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Chapter 2

Process Models

Part 1 - The Software Process
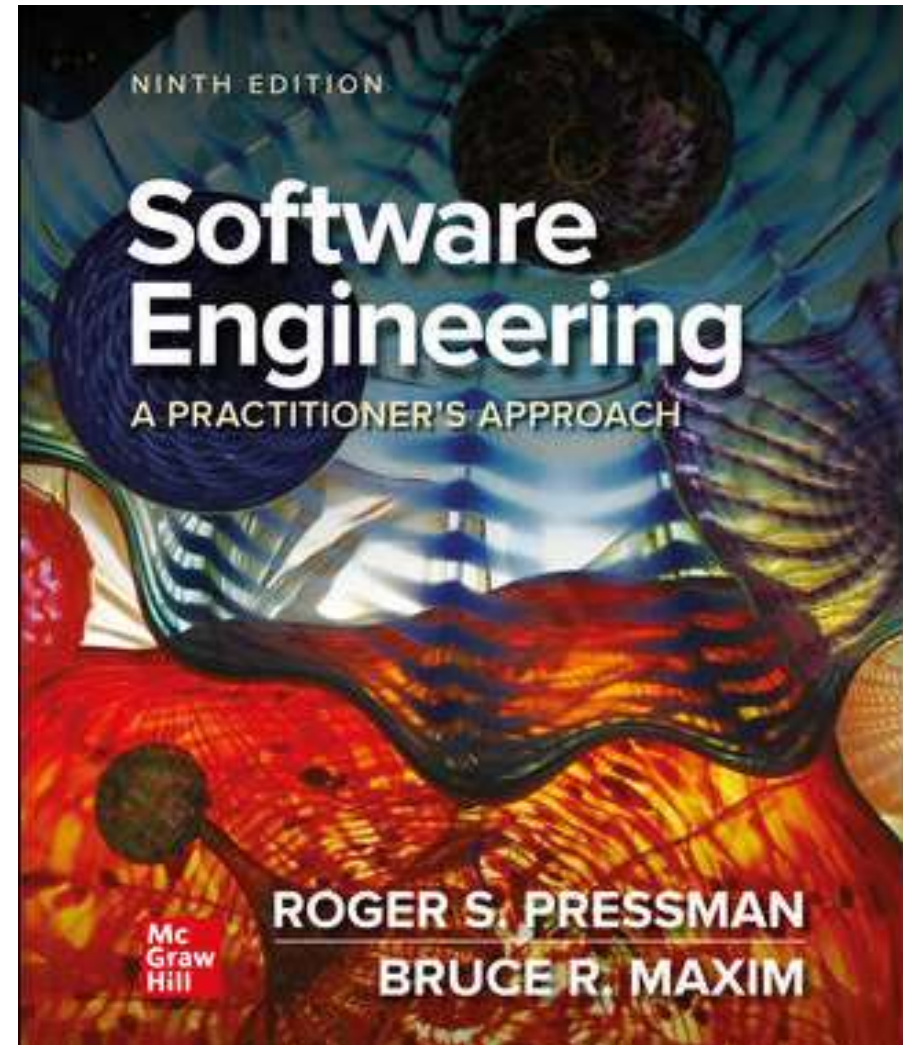
NINTH EDITION

