System Engineering (at ESO)

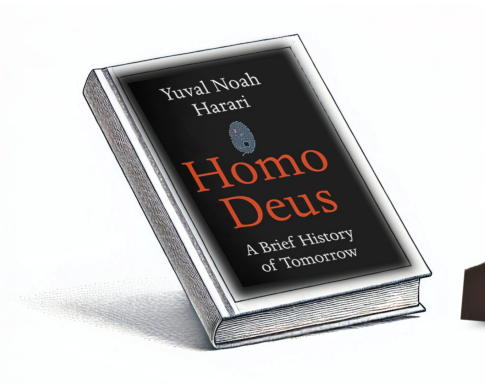
Christian Schmid[1]

[1]European Southern Observatory
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, 85748 Garching, Germany

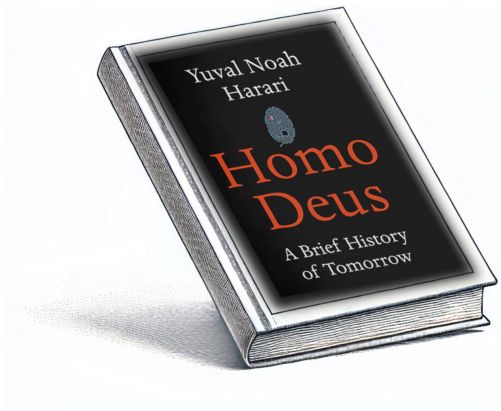
EIROforum 2025, Systems Engineering Workshop, EUXFEL Hamburg

System Engineering in General

Overcoming the Limit



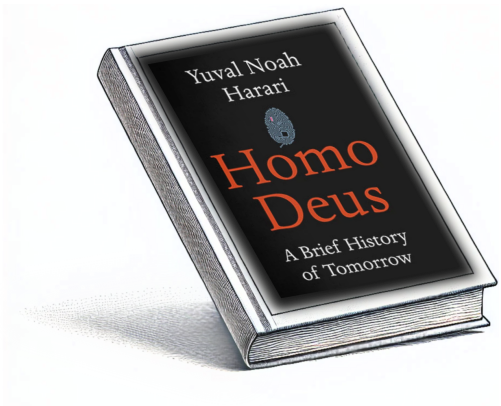
Overcoming the Limit



Distinguishing feature enabling Homo Sapiens to dominate all other animals?

$\Rightarrow$ Only species capable of co-operating flexibly in large numbers.

Overcoming the Limit

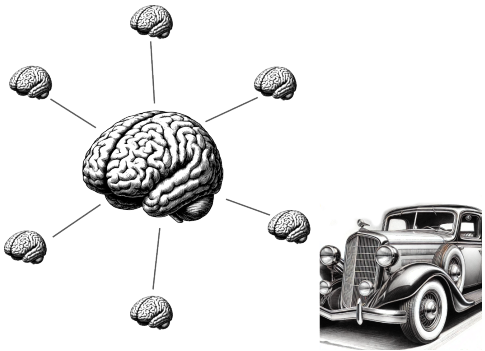


Distinguishing feature enabling Homo Sapiens to dominate all other animals?

$\Rightarrow$ Only species capable of co-operating flexibly in large numbers.

Overcoming Complexity

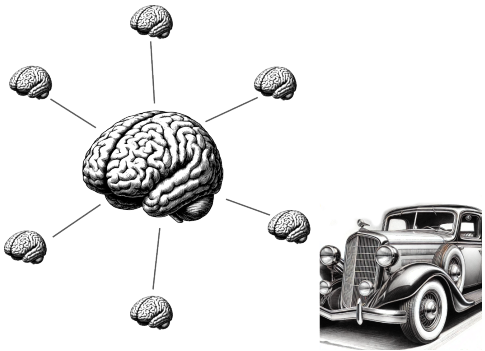
Chief Engineer / ”Craftsman” Approach



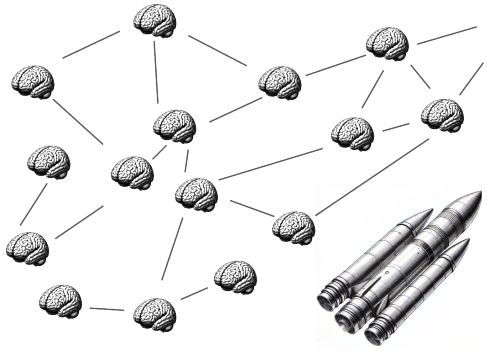
System Engineering Approach

Overcoming Complexity

Chief Engineer / ”Craftsman” Approach



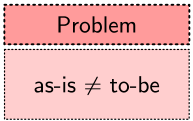
System Engineering Approach



Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH

Problem

Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH



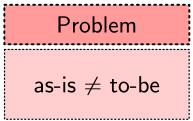
Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH

