

# Assuring Product Lines of Complex Systems

Marsha Chechik

SPLC' 25

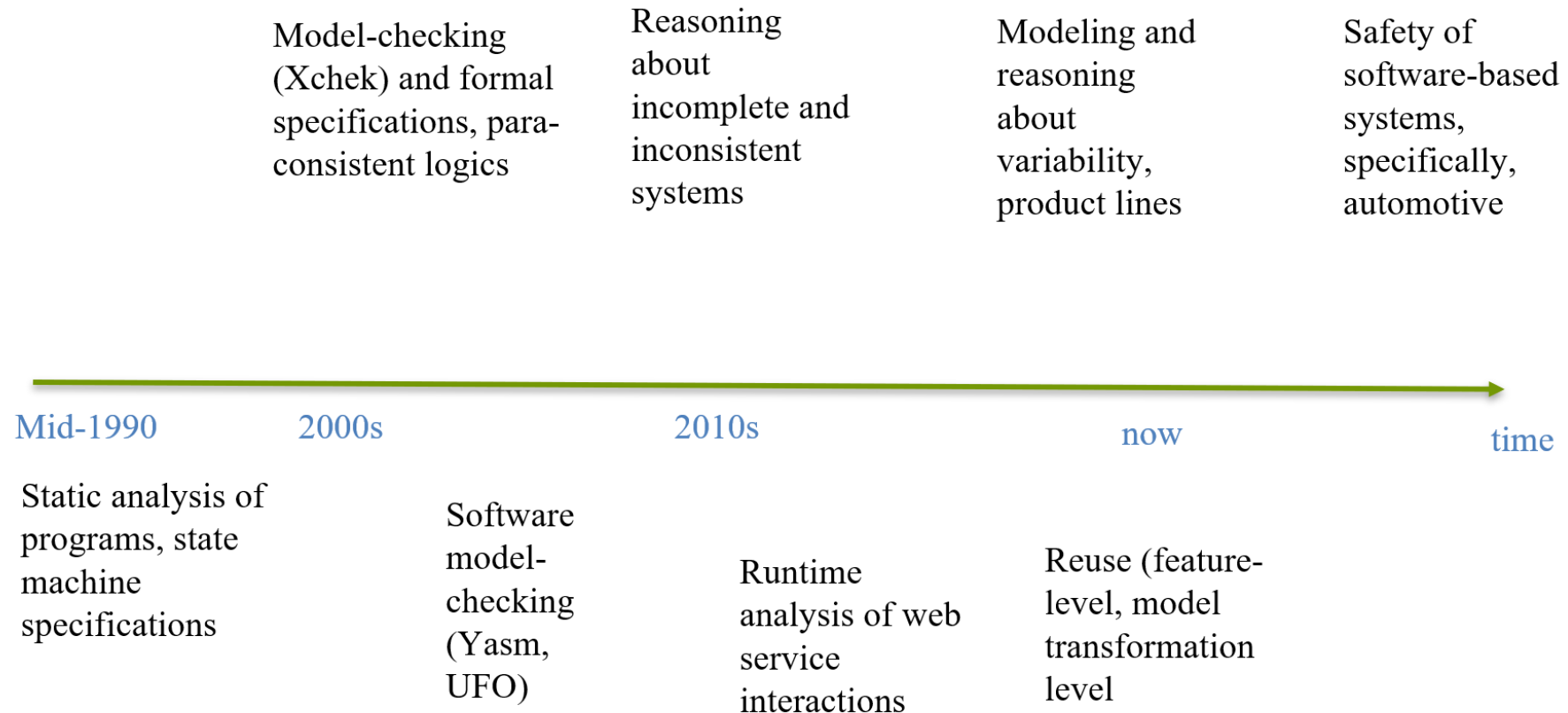
September 4, 2025



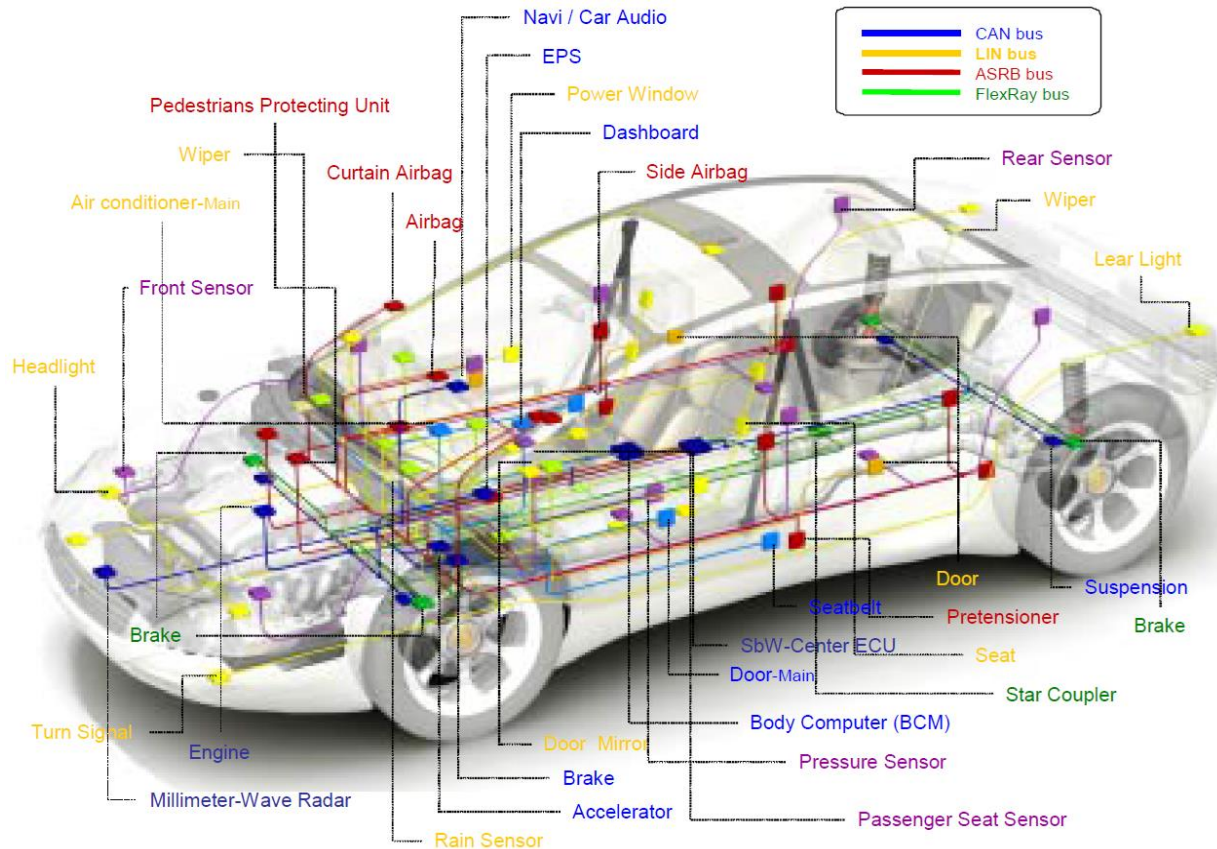
UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

# A Brief and Partial Research History

Interests: software engineering, formal specification and verification of software, modeling, assurance, product line analysis



# Why Cars?



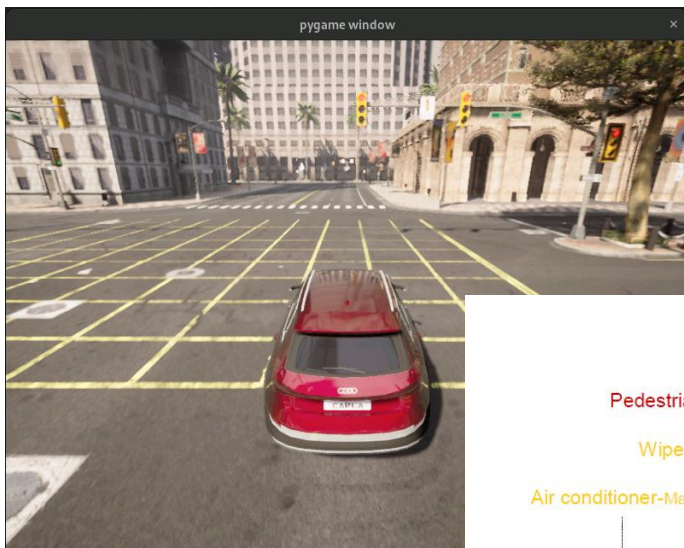
<http://www.flexautomotive.net/EMCFLEXBLOG/post/2015/09/08/can-bus-for-controller-area-network>

- Extensively rely on software for their operations
- No system-wide model
- Heterogeneous components
  - legacy, generated, third-party
  - distributed ECUs
  - bus-based communications
- >100 million lines of code
- High variability (product lines)

Complexity, ubiquity, significant end-user configurability, current self-driving race / accidents, over-the-air updates

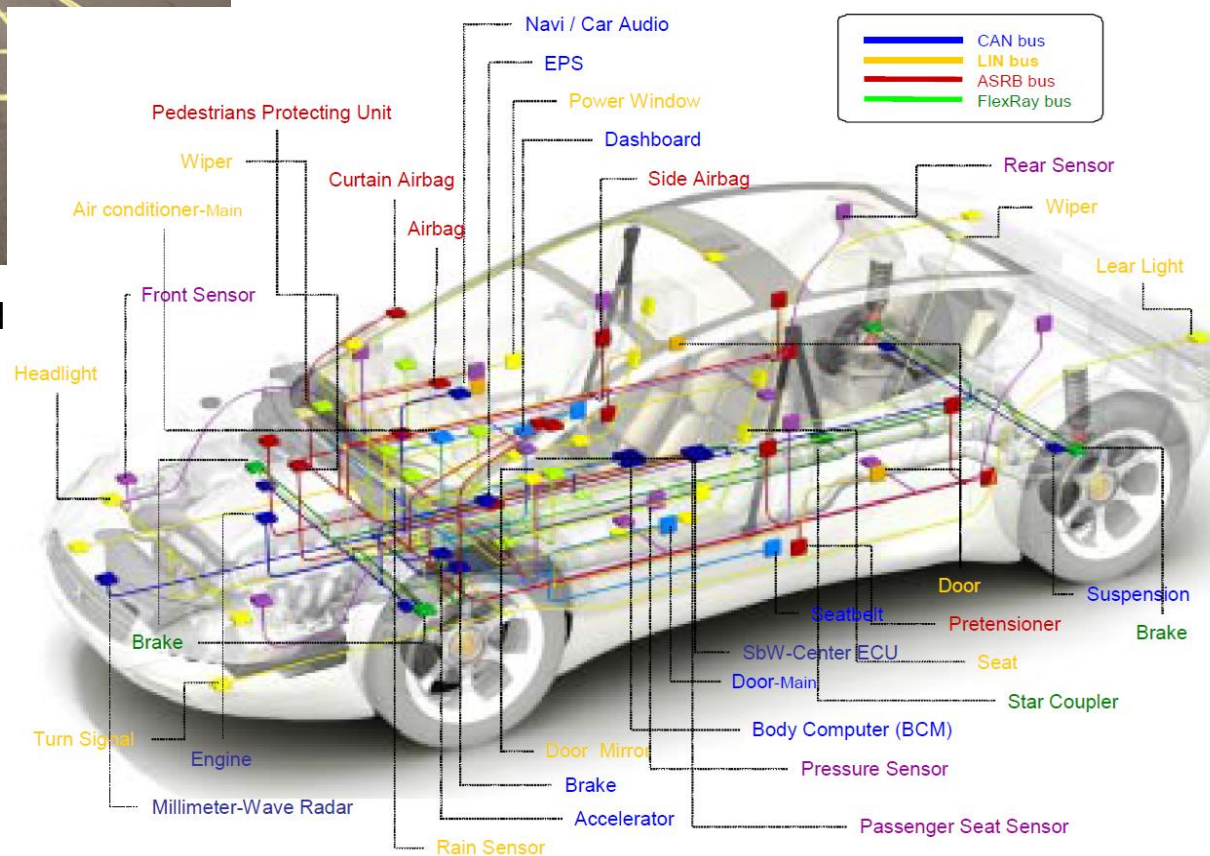


# SOFTWARE IN THE CAR



Environment sensing and perception, other cars, fleet driving

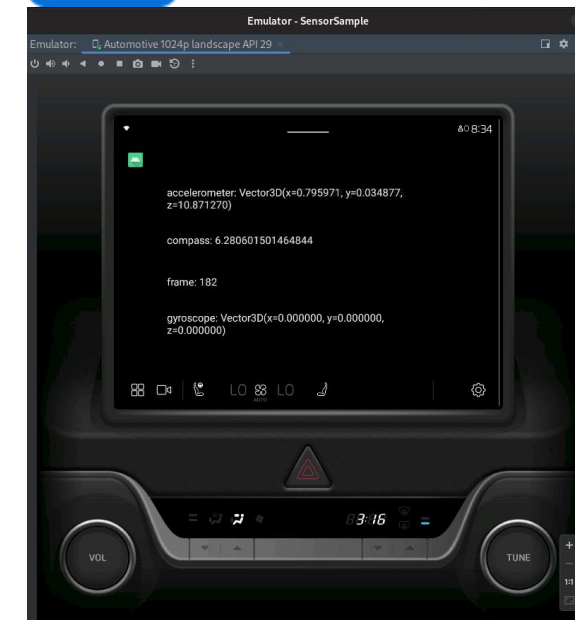
## Controller



## Privileged App



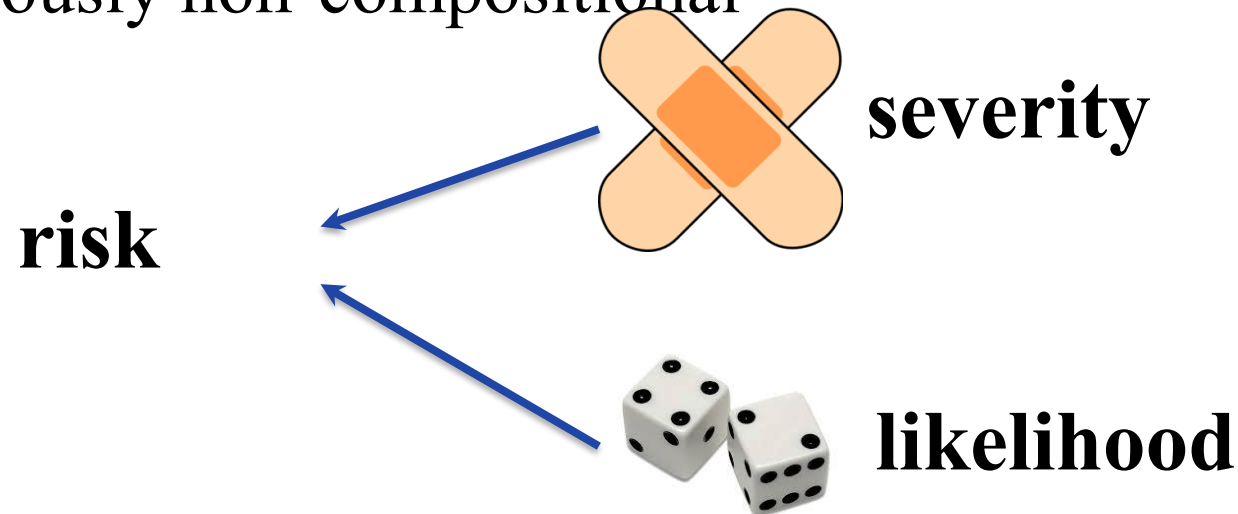
### Third Party App



## Android Emulator: Platform

# Methods to Validate Complex Safety-Critical Systems

- Verification and Validation (V&V)
  - Mostly various forms of testing
- Safety analysis
  - Safety – absence of unreasonable risk of mishap
  - Notoriously non-compositional





“Standards are documented agreements containing technical **specifications** or other precise criteria to be used consistently as **rules, guidelines, or definitions** of characteristics, to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose.”

[ISO 1997]

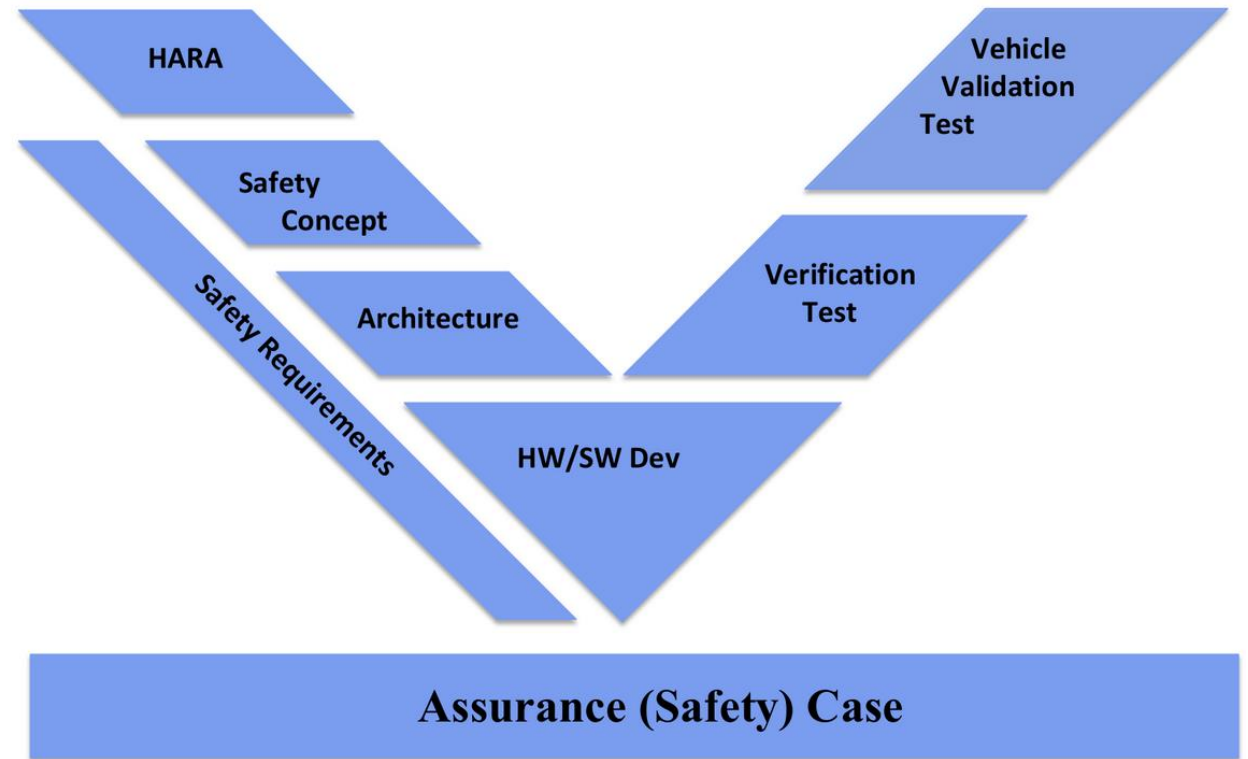
# Assurance Cases (ACs)

(aka safety case, security case ...)

“Reasoned, auditable **artifact** created for contention that its top level claim (or a set of claims) is satisfied, including **systematic argumentation** and its **underlying evidence** and explicit assumption(s) that support the claim”.

[ISO/IEC 1502

## ISO 26262 – Functional Safety of Road Vehicles



# Goal Structuring Notation (GSN)

Graphical notation for structuring an assurance case, linking argumentation, rationale, context, assumptions and evidence



**Argument**



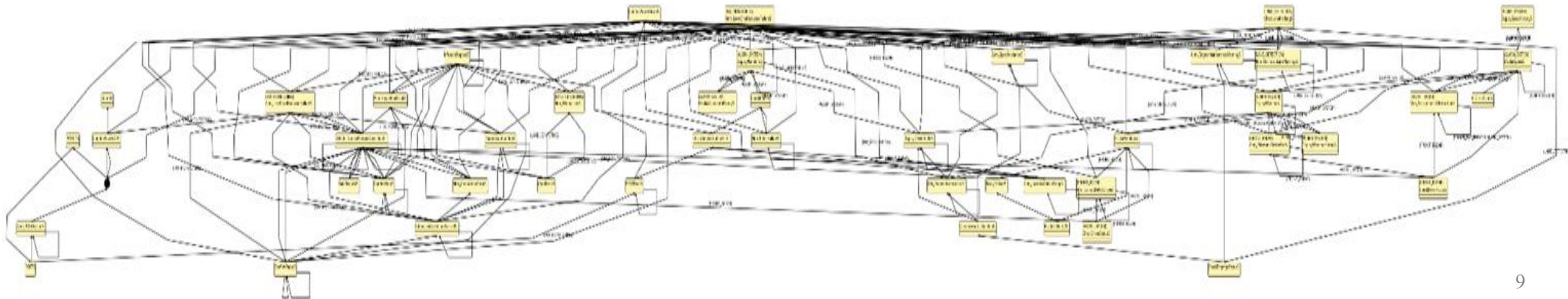
# Running Example: Advanced Driving Assistance System (ADAS)

Vehicle with automated features to assist drivers in safe vehicle operations

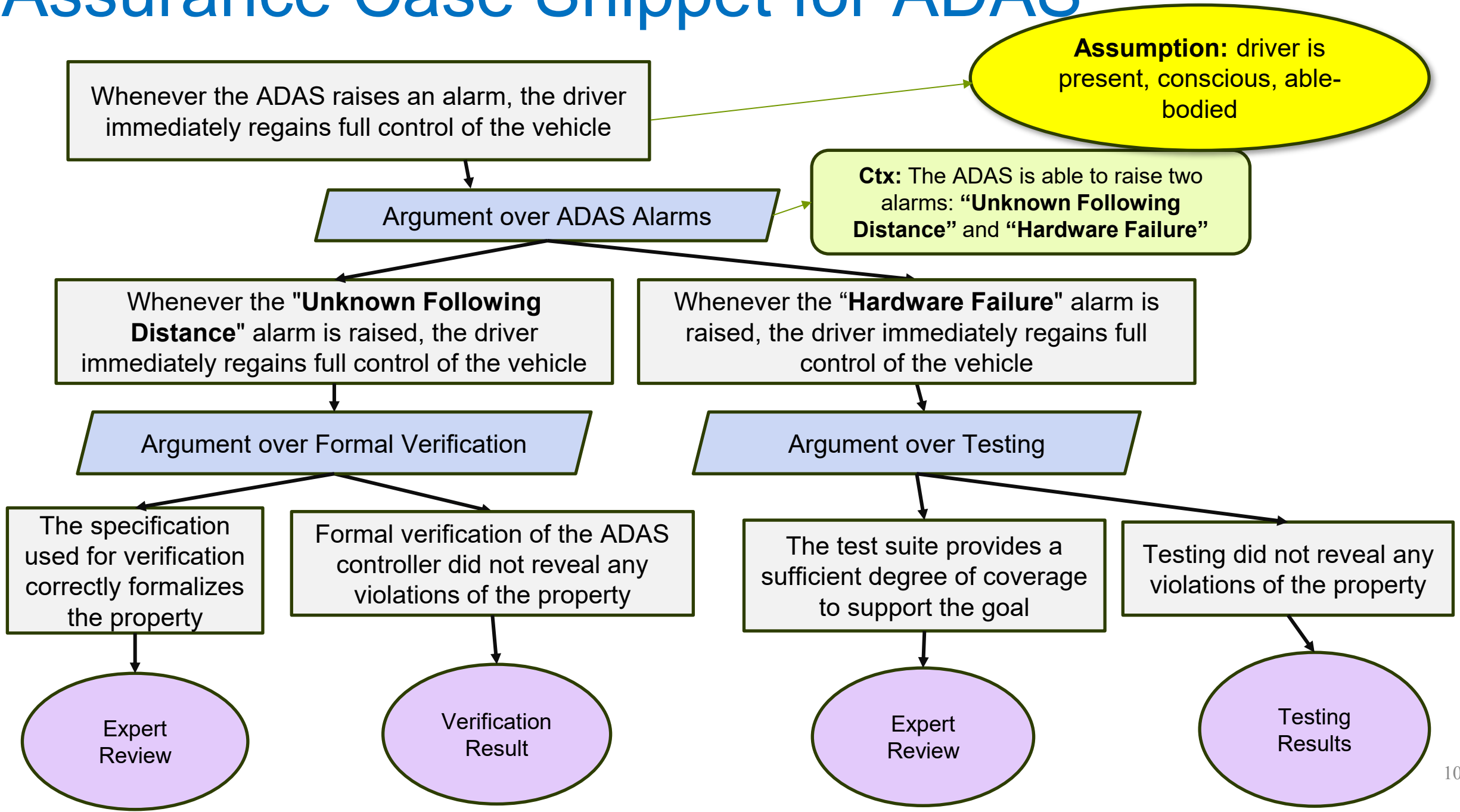
- Lane Departure Warnings
- Lane Centering
- Driver Monitoring
- Cruise Control



**Safety property:** Whenever the ADAS raises an alarm (e.g., due to malfunction, unsafe conditions etc.), the driver immediately regains full control of the vehicle.



