

# Human-Computer Partnerships

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# What kind of 'partnership'?

Take a taxi

Driver in control



## What kind of 'partnership' ?

Take a taxi

Driver in control

Drive a motorcycle

User in control



## What kind of 'partnership' ?

Take a taxi

Driver in control

Drive a motorcycle

User in control

Ride a horse

Shared control



# Towards generative theory

Define principles of a  
*unified theory of interaction*

Instrumental Interaction

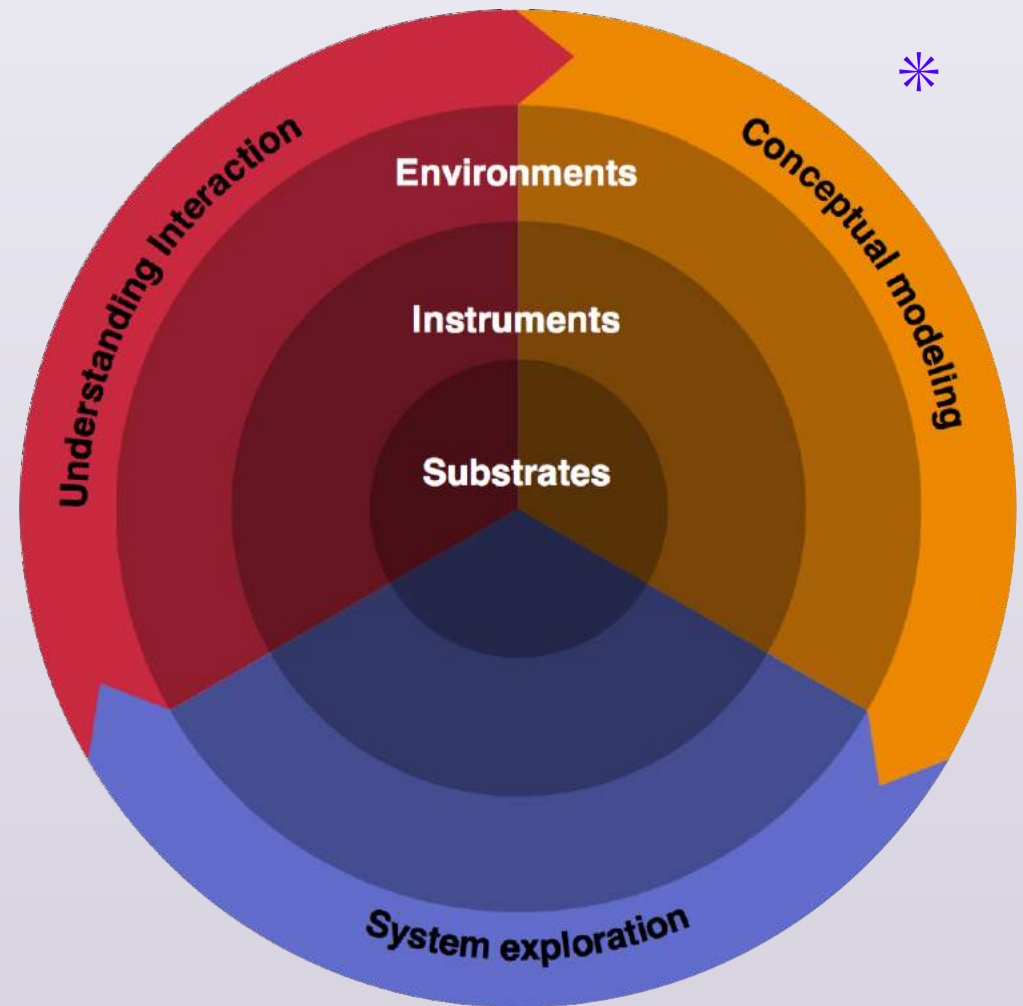
Reification

Polymorphism

Reuse

Substrates

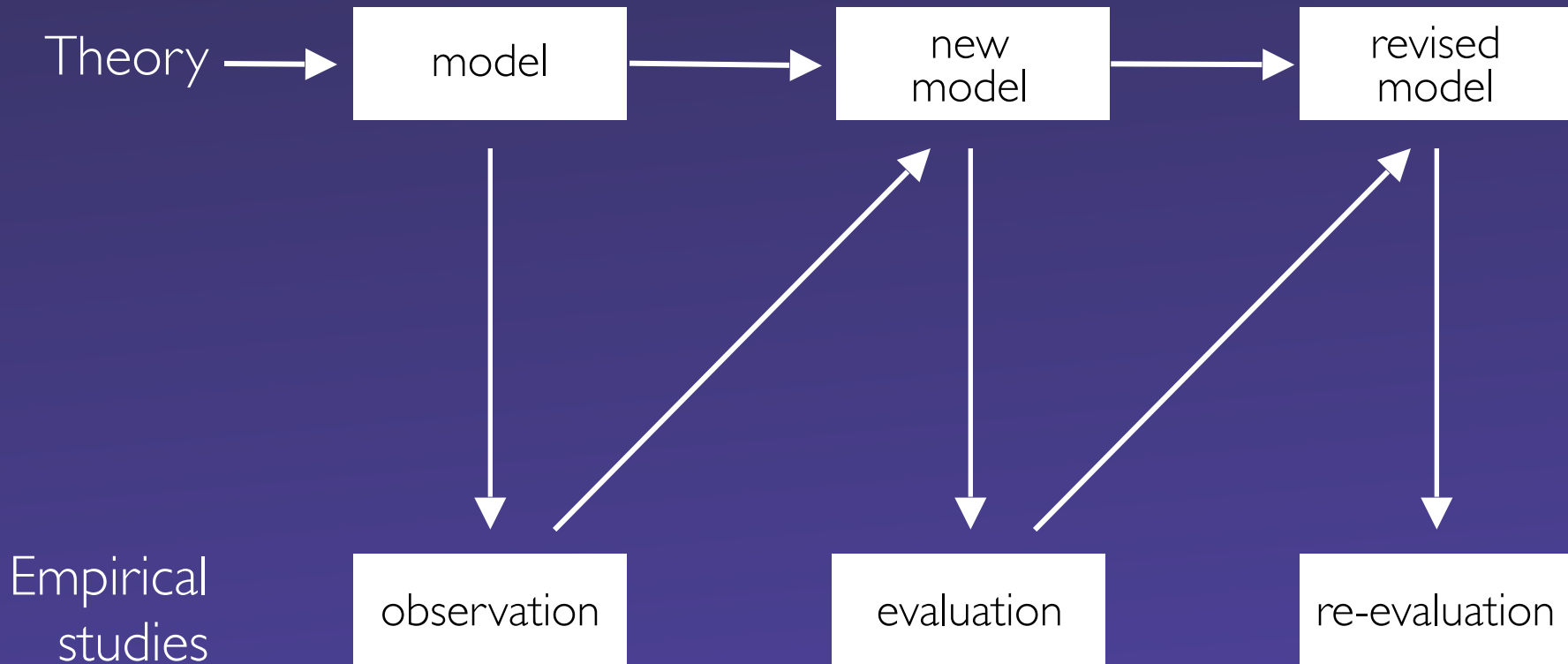
Reciprocal Co-Adaptation



\* with Michel Beaudouin-Lafon



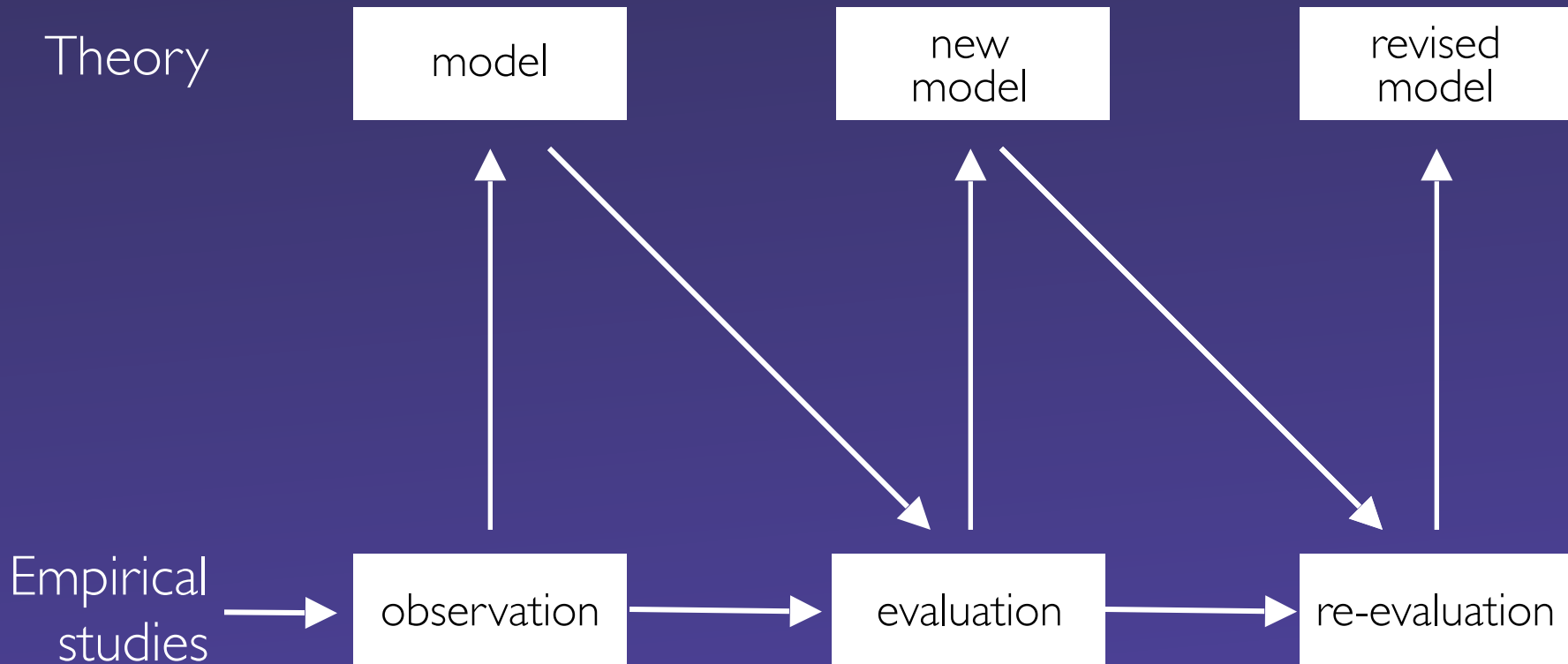
# Natural Sciences: deduction



Mackay, W.E. and Fayard, A-L. (1997) ACM DIS'97

HCI, Natural Science and Design: A Framework for Triangulation Across Disciplines

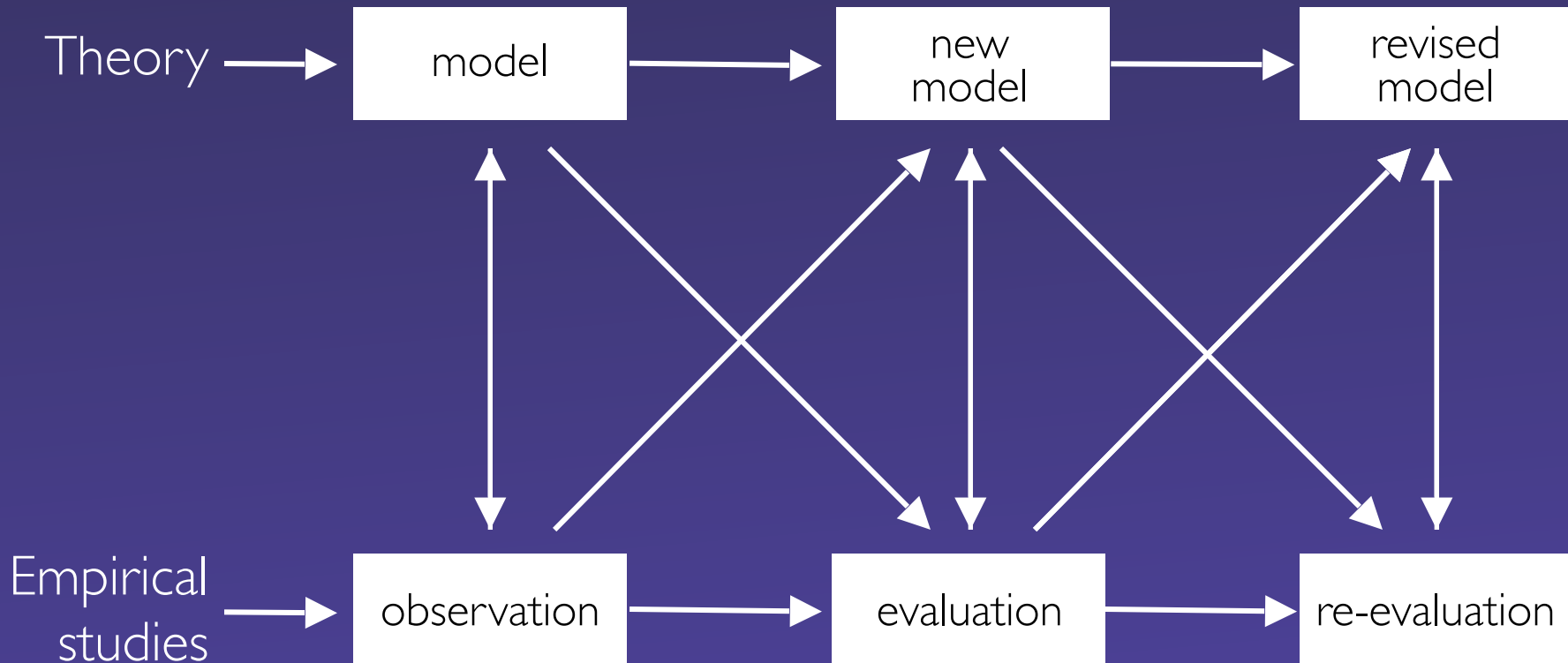
# Natural Sciences: induction



Mackay, W.E. and Fayard, A-L. (1997) ACM DIS'97

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# All natural sciences are cyclic



