Requirements Engineering Across the Life Cycle Continuum

presented by

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(S2EA)

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Presentation Agenda

- Requirements engineering concepts
- Life cycle phases and activities
- The project life cycle continuum
- Life cycles and requirements engineering
  - Highly Predictive Life Cycles (HLPCs)
  - Incremental-Predictive Life Cycles (IPLCs)
  - Iterative-Adaptive Life Cycles (IALCs)
  - Highly Adaptive Life Cycles (HALCs)

Requirements Considerations

- Requirements are statements of needed or desired system capabilities
  - and related assumptions and constraints
- Stakeholders' requirements address:
  - what? why? who? when?, where?
  - how much? how fast? how often?
  - priorities: must, should, could
- Implicit assumptions: unstated requirements

Requirements Considerations (2)

- Technical specifications:
  - capabilities, features, functions, behavior, quality attributes, constraints
  - quantified to the extent possible
  - prioritized according to some criterion or criteria
- Constraints: must dos, must haves
  - policies, rules, regulations, standards, environmental factors
  - schedule, budget, resources, technology
- Constraints result in trade studies and requirements tradeoffs

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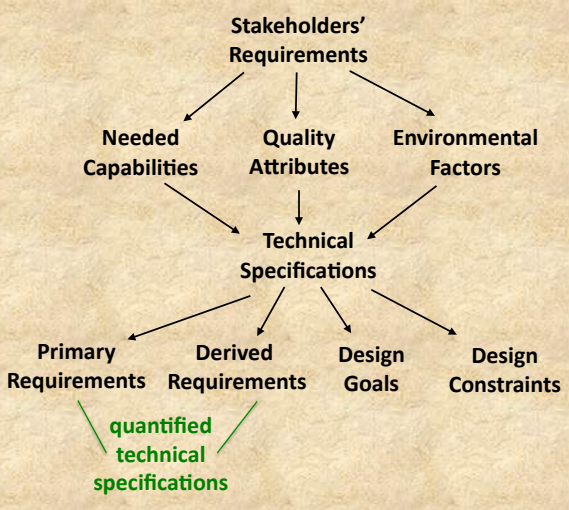
Requirements Hierarchy



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Phases and Activities

- A project phase is a way of naming and grouping related activities
  - PM phases: initiate, plan, execute, monitor and control, close
  - Engineering phases: analyze, design, construct, verify, validate, accept
- Activities are units of work that occur in the phases

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Phases and Activities of RE

- *Requirements Development*
  - *Elicitation:* understanding and documenting user needs and customer expectations
  - *Analysis:* translating user needs and customer expectations into technical specifications
  - *Specification:* recording requirements information in standard notations and formats
- *Requirements Management*
  - *Impact analysis:* analyzing the impact of proposed requirements changes on stakeholders, schedule, budget, resources, technology, and systems environment
  - *Change management:* approving, implementing, and controlling requirements baselines

RE V&V

- *Verification:* determining the extent to which requirements are correct, complete, consistent, and clear
  - wrt to user needs and stakeholder expectations
- *Validation*: determining the extent to which requirements, when implemented, will satisfy the needs of the intended users when used in the intended ways in the intended environments

Requirements V&V should not be confused with system V&V

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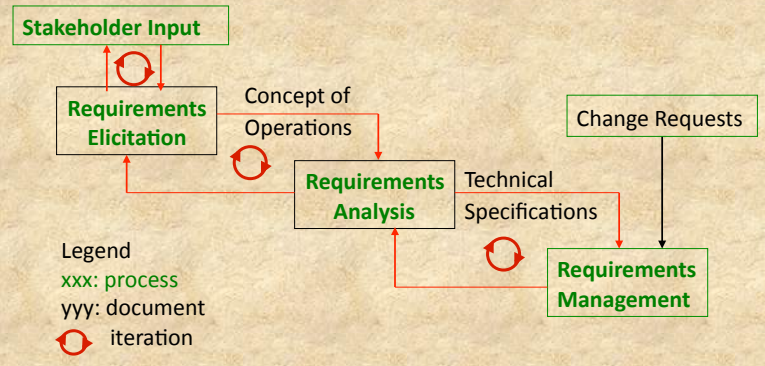
Traditional RE Flow



