



Data-Driven Approach to Accelerate Coverage Closure on Highly Configurable ASIC Designs

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Po-Shao Cheng, Anton Tschank

Tessent Embedded Analytics – Siemens

SIEMENS



Agenda

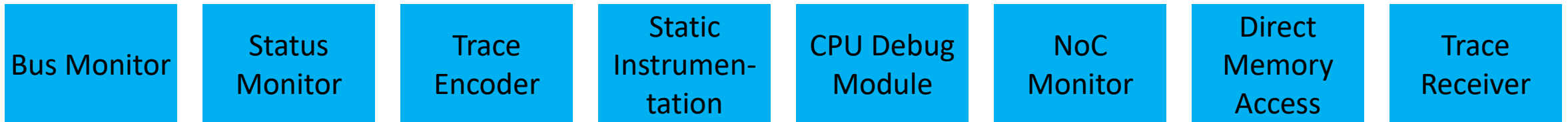
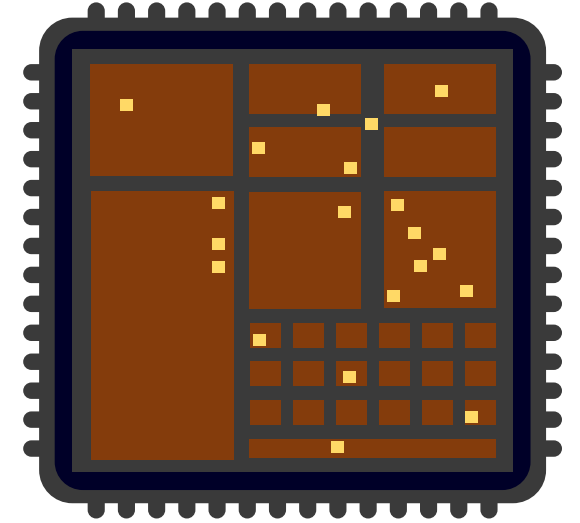
1. Introduction – Tessent Embedded Analytics
2. Challenges of Working with Highly Configurable IPs
3. Requirement Management and Verification Planning
4. Structure for Effective Regressions
5. Accumulated Coverage Structure
6. Traffic Light System & Unreachability
7. Real-time and Interactive Dashboards
8. Early Bug Detection – Conclusion

Tessent Embedded Analytics functional monitoring

Observing non-intrusively if your SoC behaves as it was meant to

Full visibility into HW/SW interactions in deployed systems enabling optimizations and debugging throughout the entire system lifecycle from lab to deployment

- Real-time debug and trace environment
- Optimize software to achieve better performance and efficiency
- Use historical performance data to inform designs of next generation designs

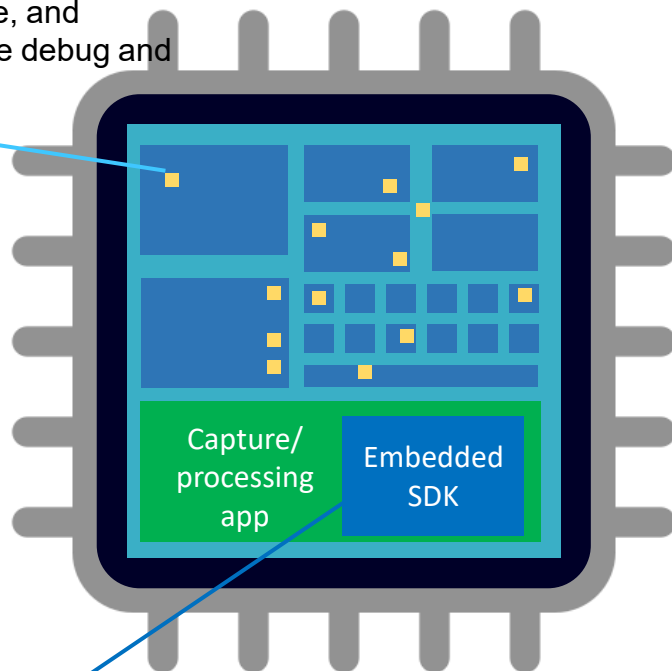


Introduction – Tessent Embedded Analytics

1

Smart monitors

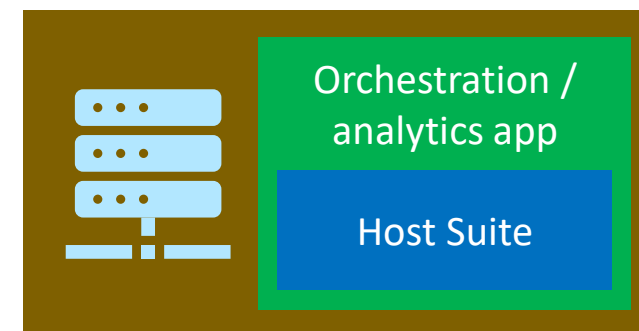
Range of ~40 IP blocks including run-time configurable monitors, infrastructure, and interfaces that enables non-intrusive debug and performance monitoring



2

Software for interactive debug and optimization

Debug software running on a separate PC is used to interact with the EA smart monitors



3

Edge analytics enablement

Applications developed using the Embedded SDK interact with the monitors, capture, and process results

4

Fleet monitoring enablement

Applications developed using Host Suite can automate data orchestration and analytics from one or multiple devices

Tools & Requirements

- **Requirement tracking tool** (documentation) (e.g., Polarion)
- **Verification management tool** (e.g., VIQ)
- **Digital simulation tool** (e.g., QuestaOne)
- **Regression running tool** (e.g., VRM)
- **Coverage visualization & merging tool** (e.g., Visualizer)
- **Regression scheduler & CI/CD** (e.g., Jenkins)
- **Metrics, data visualization and dashboards** (e.g., VIQ)

Vendor-agnostic flow!

Challenges of Working with Highly Configurable IPs

Highly-Configurable IPs

"Highly-Configurable"

- Designs with many RTL parameters
- Compile-time constant, large impact on synthesis results
- "CONFIG" = "set of parameters"

Who

- IP vendors must provide configurable designs
 - Standard protocols, AXI, USB etc.
 - Optional features/optimisation
 - E.g. Tessent Embedded Analytics has extremely high configurability
- Scaling up means increasingly modular designs
 - Accumulates wider range of configurability
 - More inter-dependencies that result in bugs or invalid configurations

Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

`protocolA_channel_width`



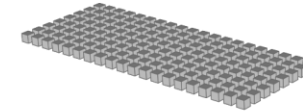
Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

```
protocolA_channel_width  
protocolA_num_channels
```



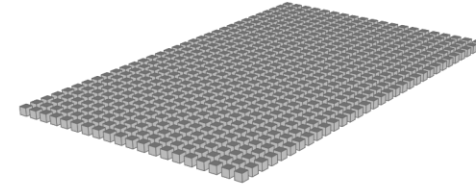
Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

```
protocolA_channel_width  
protocolA_num_channels  
protocolB_data_width1
```



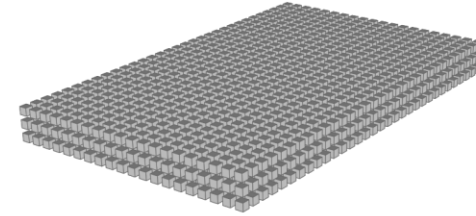
Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

```
protocolA_channel_width  
protocolA_num_channels  
protocolB_data_width1  
protocolB_data_width2
```



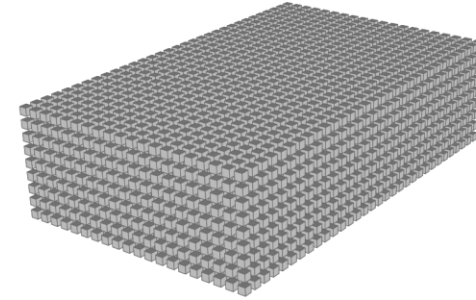
Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

```
protocolA_channel_width  
protocolA_num_channels  
protocolB_data_width1  
protocolB_data_width2  
protocolB_option1
```



Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

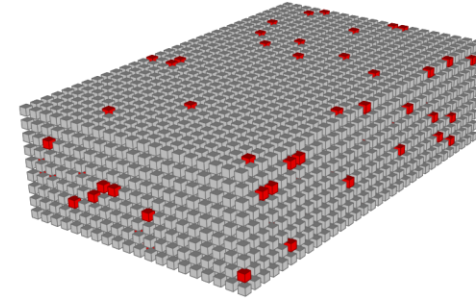
```
protocolA_channel_width  
protocolA_num_channels  
protocolB_data_width1  
protocolB_data_width2  
protocolB_option1  
protocolB_option2
```



Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

```
protocolA_channel_width  
protocolA_num_channels  
protocolB_data_width1  
protocolB_data_width2  
protocolB_option1  
protocolB_option2
```

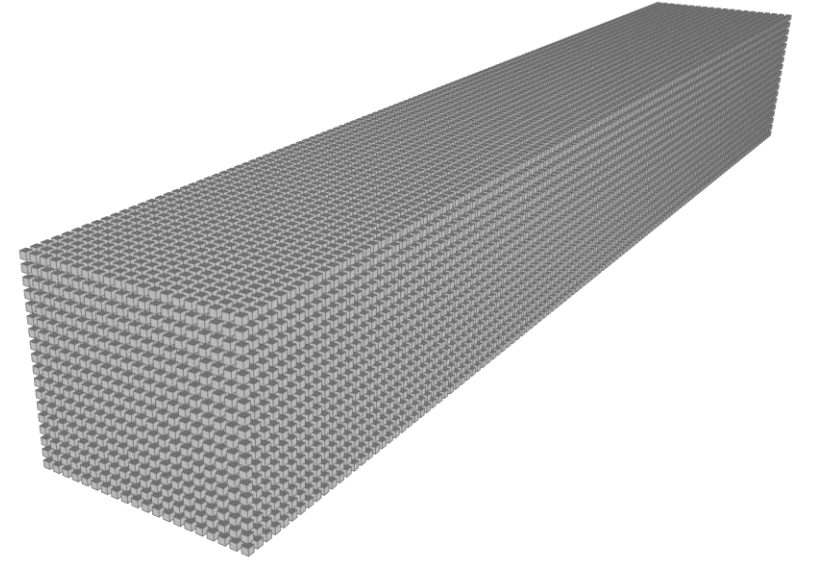
BUGS



Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

```
protocolA_channel_width  
protocolA_num_channels  
protocolB_data_width1  
protocolB_data_width2  
protocolB_option1  
protocolB_option2
```

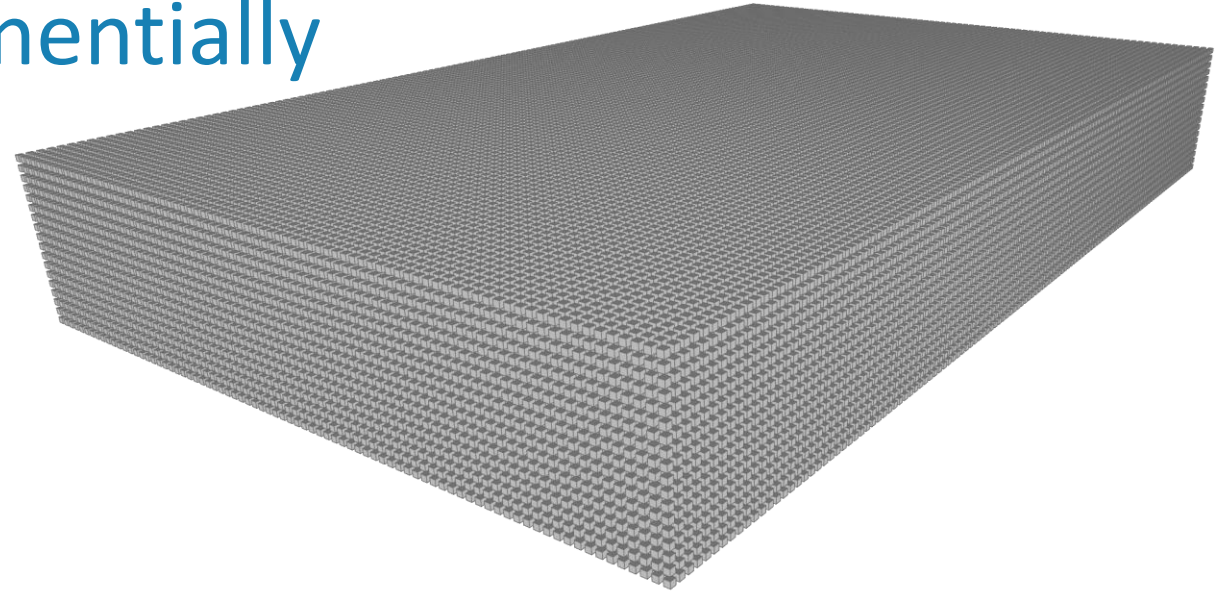
```
buffer_size  
num_buffers
```



Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

protocolA_channel_width
protocolA_num_channels
protocolB_data_width1
protocolB_data_width2
protocolB_option1
protocolB_option2

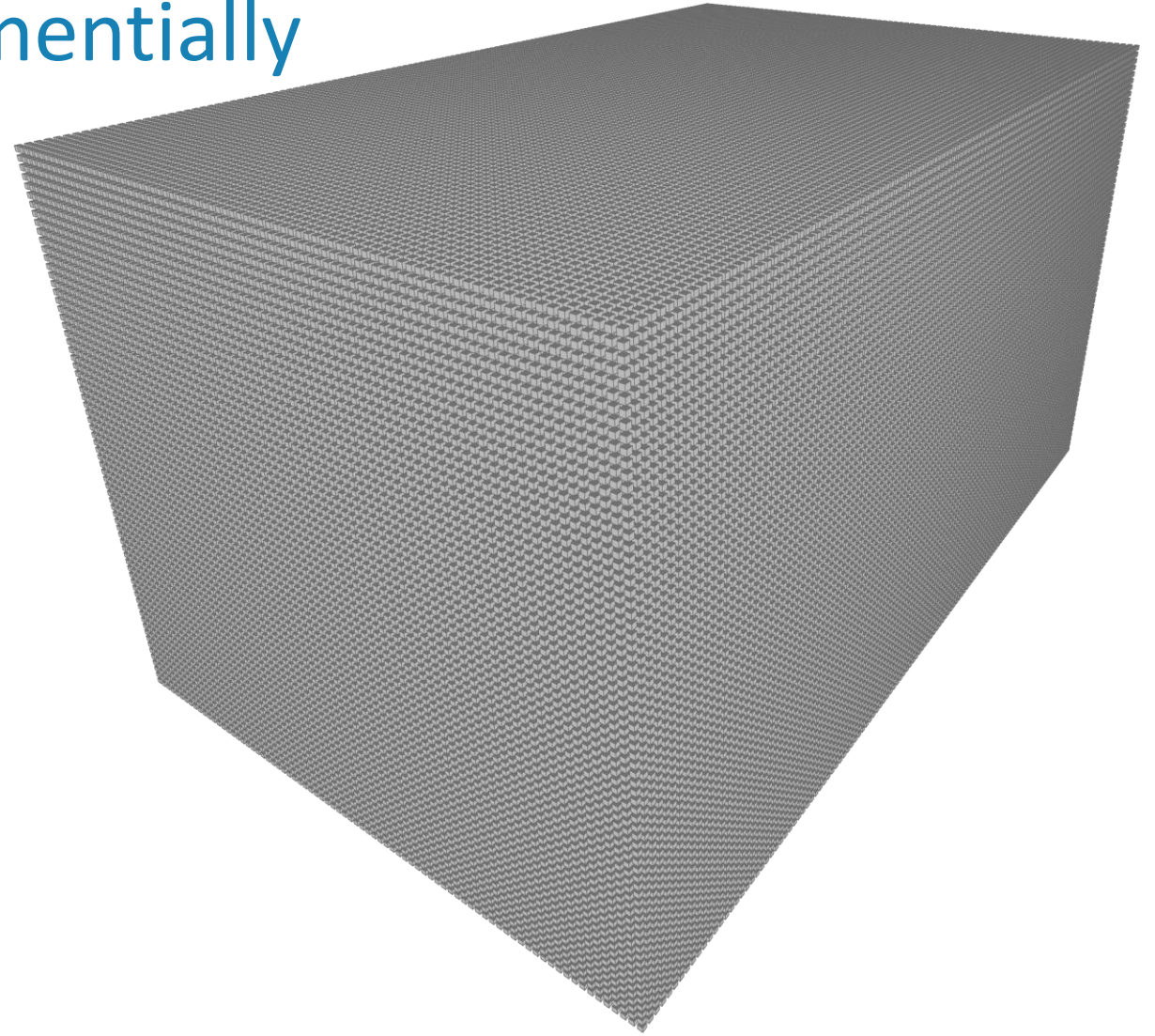
buffer_size
num_buffers
retiming_options
reset_value



Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

protocolA_channel_width
protocolA_num_channels
protocolB_data_width1
protocolB_data_width2
protocolB_option1
protocolB_option2

buffer_size
num_buffers
retiming_options
reset_value
optional_optimisation
more_feature_support

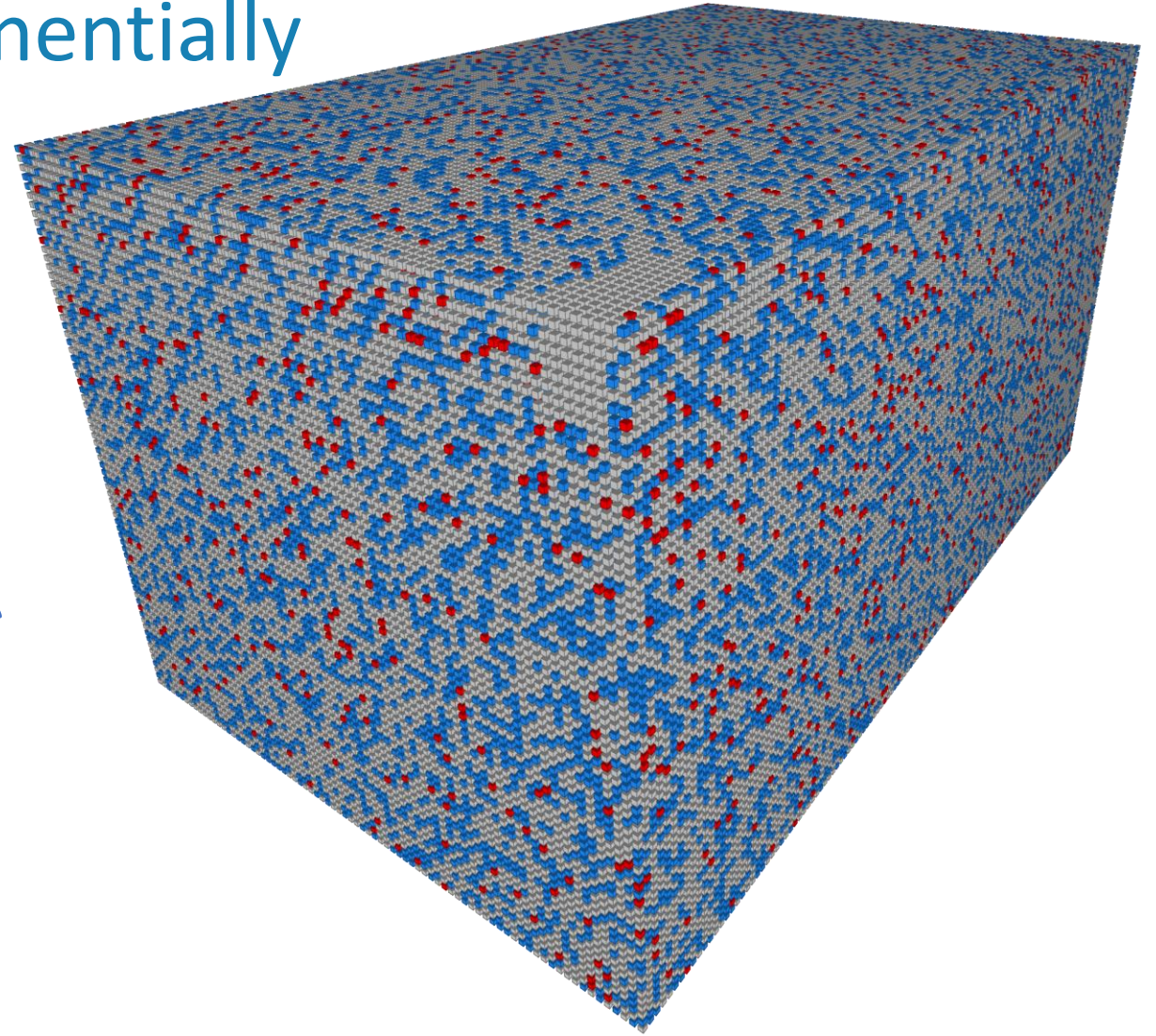


Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

protocolA_channel_width
protocolA_num_channels
protocolB_data_width1
protocolB_data_width2
protocolB_option1
protocolB_option2

buffer_size
num_buffers
retiming_options
reset_value
optional_optimisation
more_feature_support