Mackay, W.E. and Fayard, A-L. (1997) ACM DIS'97

HCI, Natural Science and Design: A Framework for Triangulation Across Disciplines



# What about engineering and design ?

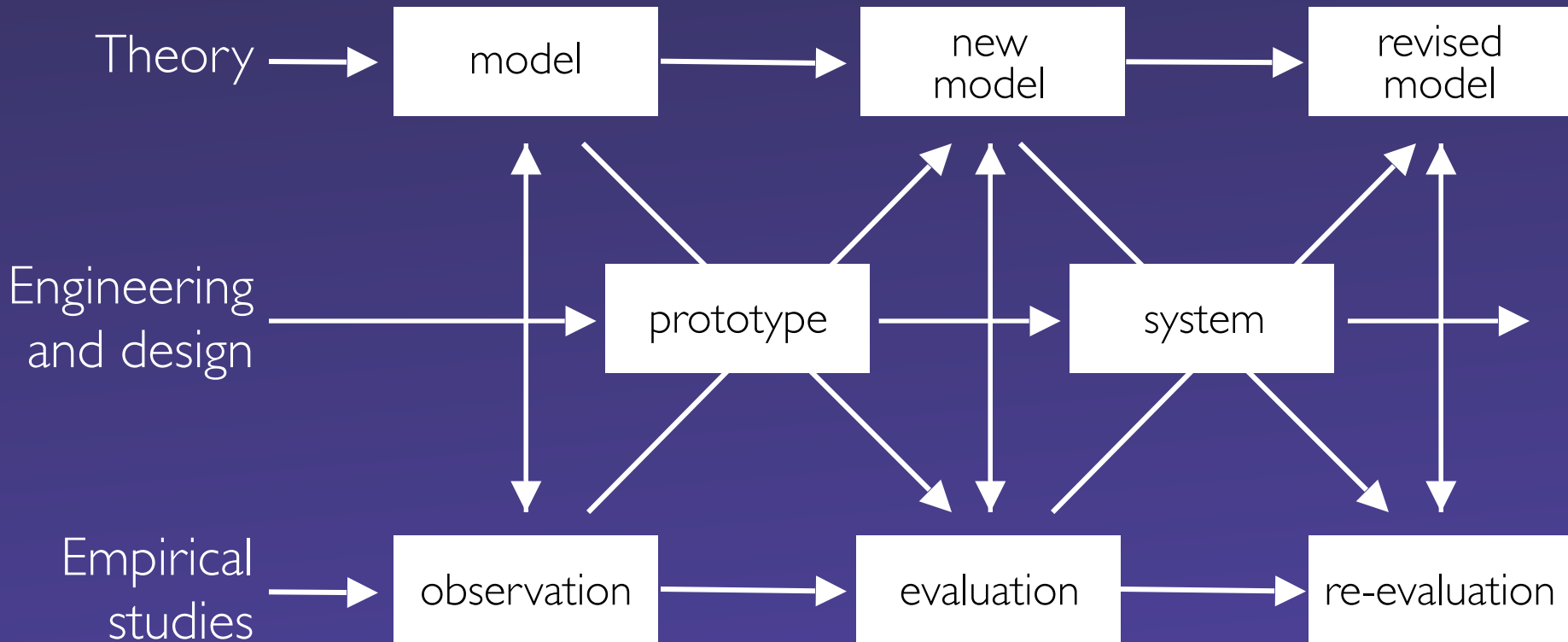
We study what we create



Mackay, W.E. and Fayard, A-L. (1997) ACM DIS'97

HCI, Natural Science and Design: A Framework for Triangulation Across Disciplines

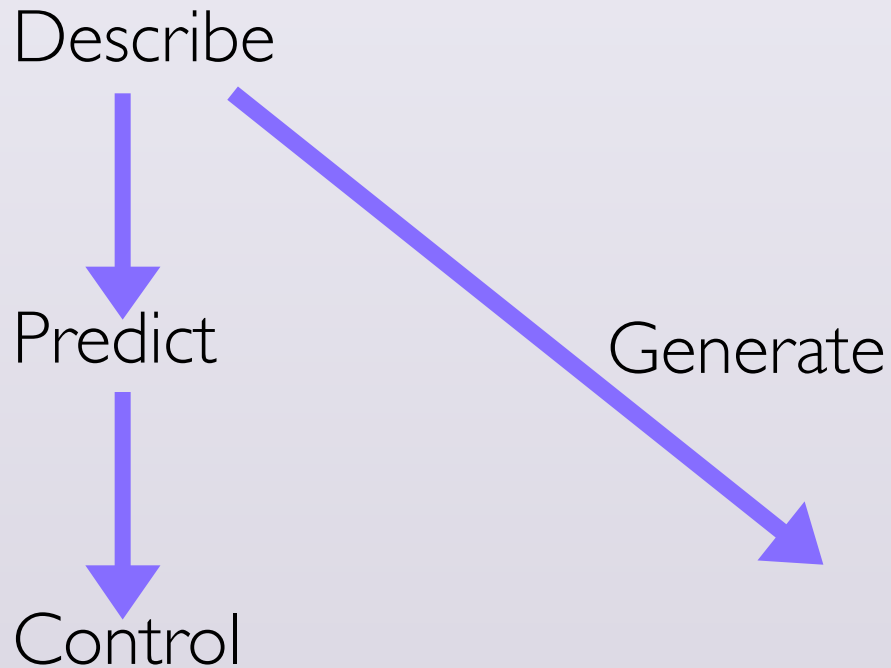
# Multi-disciplinary research



Mackay, W.E. and Fayard, A-L. (1997) ACM DIS'97

HCI, Natural Science and Design: A Framework for Triangulation Across Disciplines

# Levels of theoretical power



# Theory, Empirical studies and Design

Natural Sciences: Study a natural, existing phenomenon

Deductive: Theoretical predictions to empirical verification

Inductive: Empirical findings to theoretical implications

Design: Create a novel artifact

Top-down: Create architecture then build system

Bottom-up: Design artifacts then derive architecture

HCI research: Natural phenomena – *and* – designed artifacts

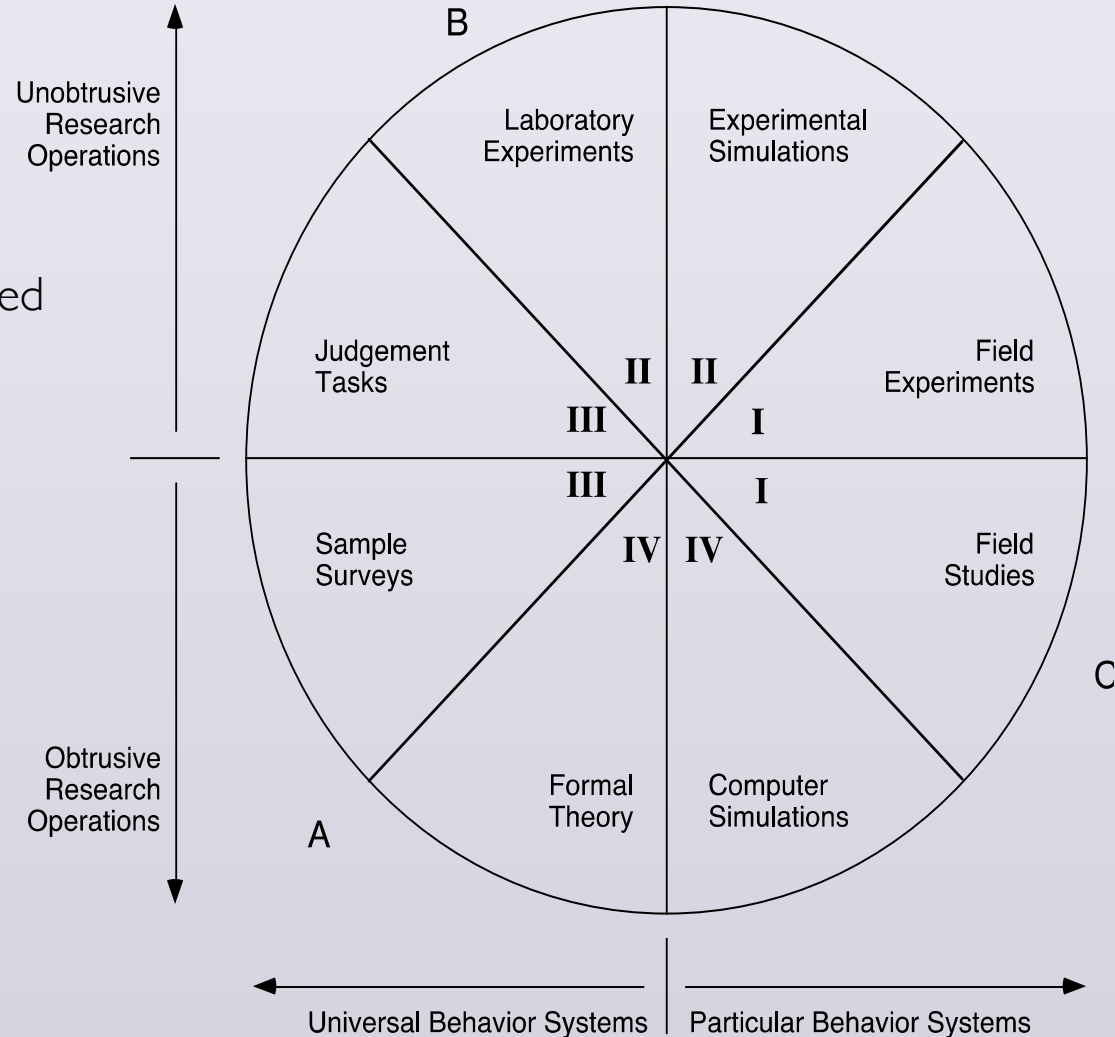
# Methodology trade-offs

Types of settings:

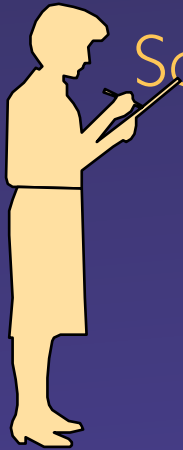
- I. Settings in natural systems
- II. Contrived or created settings
- III. Contrived or created settings
- IV. No behavior observation needed

Major concern is:

- A. Generality over actors
- B. Precise measure of behavior
- C. System character of context