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Phases and Activities (2)

- Activities are units of work
- Activities from other phases are often executed within a phase
- Activities are sometimes overlapped, iterated, and interleaved in various ways
  - without regard to phases
- Sometimes, the next thing to be done is the activity that will add the most value
  - without regard to phases or prescribed sequences of activities

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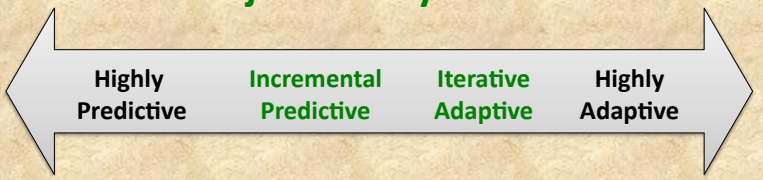
The Project Life Cycle Continuum



- Highly Predictive: linear, one pass phases
- Incremental-Predictive: incremental phases
- Iterative-Adaptive: iterative activities
- Highly Adaptive: highly iterative activities

see the Software Extension to the *PMBOK® Guide Fifth Edition*
http://marketplace.pmi.org/Pages/ProductDetail.aspx?GMProduct=00101457501

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Architectural Patterns and Design Patterns for Software Engineering Life Cycles

- A life cycle architectural pattern provides the overall structure and behavior of a life cycle
  - e.g., Highly Predictive
- Life cycle design patterns can be embedded within a life cycle architectural pattern
  - e.g. an Iterative-Adaptive construction pattern embedded in a Highly Predictive life cycle architecture

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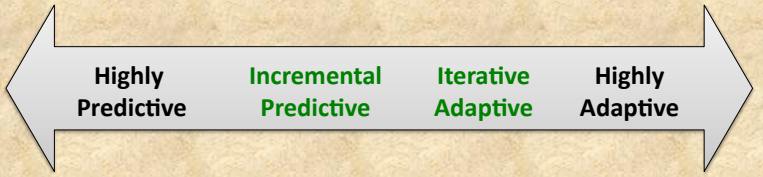
Some Key Factors for Life Cycles



Requirements

stable → volatile

Stakeholder involvement

seldom → frequent

Resource and schedule allocation

preplanned → evolving

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Other Life Cycle Elements

- The life cycle continuum is not a thin straight line
- It is multidimensional to accommodate different ways of doing the various development processes
  - e.g., requirements, design, construction, V&V, CC, CM, QA, QC, etc

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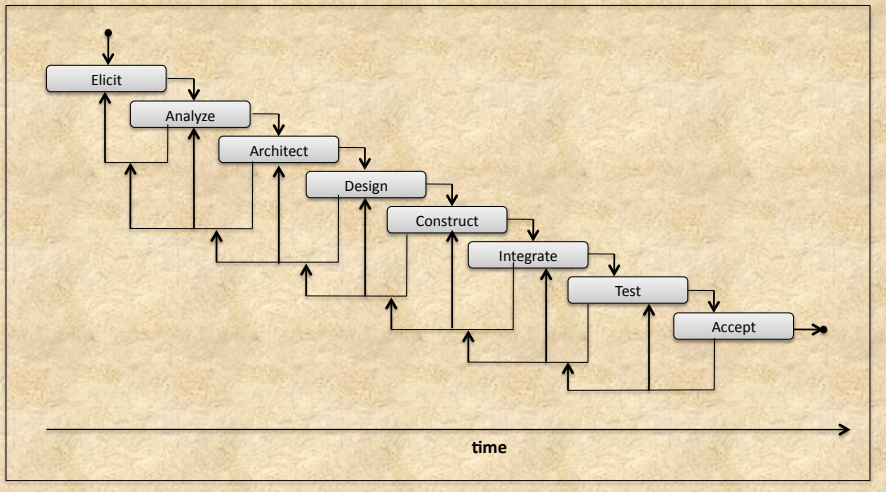
A Highly Predictive Life Cycle (HPLC)



