

ROS AS AN ENABLER

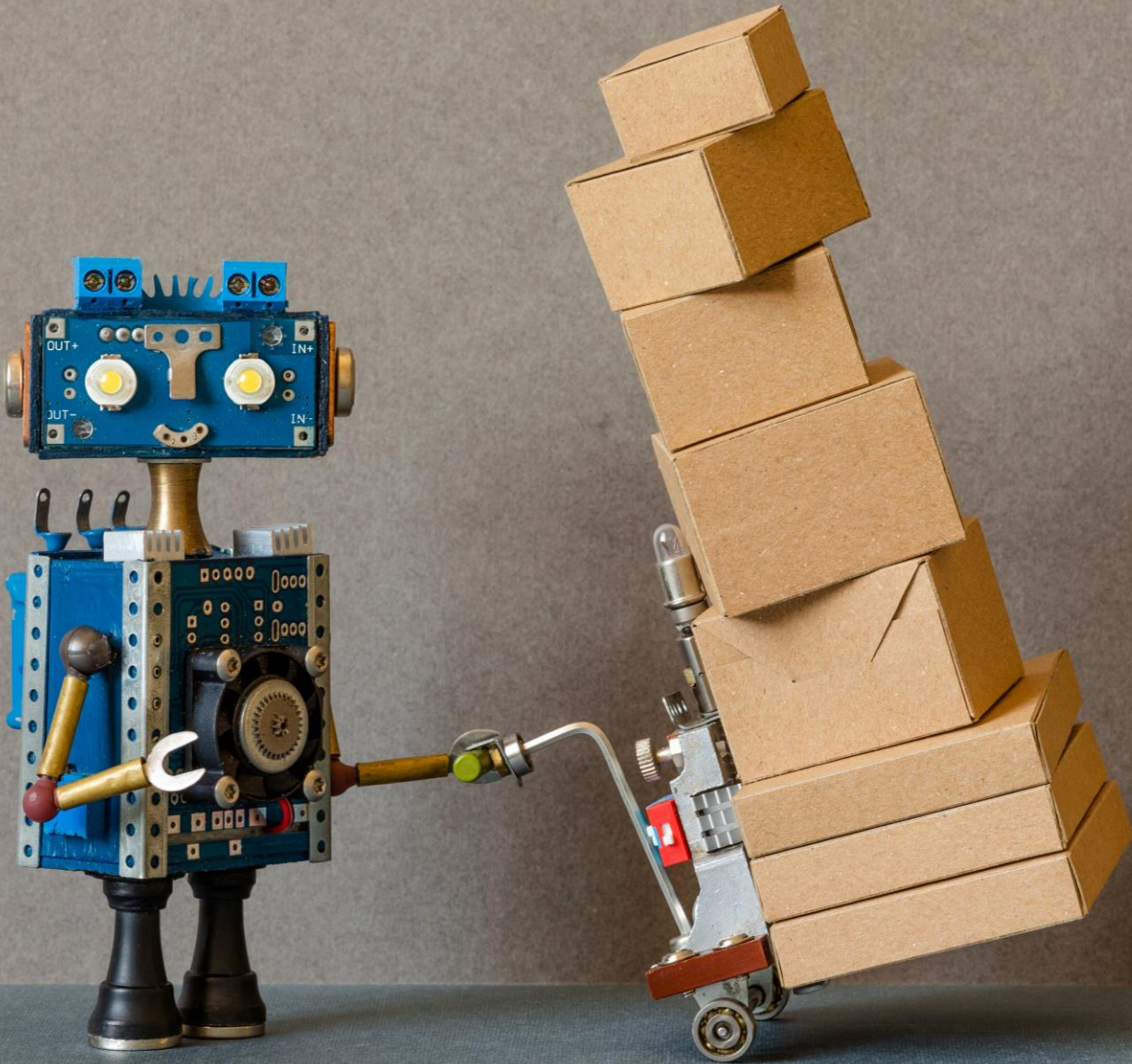
FROM FINNISH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE TO GLOBAL FIELD AND SERVICE ROBOTICS MARKETS

FIIF - ROS SEMINAR

22.09.2022

D.Sc.(Tech.) Mika Vainio





CONTENT

- BONUS
- INTRO
- COE-GIM
- A MECHATRONIC MESS
- MIDDLEWARE: GIMNET -> ROS
- ROS
- UNI->BIZ = GIM ROBOTICS
- ROS@BIZ
- ROS2@BIZ
- FUTURE



NEWS: From assistant systems to autonomous trams. Škoda anti-collision system



Copyright: Škoda Group
<https://gimrobotics.fi/stop-the-press/>

OUR HISTORY



CoE-GIM: CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN GENERIC INTELLIGENT MACHINES RESEARCH (2008 – 2013)



GENERAL RESEARCH GOALS OF GIM

- ◆ The focus of GIM covers mobile machines, intended to some useful work, from ordinary working machines to futuristic service robots experienced this far only in sci-fi movies.
- ◆ The future development of those machines will take place under a generic framework, which opens up novel possibilities to create new mechatronic machines through a modular design and manufacturing.

HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Automation Technology Laboratory ATL

Founded in 1985; director prof. Halme

Belongs to the Department of Automation and Systems Engineering at TKK

Institute of Hydraulics and Automation IHA

Founded in 1988; director prof. Vilenius

Belongs to the Department of Intelligent Hydraulics and Automation at TUT

GIM was founded by a common declaration 17.10.2005 and officially by Finnish Academy 1.1.2008

PERSONNEL

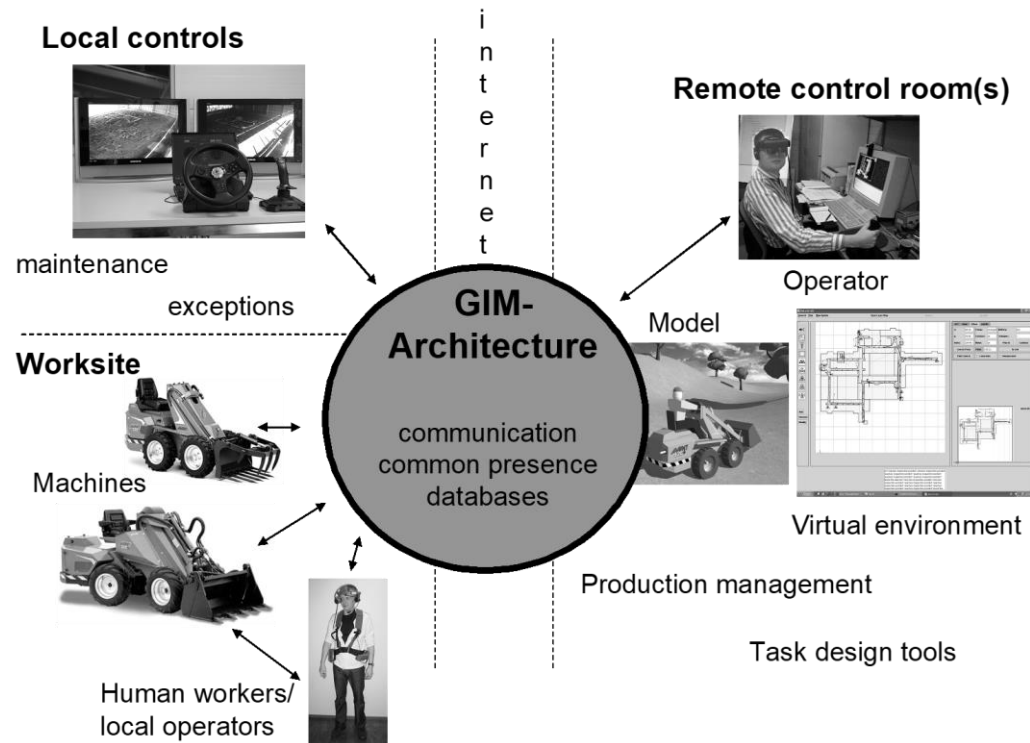
- ◆ The head of the CoE is Prof. Aarne Halme
- ◆ Staff size is about 50 including 14 professors or senior researchers, more than 30 doctoral students and some supporting personnel
- ◆ A senior researcher is responsible for tutoring and mentoring of 2 - 2.5 doctoral students
- ◆ The objective is to produce the minimum of 7 D.Sc annually

