



# Providing 4 Improvements

Based on course

**International Supply  
Change Management Program  
October 2003**

There can be no final destination.  
Neither space nor time ends. But  
life always moves towards its  
goals, not as perfection but as the  
attraction of an ideal.

Peter Tuft Richardson

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## Introductions

1. About the four ways of reality
2. Inform on implications for SCM
3. Intervening, 4 ways: ERP, JIT, TOC and TQM
4. Experience
5. Providing 4 improvements

## Summary

# Introduction



Drs Jan Lelie CPIM CPF  
Facilitator

LOGI**SENS**

Sparring partner in logistical  
improvement

**mind@work**

**Group decision process support**

**> 20 years experience**

# Please take notes

- ✕ Please make readable notes for yourself
- ✕ I'll pause or ask me to stop for a few moments
- ✕ We'll share copies of the notes

# Providing 4 Improvements supplies:

A personal, human being centred,  
computer application independent,  
pragmatics<sup>\*)</sup> on  
intentional logistical improvement  
processes

**\*) Logistics practice (ERP, TQM, JIT, TOC);**

**Management theory;**

**Experimental Learning;**

**The emotional, human mind**

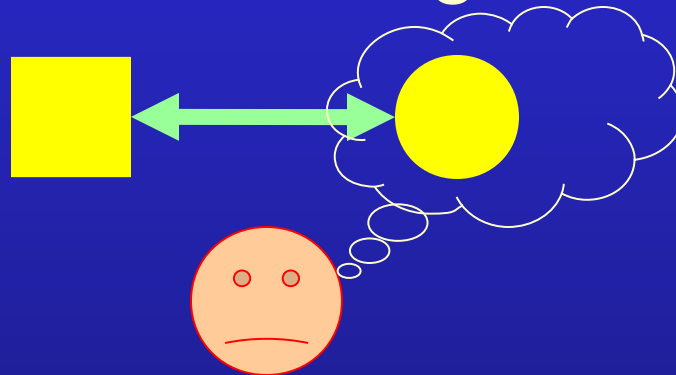
# 1.1 It is your choice!

You have to understand yourself,  
because you determine:

- ☞ the presenting *problems* and issues
- ☞ the possible solutions
- ☞ the methods for change and
- ☞ you generate the conflicts with the methods and your resolutions of issues!

## 1.2 A problem

A problem is the difference between expectations and *reality* - usually associated with a negative feeling.



People are submerged in problems,...but what is real?

# 1.3 But what is *real*, reality?

What is real for you?

😊 Emotions? Feelings? What matters?

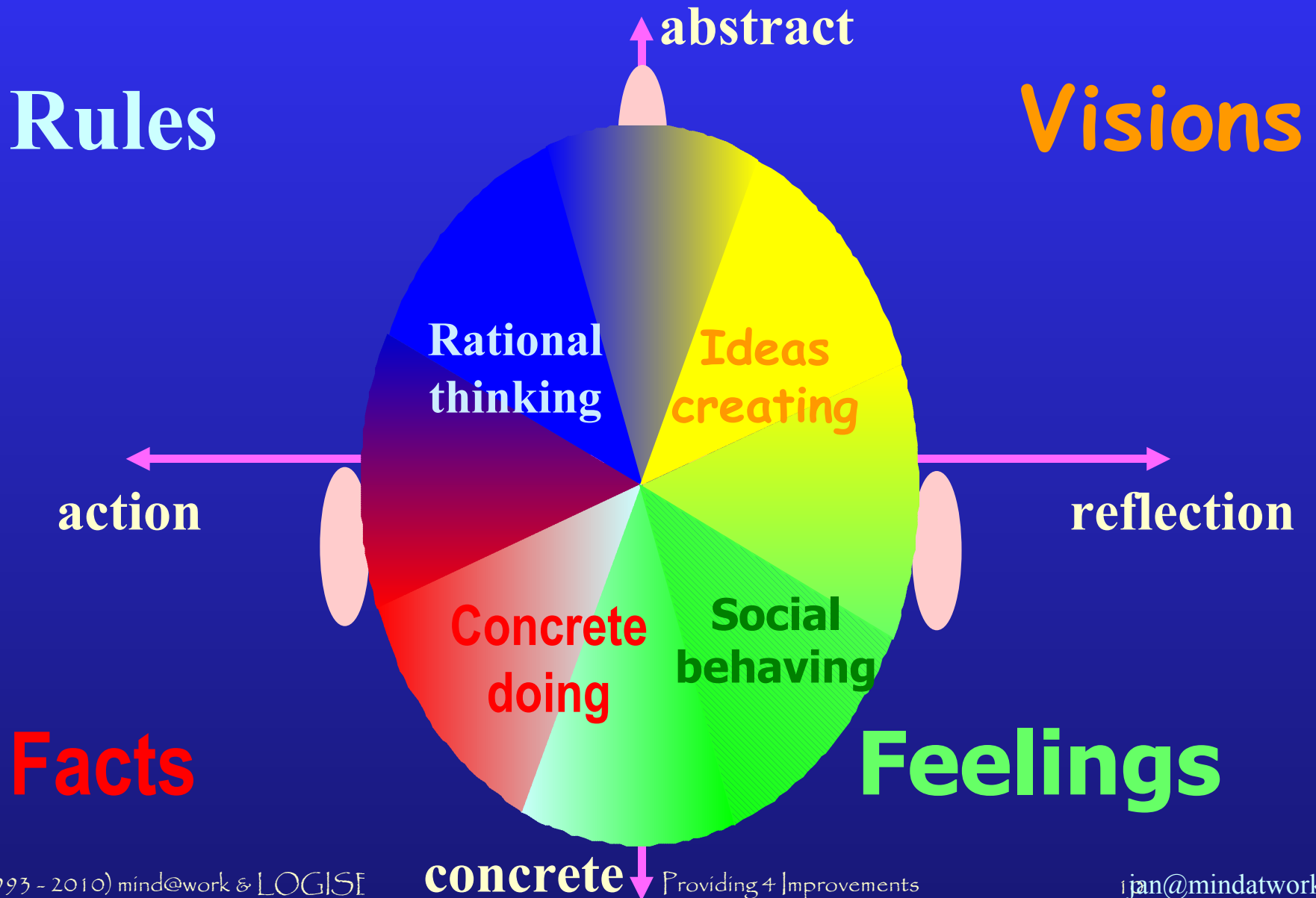
☯ Meaning? Visions? Creations?

