## A Literate Approach for Improving the Verifiability, Reusability and Reproducibility of Scientific Computing Software

**Spencer Smith**, Jacques Carette, Dan Szymczak, Steven Palmer

> Computing and Software Department Faculty of Engineering McMaster University

CAIMS 2017, Third Canadian Symposium in Numerical Analysis and Scientific Computing (CSNASC):
Simulation, July 18, 2017





Scope

Motivatio

DDD

Overvie Exampl SRS

Qualitie

. .....

Conclusion

References

- Goal Improve quality of {SCS}
- Idea Adapt ideas from SE
- Document Driven Design
  - Good improves quality
  - Bad "manual" approach is too much work
- Solution
  - Capture knowledge
  - Generate all things
  - Avoid duplication
  - Traceability
- Showing great promise
  - · Significant work yet to do
  - Looking for examples/partners

# Scope: Large/Multiyear

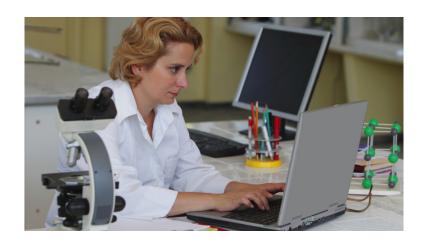


# Scope: Program Families

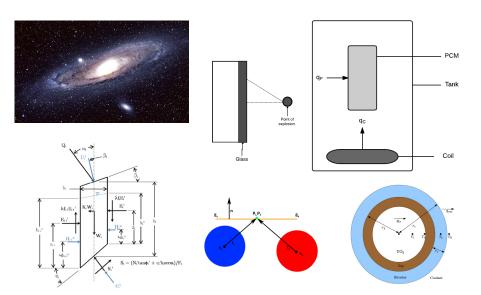




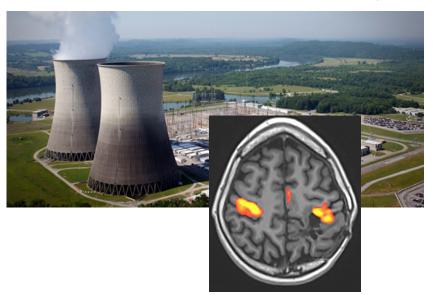
# Scope: End User Developers



# Scope: Physical Science



# Motivation: Safety



## Motivation: (Re)certification





#### Slide 9 of 33

Scone

Motivation

חחח

Overvie Examp SRS

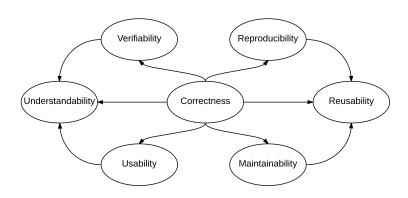
Qualities

. .....

Conclusion

References

### Motivation: Improve Quality





#### Slide 10 of 33

Scope

Motivatio

DDD

Overview Example

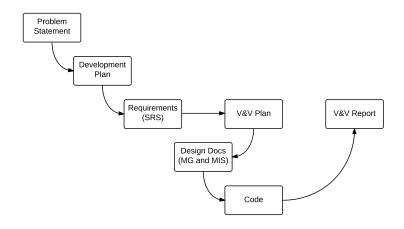
Qualities

. .....

Conclusion

References

### "Faked" Rational Design Process



SWHS example at https://github.com/smiths/swhs



#### Slide 11 of 33

Scope

Motivation

DDD

Overvie Example SRS

Conclusions

References

### The Challenge

- Documentation provides advantages
  - Improves verifiability, reusability, reproducibility, etc.
  - From Parnas (2010)
    - easier reuse of old designs
    - better communication about requirements
    - more useful design reviews
    - etc.
  - New doc found 27 errors (Smith and Koothoor, 2016)
  - Developers see advantage (Smith et al., 2016)
- But documentation is felt to be ...
  - Too long
  - Too difficult to maintain
  - Not amenable to change
  - · Too tied to waterfall process
  - Reports counterproductive (Roache, 1998)
- The Solution?