BUGS
COVERAGE

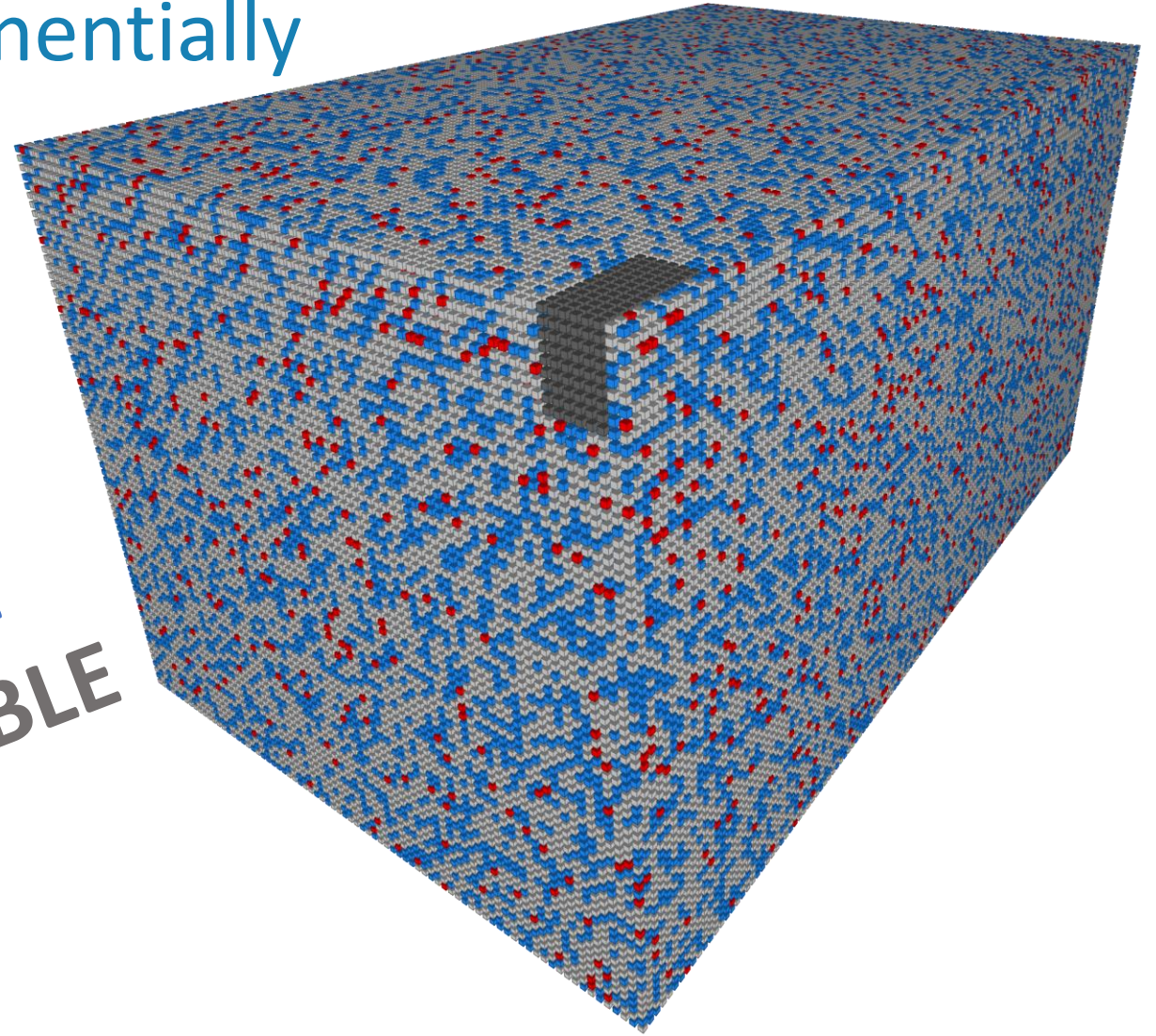


Parameter-space Scales Exponentially

protocolA_channel_width
protocolA_num_channels
protocolB_data_width1
protocolB_data_width2
protocolB_option1
protocolB_option2

buffer_size
num_buffers
retiming_options
reset_value
optional_optimisation
more_feature_support

BUGS
COVERAGE
UNREACHABLE



Verification Challenges

Verification complexity scales exponentially with design ...



Many more test scenarios to cover



Many more bugs to find



Incomplete insight into verification progress



Unclear where best to invest resources



Time-to-market scales drastically

... So a data-driven methodology is needed.



Trace and track progress of many configurable requirements in documentation



Managing complex verification plans for both shared and unique features



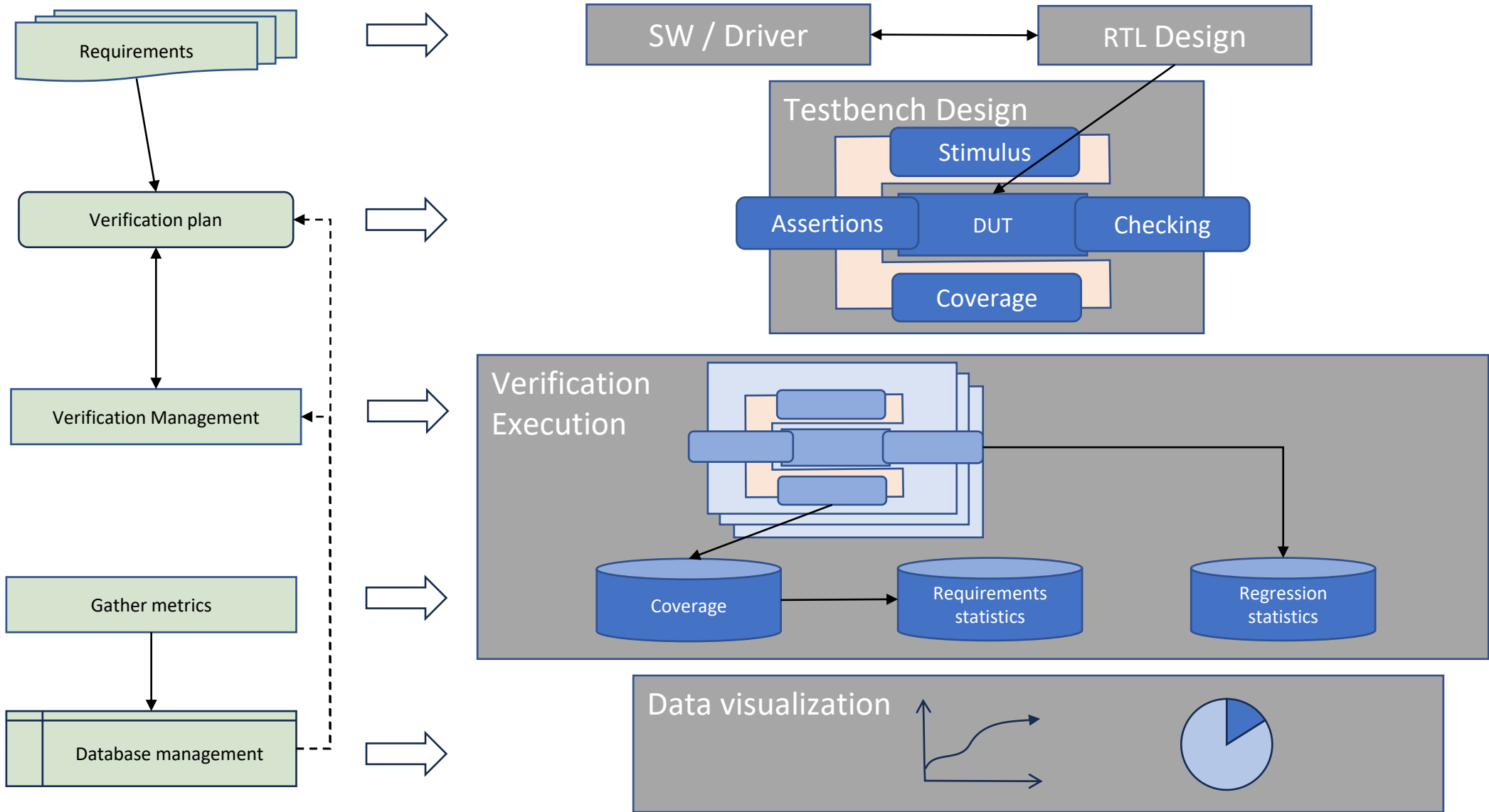
Manage compatibility of verification execution with all parameter sets



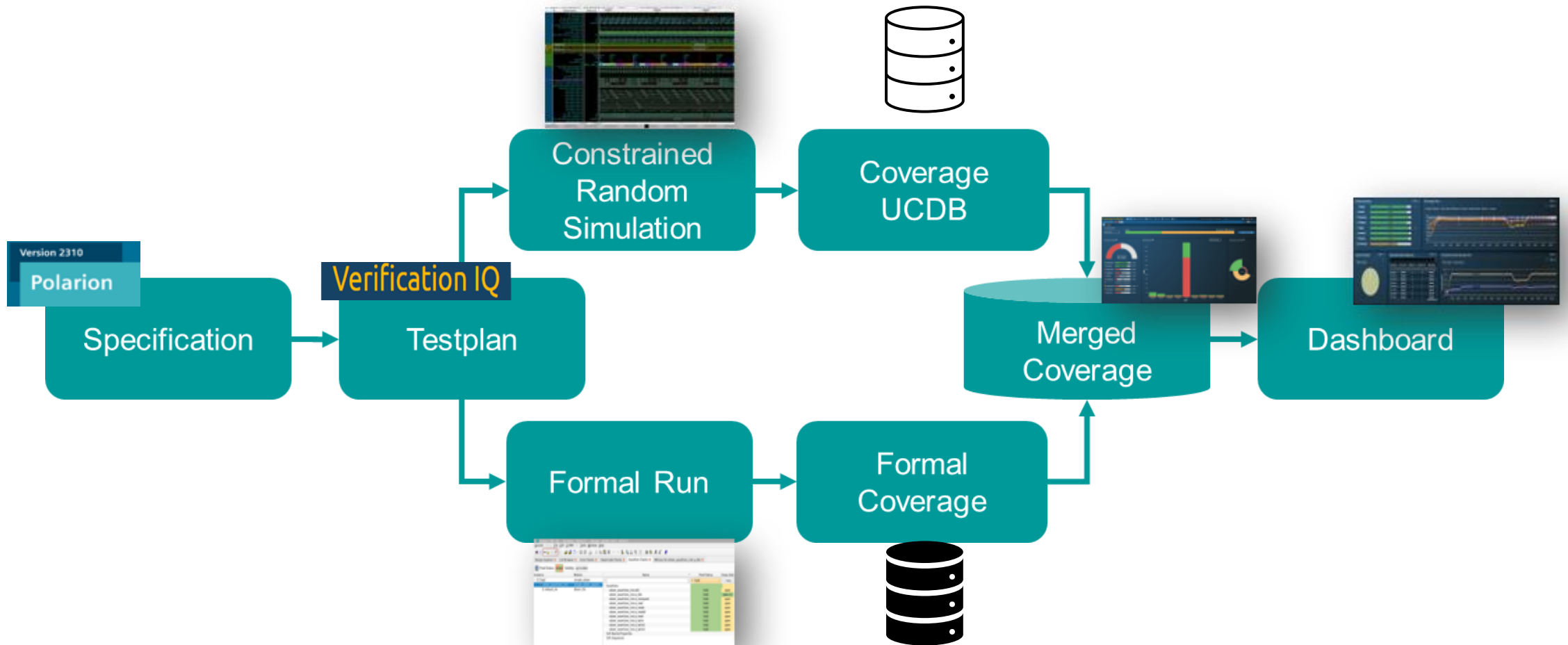
Gather metrics to give confidence of high verification quality across all configurable functionality



Visualizing verification metrics across all configurations for quick feedback



Summary of the proposed flow



Requirement Management and Verification Planning

Specification Management

- Itemised requirements for each IP module
- Referenced specification from common components/interface/module
 - Maximise reusability
 - Easier to maintain
 - Only need to be formally reviewed once
- Customised approval flow/work items/scripts, baseline, branching, and much more ...

Module Specification



- REQ-001
- REQ-002
- REQ-003



Common
Component
Spec







Common
Interface
Spec

Requirement Traceability

- Ensure every requirement is linked to the test plan
- Traceability is straight forward and easy to read
- Window pop-out showing details of the test plan item
- Crucial aspect of adhering to industry standards e.g. ISO 26262 and DO-254

5.1 Parameters

Parameter Name	Description	Default Value	Legal Values
EBC Communicator Implementation Parameters (All variants)			
 index_strip_p	Index Stripping in downstream frame packing: '0' = Index Stripping Disabled '1' = Index Stripping Enabled (if index_length_p > 7)	0	0
Message Interface			
 index_length_p	The length in bits of the message index.	8	1 : 16
 ds_msg_sz_p	Width of downstream message pathway is $2^{ds_msg_sz_p}$	5	3 : 9
 us_msg_sz_p	Width of upstream message pathway $2^{us_msg_sz_p}$	3	3 : 9

Work Records

Approvals

Approving User: State

Anton Tschank	Approved
honyau8b	Approved
Iain Robertson	Approved

Linked Revisions

Linked Work Items

Suspect	Role	Title
	has parent	UST_EBC-450 - Param
	is validated by	2.1.1.1.1.1 - ds_buffers_p
	is validated by	2.1.1.1.1.1 - ds_buffers_p

Project: **ust_ebc_communicator** Testplan: **ebc_d2_tp**
Section: **2.1.1.1.1 ds_buffers_p**

Coverage: **100.00%**

Goal %:
100%

Achieved Goal %: **100.00%**

Weight:
1

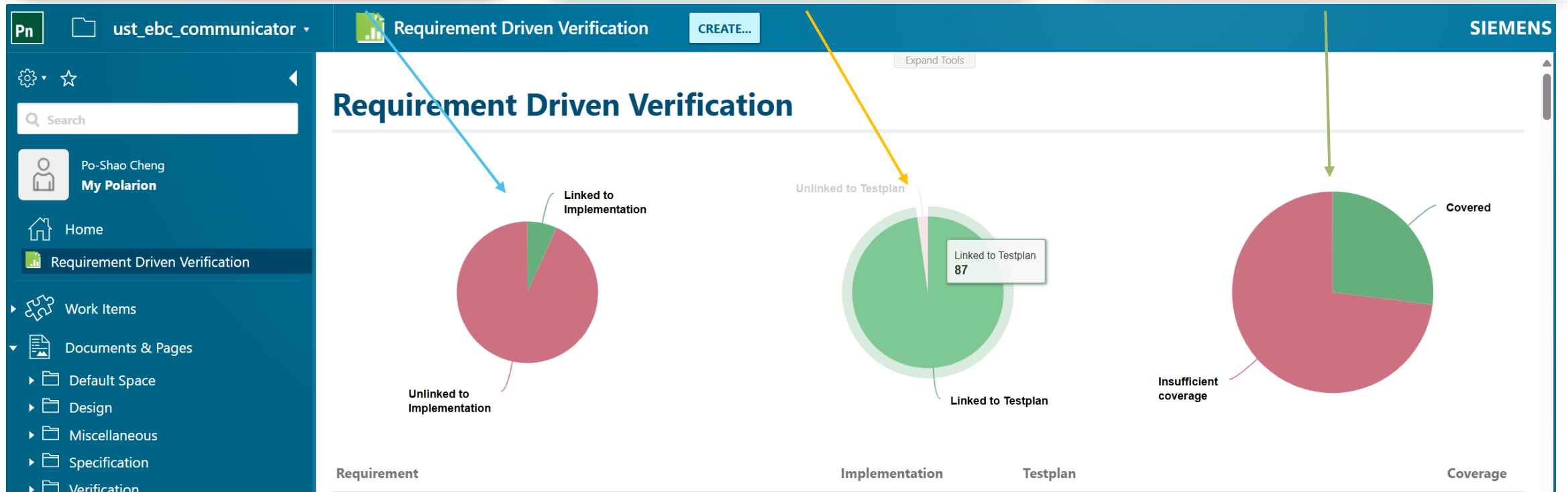
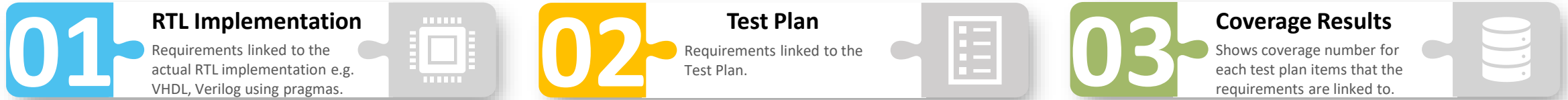
Description:

Unimplemented:

AtLeast:

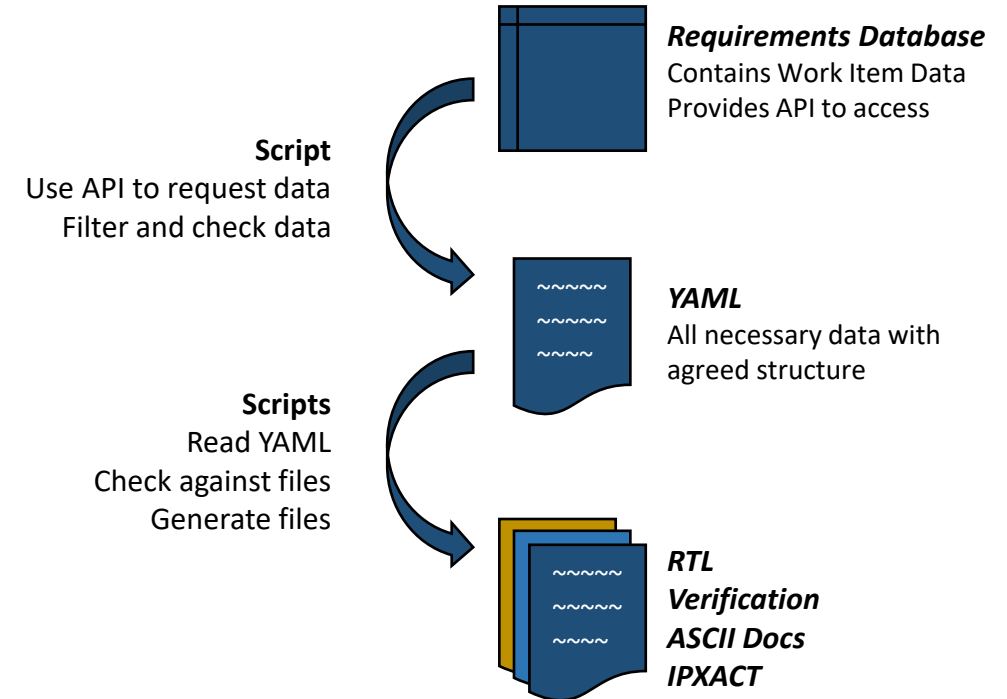
Link Status:
Clean

Requirement Traceability Dashboards



Exporting Data from Specification

- Single source of truth
- API to access its database
- Auto-generated YAML files
- Further automated process
 - Auto-generated RTL sub-components
 - Auto-constraining parameters of the designs



```
1 module_defns:
2 - name: ust_aurora_communicator
3   short_name: aurore
4   module_type: communication_module
5   param_groups:
6     Aurora Communicator Implementation Parameters:
7       ds_lanes_p: {value: 1, legal_values: {min: 1, max: 8}, comment: 'Number of SerDes Lanes'}
8       ds_lane_width_p: {value: 10, legal_values: [10, 20, 40, 80], comment: 'Width of data interface per lane'}
```