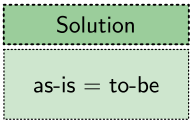
Problem

as-is $\neq$ to-be

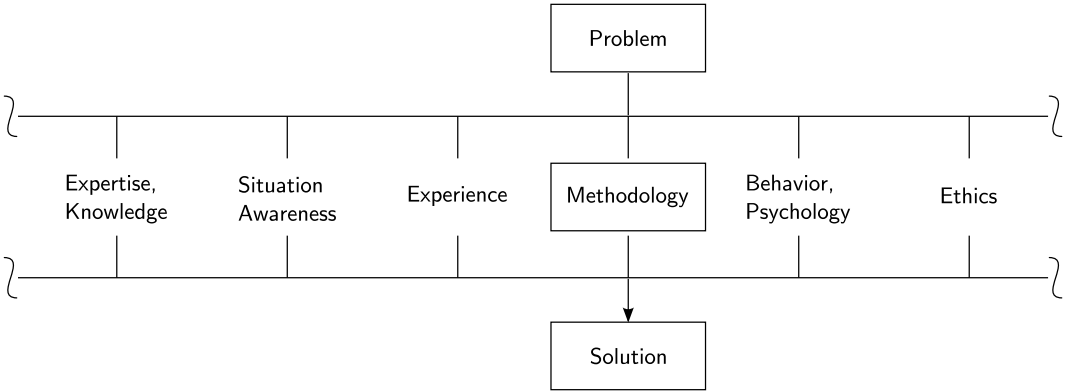
Solution

Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH

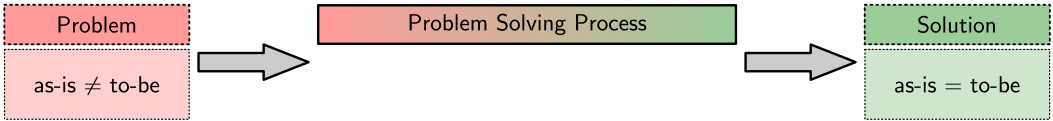




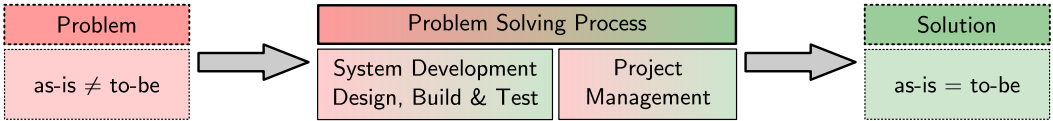
Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH



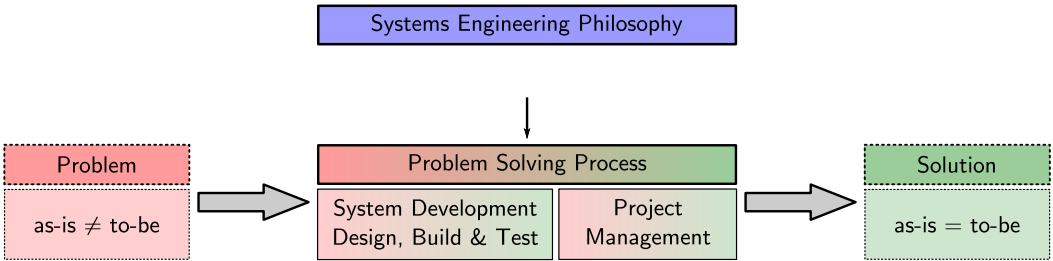
Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH



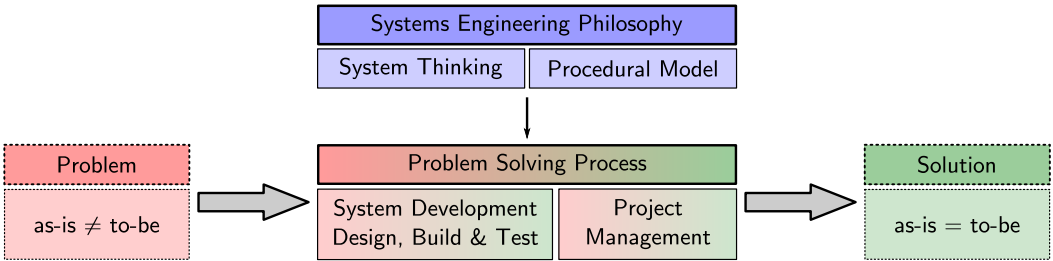
Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH



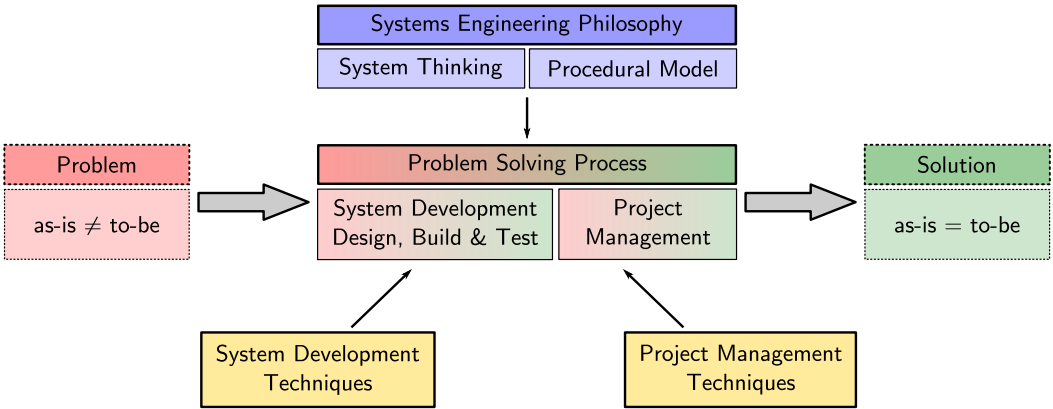
Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH



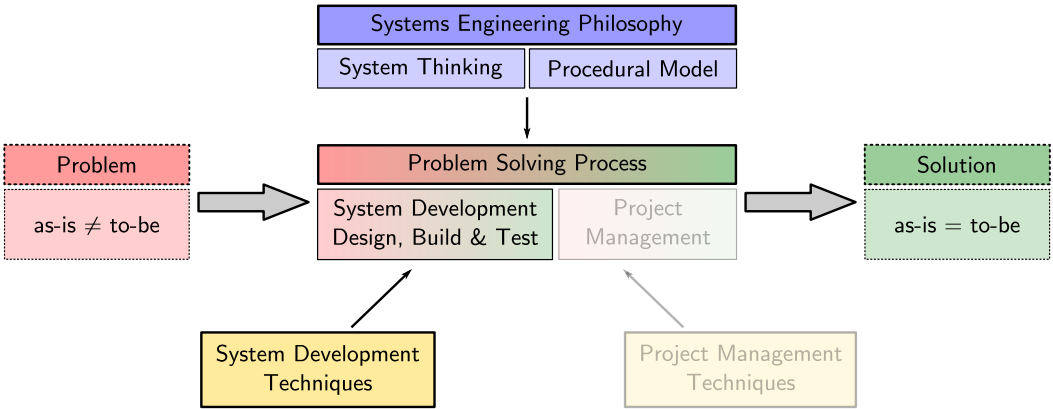
Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH



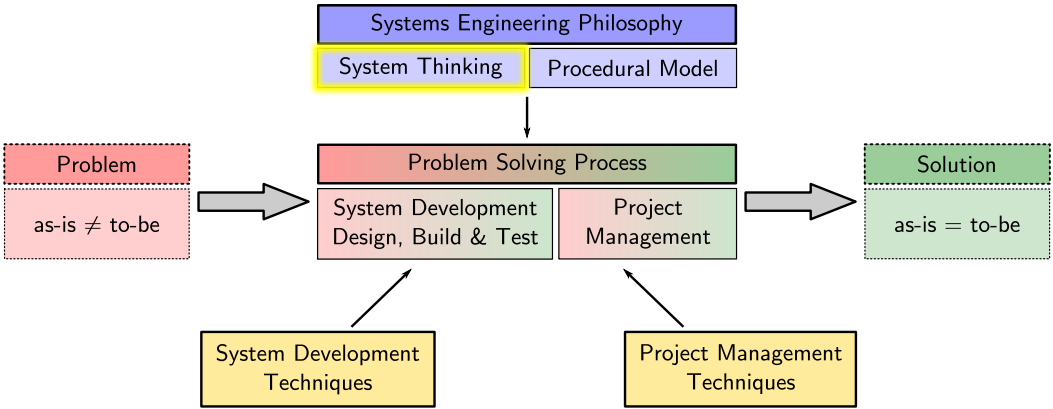
Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH



Systems Engineering Concept Haberfellner/Daenzer ETH



Systems Engineering Philosophy Systems Thinking



Systems Thinking

A holistic approach to decompose a given entity (system) into structural and functional parts according to their mutual interdependencies and environmental interactions.

Function

- What a system does
- Generates behavior
- Source of benefits
- Needs structure/ elements of form

Structure/Form

- What a system is
- Is dis-/assembled
- Source of costs
- Enables the function

$$\text{Value} = \frac{\text{Benefits}}{\text{Costs}}$$

$\Rightarrow$ related to Emergence

Systems Thinking

A holistic approach to decompose a given entity (system) into structural and functional parts according to their mutual interdependencies and environmental interactions.

