

Overview & Why Software Project Management?

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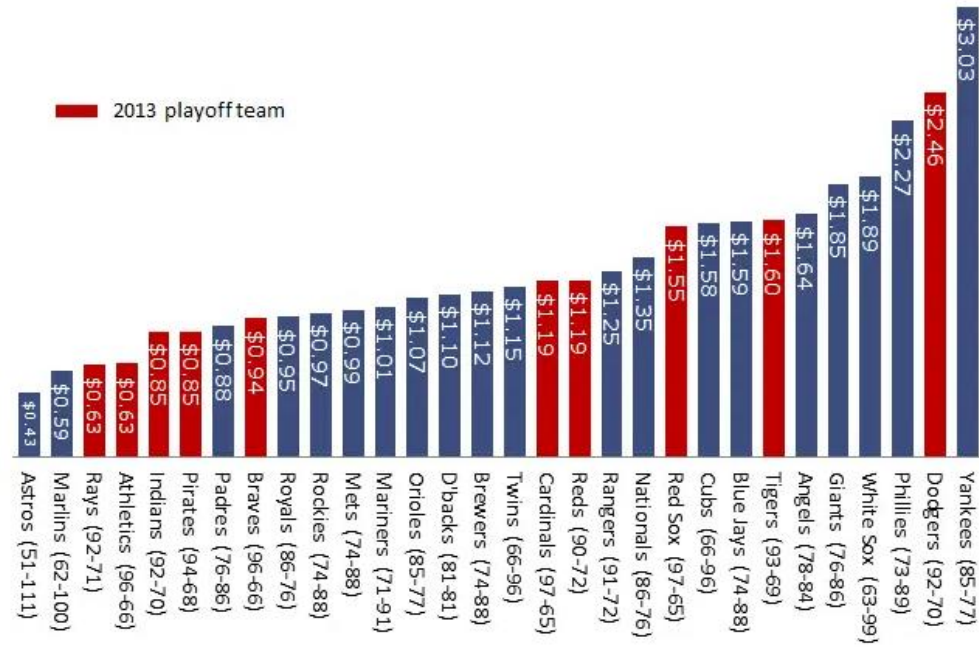
CECS 445

Lecture 1: January 26th, 2021

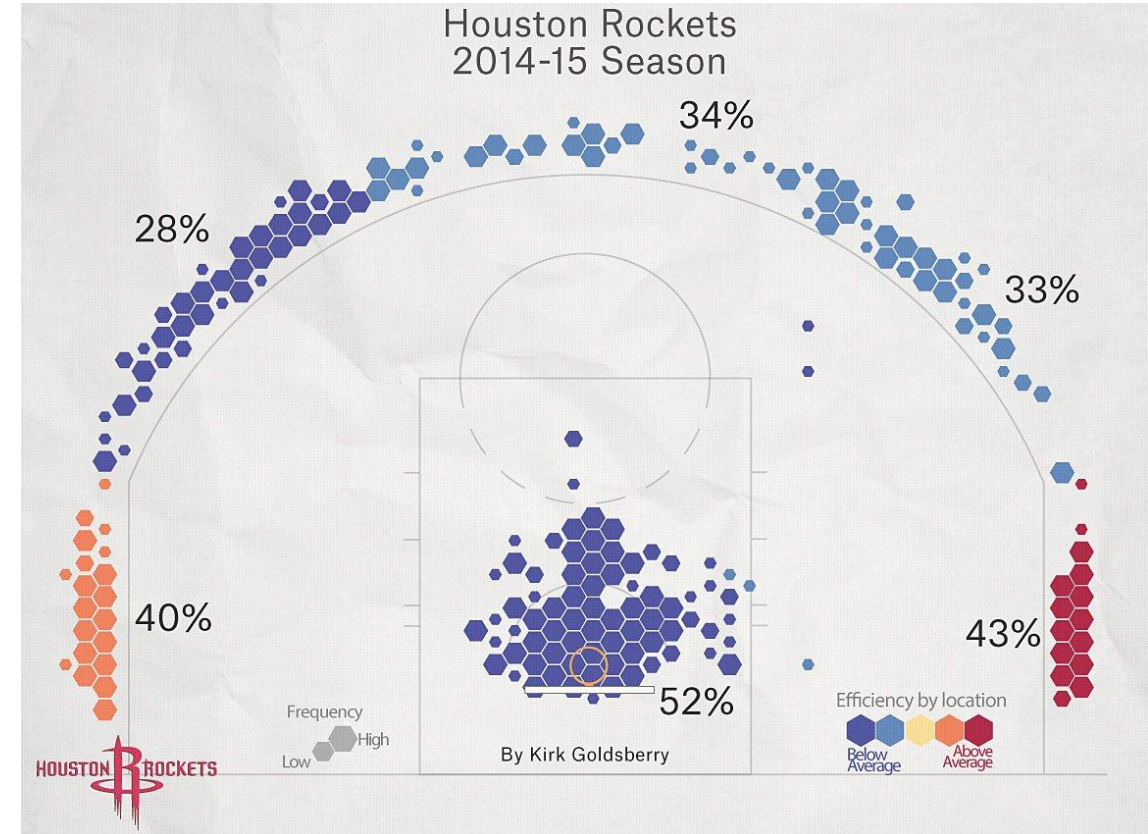
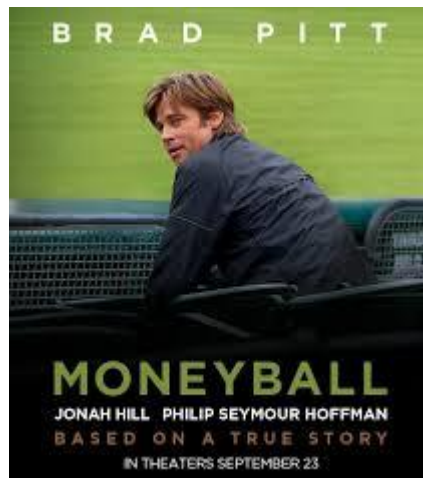


