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## Taxonomy and definitions for terms related to driving automation systems for on-road motor vehicles

*Taxonomie et définitions des termes relatifs aux systèmes de conduite  
automatisée des véhicules routiers à moteur*

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SAE International  
400 Commonwealth Dr.  
Warrendale, PA, USA 15096  
Phone: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada)  
Phone: +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA)  
Fax: 724-776-0790  
Email: [CustomerService@sae.org](mailto:CustomerService@sae.org)  
Website: [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org)

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This document was jointly prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 204, *Intelligent transport systems*, and SAE *On-Road Automated Driving Committee, Definitions Task Force*.

This document and its counterpart document published by SAE (SAE J3016 APR2021) are technically equivalent. The only difference between the documents is the standard number and name and minor editorial elements.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html). Alternatively, to provide feedback on this document, please visit [https://www.sae.org/standards/content/j3016\\_202104/](https://www.sae.org/standards/content/j3016_202104/).

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# Taxonomy and definitions for terms related to driving automation systems for on-road motor vehicles

## 1. SCOPE

This document describes [motor] *vehicle driving automation systems* that perform part or all of the *dynamic driving task (DDT)* on a *sustained* basis. It provides a taxonomy with detailed definitions for six levels of *driving automation*, ranging from no *driving automation* (Level 0) to full *driving automation* (Level 5), in the context of [motor] *vehicles* (hereafter also referred to as “*vehicle*” or “*vehicles*”) and their *operation* on roadways:

Level 0: No Driving Automation

Level 1: Driver Assistance

Level 2: Partial Driving Automation

Level 3: Conditional Driving Automation

Level 4: High Driving Automation

Level 5: Full Driving Automation

These level definitions, along with additional supporting terms and definitions provided herein, can be used to describe the full range of *driving automation features* equipped on [motor] *vehicles* in a functionally consistent and coherent manner. “On-road” refers to publicly accessible roadways (including parking areas and private campuses that permit public access) that collectively serve all road *users*, including cyclists, pedestrians, and *users* of *vehicles* with and without *driving automation features*.

The levels apply to the *driving automation feature(s)* that are engaged in any given instance of on-road *operation* of an equipped *vehicle*. As such, although a given *vehicle* may be equipped with a *driving automation system* that is capable of delivering multiple *driving automation features* that perform at different levels, the level of *driving automation* exhibited in any given instance is determined by the *feature(s)* that are engaged.

This document also refers to three primary actors in driving: the (human) *user*, the *driving automation system*, and other *vehicle* systems and components. These other *vehicle* systems and components (or the *vehicle* in general terms) do not include the *driving automation system* in this model, even though as a practical matter a *driving automation system* may actually share hardware and software components with other *vehicle* systems, such as a processing module(s) or *operating code*.

The levels of *driving automation* are defined by reference to the specific role played by each of the three primary actors in performance of the *DDT* and/or *DDT fallback*. “Role” in this context refers to the expected role of a given primary actor, based on the design of the *driving automation system* in question and not necessarily to the actual performance of a given primary actor. For example, a *driver* who fails to monitor the roadway during engagement of a Level 1 adaptive cruise control (ACC) system still has the role of *driver*, even while s/he is neglecting it.

*Active safety systems*, such as electronic stability control (ESC) and automatic emergency braking (AEB), and certain types of *driver* assistance systems, such as lane keeping assistance (LKA), are excluded from the scope of this *driving automation* taxonomy because they do not perform part or all of the *DDT* on a *sustained* basis, but rather provide momentary intervention during potentially hazardous situations. Due to the momentary nature of the actions of *active safety systems*, their intervention does not change or eliminate the role of the *driver* in performing part or all of the *DDT*, and thus are not considered to be *driving automation*, even though they perform automated functions. In addition, systems that inform, alert, or warn the *driver* about hazards in the driving environment are also outside the scope of this *driving automation* taxonomy, as they neither automate part or all of the *DDT*, nor change the *driver’s* role in performance of the *DDT* (see 8.13).

It should be noted, however, that crash avoidance *features*, including intervention-type *active safety systems*, may be included in *vehicles* equipped with *driving automation systems* at any level. For *automated driving system (ADS) features* (i.e., Levels 3 to 5) that perform the complete *DDT*, crash mitigation and avoidance capability is part of *ADS* functionality (see also 8.13).

## 2. REFERENCES

### 2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest issue of SAE publications shall apply.

#### 2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA), [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org).

SAE J670            *Vehicle Dynamics Terminology*

SAE J3063           *Active Safety Systems Terms and Definitions*

Shi, E., Gasser, T., Seeck, A., and Auerswald, R., "The Principles of Operation Framework: A Comprehensive Classification Concept for Automated Driving Functions," SAE Int. J. CAV 3(1):27-37, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.4271/12-03-01-0003>.

#### 2.1.2 ANSI Accredited Publications

Copies of these documents are available online at <http://webstore.ansi.org/>.

ANSI D16.1-2007   *Manual on Classification of Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents*

#### 2.1.3 Other Publications

49 U.S.C. § 30102(a)(6) (definition of [motor] *vehicle*)

Crash Avoidance Metrics Partnership - Automated Vehicle Research Consortium, "Automated Vehicle Research for Enhanced Safety - Final Report," available at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=NHTSA-2014-0070-0003>.

Gasser, T. et al., "Legal Consequences of an Increase in Vehicle Automation," July 23, 2013, available at [http://bast.opus.hbz-nrw.de/volltexte/2013/723/pdf/Legal\\_consequences\\_of\\_an\\_increase\\_in\\_vehicle\\_automation.pdf](http://bast.opus.hbz-nrw.de/volltexte/2013/723/pdf/Legal_consequences_of_an_increase_in_vehicle_automation.pdf).

Michon, J.A., 1985, "A Critical View of Driver Behavior Models: What Do We Know, What Should We Do?" In Evans, L. and Schwing, R.C. (Eds.). *Human behavior and traffic safety* (pp. 485-520). New York: Plenum Press, 1985.

Smith, B.W., "Engineers and Lawyers Should Speak the Same Robot Language," in *ROBOT LAW* (2015), available at <https://newlypossible.org>.

### 2.2 List of Abbreviations

ACC            Adaptive cruise control

ADAS         Advanced driver assistance system

ADS            Automated driving system

ADS-DV       Automated driving system-dedicated vehicle

AEB	Automatic emergency braking
DDT	Dynamic driving task
DSRC	Dedicated short range communications
ESC	Electronic stability control
LKA	Lane keeping assistance
ODD	Operational design domain
OEDR	Object and event detection and response

### 3. DEFINITIONS

#### 3.1 ACTIVE SAFETY SYSTEM (SAE J3063)

*Active safety systems* are *vehicle* systems that sense and monitor conditions inside and outside the *vehicle* for the purpose of identifying perceived present and potential dangers to the *vehicle*, occupants, and/or other road *users*, and automatically intervene to help avoid or mitigate potential collisions via various methods, including alerts to the *driver*, *vehicle* system adjustments, and/or active control of the *vehicle* subsystems (brakes, throttle, suspension, etc.).

NOTE: For purposes of this report, systems that meet the definition of *active safety systems* are considered to have a design purpose that is primarily focused on improving safety rather than comfort, convenience, or general *driver* assistance. *Active safety systems* warn or intervene during a high-risk event or maneuver.

#### 3.2 AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEM (ADS)

The hardware and software that are collectively capable of performing the entire *DDT* on a *sustained* basis, regardless of whether it is limited to a specific *operational design domain (ODD)*; this term is used specifically to describe a Level 3, 4, or 5 *driving automation system*.

NOTE: In contrast to *ADS*, the generic term "*driving automation system*" (see 3.6) refers to any Level 1 to 5 system or *feature* that performs part or all of the *DDT* on a *sustained* basis. Given the similarity between the generic term, "*driving automation system*," and the Level 3 to 5 specific term, "*automated driving system*," the latter term should be capitalized when spelled out and reduced to its abbreviation, *ADS*, as much as possible, while the former term should not be.

#### 3.3 [DRIVERLESS OPERATION] DISPATCHING ENTITY

An entity that *dispatches* an *ADS-equipped vehicle(s)* in *driverless operation*.

NOTE: The functions carried out by a *dispatching entity* may be divided among one or several agents, depending on the *usage specification* for the *ADS-equipped vehicle(s)* in question.

EXAMPLE: A fleet of Level 4 closed campus *ADS-dedicated vehicles* is placed into service by a *driverless operation dispatching entity*, which engages the *ADS* for each *vehicle* after verifying its *operational* readiness and disengages the *ADS* when each *vehicle* is taken out of service.

#### 3.4 DISPATCH [IN DRIVERLESS OPERATION]

To place an *ADS-equipped vehicle* into service in *driverless operation* by engaging the *ADS*.

NOTE 1: The term "*dispatch*," as used outside of the context of *ADS-equipped vehicles*, is generally understood to mean sending a particular *vehicle* to a particular pick-up or drop-off location for purposes of providing a transportation service. In the context of *ADS-equipped vehicles*, and as used herein, this

term includes software-enabled *dispatch* of multiple *ADS*-equipped *vehicles* in *driverless operation* that may complete multiple *trips* involving pick-up and drop-off of *passengers* or goods throughout a day or other pre-defined period of service, and which may involve multiple agents performing various tasks related to the *dispatch* function. In order to highlight this specialized use of the term *dispatch*, the term is modified and conditioned by the stipulation that it refers exclusively to *dispatching vehicles* in *driverless operation*.

NOTE 2: Only *ADS*-equipped *vehicles* capable of *driverless operation* (namely, an *ADS-DV* or a *dual-mode vehicle*) are potentially subject to being *dispatched*.

### 3.5 DRIVING AUTOMATION

The performance by hardware/software systems of part or all of the *DDT* on a *sustained* basis.

### 3.6 DRIVING AUTOMATION SYSTEM OR TECHNOLOGY

The hardware and software that are collectively capable of performing part or all of the *DDT* on a *sustained* basis; this term is used generically to describe any system capable of Level 1 to 5 *driving automation*.

NOTE: In contrast to this generic term for any Level 1 to 5 system, the specific term for a Level 3 to 5 system is "*automated driving system (ADS)*." Given the similarity between the generic term, "*driving automation system*," and the Level 3 to 5 specific term, "*Automated Driving System*," the latter term should be capitalized when spelled out and reduced to its abbreviation, *ADS*, as much as possible, while the former term should not be (see 3.2).

### 3.7 [DRIVING AUTOMATION SYSTEM] FEATURE

A Level 1-5 *driving automation system*'s design-specific functionality at a given level of *driving automation* within a particular *ODD*, if applicable.

NOTE 1: Because the term "*driving automation system*" subsumes both *driver support features* and *ADS features*, it is also acceptable to refer to them as such.

NOTE 2: A given *driving automation system* may have multiple *features*, each associated with a particular level of *driving automation* and *ODD*.

NOTE 3: Each *feature* satisfies a *usage specification*.

NOTE 4: *Features* may be referred to by generic names (e.g., automated parking) or by proprietary names.

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 3 *ADS feature* that performs the *DDT*, excluding *DDT fallback*, in high-volume traffic on fully access-controlled freeways.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 4 *ADS feature* that performs the *DDT*, including *DDT fallback*, in a specified geo-fenced urban center.

### 3.7.1 MANEUVER-BASED FEATURE

A *driving automation system feature* equipped on a *conventional vehicle* that either:

1. Supports the *driver* by executing a limited set of lateral and/or longitudinal *vehicle* motion control actions sufficient to fulfil a specific, narrowly defined use case (e.g., parking maneuver), while the *driver* performs the rest of the *DDT* and supervises the Level 1 or Level 2 *feature's* performance (i.e., Level 1 or Level 2 *driver support features*);

or

2. Executes a limited set of lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control actions, as well as associated *object and event detection and response (OEDR)* and all other elements of the complete *DDT* in order to fulfil a specific, narrowly defined use case without human supervision (Level 3 or 4 *ADS features*).

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 1 parking assistance *feature* automatically performs the lateral *vehicle* motion control actions necessary to parallel park a *vehicle*, while the *driver* performs the longitudinal *vehicle* motion control actions and supervises the *feature*.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 2 parking assistance *feature* automatically performs the lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control actions necessary to parallel park a *vehicle* under the *supervision* of the *driver*.

EXAMPLE 3: A Level 3 highway overtaking assistance *feature* automatically performs the lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control actions, as well as associated *OEDR*, necessary to pass a slower-moving *vehicle* on a multi-lane highway when activated by the *driver* or *fallback-ready user*.

### 3.7.2 SUB-TRIP FEATURE

A *driving automation system feature* equipped on a *conventional vehicle* that requires a human *driver* to perform the complete *DDT* for at least part of every *trip*.

NOTE: *Sub-trip features* require a human *driver* to *operate* the *vehicle* between the point-of-origin and the boundary of the *feature's ODD* and/or after leaving the *feature's ODD* until the destination is reached (i.e., *trip* completion).

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 1 adaptive cruise control (ACC) *feature* performs longitudinal *vehicle* motion control functions to support the *driver* in maintaining consistent headway to a lead *vehicle* in its lane when travelling at higher speeds.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 2 highway *feature* performs lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control functions to support the *driver* in maintaining position within its lane of travel, as well as consistent headway to a lead *vehicle* in its lane when travelling at higher speeds.

