

An End-to-End FSW Development Approach

Using MicroPython and the Basilisk Software Testbed

Mar Cols Margenet*, Hanspeter Schaub† and Scott Piggott‡

*Graduate Researcher, University of Colorado

†Professor, Glenn L. Murphy Chair, University of Colorado

‡ADCS Integrated Simulation Software Lead, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics



Ann and H. J. Smead Aerospace
Engineering Sciences Department
University of Colorado, **Boulder**

Motivation



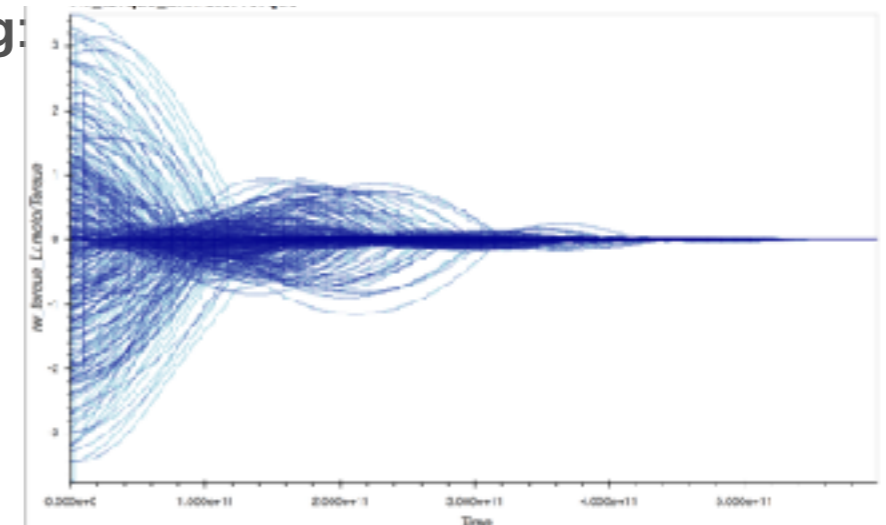
- **FSW testing in different environments...**
 - **Desktop** testbed environment
 - **Embedded** testbed environment: hardware flight processor or emulated
- **Gap between environments** implies there's a **migration effort**.
- **Desired FSW Development approach:**
 - Keep both testbeds while minimizing migration effort
 - Algorithm source code remains unchanged: **“Test what fly, fly what you test”**.
 - **Desktop dev proposal:** Python user-interface and C/C++ algorithm source code
 - **Embedded dev proposal 1:** CFS middleware and C/C++ algorithm source code
 - **Embedded dev proposal 2:** MicroPython user-interface and C/C++ source code

Desktop Development Proposal

- **Proposal:** Python user-interface with underlying C/C++ flight source code
- **Python pro's:** high-level language with **powerful features** and **large community**
- **Python con's:** runtime insufficiently well-controlled for FSW time-critical applications
- **Python:** [let's take a closer look...](#)
 - Built-in modules for speed written in C/C++ (e.g. numpy)
 - Several ways to create C/C++ extensions: CPython, **SWIG**...



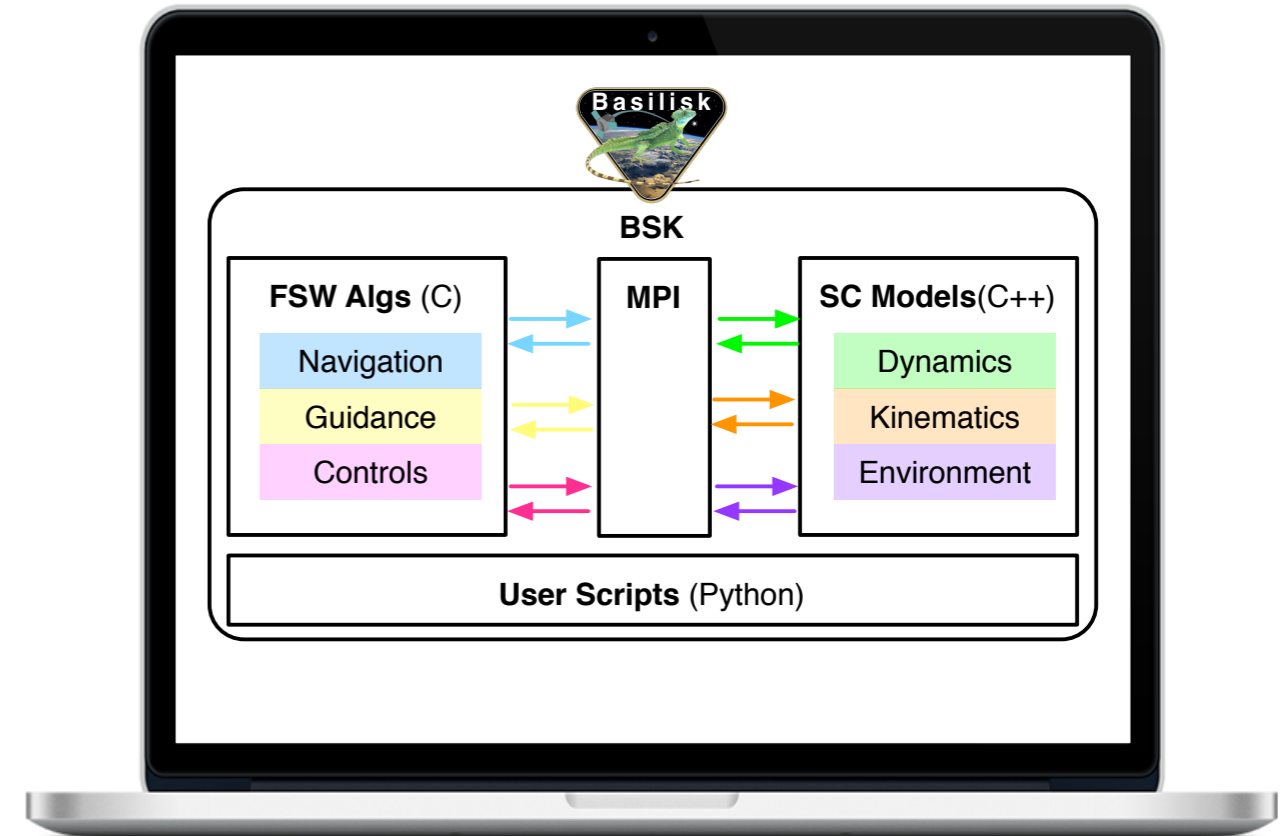
- **Python for FSW(C/C++) setup, desktop execution & post-processing:**
 - **Data analysis:** numpy, matplotlib...
 - **Automated regression tests:** py-test
 - **Monte-Carlo** handling