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HPLC Activities

- Extensive requirements development
- Requirements traceability and reviews
- Detailed V&V planning
- Milestone gates
- Requirements management
  - baselines, change requests
  - CCB(s) and change tracking
- Early commitment to cost and schedule estimates
- Schedule and resource allocation preplanned
- Stakeholder interactions infrequent

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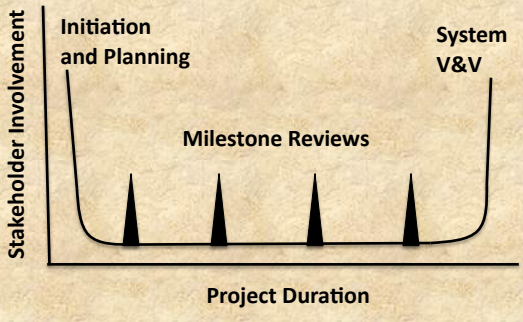
HPLC Stakeholder Involvement



HPLC Success Factors

- Stable, well-defined requirements
- Staged, functional resources
- Familiar system
- Familiar customer
- Short duration

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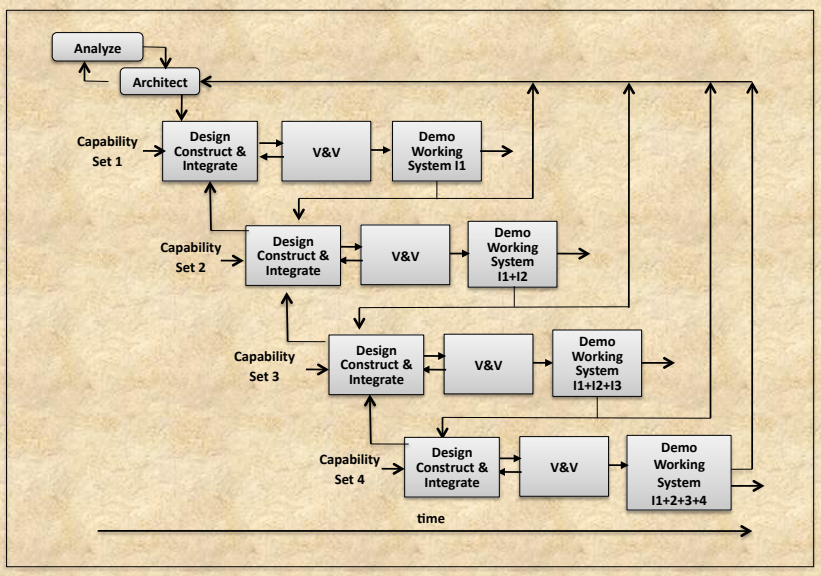
An Incremental-Predictive Life Cycle (IPLC)



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IPLC RE

- Requirements and design are initially developed, to the extent possible
  - requirements are prioritized using well defined prioritization criteria
  - requirements are allocated to capability sets
  - Resources and schedule are initially allocated to incremental phases
    - ✓but may be reallocated later

IPLC RE (2)

- Periodic demonstrations of system increments involve stakeholders
  - and may result in revisions to requirements
  - plus redesign and reallocation of capabilities
  - and resources and schedule may be reallocated
- Early deliveries of subset capabilities are possible

Some IPLC Capability Prioritization Criteria

- allocate the system requirements to increments of growing system subsets some of which are to be periodic delivered
- allocate the system requirements to architectural layers that incrementally result in a succession of layered virtual machines
- establish the architectural skeleton first and incrementally add capabilities
- establish interfaces to external components first
- incrementally incorporate components to be reused

