

IT.304 Systems analysis, design, and implementation planning

Knowledge Representation

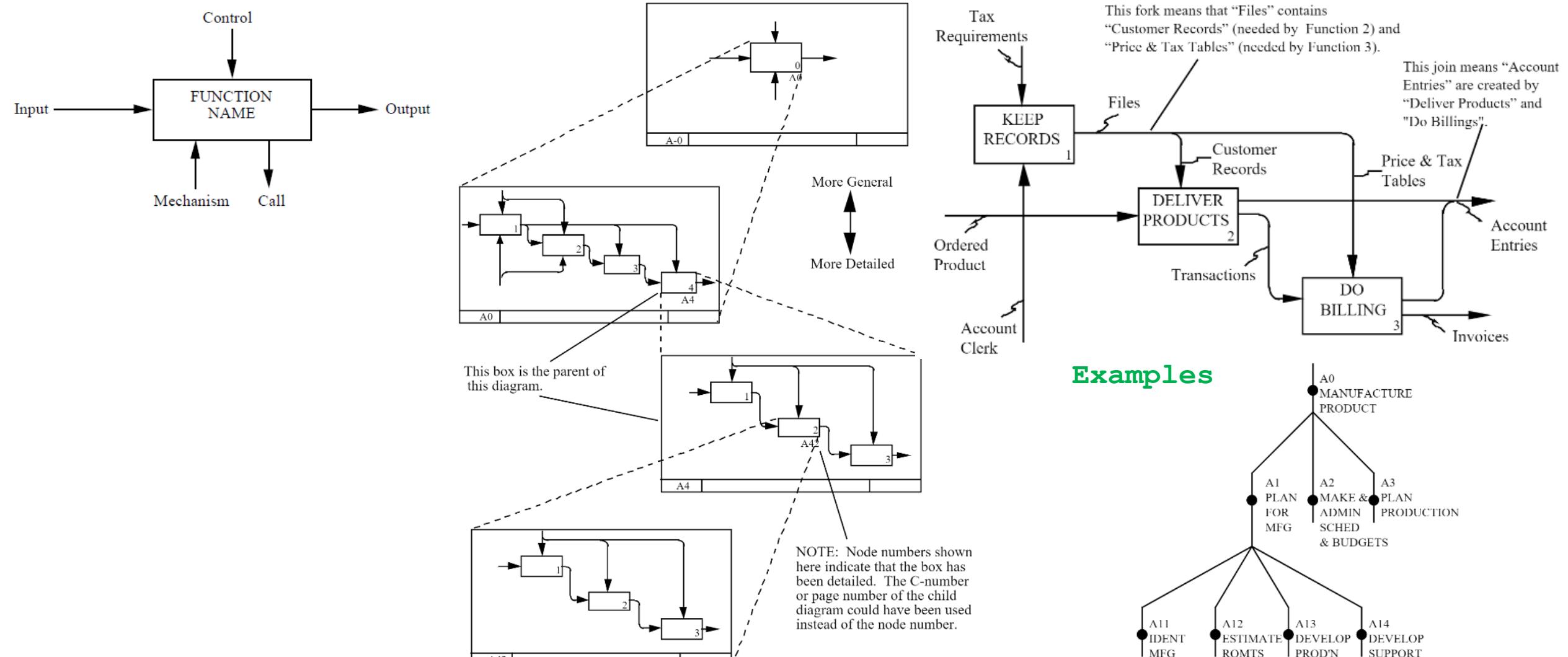
Systems Design and Analysis

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[bh.github](https://github.com/bhgithub)



Model.1: IDEF0 <[bh.github](#)> <[website](#)> <[how.to.doc](#)> <[how.to.video](#)> <[wikipedia](#)>

History: developed in 1970s by U.S. Air Force for improving manufacturing of fighting aircraft.
Purpose: gather process inputs, outputs, resources, and constraints to methodically outline a system or specific process.



Model .2: SWOT analysis <[bh.github](#)>

<[website](#)>

<[how.to.video](#)>

<[wikipedia](#)>

History: deep history and university dispute on ownership

Purpose: Apply this versatile model to personal situations and businesses to perform a high-level assessment of the value of performing system analysis work. It is also instrumental in helping to organize an unorganized group discussion quickly.



		STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
		Capabilities, resources or attributes that provide a competitive advantage	Capabilities, resources or attributes that need improvement
INTERNAL	Examples: production capacity, industry experience, financial resources, unique ingredients or packaging	Examples: lack of resources, limited experience, no marketing plan, no food safety or traceability program	
	OPPORTUNITIES		
EXTERNAL	Circumstances that if capitalized on could have a positive impact on the business	Circumstances that do or could have a negative impact on the business	THREATS
	Examples: favourable market trends, new technology, government policy changes, potential partnerships	Examples: regulatory changes; new trends, access to ingredients, exchange rate fluctuations	

EXAMPLE SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Company: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food science expertise Sales have increased 57% in past six months Low rent due to location (Tofino) Utilizing low cost, approved, gluten-free, shared commercial kitchen* Product: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains less sugar and more protein than competitive products Is on-trend (gluten-free, locally made) Is listed in local food stores 	Company: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of financing Has no business or marketing plan High distribution cost due to location Utilizing shared commercial kitchen limits production capacity* Product: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher priced than competitive products High ingredient costs Three month shelf life insufficient for retail sales
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Company: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High number of people with gluten sensitivities on Vancouver Island A higher volume in online purchases of natural health food products all over British Columbia 	Company: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFIA's Food Labelling Modernization Initiative may impact the company Trend for gluten-free on downturn Crop failure has affected supply of the ancient grains

*Note that a strength can also be a weakness. In this example the cookies are produced in a low cost shared commercial kitchen, meeting food safety requirements and gluten-free status. While a strength for a newly established company, it is also a weakness in that production in a shared commercial kitchen limits production capacity.

Model .2: SWOT analysis <[bh.github](#)><[website](#)><[how.to.doc](#)><[wikipedia](#)>

- Note: these models are for class quick reference use only.
- All students in IT.304 purchased and own "the decision book."

THE DECISION BOOK

THE SWOT ANALYSIS

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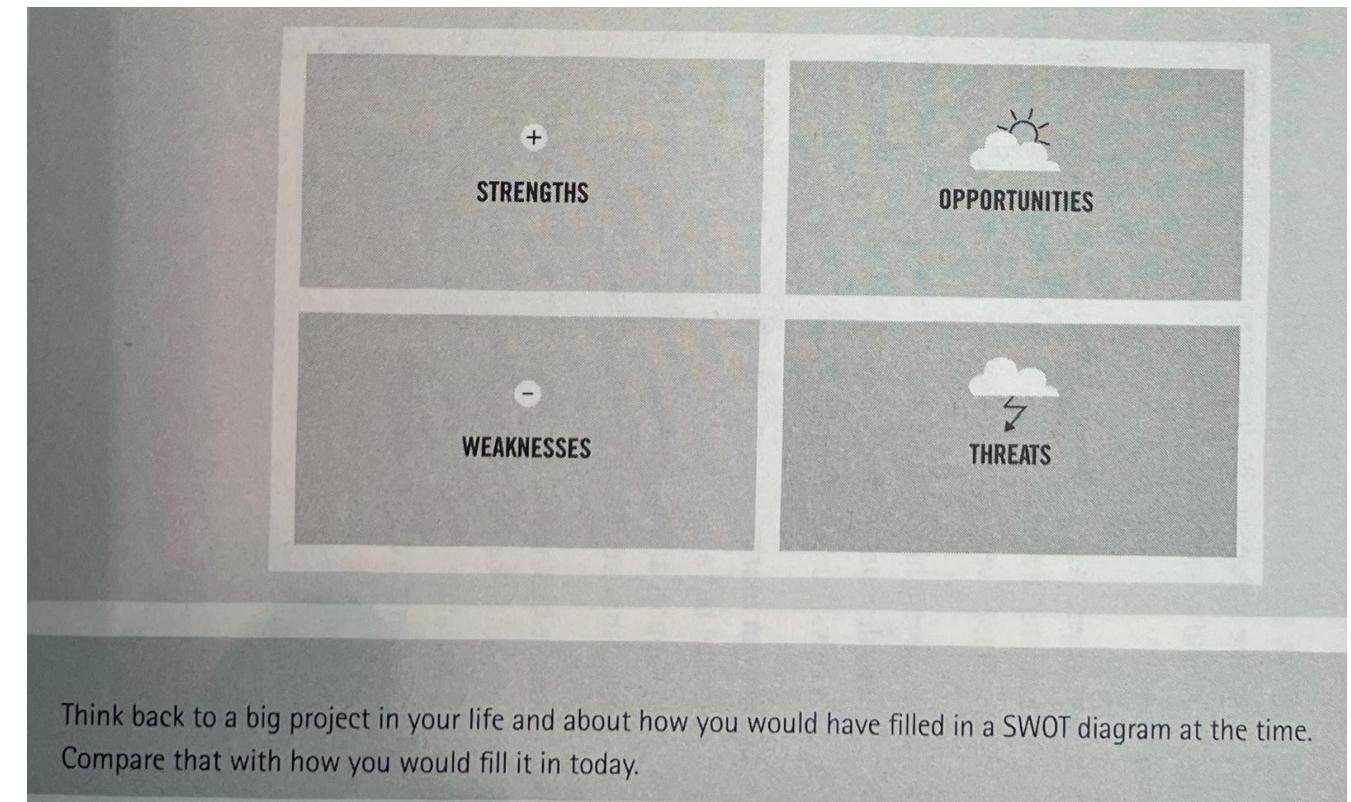
HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT SOLUTION

With SWOT analysis, you evaluate the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats identified in a project. The technique is based on a Stanford University study from the 1960s which analyzed data from Fortune 500 companies. The study found a 35 percent discrepancy between the companies' objectives and what was actually implemented. The problem was not that the employees were incompetent but that the objectives were too ambiguous. Many employees didn't even know why they were doing what they were doing. SWOT was developed from the results of the study to help those involved in a project to gain a clearer understanding of it.

