

# Ontologies and ODDs at Five

---

Iain Whiteside

24th April 2020





## Topics

---

- Five + Iain
- Importance of ODD/Operating Domain
- Our Approach
- A language for Ontologies
- Use Cases
- Requirements from Five

Team of 130 engineers and computer scientists focused on solving the hard problems in self-driving

Recognised the size of the task and the need for \$ billions in capital to deliver safe self-driving services

Built level 4 reference stack with UK government support and taken hundreds of test drives over 21km route in London during 2019

Closed \$41M Series B (final tranche Feb 2020) based on pivot to deliver key tech for V&V to firms spending those billions



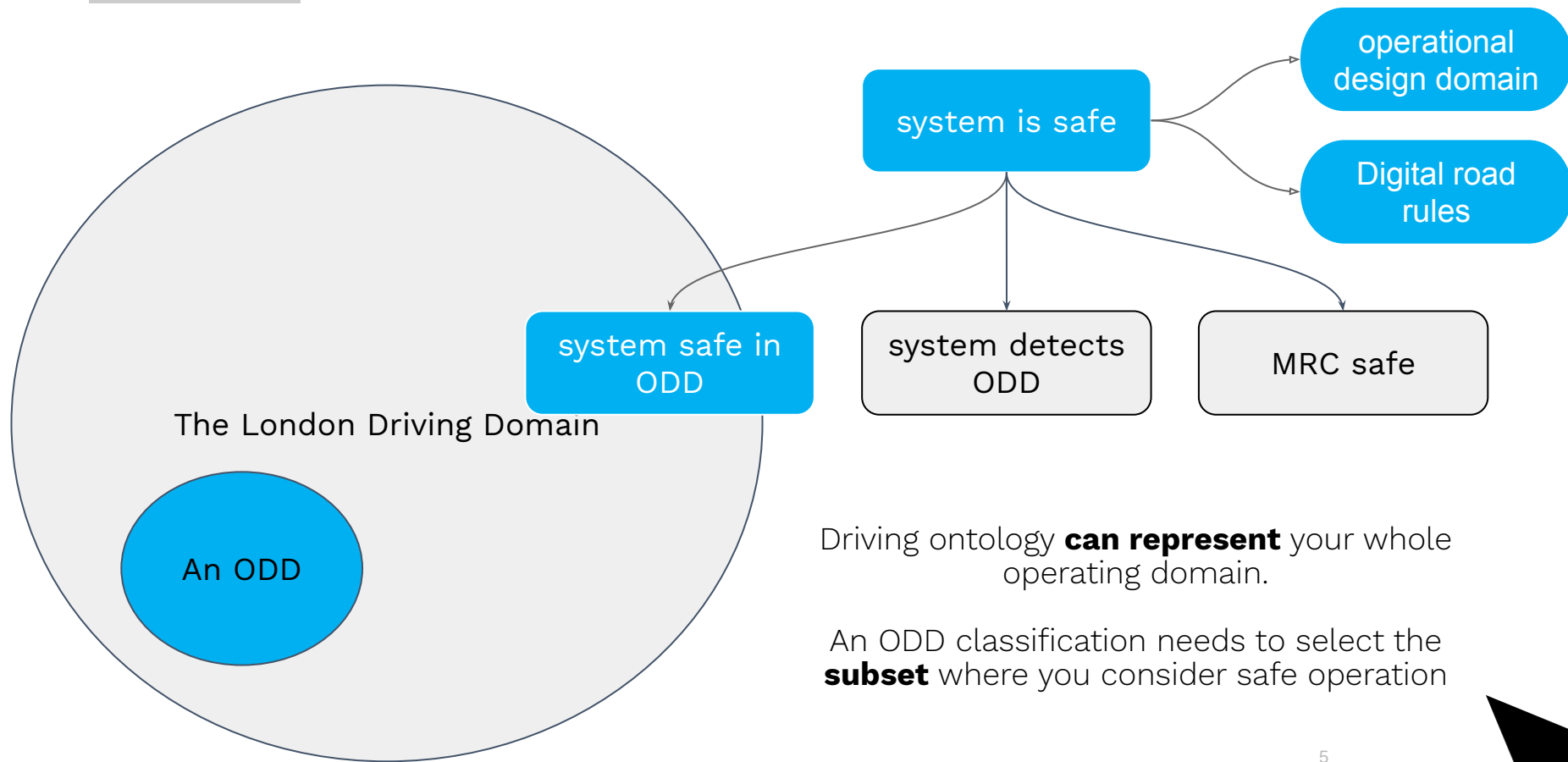
- Director of Assurance @ Five
- Prev. Safety and Robust Software @ NASA
- Prev. Formal Verification + DSLs and programming language semantics



