

# Trends in Systems Engineering

Thur Aug 12, 2021

7:00 – 8:30 PM CDT

A FREE Virtual Event  
Registration Required



**Dr. Rick Hefner**

Caltech Center for Technology  
and Management Education

*[rhefner@caltech.edu](mailto:rhefner@caltech.edu)*

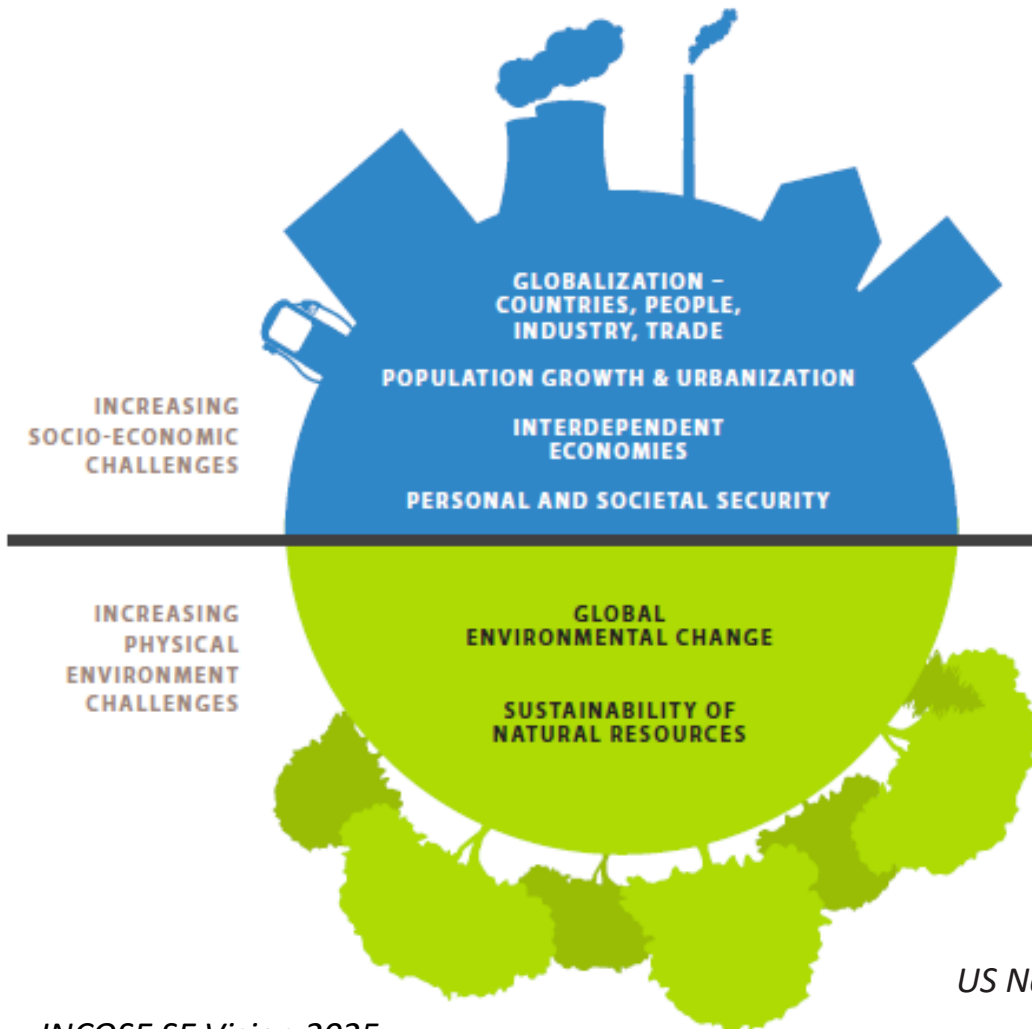
**Caltech**



# The Global Context for Systems Engineering



# Societal Needs Drive Future Systems



INCOSE SE Vision 2025

US National Academy of Engineering (NAE)

## NAE ENGINEERING GRAND CHALLENGES



1 Make solar energy economical

2 Provide energy from fusion



3 Develop carbon sequestration methods



4 Manage the nitrogen cycle

5 Provide access to clean water



6 Restore and improve urban infrastructure



7 Advance health informatics

8 Engineer better medicines



9 Reverse-engineer the brain

10 Prevent nuclear terror



11 Secure cyberspace

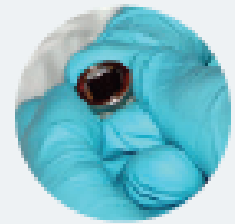
12 Enhance virtual reality



13 Advance personalized learning

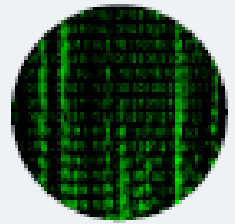
14 Engineer the tools of scientific discovery

