

A Framework for Testing and Analysis

Learning objectives

- Introduce dimensions and tradeoff between test and analysis activities
- Distinguish validation from verification activities
- Understand limitations and possibilities of test and analysis

Verification and validation

- Validation:
does the software system meet the user's real needs?
are we building the right software?
- Verification:
does the software system meets the requirements specifications?
are we building the software right?



How the customer explained it



How the project leader understood it



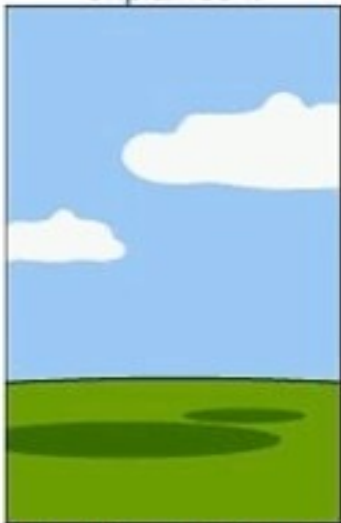
How the engineer designed it



How the programmer wrote it



How the sales executive described it



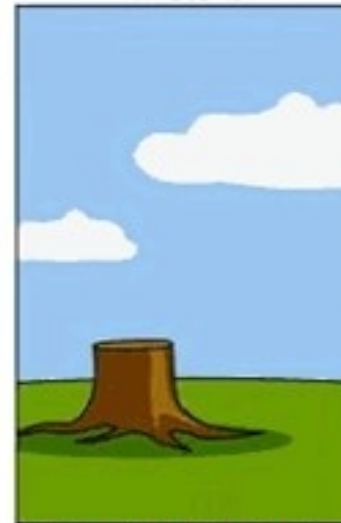
How the project was documented



What operations installed



How the customer was billed

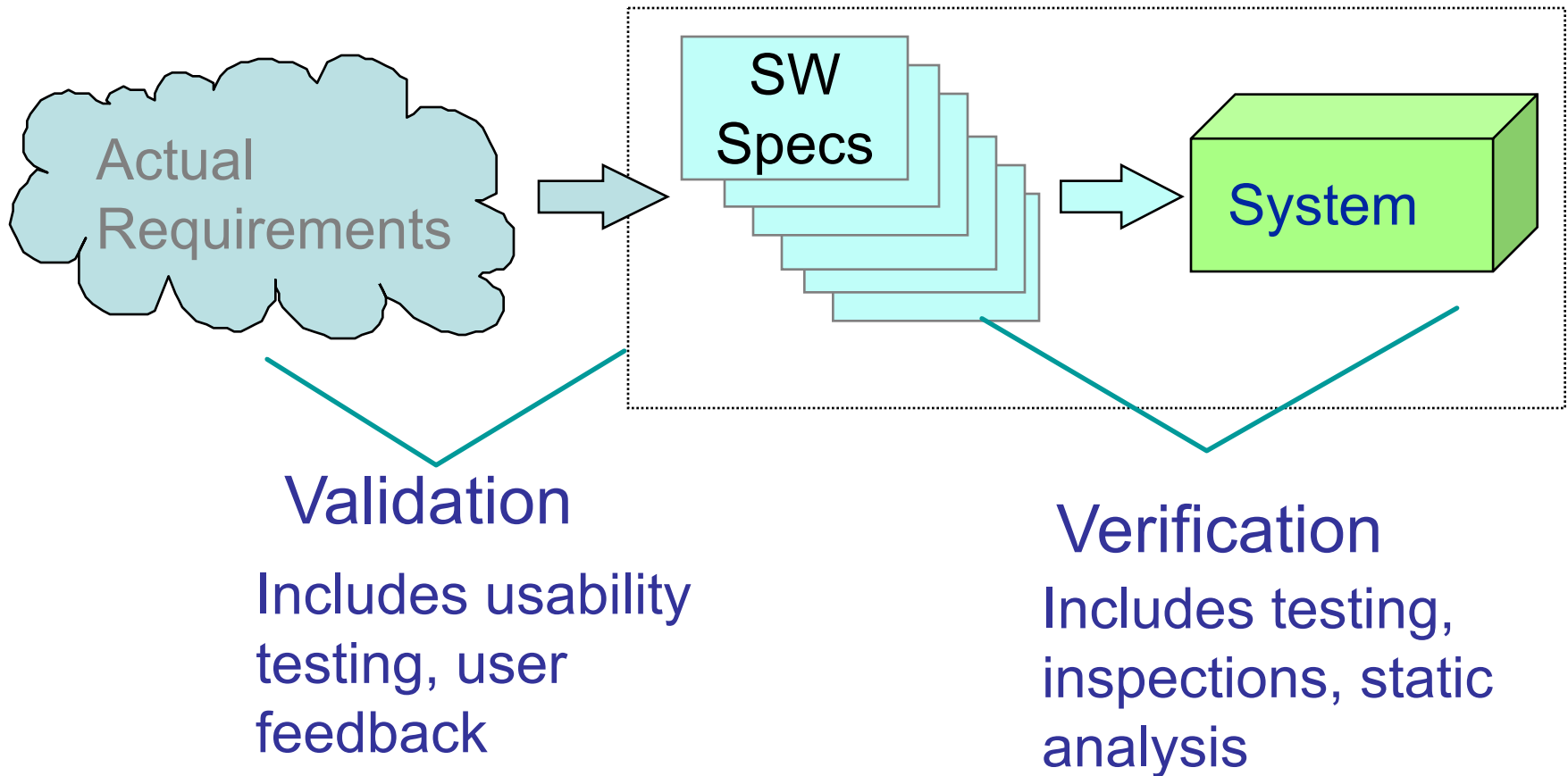


How the helpdesk supported it

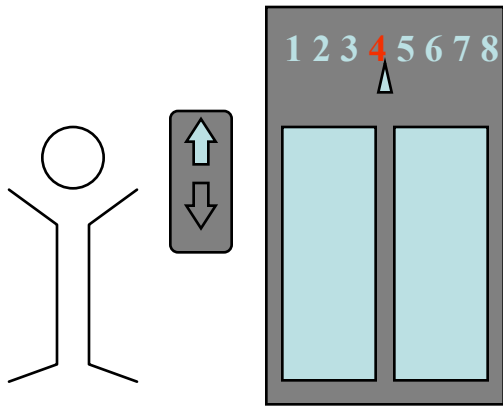


What the customer really needed

Validation and Verification



Verification or validation depends on the specification



Example: elevator response

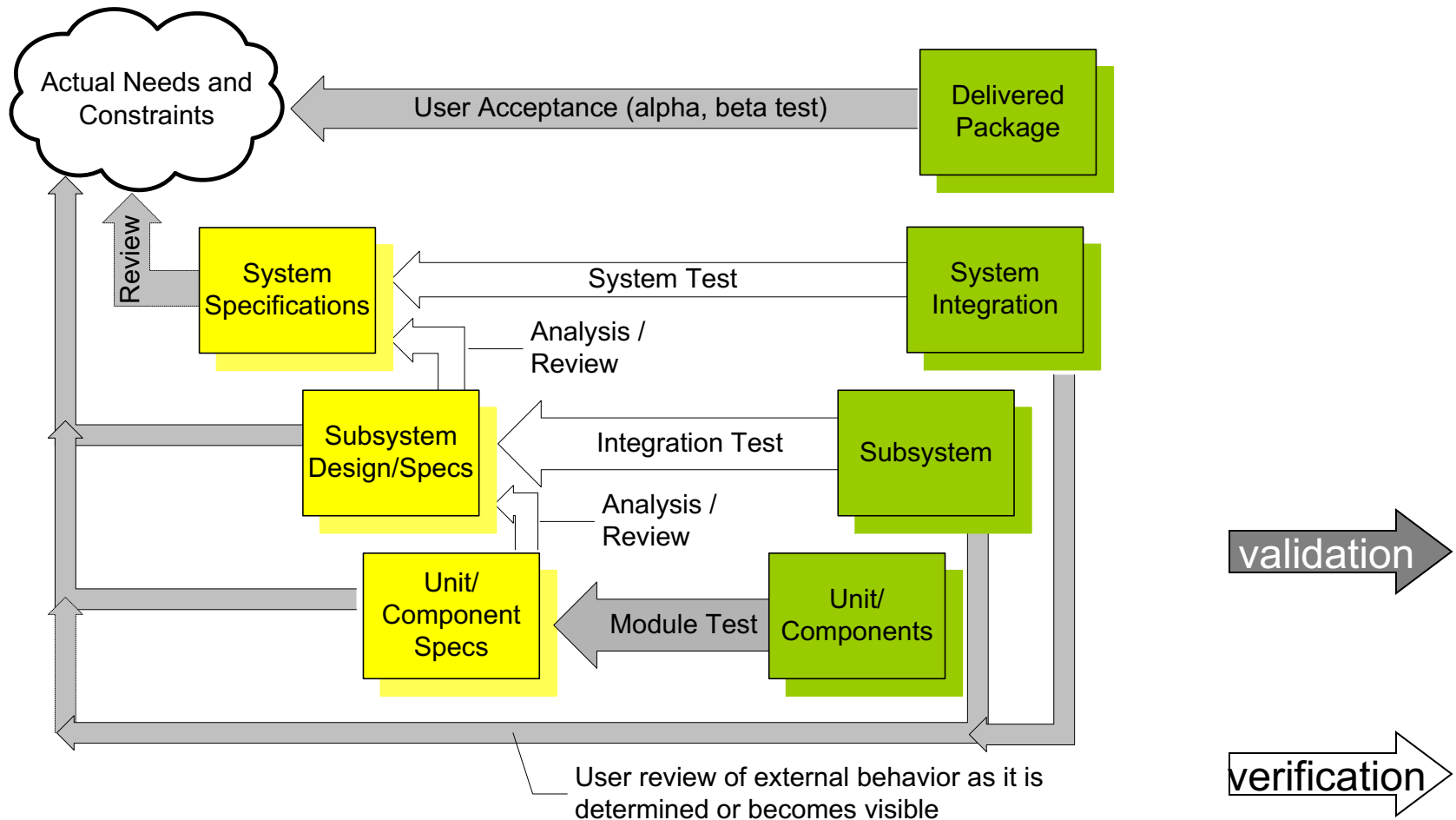
Unverifiable (but validatable) spec: ... if a user presses a request button at floor i , an available elevator must arrive at floor i soon...

