



# Bounded Rationalities & System Dynamics

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# Why do women live longer than men?

- 1 To find a woman you need Time and Money therefore:

$$\text{Woman} = \text{Time} \times \text{Money}$$

- 2 "Time is money" so

$$\text{Time} = \text{Money}$$

- 3 Therefore

$$\text{Woman} = \text{Money} \times \text{Money}$$

$$\text{Woman} = (\text{Money})^2$$

- 4 "Money is the root of all problems"

$$\text{Money} = \sqrt{\text{Problems}}$$

- 5 Therefore

$$\text{Woman} = (\sqrt{\text{Problems}})^2$$

$$\text{Woman} = \text{Problems}$$

(A+)

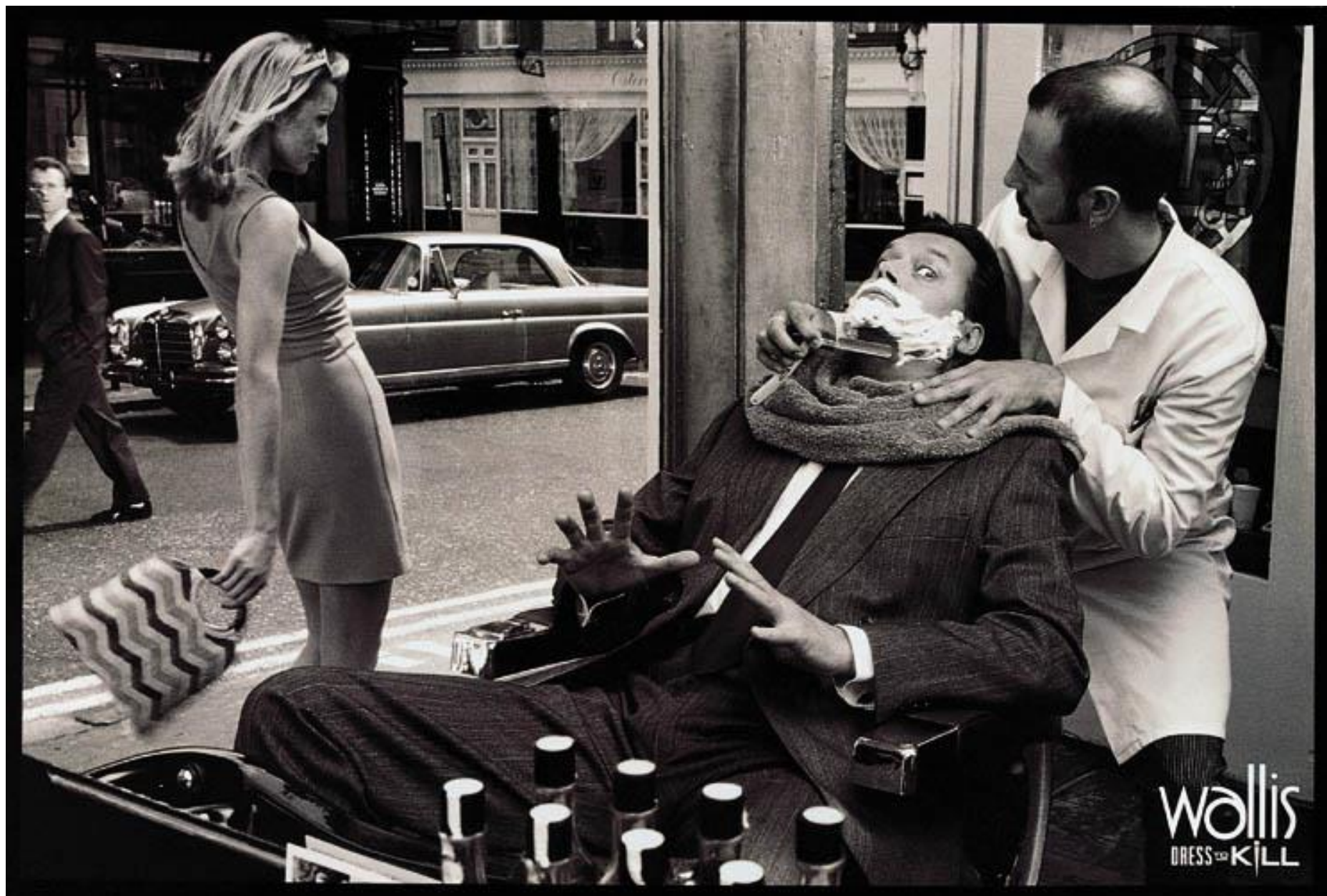


Wallis  
DRESS TO KILL









Wallis  
DRESS TO KILL

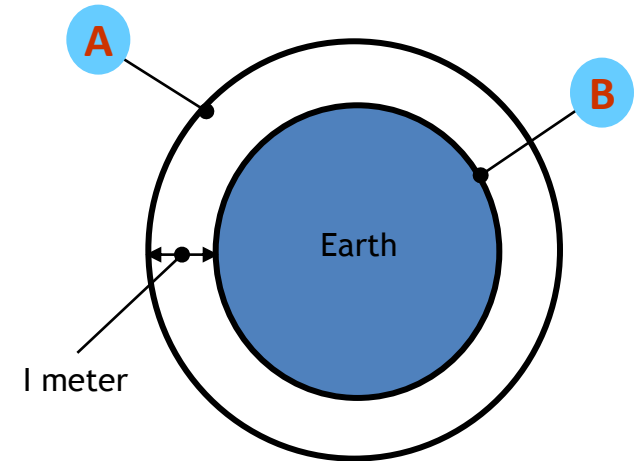
# Anchoring

Suppose

We measure the circumference of the earth 1 meter above the earth surface, which is 'A'.

And, the original circumference is 'B'.

Then, A - B would be?

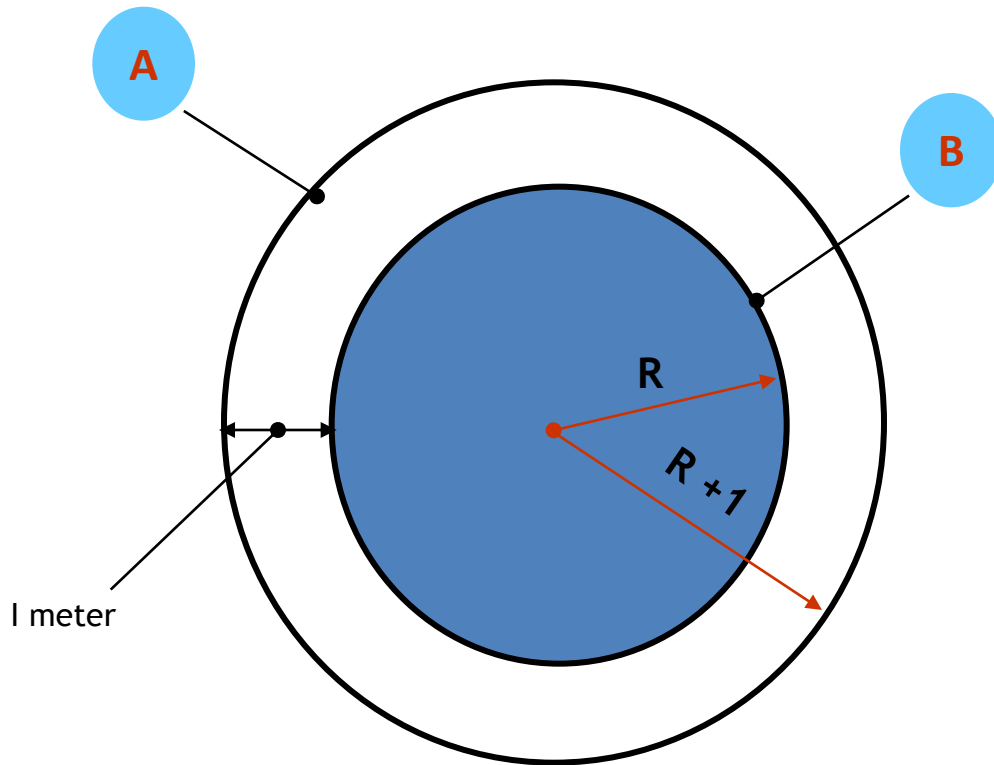


1)  $< 10 \text{ M}$

2) About 10 KM

3) About 1000 KM

4)  $> 1000 \text{ KM}$



$$B = 2 * \pi * R \quad \pi = 3.14...$$

$$A = 2 * \pi * (R+1)$$

$$A - B = 2 * \pi * (R+1) - 2 * \pi * R$$

$$= 2 \pi$$

$$= 2 * 3.14...$$

$$= 6.28...$$



# Underestimating Feedback Effect

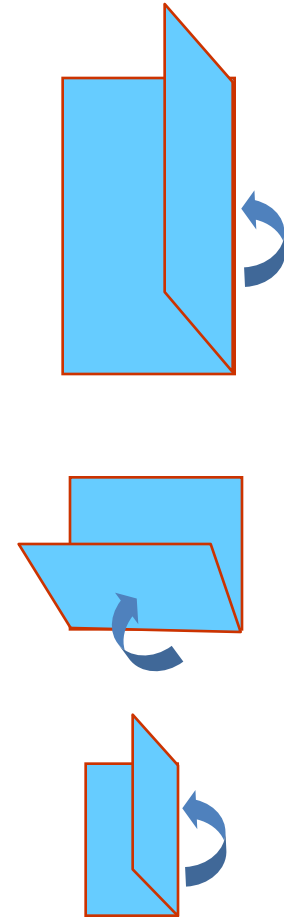
Suppose

You have a paper big enough to fold several times.

Once, Twice, Three times,  
And so on...

If you fold the paper 50 times, what  
would be the thickness of the paper?

- 1)  $< 10$  CM
- 2) About 1 M
- 3) about 1 KM
- 4)  $> 1000$  KM



Suppose

The thickness of the original paper is 'x', which was 0.01 CM.

When you fold the paper twice, the thickness will be  $x \cdot 2^1$

When you fold the paper 10 times, the thickness will be  $x \cdot 2^{10}$

When you fold the paper 50 times, the thickness will be

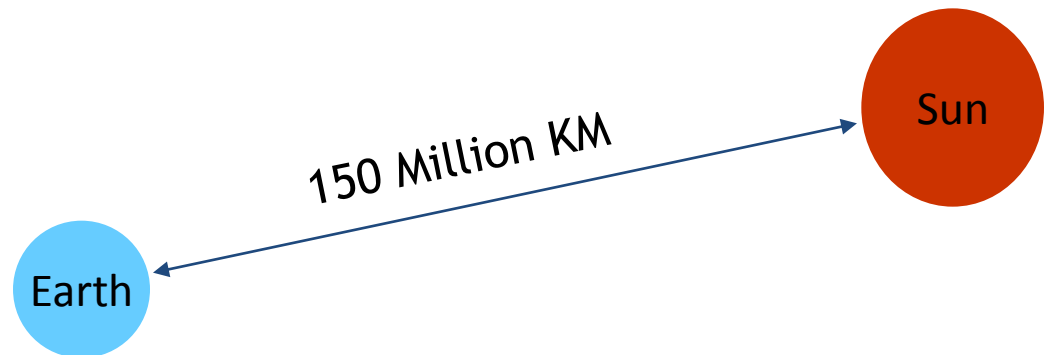
$$x \cdot 2^{10} \cdot 2^{10} \cdot 2^{10} \cdot 2^{10} \cdot 2^{10} = 10^{-2} \cdot 10^3 \cdot 10^3 \cdot 10^3 \cdot 10^3 \cdot 10^3 = 10^{13} \text{ CM} = 10^8 \text{ KM}$$

