The Knowledge-Based Software Assistant Program

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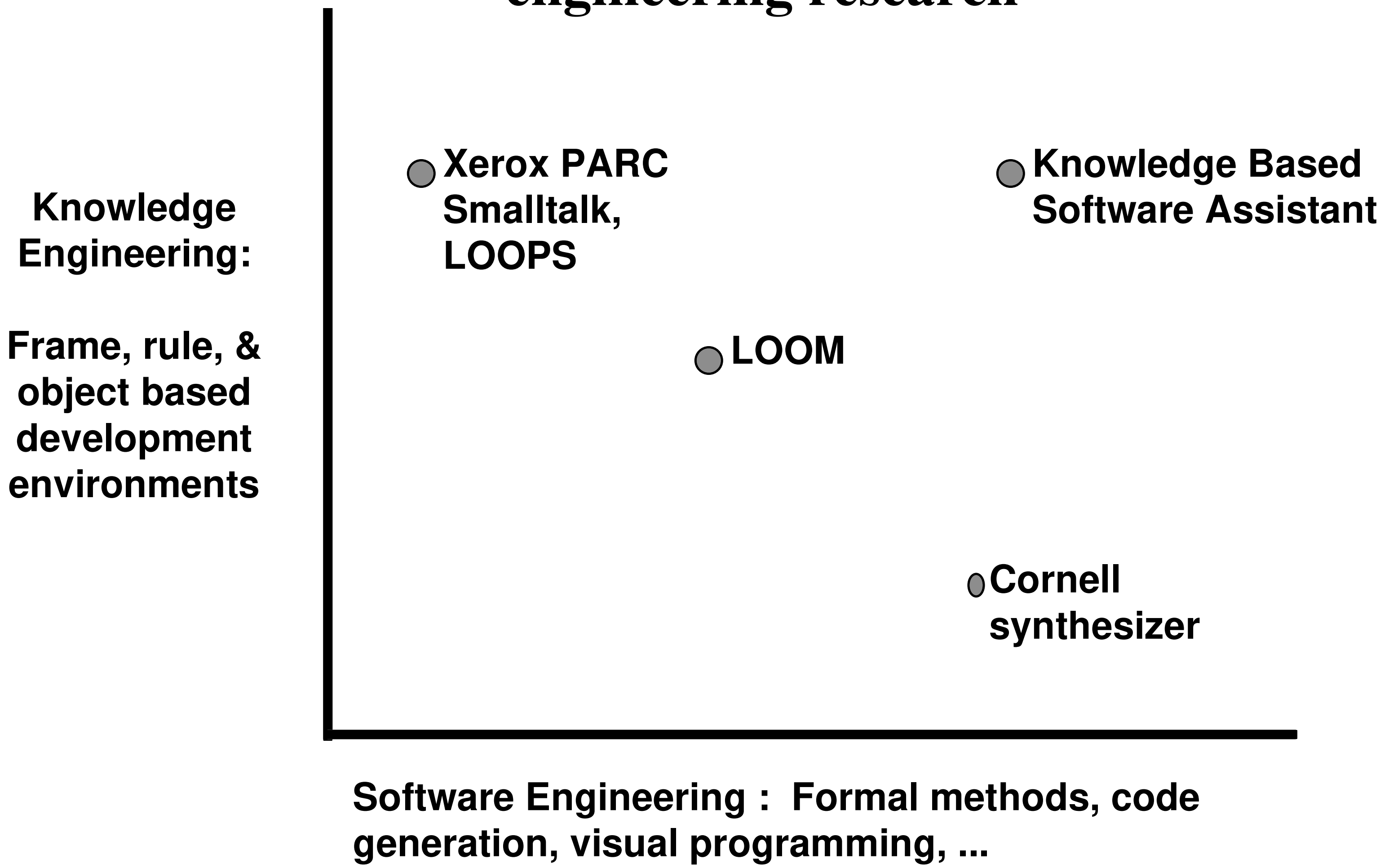
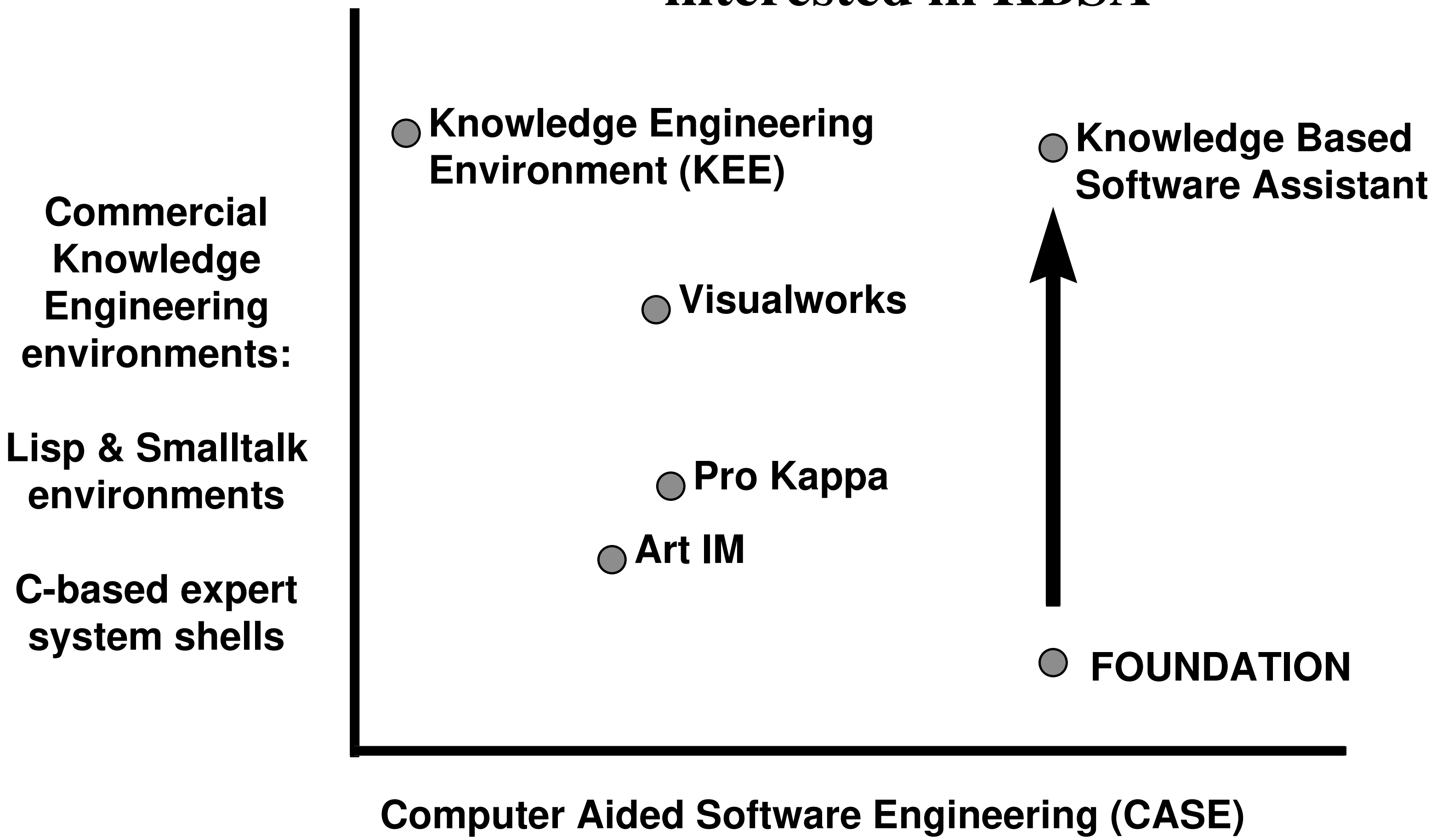
KBSA integrates knowledge & software engineering research



