



Introduction to NOR-STA

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IoTSec meeting

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Information Assurance Group (IAG)

Research group at Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Informatics,
Gdansk University of Technology (<http://iag.pg.gda.pl/>)

- ▶ Focusing on trust and risk management of computerized systems and services
- ▶ Experience with numerous standards, including the security domain (e.g. ISO 27001, IEC 62443 series)
- ▶ Present international cooperation
 - ▶ EWICS Security (European Workshop on Industrial Computer Systems)
 - ▶ ISA99 Committee (International Society of Automation), standardy IEC 62443
 - ▶ ICCF/ERNICIP (IACS components Cybersecurity Certification Framework)
 - ▶ **IoTSec (Internet of Things Security)**
- ▶ Authors of Trust-IT methodology and the NOR-STA tool supporting application of evidence-based arguments to analyse and demonstrate assurance and compliance
 - ▶ Since 2014 NOR-STA is a commercial product offered by ARGEVIDE spin-off of GUT
 - ▶ Commercial clients in Oil&Gas, Medical, railways, automotive sectors



ARGEVIDE



Trust-IT and NOR-STA



Evidence-based arguments

- **Argument** is *an attempt to persuade someone of something, by giving reasons and/or evidence for accepting a particular conclusion*
- **This 'something'** can be:
 - assurance of some important property (safety, security, privacy, reliability, ...)
 - conformance with a stated set of criteria (standard, norm, directive, recommendation and so on)
 - ...
- **Evidence** in its broadest sense *includes everything that is used to determine or demonstrate the truth of an assertion.*
 - Evidence can be used to support arguments – by demonstrating the truth of the premises

Assumption:

Evidence is delivered in electronic documents of any form: text, graphics, image, video, audio etc.

Argument and trust

Convincing arguments can be used to support trust

- **because they demonstrate trustworthiness**

Example:

A convincing (based on evidence) argument that a service is secure increases trust in the service

Evidence:

*protective measures used,
certification procedures passed,
penetration tests results
operating data etc.*



trust-it

Trust cases

Evidence based arguments



nor-sta

TCL argument model

A case study: Argument about testing

Tests confirm that this software module satisfies its requirements because tests results are positive and test coverage is sufficient

Strategy of argumentation:

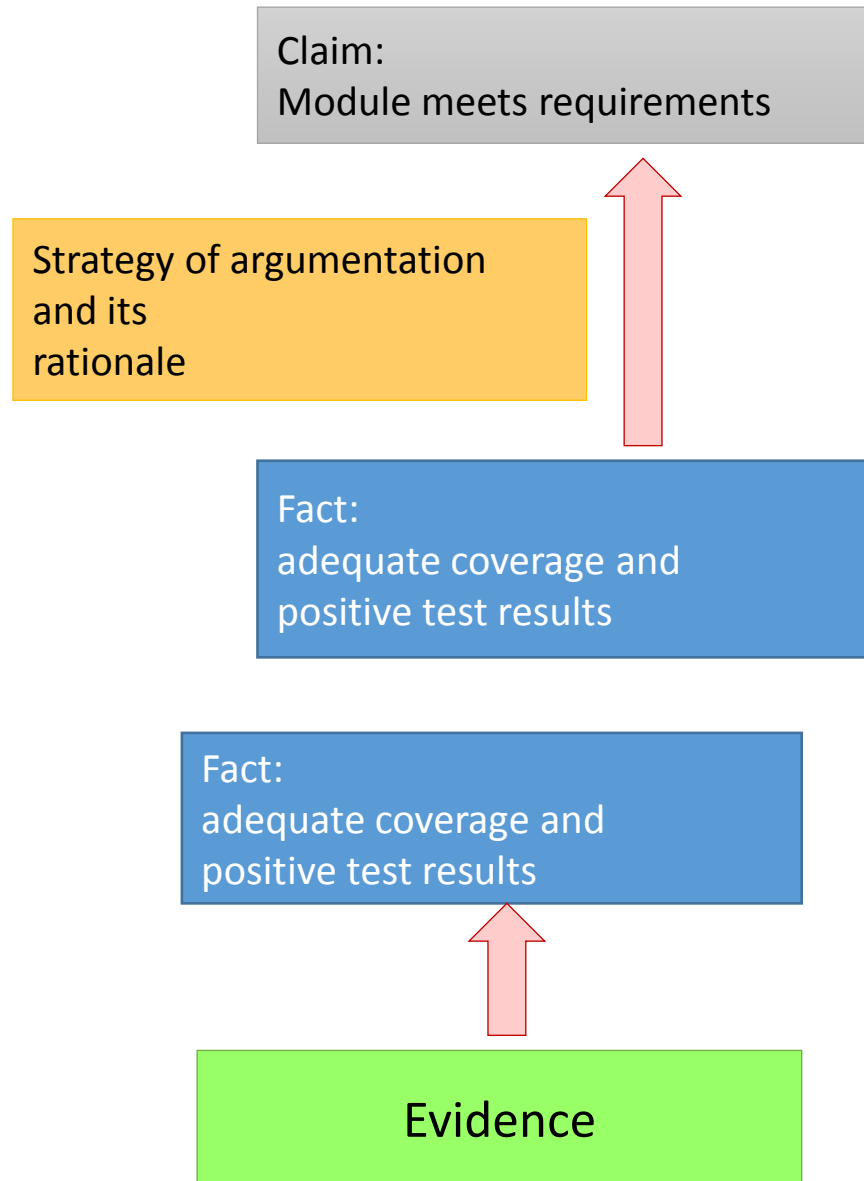
Argumentation by referring to test results and test coverage