# Perspectives on understanding users

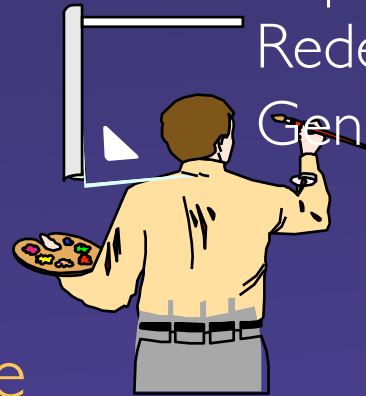


## Scientific perspective

Collect data about users  
'Objective' analysis  
Inform designers

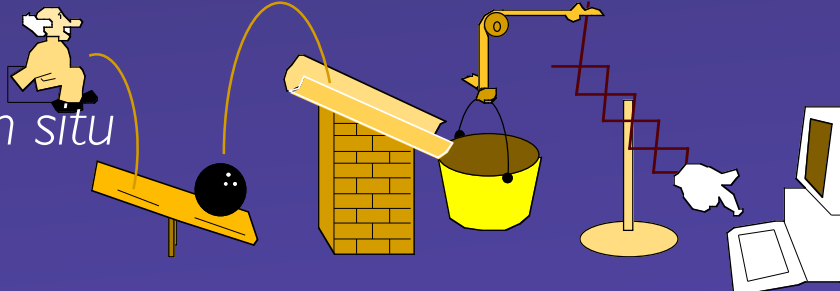
## Design perspective

Inspire ideas  
Redefine problem  
Generate innovations

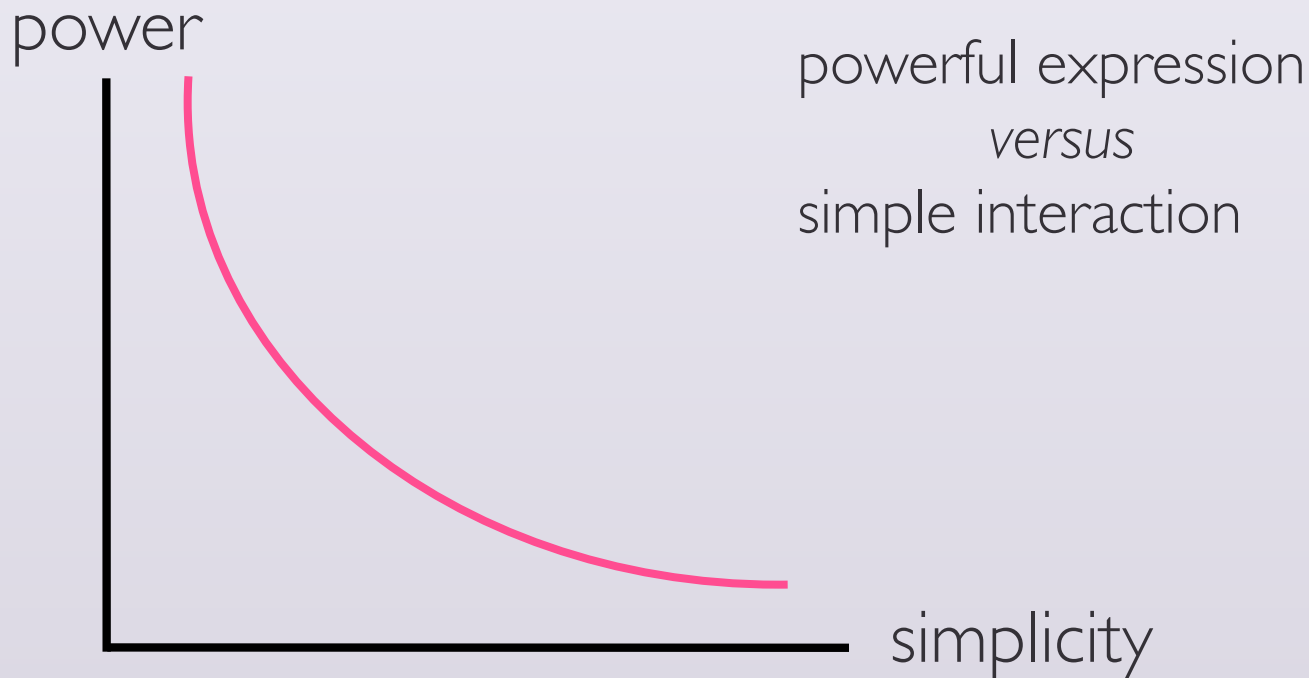


## Engineering perspective

Address a given problem  
Make trade-offs  
Ensure it works *in situ*



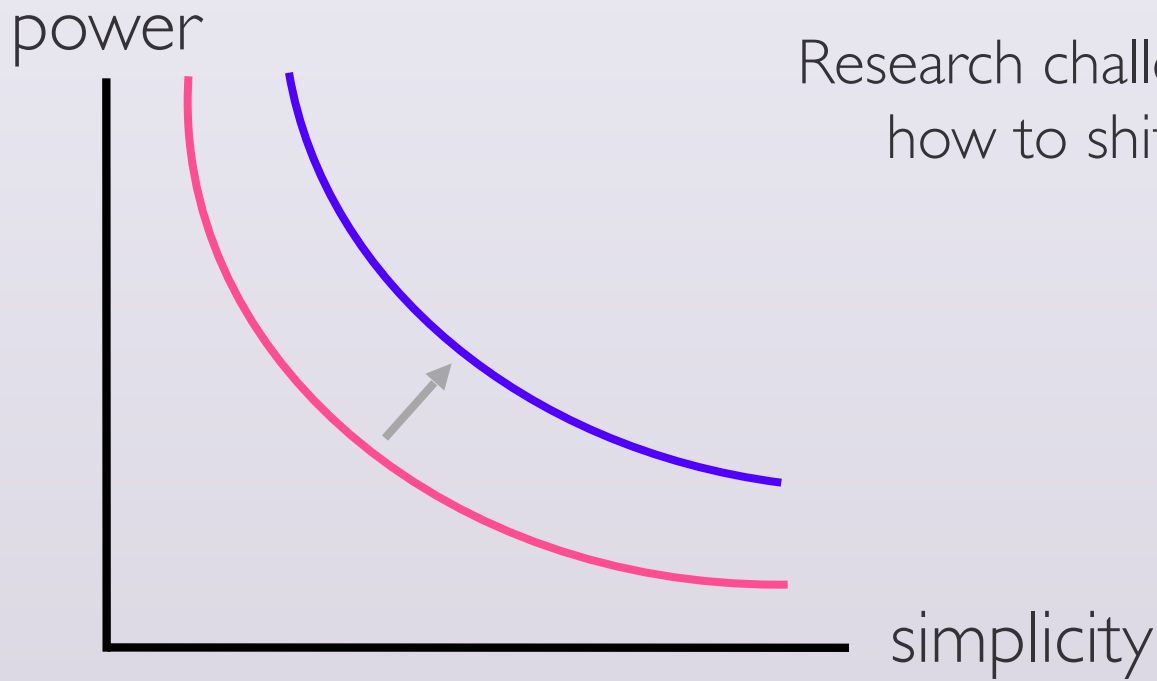
# HCI Design Trade-offs



Simple things should be simple,  
complex things should be possible



# HCI Design Trade-offs



Research challenge:  
how to shift the curve?

# Towards generative theory

Define principles of a  
*unified theory of interaction*

Instrumental Interaction

Reification

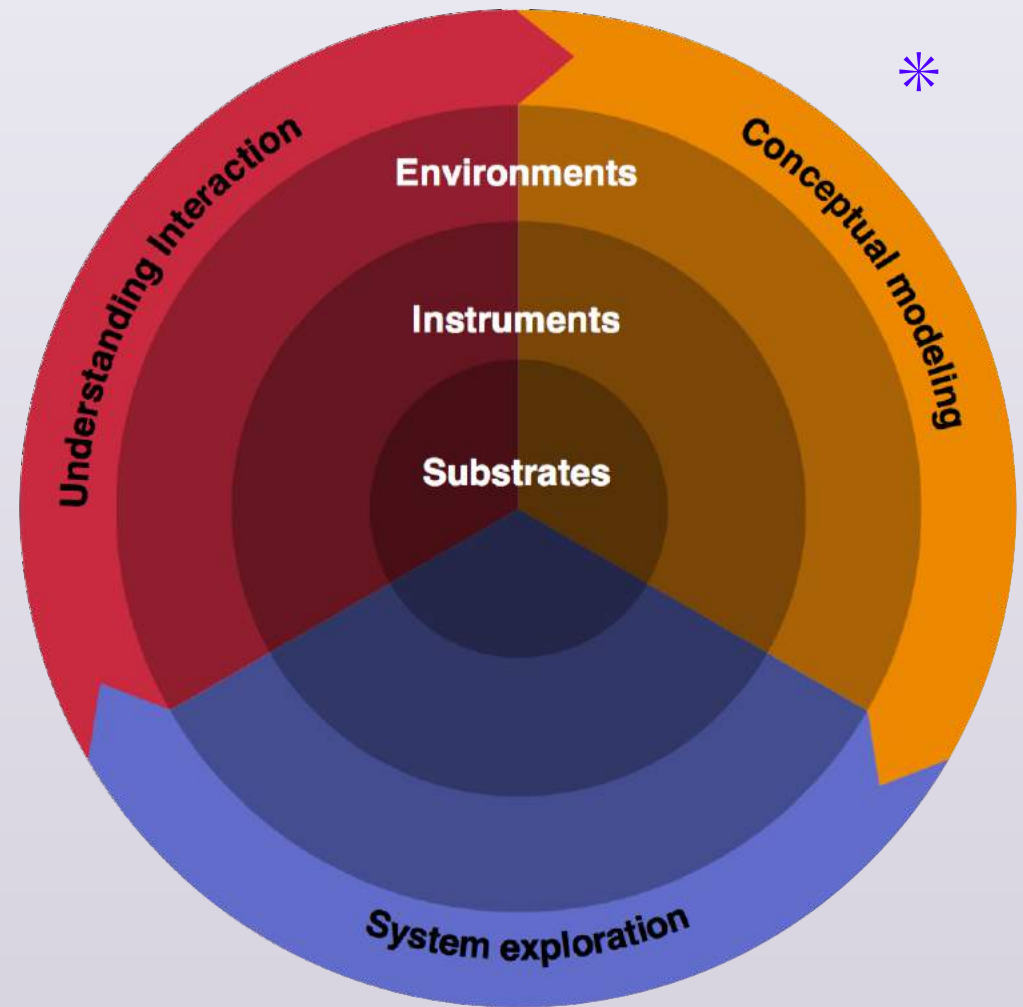
Polymorphism

Reuse

Substrates

Reciprocal Co-Adaptation

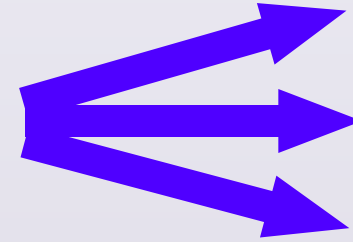
\* with Michel Beaudouin-Lafon



# Generative power: Three design principles

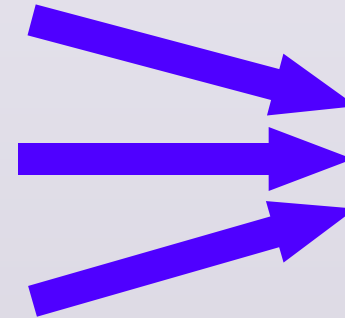
## Reification

extends the notion of  
what constitutes an object



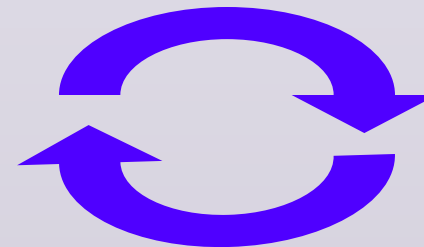
## Polymorphism

extends the power of commands  
with respect to these objects



## Reuse

provides a way of capturing and  
reusing interaction patterns



# Physical tools have affordances



# Physical tools have affordances

we can improvise ...



# Physical tools have affordances

we can improvise ...



# Physical affordances

any object can become an instrument  
any instrument can solve multiple problems

Why isn't software like this ?





