

# Why are we still far from safe and secure autonomous vehicles?

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Former Professor at KAUST and Director of RC3 Center (SA)  
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LASIGE, Universidade de Lisboa FCUL, Portugal





**Is the *autonomous*  
*vehicles world*  
(cyber)-safe?**





# Toyota "Unintended Acceleration" Has Killed 89

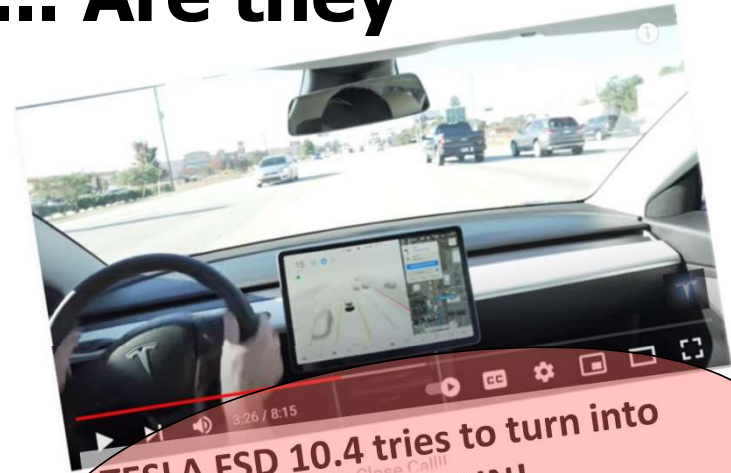
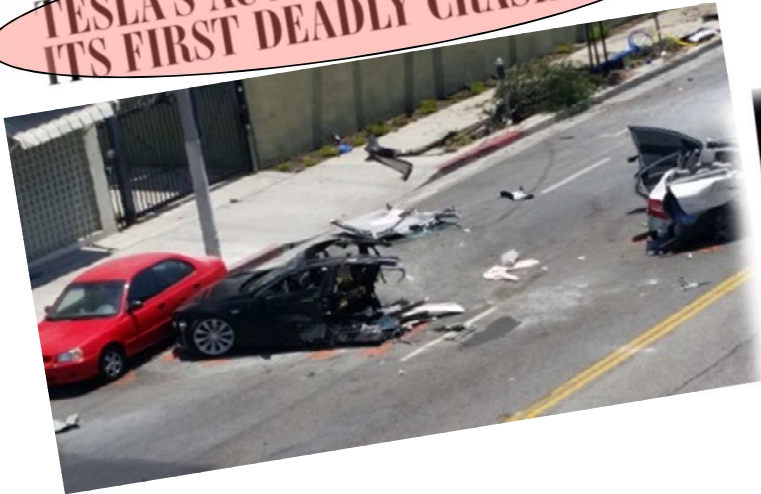


A 2005 Toyota Prius, which was in an accident, is seen at a police station in Harrison, New York, Wednesday, March 10, 2010. The driver of the Toyota Prius told police that the car accelerated on its own, then lurched down a driveway, across a road and into a stone wall. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig) AP PHOTO/SETH WENIG

Unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles may have been involved in the deaths of 89 people over the past decade, upgrading the number of deaths possibly linked to the massive recalls, the government said Tuesday.

# The past reveals clouds in the horizon of ... the safety side ... Are they gone?

# TESLA'S AUTOPILOT HAS HAD ITS FIRST DEADLY CRASH



# TESLA FSD 10.4 tries to turn into incoming traffic, AGAIN!



Pedestrian killed in accident involving self-driving Uber



**Is the *autonomous vehicles world at least* (cyber)-dependable in, say, “normal” days?**





# SO, what about "normal" case behaviour ? ...

SFGATE

Newsletters

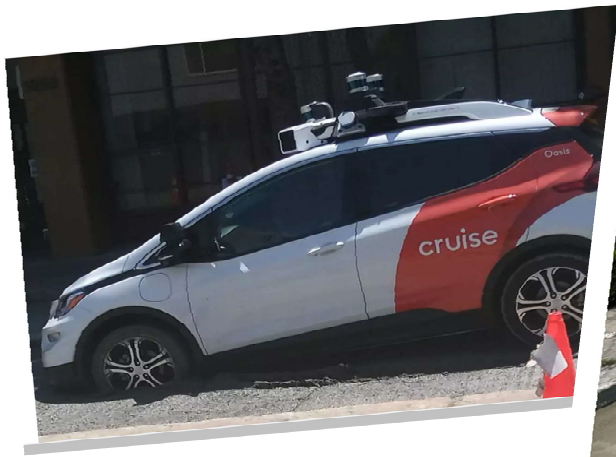
## Cruise vehicle gets stuck in wet concrete while driving in San Francisco

By Joshua Bote  
Aug 15, 2023



r/shittyrobots • 2 yr. ago  
by Jasi4

## Delivery robot tries to walk across undried cement



CARSCOOPS

LATEST NEW CARS SCOOPS

VIDEO

## Tesla Model 3 Driver Ignores FSD Limitations, Drives Through Flooded Road

The driver of the Tesla Model 3 seems to have forgotten that drivers are still responsible when FSD is



by Brad Anderson August 23, 2023 at 11:04 14





**Is the *autonomous vehicles world* (cyber)-secure?**



# Security gap in Vehicle Systems



Award-winning computer security news

SOPHOS.COM >

The Jeep hackers return to ditch a car going 60 mph

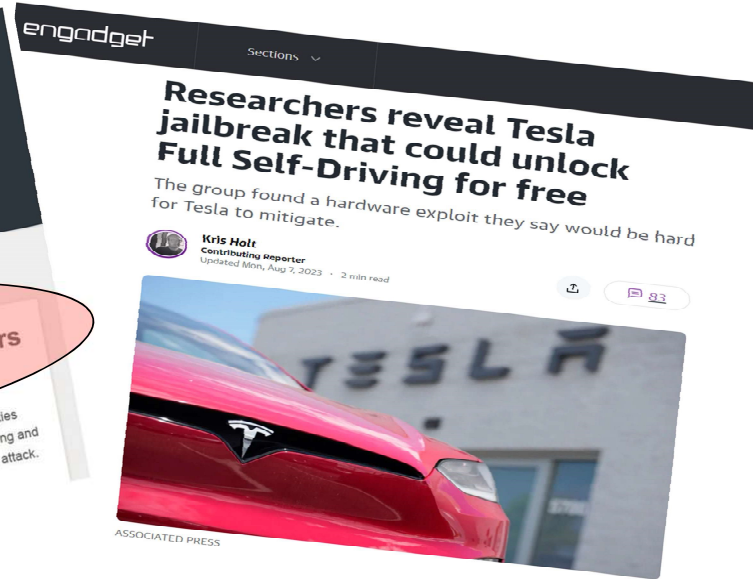
03 AUG 2016

Security threats, Vulnerability



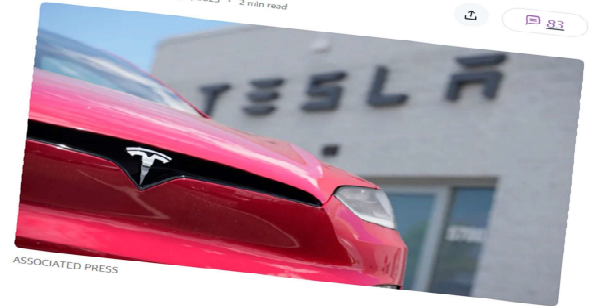
Car Hacking Research: Remote Attack Tesla Motors

2016-09-19  
by Keen Security Lab of Tencent  
With several months of in-depth research on Tesla Cars, we have discovered multiple security vulnerabilities and successfully implemented remote, aka none physical contact, control on Tesla Model S in both Parking and Driving Mode. It is worth to note that we used an unmodified car with latest firmware to demonstrate the attack.

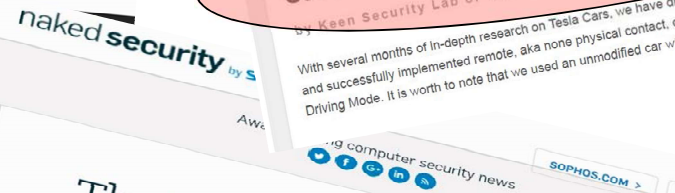


Researchers reveal Tesla jailbreak that could unlock Full Self-Driving for free  
The group found a hardware exploit they say would be hard for Tesla to mitigate.

Kris Holt  
Contributing Reporter  
Updated Mon, Aug 7, 2023 · 2 min read



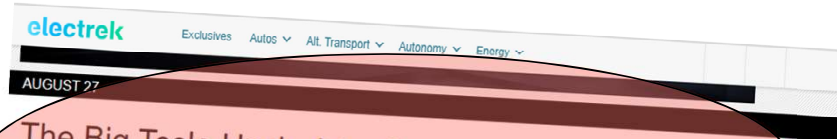
ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Jeep hackers return to ditch a car going 60 mph

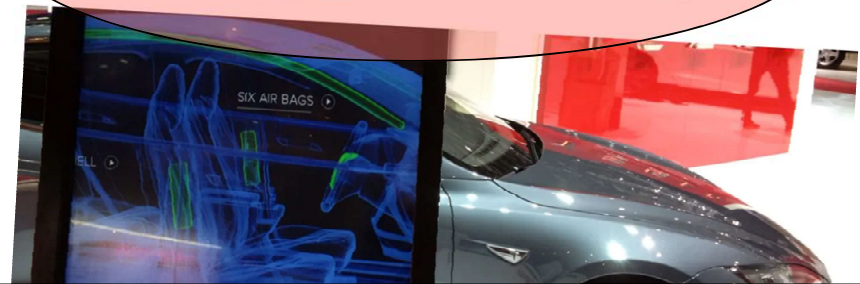
03 AUG 2016

Security threats, Vulnerability



The Big Tesla Hack: A hacker gained control over the entire fleet, but fortunately he's a good guy

Fred Lambert · Aug. 27th 2020 3:29 pm ET · @FredericLambert





**And the recent  
months are full of  
more evidence ...**





**So, what's wrong  
about the current  
autonomous  
vehicles  
ecosystem?**



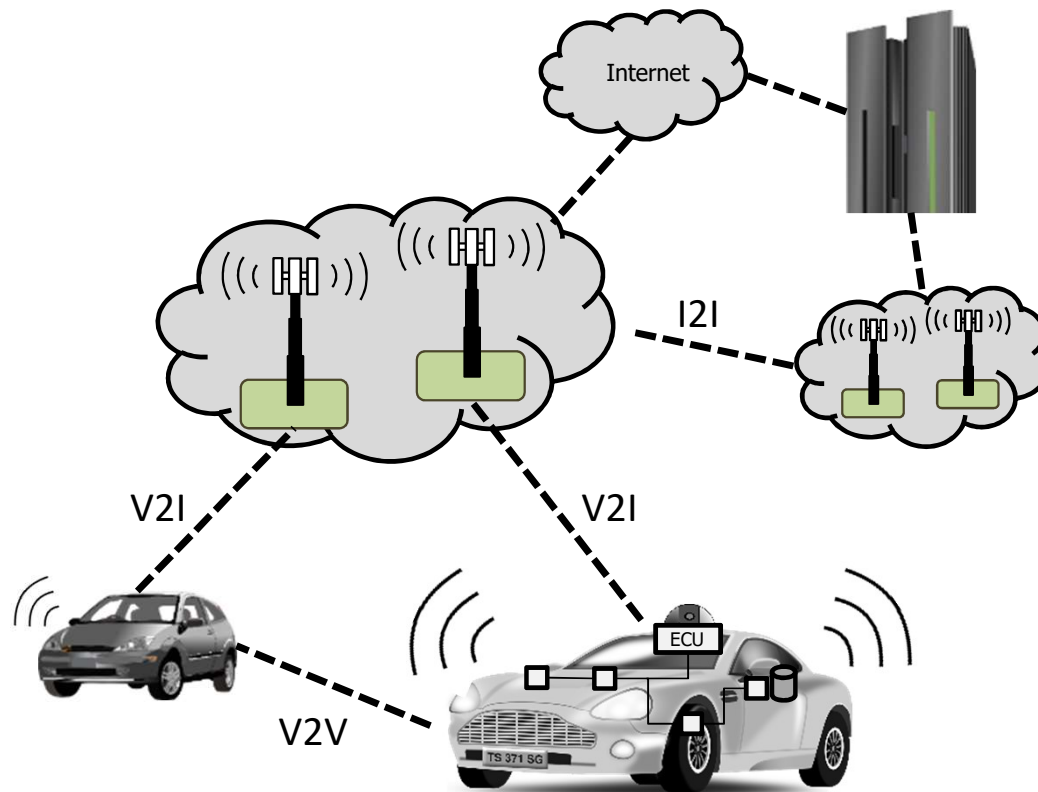


- ***To start with, the very notion that there is an ecosystem is inexistent***
- ***An analysis of the ecosystem as a critical infrastructure is missing***





