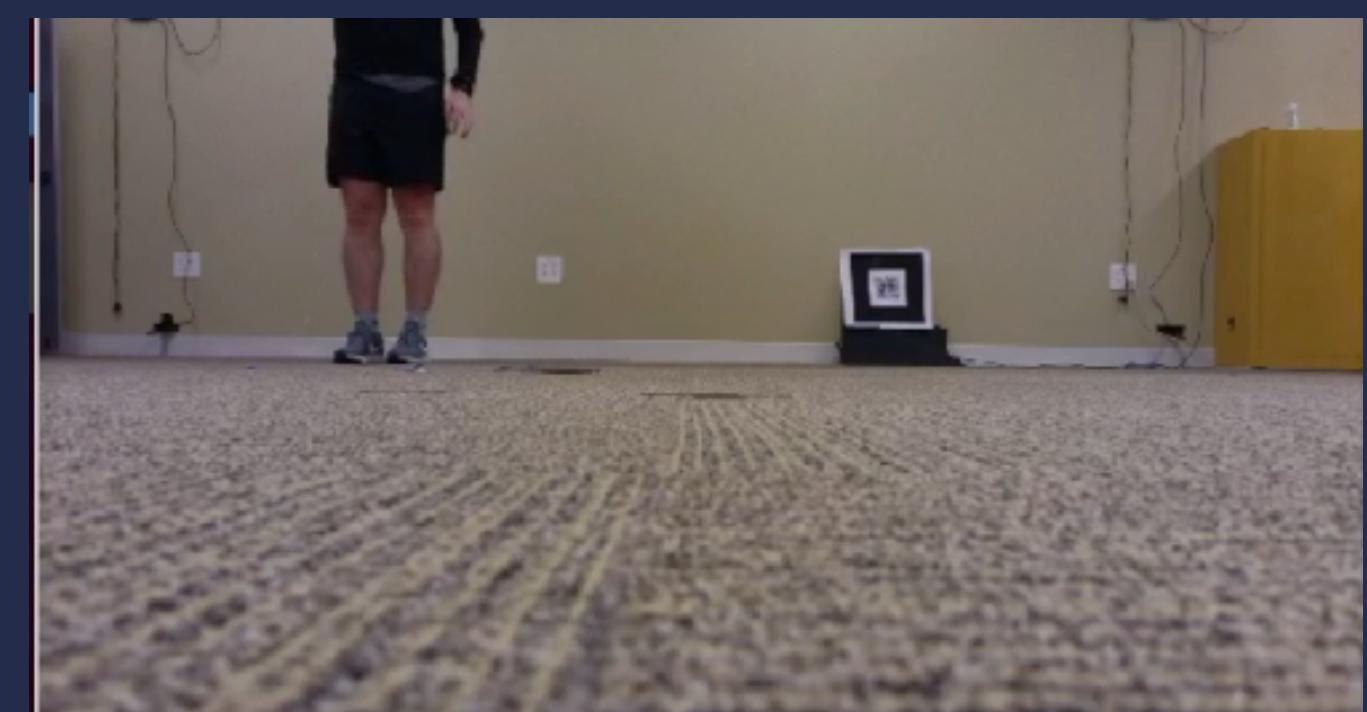
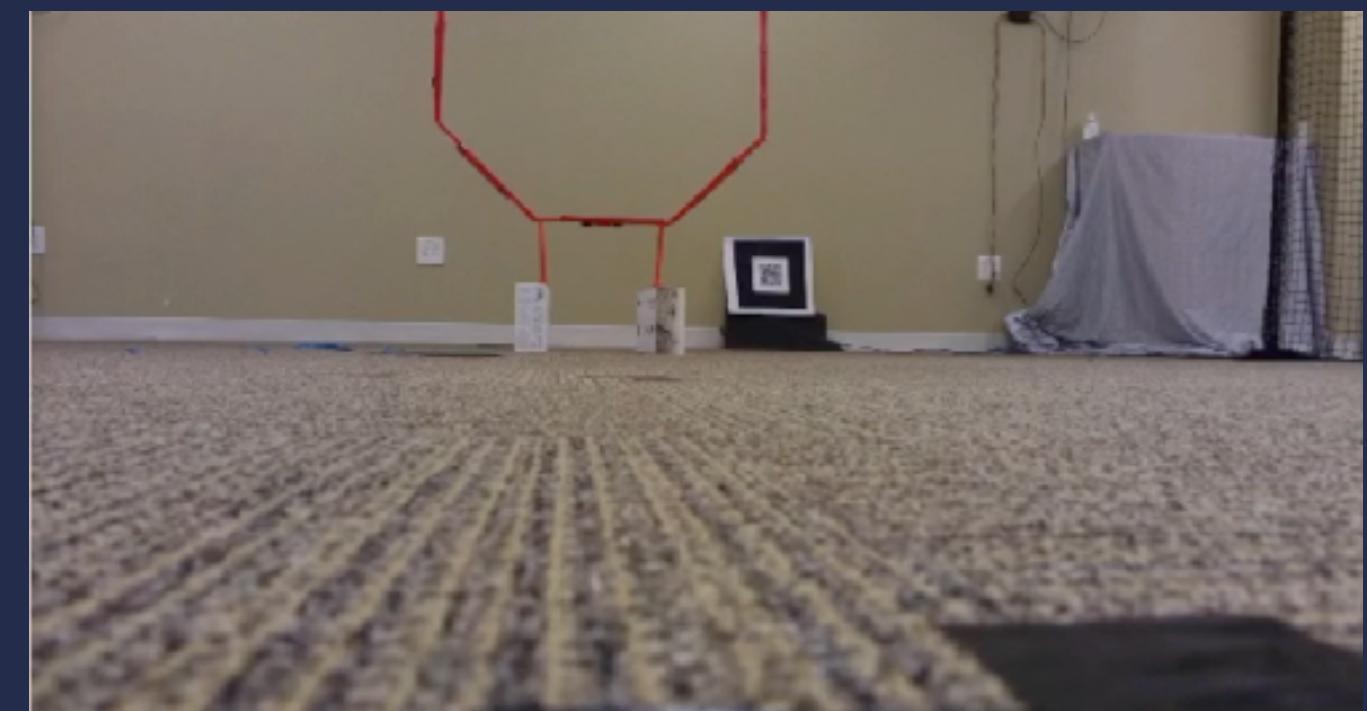
Simulation



