

PMI® Authorized Certified Associate in  
Project Management (CAPM)®  
Exam Prep Course

# Adaptive Approaches

Flexible Approaches



## In This Session:

- When to use an adaptive approach
- Team structure in adaptive projects
- Requirements for the adaptive project environment
- Structure and culture of adaptive teams
- Steps in an adaptive project
- Agile life cycles

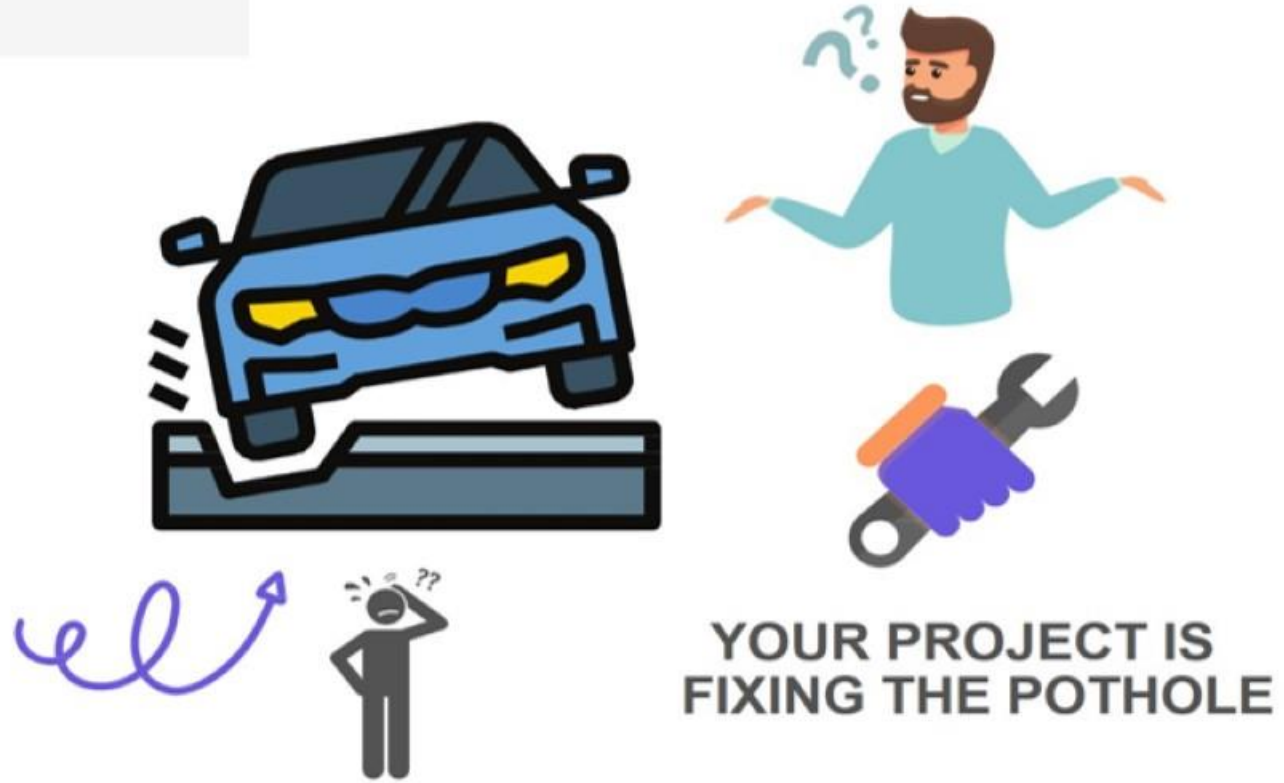


# Simple Project

# A Simple project

As the Project Manager, your assigned project is to oversee the repair of the pothole.

As the Project Manager, you are responsible for addressing the pothole repair by employing predictive, iterative, incremental, and agile methodologies.



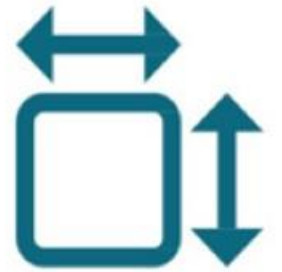
**YOUR PROJECT IS  
FIXING THE POTHOLE**



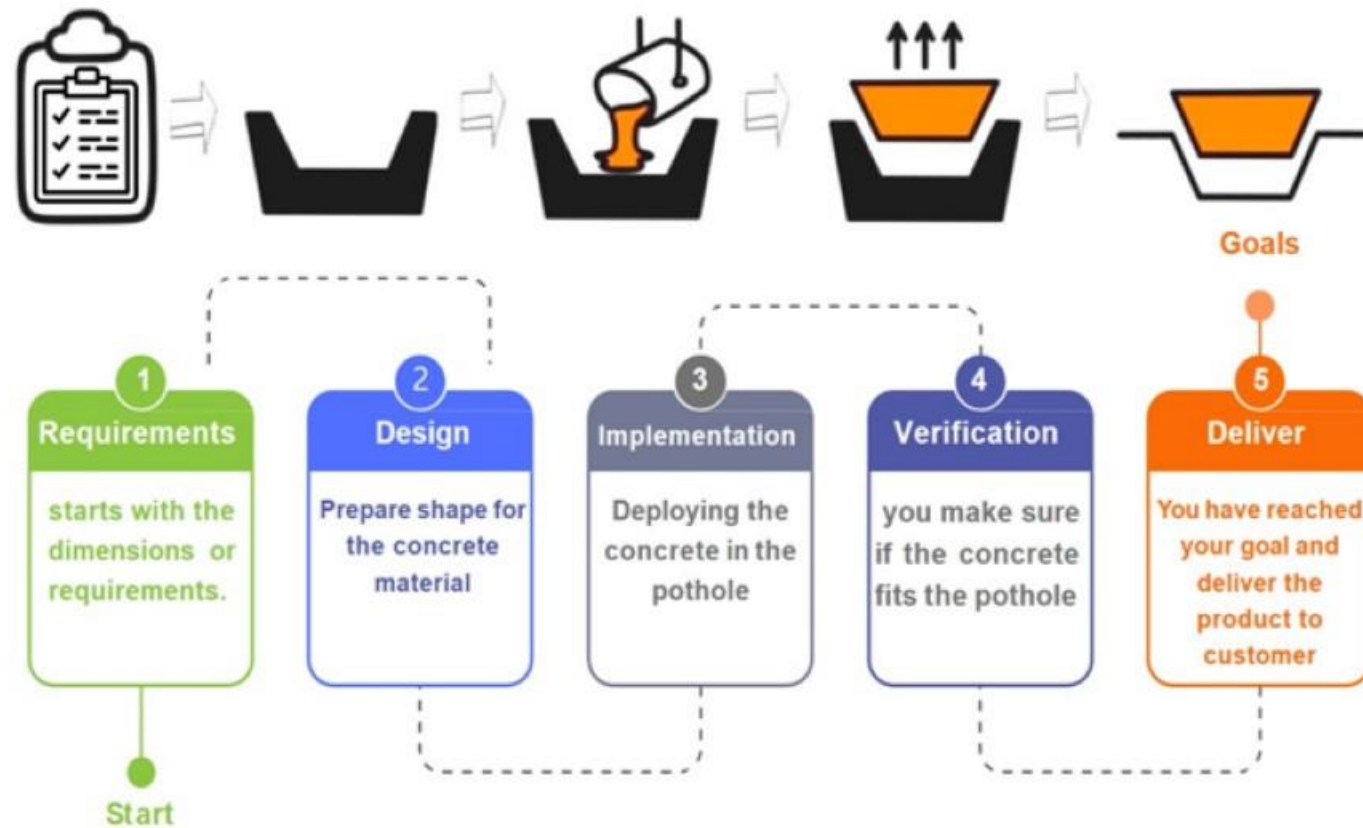
# Predictive Approach

- You know the dimensions of the pothole.
- You know the requirements of your project.

PASS-PM.CO



# Waterfall- Sequential Relationship



# Predictive/ Waterfall

**Sequential  
relationship.**

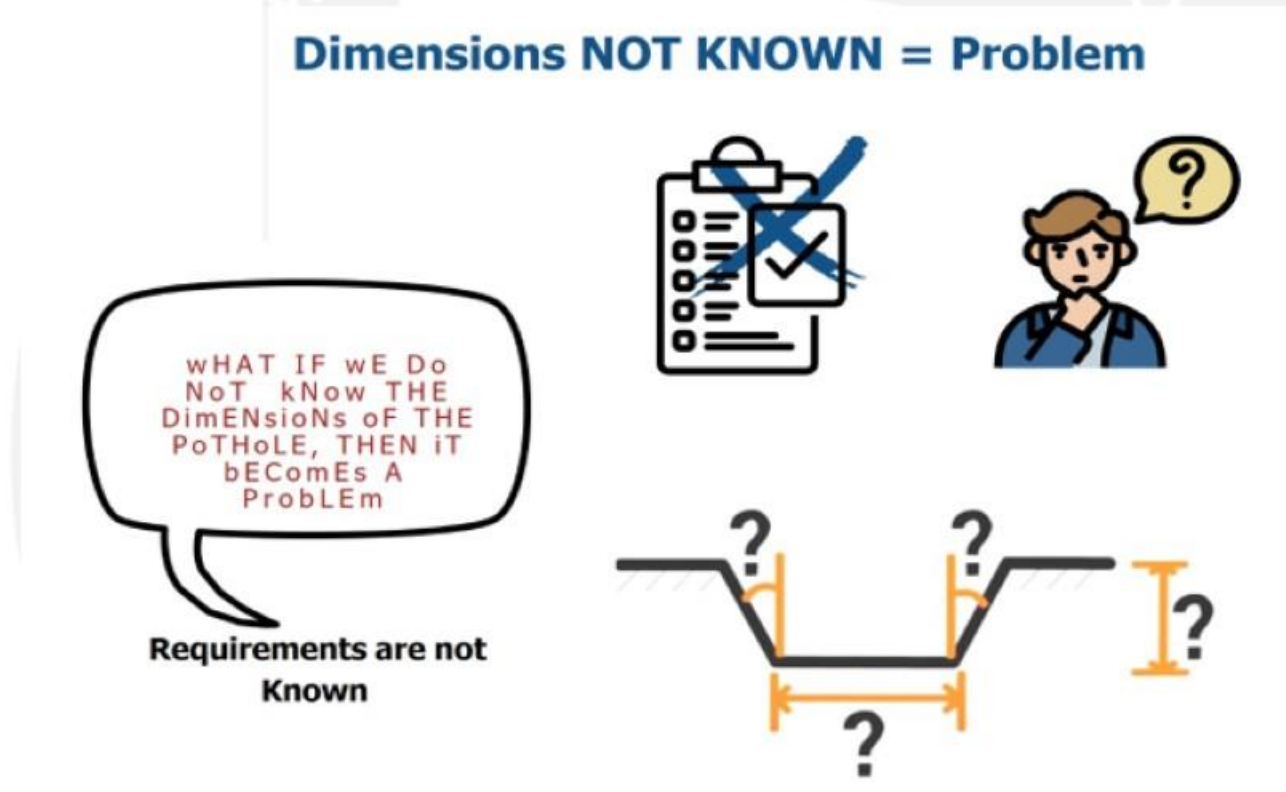
**Predictive means  
planning  
everything in detail  
from the start.**

**In a Predictive  
approach, also  
known as the  
Waterfall model,  
you plan all the  
project details  
upfront.**

**Changes are hard  
to make once the  
project starts.**

# Dimensions/ Requirements are not known

The problem arises when the dimensions or requirements are not clearly specified.



# Iterative Approach

- Iterative means doing something over and over, making improvements each time.
- The goal is to learn from each iteration and make improvements in the next one. This aligns with the PMI's focus on continuous improvement.





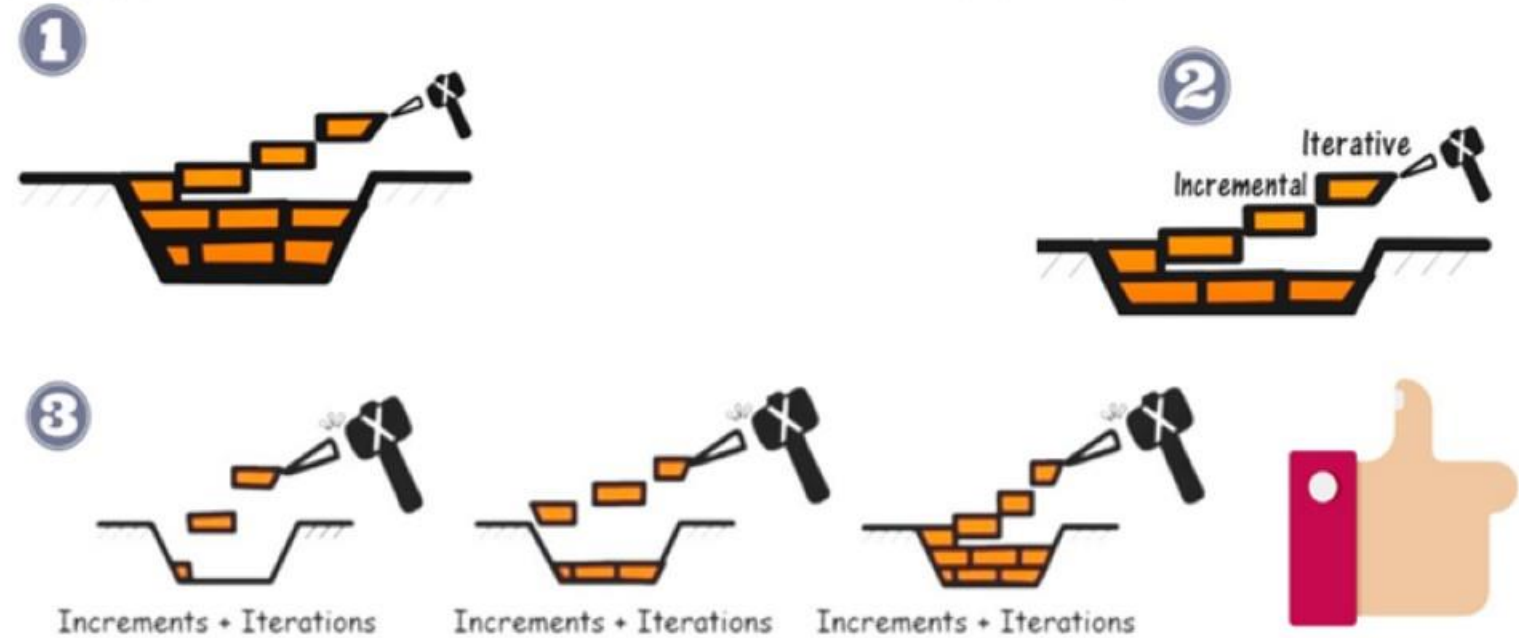
# Incremental Approach

- Incremental means adding new features or components step-by-step.
- In an Incremental approach, the project is divided into smaller parts, and each part adds value to the overall project.
- You build upon what you've already done, adding new features or components in each step.



# Agile Approach

- Agile methodology incorporates both Iterative and Incremental approaches.
- It breaks the project into smaller cycles (iterations) where planning, execution, and review happen.
- At the same time, each iteration delivers a usable product or feature, adding value incrementally.