Rationale:

Experience shows that positive results of tests of adequate coverage reliably demonstrate fulfillment of the requirements

Evidence:

Demonstrates a **fact** about test results and test coverage



A case study: Argument about testing

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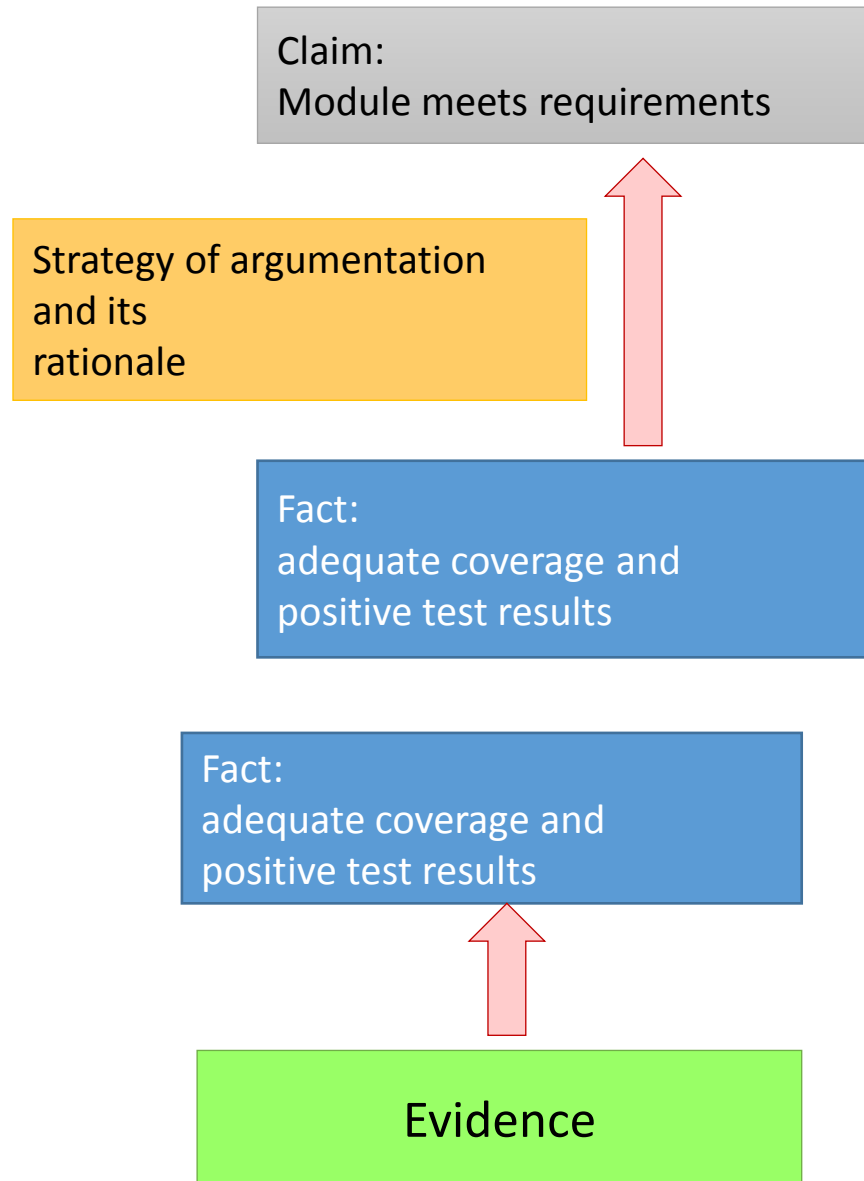
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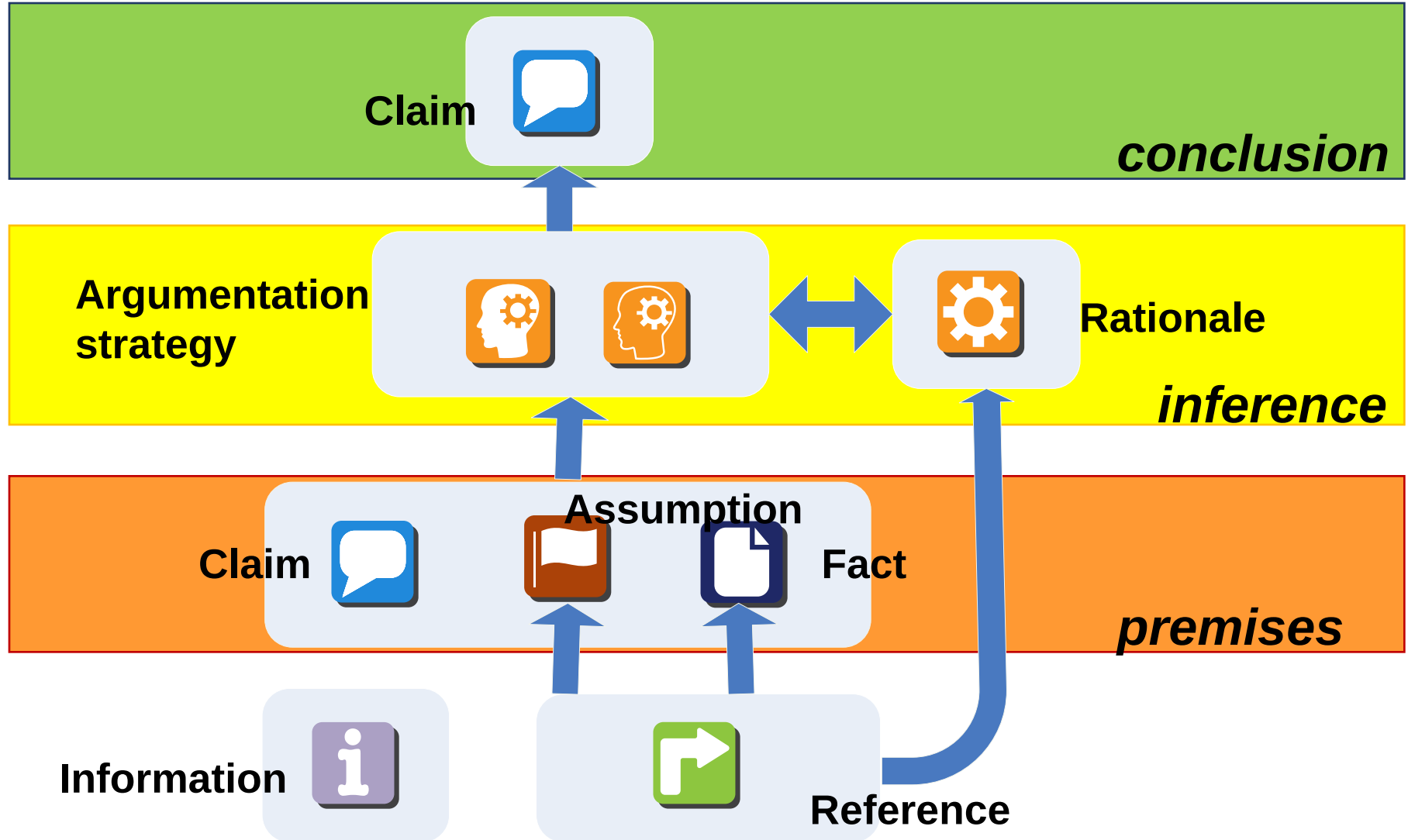
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Evidence:

