

Multi-Tasking, Dinner Parties, and Software Projects

Bruce P. Henry

[LiquidPlanner](#)

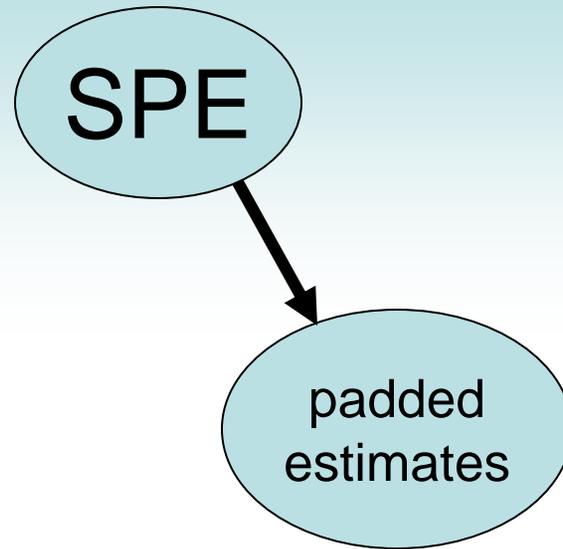


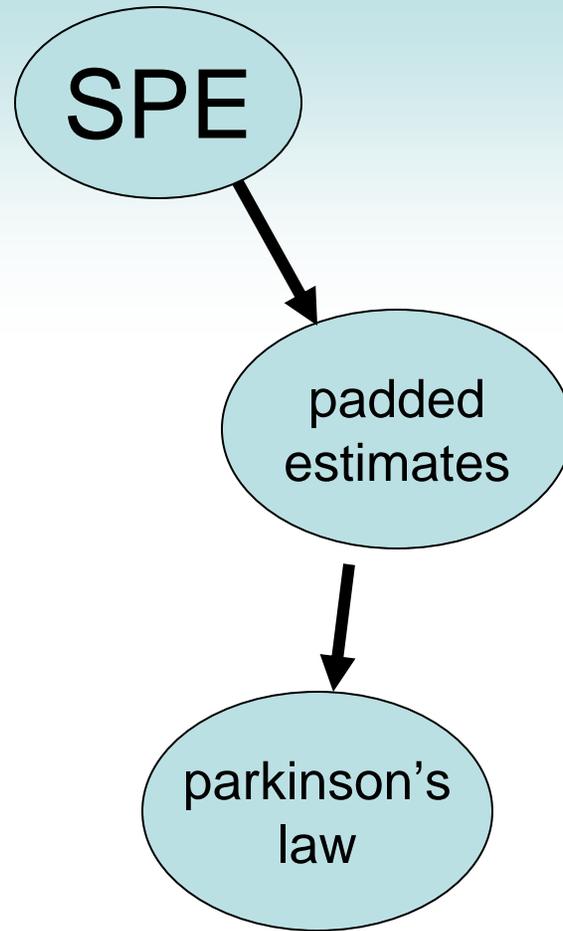
liquid
PLANNER™

