



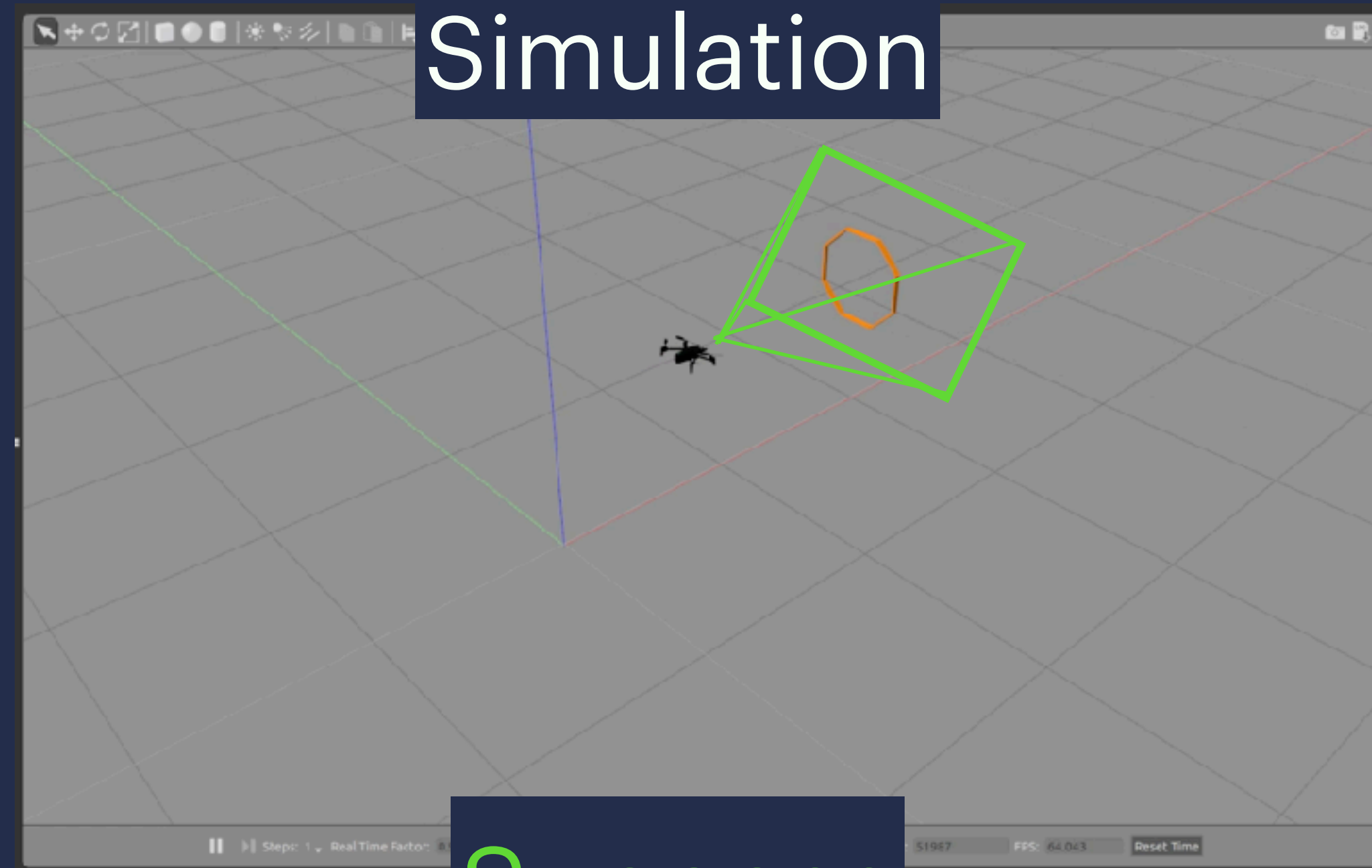
World-in-the-Loop Simulation for Autonomous Systems Validation

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The University of Virginia

hildebrandt.carl@virginia.edu



Problem



Simulation

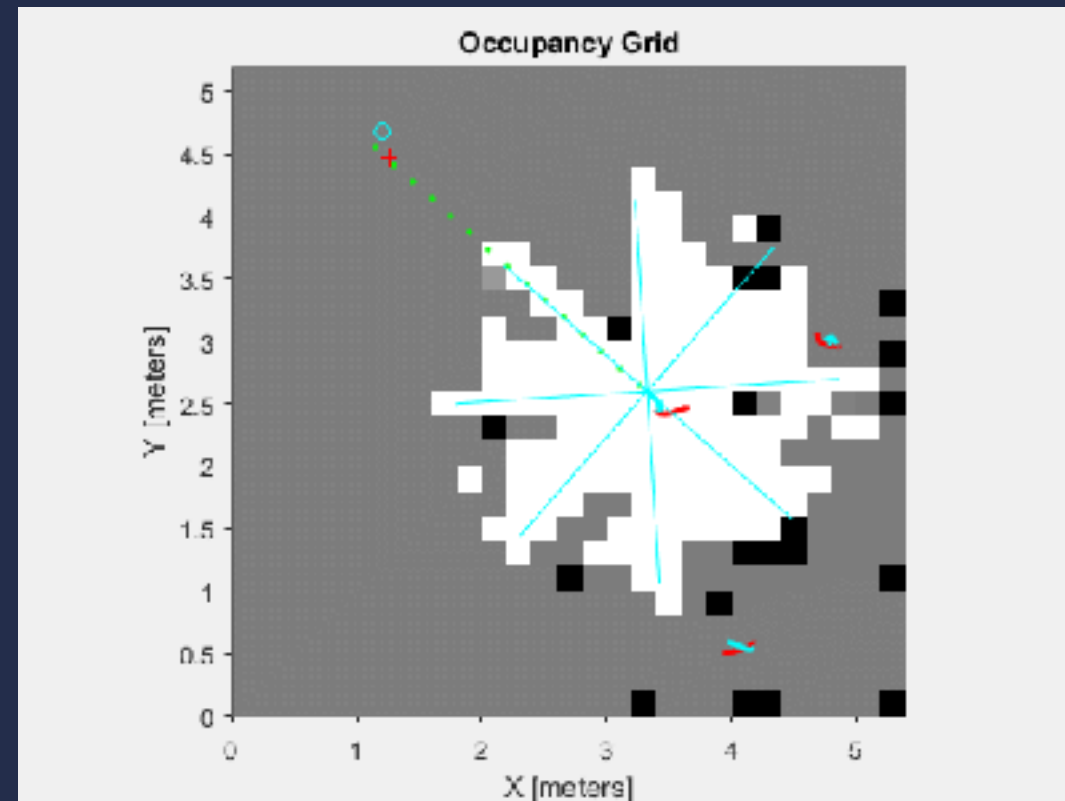
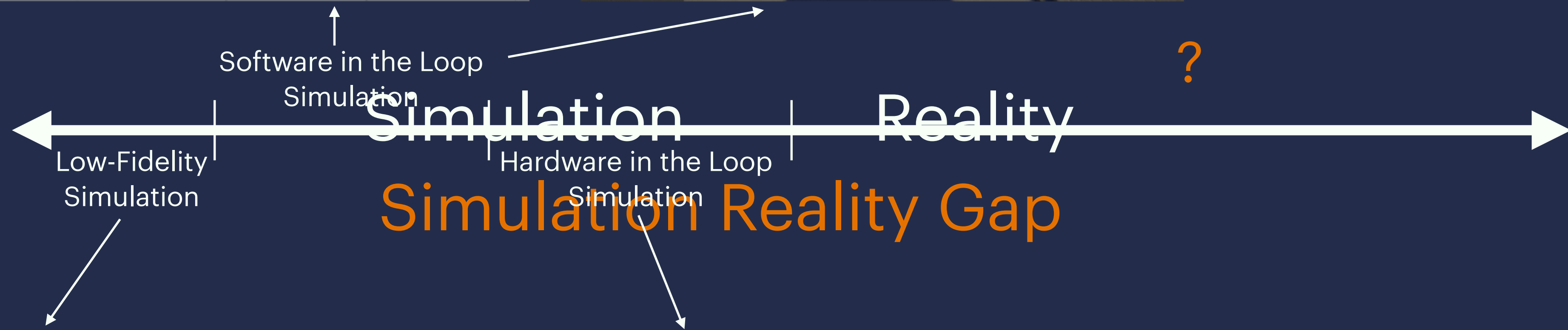
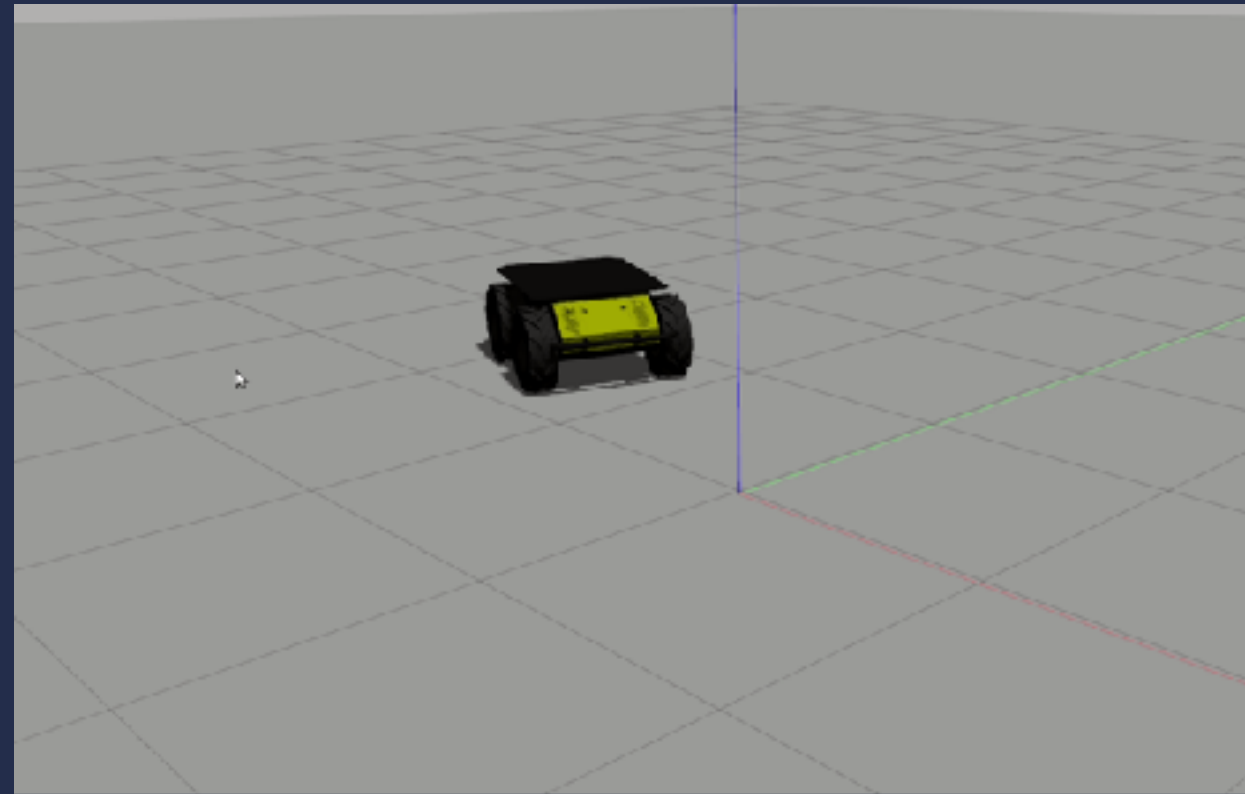
Success