= 100 Million KM

,where  $x = 10^{-2} \text{ CM}$

$$2^{10} = 1024 = \text{about } 10^3$$

$$1 \text{ KM} = 10^5 \text{ CM}$$



# Lack of Empathy

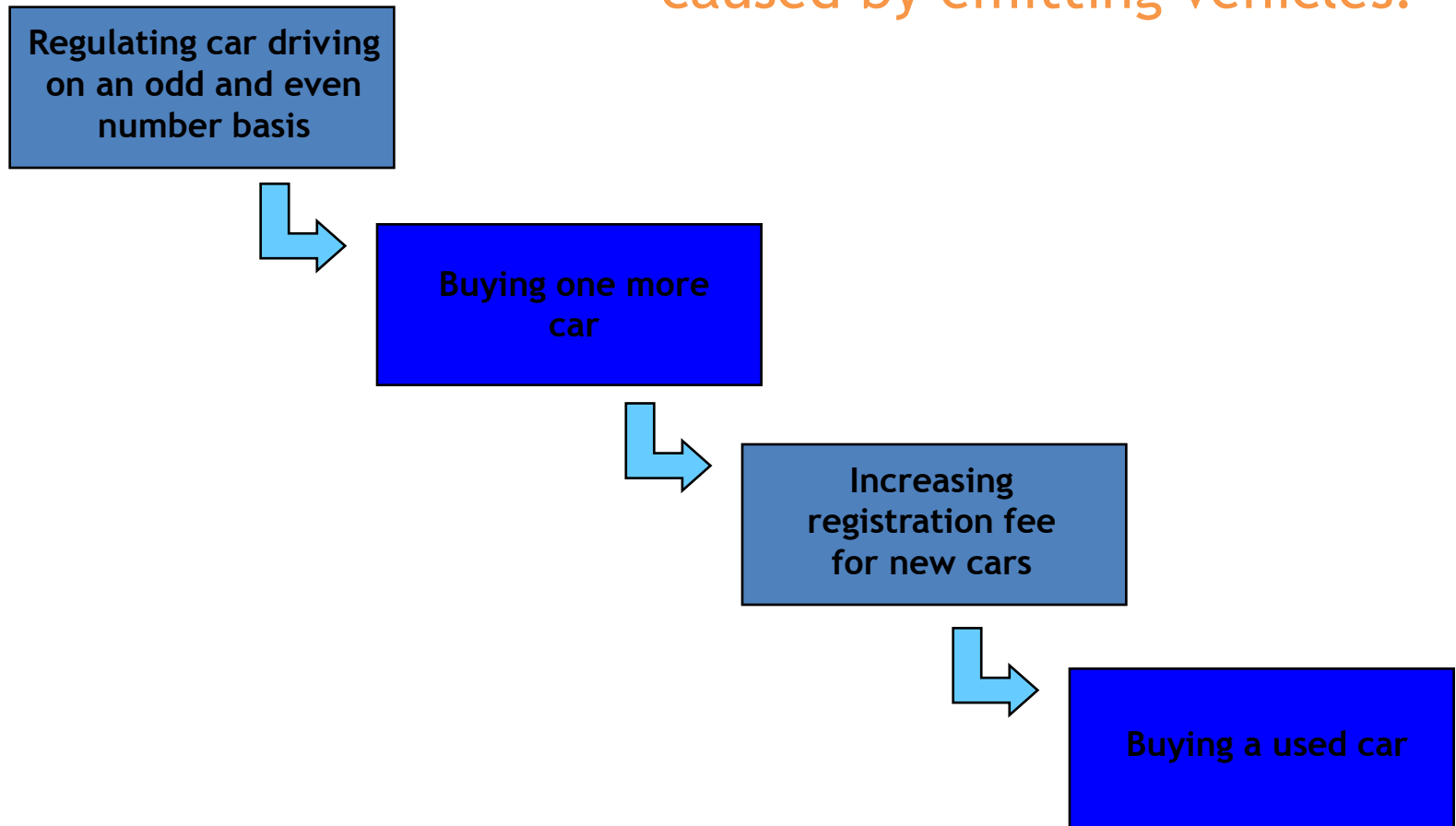
A Government Policy Failure Example

## *The Ancient City of Athens*



# They found a clue BUT...

How to reduce air pollution  
caused by emitting vehicles?





# Cognition Trap

- Cognition (인지): a human being's 'conscious' mental process including attention, solving problems and decision-making.
- Cognition Trap (인지함정): a frame of thinking that leads to a mistake by static cling (정태적인 집착으로 실책을 이끄는 사고의 틀).
- *Our decision-making is prone to a mistake, as many cognition traps exist in the uncontrolled real world.*

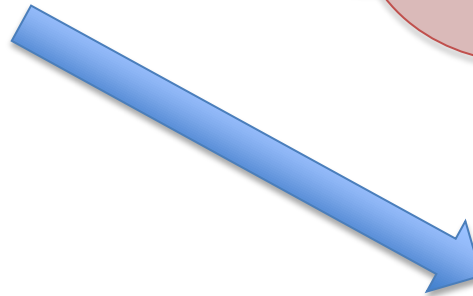
# Cause Confusion

Confusing the causes of complex events

- More difficult to identify what the problem is than you expect.
- Once identified, less difficult to solve than you worry
- The problem should be a 'nightmare'.

# Over-simplifying by missing links

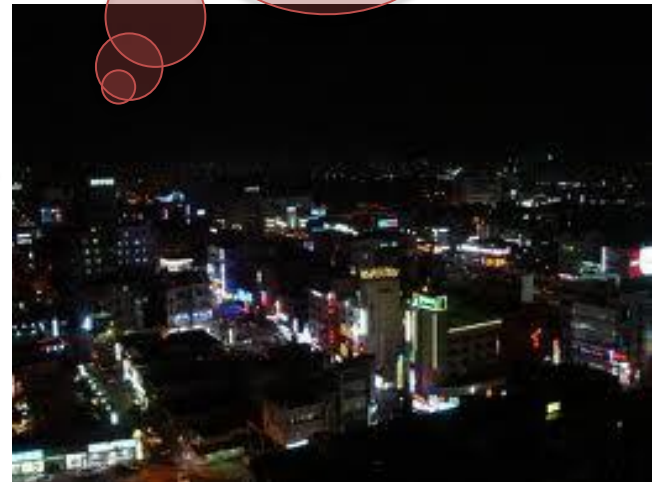
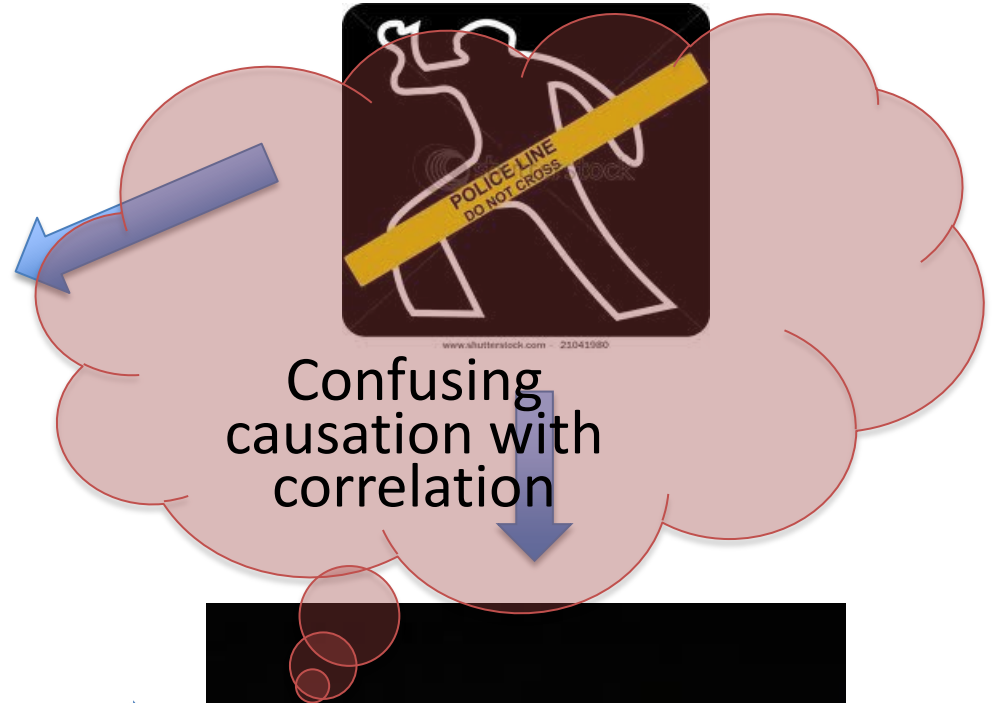
“Charles Lamb’s Essay, 1800”



Missing links in  
causes



# Causation vs Correlation





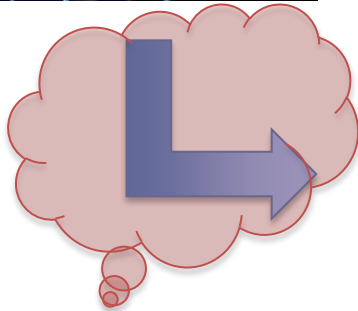
# Backward Causation

You observe the shopping cart of a fat woman, which is full of diet food.

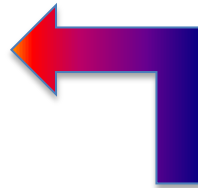


# Not always that simple...

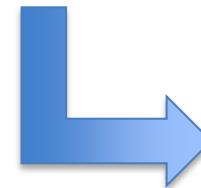
Chemical Imbalance



What if chemical imbalance is the result of depression?



Depression



Drugs



# Static Cling

Refusal to accept a changing world



- Longing for things (prosperity, peace, success) to remain.
- BUT
- There is often something more important than fact.

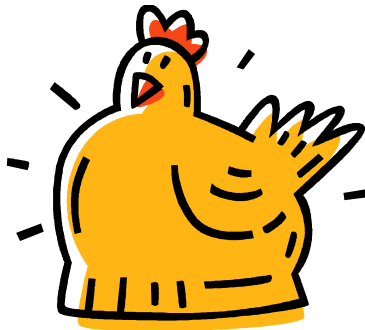


# Categorization Risk

Tend to think idealized best examples in prototypes

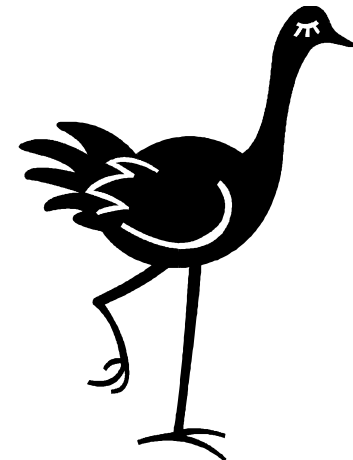


*A robin*



*A chicken*

*Is it a bird?*



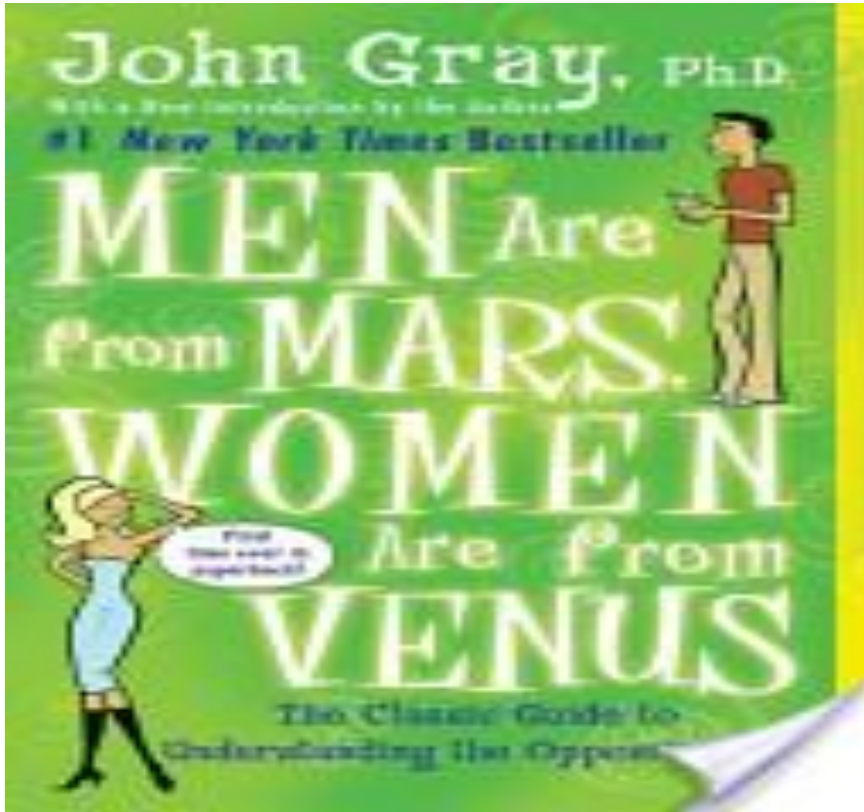
*An ostrich*



- Categorization is critical in daily life
- Relate all objects, events, and ideas as classes
- Tend to think **idealized best examples in prototypes**  
Ex. When hearing “bird”, people imagine a robin or another bird like it
- Thus, allow a thing only inside the category or outside, NO in between  
Ex. characterize people according to blood types
- Susceptible to **flatview** and **cure-allism**