WIL



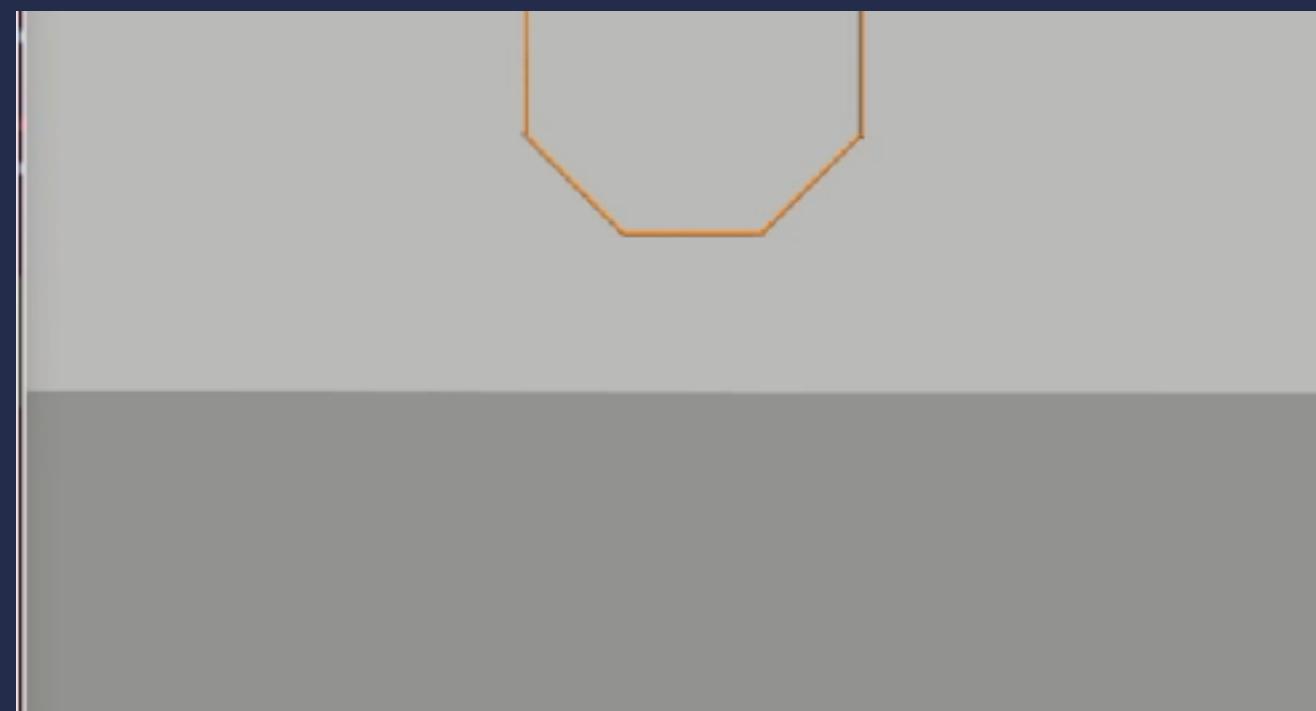
Reality



# Study - Setup

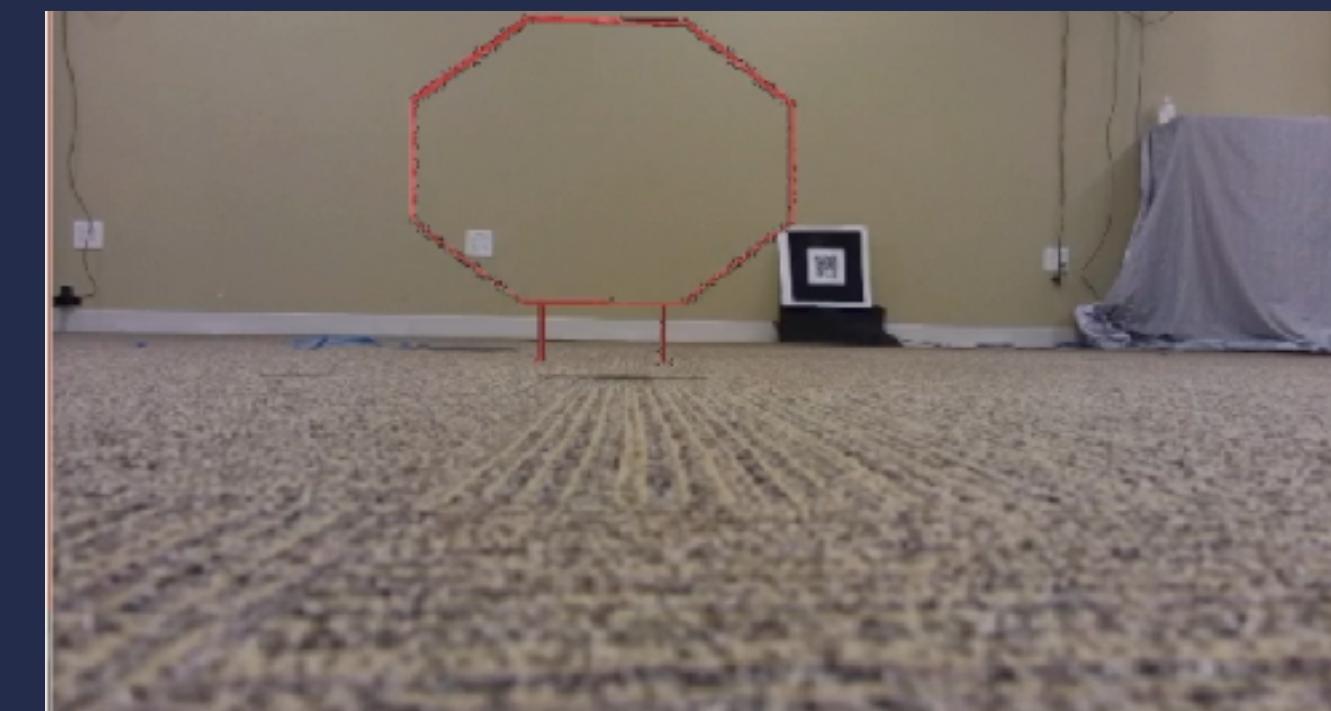