Slide 12 of 33

Scope

Motivatio

Drasil

Overview

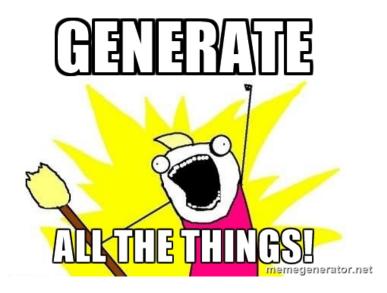
SRS

Qualities

i uture vvo

Conclusion

References





#### Slide 13 of 33

Overview

SRS

## **Knowledge Capture**





#### Slide 14 of 33

Scope

Motivation

Monvano

Draci

Overview

SRS

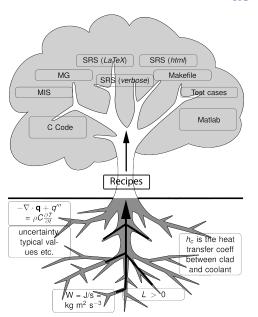
Qualities

i uture vvo

Conclusion

References

#### Drasil





#### Slide 15 of 33

Scope

Motivatio

Drasil

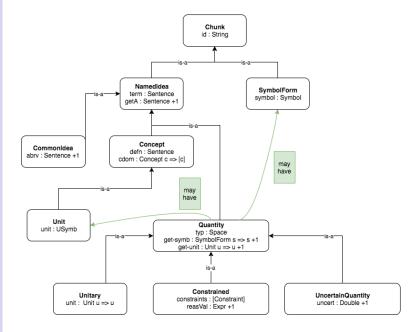
Overview Example SRS

Qualitie

i uture vvoi

Conclusion

References





#### Slide 16 of 33

Scope

Motivatio

11101110110

Drasil

Example SRS

Qualitie

Future Wo

Conclusion

References

# $J_{\mbox{tol}}$ in SRS.pdf

Refname	DD:sdf.tol
Label	$J_{tol}$
Units	
Omes	
Equation	$J_{tol} = \log \left( \log \left( \frac{1}{1 - P_{btol}} \right) \frac{\left( \frac{a}{1000} \frac{b}{1000} \right)^{m-1}}{k \left( (E*1000) \left( \frac{b}{1000} \right)^2 \right)^m * LDF} \right)$
Description	$J_{tol}$ is the stress distribution factor (Function) based on Pbtol $P_{btol}$ is the tolerable probability of breakage $a$ is the plate length (long dimension) $b$ is the plate width (short dimension) $m$ is the surface flaw parameter $k$ is the surface flaw parameter $E$ is the modulus of elasticity of glass $E$ is the actual thickness $E$ is the load duration factor

## J<sub>tol</sub> in SRS.tex

```
\noindent \begin{minipage}{\textwidth}
\begin{tabular}{p{0.2\textwidth} p{0.73\textwidth}}
\toprule \textbf{Refname} & \textbf{DD:sdf.tol}
\phantomsection
\label{DD:sdf.tol}
\\ \midrule \\
Label & $J_{tol}$
\\ \midrule \\
Units &
\\ \midrule \\
Equation & $J_{tol}$ = $\log\left(\log\left(\frac{1}{1-P_
    {btol}}\right)\frac{\left(\frac{a}{1000}\frac{b}
    {1000}\right)^{m-1}}{k\left(\left(E*1000\right)\right)}
    (\frac{h}{1000}\right)^{2}\right)^{m}*LDF}\right)$
\\ \midrule \\
Description & $J_{tol}$ is the stress distribution factor
     (Function) based on
              Pbtol\newline$P_{btol}$ is the tolerable
                  probability of breakage ...
\end{minipage}\\
```