# ODD and Operating Domain



## Scope of an ontology





# Our approach



## Our approach

Coherent tooling for a formal ontology, with formal releases

Reference it formally and with traceability throughout company

Currently: hard-coded map between OpenX

Represent ODD, Road Rules, Scenarios using this language

Feed directly into safety case: backbone for structure



# Ontology



WorldScene.ontology x

```
1 five ai ontology specification WorldScene
2
3 class WorldScene : "The top level class for specifying the ODD-type scene for an EGO"
4     attribute EgoState as EgoState
5     attribute EnvironmentalState as EnvironmentalState
6     attribute RoadStructure as RoadStructure
7     attribute ActiveRoadState as ActiveRoadState |
```

Version-controlled cloud-based Integrated Development Environment for specifying a driving domain ontology, ODDs, and “scenes” AKA scenarios in that domain ontology.

At the top level we have a “world scene”, which defines an instant snapshot of a scenario.

WorldScene.ontology x

```
1 five ai ontology specification WorldScene
2
3 class WorldScene : "The top level class for specifying the ODD-type scene for an EGO"
4     attribute EgoState as EgoState
5     attribute EnvironmentalState as EnvironmentalState
6     attribute RoadStructure as RoadStructure
7     attribute ActiveRoadState as ActiveRoadState |
```

Domain Specific Language for specifying ontology elements. A simplification of a fully-featured OWL language.

Completely customizable, though top-level is integrated with a scene language (more later).

## EnvironmentalState.ontology x

```

1  five ai ontology specification EnvironmentalState
2
3  class EnvironmentalState : "The conditions associated with the state of the environment."
4      attribute SkyCondition as SkyCondition
5      attribute WeatherCondition as WeatherCondition
6      attribute GroundCondition as GroundCondition
7      optional attribute WindLevel as WindLevel default Calm
8      optional attribute AirParticulateMatter as AirParticulateMatter default ClearAir
9
10
11 class WeatherCondition : "The types of weather that the Five AI Ontology distinguishes"
12     values type = number range = [0,) units = "mm/h"
13     class ClearCalm :: WeatherCondition : "Dry weather with little wind"
14         values type = number range = [0,0] units = "mm/h"
15     class AdverseConditions :: WeatherCondition : "Conditions that adversely affect the vehicle"
16         class Snow :: AdverseConditions : "Snowing"
17             values type = number range = (0,) units = "mm/h"
18         class Sleet :: AdverseConditions : "Sleet Shower"
19             values type = number range = (0,) units = "mm/h"
20         class Rain :: AdverseConditions : "A level of rain that requires some use of wipers"
21             values type = number range = (0,) units = "mm/h"
22             class LightRain :: Rain : "Light rain requiring intermittent wipers"
23                 values subrange = (0,5]
24             class ModerateRain :: Rain : "Rain requiring regular wipers"
25                 values subrange = (5,20)
26             class HeavyRain :: Rain : "Rain requiring high-speed wipers"
27                 values subrange = [20,)
28
29 class SkyCondition : "The state of the sky: sun position, time of day"
30     values type = number range = [0,8] units = "okta"
31     attribute SunPosition as SunPosition
32     attribute TimeOfDay as TimeOfDay
33     class ClearSkies :: SkyCondition : "Completely clear sky"
34         values subrange = [0,1]
35     class PartlyCloudy :: SkyCondition : "Up to half of the sky is covered in clouds"

```

Environment part of the ontology.

Ability to tie to **real-world values**.  
Tooling to determine consistency.