It is worth taking the time to think about each step of the SWOT analysis rather than just hastily fill it out. How can we emphasize our strengths and compensate for (or cover up) our weaknesses? How can we maximise opportunities? How can we protect ourselves against threats?

What is interesting about SWOT analysis is its versatility: it can be applied to business and personal decisions with equal success.

If you're not failing, you're not trying hard enough. *Gretchen Rubin*



- A) Retrieved from: Krogerus, M., Tschappeler, R., and Piennig, J. (2018). *The decision book: fifty models for strategic thinking*. ISBN-10: 0393652378, ISBN-13, 978-0393652376.
- [Amazon.com: The Decision Book: Fifty Models for Strategic Thinking: 9780393652376: Krogerus, Mikael, Tschäppeler, Roman, Piening, Jenny: Books](#)

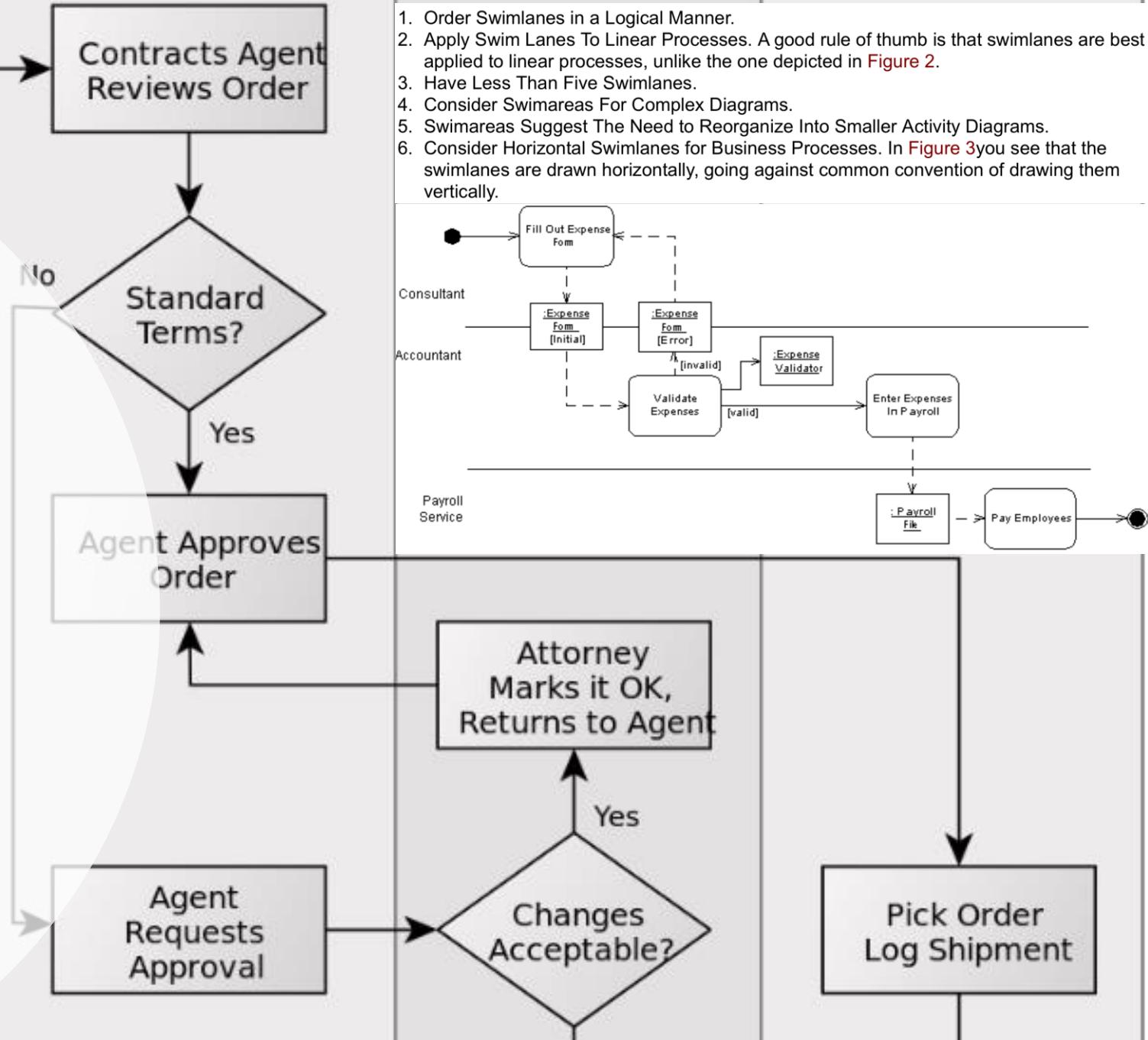


Model.3: Swimlane diagram

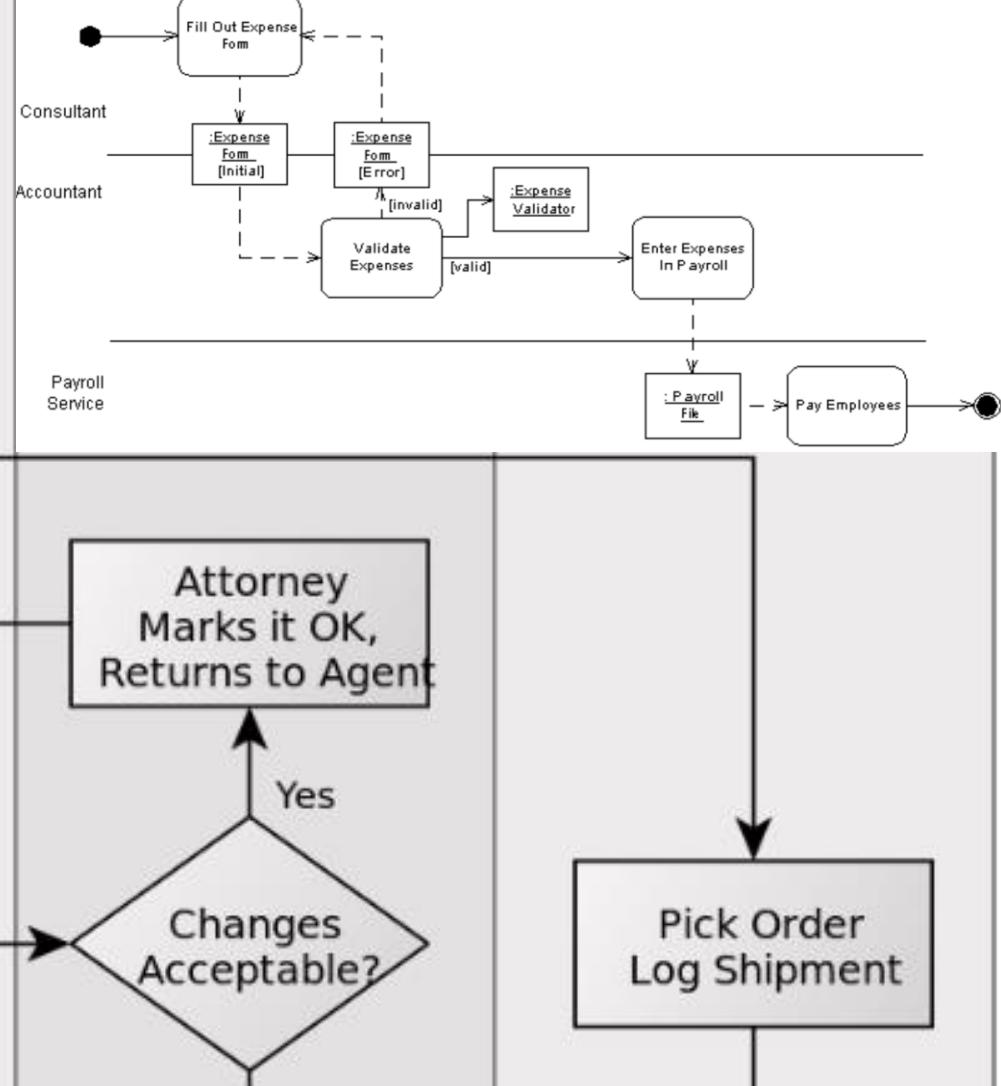
[bh.github](https://bh.github.io)
[website](#)
how.to.doc
how.to.in.visio
[wikipedia](#)

History: dating back to the 1940s, computerized in 1993 by Igraphx, and widely available via Microsoft Visio.

