

# Interventional Root Cause Analysis of Failures in Multi-Sensor Fusion Perception Systems

Shuguang Wang\*, Qian Zhou\*, Kui Wu†, Jinghuai Deng\*, Dapeng Wu\*, Wei-Bin Lee‡, Jianping Wang\*

\*City University of Hong Kong

†University of Victoria

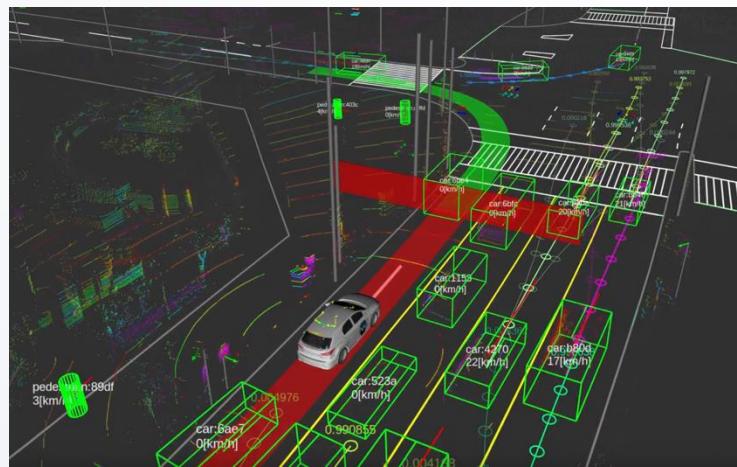
‡Information Security Center, Hon Hai Research Institute



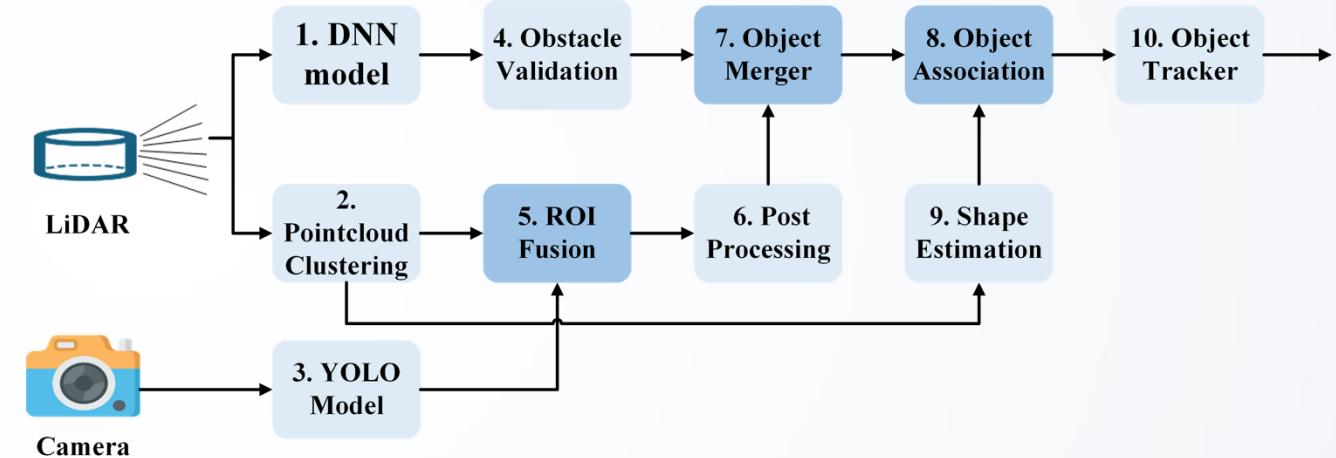
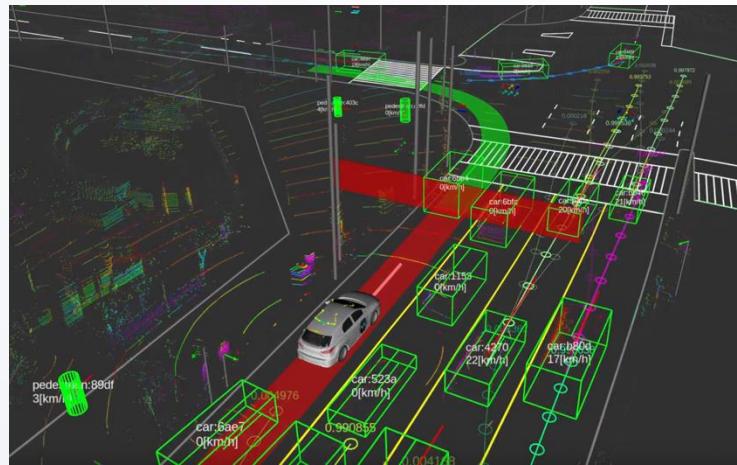
# Outlines

- **Background**
- **Existing Work**
- **Methodology**
- **Evaluation**
- **Summary**

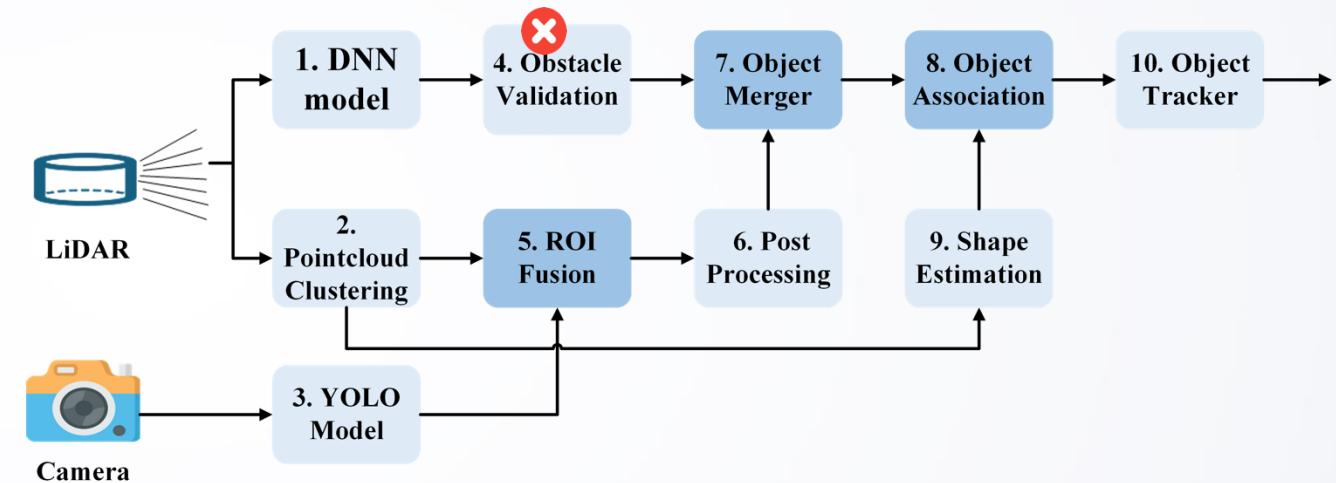
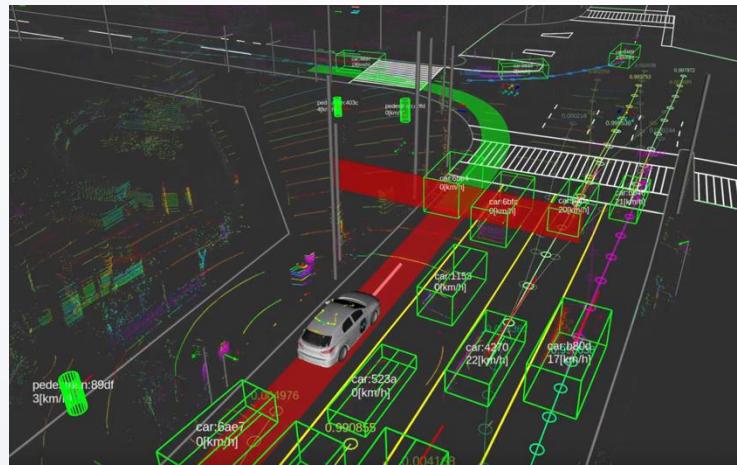
# Background: Multi-Sensor Fusion Perception Systems



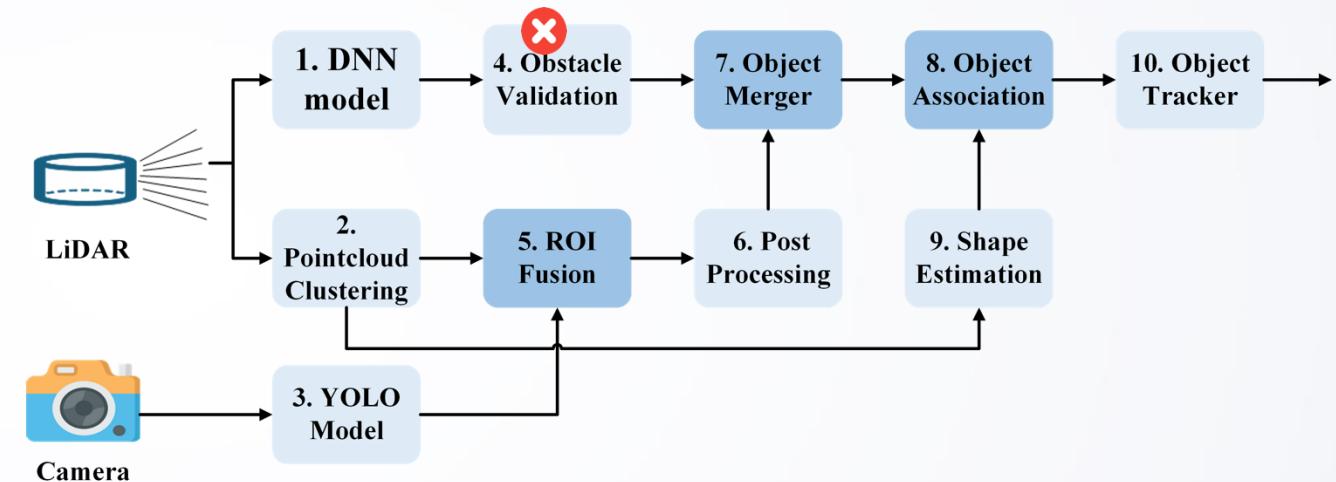
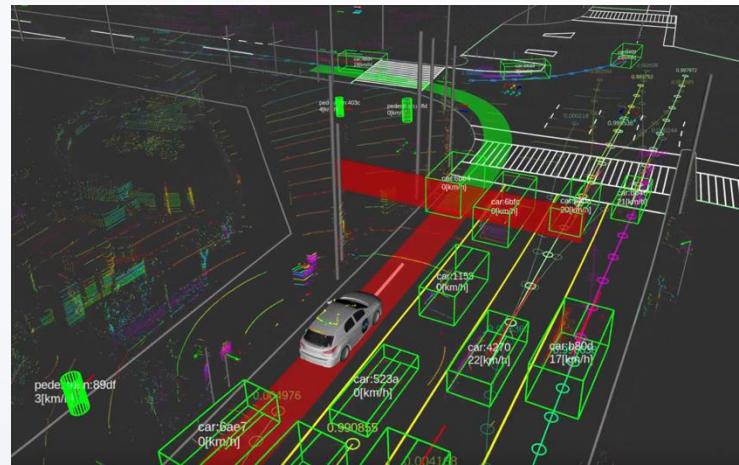
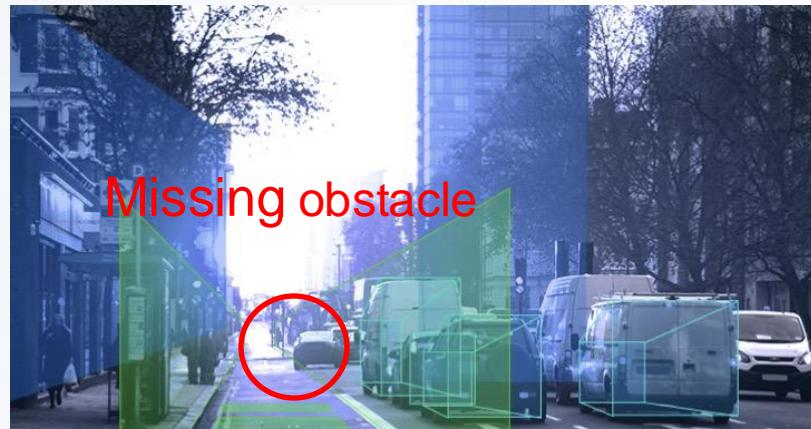
# Background: Multi-Sensor Fusion Perception Systems



# Background: Multi-Sensor Fusion Perception Systems

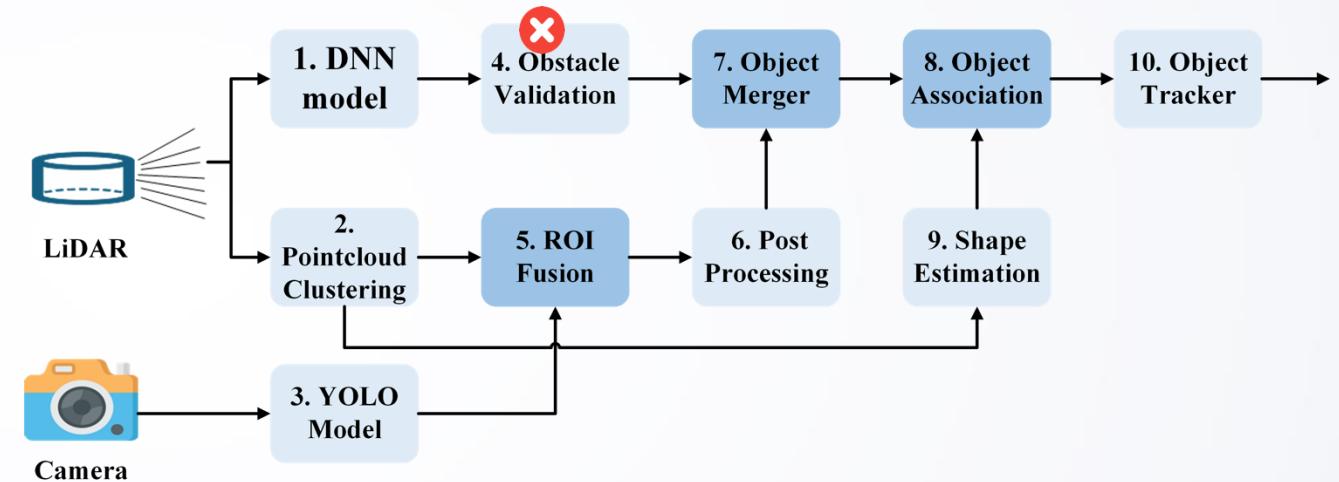
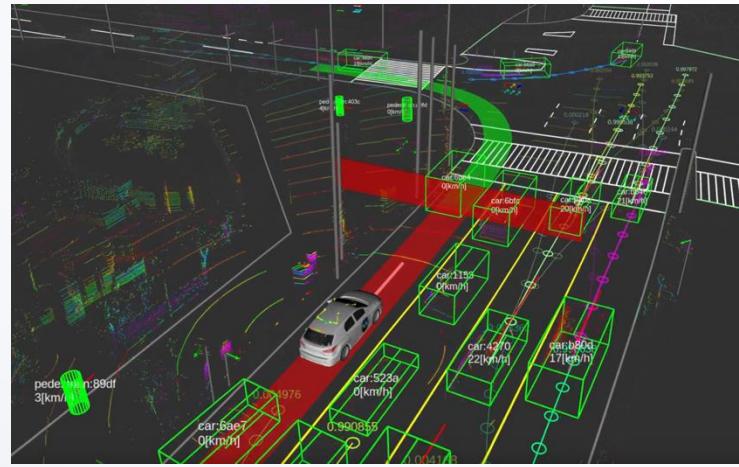
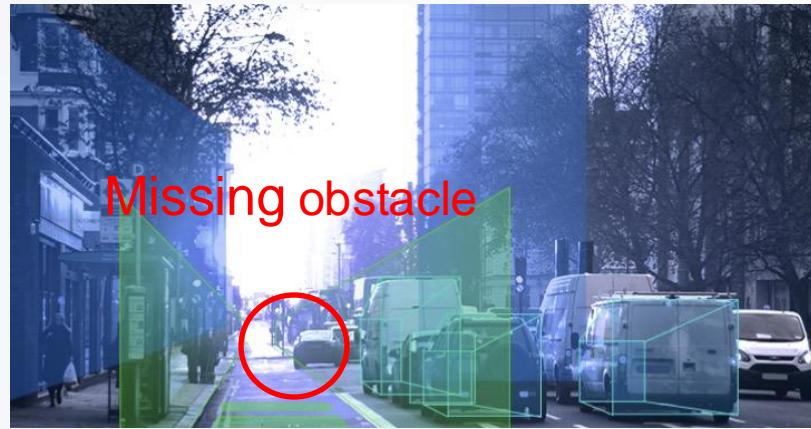


# Background: Multi-Sensor Fusion Perception Systems



- **Perception Failures:** Missing obstacle, Ghost obstacle, ...

