



ADELARD

What is a case?

From “What is..” to “What should it be ...”

Assurance cases as modern art

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CSR Building confidence in
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Overview

- Pseudo ethnographic approach
 - What is a case
 - What do users do
- Factoring inductive and deductive
 - Interpretation of CAE Blocks
- An example
 - pnp and confidence
- Discussion and conclusions
 - From “What is..” to “What should it be ...”



Definitions

- **Standards**
 - terminological, referential, denotational
 - **Operational**
 - How is it constructed
 - **Empirical**
 - Investigate artifacts that are defined as cases by users
 - **Sociological**
 - What it is used for
 - Decision making, getting
 - **Emotions**
 - Belief
 - **Analogical and metaphorical**
 - What is it like, how do people describe them?
 - **Normative**
 - What should it be
- past regulator,
commodity, recoding
personal understanding

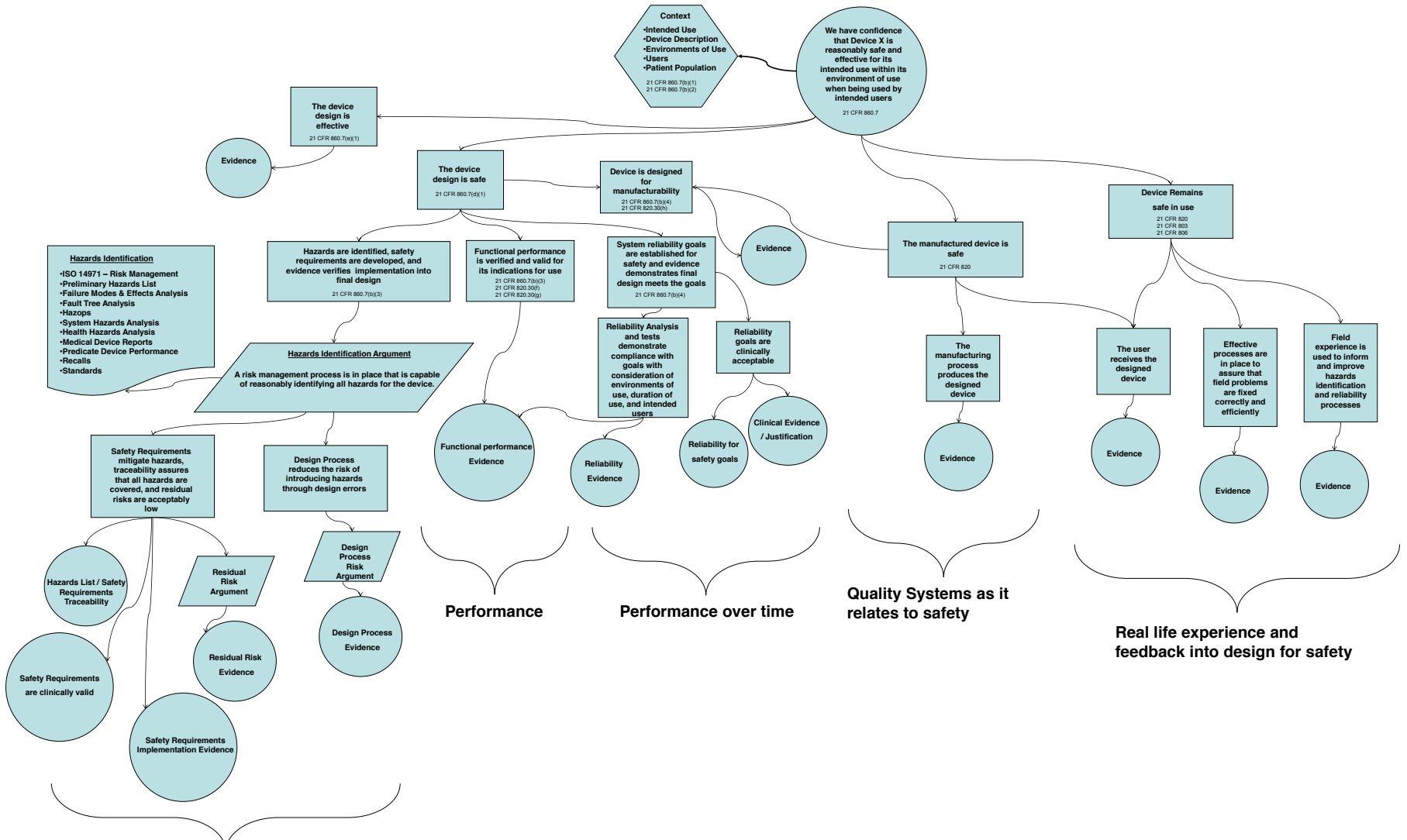


Ethnographic and empirical approach

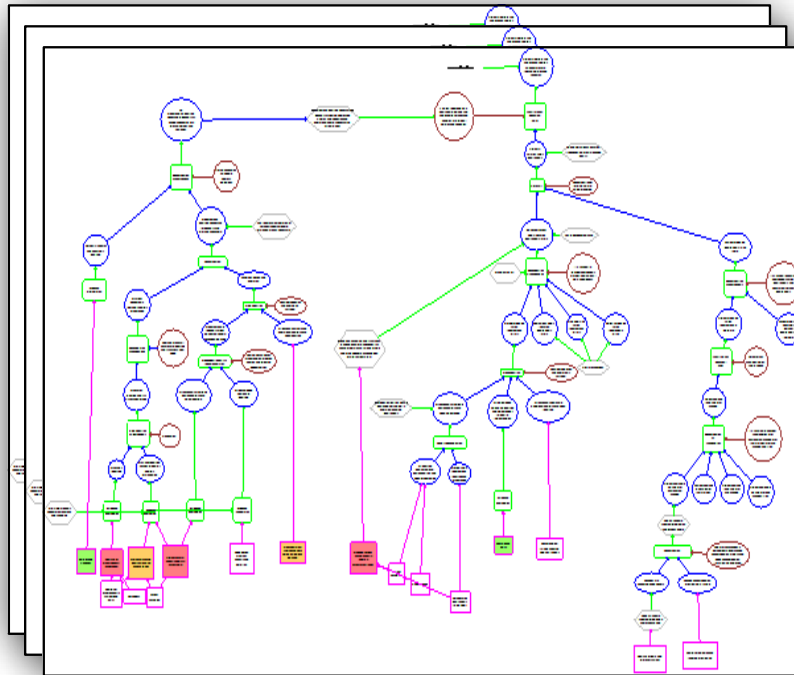
- Supports decision making
 - Important ones
 - Persuasive - documenting reasoning
 - Assist in understanding or in compliance
- Public and private
 - Many stakeholders
- Content
 - Word and pictures
 - Many variants
 - Too large cases... HC
- Process
 - Engineering process – journey matters
 - Decision making process