Basilisk Desktop Testbed: Overview



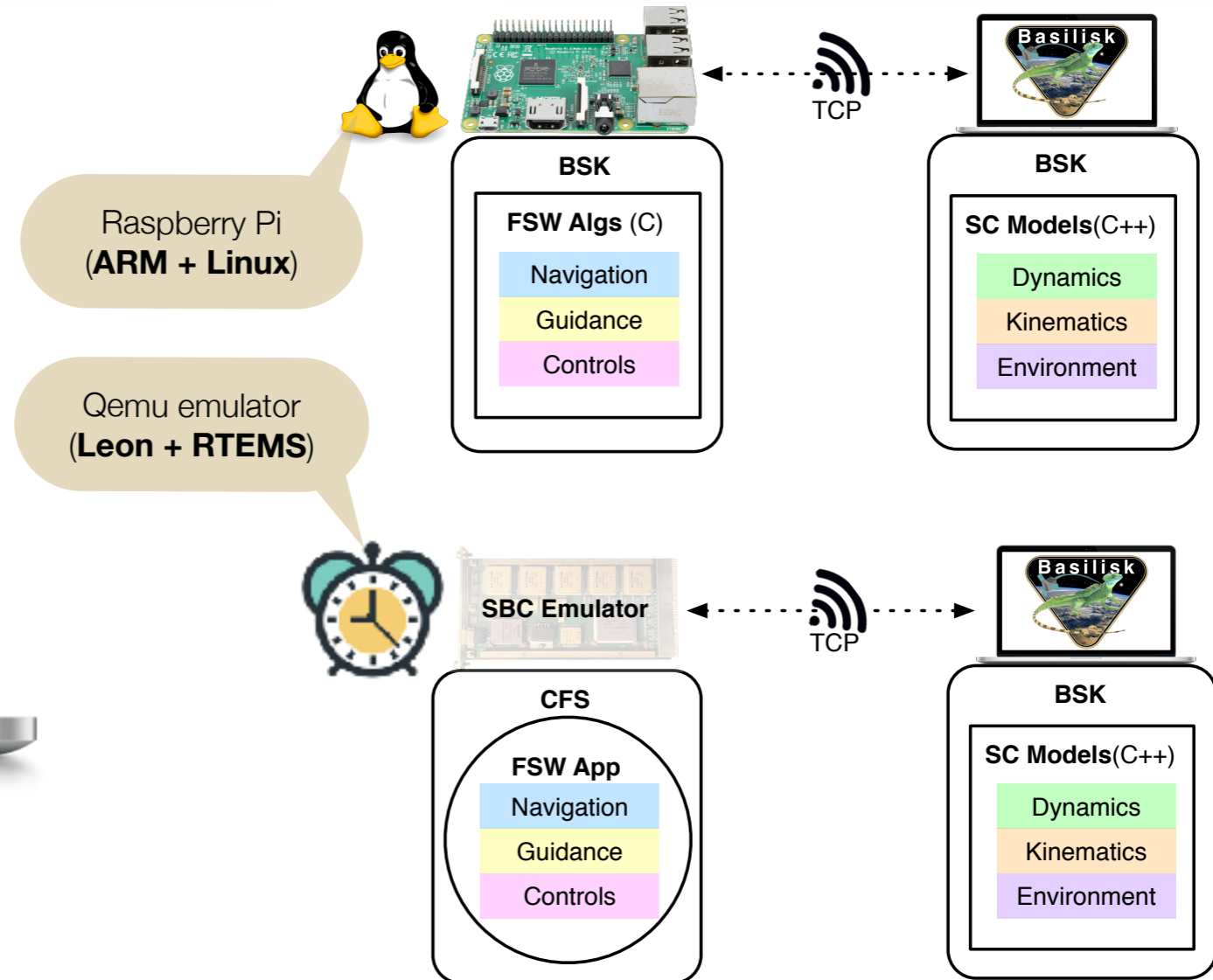
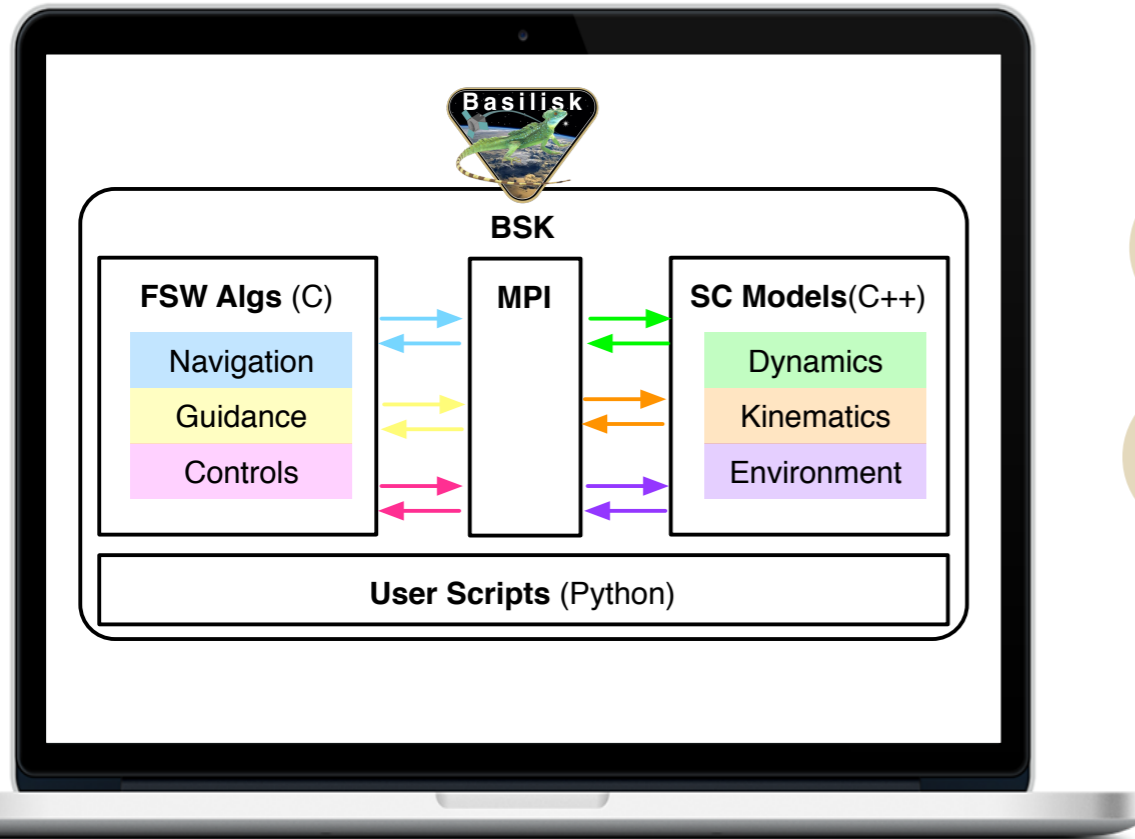
- **Basilisk:** open-source, cross-platform, desktop testbed for designing flight algorithms and test them in closed-loop dynamics simulations.
- **Language:** C and C++ code wrapped in Python via SWIG
- **AVS & LASP:** interplanetary spacecraft mission support
- **Nominal (but not required) Setup:**
 - **Dynamics Process:** simulation of spacecraft physical behavior (C++)
 - **FSW Process:** mission-specific GN&C algorithms (C)
- **Core Elements:**
 - **Hierarchy:** Process -> Task -> Module
 - **Communication:** pub-sub Message Passing Interface



Migration of the Basilisk Flight Application

- Single processor environment:

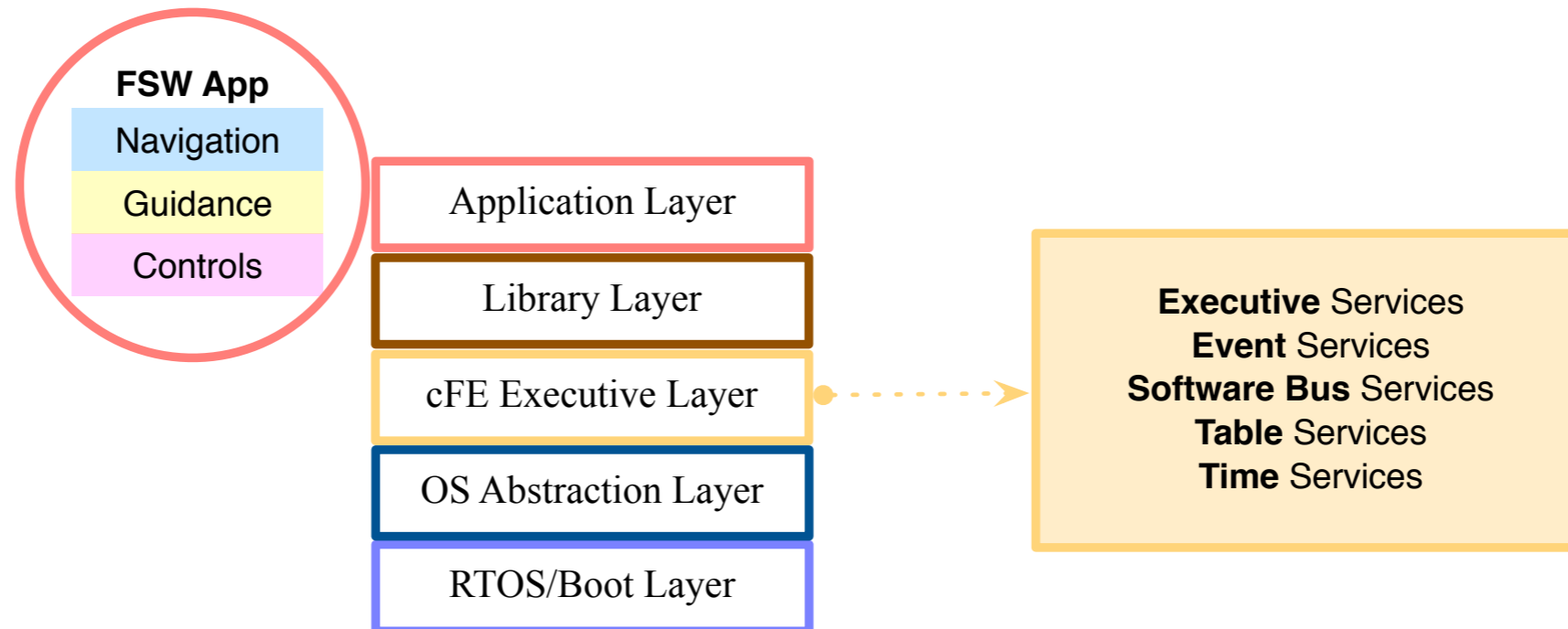
- Multi processor environment: realistic testing



