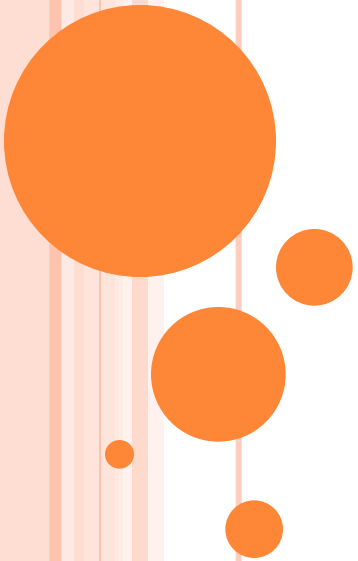
Software Engineering



LECTURE-9

Prescriptive Process Models

Topics Covered

- Generic process framework (revisited)
- Traditional process models
- Specialized process models
- The unified process

Generic Process Framework

- Communication
  - Involves communication among the customer and other stake holders; encompasses requirements gathering
- Planning
  - Establishes a plan for software engineering work; addresses technical tasks, resources, work products, and work schedule
- Modeling (Analyze, Design)
  - Encompasses the creation of models to better under the requirements and the design
- Construction (Code, Test)
  - Combines code generation and testing to uncover errors
- Deployment
  - Involves delivery of software to the customer for evaluation and feedback

Modeling: Software Requirements Analysis

- Helps software engineers to better understand the problem they will work to solve
- Encompasses the set of tasks that lead to an understanding of what the business impact of the software will be, what the customer wants, and how end-users will interact with the software
- Uses a combination of text and diagrams to depict requirements for data, function, and behavior
  - Provides a relatively easy way to understand and review requirements for correctness, completeness and consistency

Modeling: Software Design

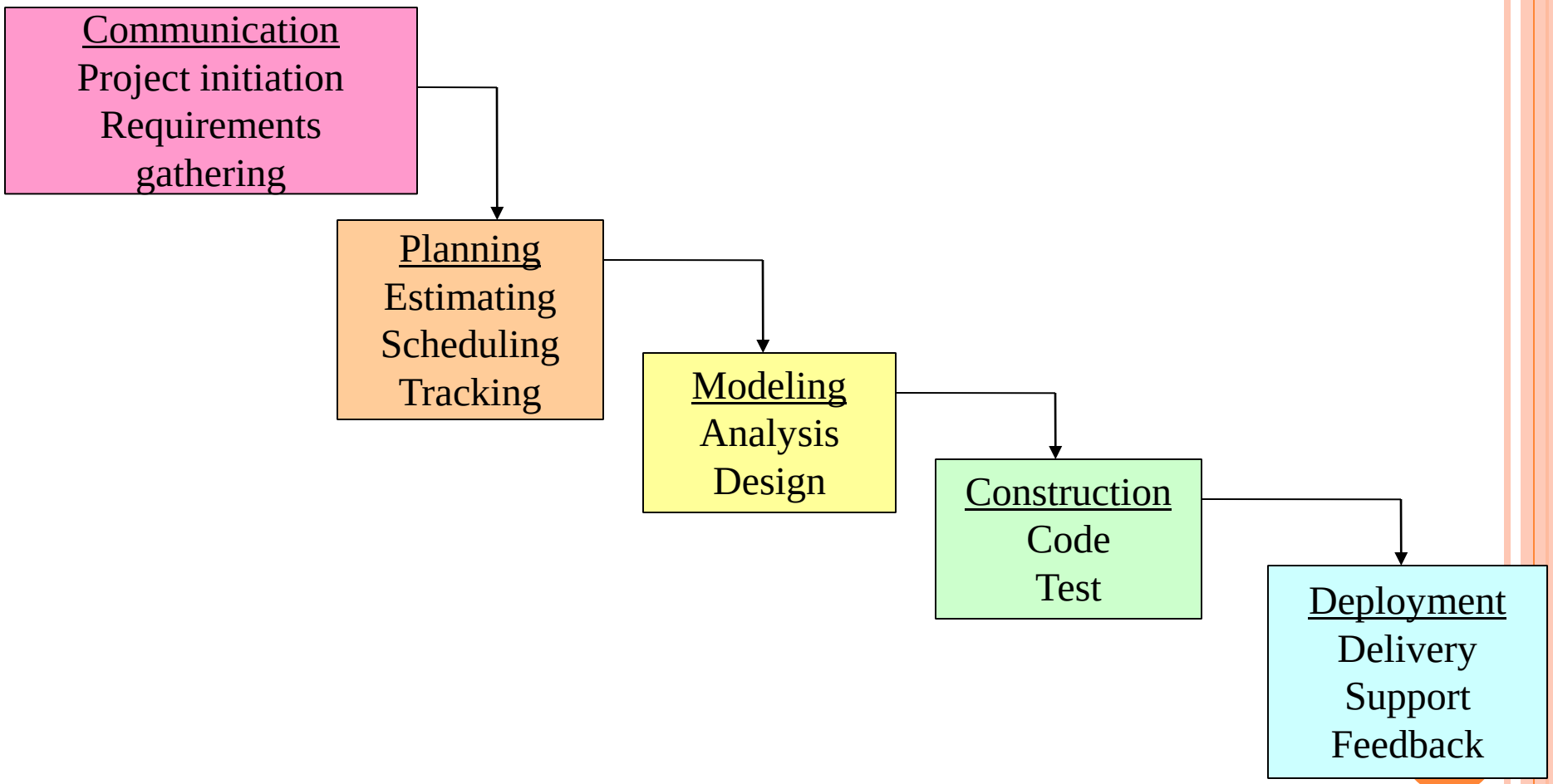
- Brings together customer requirements, business needs, and technical considerations to form the “blueprint” for a product
- Creates a model that that provides detail about software data structures, software architecture, interfaces, and components that are necessary to implement the system
- Architectural design
  - Represents the structure of data and program components that are required to build the software
  - Considers the architectural style, the structure and properties of components that constitute the system, and interrelationships that occur among all architectural components
- User Interface Design
  - Creates an effective communication medium between a human and a computer
  - Identifies interface objects and actions and then creates a screen layout that forms the basis for a user interface prototype
- Component-level Design
  - Defines the data structures, algorithms, interface characteristics, and communication mechanisms allocated to each software component