# Technology Trends Drive Future Systems



## SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES

... provide information to a multitude of systems about location, human inputs, environmental context and more. For example, GPS now provides complete and accurate information about a system's geographic position - information that was previously unobtainable. Advances in medical systems, Geographic Information Systems and many industrial systems are based upon ever better and more efficient sensor technologies.



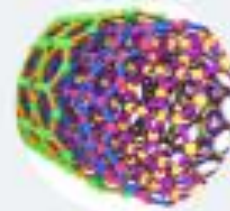
## SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

... embody algorithms that manage system state but also reason about the system's external environment and accomplishment of objectives. As systems become more "intelligent" and dominate human-safety critical applications, software certification and system reliability and integrity become more important and challenging.



## BIO-TECHNOLOGY

... contributes to health and human welfare, but can have unintended consequences.



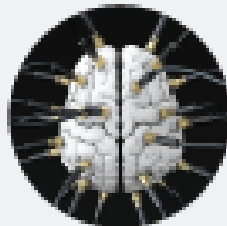
## MATERIAL SCIENCE

... new capabilities lead to systems with improved properties, such as weight and volume, electrical conductance, strength, sustainability or environmental compatibility.



## MINIATURIZATION

... of system components provides increased capabilities in smaller and more efficient packages but can contribute to hidden levels of system complexity.



## HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION

... technologies enable the exploration of virtual environments allowing engineers to interact more deeply and comprehensively with systems before they are built. They also advance human control by integrating multiple information streams into manageable pieces.



## COMPUTATIONAL POWER

... continues to increase while computers are getting smaller and more efficient. Extensive reasoning and data management capabilities are now embedded in everyday systems, devices and appliances, yet data centers exhibit very high power densities requiring more sustainable power and thermal management systems.



## COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

... bring our world closer together and enable systems that are aware of and can respond to much greater environmental stimuli and information needs.

# Changing Focus of Systems Engineering

*A fresh look at Systems Engineering – what is it, how should it work*

## Interdisciplinary

- To engineer dependable, robust, pseudo-deterministic, mainly technological systems
- Requirements and operational concepts that:
  - Can be established early in the lifecycle
  - Are not expected to change (much) through life

## Transdisciplinary

- To address resilient, adaptive systems and systems-of-systems that may be in a state of continual evolution (at least their operational environment, and probably the system as well)
- Systems of interest may be autonomous, possibly involving Artificial Intelligence, probably involving environmental aspects, and certainly involving social aspects as well as engineering and technology
- To address societal grand challenges related inter alia to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Such systems will still need dependable robust technological building blocks (which is why we say the focus “opens out” rather than “shifts”)



# Resilient Design of Autonomous Systems

- Operate in inhabited areas
- Wide range of environmental conditions
- Adaptive to unexpected conditions
- Capable of anticipating and recovering from failure conditions

Tolerant to invalid assumptions

- Weather conditions
- Air space congestion
- Inanimate surface hazards
- Animate surface hazards
- Human safety
- Failure modes

# INCOSE SE Vision 2025 - Imperatives



*Expanding the APPLICATION of systems engineering across industry domains*



*Embracing and learning from the diversity of systems engineering APPROACHES*



*Applying systems engineering to help shape policy related to SOCIAL AND NATURAL SYSTEMS*



*Expanding the THEORETICAL foundation for systems engineering*



*Advancing the TOOLS and METHODS to address complexity*



*Enhancing EDUCATION and TRAINING to grow a SYSTEMS ENGINEERING WORKFORCE that meets the increasing demand*

# Expanding the APPLICATION of systems engineering across industry domains

Many traditional companies are adopting SE

- Transportation – public transit, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), automotive, agriculture, construction, autonomous vehicles
- Health – healthcare organizations, medical devices, pharma
- Energy & Power – oil & gas, power utilities, generating/distribution
- Telecomms – critical infrastructure for first responders, municipalities, and utilities
- Water – water authorities

*Reference: Personal communication with Anne O'Neil*



# What is creating the increased demand for SE?

1

Mission complexity is growing faster than our ability to manage it . . . increasing mission risk from inadequate specifications and incomplete verification.

