All About Systems Engineering; Introductory Course

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Abstract

This introductory course sketches all fundamentals of Systems Engineering. Starting at the business contexts, touching Project, Processes, and Organization. The role of the Systems Engineer is discussed, and the relation with other roles, e.g. project leader and product manager. The architecting and design tools are shown; from Stakeholder Needs to Requirements to Modeling and Analysis.

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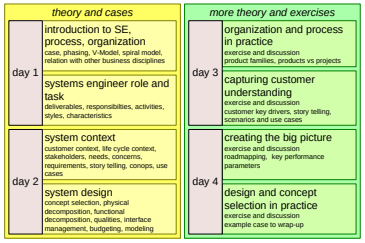

Introduction Course Program

day 1

morning	*afternoon*
introduction to SE, process, organization case, phasing, V-Model, spiral model, relation with other business disciplines	**systems engineer role and task** deliverables, responsibilties, activities, styles, characteristics

day 2

morning	*afternoon*
system context customer context, life cycle context, stakeholders, needs, concerns, requirements, story telling, conops, use cases	**system design** concept selection, physical decomposition, functional decomposition, qualities, interface management, budgeting, modeling

Project Systems Engineering Introduction; Phasing, Process, Organization

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Abstract

The fundamental concepts and approach to project oriented Systems Engineering are explained. We look at project phasing, phase transition, processes, and organization.

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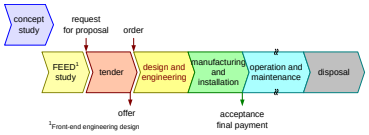
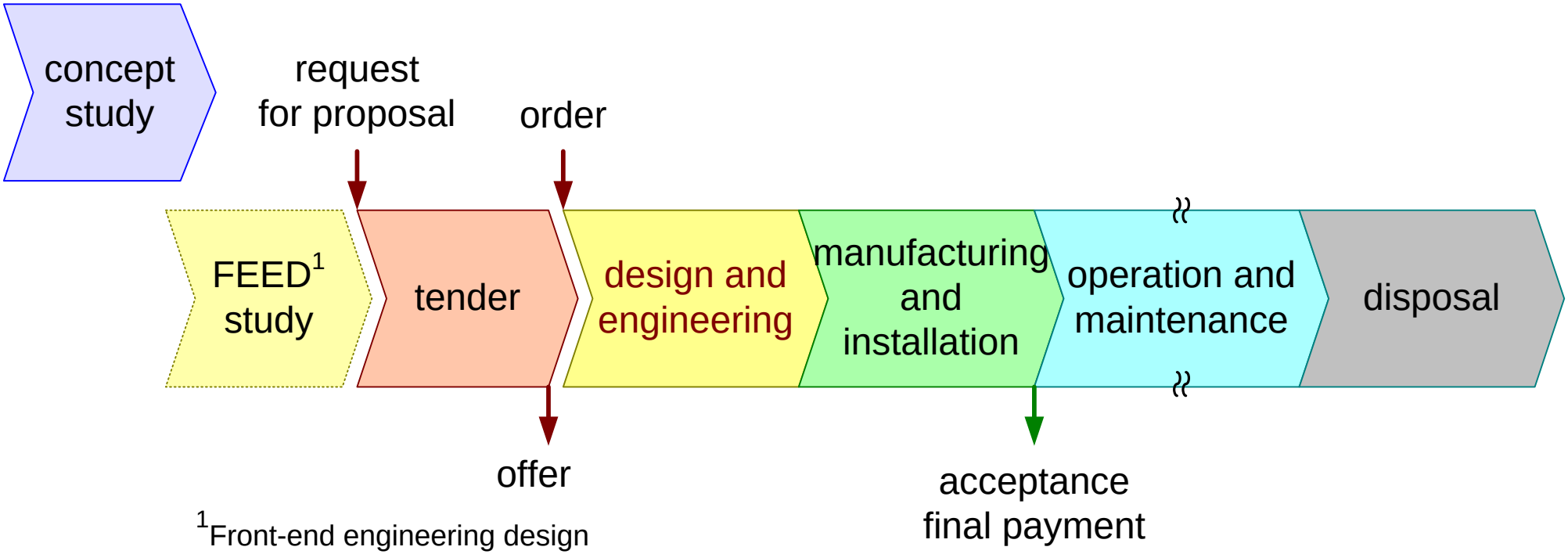
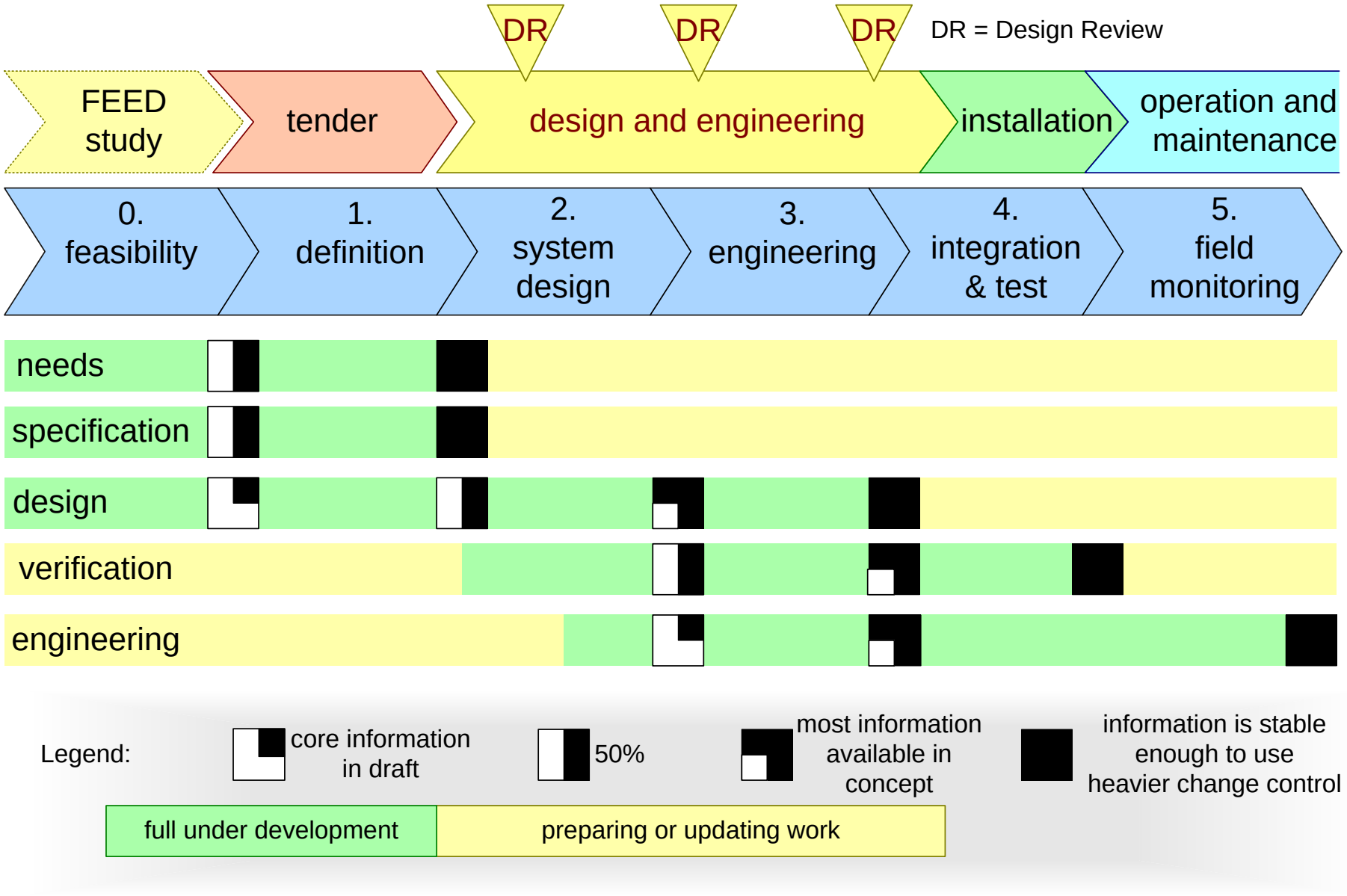


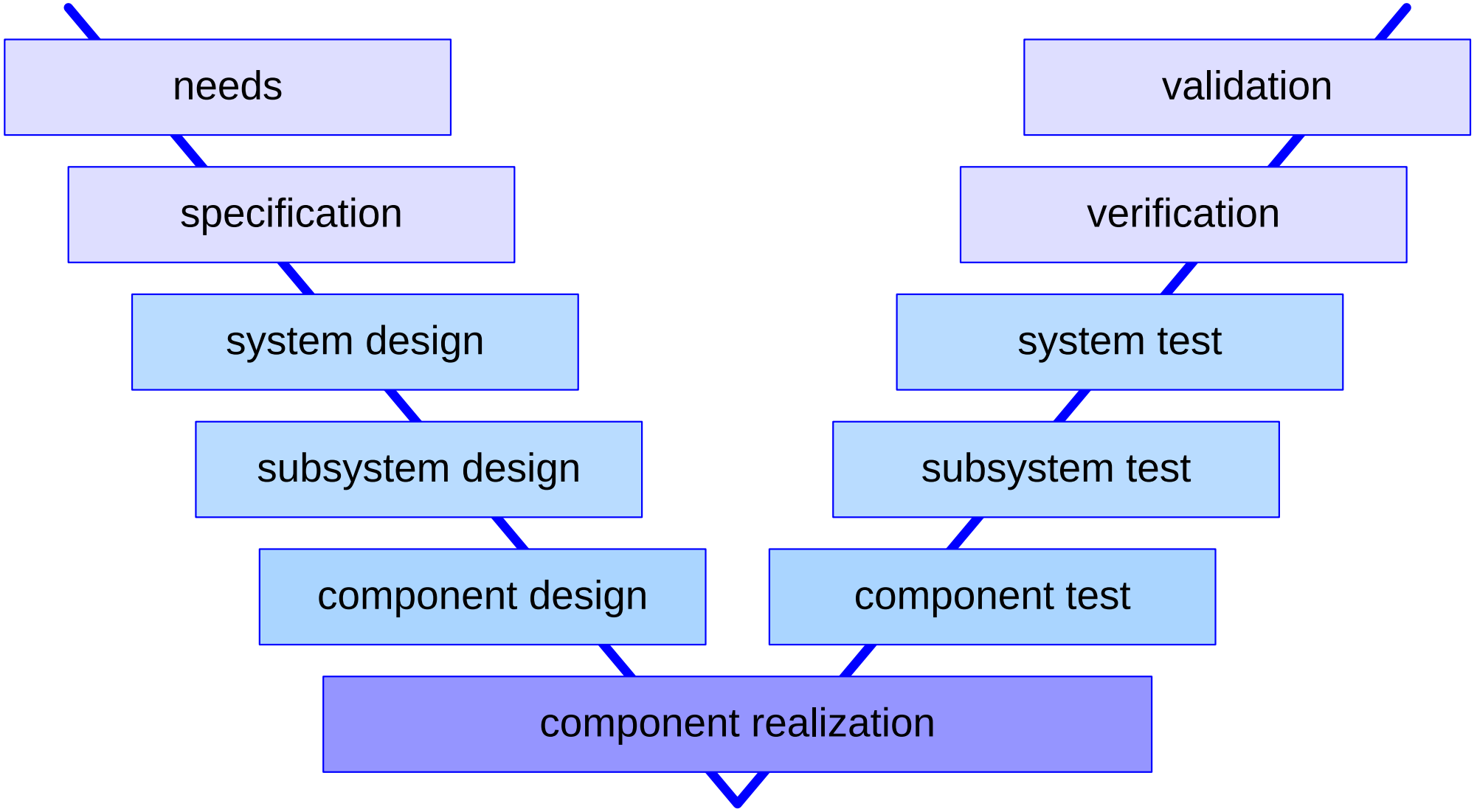
Project Life Cycle



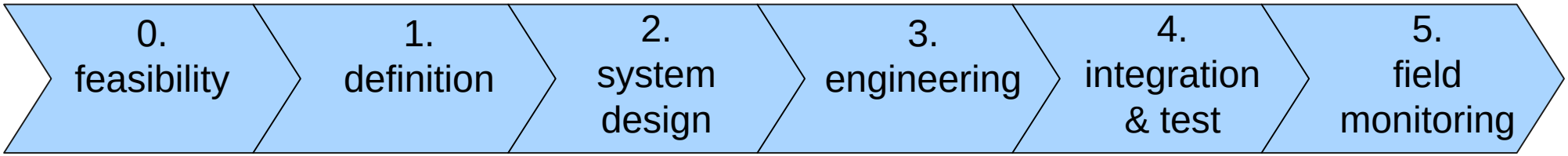
Phased Project Approach



V-Model


needs
specification
system design
subsystem design
component design
component realization
component test
subsystem test
system test
verification
validation

All Business Functions Participate



sales

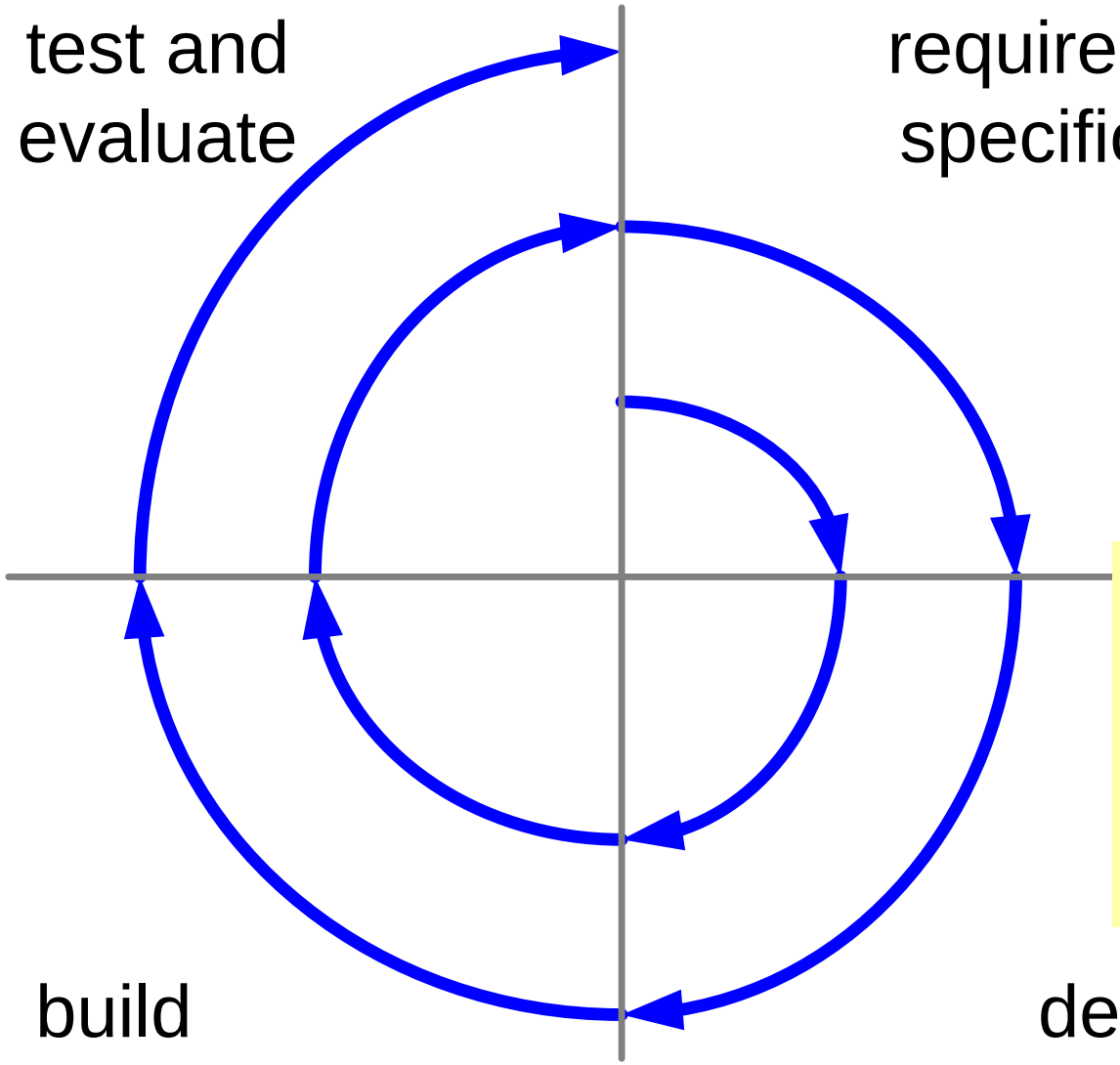
logistics

production

service

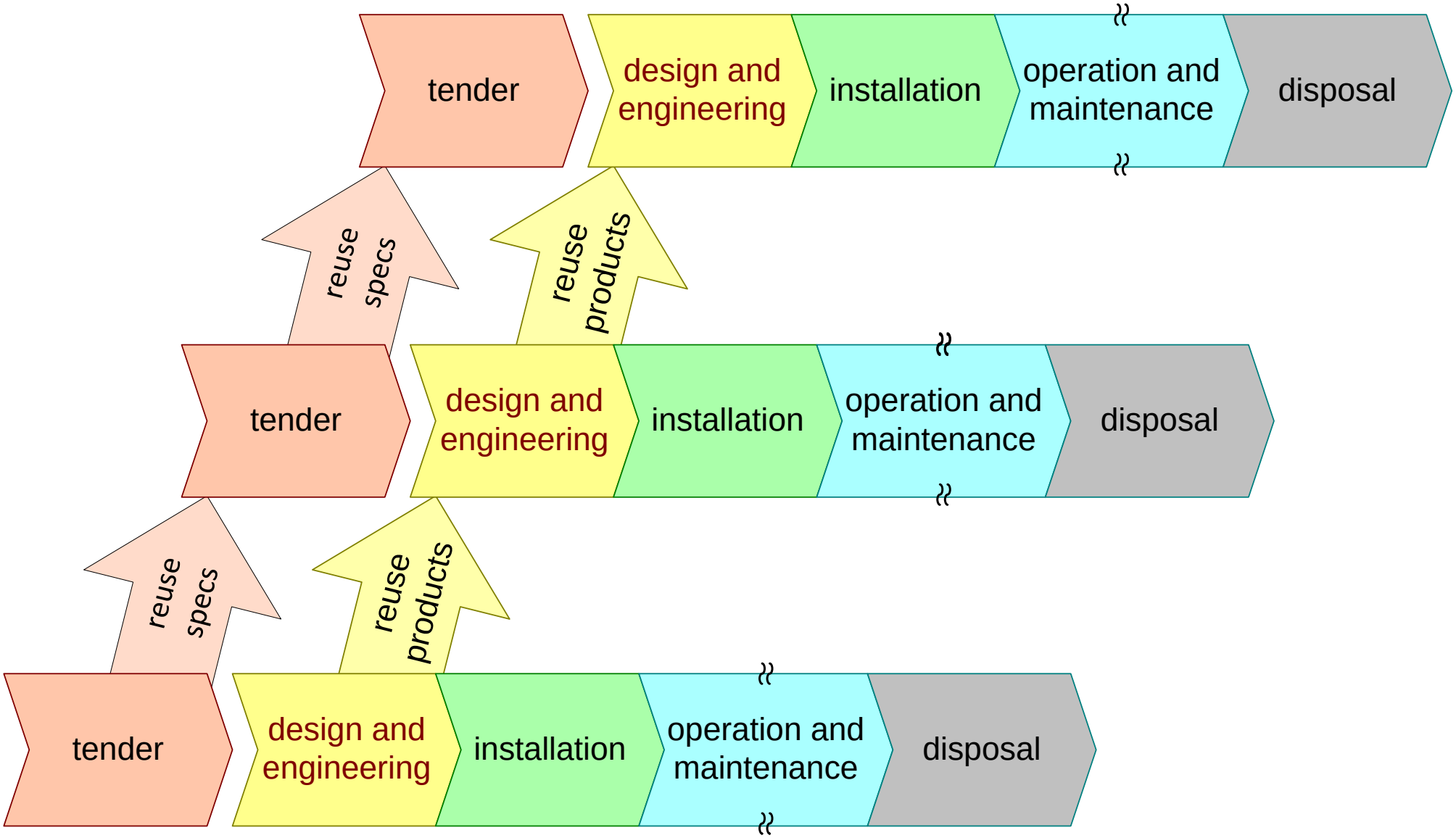
development & engineering: marketing, project management, design

