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King Saud University  
College Of Engineering



# **GE105: Introduction to Engineering Design**

## **”Solar Oven Project” Concept Generation and Evaluation**

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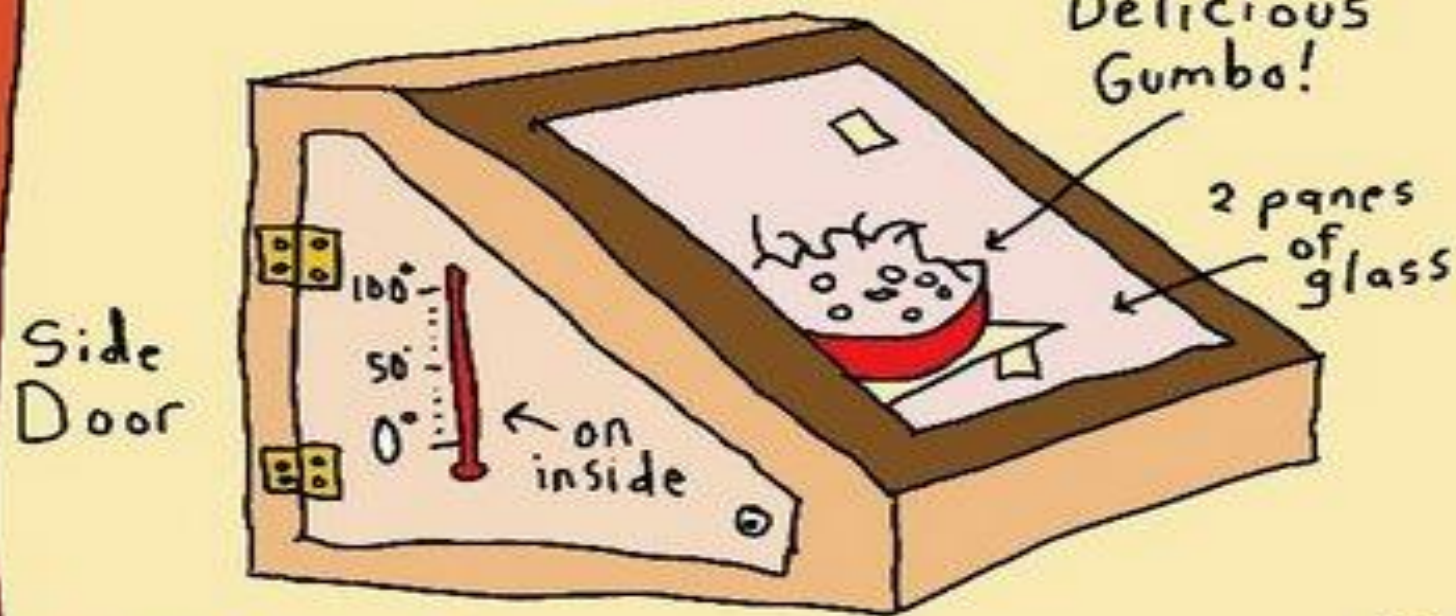
**July 24, 2016**

# GORD'S SOLAR OVEN PLANS

[Cedar, wool insulation, old window panes, hinges]



Delicious Gumbo!

