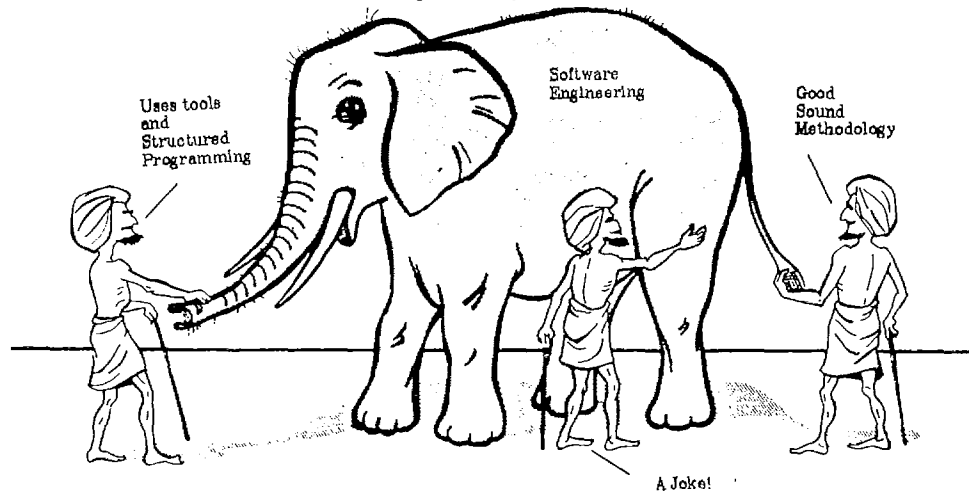# On "Software Engineering"

Eugene Miya

Here is a modified cartoon for the possible amusement of *SEN* readers. The original (below) came from the text "Software Engineering" by Jensen and Tonies, published in 1979. I send this to you with regard to the current *SEN* discussions on Academics and Polemics of software engineering.

Perhaps this cartoon will serve to remind us about the "true" nature of knowledge: that we have opinions rather than die-hard certainties. I like the analogy that knowledge is like a crystal we are studying. Some crystallographers will catch some facies from one direction while others might catch other facies from another. Both have "real" information; neither possesses all information.

Some people in academia need to work closer to the child industries (software) they are helping to create. Similarly, the people in industrial positions have a responsibility to try new ideas (put those dusty desks into the trash) and take academic ideas with a certain grain of salt. This certainly all sounds like a "motherhood statement", but I think that is the nature of fundamental problems.

NASA, Ames Research Center   Eugene Miya
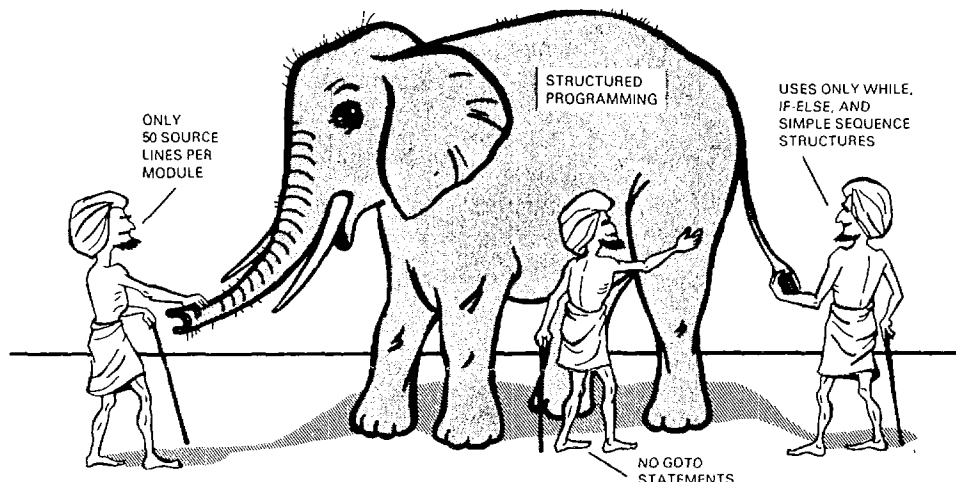Moffett Field CA 94035
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Fig. 4-22   Blind man's view of structured programming