



Todd McNutt

**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
**M E D I C I N E**

**RADIATION ONCOLOGY &  
MOLECULAR RADIATION SCIENCES**



# Medical Software: A Clinical and Commercial Perspective

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# **To provide a general idea of the processes and issues related to developing Medical Software**

- Review Product Development Process**
- Simplified TPS/IMRT product example**

# Concerns about Medical Software Development

- Safety, Safety, Safety
- Highly specialized
- Smaller market -> higher dollar
- Interoperability (customers demanding standards – DICOM)
- Tendency to package software developed in a academic or research setting
- Cutting corners may improve time to market, but...
  - Infrastructure – longevity...
  - Usability...
  - Support...
  - Safety...
- FDA understands, but cannot afford to police product safety
  - FDA police Development Process as it is common across industry
  - Lack of knowledge of each product prevents policing safety directly.
  - Safety is monitored as product is used.
    - Incident reports are required by law to be reported by industry to FDA when they occur.
    - Website publishes them.  
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfMAUDE/search.CFM>

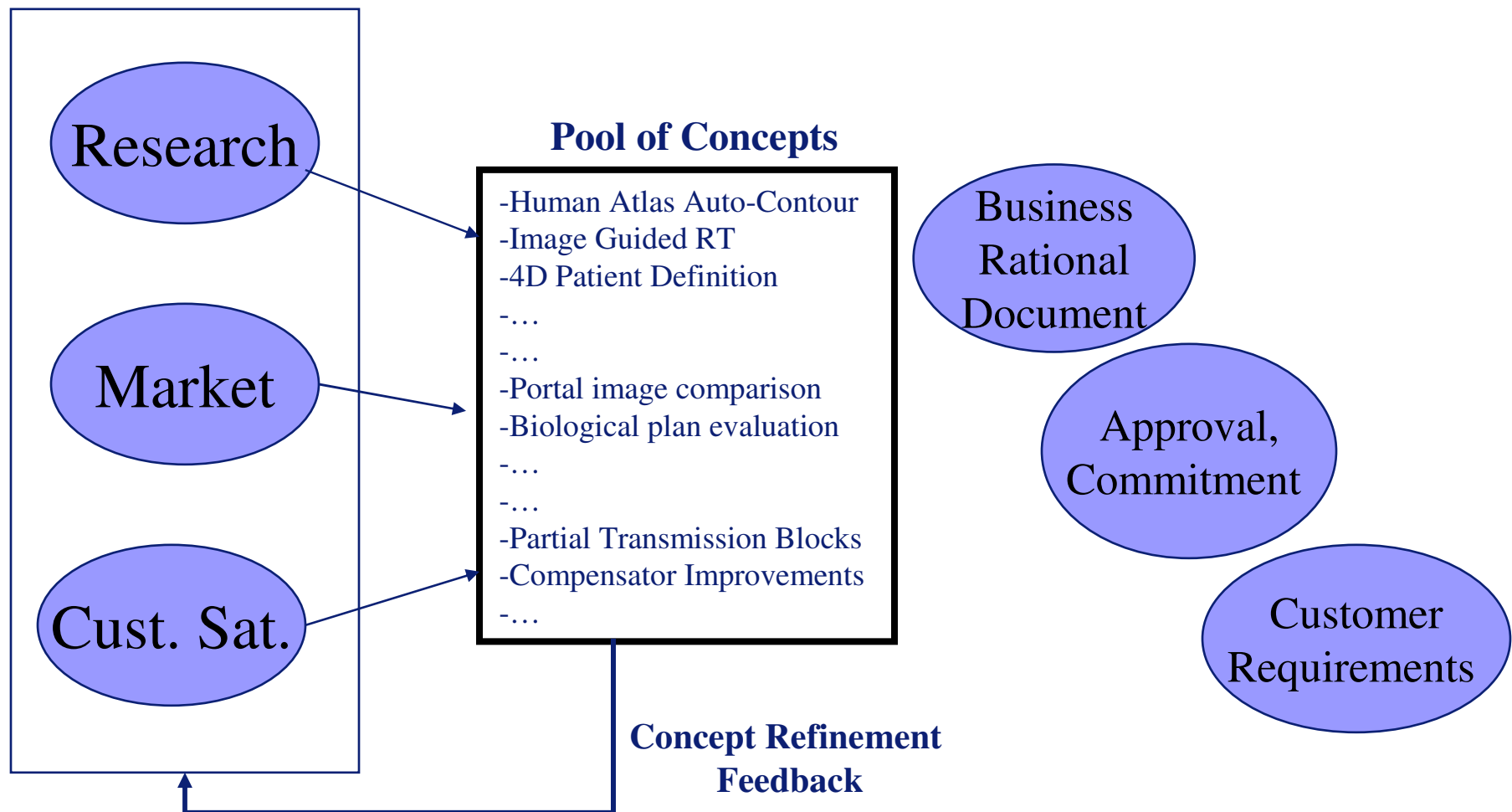
# Quality System

- All manufactures of medical devices must maintain a quality system
- Quality system is audited periodically
  - Required for FDA, CE Marking
  - ISO-9000 certification is independent of regulation but similar
- Quality system defines standard operating procedures (SOP) for a development organization
- SOP cover Product specifications through design, support and complaint handling.
- FDA 510K approval requires documented evidence that your quality system was followed in the product development
  - It does not guarantee that the product is safe.