Demonstrates a **fact** about test results and test coverage



The argument model





Example security- related argument



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Security argument - example



Security of unsuccessful login attempts



Security argument - example

Argument
assessment

- Security of unsuccessful login attempts
- Argumentation by referring to the best practices recommendations
 - Best practices represent proven protection mechanisms
 - Password expiration settings management
 - Design documentation explaining the password expiration mechanism
 - Checking and handling login errors
 - Design documentation explaining the mechanism for login errors handling
 - Setting limit for unsuccessful logins
 - Design documentation explaining the limit of unsuccessful logins
 - Report from tests addressing the limit of unsuccessful logins

Facts

References to the evidence that demonstrates facts

Reports from
expert reviews
and
assessments

Design
documentation

Tests and
measure
ments

Simulations

Argument assessment

Successful test *Assessment*

Tests confirm that this software module satisfies its requirements because tests results are positive and test coverage is sufficient

Logic doubt:

Do successful tests of right coverage really determine the success of testing?

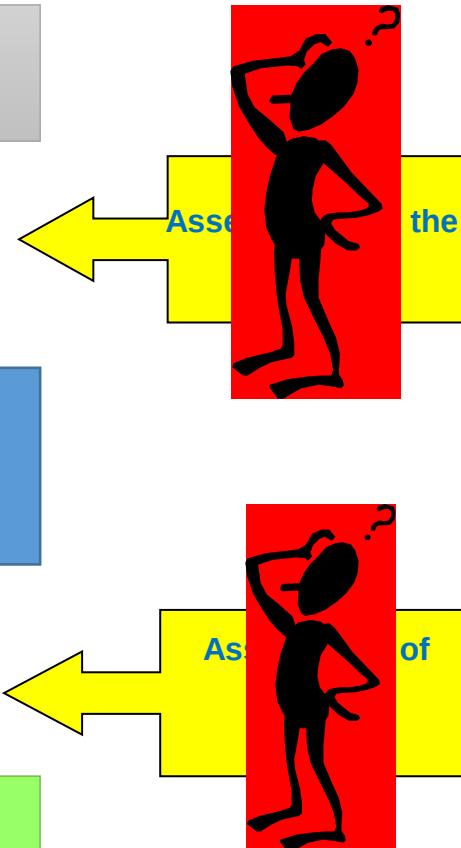
Epistemic doubt:

Do we really have positive test results and the right coverage?

Claim:
Module meets requirements

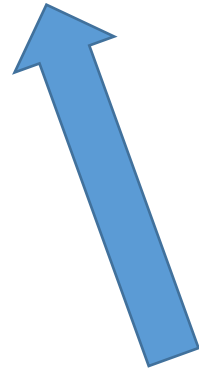
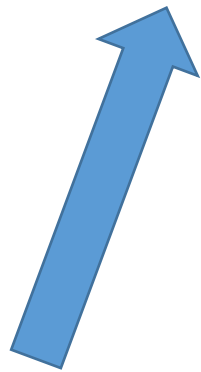
Fact:
adequate coverage and
positive test results