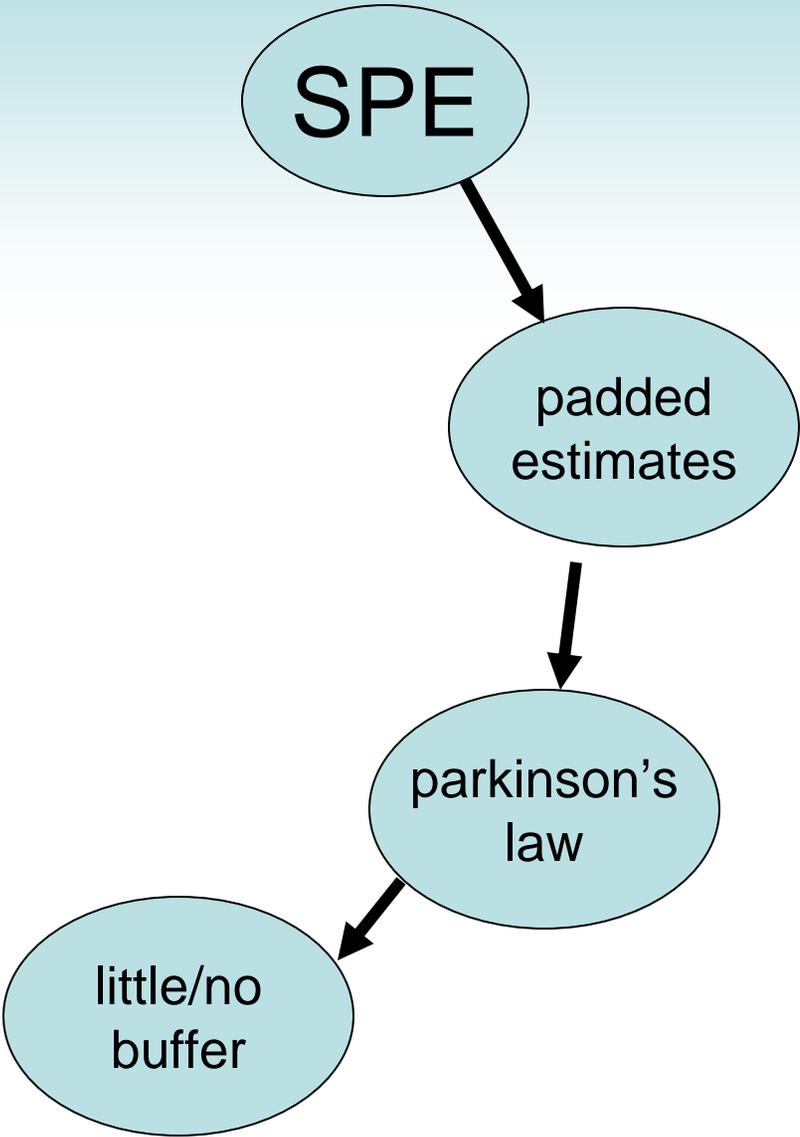


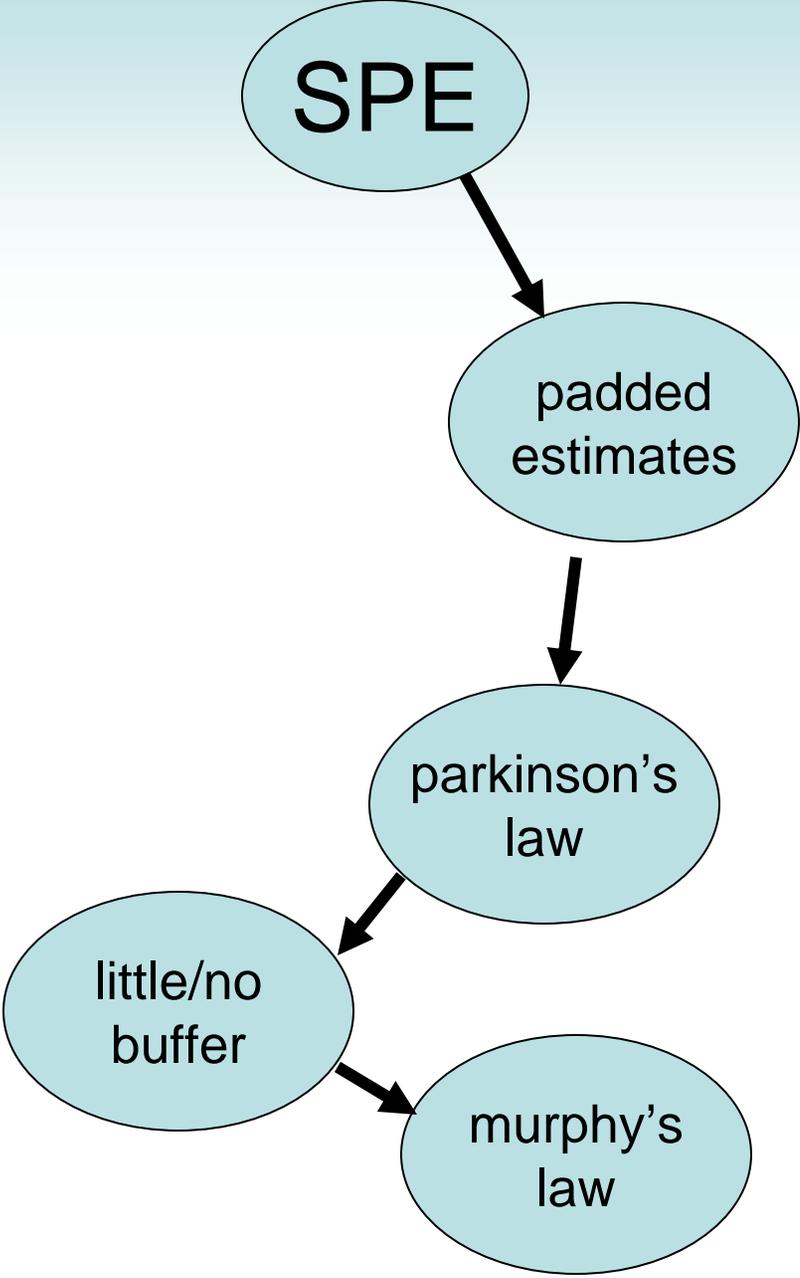
complex systems

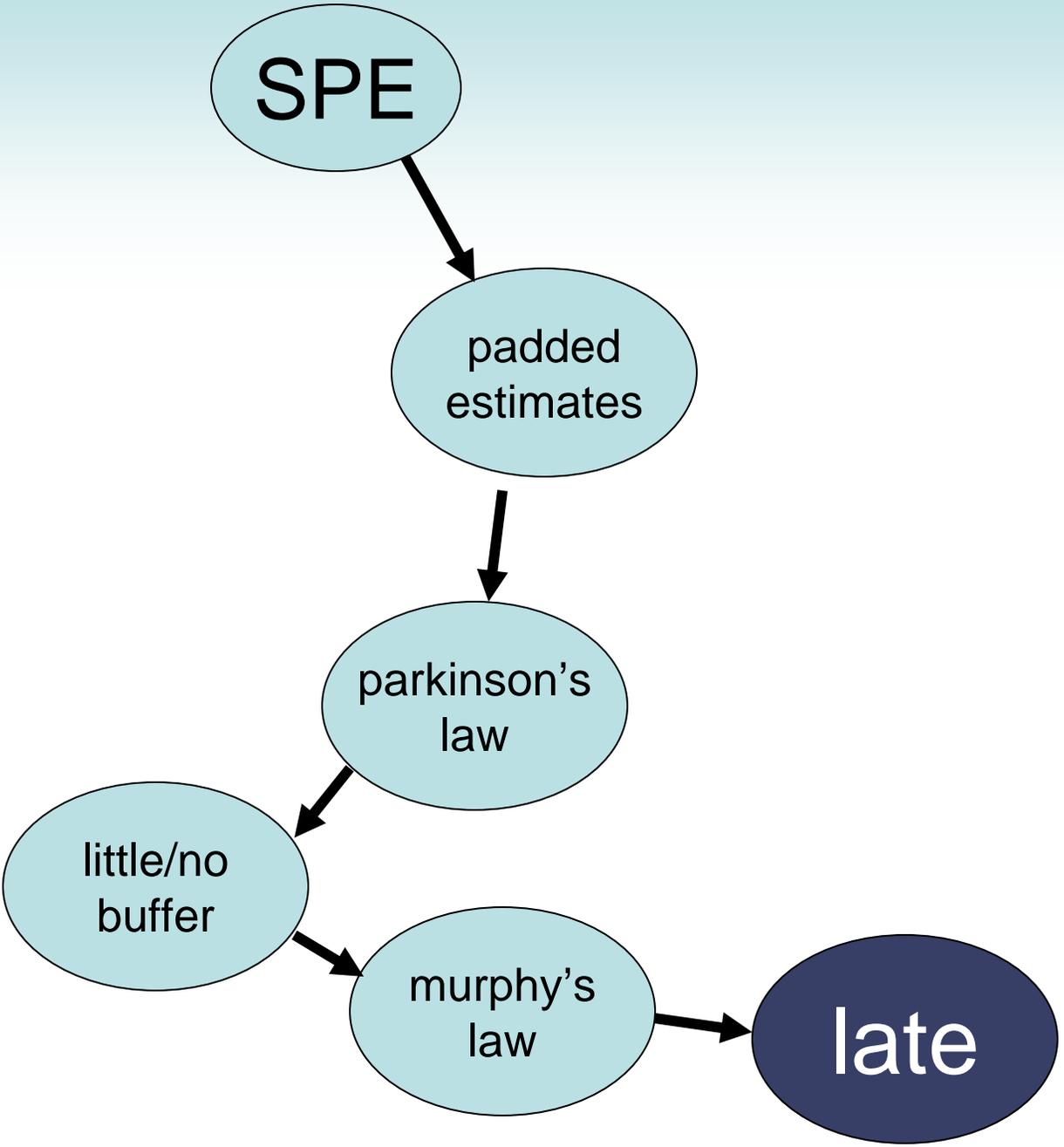
SPE

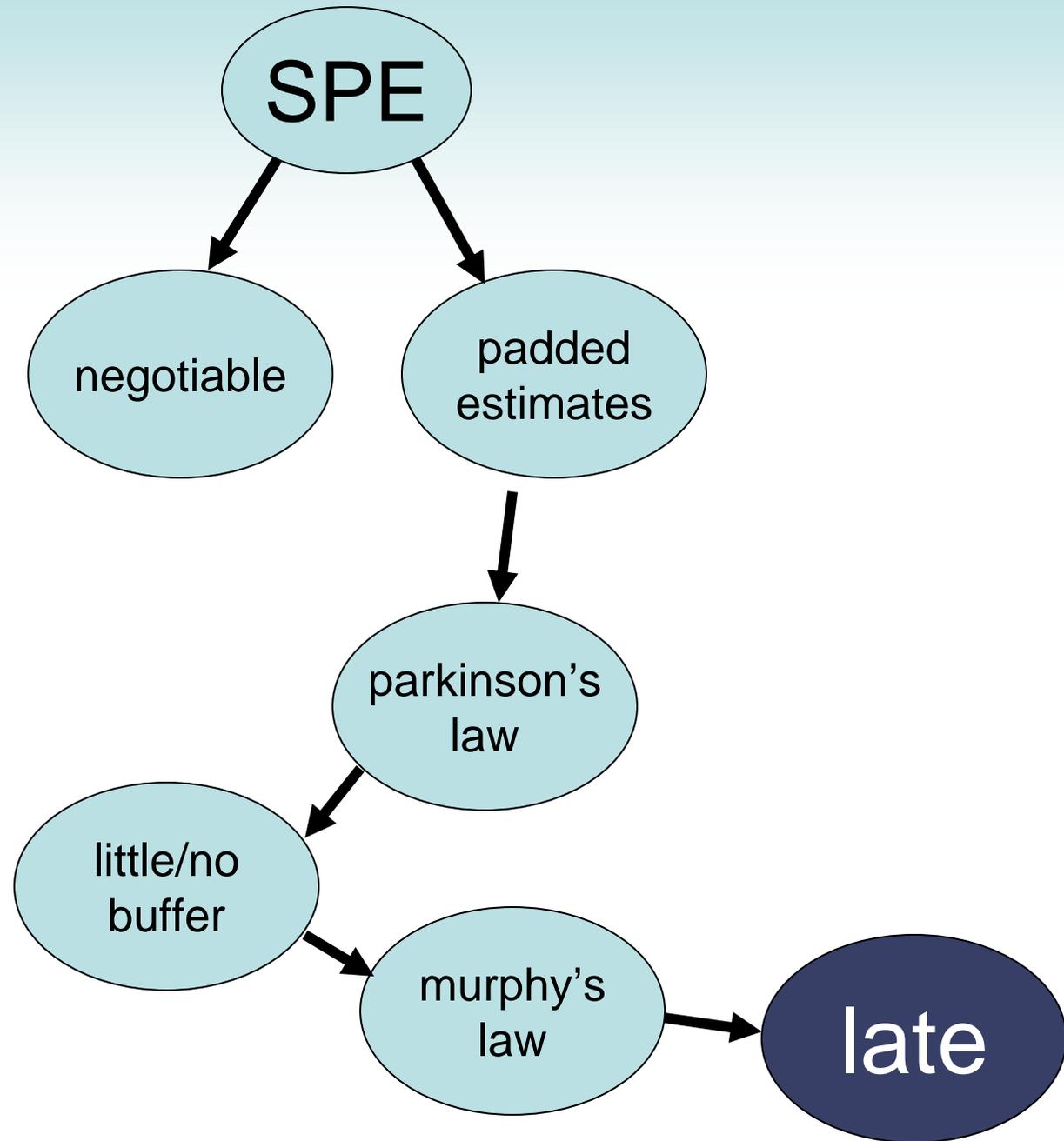


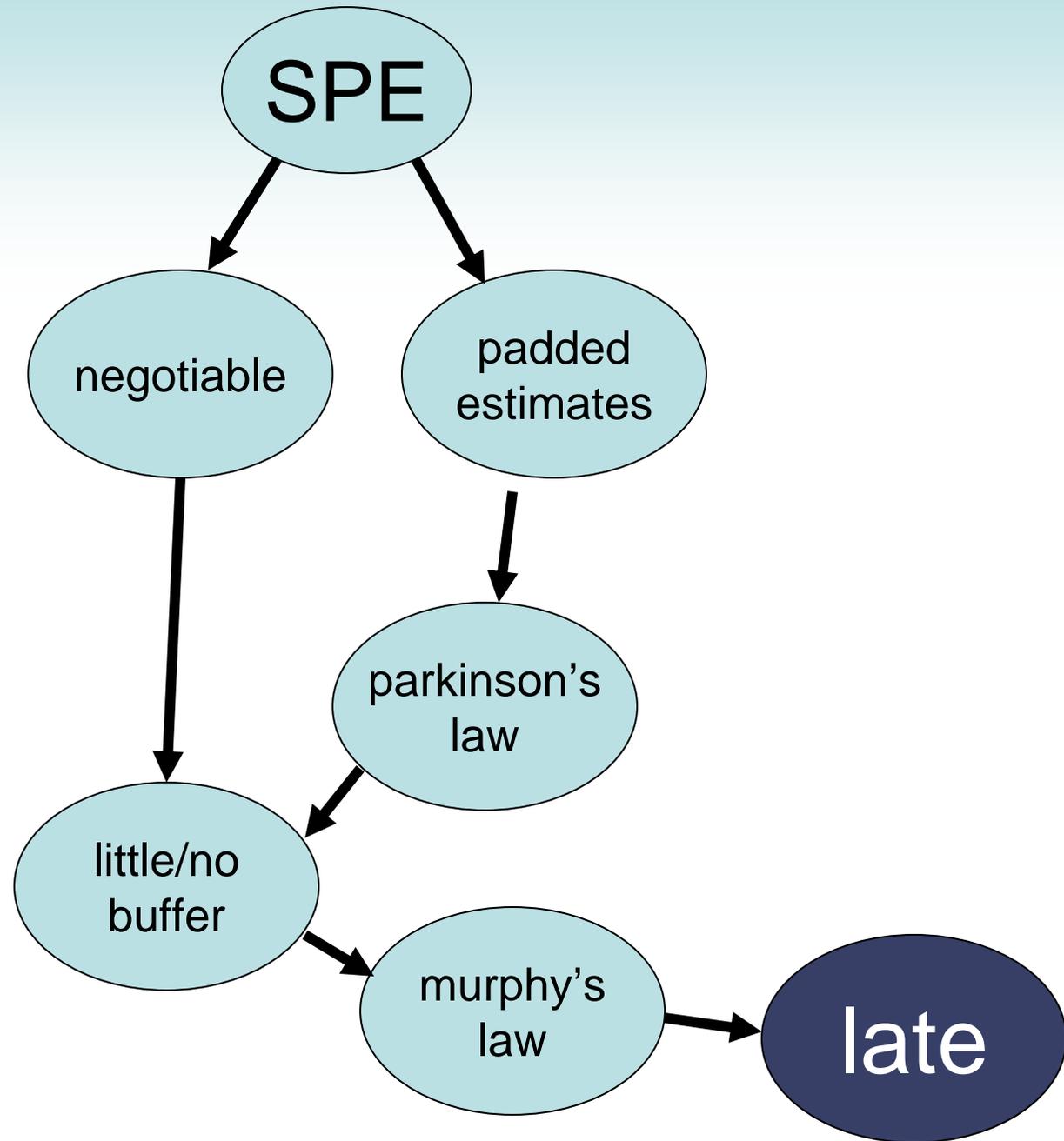


