

SIMULTECH 2026

16th International Conference on Simulation and Modeling
Methodologies, Technologies and Applications

Porto, Portugal

18 - 20 July, 2026

From Digital Twins to the Twinning Paradigm

Hans Vangheluwe (and Randy Paredis)

19 July 2026 – Porto, Portugal



University
of Antwerp



Ansymo
Antwerp Systems & Software Modelling
University of Antwerp

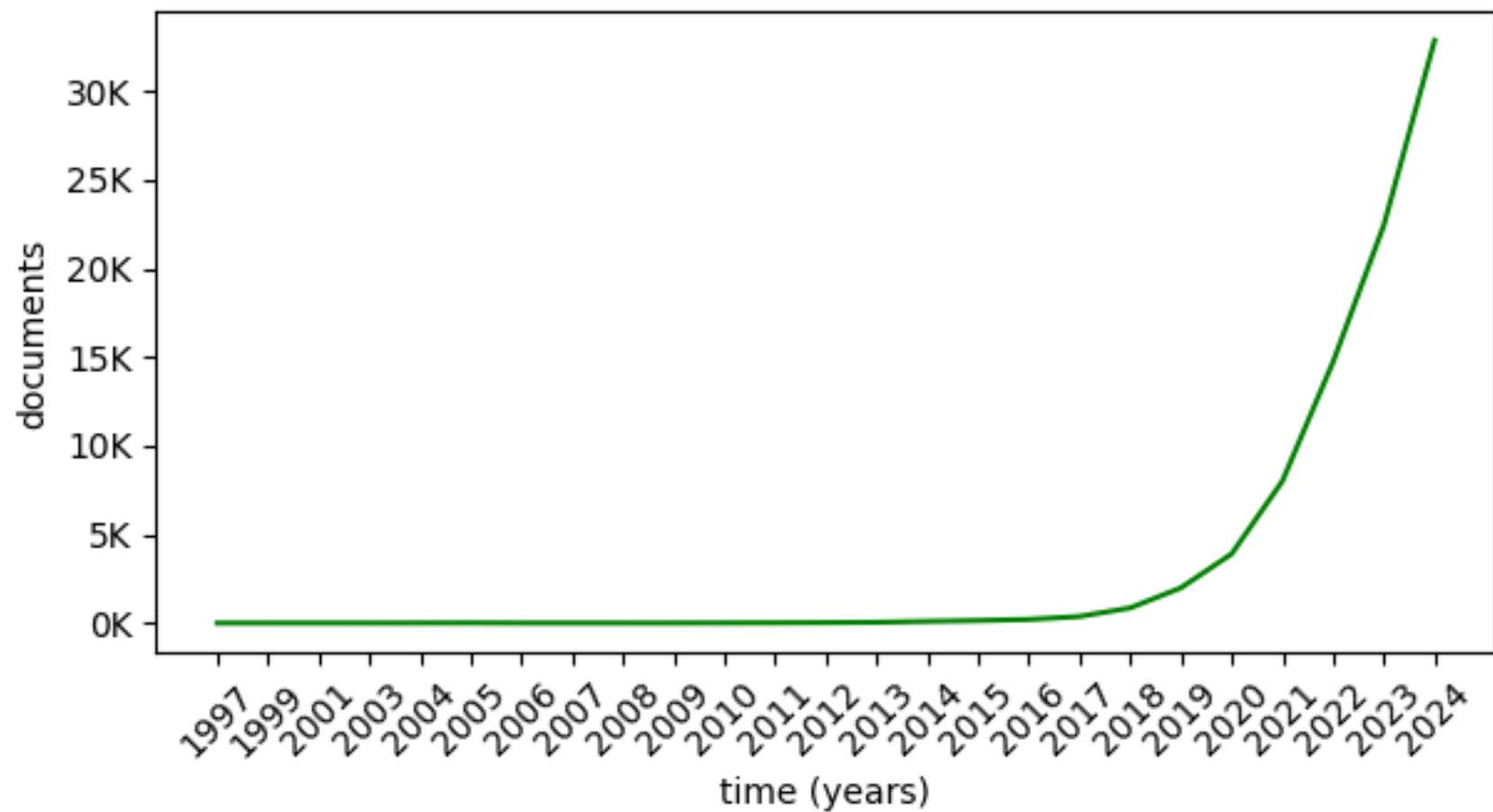


Nexor
Cyber-Physical Systems
University of Antwerp

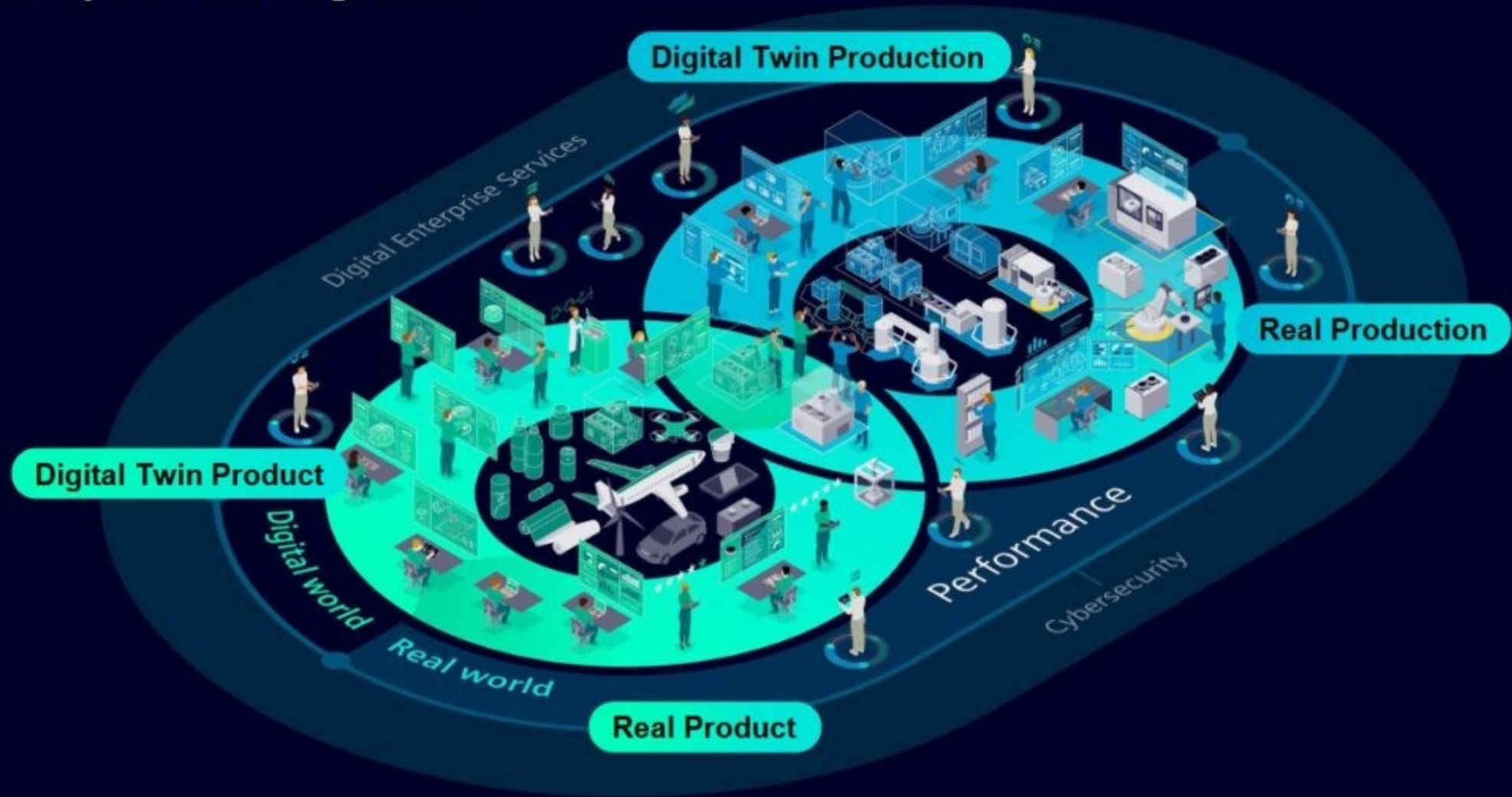
FLANDERS  MAKE



Scopus document count for **"digital twin*" OR "digital shadow"**,
Accessed: 22 February 2025

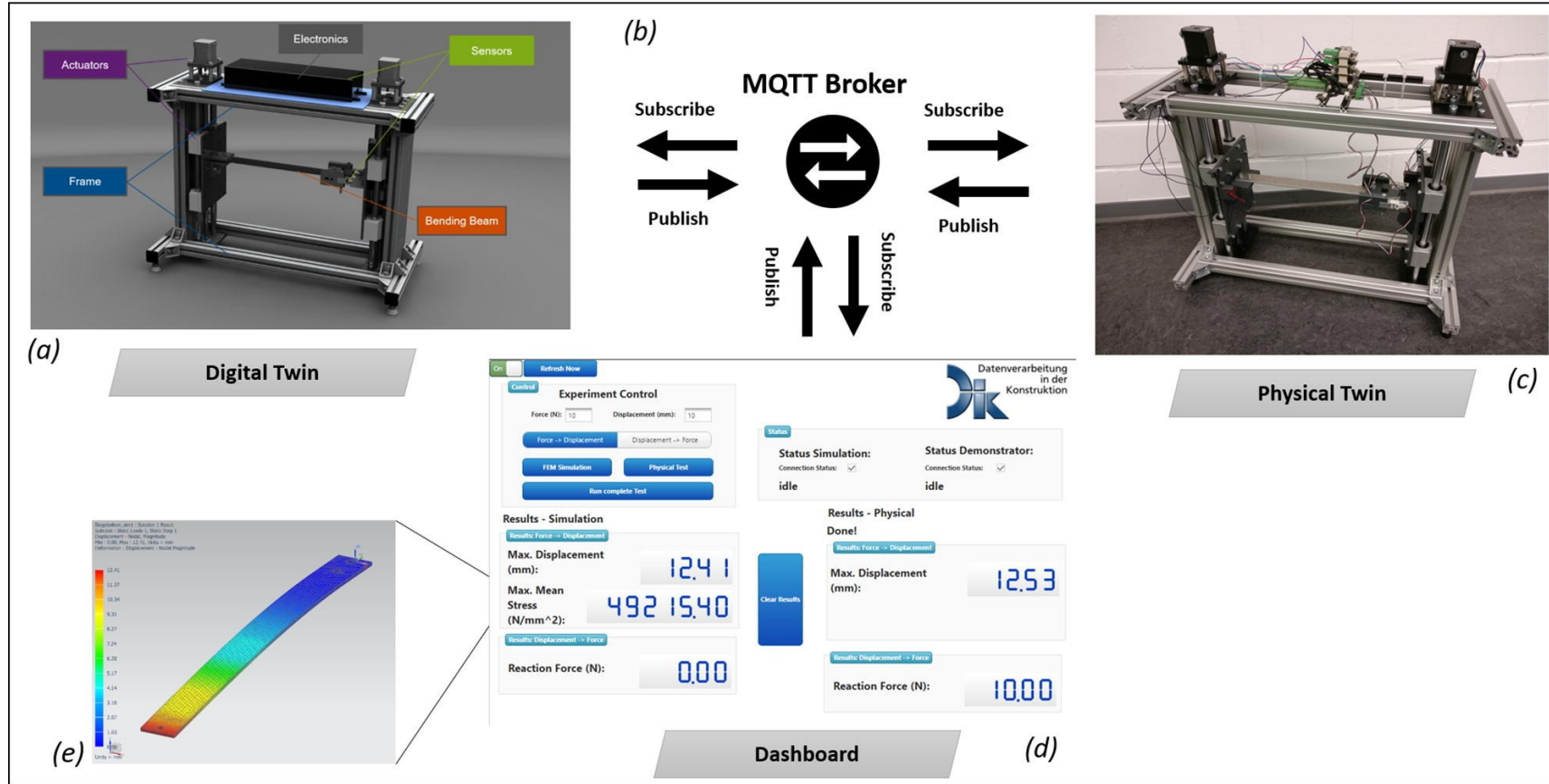


The comprehensive Digital Twin



typical example of a Digital Shadow for dashboarding

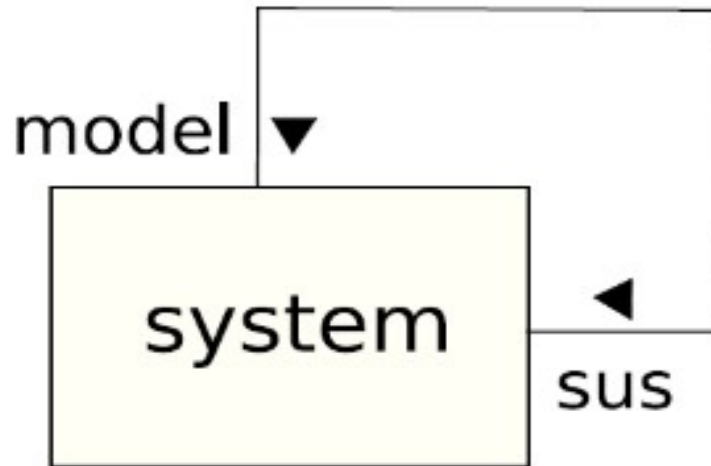
Digital Twin System



Foundations: a bit about Modelling, Experimentation, and Validity



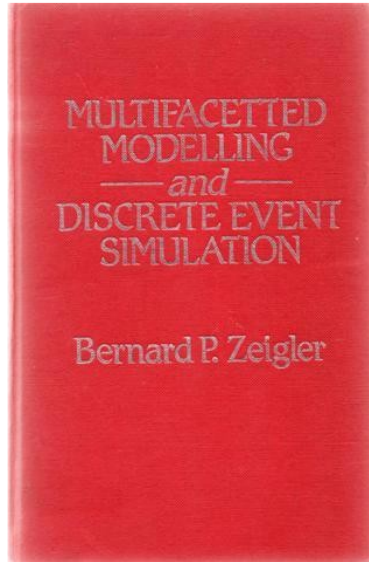
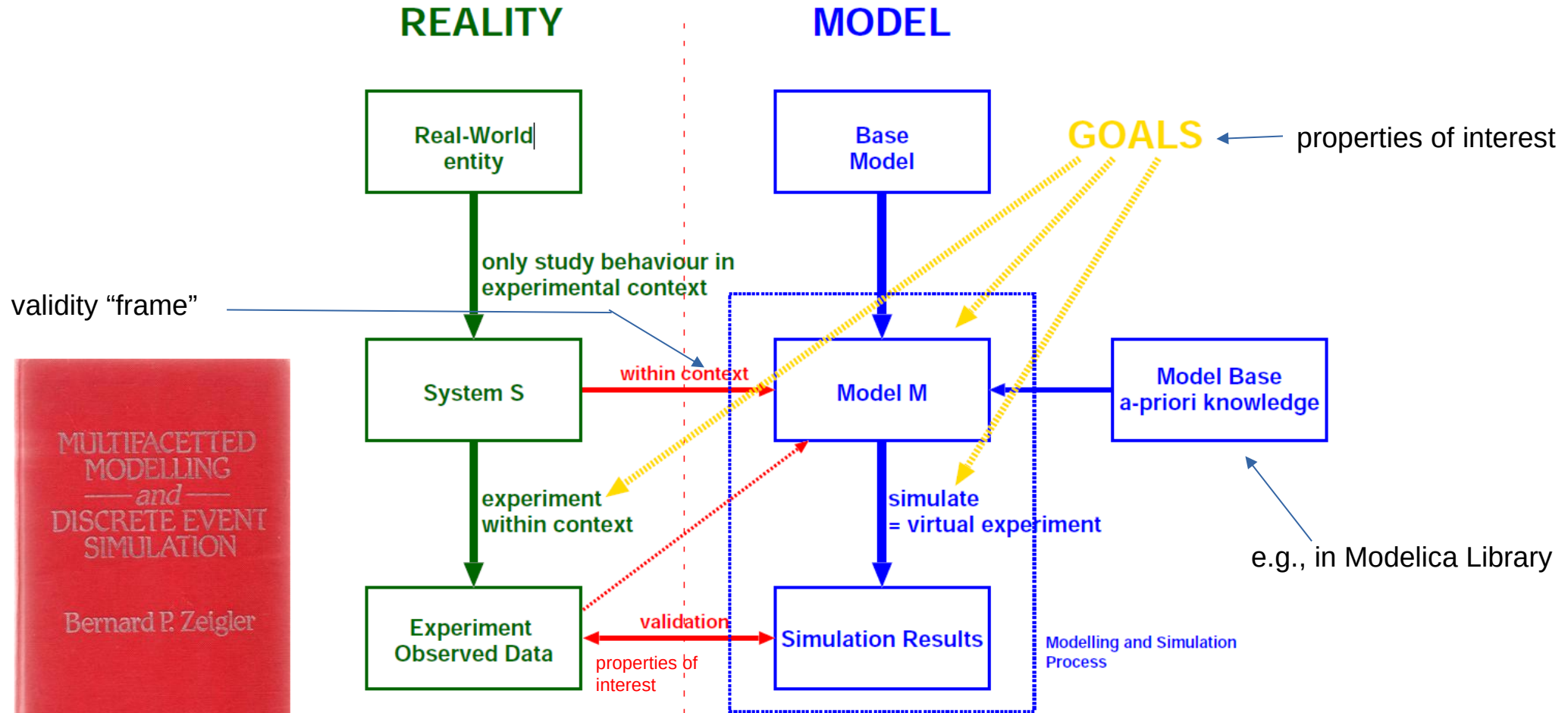
Marvin L. Minsky



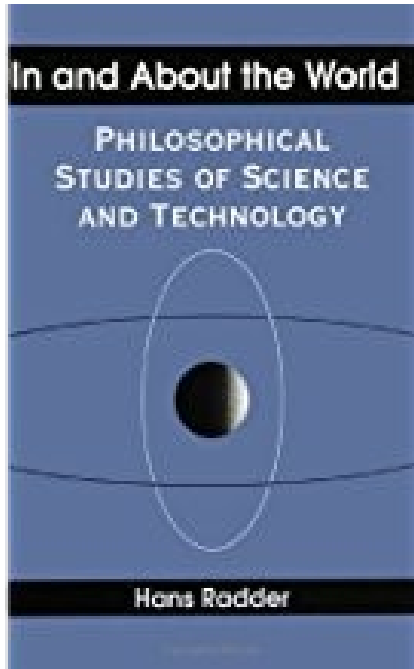
To an observer B, an object A^* is a model of an object A to the extent that B can use A^* to answer questions that interest him about A.

Matter, Mind and Models

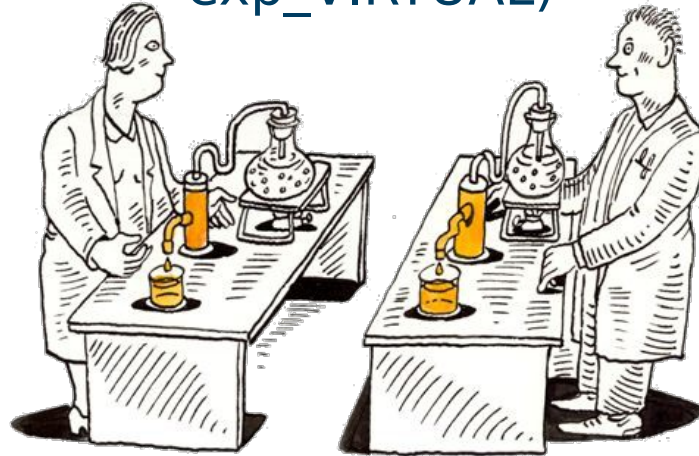
modelling for: substitutability (engineering), explainability (science)



Basis of Science: Reproducibility of Experiments



Experiment
(both exp_REAL and
exp_VIRTUAL)



Repeatable
Replicable
Reproducible

Model Validity Motivating Example: Electrical Resistor



Property of interest (PoI):

geometry



<https://grabcad.com/library/resistors-0-5w-pitch-12-7mm-500mil-1>

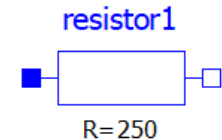
Model Validity Motivating Example: Electrical Resistor



Property of interest (PoI):

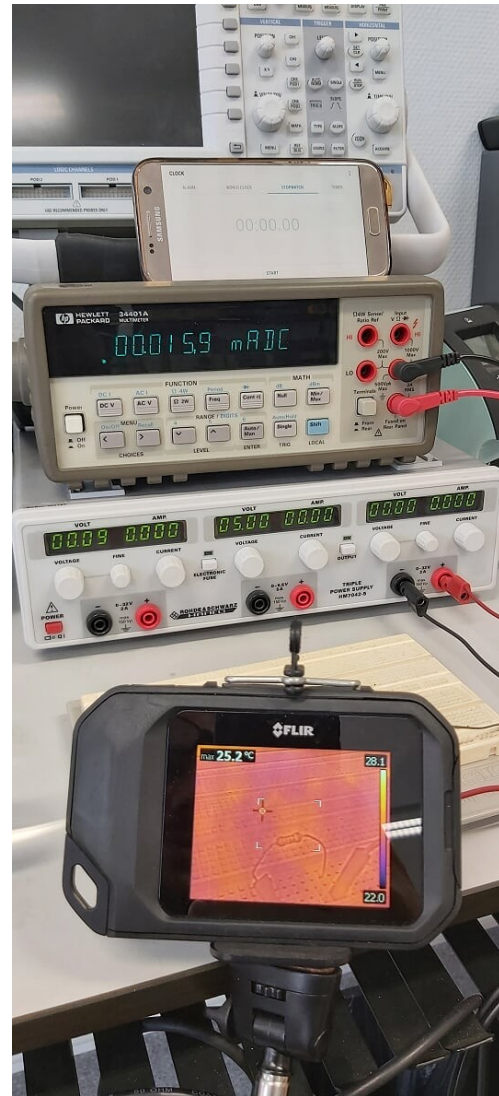
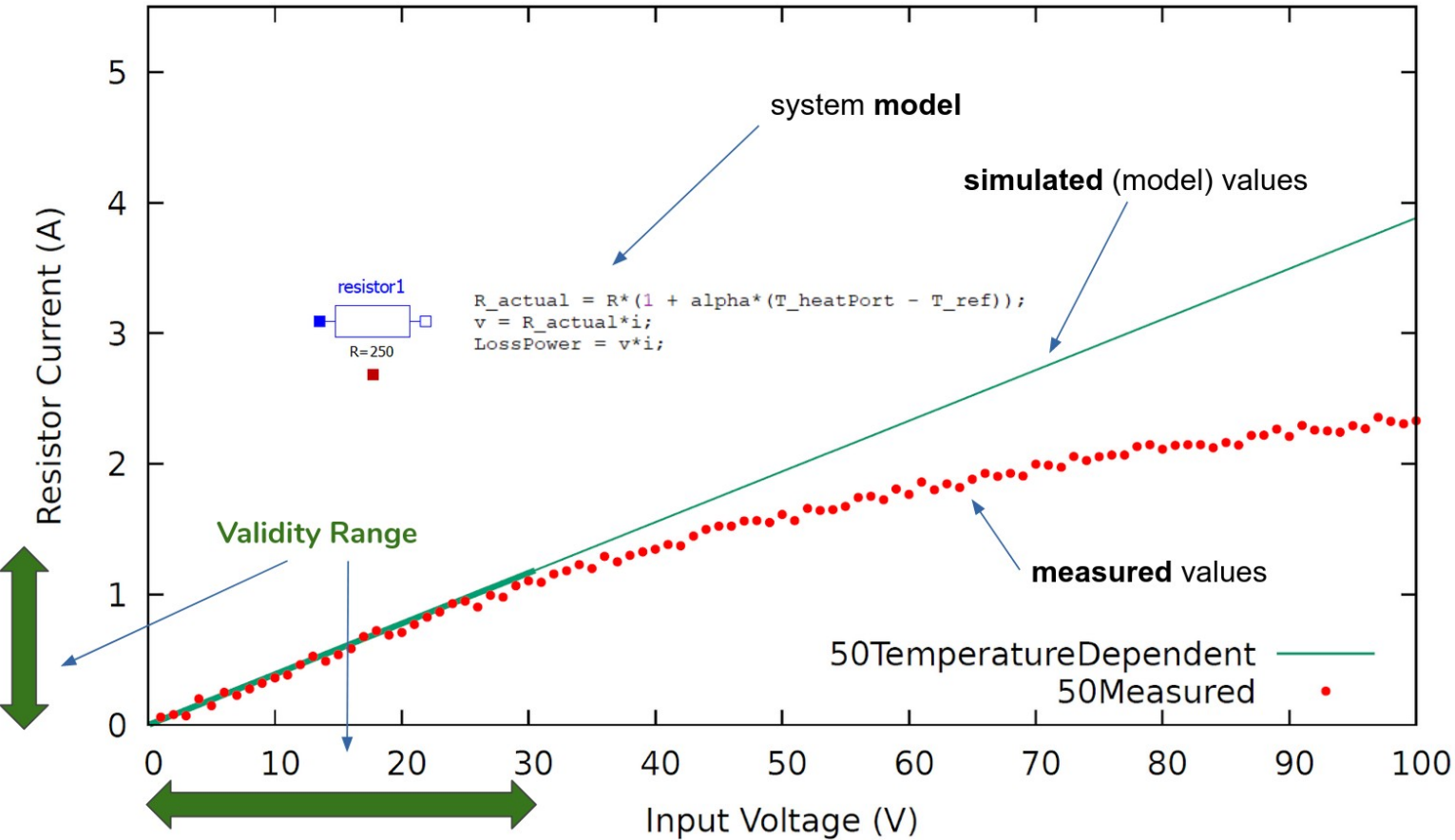
constitutive relation

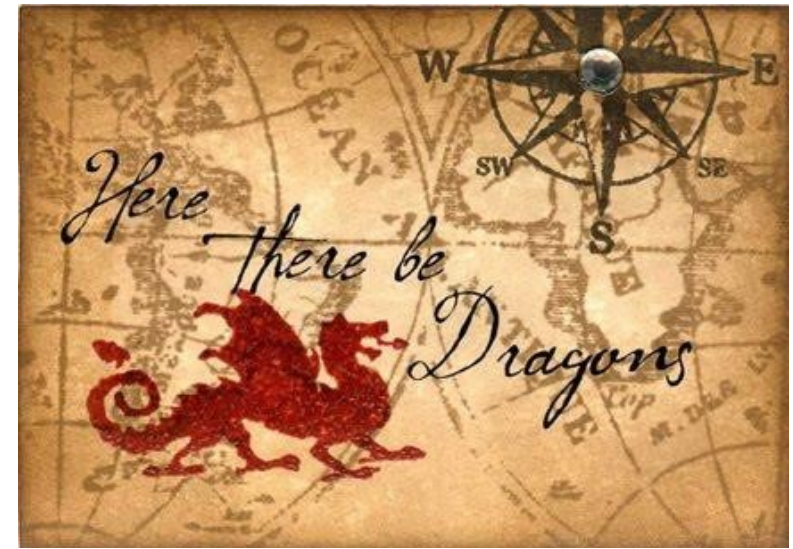
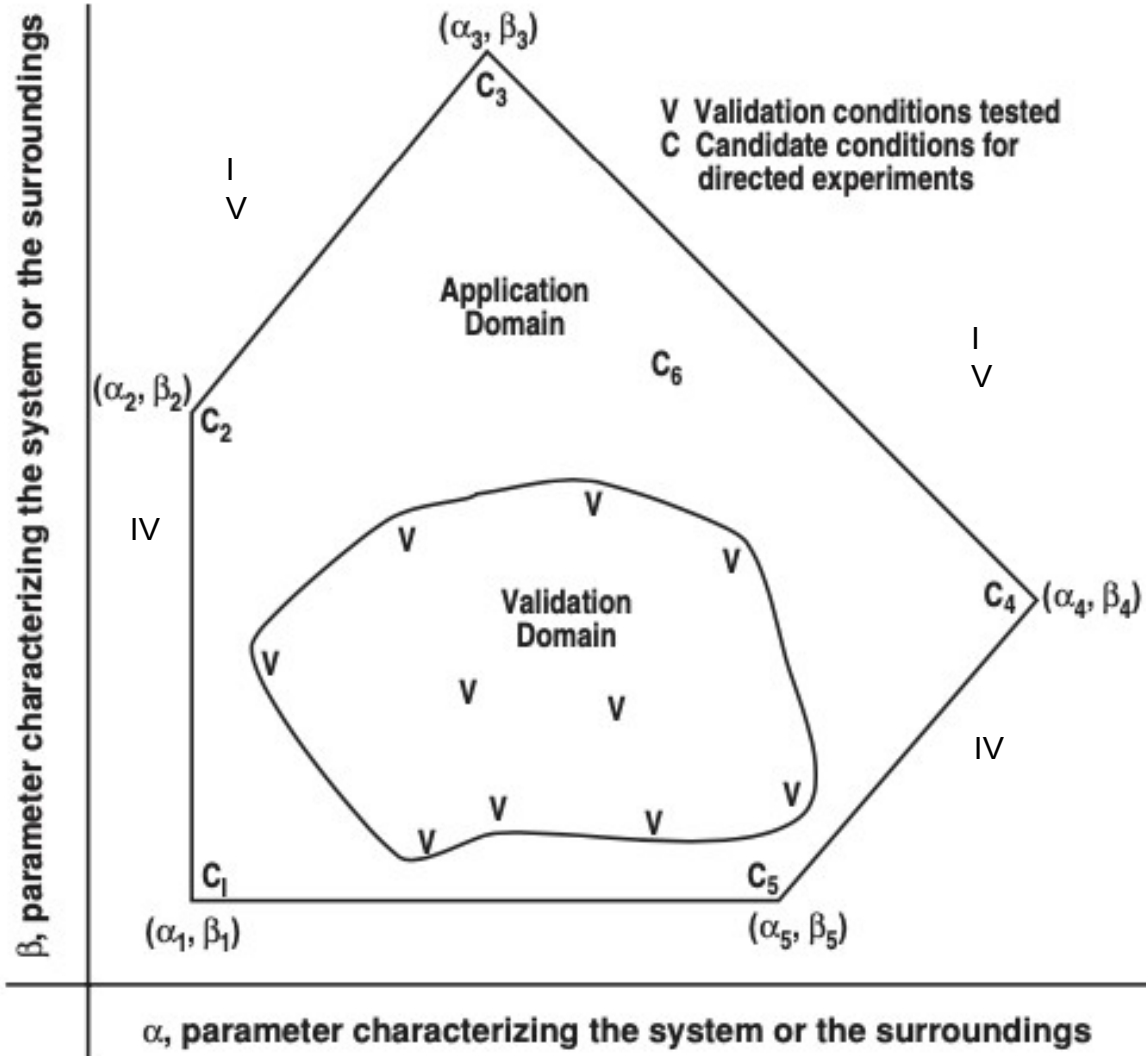
between voltage drop V over resistor and current i through resistor



$$R \cdot i = v$$

A Resistor Model's **Validity Range**

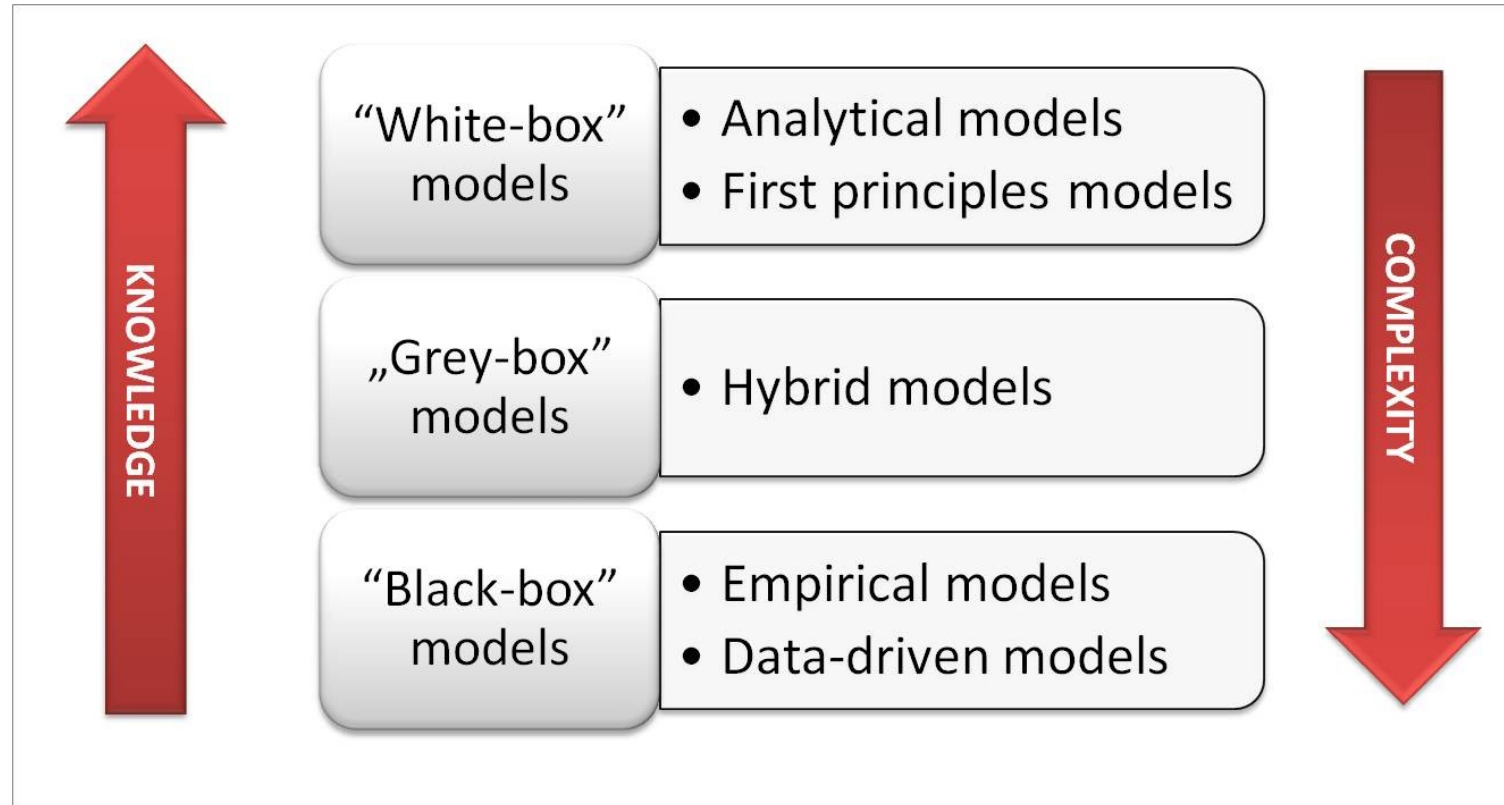




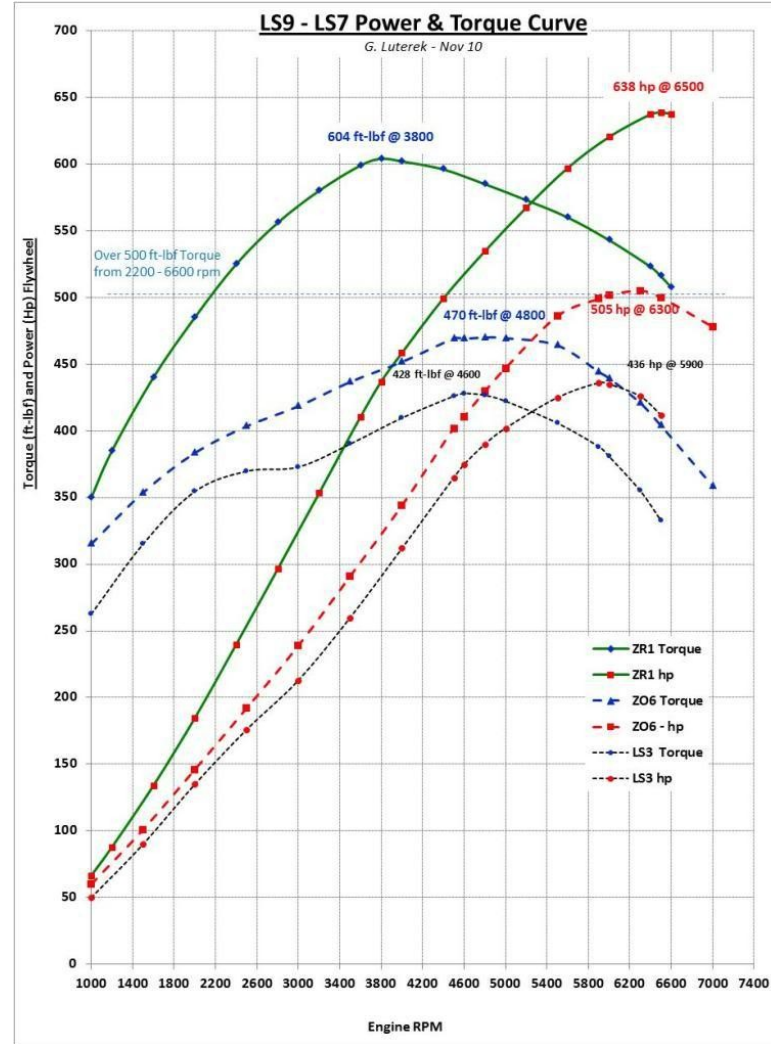
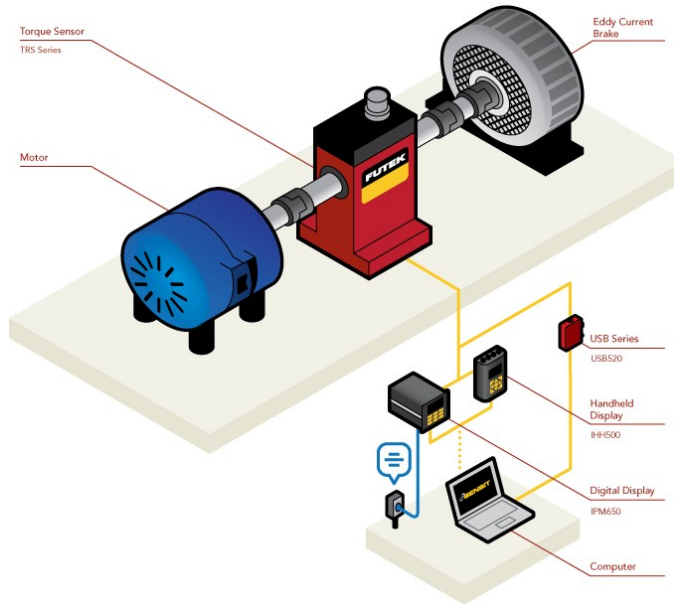
different ways of **obtaining** models

