

# GAINING CLARITY WITH SYSTEMS THEORY

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INCOSE Enchanment Capter 2023

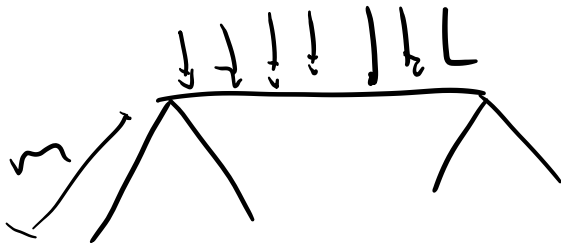
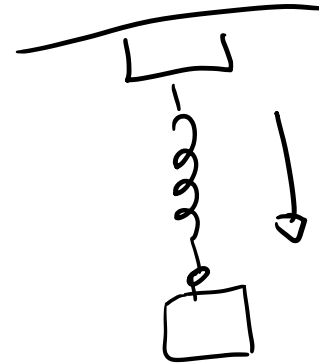
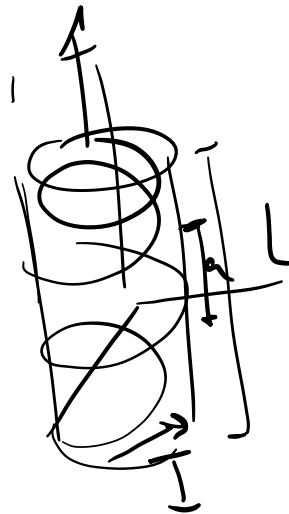
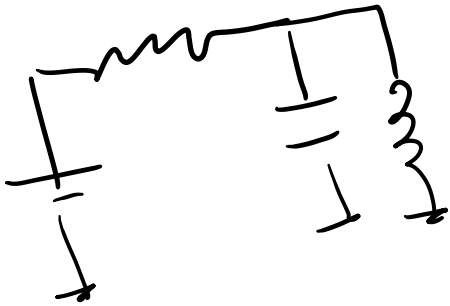
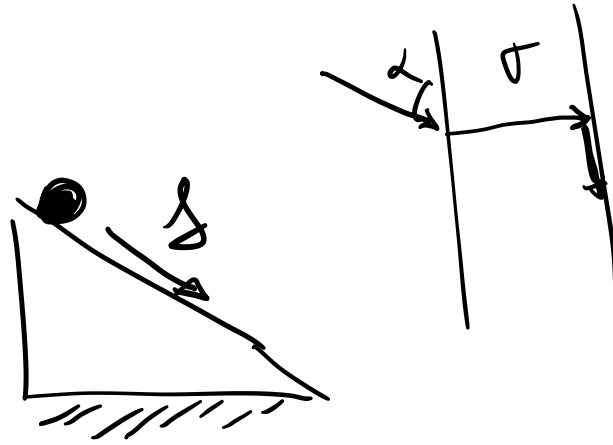
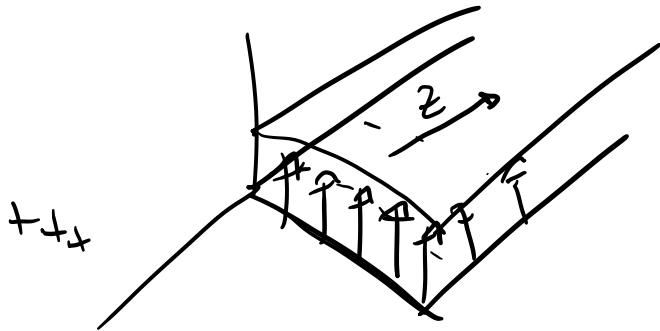
Alejandro Salado, PhD

