



# Project Management

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# Why do we need project management?



PhD + Postdoc  
@ MIT, USA ('13-'18)



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# I) Introduction



# What is a Project?



Temporary endeavour undertaken to create a  
unique product, service, or result



# Why Project Management?



On-time delivery  
of project



Meeting goals  
(all stakeholders)

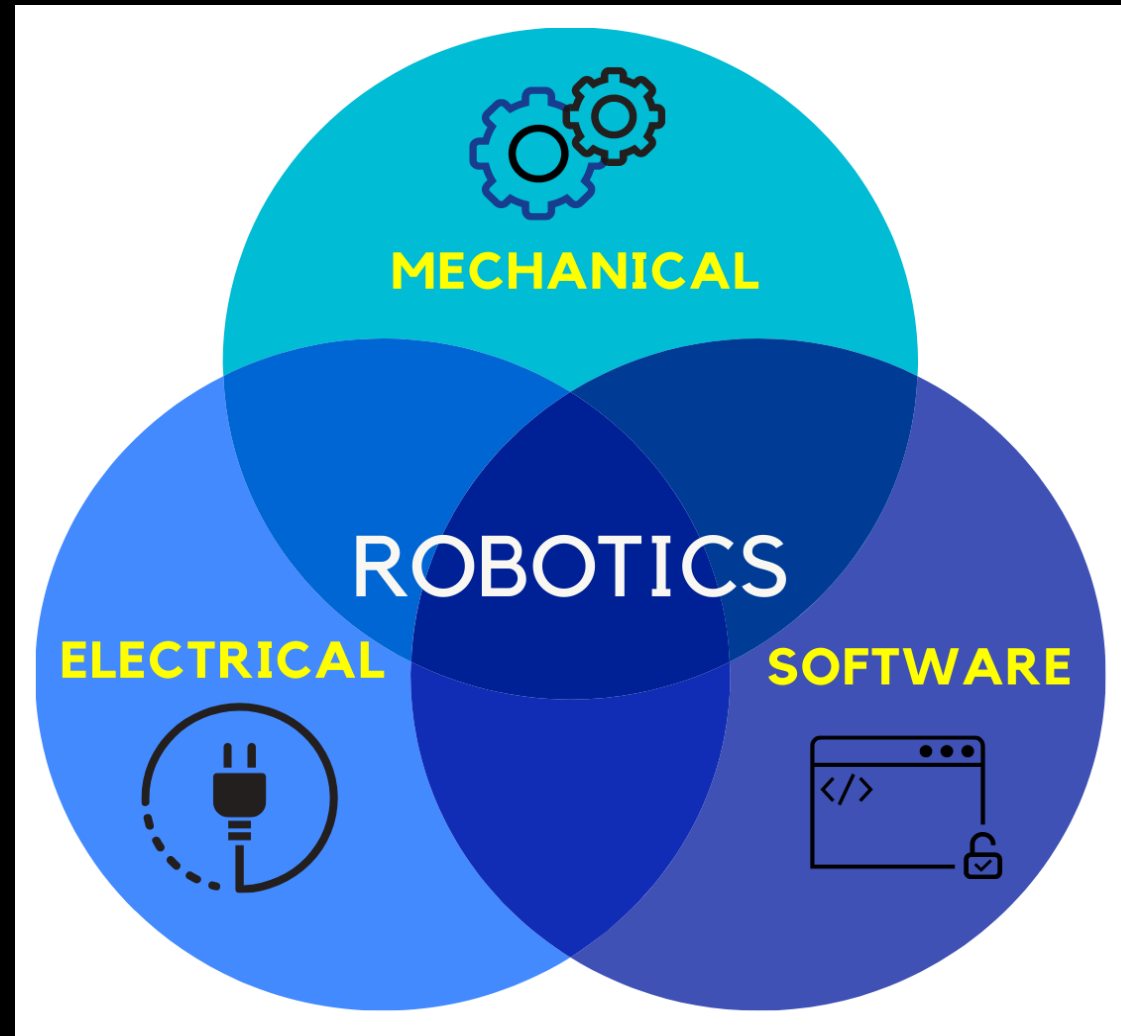


Coordinating effort



Task prioritization

