



Improved Model Based approach  
to address the Architecture,  
Design and Specification  
of complex systems.

Matlab Expo 2018  
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Jean Duprez, Airbus Operations SAS  
19 June, 2018

**AIRBUS**

How ? → **Easy & efficient** use.

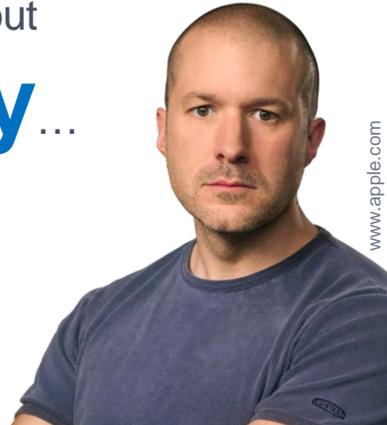
“  
Make things **simple & easy** !”

"**True simplicity** is derived from so much more than just the absence of clutter and ornamentation. It's about

bringing order to **complexity**...

You have to **deeply understand** the essence of a product in order to be able to get rid of the parts that are not essential.”

*Jony Ive (Chief Design Officer at Apple)*



How ?

①

Optimize model structure by  
**Factorizing Model** elements.

- Make modeling of re-usable elements simple & easy.
- Promote genericity of model elements by better managing specificities and variability.

- **Reduce model complexity**
- **Better consider expectations**
- **Better address the information**

②

Improve design quality & capitalization, by  
**Formalizing Design Expectations**  
into the model.

- Cascade design expectations into the model structure.
- Use model elements to formalize Requirements.
- Ensure full traceability between requirements and with associated model elements

③

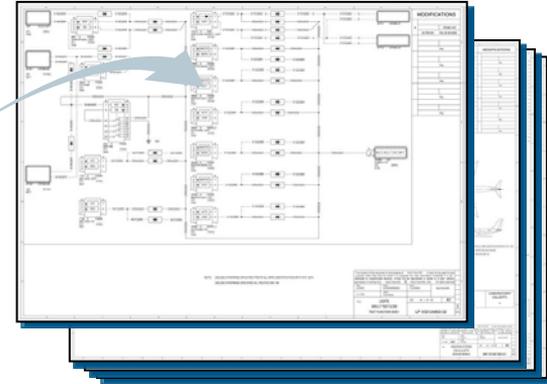
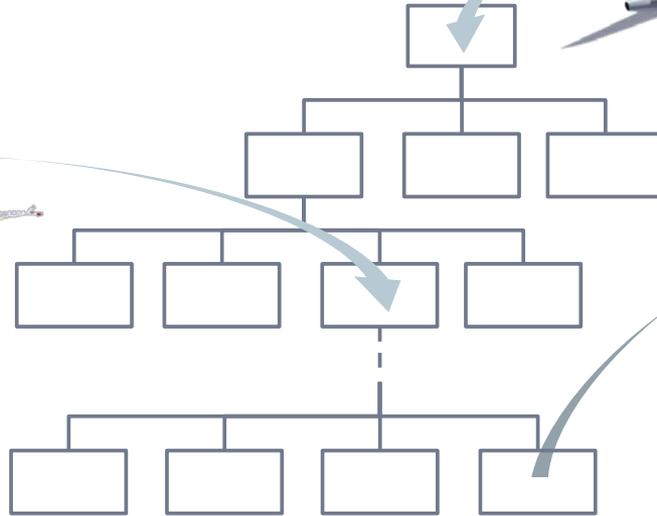
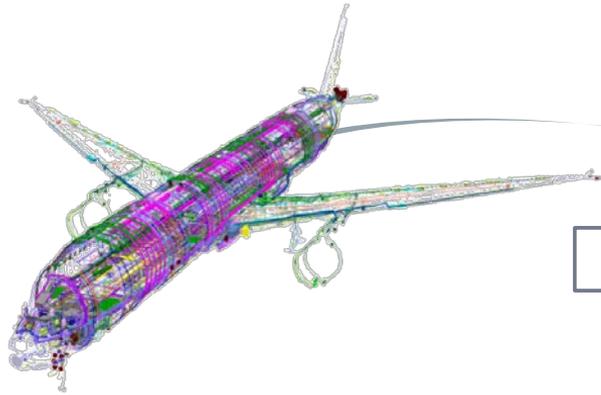
Represent the System through  
**Multiple Views.**

- Using most adapted graphical representations to address each concerns in the most efficient way.
- Using several abstraction levels
  - Considering only relevant information
  - Using the more adapted description formalism

How ? → **Complexity** challenge.

# How to address Complexity ?

→ **Break complexity**  
into sets of simpler parts.



How ? → **Complexity** challenge.

# How to address Complexity ?

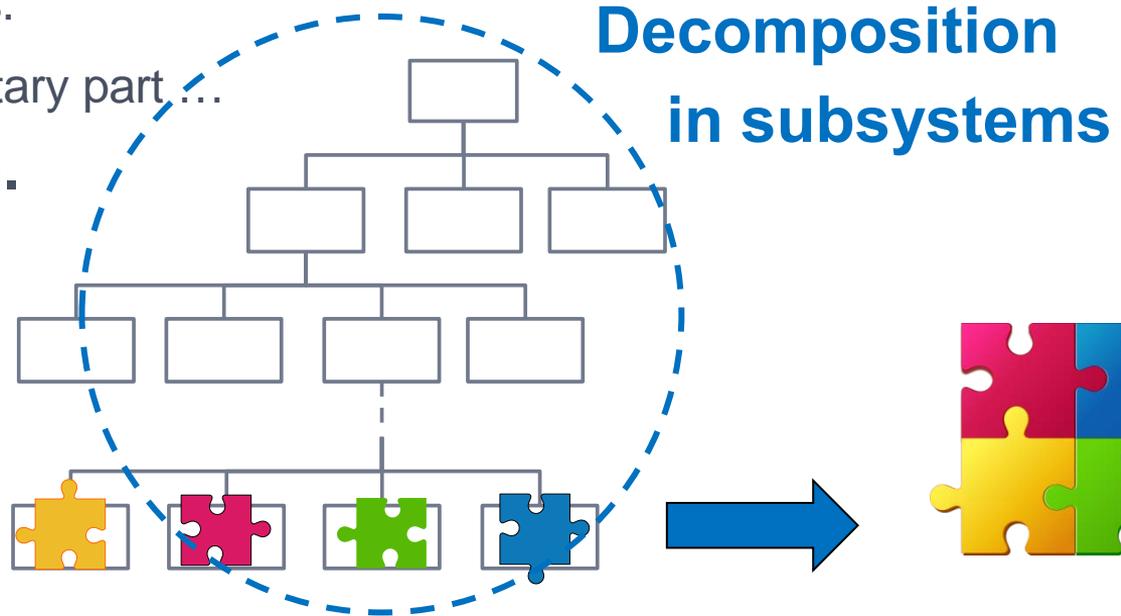
→ **Break complexity**

into sets of simpler parts.

→ **Design** each elementary part ...

→ manage **integration**.

Allow to get Deep understanding of each sub-set.



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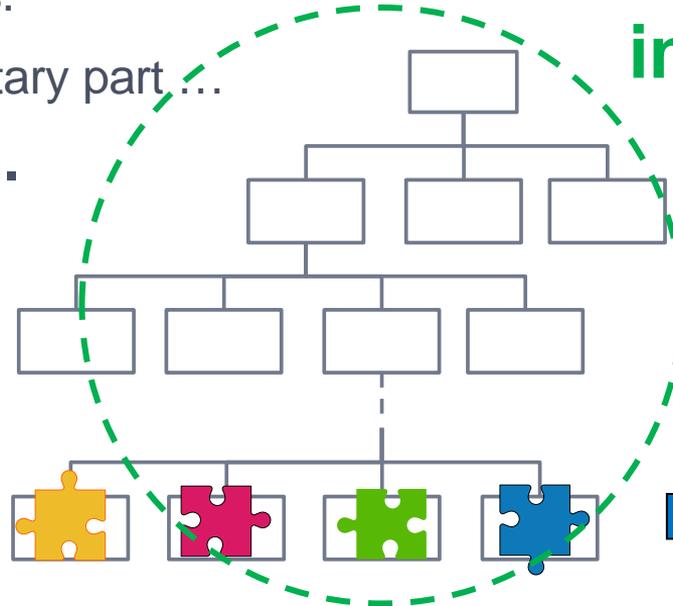
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Optimize the breakdown by