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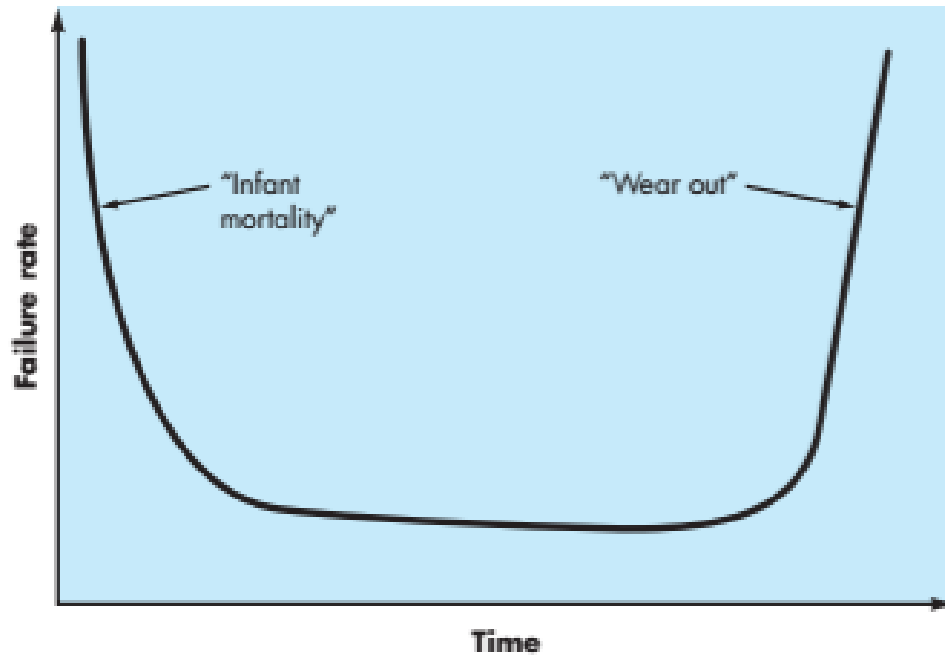
MLB 2013 Cost per Win (in millions)



