

# Tradespace Analytics to Support Major Acquisition Programs

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*Society of Decision Professionals*  
*Decision Analysis Affinity Group (DAAG)*  
*Conference*  
*June 24, 2020*

# Outline

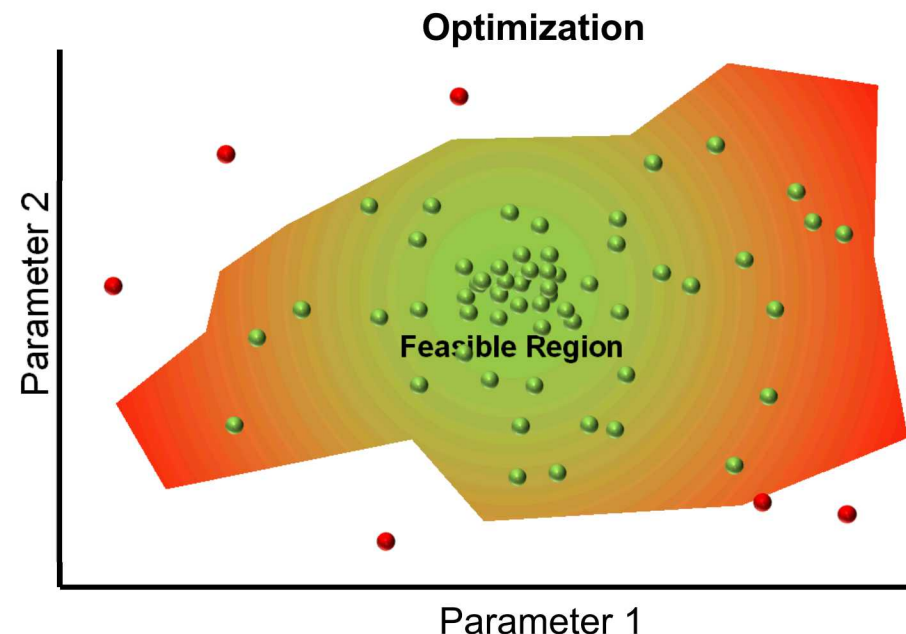
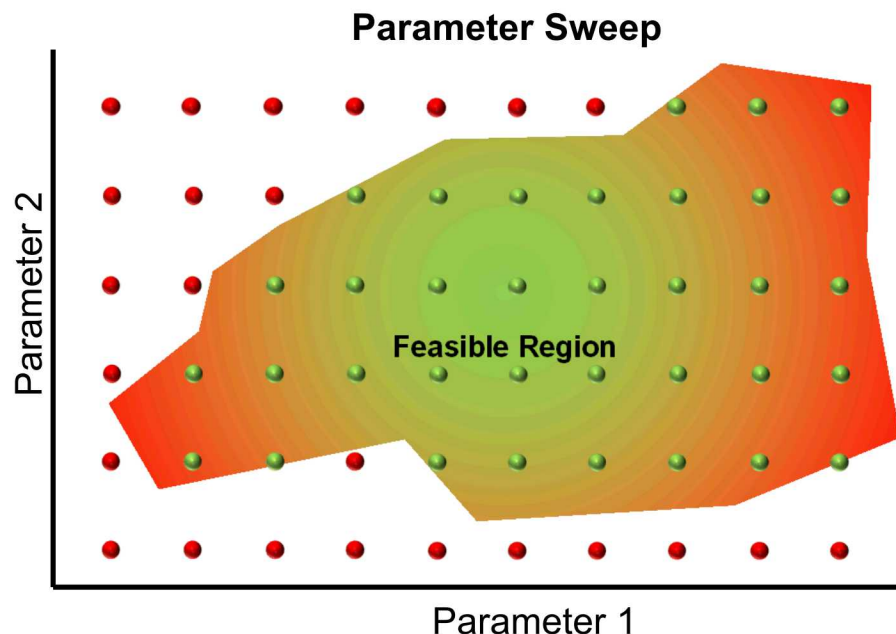
- Tradespace Terminology
- Acquisition Process
- Advanced Requirements Integration & Exploration System (ARIES) Overview
  - Optimal Requirements Trade Space
- Whole System Trades Analysis Tool (WSTAT) Overview
  - Optimal System Design Trade Space
- Summary

# Trade Space Terminology:

## Optimization vs. Parameter Sweep

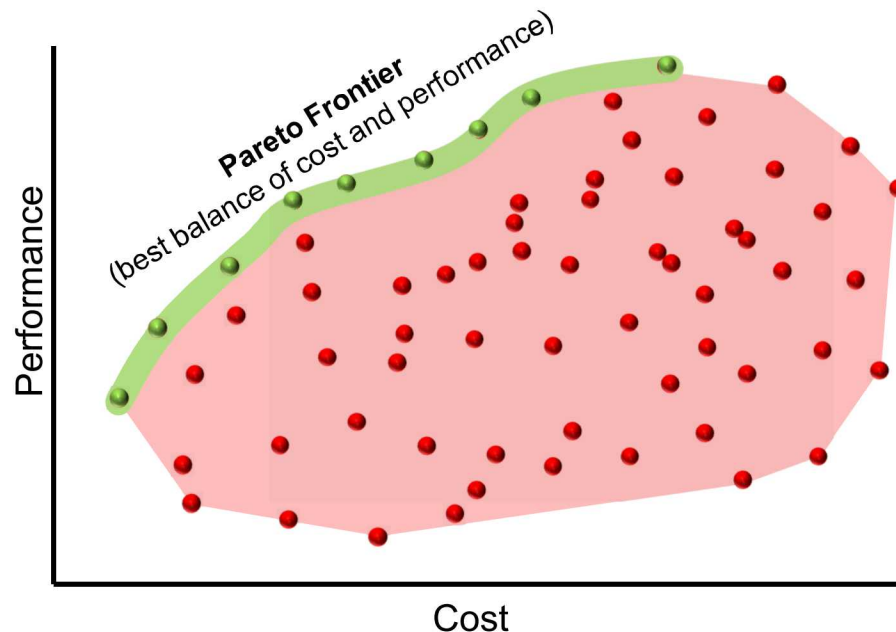
Over time, we've noticed that the idea of a "trade space study" can mean different things to different people. Generally speaking, this difference often boils down to the difference between a ***parameter sweep*** and an ***optimization***.

Given the problem context and search space size, BOTH approaches can be perfectly appropriate, and both techniques may entail various pros and cons.



# Optimization Trade Space

- Many of our decision analytics tools focus on an **optimization trade space**
  - Capture not just one best answer, but instead a **set of best answers** that balance competing objectives in different ways
  - Advanced Requirements Integration & Exploration System (ARIES) and Whole System Trades Analysis Tool (WSTAT) both focus on capturing this optimal trade space (or a Pareto Frontier)



**Dominated Set**  
(for any dominated solution, you can always find a Pareto solution that outperforms in all dimensions)



# Generating Solutions from Technologies

ARIES and WSTAT generate solutions via combinations of discrete subsystems (with inherent properties) rather than by directly setting system parameters

**“Choose the part”**



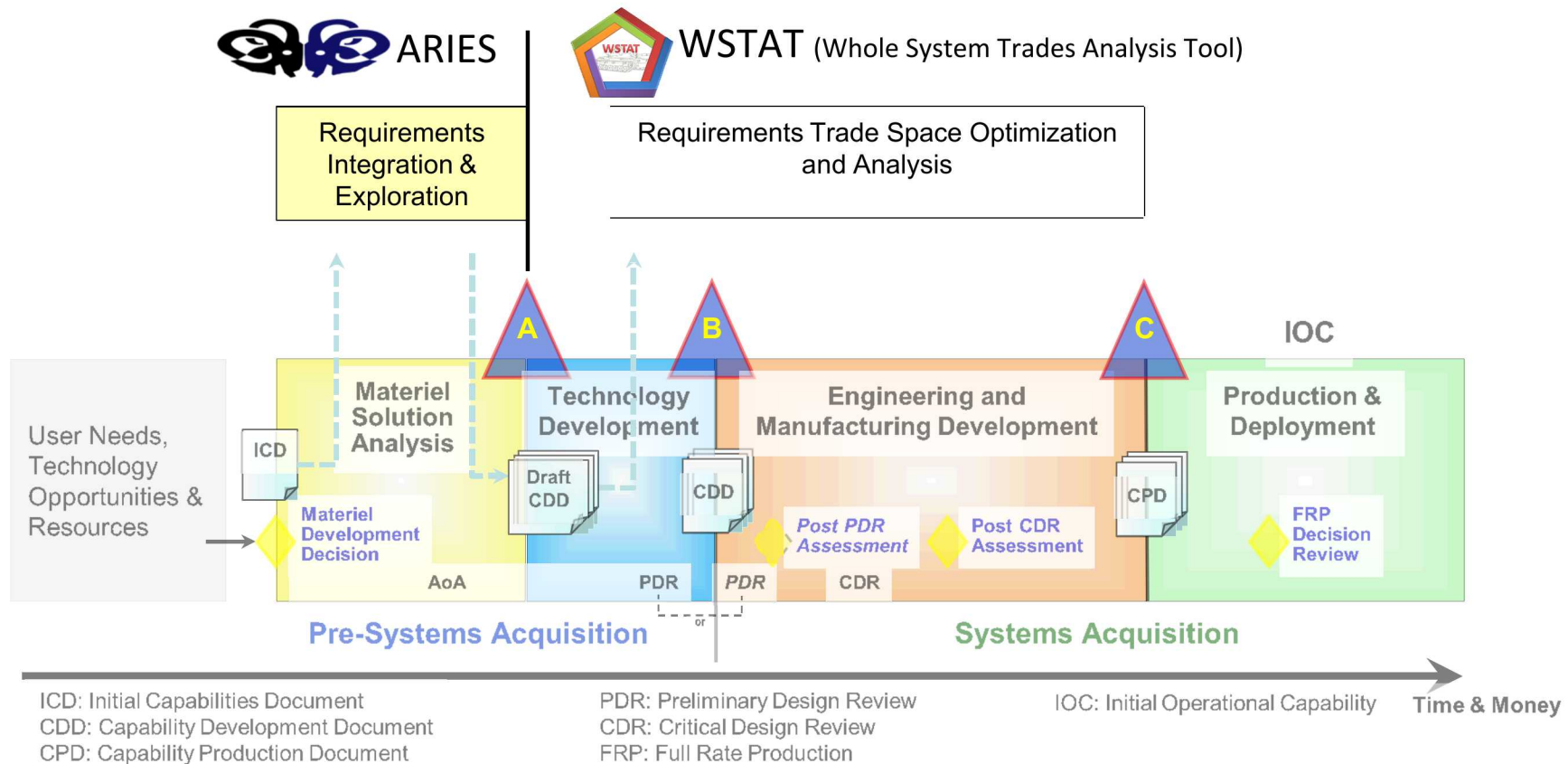
vs.