Software Engineering

A PRACTITIONER'S APPROACH

ROGER S. PRESSMAN

BRUCE R. MAXIM

Generic Process Model

Software process

Process framework

Umbrella activities

Framework activity #1

software engineering action #1.1

Task sets

work tasks
work products
quality assurance points
project milestones

⋮

Software engineering action #1.k

Task sets

work tasks
work products
quality assurance points
project milestones

⋮

Framework activity #n

software engineering action #n.1

Task sets

work tasks
work products
quality assurance points
project milestones

⋮

Software engineering action #n.m

Task sets

work tasks
work products
quality assurance points
project milestones
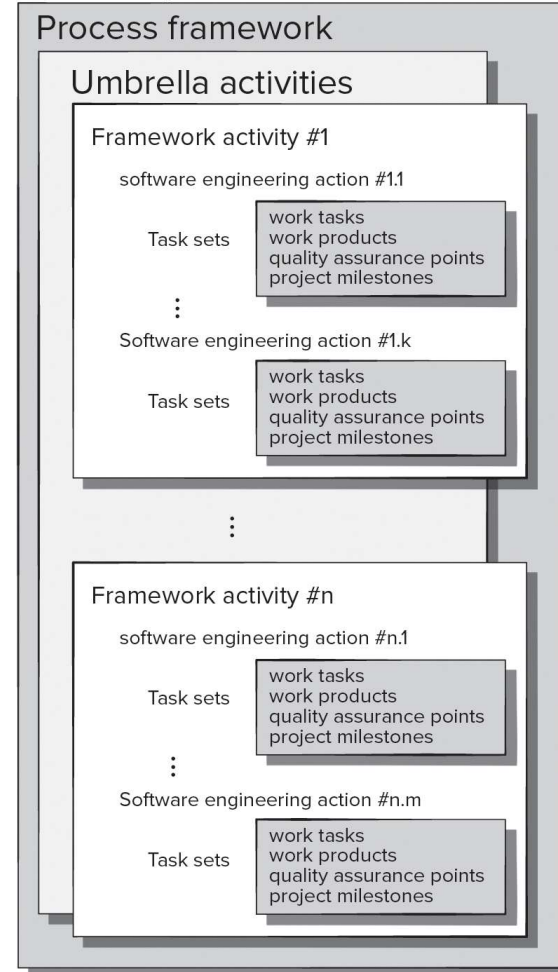
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Process Flow

Communication → Planning → Modeling → Construction → Deployment

(a) Linear process flow

Communication → Planning → Modeling → Construction → Deployment
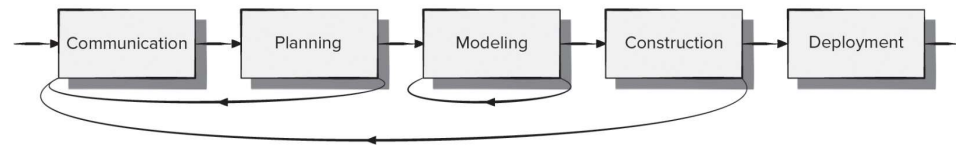
(b) Iterative process flow

Communication → Planning → Modeling → Construction → Deployment → Increment released
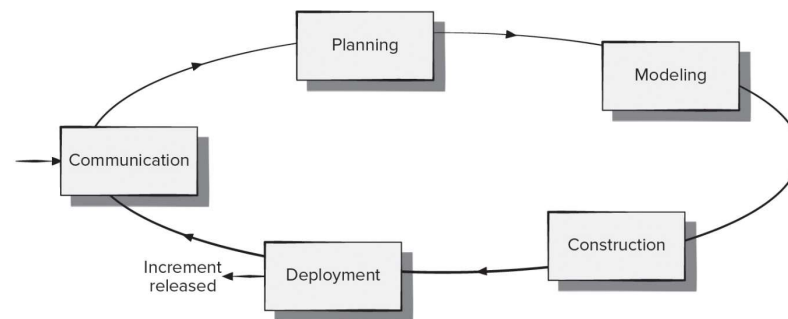
(c) Evolutionary process flow

Communication → Planning → Modeling → Construction → Deployment

Time →
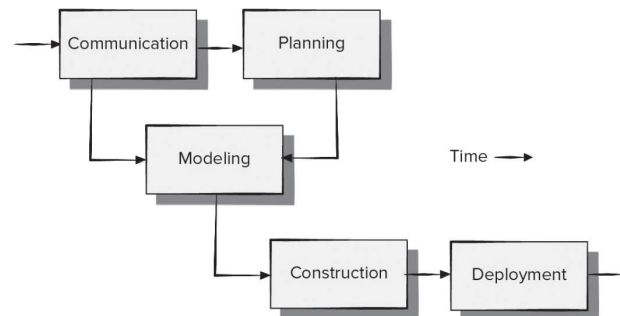
(d) Parallel process flow

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Identifying a Task Set

A task set defines the actual work to be done to accomplish the objectives of a software engineering action.

A task set is defined by creating several lists:

- A list of the tasks to be accomplished.

- A list of the work products to be produced.

- A list of the quality assurance filters to be applied.

Process Assessment and Improvement

- The existence of a software process is no guarantee that software will be delivered on time, or meet the customer's needs, or that it will exhibit long-term quality characteristics.

- Any software process can be assessed to ensure that it meets a set of basic process criteria that have been shown to be essential for successful software engineering.