The Core Flight System



- **Middleware layer** (“glue code”) to **ensure portability** among different RTOS and processors.
- **Open-source** product developed by NASA Goddard.
- **Architecture:**

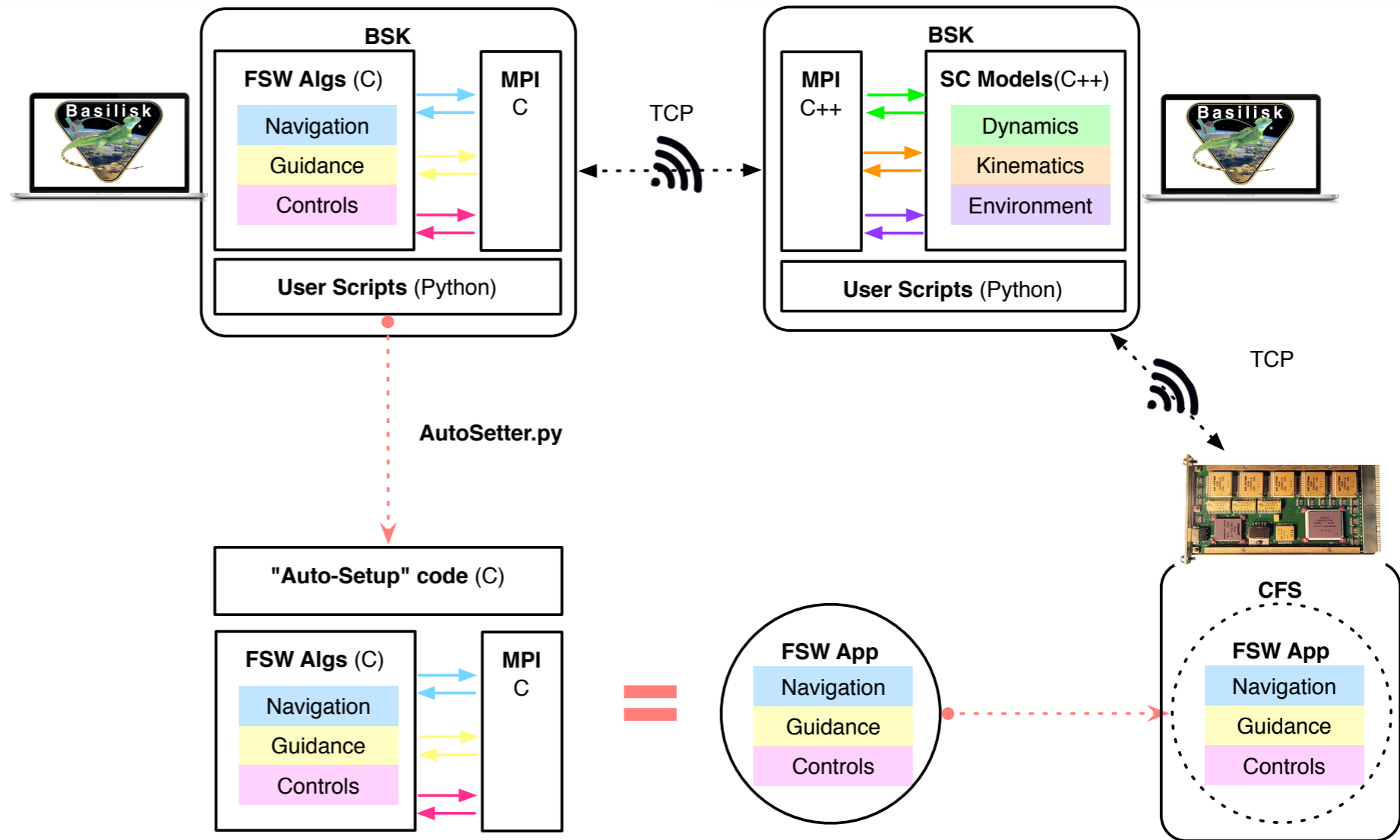


Basilisk flight algorithms into a CFS application



- **Basilisk C Algorithms + “Auto-Setup” Code:** integrated as a CFS application.

- **Recall desktop dev:** Python for FSW(C/C++) **setup**, desktop execution and post-processing



- **Python setup:**
 - Initialization of C/C++ modules
 - Grouping of modules in tasks & rates

Python setup: C module initialization

- **Basilisk C module:** a stand-alone model or self-contained logic.

- ▶ **Config struct**

- ▶ **Generic algorithm calls:** self-init, cross-init, update & reset. [called from Python in desktop exec]

- **Python module initialization**

```
typedef struct {
    double ISCPntB_B[9];
    double CoM_B[3];
    char outputPropsName[MAX_STAT_MSG_LENGTH];
    int32_t outputPropsID;
}VehConfigInputData;

void SelfInit_vehicleConfigData(VehConfigInputData *ConfigData, uint64_t moduleID);
void CrossInit_vehicleConfigData(VehConfigInputData *ConfigData, uint64_t moduleID);
void Reset_vehicleConfigData(VehConfigInputData *ConfigData, uint64_t callTime, uint64_t moduleID);
void Update_vehicleConfigData(VehConfigInputData *ConfigData, uint64_t callTime, uint64_t moduleID);
```



Vehicle Config Data module

SWIG



```
self.VehConfigData = vehicleConfigData.VehConfigInputData()

def SetVehicleConfigData(self):
    self.VehConfigData.ISCPntB_B = [600.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 600.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 600]
    self.VehConfigData.CoM_B = [1.0, 0.0, 0.0]
    self.VehConfigData.outputPropsName = "veh_config_data"
```

