



Putting the “Systemic” (back) into the Engineering of Systems

Jawahar Bhalla (JB)

JB@EngineeringSystems.com.au

www.linkedin.com/in/JawaharBhalla

Technical Director – Systems Engineering Society of Australia (SESA)

SME Industry Co-Chair – Defence Synthetic Environment Working Group (SEWG)

Session Number: 5.1

Session Title: Systems of Systems Engineering

Date: Tuesday, 21st July 2020

Time: 12:30-13:10 UTC+2

Systems Engineering – Practice & Perceptions

INCOSE Definition (pre mid-2019) – “What is Systems Engineering”

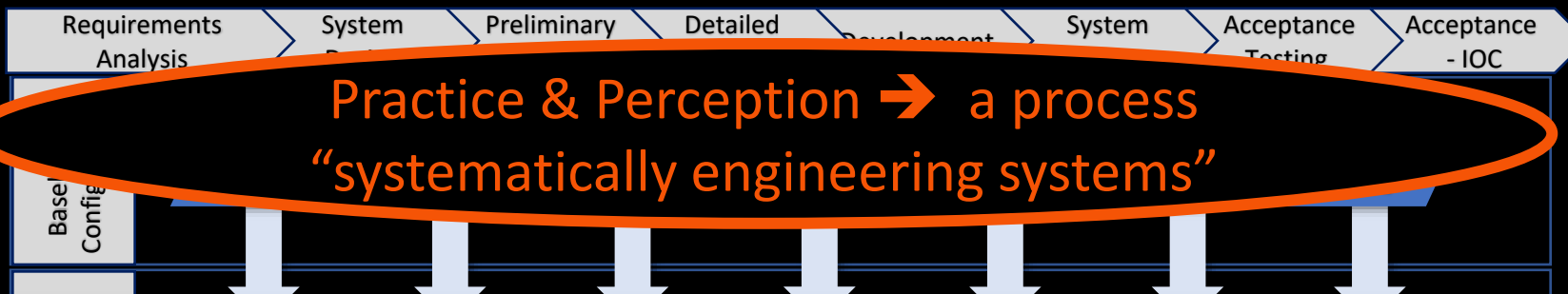
An **engineering discipline** whose responsibility is *creating and executing an interdisciplinary process* to ensure that the customer and stakeholder's needs are satisfied in a *high quality, trustworthy, cost efficient and schedule compliant* manner throughout a system's *entire life cycle*.

(<http://www.incose.org/AboutSE/WhatIsSE>)

Technically
Focused

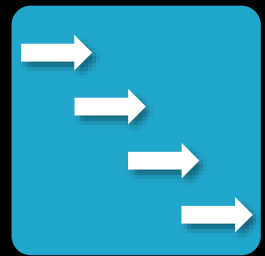


Financial
Milestones



A focus on a “*progressive realisation of the physical system*” – perceived as just “good engineering practice”

Process
Overhead



Just another
“speciality”

INCOSE Definition (2019) – “What is Systems Engineering”

Systems Engineering is a **transdisciplinary** and **integrative** approach to enable the successful realization, use, and retirement of **engineered systems**, using **systems principles** and **concepts**, and scientific, technological, and management methods.

(<http://www.incose.org/AboutSE/WhatIsSE>)

Putting the “Systemic” (back) into the Engineering of Systems



Motivation....

Elevate the understanding of the *Engineering of Systems* and the relative-standing of *Systems Engineers*

Paper / Presentation Focus

INCOSE Definition (2019) – “What is Systems Engineering”

Systems Engineering is a **transdisciplinary** and **integrative** approach to enable the successful realization, use, and retirement of **engineered systems**, using **systems principles** and **concepts**, and scientific, technological, and management methods.

(<http://www.incose.org/AboutSE/WhatIsSE>)

Presentation Structure



Principles & Concepts

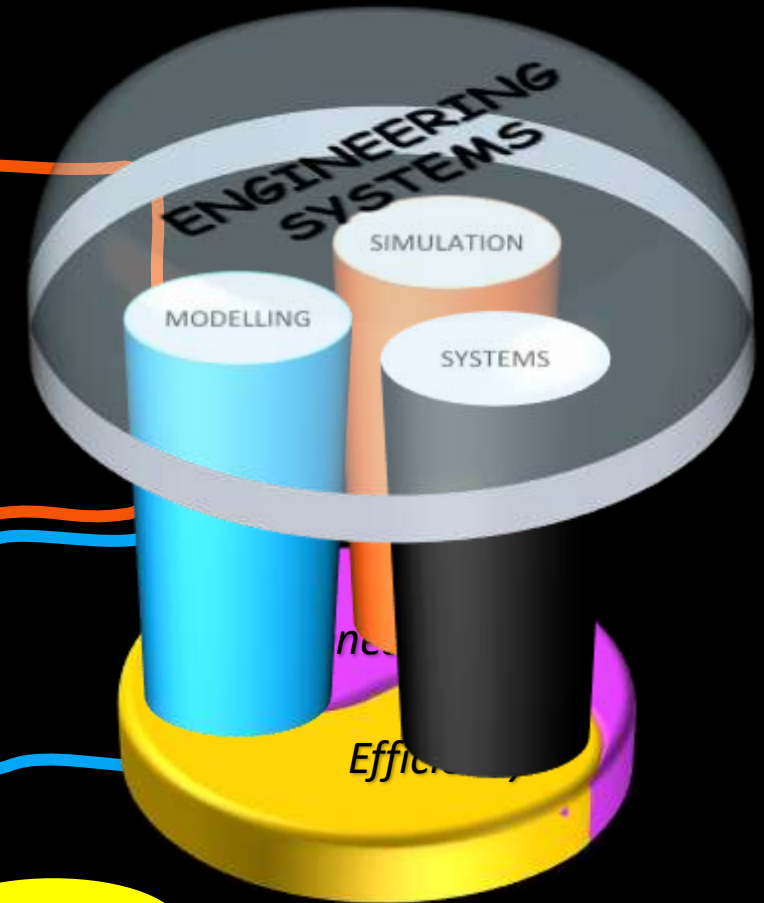
- Systems Thinking
- Modelling & Simulation
- The Content of our Minds
- The Engineering of Systems
- Key Points & Recommendations

Application & Conclusions

WHY?

WHAT?

HOW?



Problems, Symptoms & Root Causes

THE ICEBERG MODEL

Use this tool to help you think more systemically!

EVENTS
What is happening?

PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR
What trends are there over time?

SYSTEMS STRUCTURE
How are the parts related?
What influences the patterns?

MENTAL MODELS
What values, assumptions, + beliefs shape the system?

Increasing Leverage

Image Credit –
donellameadows.org



A major outbreak of malaria amongst the Dayak people in Sarawak, Borneo

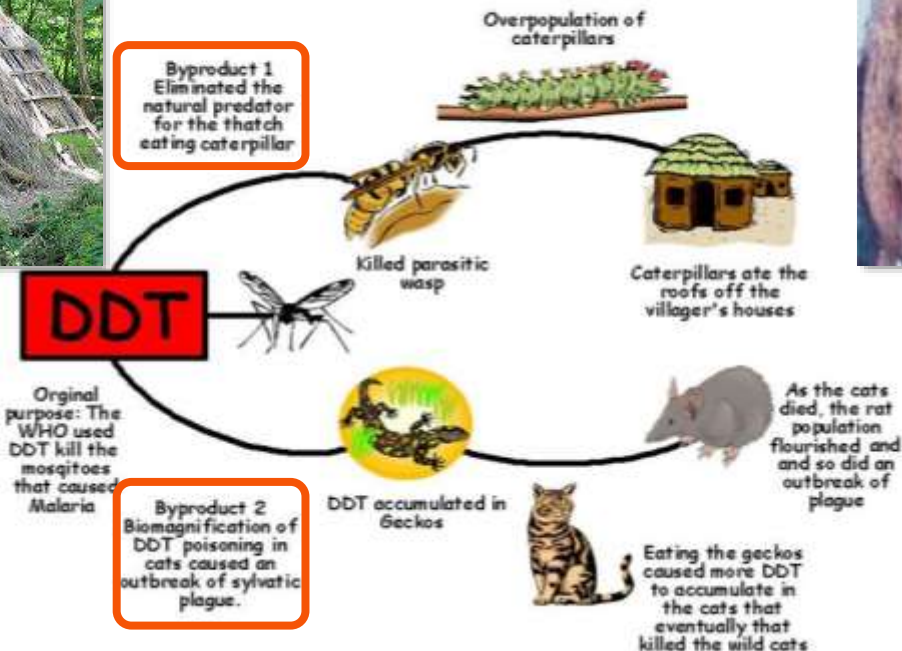
The WHO Responded – Sprayed DDT



Effect of DDT Use in Borneo

In the early 1950's the people in Borneo, suffered from Malaria the World Health Organization had a solution, kill the mosquitoes with DDT. This is what happened.

Good Intentions



Unintended Consequences!

Problems, Symptoms & Root Causes

THE ICEBERG MODEL

Use this tool to help you think more systemically!



EVENTS

What is happening?

PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR

What trends are there over time?

SYSTEMS STRUCTURE

How are the parts related?
What influences the patterns?

MENTAL MODELS

What values, assumptions, + beliefs shape the system?

Increasing Leverage

Image Credit –
donellameadows.org



A major outbreak of malaria amongst the Dayak people in Sarawak, Borneo

The WHO Responded – Sprayed DDT



Good Intentions



Unintended Consequences!

What is Systems Thinking?

THE ICEBERG MODEL



Peter Senge → *“Systems Thinking is a conceptual framework, a body of knowledge and tools that have been developed over the past fifty years, to make the full patterns clearer, and to help to change them effectively.”*



Personal view → *Systems Thinking is a framework to make sense of the world we live in, to deal efficiently and effectively with the challenges we perceive and to create the reality we desire, while minimizing the chances of unintended consequences.*

Complimented by Modelling & Simulation

How do we understand a System?

A System

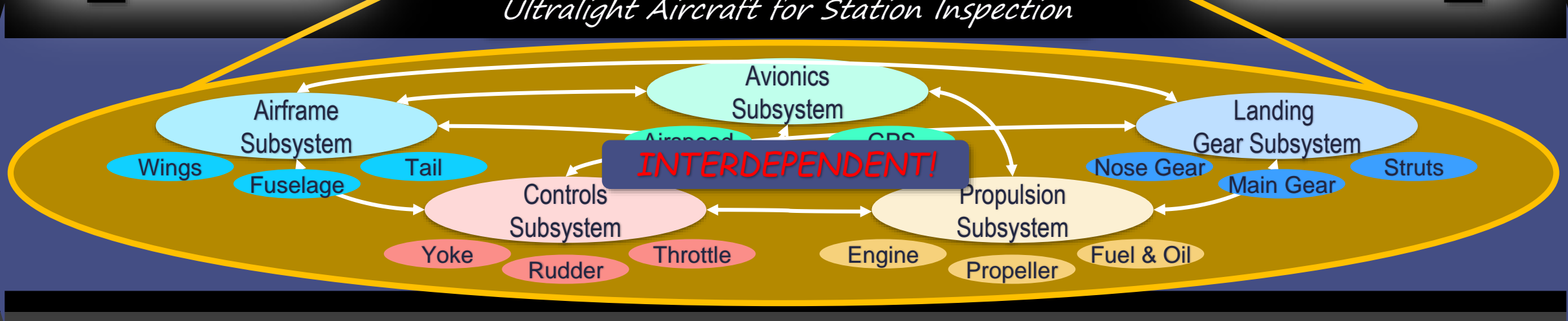
A *whole* that consists of *interdependent parts* each of which can affect its *behaviours* or its *properties*
(Russell Ackoff)

Think
About
it?

Analyse
it?



*The "DUJU"
Ultralight Aircraft for Station Inspection*



How do we understand a System?

A System

A *whole* that consists of *interdependent parts* each of which can affect its *behaviours* or its *properties*
(Russell Ackoff)

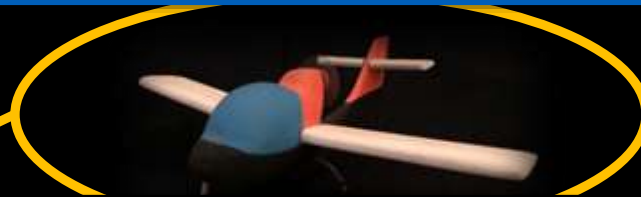
HOW?