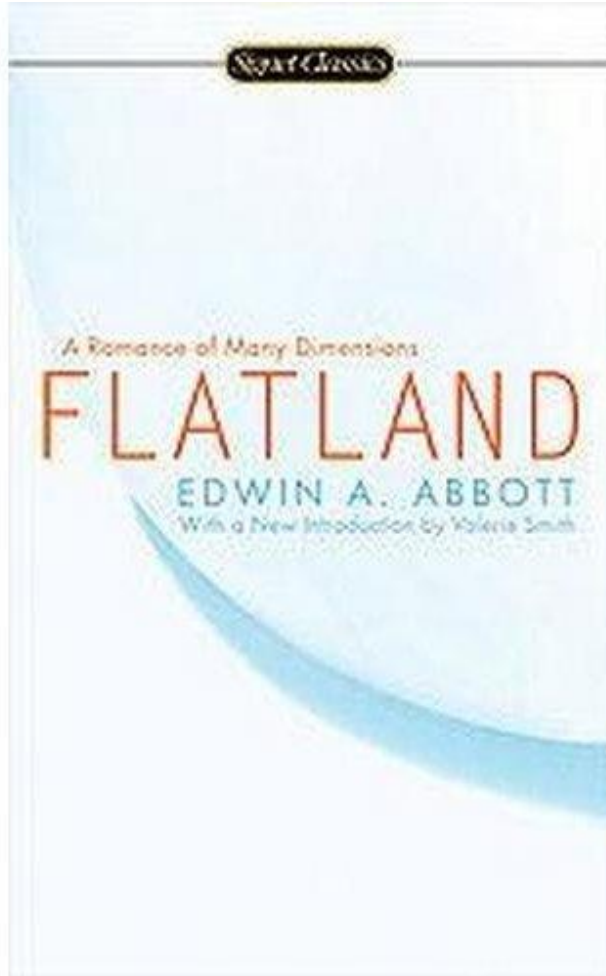
# Mirror Imaging

Tendency that the other people think like themselves.



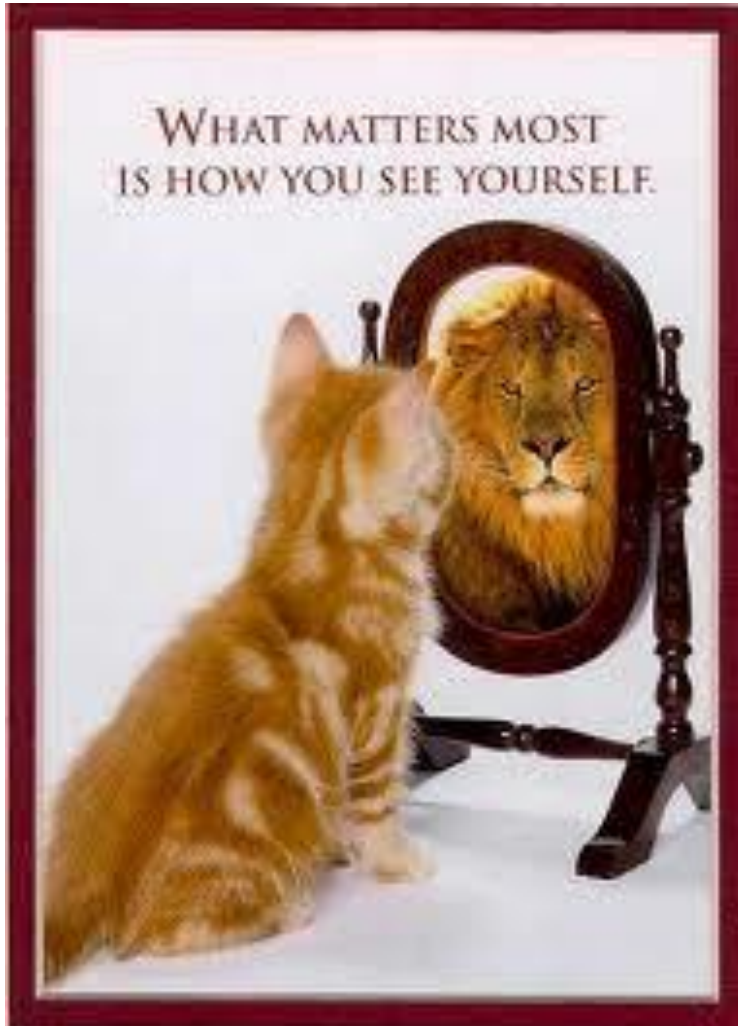
Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus

# Flatview



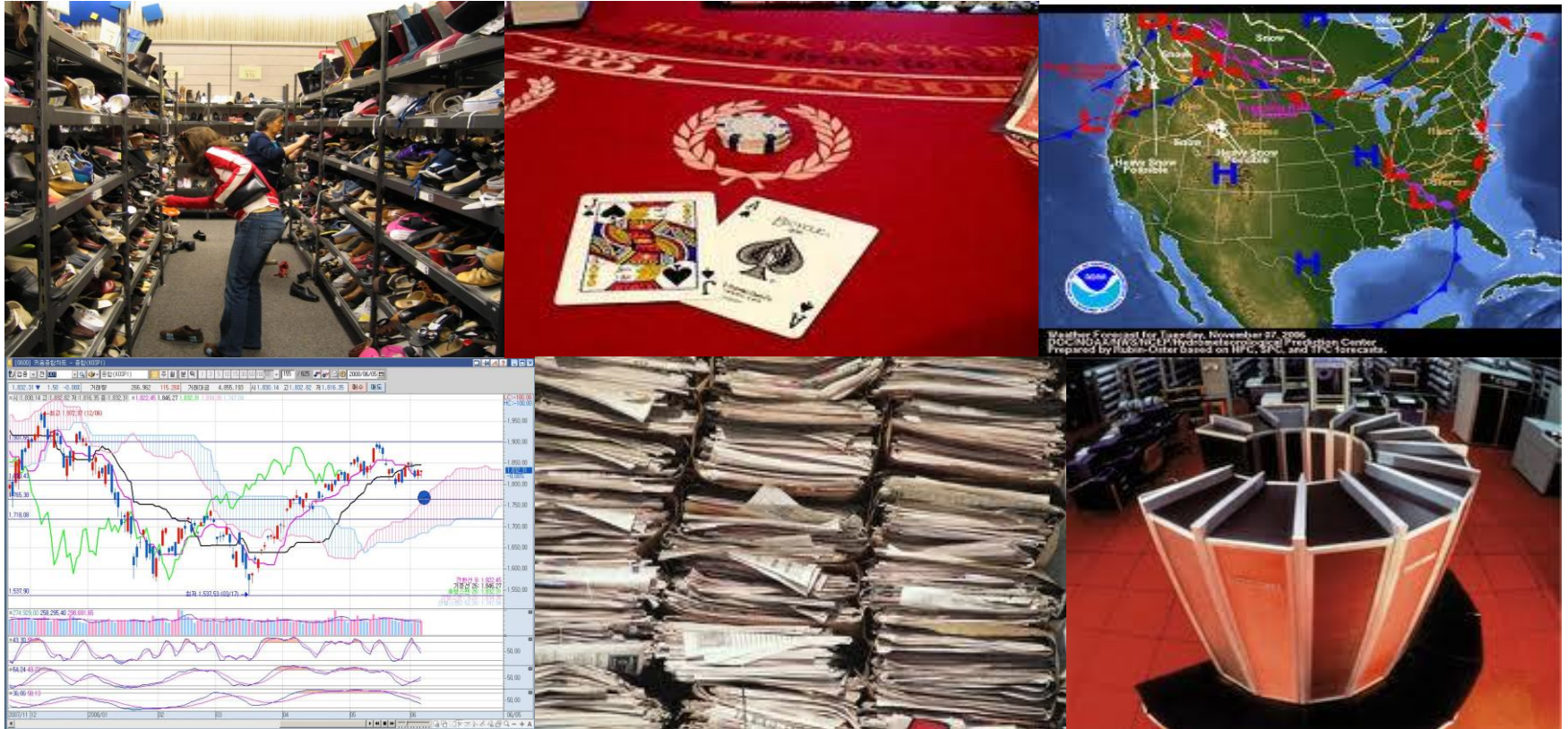
- Mostly caused by categorization, lack of **Empathy** and Imagination
  - \*empathy (feel with) cf. sympathy (feel for)
- Lead to 'black or white view'
- Important to understand that all people (enemies or allies) are ruled by emotion and their decision making is 'optimized (good or bad)' to the given situation

# Selective Perception





# Infomania



- Amount of information guarantees a good decision?
- Lead to overconfidence about their decision
- Rather, relevance is more important....

# Infomisering (정보독점)



- “The Necklace”, Maupassant
- Job posting example
- Occurs when people are afraid that their position is threatened when knowledge is spread
- But, often sharing information helps avert disaster





# Infovoidering (정보회피)



- Believe avoiding information can help achieve goals
- Shun the information that could keep from blunders
- Similar with Infomisering in that it retreats from **the wisdom of others**



# System View

- System
- See as a whole
- See the unseen

# System



# See as a whole NOT as parts



# See the unseen



There is God as unseen wind moves reed (Pascal).