RESEARCH PACKAGES IN THE AGENDA

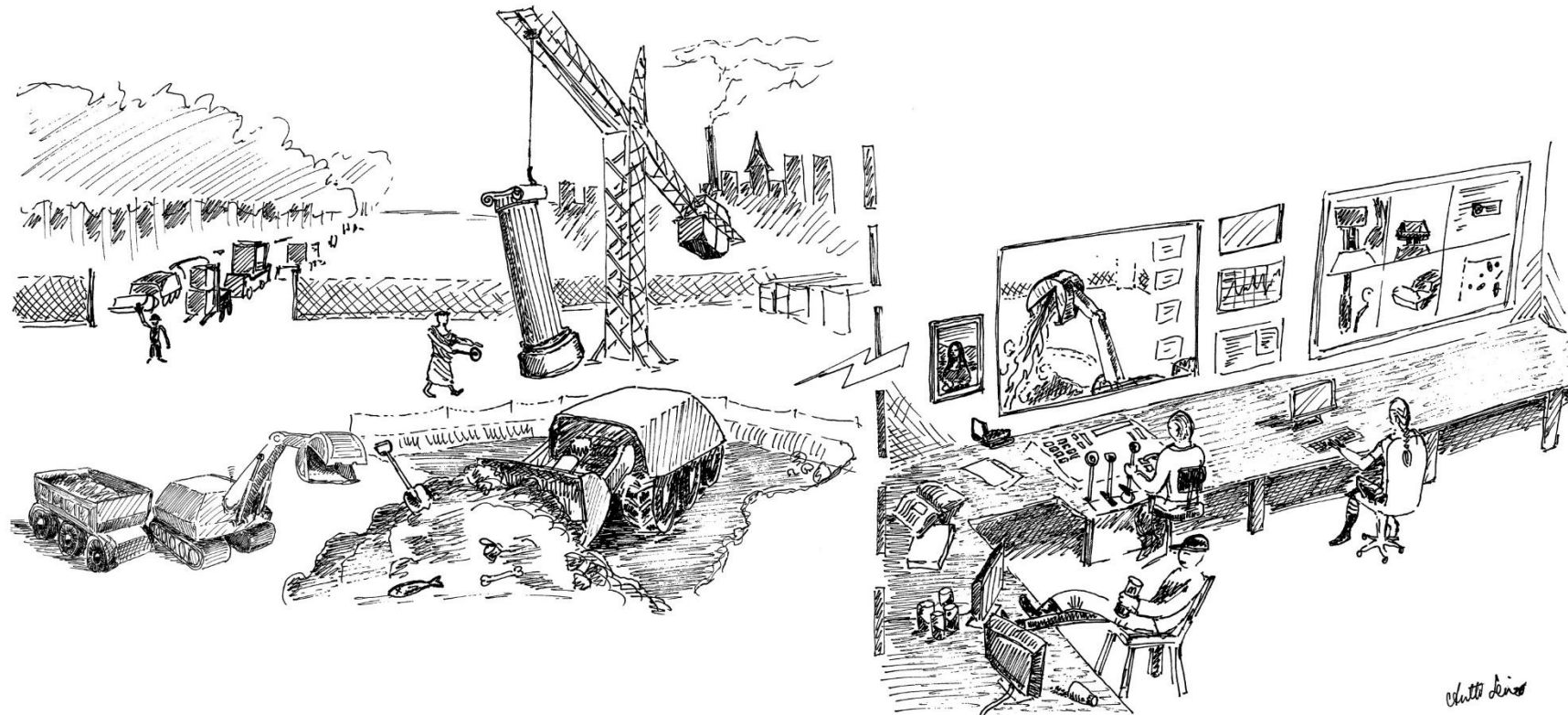
- ◆ **RP 2 Modularity of generic machines**
- ◆ **RP 3-4 Power and energy systems**
- ◆ **RP 5 Control Architectures**
- ◆ **RP 6 Perception and navigation systems**
- ◆ **RP 7 Human-Robotic Machine Interaction**
- ◆ **RP 8 Motion Systems**

GENERAL GOALS 2008-10

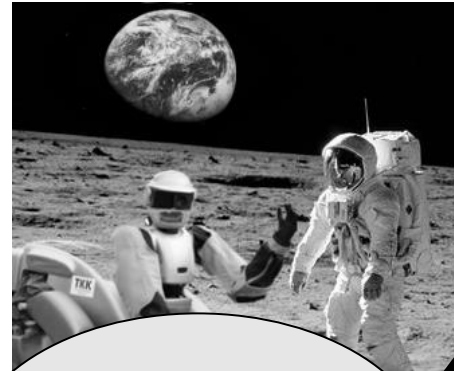
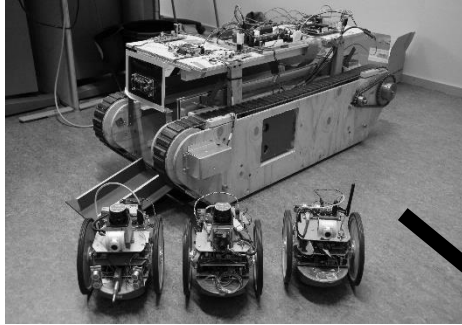
- ◆ RPs set their own detail goals.
- ◆ Common goal is to demonstrate "Future worksite" concept in practice in RP 9 (Integrator)



FUTURE WORKSITE CONCEPT



TESTBEDS



Future
worksite



FUTURE WORKSITE DEMONSTRATION

- ◆ Hardware
 - ◆ 3 AVANT machines
 - ◆ GIM-machine
 - ◆ WorkPartner
 - ◆ Multi-robot test system
 - ◆ Experimental manipulator
 - ◆ "Electronic" field worker

- ◆ All machines connected to GIMnet



MACHINES

- ◆ Digital hydraulics implemented and in use
- ◆ Hybrid power systems
- ◆ Direct electro-hydraulic drives and recovery of hydraulic energy in electrical form, demonstrations
- ◆ Rolling walking and other special motion control methods demonstrations
- ◆ Navigation and environment perception modules implemented.



FUNCTIONS

- ◆ Navigation and 3 D mapping of the environment based on camera and ladar data. Flexible transition between indoor and outdoor spaces.
- ◆ Learning and execution of simple tasks
- ◆ Adaptation to environment during task execution (e.g. visual servoing)
- ◆ Interaction and collaboration with operator (locally or remotely)
- ◆ Natural communication between human and machine.
- ◆ Task planning using simulators.
- ◆ Optimization of the power system



SIMULATION

- ◆ Dynamical and simplified models of machines.
- ◆ Simulation of terrain effects. On-line updating of measured terrain parameters to the simulation model.
- ◆ FWS simulator showing all actors in the system.
- ◆ Augmented views.