(in same or different **formalisms**)

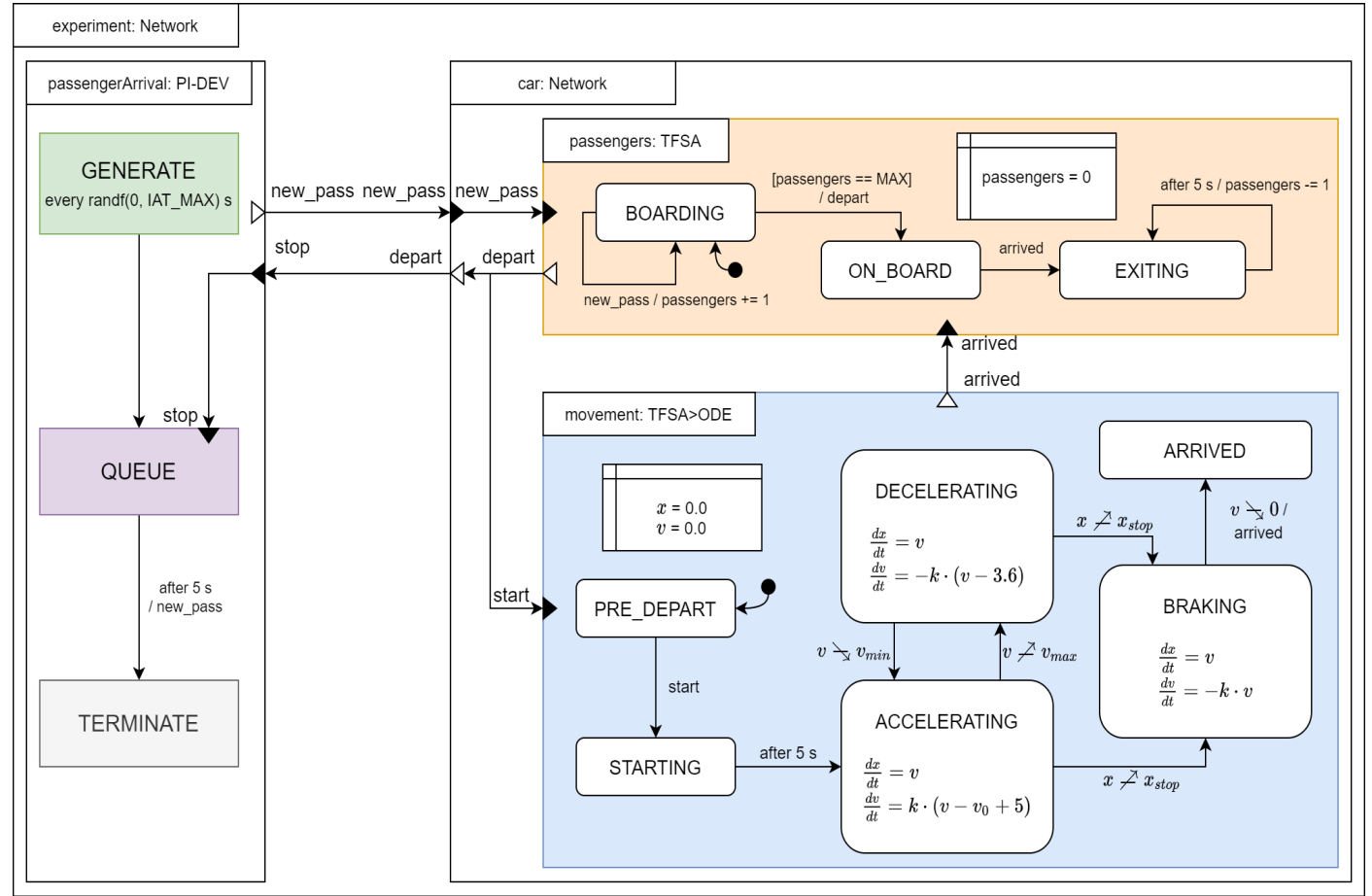
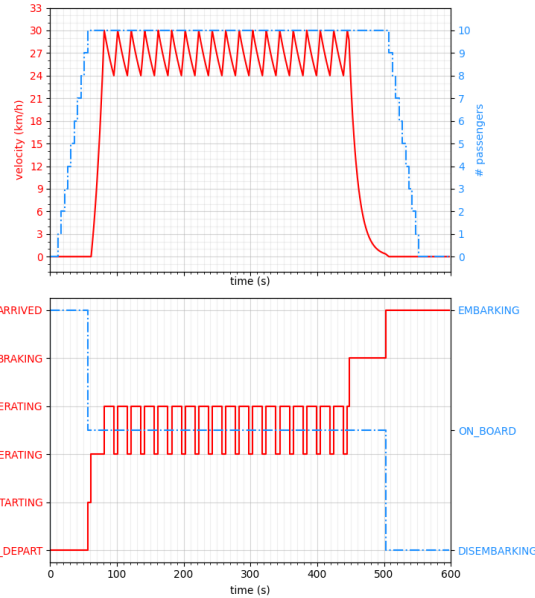
→ different DTs



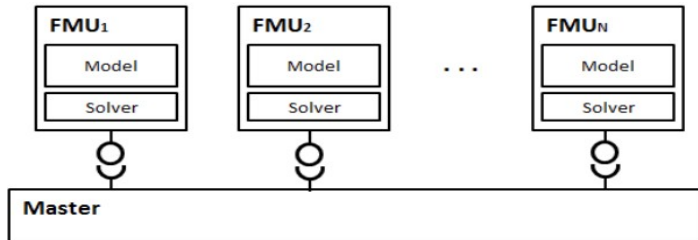
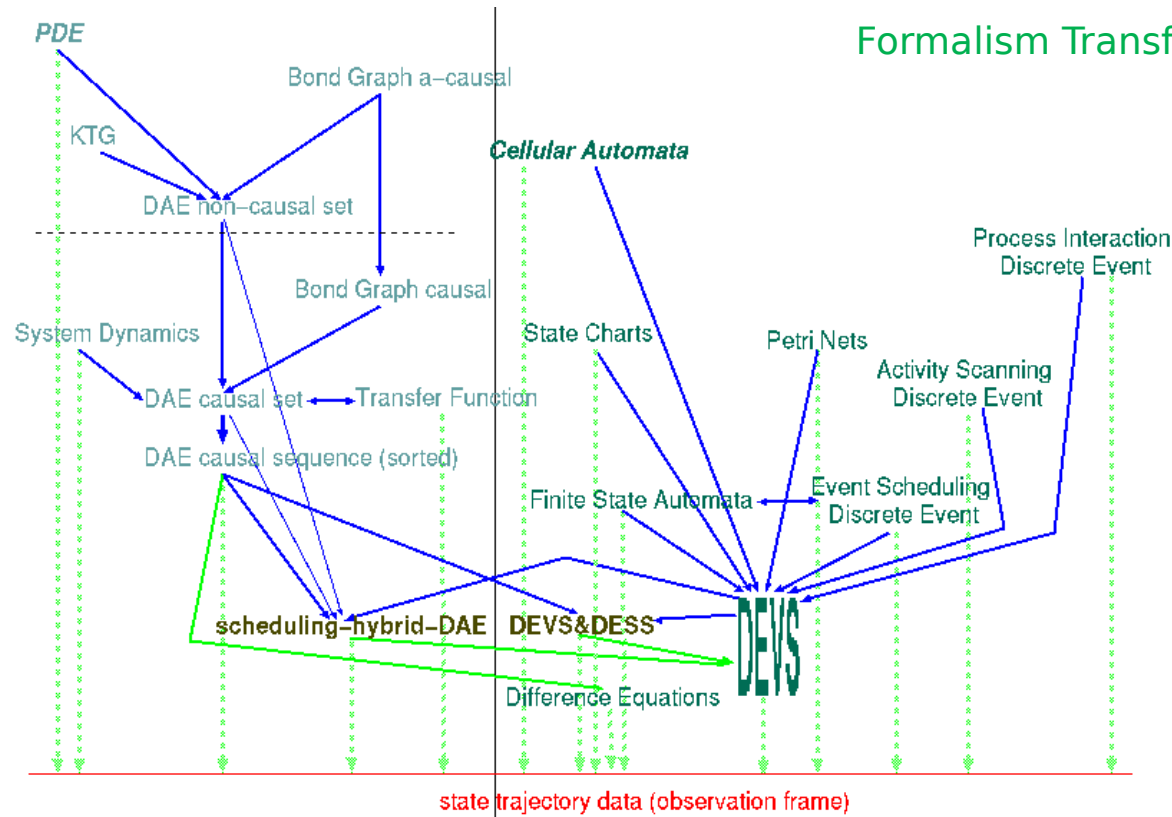
Black Box model: “Torque Curve” (measured)



use models in most appropriate formalism(s)



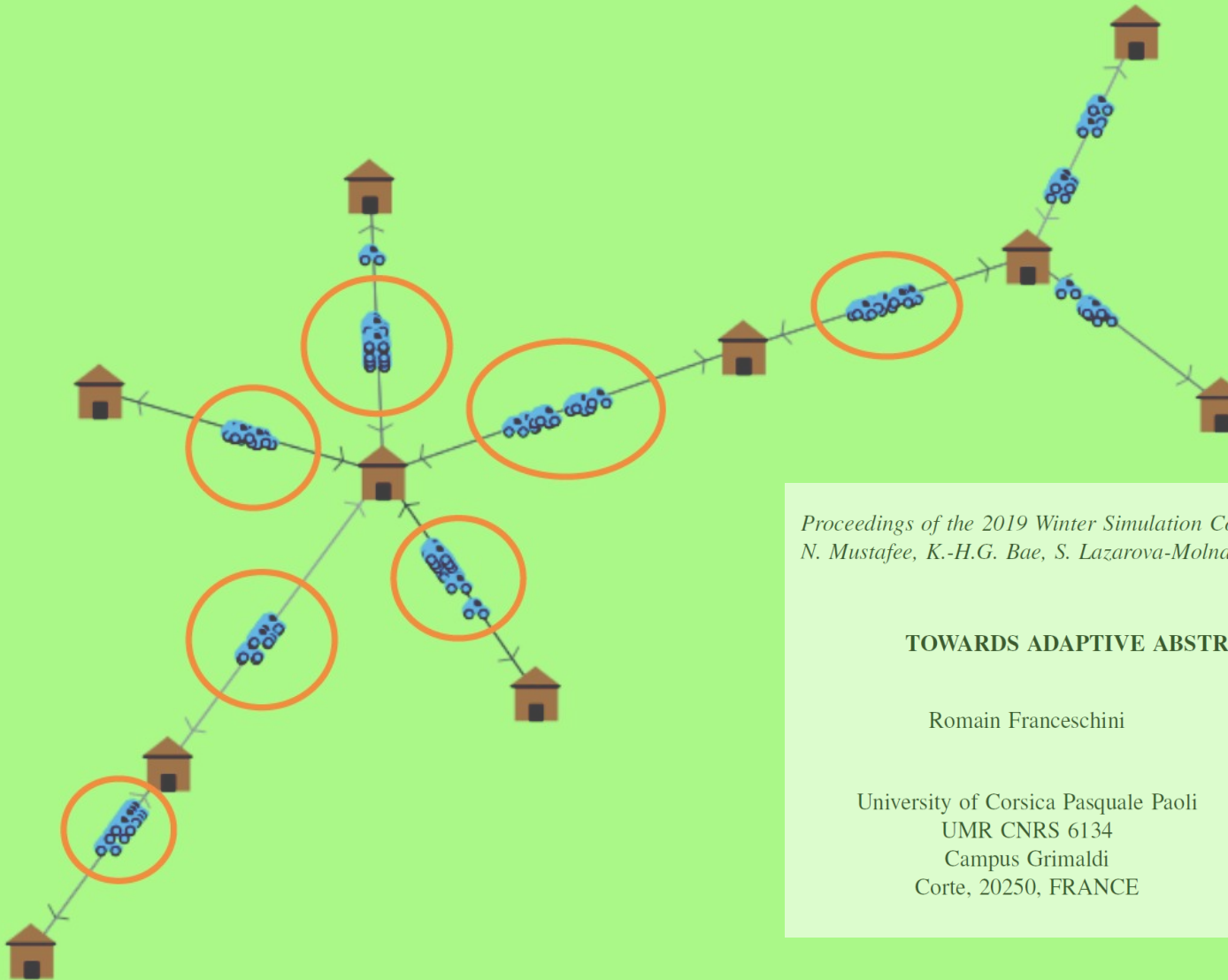
Formalism Transformation Graph (FTG) co-simulation



Cláudio Gomes, Casper Thule, David Broman, Peter Gorm Larsen, and Hans Vangheluwe. Co-simulation: A survey. ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR) , 51(3):49:1-49:33, 2018.

Abstraction

- For performance (scale-ability)
- For insight



Proceedings of the 2019 Winter Simulation Conference

N. Mustafee, K.-H.G. Bae, S. Lazarova-Molnar, M. Rabe, C. Szabo, P. Haas, and Y.-J. Son, eds.

TOWARDS ADAPTIVE ABSTRACTION IN AGENT BASED SIMULATION

Romain Franceschini

University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli
UMR CNRS 6134
Campus Grimaldi
Corte, 20250, FRANCE

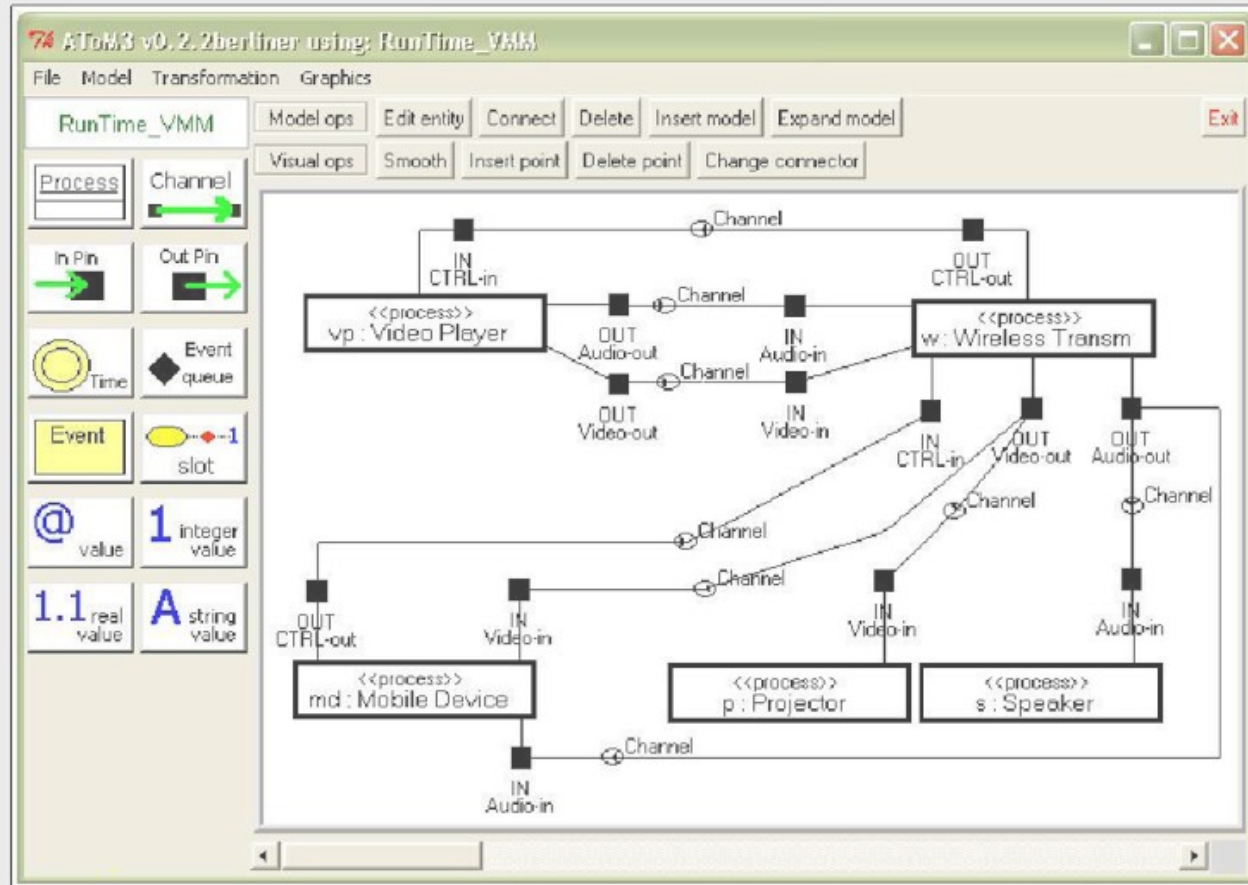
Simon Van Mierlo
Hans Vangheluwe

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Antwerp, 2020, BELGIUM

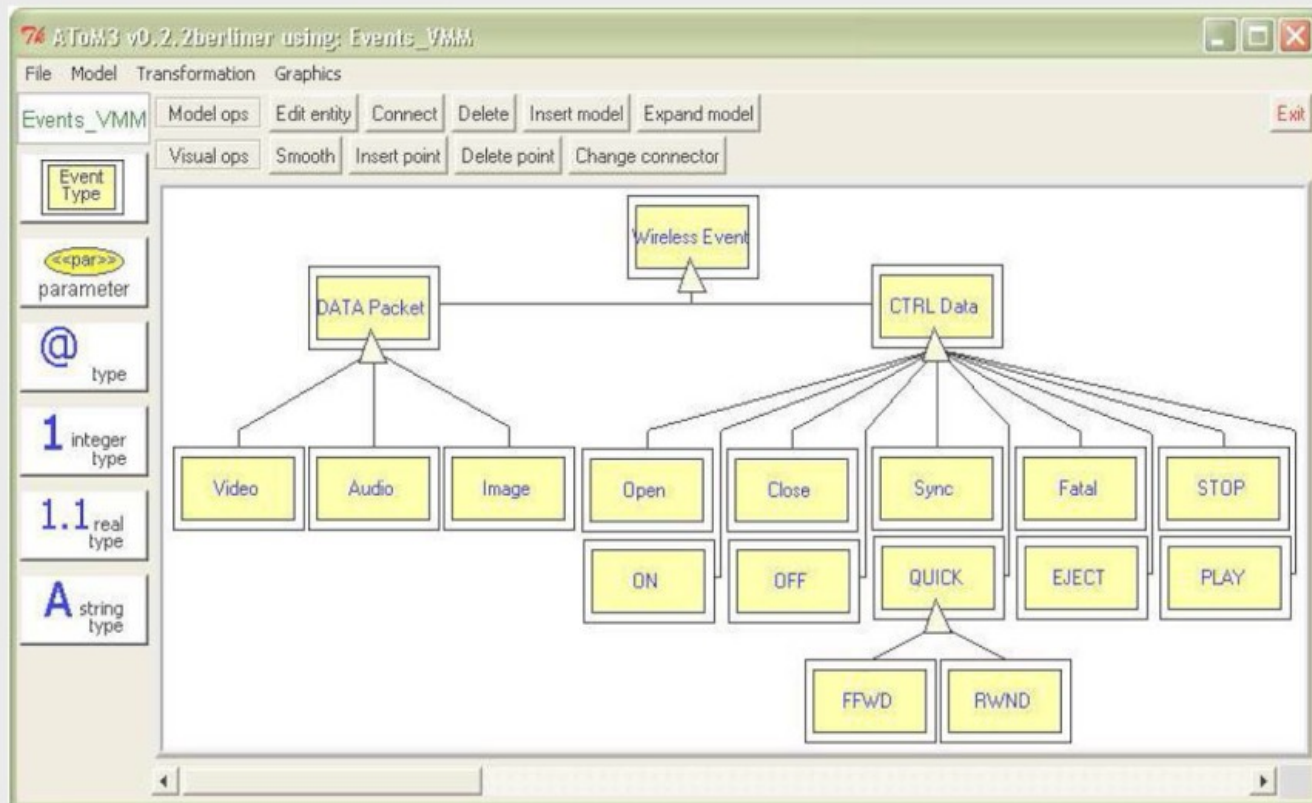
Wireless Home Entertainment System



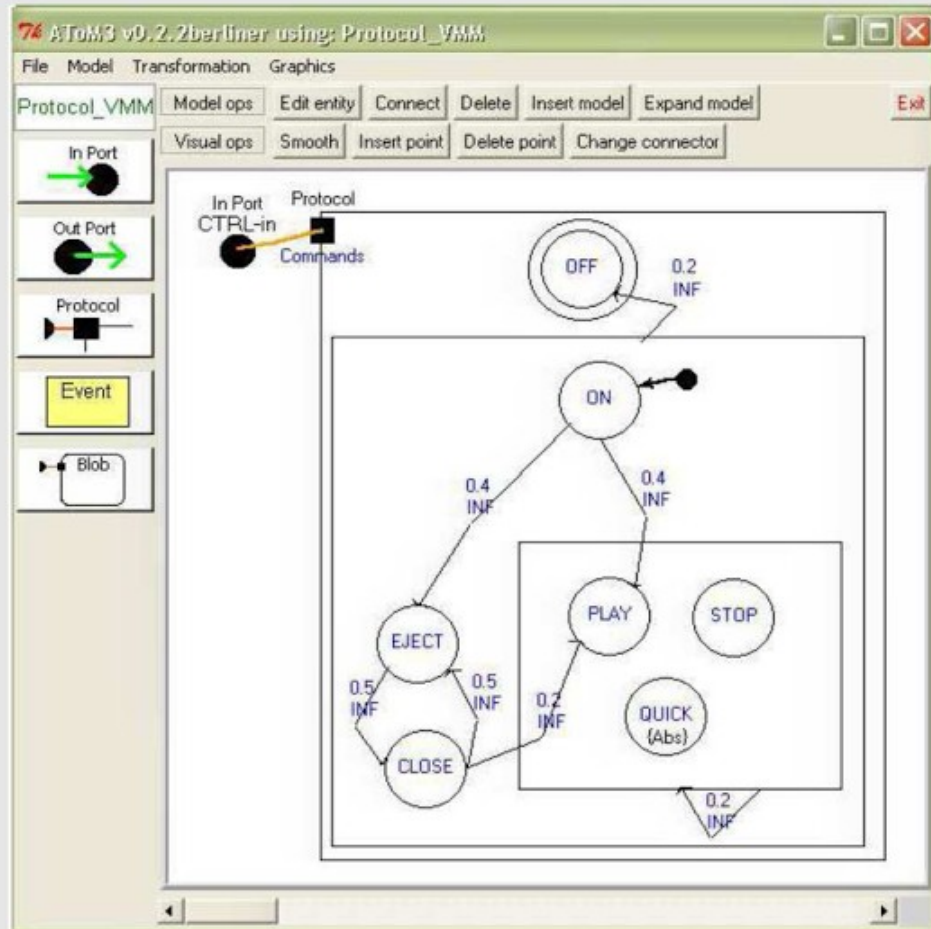
Multiple (consistent !) Views (in $\neq$ Formalisms)



View: Events Diagram



View: Protocol Statechart



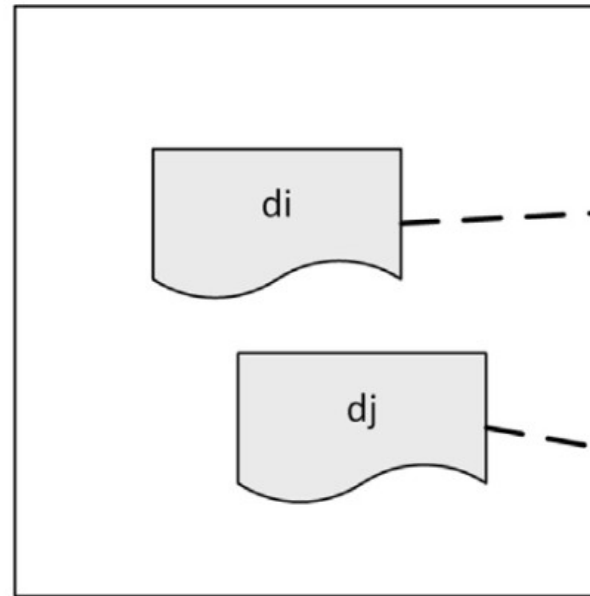
Consistency!

Model consistency as a heuristic for eventual correctness

Istvan David ^{a,*}, Hans Vangheluwe ^{b,c}, Eugene Syriani ^a

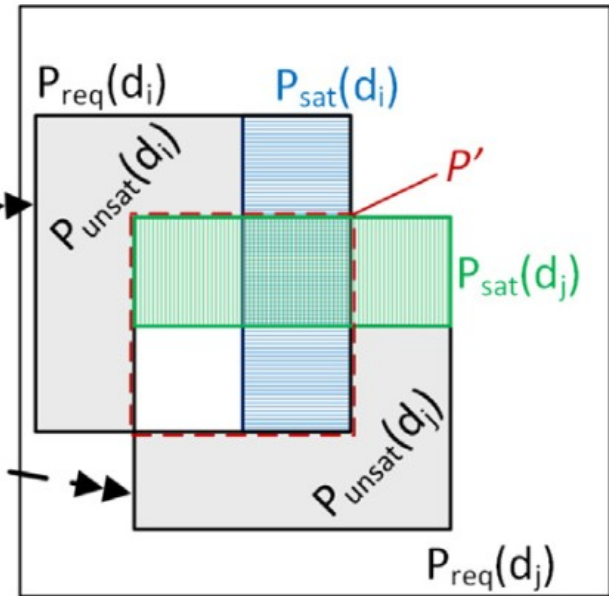
Design artifacts

D



P

Properties



Set

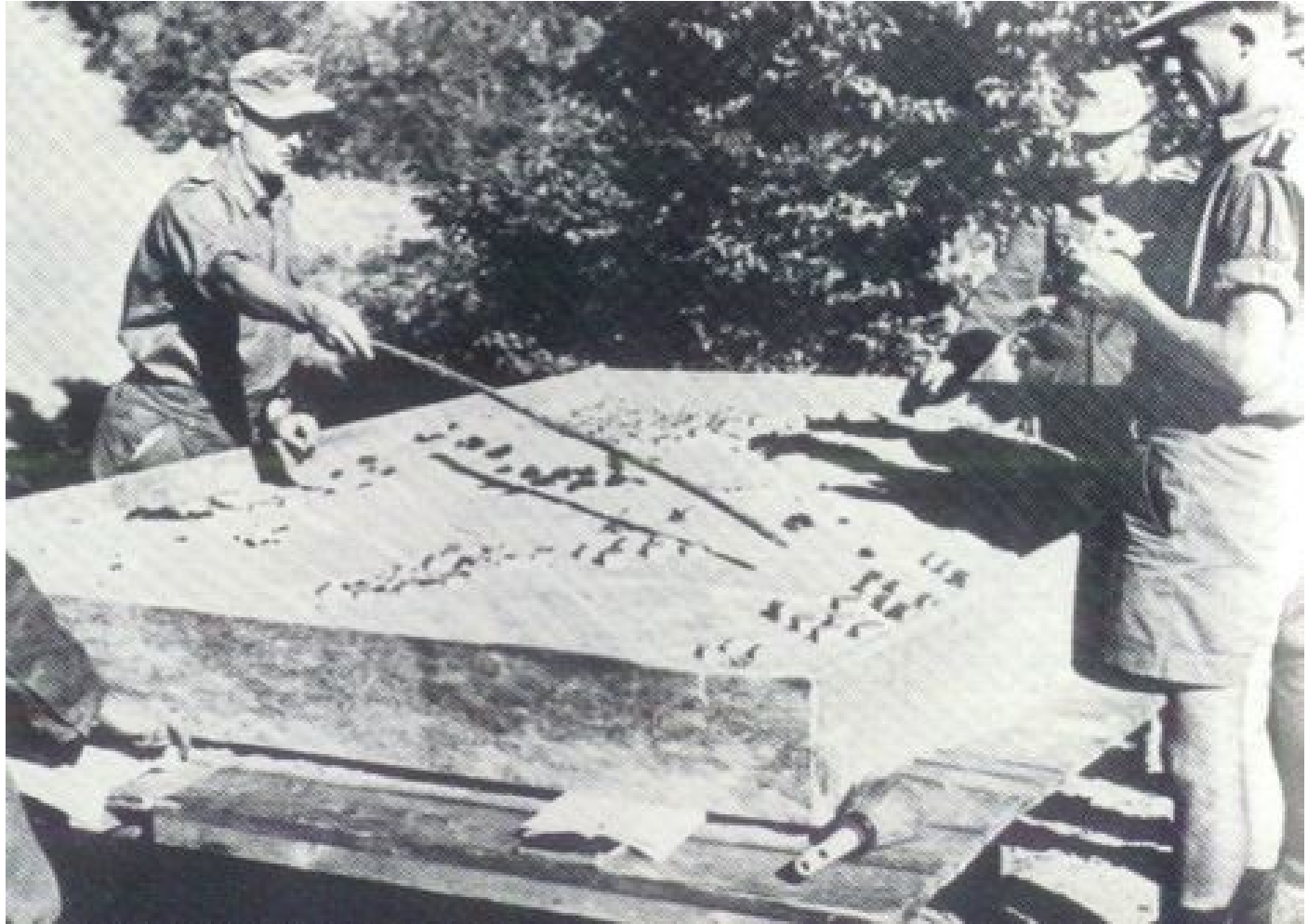


Artifact

— → Must satisfy

The Twinning concept (paradigm?) has been around for a while
... but not necessarily under that name

sand tables

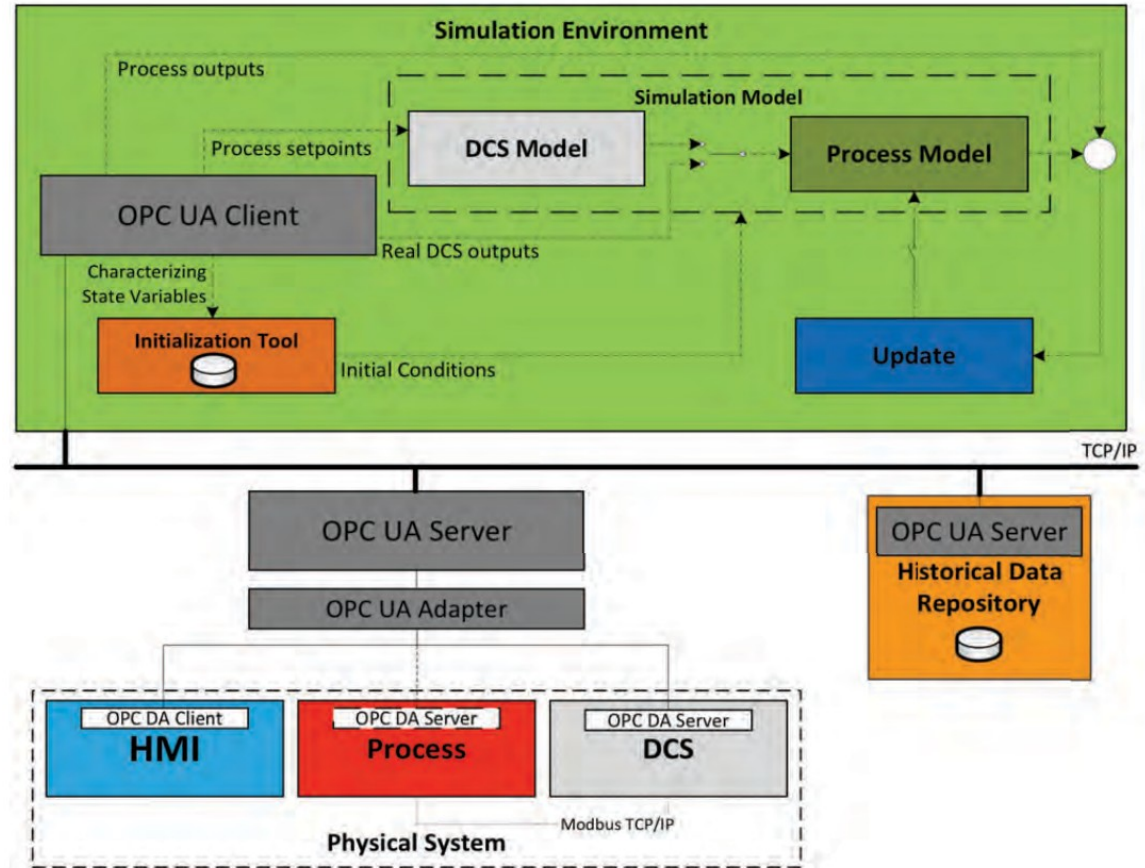




Tracking Simulation



water heating plant



G. S. Martínez, T. Karhela, V. Vyatkin, T. Miettinen and C. Pang, *An OPC UA Based Architecture for Testing Tracking Simulation Methods*, IEEE Trustcom/BigDataSE/ISPA, Helsinki, Finland, 2015, pp. 275-280.