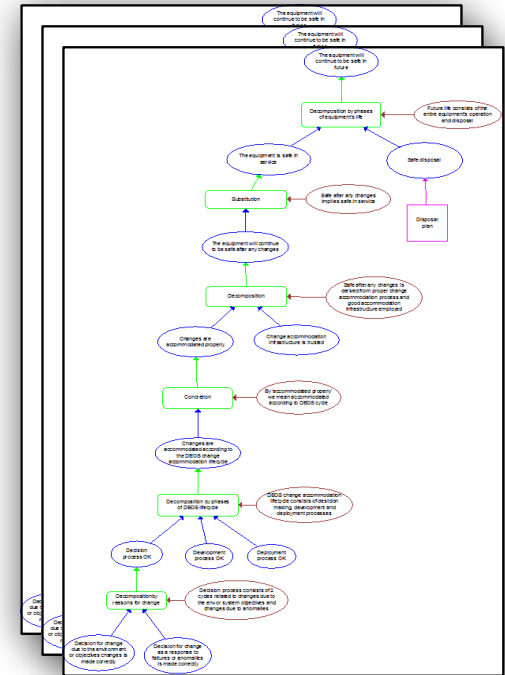
FDA example



Reasoning, communication, confidence



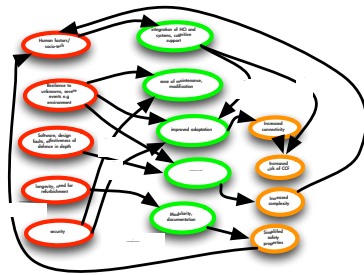
Case development and challenge



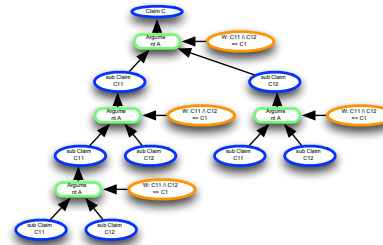
Meta-case
Case about the case

Development of assurance

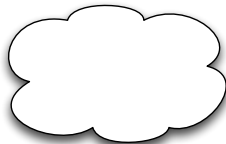
Influence diagram



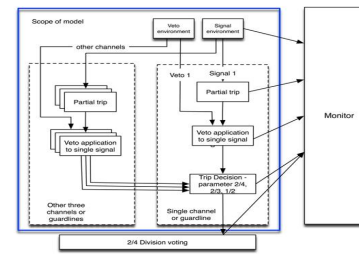
CAE structure



Mental models

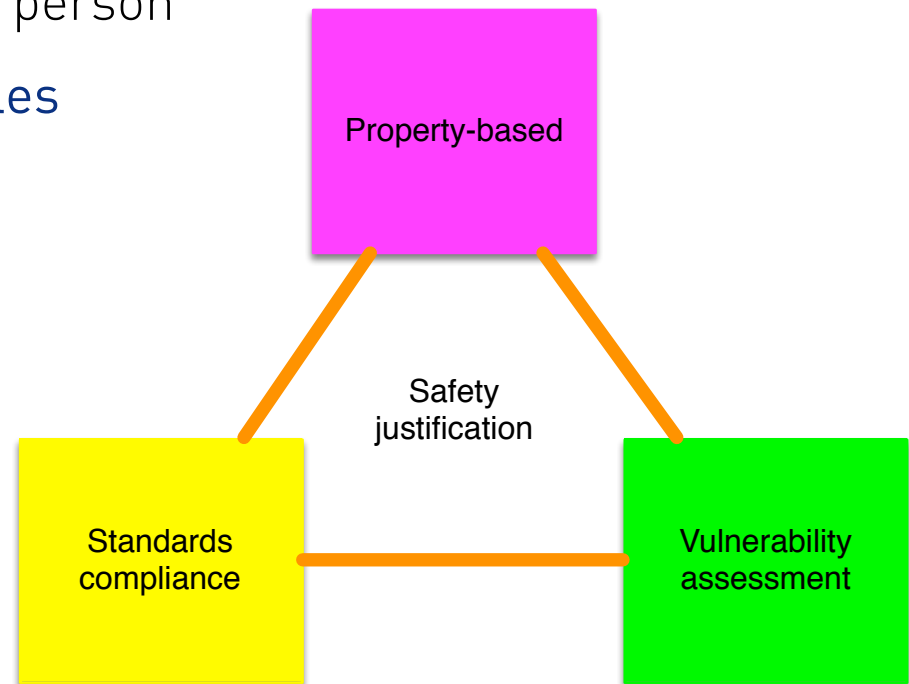


Engineering models

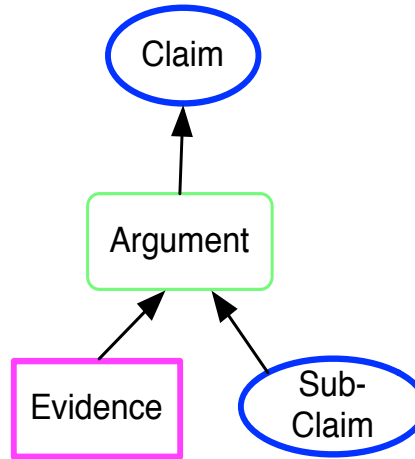


Different types of case

- Extreme behaviourist
 - Vs standards compliance person
- Modified with other principles
 - Good design
 - Defence in depth
 - Quality components

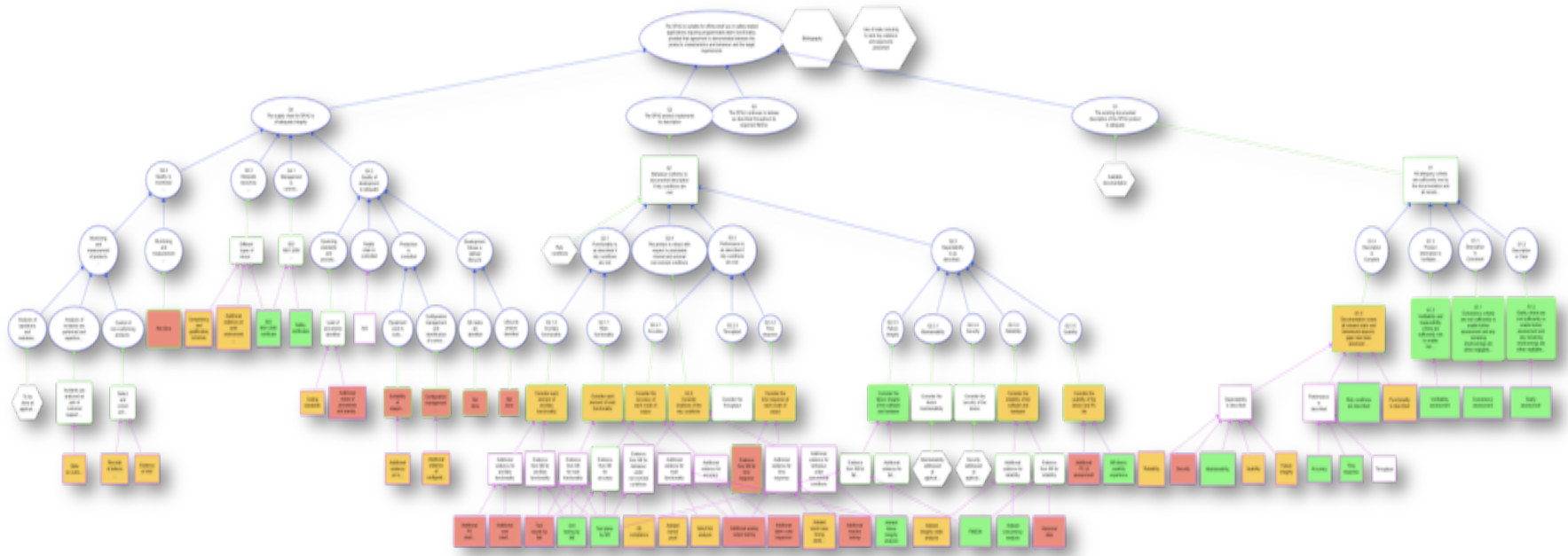


Structured Safety or Assurance Case



- “a documented body of evidence that provides a convincing and valid argument that a system is adequately safe for a given application in a given environment”

In practice ... the engineering



In practice ...