Evolutionary PCP model

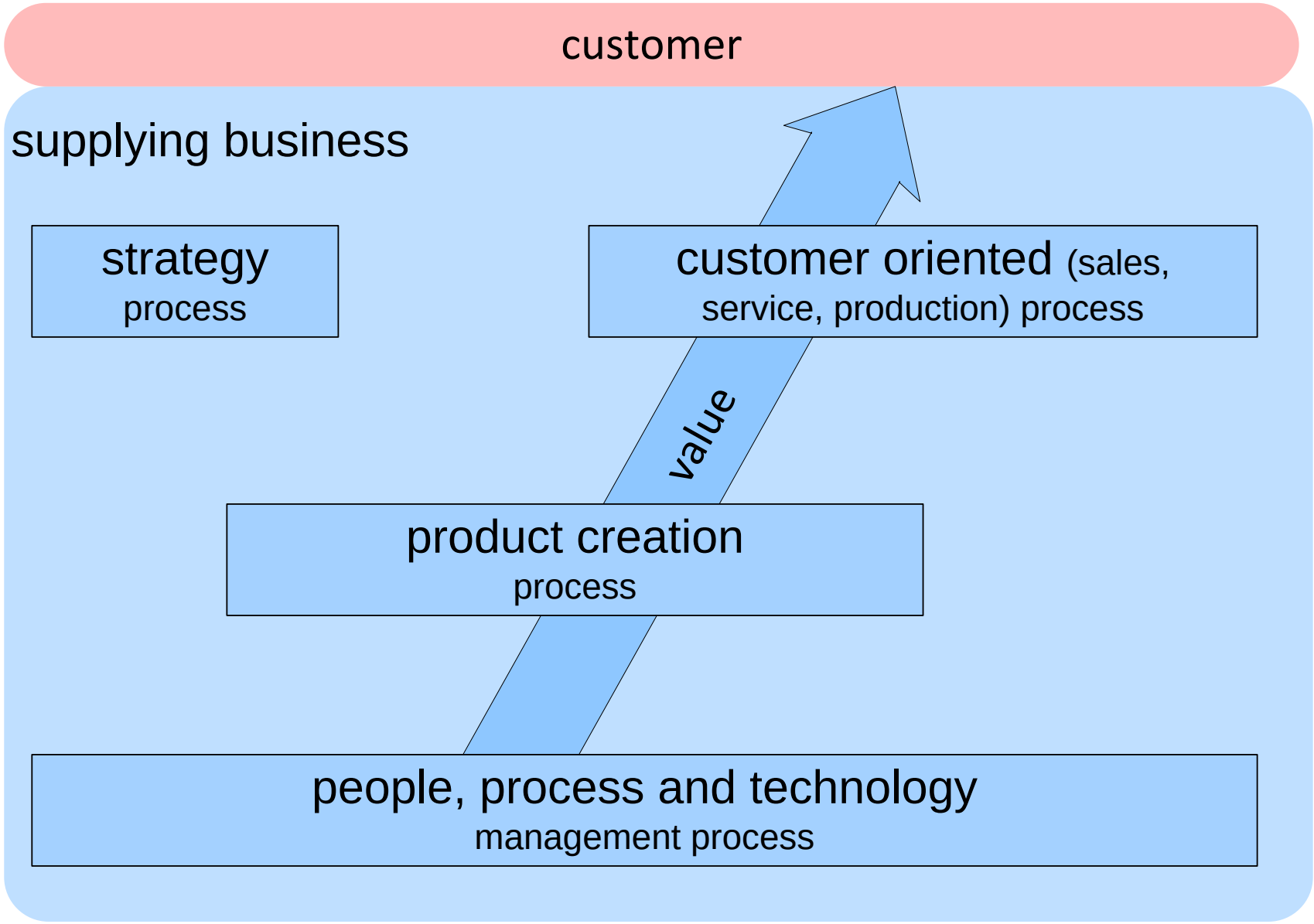


2% of budget (EVO)
2 weeks (XP)
up to 2 months
per cyclus

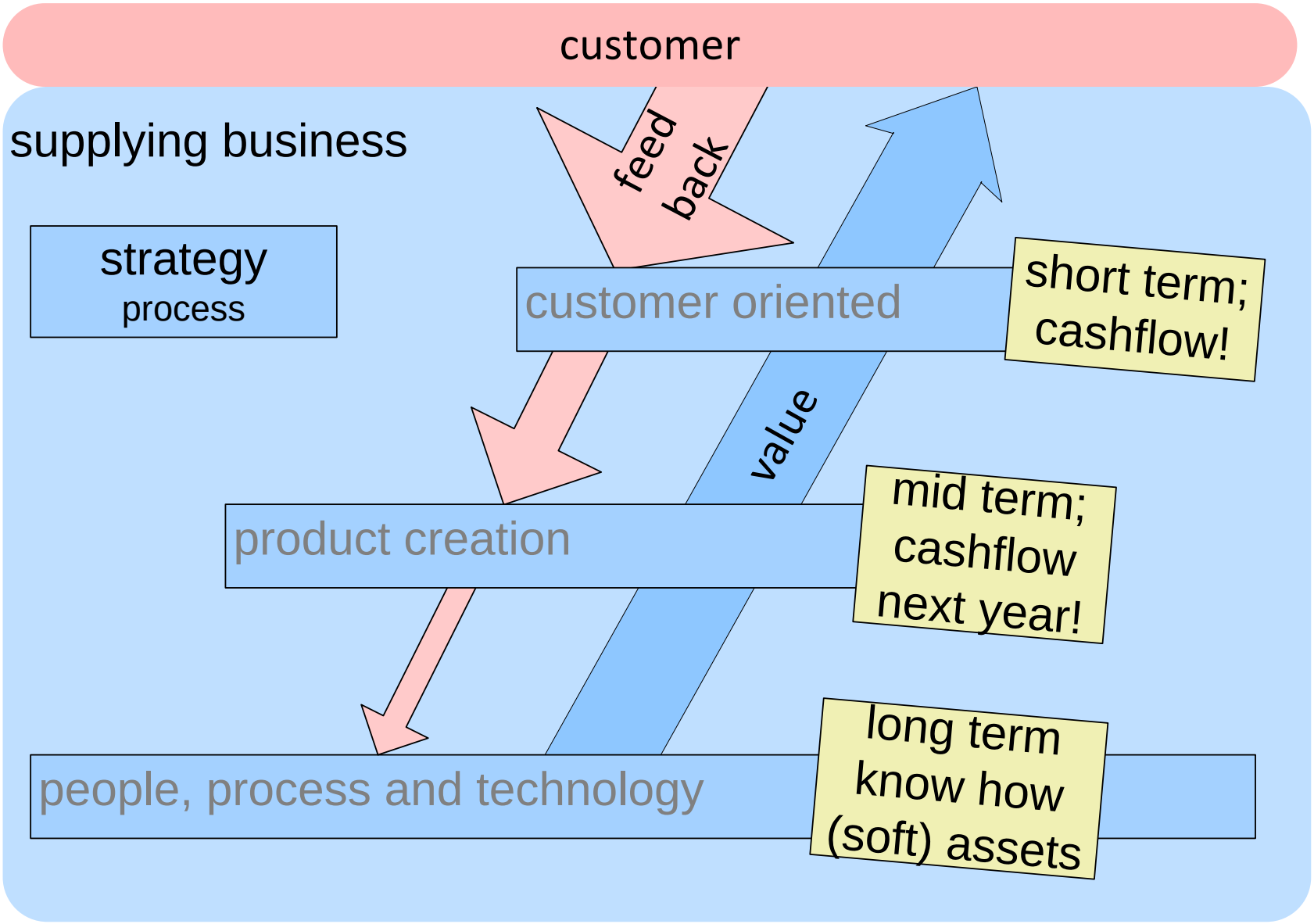
Reuse and Products



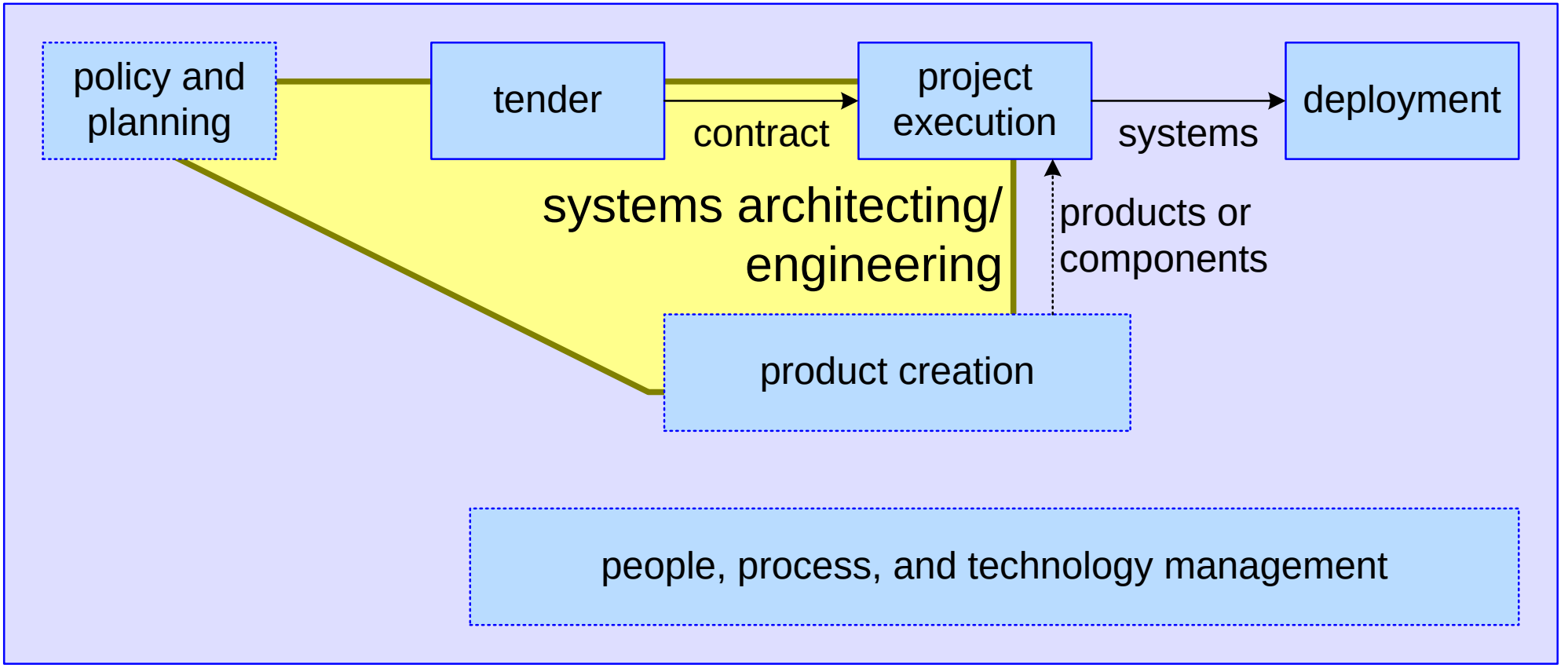
Simplified Process View



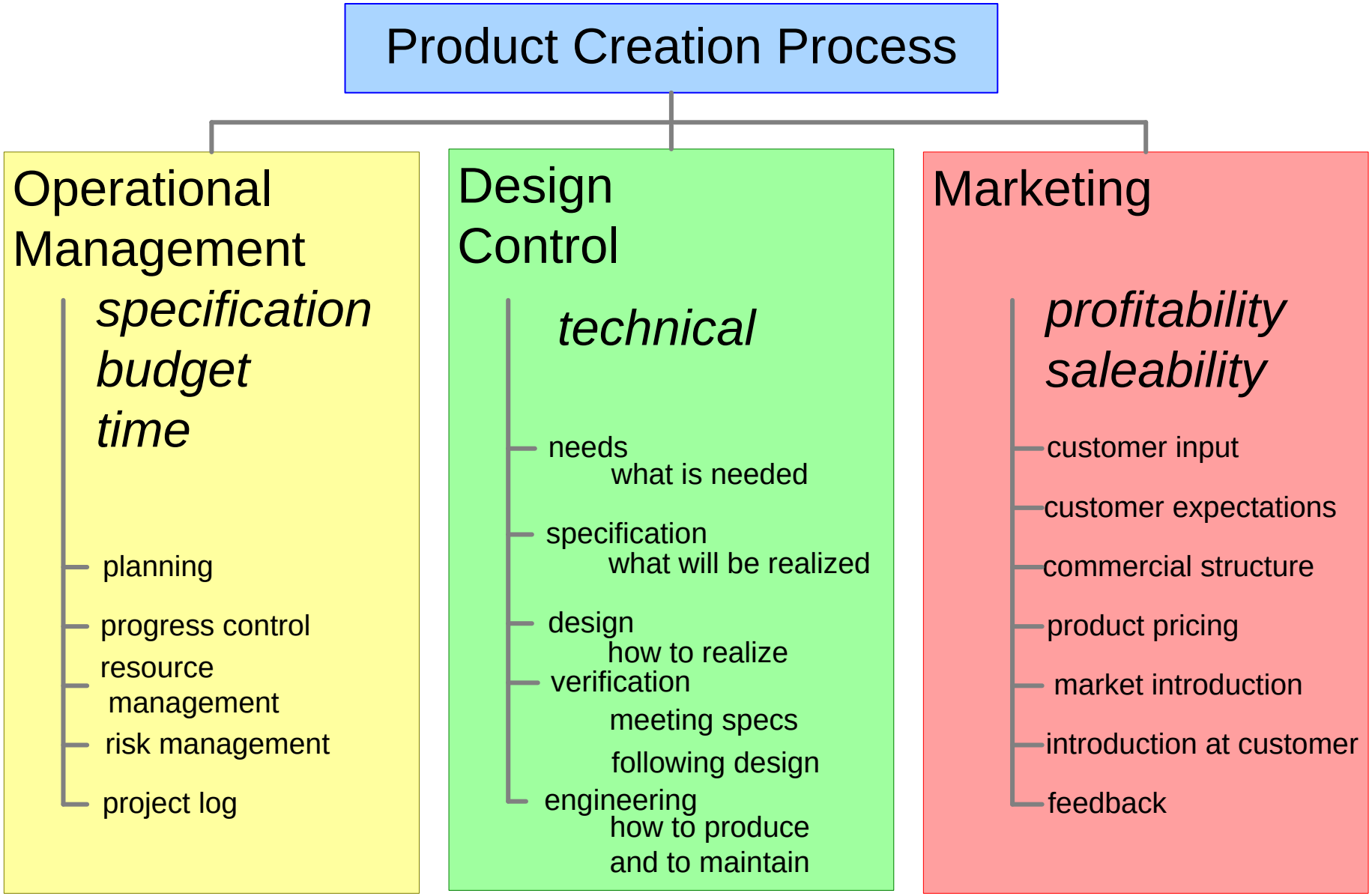
Simplified Process; Money and Feedback



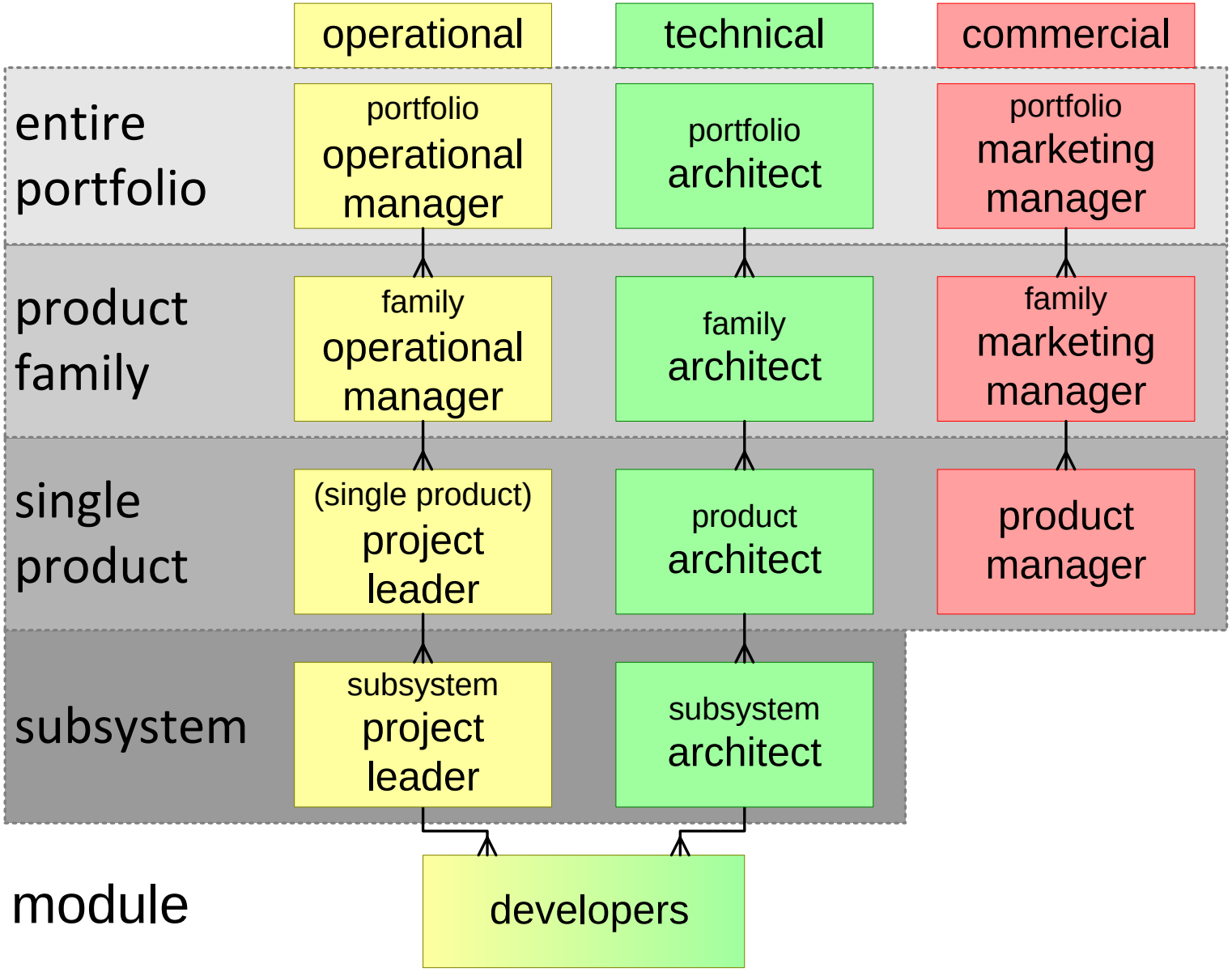
Simplified process diagram for project business



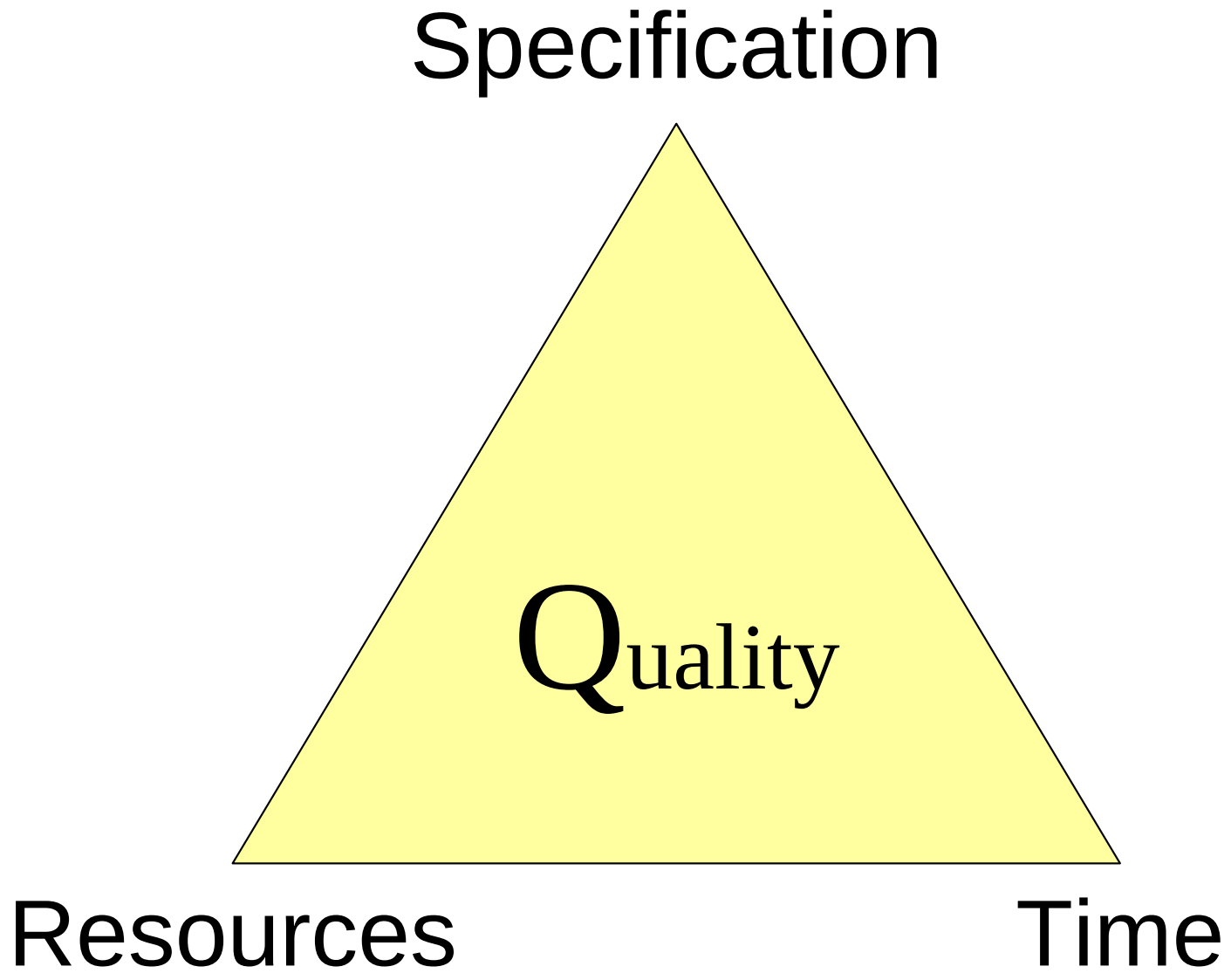
Decomposition of the Product Creation Process



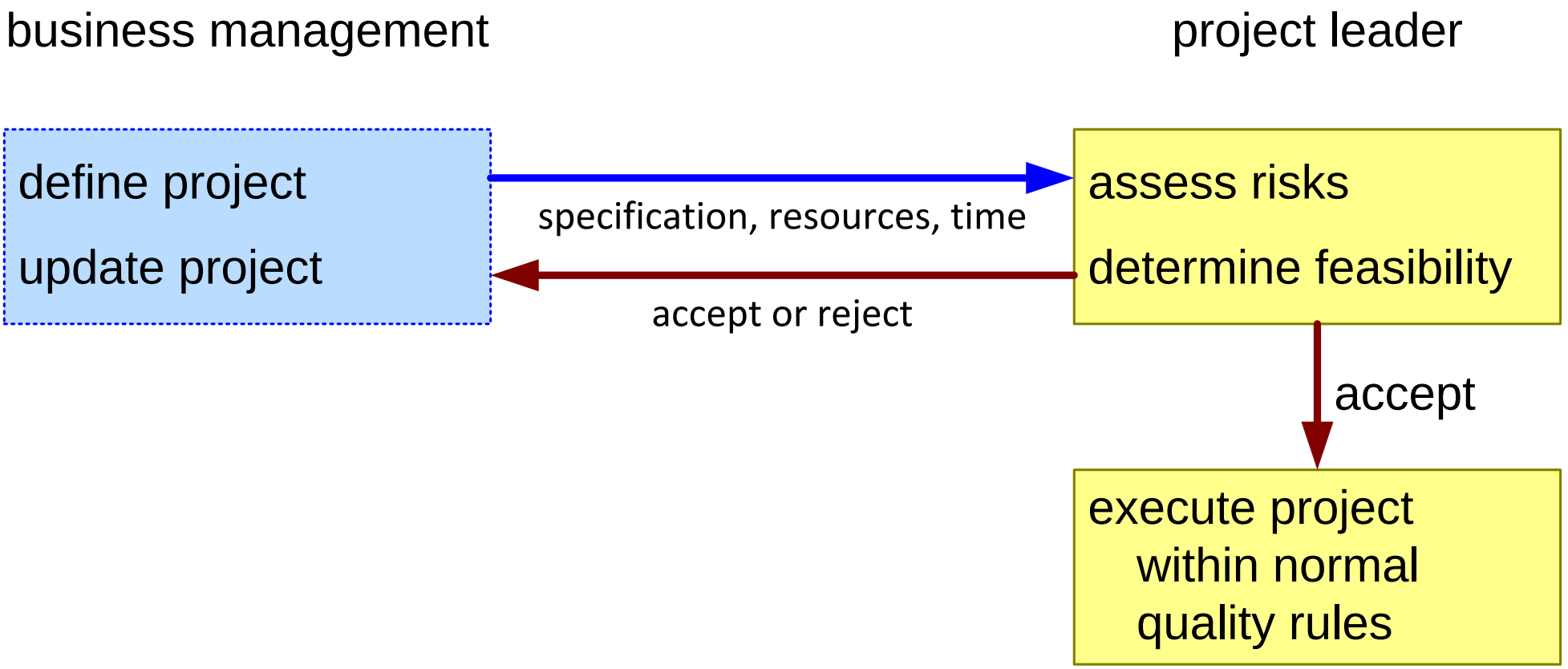
Operational Organization of the PCP



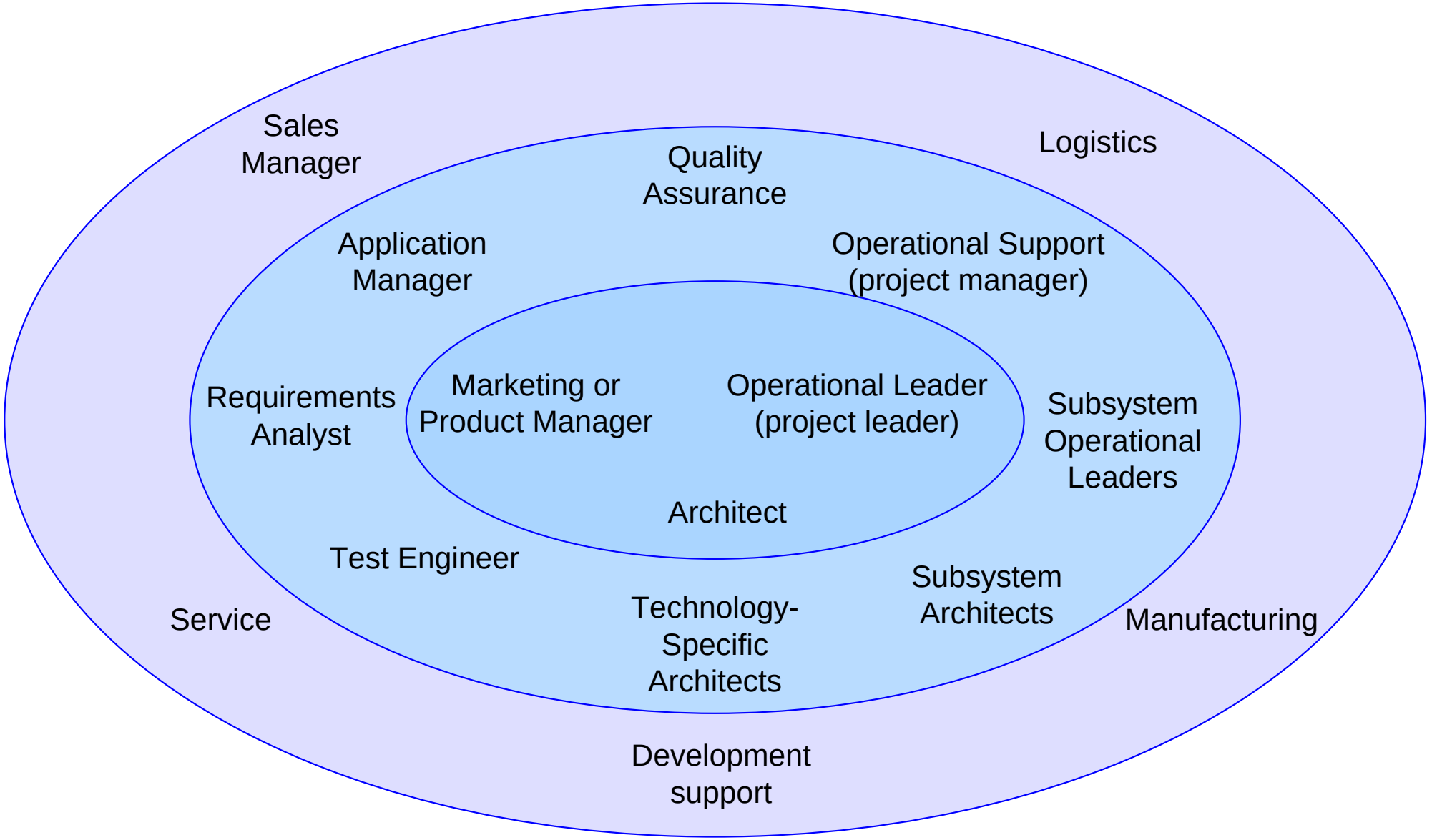
Prime Responsibilities of the Operational Leader



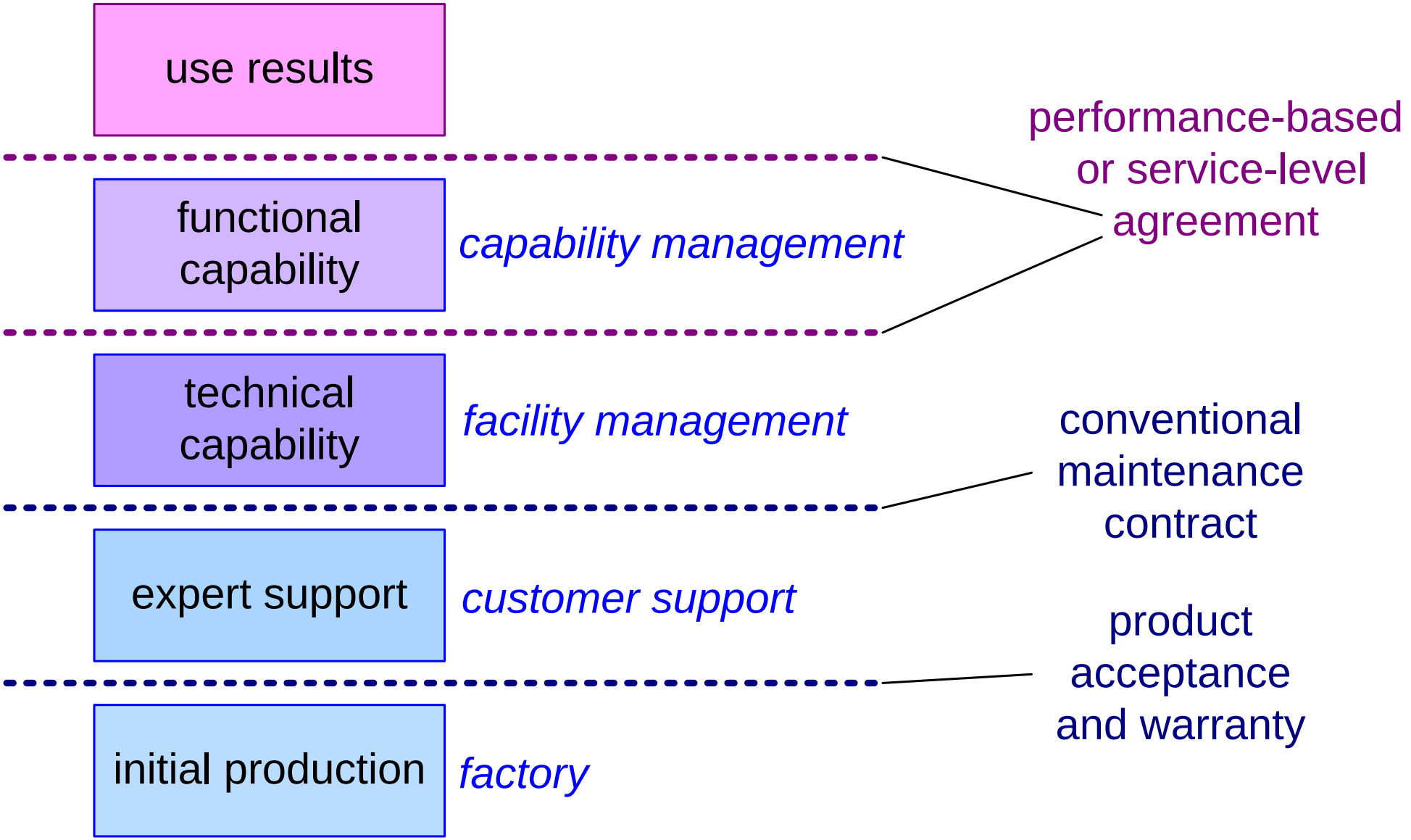
The Rules of the Operational Game



Operational Teams



What Service Level to Deliver?