# FDA - 21 CFR Part 820

- Quality System Requirements
  - Audit policy
  - Personnel training
- Design Controls
- Document Control
- Identification and Traceability
- Production and Process Control
- Corrective and Preventative Action (CAPA)
- Labeling and Packaging
- Records
  - Device Master Record
  - Device History Record

# Product Conceptualization



## Business Rationale

**Overview of the Concept**  
**Clinical Benefit**  
**Alignment with Strategic Plan**  
**Scope**  
**Integration with Existing Products**  
**Market Analysis**  
**Financial Analysis**  
**Sourcing Options**  
**Distribution**  
**Risks**

**Approval,  
Commitment**

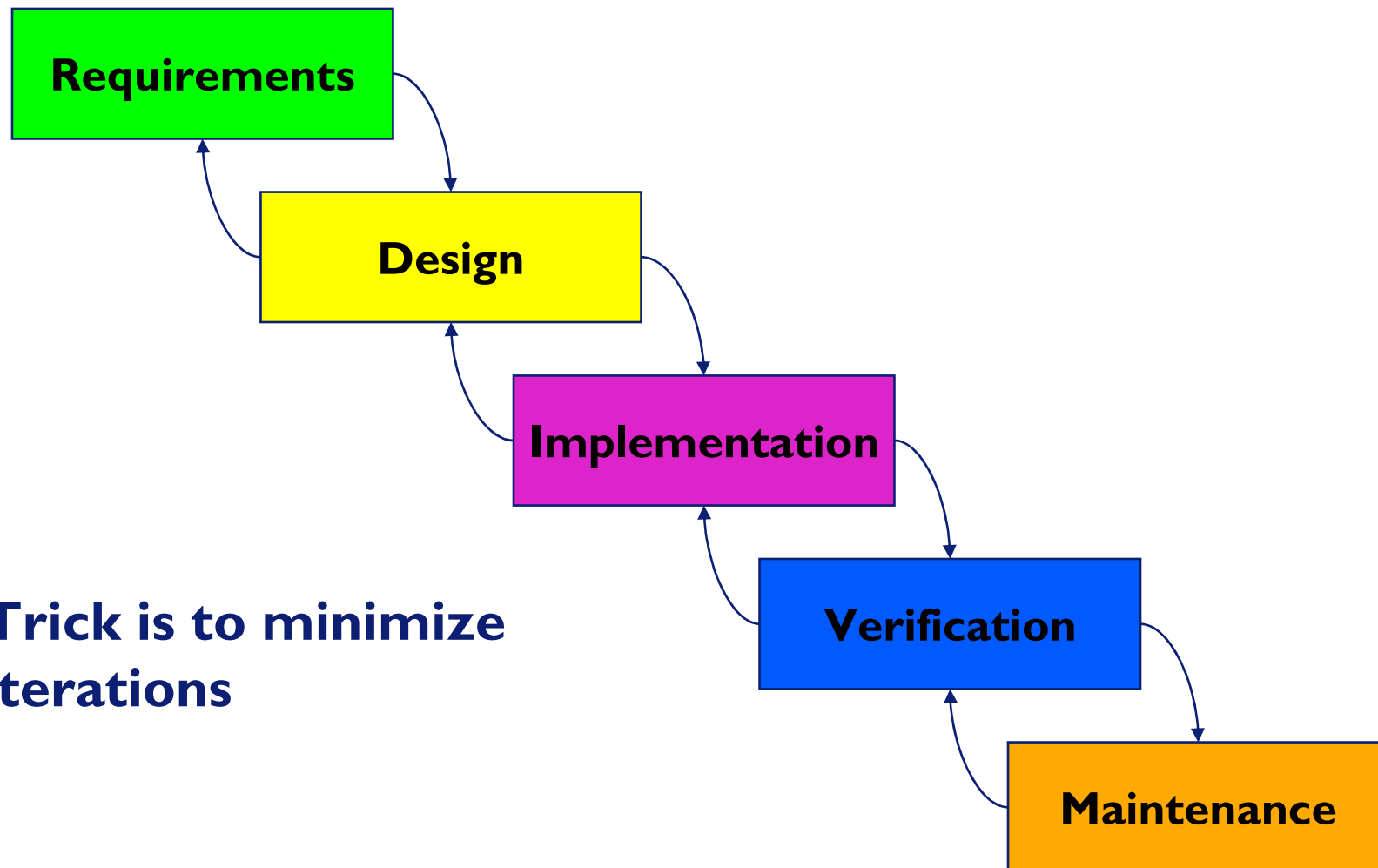
## Customer Requirements

**Detailed Product Description**  
**Intended Use**  
**Staging**  
**Requirements**  
**Hardware Requirements**  
**Software Requirements**  
**Human Factors**  
**Interoperability (Networking)**  
**Privacy/Security**  
**Documentation/Training**  
**References**

### Approval and Commitment Considerations:

- Market potential
- Return on investment
- Alignment with Strategic Plan
- Scope to completion
- Competitive advantage
- Customer satisfaction
- Availability of resources
- Feasibility
- Categorization Metrics

# Modified Waterfall Development Process



**Trick is to minimize iterations**



# Customer Requirements Specifications

- Typically owned by “Marketing”
- You are not the end customer!
- What can the customer use? (minimum viable product)
- Use cases
  - Several scenarios on how the product will be used
- Detailed list of specifications
  - e.g. User must be able to specify treatment objectives for a set of defined structures
- Performance requirements
  - e.g. Dose computation speed
- Backward compatibility
- Interoperability requirements
- Installation and support requirements

# Software Requirements Specification

- Engineering response to customer requirements
- Detailed list of software specifications
  - e.g. System must allow the user to identify a treatment objective...
    - By graphically moving an icon on a DVH display with the mouse
    - By typing dose and percent volume levels into a spreadsheet form
- Use of standards
- Network linkage
- Database
- Verification testing strategy
- User documentation

# Risk Analysis and Mitigation

- Risk analysis against specifications
  - Brainstorm of all potential safety risks
- Score the risks based on
  - Detectability (experience user)
  - Severity (death, injury)
  - Probability of occurrence (for software usually 100%)
- Mitigate risk through software specification, design, and documentation.
  - The dreaded warning message should be the last resort
- Risks must be mitigated below level specified by your process