ANALYSIS

STRUCTURE

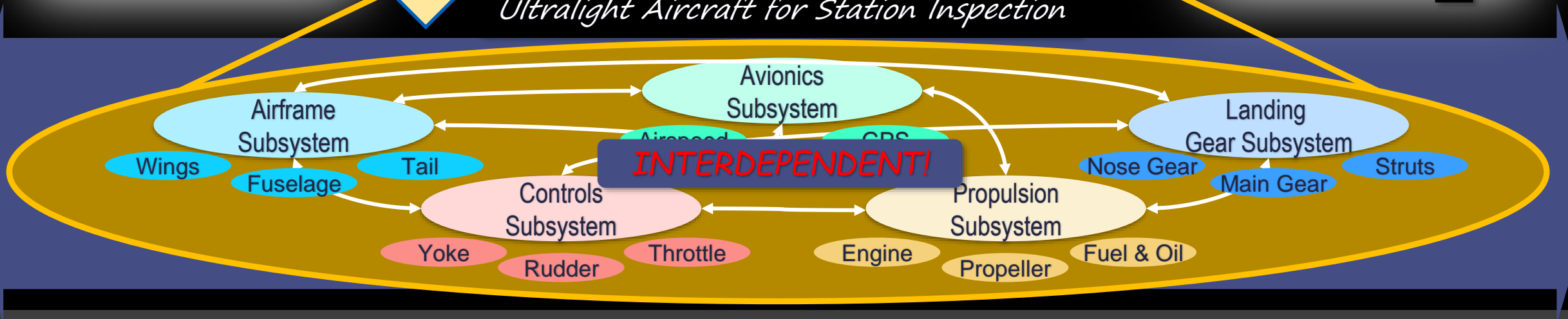
(Organisational Interdependence)

ANALYSIS



The "DUJU"
Ultralight Aircraft for Station Inspection

Analyse it?



How do we understand a System?

Predominant

determinism

A System

Is an *arrangement* of *parts* or *elements* that *together* exhibit *behaviour* or *meaning* that the individual constituents do not (INCOSE-2019)

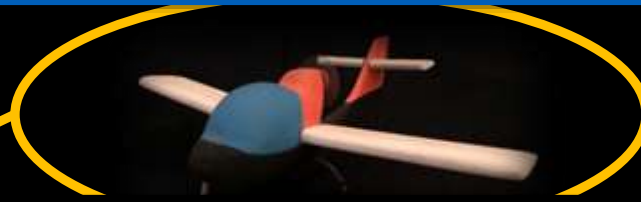
HOW?

ANALYSIS

STRUCTURE

(Organisational Interdependence)

ANALYSIS



*The "DUJU"
Ultralight Aircraft for Station Inspection*

WHAT?

it?

Avionics

A System

A *whole* that consists of *interdependent parts* each of which can affect its *behaviours* or its *properties* (Russell Ackoff)

Airframe
Subsystem

Wings

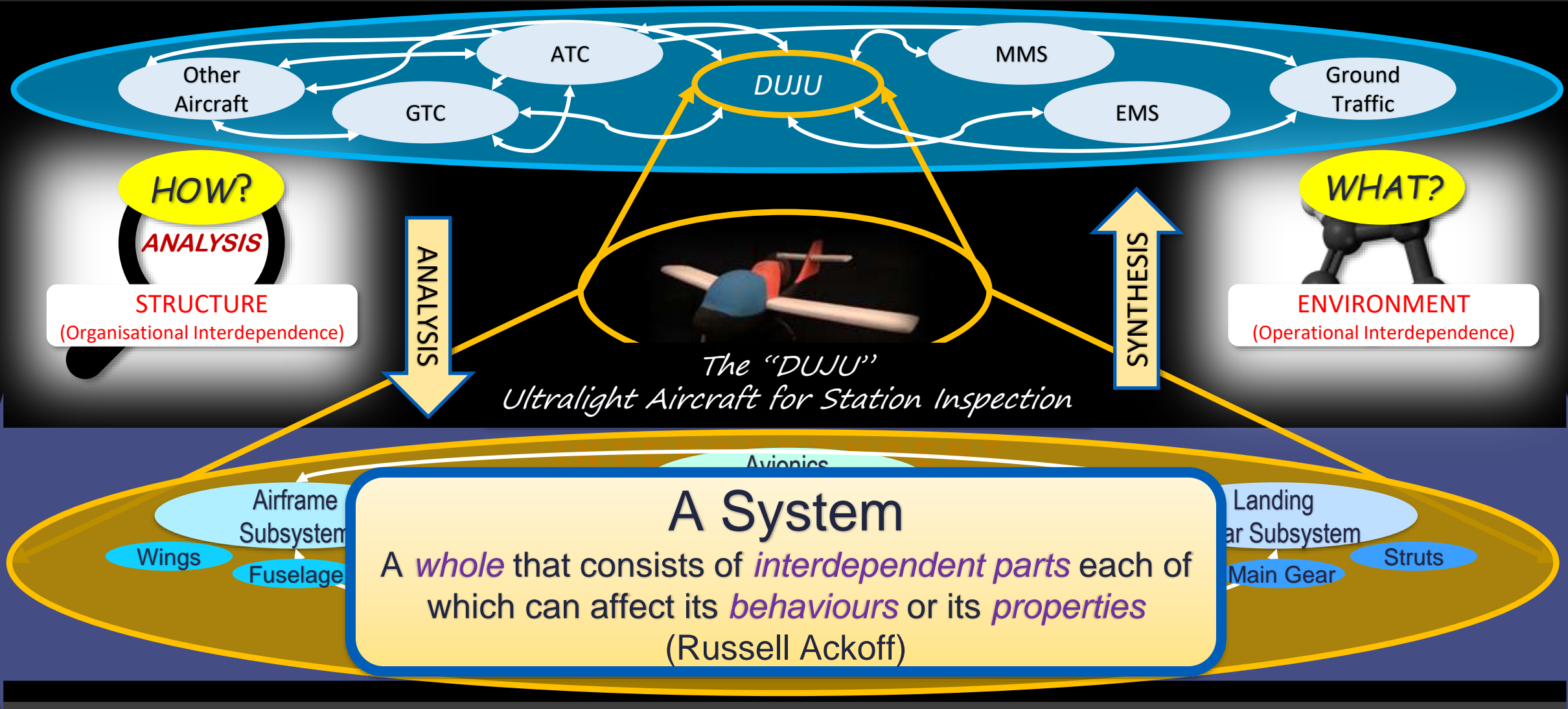
Fuselage

Landing
Gear Subsystem

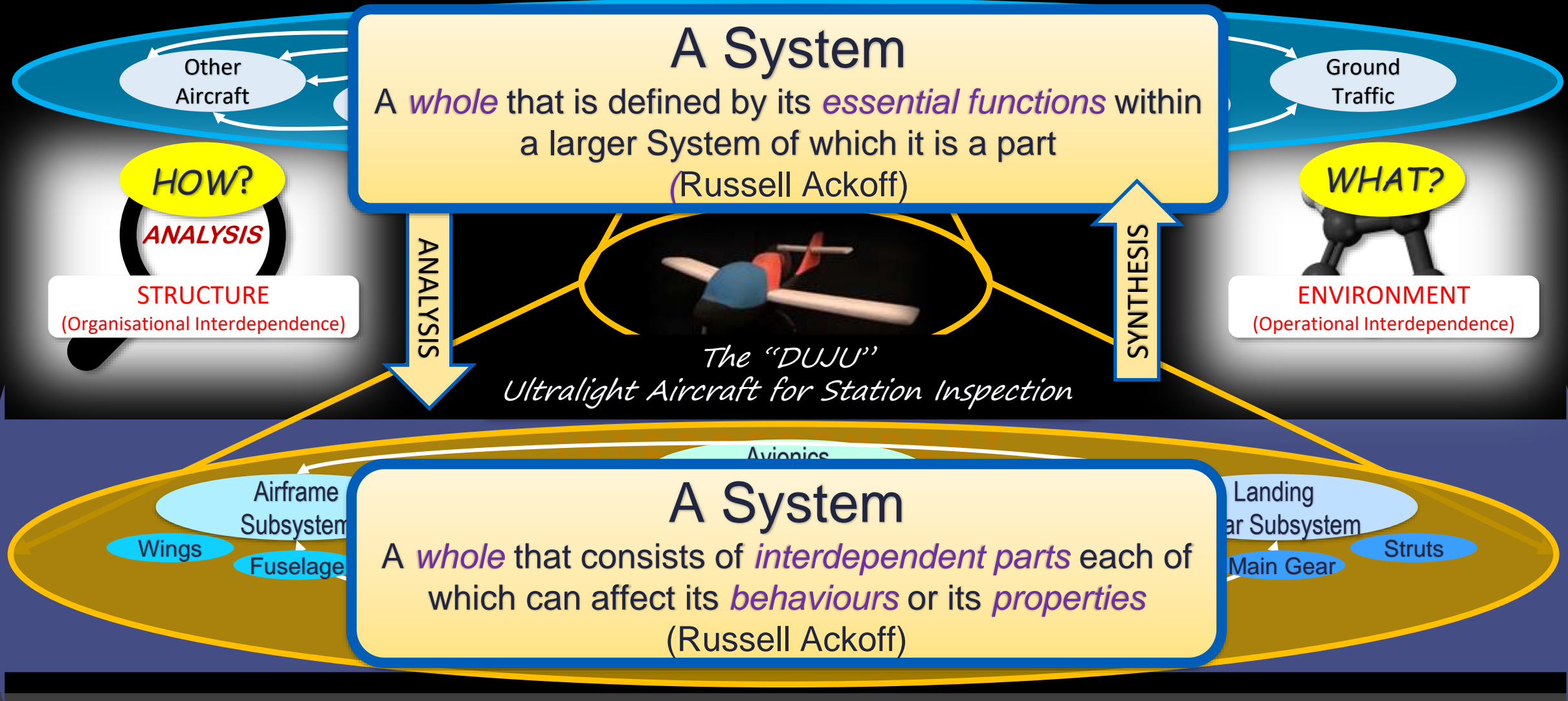
Main Gear

Struts

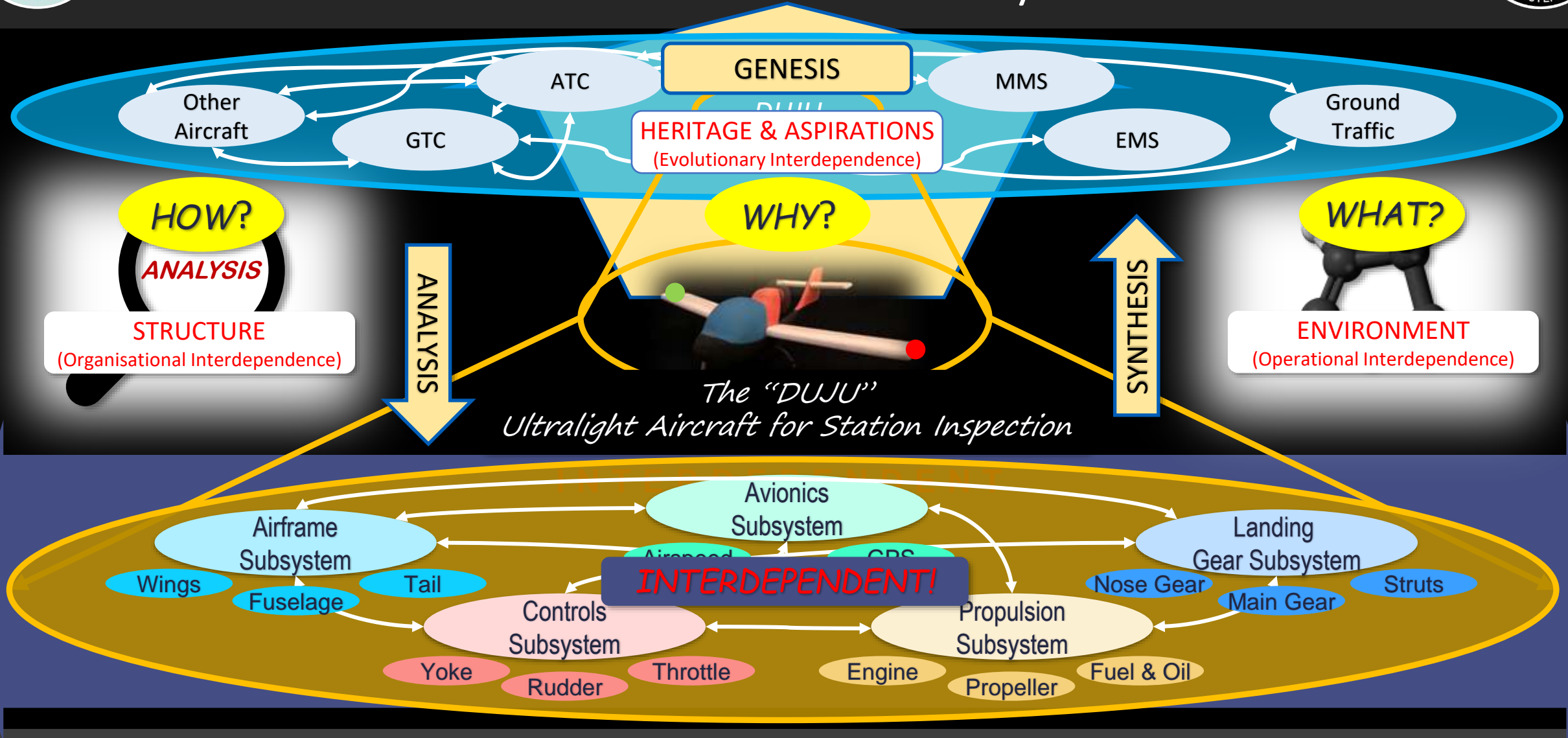
How do we understand a System?



