

Process

Martin Kellogg



Process

Today's agenda:

- **Reading Quiz**
- Development methodologies
- Planning, estimation, and risk
- Measuring progress

Reading Quiz: process

Q1: **TRUE** or **FALSE**: the conclusion of all three papers about Waterfall that were mentioned in the *"Waterfall" doesn't mean what you think it means* article was that developers should write less documentation.

Q2: The Agile Principles document suggests that customers/business-people and developers must...

- A. pair program all the time
- B. work together at least daily
- C. meet at least weekly
- D. work together on design at least monthly

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Announcements

- IP1 grading is done
 - I am not going to release a solution (sorry)
- Individual Project Proposals **due today**
 - one page, but it's an important page
 - your proposal's quality + direction will help decide your project team (there will also be some randomness)
 - look out later today for a **team preferences survey** that will ask if there's anyone you really don't want to work with

Review: How to make a PR on GitHub

- start by creating a **fork** of the project
 - a new repository controlled by you, connected to the main
- in your fork, create a **feature branch**
- write code + tests
- commit **early and often**, push to your fork
- **prepare** for code review: follow code review author's best practices
 - we'll discuss how to do a code review in a few weeks
- open PR against "**main**" repository from your fork's feature branch

Review: How NOT to make a PR on GitHub

- start by creating a **hard fork** of the project
 - a new repository controlled by you, unconnected to the main
- do all of your work on the repository's **main** branch
- write code (if there are already tests, don't bother to run them)
- commit **all** of your code at once, when you're done
- **don't bother** to check if you've followed best practices
- **email** your changes to the maintainer of the original project
 - bonus points: email the full working copy, not just the diffs

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- **don't bother** to check if you've followed the project's guidelines
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 - bonus points: email the full working code

I've seen people make
all of these mistakes
(and more)!

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Development methodologies

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 - Why? No one actually follows these procedures to the letter

Development methodologies

- Traditionally, a large component of undergrad Software Engineering classes
- I'm not going to make you memorize the stages of the Waterfall method, or the tenets of Agile, or the like
 - Why? No one actually follows these procedures to the letter
- Instead, my goal in this lecture is to give you an overview of the traditional ways of organizing a software development effort and give you the vocabulary to talk about it

What is a process? A methodology?

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e.g., the Agile manifesto

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not a guarantee - just a goal

A list of methodologies

- Waterfall
- Spiral
- Agile
- Scrum
- Extreme Programming (XP)
- “wagile”

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We'll discuss these four - you can look up the others on your own if you're curious

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Why have a methodology at all?

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- Standardization among developers
- Shared language
- Estimation: your boss probably wants to know when you'll be able to ship!
- You implicitly have a process, whether you know it or not (and it might not be very good if you're not paying attention)

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sometimes this is called an *ad hoc* methodology

Examples of issues with ad hoc process

- **Requirements:** Mid-project informal agreement to changes suggested by customer or manager.

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Project scope expands (a lot!)

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Test-debug-reimplement cycle

Release with known defects

Defect cost vs. detection time

- An IBM report gives an average defect repair cost of (2008\$):
 - \$25 during coding
 - \$100 at build time
 - \$450 during testing/QA
 - \$16,000 post-release

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Bugs forgotten

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Interfaces out of sync

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Project falls further behind