# Assurance Case Snippet for ADAS



# Main points

1. Assurance cases combine argument and evidence, allow to contextualize analysis and verification. Need to be reviewable

# Assuring Product Lines of Complex Systems -- Talk Plan

- Motivation and goals
- Background
  - Assurance
  - **Product lines – variability in space and time**
- Representation: Product Line Assurance Cases (PLAC)
- Development of PLACs
- Assessing Change of PLACs
- Tooling
- Summary and Next Steps



# Software Product Line Engineering

Need to develop a set of similar (but distinct) software products

- Multiple markets with different requirements/preferences
- Need to accommodate systems with different hardware components



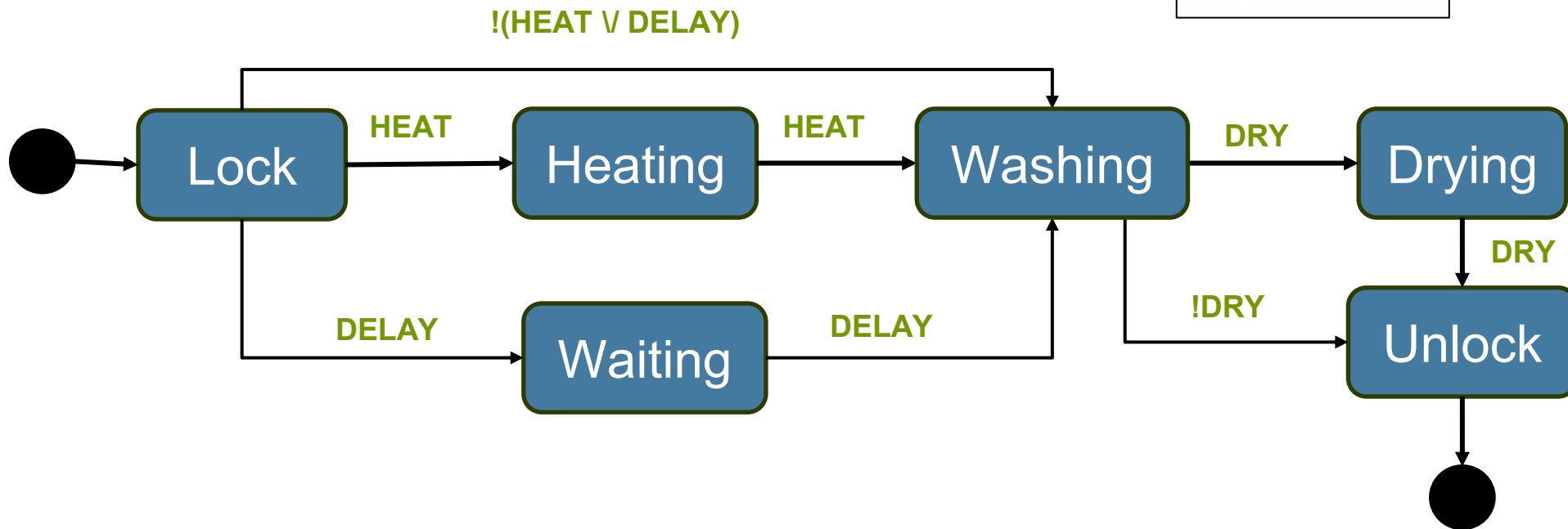
Sources of  
**variability**

**Idea:** Systematically reuse engineering effort across the entire product line by defining and managing variability explicitly

# Annotative Product Lines

**Idea:** Annotate variability via **presence conditions** over **product features**

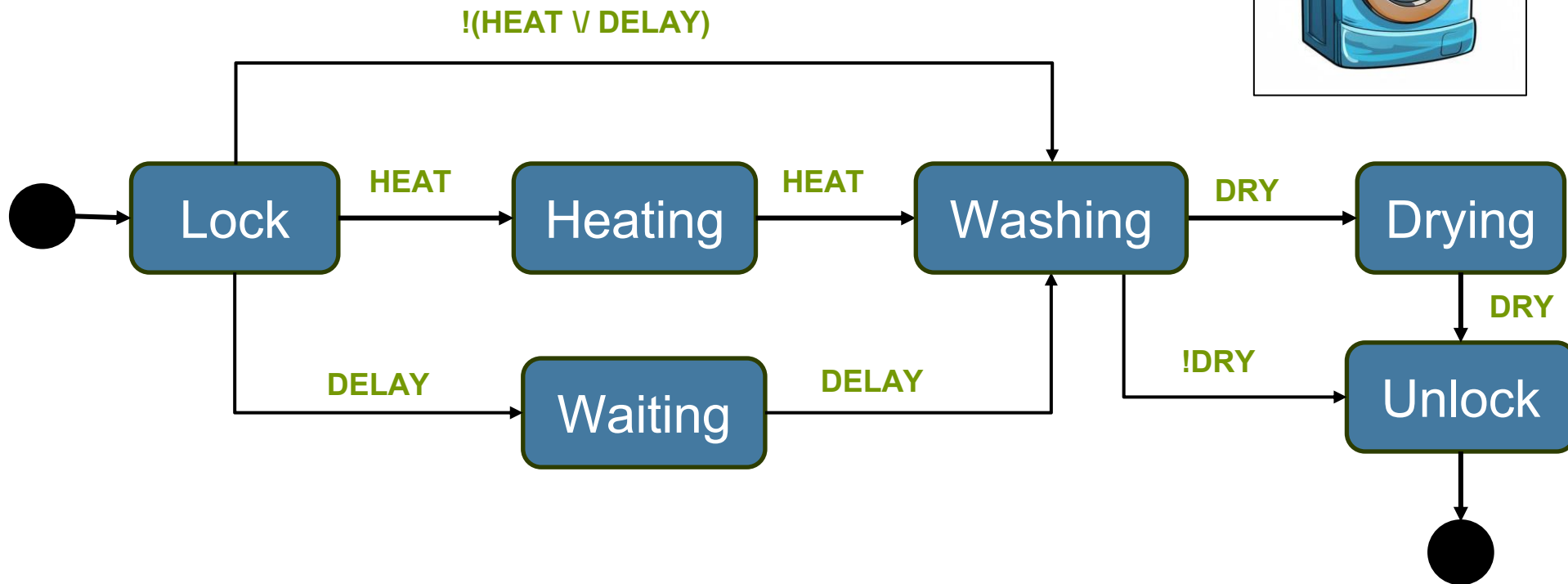
**Example:** A PL of washing machines with 3 optional features: heating (**HEAT**), drying (**DRY**), and time-delay (**DELAY**)



# Annotative Product Lines - Derivation

Derive a product from a product line given a **configuration** of features

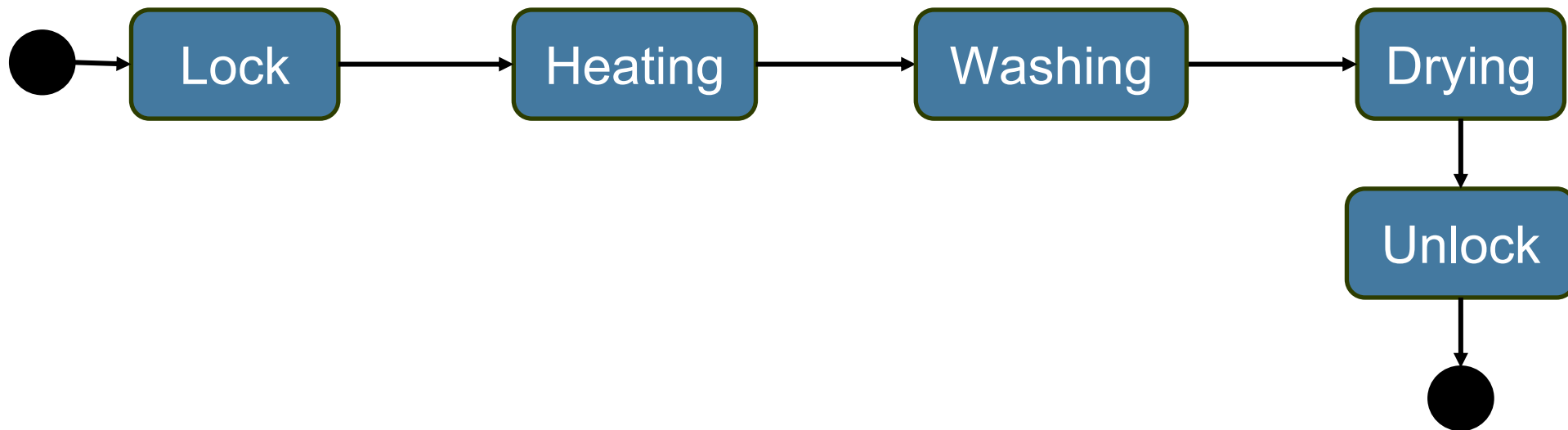
$c = \{\text{HEAT}, \text{DRY}\}$



# Annotative Product Lines - Derivation

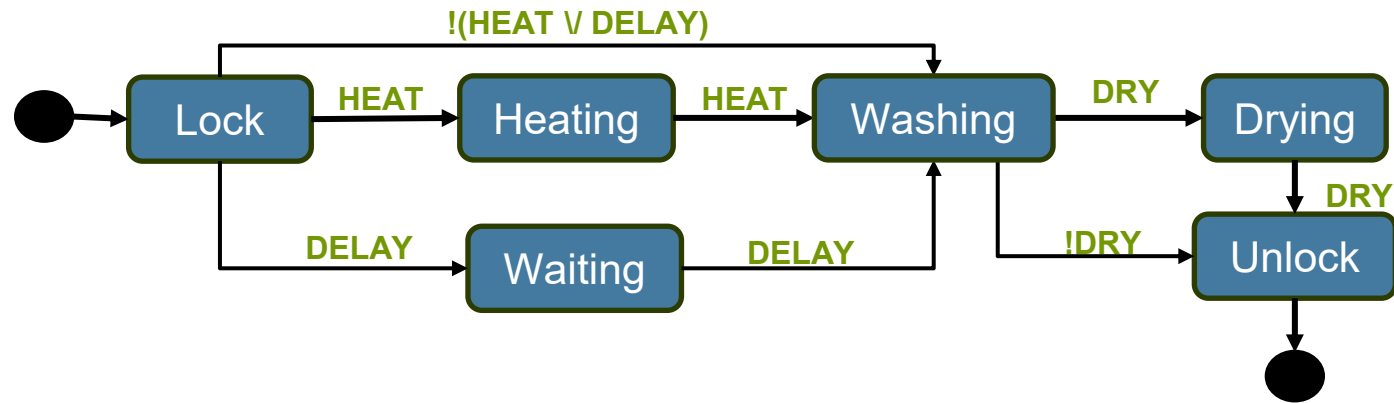
Derive a product from a product line given a **configuration** of features

$c = \{\text{HEAT}, \text{DRY}\}$





# Product Lines of Models



# Product Lines of Code

```
int foo(int a, int b) {  
    a = a * a;  
    #ifdef FA && FB  
        b = b * b;  
    #elif FA && !FB  
        b = b * a;  
    #endif  
    return a + b;  
}
```

$n$  features  $\rightarrow O(2^n)$  distinct products!

# ADAS -- Product Line Version

Representation of a *family* of vehicles with different configurations of ADAS features

## Features

- HW\_MONITORING
- LANE\_DETECTION
- LANE\_CENTERING
- FRONT\_RADAR
- ALARM\_SYSTEM



## Feature model:

**HW\_MONITORING & (LANE\_CENTERING => (LANE\_DETECTION & ALARM\_SYSTEM))**

State machine mode becomes annotated with presence conditions

# Software Updates



Performing software updates in cars is costly

Over the years, most automotive companies recalled many vehicles to perform updates

- in 2019, GM recalled 4.3 million vehicles
- in 2018, Volvo and Honda recalled 16.582 and 232.000 vehicles.
- in 2017, Stellantis and Tesla recalled 53.000 and 1.1 million vehicles, respectively
- ....

# Over-the-air (OTA) Updates



Automotive companies are increasingly interested in over-the-air (OTA) updates. They can

- modify the software components installed in a car wirelessly
- quickly and conveniently change the software installed in the cars.

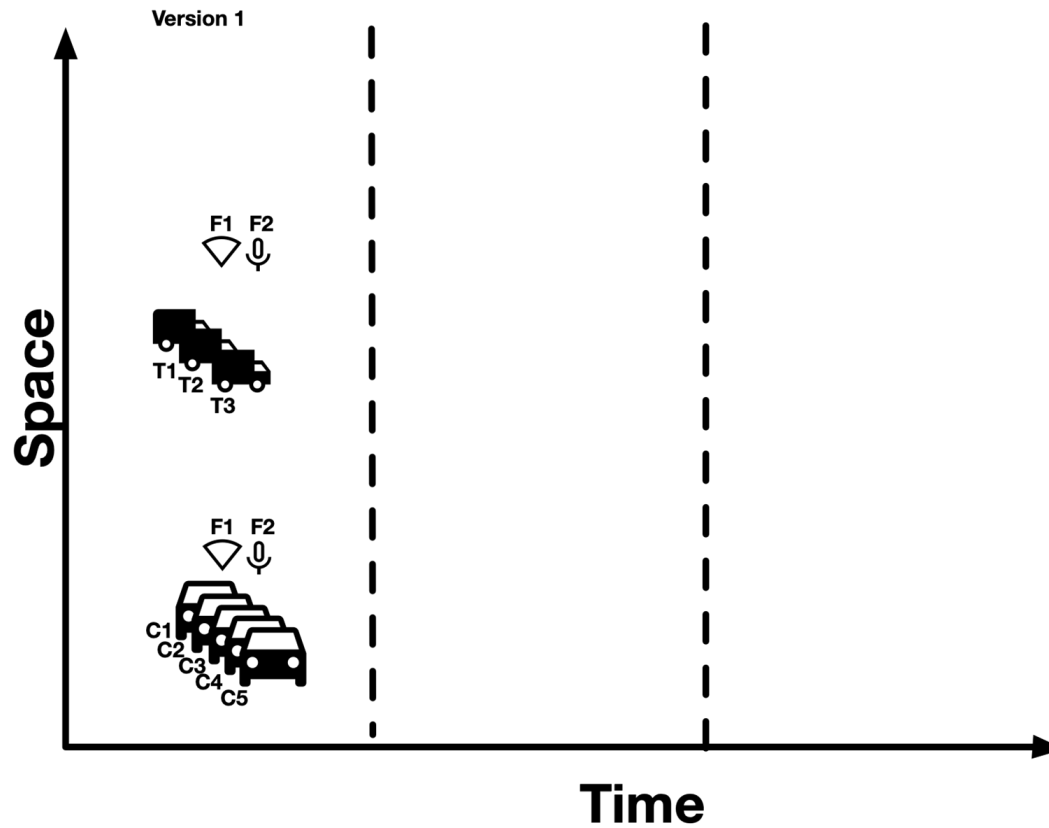


# Over-the-air (OTA) Updates: Software Configurations

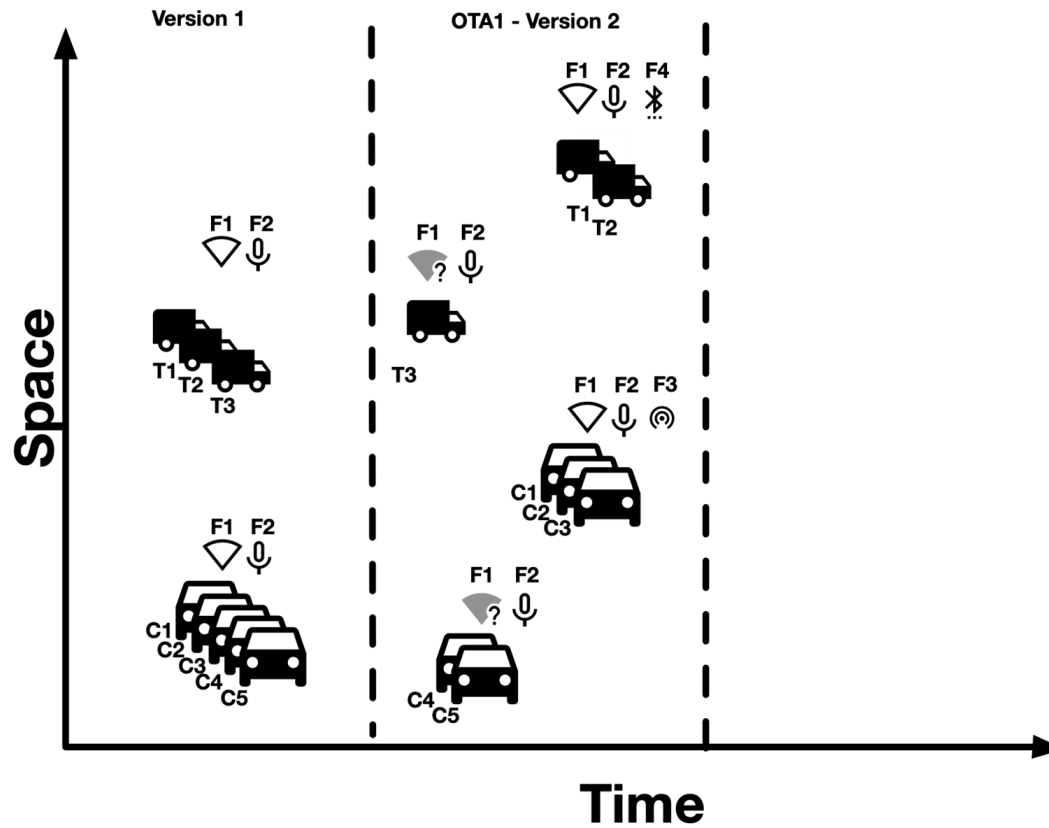
With OTA, the number of software configurations will dramatically increase

1. Some users will not install all the updates
2. Some users will have limited wifi connectivity
3. OTA updates are enabling more frequent updates of (smaller) software components
4. End-user customization and the use of third-party apps add to the complexity

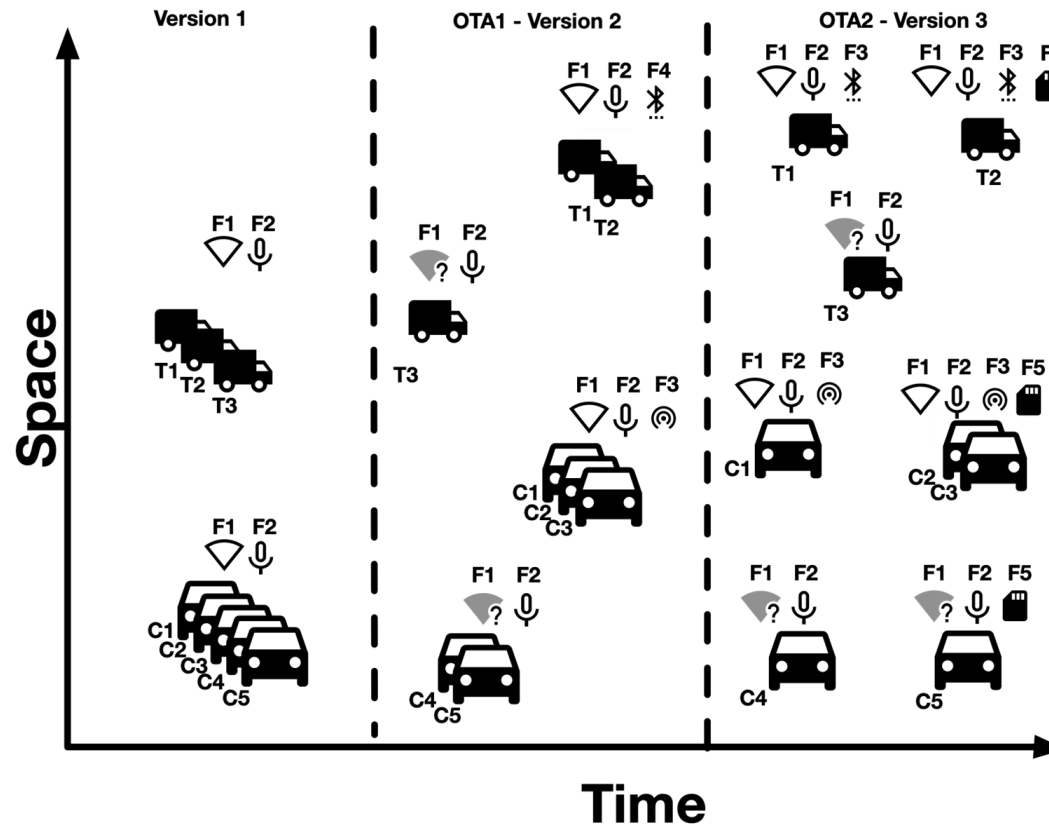
# Over-the-air (OTA) Updates: Example



# Over-the-air (OTA) Updates: Example



# Over-the-air (OTA) Updates: Example



So we have safety-critical product lines in time and space that need assuring!



# Main points

1. Assurance cases combine argument and evidence, allow to contextualize analysis and verification. Need to be reviewable
2. OTA updates yield product lines in time and space which need assuring

# Challenges of OTA Assurance for Safety-Critical Product Lines

OTA update

Aim to use the notion of product lines to represent variability in space (different configurations) and time (different updates) and assure them together

Existing software configurations

How to verify the update?  
How to assure the update?  
How to test the update?

What information to keep about each feature?  
What information to keep about the entire configuration?

so that

Existing software configurations + OTA update

... is safe for each configuration  
... does not fail in each configuration

What can be proven? How can potential failures be avoided at runtime?

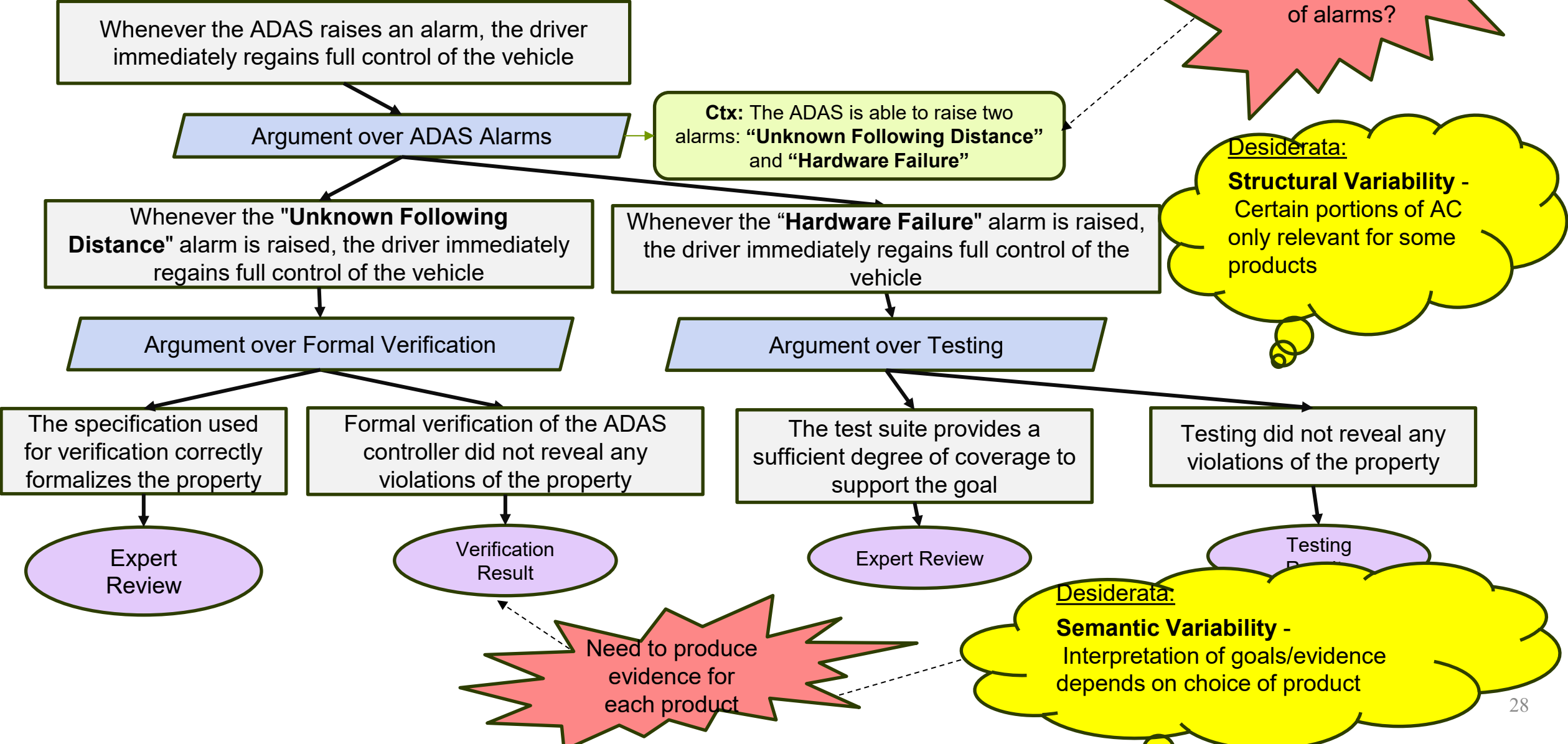
# What does “assuring them together” mean?



1. Represent the assurance case for the product space **compactly**
2. Reuse verification and other evidence across similar products
3. Identify assurance-relevant variation points
4. Enable analysis of completeness of assurance across the entire product space
5. Analyze impact of a change across the entire product space

Note: some of these questions have been answered for individual products and can be “lifted” for a product-line level.