**“Choose the parameter”**



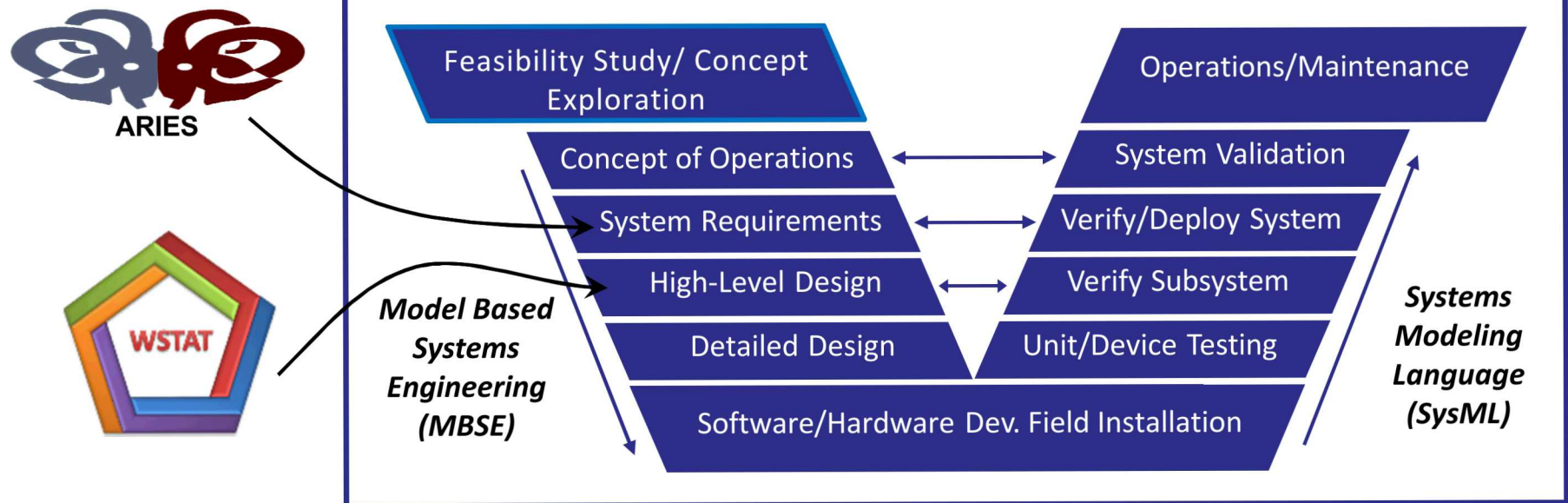
- Advantages of this technology way of thinking
  - Helps ensure analytic insights are grounded in reality
    - Tied to existing or envisioned technologies, their attributes, and interactions
    - Naturally avoids selecting impractical parameter combinations
      - Example – will not consider a very light and powerful alternative that does not exist/cannot be created
  - Easier to define system design constraints
    - Example – designing a vehicle, suspension has maximum weight it can support, can sum all selected component weights and compare to limit for selected suspension
  - Easier to capture technology compatibilities
    - Example – not all engines are compatible with all transmissions for a vehicle (not necessarily tied to specific parameter values)
  - Easier to talk about what a solution means (collection of parts vs. collection of parameters)

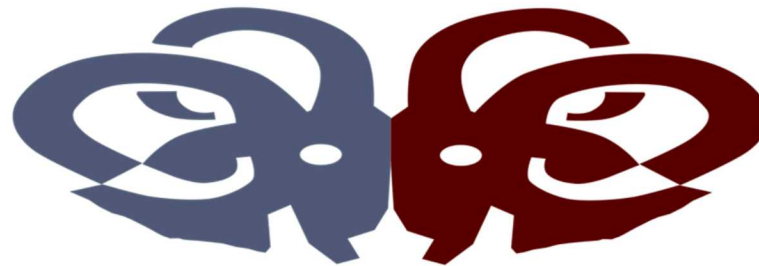
# When are ARIES and WSTAT Used?



**ARIES is used to help establish an achievable set of integrated requirements early in a program**  
**WSTAT explores design trades for combinations of technologies relative to defined requirements**

# Decision Analytics & Systems Engineering



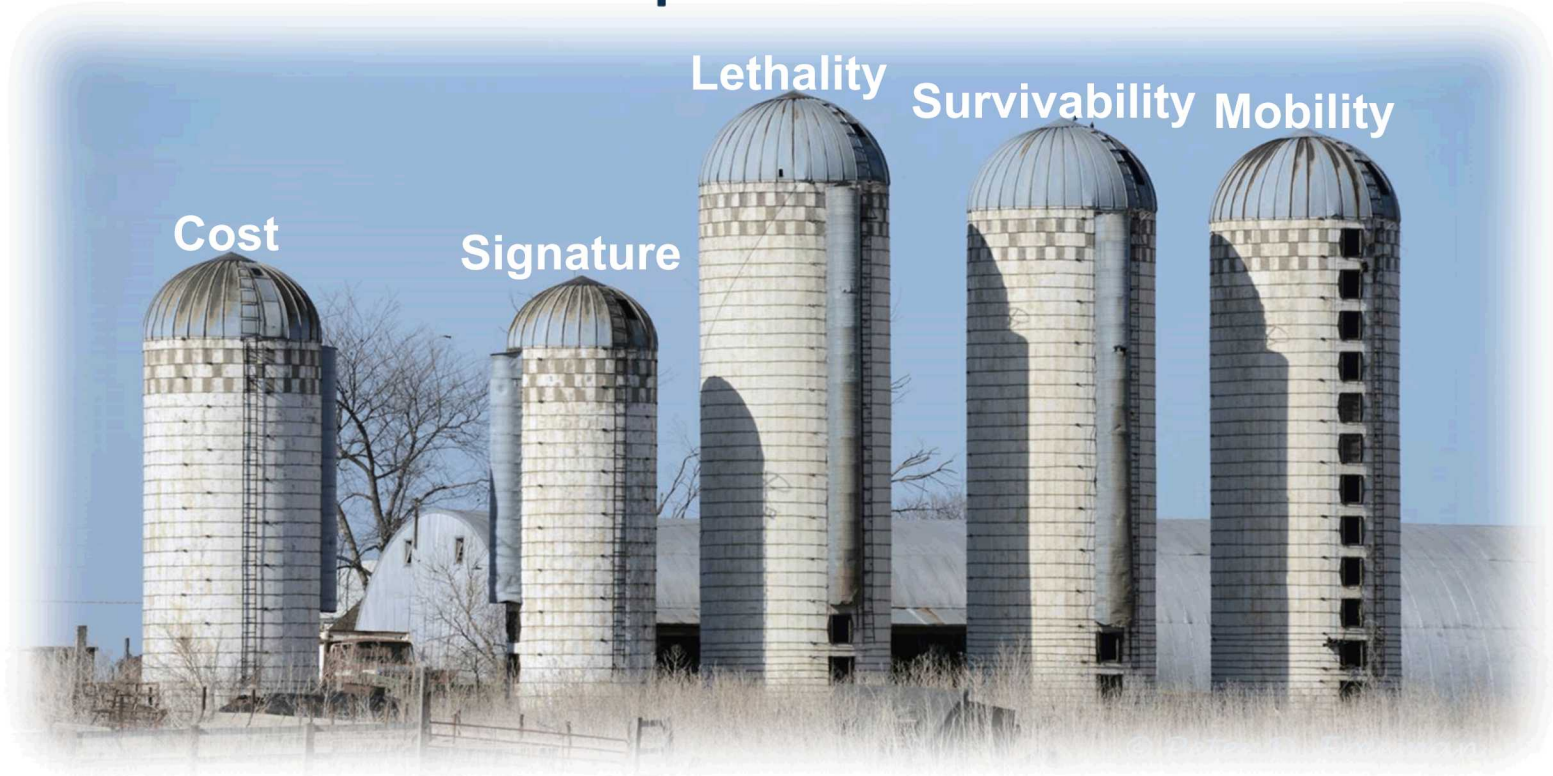


# ADVANCED REQUIREMENTS INTEGRATION & EXPLORATION SYSTEM (ARIES) OVERVIEW

ARIES: Optimal Requirements Trade Space



# ARIES Problem Space

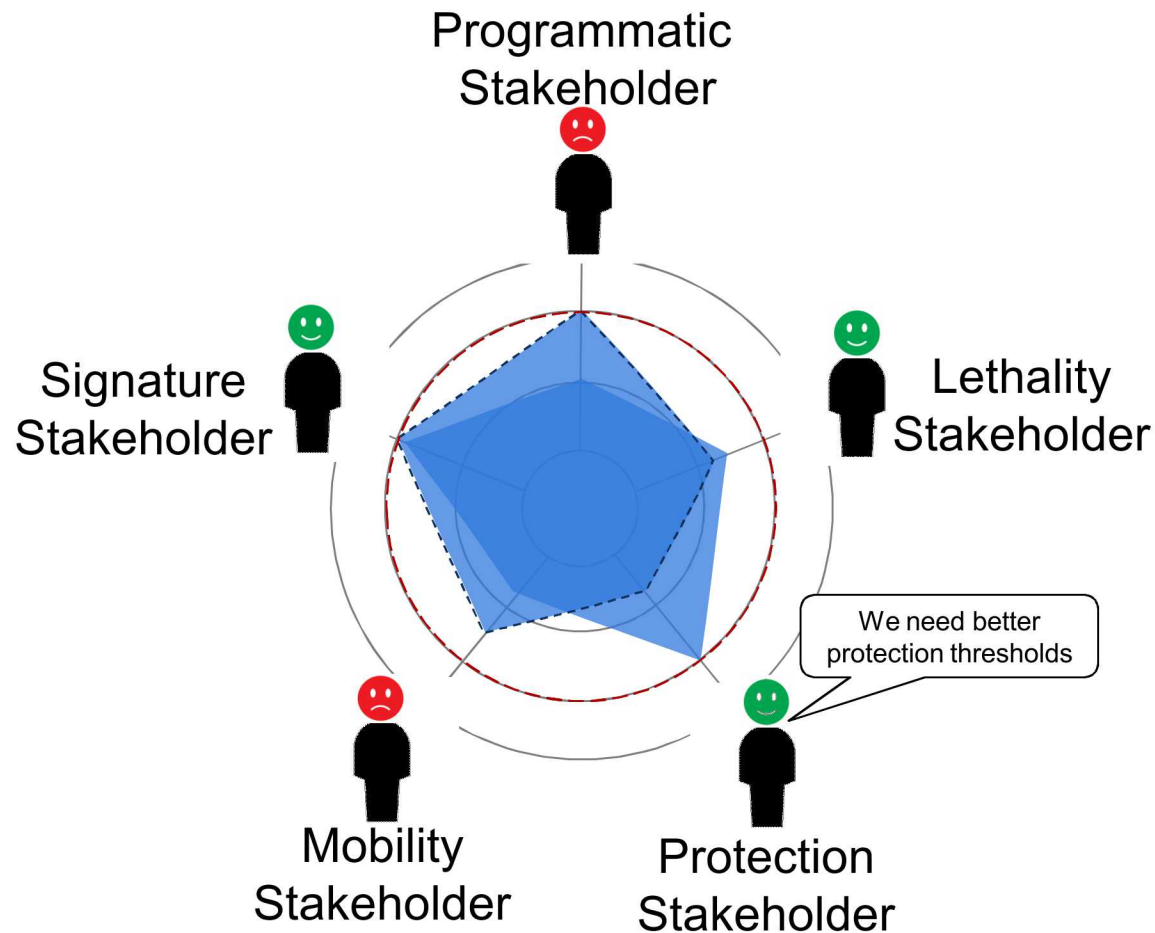


- Early in defense acquisition programs, an increasingly complex set of requirements is developed
- Each individual requirement possesses solid rationale and analytical backing
- However, different groups of requirements (lethality, mobility, etc.) are sometimes incompatible or unachievable when programmatic constraints are applied

