Design considerations for ODD languages



Background: the MUSICC project

Much more at https://cp.catapult.org.uk/case-studies/musicc/

Future of type approval

- V&V increasingly use simulation
- Type approval methods will need to change to keep up!
- **Test scenarios** will become very important, with some likely to be prescribed by regulation

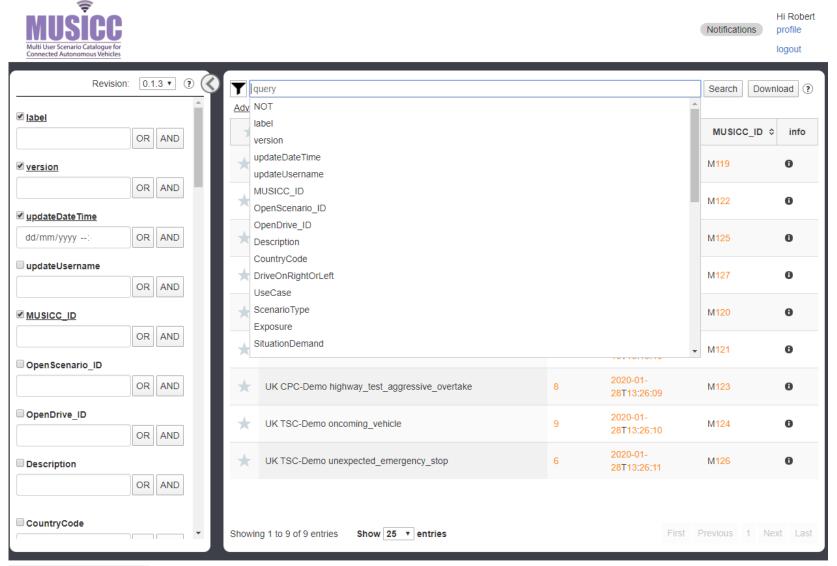
Key output of the project

A proof-of-concept system to store and share a *library of scenarios* for regulatory use



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Themes

- Need to find the right scenarios but only the right scenarios!
 - Highly dependent on machine readable ODD
- Open standards



Topics in this document

Aim: share what we've learned about ODD ontology requirements





Connected Places Catapult

Design considerations for ODD ontology

Key topics

- Purpose and use cases
- Content
- Semantics

Purpose and use cases



A few example applications

Test case selection for regulatory approval (MUSICC)

Can the vehicle do what it claims to?

Route planning / vehicle selection

Is the mission expected to stay inside ODD?

ODD monitoring (onboard, part of ADS)

Has the vehicle left the ODD unexpectedly?

- Need for an ODD description which is identical, unambiguous and machine readable
- Slightly different requirements for each use case

Content

Geofences

- Well defined and understandable!
- Road networks change over time specify what the ADS can handle

Categoric lists

- Good combination of precision and readability e.g. "bright sunlight" defined by a luminance range
- Potentially much more expressive power



Content

Sometimes use cases conflict

Physical properties

Precipitation type: snow

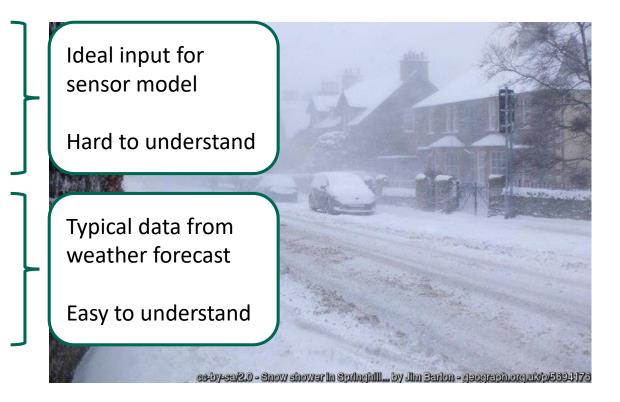
Mean droplet size: 1mm

Intensity: 30 g/dm²/hr

Effect

Precipitation type: snow

Visibility distance: 100m



Similar problem in specifying other road user behavior "Cycling prohibited" vs "no cyclists"



Semantics

Hierarchy or not?

ODD: main roads only

Description using non-hierarchical ontology

Road types:

Urban motorway

Urban non-motorway dual arterial

Urban single arterial

High street (significant
through traffic)

Rural motorway

Rural non-motorway dual trunk road

Description using hierarchical ontology

Road types: Arterial (all)

What if I want to say "all urban roads"?

Hierarchy works well where there is only one way to categorise

Possible solution: overlapping lists (but harder to understand and maintain)



Semantics



Safe versioning

Test case selection for regulatory approval (MUSICC)

Dangerous error: something is **omitted** from the ODD

Dangerous error: something extra is **included** in the ODD

Suggestions:

- ODD description tied to a single ontology version
- Validity checks
- Migration tool

ODD monitoring (onboard, part of ADS)

Semantics



Complex criteria

- Cannot make right turns at roundabouts
- Cannot overtake unless high quality mapping data is available
- Can only operate if at least 1 lane >3m wide

Need to be able to search OpenLABEL (or similar)