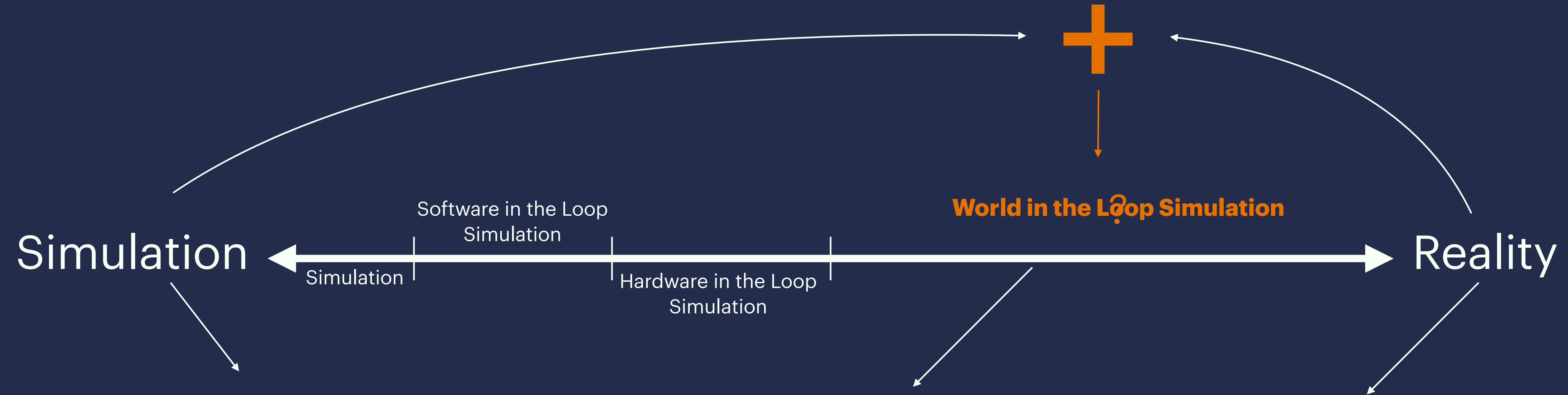
Reality

Failure

Related Work



World in the Loop Simulation

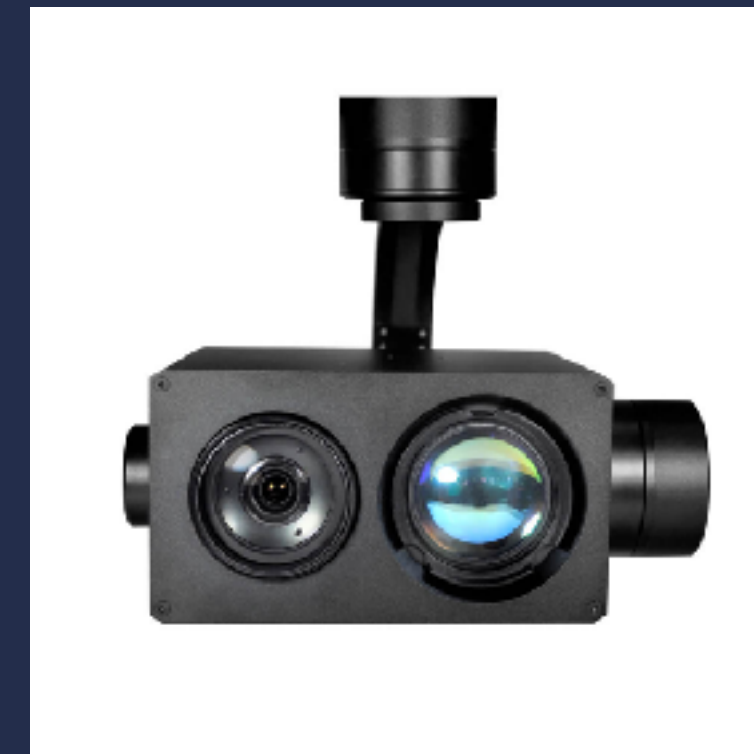


Challenges

Sensor and Actuation Synchronization



Diversity of Sensors

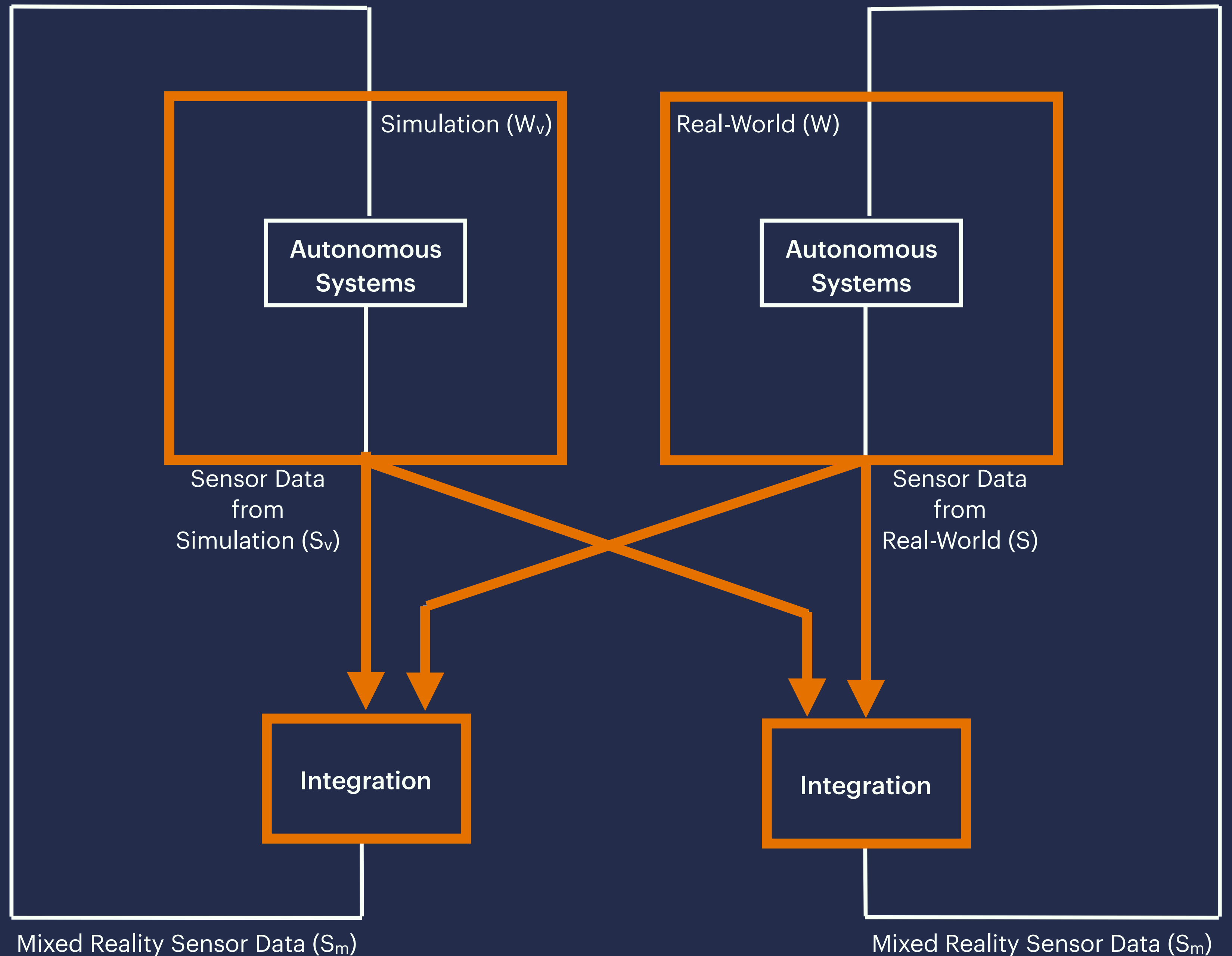


- IMU's
- GPS
- Pressure
- Temperature
- Compass
- ...

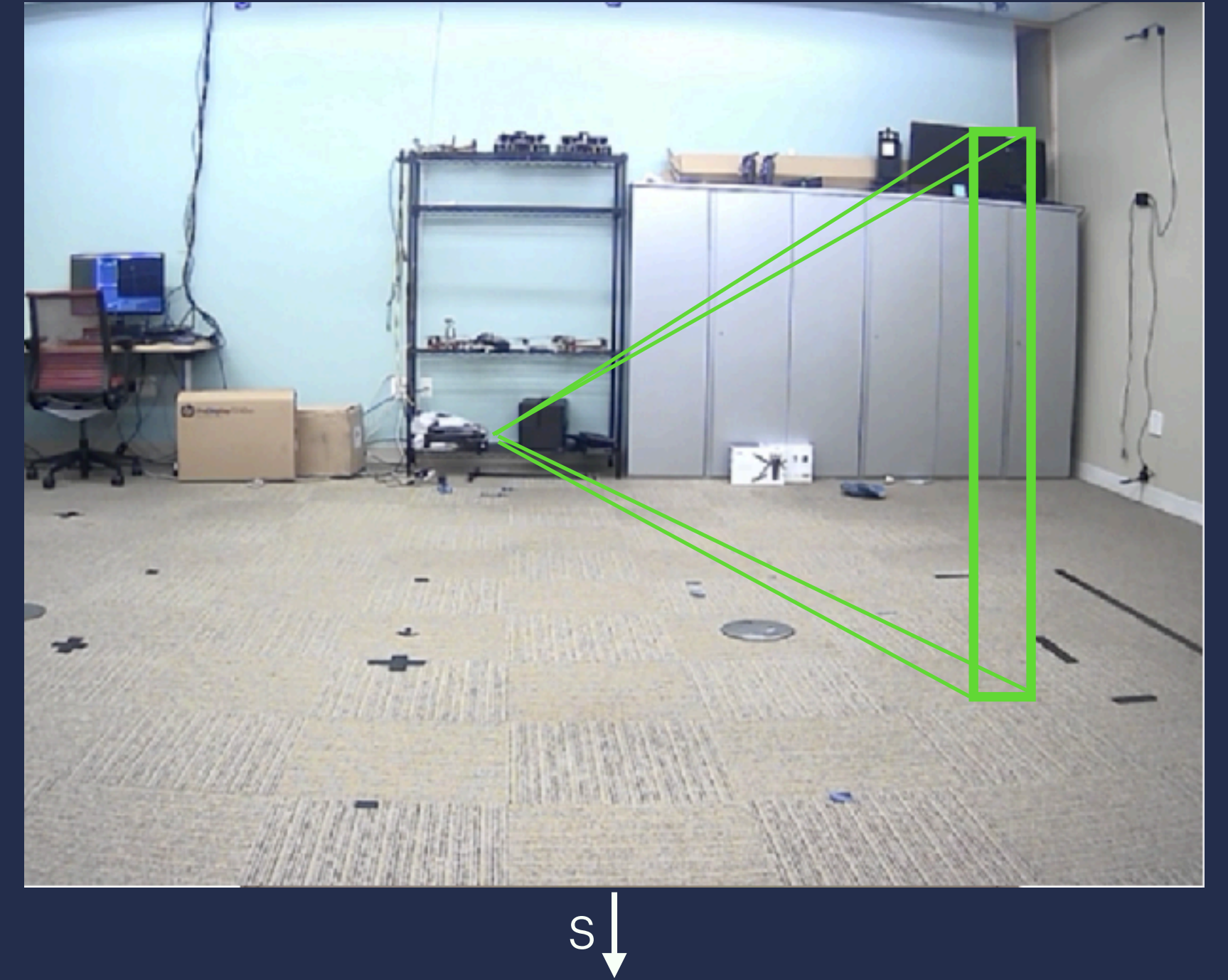
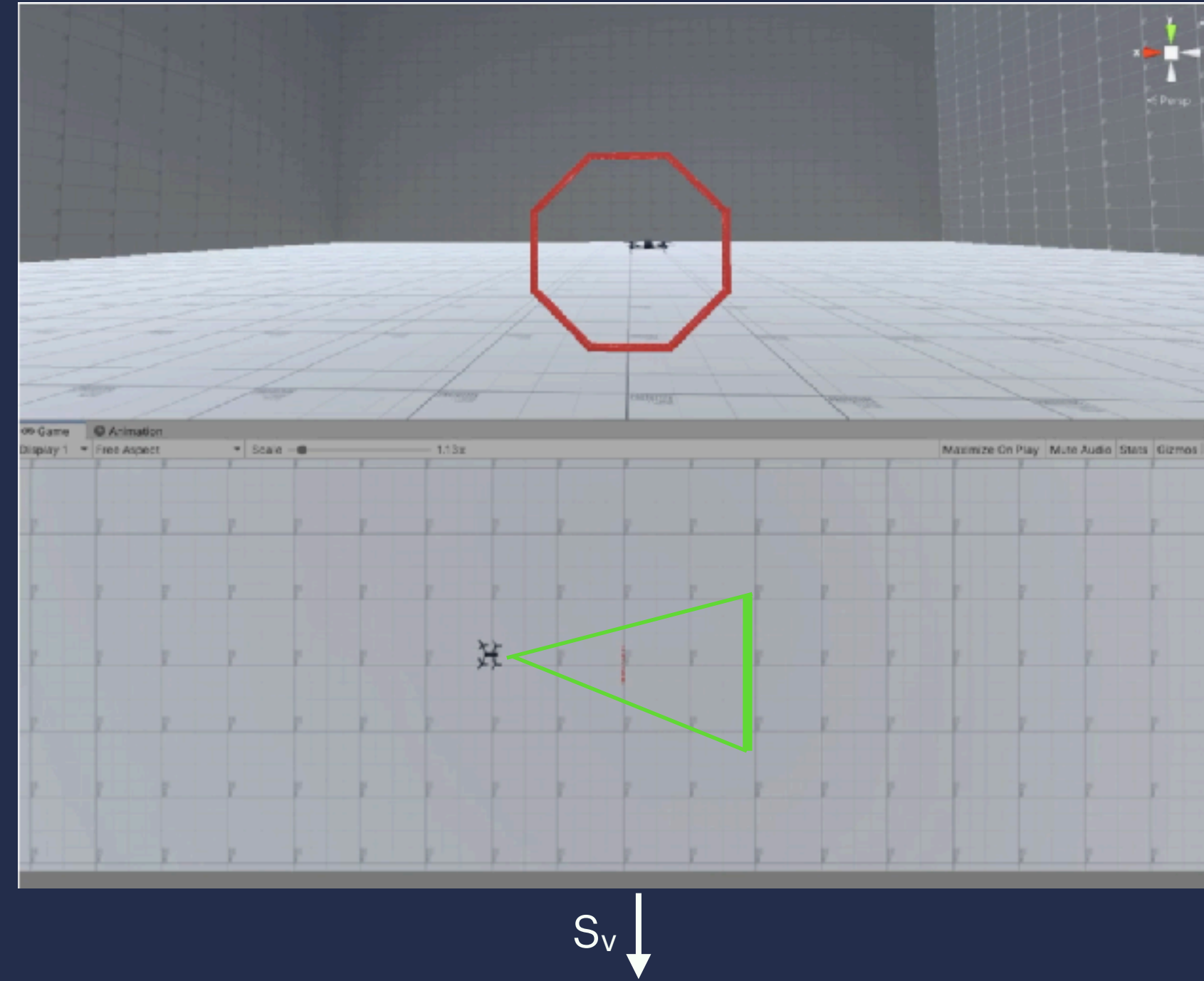
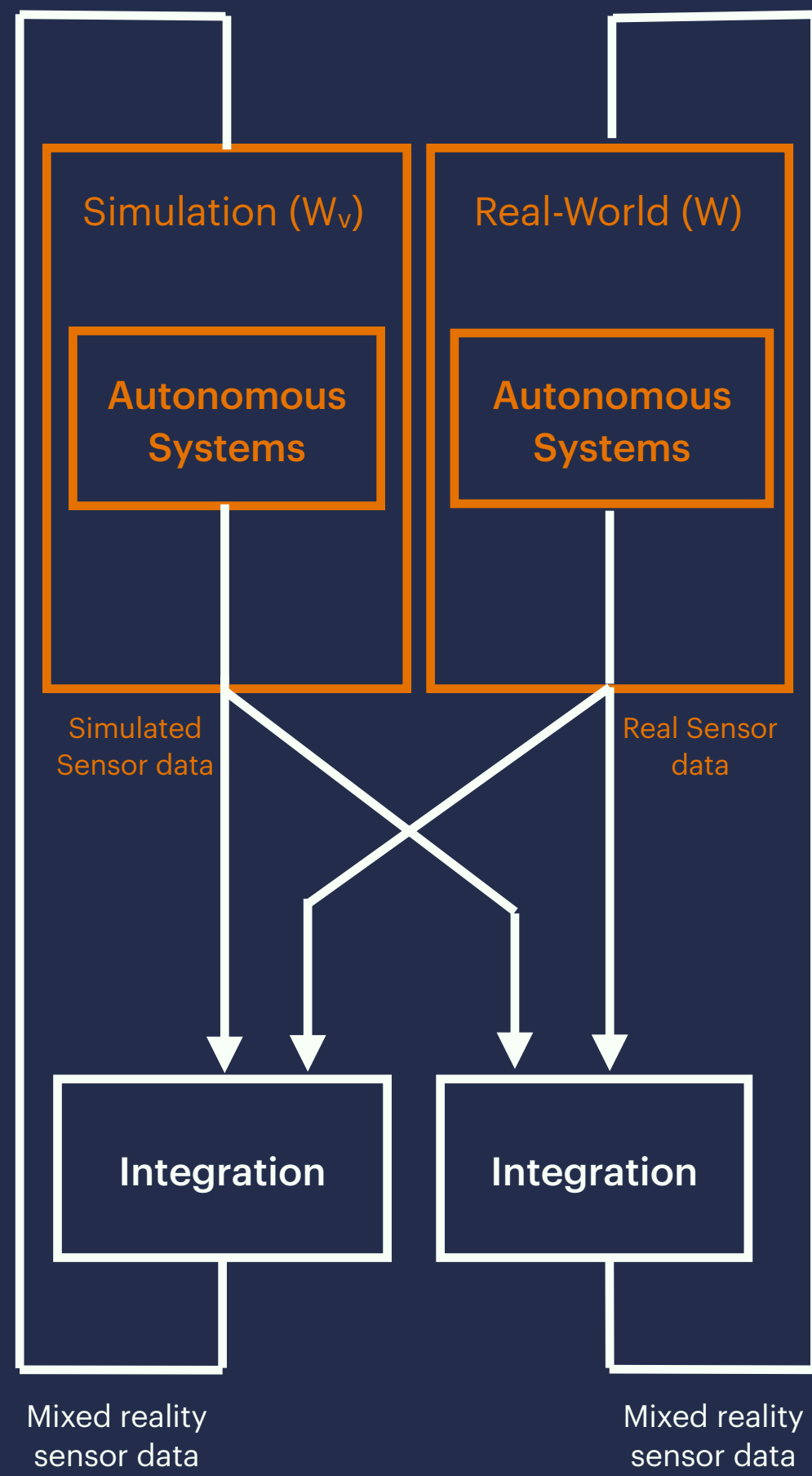
Approach