Systems Engineering Management Plan (SEMP)

How the project will perform the systems engineering process:

- main events and activities
- roles and responsibilities
- work products
- procedures and standards

Bridge between project management and engineering (NASA 2016)

Role and Task of the System Architect

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Abstract

The role and the task of the system architect are described in this module.

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The Role and Task of the System Architect

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Abstract

The role of the system architect is described from three viewpoints: deliverables, responsibilities and activities. This description shows the inherent tension in this role: a small set of hard deliverables, covering a fuzzy set of responsibilities, hiding an enormous amount of barely visible day-to-day work.

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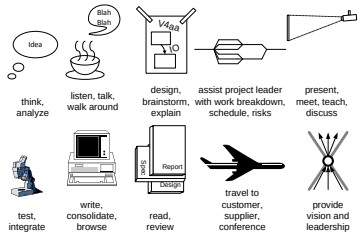
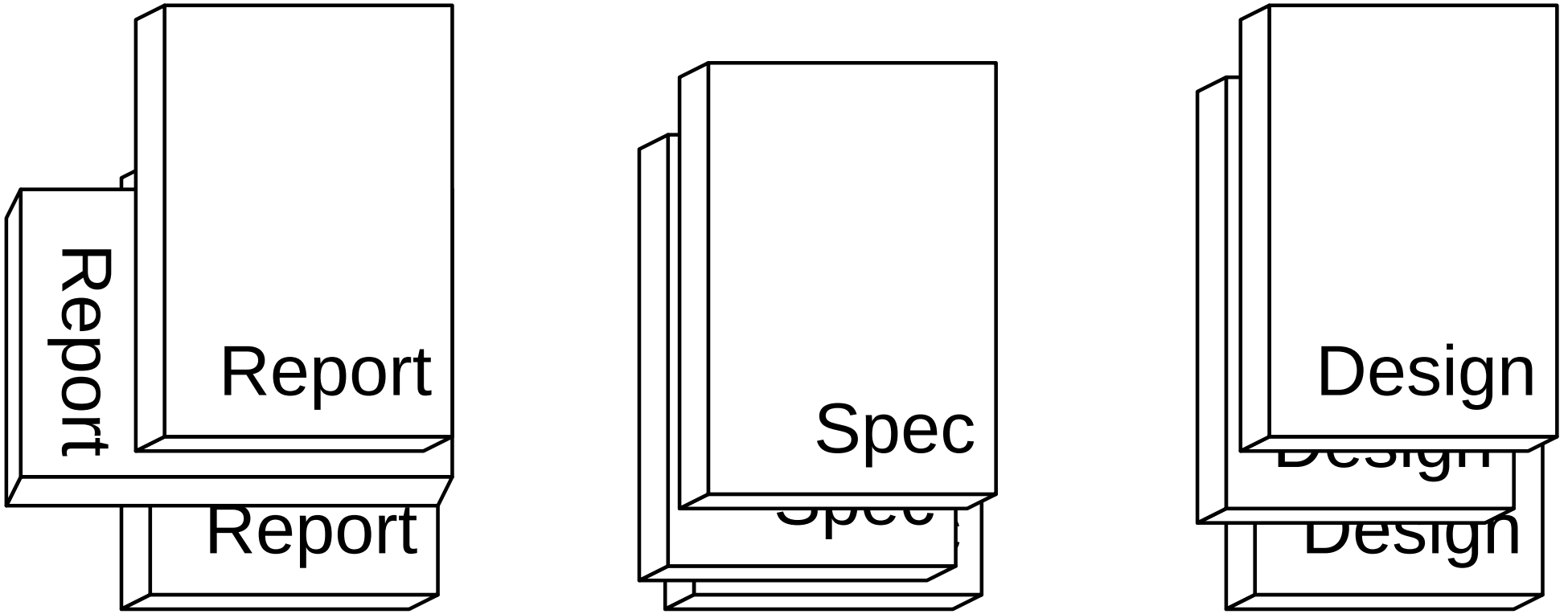


Deliverables of the System Architect



List of Deliverables

Customer and Life-Cycle Needs *(what is needed)*

System Specification *(what will be realized)*

Design Specification *(how the system will be realized)*

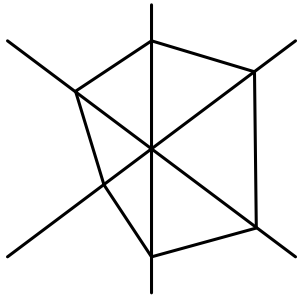
Verification Specification *(how the system will be verified)*

Verification Report *(the result of the verification)*

Feasibility Report *(the results of a feasibility study)*

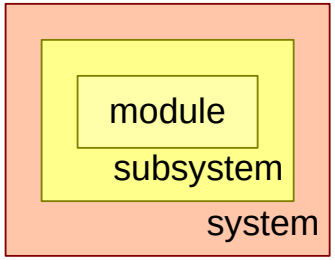
Roadmap

Responsibilities of the System Architect

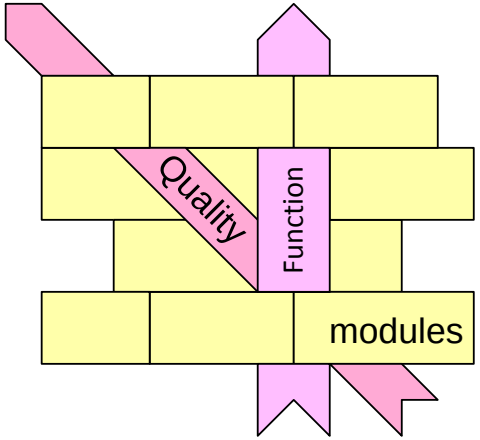


Balance

Requirement
Spec
Design
Realization



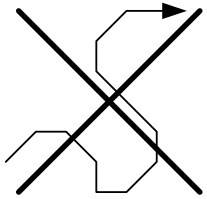
Consistency



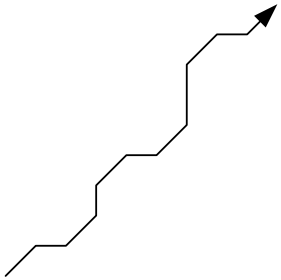
Decomposition
Integration

Overview

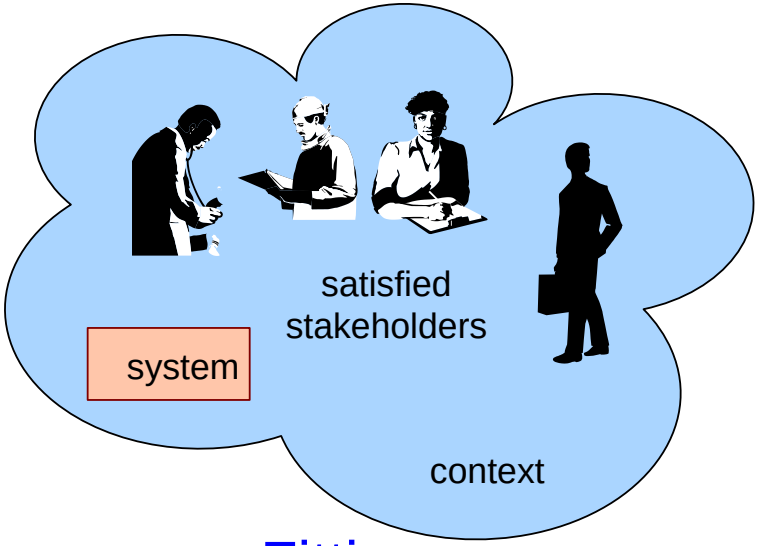
KISS



Elegance
Simple



Integrity

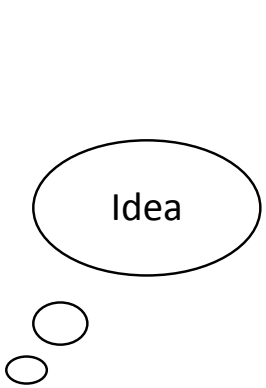


Fitting

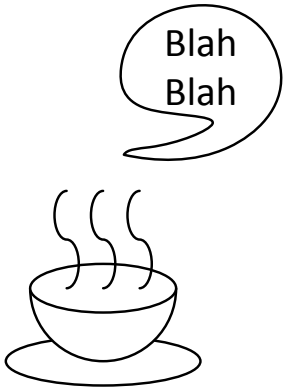
Examples of Secondary Responsibilities

responsibility	primary owner
business plan, profit	business manager
schedule, resources	project leader
market, saleability	marketing manager
technology	technology manager
process, people	line manager
detailed designs	engineers

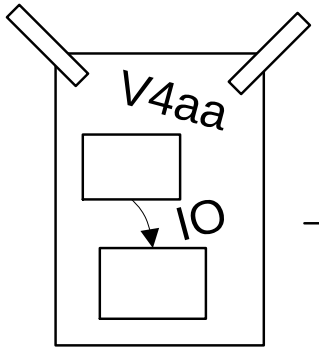
What does the System Architect do?



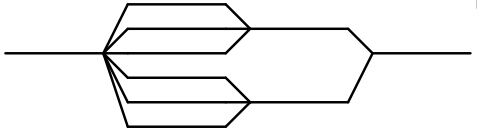
think, analyze



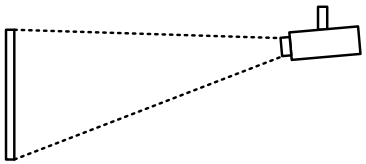
listen, talk, walk around



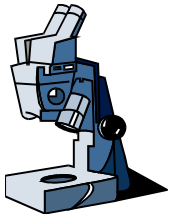
design, brainstorm, explain



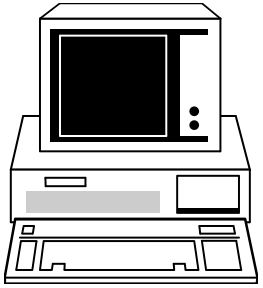
assist project leader with work breakdown, schedule, risks



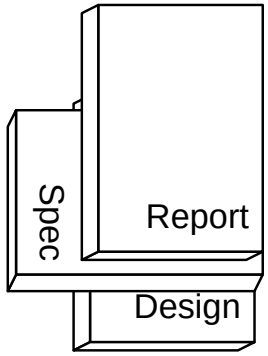
present, meet, teach, discuss



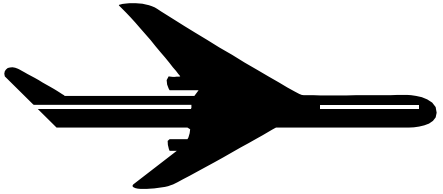
test, integrate



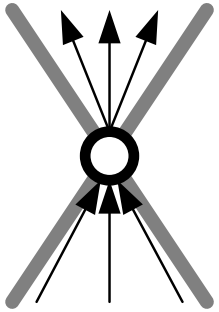
write, consolidate, browse



read, review

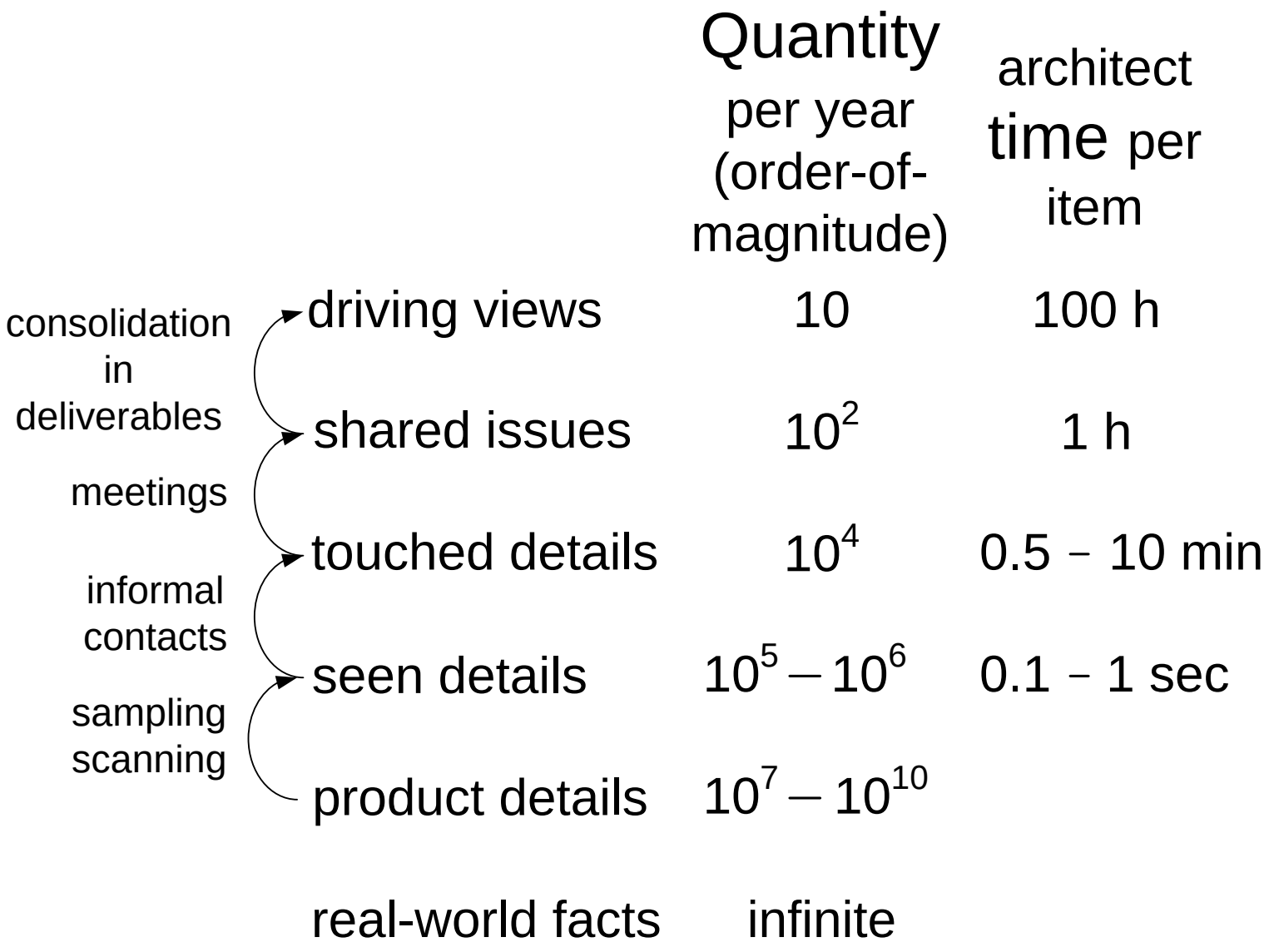


travel to customer, supplier, conference



provide vision and leadership

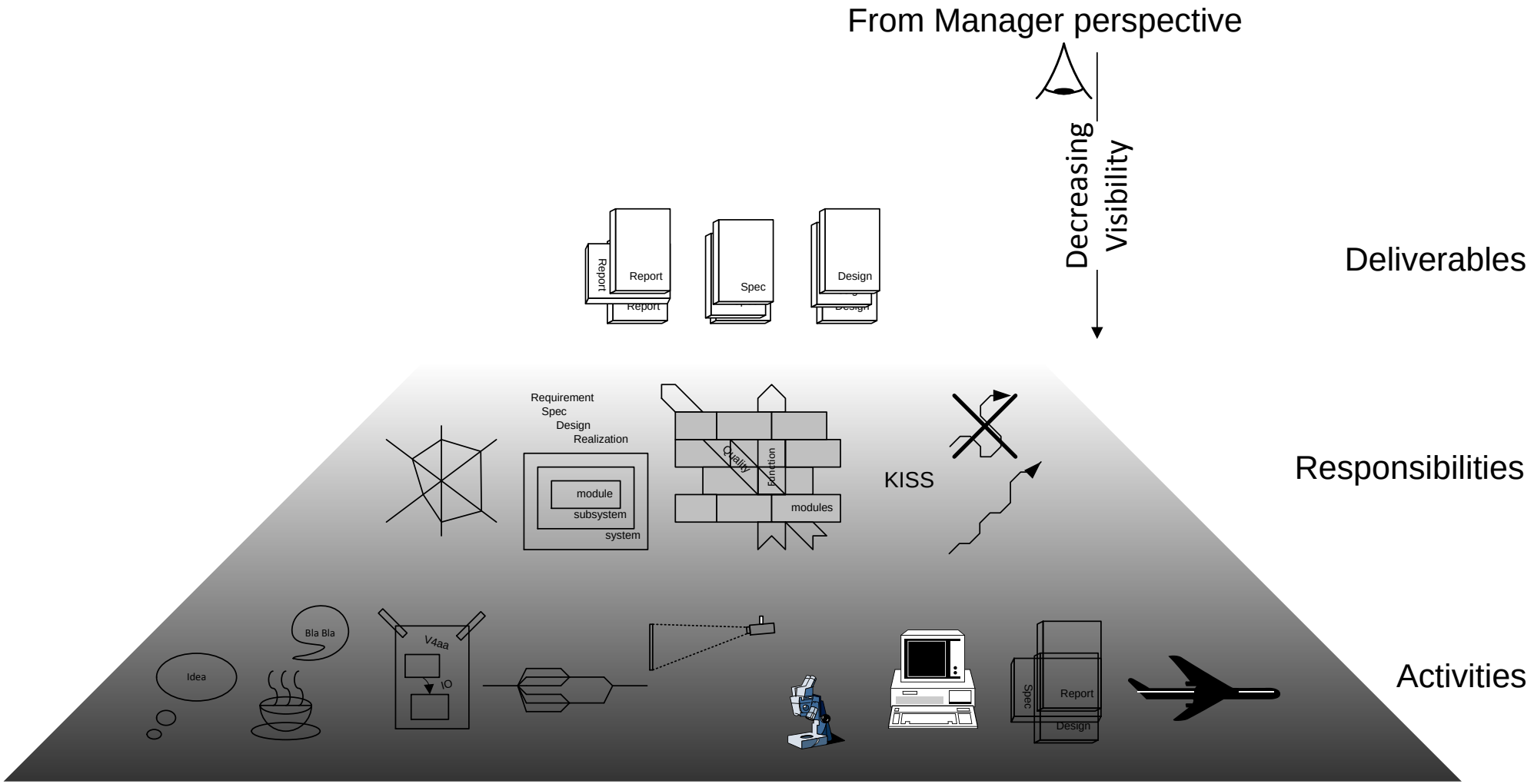
From Detail to Overview



Reality or Virtuality?

Abstractions only exist for concrete facts.

Visible Output versus Invisible Work



The Awakening of a System Architect

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Abstract

The typical phases of a system architect development are described, beginning at the fundamental technology knowledge, with a later broadening in technology and in business aspects. Finally the subtlety of individual human beings is taken into account.

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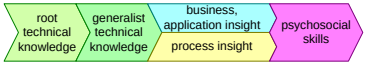
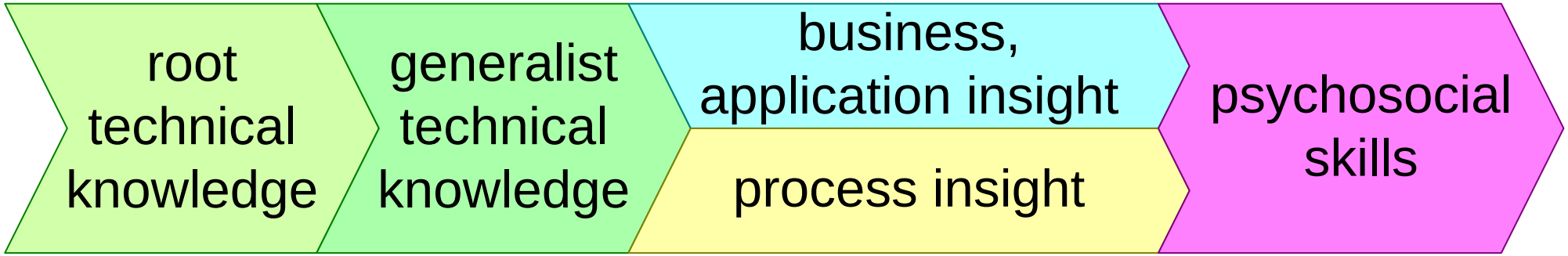
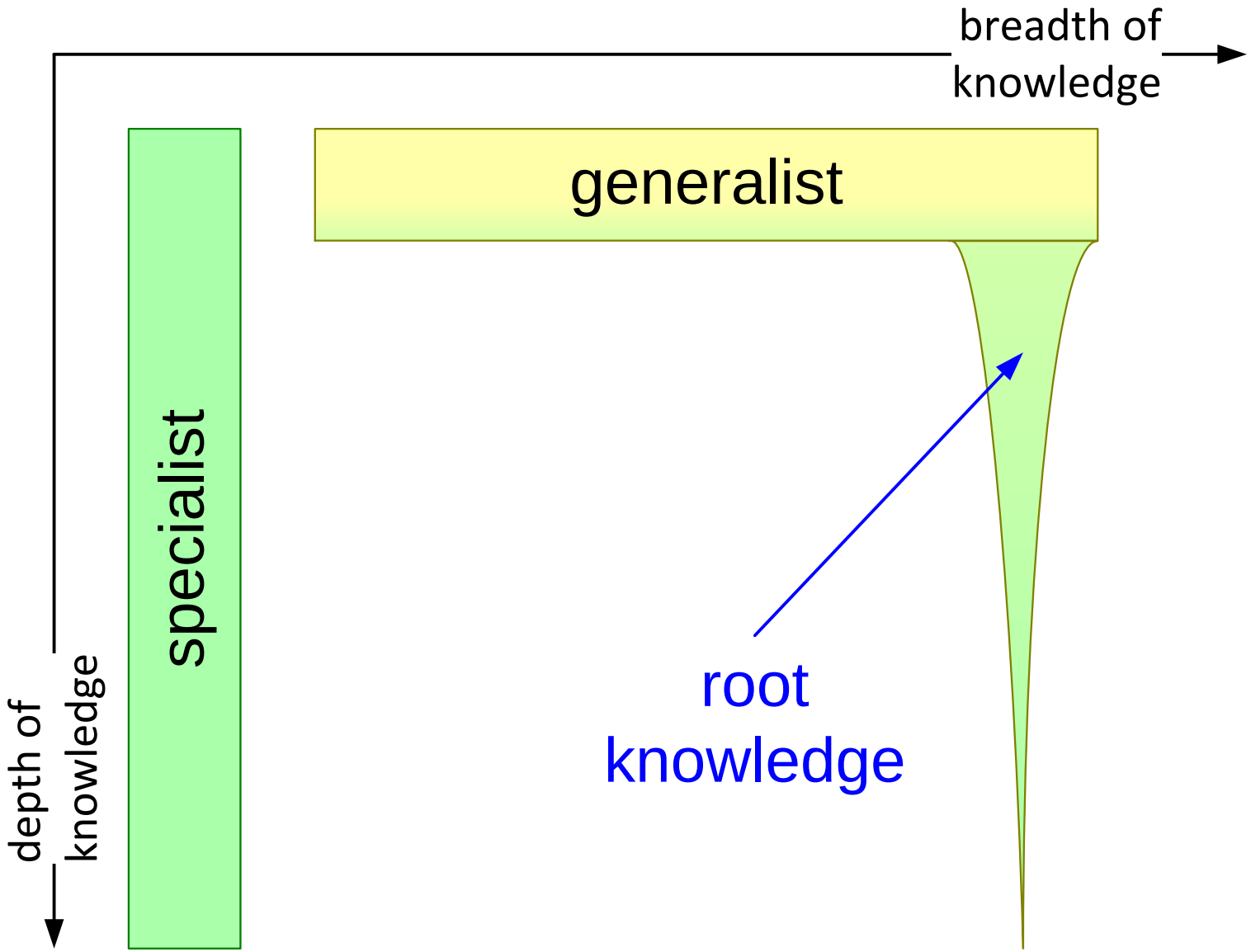