# Challenges of Product Line Assurance: Example



# ADAS -- Product Line Version

Representation of a *family* of vehicles with different configurations of ADAS features

## Features

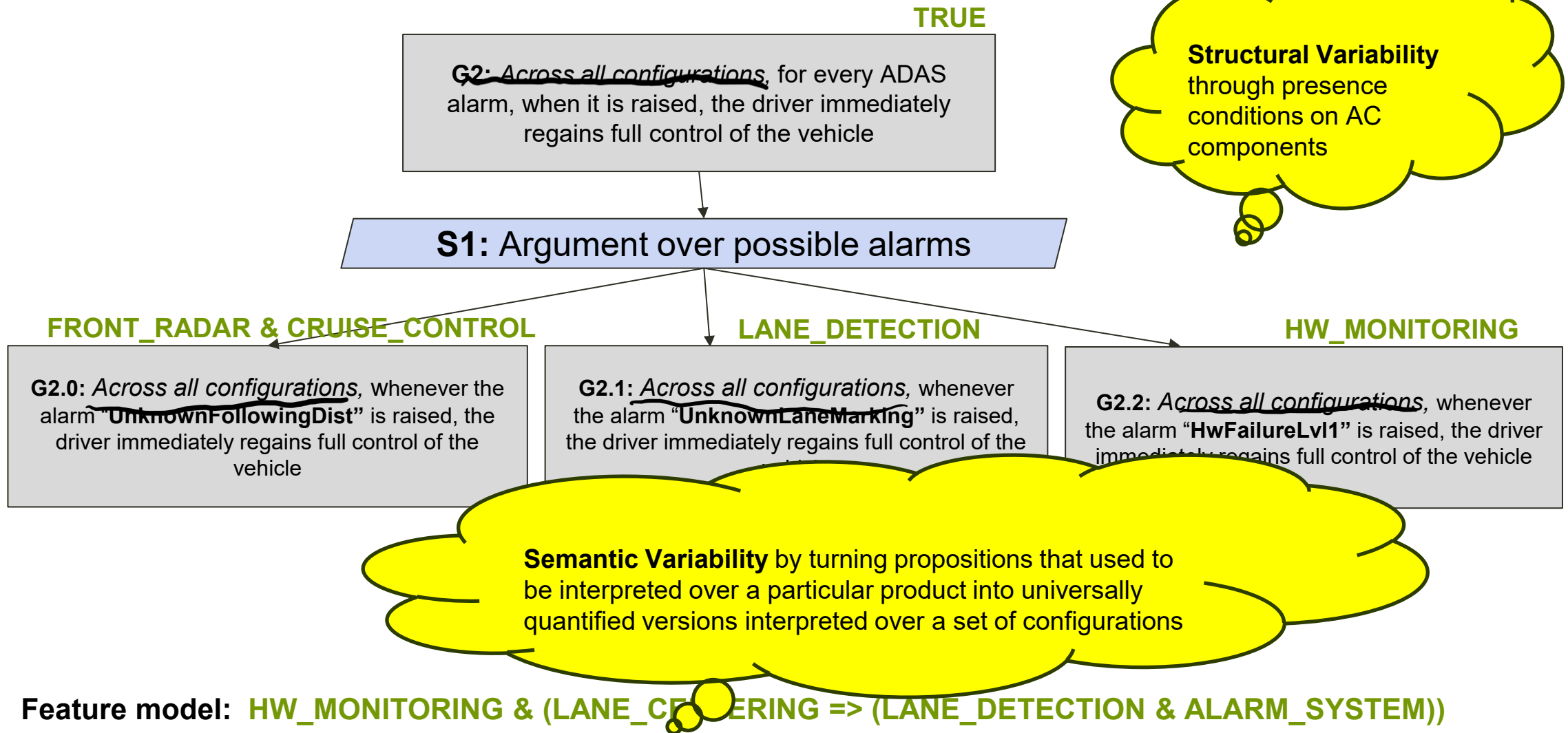
- HW\_MONITORING
- LANE\_DETECTION
- LANE\_CENTERING
- FRONT\_RADAR
- ALARM\_SYSTEM



Feature model: **HW\_MONITORING & (LANE\_CENTERING => (LANE\_DETECTION & ALARM\_SYSTEM))**

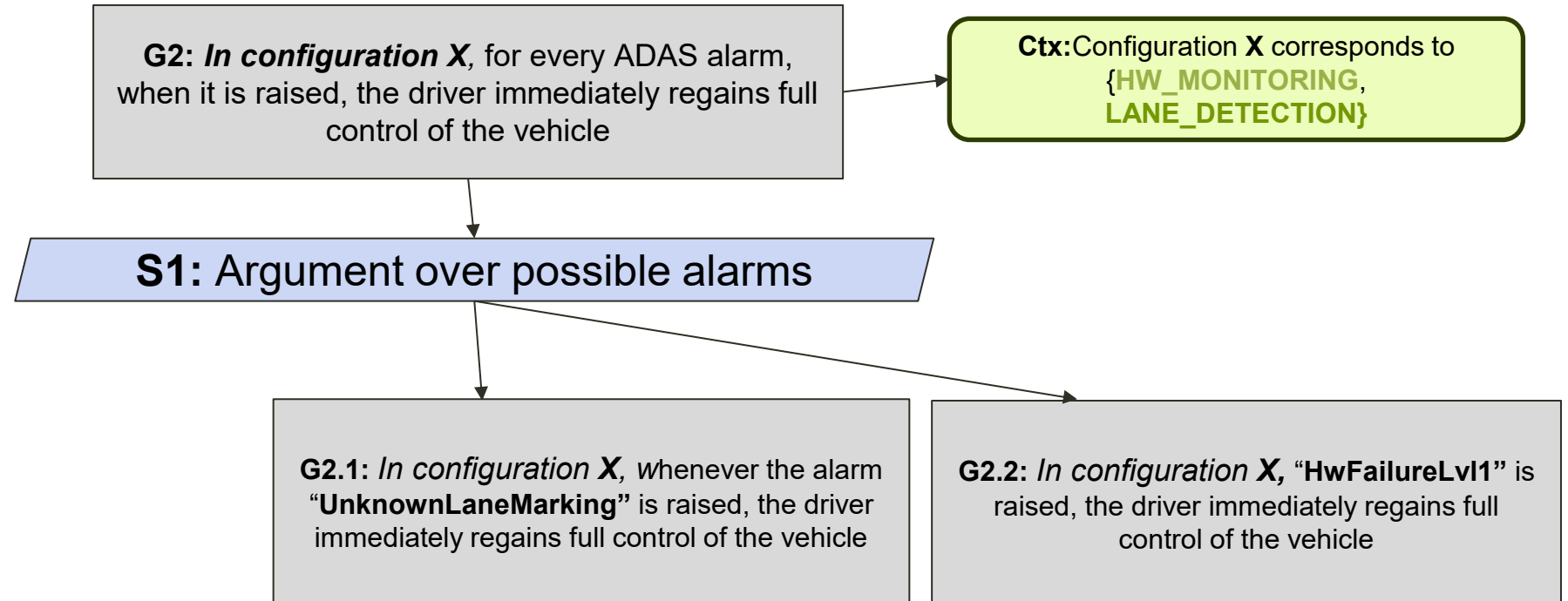
State machine mode becomes annotated with presence conditions

# Encoding Variability





# Instantiation for **LANE\_DETECTION** & **HW\_MONITORING**



**Feature model:** **HW\_MONITORING** & (**LANE\_CENTERING** => (**LANE\_DETECTION** & **ALARM\_SYSTEM**))



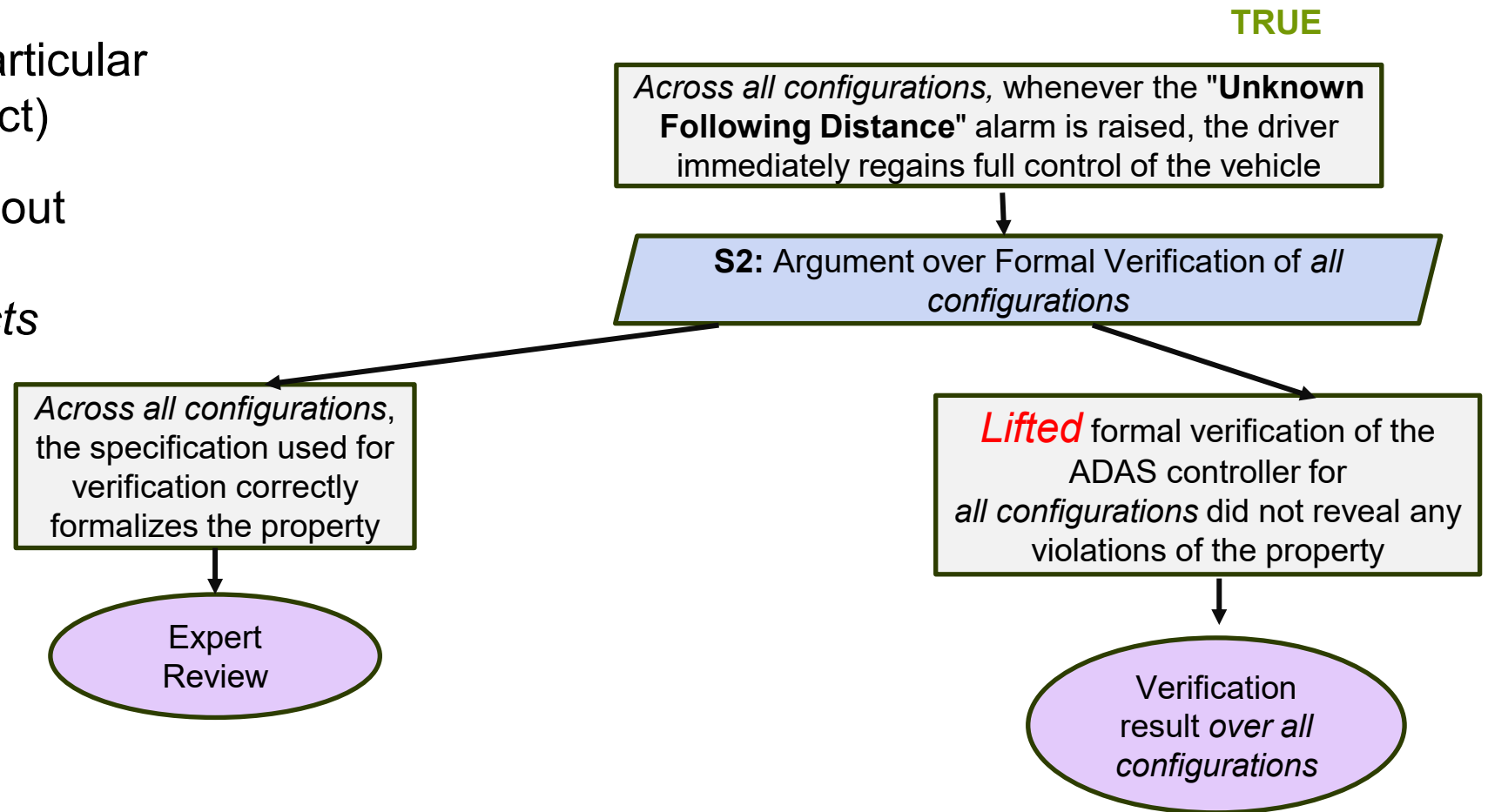
**This was about “product lining” goals.  
What about evidence?**

# Encoding Variability

Regular evidence is for a particular goal (and a particular product)

**Aim:** evidence that talks about the *whole set of goals* representing a *set of products*

Thus, we interpret goals and evidence over sets of products



**Feature model:** **HW\_MONITORING & (LANE\_CENTERING => (LANE\_DETECTION & ALARM\_SYSTEM))**

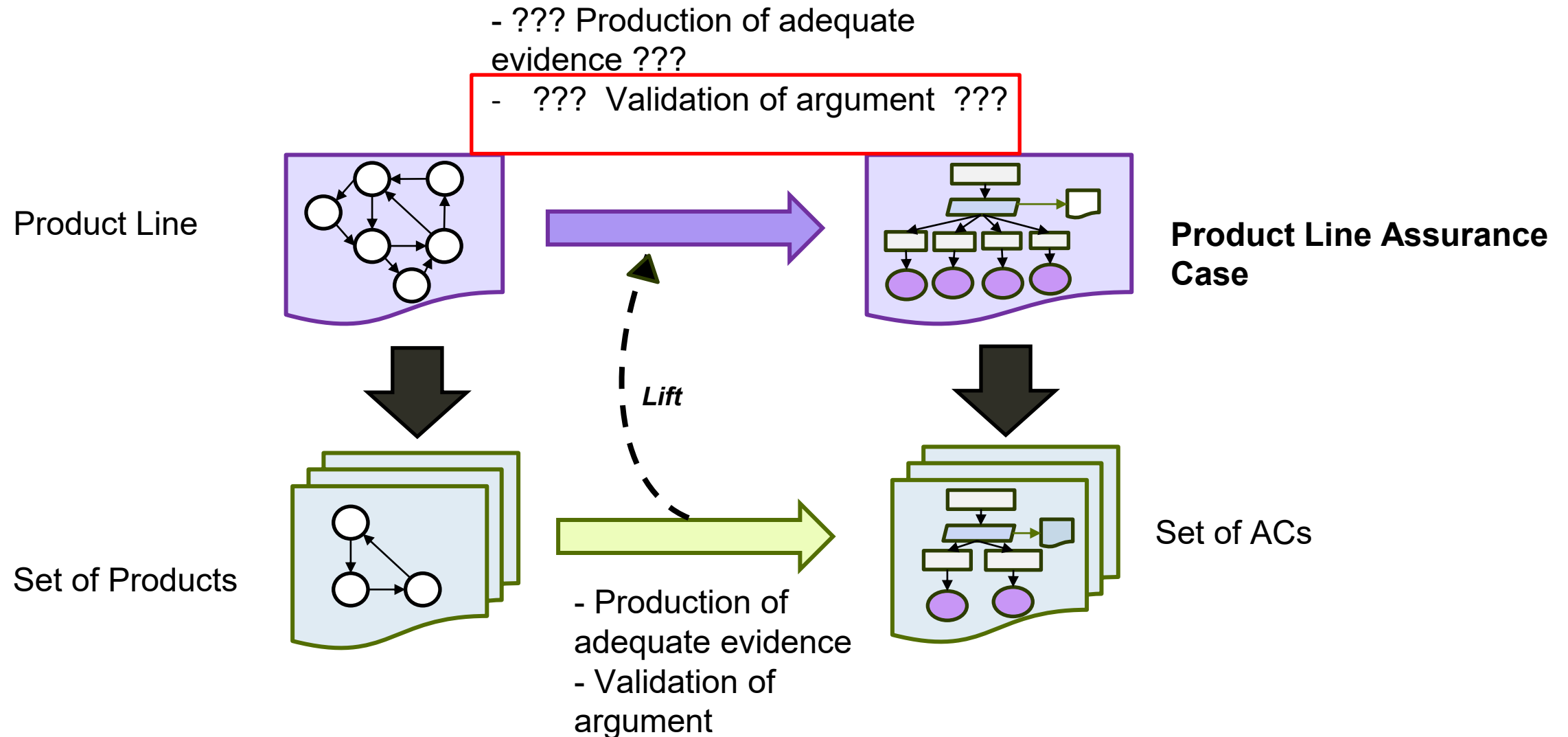
# Main points

1. Assurance cases combine argument and evidence, allow to contextualize analysis and verification. Need to be reviewable
2. OTA updates yield product lines in time and space which need assuring
3. To assure product lines, reinterpret arguments and evidence to apply to sets of products, developing PLAS (product line assurance case)

# Assuring Product Lines of Complex Systems -- Talk Plan

- Motivation and goals
- Background
  - Assurance
  - Product lines – variability in space and time
- Representation: Product Line Assurance Cases (PLAC)
- **Development of PLACs**
- Assessing Change of PLACs
- Tooling
- Summary and Next Steps

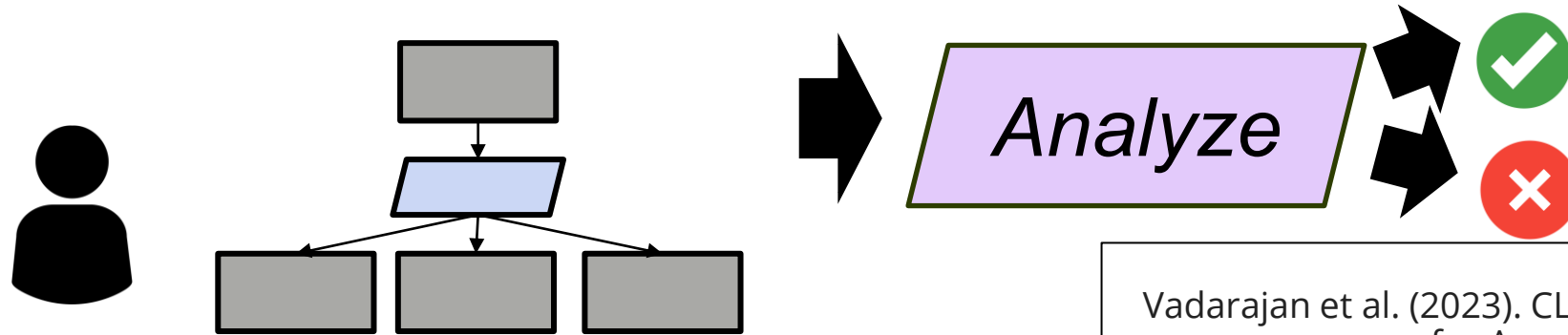
# Development of Product Line Assurance





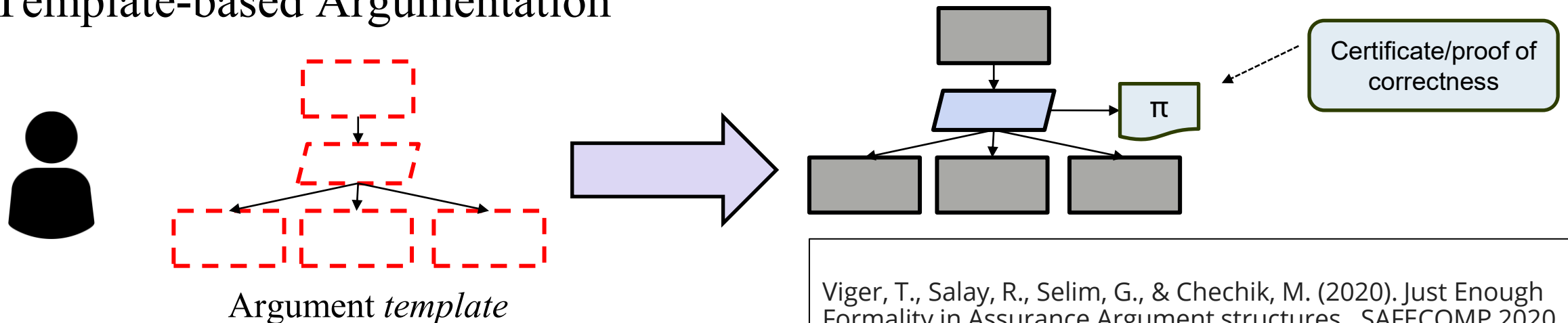
# Validating Assurance Arguments

## *Post hoc* validation



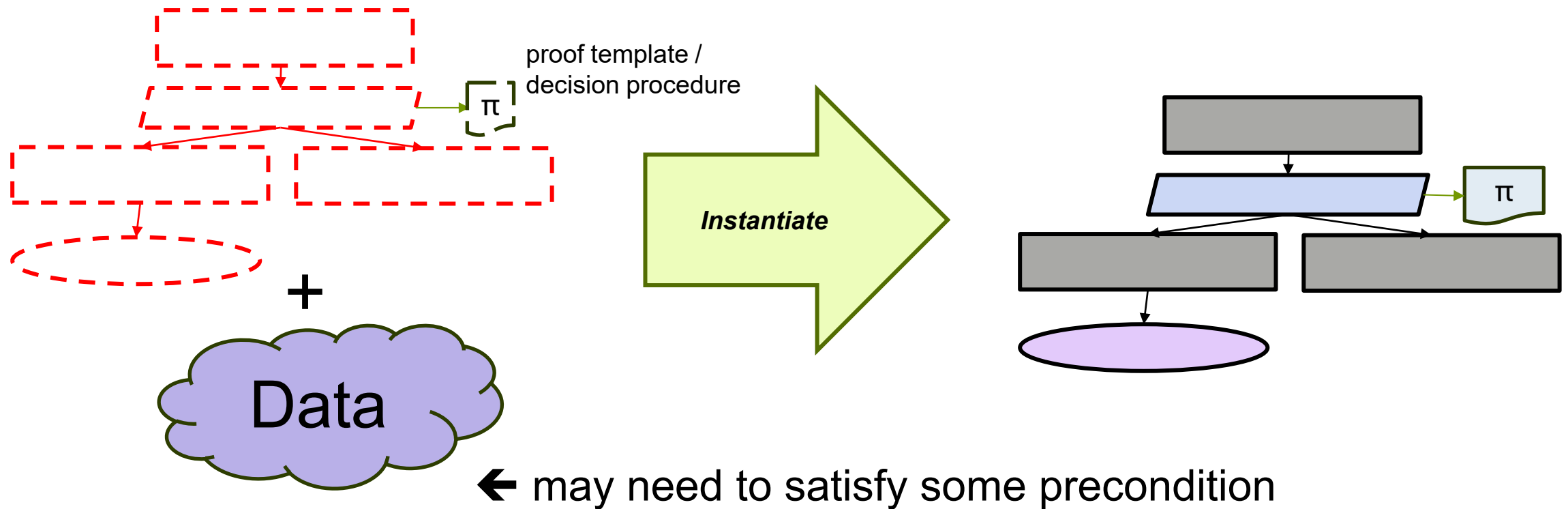
Vadarajan et al. (2023). CLARISSA: Foundations, Tools & Automation for Assurance Cases. DASC 2020

## Template-based Argumentation



Viger, T., Salay, R., Selim, G., & Chechik, M. (2020). Just Enough Formality in Assurance Argument structures. SAFECOMP 2020

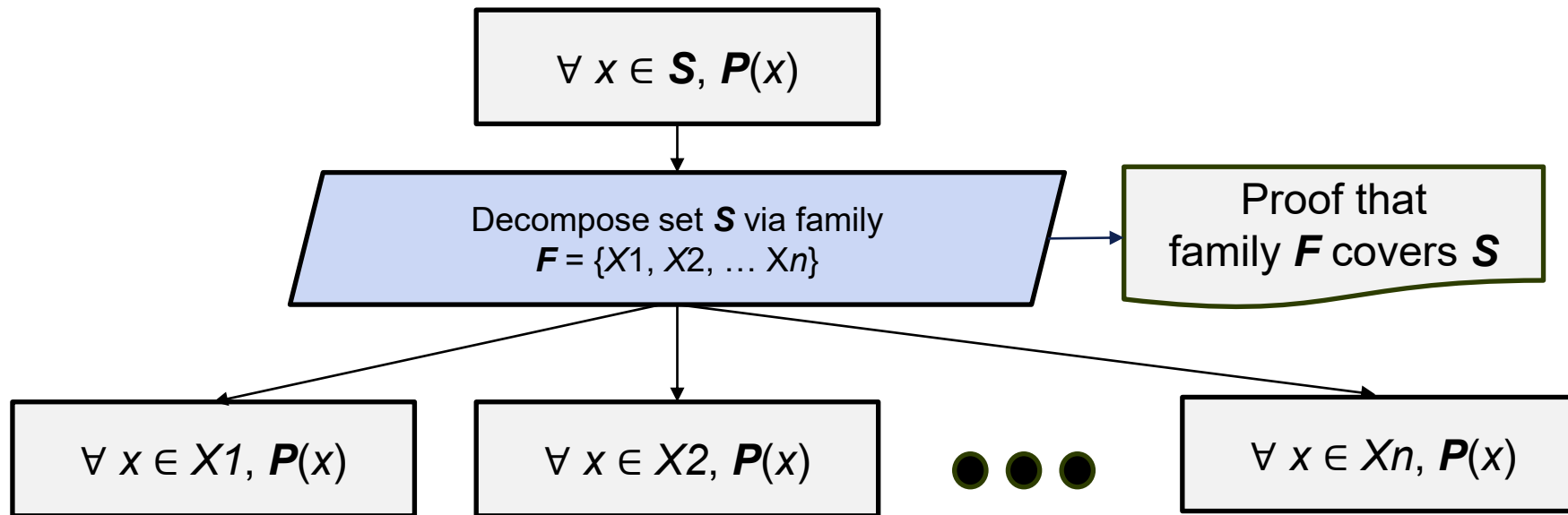
# Formal Assurance Case Template



Template is **valid** iff every instantiation satisfying precondition results in a sound argument