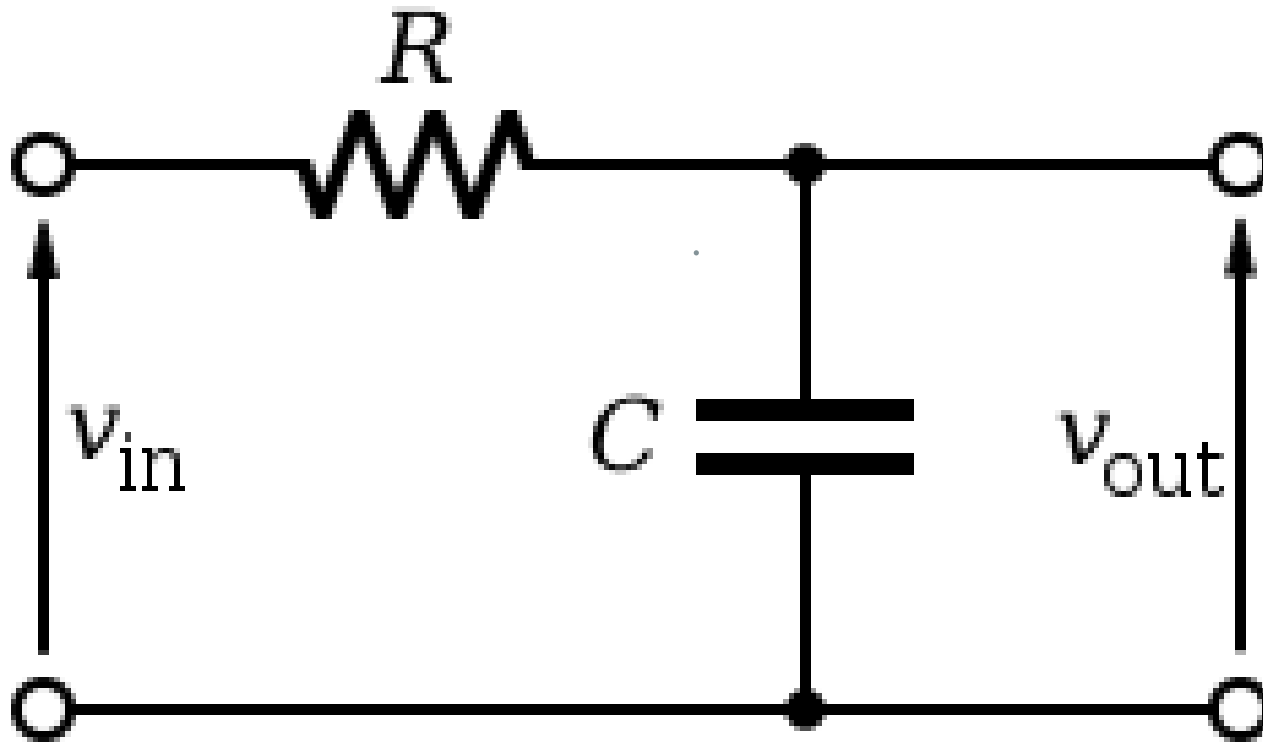
*Associate Professor*

Department of Systems and Industrial Engineering



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$$F = m \cdot a$$

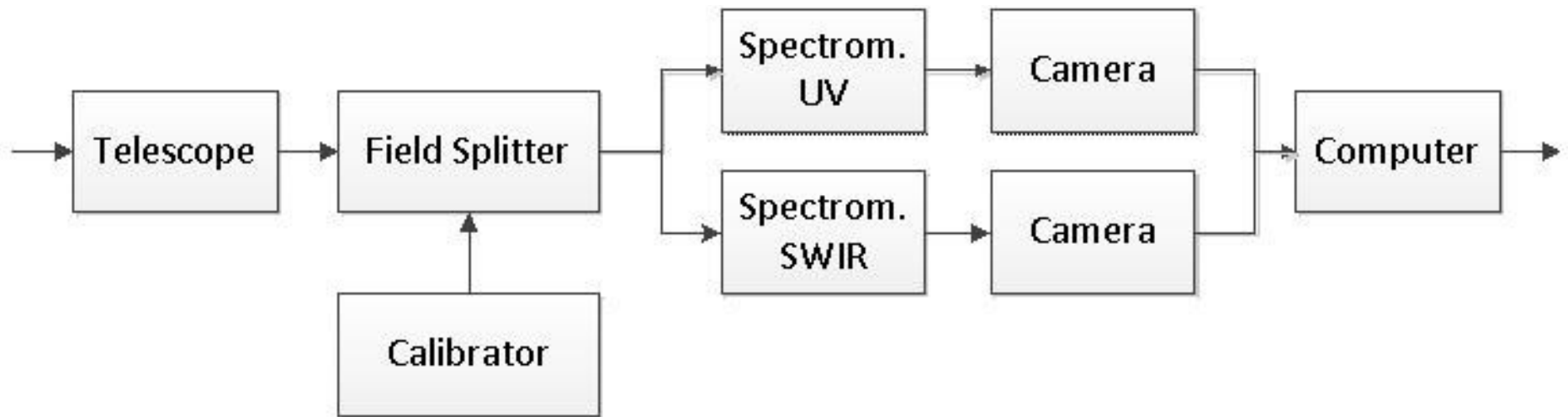
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho$$

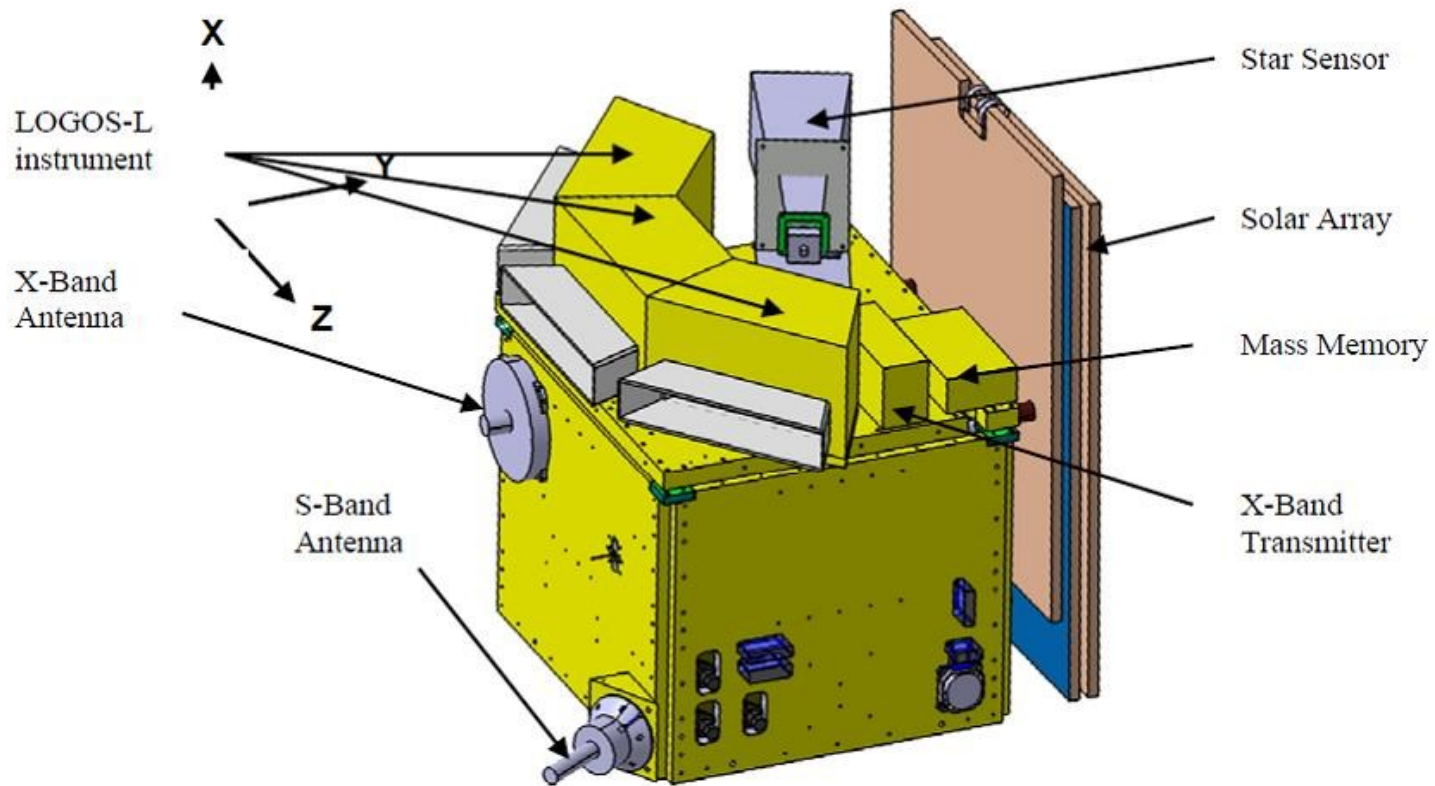
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