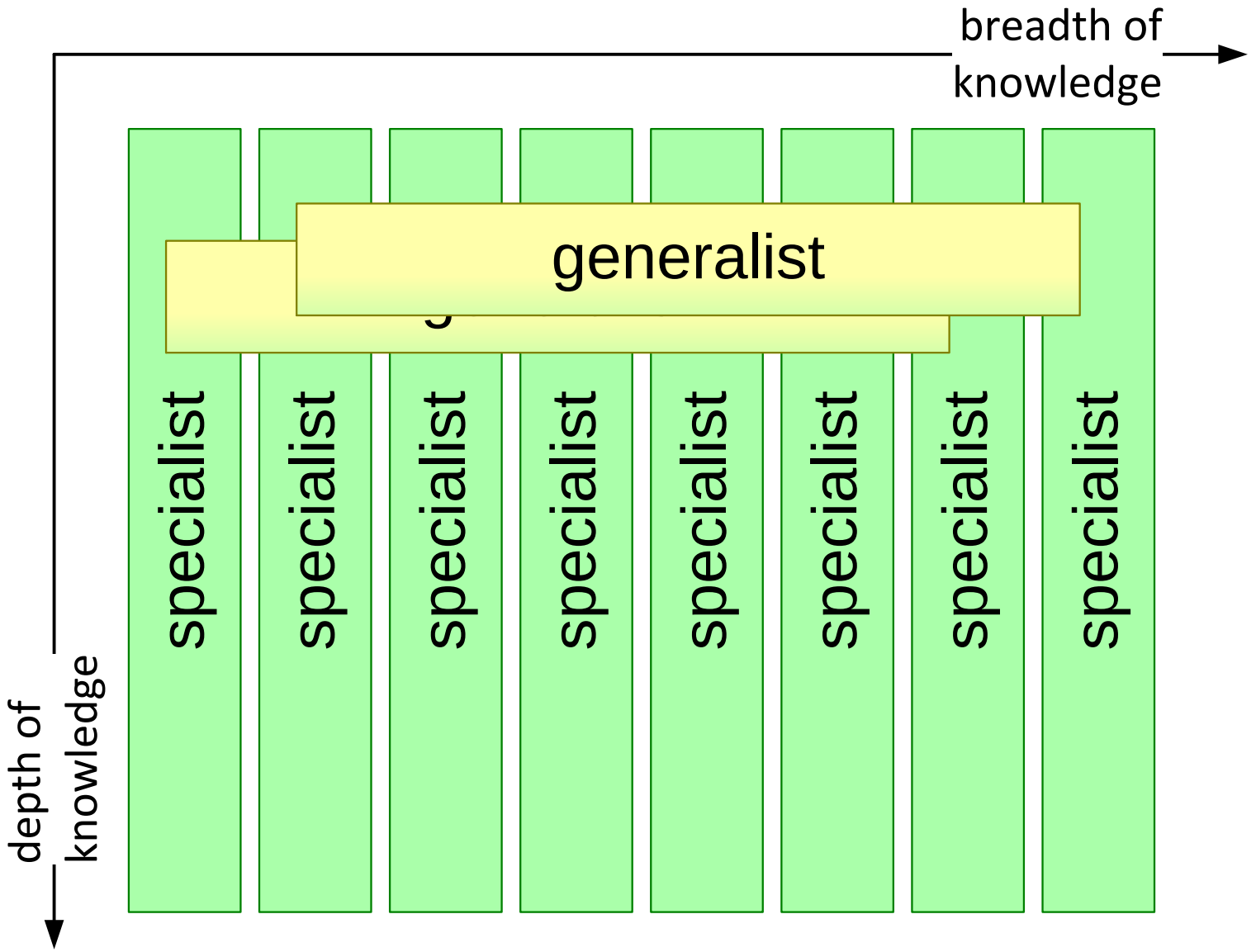
Typical Growth of a System Architect



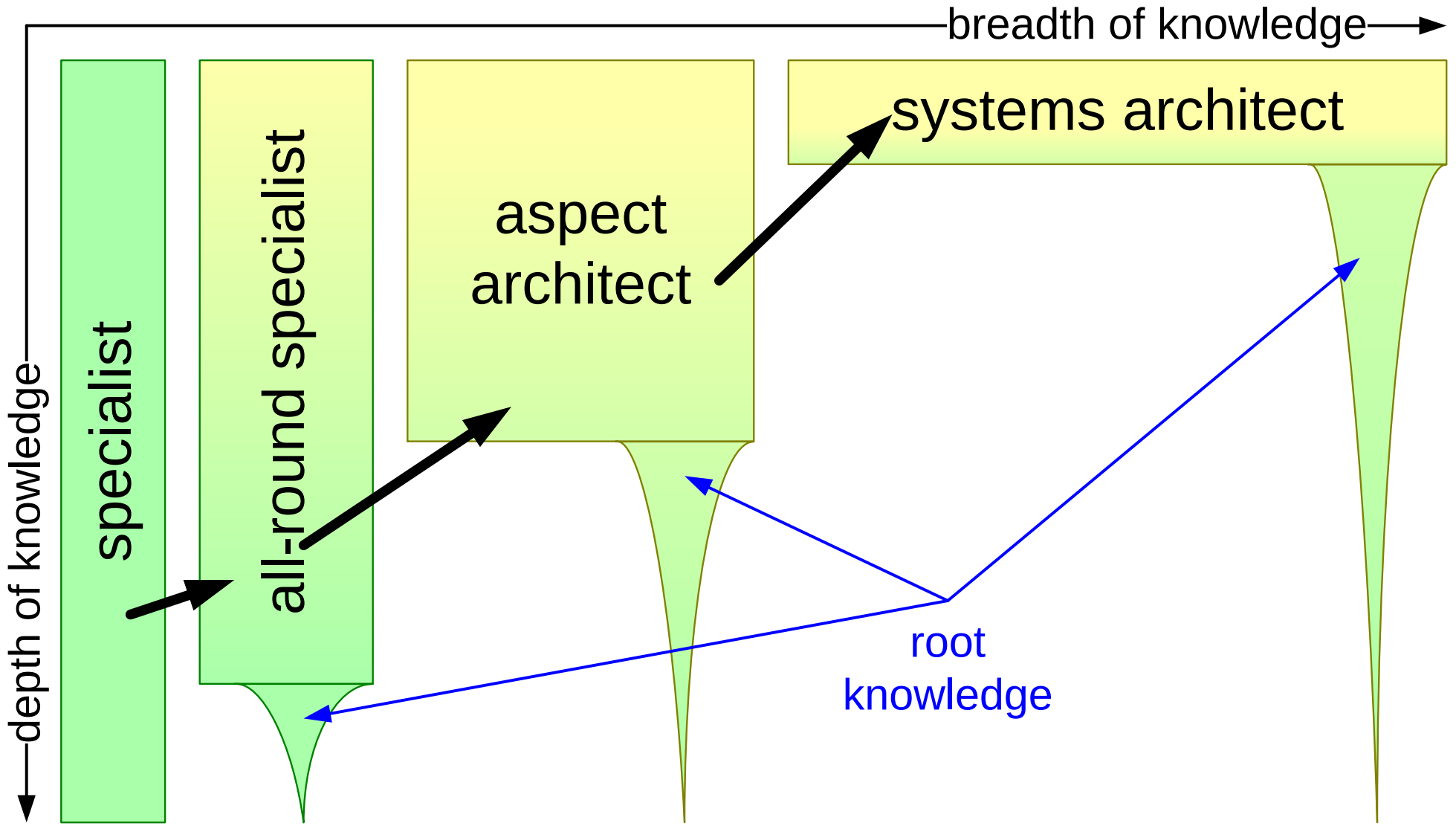
Generalist versus Specialist



Generalists and Specialists are Complementary



Spectrum from Specialist to System Architect



Architecting Interaction Styles

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Abstract

A system architects needs skills to apply different interactions styles, depending on the circumstances. This document discusses the following interaction styles: provocation, facilitation, leading, empathic, interviewing, white board simulation, and judo tactics.

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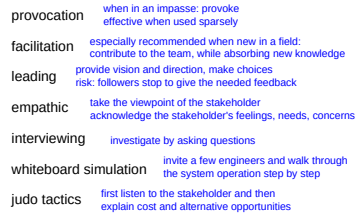


Architecting Styles

provocation	when in an impasse: provoke effective when used sparsely
facilitation	especially recommended when new in a field: contribute to the team, while absorbing new knowledge
leading	provide vision and direction, make choices risk: followers stop to give the needed feedback
empathic	take the viewpoint of the stakeholder acknowledge the stakeholder's feelings, needs, concerns
interviewing	investigate by asking questions
whiteboard simulation	invite a few engineers and walk through the system operation step by step
judo tactics	first listen to the stakeholder and then explain cost and alternative opportunities

Exercise Role and Task of the System Architect

Role play with 3 roles and optional observer:

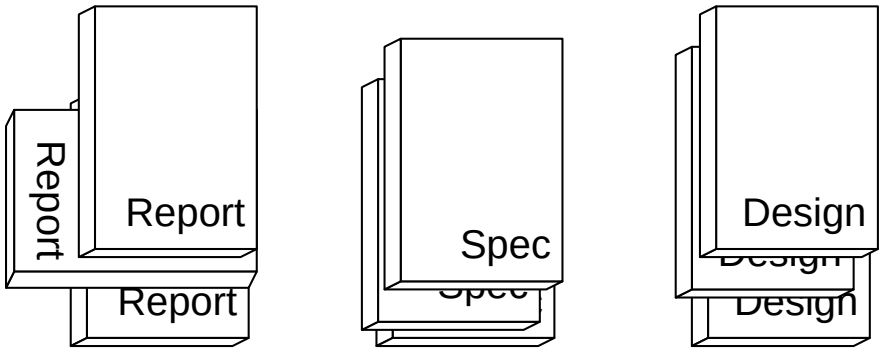
- 1 operational leader (project leader)
- 1 system architect
- 1 marketing manager
- 1 observer (optional)

Discuss the definition (business relevance, specification, and planning) of the case.

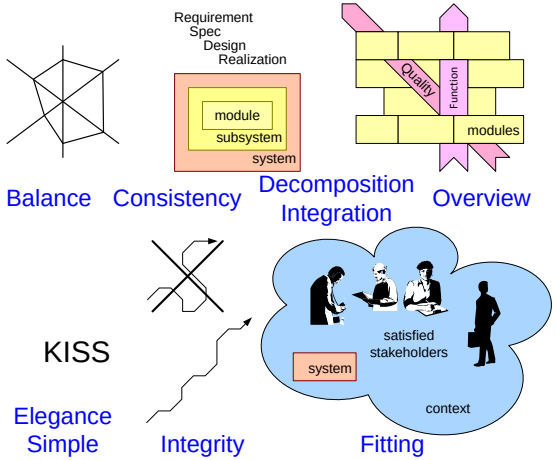
Present (max. 2 flips) the result and the process (the relation and interaction of the three roles).

Role and Task of a System Architect

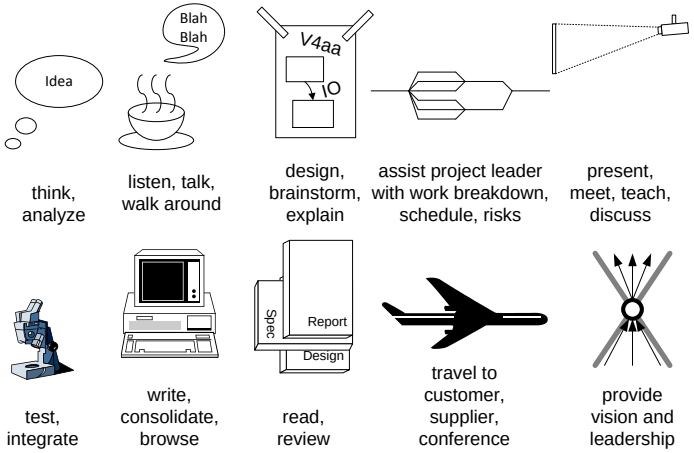
Deliverables



Responsibilities



Daily Activities

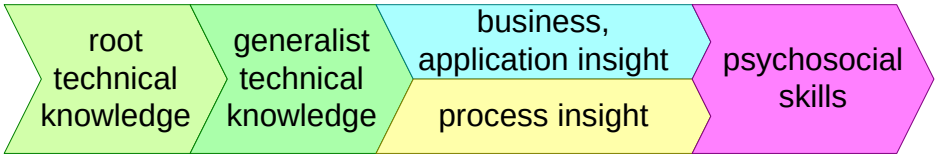


From detail to overview

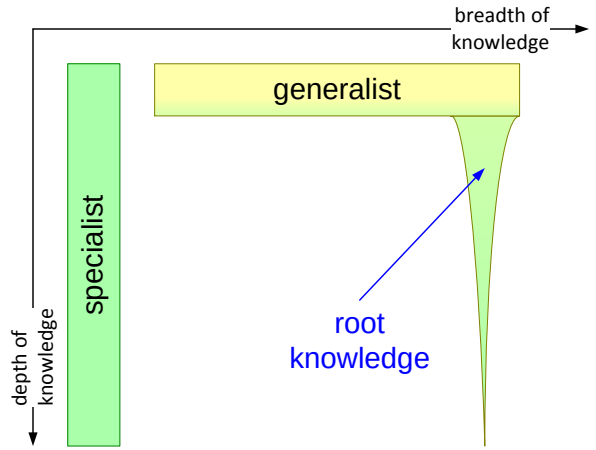
		Quantity per year (order-of-magnitude)	architect time per item
consolidation in deliverables	driving views	10	100 h
meetings	shared issues	10^2	1 h
informal contacts	touched details	10^4	0.5 – 10 min
sampling scanning	seen details	$10^5 - 10^6$	0.1 – 1 sec
	product details	$10^7 - 10^{10}$	
	real-world facts	infinite	

Personal characteristics of a System Architect

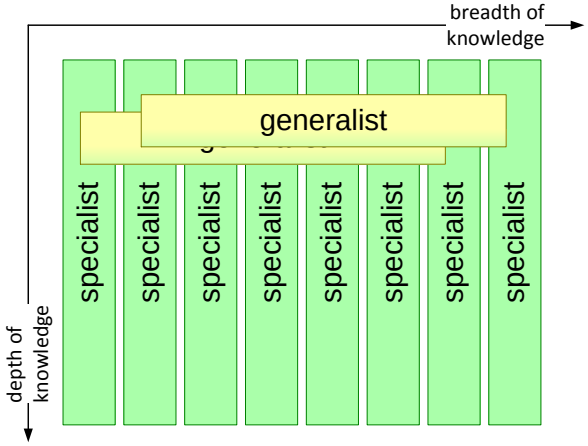
Typical growth of a Architect



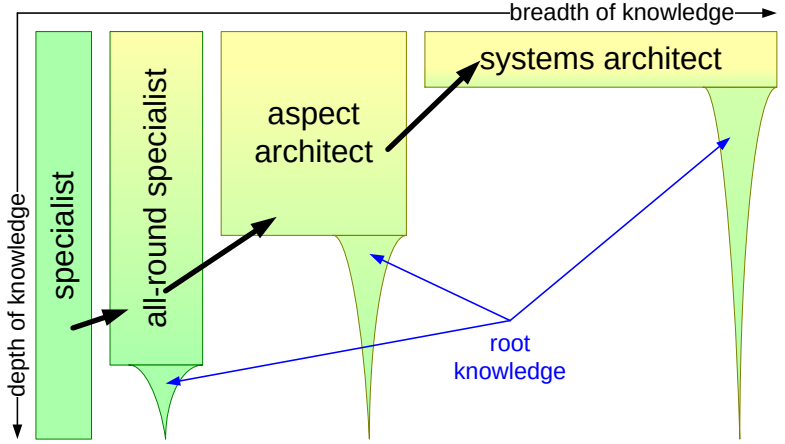
Generalist vs Specialist



Complementary Roles



Role Spectrum



Module Requirements

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway-NISE
e-mail: gaudisite@gmail.com
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Abstract

This module addresses requirements: What are requirements? How to find, select, and consolidate requirements?

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Fundamentals of Requirements Engineering

by *Gerrit Muller* USN-SE
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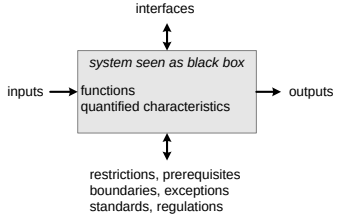
Abstract

Requirements engineering is one of the systems engineering pillars. In this document we discuss the fundamentals of systems engineering, such as the transformation of needs into specification, the need to prescribe *what* rather than *how*, and the requirements when writing requirements.



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version: 0.1

Definition of “Requirement”

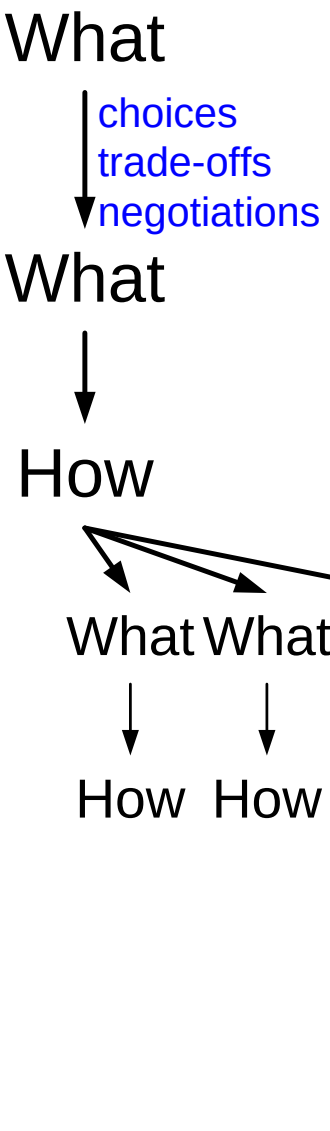
Requirements describing the needs of the customer: ***Customer Needs***

Requirements describing the characteristics of the final resulting system (product): ***System (Product) Specification***

The ***requirements management process*** recursively applies this definition for every level of decomposition.

Requirements describing the needs of the company itself over the life cycle: ***Life Cycle Needs***

Flow of Requirements



customer needs:
What is needed by the customer?

product specification:
What are we going to realize?

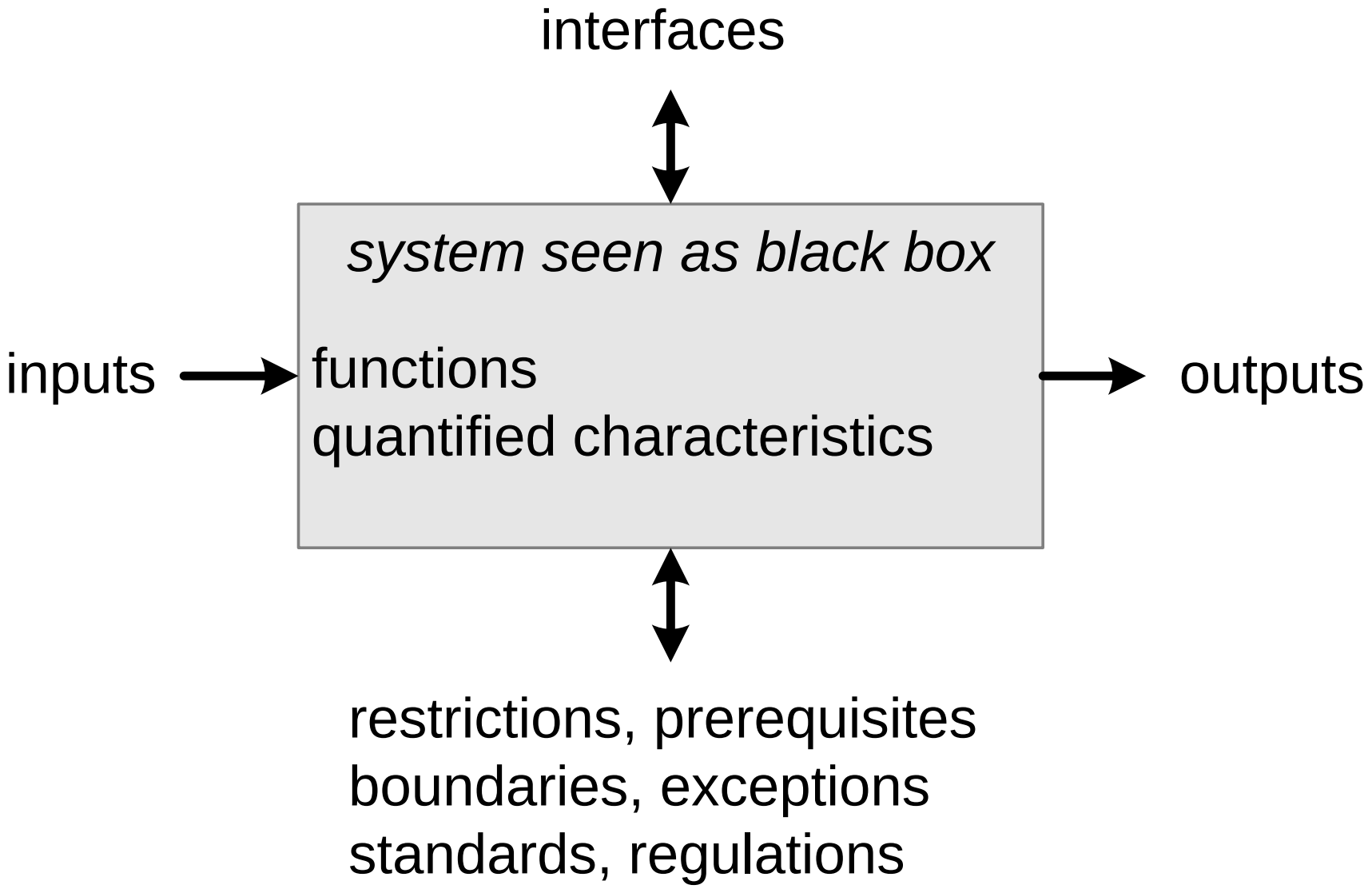
system design:
How are we going to realize the product?

What are the subsystems we will realize?

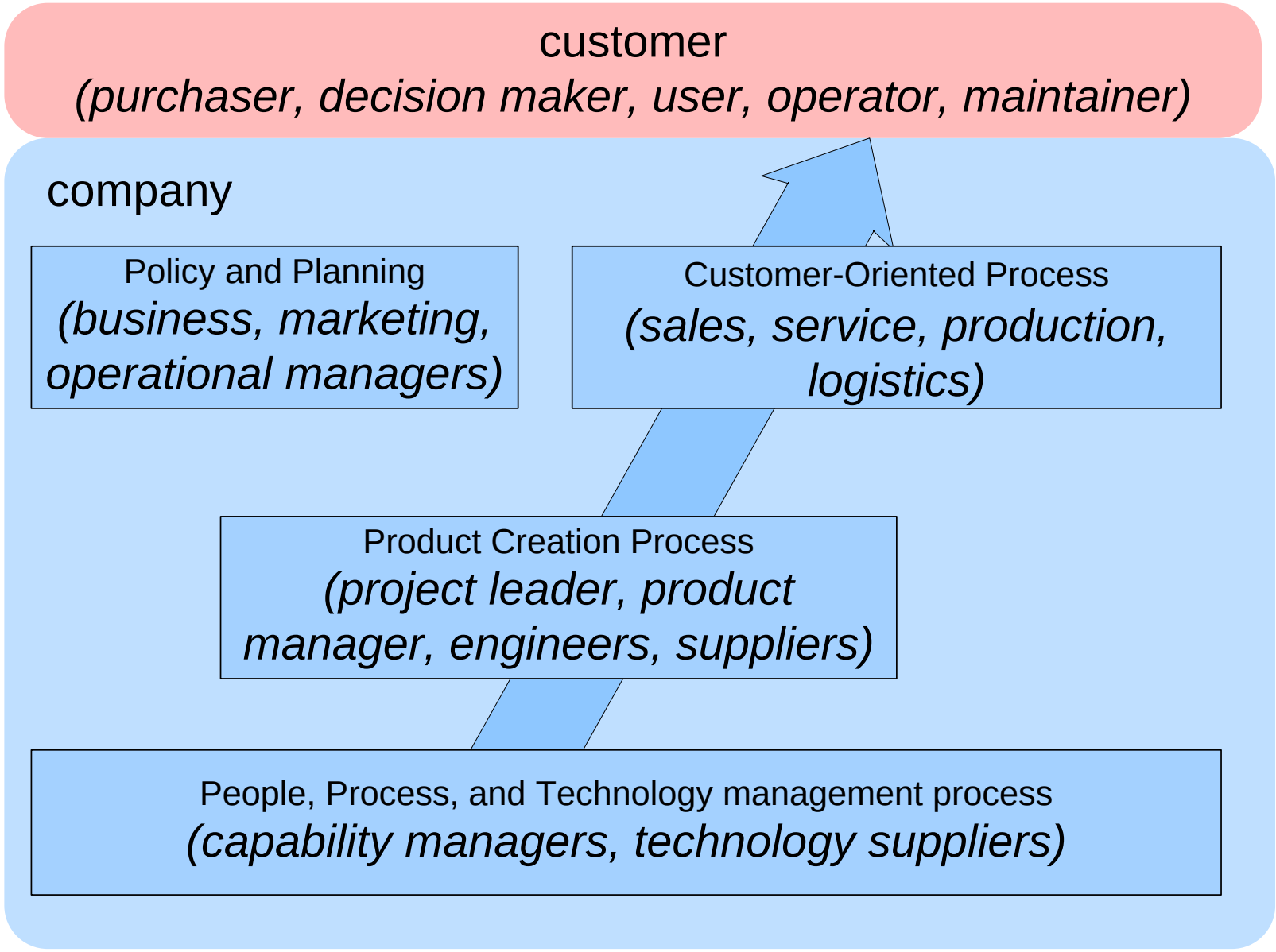
How will the subsystems be realized?

up to "atomic" components

System as a Black Box



Stakeholders w.r.t. Requirements



The “Formal” Requirements for Requirements

Specific

Unambiguous

Verifiable

Quantifiable

Measurable

Complete

Traceable

The Requirements to Enable Human Use

Accessible

Understandable

Low threshold

Short introduction to basic “CAFCR” model

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway-NISE
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Abstract

The basic “CAFCR” reference model is described, which is used to describe a system in relation to its context. The main stakeholder in the context is the customer. The question “Who is the customer?” is addressed.

