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# AUTOMATED REASONING TECHNOLOGIES WILL ENABLE A CORRECT-BY-CONSTRUCTION APPROACH TO SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

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# NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

A unique engineering challenge

## Systems engineering & integration

## Design agency for non-nuclear components

- Gas transfer systems
- Radar
- Safety systems
- Arming, fuzing and firing systems
- Neutron generators

## Specialized component production

- Neutron generators
- Sandia external production
- Microelectronics
- Thermal batteries

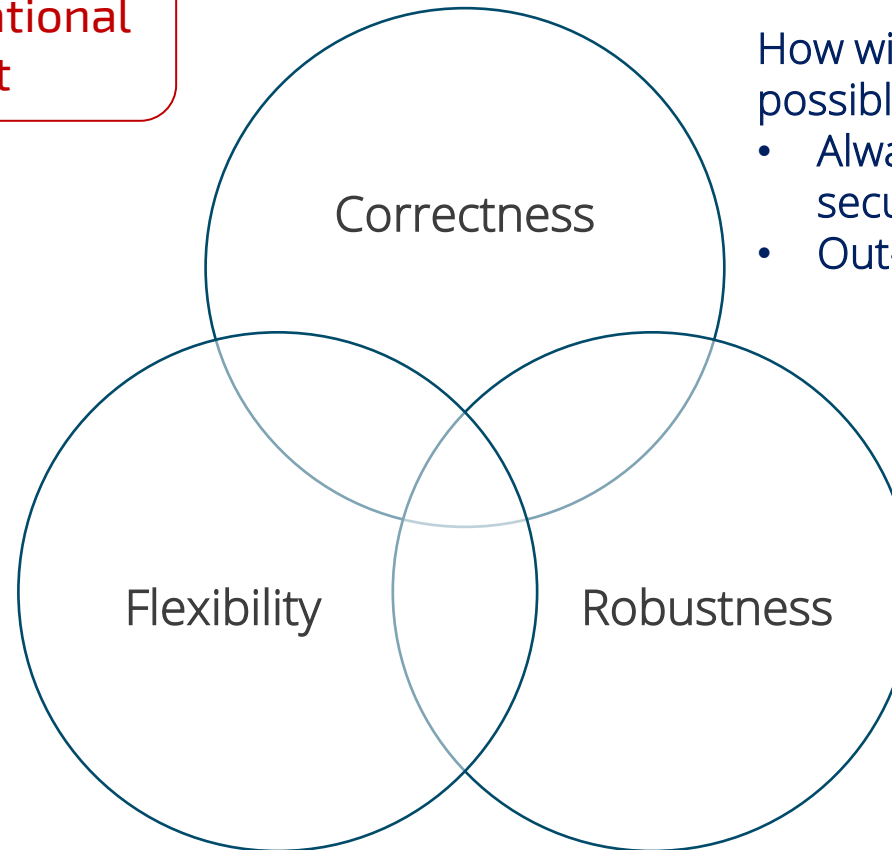
## Multidisciplinary R&D capabilities

- Required for design, qualification, production, surveillance, computation, experimentation
- Major environmental test facilities & diagnostics
  - Materials sciences
  - Light-initiated high explosives
  - Computational analytics

Sandia is responsible for design, development, and qualification of the non-nuclear components of U.S. nuclear weapons

# SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS MUST SPECIFY BEHAVIOR ACROSS THE ENTIRE LIFECYCLE

Requirements that specify system behavior only in the expected operational environment are not sufficient



How will the specified system respond to any possible sequence or combination of inputs?

- Always/never requirements (safety, security, liveness)
- Out-of-nominal behavior

How will the specified system adapt to changes in its initial requirements?