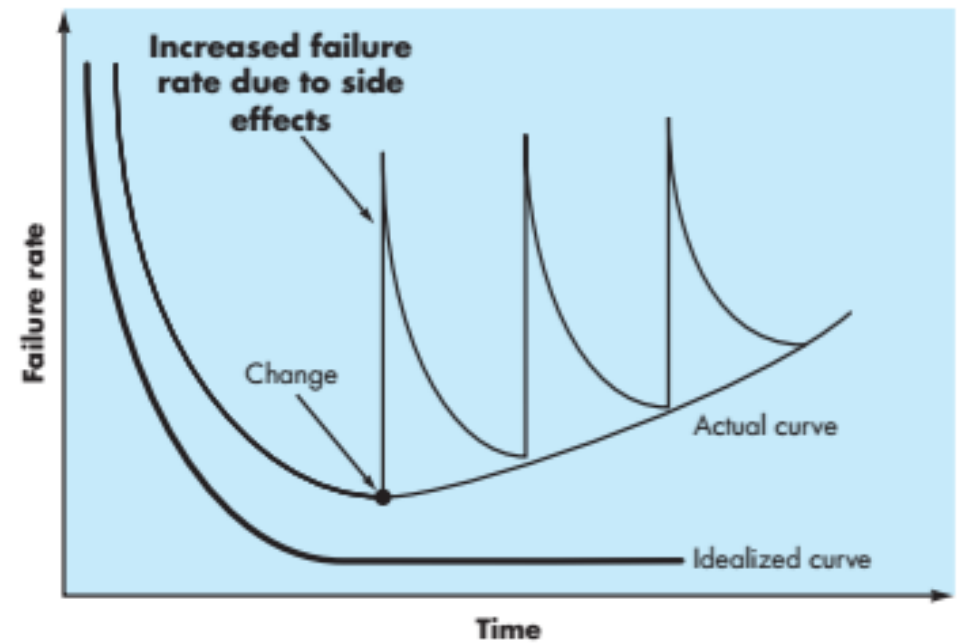
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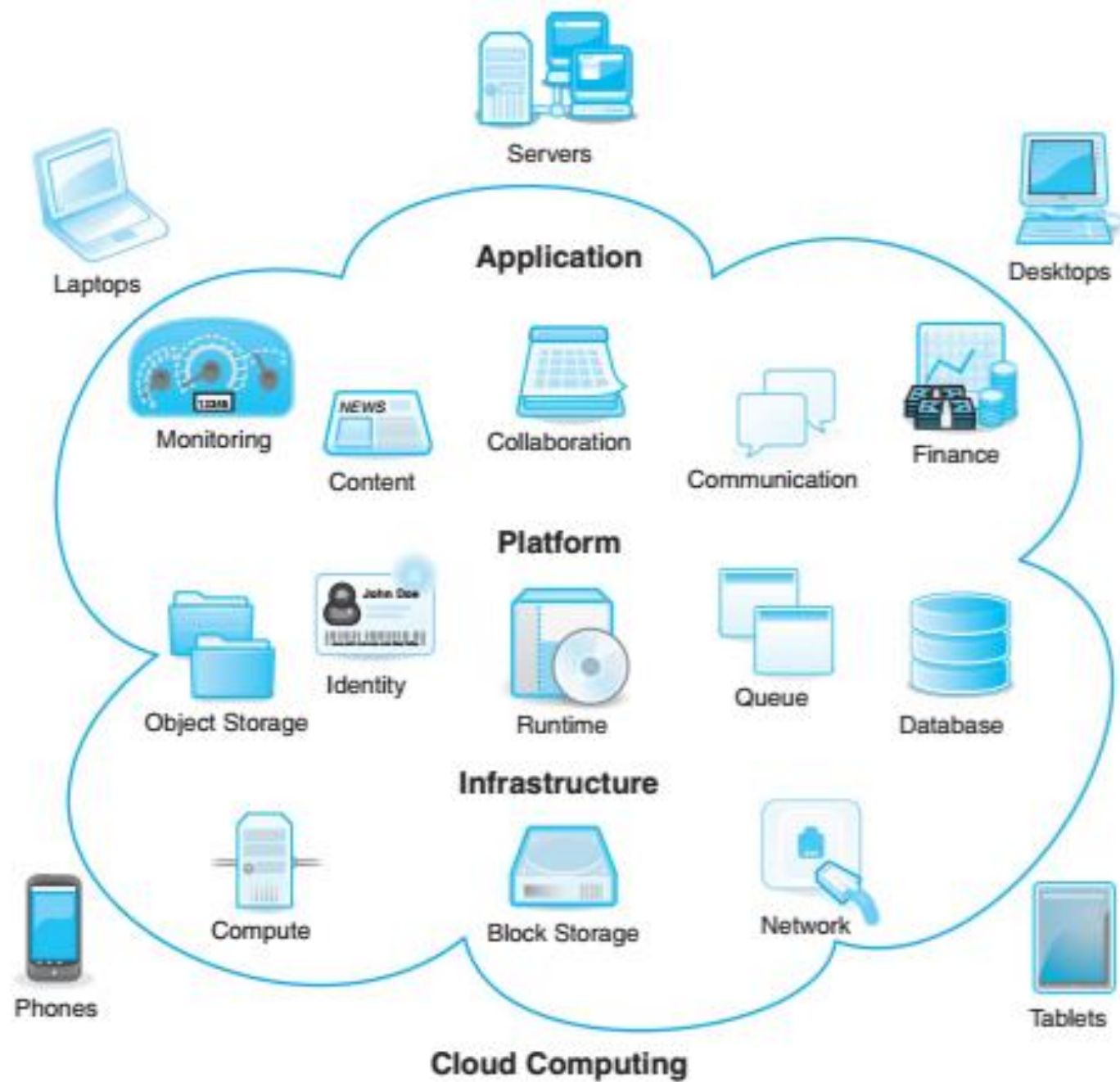