4

Knowledge and investment are lost between projects . . . increasing cost and risk: dampening the potential for true product lines.

2

System design emerges from pieces, rather than from architecture . . . resulting in systems that are brittle, difficult to test, and complex and expensive to operate.

5

Technical and programmatic sides of projects are poorly coupled . . . hampering effective project risk-based decision making.

3

Knowledge and investment are lost at project life cycle phase boundaries . . . increasing development cost and risk of late discovery of design problems

6

Most major disasters such as Challenger and Columbia have resulted from failure to recognize and deal with risks. The Columbia Accident Investigation Board determined that the preferred approach is an “independent technical authority”.

*INCOSE SE Vision 2025*

# Embracing and learning from the diversity of systems engineering APPROACHES

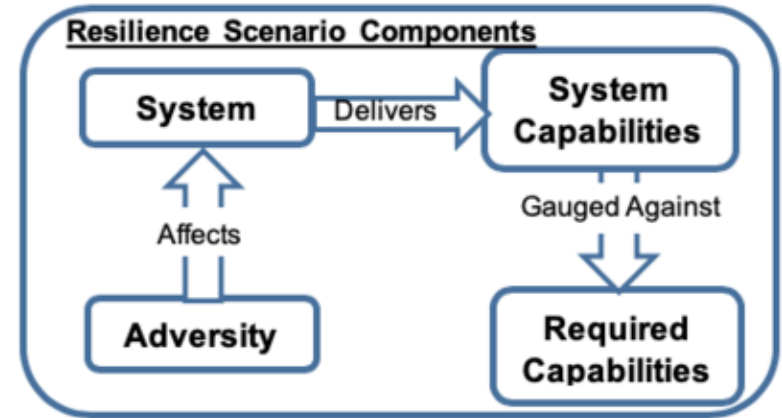
Systems engineering methods used in commercial companies will differ from traditional defense applications

- Scalable to system and organizational complexity and size
- Tailored to the application domain
- Value driven to optimize project schedule, cost, and technical risk
- Built-in design drivers like cybersecurity and resilience

# System Resilience

- The ability to provide the required capability in the face of adversity (avoid/withstand/recover)

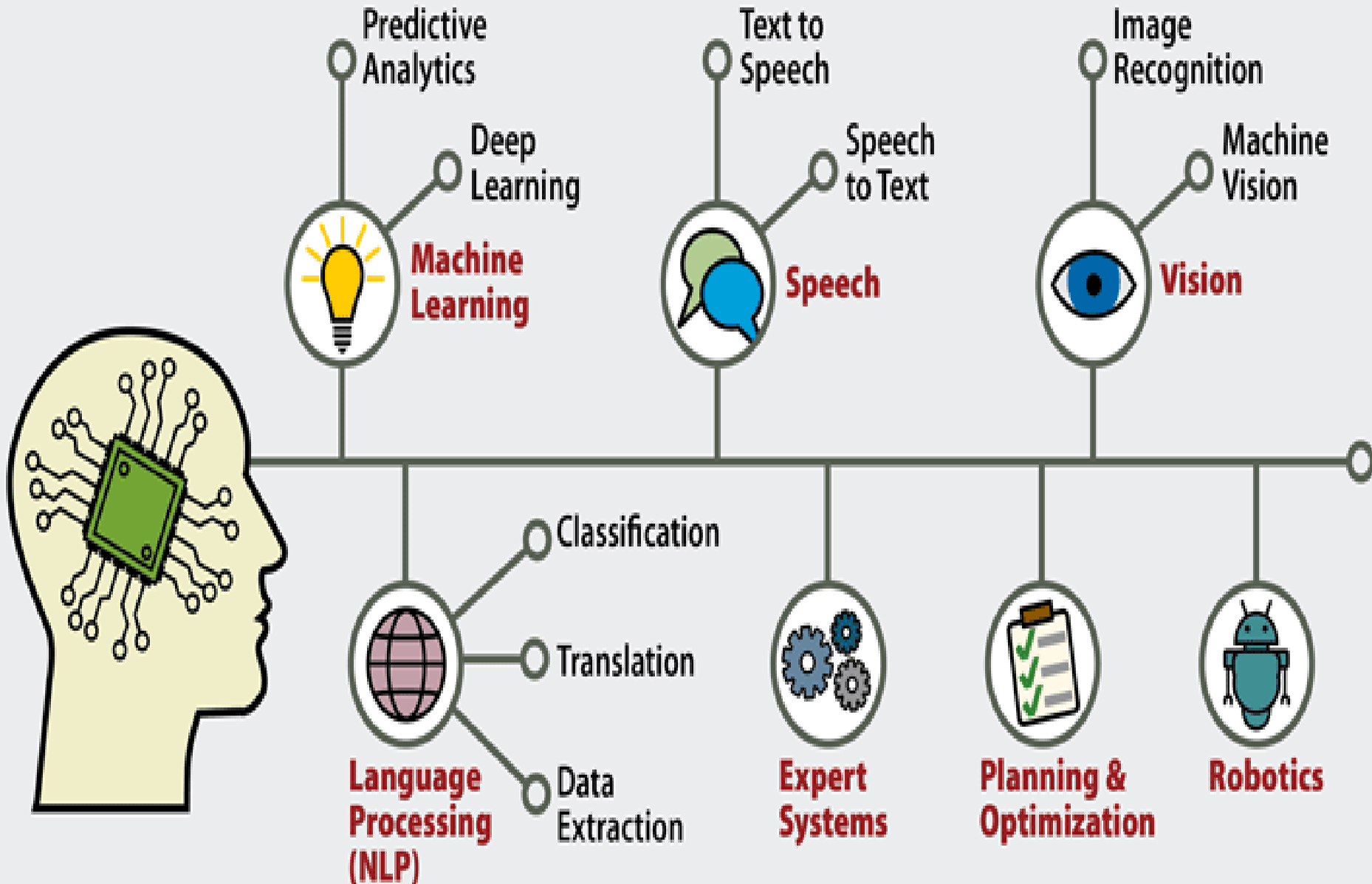
- Environmental sources
- Component failure
- Opponents, friendlies, neutral parties