🕒 Truths? Policies? Theories?

👍 Facts? Actions? Material things?

Let's make a map.

# 1.4 Description using a map



Based on “Creating Paths of Change” (1993) by W. M. Whinnery

# Mythical

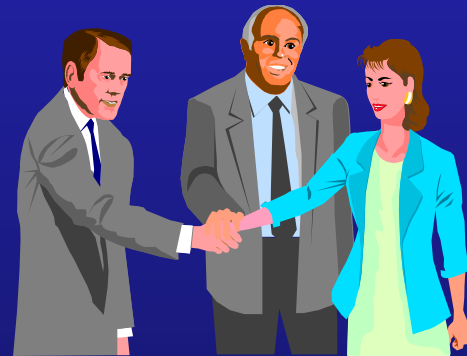
# Unitary



# action



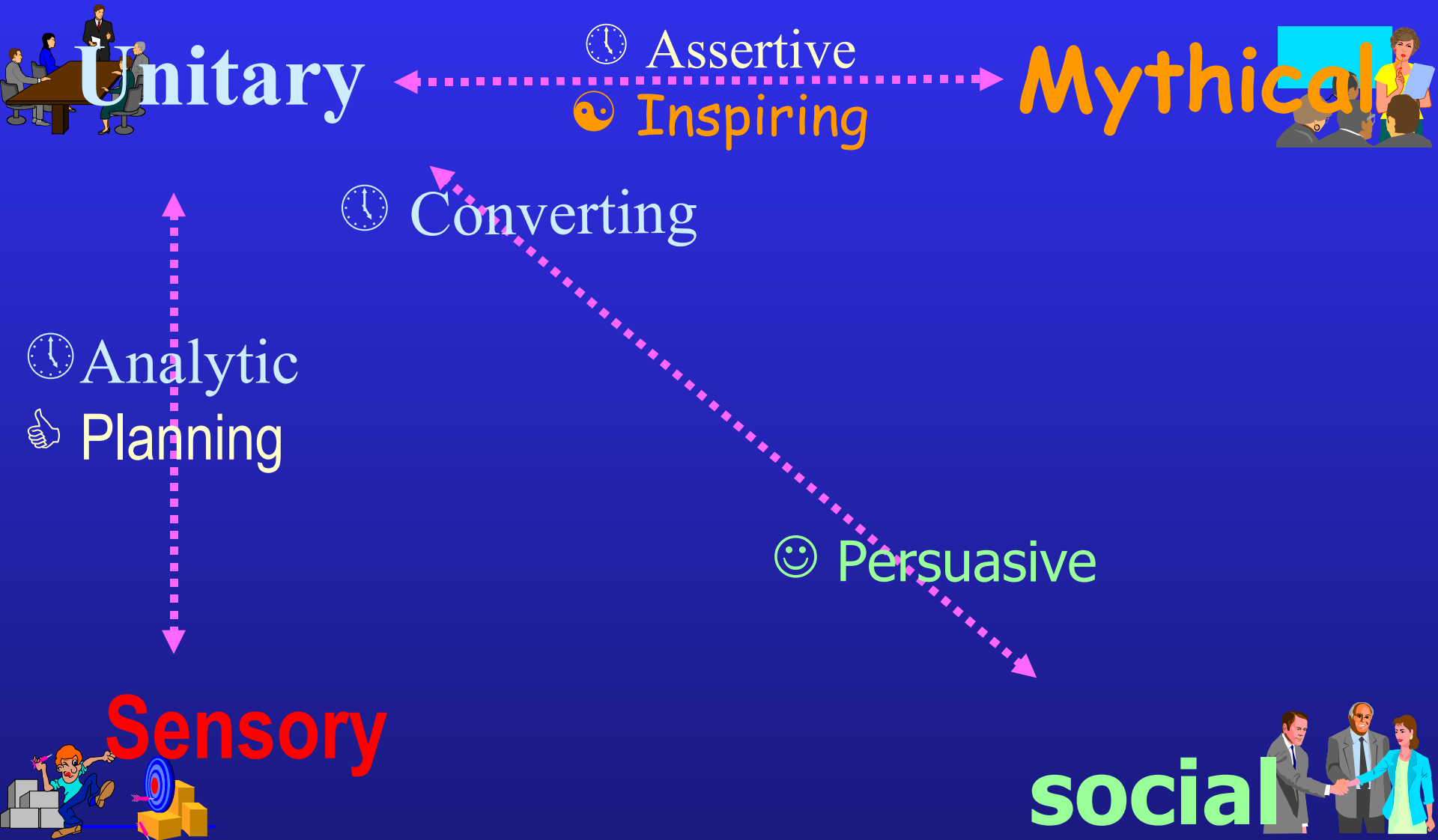
# reflection



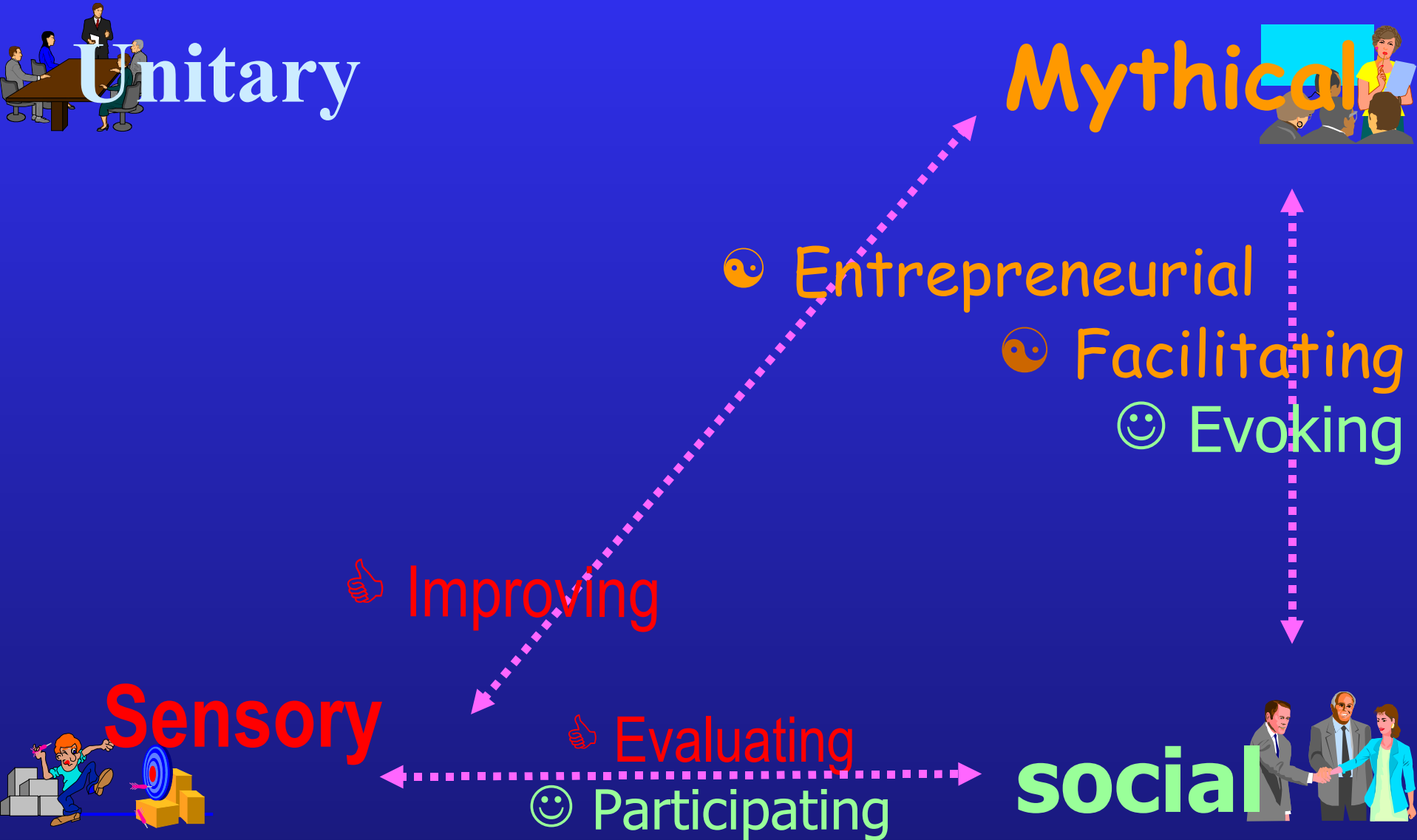
social

1jan@mindatwork.nl

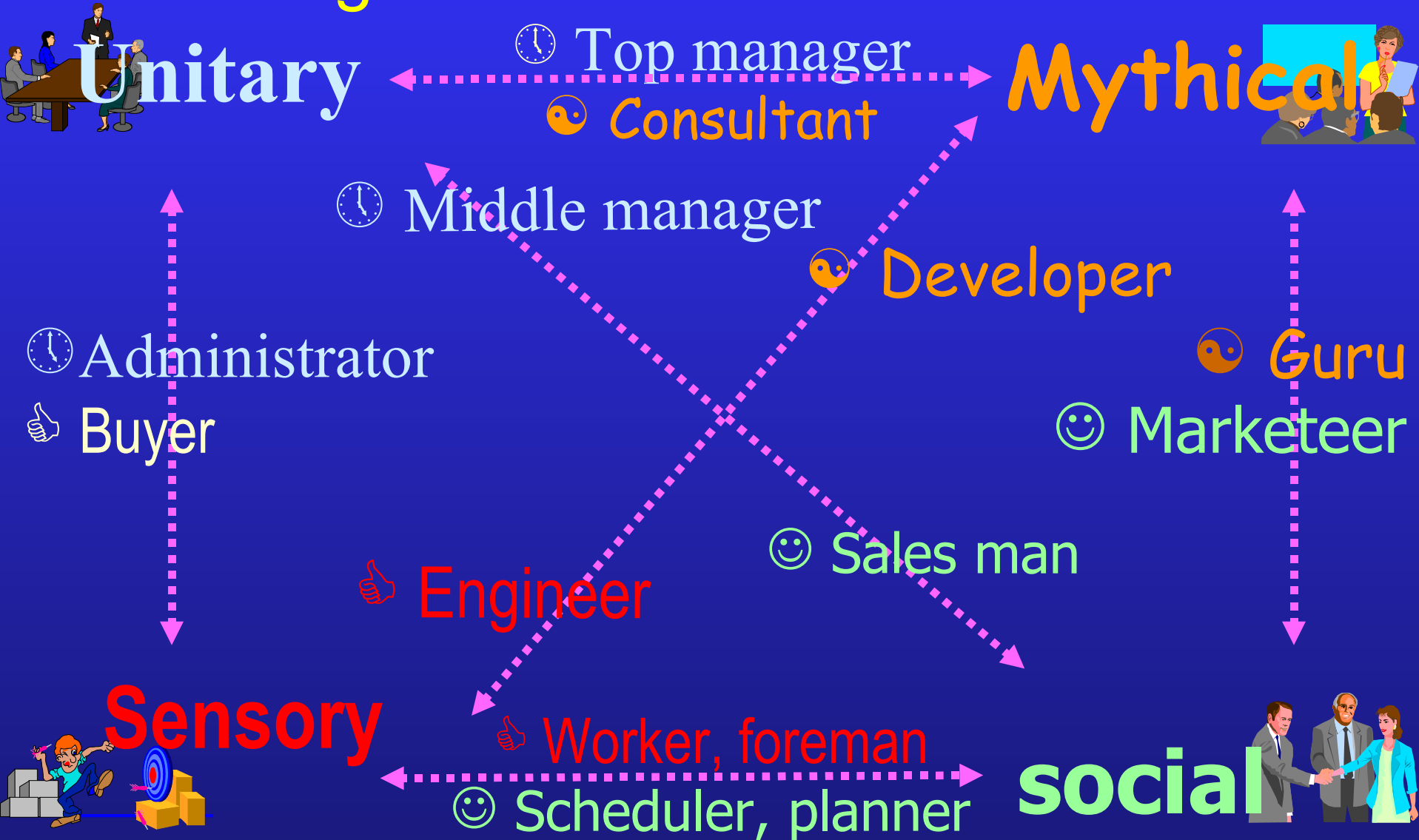
# 1.6 Always combinations



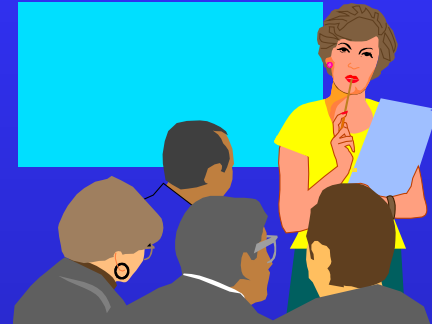
# 1.6 Always combinations



# 1.6 Roles in Supply Chain Management



# 1.7 Four views on change ...

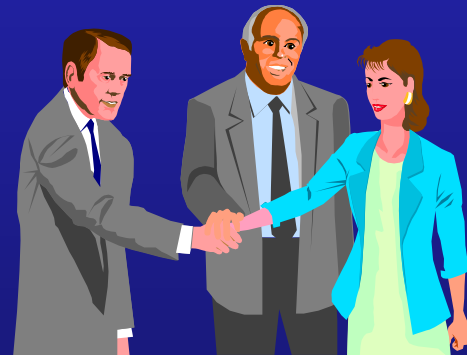


