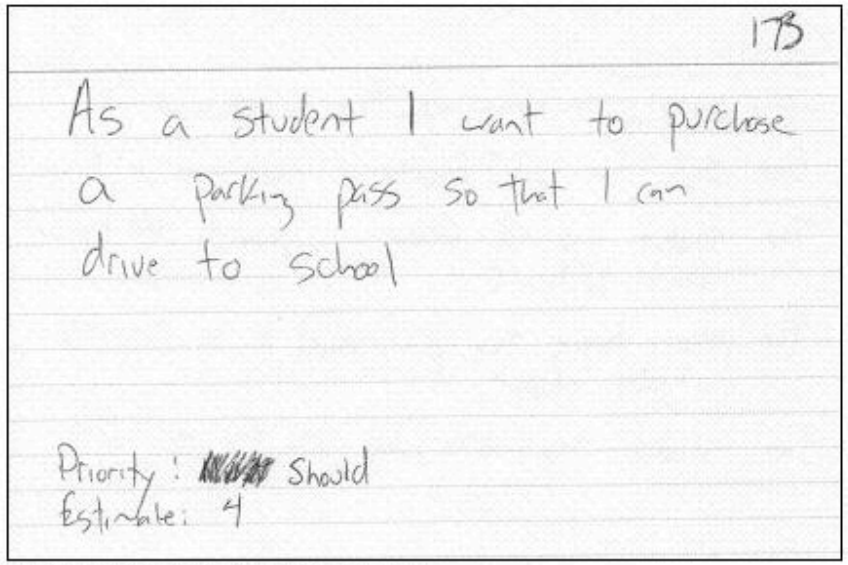
Backlogs and Task Breakdown

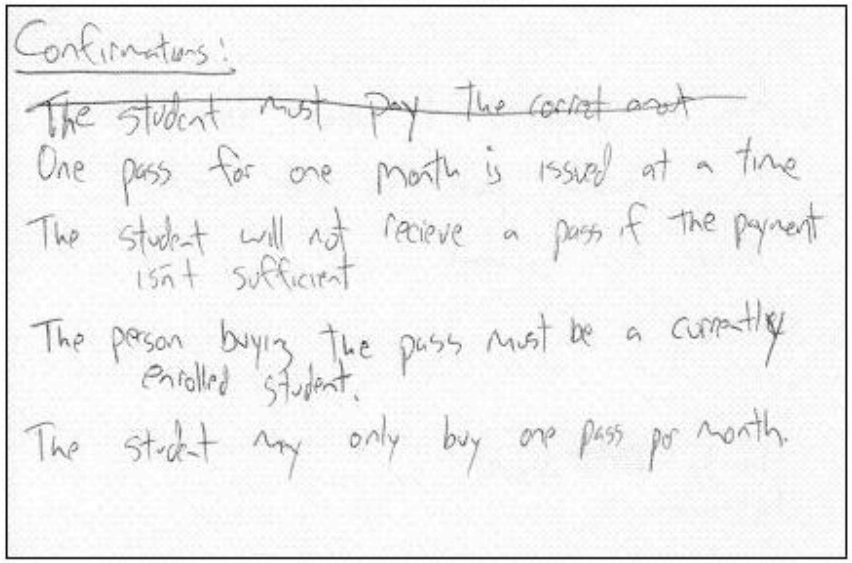
Jan-Philipp Steghöfer
Chalmers | University of Gothenburg - Sweden

jan-philipp.steghofer@gu.se

User Story Cards

- Describes the requirements and the acceptance criteria
- Can also hold information about the estimate (from Scrum Team) and the priority (from Product Owner)
- Should describe the value of the story
- Can be updated continuously





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http://www.agilemodeling.com/artifacts/userStory.htm