Hierarchy. (of course)

## RoadDescription.ontology x

```

1  five ai ontology specification RoadDescription
2
3
4  class Road : "The top level specification for the description of the carriageway"
5      attribute SpeedLimit as SpeedLimit
6      attribute CentralDividerMarking as CentralDividerMarking
7
8  class NormalRoad :: Road : "A normal road"
9      optional attribute RoadEdge as NearSideRoadEdge default Curb
10     optional attribute RoadsideFeature * as NearSideRoadsideFeature default Pavement
11     optional attribute RoadsideMarking as NearSideRoadsideMarking
12     attribute RoadScenery as RoadScenery
13     attribute RoadGeometry as RoadGeometry
14     attribute RoadSurface as RoadSurface default AsphaltSurface
15     optional attribute RoadsideObstacle as NearSideRoadsideObstacle
16     attribute Lane * as TrafficLanes
17     optional attribute RoadEdge as FarSideRoadEdge default Curb
18     optional attribute RoadsideFeature * as FarSideRoadsideFeature default Pavement
19     attribute RoadsideMarking as FarSideRoadsideMarking
20     optional attribute RoadsideObstacle as FarSideRoadsideObstacle
21
22
23  class RoadWithoutCentralReservation :: NormalRoad : "A road without a central reservation"
24      class SingleTrackRoad :: RoadWithoutCentralReservation : "Road limited by definition to only including a single lane in one carriageway"
25          class ResidentialSingleTrack :: SingleTrackRoad : "A residential road with no lane marking and traffic in both directions"
26          class SingleTrackRoadWithPassingPlaces :: SingleTrackRoad : "A country road that only has one lane but passing places"
27
28      class MultipleLaneRoad :: RoadWithoutCentralReservation : "A type of road that can have multiple lanes"
29          class OneWayStreet :: MultipleLaneRoad : "A road layout with only one direction of travel"
30          class SingleCarriageway :: MultipleLaneRoad : "A single carriageway road, without a well-defined center reservation"
31
32  class RoadWithCentralReservation :: NormalRoad : "A road with a central reservation"
33      class DualCarriageway :: RoadWithCentralReservation : "A dual carriageway road, with a well-defined central reservation"
34      class Motorway :: RoadWithCentralReservation : "A motorway class road"
35

```

Ditto for all the road elements that we see.

cf. Domain models in OpenX

Much more of this. Broadly similar to PAS 1883 but adds

**Structure**

```
1 five ai ontology specification FunctionalManoeuvre
2
3 class FunctionalManoeuvre : "The ontological class of functional manoeuvres" //This may get renamed to be Competencies
4
5     class SettingOff :: FunctionalManoeuvre : "Starting to drive"
6
7     class DrivingInLane :: FunctionalManoeuvre : "Generic driving along a lane"
8         optional attribute Number as EgoLaneFollowingLaneNumber default One
9
10    class LaneFollowing :: DrivingInLane : "Safe lane positioning, moderating speed according to road layout, speed limits and progress."
11
12    class VehicleDistanceModeration :: DrivingInLane : "ACC: Longitudinal distance and speed moderation from vehicles in the EGO trajectory path"
13        attribute Vehicle as VehicleBeingFollowed
14
15    class VRUDistanceModeration :: DrivingInLane : "Longitudinal distance and speed moderation from VRUs in the EGO trajectory path"
16        attribute Objects as TheVRU
17
18    class BeingOvertakenInLane :: DrivingInLane : "When you are being overtaken"
19        attribute Vehicle as OvertakingVehicle
20
21
22    class WaitingAndParking :: FunctionalManoeuvre : "The action of stopping for a reason"
23        class StopAndWait :: WaitingAndParking : "Stop and wait for a brief period for a given reason"
24            class PassengerOnboard :: StopAndWait : "Retrieve a passenger"
25            class PassengerAlight :: StopAndWait : "Drop a passenger off"
26        class Park :: WaitingAndParking : "The act of parking"
27            class ParallelPark :: Park : "Perform a parallel park"
28            class PerpindicularPark :: Park : "Perform a perpindicular park"
29
30    class Reverse :: FunctionalManoeuvre : "Reverse the EGO"
31
32    class TurnJunction :: FunctionalManoeuvre : "Make a turn from one road onto another"
33
34
35    class LeftTurn :: TurnJunction : "Make a left turn, which does not cross the other lane"
```

Some more  
examples, for vehi  
manoeuvres.