# Our relationships with tools

Physical tools: follow the laws of physics

- users can easily learn them

- users can appropriate them

Computer tools: follow the whims of programmers

- users must learn and relearn them

- users easily break them

Goal: make **interaction** a first-class computational object

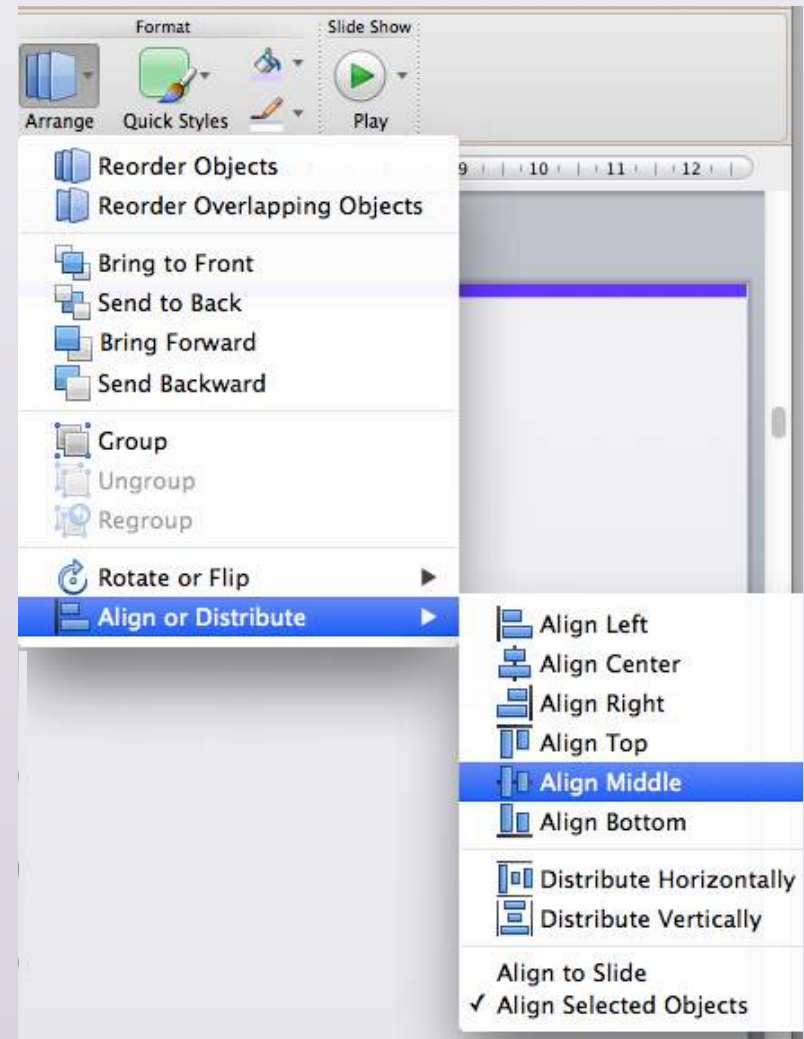
# Software tools

Example: Powerpoint

Alignment and distribution

=

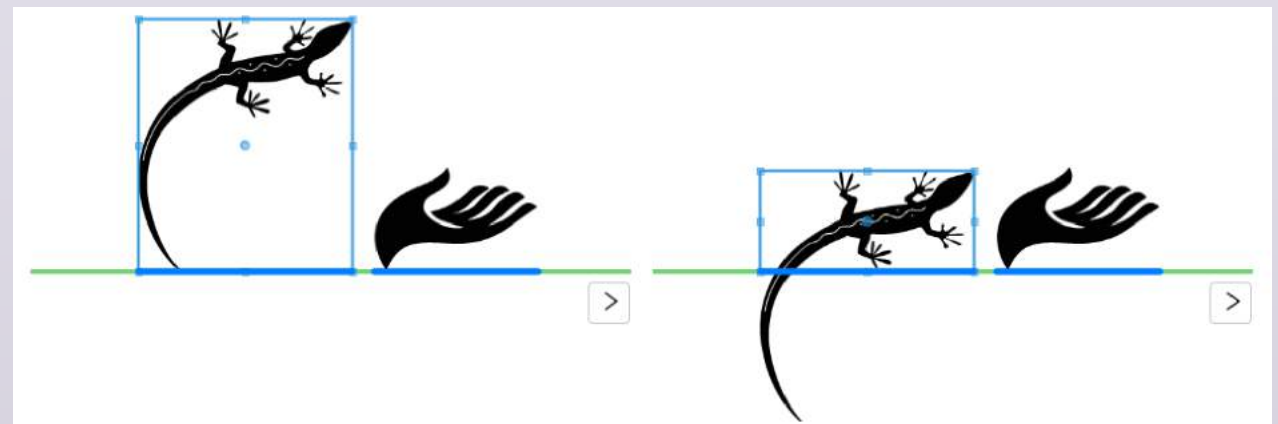
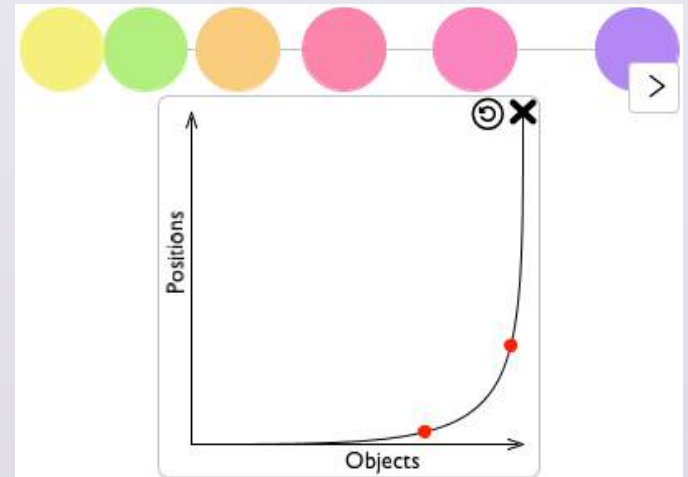
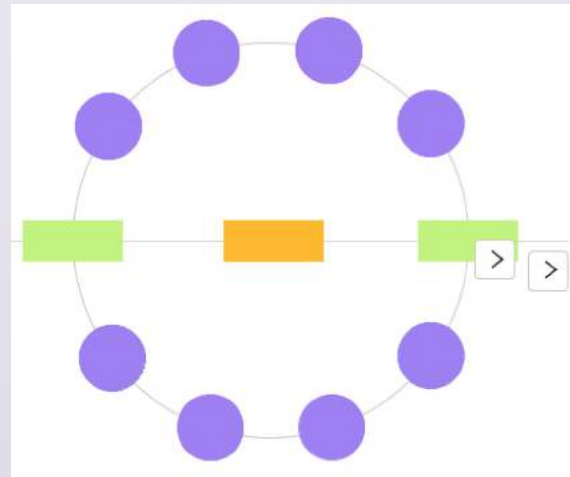
Cumbersome buttons  
and pull-down menus



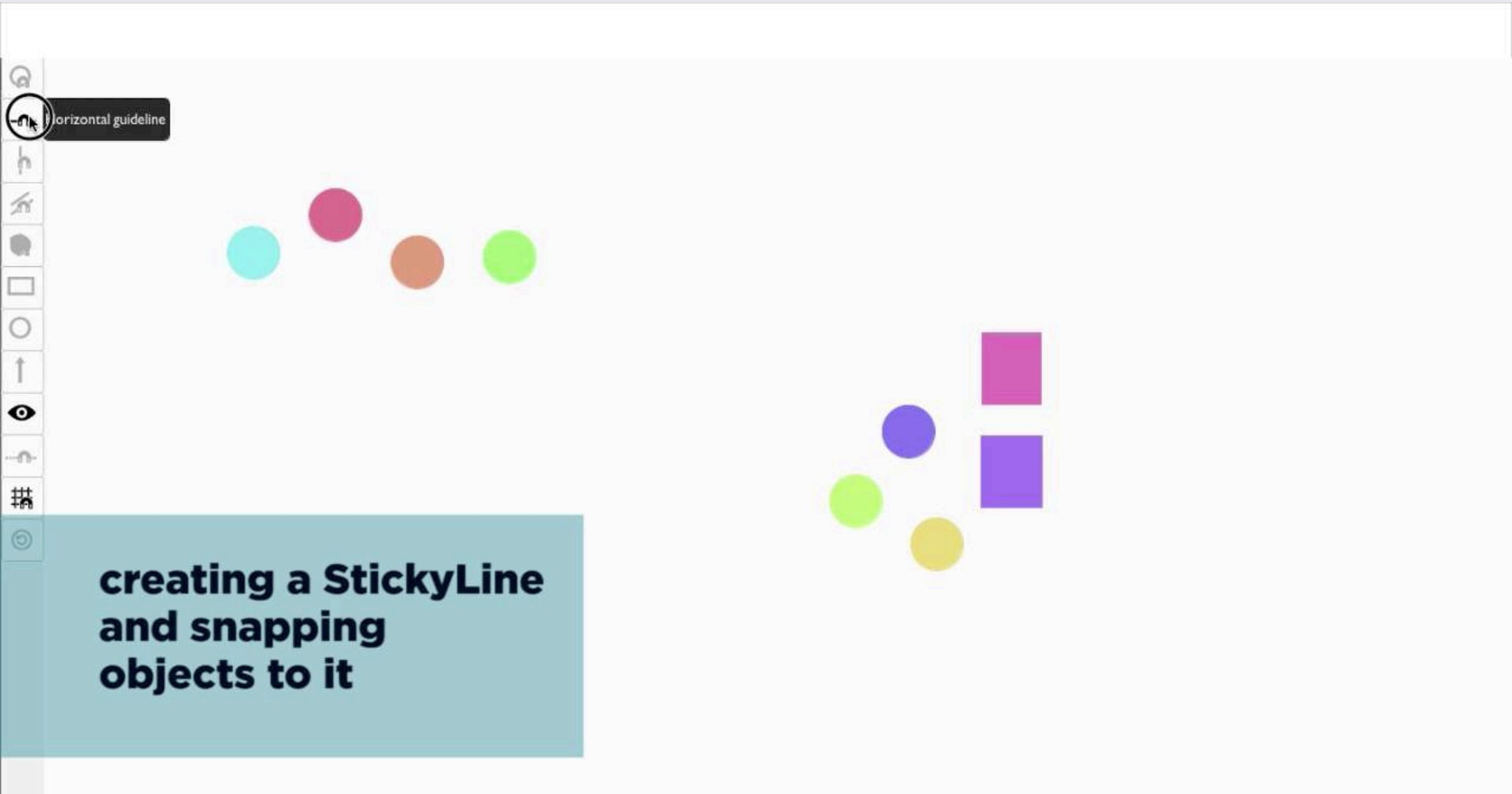
# StickyLines: Use key principles to

Reify :

alignment  
distribution  
'tweaks'



# StickyLines



**creating a StickyLine  
and snapping  
objects to it**

# Towards generative theory

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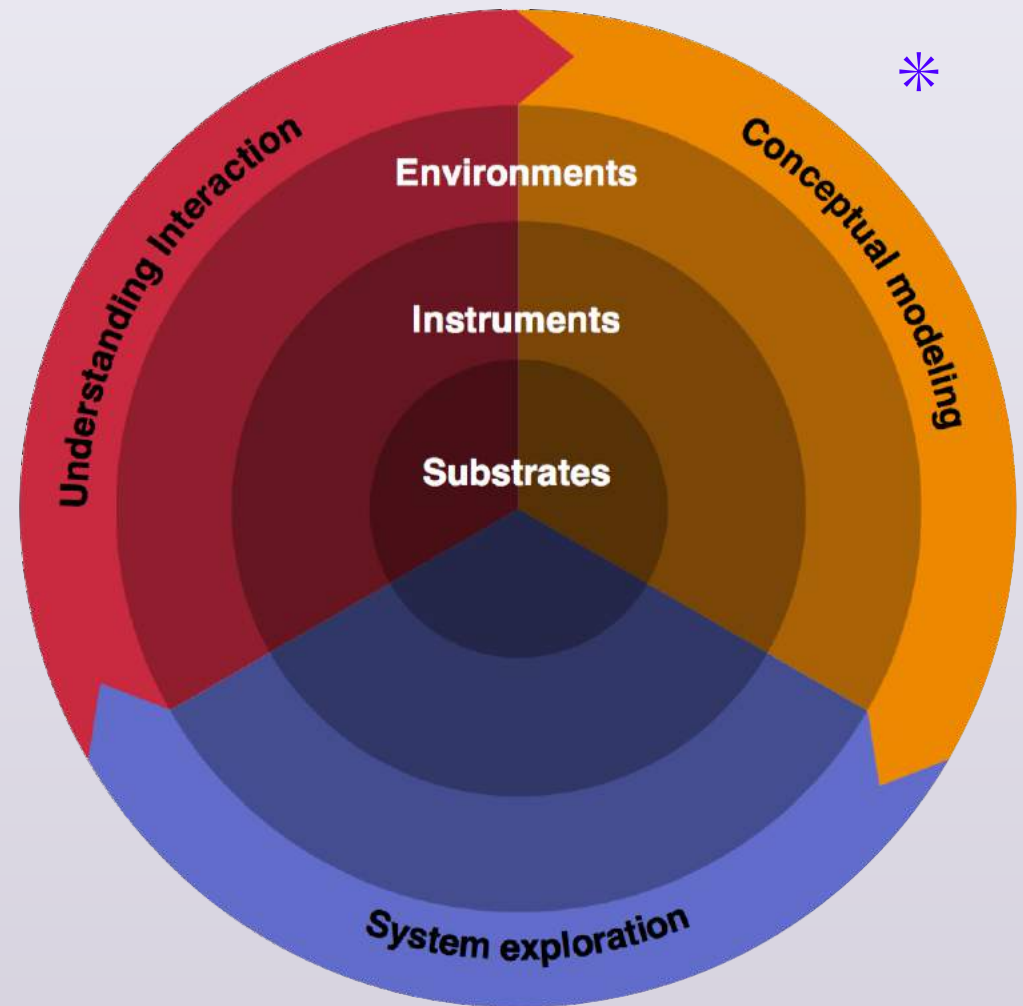
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# Webstrates

Any web document (HTML) served by the Webstrates server is shared by everyone who looks at it in a regular web browser  
Any changes are immediately visible to everyone.

