

From Human Systems Integration to **Human Systems Migration: First Sketch** From the Automated Driving System **Project MiRoVA**

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ABSTRACT

With the advancement of automation and artificial intelligence (AI), machines are gaining unprecedented autonomous capabilities. This progress presents a significant challenge in how to seamlessly integrate humans, machines, organizations, and the environment into meaningful sociotechnical systems. This process is called Human System Integration (HSI). A crucial issue of HSI is the scientific understanding of the change of these systems and especially how people, technology, organizations and the environment migrate through ever changing systems, and systems of systems. This gives rise to the concept of Human Systems Migration (HSM). It describes the dynamic process of humans and technologies changing together and adapting to each other in new system configurations. In this paper, we present Human Systems Migration in general at first, and illustrate this paradigm with the DFG-funded research group MiRoVA on vehicle automation, where we explore migration paths through different automation levels and shared/cooperative control concepts, and analyze the resulting processes of adaptation and cooperation. We view the migration challenge on various levels, including an interaction-based perspective, a technological, game theoretical, as well as micro and macro perspective. Our interdisciplinary approach provides a foundation for bridging theoretical models with design patterns and practical implementations, addressing critical questions of trust, safety, and societal acceptance of vehicle automation, and beyond of the migration of any sociotechnical system.

Keywords: Human systems migration, Human systems integration, Automation

FROM TECHNICAL CONTROL TO SHARED AND COOPERATIVE CONTROL AND VEHICLE AUTOMATION

In a wider and historic perspective on humans, technology, nature and planet Earth, technology originally evolved in close relationship with its use by humans and their environment. Anthropologists even describe a co-evolution, where human evolution is increasingly coupled with technological developments (Harari, 2015). An example for this is the human hand, which is likely to have coevolved to accommodate human tools (see e.g. Marzke and Marzke, 2000).

With improvements of technology, the paradigm of automation evolved, which puts the autonomous capabilities of a machine into the center of thinking and acting (e.g. Billings, 1996). As a direct response to this, control of these capabilities came into focus (e.g. Wiener, 1961). The concept of shared control was originally defined as when both a human operator and a computer are active at the same time, while working jointly on a task (Sheridan et al., 1978). Later, scientists like Hoc (2001) go beyond shared control and describe human-machine cooperation as a desirable goal, creating not only an internal, but also an external perspective on the cooperation of automated systems and humans. Immense research on shared and cooperative control has been conducted since then. For an overview see e.g. Abbink et al. (2018). These concepts were fused into a framework of joint action, human-machine cooperation, shared, traded and supervisory control by Flemisch et al. (2019).

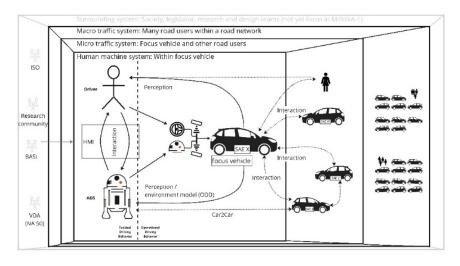


Figure 1: Holistic bowtie-model of vehicle automation with the inner human-machine system, the micro and macro traffic system.

Applied to vehicle automation, Abbink, Flemisch, Winner, Bubb, Bengler and many others also connect the paradigms of shared and cooperative control with the automation of road vehicles. An example for this, are the SAE levels of vehicle automation, which originated as general levels of automation (Endsley and Kaber, 1999), transferred from rider-horse relationship to

the vehicle domain (Flemsich et al., 2004 to Altendorf et al., 2016), and gradually translated via BASt working groups to an SAE-standard (On-Road Automated Driving committee, 2021). The connection between levels and modes of automation is sketched by (Flemisch et al., 2024). The automation levels between manual and fully automated are often implemented with shared and cooperative control schemes.

In the context of MiRoVA (Migration of Road Vehicle Automation), we are analyzing shared and cooperative control with different cooperation partners in mind. Figure 1 shows a holistic system model of driving automation, with the driver, automation, other single road users and larger traffic systems as cooperation partners.

HUMAN SYSTEMS INTEGRATION WITH DESIGN AND INTERACTION PATTERNS

In a general, domain-overarching perspective, the integration of humans into systems can be explained with interaction patterns, especially focusing on cooperative control. Patterns were originally described for architecture by Alexander (1977). Inspired by the software patterns (e.g. Gamma et al. 1995), and their use in human-computer interaction (e.g. Borchers, 2001; Flemisch, 2001), the concept was generalized and extended by Flemisch et al. (2022b). Oversimplified, patterns are an abstraction of repeating parts of reality into models. These models are re-used for observation, identification and/or to re-compose, design and create new, similar but not the same instances in another part of reality.