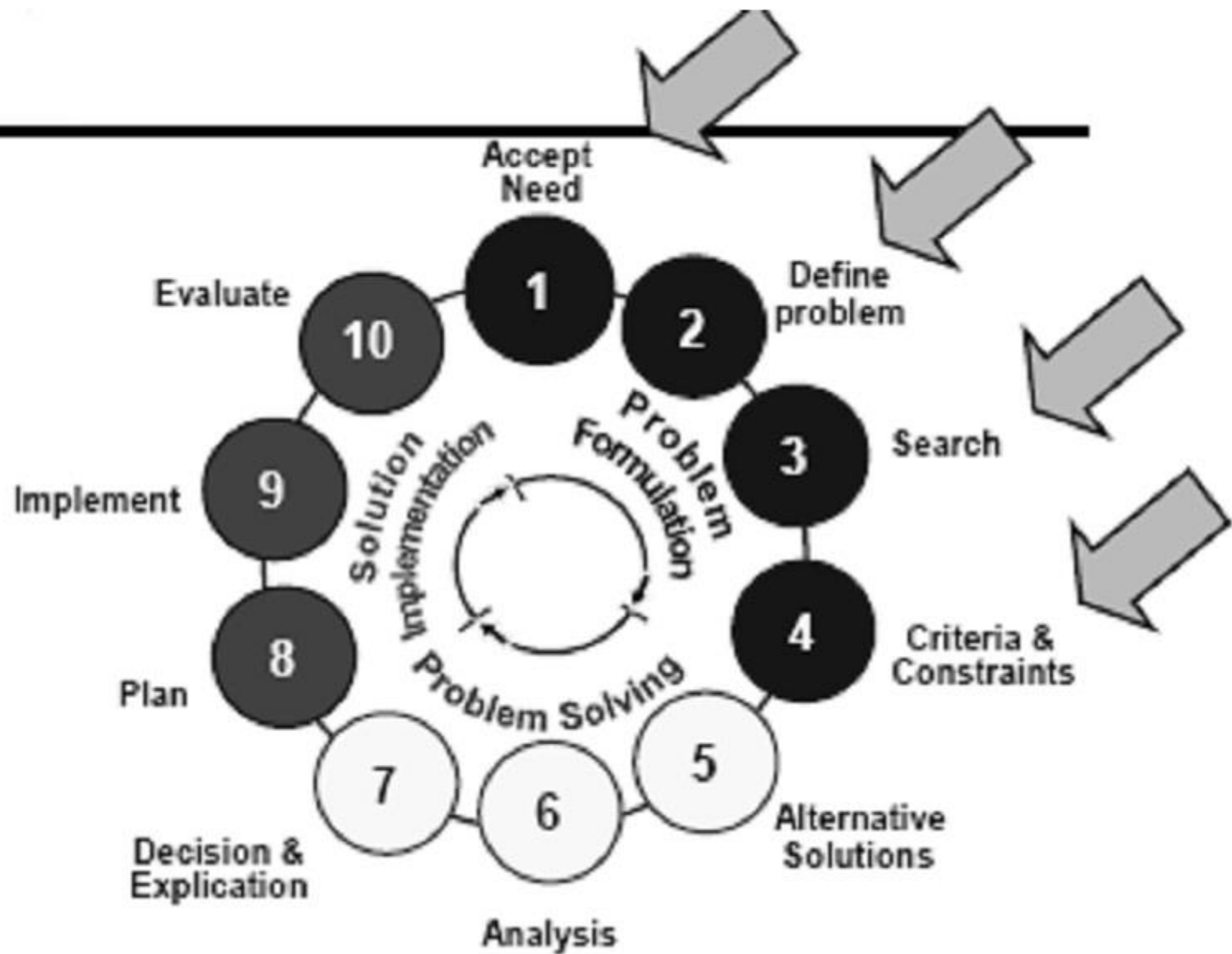


"all I need now is a GUMBO recipe!"

GTH

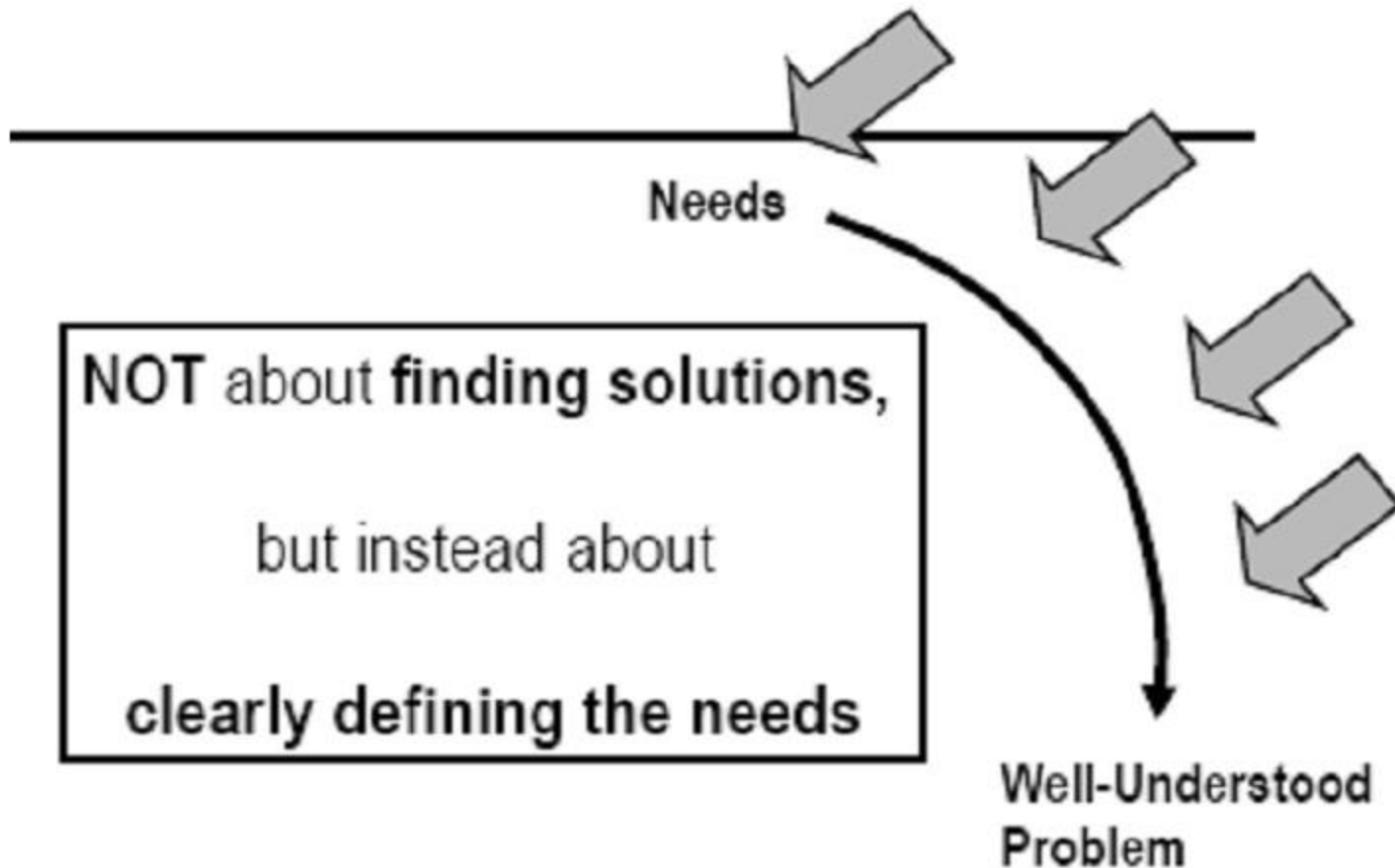
# Topics

- Exploring Design Process with Solar Oven Project
- Problem Formulation
  - Searching
  - Identifying Criteria and Constraints
- Problem Solving
  - Decision-making