Traditional Process Models

Prescriptive Process Model

- Defines a distinct set of activities, actions, tasks, milestones, and work products that are required to engineer high-quality software
- The activities may be linear, incremental, or evolutionary

Waterfall Model (Diagram)



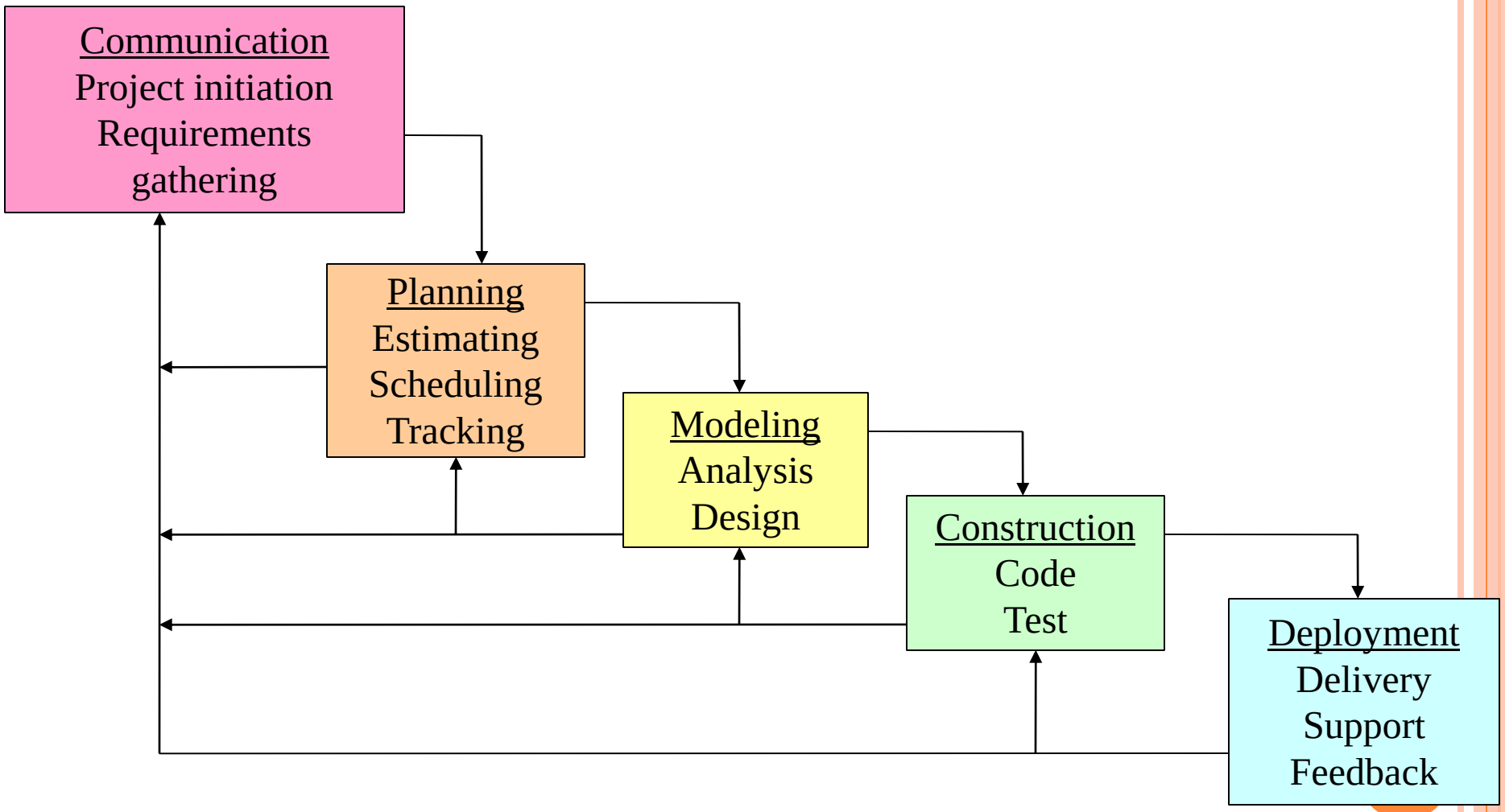
Waterfall Model (Description)

- Oldest software lifecycle model and best understood by upper management
- Used when requirements are well understood and risk is low
- Work flow is in a linear (i.e., sequential) fashion
- Used often with well-defined adaptations or enhancements to current software