Gate  
Navigation

Simulation



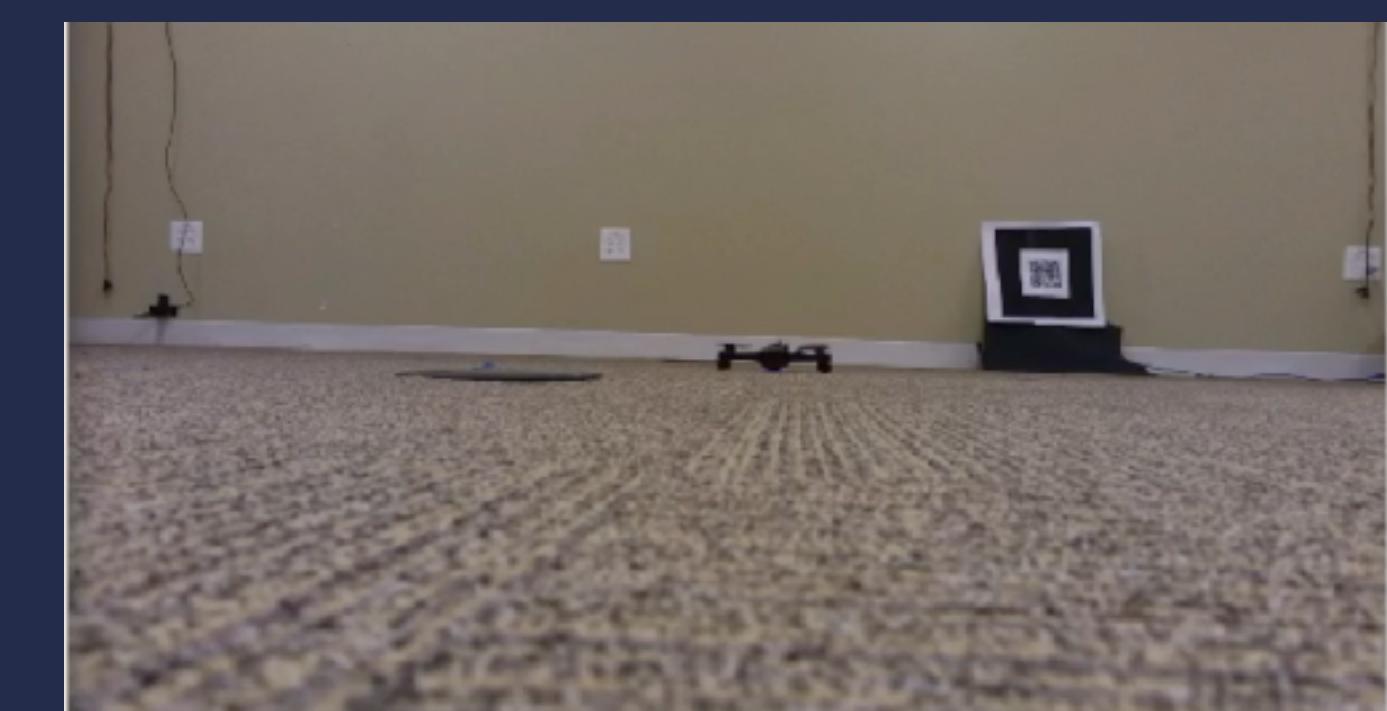
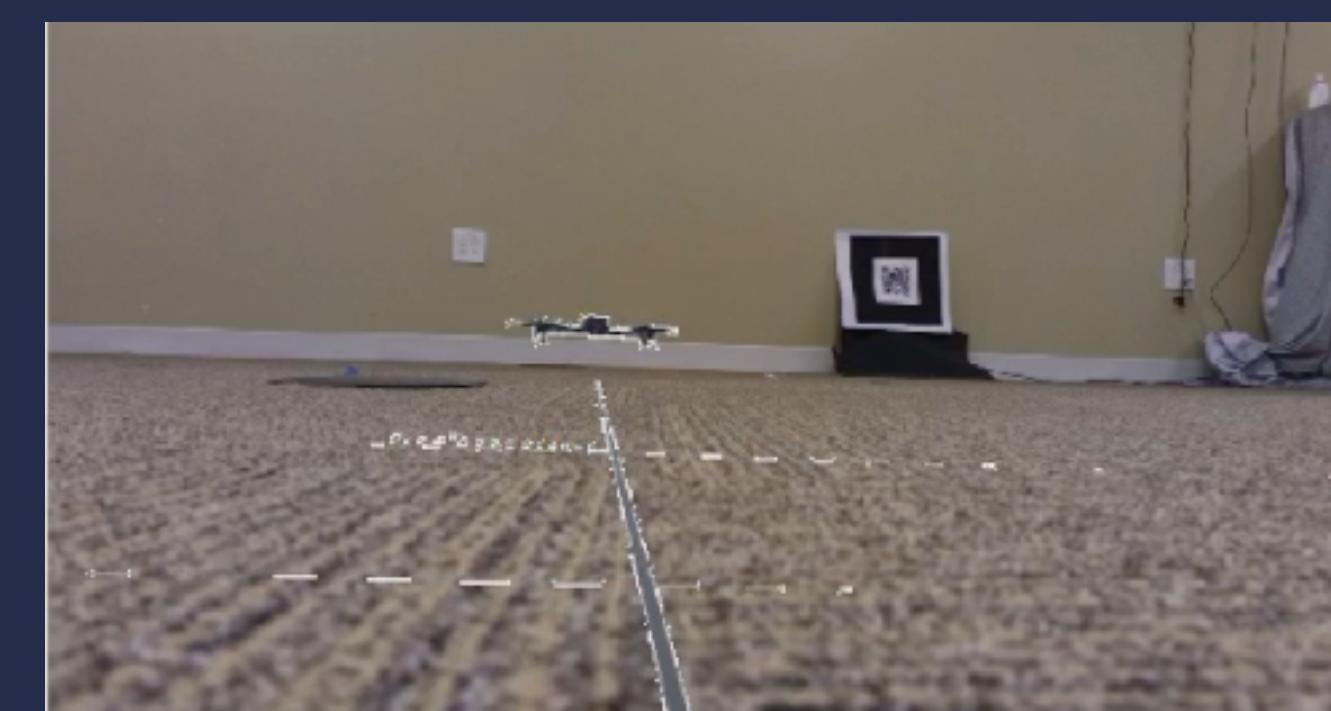