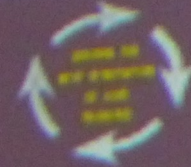
Simulation-based digital twins of industrial process plants: A semi-automatic implementation approach. PhD thesis Gerardo Santillán Martínez. Aalto University, Finland. 2019.

Digital Twin (and variants) terminology

... and some proposed architectures



MANAGEMENT



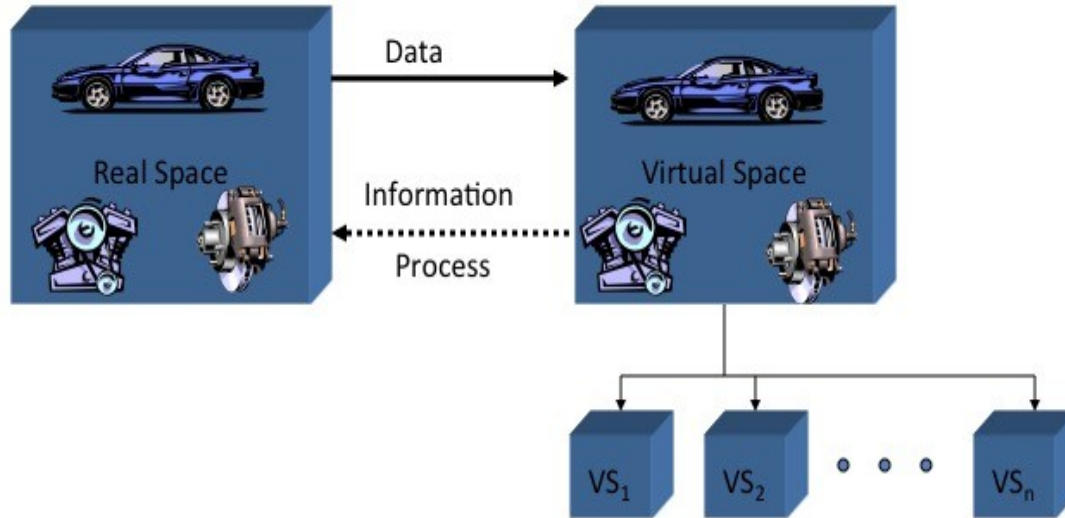
MICHAEL A. GRIEVES

Author, "The Future of the Future"

Virtually Perfect

Grieves, LLC 2003-

Conceptual Ideal for PLM



Digital Twin (DT) - the Digital Twin is a set of virtual information constructs that fully describes a potential or actual physical manufactured product from the micro atomic level to the macro geometrical level.

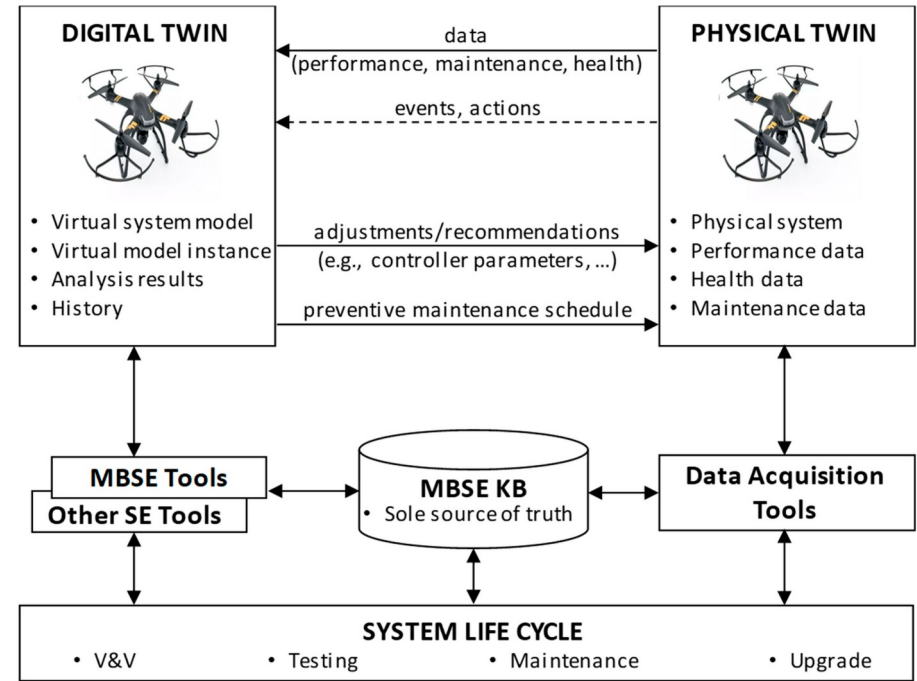
Digital Twin Prototype (DTP) - this type of Digital Twin describes the prototypical physical artifact.

Digital Twin Instance (DTI) - this type of Digital Twin describes a specific corresponding physical product that an individual Digital Twin remains linked to throughout the life of that physical product.

Digital Twin Aggregate (DTA) - this type of Digital Twin is the aggregation of all the DTIs.

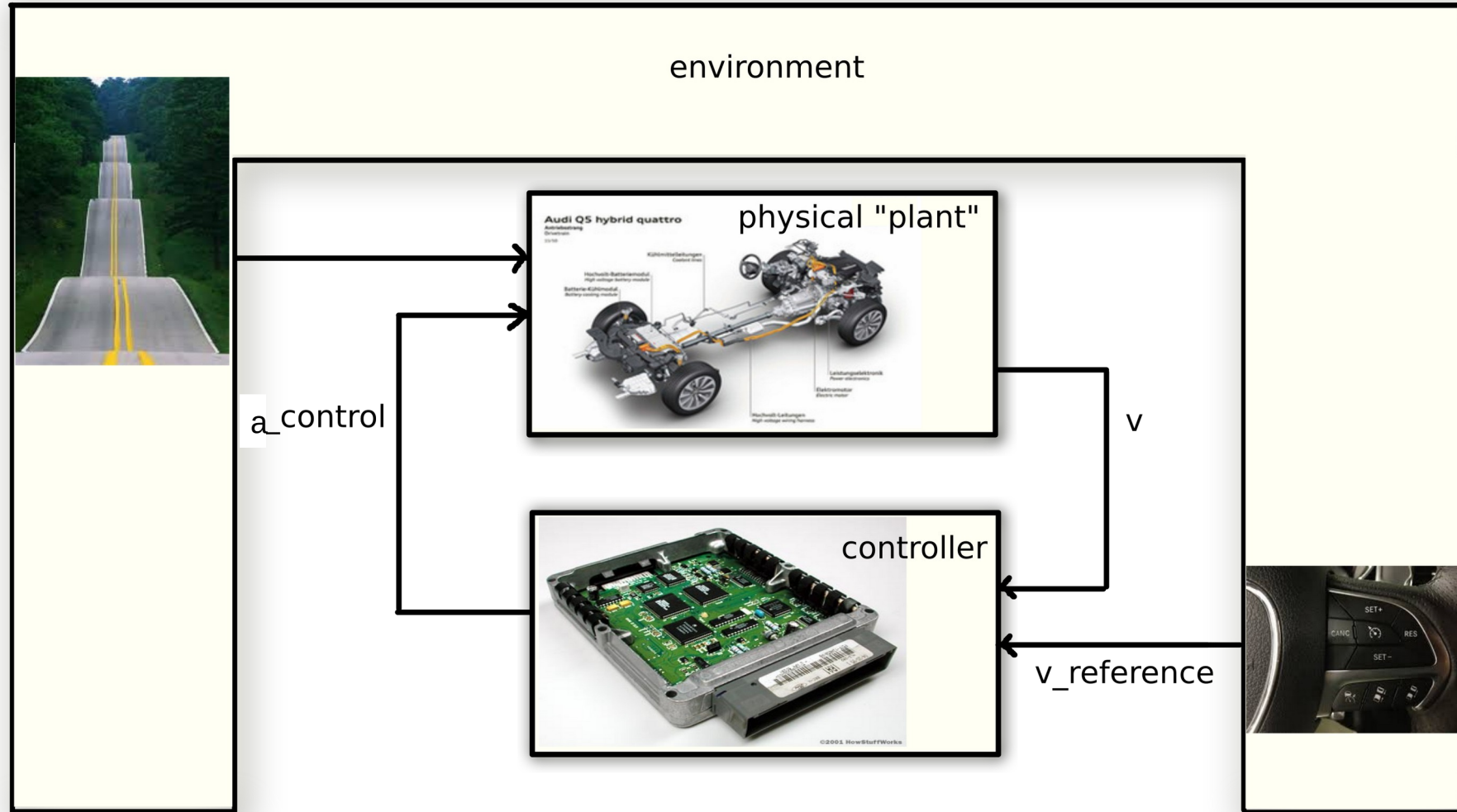
Digital Twin Environment (DTE) - this is an integrated, multi-domain physics application space for operating on Digital Twins for a variety of purposes.

Digital Twin terminology

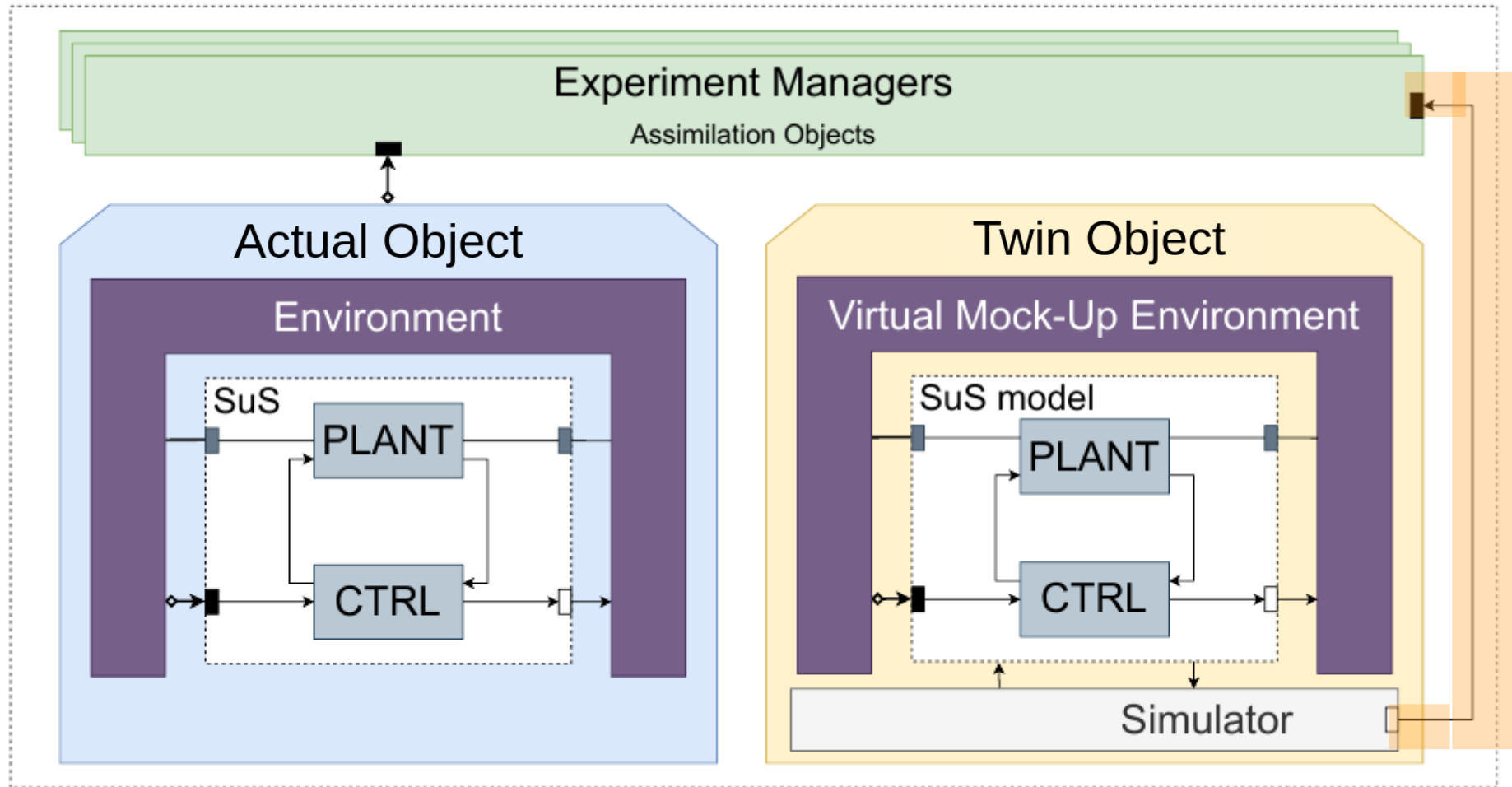


a Digital Twin (DT) is a **virtual instance** of a **System under Study (SuS)**, the Physical Twin (PT), that is **continually** updated with the latter's performance, maintenance, and health **status** data **throughout** the (physical) system under study's **life-cycle**

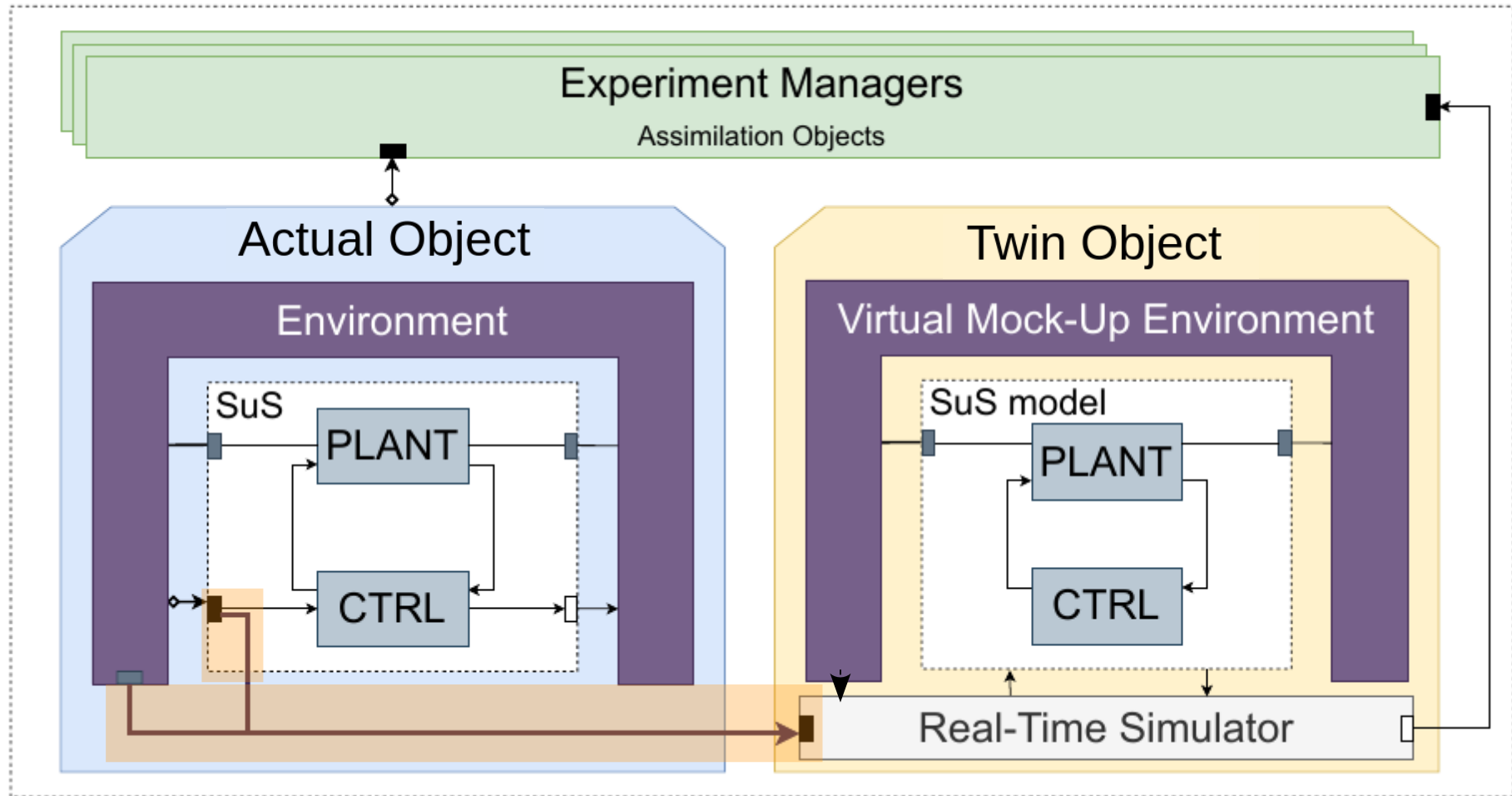
(simple) system = environment || ("plant" || controller)



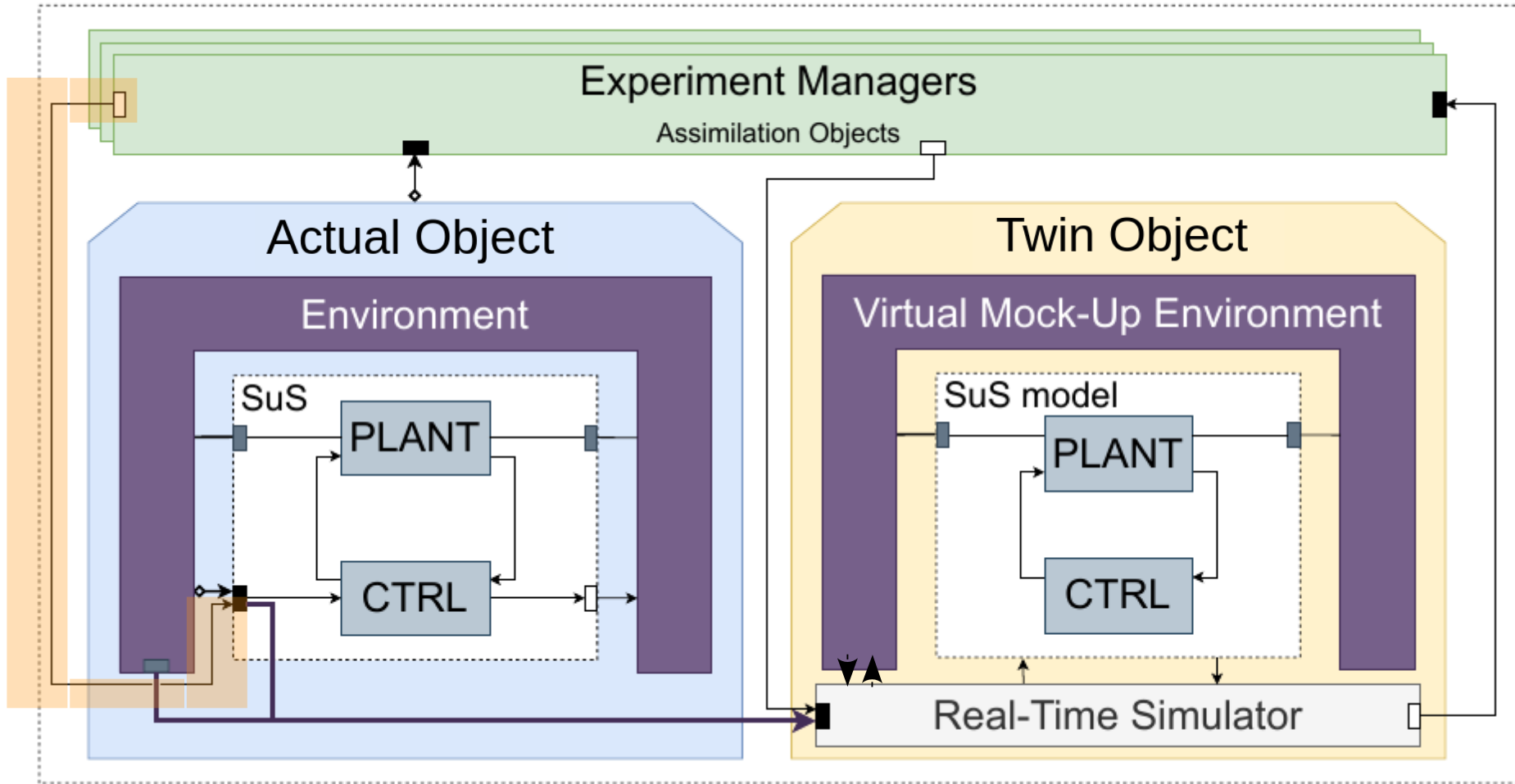
Digital Model



Digital Shadow (Monitor)



Digital Twin (Modify)



a DT is a **virtual instance** ...
throughout the **entire** (physical) system under study's **life-cycle**

as designed



as built



as operated



as maintained



DT type

DT instance(s)

a DT is a **virtual instance** ...
throughout the **entire** (physical) system under study's **life-cycle**

feedback loops with different time constants

as designed



as built



as operated



as maintained



DT type

DT instance(s)

a DT is a **virtual instance** ...
throughout the **entire** (physical) system under study's **life-cycle**

feedback loops with different time constants

as designed



as built



as operated



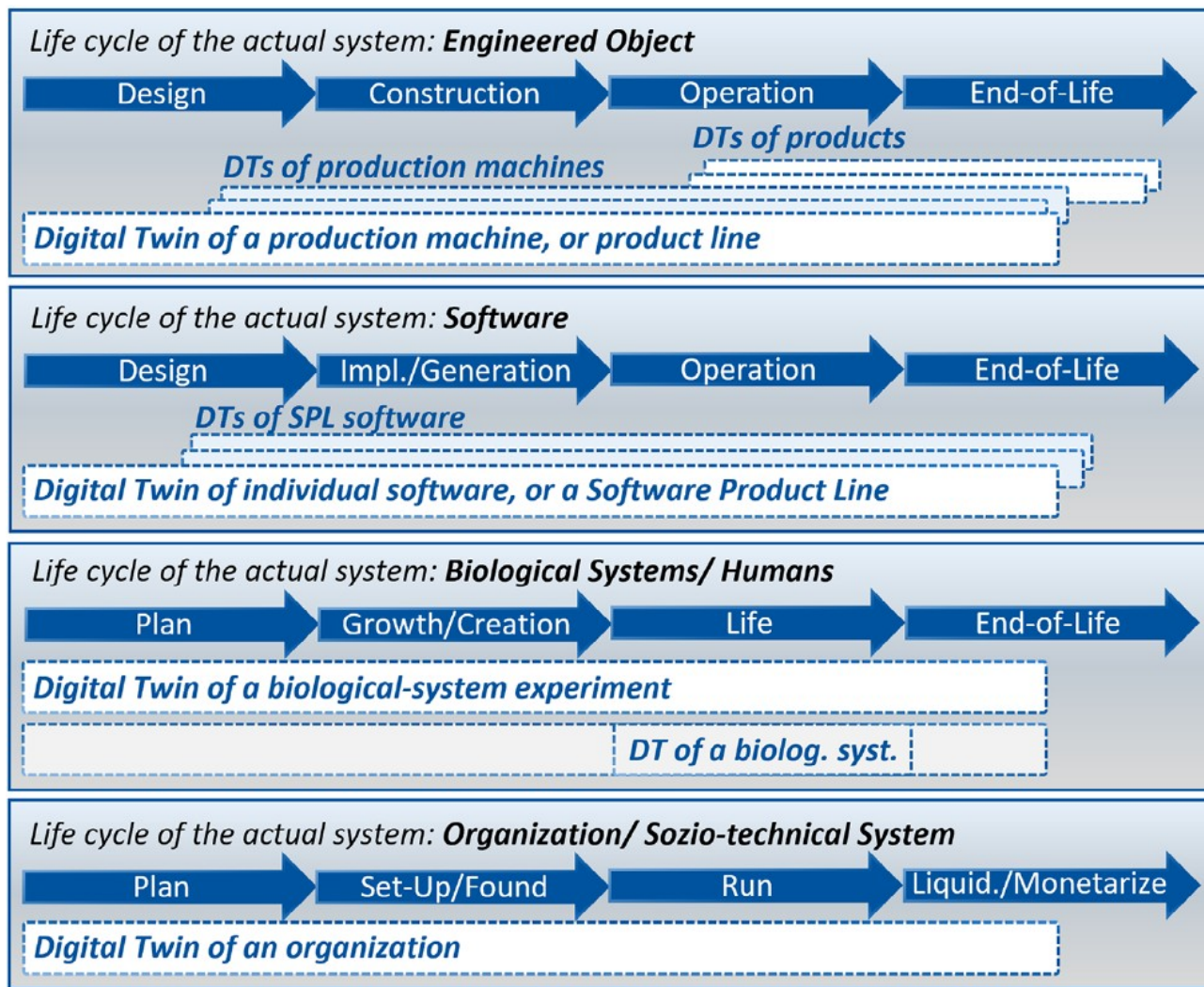
as maintained



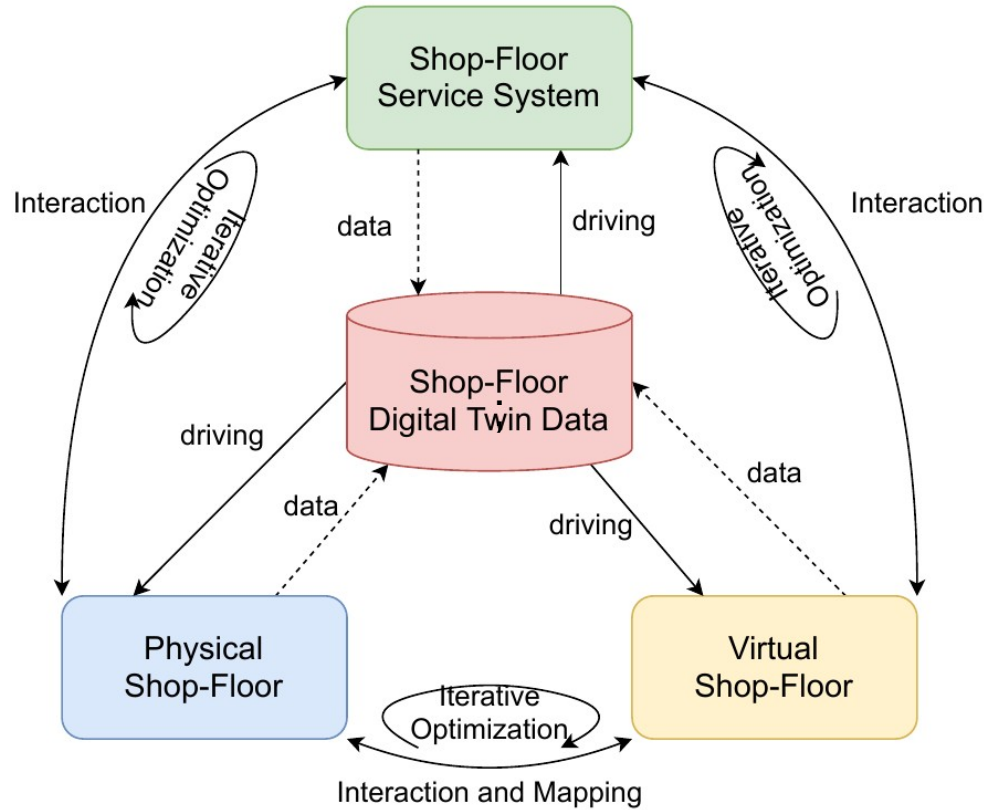
DT type

DT instance(s)

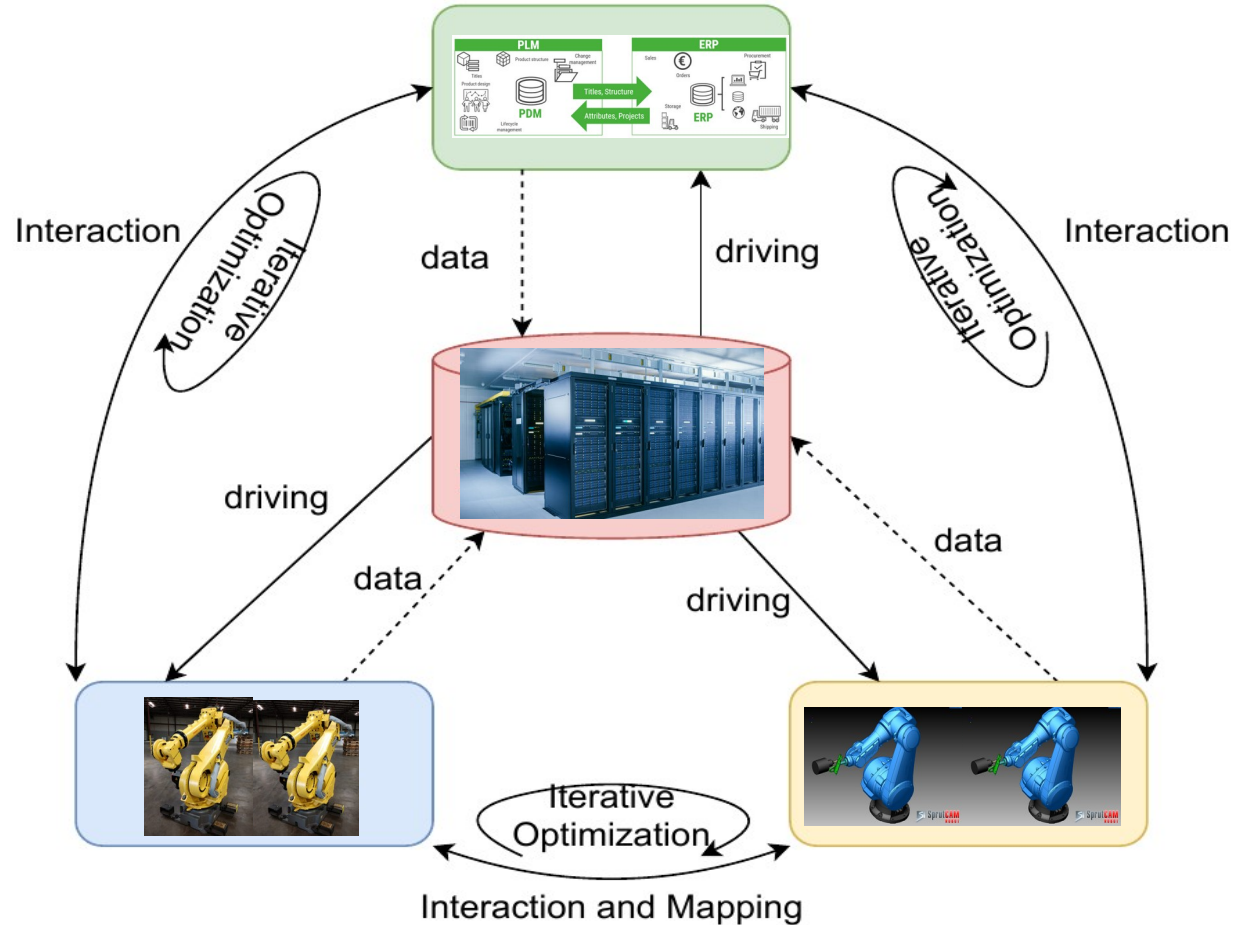
- ~ Digital Thread https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_thread
- ~ Digital Product Passport https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/cisl_digital_products_passport_report_v6.pdf
- ~ Digital Bill of Materials (DbOM) <https://dbom-project.readthedocs.io/en/latest/what-dbom.html>