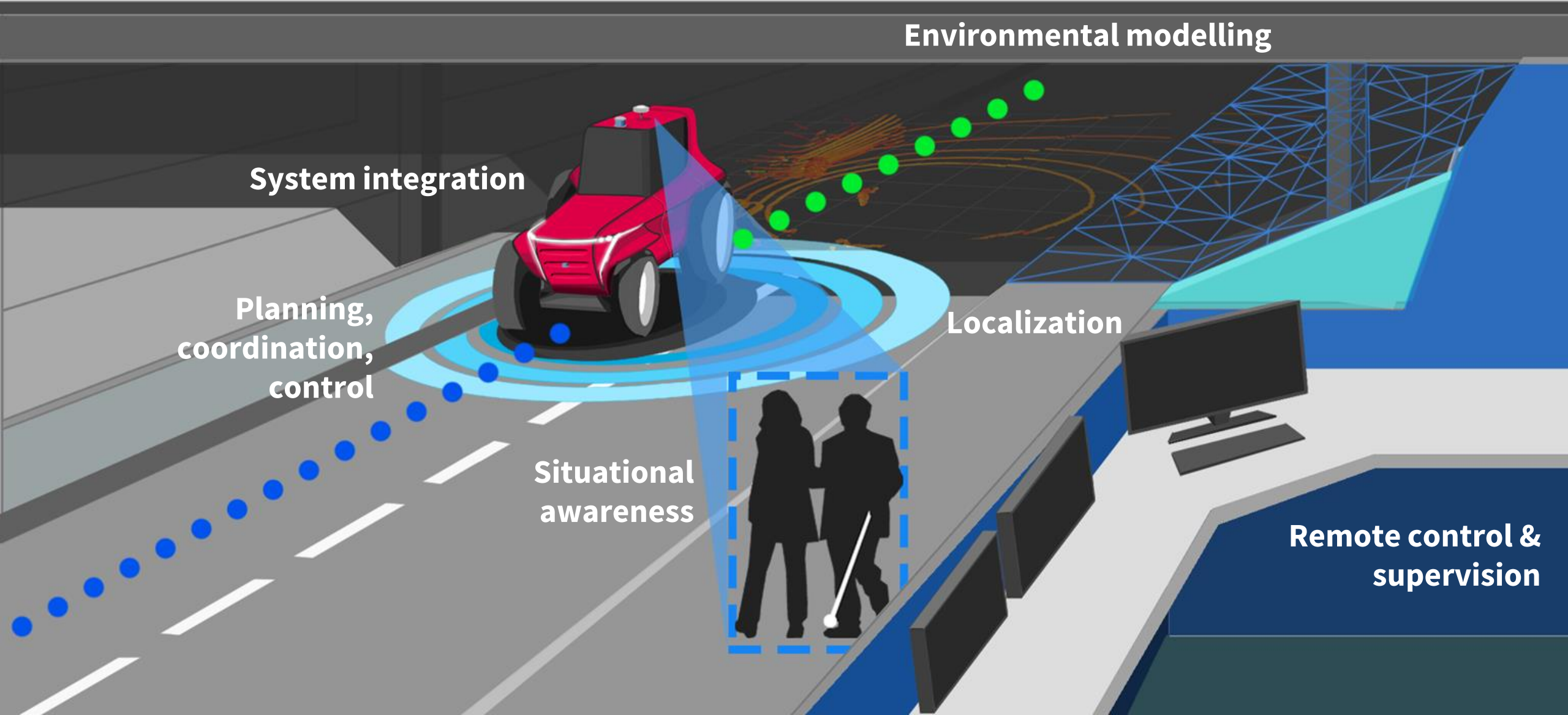


**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN GENERIC INTELLIGENT
MACHINES RESEARCH (2008 – 2013)**

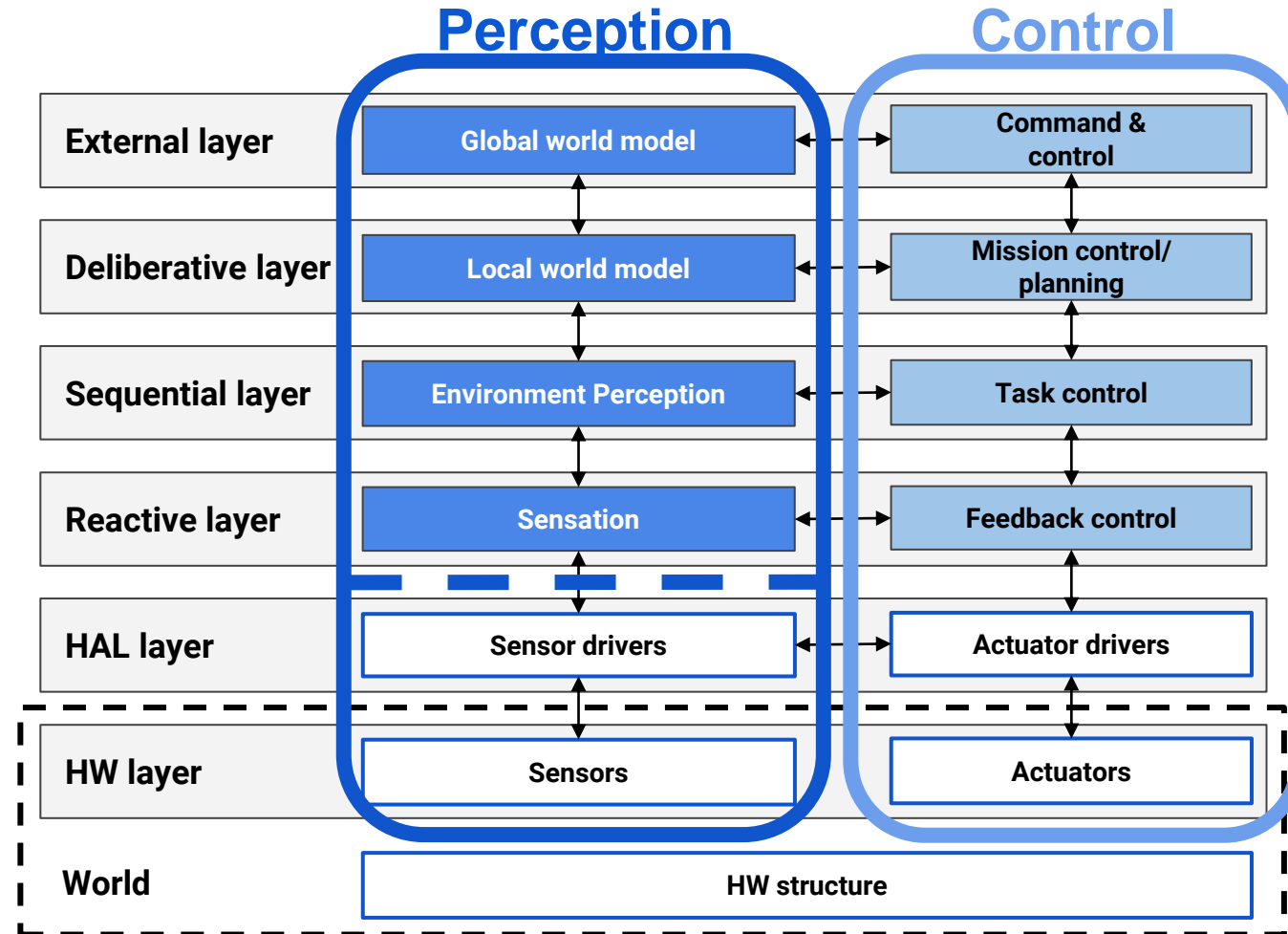
PRESENT DAY



What is needed to fully automate a mobile machine?



FULL-STACK ARCHITECTURE



Legend

Generic technology solution

Application specific solutions

Platform & hardware specific solution

**AN ADVANCED FIELD & SERVICE ROBOT IS A MESS,
CONSISTING OF NUMEROUS MODULES, WHICH NEED TO BE
ABLE TO INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER, WITH THE USER,
WITH THE WORLD AND WITH SOME OTHER ROBOTS.**

A MECHATRONIC MESS



TO CONNECT ALL THOSE MODULES NICELY, YOU NEED A SYSTEM THAT MAKES SURE THAT THE BYTES ARE MOVING AS EXPECTED – TO RIGHT PLACE AND FAST ENOUGH.

THE MIDDLEWARE

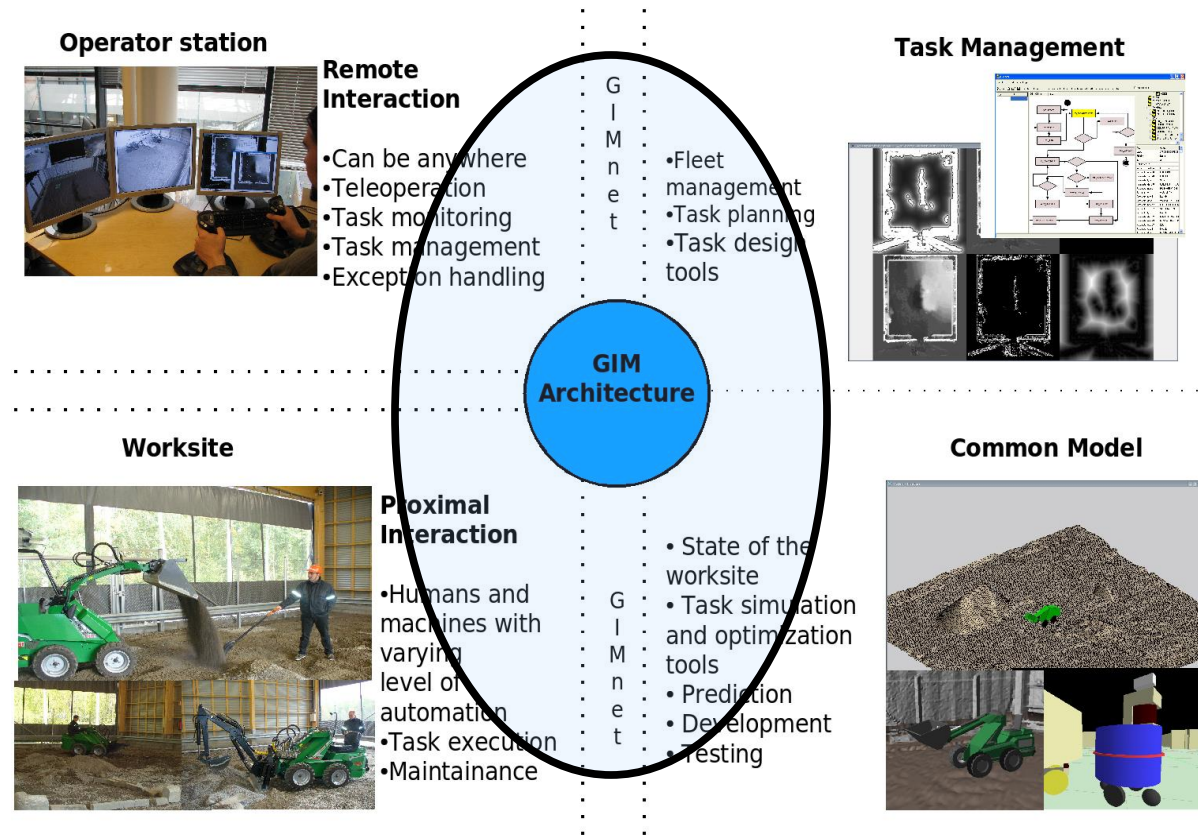


OUR OWN: GIMNET

First publication 2007: Saarinen, J., Maula, A., Nissinen, R., Kukkonen, H., Suomela, J., & Halme, A. (2007). GIMnet - Infrastructure for distributed control of Generic Intelligent Machines. In *The 13th IASTED International Conference on Robotics and Applications Telematics*

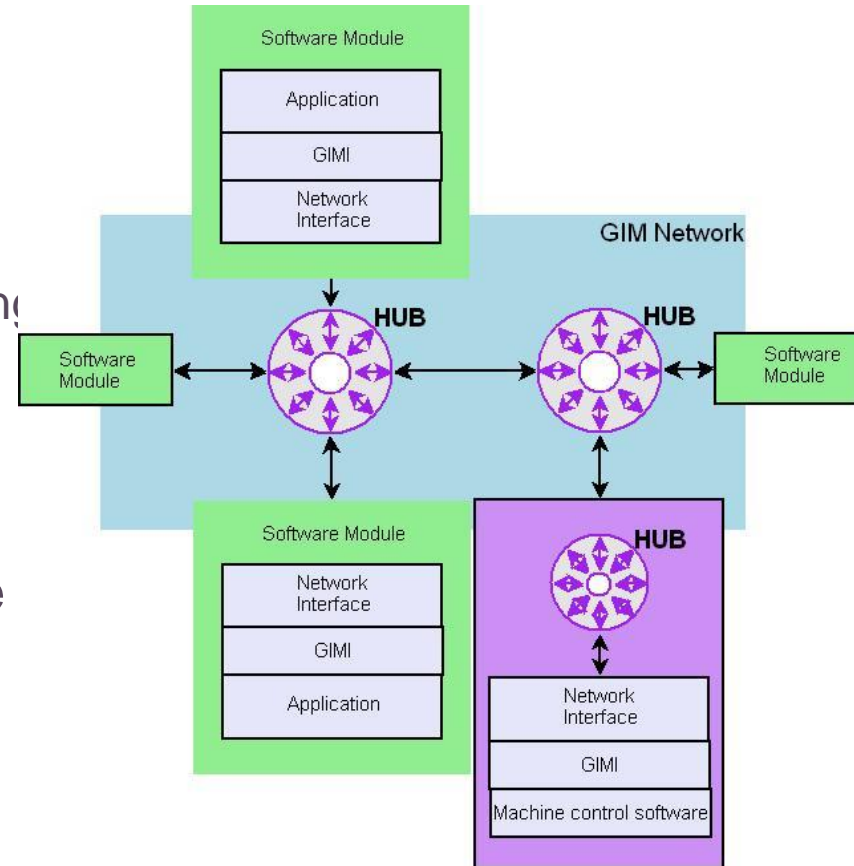


Architecture



GIMnet

- GIMnet is a Remote Process Communication system
- Hybrid architecture
 - a VPN-type of solution allows bypassing of firewalls, while allowing p2p
- Network layer consists of hubs
- Hubs connect to each other and nodes (“clients”) connect to hubs
- Client-side libraries for ease-of-use
 - User side library GIMI