VIQ - Testplan Author

- Parameters used in the test plan – highly configurable reusable
- Maximise reusability across multiple IP modules for common components, interfaces, protocols
- Strong emphasis on collaboration and effective communication
 - Comment, reuse of other testplans, coverage analyzer looking at UCDBs

#	Section	External Links	T	Weight
▶ 1	Ports			(%PORTS%)
▼ 2	Parameters			(%PARAMETERS%)
▶ 2.1	index_length_p	⚡ UST MSGIF-34 - index_length_p	🗑	(%INDEX_LENGTH_AGNOSTIC%)
▶ 2.2	(%MESSAGE_ENGINE_PREFIX%)ds_msg_sz_p	⚡ UST MSGIF-79 - ds_msg_sz_p	🗑	1
▶ 2.3	(%MESSAGE_ENGINE_PREFIX%)us_msg_sz_p	⚡ UST MSGIF-78 - us_msg_sz_p	🗑	1
▶ 2.4	(%MESSAGE_ENGINE_PREFIX%)retime_p	⚡ UST MSGIF-82 - retime_p	🗑	1
▶ 2.5	msg_pack_support_p (high perf)	⚡ UST MSGIF-84 - msg_pack_support_p	🗑	(%DISASSEMBLE_MESSAGE_PACKS%)*(%HIGH_PERFORMANCE_PACK_SUPPORT%)
▶ 2.6	msg_pack_support_p (low perf)	⚡ UST MSGIF-85 - msg_pack_support_p	🗑	(%DISASSEMBLE_MESSAGE_PACKS%)*(%LOW_PERFORMANCE_PACK_SUPPORT%)
▶ 2.7	msg_pack_sz_p	⚡ UST MSGIF-86 - msg_pack_sz_p	🗑	(%ASSEMBLE_MESSAGE_PACKS%)
▶ 2.8	auth_p	⚡ UST MSGIF-305 - auth_p	🗑	(%ANALYTIC_MODULE%)*(%AUTHENTICATION_SUPPORT%)
▶ 3	Features			(%FEATURES%)

Test Plan Traceability

- Shows the requirement linked to the test plan item
- Window pop-out showing details of the requirement

The screenshot displays the Verification IQ (VIQ) web application interface. The left sidebar shows a project named 'ust_ebc_communicator' with a tree view of test plans. The 'Testplans' section is expanded, showing 'ust_tp_base_virtual' selected. The main content area displays the details for 'ust_tp_base_virtual', including a table of sections and a pop-out window showing the details of a requirement.

VIQ Verification IQ | Home | Dashboards | Projects | Administration

ust_ebc_communicator

- Insight
- Testplan Author
 - Testplans
 - ebc_d1_tp
 - ebc_d2_tp
 - ebc_d0_tp
 - ust_tp_base_virtual**
 - ust_tp_downstream_virtual
 - ust_tp_upstream_virtual
 - Testplan Diff
 - Regression Navigator
 - Coverage Analyzer
 - Plugins
 - Test-Suite Configurator

ust_tp_base_virtual | N/A | Unpublished Changes

Created By posche57, May 31. Last modified by iroberts, 4 months ago.

#	Section	External Links
1	Parameters	
1.1	Bus Interface	
1.1.1	EBC Communicator Implementation	
1.1.1.1	index_length_p	UST MSGIF-34
1.1.1.2	index_strip_p	UST EB
1.1.1.3	msg_pack_support_p	UST EB
1.1.1.4	pipeline_p	UST EB
1.1.1.5	protocol_p	UST EB
1.1.2	Message Interface	
1.1.3	Clock Domain Crossing	
1.2	AXI Interface	
2	Features	
3	Testcases	

UST MSGIF-34 - index_length_p

Type: Interface Parameters | Priority: Medium [50.0] | Severity: Must Have | Status: Draft

Description

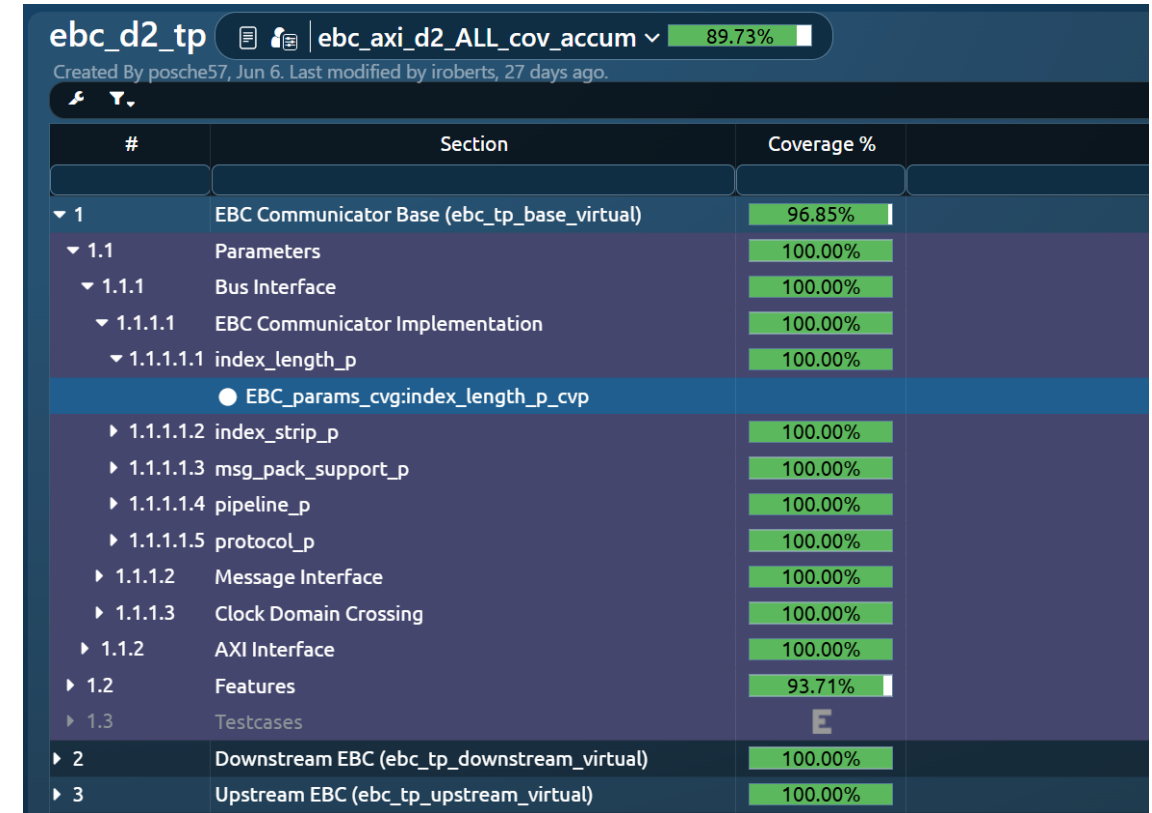
The length in bits of the message index.

Custom Fields

Parameter Legal Values: 1 : 16

Coverage Tracking in Test Plan

- Coverage Database linked to the test plan
- Functional coverage
 - Test plan is linked to covergroup and/or coverpoints
- Code coverage
 - Ports in test plan are linked to toggle coverage
- Test plan coverage
 - Shows overall progress of the test plan
 - How well the test plan is executed
- Exclusion option available in test plan



The screenshot displays a coverage tracking interface for a test plan named 'ebc_d2_tp'. At the top, the overall coverage is shown as 89.73%. Below this, a table lists various sections of the test plan and their corresponding coverage percentages. The sections are organized into a hierarchical tree structure, with expandable/collapsible icons (downward arrows) next to the section numbers. The coverage percentages are displayed in green bars, indicating the progress of each section.

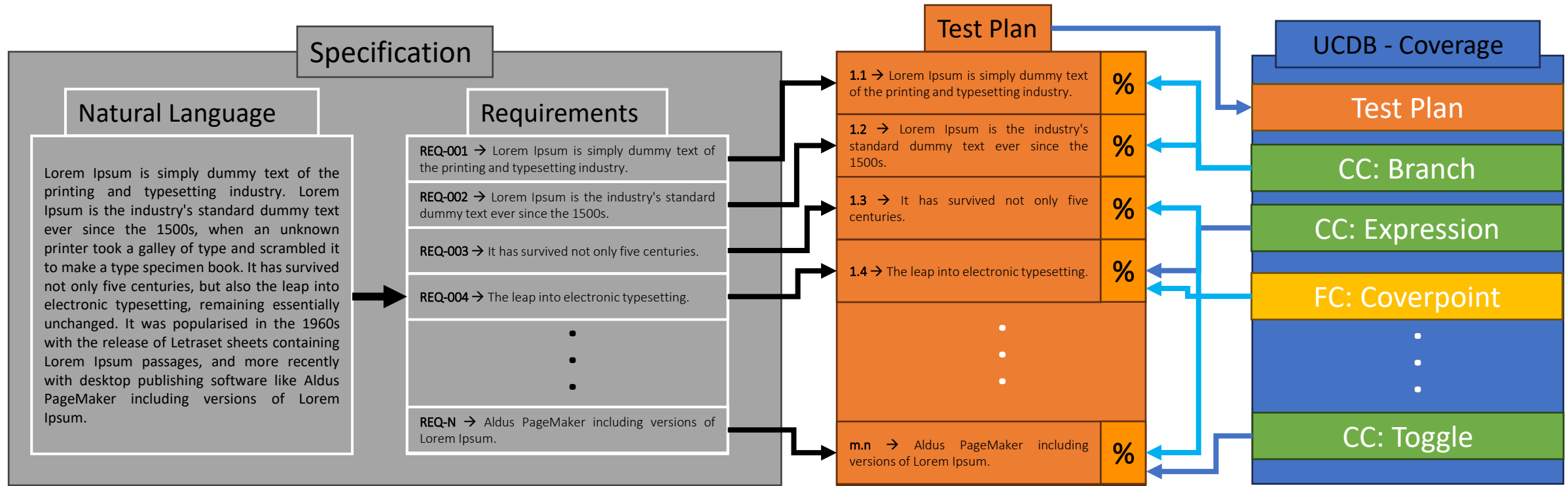
#	Section	Coverage %
1	EBC Communicator Base (ebc_tp_base_virtual)	96.85%
1.1	Parameters	100.00%
1.1.1	Bus Interface	100.00%
1.1.1.1	EBC Communicator Implementation	100.00%
1.1.1.1.1	index_length_p	100.00%
	● EBC_params_cvg:index_length_p_cvp	
1.1.1.1.2	index_strip_p	100.00%
1.1.1.1.3	msg_pack_support_p	100.00%
1.1.1.1.4	pipeline_p	100.00%
1.1.1.1.5	protocol_p	100.00%
1.1.1.2	Message Interface	100.00%
1.1.1.3	Clock Domain Crossing	100.00%
1.1.2	AXI Interface	100.00%
1.2	Features	93.71%
1.3	Testcases	E
2	Downstream EBC (ebc_tp_downstream_virtual)	100.00%
3	Upstream EBC (ebc_tp_upstream_virtual)	100.00%

Test Plan Coverage Tracking in UCDB

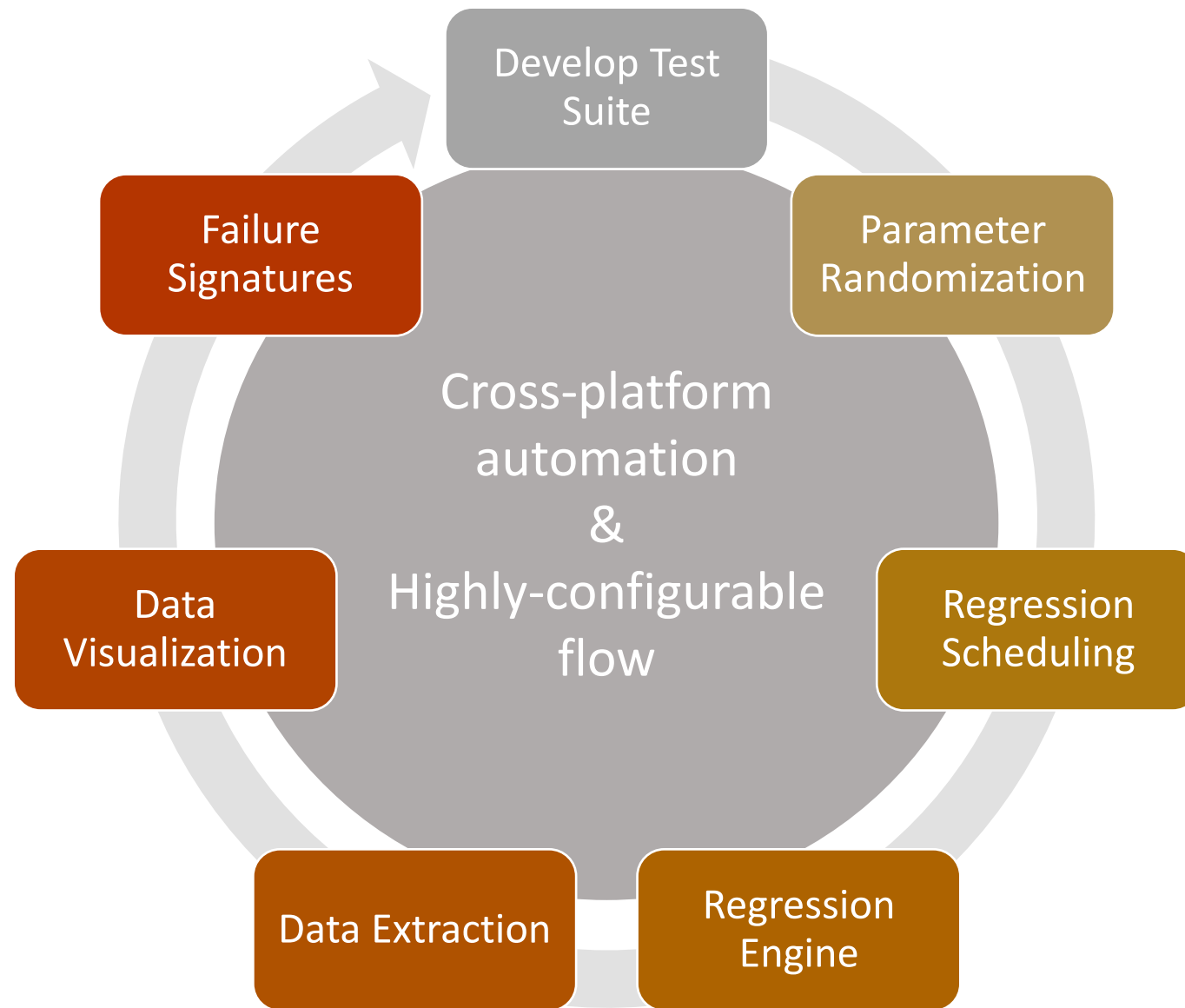
- Test plan merged to the UCDB
 - UCDB = Unified Coverage Database
- Automatically merged at the end of each nightly regression run
- Accumulated UCDB reflected in test plan
- UCDB flow and VIQ dashboards covered in later topics

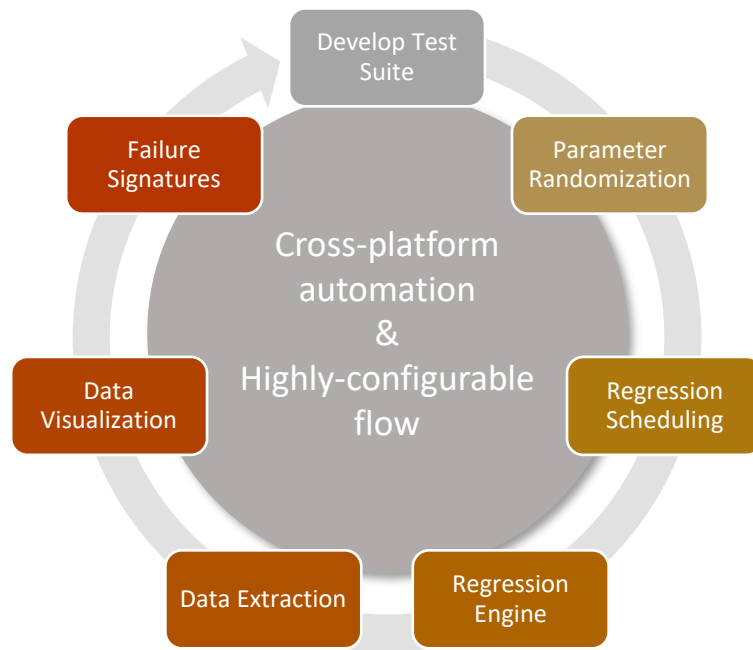
Sec#	Testplan Section/Coverage Link	Type	Status	Coverage%	Goal
0	▼ ebc_d2_tp	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	89.44%	-
1	▼ EBC Communicator Base	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	96.85%	100%
1.1	▼ Parameters	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%
1.1.1	▼ Bus Interface	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%
1.1.1.1	▼ ...municator Implementation	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%
1.1.1.1.1	▼ index_length_p	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%
	● .../index_length_p_cvp	CoverPoint	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%
1.1.1.1.2	▶ index_strip_p	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%
1.1.1.1.3	▶ msg_pack_support_p	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%
1.1.1.1.4	▶ pipeline_p	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%
1.1.1.1.5	▶ protocol_p	Testplan	<div><div></div></div>	100.00%	100%

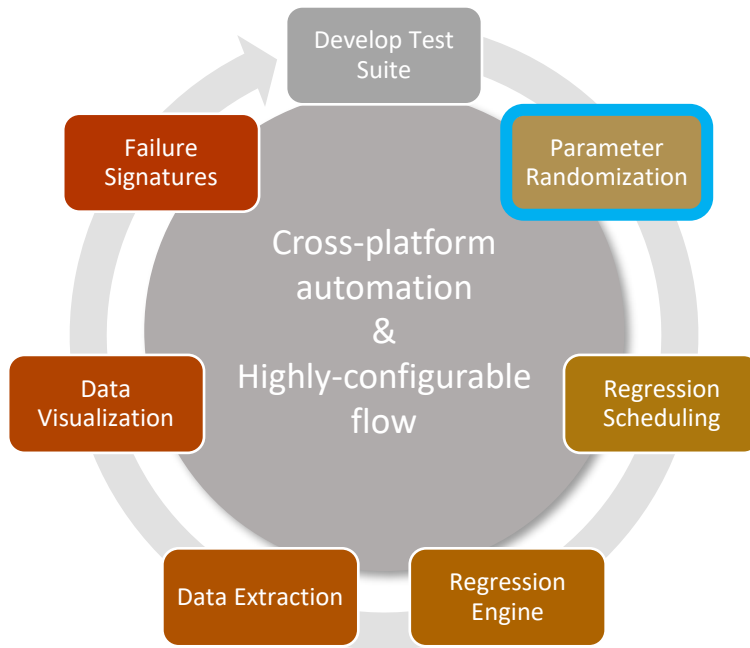
Specification vs. Test Plan vs. Coverage