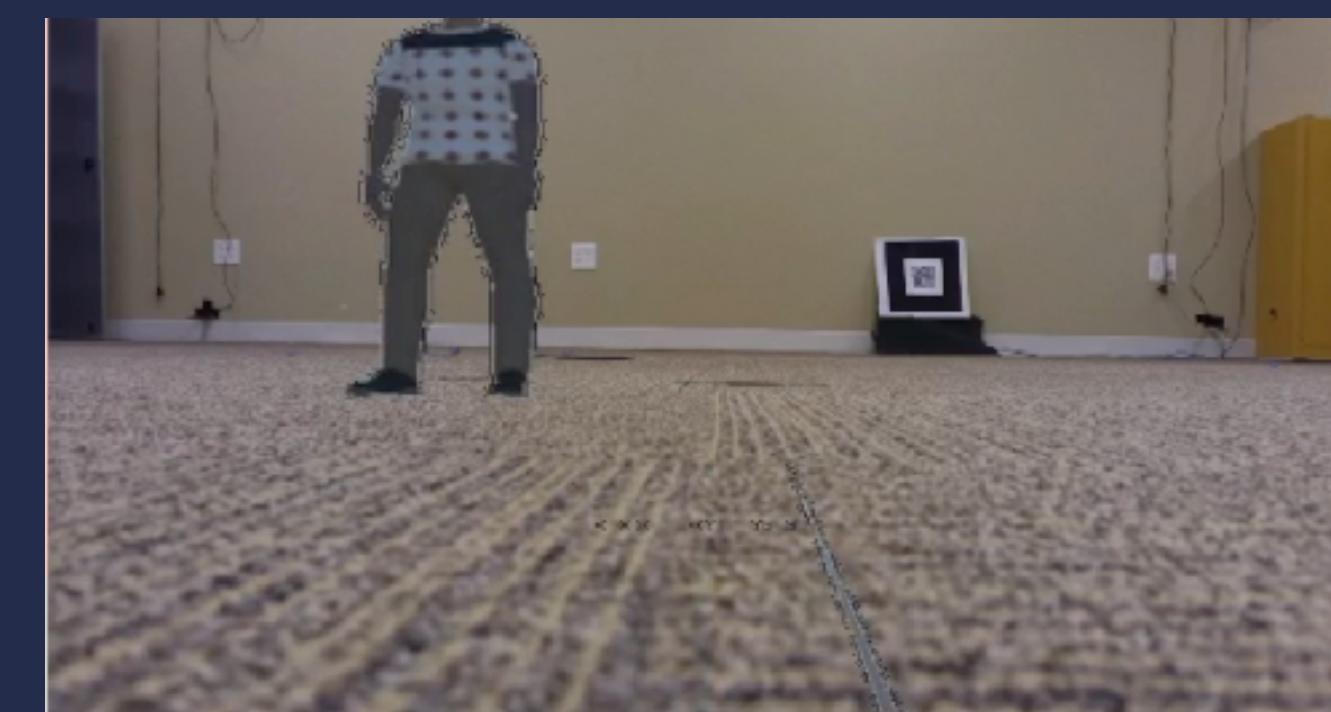
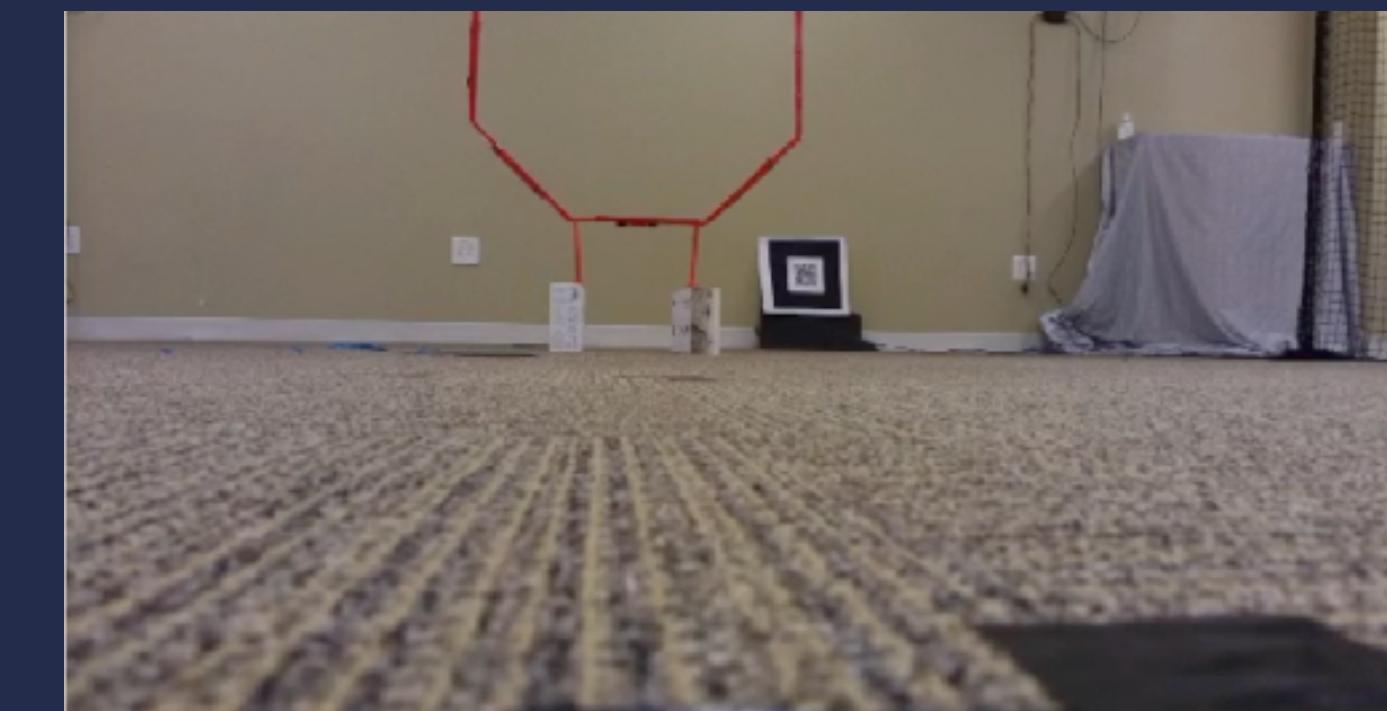
Person  
Following