# Agile Development And The Mona Lisa

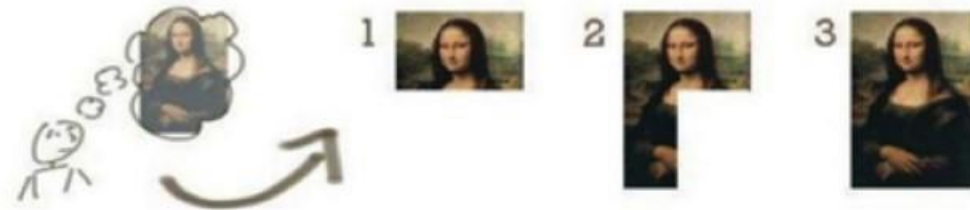
WATERFALL



Iterative



Incremental



Iterative & Incremental





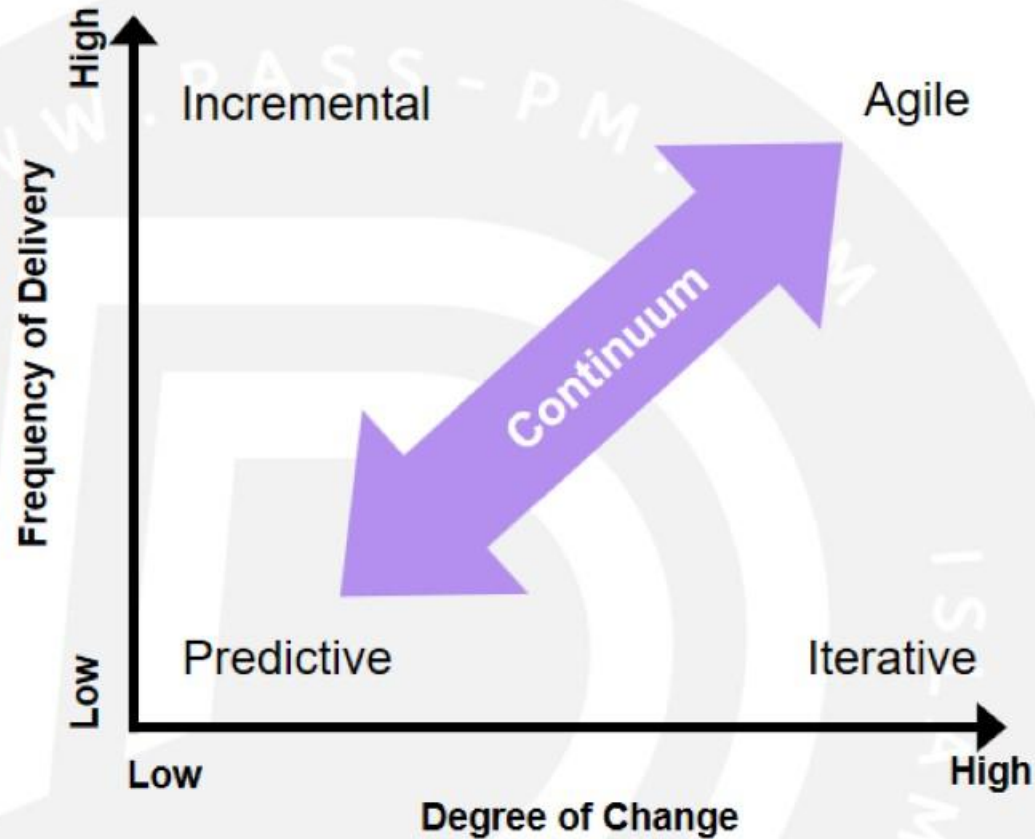
# Agile Life Cycles



# Agile Life Cycles

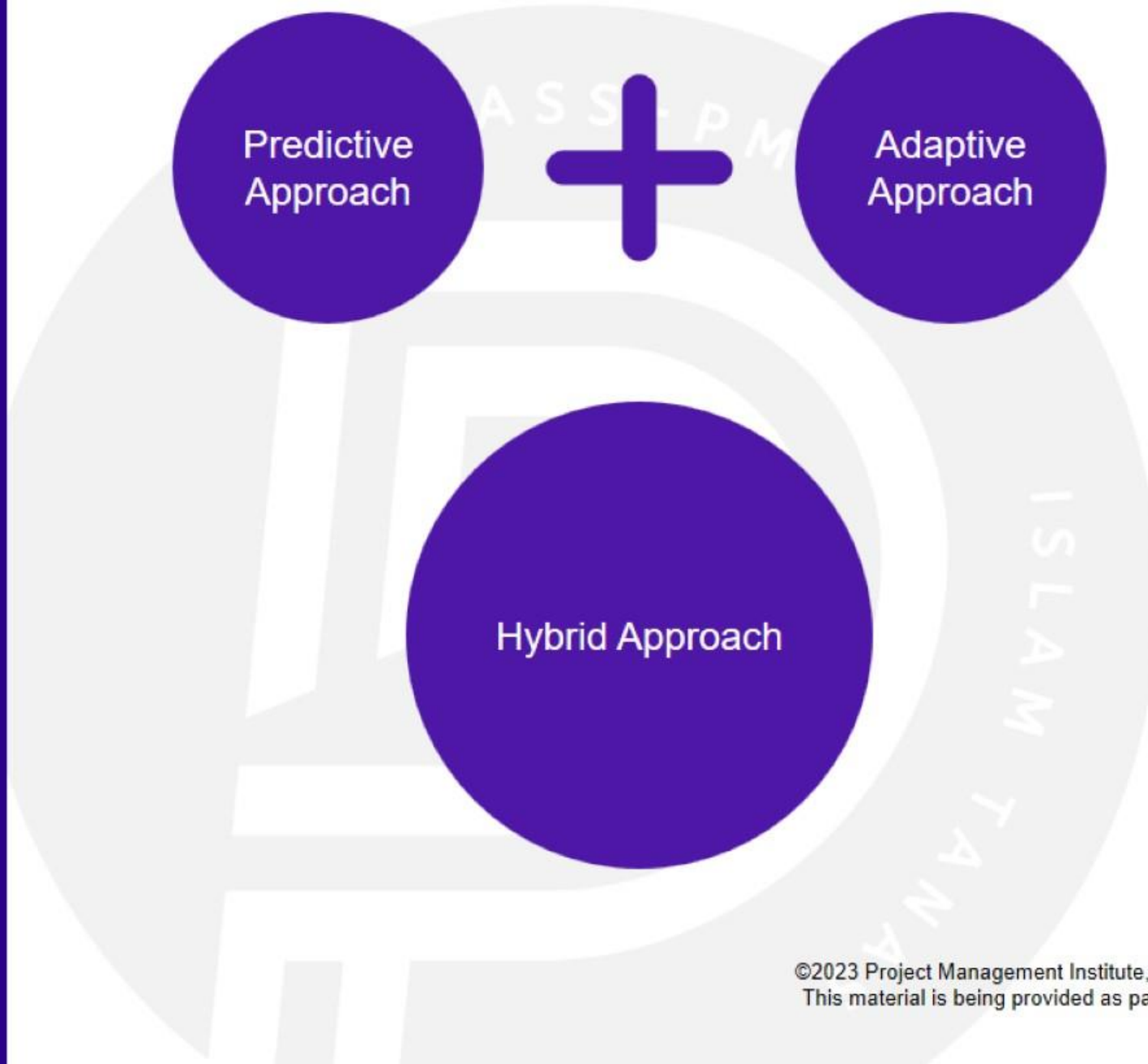
Agile life cycles are a special case of adaptive life cycles. Basically, if an adaptive life cycle demonstrates characteristics of both iterative and incremental delivery, it is considered an agile life cycle.

A goal of agile life cycles is to uncover hidden or misunderstood requirements. In an agile environment, the team expects requirements to change.





# Hybrid Approaches





# The Agile Manifesto

# Why Look at the Agile Manifesto?

WWW.PASS-PM.COM  
AGILE

**MANIFESTO**

# Four Guiding Principles/ Values



We value **individuals** and **interactions** over process and tools.



We value **working software** over comprehensive documentation.



We value **customer collaboration** over contract negotiation.



We value **responding to change** over following a plan.

[www.agilemanifesto.org](http://www.agilemanifesto.org)



# Principles of the Agile Manifesto

There are 12 principles given in the Agile Manifesto, such as:

At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly.

Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.

The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from self-organizing teams.

Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.

Simplicity, the art of maximizing the amount of work not done, is essential.

Deliver working software frequently, from every couple of weeks to couple of months, with a preference to the shorter timescale.

Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility.

Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.

Agile processes promote sustainable development. The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.

Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.

Working software is the primary measure of progress.

The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.





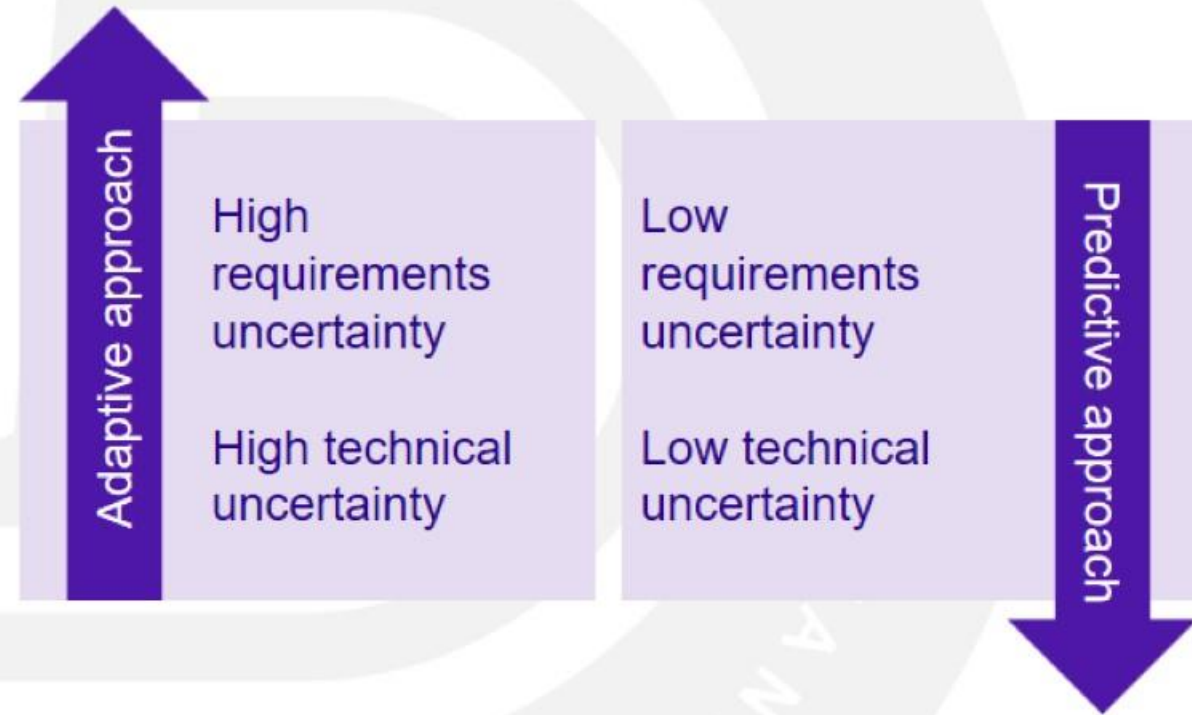
# When to Use the Adaptive Approach

# Product-, Service-, and Result-based Criteria

Attribute	Adaptive Approach	Predictive Approach
Degree of innovation	Highly innovative deliverables are less understood and are developed over time.	The project involves incremental innovation because it has a known project scope.
Requirements certainty	The full set of requirements is unknown in the initiation phase.	Requirements are known in the initiation phase.
Scope stability	The likelihood of scope change during project implementation is high.	Scope is relatively well known; major changes are unlikely.
Ease of change	Deliverables can easily be adapted.	The nature of the deliverables makes incorporating change in later stages difficult.
Delivery options	Multiple deliverables are possible.	There is a single point of delivery at the end of the project.
Risk	Modular design and development can mitigate high risks.	Known high risks require significant effort for initial planning.

# Dealing with Uncertainty

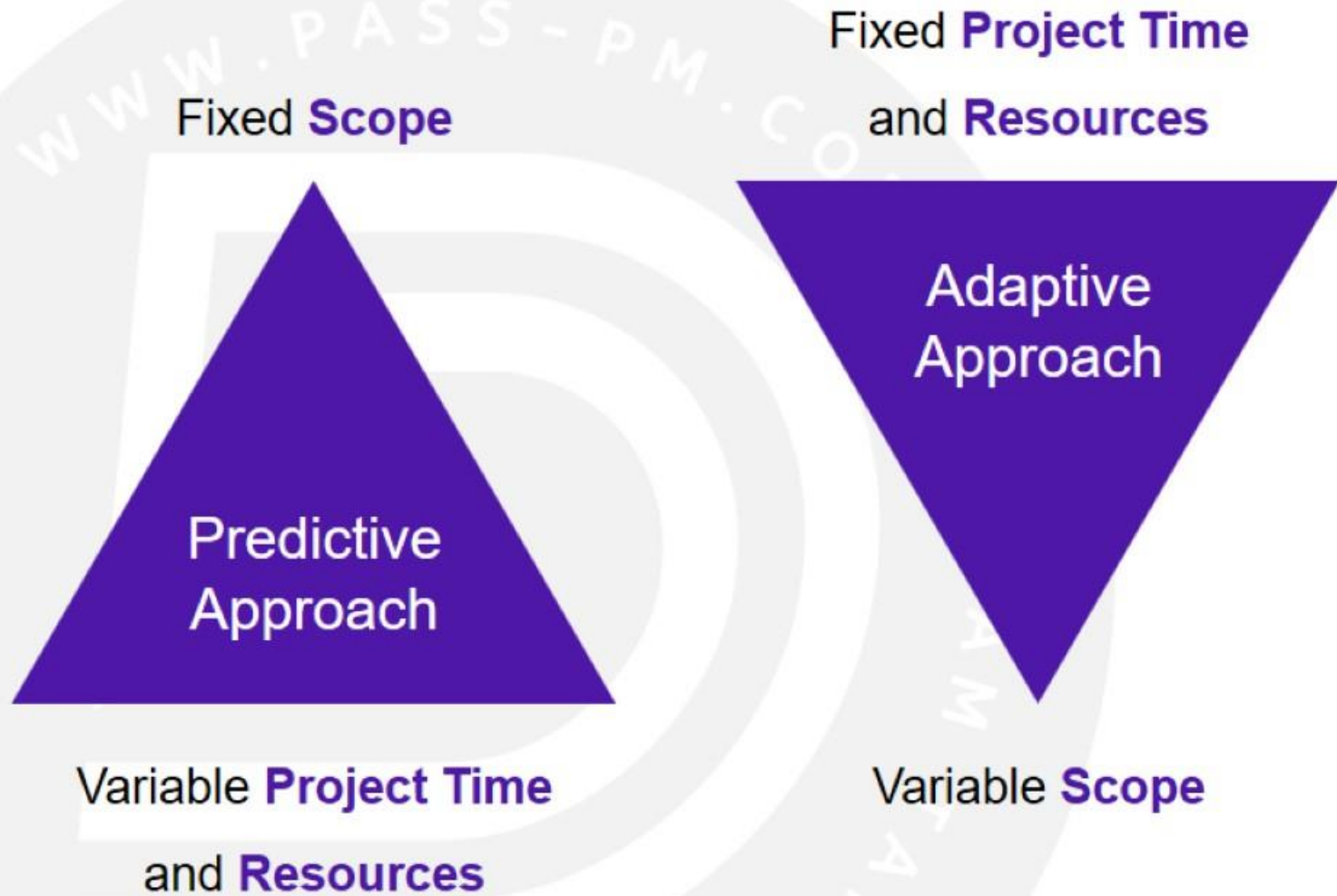
These factors are not **isolated**, but should be seen as **criteria** that, taken together, favor the use of either an adaptive or a predictive approach.



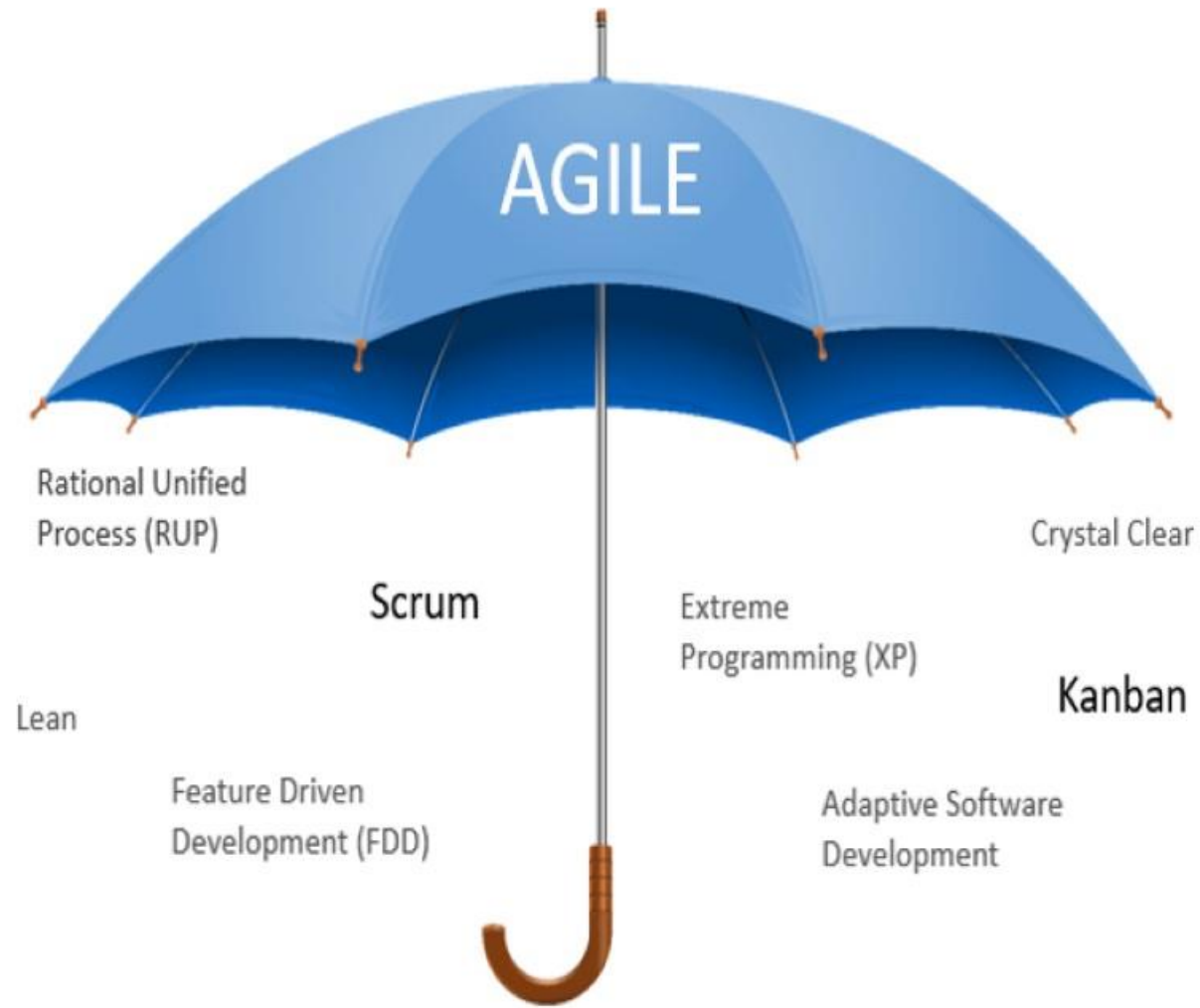


# Constraints and Variables

- On predictive projects, scope is fixed, significant changes are carefully controlled, but time and resources can vary.
- In adaptive projects, on the other hand, time and resources become the fixed constraints, and the scope is variable.
- Adaptive approaches were developed to deal with a high likelihood that scope will change during the project.