## J<sub>tol</sub> in SRS.html

```
<a id="">
<div class="equation">
<em>J<sub>tol</sub></em> = log(log(<div class="fraction">
<span class="fup">
1
</span>
<span class="fdn">
1 − <em>P<sub>btol</sub></em>
</span>
</div>)<div class="fraction">
<span class="fup">
(<div class="fraction">
<span class="fup">
<em>a</em>
</span>
<span class="fdn">
1000
</span>
</div><div class="fraction">
. . .
```

## J<sub>tol</sub> in Python

### J<sub>tol</sub> in Java

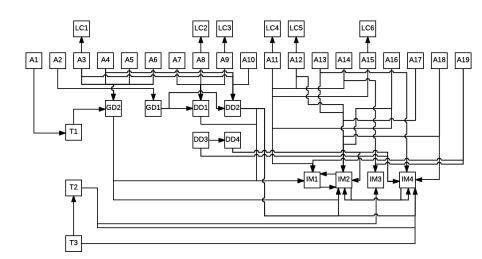
# $J_{\text{tol}}$ in Drasil (Haskell)

```
stressDistFac = makeVC "stressDistFac" (nounPhraseSP
  $ "stress distribution" ++ " factor (Function)") cJ
sdf tol = makeVC "sdf tol" (nounPhraseSP $
  "stress distribution" ++
  " factor (Function) based on Pbtol")
  (sub (stressDistFac ^. symbol) (Atomic "tol"))
tolStrDisFac_eq :: Expr
tolStrDisFac_eq = log (log ((1) / ((1) - (C pb_tol)))
  * ((Grouping (((C plate_len) / (1000)) * ((C
     plate width) / (1000)))) : ^
  ((C sflawParamM) - (1)) / ((C sflawParamK) *
  (Grouping (Grouping ((C mod elas) * (1000)) *
  (square (Grouping ((C act_thick) / (1000))))
  )) : (C sflawParamM) * (C loadDF))))
tolStrDisFac :: ODefinition
tolStrDisFac = mkDataDef sdf tol tolStrDisFac eq
```

## J<sub>tol</sub> without Unit Conversion

1	Reference Material 3 1.1 Table of Units
	1.1 Table of Units       3         1.2 Table of Symbols       3         1.3 Abbreviations and Acronyms       4
2	Introduction         5           2.1 Purpose of Document         5           2.2 Scope of Requirements         5           2.3 Characteristics of Intended Reader         6           2.4 Organization of Document         6
3	Stakeholders         6           3.1 The Client         6           3.2 The Customer         6
4	General System Description         6           4.1 User Characteristics         7           4.2 System Constraints         7
5	Scope of the Project         7           5.1 Product Use Case Table         7           5.2 Individual Product Use Cases         7
6	Specific System Description         8           6.1 Problem Description         8           6.1.1 Terminology and Definitions         8           6.1.2 Physical System Description         10           6.1.3 Goal Statements         10           6.2 Solution Characteristics Specification         10           6.2.1 Assumptions         10           6.2.2 Theoretical Models         12           6.2.3 General Definitions         13           6.2.4 Data Definitions         13           6.2.5 Instance Models         17           6.2.6 Data Constraints         18
7	Requirements         19           7.1 Functional Requirements         19           7.2 Non-Functional Requirements         21
8	Likely Changes 21

### Traceability Graph





Slide 25 of 33

Scope

Motivatio

DDD

Overview Example SRS

Qualities

Conclusion

## Verifiability

Var	Constraints	Typical Value	Uncertainty
L	L > 0	1.5 m	10%
$\rho_{P}$	$ ho_P>0$	1007 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	10%

$$E_{W} = \int_{0}^{t} h_{C} A_{C} (T_{C} - T_{W}(t)) dt - \int_{0}^{t} h_{P} A_{P} (T_{W}(t) - T_{P}(t)) dt$$

- If wrong, wrong everywhere
- Sanity checks captured and reused
- · Generate guards against invalid input
- Generate test cases
- Generate view suitable for inspection
- Traceability for verification of change



#### Slide 26 of 33

Scope

Motivatio

DDD

Overvier Example SRS

Qualities

. . .