# Interdisciplinary Nature of Robotics

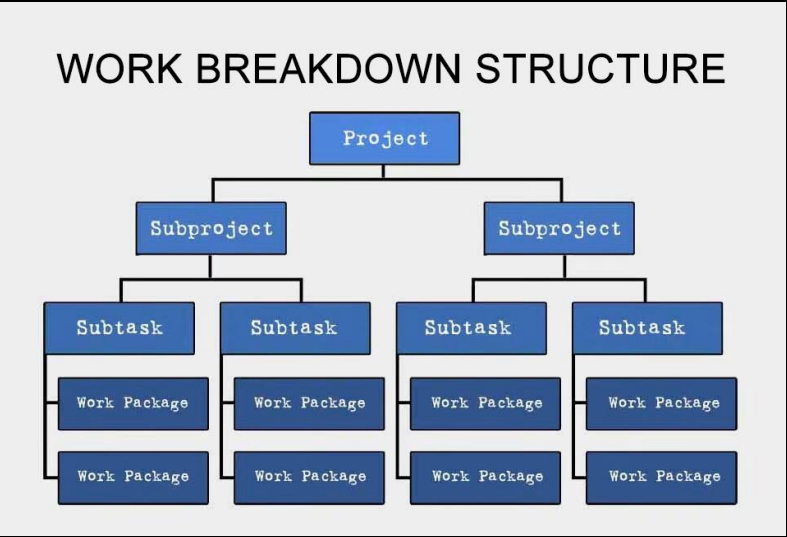




## II) Components



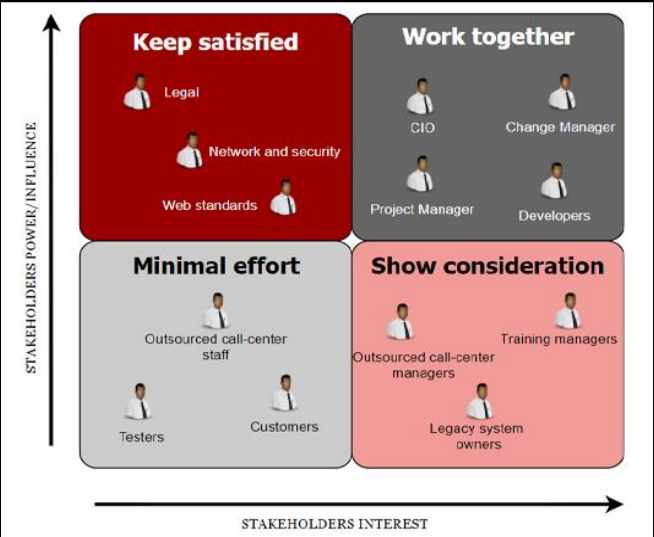
# Components of Project Management



Work Breakdown  
Structure



Risk  
Management



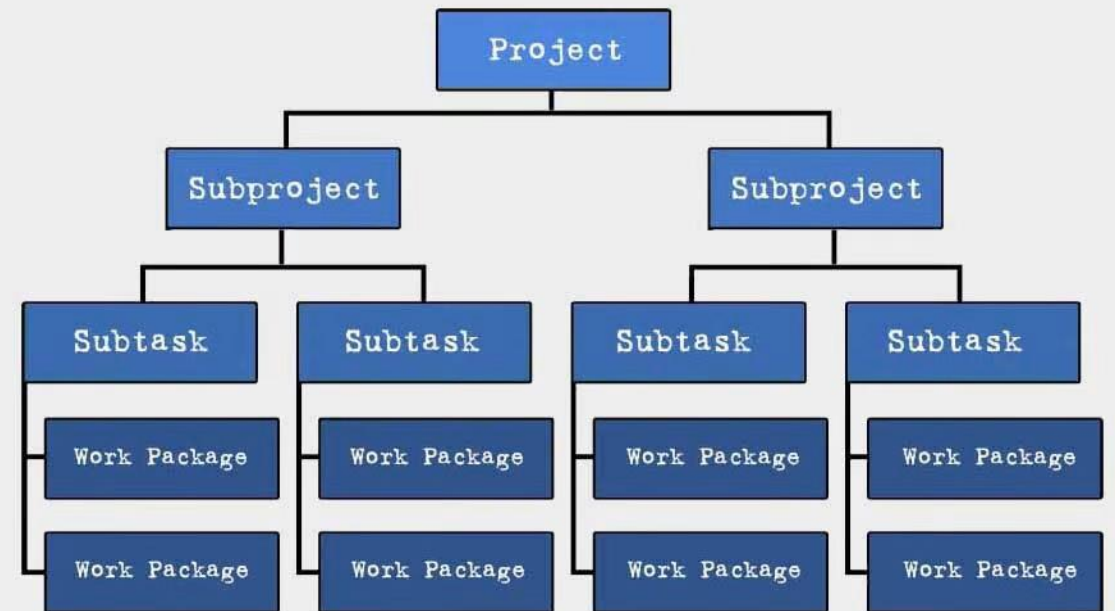
Stakeholder  
Analysis



## II) Components

# Work Breakdown Structure

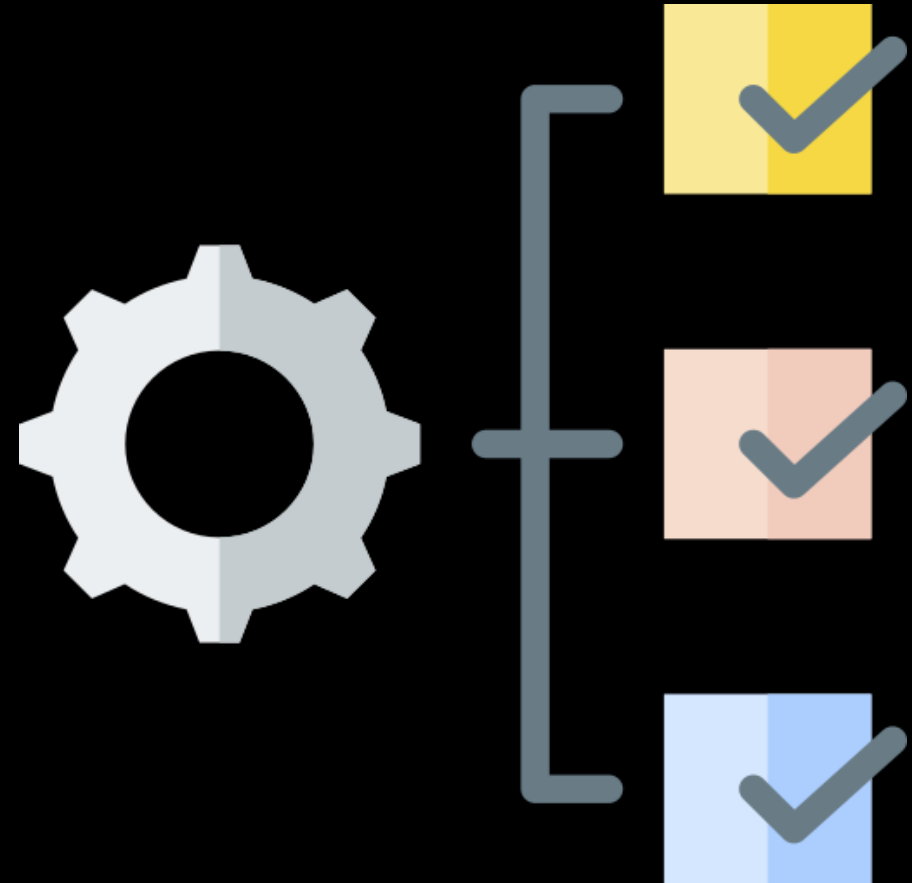
### WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE



# Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)



- Core of project management
- Definition:
  - o Deliverable oriented