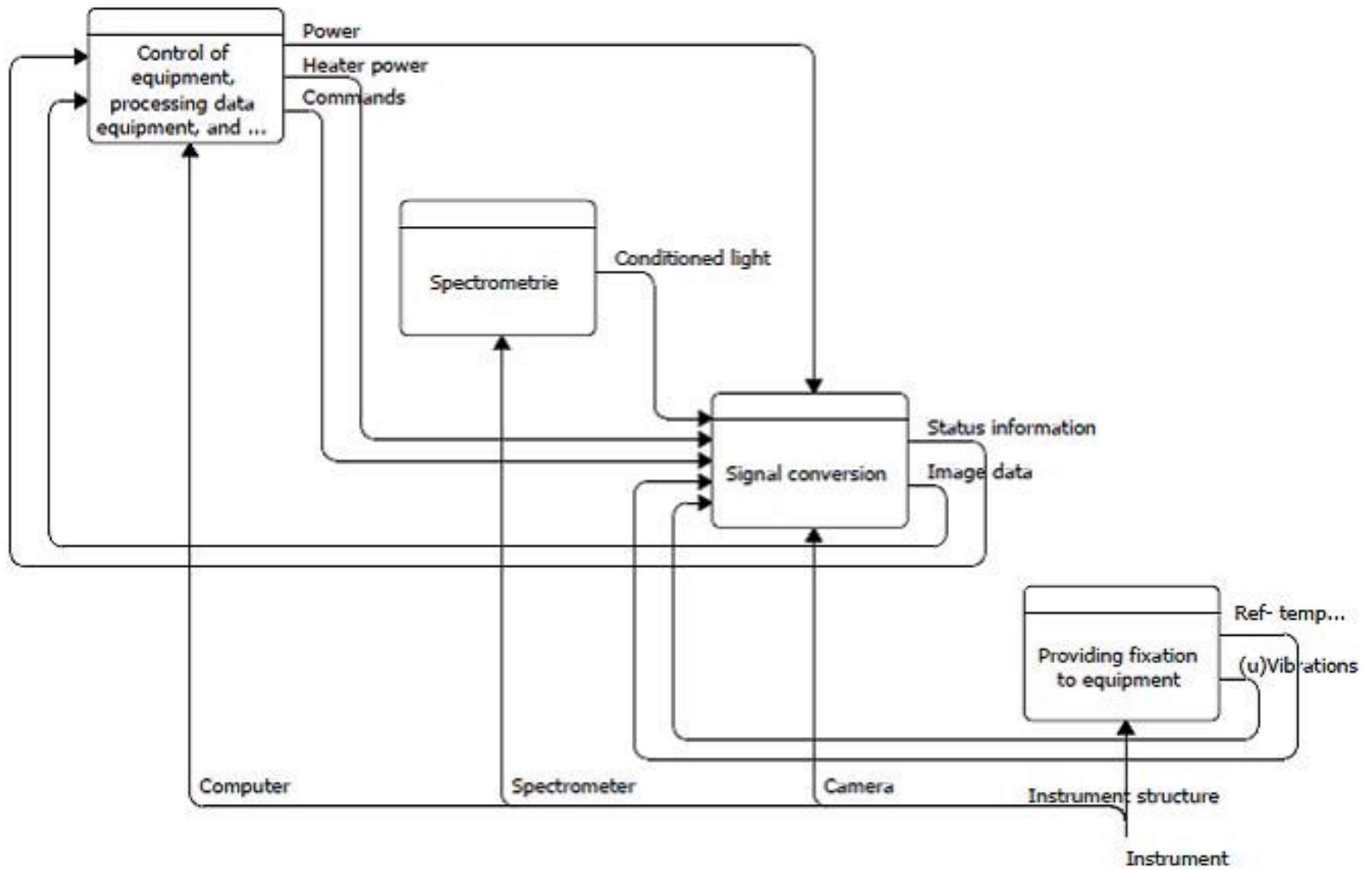
$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$$

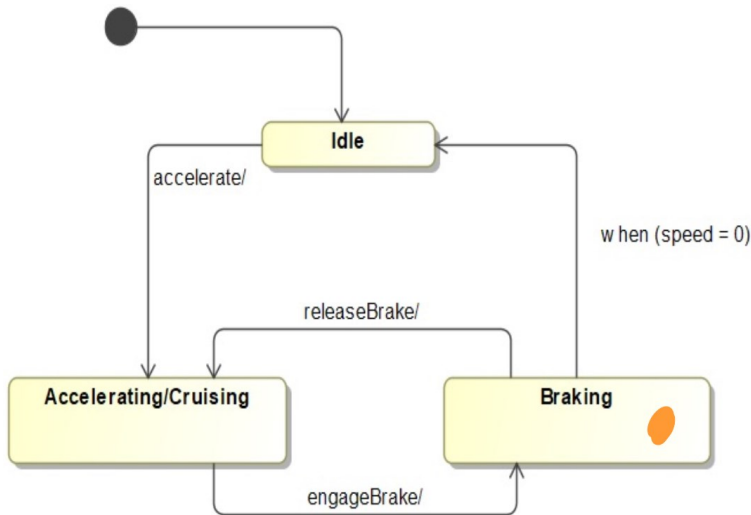

$$V = R \cdot I$$







Consider a car's behavior modeled as follows:



How does the CAR react when **releaseBrake** & **speed=0**?