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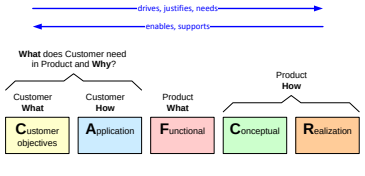
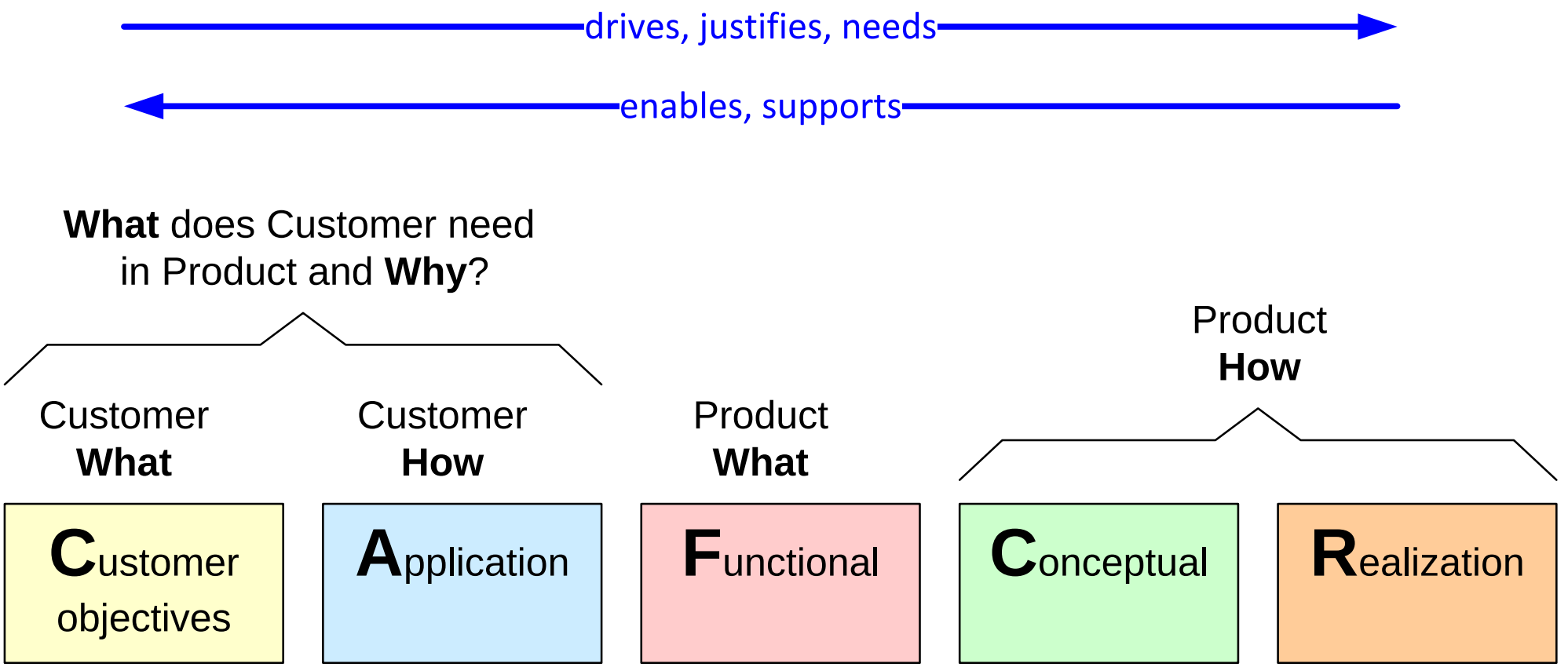
version: 0.4

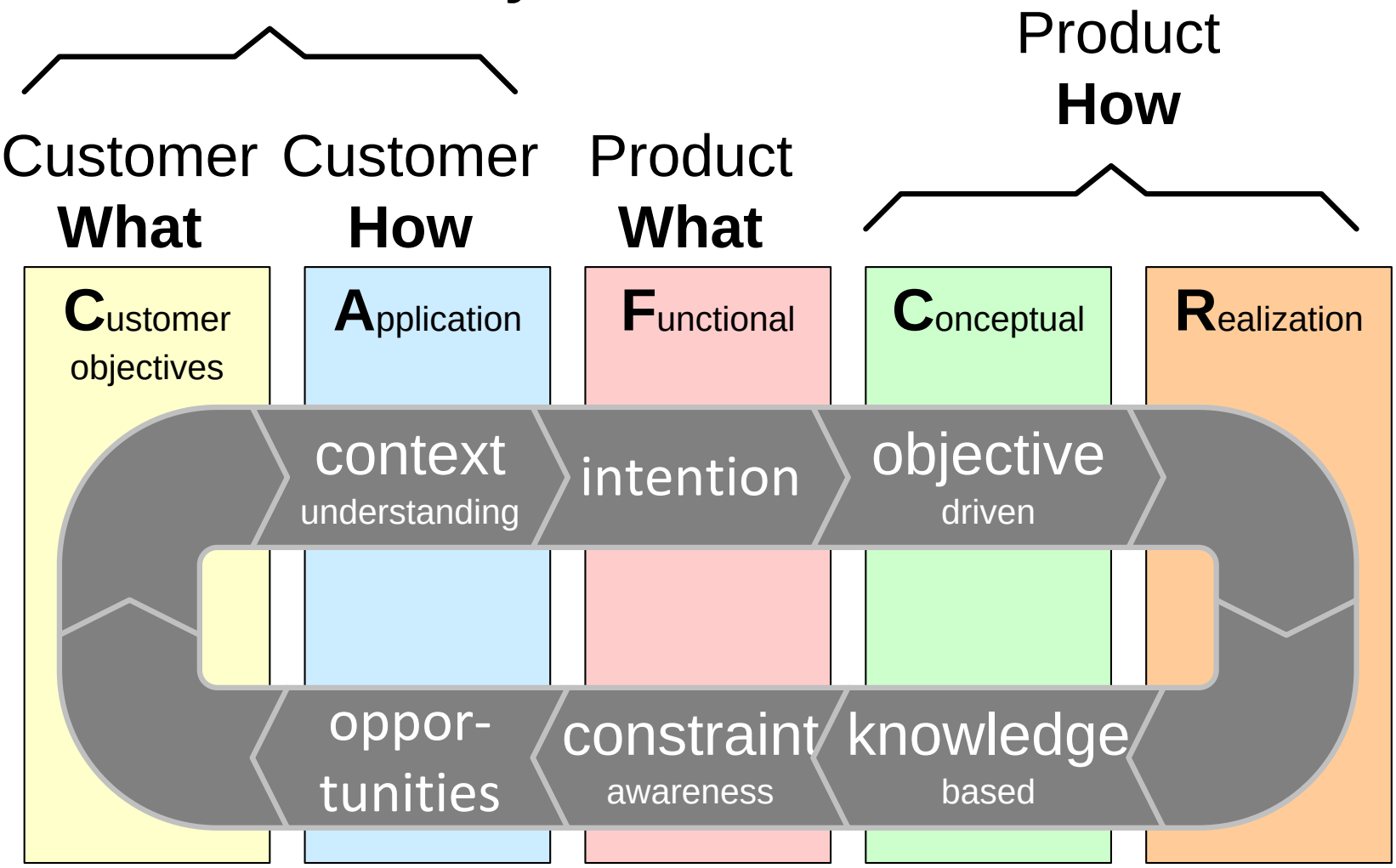


The “CAFCR” model

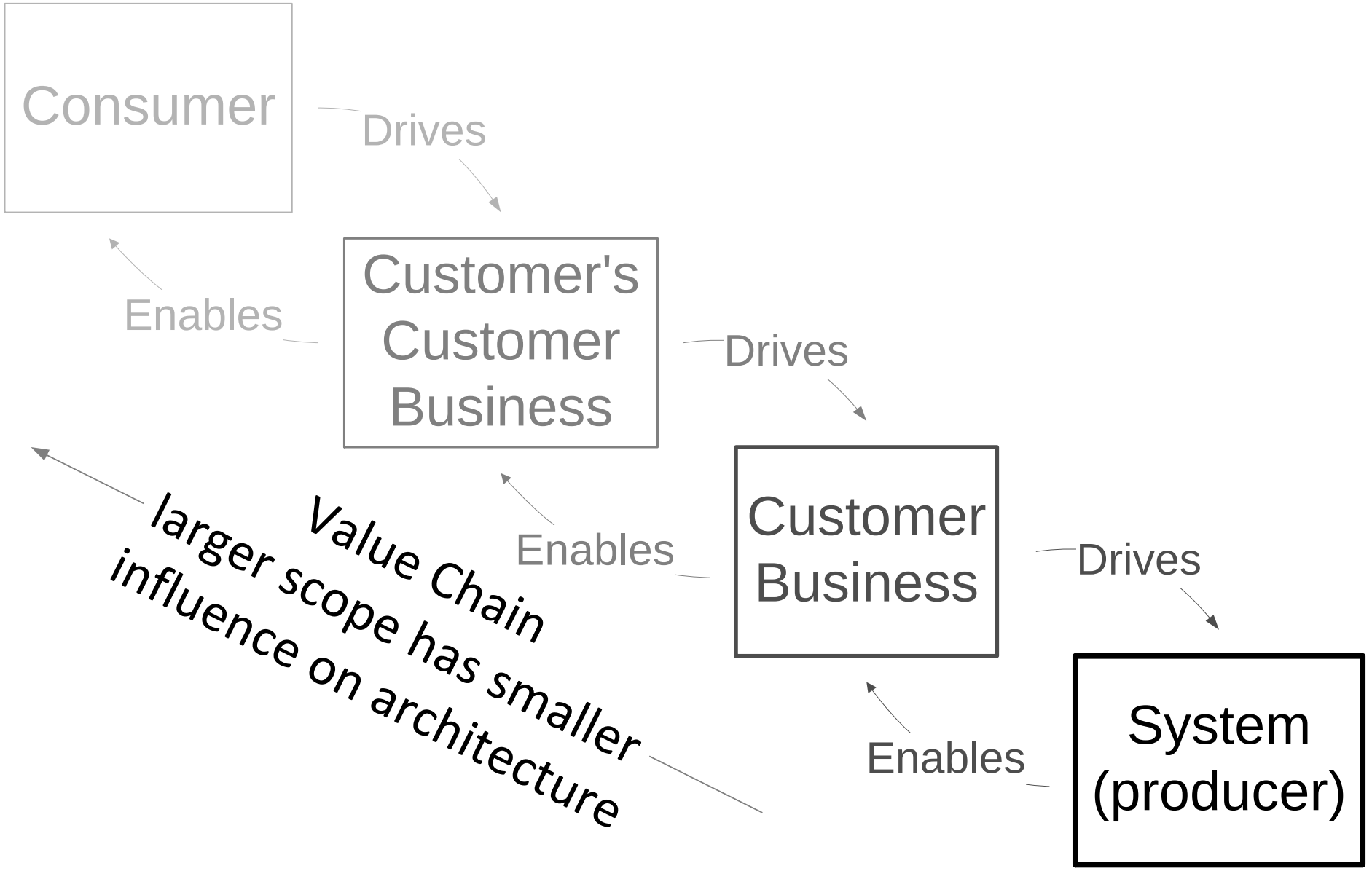


Integrating CAFCR

What does Customer need in Product and **Why**?



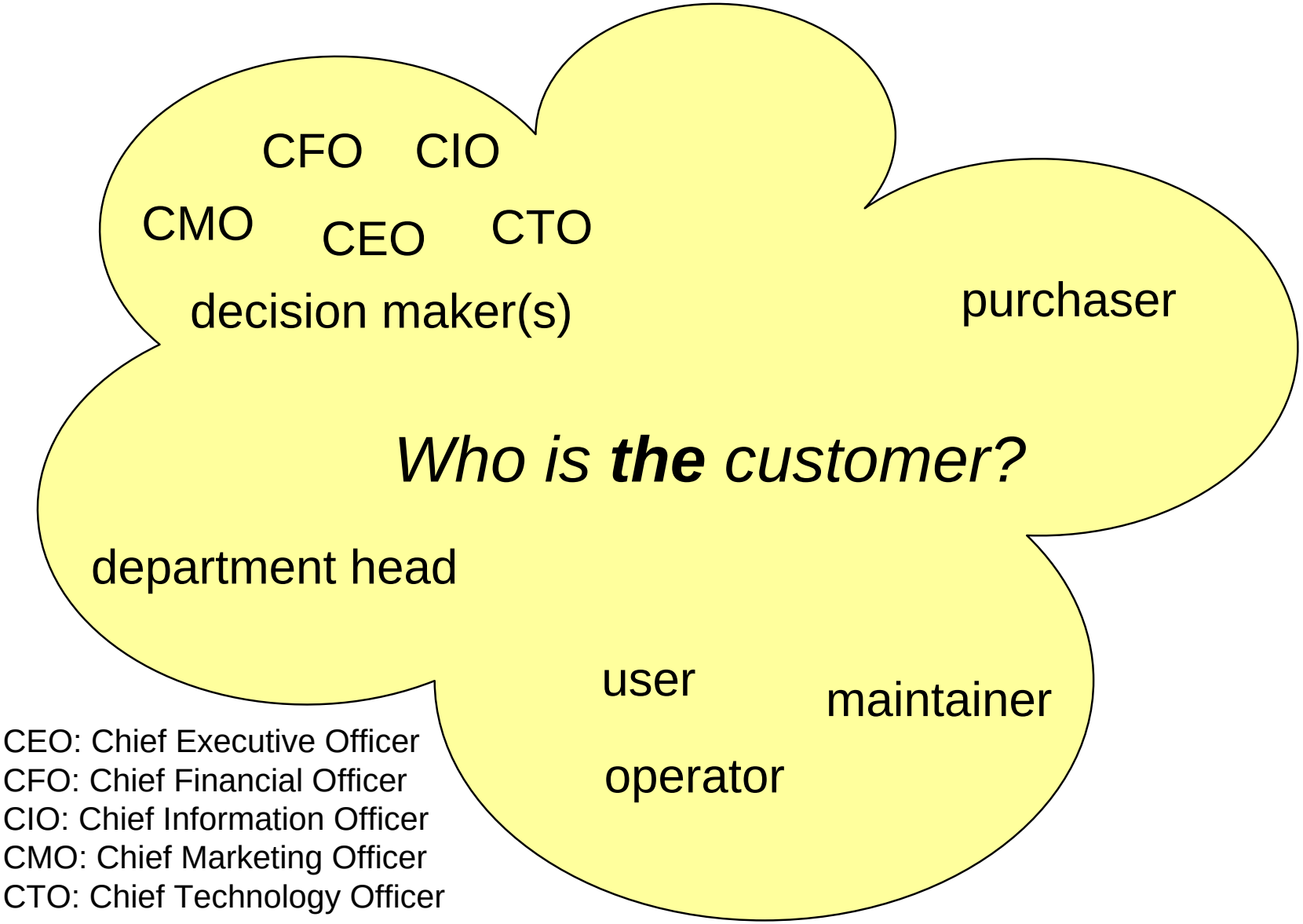
CAFCR can be applied recursively



Market segmentation

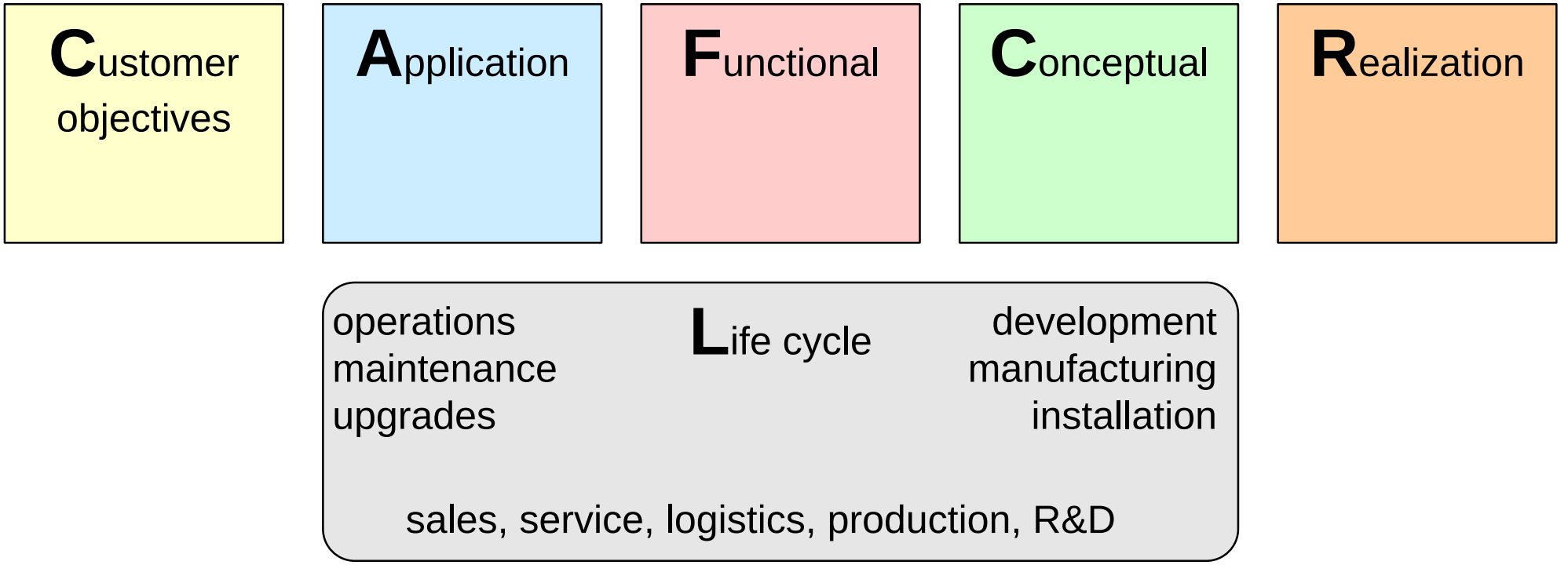
segmentation axis	examples
geographical	USA, UK, Germany, Japan, China
business model	profit, non profit
economics	high end versus cost constrained
consumers	youth, elderly
outlet	retailer, provider, OEM, consumer direct

Example of a small buying organization



CEO: Chief Executive Officer
CFO: Chief Financial Officer
CIO: Chief Information Officer
CMO: Chief Marketing Officer
CTO: Chief Technology Officer

CAFCR+ model; Life Cycle View



Key Drivers How To

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway-NISE
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Abstract

The notion of ”business key drivers” is introduced and a method is described to link these key drivers to the product specification.

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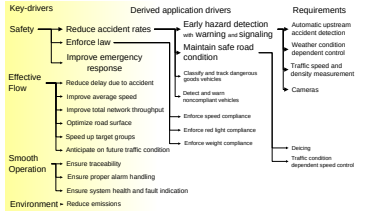
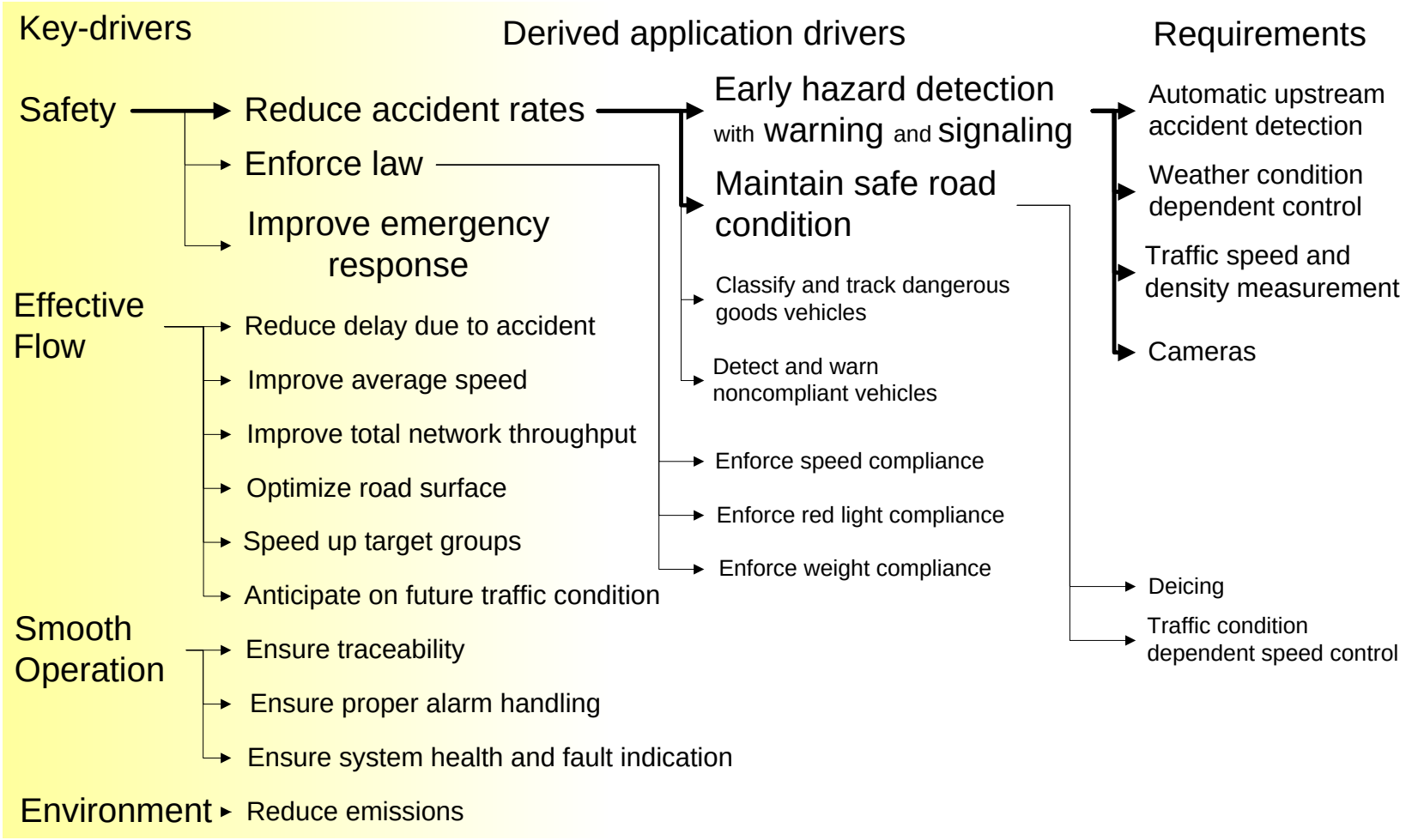


Note: the graph is only partially elaborated for application drivers and requirements

Example Motorway Management Analysis



Note: the graph is only partially elaborated for application drivers and requirements

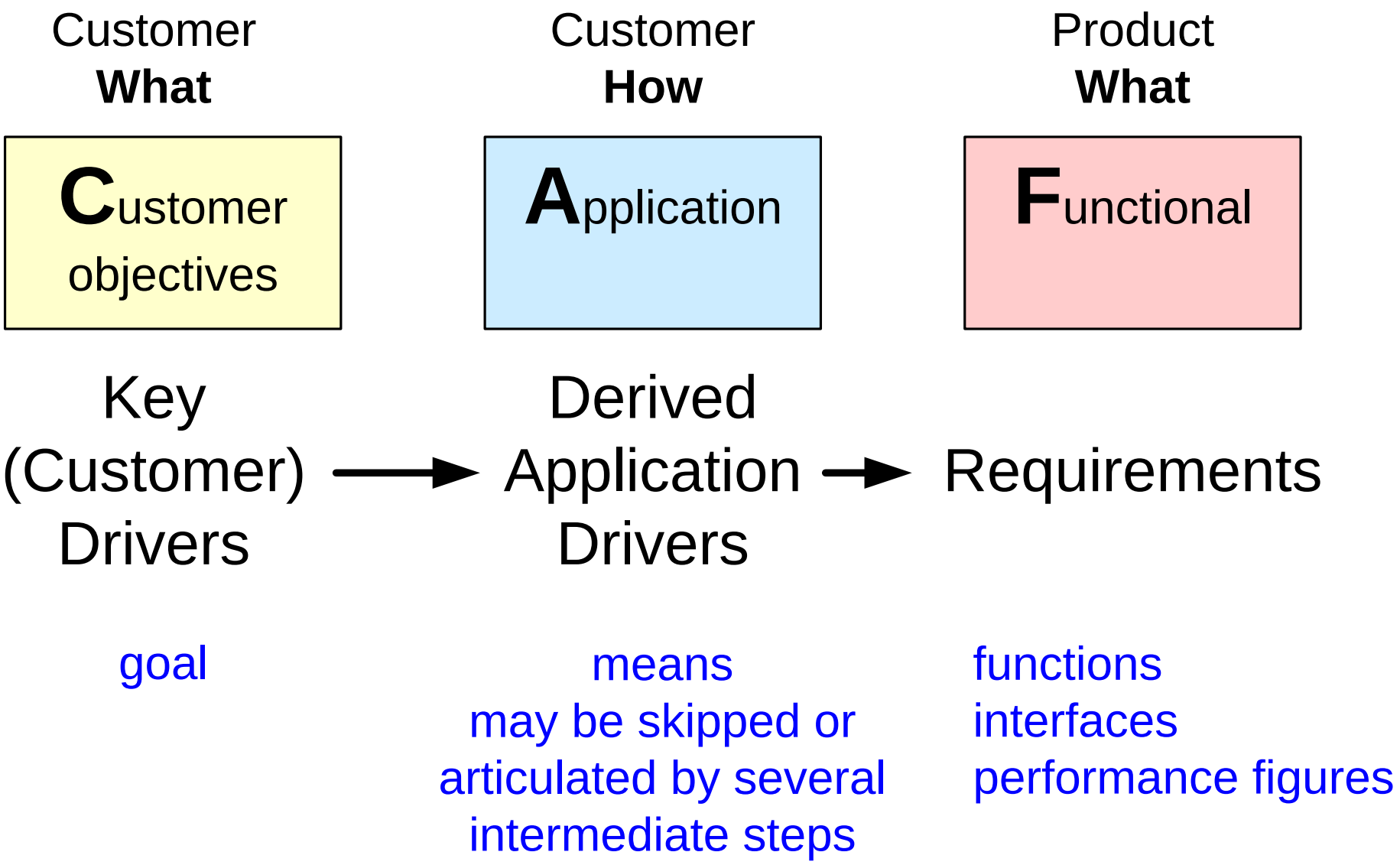
Method to create Key Driver Graph

• Define the scope specific.	in terms of stakeholder or market segments
• Acquire and analyze facts	extract facts from the product specification and ask why questions about the specification of existing products.
• Build a graph of relations between drivers and requirements by means of brainstorming and discussions	where requirements may have multiple drivers
• Obtain feedback	discuss with customers, observe their reactions
• Iterate many times	increased understanding often triggers the move of issues from driver to requirement or vice versa and rephrasing

Recommendation for the Definition of Key Drivers

• Limit the number of key-drivers	minimal 3, maximal 6
• Don’t leave out the obvious key-drivers	for instance the well-known main function of the product
• Use short names, recognized by the customer.	
• Use market-/customer- specific names, no generic names	for instance replace “ease of use” by “minimal number of actions for experienced users”, or “efficiency” by “integral cost per patient”
• Do not worry about the exact boundary between Customer Objective and Application	create clear goal means relations

Transformation of Key Drivers into Requirements



Requirements Elicitation and Selection

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway-NISE
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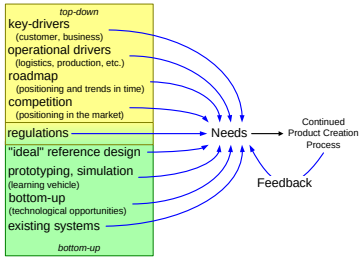
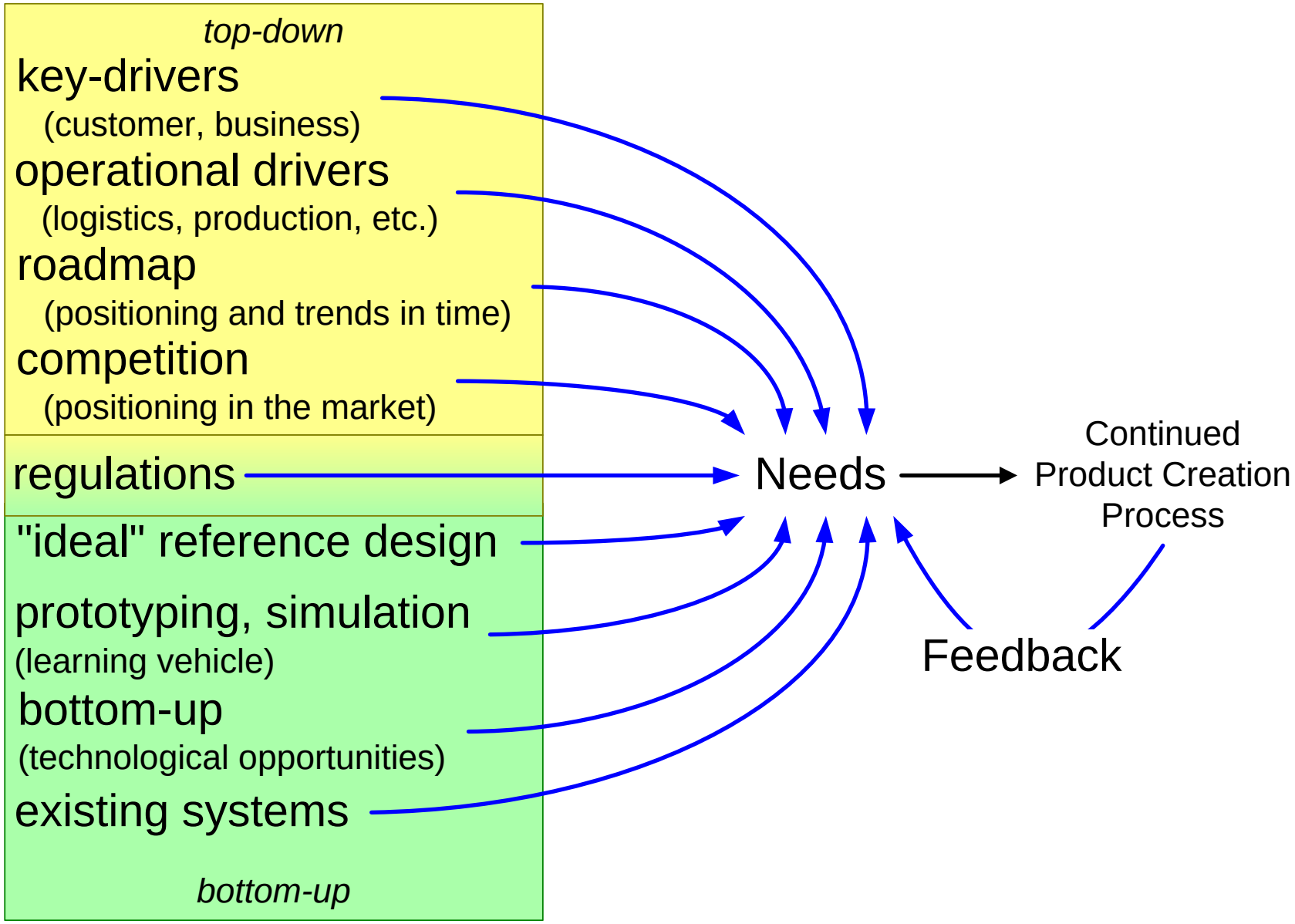
Abstract

An elicitation method for needs is described using many different viewpoints. A selection process with a coarse and a fine selection is described to reduce the specification to an acceptable and feasible subset.