Evidence



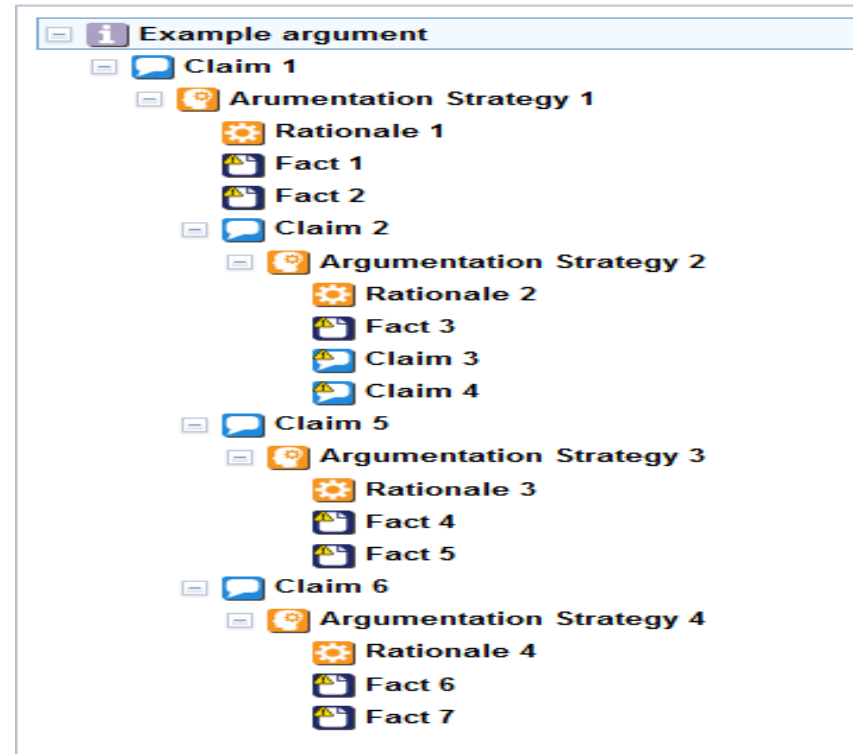
The assessment process

Assess conclusions

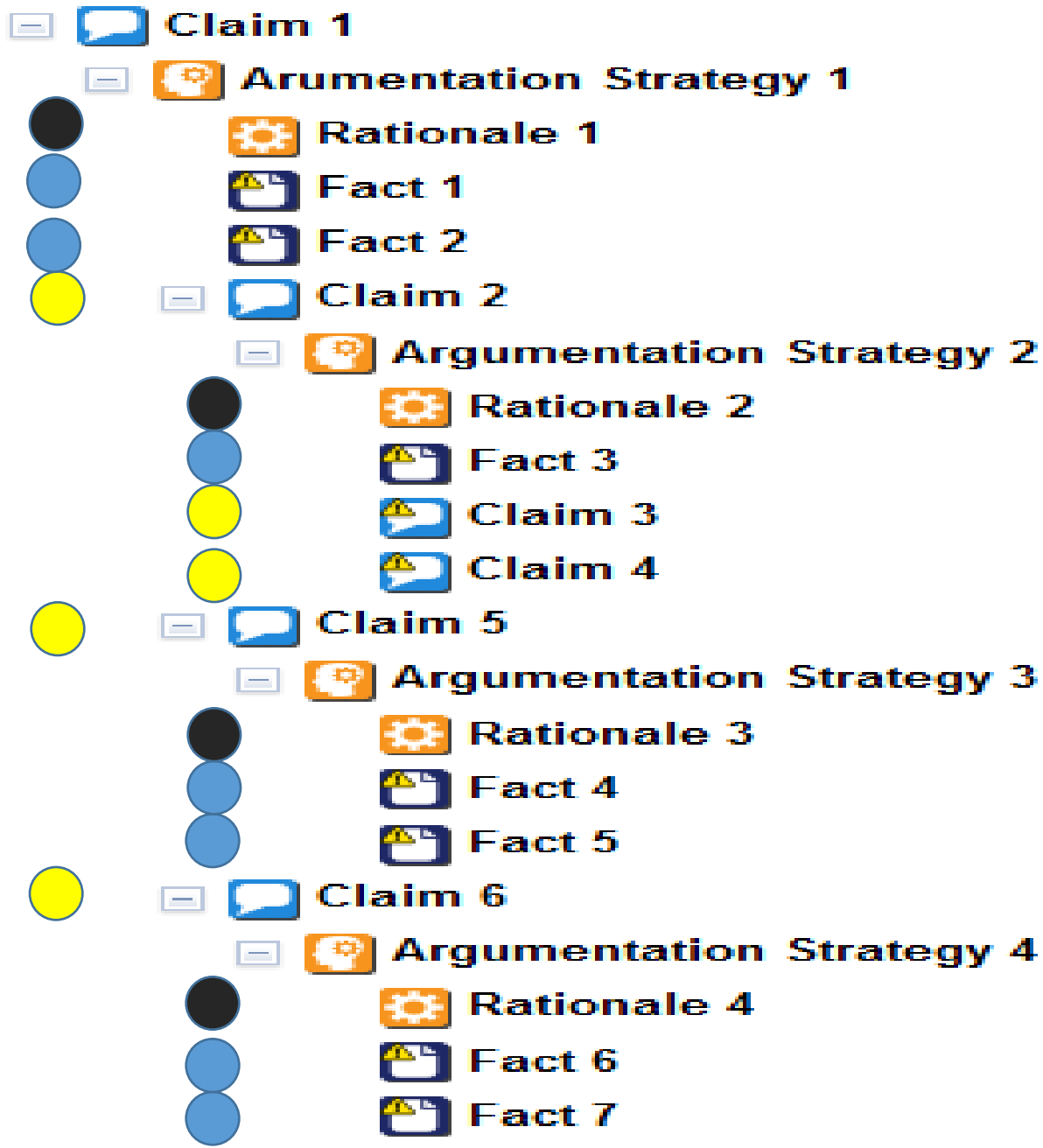


Assess
inferences (local)