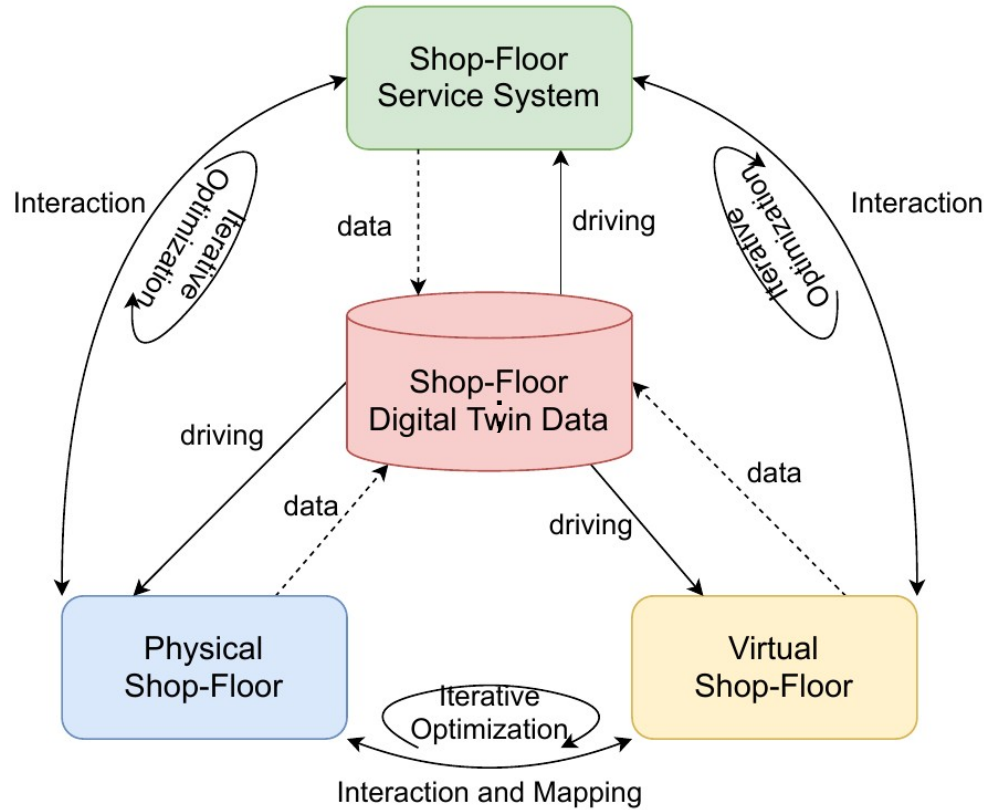
Five-Dimensional (5D) model of DT



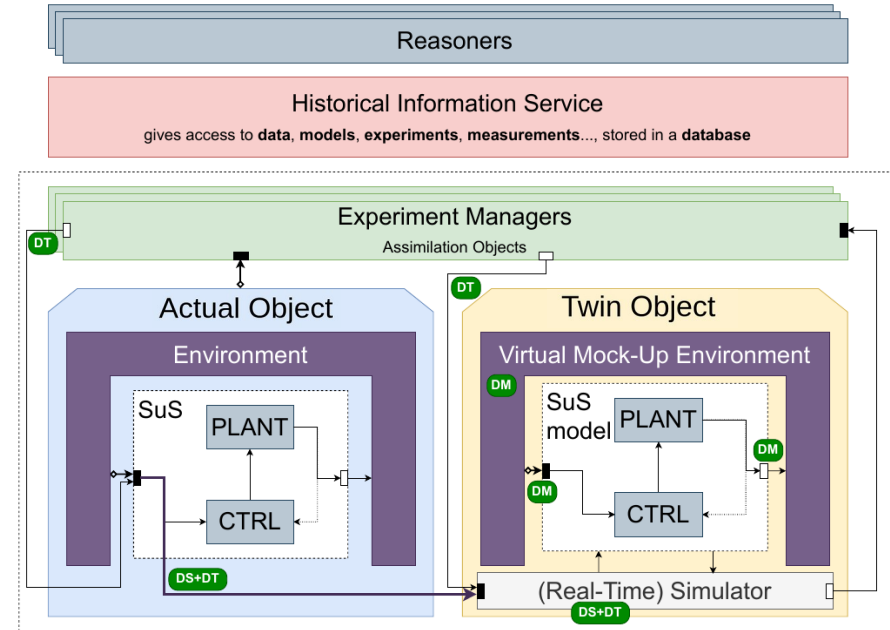
Five-Dimensional (5D) model of DT



Five-Dimensional (5D) model of DT

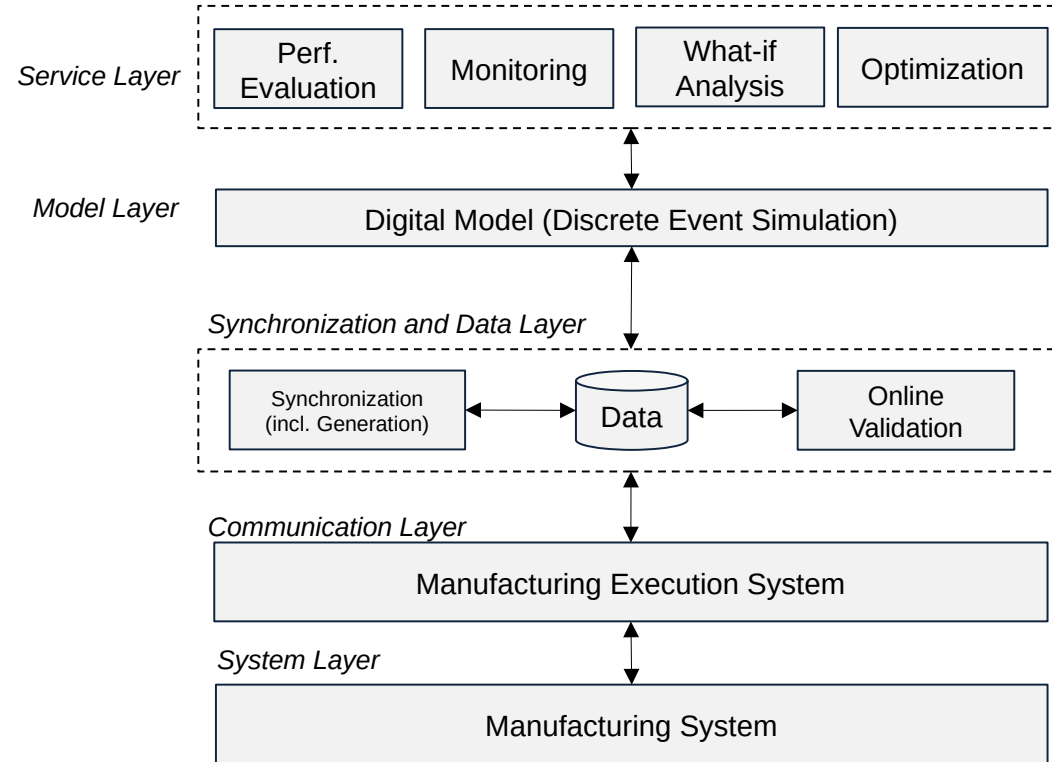
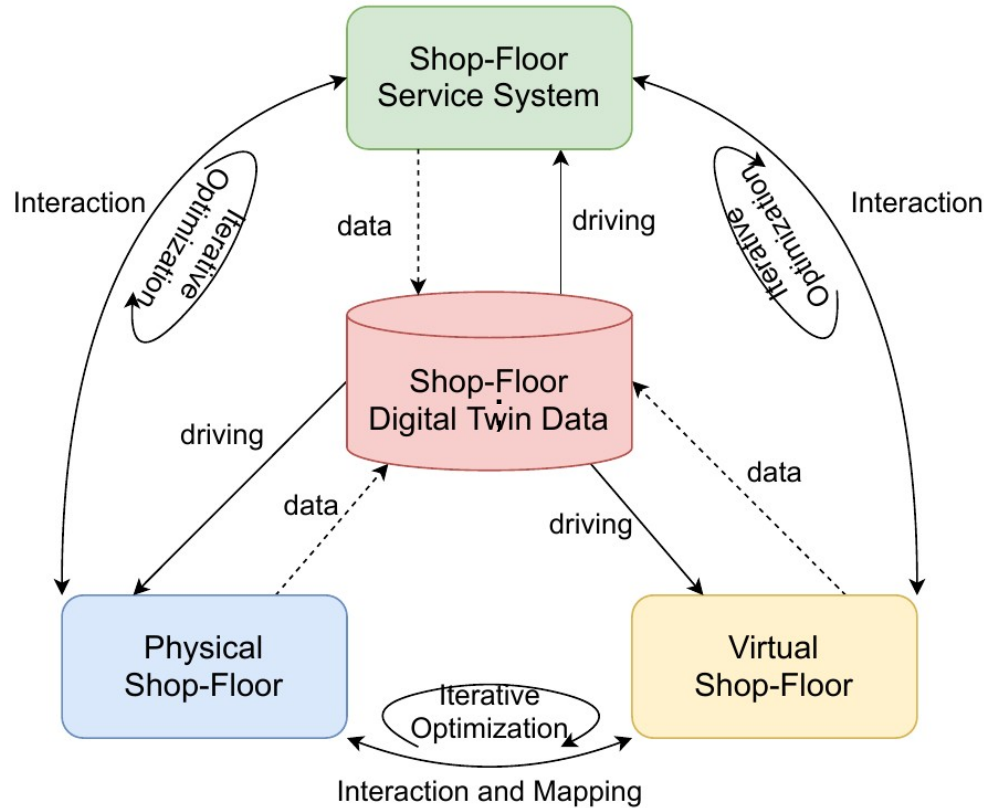


mapped onto our earlier conceptual architecture:



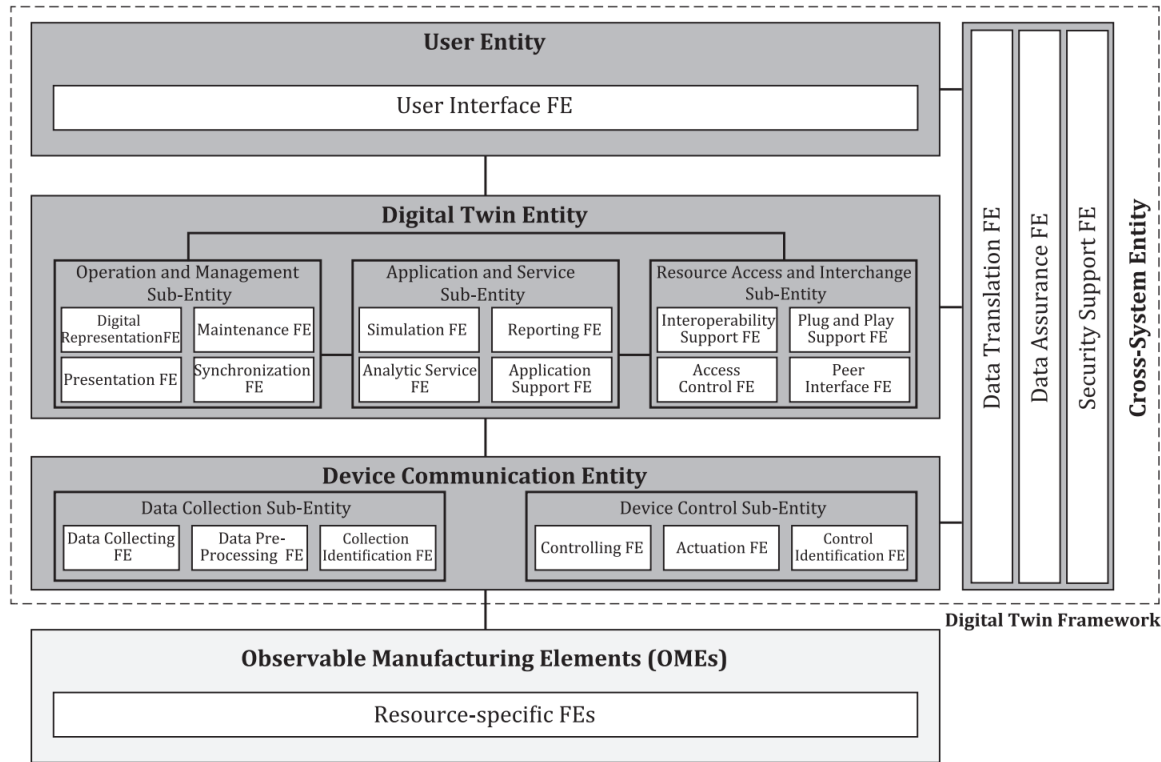
Five-Dimensional (5D) model of DT

layered view



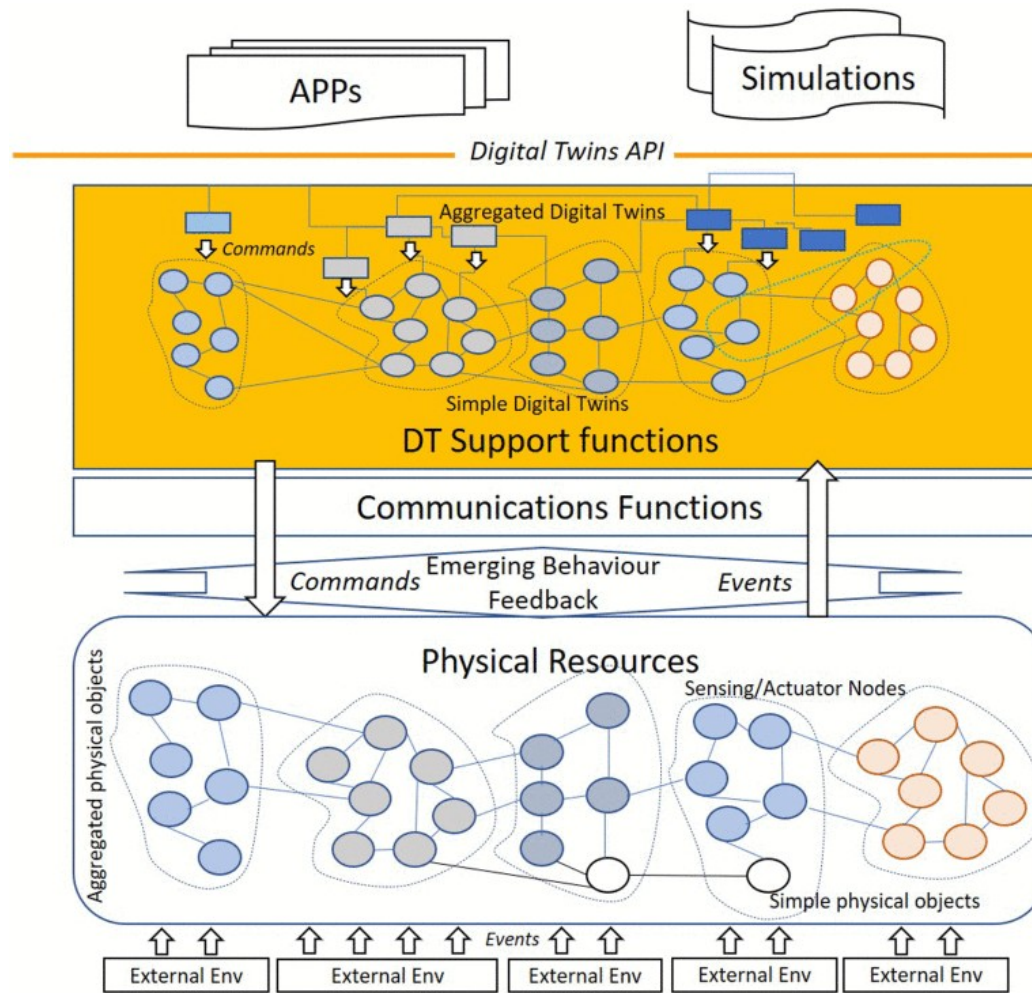
Fei Tao, Meng Zhang, Yushan Liu, A.Y.C. Nee. *Digital twin driven prognostics and health management for complex equipment*. CIRP Annals 67(1):169-172, 2018.

Tao, Fei, et al. *Digital twin in industry: State-of-the-art*. IEEE Transactions on industrial informatics 15.4 (2018): 2405-2415.



ISO 23247-2:2021:
Automation systems and integration.
Digital twin framework for
manufacturing.
Part 2: Reference architecture

IoT focus



Software Architecture

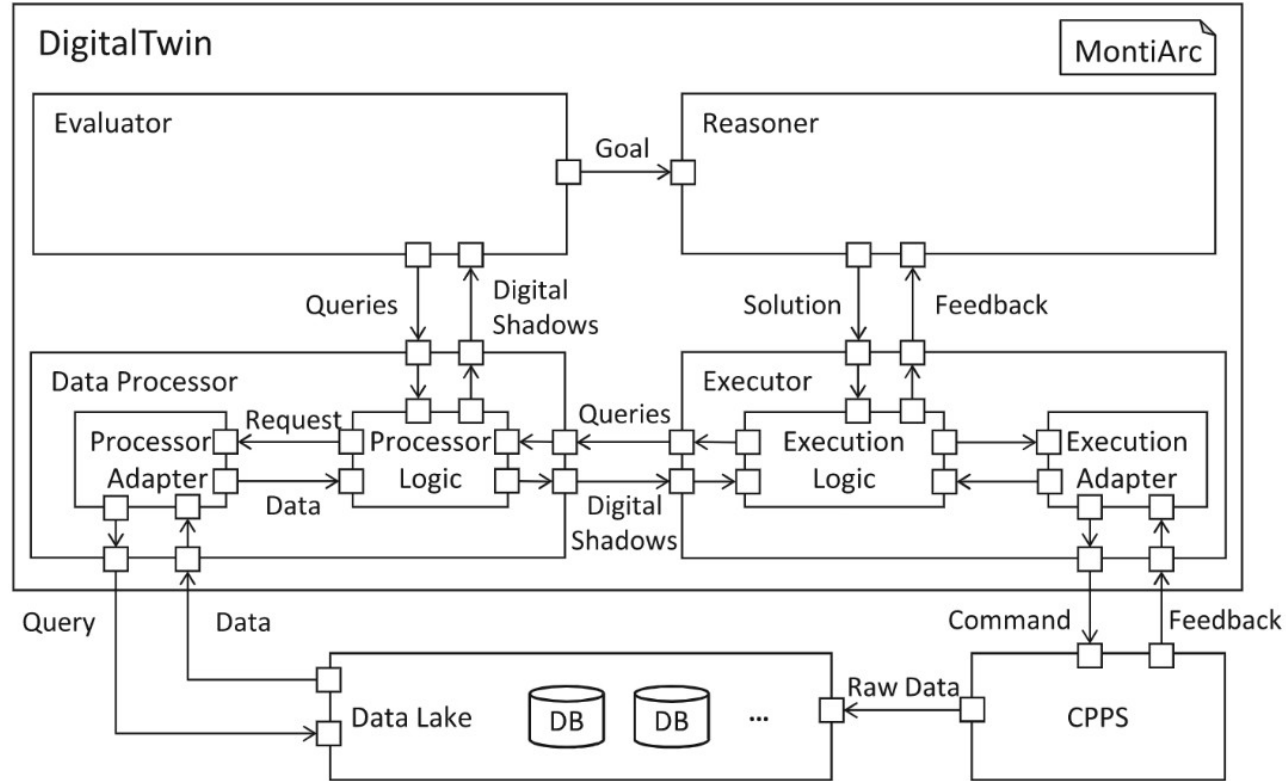
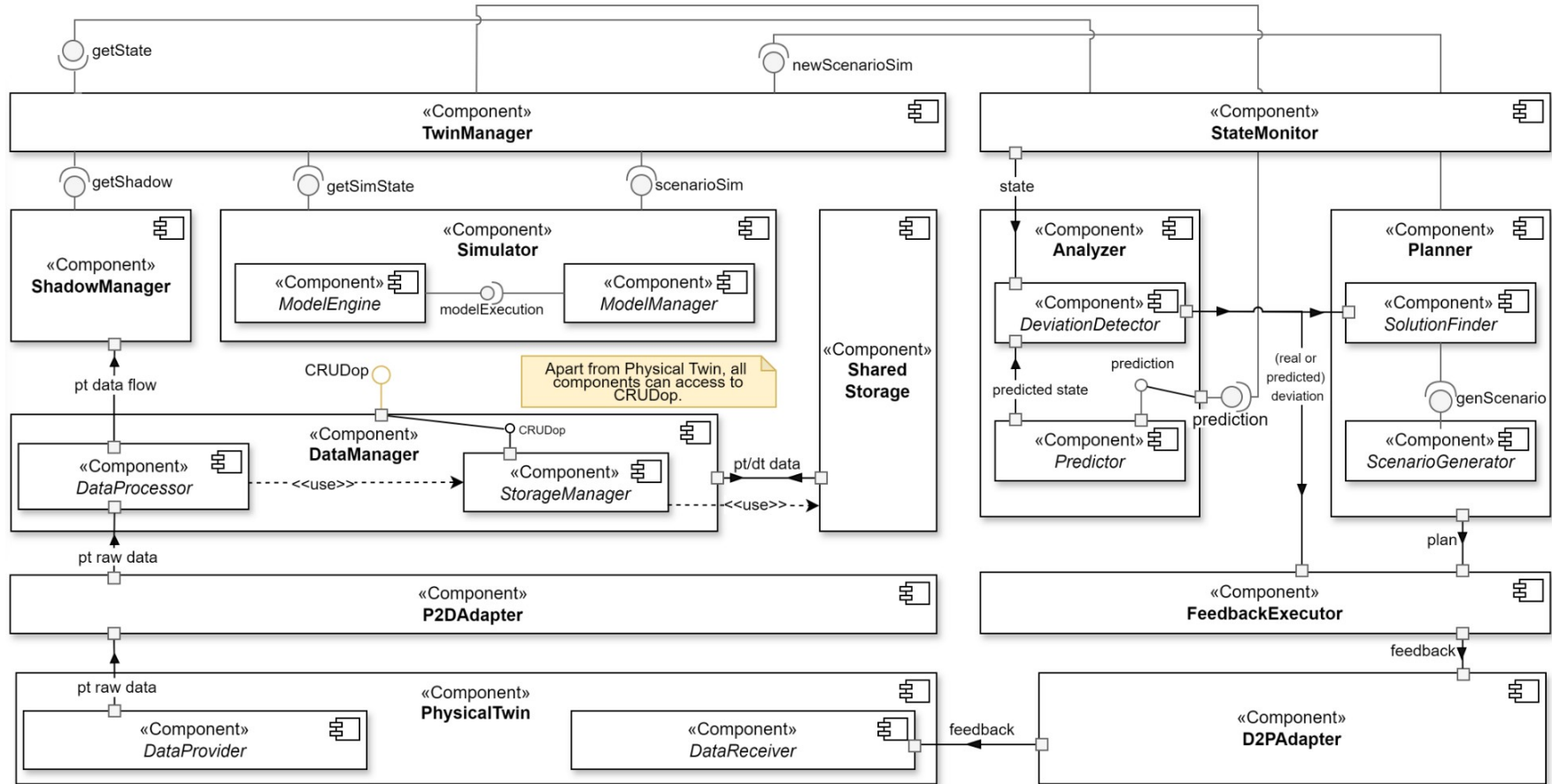


Fig. 1. Digital Twin architecture model

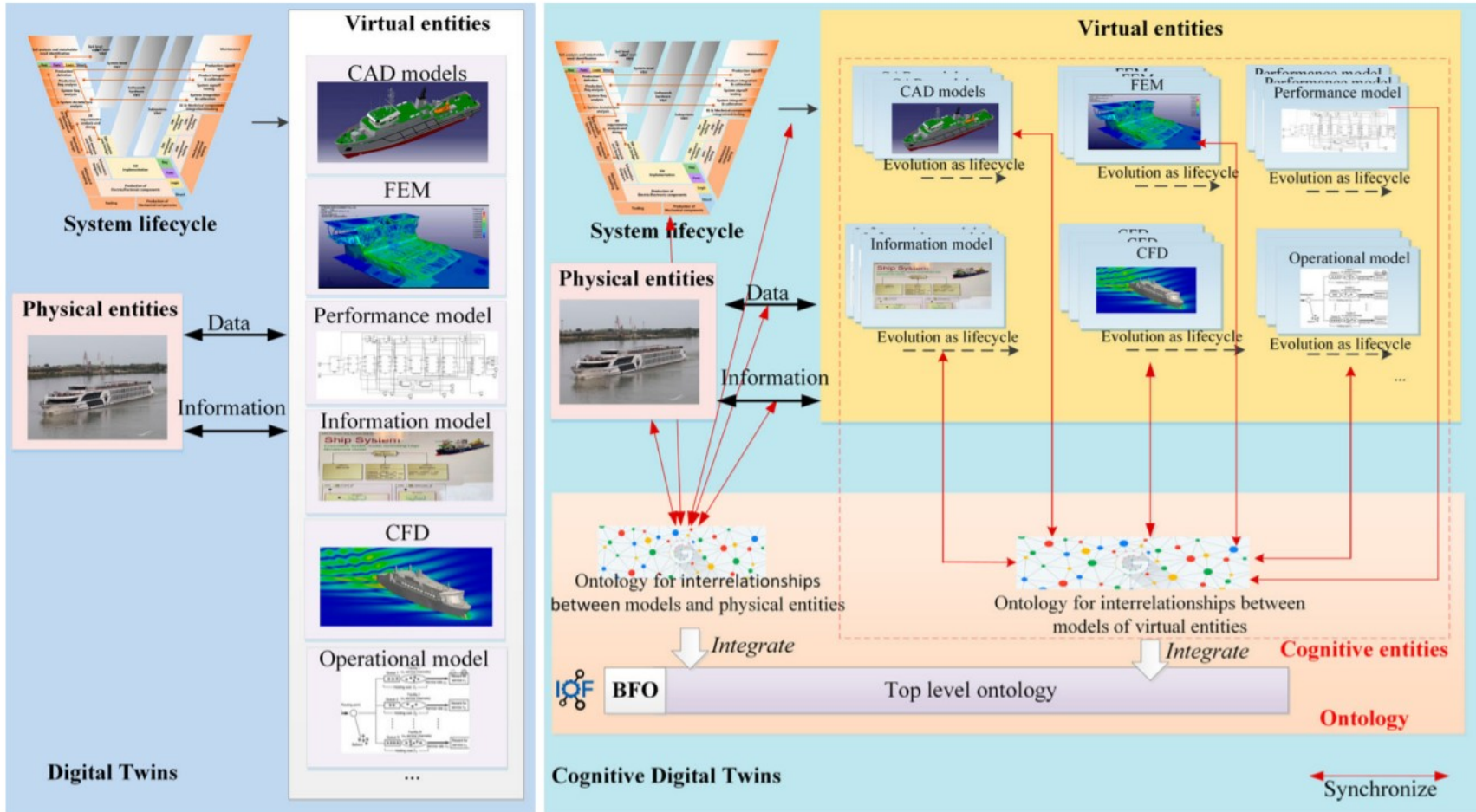
TwinArch: A Digital Twin Reference Architecture: component twin view



Alessandra Somma, Domenico Amalfitano, Alessandra De Benedictis, and Patrizio Pelliccione. 2026.

TwinArch: A digital twin reference architecture. Journal of Systems and Software 231 (2026), 112613. [doi:10.1016/j.jss.2025.112613](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jss.2025.112613)

Cognitive Digital Twins



Mastering the Nordschleife with hydrogen

PORSCHE



Porsche Engineering tested it in a luxury-segment reference vehicle with a relatively high total weight of 2,650 kg on the Nürburgring Nordschleife – albeit entirely virtually: the drive was carried out using what is known as a **digital twin**, i.e. a computer-based representation of the real vehicle.

<https://newsroom.porsche.com/en/2022/innovation/porsche-engineering-simulation-hydrogen-combustion-engines-nuerburgring-nordschleife-29401.html>

Digital Twin Definitions

A collection of definitions of digital twins

As a side result of the largest literature survey on digital twins to date,

- M. Dalbro, N. Jansen, B. Rump, D. Schmalzing, L. Wachmeister, M. Wimmer, A. Wortmann: A Cross-Domain Systematic Mapping Study on Software Engineering for Digital Twins. In: Journal of Systems and Software, 113(6), 1

we have produced a collection of 112 definitions of the term "digital twin" from the publications of our corpus. This collection is reproduced below.

Definitions

- "An always in sync digital model of existing manufacturing cells". B. A. Takhestani, N. Jazdi, W. Schlögl, M. Weylich. A concept in synchronization of virtual production system with real factory based on anchor-point method. In: Procedia CIRP 2018
- "An always current digital image of the production system". F. Biesinger, D. Meike, B. Krass, M. Weylich. A digital twin for production planning based on cyber-physical systems: A Case Study for a Cyber-Physical Systems-Based Creation of a Digital Twin. In: 12TH CIRP CONFERENCE ON INTELLIGENT COMPUTATION IN MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING, 2019
- "A digital twin is a virtual replica of the printing hardware". T. Mukherjee, T. Debroy. A digital twin for rapid qualification of 3D printed metallic components. In: APPLIED MATERIALS TODAY, 2019
- "A virtual mapping of a physical product". A. Detmer, M. Eigner. A digital twin for root cause analysis and product quality monitoring. In: Proceedings of International Design Conference, DESIGN, 2018
- "In the context of Industry 4.0, the Digital Twin is introduced as a framework for mirroring certain aspects of the underlying physical entities in the manufacturing processes". K. Joshićević, E. Vigić, G. Engels. A Digital-Twin-Based Multi-modal AD Adaptation Framework for Assistance Systems in Industry 4.0. In: Human-Computer Interaction, Design Practice in Contemporary Societies, 2019
- "Digital representation of any real-world counterpart allowing its management". M. Dietz, B. Putz, G. Pernul. A Distributed Ledger Approach to Digital Twin Secure Data Sharing. In: Data and Applications Security and Privacy XXXIII, 2019
- "A digital Twin is a digital avatar encompassing CPS data and intelligence, it represents structure, semantics and behavior of the associated CPS, providing services to mesh the virtual and physical worlds". M. Carrozza, M. Alge, S. Menato, D. Rovere, P. Pedrazzoli. A Microservice-based Middleware for the Digital Factory. In: Proceedings Manufacturing, 2017
- "Digital equivalent to a physical product". G. Avventuroso, M. Silvestri, P. Pedrazzoli. A Networked Production System to Implement Virtual Enterprise and Product Lifecycle Information Flows. In: IFAC-PapersOnLine, 2017
- "While in the context of smart manufacturing, the term 'digital twin' is more broadly applied to modeling, simulation and visualization aspects based on various artifacts and data collected during operation, we use it to describe emulated or simulated devices that may be connected to an emulated network". M. Eshani, A. Creffart. A Specification-based State Replication Approach for Digital Twins. In: Proceedings of the 2018 Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems Security and PrivacyX, 2018
- "A digital twin is defined as the predictive and validated model of the manufacturing process with the intention to support approval documentation". S. Zöfel-Roos, A. Schmidt, F. Mestrich, M. Moulet, M. Hüter, L. Uhlendörck, M. Konecny, R. Ditz, J. Stube. Accelerating logistics manufacturing by modeling or. In: Approval under the QbO and PAT approaches mandated by authorities acceptable without a digital-twin?https://www.mdpi.com/2222-9717/10/7/54. In: Processes, 2018
- "The DT is a set of virtual information that fully describes a potential or actual physical production from the micro atomic level to the macro geological level". Y. Zheng, S. Yang, H. Cheng. An application framework of digital twin and its case study. In: Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing, 2019
- "A digital Twin of a real distributed product is a virtual reflection, which can describe the exhaustive physical and functional properties of the product along the whole life cycle and can deliver and receive product information". R. Thoma, R. Wäter, M. Eigner. An approach for the implementation of the digital twin in the automotive wiring harness field. In: Proceedings of International Design Conference, DESIGN, 2018
- "The creation on the basis of Usain Design software-hardware solution 'cloud' models of technological units and combining them into a single integrated 'cloud' model of the production complex, called 'digital twin' which in fact represents a virtual projection of the industrial facility into the 'cloud'". N. Yusupbekov, F.R. Abdurazlov, F.T. Adilov, A.I. Ibrayev. Application of cloud technologies for optimization of complex processes of industrial enterprises. In: Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing, 2019
- "The digital twin concept is a functional system of continuous optimization, which includes physical production together with its digital 'copy'". E. Sjøvåg, H. Cherni, I. Zaprawka. Application of digitization procedures of production in practice. In: Management Systems in Production Engineering, 2019
- "Digital twins of technological equipment are infrastructure components of production companies of the Industry 4.0 functioning in the level of cloud services". D. Zakladnev, A.V. Saraynov, D.R. Kochubey, I.O. Zharnev. Application of initiation model to create digital twins of the industry 4.0 company technological equipment. In: IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering, 2019
- "The DT is a simulation method that can be used for evaluation and optimization". Y. Tan, W. Yang, K. Yoshida, S. Takakawa. Application of IoT-aided Simulation for a Cyber-physical System. In: Proceedings of the 2018 Winter Simulation Conference, 2018