# Agile Methodologies, Frameworks, and Processes

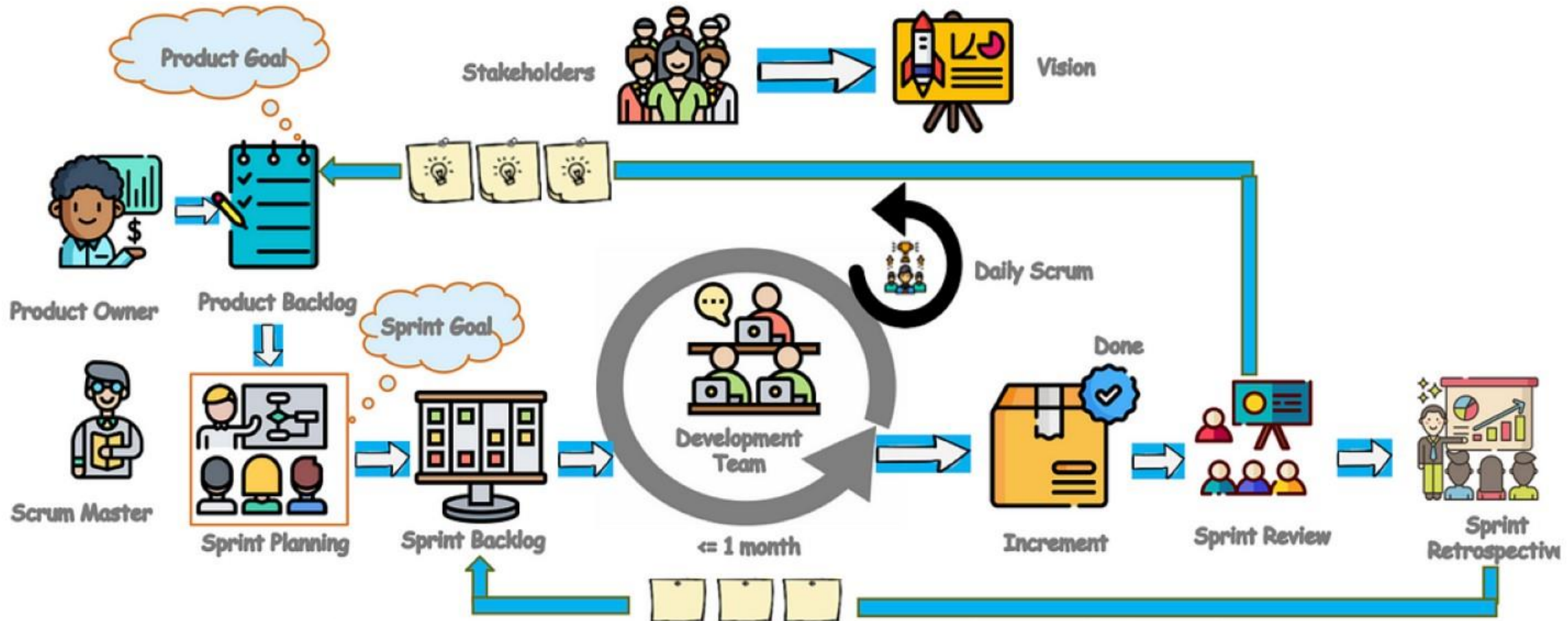




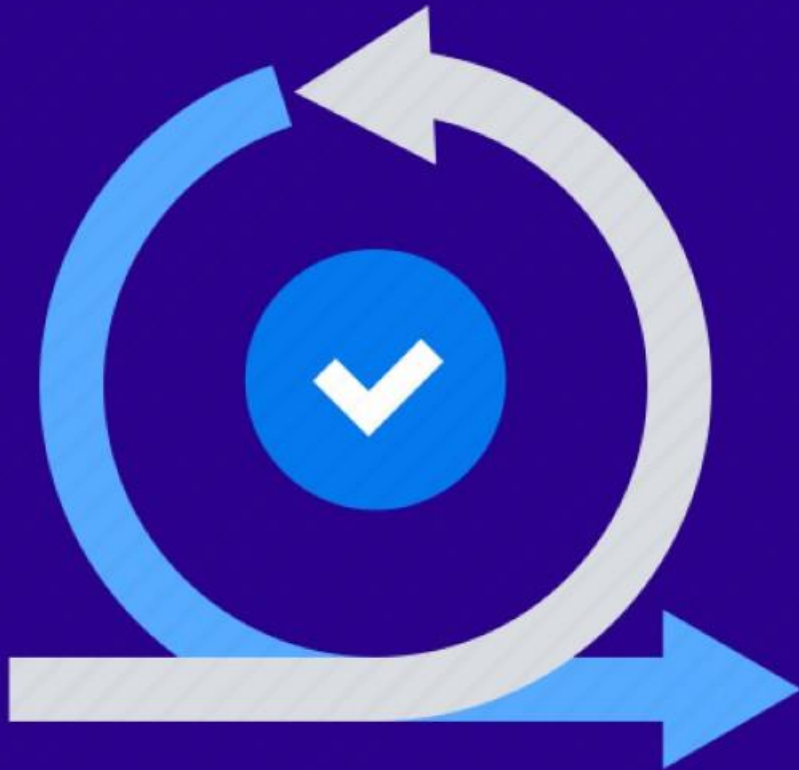


# Scrum

# Scrum Framework



# Scrum Definition



The Scrum framework is a **lightweight**, agile framework for developing, **delivering, and sustaining complex products.**

Scrum is structured to help teams naturally **adapt to changing conditions** and user requirements, with **re-prioritization built into the process** and short time frames for commitment.

# Components of Scrum



**Accountabilities**  
*(roles)*



**Events**



**Artifacts**



# Scrum Roles



## Product Owner

Is responsible for project success by defining a project's vision, requirements, and priorities



## Development Team

Comprises  $7 \pm 2$  people with a mix of roles and skills; it is self-organizing and determines the best way to meet the goals of the Product owner

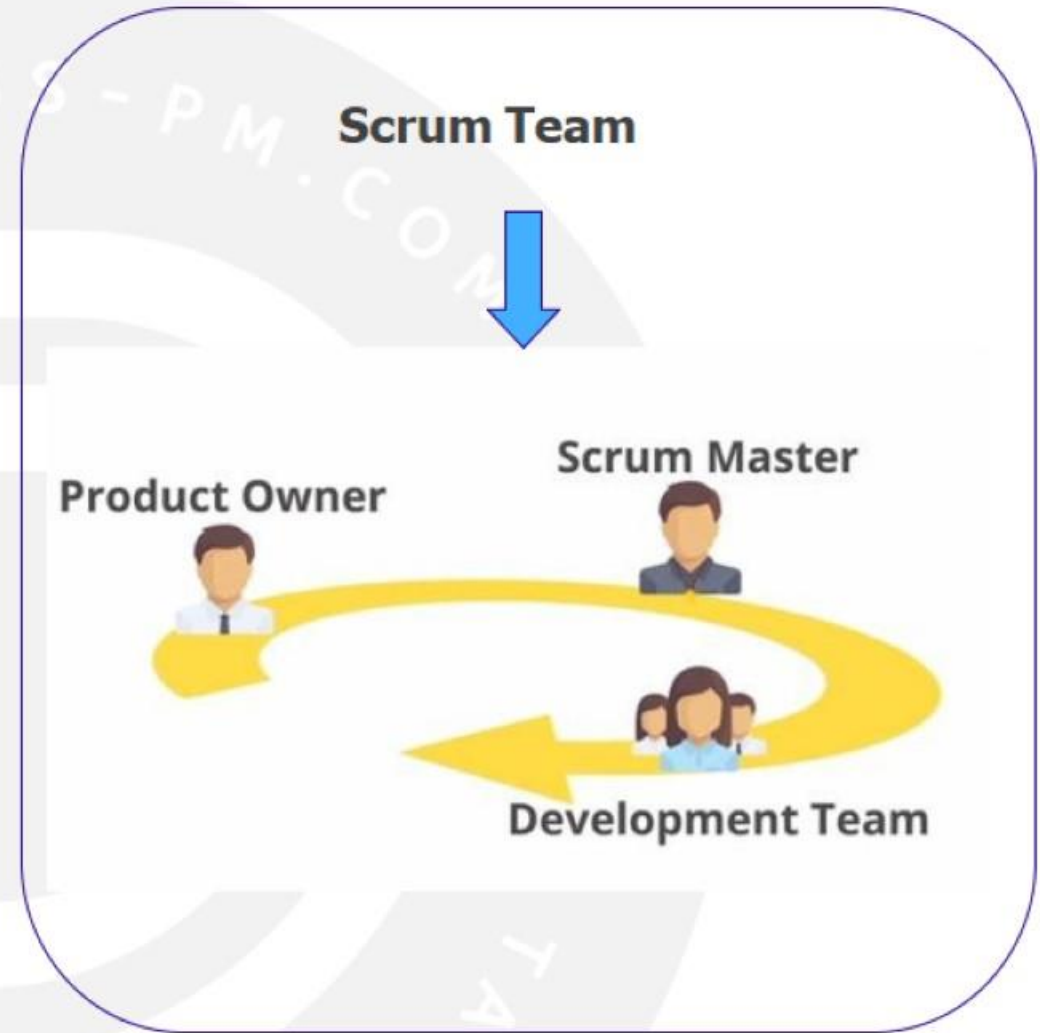


## Scrum Master

Is a **facilitator and servant leader** who assists both the Product Owner and the Development Team to be successful in their respective roles

# Scrum Team

- Scrum Teams **are self-organizing** and **cross-functional**.
- Self-organizing means that the **team manages its own work and doesn't rely on external management** to assign tasks or solve problems.
- Cross-functional means that the team **has all the skills and expertise needed to complete the project** from start to finish. This ensures that the team can handle all aspects of the project internally, **without relying on external departments or specialists**.



# Product Owner

- The Product Owner is responsible for **defining the features of the product and prioritizing** the Product Backlog.
- Reviewing the **functionality at the end of each sprint**, and in between.
- Reviewing the backlog and **prioritizing features** to provide the **most value**.
- The product owner is the **key decision maker** representing the customer and the business.



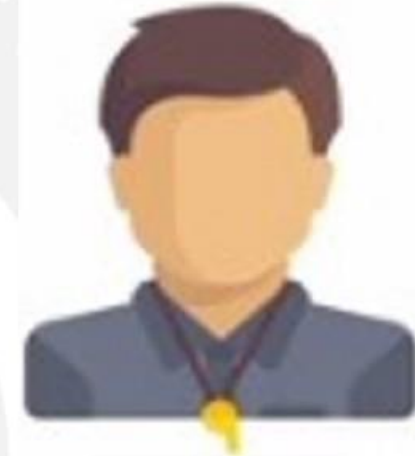
Product Owner





# Scrum Master

- The Scrum Master serves as a **facilitator and coach** for the Scrum Team.
- They help the team **understand Scrum practices** and principles,
- Remove impediments that the team faces
- Work to **improve the team's performance.**
- The Scrum Master also **protects the team from outside** interruptions and distractions.



Scrum Master





# Development Team

- The Development Team consists of **professionals who do the actual work of designing, developing, and testing** the product.
- They are **self-organizing and cross-functional**, meaning they have all the skills necessary to create the product without relying on others not part of the team.
- The size of the team should be  $7 \pm 2$ .



Development Team

# Scrum Events and Artifacts

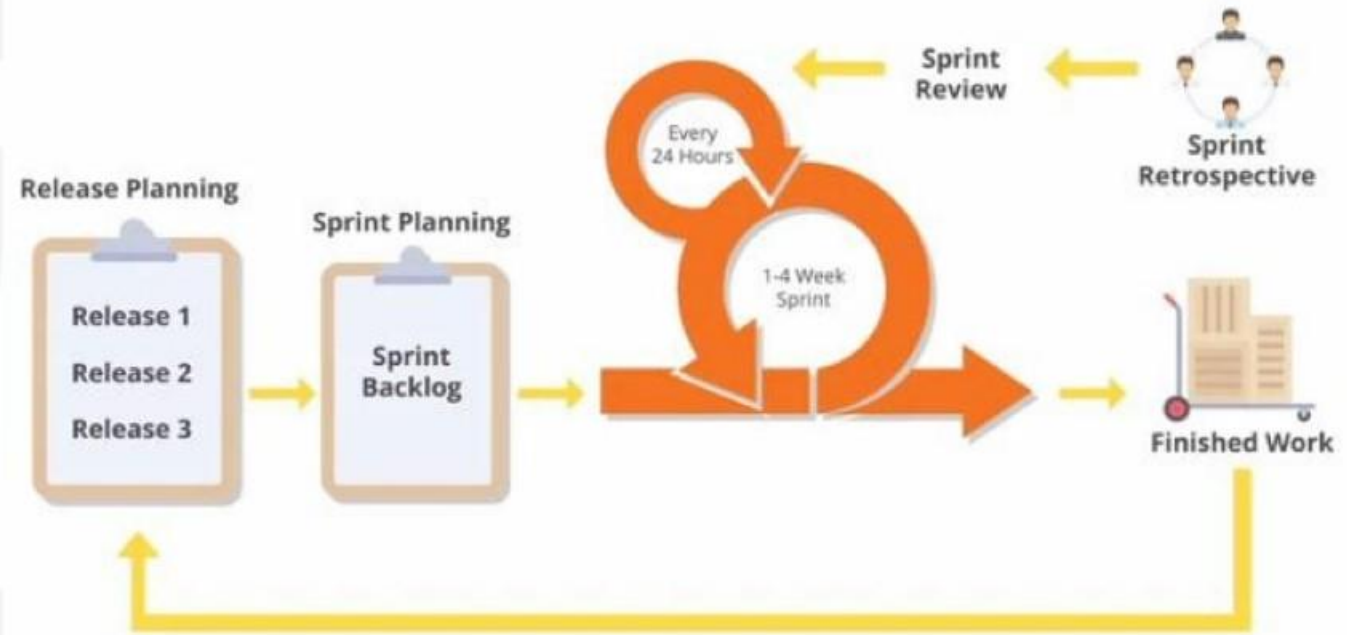


Events	Artifacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sprint</li><li>Sprint planning</li><li>Daily scrum</li><li>Sprint review</li><li>Sprint retrospective</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Product backlog: product goal</li><li>Sprint backlog: Sprint goal</li><li>Increments: Definition of done</li></ul>

# Scrum Events

The main Scrum Events include:

- Sprint
- Sprint Planning Meeting
- Daily Scrum
- Sprint Review
- Sprint Retrospective