**improving** the design model structure.



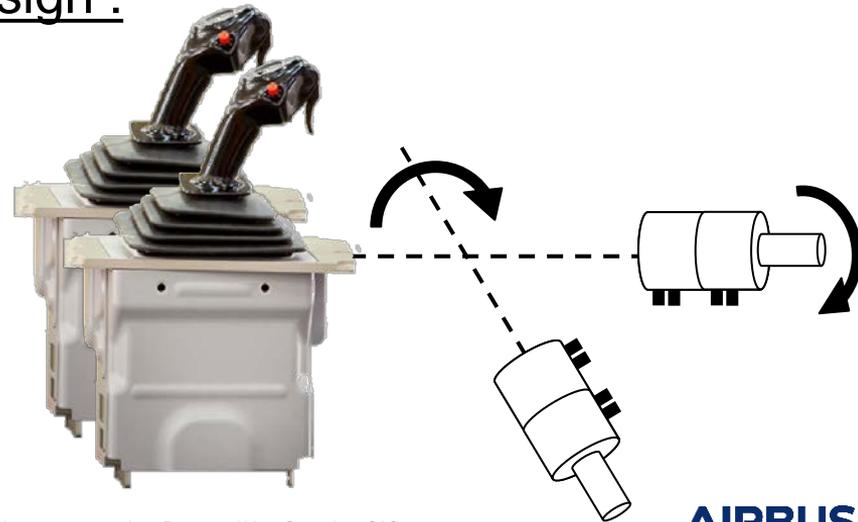
How ? → **Complexity** challenge. ① → **Optimize model structure.**

## **Factorizing** the design by : generating re-usable components.

Example of a simplistic Side-Sticks design :

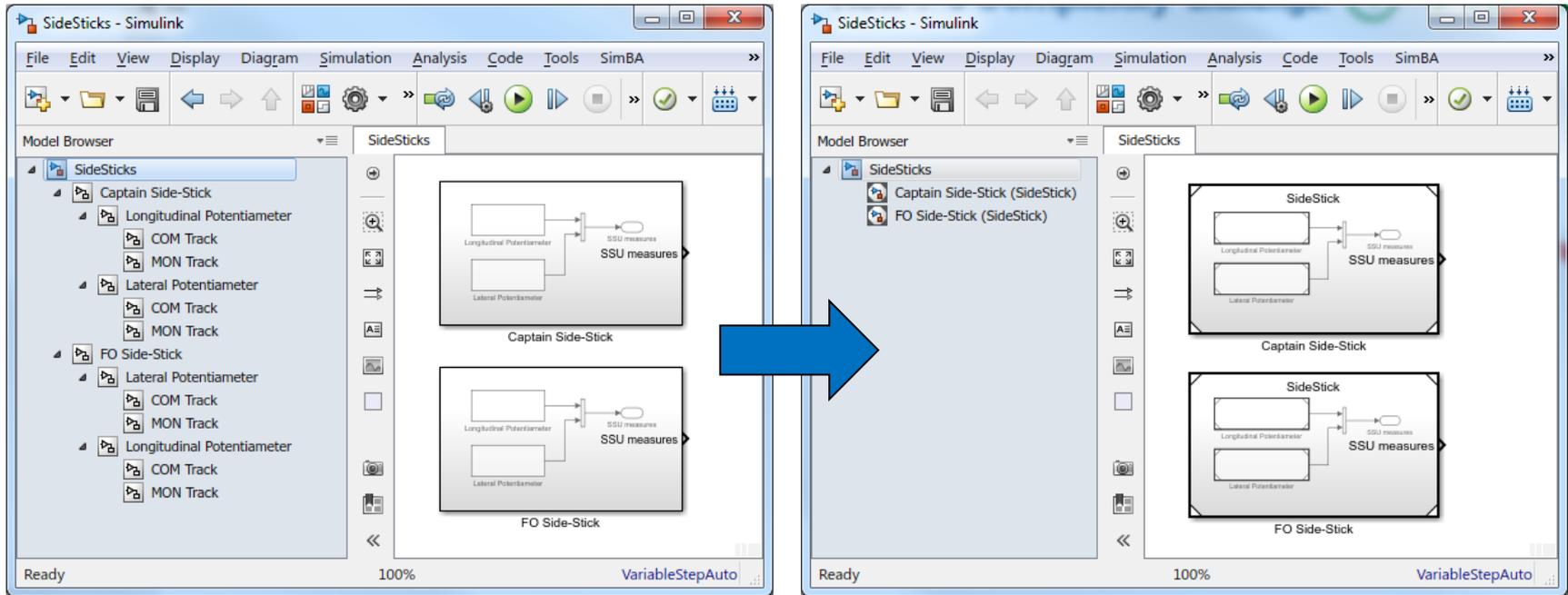
*2 side sticks, for the captain & first officer,*

- *with 2 axis : longitudinal & lateral,*
- *with a potentiometer on each axis,*
  - *with a track to measure the angular position,*
  - *and a track for monitoring.*



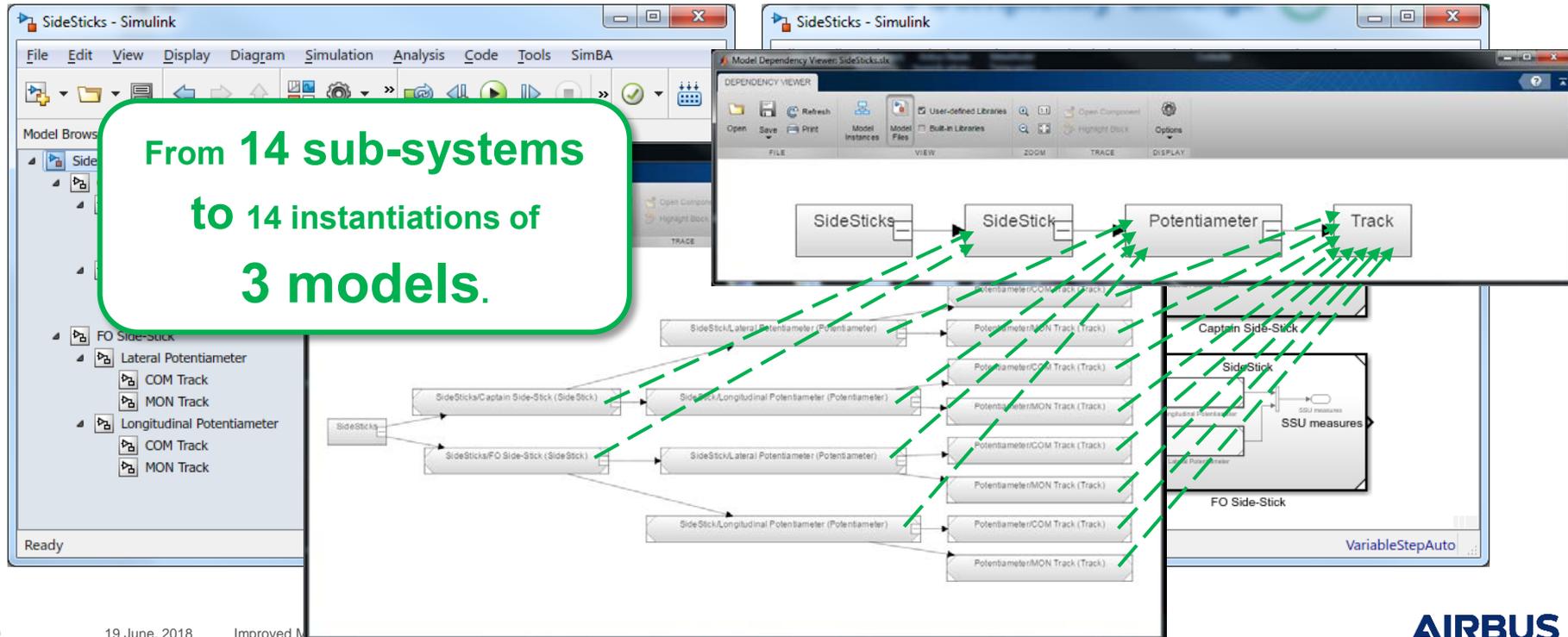
How ? → **Complexity challenge.** ① → **Optimize model structure.**

## Use of Model Referencing.



How ? → **Complexity challenge.** ① → **Optimize model structure.**

## Use of Model Referencing.



How ? → **Complexity** challenge. ① → **Optimize model structure.**

**Factorizing** the design by : generating re-usable components.

No duplication of re-usable components.