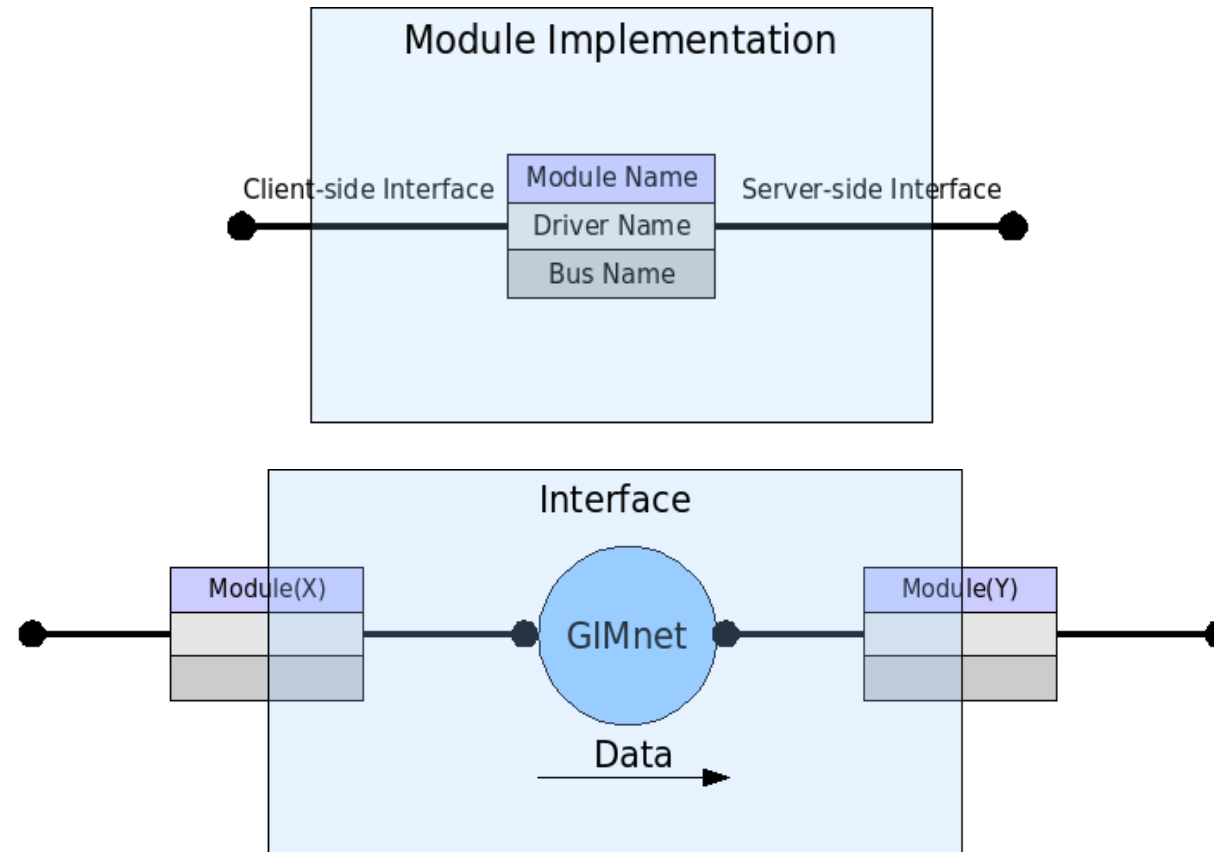
GIMnet features

- ◆ Distributed name and ID service (tcpHub)
- ◆ Unicast, multicast, broadcast (tcpHub + GIMI)
- ◆ Synchronized and unsynchronized data transmission
- ◆ Automatic hub-to-hub and client-to-hub reconnect
- ◆ In-built service based messaging
 - ◆ Provided and accepted
 - ◆ Service registration, subscription and listing

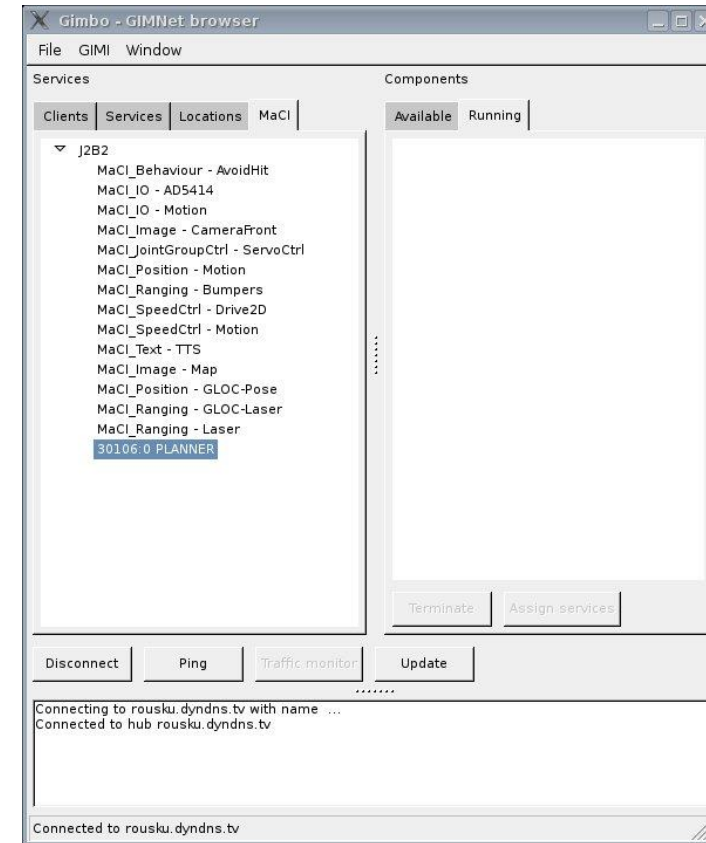
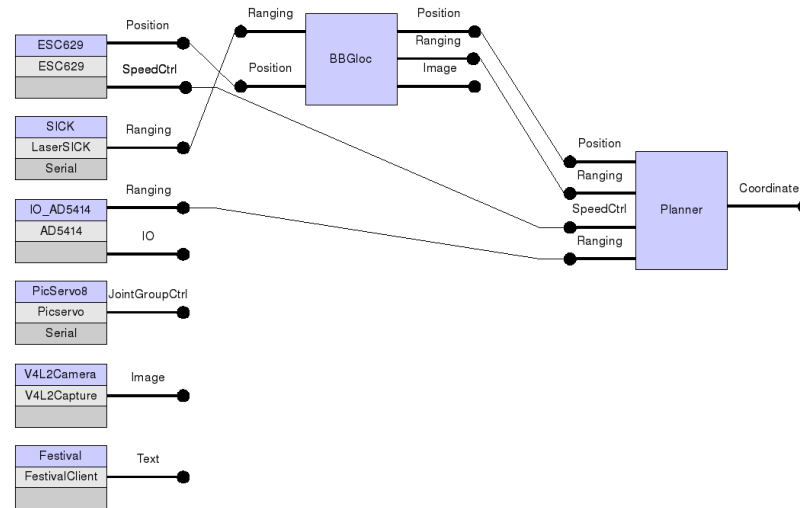
Machine Control Interface - MaCI

- ◆ Service oriented, modular, reusable, robot control library
- ◆ Communication based on GIMnet
- ◆ Module is an interface implementation
- ◆ Interface acts as a Hardware Abstraction Layer
- ◆ Interface consists of a data description, a "server" and "client"

MaCI - module and interface



GIMnet/MaCI Example



GIMNET -> ROS

- GIMNET EVENTUALLY HAD TO BE PUT ASIDE, BECAUSE ROS PROVIDED A SUPERIOR ECOSYSTEM AND TOOLS THAT SAVE A LOT OF EFFORT.
- VISUALIZATION, DIAGNOSTICS, DATA RECORDING, AND GEOMETRY UTILITIES TO NAME A FEW.

ROS

The Robot Operating System (ROS) is a set of software libraries and tools that help you build robot applications. From drivers to state-of-the-art algorithms, and with powerful developer tools, ROS has what you need for your next robotics project. And it's all open source.

SOURCE: <http://wiki.ros.org/ROS/Introduction>

ROS

ROS (Robot Operating System) is an open-source, meta-operating system for your robot. It provides the services you would expect from an operating system, including hardware abstraction, low-level device control, implementation of commonly-used functionality, message-passing between processes, and package management. It also provides tools and libraries for obtaining, building, writing, and running code across multiple computers.