**System thinking can  
be trained?...**





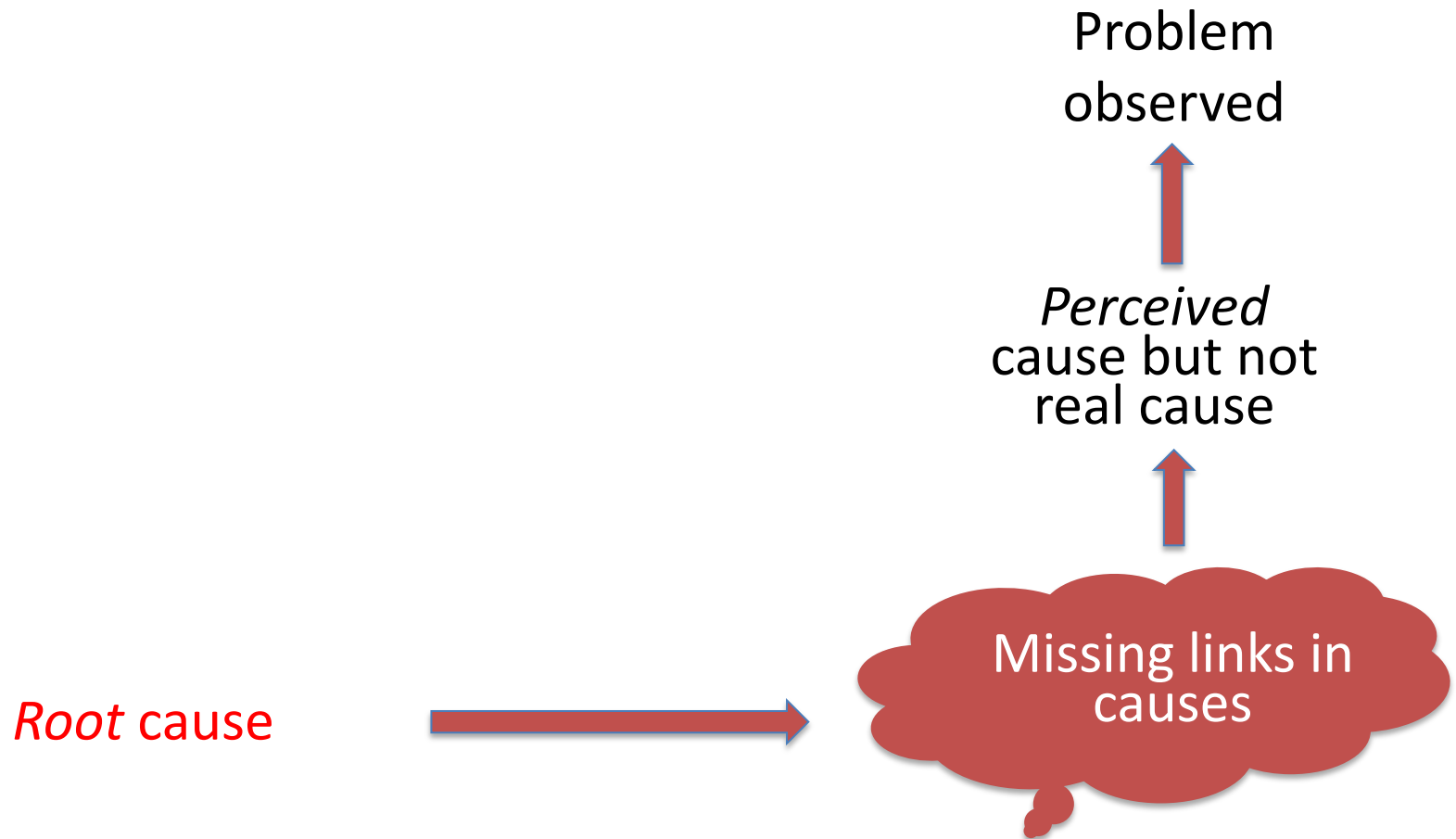
# ***System Dynamics***

***Mental Process Modeling***

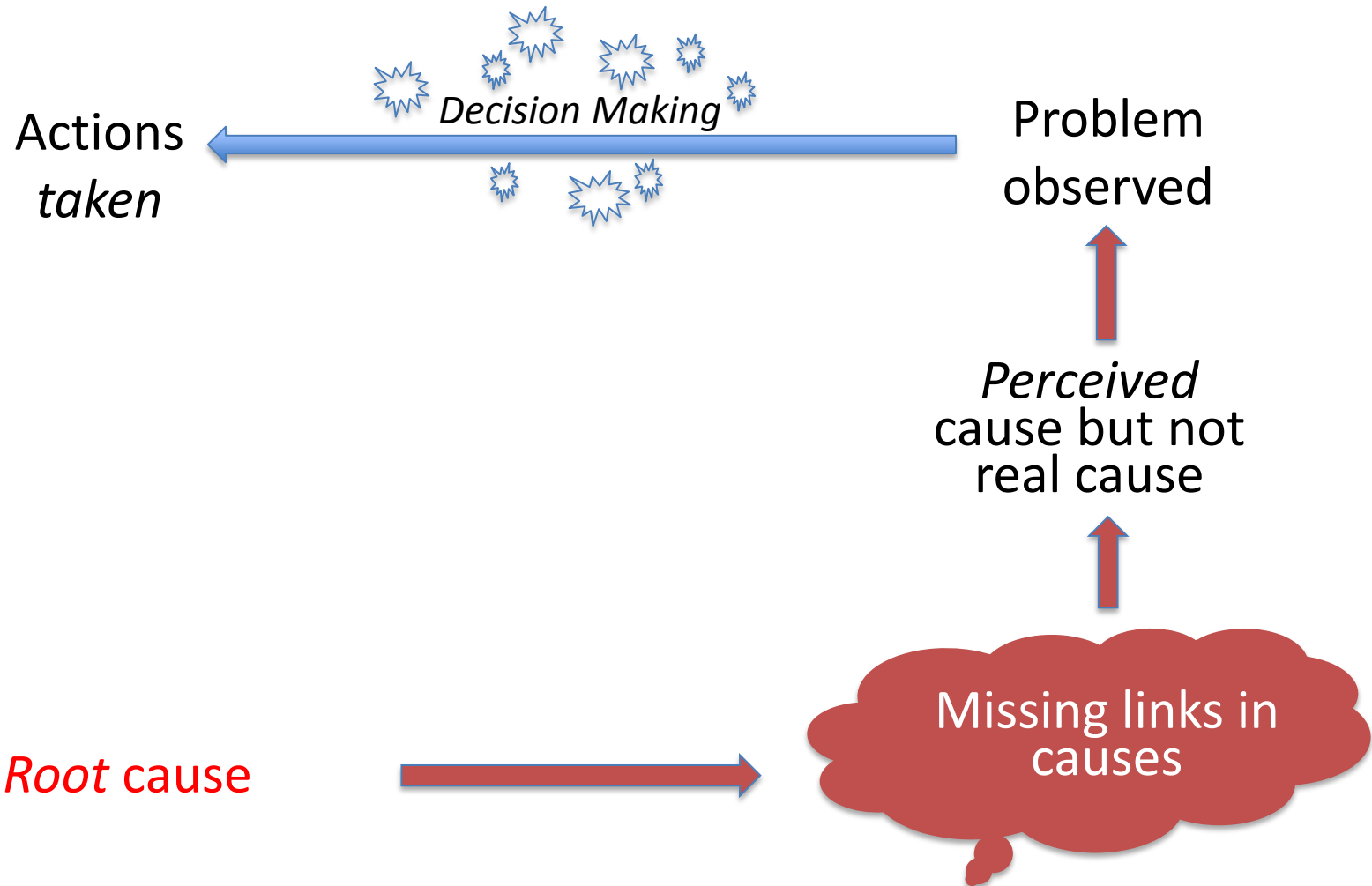
# System Dynamics

- Extend our mental models through the creation of explicit models, which are clear, easily communicating and can be compared with each other. *Wikipedia*
- Increase the probability that the consequences of how we will decide and act in accordance with how we plan to. *Wikipedia*
- Developed to apply control theory to the analysis of industrial systems in the late 1950's by Jay Forrester, MIT Professor
- Used to analyze industrial, economic, social and environmental systems of all kinds

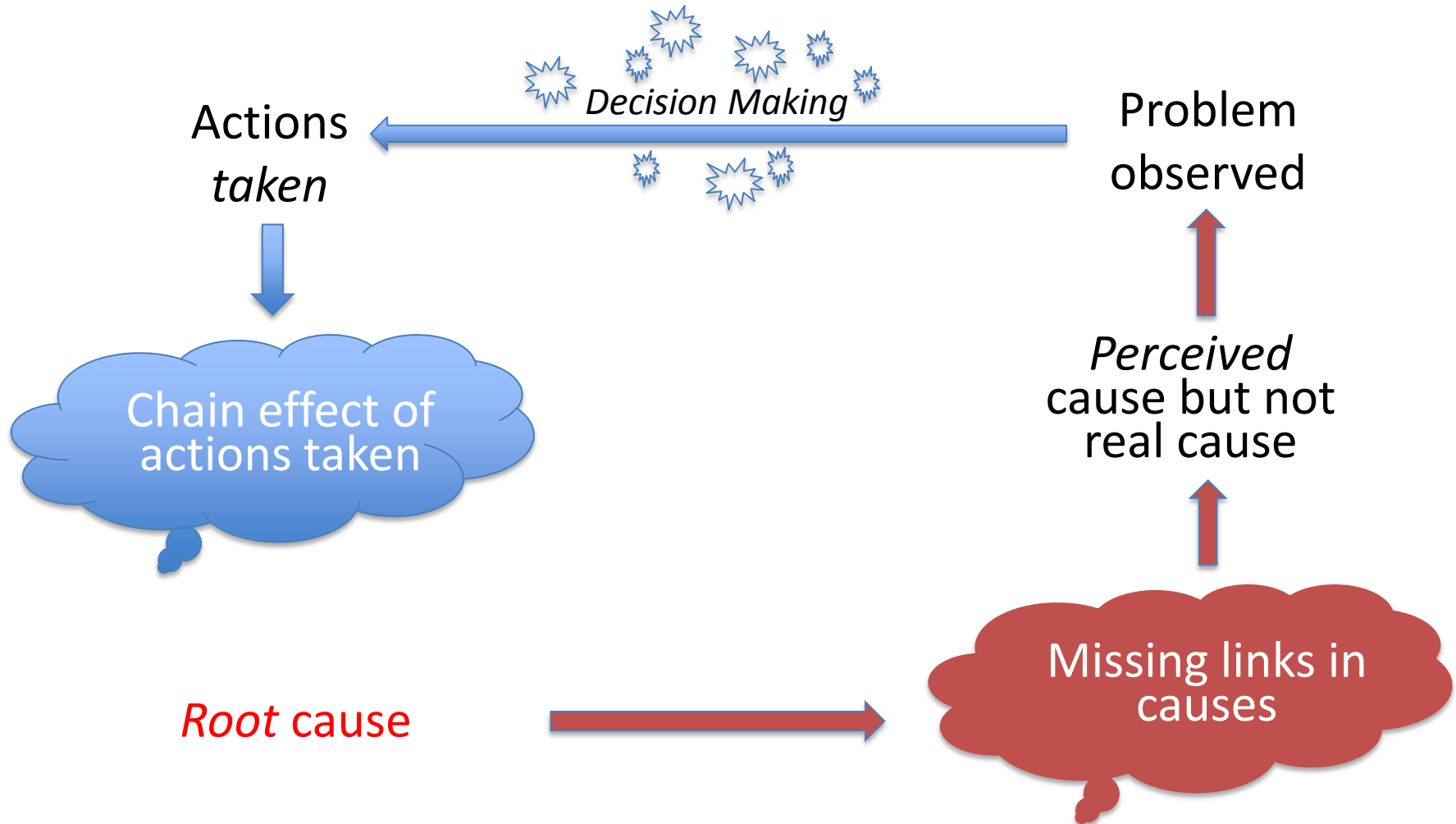
# Finding the Root Cause by identifying missing links in causes



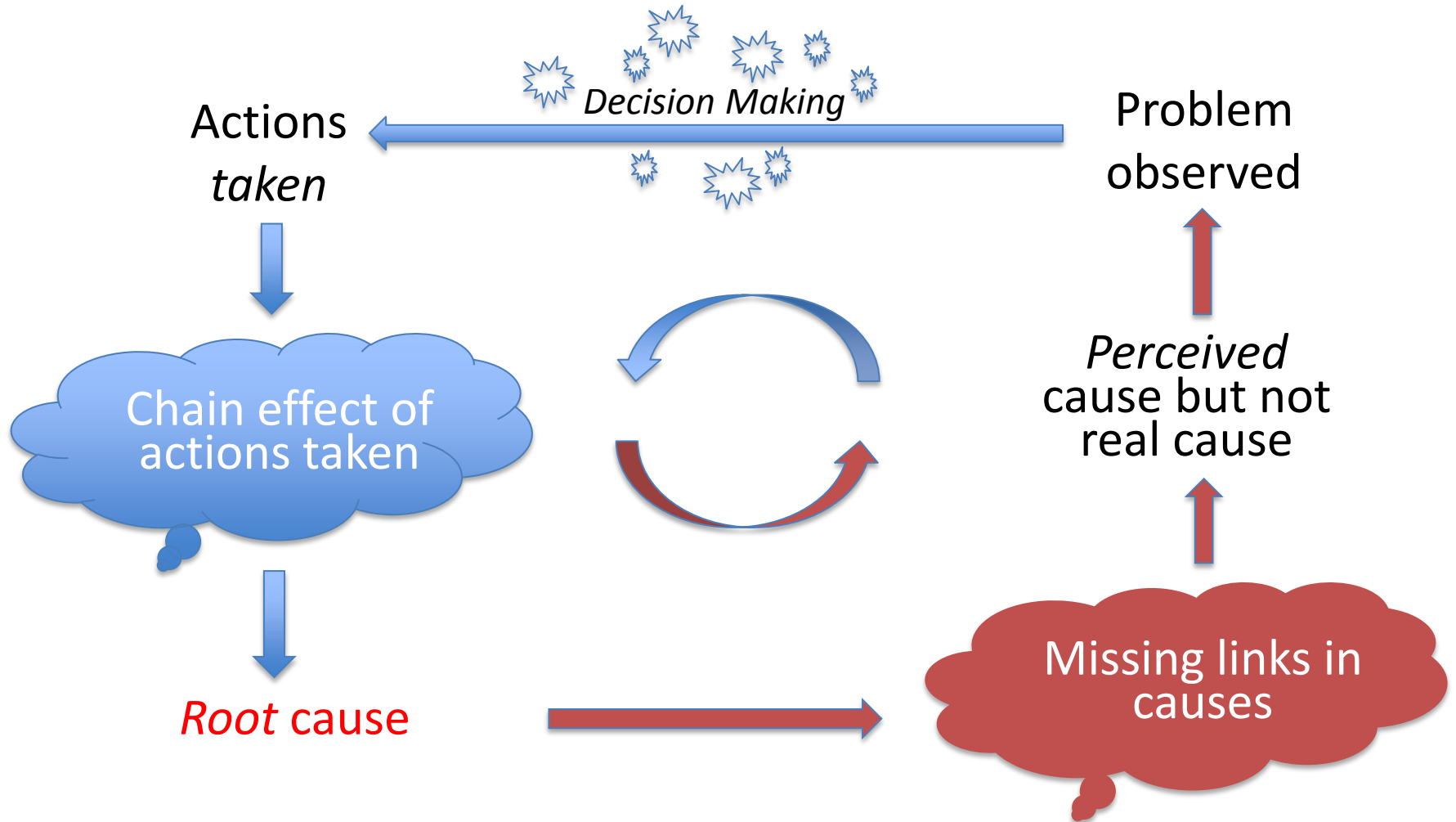
# Decision making against cognition traps



# Analyzing consequence of actions taken by simulating their chain effect



# Also, understating their feedback effect back into the root cause



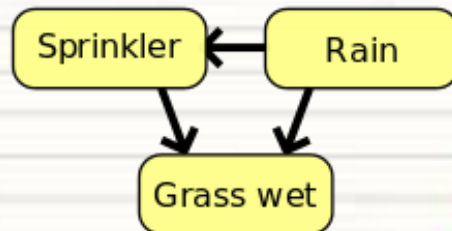


공통점은?...