→ referencing instead of copy-pasting.

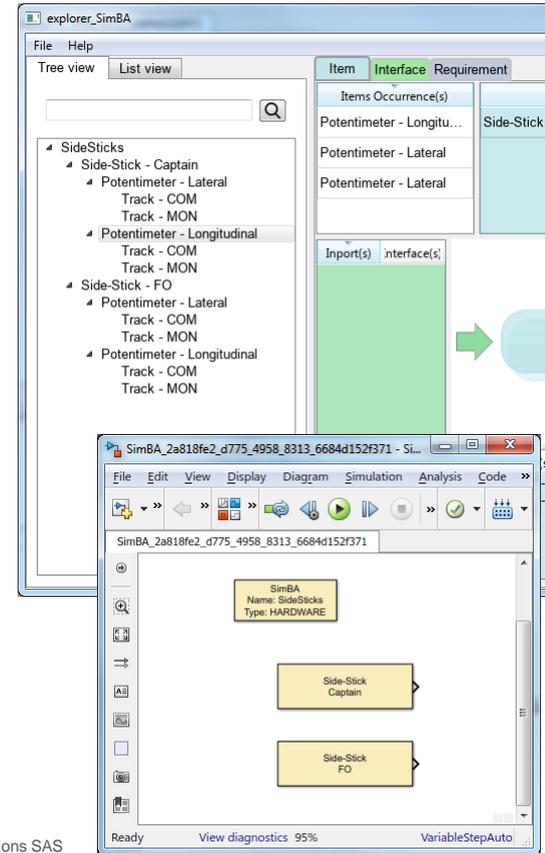


**But, model referencing is not as simple and easy to use as subsystem blocks.**

How ? → Complexity challenge. ① → Optimize model structure.

→ Make it **simple & easy** to use.  
*(thanks to specific customizations)*

- ▶ • Make modeling through models and model blocks as easy as with Sub-Systems.
- ▶ • Make elements re-using as simple as a Copy / Paste.
- ▶ • Automatically manage interfaces and busses *(management of data types, creation and modification of Bus-Objects, propagation of buses modifications to Bus-Selectors, etc...)*.
- ▶ • Make it robust to renaming. ▶ ▶ ▶



How ? → **Complexity** challenge. ① → **Optimize model structure.**

**Factorizing** the design by : generating re-usable components.

Promote **Genericity** by advance management of specificities.

→ **managing variability** at the most relevant level.

How ? → **Complexity challenge.** ① → **Optimize model structure.**

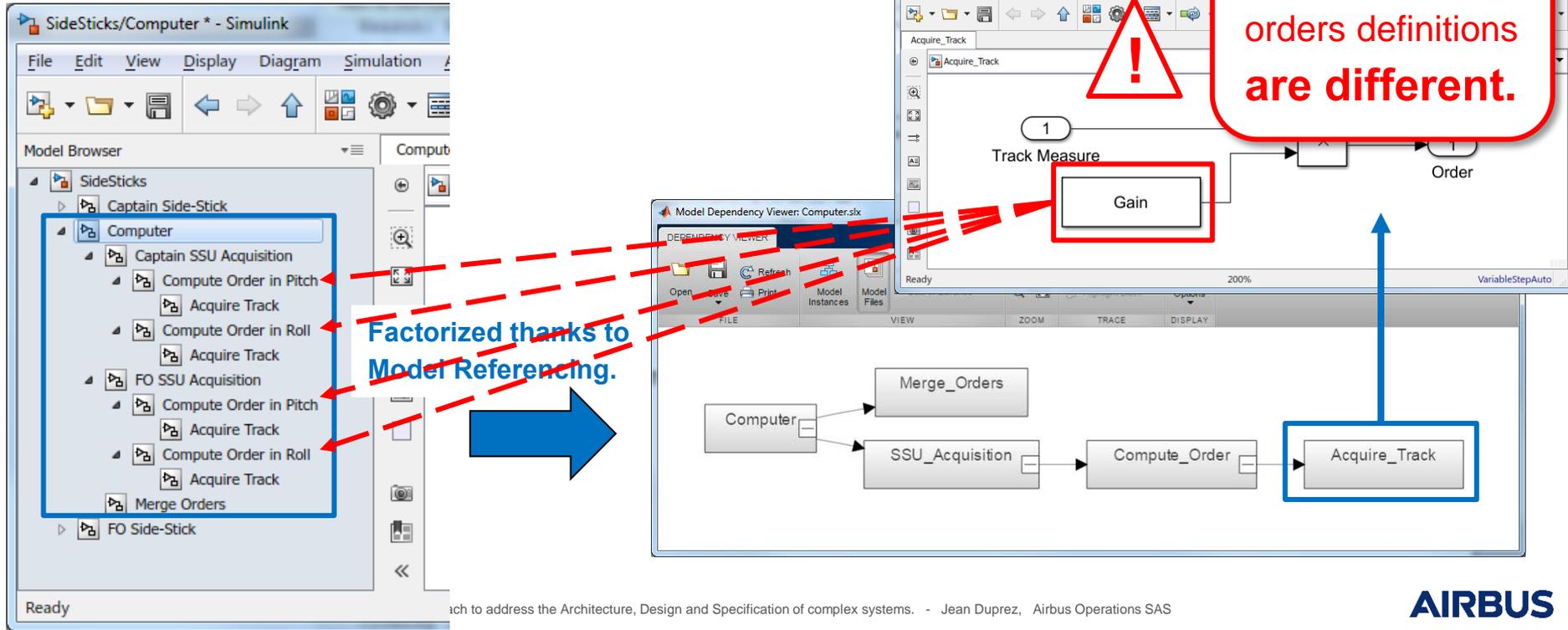
## Example of the Side-Sticks Acquisition:

The image displays two overlapping Simulink windows. The background window, titled 'SideSticks/Computer \* - Simulink', shows a hierarchical Model Browser on the left. The 'Computer' block is expanded, revealing sub-blocks for 'Captain SSU Acquisition', 'FO SSU Acquisition', and 'Merge Orders'. Under 'Captain SSU Acquisition', 'Compute Order in Pitch' and 'Acquire Track' are visible. The foreground window, titled 'SideSticks/.../Captain SSU Acquisition/Compute Order in Pitch \* - Simulink', shows a block diagram of the 'Compute Order in Pitch' block. The diagram consists of a sequence of three elements: an input port labeled '1 Measure', a block labeled '<COM Measure>' with a vertical bar icon, and an output port labeled '1 Order'. A rectangular block labeled 'Track Measure Order' is positioned between the '<COM Measure>' block and the '1 Order' port, with the text 'Acquire Track' centered below it. The status bar at the bottom of the foreground window shows 'Ready', '175%', and 'VariableStepAuto'.