# Formal Assurance Case Template – Example

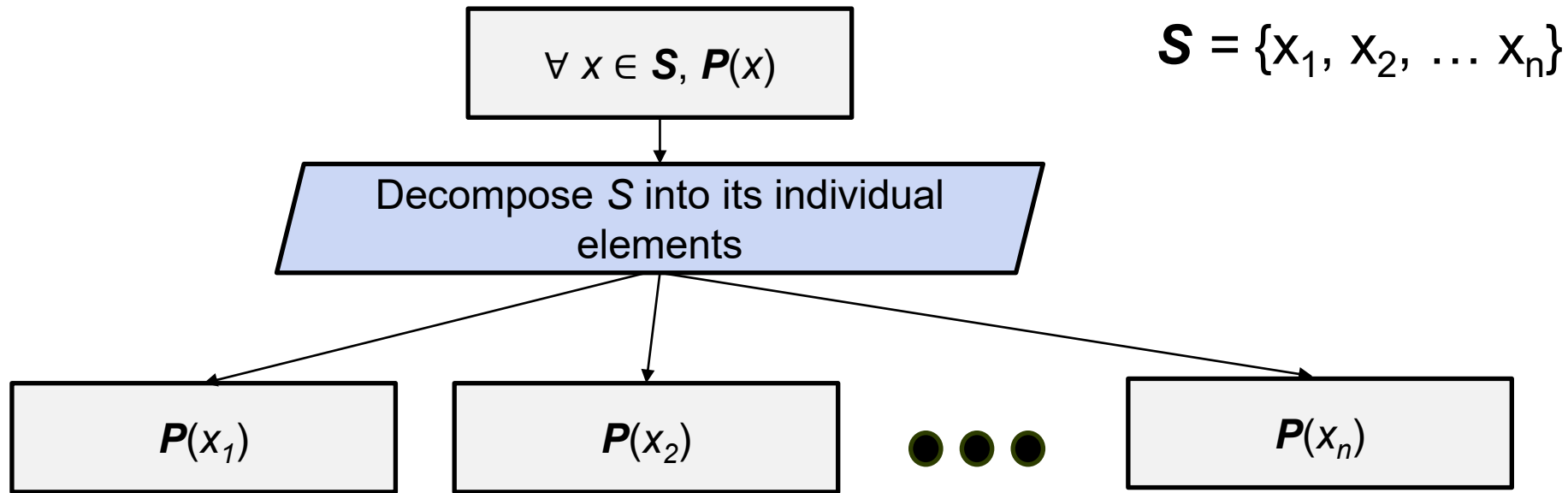
*Domain decomposition* template



Instantiation requires specifying set  $S$ , family  $F$ , property  $P$

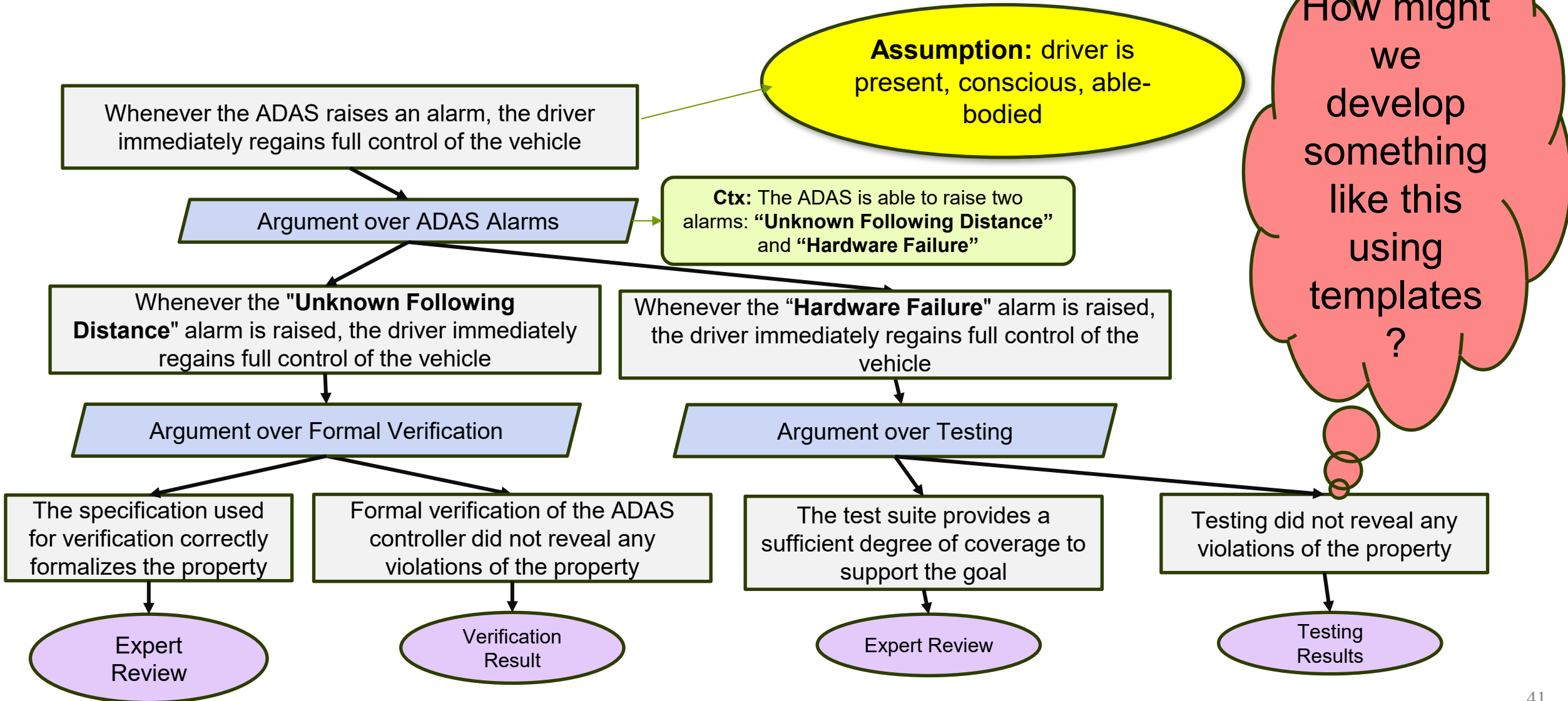
# Special Case of Domain Decomposition

*Enumeration* template

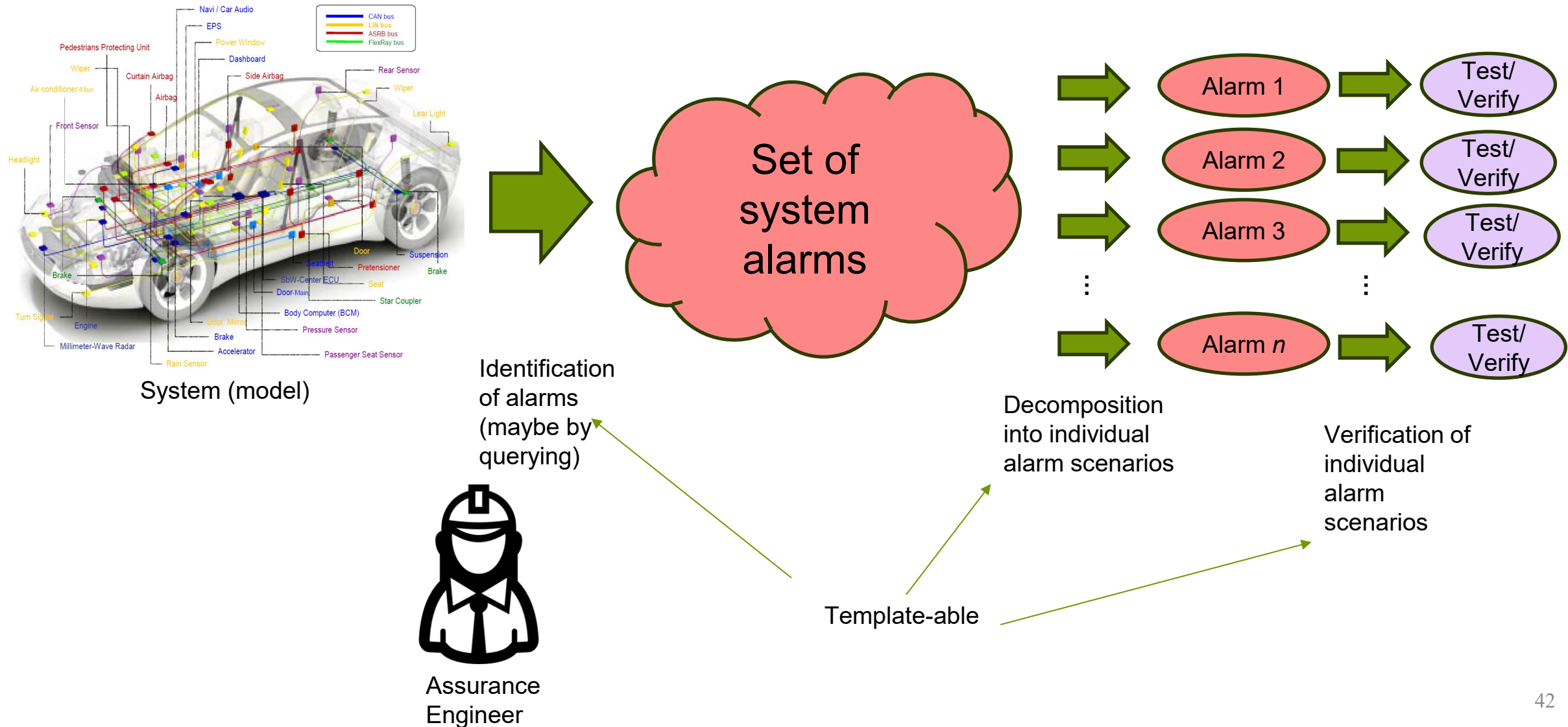


Instantiation requires specifying set  $S$ , property  $P$

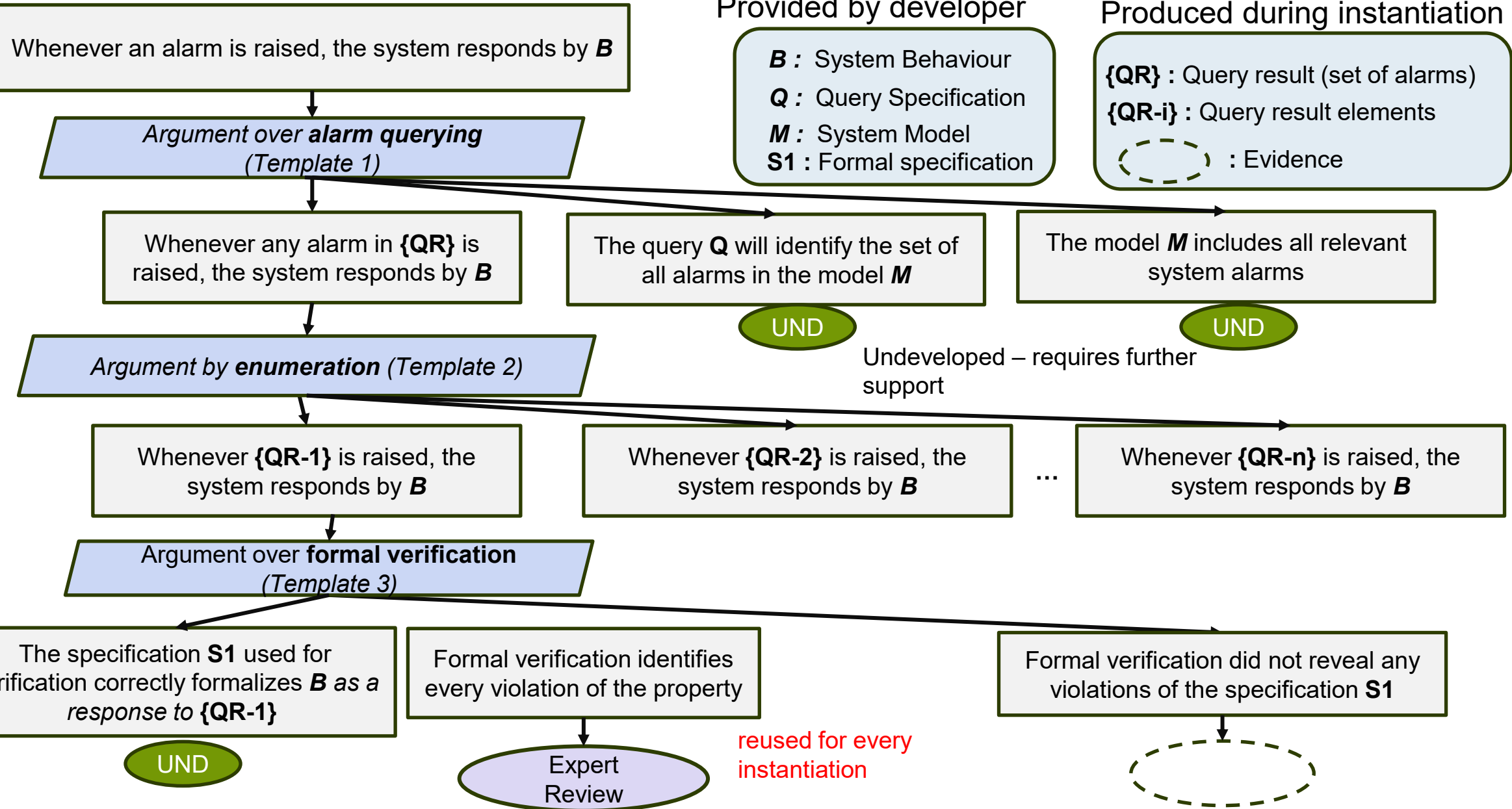
# Snippet of ADAS Assurance Case



# Generalized Assurance Strategy

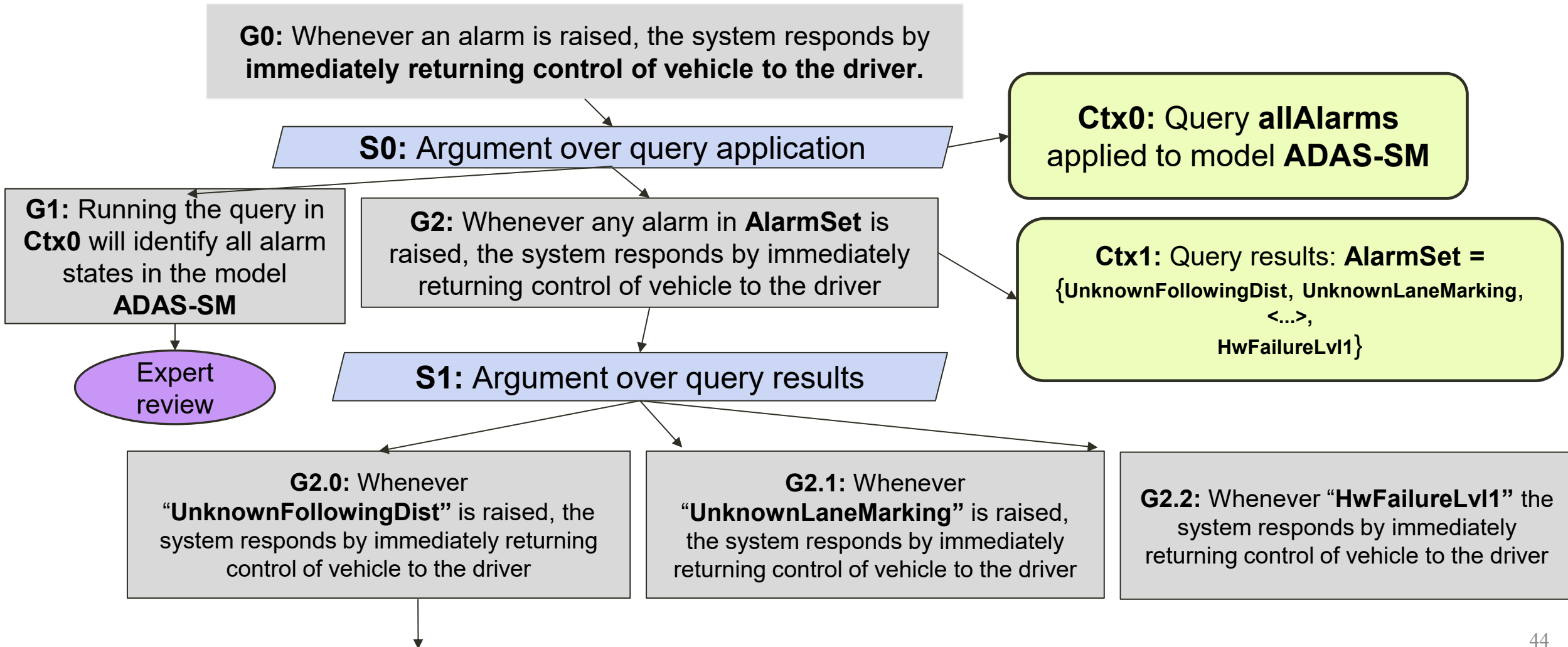


# Templates for the ADAS AC

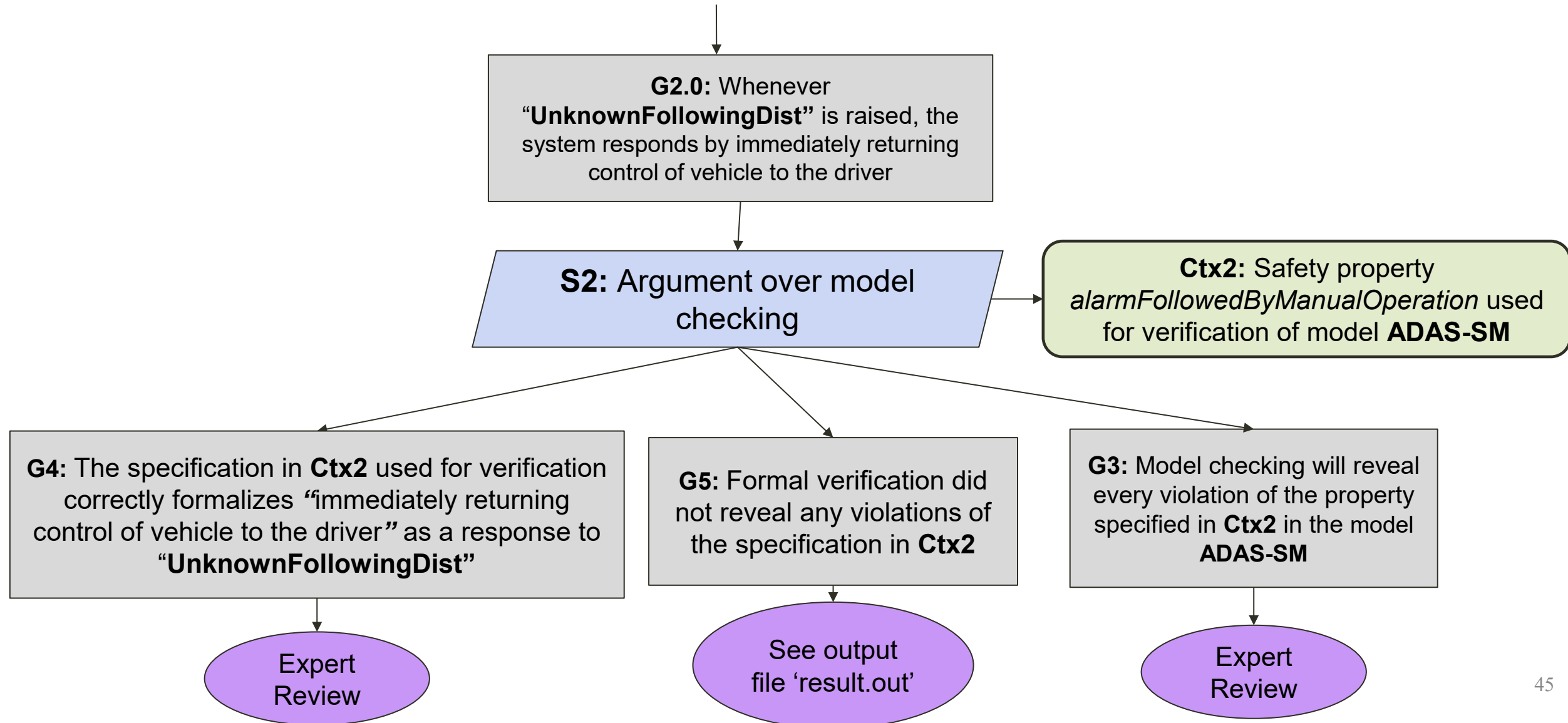




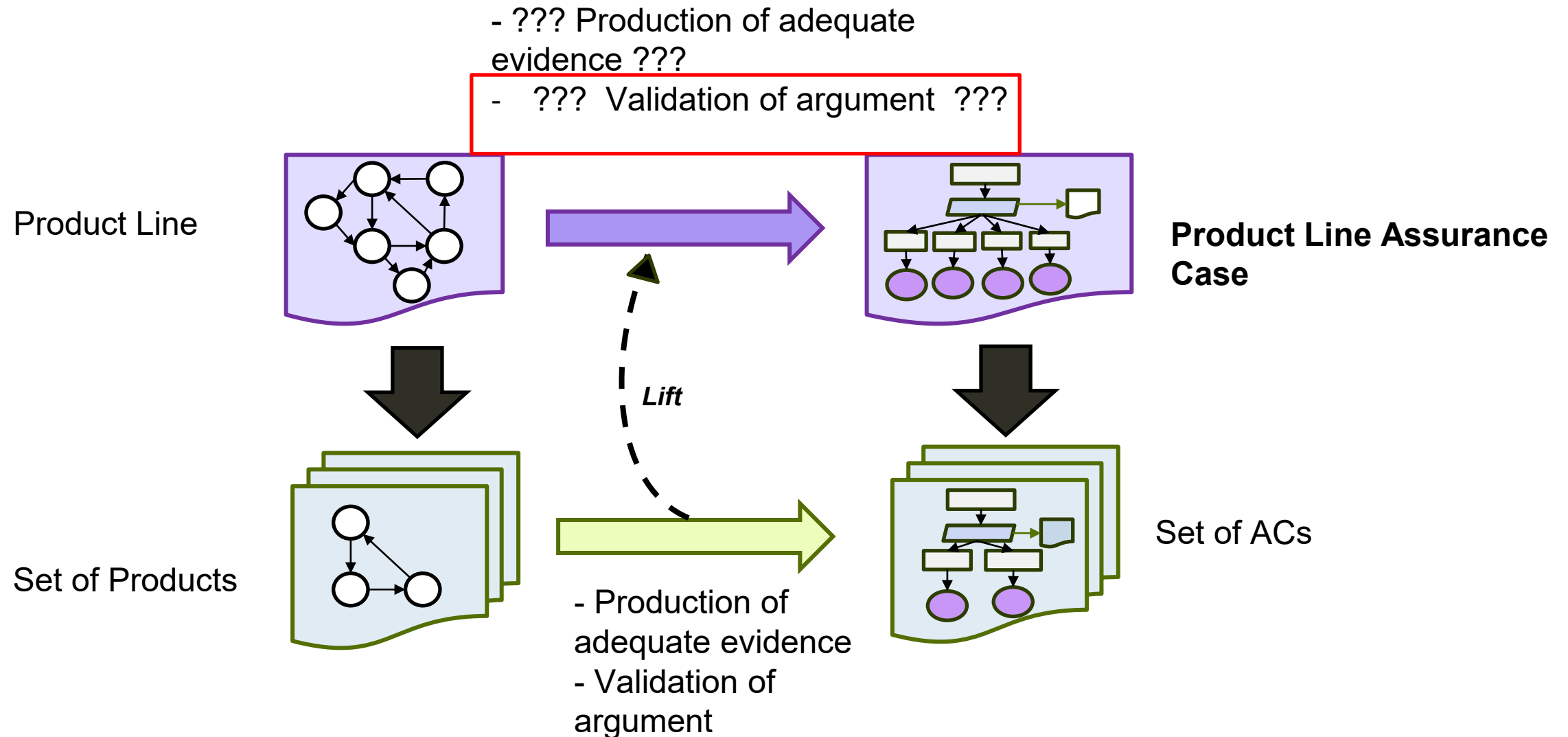
# Template 1 and 2 Instantiation for ADAS AC



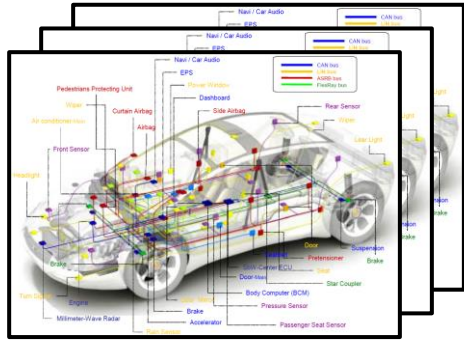
# Template 3 Instantiation for ADAS AC



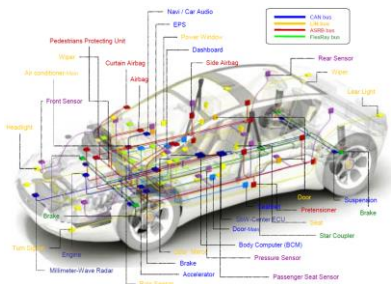
# Development of Product Line Assurance



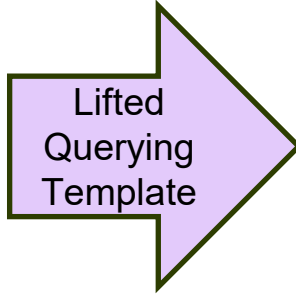
# Functional View of AC development



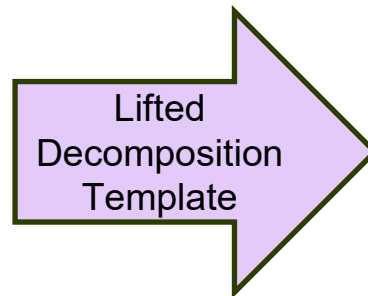
**Product Line System (model)**



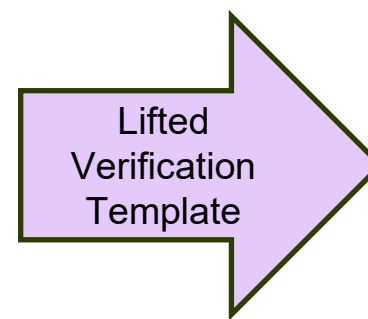
**Product System (model)**



**Lifted  
Querying  
Template**

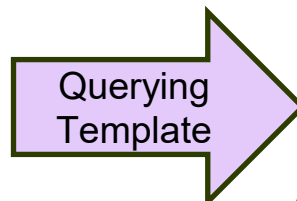


**Lifted  
Decomposition  
Template**

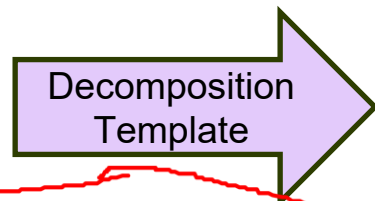


**Lifted  
Verification  
Template**

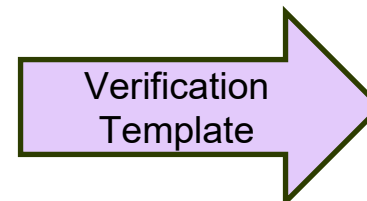
Each template is just a composable function. These can be lifted and validated individually, resulting in desired composition



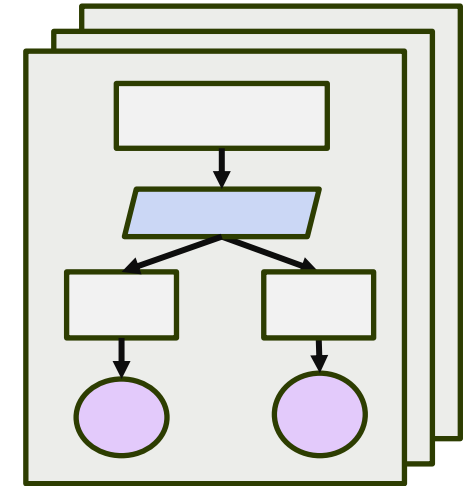
depends on  
running analysis



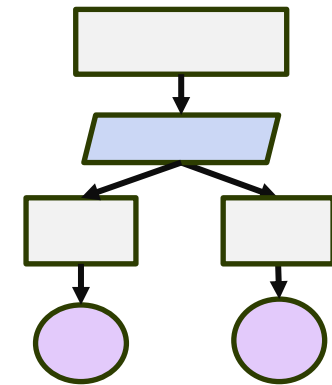
"syntactic"



depends on  
running analysis



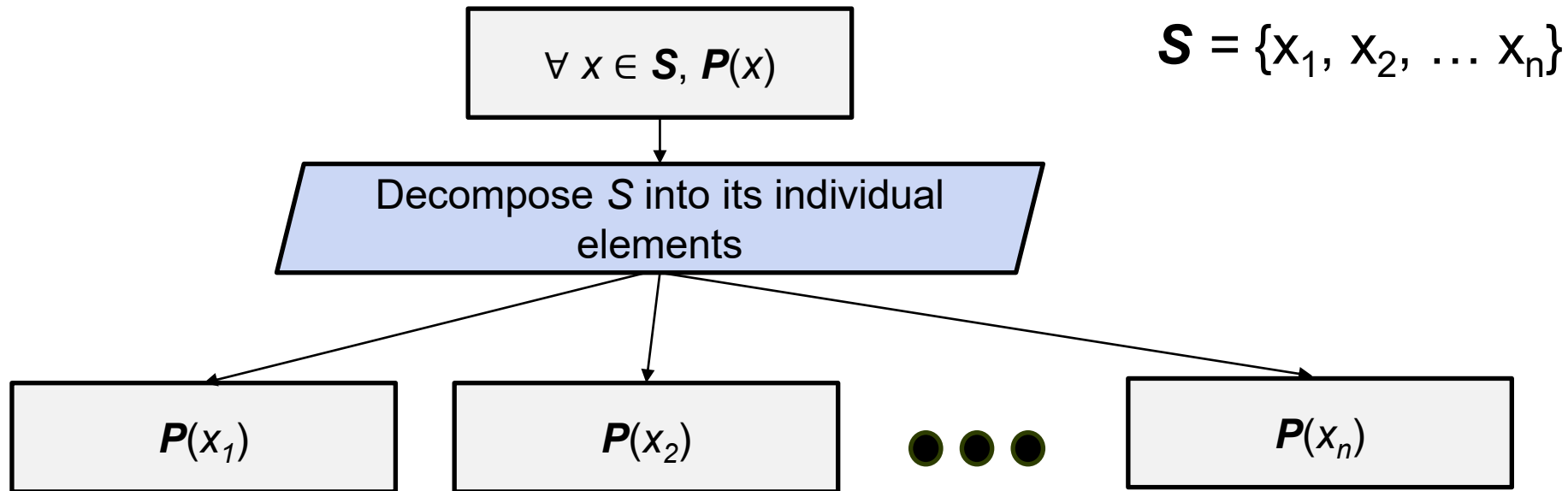
**Product Line Assurance Case**



**Product Assurance Case**

# Special Case of Domain Decomposition

*Enumeration* template

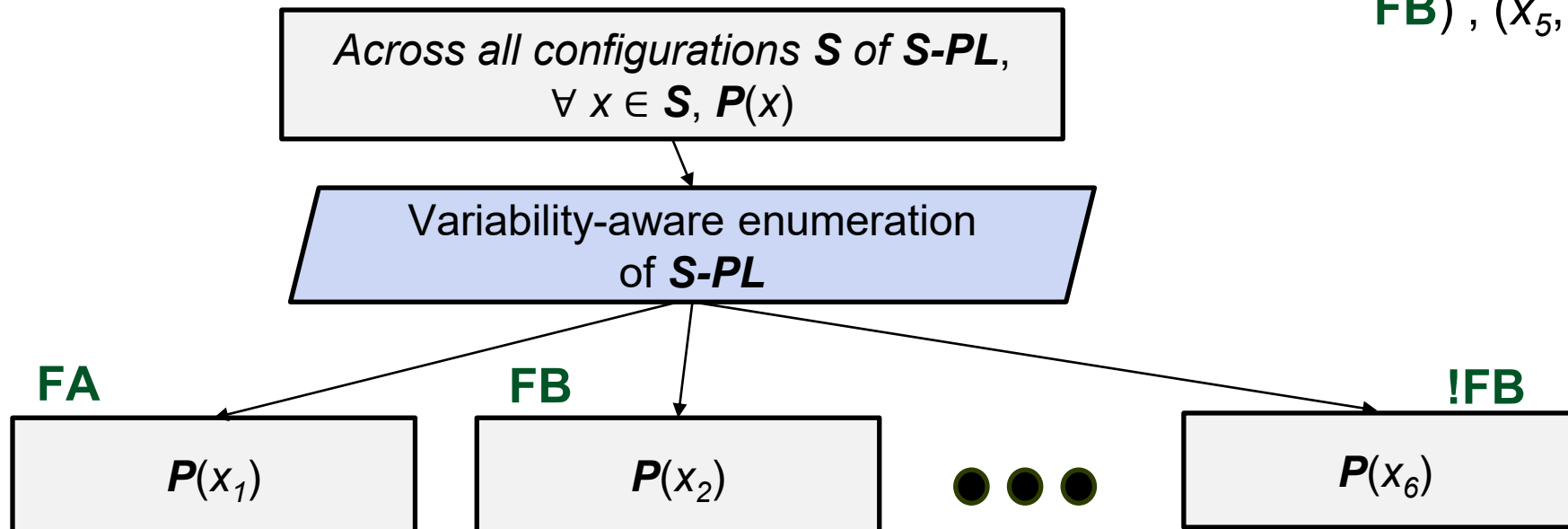


# Special Case of Domain Decomposition

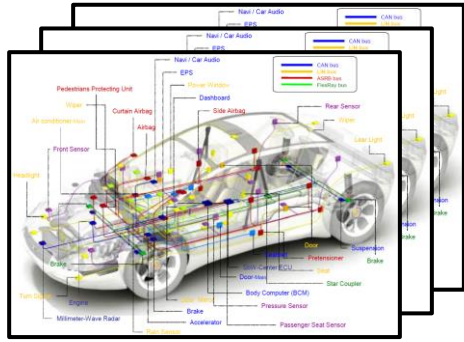
*Lifted Enumeration* template

Turns *semantic* variability into *syntactic* variability

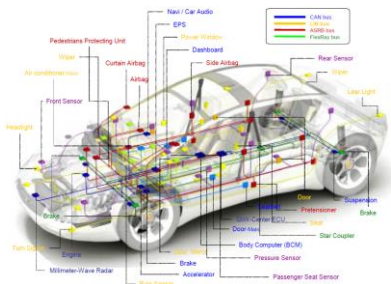
$$\mathbf{S-PL} = \{ (x_1, \mathbf{FA}), (x_2, \mathbf{FB}), (x_3, \mathbf{FA \& FB}), (x_4, \mathbf{FA \& FB}), (x_5, \mathbf{!FA}), (x_6, \mathbf{!FB}) \}$$