WIL



Drone  
Avoidance

Reality



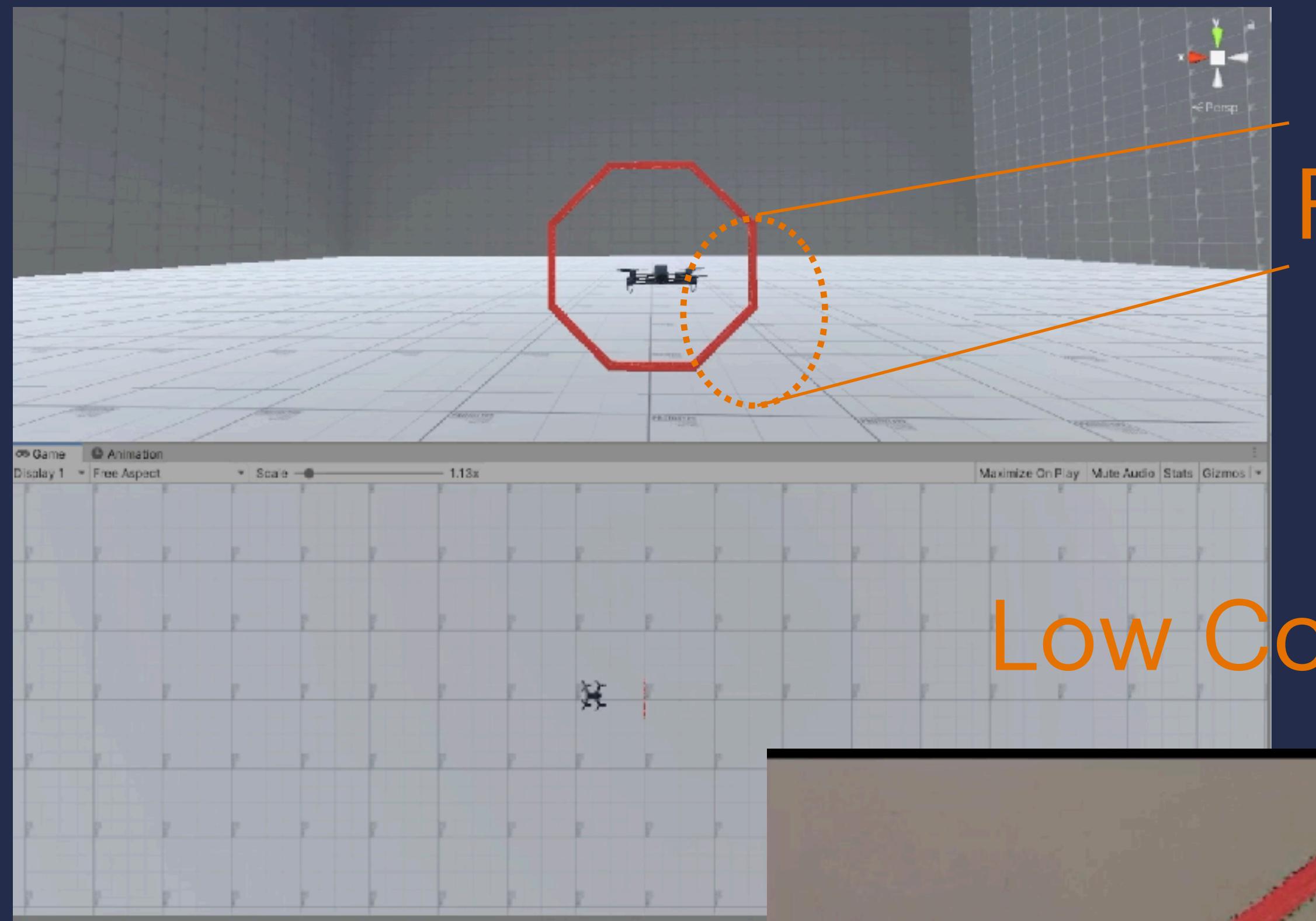
# Results

Question: Can we reduce the simulation reality gap?

Scenario	Test Case	Simulation	WIL	Reality
Gate Navigation	Large	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F
	Small	P 5 0 F	P 1 4 F	P 1 1 F
Person Following	Walking	P 5 0 F	P 4 1 F	P 0 5 F
	Running	P 5 0 F	P 4 1 F	P 1 4 F
Drone Avoidance	Slow	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F
	Fast	P 5 0 F	P 2 3 F	Too Costly