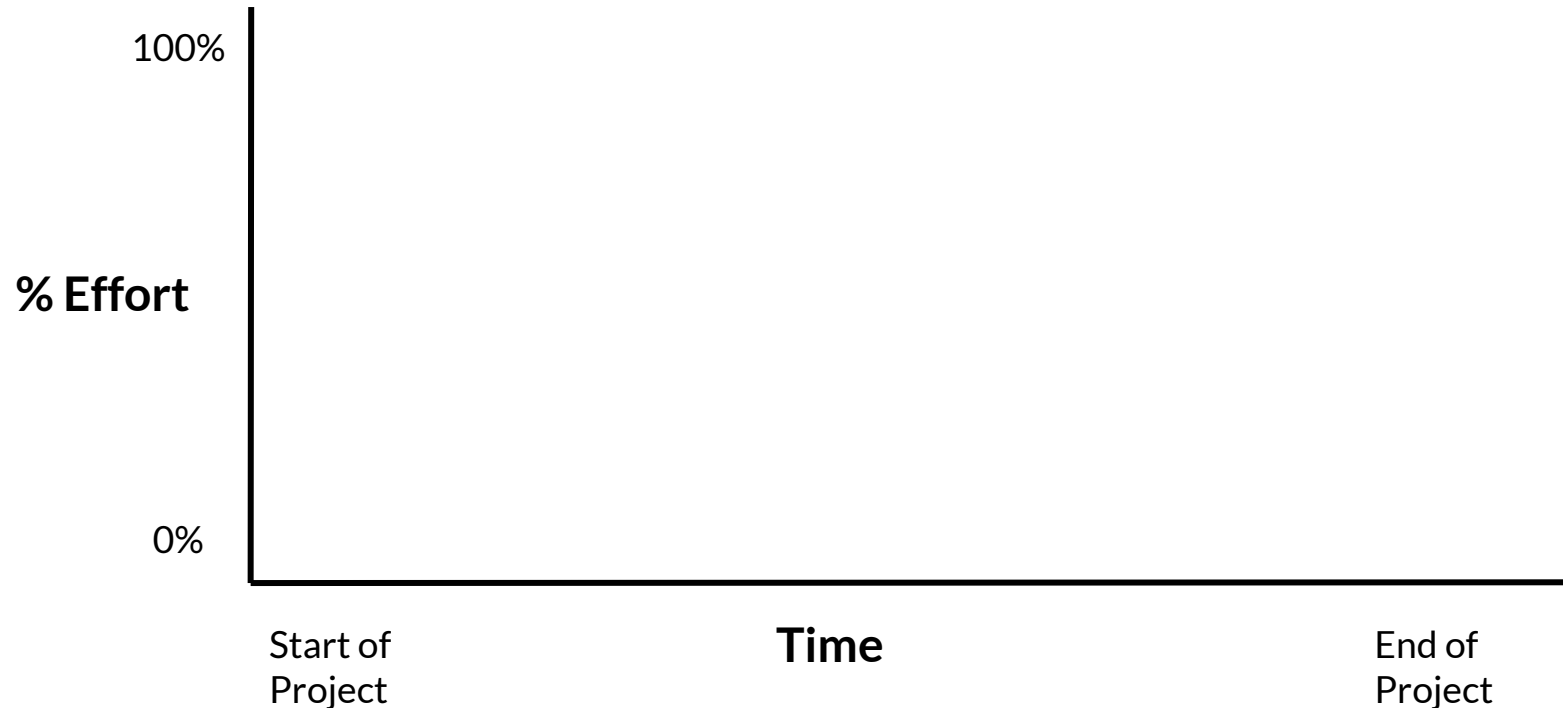
A process hypothesis

- Hypothesis: a good process can **increase flexibility and efficiency** for software development.

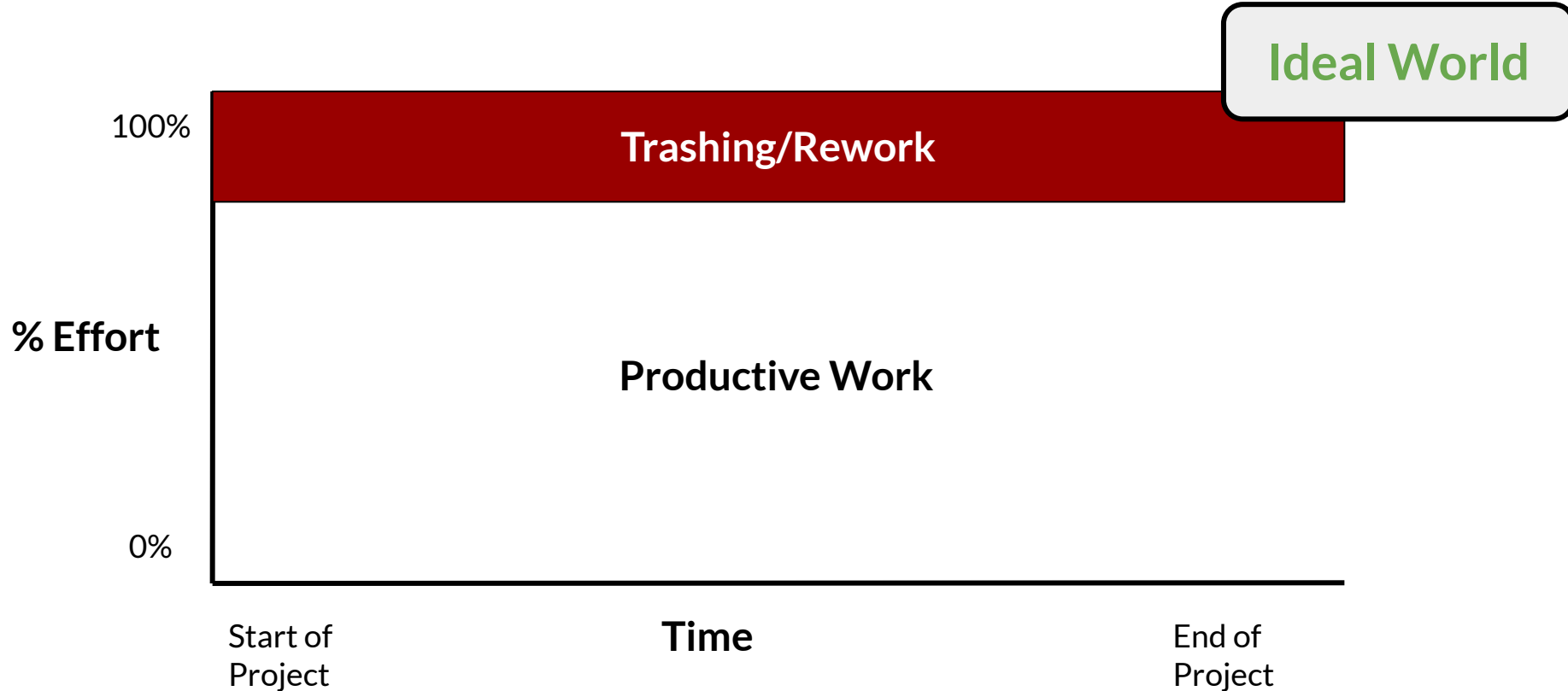
A process hypothesis

- Hypothesis: a good process can **increase flexibility and efficiency** for software development.
 - If this is true, an up-front investment (of resources, e.g., “time”) in process can yield greater returns later on - by avoiding the problems on the previous slide!