SOURCE: <http://wiki.ros.org/ROS/Introduction>

DISTRIBUTED COMPUTATION

Many modern robot systems rely on software that spans many different processes and runs across several different computers:

- Some robots carry multiple computers, each of which controls a subset of the robot's sensors or actuators.
- Even within a single computer, it's often a good idea to divide the robot's software into small, stand-alone parts that cooperate to achieve the overall goal.
- When multiple robots attempt to cooperate on a shared task, they often need to communicate with one another to coordinate their efforts.
- Human users often send commands to a robot from a laptop, a desktop computer, or mobile device. We can think of this human interface as an extension of the robot's software.

SOFTWARE REUSE

The rapid progress of robotics research has resulted in a growing collection of good algorithms for common tasks such as navigation, motion planning, mapping, and many others. The existence of these algorithms is only truly useful if there is a way to apply them in new contexts, without the need to reimplement each algorithm for each new system.

ROS can help in at least two important ways:

- ROS's standard packages provide stable, debugged implementations of many important robotics algorithms.
- ROS's message passing interface is becoming a *de facto* standard for robot software interoperability, which means that ROS interfaces to both the latest hardware and to implementations of cutting edge algorithms are quite often available. For example, the ROS website lists hundreds of publicly-available ROS packages. This sort of uniform interface greatly reduces the need to write "glue" code to connect existing parts.

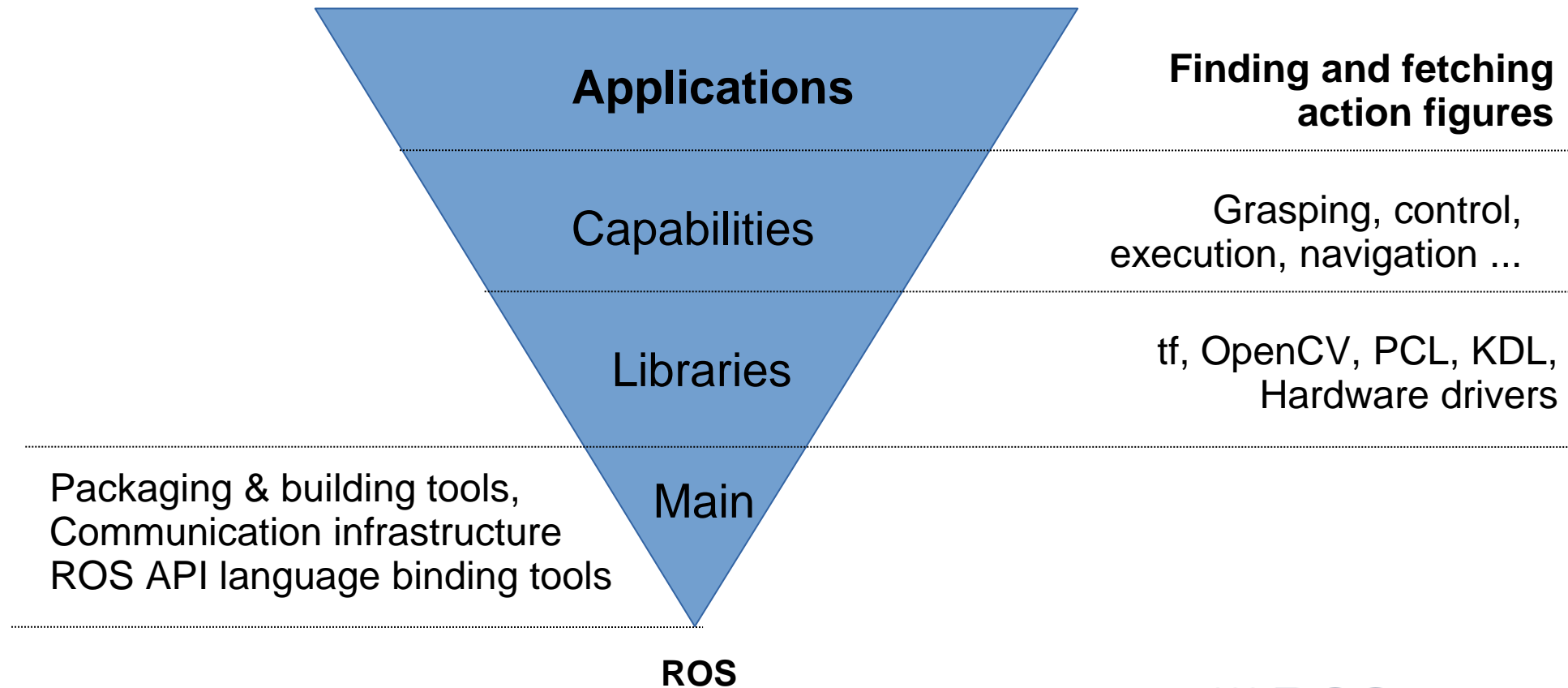
RAPID TESTING

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What does ROS get you ?



ROS Tools

- roscore
- roscd
- rosmmsg
- rostopic
- rosservice
- roswtf
- rosrn
- roslaunch
- rviz
- rosed
- rosparam
- rqt_logger_level
- rqt_console
- rqt_graph
- catkin_create_pkg
- catkin_make

rostopic

The rostopic command-line tool displays information about ROS topics. Currently, it can display a list of active topics, the publishers and subscribers of a specific topic, the publishing rate of a topic, the bandwidth of a topic, and messages published to a topic. The display of messages is configurable to output in a plotting-friendly format.

◆ **This is the current list of supported commands:**

◆ rostopic bw	display bandwidth used by topic
rostopic delay	display delay for topic which has header
rostopic echo	print messages to screen
rostopic find	find topics by type
rostopic hz	display publishing rate of topic
rostopic info	print information about active topic
rostopic list	print information about active topics
rostopic pub	publish data to topic
rostopic type	print topic type

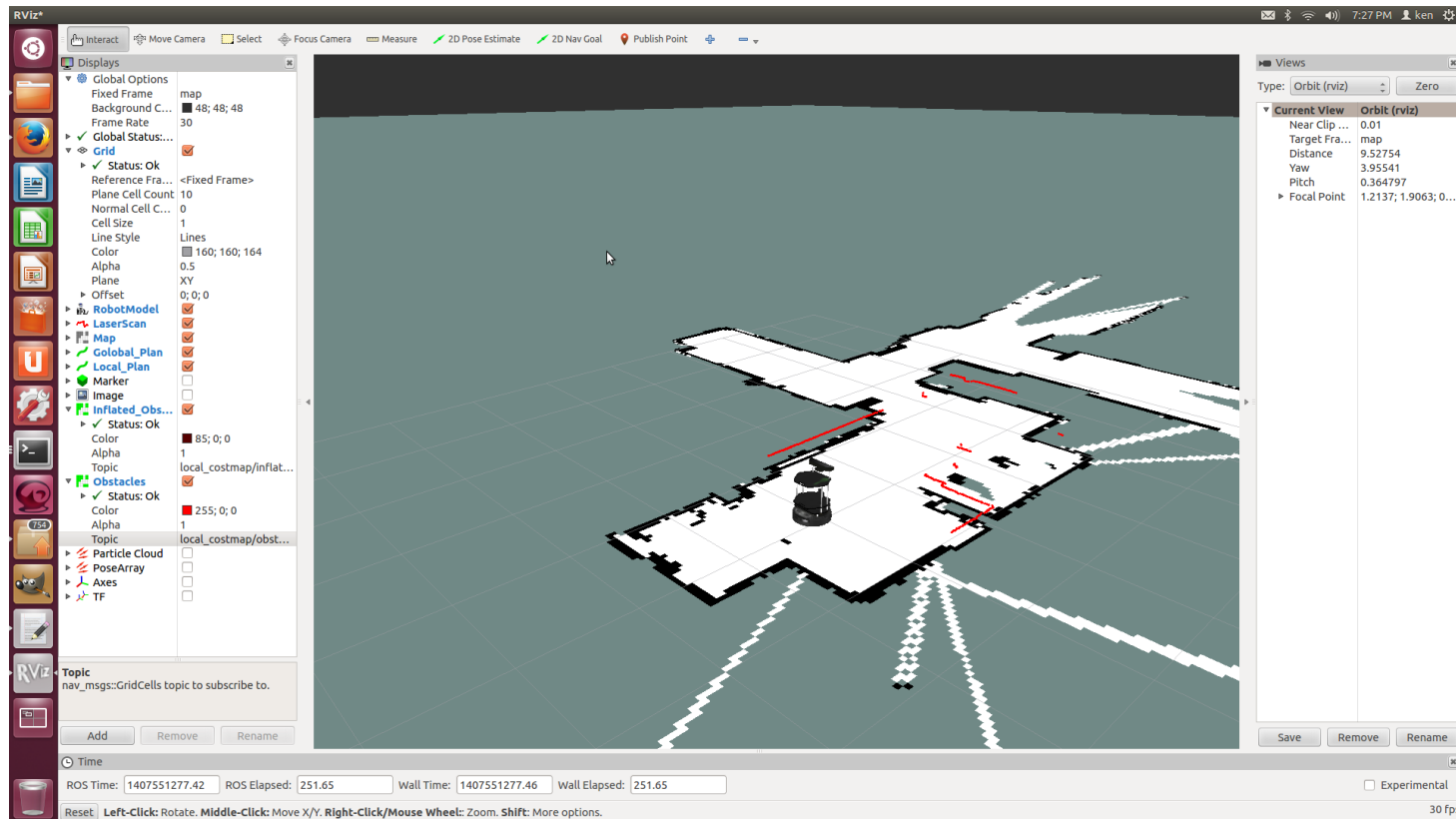
roswtf

roswtf is a tool for diagnosing issues with a running ROS system. Think of it as a FAQ implemented in code.

roswtf looks for many, many things, and the list is always growing. There are two categories of what it looks for: file-system issues and online/graph issues.