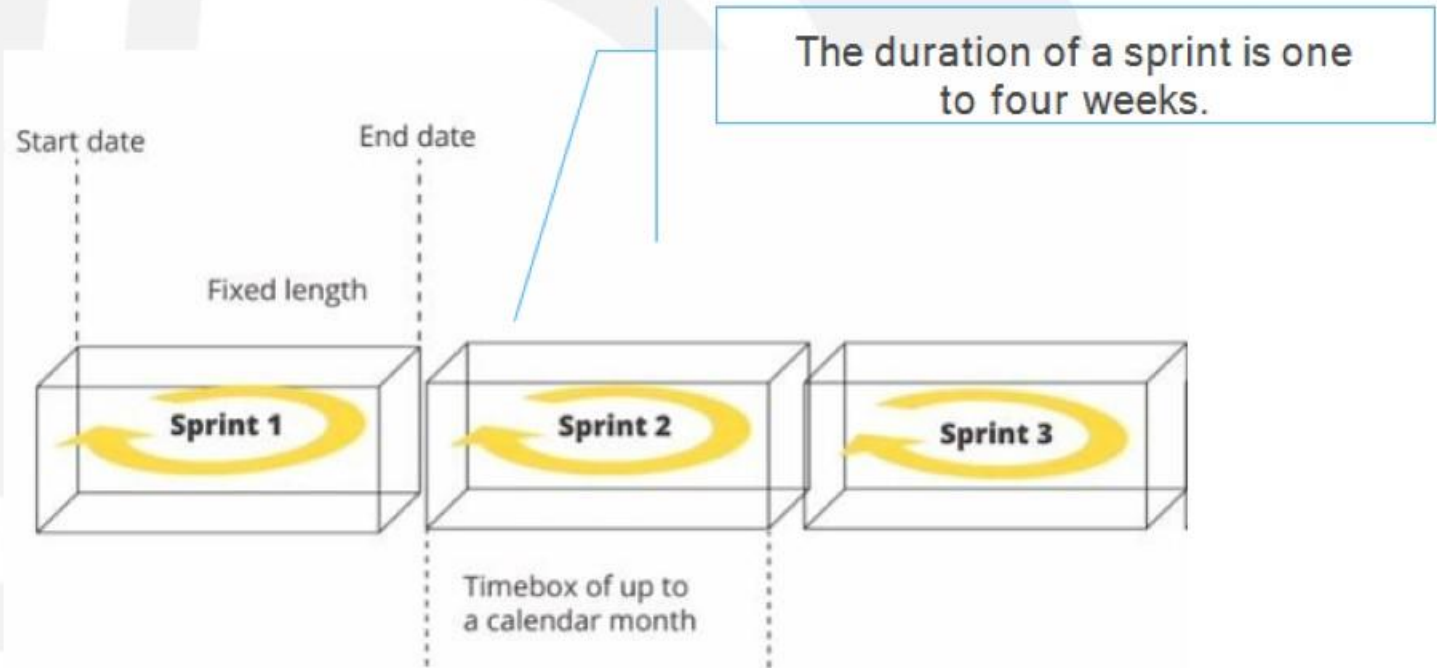


# Sprint/ iteration

A sprint is a period of time during which the development team creates potentially releasable product.

A sprint is performed in this sequence:

- Sprint Planning Meeting
- Daily Scrums
- Sprint Review
- Sprint Retrospective





# Sprint Planning Meeting

Sprint planning is used to determine the work that is going to be performed during the sprint. The Scrum team attends the sprint planning meeting.

A Sprint Planning Meeting is a timeboxed event scheduled to last two hours for each week of the sprint duration.



# Daily Scrum/ Daily Standup

Daily Scrum is a timeboxed meeting lasting no longer than **15 minutes**. It is used by the **Development Team** to synchronize its activity and to **create a plan for the next 24 hours**.

It is accomplished by asking three questions:

- What did I complete yesterday?
- What is my plan for today?
- What are the impediments to my work?



# Sprint Review

Sprint reviews are held at the end to inspect the results of the sprint and to potentially make changes to the product backlog.

- The main purpose of the sprint review is to obtain feedback and faster collaboration.
- The Development Team demonstrates the work completed during the sprint.
  - The Product Owner accepts or rejects the work.
  - The Product Backlog is revised based on the feedback obtained.





# Sprint Retrospective

The Sprint Retrospective is an opportunity for the scrum team to inspect itself and to determine how best to implement improvements for the next sprints.

Sprint retrospective focuses on three main questions.

What went well?

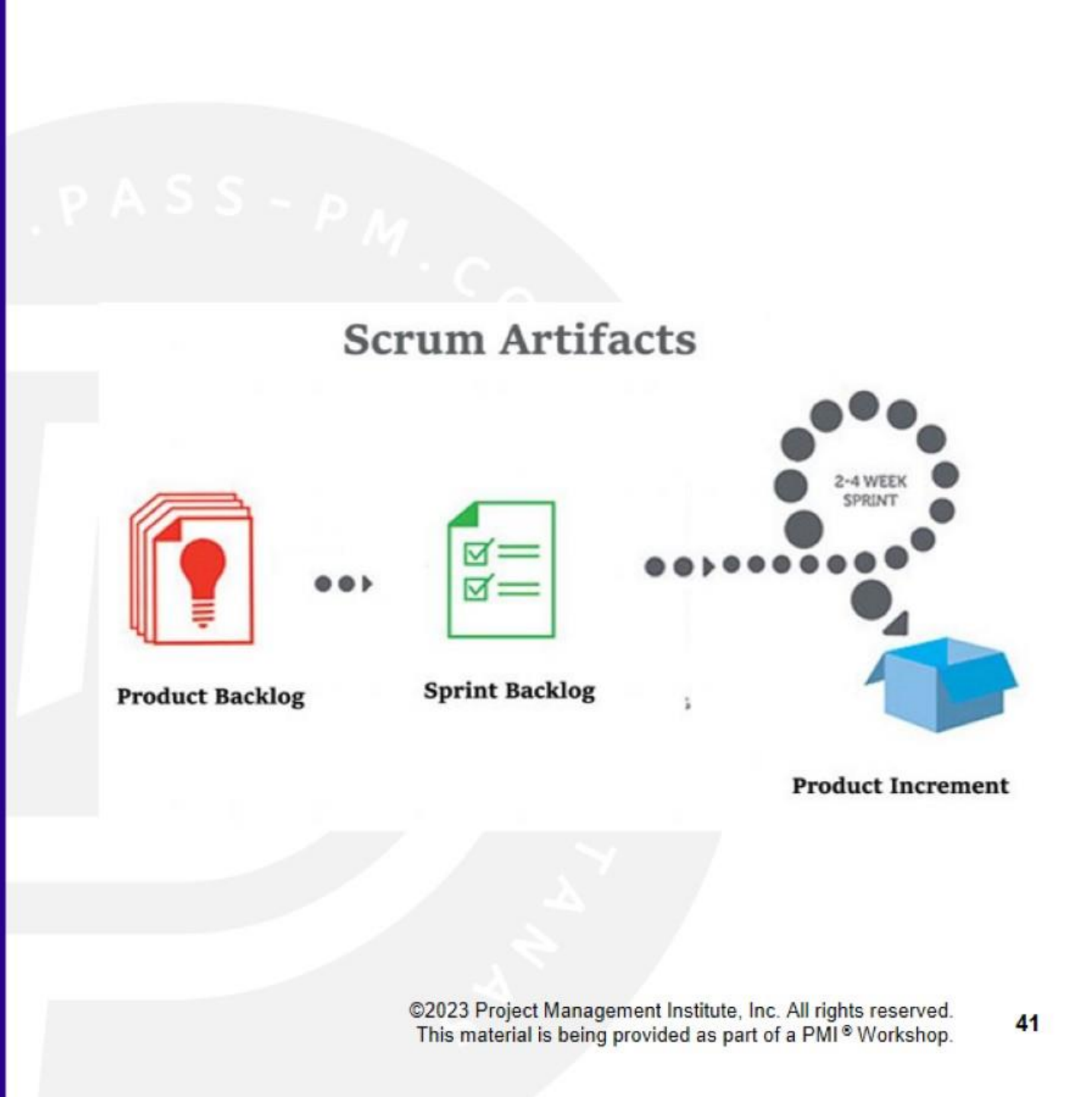
What did not go well?

What should be done differently next time?



# Scrum Artifacts

- Scrum Artifacts are specific information repositories designed to maximize transparency and foster understanding among Scrum Team members and stakeholders.
- The primary Scrum Artifacts are the Product Backlog, the Sprint Backlog, and the Increment.



# Product Backlog

It is a **prioritized** list of "requirements" that is created and maintained by the **Product Owner** of a product.

The product backlog evolves in order to be **appropriate, competitive, and useful.**

Sprint 1

Requirement

Requirement

Requirement

Requirement

Sprint 2+3

Requirement

Requirement

Requirement

Requirement

Sprint 4-...

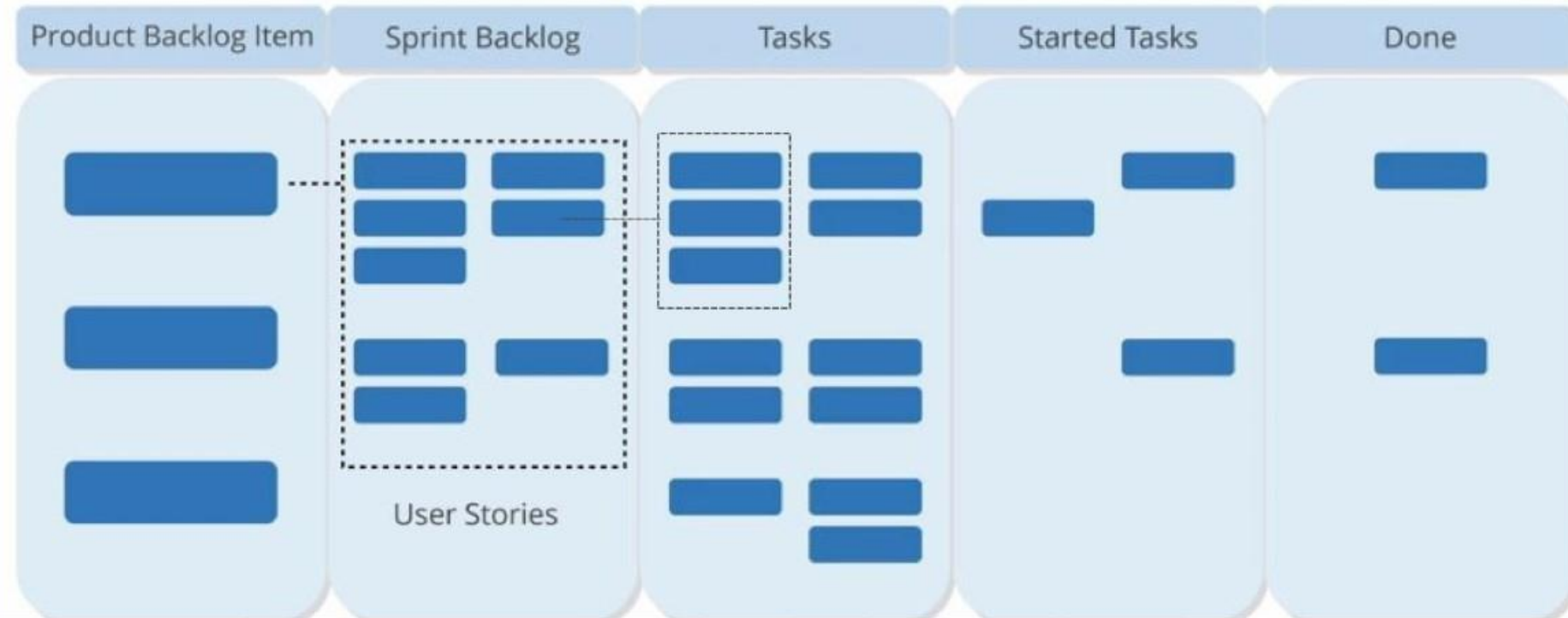
Requirement

Requirement

Requirement

# Sprint Backlog

Sprint Backlog is a subset of Product Backlog. It emerges during Sprint Planning and does not change during the course of the Sprint.



# Timeboxing



## Planning

8 hours for a 1-month sprint; 2 hours or less for a 1-week sprint



## Sprint

Cadence of 1 to 4 weeks



## Daily Scrum

15 minutes



## Sprint Review

1 hour for every week of sprint length

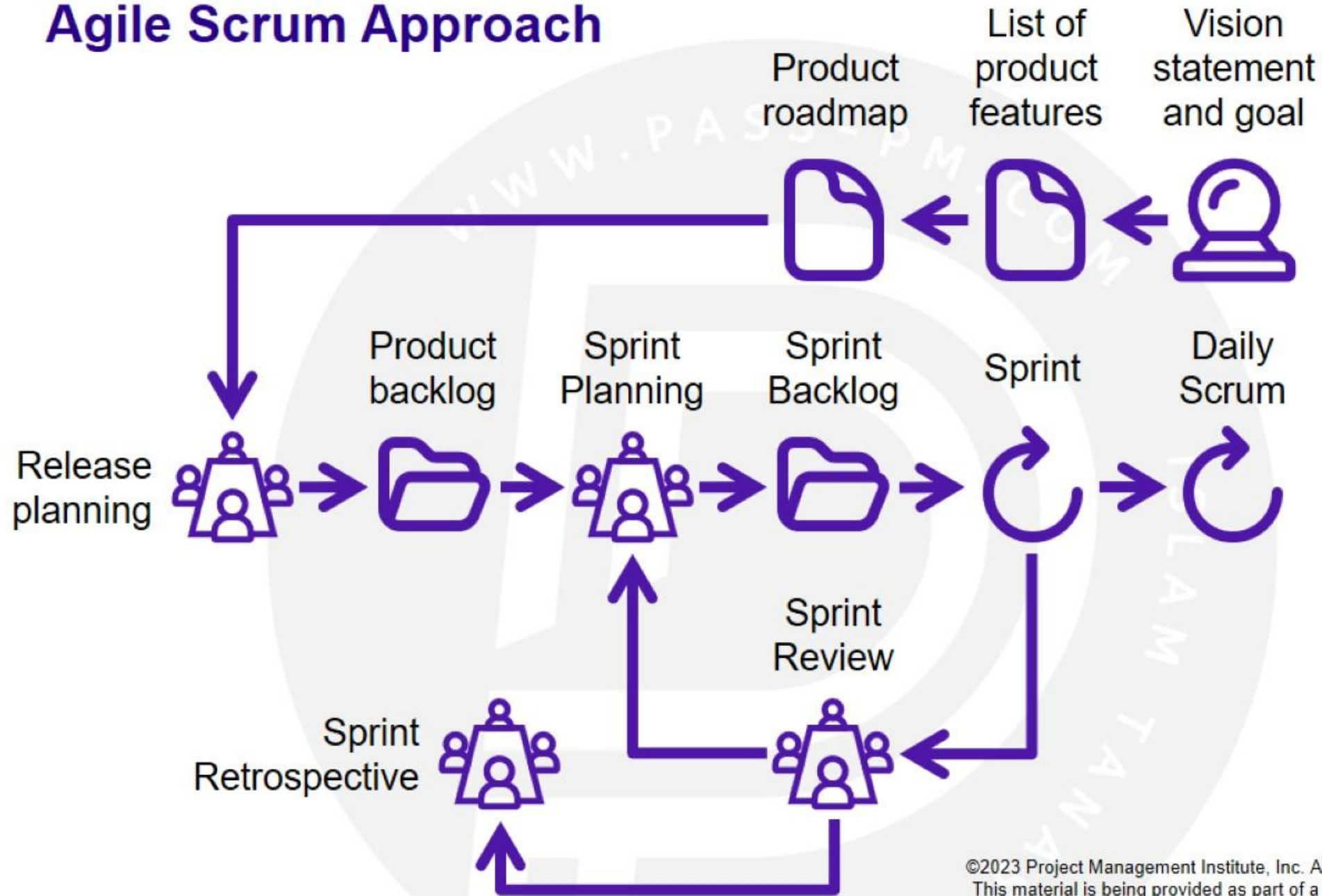


## Sprint Retrospective

45 minutes for every week of sprint length



# Agile Scrum Approach



# Adaptive or Predictive?

A company wants to create a website to sell concert tickets.



Would you use a plan-based **predictive** or **adaptive** approach?



# Team Structure in Adaptive Projects



# T-Shaped Skills

- T-shaped employees are highly skilled in their main area.
- They also have knowledge and experience in other areas.
- And they're willing to learn and work with experts to improve their skill set.