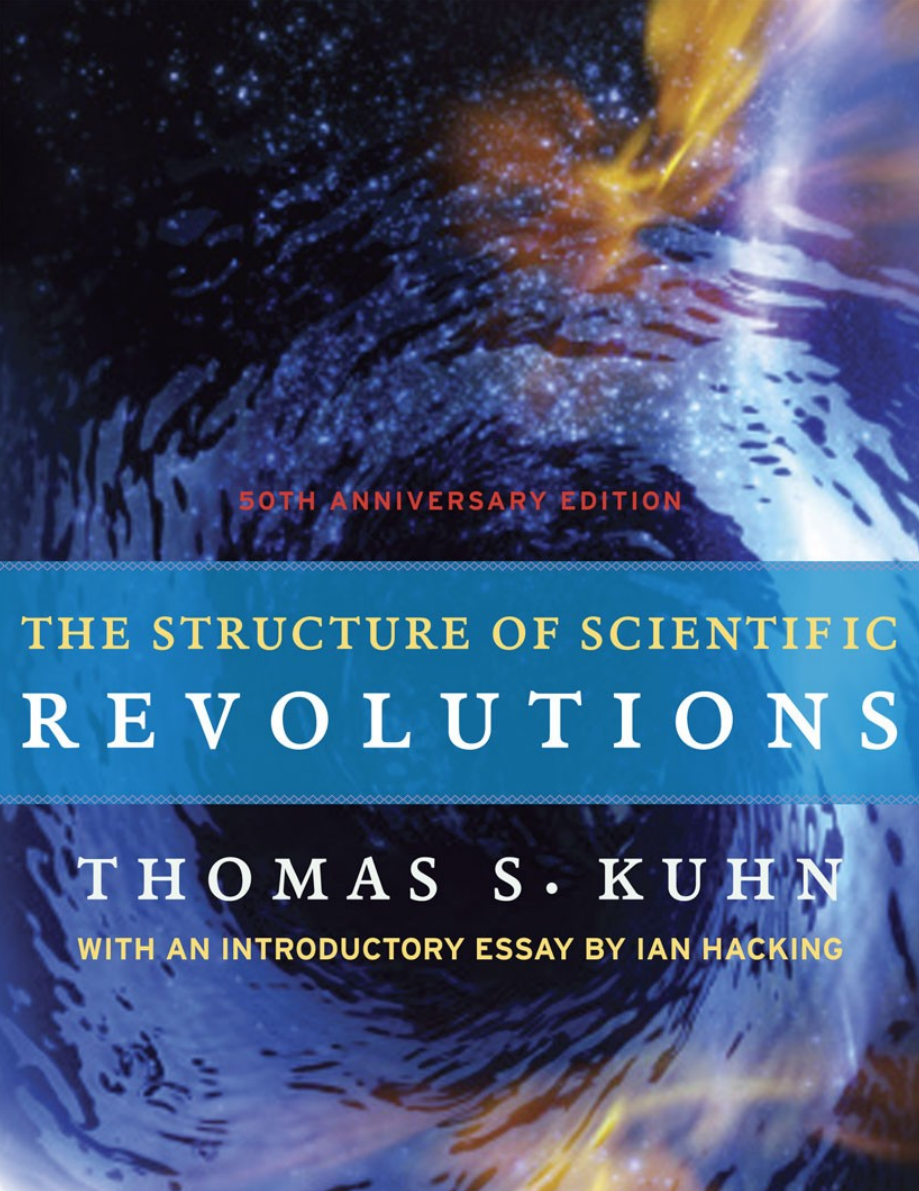
- "A DT consists of a virtual representation of a production system that is able to use sensory data, connected smart devices, mathematical models, and real-time data elaborations. The DT can be run on different simulation disciplines that are characterized by the synchronization of virtual and real systems". Y. Tan, W. Yang, K. Yoshida, S. Takakawa. Application of IoT-aided simulation to manufacturing systems in cyber-physical system. In: Machines, 2019
- "The idea behind this [Digital Twin] concept is to have a digital entity that behaves exactly (or as close as possible) as the real entity". D. Mejia, A. Moreno, O. Ruiz-Salgado, A. Barandarian. Appraisal of open software for finite element simulation of 2D metal sheet laser cut. In: International Journal on Interactive Design and Manufacturing (IJIDeM), 2017
- "The digital twin is made up of measured data, managed information and models for the physical evolution of equipment. It simulates the real evolution of equipment, anticipating possible failures". M.F. Miazga, G. Andone, G. Sciotti, P.A. Bragatto. Assessment and management of ageing of critical equipment at seaway sites. In: Safety and Reliability - Safe Societies in a Changing World - Proceedings of the 28th International European Safety and Reliability Conference, ESREL 2018, 2018
- "In assembly, the physical object has a digital twin, a CAD model that accurately resembles real features". A. Blaga, L. Tamas. Augmented Reality for Digital Manufacturing. In: 2018 26th Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation (MED), 2018
- "A digital Twin (DT) is a digital replica of the physical assets of an industrial plant which contains the structure and the dynamics of how the devices and the process operate". G.S. Martin, S. Sierla, T. Karhela, V. Vaykkin. Automatic generation of a simulation-based digital twin of an industrial process plant. In: Proceedings. ICON 2018 - 44th Annual Conference of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society, 2018
- "A digital twin is a dynamic digital model of an industrial object or physical device simulating the internal processes, engineering characteristics, and behavior of the actual object". K. A. Tugaydoglu, V.P. Dimitrov, L. V. Borisova, M. V. Granov, R. N. Voloshin. Autonomous Maintenance of Digital Equipment. In: Russian Engineering Research, 2019
- "In principle, digital twins are model-based representations of entities of the real world such as machines, cars, or persons". D. Schneider, M. Trapp, B.-soace. dynamic management and assurance of open systems of systems. In: Journal of Internet Services and Applications, 2019
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- "The digital twin is the virtual representation of a physical object or system across its life-cycle. It uses real-time data and other sources to enable learning, reasoning, and dynamically recalibrating for

many definitions of “Digital Twin”
→ use “**Twinning**” to cover all definitions

Sensing ← ... everything in between ... → Simulation



Using (Digital) Twins, or more generally,

the notion of **Twinning**

is a **paradigm**

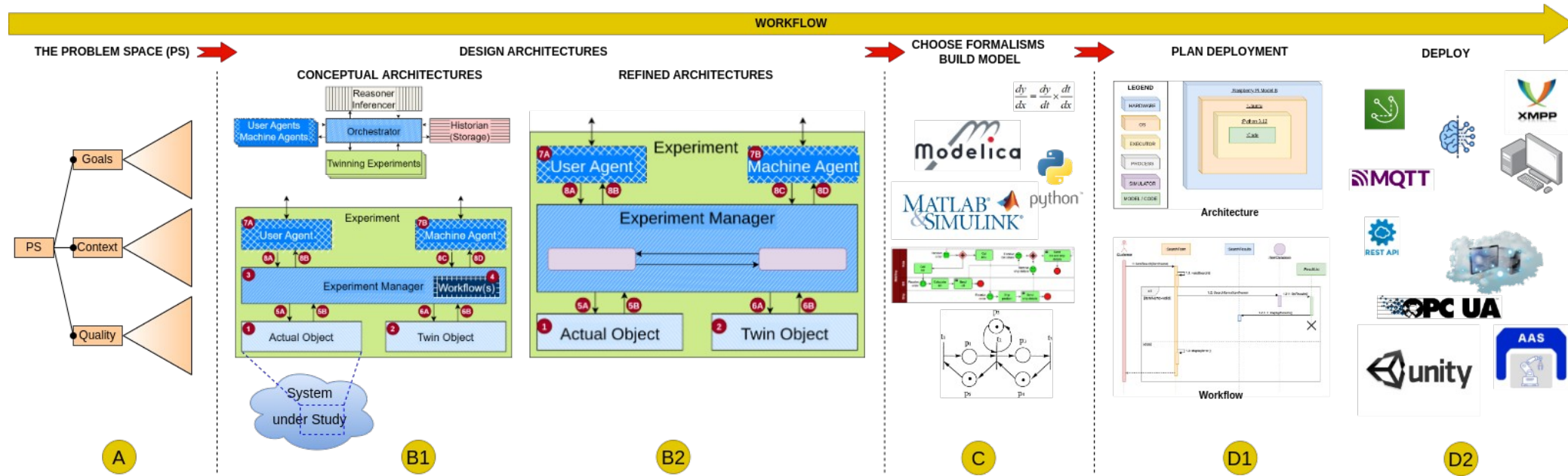
Ubiquitous use of twins is a

“paradigm shift”

Workflow?

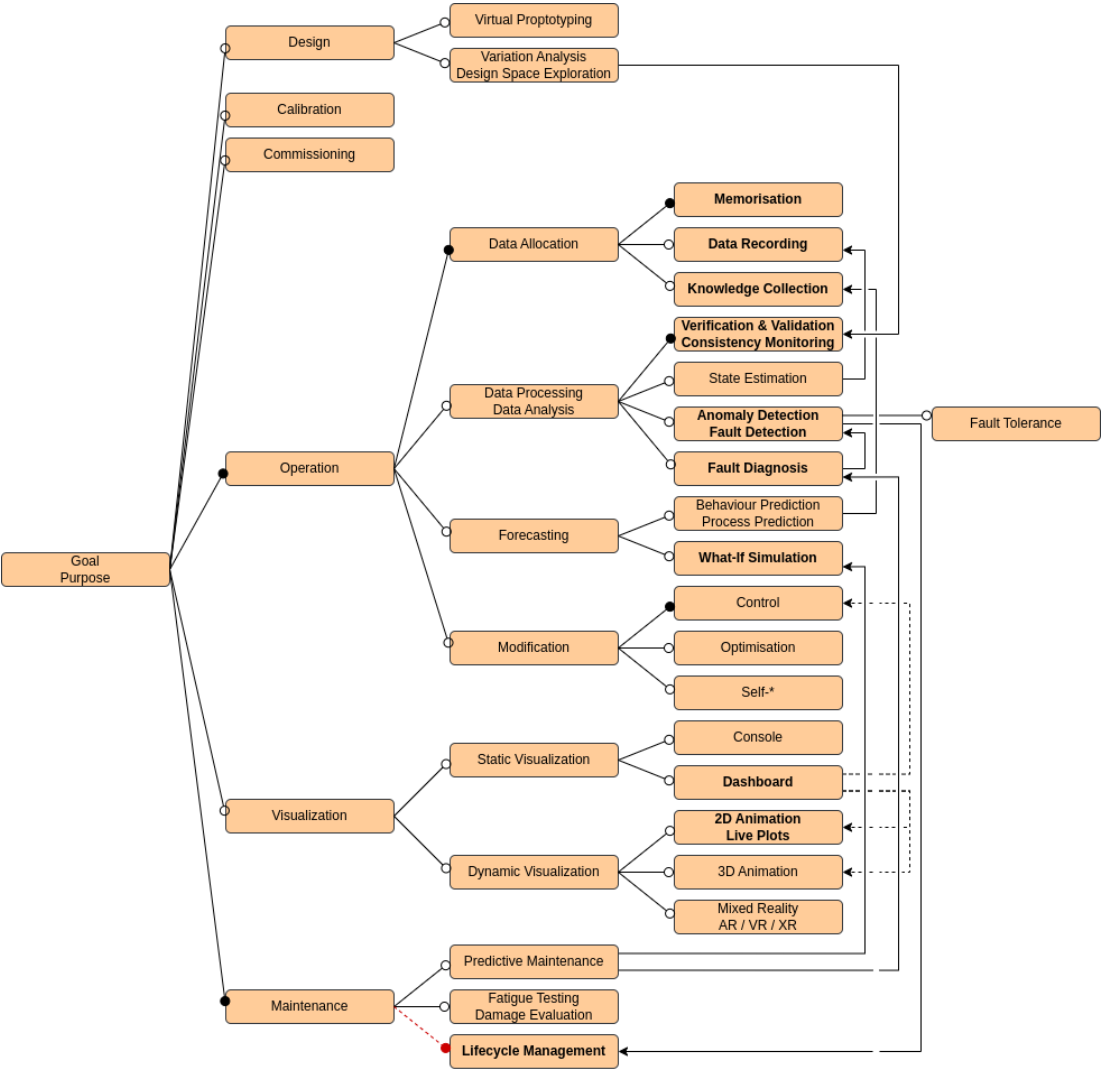
Foundations for Twinning: workflow

Goals → Conceptual Architecture → Formalism choice/Model building → Deployment

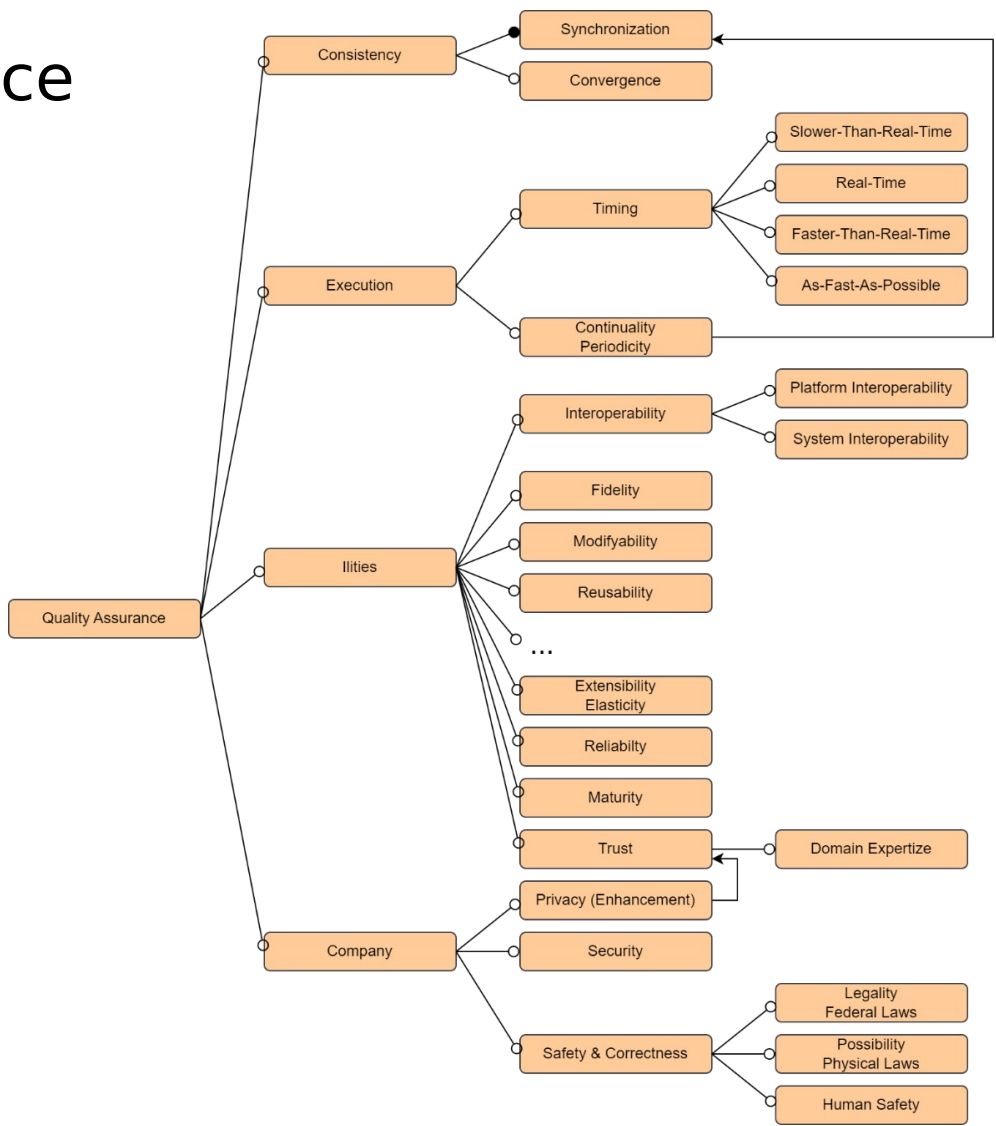


Goals

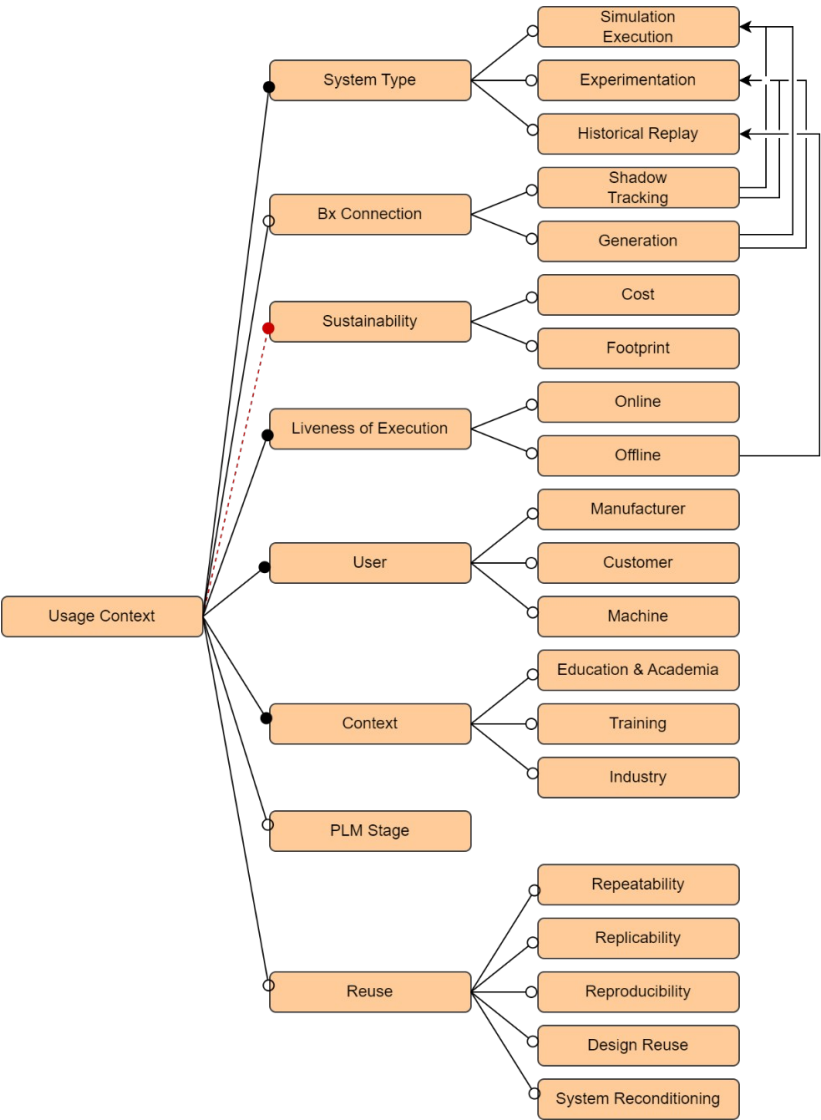
wrt **Property of Interest (PoI)**



Quality Assurance

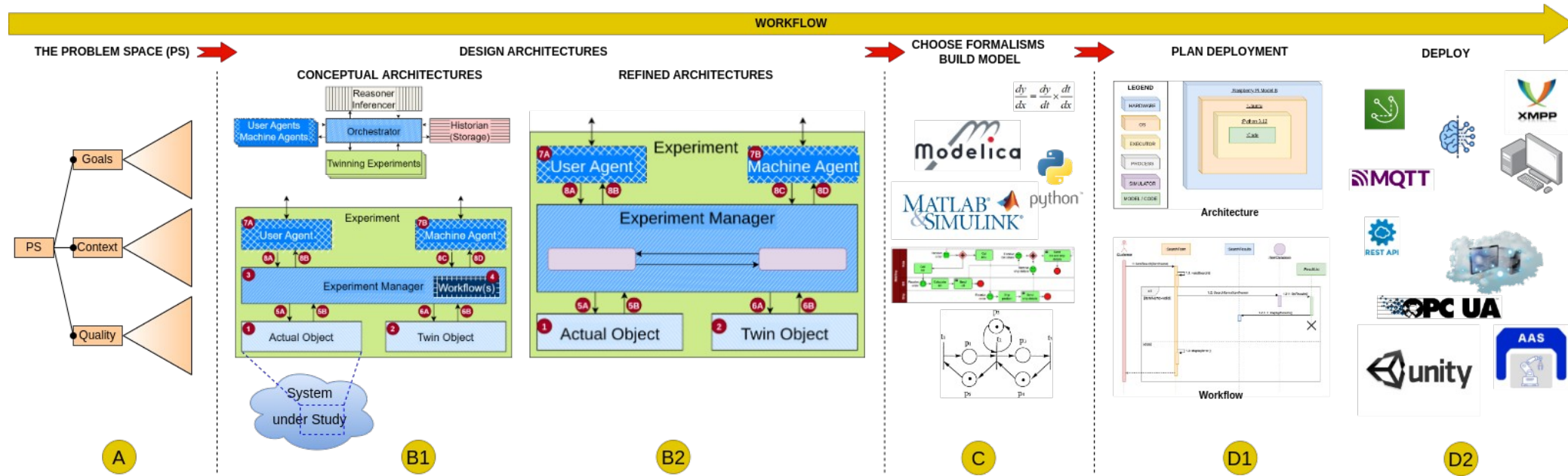


Usage Context

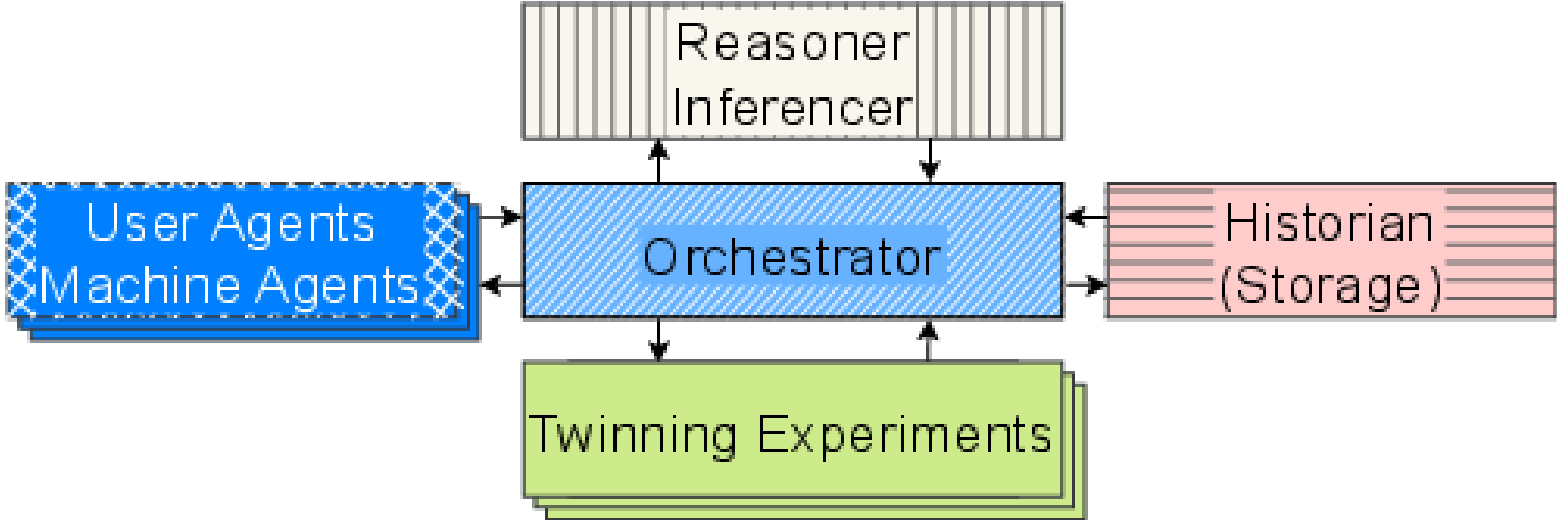


Foundations for Twinning: workflow

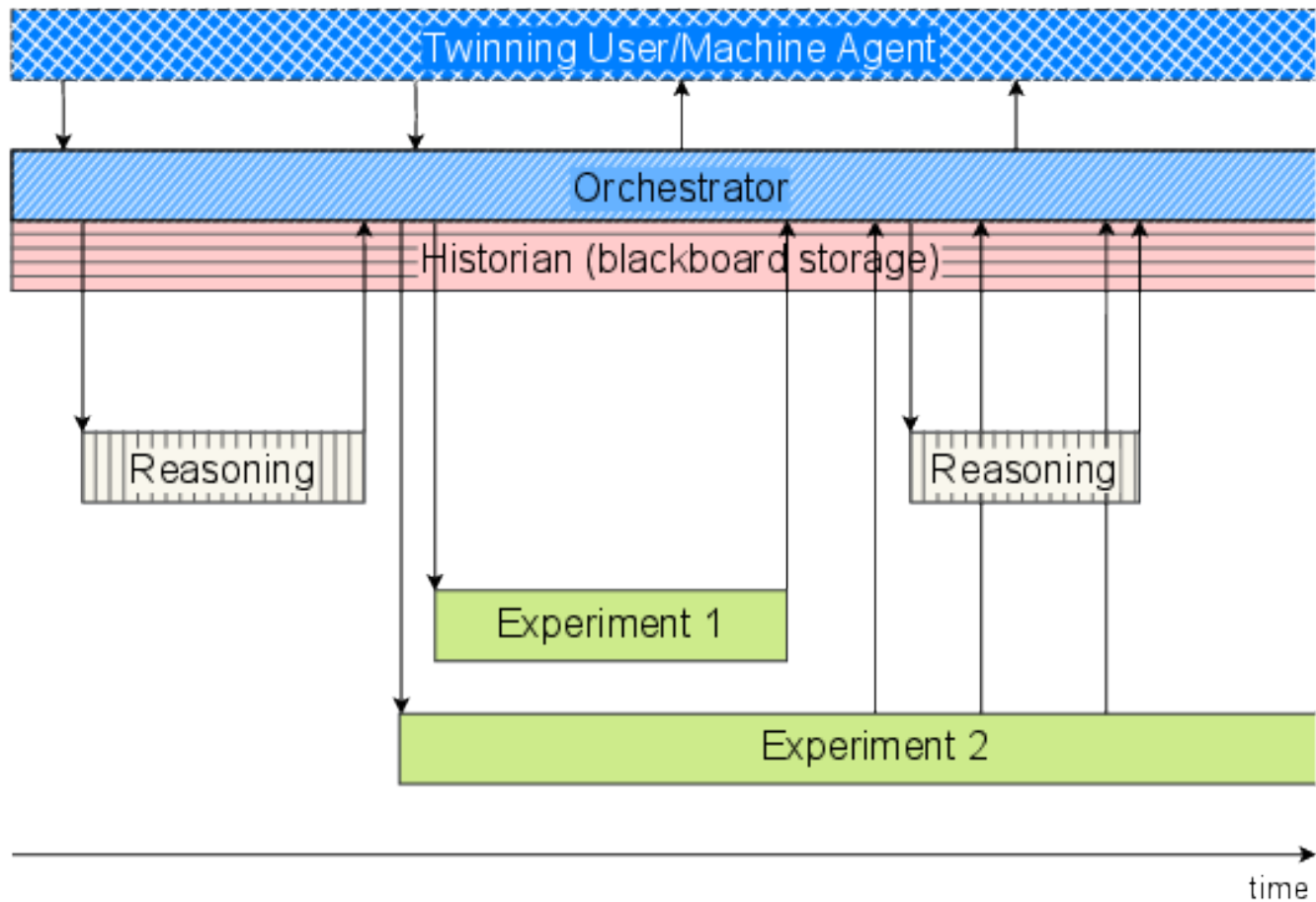
Goals → Conceptual Architecture → Formalism choice/Model building → Deployment



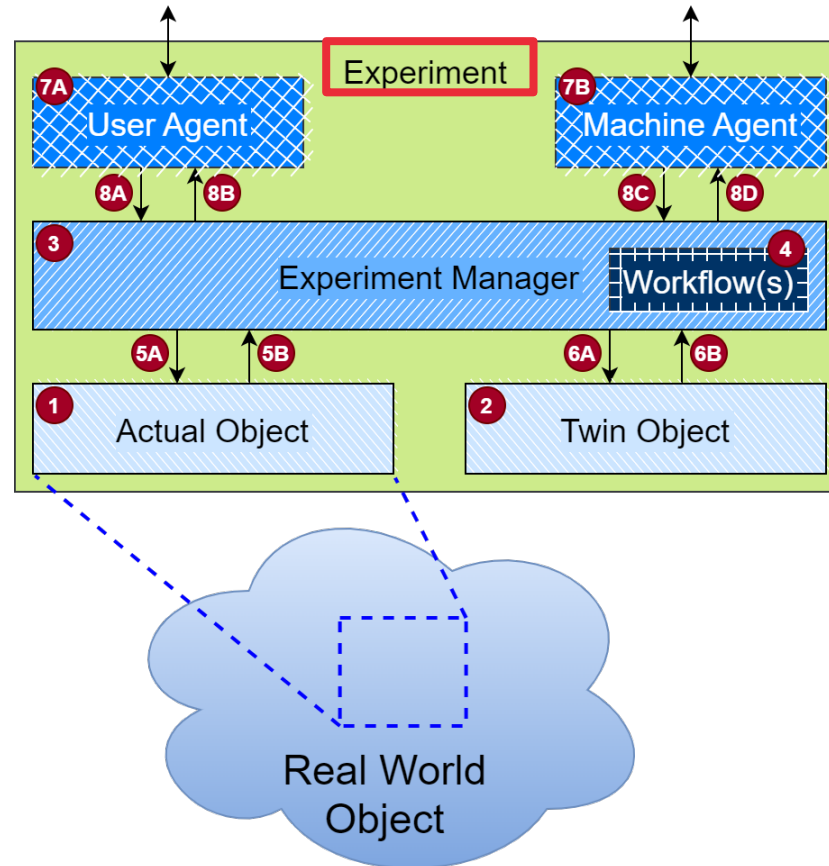
Twinning Experiments in a **Top-Level Conceptual Twinning Architecture**



Example “behaviour trace”, spawning multiple Twinning Experiments

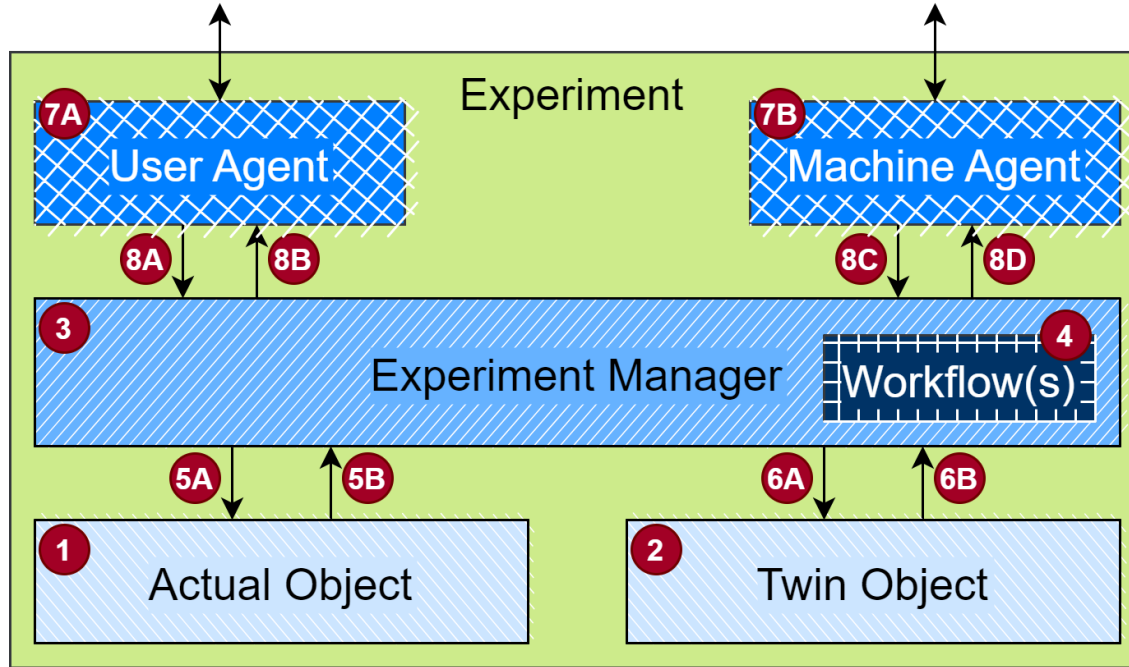


Conceptual (digital) Twinning Experiment Architecture(s)



Family of Conceptual Architecture(s)

150% model (using presence conditions)

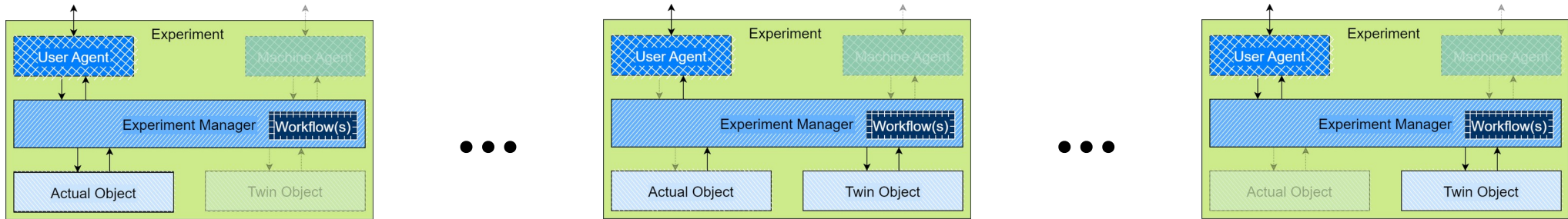


* Agent does not refer to Agent Based Modelling/Simulation (ABMS) but to "interfaces"

many definitions/alternatives of “Digital Twin”

→ use “**Twinning**” to cover all definitions

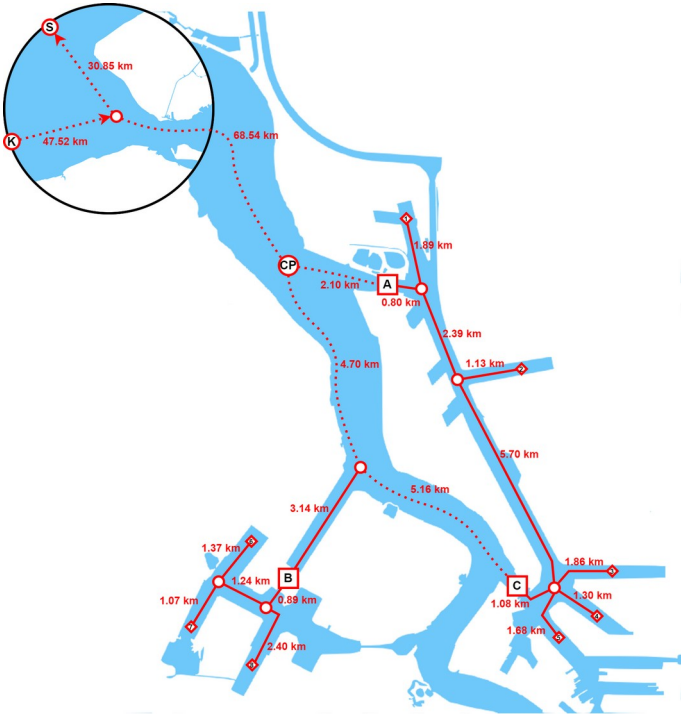
Sensing ← ... everything in between ... → Simulation