Hardware



Software





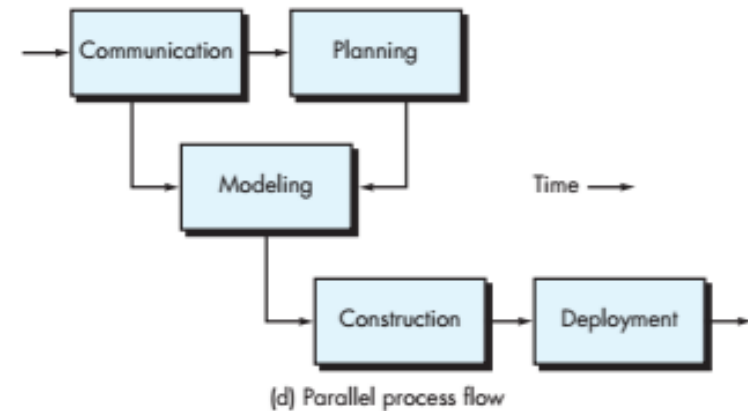
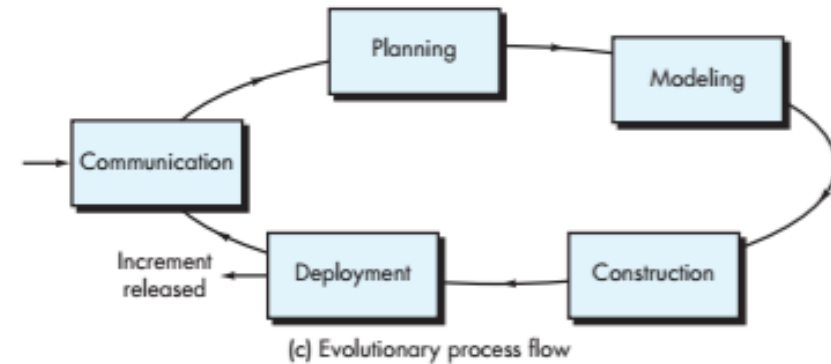
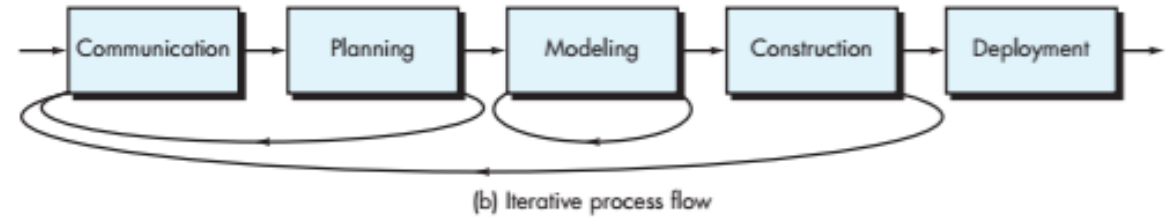
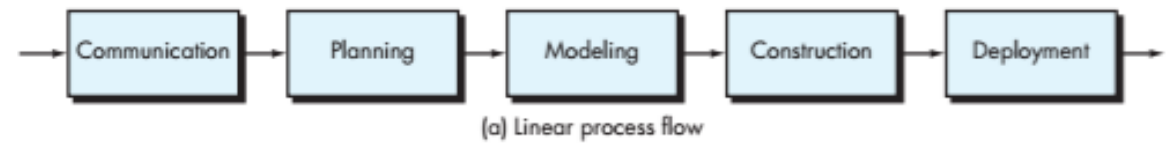
Communication. Before any technical work can commence, it is critically important to communicate and collaborate with the customer (and other stakeholders).² The intent is to understand stakeholders' objectives for the project and to gather requirements that help define software features and functions.