OPTIONS

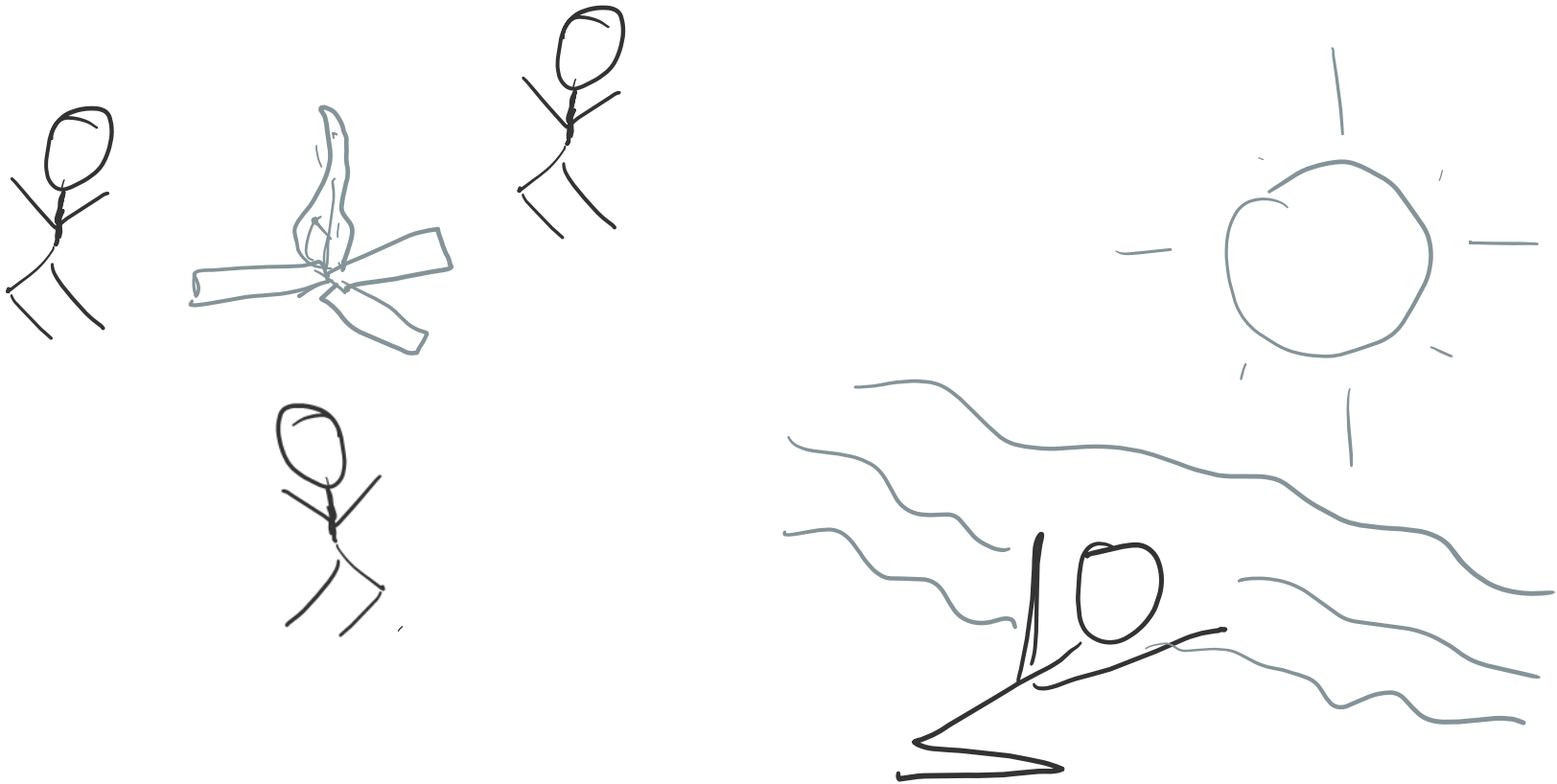
- Ignore/Stay in Braking
- Undefined/uncontrolled
- Transition to **Idle**
- Transition to **Accel./Cruis.**
- Incomplete**/incorrect
- NOT** an expected condition

*SysML does not offer an answer...  
open to interpretation*



Systems engineering is based on

 THEORY



# Today's systems engineer

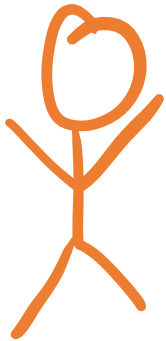
## PRINCIPLES

There is a **common** mission

Think about the **end** before the beginning

Every solution creates new **problems**

Solving the **wrong** problema is fruitfless



Someone with **experience**

**Traditional T-shape** profile

Acts as an engineering *manager*

SE is **not** a dedicated engineering discipline



AP

Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/apollo-11-45-year-anniversary-moon-landing/1960612.html>

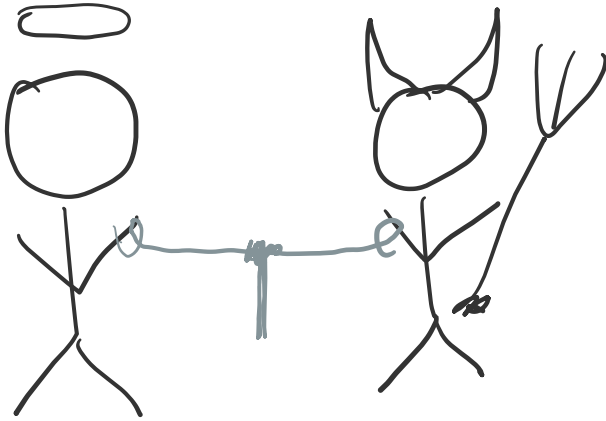
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You need to conduct the **STRUCTURAL**  
**analysis** of an airplane.

Would you task an **ELECTRONICS**  
engineer with a **1-week seminar** in  
mechanical engineering?

You have to write the  
**REQUIREMENTS** for a \$100M system.

Would you task a **MECHANICAL** engineer  
with a **1-week seminar** in requirements  
engineering?



