



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY** | Nuclear Energy

**NEAMS**

**Overview of Verification**

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**Sandia National Laboratories**

**NEAMS VU Workshop**  
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# Verification: Some Definitions

## ■ Definition used by AIAA

*The process of determining that a model implementation accurately represents the developer's conceptual description of the model and the solution to the model.*

## ■ Definition used by ASME

*The process of determining that a computational model accurately represents the underlying mathematical model and its solution.*

## ■ Definition used by DoD M&S Coordination Office

*1. The process of determining that a **model implementation and its associated data** accurately represent the developer's conceptual description and specifications. 2. The process of determining that a **model or simulation** faithfully represents the developer's conceptual description and specifications. Verification evaluates the extent to which the model or simulation has been developed using sound and established software and system engineering techniques.*

*Verification answers the questions:*

*“Are we solving the equations correctly?”*

*“Are we solving the equations to sufficient accuracy?”*

*“Did I program what I thought I did?”*



# Verification Quiz

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- **True or False:**

*Good agreement with experiment means the equations are being solved correctly.*

*(Corollary: Comparing calculations with experiments does not address verification)*



# Verification has Two Primary Components

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## ■ Code Verification

- Software Quality Engineering (SQE)
  - *Necessary ingredient, but not itself sufficient*
- Numerical Algorithm Verification
  - *Verification testing (Order-of-Accuracy Tests)*
    - Eliminate code bugs
    - Eliminate inadequate algorithms
  - *Application-specific Verification Test Suite (VERTS) coverage analysis*

## ■ Solution Verification

- Assess adequacy of spatial and temporal discretization
  - *Mesh sensitivity studies*
  - *A Posteriori error estimation*
  - *Formal mesh refinement (e.g., Richardson extrapolation)*
- Assure correctness of user-input algorithm parameters



# More on Solution Verification

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**Solution verification addresses the following questions:**

■ **In the context of *model validation*:**

- Are numerical errors obscuring or undermining comparisons of calculations with experimental data?

■ **In the context of *predictive simulation*:**

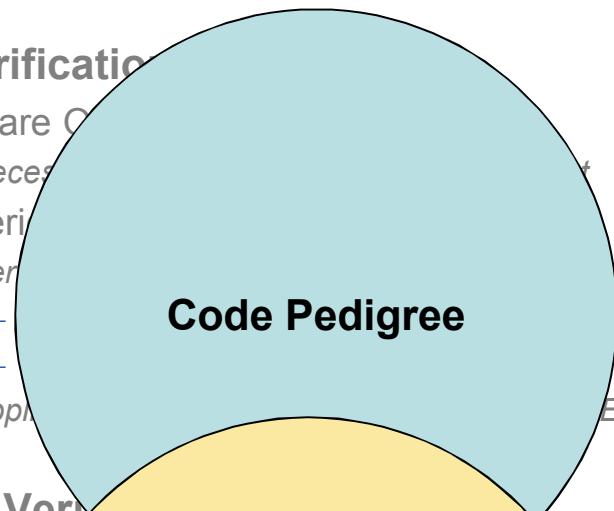
- Is the solution accuracy adequate for the intended application?



# How Does Verification Support Licensing?

## ■ Code Verification

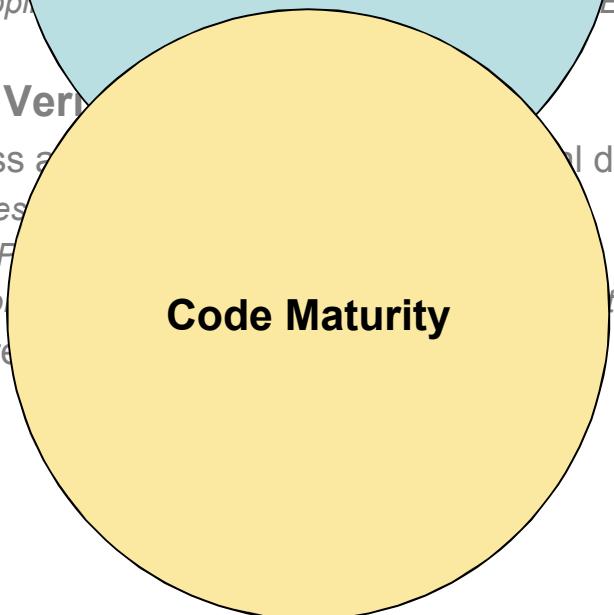
- Software Configuration
  - Necessary
- Numerical Verification
  - Verification
  - Numerical methods
  - Numerical discretization
  - Application