# Autonomous Vehicle Ecosystem



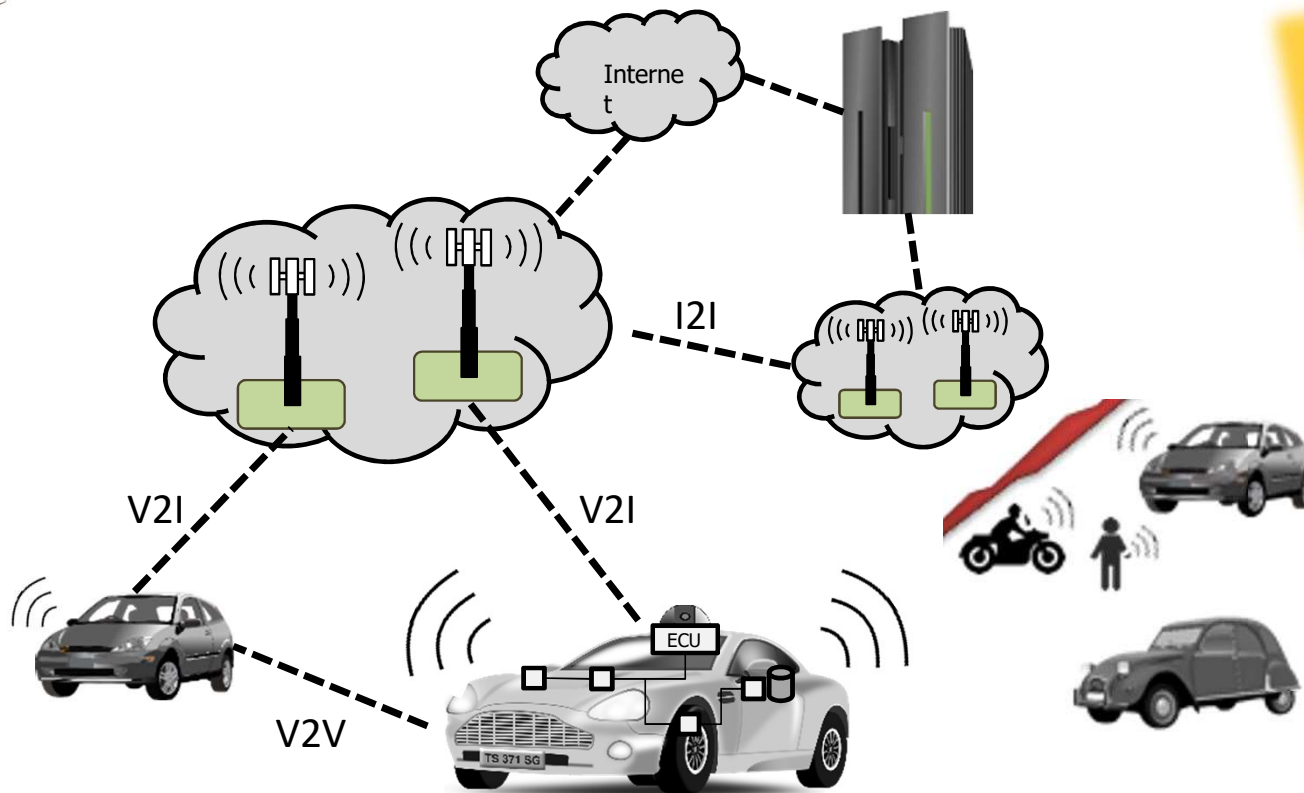
*Towards Safe and Secure Autonomous and Cooperative Vehicle Ecosystems. Lima, A; Rocha, F; Volp, M; Verissimo, P. in Proc's 2<sup>nd</sup> ACM Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems Security and Privacy (2016, October) @CCS, Vienna-Austria*



What is the safety and  
security **THREAT SURFACE**  
in the autonomous vehicles  
**ECOSYSTEM** ...?



# Autonomous Vehicle Ecosystem



**FIRST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
STUDY OF THE  
THREAT SURFACE  
AND SAFETY-  
SECURITY GAP OF  
AUTONOMOUS AND  
COOPERATIVE  
VEHICLE  
ECOSYSTEMS**

**2016**

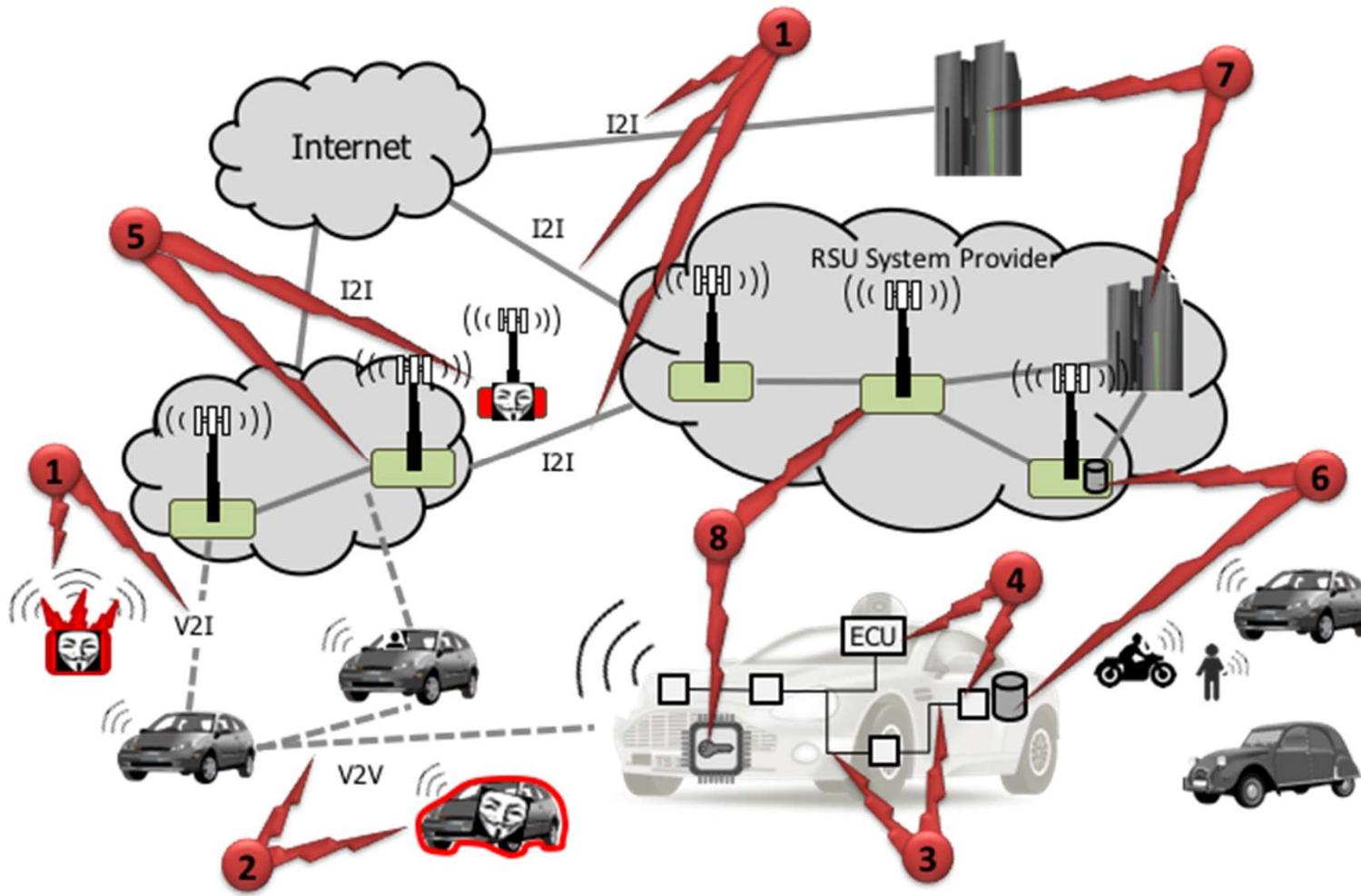
*Towards Safe and Secure Autonomous and Cooperative Vehicle Ecosystems. Lima, A; Rocha, F; Volp, M; Verissimo, P. in Proc's 2<sup>nd</sup> ACM Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems Security and Privacy (2016, October) @CCS, Vienna-Austria*





# Autonomous vehicle ecosystem threat surface perhaps wider than many think

Threat  
Vectors





The  
***SAFETY GAP***  
in the autonomous  
vehicles area ...

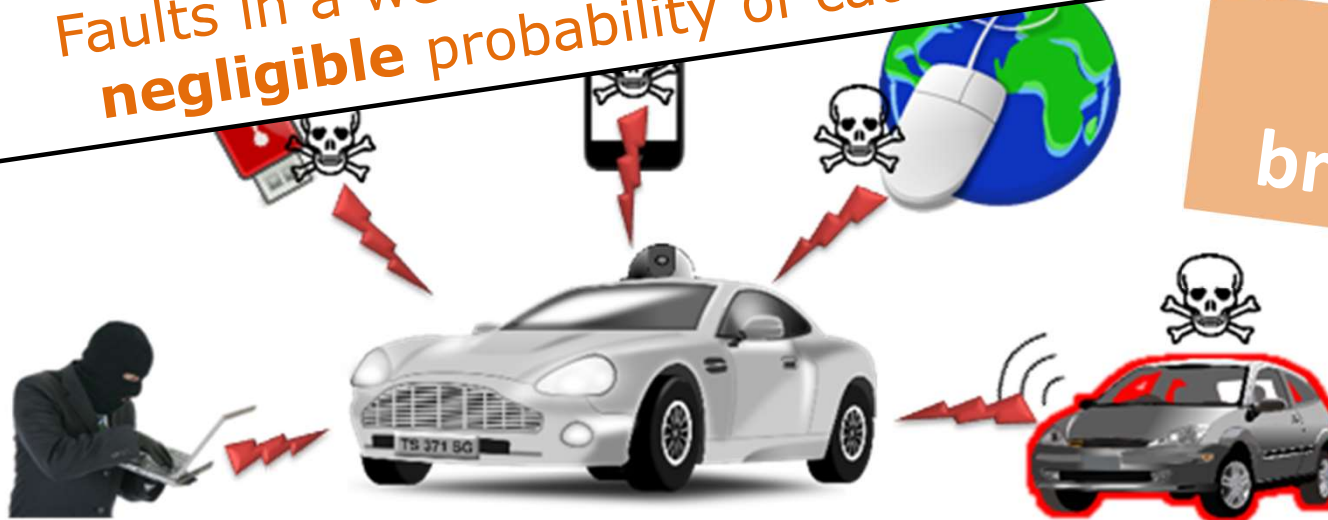




# Safety gap in vehicle ecosystems

Faults in a well designed car ecosystem lead to an **infinitesimal and acceptable** probability of catastrophic failure;

Faults in a well designed car may imply a **non-negligible** probability of catastrophic failure



Move fast  
break things?



*Towards Safe and Secure Autonomous and Cooperative Vehicle Ecosystems. Lima, A; Rocha, F; Volp, M; Verissimo, P. in Proc's 2<sup>nd</sup> ACM Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems Security and Privacy (2016, October) @CCS, Vienna-Austria*



**So...**  
***maybe those reported  
accidents ... were not  
really just bad luck?***





*But it can get worse:*

The  
***SAFETY-SECURITY GAP***  
in the autonomous  
vehicles area ...  
... ***(land, air, space)***





# Safety-security gap in vehicle ecosystems

Faults in a well designed car ecosystem lead to an **infinitesimal and acceptable** probability of catastrophic failure;

Faults in a well designed car may imply a **non-negligible** probability of catastrophic failure

**Vulnerabilities** in a car ecosystem **will** lead, rather sooner than later, to catastrophic failures;



*Towards Safe and Secure Autonomous and Cooperative Vehicle Ecosystems. Lima, A; Rocha, F; Volp, M; Verissimo, P. in Proc's 2<sup>nd</sup> ACM Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems Security and Privacy (2016, October) @CCS, Vienna-Austria*



## How serious is that?

**«IF IT AIN'T  
SECURE, IT  
AIN'T SAFE»**

**Safety-security gap in vehicle ecosystems**

Faults in a well designed car ecosystem lead to an **infinitesimal and acceptable** probability of catastrophic failure;

Faults in a well designed car may imply a **non-negligible** probability of catastrophic failure

**Vulnerabilities** in a car ecosystem **will** lead, rather sooner than later, to catastrophic failures;



*Towards Safe and Secure Autonomous and Cooperative Vehicle Ecosystems. Lima, A;  
Rocha, F; Volp, M; Verissimo, P. in Proc's 2<sup>nd</sup> ACM Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems  
Security and Privacy (2016, October) @CCS, Vienna-Austria*





**But maybe the  
AI/ML driven world  
is a bit more secure  
or safer?**





***It can get really bad...  
BAD as in 'blind'***



[https://www.reddit.com/r/ThatsInsane/comments/r3fxpi/tesla\\_radar\\_did\\_not\\_recognize\\_a\\_camel\\_cusing\\_an/?rdt=49822](https://www.reddit.com/r/ThatsInsane/comments/r3fxpi/tesla_radar_did_not_recognize_a_camel_cusing_an/?rdt=49822)



# Tesla vision did not recognize a camel, causing an accident in the UAE



**LESSONS  
LEARN'T?**

*Snake?  
Dust Cloud? Bush?  
Naaah, nothing ahead!*





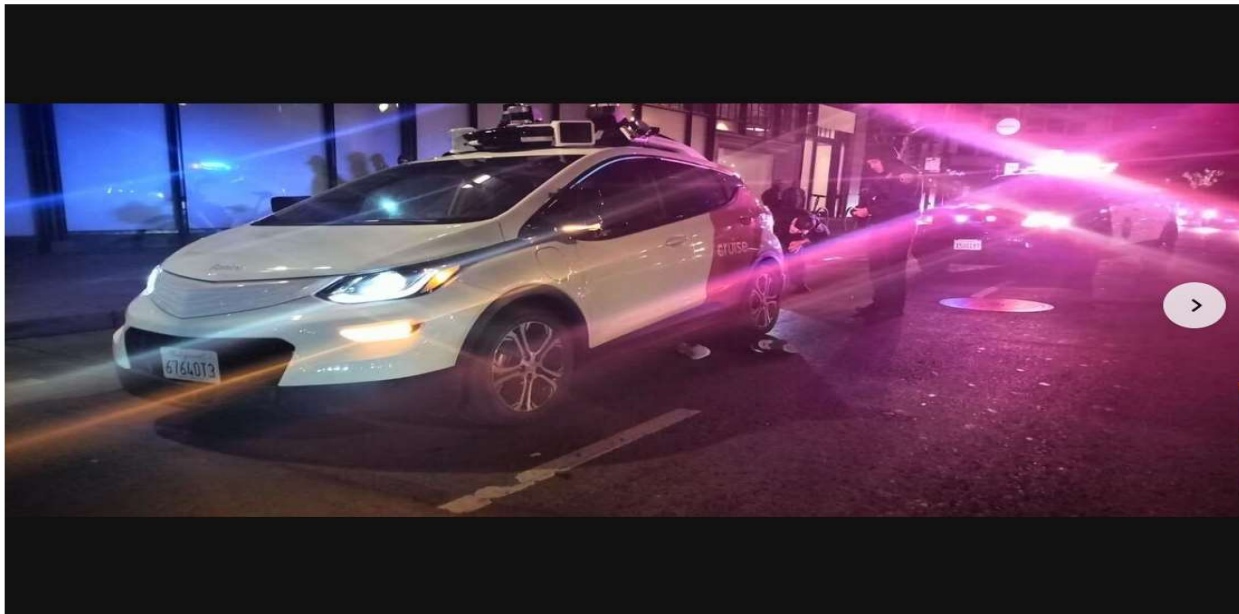
# Cruise driverless car runs over woman and stops

BAY AREA // SAN FRANCISCO

## Driver hits woman in S.F., then Cruise driverless car runs her over; photo shows victim trapped

Jordan Parker, Nora Mishanec

Oct. 2, 2023 | Updated: Oct. 3, 2023 3:52 p.m.