# Functional View of AC development



**Product Line System (model)**



**Product System (model)**

Lifted  
Querying  
Template

Lifted  
Decomposition  
Template

Lifted  
Verification  
Template

Each of templates is just a function. These can be lifted and validated individually

Querying  
Template

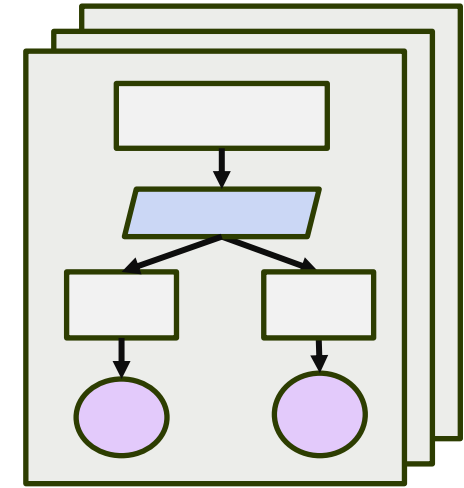
depends on  
running analysis  
("analytic")

Decomposition  
Template

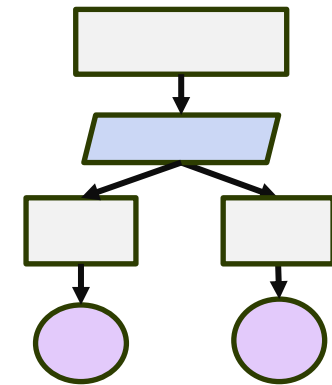
"syntactic"

Verification  
Template

depends on  
running analysis  
("analytic")



**Product Line Assurance Case**

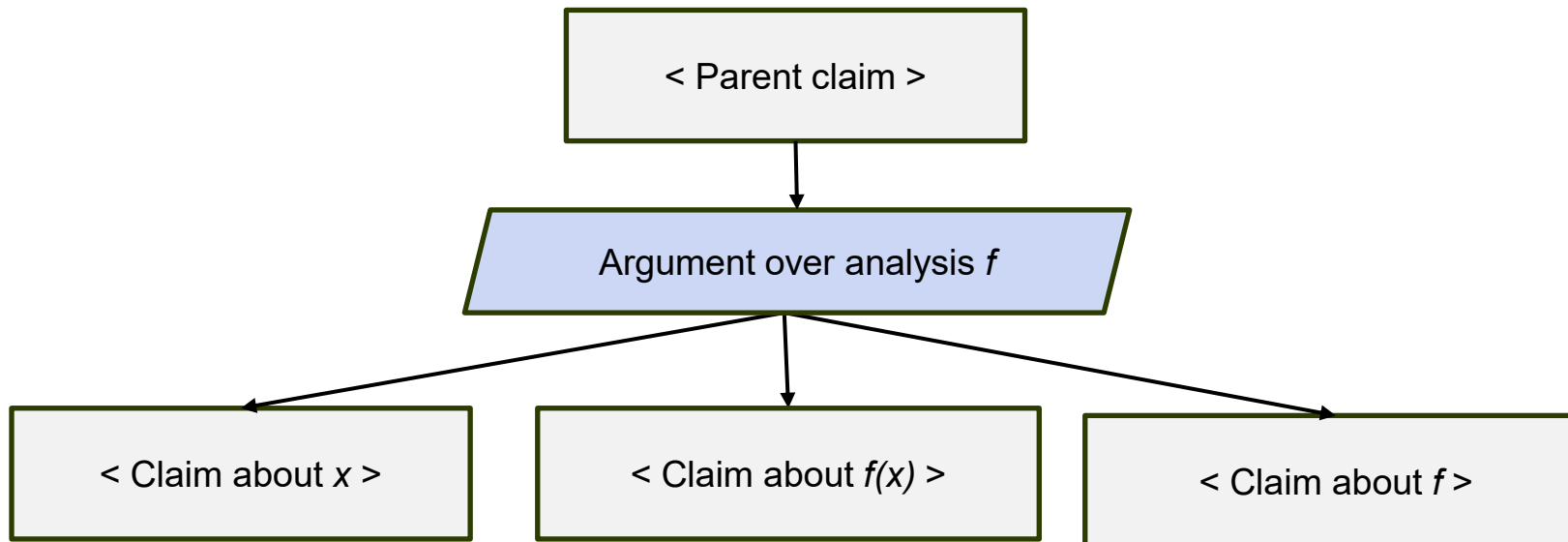


**Product Assurance Case**



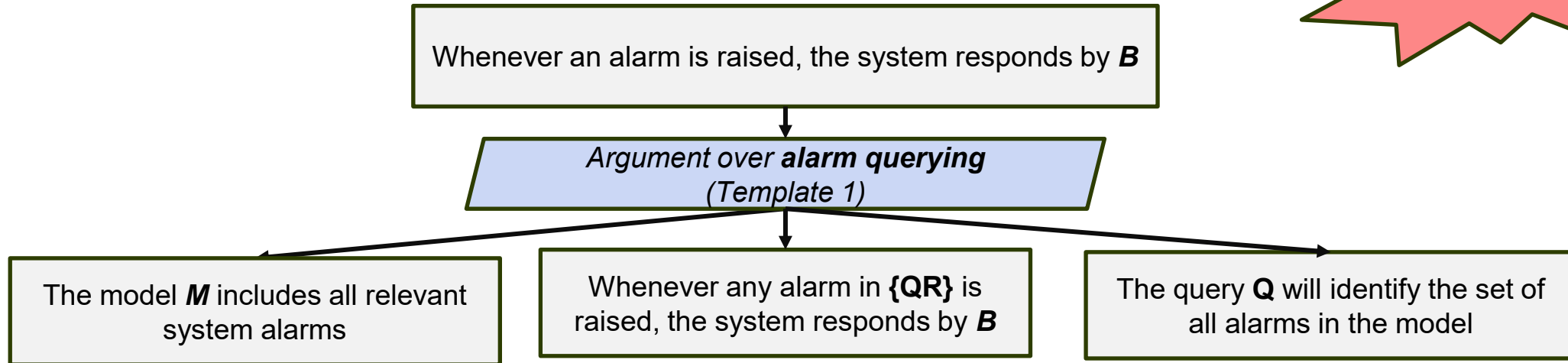
# Analytic Argumentation

**Idea:** Support a goal by applying some analysis  $f$  to some object  $x$  and make some assertion about the result.



# Analytic Template - Example

## *Argument over model querying*



Provided by developer

**B** : System Behaviour  
**Q** : Query Specification  
**M** : System Model

Produced during instantiation

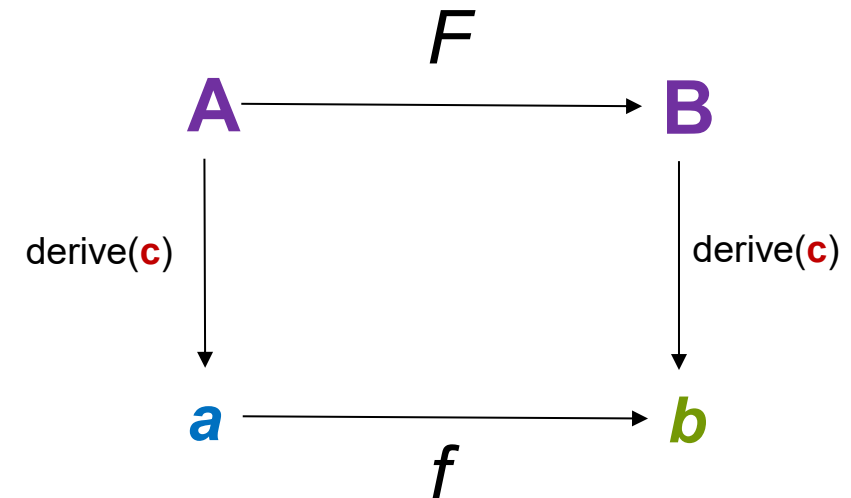
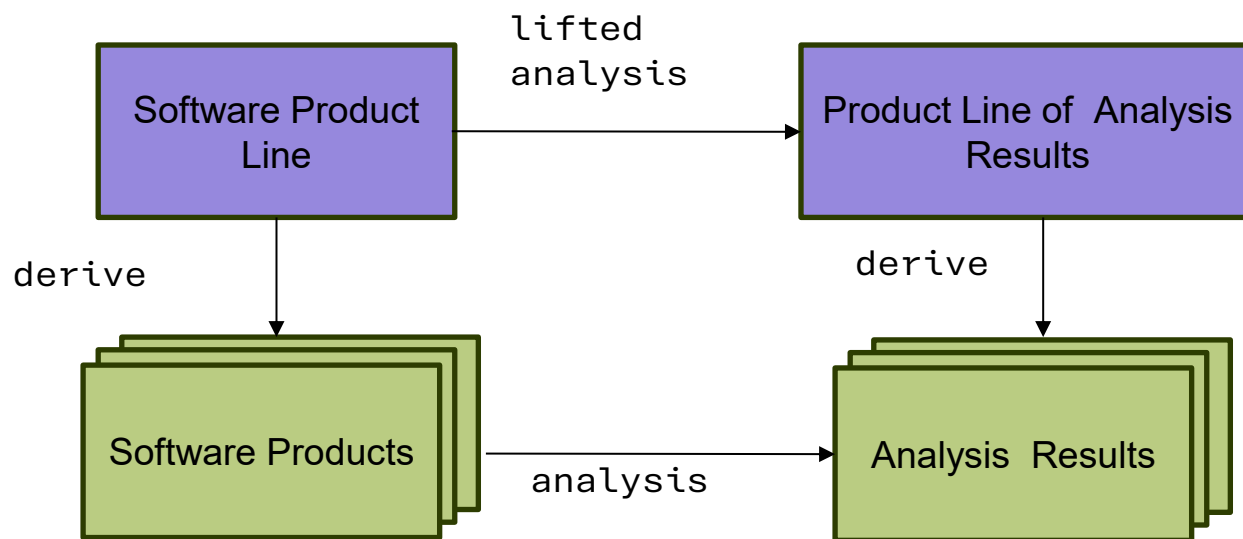
**{QR}** : Query Result

# Aside: Lifted Software Analysis

Recall: Given  $n$  features,  $O(2^n)$  distinct products!

**Cannot** analyze a PL in a product-by-product fashion

**Idea:** Redefine (lift) the analysis to give a “product-line” of analysis results



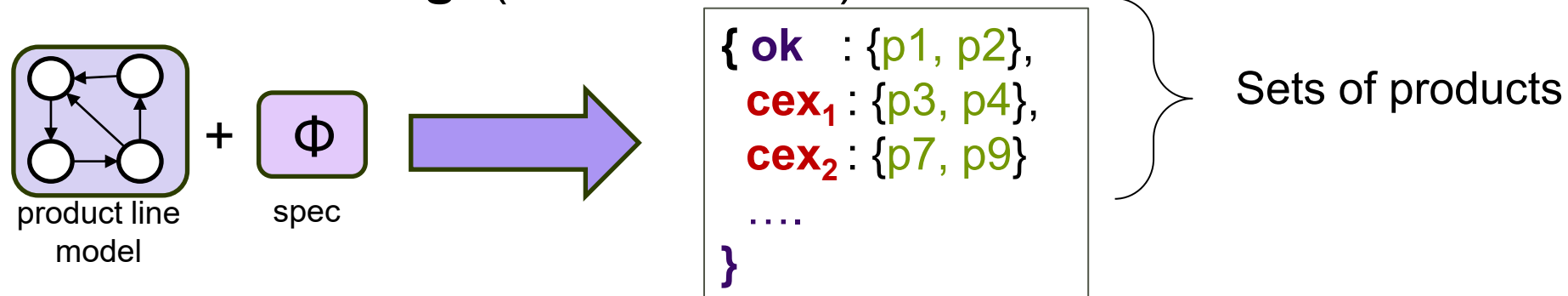
# Aside: Lifted Software Analysis (Example)

## Standard Model Checking:



**Extensive literature:** Lifted parsing, type-checking, abstract interpretation, dataflow analysis, synthesis...

## Lifted Model Checking: (Classen et al.)



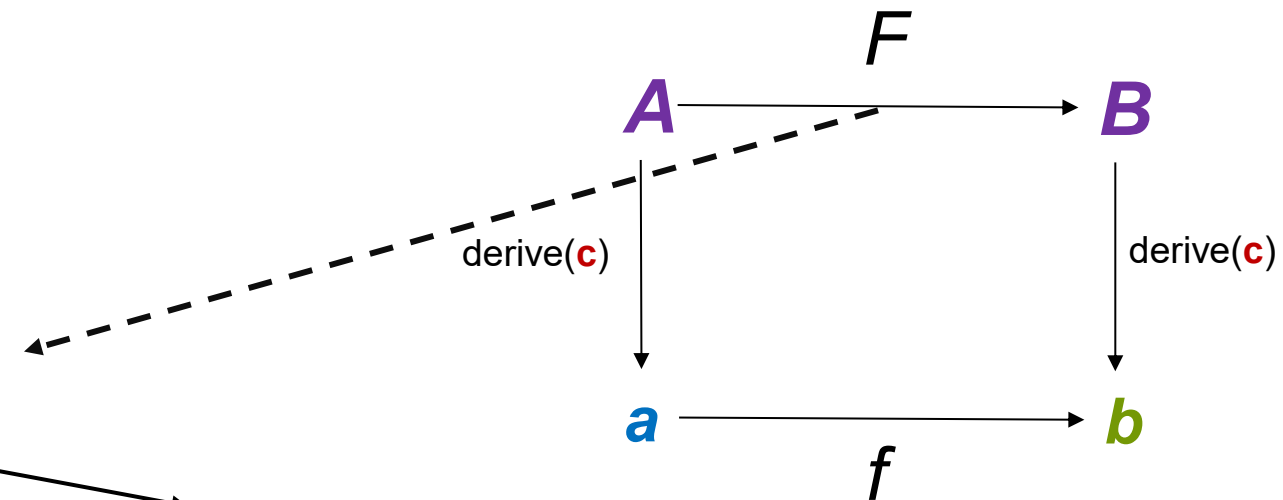
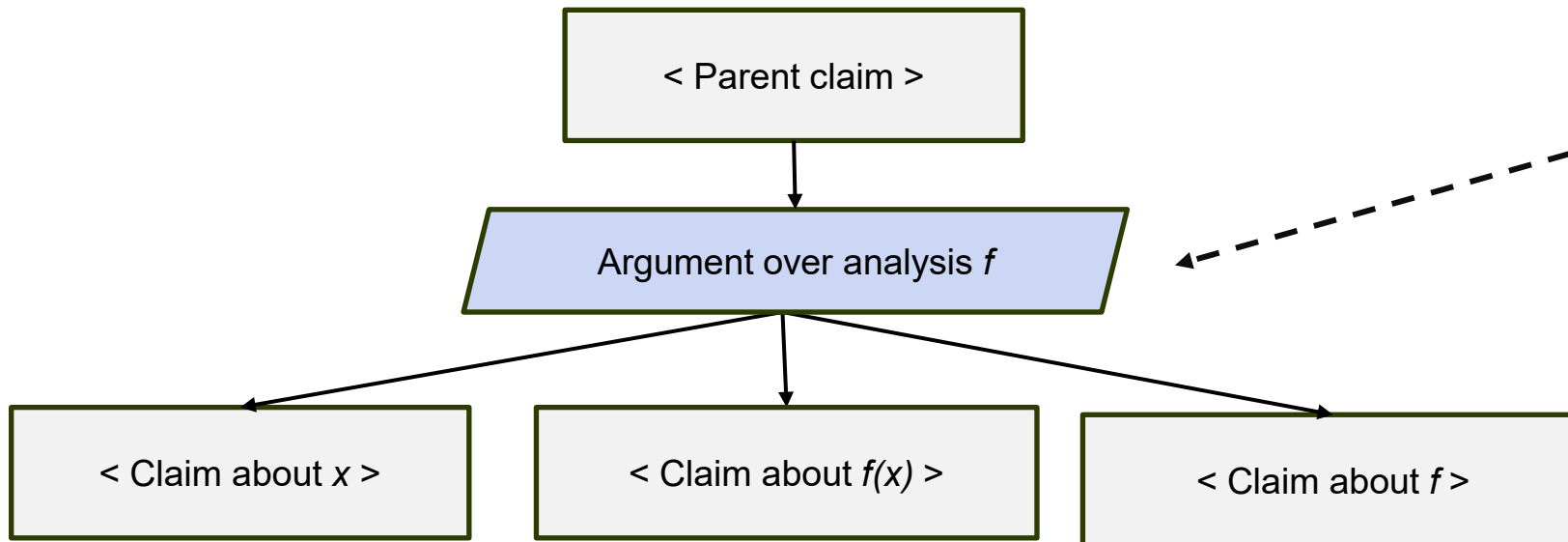
# Aside Continues:

## A long history of lifting analyses in my group

- Lifting transformations [ICSE'14, ICMT'15] and queries [VaMoS'23]
- Lifting analyses written in functional languages
  - Lifting Datalog [FSE'19, PADL'19, TSE'23]
  - Applications to GM controllers [MODELS'20, EMSE'23]
  - Lifting PCF+ [OOPSLA'20]
- Lifting change impact analysis and formally verifying correctness of lifting [SAFECOMP'21]
- Lifting software equivalence checking [SPLC'23a]

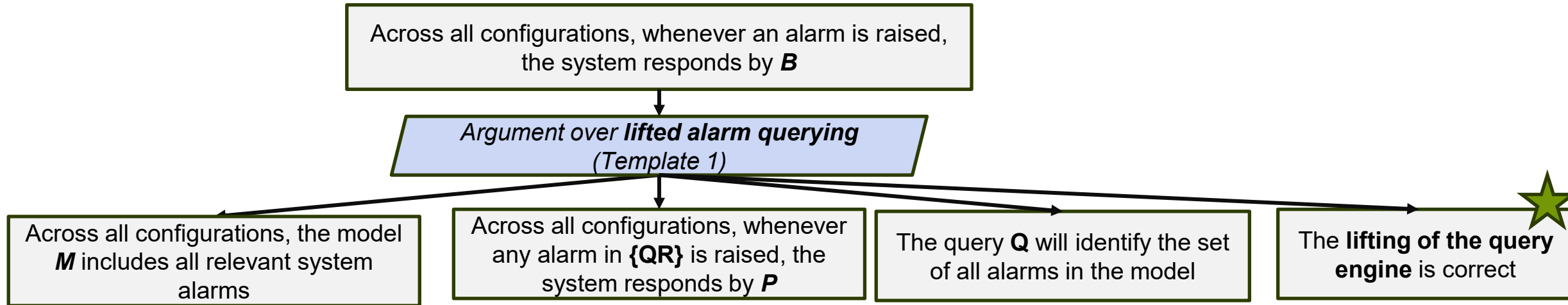
# Lifting Analytic Templates

**Idea:** Given an argument over  $f$ , can we use the same argument using a lift of  $f$ ?



# Lifted Analytic Argumentation

**Theorem:** For any analytic template over analysis  $f$ , if  $f$  is lifted as  $F$ , then replacing  $f$  with  $F$  preserves validity of the template.



Provided by developer

**B** : System Behaviour  
**Q** : Query Specification  
**M** : Product Line Model

Produced during instantiation

**{QR}** : **Lifted** Query Result  
(variational set)

If template is shown to be valid at product level, it is automatically valid at the product line level!!!!



# Main points

1. Assurance cases combine argument and evidence, allow to contextualize analysis and verification. Need to be reviewable
2. OTA updates yield product lines in time and space which need assuring
3. To assure product lines, reinterpret arguments and evidence to apply to sets of products
4. Assurance cases can be defined using analytic templates which can be lifted, preserving correctness, and composed

# ADAS -- Product Line Version

Representation of a *family* of vehicles with different configurations of ADAS features

## Features

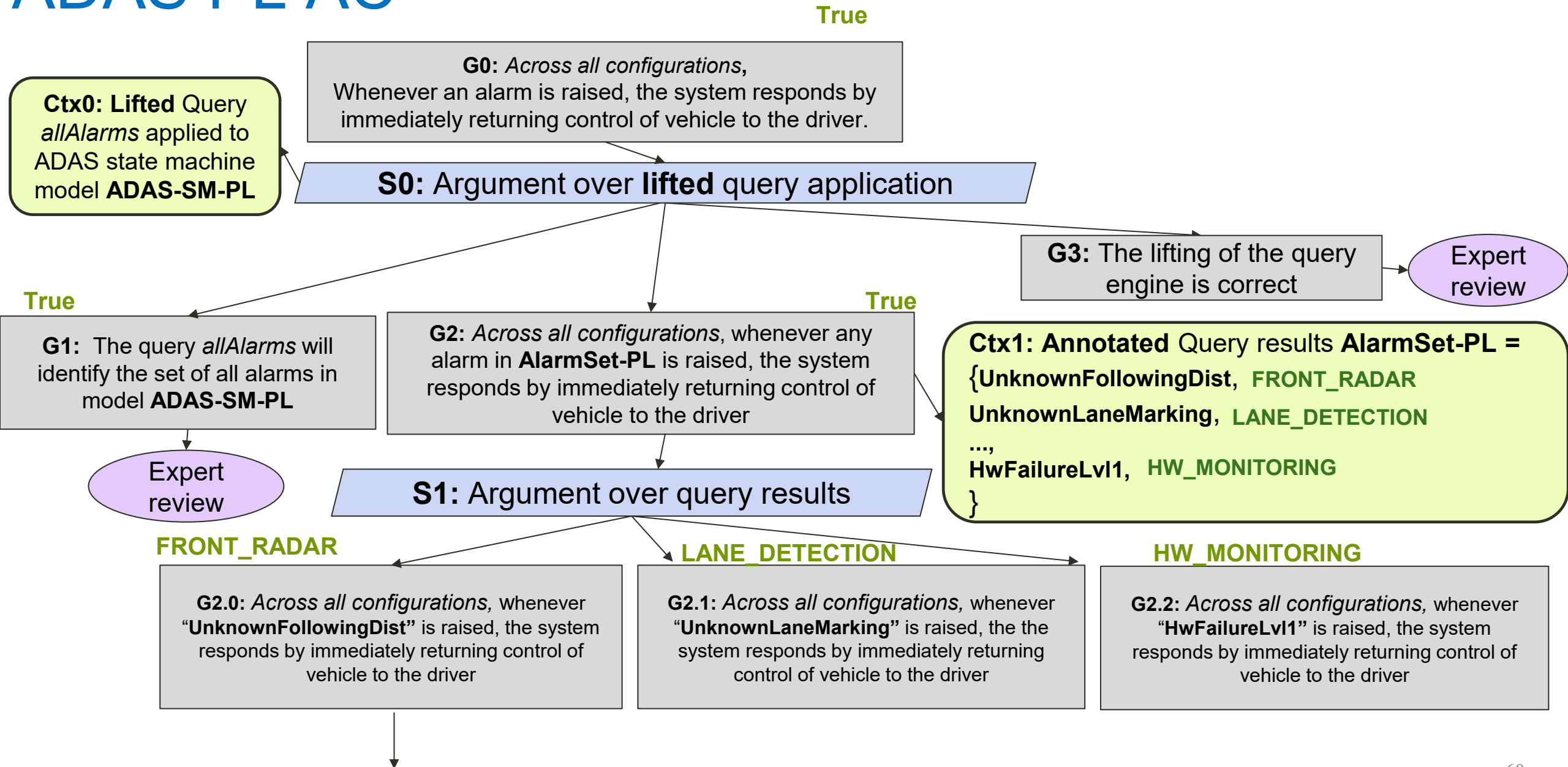
- HW\_MONITORING
- LANE\_DETECTION
- LANE\_CENTERING
- FRONT\_RADAR
- ALARM\_SYSTEM



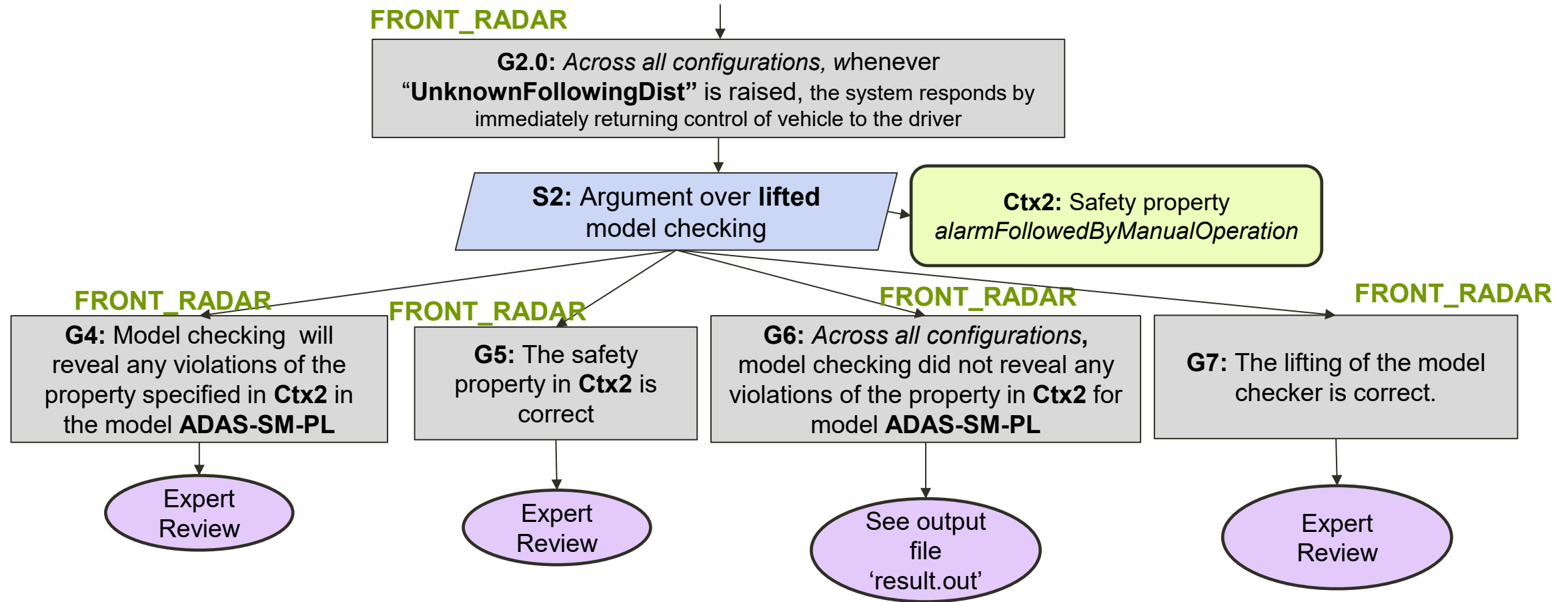
**Feature model:** HW\_MONITORING & (LANE\_CENTERING => (LANE\_DETECTION & ALARM\_SYSTEM))