Verifiable spec: ... if a user presses a request button at floor i , an available elevator must arrive at floor i within 30 seconds...

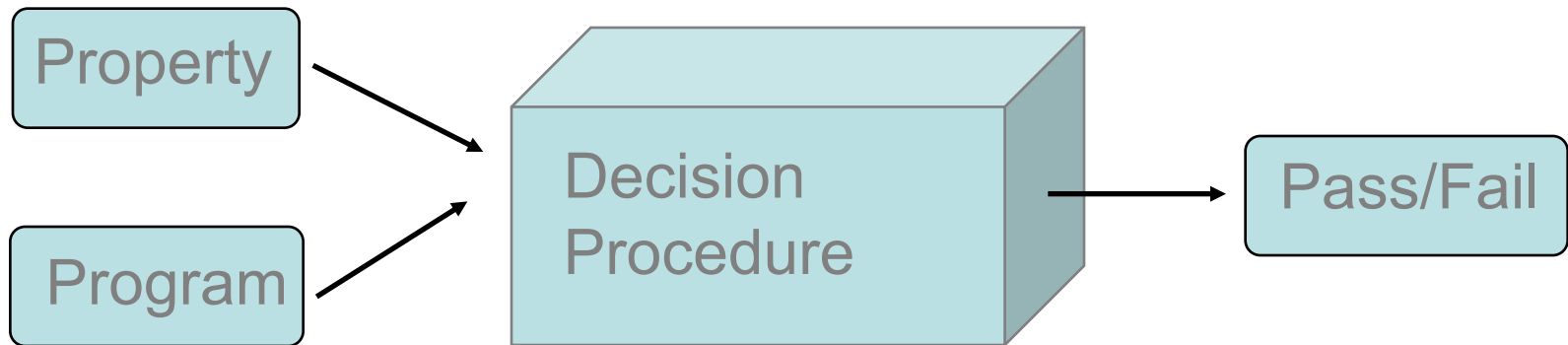
Quiz

- Which of the following are good requirement specifications?
 - A. The system should be reliable.
 - B. The start-up time of the system shall not be annoying to users.
 - C. The system should allow the user to check their bank account balance.
 - D. The system should solve all the management problems for the university.
- [Follow-up] Can you change the “bad” ones to make them good requirement specs?