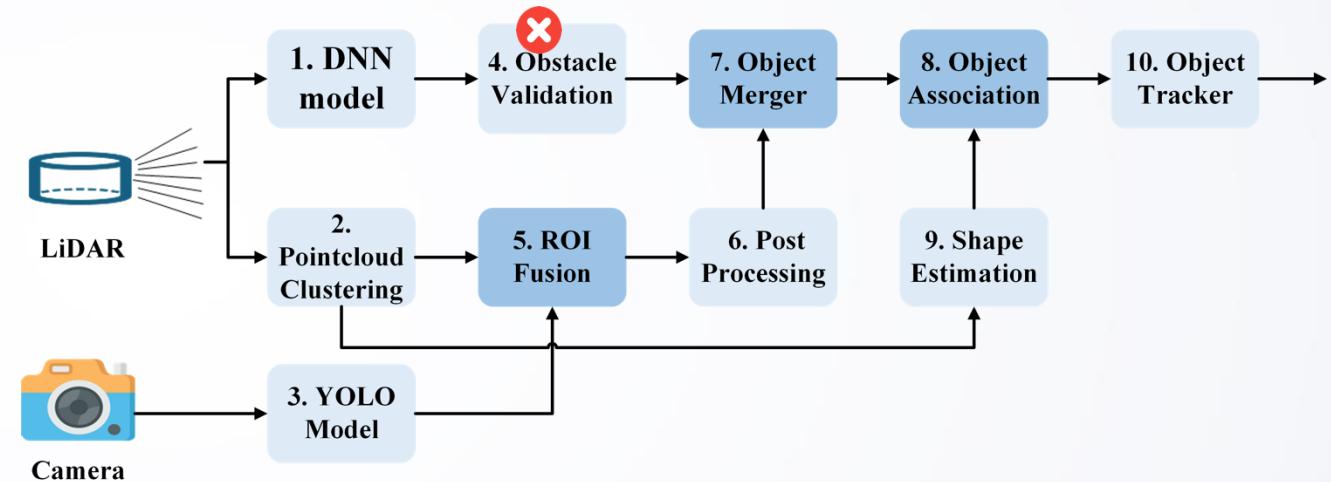
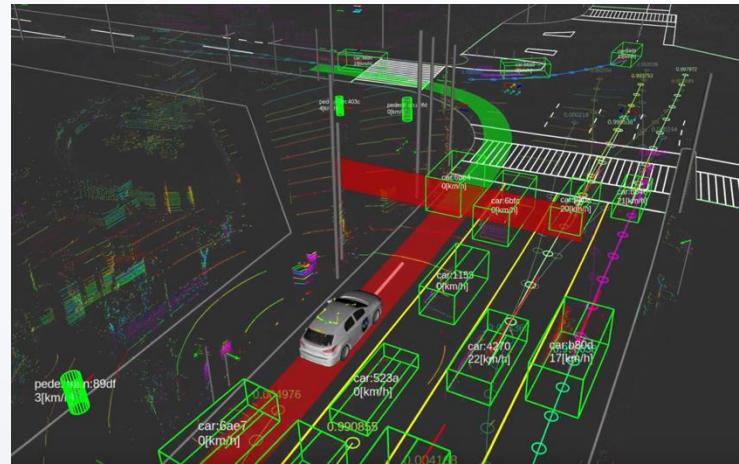
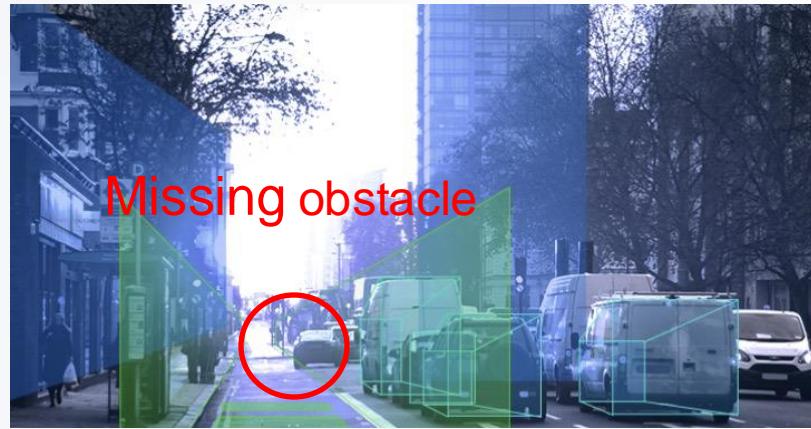
# Background: Multi-Sensor Fusion Perception Systems



- **Perception Failures:** Missing obstacle, Ghost obstacle, ...
- **Security Impact:** Risk of collision



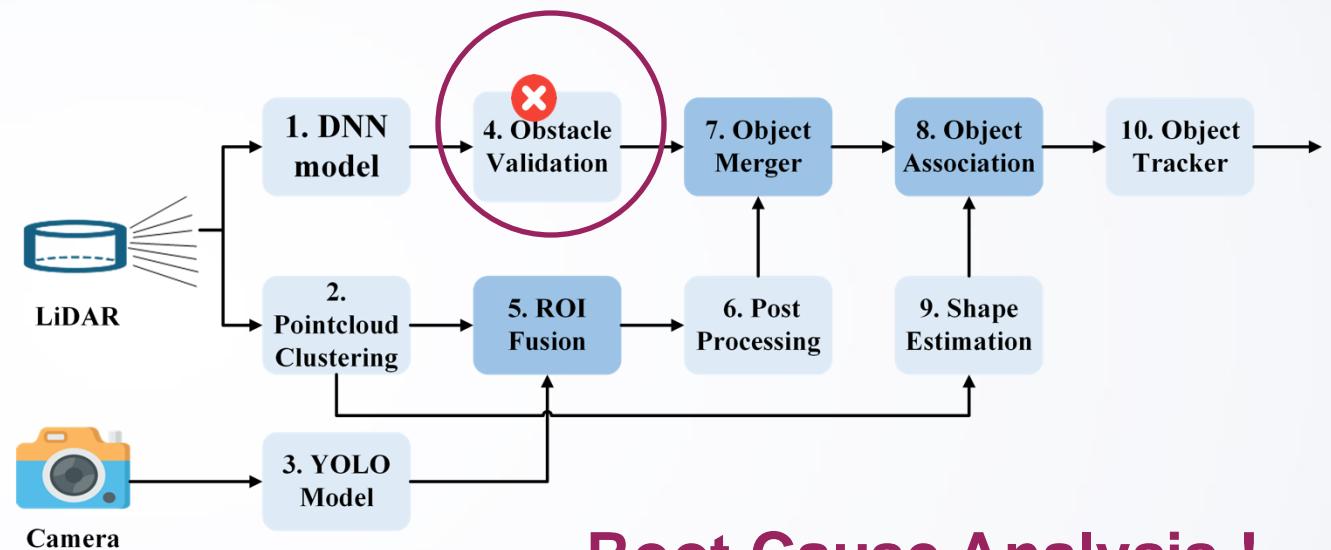
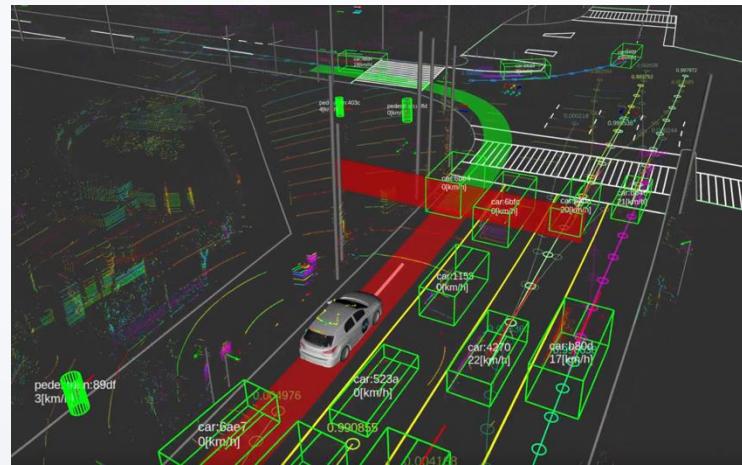
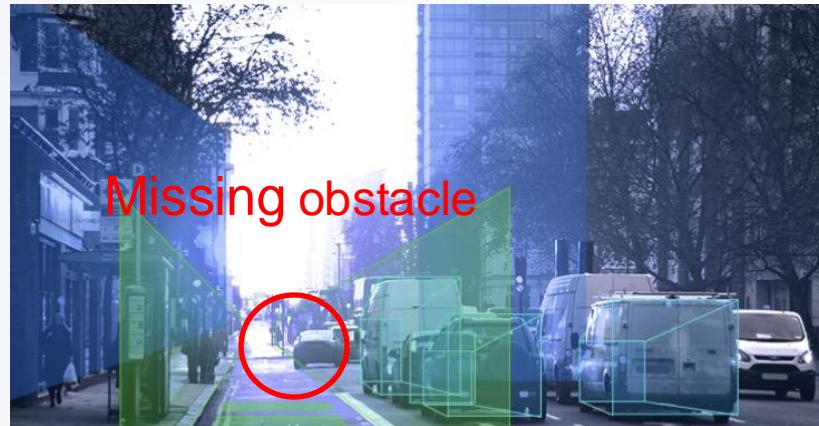
# Background: Multi-Sensor Fusion Perception Systems



- **Perception Failures:** Missing obstacle, Ghost obstacle, ...
- **Security Impact:** Risk of collision, Improper driving decisions



# Background: Multi-Sensor Fusion Perception Systems



Root Cause Analysis !



- **Perception Failures:** Missing obstacle, Ghost obstacle, ...
- **Security Impact:** Risk of collision, Improper driving decisions



# Existing work and Limitation

**Root Cause Analysis**

**Limitations**

# Existing work and Limitation

## Root Cause Analysis

Microservices

RCD(NIPS' 22), CIRCA (KDD' 22 )

## Limitations

# Existing work and Limitation

## Root Cause Analysis

Microservices

RCD(NIPS' 22), CIRCA (KDD' 22 )

## Limitations



Singular Modality of Fault Indicators

# Existing work and Limitation

## Root Cause Analysis

**Microservices**

RCD(NIPS' 22), CIRCA (KDD' 22 )



## Limitations

**Singular Modality of Fault Indicators**

**Autonomous Driving System**

ACAV(ICSE' 24), Care (RA-L' 23)

# Existing work and Limitation

## Root Cause Analysis

**Microservices**

RCD(NIPS' 22), CIRCA (KDD' 22 )

## Limitations



**Singular Modality of Fault Indicators**

**Autonomous Driving System**

ACAV(ICSE' 24), Care (RA-L' 23)



**Simple Module Dependencies**

# Existing work and Limitation

## Root Cause Analysis

**Microservices**

RCD(NIPS' 22), CIRCA (KDD' 22 )

**Autonomous Driving System**

ACAV(ICSE' 24), Care (RA-L' 23)

**Causality Testing**

AID(SIGMOD' 20), CART(TOSEM'24)

## Limitations



**Singular Modality of Fault Indicators**



**Simple Module Dependencies**



# Existing work and Limitation

## Root Cause Analysis

**Microservices**

RCD(NIPS' 22), CIRCA (KDD' 22 )

**Autonomous Driving System**

ACAV(ICSE' 24), Care (RA-L' 23)

**Causality Testing**

AID(SIGMOD' 20), CART(TOSEM'24)

## Limitations



**Singular Modality of Fault Indicators**



**Simple Module Dependencies**

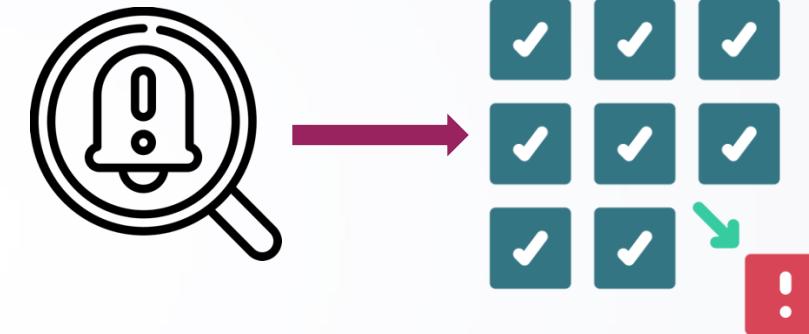


**Single Root Cause**

# Root Cause Analysis of Perception Failure

## Our Goals:

1. Locate Faulty Modules
2. Identify Fault Types



## With the following features:

- Multiple Concurrent Root Causes
- Highly Efficient
- Fully Automated
- Generality