EXAMPLE 3: A Level 3 traffic jam *feature* performs the complete *DDT* on a fully access-controlled freeway in dense traffic, but requires a human *driver* to *operate* the *vehicle* upon *ODD* exit (e.g., when traffic clears, as well as before entering the congested freeway, and again upon exiting it).

EXAMPLE 4: During a given *vehicle trip*, a *user* with a Level 4 automated parking *feature* *dispatches* the *vehicle* in *driverless operation* for the purpose of finding a parking space in a nearby designated parking facility. Following a period of shopping, the *user* retrieves the *vehicle* via *dispatch* in order to begin his/her *trip* home.

### 3.7.3 FULL-TRIP FEATURE

*ADS features* that *operate* a *vehicle* throughout complete *trips*.

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 4 *ADS-DV* is *dispatched* in *driverless operation* for purposes of providing ride-hailing services to customers located within its geo-fenced area of *operation*.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 5 dual-mode vehicle is dispatched in driverless operation by its owner to go to a designated airport, pick up several family members, and bring them home. All vehicle occupants remain passengers throughout the return trip.

Figure 1 illustrates how a trip could be completed by use of various combinations of driving automation features engaged at different levels of driving automation.

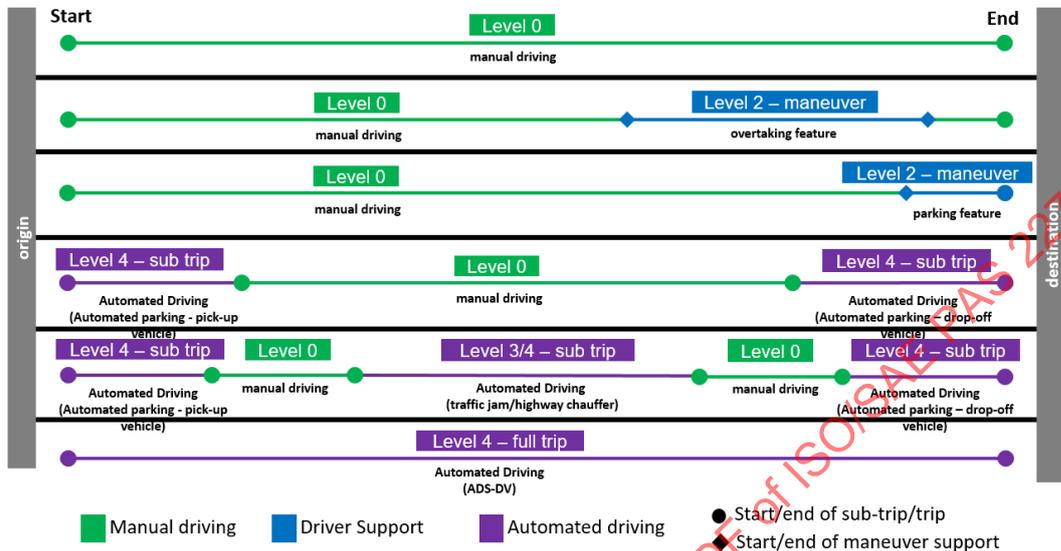


Figure 1 — Examples of driving automation system features/types that could be available during a given trip

### 3.8 DRIVER SUPPORT [DRIVING AUTOMATION SYSTEM] FEATURE

A general term for Level 1 and Level 2 driving automation system features.

NOTE: Level 1 (driver assistance) and Level 2 (partial automation) features are capable of performing only part of the DDT, and thus require a driver to perform the remainder of the DDT, as well as to supervise the feature’s performance while engaged. As such, these features, when engaged, support—but do not replace—a driver in performing the DDT.

### 3.9 DRIVERLESS OPERATION [OF AN ADS-EQUIPPED VEHICLE]

On-road operation of an ADS-equipped vehicle that is unoccupied, or in which on-board users are not drivers or in-vehicle fallback-ready users.

NOTE 1: ADS-DVs are always dispatched in driverless operation (subject to NOTE 3 in 3.33.3).

NOTE 2: ADS-equipped dual-mode vehicles may be dispatched in driverless operation.

NOTE 3: On-board passengers are neither drivers nor fallback-ready users.

EXAMPLE: A Level 4 ADS-DV is dispatched in driverless operation for purposes of providing transportation service.

### 3.10 DYNAMIC DRIVING TASK (DDT)

All of the real-time operational and tactical functions required to operate a vehicle in on-road traffic, excluding the strategic functions such as trip scheduling and selection of destinations and waypoints, and including, without limitation, the following subtasks:

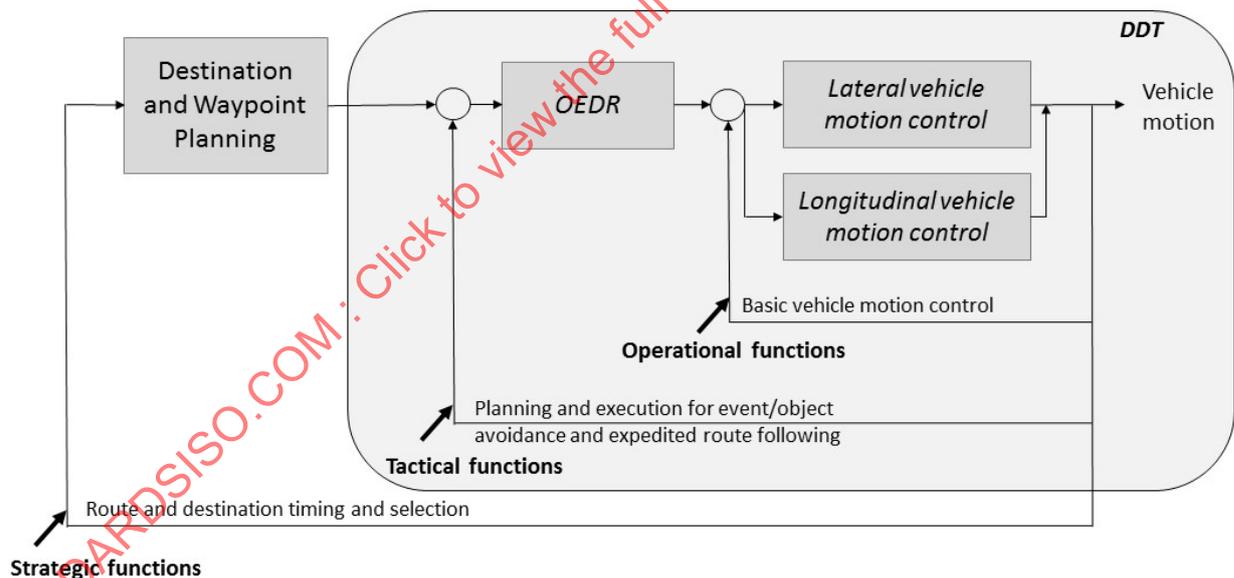
1. Lateral *vehicle* motion control via steering (*operational*).
2. Longitudinal *vehicle* motion control via acceleration and deceleration (*operational*).
3. Monitoring the driving environment via object and event detection, recognition, classification, and response preparation (*operational* and tactical).
4. Object and event response execution (*operational* and tactical).
5. Maneuver planning (tactical).
6. Enhancing conspicuity via lighting, sounding the horn, signaling, gesturing, etc. (tactical).

NOTE 1: Some *driving automation systems* (or the *vehicles* equipped with them) may have a means to change longitudinal *vehicle* motion control between forward and reverse.

NOTE 2: For simplification and to provide a useful shorthand term, subtasks (3) and (4) are referred to collectively as *object and event detection and response (OEDR)* (see 3.19).

NOTE 3: In this document, reference is made to “complete(ing) the *DDT*.” This means fully performing all of the subtasks of the *DDT*, whether that role is fulfilled by the (human) *driver*, by the *driving automation system*, or by a combination of both.

NOTE 4: Figure 2 displays a schematic view of the driving task. For more information on the differences between *operational*, tactical, and strategic functions of driving, see 8.11.



**Figure 2 — Schematic (not a control diagram) view of driving task showing DDT portion**

For purposes of *DDT* performance, Level 1 *driving automation* encompasses automation of part of the innermost loop (i.e., either lateral *vehicle* motion control functionality or longitudinal *vehicle* motion control functionality and limited *OEDR* associated with the given axis of *vehicle* motion control); Level 2 *driving automation* encompasses automation of the innermost loop (lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control and limited *OEDR* associated with *vehicle* motion control), and Level 3 to 5 *driving automation* encompasses automation of both inner loops (lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control and complete *OEDR*). Note that *DDT* performance does not include strategic aspects of driving (e.g., determining whether, when, and where to travel).

### 3.11 FAILURE MITIGATION STRATEGY

A *vehicle* function (not an *ADS* function) designed to automatically bring an *ADS*-equipped *vehicle* to a controlled stop in path following either: (1) prolonged failure of the *fallback-ready user* of a Level 3 *ADS feature* to perform the *fallback* after the *ADS* has issued a *request to intervene*, or (2) occurrence of a *system failure* or external event so catastrophic that it incapacitates the *ADS*, which can no longer perform *vehicle* motion control in order to perform the *fallback* and achieve a *minimal risk condition*. (See 8.6.)

NOTE: Some *vehicles* equipped with Level 2 *driver support features* may be designed to brake a *vehicle* to a full stop if the *driver* fails to indicate his/her continued *supervision* of *feature* performance during engagement. Although that is similar in function to a *failure mitigation strategy* as defined above, the term “*failure mitigation strategy*” is reserved for *ADS features* that do not require *driver supervision*.

### 3.12 [DYNAMIC DRIVING TASK (DDT)] FALLBACK

The response by the *user* to either perform the *DDT* or achieve a *minimal risk condition* (1) after occurrence of a *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure(s)*, or (2) upon *operational design domain (ODD)* exit, or the response by an *ADS* to achieve *minimal risk condition*, given the same circumstances.

NOTE 1: The *DDT* and the *DDT fallback* are distinct functions, and the capability to perform one does not necessarily entail the ability to perform the other. Thus, a Level 3 *ADS*, which is capable of performing the entire *DDT* within its *ODD*, may not be capable of performing the *DDT fallback* in all situations that require it and thus will issue a *request to intervene* to the *DDT fallback-ready user* when necessary (see Figures 3 to 6).

NOTE 2: Some Level 3 *features* may be designed to automatically perform the *fallback* and achieve a *minimal risk condition* in some circumstances, such as when an obstacle-free, adjacent shoulder is present, but not in others, such as when no such road shoulder is available. The assignment of Level 3 therefore does not restrict the *ADS* from automatically achieving the *minimal risk condition*, but it cannot guarantee automated achievement of *minimal risk condition* in all cases within its *ODD*. Moreover, automated *minimal risk condition* achievement in some, but not all, circumstances that demand it does not constitute Level 4 functionality.

NOTE 3: At Level 3, an *ADS* is capable of continuing to perform the *DDT* for at least several seconds after providing the *fallback-ready user* with a *request to intervene*. The *DDT fallback-ready user* is then expected to resume manual *vehicle operation*, or to achieve a *minimal risk condition* if s/he determines it to be necessary.

NOTE 4: At Levels 4 and 5, the *ADS* must be capable of performing the *DDT fallback* and achieving a *minimal risk condition*. Level 4 and 5 *ADS*-equipped *vehicles* that are designed to also accommodate *operation* by a *driver* (whether in-*vehicle* or remote) may allow a *user* to perform the *DDT fallback*, when circumstances allow this to be done safely, if s/he chooses to do so (see Figures 7 and 8). However, a Level 4 or 5 *ADS* need not be designed to allow a *user* to perform *DDT fallback* and, indeed, may be designed to disallow it in order to reduce crash risk (see 8.9).

NOTE 5: While a Level 4 or 5 *ADS* is performing the *DDT fallback*, it may be limited by design in speed and/or range of lateral and/or longitudinal *vehicle* motion control (i.e., it may enter so-called “limp-home mode”).

NOTE 6: While performing *DDT fallback*, an *ADS* may *operate* temporarily outside of its *ODD* (see 3.21 NOTE 1).

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 1 adaptive cruise control (ACC) *feature* experiences a *system failure* that causes the *feature* to stop performing its intended function. The human *driver* performs the *DDT fallback* by resuming performance of the complete *DDT*.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 3 *ADS feature* that performs the entire *DDT* during traffic jams on freeways is not able to do so when it encounters a crash scene and therefore issues a *request to intervene* to the *DDT fallback-ready user*. S/he responds by taking over performance of the entire *DDT* in order to maneuver around the crash scene (see Figure 4). (Note that in this example, a *minimal risk condition* is not needed or achieved.)

EXAMPLE 3: A Level 4 *ADS-dedicated vehicle (ADS-DV)* that performs the entire *DDT* within a geo-fenced city center experiences a *DDT performance-relevant system failure*. In response, the *ADS-DV* performs the *DDT fallback* by turning on the hazard flashers, maneuvering the *vehicle* to the road shoulder and parking it, before automatically summoning emergency assistance (see Figure 7). (Note that in this example, the *ADS-DV* automatically achieves a *minimal risk condition*.)

The following Figures 3 through 8 illustrate *DDT fallback* at various levels of *driving automation*.