Major components

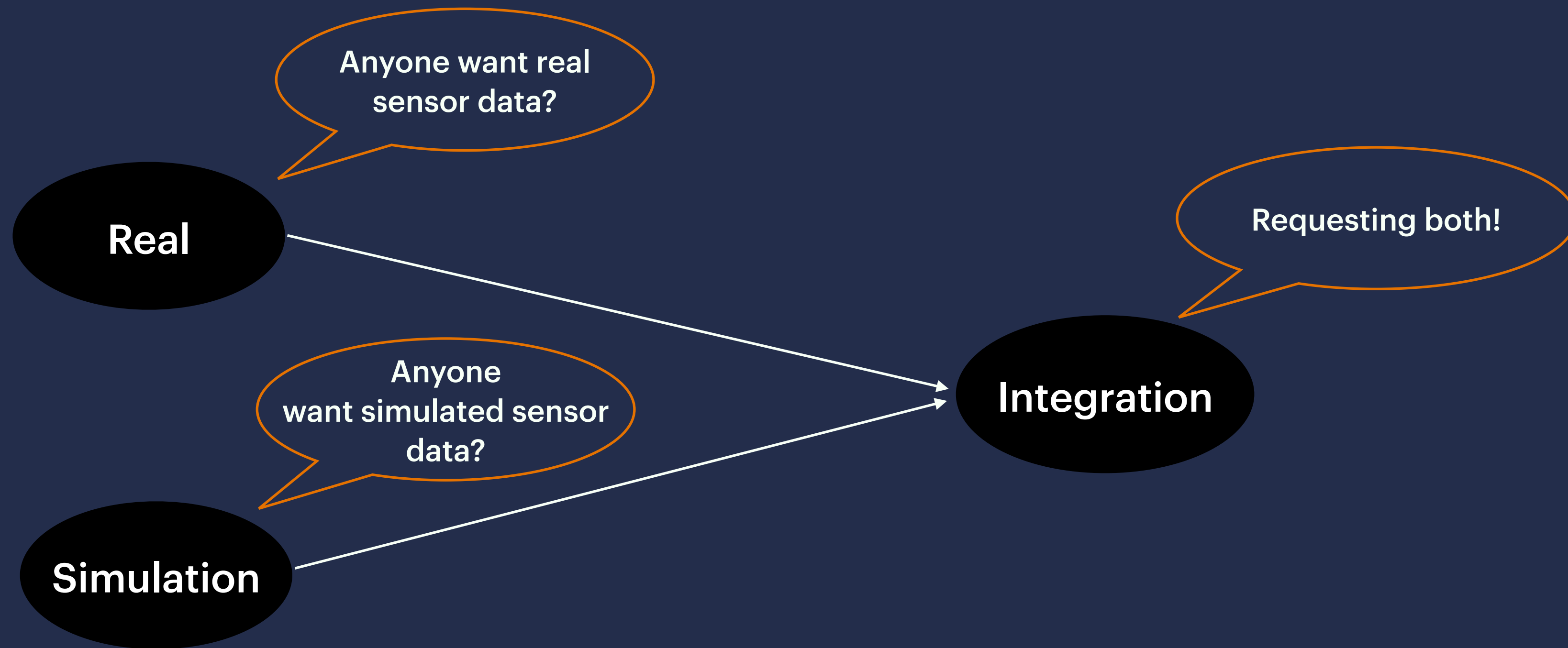
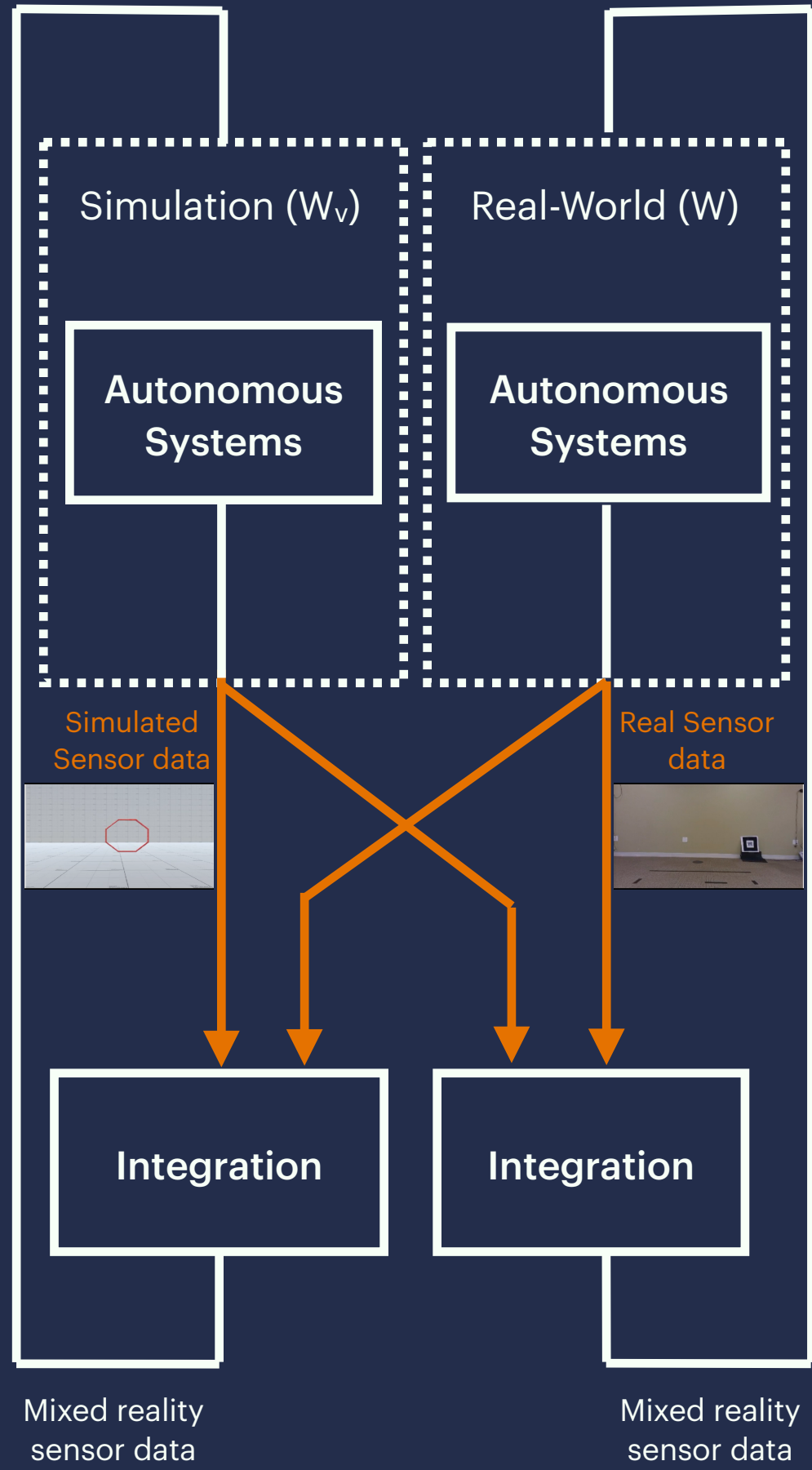
- Parallel execution
- Pipeline for collecting sensor data
- Integration mechanisms