State machine mode becomes annotated with presence conditions

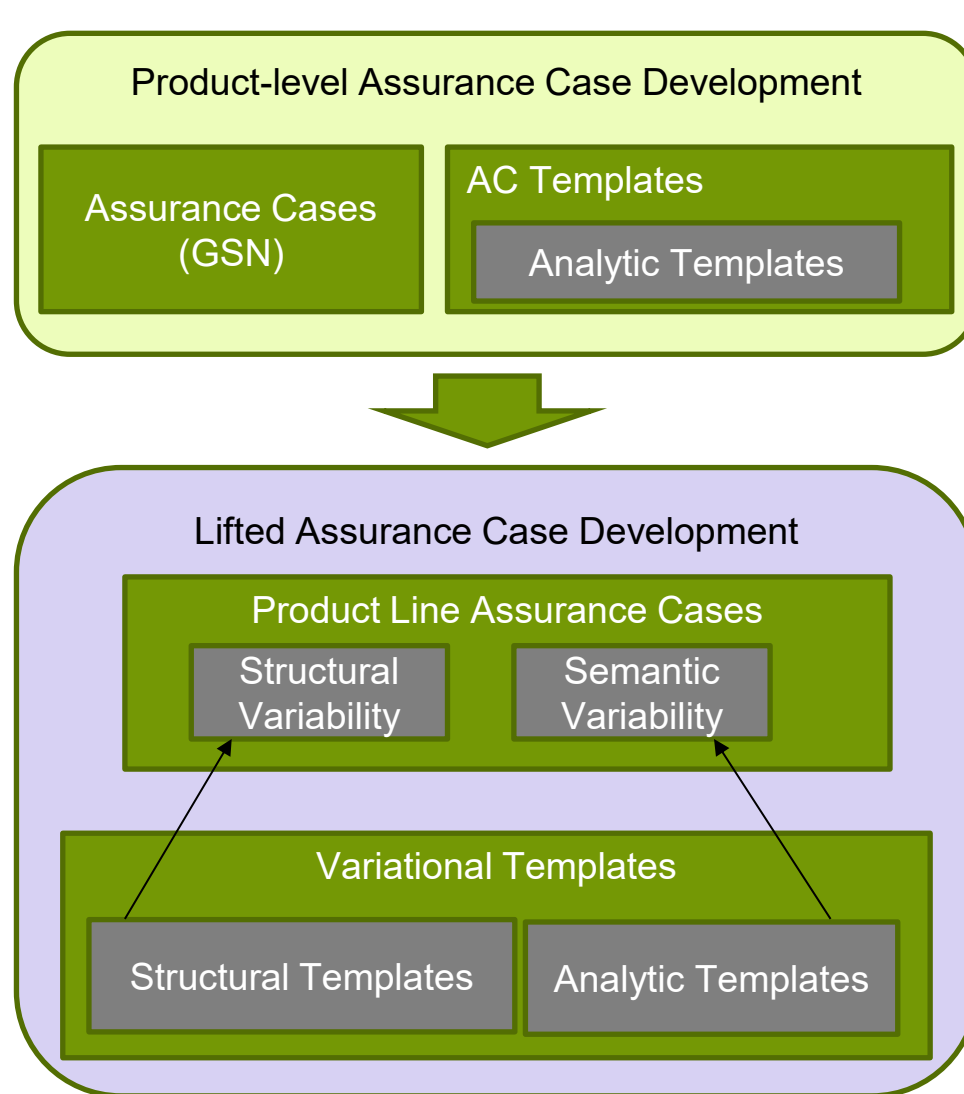
# ADAS PL AC



# ADAS PL AC



# Formal Foundations for Lifted AC Development



Formalized in

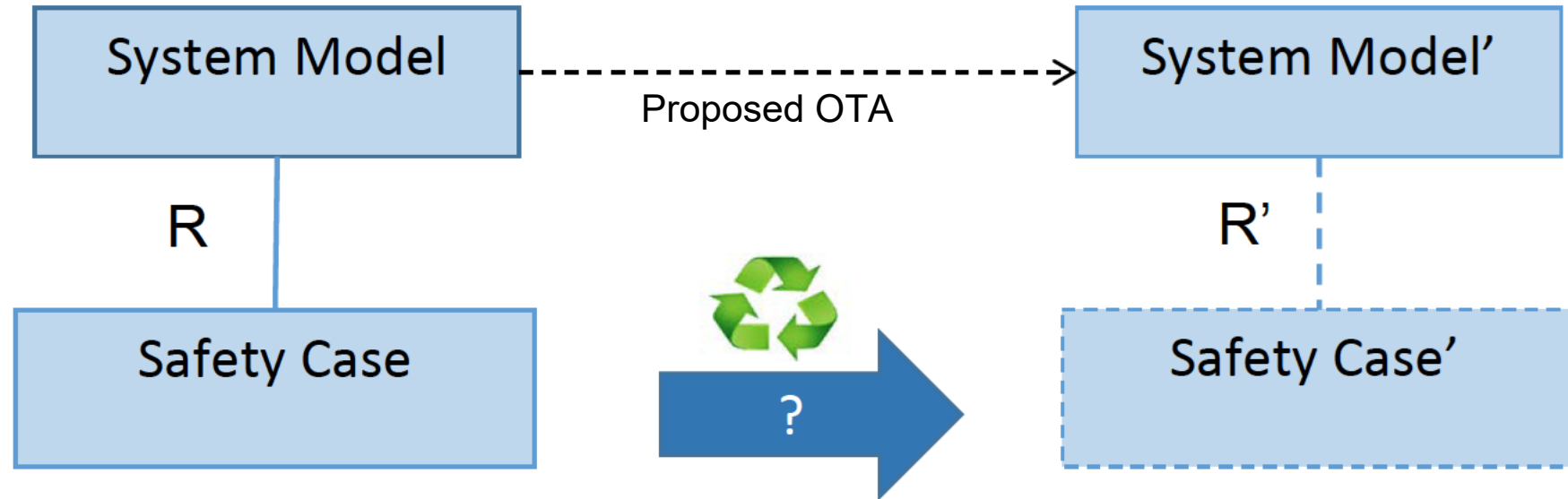
LEMN

- Verified soundness proofs
- Foundation for integrating theorem proving + lifted AC development

# Assuring Product Lines of Complex Systems -- Talk Plan

- Motivation and goals
- Background
  - Assurance
  - Product lines – variability in space and time
- Representation: Product Line Assurance Cases (PLAC)
- Development of PLACs
- **Assessing Change of PLACs**
- Tooling
- Summary and Next Steps

# Change Impact Assessment



**Problem:** Can we aid the safety engineer in constructing a safety case for an evolved system by reusing the components of the original safety case as *much* and as *soundly* as possible, thus reducing the overall revision cost incurred?

**Necessary step:** Impact assessment to identify how changes in the system affect the safety case.



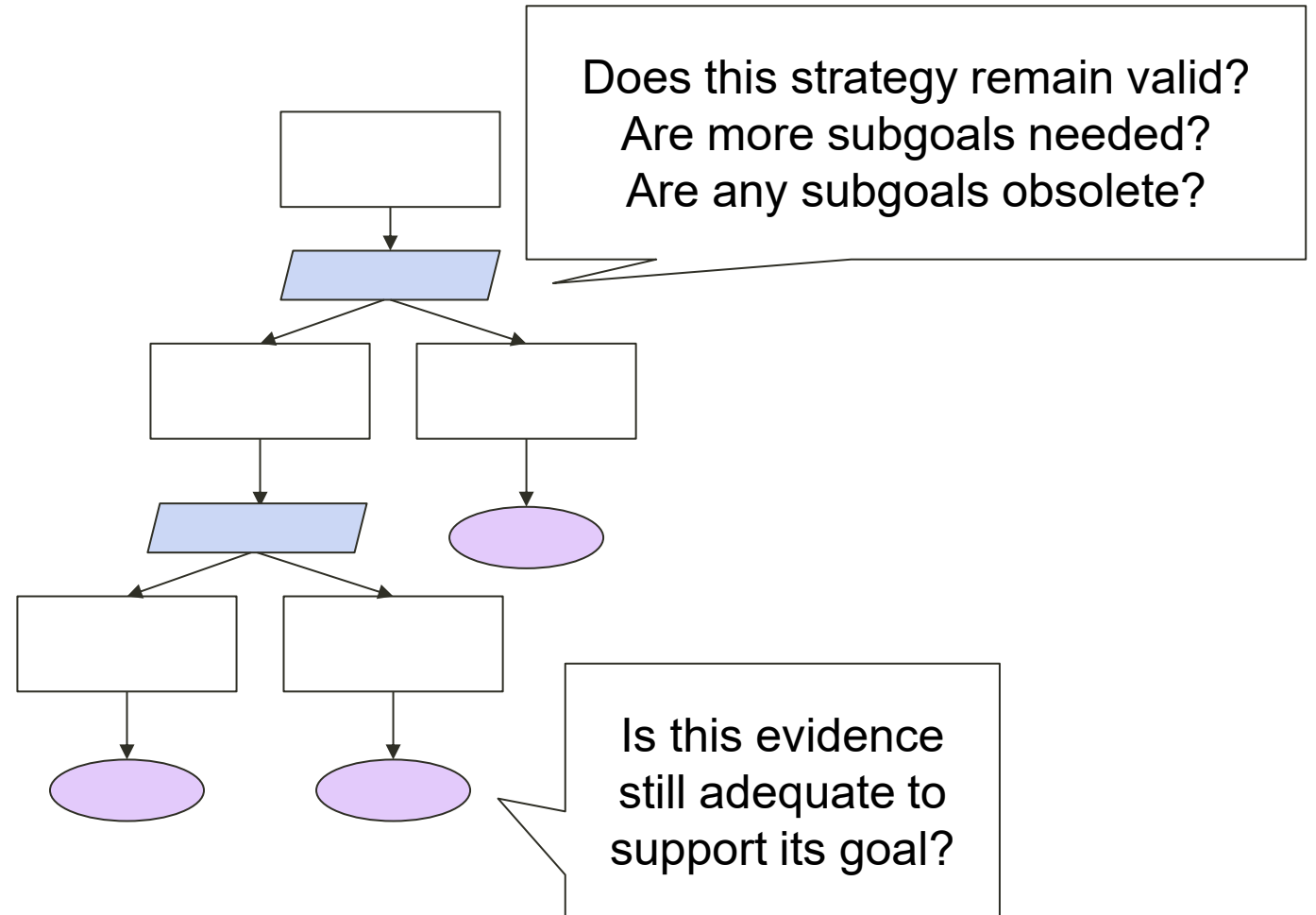
# Impact of Changes on Arguments and Evidence

## **Primary objective:**

determine which *goals* have/have not lost their assurance.

To do this, we need to determine impact on

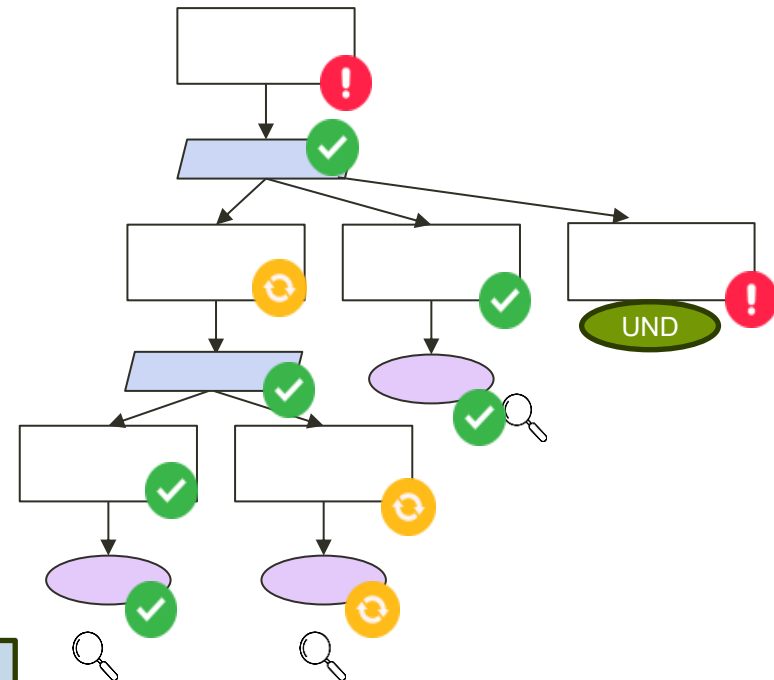
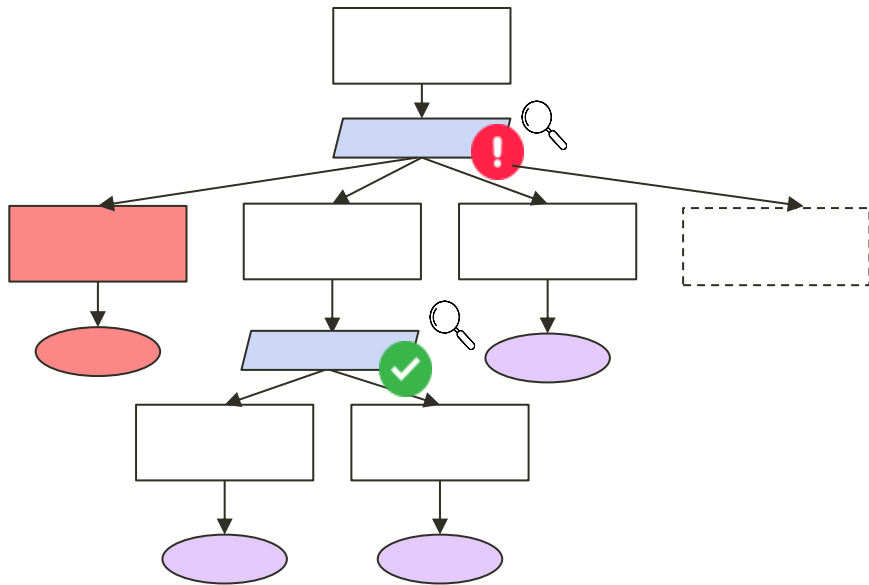
- evidence
- strategies



# Product-Based Impact Analysis

Stage 1 (Top-down): Check each strategy, identify goals which become obsolete, or new goals which are missing

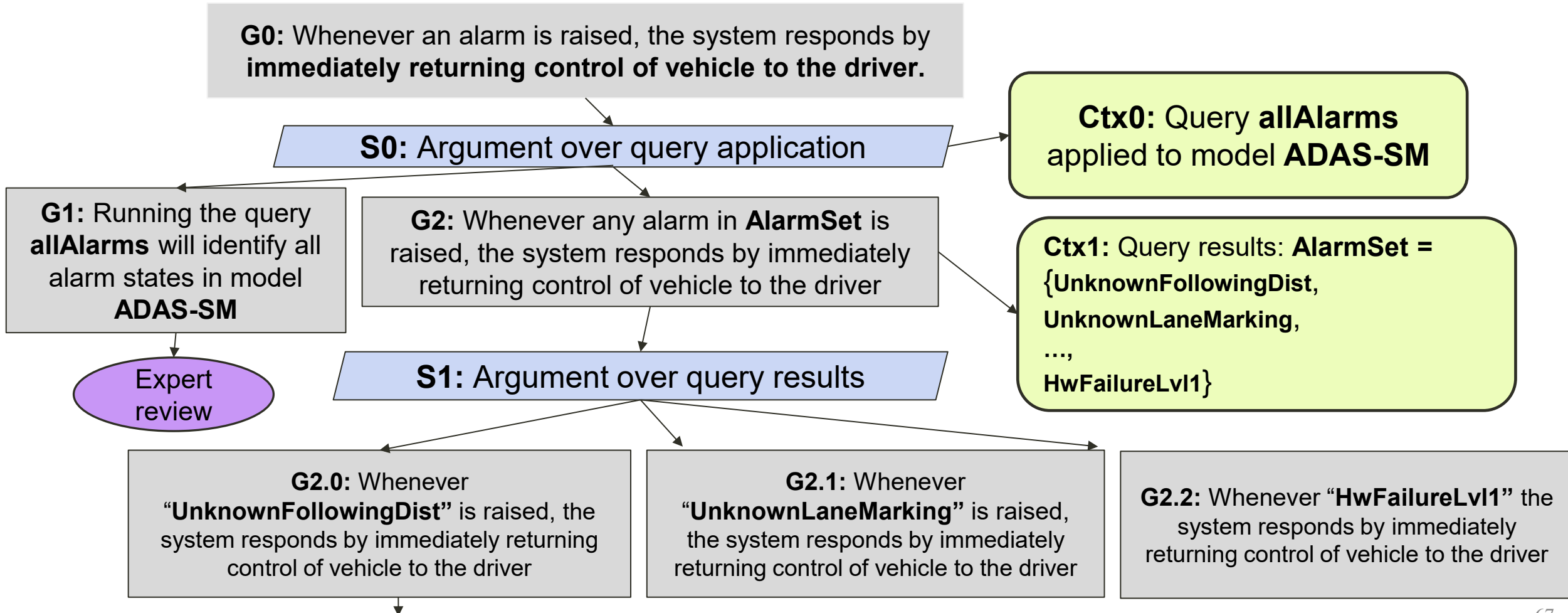
Stage 2 (Bottom-up): For each (non-obsolete) branch, determine the adequacy for each piece of evidence, and propagate the results back up through the AC



✓ Reuse    ⌛ Recheck    ! Revise

# ADAS Assurance Case

Re-run query to generate new set of results to compare against old results



# Stage 1: Top-down Impact

Re-run query to generate new set of results to compare against old results. Revise argument

Change:

-- ~~UnknownLaneMarking~~

++ SpeedLimitViolation



**G0:** Whenever an alarm is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver.

**S0:** Argument over query application ✓

**G1:** Running the query **allAlarms** will identify all alarm states model **ADAS-SM**

Expert review

**G2:** Whenever any alarm in **AlarmSet** is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

**S1:** Argument over query results !

**Ctx0:** Query **allAlarms** applied to **updated model ADAS-SM**

**Ctx1:** Updated AlarmSet = {**UnknownFollowingDist**, **UnknownLaneMarking**, ..., **HwFailureLvl1**, **SpeedLimitViolation**}

**G2.0:** Whenever "**UnknownFollowingDist**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

**G2.1:** Whenever "**UnknownLaneMarking**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

(Obsolete)

**G2.2:** Whenever "**HwFailureLvl1**" the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

**G2.3:** Whenever "**SpeedLimitViolation**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

(New!)



# Stage 1: Top-down Impact

Revise argument: obsolete alarm + missing new alarm

Change:

-- ~~UnknownLaneMarking~~

++ SpeedLimitViolation



**G0:** Whenever an alarm is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver.

**S0:** Argument over query application ✓

**G1:** Running the query **allAlarms** will identify all alarm states model **ADAS-SM**

Expert review

**G2:** Whenever any alarm in **AlarmSet** is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

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**G2.0:** Whenever "**UnknownFollowingDist**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

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**G2.3:** Whenever "**SpeedLimitViolation**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

(New!)

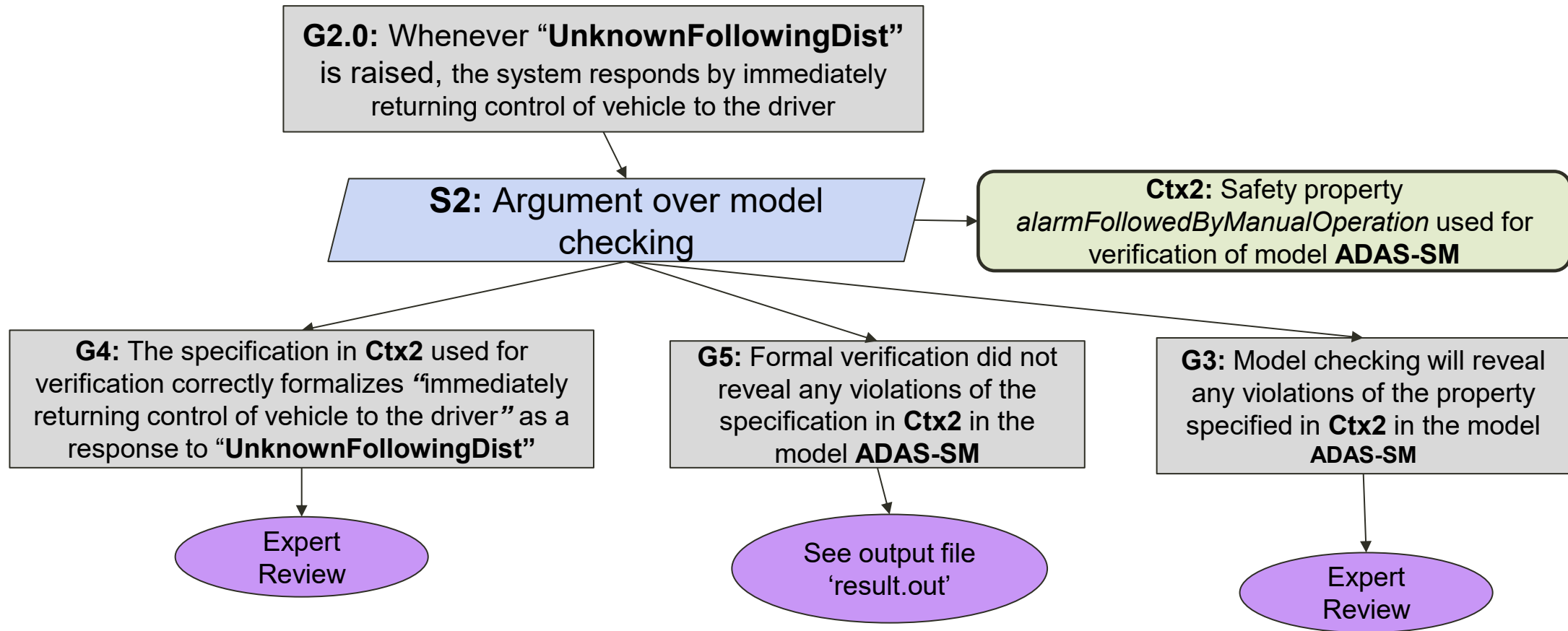
**Ctx0:** Query **allAlarms** applied to **updated model ADAS-SM**

**Ctx1:** Updated AlarmSet = {**UnknownFollowingDist**, ~~**UnknownLaneMarking**~~, ..., **HwFailureLv1**, **SpeedLimitViolation**}

# Stage 2: Bottom-up Impact

Recheck evidence (alternatively: use regression analysis)  
Reuse argument (reusable by design)

Change:  
-- **UnknownLaneMarking**  
++ **SpeedLimitViolation**



Tools exist for various kinds of evidence, e.g., testing [1] and model checking [2]

[1] Mora, Federico, et al. "Client-specific equivalence checking." *Proceedings of the 33rd ACM/IEEE International Conference on Automated Software Engineering*. 2018.

[2] Menghi, Claudio, et al. "TOrPEDO: witnessing model correctness with topological proofs." *Formal Aspects of Computing*. 2021.