- Software processes and activities should be assessed using numeric measures or software analytics (metrics).
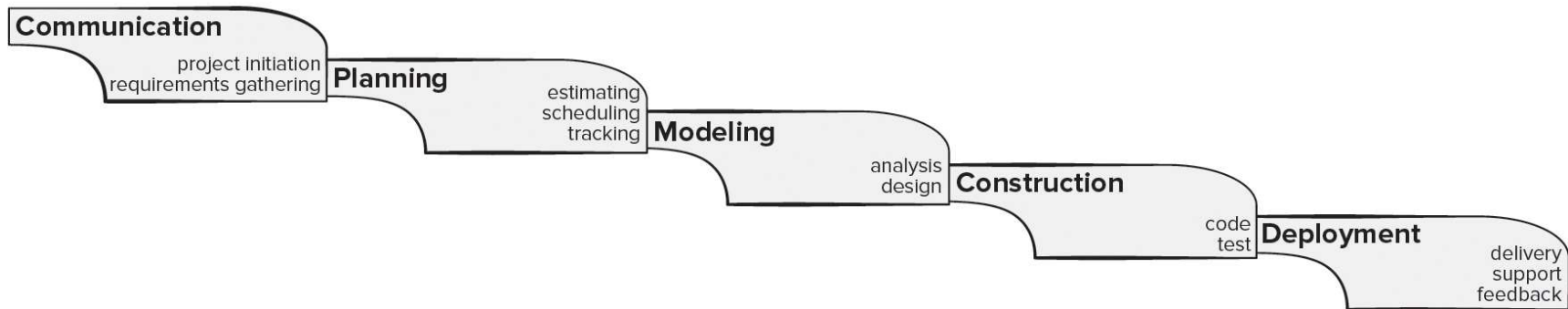
Prescriptive Process Models [1]

Prescriptive process models advocate an orderly approach to software engineering.

That leads to a two questions:

- If prescriptive process models strive for structure and order, are they appropriate for a software world that thrives on change?

- If we reject traditional process models and replace them with something less structured, do we make it impossible to achieve coordination and coherence in software work?

Waterfall Process Model

Communication
project initiation
requirements gathering

Planning
estimating
scheduling
tracking

Modeling
analysis
design

Construction
code
test

Deployment
delivery
support
feedback

Pros

- It is easy to understand and plan.
- It works for well-understood small projects.
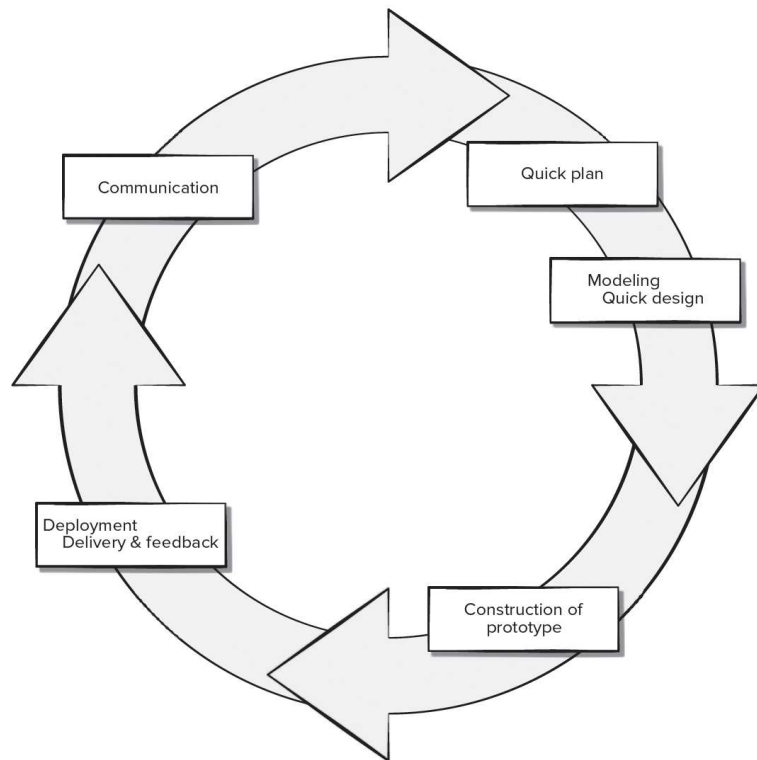- Analysis and testing are straightforward.

Cons

- It does not accommodate change well.
- Testing occurs late in the process.
- Customer approval is at the end.