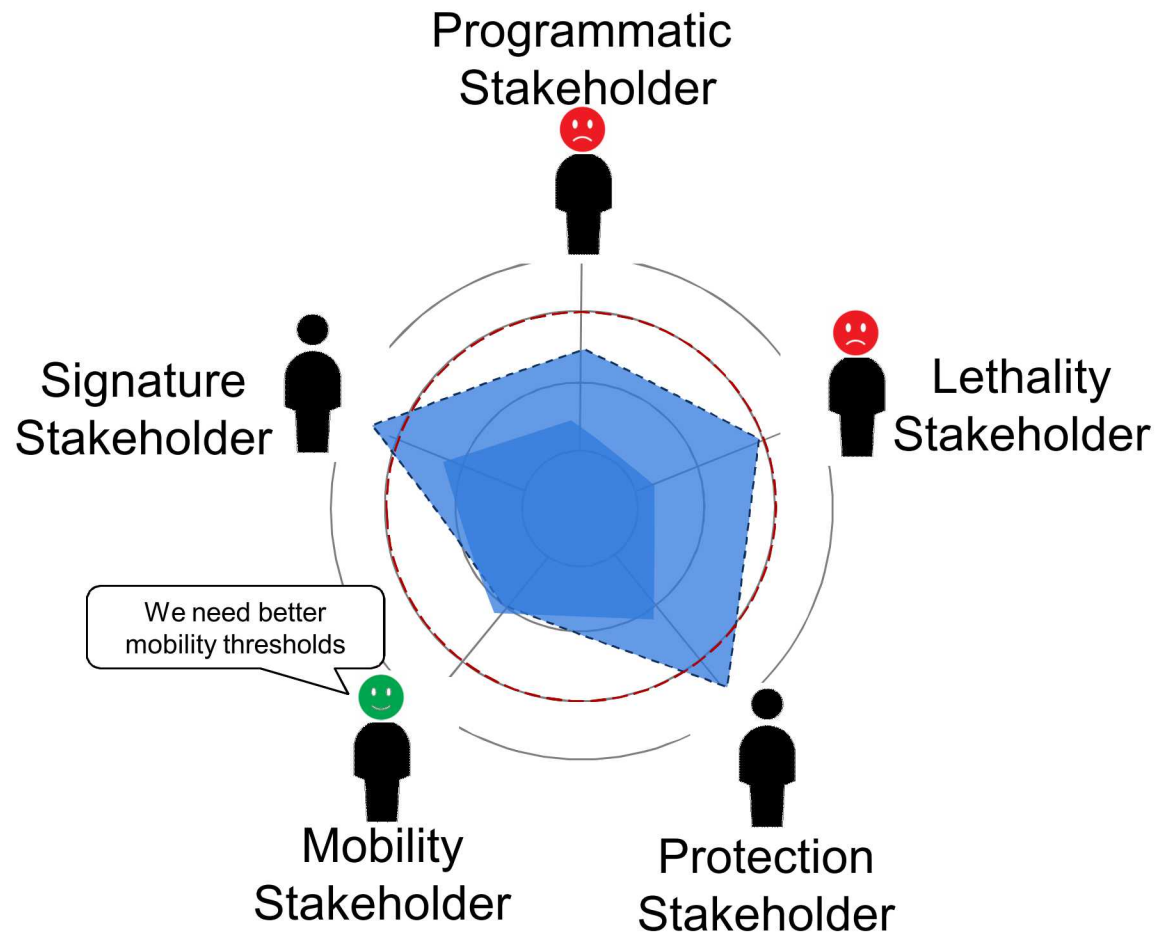
**ARIES** provides unique analytic capability to **foster communication and compromise** across potential requirements silos, resulting in a **simultaneously achievable set of requirements**



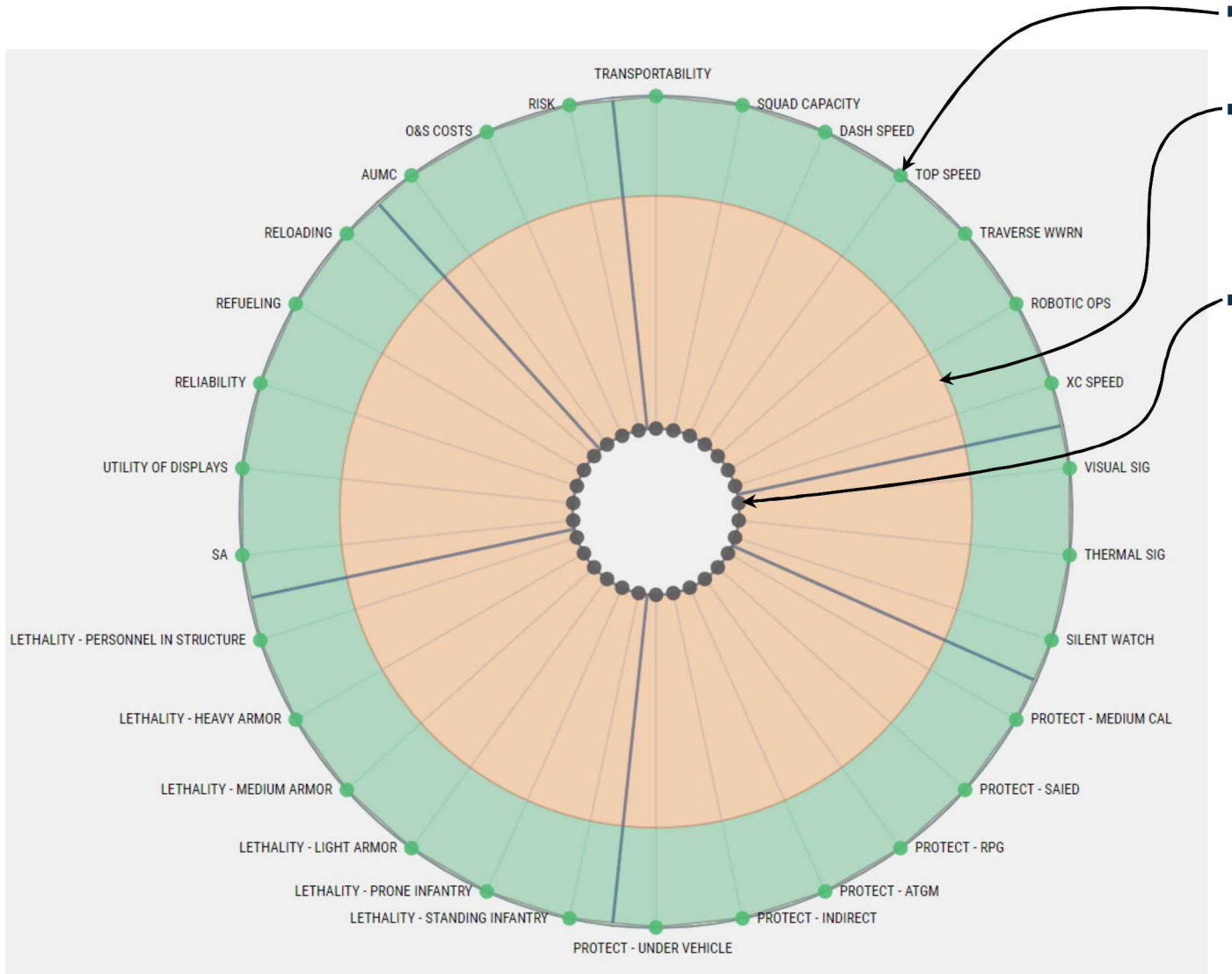
# Real-Time Stakeholder Collaboration



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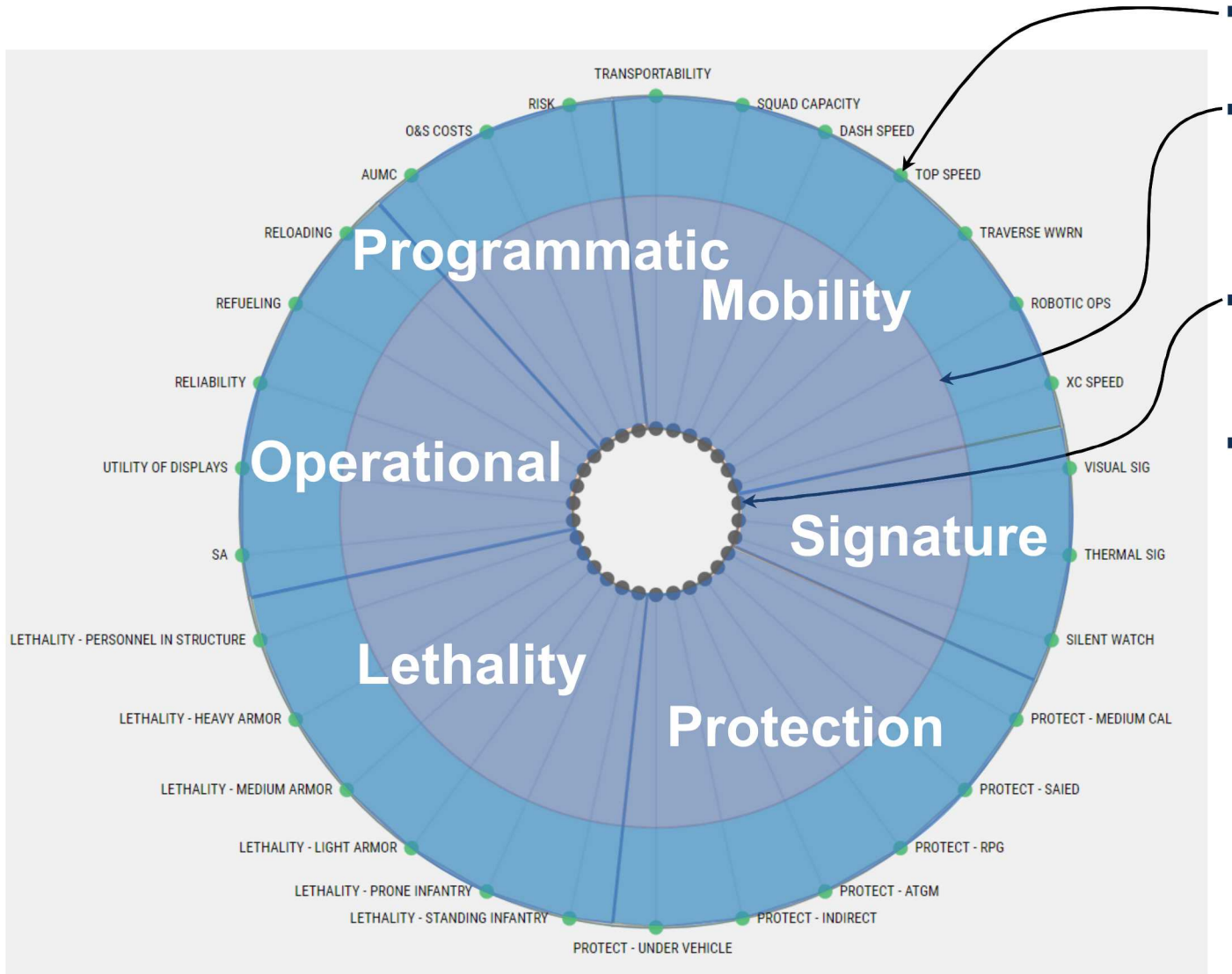