Unlike google docs

Create your own editor (just a doc) with own tools (ditto)

Edit the same doc with your personal editor and tool



# Webstrates

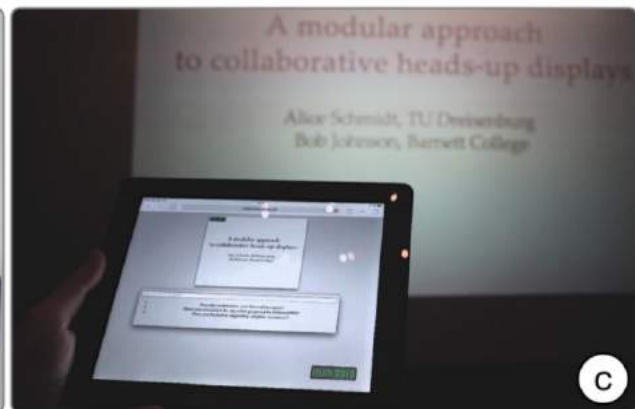
Shareable dynamic media :

*malleable* by users, who appropriate them

*shareable* among users, who collaborate on them

*distributable* across diverse devices and platforms

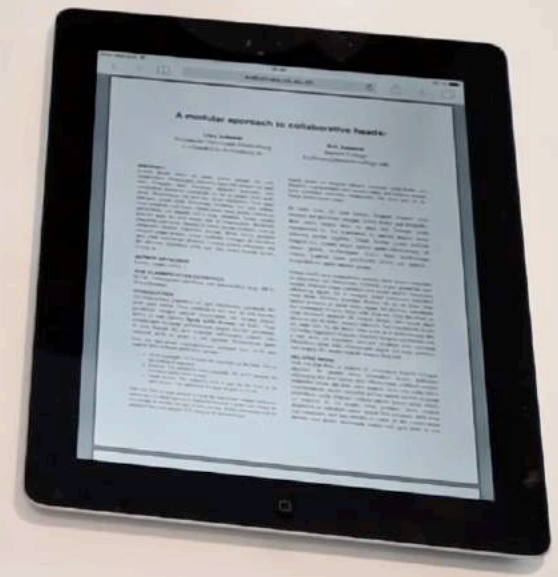
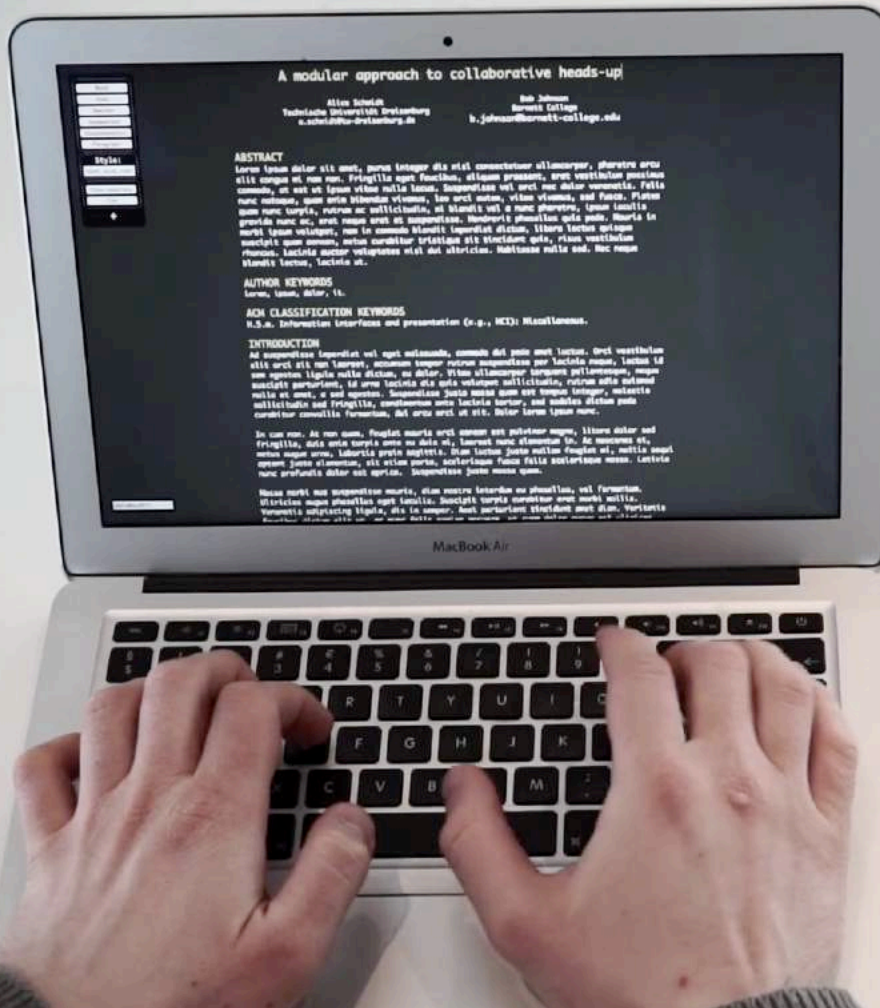
Users interact with one document, with personal editors





# Webstrates

3X



# Towards generative theory

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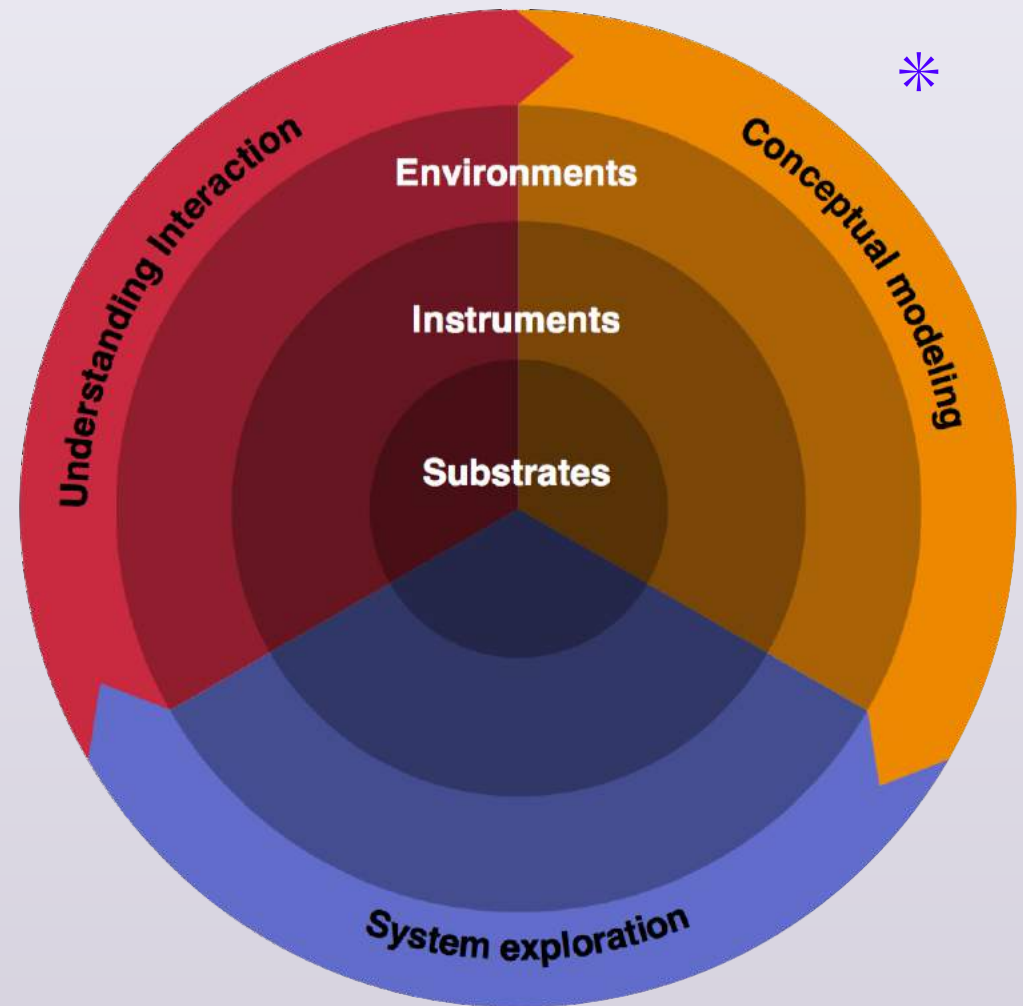
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# How we interact with computers

Computer as *tool*

Empower users



Human-  
Computer  
Interaction

Computer as *servant*

Delegate tasks



Artificial  
Intelligence

Computer as *medium*

Communicate



Mediated  
Communication

# Human-Computer Partnerships

Combine:

computer as a tool  
to augment human capabilities

*and*

computer as a servant  
to take over certain tasks

Keep the user in control

# Competing perspectives

Human-in-the-loop

Machine learning perspective:

Human is *input to the algorithm*



'human-in-the-loop' ?



## Competing perspectives

### Human-in-the-loop

Machine learning perspective:

Human is *input to the algorithm*

### Computer-in-the-loop

HCI perspective:

Algorithm is input to *inform the user*

# Human-Computer Partnerships

Instead of just creating models of *users*  
to inform the *system*

Shouldn't we create models of the *system*  
to inform the *user*?

Together, they can create effective  
*human-computer partnerships*



# Reciprocal Co-adaptation

People adapt their behavior to technology

... they learn it

People adapt the technology for their own purposes

... they appropriate it

Computers adapt their behavior to people

... machine learning

Computers modify human behavior

... training (or persuasion)

# Human-Computer Partnerships

People *adapt to* technology      they *learn* it  
*adapt* the technology      they *appropriate* it

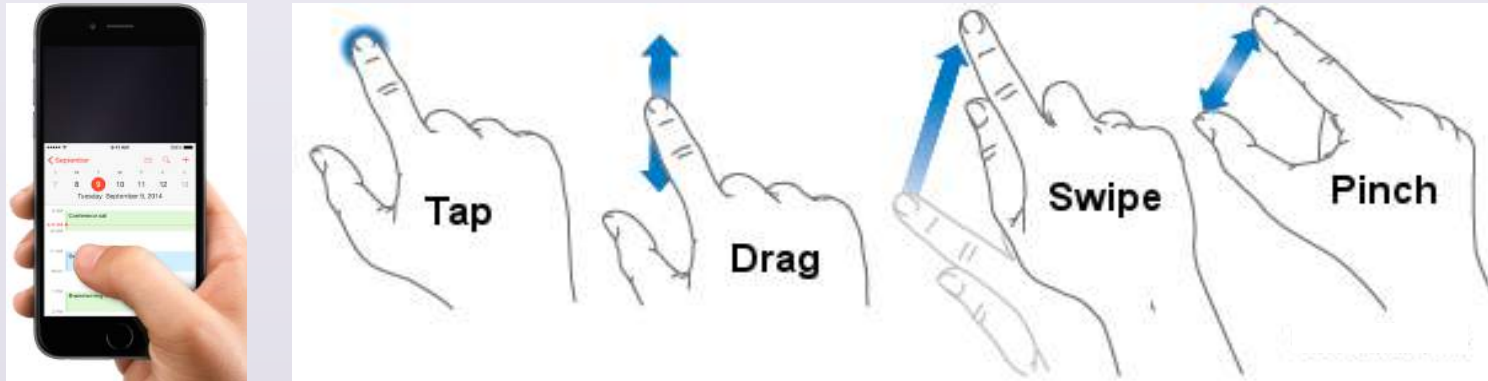


Discoverability

Appropriability

Expressivity

Smart phones are easy to use



... but interaction is more limited



# Why can't users learn to 'play' phones ?

Users should be able to progress  
from novice to virtuoso



# Towards generative theory\*

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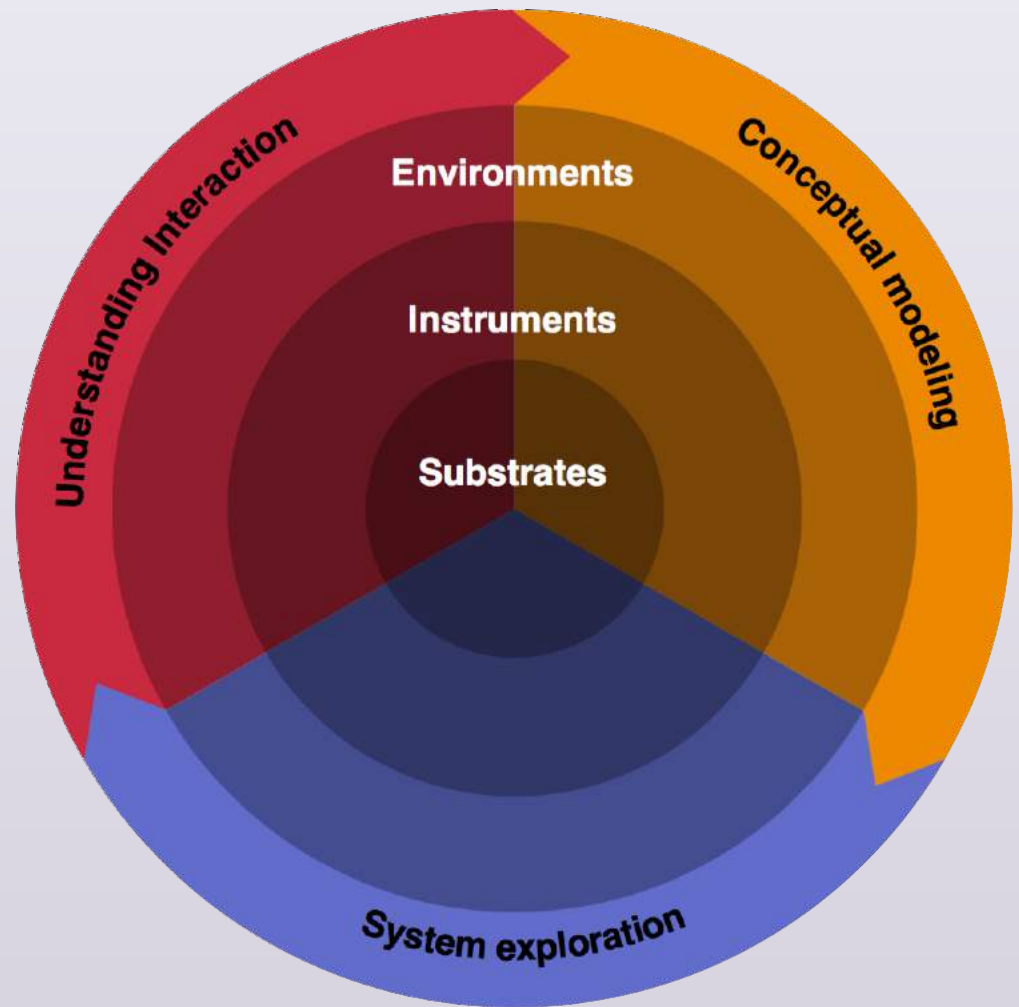
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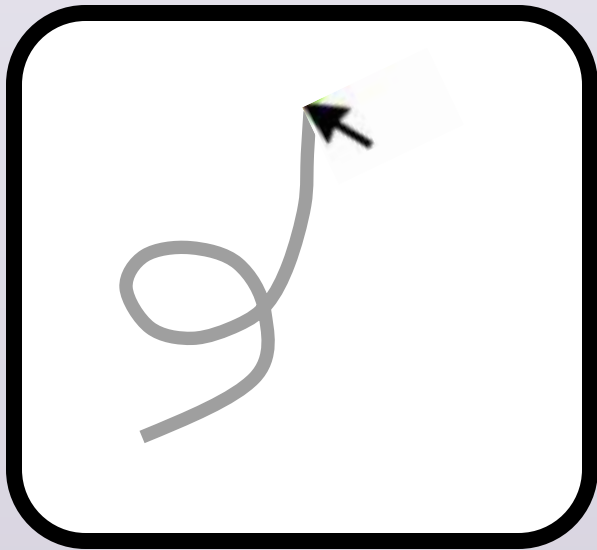