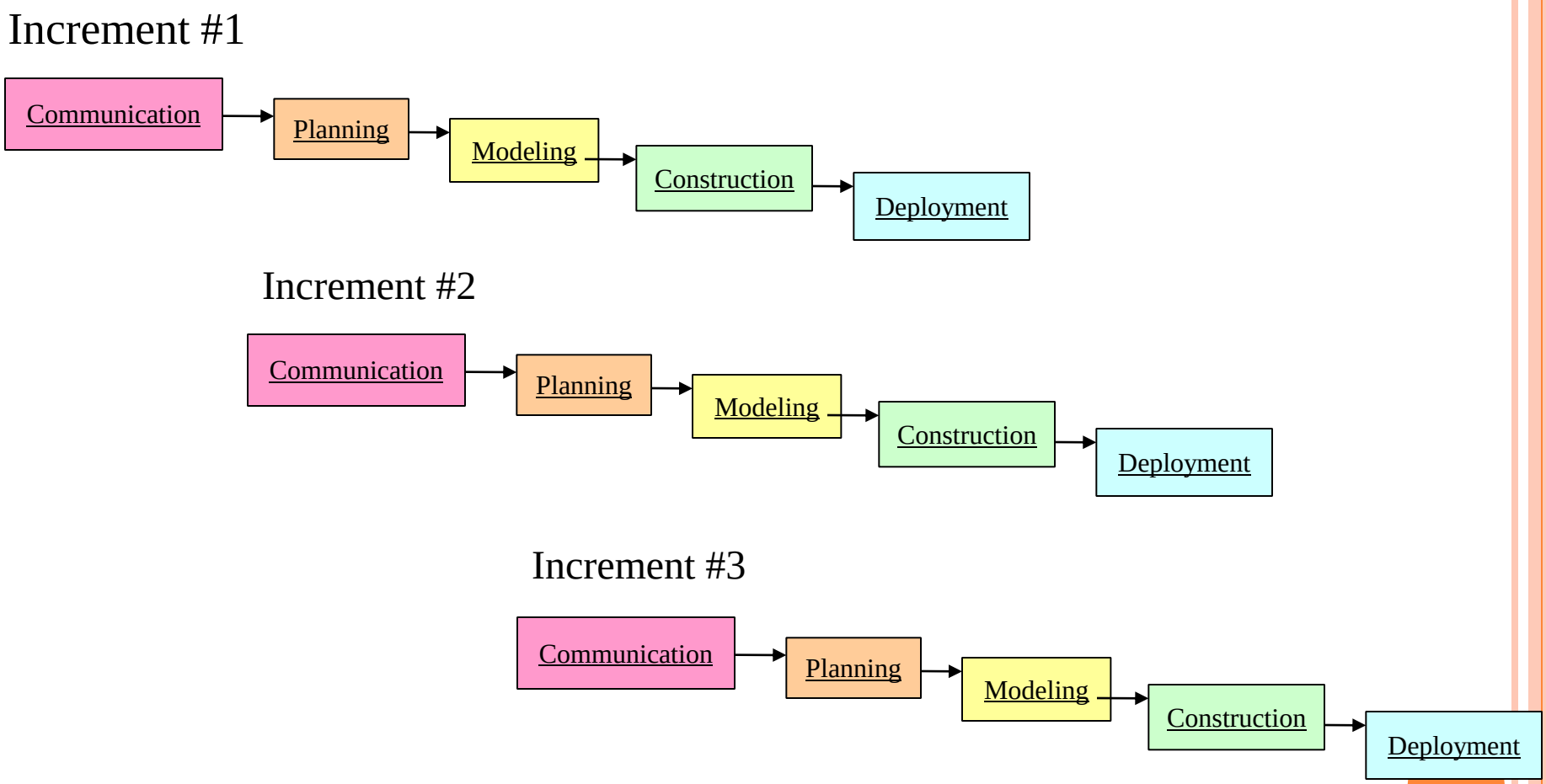
Waterfall Model (Problems)

- Doesn't support iteration, so changes can cause confusion
- Difficult for customers to state all requirements explicitly and up front
- Requires customer patience because a working version of the program doesn't occur until the final phase
- Problems can be somewhat alleviated in the model through the addition of feedback loops (see the next slide)

Waterfall Model with Feedback (Diagram)