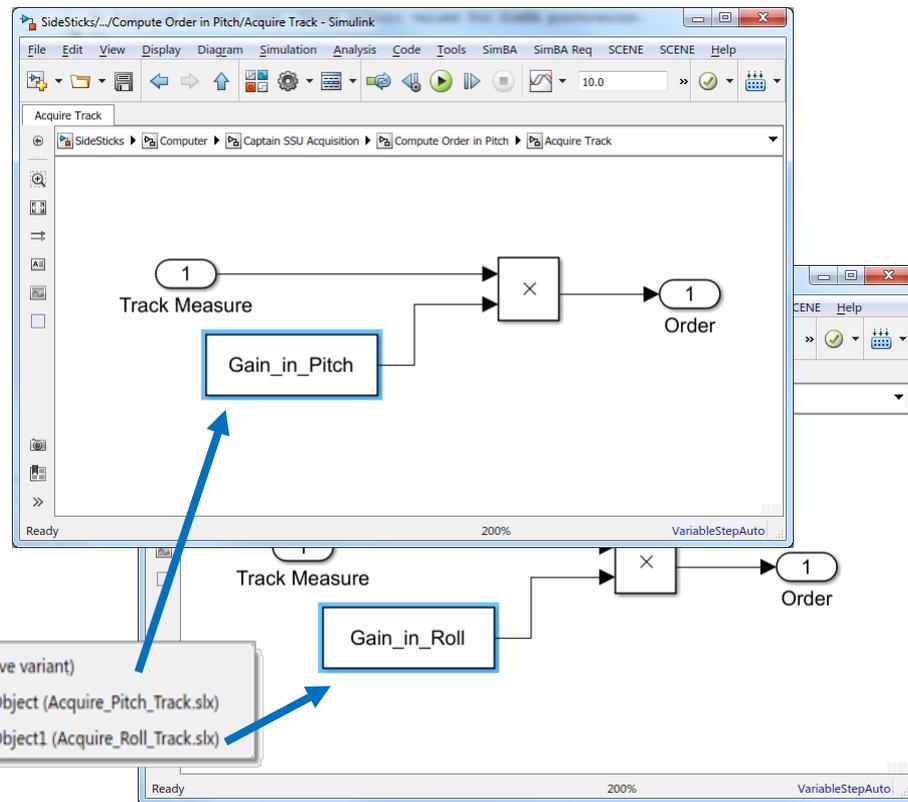
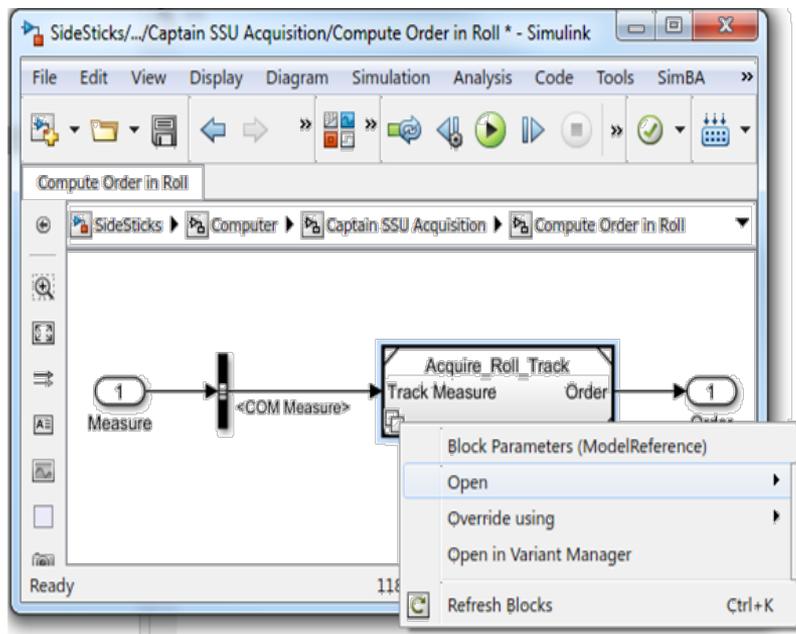
How ? → **Complexity** challenge. ① → **Optimize model structure.**

## Example of the Side-Sticks Acquisition:



# How ? → Complexity challenge. ① → Optimize model structure.

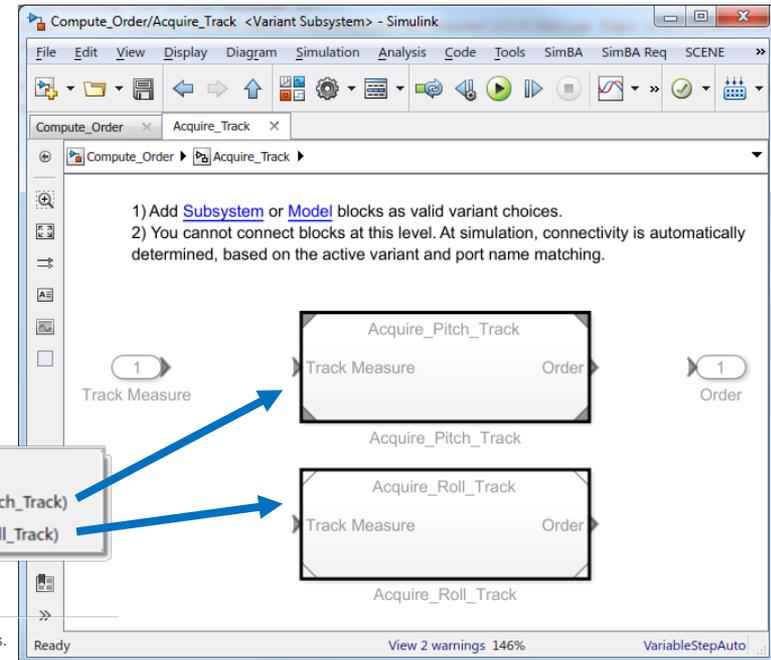
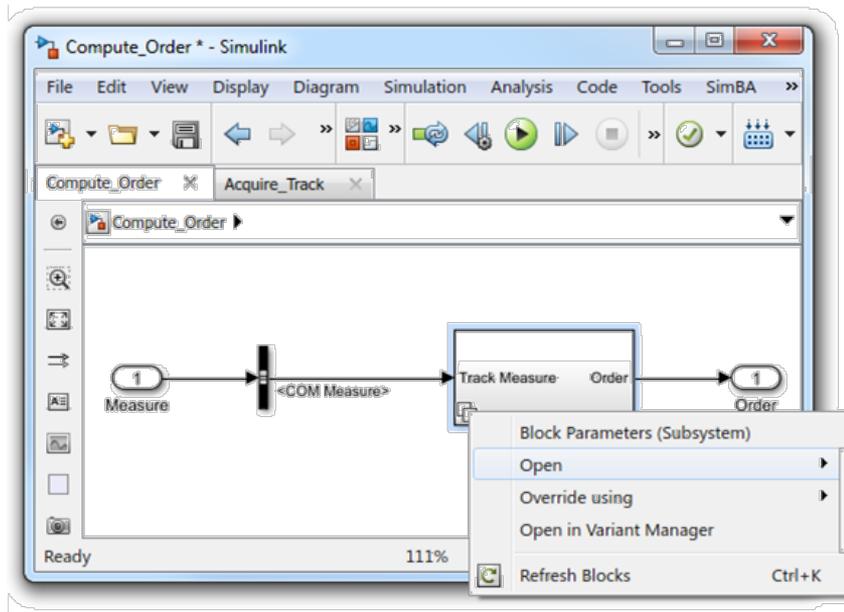
- Use of Model variants.



How ? → **Complexity challenge.** ① → **Optimize model structure.**

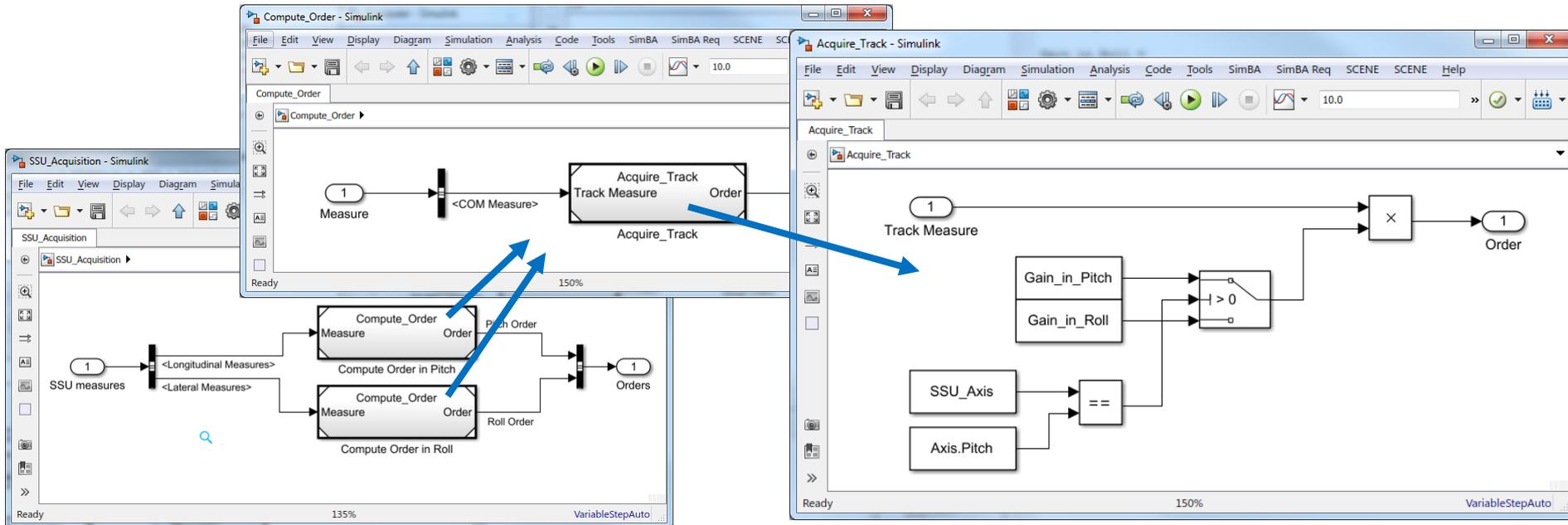
- **Use of Variant Subsystem.**

→ Describe an “abstract envelope” representing several variants.