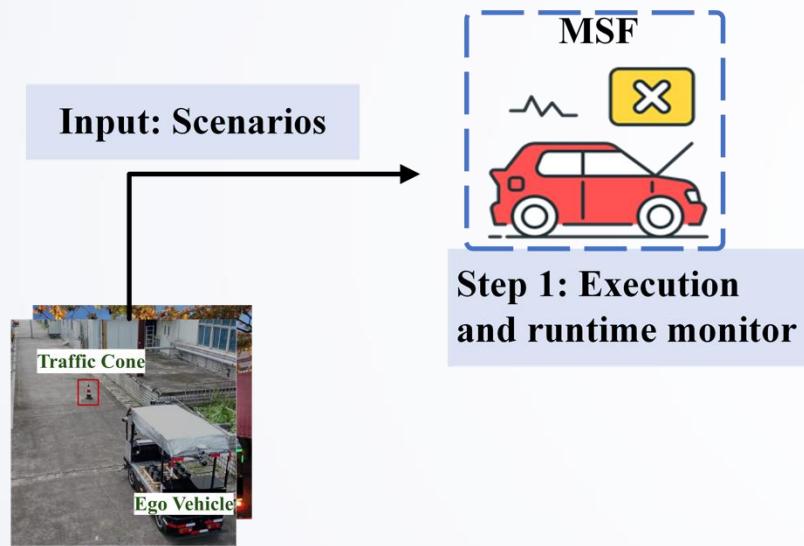


# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis

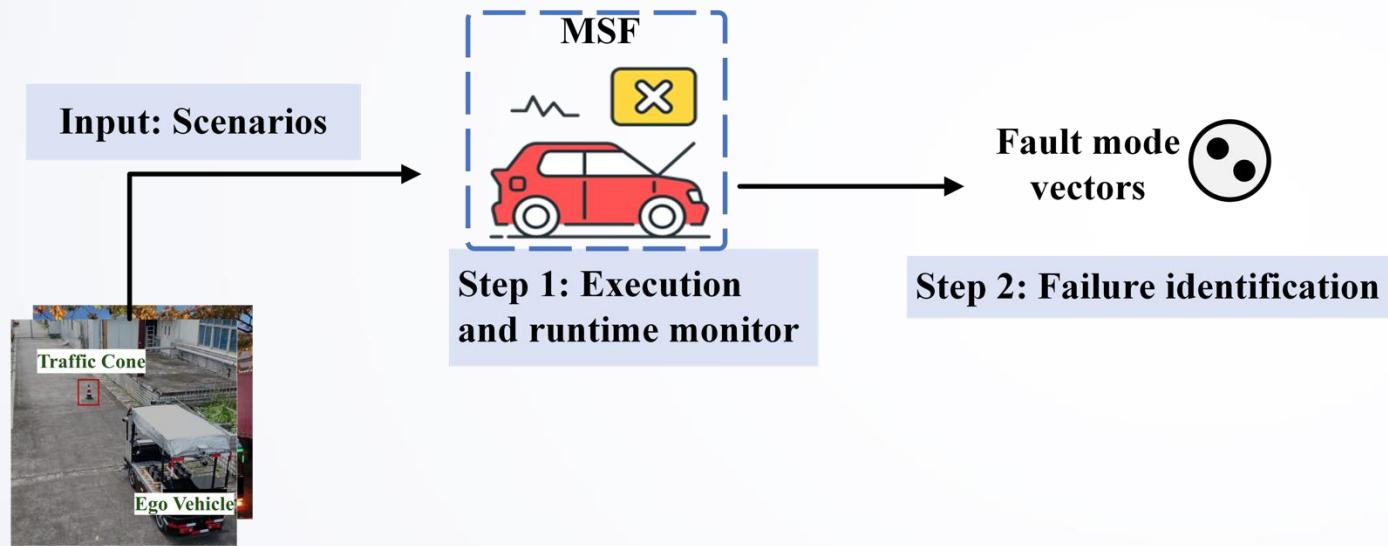
Input: Scenarios



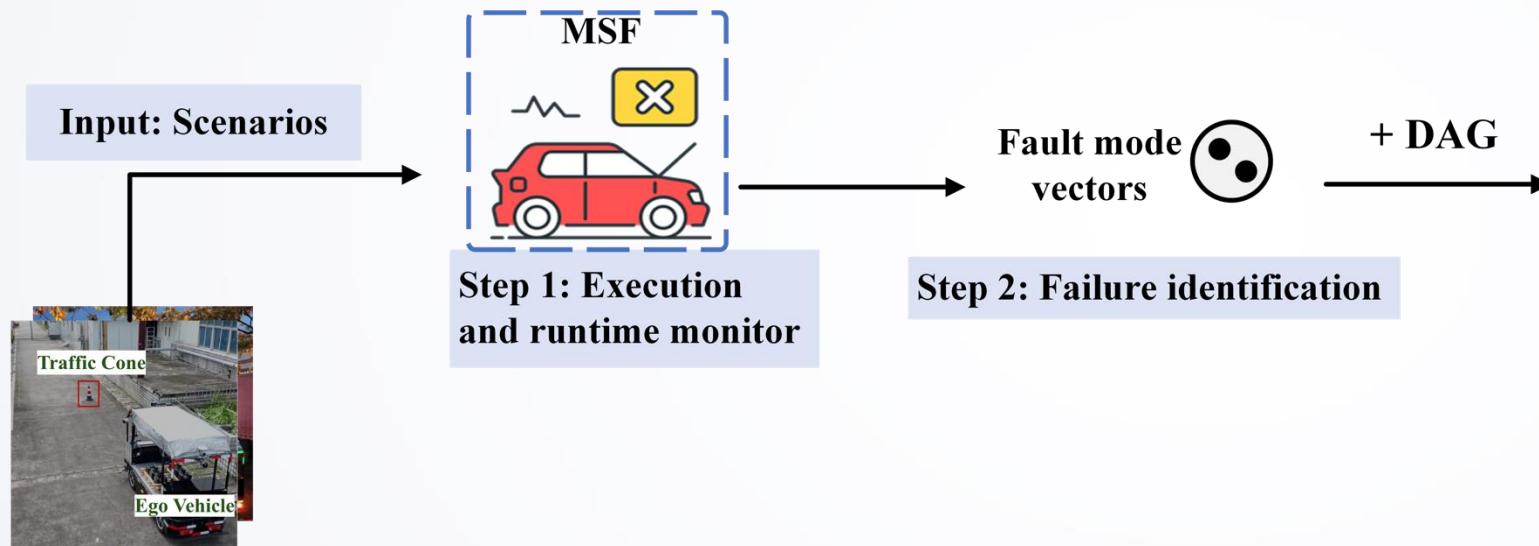
# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



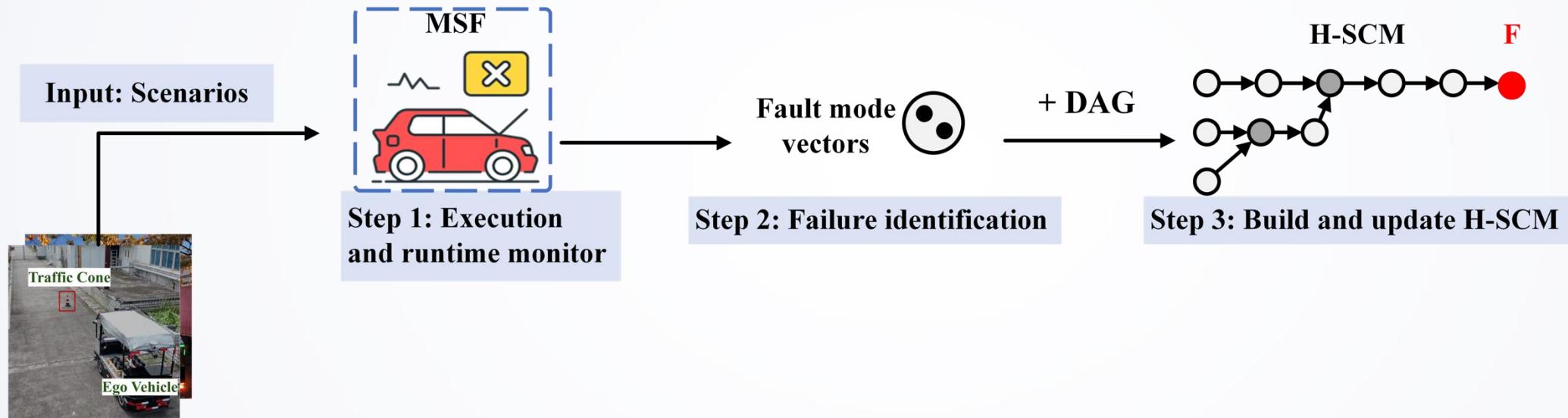
# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



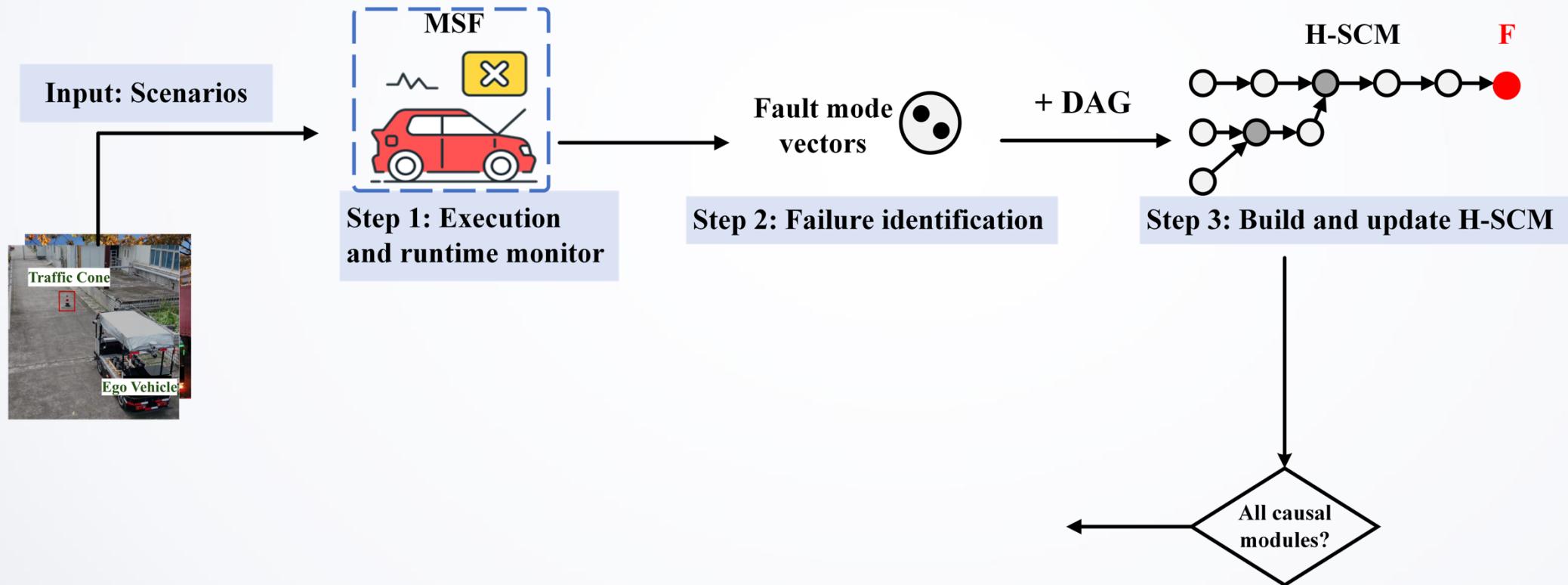
# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



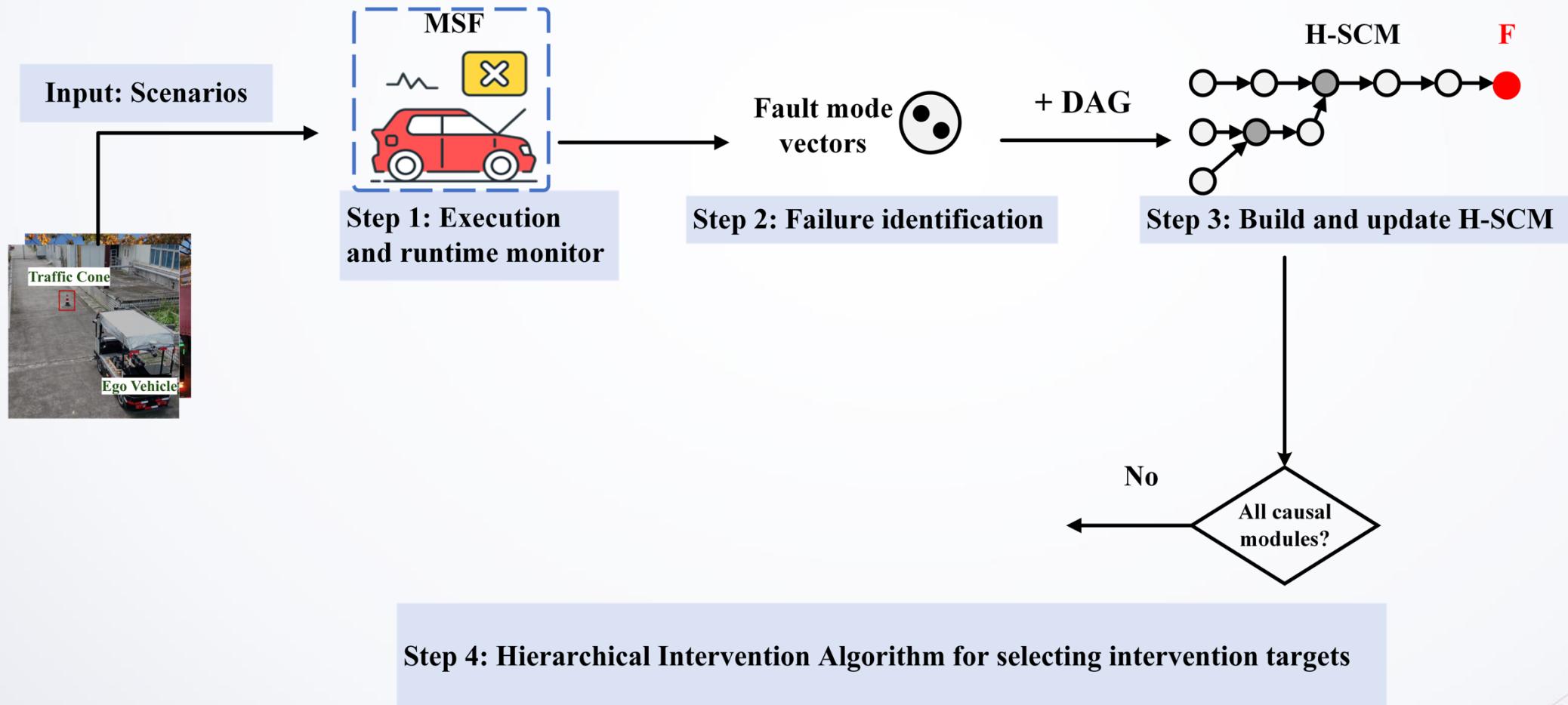
# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



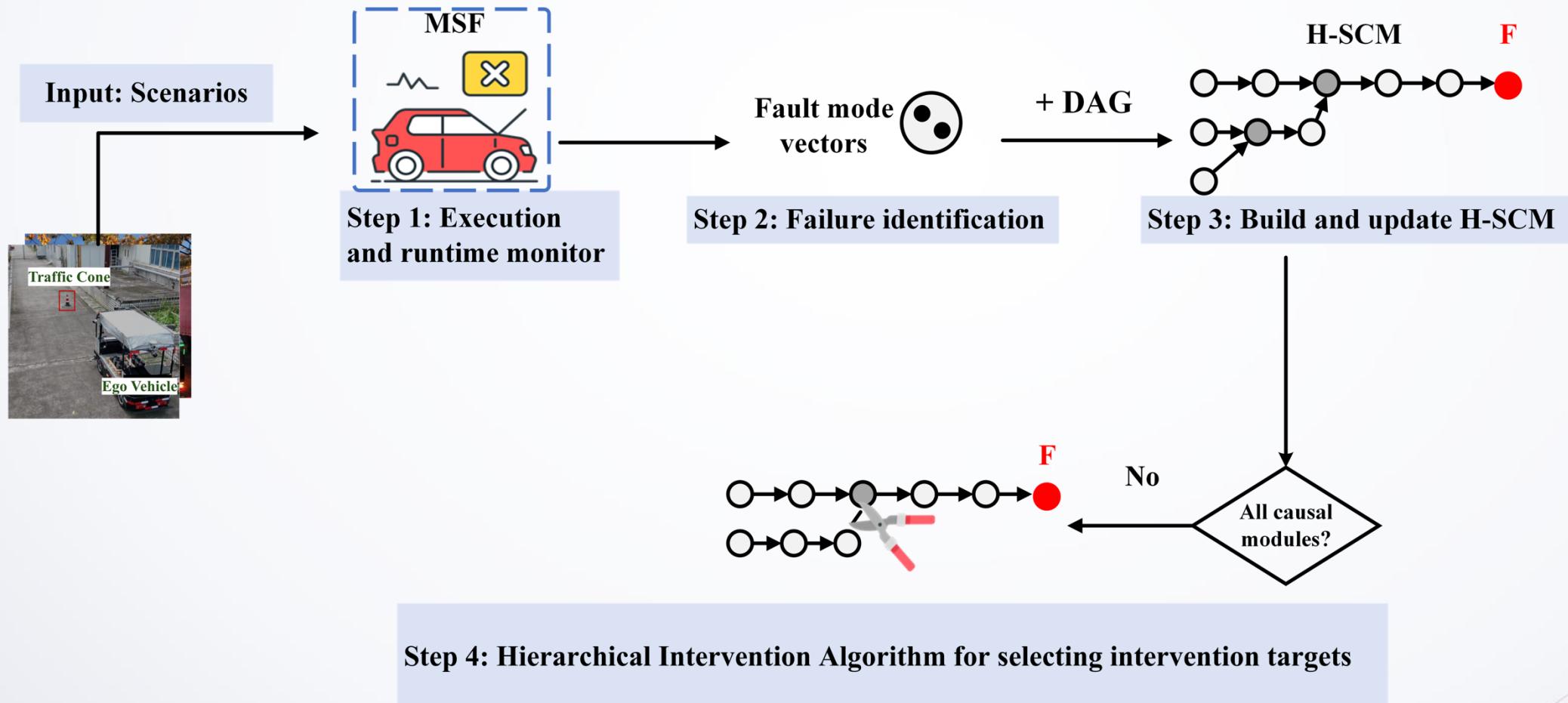
# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