Repeat Statements to AVOID

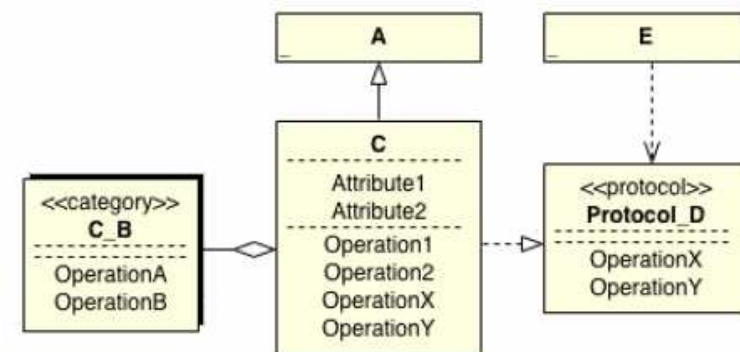
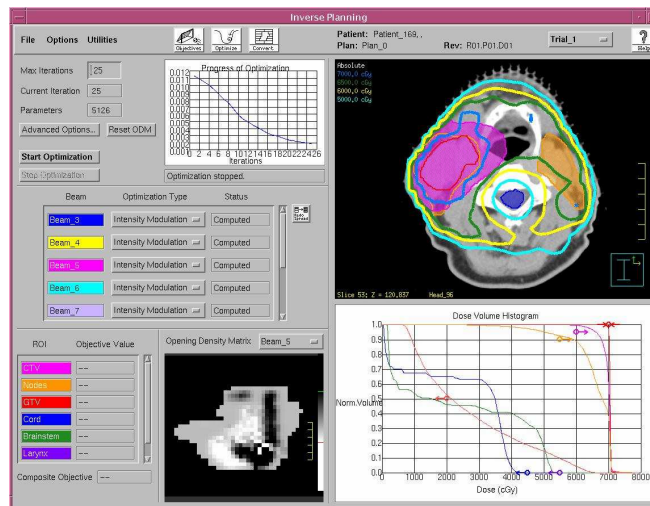
Nobody would ever want to do that.  
They will never load a data set that big.  
This bug rarely occurs.  
The other system will catch that.

Statement to remember:

**If it can happen, it will!**

# Software Design Document

- Detailed design of the software to be developed
- Object hierarchy - Unified Modeling Language (UML)
- Software Interfaces
- Human Interface Design
- Module testing strategy



*UML Class Diagram for Objective-C Constructs*

# Architecture Concerns

- Modular design
  - Allows for module testing to limit scope of required testing
  - Allows for focused integration testing to avoid repeat testing of large portions of the application for small corrections.
  - Allows for the incorporation of 3<sup>rd</sup> party components
- Larger companies are trying to build common framework
  - Centralized group building software components to medical products
  - Standard image processing and display tools
  - DICOM support structure
  - Standardized Graphical User Interface requirements

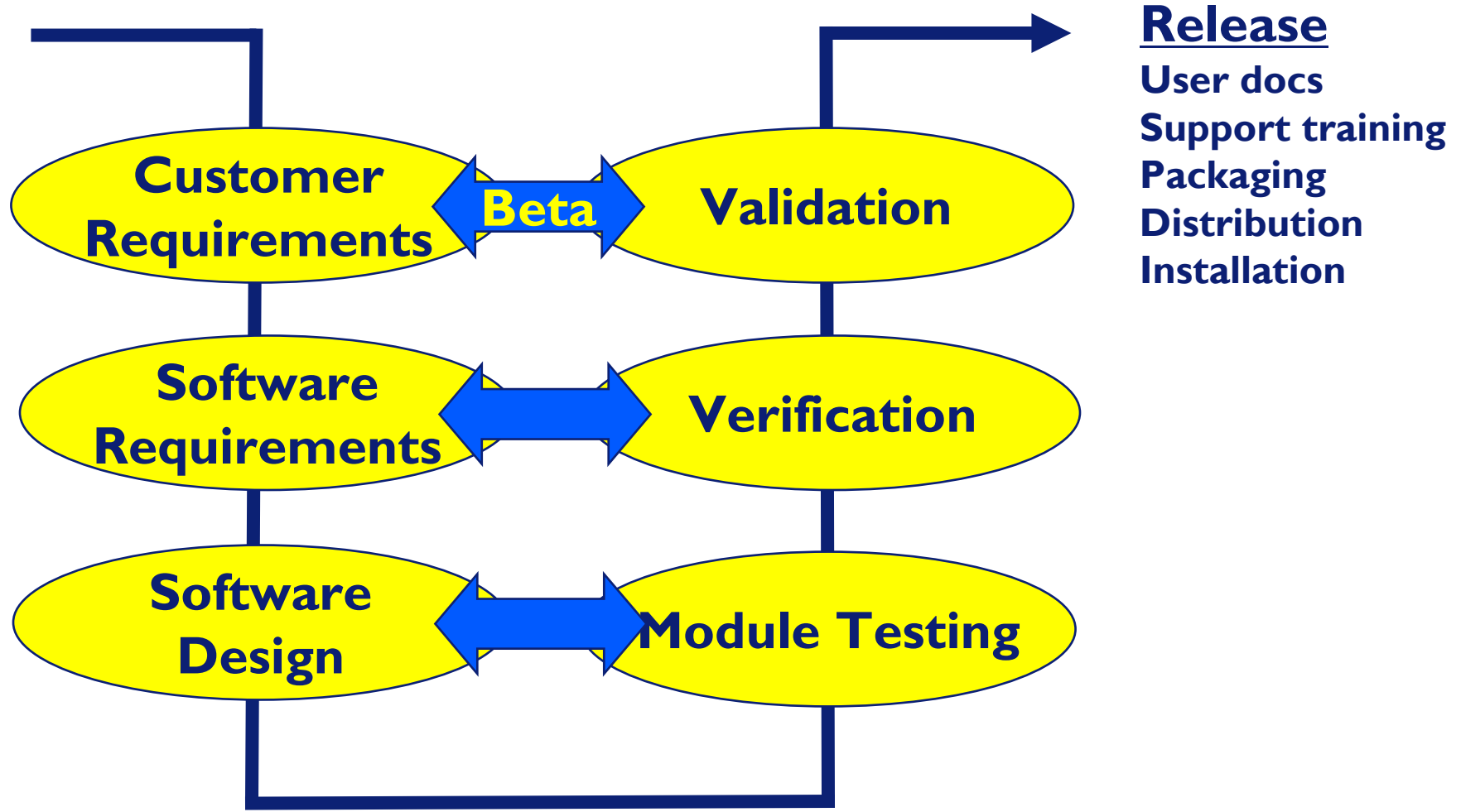
# Coding Standards and Revision Control

- Standardized Notation
  - Improves readability for other coders
  - e.g. Hungarian Notation

```
float fCalculateArrayMean(void *pvDataArray, int iNumberOfData){  
    float fMeanValue = 0.0;  
    int iIterator;  
    for(iIterator=0; iIterator < iNumberOfData; iIterator++)  
        fMeanValue += (float)pvDataArray[iIterator];  
    fMeanValue /= (float)iNumberOfData;  
    return(fMeanValue);  
}
```