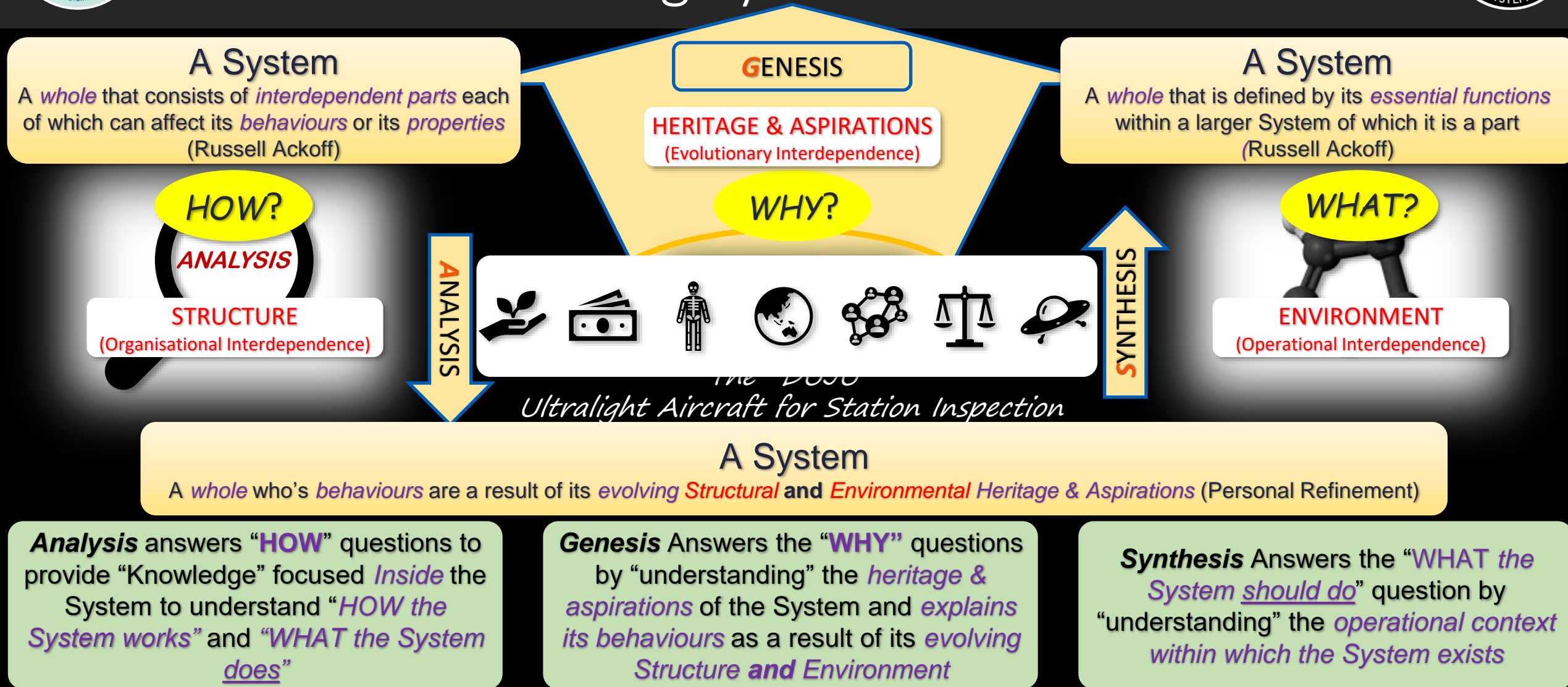
How do we understand a System?



How do we understand a System?



Understanding Systems...with “GAS”



Presentation Structure



Principles & Concepts

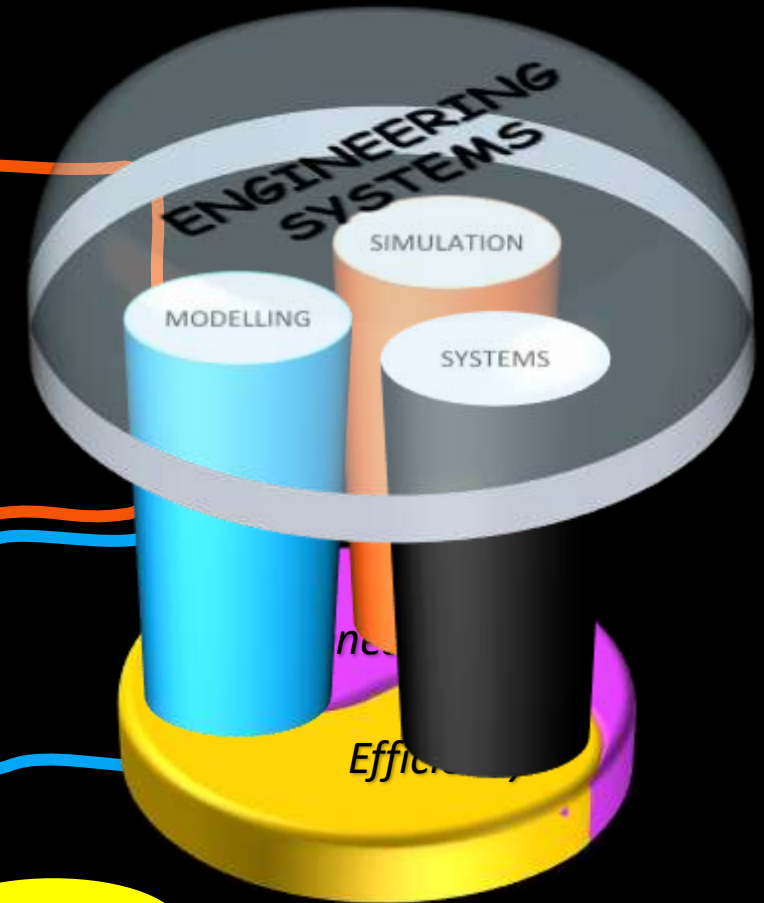
- Systems Thinking
- *Modelling & Simulation*
- The Content of our Minds
- The Engineering of Systems
- Key Points & Recommendations

Application & Conclusions

WHY?

WHAT?

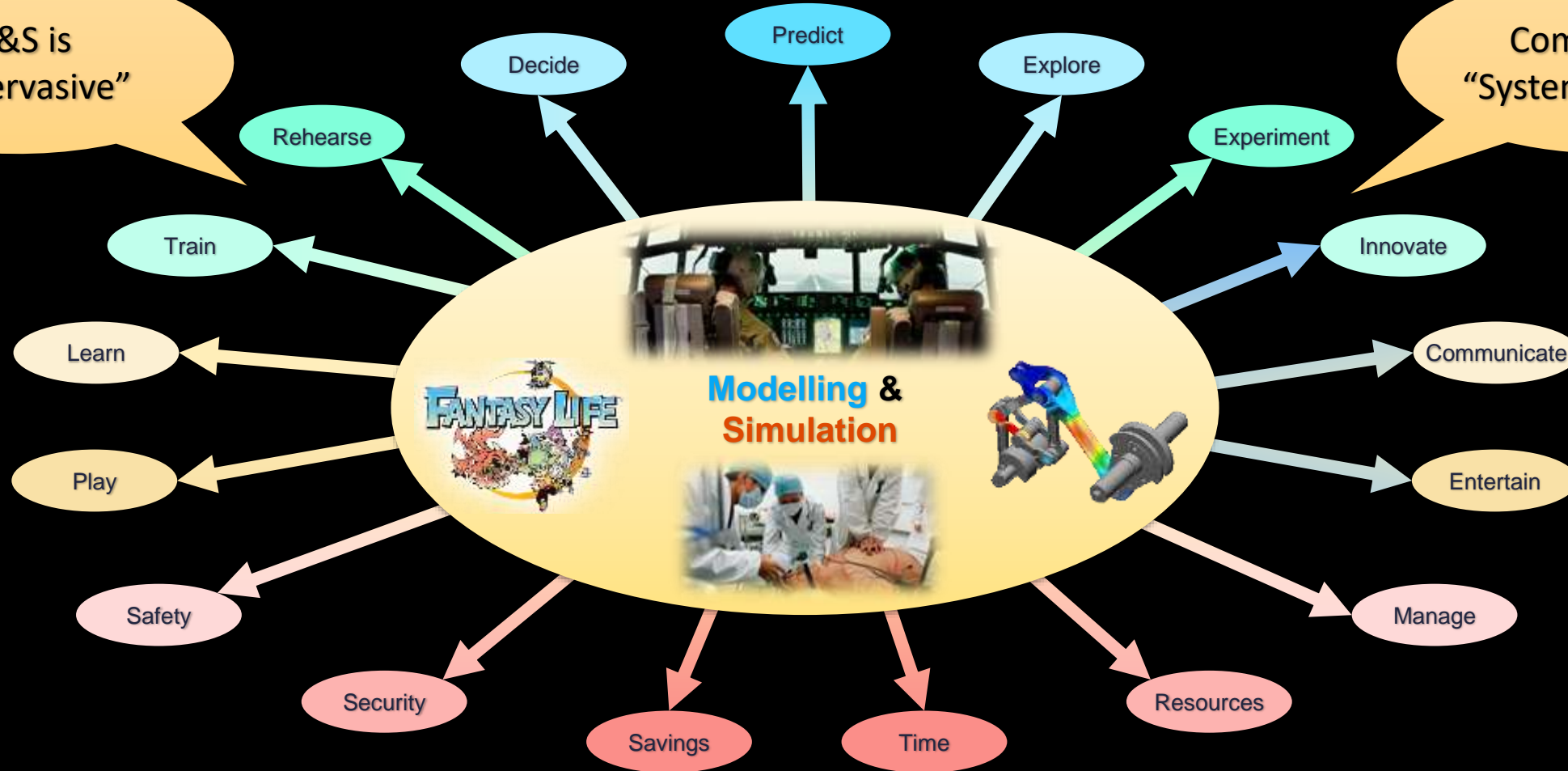
HOW?



Motivation – Why?

M&S is
“all-pervasive”

Compliments
“Systems Thinking”



Definitions – What?

$$\text{Simulation} = \text{Model} + \text{Execution}$$

A **Model** is a Physical, Mathematical or Logical *abstraction for a particular purpose* (i.e. focused/targeted fidelity), of a System, Entity, Phenomenon, Activity or Process (i.e. a *suitable representation*)

A **Simulation** is an **Enactment** (Method of Implementing) a **Model** over **Time**

Examples of **Simulations**



A **model** of a vehicle that moves across a **model** of terrain over **time**



A **Simulator** → The Tool that **Executes** the **Simulation**

Definitions – What?

Fidelity → Breadth of Scope (forms, properties, functions) and Associated Resolution (granularity/detail)

A **Model** is a Physical, Mathematical or Logical *abstraction for a particular purpose* (i.e. focused/targeted fidelity), of a System, Entity, Phenomenon, Activity or Process (i.e. a *suitable representation*)

A **Simulation**



All models are wrong, but some are useful.