Planning. Any complicated journey can be simplified if a map exists. A software project is a complicated journey, and the planning activity creates a "map" that helps guide the team as it makes the journey. The map—called a software project plan—defines the software engineering work by describing the technical tasks to be conducted, the risks that are likely, the resources that will be required, the work products to be produced, and a work schedule.

Modeling. Whether you're a landscaper, a bridge builder, an aeronautical engineer, a carpenter, or an architect, you work with models every day. You create a "sketch" of the thing so that you'll understand the big picture—what it will look like architecturally, how the constituent parts fit together, and many other characteristics. If required, you refine the sketch into greater and greater detail in an effort to better understand the problem and how you're going to solve it. A software engineer does the same thing by creating models to better understand software requirements and the design that will achieve those requirements.

Construction. What you design must be built. This activity combines code generation (either manual or automated) and the testing that is required to uncover errors in the code.

Deployment. The software (as a complete entity or as a partially completed increment) is delivered to the customer who evaluates the delivered product and provides feedback based on the evaluation.





Communication

- *Who has a stake in the solution to the problem?* That is, who are the stakeholders?
- *What are the unknowns?* What data, functions, and features are required to properly solve the problem?
- *Can the problem be compartmentalized?* Is it possible to represent smaller problems that may be easier to understand?
- *Can the problem be represented graphically?* Can an analysis model be created?