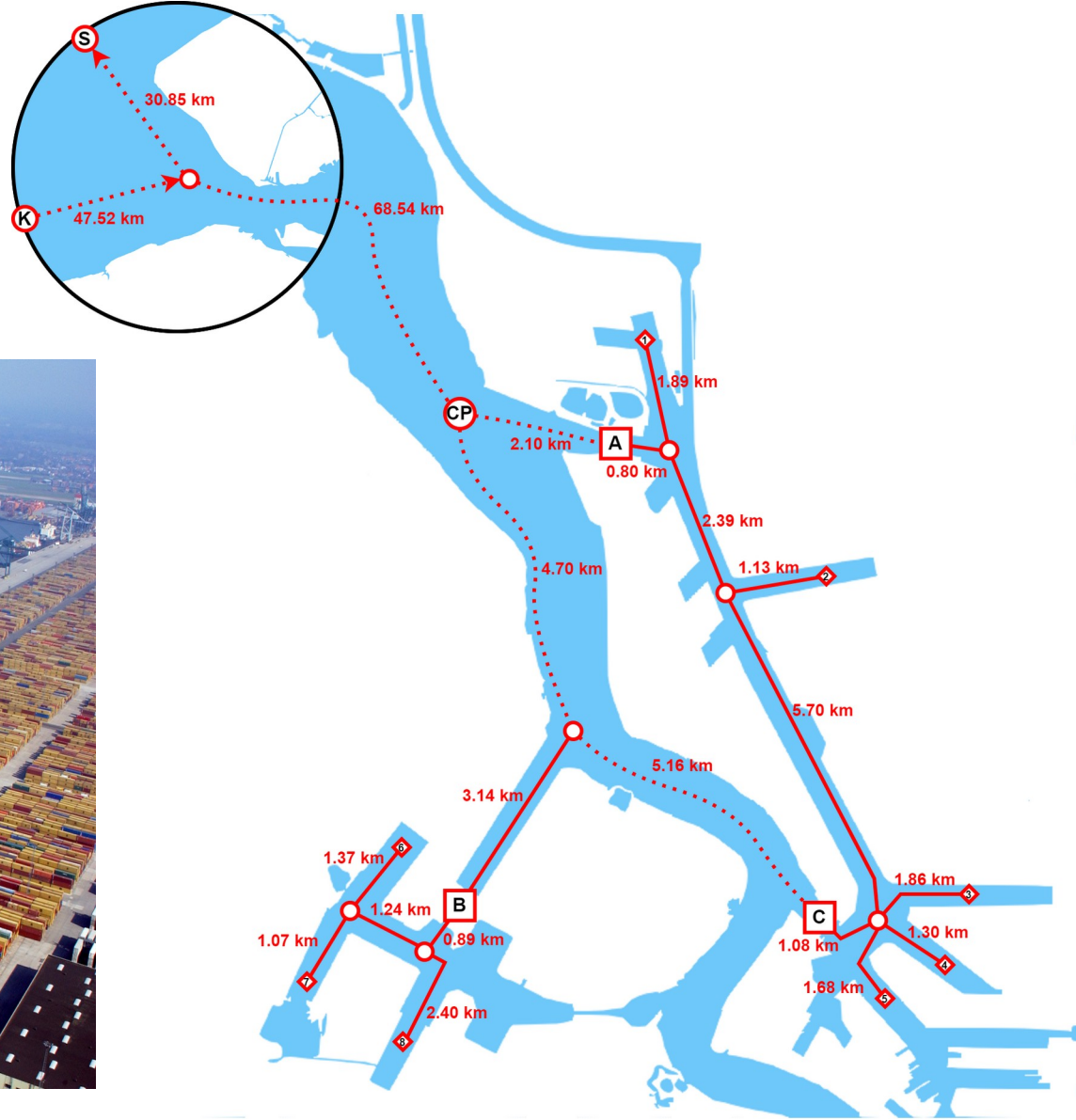
Case: (inspired by the operation of) the Port of Antwerp (PoAB)



Case: Port of Antwerp (PoAB)

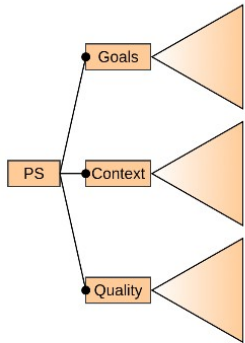


Case: Port of Antwerp



Stages of Twinning – Goal Selection

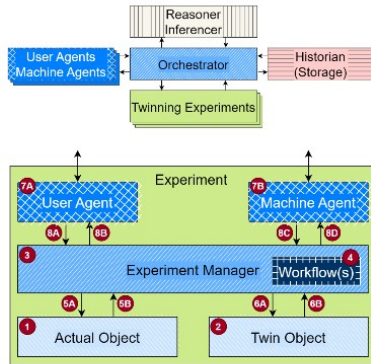
THE PROBLEM SPACE (PS)



A

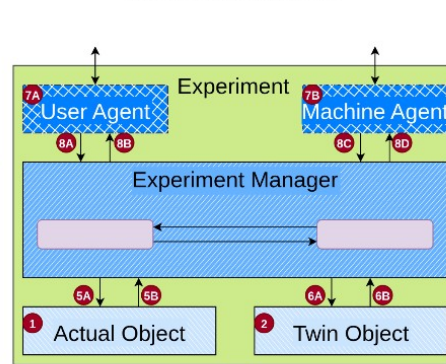
DESIGN ARCHITECTURES

CONCEPTUAL ARCHITECTURES



B1

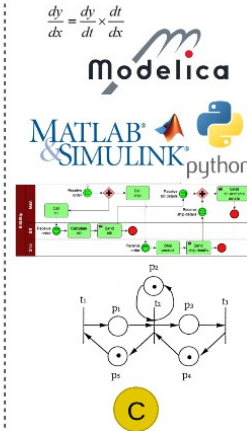
REFINED ARCHITECTURES



B2

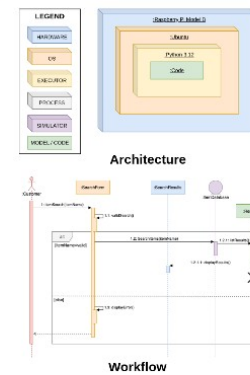
WORKFLOW

CHOOSE FORMALISMS BUILD MODEL



C

PLAN DEPLOYMENT



D1

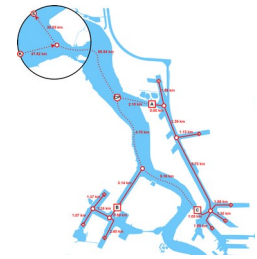
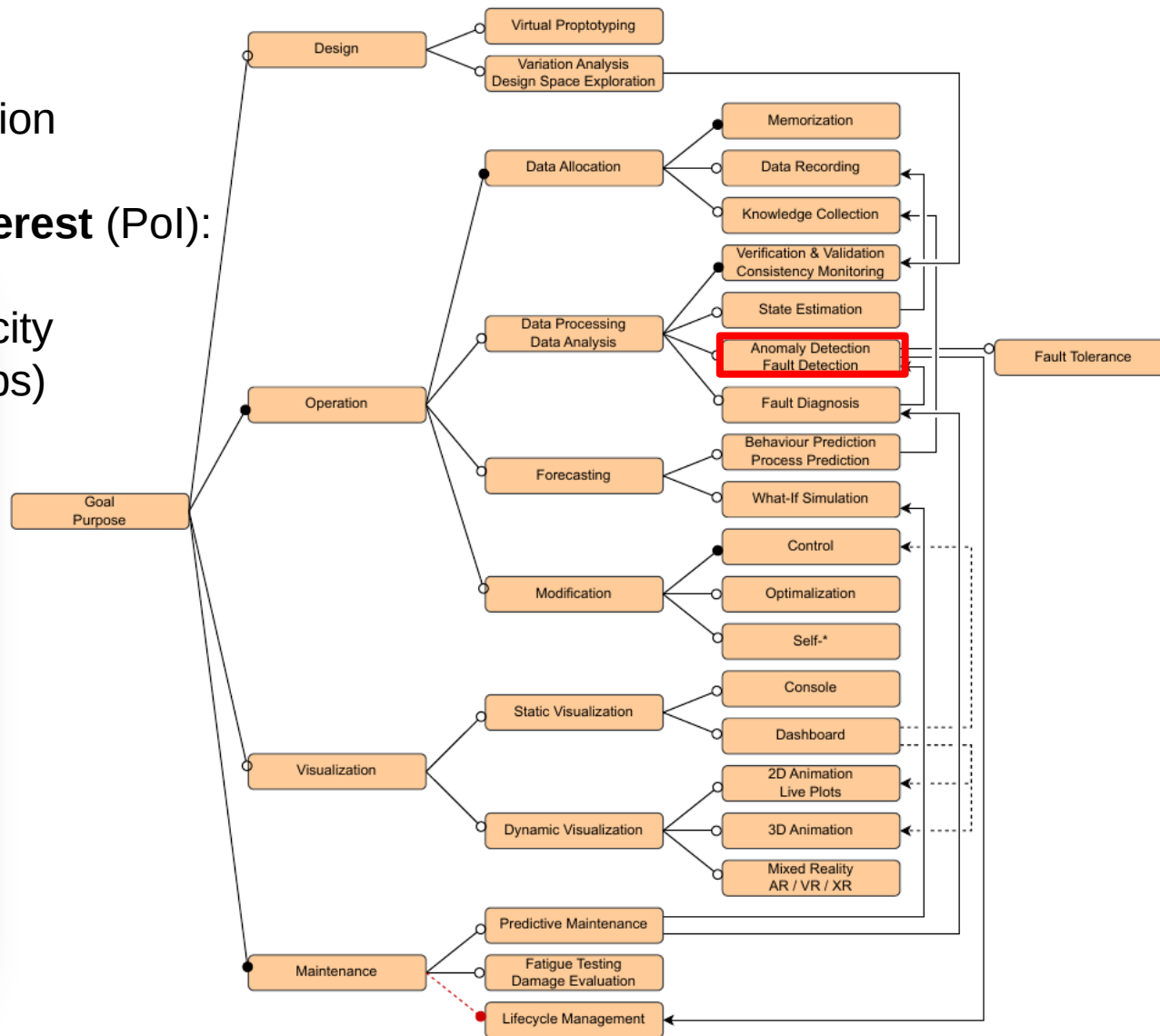
DEPLOY



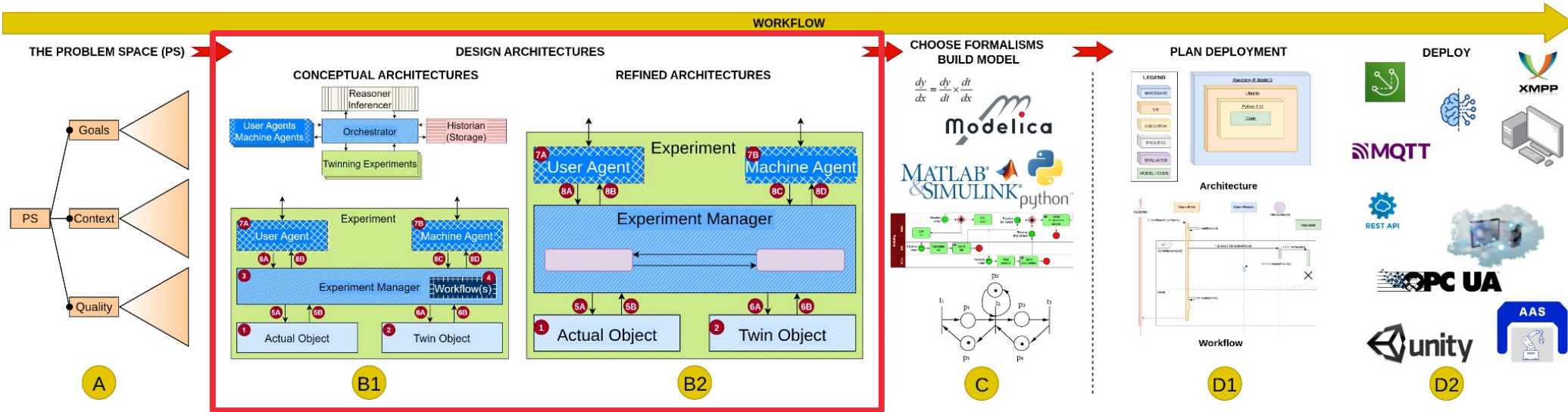
D2

Goal Selection:
Anomaly Detection

Property of Interest (PoI):
occupancy ~
remaining capacity
(for docking ships)

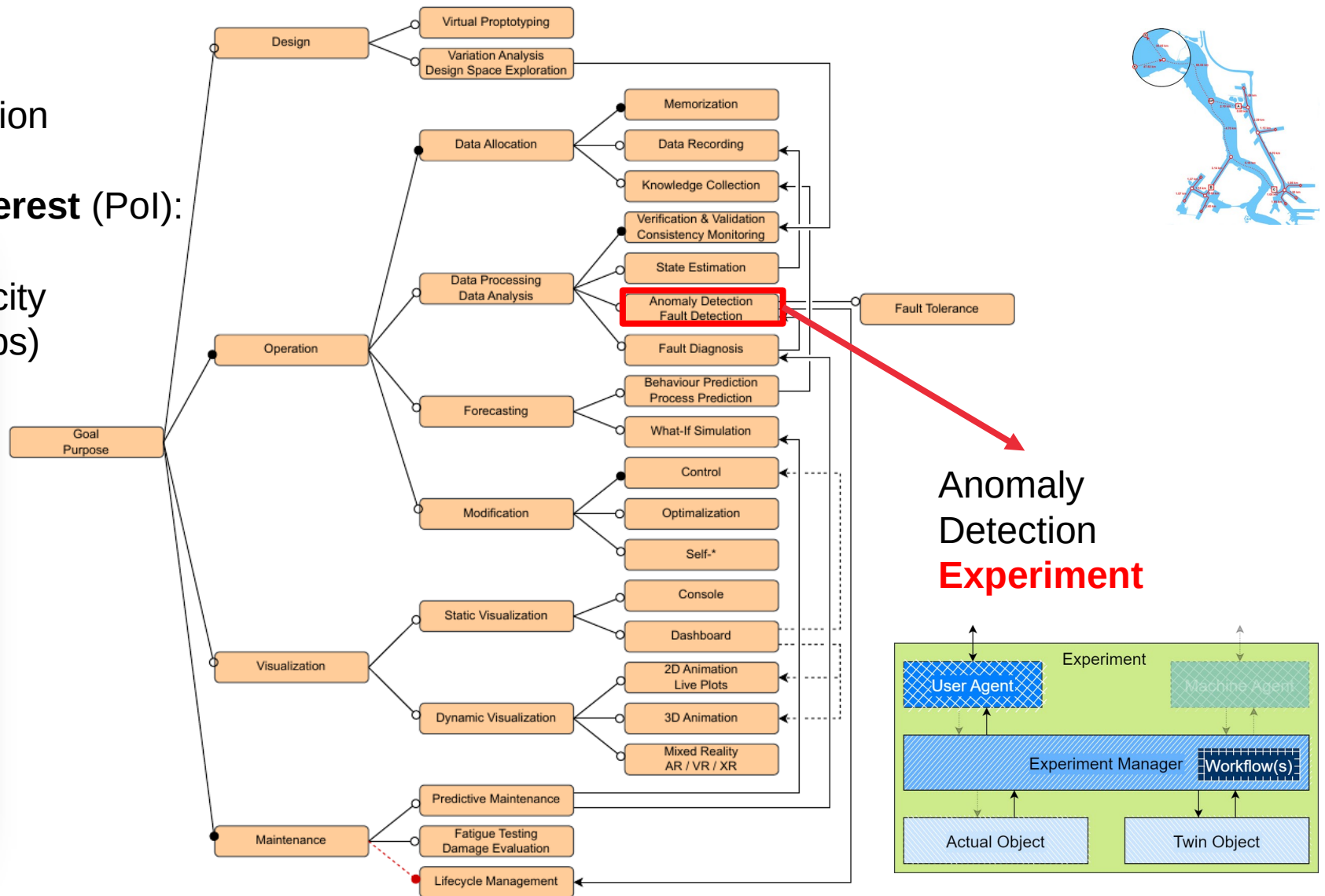


Stages of Twinning – Architecture Selection

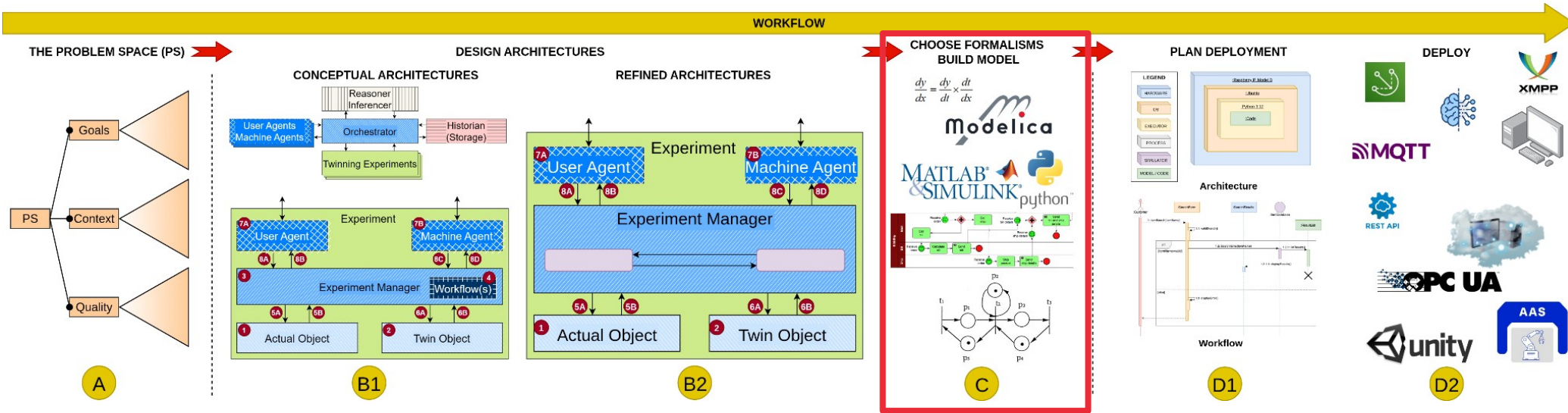


Goal Selection:
Anomaly Detection

Property of Interest (PoI):
occupancy ~
remaining capacity
(for docking ships)



Stages of Twinning – Formalism/Model Selection



Formalism/Model Selection: classification

Formalism	DESIGN	REQ	MC	TEST	SIM	CAUSAL	SYNTHESIS	Time Base	TERMS
Trace	X	X	X	Monitor	X	N/A	X	X	
Natural Language	✓	✓	X	X	X	N/A	X	{NOW, IN, IR}	
Requirements Lang.	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	N/A	X	X	
ABD/Modelica	✓	X	X	MUT	✓	X	FMU	R	Acausal
Alg-CBD	✓	X	X	MUT	✓	✓	✓	{NOW}	Synchronous Data-flow
DT-CBD	✓	X	X	MUT	✓	✓	✓	IN	
CT-CBD	✓	X	X	MUT	✓	✓	✓	IR	
Petri Net	✓	X	✓	MUT	+/-	✓	X	POSET	
State Chart	✓	X	X	MUT	✓	✓	*✓	IR	
DEVS	✓	X	X	MUT	✓	✓	✓	IR	Discrete-event
LTL/CTL	X	✓	✓	✓	X	N/A	Monitor	POSET	
STL	X	✓	+/-	✓	X	N/A	Monitor	IR	

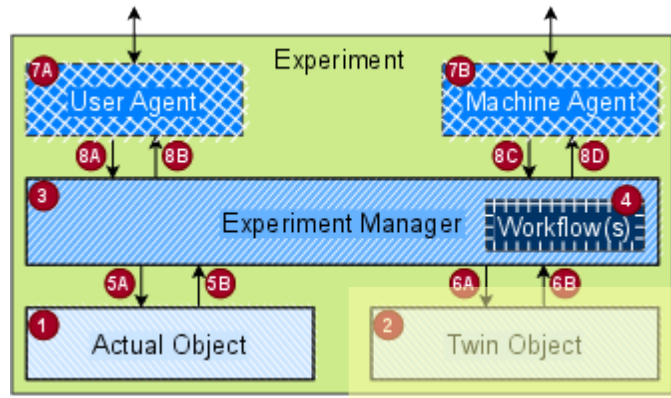
-MUT: model under test
 -POSET: partially ordered set
 -MC: model checking

++ (orthogonal) stochastic
 ++ (orthogonal) spatial distribution (grid, continuous, ...)
 ++ (orthogonal) individual-based

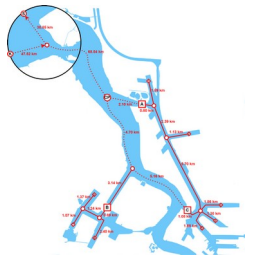
Choice of appropriate formalism for Twin Object model: **DEVS**

DEVS = Discrete-Event system Specification

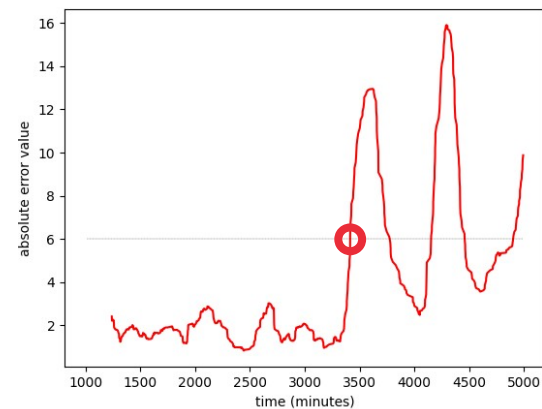
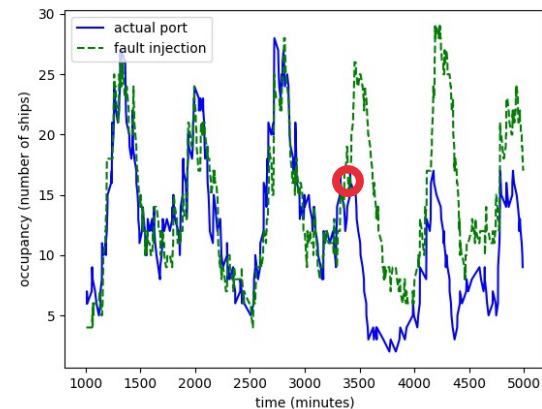
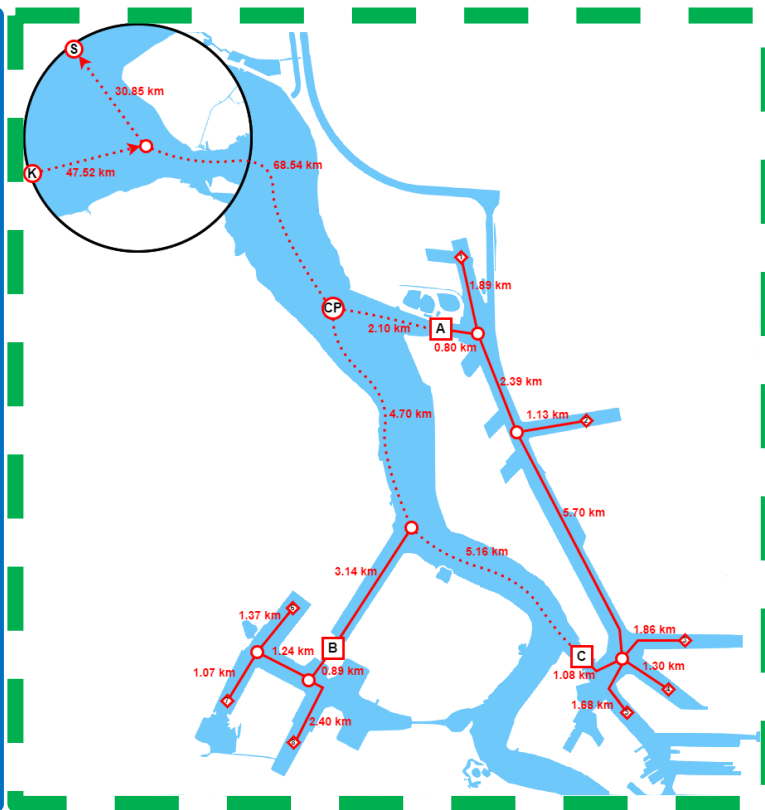
Python(P)DEVS



```
1 class Confluence(AtomicDEVS):
2     def __init__(self, name, segments, quays_out):
3         super(Confluence, self).__init__(name)
4         self.ins = [self.addInPort("in%i" % x) for x in range
5                     (segments)]
6         self.outs = [self.addOutPort("out%i" % x) for x in
7                       range(segments)]
8
9         self.enc = self.addOutPort("enc")
10
11        # reverse the mapping for better lookup
12        self.quay_mapping = {}
13        for output_idx, quays in quays_out.items():
14            for quay_id in quays:
15                self.quay_mapping[quay_id] = output_idx
16
17        self.state = {
18            "vessels": []
19        }
20
21    def timeAdvance(self):
22        if len(self.state["vessels"]) > 0:
23            return 0.
24        return INFINITY
25
26    def extTransition(self, inputs):
27        for inp in self.ins:
28            if inp in inputs:
29                vessel = inputs[inp]
30                vessel.source = vessel.trajectory.pop(0)
31                self.state["vessels"].append(vessel)
32        return self.state
33
34    def outputFnc(self):
35        if len(self.state["vessels"]) > 0:
36            vessel = self.state["vessels"][0]
37            output = self.quay_mapping[vessel.trajectory[0]]
38            return {
39                self.outs[output]: vessel
40            }
41        return {}
42
43    def intTransition(self):
44        self.state["vessels"].pop(0)
45        return self.state
```



Anomaly Detection



This example case is inspired by the actual operations of PoAB

Caveat: Tracking Simulator

small deviations in Pols may **not** be **anomalies**

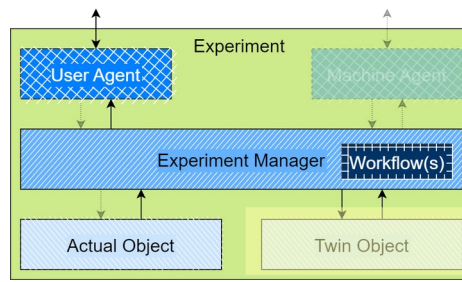
→ “re-align” simulation model state to match “real state”

note: “real state” may not be observable, so may have to be estimated.

Caveat: model Validity

even large deviations in Pols may **not** be **anomalies**

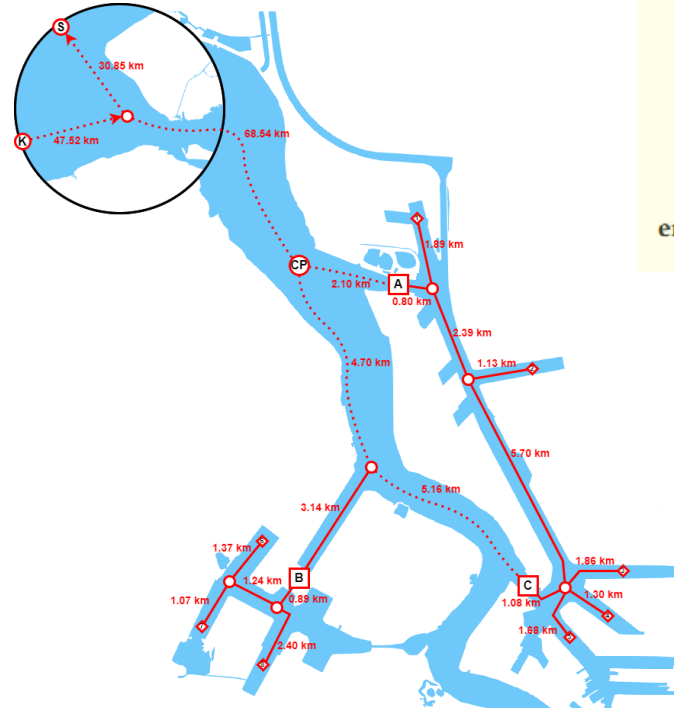
→ maybe the model is wrong (typically used outside its validity frame)



Anomaly Detection Algorithm

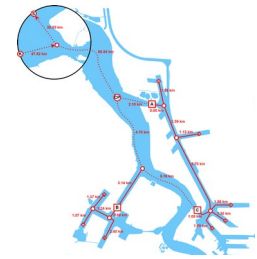
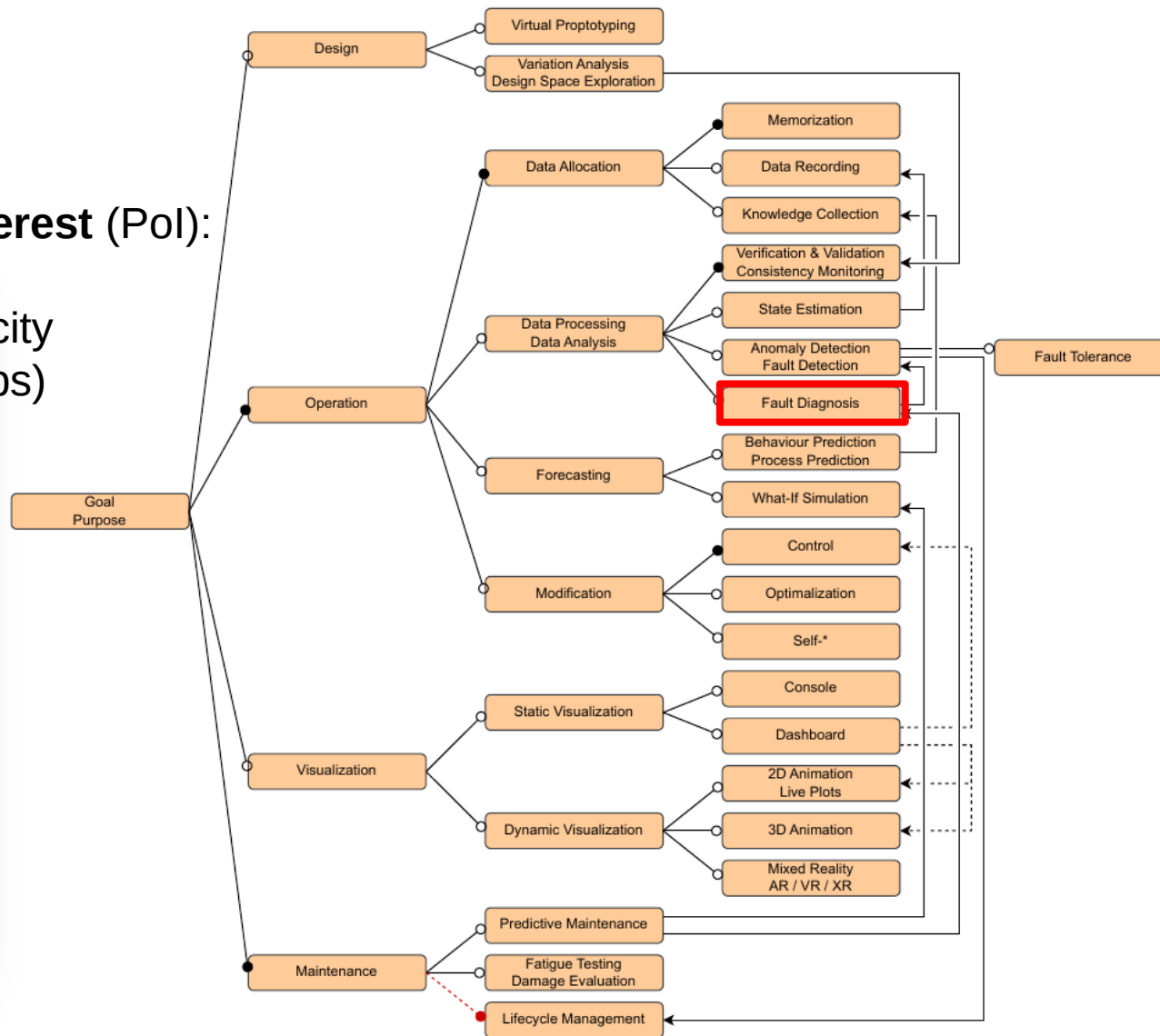
```

 $D \leftarrow$  Drop-off value for the error.
 $M \leftarrow$  Maximal allowed time above  $D$ .
 $prev \leftarrow -1$ 
while system is running do
     $occ_A \leftarrow$  Occupancy value of the AO.
     $occ_T \leftarrow$  Occupancy value of the TO.
     $T \leftarrow$  Current execution time.
     $error \leftarrow |occ_A - occ_T|$ 
    if  $prev > 0$  and  $T - prev > M$  then
        Raise an anomaly.
    end if
    if  $error > D$  then
        if  $prev < 0$  then
             $prev \leftarrow T$ 
        end if
    else
         $prev \leftarrow -1$ 
    end if
end while
  