Why Andersen Consulting is interested in KBSA



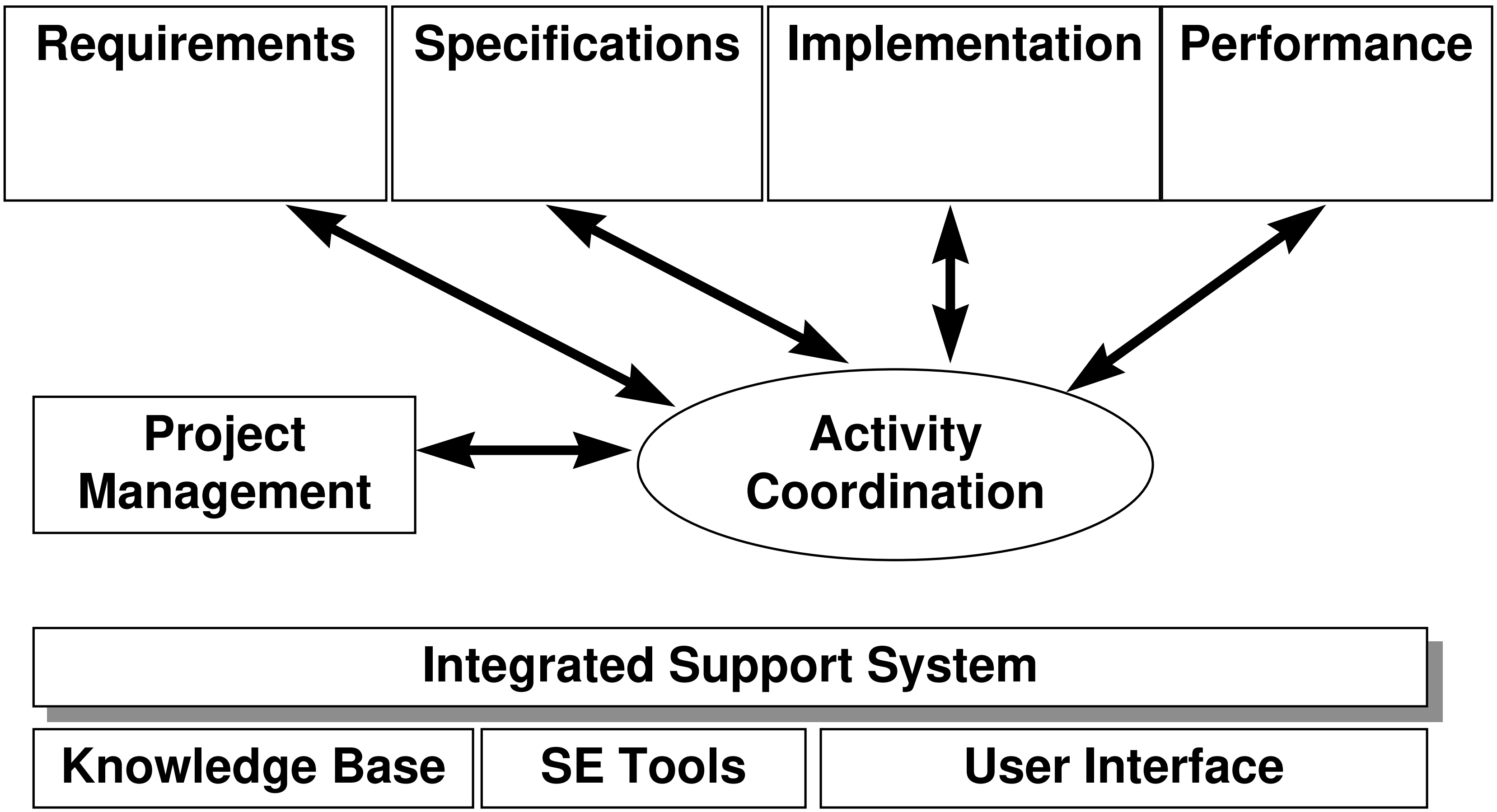
Initial Idea: Can we automate software development via AI?

- Success of rule-based systems applied to diagnosis in avionics domain
- Initial attempts
  - translation of natural language to code
  - automatic programming

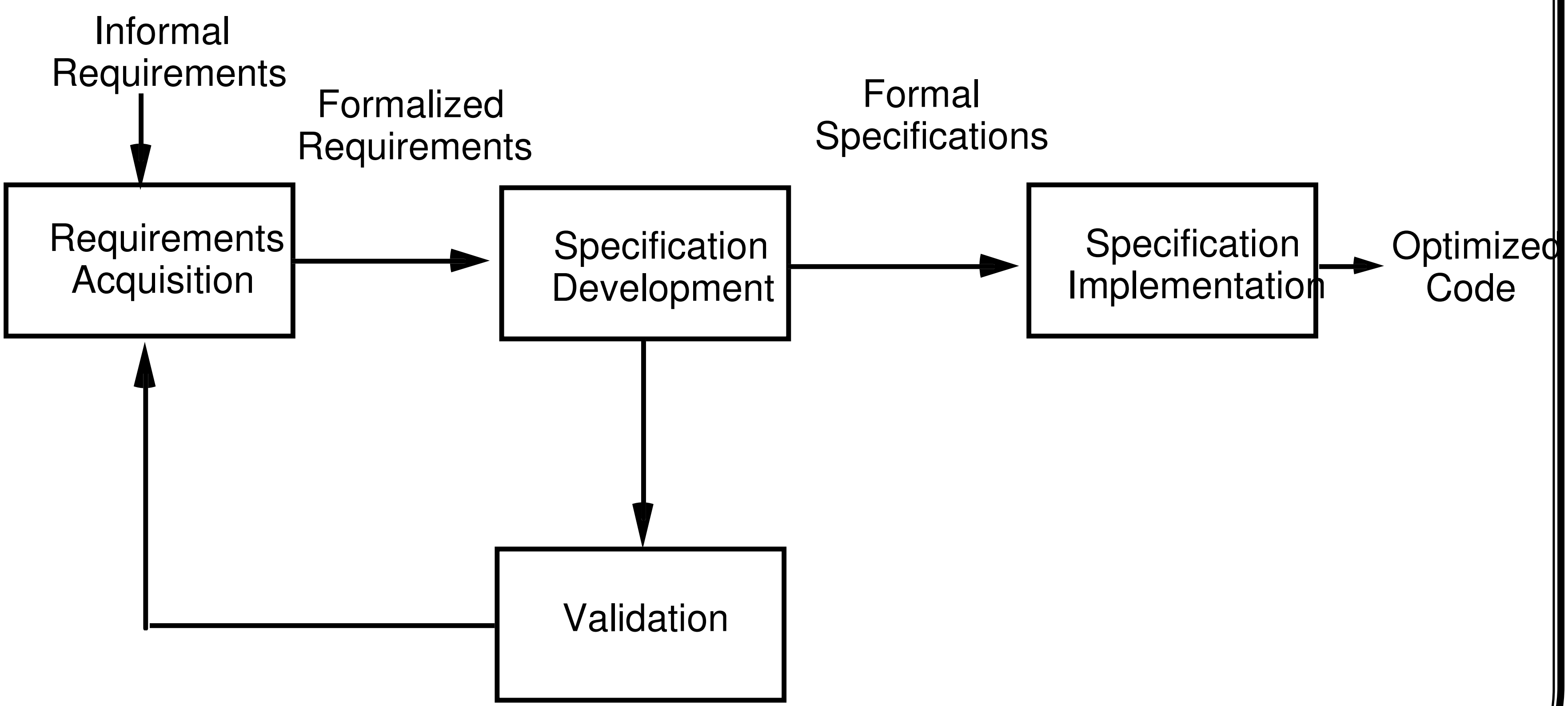
Initial Result: Can we automate software development via AI?
No!!!