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Prototyping Process Model

Communication

Quick plan

Modeling
Quick design

Deployment
Delivery & feedback

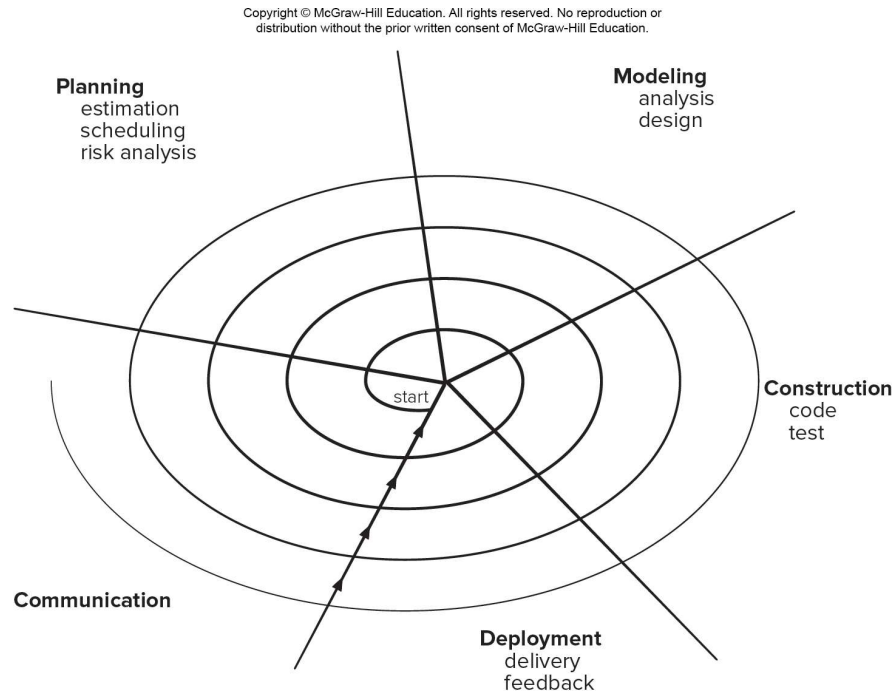Construction of
prototype

Pros

- Reduced impact of requirement changes.

- Customer is involved early and often.

- Works well for small projects.

- Reduced likelihood of product rejection.

Cons

- Customer involvement may cause delays.

- Temptation to "ship" a prototype.

- Work lost in a throwaway prototype.

- Hard to plan and manage.

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Spiral Process Model

Planning
estimation
scheduling
risk analysis

Modeling
analysis
design

start

Construction
code
test

Communication

Deployment
delivery
feedback

Pros
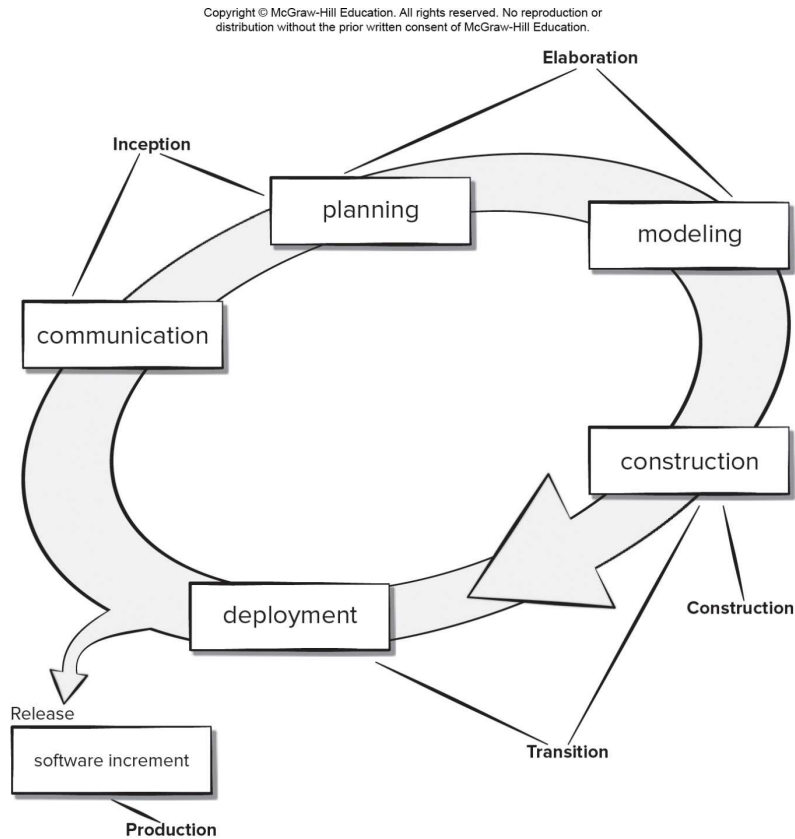
- Continuous customer involvement.
- Development risks are managed.
- Suitable for large, complex projects.
- It works well for extensible products.

Cons

- Risk analysis failures can doom the project.
- Project may be hard to manage.
- Requires an expert development team.

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Unified Process Model

Elaboration

Inception

planning

modeling

communication

construction

Construction

deployment

Transition

Release

software increment

Production

Pros

- Quality documentation emphasized.
- Continuous customer involvement.
- Accommodates requirements changes.
- Works well for maintenance projects.

Cons

- Use cases are not always precise.
- Tricky software increment integration.
- Overlapping phases can cause problems.
- Requires expert development team.

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Prescriptive Process Models [2]

Prescriptive process models advocate an orderly approach to software engineering.

That leads to a two questions:

- If prescriptive process models strive for structure and order, are they appropriate for a software world that thrives on change?

- If we reject traditional process models and replace them with something less structured, do we make it impossible to achieve coordination and coherence in software work?

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