The screenshot shows the ASCE Node Editor interface. On the left, a GSN diagram titled 'Dosing Algorithms' is visible. A blue arrow points from this diagram to the main text area of the editor. The text area contains the following text:

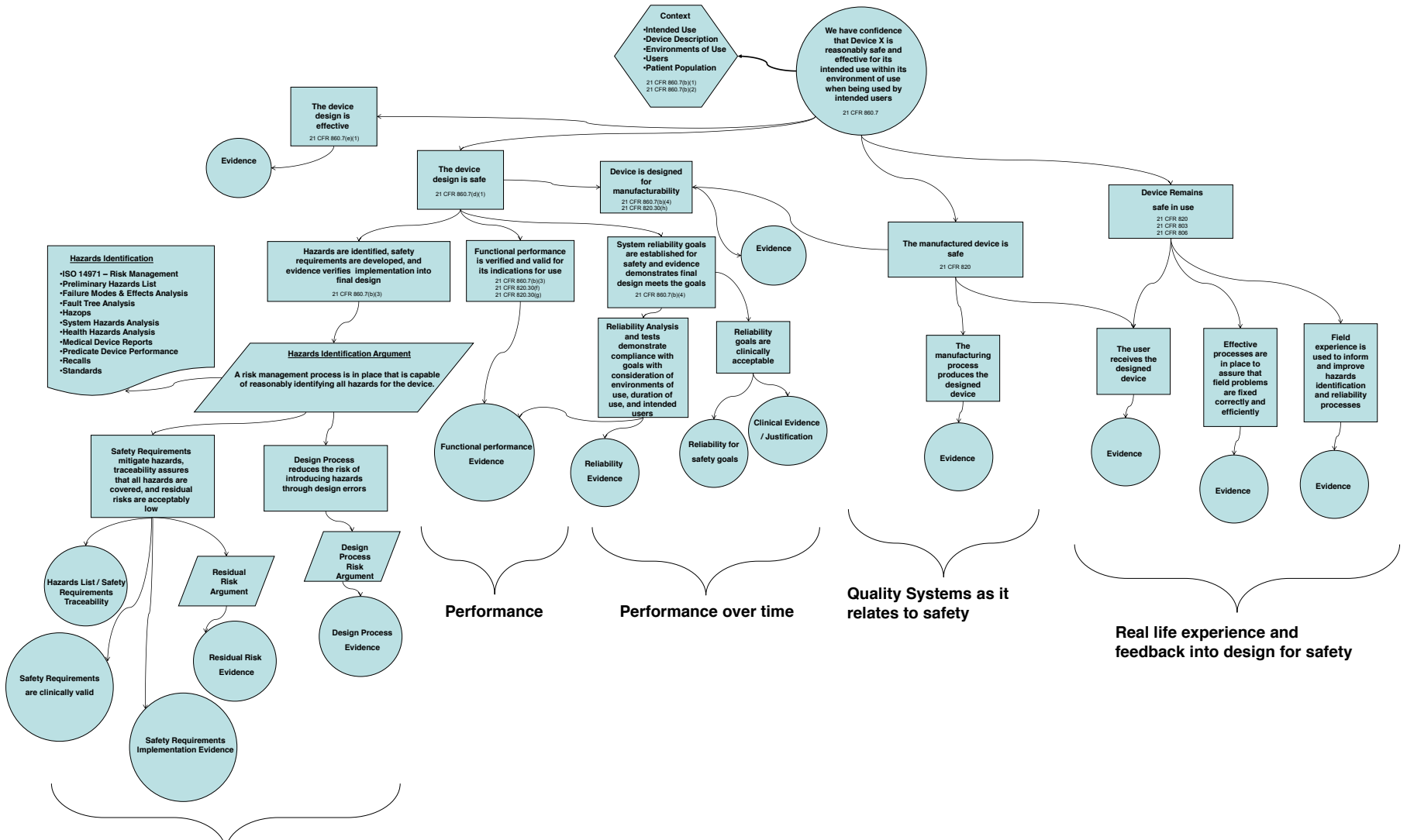
Software hazards are those hazards related to improper implementation of the development lifecycle for the software. Please refer to Table 5 for examples of software hazards, the corresponding significant risks to health, and their possible causes.

Table 5 – Software Hazard Examples

Hazard	Corresponding Risk(s) to Health	Potential Cause(s)
Data error	Overdose Underdose Incorrect therapy Delay of therapy	Failure to backup Data store/retrieval error Communication problem
Software runtime error	Overdose Underdose Incorrect therapy	Buffer overflow/underflow Null pointer dereference Memory leak Uninitialized variable Incorrect dynamic libraries
System malfunction	Overdose Underdose Delay of therapy Incorrect therapy	Software runtime error Communication error
Corrupted infusion commands	Overdose Underdose Delay of therapy Incorrect therapy	Data store/retrieval error Communication problem
Pump could not be silenced	Overdose	Alarm priority set incorrectly

Main notations GSN and CAE

FDA example

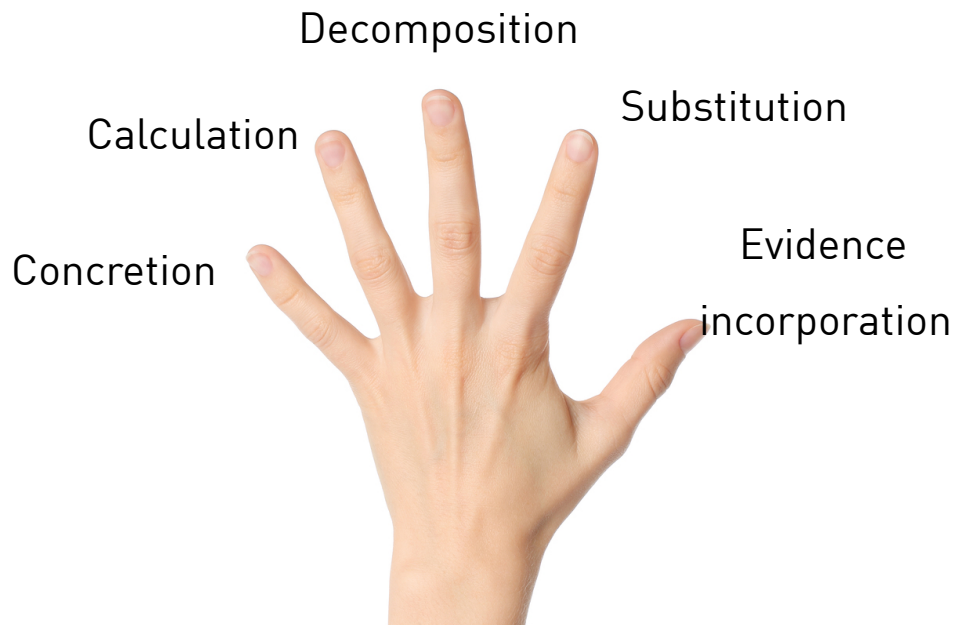


CAE Blocks – generic fragments

- **Design goal**
 - Empirically based – sufficiently expressive
 - Technically sound and able to link to more formal approaches
- **Support structuring**
 - Useful as restrict choice
 - In practice cases might combine blocks, use understood and problem specific approaches
 - Many different styles
- **Maturity**
 - Ideas around ~5 yrs
 - Used in nuclear industry case studies and R&D and part of our thinking
 - Technical paper available and draft guidance