- Design problems vs. deterministic problems
- Need for common sense reasoning
- Result: move from automation to "intelligent assistance"
  - seminal KBSA paper by Balzer, Cheatham, Green, Luckham, & Rich for Rome Laboratory

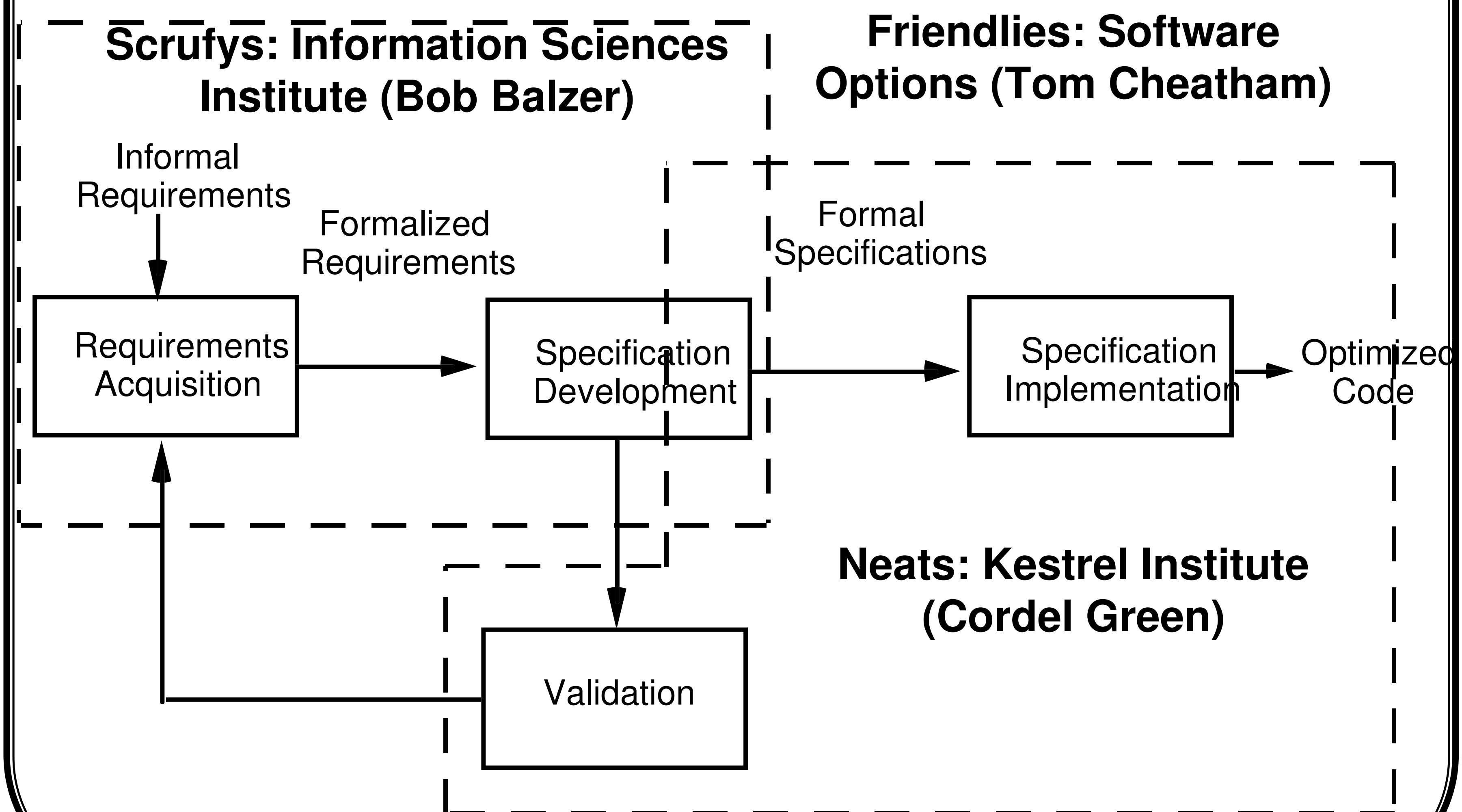