Function

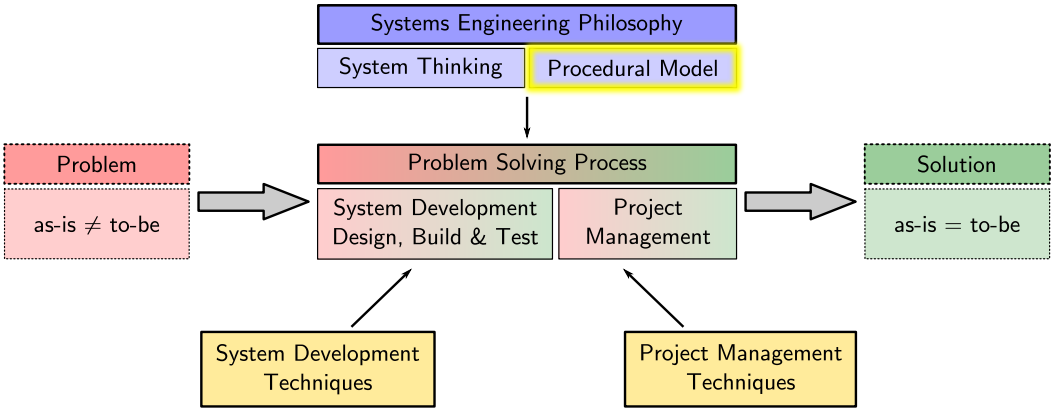
- What a system does
- Generates behavior
- Source of benefits
- Needs structure/ elements of form

Structure/Form

- What a system is
- Is dis-/assembled
- Source of costs
- Enables the function

$$\text{Value} = \frac{\text{Benefits}}{\text{Costs}}$$

$\Rightarrow$ related to Emergence


Systems Engineering Philosophy
System Thinking
Procedural Model
Problem
as-is ≠ to-be
Problem Solving Process
System Development
Design, Build & Test
Project
Management
Solution
as-is = to-be
System Development
Techniques
Project Management
Techniques

Systems Engineering Philosophy — Procedural Model

⇒ Macro (high-level) logic on how to structure the problem solving process

- Plan-driven Models
  - Waterfall
  - Phase Models (A, B, C, D / CD, PD, FD, Build)
  - Spiral
  - etc.
- Agile Models (not well established in SE, rather SW projects)
  - → **Note:** Agile ⟨ Systems Engineering ⟩ ≠ ⟨ Agile Systems ⟩ Engineering

⇒ Typically adapted and tailored to the specifics of the project.

Systems Engineering Philosophy — Procedural Model

⇒ Macro (high-level) logic on how to structure the problem solving process

- Plan-driven Models
  - Waterfall
  - Phase Models (A, B, C, D / CD, PD, FD, Build)
  - Spiral
  - etc.
- Agile Models (not well established in SE, rather SW projects)
  - → **Note:** Agile ⟨ Systems Engineering ⟩ ≠ ⟨ Agile Systems ⟩ Engineering

⇒ Typically adapted and tailored to the specifics of the project.

⇒ Macro (high-level) logic on how to structure the problem solving process

- Plan-driven Models
  - Waterfall
  - Phase Models (A, B, C, D / CD, PD, FD, Build)
  - Spiral
  - etc.
- Agile Models (not well established in SE, rather SW projects)
  - → **Note:** Agile (Systems Engineering) ≠ (Agile Systems) Engineering

⇒ Typically adapted and tailored to the specifics of the project.

Systems Engineering Philosophy — Procedural Model

⇒ Macro (high-level) logic on how to structure the problem solving process

- Plan-driven Models
  - Waterfall
  - Phase Models (A, B, C, D / CD, PD, FD, Build)
  - Spiral
  - etc.
- Agile Models (not well established in SE, rather SW projects)
  - → **Note:** Agile ⟨ Systems Engineering ⟩ ≠ ⟨ Agile Systems ⟩ Engineering

⇒ Typically adapted and tailored to the specifics of the project.

⇒ Macro (high-level) logic on how to structure the problem solving process

- Plan-driven Models
  - Waterfall
  - Phase Models (A, B, C, D / CD, PD, FD, Build)
  - Spiral
  - etc.
- Agile Models (not well established in SE, rather SW projects)
  - → **Note:** Agile ⟨ Systems Engineering ⟩ ≠ ⟨ Agile Systems ⟩ Engineering

⇒ Typically adapted and tailored to the specifics of the project.

⇒ Macro (high-level) logic on how to structure the problem solving process

- Plan-driven Models
  - Waterfall
  - Phase Models (A, B, C, D / CD, PD, FD, Build)
  - Spiral
  - etc.
- Agile Models (not well established in SE, rather SW projects)
  - → **Note:** Agile ⟨ Systems Engineering ⟩ ≠ ⟨ Agile Systems ⟩ Engineering

⇒ Typically adapted and tailored to the specifics of the project.