— George E. P. Box —

AZ QUOTES

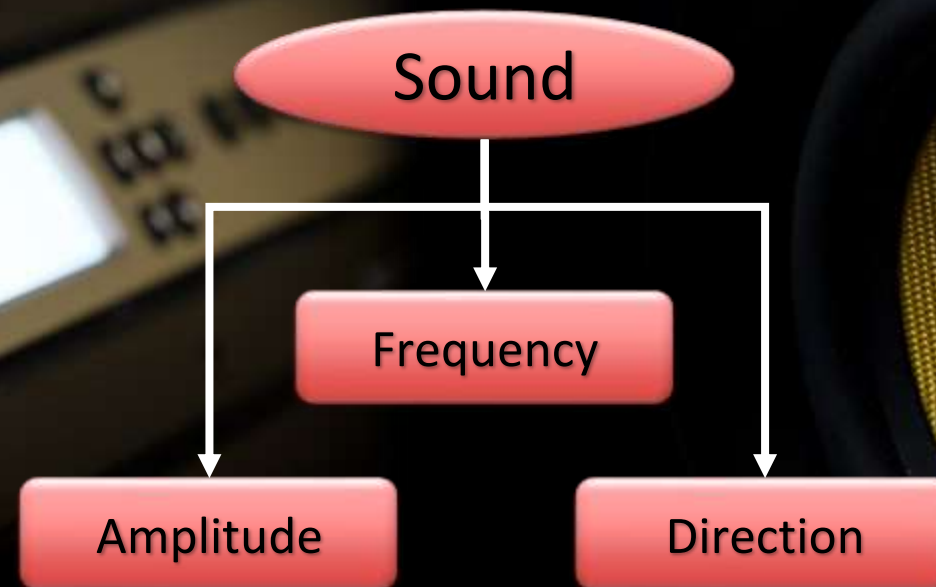
Model over **Time**



A **Simulator** → The Tool that **Executes** the **Simulation**

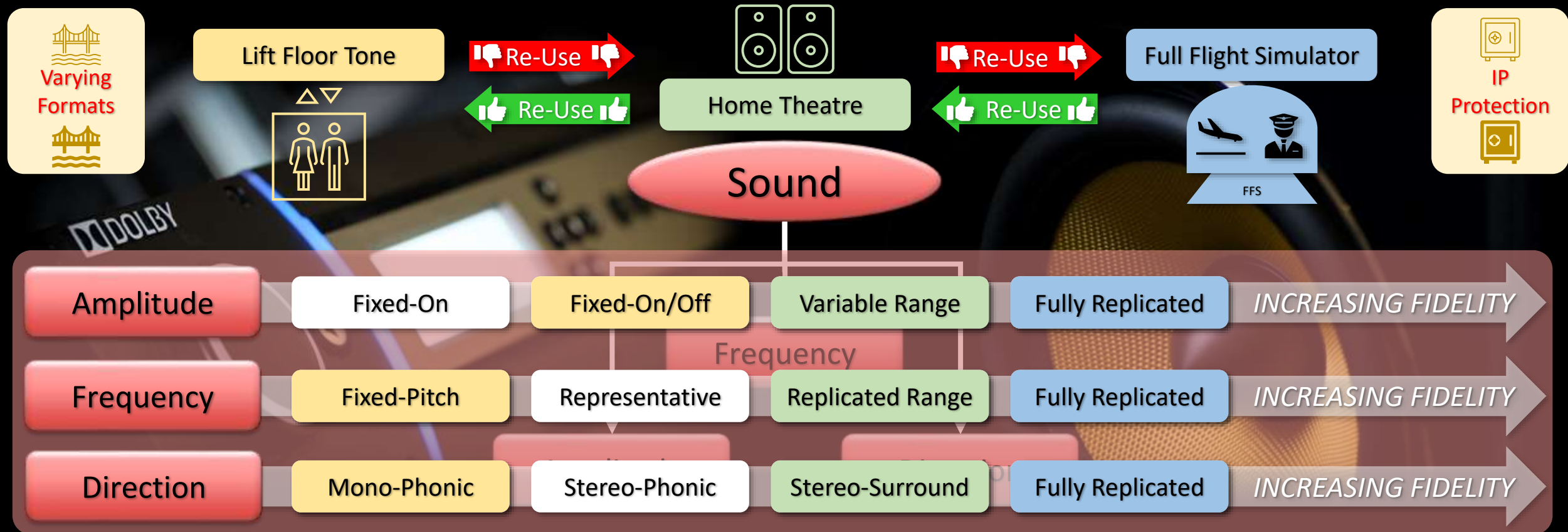
Definitions – Fidelity (How?)

Fidelity → Breadth of Scope (forms, properties, functions) and Associated Resolution (granularity/detail)



Definitions – Fidelity (How?)

Fidelity → Breadth of Scope (forms, properties, functions) and Associated Resolution (granularity/detail)



Presentation Structure



Principles & Concepts

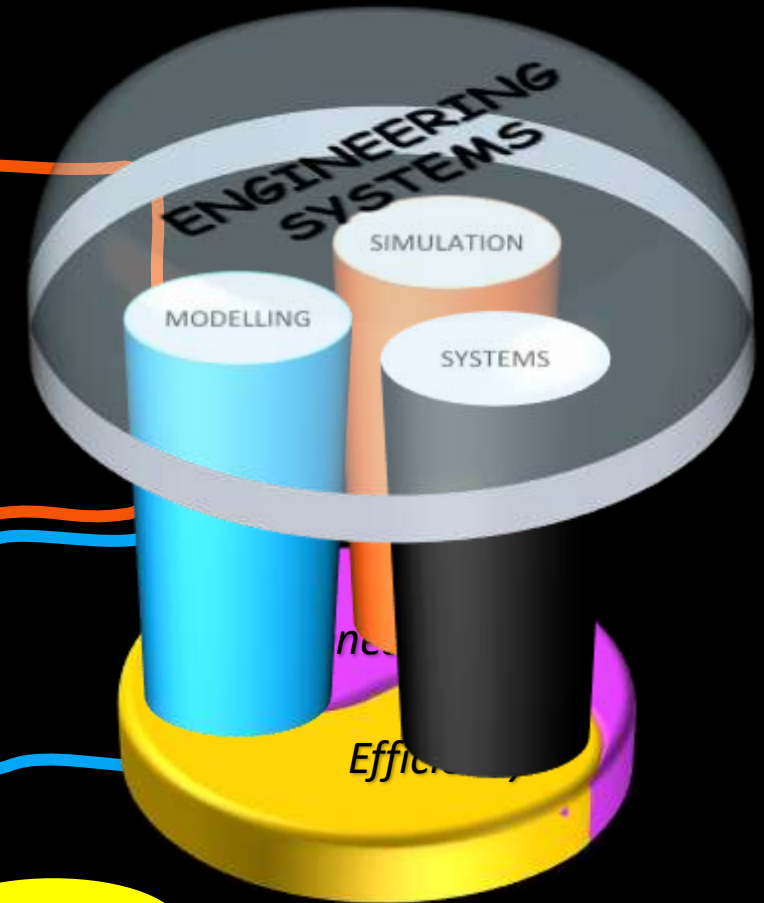
- Systems Thinking
- Modelling & Simulation
- *The Content of our Minds*
- The Engineering of Systems
- Key Points & Recommendations

Application & Conclusions

WHY?

WHAT?

HOW?



Why do we see things differently?

It is really confusing!!!

Image Credit – Timeline Photos

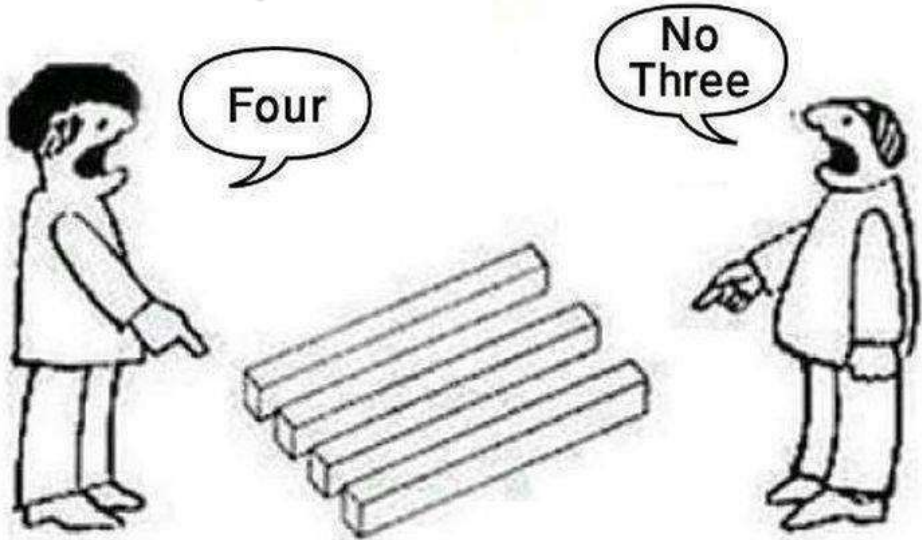


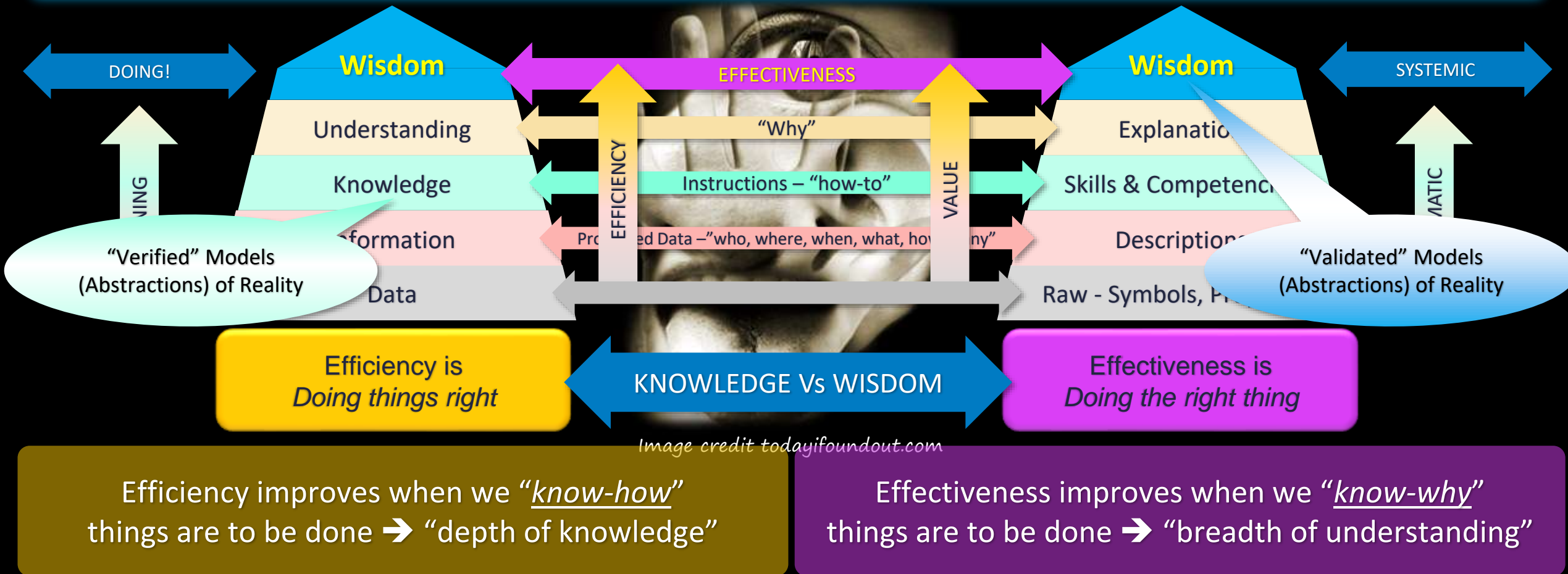
Image credit todayifoundout.com



We are all in agreement then.

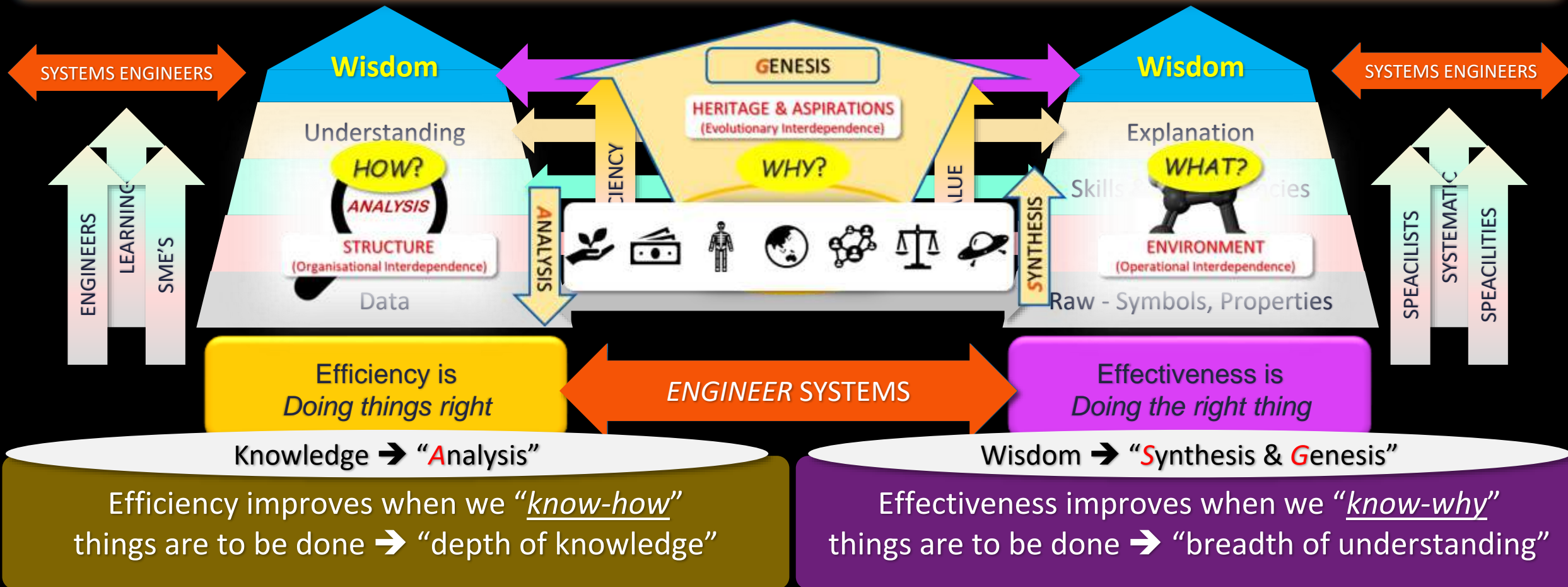
How do we Understand / Create our Reality?