KBSA Architecture



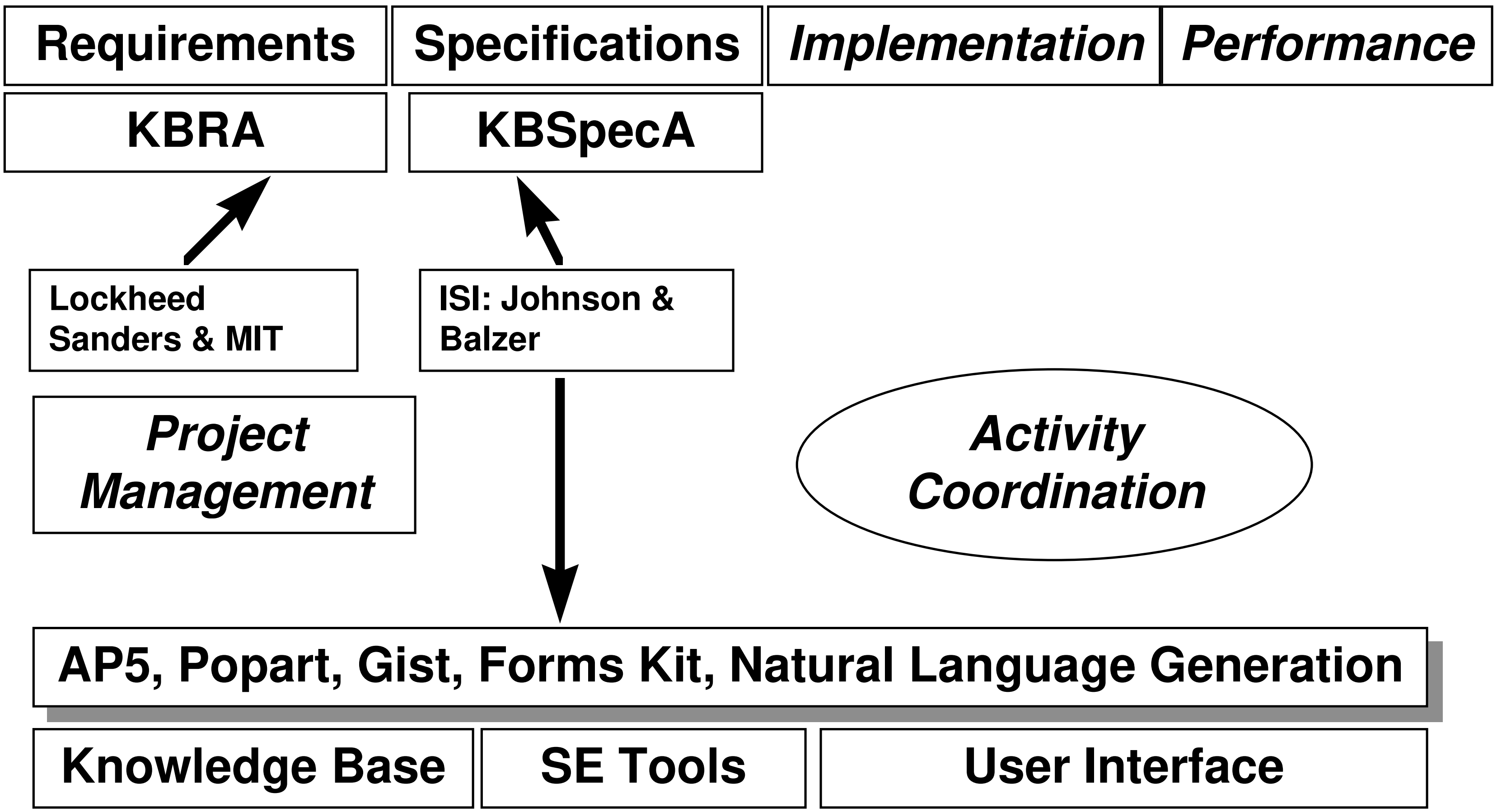
Simplified KBSA Process Model



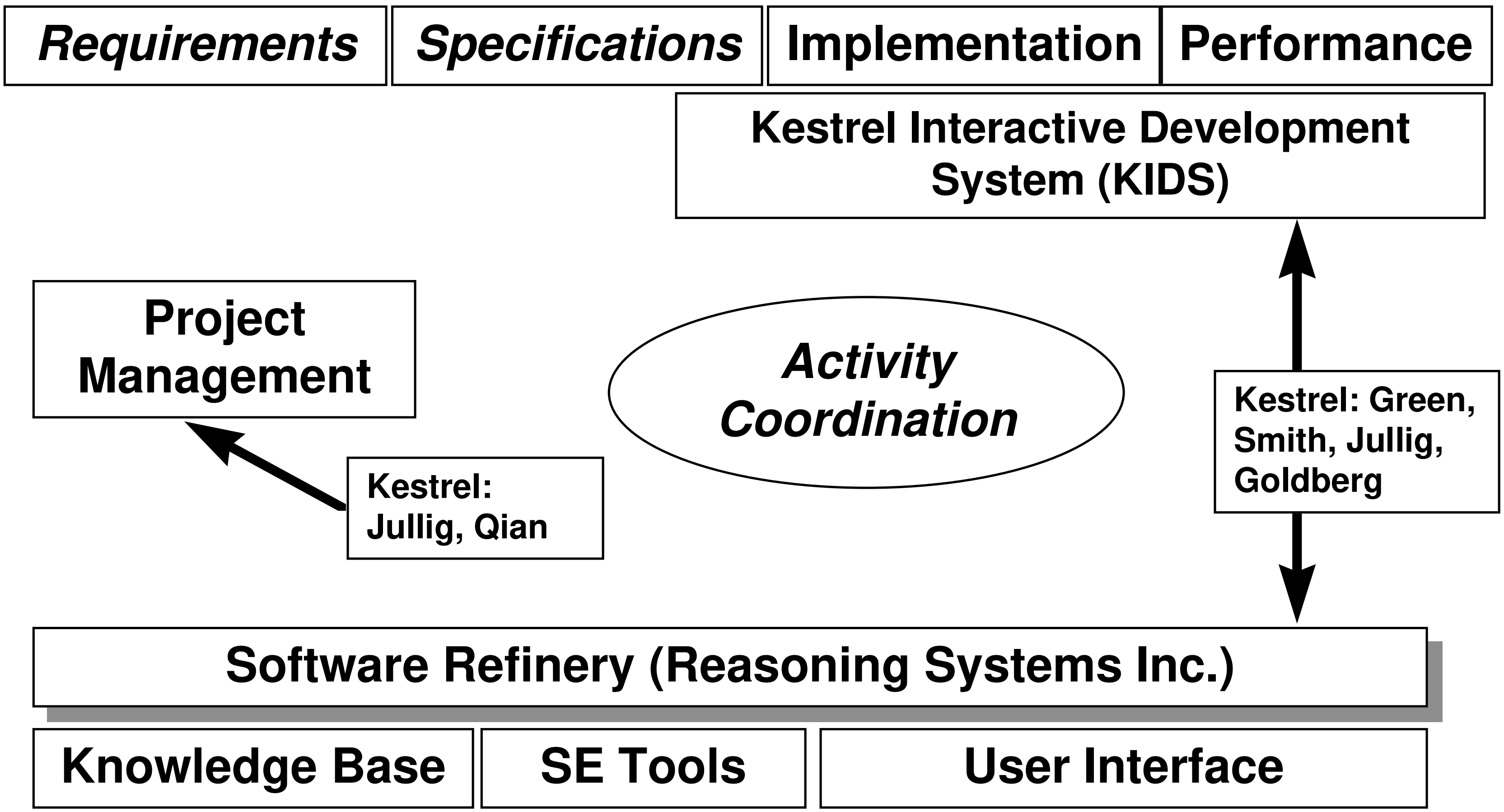
Scruffys, Neats & Friendlies



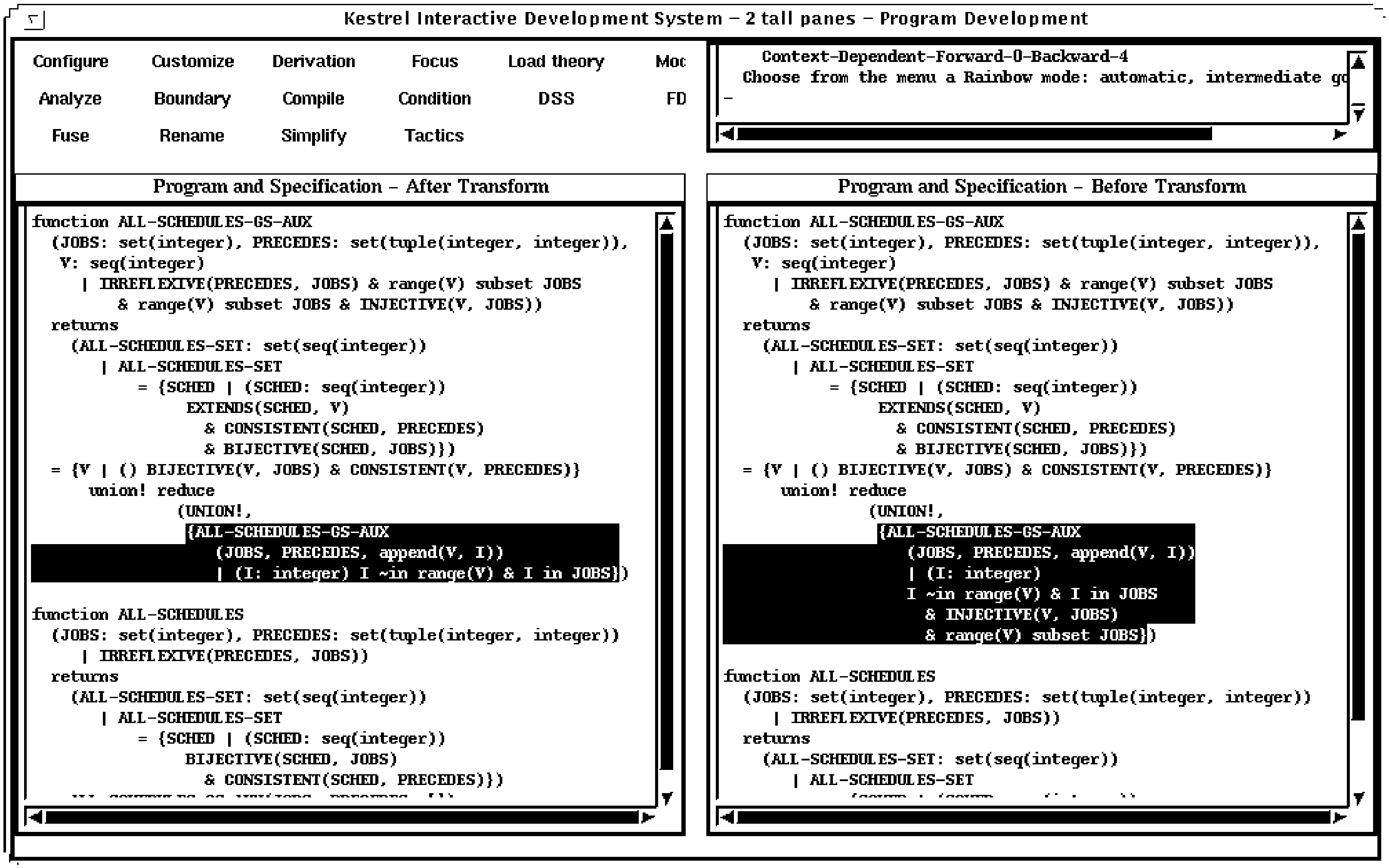
Scruffys: Information Sciences Institute