**“Only if I want it”**

**“Explain rules and principles”**

**“accepting each other”**

**“Cause and effects”**



## 1.8 Views expresses preferences for:



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## 2. Inform on implications for SCM

We need more than one map if we are going to imagine solutions.

Barbara Katz Rothman  
Genetic Maps and Human Imagination

## 2.2 Supply Chain Management concerns itself with two questions

1. When is the delivery due?  
(promised, scheduled, expected)
2. When to start? (procuring, producing, assembling, shipping or delivering)



## 2.3 Answering these questions requires

Making commitments on expectations

Requirements, wants, problems, needs

Communicating agreements

Functions, design, prices and due date

Confiding in rules and principles

Planning, people, resources, laws

Co-operating to reach mutual goals

Material products, actions,  
rescheduling

## 2.4 A circular process



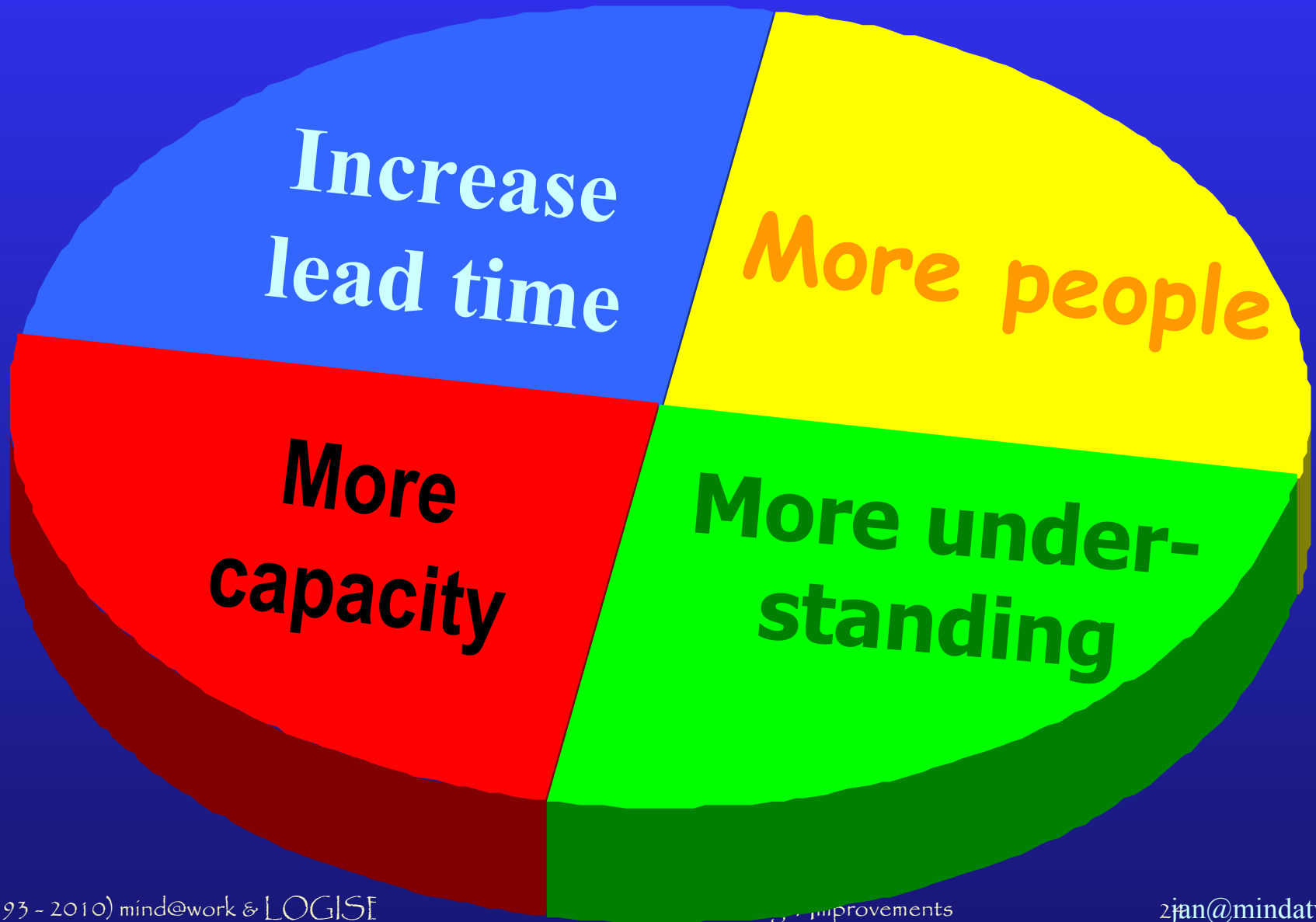
## 2.5 What is logistical problem?

- ✘ A problem is the difference between expectations and *reality* - usually associated with a negative feeling.
- ✘ Too early? Too much? Too many? Too good? No problemo!
- ✘ Too late? Too little? Not enough? Quality lacking?