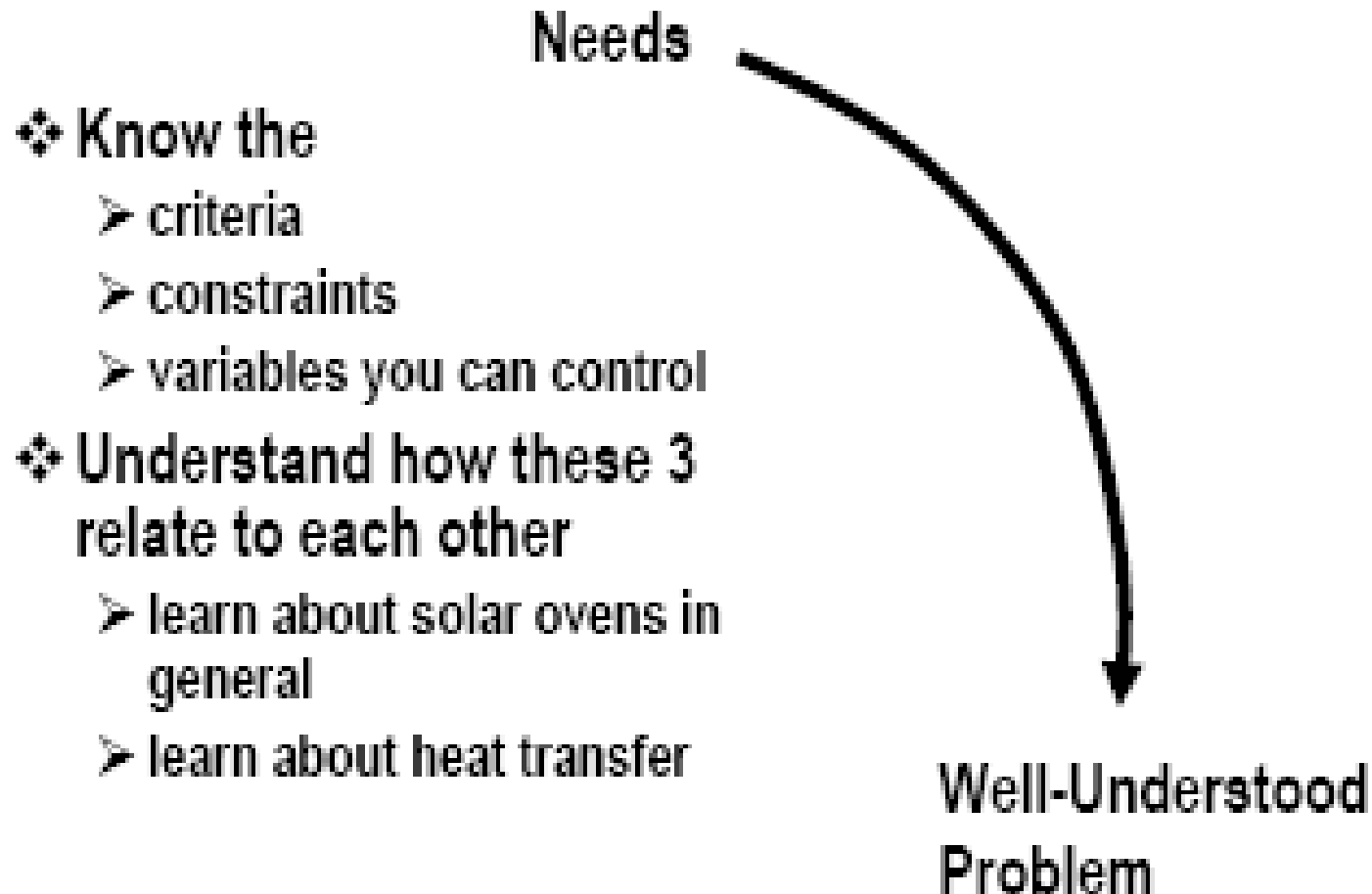
# Phase I

## Problem Formulation



What is a "well-understood" problem – to an engineer? ...

# A “Well-Understood” Problem

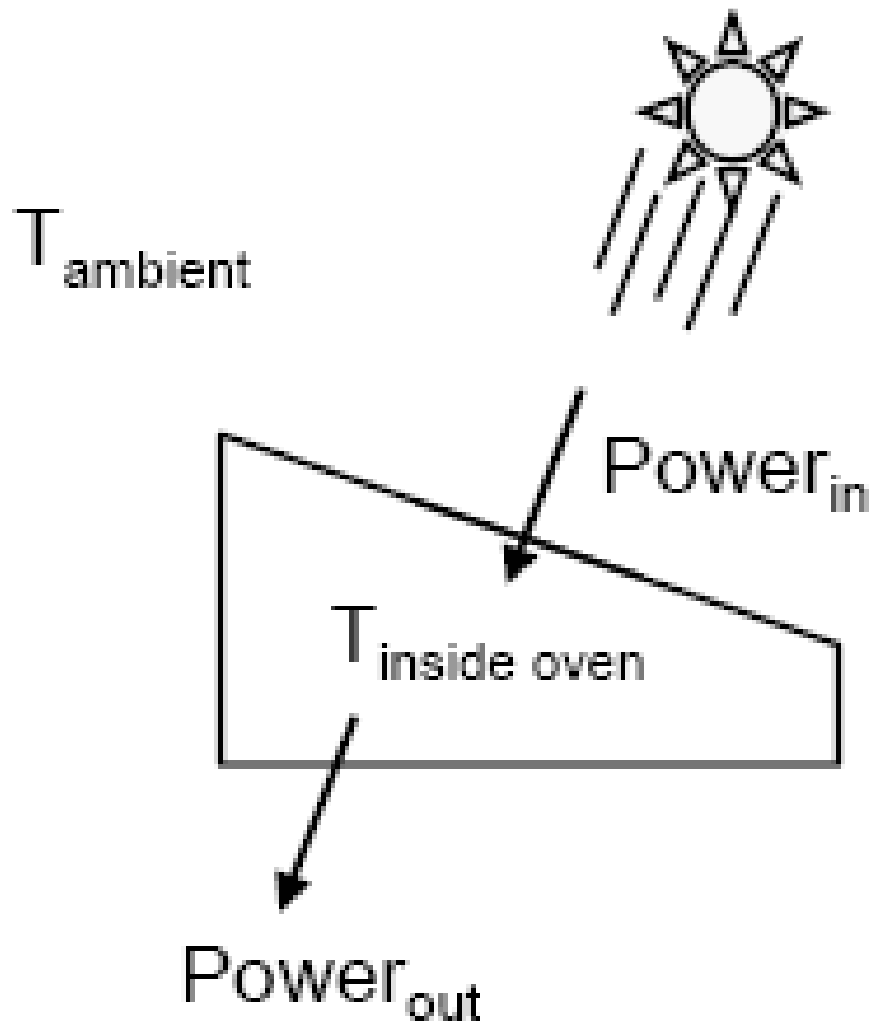


# Where should I go to learn about solar ovens?

- Library website
- Search engines
  - [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
  - [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)
  - .....