Discoverability

How can I learn  
which gesture  
executes which command?

# Octopocus

Experts just perform the gesture

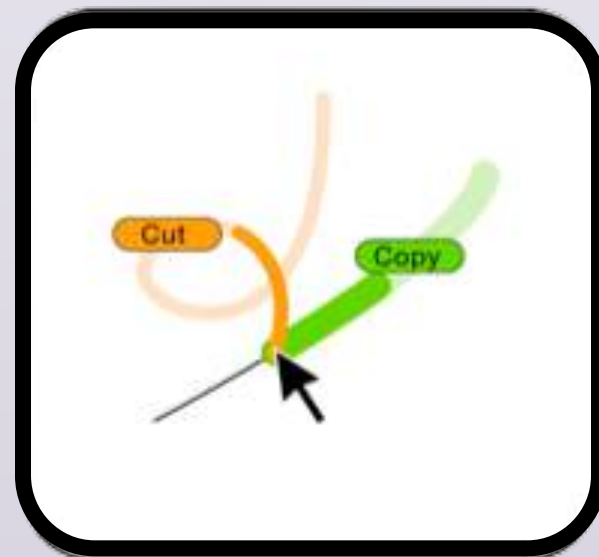
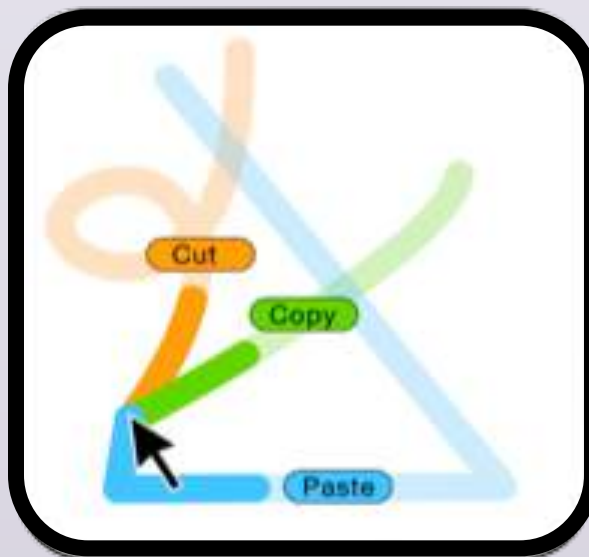
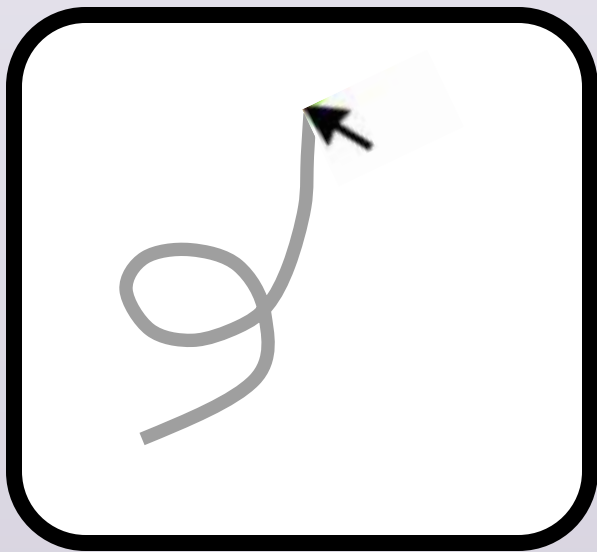


# Octopocus

Experts just perform the gesture

Novices **pause** ...

and the Octopocus guide appears





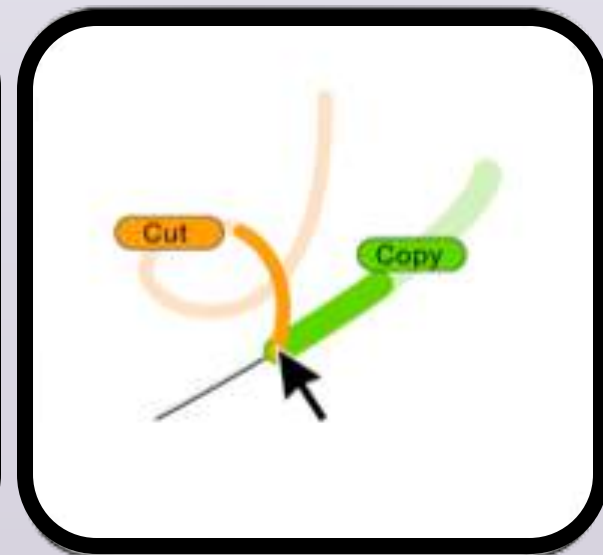
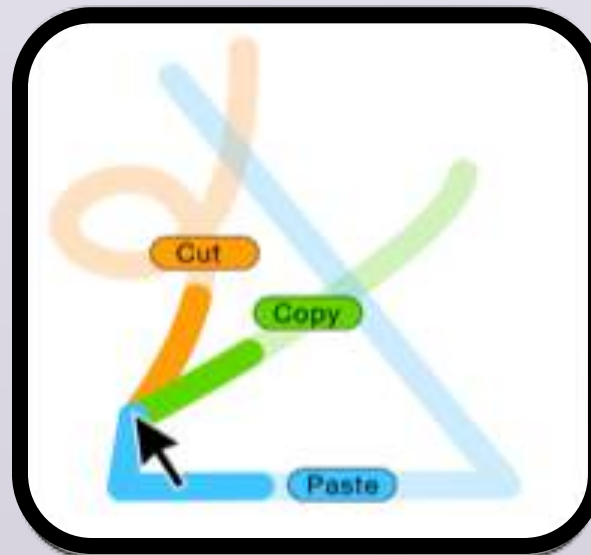
# Octopocus

Progressive feedforward

*What gestures are available ?*

Progressive feedback

*What did the system recognize ?*



Inking the '*Help*' command

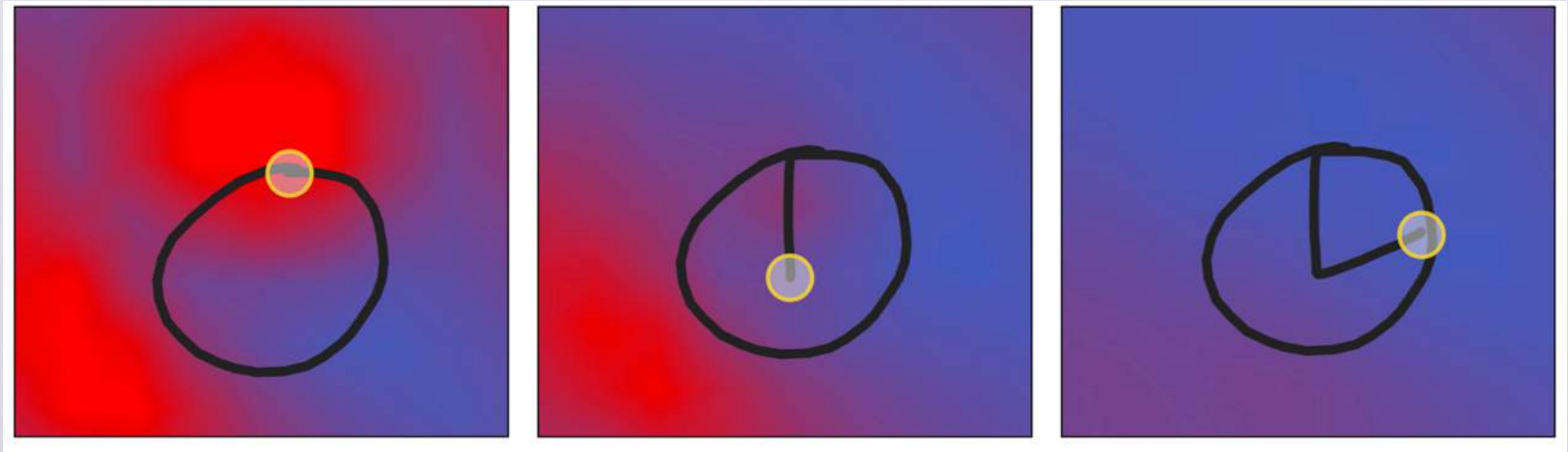


Appropriability

How can I  
create my own  
gesture commands?

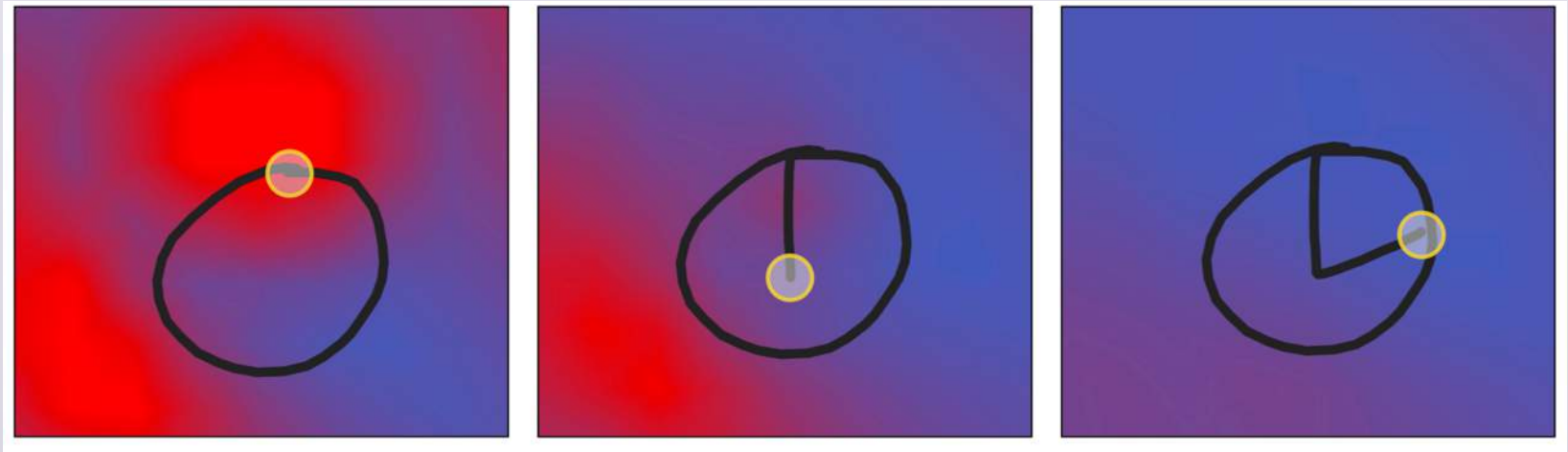
## Fieldward

To create your own gesture commands, they must be:  
easy for you to remember



## Fieldward

To create your own gesture commands, they must be:  
easy for you to remember  
easy for the system to recognize