**LESSONS  
LEARNT?**



# One of Uber's Self-Driving Cars Hit and Killed a Woman in Arizona



## Self-driving Uber car that hit and killed woman did not recognize that pedestrians jaywalk

The automated car lacked "the capability to classify an object as a pedestrian unless that object was near a crosswalk," an NTSB report said.



## Dashcam video of deadly self-driving Uber crash released

By Nicole Darrah · Fox News

Published March 22, 2018 12:45am EDT | Updated March 22, 2018 12:59am EDT



Dashcam catches the moment self-driving Uber hits pedestrian



# The serious ecosystem security risks

electrek  
Exclusives Autos Alt. Transport Autonomy Energy  
AUGUST 27

The Big Tesla Hack: A hacker gained control over the entire fleet, but fortunately he's a good guy

Fred Lambert - Aug. 27th 2020 3:29 pm ET @FredericLambert



**LESSONS  
LEARNT?**

# Solutions? ...

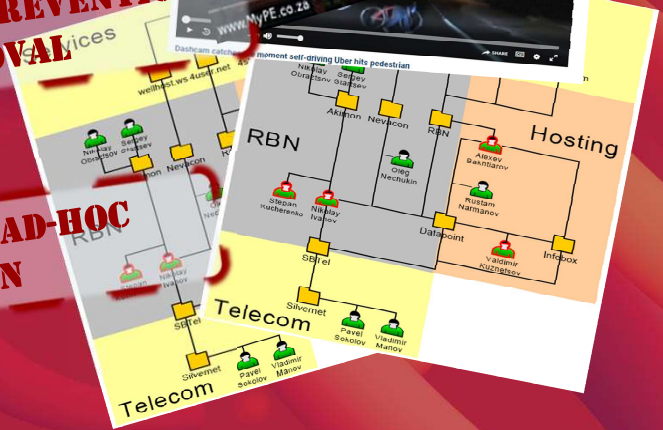


**COMPONENT-BASED, INDIVIDUALIZED**

**ATTACK PREVENTION, ACCESS CONTROL, FWALLS, ETC.**

**VULNERABILITY PREVENTION AND REMOVAL**

**HUMAN-STEERED AD-HOC MITIGATION**





# A long journey towards

## **RESILIENT AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE ECOSYSTEMS**

*Two+ decades of joint work with several colleagues at Navigators/LASIGE@ULISBOA, CRITIX@UNILU (and many others from Univ/R&D across EU). More recently, A. Shoker and R. Yasmin at CybeResil@KAUST, M.Voelp CRITIX@UNILU, V. Rahli @U.BIRMINGHAM, J. Decouchant@U.DELFT*

# CORTEX Project Info

**[2001-04]**

INFORMATION SOCIETY TECHNOLOGIES  
(IST) PROGRAMME



Project acronym: ***CORTEX***

Project full title:

***CO-operating Real-time senTient objects:  
architecture and EXperimental evaluation***

- **Members:**

- ☞ Univ. Lisboa Fac. Of Sciences (PT) (**proj. coord.**)
- ☞ Trinity College of Dublin (IR)
- ☞ U. of Lancaster (UK)
- ☞ U. of Ulm (DE)

- **Duration:**

- ☞ 3 years, starting April 2001

- **Budget:**

- ☞ 2 MEURO



**(Philosophical) ambition:**

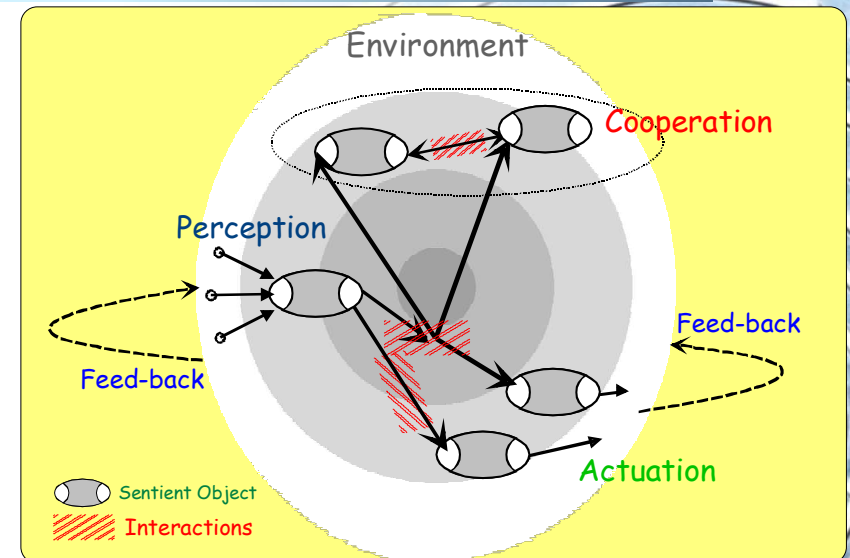
*«Control the physics of event interleaving of autonomous object ecosystems, interacting in **real time**, reconciling the (needed) **predictability** with the (unavoidable) **uncertainty** of open environments»*

***Cortex project [2001]***

# 'Sentient objects' interaction model

*Abstract safe distributed real-time (DRT) autonomous control of free-running objects*

- should support the needed **classes of R/T interactions**: environment-object, object-object
- **context awareness and sentience** of body and of environment;
- **generic and semantics-agnostic predicates** for predictability and correctness in face of uncertainty



*[P. Veríssimo and A. Casimiro. The Timely Computing Base Model and Architecture. IEEE Tacs. on Computers, 2002]*



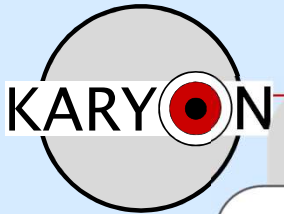


**KARYON PROJECT :**  
**Kernel-Based**  
**ARchitecture for safetY-**  
**critical cONtrol**



# KARYON PROJECT: Kernel-Based ARchitecture for safety-critical cONtrol

2011-2014



Academia & Research Institutes  
SMEs and Industry

Proof-of-concept prototypes  
Simulations



Avionics  
UAS/Aircraft flight mission



Automotive  
Adaptive cruise control  
Coordinated lane change  
Coordinated intersection crossing



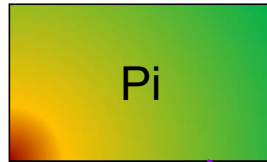
- ▶ Provide system solutions for predictable and safe coordination of smart vehicles that autonomously cooperate and interact in an open and inherently uncertain environment



# Divide-and-conquer I: Architectural Hybridisation

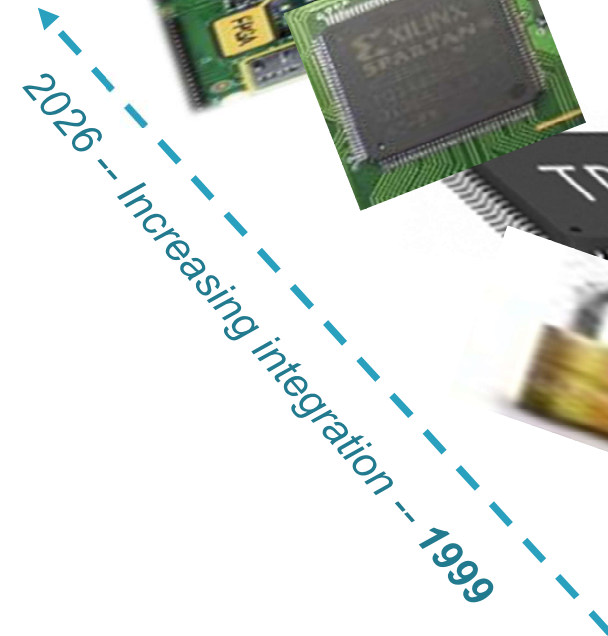
Models and architectures Giving substance to assumptions

1999



Ultimately trusted hybrids

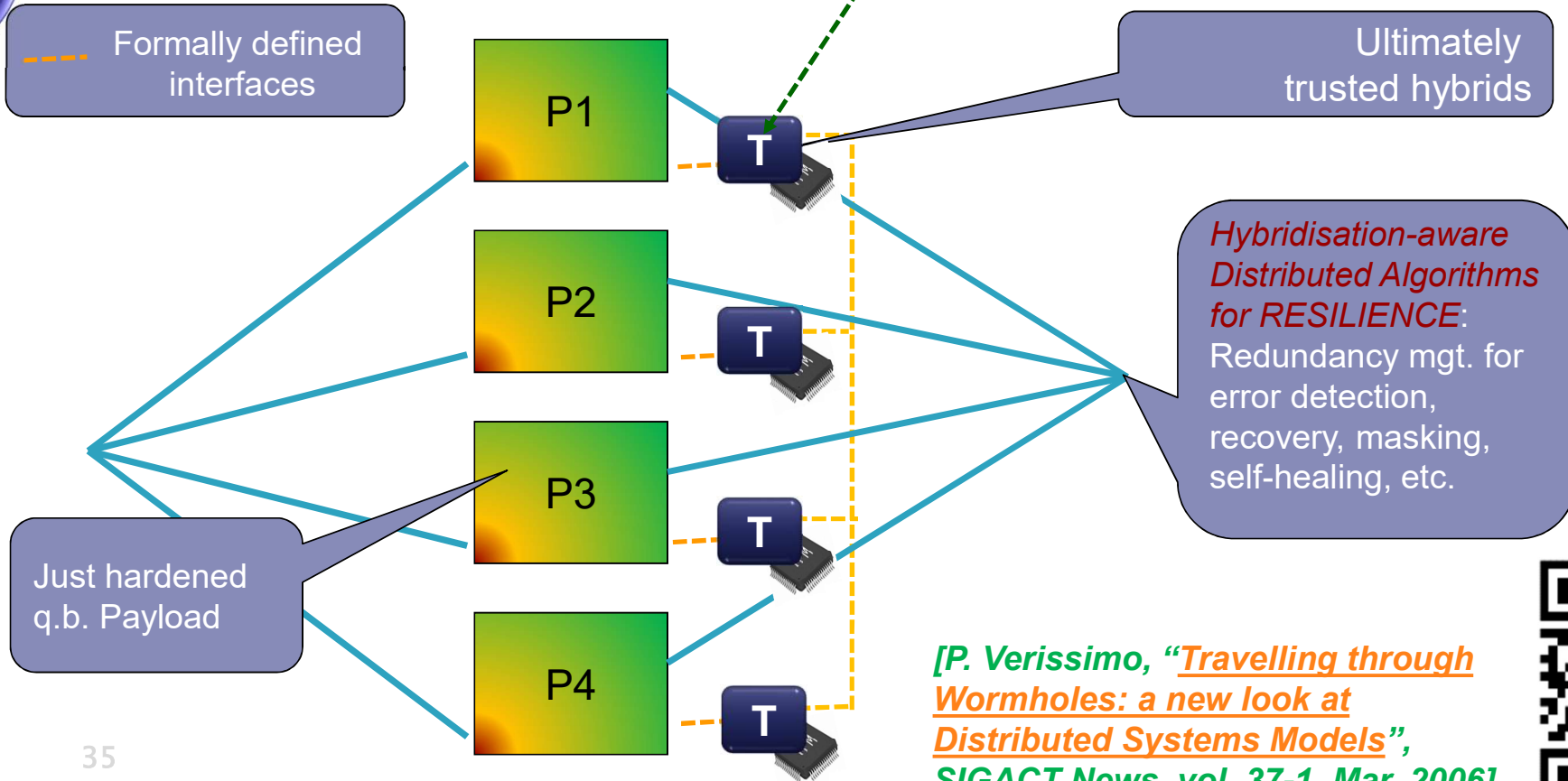
- **Trusted-Trustworthy** components, i.e. :
  - components on which you **assume trust** (depend on)
  - because they are **trustworthy** (dependable), by **construction**, and verified to be so
- Not enough! We further need:
  - a **hybrid architecture** giving structure to the trusted comp. plus payload compound
  - a **computational model** proving that **assumed** trusted comp. properties **are indeed obtained** by the payload



# Hybridisation-aware distributed algorithms, models, and architectures

Leveraging trusted-trustworthy components and TEE, with the right set of simple functions (failure detectors, monotonic counters, reliable timers or clocks, PRG, signatures, indelible logs, binary consensus)

Hybridisation-aware algorithms: models, architect., and control



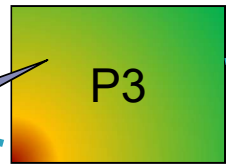
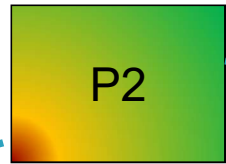
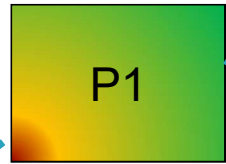
# Hybridisation-aware distributed algorithms, models, and architectures

Leveraging trusted-trustworthy components and TEE, with monotonic counters, reliable timers or clocks, PRG, signature

Hybridisation-aware algorithms: models, architect., and control

Formally defined interfaces

Just hardened q.b. Payload



## Some example works on explicit or implicit hybrid models:

- Aguilera et al.
- Babay, Amir et al.
- Baldoni et al.
- Chun, Maniatis, Kubiatoicz et al.
- Clement, Junqueira, et al.
- Distler, Kapitza, Reiser et al.
- Guerraoui, Vukolic et al.
- Krishnamurthy, Sanders, Cukier
- Kapitza, Cachin et al.
- Levin, Douceur et al.
- Liu, Asokan et al.
- Malkhi et al.
- Nogueira R., Raynal et al.
- Ramasamy, Agbaria, Sanders
- Roeder, Schneider
- Vukolic et al.
- Weisnberg, Dolev et al.