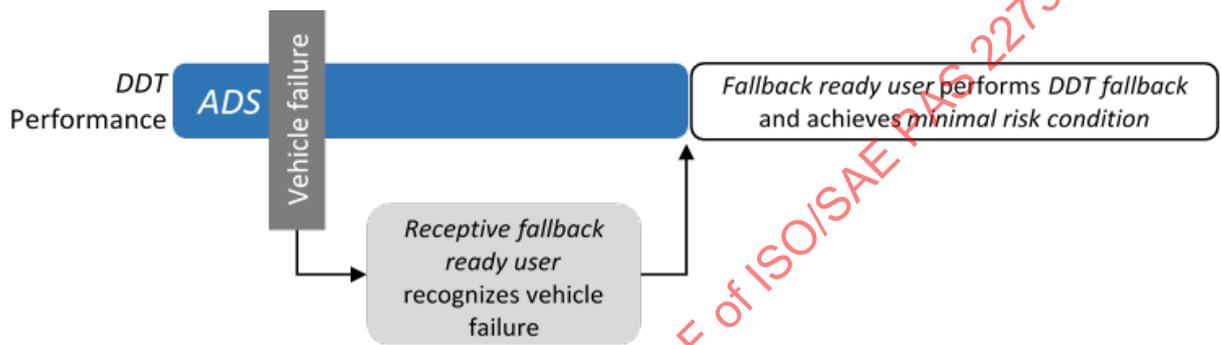


Figure 3

Sample use case sequence at Level 3 showing *ADS* engaged and occurrence of a *vehicle system failure* that prevents continued *DDT* performance. *User* performs *fallback* and achieves a *minimal risk condition*.

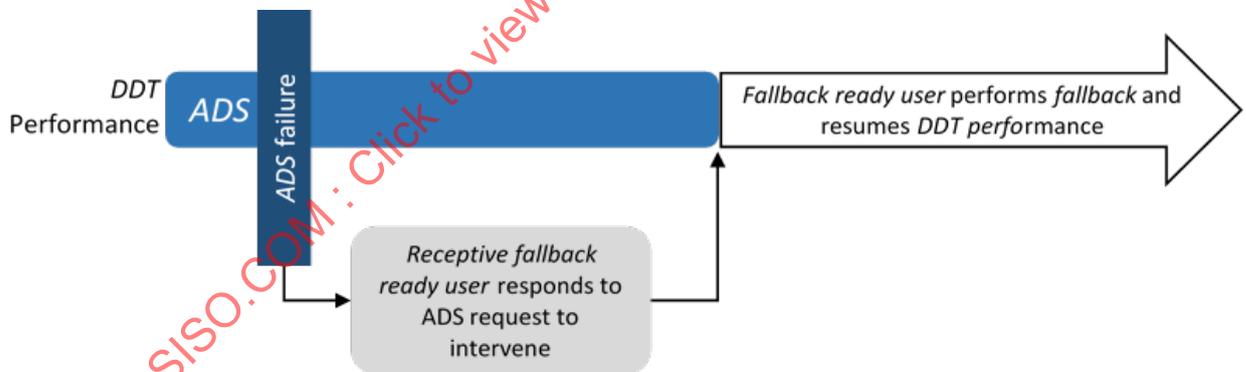


Figure 4

Sample use case sequence at Level 3 showing *ADS* engaged and occurrence of an *ADS system failure* that does not prevent continued *DDT* performance. *User* performs the *fallback* and resumes *DDT* performance.

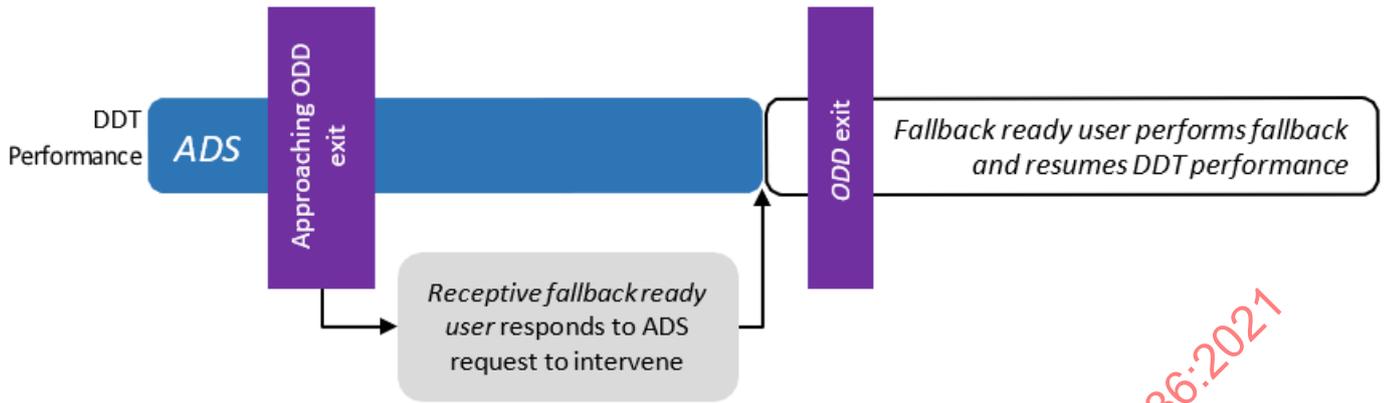


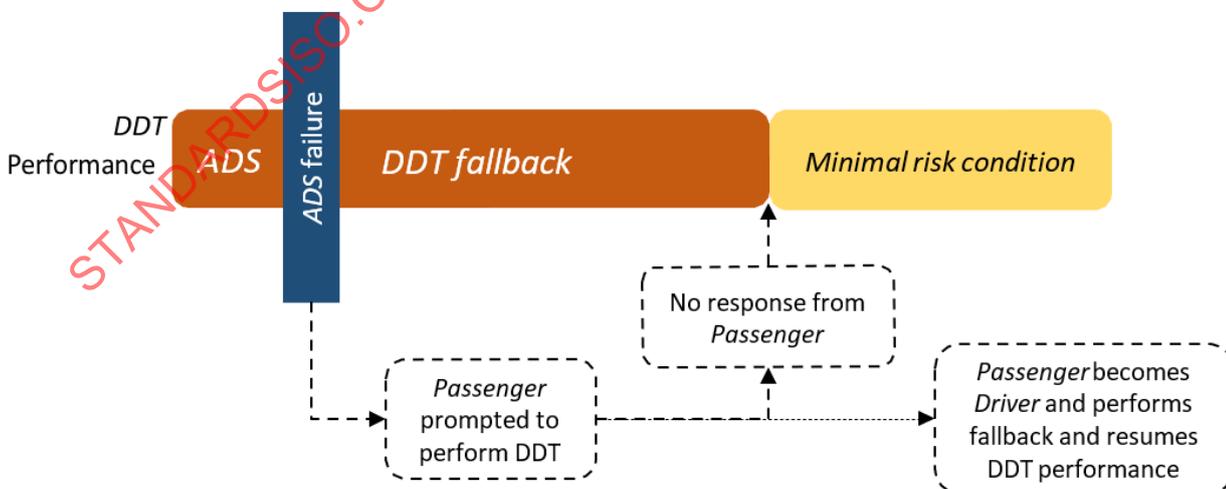
Figure 5

Sample use case sequence at Level 3 showing ADS engaged and occurrence of exiting the ODD that does not prevent continued DDT performance. User performs the fallback and resumes DDT performance.



Figure 6

Sample use case sequence at Level 4 showing ADS engaged and occurrence of a vehicle system failure that prevents continued DDT performance. ADS performs the fallback and achieves a minimal risk condition.



NOTE: Dashed lines represent optional conditions.

Figure 7

Sample use case sequence at Level 4 showing *ADS* engaged and occurrence of an *ADS* failure that does not prevent continued *DDT* performance by an available human *user*. The *ADS* feature may prompt a *passenger* seated in the *driver's* seat (if available) to resume *DDT* performance; if no *driver's* seat with receptive *passenger*, the *ADS* automatically achieves a *minimal risk condition*.

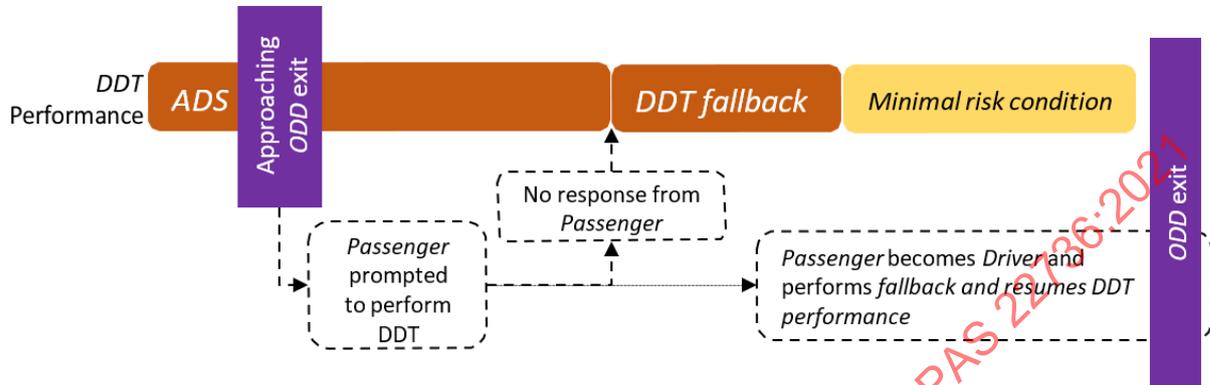


Figure 8

Use case sequence at Level 4 showing *ADS* engaged with *ODD* exit, which does not prevent continued *DDT* performance by an available human *user*. The *ADS* feature may prompt a *passenger* seated in the *driver's* seat (if available) to resume *DDT* performance; if no *driver's* seat with receptive *passenger*, the *ADS* automatically achieves a *minimal risk condition*.

### 3.13 FLEET OPERATIONS [FUNCTIONS]

The activities that support the management of a fleet of *ADS*-equipped *vehicles* in *driverless operation*, which may include, without limitation:

- Ensuring *operational* readiness.
- *Dispatching ADS*-equipped *vehicles* in *driverless operation* (i.e., engaging the *ADSs* prior to placing the *vehicles* in service on public roads).
- Authorizing each *trip* (e.g., payment, *trip* route selection).
- Providing fleet asset management services to *vehicles* while in-use (e.g., managing emergencies, summoning or providing *remote assistance* as needed, responding to customer requests and break-downs).
- Serving as the responsible agent vis-a-vis law enforcement, emergency responders and other authorities for *vehicles* while in use.
- Disengaging the *ADS* at the end of service.
- Performing *vehicle* repair and maintenance as needed.

### 3.14 LATERAL VEHICLE MOTION CONTROL

The *DDT* subtask comprising the activities necessary for the real-time, *sustained* regulation of the y-axis component of *vehicle* motion (see Figure 9).

NOTE: Lateral *vehicle* motion control includes the detection of the *vehicle* positioning relative to lane boundaries and application of steering and/or differential braking inputs to maintain appropriate lateral positioning.

3.15 LONGITUDINAL VEHICLE MOTION CONTROL

The *DDT* subtask comprising the activities necessary for the real-time, *sustained* regulation of the x-axis component of *vehicle* motion (see Figure 9).

NOTE: Longitudinal *vehicle* motion control may include forward and reverse directionality depending on the *usage specification*.

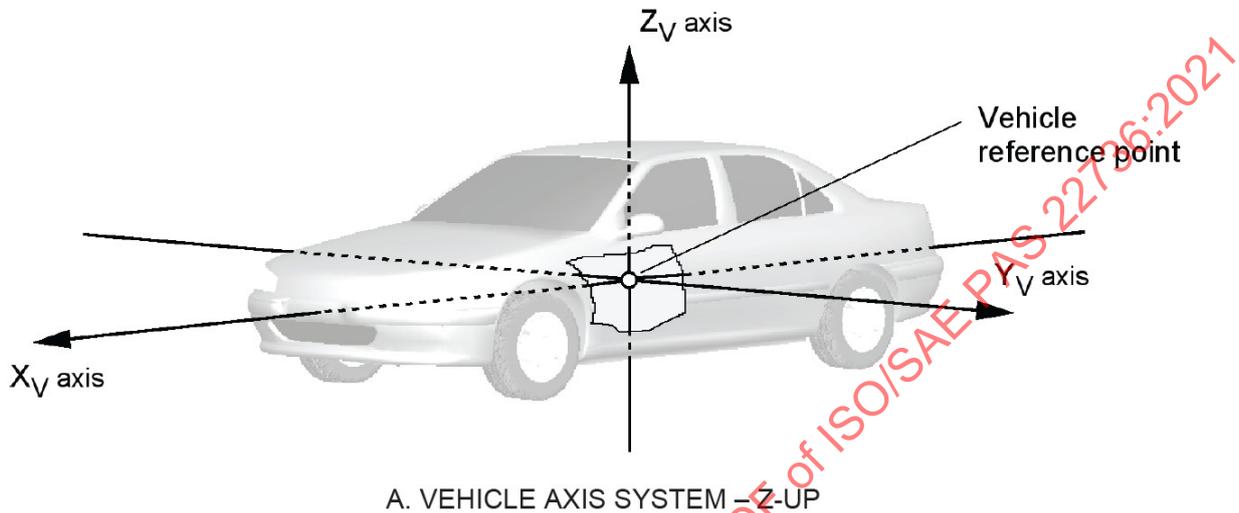


Figure 9 - Diagram showing vehicle axes of motion (SAE J670)

3.16 MINIMAL RISK CONDITION

A stable, stopped condition to which a *user* or an *ADS* may bring a *vehicle* after performing the *DDT fallback* in order to reduce the risk of a crash when a given *trip* cannot or should not be continued.