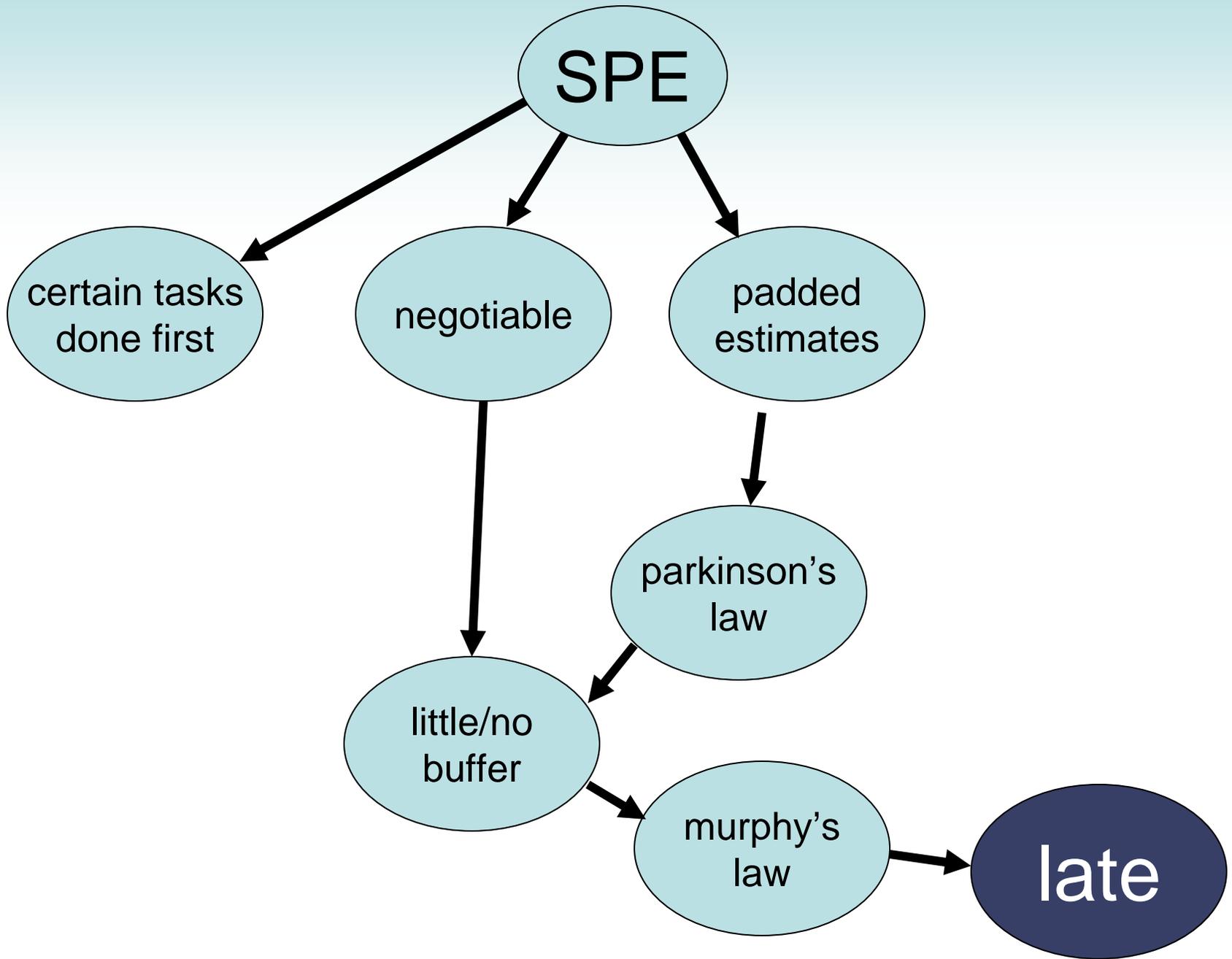


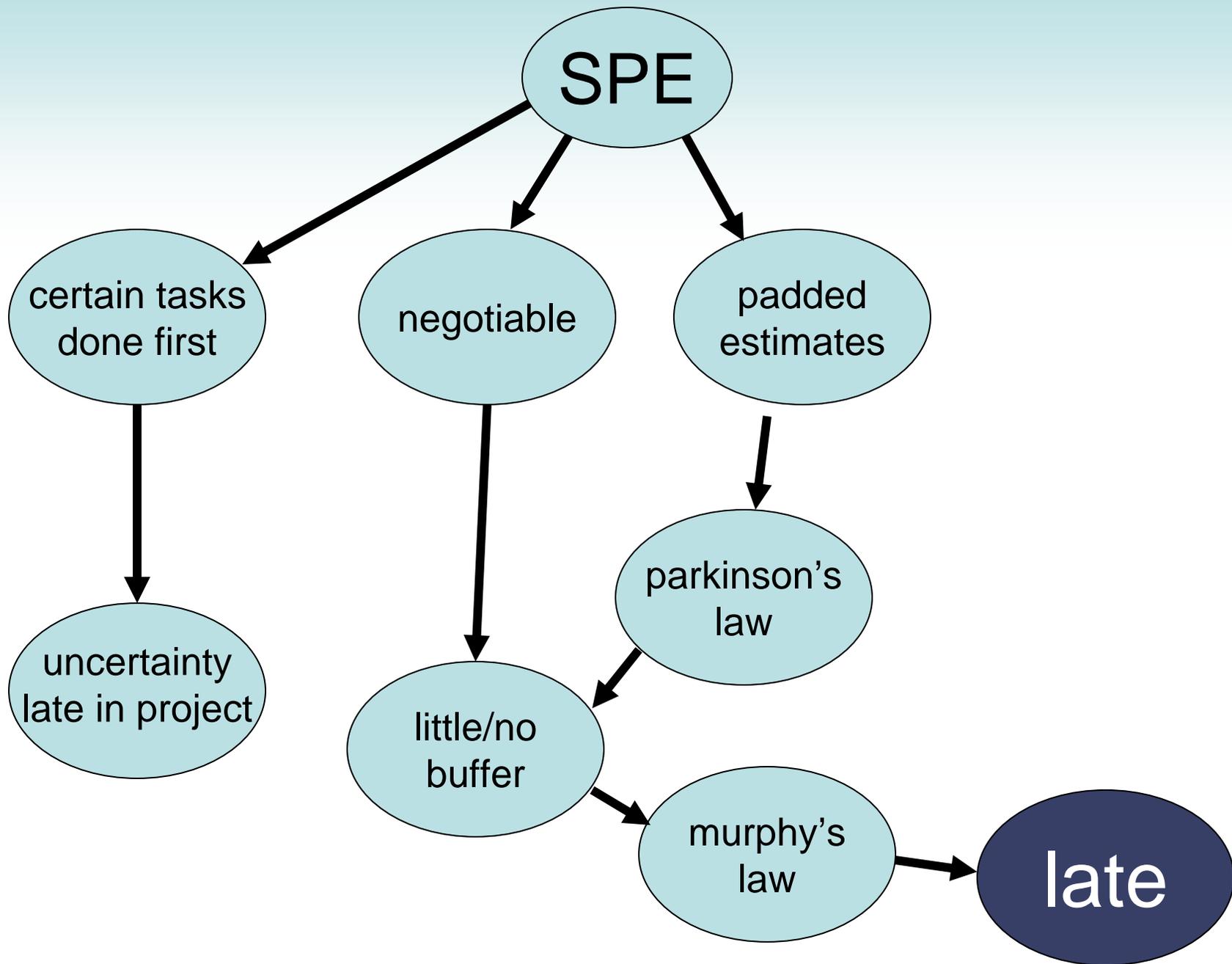


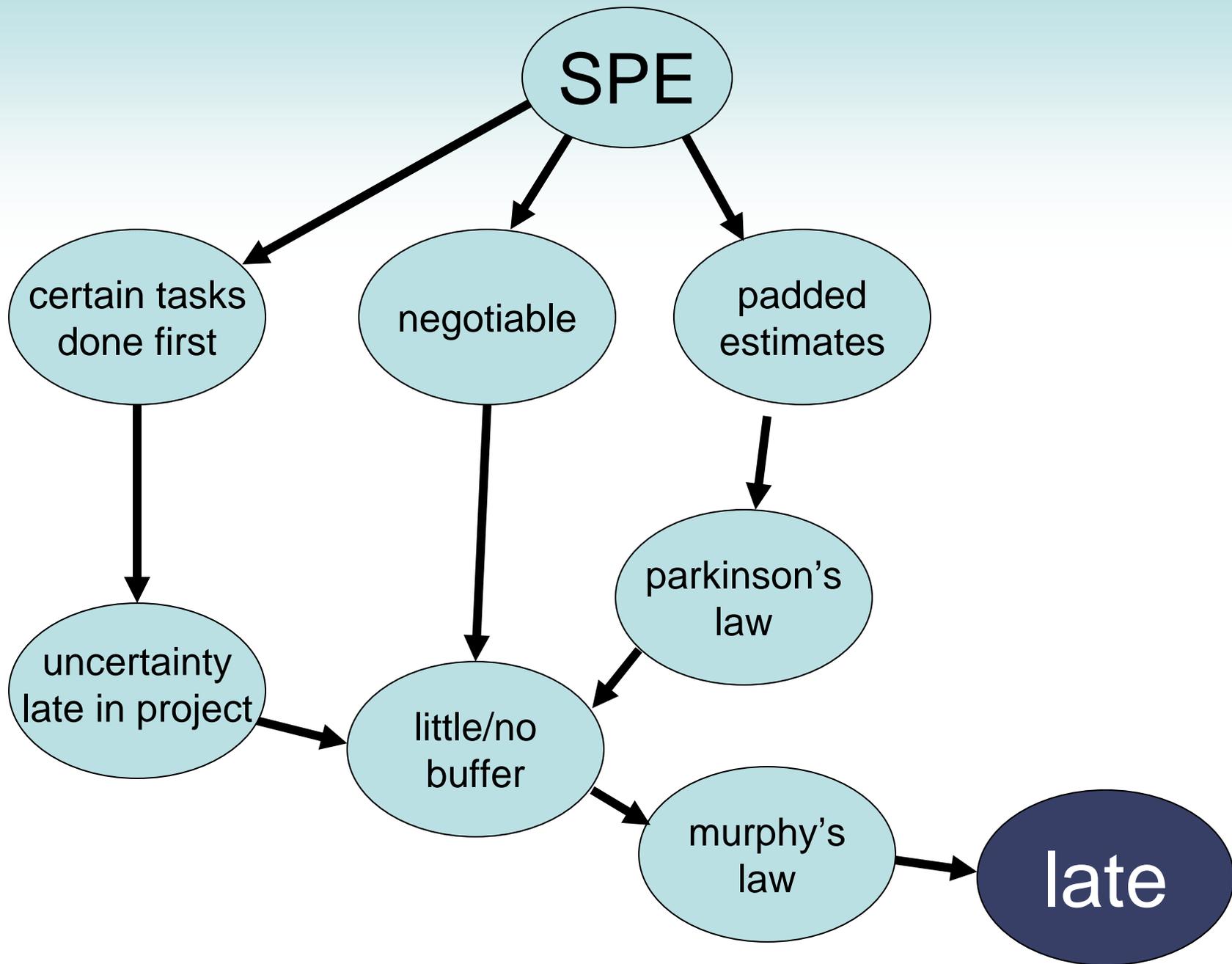












SPE

load
balancing

certain tasks
done first

negotiable