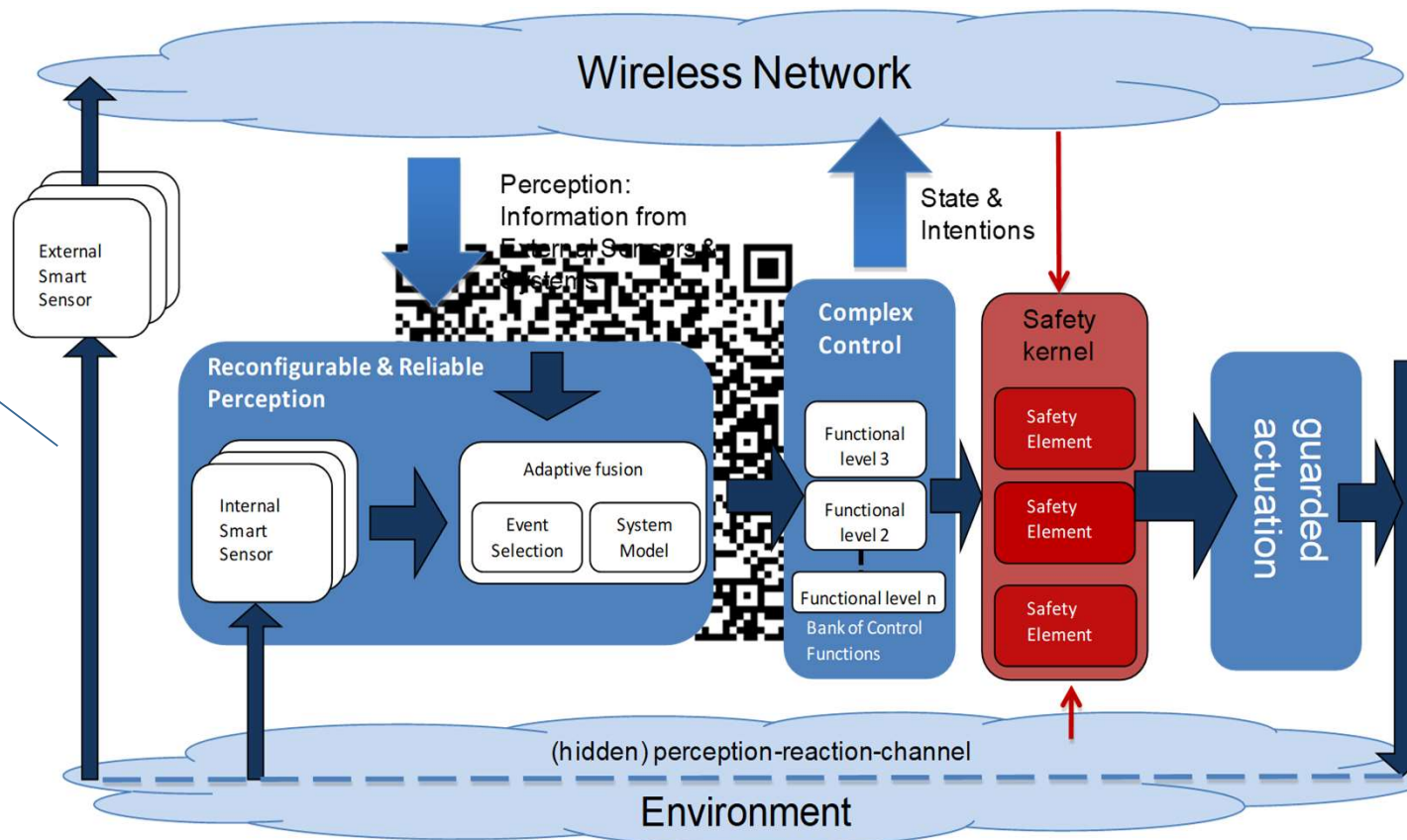




# KARYON architectural view: proof of concept of *modularity* and *hybridisation* for safety

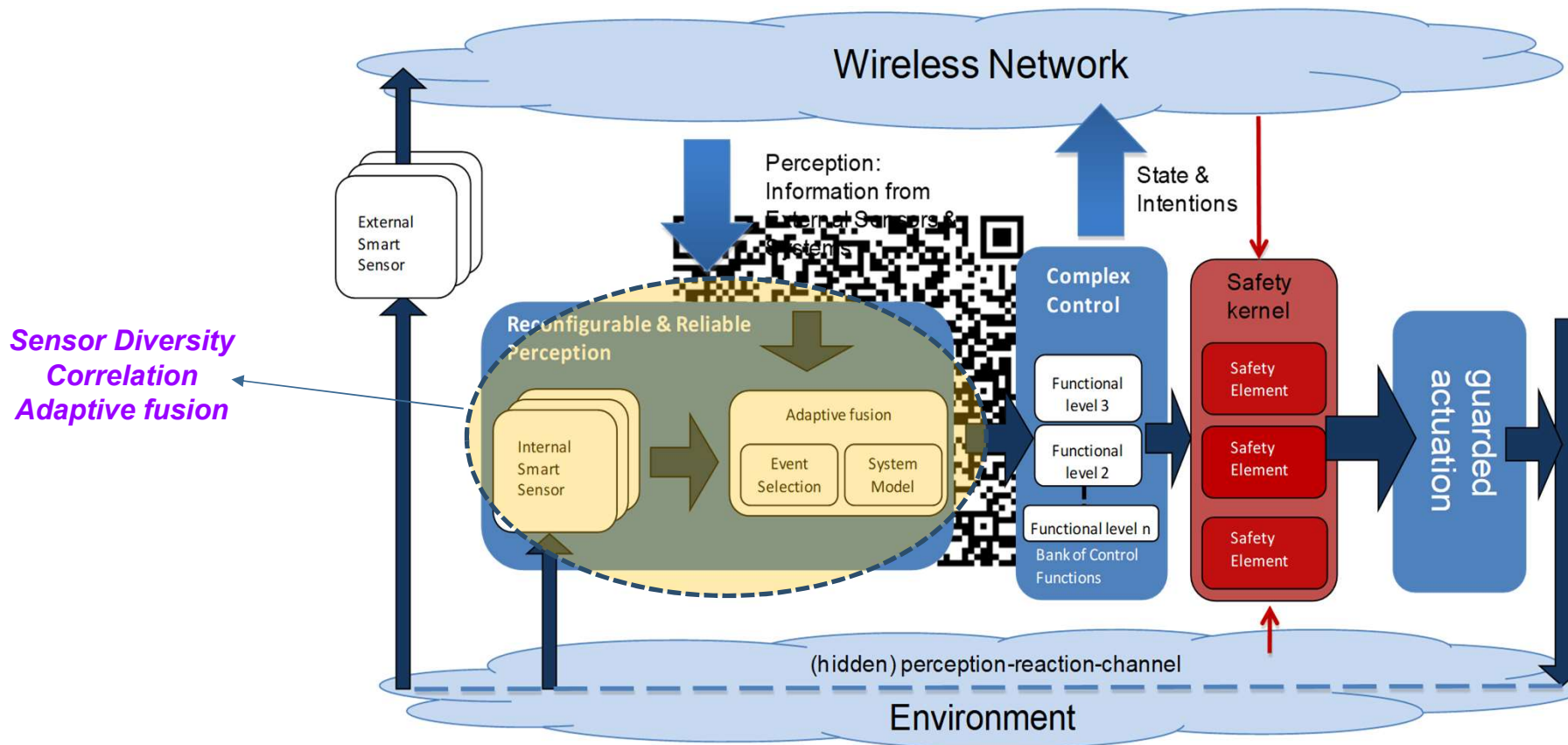
[2011-2014]

*modularity and hybridisation for safety*





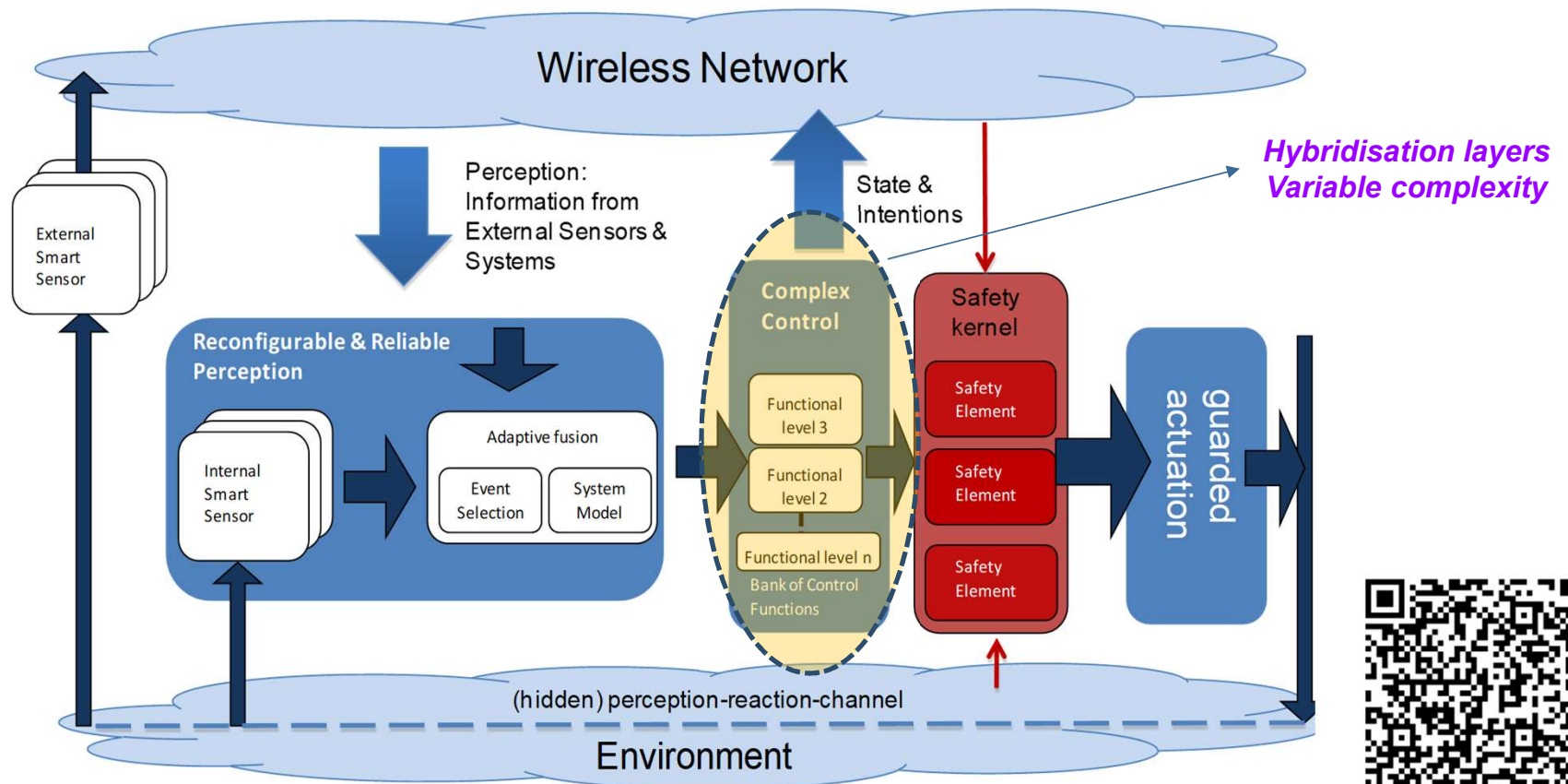
# KARYON architectural view: proof of concept of modularity and hybridisation for safety



A. Casimiro, J. Kaiser, E. Schiller, P. Costa, J. Parizi, R. Johansson, R. Librino, *"The KARYON Project: Predictable and Safe Coordination in Cooperative Vehicular Systems"*, in *2nd Workshop on Open Resilient Human-aware CPS (WORCS'13)*, Jun. 2013.