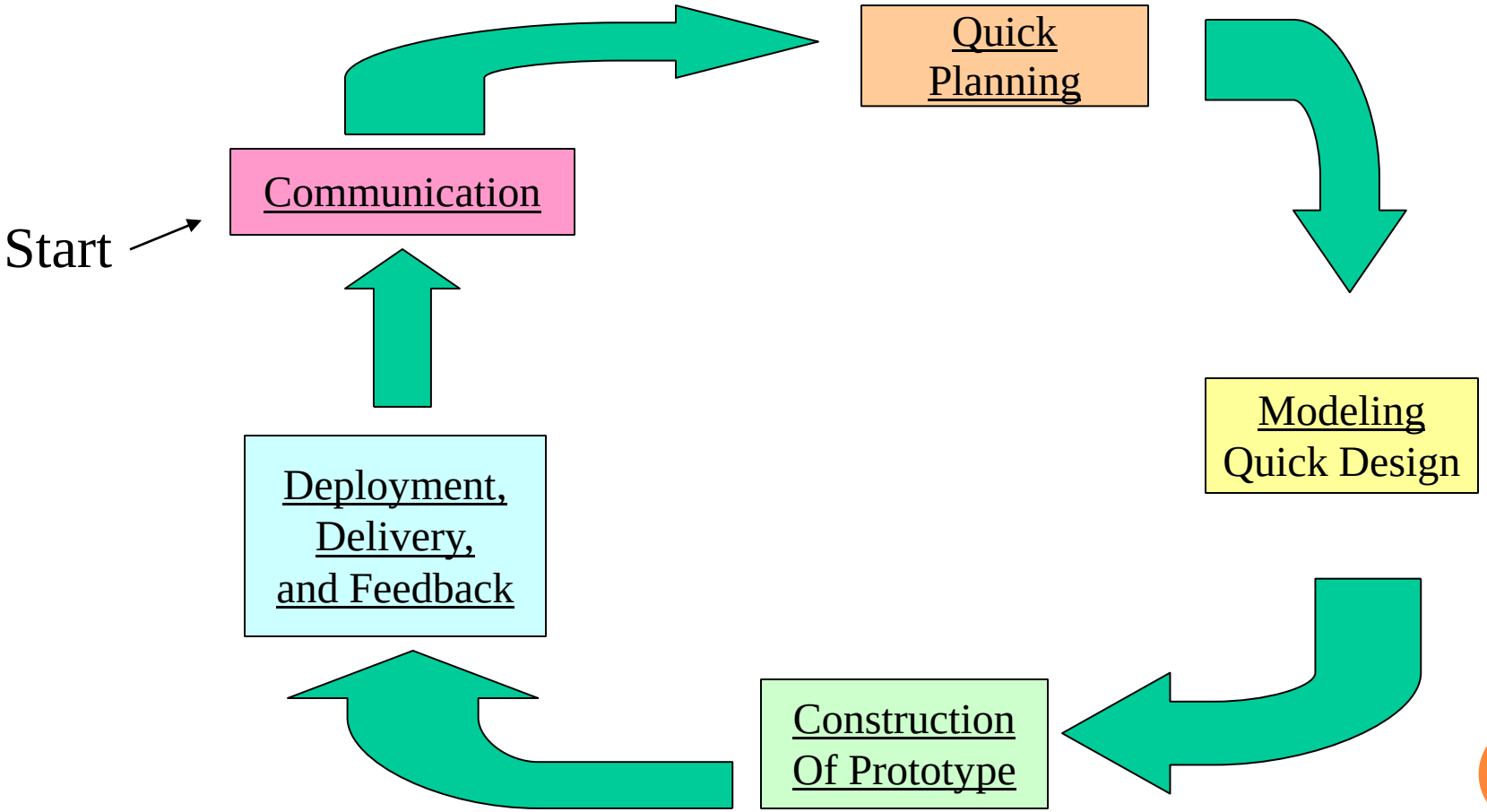
Incremental Model (Diagram)



Incremental Model (Description)

- Used when requirements are well understood
- Multiple independent deliveries are identified
- Work flow is in a linear (i.e., sequential) fashion within an increment and is staggered between increments
- Iterative in nature; focuses on an operational product with each increment
- Provides a needed set of functionality sooner while delivering optional components later
- Useful also when staffing is too short for a full-scale development

Prototyping Model (Diagram)