padded
estimates

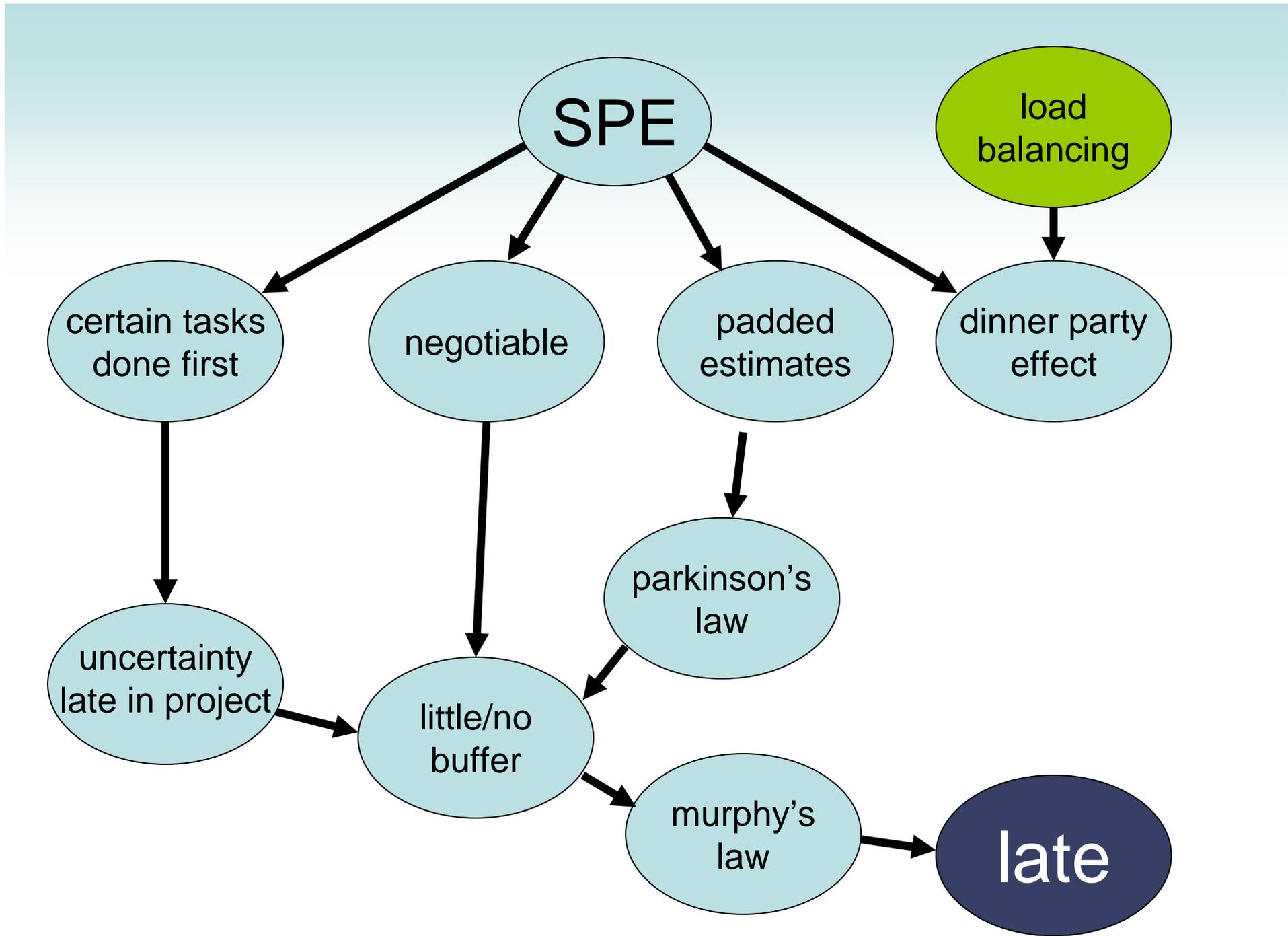
uncertainty
late in project

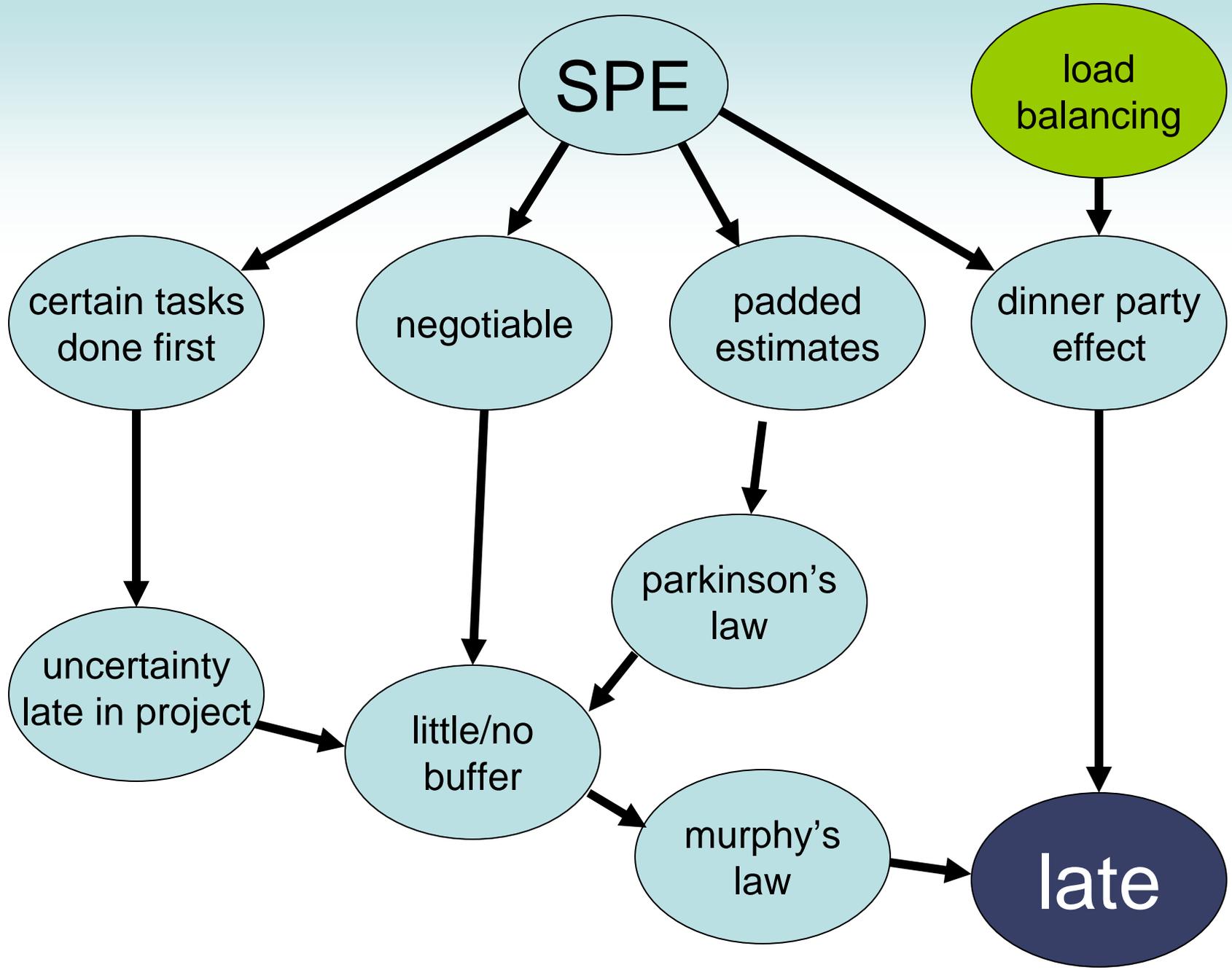
parkinson's
law

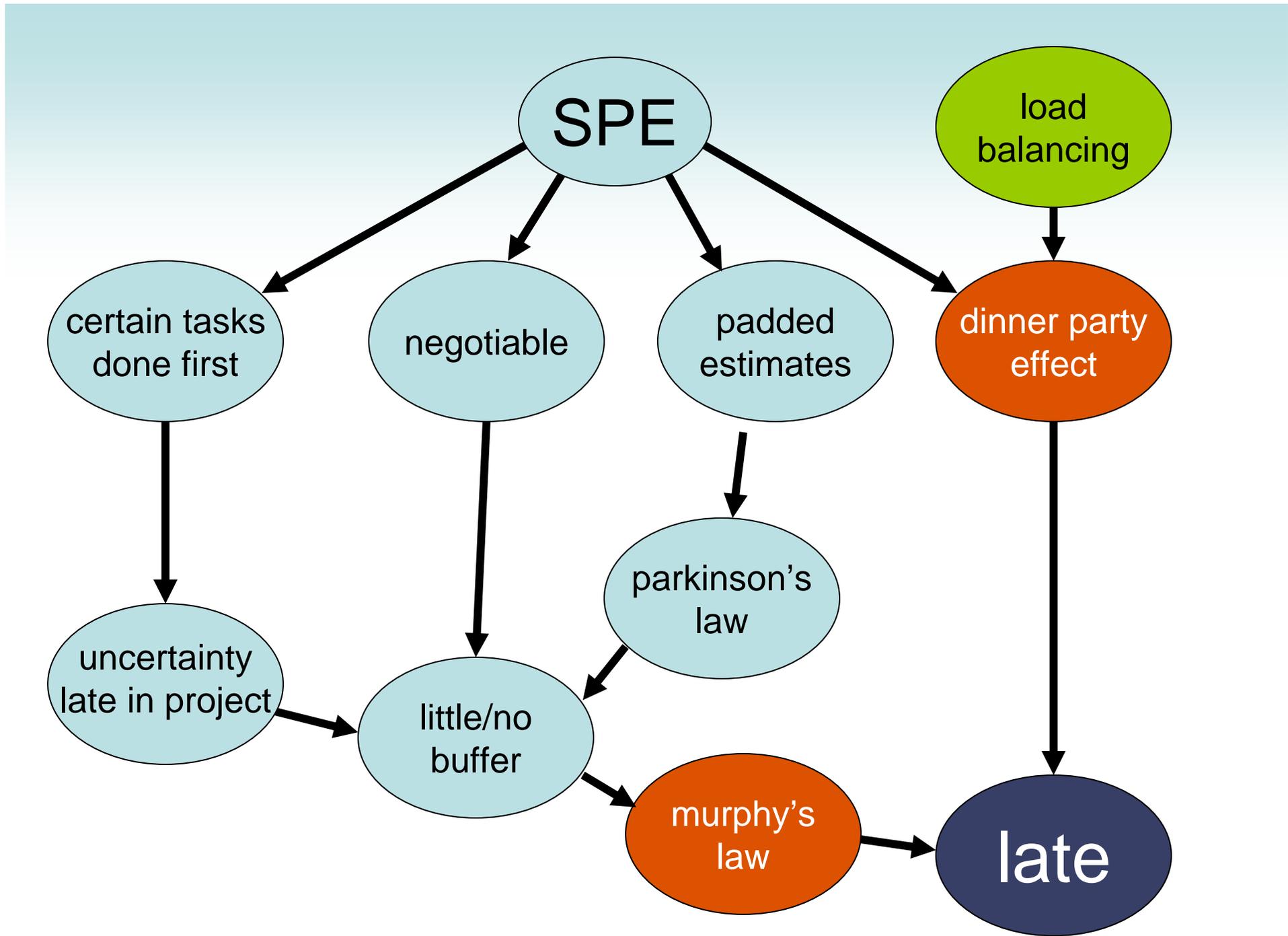
little/no
buffer