Purpose: use horizontal or vertical gradating color bars to demarcate business lines illustrating system inputs, activities, and decisions connected with arrows



1. Order Swimlanes in a Logical Manner.
2. Apply Swim Lanes To Linear Processes. A good rule of thumb is that swimlanes are best applied to linear processes, unlike the one depicted in [Figure 2](#).
3. Have Less Than Five Swimlanes.
4. Consider Swimareas For Complex Diagrams.
5. Swimareas Suggest The Need to Reorganize Into Smaller Activity Diagrams.
6. Consider Horizontal Swimlanes for Business Processes. In [Figure 3](#) you see that the swimlanes are drawn horizontally, going against common convention of drawing them vertically.



6. Swimlane Guidelines

A swimlane is a way to group activities performed by the same actor on an activity diagram or to group activities in a single thread. [Figure 2](#) includes three swimlanes, one for each actor.

Figure 2. A UML activity diagram for the enterprise architectural modeling (simplified).

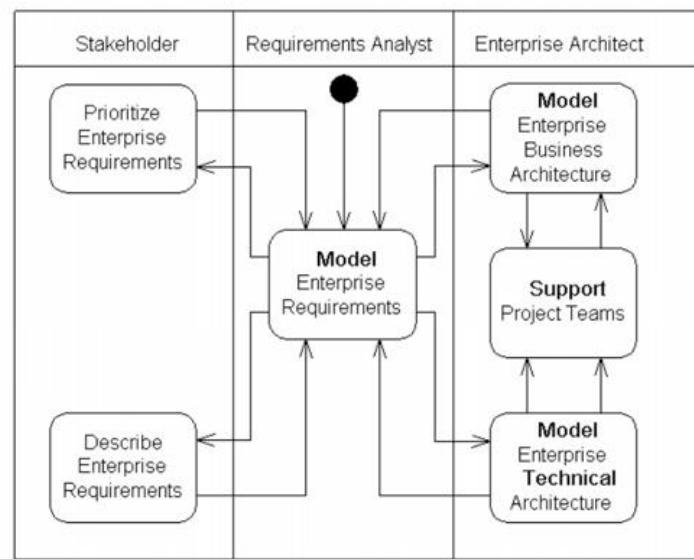
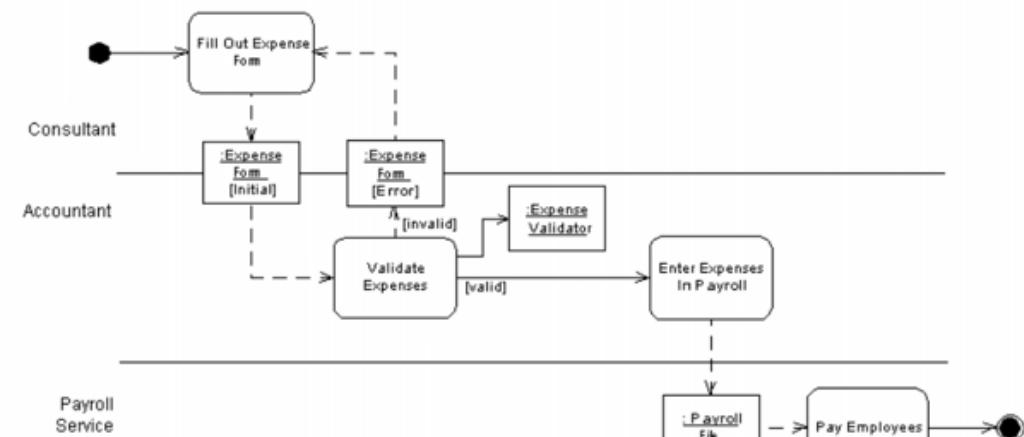


Figure 3. Submitting expenses.



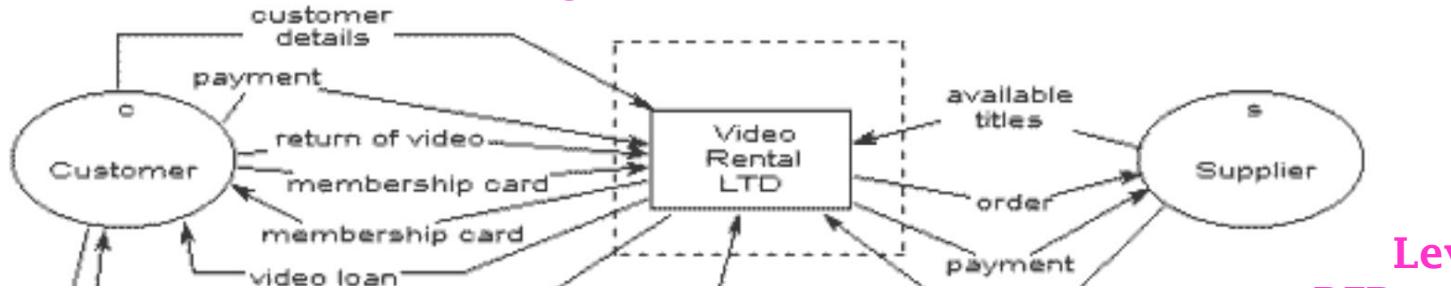
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7 Action-Object Guidelines

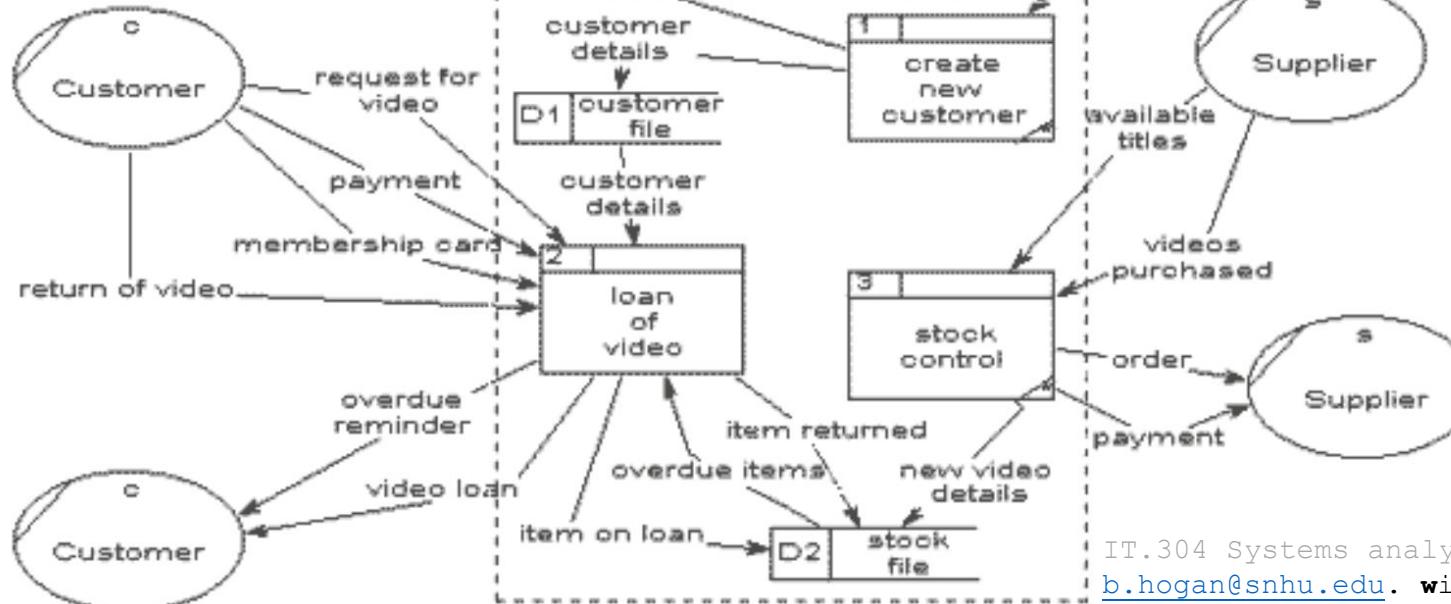
Activities act on objects, In the strict object-oriented sense of the term an action object is a system object, a software construct. In the looser, and much more useful for business application modeling, sense of the term an action object is any sort of item. For example in [Figure 3](#) the *ExpenseForm* action object is likely a paper form.

Model .4: Data Flow Diagraming <[sparx-models](#)> <[website](#)> <[how.to.doc\[VG\]](#)> <[how.to.video](#)> <[wikipedia](#)>
 Purpose: process of representing simplified data transactions to help process and stakeholder owners agree on scope and boundaries of a systems analysis and design reengineering effort. Level 0 is the highlevel context. Key tasks are detailed in level 1 indicating storage medium and transactions. Level 2 specifies transactions and their storage.