NOTE 1: At Levels 1 and 2, the *in-vehicle driver* is expected to achieve a *minimal risk condition* as needed.

NOTE 2: At Level 3, given a *DDT performance-relevant system failure* in the *ADS* or *vehicle*, the *DDT fallback-ready user* is expected to achieve a *minimal risk condition* when s/he determines that it is necessary, or to otherwise perform the *DDT* if the *vehicle* is operable.

NOTE 3: At Levels 4 and 5, the *ADS* is capable of automatically achieving a *minimal risk condition* when necessary (i.e., due to *ODD* exit, if applicable, or due to a *DDT performance-relevant system failure* in the *ADS* or *vehicle*). The characteristics of automated achievement of a *minimal risk condition* at Levels 4 and 5 will vary according to the type and extent of the *system failure*, the *ODD* (if any) for the *ADS feature* in question, and the particular *operating* conditions when the *system failure* or *ODD* exit occurs. It may entail automatically bringing the *vehicle* to a stop within its current travel path, or it may entail a more extensive maneuver designed to remove the *vehicle* from an active lane of traffic and/or to automatically return the *vehicle* to a *dispatching* facility.

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 4 *ADS feature* designed to *operate* a *vehicle* at high speeds on freeways experiences a *DDT performance-relevant system failure* and automatically removes the *vehicle* from active lanes of traffic before coming to a stop.

EXAMPLE 2: A *vehicle* in which a Level 4 *ADS* is installed experiences a *DDT performance-relevant system failure* in its primary electrical power system. The *ADS* utilizes a backup power source in order to achieve a *minimal risk condition*.

### 3.17 [DDT PERFORMANCE-RELEVANT] SYSTEM FAILURE

A malfunction in a *driving automation system* and/or other *vehicle* system that prevents the *driving automation system* from reliably performing its portion of the *DDT* on a *sustained* basis, including the complete *DDT*, that it would otherwise perform.

NOTE 1: This definition applies to *vehicle* fault conditions and *driving automation system failures* that prevent a *driving automation system* from performing at full capability according to design intention.

NOTE 2: This term does not apply to transient lapses in performance by a Level 1 or 2 *driver support feature* that are due to inherent design limitations and that do not otherwise prevent the system from performing its part of the *DDT* on a *sustained* basis.

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 1 *driver support feature* that performs the lateral *vehicle* motion control subtask of the *DDT* experiences a *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure* in one of its cameras, which prevents it from reliably detecting lane markings. The *feature* causes a malfunction indication message to be displayed in the center console at the same time that the *feature* automatically disengages, requiring the *driver* to immediately resume performing the lateral *vehicle* motion control subtask of the *DDT*.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 3 *ADS* experiences a *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure* in one of its radar sensors, which prevents it from reliably detecting objects in the *vehicle's* pathway. The *ADS* responds by issuing a *request to intervene* to the *DDT fallback-ready user*. The *ADS* continues to perform the *DDT*, while reducing *vehicle* speed, for several seconds to allow time for the *DDT fallback-ready user* to resume *operation* of the *vehicle* in an orderly manner.

EXAMPLE 3: A *vehicle* with an engaged Level 3 *ADS* experiences a sudden tire blow-out, which causes the *vehicle* to handle very poorly, giving the *fallback-ready user* ample kinesthetic feedback indicating a *vehicle* malfunction necessitating intervention. The *fallback-ready user* responds by resuming the *DDT*, turning on the hazard lamps, and pulling the *vehicle* onto the closest road shoulder, thereby achieving a *minimal risk condition*.

EXAMPLE 4: A Level 4 *ADS* experiences a *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure* in one of its computing modules. The *ADS* transitions to *DDT fallback* by engaging a redundant computing module(s) to achieve a *minimal risk condition*.

### 3.18 MONITOR

A general term describing a range of functions involving real-time human or machine sensing and processing of data used to *operate* a *vehicle*, or to support its *operation*.

NOTE 1: The terms below describing types of monitoring should be used when the general term “monitor” and its derivatives are insufficiently precise.

NOTE 2: The following four terms (1 - *monitor the user*, 2 - *monitor the driving environment*, 3 - *monitor vehicle performance*, and 4 - *monitor driving automation system performance*) describe categories of monitoring (see scope regarding primary actors).

NOTE 3: The *driver* state or condition of being receptive to alerts or other indicators of a *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure*, as assumed in Level 3, is not a form of monitoring. The difference between *receptivity* and monitoring is best illustrated by example: A person who becomes aware of a fire alarm or a telephone ringing may not necessarily have been monitoring the fire alarm or the telephone. Likewise, a *user* who becomes aware of a trailer hitch falling off may not necessarily have been monitoring the trailer hitch. By contrast, a *driver* in a *vehicle* with an active Level 1 adaptive cruise control (ACC) system is expected to monitor both the driving environment and the ACC performance and otherwise not to wait for an alert to draw his/her attention to a situation requiring a response (see 3.22).

### 3.18.1 MONITOR THE USER

The activities and/or automated routines designed to assess whether and to what degree the *user* is performing the role specified for him/her.

NOTE 1: *User* monitoring in the context of *driving automation* is most likely to be deployed as a countermeasure for misuse or abuse (including over-reliance due to complacency) of a *driving automation system*, but may also be used for other purposes.

NOTE 2: *User* monitoring is primarily useful for Levels 2 and 3, as evidence from the field on the use of Level 1 *features* has not identified significant incidence of misuse or abuse of *driving automation* technology, and above these levels, the *ADS* is by definition capable of achieving a *minimal risk condition* automatically.

### 3.18.2 MONITOR THE DRIVING ENVIRONMENT

The activities and/or automated routines that accomplish real-time roadway environmental object and event detection, recognition, classification, and response preparation (excluding actual response), as needed to *operate a vehicle*.

NOTE: When *operating conventional vehicles* that are not equipped with an engaged *ADS*, *drivers* visually sample the road scene sufficiently to competently perform the *DDT* while also performing secondary tasks that require short periods of eyes-off-road time (e.g., adjusting cabin comfort settings, scanning road signs, tuning a radio, etc.). Thus, monitoring the driving environment does not necessarily entail continuous eyes-on-road time by the *driver*.

### 3.18.3 MONITOR VEHICLE PERFORMANCE [FOR DDT PERFORMANCE-RELEVANT SYSTEM FAILURES]

The activities and/or automated routines that accomplish real-time evaluation of the *vehicle* performance, and response preparation, as needed to *operate a vehicle*.

NOTE: While performing the *DDT*, Level 4 and 5 *ADSs* *monitor vehicle performance*. However, for Level 3 *ADSs*, as well as for Level 1 and 2 *driving automation systems*, the human *driver* is assumed to be receptive to *vehicle* conditions that adversely affect performance of the *DDT* (see 3.22).

EXAMPLE 1: While a Level 2 *driver support feature* is engaged in stop-and-go traffic, a malfunctioning brake caliper causes the *vehicle* to pull slightly to the left when the brakes are applied. The human *driver* observes that the *vehicle* is deviating from its lane and either corrects the *vehicle's* lateral position or disengages the *feature* entirely.

EXAMPLE 2: While a Level 4 *ADS* is engaged in stop-and-go traffic, a malfunctioning brake caliper causes the *vehicle* to pull to the left when the brakes are applied. The *ADS* recognizes this deviation, corrects the *vehicle's* lateral position and transitions to a limp-home mode until it achieves a *minimal risk condition*.

### 3.18.4 MONITOR DRIVING AUTOMATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

The activities and/or automated routines for evaluating whether the *driving automation system* is performing part or all of the *DDT* appropriately.

NOTE 1: The term *monitor driving automation system performance* should not be used in lieu of supervise, which includes both monitoring and responding as needed to perform the *DDT* and is therefore more comprehensive.

NOTE 2: Recognizing requests to intervene issued by a *driving automation system* is not a form of monitoring *driving automation system* performance, but rather a form of *receptivity*.

NOTE 3: At Levels 1 and 2, the *driver* monitors the *driver support feature's* performance as part of supervising.

NOTE 4: At higher levels of *driving automation* (Levels 3 to 5), the *ADS* monitors its own performance of the complete *DDT*.

EXAMPLE 1: An *in-vehicle driver* monitors an engaged *ACC feature* to verify that it is maintaining an appropriate gap while following a preceding *vehicle* in a curve.

EXAMPLE 2: A *remote driver* engaging a Level 2 automated parking *feature* monitors the pathway of the *vehicle* to verify that the *feature* is responsive to pedestrians and obstacles.

### 3.19 OBJECT AND EVENT DETECTION AND RESPONSE (OEDR)

The subtasks of the *DDT* that include monitoring the driving environment (detecting, recognizing, and classifying objects and events and preparing to respond as needed) and executing an appropriate response to such objects and events (i.e., as needed to complete the *DDT* and/or *DDT fallback*).

### 3.20 OPERATE [A MOTOR VEHICLE]

Collectively, the activities performed by a (human) *driver* (with or without support from one or more Level 1 or 2 *driving automation features*) or by an *ADS* (Level 3 to 5) to perform the entire *DDT* for a given *vehicle*.

NOTE 1: The term “drive” is not used in this document, however, in many cases it could be used correctly in lieu of “operate.”

NOTE 2: Although use of the term *operate/operating/operation* implies the existence of a *vehicle* “operator,” this term is not defined or used in this document, which otherwise provides very specific terms and definitions for the various types of *ADS*-equipped *vehicle users* (see 3.32).

NOTE 3: Terms such as “drive,” “operate,” “driver,” and “operator” may have legal meanings that are different from their technical meanings, as contained in this document.

### 3.21 OPERATIONAL DESIGN DOMAIN (ODD)

*Operating* conditions under which a given *driving automation system* or *feature* thereof is specifically designed to function, including, but not limited to, environmental, geographical, and time-of-day restrictions, and/or the requisite presence or absence of certain traffic or roadway characteristics.

NOTE 1: While Level 3 and 4 *ADS features/vehicles* are designed to *operate* exclusively within their respective *ODDs*, some *ODD* conditions are subject to rapid change during on-road *operation* (e.g., inclement weather, obscured lane lines). Such transient changes in the *operating* environment do not necessarily represent an “*ODD* exit,” as the *ADS* determines when such a change in conditions requires *fallback* performance (whether by the *fallback-ready user* or *ADS*).

NOTE 2: Section 6 discusses the significance of *ODDs* in the context of the levels of *driving automation*.

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 1 *ACC driver support feature* is designed to provide longitudinal *vehicle* motion control support to the *driver* on fully access-controlled freeways under fair weather conditions.

EXAMPLE 2: An *ADS feature* is designed to *operate* a *vehicle* only on fully access-controlled freeways in low-speed traffic, under fair weather conditions and optimal road maintenance conditions (e.g., good lane markings and not under construction).

EXAMPLE 3: An *ADS-dedicated vehicle* is designed to *operate* only within a geographically defined military base, and only during daylight at speeds not to exceed 25 mph.

EXAMPLE 4: An *ADS-dedicated commercial truck* is designed to pick up parts from a geo-fenced sea port and deliver them via a specific route to a distribution center located 30 miles away. The *vehicle*'s *ODD* is limited to day- time *operation* within the specified sea port and the specific roads that constitute the prescribed route between the sea port and the distribution center.

EXAMPLE 5: A level 3 *ADS* highway *feature* with an *ODD* requirement of clearly visible lane lines encounters a short stretch of roadway with obscured lane lines. The *ADS feature* is able to compensate for brief periods of faded or missing lane markings through other means (e.g., sensor fusion, digital map, lead *vehicle* following) and continues to *operate* the *vehicle* for a brief period before the lane lines again become clearly visible. A short while later, the lane lines again become obscured and remain so for longer duration, causing the *ADS feature* to issue a *request to intervene* to the *fallback-ready user*.

### 3.22 RECEPTIVITY [OF THE USER]

An aspect of consciousness characterized by a person's ability to reliably and appropriately focus his/her attention in response to a stimulus.

NOTE 1: In Level 0 to 2 *driving automation*, the *driver* is expected to be receptive to evident *vehicle system failures*, such as a broken tie rod.

NOTE 2: In Level 3 *driving automation*, a *DDT fallback-ready user* is considered to be receptive to a *request to intervene* and/or to an evident *vehicle system failure*, whether or not the *ADS* issues a *request to intervene* as a result of such a *vehicle system failure*.

EXAMPLE 1: While a Level 3 *ADS* is performing the *DDT* in stop-and-go traffic, the left-front tire experiences a sudden blow-out. The *DDT fallback-ready user* is receptive to the kinesthetic cue of the *vehicle* pulling significantly to the left and intervenes in order to move the *vehicle* onto the road shoulder.

EXAMPLE 2: While a Level 3 *ADS* is performing the *DDT* on a free-flowing highway, the left side mirror glass falls out of the housing. The *DDT fallback-ready user*, while receptive, does not and is not expected to notice this failure, because it is not apparent, and does not adversely affect *DDT* performance by the *ADS*.

### 3.23 REMOTE ASSISTANCE

Event-driven provision, by a remotely located human (see 3.31.5), of information or advice to an *ADS*-equipped *vehicle* in *driverless operation* in order to facilitate *trip* continuation when the *ADS* encounters a situation it cannot manage.