- Life extension
- Changes to mission or target

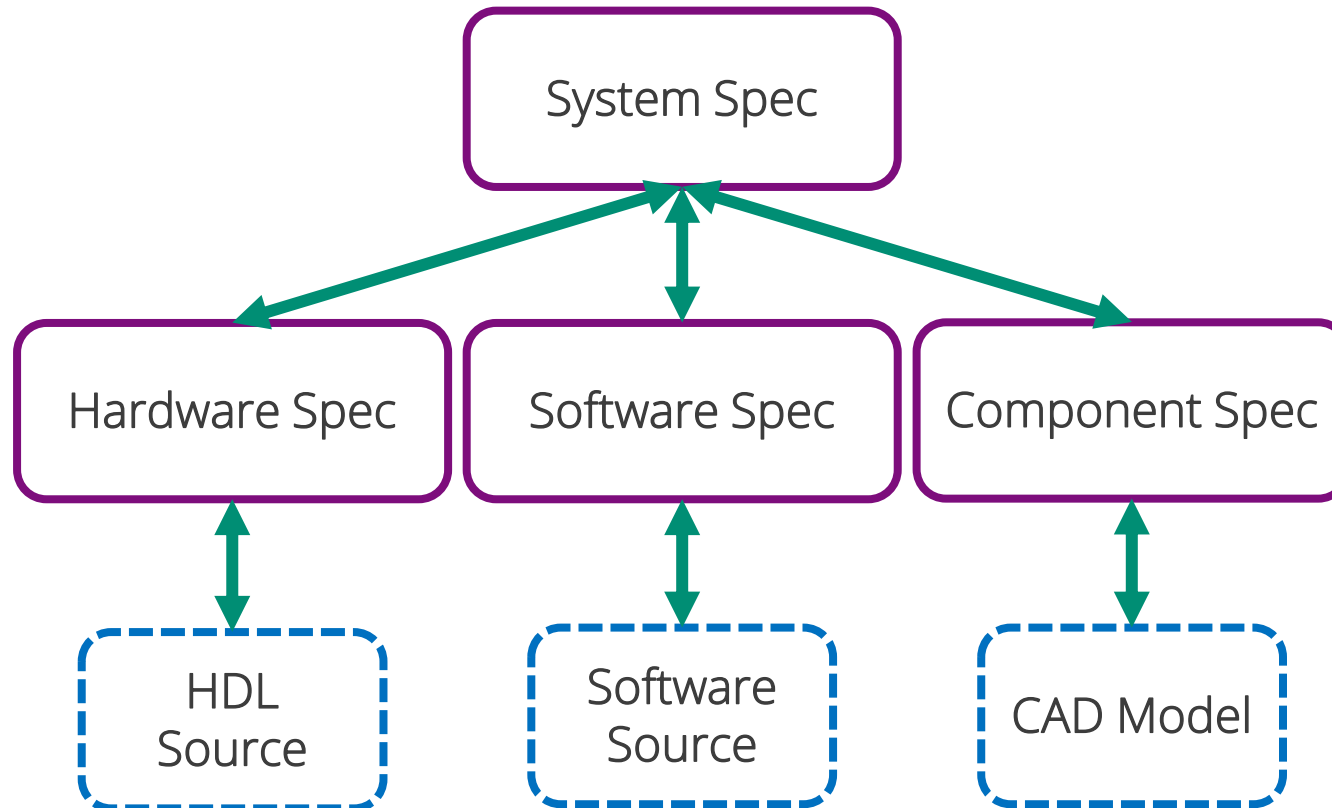
How will the specified system continue to meet its design requirements given changes to its environment?

- New and evolving threats
- Aging of materials
- Changes to storage, carriage, and delivery

# DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS CONSTRAIN ALLOWED BEHAVIORS

Component design must not violate constraints specified at system level

Prove correctness of design with respect to requirements at the highest possible level of abstraction (lowest complexity)