  - o Hierarchical decomposition of work to be executed
  - o Each level defines greater detail of project work
- Objective
  - o Organize and define total scope of project



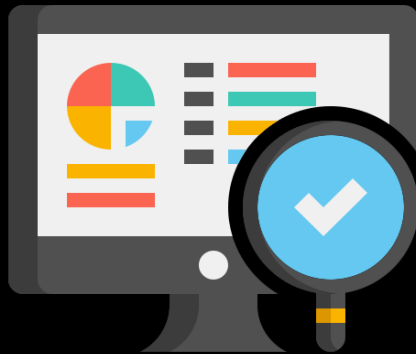
# Properties of Work Package



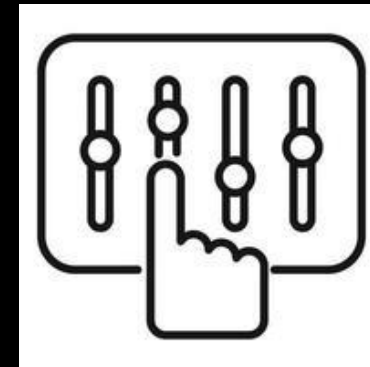
Scheduled



Cost-Estimated



Monitored



Controlled

# Composition of Work Package



Product Breakdown Structure  
(noun/product)



Activity Breakdown Structure  
(verb/activity)



# Example of a work package



Amazon Robotics

Applied Scientist  
@ Amazon Robotics, USA ('18-'19)



