

The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of a proving ground. Two dark-colored cars are parked on an asphalt surface. A person wearing a black jacket and blue pants is standing on a white mat on the ground, facing away from the camera. In the distance, there are power lines and a clear sky. The Siemens logo is overlaid in the top left corner.

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Verifying ADAS and autonomous driving performance

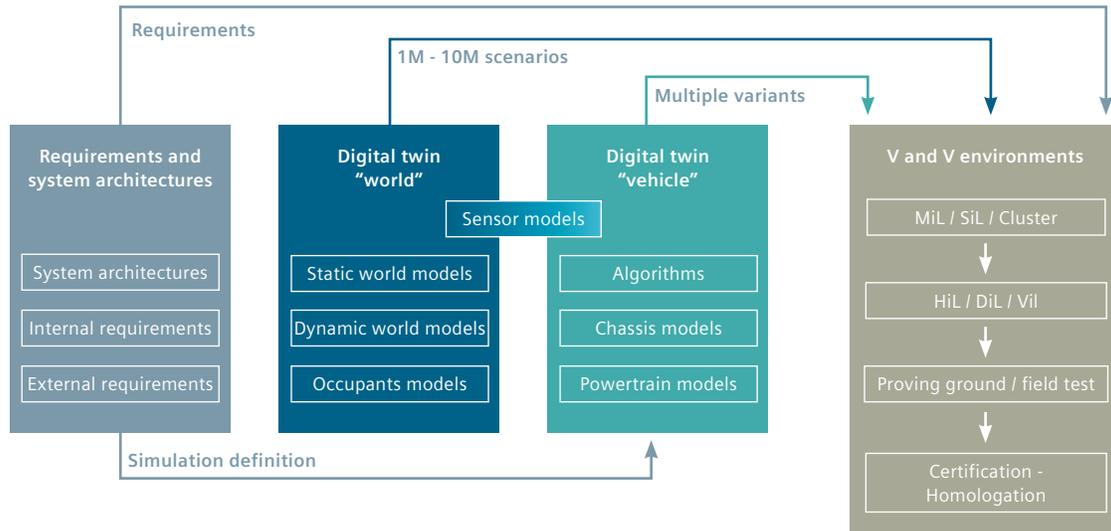
Siemens solutions help optimize the mix of virtual and physical testing

Executive summary

In the nearby future, testing advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) solely on a proving ground is no longer sufficient. With the increasing level of automation, the number of scenarios vehicles need to react to in a safe and repeatable manner is rapidly growing. Virtual validation and verification is about to become common practice for all original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that are integrating systems like autonomous emergency braking, lane keeping assist, speed and parking assist. However, virtual results can only be trustworthy if they are confirmed by physical testing. Having consistency in test scenarios, the virtual representation of the environment, the car and sensors is the key to successfully validating and verifying automated driving functions.

Matthieu Worm, Program Lead Autonomous Driving
Robin van der Made, Product manager Software and Services