# Solar Oven

Search engines



$$\Delta T = T_{\text{inside oven}} - T_{\text{ambient}}$$

Criteria:  
Maximize  $\Delta T$  while  
minimizing cost



# Heat Transfer

Occurs through one of three modes when a  $\Delta T$  exists

## 1. Conduction

Heat travels from atom to atom of a solid

- Doorknob is hot when a fire is on other side of door

## 2. Convection

With a gas or liquid, the heat propagates as molecules move

- When you open the door of an oven, the temperature in the kitchen increases
- Fans are blown on computer chips to cool them

## 3. Radiation

A heated surface emits electromagnetic waves which carry energy away from the emitting object

- Heat felt from a brick wall that has been in the sun all day

# Key Ideas

- Sunlight contains energy
- You want a solar oven that gets as hot as possible  
(highest temperature in the oven chamber)
  - You want your oven to receive solar energy easily
  - You also want your oven to not lose solar energy it has captured

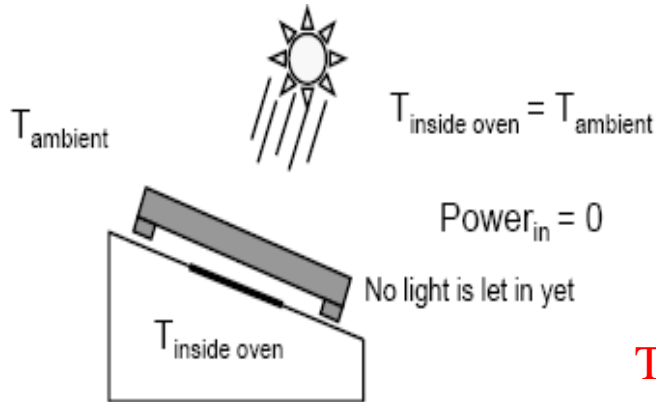
# Key Constraints

What are the key constraints?

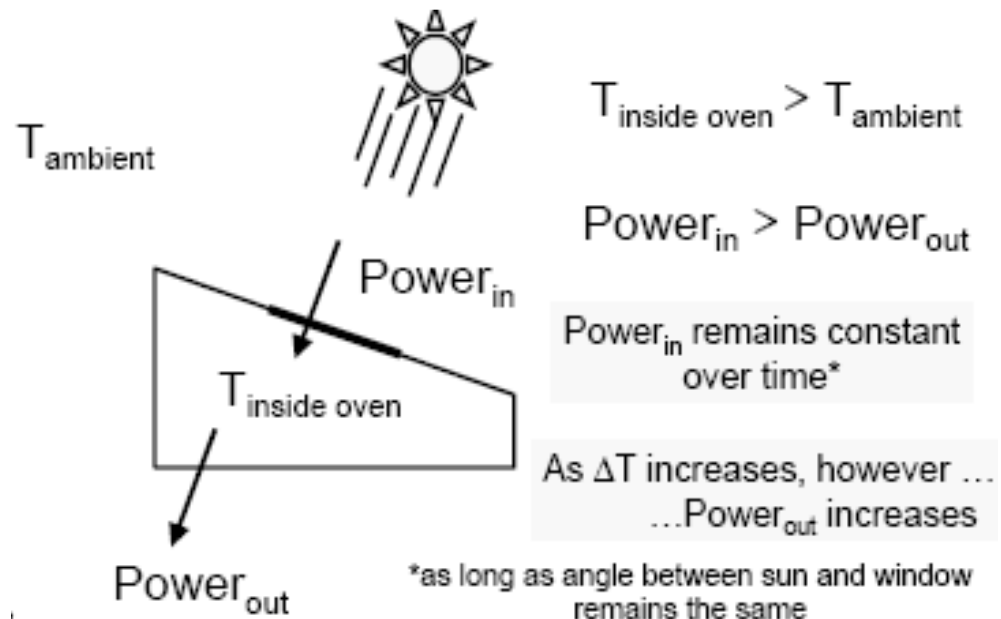
- No lenses
- Size of chamber
- No preheating
- Design must hold a thermometer
- ...