IPLC Capability Prioritization Notes

- some system requirements (e.g., quality attributes, external interfaces, and/or design constraints) may apply across capability sets
  - i.e., non-allocable requirements
- the capability partitioning criteria and the system architecture influence one another
  - they are developed and evolve together

Internal IPLC Processes

- Internal construction may be linear, incremental, or iterative
- V&V may be separate or within the construction activity
- Internal processes may vary between increments
  - different levels of requirements volatility or uncertainty
  - different organizational units or contractors

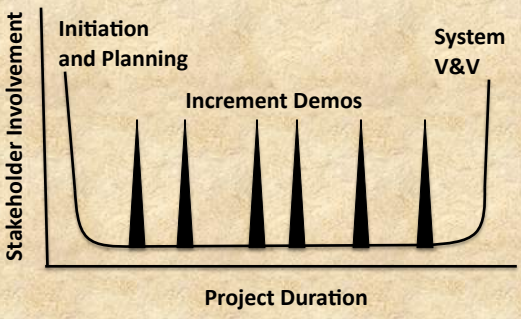
Scheduling of IPLC Increments

- Concurrent incremental phases
  - fully concurrent parallel development
  - partially concurrent
    - ✓can shorten the schedule if there are sufficient resources
    - ✓if a partially completed increment provides a sufficient basis
    - ✓risk of rework if elements of a previous increment change

Scheduling of IPLC Increments (2)

- Sequential phases
  - can be used for phased commitments*
  - or for staged acquisition
  - or for sustainment activities
- see the forthcoming text on the Incremental Commitment Spiral Model (ICSM) by Boehm, Turner, and others

IPLC Stakeholder Involvement



Increment demo intervals may be unequal

IPLC Success Factors

IPLCs can be successful when:

- Requirements can be mostly defined initially
- Some flexibility in requirements management will be permitted
  - plus dynamic allocation of resources and schedule to increments
  - or time-boxing of scheduled increments
- Periodic stakeholder involvement provides feedback
  - as a basis for adding, deleting, and revising requirements
- Early delivery of one or more subset capabilities is desired

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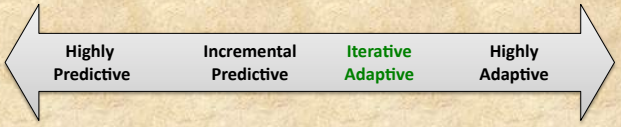

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Iterative, Adaptive, and Agile

- Iteration: systematic repetition of activities
  - can be used as a life cycle architecture
  - or embedded within a life cycle architecture
- Adaptability: describes various attributes of iterative development
- "Agile": denotes various approaches to system development
  - and other kinds of activities

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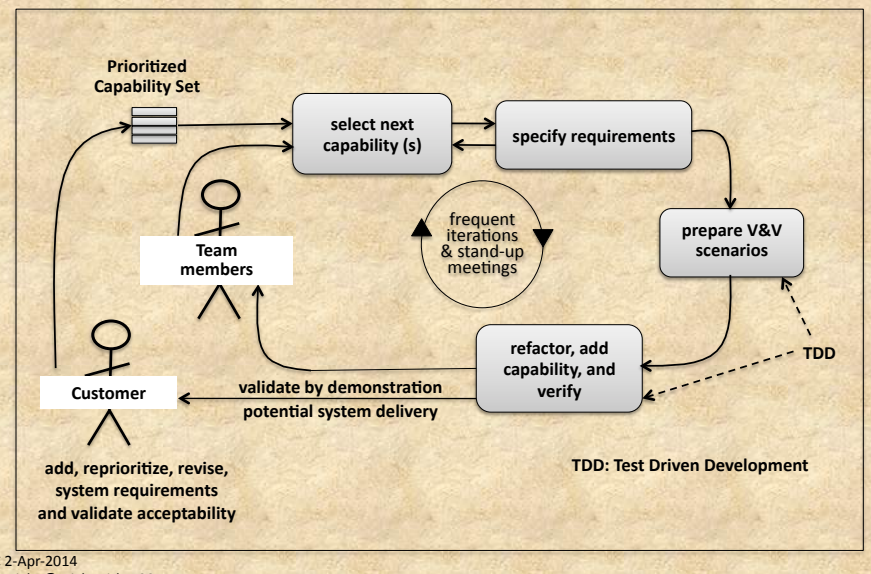
An Iterative-Adaptive Life Cycle (IALC)