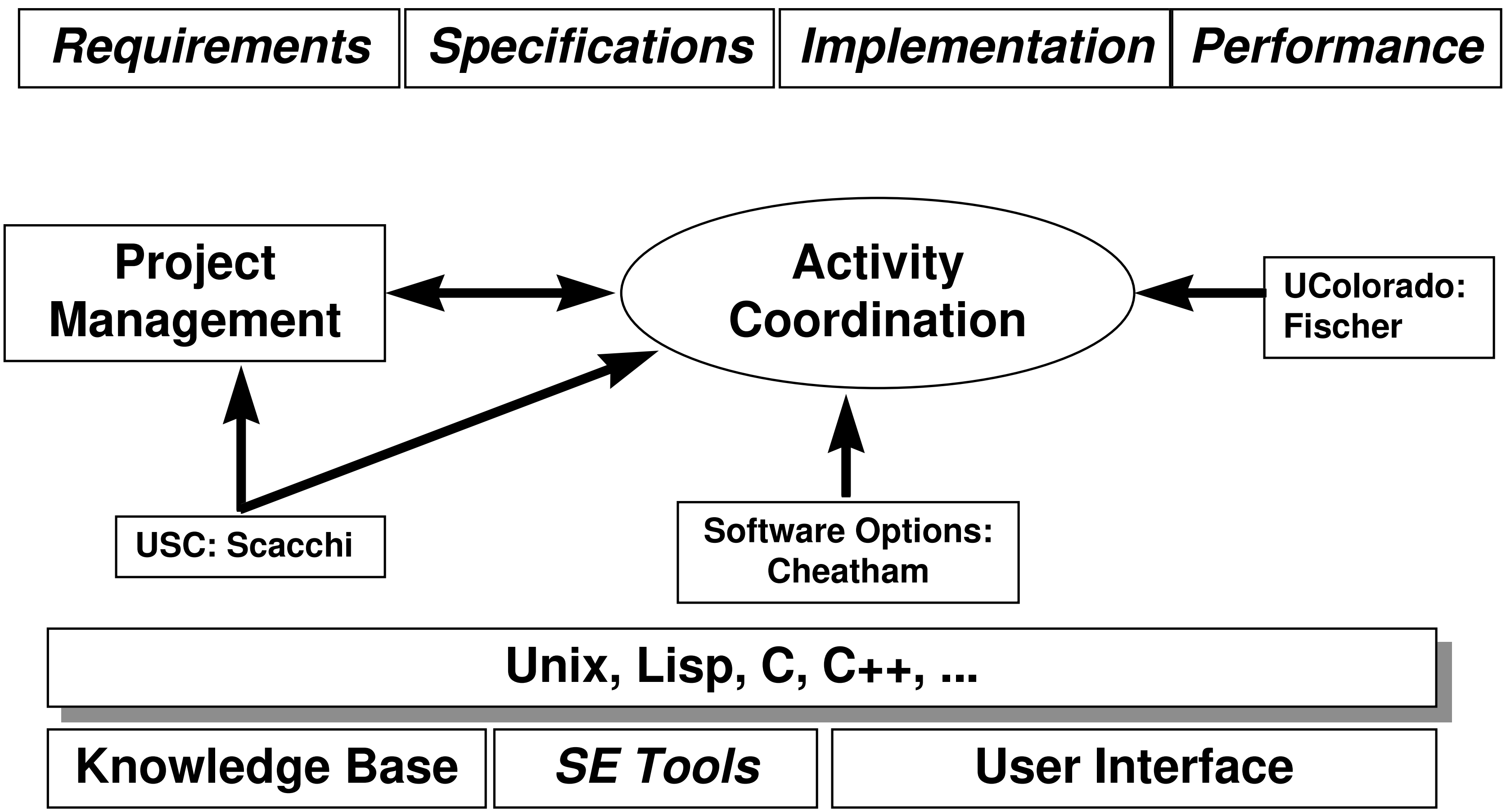
Neats: Kestrel Institute



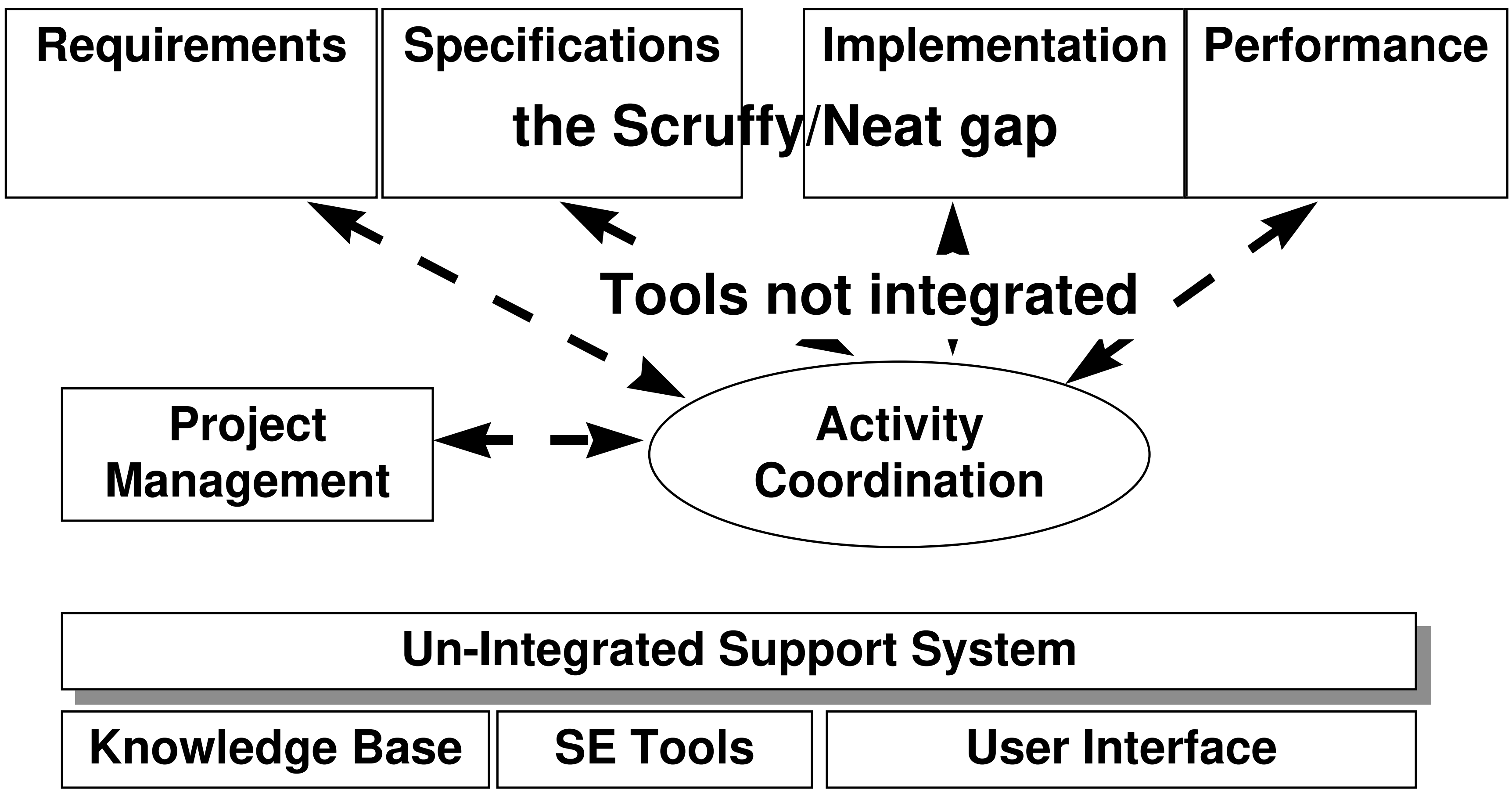