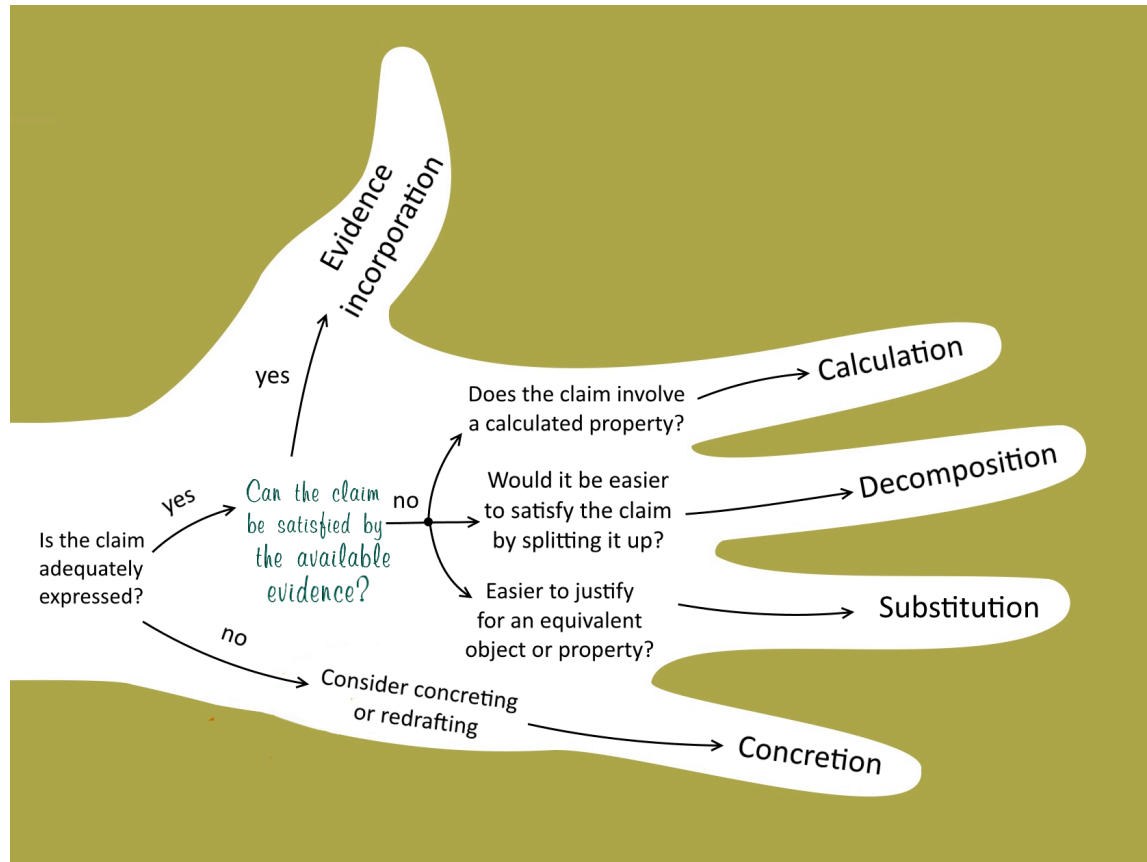


5 Building Blocks

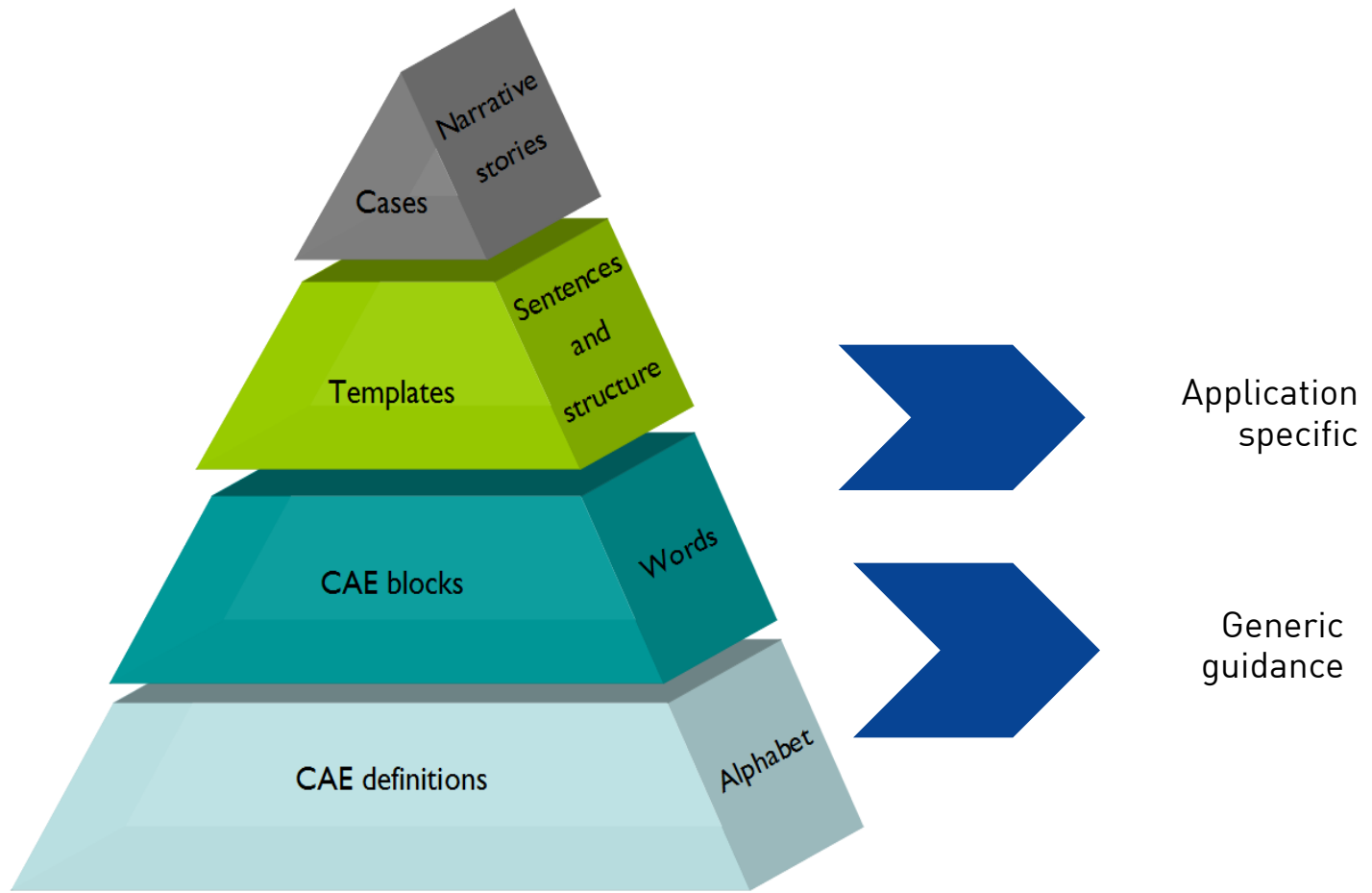


- **Decomposition**
Partition some aspect of the claim
- **Substitution**
Refine a claim about an object into claim about an equivalent object
- **Evidence incorporation**
Evidence supports the claim
- **Concretion**
Some aspect of the claim is given a more precise definition
- **Calculation or proof**
Some value of the claim can be computed or proved
- **Also composite blocks**

A helping hand with CAE

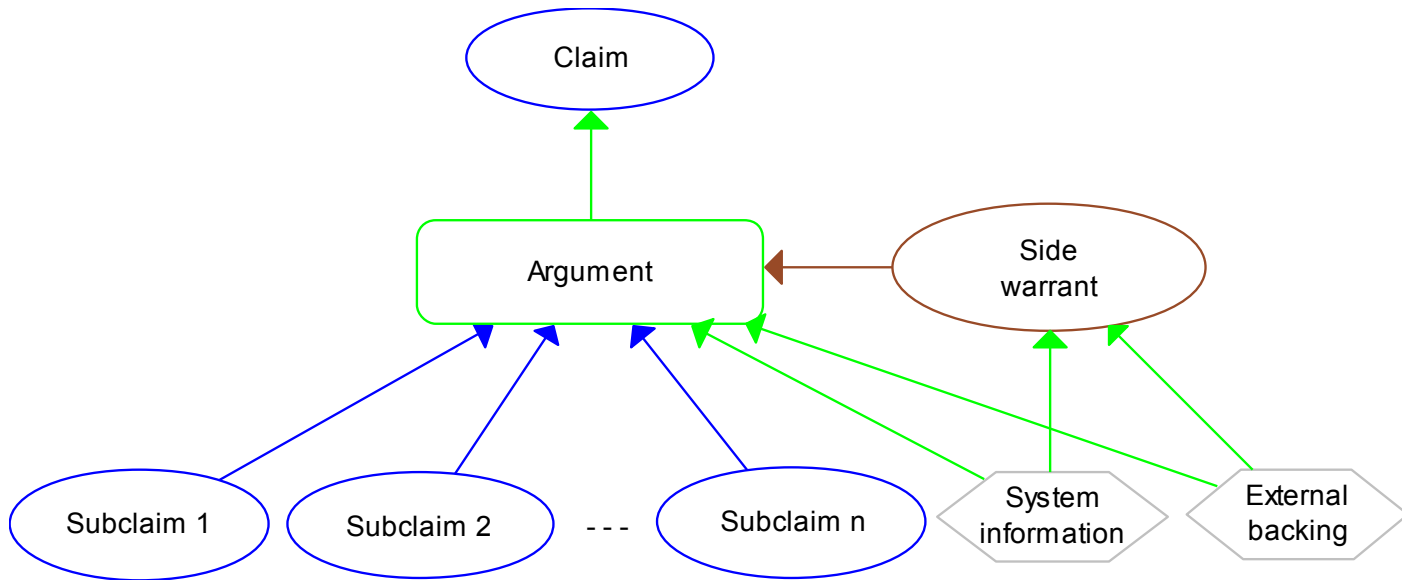


CAE stack



General structure of a block

CAE blocks are a series of archetypal argument fragments. They are based on the CAE normal form with further simplification and enhancements.