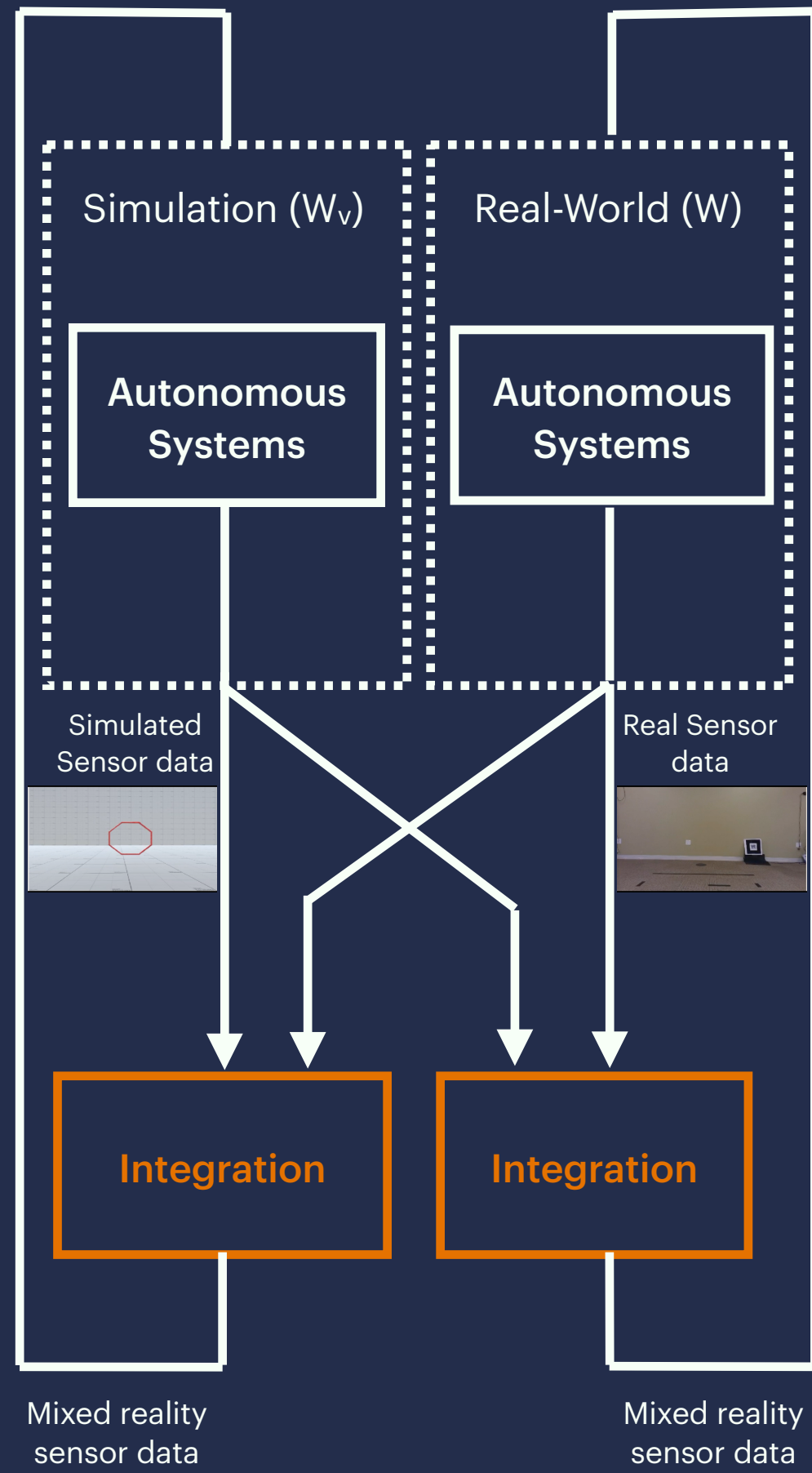
Approach



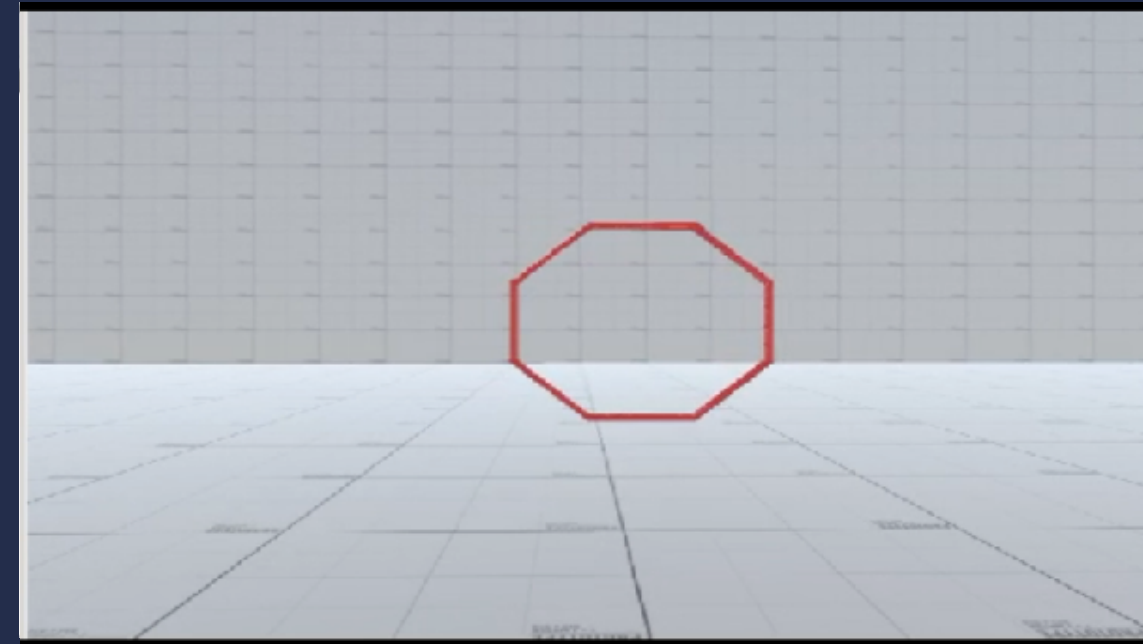
Approach



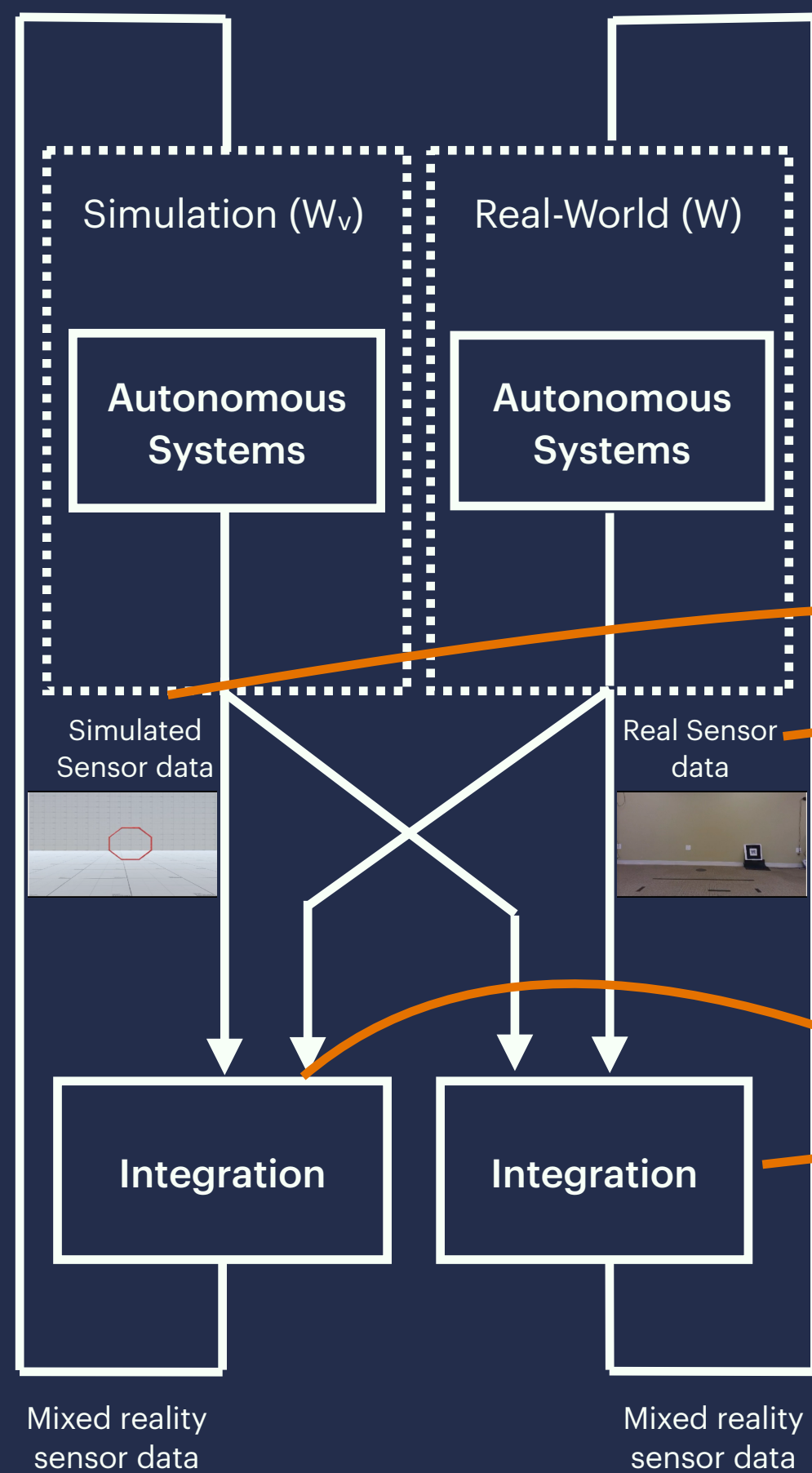
Approach



1) Transform



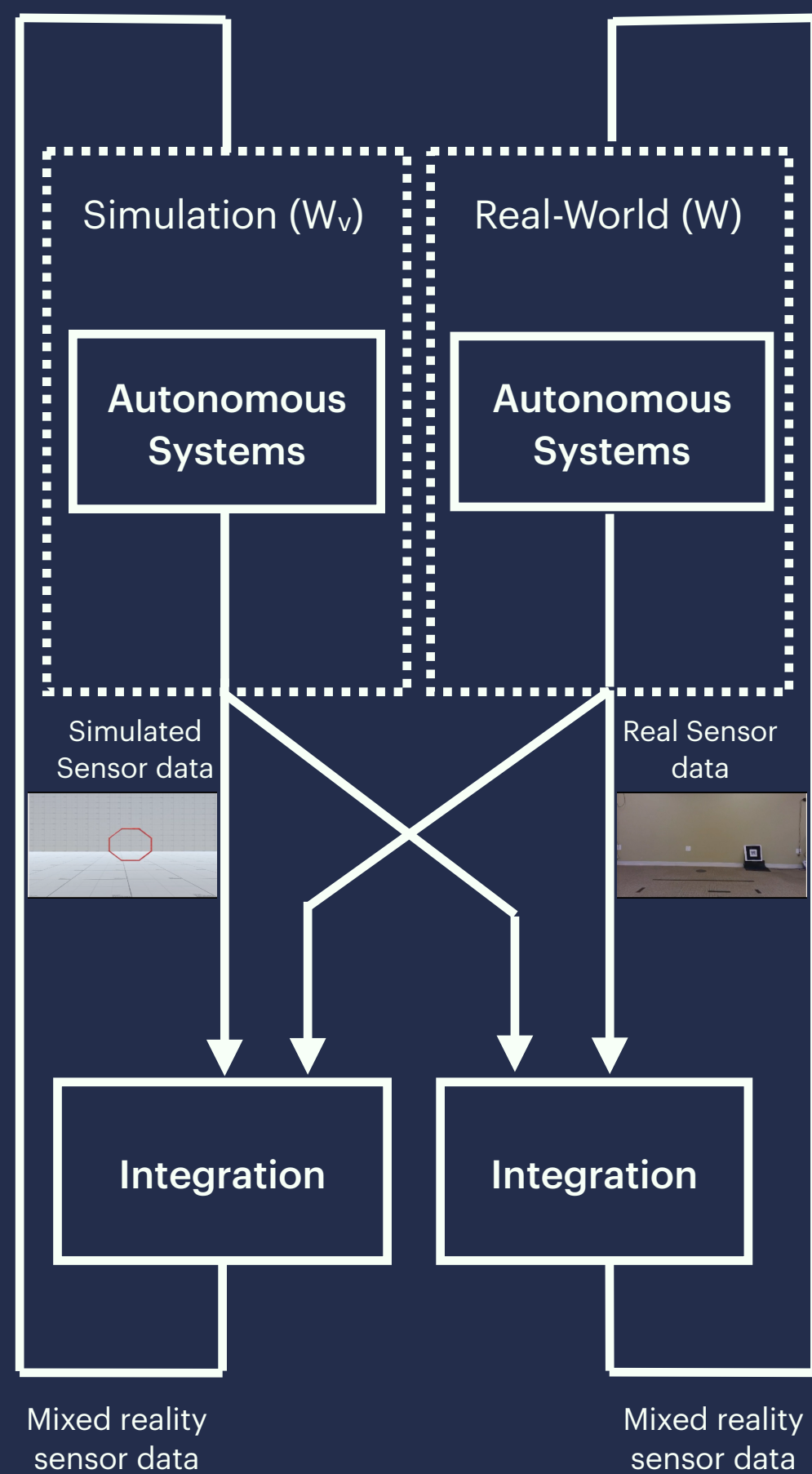
Implementation



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 >
```

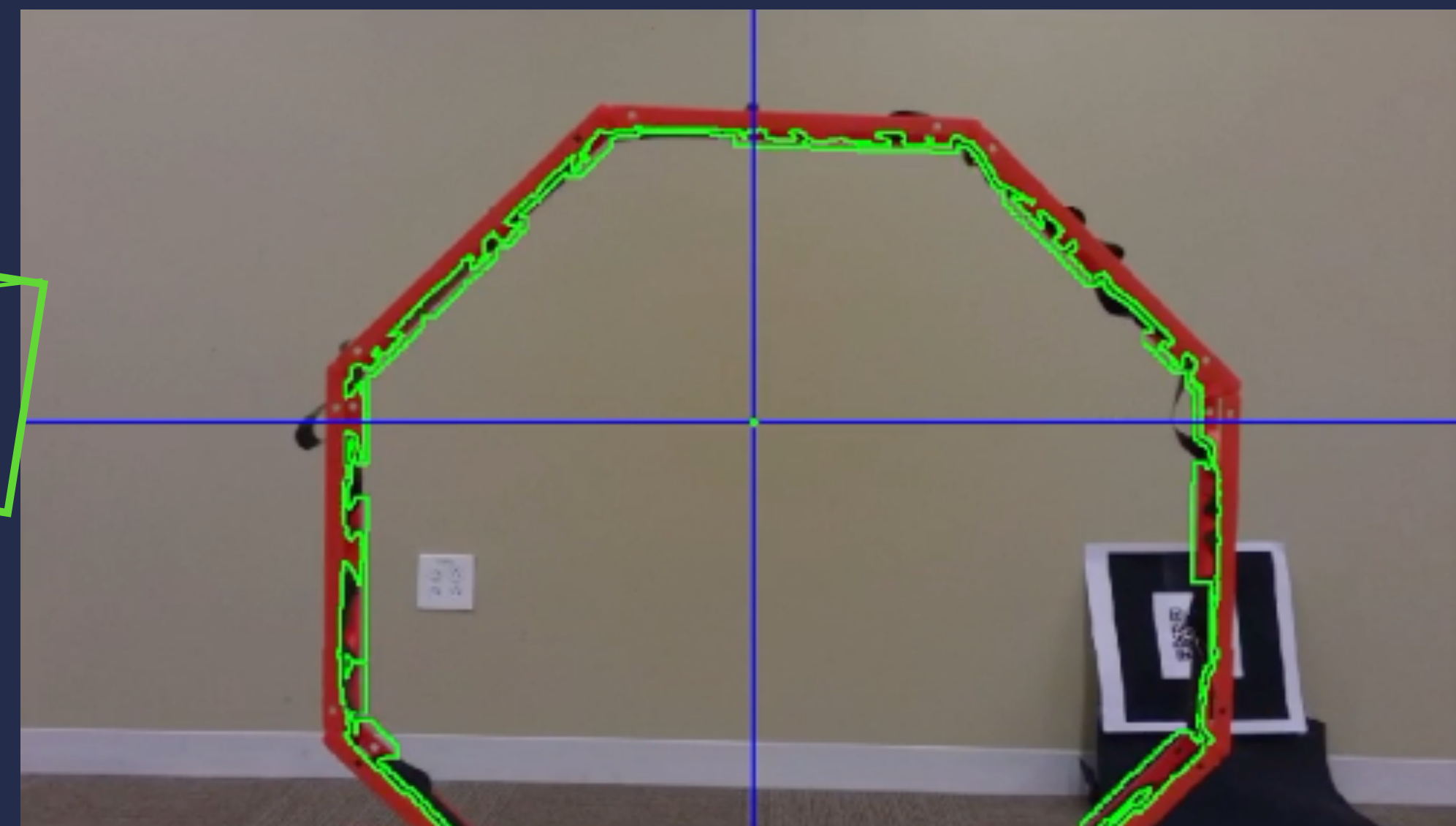
Implementation - Limitations



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

Pass



Failure