- Key attributes of a resilient system

- Robustness – ability to withstand a threat in the normal operating state
- Adaptability – ability to restructure itself in the face of a threat
- Tolerance – ability to degrade gracefully following an encounter with adversity
- Integrity – ability to maintain cohesiveness under adversity

# Artificial Intelligence



# Agility

*Agility* is a capability exhibited by systems and processes that enables them to sustain effective operation under conditions of unpredictability, uncertainty, and change

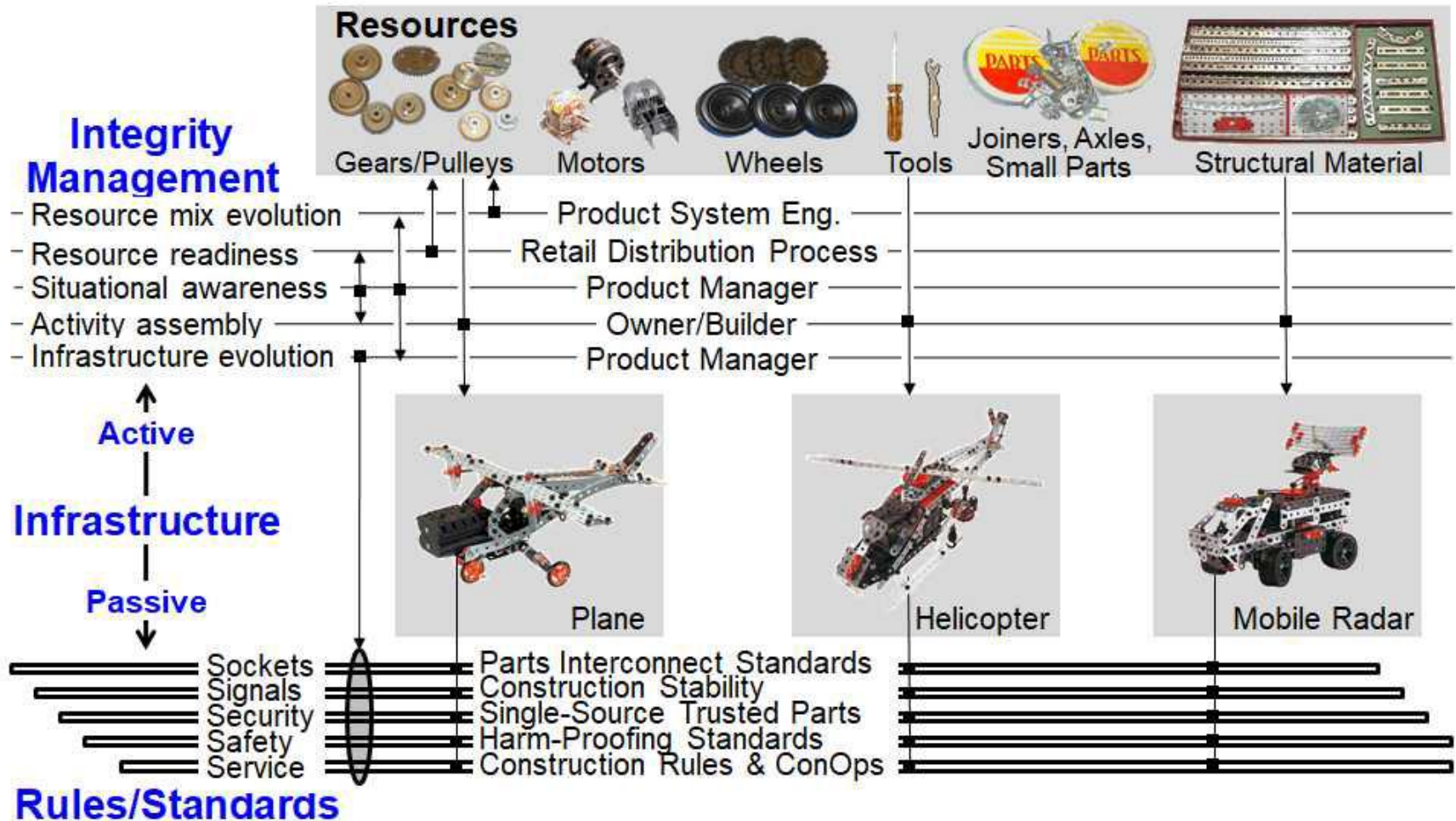
## **Agile systems**

- Flexible, reconfigurable, extensible
- Scalable in the sense of capacity
