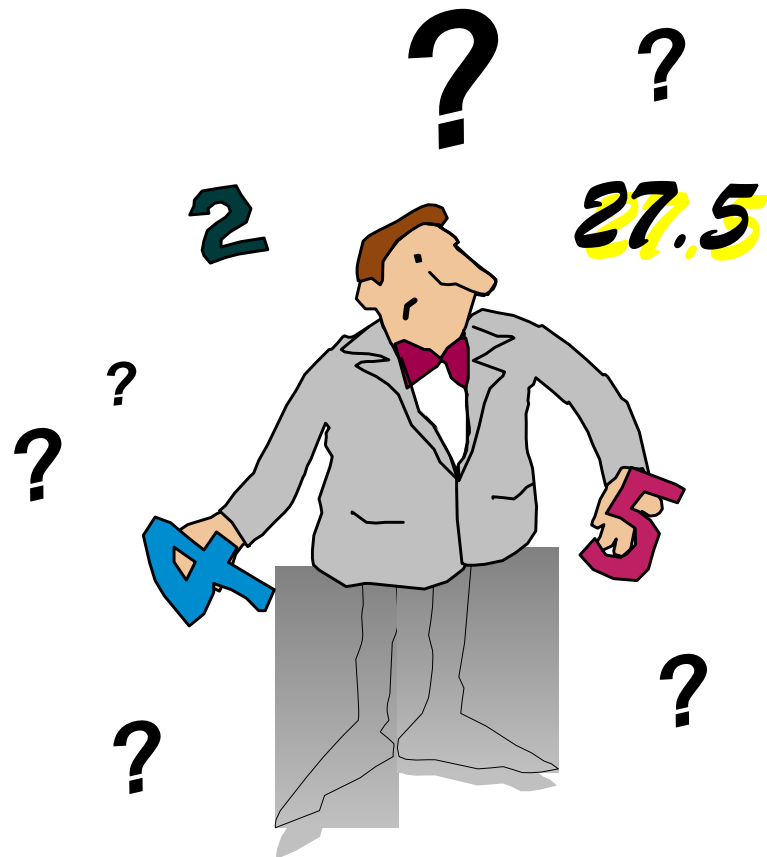


Estimating

Module 6



Discussion



Top-down Estimating

- Top-down estimating results in high-level estimates of projects or their summary tasks based on parametric, analogy or comparison, or expert judgment.
- Based on collecting judgments, past experiences, and on evaluating past data concerning similar activities.

Parametric Estimating

Uses specific measures to estimate the effort required to complete a task or to produce a work product, such as hours per lines of code and dollars per function point.

Advantages

- Can be more accurate and detailed than analogous
- Can be quicker than bottom-up

Disadvantages

- Accuracy varies widely
- Can be more costly to produce
- Historical information may not be available
- Parameters may not be quantifiable or scalable

Analogous Estimating

Use the actual cost of a previous, similar task, activity, or project as the basis for estimating the cost of the current task, activity, or project.

Advantages

- Little time and effort
- Less costly
- Details don't need to be known

Disadvantages

- Less accurate
- Historical information or expert opinion may not be available

Bottom-up Estimating

Cost and duration of individual work items in hours and summarized to a project total.