Applied to automation, patterns can be used to model interaction and cooperation between human and automation on the level of the general design (e.g. Baltzer, 2020). Such patterns can be categorized as interaction design patterns. They can also be used to observe, identify and design interactions on a finer level of interaction events, (e.g. Usai et al., 2024). An example for these interaction event patterns are maneuvers like driving in a lane or changing the lanes.

Patterns can also be used to describe the behavior at system boundaries or failures of traffic systems, where the automation needs to decide between giving back control to the human or executing a minimum risk maneuver. Maneuvers, as defined e.g. by Habenicht et al. (2011), can also be seen as special patterns, which bind together the interaction and cooperation of humans, automation and environment. These patterns can be modelled including eye gaze behavior, e.g. to find out whether drivers can indeed take over control (Herzberger, 2023).

HUMAN SYSTEMS MIGRATION NEEDS CLASSICAL ENGINEERING, EXPERIMENTS AND HUMAN SYSTEMS EXPLORATION

In a general, domain-overarching perspective, the ability for humans and technology to migrate side by side requires a dynamic human-system integration. To achieve this, methods of Human Systems Integration (HSI) beyond experiments become necessary. One effective set of tools are exploratory methods

that combine theoretical foundations with the involvement of stakeholders, such as users, and empirical validation (Flemisch et al., 2013; 2022a). Approaches from domains such as systems and human factors engineering, as well as design research and human systems integration are combined into a concept of Human Systems Exploration (HSE), and utilized for explorative design processes (Preutenborbeck et al., 2024).

Applied to MiRoVA, systems engineering and experiments still play a crucial role in design validation by testing hypotheses regarding system attributes such as performance, safety, and user experience in controlled environments, whether in driving simulators or real-world settings. Human Systems Exploration extends this approach by systematically investigating the "unknown unknowns" within the problem and solution space of automated traffic systems. This enables the identification of emergent migration effects and interaction patterns that may not yet be fully understood, but are essential for further development of these systems.

THE TIME DYNAMIC CHANGE OF HUMAN-TECHNOLOGY CONFIGURATIONS: HUMAN SYSTEMS MIGRATION

In a historic and general perspective, even the earliest human technologies changed over time, for instance in the materials used. This is already evident in the rough categorization of human civilizations into stone, bronze, and iron ages. Even if this rate of change was slower than today, it is an early example of the migration of human systems. While the migration of technology and that of humans with it usually means an improvement, there are costs and risks to be considered as well. These are especially critical in the early time of adoption, as this period is most often characterized by both the old and new technology coexisting. Based on this insight, the idea of Human Systems Migration (HSM) applied to train systems is initially described in Obrenovic et al. (2006), an application to air traffic control is introduced by Ohneiser and Gürlük (2013). Based on this positive experience with the concept, a first generalization towards Human Systems Migration is described by Flemisch et al. (2017a).

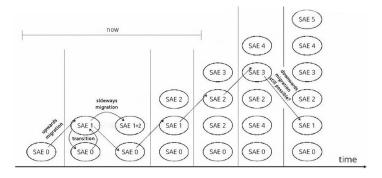


Figure 2: Possible migration paths with the example of vehicle automation levels.

Applied to MiRoVA, the concept of Human Systems Migration means a process of migrating not only technology, but also people, organizations and environments, from manual over low to high stages of automation and back. This might take at least two decades, probably even considerably longer (Flemisch et al., 2017a). During this time, vehicles with different automation capabilities will coexist in traffic. This might be even more challenging with the two migration aspects: Driver-vehicle systems can transition and migrate between different automation levels - e.g. by activating lane assistance and/ or adaptive cruise control - and manufacturers might implement the same automation features differently, which may result in them reacting differently depending on the situation. In the context of vehicle automation, we structure migration into three directions: Upwards migration from one automation level to a higher one, sideways migration within vehicles of the same automation level, but with different implementations, and downwards migration from one level of automation to a lower level. These directions define migration paths. Examples for migration paths are given in Figure 2, though there are many other possibilities.

MIGRATION OF INTERNAL HUMAN-MACHINE INTERACTION, COOPERATION AND THEIR PATTERNS

In general, internal human-machine interaction, i.e. of a human and a machine within a sociotechnical system, is an essential part of automation. In our context, internal means the interaction between an operator and a machine, in contrast to external interaction with a third party in the environment. Human Systems Migration of internal human-machine interaction is characterized by a change in interaction, but is often triggered by a change in the machine and its capabilities. Examples of this are transitions between lower and higher automation levels, which make changes in the Human Machine Interface (HMI) and in the interaction pattern necessary.