murphy's
law

late







dinner party effect



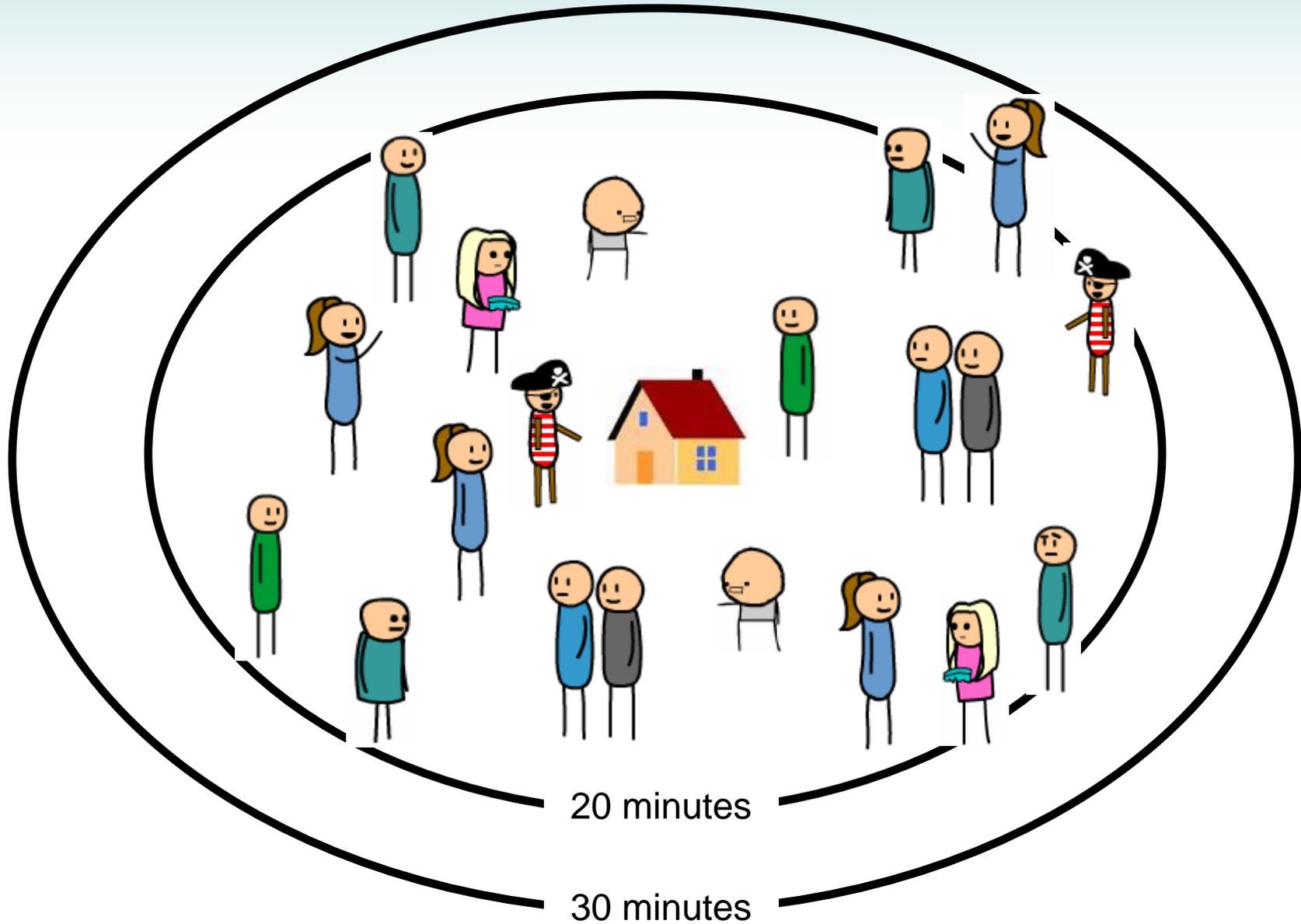
load balancing



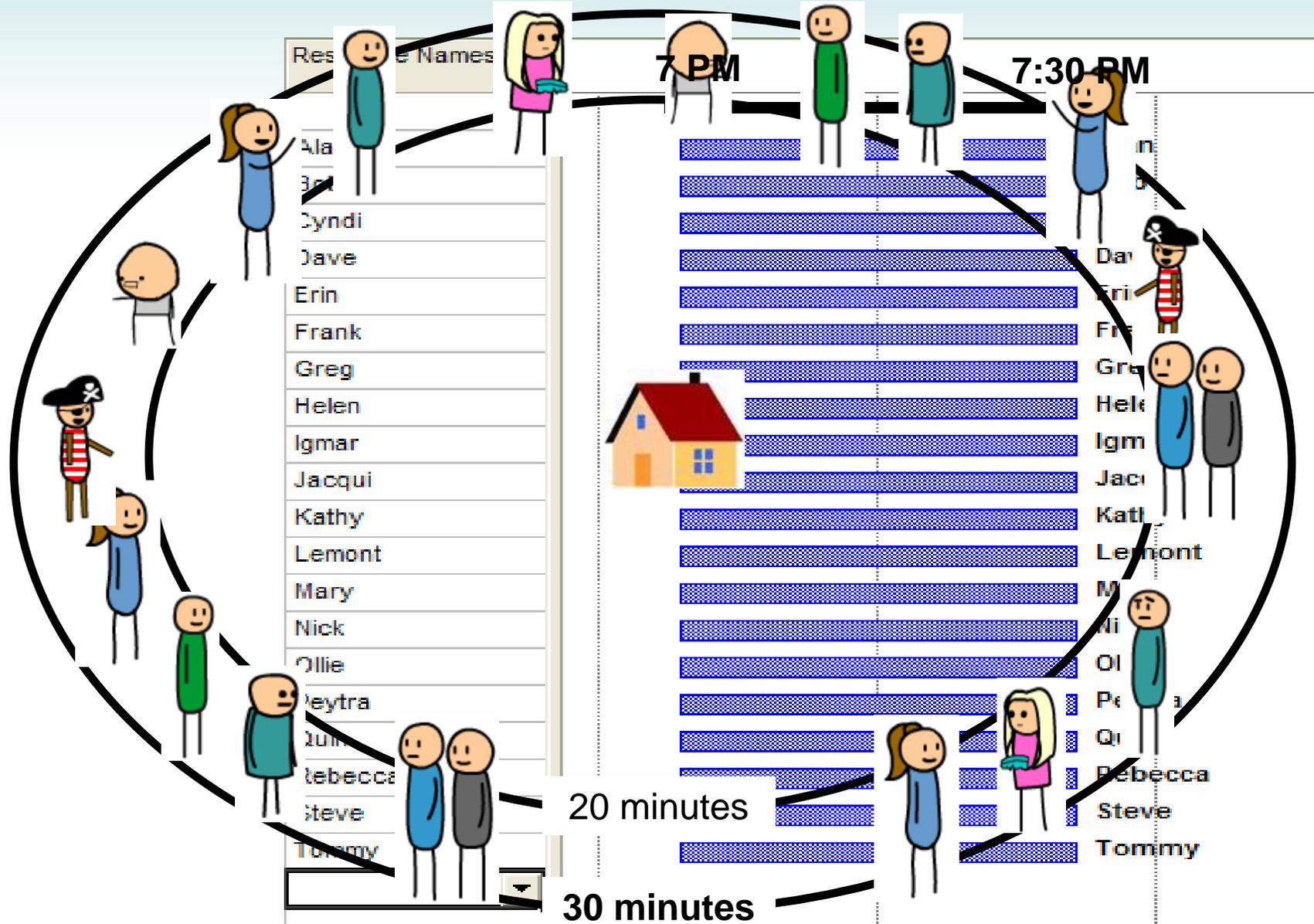
why dinner parties are late to launch

(a cautionary tale)