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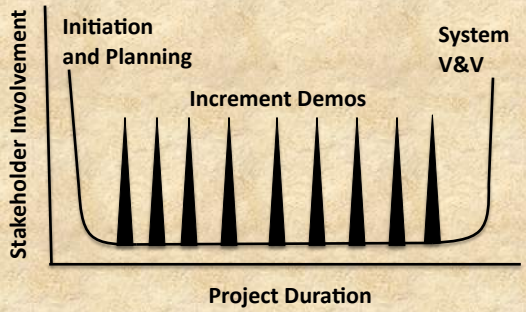
IALC Stakeholder Involvement



Increment demos are frequent and at equal intervals

Adaptive Attributes of Iterative Development

- Requirements, design, and plans are developed initially, to the extent possible
- A knowledgeable stakeholders' representative (i.e., the customer) is continuously involved and controls the requirements
  - and expenditure of resources and schedule
- A backlog of requirements is maintained
  - and can be reprioritized and updated by the customer in consultation with the development team

the customer is responsible for managing the requirements

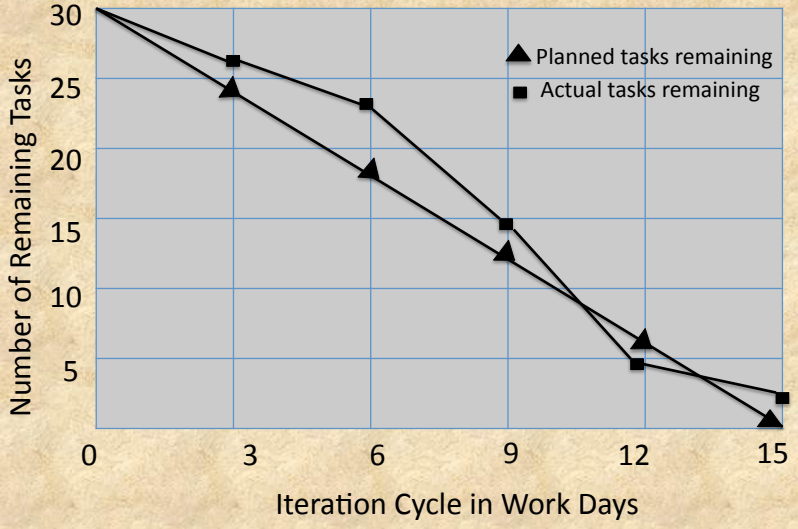
Adaptive Attributes (2)

- Stakeholders are involved initially, during system demonstrations at the end of each iteration cycle, and during final system acceptance
- Iteration cycles are time-boxed
  - with occasional exceptions
- The number of iterations can be preplanned, extended, or curtailed by the customer
- Most iterations produce an incremental increase in system capabilities
  - but not necessarily all iterations

Adaptive Attributes (3)

- System developers have the needed expertise
  - perhaps with occasional functional specialists
- Requirements satisfaction is determined by test driven verification and demonstration validation
- Incremental subsets of the final system can be delivered at the ends of short, fixed duration iteration cycles if desired and planned
- Progress can be tracked using burndown charts