Assess
facts (local)



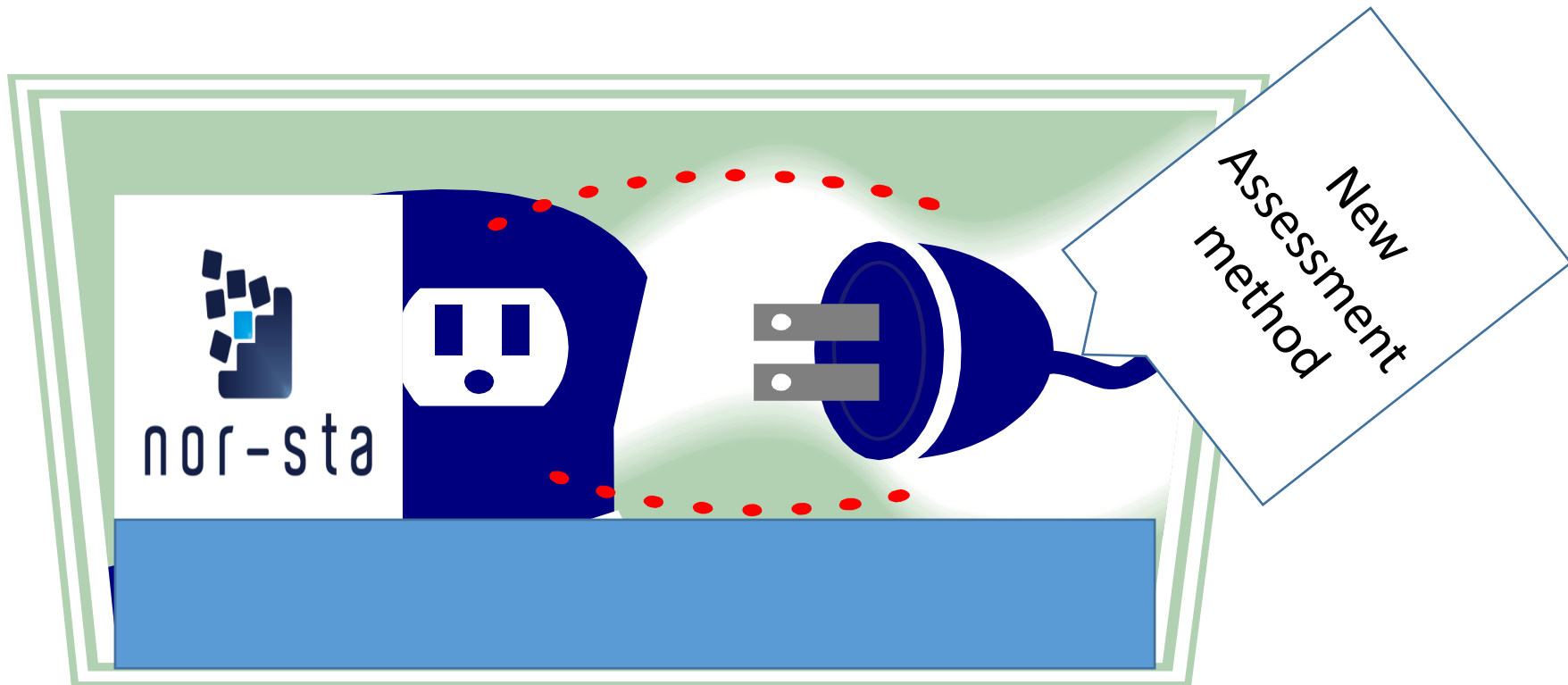
 Example argument





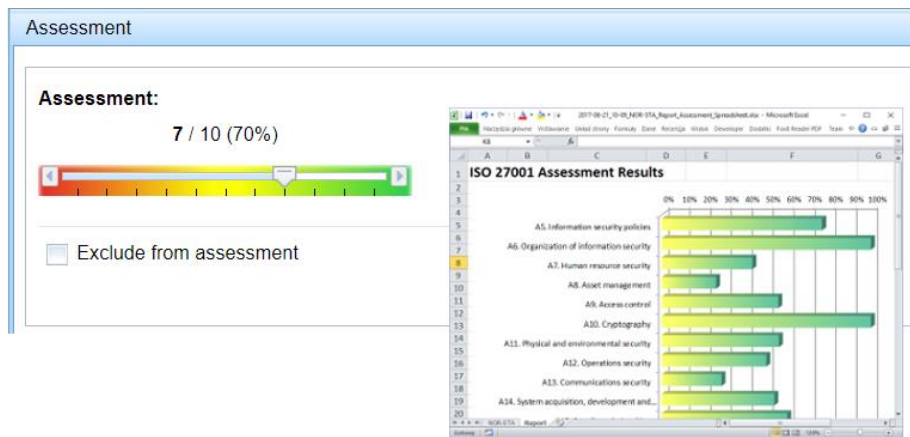
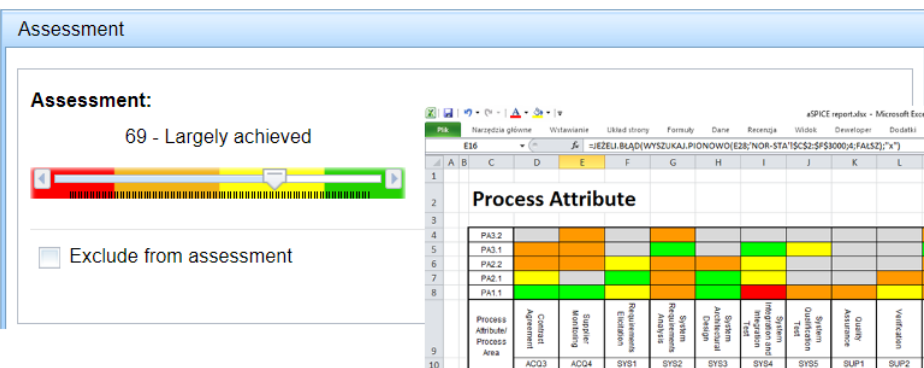
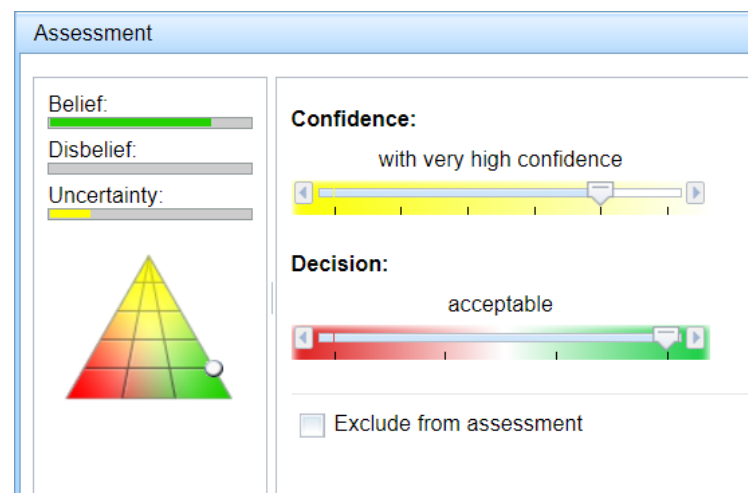
Assessment methods in NOR-STA

- Presently NOR-STA supports 9 different assessment methods
- 3 of them support automatic aggregation of local assessments
- You can select an assessment method appropriate to your needs
- It is possible to include additional, custom-specified assessment methods



Different methods of argument assessment:

- Dempster-Shafer
- ISO 33000 (SPICE, Automotive SPICE, ...)
- Rating scale (numerical)
- Three-level assessment
- and others...