Structure for Effective Regressions





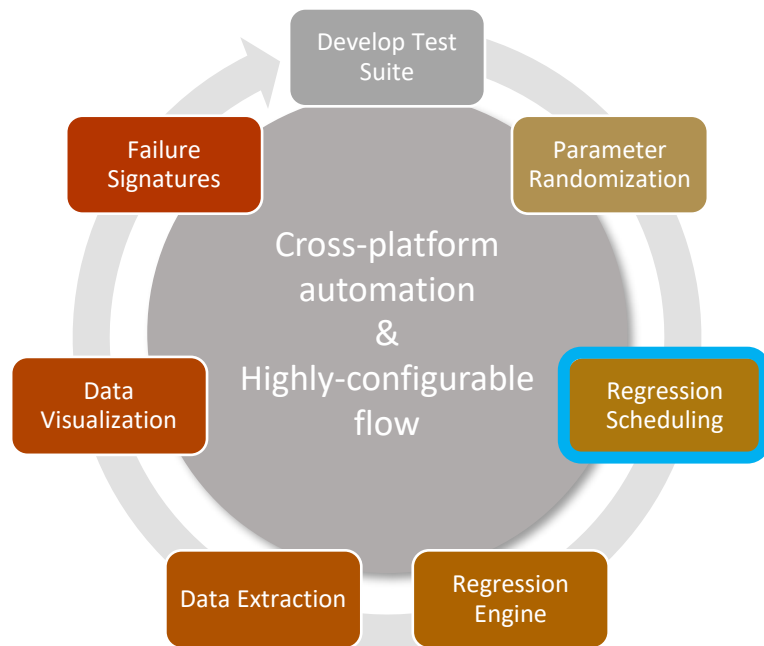


Parameter Randomization

- Essential for covering param-space
- Seed-based randomization for reproducibility
- Constraints for inter-dependencies (improves efficacy of batch-runs)

```
module_defns :
- name : ust_me_route_decode_m
  params :
    msg_sz_p      : { value: 3, legal_values: { min: 3, max: 9 } }
    index_length_p : { value: 8, legal_values: { min: 2, max: 16 } }
    max_index_length_p : { value: 24, legal_values: { min: 24, max: 24 } }
    upper_p       : { value: 1, legal_values: { 0, 1 } }
    internal_p    : { value: 0, legal_values: [ 0, 1 ] }
    num_inputs_p  : { value: 2, legal_values: { min: 2, max: 5 } }
```

```
complex_constraints_code : |
  constraint required_constraints {
    smb_connected_p -> upper_p      == 0;
    smb_connected_p -> cm_support_p == 2;
    internal_p      -> upper_p      == 1;
    internal_p      -> cm_support_p > 0;
    {internal_p[0], smb_connected_p[0]} dist { 2
  }
```

Regression Scheduling






- Frequency: continuous integration, nightly & weekends
- Different regression lists for different purposes:
 - Mini (5mins), nightly, long (weekend), formal, PSS
 - Fully flexible for custom test lists e.g. for specific configurations

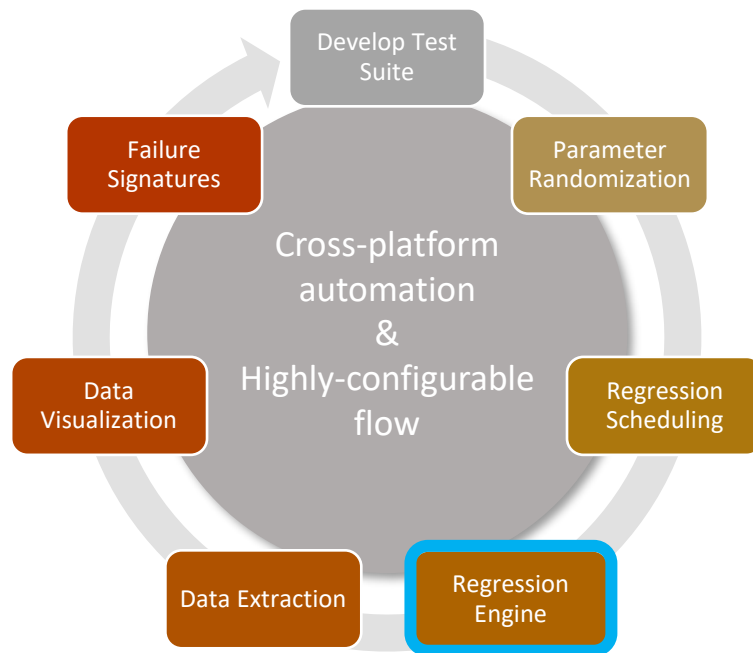
 Pipeline **#18415** running

Pipeline running for `b4089975` on `fix_reset_routine_m...`

8✓ **Approve** Approval is optional 

Average stage times:
(full run time: ~18min 13s)

#621	Jun 24 21:50	16 commits	
#620	Jun 23 21:50	17 commits	
#619	Jun 23 09:42	1 commit	
#618	Jun 22 21:50	No Changes	
#617	Jun 21	No	



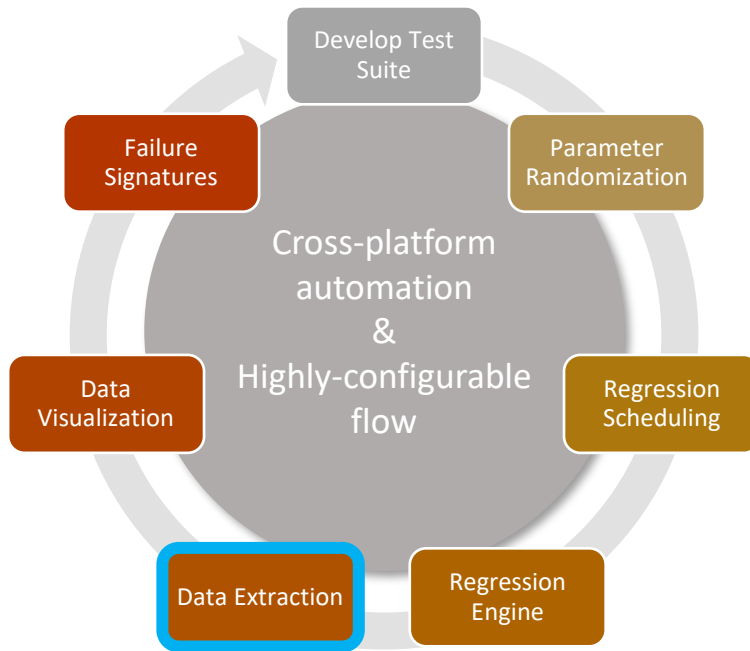
Regression Engine

- Many stages of tests & scripts
- Executes config-randomization, PSS, simulation, coverage, data extraction



Action script execution status:

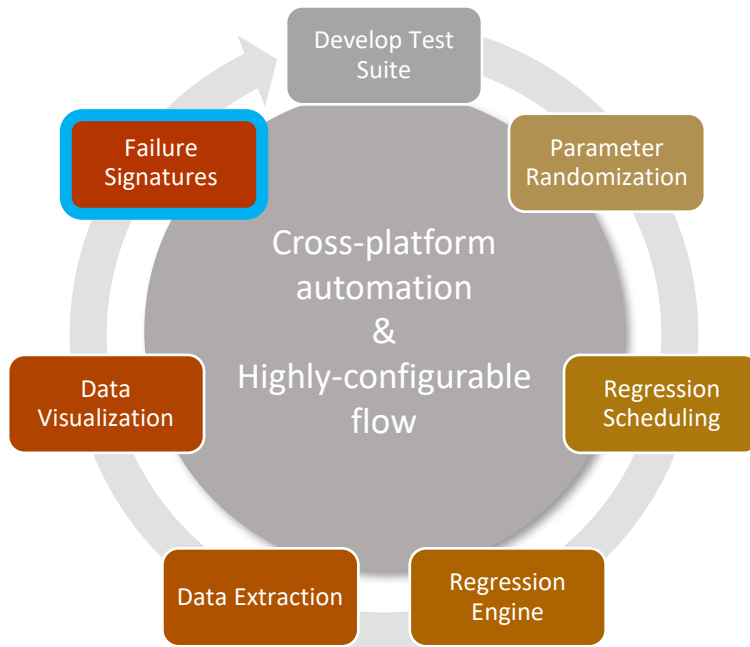
```
Total 138 scripts prepared: 138 OK, 0 failed
Total 138 scripts launched: 138 OK, 0 failed
Total 138 scripts finished: 138 OK, 0 failed
```



Data Extraction

- Extractor to port all regression results and UCDBs to one location
- In-house flow (Yaml, Make, Python, Groovy)
- Automated test plan coverage annotation, coverage merging, unreachability-based waivers & repository data statistics

```
# -----
# s0 configs
# -----
- name: s0_DEFAULT
  virtual: False
  extends: ab
  extraopts:
    VARIANT: s0
  viq_reg:
    dataset: ab_s0_req
  viq_cov:
    - project: ust_msg_abridge
      dataset_nightly: ab_s0_DEFAULT_cov_nightly
      dataset_accum: ab_s0_DEFAULT_cov_accum
  cov_merge:
    - name: s0_ALL_CONFIGS
      viq_cov:
        - project: ust_msg_abridge
          dataset_nightly: ab_s0_ALL_cov_nightly
          dataset_accum: ab_s0_ALL_cov_accum
      viq_testplan:
        project: ust_msg_abridge
        testplan: ab_s0_tp
```

Failure Signatures

- Automated data scraping
- View statistics on each failure message

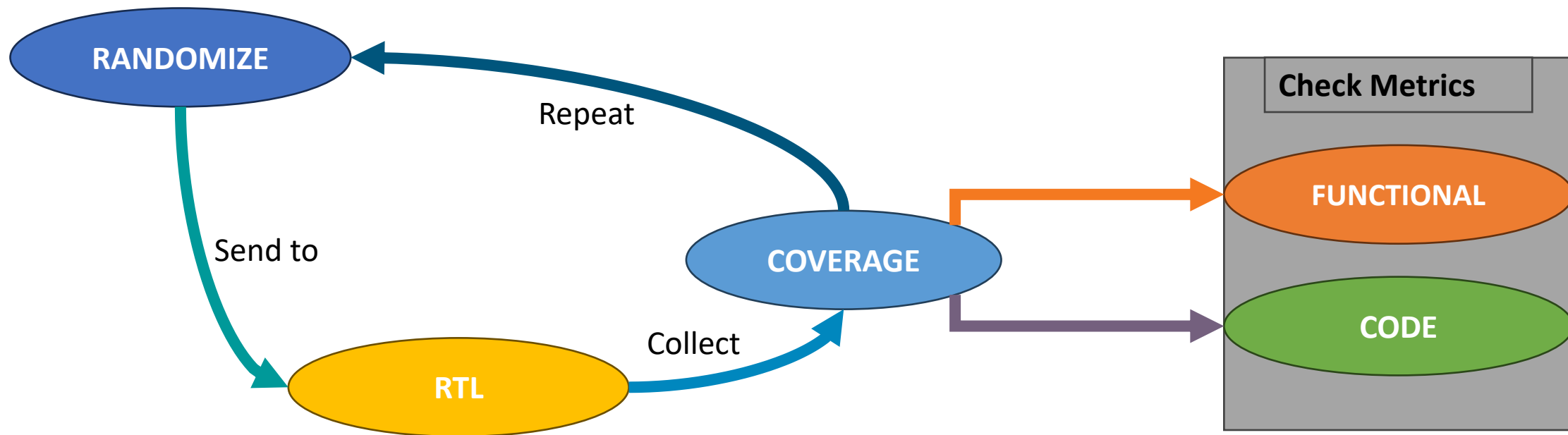
Failure Signatures	
Failure Signature	Last Occurrence ↓
[UST:] x found on ust_probe_if_if input probe_sig	Run 442
uvm_test_top.m_base_env.m_base_scoreboard [m_base_scoreboard.compar...	Run 442
uvm_test_top.m_base_env.m_base_scoreboard [m_base_scoreboard.compar...	Run 442
uvm_test_top.m_base_env.m_base_scoreboard [m_base_scoreboard.compar...	Run 442
uvm_test_top.m_base_env.m_base_scoreboard [m_base_scoreboard.compar...	Run 442
uvm_test_top.m_base_env.m_base_scoreboard [m_base_scoreboard.compar...	Run 442

- View failure log and run command with rand-seeds to rerun the same param config and test stimulus

Accumulated Coverage Structure

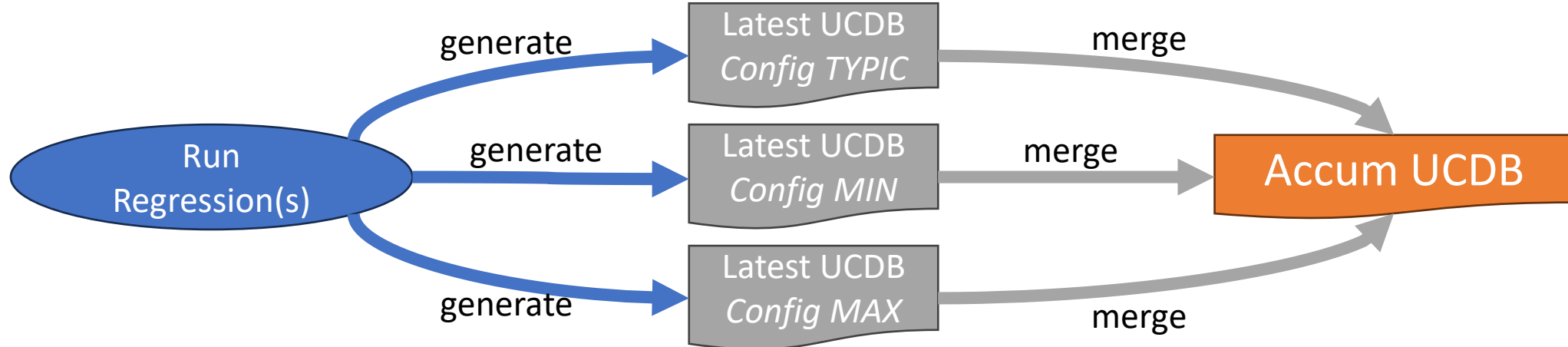
Metric-Driven Verification (MDV)

- When should we use it?
 - Sometimes, a system has **too many possible inputs**.
 - Brute-force **is not**, therefore, **an option**.
 - Metric-Driven Verification is based on **RANDOMIZATION**.

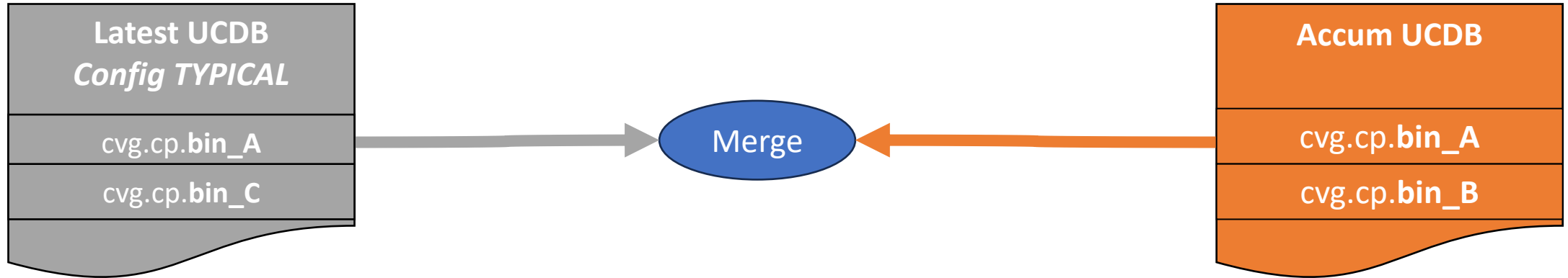


Metric-Driven Verification (MDV)

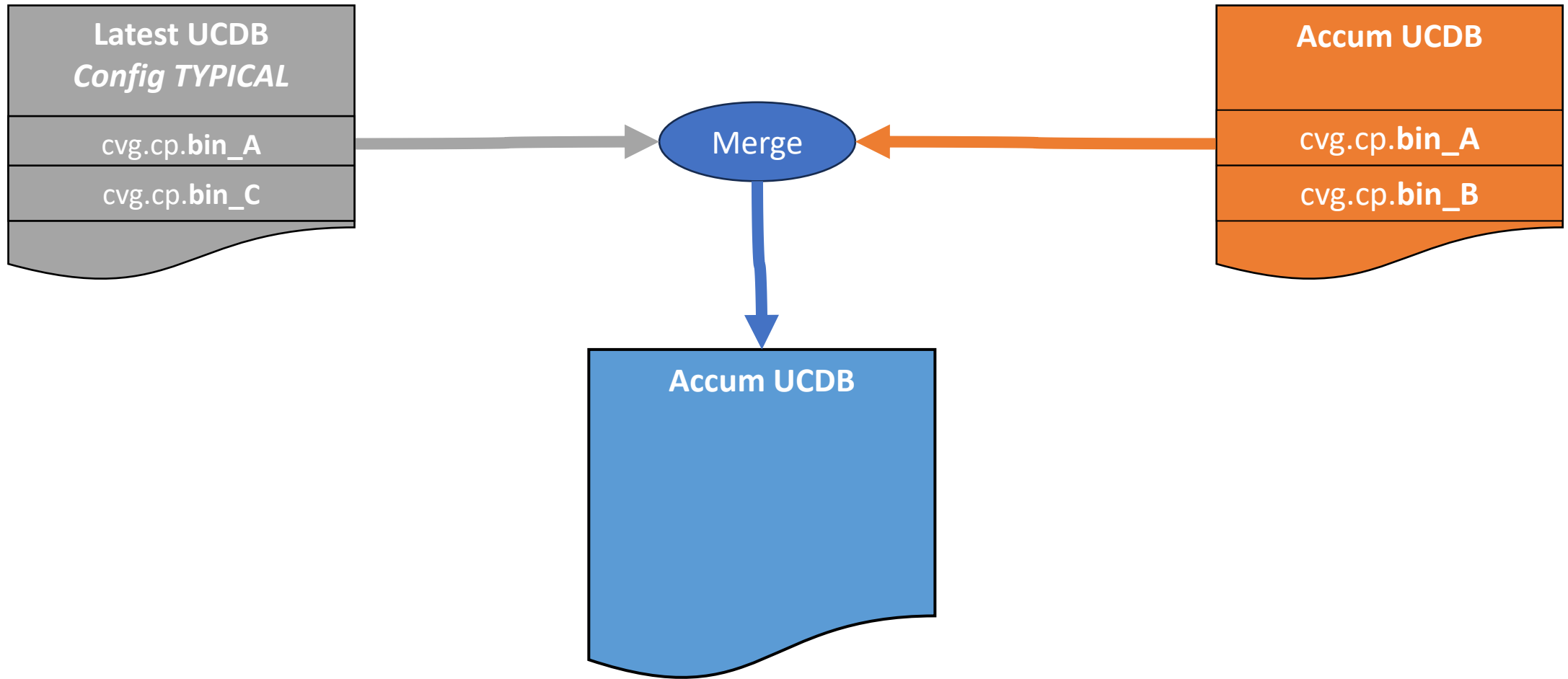
- Collecting coverage for highly-configurable IPs require **robust strategy**.
- Using **automation tools** (e.g., Jenkins) is critical to success.
- Two different accumulation approaches will be explored.
- Accumulation is based on merging UCDB files.