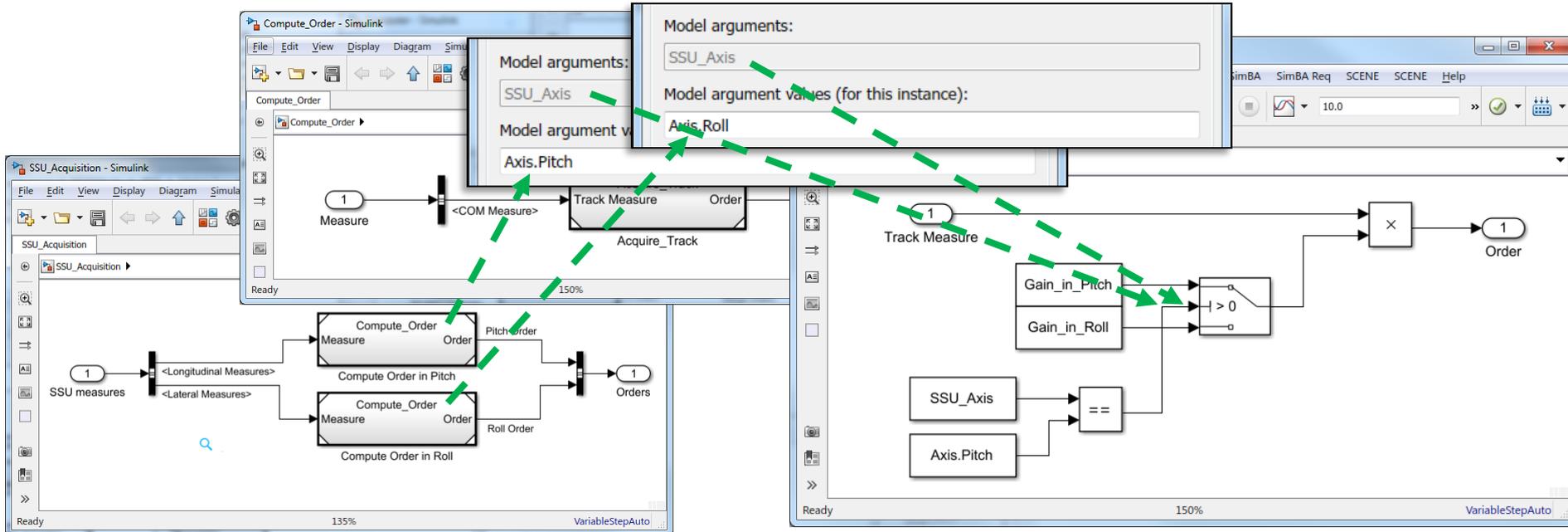
How ? → **Complexity** challenge. ① → **Optimize model structure.**

- **Use of model arguments to model specificities while keeping the model generic.**



How ? → **Complexity challenge.** ① → **Optimize model structure.**

- **Use of model arguments to model specificities while keeping the model generic.**



How ? → **Complexity** challenge. ① → **Optimize model structure.**

→ Make it **simple & easy** to use.

*Thanks to customizations to **create and manage enumerates** to:*

- **Manage variants** configuration.
- **Manage local specificities** by passing enumerates as Model Argument.

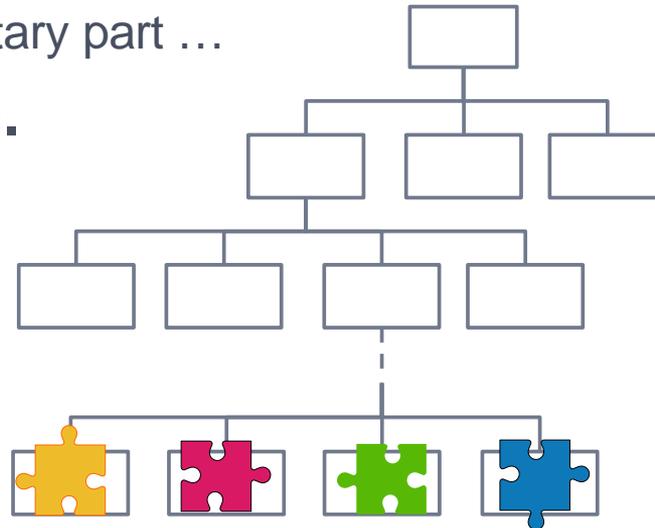
**By capturing and formalizing,**

- the **context of use** of each element,
- **design configurations.**

How ? → **Analysis & Simulation.**

# How to address Complexity ?

- **Break complexity**  
into sets of simpler parts.
- **Design** each elementary part ...
- manage **integration.**



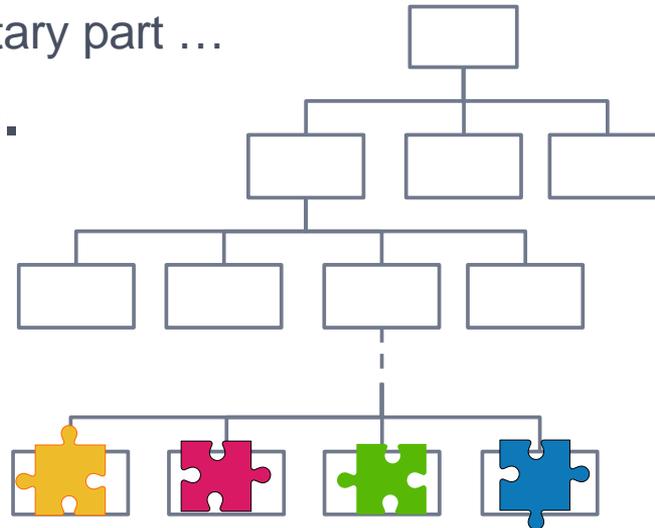
How to ensure that  
this giant puzzle will  
**answer need ?**



How ? → **Analysis & Simulation.**

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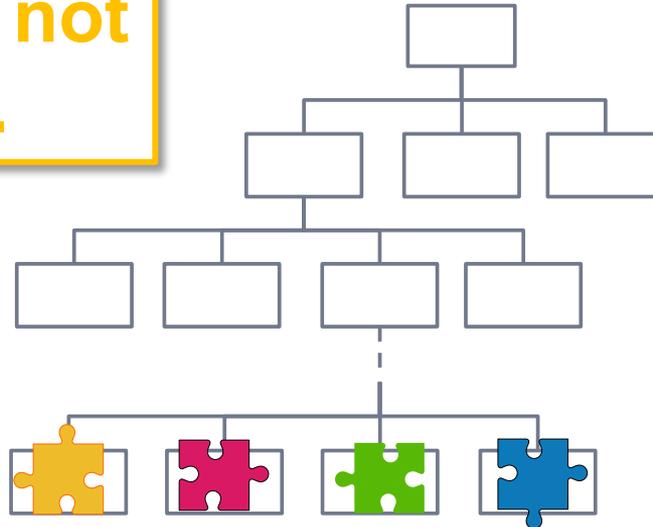
Early Testing &  
**Corrective loops**



How ? → Analysis & Simulation.

# How to address Complexity ?

Allow to manage complexity but not to master it.