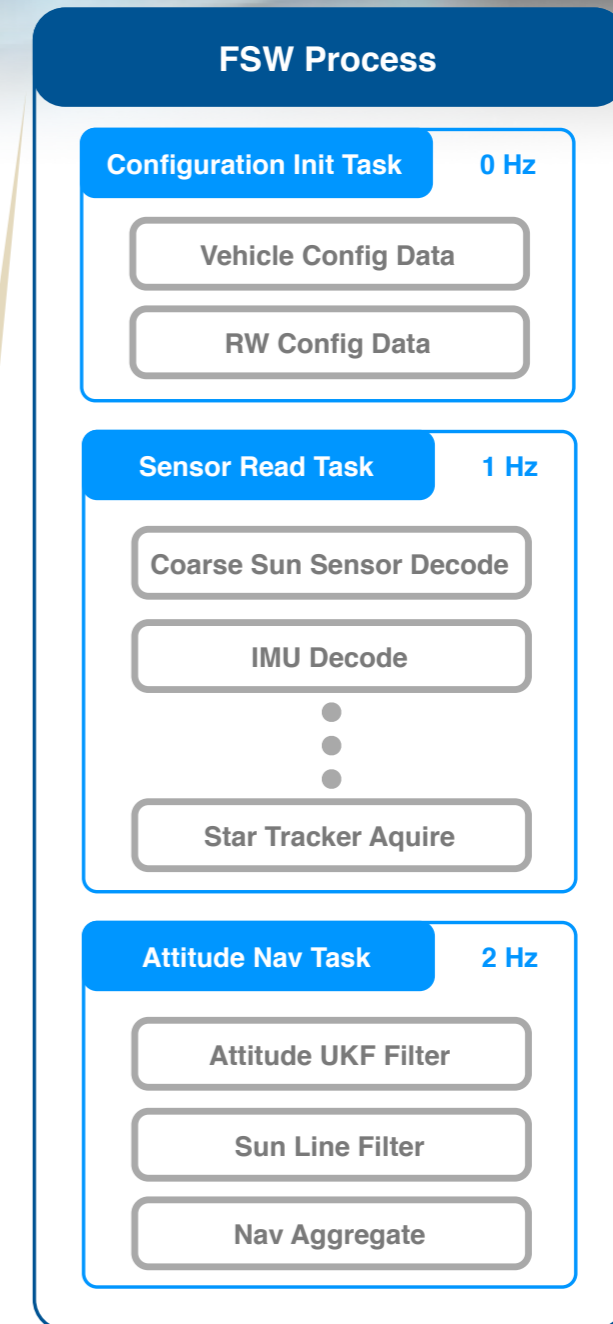


Python setup: task groups & rates



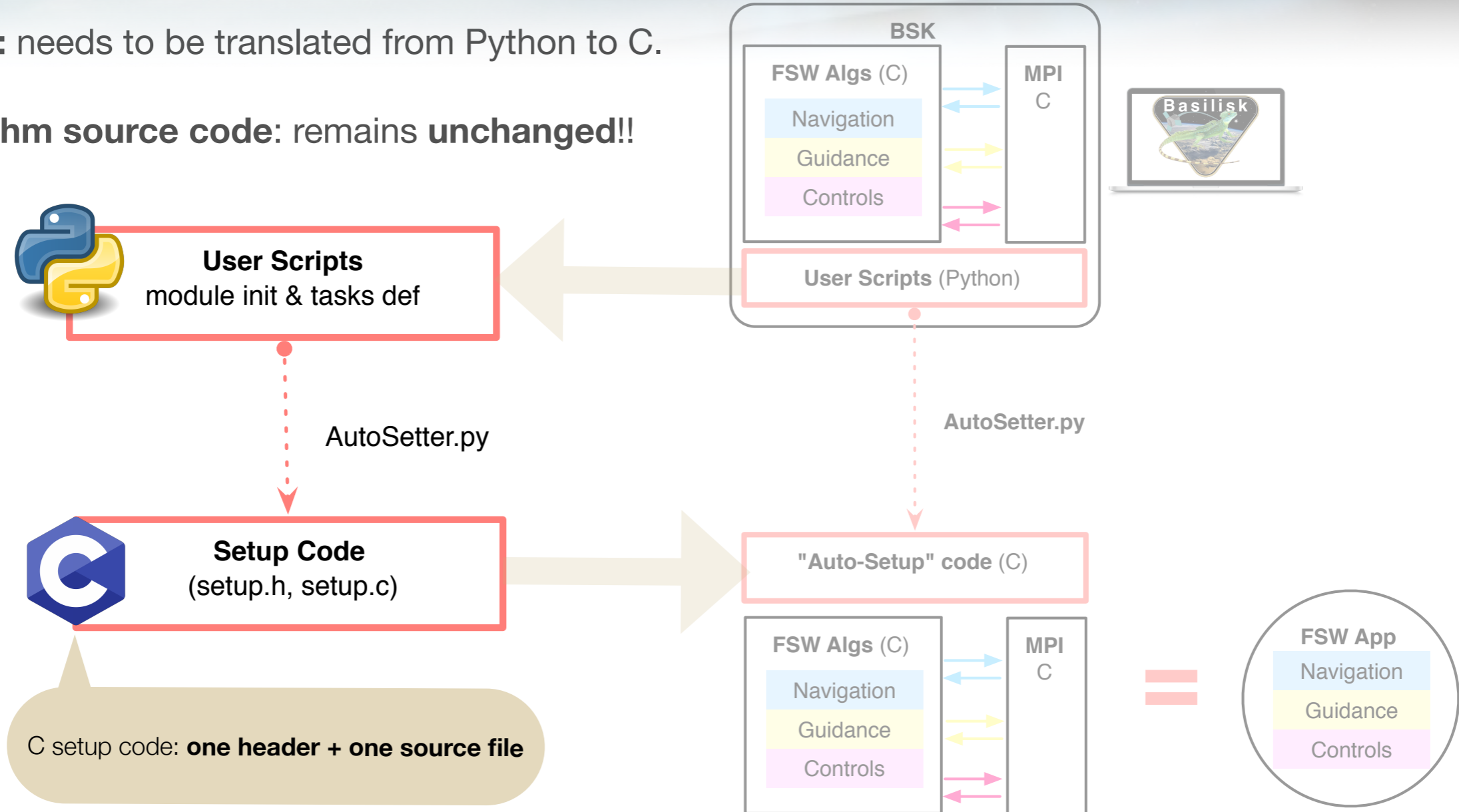
- **Define tasks** at certain rates
- **Add modules to tasks** and define priorities within the task.
- **Examples:**
 - **Config Init Task at 0 Hz:** all modules in the task only called once (at init time)
 - **Sensor Read Task at 1 Hz:** the Update() algorithm of each module is called every 1sec, in the priority established.

Basilisk hierarchy:
Process → Tasks → Modules



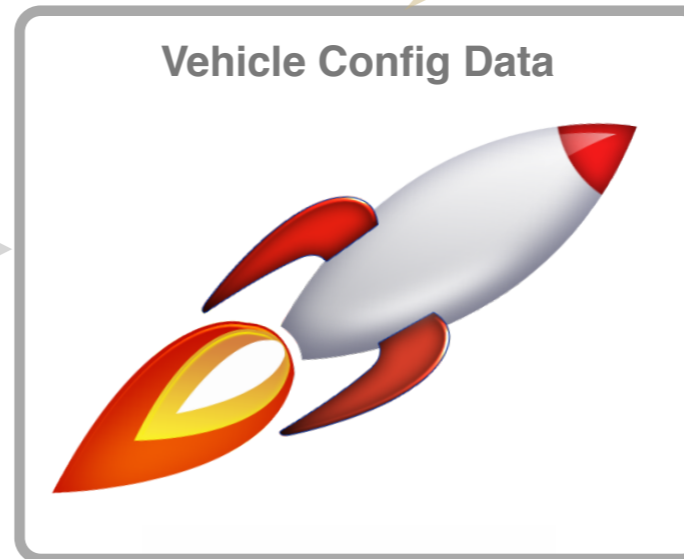
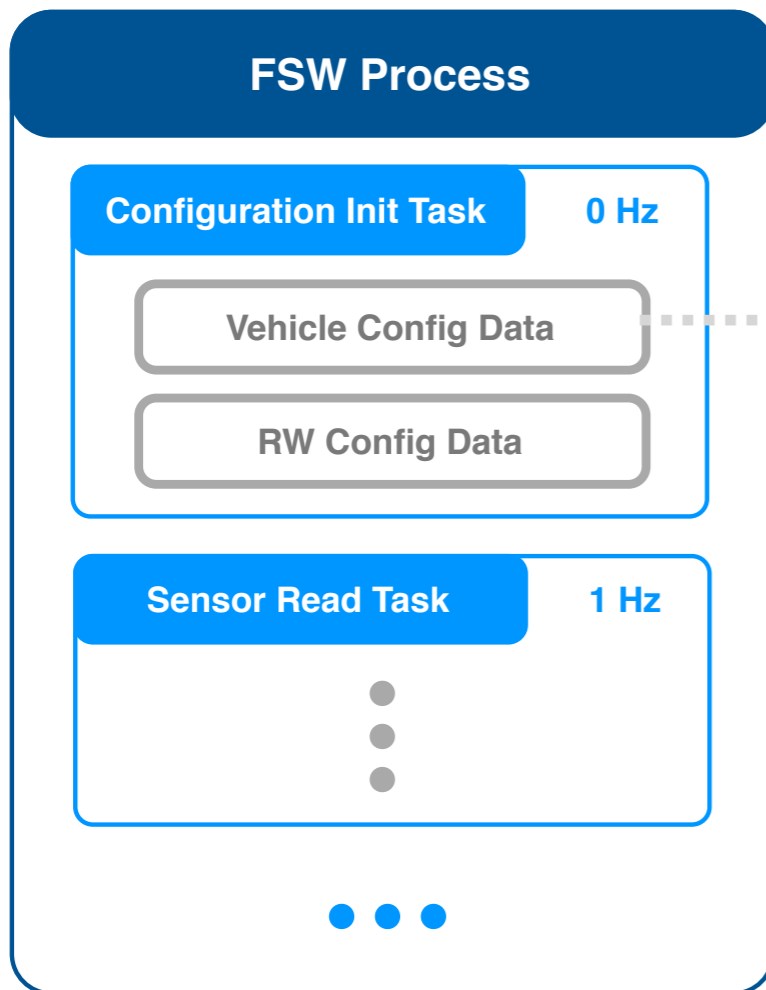
Embeddable FSW Application