NOTE 1: *Remote assistance* does not include real-time *DDT* or *fallback* performance by a *remote driver*. Rather, the *ADS* performs the complete *DDT* and/or *fallback*, even when assisted by a remotely located human.

NOTE 2: *Remote assistance* may include providing an *ADS* with revised goals and/or tasks.

NOTE 3: The *remote assistance* function does not include providing strategic instruction regarding selection of destinations or *trip* initiation timing (i.e., *dispatch* functions), even if the same person performs both *remote assistance* and *dispatching* functions.

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 4 *ADS-DV* encounters an unannounced area of road construction within its *ODD*. The *ADS-DV* communicates to a remotely located human that it is unable to proceed around the construction. The remotely located human provides a new pathway for the *vehicle* to follow around the construction zone that allows the *ADS-DV* to automatically proceed and complete its *trip*.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 4 *ADS-DV* detects an object in its lane that appears to be too large to drive over and stops. A *remote assistant* uses the *vehicle*'s cameras to identify that the object is an empty bag that can be safely driven through/over, and provides the instruction to the *ADS-DV* to proceed.

### 3.24 REMOTE DRIVING

Real-time performance of part or all of the *DDT* and/or *DDT fallback* (including, real-time braking, steering, acceleration, and transmission shifting), by a *remote driver*.

NOTE 1: A receptive *remote fallback-ready user* becomes a *remote driver* when s/he performs the *fallback*.

NOTE 2: The *remote driver* performs or completes the *OEDR* and has the authority to overrule the *ADS* for purposes of lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control.

NOTE 3: Remote driving is not *driving automation*.

NOTE 4: Remote driving of a *vehicle* by a human is sometimes referred to as “teleoperation.” However, “teleoperation” is not defined consistently in the literature, and thus, to avoid confusion, is not used herein.

### 3.25 REQUEST TO INTERVENE

An alert provided by a Level 3 *ADS* to a *fallback-ready user* indicating that s/he should promptly perform the *DDT fallback*, which may entail resuming manual *operation* of the *vehicle* (i.e., becoming a *driver* again), or achieving a *minimal risk condition* if the *vehicle* is not operable.

NOTE: As previously noted in this document, it may be possible for a *passenger* in a Level 4 or 5 *ADS-operated vehicle* to also resume manual *operation* of the *vehicle* under certain conditions, provided that the *vehicle* and *feature* are designed for this (e.g., a *dual-mode vehicle* or a *conventional vehicle* with a Level 4 *sub-trip feature*). However, even when alerted by the *ADS* to take over *vehicle operation*, a *passenger* of such a *vehicle* is not required to do so to ensure competent *operation*, as Level 4 and 5 *ADS features/vehicles* are capable of automatically achieving a *minimal risk condition* when necessary. Thus, such an alert to a *passenger* of a Level 4 or 5 *ADS-operated vehicle* is not a “request to intervene” as defined herein for Level 3 *ADS-equipped vehicles*.

### 3.26 ROUTINE/NORMAL [ADS] OPERATION

*Operation* of a *vehicle* by an *ADS* within its prescribed *ODD*, if any, while no *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure* is occurring.

NOTE: Routine/normal *ADS operation* includes *vehicle* responses to objects and events that are safety- and time-critical, as well as *vehicle* responses to the same that are not safety- and time-critical.

### 3.27 SUPERVISE [DRIVING AUTOMATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE]

The *driver* activities, performed while *operating* a *vehicle* with an engaged Level 1 or 2 *driver support feature*, to monitor that *feature*'s performance, respond to inappropriate actions taken by the *feature*, and to otherwise complete the *DDT*.

EXAMPLE: A *driver* notices that an engaged adaptive cruise control (*ACC*) *feature* is not maintaining headway to a preceding *vehicle* in a curve and brakes accordingly.

### 3.28 SUSTAINED [OPERATION OF A VEHICLE]

Performance of part or all of the *DDT* both between and across external events, including responding to external events and continuing performance of part or all of the *DDT* in the absence of external events.

NOTE 1: External events are situations in the driving environment that necessitate a response by a *driver* or *driving automation system* (e.g., other *vehicles*, lane markings, traffic signs).

NOTE 2: *Sustained* performance of part or all of the *DDT* by a *driving automation system* changes the *user's* role. (See scope for discussion of roles.) By contrast, an automated intervention that is not *sustained* according to this definition does not qualify as *driving automation*. Hence, systems that provide momentary intervention in lateral and/or longitudinal *vehicle* motion control but do not perform any part of the *DDT* on a *sustained* basis (e.g., anti-lock brake systems, electronic stability control, automatic emergency braking) are not classifiable (other than at Level 0) under the taxonomy.

NOTE 3: Conventional cruise control does not provide *sustained operation* because it does not respond to external events. It is therefore also not classifiable (other than at Level 0) under the taxonomy.

### 3.29 TRIP

The traversal of an entire travel pathway by a *vehicle* from the point of origin to a destination.

NOTE: Performance of the *DDT* during a given *trip* may be accomplished in whole or in part by a *driver*, *driving automation system*, or both.

### 3.30 USAGE SPECIFICATION

A particular level of *driving automation* within a particular *ODD*.

NOTE: Each *feature* satisfies a *usage specification*.

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 2 *feature* provides lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control support to the *driver* on fully access-controlled freeways.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 3 *feature operates* the *vehicle* in high-volume traffic on designated fully access-controlled freeways.

EXAMPLE 3: A Level 4 *ADS-DV operates* at low speeds in designated urban centers.

### 3.31 [HUMAN] USER

A general term referencing the human role in *driving automation*.

NOTE 1: The following five terms (1 - *driver*, 2 - *passenger*, 3 - *DDT fallback-ready user*, 4 - *driverless operation dispatcher*, and 5 - *remote assistant*) describe categories of (human) *users*.

NOTE 2: These human categories define roles that do not overlap and may be performed in varying sequences during a given *trip*.

#### 3.31.1 [HUMAN] DRIVER

A *user* who performs in real time part or all of the *DDT* and/or *DDT fallback* for a particular *vehicle*.

NOTE: This definition of "*driver*" does not include a robotic test device designed to exercise steering, braking, and acceleration during certain dynamic test maneuvers.

##### 3.31.1.1 IN-VEHICLE DRIVER

A *driver* who manually exercises in-vehicle braking, accelerating, steering, and transmission gear selection input devices in order to *operate* a *vehicle*.

NOTE 1: An *in-vehicle driver* is seated in what is normally referred to as "the *driver's seat*" in automotive contexts, which is a unique seating position that makes in-vehicle input devices (steering wheel, brake and accelerator pedals, gear shift) accessible to a (human) *driver*.

NOTE 2: "Conventional *driver*" is an acceptable synonym for *in-vehicle driver*.

NOTE 3: In a conventional or *dual-mode vehicle* equipped with a *driving automation system*, an *in-vehicle driver*, who may be a *passenger* or a *fallback-ready user* during *ADS* engagement, may assume or resume performance of part or all of the *DDT* from the *driving automation system* during a given *trip*.

##### 3.31.1.2 REMOTE DRIVER

A *driver* who is not seated in a position to manually exercise in-vehicle braking, accelerating, steering, and transmission gear selection input devices (if any), but is able to *operate* the *vehicle*.

NOTE 1: A *remote driver* may include a *user* who is within the *vehicle*, within line-of-sight of the *vehicle*, or beyond line-of-sight of the *vehicle*.

NOTE 2: A *remote driver* is not the same as a *driverless operation dispatcher* (see 3.32.4), although a *driverless operation dispatcher* may become a *remote driver* if s/he has the means to *operate* the *vehicle* remotely.

NOTE 3: A *remote driver* does not include a person who merely creates driving-relevant conditions that are sensed by, or communicated to, the *ADS* (e.g., a police officer who announces over a loudspeaker that a particular stop sign should be ignored; another *driver* who flashes his/her head lamps to encourage overtaking, or a pedestrian using a dedicated short range communication (DSRC) system to announce his/her presence).

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 2 automated parking *feature* allows the *remote driver* to exit the *vehicle* near an intended parking space and to cause the *vehicle* to move into the parking space automatically by pressing and holding a special button on the key fob, while s/he is monitoring the driving environment to ensure that no one and nothing enters the *vehicle* pathway during the parking maneuver. If, during the maneuver, a dog enters the pathway of the *vehicle*, the *remote driver* releases the button on the key fob in order to cause the *vehicle* to stop automatically. (Note that the *remote driver* in this Level 2 example completes the *OEDR* subtask of the *DDT* during the parking maneuver.)

EXAMPLE 2: Identical situation to Example 1, except that the *remote driver* is sitting in the back seat, rather than standing outside the *vehicle*.

EXAMPLE 3: A Level 4 closed campus delivery *vehicle* that has experienced a *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure*, which forced it to resort to a *minimal risk condition* by parking on the side of a campus roadway, is returned to its designated marshalling yard by a *remote driver* who is able to *operate* the *vehicle* using wireless means.

### 3.31.2 PASSENGER

A *user* in a *vehicle* who has no role in the *operation* of that *vehicle*.

EXAMPLE 1: The person seated in the *driver's* seat of a *vehicle* equipped with a Level 4 *ADS feature* designed to automate high-speed *vehicle operation* on access-controlled freeways is a *passenger* while this Level 4 *feature* is engaged. This same person, however, is a *driver* before engaging this Level 4 *ADS feature* and again after disengaging the *feature* in order to exit the controlled access freeway.

EXAMPLE 2: The in-*vehicle users* of an *ADS-DV* shuttle on a university campus are *passengers*.

EXAMPLE 3: The in-*vehicle users* of a Level 5 *ADS*-equipped *dual-mode vehicle* are *passengers* whenever the Level 5 *ADS* is engaged.

### 3.31.3 [DDT] FALLBACK-READY USER

The *user* of a *vehicle* equipped with an engaged Level 3 *ADS feature* who is properly qualified and able to *operate* the *vehicle* and is receptive to *ADS*-issued requests to intervene and to evident *DDT* performance-relevant *system failures* in the *vehicle* compelling him or her to perform the *DDT fallback*.

NOTE 1: *DDT* performance by a Level 3 *ADS* assumes that a *fallback-ready user* is available to perform the *DDT* as required. There is no such assumption at Levels 4 and 5.

NOTE 2: A *DDT fallback-ready user* who transitions to performing part or all of the *DDT* becomes a *driver* (in-*vehicle* or remote).

### 3.31.3.1 IN-VEHICLE FALLBACK-READY USER

A *fallback-ready user* of a *conventional vehicle* with an engaged Level 3 ADS feature who is seated in the driver's seat.

EXAMPLE: A Level 3 ADS *sub-trip feature* designed to perform the DDT in congested traffic on certain freeways encounters emergency responders who are rerouting traffic to the exit due to a serious crash; the ADS issues a *request to intervene*. The *in-vehicle fallback-ready user* becomes a *driver* and performs the *fallback* by manually *operating* the *vehicle*.

### 3.31.3.2 REMOTE FALLBACK-READY USER

A *fallback-ready user* of a Level 3 ADS-equipped *vehicle* in *driverless operation* who is not in the driver's seat.

EXAMPLE: A Level 3 ADS-DV encounters a crash scene for which emergency personnel are re-routing traffic; the ADS issues a *request to intervene*. The *remote fallback-ready user* becomes a *remote driver* and performs the *fallback* by remotely *operating* the *vehicle*.

### 3.31.4 DRIVERLESS OPERATION DISPATCHER

A *user(s)* who *dispatches* an ADS-equipped *vehicle(s)* in *driverless operation*.

NOTE: A dispatcher(s) may also perform other fleet operations functions.

### 3.31.5 REMOTE ASSISTANT

A human(s) who provides remote assistance to an ADS-equipped *vehicle* in *driverless operation*.

NOTE: A remote assistant(s) may also perform other fleet operations functions.

## 3.32 [MOTOR] VEHICLE

A machine designed to provide conveyance on public streets, roads, and highways.

NOTE 1: As used in this document, [motor] *vehicle* refers to motorized *vehicles* and excludes those *operated* only on rail lines. For reference, 49 U.S.C. § 30102(a)(6) defines [motor] *vehicle* as follows: “[motor] *vehicle* means a *vehicle* driven or drawn by mechanical power and manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways, but does not include a *vehicle operated* only on a rail line.”

NOTE 2: Types of [motor] *vehicles* discussed in this document include *ADS-equipped vehicles*, *ADS-dedicated vehicles*, *dual-mode vehicles*, and *conventional vehicles*. *ADS-dedicated vehicles* and *dual-mode vehicles* are always *ADS-equipped vehicles*. *Conventional vehicles* may or may not be *ADS-equipped vehicles*.

### 3.32.1 CONVENTIONAL VEHICLE

A *vehicle* designed to be *operated* by an *in-vehicle driver* during part or all of every *trip*.

NOTE 1: A *conventional vehicle* may be equipped with one or more Level 1 or 2 *driving automation system features* that support the *driver* in performing the DDT, but do not perform the complete DDT. A *conventional vehicle* may also be equipped with a Level 3 and/or Level 4 *ADS sub-trip feature(s)* that requires an *in-vehicle driver* to *operate* the *vehicle* during portions of each *trip* (see 3.7.2).