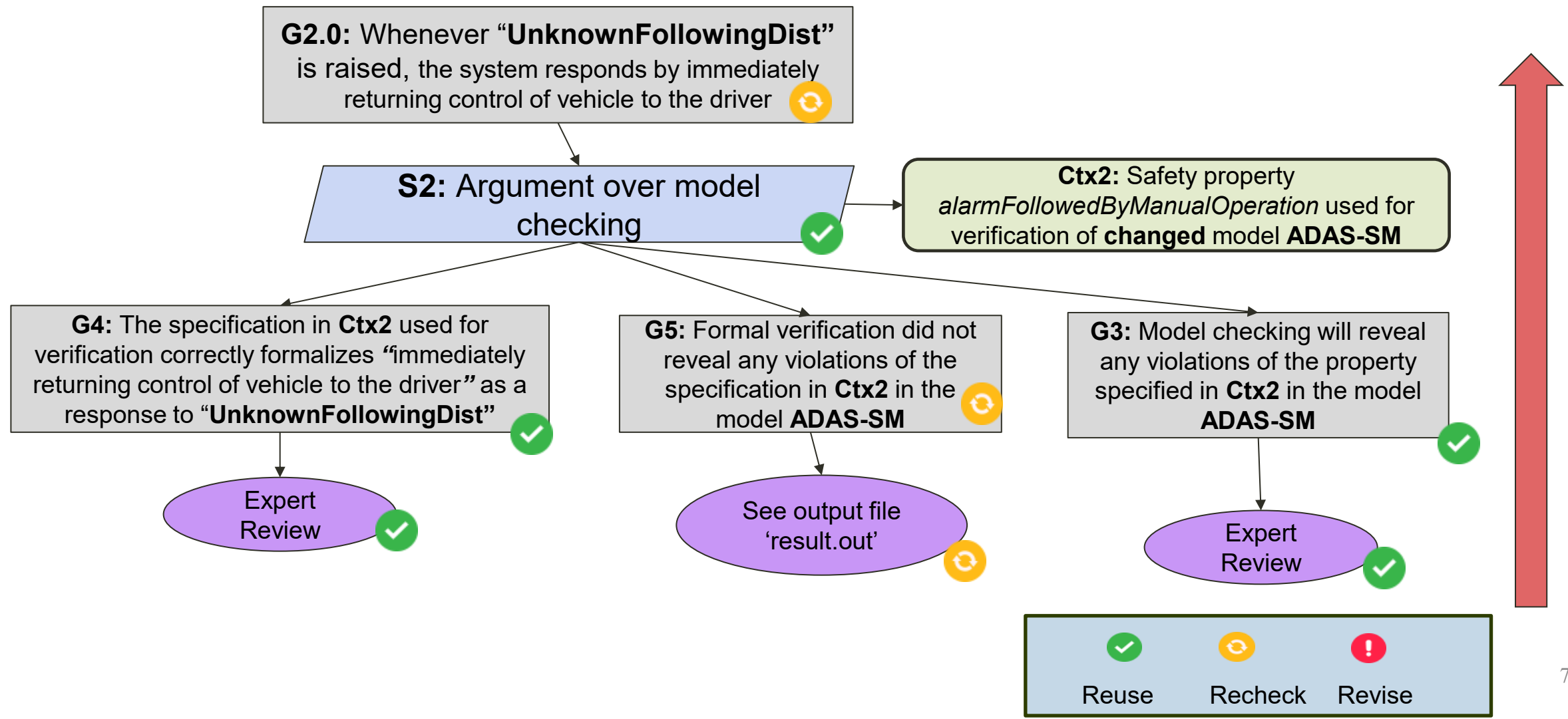
# Stage 2: Bottom-up Impact

Recheck evidence (alternatively: use regression analysis)  
Reuse argument (reusable by design)

Change:

-- **UnknownLaneMarking**

++ **SpeedLimitViolation**





# Stage 2: Bottom-up Impact

Propagate to the top

Change:

-- **UnknownLaneMarking**

++ **SpeedLimitViolation**



**G0:** Whenever an alarm is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver. !

**S0:** Argument over query application ✓

**G1:** Running the **allAlarms** will identify all alarm states in model **ADAS-SM** ✓

Expert review ✓

**G2:** Whenever any alarm in **AlarmSet** is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver !

**S1:** Argument over query results !

**G2.0:** Whenever "**UnknownFollowingDist**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver ⚡

**G2.2:** Whenever "**HwFailureLvl1**" the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver ✓

**G2.3:** Whenever "**SpeedLimitViolation**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver !

UND



# ADAS -- Product Line Version

Representation of a *family* of vehicles with different configurations of ADAS features

## Features

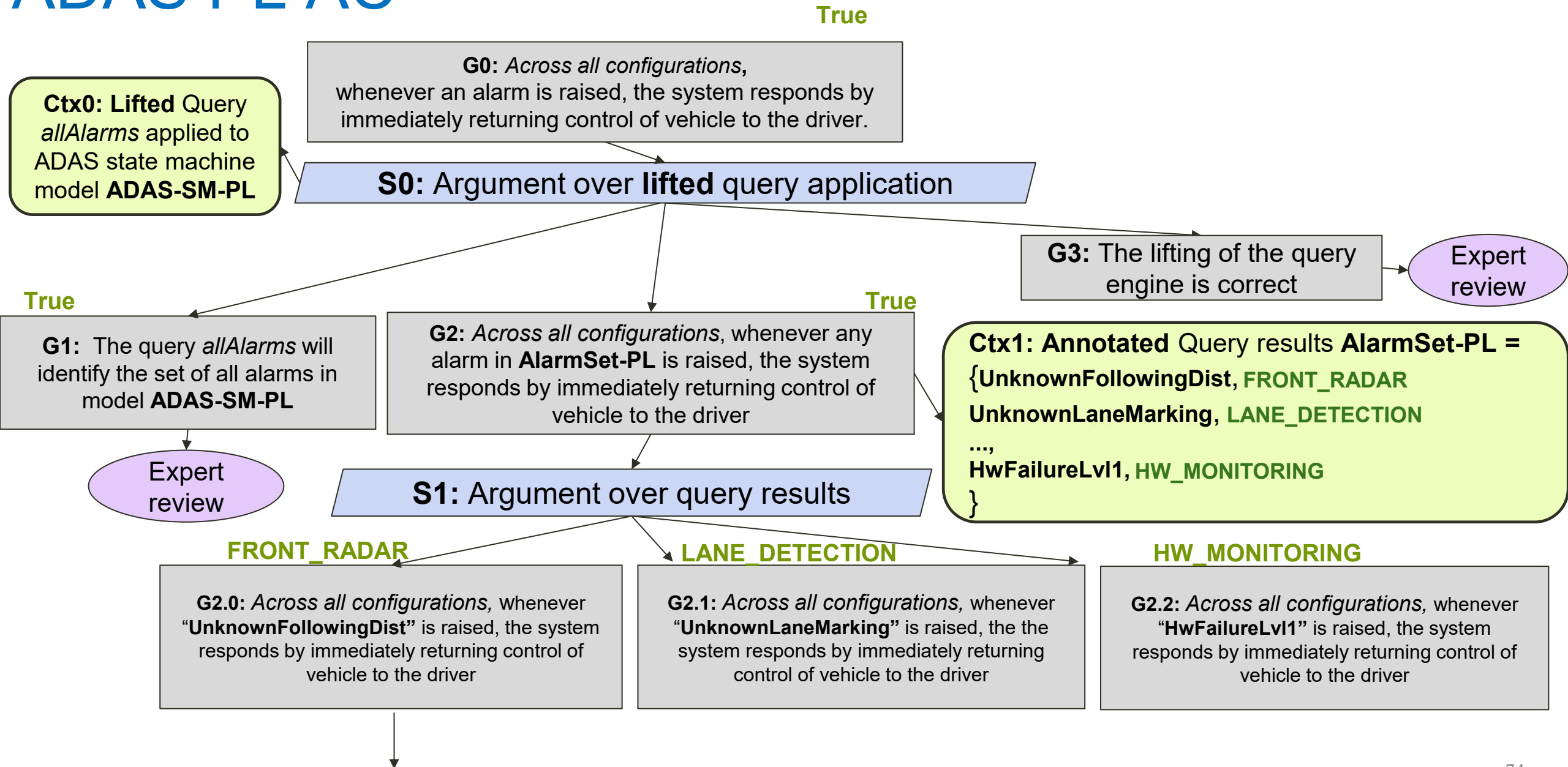
- HW\_MONITORING
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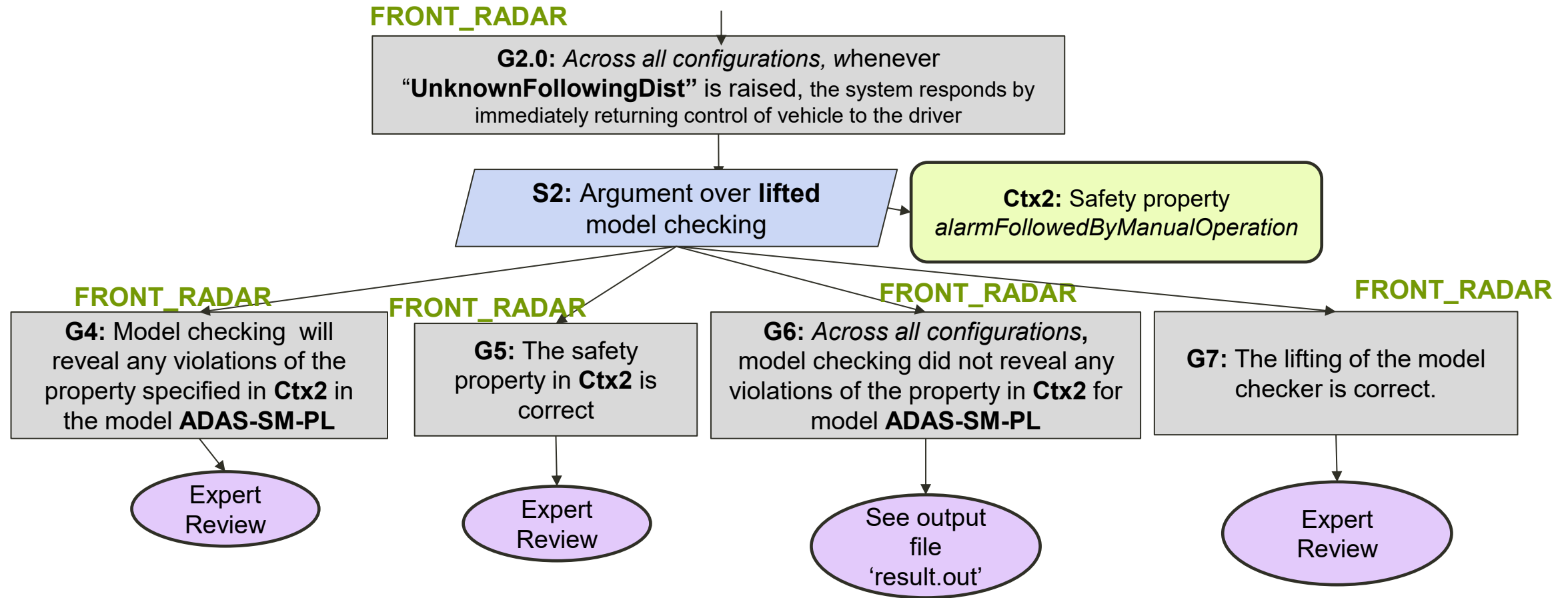
Feature model: **HW\_MONITORING & (LANE\_CENTERING => (LANE\_DETECTION & ALARM\_SYSTEM))**

State machine mode becomes annotated with presence conditions

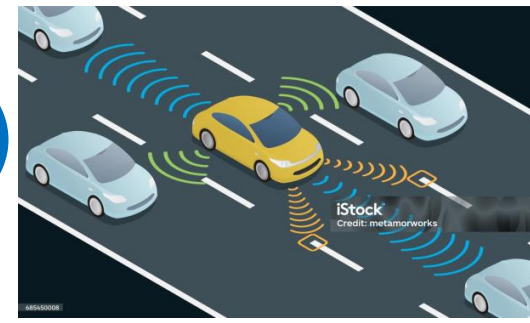
# ADAS PL AC



# ADAS PL AC



# Running Example (Product Line Changes)



**Recall:** two dimensions of change of product lines:

- **Structural dimension:** the 150% model and/or presence conditions are modified
- **Variability dimension:** the alphabet of features and/or feature model are modified.

ADAS product line changes:

**Structural Dimension:** Modification of an existing feature. New states added associated with the **ALARM\_SYSTEM** feature that allow users to view alarm history

**Variability Dimension:** Addition of new feature **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**

**Updated Feature model:** **HW\_MONITORING &**  
**(LANE\_CENTERING => (LANE\_DETECTION & ALARM\_SYSTEM)) &**  
**(ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL => (FRONT\_RADAR & ALARM\_SYSTEM))**

**Change:**

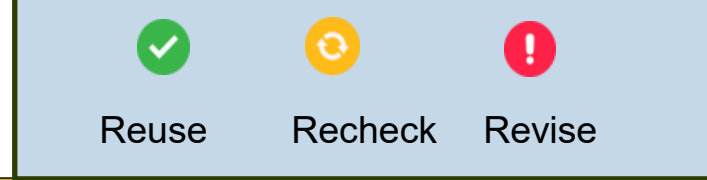
**\*\* Modify elements owned by feature **ALARM\_SYSTEM****

**++ New feature **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL****

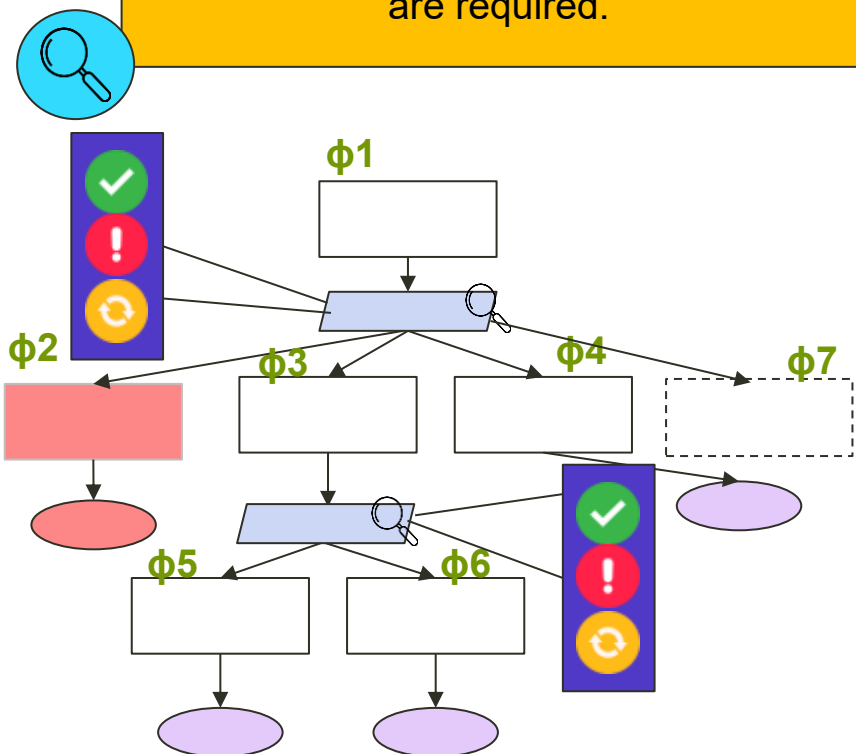
**++ New model elements for **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL****  
**(including new alarm)**



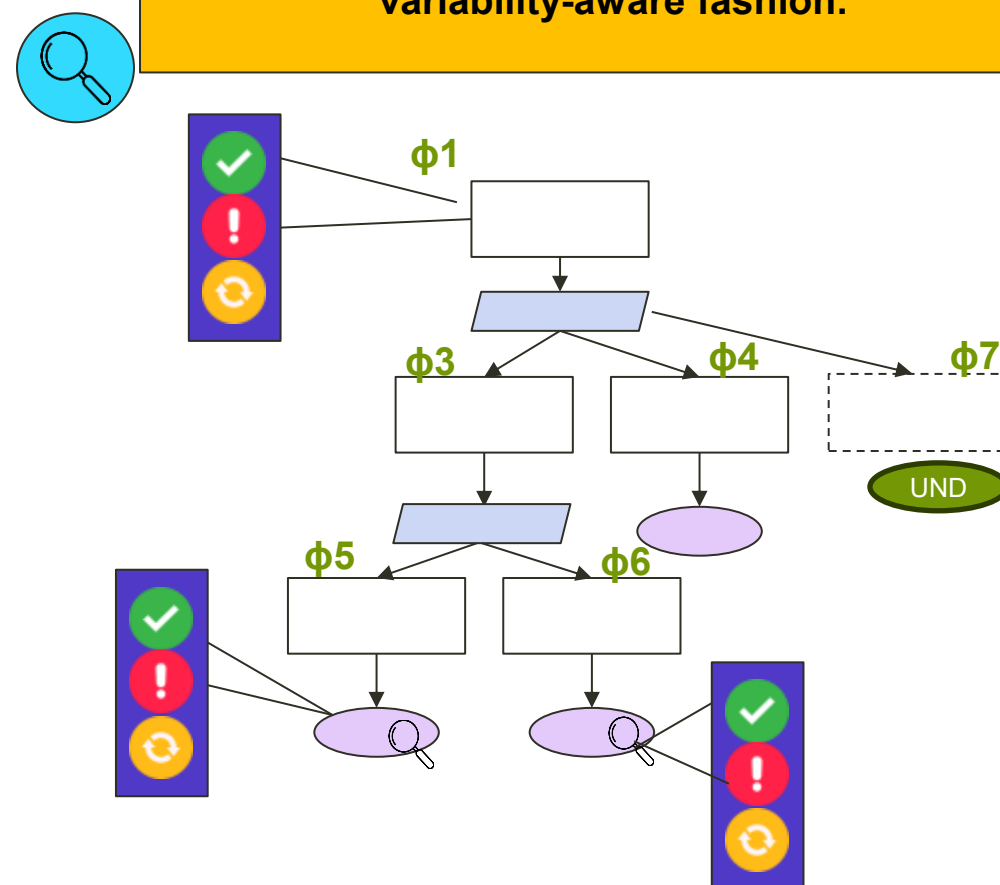
# Lifted Impact Analysis



Stage 1 (Top-down): For each strategy, identify **for which sets of products** any goals have become obsolete, and **for which sets of products** any new goals are required.



Stage 2 (Bottom-up): For each (non-obsolete) branch, determine the adequacy for each piece of evidence **across all relevant products**, and propagate the results back up through the AC in a **variability-aware fashion**.



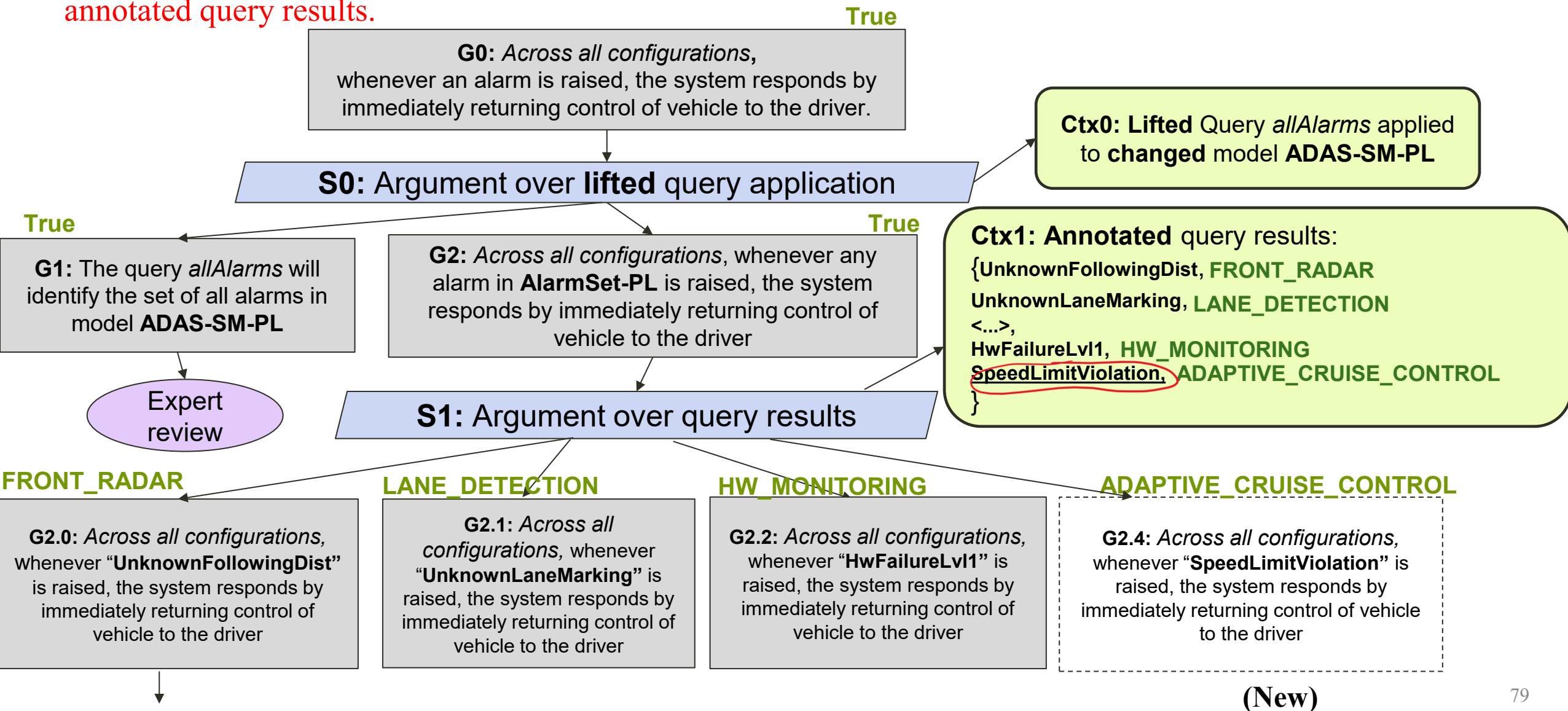
Each node gets all three values, with each value corresponding to *a set of products*, represented as a presence condition

# Stage 1: Top-Down Impact

Upon the change, rerun the **lifted** query to produce a set of annotated query results.

## Change:

\*\* Modify elements owned by feature **ALARM\_SYSTEM**  
++ New feature **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
++ New model elements for **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
(including new alarm)





# Stage 1: Top-Down Impact

## Change:

\*\* Modify elements owned by feature **ALARM\_SYSTEM**  
++ New feature **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
++ New model elements for **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
(including new alarm)



Revise argument

True

**G0:** Across all configurations, whenever an alarm is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver.

**S0:** Argument over **lifted** query application



Reflects the fact that we are now **missing** a subgoal for the new feature.

True

**G1:** The query *allAlarms* will identify the set of all alarms in model **ADAS-SM-PL**

True

**G2:** Across all configurations, whenever any alarm in **AlarmSet-PL** is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver



**! ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**



**ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**



**False**

Expert review

**S1:** Argument over query results

**FRONT\_RADAR**

**LANE\_DETECTION**

**HW\_MONITORING**

**ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**

**G2.0:** Across all configurations, whenever "**UnknownFollowingDist**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

**G2.1:** Across all configurations, whenever "**UnknownLaneMarking**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

**G2.2:** Across all configurations, whenever "**HwFailureLv1**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

**G2.4:** Across all configurations, whenever "**SpeedLimitViolation**" is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

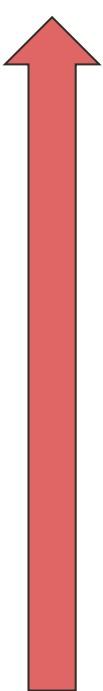
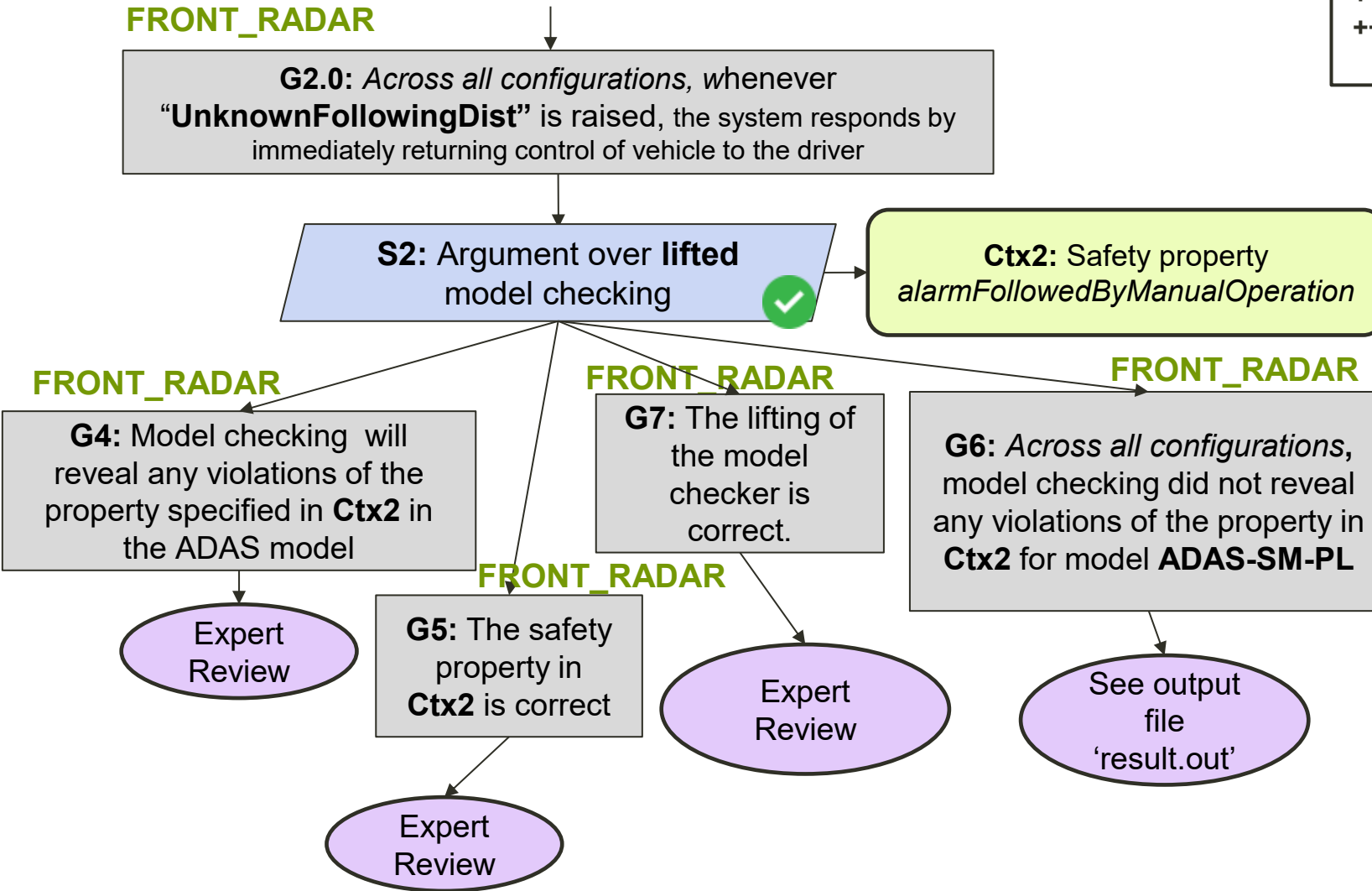
(New)

# Stage 2: Bottom-up Impact

Recheck evidence (alternative if available: **lifted** regression analysis, e.g., [3])

**FRONT\_RADAR**

**Change:**  
\*\* Modify elements owned by feature **ALARM\_SYSTEM**  
++ New feature **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
++ New model elements for **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL** (including new alarm)



[3] Wang, et al.. "Code-Level Functional Equivalence Checking of Annotative Software Product Lines." *SPLC* 2023.

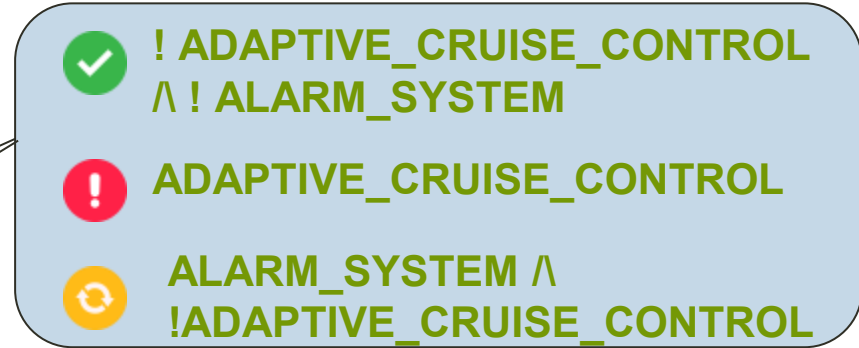


# Stage 2: Bottom-up Impact

Recheck evidence (alternative if available: **lifted** regression analysis, e.g., [3])

FRONT\_RADAR

**G2.0:** Across all configurations, whenever “**UnknownFollowingDist**” is raised, the system responds by immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver



**S2:** Argument over **lifted** model checking

**Ctx2:** Safety property  
*alarmFollowedByManualOperation*

Reflects the fact that

1. we have **no** evidence for configurations with the new feature,
2. evidence is **certainly** reusable for existing configurations which are not changed,
3. evidence is **possibly** reusable for existing configurations which are changed.