Early Testing & Corrective loops

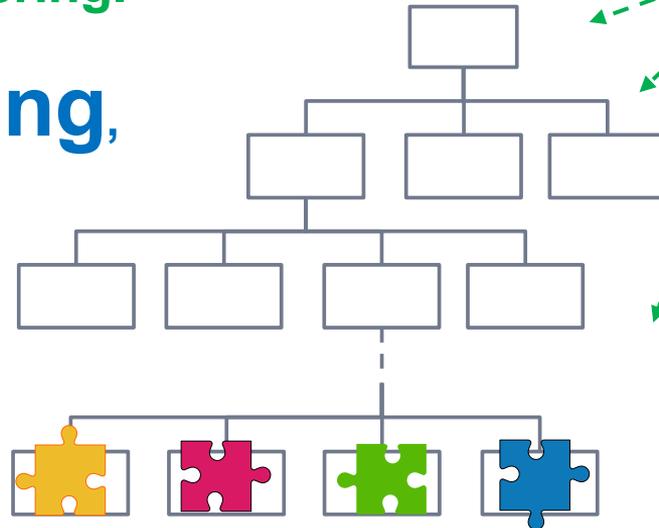


How ? → Requirements Engineering.

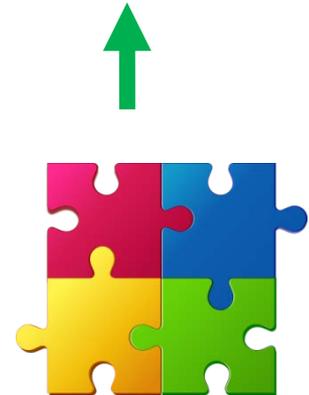
# How to address Complexity ?

② Use of Requirement based System Engineering.

→ Use of Modelling, to Structure the Specification,



Formalizing expectations at each level.



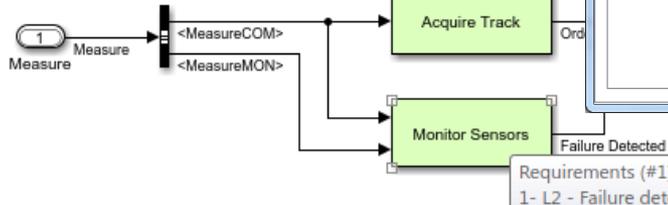
# How ? → Requirements Engineering. ② → Use of Requirement.



Traceability between models and requirements.

Requirements (#1):  
1- L1 - Order inhibition if failure

SimBA  
Name: Compute Order  
Type: FUNCTION



View diagnostics 100%

Requirements Hierarchy

Type	Parent Requirement(s)
L1	Compute Roll and Pitch Orders from SSU def...

Requirement

Order inhibition if failure

Linked Model

Compute Order

Type	Child Req
1 L2	Failure detection
2 L2	Inhibition function

Requirement Information

Type Title

L1 Order inhibition if failure

Statement

In case of sensor or acquisition failure, the function acquiring the Side-Sticks potentiometers shall inhibit the associated computed order.

Rationale

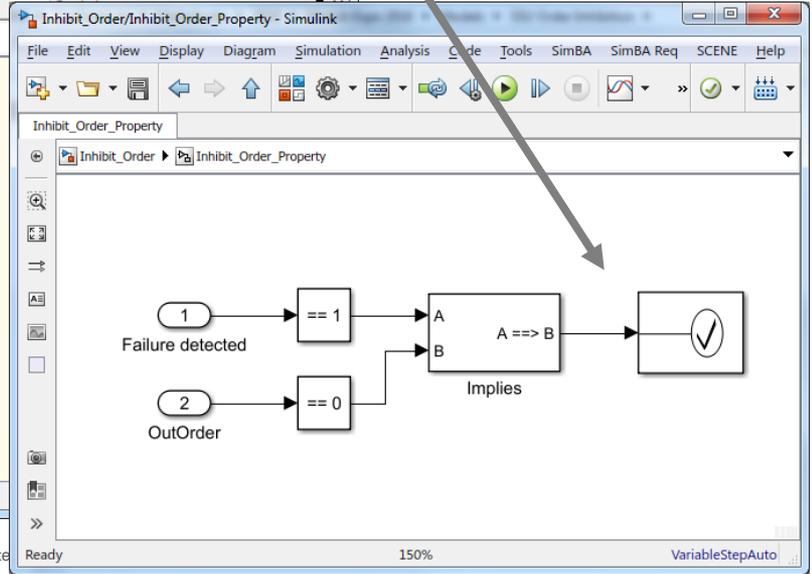
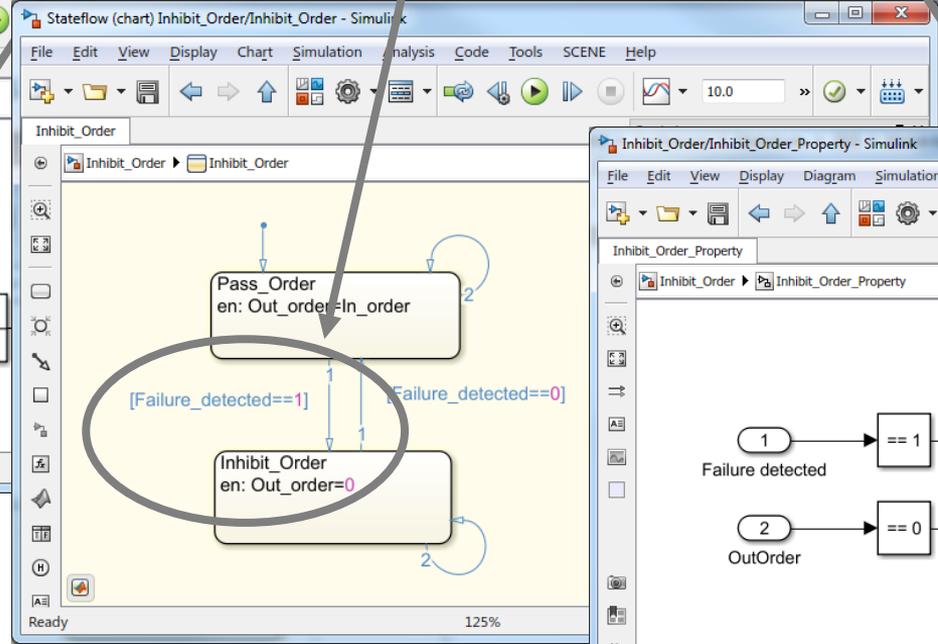
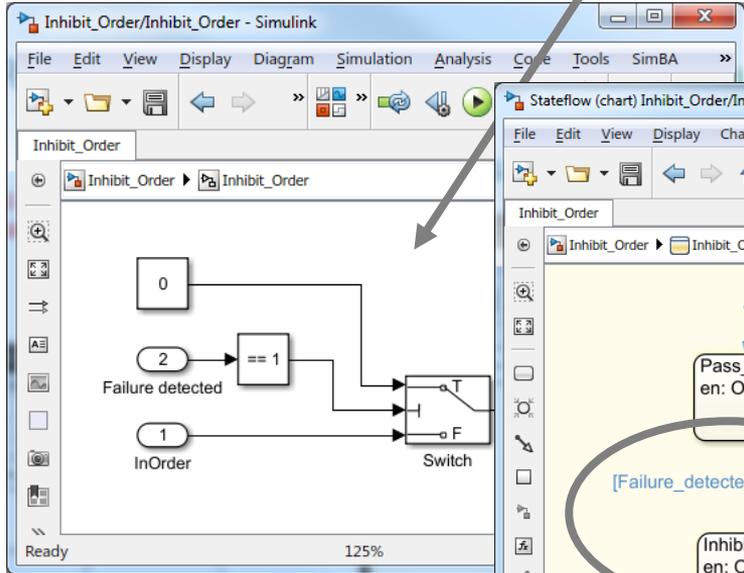
To avoid potential impact of failures on the aircraft motion.

Vertical traceability between requirements.



# How ? → Requirements Engineering. ② → Use of Requirement.

The function shall inhibit the order when a failure is detected.