Gate
Navigation



Person
Following



Obstacle
Avoidance

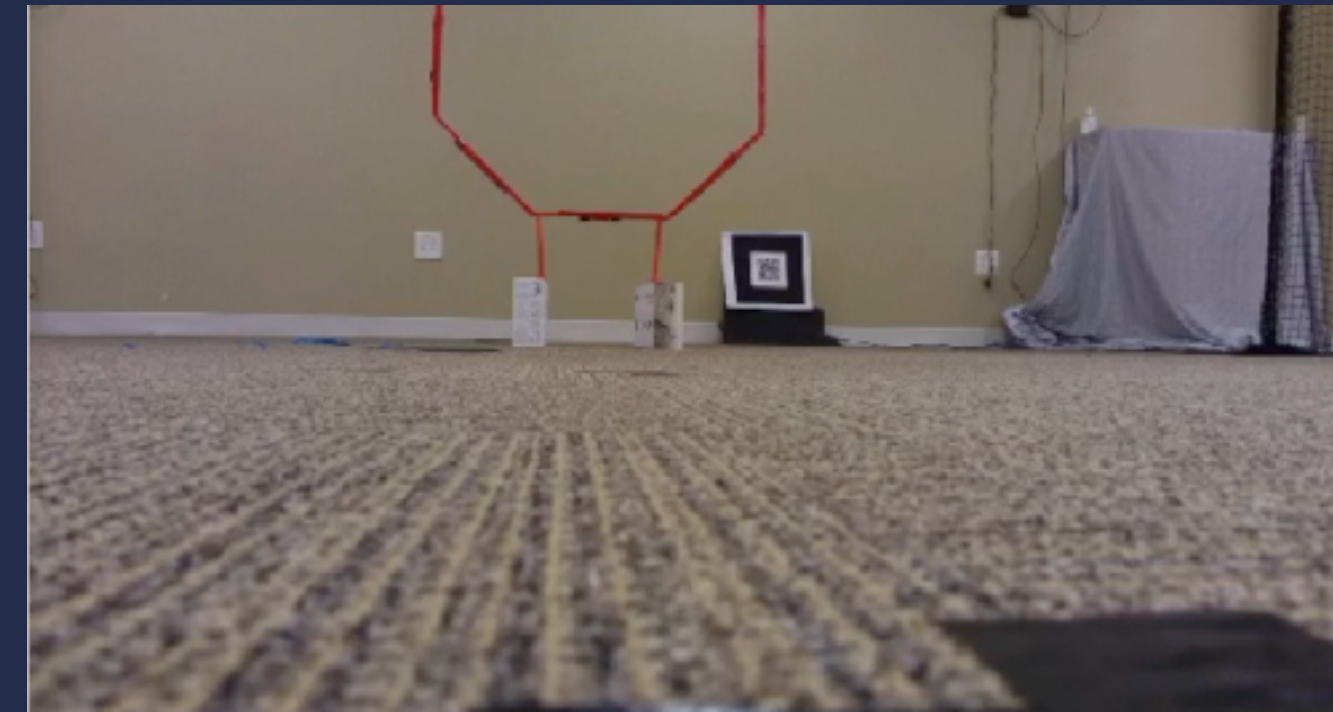
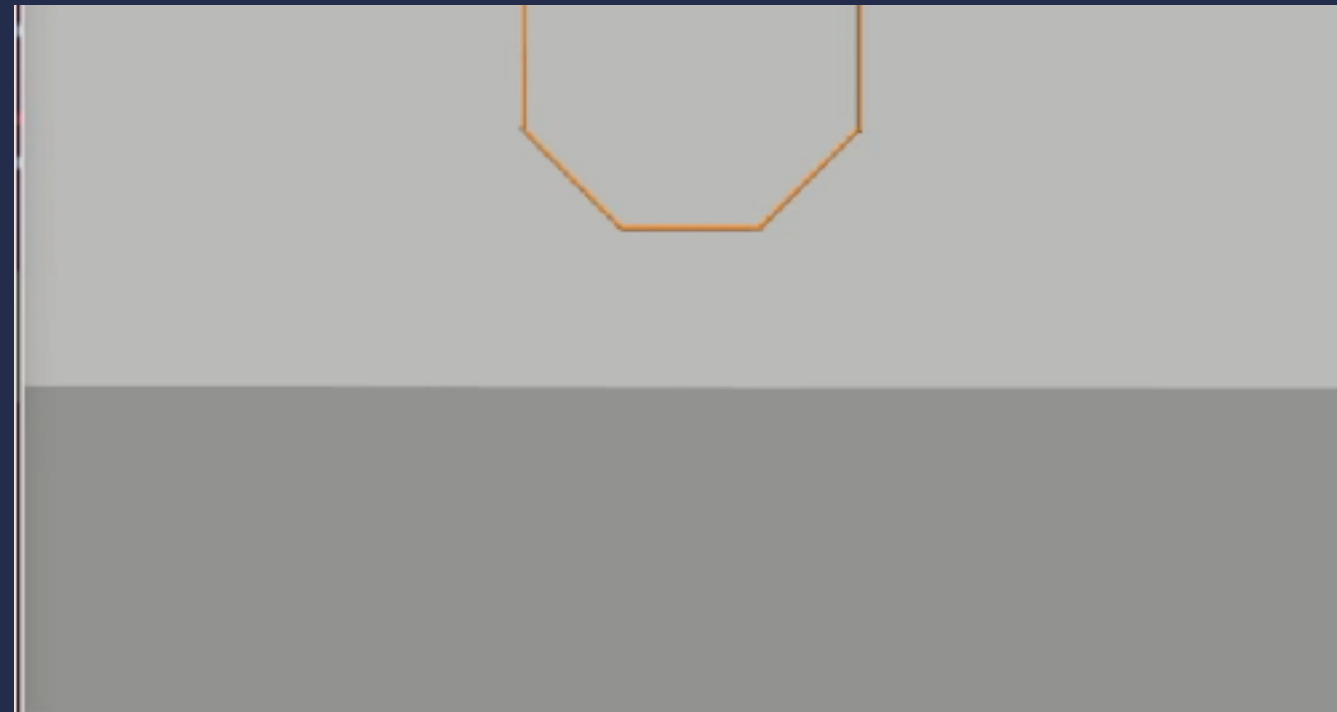


Study - Setup

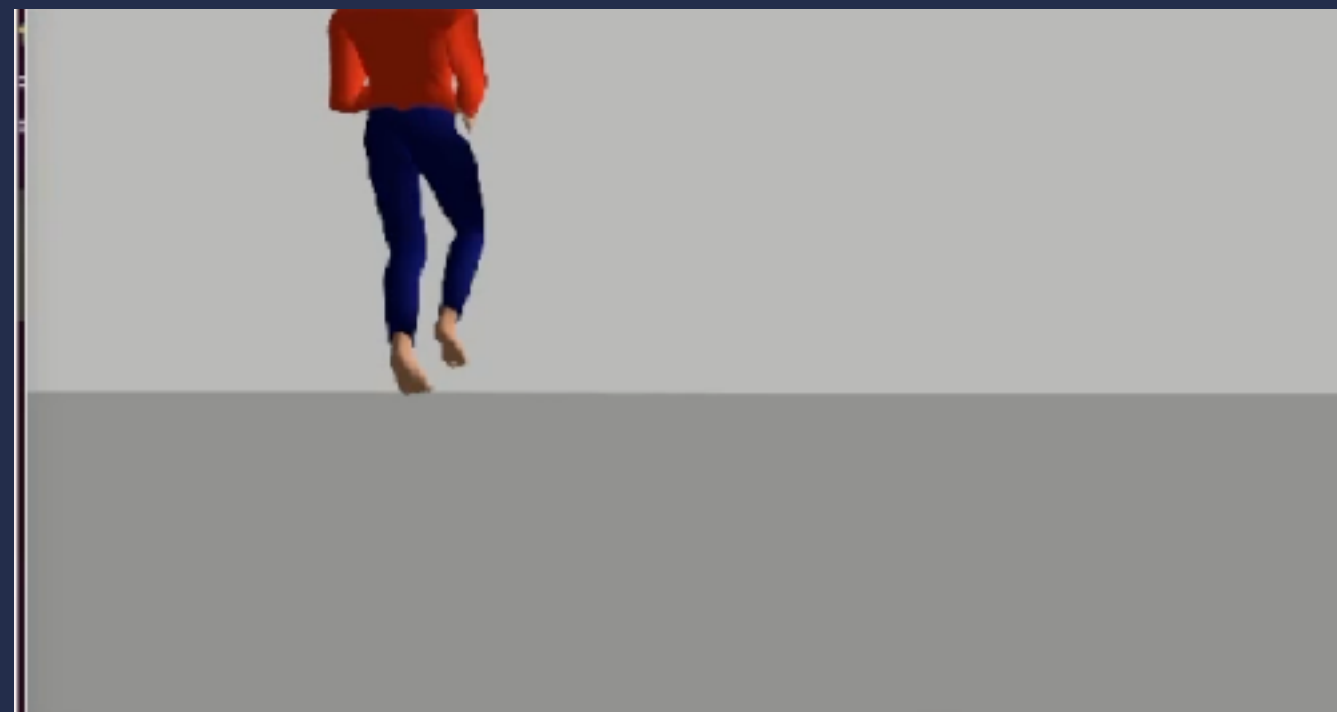
Simulation

Reality

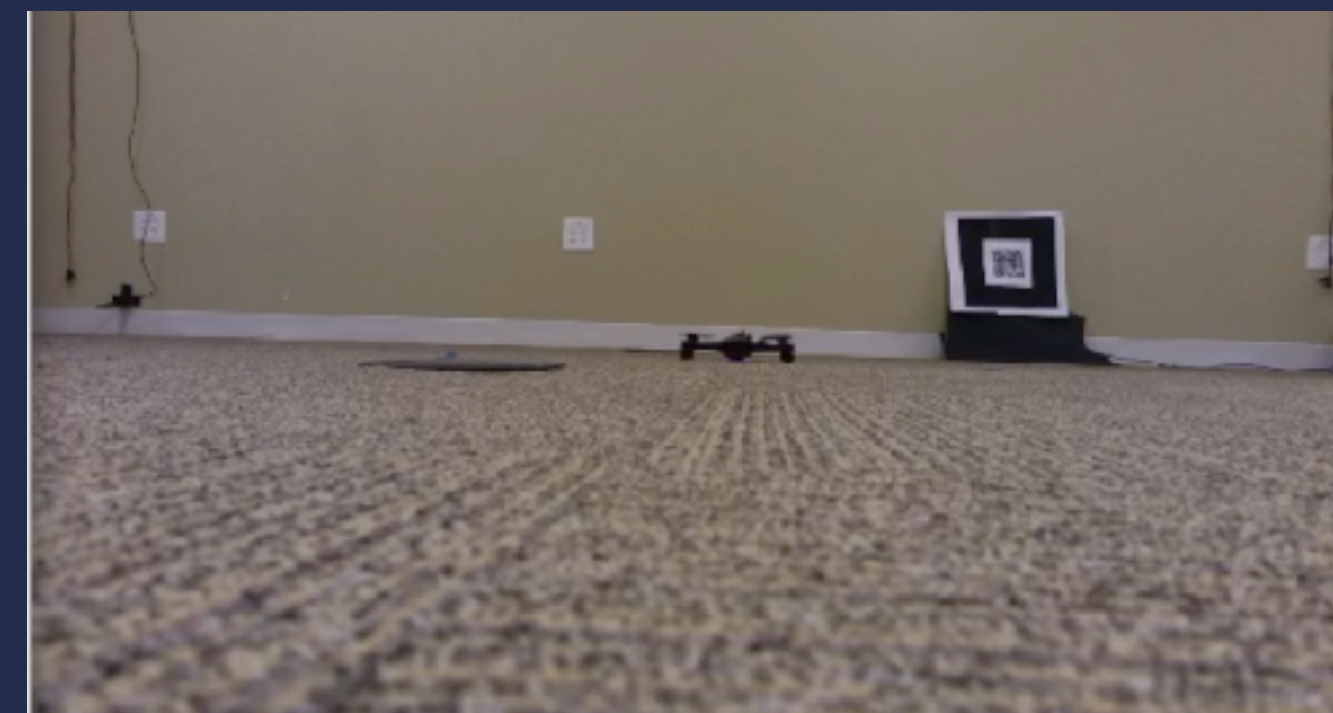
Gate Navigation



Person Following



Drone Avoidance



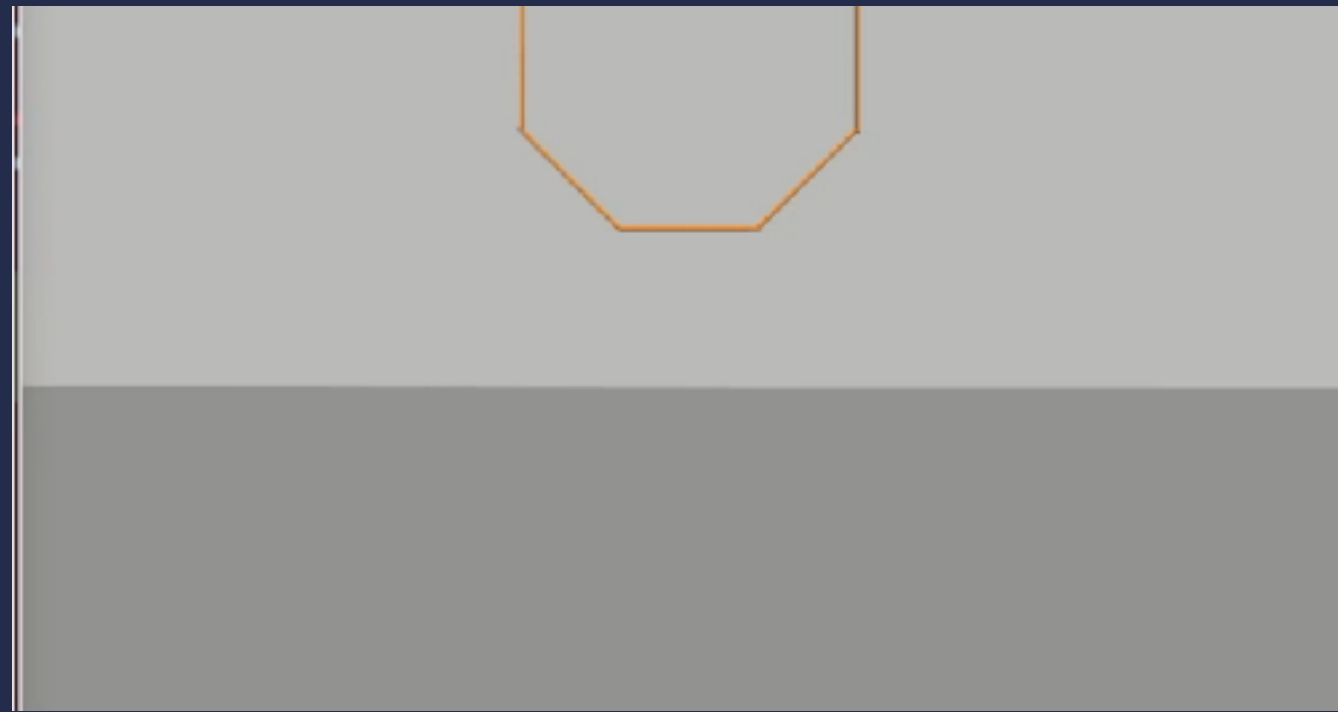
Study - Setup

Simulation

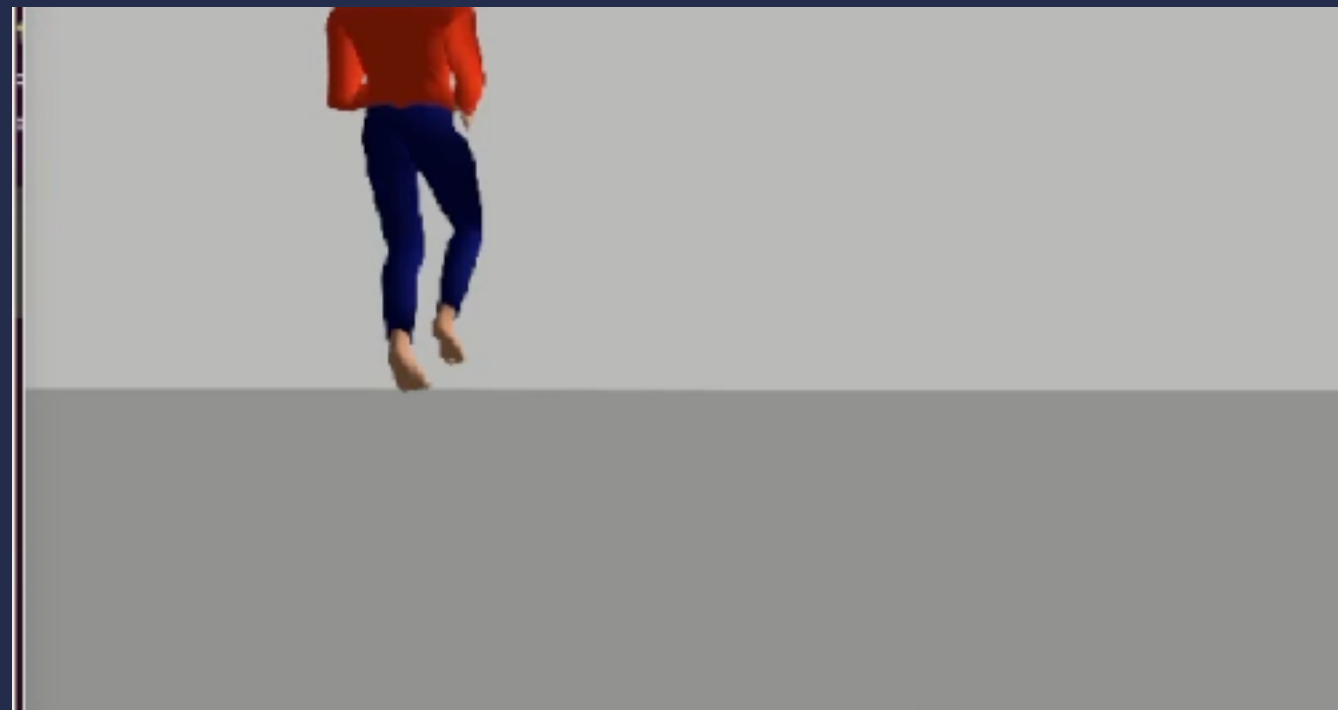
WIL

