Structure Programming
Overview of Software Engineering

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@2017-2018

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Covered topics

- Software engineering
- Software quality

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Objectives

- After this lesson, students will be able to:
  - Recall the main concepts about of the software engineering domain.
  - Explain the ways to deal with change and complexity in software production.
  - Demonstrate the quality of a given software and its measurement.

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I. SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

1. FAQs
2. Deal with complexity & changes
3. Knowledge Area & Units

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1.1. What is software?

- Software = computer programs + associated documentation (e.g. requirements, design models and user manuals)
- Software products may be
  - generic - developed to be sold on open market to any customers
  - customized - developed for a particular customer according to their specification
- New software can be created by
  - developing new programs
  - configuring generic software systems
  - reusing existing softwares

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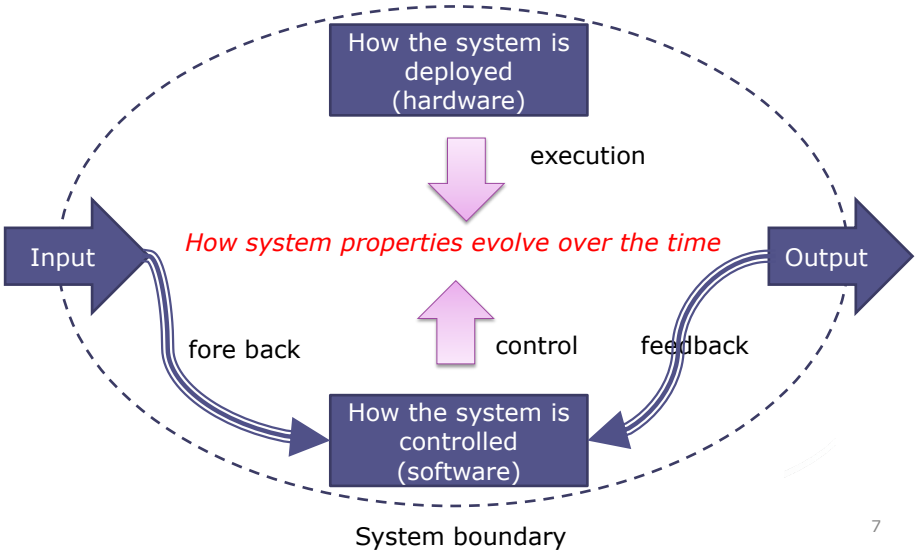
Conceptual picture of a system



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1.2. What is software engineering?

Large / complex
Given budget
Given deadline
Built by teams
Changeable
High quality

Software engineering

Software engineering is concerned with all aspect of software production:
- technical processes of software development activities
- development tools, methods, and theories to support software production

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1.3. What is a software process?

- A set of activities whose goal is the development or evolution of software.
- Generic activities in all software processes are:
  - **Specification** - what the system should do and its development constraints
  - **Development** - production of the software system
  - **Validation** - checking that the software is what the customer wants
  - **Evolution** - changing the software in response to changing demands.

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1.4. What is a software process model?

- A simplified representation of a software process, presented from a specific perspective
- Examples of process perspectives:
  - Workflow perspective: sequence of activities
  - Data flow perspective: information flow
  - Role/action perspective: who does what

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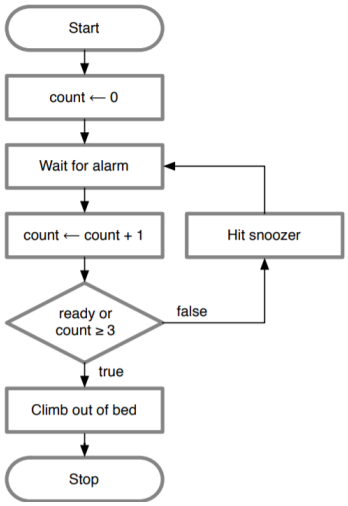
Workflow, data flow or role/action ?




```
count = 0
do
  Wait for alarm
  Hit snoozer
  count = count + 1
while (not ready() and count <= 3)
Climb out of bed
```

