



## CLOSE READING OF THE SCIENCE PRACTICES

SCIENCE	ENGINEERING
<b>FIGURE 1: ASKING QUESTIONS AND DEFINING PROBLEMS</b>	
<p>Science begins with a question about a <i>phenomenon</i> (fact, feature, or event of scientific interest) These can be observable and rare. Scientists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formulate</b> (develop) <i>empirically</i> (through observation and experience) answerable questions about <i>phenomena</i> (facts, features or events) to</li> <li>• <b>Establish</b> (begin with) what is already known and to</li> <li>• <b>Determine</b> (figure out) what questions have yet to be <i>satisfactorily</i> (proven by evidence) answered.</li> </ul>	<p>Engineering begins with a problem that needs to be solved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ask questions</b> to clarify problem</li> <li>• <b>Determine criteria</b> ( a standard by which something can be judged or decided)for a successful solution</li> <li>• <b>Identify constraints</b> (limitations or restrictions)</li> </ul>
<b>FIGURE 2: DEVELOPING AND USING MODELS</b>	
<p>Science often involves the <i>construction</i>(building) and use of <i>models</i> (representations of persons or things) and <i>simulations</i> (something made to look, feel, or behave like something else so that it can be studied)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Models enable</b> (allow) <i>predictions</i> (pre-meaning before, dict meaning to say. Say what will happen in the future. A guess based on evidence)</li> <li>• <b>Test hypothetical</b> (possible ideas, situations, claims, theories, propositions, conjectures,) explanations.</li> </ul>	<p>Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Makes</b> use of <i>models</i> (representations of persons or things) and <i>simulations</i> (something made to look, feel, or behave like something else so that it can be studied) to <i>analyze</i> (separate into parts for examining) <i>extant</i> (remaining) systems to identify <i>flaws</i> (weaknesses or limitations) that might occur, or to test possible solutions to a new problem.</li> <li>• <b>Design and use</b> models of various sorts to test proposed (suggested, recommended) systems and to recognize the strengths and limitations (<i>flaws</i>) of their design.</li> </ul>

### FIGURE 3: PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT INVESTIGATIONS

Scientific investigations may be *conducted* (carried out) in the *field* (natural environment of the discipline) or **laboratory** (room or building equipped-with scientific experiments and tools)

A major practice of scientists is

- **Planning** and **carrying** out investigations that require *clarifying* (making something clear) what counts as *data* (information) and
- **Identifying variables** ( elements, features, or factors that might change) in experiments

Engineering investigations are *conducted* (carried out) to

- *Gain* (collect) data essential for *specifying* (selecting) *criteria* (a standard by which something can be judged or decided) or *parameters* (a numerical or other measureable factor that defines or sets the condition of its operation. **Hint: the root meter means measure.**) and test *proposed* (suggested, recommended) designs.

Engineers must, like scientists

- **Identify relevant** (important to investigation) *variables* (elements, features, or factors that might change)
- **Decide** how *variables* will be measured
- **Collect** (record) data for analysis

Their *investigations* (research, observations) help them to identify the

- *Effectiveness*, (degree in which something is successful in producing desired results)
- *Efficiency* (the capacity to produce desired results), and
- *Durability* (ability to last-withstand wear) of designs under different conditions.

### FIGURE 4: ANALYZING AND INTERPRETING DATA

Scientific investigations produce *data* (information) that must be *analyzed* (separated into parts for examining) in order to *derive* (get, gain, or take) meaning. Because data do not speak for themselves, scientists use a *range* (variety) of tools-including tabulation (i.e., calculator), graphical, interpretation, visualization, and statistical analysis-to identify the significant features and patterns in the data. *Sources of error* (situations that may occur while doing experiments i.e. incomplete definitions, failure to account for a factor, environmental factors...) are identified and the *degree* (level) of uncertainty calculated.

Engineering investigations include:

- **Analysis** of data collected in the tests of designs. This
  - **allows** comparison of different solutions and
  - **determines** how well each solution meets specific design criteria-(which design best solves the problem within given constraints.
- **Engineers**, like scientists, require a range (variety) of *tools* to *identify the major patterns* (traits, observable characteristics) and *interpret* (explain) the results.

## FIGURE 5: USING MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTATIONAL THINKING

In science, *mathematics* (abstract science of number, quantity, and space) and *computation* (includes both arithmetical and non-arithmetical steps and follows a well-defined model understood and described as, for example, an *algorithm*)\* (Wikipedia) are *fundamental* (basic) tools for representing physical variables and their relationships.

Mathematics and computation are used for a range of tasks:

- **Constructing** simulations
- **Statistically** (Statistics are numerical data collected and classified-i.e. Measure of Central Tendency, mean, mode, median) analyzing data
- **Recognizing, expressing, and applying quantitative relationships** (Comparing things with regard to quantity, magnitude, degree or rate)

Mathematical and computational approaches:

- **Enable** prediction of the behavior of physical systems along with the testing of such predictions.
- **Statistical techniques** are also invaluable for identifying significant patterns and establishing correlational relationships.