Knowledge can be taught / Wisdom must be learned (“doing” in an “environment”!)



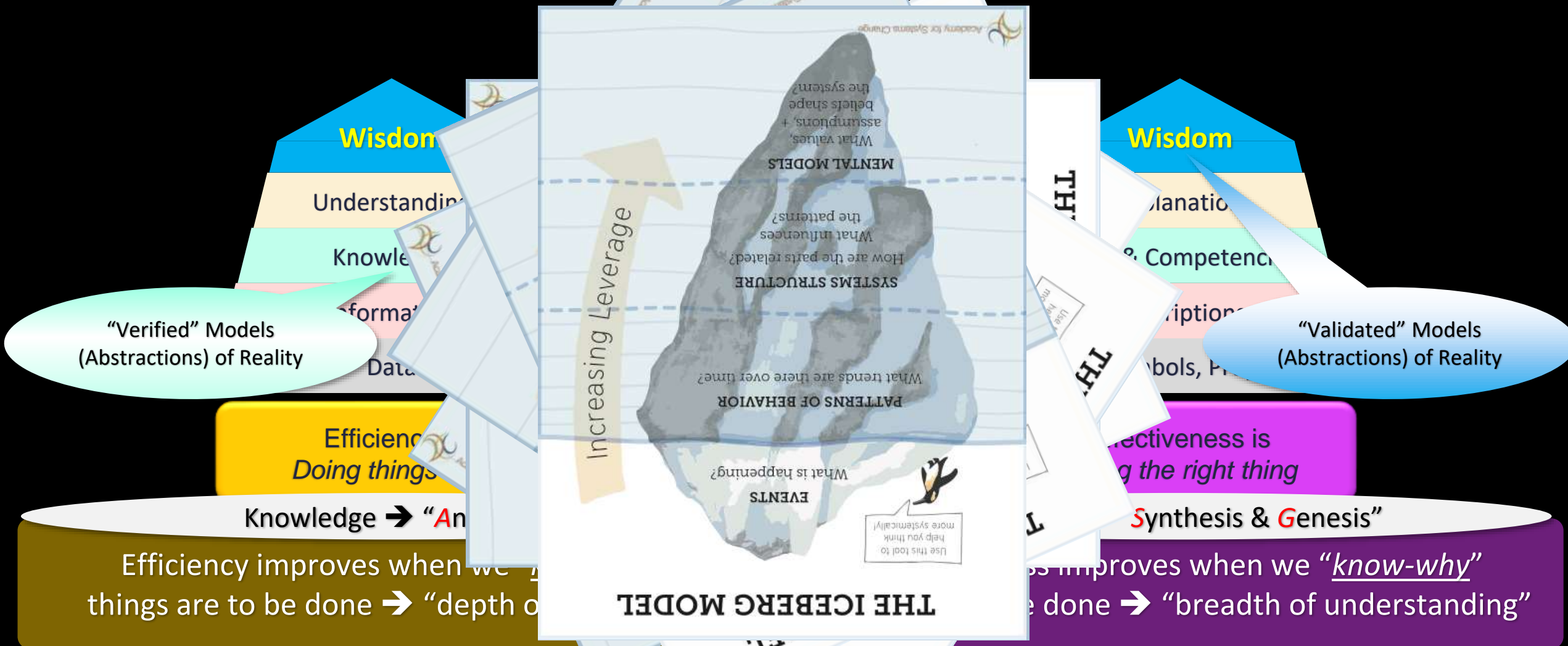
How we Understand / Create our Reality...

“A *transdisciplinary* and *integrative approach* building on *systemic principles* and *concepts*...”



The Content of our Minds

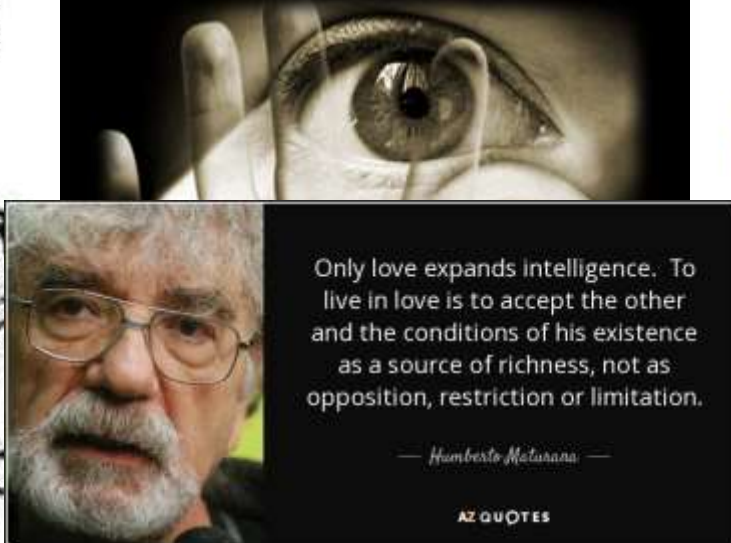
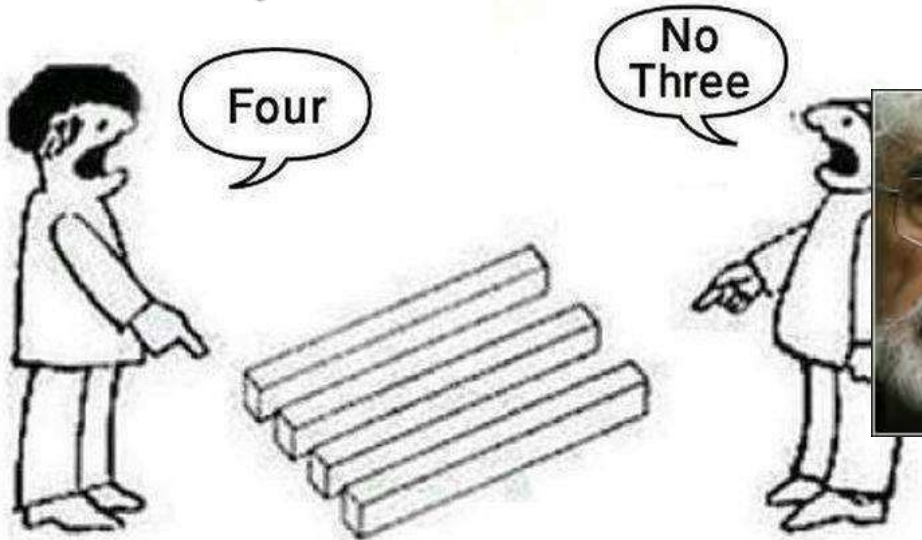
How we Understand / Create our Reality...



Why we see things differently...

It is really confusing!!!

Image Credit – Timeline Photos



Only love expands intelligence. To live in love is to accept the other and the conditions of his existence as a source of richness, not as opposition, restriction or limitation.

— Humberto Maturana —

AZ QUOTES



We are all in agreement then.

Image credit todayifoundout.com

“We don’t perceive the world we see, we see the world we perceive” – Humberto Maturana

Presentation Structure



Principles & Concepts

- Systems Thinking
- Modelling & Simulation
- The Content of our Minds

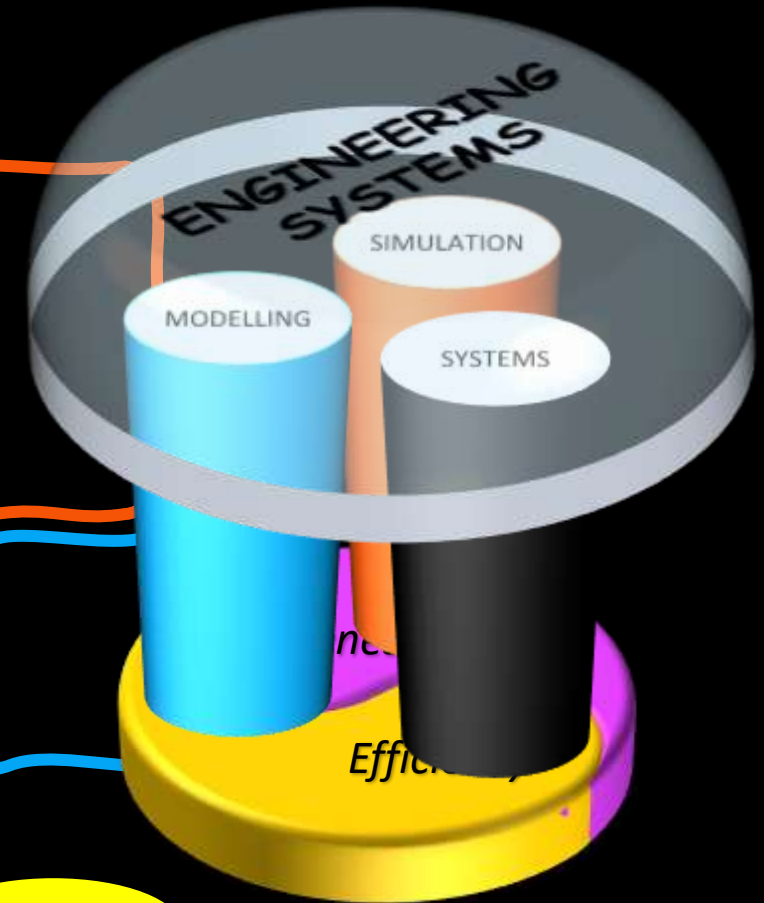
- *The Engineering of Systems*
- Key Points & Recommendations

Application & Conclusions

WHY?

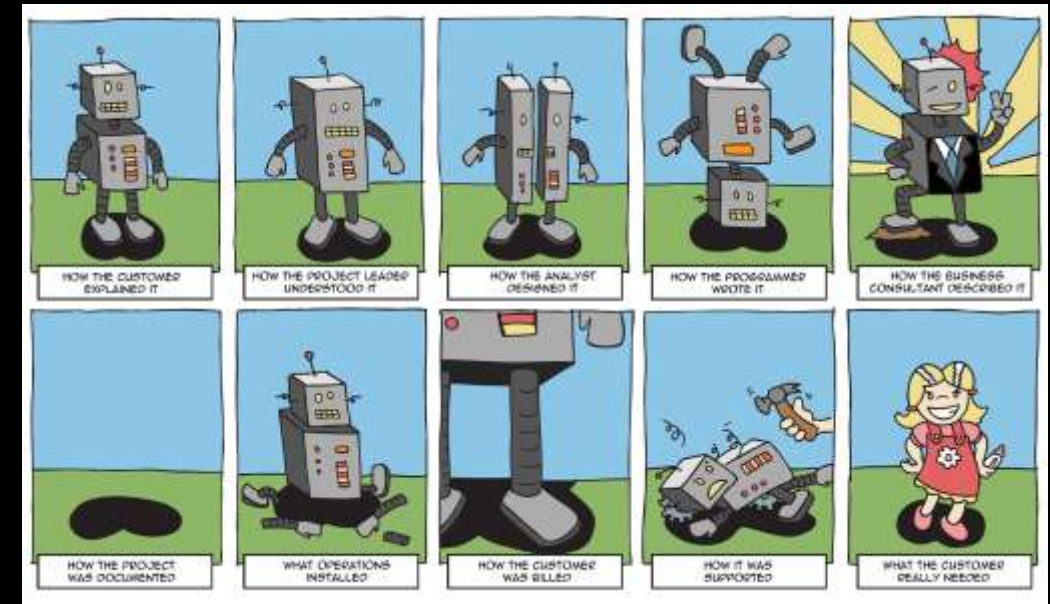
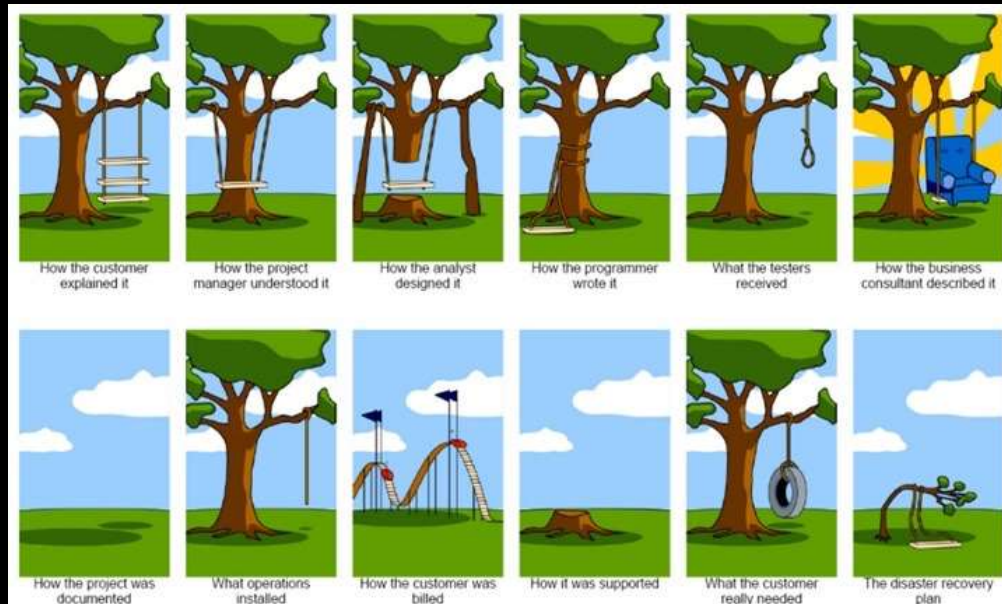
WHAT?