For file-system issues, roswtf looks at your environment variables, package configurations, stack configurations, and more. It can also take in a roslaunch file and attempt to find any potential configuration issues in it, such as packages that haven't been built properly.

For online issues, roswtf examines the state of your current graph and tries to find any potential issues. These issues might be unresponsive nodes, missing connections between nodes, or potential machine-configuration issues with roslaunch.

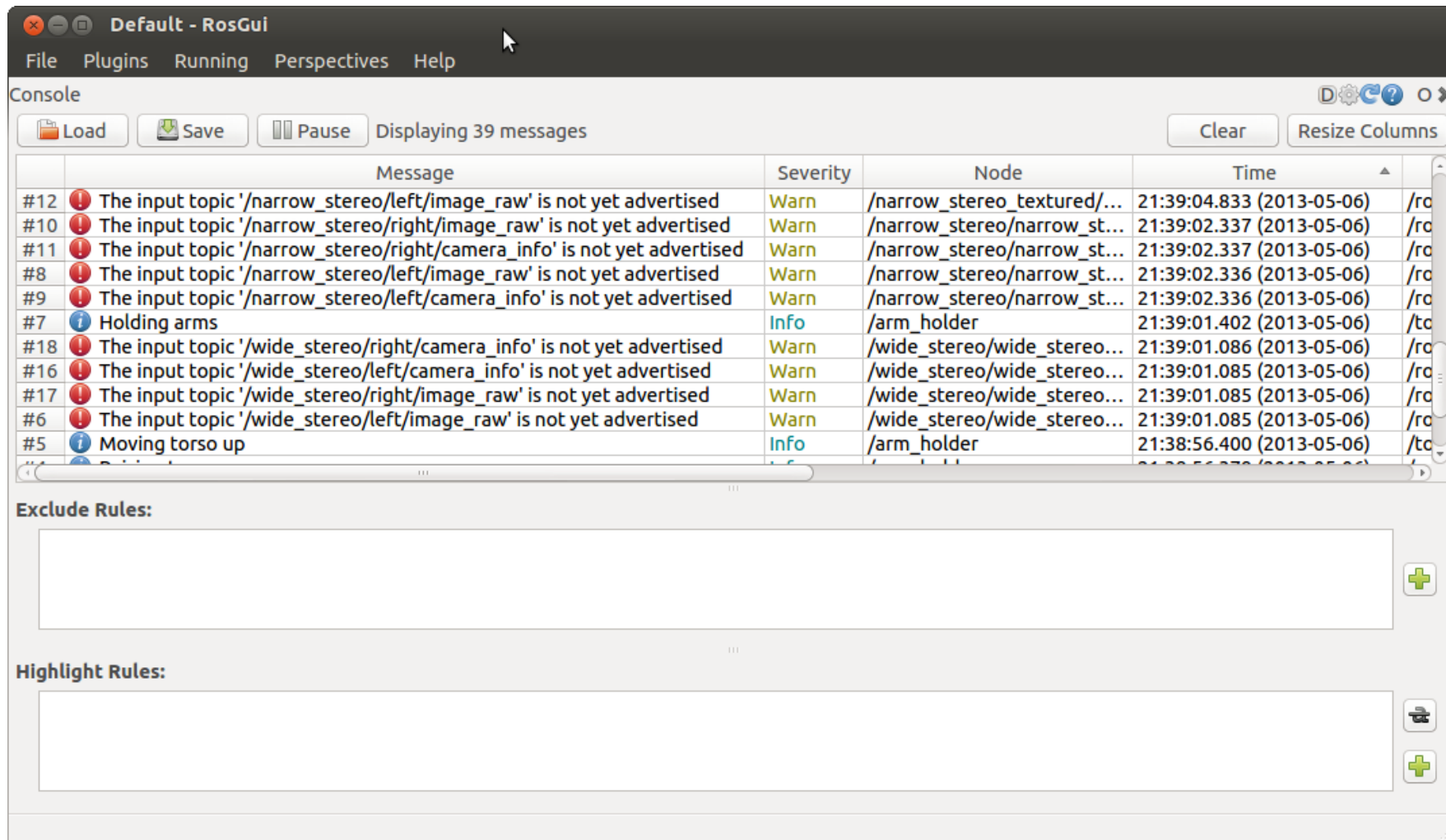


rviz

rviz is 3D visualizer for displaying sensor data and state information from ROS. Using rviz, you can visualize your robot's current configuration on a virtual model of the robot. You can also display live representations of sensor values coming over ROS Topics including camera data, infrared distance measurements, sonar data, and more.

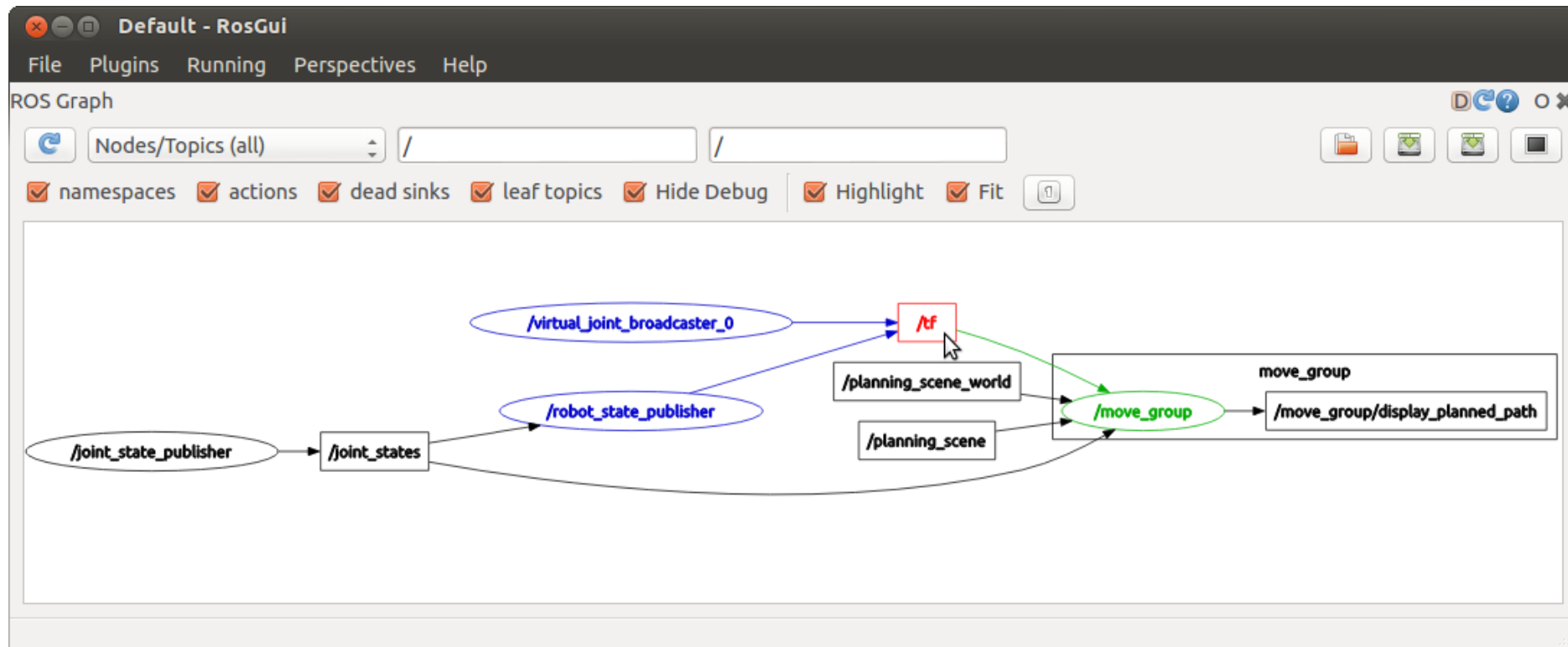
<http://wiki.ros.org/rviz/>

ROS.org



rqt_console

Provides a GUI plugin for displaying and filtering ROS messages.



rqt_graph

rqt_graph provides a GUI plugin for visualizing the ROS computation graph. It visualizes the publish subscribe relationships between ROS nodes



GAZEBO

Why Gazebo?

Robot simulation is an essential tool in every roboticist's toolbox. A well-designed simulator makes it possible to rapidly test algorithms, design robots, perform regression testing, and train AI system using realistic scenarios. Gazebo offers the ability to accurately and efficiently simulate populations of robots in complex indoor and outdoor environments. At your fingertips is a robust physics engine, high-quality graphics, and convenient programmatic and graphical interfaces. Best of all, Gazebo is free with a vibrant community.

<http://gazebosim.org/>

◆ **gazebo_ros_pkgs** is a set of ROS packages that provide the necessary interfaces to simulate a robot in the Gazebo 3D rigid body simulator for robots. It integrates with ROS using ROS messages, services and dynamic reconfigure.