## II) Components

# Risk Management





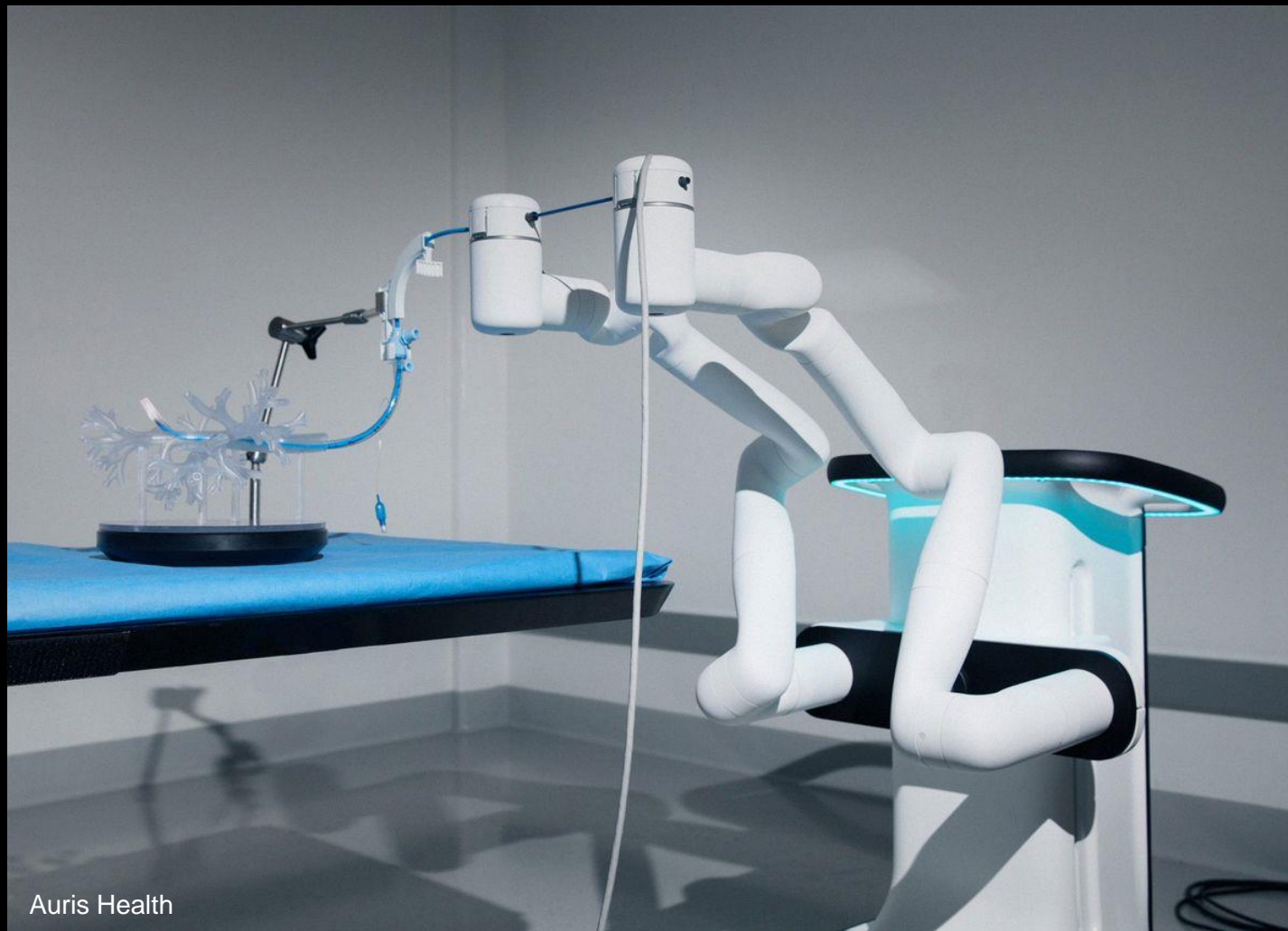
# Risk Management

- Process of identifying, assessing, and controlling for potential problems that could impact successful completion of project
- Why
  - o Minimizes surprises
  - o Protects resources
- *Relevant for innovative and R&D projects*