- **Setup code:** needs to be translated from Python to C.
- **FSW algorithm source code:** remains **unchanged!!**

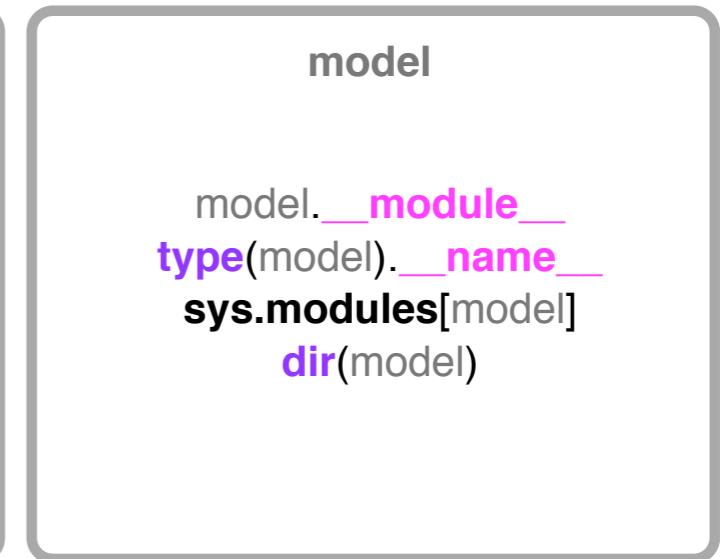


Python Introspection

- Why is it so easy to generate concise C setup code through the “AutoSetter.py”?
- Because Python is great at introspection!



C module now appears as Python object



I am a model.
I've these **variables**
and **algorithm** names.

“AutoSetup.py”: Python input & C output



ISCPntB_B = list of 9 floats
CoM_B = list of 3 floats
outputPropNames = string

```
self.VehConfigData = vehicleConfigData.VehConfigInputData()  
def SetVehicleConfigData(self):  
self.VehConfigData.ISCPntB_B = [600.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 600.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 600]  
self.VehConfigData.CoM_B = [1.0, 0.0, 0.0]  
self.VehConfigData.outputPropsName = "veh_config_data"
```



AutoSetter.py

Python scenario
(AutoSetter input)

```
void mPyConfigData_DataInit(mPyConfigData *data){  
memset(data, 0x0, sizeof(mPyConfigData));  
data->initOnlyTask_isActive = 0;  
  
data->vehConfigData.CoM_B[0] = 1.0;  
data->vehConfigData.ISCPntB_B[0] = 600.0;  
data->vehConfigData.ISCPntB_B[4] = 600.0;  
data->vehConfigData.ISCPntB_B[8] = 600.0;  
strcpy(data->vehConfigData.outputPropsName, "veh_config_data");  
  
strcpy(data->rwConfigData.rwConstellationInMsgName, "rwa_config_data");  
strcpy(data->rwConfigData.rwParamsOutMsgName, "rwa_config_data_parsed");  
strcpy(data->rwConfigData.vehConfigInMsgName, "veh_config_data");  
}  
  
void initOnlyTask_Update(mPyConfigData *data, uint64_t callTime)  
{  
Update_vehicleConfigData(&(data->vehConfigData), callTime, 11);  
Update_rwConfigData(&(data->rwConfigData), callTime, 37);  
}
```

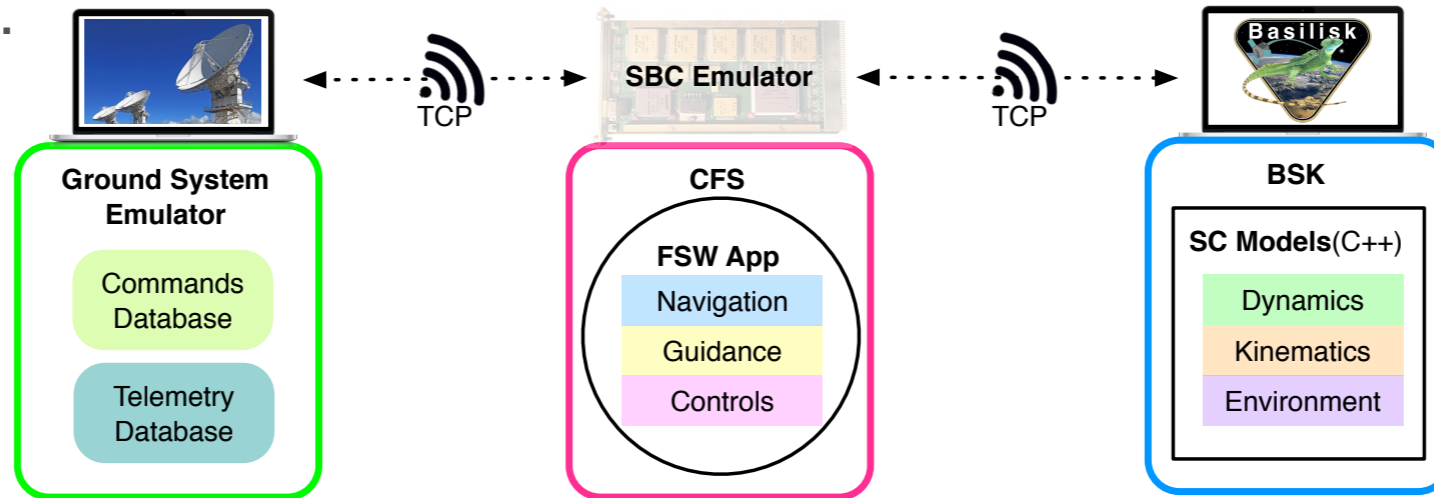


C variables init
(AutoSetter output)