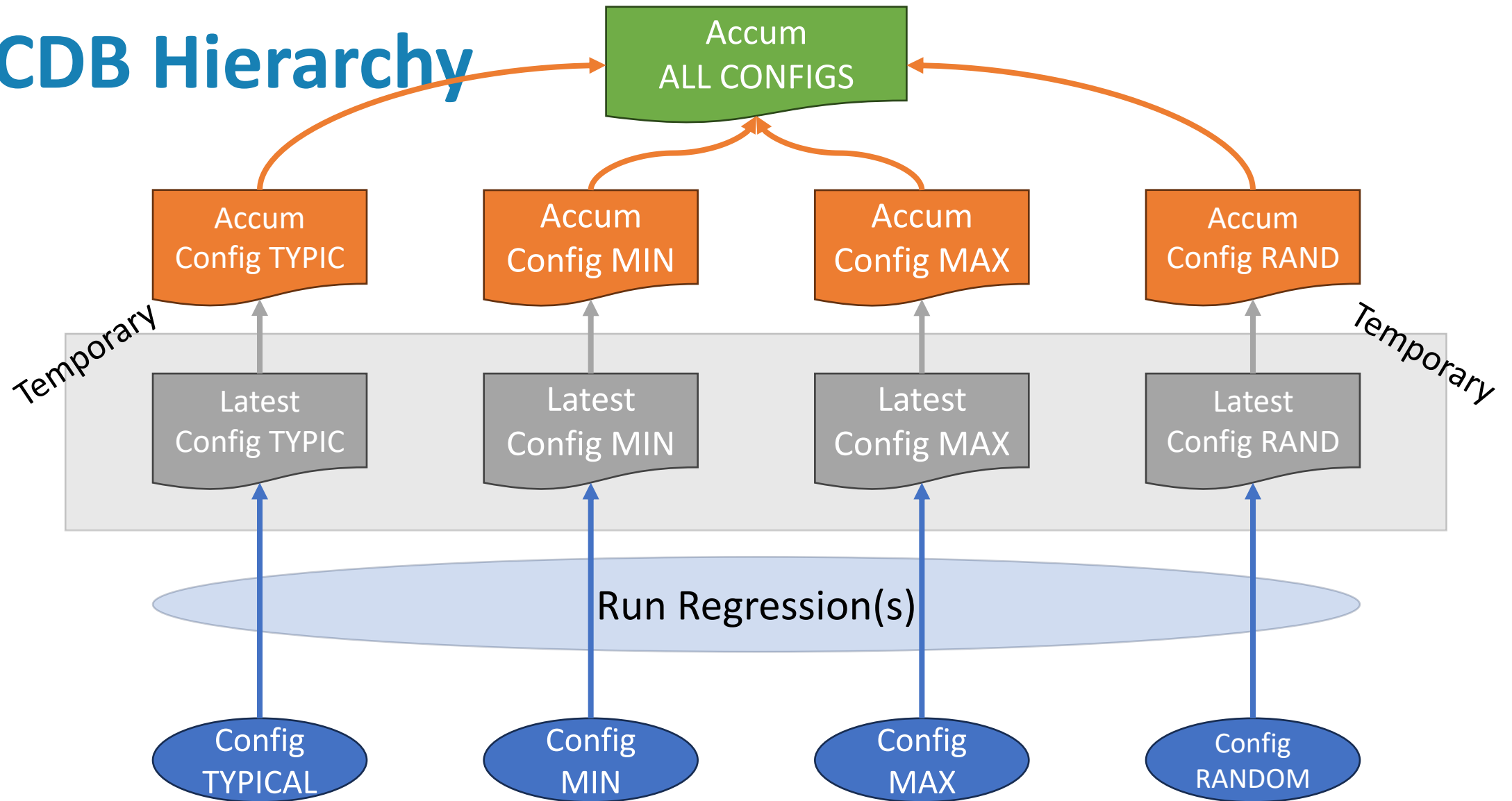
Merging Strategy



Merging Strategy

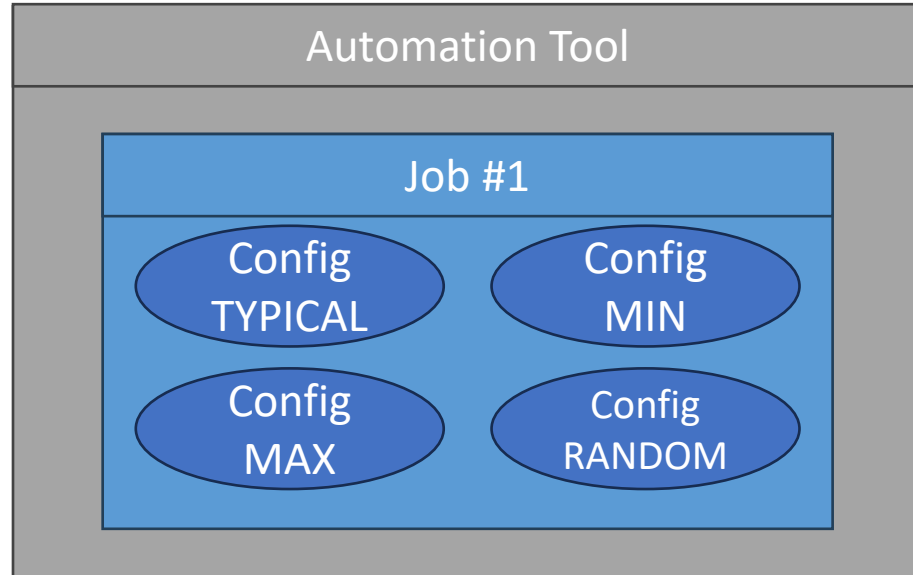


UCDB Hierarchy



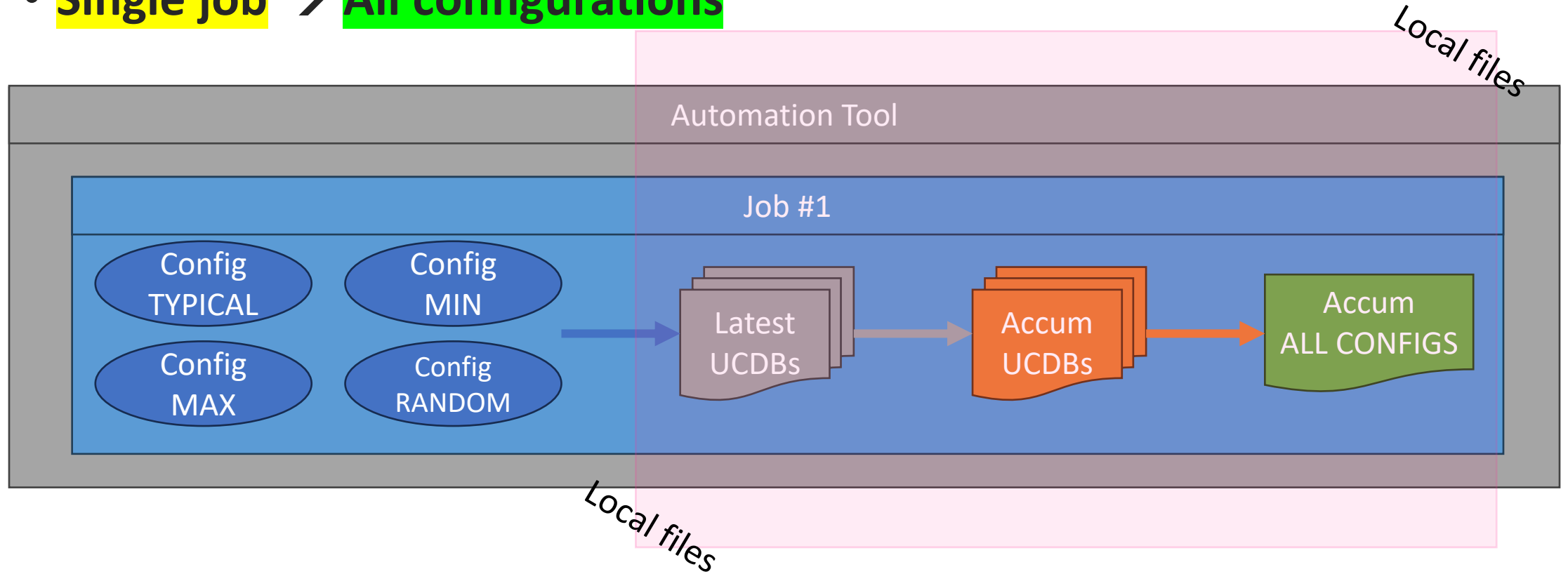
Automation: Scenario 1

- **Single job** → **All configurations**



Automation: Scenario 1

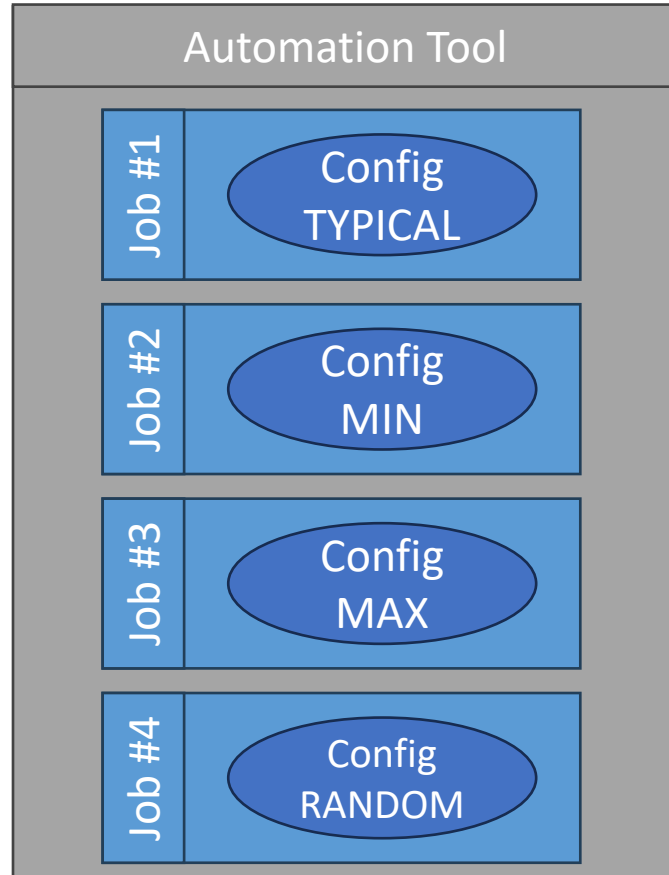
- **Single job** → **All configurations**



Local files → within a given job's workspace

Automation: Scenario 2

- **Single job** → **Single configuration**

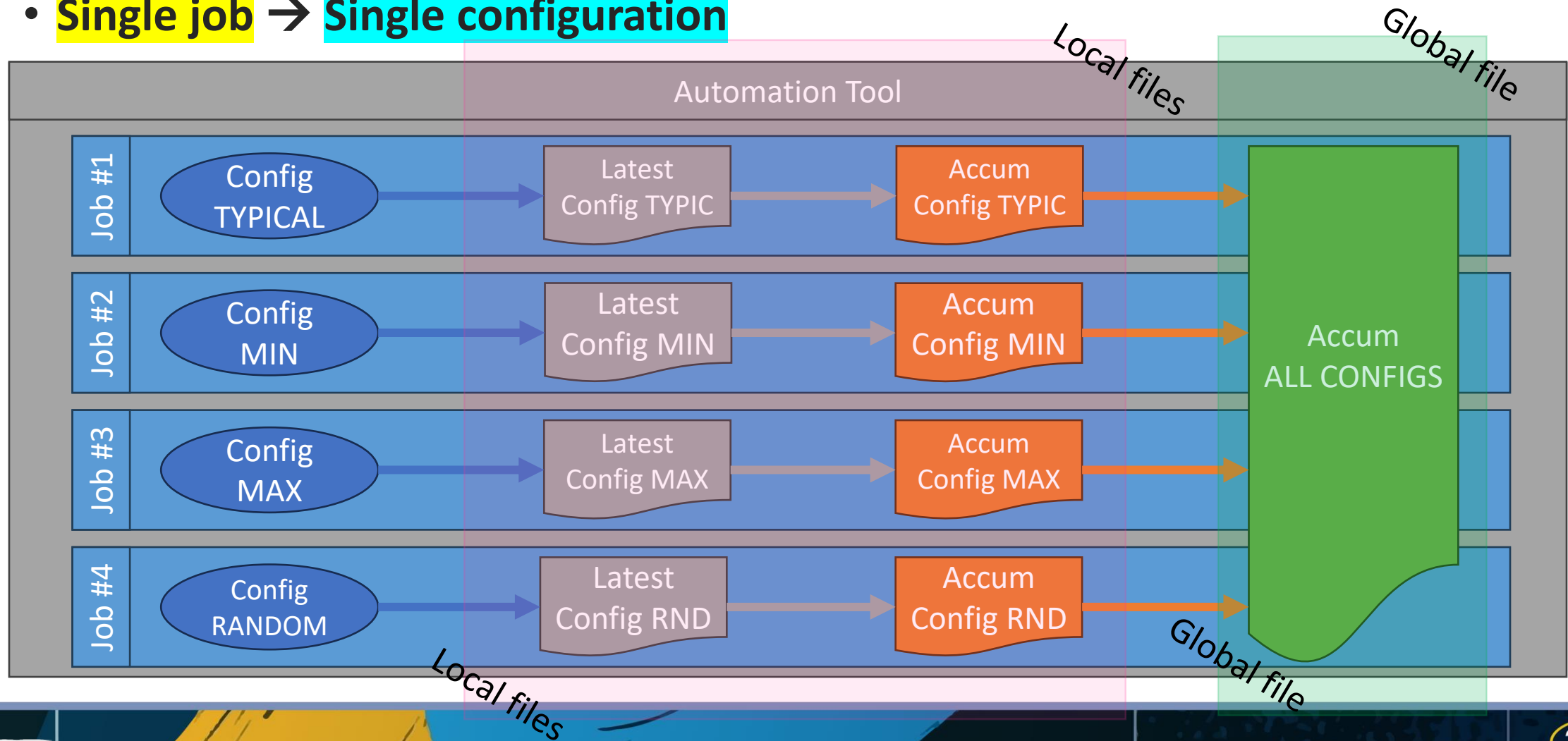


Automation: Scenario 2

Local files → within a given job's workspace

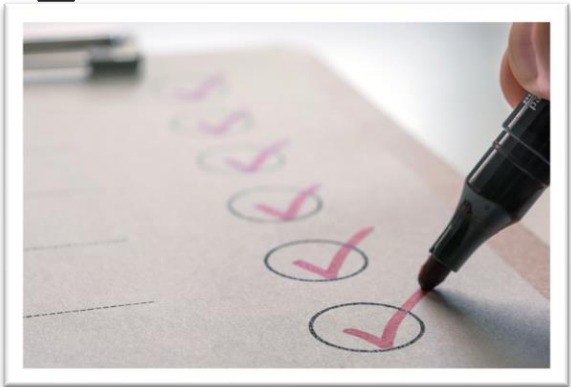
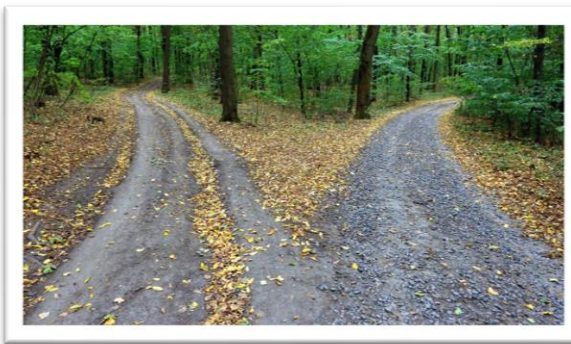
Global files → shared by multiple jobs

- **Single job** → **Single configuration**



Considerations

- Choose the right accumulation path based on the structure.
- Analyze intermediary UCDBs as needed.
- Easily check how thoroughly the IP was verified using the ALL_CONFIGS.



Traffic Light System & Unreachability

Introduction

- In a world with **highly configurable IPs**, different parts of the RTL might be unreachable depending on the configuration.

PARAM_ALLOC = 1

ALLOC message

RTL

ALLOC_MODULE

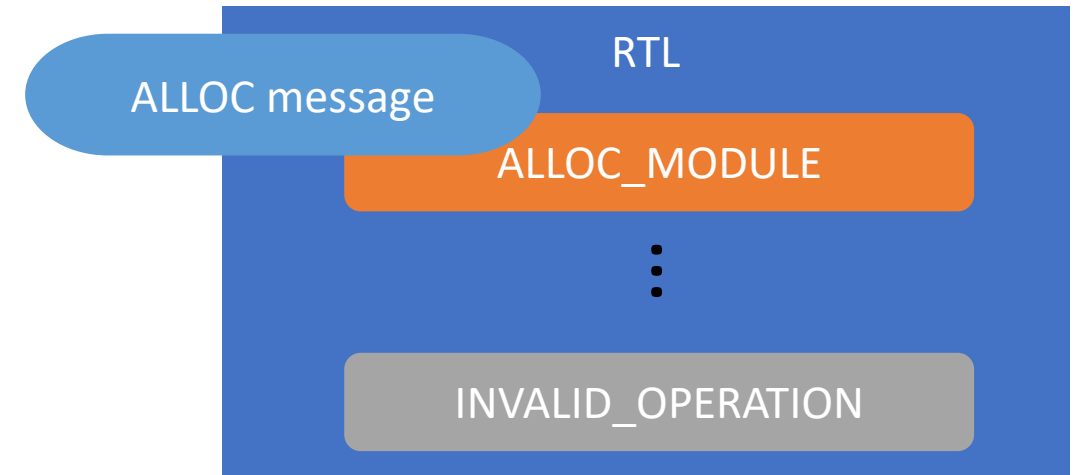
⋮

INVALID_OPERATION

Introduction

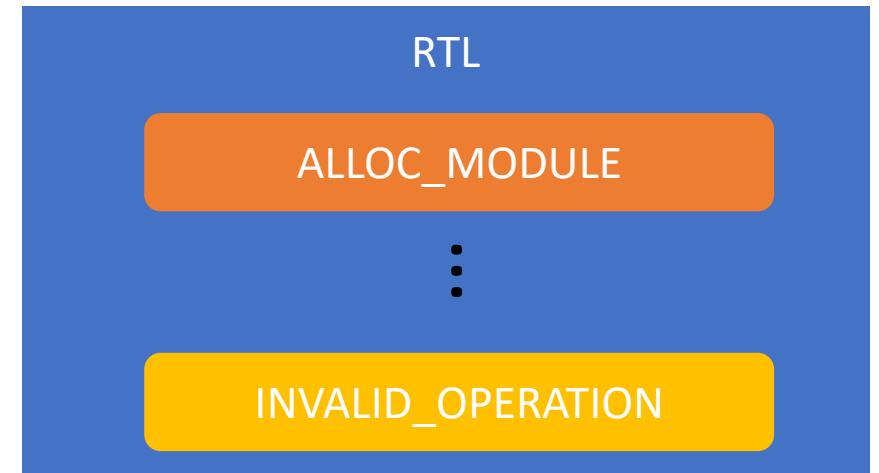
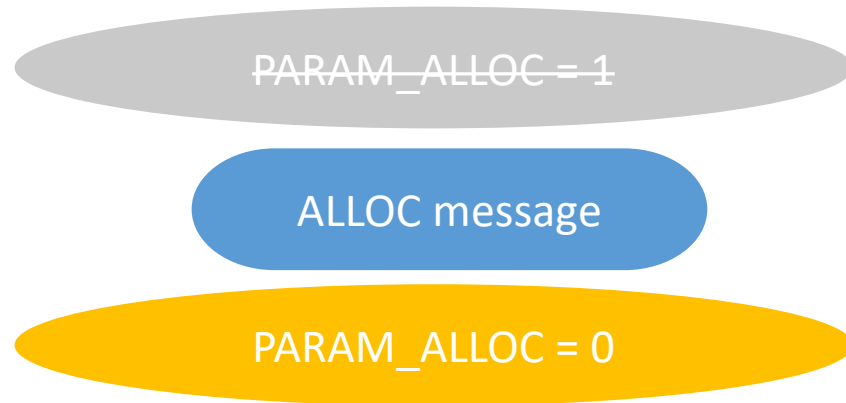
- In a world with **highly configurable IPs**, different parts of the RTL might be unreachable depending on the configuration.