- Comments – new tools enable auto documentation (JavaDoc)
- Test functions for module testing
- Revision control
  - Checkin process
  - Documented code review

# Software Development Verification





- **Module (Unit) Testing**
  - Testing of individual code modules
  - Usually automated
  - Owned by engineering
- **Verification (Integration) Testing**
  - Development and execution of detailed test plans
  - Traceable to items in the SRS
  - Owned by QA department
- **Validation (Beta) Testing**
  - Validation that software meets intended use
  - Traceable to items in the CRS
  - Owned by QA and Marketing

# Complaint Handling

## **ANY communication indicating a potential defect**

- Manufacturer must have a procedure for receiving, reviewing and evaluating complaints
- All employees of company are responsible for reporting
- Complaints are assessed for severity
- Patient safety complaints are required to be reported to the FDA
- High severity defects require Corrective And Preventative Action (CAPA)
  - Process modification for prevention
  - Field notification and/or modification
  - Product Recall

# Really Simplified Treatment Planning and IMRT Example

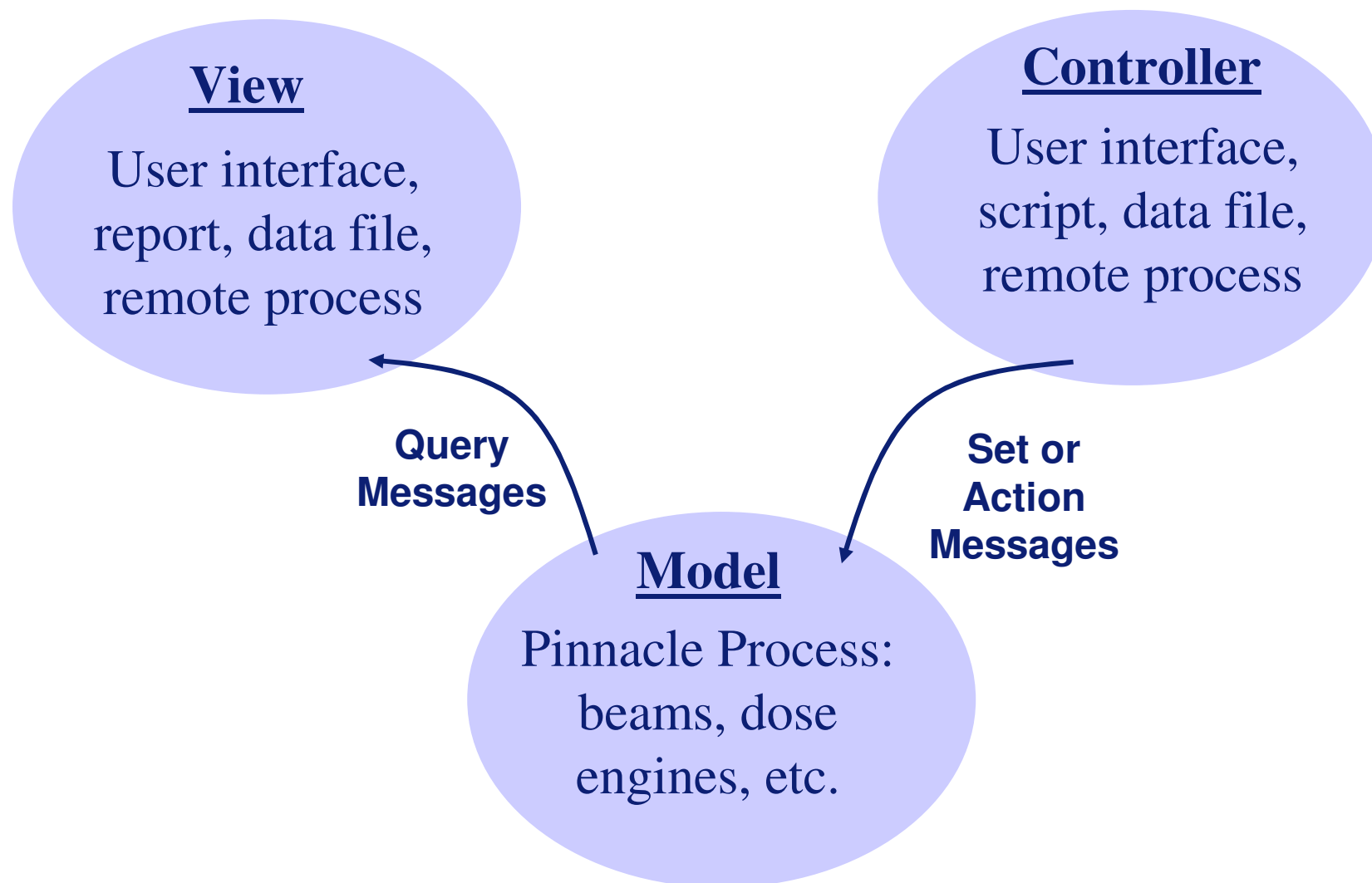
# Customer Requirements (IMRT)

- Use cases...
- Must integrate with existing TPS
- User must be able to...
  - Specify treatment objectives for a set of defined structures
  - Optimize Tx parameters to meet specified objective
  - Optimize parameters for a subset of beams while keeping other beam(s) the same
  - Allow the optimization of beam weight for one beam and intensity modulation for another
- Performance requirements
  - Plan typical treatment in 10 minutes start to finish
  - Iterative dose computation must not require independent commissioning
- Quality Assurance tools
  - User must be able to:
    - Transfer plan to a standard phantom
    - Compute dose to flat water phantom at specified depth
    - Export dose information to dosimetry systems
- Plan Export
  - The treatment plan must be able to be exported to record and verify systems