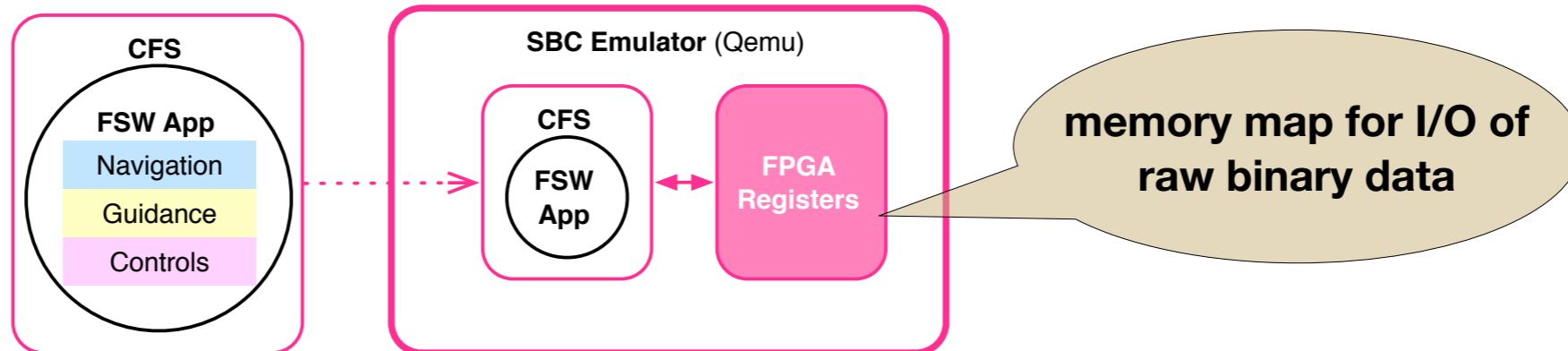
C algorithm calls,
arranged in tasks
(AutoSetter output)

Emulated Flat-Sat Configuration

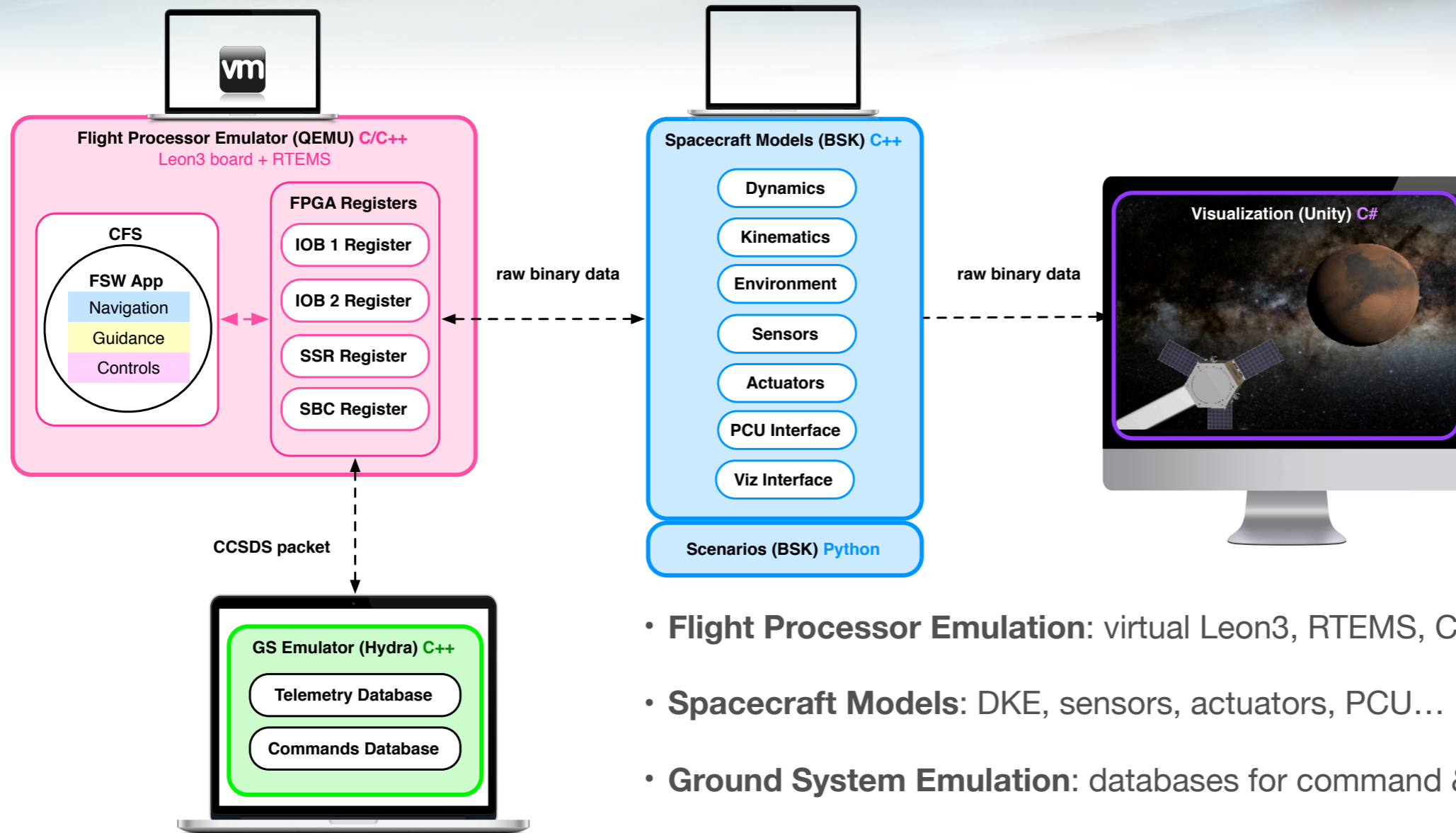
- C flight algorithms + generated C setup code —> integrated as an **embeddable CFS app**.
- **Embedded FSW testing:** closed-loop simulation with other models: s/c physical models, ground system model...



- But interacting with FSW is not that easy when it's embedded... Need to emulate **FPGA Registers**



Emulated Flat-Sat Models



- **Flight Processor Emulation:** virtual Leon3, RTEMS, CFS-FSW App, FPGA reg.
- **Spacecraft Models:** DKE, sensors, actuators, PCU...
- **Ground System Emulation:** databases for command & telemetry
- **Visualization:** Unity GUI