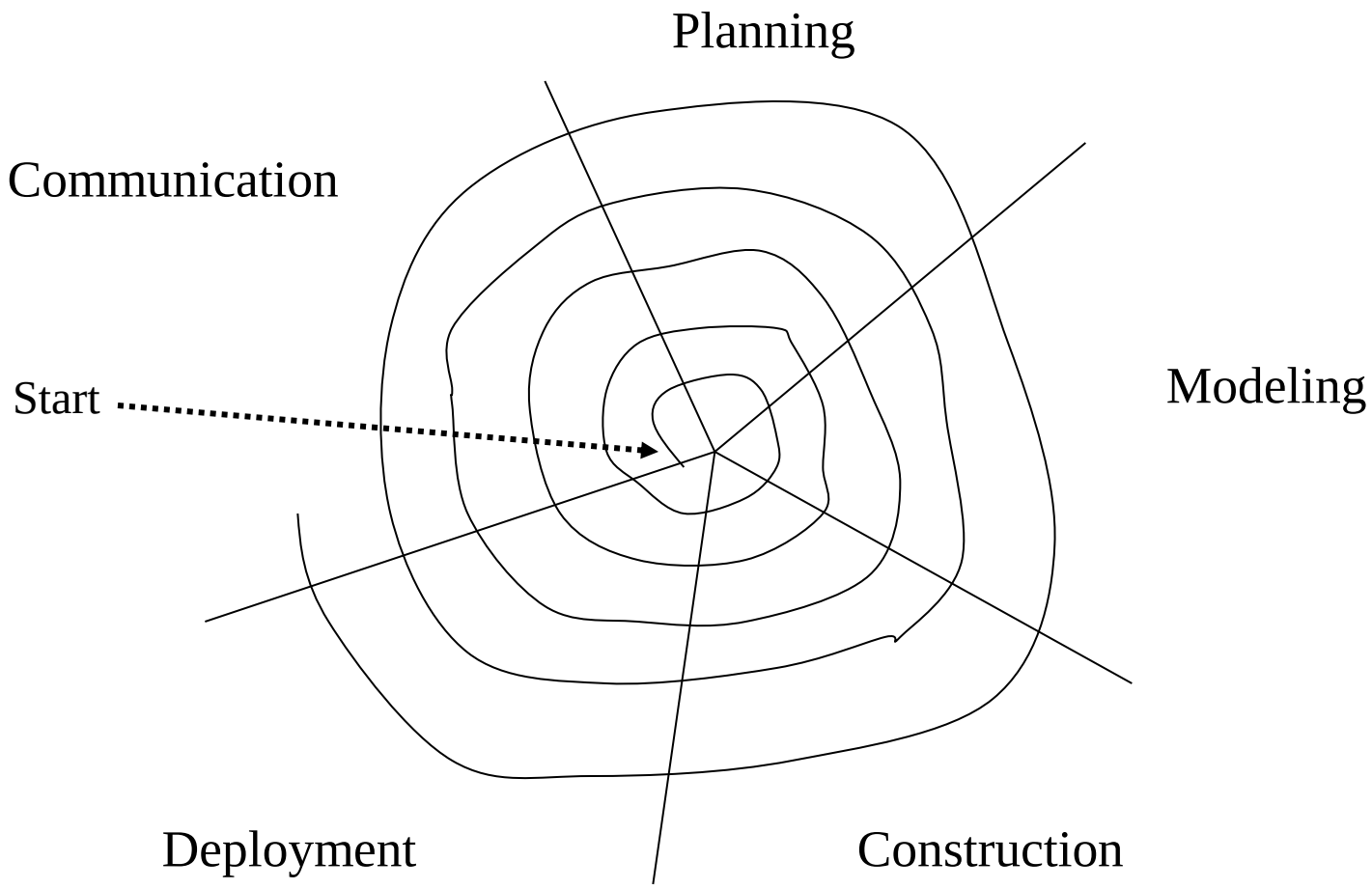
Prototyping Model (Description)

- Follows an evolutionary and iterative approach
- Used when requirements are not well understood
- Serves as a mechanism for identifying software requirements
- Focuses on those aspects of the software that are visible to the customer/user
- Feedback is used to refine the prototype

Prototyping Model (Potential Problems)

- The customer sees a "working version" of the software, wants to stop all development and then buy the prototype after a "few fixes" are made
- Developers often make implementation compromises to get the software running quickly (e.g., language choice, user interface, operating system choice, inefficient algorithms)
- Lesson learned
  - Define the rules up front on the final disposition of the prototype before it is built
  - In most circumstances, plan to discard the prototype and engineer the actual production software with a goal toward quality

Spiral Model (Diagram)



Spiral Model (Description)

- Invented by Dr. Barry Boehm in 1988 while working at TRW
- Follows an evolutionary approach
- Used when requirements are not well understood and risks are high
- Inner spirals focus on identifying software requirements and project risks; may also incorporate prototyping
- Outer spirals take on a classical waterfall approach after requirements have been defined, but permit iterative growth of the software
- Operates as a risk-driven model…a go/no-go decision occurs after each complete spiral in order to react to risk determinations
- Requires considerable expertise in risk assessment
- Serves as a realistic model for large-scale software development