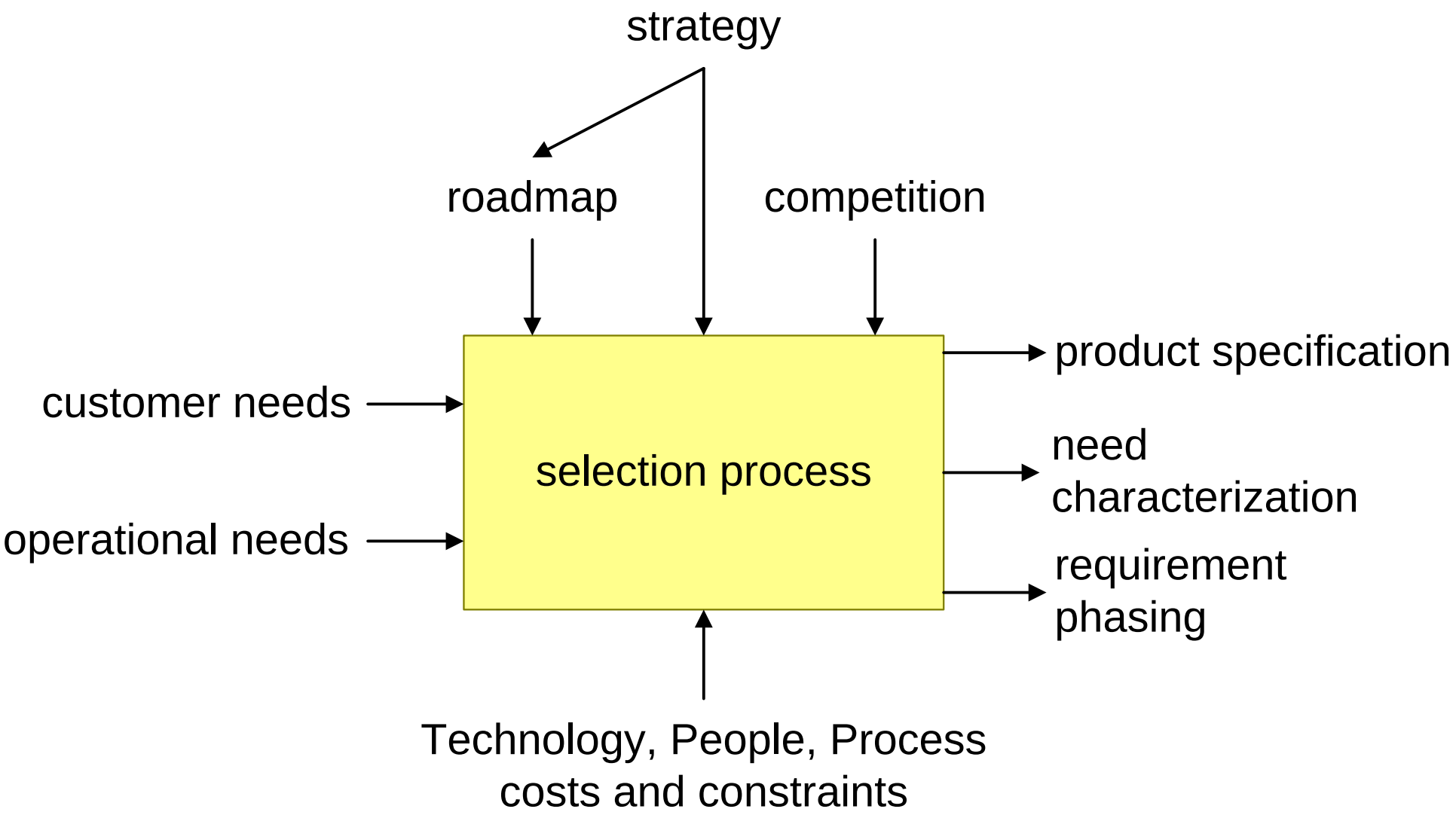
March 4, 2026
status: draft
version: 0



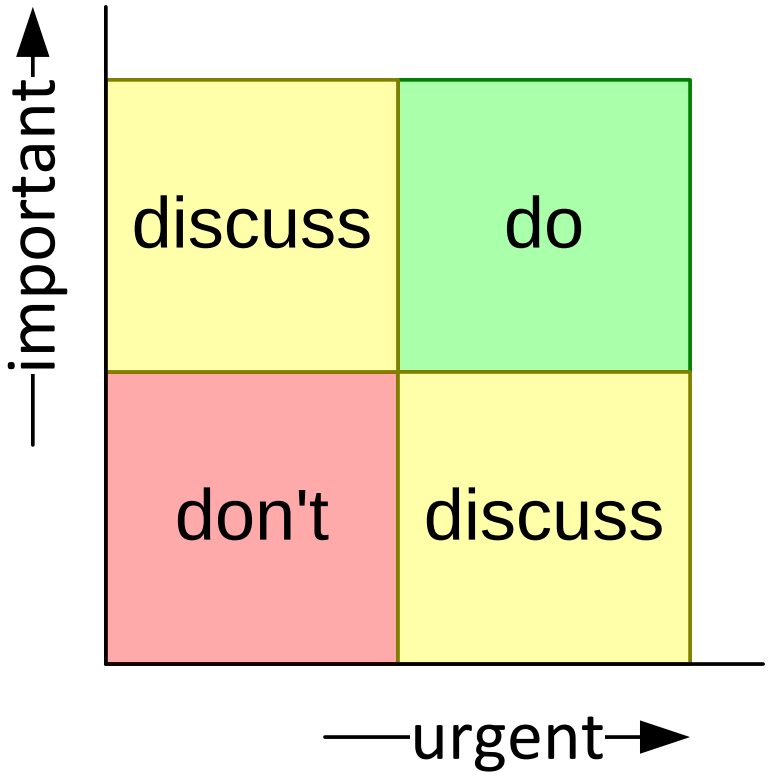
Complementary Viewpoints to Capture Requirements

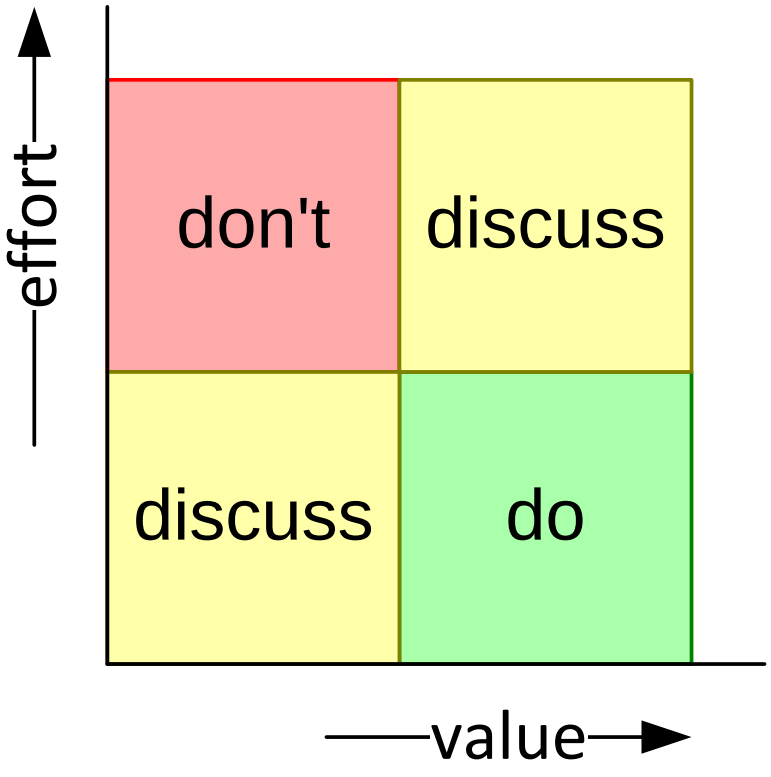


Requirement Selection Process



Simple Qualification Method





Examples of Quantifiable Aspects

- Value for the customer
- (dis)satisfaction level for the customer
- Selling value (How much is the customer willing to pay?)
- Level of differentiation w.r.t. the competition
- Impact on the market share
- Impact on the profit margin

Use relative scale, e.g. 1..5 1=low value, 5 -high value

Ask several knowledgeable people to score

Discussion provides insight (don't fall in spreadsheet trap)

Exercise Requirements Capturing

- Determine the key drivers for one particular product family.
- Translate these drivers into application drivers and derive from them the requirements.

Needs and Requirements

Needs, Specification, Requirements

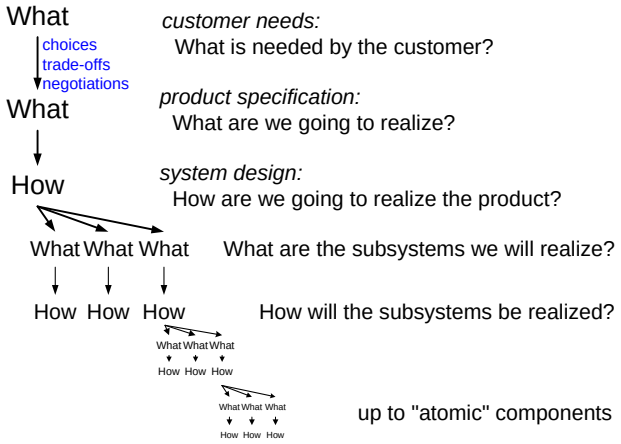
Requirements describing the needs of the customer: ***Customer Needs***

Requirements describing the characteristics of the final resulting system (product): ***System (Product) Specification***

The ***requirements management process*** recursively applies this definition for every level of decomposition.

Requirements describing the needs of the company itself over the life cycle: ***Life Cycle Needs***

Flow of Requirements



Requirements for Requirements

Specific

Unambiguous

Verifiable

Quantifiable

Measurable

Complete

Traceable

Enable Human Use

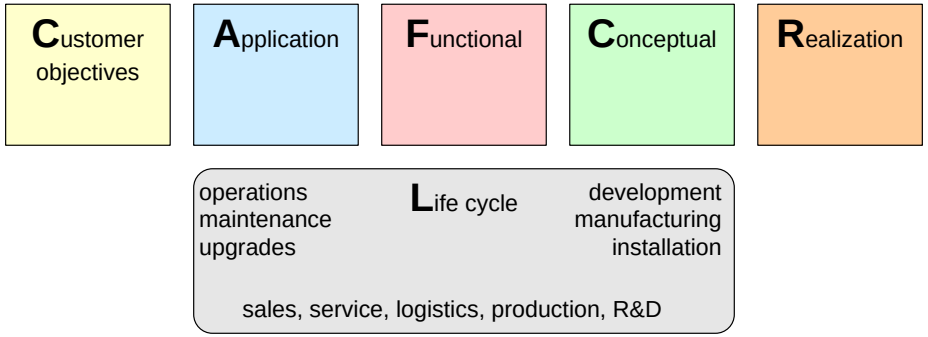
Accessible

Understandable

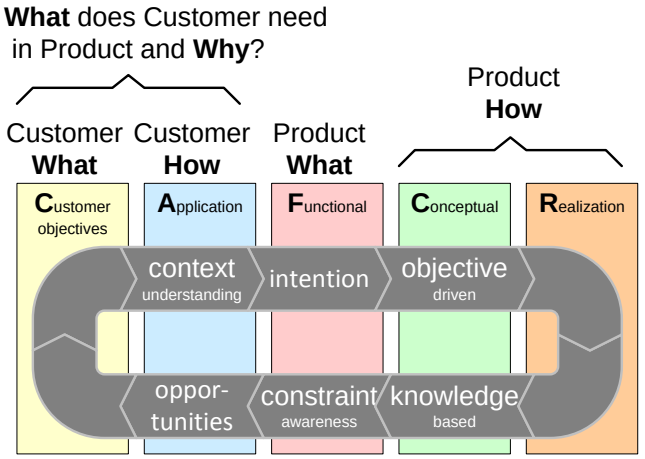
Low threshold

CAFCR, Customer Key Driver Graph

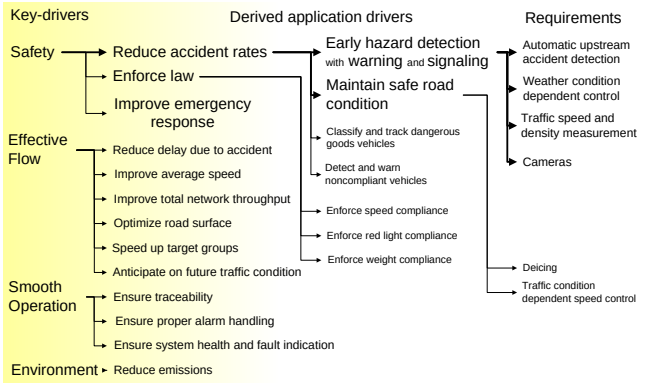
CAFCR+ Model



Iterate over Views

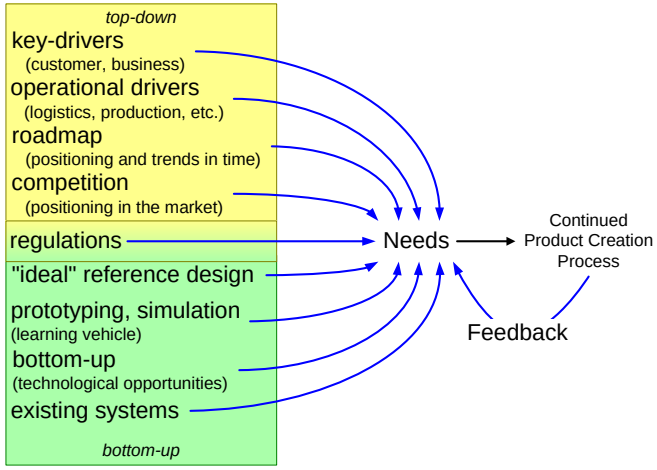


Example Key Driver Graph



Note: the graph is only partially elaborated for application drivers and requirements

Complementary Viewpoints



Story How To

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway-NISE
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www.gaudisite.nl

Abstract

A story is an easily accessible story or narrative to make an application live. A good story is highly specific and articulated entirely in the problem domain: the native world of the users. An important function of a story is to enable specific (*quantified, relevant, explicit*) discussions.

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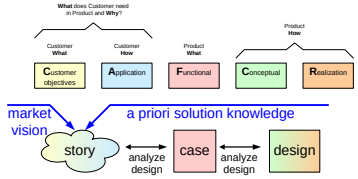
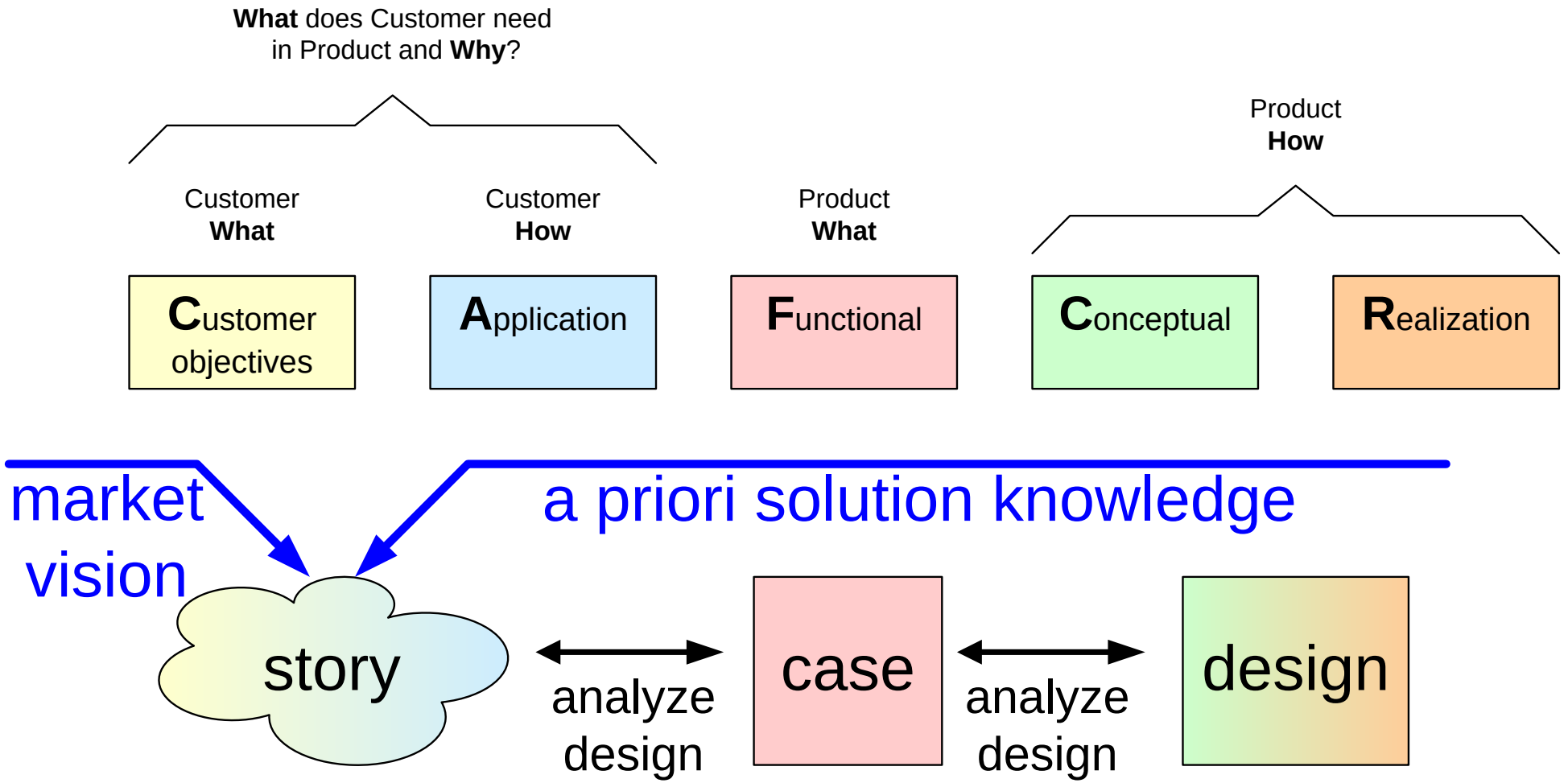
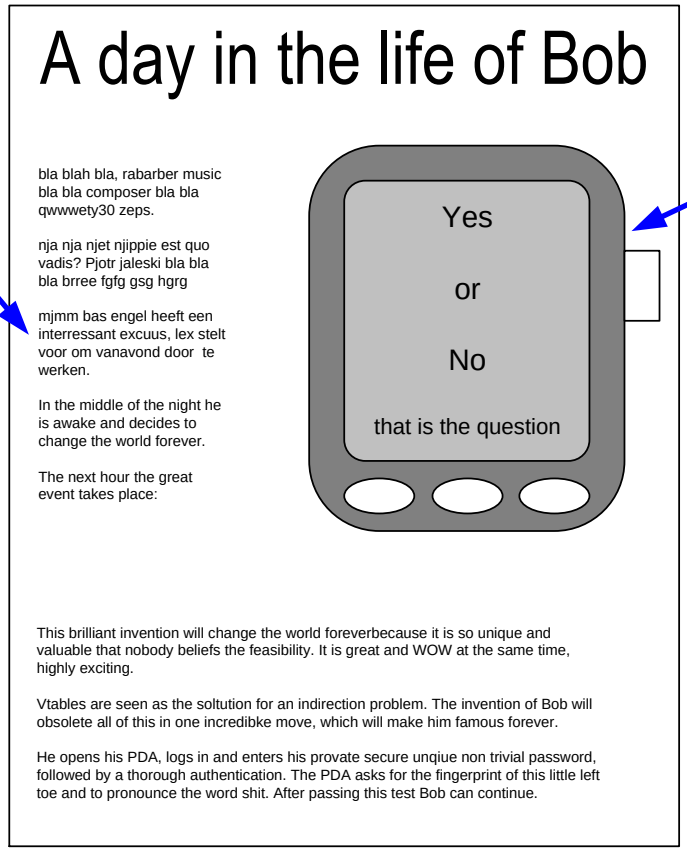


From story to design



Example story layout

ca. half a page of plain English text



draft or sketch of some essential appliance

Points of attention

- purpose — What do you need to know for specification and design?
- scope — “umbrella” or specific event?
- viewpoint, stakeholders — Define your stakeholder and viewpoint f.i. user, maintainer, installer
- visualization — Sketches or cartoon Helps to share and communicate ideas
- size (max 1 A4) — Can be read or told in few minutes
- recursive decomposition, refinement

Criteria for a good story

Customer objectives / Application
- accessible, understandable

"Do you see it in front of you?"

Customer objectives / Application
- valuable, appealing

attractive, important
"Are customers queuing up for this?"

Conceptual / Realization
- critical, challenging

"What is difficult in the realization?"
"What do you learn w.r.t. the design?"

Application
- frequent, no exceptional niche

"Does it add significantly to the bottom line?"

Application / Functional
- specific

names, ages, amounts, durations, titles, ...

Example of a story

Betty is a 70-year-old woman who lives in Eindhoven. Three years ago her husband passed away and since then she lives in a home for the elderly. Her 2 children, Angela and Robert, come and visit her every weekend, often with Betty's grandchildren Ashley and Christopher. As so many women of her age, Betty is reluctant to touch anything that has a technical appearance. She knows how to operate her television, but a VCR or even a DVD player is way to complex.

When Betty turned 60, she stopped working in a sewing studio. Her work in this noisy environment made her hard-of-hearing with a hearing-loss of 70dB around 2kHz. The rest of the frequency spectrum shows a loss of about 45dB. This is why she had problems understanding her grandchildren and why her children urged her to apply for hearing aids two years ago. Her technophobia (and her first hints or arthritis) inhibit her to change her hearing aids' batteries. Fortunately her children can do this every weekend.

This Wednesday Betty visits the weekly Bingo afternoon in the meetingplace of the old-folk's home. It's summer now and the tables are outside. With all those people there it's a lot of chatter and babble. Two years ago Betty would never go to the bingo: "I cannot hear a thing when everyone babbles and clatters with the coffee cups. How can I hear the winning numbers?!". Now that she has her new digital hearing instruments, even in the bingo cacophony, she can understand everyone she looks at. Her social life has improved a lot and she even won the bingo a few times.

That same night, together with her friend Janet, she attends Mozart's opera The Magic Flute. Two years earlier this would have been one big low rumbly mess, but now she even hears the sparkling high piccolos. Her other friend Carol never joins their visits to the theaters. Carol also has hearing aids, however hers only "work well" in normal conversations. "When I hear music it's as if a butcher's knife cuts through my head. It's way too sharp!". So Carol prefers to take her hearing aids out, missing most of the fun. Betty is so happy that her hearing instruments simply know where they are and adapt to their environment.

source: Roland Mathijssen
Embedded Systems Institute
Eindhoven

Value and Challenges in this story

Customer objectives

Application

Value proposition in this story:

quality of life:

active participation in different social settings

usability for nontechnical elderly people:

"intelligent" system is simple to use

loading of batteries

Conceptual

Realization

Challenges in this story:

Intelligent hearing instrument

Battery life — at least 1 week

No buttons or other fancy user interface on the hearing instrument, other than a robust On/Off method

The user does not want a technical device but a solution for a problem

Instrument can be adapted to the hearing loss of the user

Directional sensitivity (to prevent the so-called cocktail party effect)

Recognition of sound environments and automatic adaptation (adaptive filtering)

source: Roland Mathijssen, Embedded Systems Institute, Eindhoven

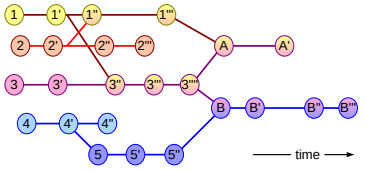
Concept Selection, Set Based Design and Late Decision Making

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway-NISE
e-mail: gaudisite@gmail.com
www.gaudisite.nl

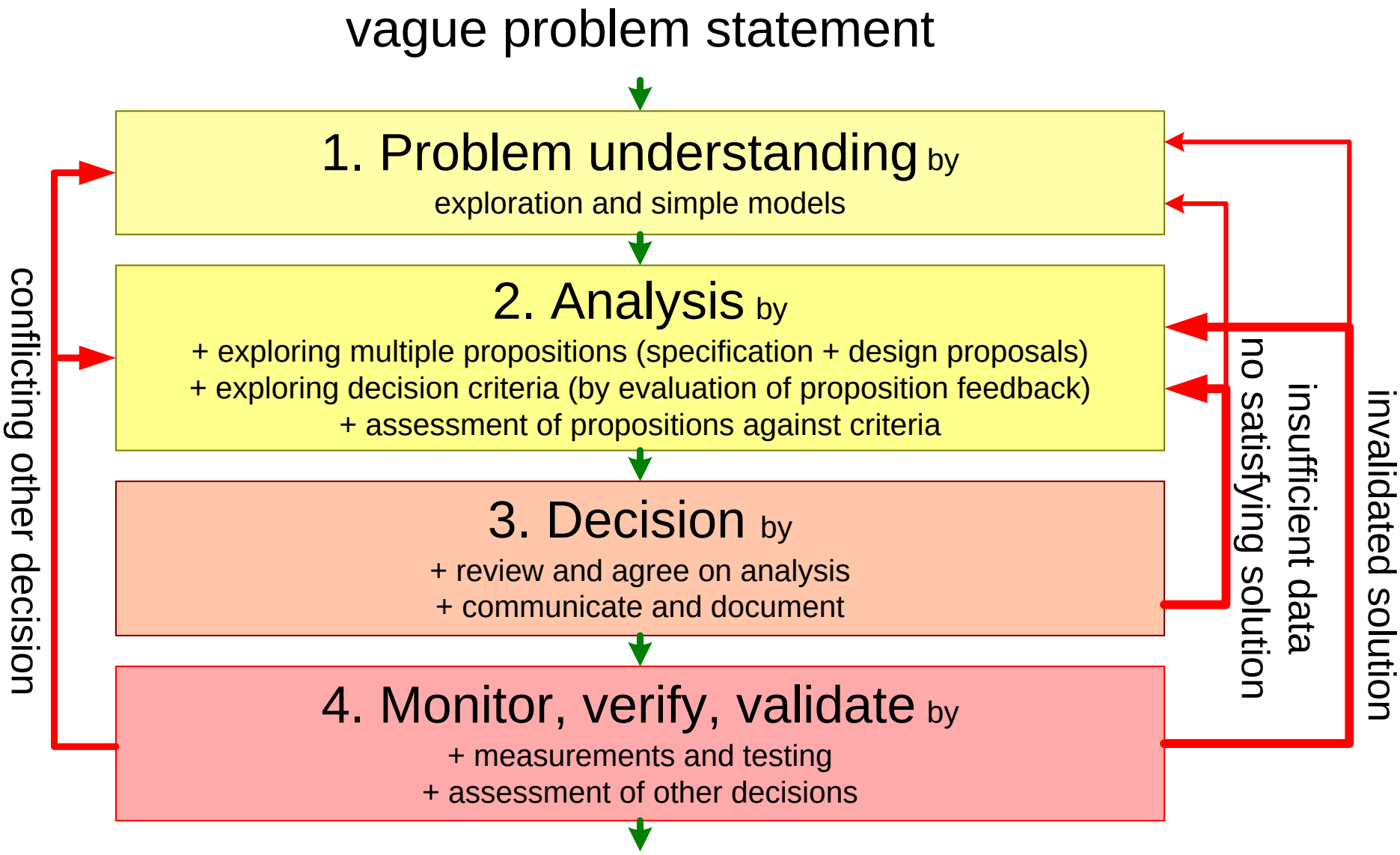
Abstract

We discuss a systems design approach where several design options are maintained concurrently. In LEAN Product Development this is called set-based design. Concentioanl systems engineering also promotes the concurrent evaluation of multiple concepts, the so-called concept selection. Finally, LEAN product development advocates to keep options open as long as feasible; the so-called late decision making.