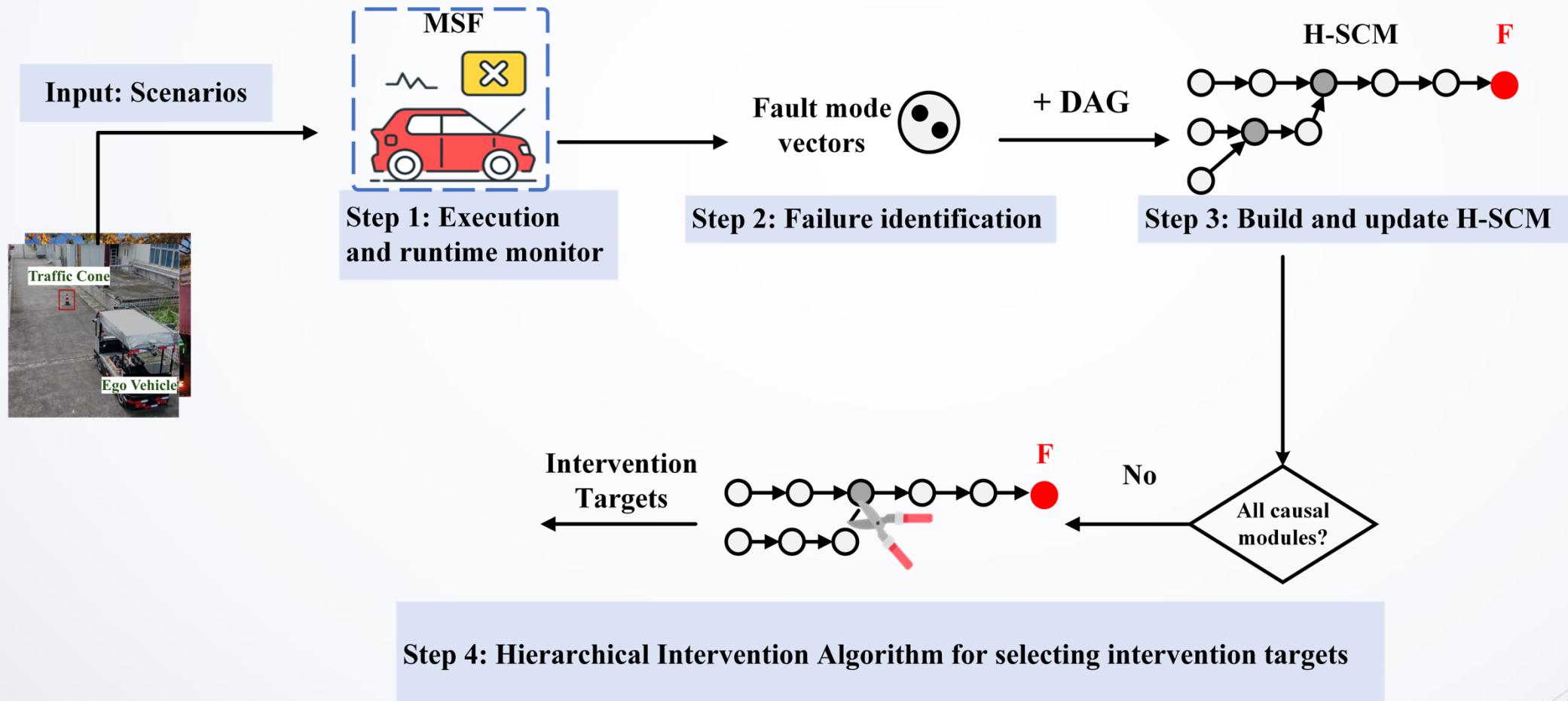
# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



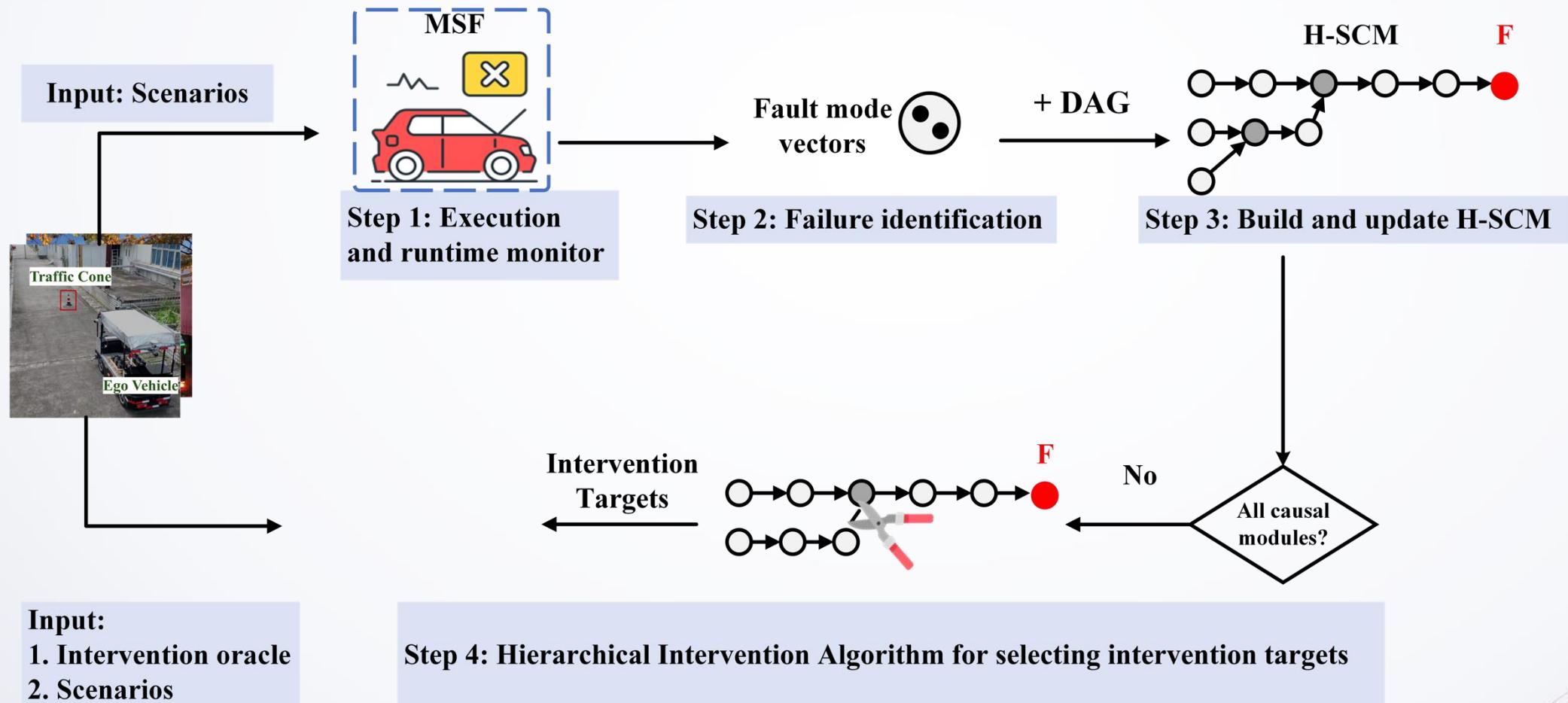
# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



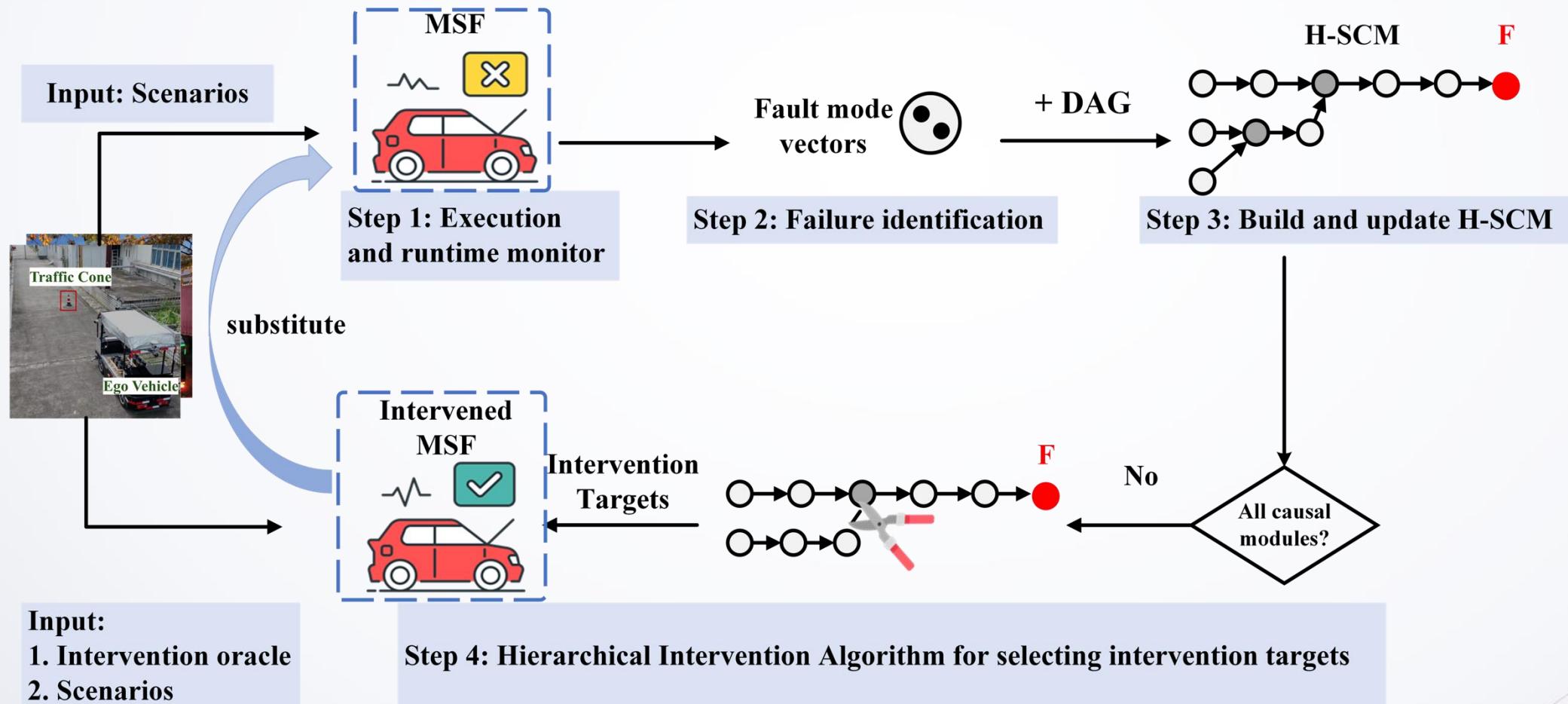
# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis