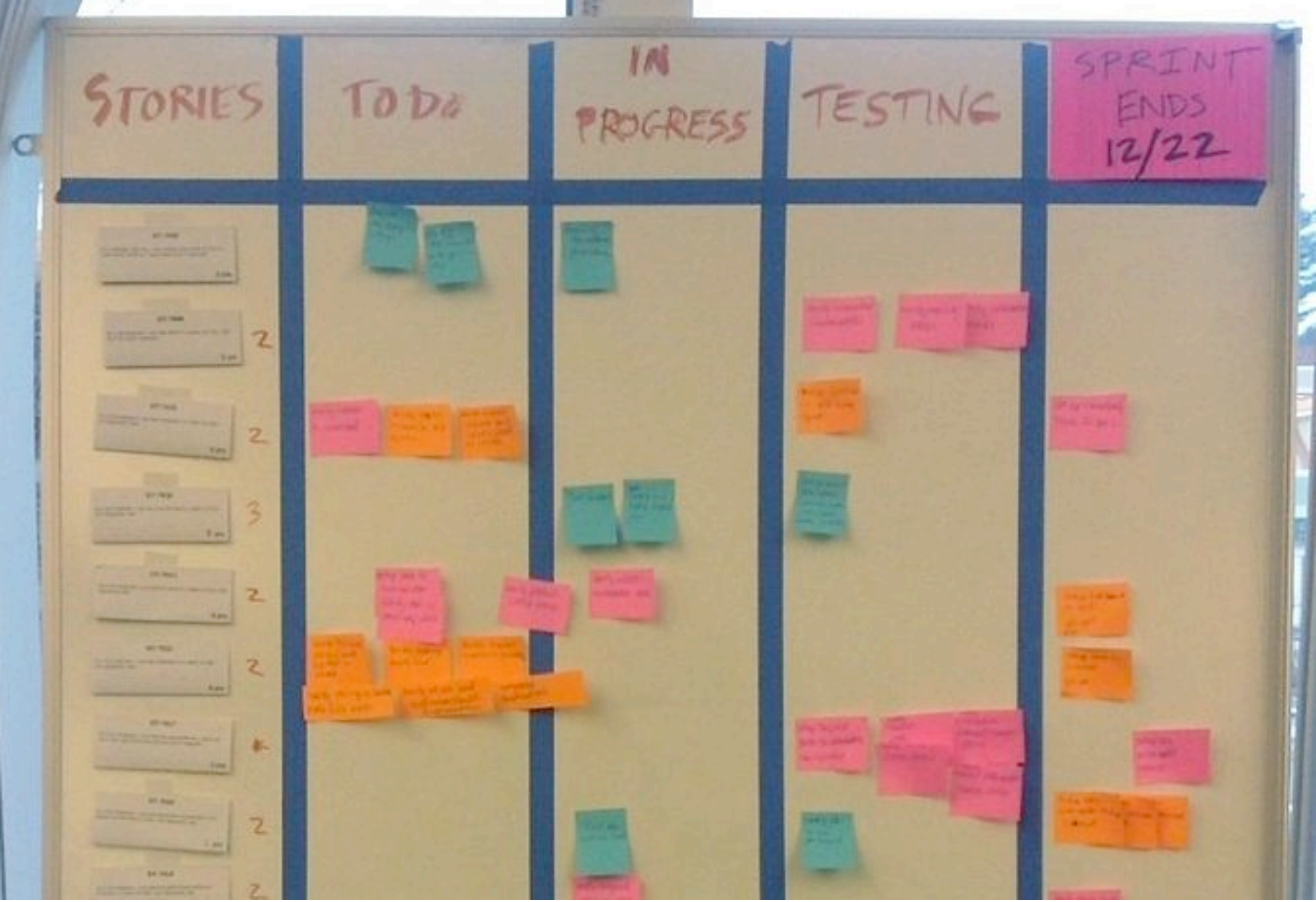
INVEST Criteria

I	Independent	User stories should not overlap and they should be formulated so they can be implemented in any order.
N	Negotiable	A user story should be an invitation for a conversation. It can be changed, augmented, and redacted; of course, always in dialog with the Product Owner!
V	Valuable	Each user story should deliver value, either to the Product Owner or to Scrum Team.
E	Estimable	It must be possible to assign effort to each user story. A story that can not be estimated is not complete!
S	Small	A user story must be a manageable task. If its completion takes longer than 3 or 4 days, it must be broken down!
T	Testable	There must be clear, testable criteria to define when the story is done in the eyes of the Product Owner and the Scrum Team.