NOTE 2: While it may be counterintuitive to call a *vehicle* equipped with an ADS “conventional,” it is appropriate in this context because an *in-vehicle driver* is required for at least part of every *trip*. As emphasized below, this taxonomy classifies the *driving automation* level of *features* rather than of *vehicles* (although, in the special case of an ADS-DV, the classification of the ADS feature and the *vehicle* are effectively the same).

EXAMPLE 1: A *vehicle* with no *driving automation system features* that is designed to be *operated* by an *in-vehicle driver* throughout all *trips*.

EXAMPLE 2: A *vehicle* equipped with Level 1 adaptive cruise control, Level 1 lane centering, and a Level 3 *ADS feature* designed to perform the complete *DDT* during traffic jams on fully access-controlled freeways. The Level 3 *ADS traffic jam feature* requires the *user* to *operate* the *vehicle* on the way to the freeway before engaging the *feature*, as well as again *operating* the *vehicle* upon exiting the freeway in order to complete the *trip*.

EXAMPLE 3: A *vehicle* equipped with a Level 4 valet parking *feature* designed to allow the *user* to exit the *vehicle* near a parking lot and then *dispatch* it to a parking space.

### 3.32.2 [ADS-EQUIPPED] DUAL-MODE VEHICLE

An *ADS-equipped vehicle* designed to enable either *driverless operation* under routine/normal *operating* conditions within its given *ODD* (if any), or *operation* by an *in-vehicle driver*, for complete *trips*.

NOTE 1: When *operated* by the *ADS*, *dual-mode vehicles* enable *driverless operation*, although a human *driver* could also be present in the *driver's seat*.

NOTE 2: An *ADS sub-trip feature* that is usable during only part of a *trip*, such as a *feature* designed to perform the complete *DDT* during traffic jams on freeways, would not be sufficient to classify its host *vehicle* as a *dual-mode vehicle* because it would not be capable of *driverless operation* for a complete *trip*.

NOTE 3: A *vehicle* equipped with a Level 5 *feature* in which at any time the *driver* can choose to engage the *feature*, or can choose to *operate* the *vehicle* manually, would be classified as a *dual-mode vehicle*.

### 3.32.3 ADS-DEDICATED VEHICLE (ADS-DV)

An *ADS-equipped vehicle* designed for *driverless operation* under routine/normal *operating* conditions during all *trips* within its given *ODD* (if any).

NOTE 1: In contrast to previous versions of this document, which specified that an *ADS-DV* was limited to Levels 4 and 5, this revised definition of an *ADS-DV* also allows for the possibility of a Level 3 *ADS-DV* if the *remote fallback-ready user* can be receptive to both *ADS-issued requests* to intervene and to evident *DDT performance-relevant system failures* in the *vehicle*. Once either of these conditions occurs, the *remote fallback-ready user* begins to perform the *DDT fallback* in (virtually) real time using wireless means. (See also 3.24 and 3.22.)

NOTE 2: An *ADS-DV* might be designed without *user interfaces* designed to be operable by an *in-vehicle driver*, such as braking, accelerating, steering, and transmission gear selection input devices, or it might be designed so that these devices are inoperative under routine/normal *operating* conditions.

NOTE 3: *ADS-DVs* might be *operated* temporarily by a human *driver*: (1) to manage transient deviations from the *ODD*, (2) to address a *system failure*, or (3) while in a marshalling yard before or after being repaired/serviced or *dispatched*.

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 4 *ADS-DV* designed to *operate* exclusively within a corporate campus where it picks up and discharges *passengers* along a specific route specified by the *ADS-DV dispatcher*.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 4 *ADS-DV* designed to *operate* exclusively within a geographically prescribed central business district where it delivers supplies using roads (but not necessarily routes) specified by the *ADS-DV dispatcher*.

EXAMPLE 3: A Level 5 *ADS-DV* capable of *operating* on all mapped roads in the US that are navigable by a human *driver*. The *user* simply inputs a destination, and the *ADS-DV* automatically navigates to that destination.

#### 4. TAXONOMY OF DRIVING AUTOMATION

The terms defined above inform a taxonomy of *driving automation* consisting of six discrete and mutually exclusive levels (see 8.3 and 8.4). Central to this taxonomy are the respective roles of the (human) *user* and the *driving automation system* in relation to each other. Because changes in the functionality of a *driving automation system* change the role of the (human) *user*, they provide a basis for categorizing such system *features*. For example:

- If the *driving automation system* performs the *sustained* longitudinal and/or lateral *vehicle* motion control subtasks of the *DDT*, the *driver* does not do so, although s/he is expected to complete the *DDT*. This division of roles corresponds to Levels 1 and 2.
- If the *driving automation system* performs the entire *DDT*, the *user* does not do so. However, if a *DDT fallback-ready user* is expected to take over the *DDT* when a *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure* occurs or when the *driving automation system* is about to leave its *operational design domain (ODD)*, then that *user* is expected to be receptive and able to resume *DDT* performance when alerted to the need to do so. This division of roles corresponds to Level 3.
- Lastly, if a *driving automation system* can perform the entire *DDT* and *DDT fallback* either within a prescribed *ODD* (Level 4) or in all *driver-manageable on-road operating* situations (Level 5) then any *users* present in the *vehicle* while the *ADS* is engaged are *passengers*.

Although the *vehicle* fulfills a role in this *driving automation* taxonomy (see scope), it does not change the role of the *user* in performing the *DDT*. By contrast the role played by the *driving automation system* complements the role of the *user* in performing the *DDT*, and in that sense changes it.

In this way, *driving automation systems* are categorized into levels based on:

- a. Whether the *driving automation system* performs either the longitudinal or the lateral *vehicle* motion control subtask of the *DDT*.
- b. Whether the *driving automation system* performs both the longitudinal and the lateral *vehicle* motion control subtasks of the *DDT* simultaneously.
- c. Whether the *driving automation system* also performs the *OEDR* subtask of the *DDT*.
- d. Whether the *driving automation system* also performs *DDT fallback*.
- e. Whether the *driving automation system* is limited by an *ODD*.

Table 1 summarizes the six levels of *driving automation* in terms of these five elements.

SAE's levels of *driving automation* are descriptive and informative, rather than normative, and technical rather than legal. Elements indicate minimum rather than maximum capabilities for each level. In this table, "system" refers to the *driving automation system* or *ADS*, as appropriate.

Table 1 — Summary of levels of driving automation

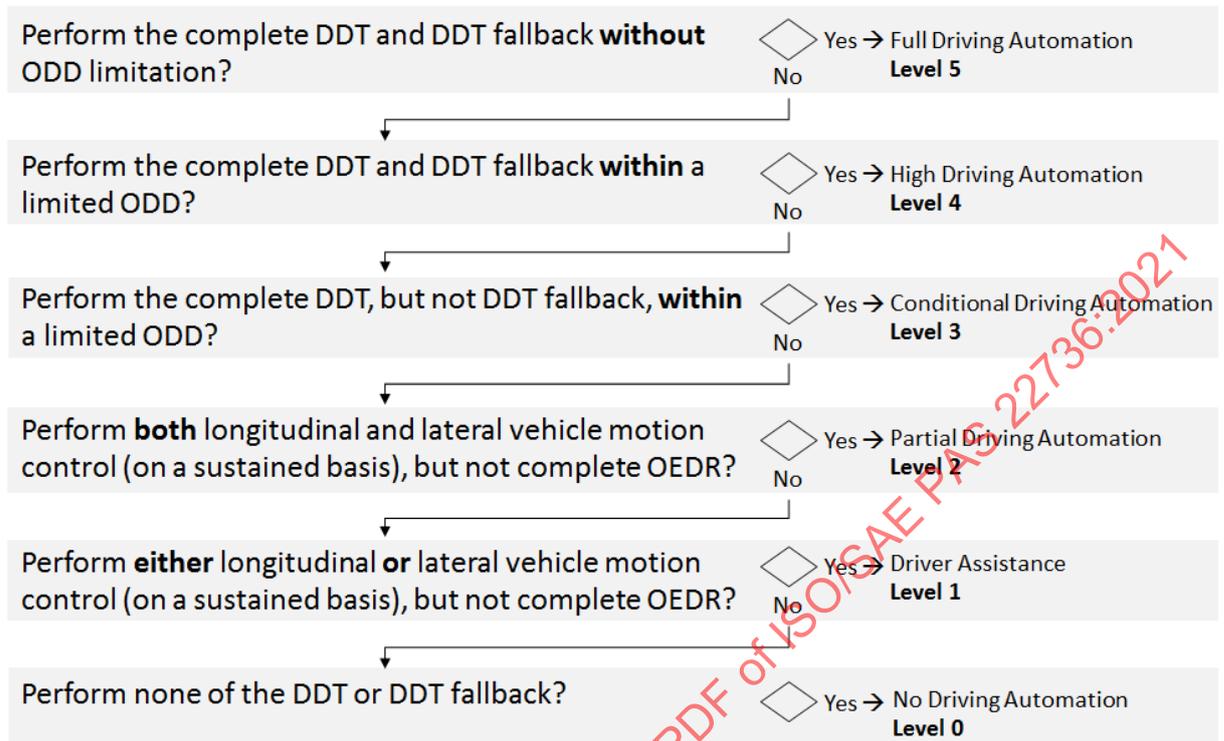
	Level	Name	Narrative Definition	DDT <sup>(1)</sup>		DDT Fallback	ODD
				Sustained Lateral and Longitudinal Vehicle Motion Control	OEDR		
<b>Driver Performs Part or All of the DDT</b>							
<b>Driver Support</b>	0	No Driving Automation	The performance by the <i>driver</i> of the entire <i>DDT</i> , even when enhanced by <i>active safety systems</i> .	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Driver</i>	n/a
	1	<i>Driver Assistance</i>	The <i>sustained</i> and <i>ODD</i> -specific execution by a <i>driving automation system</i> of either the lateral or the longitudinal <i>vehicle</i> motion control subtask of the <i>DDT</i> (but not both simultaneously) with the expectation that the <i>driver</i> performs the remainder of the <i>DDT</i> .	<i>Driver and System</i>	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Driver</i>	Limited
	2	Partial Driving Automation	The <i>sustained</i> and <i>ODD</i> -specific execution by a <i>driving automation system</i> of both the lateral and longitudinal <i>vehicle</i> motion control subtasks of the <i>DDT</i> with the expectation that the <i>driver</i> completes the <i>OEDR</i> subtask and supervises the <i>driving automation system</i> .	System	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Driver</i>	Limited

Table 1 — Summary of levels of driving automation (continued)

Level	Name	Narrative Definition	DDT <sup>(1)</sup>		DDT Fallback	ODD	
			Sustained Lateral and Longitudinal Vehicle Motion Control	OEDR			
<b>ADS (“System”) Performs the Entire DDT (While Engaged)</b>							
Automated Driving	3	Conditional Driving Automation	The <i>sustained</i> and <i>ODD</i> -specific performance by an <i>ADS</i> of the entire <i>DDT</i> with the expectation that the <i>DDT fallback-ready user</i> is receptive to <i>ADS</i> -issued requests to intervene, as well as to <i>DDT</i> performance-relevant <i>system failures</i> in other <i>vehicle</i> systems, and will respond appropriately.	System	System	<i>Fallback-ready user</i> (becomes the <i>driver</i> during <i>fallback</i> )	Limited
	4	High Driving Automation	The <i>sustained</i> and <i>ODD</i> -specific performance by an <i>ADS</i> of the entire <i>DDT</i> and <i>DDT fallback</i> without any expectation that a <i>user</i> will need to intervene.	System	System	System	Limited
	5	Full Driving Automation	The <i>sustained</i> and unconditional (i.e., not <i>ODD</i> -specific) performance by an <i>ADS</i> of the entire <i>DDT</i> and <i>DDT fallback</i> without any expectation that a <i>user</i> will need to intervene.	System	System	System	Unlimited

<sup>(1)</sup> The *DDT* does not include strategic aspects of the driving task, such as determining destination(s) and deciding when to travel.

Does the feature:



**Figure 10 — Simplified logic flow diagram for assigning driving automation level to a feature**

Figure 10 shows a simplified logic diagram for classifying *driving automation features*. Note that the information required to answer the questions posed in this figure cannot be empirically derived (see 8.2).

Table 2 details the six levels of *driving automation* with reference to the roles (if any) that the *user* and the *driving automation system* play in performing the *DDT* and the *DDT fallback*. (NOTE: This assignment of roles refers to technical aspects of *vehicle operation* rather than to legal aspects.)

The descriptions provided in column 2 of Table 2 indicate the role (if any) of the *user* in performing part or all of the *DDT* and/or performing the *DDT fallback*, while the descriptions provided in column 3 indicate the role (if any) of the *driving automation system* in performing the same. As in Table 1, “system” refers to the *driving automation system* or *ADS*, as appropriate.

Note that the foregoing roles are determined by the design of the *driving automation system* in combination with the instructions provided to the *user*, regardless of malfunction in a particular *driving automation system* or a *user’s* mis-performance of his or her role in a given circumstance (see 8.2).