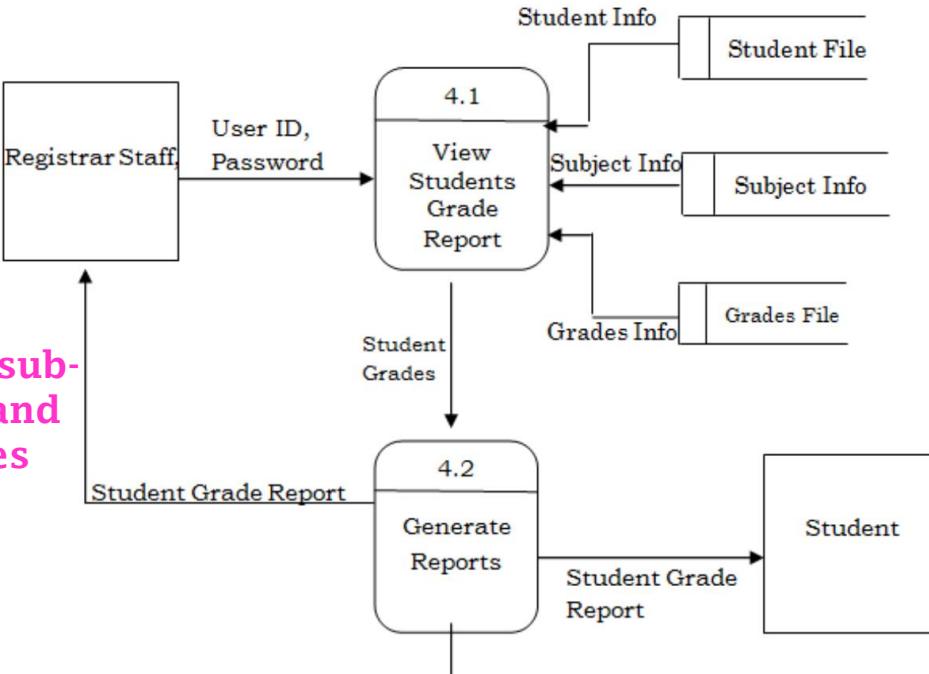
Level 0 - DFD - Context Diagram



**Level 1
DFD -
Details + 1**



**Level 2
DFD - main sub-
processes and
data stores**

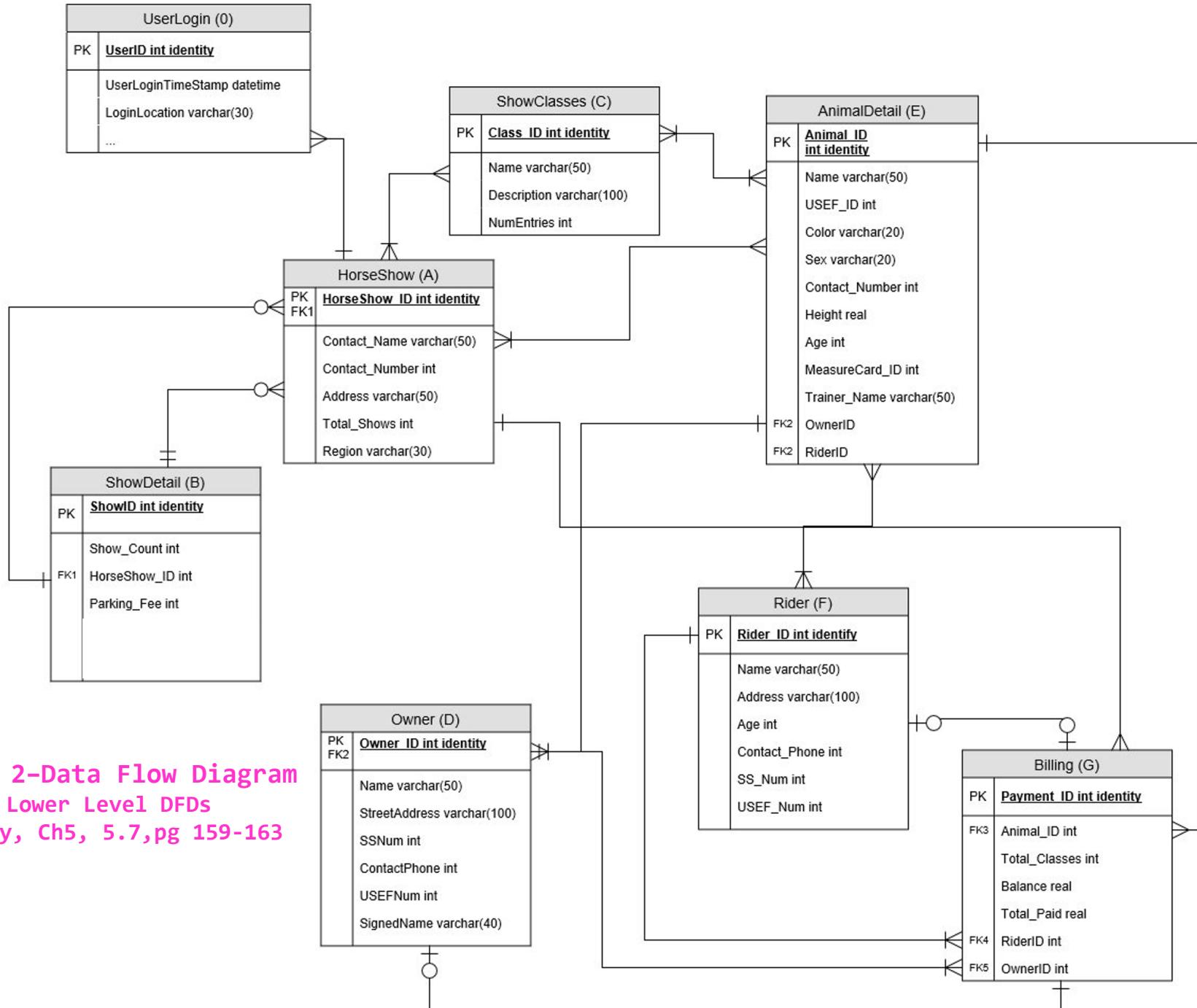
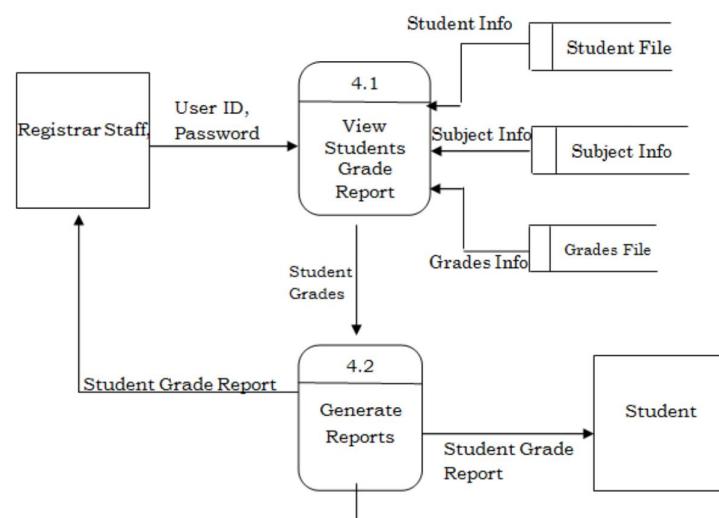


- **Context diagrams** — context diagram DFDs are diagrams that present an overview of the system and its interaction with the rest of the “world”.
- **Level 1 data-flow diagrams** — present a more detailed view of the system than context diagrams, by showing the main sub-processes and stores of data that make up the system as a whole.
- **Level 2 (and lower) data-flow diagrams** — a major advantage of the data-flow modelling technique is that, through a technique called “levelling”, the detailed complexity of real world systems can be managed and modeled in a hierarchy of abstractions. Certain elements of any dataflow diagram can be decomposed (“exploded”) into a more detailed model a level lower in the hierarchy.

Model.5 Data Flow Diagram combined with data table normalization:<bh.github>

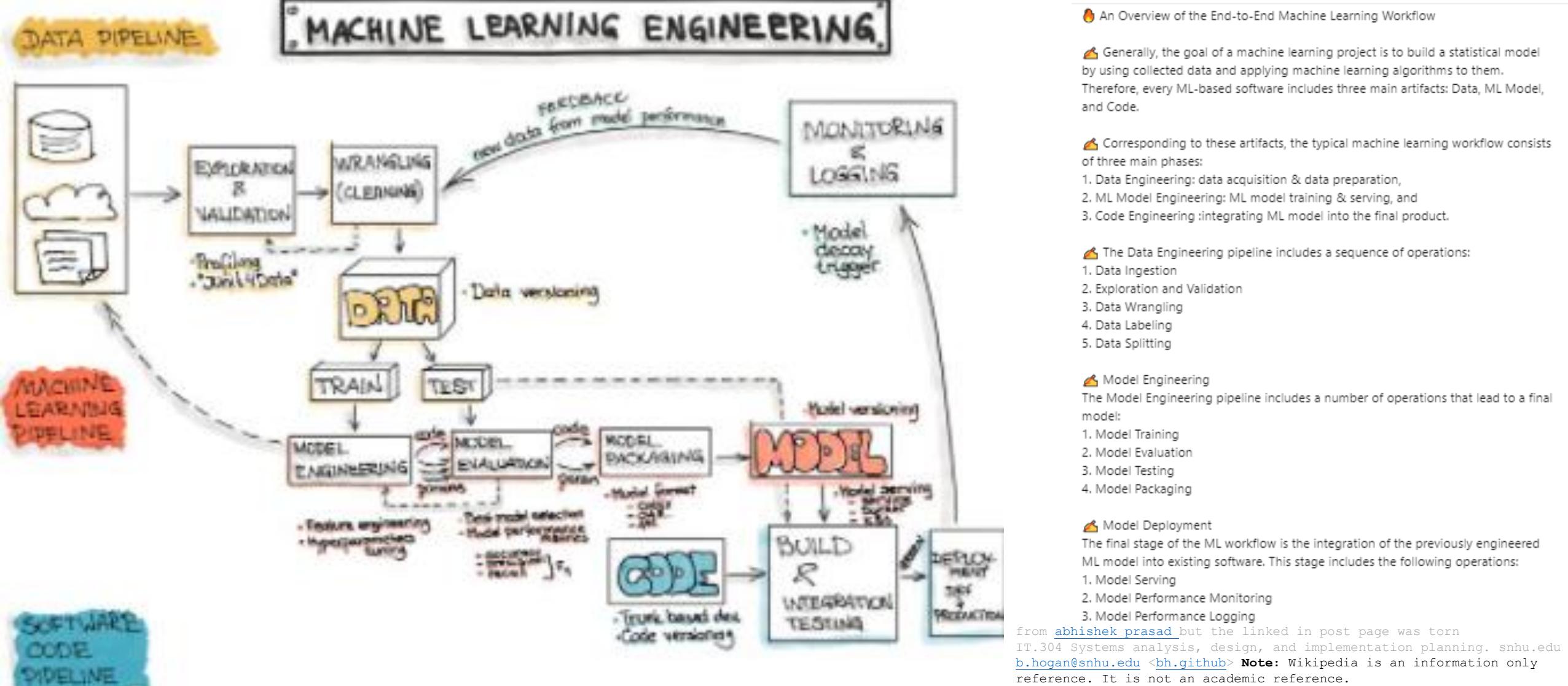
History: Purpose: <draft>

relational
database
tables
horseshow



Model.6: Machine Learning Data Pipelines <website> <how.to.doc> <josh.Gordon.how.to.video> <wikipedia>