나비효과



# Mapping



**System Dynamics**

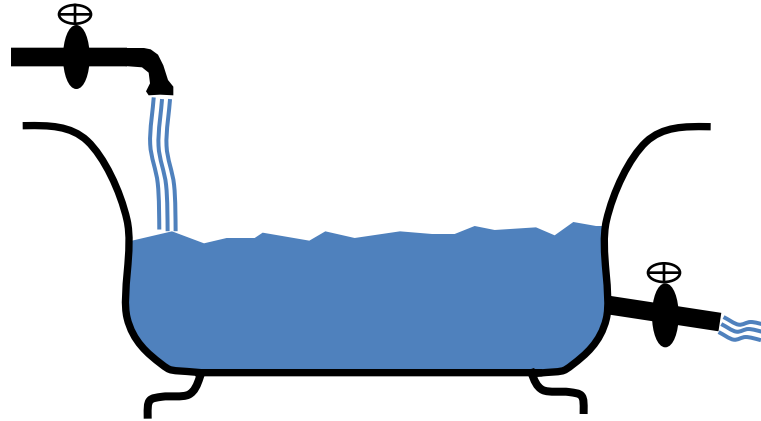
# Stocks & Flows

As the final element of system structure, there are two kinds of variables ...

- Stocks (also called 'levels'): define the state of a system and represent stored quantities
- Flows (also called 'rates'): define the rate of change in system states and control quantities flowing into and out of stocks

# Representations

Hydraulic Metaphor:



Stock & Flow Diagram:



*“Clouds” represent stocks outside the system boundary*

Integral Equation:

$$\text{Stock}(t) = \int_{t_0}^t [\text{Inflow}(s) - \text{Outflow}(s)] ds + \text{Stock}(t_0)$$

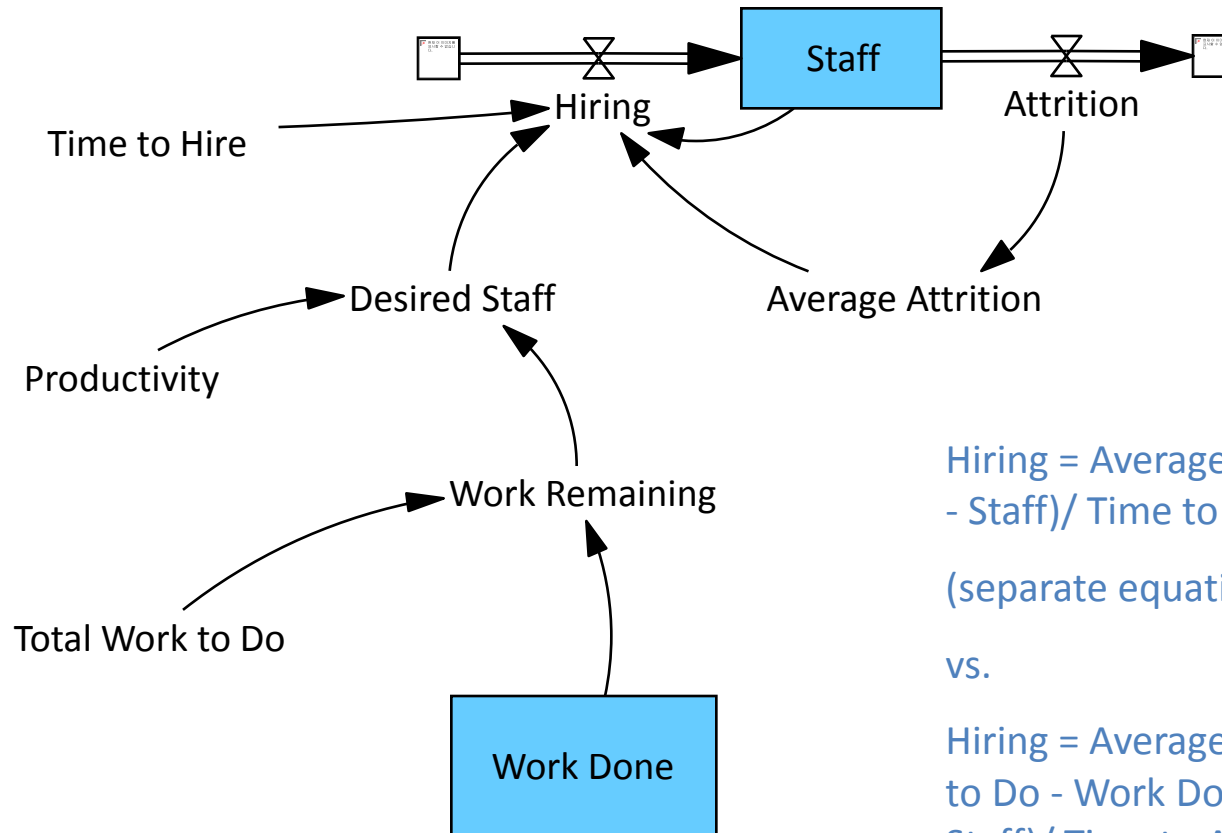
# Terminologies in Different Disciplines

Discipline	Stocks	Flows
Mathematics, Physics, Engineering	Integrals, states, state variables, stocks	Derivatives, rates of change, flows
Chemistry	Reactants, reaction products	Reaction rate
Manufacturing	Buffers, inventories	Throughput
Economics	Levels	Rates
Accounting	Stocks, balance sheet items	Flow, cash flow or income statement items
Biology, Physiology	Compartments	Diffusion rate, flows
Medicine, Epidemiology	Prevalence, reservoirs	Incidence, infection, morbidity, mortality rates

# Auxiliaries & Constants

- Auxiliaries: intermediate variables to be used for easy of communication and clarity
  - Break up rates into meaningful components
  - Provide alternative measures for stocks or flows
  - Reduce diagram “clutter”
- Constants: factors which may be stocks or flows, but which do not change over the time span of the simulation





$$\text{Hiring} = \text{Average Attrition} + (\text{Desired Staff} - \text{Staff}) / \text{Time to Adjust Staff}$$

(separate equations for components)

vs.

$$\text{Hiring} = \text{Average Attrition} + (((\text{Total Work to Do} - \text{Work Done}) / \text{Productivity}) - \text{Staff}) / \text{Time to Adjust Staff}$$

# Causal Links (Not Casual ...)

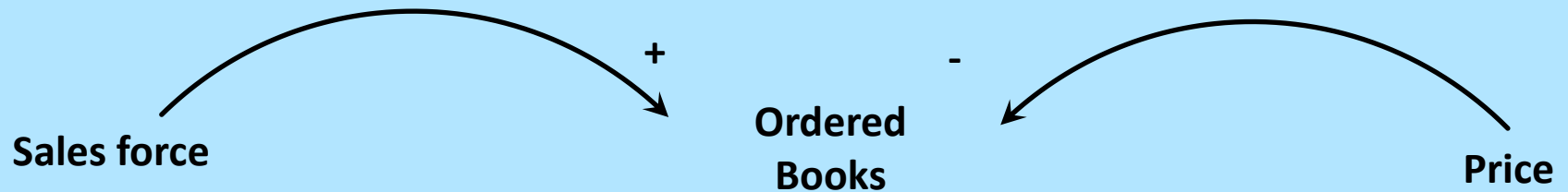
- An arrow with a positive sign (+): all else remaining equal, an increase (decrease) in the first variable increases (decreases) the second variable *above (below) what it would otherwise have been*.



- An arrow with a negative sign (-): all else remaining equal, an increase (decrease) in the first variable decreases (increases) the second variable *below (above) what it otherwise would have been*.



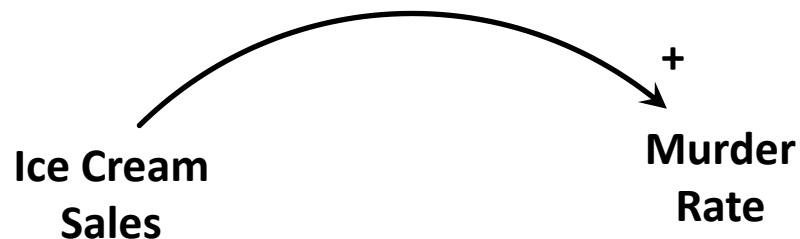
# Labeling Link Polarity



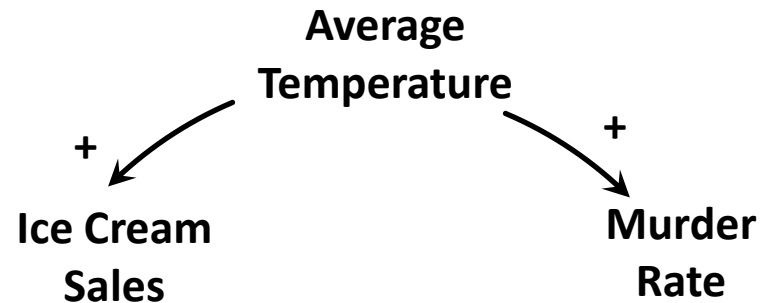
# Causation vs. Correlation

*Causal diagrams must include only those relationships that capture the underlying causal structure of the system.*

Observed behavior: “...Ice cream sales and murder rise in summer and fall in winter...”



**Incorrect**

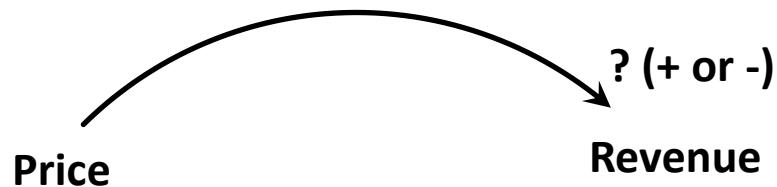


**Correct**

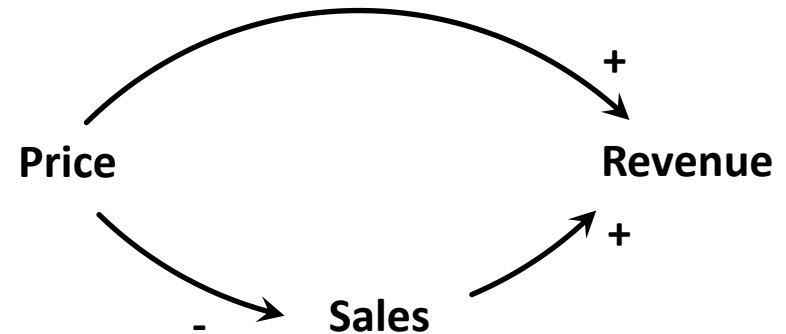
# Having Unambiguous Polarities

*All causal links must have unambiguous polarities.*

- \* Apparently ambiguous polarities usually imply the presence of multiple causal pathways that can be represented separately.