Document  
Descriptive Model  
Executable Specification

Traceability  
Mathematical Refinement

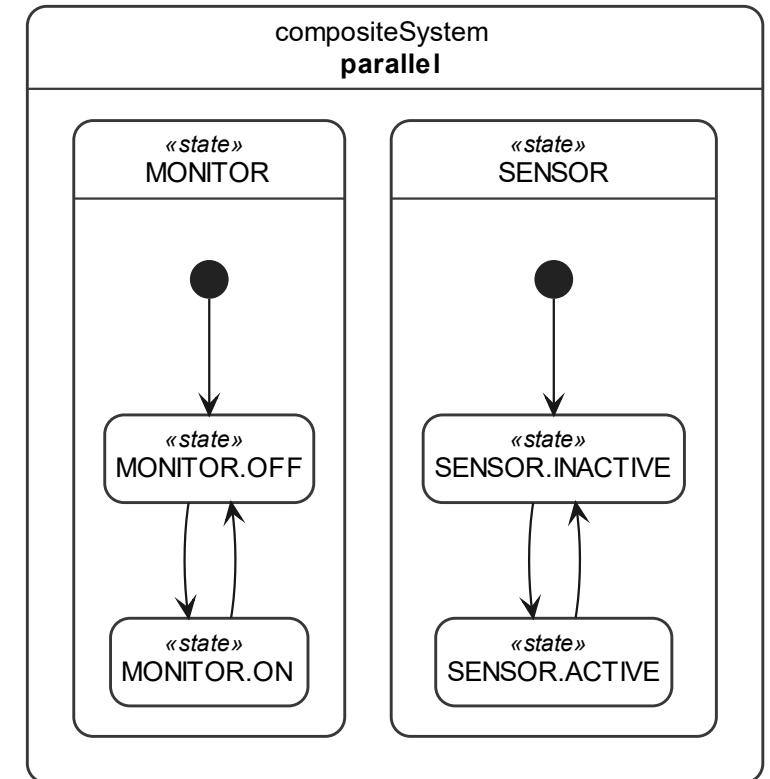
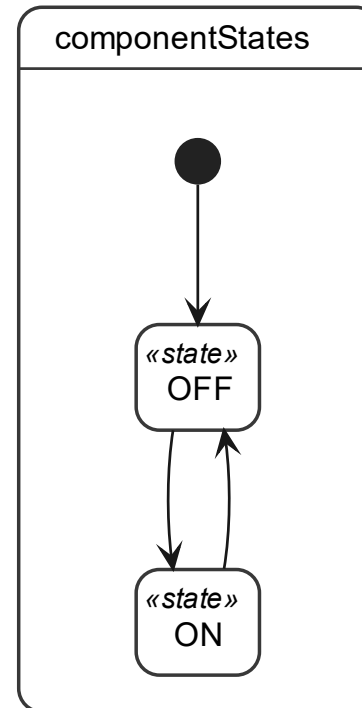
Engineering  
Implementation

# DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS AS STATE TRANSITION SYSTEMS

The **state** of the system depends on past inputs and determines how the system will respond to future inputs.  
The **state machine** specifies all the possible evolutions of the system state over time.

Key concepts:

- Data (inputs, outputs, registers)
- Transitions (guards, actions)
- Parallel vs. sequential construction
- Hierarchy
- Atomic behaviors
- Non-determinism



# REQUIREMENTS AS TEMPORAL LOGIC PROPERTIES

**Safety and liveness** properties in Linear Temporal Logic (LTL):

(For all time  $> 0$ , ...)

The system shall always (or never) [...]

The system shall eventually [...]

LTLSPEC

$G (X \rightarrow Y)$

**Reachability** as Computation Tree Logic (CTL):

(For all initial states, ...)

The system shall be capable of [...]

CTLSPEC

$AG \neg(X)$

**Invariants** must always hold (special case of CTL)

Requirements that specify system behavior only in the expected operational environment are not sufficient

# FORMALIZATION OF REQUIREMENTS REMOVES AMBIGUITY

☺ **While on and sensing, the system shall indicate an alarm when two consecutive data measurements exceed the maximum value**

```
LTLSPEC G(( InState_SENSE & datIn_power &
(datIn_data >= datIn_max_data) &
X(datIn_power) & X(datIn_data >=
datIn_max_data) ) -> ( QQ_SKIP | X(QQ_SKIP) |
X(X(datOut_alarm)) ));
```

☺ **Error and alarm shall not be indicated when power is removed**

```
LTLSPEC G((!datIn_power) -> (QQ_SKIP |
X(!(datOut_error & datOut_alarm))));
```