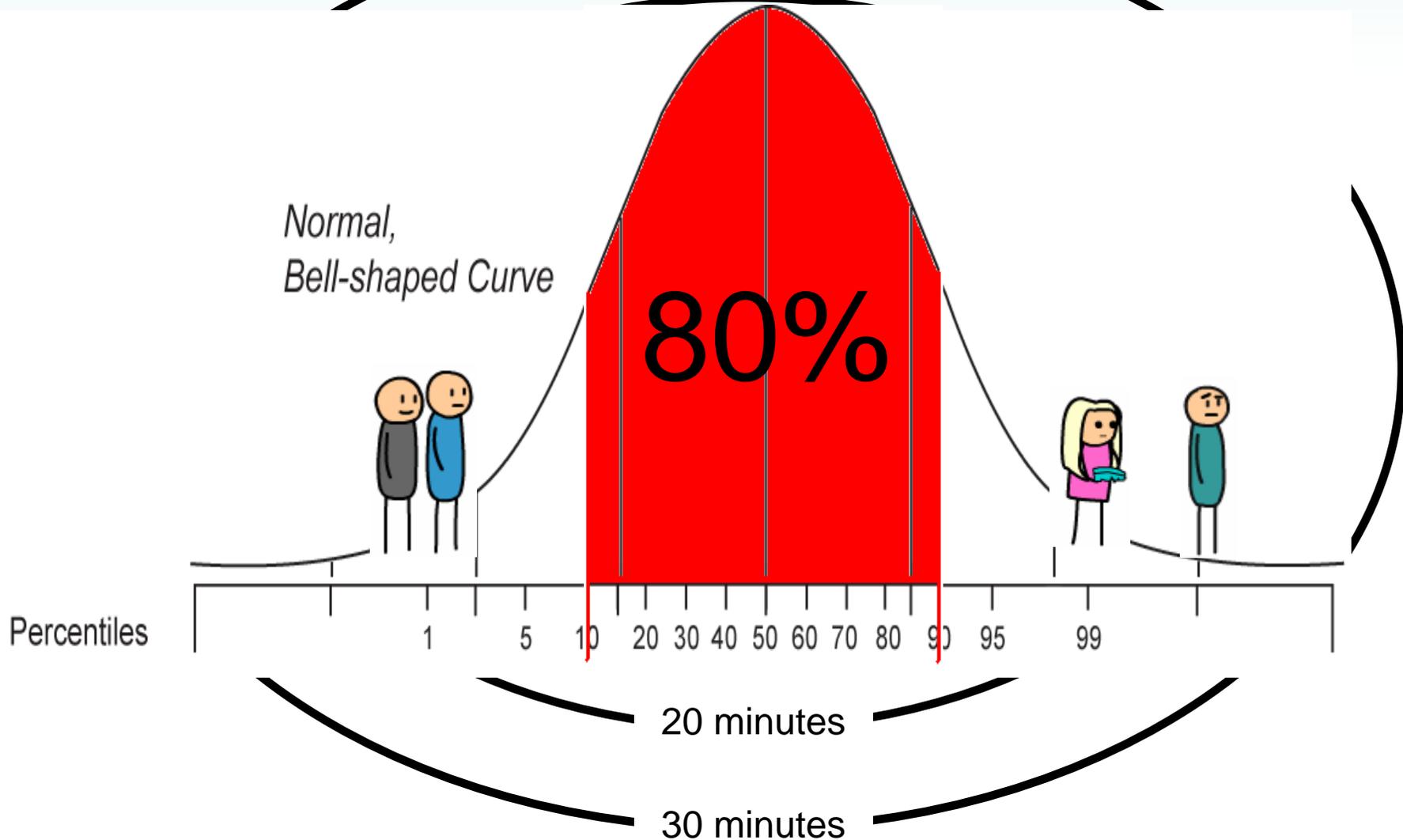
the dinner party effect



the dinner party effect

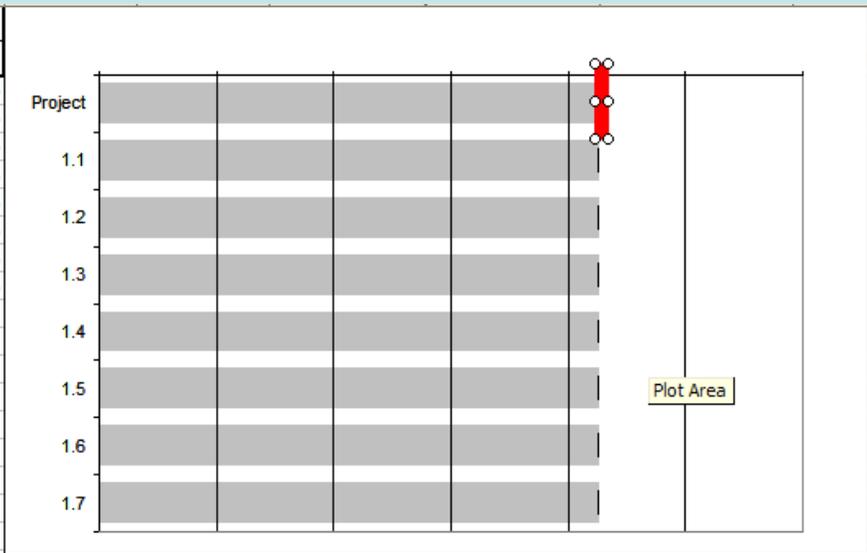


the dinner party effect



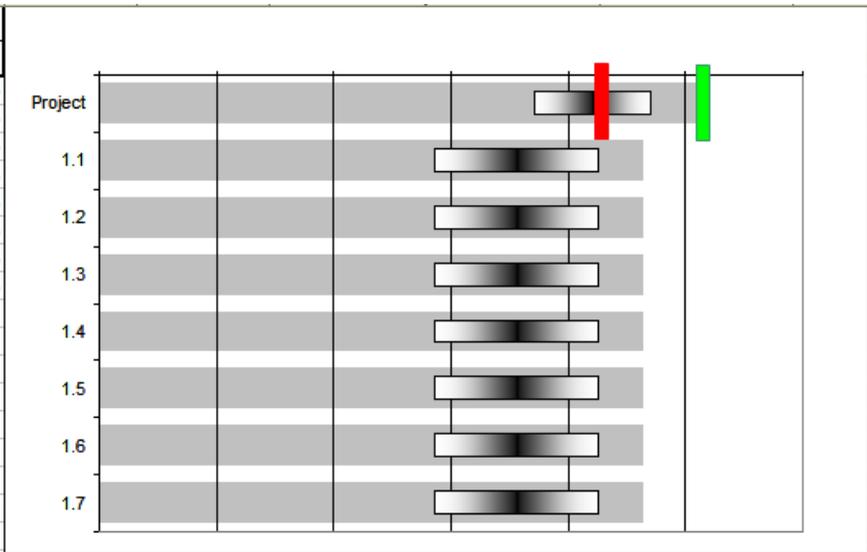
Single Point Estimates (no uncertainty)

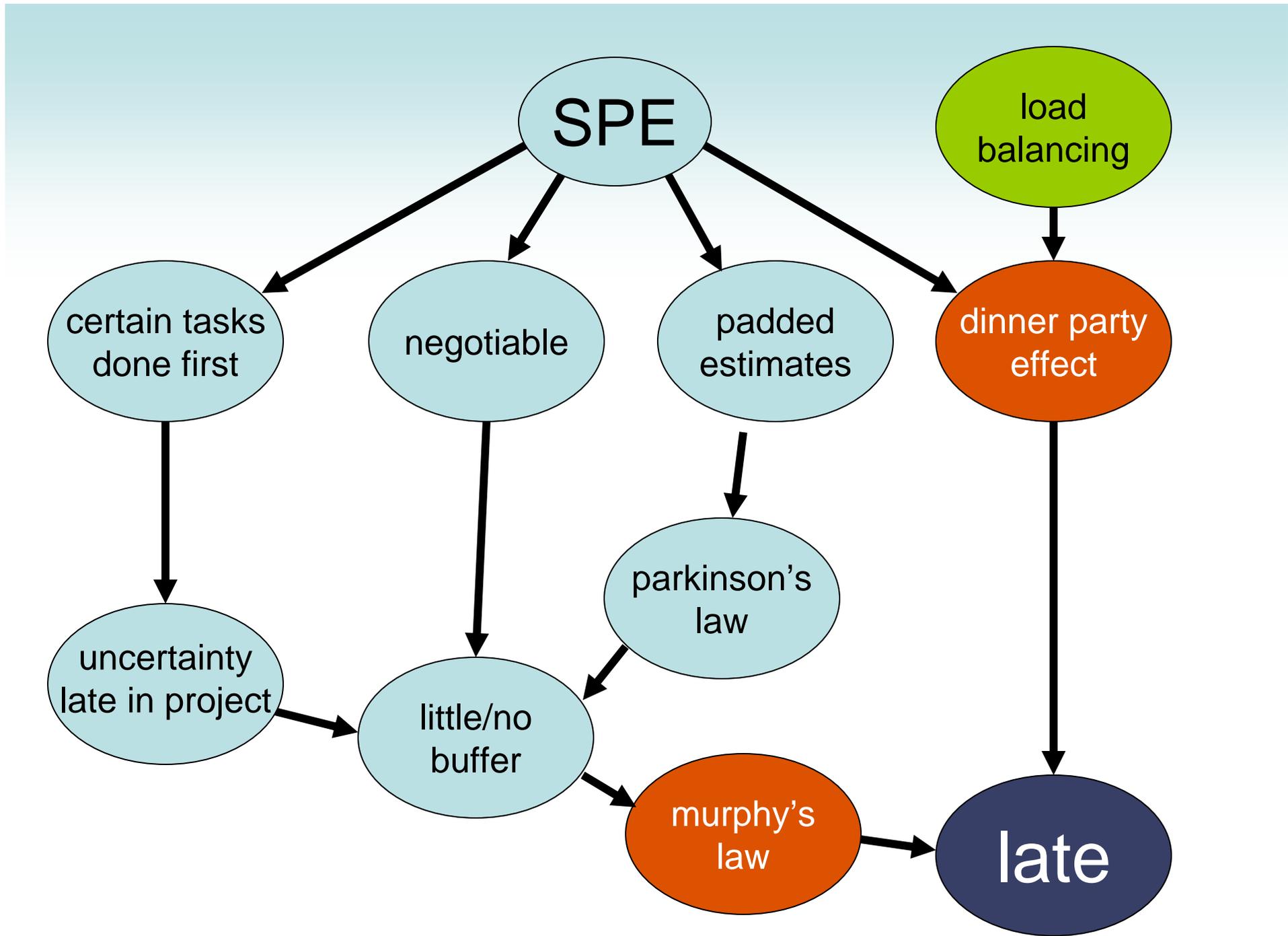
Effort		
Low	High	Exp
208.8	209.1	208.95
29.8	29.9	29.85
29.8	29.9	29.85
29.8	29.9	29.85
29.8	29.9	29.85
29.8	29.9	29.85
29.8	29.9	29.85
29.8	29.9	29.85