Conclusions

References

## Reusability

- De-embed knowledge
- Reuse throughout document
  - Units
  - Symbols
  - Descriptions
  - Traceability information
- Reuse between documents
  - SRS
  - MIS
  - Code
  - Test cases
- Reuse between projects
  - Knowledge reuse
  - · A family of related models, or reuse of pieces
  - Conservation of thermal energy
  - Interpolation
  - Etc.



#### Slide 27 of 33

#### Scope

Motivation

#### DDD

Overview Example SRS

#### Qualities

Future W

Conclusion

References

## Reproducibility

- Usual emphasis is on reproducing code execution
- However, Ionescu and Jansson (2012) show reproducibility challenges due to undocumented:
  - Assumptions
  - Modifications
  - Hacks
- Shouldn't it be easier to independently replicate the work of others?
- Require theory, assumptions, equations, etc.
- Drasil can potentially check for completeness and consistency



#### Slide 28 of 33

Scope

Motivatio

DDD

Drasi

Exampl

Qualities

Future Work

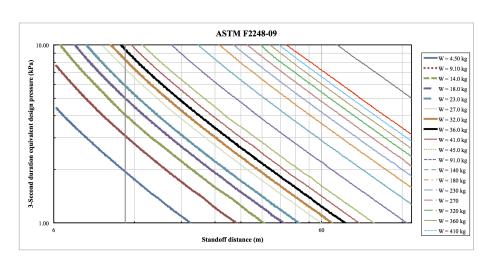
Conclusion

References





#### **Future Work**





#### Slide 30 of 33

Scope

Motivation

DDD

Overvie Example SRS

Qualitie

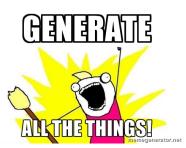
i uture vvoi

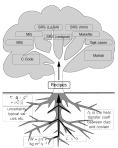
Conclusions

References

### **Drasil Framework for LSS**

- SCS has the opportunity to lead other software fields
- Document driven design is feasible
- Requires an investment of time
- Documentation does not have to be painful
- Develop/refactor via practical case studies
- Ontology may naturally emerge







#### Slide 31 of 33

#### Silue 31 01 3

Scope

Motivatio

חחו

Overvie Exampl SRS

Qualitie

Future Wo

Conclusion

References

#### References I

Cezar Ionescu and Patrik Jansson. Dependently-Typed Programming in Scientific Computing — Examples from Economic Modelling. In *Revised Selected Papers of the 24th International Symposium on Implementation and Application of Functional Languages*, volume 8241 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 140–156. Springer International Publishing, 2012. doi: 10.1007/978-3-642-41582-1\_9.

David Lorge Parnas. Precise documentation: The key to better software. In *The Future of Software Engineering*, pages 125–148, 2010. doi:

10.1007/978-3-642-15187-3\_8. URL http: //dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-15187-3\_8.



Slide 32 of 33

#### -----

----

Motivatio

DDD

Overvier Example SRS

Qualitie

Future Wo

Conclusion

References

#### References II

- Patrick J. Roache. *Verification and Validation in Computational Science and Engineering*. Hermosa Publishers, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1998.
- W. Spencer Smith and Nirmitha Koothoor. A document-driven method for certifying scientific computing software for use in nuclear safety analysis. *Nuclear Engineering and Technology*, 48(2):404–418, April 2016. ISSN 1738-5733. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.net.2015.11.008. URL

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1738573315002582.



Slide 33 of 33

Scope

Motivatio

DDD

Overvie Exampl SRS

Quanties

Future Wo

Conclusion

References

#### References III

W. Spencer Smith, Thulasi Jegatheesan, and Diane F. Kelly. Advantages, disadvantages and misunderstandings about document driven design for scientific software. In *Proceedings of the Fourth International Workshop on Software Engineering for High Performance Computing in Computational Science and Engineering (SE-HPCCE)*, November 2016. 8 pp.