FRONT\_RADAR

**G4:** Model checking will reveal any violations of the property specified in **Ctx2** in the ADAS model

FRONT\_RADAR

**G7:** The lifting of the model checker is correct.

FRONT\_RADAR

**G6:** Across all configurations, model checking did not reveal any violations of the property in **Ctx2** for model **ADAS-SM-PL**

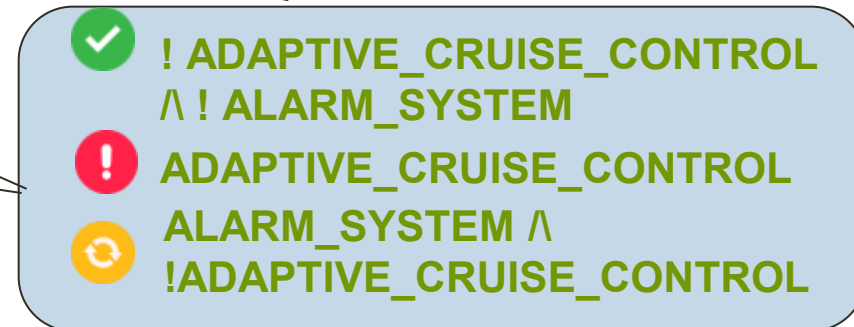
FRONT\_RADAR

**G5:** The safety property in **Ctx2** is correct

Expert Review

Expert Review

See output file 'result.out'



# Stage 2: Bottom-up Impact

Need to compose impact results of subgoals and strategy

The impact result produced for leaves subsumes the impact result for the strategy

Change:

\*\* Modify elements owned by feature **ALARM\_SYSTEM**

++ New feature **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**

++ New model elements for **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
(including new alarm)



TRUE

**G0:** Across all configurations,  
whenever an alarm is raised, the system responds by  
immediately returning control of vehicle to the driver

**S0:** Argument over lifted query application

**G1:** The query *allAlarms* will  
identify the set of all alarms  
in model **ADAS-SM-PL**

Expert  
review

**G2:** Across all configurations, whenever  
any alarm in **AlarmSet-PL** is raised, the  
system responds by immediately  
returning control of vehicle to the driver

**S1:** Argument over query results

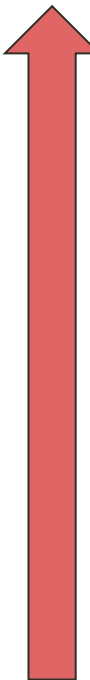
**FRONT\_RADAR**

**G2.0:** Across all configurations, whenever  
"UnknownFollowingDist" is raised, the  
system responds by immediately returning  
control of vehicle to the driver

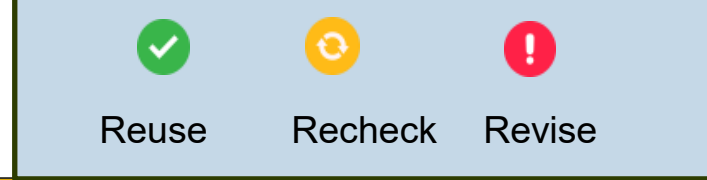
✓ **! ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
**∧ ! ALARM\_SYSTEM**  
! **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
⌚ **ALARM\_SYSTEM ∧**  
**!ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**

✓ **! ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
! **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
⌚ **False**

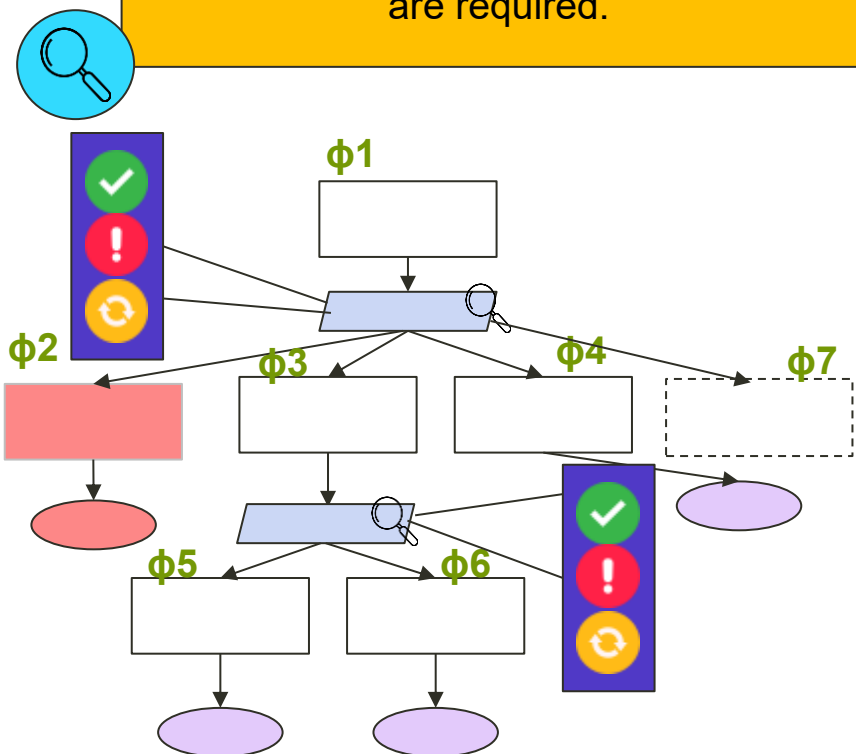
✓ **! ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
**∧ ! ALARM\_SYSTEM**  
! **ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**  
⌚ **ALARM\_SYSTEM ∧**  
**!ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL**



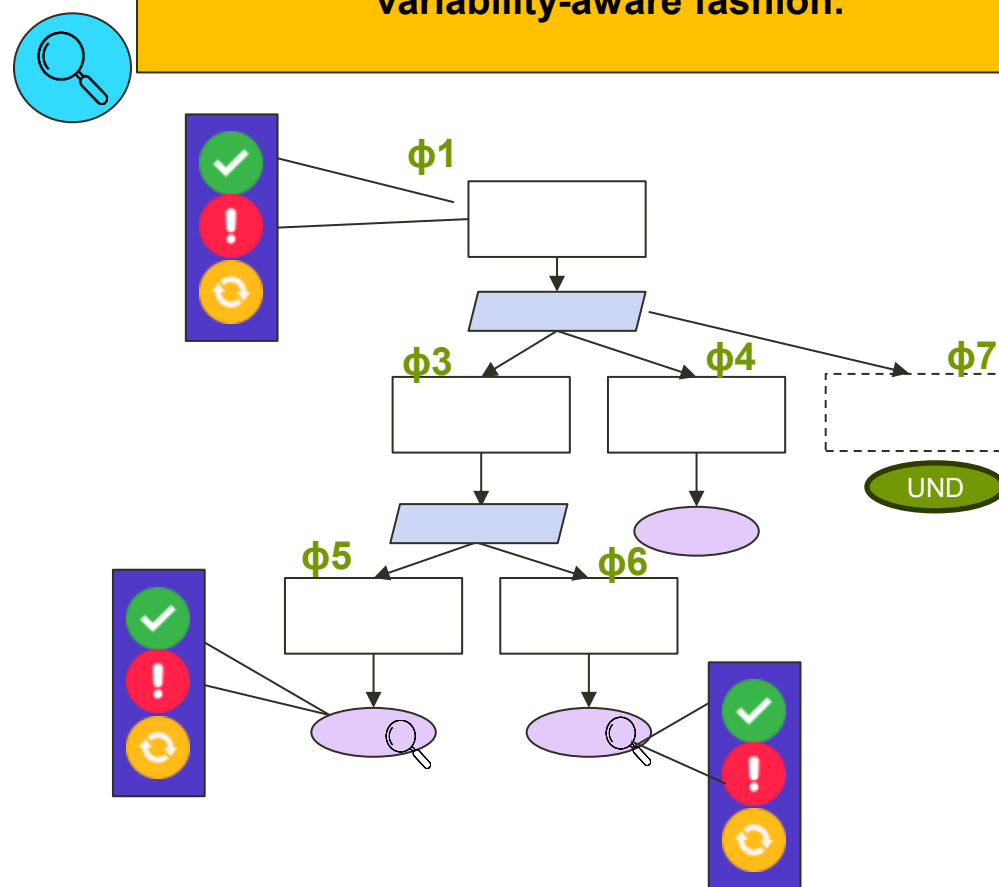
# Lifted Impact Analysis



Stage 1 (Top-down): For each strategy, identify **for which sets of products** any goals have become obsolete, and **for which sets of products** any new goals are required.



Stage 2 (Bottom-up): For each (non-obsolete) branch, determine the adequacy for each piece of evidence **across all relevant products**, and propagate the results back up through the AC in a **variability-aware fashion**.



Each node gets all three values, with each value corresponding to *a set of products*, represented as a presence condition

# Main points

1. Assurance cases combine argument and evidence, allow to contextualize analysis and verification. Need to be reviewable
2. OTA updates yield product lines in time and space which need assuring
3. To assure product lines, reinterpret arguments and evidence to apply to sets of products
4. Assurance cases can be defined using analytic templates which can be lifted, preserving correctness, and composed
5. Change impact analysis can be lifted by associating each AC element with sets of products where it can be reused, rechecked and revised



!ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL  
^ ! ALARM\_SYSTEM



ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL



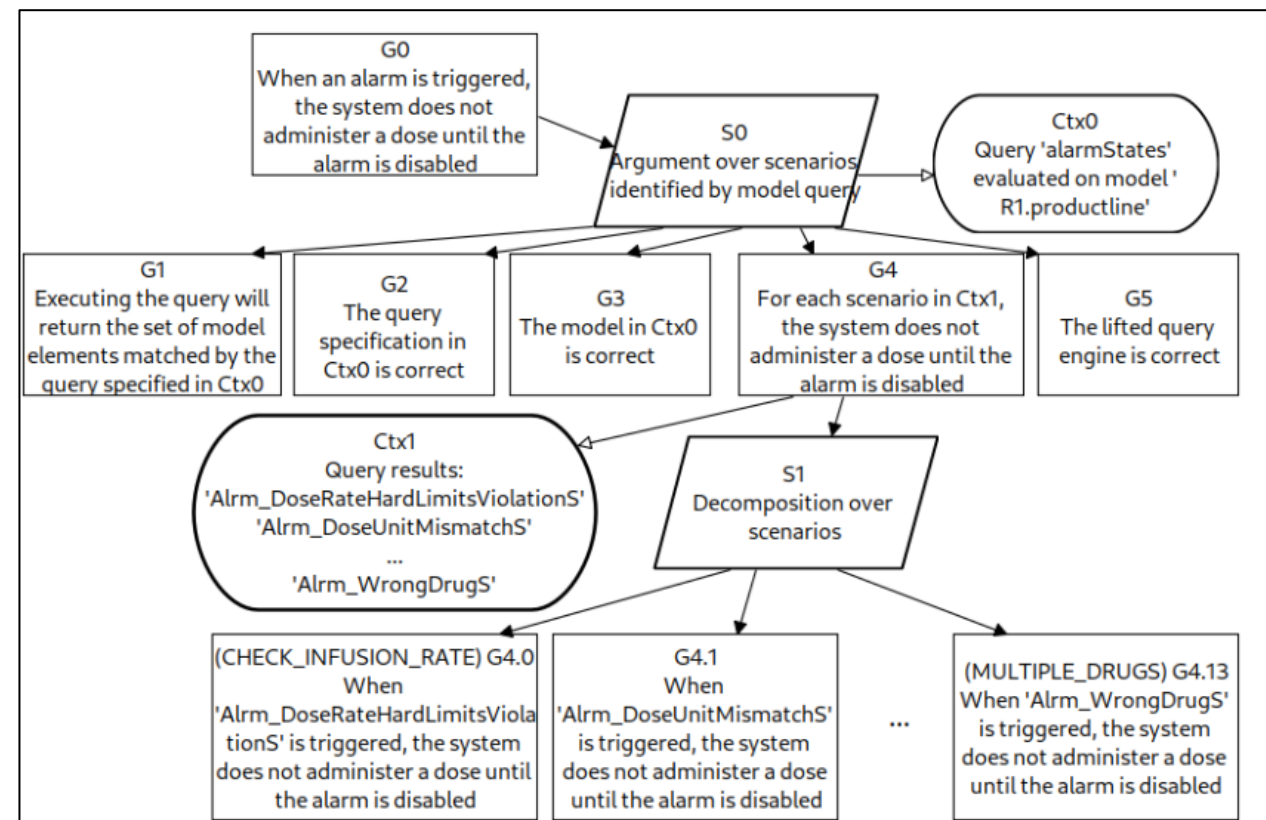
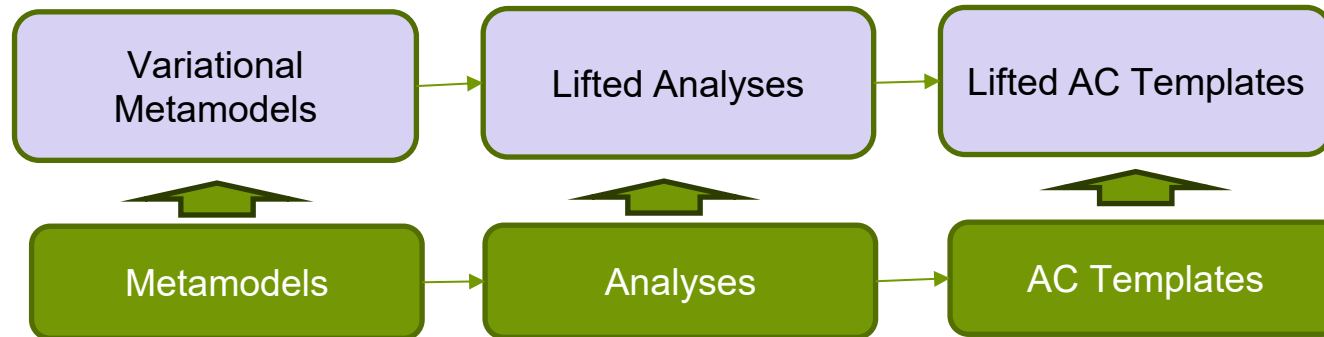
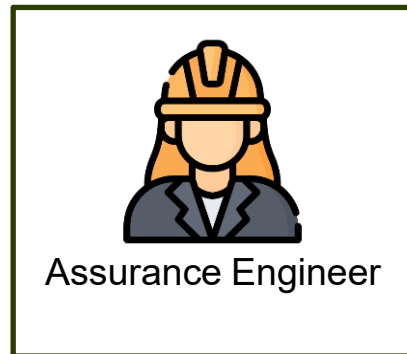
ALARM\_SYSTEM ^  
!ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL

# Assuring Product Lines of Complex Systems -- Talk Plan

- Motivation
- Background
  - Assurance
  - Product lines – variability in space and time
- Modeling
  - Variability
  - Product Line Assurance Cases
- Assuring Product Lines
- Assessing Change
- Tooling
- Summary and Next Steps

# Tooling: MMINT-A/PL

## Extension of MMINT-A: A Tool for Model-Based Assurance Cases

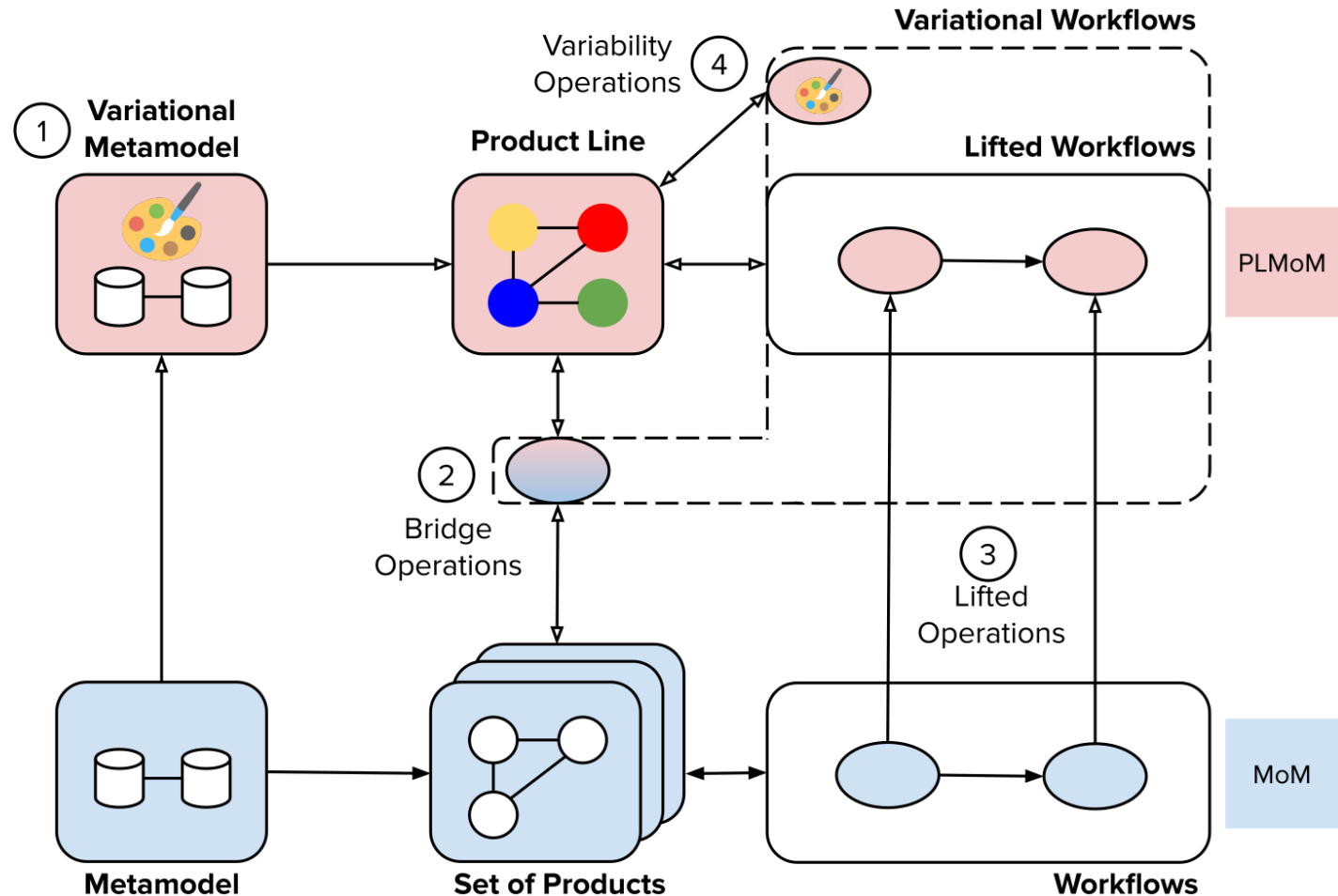




# Aside: Product vs. PL Management Framework

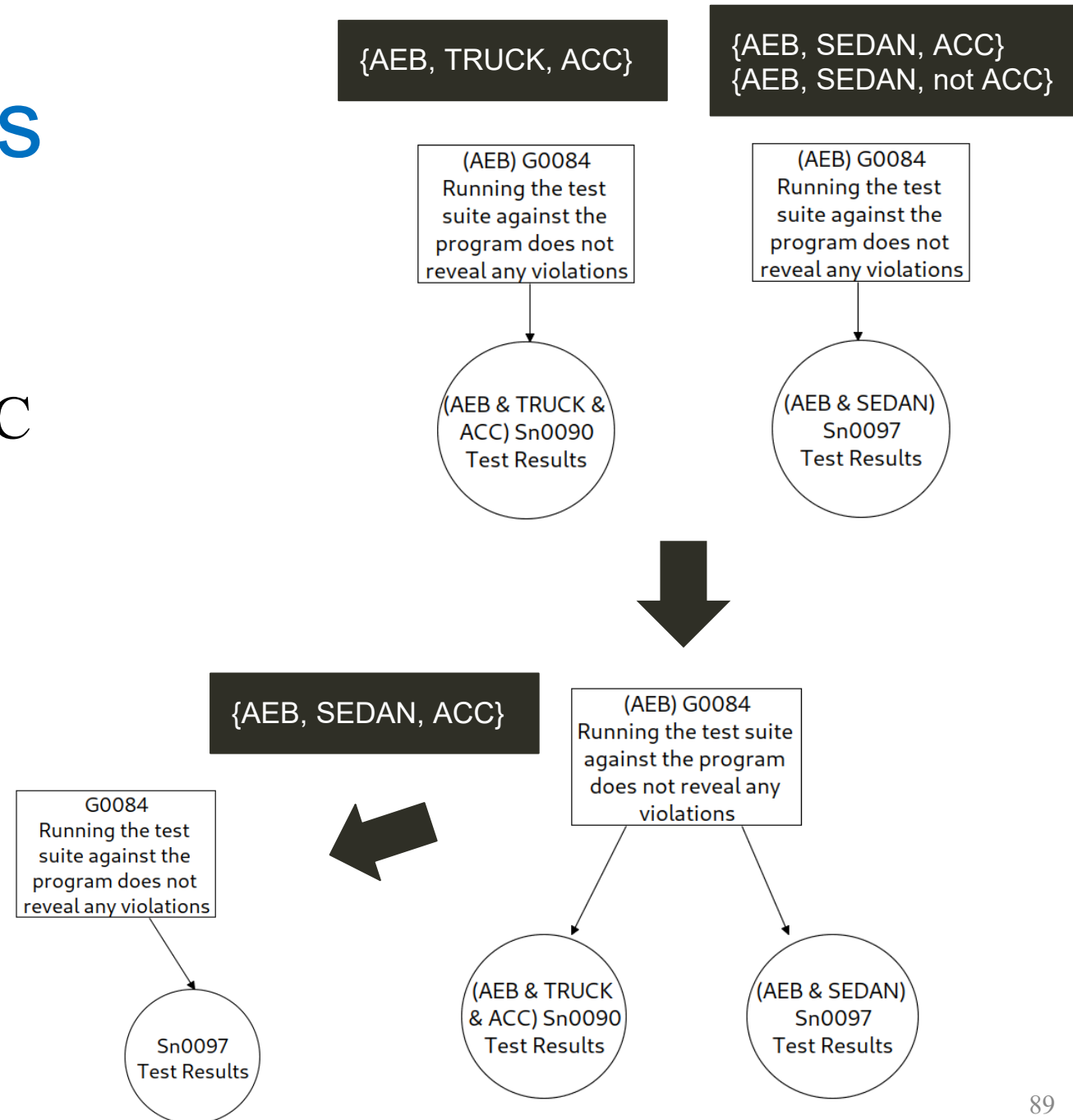
## Components:

1. Define variability
2. Switch between product and PL levels (“bridge”)
3. Lift product operations to PL (“lift”)
4. Perform PL-specific operations (“variability” operators)



# Supported Operations

- Create PL AC
- Merge product ACs into PL AC
- Instantiate product AC from PL AC
- Validate AC and PL AC
- Describe change
- Perform change impact analysis





# Supported Analyses

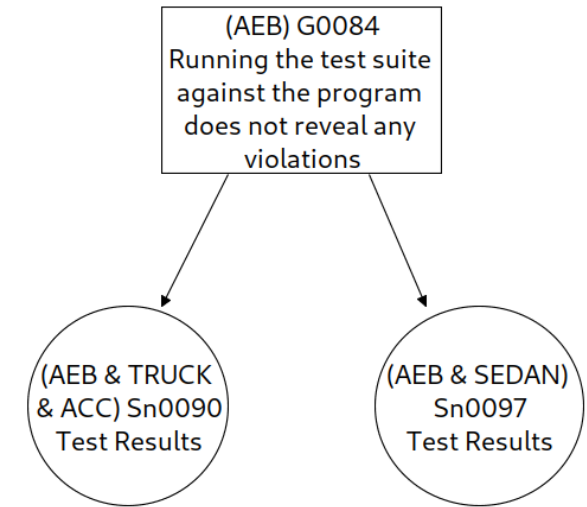
Testing, FTA, model-checking, query-checking  
(VQL query language)

Lifted from product- to product-line level

MMINT-A/PL tool prototype:

<https://github.com/adisandro/MMINT#mmint-pl>

```
17 pattern unsupportedGoals(goal: Goal) {  
18   0 == count Goal.supportedBy(goal, _);  
19 }
```



## Lifted version

```
count = 1 {AEB, TRUCK, ACC}  
count = 0 {AEB, TRUCK, not ACC}  
count = 1 {AEB, SEDAN, ACC}  
count = 1 {AEB, SEDAN, not ACC}  
Goal G84 is unsupported
```

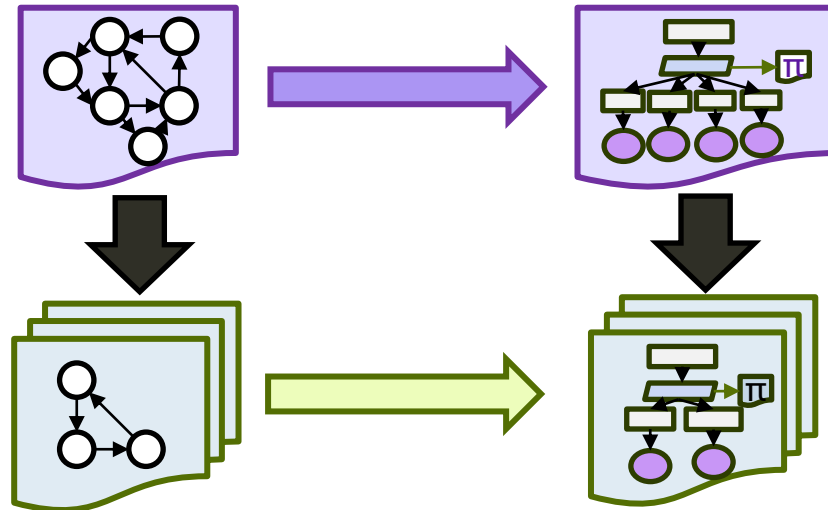
# Assuring Product Lines of Complex Systems -- Talk Plan

- Motivation
- Background
  - Assurance
  - Product lines – variability in space and time
- Modeling
  - Variability
  - Product Line Assurance Cases
- Assuring Product Lines
- Assessing Change
- Tooling
- **Summary, Other Work, Next Steps**

# SUMMARY

**Problem:** How do we know whether an entire product line is suitable for deployment?

How do we create a rigorous assurance case for an entire product line **without resorting to product-level work**?



A general methodology for lifted AC development (PLACIDUS) with a rigorous formalization of variational GSN + lifting of argument templates

# Key Insights

1. Assurance cases combine argument and evidence, allow to contextualize analysis and verification. Need to be reviewable
2. OTA updates yield product lines in time and space which need assuring
3. To assure product lines, reinterpret arguments and evidence to apply to sets of products
4. Assurance cases can be defined using analytic templates which can be lifted, preserving correctness, and composed
5. Change impact analysis can be lifted by associating each AC element with sets of products where it can be reused, rechecked and revised



!ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL  
^ ! ALARM\_SYSTEM



ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL



ALARM\_SYSTEM ^  
!ADAPTIVE\_CRUISE\_CONTROL

# One More Insight

6. The process requires a collaboration of individuals with different expertise:



Assurance Engineering  
Management  
(requirements for  
assurance process,  
guidelines on types of  
arguments / evidence  
generation to be used)



Product Line Expert  
(modeling, domain  
expertise)



Assurance Engineer  
(safety expertise)



Formal Methods Expert  
(template setup and validation)

# Challenges of OTA Assurance for Safety-Critical Product Lines

OTA update

Aim to use the notion of product lines to represent variability in space (different configurations) and time (different updates) and assure them together

Existing software configurations

How to verify the update?  
How to assure the update?  
How to test the update?

What information to keep about each feature?  
What information to keep about the entire configuration?

so that

Existing software configurations + OTA update

... is safe for each configuration  
... does not fail in each configuration

What can be proven? How can potential failures be avoided at runtime?

# Current and Future Work

- Large scale assurance case development
- Testing for OTA
- Repair of argument, evidence, contracts
- Use of Gen AI for assurance case development and validation
- Static vs. dynamic assurance cases for product lines

Lots more questions – always looking for collaborators!



# Acknowledgements



**Logan Murphy**, Torin Viger, Ali Raeisdanaei, Aren Babikian, Alessio Di Sandro, Prof. Claudio Menghi (Bergamo), Dr. Sahar Kokaly (General Motors), Dr. Ramesh S. (General Motors)

NSERC and General Motors funded this work



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Modeling and verification group



# Questions?



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