Purpose: data pipes execute in parallel or time-sliced fashion providing new clickbait or similar transaction behavior for an established ML model. New data kicks off further analysis as captured in the graphic. From a high level, if more people like you find a new Amazon "whizzy" somewhat of a "tizzy," then ML should indicate your profile as a potential buyer to provide you a link on your search screen. Welcome to modern business 101.



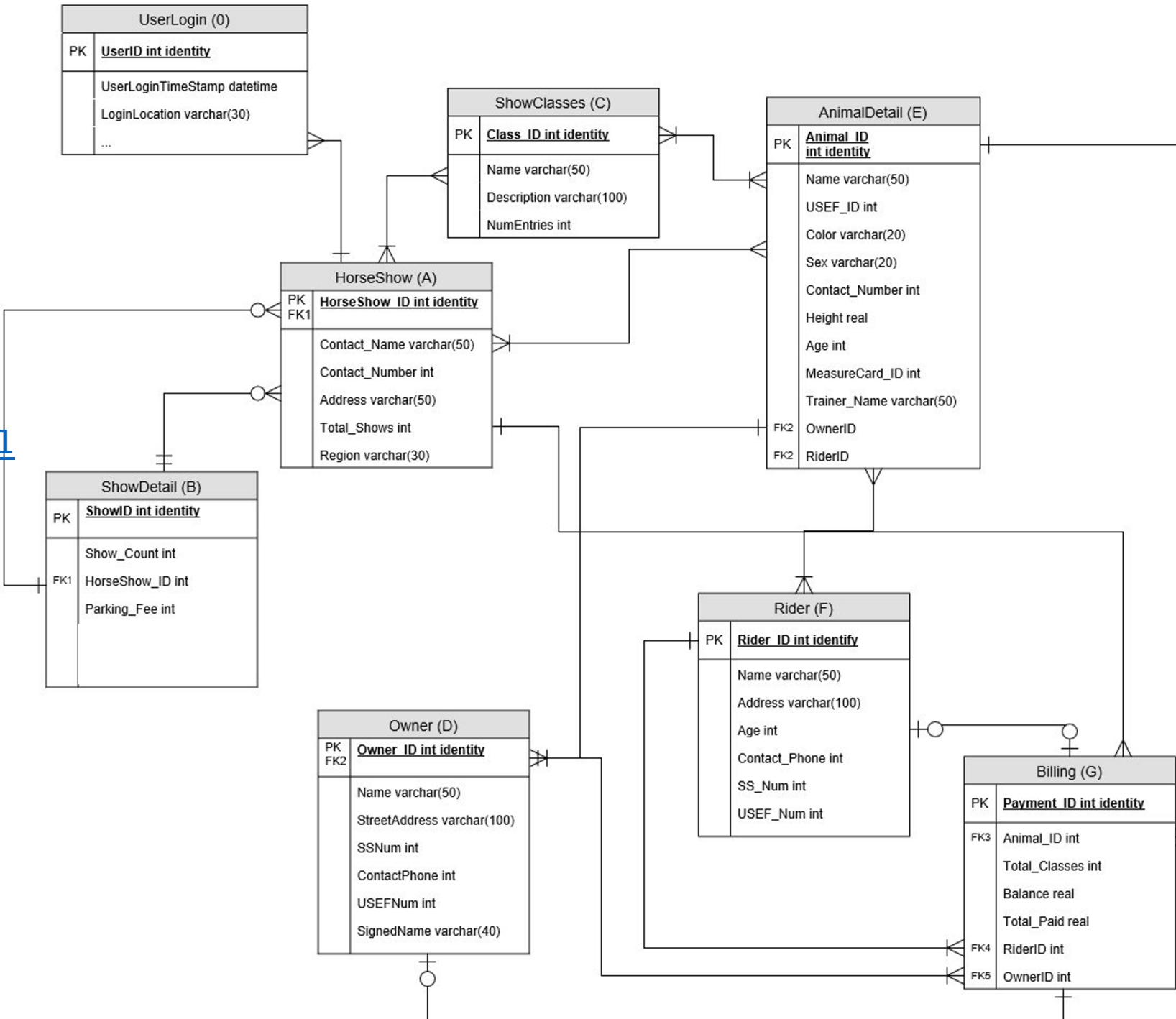
Model.7 Database Normalization:

<bh.github> <website> <how.to.doc>
<how.to.video> <wikipedia>

History:

Purpose:

relational
database
tables
horseshow

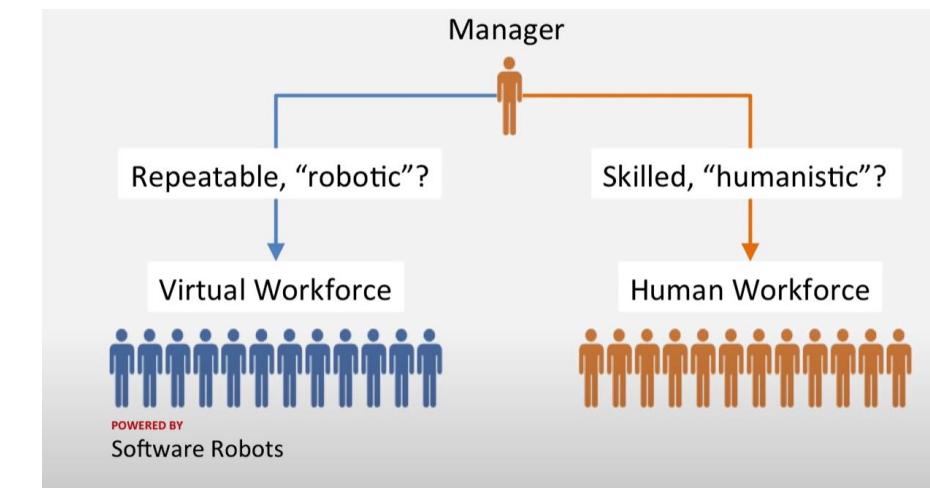
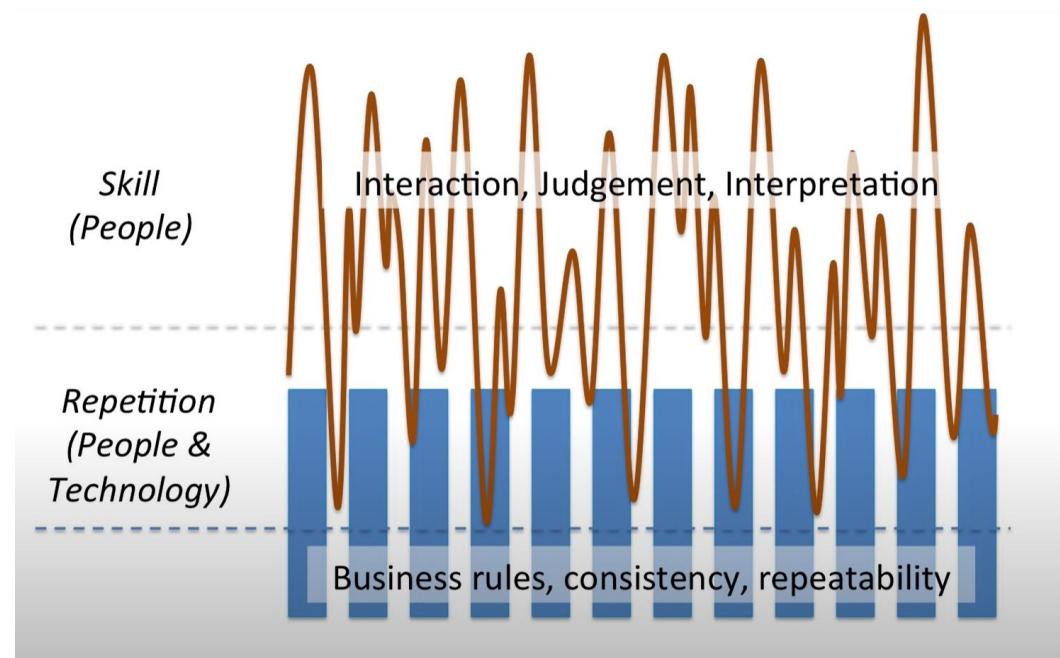


Model.8: Robotic Process Automation (RPA) <[bh.github](#)> <[website](#)> <[IBM.vid.2022](#)> <[wikipedia](#)>

History: Recent form of business process automation using software robots (bots) and artificial intelligent AI-digital workers to perform tasks user do by watching users perform the tasks in the GUI and then replicate it.