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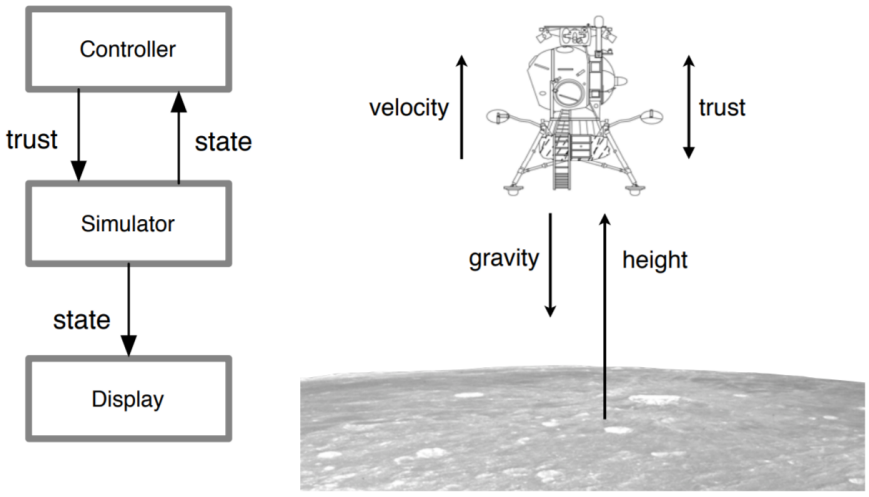
Workflow, data flow or role/action ?



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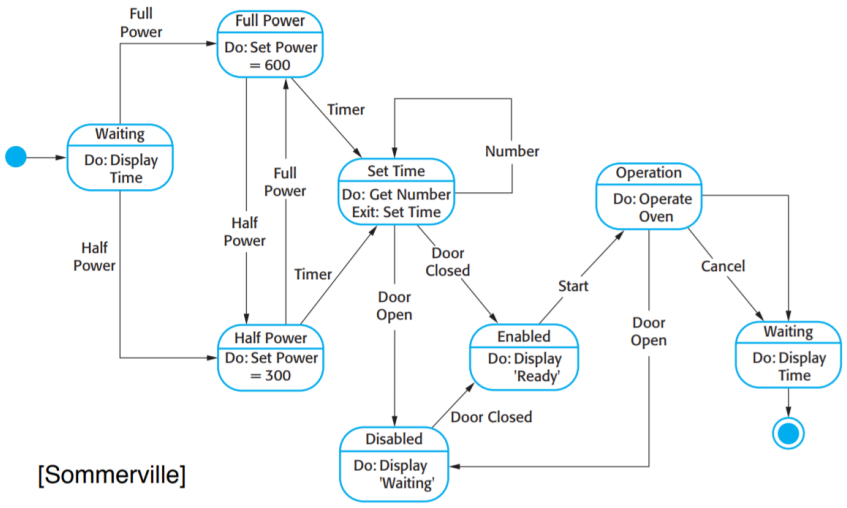
Workflow, data flow or role/action ?



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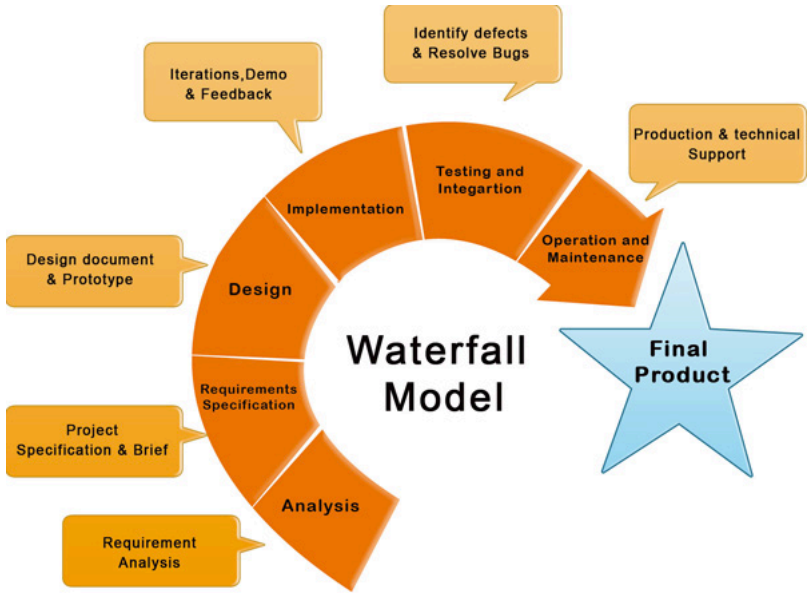
Generic process models: waterfall