Kestrel Interactive Development System



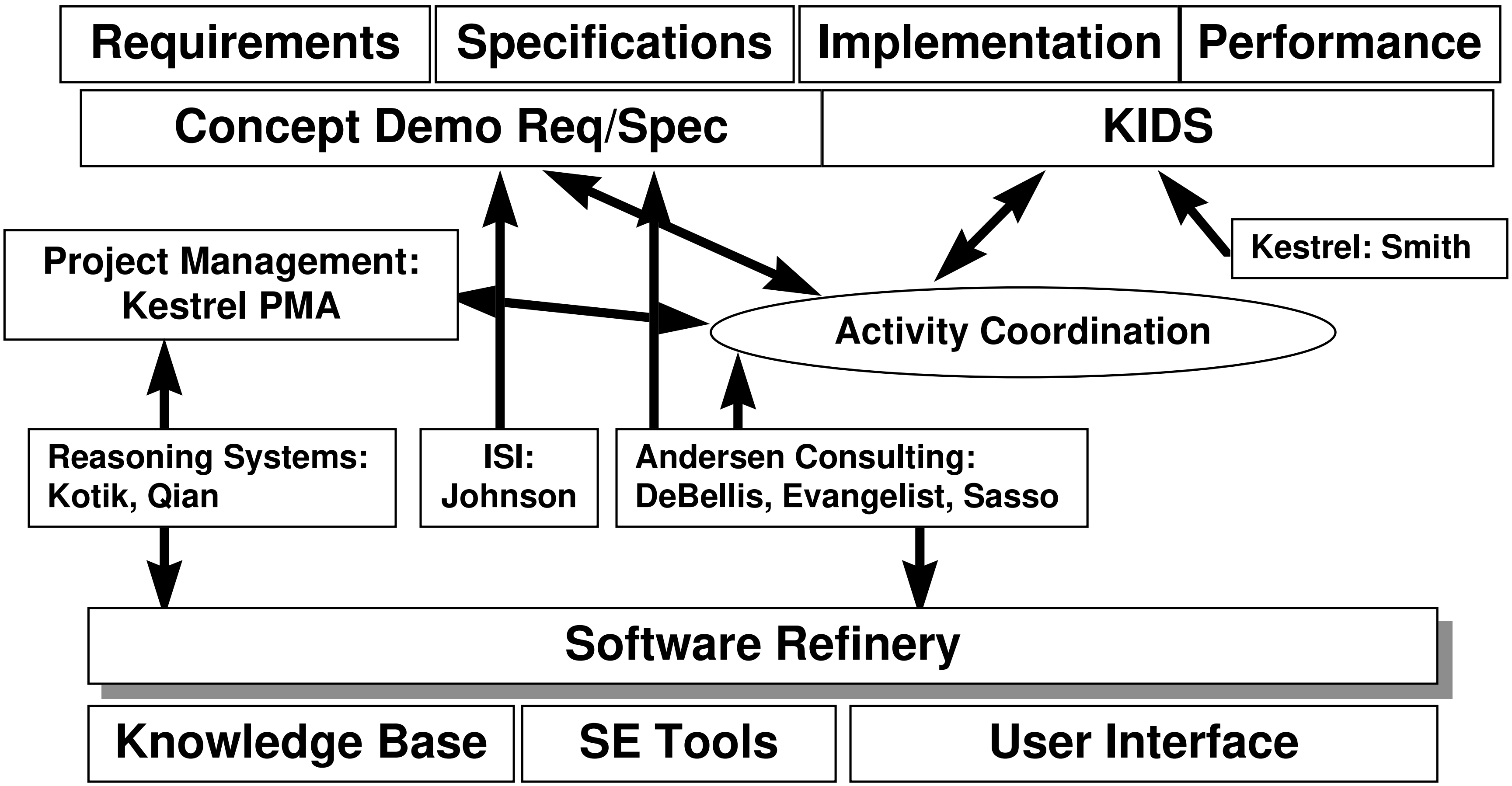
Friendlies: USC, Software Options, UColorado