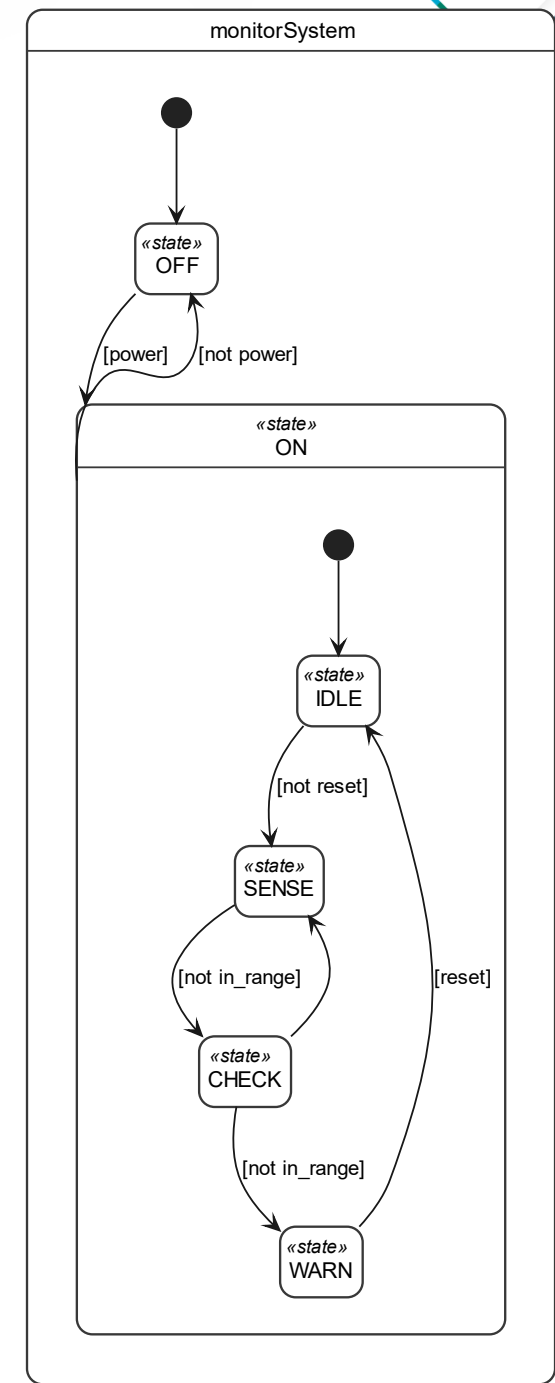
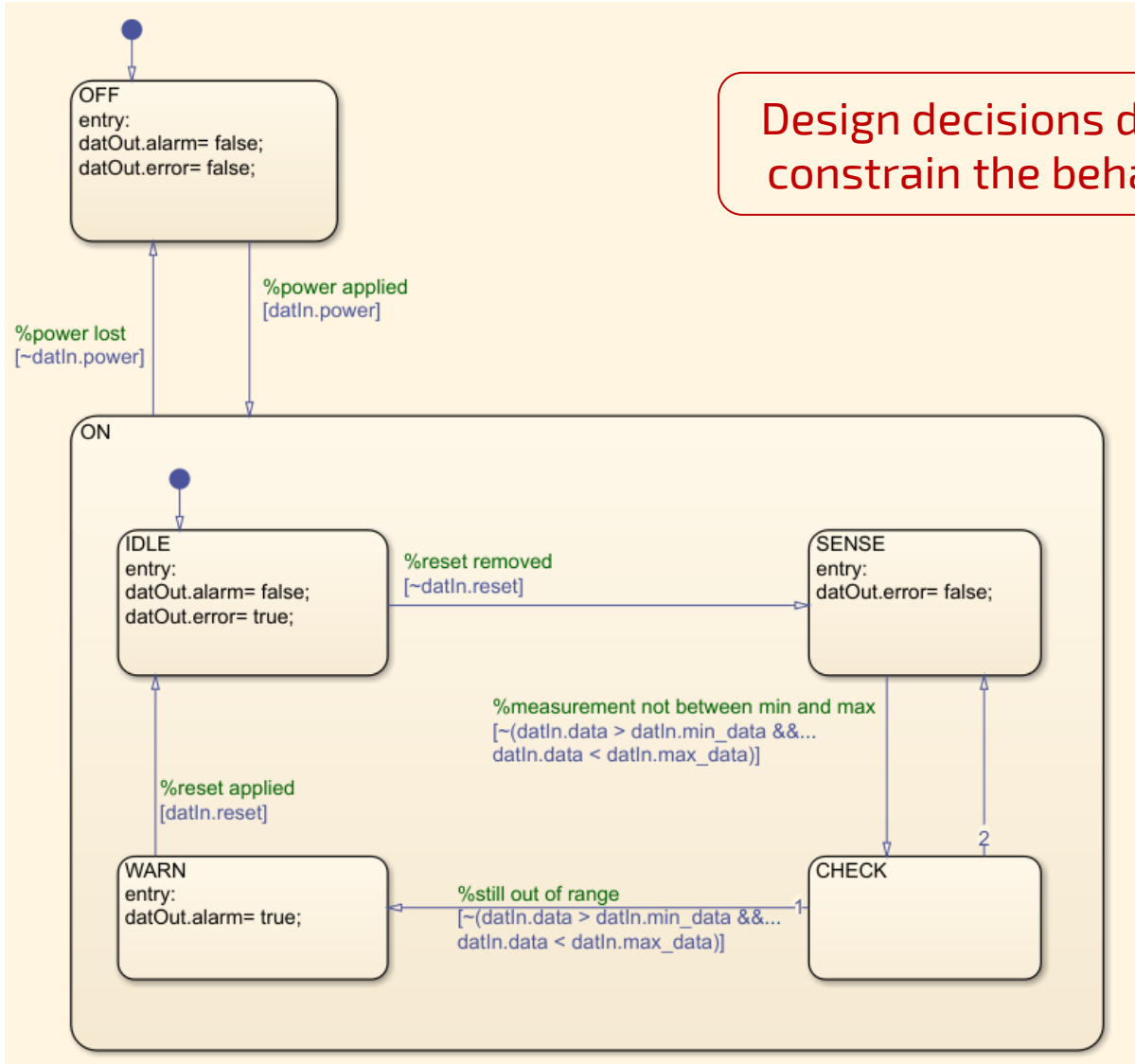
☹ **The system shall not indicate an alarm when a reset is applied while powered**

```
LTLSPEC G((datIn_reset & datIn_power &
X(datIn_power)) -> (QQ_SKIP |
X(!datOut_alarm)));
```