Purpose: Use of IT widgets to read emails, forms, to replicate human behavior and eliminate the “digital tape and glue” of cross updating amongst mix-matched current and legacy system applications. AI and machine learning can also help figure out and classify what the newly received information is and suggest where it should go instead of a human orchestrating it because systems have been codified, labeled, and connected to AI-digi-workers.

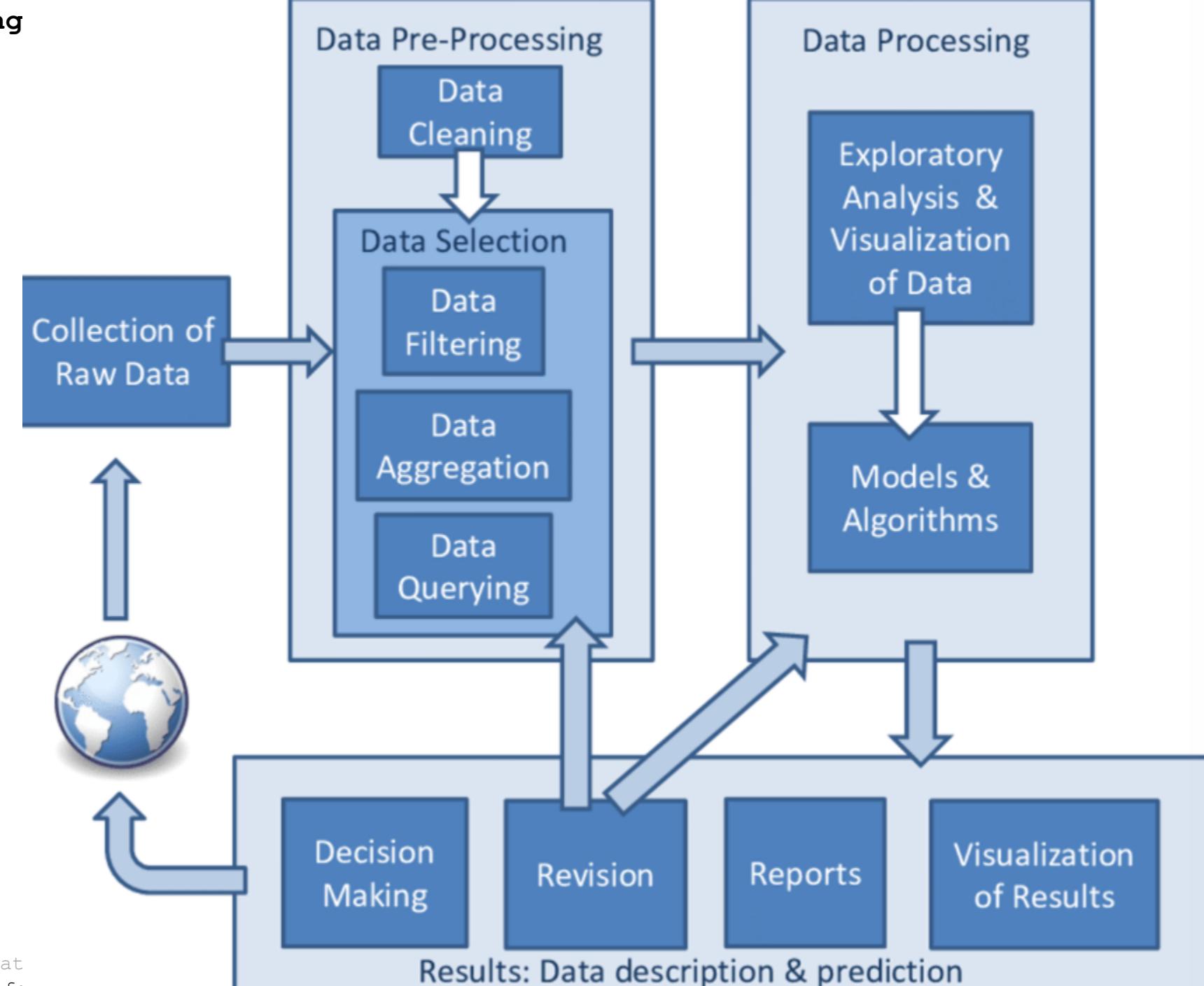
What are people doing in Reality?



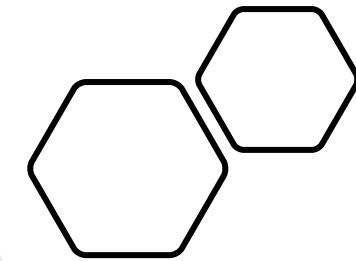
Model.9: DataMart Decision Making

History:

Purpose:



substrate



Python Skill.1:
Data Transformation

[`<bh.github>`](#)

[`<website>`](#)

[`<how.to.video>`](#)

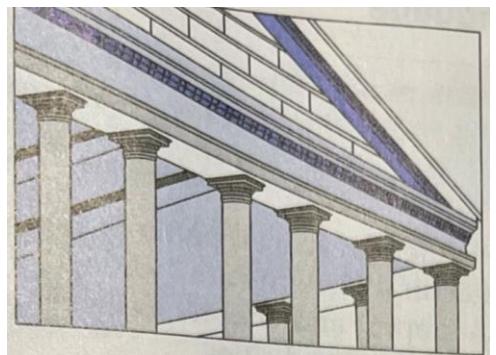
[`<wikipedia>`](#)

History: deep history and
university dispute on
ownership

Purpose: Apply

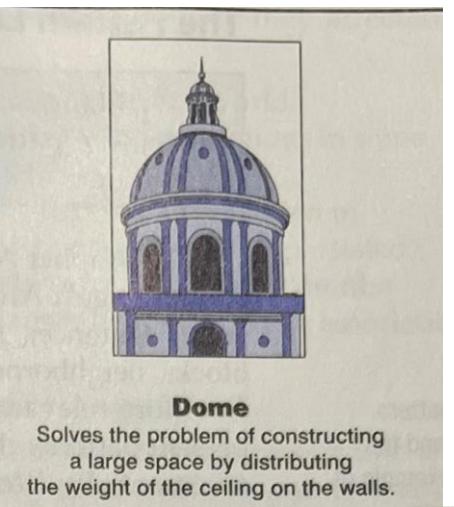
History: Use of classic pattern abstractions to form built to suit analysis approaches.

Purpose: abc



Column

Solves the problem of constructing a large space by distributing the weight of the ceiling on columns.



Dome

Solves the problem of constructing a large space by distributing the weight of the ceiling on the walls.

Patterns are old. A systematic way to describe patterns and their consequences is new.

Since time immemorial, people have adopted and adapted solutions found by other people. Figure 14.1 represents two architectural patterns that are so successful that they have dominated the building of large spaces for thousands of years. We can find numerous other examples for patterns in the history of human activities, from hunting to pottery and from shipbuilding to medicine. Such adaptations, however, were not usually called patterns (except when used as a synonym for "model," as in "dress pattern"), and no systematic way existed to describe them.

In 1977, Christopher Alexander, an architect, and his coauthors published *A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction*. Rather than focusing on narrow technical or aesthetic considerations, the book explored hundreds of patterns that define the relationships among people and their architectural habitats: the themes that, for good or for bad, are repeatedly adopted by people or builders.

As it turned out, Alexander's greatest impact was not on architecture but on *software* architecture or, to be more precise, on object-oriented design. A systematic analysis and presentation of patterns requires distinct entities that only an object-oriented framework can provide.

Application of patterns to software design, both in theory and practice, started in the late 1970s and early 1980s. One of the first was the **Model-View-Controller** (MVC), an architectural pattern that separates the application into three logical components: data model, user interface, and control logic. (The general idea, if not the terminology, should be familiar to you by now.) The pattern, developed at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), was the foundation of the modern graphical user interface (GUI).

During the 1980s and early 1990s, many pioneers contributed to a growing awareness of patterns. One was Peter Coad, who in the article "Object-Oriented Patterns" offered certain guidelines and examples for identifying and adapting software patterns:

An object-oriented pattern is an abstraction of a doublet, triplet, or other small grouping of classes that is likely to be helpful again and again in object-oriented development.

Patterns are found by trial-and-error and by observation. By building many object-oriented models and by observing many applications of the lowest-level building blocks and the relationships established between them, one can find patterns.

What turned patterns into a serious subject in software development was the publication of *Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software*, by Erich Gamma et al in 1997. (It has become known as the "Gang of Four" book, a reference to the number of its authors.) This book offered a viable framework for identifying and defining patterns that apply to software design.

Since then the literature has grown constantly, with books that either expand on existing patterns or present new ones for new contexts such as analysis, enterprise architecture, modeling, etc.