In engineering, mathematical and computational representations of established relationships and principles are an *integral* (important) part of the design process. Ex. Structural engineers **create** mathematical-based analysis of *designs* (plans) to *calculate* (assess, determine) whether they can stand up to expected stresses of use (*durability*) and if they can be completed within acceptable *budgets* (money set aside to pay for project) *Moreover* (additionally), simulations provide an effective *test bed* (proving ground) for the development of designs as *proposed* (suggested, recommended) solutions to problems and their improvement if required.

## FIGURE 6: CONSTRUCTING EXPLANATIONS AND DESIGNING SOLUTIONS

The **goal of science** is the *construction* (development) of *theories* (beliefs, claims) that provide *explanatory accounts* (Ideas can be explained. Defined as attempt to connect ideas to understand cause and effect) of the *material* (nature, phenomena of the physical world) world.

Theories have:

- **\*Multiple** independent lines (Models that have been tested from as many angles as possible) of *empirical* (can be observed/experienced) evidence
- **Greater explanatory** power (connects ideas to understand cause and effect)
- **Breadth**(wide range) of phenomena (facts, features, events) it accounts for

The **goal of engineering** design is a *systematic* (organized plan) solution to problems that is based on scientific knowledge and models of the material world. Each *proposed* (suggested, recommended) solution results from a process of *balancing* (weighing, comparing, judging) competing criteria of desired functions, technical *feasibility* (possibility), cost, safety, *aesthetics* (set of principles underlying and guiding the work and *compliance* (following the rules) with legal requirements.

Usually there is no one best solution, but rather a range of solutions. The *optimal* (best, most favorable) choice depends on how well the *proposed* (suggested, recommended) solution meets criteria and constraints.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Explanatory coherence</b> (logical, makes sense, consistency) and <b>parsimony</b> (carefulness not to rely on things that cannot be proved)</li> </ul> <p>* "The Plate Tectonic model of the Earth is supported by multiple independent lines of evidence-magnetic stripes in rocks showing sea-floor spreading, the global distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes, comparable fossils found on widely separated continents and satellite measurements." September 9, 2013-<a href="https://www.google.com/search?">https://www.google.com/search?</a></p>	
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**FIGURE 7: ENGAGING IN ARGUMENT FROM EVIDENCE**

<p>In <b>science</b>, reasoning and argument are <b>essential</b> (necessary) for clarifying strengths and weaknesses of a <b>line of evidence</b> and for identifying the best explanation for a <b>natural phenomenon</b> (i.e. shifting of the ocean floor, hurricanes, the rotation of the earth, and eruptions of volcanoes).</p> <p><b>Scientists must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Defend</b> their explanations,</li> <li>• <b>Formulate</b> evidence based on a solid foundation of data,</li> <li>• <b>Examine</b> their understanding in light of the evidence and comments by others</li> <li>• And <b>collaborate</b> with peers in searching for the best explanation for the phenomena being investigated.</li> </ul>	<p>In <b>engineering</b>, reasoning and argument are <b>essential</b> (necessary) for finding the best solution to a problem.</p> <p><b>Engineers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborate</b> (work with) their peers throughout the design process. With a <b>critical</b> (important) stage being the selection of the most promising solution among a <b>field</b> (selection) of competing ideas.</li> <li>• <b>Use</b> systematic methods to compare alternatives,</li> <li>• <b>Formulate</b> evidence based on test data,</li> <li>• <b>Make</b> arguments to defend their conclusions,</li> <li>• <b>Critically</b> evaluate the ideas of others, and</li> <li>• <b>Revise</b> their designs in order to identify the best solution.</li> </ul>
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**FIGURE 8: OBTAINING, EVALUATING, AND COMMUNICATING INFORMATION**

<p><b>Science</b> cannot <b>advance</b> (go forward) if scientists are unable to communicate their <b>findings</b> (results) clearly and persuasively or learn about the findings of others.</p> <p><b>A major practice of science is thus to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communicate</b> ideas and the results of inquiry-orally; in writing; with the use of tables, diagrams, graphs and equations</li> <li>• <b>Engage</b> in extended discussions with peers</li> </ul> <p><b>Science</b> requires the ability to <b>derive</b> (take) meaning from scientific texts such as papers, the internet, symposia, or lectures to <b>evaluate</b> (assess) the scientific <b>validity</b> (accuracy) of the information thus acquired and to <b>integrate</b> that information into proposed explanations.</p>	<p><b>Engineering</b> cannot produce new or improved technologies if the advantages of their designs are not communicated clearly and persuasively.</p> <p><b>Engineers need to be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Express</b> (communicate) their ideas orally and in writing; with the use of tables, graphs, drawings or models;</li> <li>• <b>Engage</b> (participate) in extended discussions with peers</li> <li>• <b>Derive</b> (make) meaning from colleagues' texts,</li> <li>• <b>Evaluate</b> information and apply it usefully.</li> </ul>
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