# ARIES Radar Chart

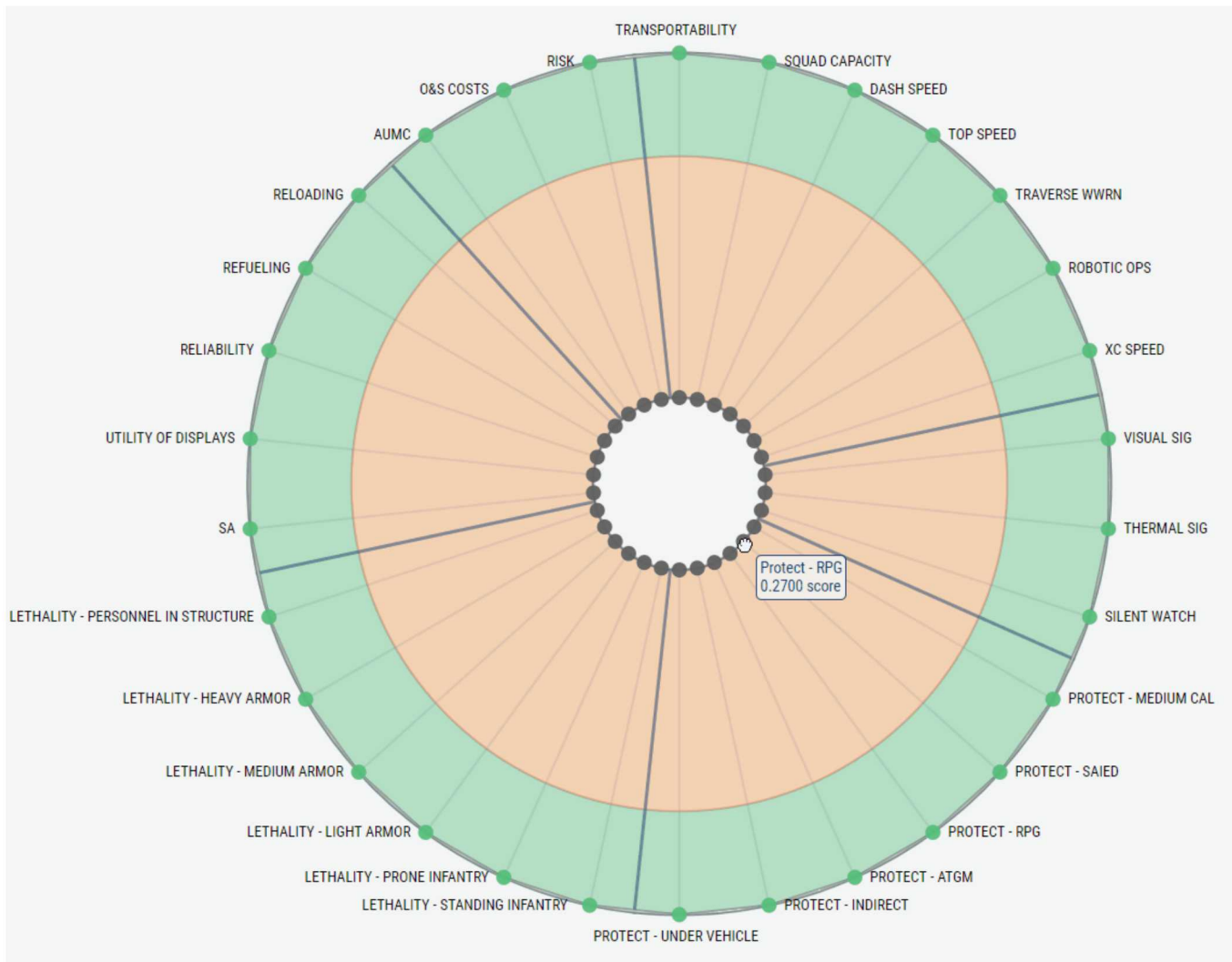


- Each spoke represents a system requirement
- The orange/green ring represents the **desired** threshold for each requirement
- The grey dot represents the current filter setting for each requirement

# ARIES Radar Chart



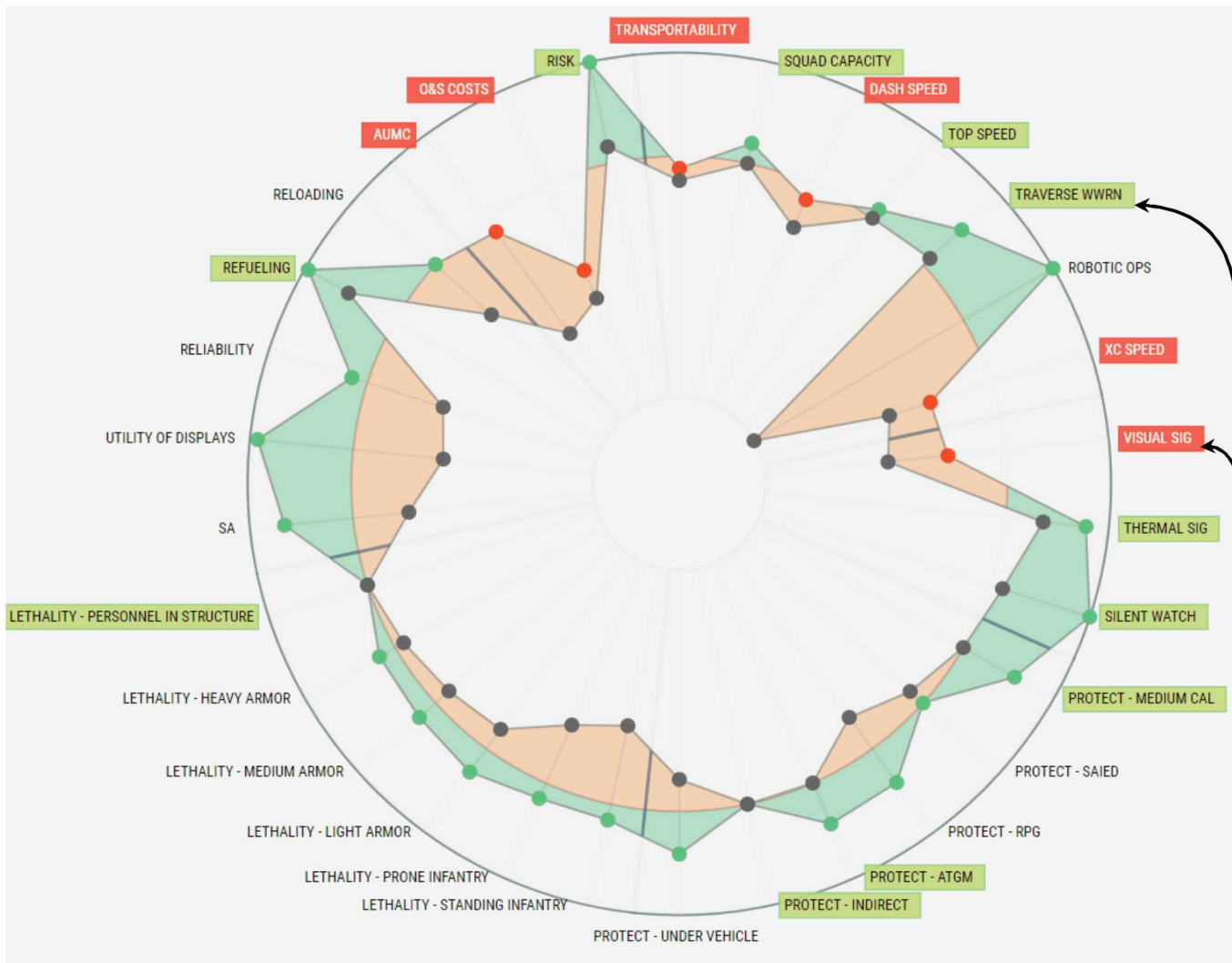
# ARIES Radar Chart



- Each spoke represents a system requirement
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- Related requirements are grouped around the circle

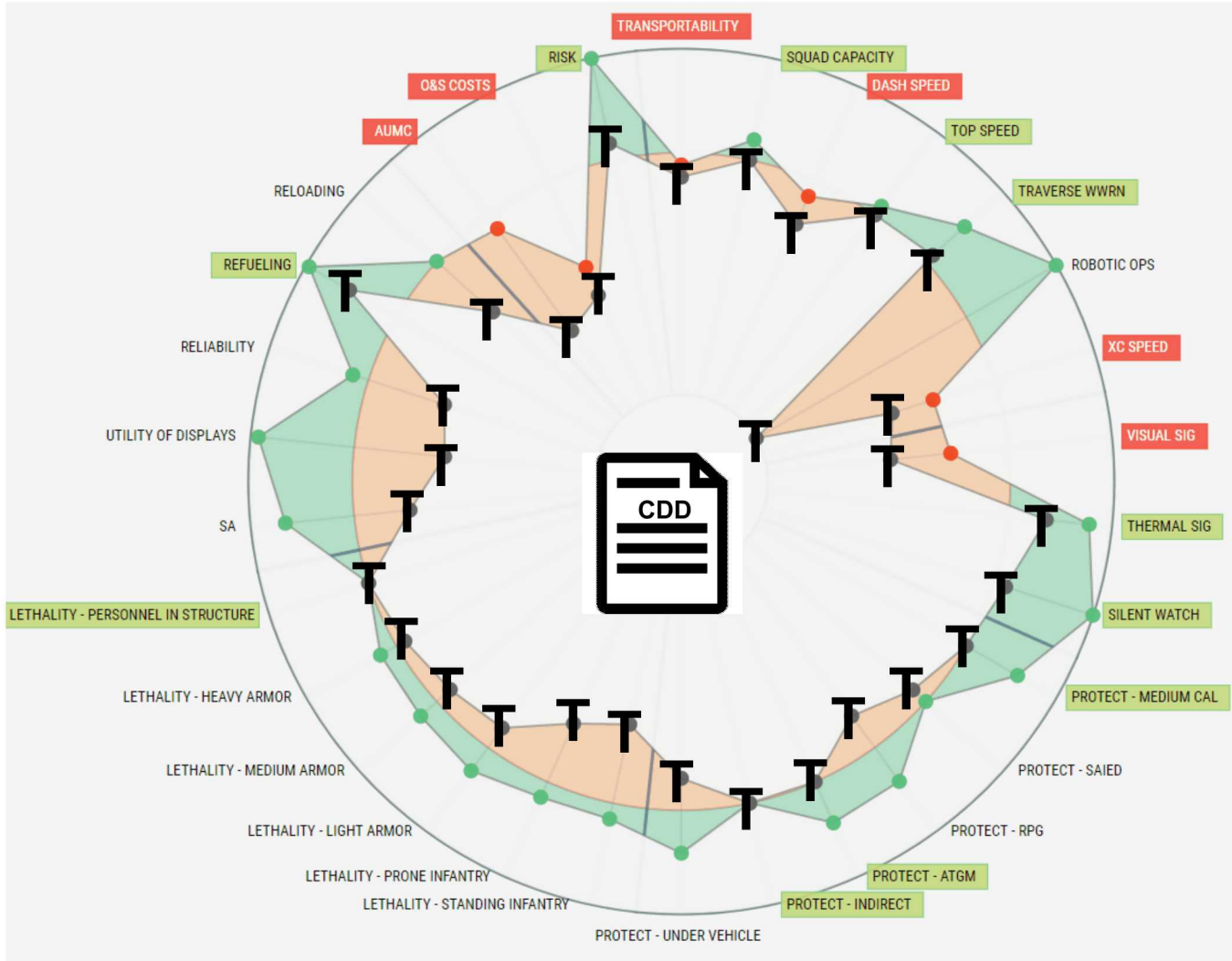


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- Green means good: all remaining solutions meet desired threshold
- Red means bad: no remaining solutions can meet desired threshold