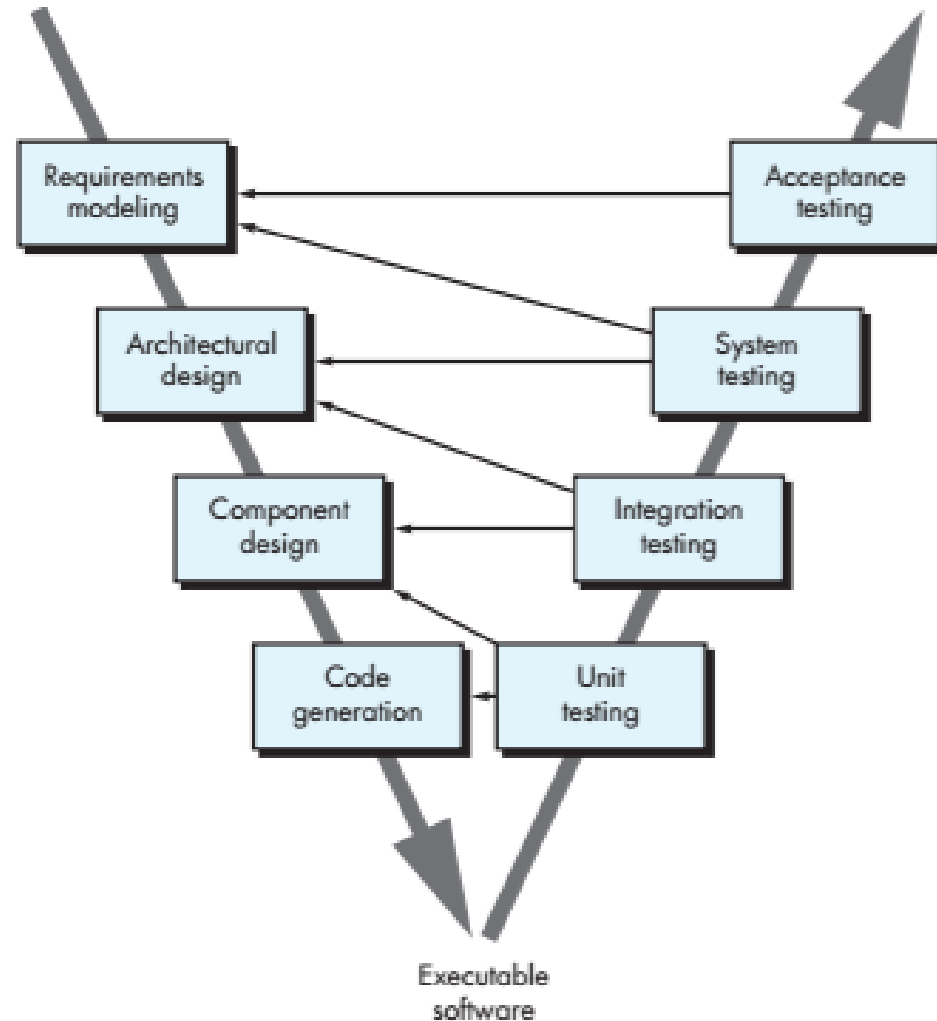
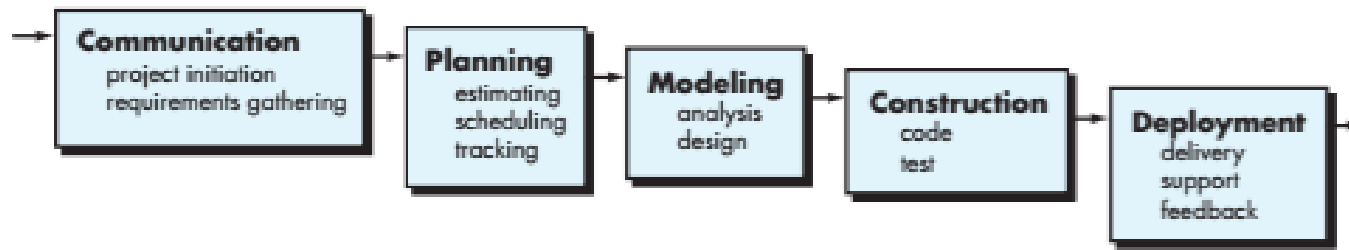


Planning

- *Have you seen similar problems before?* Are there patterns that are recognizable in a potential solution? Is there existing software that implements the data, functions, and features that are required?
- *Has a similar problem been solved?* If so, are elements of the solution reusable?
- *Can subproblems be defined?* If so, are solutions readily apparent for the subproblems?
- *Can you represent a solution in a manner that leads to effective implementation?* Can a design model be created?