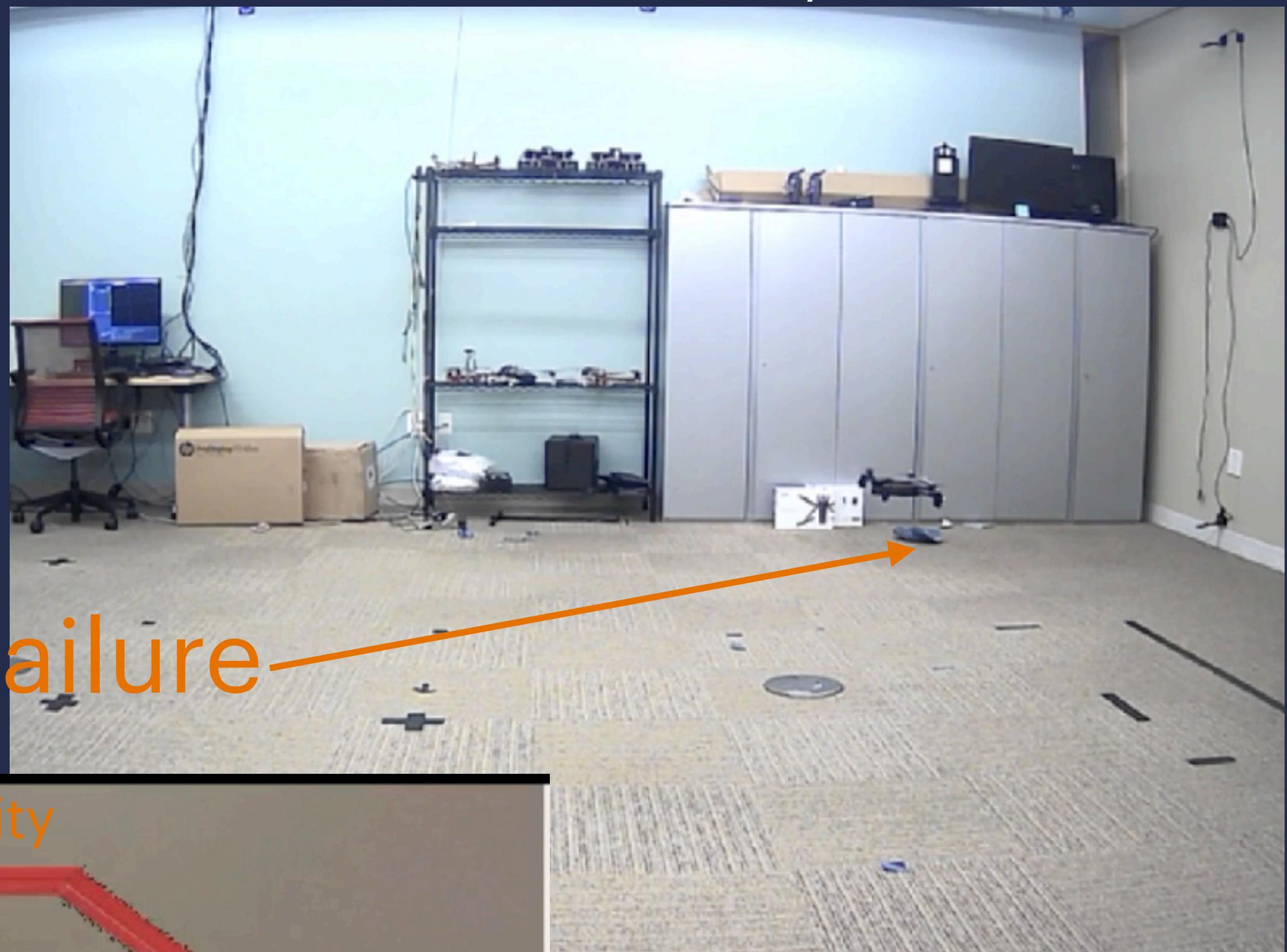
# Cost of Failure

Simulation



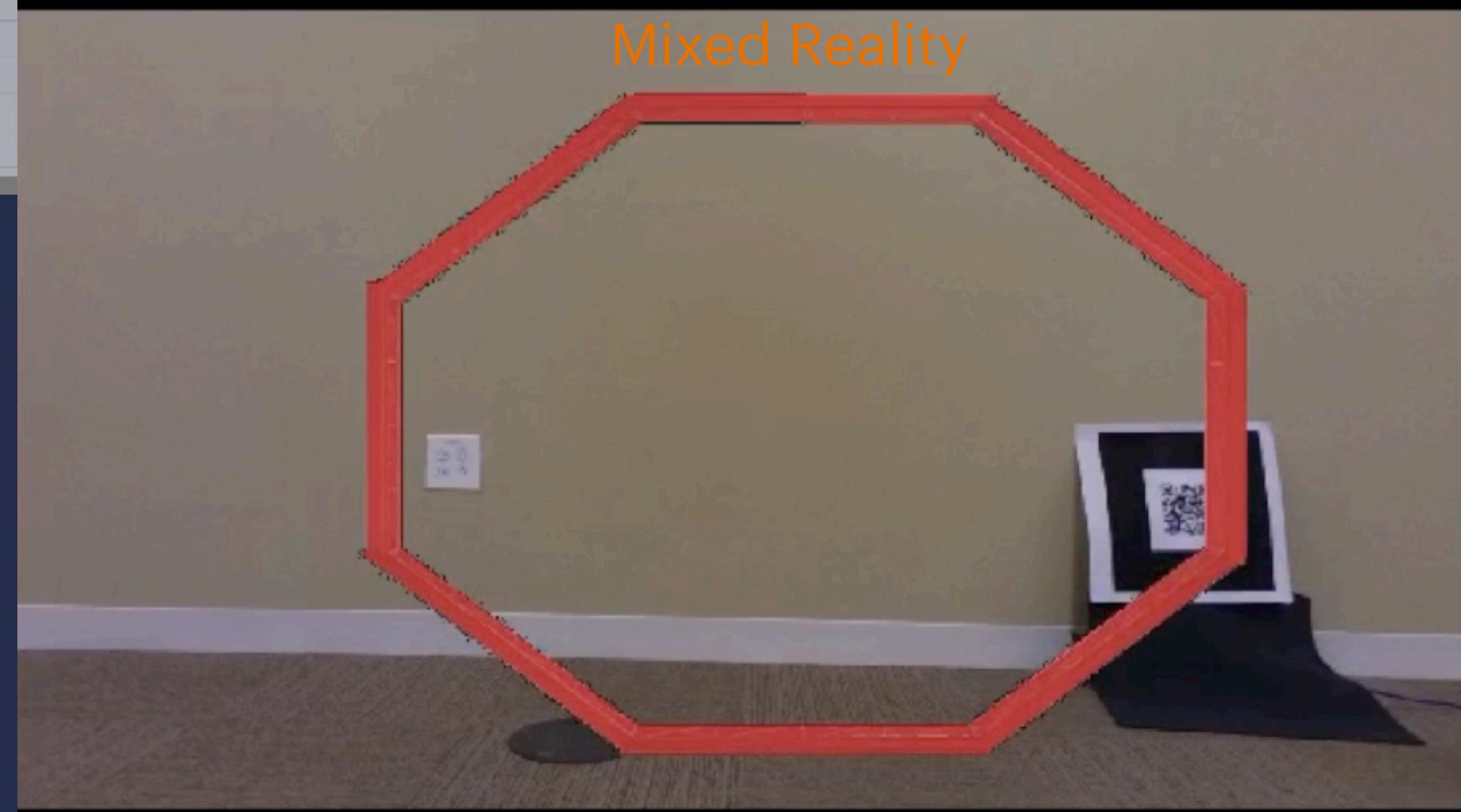
Failure

Reality



Low Cost of Failure

Mixed Reality

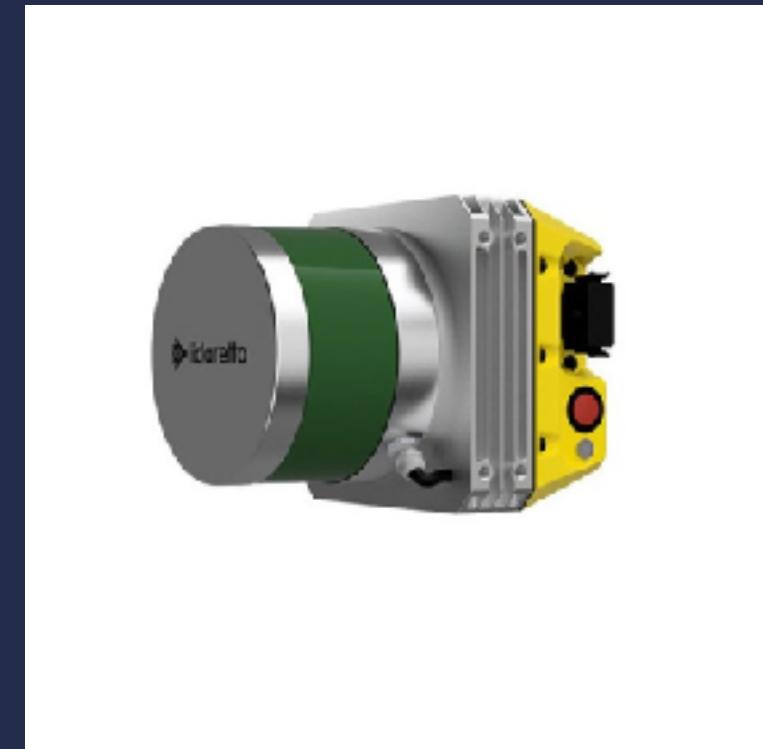


# Cost of Failure



# Future Work

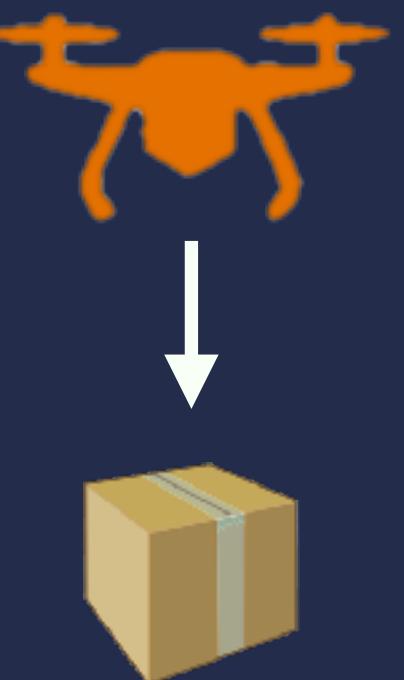
More Sensor Types



More Simulators