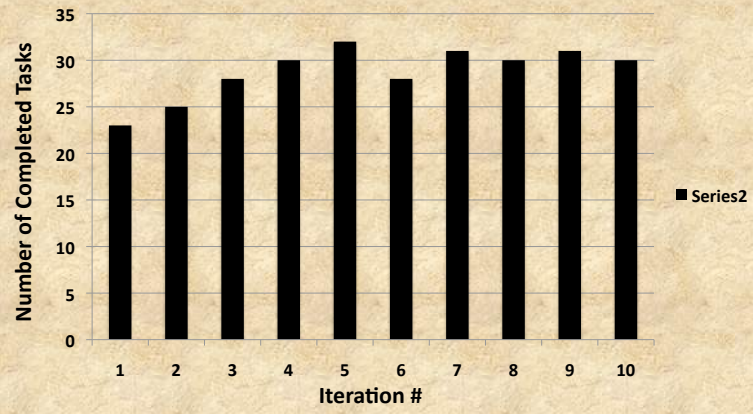
A Burndown Chart for an IALC Iteration Cycle



IALC Task Completion

- IALC task completions require satisfaction of objective completion criteria
  - i.e., binary tracking: 0% or 100% complete
- Time-boxed schedule is observed
- Any remaining tasks are addressed during
  - a retrospective meeting at the end of the cycle
  - a planning meeting at the start of the next cycle
- Accumulated iteration histories are displayed in a velocity chart

An Iterative-Adaptive Velocity Chart



Consequences Time-Boxed Iterations

- Burndown charts and velocity charts provide the data for an IALC project equivalent to HPLC earned value
  - to estimate tasks per iteration with confidence
  - to accurately estimate the capabilities (i.e., number of remaining iteration cycles) that can be completed for a fixed delivery date
  - and to accurately forecast Estimated Completion Date and Estimated Actual Cost based on a desired number of iteration cycles

Consequences Time-Boxed Iterations (2)

- Capabilities prioritized by the customer ensure that the most important use features are implemented first
  - and permits graceful termination or extension of the project

Large IALC Projects

- IALC teams are typically small
  - i.e., 10 or fewer members
  - to facilitate communication and coordination
- Large IALC projects utilize several small IALC teams
- Teams may be functional by system component
  - With allocated requirements and interfaces
  - and periodic subsystem and system integration
- Large IALC projects use PLC techniques
  - functional decomposition
  - interface specifications
  - CCBs, change control, and configuration management

Traditional IALC RE Activities

- *Elicitation*: initial planning and periodic demonstrations of implemented capabilities
- *Analysis:* for each increment, deciding what to build and how to build it
- *Specification:* written test scenarios
- *Requirements management*
  - the capability backlog provides the requirements baseline
  - frequent demos of incremental capabilities can result in rework of and updates to the capability baseline
  - impact analysis and change control are managed by the customer
    - ✓ in dialog with the team members

Success Factors for IALCs

- IALCs are successful to the degree that they incorporate the desirable IALC attributes
  - as illustrated
- But not all "IALCs" incorporate all of the desirable ALC attributes

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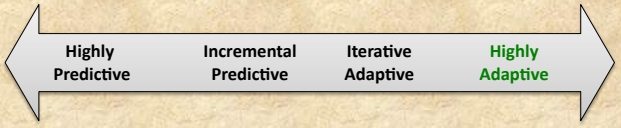