CFS Embedding Approach: requirements & limitations



- **Does it work?** Yes, and migration is transparent

- **Migration effort:**

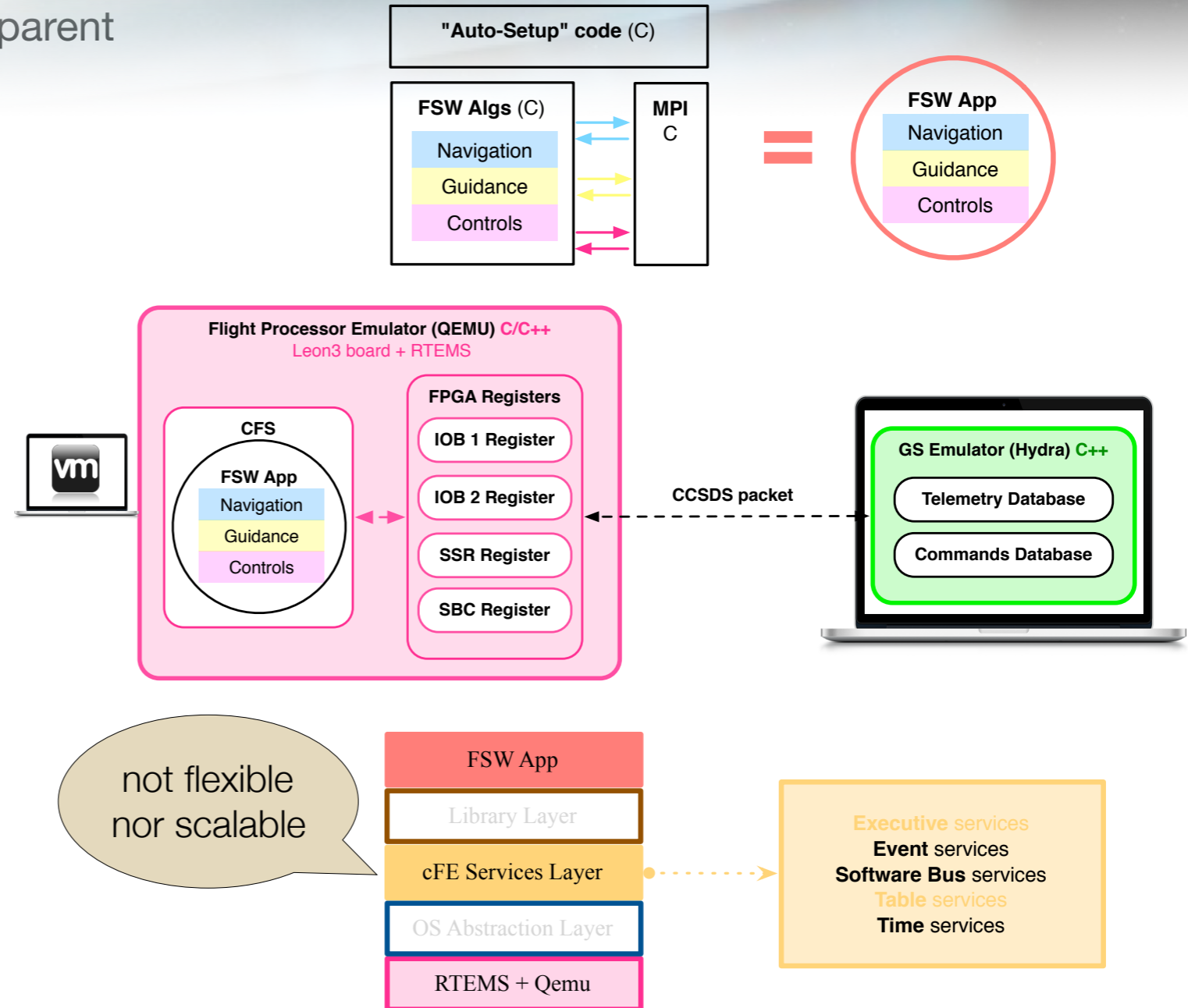
- Generate “Auto-Setup” C code
- Emulate FPGA registers

- **Difficulties:**

- Setting flight modes
- Logging FSW states

- **Replicated CFS functionality:**

- Software Bus = FSW App’s MPI
- Time Services = Qemu functionality
- Event Services = GS functionality



MicroPython for Embedded FSW Development



- **MicroPython:**

- Lean and efficient implementation of the Python 3 programming language, **optimized to run in microcontrollers.**
- **Full of advanced features:** interactive prompt, list comprehension, exception handling...
- Aims to be as **compatible with normal Python** as possible

more alike
desktop

ease of
translation



open source
initiative®

- **MicroPython C++ Wrap:**

- **What?** Header-only C++ library providing interoperability between C/C++ and MicroPython.
- **Why?** Standard way of extending MicroPython with your own C/C++ modules involves some boilerplate.

- **Python introspection:** for wrapper generation

- Automatically create a C++ class for every C FSW module
- Generate MPy integration code-lines for every C++ class

Same logic as in
"AutoSetter.py"

MicroPython C++ Wrapping



- C++ class (hpp file) for every C FSW module we have

```
#include "_GeneralModuleFiles/sys_model.h"
#include "vehicleConfigData/vehicleConfigData.h"
class vehConfigDataClass: public SysModel {
public:
    vehConfigDataClass(){ memset(&this->config_data, 0x0, sizeof(VehConfigInputData));}
    ~vehConfigDataClass(){return;}
    void SelfInit(){ SelfInit_vehicleConfigData(&(this->config_data), this->moduleID); }
    void CrossInit(){ CrossInit_vehicleConfigData(&(this->config_data), this->moduleID); }
    void UpdateState(uint64_t callTime){ Update_vehicleConfigData(&(this->config_data), callTime, this->moduleID); }
    void Reset(uint64_t callTime){ Reset_vehicleConfigData(&(this->config_data), callTime, this->moduleID); }

    void Set_outputPropsName(std::string new_outputPropsName){
        memset(this->config_data.outputPropsName, '\0', sizeof(char) * MAX_STAT_MSG_LENGTH);
        strncpy(this->config_data.outputPropsName, new_outputPropsName.c_str(), new_outputPropsName.length());
    }
    std::string Get_outputPropsName() const{
        std::string local_outputPropsName(this->config_data.outputPropsName);
        return(local_outputPropsName);
    }

private:
    VehConfigInputData config_data;
};
```

C++ class

Callbacks

Setter

Getter

C config struct

MicroPython C++ Wrapping



- C++ class for every C FSW module
- **Generate MPy integration code-lines for every C++ class:** need to register the C++ function and type names so they can be discovered by MicroPython

MPy **function names def**

```
struct vehConfigData_FunctionNames  
{  
    func_name_def(SelfInit)  
    func_name_def(CrossInit)  
    func_name_def(Update)  
    func_name_def(Reset)  
};
```

```
auto mod = upywrap::CreateModule( "fsw" );  
  
upywrap::ClassWrapper < vehConfigDataClass > wrap_vehConfigData("vehConfigDataClass", mod);  
wrap_vehConfigData.DefInit <> ();  
wrap_vehConfigData.Def < vehConfigData_FunctionNames::SelfInit > (&vehConfigDataClass::SelfInit);  
wrap_vehConfigData.Def < vehConfigData_FunctionNames::CrossInit > (&vehConfigDataClass::CrossInit);  
wrap_vehConfigData.Def < vehConfigData_FunctionNames::Update > (&vehConfigDataClass::UpdateState);  
wrap_vehConfigData.Def < vehConfigData_FunctionNames::Reset > (&vehConfigDataClass::Reset);  
wrap_vehConfigData.Property("outputPropsName", &vehConfigDataClass::Set_outputPropsName, &vehConfigDataClass::Get_outputPropsName);  
wrap_vehConfigData.Property("ModelTag", &vehConfigDataClass::Set_ModelTag, &vehConfigDataClass::Get_ModelTag);  
wrap_vehConfigData.Property("ISCPntB_B", &vehConfigDataClass::Set_ISCPntB_B, &vehConfigDataClass::Get_ISCPntB_B);  
wrap_vehConfigData.Property("CoM_B", &vehConfigDataClass::Set_CoM_B, &vehConfigDataClass::Get_CoM_B);
```

C++ class registration

C++ function names map

MPy property: C++ setter & getter

Desktop Python vs. Embedded MicroPython



Desktop Python script
(C module setup)

```
class FSModels(object):
    def __init__(self, masterSim):
        # Create a sim module as an empty container
        self.simBasePath = masterSim.simBasePath
        # Instantiate C fsw models
        self.VehConfigData = vehicleConfigData.VehConfigInputData()
        self.VehConfigDataWrap = masterSim.setModelDataWrap(self.VehConfigData)
        self.VehConfigDataWrap.ModelTag = "vehConfigData"
        # Initialize models
        self.InitAllFSWObjects()

    def SetVehicleConfigData(self):
        self.VehConfigData.ISCPntB_B = [600.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 600.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 600]
        self.VehConfigData.CoM_B = [1.0, 0.0, 0.0]
        self.VehConfigData.outputPropsName = "veh_config_data"
```

```
class MPyFSModels(object):
    def __init__(self, masterSim):
        # Create a sim module as an empty container
        self.simBasePath = masterSim.simBasePath
        # Instantiate cpp classes
        self.VehConfigData = fsw.vehConfigDataClass()
        # Initialize classes
        self.InitAllFSWObjects()

    def SetVehConfigData(self):
        self.VehConfigData.ModelTag = "vehConfigData"
        self.VehConfigData.ISCPntB_B = [600.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 600.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 600]
        self.VehConfigData.CoM_B = [1.0, 0.0, 0.0]
        self.VehConfigData.outputPropsName = "veh_config_data"
```



Embedded MicroPy script
(C++ module setup)