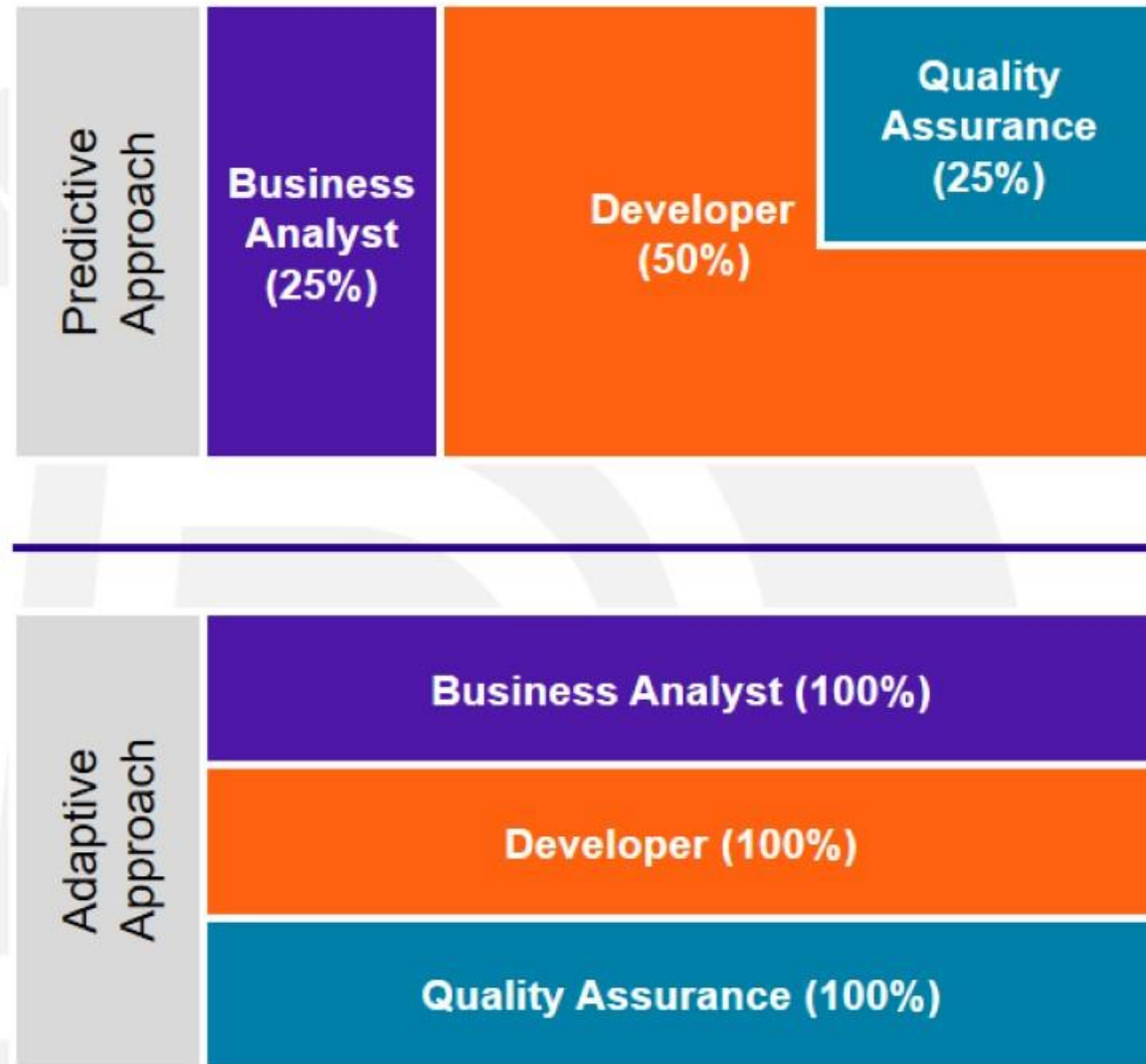
CROSS-DISCIPLINE EXPERTISE





# Team Roles in Predictive and Adaptive Approaches

- In the predictive approach, clear roles are assigned to team members.
- Adaptive projects emphasize on cross-functional team roles, with the team sharing responsibility for tasks.



# Servant Leadership

- Project managers need to shift their mindset away from being at the center of the project in a control and command position.
- In a high-change environment, a development team is often better positioned to make rapid decisions and achieve project goals successfully.
- Otherwise, the project managers can become a bottleneck or constraint for making decisions.

Shift your mindset away from being at the center of the project, in a command-and-control position.

The team relies on its project manager for **resources, support,** and **political assistance** across the organization.

# Servant Leader Behaviors



Obstacle removal



Diversion shield



Encouragement and development





# The Structure and Culture of Adaptive Teams



# Predictive vs. Adaptive Culture

## Predictive



Hierarchical, centralized management approach

Management team manages; team members do the work

## Adaptive



Distributed management approach

May self organize; management role may shift among team members

# Factors that Contribute to High-Performing Teams



Open communication



Shared understanding



Shared ownership



Trust



Collaboration



Adaptability



Resilience



Empowerment



Recognition



Collocation



Limited team size



Experienced members

# Advantages of Experienced Team Members



- Collaborate
- Define more stable project goals
- Make more reliable predictions and then honor due dates
- Finish valuable work more efficiently
- Apply previous lessons learned to avoid common pitfalls
- Communicate more efficiently and effectively within the team and with other stakeholders
- Identify and evaluate central project risks



# Value-Driven Delivery

If an organization supports **value-driven delivery** and can embrace the core principles of the *Agile Manifesto*, it can successfully use an adaptive approach.





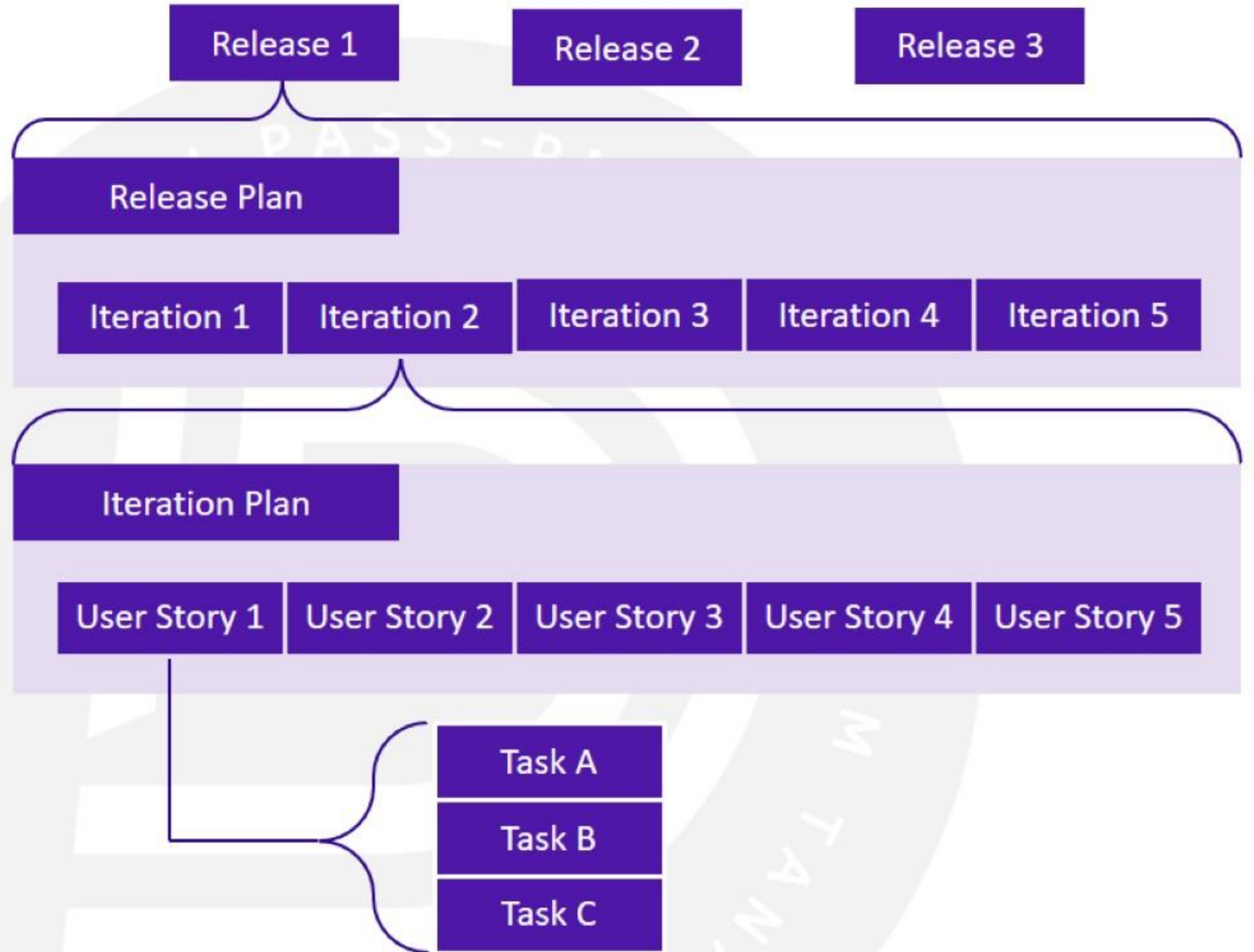
# Core Principles That Support Value-Driven Approaches

Core Principles	Value-Driven Approaches
Value-based prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Customer-valued prioritization is important.</li><li>• Identify what should and should not be done in the limited time.</li></ul>
Delivery cadence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time is viewed as a limiting constraint.</li><li>• Timeboxing provides a cadence for all stakeholders to work and contribute.</li></ul>
Iterative and incremental delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An opportunity must exist to verify and validate requirements.</li><li>• The customer might not be able to identify all the requirements at the start of the project.</li></ul>
Self-organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adaptive teams are empowered.</li><li>• In a change-driven and timeboxed project environment, teams need to react quickly to opportunities and challenges.</li></ul>



# Adaptive Planning

# Collect and Decompose Requirements





# Prioritization Techniques

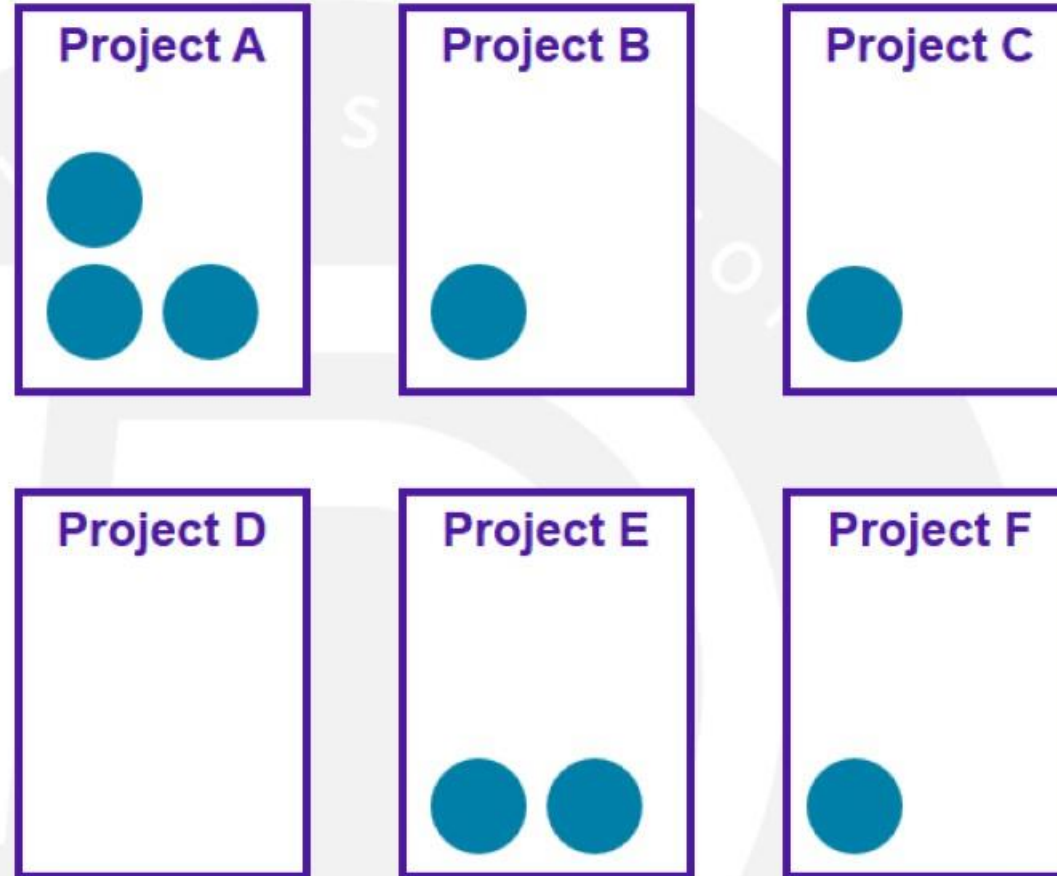


The team must know what its **priorities** are—and have a hand in setting those priorities.



# Dot Voting or Multi-Voting Schemes

Each team member is given a small number of dots—often using sticky notes—and uses them as votes to indicate the size and importance of an item.



# What Gets Prioritized?



# Project Artifacts That Need to Be Prioritized



Product backlog



Release backlog



Sprint backlog



Scrum tasks

# Develop a Release Plan

- The entire team's focus is to identify and deliver the **most valuable features** at all times.
- This is known as delivering a **minimum viable product, or “MVP,”** which essentially identifies the fewest number of features or requirements that are both functional and usable.



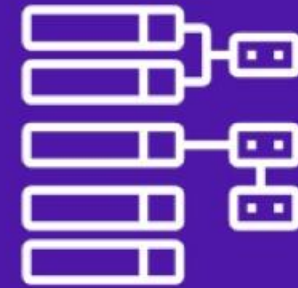
# Estimate Effort with Story Points

## Absolute estimates



Generate explicit actual quantities

## Relative estimates



Shown in comparison to other estimates and have meaning only within a given context

# Estimate Effort with Story Points

- Adaptive estimation begins with a list of user stories and team members participating in the estimation process.
- Everyone, including the product owner and external experts, is invited to review all the user stories and rank-order them, keeping three attributes in mind: size, complexity, and uncertainty.

Three components for adaptive estimation

Size of the effort

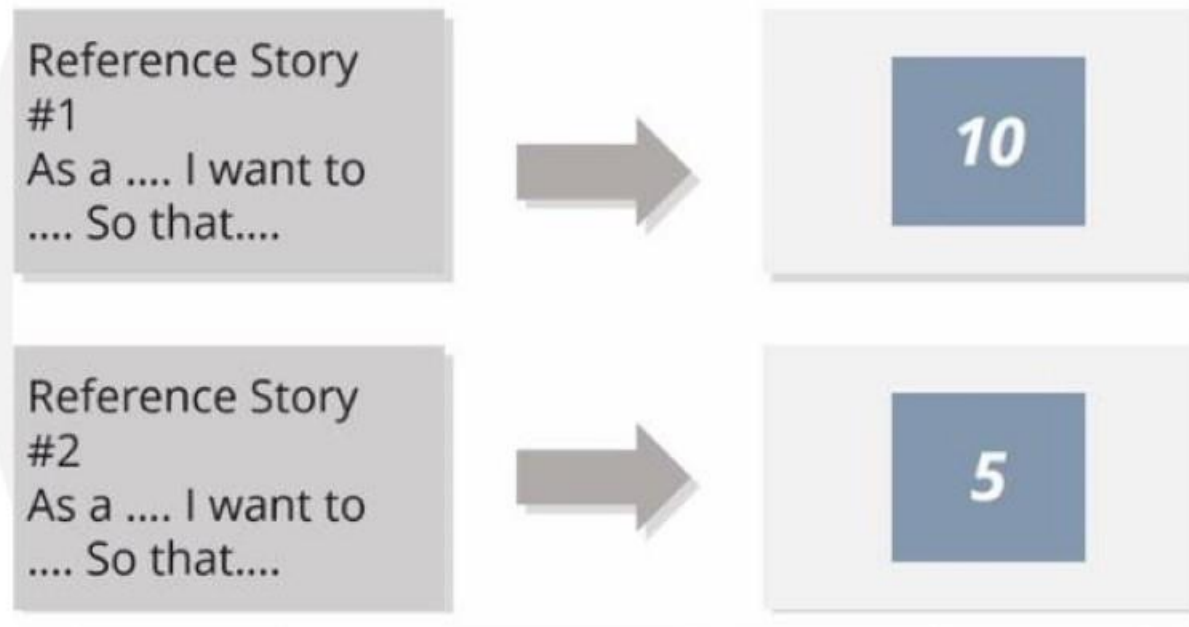
Complexity of the task

Uncertainty

# Story Points

User stories are estimated by size, which is referred to as **Story Points**.