General block structure



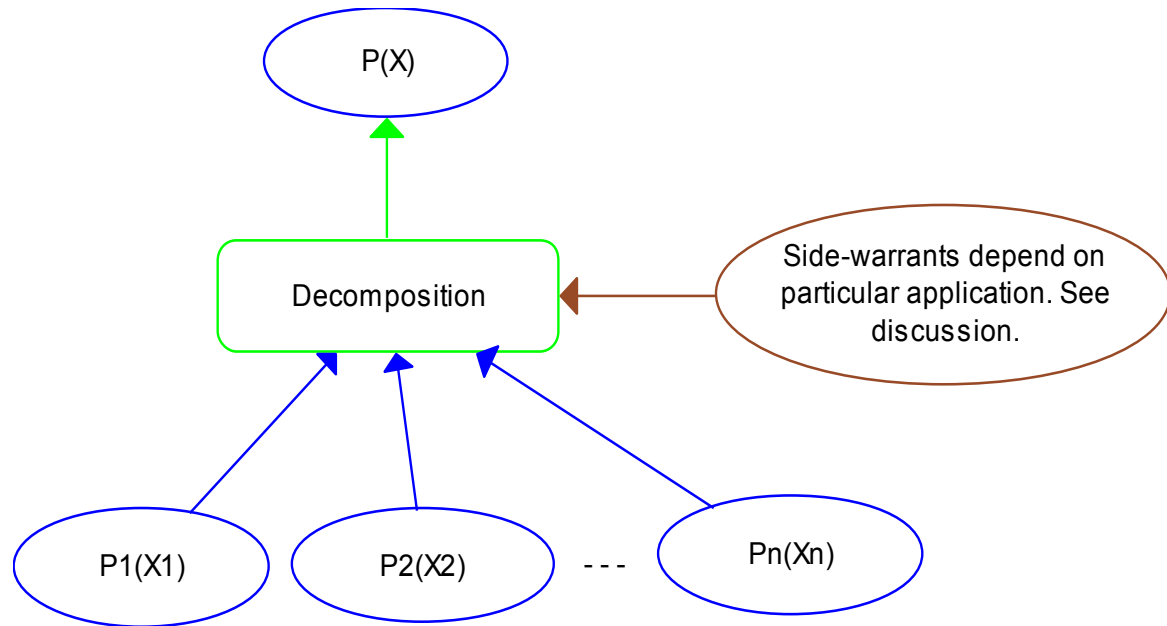
Side warrants

- The argument node can be descriptive
- The side warrant helps make the argument and can be supported with backing
- It address the “because ..?” questions in more detail
 - Simple semantics is
 - $C11 \wedge C12 \wedge W \Rightarrow C1$
- When we use a block we need to show:
 - Verification of the block
 - Validity with respect to the real world e.g. whether “ $1+1 = 2$ ”

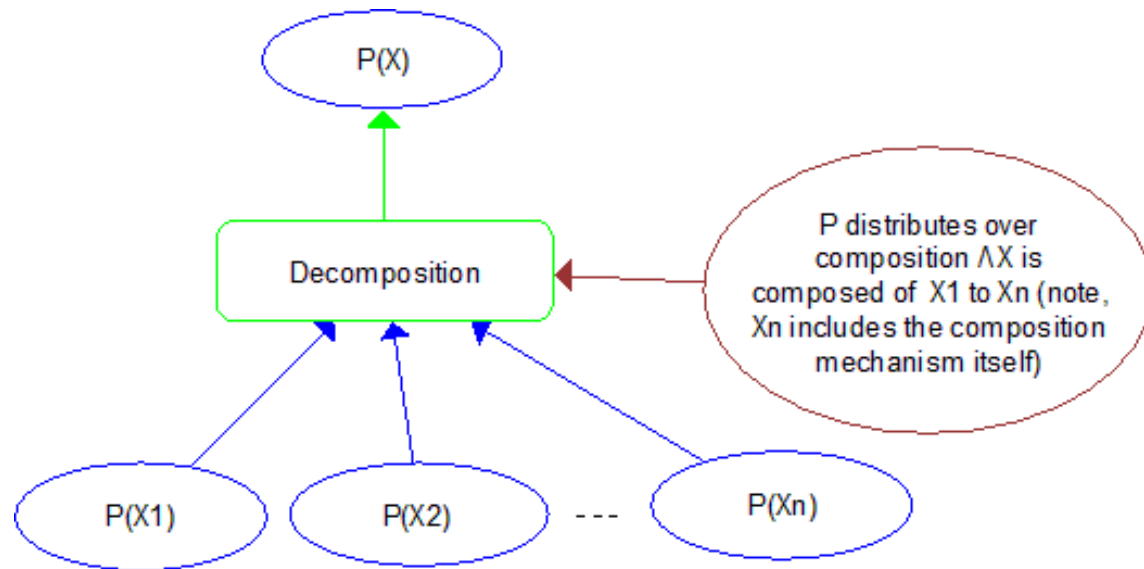


Decomposition block

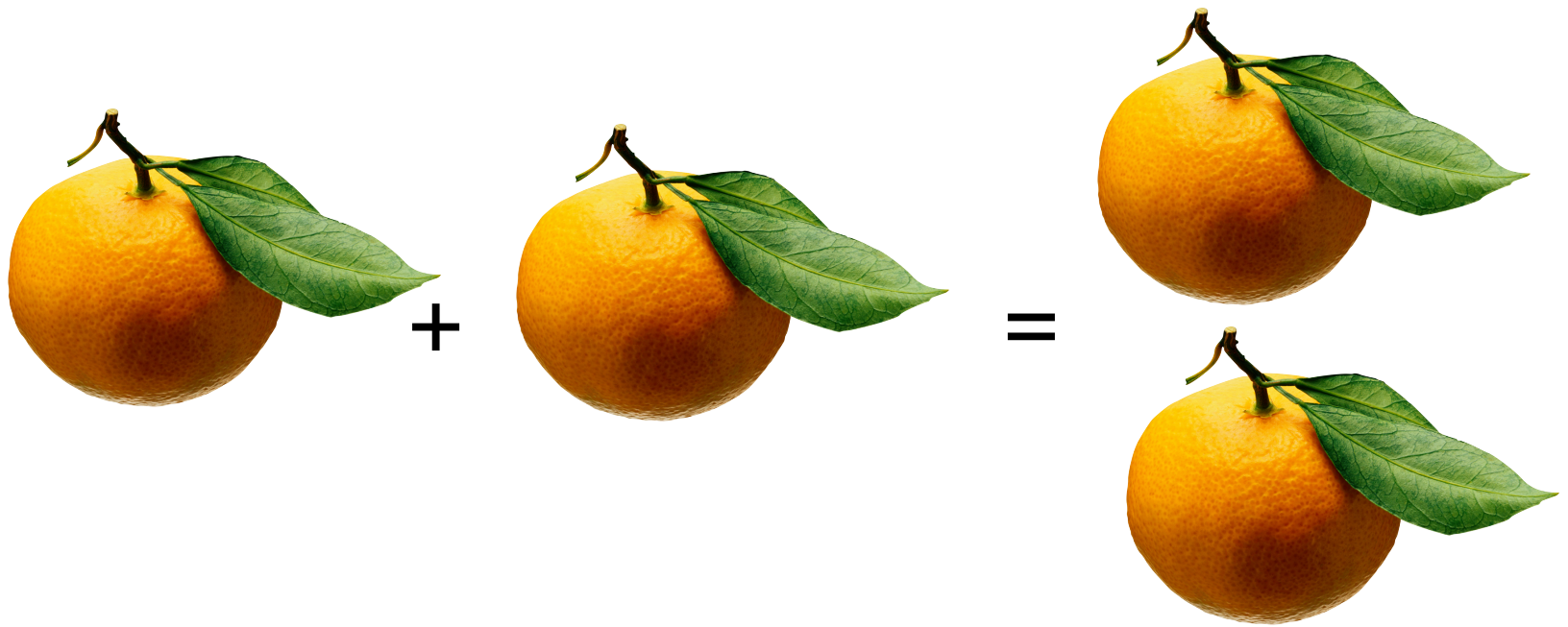
- A claim that an object X has property P is justified from claims about other objects and properties