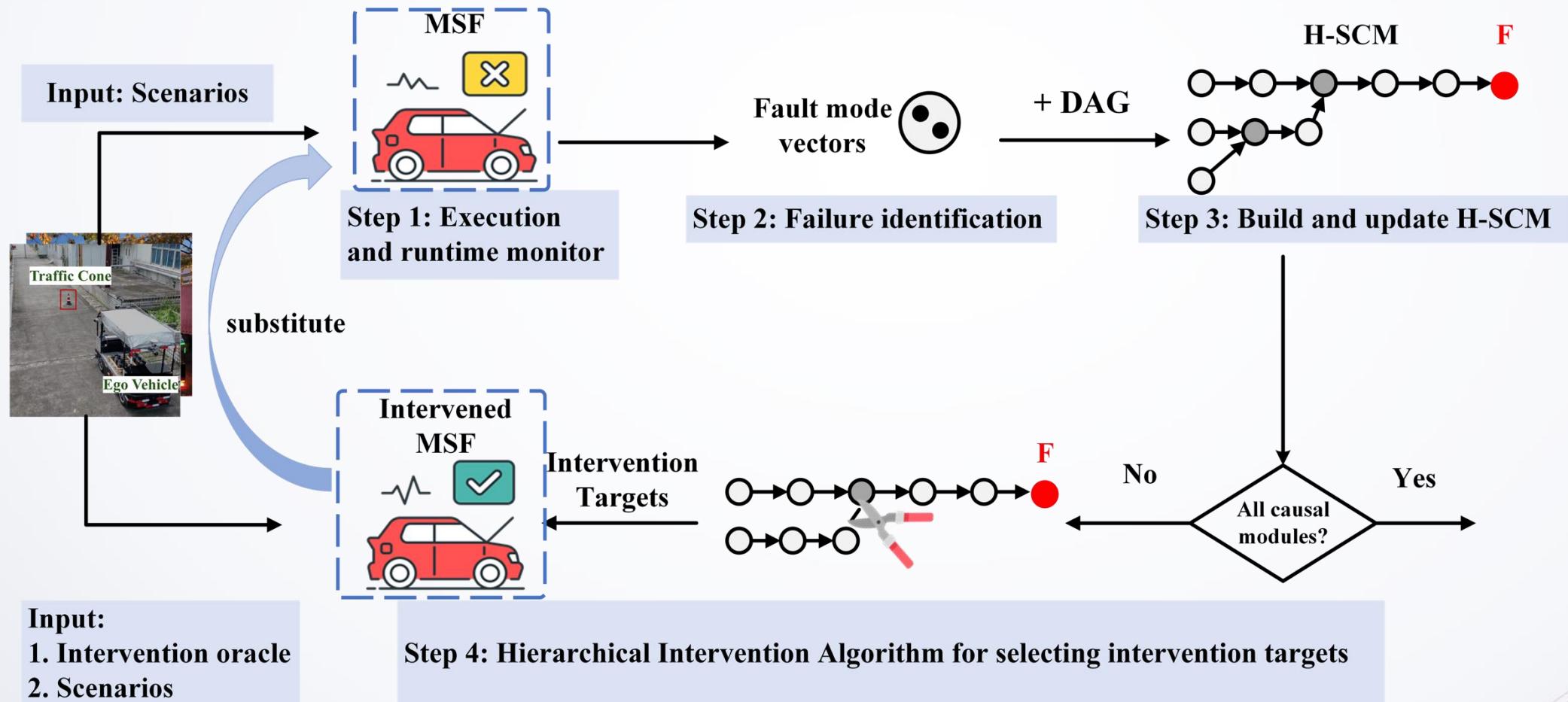


# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



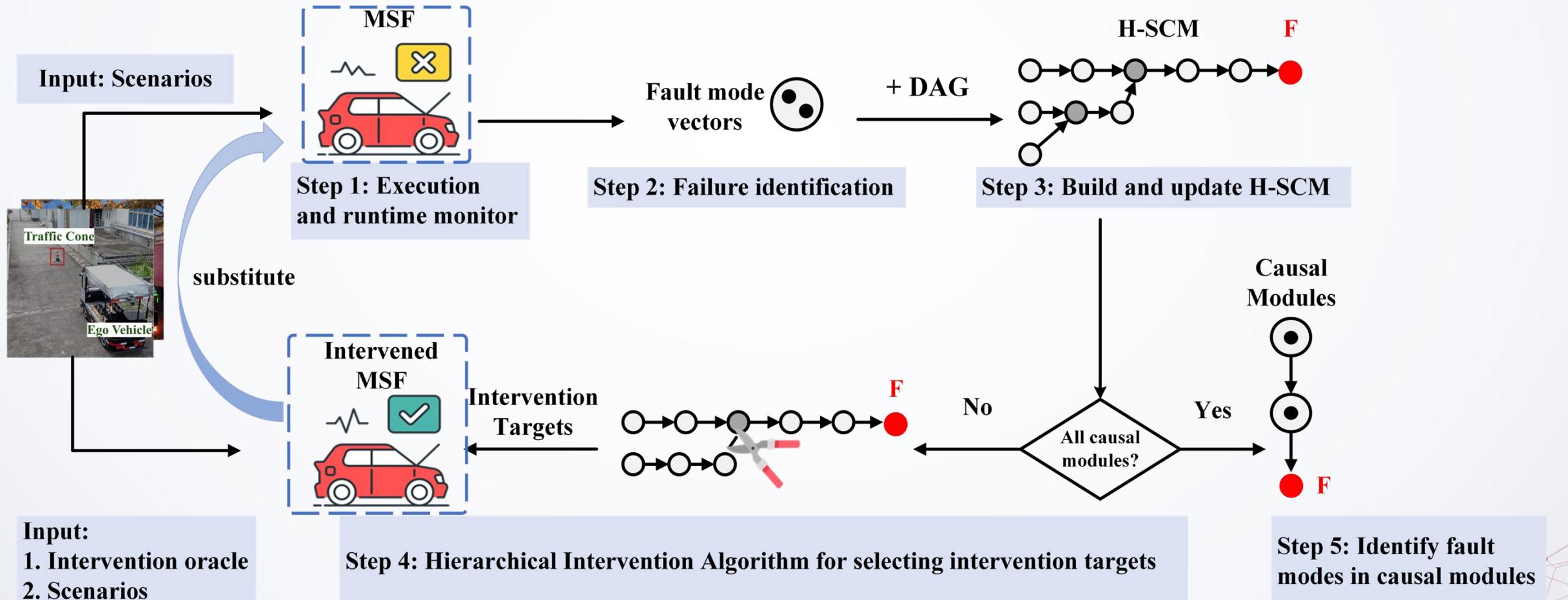
**Generality: Cross-platform Compatible**

# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



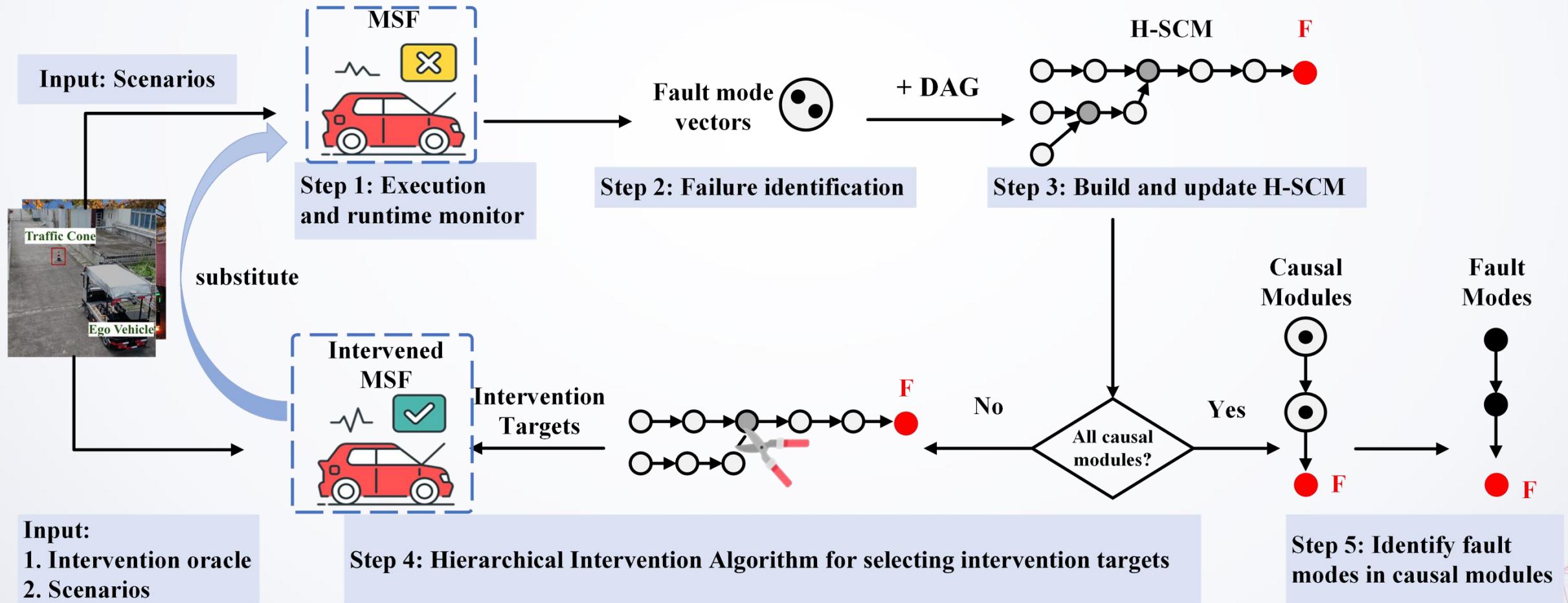
**Generality: Cross-platform Compatible**

# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



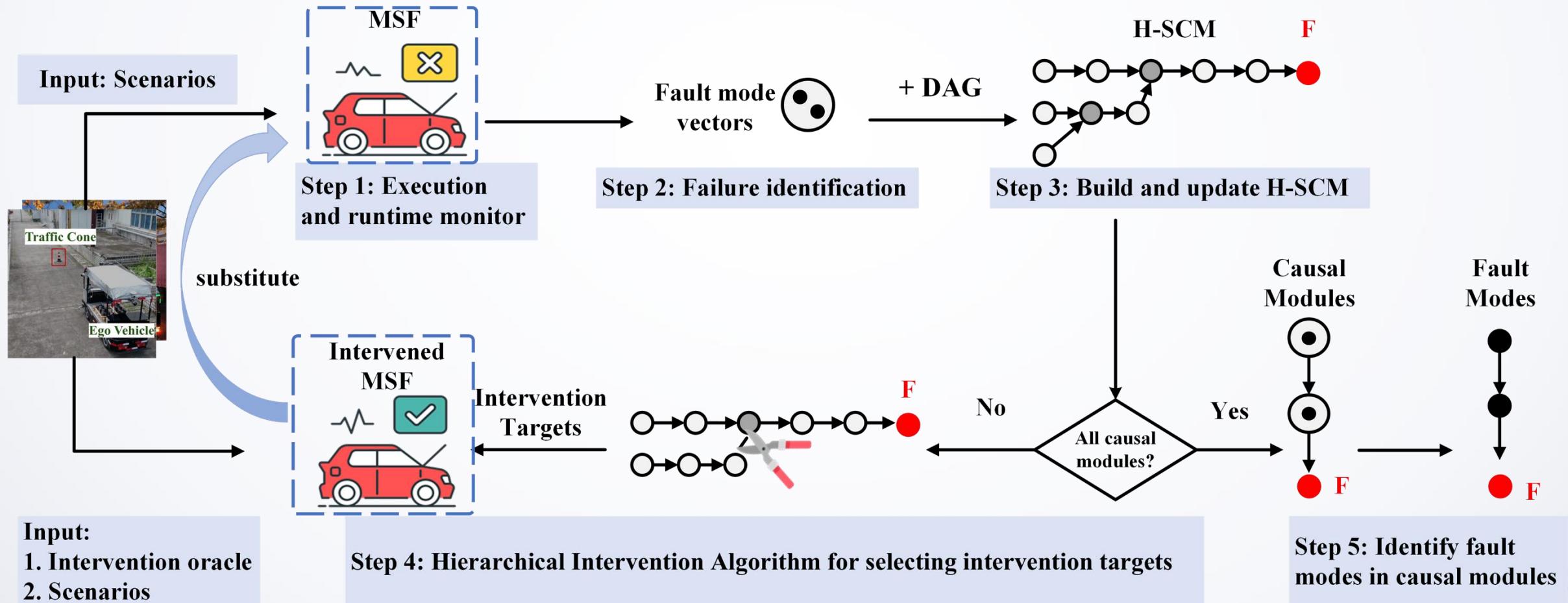
**Generality: Cross-platform Compatible**

# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



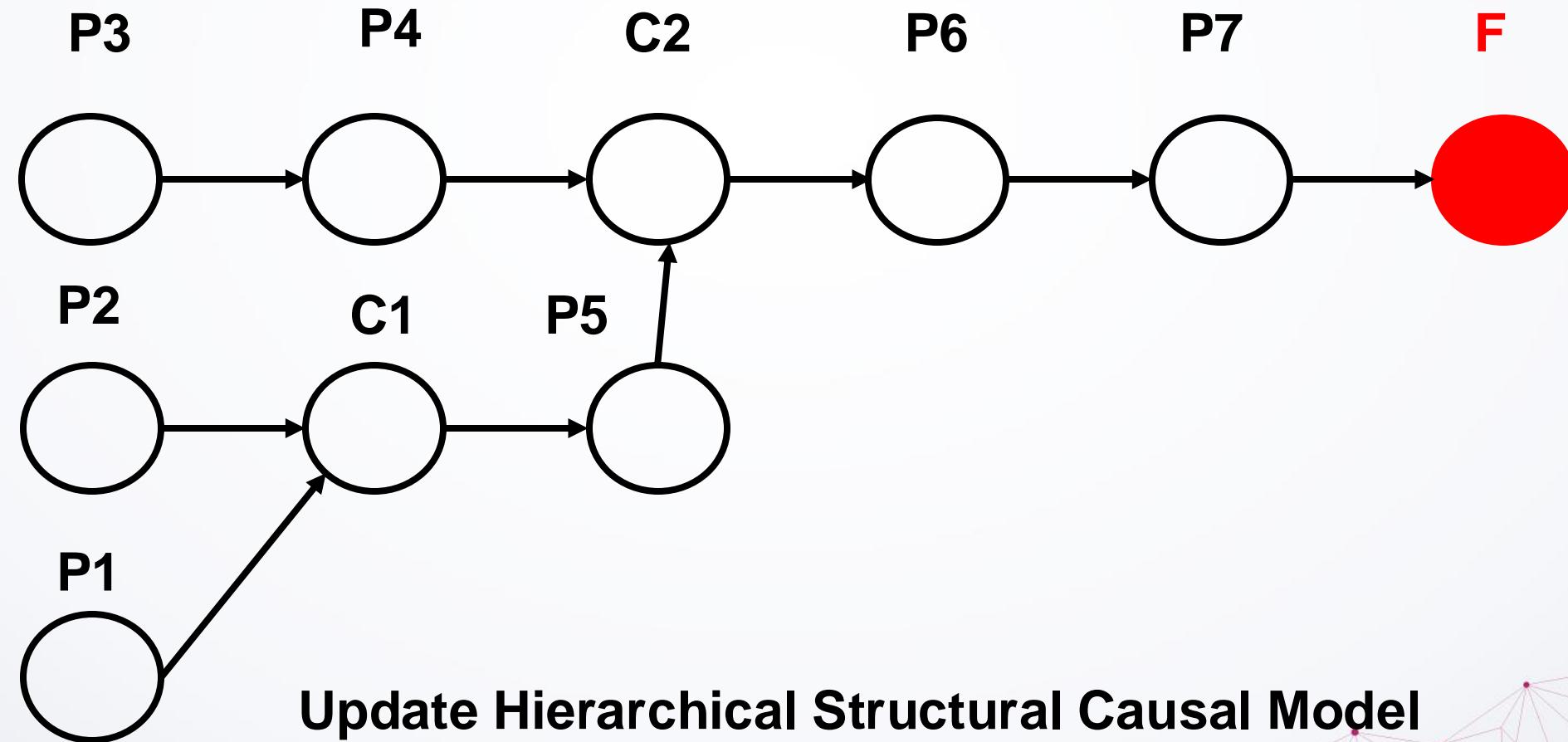
**Generality: Cross-platform Compatible**

# IRCA: Interventional Root Cause Analysis



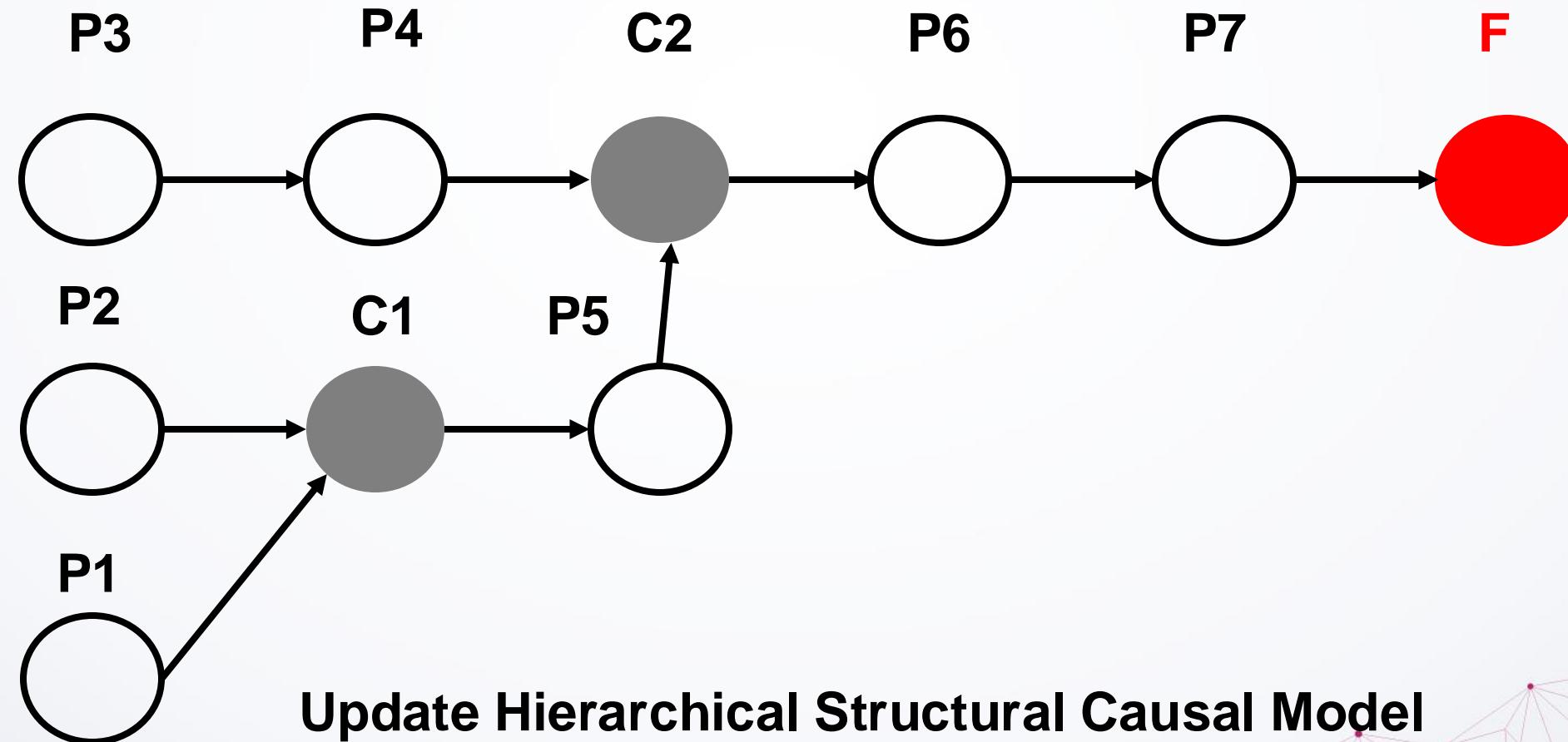
# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