ERTS) coverage analysis

## ■ Solution Verification

- Assess a solution
  - Measures
  - A Reference
  - For a given
- Assurance



– Numerical discretization  
– Numerical extrapolation)  
– Parameters

**Jerry Brock**  
*Verification Supports Code Maturity and Fuels Licensing*



# The Remaining Talks Address Specific Areas

## ■ Code Verification

- Software Quality Engineering (SQE)
  - *Necessary ingredient, but not itself sufficient*
- Numerical Algorithm Verification
  - *Verification testing (Order-of-Accuracy Tests)*
    - Eliminate code bugs
    - Eliminate inadequate algorithms
  - *Application-specific Verification Test Suite (VERTS) coverage analysis*

**Mike Eldred**

*Software Quality Engineering – A DAKOTA Assessment*

**Kambiz Salari**

*Code Verification – Beyond SQE*

## ■ Solution Verification

- Assess adequacy of spatial and temporal discretization
  - *Mesh sensitivity studies*
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- Assure correctness of user-input algorithm parameters

**Brian Carnes**

*Overview of Solution Verification*



# Verification: When and Who?

## ■ When is verification done?

- Code Verification is done *before* Solution Verification
- ...which is generally done *before* Uncertainty Quantification

## ■ Who has the primary responsibility?

- For code verification, the *code developers*
- For solution verification, the *code users*
- *To be effective, these activities are integrated, team efforts supporting the Born-Assessed framework*

## ■ What can/should the VU program do?

- Serve as the primary integrator of these groups
- Develop and support verification processes within the Born-Assessed framework
  - *E.g., Verification testing, verification testing environments (scripts, etc.), software for solution feature extraction, archival of results, technical peer review, etc.*
- Contribute to code development for needed verification functionality (e.g., manufactured solutions, adjoints, error estimators, etc.)
- Perform needed R&D to close capability gaps (*see last two slides*)



# New Tools to Assess the Maturity and Confidence of M&S Efforts

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## ■ The Predictive Capability Maturity Model (PCMM)

- Version 1 published in 2007: Oberkampf, Pilch, and Trucano, "Predictive Capability Maturity Model for Computational Modeling and Simulation," Sandia Report SAND2007-5984, October 2007.
- Version 2 appeared in 2008
- *Goal: To judge the usefulness, or confidence, in a predictive capability*

## ■ NASA's Credibility Assessment Scale (CAS)

- Published in 2008: "Standard for Models and Simulations," NASA Technical Standard NASA-STD-7009.
- Similar in scope and content to the PCMM (some of the same people were involved in the development of both)