Table 2 — Roles of human user and driving automation system by level of driving automation

Level of Driving Automation	Role of User	Role of Driving Automation System
<b>LEVELS 0 TO 2: DRIVER PERFORMS PART OR ALL OF THE DDT</b>		
Level 0 - No Driving Automation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Driver</i> (at all times):</li> <li>• Performs the entire <i>DDT</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Driving automation</i> system (if any):</li> <li>• Does not perform any part of the <i>DDT</i> on a <i>sustained</i> basis (although other <i>vehicle</i> systems may provide warnings or momentary emergency intervention)</li> </ul>
Level 1 - <i>Driver</i> Assistance	<p><i>Driver</i> (at all times):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performs the remainder of the <i>DDT</i> not performed by the <i>driving automation system</i></li> <li>• Supervises the <i>driving automation system</i> and intervenes as necessary to maintain <i>operation</i> of the <i>vehicle</i></li> <li>• Determines whether/when engagement or disengagement of the <i>driving automation system</i> is appropriate</li> <li>• Immediately performs the entire <i>DDT</i> whenever required or desired</li> </ul>	<p><i>Driving automation</i> system (while engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performs part of the <i>DDT</i> by executing either the longitudinal <b>or</b> the lateral <i>vehicle</i> motion control subtask</li> <li>• Disengages immediately upon <i>driver</i> request</li> </ul>
Level 2 - Partial Driving Automation	<p><i>Driver</i> (at all times):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performs the remainder of the <i>DDT</i> not performed by the <i>driving automation system</i></li> <li>• Supervises the <i>driving automation system</i> and intervenes as necessary to maintain <i>operation</i> of the <i>vehicle</i></li> <li>• Determines whether/when engagement and disengagement of the <i>driving automation system</i> is appropriate</li> <li>• Immediately performs the entire <i>DDT</i> whenever required or desired</li> </ul>	<p><i>Driving automation</i> system (while engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performs part of the <i>DDT</i> by executing both the lateral <b>and</b> the longitudinal <i>vehicle</i> motion control subtasks</li> <li>• Disengages immediately upon <i>driver</i> request</li> </ul>
<b>LEVELS 3 TO 5: ADS PERFORMS THE ENTIRE DDT WHILE ENGAGED</b>		
Level 3 - Conditional Driving Automation	<p><i>Driver</i> (while the <i>ADS</i> is not engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verifies <i>operational</i> readiness of the <i>ADS</i>-equipped <i>vehicle</i></li> <li>• Determines whether to engage the <i>ADS</i></li> <li>• Becomes the <i>DDT fallback-ready user</i> when the <i>ADS</i> is engaged</li> </ul> <p><i>DDT fallback-ready user</i> (while the <i>ADS</i> is engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is receptive to a <i>request to intervene</i> and responds by performing <i>DDT fallback</i> in a timely manner</li> <li>• Is receptive to <i>DDT</i> performance-relevant <i>system failures</i> in <i>vehicle</i> systems and, upon occurrence, performs the <i>DDT fallback</i> in a timely manner</li> <li>• Determines whether and how to achieve a <i>minimal risk condition</i></li> <li>• Becomes the <i>driver</i> upon disengagement of the <i>ADS</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>ADS</i> (while not engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permits engagement/<i>operation</i> only within its <i>ODD</i></li> </ul> <p><i>ADS</i> (while engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performs the entire <i>DDT</i> within its <i>ODD</i></li> <li>• Determines whether <i>ODD</i> limits are about to be exceeded and, if so, issues a timely <i>request to intervene</i> to the <i>DDT fallback-ready user</i></li> <li>• Determines whether there is a <i>DDT</i> performance-relevant <i>system failure</i> of the <i>ADS</i> and, if so, issues a timely <i>request to intervene</i> to the <i>DDT fallback-ready user</i></li> <li>• Disengages an appropriate time after issuing a <i>request to intervene</i></li> <li>• Disengages immediately upon <i>user</i> request</li> </ul>

Level of Driving Automation	Role of User	Role of Driving Automation System
Level 4 - High Driving Automation	<p><i>Driver/dispatcher</i> (while the ADS is not engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verifies <i>operational</i> readiness of the ADS-equipped <i>vehicle</i></li> <li>• Determines whether to engage the ADS</li> <li>• Becomes a <i>passenger</i> when the ADS is engaged only if physically present in the <i>vehicle</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Passenger/dispatcher</i> (while the ADS is engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need not perform the <i>DDT</i> or <i>DDT fallback</i></li> <li>• Need not determine whether and how to achieve a <i>minimal risk condition</i></li> <li>• May perform the <i>DDT</i> after the ADS reaches its <i>ODD</i> limit (see 5.5 NOTE 2)</li> <li>• May request that the ADS disengage</li> <li>• May become the <i>driver</i> after a requested disengagement</li> </ul>	<p>ADS (while not engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permits engagement/<i>operation</i> only within its <i>ODD</i></li> </ul> <p>ADS (while engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performs the entire <i>DDT</i> within its <i>ODD</i></li> <li>• May prompt the <i>passenger</i> to resume <i>operation</i> of the <i>vehicle</i> when approaching an <i>ODD</i> limit.</li> <li>• Performs <i>DDT fallback</i> and transitions automatically to a <i>minimal risk condition</i> when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A <i>DDT</i> performance-relevant <i>system failure</i> occurs</li> <li>○ A <i>user</i> requests that it achieve a <i>minimal risk condition</i></li> <li>○ The <i>vehicle</i> is about to exit its <i>ODD</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Disengages, if appropriate, only after: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It achieves a <i>minimal risk condition</i></li> <li>or</li> <li>○ A <i>driver</i> is performing the <i>DDT</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• May delay <i>user</i>-requested disengagement</li> </ul>
Level 5 - Full Driving Automation	<p><i>Driver/dispatcher</i> (while the ADS is not engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verifies <i>operational</i> readiness of the ADS-equipped <i>vehicle</i> <sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>• Determines whether to engage the ADS</li> <li>• Becomes a <i>passenger</i> when the ADS is engaged only if physically present in the <i>vehicle</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Passenger/dispatcher</i> (while the ADS is engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need not perform the <i>DDT</i> or <i>DDT fallback</i></li> <li>• Need not determine whether and how to achieve a <i>minimal risk condition</i></li> <li>• May request that the ADS disengage and may achieve a <i>minimal risk condition</i> after it is disengaged</li> <li>• May become the <i>driver</i> after a requested disengagement</li> </ul>	<p>ADS (while not engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permits engagement of the ADS under all <i>driver</i>-manageable on-road conditions</li> </ul> <p>ADS (while engaged):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performs the entire <i>DDT</i></li> <li>• Performs <i>DDT fallback</i> and transitions automatically to a <i>minimal risk condition</i> when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A <i>DDT</i> performance-relevant <i>system failure</i> occurs or</li> <li>○ A <i>user</i> requests that it achieve a <i>minimal risk condition</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Disengages, if appropriate, only after: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It achieves a <i>minimal risk condition</i></li> <li>or</li> <li>○ A <i>driver</i> is performing the <i>DDT</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• May delay a <i>user</i>-requested disengagement</li> </ul>

<sup>(1)</sup> This function might be performed by a person or entity other than a *driver* or *dispatcher*, depending on the *usage specification* or deployment concept (see 3.6, NOTE 1).

Table 3 describes a *user's* role with respect to an engaged *driving automation system operating* at a particular level of *driving automation* at a particular point in time. A *user* occupying a given *vehicle* can have one of three possible roles during a particular *trip*: (1) *driver*, (2) *in-vehicle fallback-ready user*, or (3) *passenger*. A remote *user* of a given *vehicle* (i.e., who is not seated in the *driver's* seat of the *vehicle* during use) can also have one of three possible roles during a particular *trip*: (1) *remote driver*, (2) *remote fallback-ready user*, or (3) *driverless operation dispatcher*.

**Table 3 — User roles while a driving automation system is engaged**

	No Driving Automation 0	Engaged Level of Driving Automation				
		1	2	3	4	5
In-Vehicle User	Driver			In-vehicle fallback-ready user	Passenger	
Remote User	Remote driver			Remote fallback-ready user	Driverless operation dispatcher/remot assistant	

NOTE: A vehicle equipped with a Level 4 or 5 ADS may also support a driver role. For example, in order to complete a given trip, a user of a vehicle equipped with a Level 4 ADS feature designed to operate the vehicle during high-speed freeway conditions will generally choose to perform the DDT when the freeway ends; otherwise the ADS will automatically perform DDT fallback and achieve a minimal risk condition as needed. However, unlike at Level 3, this user is not a DDT fallback-ready user while the ADS is engaged.

**5. LEVELS OR CATEGORIES OF DRIVING AUTOMATION**

As discussed above, the level of driving automation is based on the functionality of the driving automation system feature, as determined by an allocation of roles in DDT and DDT fallback performance between that feature and the (human) user (if any). The manufacturer of a driving automation system feature determines that feature’s requirements, operational design domain (ODD), and operating characteristics, including the level of driving automation, as defined below. The manufacturer also defines the proper use of that feature.

The lower two levels of driving automation (1 and 2) refer to cases in which the (human) driver continues to perform part of the DDT while the driving automation system is engaged. These are therefore referred to as “driver support” features. (See Table 2.)

The upper three levels of driving automation (3 to 5) refer to cases in which the automated driving system (ADS) performs the entire DDT on a sustained basis while it is engaged. These are therefore referred to as “automated driving” features (or the vehicles equipped with them). (See Table 2.)

**5.1 Level or Category 0 - No Driving Automation**

The performance by the driver of the entire DDT, even when enhanced by active safety systems.

**5.2 Level or Category 1 - Driver Assistance**

The sustained and ODD-specific execution by a driving automation system of either the lateral or the longitudinal vehicle motion control subtask of the DDT (but not both simultaneously) with the expectation that the driver performs the remainder of the DDT.

NOTE 1: A Level 1 driver support feature performing either the lateral or the longitudinal vehicle motion control subtask of the DDT is capable of only limited OEDR within its dimension (lateral or longitudinal), meaning that there are some events that the driving automation system is not capable of recognizing or responding to. Therefore, the driver must supervise the driving automation system performance by completing the OEDR subtask of the DDT as well as performing the other dimension of vehicle motion control. See Figure 2 (discussing the three primary subtasks of the DDT).

NOTE 2: The term “driver assistance” as a modifier is also commonly used to describe automotive features that are not considered to be driving automation system features, because they do not provide sustained performance of part or all of the DDT.

NOTE 3: The term “Advanced Driver Assistance Systems” (ADAS) is commonly used to describe a broad range of *features*, including those that provide warnings and/or momentary intervention, such as forward collision warning (FCW) systems, lane keeping assistance (LKA) systems, and automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems, as well as some convenience *features* that involve Level 1 *driver support features*, such as ACC and certain parking assistance *features*. As such, the term ADAS is too broad and imprecise for use in a technical definitions document.

### 5.3 Level or Category 2 - Partial Driving Automation

The *sustained* and *ODD*-specific execution by a *driving automation system* of both the lateral and longitudinal *vehicle* motion control subtasks of the *DDT* with the expectation that the *driver* completes the *OEDR* subtask and supervises the *driving automation system*.

NOTE: A Level 2 *driver support feature* is capable of only limited *OEDR*, meaning that there are some events that it is not capable of recognizing or responding to. Therefore, the *driver* supervises the *feature's* performance by completing the *OEDR* subtask of the *DDT*. See Figure 2 (discussing the three primary subtasks of the *DDT*).

### 5.4 Level or Category 3 - Conditional Driving Automation

The *sustained* and *ODD*-specific performance by an *ADS* of the entire *DDT* under routine/normal operation (see 3.27) with the expectation that the *DDT fallback-ready user* is receptive to *ADS*-issued requests to intervene, as well as to *DDT* performance-relevant *system failures* in other *vehicle* systems, and will respond appropriately.

NOTE 1: Unlike Level 1 and 2 *driver support features*, all Level 3 and 4 *ADS features* are designed to monitor and enforce their *ODD* limitations while engaged, and to prevent engagement or *operation* outside of their prescribed *ODD*.

NOTE 2: The *DDT fallback-ready user* need not supervise a Level 3 *ADS* while it is engaged but is expected to be prepared to either resume *DDT* performance when the *ADS* issues a *request to intervene* or to perform the *fallback* and achieve a *minimal risk condition* if the failure condition precludes continued *vehicle operation*.

NOTE 3: A Level 3 *ADS's DDT fallback-ready user* is also expected to be receptive to evident *DDT* performance-relevant *system failures* in *vehicle* systems that do not necessarily trigger an *ADS*-issued *request to intervene*, such as a broken body or suspension component.

NOTE 4: In the event of a *DDT* performance-relevant *system failure* in a Level 3 *ADS*, or in the event that the *ADS* exits its *ODD*, the *ADS* will issue a *request to intervene* within sufficient time for the *fallback-ready user* (whether in-*vehicle* or remote) to respond appropriately.

NOTE 5: An “appropriate” response by a *DDT fallback-ready user* to a *request to intervene* may entail either bringing the *vehicle* to a *minimal risk condition* or continuing to *operate* the *vehicle* after the *ADS* has disengaged.

NOTE 6: Although automated *DDT fallback* performance is not expected of Level 3 *ADS features*, a Level 3 *feature* may be capable of performing the *DDT fallback* and achieving a *minimal risk condition* under certain, limited conditions.

EXAMPLE: An *ADS feature* capable of performing the entire *DDT* in low-speed, stop-and-go freeway traffic.

### 5.5 Level or Category 4 - High Driving Automation

The *sustained* and *ODD*-specific performance by an *ADS* of the entire *DDT* and *DDT fallback*.