The screenshot shows the Gazebo website homepage. The browser address bar displays 'gazebosim.org'. The page features a 'Features' section with eight cards, each with an icon and a brief description:

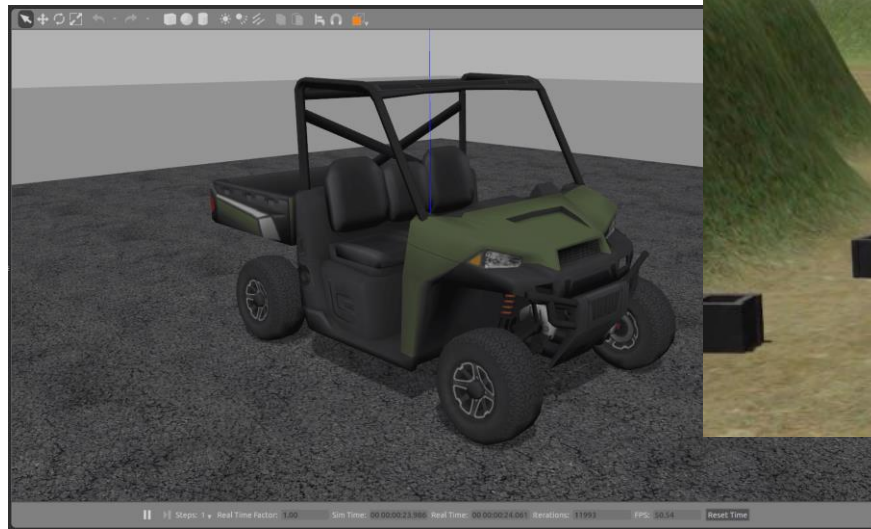
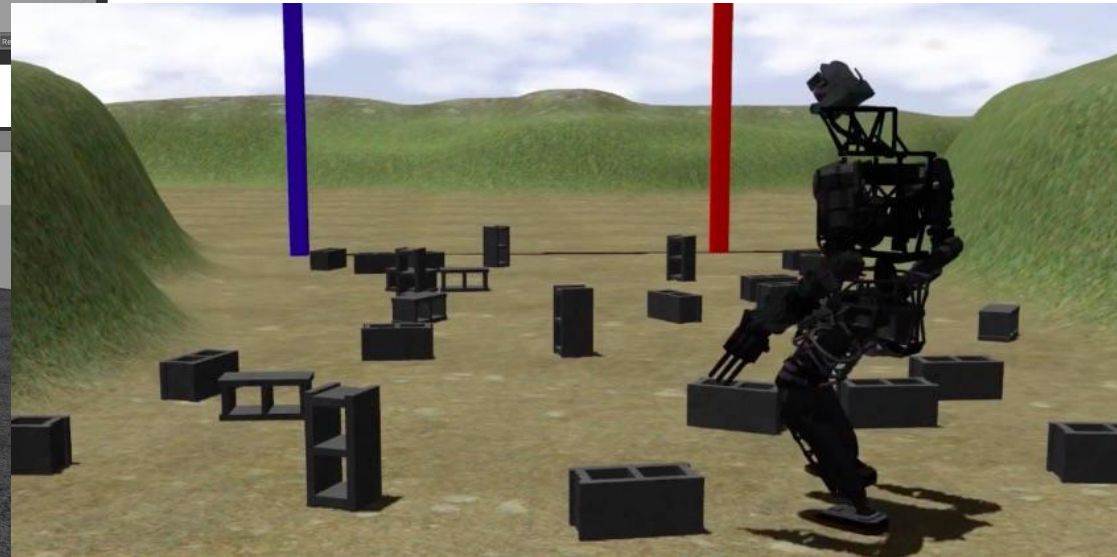
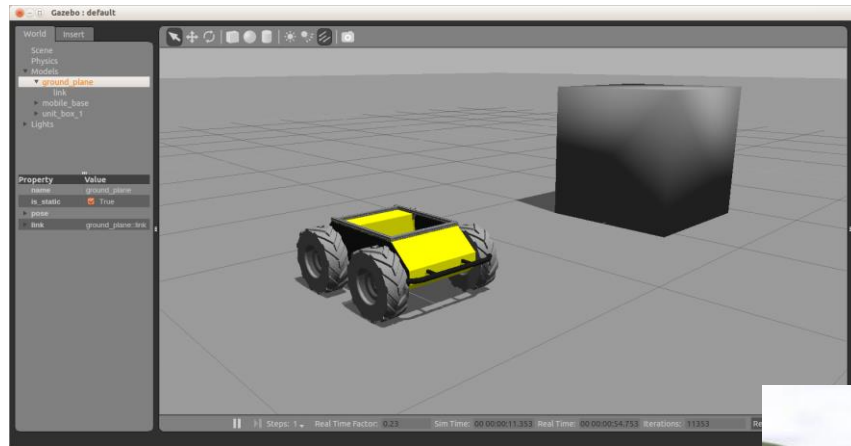
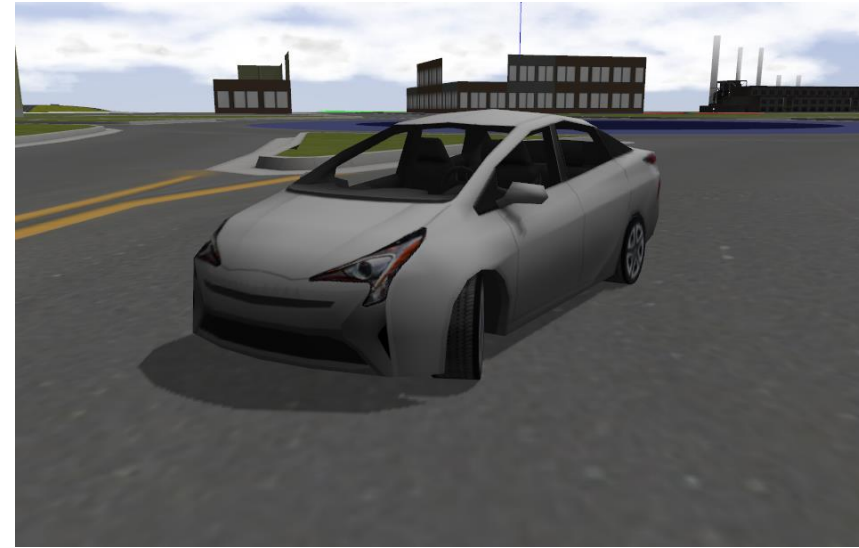
- Dynamics Simulation:** Access multiple high-performance physics engines including ODE, Bullet, Simbody, and DART.
- Advanced 3D Graphics:** Utilizing OGRE, Gazebo provides realistic rendering of environments including high-quality lighting, shadows, and textures.
- Sensors and Noise:** Generate sensor data, optionally with noise, from laser range finders, 2D/3D cameras, Kinect style sensors, contact sensors, force-torque, and more.
- Plugins:** Develop custom plugins for robot, sensor, and environmental control. Plugins provide direct access to Gazebo's API.
- Robot Models:** Many robots are provided including PR2, Pioneer2 DX, iRobot Create, and TurtleBot. Or build your own using SDF.
- TCP/IP Transport:** Run simulation on remote servers, and interface to Gazebo through socket-based message passing using Google Protobufs.
- Cloud Simulation:** Use CloudSim to run Gazebo on Amazon AWS and GzWeb to interact with the simulation through a browser.
- Command Line Tools:** Extensive command line tools facilitate simulation introspection and control.

Below the features section, there is a 'Get Started' section with the heading 'Get your feet wet' and 'Information Sources'.



GAZEBO

GAZEBO



GIM ROBOTICS



UNI -> BIZ



1985 - 2014



sensible⁴
2017

2020 - 2022

CoE GIM

2007 - 2013

2014

2017

Prof Aarne Halme founded AutLab TKK 1985

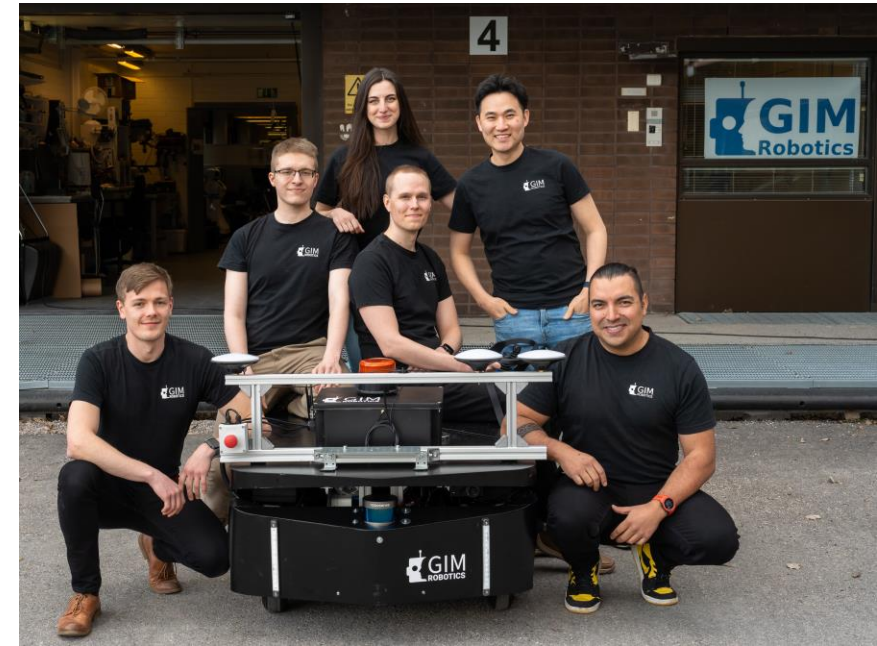
- Close Collaboration with Finnish Machine Manufacturing Industry
- More than 20M “investment” in basic research
- Research quality code

- Served over 50 clients from which 10 are Fortune 500 companies
- Project Based Revenue (Robotics Experts)
- Re-invest profits & Public funding in R&D
- Productization pt 1