**Incorrect**



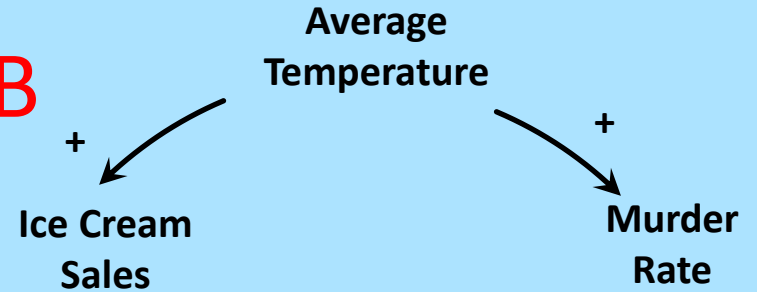
**Correct**

# Identifying the Feedback Loop

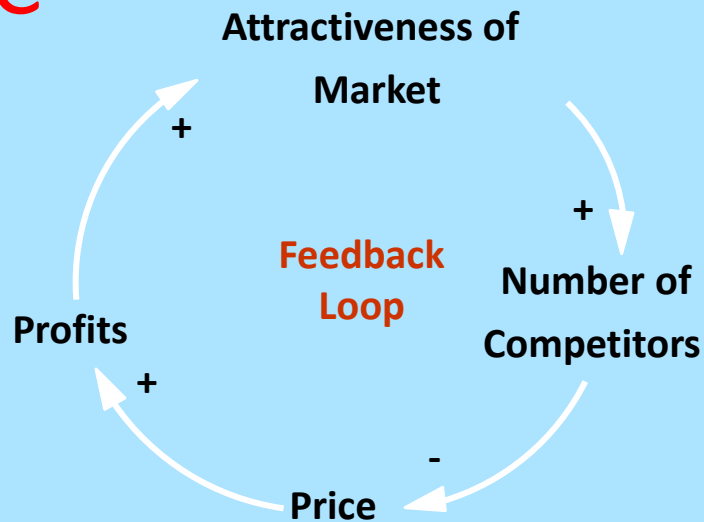
**A**



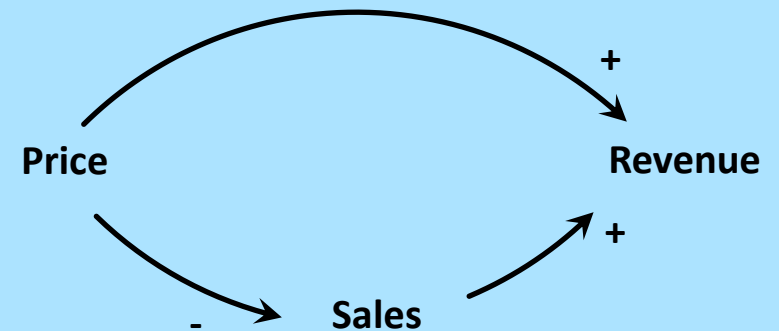
**B**



**C**

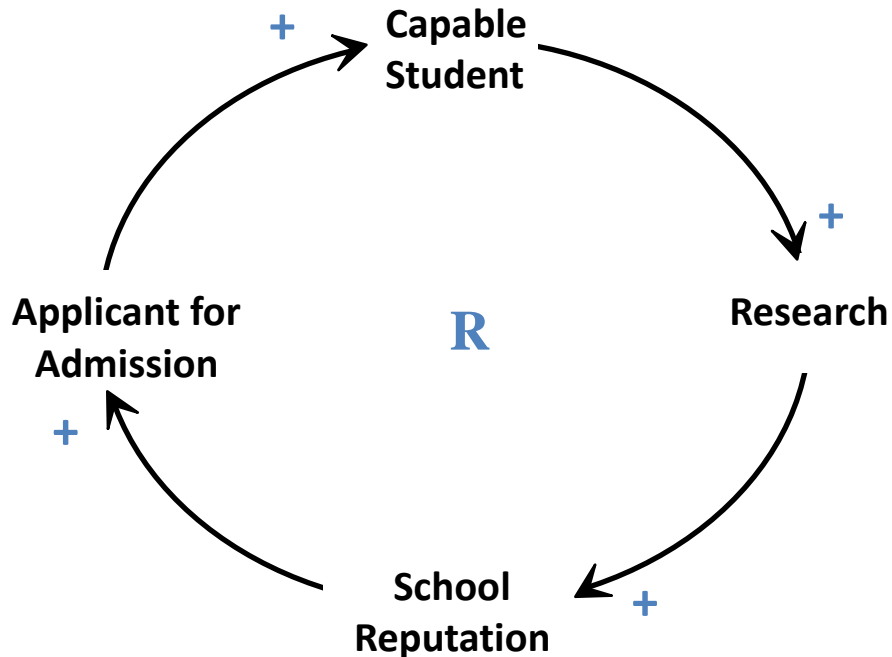


**D**



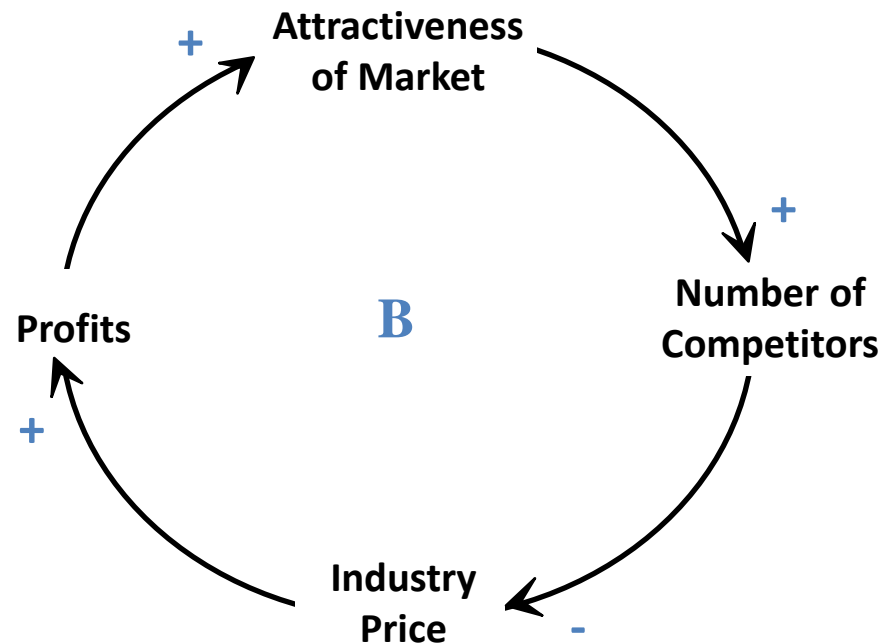


# Loop Polarities: Reinforcing or Balancing?



**Reinforcing Loops:** loops with all positive or an **even number** of negative causal links

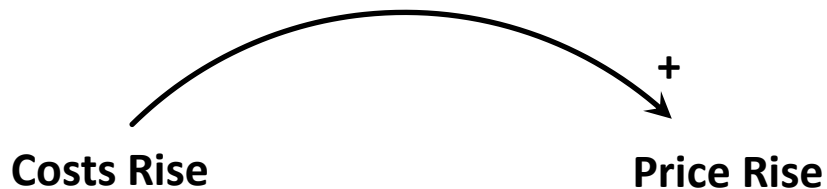
**Balancing Loops:** loops with an **odd number** of negative causal links



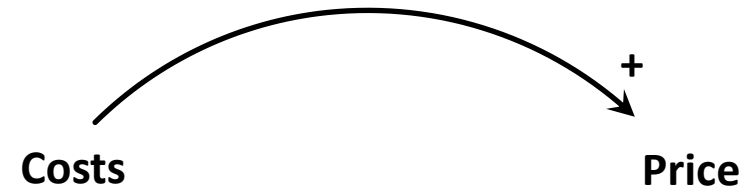
# Naming Variables

*Names should be nouns or noun phrases.*

- The actions (verbs) are captured by the causal links
- A causal diagram captures the structure of the system, not its behaviors



**Incorrect**

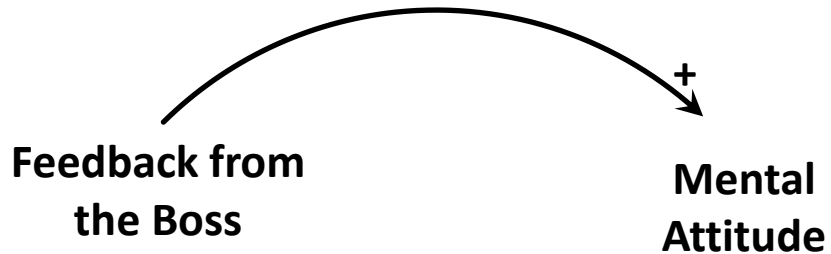


**Correct**

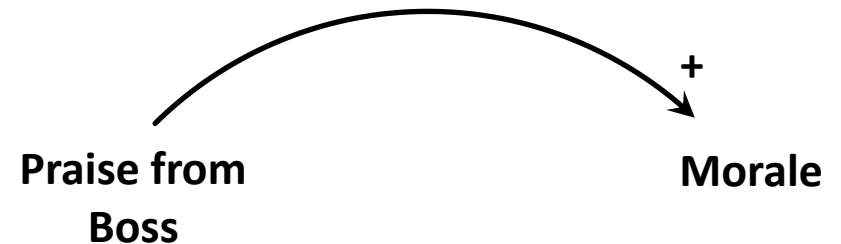
# Naming Variables

*Names should have a clear sense of direction.*

Choose names for which the meaning of an increase or decrease is clear



**Incorrect**

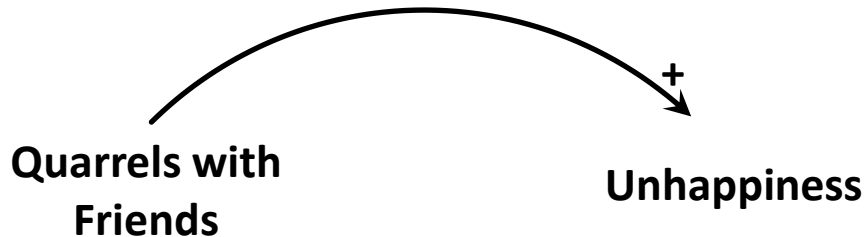


**Correct**

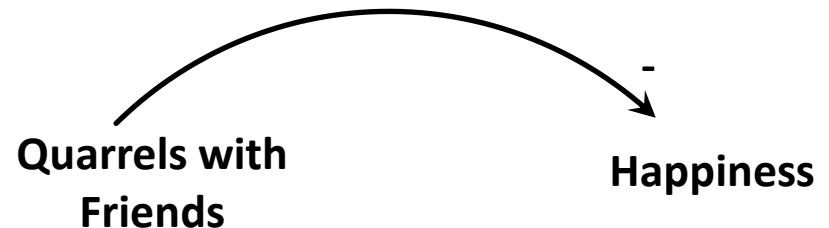
# Naming Variables

*Choose variables whose normal sense of direction is positive.*

Avoid the use of variable names containing prefixes indicating negation (non, un, etc.)



**Incorrect**



**Correct**

# Making Goals Explicit

*Make the goals of negative loops explicit.*

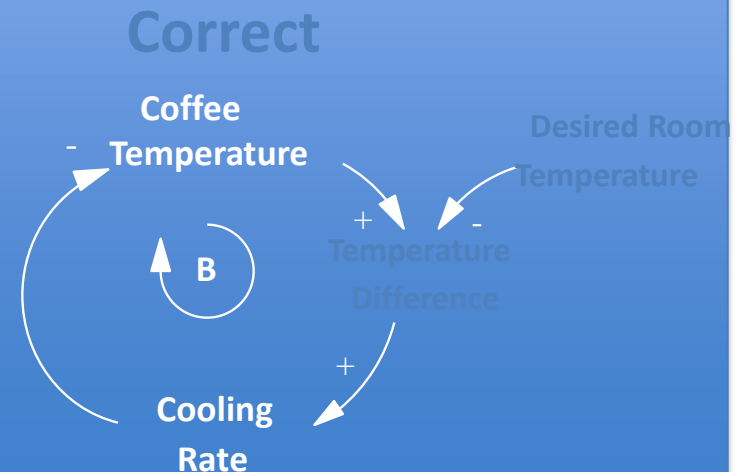
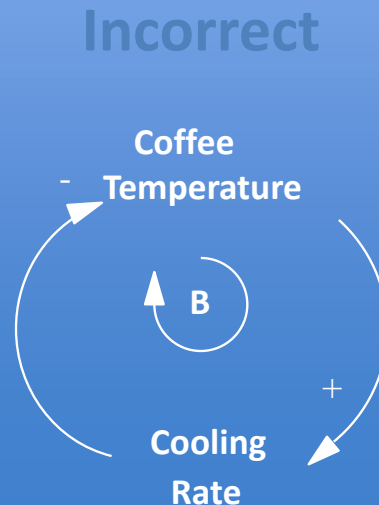
- All negative feedback loops have goals (the desired state of the system)
- They function by comparing the actual state to the goal, then initiating a corrective action in response to the discrepancy.
- Making goals explicit encourages people to ask how the goals are formed.