- Flexible in terms of functions and performance levels (such systems can be modified after initial deployment by addition of modules or modification of performance levels)

## **Agile systems engineering**

- Nimble, dexterous and swift
- Adaptive and response to new, sometimes unexpected, information that becomes available during product/system development
- Opposite the traditional belief in engineering design that requirements and design solutions should be frozen as early as possible

# Erector Set - An Agile Hardware Engineering Example



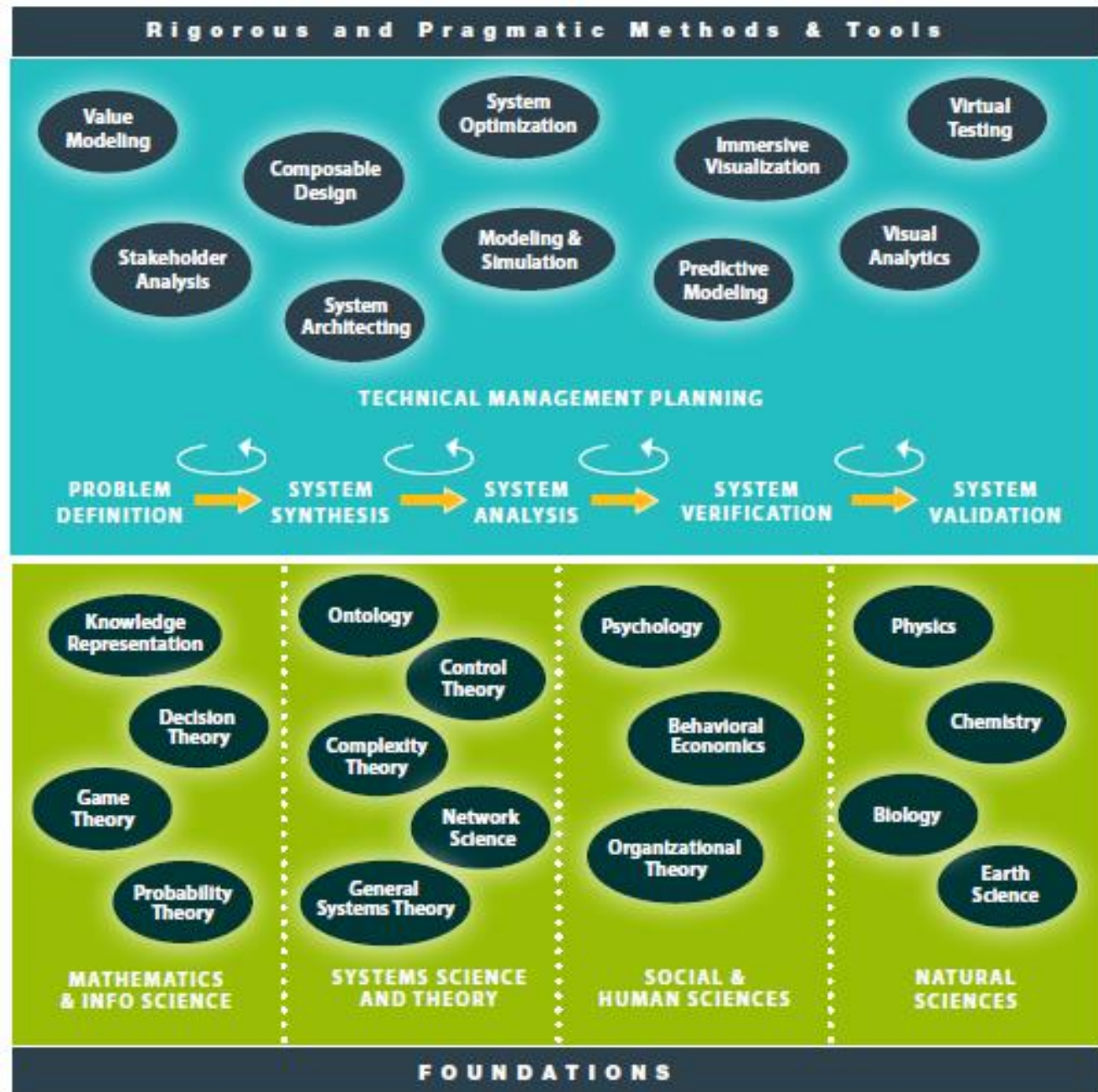
*"Fundamentals of Agile Systems Engineering – Part 1", Dove and La Barge*



