
Preface

As I started writing this book, I was remembering two particular moments in my life. The first one happened a few years ago as I fell asleep in my car while driving by night. Me and my friends thought that driving after a heavy mountaineering day was not dangerous (even when drowsy). As we escaped the accident miraculously without any casualties, I knew that I would be working on all my life in the name of all the other people, who would not be so lucky as we were.

A few years later I was participating at the kick-off meeting of the research project named SPARC, which was partially funded by the European Commission as part of the sixth framework program. At this event we acknowledged that we would have to work on a new fully integrated vehicle architecture. No one knew how far these investigations would be performed. Today, I can appreciate the results of these 3 years.

All the new concepts, which have been integrated into those prototypes, are born out of several iterations which hardly converged. Anyhow, this document sums up the logical concept that has been worked on step by step leading to those final results.

Now our next step will be to improve the substitution capacity for the driving task on top of this overall vehicle architecture. Hence we will show the next step by having a highly automated and reliable safe vehicle platform with still the dream of full autonomous vehicles in the background.

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