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**ARIES Result - a complete set of achievable requirement values**



# WHOLE SYSTEM TRADES ANALYSIS TOOL (WSTAT) OVERVIEW

WSTAT: Optimal System Design Trade Space

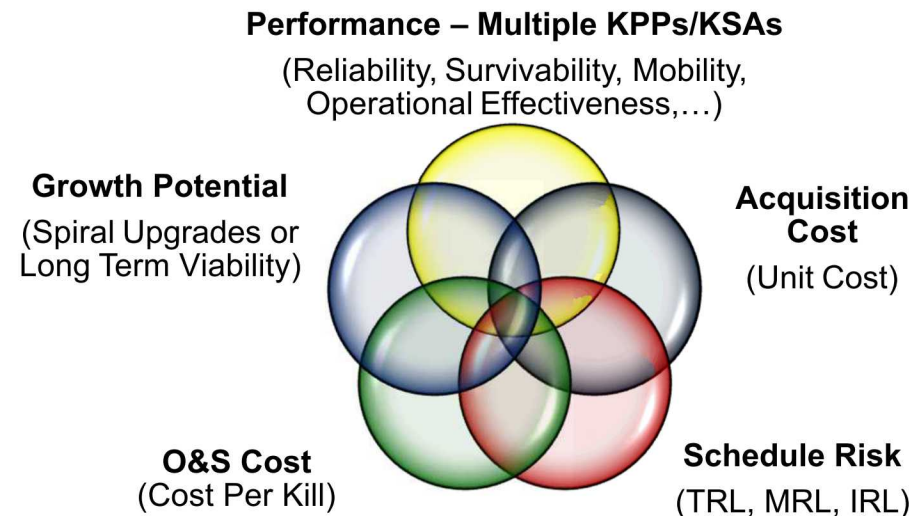
# WSTAT Purpose and Goals

## ■ Purpose

- Identify efficient technology combinations
- Model relationships between design decisions & stakeholder value to inform and potentially influence requirements and technology investments
- Provide insights to help decision makers understand holistic system-level impacts of technology choices

## ■ Process Goals

- Generate many good alternatives
- Stimulate conversation
- Provide foundation for traceable and defensible decisions
- Build consensus (high level of commitment and shared understanding among team members and stakeholders)

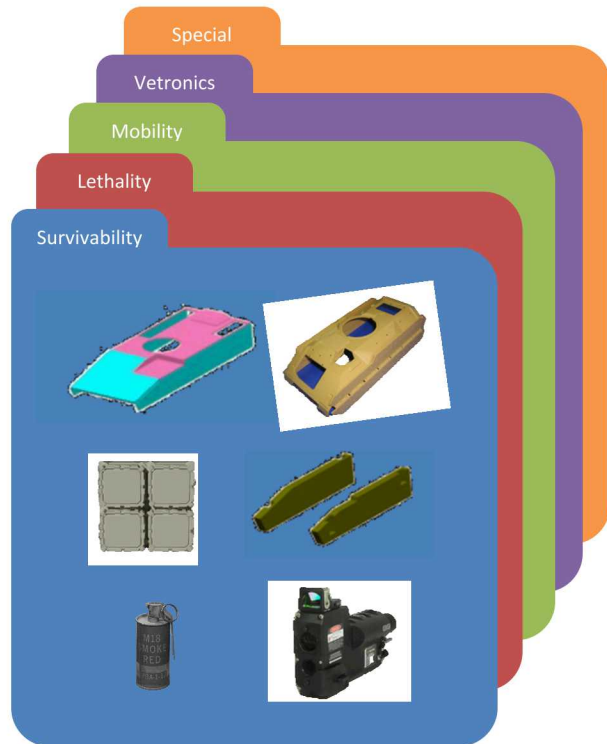


**Like ARIES, WSTAT does not provide a single answer. It's a decision support tool, providing insights and facilitating conversation and exploration of many possible answers**



# How WSTAT Works

- WSTAT combines compatible technology options into a **system configuration**, keeping those configurations that best balance competing objectives

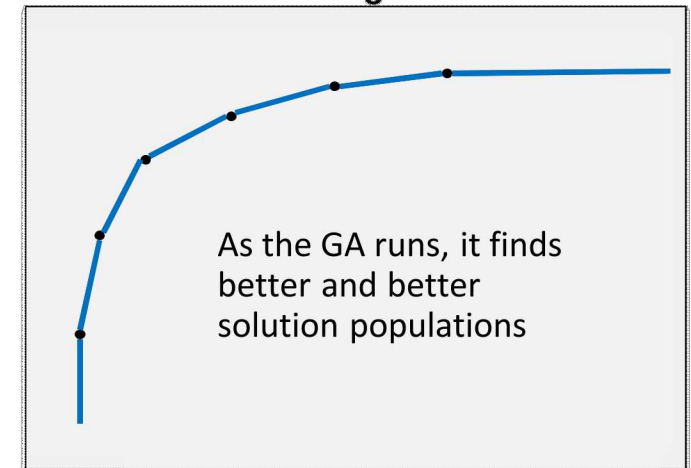


Collection of Available Technology Options



Technologies are selected to create configurations

Vehicle Configurations



Configurations are scored in **multiple value dimensions** (tailorable to problem):

- Performance (top speed, lethality, etc.)
- Acquisition Cost
- O&S Cost
- Risk (immaturity of technologies)
- Growth (future upgrade potential)

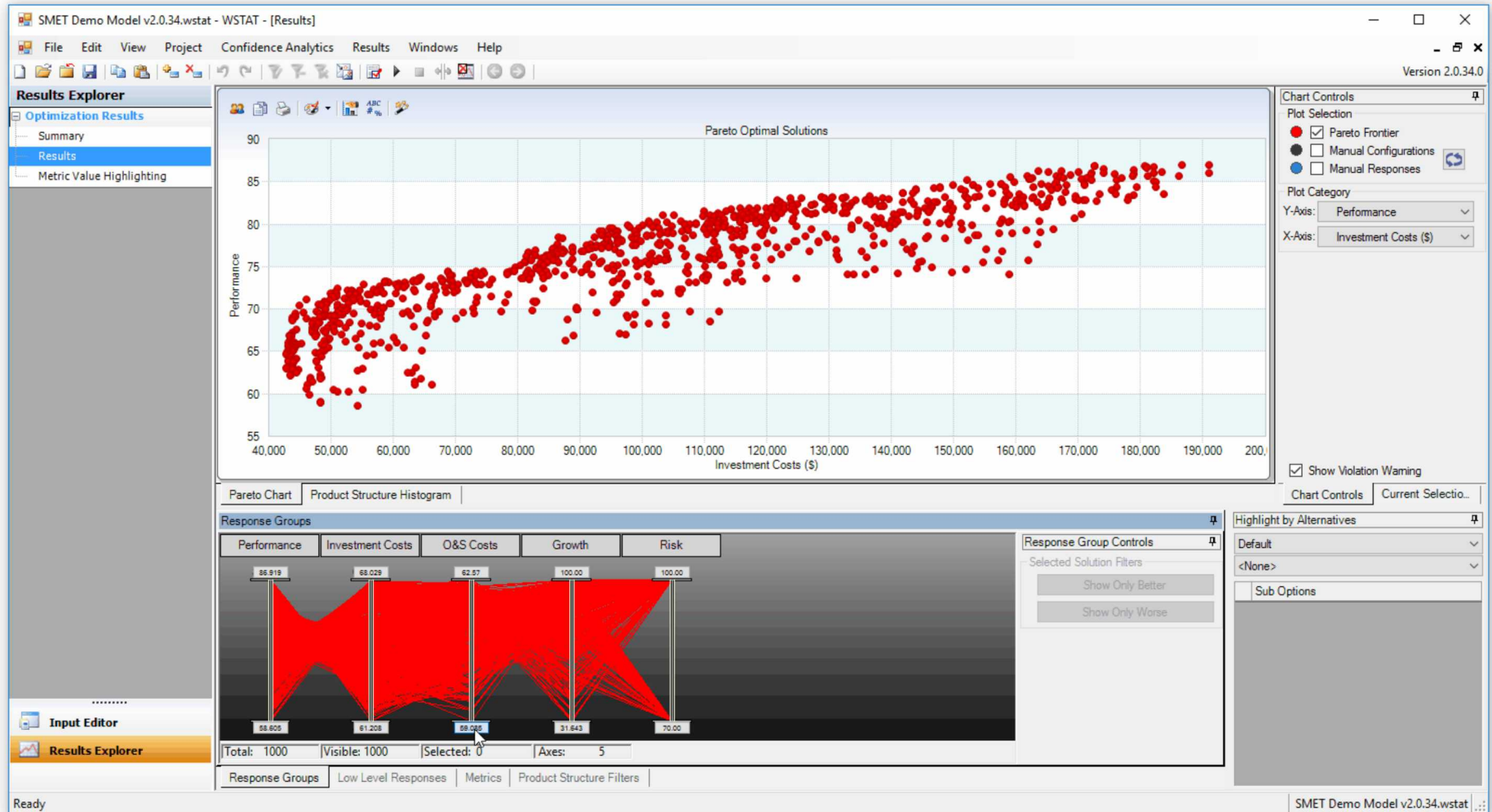
**WSTAT uses a multi-objective genetic algorithm to efficiently explore the spectrum of possible configurations and examine tradeoffs between multiple competing objectives**