Abstract

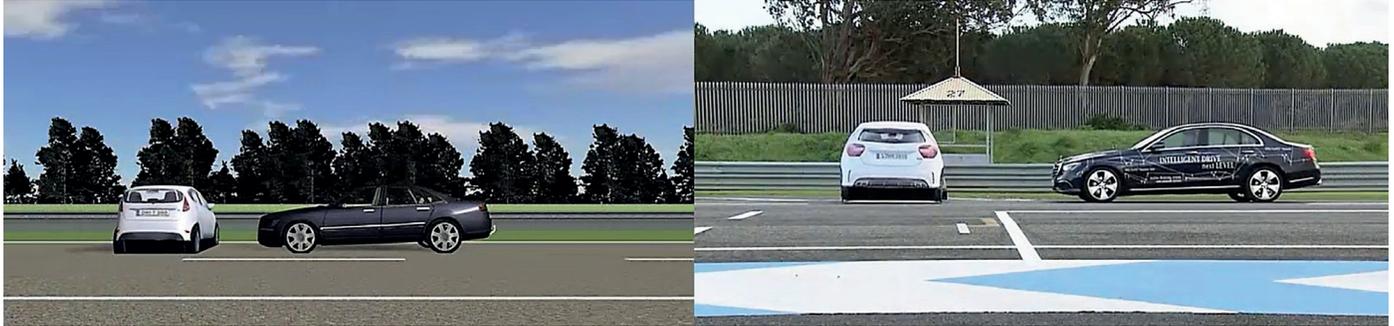


These days ADAS is being standardized in a broad range of vehicles. Not only premium high-end vehicles have pedestrian detection and autonomous braking functionality. It now also comes as standard equipment in small-city cars along with automated parking systems and cruise control. This broad acceptance is indicative of the trend toward fully autonomous driving. Step-by-step more and more control functions of the vehicle will be taken away from the driver, up to the point when fully autonomous mobility-as-a-service offerings will become the norm.

The trajectory to autonomously driven cars is marked by the need for the vehicle to recognize and react to an increased number of complex scenarios. This is also recognized by authorities like Euro NCAP. In future protocols, large numbers of virtual tests will be required to complement the proving ground tests.

Siemens has a wide scope of virtual and physical testing solutions for ADAS and autonomous driving, with optimum fidelity level modeling solutions for sensors, environment, chassis systems, powertrains and controllers. This simulation-based solution framework enables massive model-in-the-loop (MiL) and software-in-the-loop (SiL) testing. But it also supports the re-use of test definitions and models in real-time environments like electronic control units (ECUs), system components or hardware-in-the-loop (HiL) and full vehicle-in-the-loop (ViL) tests. However, this is not where it ends; having a long history and a broad set of capabilities in proving ground testing and model validation services, Siemens closes the loop and combines the results in the virtual environments with those of the proving ground tests.

Challenges in validating ADAS in the full vehicle



Typically, ADAS are supplied by one or more Tier 1 suppliers to the OEM. In this case the controller software is part of the system and not developed in-house. Alternatively, the OEM system engineering teams develop the ADAS, including developing the controls by using components supplied by the Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers. Independent of the supply chain structure, these systems are typically developed in a vehicle-agnostic manner to support installation in multiple vehicle platforms. Only in the very last stage are more detailed, vehicle-specific controls developed.

In both cases the vehicle performance teams need to validate and verify the performance of the systems in specific vehicle configurations. Today's practice is to perform a series of standard proving ground tests and complement them with extensive test drives on the public roads of a variety of countries. Not only is this a costly approach, it cannot be reproduced and repeated.



Full virtual validation and verification

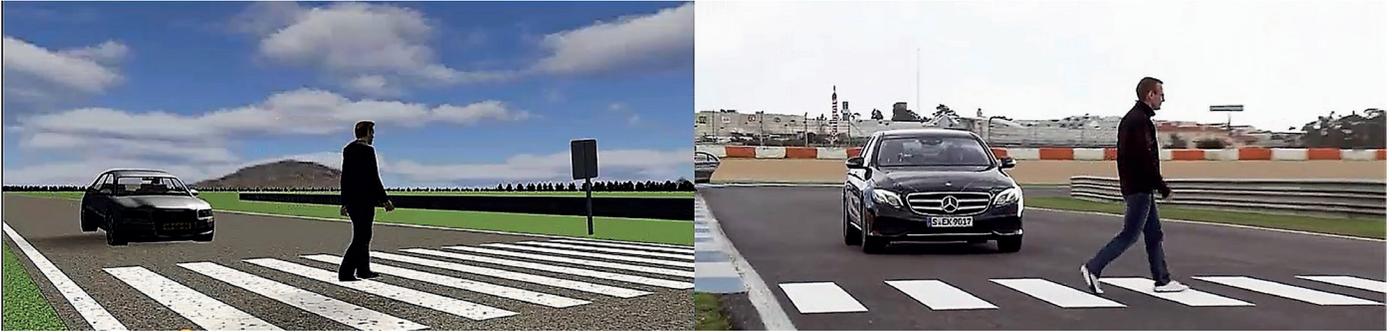
Testing thousands of scenarios is easier said than done. With the Siemens validation and verification framework for ADAS and autonomous driving, the majority of tests are executed in a fully virtual MiL manner. This means the vehicle, environment, sensors and controller are put together as virtual representations, as close to the reality as required to generate trustworthy results.