Myth vs. Reality

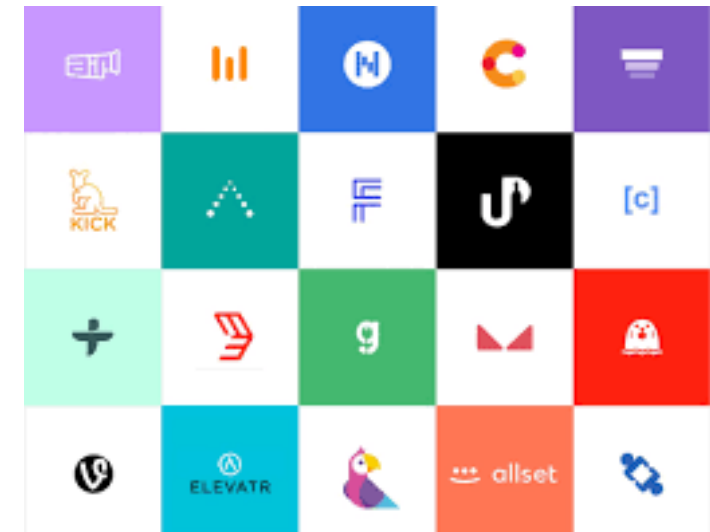
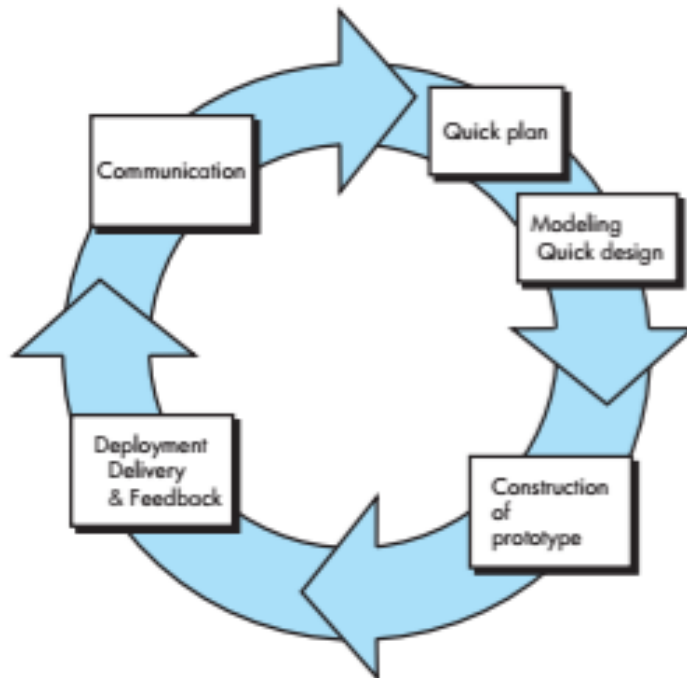
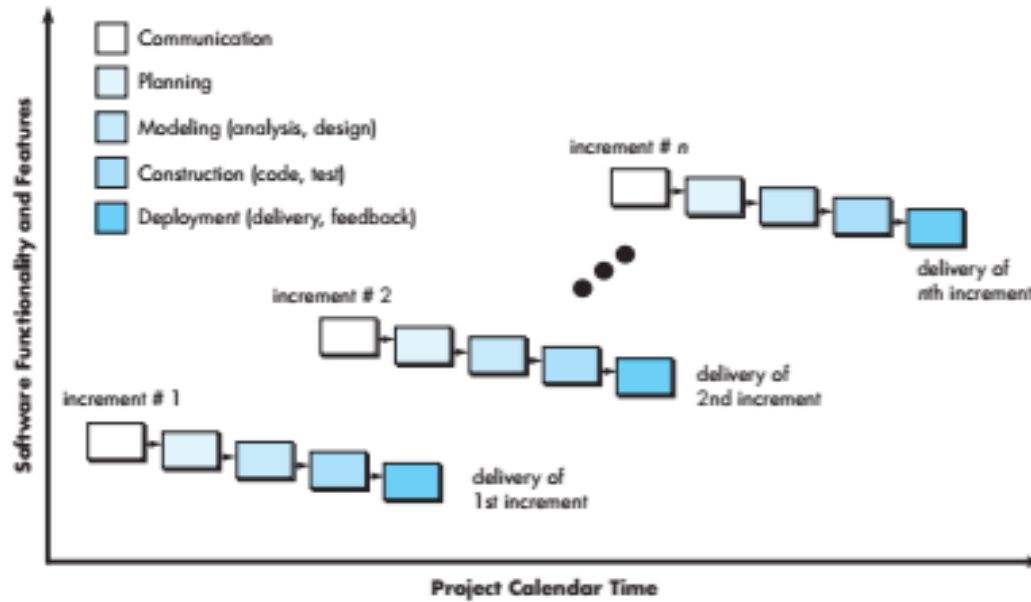
- Add more programmers if you get behind schedule **(WRONG)**
- A general statement of objectives is sufficient to write software programs – can fill the details later **(ABSOLUTELY NOT)**
- Once we write the programs, our job is done **(NOT EVEN CLOSE)**
- The only deliverable work product is a successful program **(QUITE THE CONTRARY)**
- Software engineering creates lots of documentation that slows us down **(MISSING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES)**



Waterfall Method & Systems Engineering V



Incremental Method & Iterative Prototyping



General Principles

- “The Reason It All Exists”
- KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid)
- Maintain Your Vision
- What You Produce,
Others Will Consume
- Be Open to the Future
- Plan for Re-Use
- Think!