# Results – Multiple Dimensions

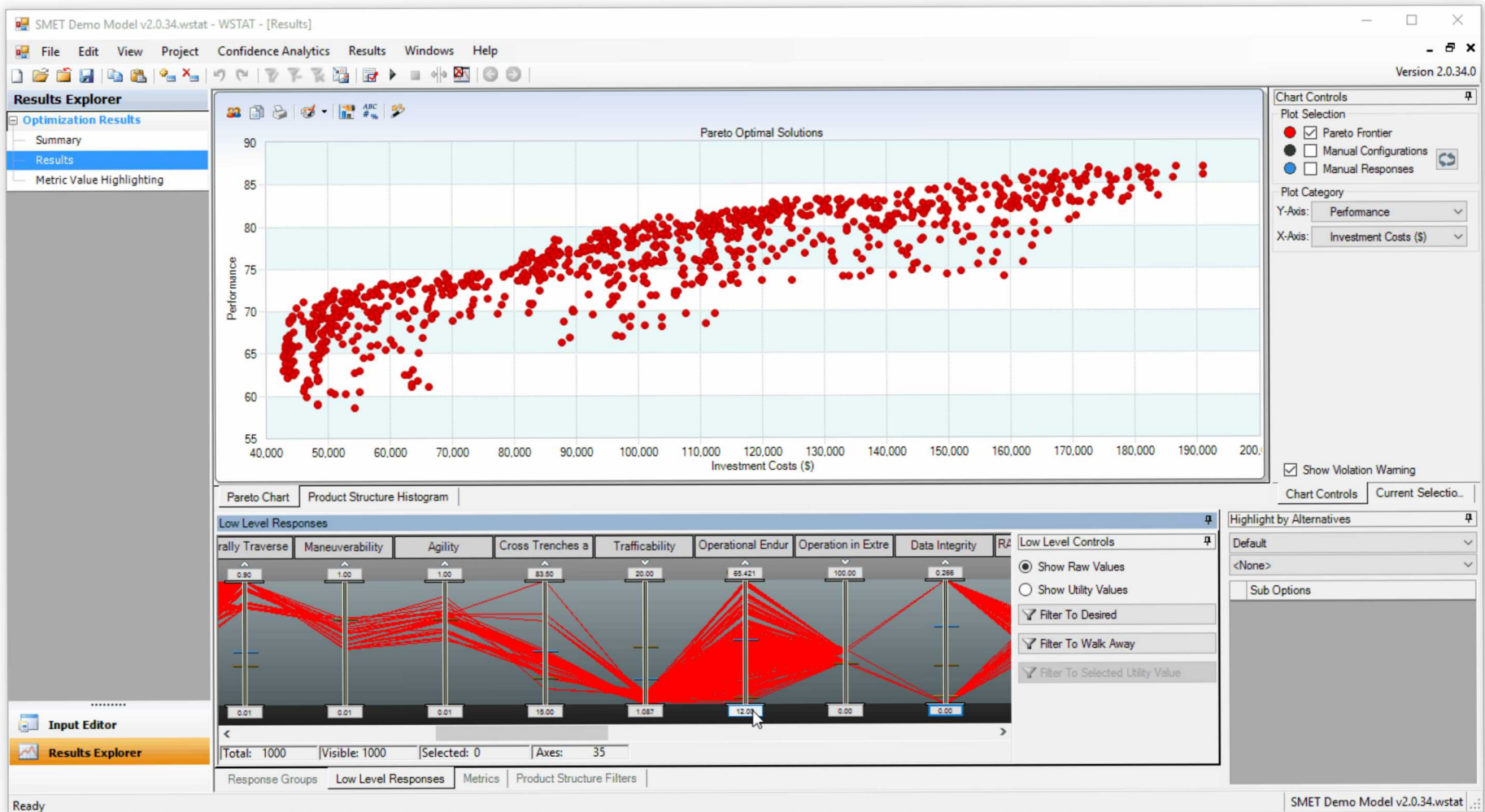


# High-Level Filtering



Solutions can be filtered by high-level stakeholder criteria  
(Cost, Risk, Growth, etc.)