## ■ Others...



# The Predictive Capability Maturity Model (PCMM)

## (Version 1: Oberkampf, Pilch, and Trucano; 2007)

MATURITY ELEMENT	Maturity Level 0 Low Consequence, Minimal M&S Impact, e.g., Scoping Studies	Maturity Level 1 Moderate Consequence, Some M&S Impact, e.g., Design Support	Maturity Level 2 High-Consequence, High M&S Impact, e.g., Qualification Support	Maturity Level 3 High-Consequence, Decision Making Based on M&S, e.g., Qualification or Certification
<b>Representation and Geometric Fidelity</b> What features are neglected because of simplifications or stylizations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only</li><li>• Little or no representational or geometric fidelity for the system and boundary conditions (BCs)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant simplification or stylization of the system and BCs</li><li>• Geometry or representation of major components is defined</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited simplification or stylization of major components and BCs</li><li>• Geometry or representation is well defined for major components and some minor components</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essentially no simplification or stylization of components in the system and BCs</li><li>• Geometry or representation of all components is at the detail of "as built," e.g., gaps, material interfaces, fasteners</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>
<b>Physics and Material Model Fidelity</b> How fundamental are the physics and material models and what is the level of model calibration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only</li><li>• Model forms are either unknown or fully empirical</li><li>• Few, if any, physics-informed models</li><li>• No coupling of models</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some models are physics based and are calibrated using data from related systems</li><li>• Minimal or ad hoc coupling of models</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physics-based models for all important processes</li><li>• Significant calibration needed using separate-effects tests (SETs) and integral-effects tests (IETs)</li><li>• One-way coupling of models</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All models are physics based</li><li>• Minimal need for calibration using SETs and IETs</li><li>• Sound physical basis for extrapolation and coupling of models</li><li>• Full, two-way coupling of models</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>
<b>Code Verification</b> Are algorithm deficiencies, software errors, and poor SQE practices corrupting the simulation results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only</li><li>• Minimal testing of any software elements</li><li>• Little or no SQE procedures specified or followed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Code is managed by SQE procedures</li><li>• Unit and regression testing conducted</li><li>• Some comparisons made with benchmarks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some algorithms are tested to determine the observed order of numerical convergence</li><li>• Some features &amp; capabilities (F&amp;Cs) are tested with benchmark solutions</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All important algorithms are tested to determine the observed order of numerical convergence</li><li>• All important F&amp;Cs are tested with rigorous benchmark solutions</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>
<b>Solution Verification</b> Are numerical solution errors and human procedural errors corrupting the simulation results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only</li><li>• Numerical errors have unknown or large effect on simulation results</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Numerical effects on relevant SRQs are qualitatively estimated</li><li>• Input/output (I/O) verified only by the analysts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Numerical effects are quantitatively estimated to be small on some SRQs</li><li>• I/O independently verified</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Numerical effects are determined to be small on all important SRQs</li><li>• Important simulations are independently reproduced</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>
<b>Model Validation</b> How carefully is the accuracy of the simulation and experimental results assessed at various tiers in a validation hierarchy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only</li><li>• Few, if any, comparisons with measurements from similar systems or applications</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quantitative assessment of accuracy of SRQs not directly relevant to the application of interest</li><li>• Large or unknown experimental uncertainties</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quantitative assessment of predictive accuracy for some key SRQs from IETs and SETs</li><li>• Experimental uncertainties are well characterized for most SETs, but poorly known for IETs</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quantitative assessment of predictive accuracy for all important SRQs from IETs and SETs at conditions/geometries directly relevant to the application</li><li>• Experimental uncertainties are well characterized for all IETs and SETs</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>
<b>Uncertainty Quantification and Sensitivity Analysis</b> How thoroughly are uncertainties and sensitivities characterized and propagated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only</li><li>• Only deterministic analyses are conducted</li><li>• Uncertainties and sensitivities are not addressed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aleatory and epistemic (A&amp;E) uncertainties propagated, but without distinction</li><li>• Informal sensitivity studies conducted</li><li>• Many strong UQ/SA assumptions made</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A&amp;E uncertainties segregated, propagated, and identified in SRQs</li><li>• Quantitative sensitivity analyses conducted for most parameters</li><li>• Numerical propagation errors are estimated and their effect known</li><li>• Some strong assumptions made</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A&amp;E uncertainties comprehensively treated and properly interpreted</li><li>• Comprehensive SAs conducted for parameters and models</li><li>• Numerical propagation errors are demonstrated to be small</li><li>• No significant UQ/SA assumptions made</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>