# Solar Oven Heat Transfer

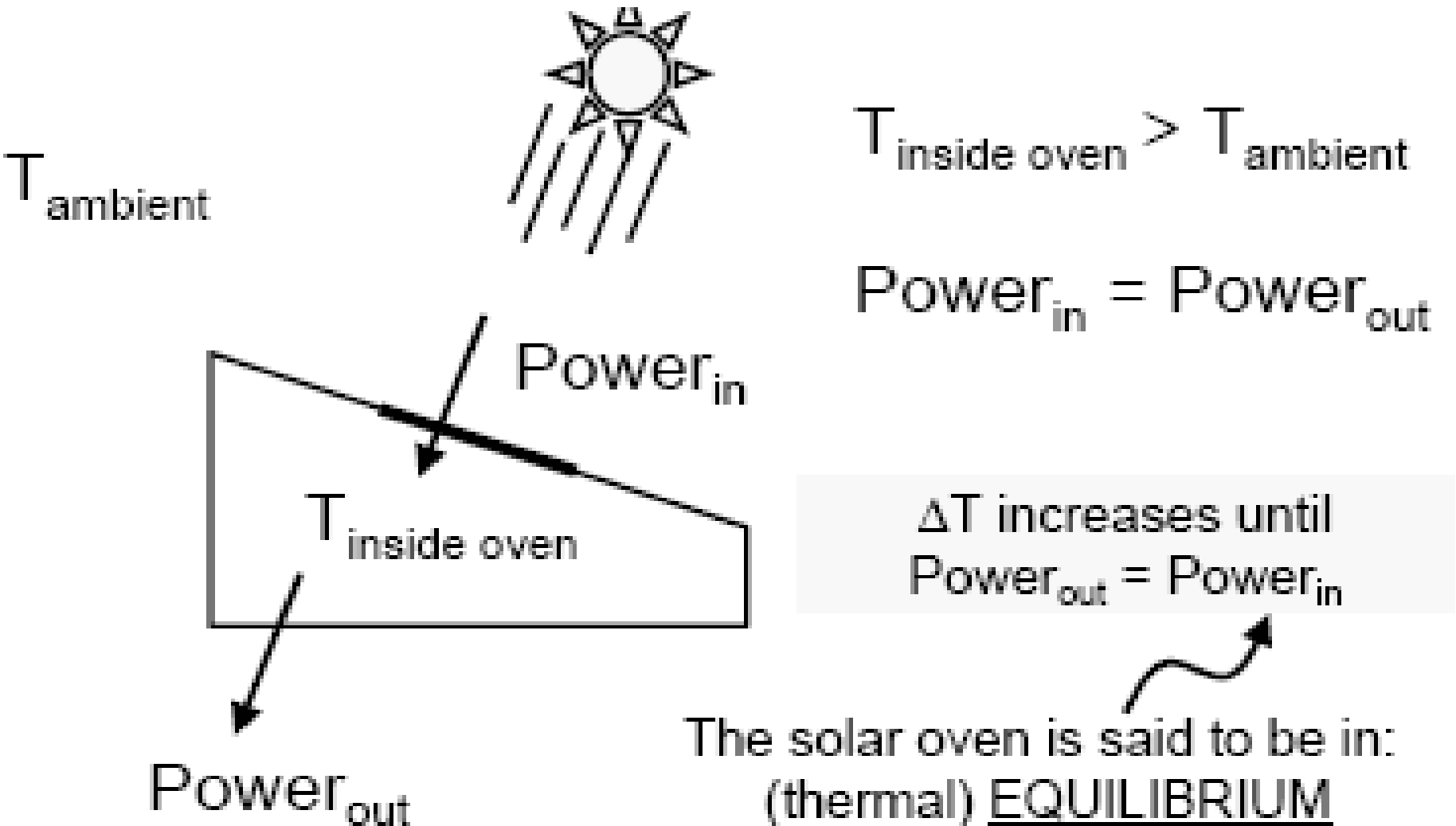
Time = 0



Time = shortly after  
cover removed



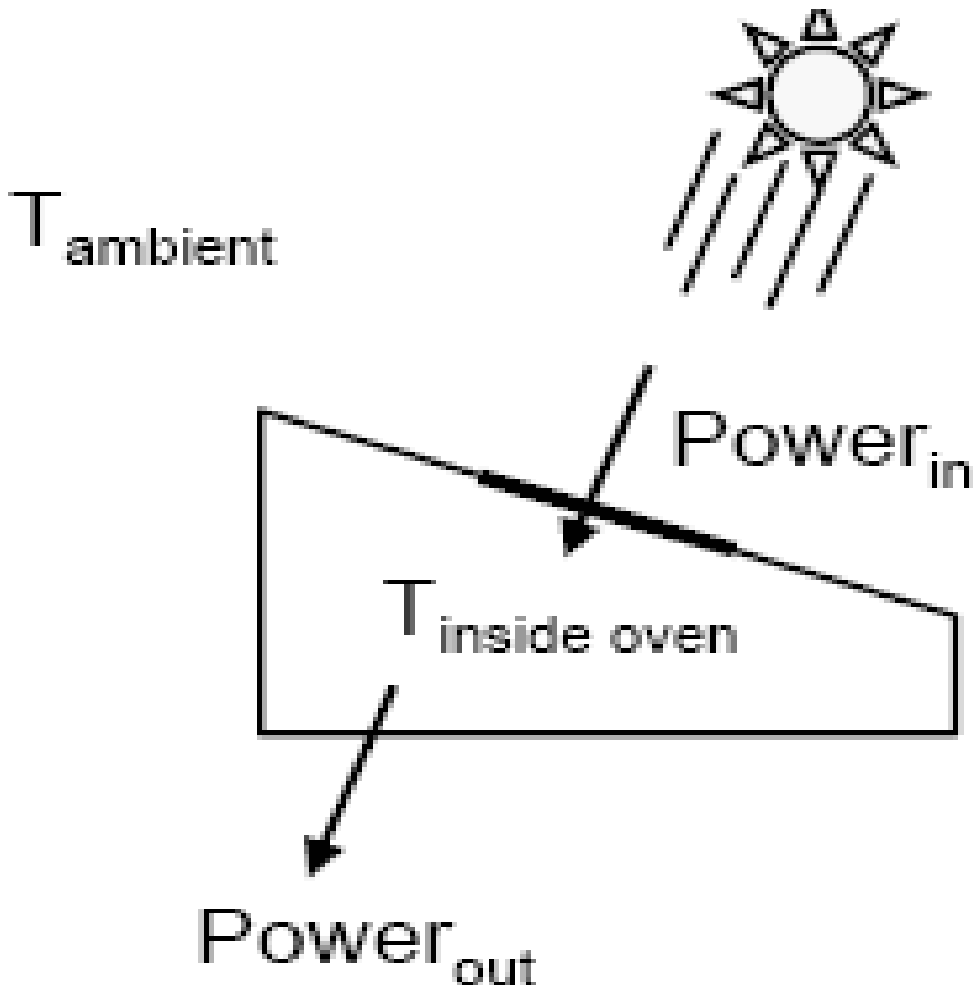
Time = a long time after "0"