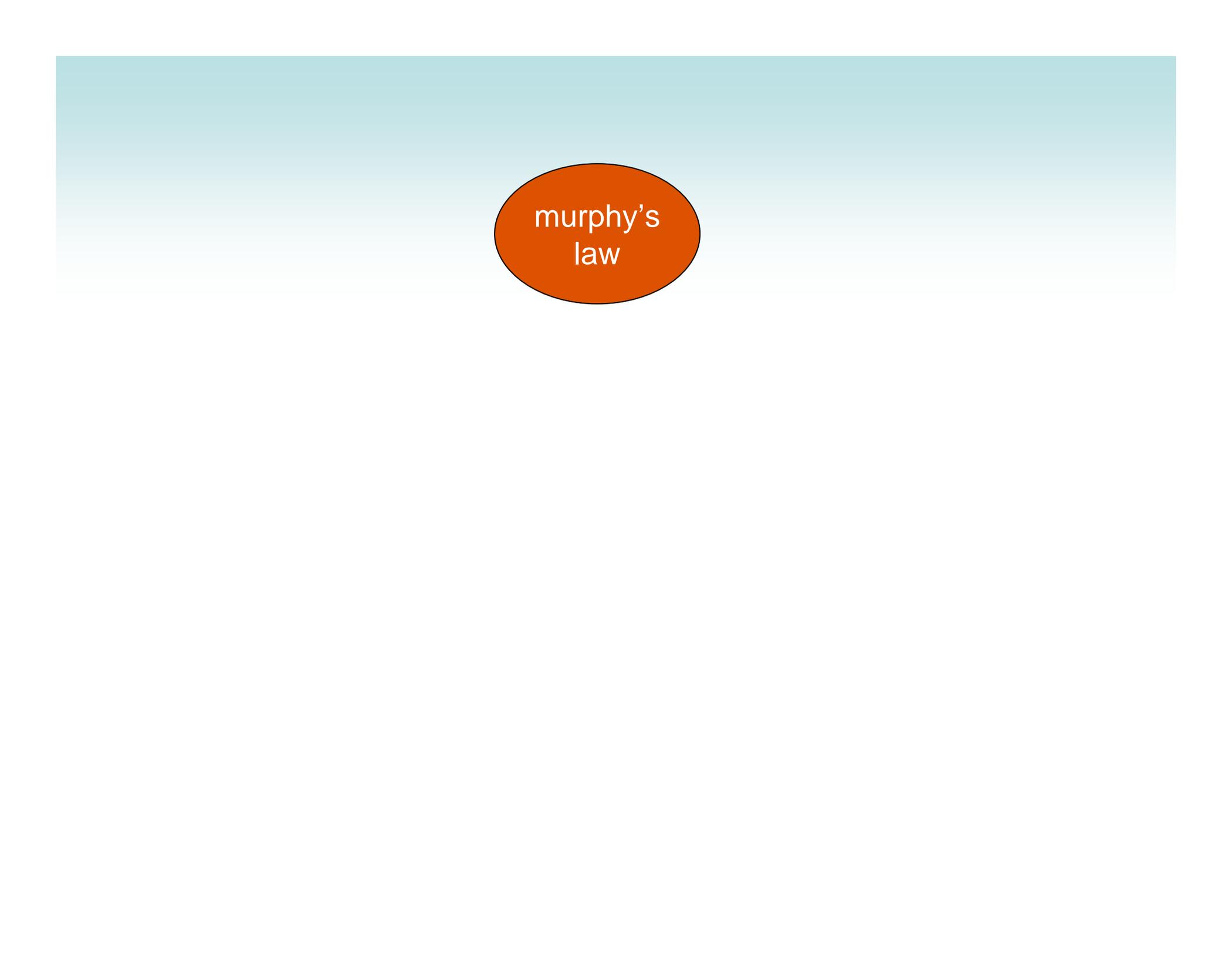


Ranged Estimates (only the "best case" moved down)

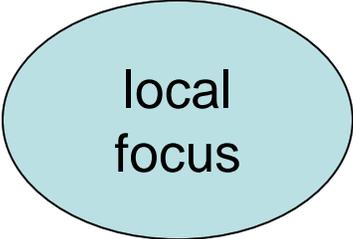
Effort		
Low	High	Exp
161.6	187.7	174.65
20.0	29.9	24.95
20.0	29.9	24.95
20.0	29.9	24.95
20.0	29.9	24.95
20.0	29.9	24.95
20.0	29.9	24.95
20.0	29.9	24.95