## 2.6.1 What causes the problem?



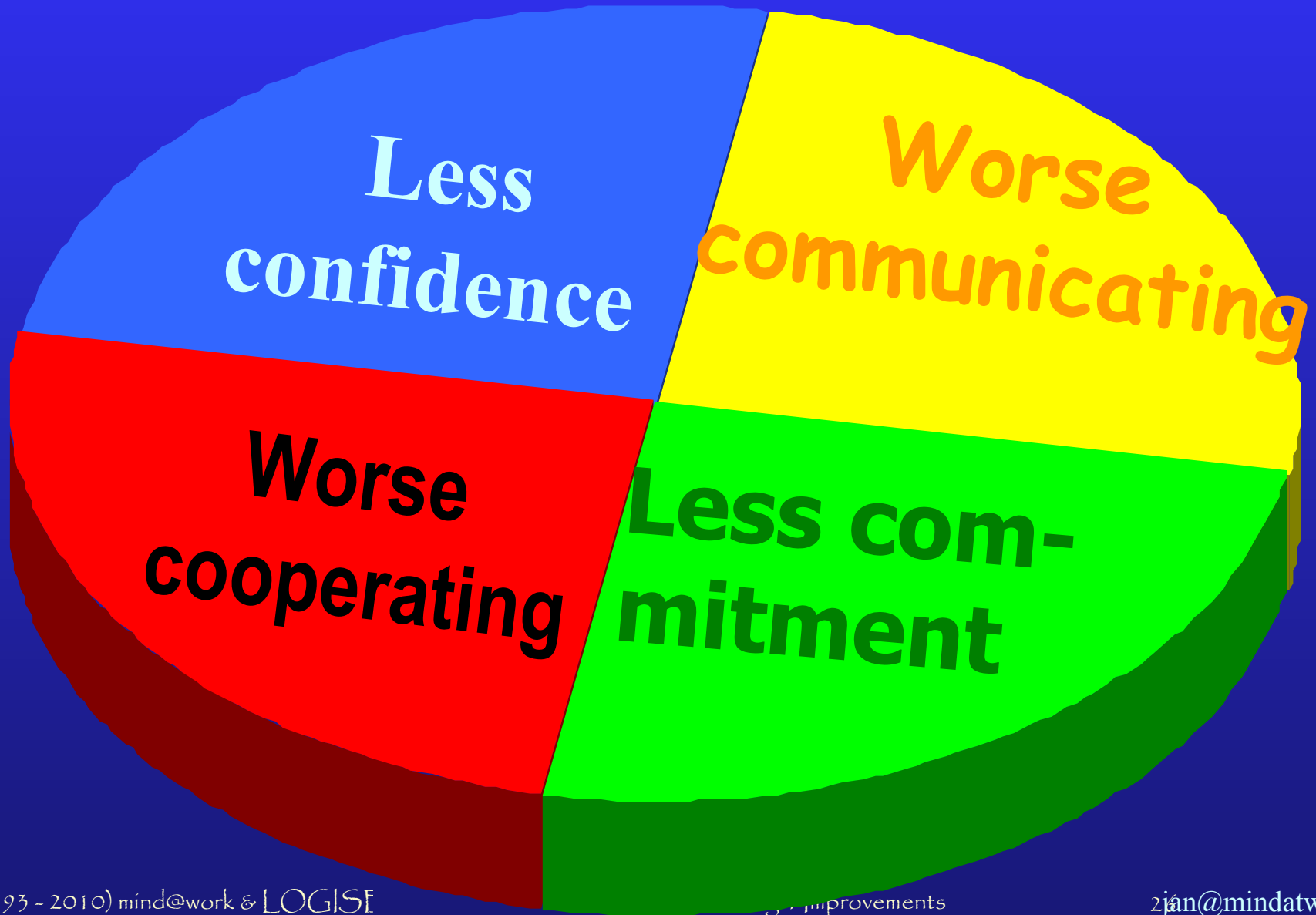
## 2.6.2 First reaction to problems:



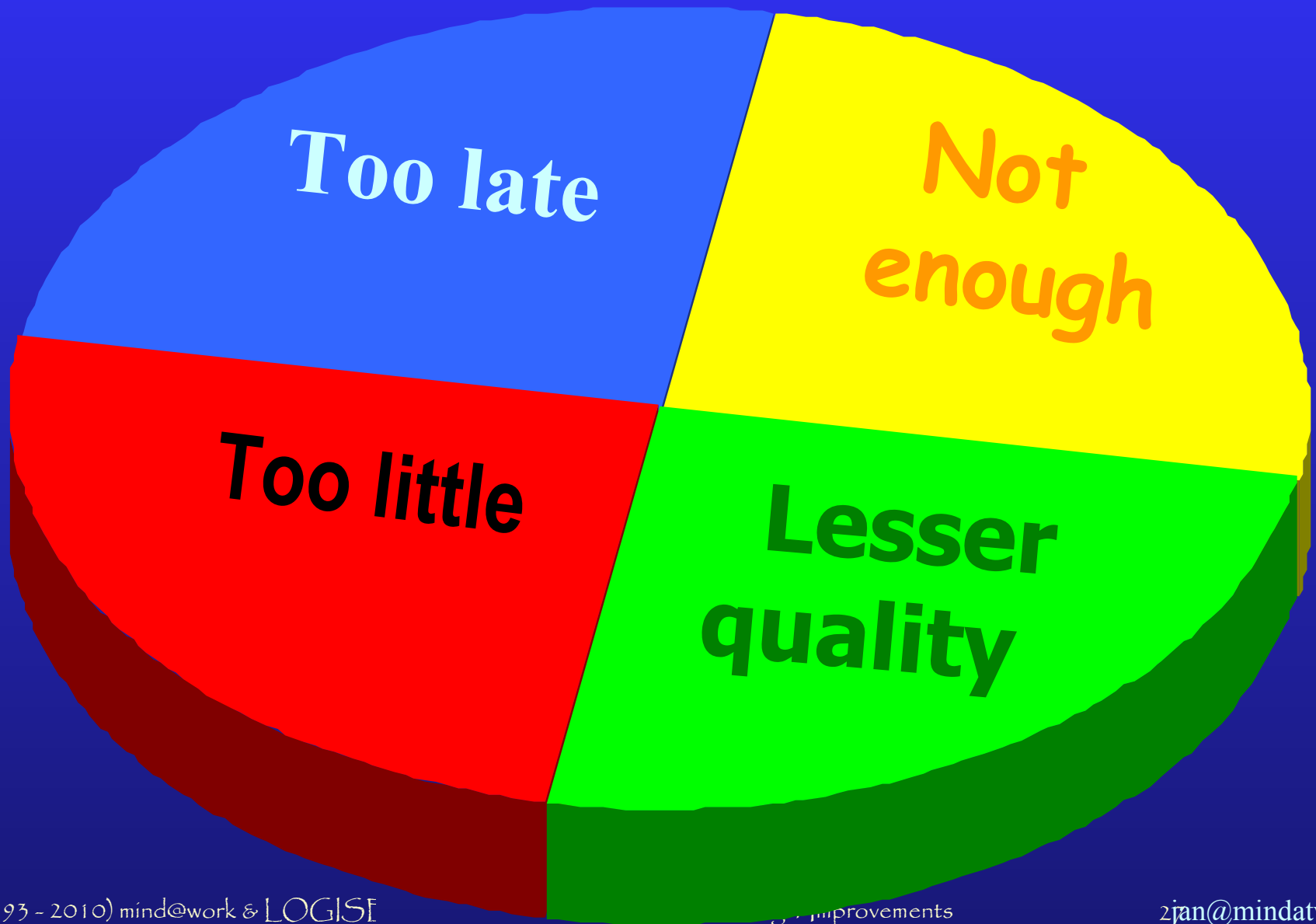
## 2.6.3 which creates:



2.6.4 and leads to:



2.6.5 and reinforces the problem.