# Real World Example



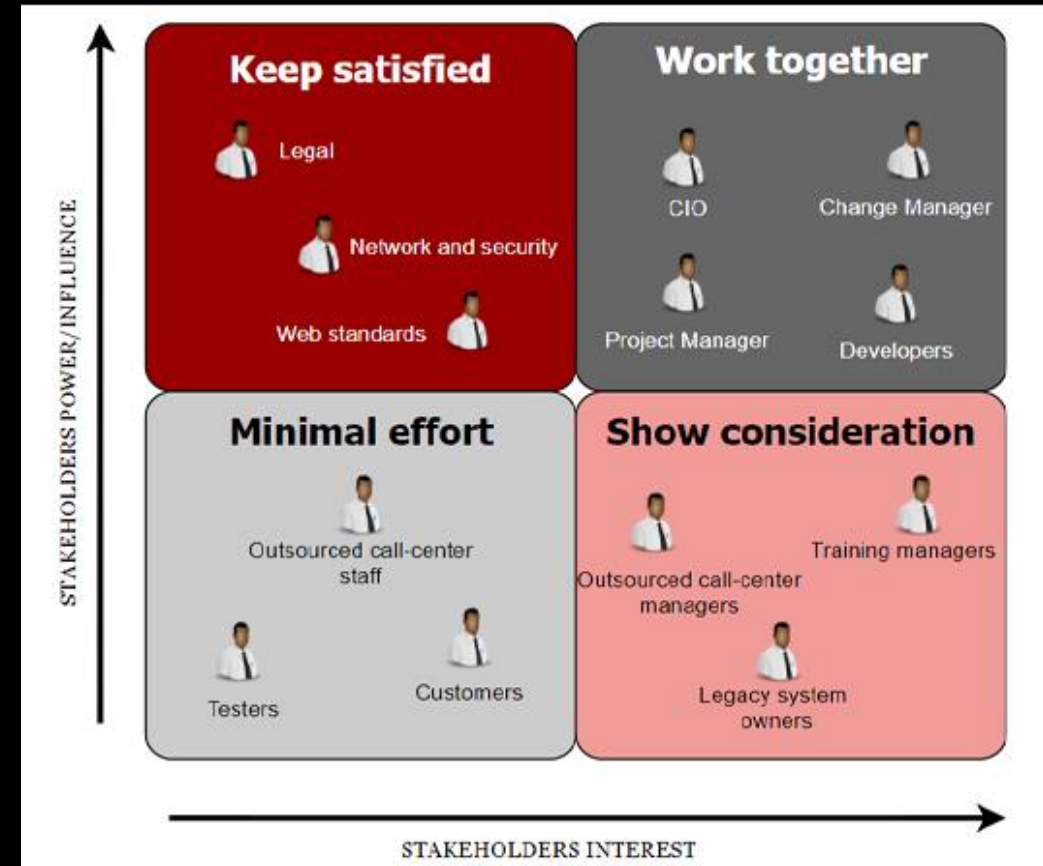
Auris Health

Systems Engineer  
@ Auris Health, USA ('12-'13)



## II) Components

# Stakeholder Analysis

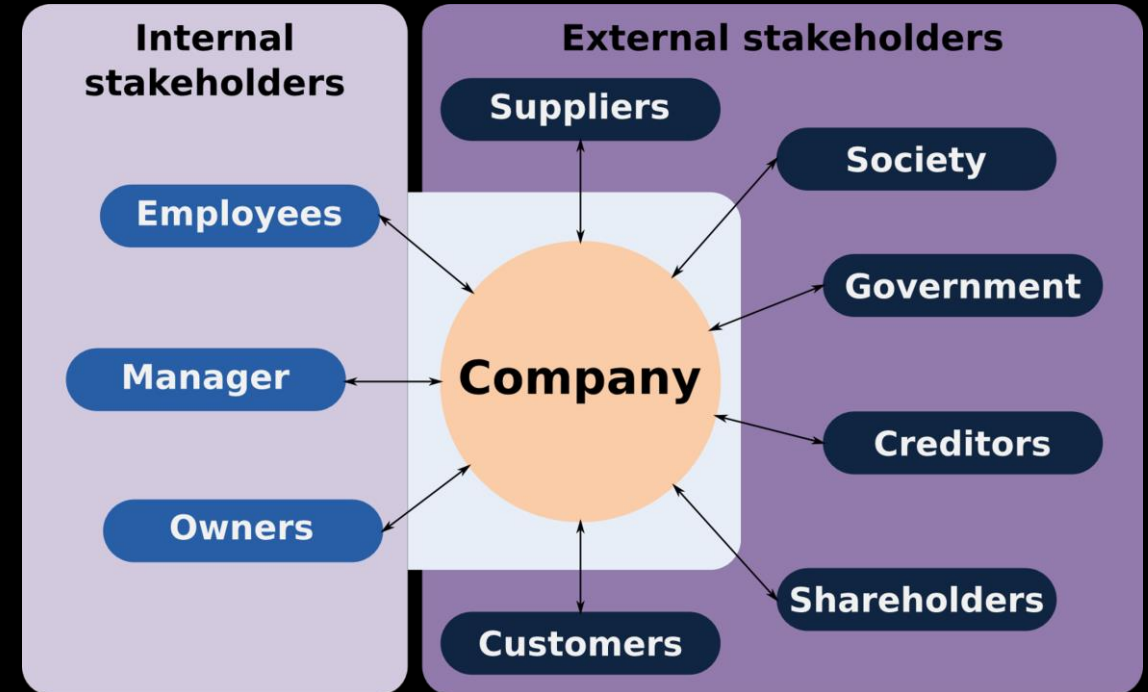






# Stakeholder Analysis

- Identifying and understanding people, groups, or organizations that can or are affected by outcomes of a project and addressing their needs and concerns
- Why
  - o Manages expectations
  - o Enhances support
  - o Reduces risks



# Real World Example



Dexai Robotics

CTO

@ Dexai Robotics, USA ('19-'20)