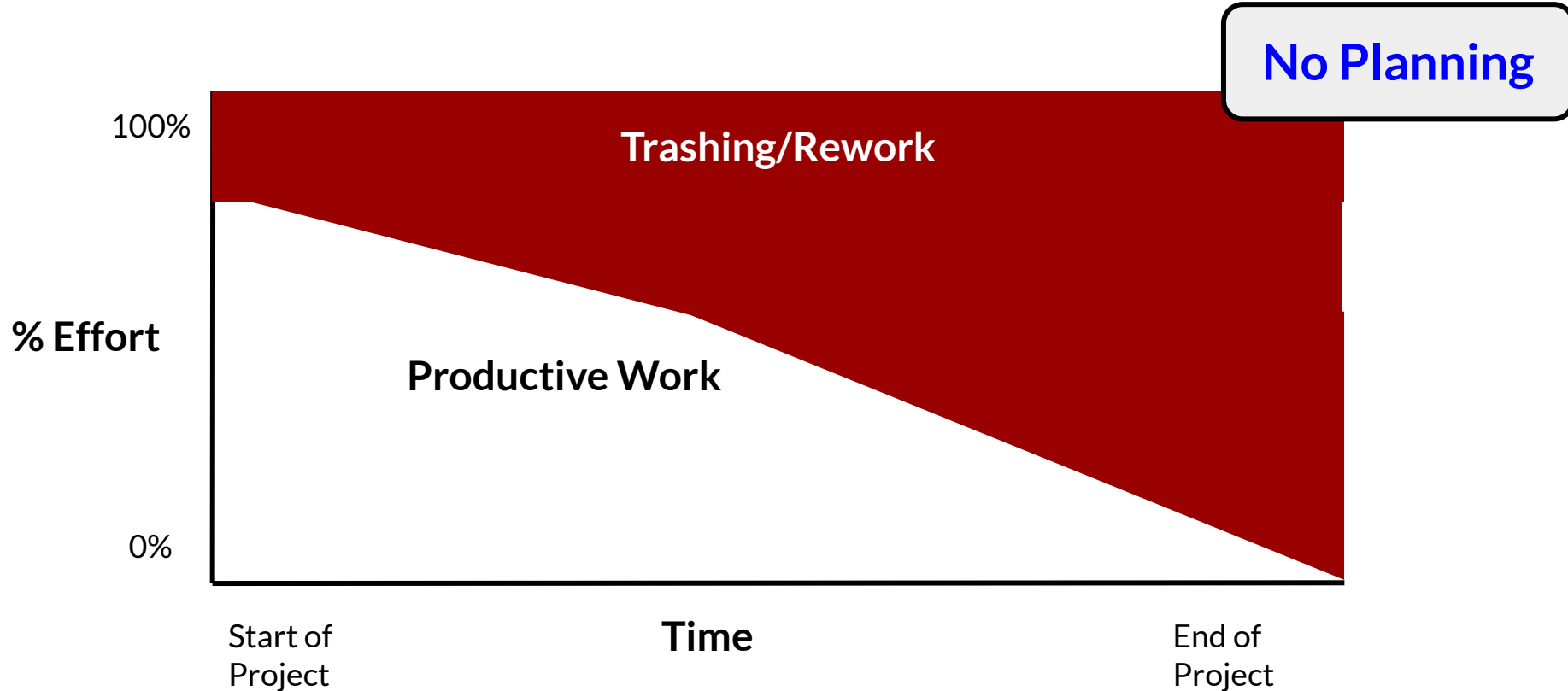
A process hypothesis: activities over time