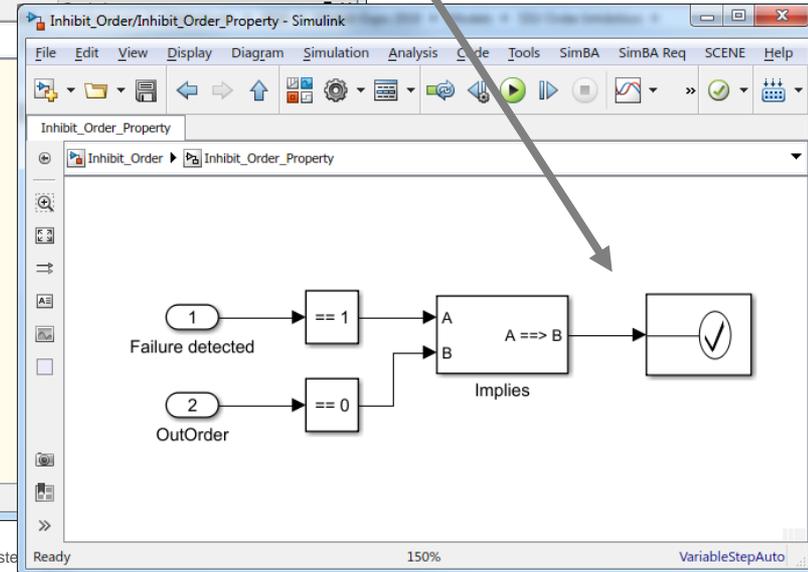
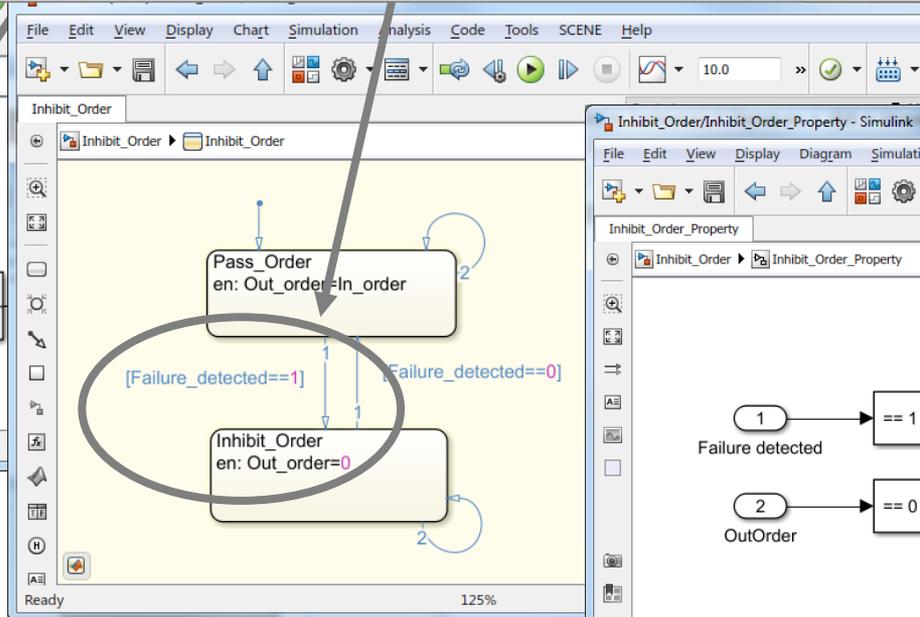
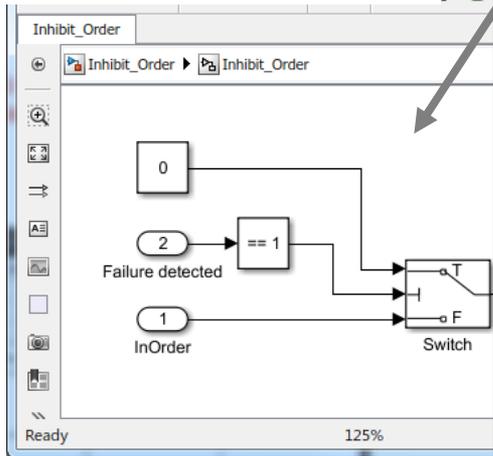
# How ? → Requirements Engineering. ② → Use of Requirement.

**Statement :** The function shall inhibit the order when a failure is detected.

**Rationale :** To avoid potential impact of failures on the aircraft motion.

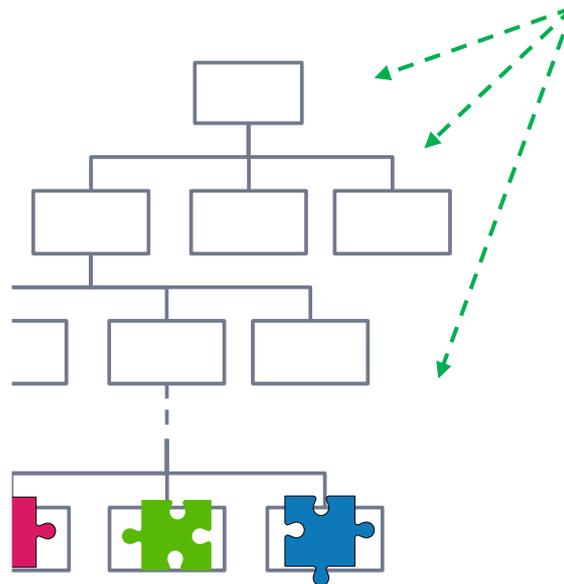
**Additional information :** ...

Traceability links  
Identifier

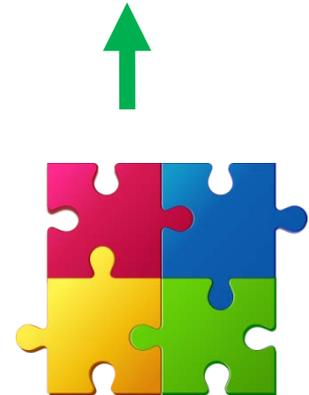


# How to address Complexity ?

Allow to well manage expectations cascading, but not to master the design.



Formalizing expectations at each level.



How ?

# How to address Complexity ?

How to get deep & full understanding of the overall system ?

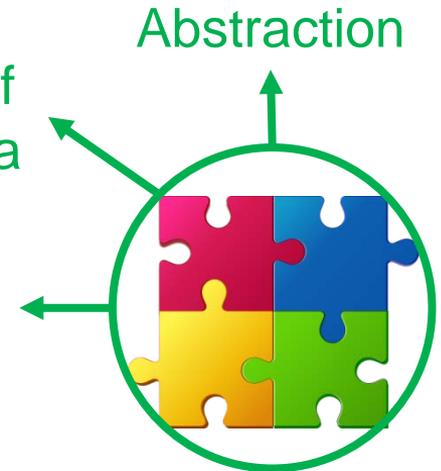
③ Use of **Systemic approach.**

Considering the **system as a whole.**

**Focusing** on specific aspects the overall system, thanks to :

Extraction of relevant data

Usage of adapted view points.



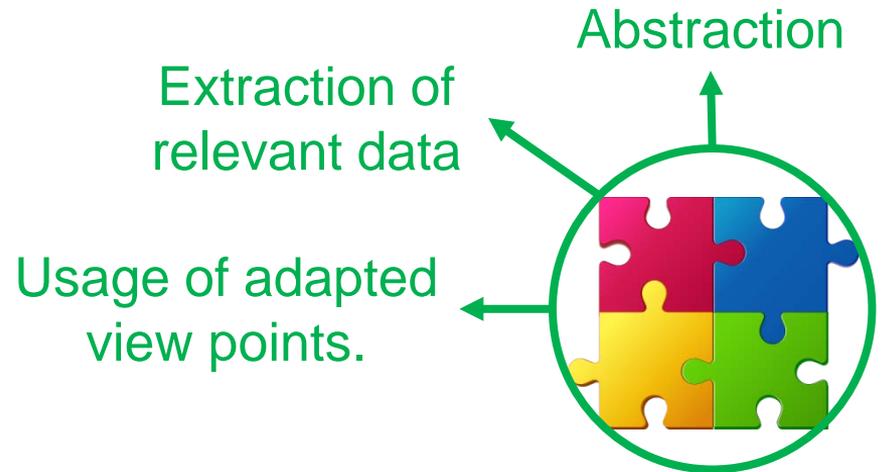
How ? → Adapted Graphical representation ③ → Systemic approach.

## How to address Complexity ?

**Global Model is a set of consistent diagrams or models.**

to address

- different scope,
- different abstraction levels,
- different point of views.



How ? → Adapted Graphical representation ③ → Systemic approach.

The use of multiple views allows to efficiently address each concern.