# REFINEMENT PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF TRACEABILITY

Design decisions during development  
constrain the behavior of the system





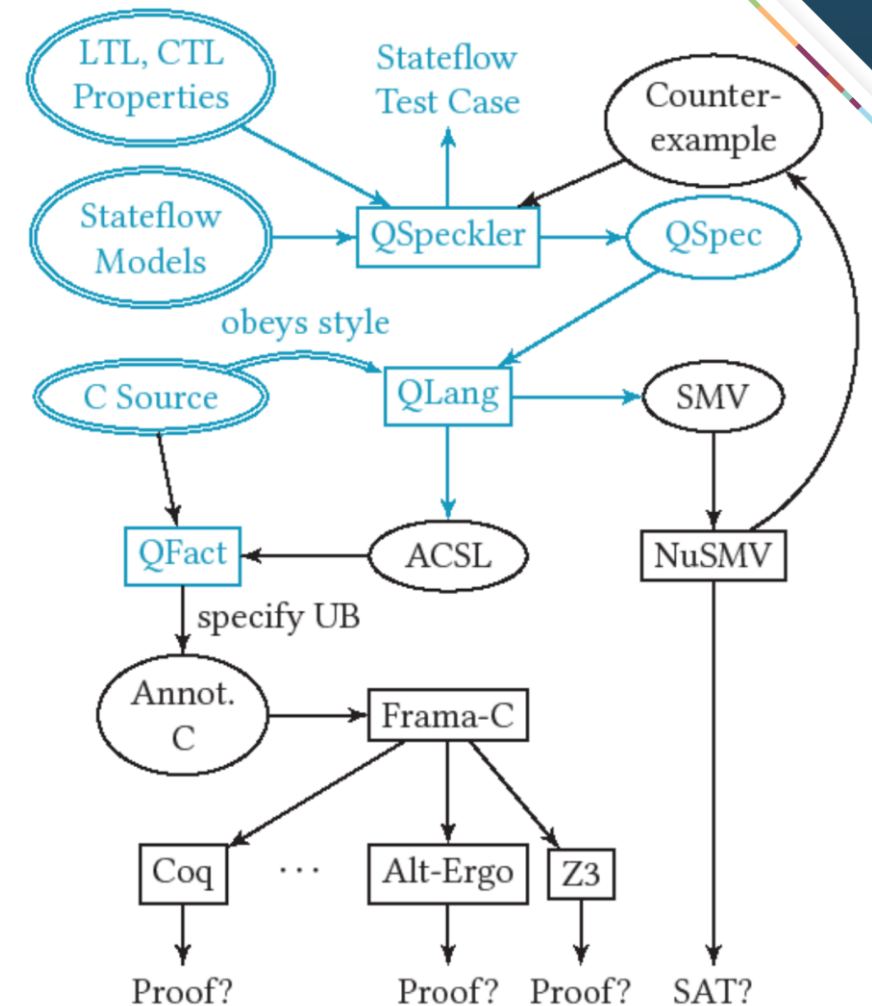
# ONE Q.E.D. TO RULE THEM ALL

Empower engineers to provide justification for design decisions made during development

Reduce risk of system failures and vulnerabilities due to incorrect specification

Systems engineering approach that emphasizes design correctness and mathematical rigor

Assurance case built early in program is updated as system design and requirements evolve



Samuel D. Pollard, Robert C. Armstrong, John Bender, Geoffrey C. Hulet, Raheel S. Mahmood, Karla Morris, Blake C. Rawlings, and Jon M. Aytac. 2022. Q: A Sound Verification Framework for Statecharts and Their Implementations. In Proceedings of the 8th ACM SIGPLAN International Workshop on Formal Techniques for Safety-Critical Systems (FTSCS '22), December 07, 2022, Auckland, New Zealand. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 11 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3563822.3568014>

**THANK YOU!**