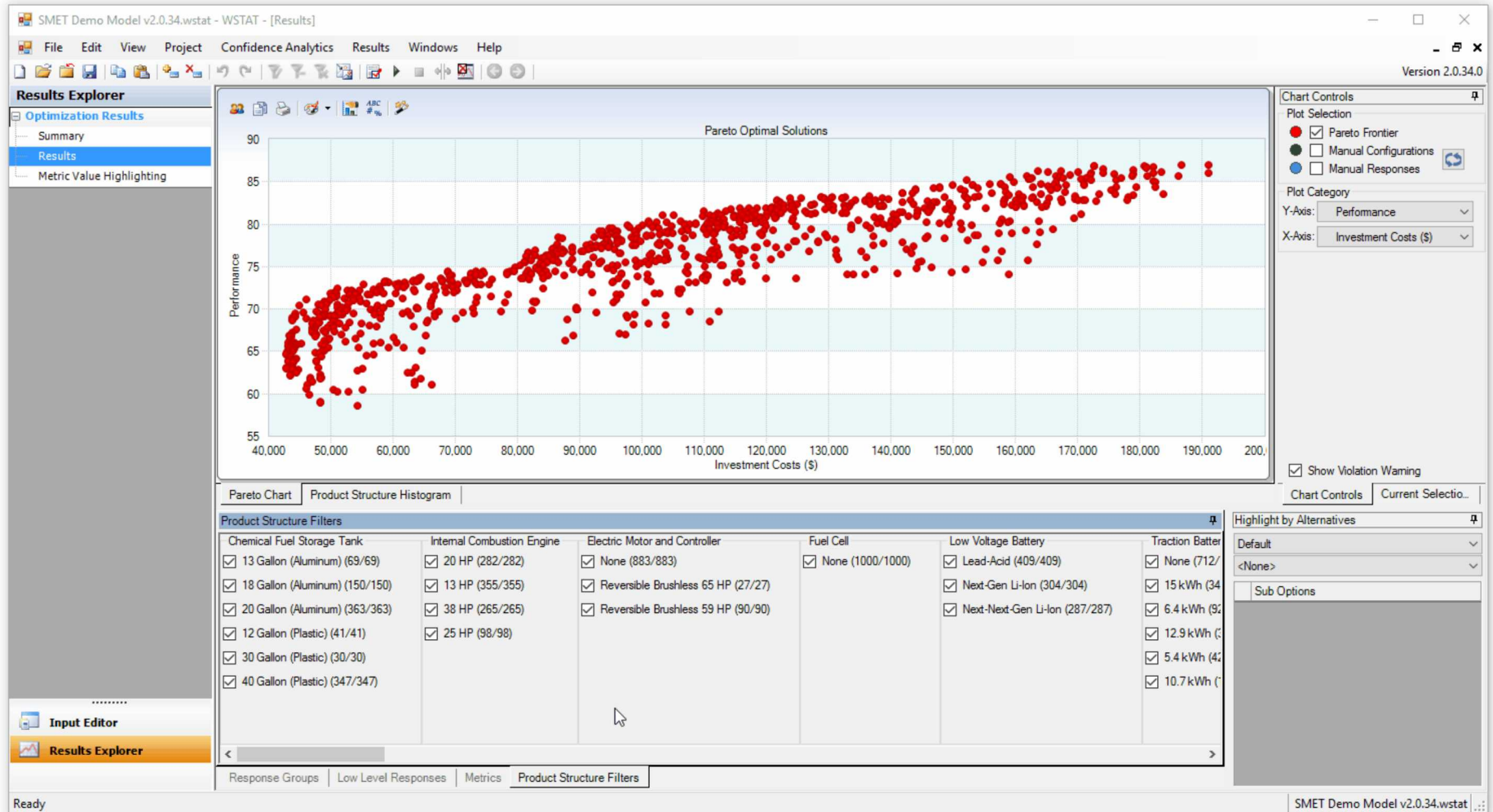
# Low-Level Measure Filtering



Solutions can be filtered by their low-level characteristics

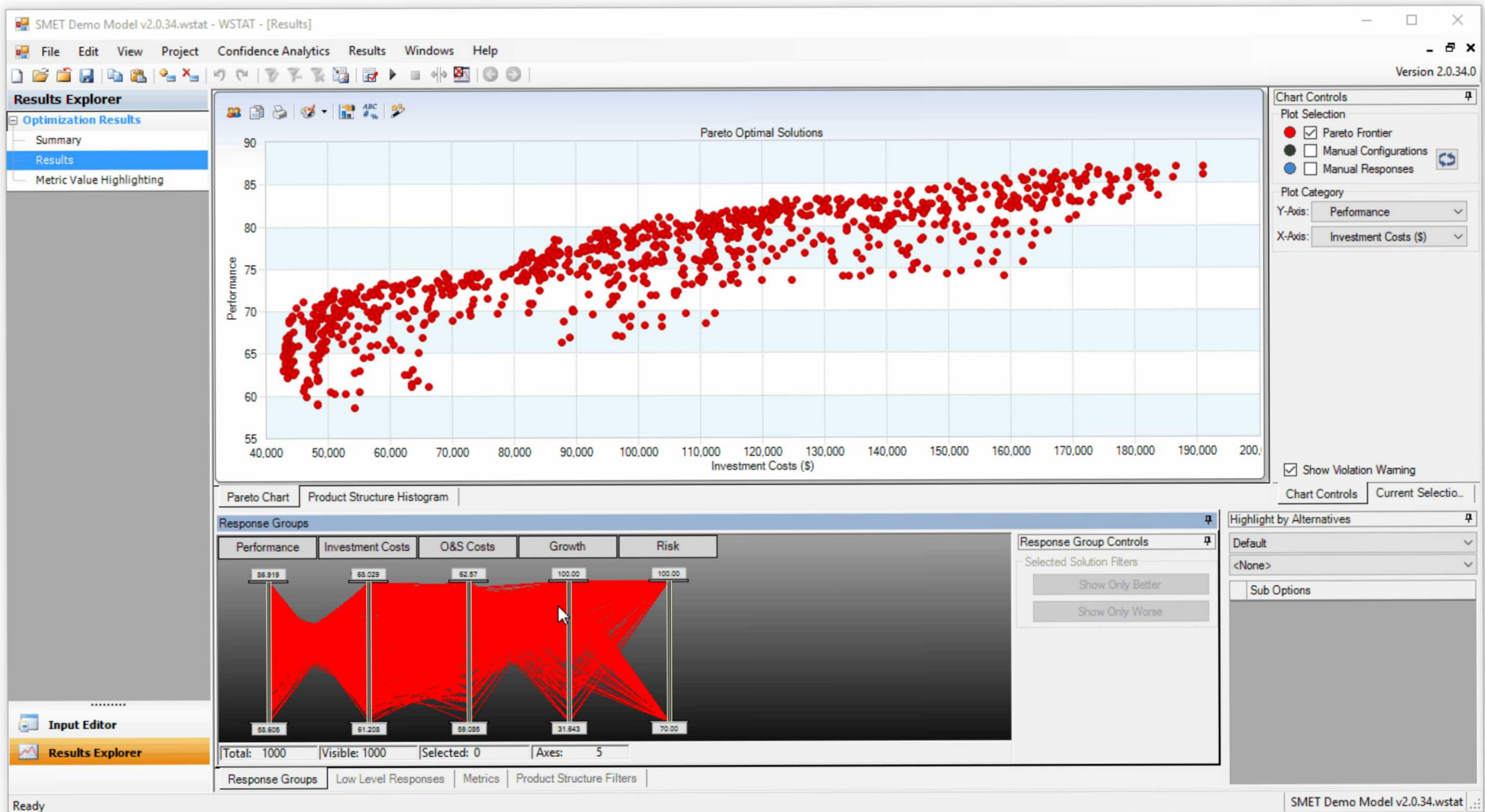


# Subsystem Filtering



Solutions can also be filtered by their technology choices

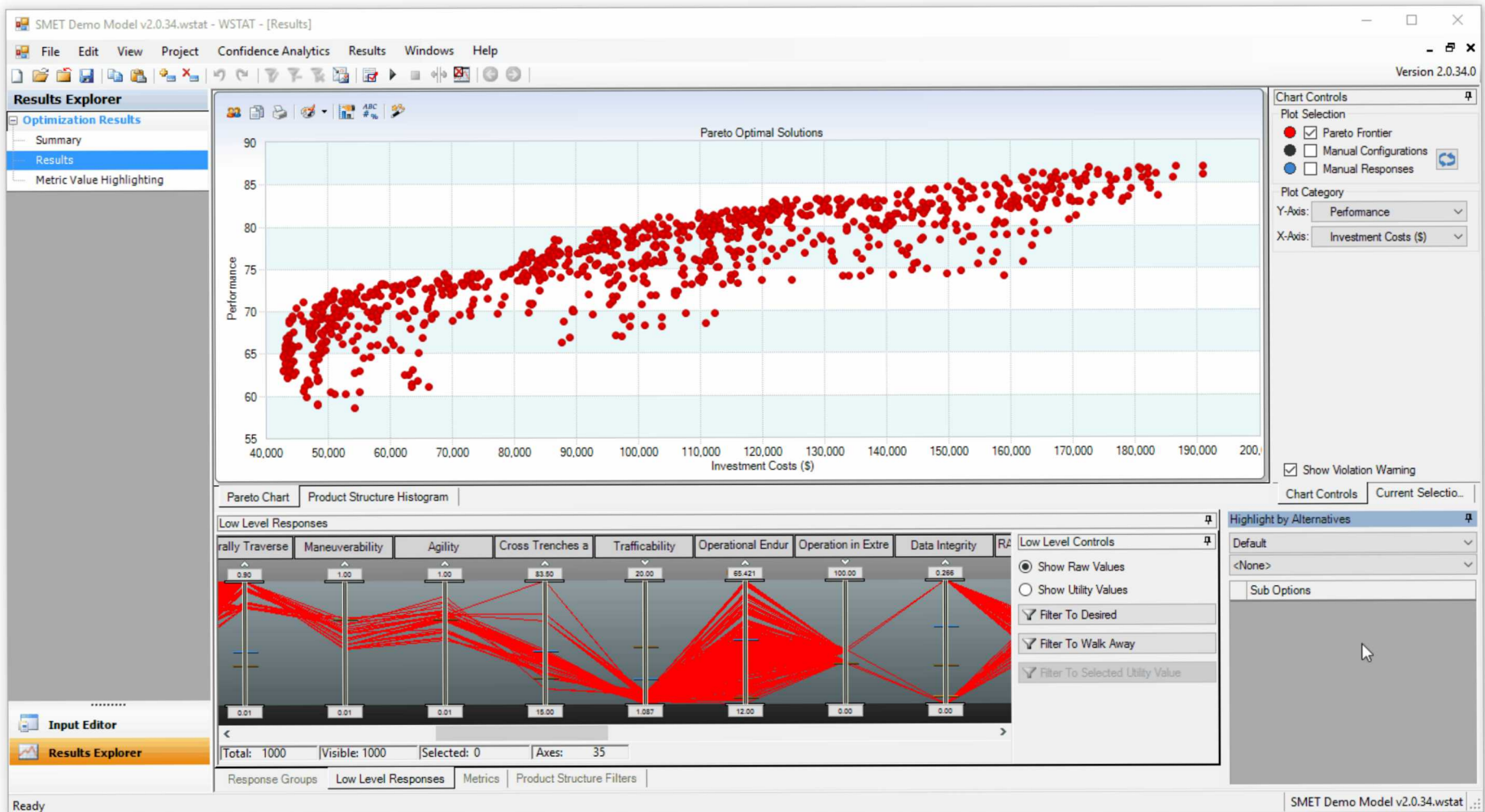
# Coloring by High & Low-Level Measures



Solutions can be colored (Good=Blue to Red=Bad) by how they score in various high-level design goals and low-level characteristics ("-ilities")

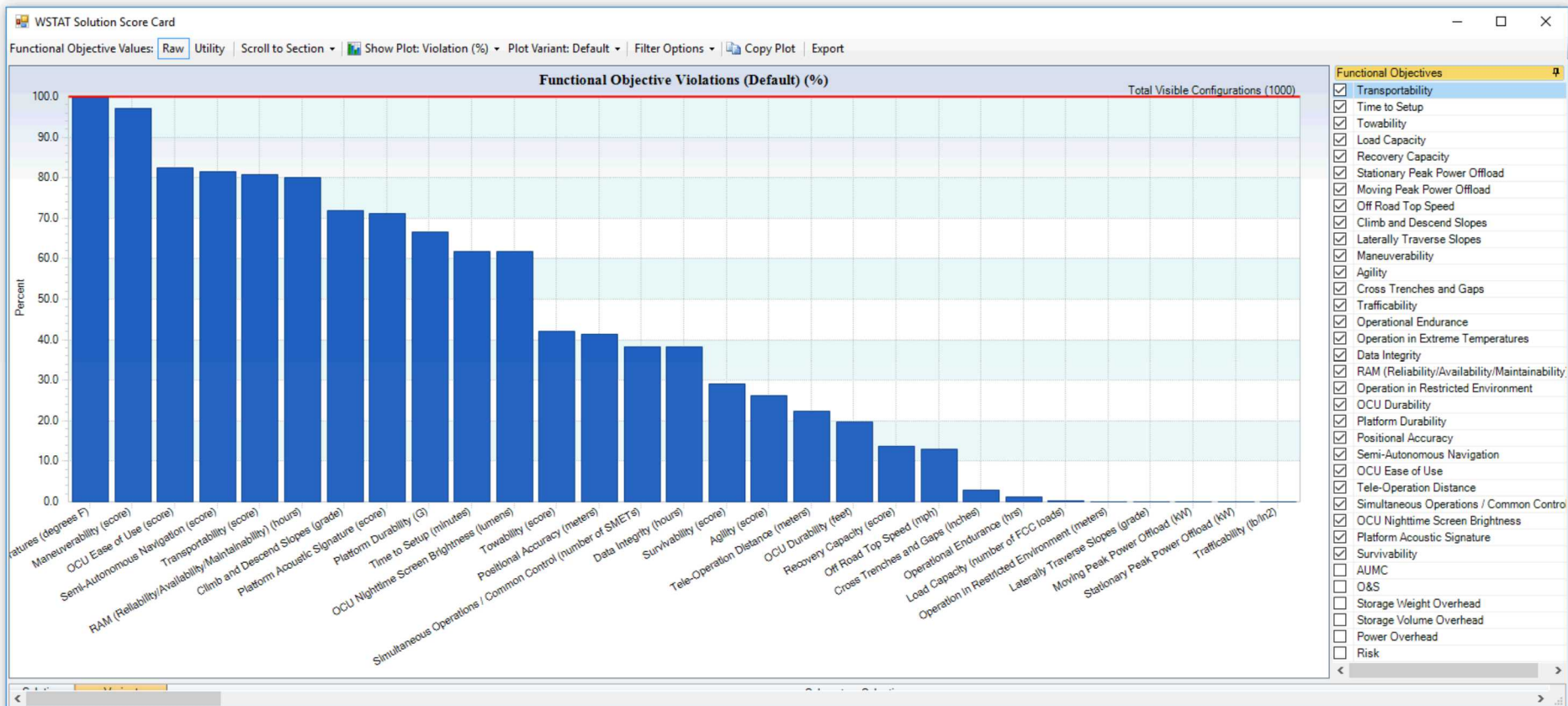


# Coloring by Subsystem Choice



Solutions can also be colored by their technologies selected for a subsystem

# Requirements Analysis

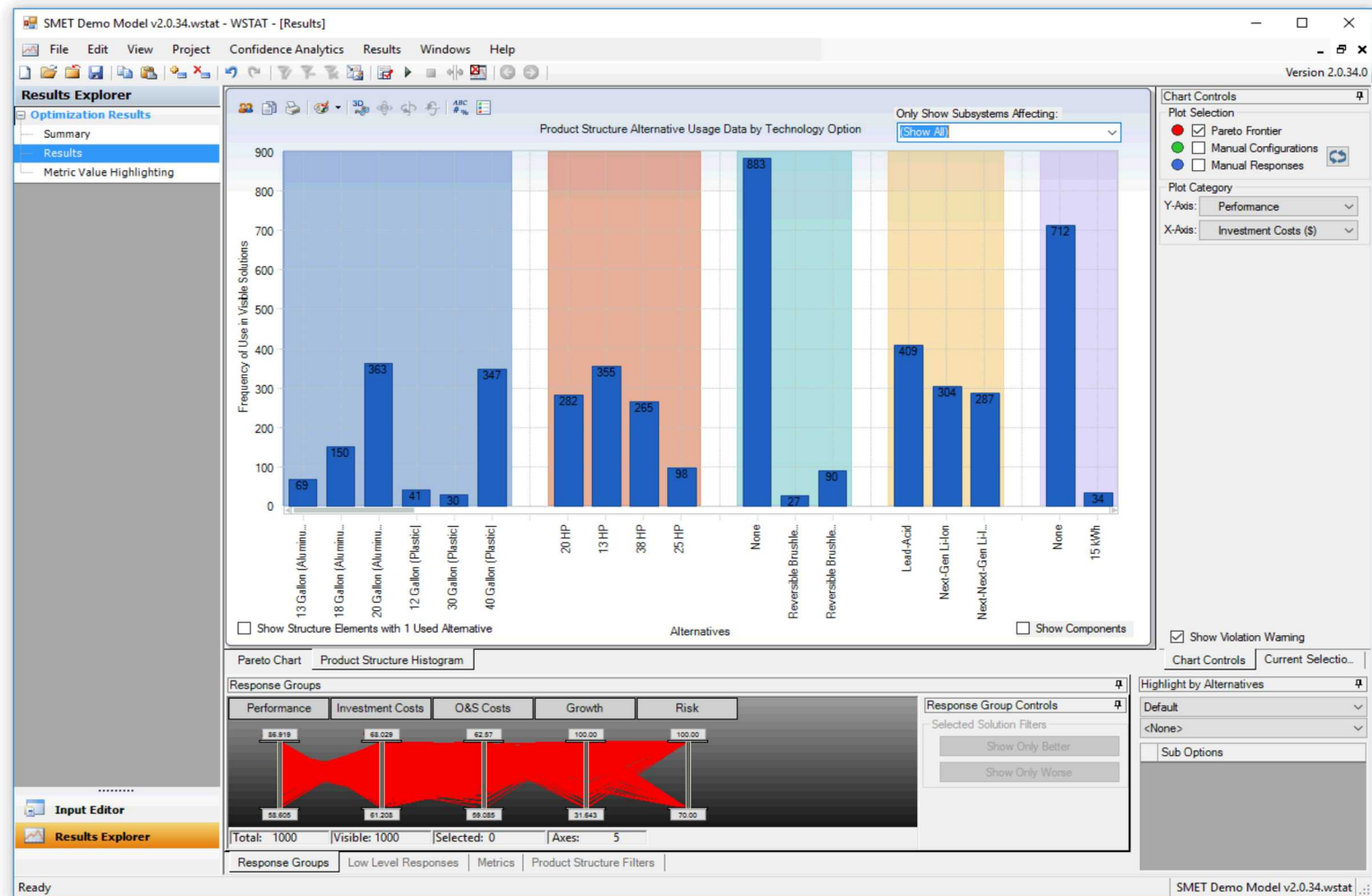


For the optimal solutions, this shows how often Threshold levels for requirements are violated.