## Example





# Overview of Other Adaptive Frameworks

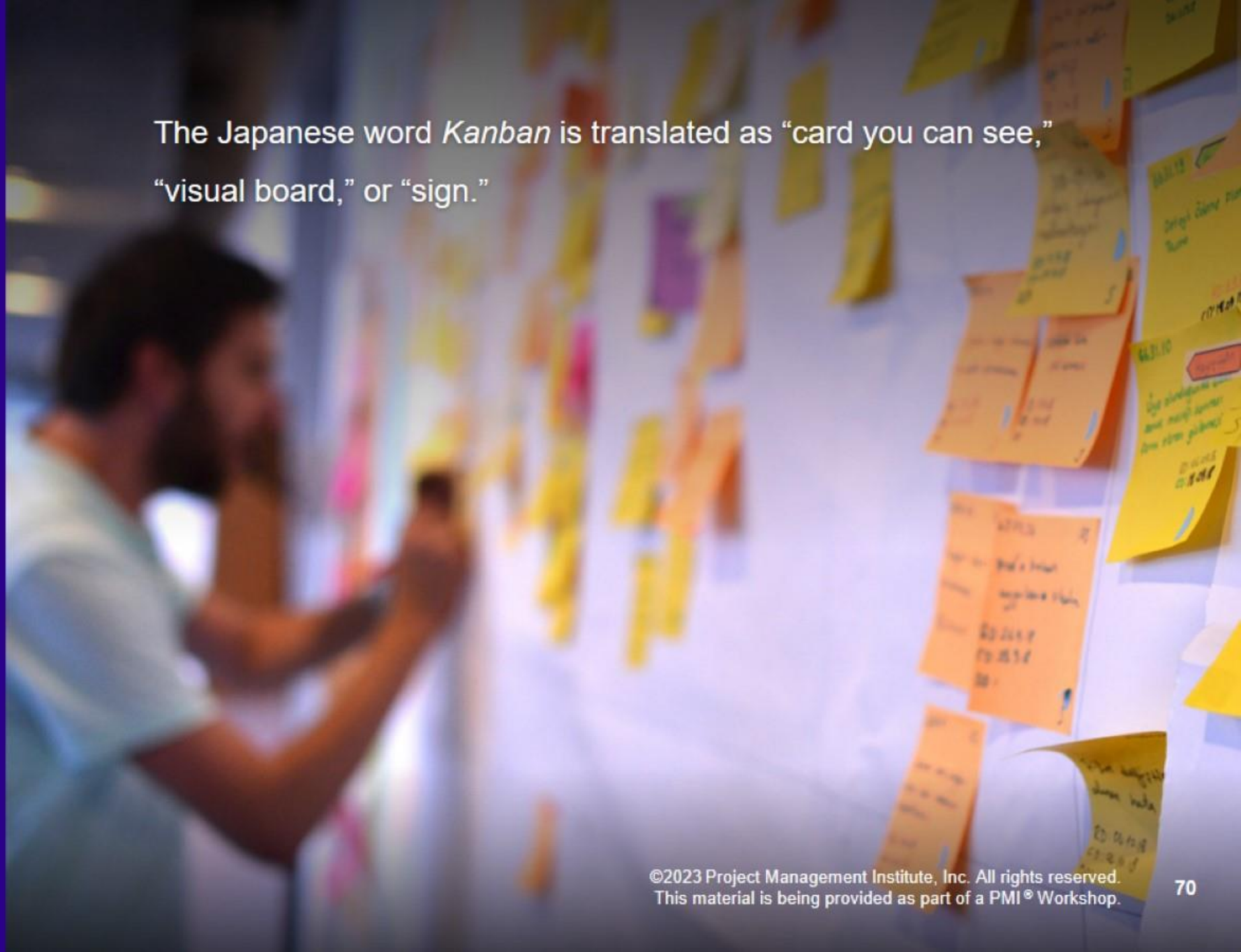




# Kanban

# Kanban (看板)

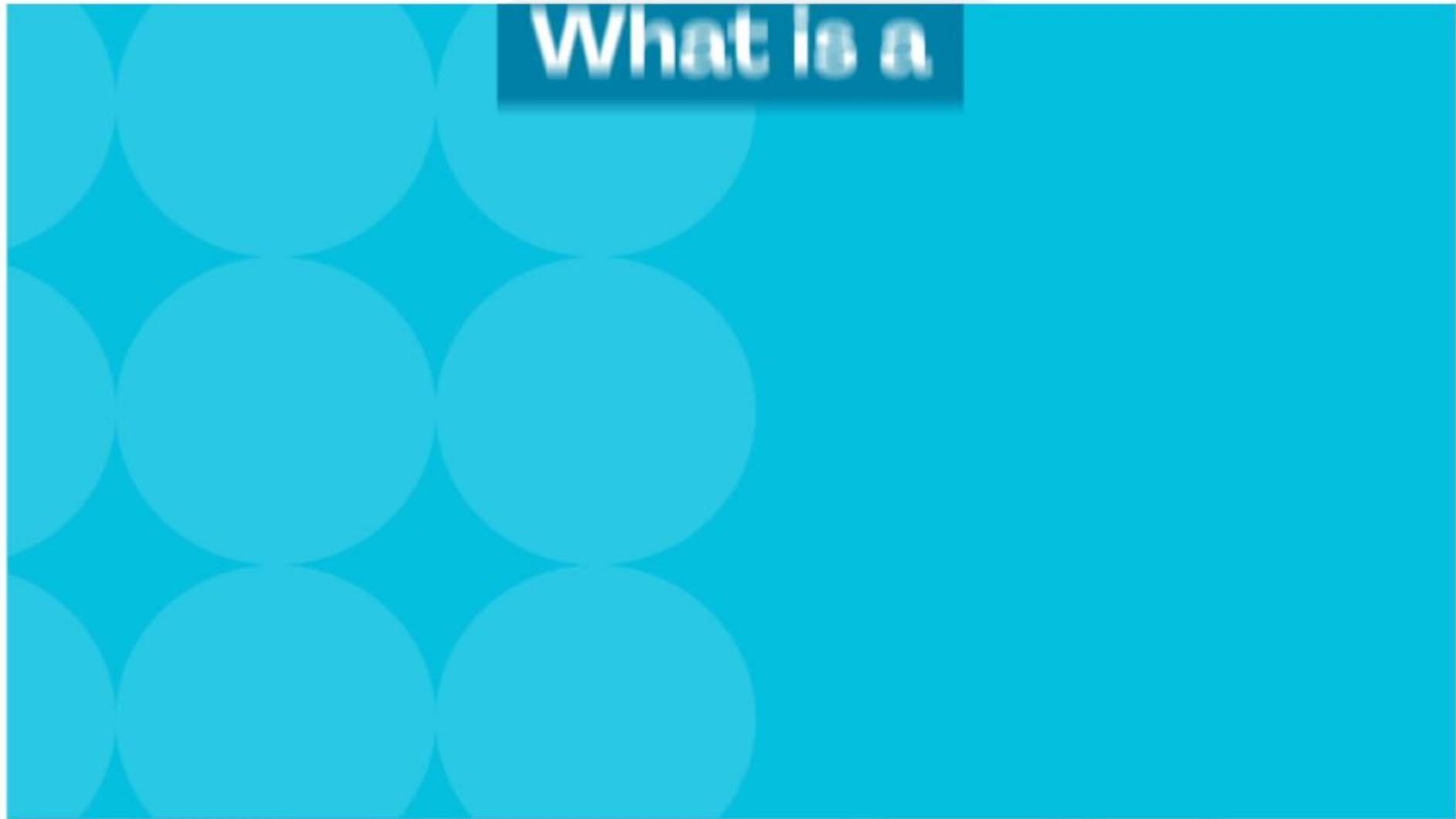
The Japanese word *Kanban* is translated as “card you can see,” “visual board,” or “sign.”



# Kanban Board



# What Is a Kanban Board?







# Comparing Kanban and Scrum

Factor	Kanban	Scrum
Team management	Within existing hierarchical structures	Self-management
Process improvement	Process changes can be made anytime, and immediate modifications are actively encouraged	Process improvements are generally made after the sprint retrospective
Productivity measurement	Uses cycle time, lead time, and work in progress to assess productivity	Uses velocity and burndown rates to assess productivity
Life cycle	Flow-based agile	Iteration-based agile
Time focus	The primary focus is on cycle time and lead time rather than on meeting due dates; it is flow-oriented on continuous deliveries.	Sprints are typically 1 to 4 weeks in length, and a product increment or a version of the product is delivered at the end of each sprint.
Commonalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both encourage process improvement</li> <li>• Both break projects into smaller processes that are iterated</li> <li>• Both encourage team collaboration</li> </ul>	



**Lean**



# Roots of Agile



The Agile Manifesto has its roots in the **Lean** methodology and approach.



Lean was born in post–World War II Japan and introduced to the automotive industry in the United States in the form of the **Toyota Production System**.



Lean is also the foundation for two other popular agile frameworks: **Scrum** and **Kanban**.



# Features of Lean



Eliminate waste



Build quality



Fast delivery



Delay making  
decisions



Empower team



Optimize the whole



# Extreme Programming (XP)

# Extreme Programming



Abbreviated as “XP” and sometimes shown as “eXtreme”