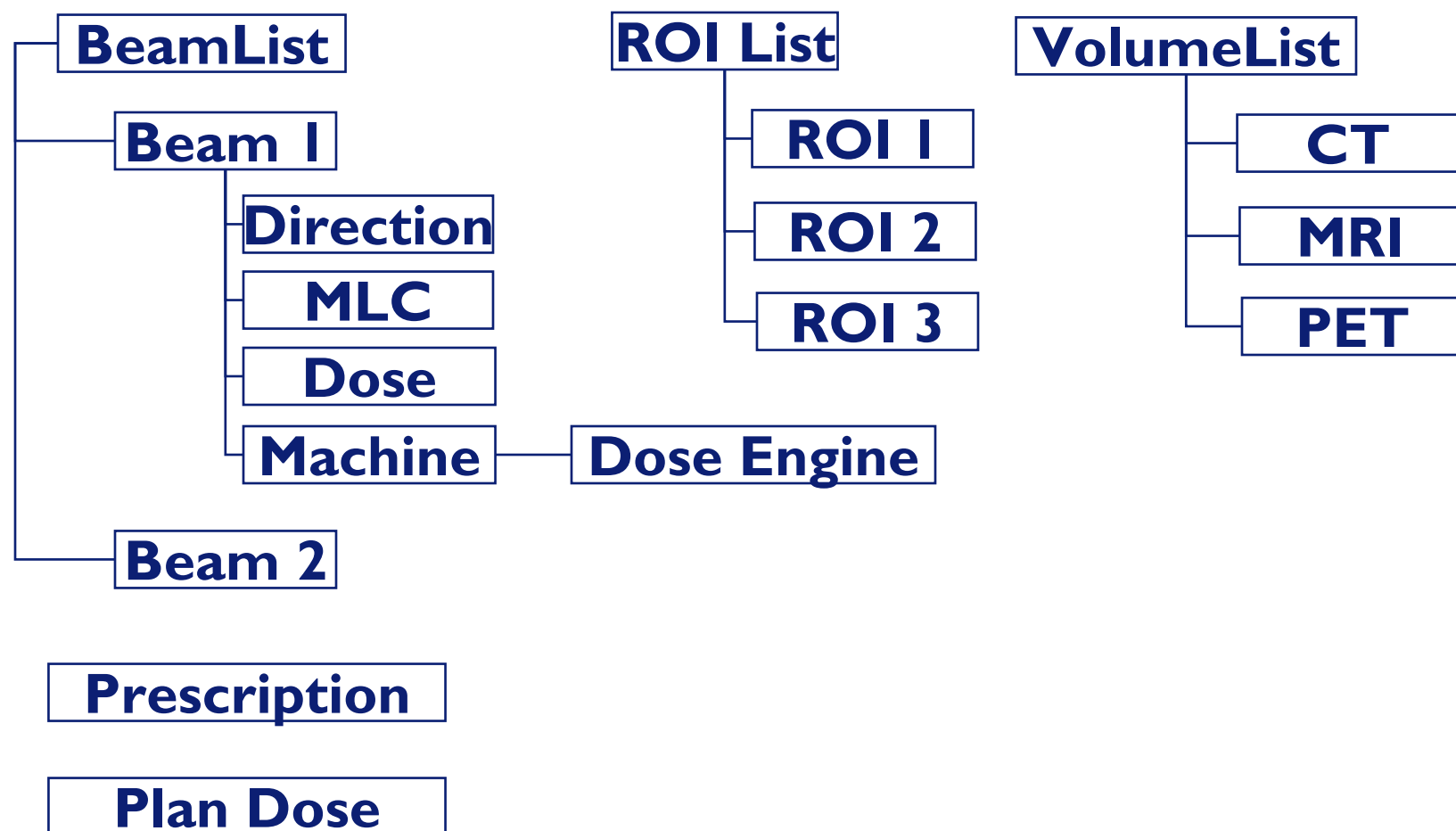
# Risk Analysis and Mitigation (IMRT)

- System fails to send MLC information or sends incorrect MLC patterns to Linac
  - Severity (high), Detectability (Low)
  - Mitigation thru documentation
    - Document need to perform IMRT QA for each patient
    - Document acceptance testing to verify proper transfer of MLC leaves
- System uses incorrect CT to density table for dose computation
  - Severity (medium to high), Detectability (low)
  - Mitigation through software
    - Allow users to specify which CT to Density tables can be used for dose computation
    - Document in User Docs
- System generates excessively high beamlet intensity
  - Severity (potentially high), Detectability (medium)
  - Mitigation
    - Display isodose curves
    - Display maximum dose to defined structures
  - Is it really mitigated???