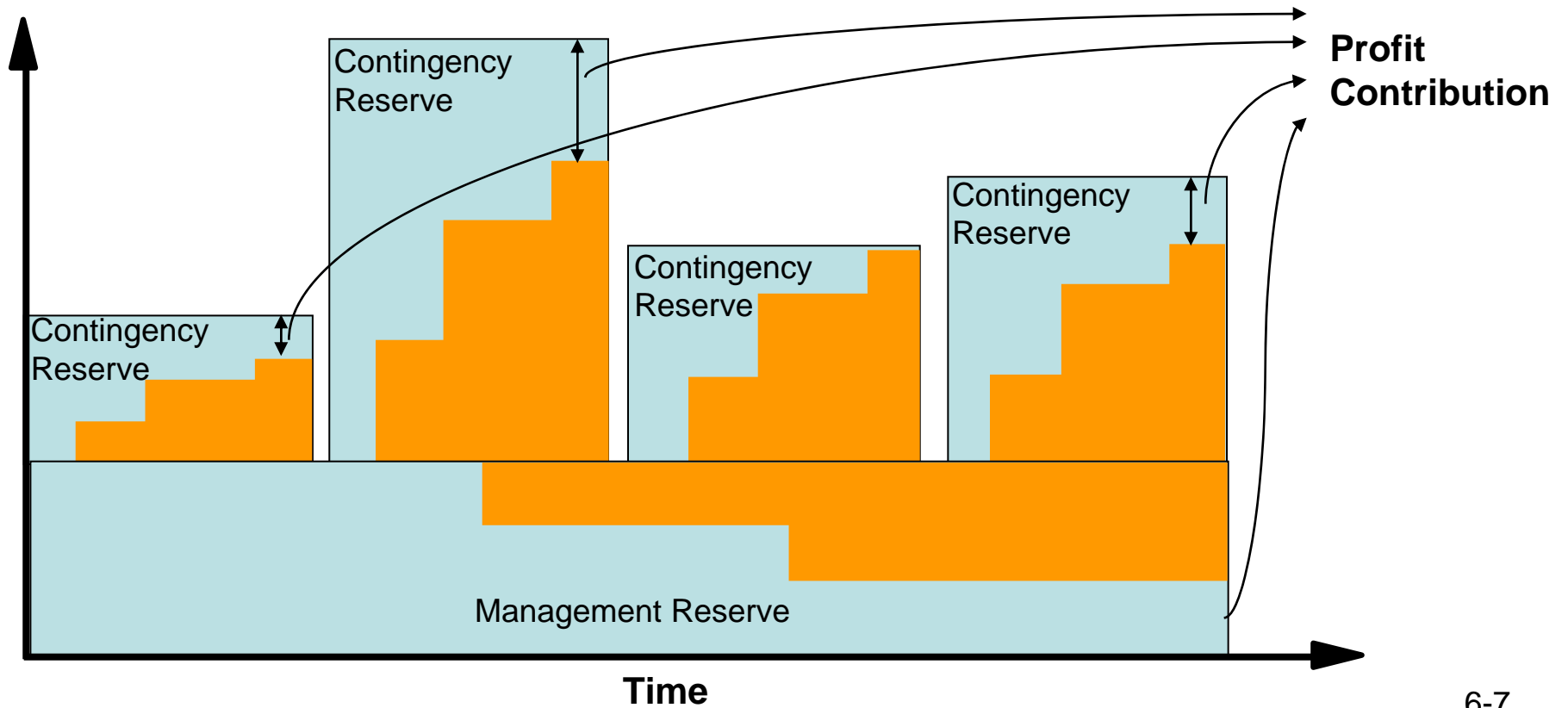
Advantages

- Improved accuracy
- Appropriate detail to monitor and control project
- Provide team buy-in to estimates

Disadvantages

- Longer time
- Higher cost
- Only as accurate as the WBS
- Team members may pad estimates

Contingency and Management Reserve



Create Case Study Estimates

Purpose: Practice creating cost estimates based upon your WBS and resources

Process:

1. Estimate the quantity and cost of equipment and other materials
2. Estimate human resource hours
3. Apply costs to the hours
4. Calculate the total cost

Participation: Teams led by Project Manager

Product: Completed cost estimate template
Be prepared to present your cost estimate



Debrief

- What are the difficult aspects of estimating?
- How do you overcome the difficulties?
- How do you validate your estimates?



PM Feedback

After the case study exercise:

- The PM describes what went well
- The team describes what went well
- The PM describes what could have been better
- The team describes what could have been better
- Hand the feedback forms to the PM
- After providing the PM feedback. Document your on page 44 of the Learning Log.
 - This should include any changes that you plan daily work as a result of this exercise.