--Requirements on the left are always or almost always **violating** Threshold level

--Requirements on the right are always or almost always **satisfying** Threshold level

# Subsystem Histograms



Shows the prevalence of various subsystem alternatives, which can highlight “no brainer” technologies that are always picked

# Summary

- Many of our decision analytics tools focus on an ***optimized trade space***
  - Capture not just one best answer, but instead a **set of best answers** that balance competing objectives in different ways
  - Advanced Requirements Integration & Exploration System (ARIES) and Whole System Trades Analysis Tool (WSTAT) both focus on capturing this optimal trade space (or a Pareto Frontier)
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# Thank You!

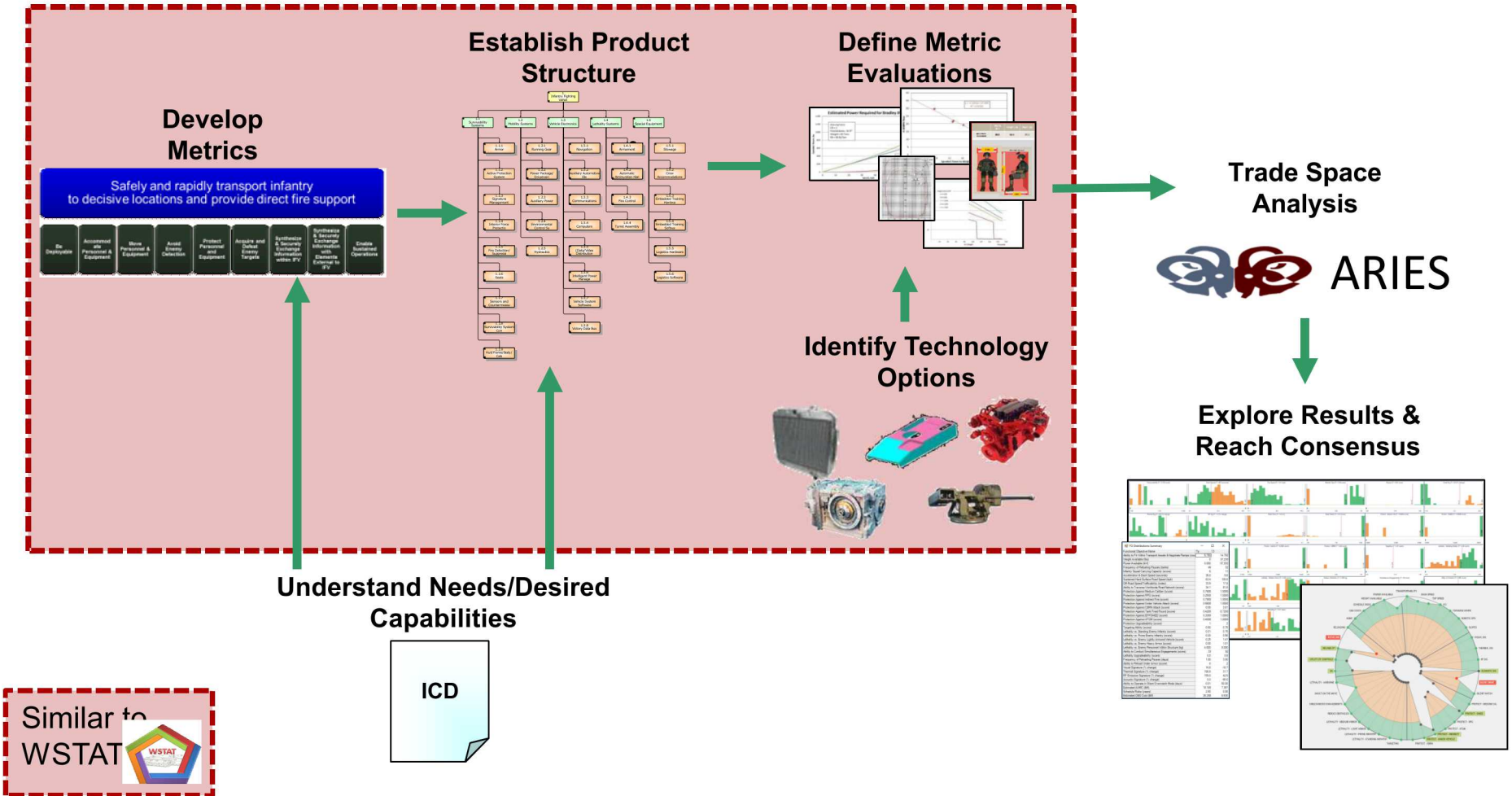


## Questions & Discussion



# BACKUP

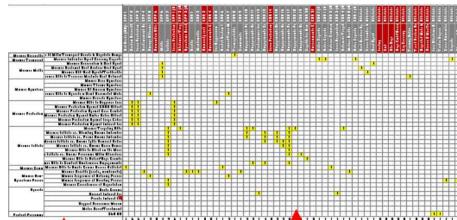
# ARIES Methodology



ARIES is an extension of proven WSTAT methodology, facilitating data reuse

# WSTAT Methodology

## Map Requirements to Functional Objectives

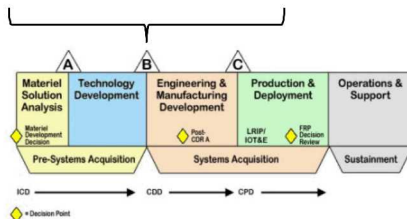


### Develop Functional Objectives

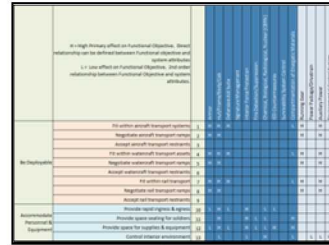
Safely and rapidly transport infantry to decisive locations and provide direct fire support



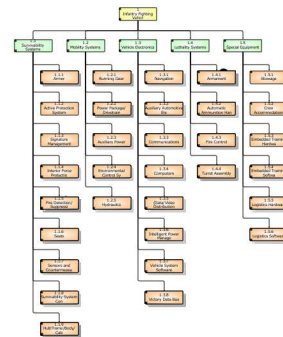
## Understand Needs/Requirements



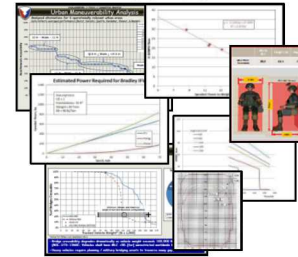
## Map Functional Objectives to Product Structure



## Establish Product Structure



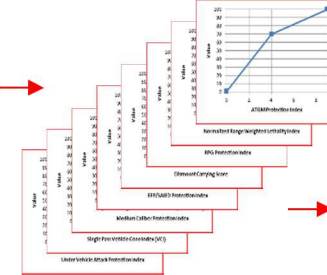
## Define Metrics



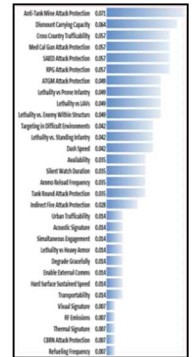
## Identify Technology Options



## Craft Value Functions



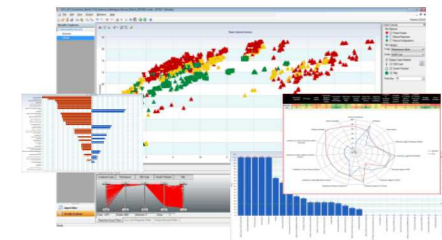
## Determine Priority Weightings



## Multi-objective Optimization



## Generate Results & Conduct Analysis

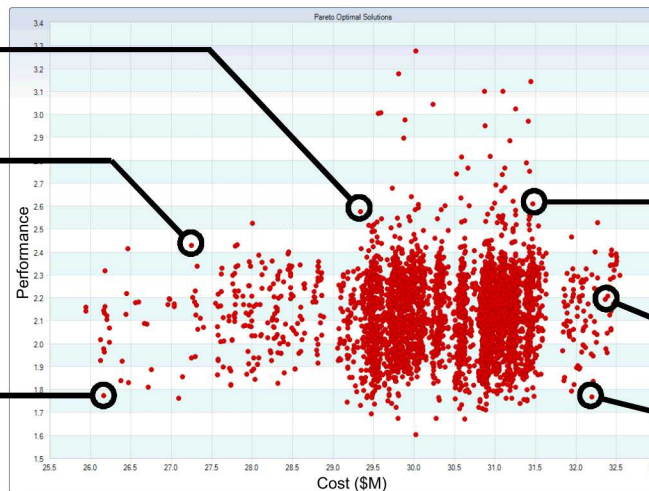
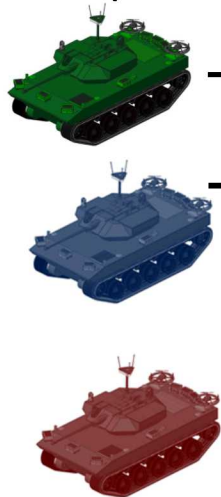


# Difference Between WSTAT & ARIES

- Both generate solutions by selecting combinations of technology options
  - Ensures feasible concepts are being considered
    - Technology compatibility
    - Physical limitations (such as component weight limits)

## ■ WSTAT

- Weighted Sums of FOs, 5-6 optimization dimensions
- Result exploration focuses on each combination of technologies as a complete system design



## ■ ARIES

- No FO Weighting, each FO optimized as own dimension (~40)
- Result exploration focuses on each combination of technologies as an achievable set of requirement values







This chart is a classroom aid for Defense Acquisition University students. It provides a national illustration of interfaces among three major DoD support systems used to develop, produce and field a weapon system for national defense. Defense acquisition is a complex process with many more activities than shown here and many concurrent activities that cannot be displayed on a two-dimensional chart. Sources:





email suggestions for improvement

This chart illustrates DoDI 5000.02, Hybrid Program Model A (Hardware Dominant); tailoring to individual program circumstances is encouraged.

# Defense Acquisition Life Cycle Compliance Baseline (Pre-Tailoring)

See the Interactive Adaptive Acquisition Framework for other approaches to acquiring capability.

Ver. 1.3  
February 13, 2019