# Pinnacle<sup>3</sup> M-V-C Architecture



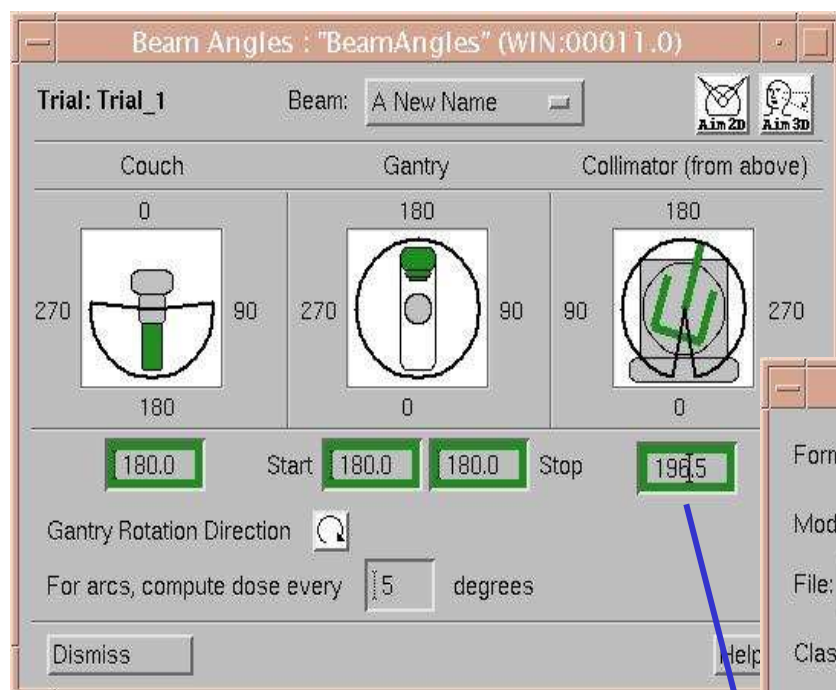
# Treatment Planning Components



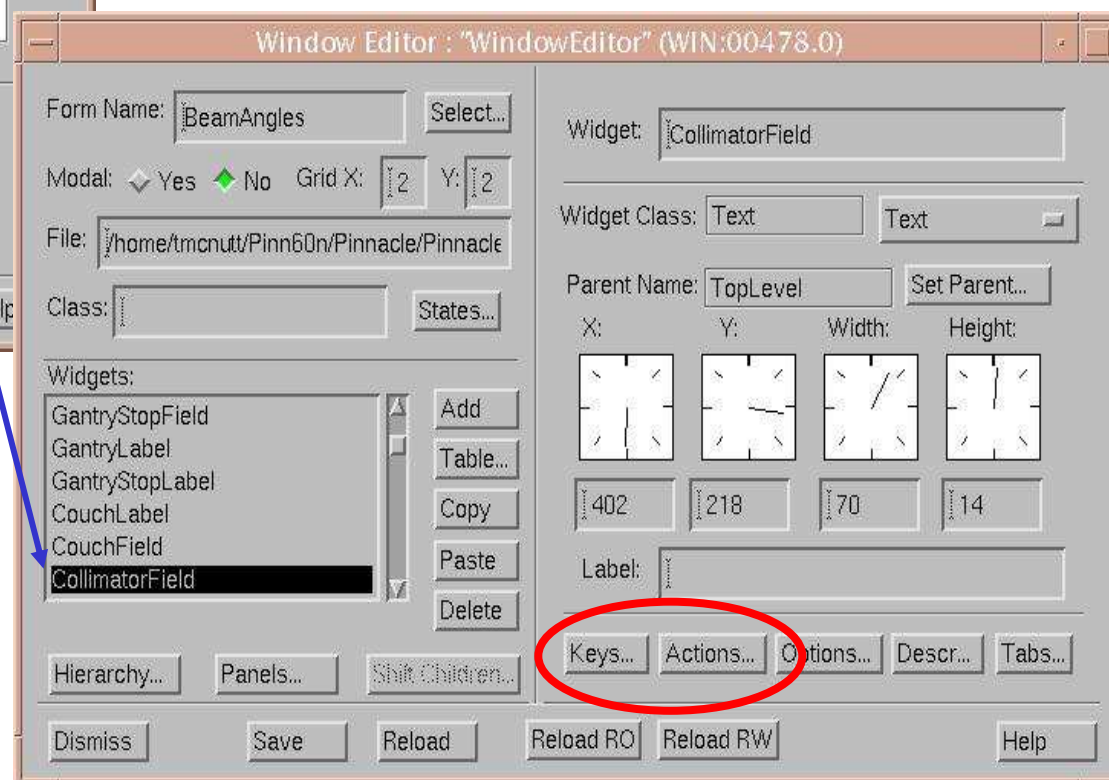
# User Interface View/Controller

`TrialList.Current.BeamList.Current.Collimator`

Each widget in the UI is used to both “view” and “control” the Pinnacle “model”