[Buglione & Abran, 2013]

Working with the backlog

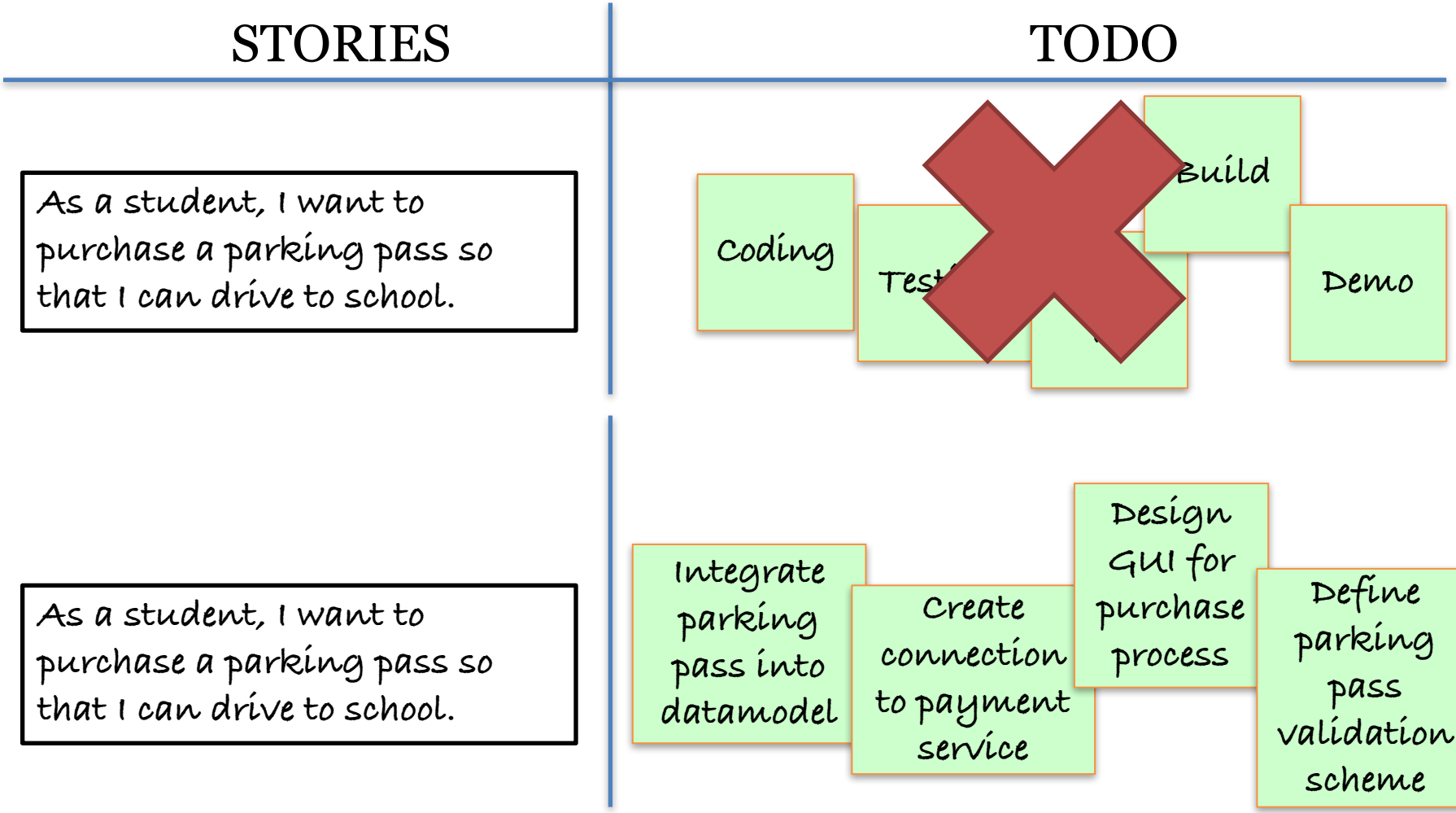
- Differentiation product backlog/sprint backlog
  - Product backlog: Prioritised list of **all** product requirements
  - Sprint backlog: List of requirements selected **for the current sprint**
- Product backlog can be continuously updated by the Product Owner
- Sprint backlog contains more detailed information: tasks
- Sprint backlog is only updated by Scrum Team