**EVANGELIZATION** of  
processes and methods

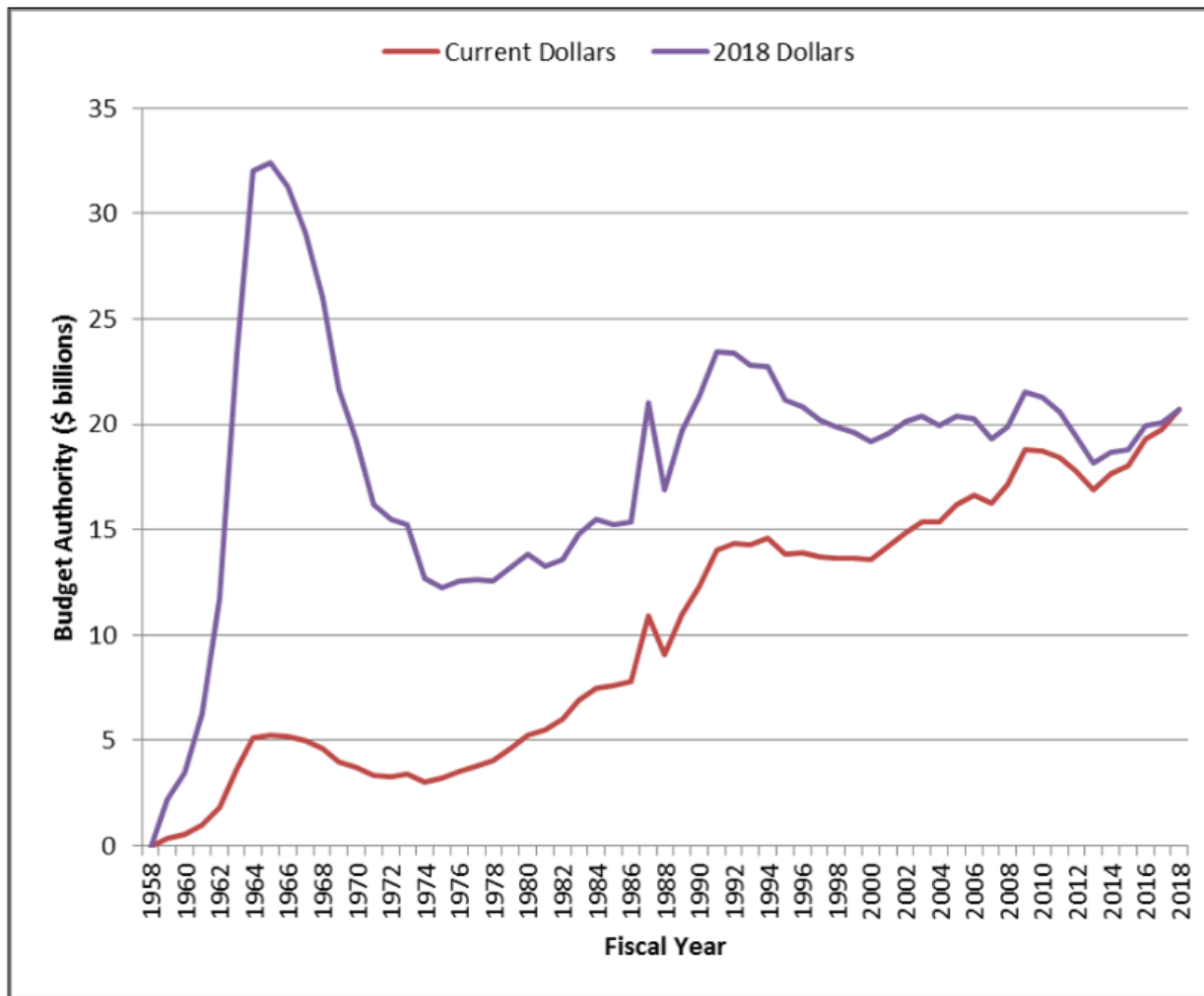


**IMPOSITION** of  
processes and methods

SOME THINGS HAVE  
**CHANGED**

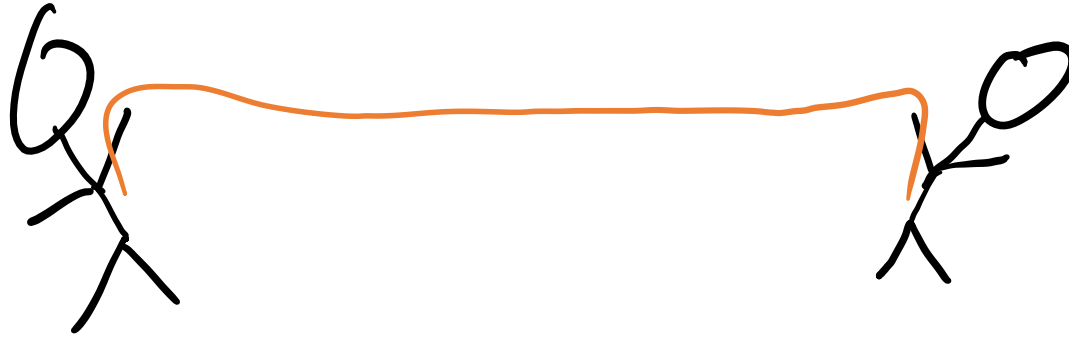


**Figure I. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2018**



**Source:** Compiled by CRS. FY1958-FY2008 from National Aeronautics and Space Administration, *Aeronautics and Space Report of the President: Fiscal Year 2008 Activities*, <http://history.nasa.gov/presrep2008.pdf>, Table D-1A. FY2009-FY2012 from NASA congressional budget justifications, FY2011-FY2014. FY2013-FY2018 as in **Table I**. Current dollars deflated to FY2018 dollars using GDP (chained) price index from President's budget for FY2019, Historical Table 10.1, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/hist10z1-fy2019.xlsx>.

**Note:** Transition quarter between FY1976 and FY1977 not shown.



Fast to market

Long lifetime

New solutions

Specialization

High technological diversity

Long development times

Frequent upgrades

No time for learning

Contractual structures

Integration and maintenance

Needs & requirements

V&V planning

Verification models

System architecture

Organizational structure

Uncertainty & complexity

Development processes

GAP

Probability theory

Epistemic logic

Systems theory

Belief theory

Organizational theory

Decision theory

Knowledge representation

Behavioral economics

Economics

Psychology

# AN APPLICATION TO REQUIREMENTS

What are the differences between **needs** and **requirements**?

What are the differences between **requirements** and **constraints**?

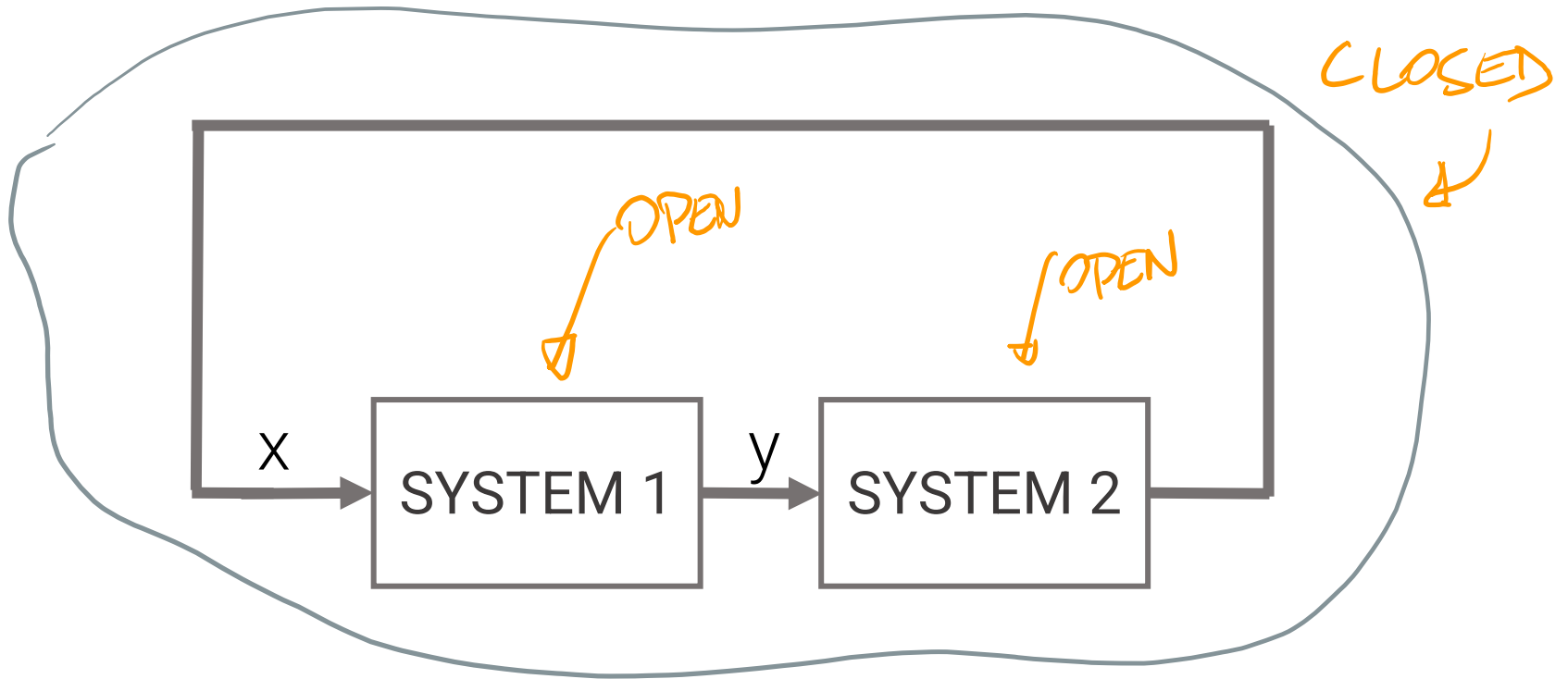
How many **kinds** of requirements are there?