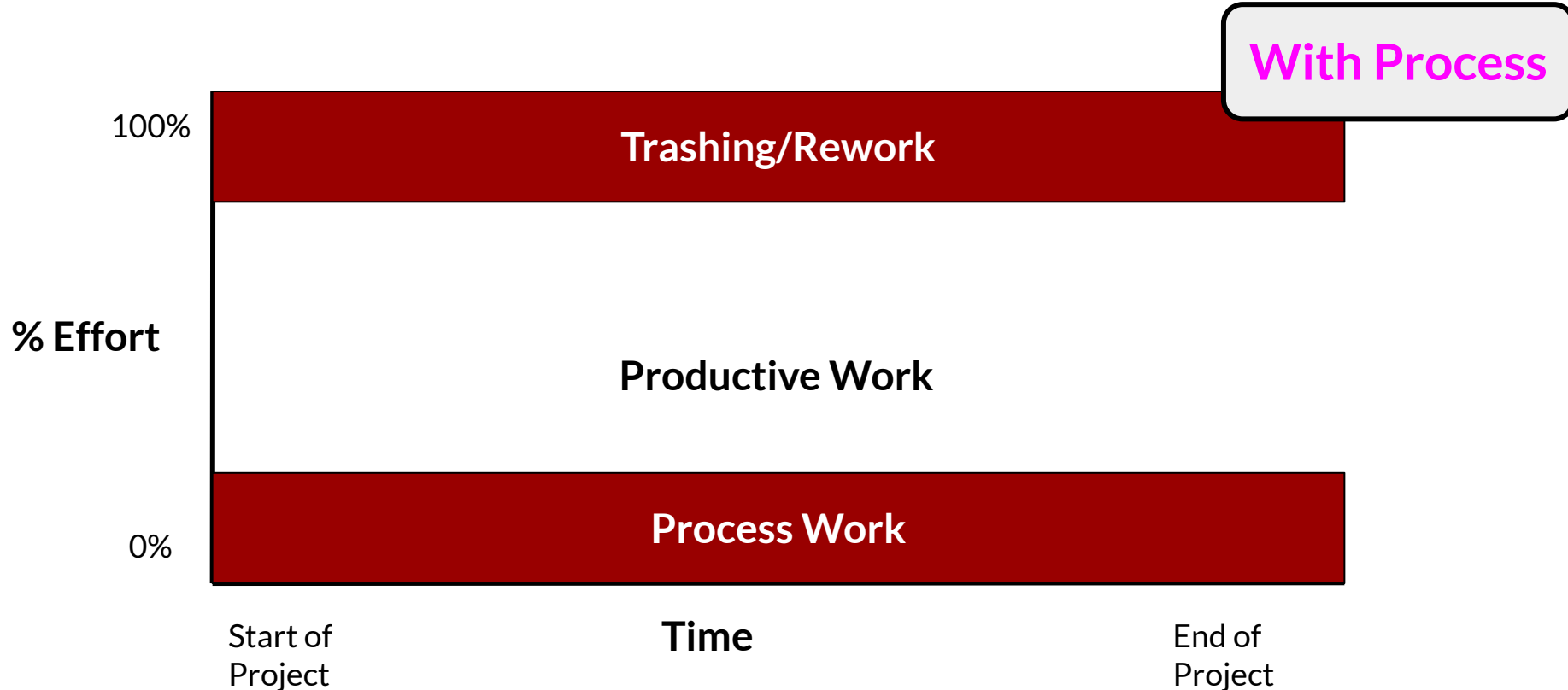
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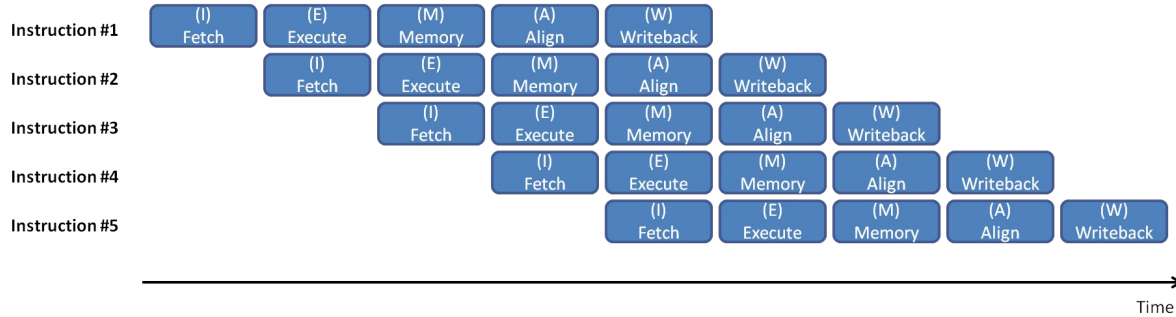
Is this realistic?

Why or why not?