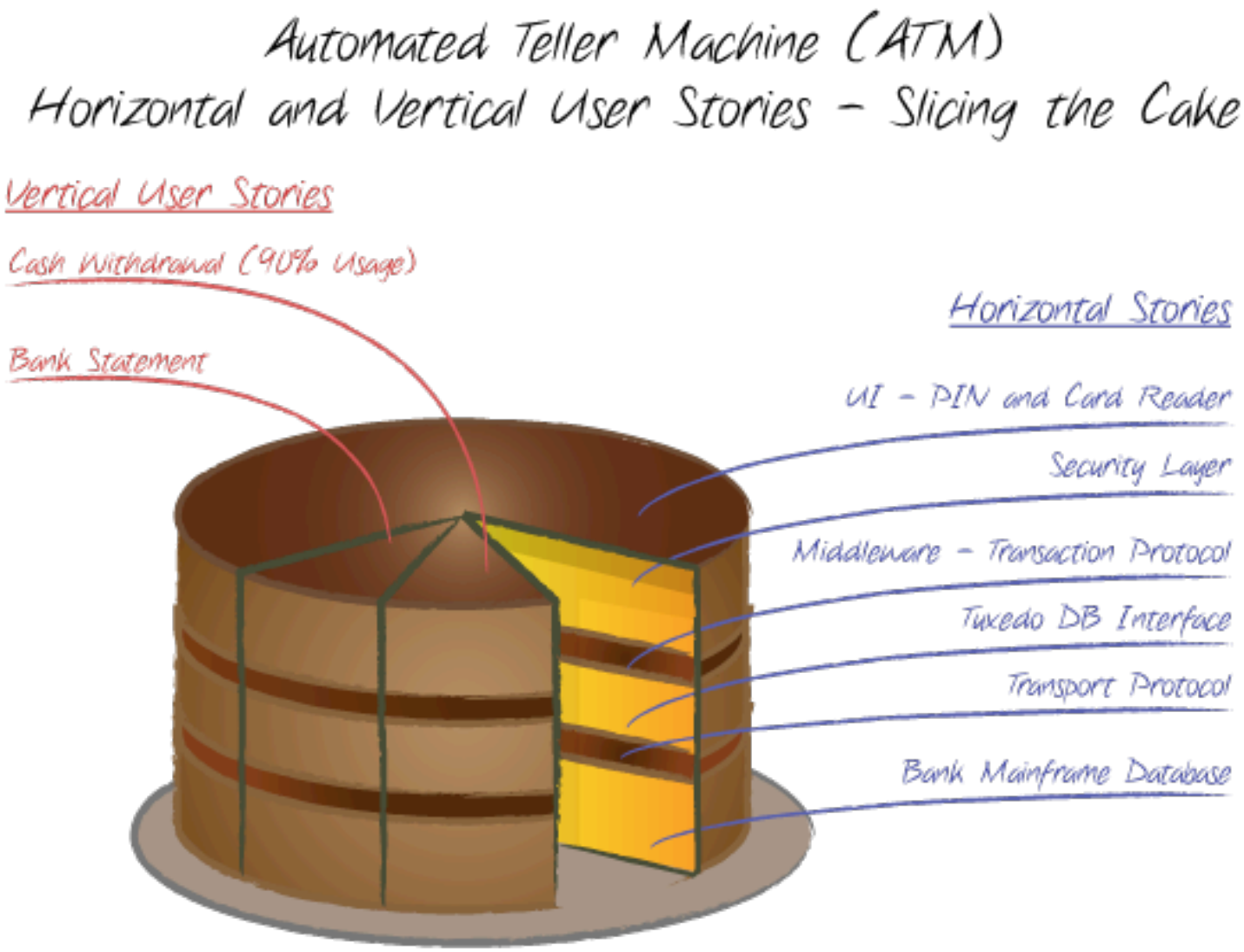
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Scrum_task_board.jpg