NOTE 1: The *user* does not need to supervise a Level 4 *ADS feature* or be receptive to a *request to intervene* while the *ADS* is engaged. A Level 4 *ADS* is capable of automatically performing *DDT fallback*, as well as achieving a *minimal risk condition* if a *user* does not resume performance of the *DDT*. This automated *DDT fallback* and *minimal risk condition* achievement capability is the primary difference

between Level 4 and Level 3 *ADS features*. This means that an in-vehicle user of an engaged Level 4 *ADS feature* is a *passenger* who need not respond to *DDT performance-relevant system failures*.

NOTE 2: Level 4 *ADS features* may be designed to *operate* the *vehicle* throughout complete *trips* (see 3.7.3), or they may be designed to *operate* the *vehicle* during only part of a given *trip* (see 3.7.2). For example, in order to complete a given *trip*, a *user* of a *vehicle* equipped with a Level 4 *ADS feature* designed to *operate* the *vehicle* during high-speed freeway conditions will need to perform the *DDT* when the freeway ends in order to complete his or her intended *trip*; the *ADS*, however, will automatically perform the *DDT fallback* and achieve a *minimal risk condition* if the *user* fails to take over when the freeway ends (e.g., because s/he is sleeping). Unlike at Level 3, the Level 4 *feature user* is not a *DDT fallback-ready user* while the *ADS* is engaged (see Example 2 below), and thus is not expected to respond to a *request to intervene* in order to perform the fallback. Nevertheless, in the case that a Level 4 *sub-trip feature* reaches its *ODD* limit, the *ADS* may issue an alert to the *passenger* that s/he should resume driving in order to complete their *trip*. (Note that in this latter case, the alert in question is not a *request to intervene*, because it does not signal the need for *fallback* performance.)

EXAMPLE 1: A Level 4 *ADS feature* capable of performing the entire *DDT* during valet parking (i.e., curb-to-door or vice versa) without any *driver* supervision.

EXAMPLE 2: A Level 4 *ADS feature* capable of performing the entire *DDT* during *sustained operation* on a motorway or freeway (i.e., within its *ODD*). (Note: The presence of a *user* in the *driver's* seat who is capable of performing the *DDT* is envisioned in this example, as *driver* performance of the *DDT* would have been necessary before entering, and would again be necessary after leaving, the motorway or freeway. Thus, such a *feature* would alert the *user* that s/he should resume *vehicle operation* shortly before exiting the *ODD*, but if the *user* fails to respond to such an alert, the *ADS* will nevertheless perform the *DDT fallback* and achieve a *minimal risk condition* automatically.)

EXAMPLE 3: A *driverless operation dispatcher* may engage a Level 4 *ADS-DV* capable of following a pre-defined route within a confined geographical area (e.g., residential community, military base, university campus).

## 5.6 Level or Category 5 - Full Driving Automation

The *sustained* and unconditional (i.e., not *ODD*-specific) performance by an *ADS* of the entire *DDT* and *DDT fallback*.

NOTE 1: "Unconditional/not *ODD*-specific" means that the *ADS* can *operate* the *vehicle* on-road anywhere within its region of the world and under all road conditions in which a *conventional vehicle* can be reasonably *operated* by a typically skilled human *driver*. This means, for example, that there are no design-based weather, time-of-day, or geographical restrictions on where and when the *ADS* can *operate* the *vehicle*. However, there may be conditions not manageable by a *driver* in which the *ADS* would also be unable to complete a given *trip* (e.g., white-out snow storm, flooded roads, glare ice, etc.) until or unless the adverse conditions clear. At the onset of such unmanageable conditions the *ADS* would perform the *DDT fallback* to achieve a *minimal risk condition* (e.g., by pulling over to the side of the road and waiting for the conditions to change).

NOTE 2: In the event of a *DDT performance-relevant system failure* (of an *ADS* or the *vehicle*), a Level 5 *ADS* automatically performs the *DDT fallback* and achieves a *minimal risk condition*.

NOTE 3: The *user* does not need to supervise a Level 5 *ADS*.

EXAMPLE: A *vehicle* with an *ADS* that, once programmed with a destination, is capable of *operating* the *vehicle* throughout complete *trips* on public roadways, regardless of the starting and end points or intervening road, traffic, and weather conditions.

## 6. SIGNIFICANCE OF OPERATIONAL DESIGN DOMAIN (ODD)

Conceptually, the role of a *driving automation system* vis-à-vis a *user* in performance of part or all of the *DDT* is orthogonal to the specific conditions under which it performs that role. For example, a specific implementation

of adaptive cruise control may be intended to *operate* only at high speeds, only at low speeds, or at all speeds. For simplicity, however, this taxonomy collapses these two axes into a single set of levels of *driving automation*. Levels 1 through 4 expressly contemplate *ODD* limitations. In contrast, Level 5 (like Level 0) does not have *ODD* limitations (subject to the discussion in 8.8).

Accordingly, accurately describing a *feature* (other than at Levels 0 and 5) requires identifying both its level of *driving automation* and its *operational design domain (ODD)*. As provided in the definitions above, this combination of level of *driving automation* and *ODD* is called a *usage specification*, and a given *feature* satisfies a given *usage specification*.

Because of the wide range of possible *ODDs*, a wide range of possible *features* may exist at each level (e.g., Level 4 includes parking, high-speed, low-speed, geo-fenced, etc.). For this reason, this taxonomy provides less detail about the *ODD* attributes that may define a given *feature* than about the respective roles of a *driving automation system* and its *user*.

*ODD* is especially important to understanding why a given *ADS* is not Level 5 merely because it *operates* an *ADS-dedicated vehicle*. Unlike a Level 5 *ADS*, a Level 3 or 4 *ADS* has a limited *ODD*. Geographic, speed, environmental or other *ODD* restrictions on an *ADS-DV* may reflect technological limitations of its *ADS*, or they may reflect *vehicle* design limitations.<sup>1</sup>

Level 1 to Level 4 *features* are subject to limited *ODDs*. These limitations generally reflect the technological capability of the *driving automation system*. For example, Level 4 *ADS-DVs* that *operate* in enclosed courses have existed for many decades as people movers and airport shuttles. The *ODD* for such *vehicles* is very simple, well-controlled, and physically enclosed (*vehicle operates* on a fixed course; physical barriers prevent encroachment; protected from external events, weather, etc.). This highly structured and simple *ODD* makes it technologically less challenging to achieve Level 4 *driving automation*. However, a Level 3 *ADS feature* that *operates* a *vehicle* on open roads in mixed traffic, and does so in environments that include inclement weather, faces a significantly higher technological bar in terms of *ADS* capability by virtue of the more complex and unstructured *ODD* (see Figure 11).

Note also that the *ODD* for a given *driving automation system feature* potentially encompasses a broad set of parameters that define the limits of that *feature's* functional capability to *operate* in design-specified on-road environments. It includes variables as widely ranging as specific road types, weather conditions, lighting conditions, geographical restrictions, and the presence or absence of certain road *features*, such as lane markings, road side traffic barriers, median *strips*, etc. As such, a given *driving automation system feature* has only one *ODD*, but that *ODD* may be quite varied and multi-faceted. Even though the *ODD* is composed of multiple variables, it would be incorrect to say that a *driving automation feature* has multiple *ODDs*. A *feature* will *operate* as designed (see 3.26) only when all the *ODD*-defining variables satisfy design criteria. Figure 12 illustrates the orthogonality of *ODD* relative to levels of *driving automation*.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that *ODD* determinations may also reflect business considerations unrelated to technological limitations, such as revenue potential and risk management strategies, as determined by the manufacturer of the *ADS* and/or *ADS*-equipped *vehicle*.

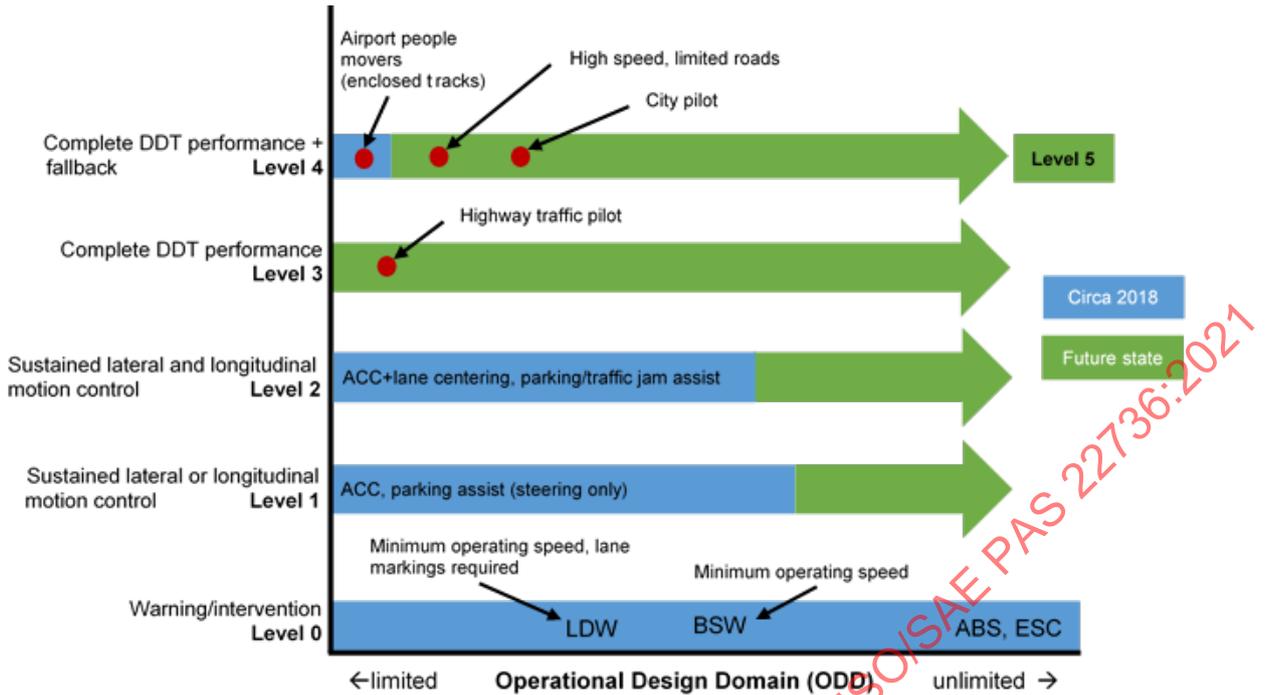


Figure 11 — ODD relative to driving automation levels

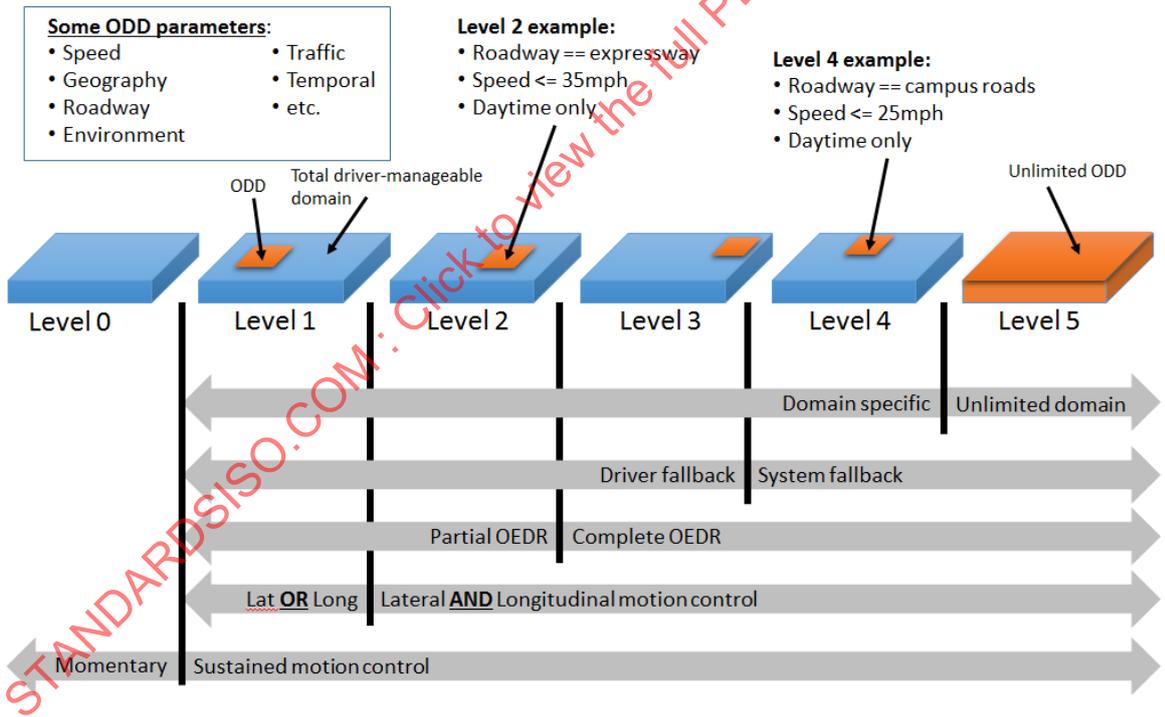


Figure 12 — ODD relative to driving automation levels

7. DEPRECATED TERMS

For the sake of clarity, this section identifies certain deprecated terms that are not used in this document either because they are functionally imprecise (and therefore misleading) and/or because they are frequently misused by application to lower levels of *driving automation* (i.e., Levels 1 and 2) in which the *driving automation system* does not perform the entire *DDT*.