In the context of MiRoVA, Weiser et al. (2025) give examples for concrete risk situations from the perspective of human-machine interaction in automated cars. One risk factor for upwards migration is an over-reliance on and overconfidence in the automation, described by Flemisch et al. (2017b) as the uncanny and unsafe valley of automation. For sideways migration, a change of system components may create confusion regarding its use or change the parameters that are necessary for it to function properly. An example is the switch from a radar-based, to a vision-based adaptive cruise control system, which may have unforeseen side effects in certain situations like heavy rain. Downwards migration bears the risk of losing a relied-upon support system, such as a braking assistant, in the new vehicle. This can be described as an over-familiarization with higher automation levels.

To analyze such migration risks of the internal human-machine interaction, patterns will be employed in multiple ways. First, to analyze migration, we will need HMI and automation designs that represent possible current or future implementations of automation levels. After exploring possible designs, they will be defined and created using design and event patterns.

MIGRATION OF EXTERNAL HUMAN-MACHINE INTERACTION IN AUTOMATED VEHICLES

In general, human-machine interaction is characterized by the behavior of at least two parties that might occupy the same space at the same time in the near future (Markkula et al., 2020). For a successful interaction in a cooperative relationship, the parties need to act cooperatively, which means facilitating each other's goal achievement in order to avoid misunderstandings, accidents or collisions (Kraft et al., 2019), (Imbsweiler et al. 2018). Communication as a means of information exchange is an essential element for successful interaction and cooperation in sociotechnical systems and directly contributes to increased safety and efficiency (Bengler et al., 2020), (Imbsweiler et al., 2018), (Joisten et al., 2020). Applied to the vehicle domain, when driving responsibility shifts from the human driver to the automated system, the responsibility for communicating and interacting with the external environment might also shift (Joisten et al., 2020) The interaction between an automated vehicle (AV) and non-automated road users is crucial for a safe coexistence. As AV technology advances, the upcoming integration of AVs into mixed traffic - comprising manually driven vehicles, automated vehicles, and vulnerable road users (e.g. pedestrians) - raises important questions about how this migration process influences the interaction between AVs and non-automated participants but also the communication between non automated traffic participants in general.

In the context of MiRoVA, the objective is to analyze and model the bidirectional interaction and cooperation between automated vehicles and non-automated road users, with a focus on the dynamics of automation migration. Drawing on existing patterns of influencing factors and procedural structures, qualitative UML2 models are developed to represent these interactions. These models will be progressively expanded to incorporate the impact of automation migration. To support this, data will be gathered through observational studies, surveys, and experiments. The resulting insights will enable the enhancement of the UML2 models with quantitative elements. Scenarios such as road crossing or lane merging will be examined in virtual reality, driving simulators, and naturalistic settings. Continuous validation by experts in human factors, psychology, and vehicle automation will ensure the practical relevance and applicability of the models to real-world traffic contexts.

HUMAN SYSTEMS MIGRATION AND GAMETHEORETICAL MODELING OF COOPERATION PARTNERS

In general, the Human Systems Migration extends the concept of Human Systems Integration and the relationship between one human and one machine, beyond single automated systems to dynamically evolving, mixed environments. In these environments, several entities compete, cooperate and exert influence on one another. Applied to automated vehicles, as they become new participants in the traffic system, they will inevitably interact with existing road users such as human drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. In other words, various traffic participants will jointly and cooperatively influence or control a future traffic system. Mathematical models using game theory (GT) to analyze human behavior in interactions or cooperation have

been extensively studied in this context. GT provides a structured approach to understanding decision-making among rational agents in interactive settings, including traffic systems. It identifies players, defines strategies, and evaluates outcomes through payoff functions. In traffic research, GT has been applied to adaptive cruise control, lane merging, and autonomous vehicle cooperation (Kesting et al., 2007), (Kim and Langari, 2014), (Altendorf, 2018), (Zimmermann et al., 2018).

Applied to MiRoVA, the focus is on modelling and analyzing interactions and cooperation among heterogeneously automated road users using GT to assess migration effects. The research begins with analyzing existing driver behavior patterns, distinguishing fundamental patterns from those affected by technical and human migration. A qualitative model—a systematized ontology for studying cooperation among automated road users—is at first developed using UML2 or the Functional Resonance Analysis Method (FRAM). This model is validated through expert workshops and a field observation (Wizard-of-Oz study), ensuring its applicability to real-world traffic scenarios. Following validation, the qualitative model is transitioned into a quantitative, mathematical model using GT, focusing on cooperative behavior between traffic participants with different automation levels. These models aim to provide a deeper understanding of mixed traffic dynamics and predict cooperative interactions under varying migration conditions.