Tasks

- User stories are usually “too big” to tackle as one



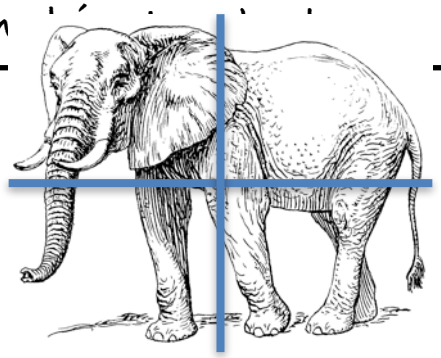
Vertical slices



http://www.deltamatrix.com/horizontal-and-vertical-user-stories-slicing-the-cake

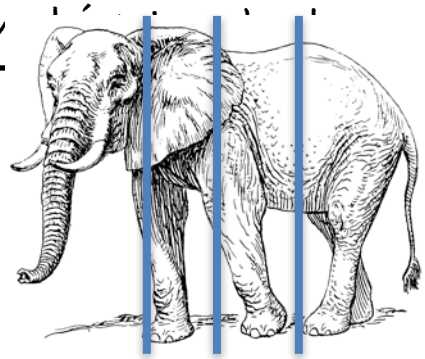
Elephant Carpaccio/Laminating

As a student, I want to purchase a parking pass so that I can



- Integrate parking pass into datamodel
- Design UI for purchase process
- Define parking pass validation scheme

As a student, I want to purchase a parking pass so that I can



- Implement purchase process without payment
- Integrate payment into the purchase process
- Allow users to see their past orders
- Define parking pass validation scheme