Support for Smart Grid security



Objectives

Logic decomposition into more specific objectives



Analytical and measurement layer – collecting evidence that demonstrates objectives

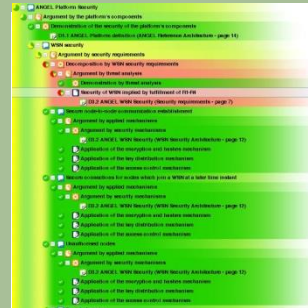
Smart grid of interest





S&P&D

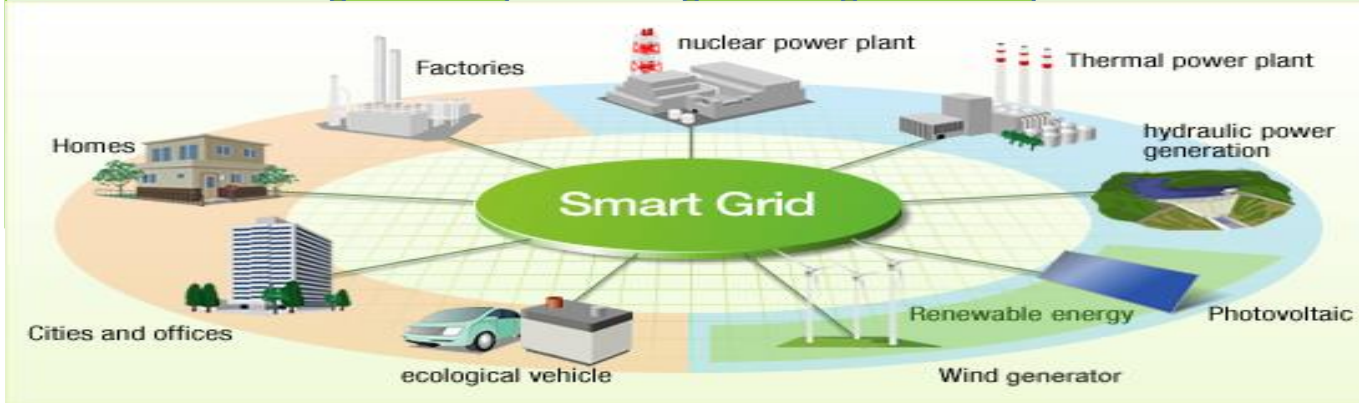
Objectives



Logic decomposition into more specific objectives



Analytical and measurement layer – collecting evidence that demonstrates objectives



Smart grid of interest



Argument Assessment *based on* *Dempster-Shafer* *belief model*

„Small” case study: argument assessment

Tests confirm that this software module satisfies its requirements because tests results are positive and test coverage is sufficient

Logic doubt:

Do successful tests of the right coverage really determine the success of testing?

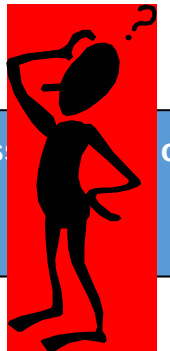
Epistemic doubt:

Do we really have positive test results of right coverage?

Claim:
Module meets requirements

Fact:
adequate coverage and
positive test results

Evidence



Acceptance

Uncertainty

Rejection

Assessment of an argument

Assessment of evidence

- Fact: ‘test results are positive’

Test report of this module demonstrating that test results are positive

Test report of different module

Test report of this module demonstrating that tests failed

- Assessment

Acceptance

Uncertainty

Rejection

Assessment of inference

- ‘if we have positive test results and adequate tests coverage, then the module meets its requirements’

How reliable is such reasoning?

- Assessment

Acceptance

Uncertainty

Rejection

User interface

The user interface is divided into three main sections. On the left, there are three horizontal sliders for 'Belief' (green), 'Disbelief' (red), and 'Uncertainty' (yellow). Below these is a triangular scale with a color gradient from red at the bottom to yellow at the top, and a white dot indicating a position. The middle section contains two sliders: 'Confidence' (yellow) and 'Decision' (red to green). The 'Confidence' slider is set to 'with very high confidence', and the 'Decision' slider is set to 'tolerable'. Below these sliders is a 'Delete assessment' button. On the right, there is a 'Comments:' label above a large text input area.

Scale: *the surface of the „opinion triangle“*

Linguistic values make the scale more human friendly:

Decision: *rejectable, opposable, tolerable, acceptable*

Confidence: *sure, very high, high, low, very low, uncertain*

Different types of inferences – different algorithms for aggregation of the assessments of premises

Automatic aggregation of assessments

Communicating the assessment results

"Small" case study - Successful module test

   Software module satisfies requirements

   Argumentation by adequate tests coverage and positive test results

  Positive results of testing the module by a testing process of adequate scope demonstrates that the module satisfies its requirements

   Test plan covers requirements

 Requirements specification

 Test plan

   No errors found by tests

 Tests report