How do you **model** a requirement?

What are the **problem** and the **solution** spaces?

Are **cost** and **schedule** requirements or constraints?

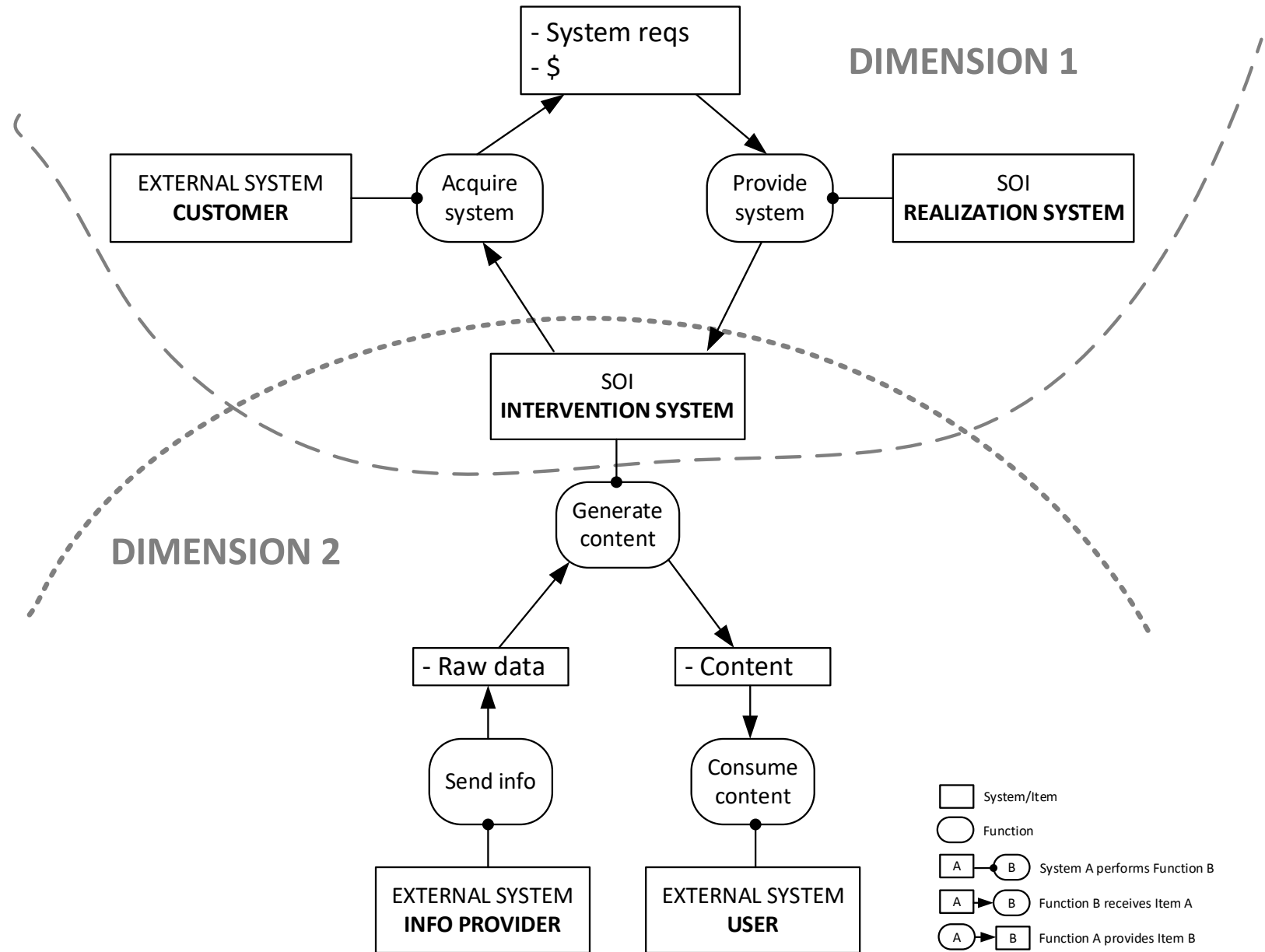
Are requirements and **SOW** the same?

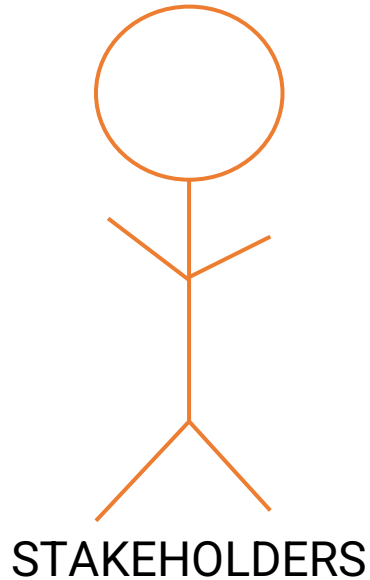


FUNCTION → CAPABILITY → ENGAGEMENT → OUTCOME

OPEN SYSTEM    Function, outputs  
 CLOSED SYSTEM    State, outcomes

↓  
 VALUABLE FOR  
 SOMEONE





Stakeholder **needs**

What the stakeholder **needs** to achieve with the system

System **requirements**

What the system **has** to do

System **attributes**

What the system **does**

ELICITATION

A hand-drawn arrow pointing from the "ELICITATION" text up towards the "Stakeholder needs" text.

DERIVATION

A hand-drawn curved arrow pointing from the "DERIVATION" text up towards the "System requirements" text.

DESIGN

A hand-drawn curved arrow pointing from the "DESIGN" text up towards the "System attributes" text.