Exercise: Create a backlog

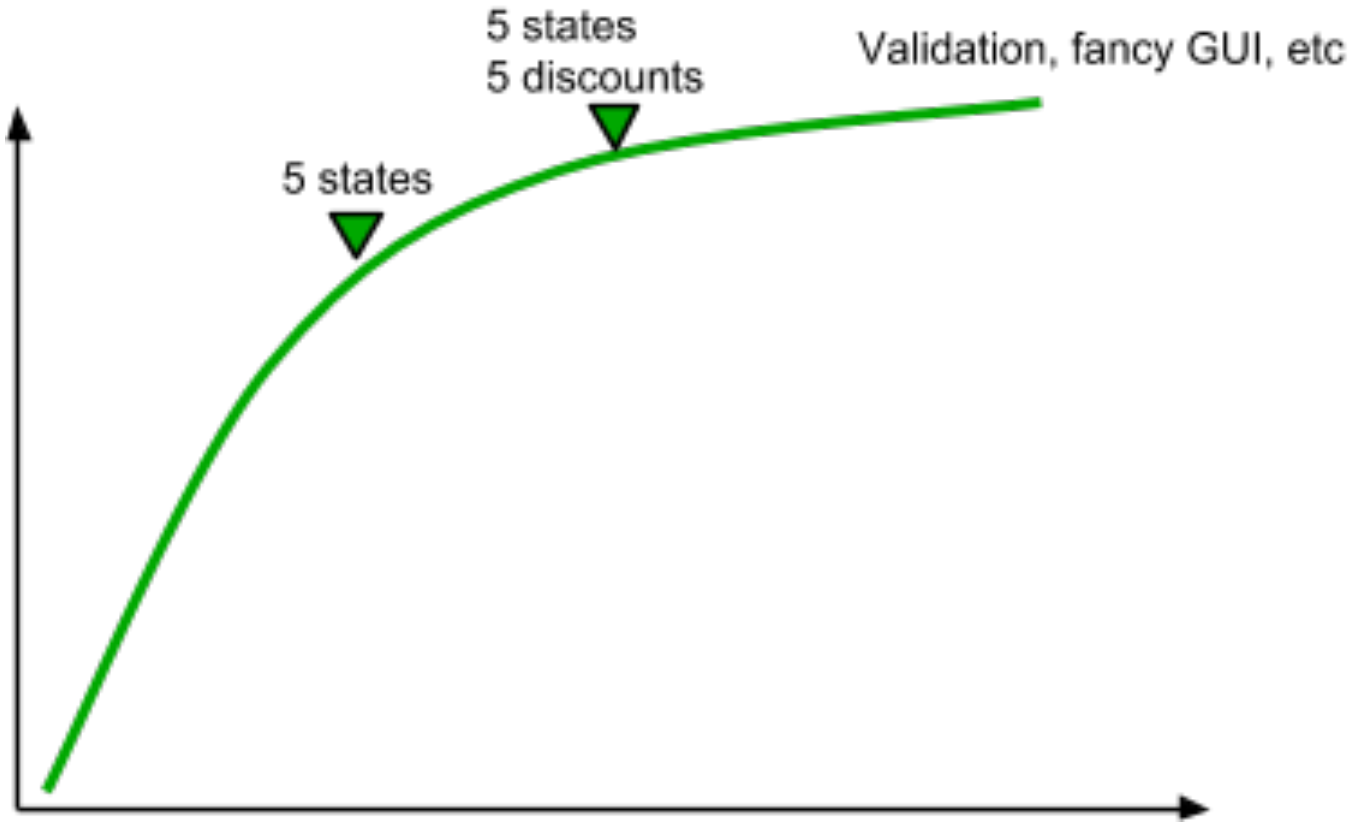
- Vision: Retail calculator – calculate prices for deliveries in other countries
- Three Inputs:
  - How many items
  - Price per item
  - 2-letter country code
- Output: total price of the order.
- Algorithm: Give a discount based on total price, then add state tax based on country code and discounted price.

Slice user stories as small as possible!

Country	VAT
Belgium (BE)	21%
Germany (DE)	19%
Hungary (HU)	27%
Sweden (SE)	25%
United Kingdom (UK)	20%