Other lies you've probably been told

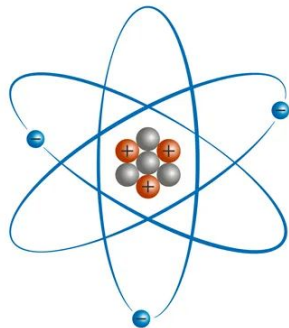
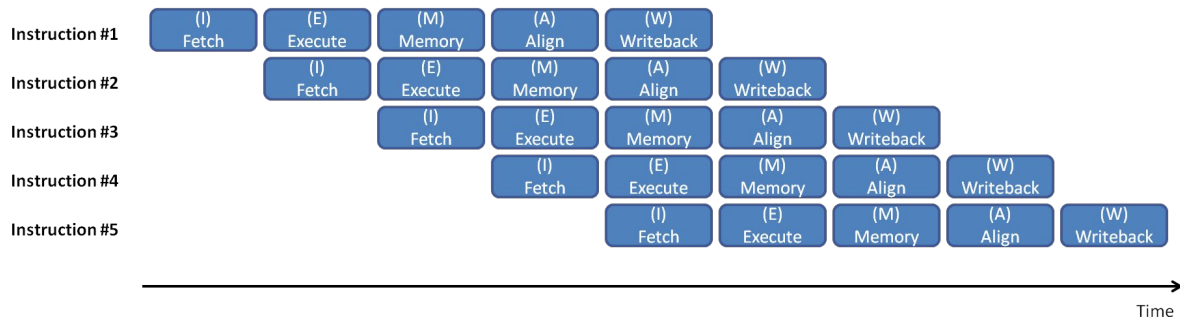
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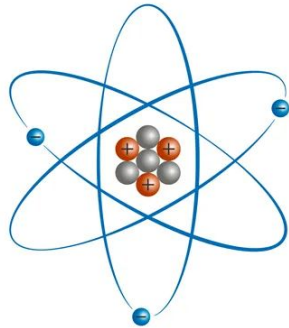
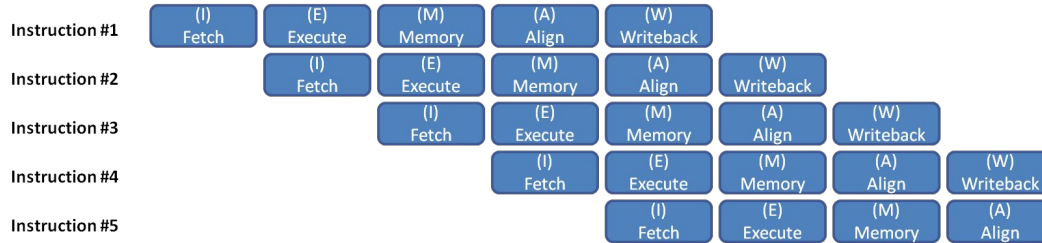


Atom structure

- Proton
- Neutron
- Electron

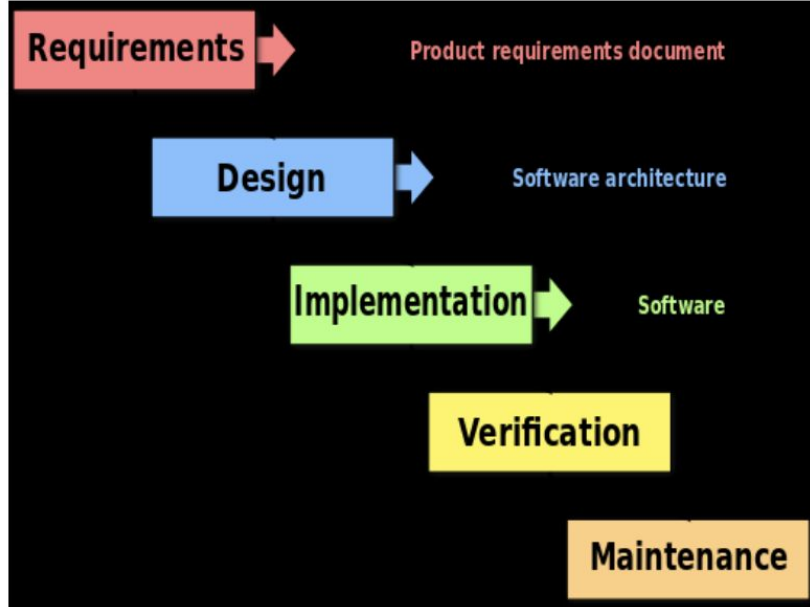
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The Waterfall methodology: an idealized model