# Summarizing what we know

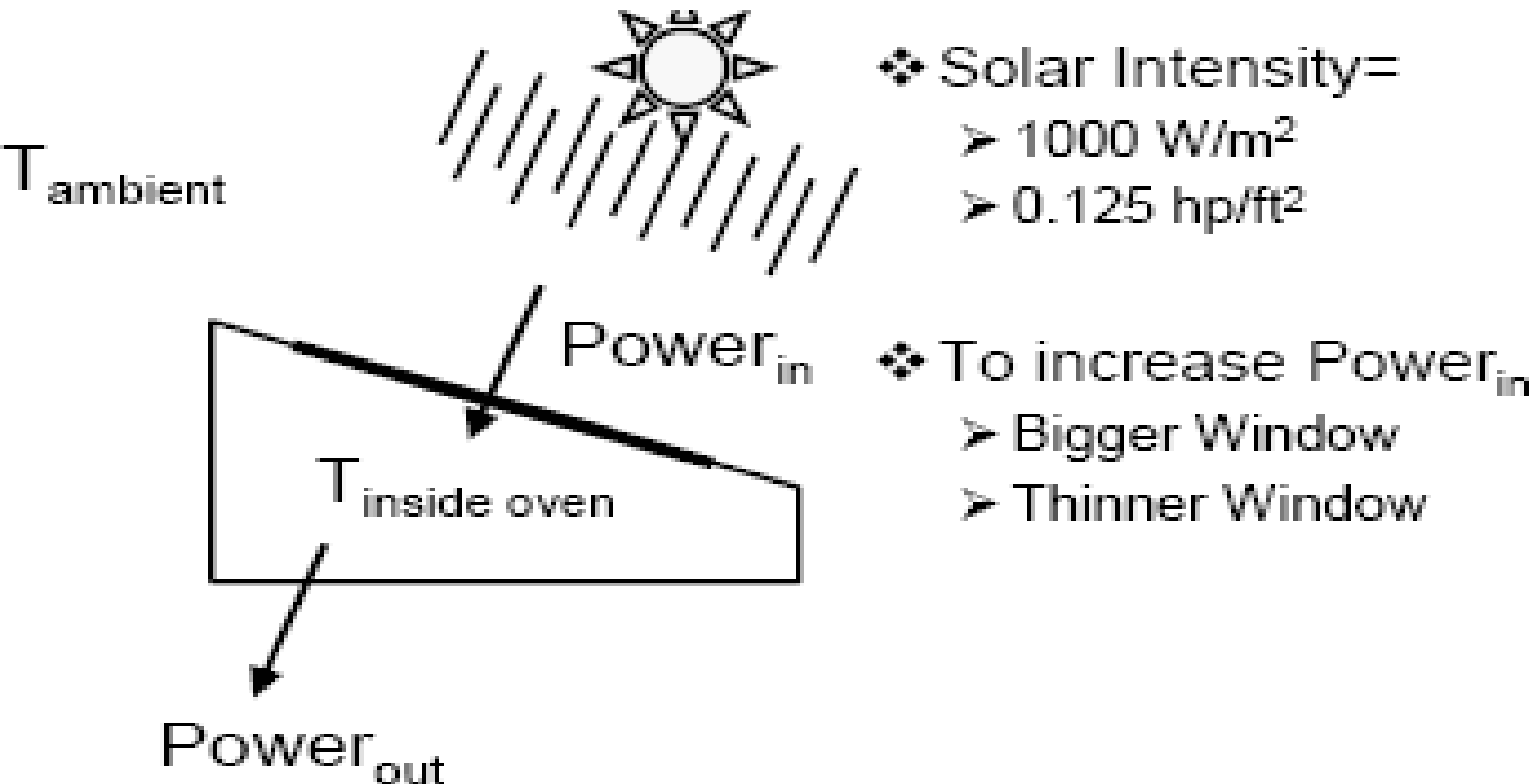
- We want the highest  $\Delta T$  we can get for a given cost
- To get a higher  $\Delta T$ , we need either to
  - Increase **Power-in**
    - GET MORE SUN INTO THE OVEN
  - Decrease **Power-out** for a given  $\Delta T$ 
    - FOR ANY GIVEN OVEN TEMPERATURE
      - ❑ WE WANT TO REDUCE THE RATE AT WHICH ENERGY IS LEAVING THE OVEN

# How can we Increase Power-in?



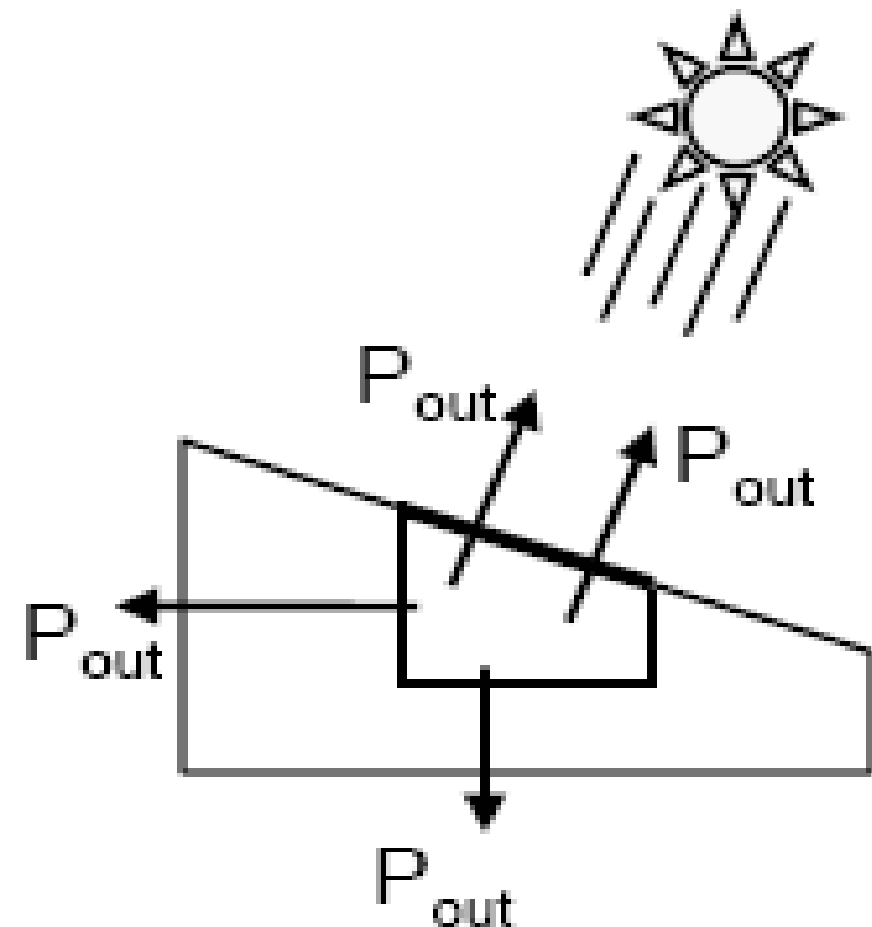
- ❖ What determines  $\text{Power}_{\text{in}}$ ?
  - Window size
  - Intensity of Sun
  - Window Thickness
  - Angle light hits window
  - Color of oven wall

# How can we Increase Power-in?





# How can we decrease Power-out for a given $\Delta T$ ?



How does energy leave the oven?