Decomposition block – single property



Example of a single object decomposition

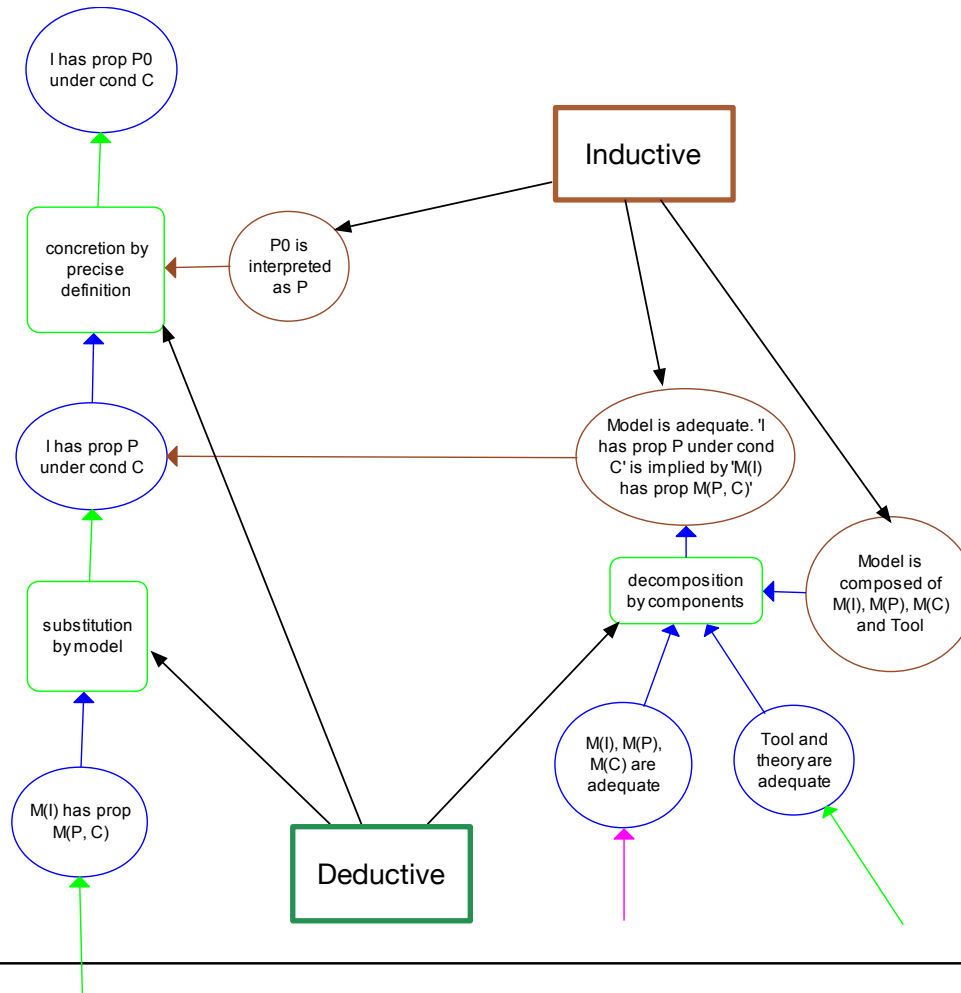


Oranges – 1 + 1 = 2

- Pressure, temperature
- Timescales
 - Rotting
- Hidden
 - Extra
- Fake
 - Explosive (looks like an orange ...)
- Dropped, squashed
 - Process of combining
- What does “two” oranges mean
 - Juice, contents, dimensions as a whole fruit
- Claim(X, property, environment) + Block