⇒ Macro (high-level) logic on how to structure the problem solving process

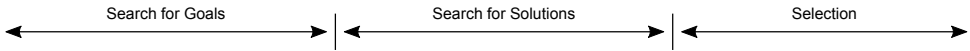
- Plan-driven Models
  - Waterfall
  - Phase Models (A, B, C, D / CD, PD, FD, Build)
  - Spiral
  - etc.
- Agile Models (not well established in SE, rather SW projects)
  - → **Note:** Agile ⟨ Systems Engineering ⟩ ≠ ⟨ Agile Systems ⟩ Engineering

⇒ Typically adapted and tailored to the specifics of the project.

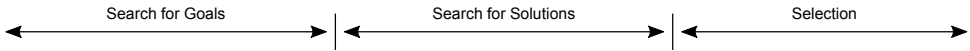
Fundamental Problem Solving Logic

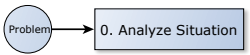
$\Rightarrow$ Micro (low-level) logic repeatedly applied within stages of the Procedural Model

Fundamental Problem Solving Logic

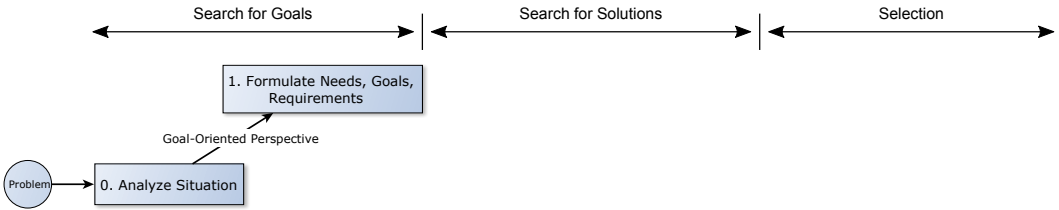


Fundamental Problem Solving Logic

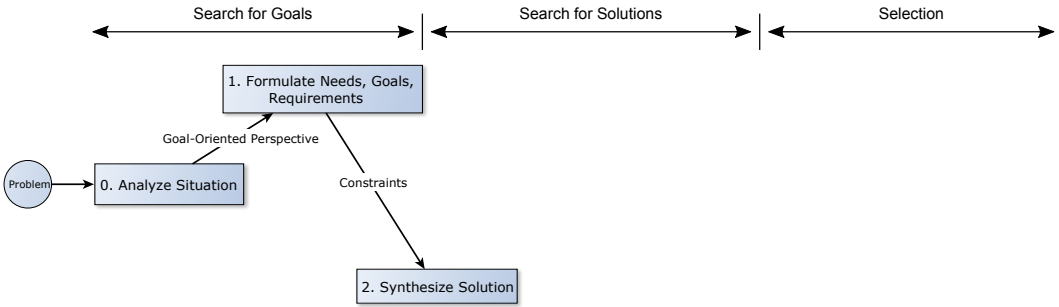




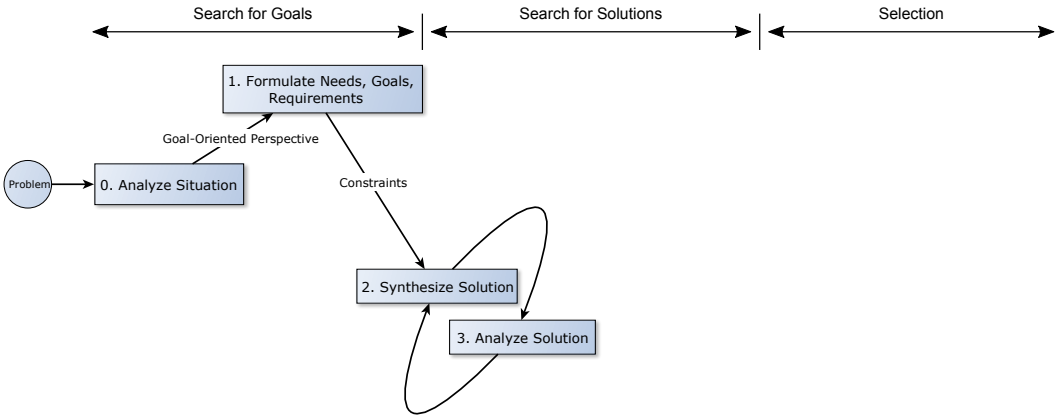
Fundamental Problem Solving Logic



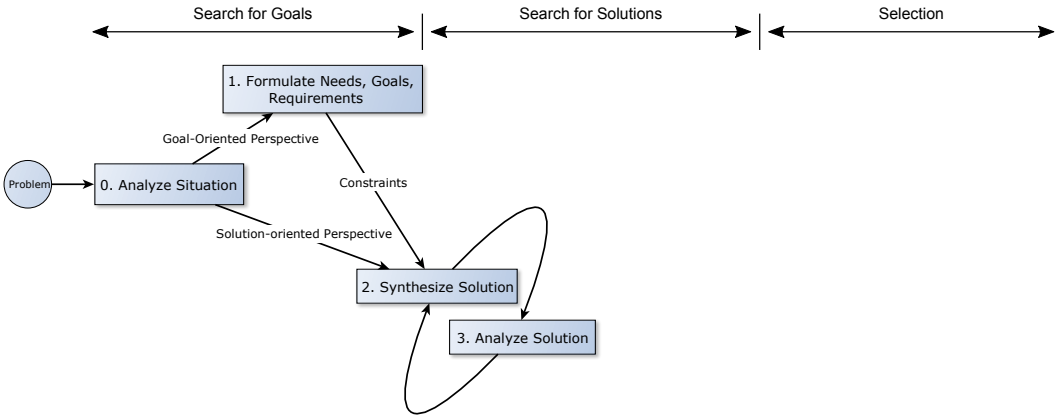
Fundamental Problem Solving Logic



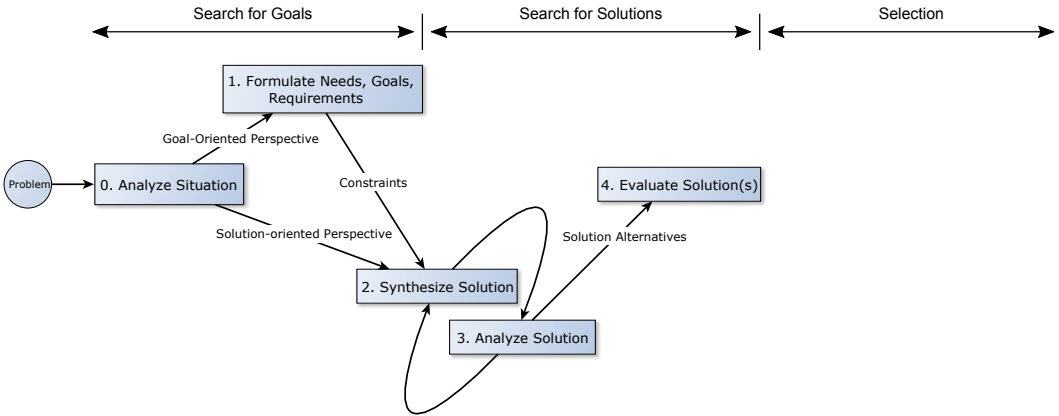
Fundamental Problem Solving Logic



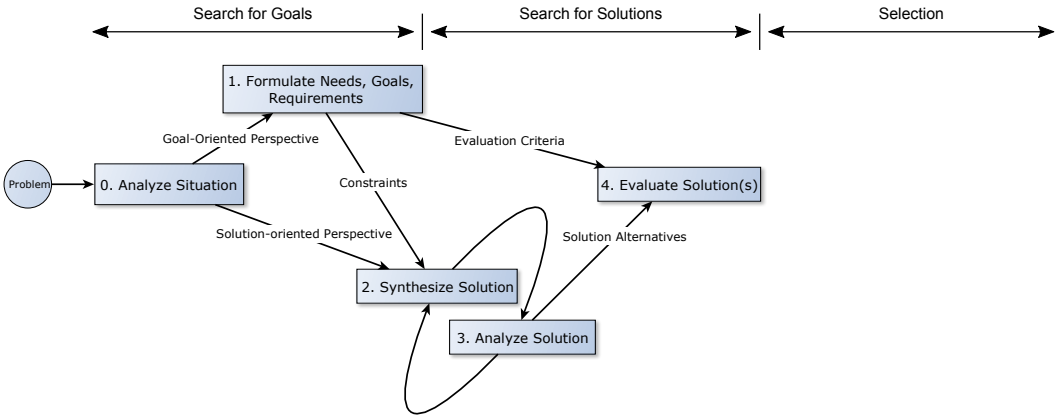
Fundamental Problem Solving Logic



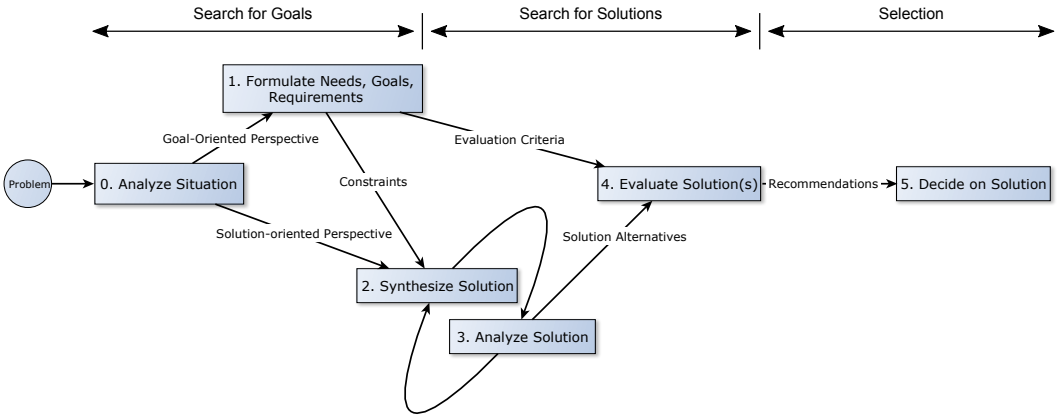
Fundamental Problem Solving Logic



Fundamental Problem Solving Logic

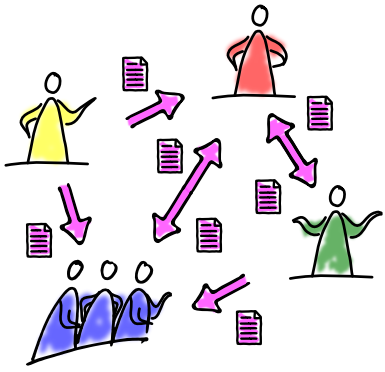


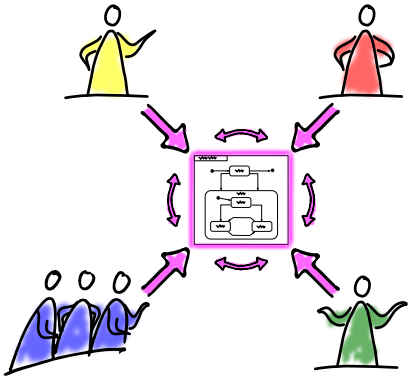
Fundamental Problem Solving Logic



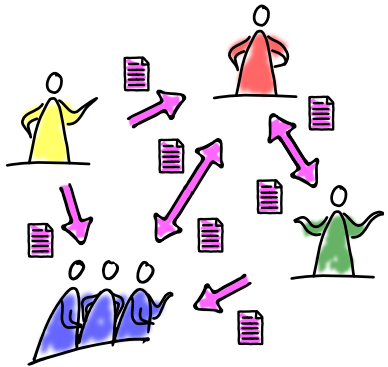
System Engineering at ESO

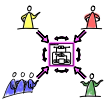
Document-Centric vs Model Based Systems Engineering





Document-Centric at ESO





Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Europe

Pre-Phase A

- First studies of science cases

→ Phase A proposal

Phase A
Feasibility Study

- Consolidate science cases

→ TLR, TRS

→ System Architecture

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture

→ Subsystem TRS

→ Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities

→ Lower level qualification testing and manufacturing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT

→ Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Europe

Pre-Phase A

- First studies of science cases

→ Phase A proposal

Phase A
Feasibility Study

- Consolidate science cases

→ TLR, TRS

→ System Architecture

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture

→ Subsystem TRS

→ Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities

→ Lower level qualification testing and manufacturing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT

→ Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Europe

Pre-Phase A

- First studies of science cases

→ Phase A proposal

Phase A
Feasibility Study

- Consolidate science cases

→ TLR, TRS

→ System Architecture

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture

→ Subsystem TRS

→ Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities

→ Lower level qualification testing and manufacturing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT

→ Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Europe

Pre-Phase A

- First studies of science cases

→ Phase A proposal

Phase A
Feasibility Study

- Consolidate science cases

→ TLR, TRS

→ System Architecture

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture

→ Subsystem TRS

→ Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities

→ Lower level qualification testing and manufacturing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT

→ Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Europe

Pre-Phase A

- First studies of science cases

→ Phase A proposal

Phase A
Feasibility Study

- Consolidate science cases

→ TLR, TRS

→ System Architecture

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture

→ Subsystem TRS

→ Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities

→ Lower level qualification testing and manufacturing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT

→ Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Europe

Pre-Phase A

- First studies of science cases

→ Phase A proposal

Phase A
Feasibility Study

- Consolidate science cases

→ TLR, TRS

→ System Architecture

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture

→ Subsystem TRS

→ Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities

→ Lower level qualification testing and manufacturing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT

→ Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Chile

Phase A
Feasibility Study

- Consolidate science cases

→ TLR, TRS

→ System Architecture

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture

→ Subsystem TRS

→ Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities

→ Qualification, testing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT

→ Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Commissioning

- On-site Assembly, Integration
- On-sky verification

→ Science validation

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Chile

Phase A
Feasibility Study

- Consolidate science cases

→ TLR, TRS

→ System Architecture

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture

→ Subsystem TRS

→ Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities

→ Qualification, testing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT

→ Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Commissioning

- On-site Assembly, Integration
- On-sky verification

→ Science validation

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Chile

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture
- → Subsystem TRS
- → Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities
- → Qualification, testing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT
- → Preliminary Acceptance Europe