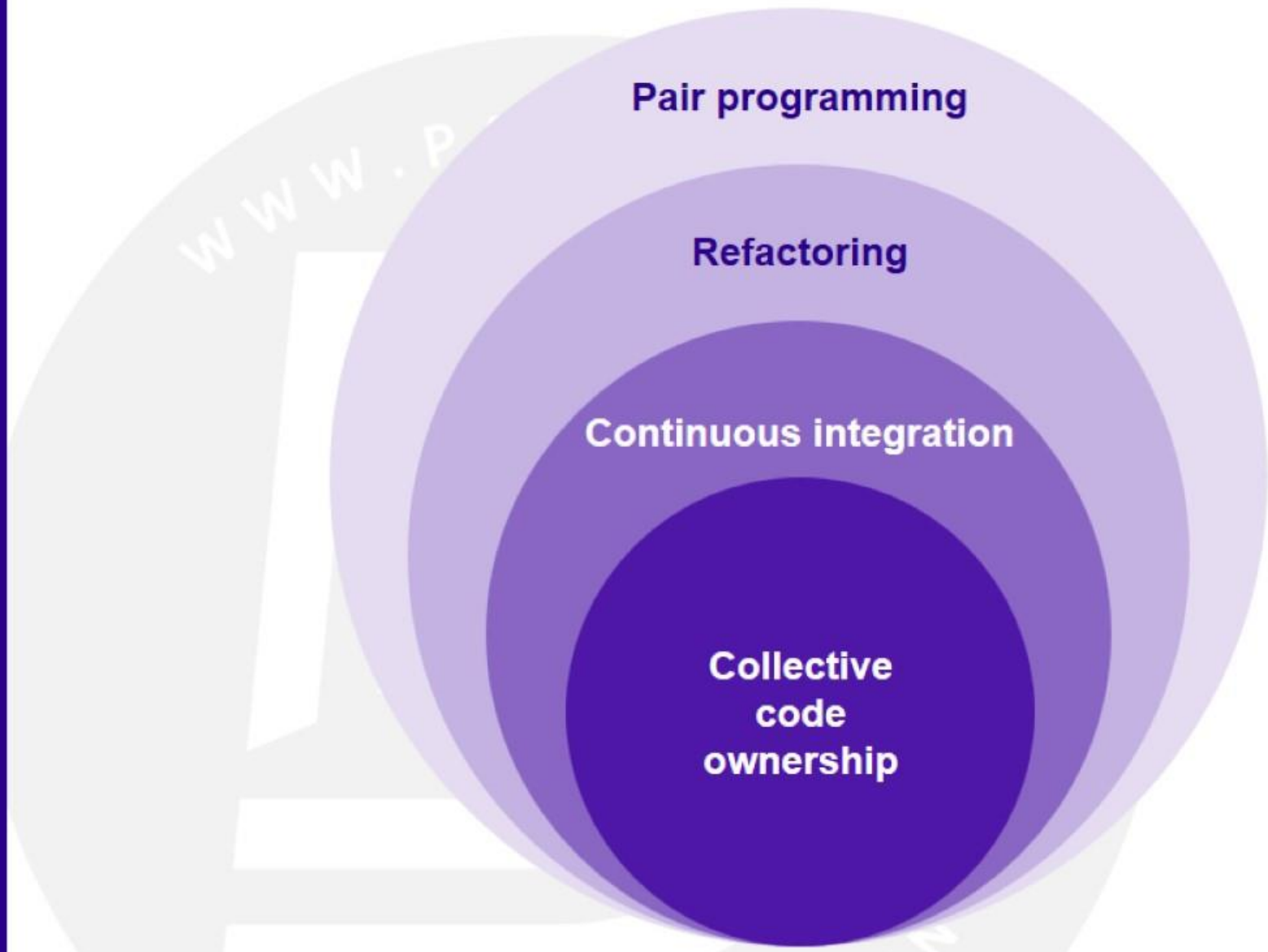


Iterative, incremental framework popular for software development



Shares many features with Scrum

# Four Critical Concepts of Extreme Programming





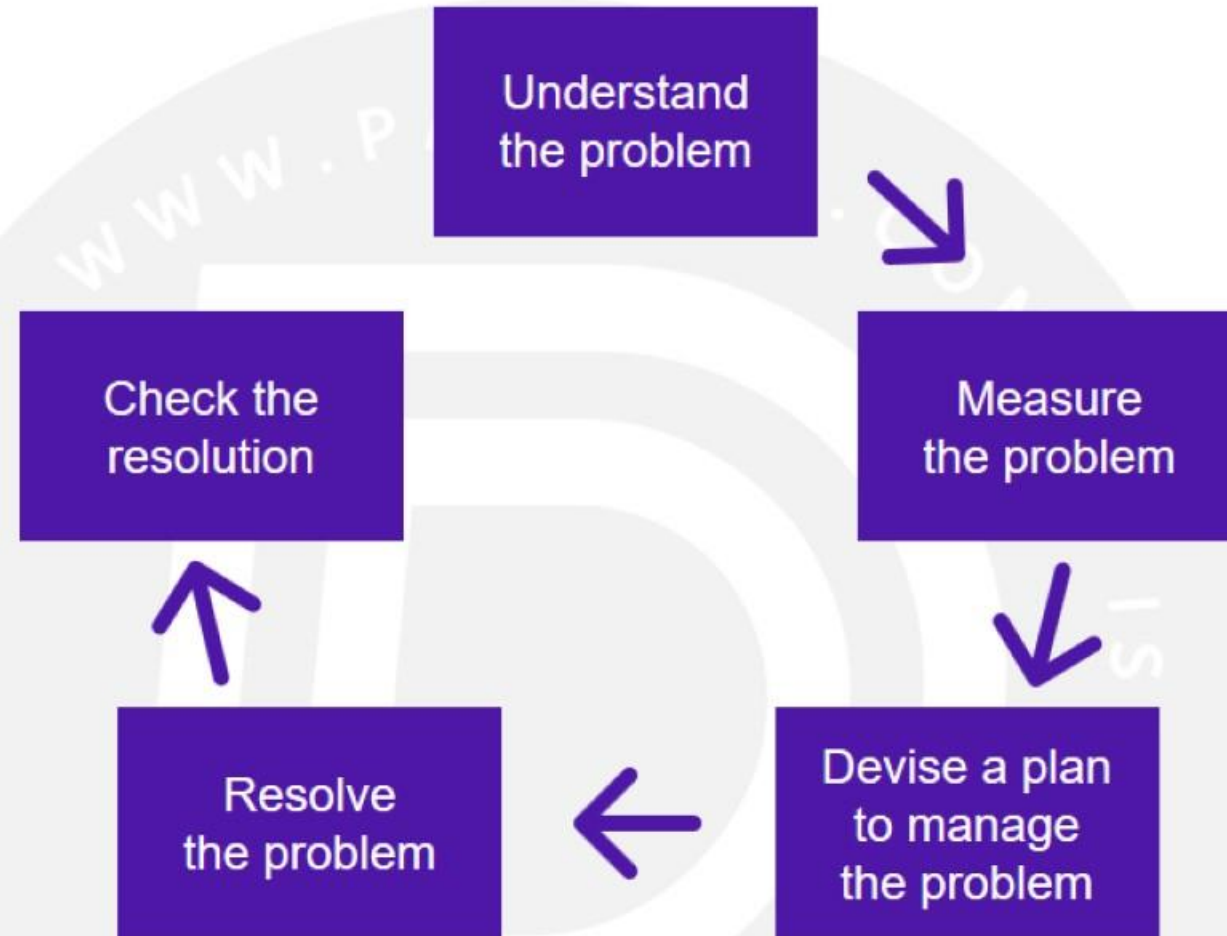


# Measurement, Tracking, and Managing Uncertainty

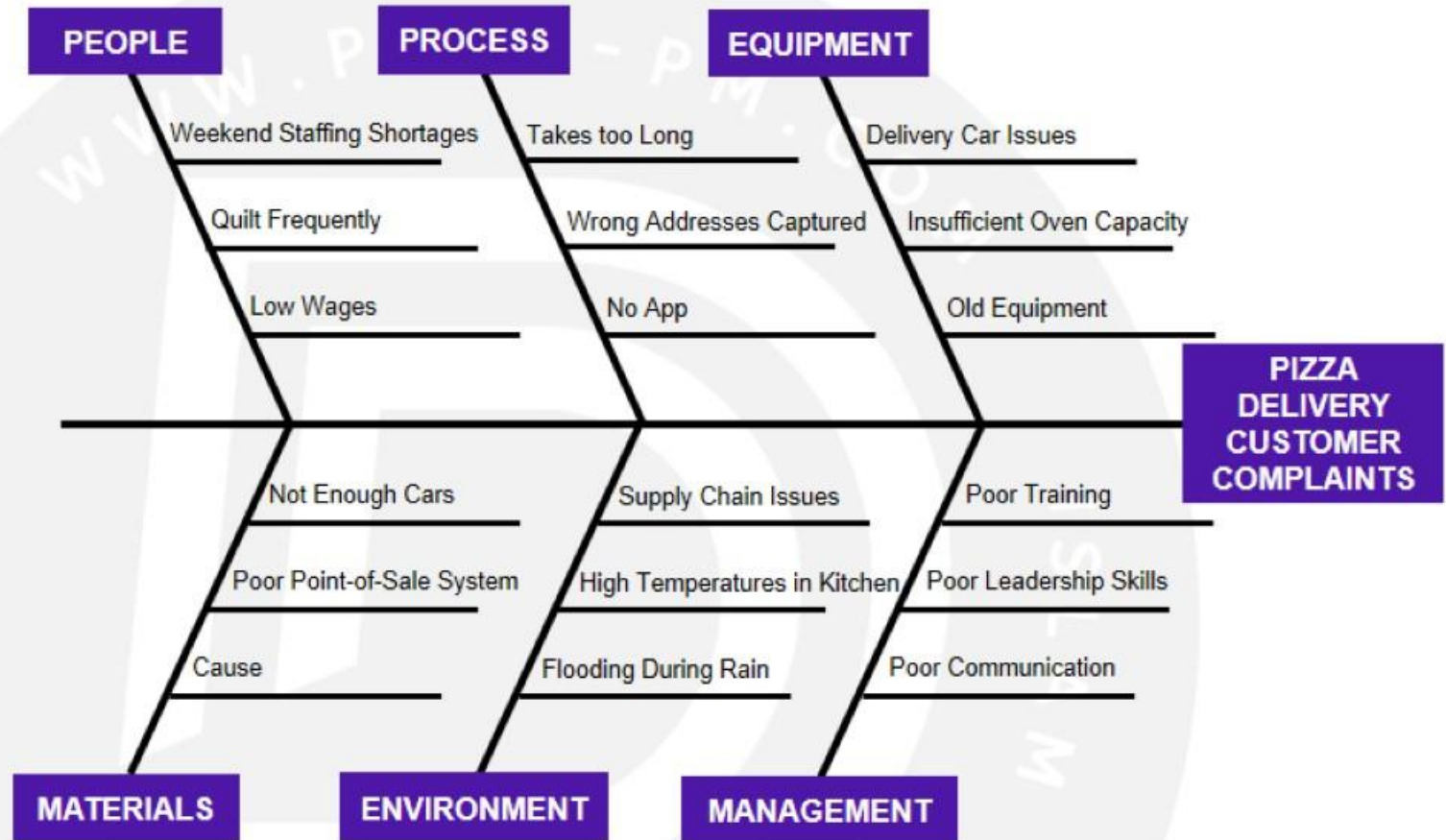


# Detect and Resolve Problems

# Understanding and Resolving Problems



# Tools and Techniques for Understanding and Measurement







# Measuring Performance

# What Makes a Metric Effective?



**S**pecific

**M**easurable

**A**chievable

**R**elevant

**T**imely

# Benefits of Metrics



**Tracking progress**



**Supporting decision making**

# Communicating Project Metrics



**Burndown  
chart**



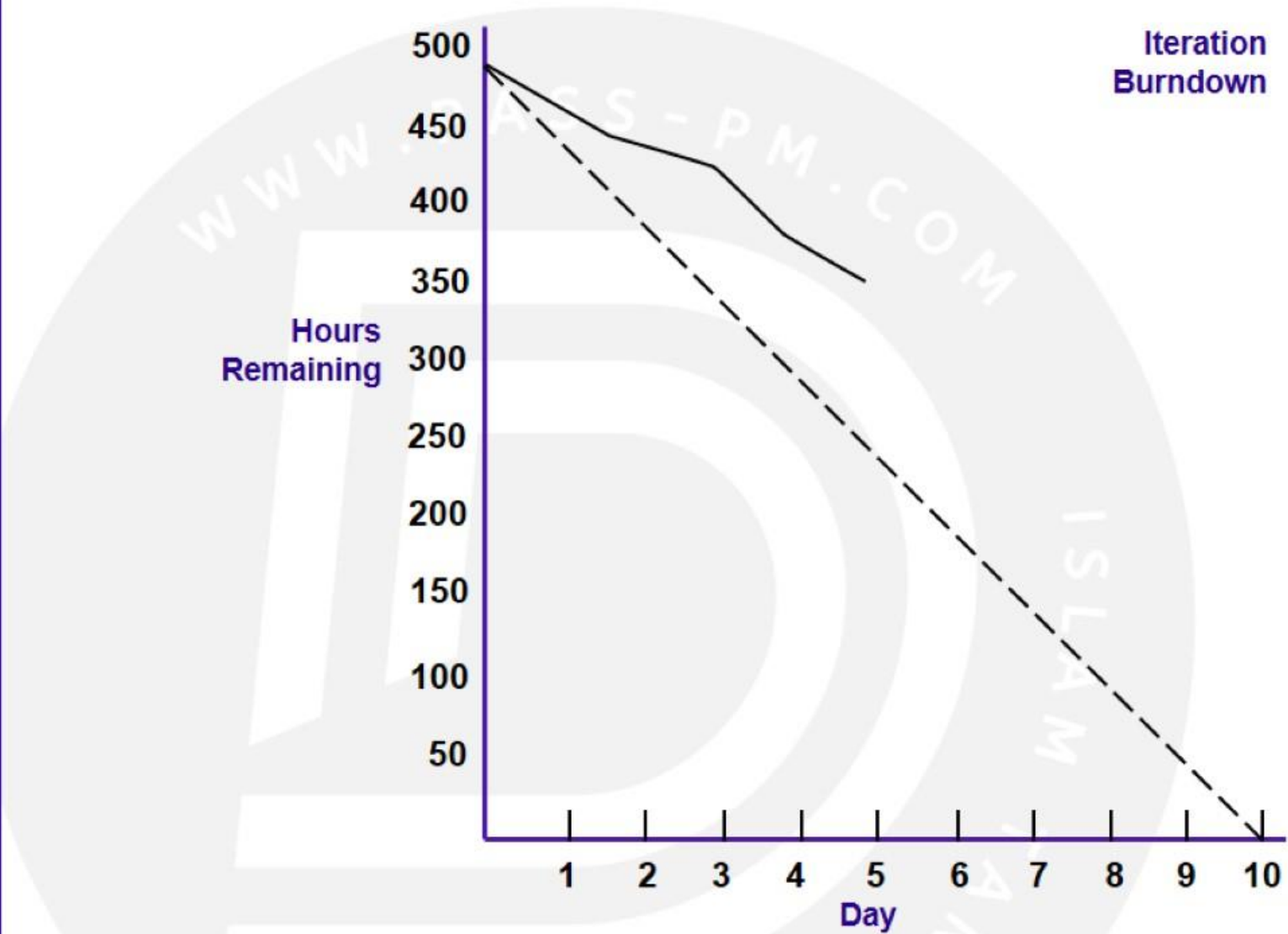
**Velocity chart**



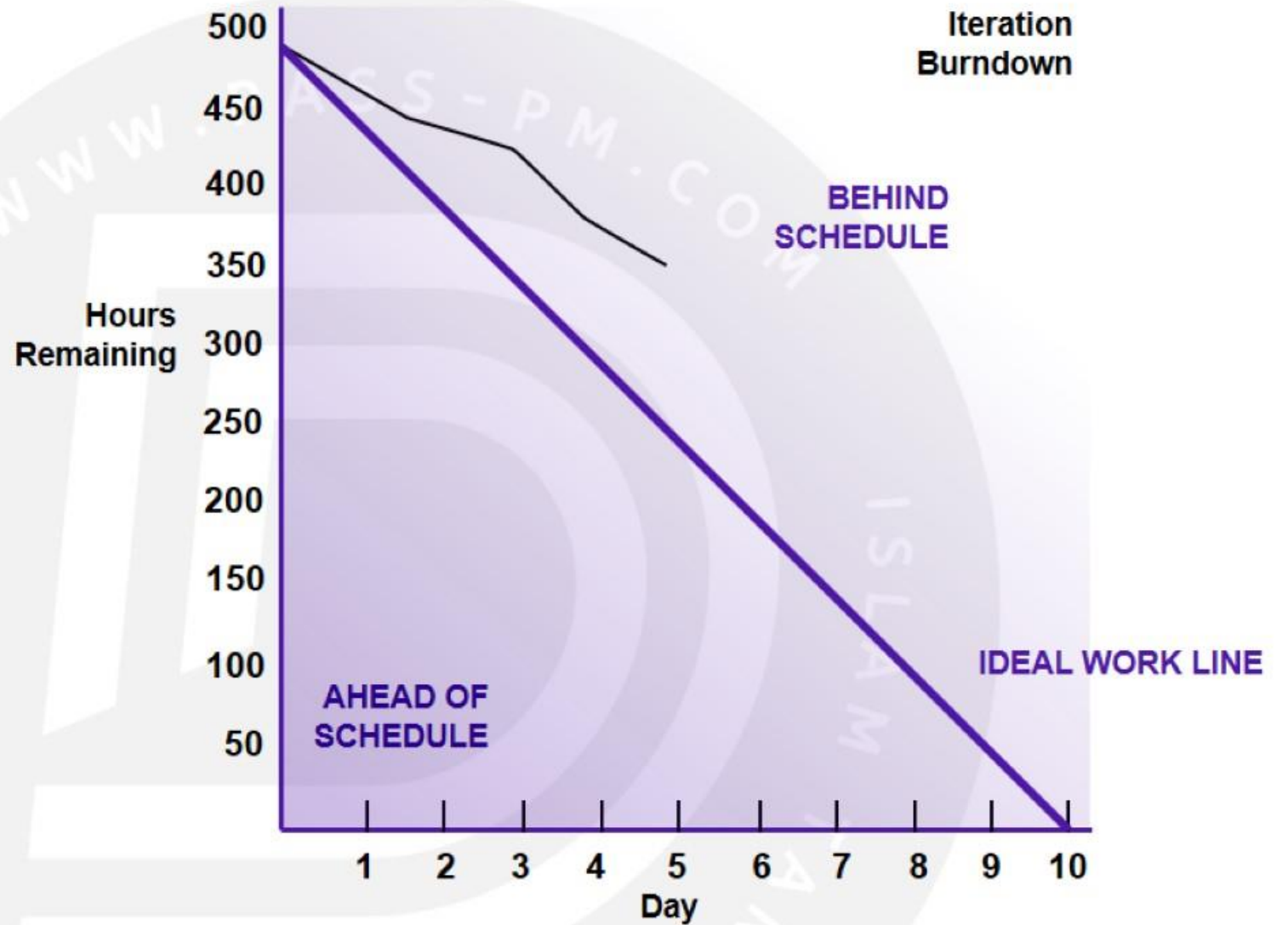
**Cumulative  
flow diagram**



# Burndown Chart



# Ideal Work Line



# Learning From Burndown Charts



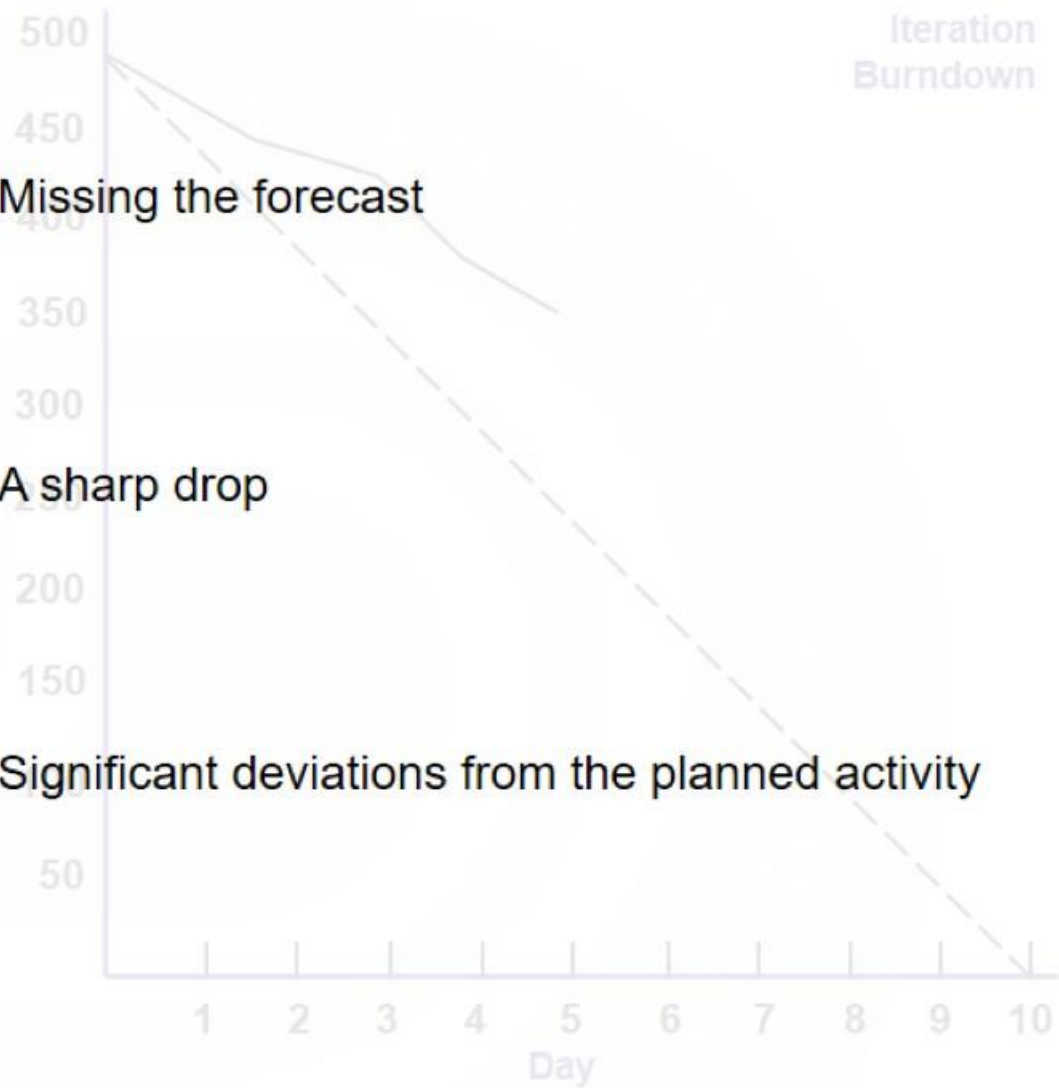
Hours Remaining



Missing the forecast

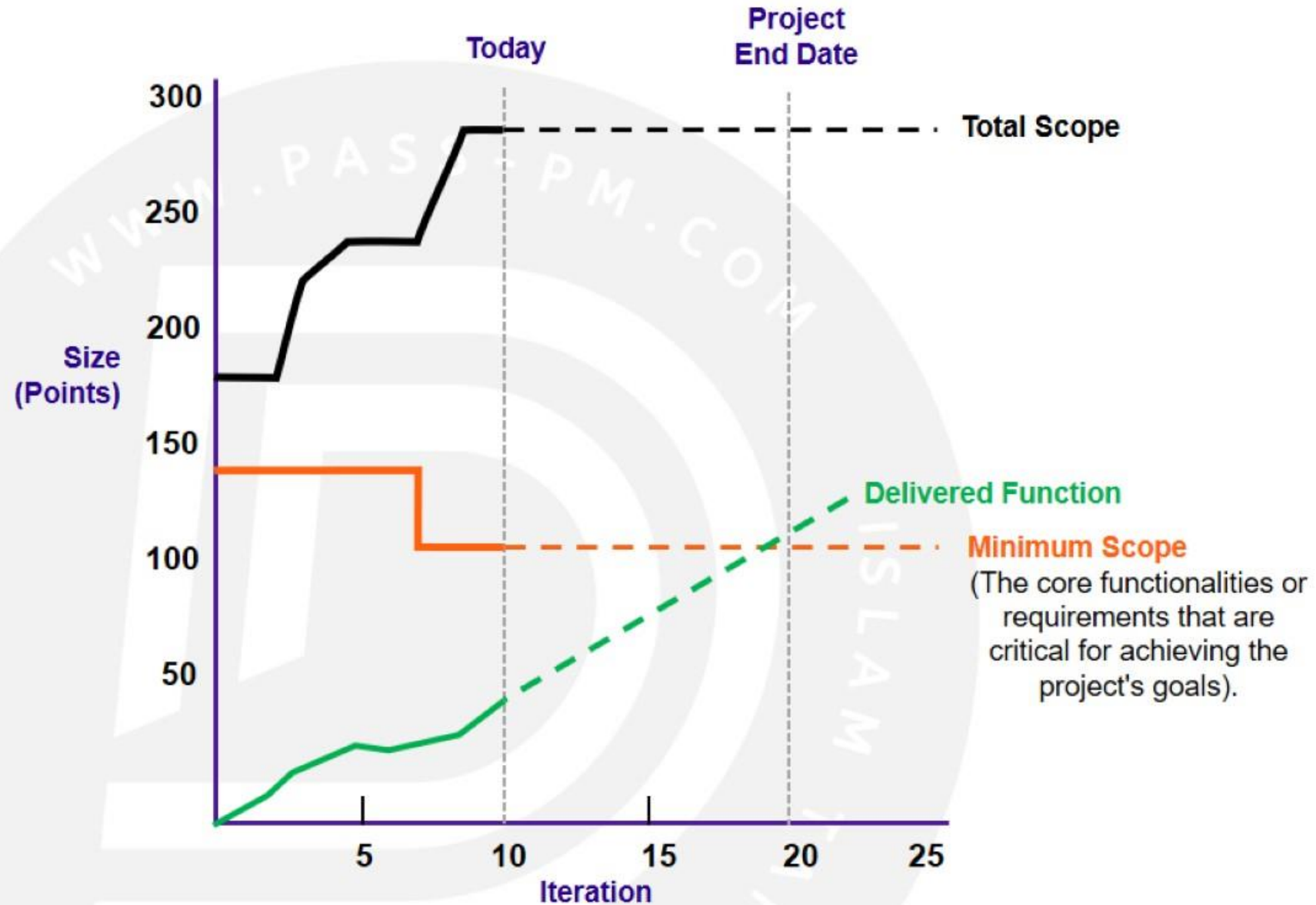
A sharp drop

Significant deviations from the planned activity



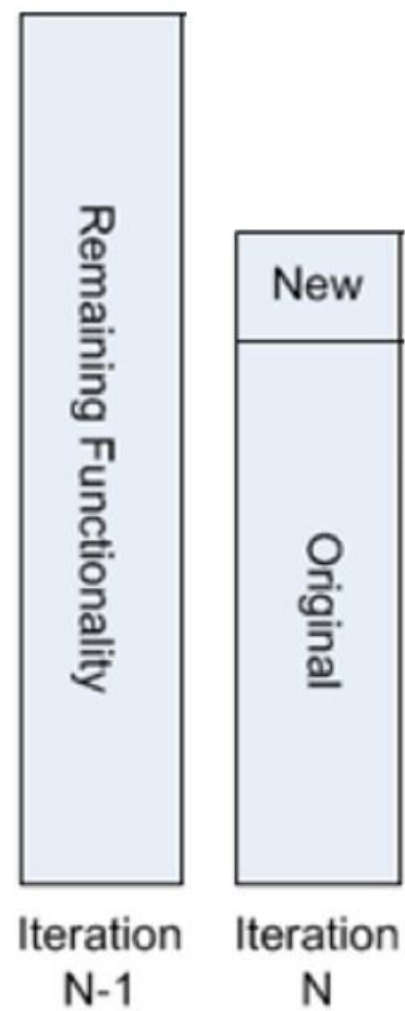
# Burnup Charts

- The burnup chart shows the work completed instead of the work remaining.
- Disadvantages: do not show what tasks are still in progress. And they do not reflect how close the team is to completing the work.

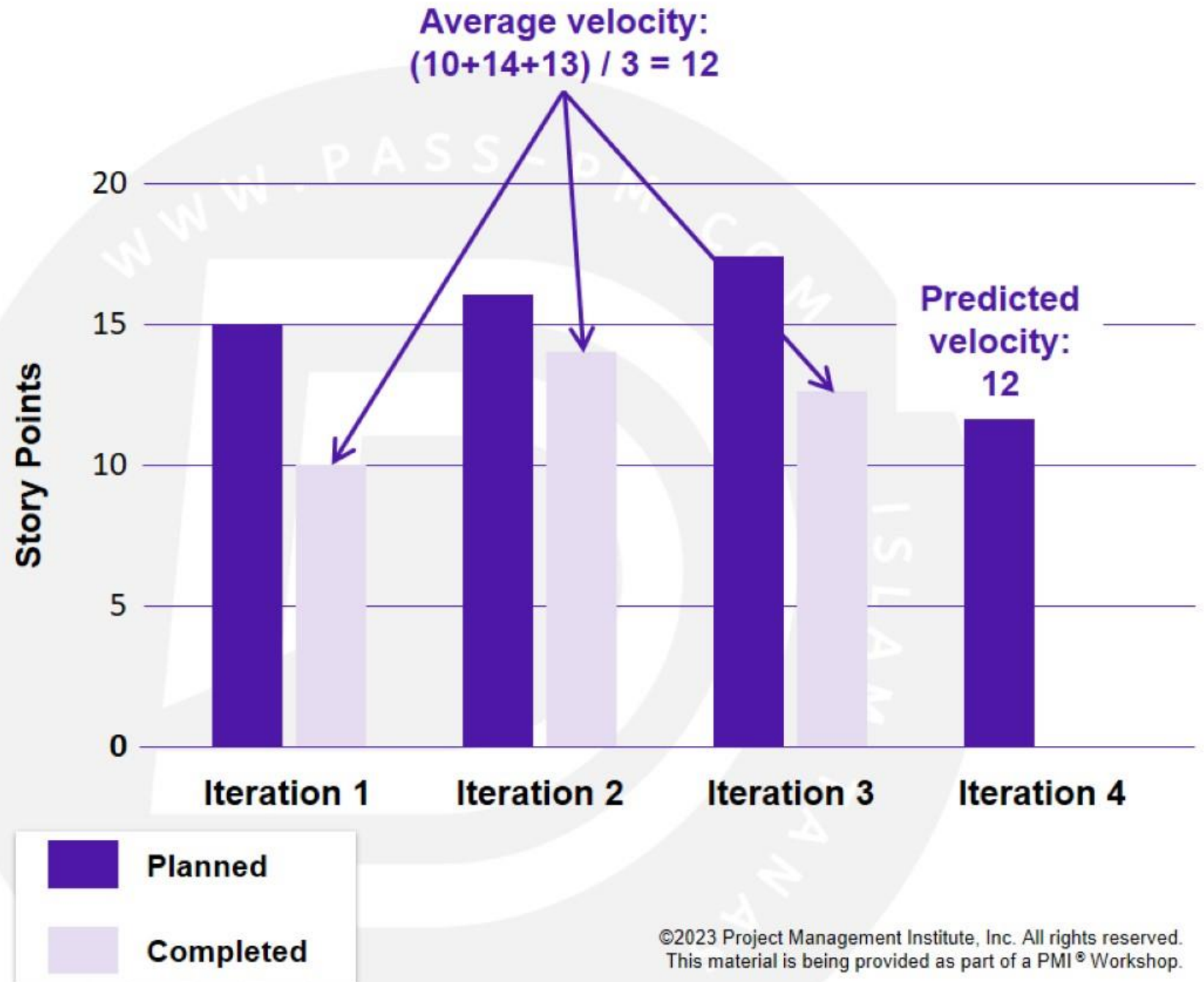




# Velocity



# Predicting Velocity



# Forecasting Iterations Needed

Average velocity: 12 story points

Remaining backlog: 60 story points

$$60 / 12 = 5$$

Velocity **should not** be used to **compare**  
the productivity of **different teams**.

# Throughput



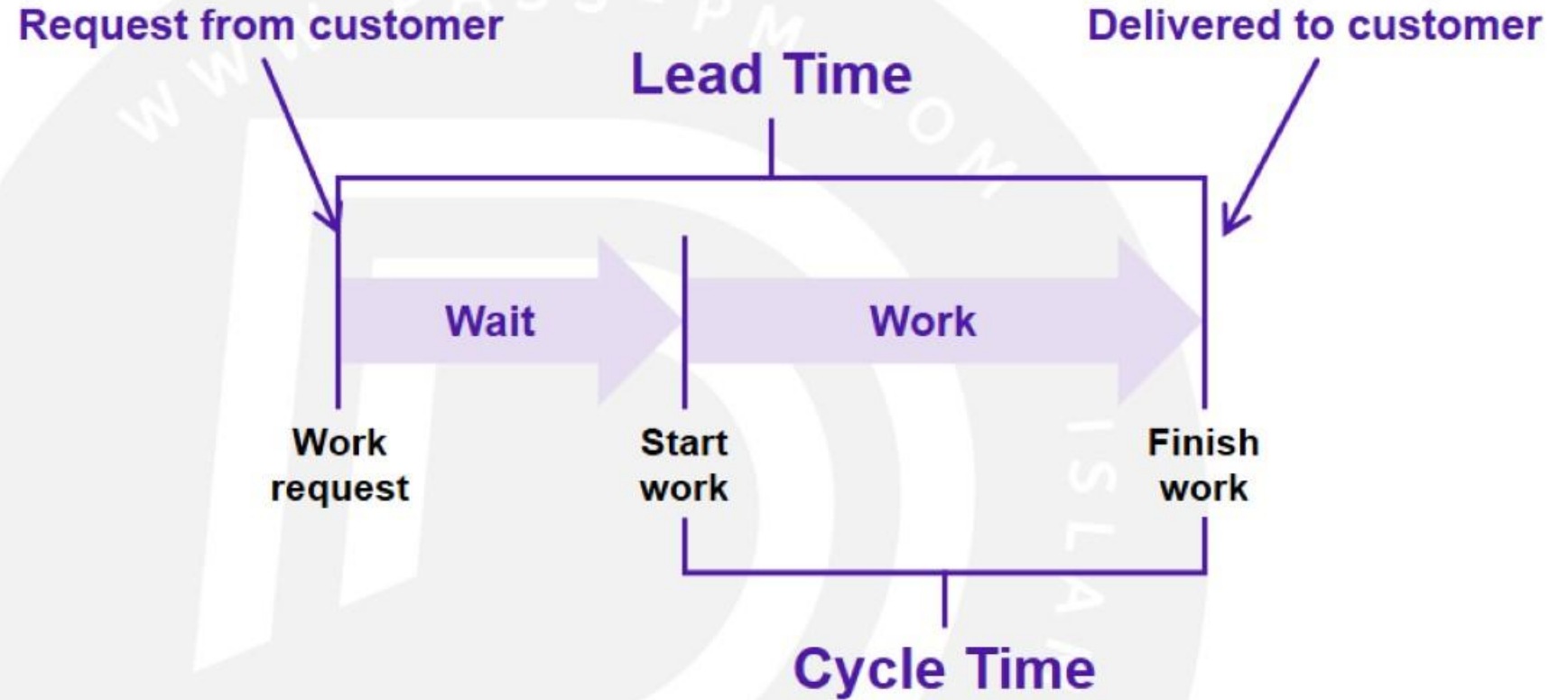
The **number of units** produced during a **specific interval**