# The Predictive Capability Maturity Model (PCMM)

## (Version 1: Oberkampf, Pilch, and Trucano; 2007)

MATURITY ELEMENT	Maturity Level 0 Low Consequence, Minimal M&S Impact, e.g., Scoping Studies	Maturity Level 1 Moderate Consequence, Some M&S Impact, e.g., Design Support	Maturity Level 2 High-Consequence, High M&S Impact, e.g., Qualification Support	Maturity Level 3 High-Consequence, Decision Making Based on M&S, e.g., Qualification or Certification
<b>Representation and Geometric Fidelity</b> What features are neglected because of simplifications or stylizations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only</li><li>• Little or no representational or geometric fidelity for the system and boundary conditions (BCs)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant simplification or stylization of the system and BCs</li><li>• Geometry or representation of major components is defined</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited simplification or stylization of major components and BCs</li><li>• Geometry or representation is well defined for major components and some minor components</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essentially no simplification or stylization of components in the system and BCs</li><li>• Geometry or representation of all components is at the detail of "as built," e.g., gaps, material interfaces, fasteners</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>
<b>Remarks on the PCMM:</b>				
<b>Model Validation</b> How carefully is the accuracy of the simulation and experimental results assessed at various tiers in a validation hierarchy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Few, if any, comparisons with measurements from similar systems or applications</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• accuracy of SRQs not directly relevant to the application of interest</li><li>• Large or unknown experimental uncertainties</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• accuracy for some key SRQs from IETs and SETs</li><li>• Experimental uncertainties are well characterized for most SETs, but poorly known for IETs</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• accuracy for all important SRQs from IETs and SETs at conditions/geometries directly relevant to the application</li><li>• Experimental uncertainties are well characterized for all IETs and SETs</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>
<b>Uncertainty Quantification and Sensitivity Analysis</b> How thoroughly are uncertainties and sensitivities characterized and propagated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only</li><li>• Only deterministic analyses are conducted</li><li>• Uncertainties and sensitivities are not addressed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aleatory and epistemic (A&amp;E) uncertainties propagated, but without distinction</li><li>• Informal sensitivity studies conducted</li><li>• Many strong UQ/SA assumptions made</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A&amp;E uncertainties segregated, propagated, and identified in SRQs</li><li>• Quantitative sensitivity analyses conducted for most parameters</li><li>• Numerical propagation errors are estimated and their effect known</li><li>• Some strong assumptions made</li><li>• Some peer review conducted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A&amp;E uncertainties comprehensively treated and properly interpreted</li><li>• Comprehensive SAs conducted for parameters and models</li><li>• Numerical propagation errors are demonstrated to be small</li><li>• No significant UQ/SA assumptions made</li><li>• Independent peer review conducted</li></ul>



# Verification Research and Implementation Issues\*

- Develop manufactured solutions for a wide range of physics and engineering disciplines for order of accuracy testing
- Develop improved measures of code coverage in testing software; line coverage in regression testing is inadequate
- Develop less expensive and more robust methods for estimating spatial and temporal discretization error
- Develop numerical error estimators for nonlinear parabolic and hyperbolic PDEs (including multi-physics problems)
- Develop methods to integrate verification into UQ assessments
- Require improved code verification evidence from code developers

**“I’ve already refined the mesh  
down to the microstructure of the metal!”**

*\*Thanks to Bill Oberkampf for much of this slide*



# Path Forward: A Balanced Approach

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## 1. Integration

- Ensure each IPSC team has a practical V&V plan that includes sufficient verification
- Help establish uniform SQE guidelines and shared processes, coverage metrics, etc.
- Develop and deploy shared verification software tools across the IPSC teams
- Support born-assessed process

## 2. IPSC development

- Work closely with the IPSC teams to design and implement appropriate verification methods (manufactured solutions, adjoints, error estimators, adaptive capabilities, etc.)