## 2.7 Providing 4 improvements

Problem solving is inherently paradoxical  
as we frame

- ✗ problems consistent with our own reality
  - ✗ solutions consistent with the problem
  - ✗ methods consistent with the solution
- and can no longer consistently improve
- ✗ We're going to look into it more closely

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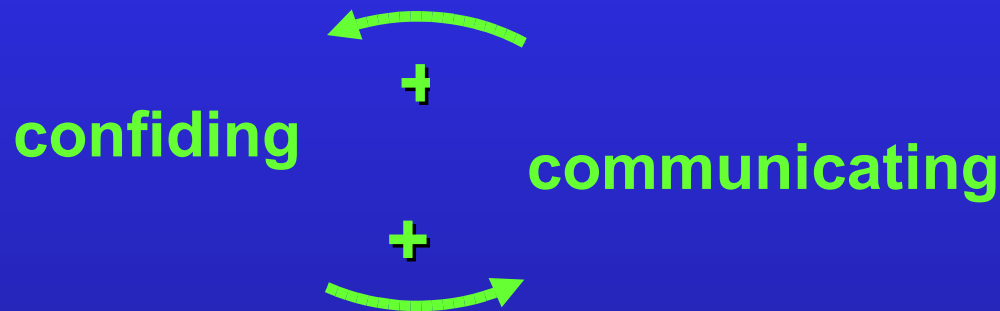
# 3.1 Learning Logistics

Solutions and problems are one,  
dynamical system

Improving means shifting the whole  
system

Solving problems through one method  
creates problems that cannot be solved  
by the same method

## 3.2 Reinforcing loops



- ✗ + = positively coupled: up and up or down and down
- ✗ More communication stimulates growth of trust
- ✗ Less communication reduces levels of trust (or confidence and commitment and co-operation)

## 3.2 4-C model - kernel



## 3.3.2 4-C Model - Confiding



More trust allows for shorter lead times

**Shorter lead times brings inventory**

Less inventory brings, .... after some time (/ /).... more confidence

## 3.4.1 Learning Logistics: 4C-model

Based on system archetypes (not treated in this presentation)

Summary model, based on confiding, communicating, co-operating and committing

4C's = Confiding, Communicating, Co-operating, Committing

## 3.4.2 Legend

*Confiding* = process, so a verb

Lead time = system variable, is a parameter, but not a ...

Inventory = system observable, objectively measurable



Indirect (/+/ or /-/) effects explained with system archetypes

# Note: parameter versus observable

## Parameter

- ✗ Inside
- ✗ Used explaining system
- ✗ Used in info system
- ✗ Can be chosen or varied
- ✗ Based on assumptions
- ✗ Examples: lead times, agreements

## Observable

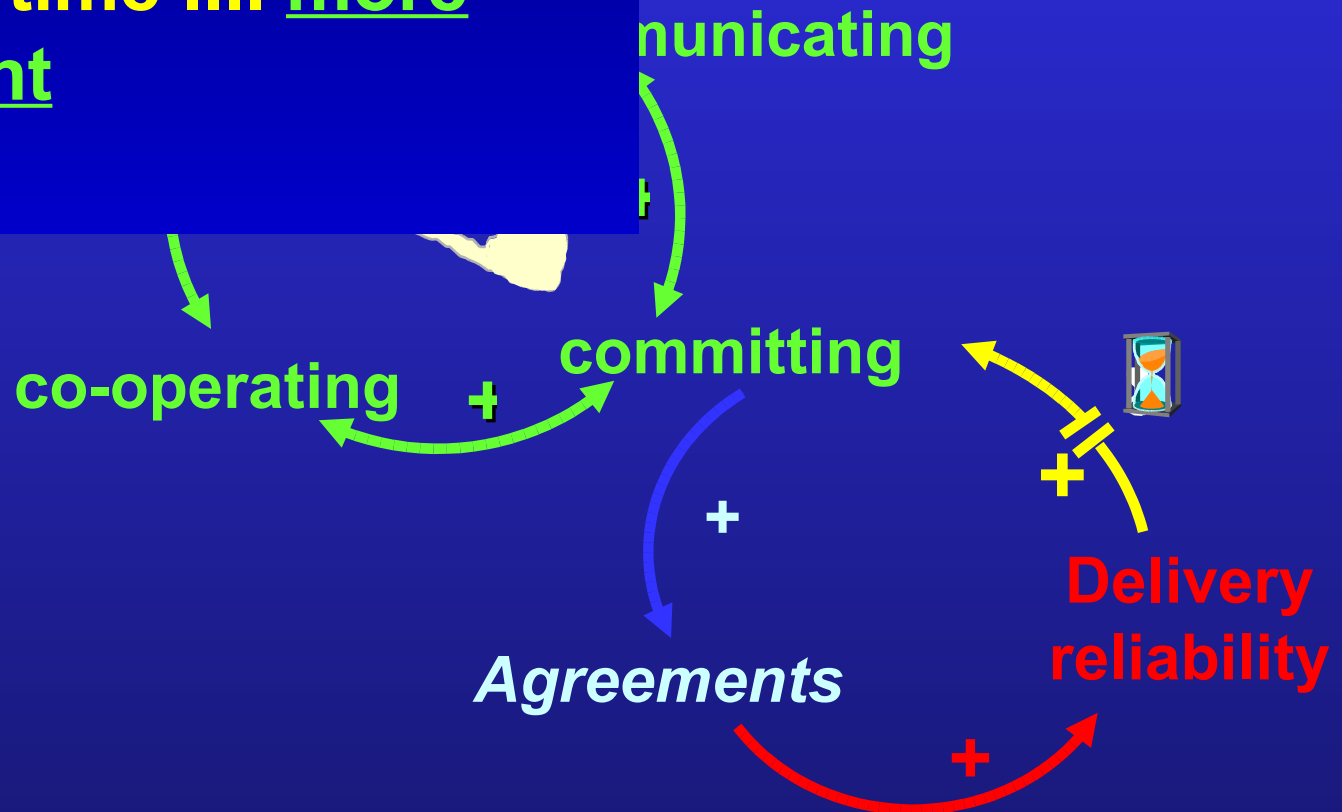
- ✗ Outside
- ✗ Concrete, measurable even when no knowledge of system
- ✗ Varies on choice of parameters
- ✗ Examples: inventory, delivery reliability