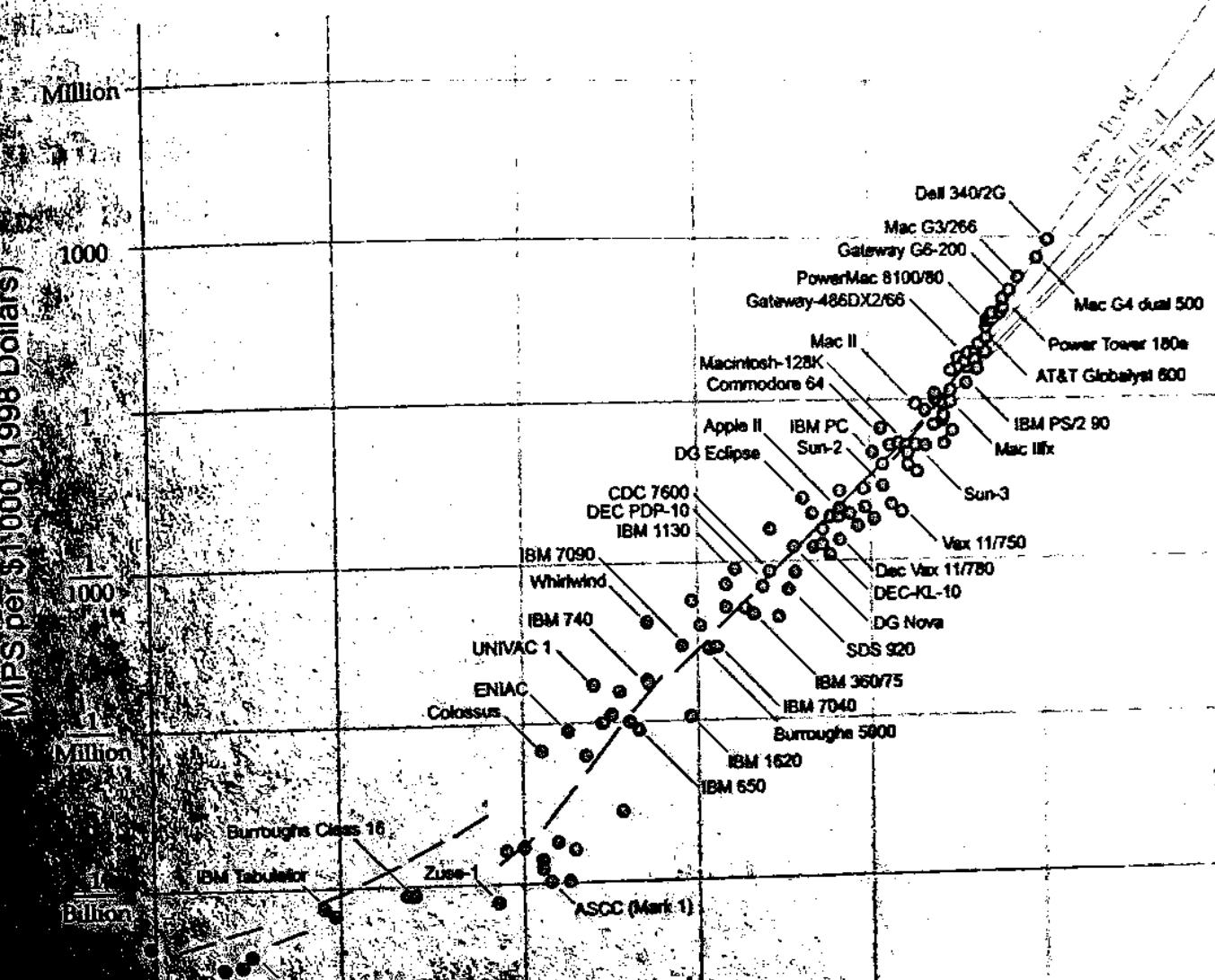
Fractal Dimensions and the Brain

Note that the use of the third dimension in computing systems is not an either-or choice but a continuum between two and three dimensions. In terms of biological intelligence, the human cortex is actually rather flat, with only six thin layers that are elaborately folded, an architecture that greatly increases the surface area. This folding is one way to use the third dimension. In "fractal" systems (systems in which a drawing replacement or folding rule is iteratively applied), structures that are elaborately folded are considered to constitute a partial dimension. From that perspective, the convoluted surface of the human cortex represents a number of dimensions in between two and three. Other brain structures, such as the cerebellum, are three-dimensional but comprise a repeating structure that is essentially two-dimensional. It is likely that our future computational systems will also combine systems that are highly folded two-dimensional systems with fully three-dimensional structures.

Notice that the figure shows an exponential curve on a logarithmic scale, indicating two levels of exponential growth.³⁶ In other words, there is a gentle but unmistakable exponential growth in the *rate* of exponential growth. (A straight line on a logarithmic scale shows simple exponential growth; an upwardly curving line shows higher-than-simple exponential growth.) As you can see, it took three years to double the price-performance of computing at the beginning of the twentieth century and two years in the middle, and it takes about one year currently.³⁷

Hans Moravec provides the following similar chart (see the figure below), which uses a different but overlapping set of historical computers and plots trend lines (slopes) at different points in time. As with the figure above, the slope increases with time, reflecting the second level of exponential growth.³⁸

Evolution of Computer Power/Cost



Doubling (or Halving) Times³³

Dynamic RAM "Half Pitch" Feature Size (smallest chip feature)	5.4 years
Dynamic RAM (bits per dollar)	1.5 years
Average Transistor Price	1.6 years
Microprocessor Cost-per-Transistor Cycle	1.1 years
Total Bits Shipped	1.1 years
Processor Performance in MIPS	1.8 years
Transistors in Intel Microprocessors	2.0 years
Microprocessor Clock Speed	3.0 years

Moore's Law: Self-Fulfilling Prophecy?

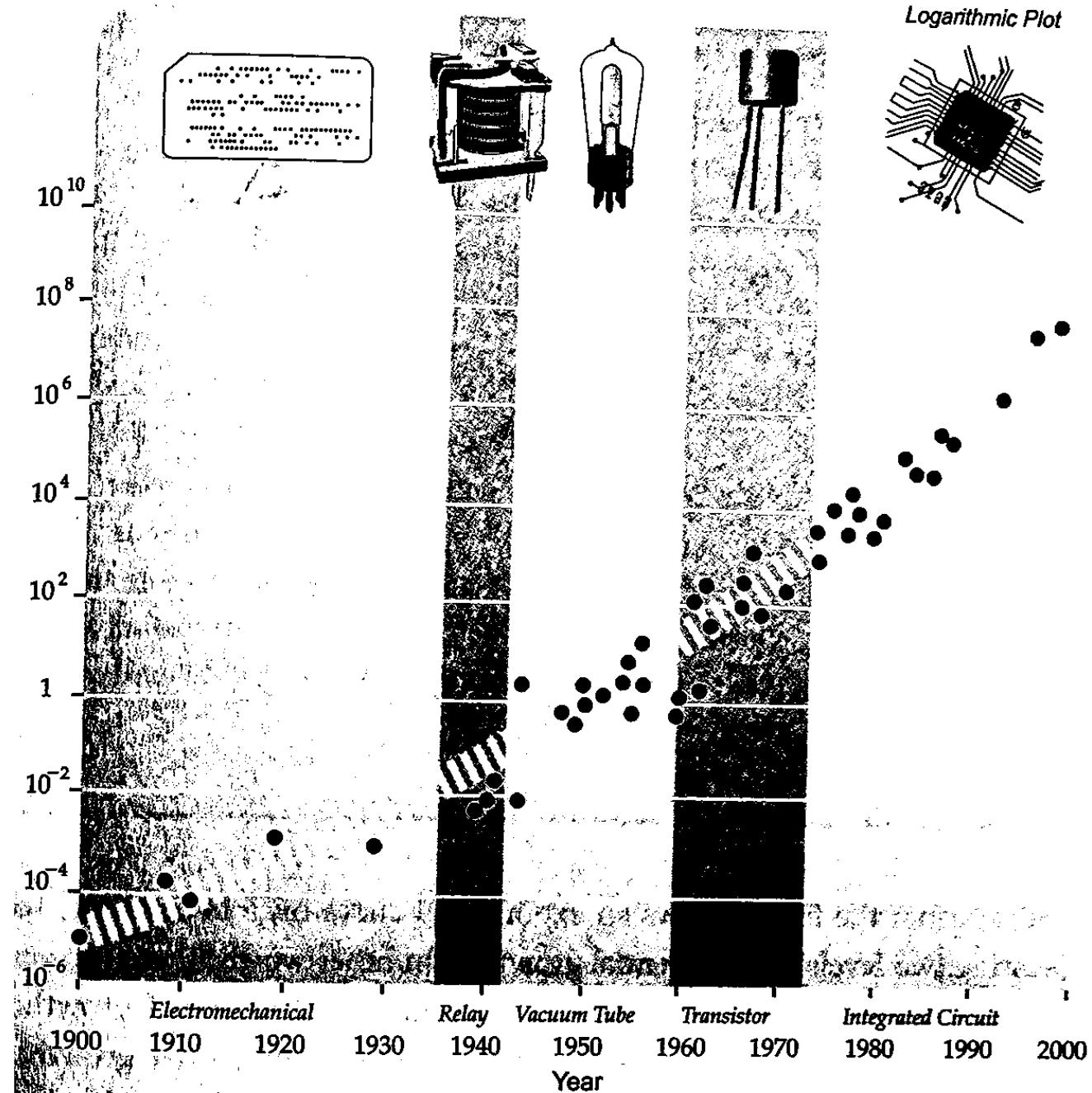
Some observers have stated that Moore's Law is nothing more than a self-fulfilling prophecy: that industry participants anticipate where they need to be at particular times in the future, and organize their research and development accordingly. The industry's own written road map is a good example of this.³⁴ However, the exponential trends in information technology are far broader than those covered by Moore's Law. We see the same types of trends in essentially every technology or measurement that deals with information. This includes many technologies in which a perception of accelerating price-performance does not exist or has not previously been articulated (see below). Even within computing itself, the growth in capability per unit cost is much broader than what Moore's Law alone would predict.