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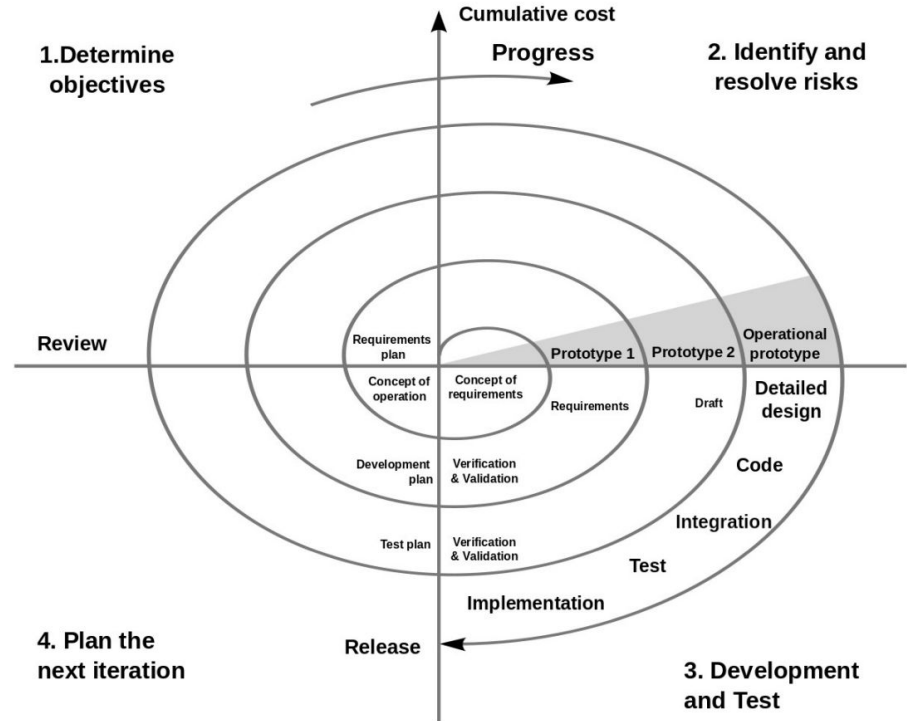
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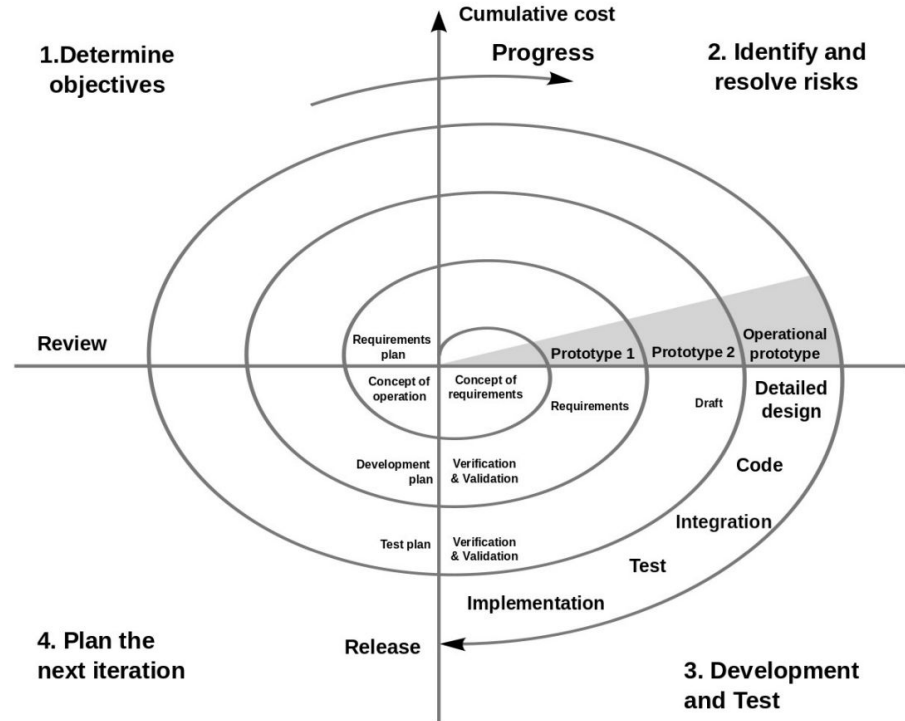
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- But, it provides a **useful foundation** for thinking about methodologies:
 - the Waterfall stages do represent real activities you'll do during the development lifecycle
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- And, as we saw in today's reading, this "model" isn't even what the papers "introducing it" were advocating for!

A slightly more realistic model: spiral



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- Key idea: construct a series of increasingly-complete **prototypes** (while accounting for risk)
- Effectively **iterated waterfall**



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- Scrum is an **instantiation** of that philosophy as a methodology

Agile Principles

- Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
- Working software over comprehensive documentation
- Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
- Responding to change over following a plan

Agile Principles

Focus on people

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Always have a prototype

Agile Principles

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Keep the client involved

Agile Principles

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- Working software over comprehensive documentation
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Change requirements as you
learn about the problem

The Scrum methodology

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The Scrum methodology

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- Focused around a “scrum master” who is responsible for process
- Work is divided into *sprints* where each team member is responsible for dealing with certain tasks
 - starts with a “sprint planning meeting”: tasks are assigned
 - each day includes a “standup” ceremony
 - at the end of the sprint, a “sprint retrospective meeting” looks back on how the sprint went
 - typically sprints are 1-2 weeks

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You'll need to describe your group project using user stories in your project proposal

User stories

“As a <role>, I can <capability>, so that I can <receive benefit>.”

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- also requires a *condition of satisfaction*, which is the measurement you will use to decide if the user story has been completed

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User stories: examples

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- “As a **typical computer user**, I want to **specify folders to backup**, so that **my most important files are safe**”
- “As a **power user**, I want to **specify subfolders and filetypes NOT to backup**, so that **my backup doesn't fill up with things that I don't need to preserve**”

Writing user stories: INVEST principles

User stories should be:

- Independent
- Negotiable
- Valuable
- Estimable
- Small
- Testable

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Planning

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$$\text{Planning} = \text{estimate} \pm \text{risk}$$

Why is planning a software project difficult?

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Why is planning a software project difficult?

- Software tends to be **innovative**
 - Cost of copying existing code ≈ 0 , so any project you're actually working on probably is different than what came before
 - "It's not research if you know it's going to work"
 - Compare to other kinds of engineering: one highway/bridge/skyscraper/etc isn't that different than the next

Planning: milestones and deliverables

Definition: A *milestone* is a clean end point of a (sub)task

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- “80% done” is **NOT** a suitable milestone (too vague)

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Definition: A *deliverable* is a milestone that's customer-facing

- “deliverable” is sometimes used interchangeably with “milestone”

Why milestones and deliverables?

- It's easy to tell when a milestone or deliverable is done
- **Progress** towards milestones and deliverables is hard to measure

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“All I need to do is fix this one bug and then it'll work, promise.”