CONTEXT  
DEPENDENT

## STAKEHOLDER **NEED**

What is **needed** the system for

The system needs **interaction** with **external** systems to satisfy the need

Can only be checked when the system is **put into context**

CONTEXT  
INDEPENDENT

## SYSTEM **REQUIREMENT**

What the system **has to do**

The system can fulfil it by **its own**

Can be checked in **“any”** context

SYSTEM  
DEPENDENT

## SYSTEM **ATTRIBUTE**

What the system **does**

It is an **inherent** characteristic of the system

The **user needs** to go from A to B in less than 1 h

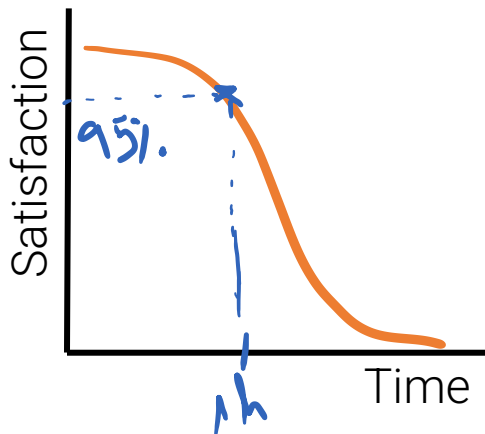
The system shall **bring the user** from A to B in less than 1 h

The user needs the system to be **user-friendly**.

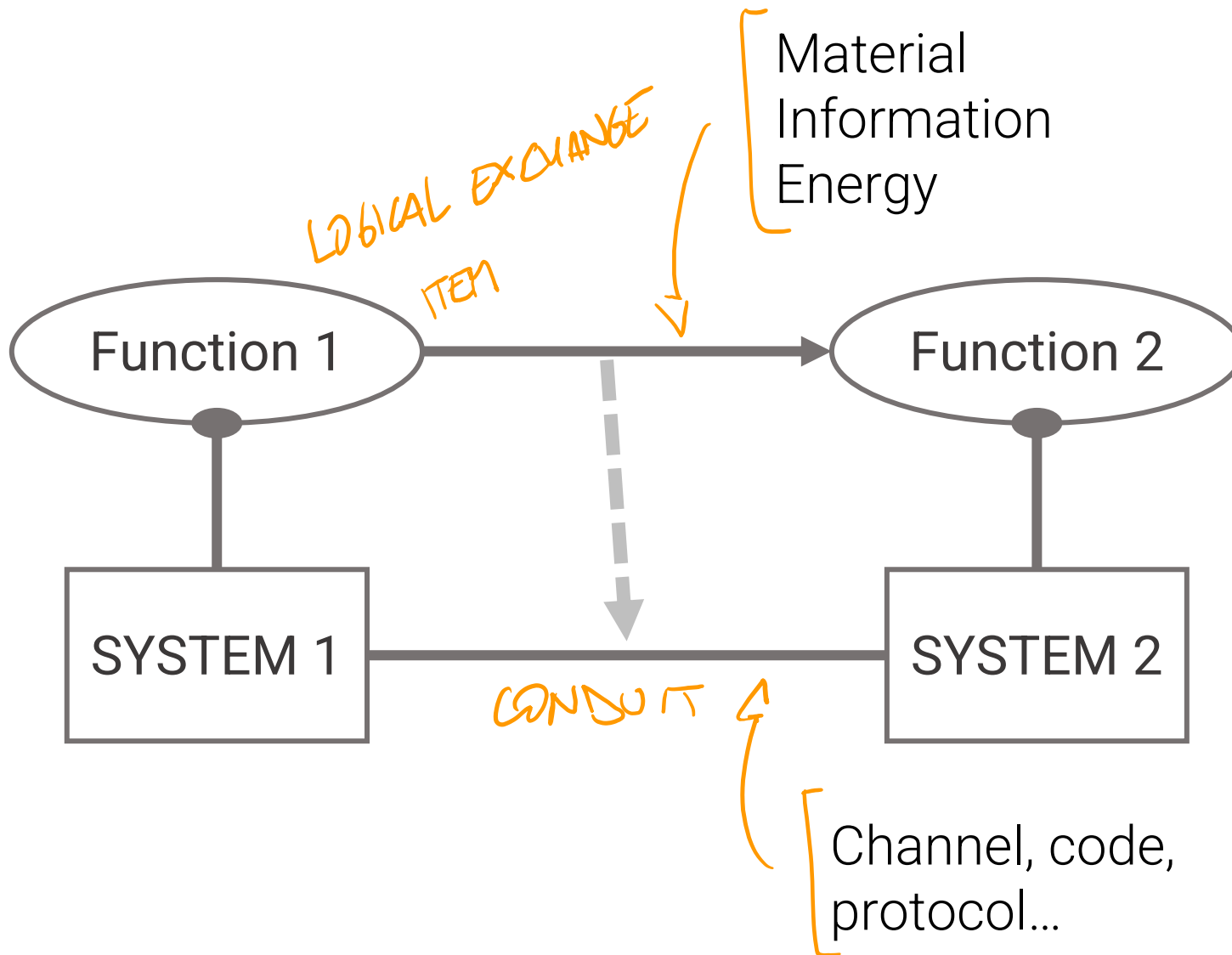
*Instead:* An average user needs to operate the system with less than 2 mistakes per session.