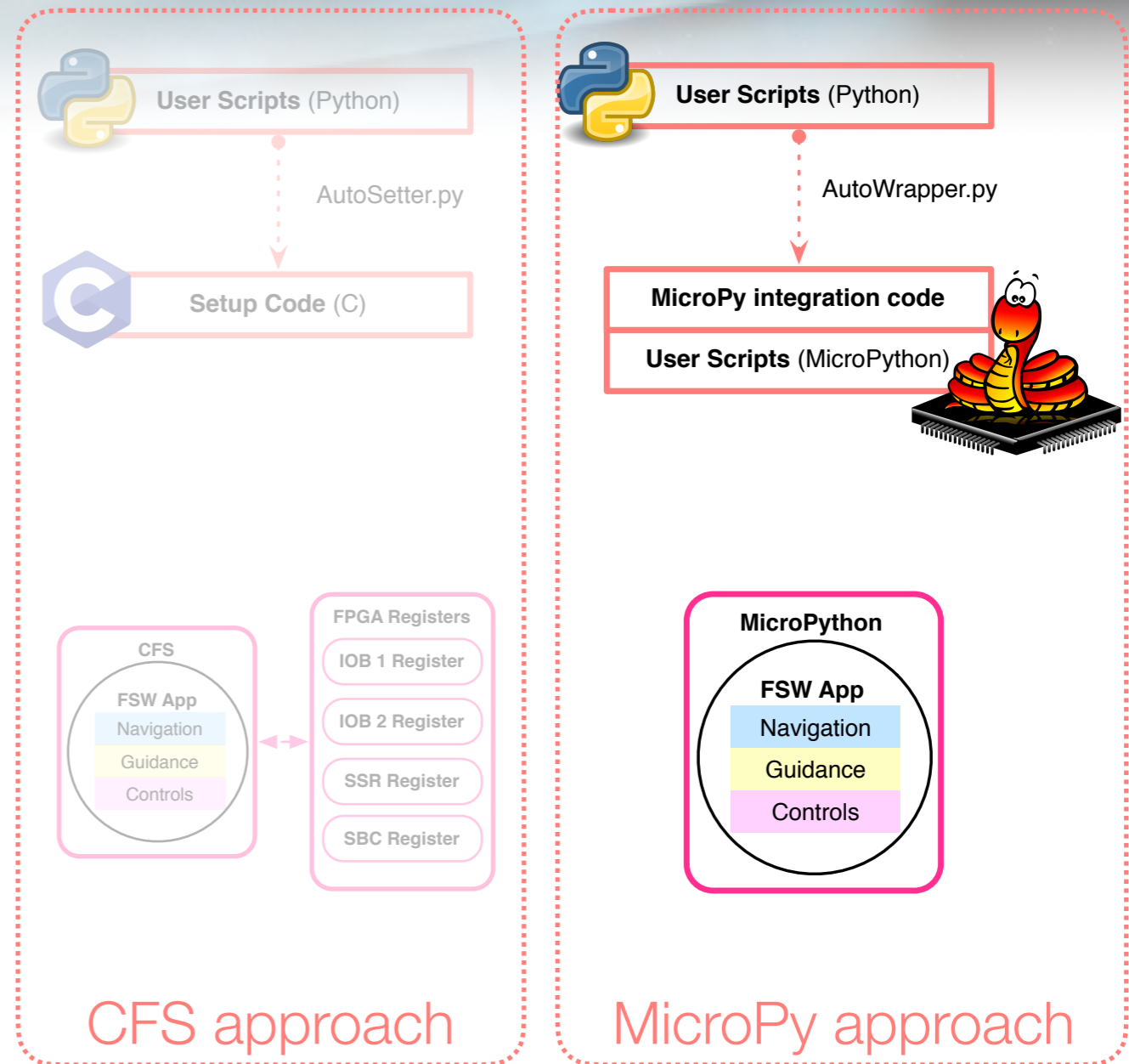
MicroPython Embedding Approach

- **Reduced migration effort:**

- No more **specific C** setup-code
- MicroPython integration code is written once (FSW states are **reconfigurable**)
- No need to emulate FPGA registers

- **Advantages:**

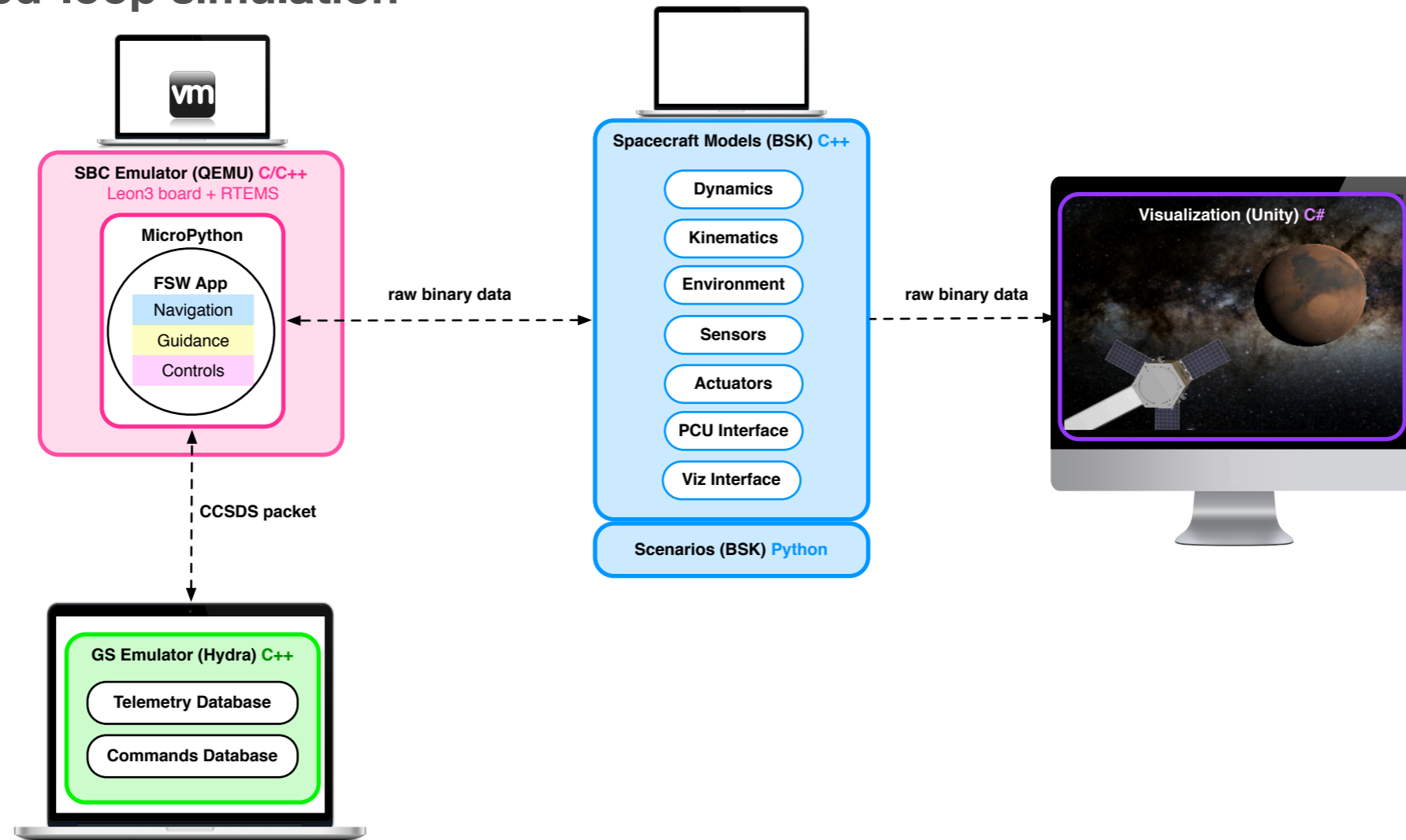
- Setting flight modes & logging states is easy
- No more replicated functionality
- Guaranteed portability



Future Work

- Port MicroPython to RTEMS & Leon
- Distributed closed-loop simulation

ESA Software Community License – Type 3





Thanks for your attention!