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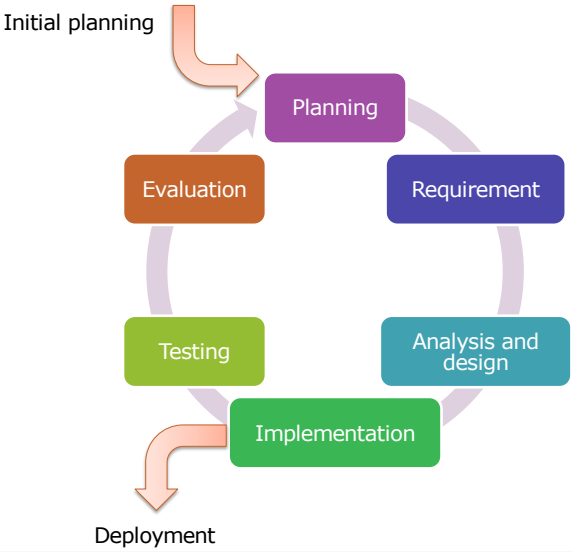
Generic process models: iterative



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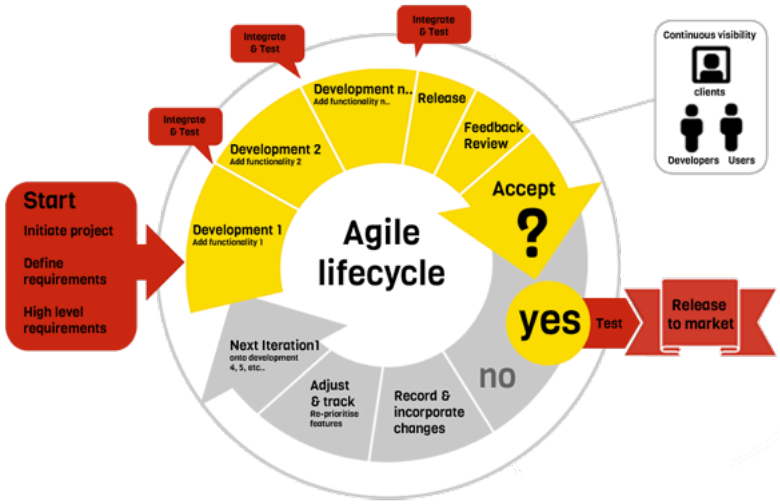
Generic process models: Agile



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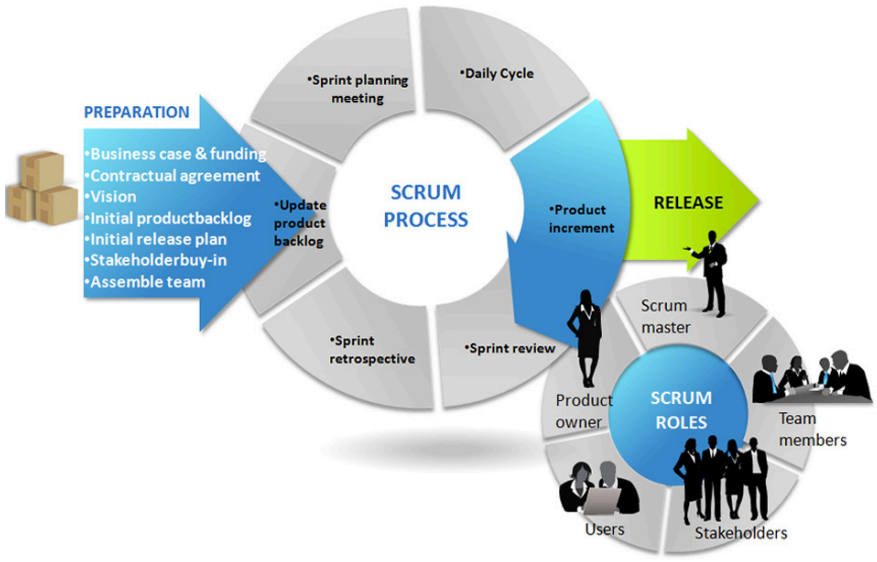
Generic process models: Scrum



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1.5. What are the attributes of good software?