Validation and Verification Activities

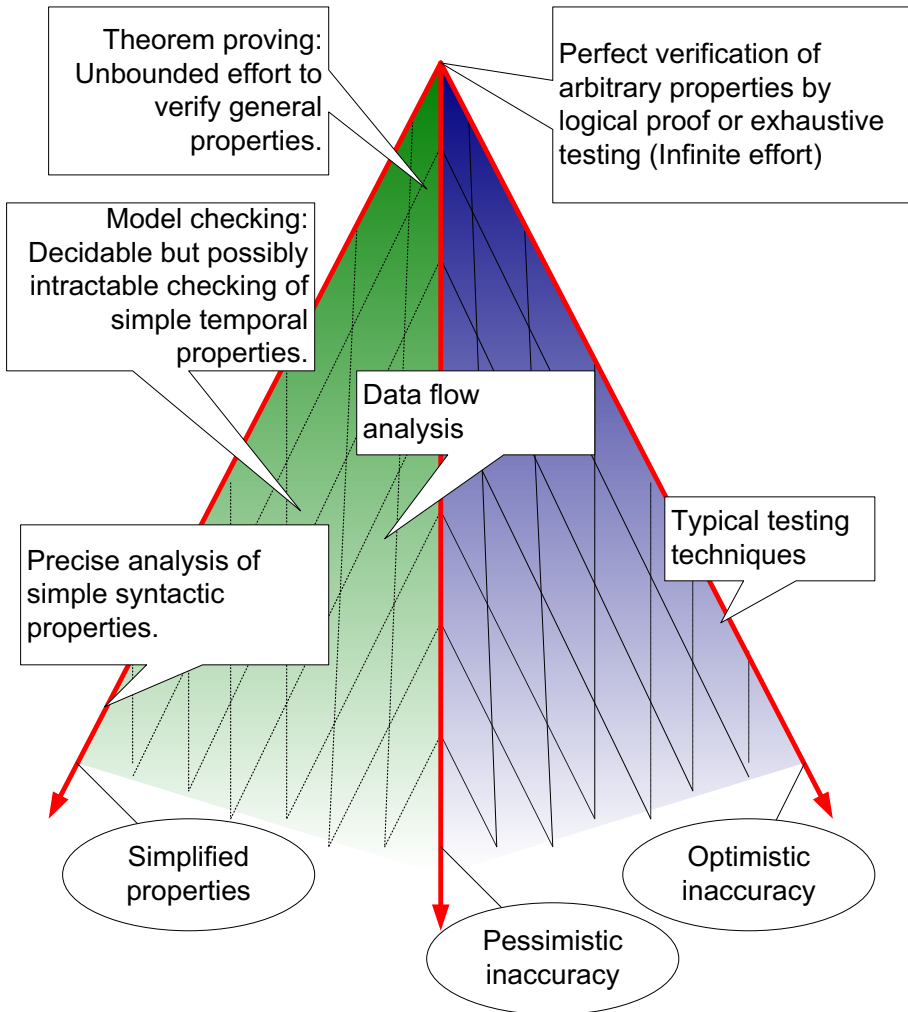


ever
You can't ~~always~~ get what you want



Correctness properties are undecidable
the halting problem can be embedded in almost
every property of interest

Getting what you need ...



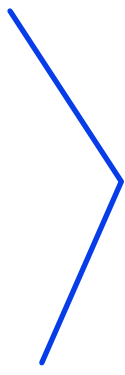
- **optimistic inaccuracy:** we may accept some programs that do not possess the property (i.e., it may not detect all violations).
 - testing
- **pessimistic inaccuracy:** it is not guaranteed to accept a program even if the program does possess the property being analyzed
 - automated program analysis techniques
- **simplified properties:** reduce the degree of freedom for simplifying the property to check

Example of simplified property: Unmatched Semaphore Operations

original problem

```
if ( .... ) {  
    ...  
    lock (S) ;  
}  
...  
if ( ... ) {  
    ...  
    unlock (S) ;  
}
```

Static
checking for
match is
necessarily
inaccurate ...



simplified property

Java prescribes a
more restrictive, but
statically checkable
construct.

```
synchronized (S) {  
    ...  
    ...  
}
```

Some Terminology

- **Safe:** A safe analysis has no **optimistic inaccuracy**, i.e., it accepts only correct programs.
- **Sound:** An analysis of a program P with respect to a formula F is sound if the analysis **returns true** only when the program **does satisfy** the formula.
 - How does this relate to *optimistic inaccuracy*?
- **Complete:** An analysis of a program P with respect to a formula F is complete if the analysis **always** returns true when the program actually satisfies the formula.
 - How does it relate to *optimistic inaccuracy*?

Summary

- Most interesting properties are undecidable, thus in general we cannot count on tools that work without human intervention
- Assessing program qualities comprises two complementary sets of activities: validation (does the software do what it is supposed to do?) and verification (does the system behave as specified?)
- There is no single technique for all purposes: test designers need to select a suitable combination of techniques