&lt;&gt; London.odd

Objects.ontology x

```
4 class Vehicle :: Objects : "Generic vehicle"  
5 class Car :: Vehicle : "Generic car class"  
6 class NormalCar :: Car : "Guidance: Category M1 or N1 vehicles as per (Vehicle Certification Agency, n.d.) and inclu
```

2D Detections (front)





ODD



↔ London.odd x

```
1 five ai odd definition London
2
3 default is permissive
4 //Any ontology element not explicitly mentioned will be accepted as part of the ODD
5
6 global definitions
7   for GenericTrafficDensity we allow [LowTrafficDensity, MediumTrafficDensity]
8
9   for ActiveRoadState attribute PertinentSceneElements we do not allow [LearnerOrNewDriverCar,
10     WideLoadLorry,
11     ArticulatedBus,
12     EmergencyVehicle,
13     Cyclist,
14     HorseRider,
15     NonRoadRespectingObjects]
16   for AirParticulateMatter we allow [ClearAir]
17   for WeatherCondition we allow [ClearCalm, LightRain]
18   for TimeOfDay we allow [Daylight]
19   for WindLevel we do not allow [StrongWinds]
20   for GroundCondition we allow [DryGround, WetGround]
21   for AlteredCondition we do not allow anything
22
23
24   for FunctionalManoeuvre we allow [SettingOff,
25     LaneFollowing,
26     VehicleDistanceModeration,
27     StopAndWait,
28     LeftTurnMinorToMajor,
29     LeftTurnMajorToMinor,
30     RoundaboutExit,
31     EnterRoundabout,
32     OvertakeSingleCarriageway]
33
34   for NonFunctionalManoeuvre we allow [DisplayIndicatorLights]
35   for Road we allow [SingleCarriageway, OneWayStreet, DualCarriageway, CompactRoundabout]
```

Domain Specific  
Language for  
declaring which parts  
of our ontology are in  
the ODD



London.odd x

```
1 five ai odd definition London
2
3 default is permissive
4 //Any ontology element not explicitly mentioned will be accepted as part of the ODD
5
6 global definitions
7 for GenericTrafficDensity we allow [LowTrafficDensity, MediumTrafficDensity]
8
9 for ActiveRoadState attribute PertinentSceneElements we do not allow [LearnerOrNewDriverCar,
10 WideLoadLorry,
11 ArticulatedBus,
12 EmergencyVehicle,
13 Cyclist,
14 HorseRider,
15 NonRoadRespectingObjects]
16 for AirParticulateMatter we allow [ClearAir]
17 for WeatherCondition we allow [ClearCalm, LightRain]
18 for TimeOfDay we allow [Daylight]
19 for WindLevel we do not allow [StrongWinds]
20 for GroundCondition we allow [DryGround, WetGround]
21 for AlteredCondition we do not allow anything
22
23
24 for FunctionalManoeuvre we allow [SettingOff,
25 LaneFollowing,
26 VehicleDistanceModeration,
27 StopAndWait,
28 LeftTurnMinorToMajor,
29 LeftTurnMajorToMinor,
30 RoundaboutExit,
31 EnterRoundabout,
32 OvertakeSingleCarriageway]
33
34 for NonFunctionalManoeuvre we allow [DisplayIndicatorLights]
35 for Road we allow [SingleCarriageway, OneWayStreet, DualCarriageway, CompactRoundabout]
```

Specific mechanism  
for parts of ontology  
not mentioned. Other  
option is **restrictive**

Simple syntax for  
talking about single  
dimensions and  
attributes

London.odd x

```

1  five ai odd definition London
2
3  default is permissive
4  //Any ontology element not explicitly mentioned will be accepted as part of the ODD
5
6  global definitions
7      for GenericTrafficDensity we allow [LowTrafficDensity, MediumTrafficDensity]
8
9      for GenericTrafficDensity we do not allow [Animals]
10     for GenericTrafficDensity we do not allow [LowDensityTraffic]
11
12     for ActiveRoadState attribute PertinentSceneElements we do not allow [LearnerOrNewDriverCar,
13                                     WideLoadLorry,
14                                     ArticulatedBus,
15                                     EmergencyVehicle,|
16                                     Cyclist,
17                                     HorseRider,
18                                     NonRoadRespectingObjects]
19     for AirParticulateMatter we allow [ClearAir]
20     for WeatherCondition we allow [ClearCalm, LightRain]
21     for TimeOfDay we allow [Daylight]
22     for WindLevel we do not allow [StrongWinds]
23     for GroundCondition we allow [DryGround, WetGround]
24     for AlteredCondition we do not allow anything
25
26
27     for FunctionalManoeuvre we allow [SettingOff,
28                                     LaneFollowing,
29                                     VehicleDistanceModeration,
30                                     StopAndWait,
31                                     LeftTurnMinorToMajor,
32                                     LeftTurnMajorToMinor,
33                                     RoundaboutExit,
34                                     EnterRoundabout,
35                                     OvertakeSingleCarriageway]

```

This is an IDE. It supports the writing of consistent rules.