Commissioning

- On-site Assembly, Integration
- On-sky verification
- → Science validation

Phase E
Operation

- → Provisional acceptance Chile

Procedural Model

Project Phases at ESO → Chile

Phase B
Concept Design

- Finalize Architecture
- → Subsystem TRS
- → Perf. Budgets

Phase C
Final Design

- Detailed Design
- Verification activities
- → Qualification, testing

Phase D
System Build

- System AIT
- → Preliminary Acceptance Europe

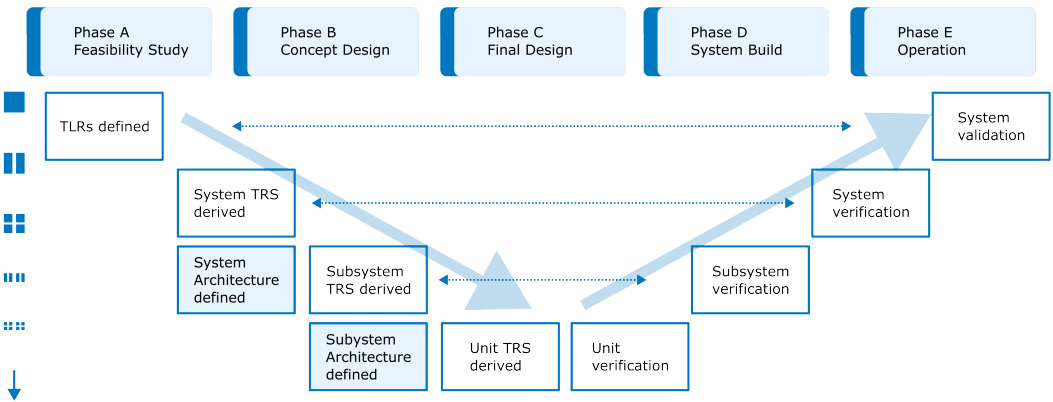
Commissioning

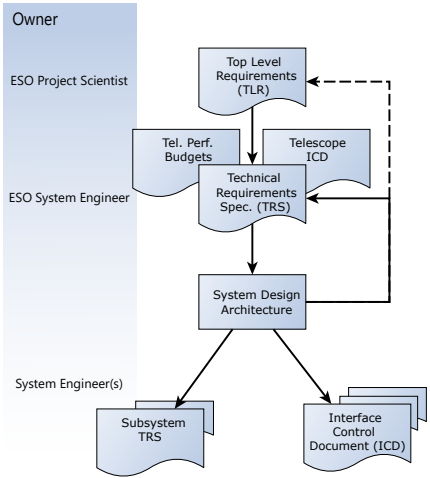
- On-site Assembly, Integration
- On-sky verification
- → Science validation

Phase E
Operation

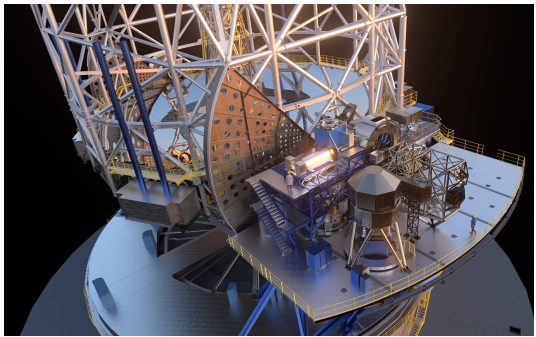
- → Provisional acceptance Chile

V Model

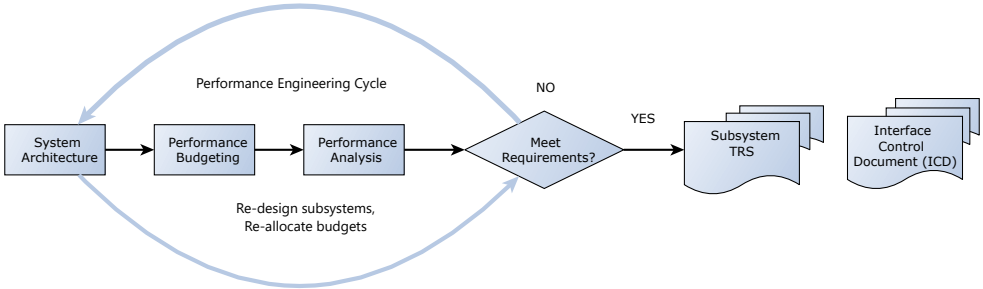

Phase A
Feasibility Study
Phase B
Concept Design
Phase C
Final Design
Phase D
System Build
Phase E
Operation
TLRs defined
System TRS derived
System Architecture defined
Subsystem TRS derived
Subystem Architecture defined
Unit TRS derived
Unit verification
Subsystem verification
System verification
System validation



Involvement ($\rightarrow$ Instruments)



Involvement ($\rightarrow$ Instruments)



Key Processes