HOW?



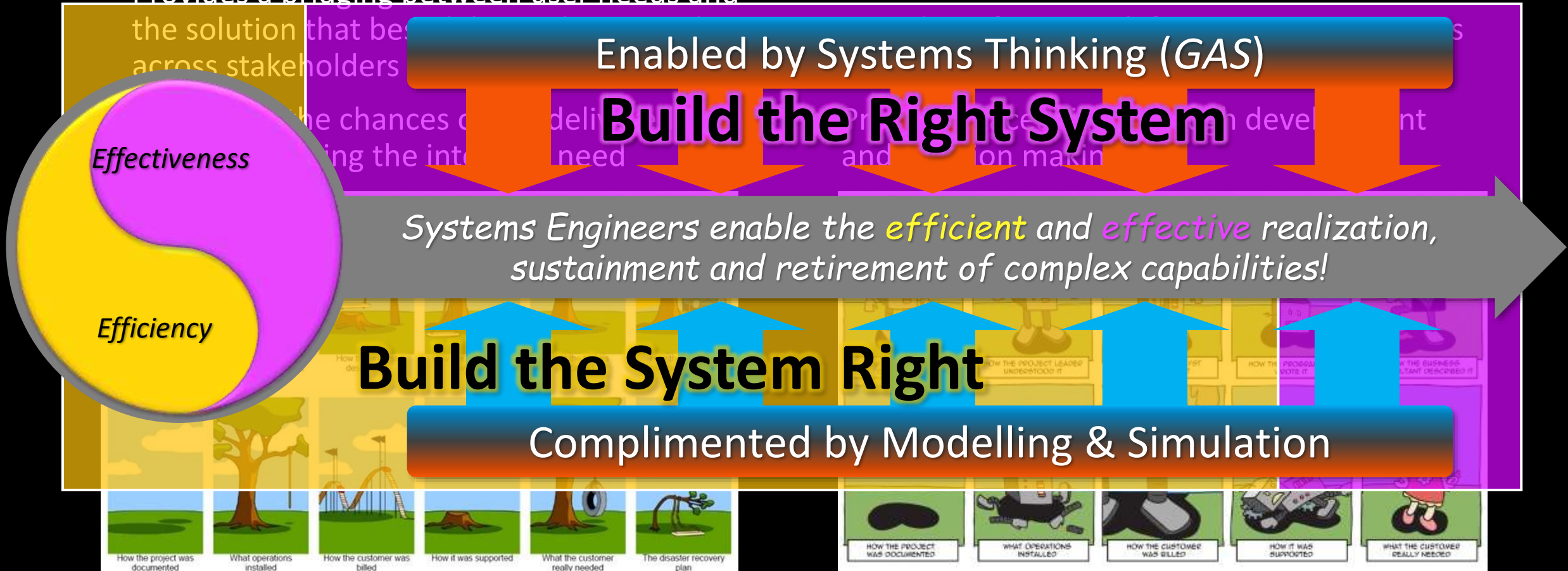
Motivation for Systems Engineering

- A framework to deal with complexity and risk
- Provides a bridging between user needs and the solution that best delivers these needs across stakeholders
- Maximises the chances of the delivered solution meeting the intended need
- Builds in the quality, saves money and reduces risk
- Provides a framework for measuring progress through project phases
- Provides traceability through development and decision making

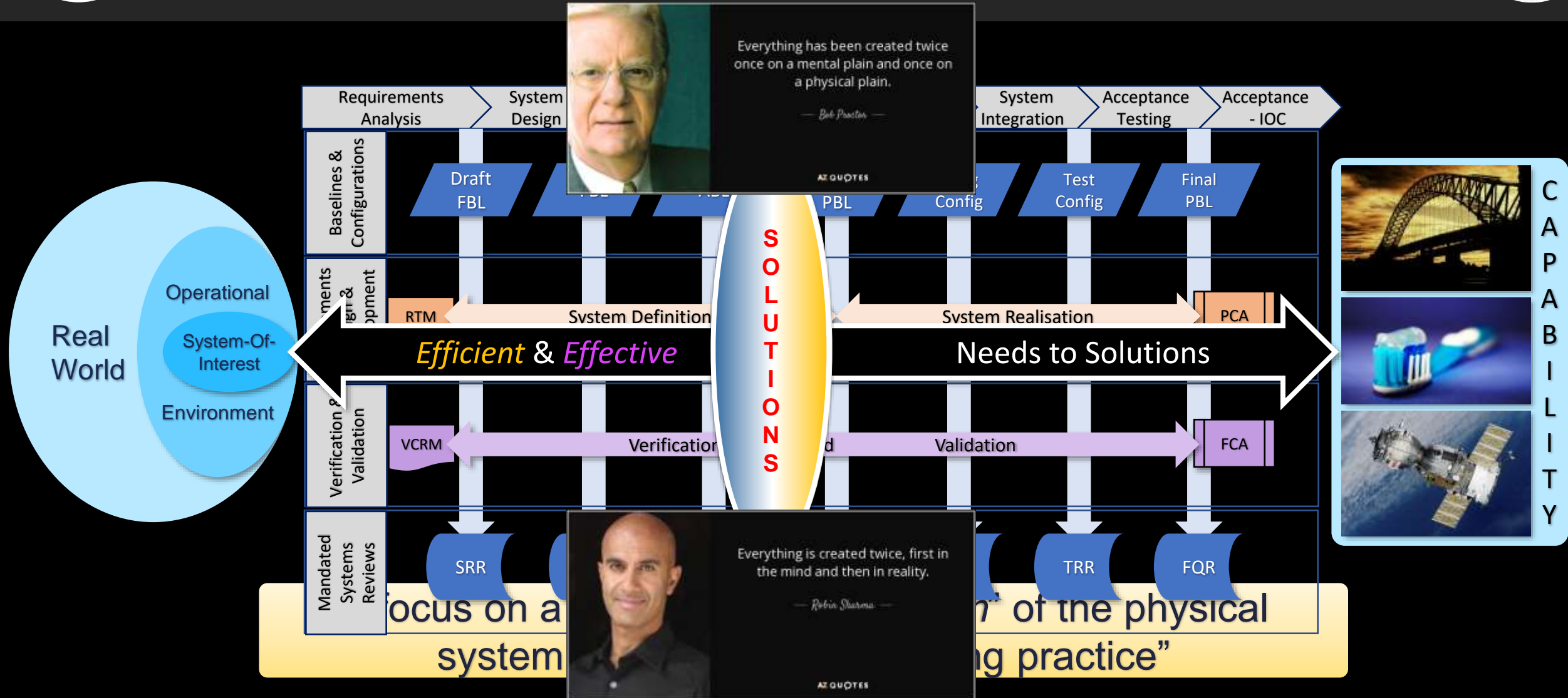


The Essence of “Engineering Systems”

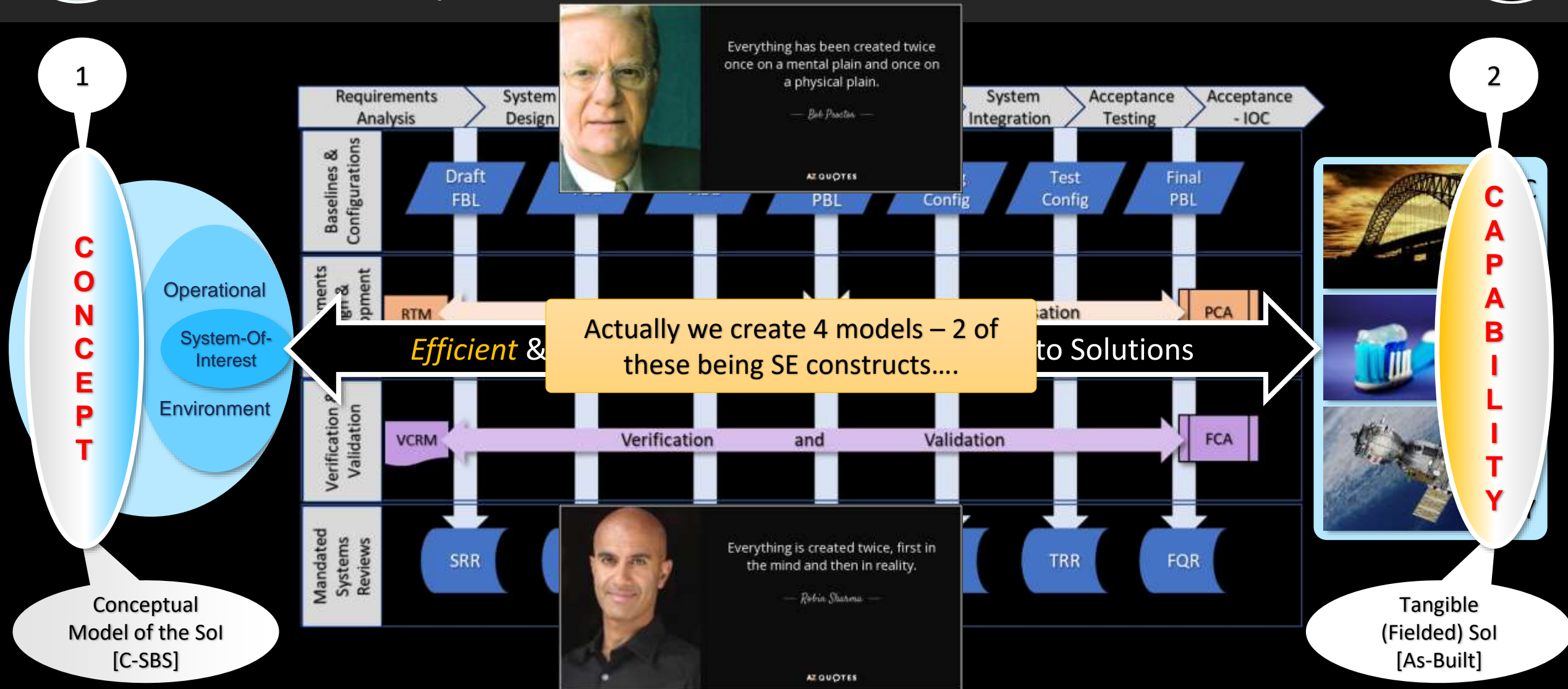
- A framework to deal with complexity and risk
- Builds in the quality, saves money and reduces risk
- Provides a bridging between user needs and the solution that best meets those needs across stakeholders



What is our Underlying Intent ?