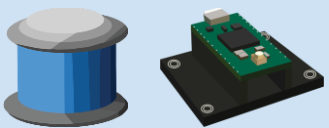
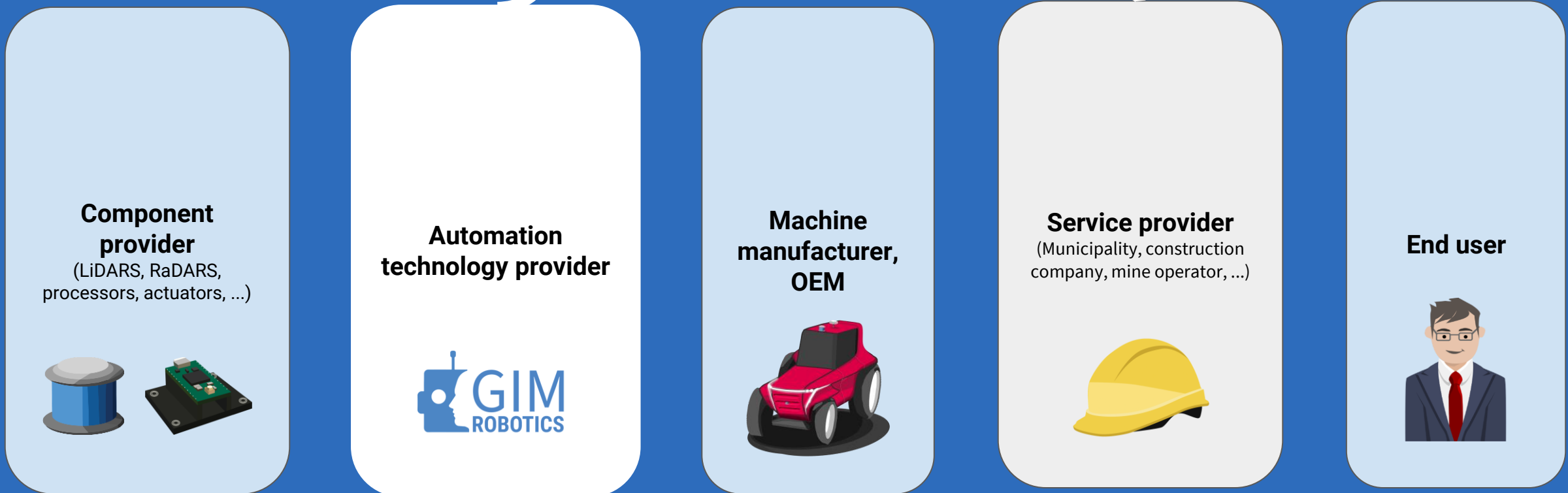
- S4 Investment & co-development
- Productization of core technology
- Industrial quality SW products

GIM ROBOTICS' ENGINEERS

- 10 senior with more than 200 years of experience on mobile robotics
- Around 40 robotics professionals
- Tight R&D cooperation with sister company Sensible founded in 2017.
- Together around 100 professional engineers and scientists



POSITION



Our customers want to increase level of autonomy in order to improve: efficiency, quality and safety.



ROS FOR GIM

- ROS PROVIDES A SUPERIOR ECOSYSTEM AND TOOLS THAT WILL SAVE A LOT OF EFFORT.
- VISUALIZATION, DIAGNOSTICS, DATA RECORDING, AND GEOMETRY UTILITIES TO NAME A FEW.
- HAVING THESE EXISTING TOOLS OUT-OF-THE-BOX IS INCREDIBLY VALUABLE FOR COMPANIES LIKE GIM ROBOTICS, WHO WANT TO FOCUS ON STATE-OF-THE-ART ALGORITHM DEVELOPMENT.
- THIS WAY WE CAN FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS, AND CREATE MORE CUSTOMER VALUE FASTER THAN MANY COMPETITORS.



ROS2 FOR GIM



- While ROS has been a great solution for research, proof-of-concept, and pilot cases, it has to be admitted it has some limitations when making safety-critical systems.
- Although based on practical experience it is very reliable, it's hard to get it certified, as it doesn't meet various complex requirements from quality and safety standards.
- This is one of the key reasons why ROS2 was developed. The main benefit is that it changed the underlying communication protocol to DDS (Data Distribution Service).
- DDS enables easier compliance with standards such as ISO 26262 or IEC 61508 – and it's already used in financial systems and space systems, among others.

ROS2 FOCUSES ON FOUR NEW USE CASES WHICH ARE:

- real-time systems
- small embedded platforms
- non-ideal networks
- cross-platform

PEAMS: PLATFORM ECONOMY FOR AUTONOMOUS MOBILE MACHINES SOFTWARE (ROS2)

<https://www.fima.fi/projects/platform-economy-for-autonomous-mobile-machines-software-development/>

FUTURE

SOME MAIN CHALLENGES



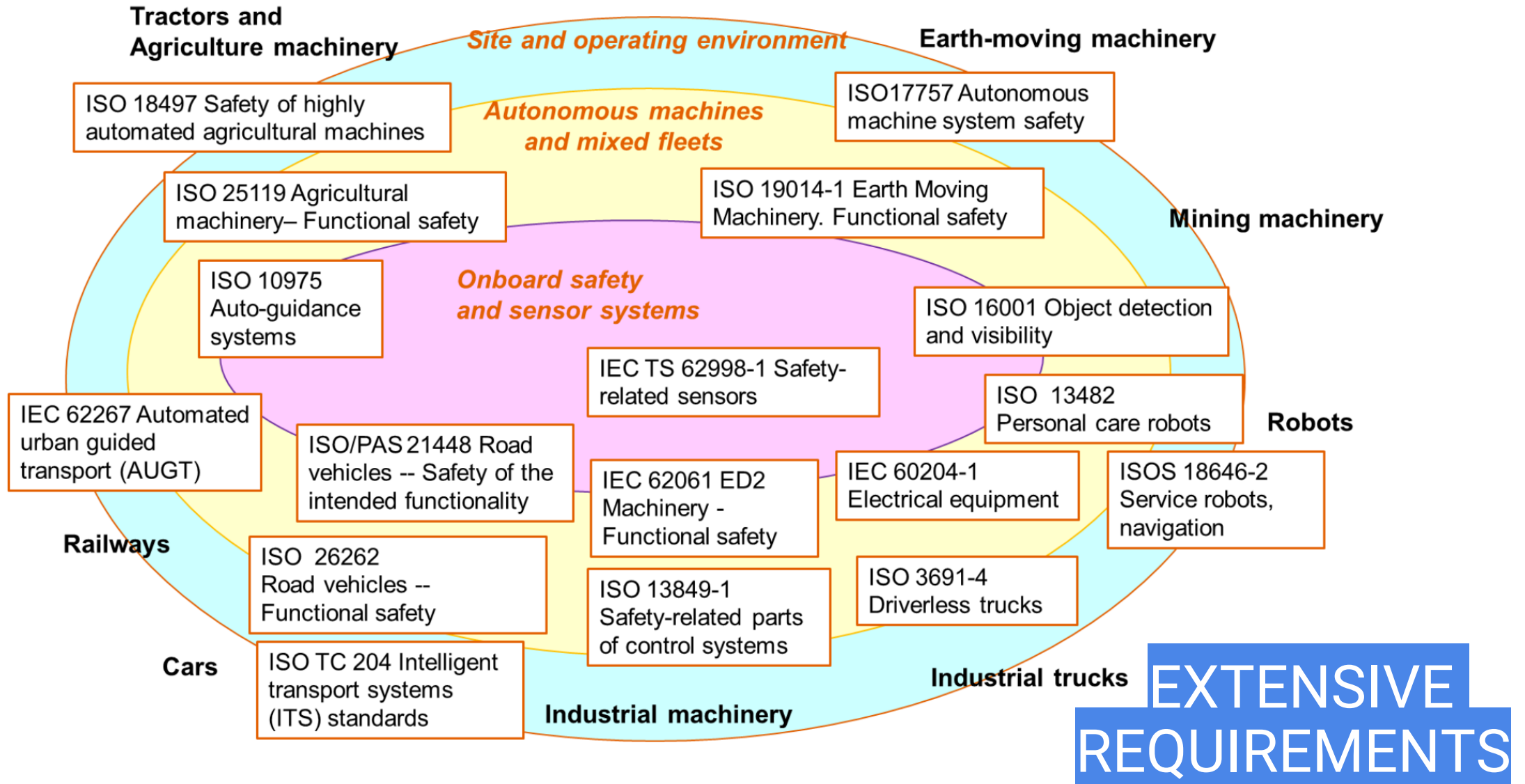


SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

(Figure: Shutterstock/AimoKinnas)

The background is a complex, abstract composition. It features a dark, almost black, textured surface with prominent, vibrant red streaks and patches. These red elements appear to be layered or etched into the dark surface, creating a sense of depth and movement. A faint, light-colored grid pattern is overlaid on the entire scene, consisting of thin, intersecting lines that form a series of squares and rectangles. The overall effect is one of high contrast and intricate detail, reminiscent of a microscopic view or a digital data visualization.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.



Source: Tiusanen, Risto, Malm, Timo and Ronkainen, Ari. "An overview of current safety requirements for autonomous machines – review of standards" *Open Engineering*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2020, pp. 665-673. <https://doi.org/10.1515/eng-2020-0074>

BRIGHT FUTURE

A SELECTION OF OUR PUBLIC USE CASES





GÄTTA

PÄIVÖGÅ

Ä-473





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FORUM
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HELSINKI

eit Digital

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