PARAM_ALLOC = 1



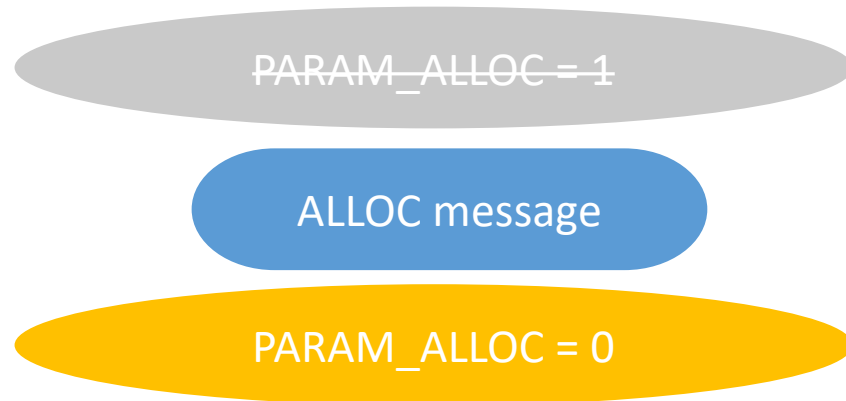
Introduction

- In a world with **highly configurable IPs**, different parts of the RTL might be unreachable depending on the configuration.

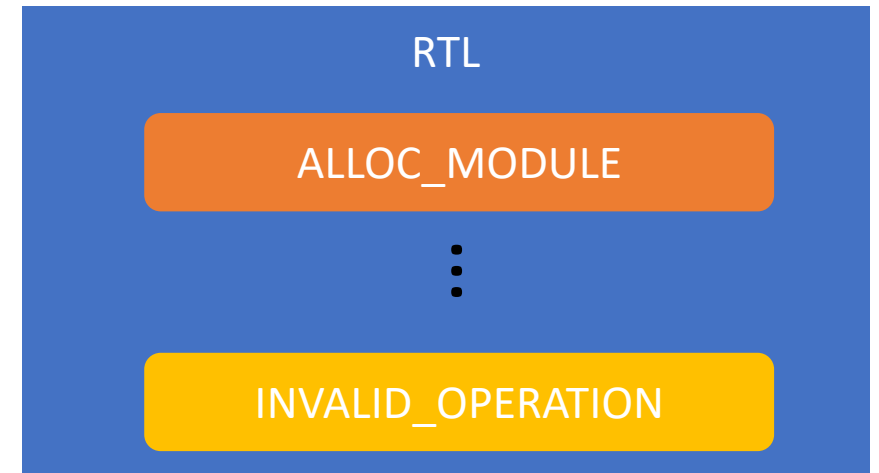


Introduction

- In a world with **highly configurable IPs**, different parts of the RTL might be unreachable depending on the configuration.



- With **PARAM_ALLOC disabled**, ALLOC_MODULE can't be covered.
- **How to deal with that?**



Traffic Light System: *Coverage Goals*

- Coverage collected both for function coverage and code coverage.
- Coverage target goals are:
 - **100% Function Coverage**
 - ❑ Upgraded methodology to be param aware.
 - **100% “explained” Code coverage**
 - ❑ Explained means there are waivers for unreachable code.
- **Why the Traffic Light System?**
 - Allows for initial thorough analysis.
 - Forces, on Red Waivers, to go back for more implementation/analysis.

Traffic Light System

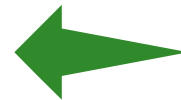
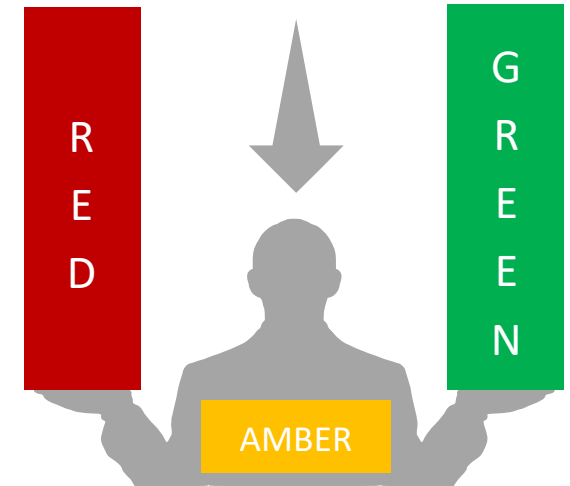
Waiver classifications:

- **Red**
 - Reachable, but untested
 - Requires further attention.
- **Amber**
 - Reachable, but only partly tested.
 - High confidence it will be covered.
 - **Might** require further attention.
 - e.g., Cover Crosses (FC).
- **Green**
 - Unreachable.
 - Requires clear justification and reviews.
 - Once accepted, no need for further attention.
 - e.g., different configuration



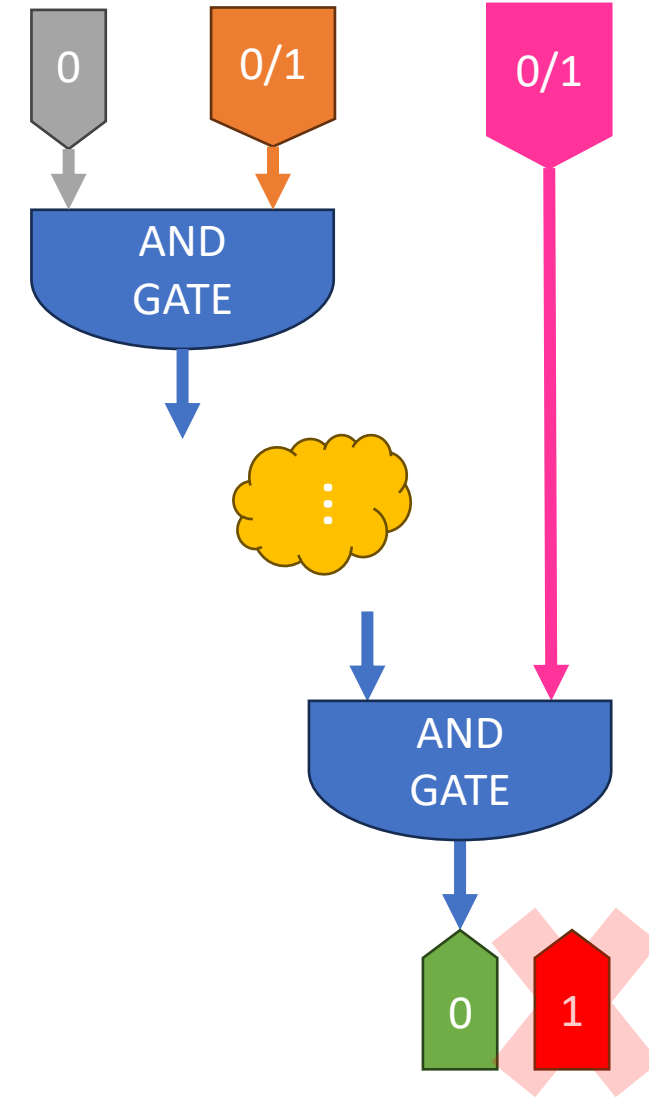
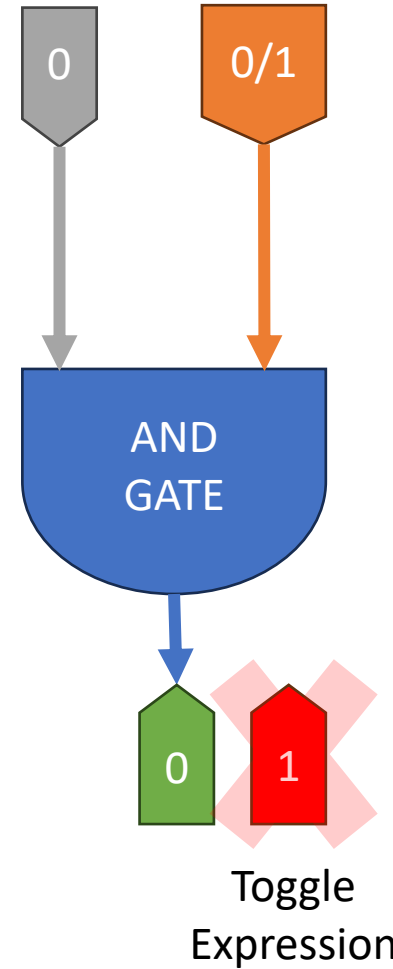
Traffic Light System: *Proposed methodology*

1. Look for coverage holes.
2. Analyze coverage holes.
3. Classify coverage holes.
4. Propose a classification (e.g., through JIRA).
5. Wait for the approval.
6. Exclude the items.



Unreachability

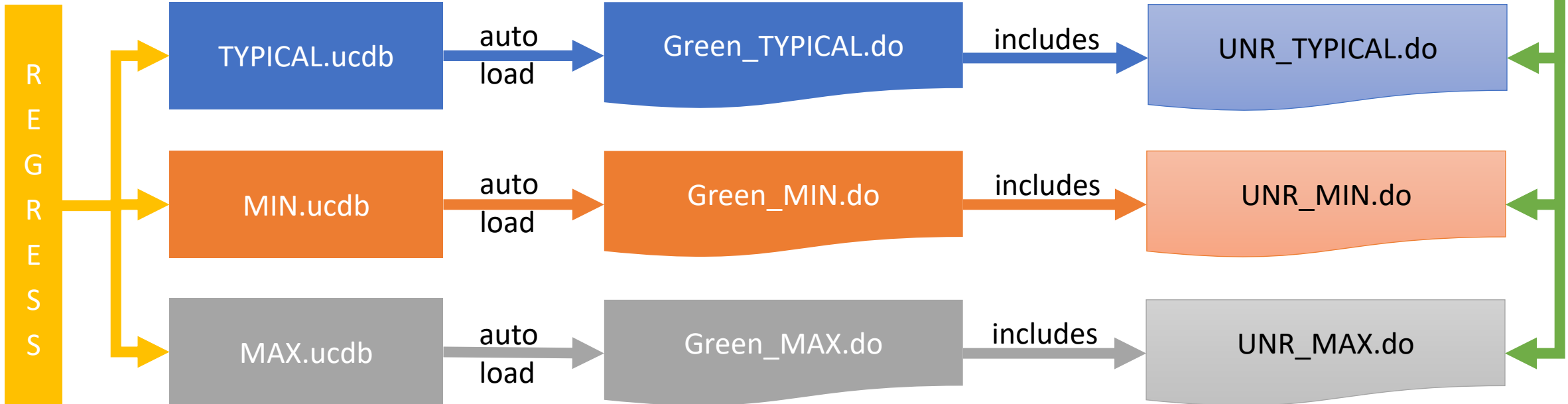
- Formal Unreachability
 - Mathematically unreachable.
 - Formal Verification tools.
- Proposed Methodology:
 1. Run unreachability analysis tool.
 2. Analyze proposed exclusions.
 3. Apply exclusions.



Exclusions

Formal UNR Tool
(e.g. Questa CoverCheck)

- Traffic Light System + Unreachability → Need for Exclusions!
- How to manage exclusions?
 - Assume 3 configurations: **CONFIG_TYPICAL**, **CONFIG_MIN**, **CONFIG_MAX**
 - Create exclusion files for each configuration.



Parameter-aware Functional Coverage

- Code Coverage can be excluded; **Functional Coverage shall not be for Green Waiver.**
- Introducing **Parameter-aware Functional Coverage**:
 - Create **auto-excluding** Covergroups, Coverpoints and Bins based on parameters.

- Covergroups → `if (<COND>) cvg = new("name");`

- Coverpoints:

```
option.weight          = {<COND>};  
option.at_least        = {<COND>};  
type_option.weight     = {<COND>};
```

What if
`option.per_instance = 1?`

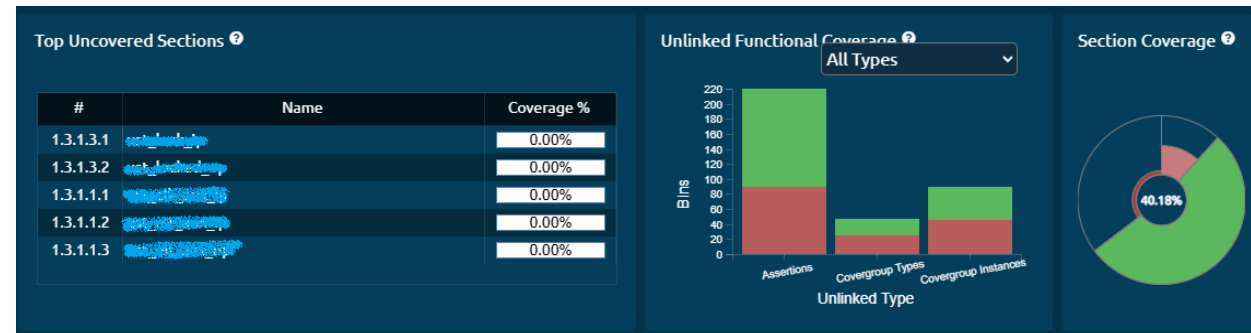
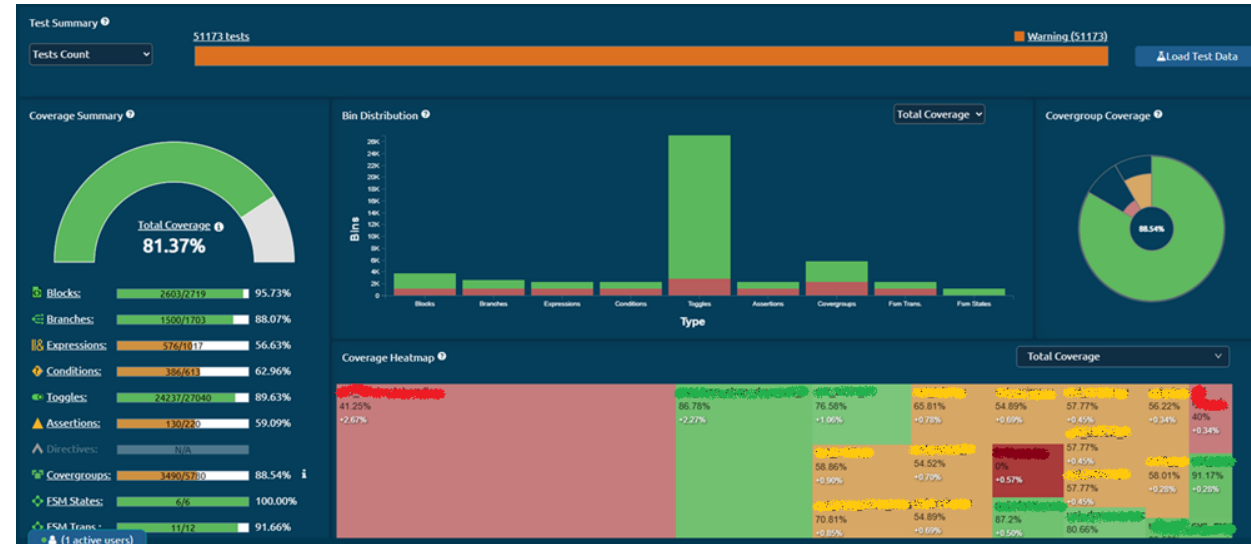
- Bins → `bins b_A = {'h0'} with (<COND>);`

RANDOM Configuration

- Randomize all parameters → Allows for covering all possible configurations over time.
- Addition of **COV_ALL** flag.
 - No parameter-aware in RANDOM → We need to see coverage holes.
- Add **covergroup** for parameters.

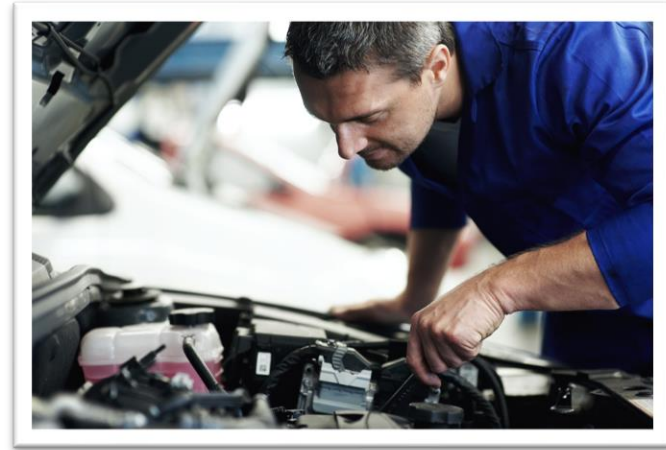
Collaborative Work – Coverage Analyzer (VIQ)

- VIQ offers a collaborative work environment to analyze and manage coverage.
- It also keeps track of testplans merged into coverage files



Considerations

- For **Code Coverage**, well-maintained Exclusions are the key to success.
- For **Functional Coverage**, well-designed parameter-aware covergroups shall expedite verification.



Real-time and Interactive Dashboards

Dashboards

ASIC Verification Complexity

- Highly configurable IPs require verification across **multiple configurations**
- Leads to **exponential growth** in verification effort (almost infinite permutations)
- Managing diverse configurations and variants creates significant data challenges
- Need for **data-driven decision making** thus super important to present this data in a concise and meaningful way.
- Crucial that data is accurate and Real-Time

Type of Metrics

Regression Pass /
Fail Status

Code and Function
Coverage

Bug tracking
system statistics

Specifications /
requirements
items

Verification plan
items

Repository
statistics

Compute
resources metrics
(CPU, Memory etc)

Test/regression
resource statistics
(e.g. run time)

Challenges Without Real-Time Dashboards

- **Delayed insights** into verification progress and issues
- **Manual collection and correlation** of metrics across configurations can lead into misinterpretation
- **Reactive rather than proactive** issue detection
- **Siloed information** between teams and verification stages
- Can lead to **stale data** very quickly
- **Time-consuming** report generation and analysis

Benefits of Real-Time & Interactive Dashboards

- Immediate visibility into verification progress
- Early bug detection and trend analysis
- Resource optimization and management
- Comprehensive coverage tracking across configurations
- Data-driven decision making
- Efficient generation of verification health reports.