# Applying systems engineering to help shape policy related to SOCIAL AND NATURAL SYSTEMS



# Expanding the THEORETICAL foundation for systems engineering



# Advancing the TOOLS and METHODS to address complexity

Cloud-based  
high performance  
computing  
supports high  
fidelity system  
simulations



Advanced search  
query, and ana-  
lytical methods  
support reasoning  
about systems



Immersive  
technologies  
support data  
visualization

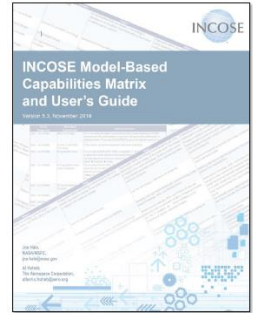


Net-enabled  
tools support  
collaboration





# Model-Based Systems Engineering – Maturity



- Rows: Organization modeling capabilities for an organization (42 capabilities)
- Columns: Increasing stages of capability
  - **Stage 0:** No MBSE capability or MBSE applied ad hoc to gain experience
  - **Stage 1:** Modeling efforts are used to address specific objectives and questions
  - **Stage 2:** Modeling standards are applied; ontology, languages, tools,
  - **Stage 3:** Program/project wide capabilities; model integrated with other functional disciplines, digital threads defined and digital twin
  - **Stage 4:** Enterprise wide capabilities: contributing to the enterprise, programs/projects use enterprise defined ontologies libraries, standards

CAPABILITY STATEMENTS	STAGE 0	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
CAP 1					
CAP 2					
CAP 3					
CAP 4					