# Making Goals Explicit

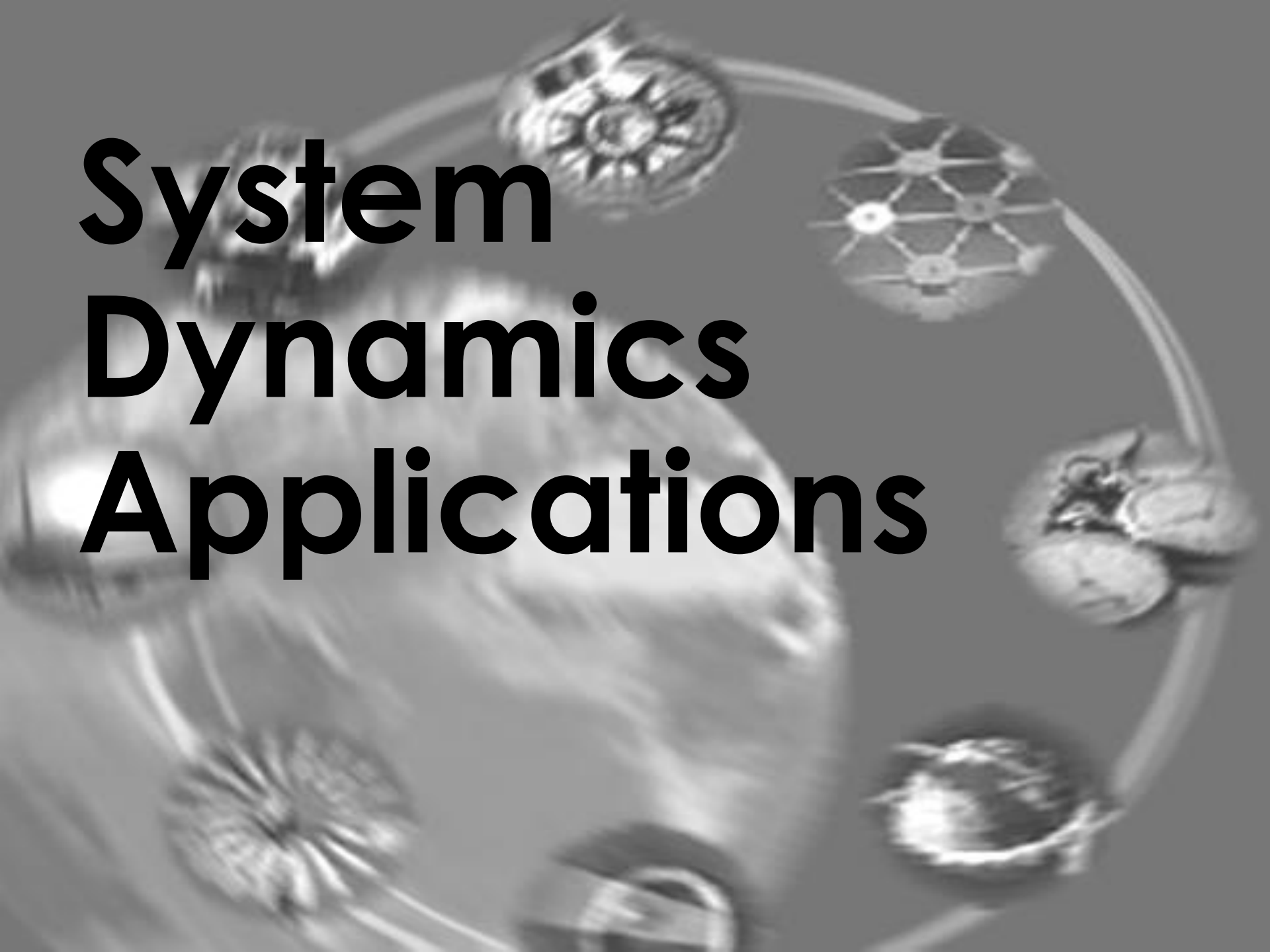
The goal of the loop is determined by management decision (human behaviors).



The goal of the loop is determined by the laws of thermodynamics (natural processes).







# **System Dynamics Applications**

# DPM

**DPM - Microsoft Internet Explorer**

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address [http://star.mit.edu/dpm2/newdpm\\_1.html](http://star.mit.edu/dpm2/newdpm_1.html) Go Links >>

Google Search Web Search Site New! PageRank Category Page Info Up Highlight

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**File View Tools Help**

CONTROLS

Total Activity

28

DSM

SIMULATION INPUT

SIMULATION ANALYSIS

GAME

**ACTIVITY TABLE**

CO...	WBS	ACTIVITY NAME	D...	ST	FT
a1	TC-01-01	Sketch Plans	36	0	36
a2	TC-01-02	Final Plans	69	23	92
a3	TC-02-01	ROW Acquisition	116	29	145
a4	TC-03-01	Shop Drawing Submittals	39	96	135
a5	TC-03-02	Shop Drawing Review&B...	33	134	167
a6	TC-03-03	Shop Drawing Review&St...	34	134	168
a7	TC-03-04	Shop Drawing Review&R...	36	134	170
a8	TC-03-05	Shop Drawing Review&S...	34	134	168
a9	TC-04-01	Steel Fabrication & Rebar	54	136	190
a10	TC-04-02	Steel Fabrication BPods	101	136	237
a11	TC-04-03	Steel Fabricaton & Structu...	100	136	236
a12	TC-04-04	Steel Fabrication & Sheet ...	42	136	178
a13	TC-05-01	Prepare Site for Abutment...	35	168	203
a14	TC-05-02	Prepare Site for Center Pier	22	177	199
a15	TC-06-01	Construct Abutment E&W	33	205	238
a16	TC-06-02	Construct Center Pier	22	235	257
a17	TC-06-03	Set BPods & Girders	16	235	251
a18	TC-06-04	Construct Superstructure	25	251	276
a19	TC-07-01	Bell Telephone Cable	70	236	306
a20	TC-07-02	Relocate Gas Line	27	278	305
a21	TC-07-03	Relocate Water Line	27	305	332
a22	TC-07-04	Install Telephone DB	24	332	356
a23	TC-08-01	Realign Trable Cove Rd	19	355	374
a24	TC-08-02	Realign Rte 3 NB Ramps	24	374	398
a25	TC-08-03	Realign Rte 3 SB Ramps	26	400	426

**ACTIVITY CHART**

*Treble Cove Bridge Project*

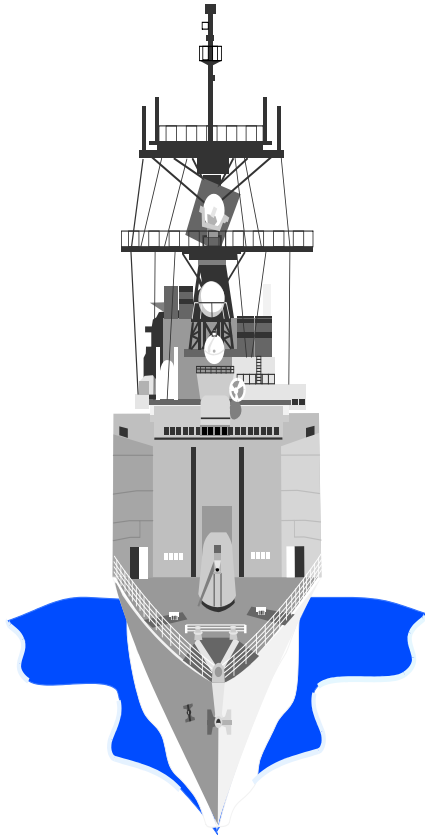
Code WBS Name Duration ST Time Unit

a7 TC-03-04 Review&Rebar 30 0 day

Add Delete Update

Opening <http://star.mit.edu/dpm2/gpms/client/tablemodels/ProjectTableModel.class> Internet

# The US Navy and Ingalls case

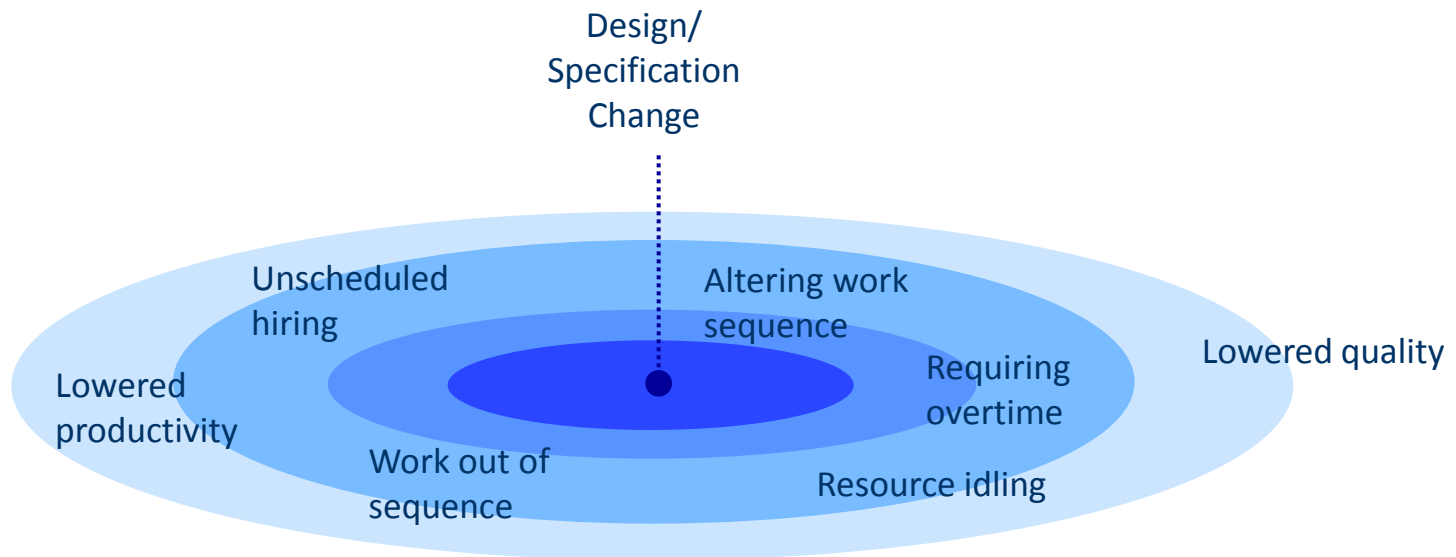


A system dynamics model developed by Pugh-Roberts Associates in the US was used to settle the claim against the US Navy in the late 1970's.

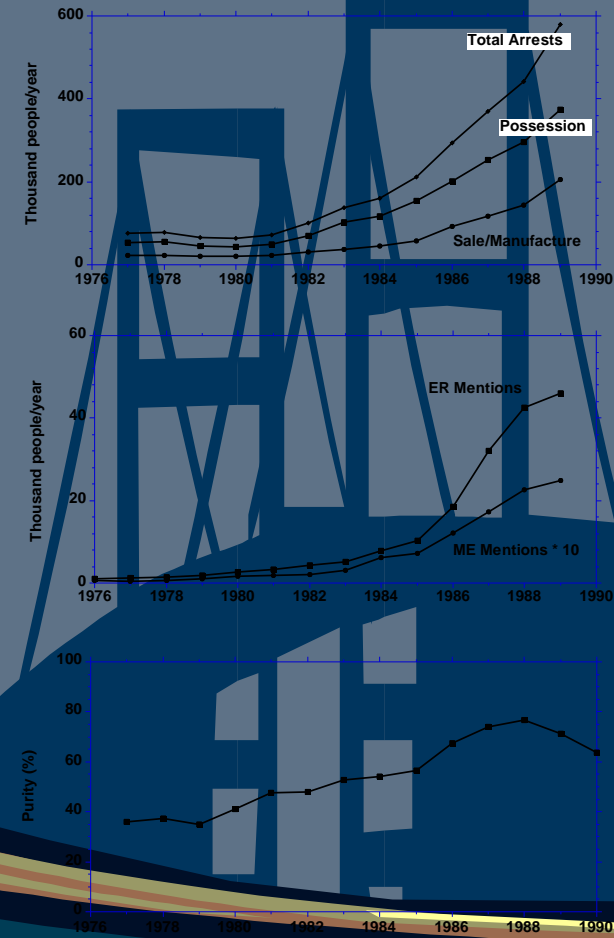
With help of this modeling approach, the ship builder, Ingalls managed to receive \$447 million as compensation for their financial losses caused by the owner's design and specification changes.