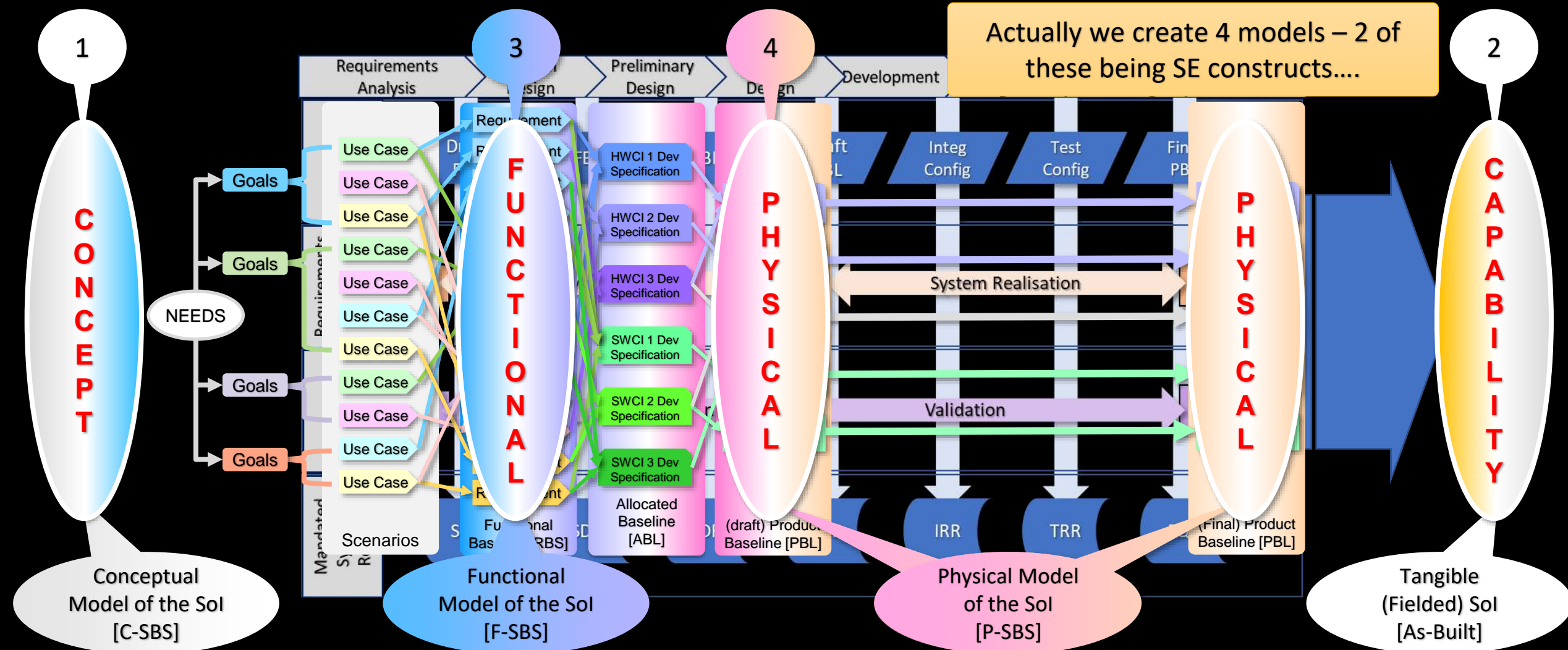
Always (at least) Two Creations...