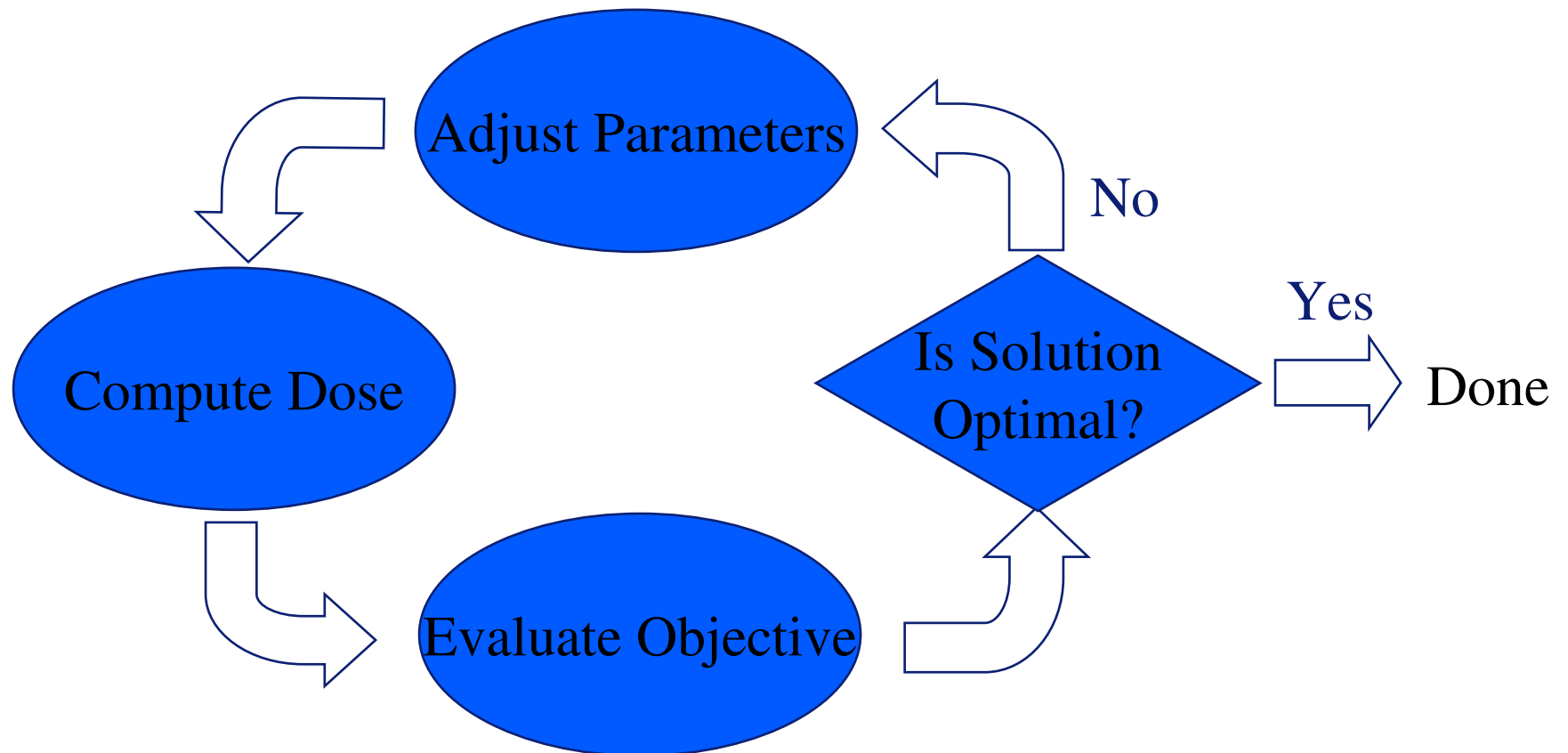


Allows for the UI to be modified without recompiling the source code





# Iterative Optimization

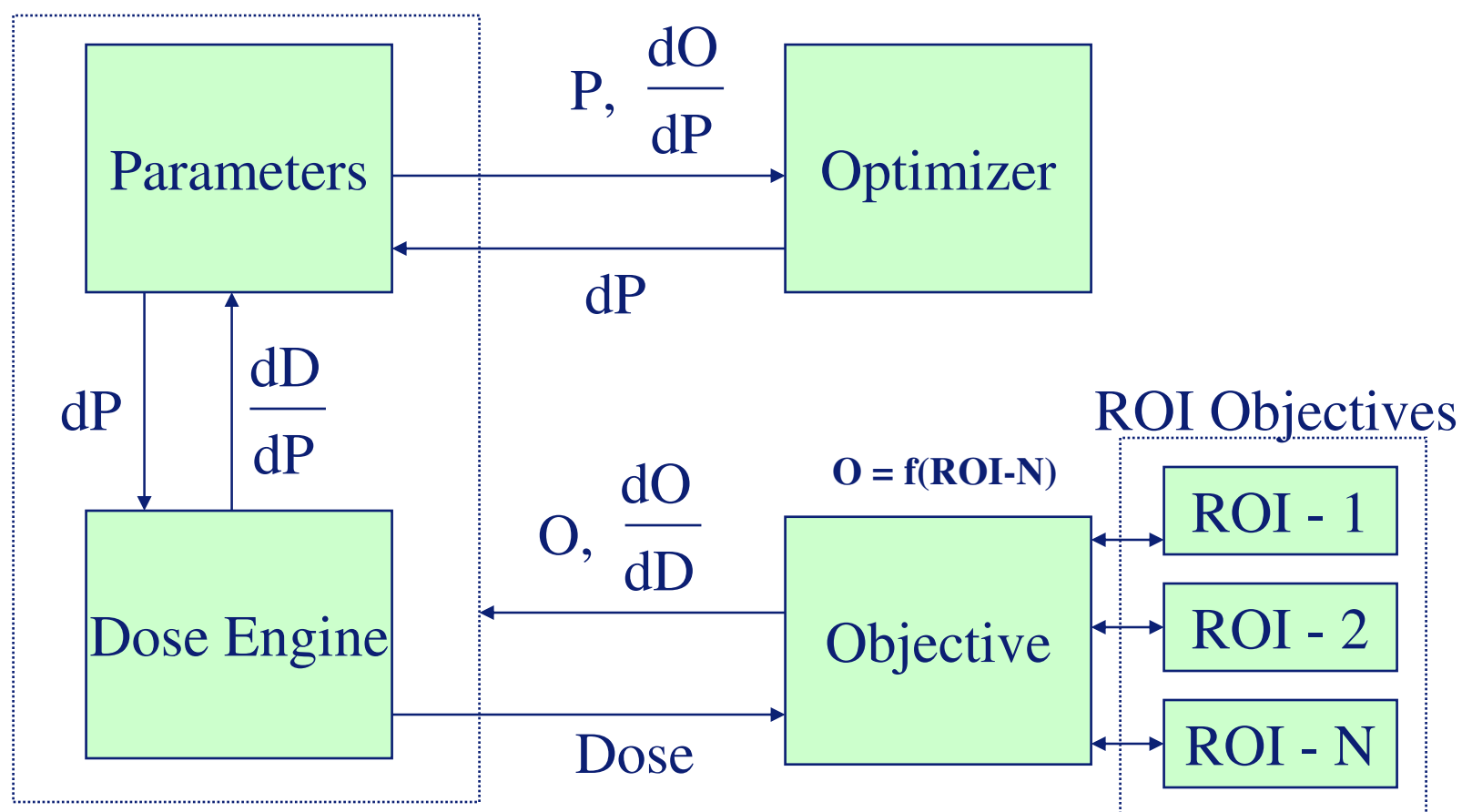


# Modular Architecture

Pinnacle

$$\frac{dO}{dP} = \frac{dO}{dD} \circ \frac{dD}{dP}$$

**O = Objective**  
**P = Parameter**  
**D = Dose**



# Treatment Parameters and Dose

Want High Speed for Optimization

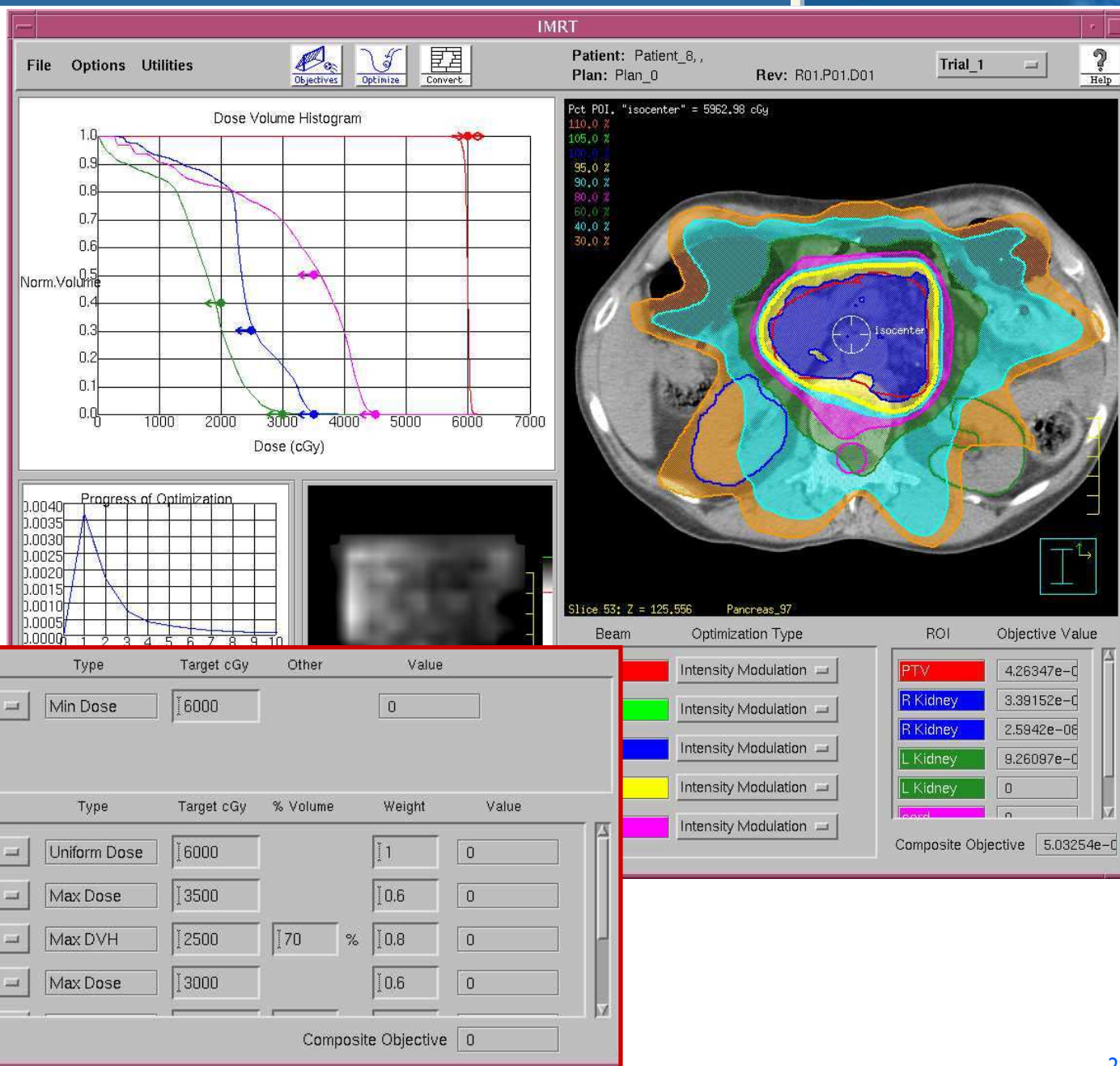
## Parameter

- None
- Beam Weight
- Segment Weight
- Intensity Modulation (IMRT)
- Beam Direction
- Aperture Shape / DMPO
- Wedge Angle
- Fractionation Schedule