Benefit 1: Immediate Visibility

- **At-a-glance** “health status” overview of design and verification
- **Real-time status** across all regression runs and configurations
- **Aggregated view** of pass/fail metrics across variants and also coverage
- **Immediate feedback** on new test additions or code changes
- Better understanding of **verification bottlenecks**

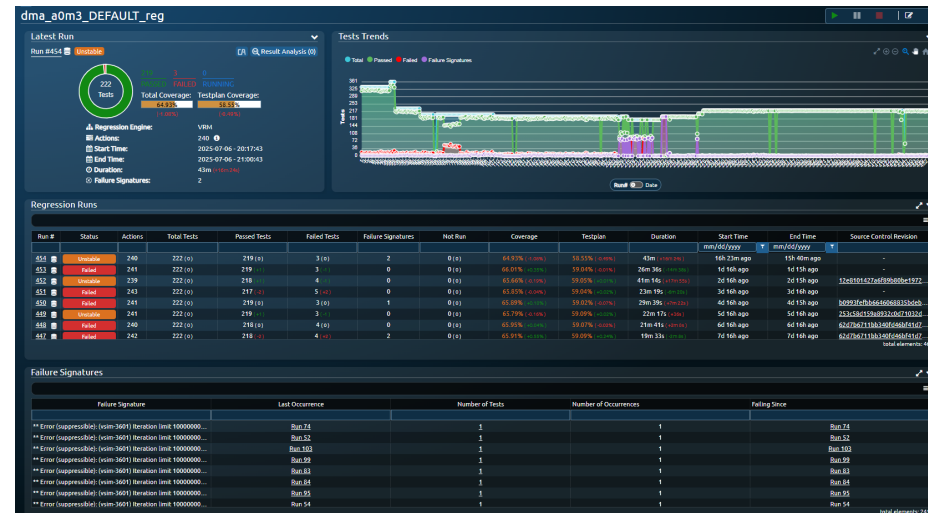


Benefit 1: Immediate Visibility

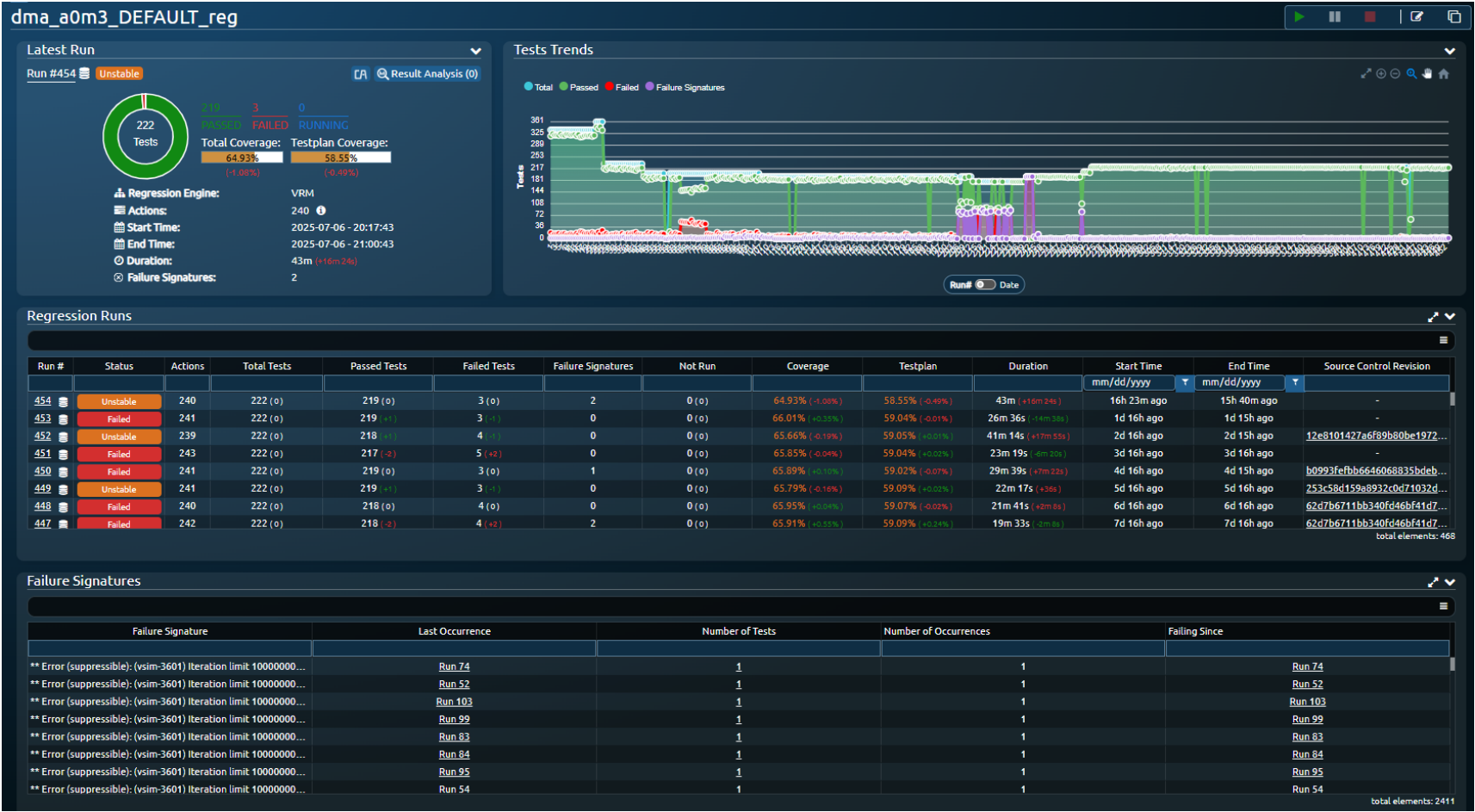


Benefit 2: Early Bug Detection

- **Live bug convergence trends** highlight potential issues early
- **Interactive bug curves** allow drill-down into problematic areas
- **Cross-configuration bug correlation** identifies systemic issues
- **Predictive analytics** for forecasting time to verification closure

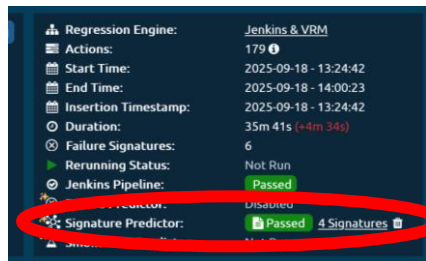


Benefit 2: Early Bug Detection



Benefit 2: Early Bug Detection (2)

- Smart debug - > Using ML to triage and identify candidate tests to debug.
- Speeds up debug cycles helping in earlier bug detection.

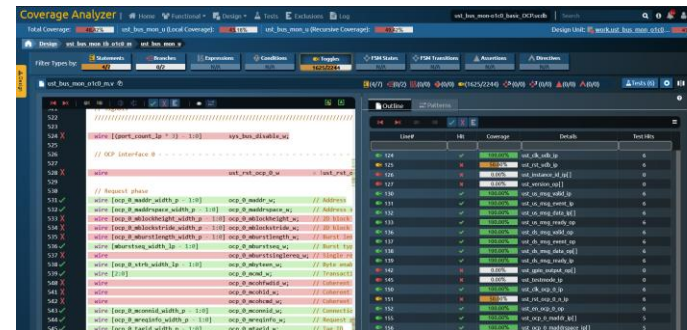
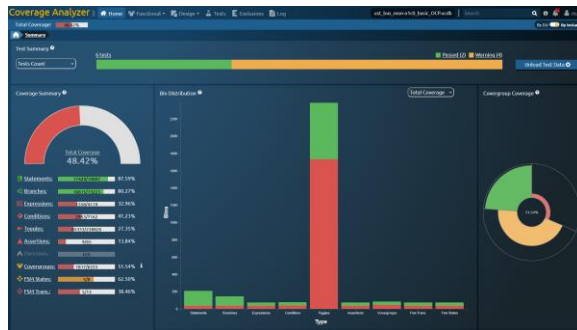


The 'Smart Debug Results' interface for 'Run #19' (viq_ml_sm_req). It features a bubble chart where the size of each bubble represents the number of tests associated with a specific error signature. The largest bubble is labeled '# UVM_ERROR <FILEPATH>{<...>}' with 7 tests. Other bubbles include '# UVM_ERROR...' (1 Test), '# UVM_ERROR <...>' (2 Tests), and 'Others' (1 Test). The 'Details' panel on the right shows a selected signature: '# UVM_ERROR <FILEPATH>{<NUM>}<TIME>: <INST> [Scoreboard Downstream Counter Message Checker] <NUM> counter message(s) from the DUT still in unexpected q:' with 7 tests. The 'Candidate Test' section lists a test with simulation time 271370000 ps: 'ust_status_mon_test_counter_data_interval_timer_643449506'. The 'Regression Actions' table at the bottom shows the execution of a test script.

Action	Test Name	Seed	Run Status	Severity	Log Suspects	Elapsed Time	Queued Time	End Time	Root-Cause Predictor
..._test~3/execScript	..._test_1166171717	1166171717	Failed	error	2	25s	4s	13h 37m ago	Not Run

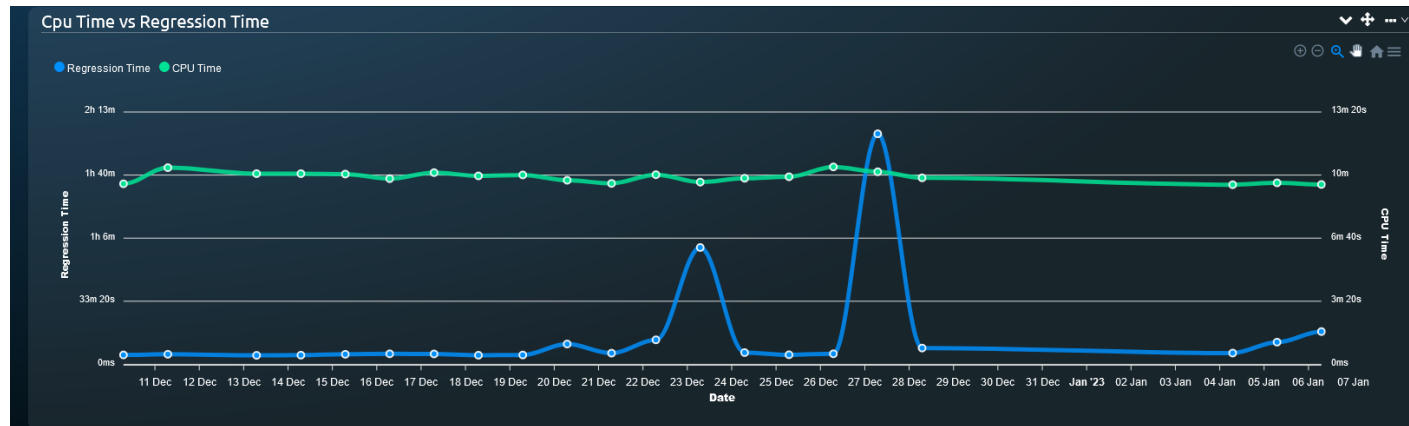
Benefit 3: Comprehensive Coverage Tracking

- **Real-time coverage metrics** across all configurations and all coverage types
- **Interactive coverage** linked and annotated directly to testplan items
- **Gap analysis** between configurations highlights untested scenarios
- **Coverage progression tracking** shows verification maturity over time



Benefit 4: Resource Optimization

- **CPU / Memory utilization tracking** across all tests to identify performance anomalies
- **Test runtime analysis** to identify inefficient simulations
- **Regression execution patterns** reveal infrastructure bottlenecks

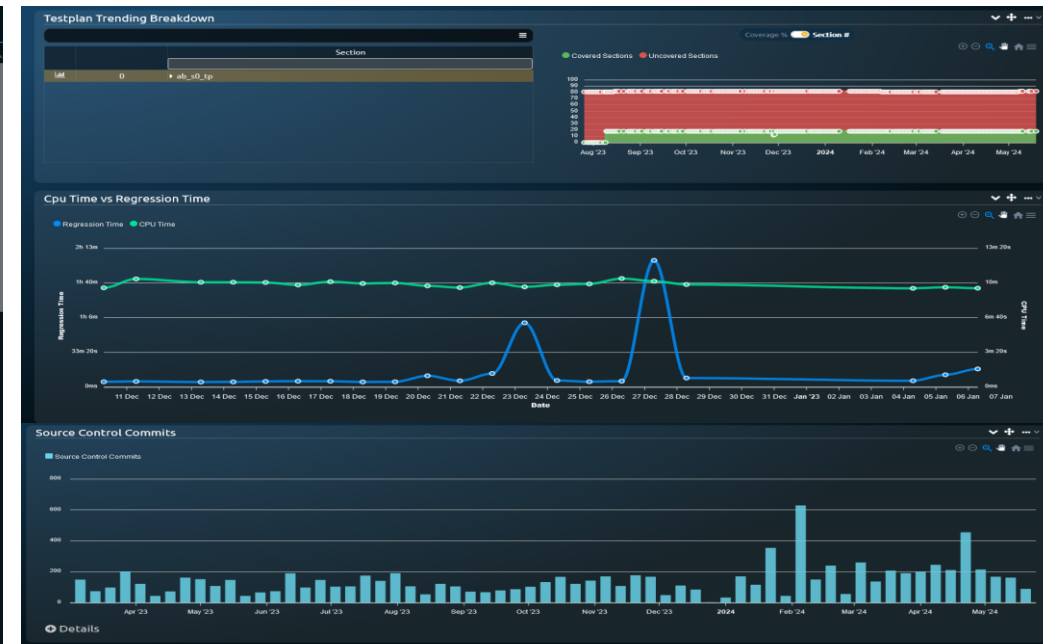


Benefit 5: Data-Driven Decision Making

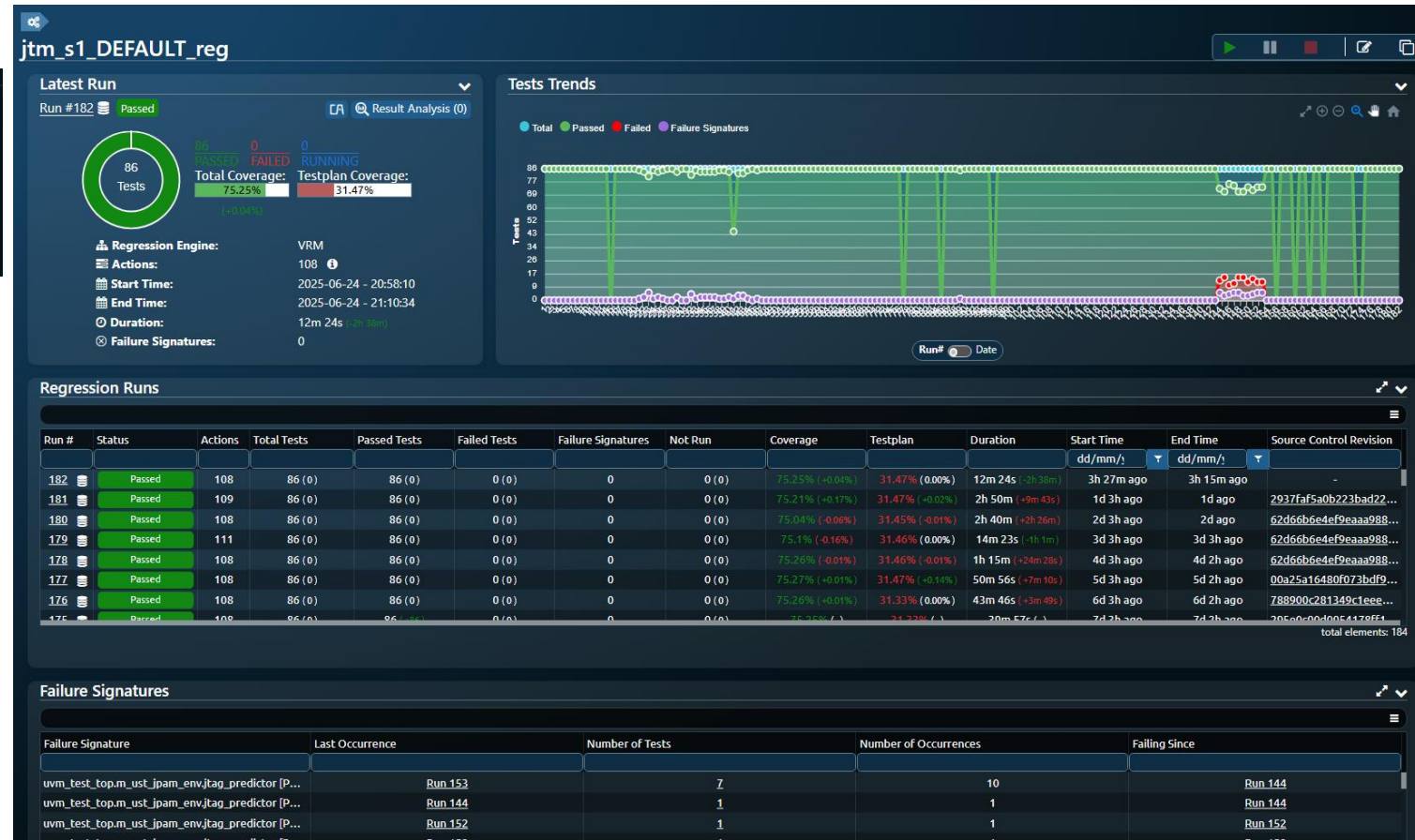
- **Actionable insights** rather than raw data
- **Interactive filtering** to isolate specific issues or configurations
- **Custom views** for different stakeholders (managers, engineers, leads)
- **Historical trend analysis** for continuous process improvement

Tessent Embedded Analytics Dashboard (1)

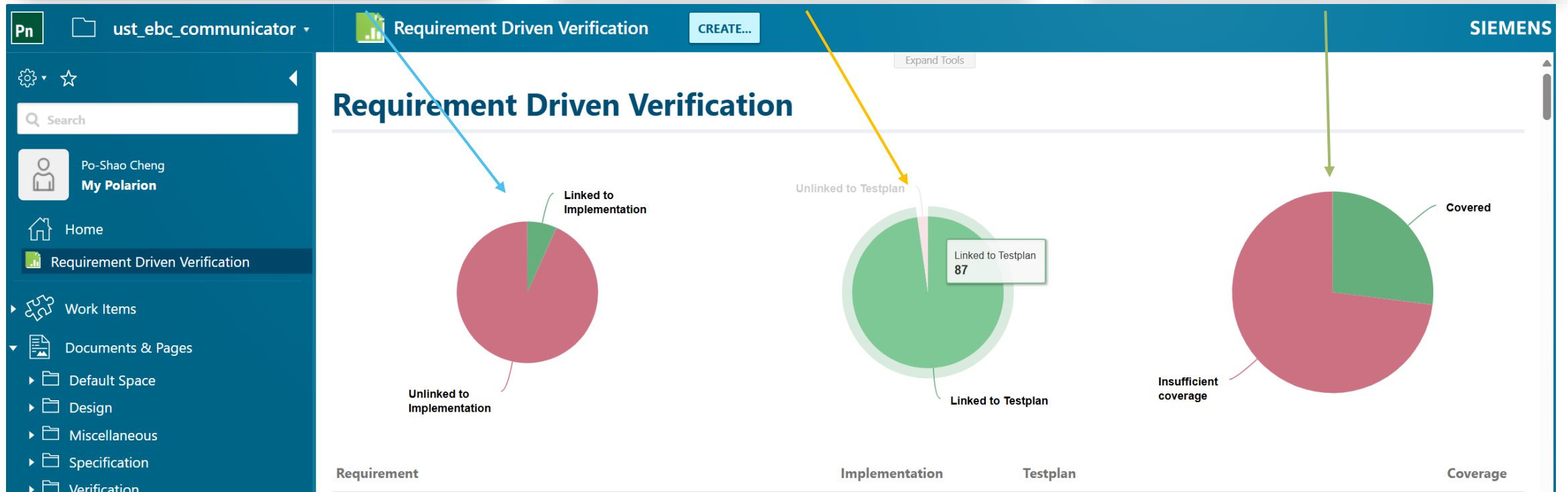
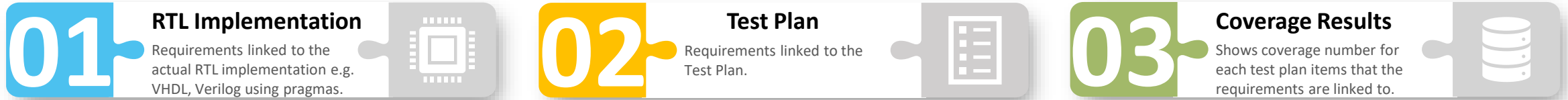
- Use Questa Verification IQ (VIQ) extensively for verification management and dashboarding
- Various metrics: regression status, coverage scores, database stability, CPU runtimes, etc.
- Each IP has separate Hierarchical dashboard per variant and configuration.