more commitment allows for  
better agreements

**better agreements brings  
higher reliability**

Higher reliability leads to, ....  
after some time .... more  
commitment

committing



## 3.5.2 4c-model - communicating



Better communicating is  
about bottleneck capacity

bottleneck management leads  
to higher throughput

Higher throughput brings, ....  
after some time .... better  
communicating

### 3.5.3 4C-

Better co-operating means  
better allocation of tasks

**better task allocation leads to  
less expenses**

Less expenses improves, ....  
after some time .... Co-  
operating

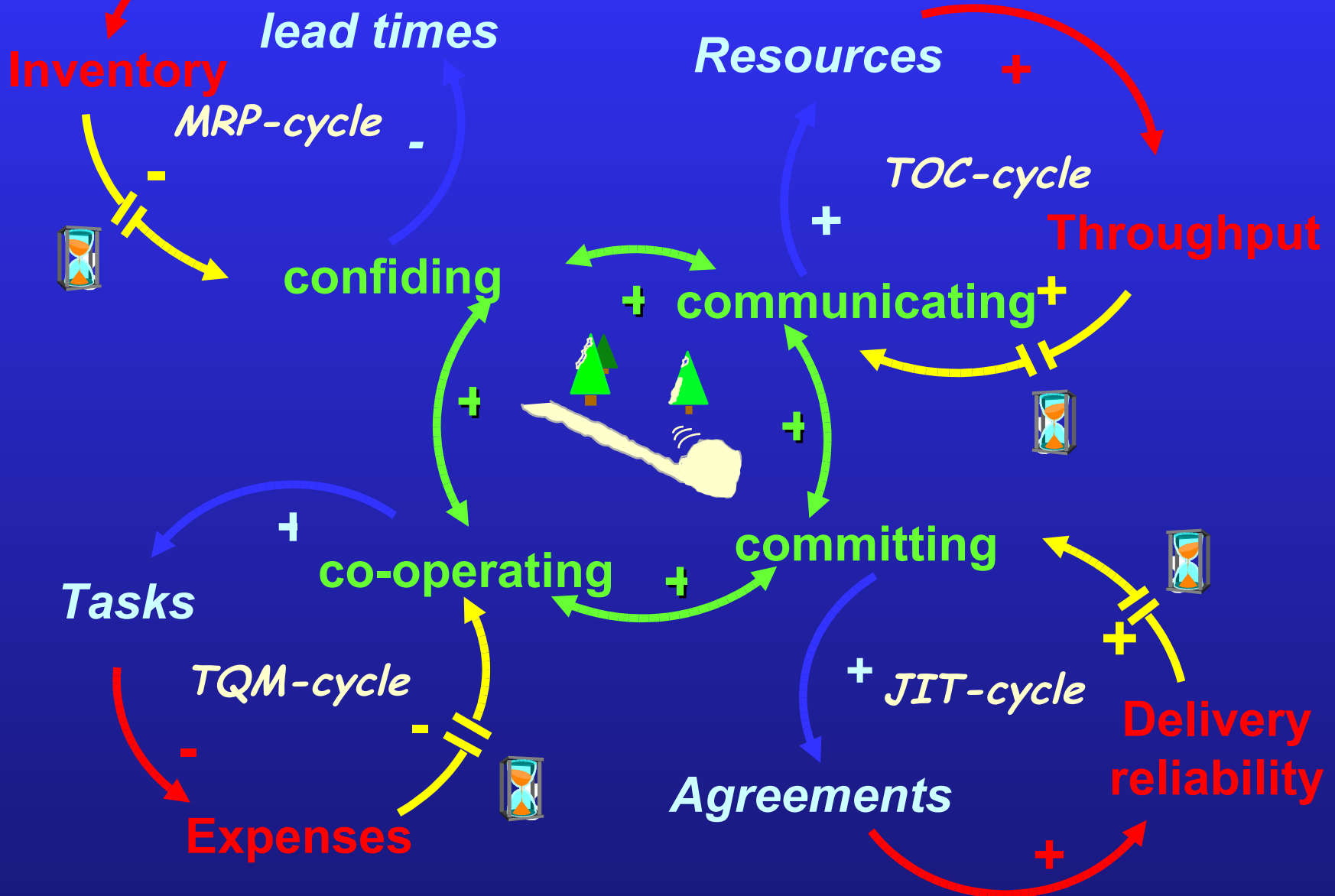


### 3.5.4 4C-model and laws



\* I know, it is a joke on Murphy

# 3.5.4 4C-model and interventions



## 3.5.2 4 Improvement methods

- ✕ ERP (MRP-II) = Planning  
Inventory management through lead times
- ✕ JIT (Just In Time) = Execution  
Manage agreements for delivery reliability
- ✕ TOC (Theory of Constraints) = Scheduling  
Capacity management through bottle necks
- ✕ TQM (Total Quality) = People  
Process management for results

## 3.6 Learning Logistics learns:

Base performance indicators for improvements on logistical observables (in this order:)

- ✓ **Delivery reliability (CLIP)**
- ✓ **Inventory turns ( $TOR = T/I$ )**
- ✓ **Expenses and efficiency ( $E/I$ )**
- ✓ **Return On Investments ( $ROI = (T-E)/I$ )**
- ✓ **Innovation speed ( $T(new)/T$ )**

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## 4.1 Case

- ✖ High-tech electronics' product; engineer on order/sub-assemble on forecast; Throughput 200 - 300 million guilders a year
- ✖ Long lead times, high inventory levels, capacity problems, rapid innovation, high investments, IT-problems, motivation low