- Stage 1- Branch Pruning



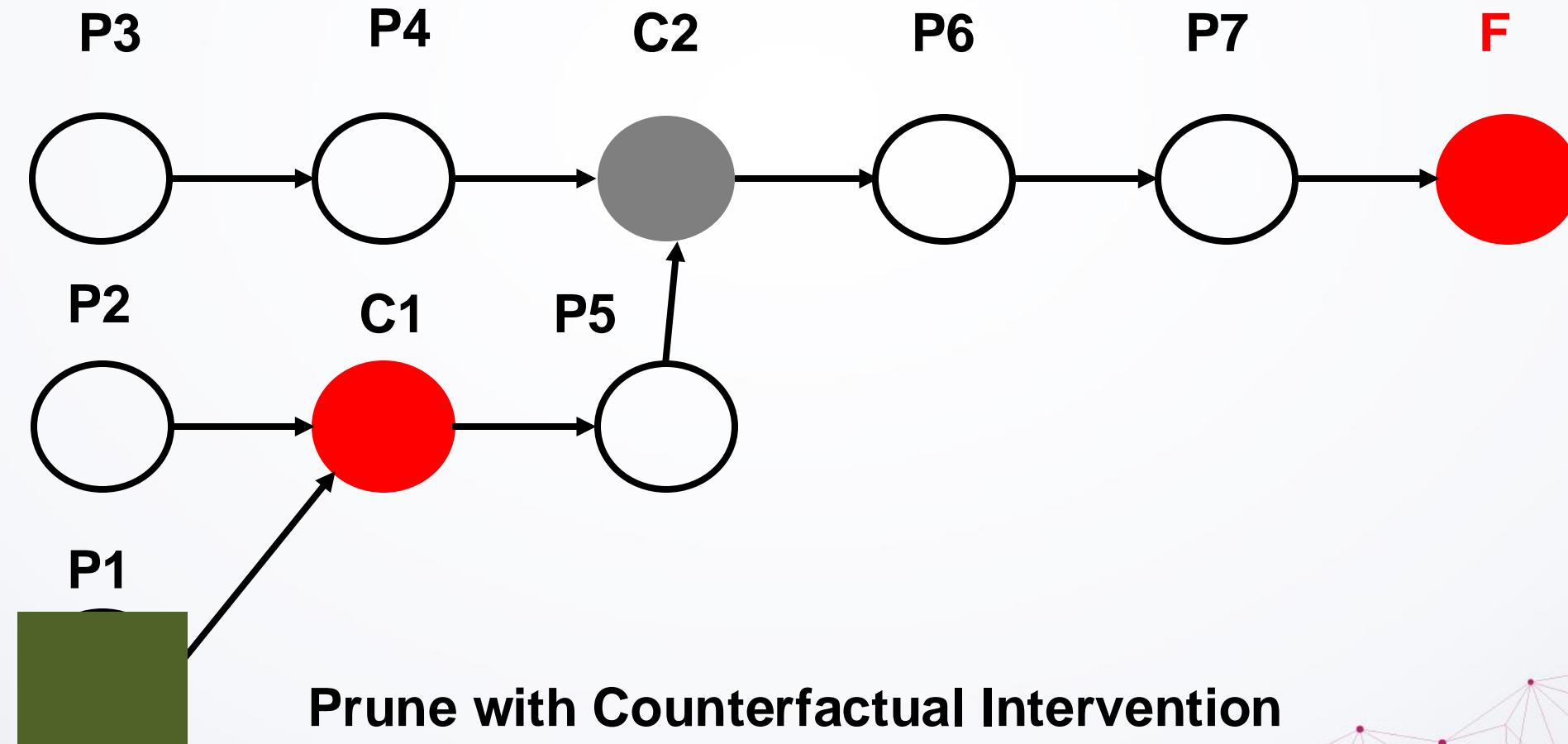
# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

- Stage 1- Branch Pruning



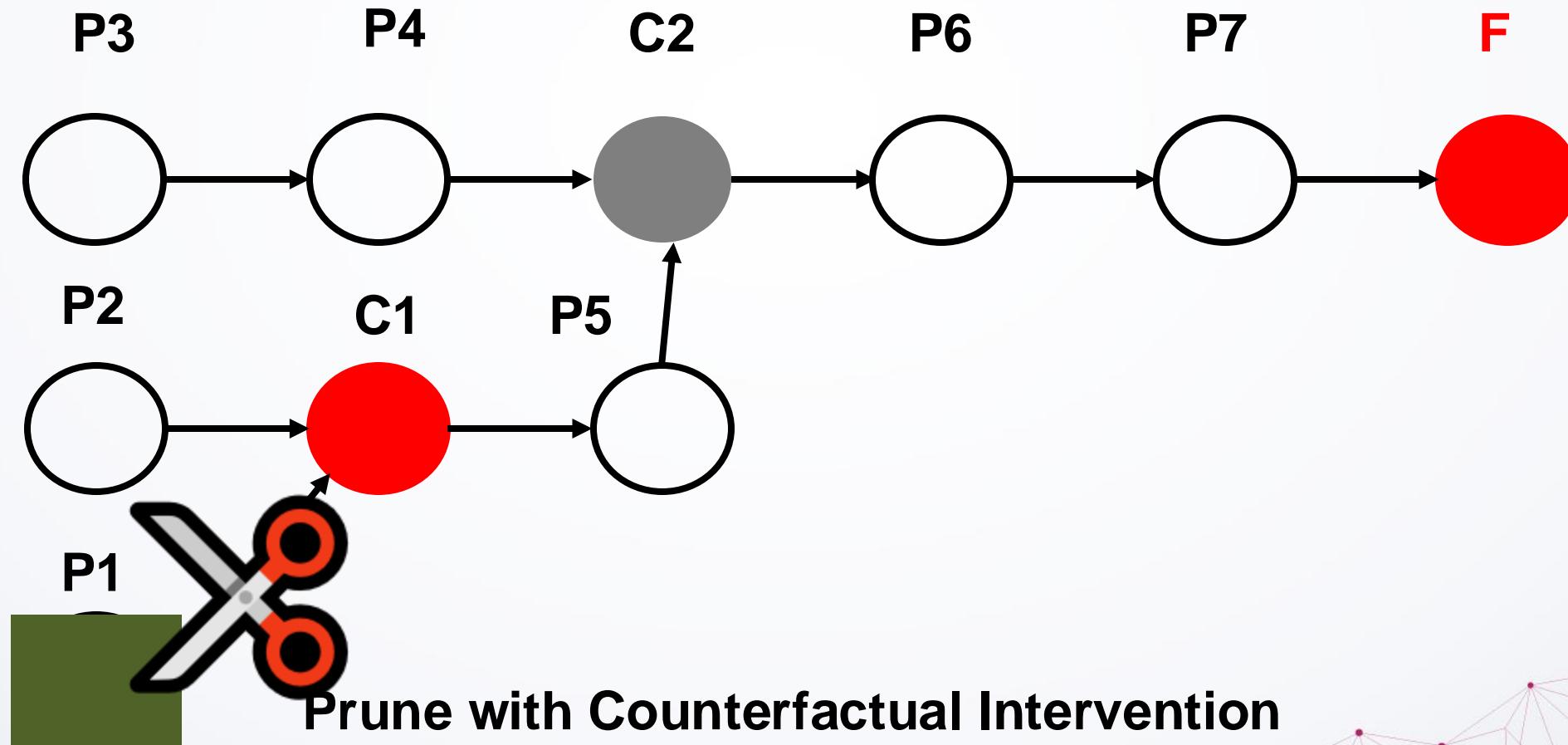
# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

- Stage 1- Branch Pruning



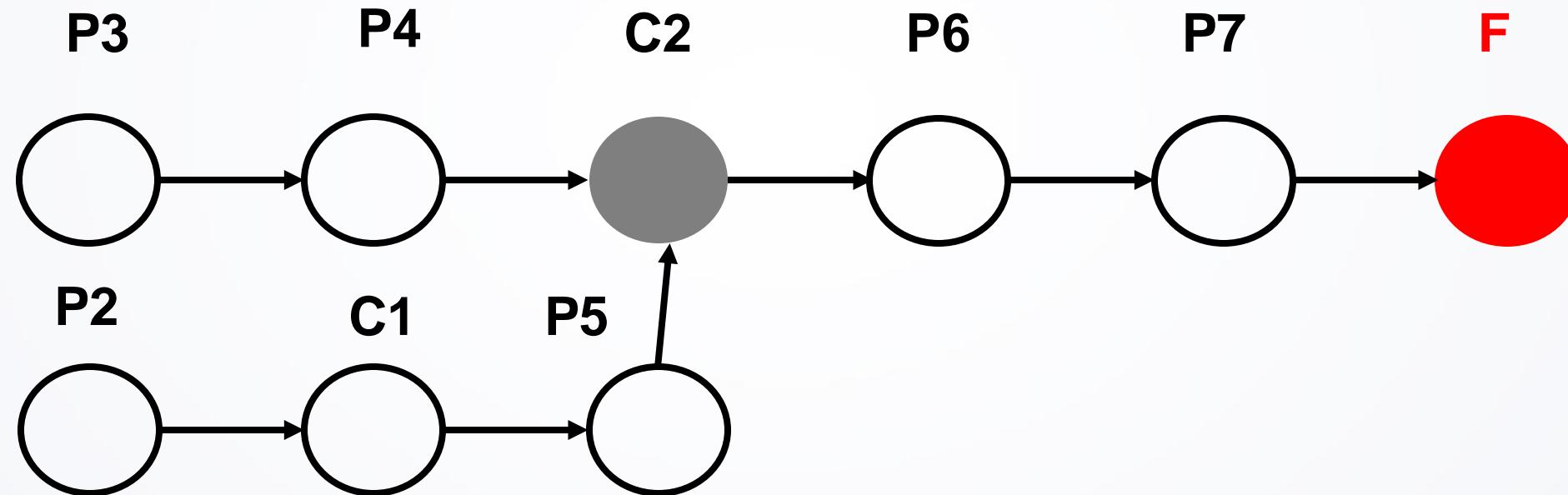
# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