Simulating More of the World



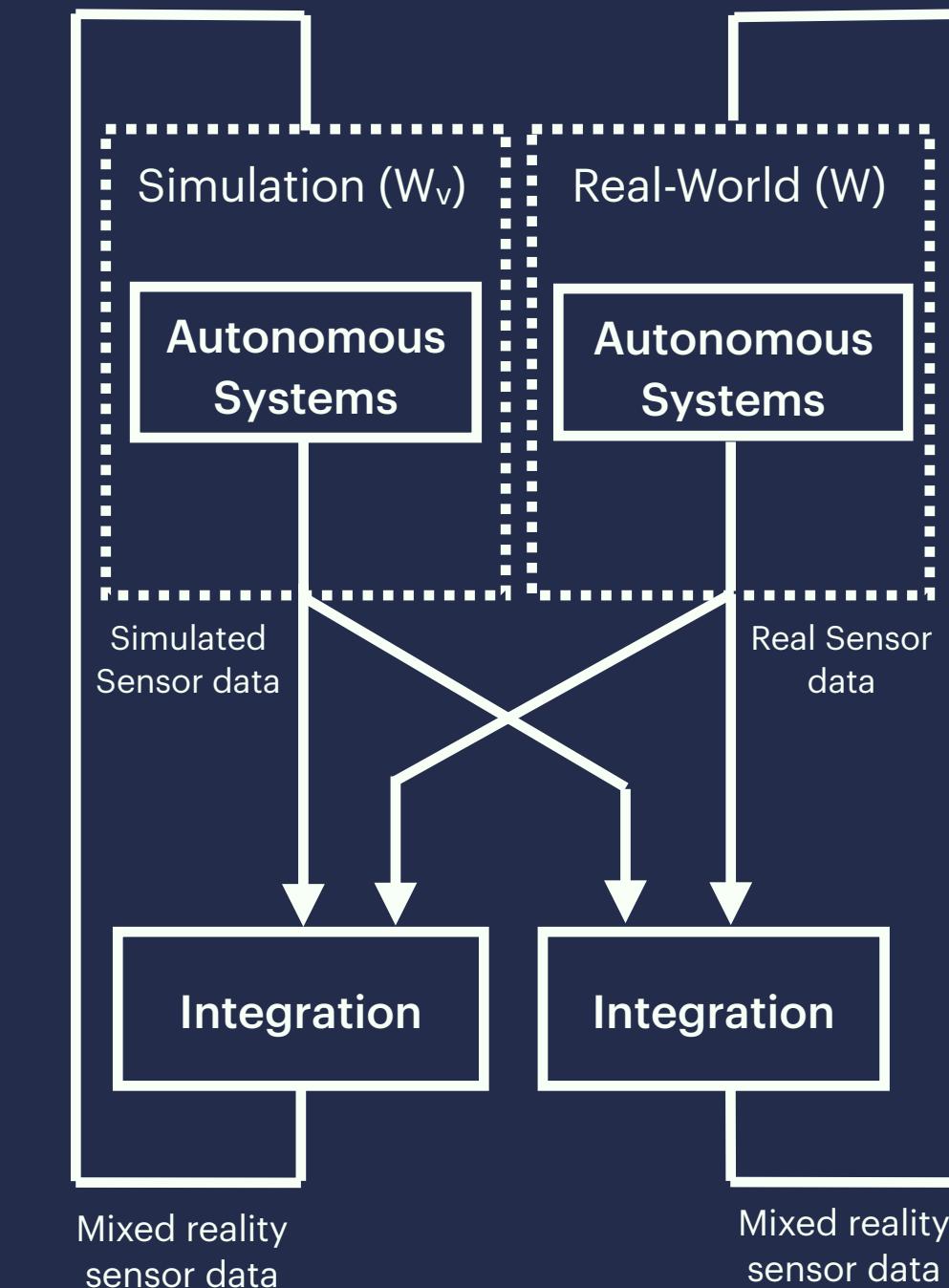


# Conclusion

## World-in-the-Loop Simulation for Autonomous Systems Validation



A novel approach to narrow the simulation-reality gap by integrating sensing data from simulation and the real world.



Scenario	Test Case	Simulation	WIL	Reality
Gate Navigation	Large	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F
	Small	P 5 0 F	P 1 4 F	P 1 1 F
Person Following	Walking	P 5 0 F	P 4 1 F	P 0 5 F
	Running	P 5 0 F	P 4 1 F	P 1 4 F
Obstacle Avoidance	Slow	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F
	Fast	P 5 0 F	P 2 3 F	Too Costly



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