

Self-Driving Cars and Lidar

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Abstract: Before graduating from X as Waymo, Google's self-driving car project had been using custom sensors such as lidars, radars, and cameras for several years. In their 5th generation, the sensors are designed to meet the challenging requirements of moving people and goods safely and efficiently in dense cities and on highways. Our goal is to make them affordable while meeting the performance needed for driverless operation in various applications and weather conditions. This talk will review some history of the project and describe a few use-cases for sensors and machine learning on Waymo vehicles.

Bio: Simon Verghese has a MS in EE from NCSU and a PhD in physics from Berkeley. After a postdoc at MIT, he spent most of his career at MIT Lincoln Lab with a couple of tours in Boston-area start-ups. He came to Google in 2016 to manage the lidar team for the self-driving car project (now known as Waymo).