- Stage 1- Branch Pruning



# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

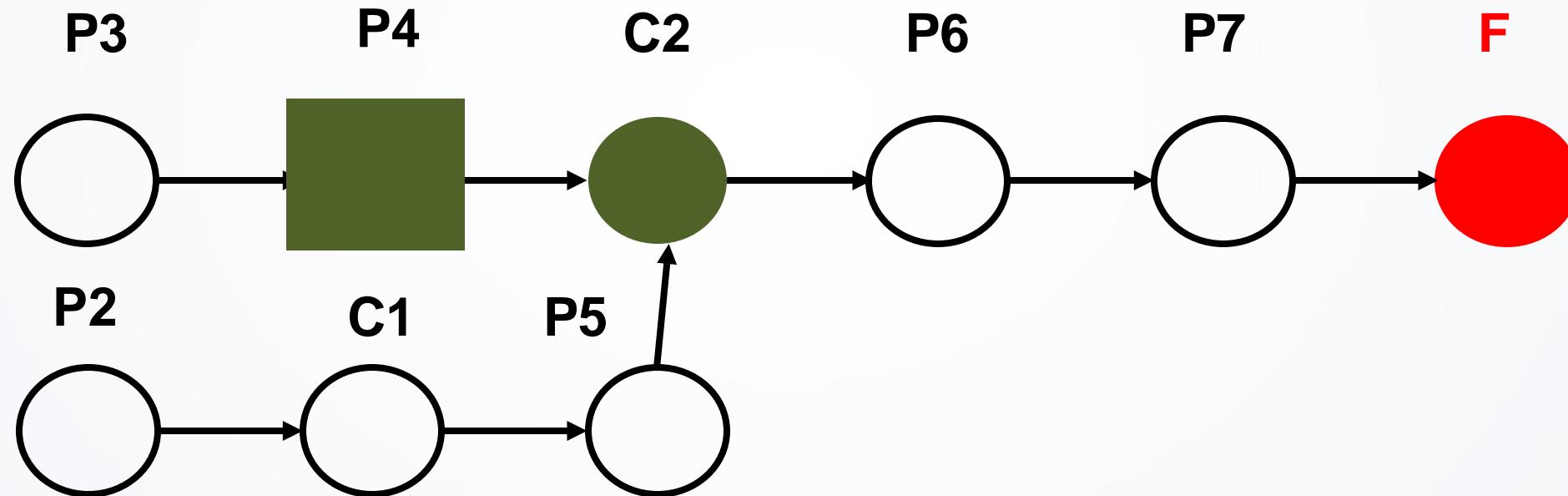
- Stage 1- Branch Pruning



Prune with Counterfactual Intervention

# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

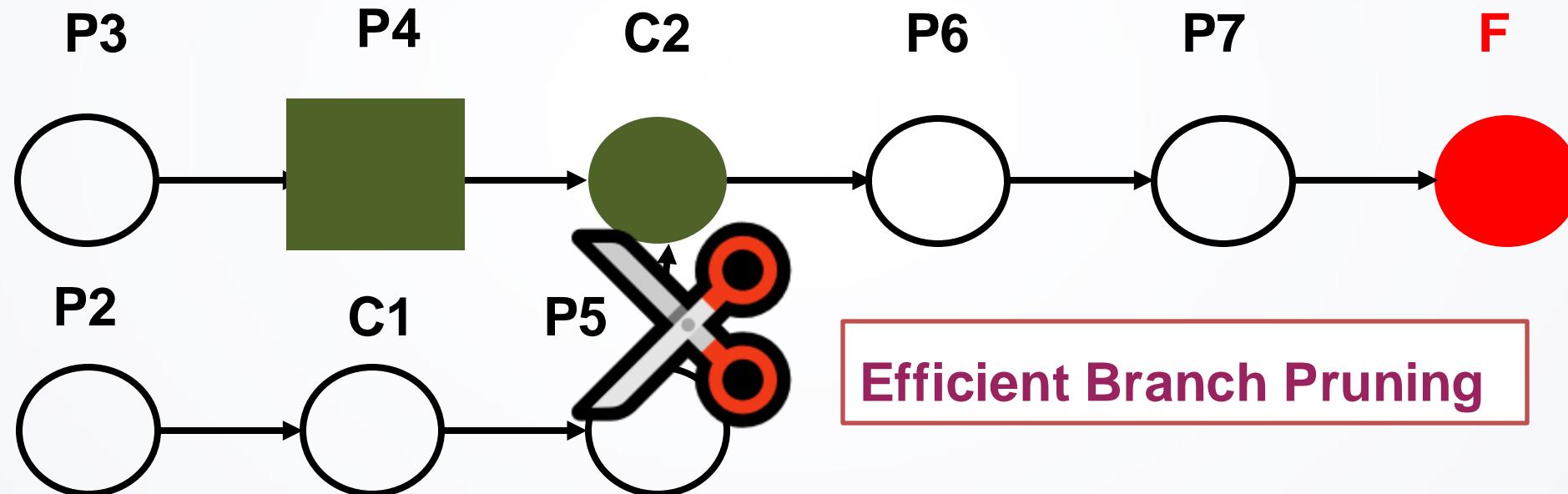
- Stage 1- Branch Pruning



Prune with Counterfactual Intervention

# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

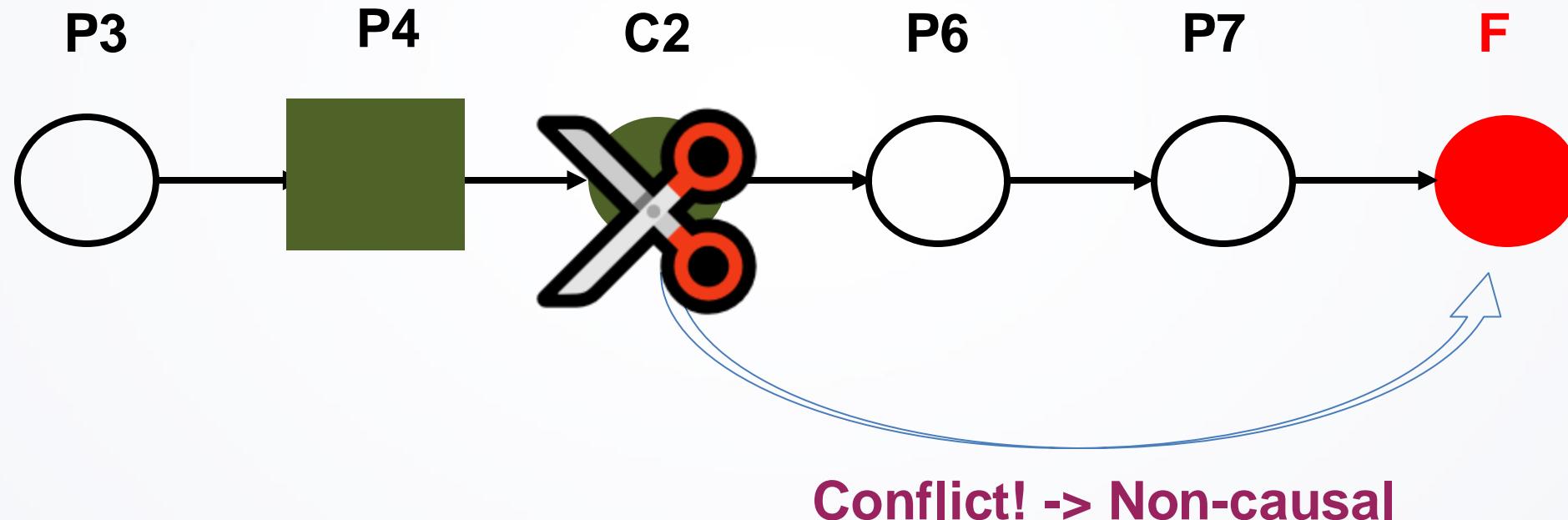
- Stage 1- Branch Pruning



Prune with Counterfactual Intervention

# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

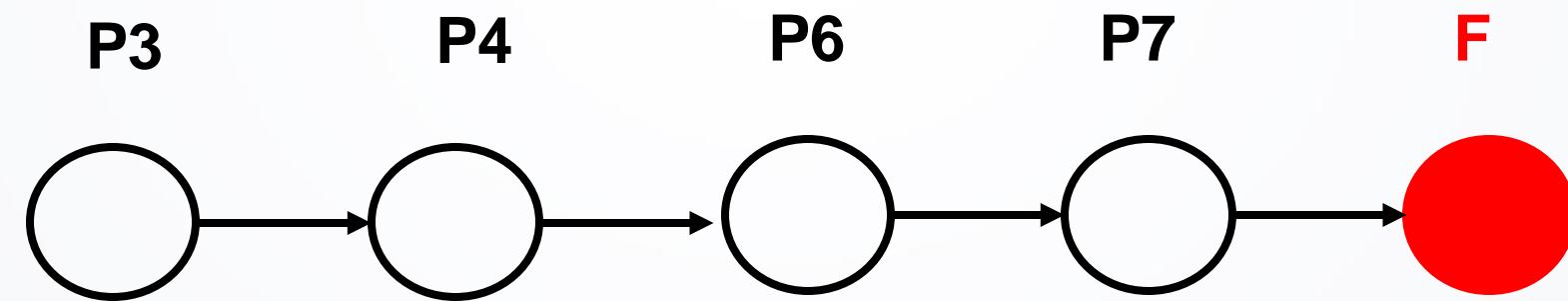
- Stage 1- Branch Pruning



Prune with Counterfactual Intervention

# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

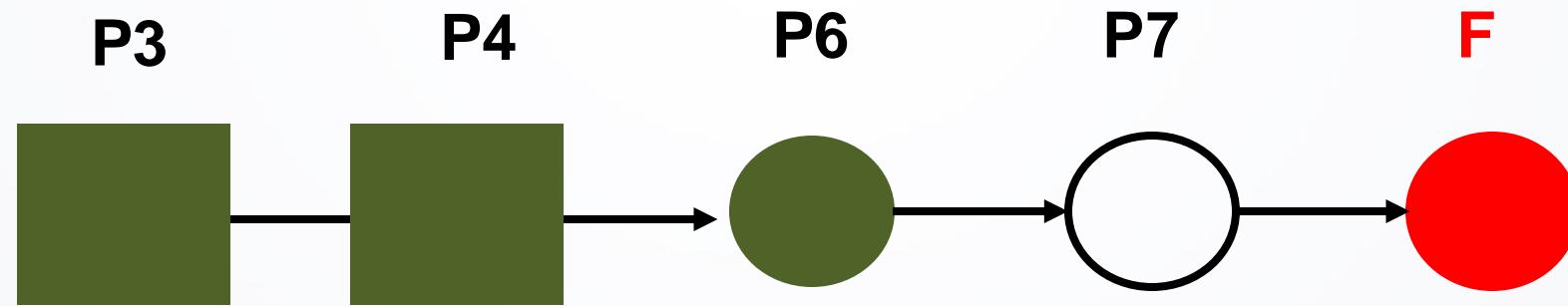
- Stage 2- Node Pruning



Prune with Counterfactual Intervention

# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

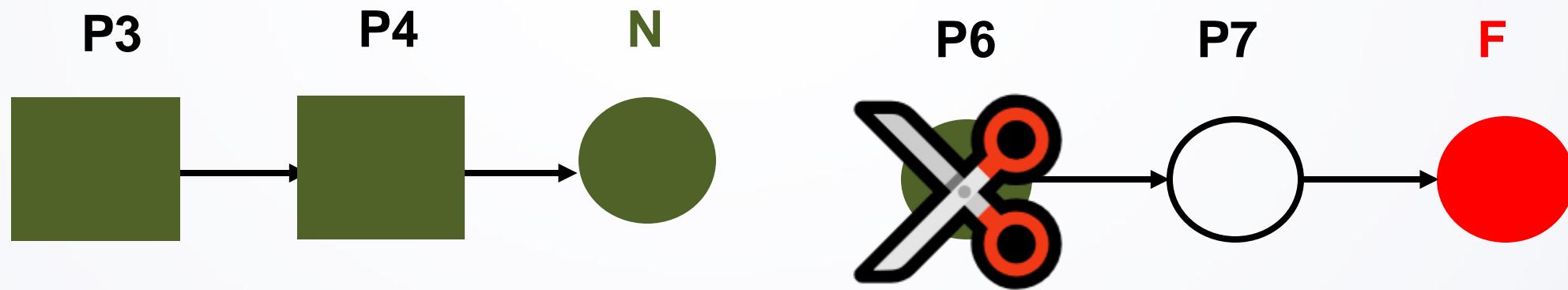
- Stage 2- Node Pruning



**Prune with Counterfactual Intervention**

# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

- Stage 2- Node Pruning



Track Multiple Concurrent Root Causes

# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

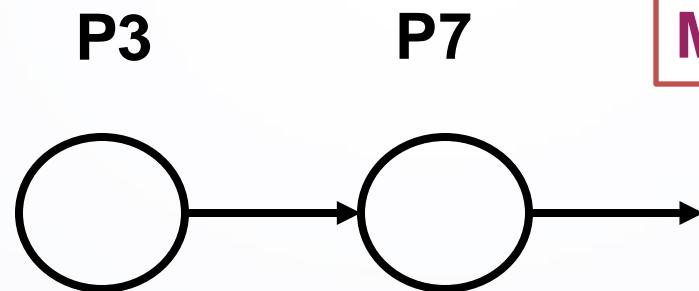
- Stage 2- Node Pruning



Track Multiple Concurrent Root Causes

# Hierarchical Intervention Algorithm

- Stage 2- Node Pruning

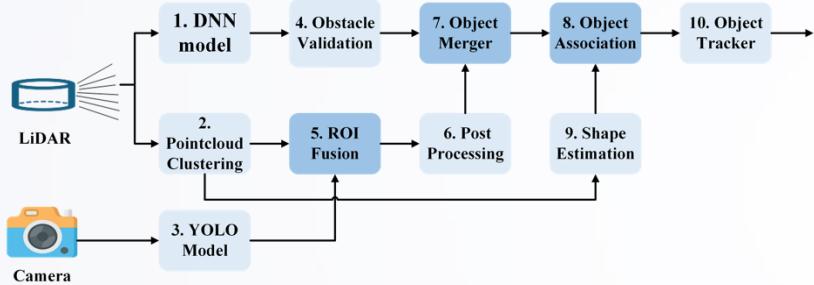


**Multiple Causal Modules**

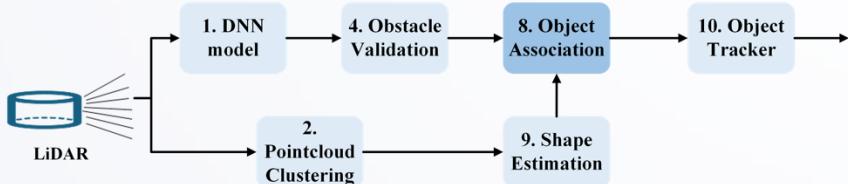
Track **Multiple Concurrent Root Causes**

# Evaluation Experiments

## MSF Configurations



Camera-LiDAR-fusion pipeline



LiDAR-fusion pipeline



Cluster pipeline

## Datasets

### 1. Real Fault Scenarios

- Github issues

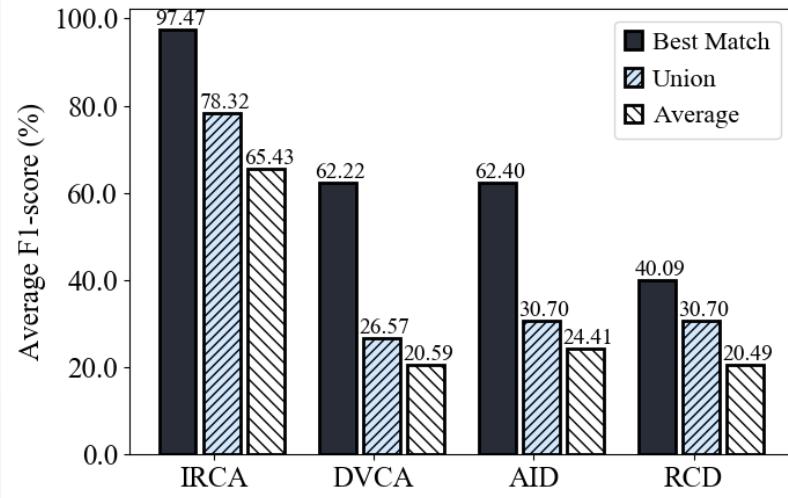
### 2. Synthetic Fault Scenarios

- Single fault
- Multiple faults

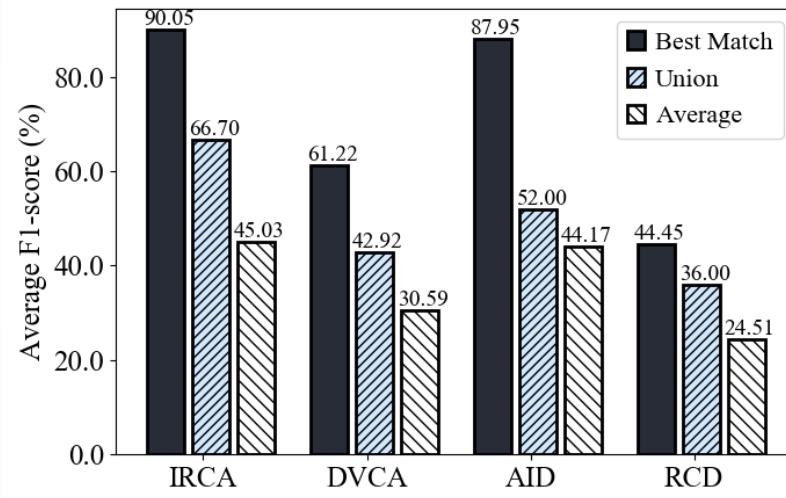
## Baselines

- Driving Violation Cause Analysis (DVCA)
- Adaptive Interventional Debugging (AID)
- Root Cause Discovery (RCD)

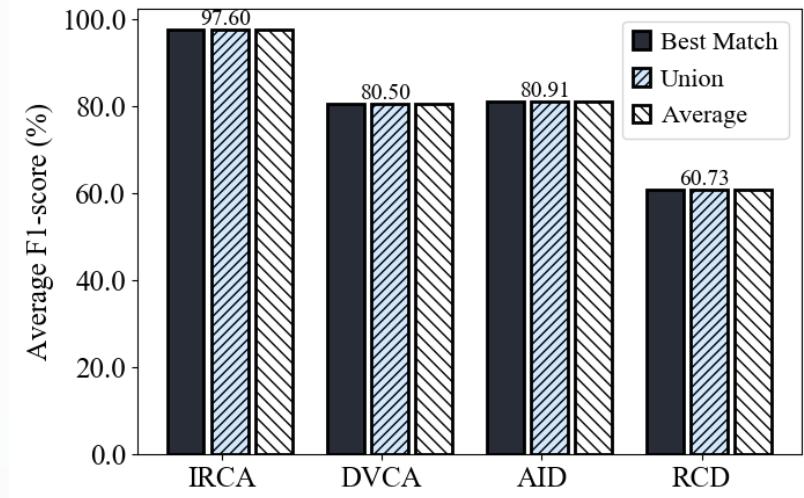
# Effectiveness on Real Fault Scenarios



Camera-LiDAR-fusion configuration

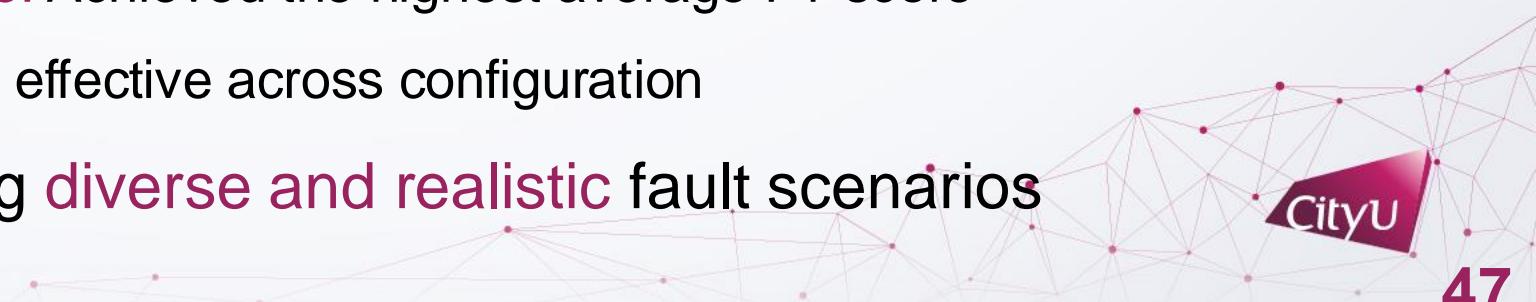


LiDAR-fusion configuration



Cluster configuration

- **Leading Performance:** Achieved the highest average F1-score
- **Robust:** Consistently effective across configuration
- **Excels in handling diverse and realistic fault scenarios**



# Effectiveness on Synthetic Fault Scenarios

- Single fault

TABLE IV: Evaluation results on the synthetic fault scenarios (single fault).