March 4, 2026
status: planned
version: 0

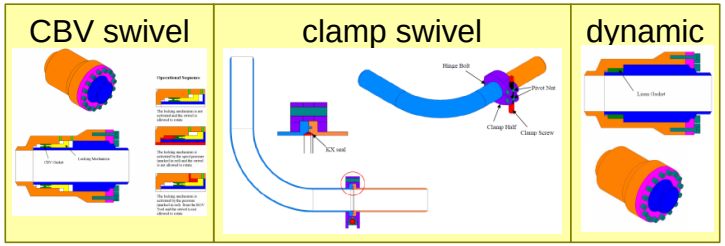


Problem Solving Approach



Examples of Pugh Matrix Application

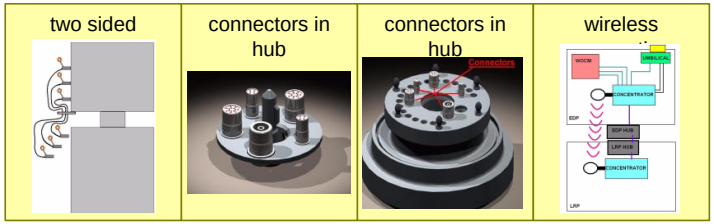
Swivel concept selection



evaluation criteria	weight	CBV		clamp		dynamic	
Maturity	10						
Development level		5	50	2	20	2	50
Cost	20						
Hardware cost		4	80	2	40	5	100
Development cost		5	100	2	40	2	40
Design robustness	25						
Design life							
swivel cycles		5	125	3	75	3	75
pressure cycles		5	125	4	100	5	125
Pressure range		4	100	4	100	4	100
internal		2	50	5	125	2	50
external		4	100	4	100	4	100
Temperature range							
Installation	20						
Initial installatio/retrieval		2	40	3	60	4	80
Connection/disconnection		2	40	4	80	5	100
Operation	25						
Swivel resistance		1	25	4	100	5	125
Spool Length Short		1	25	4	100	5	125
Spool Length Long		3	75	5	125	5	125
Hub loads		2	50	4	100	5	125
Σ points			985		1165		1290

from master paper Halvard Bjørnsen, 2009

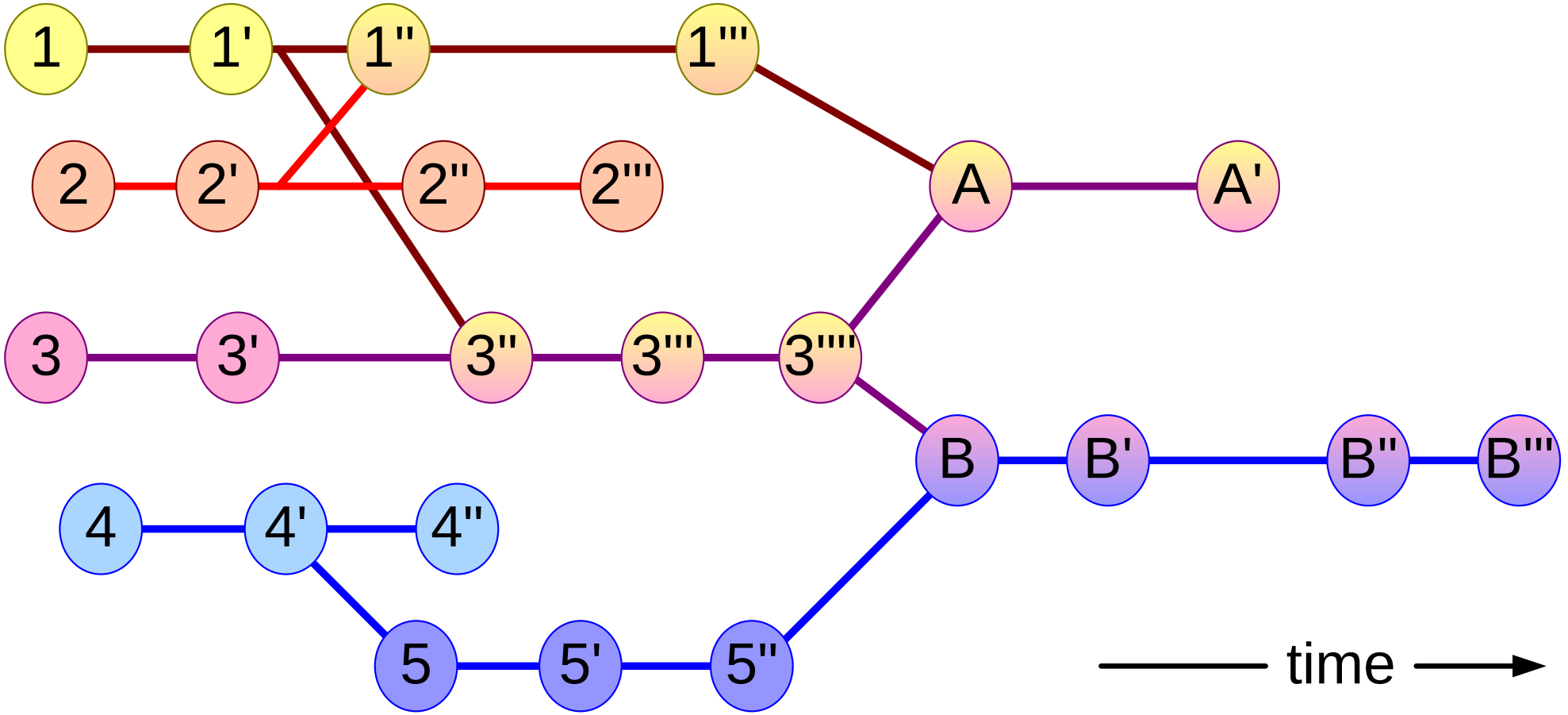
EDP-LRP connection



Evaluation Criteria	Score	Concepts 1	2	3	4
Time to connect					
Need for ROV		-	+	+	+
Design		-	+	+	+
Robustness					
Connector design		-	S	S	+
Number of parts		-	-	+	+
Handle roll-off		+	-	S	+
Influence other		+	S	-	S
Redundancy					
Design		+	-	-	S
Interchangeability		+	-	-	-
Cost					
HW cost		-	-	-	-
Manufacturing cost		S	S	-	S
Engineering cost		+	-	S	-
Service cost		-	+	+	+
Maturity		-	-	S	+
Σ-		**7**	**7**	**5**	**3**
ΣS		**1**	**3**	**4**	**3**
Σ+		**5**	**3**	**4**	**7**
Pos.		3	4	2	1

from master paper Dag Jostein Klever, 2009

Evolution of Design Options



Conclusions

Evolving multiple concepts increases insight and understanding (LEAN product development: set-based design, SE: Pugh matrix)

Articulation of criteria sharpens evaluation

The discussion about the Pugh matrix is more valuable than final bottomline summation

Delaying decisions may help to keep options (Lean Product Development: late decision making, finance: real options)

Qualities as Integrating Needles

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway-NISE
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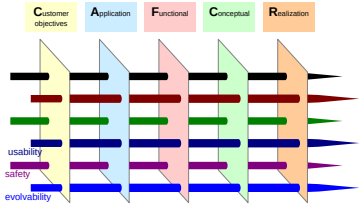
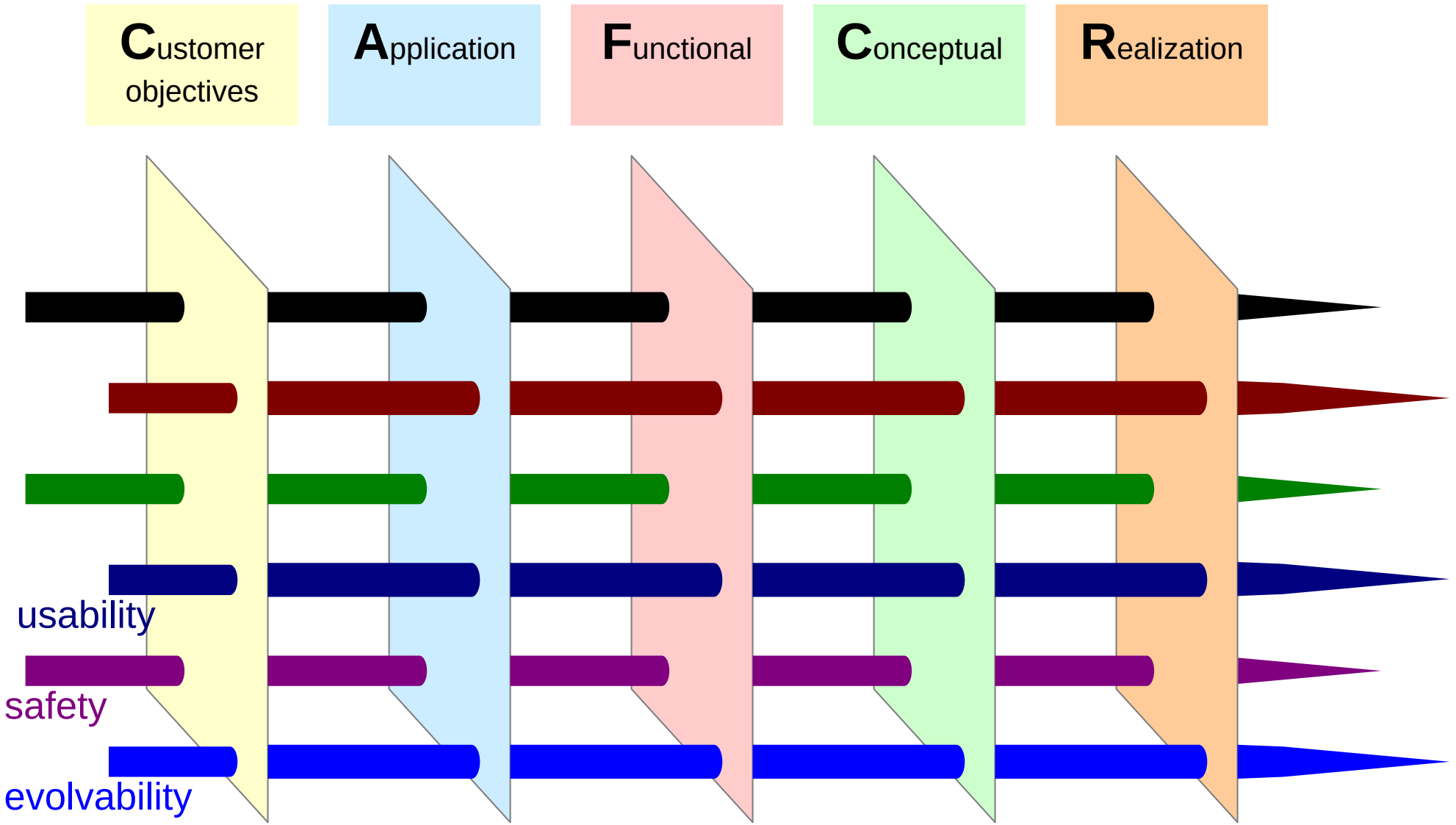
Abstract

Many stakeholder concerns can be specified in terms of qualities. These qualities can be viewed from all 5 “CAFCR” viewpoints. In this way qualities can be used to relate the views to each other.
The meaning of qualities for the different views is described. A checklist of qualities is provided as a means for architecting. All qualities in the checklist are described briefly.

March 4, 2026
status: finished
version: 1.3



Quality needles as generic integrating concepts



Security as example through all views

Customer objectives	**A**pplication	**F**unctional	**C**onceptual	**R**ealization
sensitive information  trusted	selection classification people information authentication badges passwords locks / walls guards administrators	functions for administration authentication intrusion detection logging quantification	cryptography firewall security zones authentication registry logging	*specific* algorithms interfaces libraries servers storage protocols
	desired characteristics, specifications & mechanisms			
 not trusted	social contacts open passwords blackmail burglary fraud unworkable procedures	missing functionality wrong quantification	holes between concepts	bugs buffer overflow non encrypted storage poor exception handling
			threats	

Quality Checklist

usable
- usability
- attractiveness
- responsiveness
- image quality
- wearability
- storability
- transportability

dependable
- safety
- security
- reliability
- robustness
- integrity
- availability

effective
- throughput or productivity

interoperable
- connectivity
- 3rd party extendible

liable
- liability
- testability
- traceability
- standards compliance

efficient
- resource utilization
- cost of ownership

consistent
- reproducibility
- predictability

serviceable
- serviceability
- configurability
- installability

future proof
- evolvability
- portability
- upgradeability
- extendibility
- maintainability

logistics friendly
- manufacturability
- logistics flexibility
- lead time

ecological
- ecological footprint
- contamination
- noise
- disposability

down to earth attributes
- cost price
- power consumption
- consumption rate (water, air, chemicals, et cetera)
- size, weight
- accuracy

System Partitioning Fundamentals

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Abstract

The fundamental concepts and approach system partitioning are explained. We look at physical decomposition and functional decomposition in relation to supply chain, lifecycle support, project management, and system specification and design.

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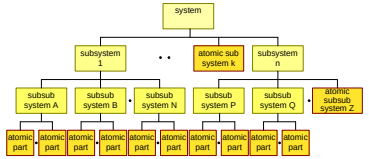
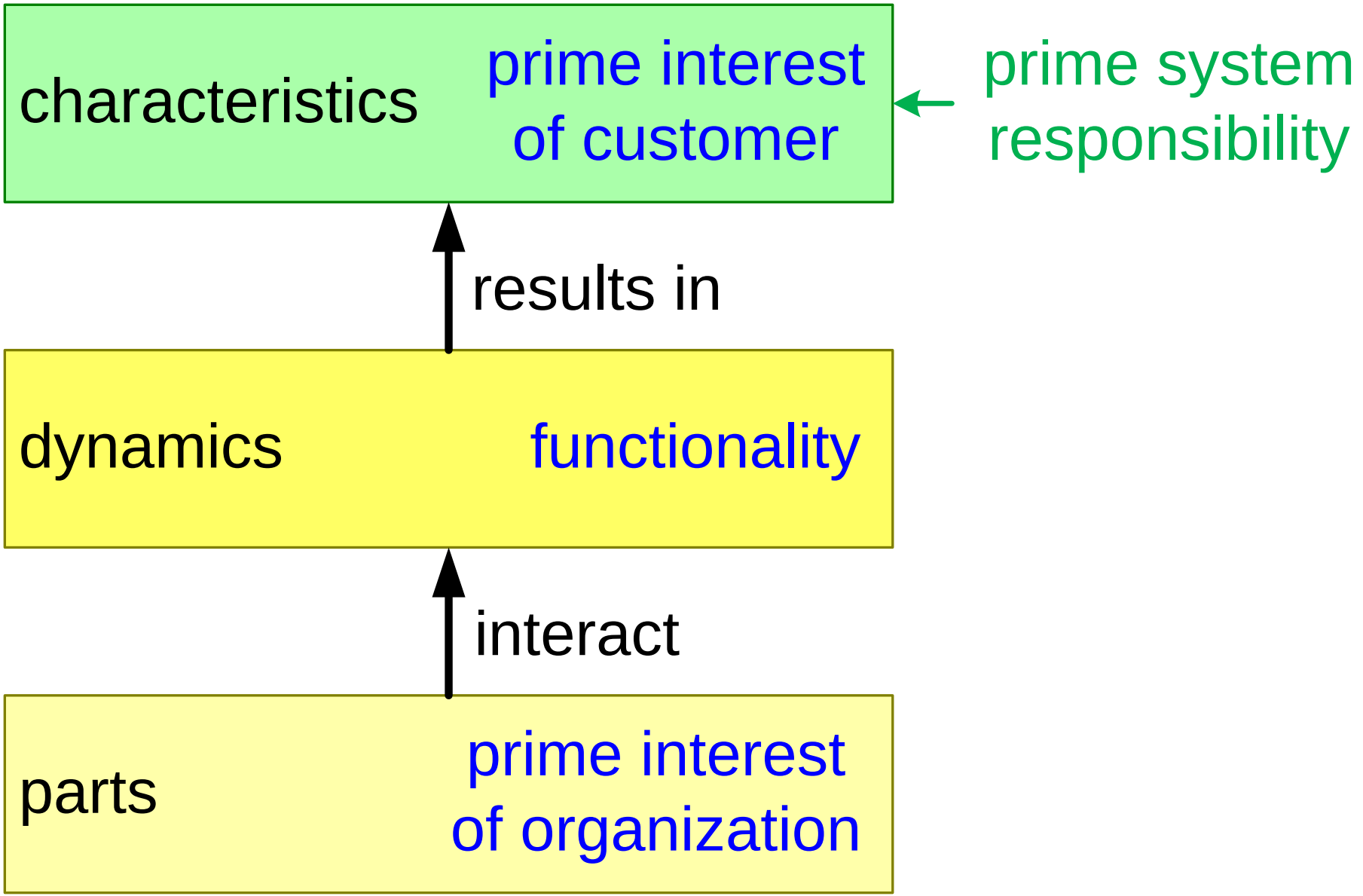
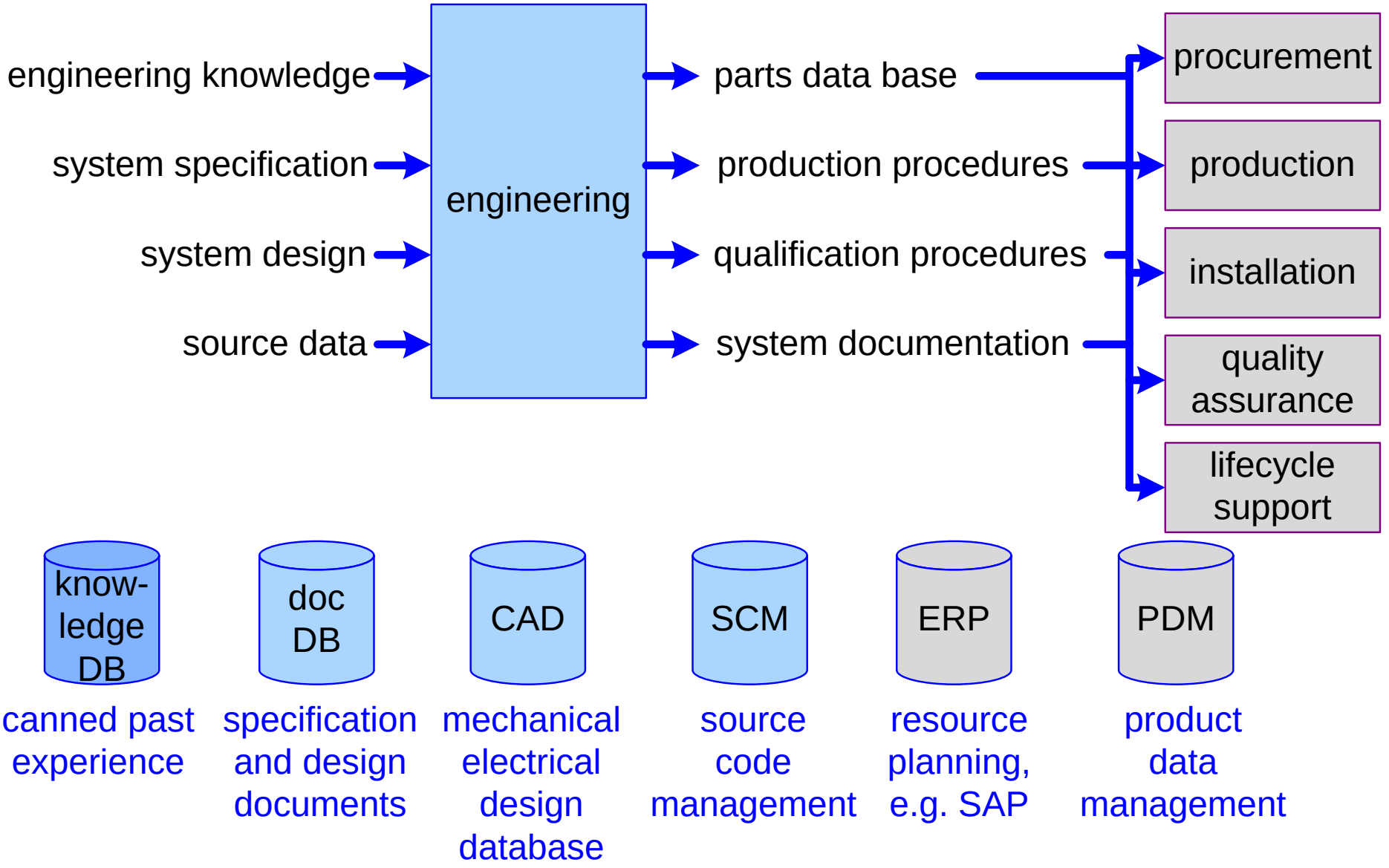
version: 0.2