**ETH** zürich

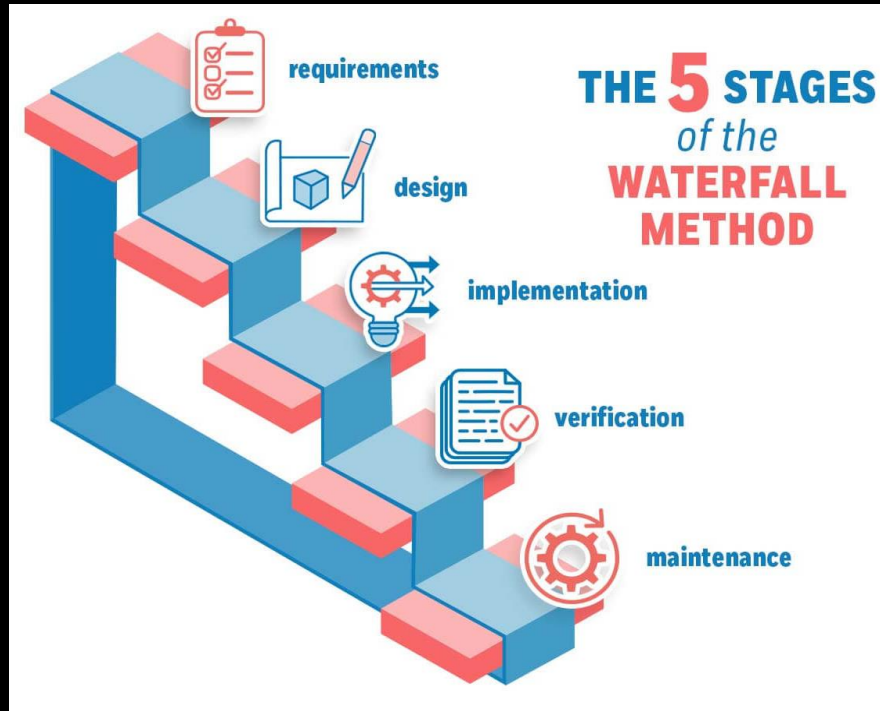
*SoftRobotics*  
Laboratory



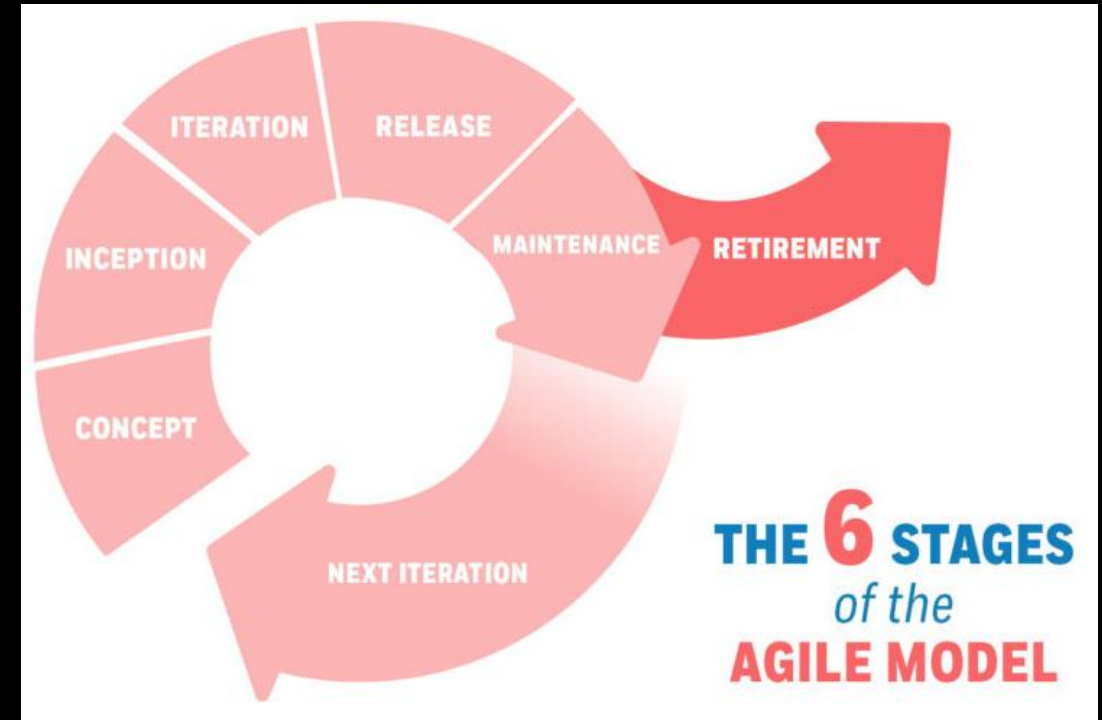
## III) Methodologies



# Methodologies



Waterfall



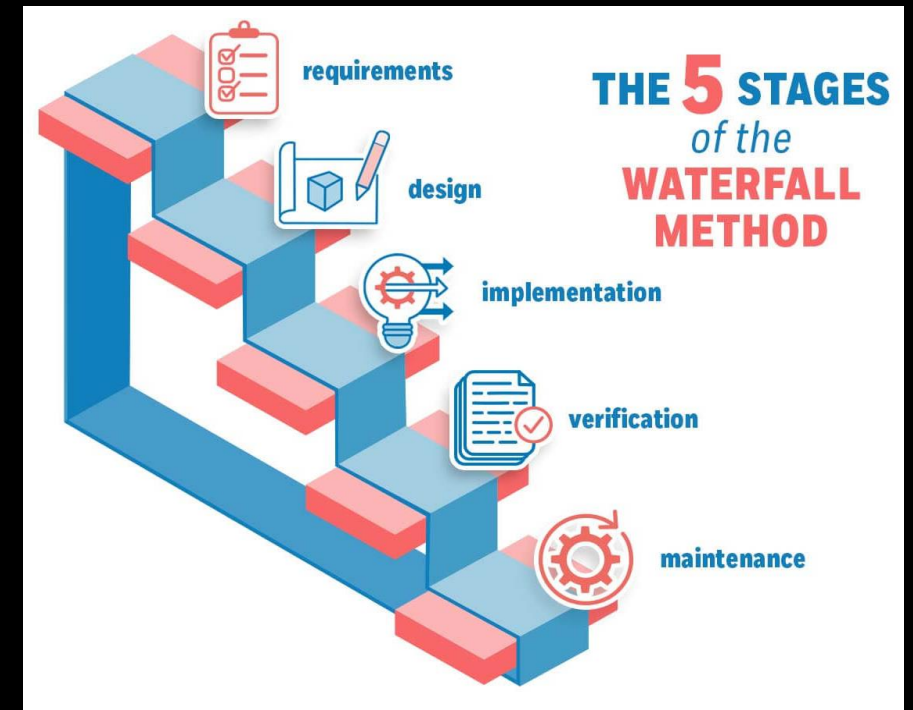
Agile



# Waterfall



- Linear and sequential
- Use cases:
  - o Construction
  - o Defense and space projects

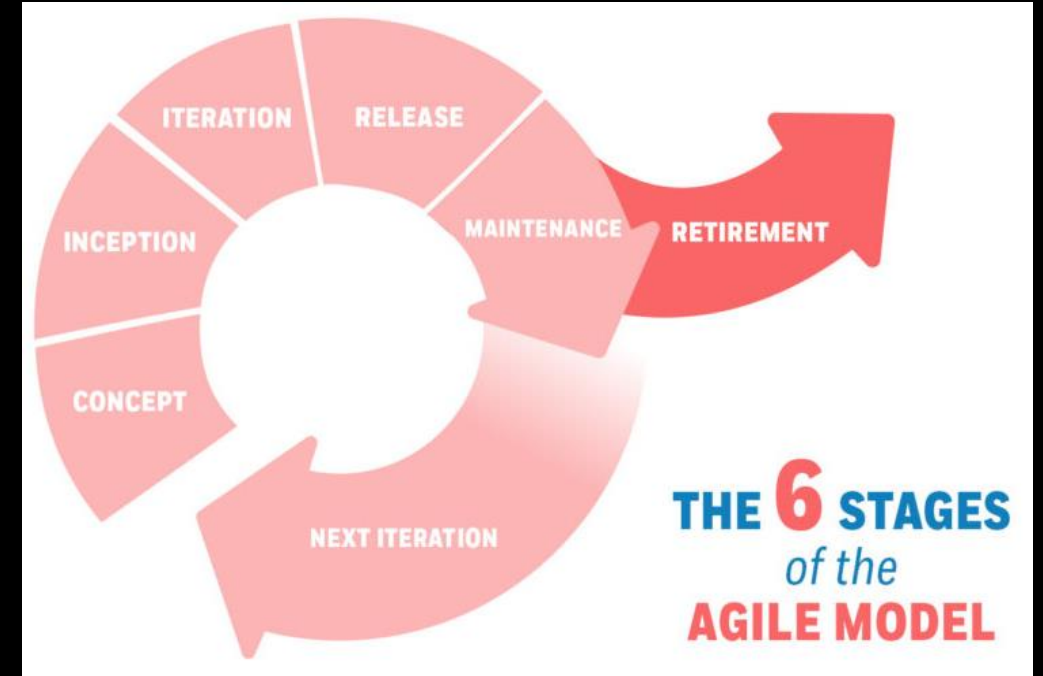




# Agile



- Incremental and interactive
- Use cases:
  - o Software Development
  - o R&D projects



# Real World Example on Agile



Dexai Robotics

CTO

@ Dexai Robotics, USA ('19-'20)



## III) Implementation in Real World

# Project Management: "More Art than Science"



Randomness and  
Uncertainty



Experience matters



Dealing with people

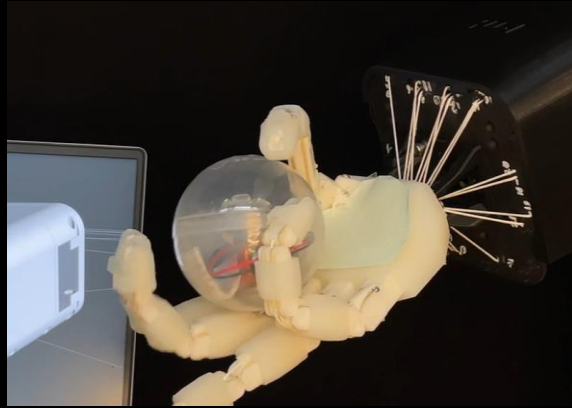
The background of the slide features two white robotic arms, one on the left and one on the right, reaching towards each other and shaking hands. The hands are yellow and have a textured, human-like appearance. The background is dark, making the white robots stand out.