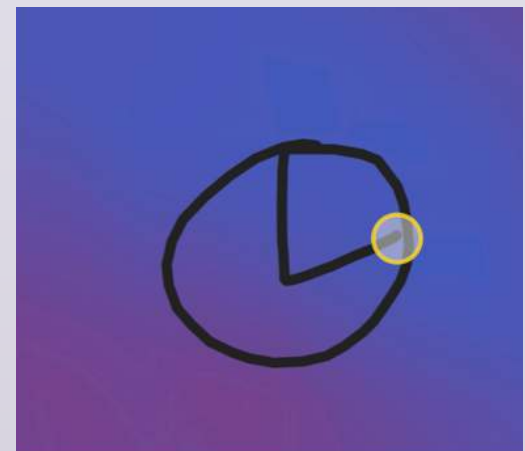
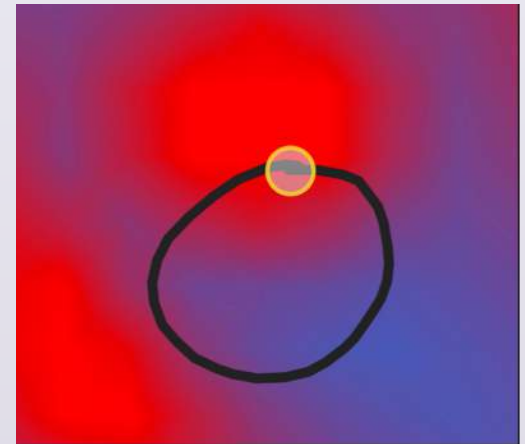


## Fieldward

Draw a gesture

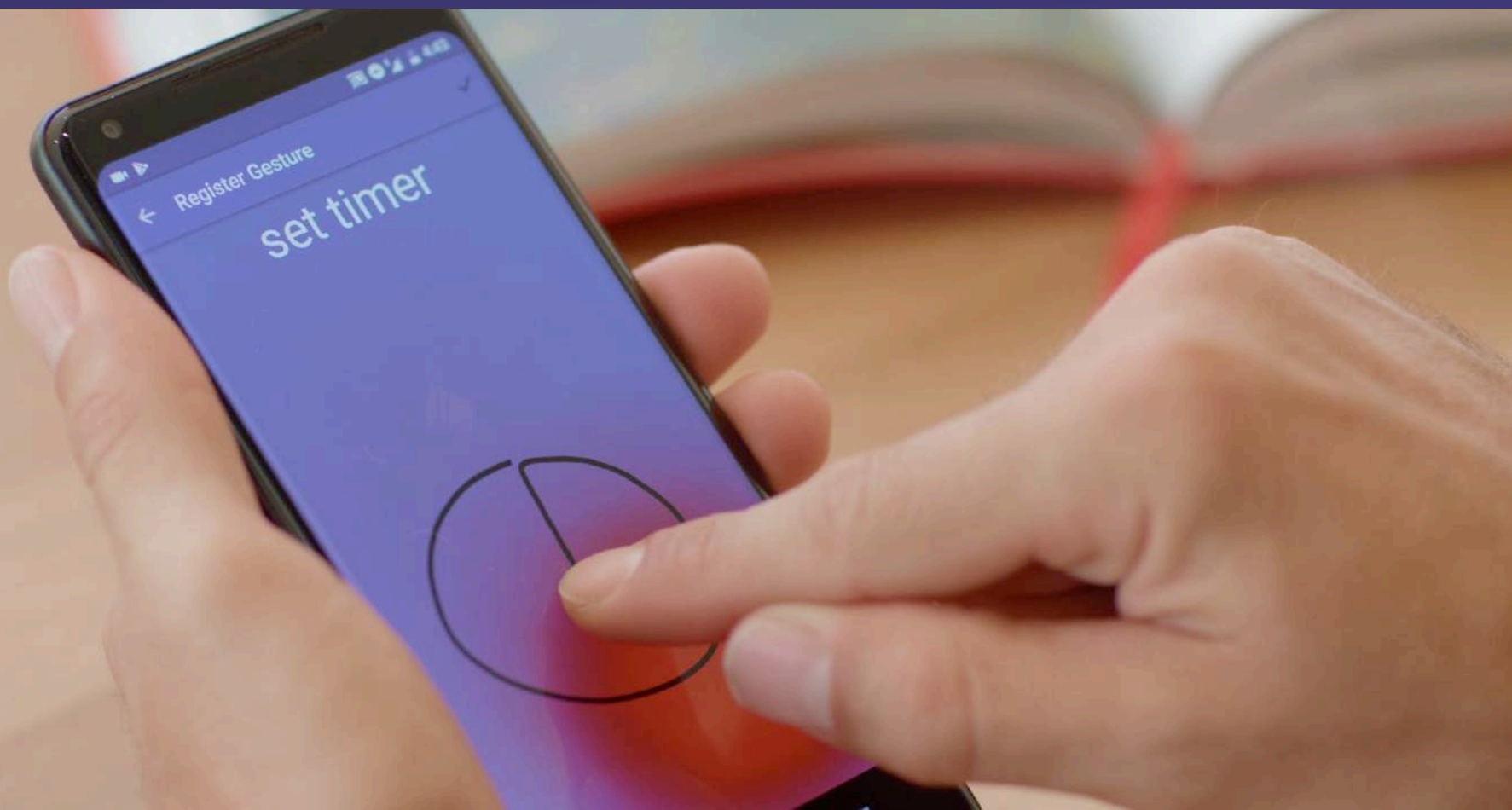
If it ends in a red zone  
the gesture already exists

If it ends in a blue zone  
you have a new gesture !



Fieldward

(set timer)





Discoverability



Appropriability

How can I access  
the phone's power  
... simply ?

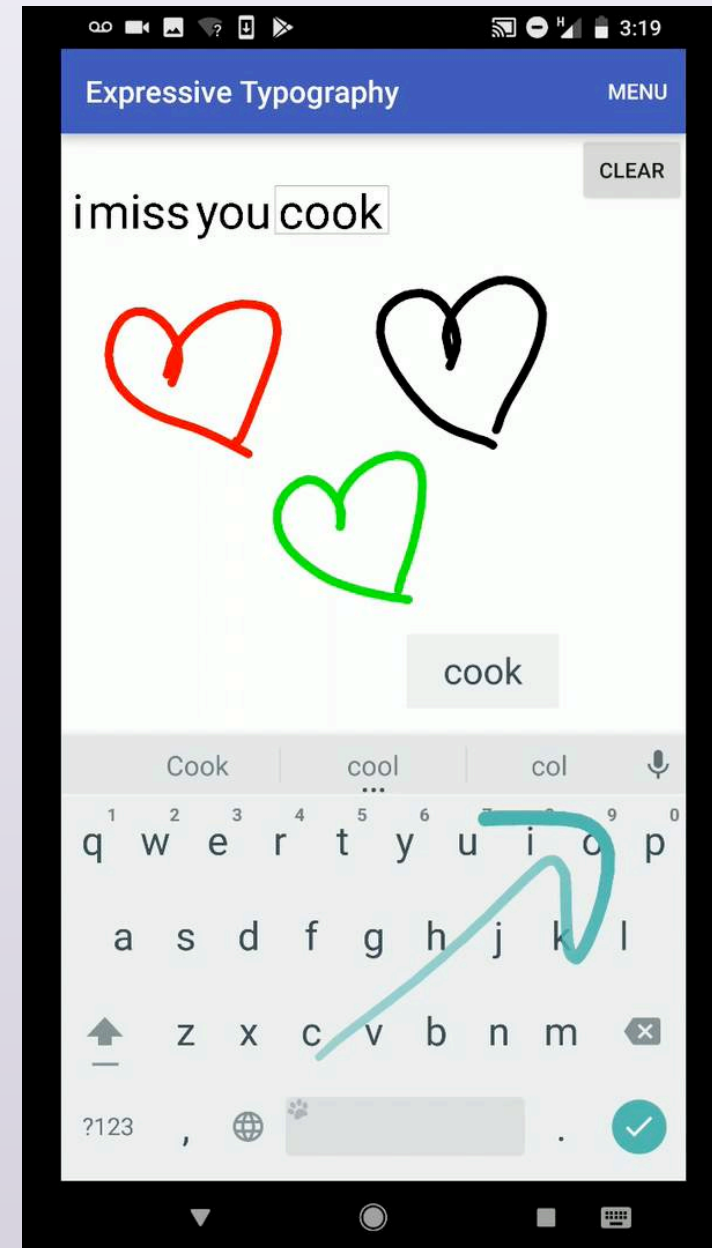


# CommandBoard

Transform the space  
above a soft keyboard  
into a command input space

Offers the power of a  
**command-line interface**  
on a mobile phone

Alvina, Griggio, Bi & Mackay UIST'17

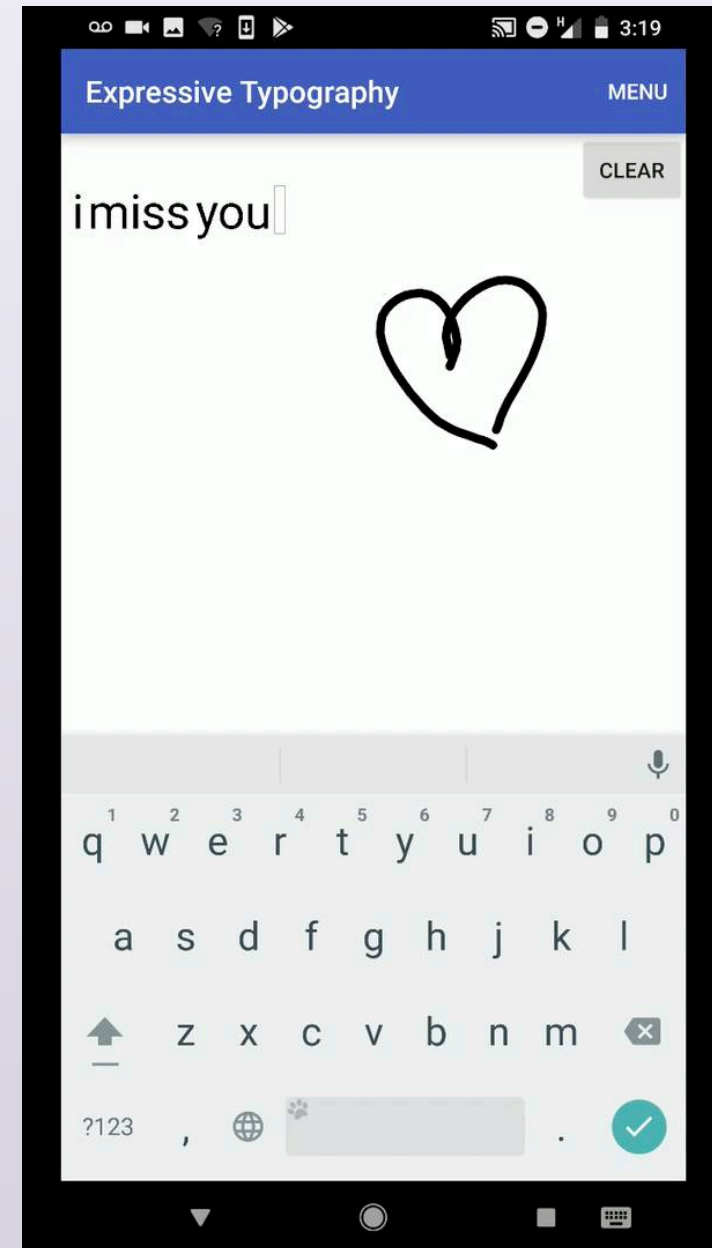


# CommandBoard

Type 'doodle'

then 'execute' gesture ^

Launches 'doodle'