**Data Centric approach:**

Considering models as means to

- visualize, edit and analyze design data.
- To simulate associated design behavior

# Conclusion

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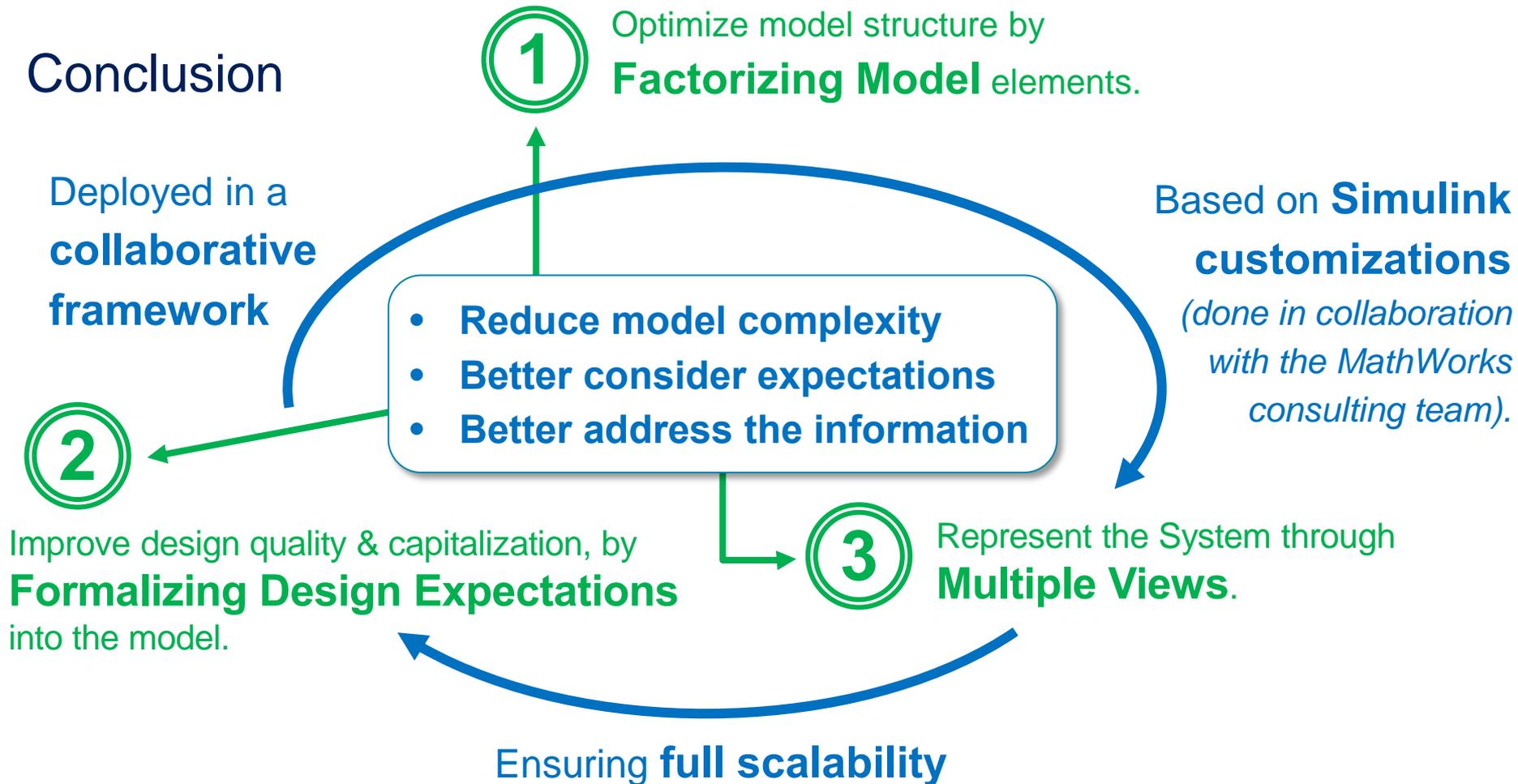
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- Using most adapted graphical representations to address each concerns in the most efficient way.
- Using several abstraction levels
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# Conclusion



# Conclusion

## Presented example:

12 models.

17 model blocks.

37 instances.

Maximum interface  
decomposition:

6 “sub-interfaces”  
through 2 levels.

## Typical real example:

> 50 models.

> 100 model blocks.

> 500 instances.

Through ~10 levels.

Maximum interface  
decomposition:

> 4 levels.

> 25 sub-interfaces.

## Expected global size:

> 3 000 models.

> 6 000 model blocks.

> 30 000 instances.

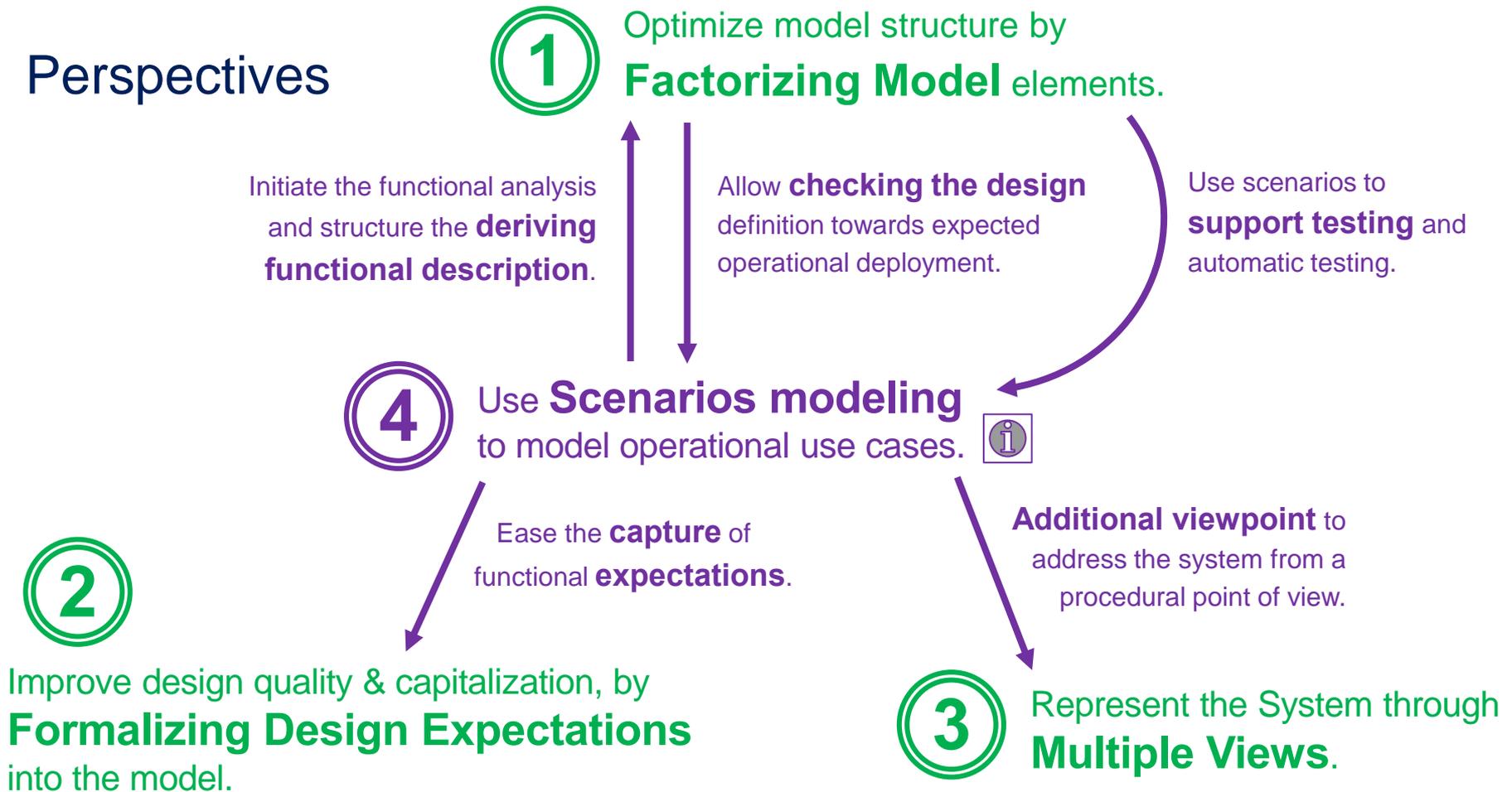
Through >10 levels.

> 10 000 requirements.

> 10 parallel active  
users editing same  
scope.

**Ensuring full scalability**

# Perspectives



Thank you