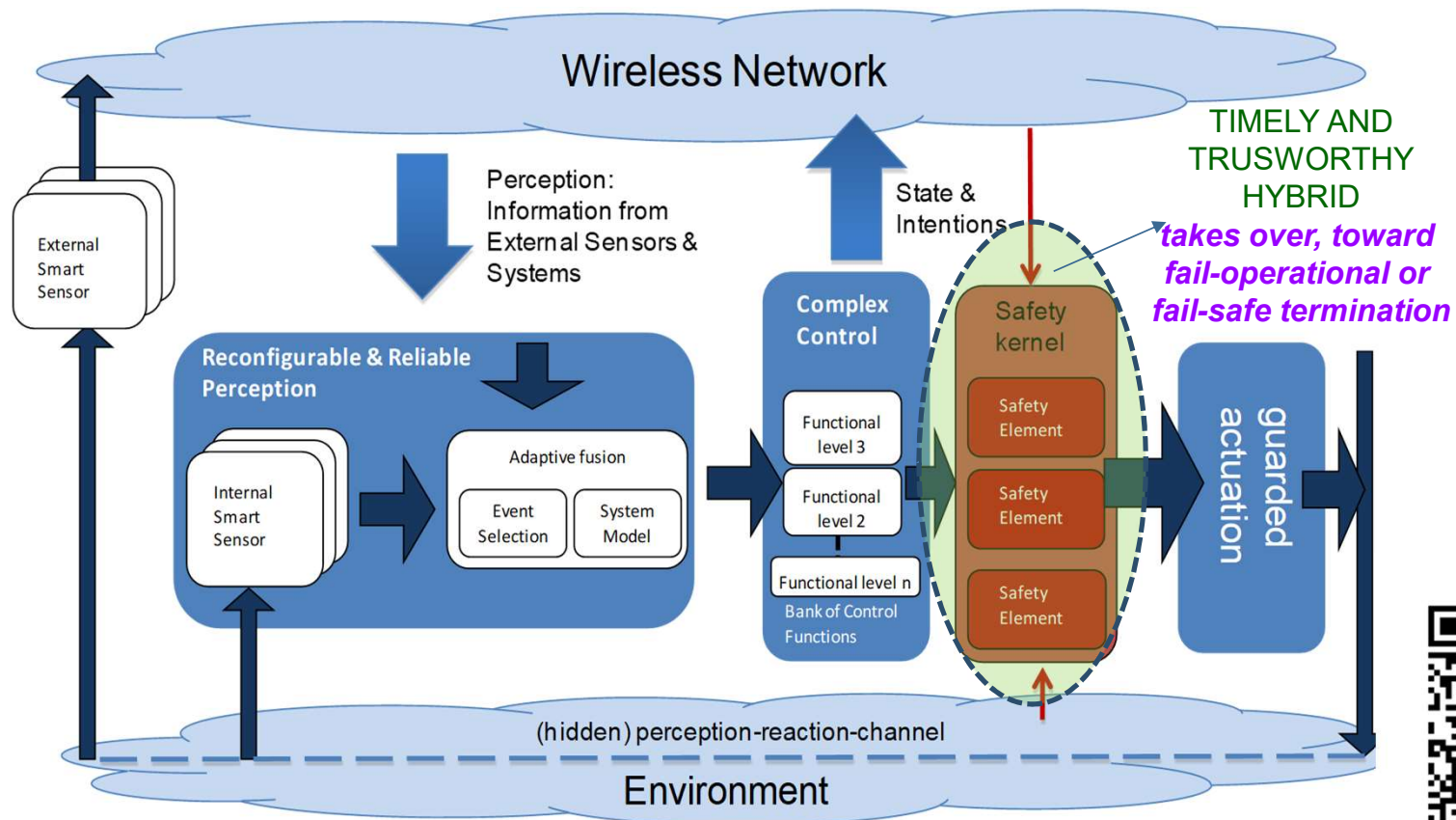


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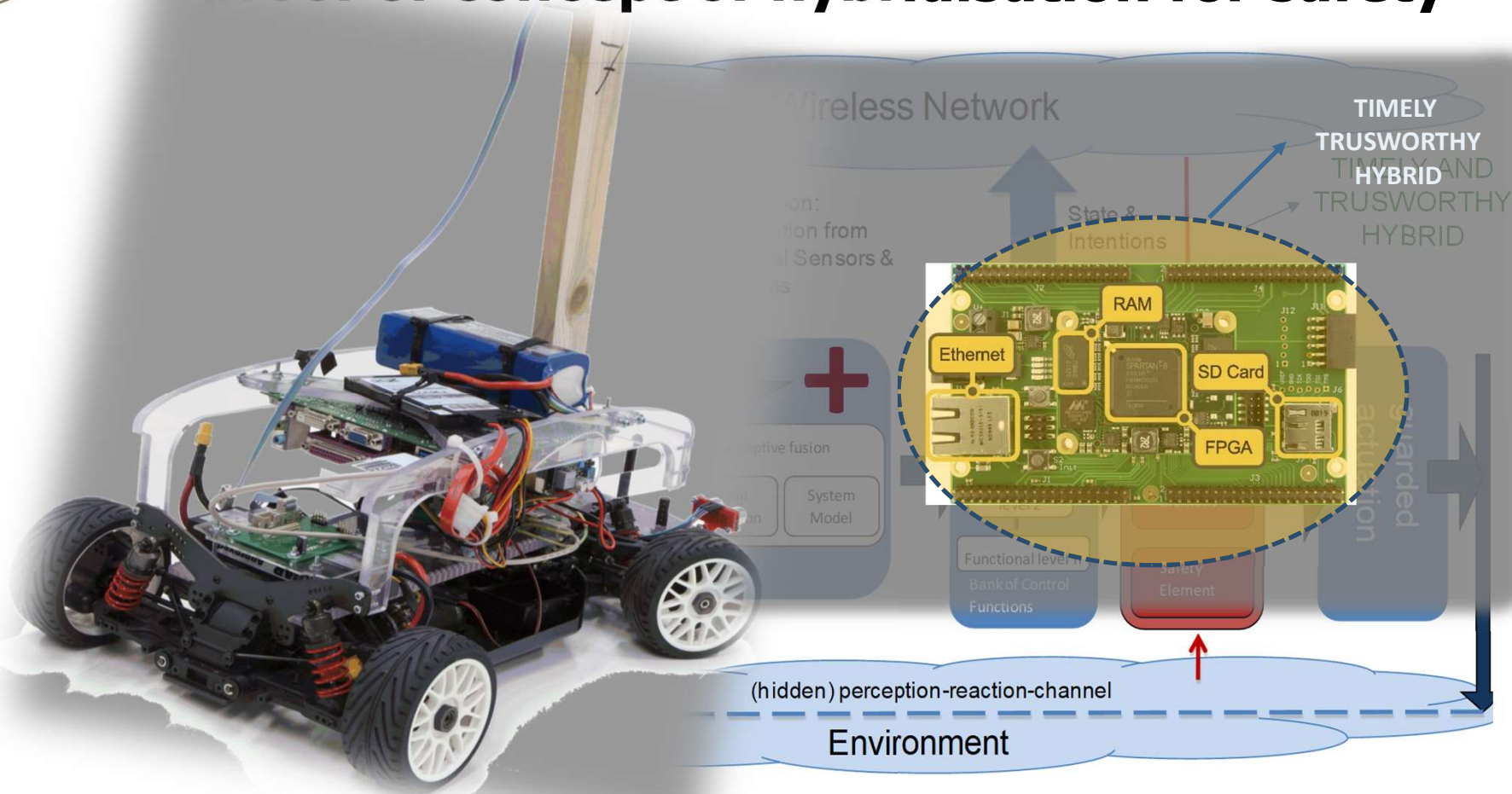


# KARYON architectural view: proof of concept of modularity and hybridisation for safety





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A. Casimiro, J. Kaiser, E. Schiller, P. Costa, J. Parizi, R. Johansson, R. Librino, "[The KARYON Project: Predictable and Safe Coordination in Cooperative Vehicular Systems](#)", in *2nd Workshop on Open Resilient Human-aware CPS (WORCS'13)*, Jun. 2013.



*Intel Collaborative Research  
Institute (ICRI)*

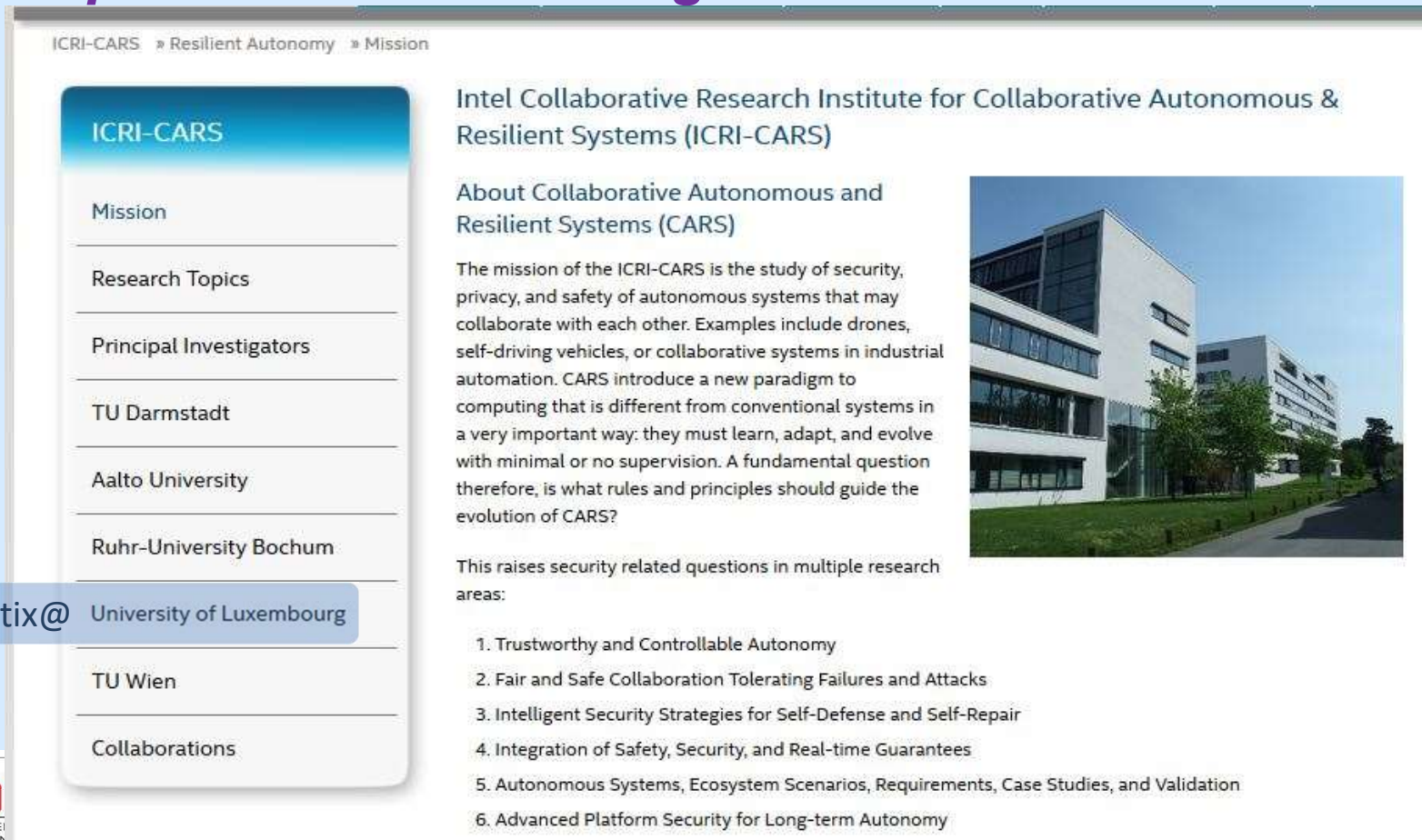
**Collaborative Autonomous  
& Resilient Systems  
(CARS)**



# Intel Collaborative Research Institute for Collaborative Autonomous & Resilient Systems (CARS)

<https://www.icri-cars.org/>

2017-2020



The screenshot shows the 'Mission' page of the ICRI-CARS website. The page has a navigation menu on the left with items: ICRI-CARS, Mission, Research Topics, Principal Investigators, TU Darmstadt, Aalto University, Ruhr-University Bochum, Critix@ University of Luxembourg, TU Wien, and Collaborations. The main content area is titled 'Intel Collaborative Research Institute for Collaborative Autonomous & Resilient Systems (ICRI-CARS)' and 'About Collaborative Autonomous and Resilient Systems (CARS)'. It contains a paragraph about the mission, a photograph of a modern building, and a list of six research areas.

ICRI-CARS » Resilient Autonomy » Mission

## ICRI-CARS

Mission

Research Topics

Principal Investigators

TU Darmstadt

Aalto University

Ruhr-University Bochum

Critix@ University of Luxembourg


TU Wien

Collaborations

### Intel Collaborative Research Institute for Collaborative Autonomous & Resilient Systems (ICRI-CARS)

#### About Collaborative Autonomous and Resilient Systems (CARS)

The mission of the ICRI-CARS is the study of security, privacy, and safety of autonomous systems that may collaborate with each other. Examples include drones, self-driving vehicles, or collaborative systems in industrial automation. CARS introduce a new paradigm to computing that is different from conventional systems in a very important way: they must learn, adapt, and evolve with minimal or no supervision. A fundamental question therefore, is what rules and principles should guide the evolution of CARS?