# Quantifying the ripple effects

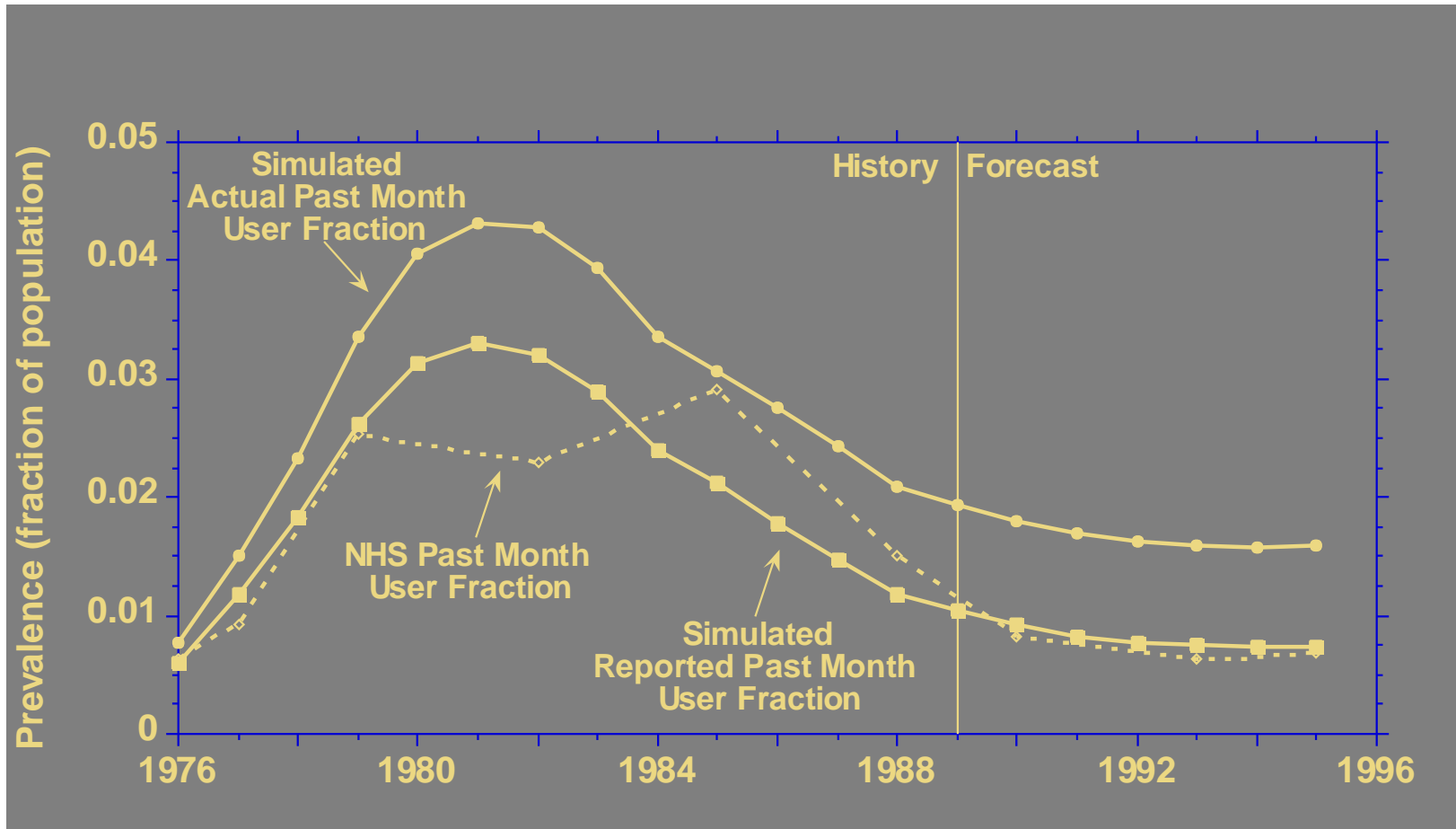
Traditional project management tools such as CPM, PDM, and PERT do not provide a mean to quantify the ripple effects that multiply the direct impact many times, leading to significant overall delay and disruption.



# The War on Drugs



# Past month user friction decreased...

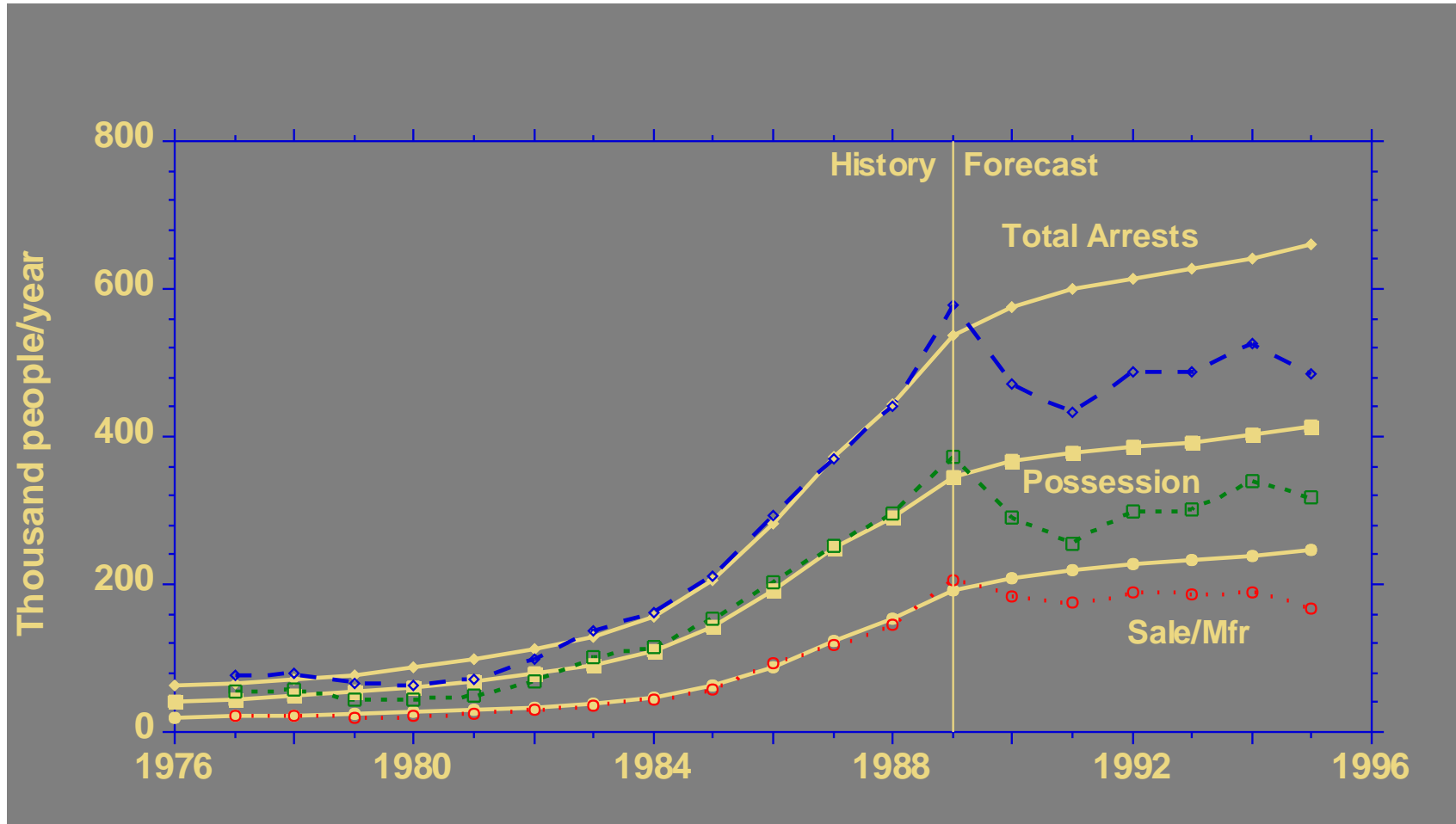


Simulated vs. actual cocaine epidemic. Dashed lines, data; solid lines, model.

**Source:** Homer (1993, 1997)

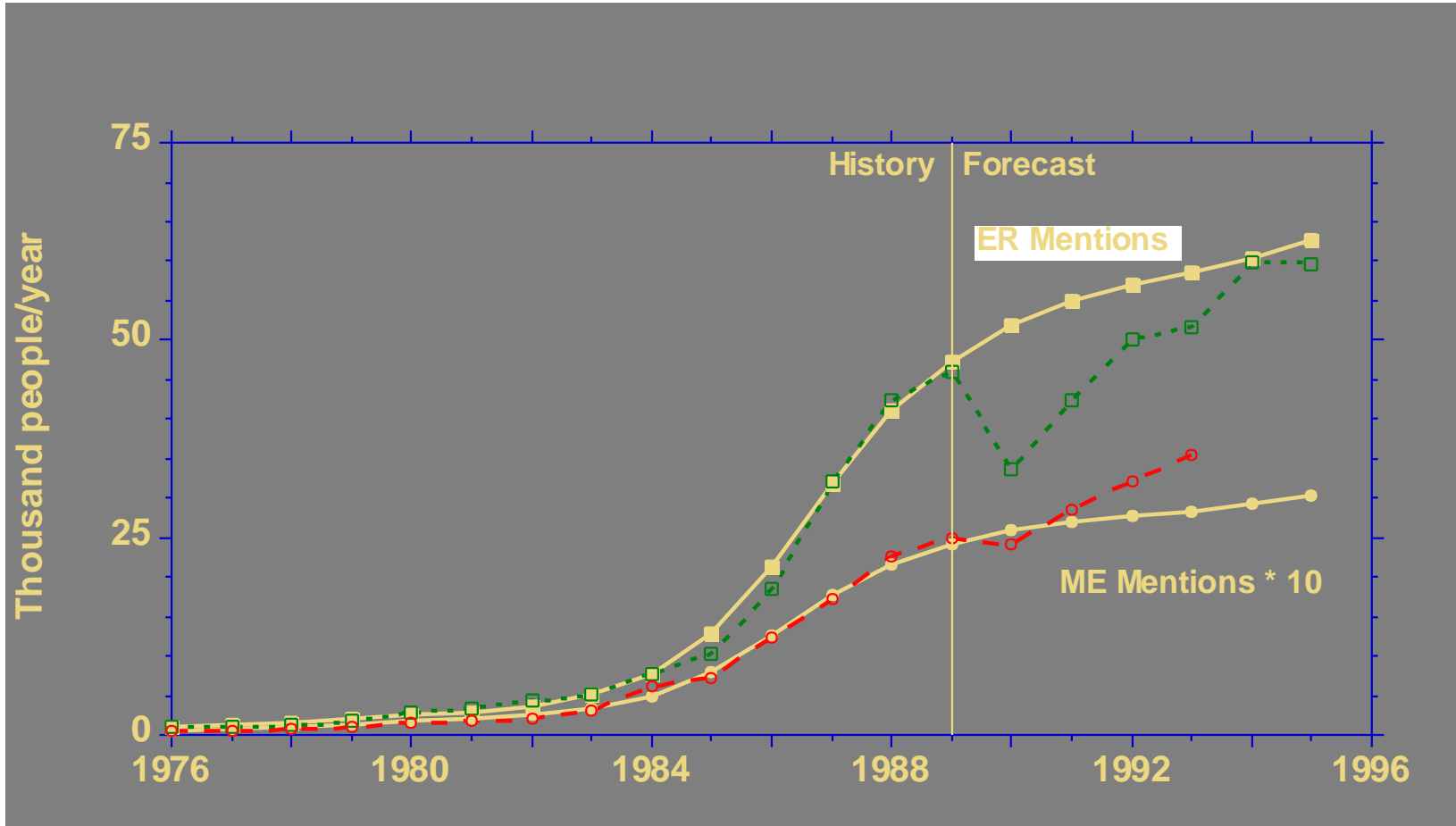


# But, drug possession, arrests, sales increased



Source: Homer (1993, 1997)

# Even worse...



# Where to Get More

- System Dynamics Group at MIT

<http://sysdyn.mit.edu/sd-group/>

- System Dynamics Society

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# Where did the gasoline go?