Inductive/deductive – Verify/validate

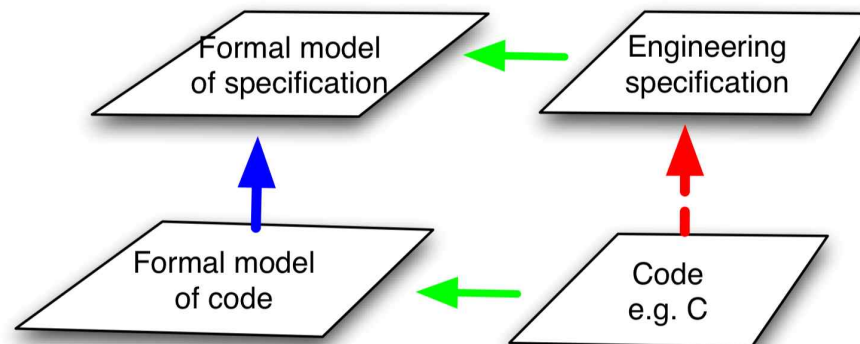


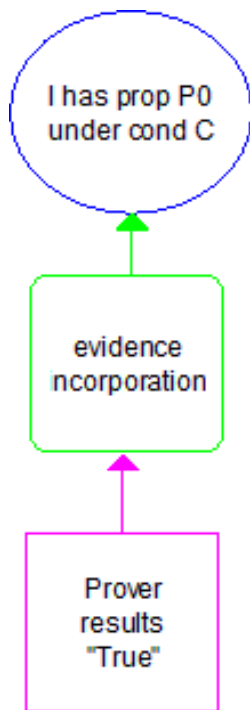
Application



Simple example – smart device

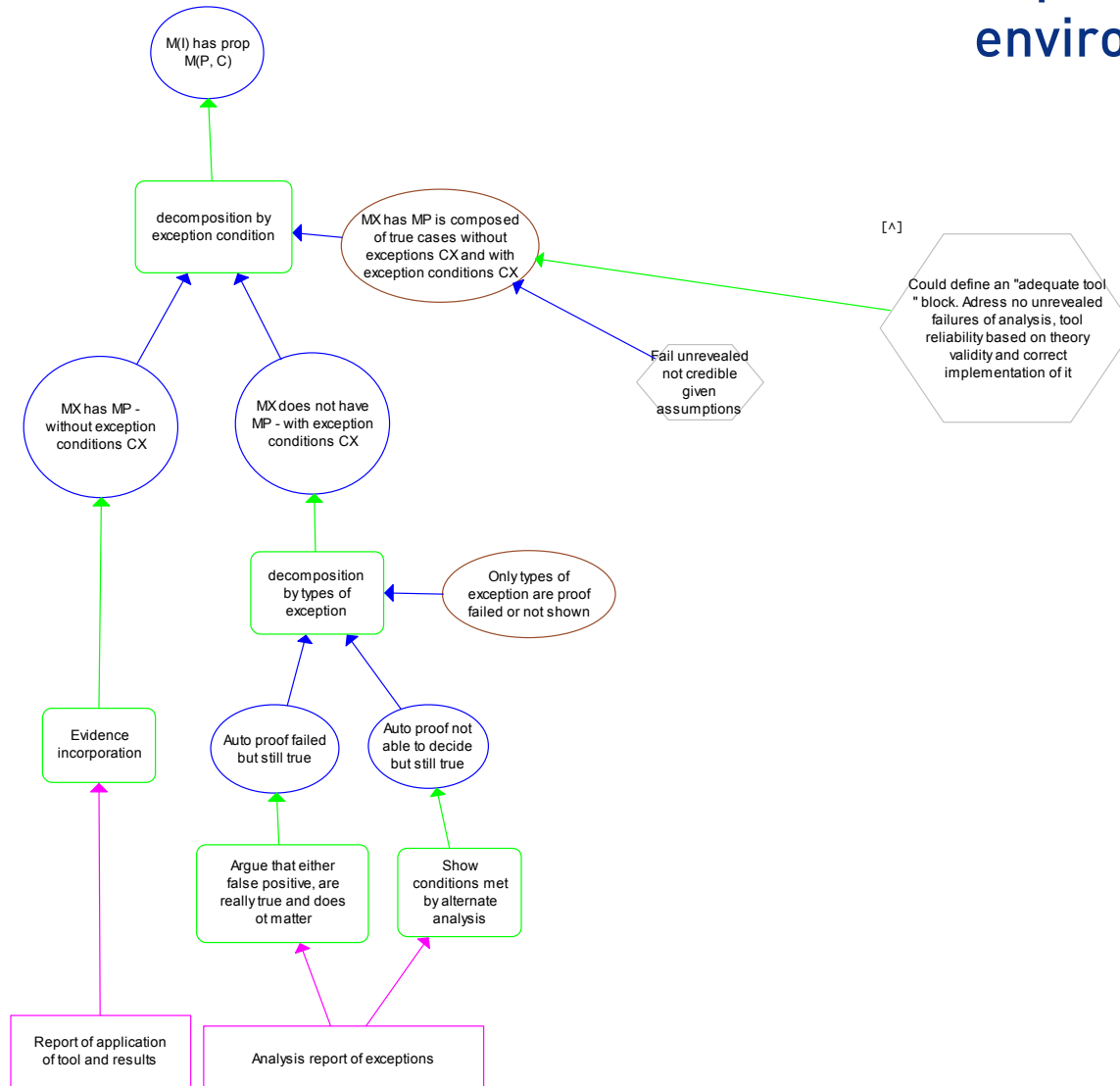
- Seek perfection, achieve high reliability – engineering
- Population of devices → very high reliability claims for 95% confidence no death from product line
- Equivalent claim – pnp < 5%
- Also John, Bev, Andrey Povyakalo's work on architectures



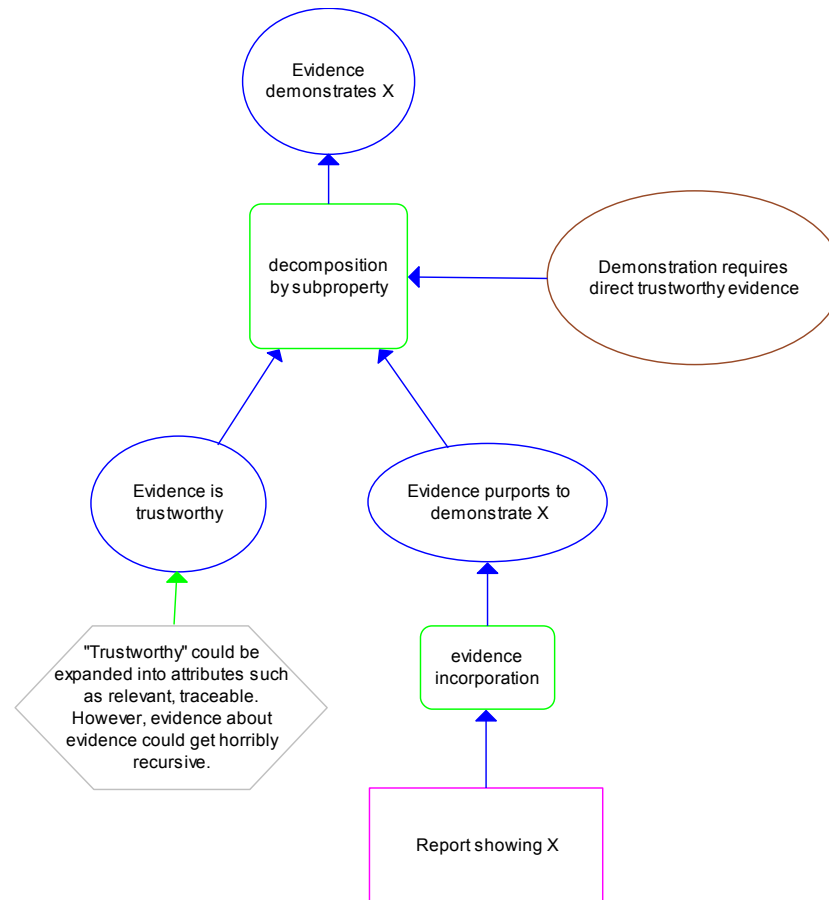




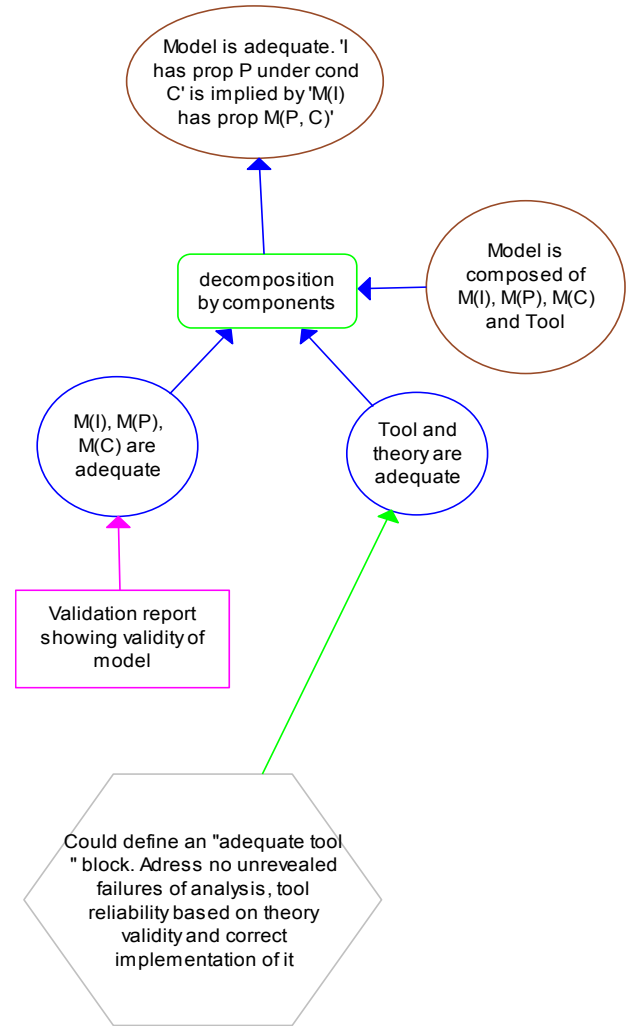
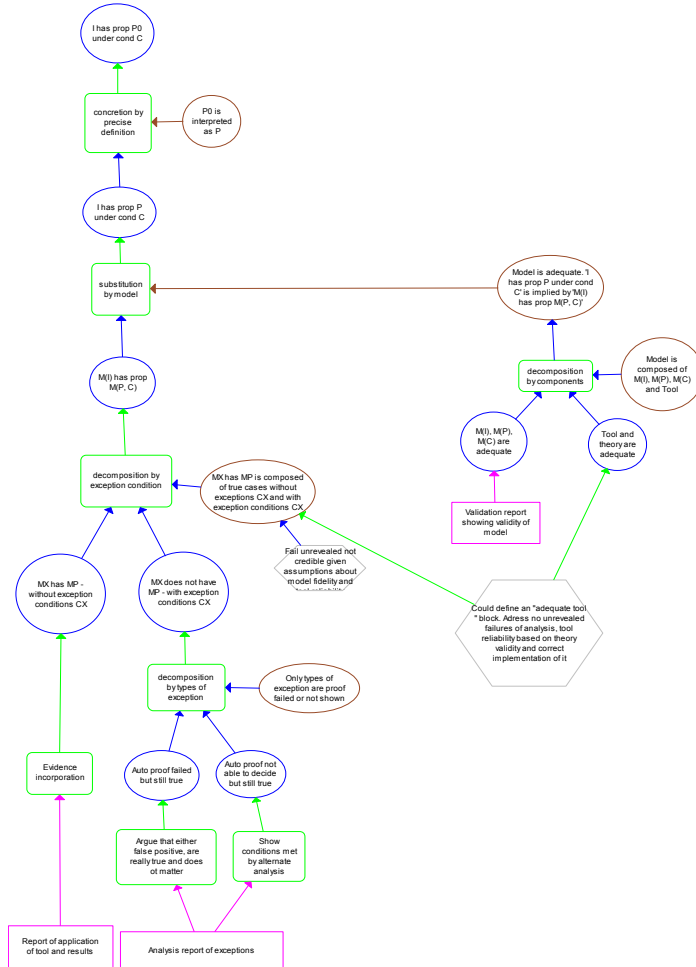
Experimental environment