- The software should deliver the required functionalities and performance to the user and should be maintainable, dependable and acceptable.
- **Maintainability**
  - Software must evolve to meet changing needs
- **Dependability**
  - Software must be trustworthy
- **Efficiency**
  - Software should not make wasteful use of system resources
- **Acceptability**
  - Software must accepted by the users for which it was designed: it must be understandable, usable and compatible with other systems

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1.6. What are software engineering methods?

- Methods are organized ways of producing software, including:
  - Model: graphical descriptions which should be produced
  - Rules: constraints applied to system models
  - Recommendations: advice on good design practice
  - Process guidance: activities to follow

→ **i.e., structured approaches to software development.**

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1.7. What are the key challenges facing software engineering?

- Heterogeneity
  - Developing techniques for building software that can cope with heterogeneous platforms and execution environments
- Delivery
  - Developing techniques that lead to faster delivery of software
- Trust
  - Developing techniques that demonstrate that software can be trusted by its users

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Approach

- Consider the software engineering as a problem solving activities
  - Analysis: Understand the nature of the problem and break the problem into pieces
  - Synthesis: Put the pieces together into a large structure
- For solving a problem we use:
  - Techniques (methods): Formal procedures for producing results using some well-defined notation
    - Example ?
  - Methodologies: Collection of techniques applied across software development and unified by a philosophical approach
    - Example ?
  - Tools: Instrument or automated systems to accomplish a technique
    - Example ?

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2.1. Deal with complexity

- The problem here is the complexity
- Many sources of complexity, but size is the key
- This problem can be solved by a structured design approach:
  - Modeling
  - Decomposition
  - Abstraction
  - Hierarchy
  - Use patterns

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2.2. Deal with changes

- Changes of project conditions: tailor the software lifecycle
- Changes of requirements or technology: use a nonlinear software lifecycle
- Changes of entities: provide the configuration management

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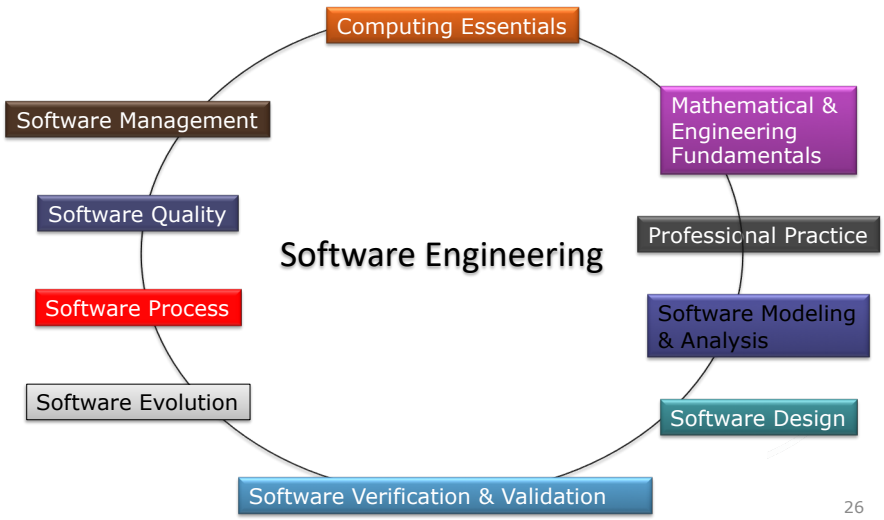
3. Knowledge Areas & Units



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II. SOFTWARE QUALITY

1. Classifications of software qualities
2. Representative qualities
3. Quality measurement

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Introduction

- Software products are different from traditional types of products
  - intangible
    - difficult to describe and evaluate
  - malleable
  - human intensive
    - involves only trivial "manufacturing" process
- Good software products require good programming, but ...

  programming quality is the means to the end, not the end itself.