## 4.2 Interventions

after crisis control

- ✗ Re-implementation MRP-II system
- ✗ JIT for continuous improvement
- ✗ OPT (TOC) critical capacities
- ✗ TQM to increase yield

## 4.3 Facilitative intervention techniques

- ✕ Meetings brainstorming with cards
- ✕ Gaming
- ✕ Training and education
- ✕ Visits
- ✕ Modelling and experimenting proposed solutions
- ✕ Consulting “on the floor”

## 4.4 MRP-II or ERP

- ✗ Eliminate slack from ERP system
- ✗ Information orientation (browser) replaces transaction orientation (menu-driven)
- ✗ Non-standard solutions on basis of standard modules
- ✗ Daily scheduling via “sequencing” (see next slide) **central**

## 4.4.2 ERP: Sequencing

### Planning:

- ✓ planner: sequences highest mix of order lines (!) for a day in order of expected release
- ✓ release order line as late as possible
- ✓ always reschedule not released order lines

### Production:

- ✓ factory floor accepts actively
- ✓ process oldest released order line first
- ✓ 1 list, actualised with remarks

## 4.5 Just in Time

- ✗ Kanban size = 1: used in timing release of customer order line
- ✗ Order line as late as possible
- ✗ Priorities in execution: oldest released order line first (not on due date!)
- ✗ New production lay outs
- ✗ Delivery reliability: 95%, later 100%

## 4.6 Theory or Constraints

- ✗ “Mixed model”-production line (1 line replaced 4 parallel production lines)
- ✗ Everything produced on customer order only, including 20.000 different cables
- ✗ Release high mix of orders
- ✗ Priorities with problems: oldest released order line first
- ✗ Throughput/inventory increased (5 -10 times)

## 4.7 Total Quality Management

- ✕ Reduce expenses
- ✕ Reduce “sigma”: zero defects
- ✕ New skills, cross-training
- ✕ Teams: buyer, engineering, production, store room, planning
- ✕ Extensive training in co-operating, gaming
- ✕ Integrated quality function on factory floor

## 4.8 Results

- ↗ Accurate data, reliable system
- ↗ Delivery reliability 100%
- ↗ Inventory Turns: 0,8   2   5   10
- ↗ No bottle necks in production →
- ↗ Mixed Model production lines
- ↗ Reduction of inventory, floor space, expenses
- ↗ Cross trained people

## 4.9 Continuous improvement

- ✕ Learning Logistics
- ✕ Cross training, quality integrated
- ✕ Production shifted to other factories by work force
- ✕ Mentality to deliver service
- ✕ Shift production to low wage countries by factory people
- ✕ Rapid innovations, short time to market
- ✕ Searching for new markets

## 4.10 In the end ...

- ↓ Inventory costs no longer part of factory cost price
- ↑ m2 - prices higher
- ↓ Change over costs out of cost price
- ↓ No reduction quoted lead times
- ↓ No new markets
- ↓ Reorganisation
- ↓ First factory to be closed down

## 4.12 Conclusions

- ✗ Use ERP, TQM, JIT and TOC for logistical improvement
- ✗ Do not use longer lead times, more capacity, more people or less quality to solve problems.
- ✗ 100% delivery reliability, then lower stocks, less expenses and finally the bottle neck: higher throughput.
- ✗ Paradox: success will bring problems

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## 5.1 Provisions for improvements

“Nobody will talk about Christmas with the turkey”

ipse dicit

## 5.2 Asbhy's law

- ✕ *Law of the requisite variety*
- ✕ *“The law of Requisite Variety says that  $R$ 's capacity as a regulator cannot exceed  $R$ 's capacity as a channel of communication.”.*

*W. Ross Ashby, An Introduction to Cybernetics, Chapman & Hall, London, 1956. Internet (1999): <http://pcp.vub.ac.be/books/IntroCyb.pdf>*

## 5.3 4 *Requisites* for improvement





**Pressure**

## 5.4.1 What must ..?

**Results lacking or stay behind**

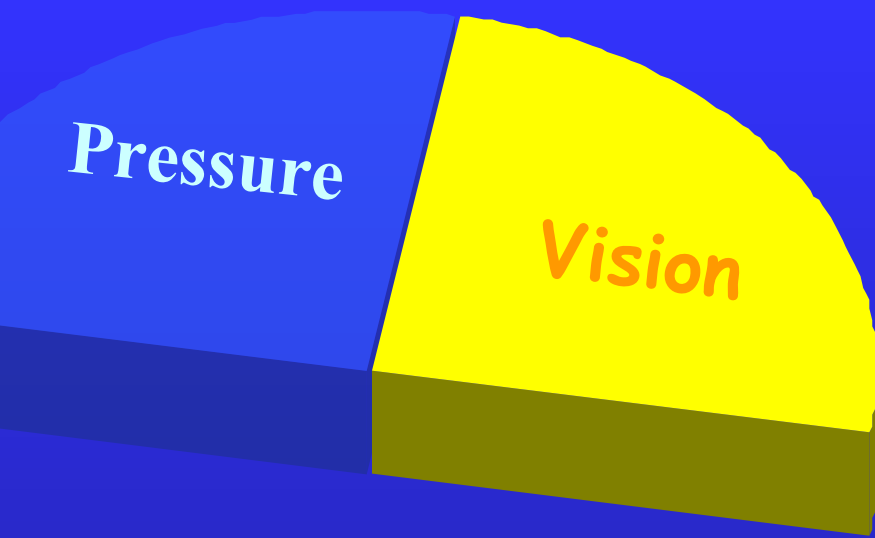
**More of the same doesn't work**

**The boss wants it**

**Faster information exchange**

**Pressure from colleagues, suppliers,  
customers**

**ERP provides pressure**



## 5.4.2 Why will ....?

Orientation on future  
New ideas, possibilities  
Vision creates images of future  
Looking ahead  
New systems available  
TOC provides vision



Pressure

Vision

Action  
plan

7.4.3 How can ...?

Actions on short time goals,  
improvements and successes  
Action programs for implementation  
Doing things  
Management and control of results  
Technical infrastructure  
Just In Time provides actions



Accepting changes, taking care  
Intentions

Involvement of participants

Empathy for the effects of improvements  
on others

Quality improvement provides care

## 5.4.5 If unprovided for ...



# Summary

Four different expressions of self ==> four  
different approaches to improvement

Reflected in ERP, TOC, JIT and TQM

Four different measurable goals

Providing for effective, intentional  
improvements requires attention to  
these four:

Care, vision, pressure and action.