- ❖ Radiation

- Back out window

- ❖ Conduction and Convection

- Back out window

- Through the sides and bottoms of oven chamber

# How can we decrease Power-out for a given $\Delta T$ ?

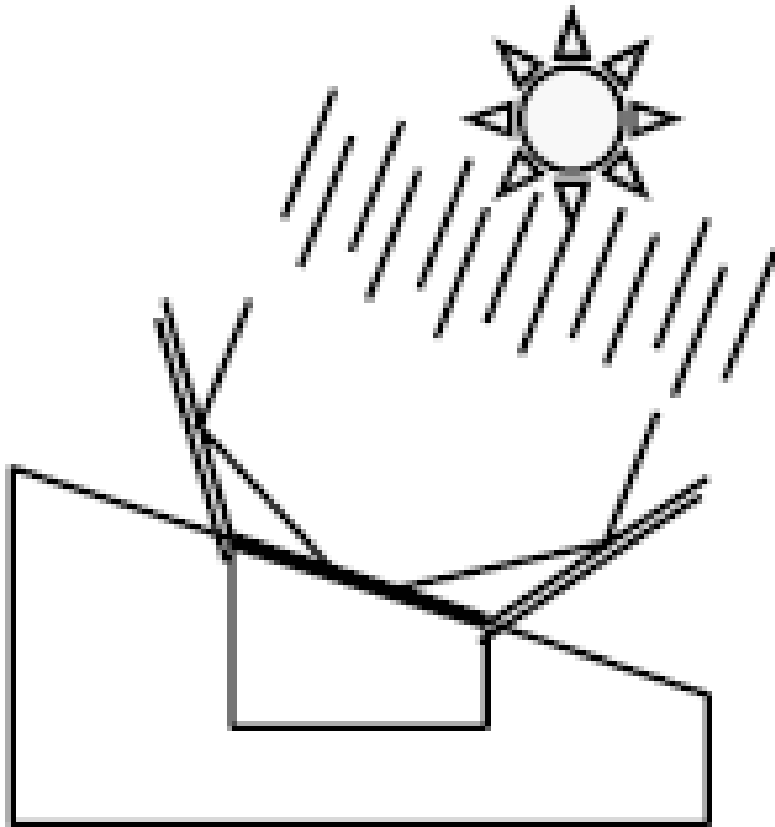
- Heat Transfer Via Window
  - $\sim 25 \text{ W/m}^2 / ^\circ\text{C } \Delta T$  (when  $T$  inside oven =  $150^\circ\text{C}$ )
  - $\sim 12 \text{ W/m}^2 / ^\circ\text{C}$  (for a thicker window)
- Heat Transfer Via Sides and Bottom
  - $\sim 1.5 \text{ W/m}^2 / ^\circ\text{C } \Delta T$
- Per size, more heat is lost through window
  - Therefore, you want a smaller, thicker window to keep heat in!
  - some good insulation on sides and bottom

# Putting it all together

- To increase Power-in
  - increase window size
  - decrease window thickness
- To decrease Power-out
  - decrease window size
  - Increase window thickness

This is Engineering Design.  
You must make trade-offs (a compromise).

- What would you do?
  - A) Go for a larger window
  - B) Go for a smaller window



A good designer  
does not make  
a trade-off  
unless there are  
no other  
alternatives.

Once trade-offs are  
unavoidable, a good  
designer will use analysis to  
find the best balance