Animals is not a traffic density

Can't both **allow** and **not allow** low density traffic

London.odd x

```
1 five ai odd definition London
2
3 default is permissive
4 //Any ontology element not explicitly mentioned will be accepted as part of the ODD
5
6 global definitions
7   for GenericTrafficDensity we allow [LowTrafficDensity, MediumTrafficDensity]
8
9   for ActiveRoadState attribute PertinentSceneElements we do not allow [LearnerOrNewDriverCar,
10     WideLoadLorry,
11     ArticulatedBus,
12     EmergencyVehicle,
13     Cyclist,
14     HorseRider,
15     NonRoadRespectingObjects]
16   for AirParticulateMatter we allow [ClearAir]
17   for WeatherCondition we allow [ClearCalm, LightRain]
18   for TimeOfDay we allow [Daylight]
19   for WindLevel we do not allow [StrongWinds]
20   for GroundCondition we allow [DryGround, WetGround]
21   for AlteredCondition we do not allow anything
22
23
24   for FunctionalManoeuvre we allow [SettingOff,
25     LaneFollowing,
26     VehicleDistanceModeration,
27     StopAndWait,
28     LeftTurnMinorToMajor,
29     LeftTurnMajorToMinor,
30     RoundaboutExit,
31     EnterRoundabout,
32     OvertakeSingleCarriageway]
33
34   for NonFunctionalManoeuvre we allow [DisplayIndicatorLights]
35   for Road we allow [SingleCarriageway, OneWayStreet, DualCarriageway, CompactRoundabout]
```

Hierarchy is  
respected

anything allows or  
disallows all  
subclasses

London.odd x

```
41
42   for SceneEnvironmentState we do not allow [SchoolArea, HomeZone, QuietZone, SharedSpace]
43   for RoadIntersectionFeature we allow [CompactRoundabout,
44                                         TJunction,
45                                         Crossroads,
46                                         LaneSplit,
47                                         LaneMerge,
48                                         RoundaboutEntrance]
49
50   for PointRoadFeature we do not allow [EquestrianCrossing,
51                                         TrafficCalming,
52                                         RoadWork,
53                                         LevelCrossing]
54
55
56   local restrictions
57
58   when Roundabout we do not allow [MediumTrafficDensity]
59   when Roundabout we do not allow [Pedestrian]
60   when TJunction we do not allow [MediumTrafficDensity]
61   when LightRain we do not allow [DualCarriageway, Roundabout]
62   when LightRain we do not allow [Fifty, Sixty] //Speeds we cannot drive
```

Finer grained control  
over your ODD  
specification via the  
'local restrictions'



# High-level scene annotation

London.odd

ROB-060-Roundabout.scene x

TestingDHC.dhc

```

1  five ai scene specification Example
2
3  using odd London
4  check dhc UKHighwayCode
5
6  //Scene 1: Entrance to the roundabout
7  static scene RoundaboutEntrance :
8      - RoadLayout is SingleCarriageway with
9          - CentralDividerMarking is SolidCentralDivider
10         - NearSideRoadsideFeature is Pavement
11         - NearSideRoadEdge is Cur
12         - NearSideRoadsideMarking is
13         - RoadGeometry is RoadGe
14             - LateralRoadGeometr
15             - VerticalRoadGeometr
16         - RoadSurface is Asphalt
17         - SpeedLimit is Thirty
18         - FarSideRoadsideFeature
19         - FarSideRoadEdge is Cur
20         - FarSideRoadsideMarking
21         - TrafficLanes are
22             * Lane with
23                 - LaneNumber is
24                 - LaneType is No
25                 - LaneDirection
26             * Lane with
27                 - LaneNumber is
28                 - LaneType is No
29                 - LaneDirection
30         - SceneEnvironmentState is U
31         - RoadFeature is RoundaboutE
32
33  dynamic scene ApproachRoundabout
34      with static scene Roundabout
35  environment :