# INCOSE Model-Based Capabilities Matrix

Goal/DE Strategy	Model-Based Capability	Stage 0	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Goal 1 Use of Models	MBSSE Use Strategy	No documented MBSSE use strategy, or the strategy is described for ad hoc efforts. Each MBSSE effort is stand-alone to address specific concerns.	Organization MBSSE use strategy is documented as part of the overall organizational strategy at the system level. The strategy is related to the overall risk strategy. Modeling is used to inform system engineers, across system engineering disciplines for all disciplines.	Organization MBSSE use strategy is documented as part of the organization's overall strategy at the system level. The strategy is related to the overall risk strategy. Modeling is used to inform system engineers, across system engineering disciplines for all disciplines.	Organization MBSSE use strategy is documented as part of the organization's overall strategy at the enterprise level. The strategy is related to the overall risk strategy. Modeling is integrated with business information tools and used to inform system engineers, program managers, and all staff across the enterprise.	Organization MBSSE use strategy is documented as part of the organization's overall strategy at the enterprise level. The strategy is related to the overall risk strategy. Modeling is integrated with business information tools and used to inform system engineers, program managers, and all staff across the enterprise. It manages a full range.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Common DE and MBSSE Terminology	Appropriate terminology defined for the project or program.	Common Glossary/Data Dictionary.	Top Tier terminology is defined for the enterprise.	Discipline and engineering specialty terminology is added to cover lower level models.	Common, forced two terms are defined and consistent across all topics and consistent with accepted community standards.
Goal 1 Use of Models	SE Agreement Process	Modeling is not incorporated as part of the agreement process.	Given a clear business case, modeling is applied in a consistent manner across projects or programs.	Given a clear business case, modeling is applied in a consistent manner across projects or programs.	Consistent model business case descriptions are being practiced across an enterprise.	Consistent model business case descriptions are being practiced across an enterprise.
Goal 1 Use of Models	SE Organizational Project-Enabling Processes	Modeling is not incorporated as part of the Organizational Project-Enabling processes.	Given a clear business case, modeling is applied in a consistent manner across projects or programs.	Given a clear business case, modeling is applied in a consistent manner across projects or programs.	Consistent model business case descriptions are being practiced across an enterprise.	Consistent model business case descriptions are being practiced across an enterprise.
Goal 1 Use of Models	SE Technical Management Processes	Modeling is not incorporated as part of the Technical Management processes.	Modeling is part of the processes to improve quality and models contribute to the architecture source of truth.	Modeling is the basis for the processes. Digital artifacts are used to make SE Technical Management decisions.	Modeling is the basis for the processes and is used to optimize results across the project or program.	Modeling is the basis for the processes and is used to optimize results across the enterprise.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Model Configuration Management	Model Configuration management is ad hoc.	Model configuration management is an assigned role.	Model configuration management adheres to a standard.	Model configuration management is applied to all models for a system.	Model configuration management is applied to all models for an enterprise.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Model Data Management	Model Data Management is ad hoc.	Model data management is an assigned role.	Model data management adheres to a standard.	Model data management is applied to all models for a system.	Model data management is applied to all models for an enterprise.
Goal 1 Use of Models	SE Technical Processes	Modeling is not incorporated as part of the Technical processes.	Modeling is part of the processes to improve quality and models contribute to the architecture source of truth.	Modeling is the basis for the processes with digital threads covering some of the processes. Digital artifacts are used to make SE decisions.	Modeling is the basis for the processes with digital threads covering all selected processes. Digital artifacts and digital tools are used to make SE decisions.	Modeling is the basis for the processes with digital threads covering all processes. Digital artifacts, and digital tools are used to make SE decisions.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Modeling Stakeholder Requirements	Stakeholder requirements are not modeled.	Stakeholder requirements are in a requirements management tool.	Stakeholder requirements are in a requirements management tool and are linked to enterprise and system models and are bidirectional traceable.	Enterprise and system stakeholder requirements are bidirectional traceable.	Enterprise and system stakeholder requirements are traceable across enterprise.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Model-Based Verification and Validation	No plan for verifying or validating requirements in the models.	Plan for verifying and validating requirements in the models.	Verification and validation plan relies on model content and analysis as requirements "analysis."	Modeling development processes have been established, modeling patterns, styles, and standards have been defined, and standard V&V procedures and programs have been formalized.	Modeling development processes have been established, modeling patterns, styles, and standards have been defined, and standard V&V procedures and programs have been formalized.