Tessent Embedded Analytics Dashboard (2)

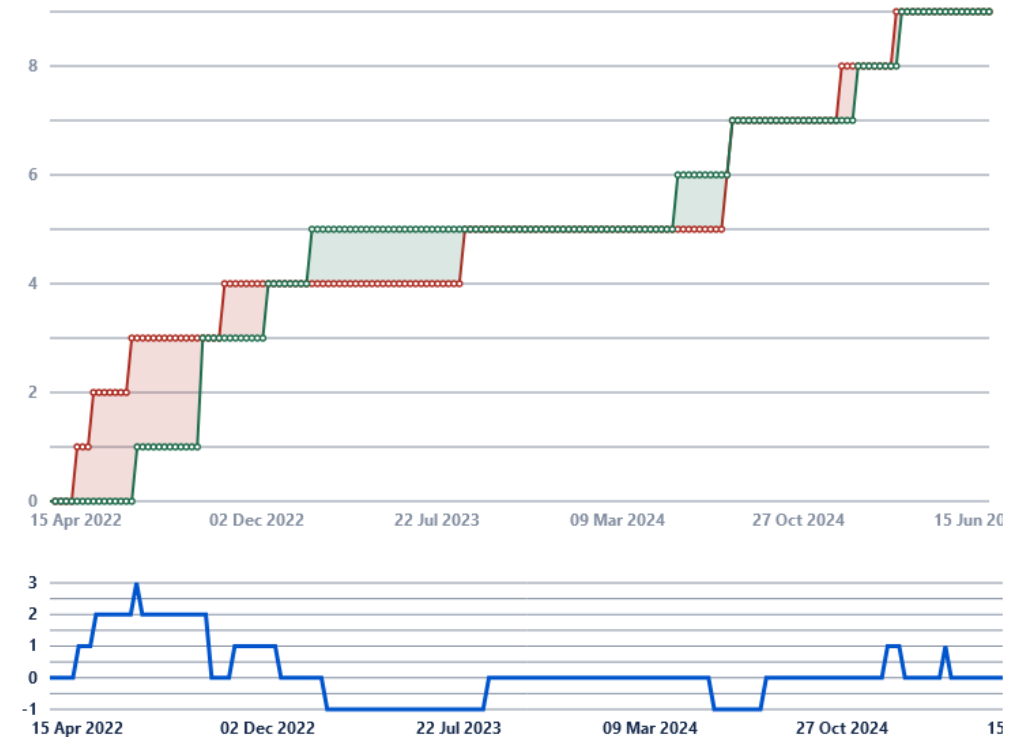


Requirement Traceability Dashboards



Bug / Issue Tracking

- Using JIRA for issue/bug tracking
- Will integrate with Verification Management tool



Issues in the last 1,200 days (grouped weekly) [View in Issue Navigator](#)

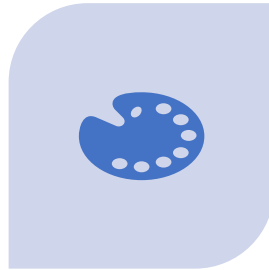
- Created issues (9)
- Resolved issues (9)

Early Bug Detection

How our coverage and dashboards help



**TO FIND BUGS EARLY –
SPECIALLY DURING THE
PRE-SILICON STAGE**



**CREATE ROBUST DESIGNS
– HIGH QUALITY DESIGN**

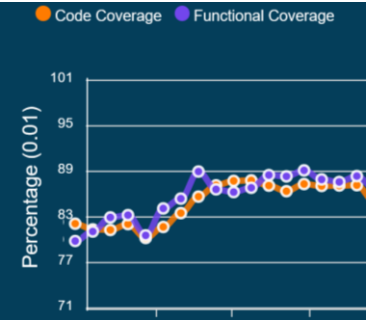


**DEVELOPMENT TIME IS
FASTER**

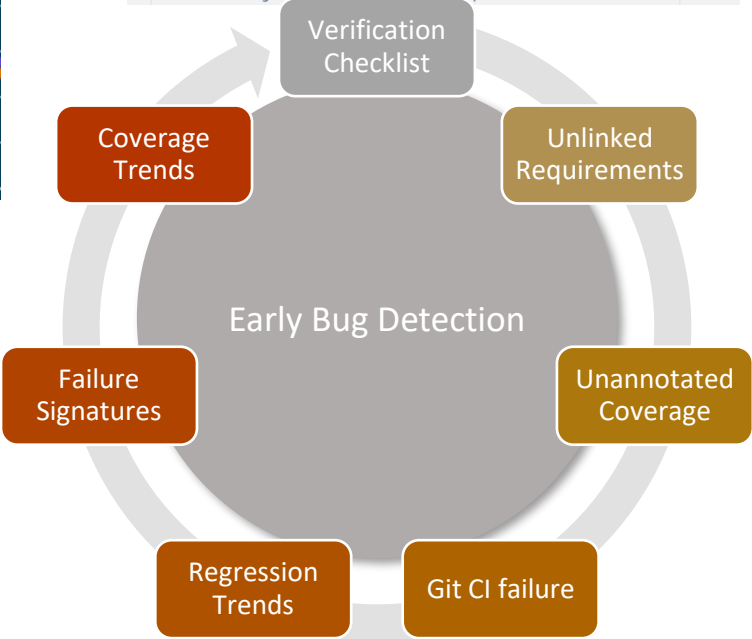
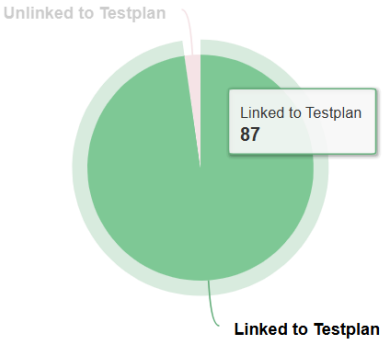


**BETTER RELATIONSHIP
WITH CUSTOMERS**

Early Indicators of Bugs



E1	Has the spec been reviewed and Approved and a baseline created?	Yes
E2	Has the testplan been reviewed against spec and 100% of requirements mapped?	Yes
E3	Have all known tests (as per testplan) been implemented?	Yes
E4	Have all known tests (as per testplan) been passing?	No
E5	Have all bugs been documented in JIRA and closed? [If there are any deferred bugs, please provide details]	Yes
E6	Has function coverage been implemented?	Yes
E7	Has function coverage been 100% mapped against the testplan?	Yes



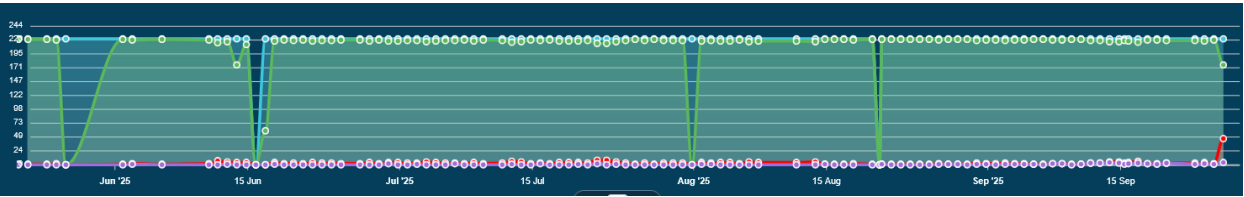
▶ 1.1.1.3	Clock Domain Crossing	100.00%
▶ 1.1.2	AXI Interface	100.00%
▶ 1.2	Features	93.71%
▶ 1.3	Testcases	E
▶ 2	Downstream EBC (ebc_tp_downstream_virtual)	100.00%
▶ 3	Upstream EBC (ebc_tp_upstream_virtual)	100.00%



Pipeline #21069 failed

Pipeline failed for 4f0b47ec on cLockgen_checker 1 week ago

Failure Signature	Last Occurrence
** Error (suppressible): (vsim-3601) Iteration limit 10000000 reached at tim...	Run 74
** Error (suppressible): (vsim-3601) Iteration limit 10000000 reached at tim...	Run 52
** Error (suppressible): (vsim-3601) Iteration limit 10000000 reached at tim...	Run 103
** Error (suppressible): (vsim-3601) Iteration limit 10000000 reached at tim...	Run 99
** Error (suppressible): (vsim-3601) Iteration limit 10000000 reached at tim...	Run 83
** Error (suppressible): (vsim-3601) Iteration limit 10000000 reached at tim...	Run 84
** Error (suppressible): (vsim-3601) Iteration limit 10000000 reached at tim...	Run 95
** Error (suppoessible): (vsim-3601) Iteration limit 10000000 reached at tim...	Run 54



Verification checklists

- Final link in the methodology
- Created early in the development process of the release
- Completed prior to code freeze
- Reviewed and approved prior to release
- Captures all aspects of the methodology
- Progress bar in Jira is used to track checklist

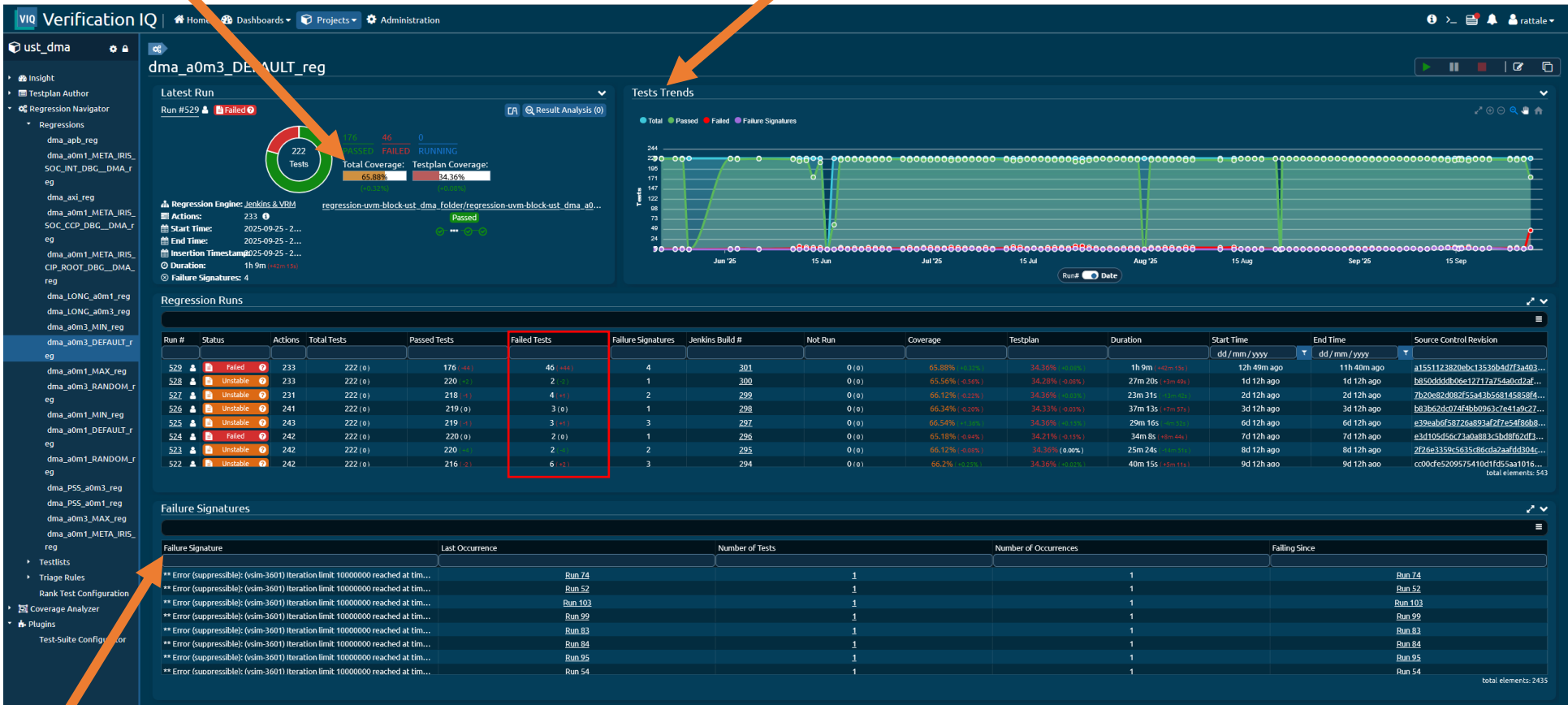
#	Question	Response	Comment
E1	Has the spec in Reviewed and Approved and a baseline created?		
E2	Has the <u>testplan</u> been reviewed against spec and 100% of requirements mapped?		
E3	Have all known tests (as per <u>testplan</u>) been implemented?		
E4	Have all known tests (as per <u>testplan</u>) been passing?		
E5	Have all bugs been documented in <u>JIRA</u> and closed? <i>[If there are any deferred bugs, please provide details]</i>		
E6	Has function coverage been implemented?		
E7	Has function coverage been 100% mapped against the <u>testplan</u> ?		
E8	Has the <u>testplan</u> been annotated against coverage?		
E9	Has the <u>testplan</u> been achieved 100% coverage?		
E10	Is code coverage (block, toggle, expression, <u>FSM</u>) 100% "explained". (i.e with all waivers applied)?		

	Version	Status	Progress	Start date ⓘ	Release date ⓘ
■	SM 10.2	RELEASED	<div></div>		03/Apr/25
■	SIP 2025.1.1	RELEASED	<div></div>		07/Apr/25
■	ETE 15.1.2	RELEASED	<div></div>		28/Jan/25

Regression Trends & Failing Signatures

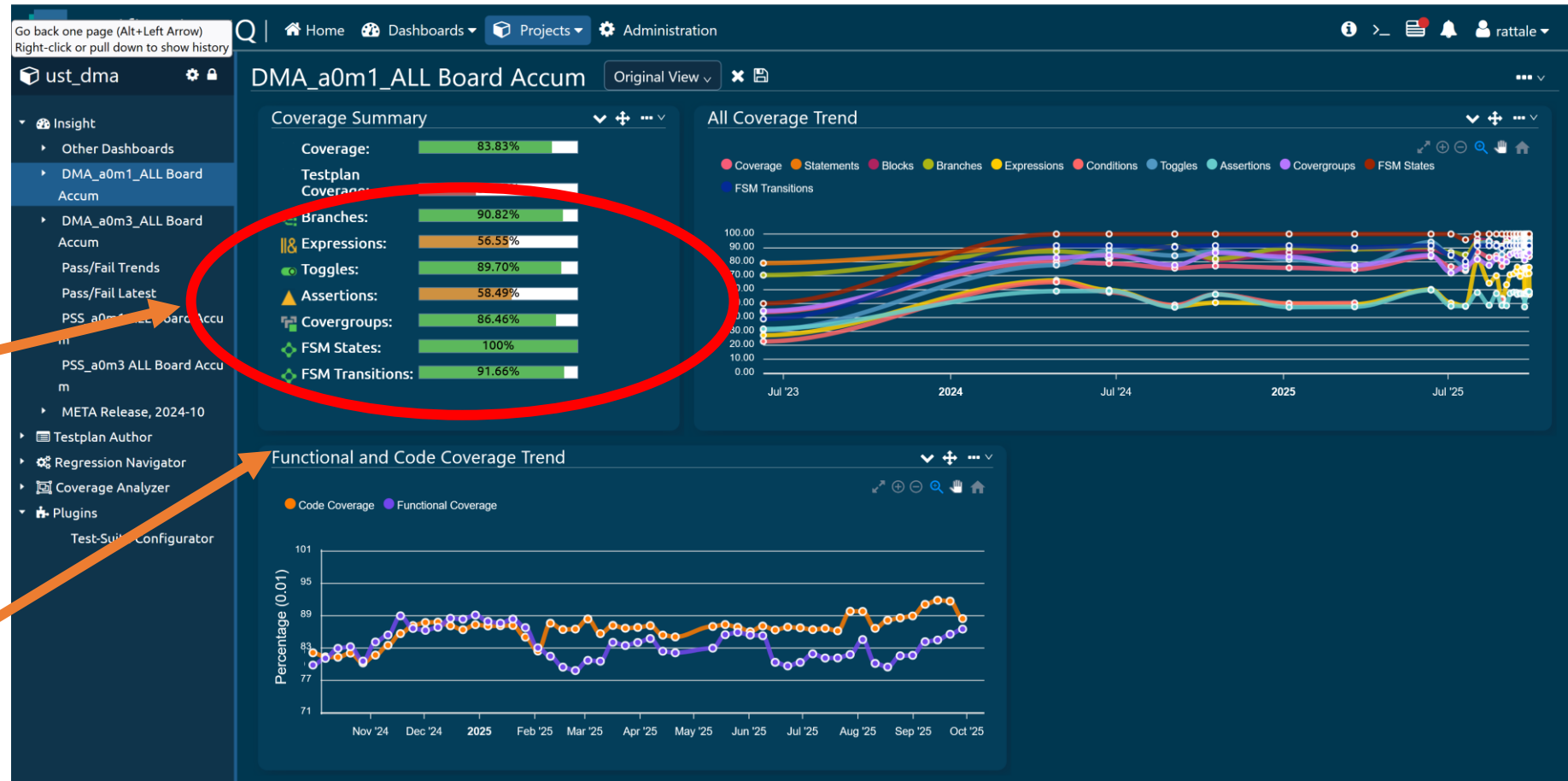
Coverage rate for the regression

Pass/fail trends of the regressions



Error messages seen in the regression

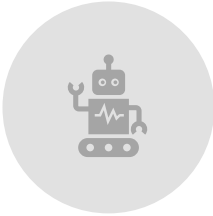
Coverage Trends



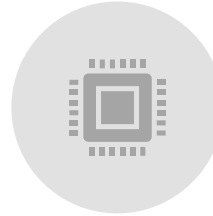
Helpful to identify which areas of the code is untested

Fluctuations in coverage can help identify bugs

Summary



Automated & Configurable Flow: Manages complex IP verification with cross-platform automation.



Real-time Visibility: Interactive dashboards enable early bug detection and data-driven decisions.



Enhanced Coverage: "Traffic Light System" for parameter-aware functional coverage.



Integrated Traceability: Seamless collaboration via JIRA and requirement management integration.



Optimized Resources: Monitors usage (CPU/memory, runtime) for efficiency.



Efficient Techniques: Leverages randomization, coverage merging, and automated data extraction.

Questions?