This raises security related questions in multiple research areas:

1. Trustworthy and Controllable Autonomy
2. Fair and Safe Collaboration Tolerating Failures and Attacks
3. Intelligent Security Strategies for Self-Defense and Self-Repair
4. Integration of Safety, Security, and Real-time Guarantees
5. Autonomous Systems, Ecosystem Scenarios, Requirements, Case Studies, and Validation
6. Advanced Platform Security for Long-term Autonomy

Critix@ University of Luxembourg



# Ecosystem approach: Cooperation is key!

**Individualistic cars worsen safety!**

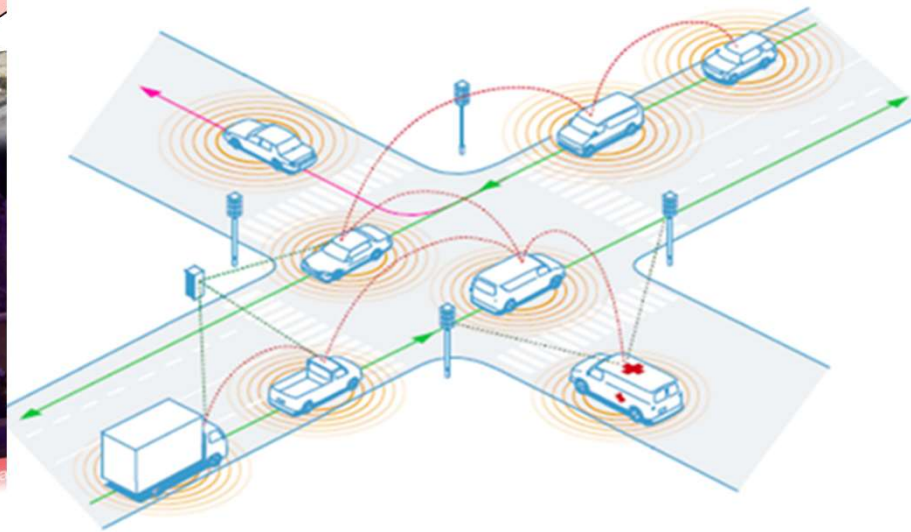
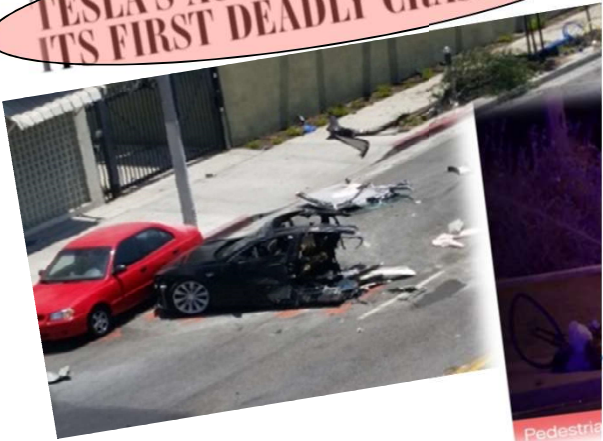
**Cooperation is key!**

TECHNOLOGY NEWS | Mon Feb 29, 2016 | 6:31pm EST

Google says it bears 'some responsibility' after self-driving car hit

pilot crash under federal

TESLA'S AUTOPILOT HAS HAD ITS FIRST DEADLY CRASH



4 tries to  
ing

*Towards Safe and Secure Autonomous and Cooperative Vehicle Ecosystems. Lima, A; Rocha, F; Volp, M; Verissimo, P. in Proc's 2<sup>nd</sup> ACM Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems Security and Privacy (2016, October) @CCS, Vienna-Austria*

# Real-Time and Byzantine Resilient Digital Twins: Beyond mere SCADA near-Real-Time Data Dissemination

Modularly build

**PISTIS**

PISTIS: Real-Time Byzantine Atomic Broadcast

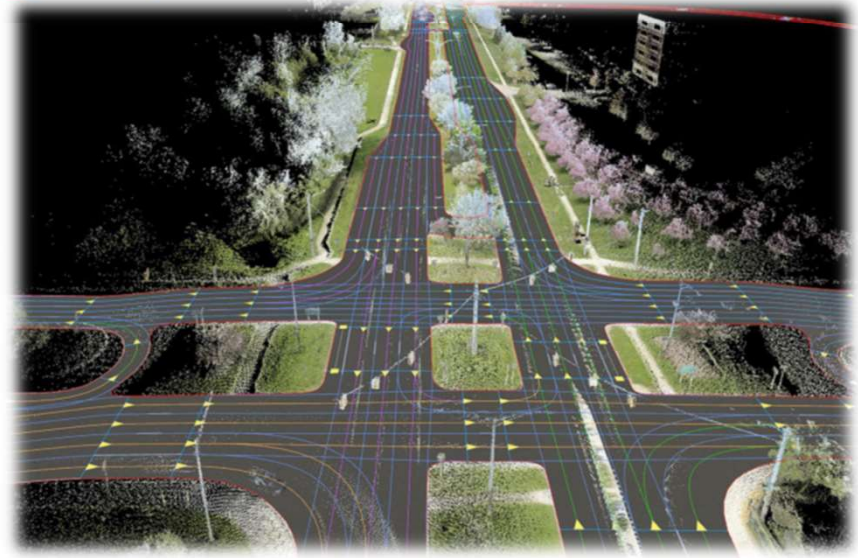
Real-Time Byzantine Consensus

RT-ByzCast: Real-Time Byzantine-Resilient Reliable Broadcast

**RT-ByzCast**

Poorly behaving network  
(unbounded probabilistic losses)

 Research Institute for Collaborative Autonomous and Resilient Systems



Accurate Real-Time Digital Maps  
for Autonomous Driving



D. Kozhaya, J. Decouchant and P. Esteves-Veríssimo, "RT-ByzCast: Real-Time Byzantine-Resilient Reliable Broadcast", *IEEE Transactions on Computers* 2019, Core A\*

Kozhaya, D., Decouchant, J., Rahli, V., & Esteves-Verissimo, P. (2021). PISTIS: An Event-Triggered Real-time Byzantine Resilient Protocol Suite. *IEEE TPDS*. doi:10.1109/tpds.2021.3056718, Core A\*

# Real-Time and Byzantine Resilient Digital Twins: Beyond mere SCADA near-Real-Time Data Dissemination

Modularly build



PISTIS: Real-Time Byzantine  
Atomic Broadcast

PISTIS

**WORLD-FIRST BYZANTINE RELIABLE/ATOMIC BROADCAST PROTOCOL (A.K.A. CONSENSUS) SIMULTANEOUSLY PROVIDING:**

- **RESILIENCE AGAINST BYZANTINE ATTACKS**
- **REAL-TIME OPERATION TOLERATING NETWORK UNCERTAINTIES AND WEAK SYNCHRONY**

RT-ByzCast

Poorly behaving network  
(unbounded probabilistic losses)

Accurate Real-Time Digital Maps  
for Autonomous Driving



D. Kozhaya, J. Decouchant and P. Esteves-Veríssimo, "RT-ByzCast: Real-Time Byzantine-Resilient Reliable Broadcast", IEEE Transactions on Computers 2019, Core A\*

Kozhaya, D., Decouchant, J., Rahli, V., & Esteves-Verissimo, P. (2021). PISTIS: An Event-Triggered Real-time Byzantine Resilient Protocol Suite. IEEE TPDS. doi:10.1109/tpds.2021.3056718, Core A\*

***Intrusion Resilience System (IRS)***  
***Trustworthy Autonomous***  
***Vehicles Architecture (SAVVY)***

**Towards sustainable  
security and safety  
*In AV control***



**KAUST**  
**In-house**  
**Projects**  
**2021----**

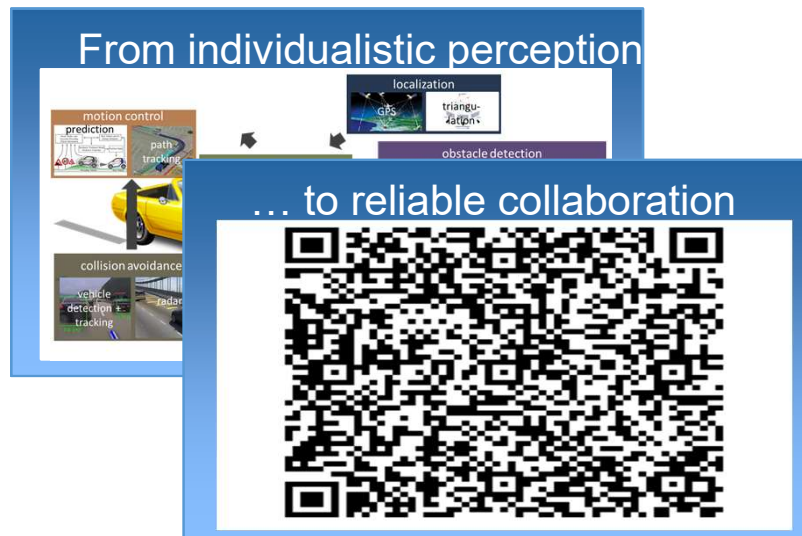


# Towards sustainable security and safety

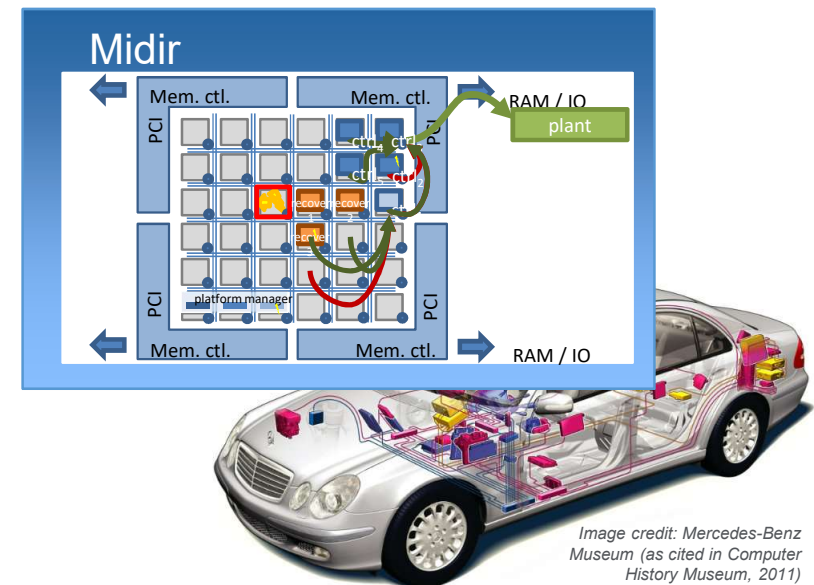
(inspired by precursor projects Karyon (EU) and ICRI CARS (INTEL))

## Resilient DRT autonomous control --- general driving

Collaboration among autonomous vehicles (V2V, V2I)



Fault and intrusion tolerant control in-vehicle by eliminating SPOFs, in particular at operating-system level



# *Intrusion Resilience System (IRS)*



**Towards sustainable  
security and safety  
*In AV control***





# Intrusion Resilience System (IRS)

*The Concept: intrusion masking for real-time fault and intrusion tolerance (R/T FIT)*

Our scope: *In-vehicle systems as Distributed systems of ECUs*

- IRS as a **distributed** service/middleware/library securing critical real-time in-car applications
- ***Distributed State Machines*** over a number of diverse ECUs

*A. Shoker, V. Rahli, J. Decouchant and P. Esteves-Verissimo, "Intrusion Resilience Systems for Modern Vehicles," 2023 IEEE 97th Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC2023-Spring), Florence, Italy, 2023*