Estimation

Two parts:

- How long do you think it will take to reach the next milestone?
- Splitting larger tasks into smaller ones

Estimation

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Naturally **very fuzzy**: we can't see the future

Estimation techniques: t-shirt sizing

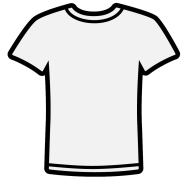


small = I can do this task in an afternoon

Estimation techniques: t-shirt sizing



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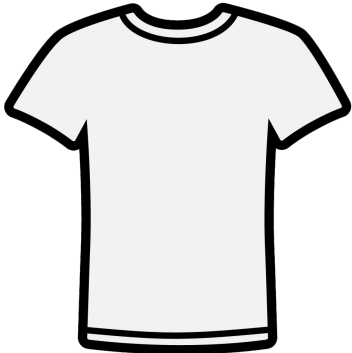
Estimation techniques: t-shirt sizing



small = I can do this task in an afternoon



medium = I can do this task in a day or two



large = too big to estimate how long it will take

- large tasks should usually come with a small task that is breaking the large task up into medium and small tasks

Estimation techniques: story points

- Assign stories 1, 2, 4, or 8 points (these numbers can vary, but the relationship should be **exponential**)
- Like large t-shirt estimates, high-point-value stories should usually have a smaller task to break them apart

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- Assign stories 1, 2, 4, or 8 points (these numbers can vary, but the relationship should be **exponential**)
- Like large t-shirt estimates, high-point-value stories should usually have a smaller task to break them apart
- T-shirt estimates and story points are two different ways to quantify the **relative** size of tasks
 - Note: “absolute” values of estimates are not very useful
 - Lots of other estimation techniques exist! Use whatever you find most intuitive (and/or, follow your team).

Estimation techniques: cocomo

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Definition: a *constructive cost model* (*cocomo*) is a predictive model of time costs based on project history

- requires experience with similar projects
- rewards documentation of experience
- basically, it's an empirically-derived set of “effort multipliers”.
You multiply the time cost by some numbers from a chart:

Cost Drivers	Ratings					
	Very Low	Low	Nominal	High	Very High	Extra High
Product attributes						
Required software reliability	0.75	0.88	1.00	1.15	1.40	
Size of application database		0.94	1.00	1.08	1.16	
Complexity of the product	0.70	0.85	1.00	1.15	1.30	1.65
Hardware attributes						
Run-time performance constraints			1.00	1.11	1.30	1.66
Memory constraints			1.00	1.06	1.21	1.56
Volatility of the virtual machine environment		0.87	1.00	1.15	1.30	
Required turnabout time		0.87	1.00	1.07	1.15	
Personnel attributes						
Analyst capability	1.46	1.19	1.00	0.86	0.71	
Applications experience	1.29	1.13	1.00	0.91	0.82	
Software engineer capability	1.42	1.17	1.00	0.86	0.70	
Virtual machine experience	1.21	1.10	1.00	0.90		
Programming language experience	1.14	1.07	1.00	0.95		
Project attributes						
Application of software engineering methods	1.24	1.10	1.00	0.91	0.82	
Use of software tools	1.24	1.10	1.00	0.91	0.83	
Required development schedule	1.23	1.08	1.00	1.04	1.10	

Risk and uncertainty

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Bus factor: number of people that need to be simultaneously unavailable until there is a part of the system that no one understands

Strategies for risk management

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- Address risk early
- Selectively innovate to increase value while minimizing risk (i.e., focus risk where needed)
- Use iteration and feedback (e.g., prototypes)
- Estimate likelihood and consequences
 - Requires experienced project leads
 - Rough estimates (e.g., <10%, <25%) are OK
- Have contingency plans

Strategies for risk management

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- Use iteration and feedback (e.g., prototypes)
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 - Requires experienced project lead
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Your ability to do this will come from **practice** (in your first job, senior engineers + tech leads + PMs should do these things)

Process

Today's agenda:

- Finish up VCS slides
- Reading Quiz
- Development methodologies
- Planning, estimation, and risk
- **Measuring progress**

Measuring progress

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Can we do better? Unfortunately, not really.