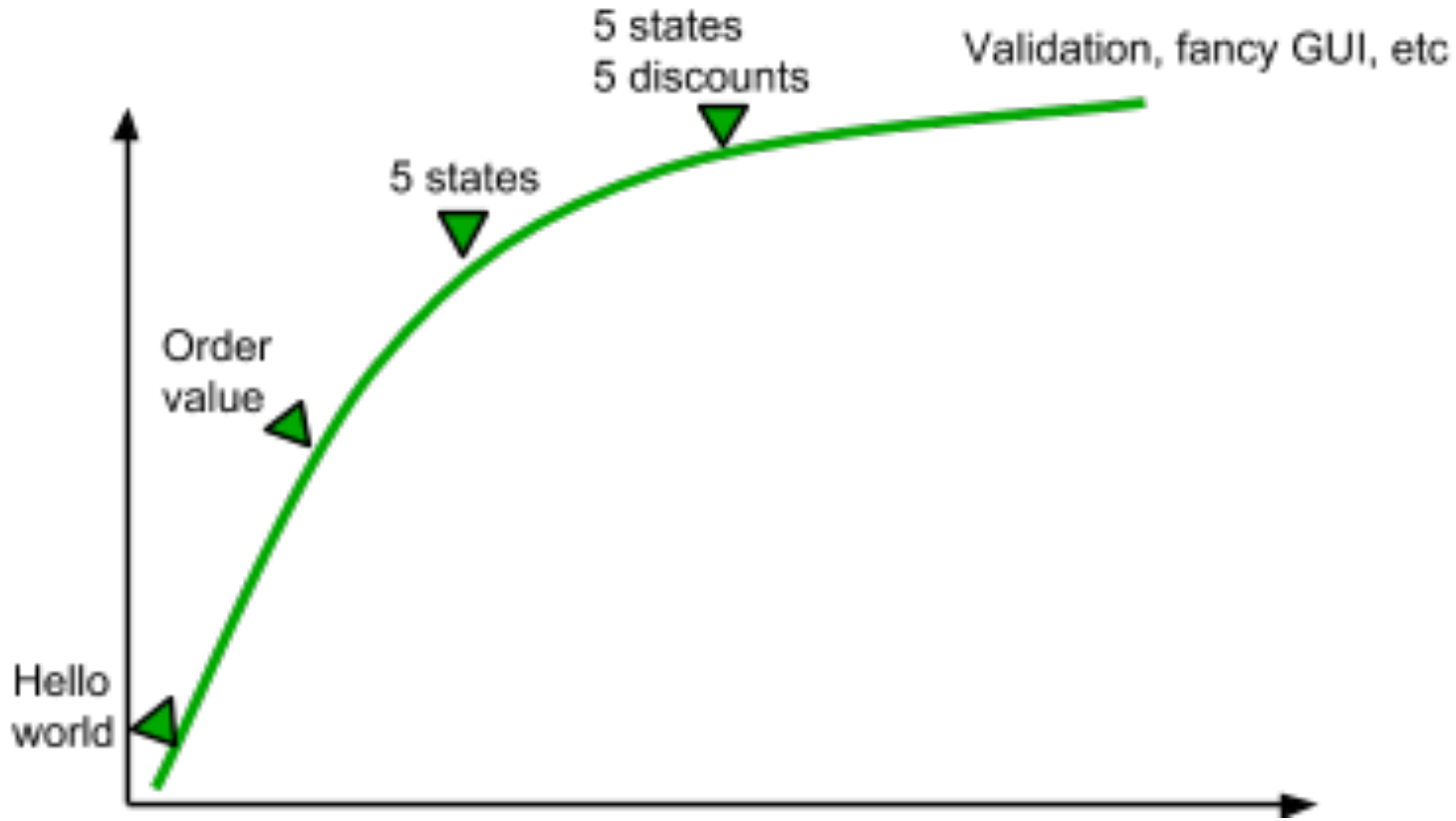
Amount	Discount
10.000 SEK	2%
50.000 SEK	3%
100.000 SEK	5%
200.000 SEK	8%
500.000 SEK	10%

Exercise: Customer Value



- Split ”5 states, 5 discounts” into as many slices as possible
- Each slice must have UI, input & output, and be visibly different from last slice

Exercise: Customer Value



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More resources

- http://scrumtrainingseries.com/
  Series of webinars on different Scrum topics (with quiz!)

- https://scrumalliance.org/community
  Articles about Scrum in practice

- http://www.solutionsiq.com/what-is-scrumban/
  Discusses combining Scrum and Kanban

- http://scrumandkanban.co.uk/slicing-stories-vertically/
  A chart on splitting user stories

[Cohn, 2005] Mike Cohn. *Agile Estimating and Planning*. Prentice Hall, November 2005

[Buglione & Abran, 2013] Buglione, Luigi, and Alain Abran. *Improving the user story agile technique using the invest criteria*. Eighth International Conference on Software Process and Product Measurement (IWSM-MENSURA), IEEE, 2013.

Questions