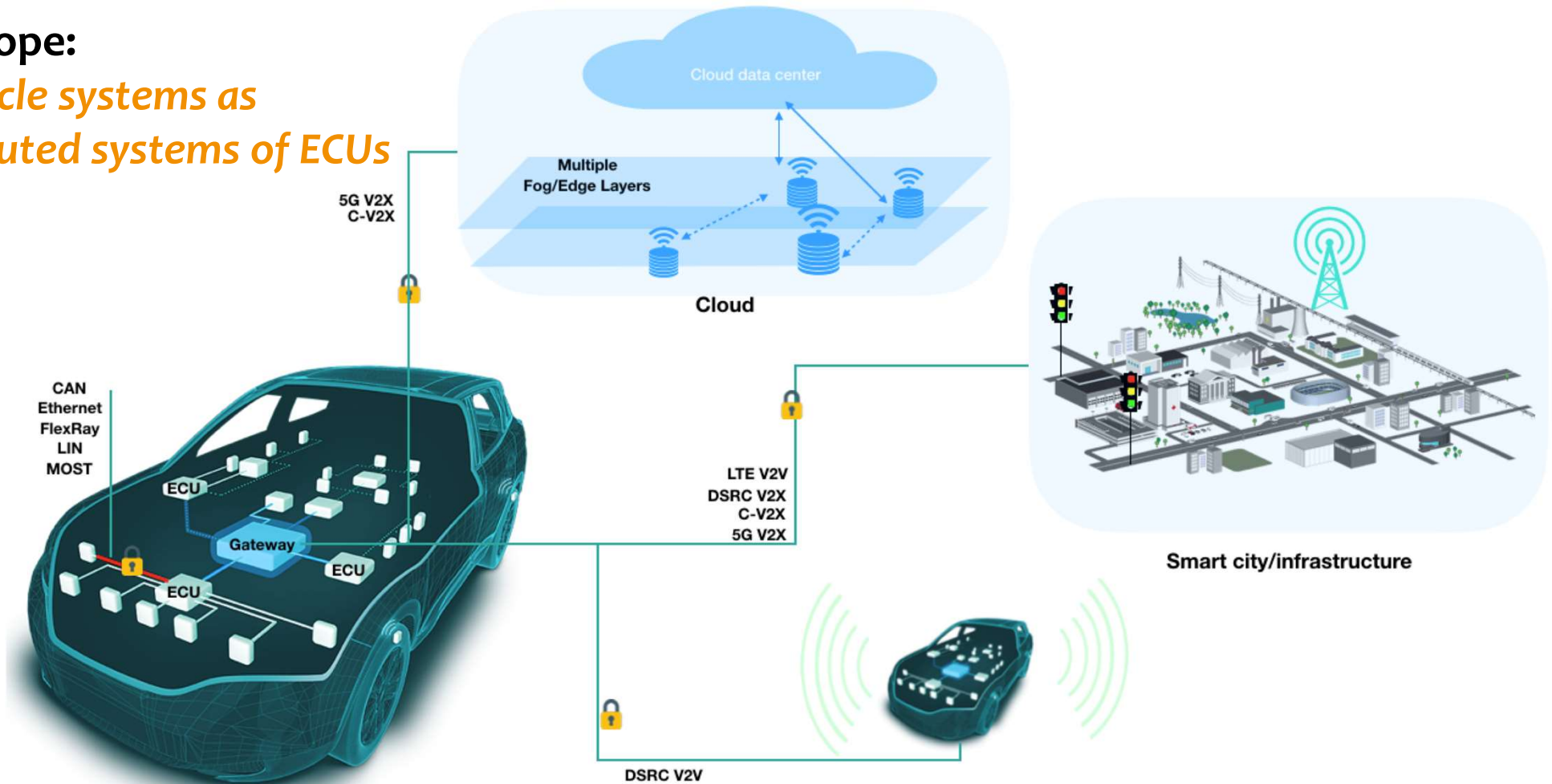




# Automotive Ecosystem

Our scope:

*In-vehicle systems as  
Distributed systems of ECUs*

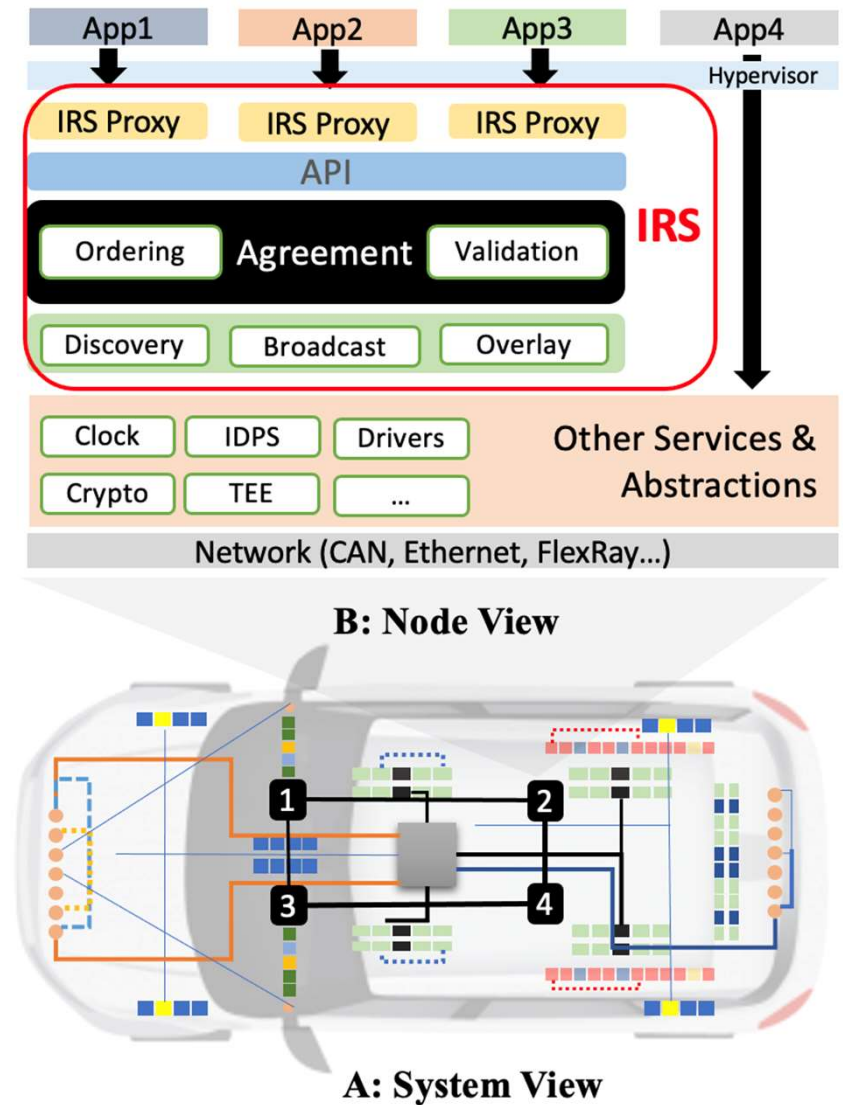




# Intrusion Resilience System (IRS)

## The Concept: intrusion masking

- IRS as a **distributed** service/middleware/library
- A critical application (process) is **fully replicated**
- Replicas form a ***Distributed State Machine*** over a number of ECUs
- Decisions are only made through **Byzantine agreement** (BA/BFT )
- Integrity of decisions is guaranteed despite intrusion faults of  **$f$  out of  $N$  ( $3f+1/2f+1$ )** replicas



# The Path to Fault- and Intrusion-Resilient Manycore Systems on a Chip

- ***distributed, parallelized, reconfigurable, heterogeneous...***
  - the very features that cause many of the imminent and emerging security and resilience challenges, can, through ...
- ***replication, hybridization, diversity, rejuvenation, adaptation,***
  - also open avenues for their cure through SoC architecting ...
- This disruptive paper (@DSN2023 Disrupt track) suggests paths across the entire SoC hardware/software stack.
- **Modular FIT in modern cars offers a promising application domain**

The  
«YES WE CAN»  
paper

*Shoker, P. Esteves-Verissimo and M. Völp, "The Path to Fault- and Intrusion-Resilient Manycore Systems on a Chip," 53rd IEEE/IFIP DSN Int'l Conference, Disrupt Track (DSN-S), Porto, Portugal, 2023.  
doi: 10.1109/DSN-S58398.2023.00043.*



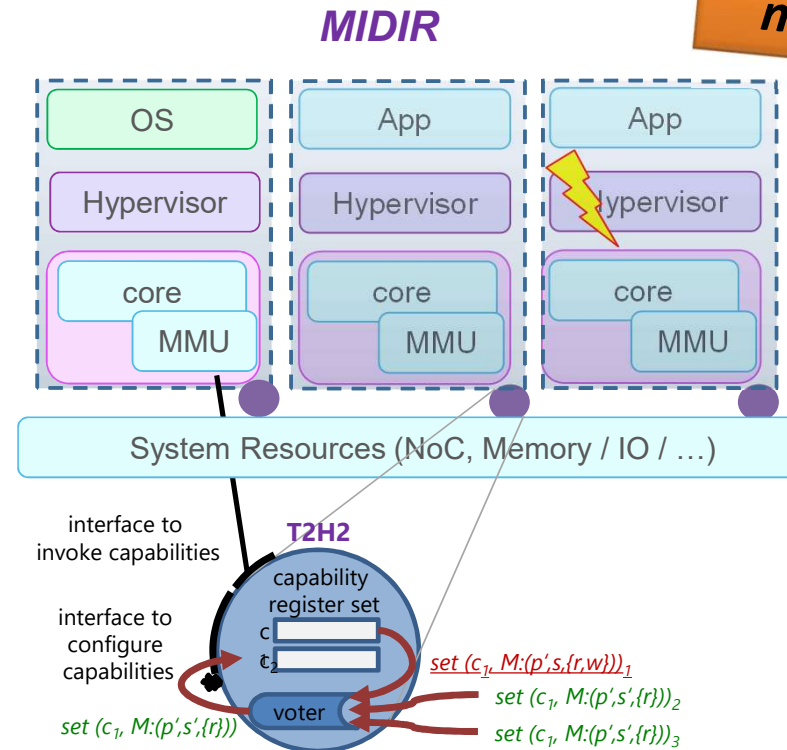
# Distributed Systems-on-a-Chip (DisSoC) leveraging Ultra-resilient minimal roots-of-trust

[2016]

The Enabling mechanism

=> Patent applications

- Threats have been permeating all levels of architecture.
- And we are always one step “late”:
  - we rely on high-level protection (Paxos, BFT,...)
  - threats haunt below (hyp, ME, hw)
  - lost battle: general 0-defect infeasible
- Leverage properties of manycore systems:
  - distributed systems-on-a-chip (DisSoC)**
  - reinstantiate protection techniques at low enough level (detection, self-check, tolerance)



*Behind the Last Line of Defense -- Surviving SoC Faults and Intrusions. Pinto Gouveia, Ines; Voelp, Marcus; Esteves-Verissimo, Paulo. arXiv preprint arXiv:2005.04096 (2020). Computers & Security, Vol.123, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cose.2022.102920>.*



***Trustworthy Autonomous  
Vehicles Architecture (SAVVY)***



**Towards sustainable  
security and safety  
*In AV control***





# Savvy: Trustworthy AI/ML powered Autonomous Vehicles Architecture

*Homogeneous ML-based systems cannot give strong assurance and resilience guarantees*

*Revisit the current fundamentals of GPT based safety-critical AV architectures:*

(i) finding a balance between **intelligence and trustworthiness**, considering *efficiency and functionality* brought in by AI/ML, while prioritizing indispensable *safety and security*;

(ii) developing an advanced architecture reconciling the **stochastic** nature of AI/ML (**uncertainty**) with the **determinism** of driving control theory (**predictability**)

*Ali Shoker, Rehana Yasmin & Paulo Esteves-Verissimo. RC3@KAUST.  
(Work in progress) . Symposium on Vehicle Security and Privacy  
(VehicleSec 2024) @NDSS Feb. 2024, San Diego, CA-US.  
arXiv <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2402.14580>*





# Autonomous Driving under attack

“Adversary”:

**Inadequate or insufficient Machine Learning mechanisms!**



Camel visible



No slow down



Tesla hits camel

Ever seen Tesla hit a Camel??



# Predicates abstracting the main AI/ML-based AV failure syndromes

- **Issue 1**

*Confusion in Command and Control*

– (ML model mapping of the controlled process and environment)

- **Issue 2**

*Better-precise-than-timely (All-or-Nothing)*

– (ML classification paradigm is timeliness-agnostic)



## Incident Analysis (NTSB & NHTSA)

Tesla, Volvo, GM Cruise, Honda

Acura

### Issue 1

## *Confusion in Command and Control*

Vehicle has not made any slow-down or braking

- AD system could not make a decision
- Late driver handover is being done

Features disabled, ignored sensor inputs

- No reliable system that oversees vehicle state
- No reliable system to take over vs. waiting handover forever



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Tesla, Volvo, GM Cruise, Honda  
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### Issue 1

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broken or ignored  
sensors

- No reliable system that oversees vehicle state
- No reliable system to take over vs waiting handover late or forever

### Issue 2

*ML classification oriented  
to Better-precise-than-  
timely (All-or-Nothing)*

No mentioning to  
"invalid" or  
"indeterminate" or  
"not-converging"  
classification