## Dose Engine

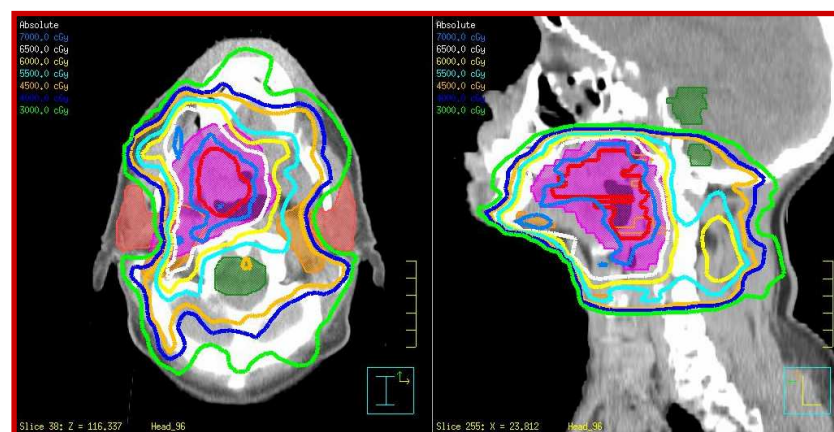
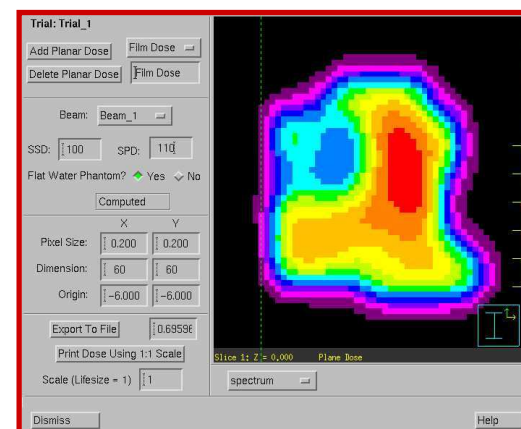
- None
- Dose Summation
- Segment Dose Summation
- Delta Pixel Beam
- Recompute or interpolate
- Delta Pixel Beam
- Wedge Summation (Dynamic)
- Re-sum for prescription

Version to  
be tested



# Validation look at interoperability

- Performance assessment
- Use case verification on patient data
- DICOM RT data transfer
  - RT Plan
  - RT Structure Set
  - RT Image
- Supports linear accelerator
- Dose accuracy compare to measurement



Happy Developing...

...or Documenting and Testing.