MIGRATION OF SHARED AND COOPERATIVE CONTROL FROM A TECHNOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

In general, the integration of a human into a technical system not only depends on the human, or the HMI, but also on technology, which has to be prepared to share control or even cooperate. Multiple technologies interconnected can collectively create new capabilities, enhancing overall system functionality. The migration of capabilities across automation levels demands the development and integration of novel technologies and their application. These technologies and their interconnection can best be described and realized using design patterns, originally derived from software engineering practices (Gamma et al., 1995). Such patterns can be categorized into creational, structural, and behavioral patterns. In the context of HSI, examples of important aspects are communication technologies and protocols. However, the state-of-the-art for these technologies and protocols remains at an early developmental stage. Goal-oriented research and development are essential to evolve from initial concepts to mature, reliable implementations.

Applied to MiRoVA, the models of automation technology used must also explicitly incorporate creational, structural, and behavioral design patterns, ensuring that the resulting capabilities are systematically structured and their interactions effectively anticipated. Particularly in cooperative driving scenarios such as merging, design patterns can specify how technologies should interconnect and interact during migration, ensuring consistent and predictable cooperative behavior among vehicles at varying automation states. MiRoVA contributes to this by providing models for the technologies used in Automated Driving Systems, creating these models with design patterns

in mind to ensure their suitability and adaptability for migration across different automation levels. This approach enables the exploration of shared and cooperative control systems in the context of migration both vertically over varying levels of automation and horizontally over changing degrees of capabilities.

INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION FROM MICRO TO MACRO SYSTEMS: LARGE SYSTEMS SIMULATION

In general, simulation provides a scalable and systematic method for analyzing the behavior of complex sociotechnical systems. It enables researchers to model individual agents, their interactions, and emergent system dynamics across multiple layers of abstraction—from low-level control to high-level coordination. Building on the general notion of patterns as reusable models of interaction and cooperation, simulation allows us to instantiate and test these patterns within dynamic traffic scenarios. In this context, patterns serve as repeatable and parameterizable structures of agent behavior that describe how agents negotiate tasks, resolve conflicts, and adapt to varying contexts over time. These patterns bridge individual behavior models to system-level performance indicators.

Applied to MiRoVA, we implement interaction and cooperation patterns in a microscopic traffic flow simulation. Tactical driving behavior is modelled as finite state machines and extended to represent varying automation levels and cooperation styles. The simulation integrates behavioral models of external interaction, internal driver-automation interfaces, and multi-agent cooperation to explore how migration-related changes impact the traffic system. We simulate a range of scenarios based on a migration tree that structures different pathways of technological and behavioral transitions. The goal is to identify critical migration paths that may degrade traffic performance or increase risk, and to support the development of mitigating strategies through cooperative system design.

OUTLOOK: GENERAL WAY FORWARD AND CONCRETE STEPS IN MIROVA

MiRoVA is just one of many examples for an interdisciplinary research project to investigate shared control designs and automation in the automotive domain. However, it is the first project to systematically investigate the migration of technology and humans through different configurations and levels of automation. Using findings of previous projects (e.g. DFG focus group CoInCar) and increasing real-world examples of automated vehicle systems, MiRoVA will model the human-system interaction, migration and cooperation inside and outside of vehicles and model the impact on macroscopic traffic flow. Besides the solid theoretical foundation of MiRoVA sketched in this publication, the project has just started. Feedback, also critical, is explicitly invited.

Generalizing beyond MiRoVA, the research and development of dynamic control distribution, often described as shared and cooperative control of automation, is now, after thirty years of increasing research, sophisticated enough that we can design and implement successful versions of this historically new paradigm, but only if we understand also the migration of people, technology, organization and the environment through different system configurations.

Based on this positive experience, we should now proceed similar to MiRoVA for other domains, investigating dynamic situations where humans interact with systems of various automation levels and possibly the involvement of AI, to migrate jointly. This should always be done with respect to known unknowns, but even more to unknown unknowns, potentially dangerous or positive effects of those systems. Understanding, automated and cooperatively controlled systems and their changes over time will also support us humans in understanding the nature of technology, our nature, and developing both towards a good balance of humans, technical systems and nature on this precious, unique spaceship Earth.

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