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1. Classification of software qualities

- Internal vs. external
  - External → visible to users
  - Internal → concern developers
  - Internal qualities affect external qualities
- Product vs. process
  - Our goal is to develop software products
  - The process is how we do it
  - Process quality affects product quality

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I. Software engineering
II. Software quality
1. Classification
2. Representative qualities
2.1. Common qualities

Correctness

- Software is correct if it satisfies the functional requirements specifications
  - assuming that specification exists!
- If specifications are formal, since programs are formal objects, correctness can be defined formally
  - It can be proven as a theorem or disproved by counter examples (testing)
- Limits:
  - It is an absolute (yes/no) quality
    - there is no concept of "degree of correctness"
    - there is no concept of severity of deviation
  - What if specifications are wrong? (e.g., they derive from incorrect requirements or errors in domain knowledge)

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I. Software engineering
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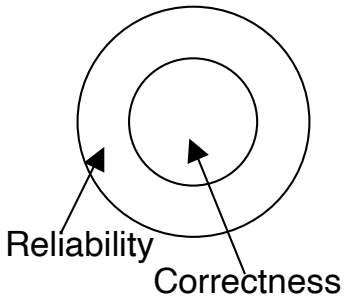
2. Representative qualities
2.1. Common qualities

Reliability

- Informally, user can rely on it
- Can be defined mathematically as "probability of absence of failures for a certain time period"
- If specifications are correct, all correct software is reliable, but not vice-versa (in practice, however, specs can be incorrect …)
- Idealized situation: requirements are correct



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I. Software engineering
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2.1. Common qualities

Robustness

- Software behaves "reasonably" even in unforeseen circumstances (e.g., incorrect input, hardware failure)

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I. Software engineering
II. Software quality
1. Classification
2. Representative qualities
2.1. Common qualities

Performance

- Efficient use of resources
  - memory, processing time, communication
- Can be verified
  - complexity analysis
  - performance evaluation (on a model, via simulation)
- Performance can affect scalability
  - a solution that works on a small local network may not work on a large intranet

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I. Software engineering
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Usability

- Expected users find the system easy to use
- Other term: user-friendliness
- Rather subjective, difficult to evaluate
- Affected mostly by user interface
  - e.g., visual vs. textual
- Why is usability important?
  - Users are able to achieve their tasks easily and efficiently, which has public relations benefits for the organization – thereby increasing uptake.
  - Systems having poor usability levels can result in substantial organizational costs
  - People avoid using the application if they find it difficult to use

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I. Software engineering
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2.1. Common qualities

Verifiability

- How easy it is to verify properties
  - mostly an internal quality
  - can be external as well (e.g., security critical application)

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Maintainability

- Maintainability: ease of maintenance
- Maintenance: changes after release
  - Maintenance costs exceed 60% of total cost of software
  - Three main categories of maintenance
    - corrective: removing residual errors (20%)
    - adaptive: adjusting to environment changes (20%)
    - perfective: quality improvements (>50%)

- Maintenability can be decomposed as
  - Repairability: ability to correct defects in reasonable time
  - Evolvability: ability to adapt software to environment changes and to improve it in reasonable time

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I. Software engineering
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Reusability

- Existing product (or components) used (with minor modifications) to build another product
  - (Similar to evolvability)
- Also applies to process
- Reuse of standard parts measure of maturity of the field

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I. Software engineering
II. Software quality
1. Classification
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2.1. Common qualities

Portability

- Software can run on different hardware platforms or software environments
- Remains relevant as new platforms and environments are introduced
  - e.g. digital assistants
- Relevant when downloading software in a heterogeneous network environment

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I. Software engineering
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Understandability

- Ease of understanding software
- Program modification requires program understanding

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I. Software engineering
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Interoperability

- Ability of a system to coexist and cooperate with other systems
  - Capable of exchange information with other systems
  - Capable of use the exchanged information

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