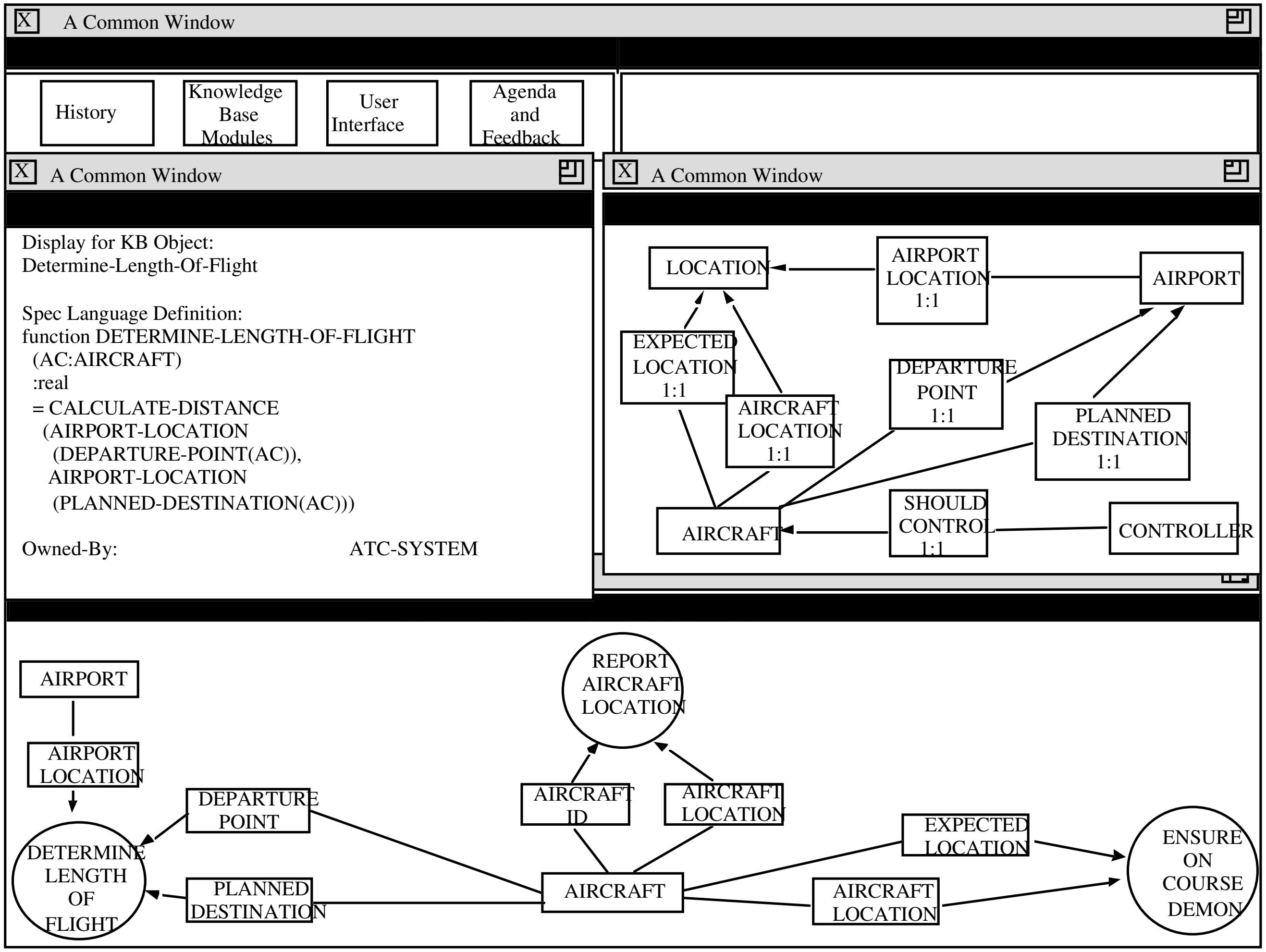
Problems from Phase 1 Development



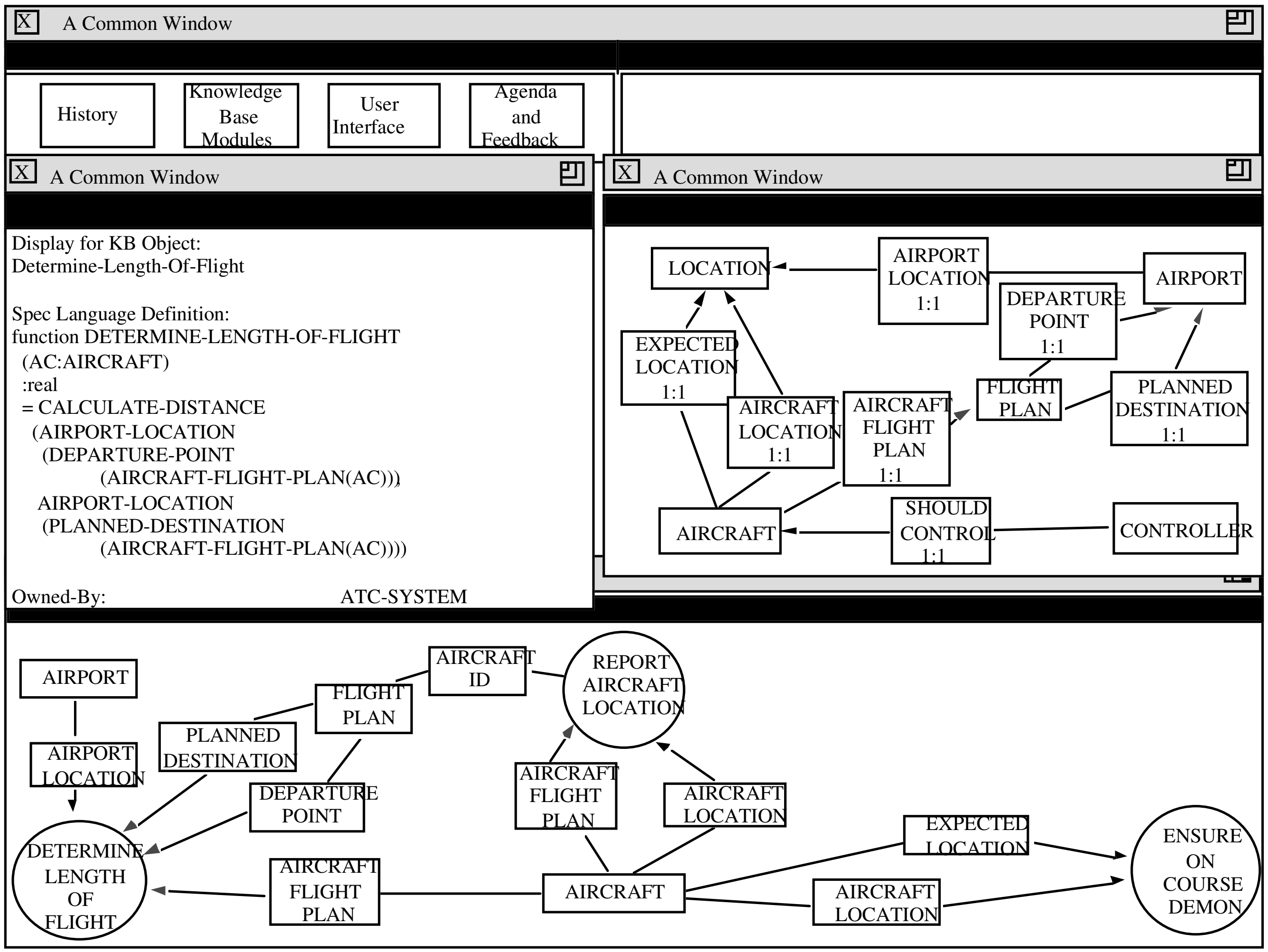
Phase 2 (integration): KBSA Concept Demo



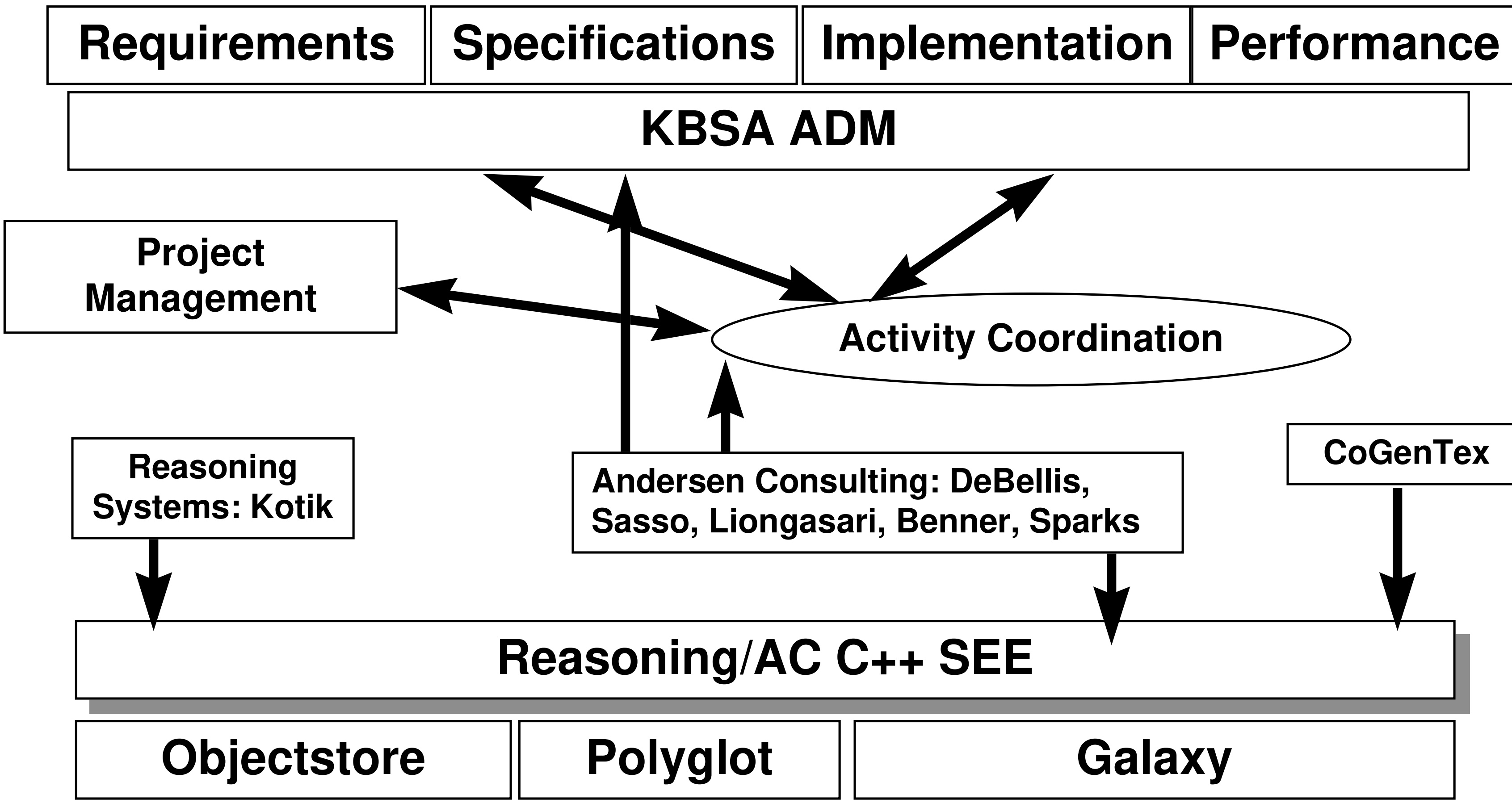
KBSA Concept Demo



KBSA Concept Demo



Phase 3 (advanced development): KBSA Advanced Development Model (ADM)



Some Personal Opinions: Where did we go wrong?

- Didn’t market well
- Ignored the end user
- Programmers should be coordinated not eliminated
  - Spec languages as high-level programming languages
  - Formal environments that require Ph.D. programmers

Some Personal Opinions: Where did we go right? software engineering

- Integrated graphic views of underlying spec language
- Specification evolution transformations
- Provably correct specifications and transformations
- Powerful tool for algorithm development
- Software re-engineering tools

Some Personal Opinions: Where did we go right? knowledge engineering

- Intelligent assistance is a better paradigm for expert systems
  - Text generation
  - Process modeling for individual and group guidance and coordination

KBSA impact on AC: Object-Oriented Architectures and Tools Project

- Use Object Request Brokers (CORBA & OLE) to integrate tools and applications
- Advanced Development based on KBSA and DSSA research
- $24M Andersen-led team with Raytheon, Expersoft, and CoGenTex; funded by Technology Reinvestment Program

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