# Solar Oven Reflector Design Ideas - Brainstorming

no reflectors



4 flat reflectors, open corner



single flat reflector



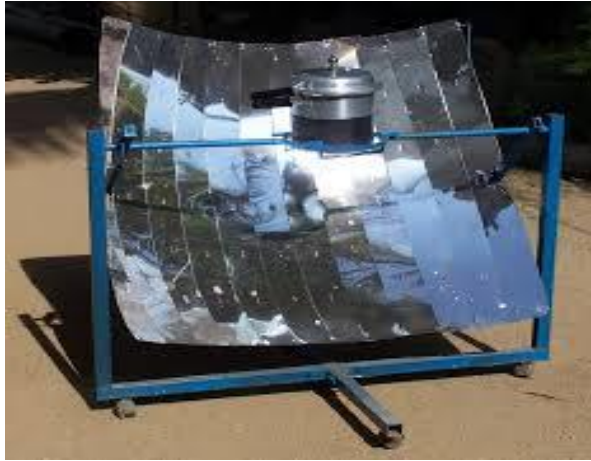
4 flat reflectors, with corner





# Solar Oven Reflector Design Ideas - Brainstorming

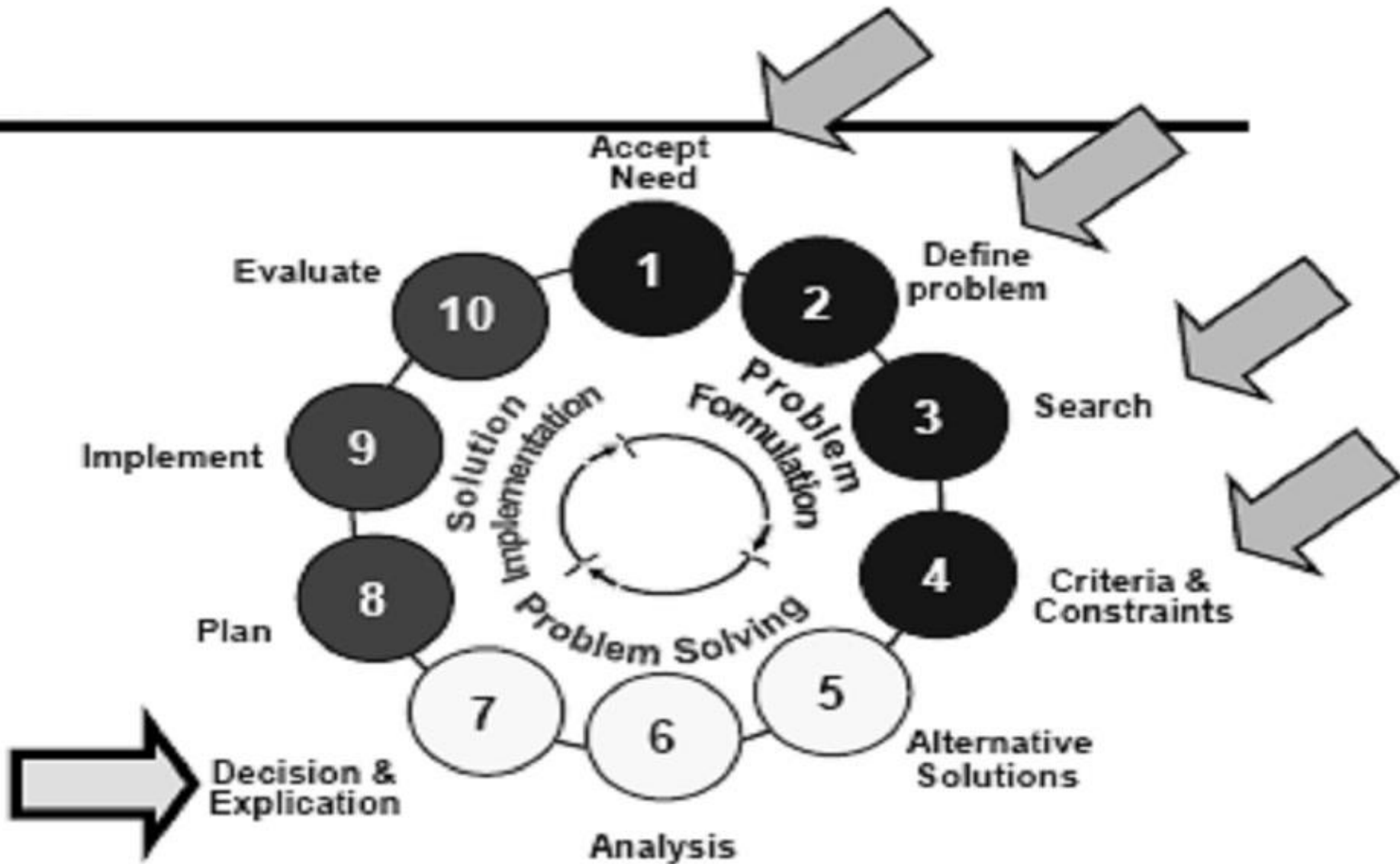
Parabolic



Others



# Decision & Explication



# Decision & Explication

## Decision Matrix

- A straightforward decision approach to weigh pros (for) and cons (against)



# Decision & Explication

## Engineering Decisions

- Characteristics of Engineering Decisions
  - Multiple criteria
  - Criteria are of different importance
  - Criteria are conflicting
  - Multiple interested parties

# Decision & Explication

## Engineering Decisions

- Characteristics of Engineering Decisions
  - Ideas
  - Criteria (Attributes)
  - Weight
  - Rate
  - Multiply & Sum

# Attributes/Criteria for Selection

- What features of the solar oven design are important to you?
  - Direct energy into oven
  - Easy to manufacture
  - Room for error in aim
  - Hold energy in oven
  - Durable
  - ...
- Keep attributes as independent as possible!

# Attributes/Criteria for Selection

## Weight

❖ How important is each attribute?

Multiply & Sum

**A simple approach:  
Weights that sum to 100**

		Direct Energy	Manufacturability	Room for Error in Aim	Hold Energy in Oven
Scenario 1	Compromise	25	25	25	25
Scenario 2	Most Light In	40	5	15	40
Scenario 3	Easy to Make	20	40	20	20

# Attributes/Criteria for Selection

## Rating

- Rate each item from 1 (worst) to 10 (best)
- For this example, we will only use 3 ideas and 4 attributes...in reality, you would have more of each

# Attributes/Criteria for Selection

## Different Scenarios

	Direct Energy	Manufacturability	Room for Error in Aim	Hold Energy in Oven	SCORE
Weight →	40	5	15	40	
No Reflector, Big Window	1	10	5	3	
	40	50	75	120	285
1 Reflector, Small Window	4	8	7	6	
	160	40	105	240	545
Parabolic	9	2	4	4	
	360	10	60	160	690

	Direct Energy	Manufacturability	Room for Error in Aim	Hold Energy in Oven	SCORE
Weight →	25	25	25	25	
No Reflector, Big Window	1	10	5	3	
1 Reflector, Small Window	4	8	7	6	
Parabolic	9	2	4	4	

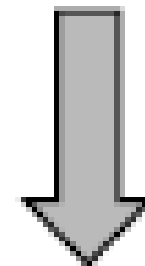
# Decision Resolution

- Try more than one scenario
- What did you learn about the strengths and weakness of each concept?
  - What trade-offs will your team make?
  - Don't be driven by a single-objective mentality
- Use decision matrix to *help* you explore tradeoffs
  - You don't necessarily have to use the one with the highest score

# Review



	Direct Energy	Manufacturability	Room for Error in Aim	Hold Energy in Oven	SCORE
Weight →	25	25	25	25	
No Reflector	1	10	5	10	
1 Reflector	4	8	7	9	
Parabolic	9	2	4	3	



Use output to help resolve a decision



# Review

- Problem Formulation involves
  - Learning about the problem through research
  - Identifying criteria, constraints, and design variables
- Decision matrices can be helpful tools for exploring trade-offs