General Weaknesses of Evolutionary Process Models

1) Prototyping poses a problem to project planning because of the uncertain number of iterations required to construct the product
2) Evolutionary software processes do not establish the maximum speed of the evolution
   - If too fast, the process will fall into chaos
   - If too slow, productivity could be affected
3) Software processes should focus first on flexibility and extensibility, and second on high quality
   - We should prioritize the speed of the development over zero defects
   - Extending the development in order to reach higher quality could result in late delivery

Specialized Process Models

Component-based Development Model

- Consists of the following process steps
  - Available component-based products are researched and evaluated for the application domain in question
  - Component integration issues are considered
  - A software architecture is designed to accommodate the components
  - Components are integrated into the architecture
  - Comprehensive testing is conducted to ensure proper functionality
- Relies on a robust component library
- Capitalizes on software reuse, which leads to documented savings in project cost and time

Formal Methods Model (Description)

- Encompasses a set of activities that leads to formal mathematical specification of computer software
- Enables a software engineer to specify, develop, and verify a computer-based system by applying a rigorous, mathematical notation
- Ambiguity, incompleteness, and inconsistency can be discovered and corrected more easily through mathematical analysis
- Offers the promise of defect-free software
- Used often when building safety-critical systems

Formal Methods Model (Challenges)

- Development of formal methods is currently quite time-consuming and expensive
- Because few software developers have the necessary background to apply formal methods, extensive training is required
- It is difficult to use the models as a communication mechanism for technically unsophisticated customers