Goal 1 Use of Models	SE-Driven Model Plan	No documented MBSSE plan.	Models are developed for parts of the system engineer or enterprise engineer processes or for only parts of the life cycle. Appropriate tools, environments, methods, and resources are provided.	Full System/Enterprise Models are developed and applied vertically across the product life cycle and across Systems Engineering organizations. Appropriate tools, environments, methods, and resources are provided.	Multiple System Models are integrated for the enterprise. Consistent tool coverage and use with separate Systems Engineering Organizations. Appropriate tools, environments, methods, and resources are provided.	Consistent tool coverage within separate Systems Engineering Organizations across the enterprise. Multiple enterprise models are integrated within or across mission areas. Appropriate tools, environments, methods, and resources are provided.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Model-Based Review, Management, Program Review (MPR), Milestone Review, Program Review, Technical Review, Audit	Reviews are not model-based. Review and audit is not by calendar date against a contract event such as contract award. Digital artifacts aren't planned for use to satisfy explicit criteria.	Identification of no del-based digital artifacts to satisfy explicit criteria. Model content is called out explicitly as product with defined post quality. Use of digital artifacts allow for some criteria items to be addressed prior to the event.	Review processes are scheduled with review criteria and exit criteria as well as review items. Use of digital artifacts allow for some criteria items to be addressed prior to the event. Model-based digital artifacts to satisfy criteria along with related narrative. Model content is identified that satisfies criteria to be addressed prior to the event.	Review and audit is early model data and information availability. Review process allows for more flexible review as that some criteria are acknowledged and accomplished before the scheduled review. The model-based model-based digital artifacts with associated documents to satisfy criteria with related narrative.	Enterprise organizationwide coordination on common review criteria application, timing, and the use of specific digital artifacts to meet specific criteria. Modeling record the acceptance of criteria items. Modeling frequent review of model contents of identified "Knowledge Points" allow stakeholders to accept that the review is complete for that.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Model Metrics	Metric are used to manage the model development, quality, or effectiveness.	Available metrics are reported from the various modeling tools used.	Metric, beyond those available from the tool configurations, are reported to address model development, quality, and effectiveness needs.	Metric are used to manage the model development, quality, or effectiveness of a system or enterprise.	Consistent metrics are used across the enterprise to manage the model development, quality, or effectiveness with no information kept and.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Modeling Integration	Elements within a model are not integrated.	Elements within a model follow a structured approach (such as COSEEM).	Model elements not needed and that don't fit within the structured approach are removed. Model components are identified and no del-based model objectives and some general model requirements have been stated. Plans for V&V evaluation of the model traceable to the model requirements have been made.	Integration across systems models for a project/program use the same structured approach. A library of reusable Systems Models is created and Model objectives and some general model requirements for specific models have been stated. V&V evaluation of the model traceable to the model requirements is planned and includes V&V of modeling patterns, style and standards, as well as having defined procedures.	Integration across systems models for an enterprise use the same structured approach. A library of reusable Systems Models is created and Model objectives and some general model requirements for specific models have been stated. V&V evaluation of the model traceable to the model requirements is planned and includes V&V of modeling patterns, style and standards, as well as having defined procedures.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Verification and Validation of Models	The organization has not created a model objective -- so basis for verification and validation of the models.	The organization has created model objectives for model requirements. Partial V&V evaluation of the model is possible.	The organization has created model objectives for model requirements. Partial V&V evaluation of the model is possible.	The organization has created model objectives for model requirements. Partial V&V evaluation of the model is possible.	The organization has created model objectives for model requirements. Partial V&V evaluation of the model is possible.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Model Assurance	Model Assurance is not considered.	Model assurance is defined with source codes and methods.	Model assurance targets are identified in association with the effort, schedule and cost.	Model assurance measurement and corrective actions are considered for project/programs.	Model assurance measurement and corrective actions are considered for the enterprise.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Model Management	Model management is ad hoc.	Model management is an assigned role.	Model management adheres to a standard or to a defined approach.	Model management is applied to all models for a system.	Model management is applied to all models for an enterprise.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Distributed Database Tool Interoperability	No interoperability between model-based tools.	Model-Based Tool-to-Tool has ad hoc interoperability.	Main tool interoperable. Supporting tool interoperable through file transfer.	Main tool interoperable. Supporting tool interoperable through file transfer.	Fully Federated with standard "plug-and-play" interfaces. Data is exchanged among tools.
Goal 1 Use of Models	Model-Based Data Tool	Data Tool independent are not considered and	Data Tool independent are considered and	Data Tool independent are considered and	Data Tool independent are considered and	Data is independent of tool and allow for
Role-Based MBCM		MBCM-RB Capabilities	DE-Based MBCM	MBCM-DE Capabilities	OSD DE Strategy Goals	

# Model-Based Systems Engineering Trends

- MBSE is increasingly integrating technical, programmatic, and business concerns
- Tool suites, visualization and virtualization capabilities are maturing
- Model-based approaches will enable understanding of complex system behavior **much earlier in the product life cycle**
- Model-based visualization will allow **seamless navigation** among related viewpoints such as system, subsystem, component, as well as production and logistics
- Large scale virtual prototyping and virtual product integration based on integrated models will lead to **significant time-to-market reductions**



# Enhancing EDUCATION and TRAINING to grow a SE WORKFORCE that meets the increasing demand

The worldwide demand for SE in all application domains is increasing the need for high quality SE education and training

- Increased use of systems thinking by non-engineers
- Increased understanding of systems engineering by all engineers
- Increased scope of knowledge, skills, and competencies by systems engineers, requiring life-long learning



# The Global Context for Systems Engineering