**80 cars / 8-hour shift = 10 cars per hour**



# Cycle Time and Lead Time



# Cycle Times



**Control charts** are used to monitor cycle times.

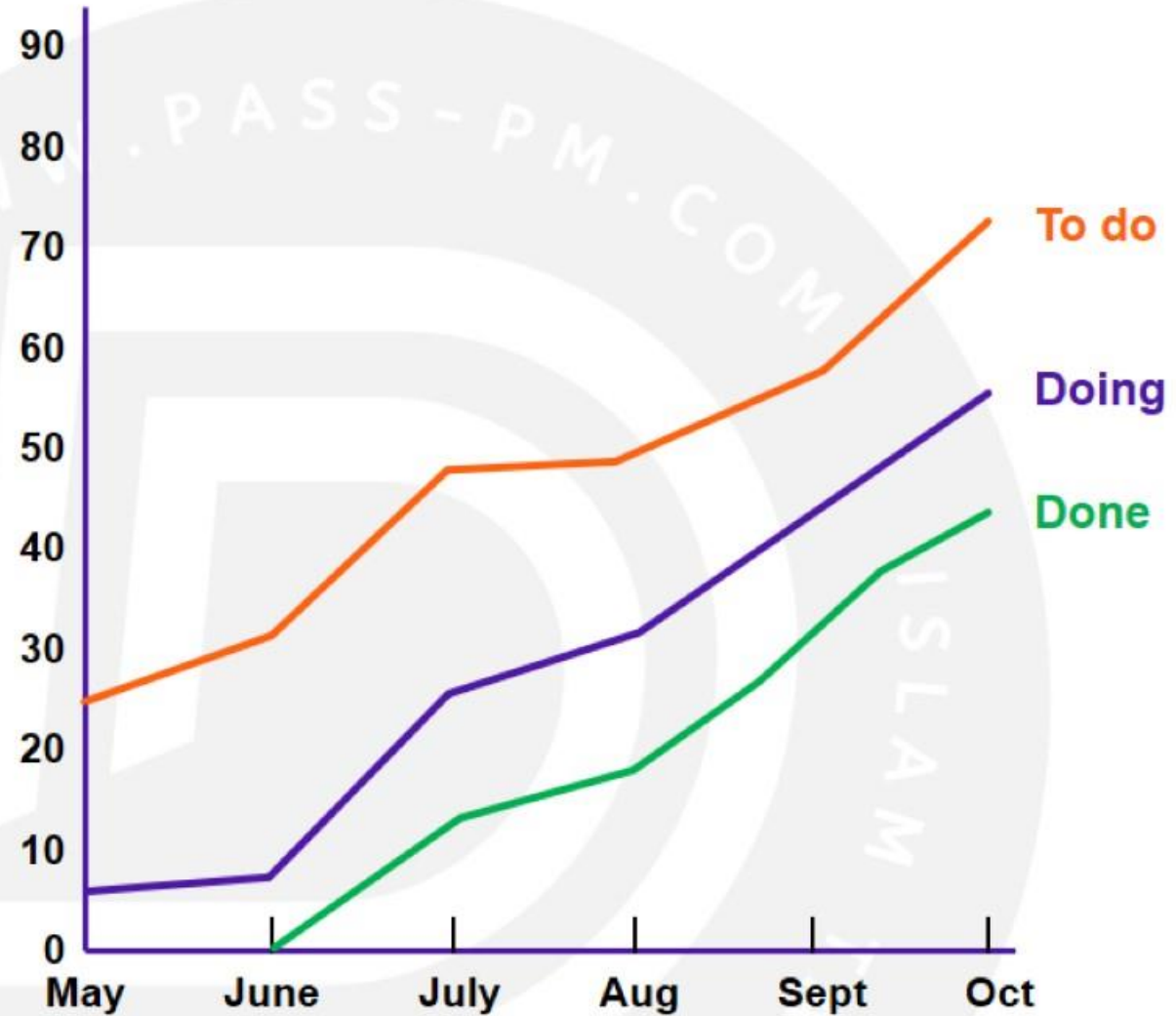


Lead time is a direct function of **how many tasks are entering the system** and how often.



The cycle time is closely associated with **work in progress**, which is a count of all started tasks that have not yet been finished.

# Cumulative Flow Diagram



# Information Radiators

**Information**

**Radiators**





# The Uncertainty Performance Domain

# Tracking and Managing Risk in Adaptive Projects



Establish a regular rhythm of review and feedback sessions



Use daily standup meetings identify potential threats and opportunities



Demonstrate product or service increments frequently



Test the effectiveness of candidate solutions with short proof-of-concept experiments or spikes

# Tracking Progress to Manage Risk

Roadblocks or issues are reported **at the daily meeting** and escalated to the scrum master or project manager for resolution.

Since **adaptive approaches** are used in **high uncertainty** environments, we can expect **more risks** to be encountered than on predictive projects



# Impediments List

ID	Risk	January			February		
		Impact	Probability	Severity	Impact	Probability	Impact
1	Permits not obtained	3	3	9	3	2	6
2	Site not ready	2	2	4	2	0	0
3	Early road thaw	3	2	6	3	1	3
4	...						



# Calculating the Severity of Risk

*A Guide to the Project  
Management Body of  
Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide) –  
Seventh Edition*



**Risk Severity = Impact x Probability**



# Wrapping Up

# Summary



Detect and resolve problems



Setting priorities



Measuring performance



Dealing with uncertainty



Tracking and managing risk

# Up Next: Business Analysis Frameworks