Group ID	IRCA (Ours)			DVCA			AID			RCD		
	P	R	F1	P	R	F1	P	R	F1	P	R	F1
8	<b>97.09</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>98.52</b>	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	67.35	66.00	66.67
9	96.70	88.00	<b>92.15</b>	77.00	77.00	77.00	<b>97.33</b>	73.00	83.43	90.14	<b>90.14</b>	90.14
10	99.01	<b>100.00</b>	<b>99.50</b>	95.00	95.00	95.00	<b>100.00</b>	97.00	98.48	92.13	82.00	86.77
11	95.10	<b>97.00</b>	96.04	95.00	95.00	95.00	<b>97.00</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>97.00</b>	92.93	92.00	92.46
12	95.24	<b>100.00</b>	97.56	98.00	98.00	98.00	<b>100.00</b>	96.00	<b>97.96</b>	91.92	91.00	91.46
13	93.46	<b>100.00</b>	<b>96.62</b>	90.00	90.00	90.00	<b>100.00</b>	93.00	96.37	<b>100.00</b>	91.00	95.29
Avg.	96.10	<b>97.50</b>	<b>96.73</b>	91.17	91.17	91.17	<b>97.72</b>	91.33	94.21	89.08	85.36	87.13

All methods effectively identify single faults

- Multiple faults

TABLE V: Evaluation results on the synthetic fault scenarios (multiple faults).

Group ID	IRCA (Ours)			DVCA			AID			RCD		
	P	R	F1	P	R	F1	P	R	F1	P	R	F1
14	88.53	<b>96.50</b>	<b>92.34</b>	91.00	45.50	60.67	<b>100.00</b>	50.00	66.67	98.04	50.00	66.23
15	69.66	<b>81.50</b>	<b>75.12</b>	97.00	48.50	64.67	<b>100.00</b>	50.00	66.67	83.87	65.00	73.24
16	96.04	<b>97.00</b>	<b>96.52</b>	<b>100.00</b>	50.00	66.67	76.00	38.00	50.67	50.52	48.50	49.49
17	98.34	<b>89.00</b>	<b>93.44</b>	90.00	45.00	60.00	<b>100.00</b>	50.00	66.67	46.51	30.00	36.47
18	94.29	<b>99.00</b>	<b>96.59</b>	71.00	35.50	47.33	<b>98.00</b>	49.00	65.33	78.67	59.00	67.43
19	79.17	<b>76.00</b>	<b>77.55</b>	67.00	33.50	44.67	<b>98.00</b>	49.00	65.33	96.08	49.00	64.90
Avg.	87.67	<b>89.83</b>	<b>88.59</b>	86.00	43.00	57.34	<b>95.33</b>	47.67	63.56	75.62	50.25	59.63

Our IRCA achieves the best recall and F1-score

➤ Highly effective in complex fault scenarios

# Efficiency Analysis

Method	Real Faults		Single Fault		Multiple Faults	
	Intervention	Time	Intervention	Time	Intervention	Time
IRCA	2.99	4.67	<b>0.96</b>	<b>1.58</b>	2.51	3.91
DVCA	<b>2.29</b>	<b>3.60</b>	1.03	1.62	<b>1.79</b>	<b>2.72</b>
AID	3.34	5.07	1.03	1.62	1.84	2.79
RCD	3.03	4.82	1.04	1.64	2.55	3.97

- **Real Faults:** Marginally longer execution time, but provides more comprehensive diagnostics
- **Single Fault:** Requires the fewest interventions
- **Multiple Faults:** Modest increase in execution time

➤ **Swift** in identifying causal modules

# Case Study: GitHub Issues

Simulation view



ADS view



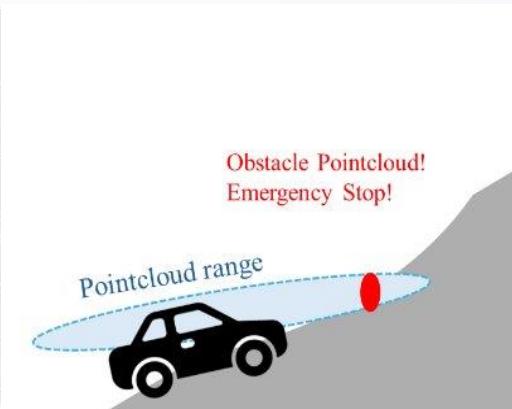
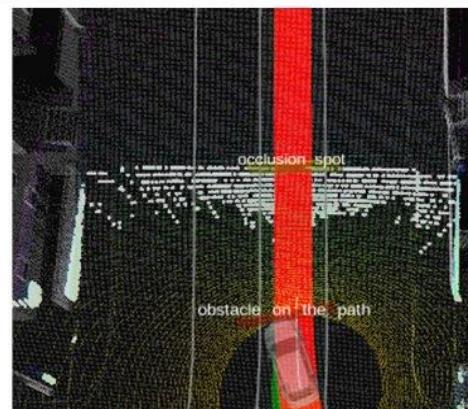
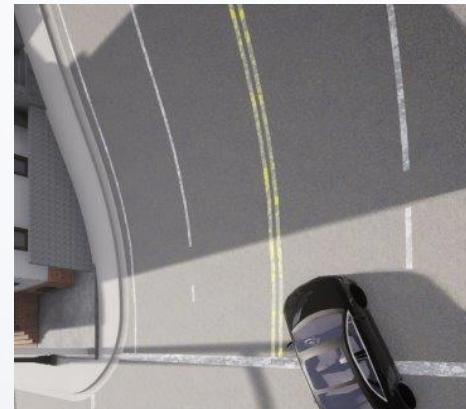
Issue #7106



Issue #7563



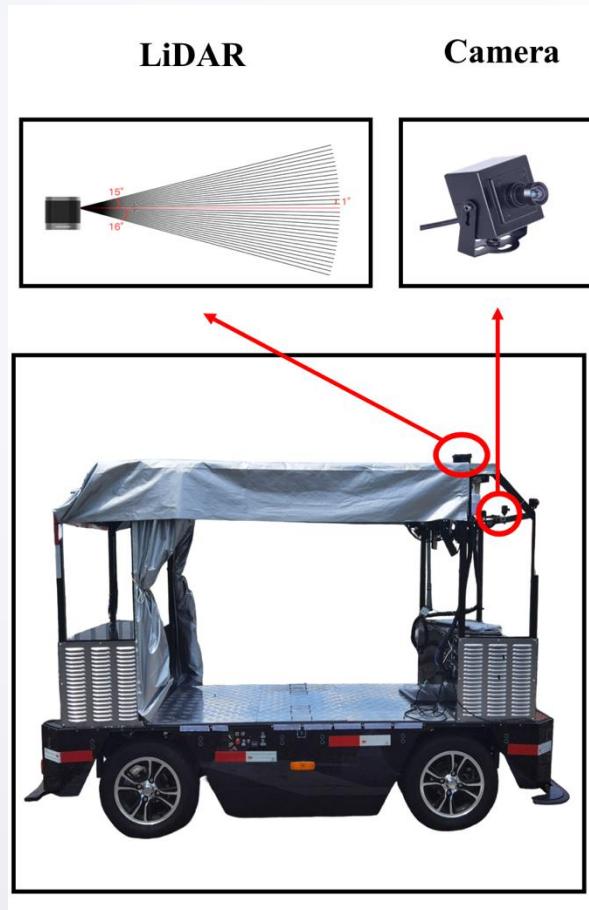
Issue #6938



Issue #6936: Unfiltered point cloud introduces ghost obstacles

# Real-World Evaluation

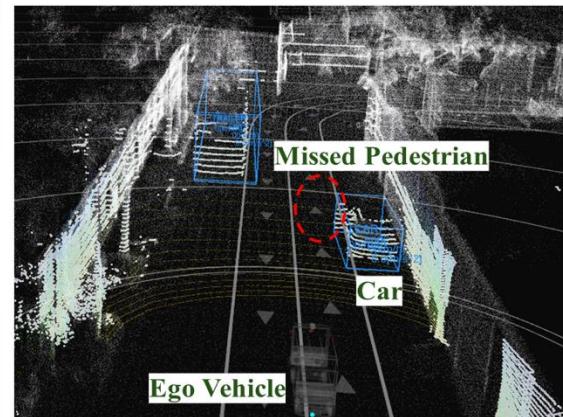
Testbed car



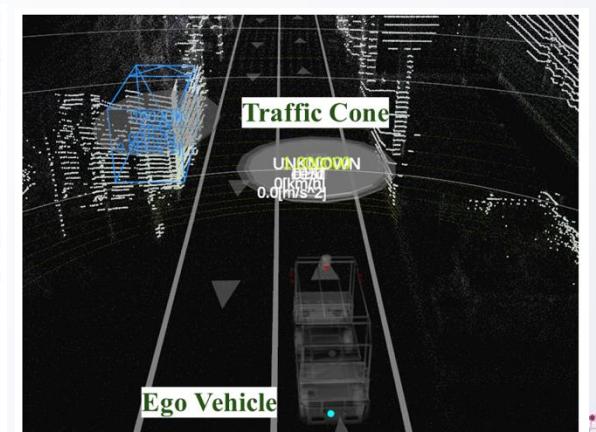
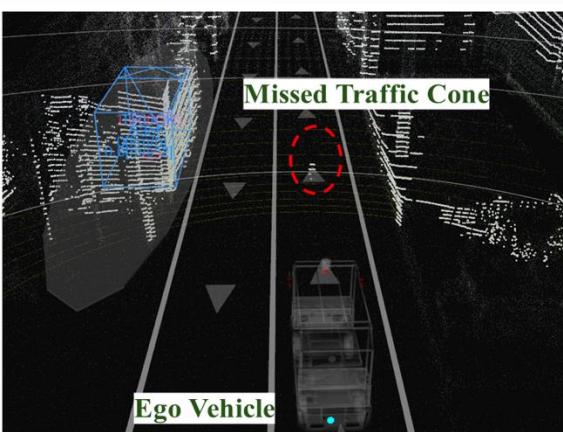
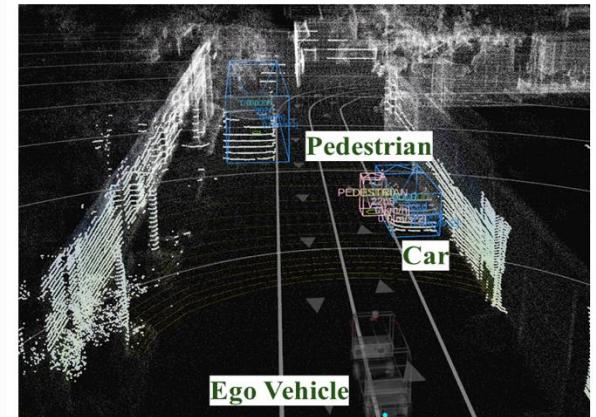
Physical scenario



ADS view



Counterfactual effect



➤ Prove the practical effectiveness

# Cross-Platform Validation

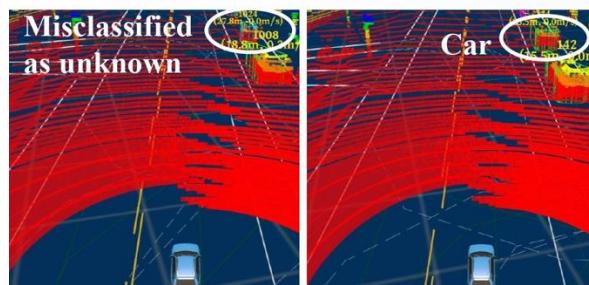
- Scenarios from **Apollo's** sensor data



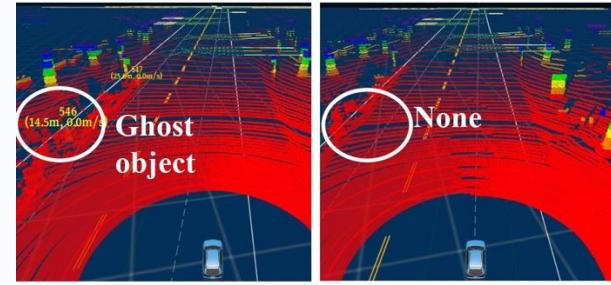
Missed pedestrian



Missed shopping cart



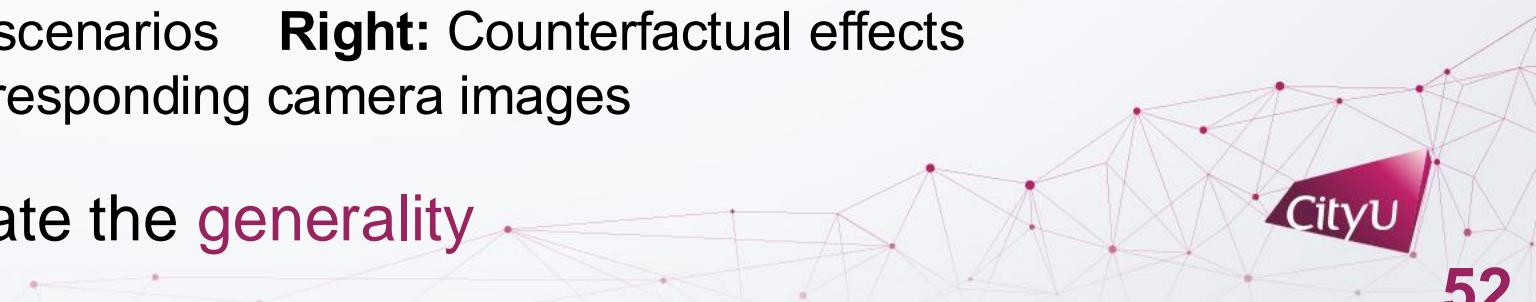
Misclassified car



Ghost object

- Left:** Failure scenarios    **Right:** Counterfactual effects
- Bottom:** Corresponding camera images

➤ Validate the **generality**



# Summary

Our IRCA method achieves



## 1. Multicausality

Capable of tracking **multiple concurrent** root causes

## 2. Fully Automated

Implemented and evaluated on **Autoware**

## 3. Generality

Cross-platform evaluation on **Apollo**

## 4. Real-World Applicability

Successfully tested in **real-world scenarios**



# Thanks