# We Build Embodied Intelligence

Scalable AI models for universal robotic manipulation enabled by platform agnostic versatile robotic hand hardware. Intuitively automate your most complex and tedious manual labor tasks from retail to manufacturing.



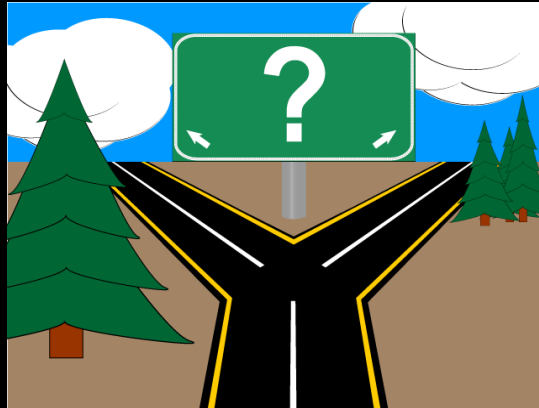
# Factors to Consider



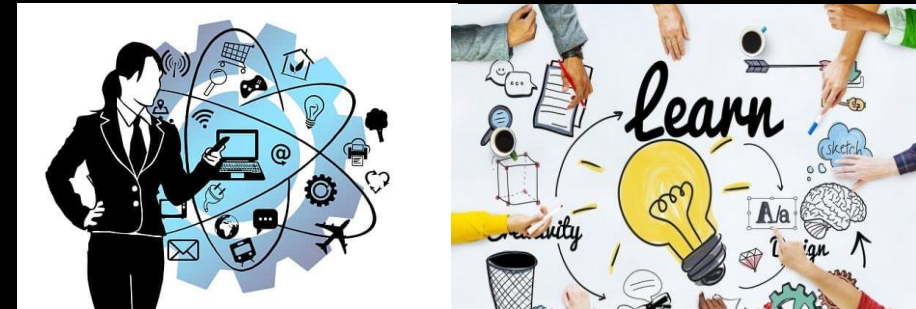
The Challenge



Constraints



Uncertainties



Skillsets

# My project experience as an individual contributor

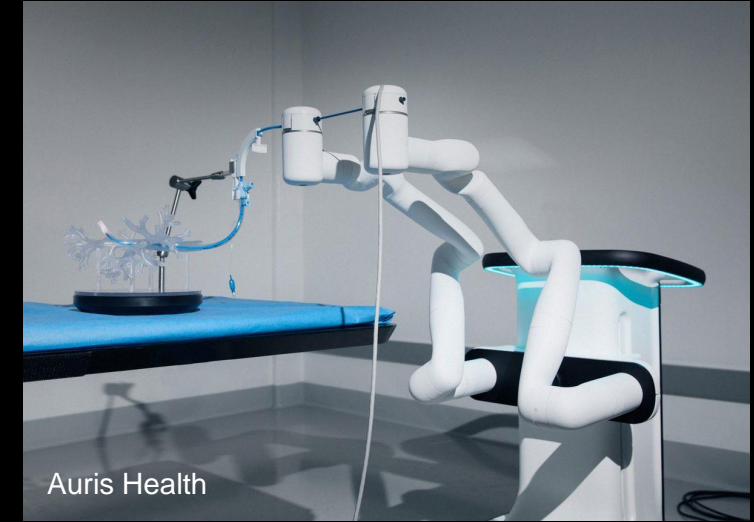
Mechanical Engineering  
@ KIT, Germany ('07-'12)



Master Thesis on Robotics  
@ Stanford, USA ('12)



Systems Engineer  
@ Auris Health, USA ('12-'13)



PhD + Postdoc  
@ MIT, USA ('13-'18)



Applied Scientist  
@ Amazon Robotics, USA ('18-'19)



CTO  
@ Dexai Robotics, USA ('19-'20)





## IV) Additional Material/Misc.



# Remarks



- Many thanks to lecturer Jeffery Hoffman (D-BAUG, Infrastructure Management group, retired) for providing the foundational material that was used!
  - o Material was based off his course *Project Management for Construction Projects*
- Some content was generated by ChatGPT to help provide clearer and alternative explanations.





# Additional Resources

- *How to Run Successful Projects III* by Fergus O'Connel
- *The Art of Project Management* by Scott Berkun
- *Project Management Absolute Beginner's Guide* by Greg Horine
- *Agile Project Management for Dummies* by Mark C. Layton, Steven J. Ostermiller, and Dean J. Kynaston
- *Project Management for the Unofficial Project Manager* by Kory Kogon

Note: These books are what popped up in the most recommended based on Reddit and LinkedIn.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/18-project-management-books-succeed-manager-fichtner-pmp-csm-gcyae/>  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/projectmanagement/comments/jqlkyc/must\\_read\\_pm\\_books/](https://www.reddit.com/r/projectmanagement/comments/jqlkyc/must_read_pm_books/)