The Unified Process

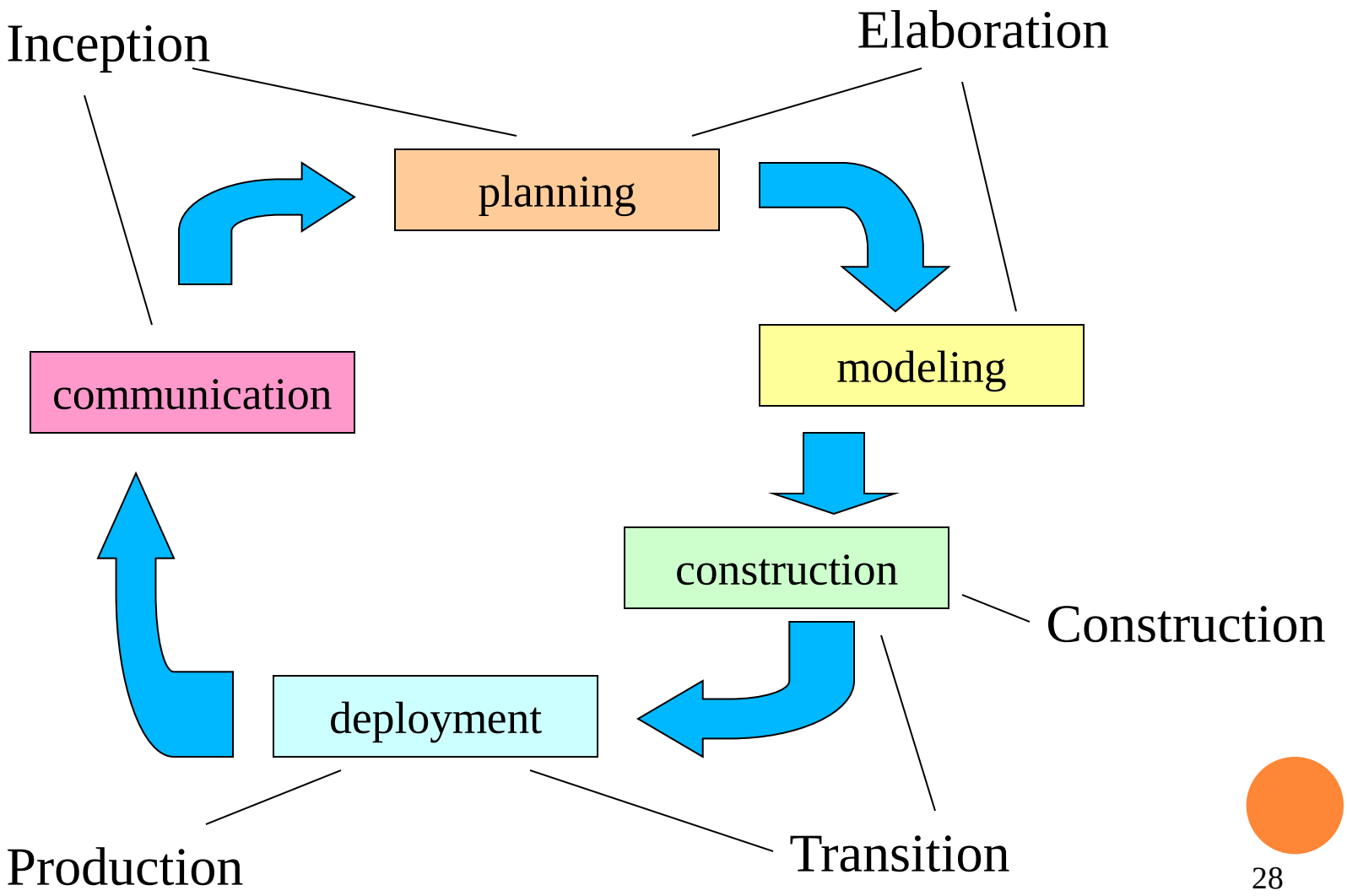
Background

- Birthed during the late 1980's and early 1990s when object-oriented languages were gaining wide-spread use
- Many object-oriented analysis and design methods were proposed; three top authors were Grady Booch, Ivar Jacobson, and James Rumbaugh
- They eventually worked together on a unified method, called the Unified Modeling Language (UML)
  - UML is a robust notation for the modeling and development of object-oriented systems
  - UML became an industry standard in 1997
  - However, UML does not provide the process framework, only the necessary technology for object-oriented development

Background (continued)

- Booch, Jacobson, and Rumbaugh later developed the unified process, which is a framework for object-oriented software engineering using UML
  - Draws on the best features and characteristics of conventional software process models
  - Emphasizes the important role of software architecture
  - Consists of a process flow that is iterative and incremental, thereby providing an evolutionary feel
- Consists of five phases: inception, elaboration, construction, transition, and production

Phases of the Unified Process



Inception Phase

- Encompasses both customer communication and planning activities of the generic process
- Business requirements for the software are identified
- A rough architecture for the system is proposed
- A plan is created for an incremental, iterative development
- Fundamental business requirements are described through preliminary use cases
  - A use case describes a sequence of actions that are performed by a user

Elaboration Phase

- Encompasses both the planning and modeling activities of the generic process
- Refines and expands the preliminary use cases
- Expands the architectural representation to include five views
  - Use-case model
  - Analysis model
  - Design model