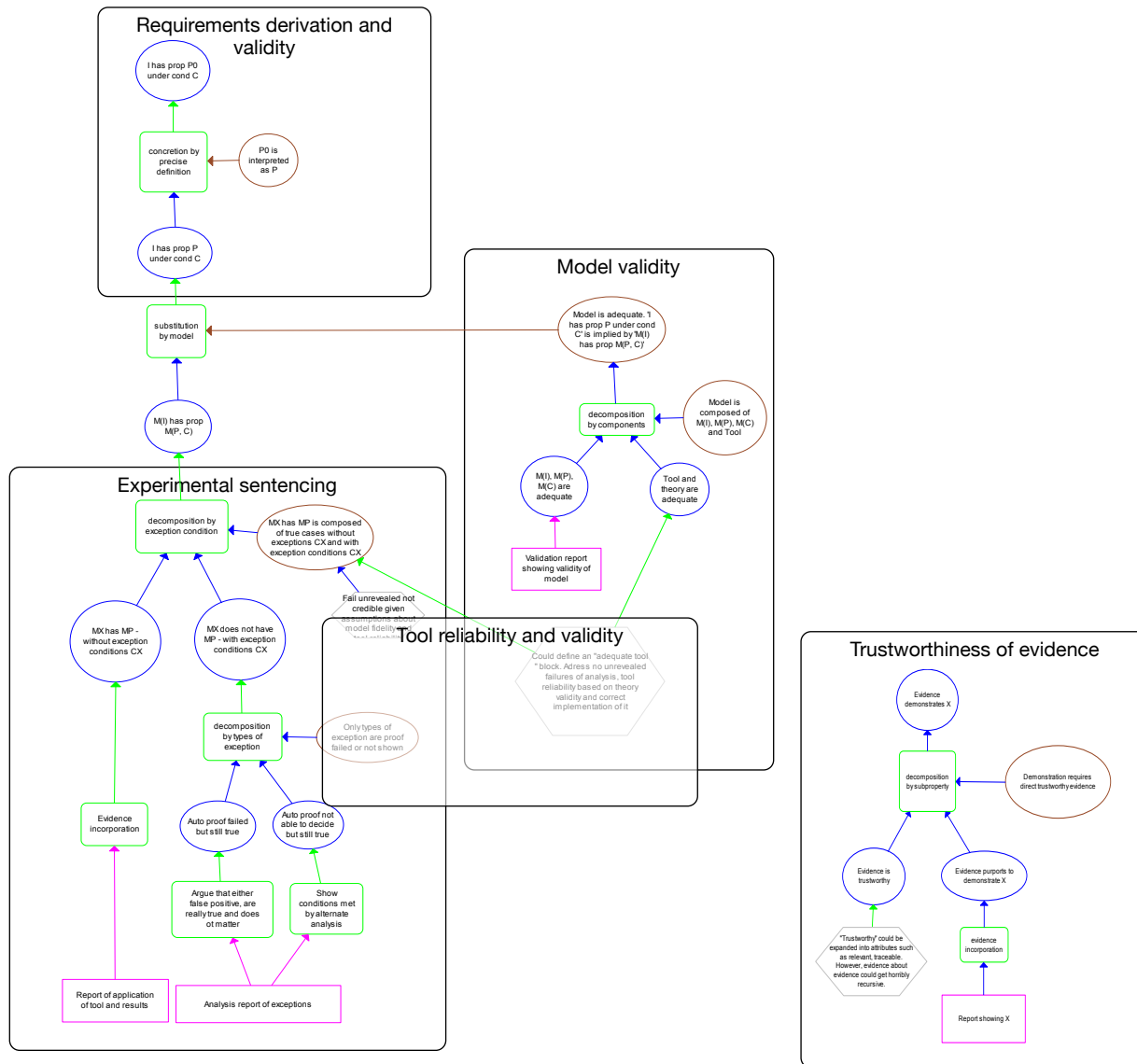


Evidence incorporation – explicit trust



Model fidelity





Doubts – epistemic uncertainties

- Drivers – real world risks and probabilistic requirements
 - Implicit or explicit
- What are these and how to combine
 - Irony of diversity
- Research on conservative approaches
 - Sum of doubts
 - Inclusion/exclusion principle
 - Sum of doubts not conservative
 - BBN – Littlewood Wright
 - Argument is not precise enough
 - So in CAE terms its nodes + argument
 - Lack of analysis and confusing abstract evidence for test reports
- Whatever approach need data or judgments on doubts



Applying safety analysis to cases

- Analysis of decision making
- Hazops
- Preliminary hazard list
 - Experience
 - Common vulnerabilities
 - Common fallacies
- Develop analysis approach



Avoiding the McNamara fallacy

“The first step is to measure whatever can be easily measured. This is OK as far as it goes. The second step is to disregard that which can't be easily measured or to give it an arbitrary quantitative value. This is artificial and misleading. The third step is to presume that what can't be measured easily really isn't important. This is blindness. The fourth step is to say that what can't be easily measured really doesn't exist. This is suicide.”

- —Daniel Yankelovich "Corporate Priorities: A continuing study of the new demands on business." (1972)
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McNamara_fallacy



Types of doubt

Doubt categories	Description	Comment Are these ordered?
"Zero" - deductive	Accepted formal proof	Denote as ϕ Need to document "sun rising tomorrow"?
Incredible	Analytical justification why impossible but admit may be wrong	Claim limit Assumption – document if might change, for challenge
Small but not significant	Credible but can be ignored in quantification but not analysis	Only need to rank Show sum not significant Show non-linear or cascade effects absent
Significant	Need to quantify	...but how?



Example

- If case uses accepted blocks with high level of trust

Doubt categories	Example
"Zero" - deductive	Underlying logics, theories
Incredible	Theory basis tool Deductive CAE Blocks (generic)
Small but not significant	Instantiation of Blocks Dangerous failure prover Trustworthiness of evidence Derived results used by tool (libraries) Back end tool engineering issues
Significant	Requirements capture real-world properties Faults in formulating formal model of safety properties Code translation problems or things missed in code-model



Calculus of doubt/confidence

- Speculation ...

Doubt categories	Operators
"Zero" - deductive	$\phi + \phi = \phi$
Incredible	Claim limit cl or unquantifiable symbol cl+cl= cl or 2cl?
Small but not significant	Show Small << Significant Sum(small) not significant Nonlinear effects 5 small = significant
Significant	Sum Evaluate – judgments and experiment



Discussion and conclusions

- From “What is..” to “What should it be ...”
 - Examined actual use of cases
- **Develop structuring approach**
 - Useful to see in deductive/inductive split
- **Experimenting with conservative approach to doubts**
 - Calculus options and when valid
 - Types of doubt
 - Evaluation – how?
- **Next steps – more normative view**
 - Modularity, templates
 - Beta application via courses, industry workshops
 - Tool support
 - Assess transition challenge and maturity



WOSD 2015

- Workshop at ISSRE 2015
- Fifth Workshop on Open Systems Dependability (WOSD 2015)

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