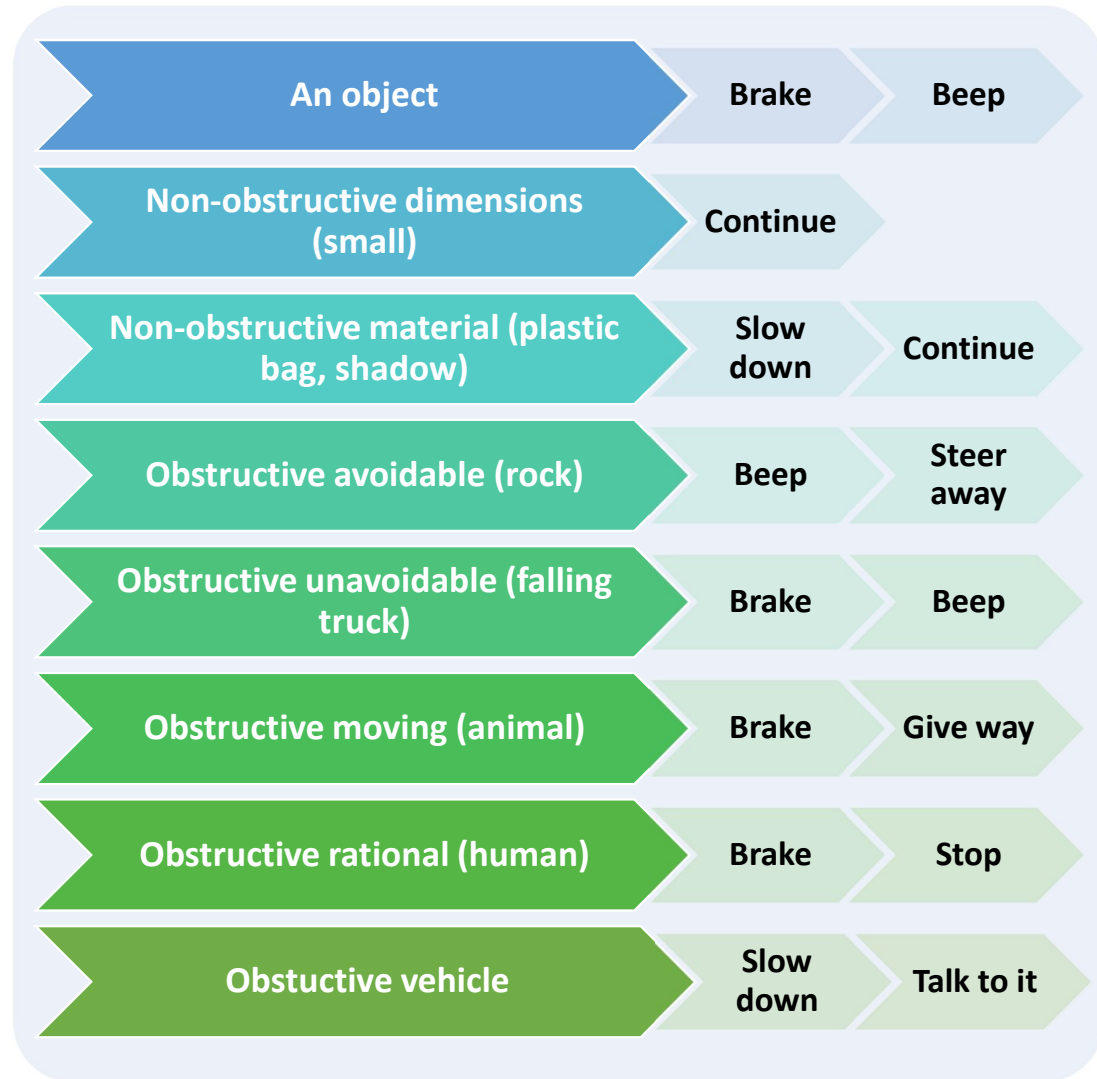
- ML has not delivered early enough
- ML failed to recognize an obstacle

## E.G.: Obstacle Avoidance Task

### Solution Hypothesis

Tune ML to infer a hierarchy of useful insights that are: **time-bounded; trade accuracy for delay**

Dynamic Neural Networks that allow for model deformation using depth and width adjustment (early exiting, skipping, pruning, etc.), choosing the adequate protocol using Neural Architecture Search or parameter (Weights, Space, or Channel).



More accurate  
but slower

# Savvy's approach

## Issue

ML optimized for Better-precise-than-timely (All-or-Nothing)

## Solution

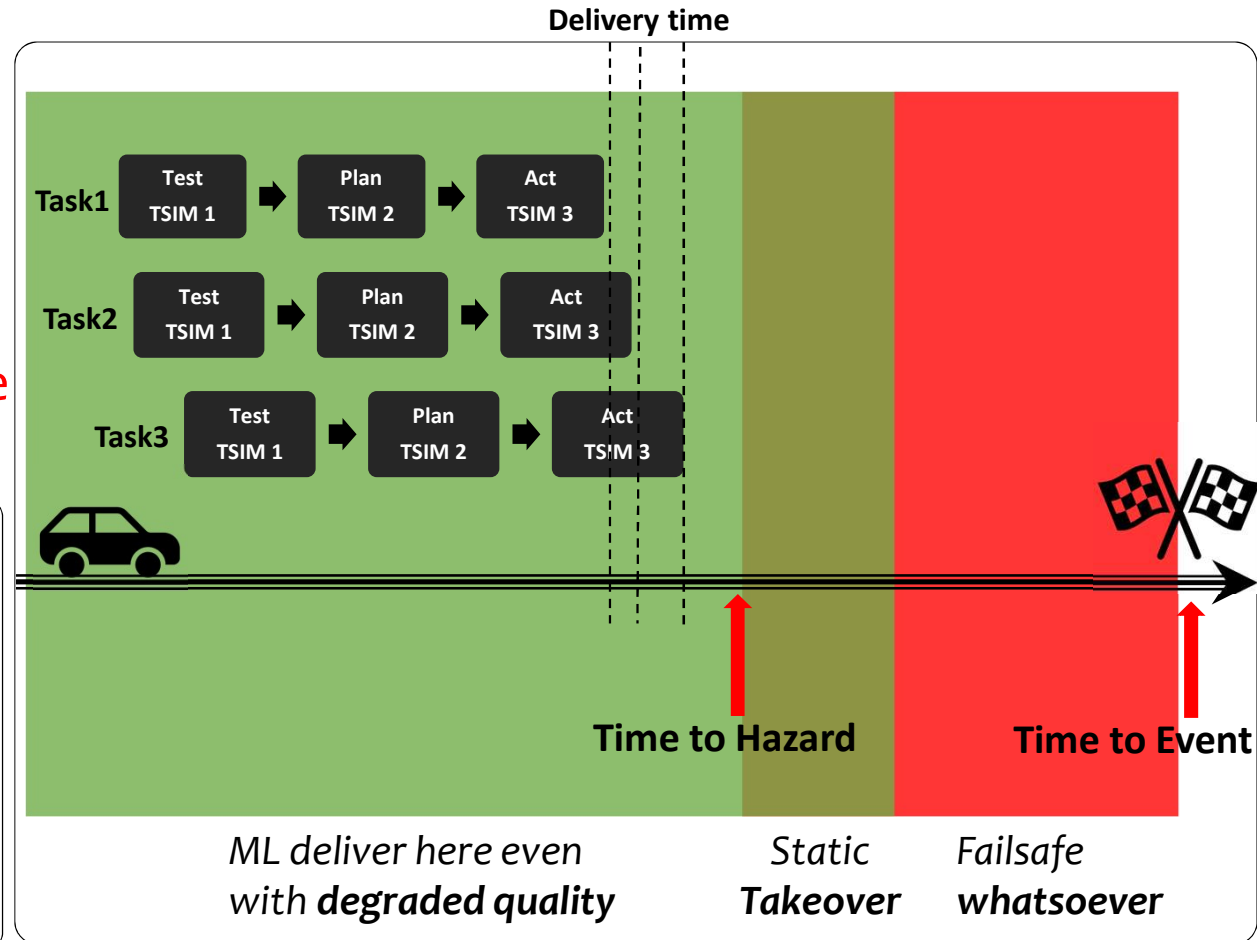
calibrated ML for -Time-aware predictive quality degradation

## Issue

Confusion in Command and Control

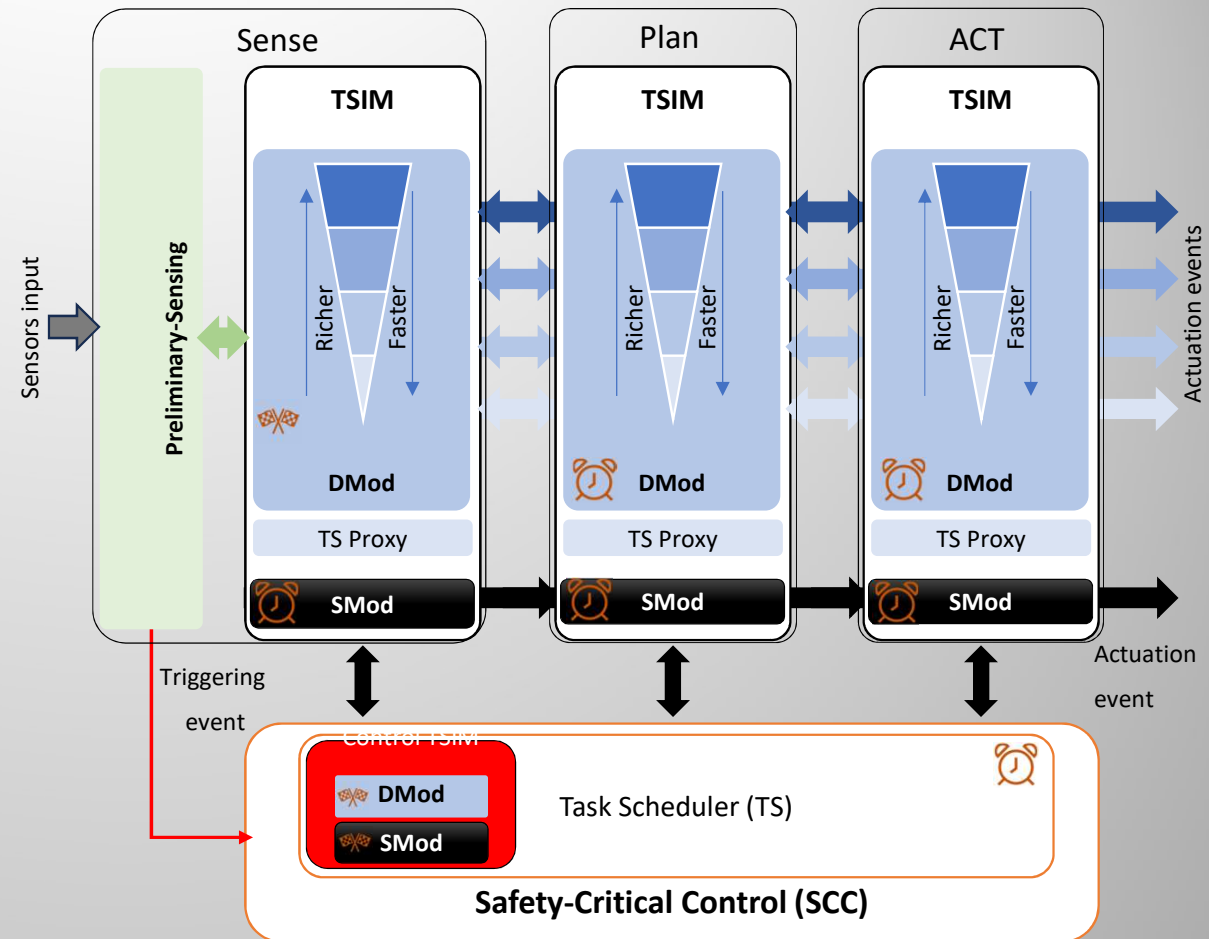
## Solution

Safety-critical Superv. Control System  
Hybrid takes-over whatsoever



# Savvy Architecture

- Preliminary Sensing
  - Detect an Event
  - Define Time-to-Event (T2E)
  
- Safety-Critical Control (SCC)
  - Define Time-to-Hazard (T2H)
  - Set T2E and T2H timers
  - Schedule Tasks over Time-Sensitive Intelligent Modules (TSIM)
  
- Timer  $T2H \ll T2E$ :
  - TSIM tunes ML model to deliver before T2H
  
- Timer  $T2H = T2E$ 
  - Fail-operational: SCC takes over



# ***Indispensable Key AV Design Principles***

***(whose value was confirmed by the consequences of their lack, over the talk)***


- ***Fundamental principles:***
  - Real-time *context awareness and sentience* of AV body and of environment;
  - Reconciling *predictability with uncertainty* of open environments
- ***-- Modularity and hybridisation for efficient, safe and economic control architectures***
  - *Fault and intrusion tolerant control in-vehicle, eliminating SPOFs (by attacks or accidents)*
  - *Modular In-vehicle systems as Distributed systems of ECUs (leverage open ECU market)*
  - *ECUs from multicore chips as Distributed Systems-on-a-Chip (DisSoC) (for cost efficient implementation of functions above)*
  - *Trusted-trustworthy hardware-assisted Architectural Hybridisation (ultimately trusted minimal modules)*
- ***--- Algorithms and mechanisms predicates for predictability and correctness in face of uncertainty***
  - *Sensor Diversity, Correlation, Adaptive fusion, providing context awareness with acceptable coverage in open environments*
  - *Control SW Hybridisation layers of Variable complexity; these layers not converging or faulty, ultra-resilient hybrids (roots-of-trust) enforce timely and ultimately trusted take-over as last resort (not hand-over!), toward fail-op or fail-safe termination*
  - *Resilient R/T communication (V2V, V2I, V2NonSentientPlayers, e.g. humans), to enable Cooperation (no Individualistic cars!)*
  - *Protocols and architectures reconciling the stochastic nature of AI/ML with the determinism of driving control theory*

## ***KEY TAKE-AWAYS*** ***(or... a wake-up call to AV manufacturers):***

- *Ecosystem mindset is indispensable*
- *Laws and regulations, “no Far-West”*
- *AV systems (AI/ML or other) cannot ignore distributed real-time systems and control theory, i.e. .... computer interpreted physics*
- *«If it ain’t secure, it ain’t safe» -- safety and security go together*
- *Reconciliation of uncertainty with predictability must be an inherent design predicate, not an after thought, a question of “training better”*
- *Modular and tech. neutral resilience solutions, from mechanical to cyber*


in Search Home My Network Jobs

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Credit legalbeagle.com

## On the Quantitative PaperMetrics culture in research

 Paulo Esteves-Veríssimo ✓  
Research Fellow at FCUL– Faculdade de Ciências da Uni. Lisboa (PT);  
Research Fellow at SnT– Uni. Luxembourg (LU); Former Professor and...

March 29, 2024

*About a side subject discussed at the meeting (ref. a LI post made some time ago):*

In my humble opinion, there are two sides to what's happening:

- (1) the quantitative paper-metrics culture itself;
- (2) its use to evaluate/compare researchers/ faculty across areas or subareas.

- (1) is *inadequate*,
- (2) is intellectually *dishonest*.

***The end.***

***Thank you!***  
***Paulo Esteves-Veríssimo***