```

High-level static  
scene description





```
32
33 dynamic scene ApproachRoundabout :
34     with static scene RoundaboutEntrance
35     environment :
36         - SkyCondition is ClearSkies with
37           - SunPosition is SunFromSouth
38           - TimeOfDay is Twilight
39         - WeatherCondition is ClearCalm
40         - GroundCondition is DryGround
41     active road :
42         - GenericTrafficDensity is MediumTrafficDensity
43         - PertinentSceneElements are
44             * Car
45             * Lorry
46     ego state :
47         - EgoManoeuvre is EnterRoundabout with
48           - LaneNumber is One
49
50 dynamic scene EnterRoundabout :
51     with static scene RoundaboutEntrance
52     environment :
53         - SkyCondition is ClearSkies with
54           - SunPosition is SunFromSouth
55           - TimeOfDay is Daylight
56         - WeatherCondition is ClearCalm
57         - GroundCondition is DryGround
58     active road :
59         - GenericTrafficDensity is LowTrafficDensity
60         - PertinentSceneElements are
61             * Car
62     ego state :
63         - EgoManoeuvre is VehicleDistanceModeration with
```

High-level dynamic scene. Comes from OpenScenario + TraceFormat

ODD is checked in these languages



# Writing road rules



```
1 five ai dhc specification TestOracle
2
3 dhc rule DIR_01 : "No Collision: Ego shall not collide with any other vehicle"
4     type = safety
5     version 0.0.1
6     when EgoManoeuvre = * //i.e. anything
7     then zeroVehicleIntersection() // Safety Property Language
8
9 dhc rule DIR_02 : "Driving inside the road: Ego shall always drive fully inside the road"
10    type = safety
11    version 0.0.1
12    when not AlteredCondition = EmergencyVehicleNearby
13    then zeroEdgeOfRoadIntersection()
14
15 dhc rule LF_01 : "Speed Limit: Ego shall not exceed the 95% of the speed limit of the road that it is travelling on"
16    type = safety
17    version 0.0.2
18    when RoadLayout = SingleCarriageway
19    then speedLimitLessThanFactor(fraction="0.8")
20
21 dhc rule LF_01 : "Speed Limit: Ego shall not exceed the 95% of the speed limit of the road that it is travelling on"
22    type = safety
23    version 0.0.2
24    when RoadLayout = DualCarriageway
25    then speedLimitLessThanFactor(fraction="0.95")
26
27 dhc rule CR_01 : "Ego should not progress across the crossing if a pedestrian is on it"
28    type = safety
29    version 0.0.1
30    when RoadFeature = PedestrianCrossing
31    then noProgressIfPedestrianOnCrossing(pavementBuffer="0.1", crossingBuffer="0.1")
32
33 dhc rule CR_02 : "Ego should not come to a stop on a pedestrian crossing"
34    type = safety
35    version 0.0.1
```

Formal rule  
specification.

Combines Ontology as a  
predicate with queries  
on scenarios  
(observations in OSC 2.0)



# Use Cases



## Use Cases

- As an engineer, I would like to understand exactly what “gentle acceleration”, “light rain”, “merge in turn” means in my company
- As a Verification engineer, I should have confidence that when I choose “light rain”, “dual carriageway” etc. in my scenario language, it will be the same as my system is supposed to consider it in the real world
- I would like to be able to formally specify my ODD
- I would like to check the consistency of my formal definitions



## Use Cases

- As a validation engineer, I would like to be able to extend my ODD/Ontology (Specification) when I discover an edge case
- As a safety engineer, I would like to be able to **measure** how well I have scenarios covering my operating domain
- As a field operations engineer, I would like to be able to label directly using the ontology
- As an annotator, I would like to label in accordance with the ontology



# Requirements



## Requirements

- Formal
  - Need to be able to reason about it
  - Need to be able to 'package' and share
- OpenDrive and OpenScenario should map directly
  - domain model = ontology
- ODD is complex -- you need support to write it
  - Have languages
- Uniform between real and simulation
  - Otherwise, no safety guarantees from simulation?
  - Traceability to **safety case**

The background is a dark, stylized illustration of a road intersection. Several cars are depicted: a grey car in the bottom-left lane, a teal car in the bottom-right lane, and two grey cars in the top-right lane. A large, white, stylized arrow points from the bottom-right corner towards the center of the intersection.

# Thank you!

---

(And please write me if you'd like a demo of the actual tooling!)

[ian.whiteside@five.ai](mailto:ian.whiteside@five.ai)