  - Implementation model
  - Deployment model
- Often results in an executable architectural baseline that represents a first cut executable system
- The baseline demonstrates the viability of the architecture but does not provide all features and functions required to use the system

Construction Phase

- Encompasses the construction activity of the generic process
- Uses the architectural model from the elaboration phase as input
- Develops or acquires the software components that make each use-case operational
- Analysis and design models from the previous phase are completed to reflect the final version of the increment
- Use cases are used to derive a set of acceptance tests that are executed prior to the next phase

Transition Phase

- Encompasses the last part of the construction activity and the first part of the deployment activity of the generic process
- Software is given to end users for beta testing and user feedback reports on defects and necessary changes
- The software teams create necessary support documentation (user manuals, trouble-shooting guides, installation procedures)
- At the conclusion of this phase, the software increment becomes a usable software release

Production Phase

- Encompasses the last part of the deployment activity of the generic process
- On-going use of the software is monitored
- Support for the operating environment (infrastructure) is provided
- Defect reports and requests for changes are submitted and evaluated

Unified Process Work Products

- Work products are produced in each of the first four phases of the unified process
- In this course, we will concentrate on the analysis model and the design model work products
- Analysis model includes
  - Scenario-based model, class-based model, and behavioral model
- Design model includes
  - Component-level design, interface design, architectural design, and data/class design