Reality

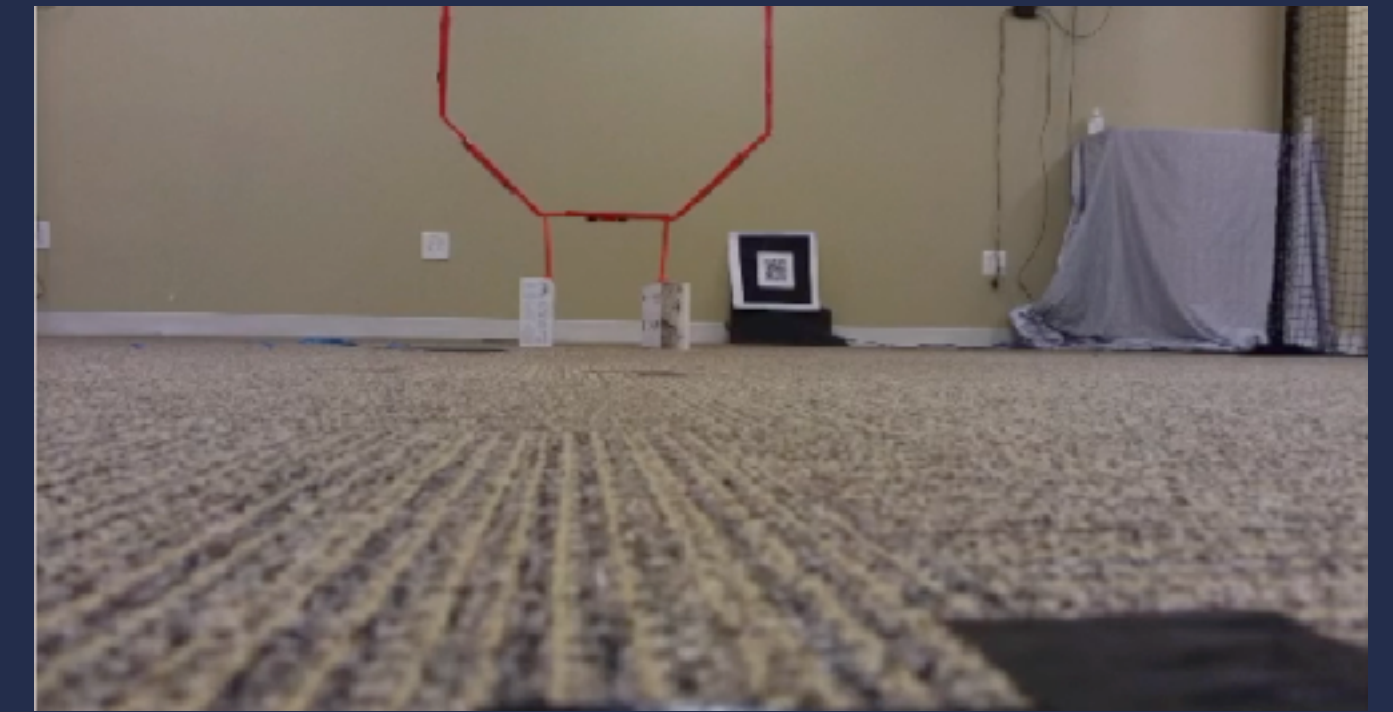
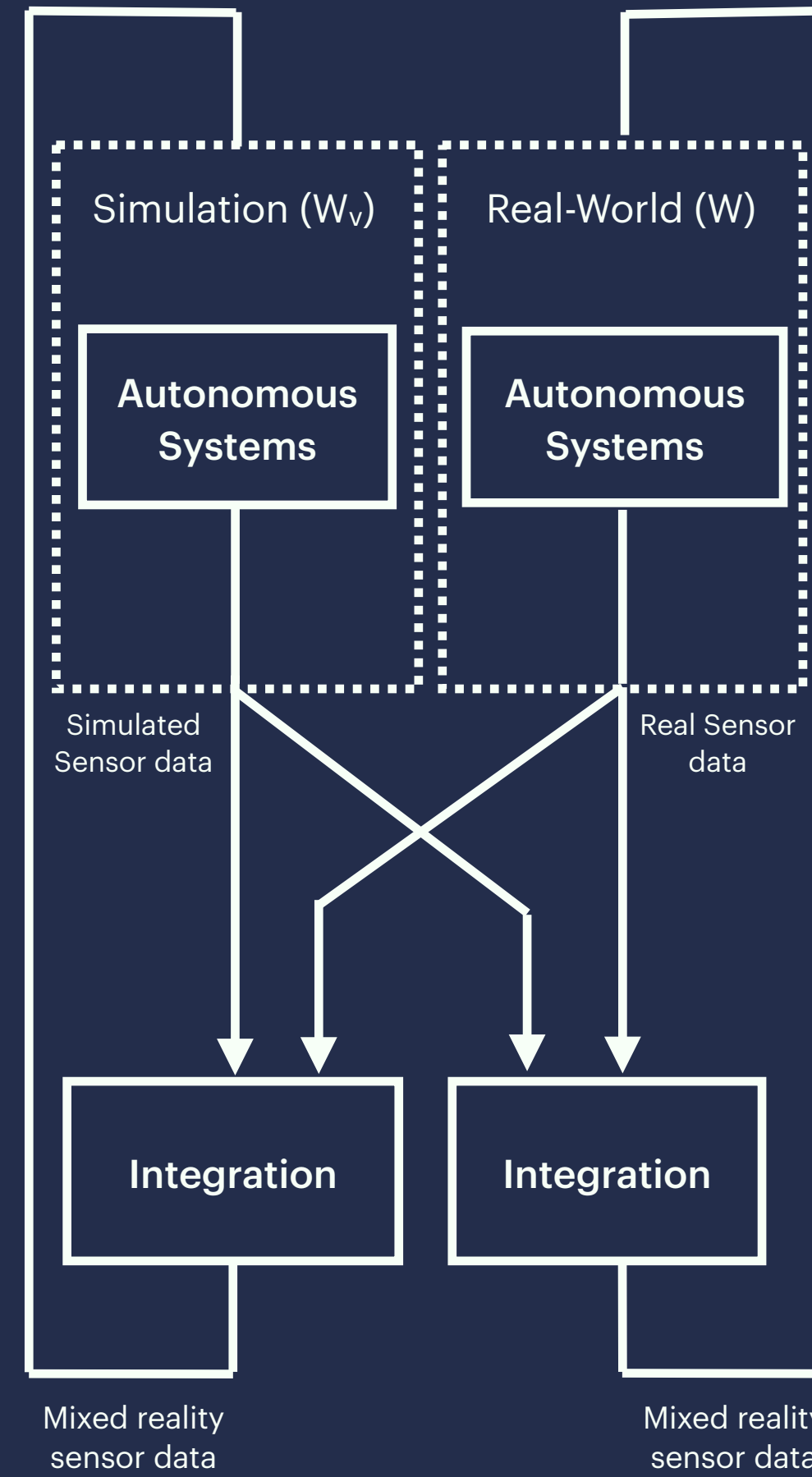
Gate Navigation



Person Following



Drone Avoidance



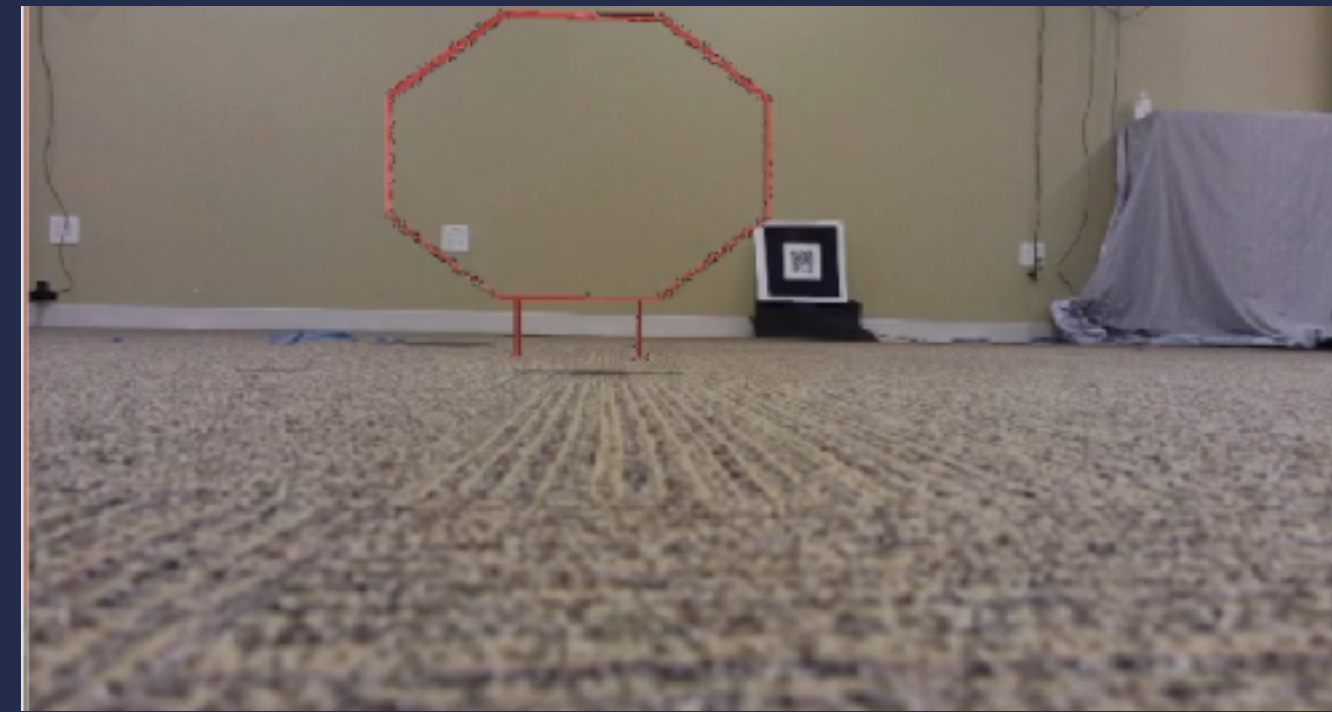
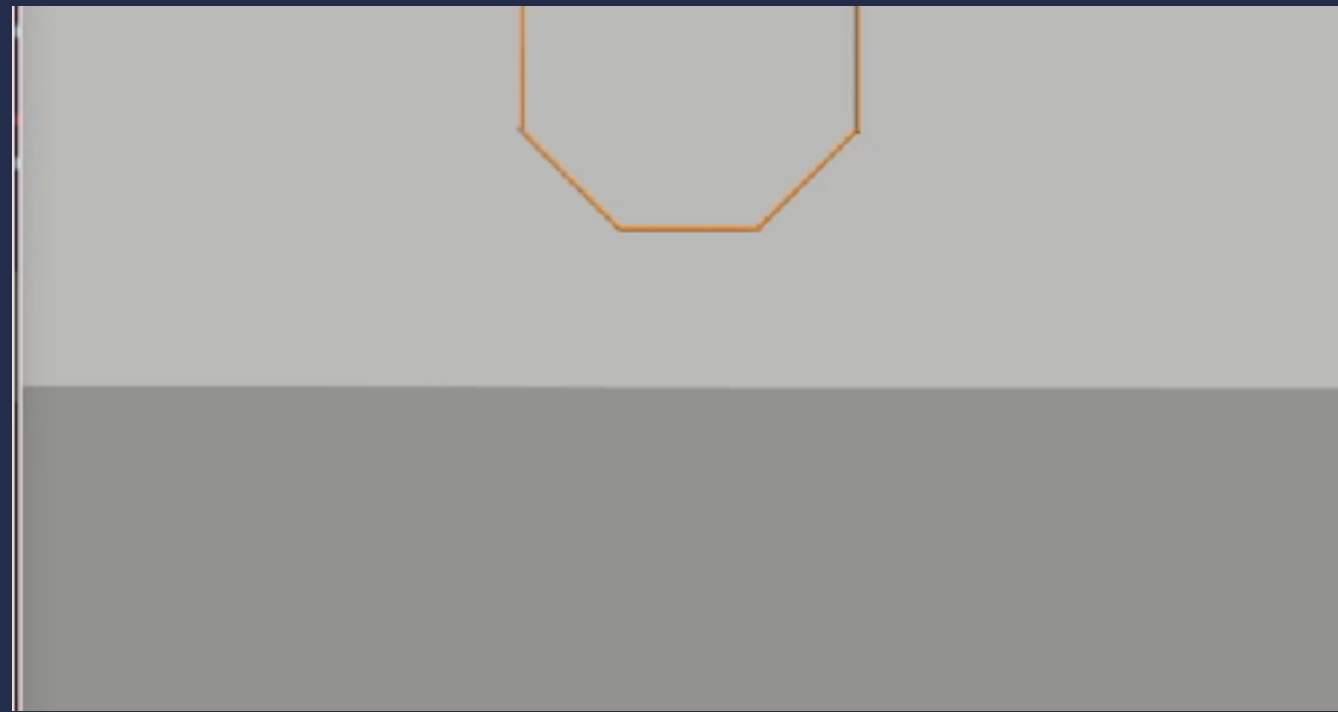
Study - Setup

Simulation

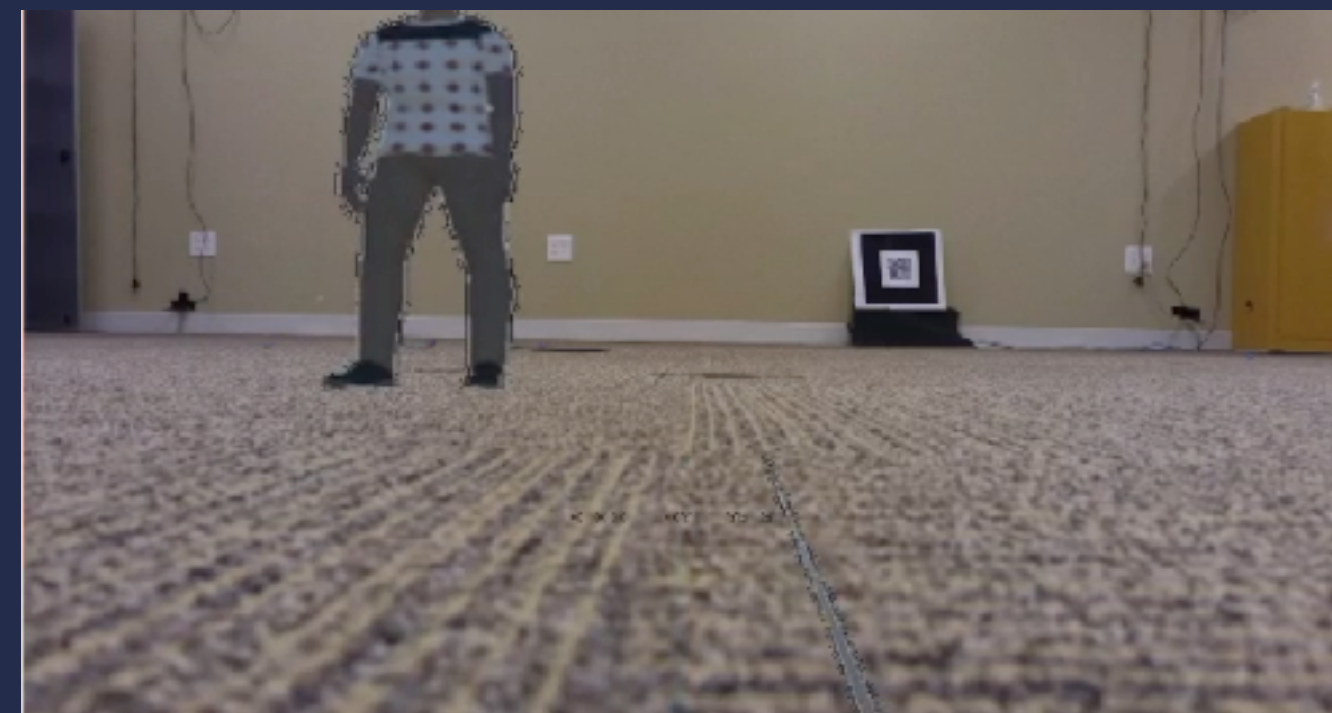
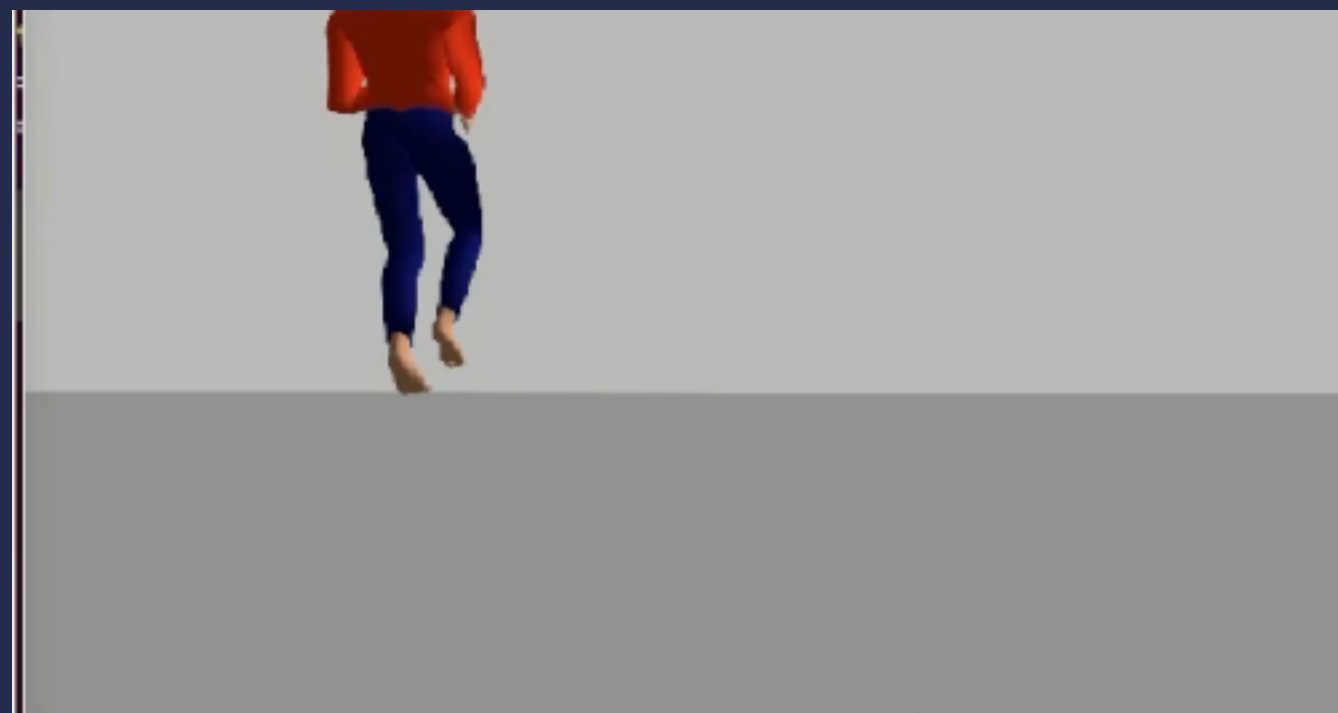
WIL

Reality

Gate
Navigation



Person
Following



Drone
Avoidance



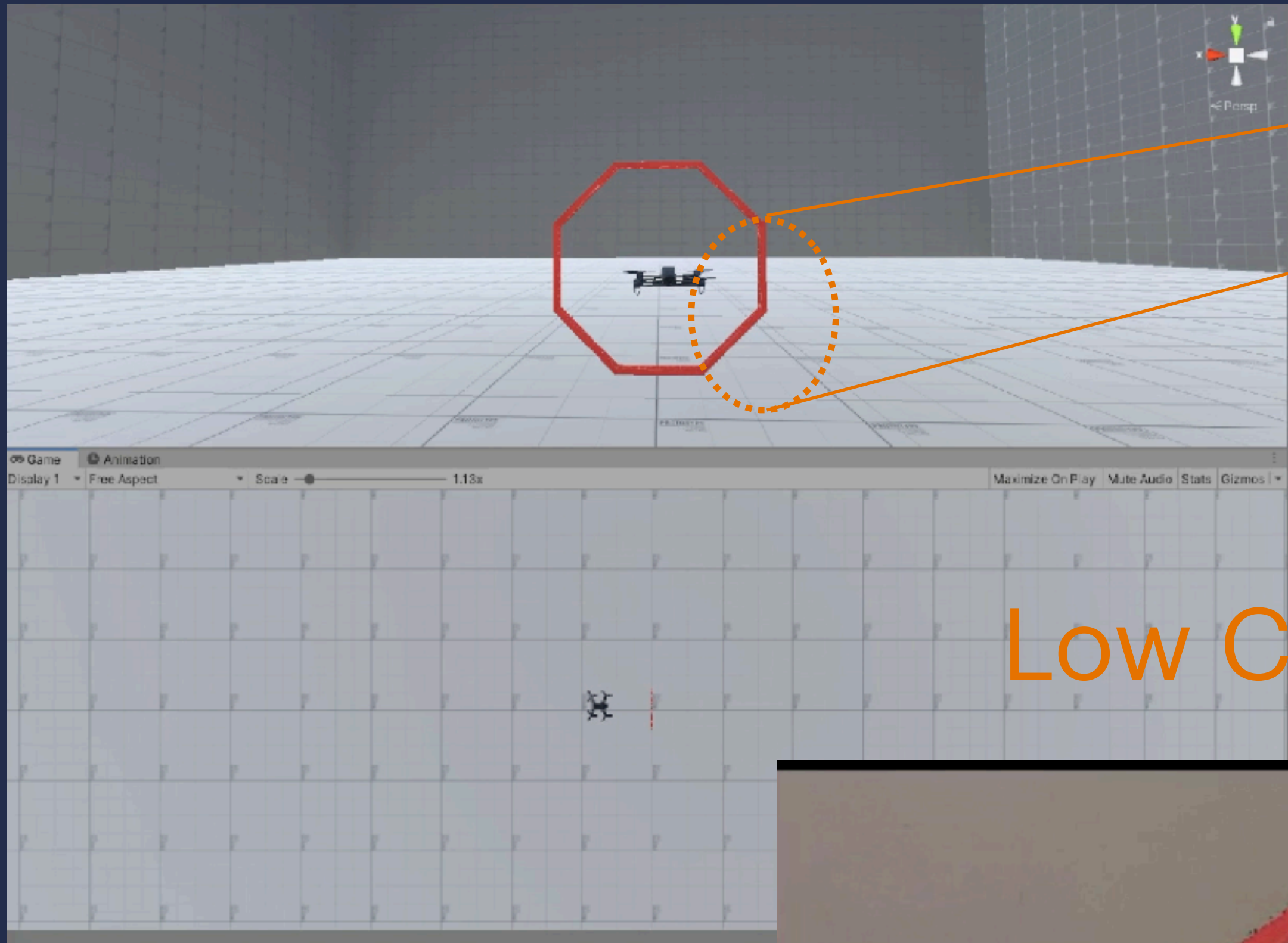
