Radiation-Aware Design for CubeSat Form-Factor Experiment using Goal Structuring Notation

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NASA Mission Assurance

NASA classifies spacecraft missions by cost, significance, priority, lifetime, and launch constraints.

- Class A: High-cost, highly significant like a space telescope, low risk tolerance, use radiation hardened (rad-hard) parts
- (Sub) Class D: Low-cost, short lifetime like CubeSats, high risk tolerance, use commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) parts
 - Unknown radiation hardness of COTS parts is a reliability issue

Mission assurance is moving toward a model-centric paradigm where model-based representations of the spacecraft replace requirement and interface documents.

NASA Reliability & Maintainability Template

NASA's Reliability & Maintainability (R&M) template uses a modified GSN structure to graphically present an objectives-based approach to reliability and maintainability.

R&M template was used to create general structure for top-level goals for GSN example assurance case.
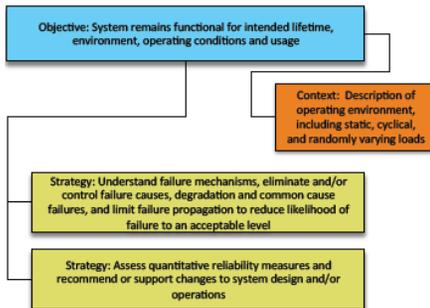
[2] Groen, F.J.; Evans, J.W.; Hall, A.J., "A Vision for Spaceflight Reliability: NASA's Objectives Based Strategy," RAMS, 2015, 26-29 Jan. 2015
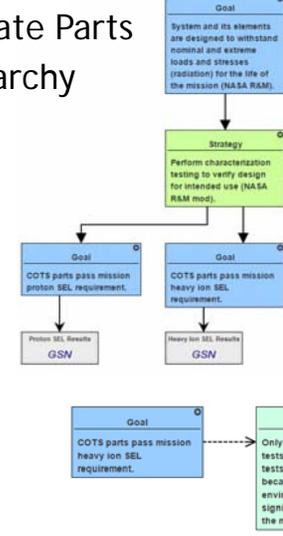
Preliminary Results

- Graphically describe mitigation strategies
- Graphical model can be used as a deliverable for reviews
- Makes assumptions and justifications explicit
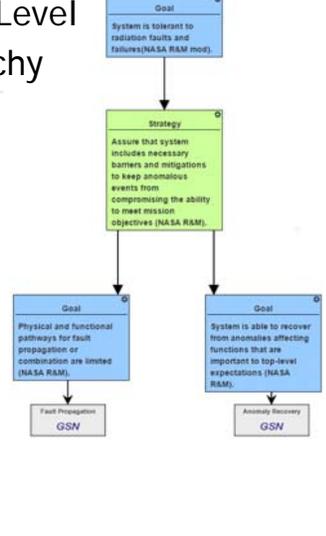- Shows what lack of evidence does to the argument

GSN Model for REM
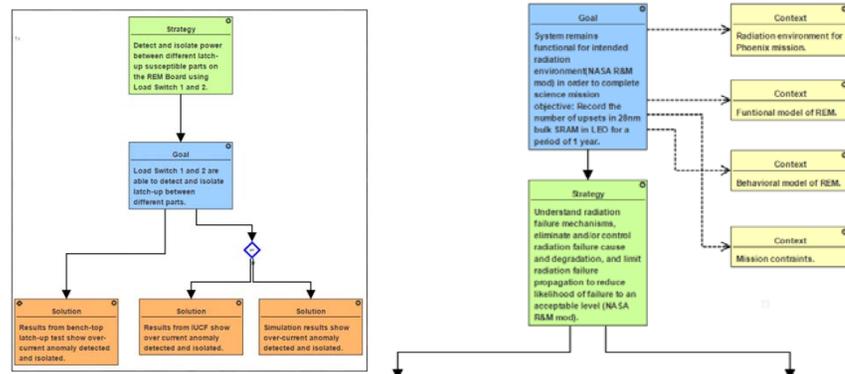
GSN Isolate Parts Hierarchy

GSN Top Level Hierarchy

Parts of GSN [1]

Goal (blue boxes): Claims of the argument
Solution (orange boxes): Items of evidence
Strategy (green boxes): Reasoning step, nature of argument
Context (yellow boxes): How the claim or reasoning step should be interpreted
Assumption (white boxes): Needed for goal or strategy to be valid

Justification (teal boxes): Explain why a claim or argument is acceptable
In Context of (dotted lines): Contextual relationships
Supported by (solid lines): Inferential or evidential relationships
M of N options (diamond): M out of N paths can be completed to prove goal

[1] GSN Community Standard Version 1 2011

Goal Structuring Notation

Goal Structuring Notation (GSN): Graphical argumentation notation used to explicitly document an argument and relationships between elements

- Created at the University of York in the 1990s
- First used in safety and security applications

CubeSats

Created in 1999 by Cal-Poly and Stanford to provide easy access to space for universities

- CubeSats are 10cm cubes that weigh no more than 1.33kg
- Come in various sizes that are multiples of the 10cm cubes: 1U, 2U, 3U, 6U
- The cost for a single unit is about $65,000–$80,000 to make and launch
- They can be launched in large groups, usually timed with larger satellite launches

WebGME

WebGME used to develop modeling framework for GSN.

WebGME: Web-based Generic Modeling Environment for collaborative domain specific modeling platforms https://webgme.org/

- Customizable modeling rules specify the syntax and semantics of the model
- Support for model interpretation algorithms
- Developed by Vanderbilt's Institute for Software Integrated Systems
  https://github.com/webgme

Single-Event Latch-up Testing

Single-event latch-up (SEL) testing investigates the energy of a particle that causes the part to latch into a sustained high-current state.

Total Ionizing Dose Testing

Total ionizing dose (TID) testing investigates parametric changes in a packaged semiconductor device as a result of cumulative ionizing radiation over a period of time.