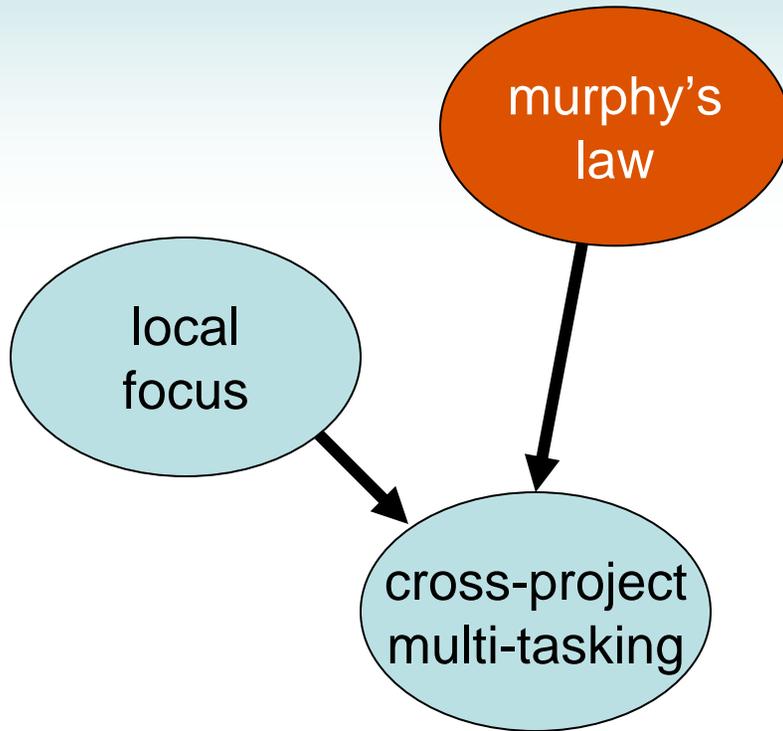
murphy's
law

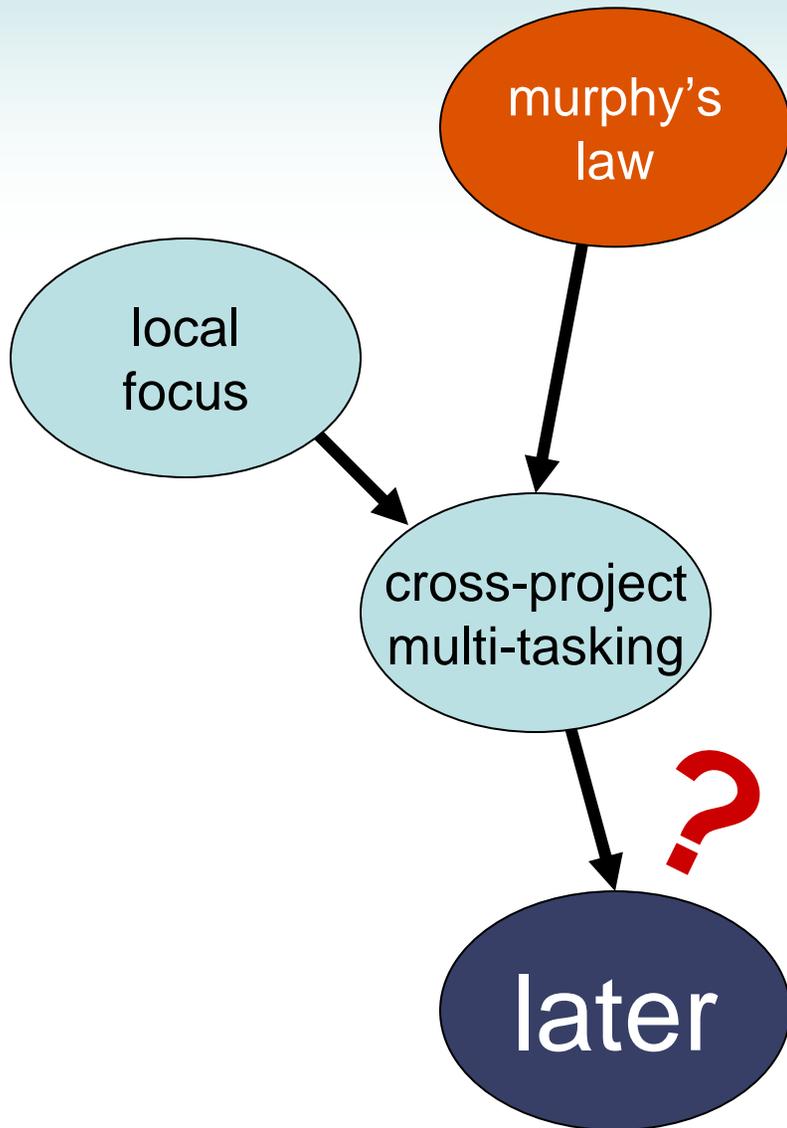


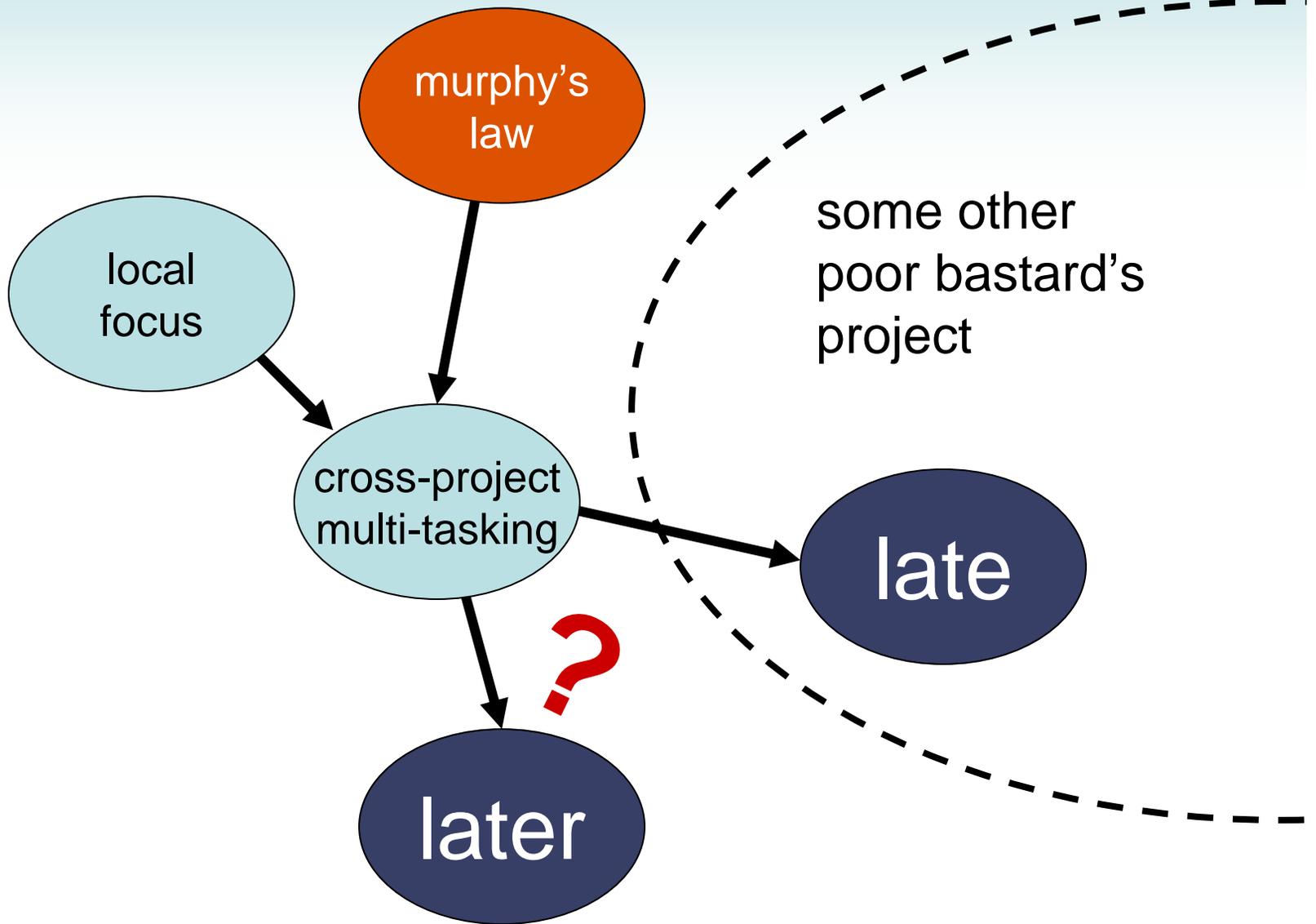
local
focus



murphy's
law

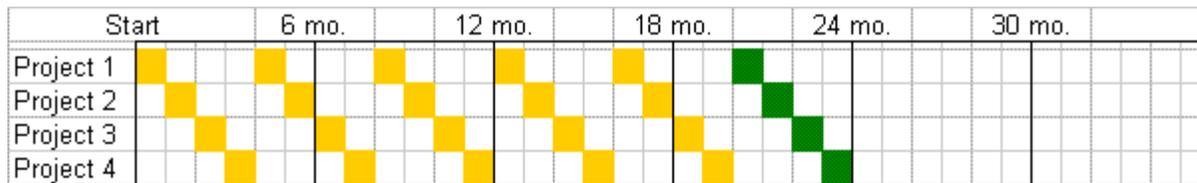
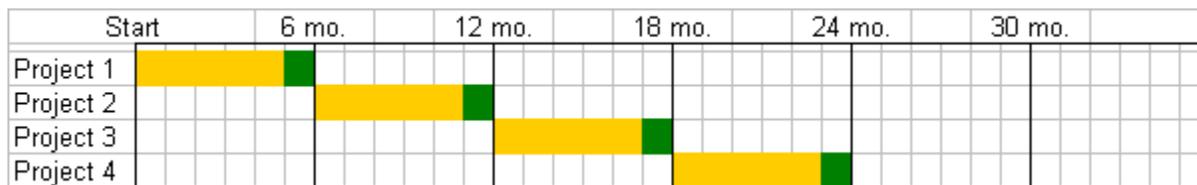


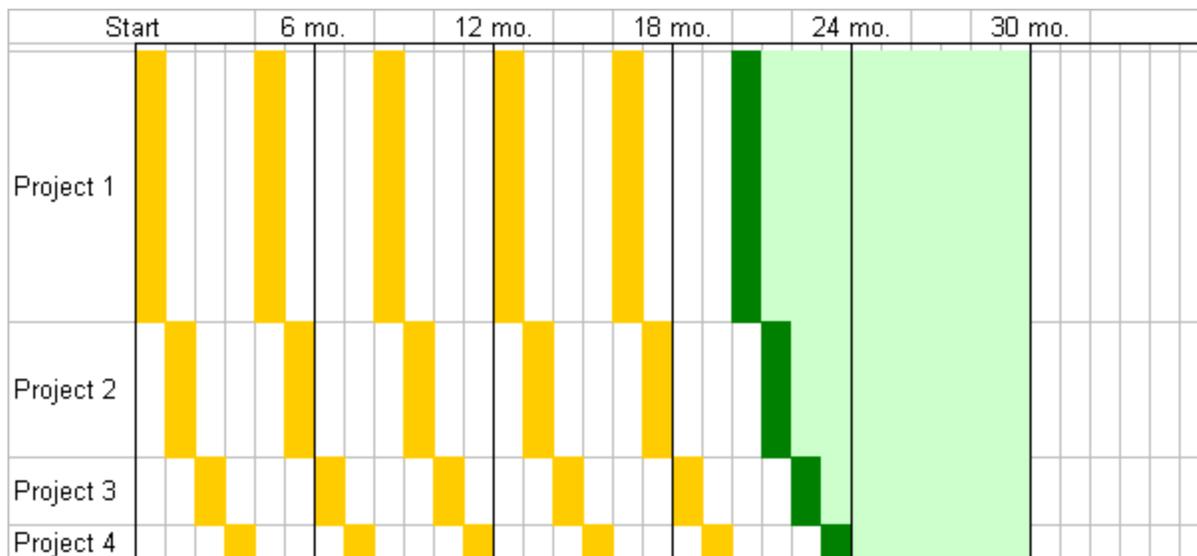
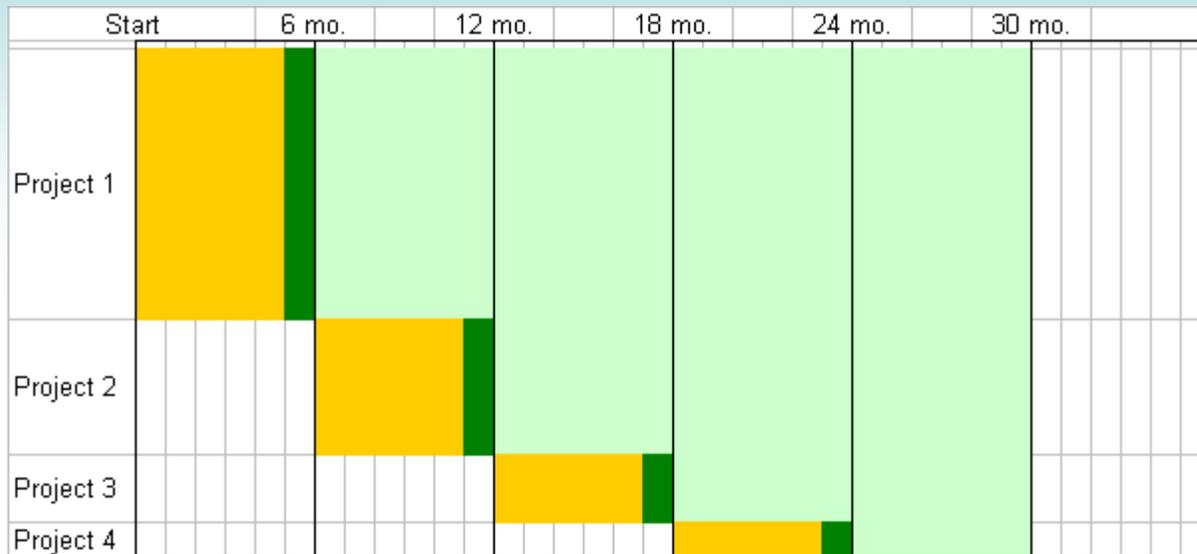






impact of multi-tasking





what to do?

prioritize

things we wanted in a tool

support for estimating in ranges

“correct” schedule forecasts

single prioritized list

...

and all that “other stuff”



liquid
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