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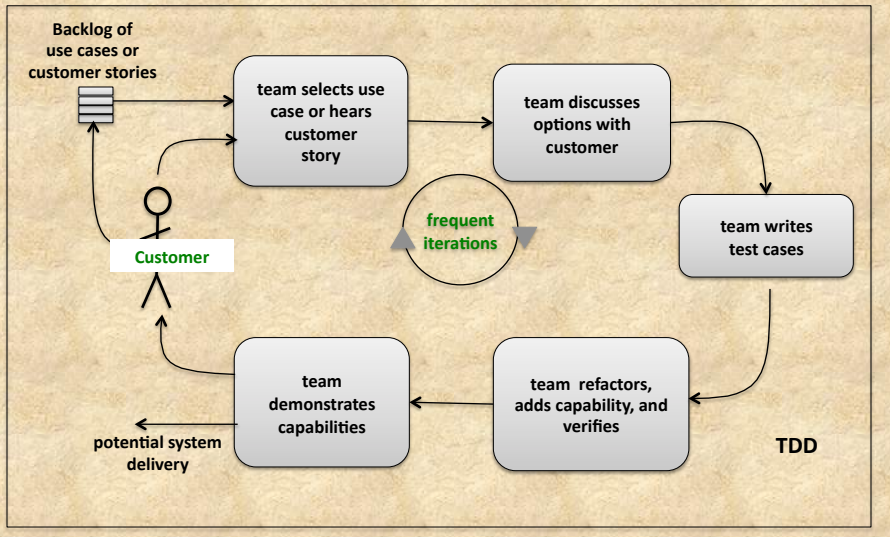
Highly Adaptive Life Cycles (HALCs)

- Requirements, architecture, and plans are initially developed to the extent possible
- Desirable when the requirements must be evolved by constant interaction with the customer
  - and frequent deliveries into the operational environment may be desired

A Highly Adaptive Life Cycle



Attributes of HALCs

- Customer is “in the loop”
- Customer provides use cases or stories
  - with a backlog that may be started during initiation and planning
- Team provides frequent demos for the customer
- Customer may accept, request revisions, or reject added capabilities
- system increments are available for delivery into the user environment at frequent intervals, if desired

Success Factors for HALCs

- Requirements, design, and plans are initially developed, to the extent possible
- Customer is continuously available on a daily basis
  - and is in continuous communication with users
- Dedicated resources are available on a continuing basis
- Changing and emerging requirements are expected and accepted
  - known unknowns
  - and unknown unknowns

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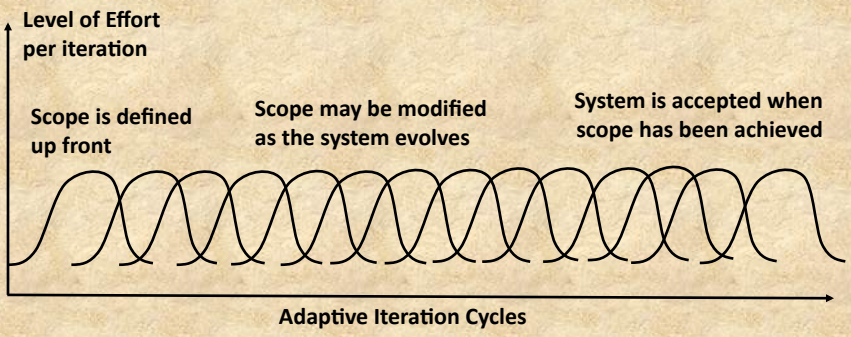
Constant Level of Effort for HALCs



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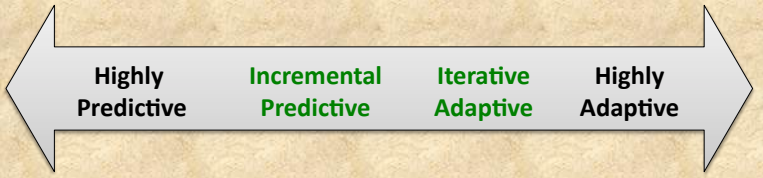
Some Key Factors



- Requirements
  - stable → volatile
- Resource and schedule allocation
  - preplanned → evolving
- Stakeholder involvement
  - seldom → frequent

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Requirements Engineering Risk and Uncertainty

- Risk is (probability x impact) of an adverse outcome
- Uncertainty results from lack of knowledge
- HPLCs are appropriate when RE risk and uncertainty are low
- IPLCs are appropriate when RE risk and uncertainty are medium
- IALCs are appropriate when RE risk and uncertainty are high
- HALCs are appropriate when RE risk and uncertainty are very high