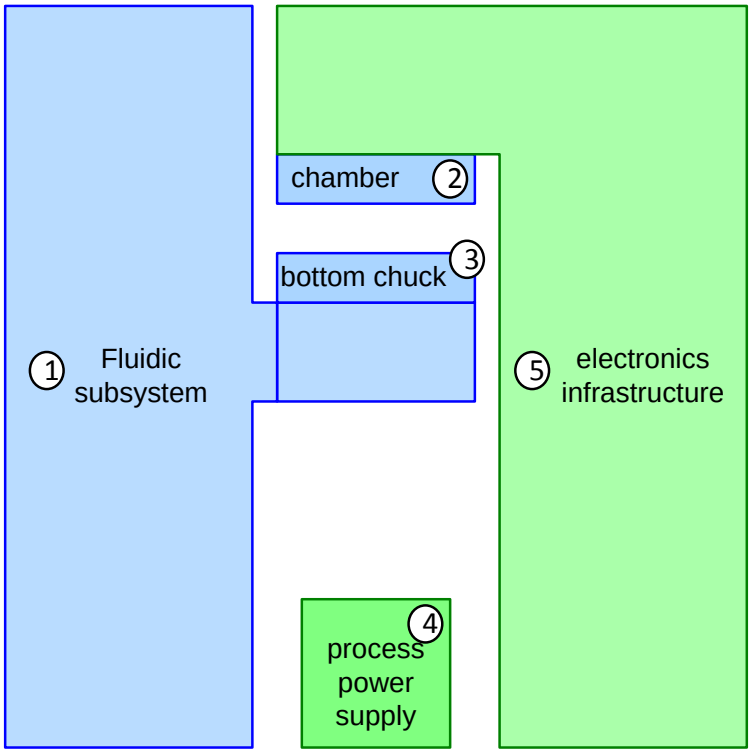
Parts, Dynamics, Characteristics



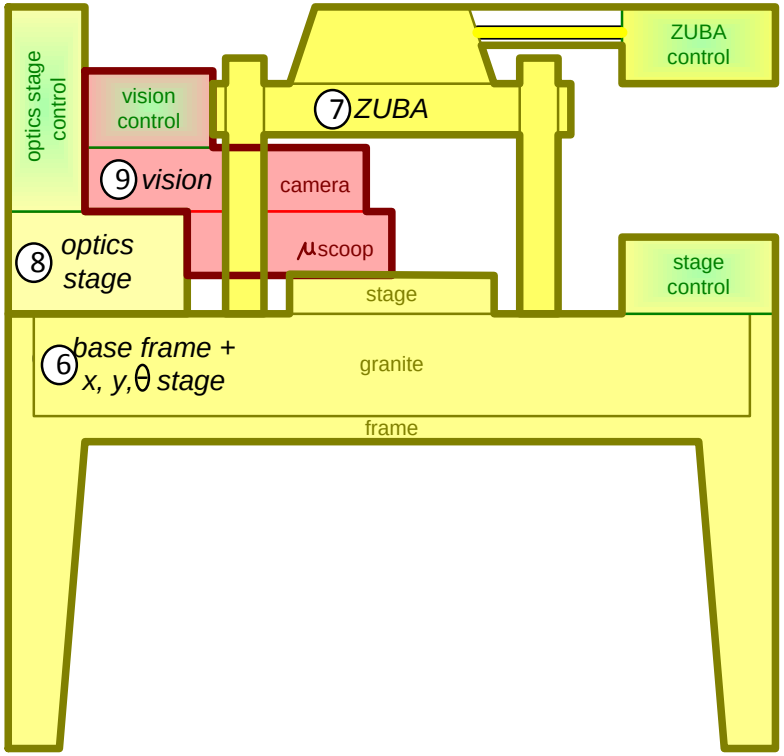
Engineering



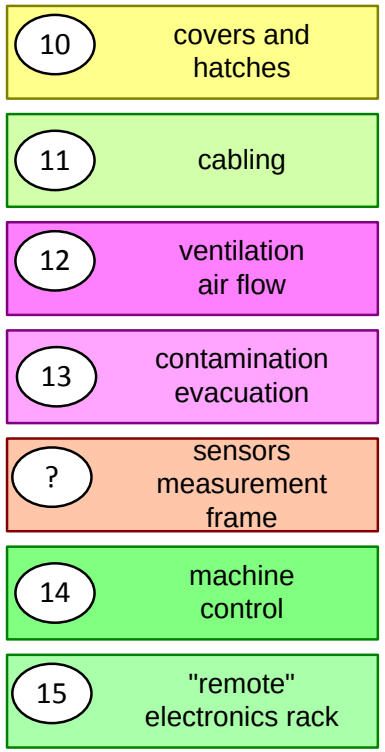
Example Physical Decomposition



back side view

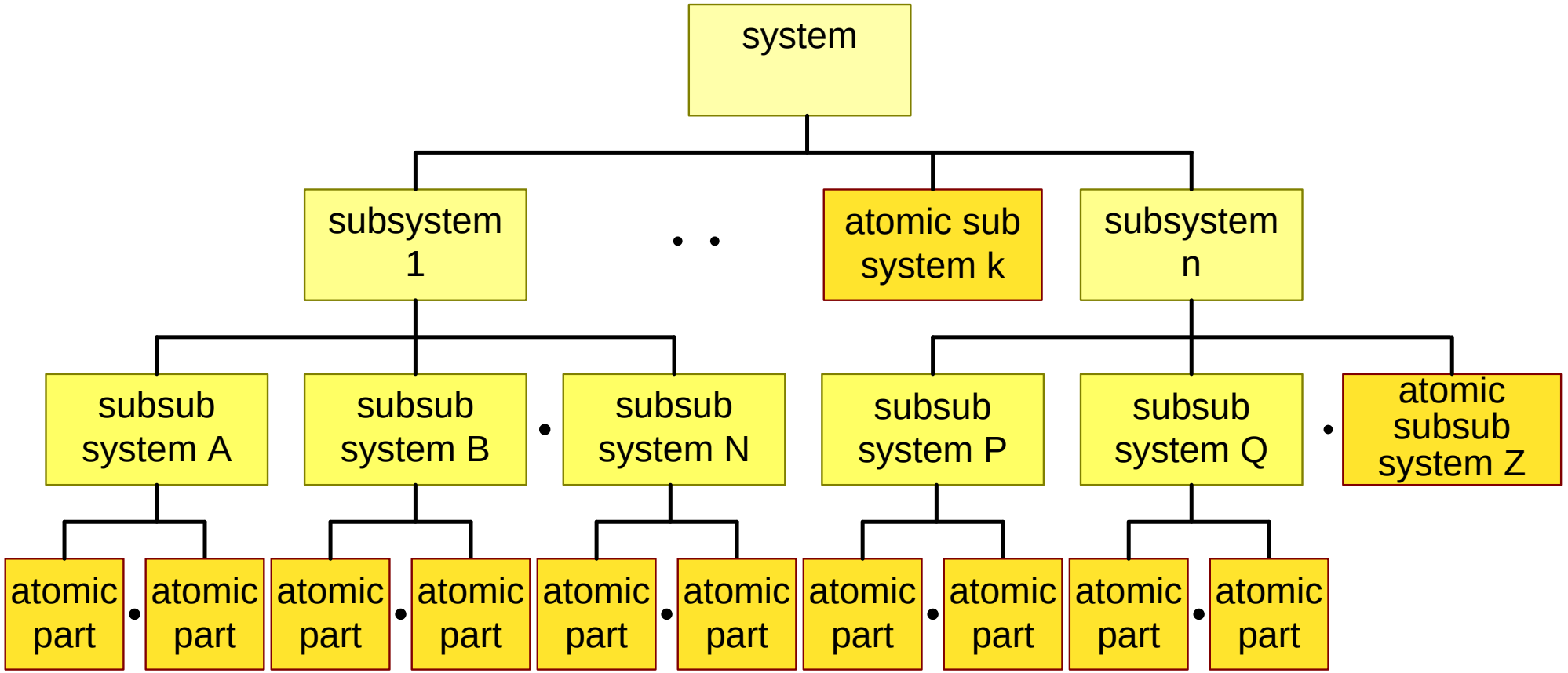


front side view

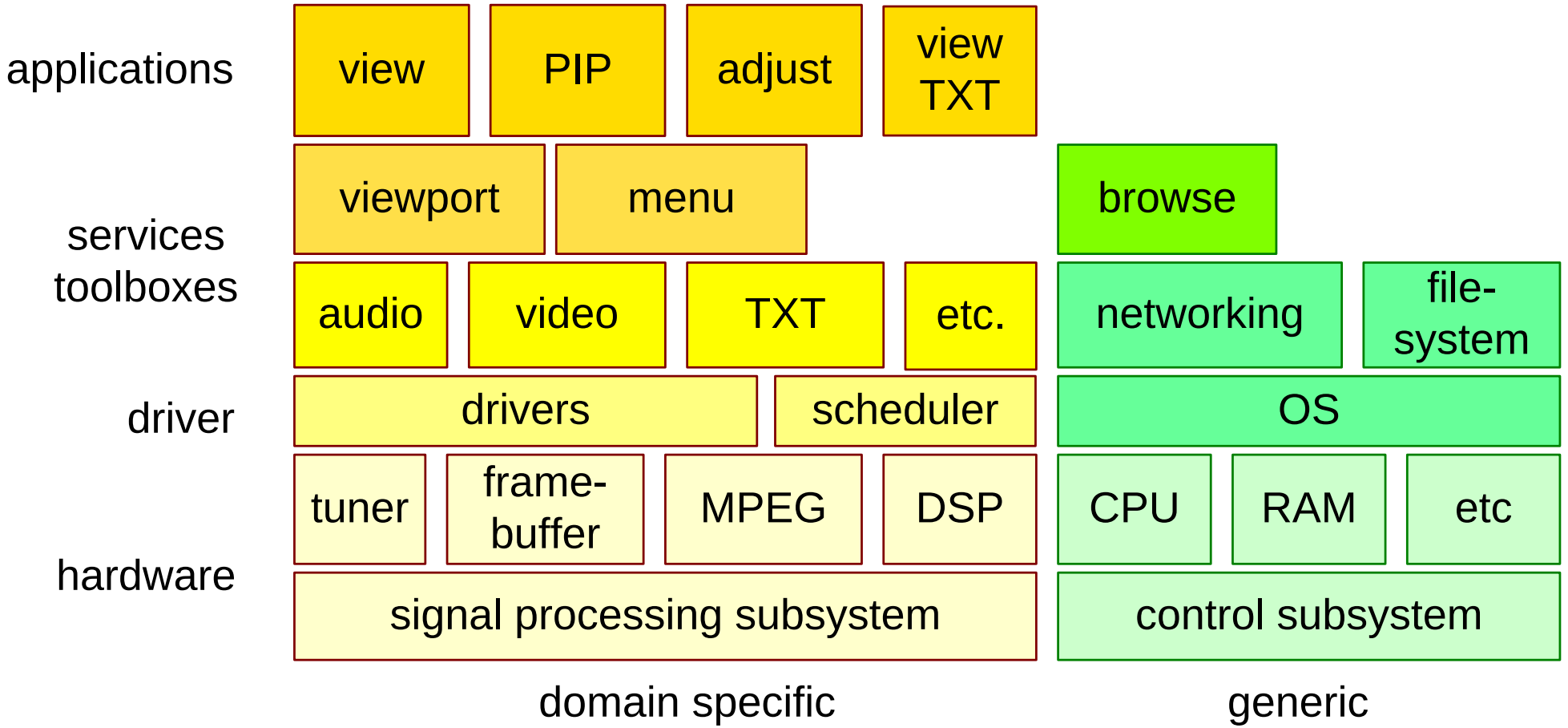


integrating

Partitioning is Applied Recursively



Software plus Hardware Decomposition



Guidelines for Partitioning

the part is cohesive

functionality and technology belongs together

the coupling with other parts is minimal

minimize interfaces

the part is selfsustained for production and qualification

can be in conflict with cost or space requirements

clear ownership of part

e.g. one department or supplier

How much self-sustained?

control SW	application SW	HMI SW	control electronics	control interface
cooling	EMC shielding	main function	qualification support	adjustment support
power stabilization	power conversion	power distribution	production support	mechanical package

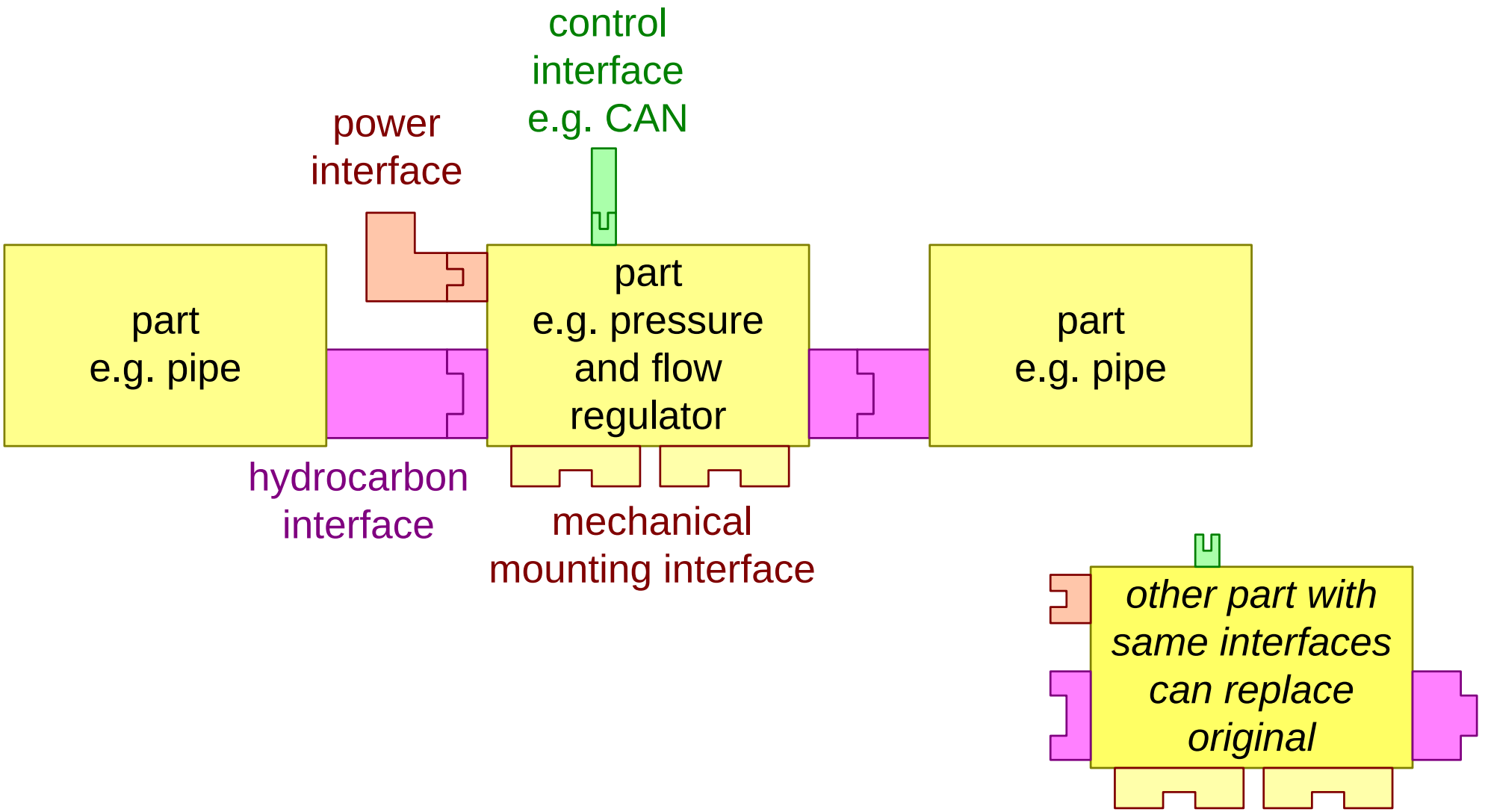
How self sustained should a part be?

trade-off:

cost/speed/space optimization

logistics/lifecycle/production flexibility clarity

Decoupling via Interfaces



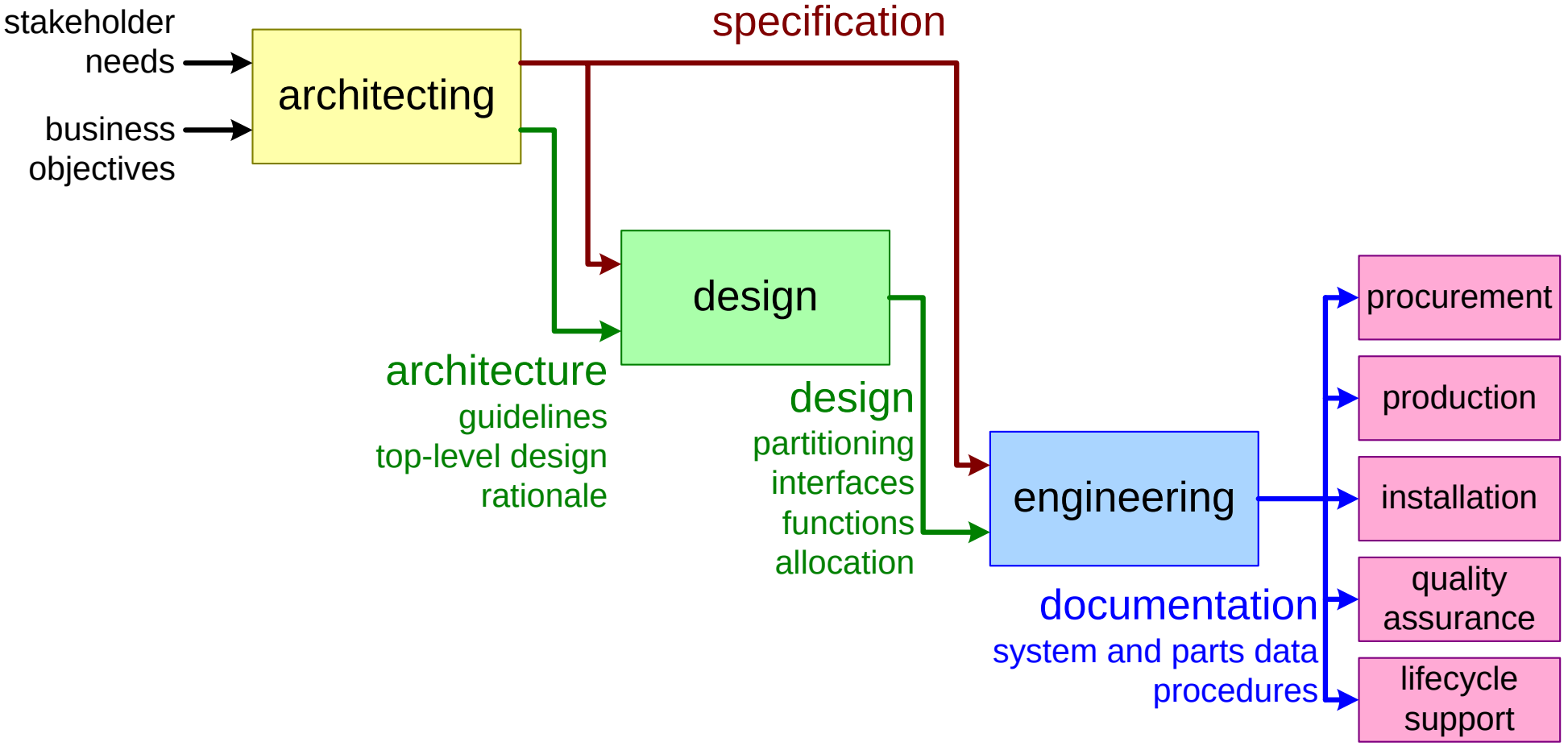
The Ideal Modularity

System is composed

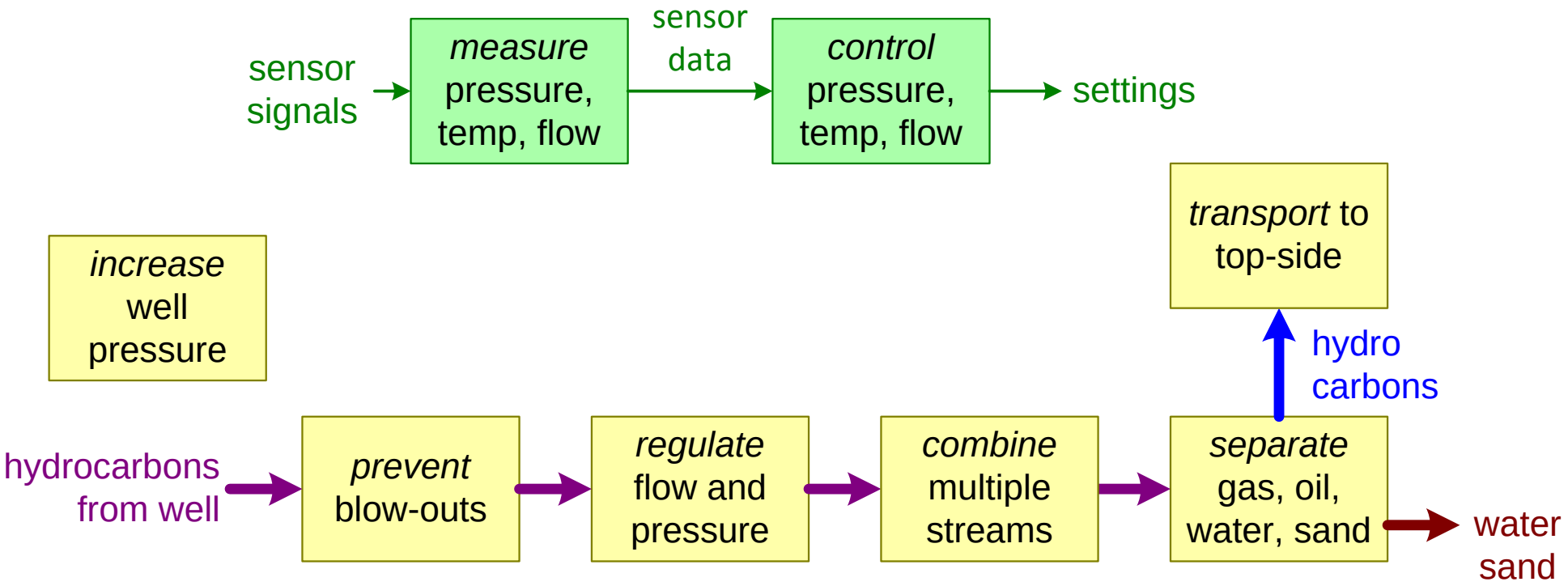
by using standard interfaces

limited catalogue of variants (e.g. cost performance points)

System Creation



Simplistic Functional SubSea Example



Functional Decomposition

How does the system work and operate?

Functions describe *what* rather than *how.*

Functions are *verbs*.

Input-Process-Output paradigm.

Multiple kinds of flows:

- physical (e.g. hydrocarbons)
- information (e.g. measurements)
- control

At lower level one part ~= one function

- pump pumps, compressor compresses, controller controls

At higher level functions are complex interplay of physical parts

- e.g. regulating constant flow, pressure and temperature

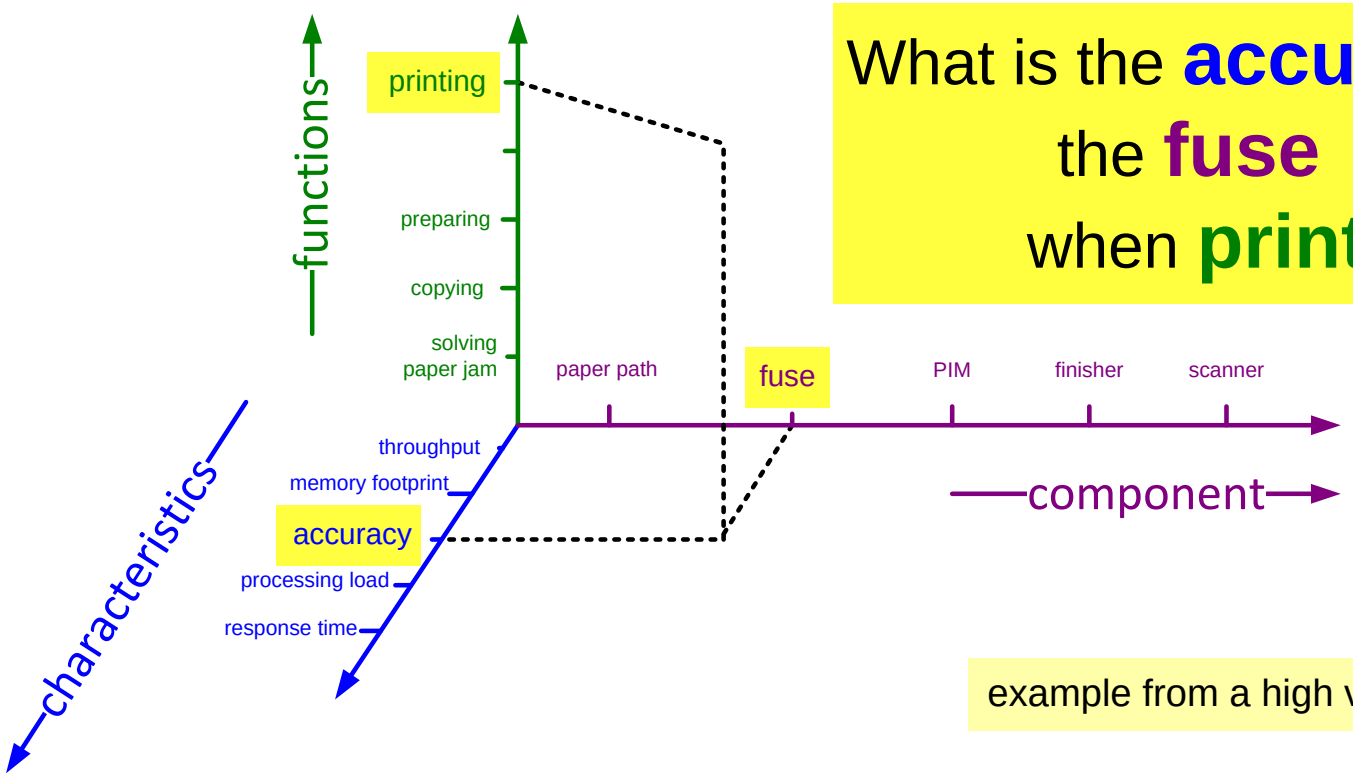
Quantification

Size	2.4m * 0.7m * 1.3m
Weight	1450 Kg
Cost	30000 NoK
Reliability	MTBF 4000 hr
Throughput	3000 l/hr
Response time	0.1 s
Accuracy	+/- 0.1%

many characteristics of a system, function or part can be quantified

*Note that quantities have a **unit***

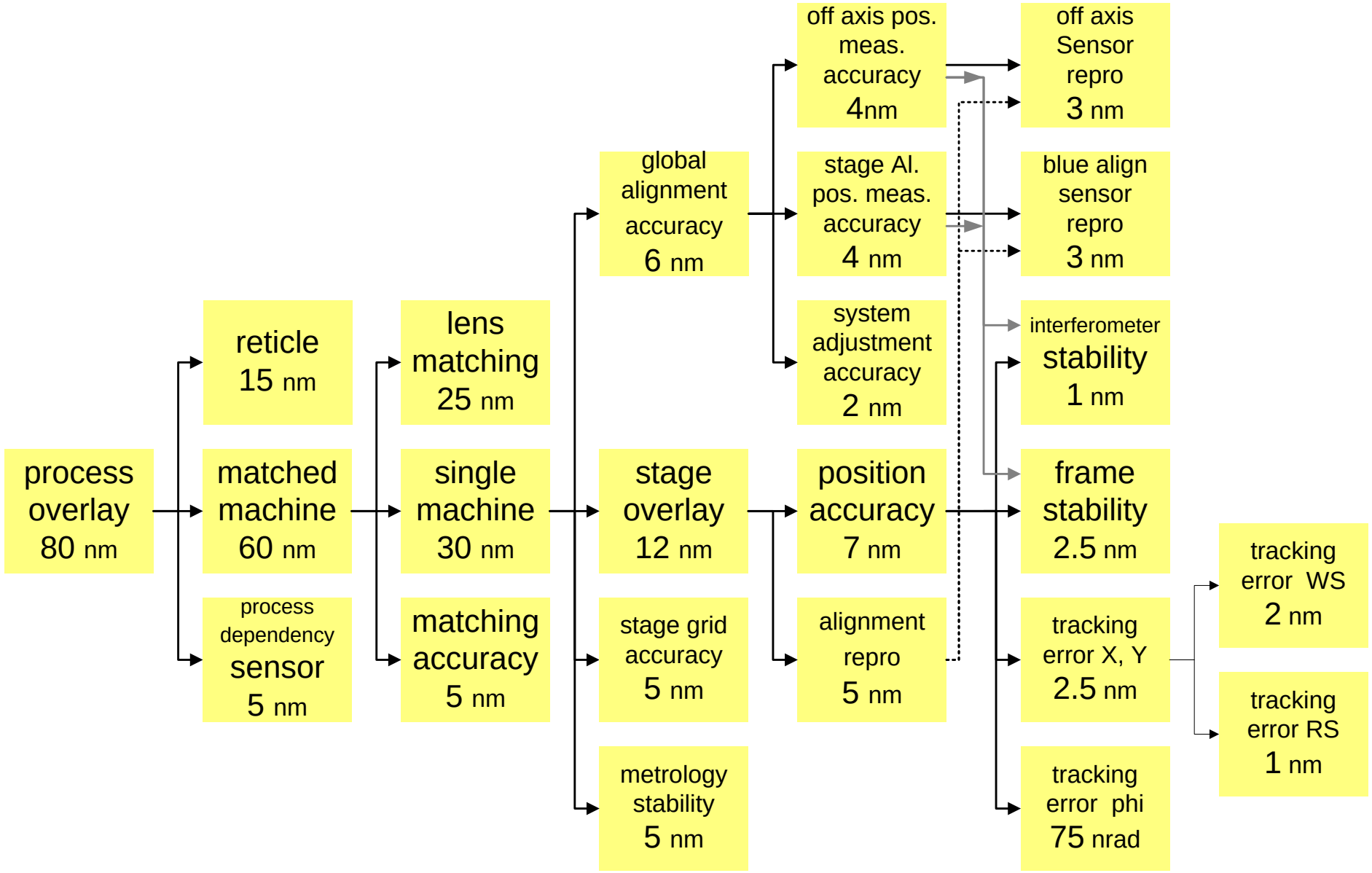
How about the **<characteristic>**
of the **<component>**
when performing **<function>**?



What is the **accuracy** of the **fuse** when **printing**

example from a high volume printer

Example Technical Budget



Example of A3 overview