## 3. Verification research to address capability gaps

- *See previous slide*
- *We have written a short white paper on broader NEAMS VU capability needs*

## Discussion?



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## Extra Slides



# PCMM (Version 2)

		Maturity Level 0 Low Consequence, Minimal M&S Impact, e.g. Scoping Studies	Maturity Level 1 Moderate Consequence, Some M&S Impact, e.g. Design Support	Maturity Level 2 High-Consequence, High M&S Impact, e.g. Qualification Support	Maturity Level 3 High-Consequence, Decision-Making Based on M&S, e.g. Qualification or Certification
<b>Code Verification (CVER)</b>  Are software errors or algorithm deficiencies corrupting the simulation results?	Software Quality Engineering practices (SQE: how mature are the SQE practices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judgment only, codes informally managed to SQE practices or no documented SQE process requirements</li> <li>• Software process is characterized as ad hoc, and occasionally even chaotic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Codes managed to repeatable and defined SQE practices</li> <li>• Repeatable: Basic project management processes are established to track cost, schedule, and functionality.</li> <li>• Defined: The software process for both management and engineering activities is documented, standardized, and integrated into a standard process for the organization and applied in a graded manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SQE process is managed</li> <li>• Managed: Detailed measures of software process and product quality are collected. Both the software process and products are quantitatively understood and controlled.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SQE process is optimized</li> <li>• Optimized: Continuous process improvement is enabled by quantitative feedback from the process and from piloting innovative ideas and technologies.</li> </ul>
	Software Quality Assessment (SQA: assurance that code development is managed to an appropriate level of process maturity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judgment only, no assessment to SQE practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self assessment and documentation of full or partial compliance to organizational SQE practices by code team</li> <li>• Self-assessments or formal assessments have identified compliance gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal assessment and documentation of full compliance to organizational SQE practices by group external to the code development team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal assessment and documentation of compliance to SQE practices and accreditation to an appropriate level of a nationally recognized set of SQE standards (e.g., CMMI, ISO9000, IEEE, etc) by team external to the code development team</li> </ul>
	Test coverage (can the user be confident that the code is adequately tested for the intended application)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judgment only, minimal testing of any software elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained unit and regression testing and/or limited scope Verification Test Suite (VERTS) routinely conducted with 75% coverage</li> <li>• Note: unit and regression problems track code drift and not necessarily code correctness</li> <li>• Here, VERTS address <i>comparison</i> (<i>not convergence</i>) to the <i>correct answer</i></li> <li>• Coverage: Line, function, or feature and capability (F&amp;C)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained VERTS re-run regularly w 75% F&amp;C coverage and 75% coverage of all 2-way interactions of F&amp;C</li> <li>• VERTS address <i>convergence behavior to the correct answer</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained VERTS re-run regularly w 75% coverage of F&amp;C and all their interactions (2-way, 3-way, etc)</li> </ul>

Overview of Verification



# PCMM (Version 2)

PCMM Practice		Maturity Level 0 Low Consequence, Minimal M&S Impact, e.g. Scoping Studies	Maturity Level 1 Moderate Consequence, Some M&S Impact, e.g. Design Support	Maturity Level 2 High-Consequence, High M&S Impact, e.g. Qualification Support	Maturity Level 3 High-Consequence, Decision-Making Based on M&S, e.g. Qualification or Certification
Solution Verification (SVER) <small>Are human procedural errors or numerical solution errors corrupting simulation conclusions?</small>	Numerical Solution Errors (what is the impact of numerical solution errors on relevant SRQs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only, numerical solution errors not addressed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sensitivity to discretization and algorithm parameters explored for some System Response Quantities (SRQs)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Numerical errors estimated for discretization and algorithm parameters for relevant SRQs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Numerical errors rigorously quantified for all relevant SRQs</li></ul>
	Input/Output Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Input/output not verified</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Input/output verified only by the analysts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Input/output data independently verified</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Input/output data independently verified, calculation results reproduced independently</li></ul>
	Technical Review (confirmation that the solution verification activities are relevant, adequate, and carried out in a quality manner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judgment only, no technical review of the solution verification evidence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Informal technical review or technical review from within the project team or stakeholder community only</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal technical review by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) external to the project team or stakeholder community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal technical review by SMEs external to the project team or stakeholder community</li><li>• Formal technical review SMEs played an oversight and approval role of solution verification activities</li></ul>