Measuring progress: best practices

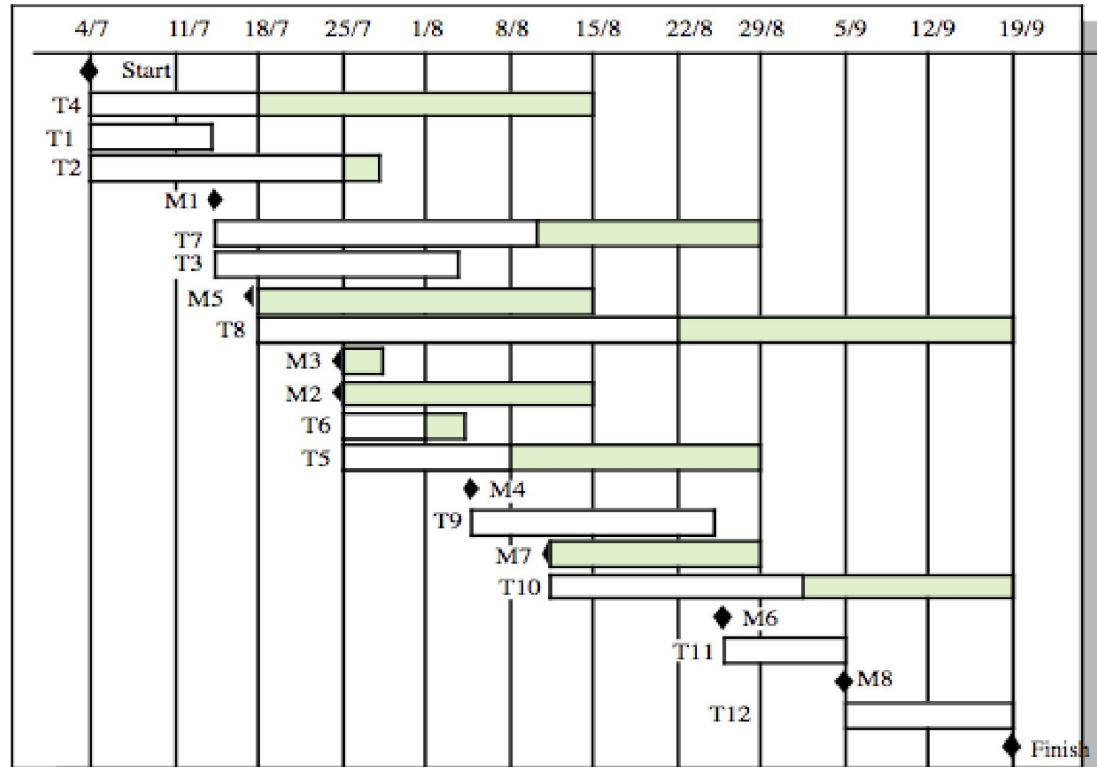
- have many milestones/deliverables
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Measuring progress: best practices

- have many milestones/deliverables
 - think back to Agile: this is a reason to always have a prototype
- avoid relying too heavily on developers' estimates
 - we are bad at estimating
 - “last mile” problem: what seems to be last 10% of the work often takes 40% or more of the development time

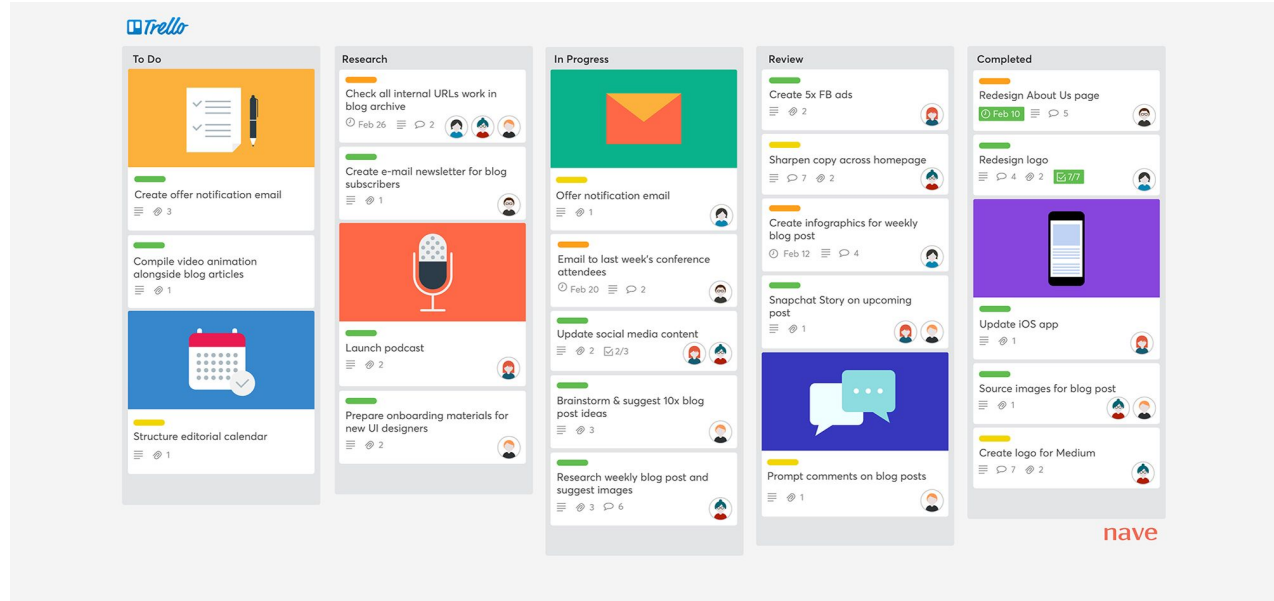
Measuring progress: tools

- Gantt chart



Measuring progress: tools

- Gantt chart
- KanBan board



Measuring progress: tools

- Gantt chart
- KanBan board
- Many others: use what works for you

Takeaways

- Process can save time, but don't overdo it
- Lots of methodologies: choose what makes sense for you
- Agile philosophy is generally a good one to follow
 - But don't focus on it at the expense of actually doing your job
- Estimation is hard and you will get it wrong
 - Use rough estimation strategies to avoid over-promising
- Include lots of buffer + risk in your estimates
- Don't trust developer estimates in general