The Fifth Paradigm³⁵

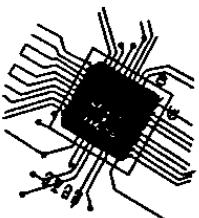
Moore's Law is actually not the first paradigm in computational systems. You can see this if you plot the price-performance—measured by instructions per second per thousand constant dollars—of forty-nine famous computational systems and computers spanning the twentieth century (see the figure below).

lecture_notes
it304.wk7d1

As the figure demonstrates, there were actually four different paradigms—electromechanical, relays, vacuum tubes, and discrete transistors—that showed exponential growth in the price-performance of computing long before integrated circuits were even invented. And Moore's paradigm won't be the last. When Moore's Law reaches the end of its S-curve, now expected before 2020, the exponential growth will continue with three-dimensional molecular computing, which will constitute the sixth paradigm.

Moore's Law
The Fifth Paradigm

Logarithmic Plot



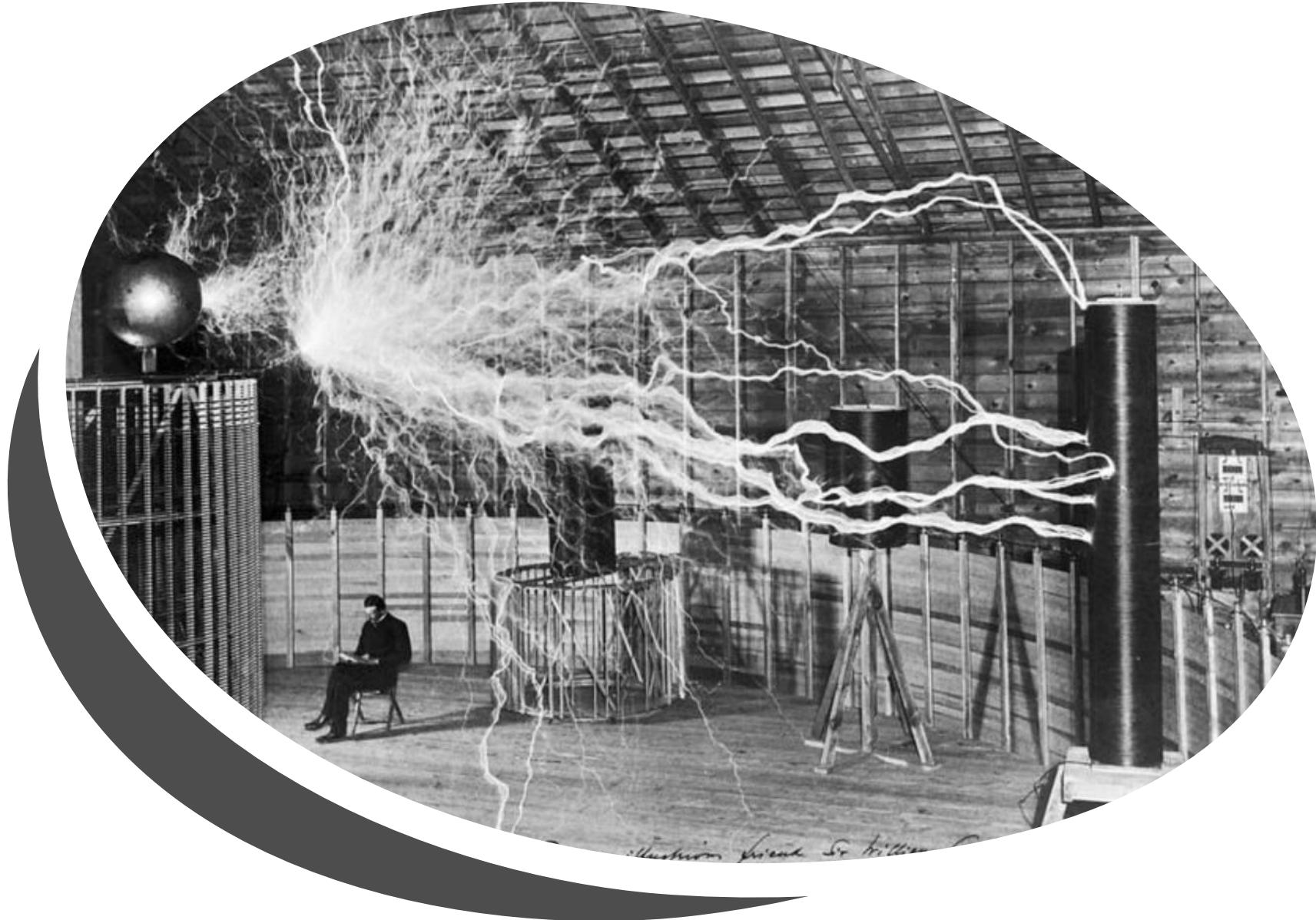
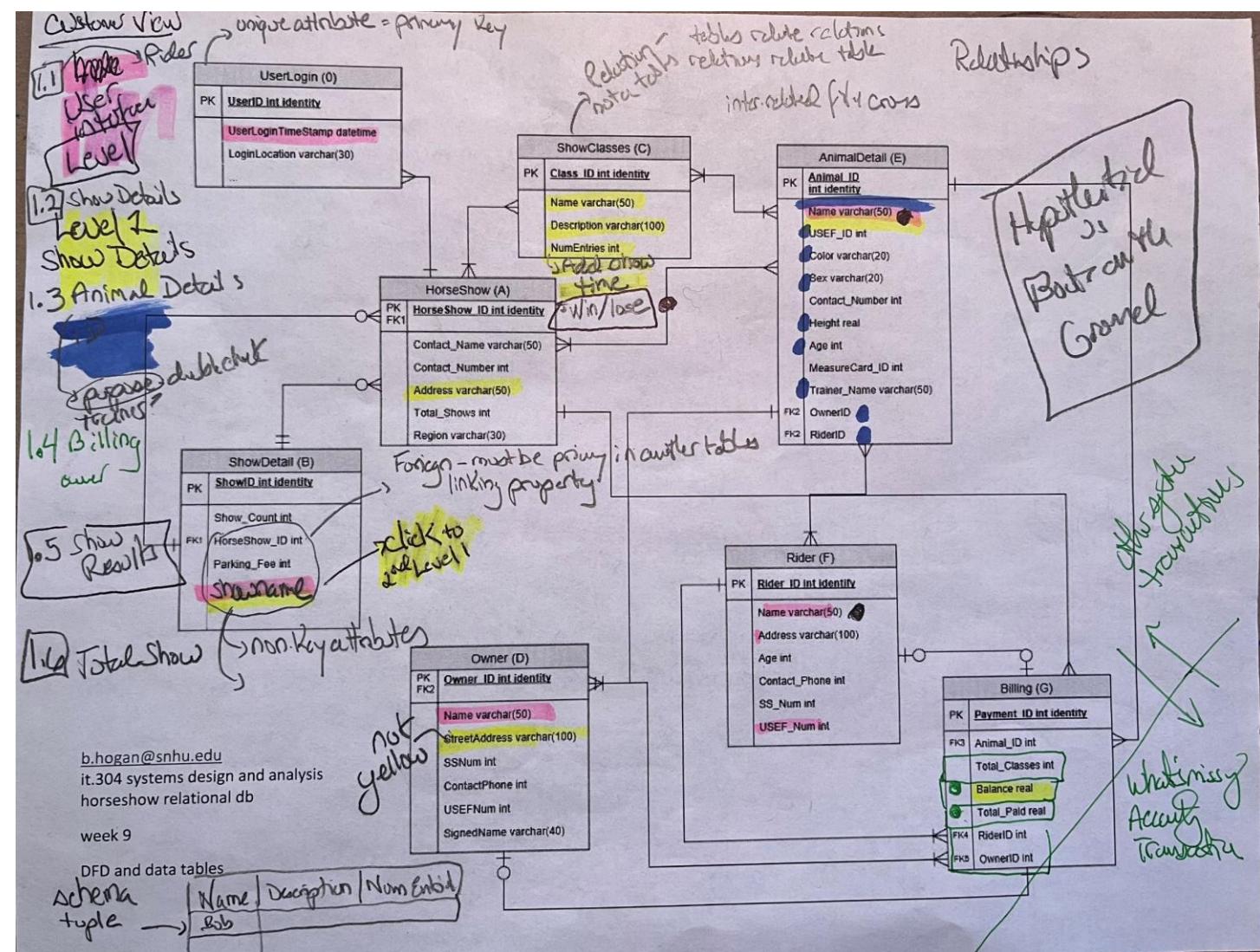


Illustration from Sir William Crookes

History: draft

Purpose:



Model.X: <[bh.github](#)> <[website](#)> <[how.to.doc](#)> <[how.to.video](#)><[wikipedia](#)>

History:

Purpose:

knowledge representation





GNU Screen split screen. At the left, [links \(web browser\)](#), at the right top, screen's help. At the bottom we have screen's man page, IRC client [irssi](#), and a terminal taking this screenshot.