In practice this means the starting point is the generation of the scenario variants. There are multiple possible sources for scenarios. There are scenario databases like GIDAS and CIDAS (German and Chinese accident databases, respectively), many OEMs and Tier 1s record traffic data and generate OpenSCENARIO format descriptions out of that data, and there are software solutions to generate scenarios synthetically. Simcenter Prescan has all the common scenario interfaces to

support massive simulation in cluster environments. The execution of these large numbers of test is handled in HEEDS™ software.

Mixed reality validation and verification

During the vehicle development process, hardware and software components become available. Since the large majority of the Simcenter models run in real time, it is straightforward to bring hardware and software into the loop, replacing the virtual components. Typical examples of this are the ECU in loop testing, real-time SiL testing and sensor-in-the-loop testing. Siemens works with its customers in engineering services engagements to create these HiL and SiL setups, while enabling re-use of the models and test-case definitions from the MiL stage, preventing unnecessary work and providing consistent results. These tests can also be run for MiL validation work.



Another real-time application is driver-in-the-loop (DiL) and ViL testing. In the first, a driving simulator becomes part of the test setup; for example, making it possible to do subjective assessments and human machine interface research. In the ViL setup, the entire vehicle is driven through a virtual scene. The sensors of the physical vehicle are disconnected from the vehicle controllers while the sensor data is being generated in real time in the vehicle. It is then sent as inputs to the vehicle controller instead. In this way, complex tests with multiple traffic participants can be executed with the complete vehicle on an empty proving ground; for example, getting exact results for braking distance or lane-keeping performances. ViL tests are valuable for preparing future Euro NCAP tests that require mixed virtual results and proving ground tests since it makes it possible to rerun virtual scenarios in a one-to-one comparable execution on a proving ground.

Proving ground and real-life testing

The last stage of the verification and validation process will always take place outdoors with the preproduction vehicle. When the first cars become available for testing, both model validation tests and full performance

verification tests can be executed. It is especially important that continuity is guaranteed for validation tests.

With Simcenter Prescan, virtual test scenario definitions can be translated in driver robot set points, making it straightforward to run the exact same scenario in virtual conditions as well as on the proving ground. This capability makes it possible to accurately prepare proving ground testing, especially when proving grounds are virtualized in detail, recording the friction coefficients and pothole locations of the tarmac. As a result, test campaigns can be optimized and executed efficiently. Siemens has simulation partnership agreements with the leading proving grounds for autonomous driving to streamline this process, such as the American Center of Mobility at Willow Run, Michigan.

TASS International, a Siemens business, is a Euro NCAP-accredited test laboratory, running full-scale crash tests and active safety assessments for speed assist, lane support and emergency braking. The hands-on test experience on the proving ground is translated into the virtual components of the validation and verification framework.

Conclusion

Verifying the performance of automated driving functions is particularly complex due to the infinite number of possible scenarios the car will encounter during its lifetime. A closed-loop validation and verification framework ensures measurable test coverage and enables continuous improvement of the scenario database. Siemens partners with the automotive industry to bring continuity throughout the development and validation and verification processes, from a pure virtual representation to when the physical vehicle hits the road. And it doesn't stop there. Data collected during the lifetime of the vehicle can be used to further improve the vehicle with over-the-air software updates. Having an established virtual and physical validation and verification framework enables this new way of working. Siemens is guiding its customers and partners in this paradigm shift and helping to prepare the automotive industry for a new reality.

Siemens PLM Software

Headquarters

Granite Park One
5800 Granite Parkway
Suite 600
Plano, TX 75024
USA
+1 972 987 3000

Americas

Granite Park One
5800 Granite Parkway
Suite 600
Plano, TX 75024
USA
+1 314 264 8499

Europe

Stephenson House
Sir William Siemens Square
Frimley, Camberley
Surrey, GU16 8QD
+44 (0) 1276 413200

Asia-Pacific

Unit 901-902, 9/F
Tower B
Manulife Financial Centre
223-231 Wai Yip Street
Kwun Tong, Kowloon
Hong Kong
+852 2230 3333

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