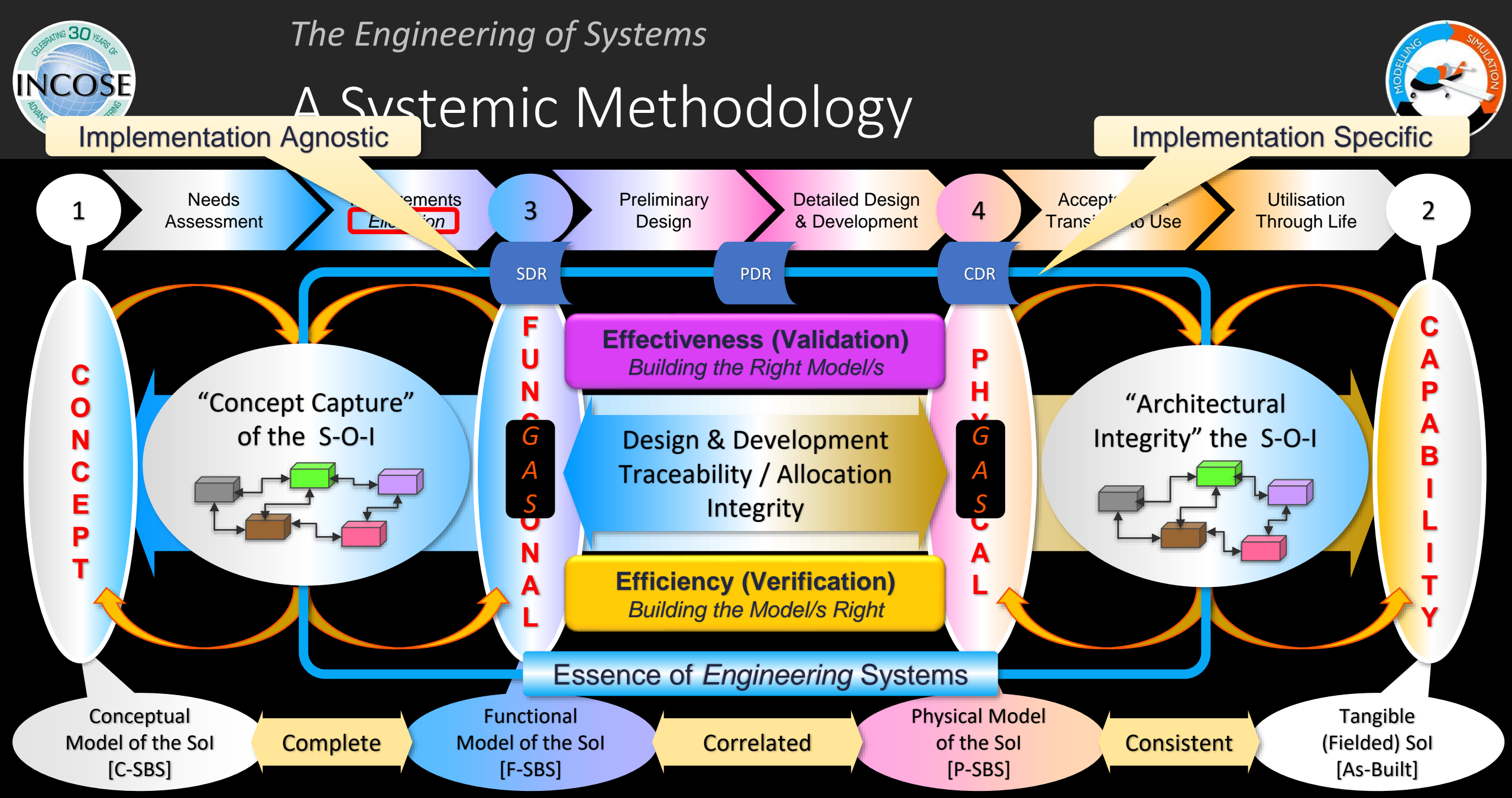


2

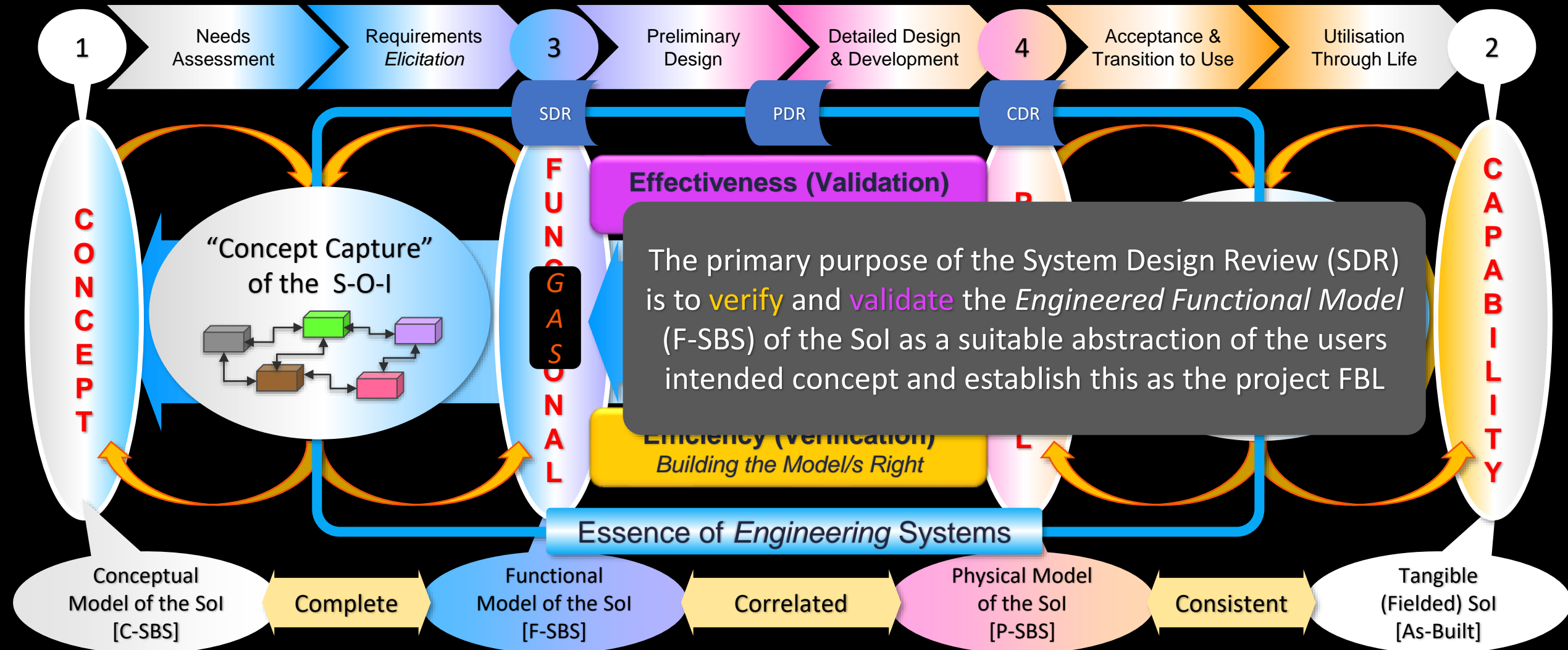


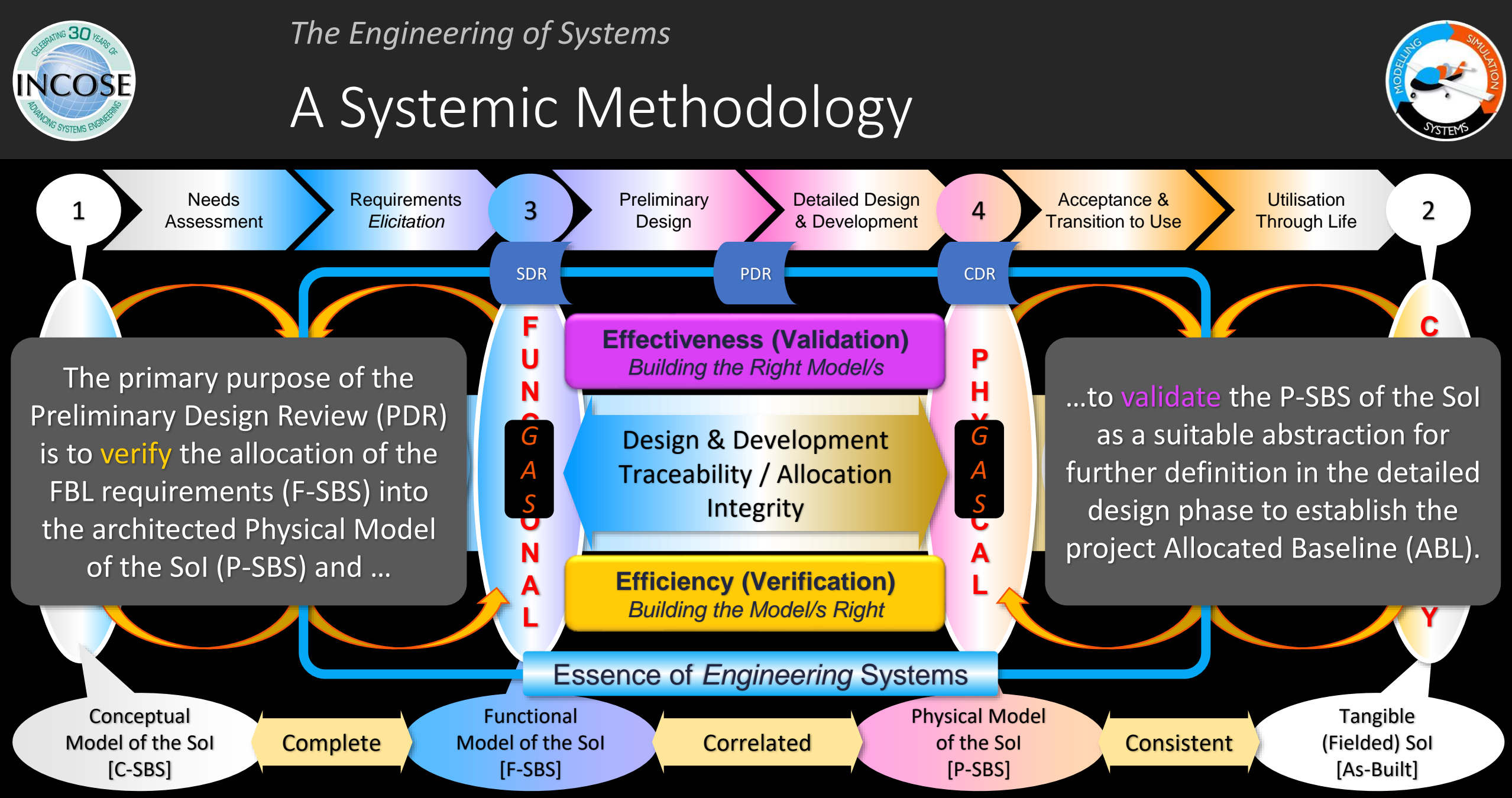
Four Models of each System Created

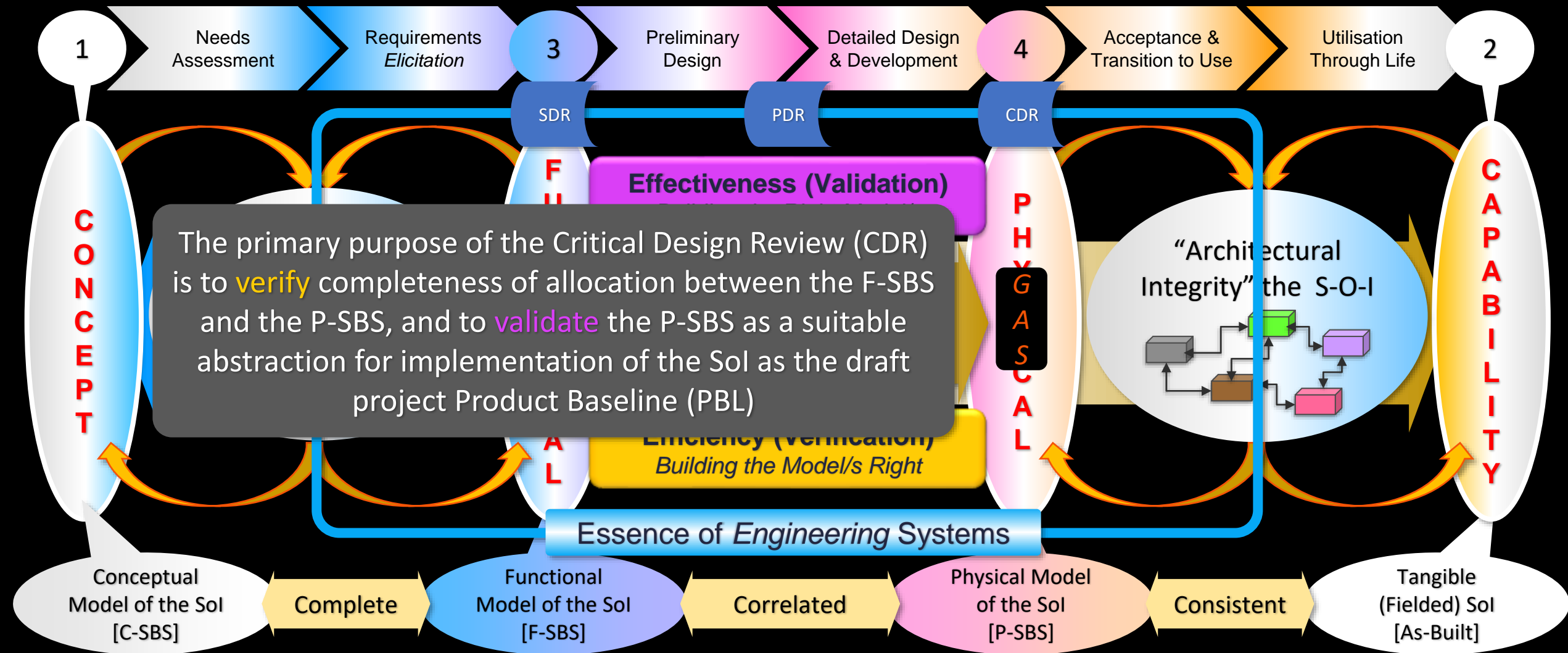




A Systemic Methodology







Presentation Structure



Principles & Concepts

- Systems Thinking
- Modelling & Simulation
- The Content of our Minds

- The Engineering of Systems

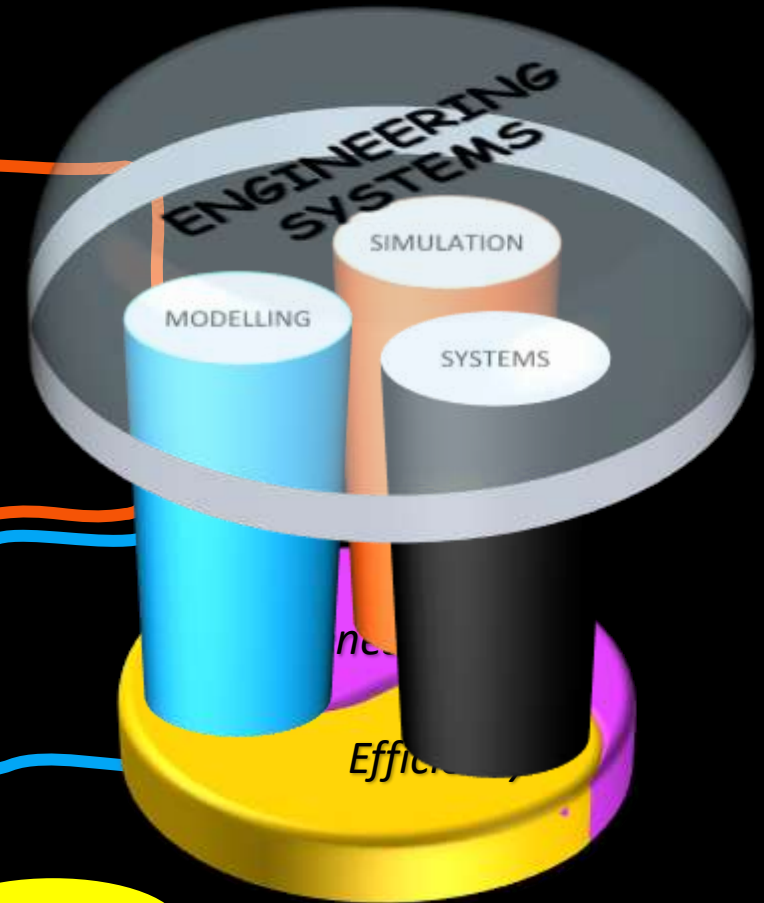
- *Key Points & Recommendations*

Application & Conclusions

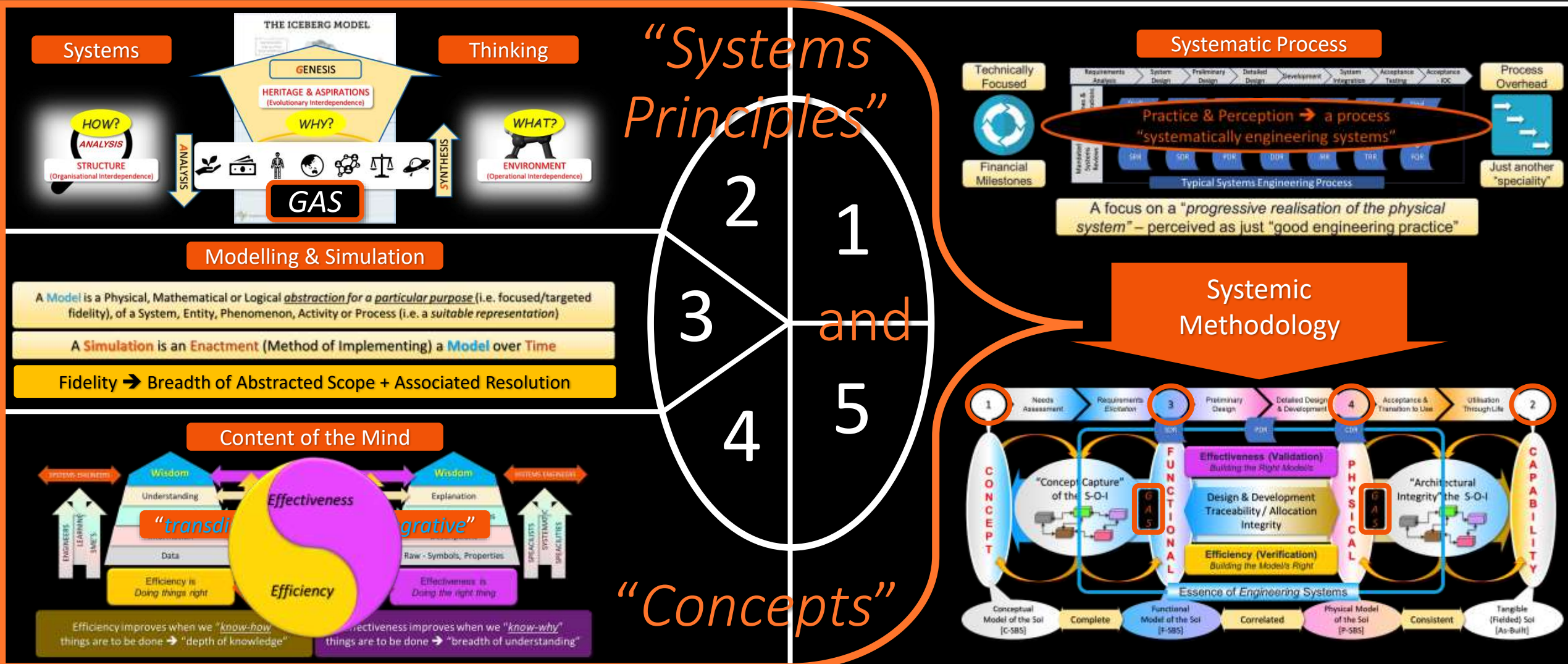
WHY?

WHAT?

HOW?



Summary of Key Points



Summary of Key Points

A Personal Definition on the “How” of *Engineering Systems*

The application of **systemic principles and concepts** (ST-GAS, M&S) in a **systematic whole-of-life framework** that facilitates an **efficient** and **effective** definition and realisation of Systems, their delivery into service, ensures their ongoing utility through life, their transition out of service and their eventual disposal.



INCOSE Definition (2019) – “What is Systems Engineering”

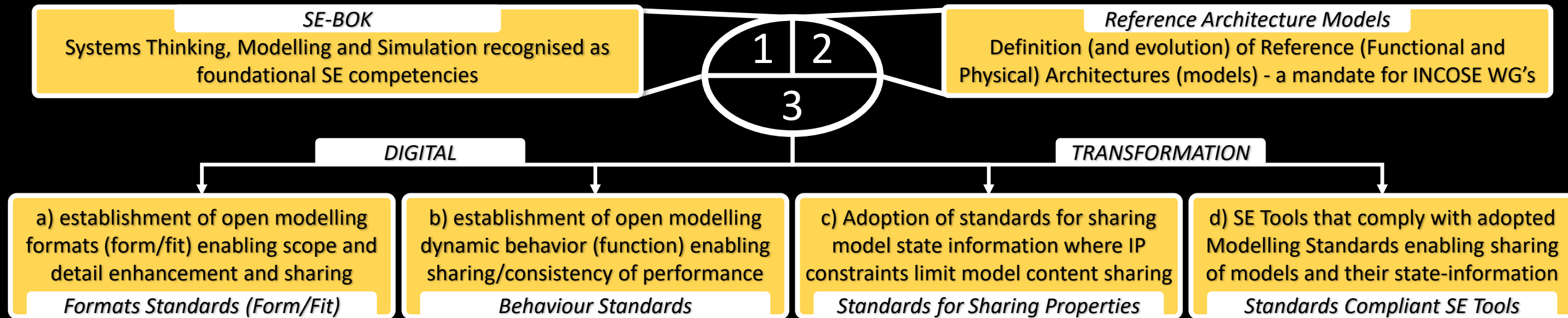
Systems Engineering is a **transdisciplinary** and **integrative** approach to enable the successful realization, use, and retirement of engineered systems, using **systems principles** and **concepts**, and scientific, technological, and management methods.

(<http://www.incose.org/AboutSE/WhatIsSE>)

Recommendations

A Personal Definition on the “How” of *Engineering Systems*

The application of **systemic principles and concepts** (ST-GAS, M&S) in a **systematic whole-of-life framework** that facilitates an **efficient** and **effective** definition and realisation of Systems, their delivery into service, ensures their ongoing utility through life, their transition out of service and their eventual disposal.



INCOSE Definition (2019) – “What is Systems Engineering”

Systems Engineering is a **transdisciplinary** and **integrative** approach to enable the successful realization, use, and retirement of engineered systems, using **systems principles** and **concepts**, and scientific, technological, and management methods.

(<http://www.incose.org/AboutSE/WhatIsSE>)