Results

Question: Can we reduce the simulation reality gap?

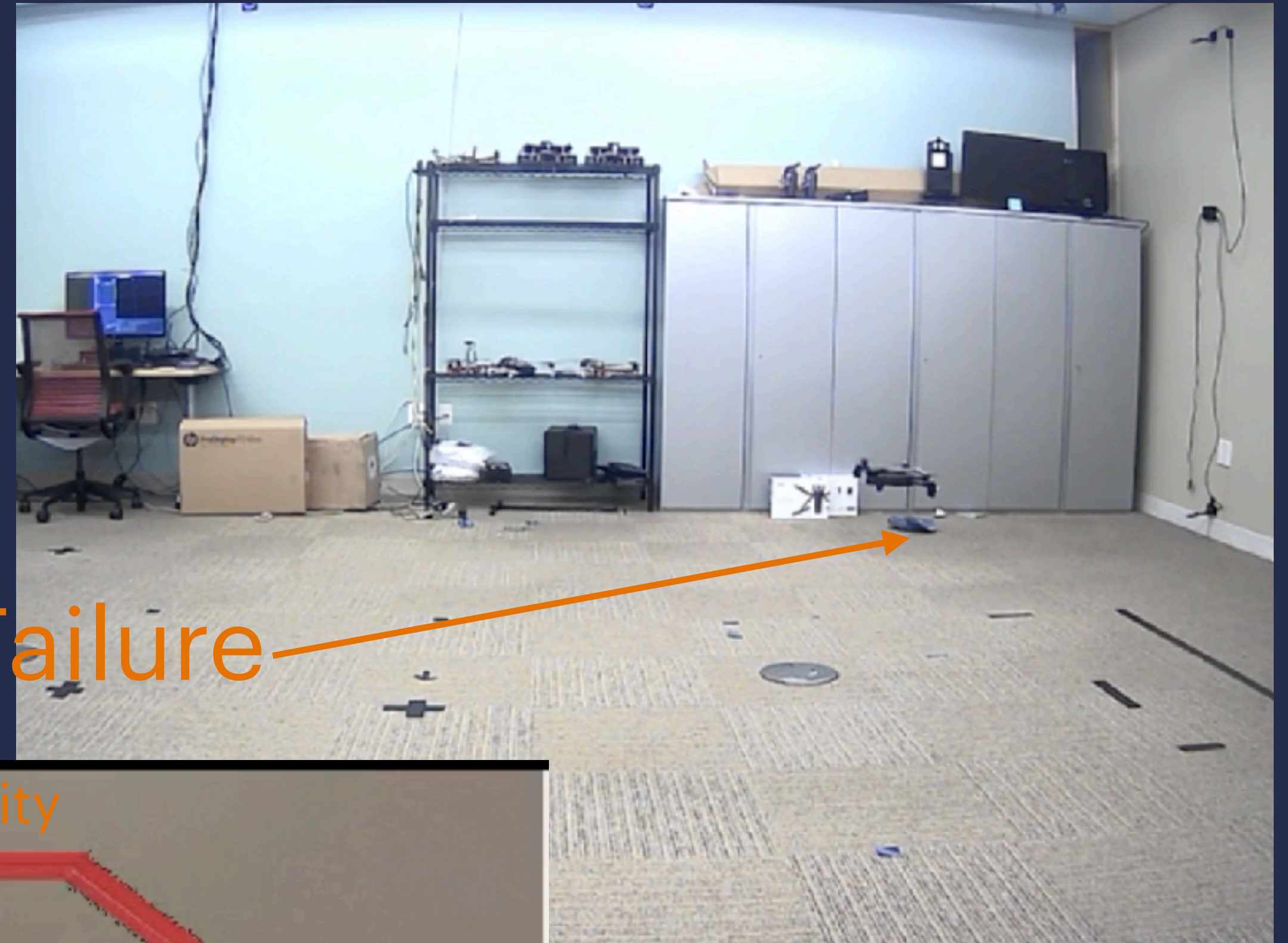
Scenario	Test Case	Simulation	WIL	Reality
Gate Navigation	Large	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F
	Small	P 5 0 F	P 1 4 F	P 1 1 F
Person Following	Walking	P 5 0 F	P 4 1 F	P 0 5 F
	Running	P 5 0 F	P 4 1 F	P 1 4 F
Drone Avoidance	Slow	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F	P 5 0 F