```

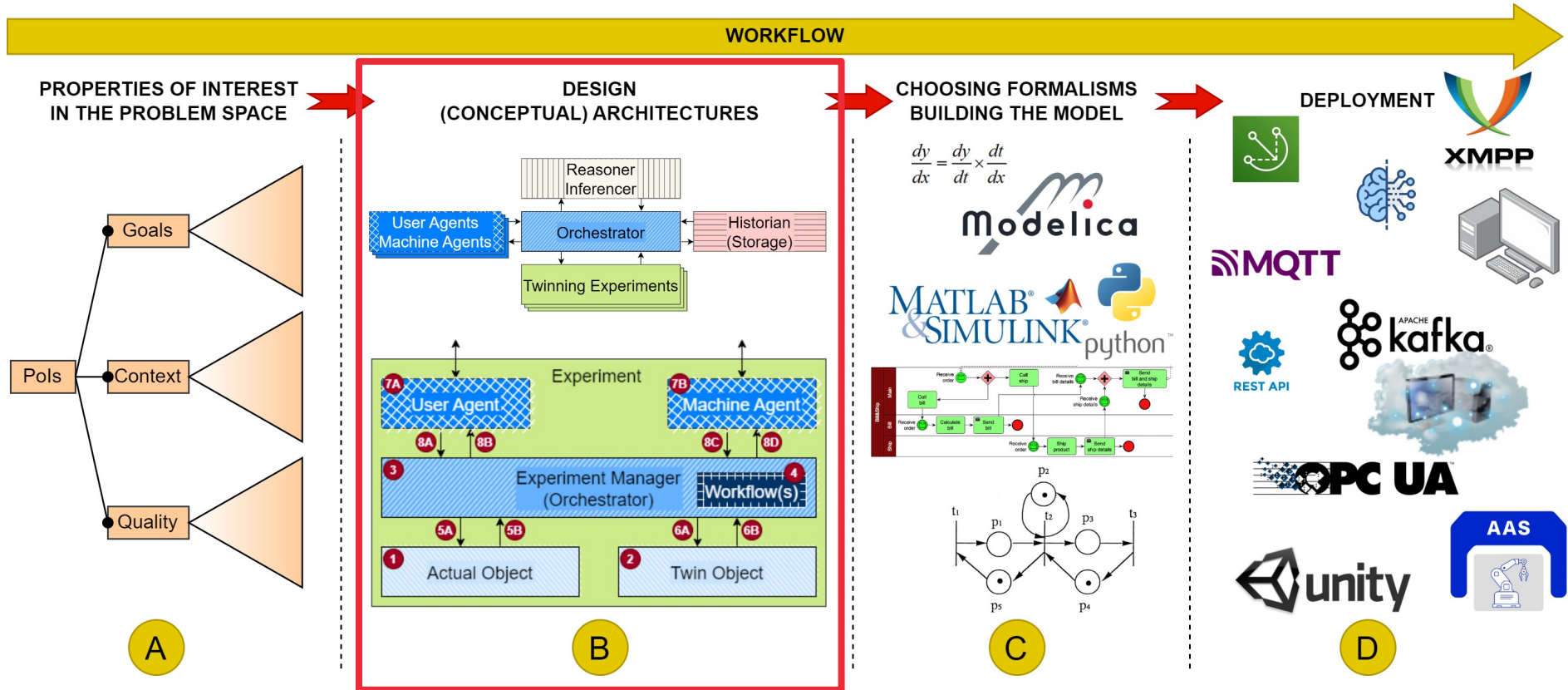


Goal Selection:
Fault Diagnosis

Property of Interest (PoI):
occupancy ~
remaining capacity
(for docking ships)

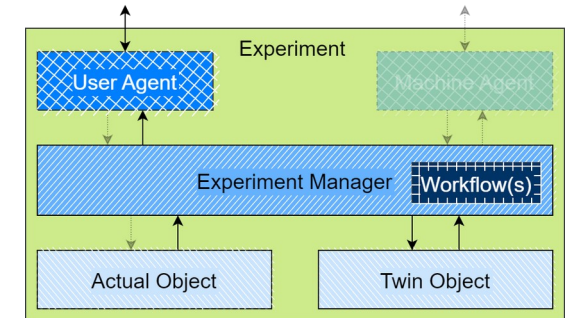
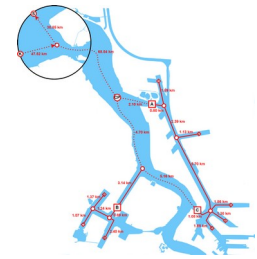
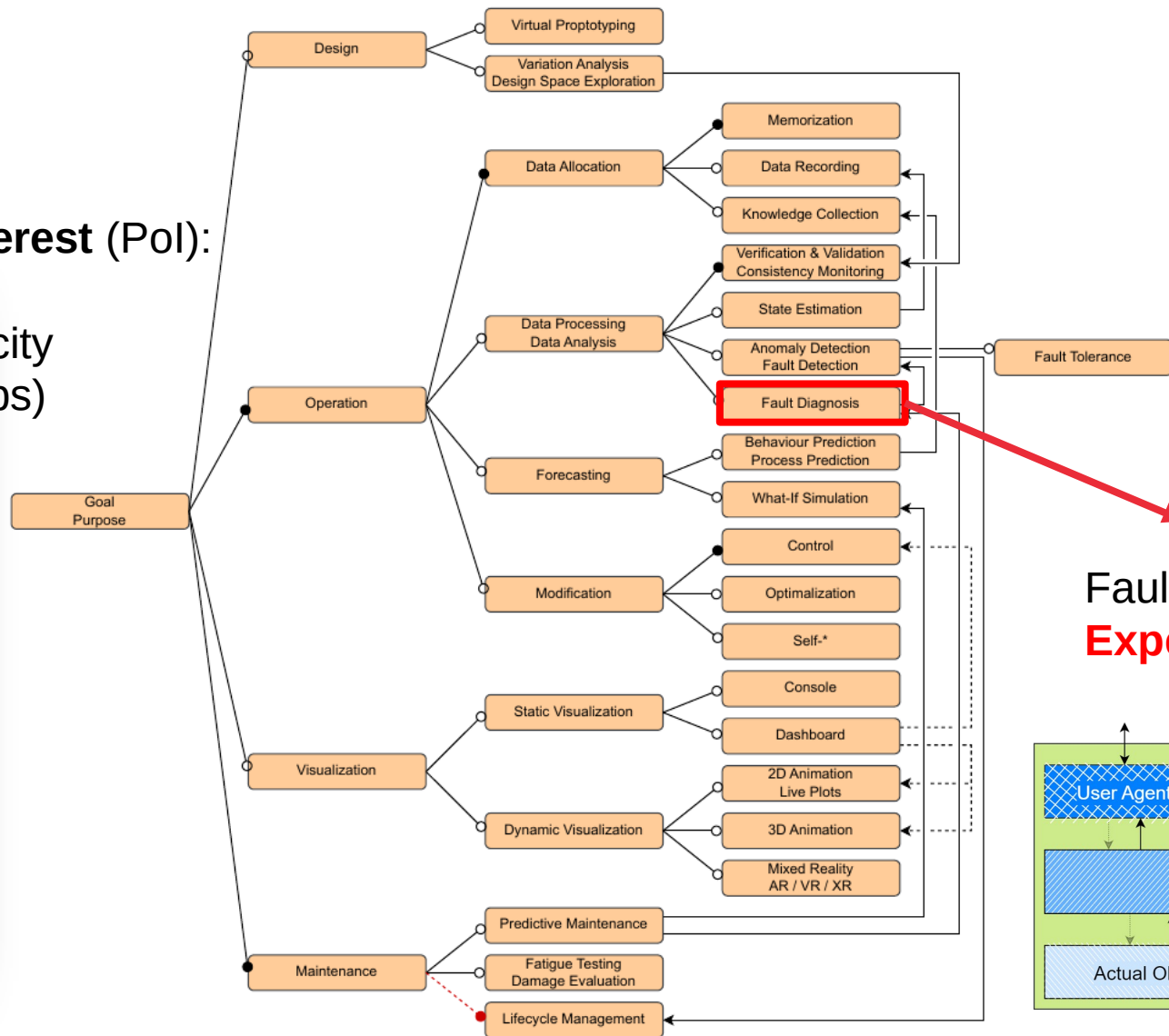


Stages of Twinning – Architecture Selection



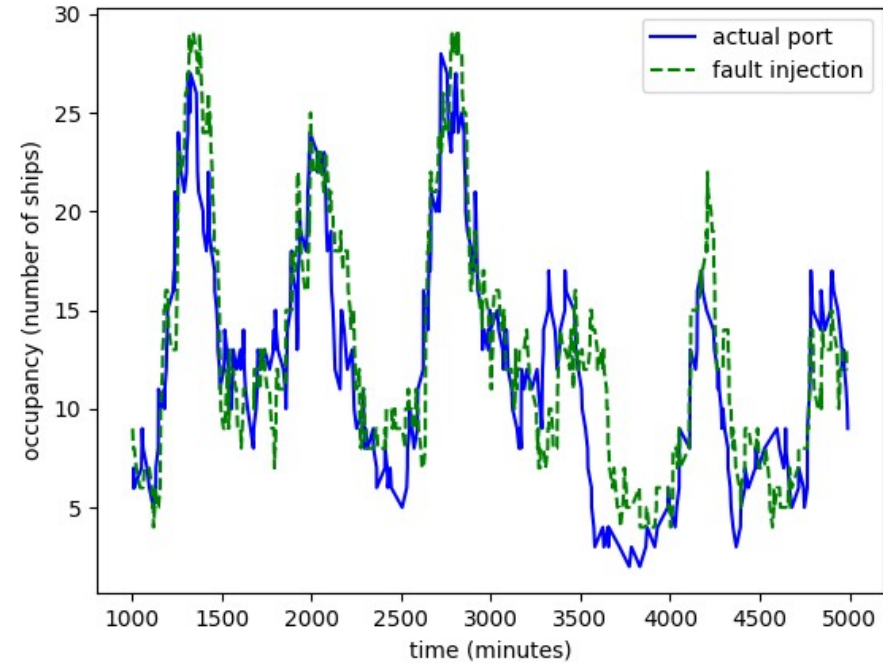
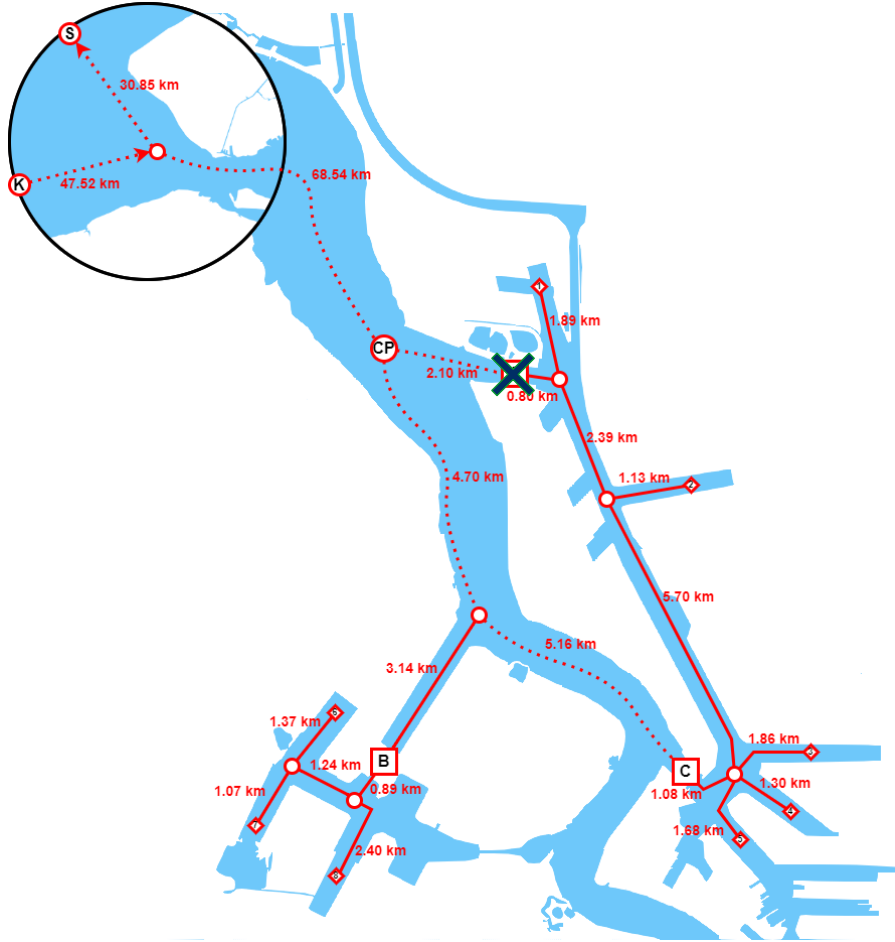
Goal Selection:
Fault Diagnosis

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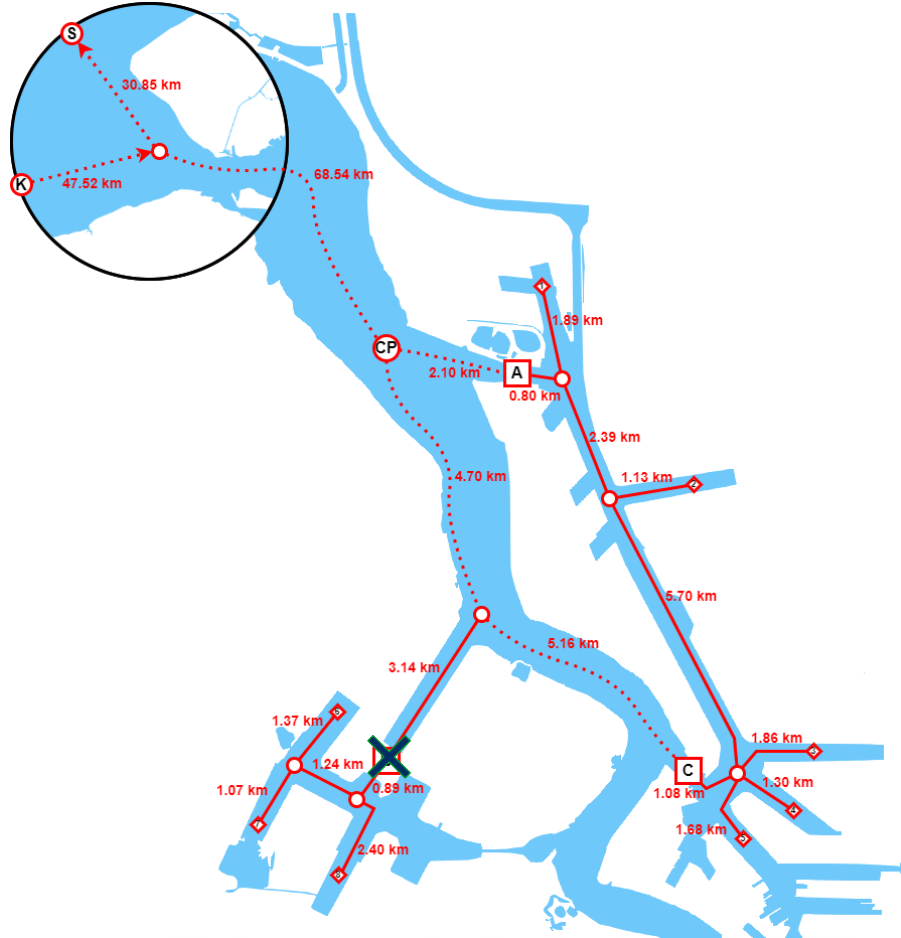


Injected Fault: lock A failure

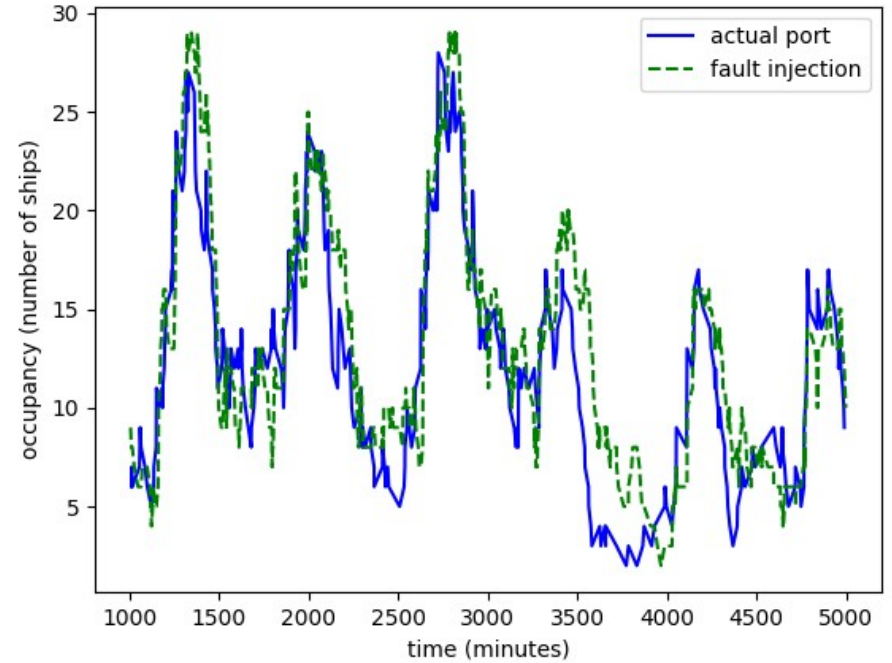
DTW Score = 317
NDW Score = 437.25



Injected Fault: lock B failure

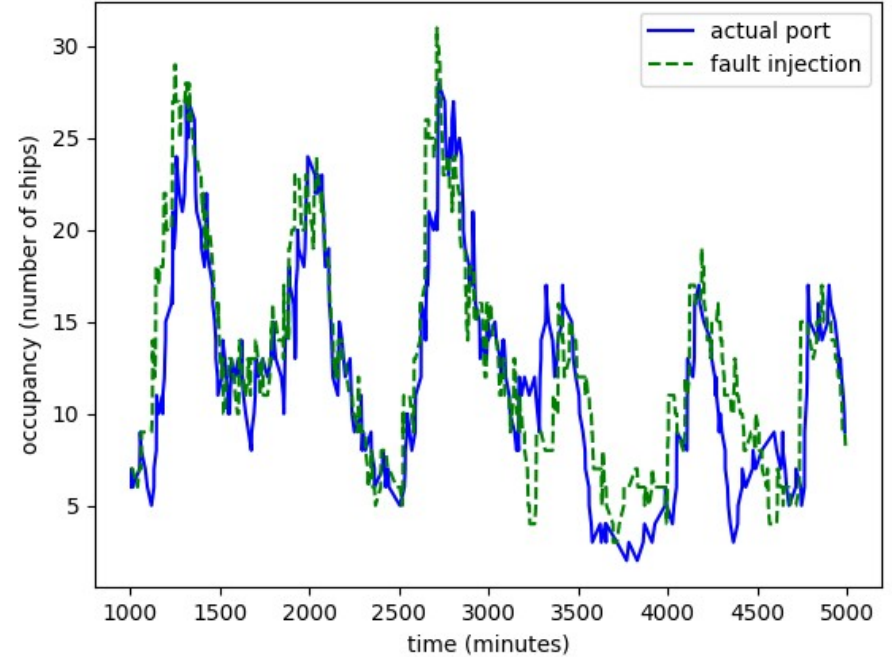
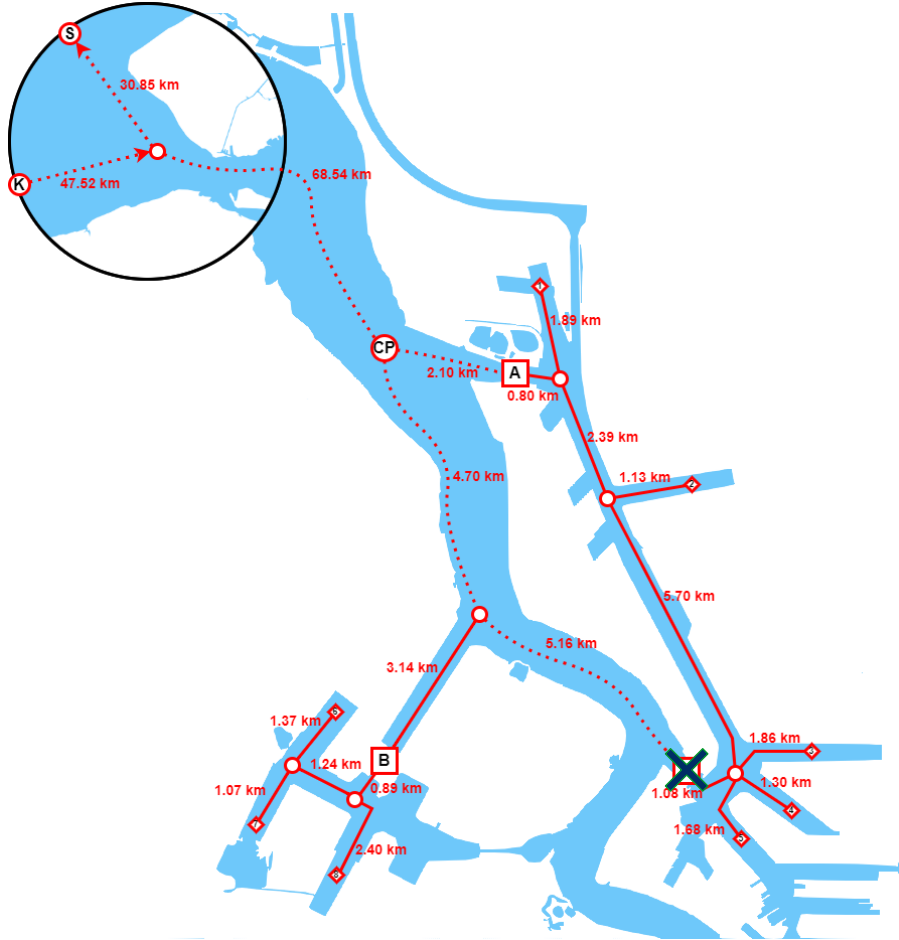


DTW Score = 288
NDW Score = 436.91

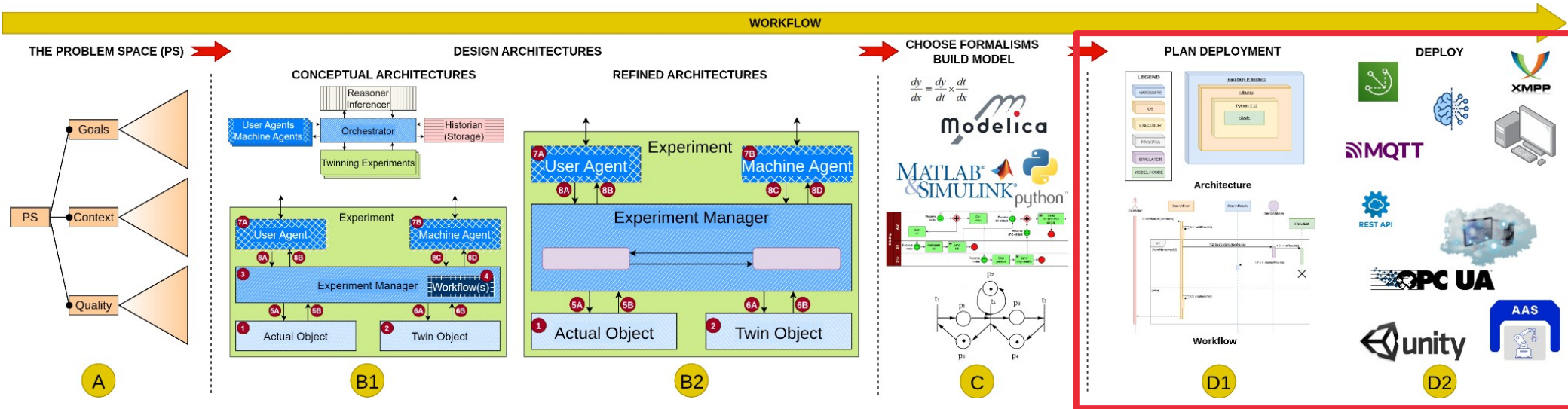


Injected Fault: lock C failure – best match

DTW Score = 252
NDW Score = 433.66

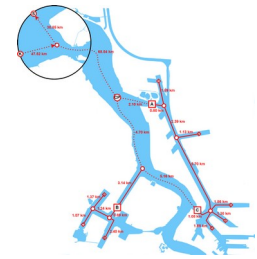
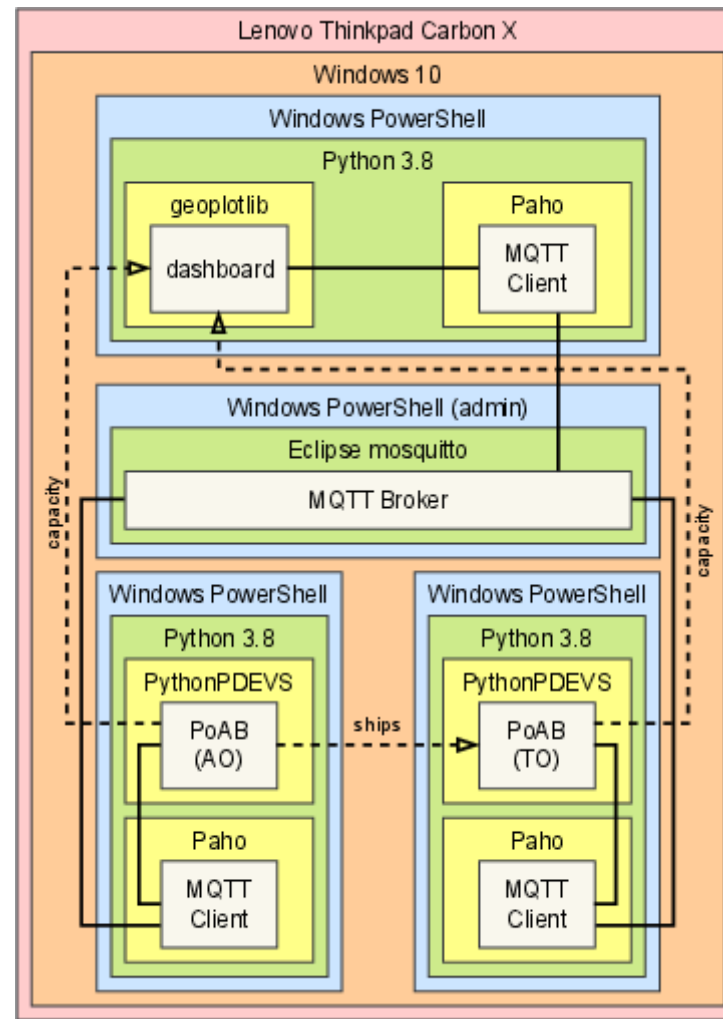


Stages of Twinning – Deployment



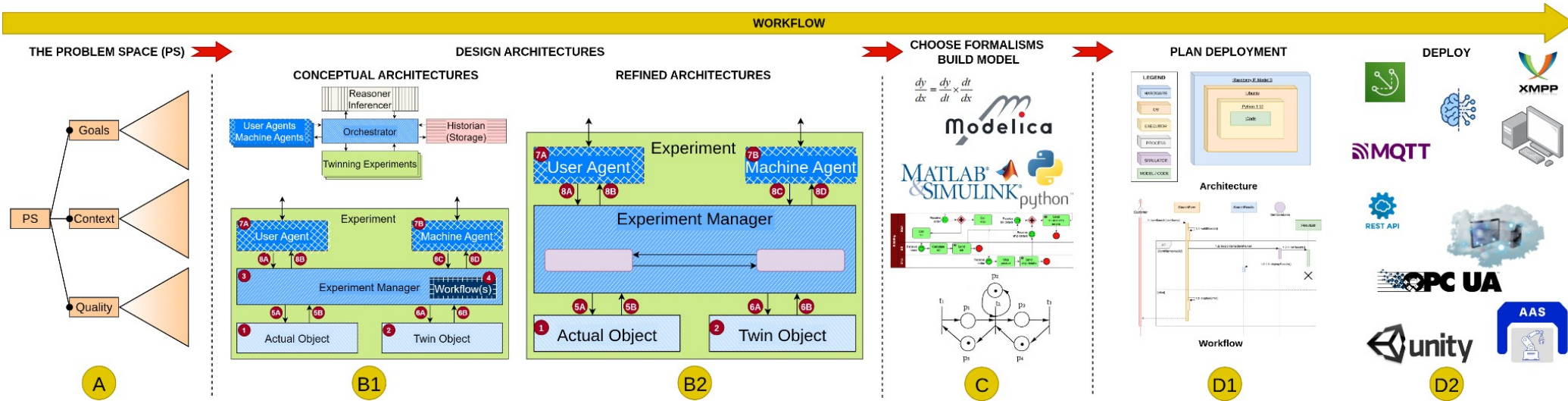
Deployment

For each element in the conceptual architecture, choose **technology** and **map**



Note: use **simulation** for **performance evaluation** of deployment alternatives. Cfr. [Palladio](#) and Paredis R, Vangheluwe H; INSTICC. Modelling and Simulation-Based Evaluation of Twinning Architectures and Their Deployment. Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Simulation and Modeling Method- ologies, Technologies and Applications (SIMULTECH). 2024:170-82

Stages of Twinning



Next Goal(s)

Once the fault has been identified:

Explore fixes:

- using rules
- using Design-Space Exploration techniques and as-fast-as-possible simulation

In case of early detection of anomalies:

Schedule predictive maintenance

Decision Support

Goal and Purpose

Defines the twin's objectives, scope, and expected value.

01



Architecture

Outlines architectural patterns, how data, models, and systems are structured and connected.

02



Formalisms and Deployment

Specifies the modeling methods, formalism and how the twin is implemented in operation.

03



Standards

Apply relevant standards to ensure interoperability and consistent integration across the twin's components.

04



Goal and Purpose

Defines the twin's objectives, scope, and expected value.

01



Architecture

Outlines architectural patterns, how data, models, and systems are structured and connected.

02



Standards

Apply relevant standards to ensure interoperability and consistent integration across the twin's components.

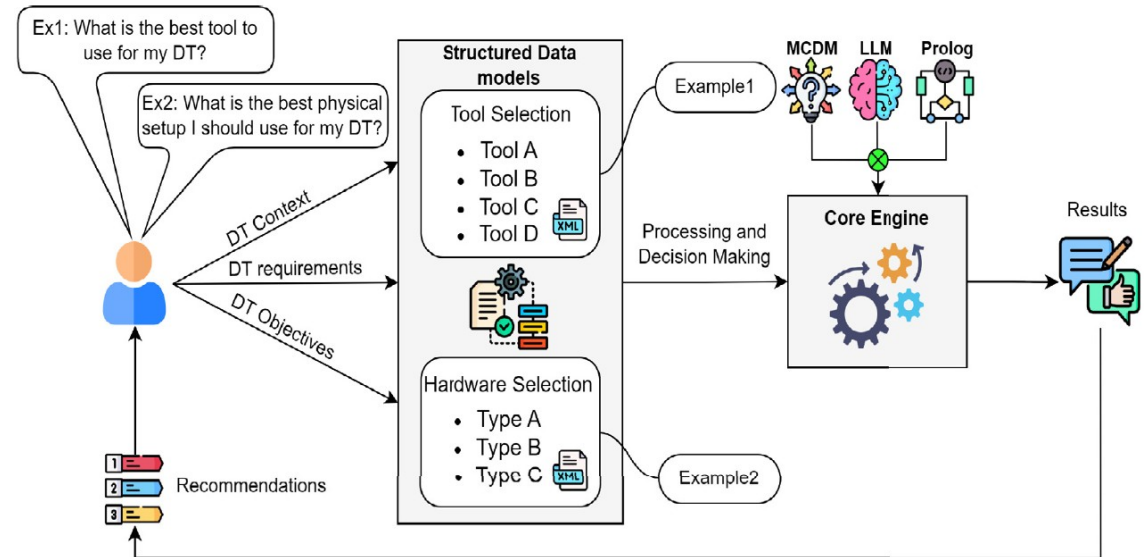
04

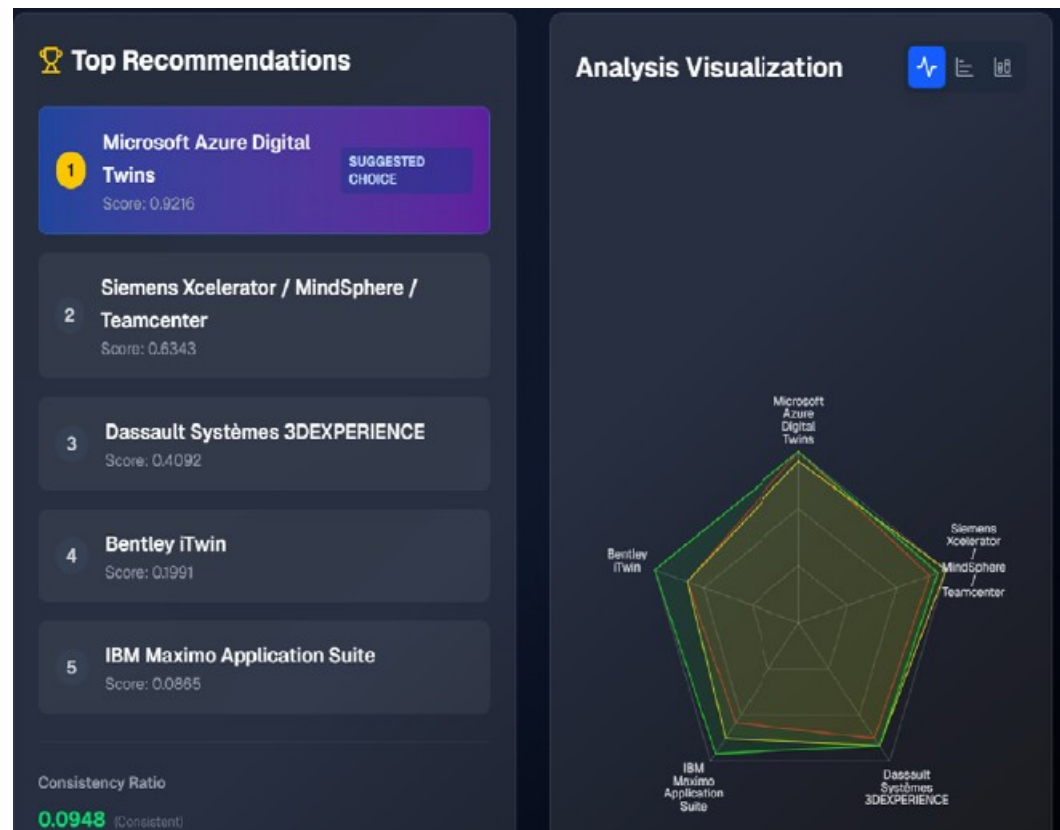
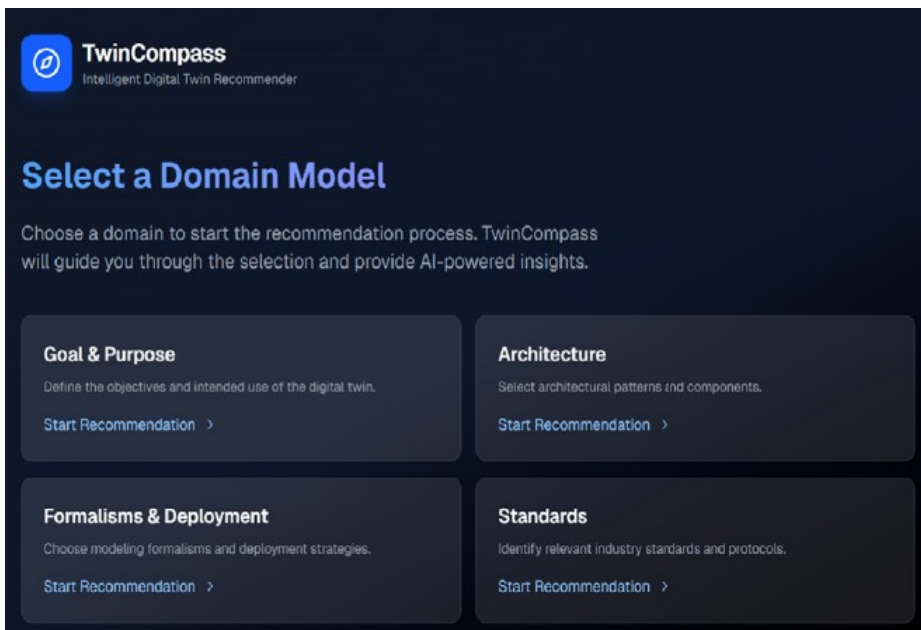


Formalisms and Deployment

Specifies the modeling methods, formalism and how the twin is implemented in operation.