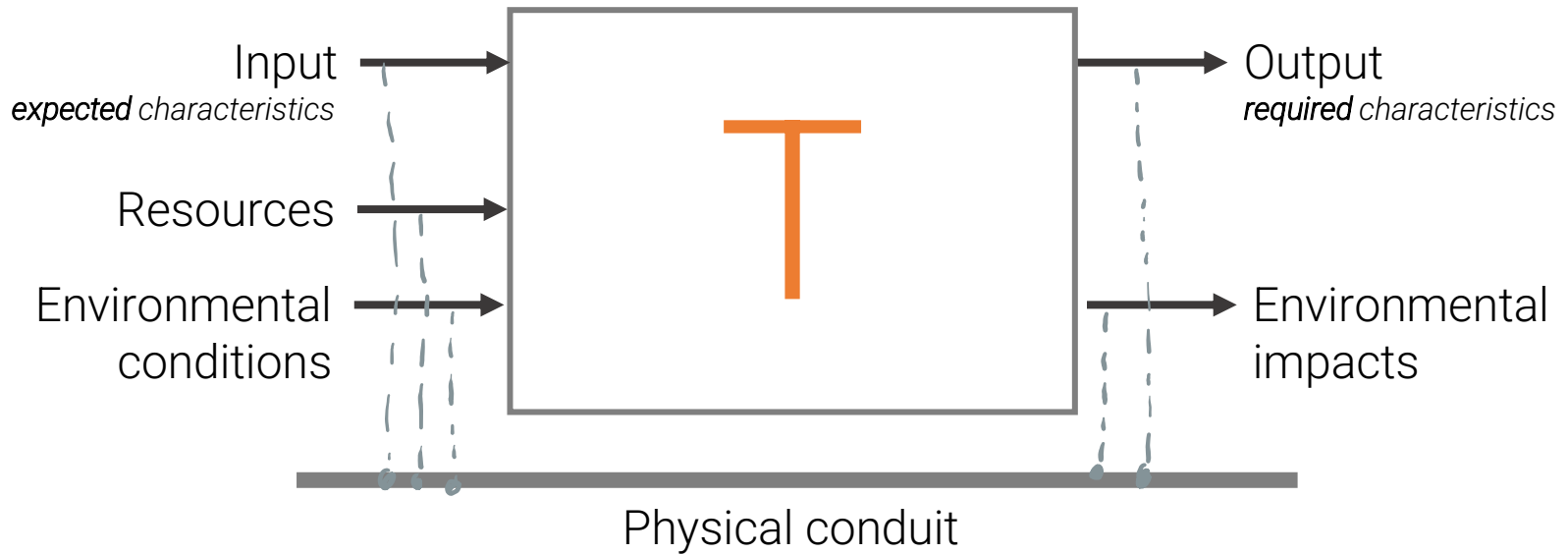
Note: An average user is defined as a person aged TBD...

Note: A session is defined as...



$$t(B) - t(A) < 1h$$





WHAT **Functional** transformation

HOW WELL **Performance** of the transformation

WITH WHAT **Resources** employed

WHERE **Environment** where transformation occurs

The **SYSTEM** shall accept/provide *item*  
given *conditions* through **interface**.

No other system (external or internal) in the statement

Measurable (quantitative or logical statement)

Dictionary and notes

Granularity and references

Justification & traceability

Easy / Graphics and other supports

mass. volume...?

YOUR CHALLENGE  
OR MY EXAMPLE?

St1. The user needs the system to protect valuable item from robbery. **NEED**

Sol 1. Deter the robber.

Sol 2. Deceive the robber.

Sol 3. Resist the robbery.

St1.1. The system shall deter X% of robbers attempting to steal valuable item for Y years. **NEED**

Sol 1. Make robbery attempt very dangerous for robber.

Sol 2. Make robbery attempt very difficult for robber.

Sol 3. Detect robber and make robber aware of detection.

Sol 4. Detect robber and make robber and owner aware of detection.

Sol 5. Detect robber and make robber and law enforcement aware of detection.

St1.1.1. The system shall detect L% of robbers attempting to steal valuable item for Y years. **NEED**

St1.1.2. The system shall make Z% of detected robbers aware they have been detected. **NEED**

Sol 1. Artificial illumination and observation in the visual range.

Sol a. Sound a loud alarm.

Sol b. Emit a dance of lights.

Sol 2. Observation in the infrared range.

Sol c. Eject ammunition.

Sol 3. Observe movement.

St1.1.1.1. The system shall observe Target 1 (def. by image properties). **REQUIREMENT**

St1.1.2.1. The system shall emit Sound 1. **REQUIREMENT**

## STAKEHOLDER **NEED**

Characteristic of an interaction of an external system

Related to stakeholder preferences

Address the consequence of operating the system

Resulting solution space includes different operational solutions

## SYSTEM **REQUIREMENT**

Characteristic of a system I/O

External systems have been abstracted


Address what the behavior of the system

Resulting solution space excludes operational solutions



# WHAT'S NEXT?

# A systems-theoretic articulation of stakeholder needs and system requirements

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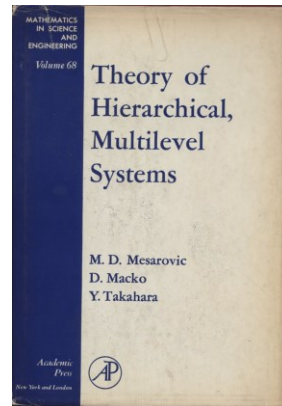
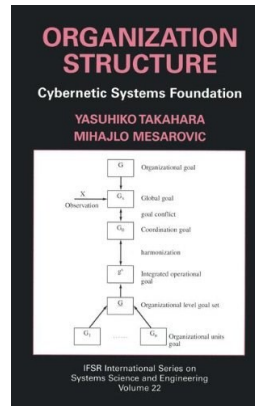
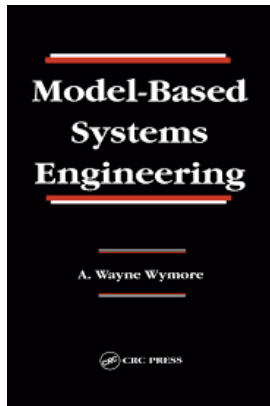
## Abstract

The literature shows disparities in how fundamental systems engineering concepts in the area of requirements engineering, such as stakeholder needs, system requirements, requirements elicitation, requirements derivation, and requirements decomposition, are used within the communities-of-practice and in research. Such disparities can lead to conceptual and application inconsistencies, which have been shown to contribute to the formulation of poor requirements. In this paper, such concepts are articulated using systems theory as the underlying theoretical framework. The concepts of problem space, solution space, open system, and closed system are central to this work. It is argued that the proposed articulations facilitate avoiding usage disparity, ultimately resulting in better formulation of requirements. These articulations are supported by in-depth examples that comprehensively cover different types of needs and requirements, and provide step-by-step insights into how elicitation, derivation, and decomposition occur within a problem formulation effort.

## KEYWORDS

requirements engineering, scientific foundations of systems engineering, theory of systems engineering

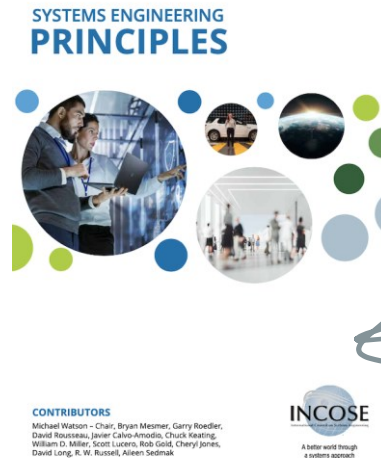
# What are WE doing?



# What BARRIERS do we have?

*Anyone there?*

\$\$



What can **YOU** do?

Be **CRITICAL** with what you **read!**

# THANK YOU

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