	Fast	P 5 0 F	P 2 3 F	Too Costly

Cost of Failure

Simulation



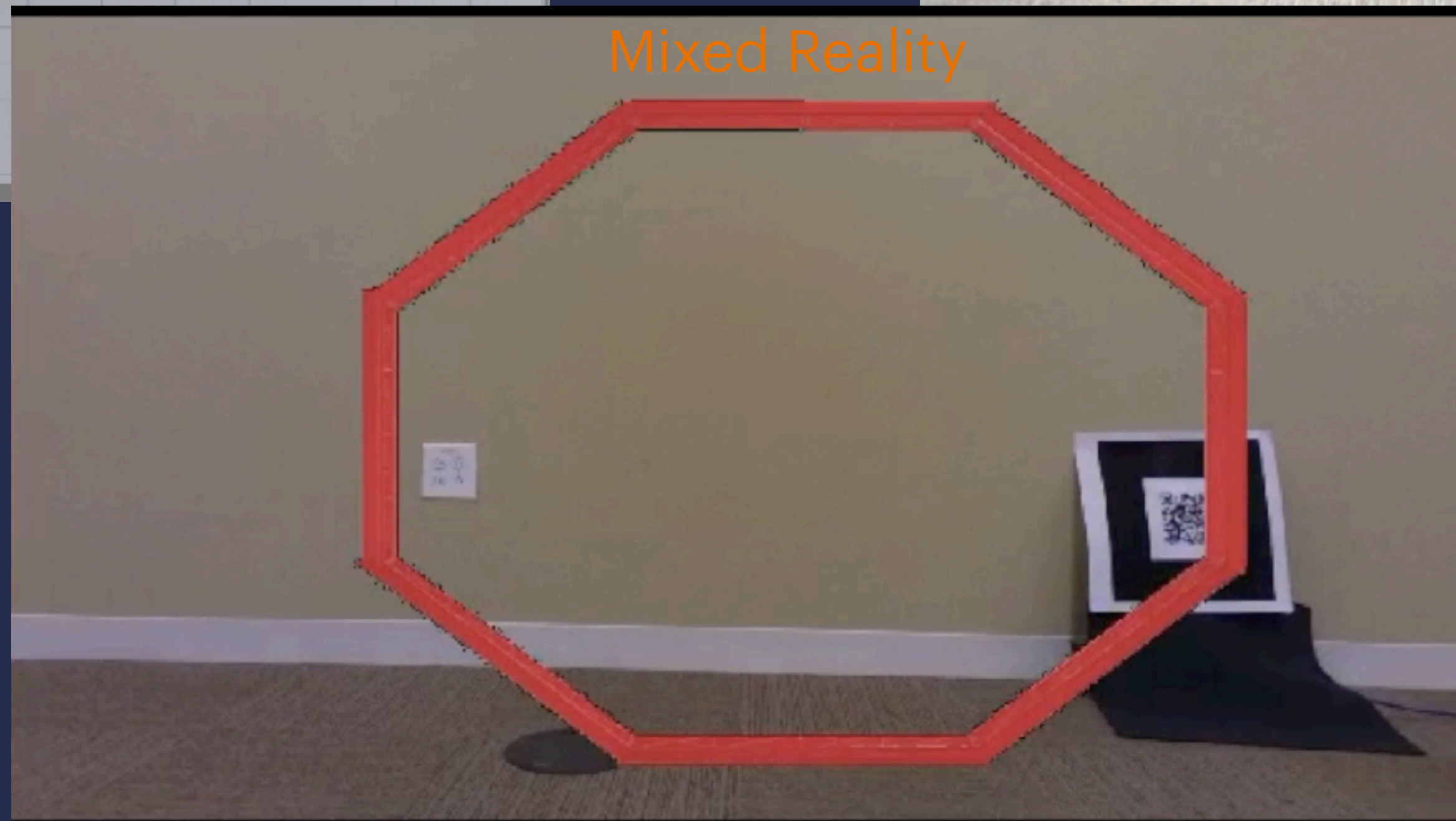
Reality



Failure

Low Cost of Failure

Mixed Reality



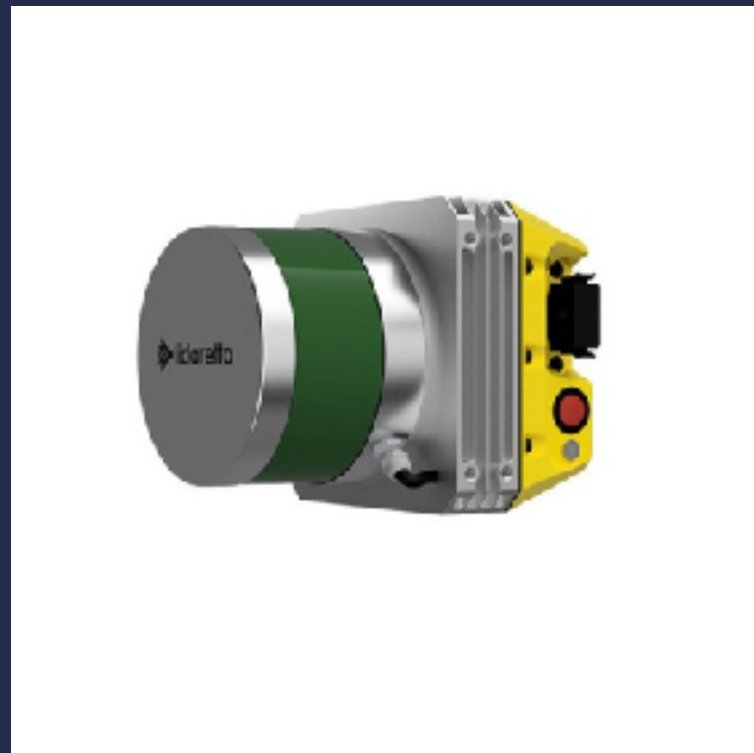
Cost of Failure



High Cost of Failure

Future Work

More Sensor Types



Simulating More of the World



More Simulators



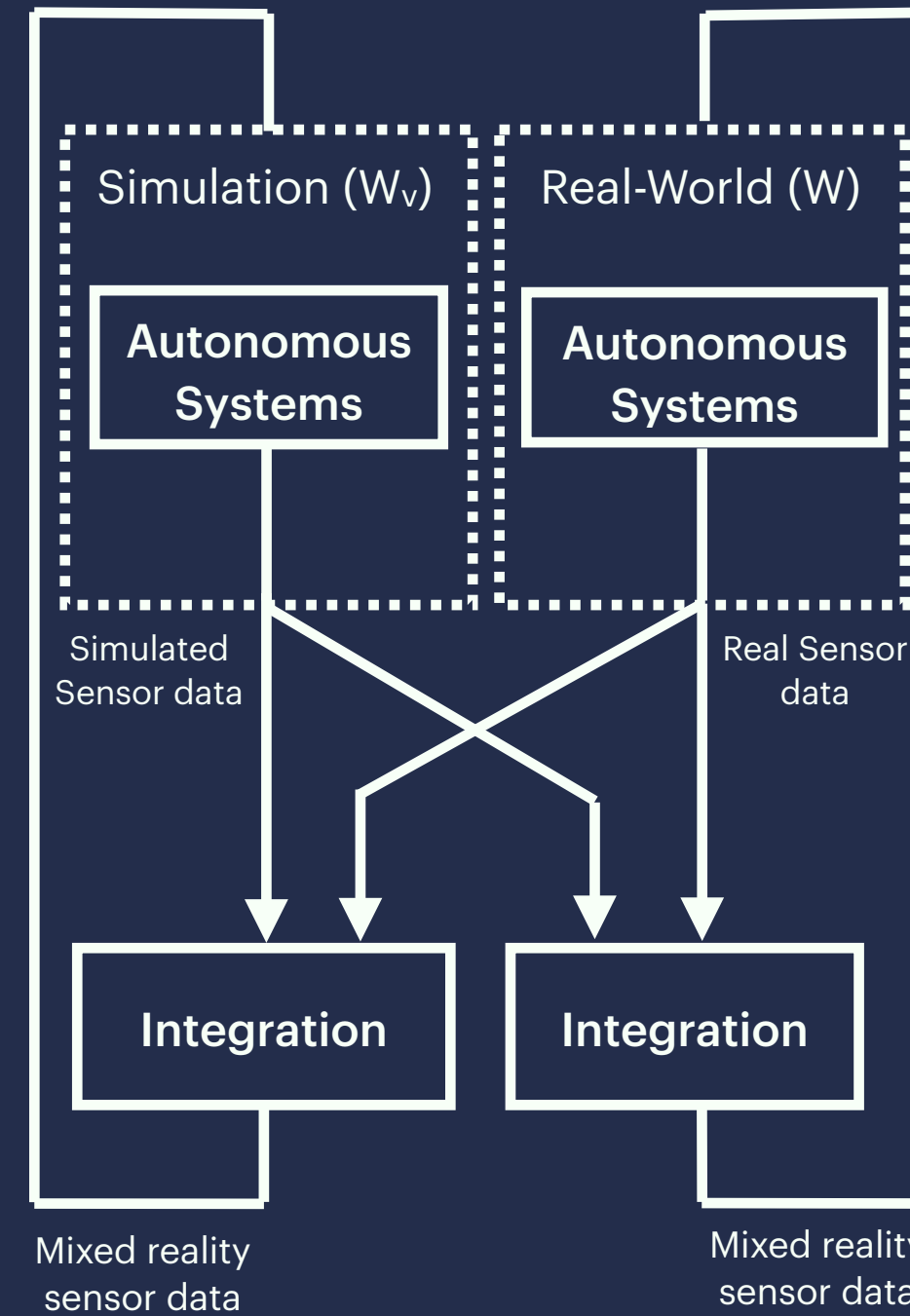


Conclusion



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