03





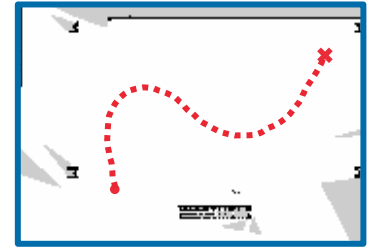
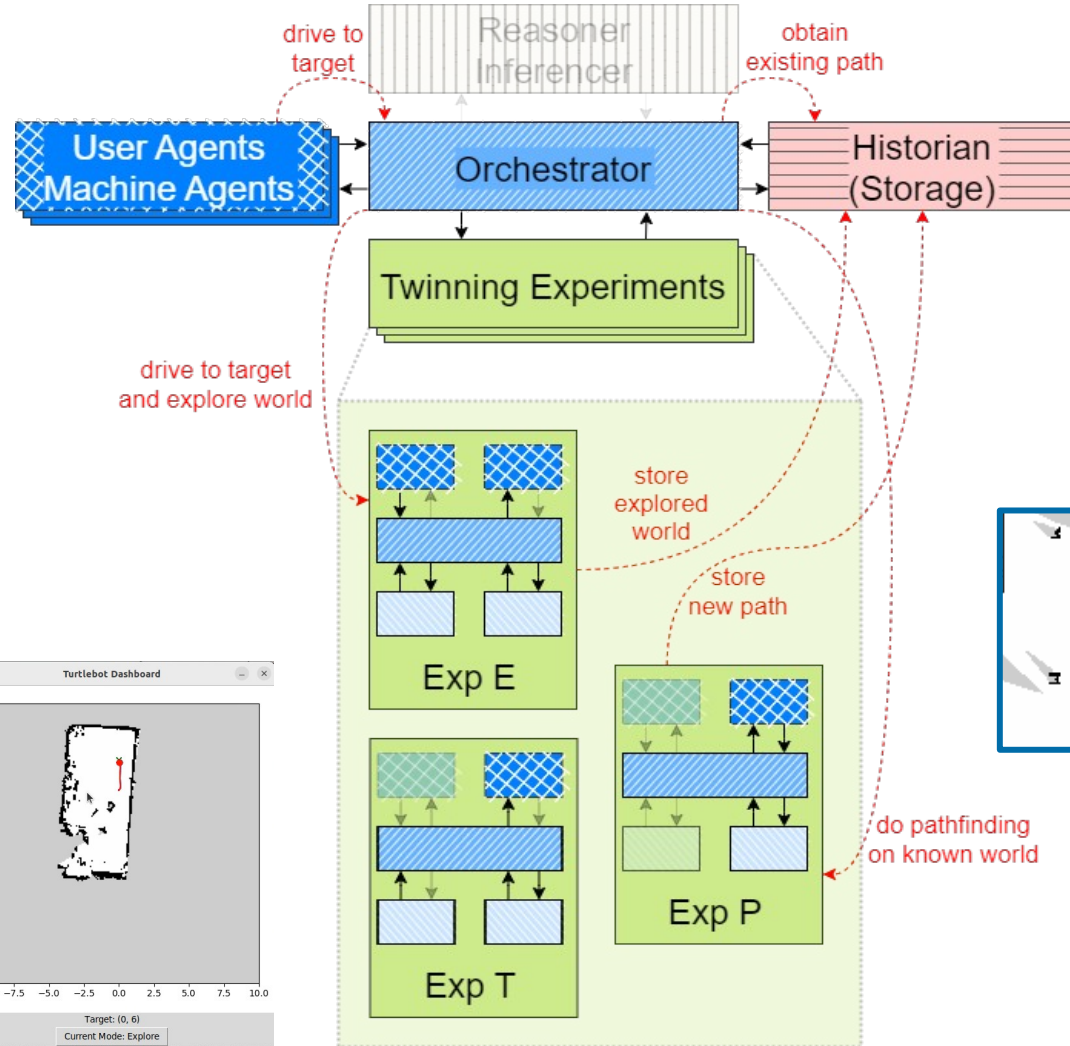
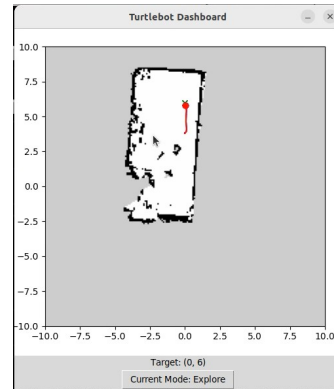
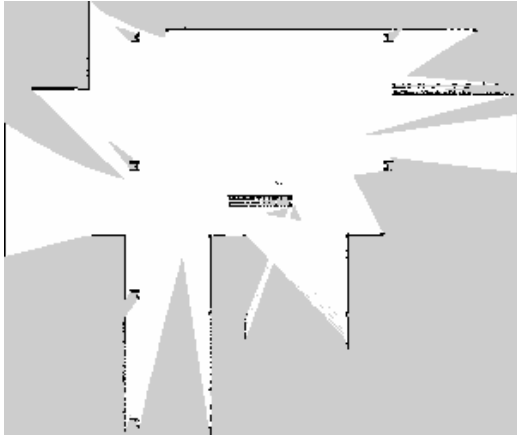
Hussein Marah, Barış Tekin Tezel, Moharram Challenger, Hans Vangheluwe.

TwinCompass: A multi-criteria and hybrid reasoning decision support framework for Digital Twin engineering in Cyber-Physical Systems.

Journal of Industrial Information Integration, Volume 52, 2026.

Combining Multiple Twinning Architectures (in an ecosystem)

Multiple Twins Federation



Combining/Composing (federating?) Twinning Experiments

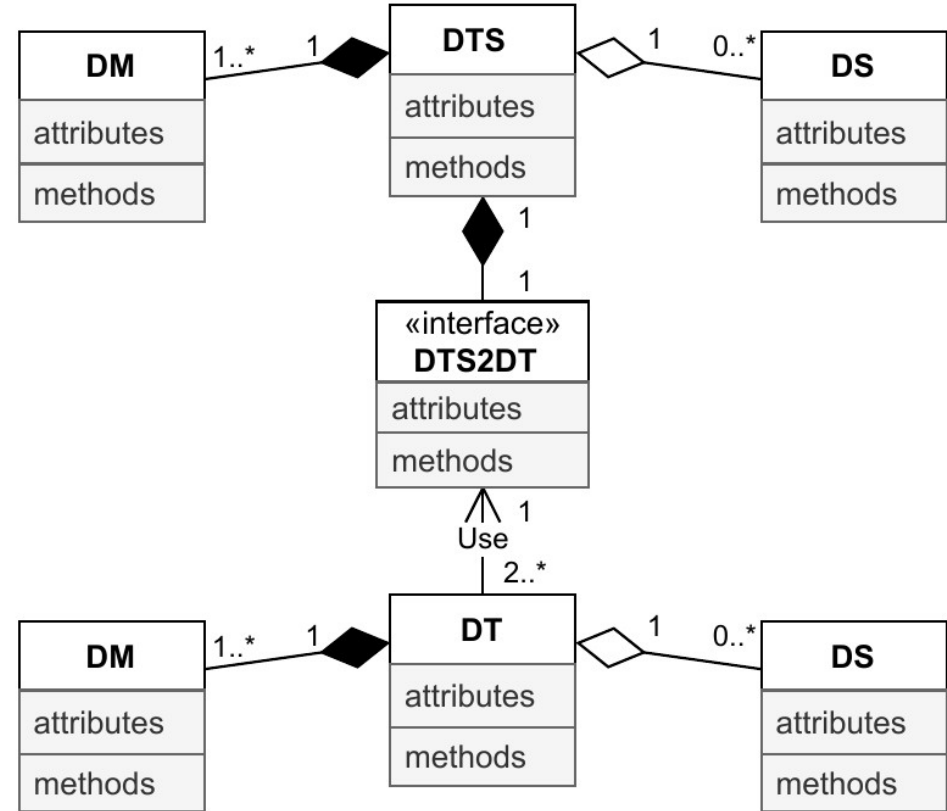
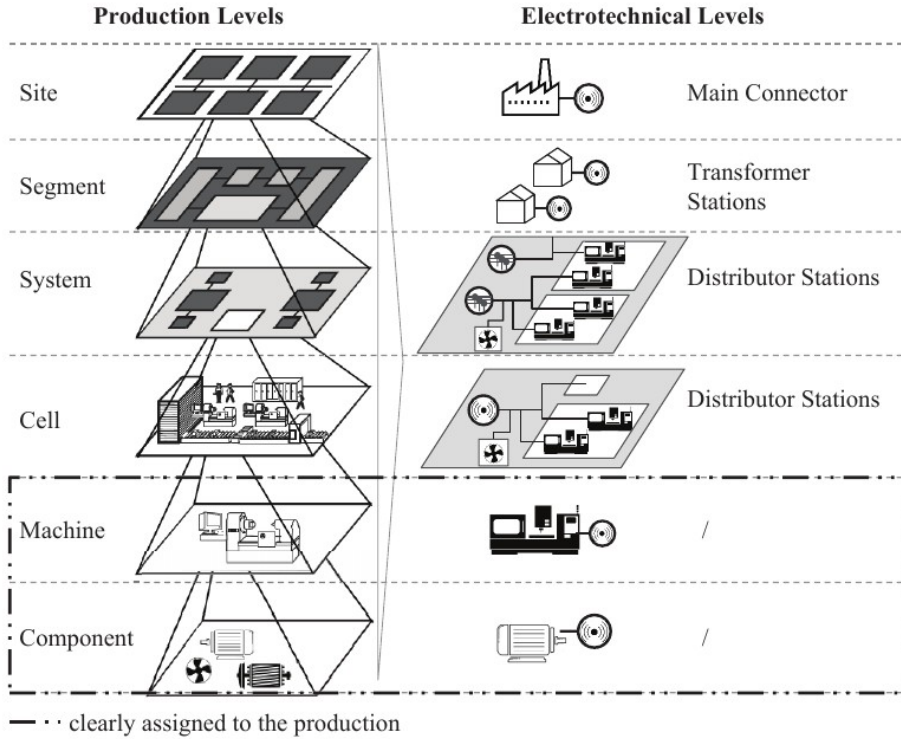
White-box: conceptual architectures may be “merged” before deployment

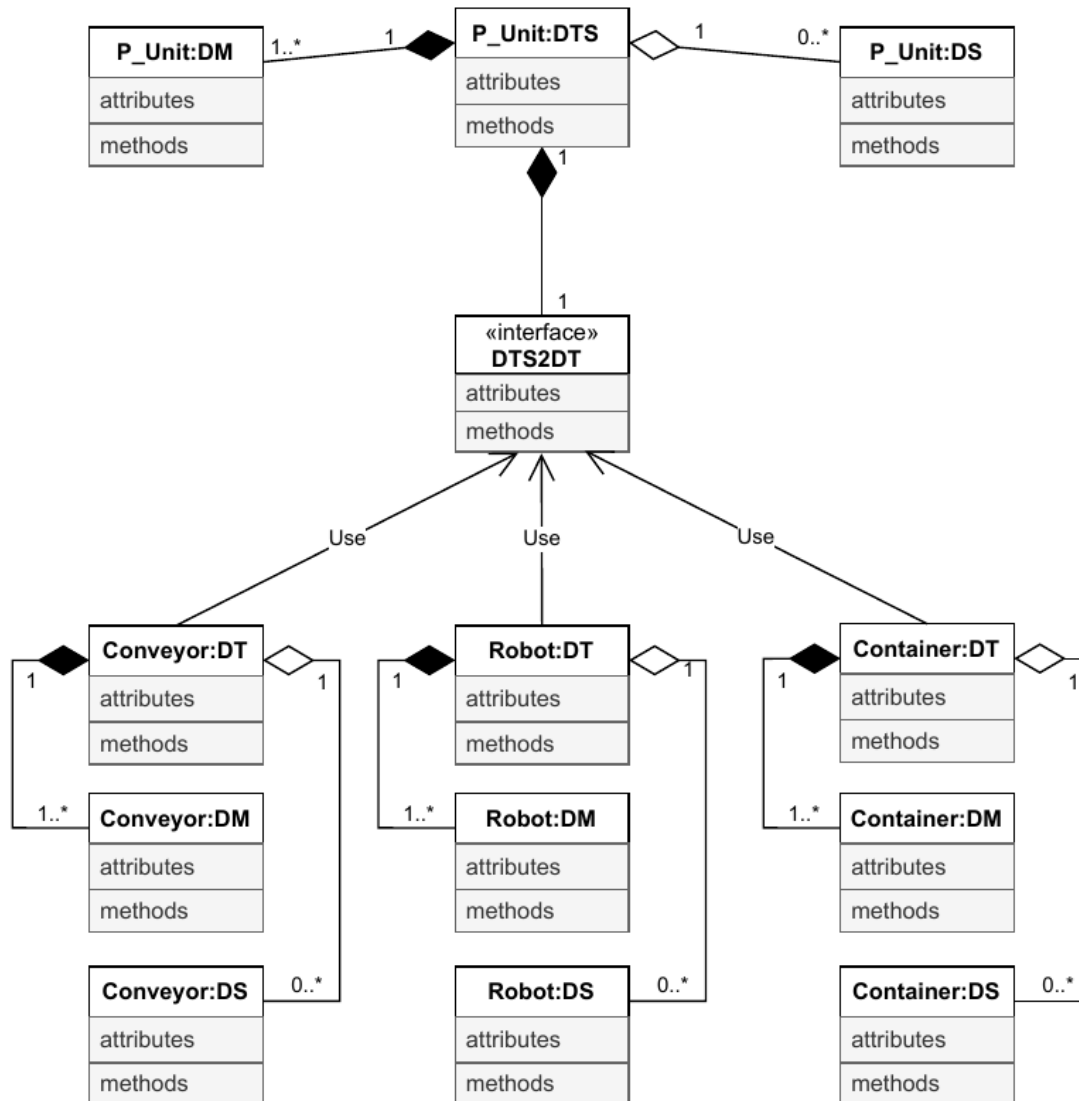
VS.

Black-box: deployed Twinning architectures are “orchestrated”

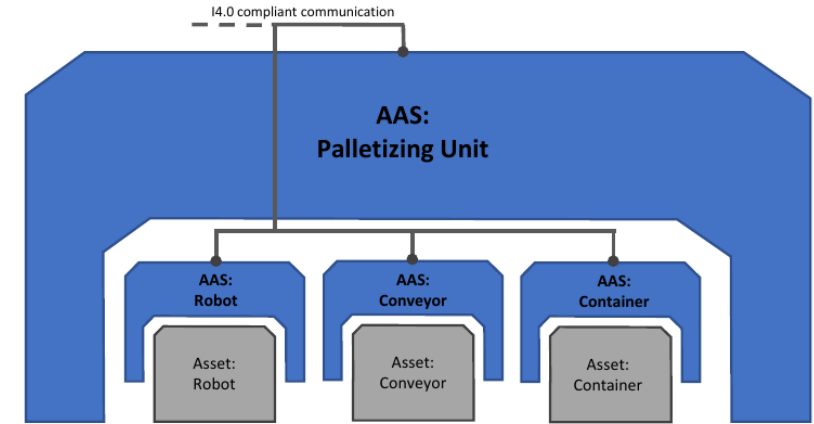
Example:

Hierarchical architecture to mimic hierarchy in application domain



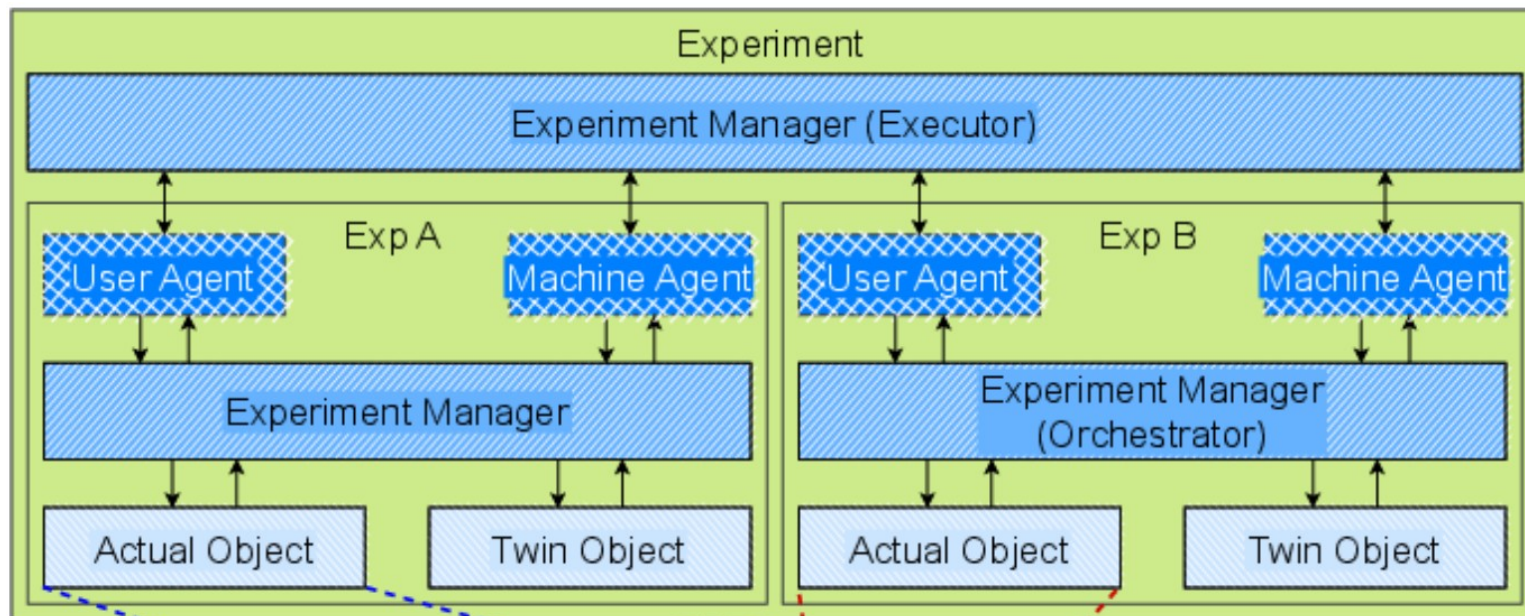
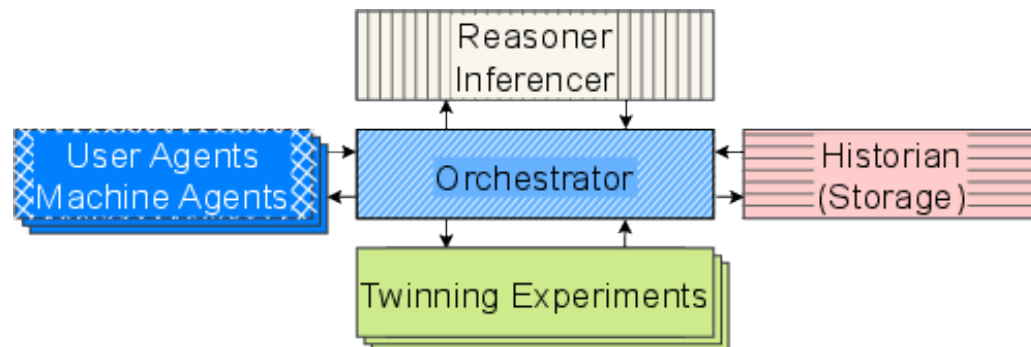


Deployment using the Asset Administration Shell (AAS)



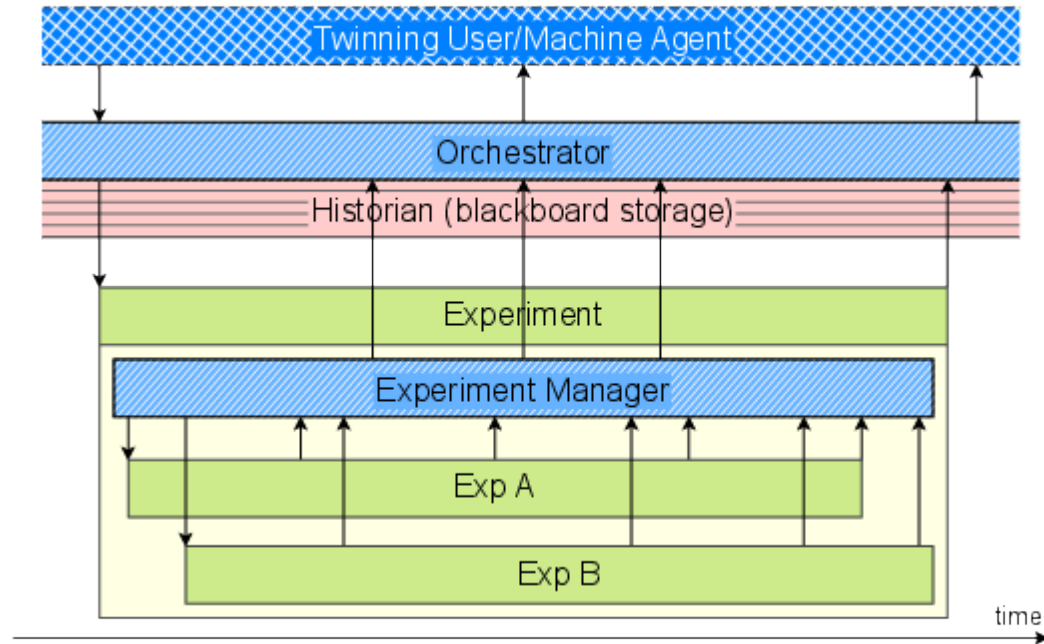
Twinning Architectures may be **combined**.

(conceptual) **Architectural View**.



Twinning Architectures may be **combined**.

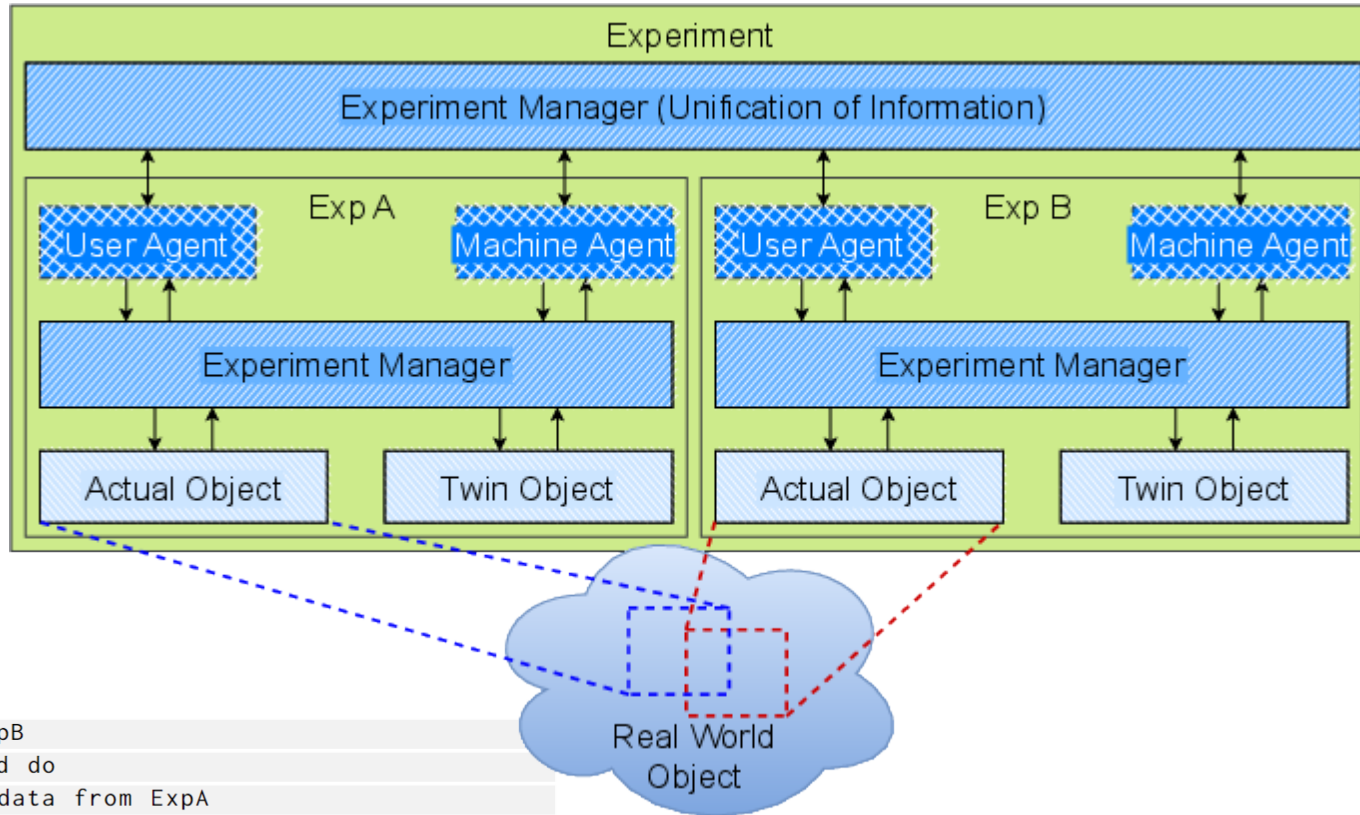
Temporal View.



Starting point for discussion:

Different types of **Combinations of Twinning Architectures** (each corresponding to specific Goal)

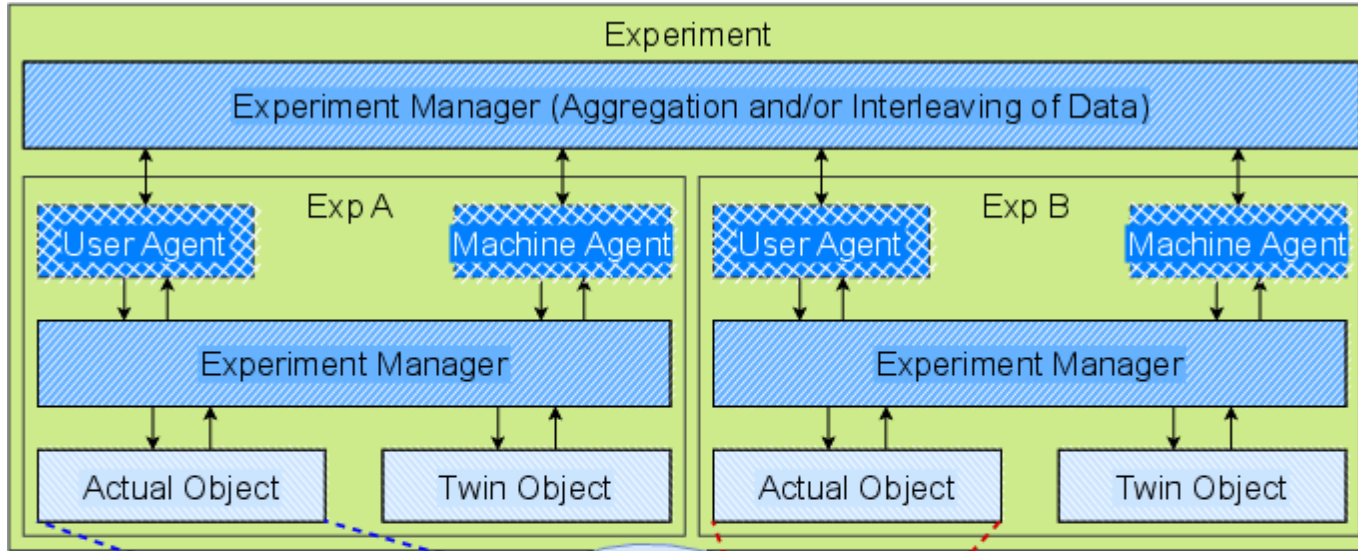
Multiple Twinning Architectures, each corresponding to **different (possibly overlapping) aspects** (multi-view/PoI) of the **same SuS**. Experiment manager **unifies (and checks consistency between)** the information obtained from the different Twinning Architectures.



```
1  start ExpA and ExpB
2  while not finished do
3      A := collect data from ExpA
4      B := collect data from ExpB
5      yield union of A and B
6  done
```

Pseudocode for EM with multiple PoIs.

Multiple Twinning Architectures, each corresponding to a **component** in an architecture. Components interact with/depend on each other. Experiment manager **combines/interleaves** the component twins. This combination might result in a set of **emergent Pols** (i.e., not obtainable from individual components).



```

1  start ExpA and ExpB
2  while not finished do
3      while fixed point not reached do
4          A := collect data from ExpA
5          send A to ExpB
6          B := collect data from ExpB
7          send B to ExpA
8      done
9      yield aggregate(A, B)
10 done

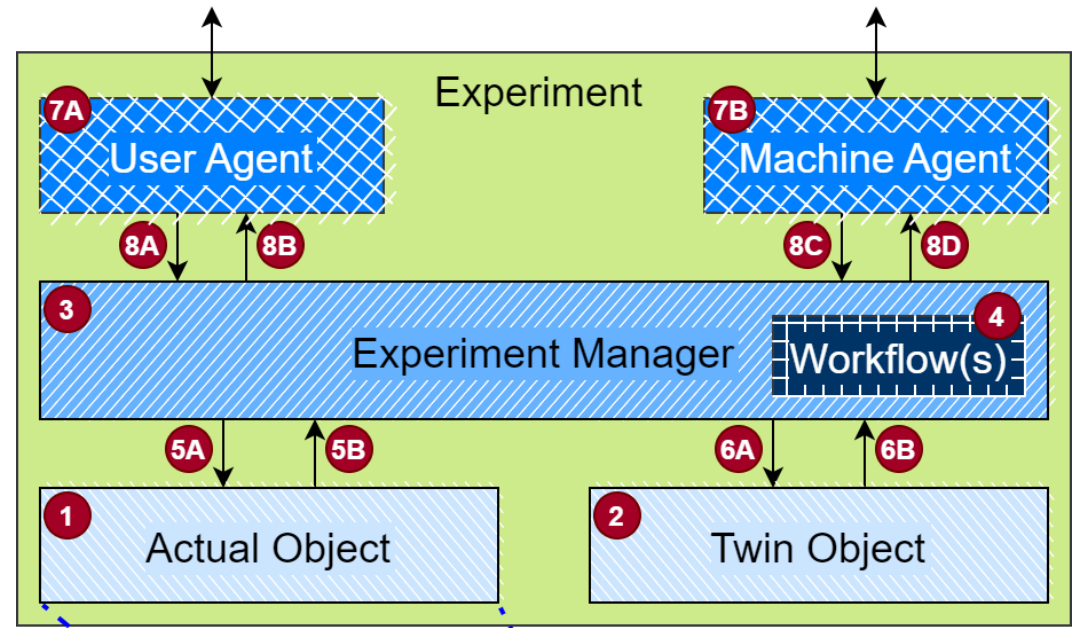
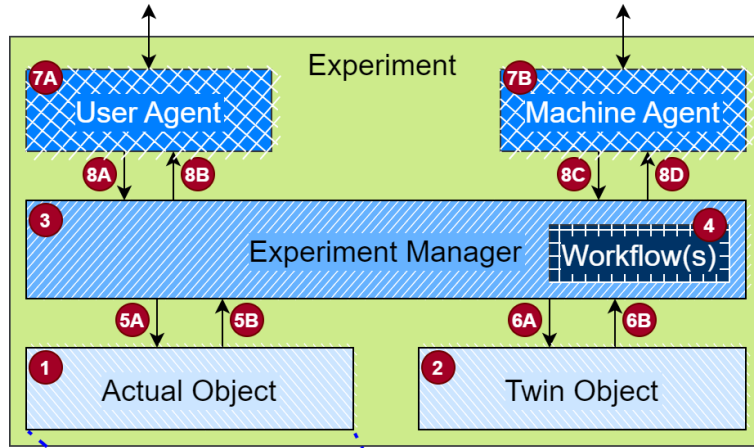
```

Pseudocode for EM for dependent TEs.

~ **orchestration in co-simulation**, cfr.

Cláudio Gomes, Casper Thule, David Broman, Peter Gorm Larsen, Hans Vangheluwe:
Co-Simulation: A Survey. ACM Comput. Surv. 51(3): 49:1-49:33 (2018)

Higher-order Twinning



Topic	Challenges	MDE BoK	Action Items
Guidelines and Standards	Ad-hoc development	Modeling languages, model transformations, reference models	Contextualization for digital twin domains with domain experts
Interoperability	Integration complexity due to heterogeneous artefacts, different stakeholders, heterogenous views	Interchange formats, model transformations, code generation, interoperability models ontologies	Formalizing structures currently used in specific domains for realizing bidirectional mappings between different digital twin implementation approaches
Multi-paradigm/ Multi-view	System complexity and heterogeneous domain knowledge and needs	Multi-paradigm modeling/multi-viewpoint modeling frameworks including concepts, methods, and tools	Efficient methods to define multiple views on digital twins with consistency ensurance between different views, abstraction levels, etc.
Evolution	Time complexity due to changing realities and long lifetimes	Model evolution and co-evolution approaches, change types, change impact, and repairs	Continous evolution support for running digital twins/actual systems, change categorizations for digital twins and consistency requirements
Continuous Engineering	Costs, system complexity and heterogeneous domain expert backgrounds, gap between design and operation	Model-based DevOps based on models@runtime techniques and tools design(-space exploration) @ runtime	Abstraction levels for digital twin data and scalable models@runtime to deal with long-living systems, feedback methods from operation to design
Composition of Digital Twins	Information complexity due to heterogeneous data and models	Model/modeling language composition operators and theories co-simulation/agent orchestration	Development of language support for composing digital twins (both during design-time and runtime)



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