# CommandBoard

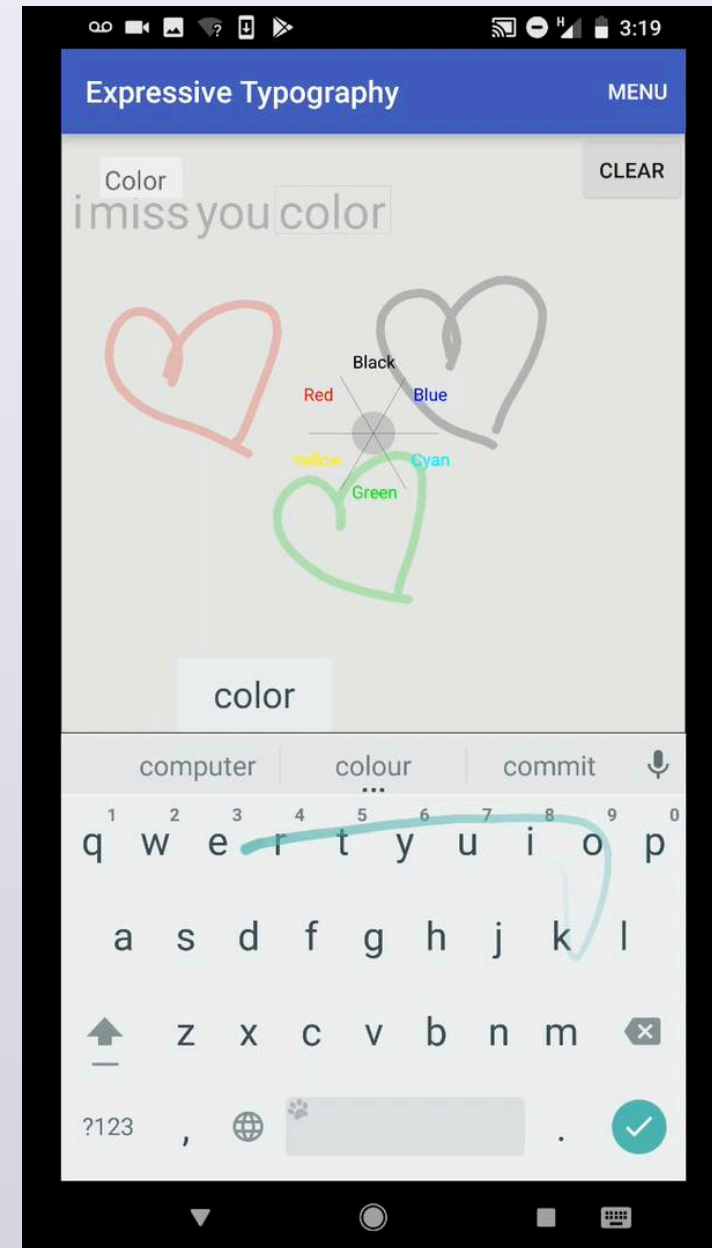
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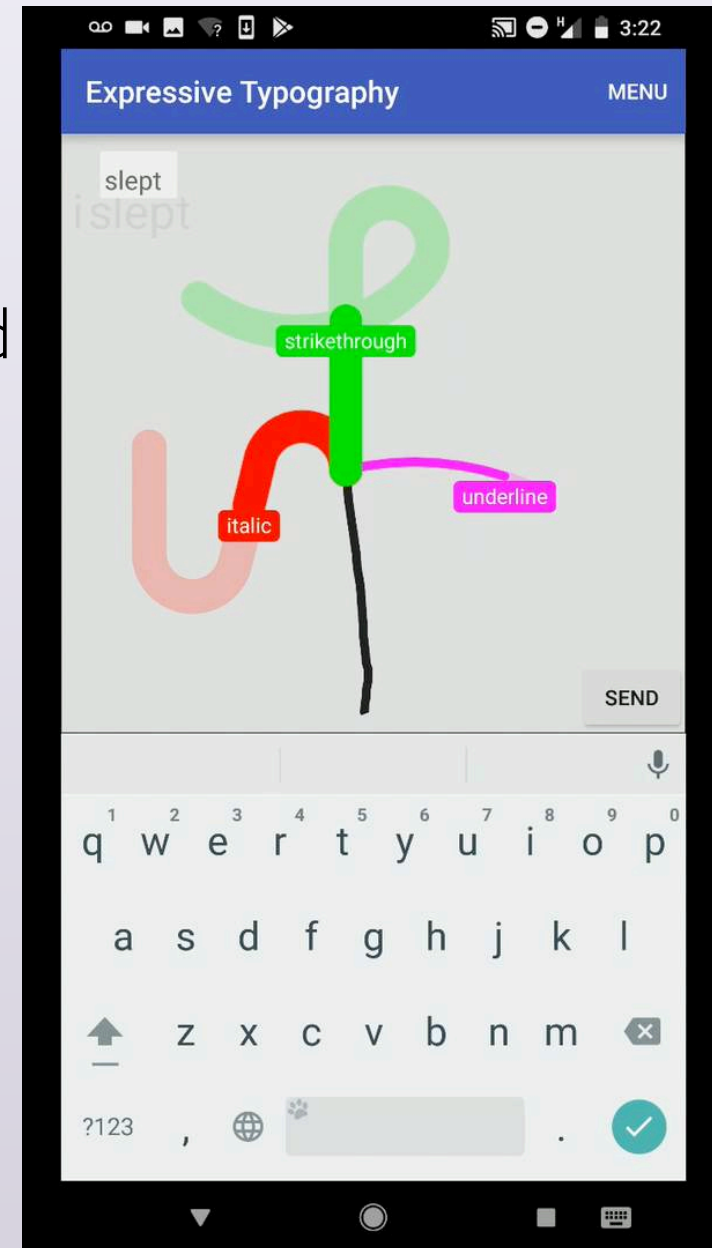
Type 'color'

then select a color



# Commandboard

Use progressive feedforward to  
**discover** strike-through command



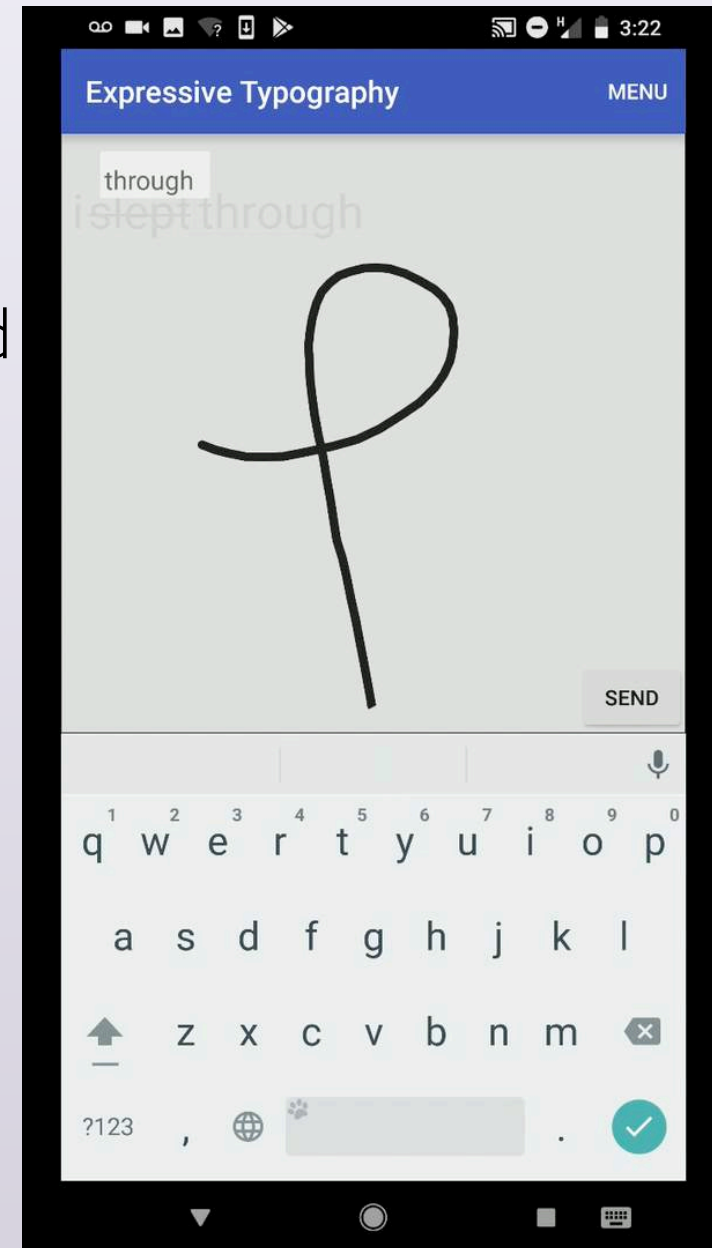
# Commandboard

Use progressive feedforward to  
**discover** strike-through command

When you know the gesture  
you just draw it

I ~~slept through~~ loved the lecture

Alvina, Griggio, Bi & Mackay UIST'17





Expressivity

How can I  
generate  
expressive output?

# Human expression vs. Machine classification

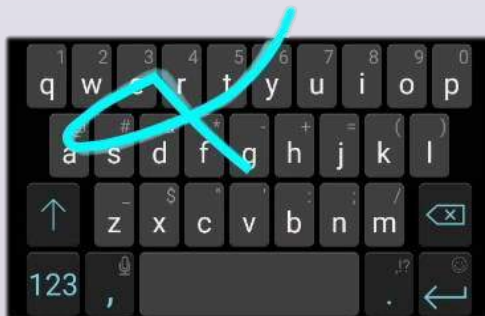
Machine learning algorithms:

- Goal is to classify the correct word

- Human variation is treated as noise

# Gesture typing algorithms are great ...

Four ways to input the word "great"

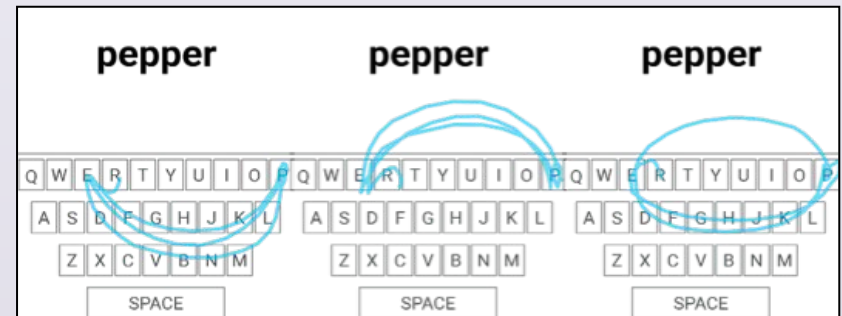


All produce the identical result: **great**



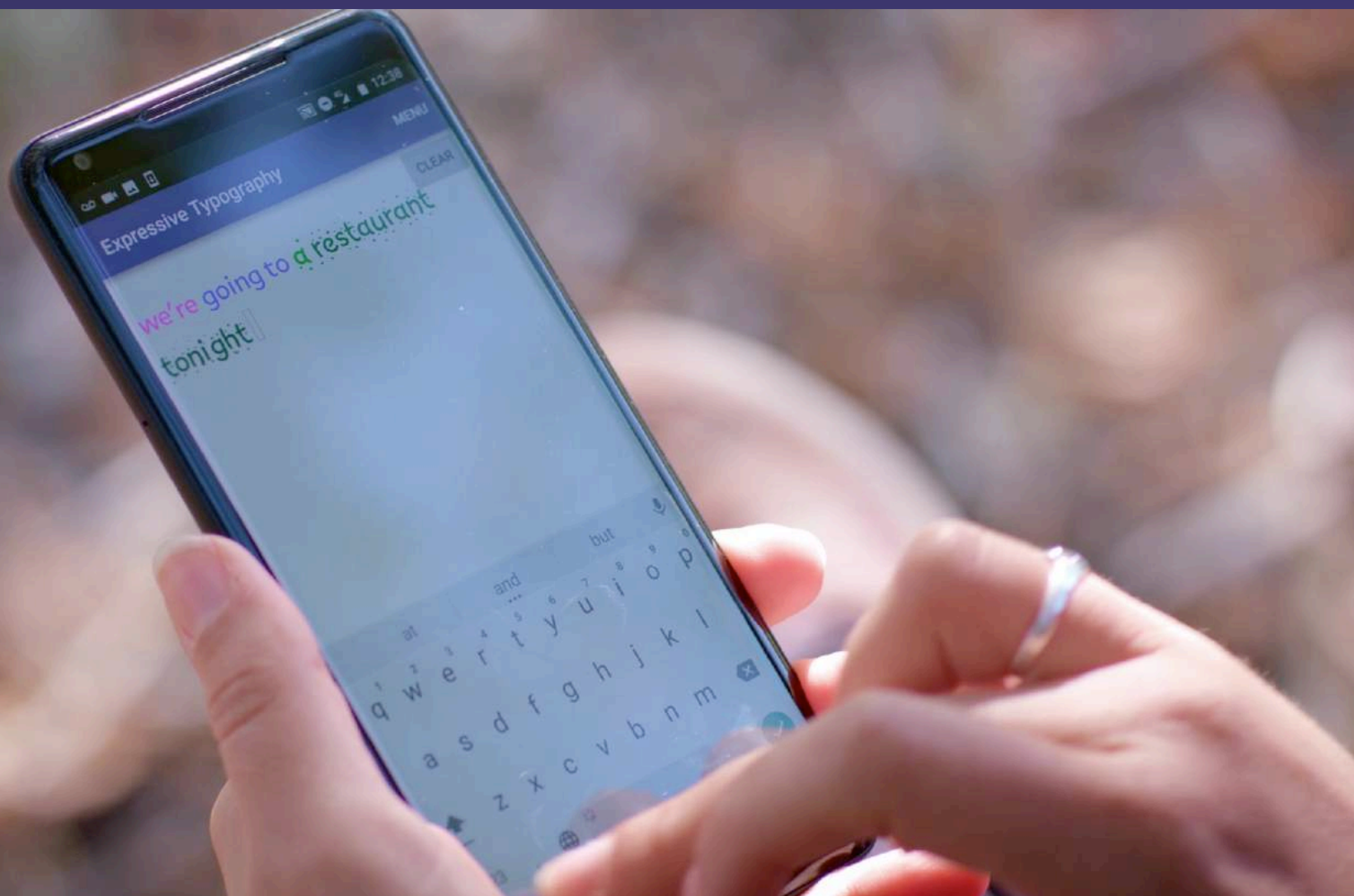
# Expressive Keyboard vs. Machine classification

Machine learning approach  
Classify the correct word  
**Remove** human variation

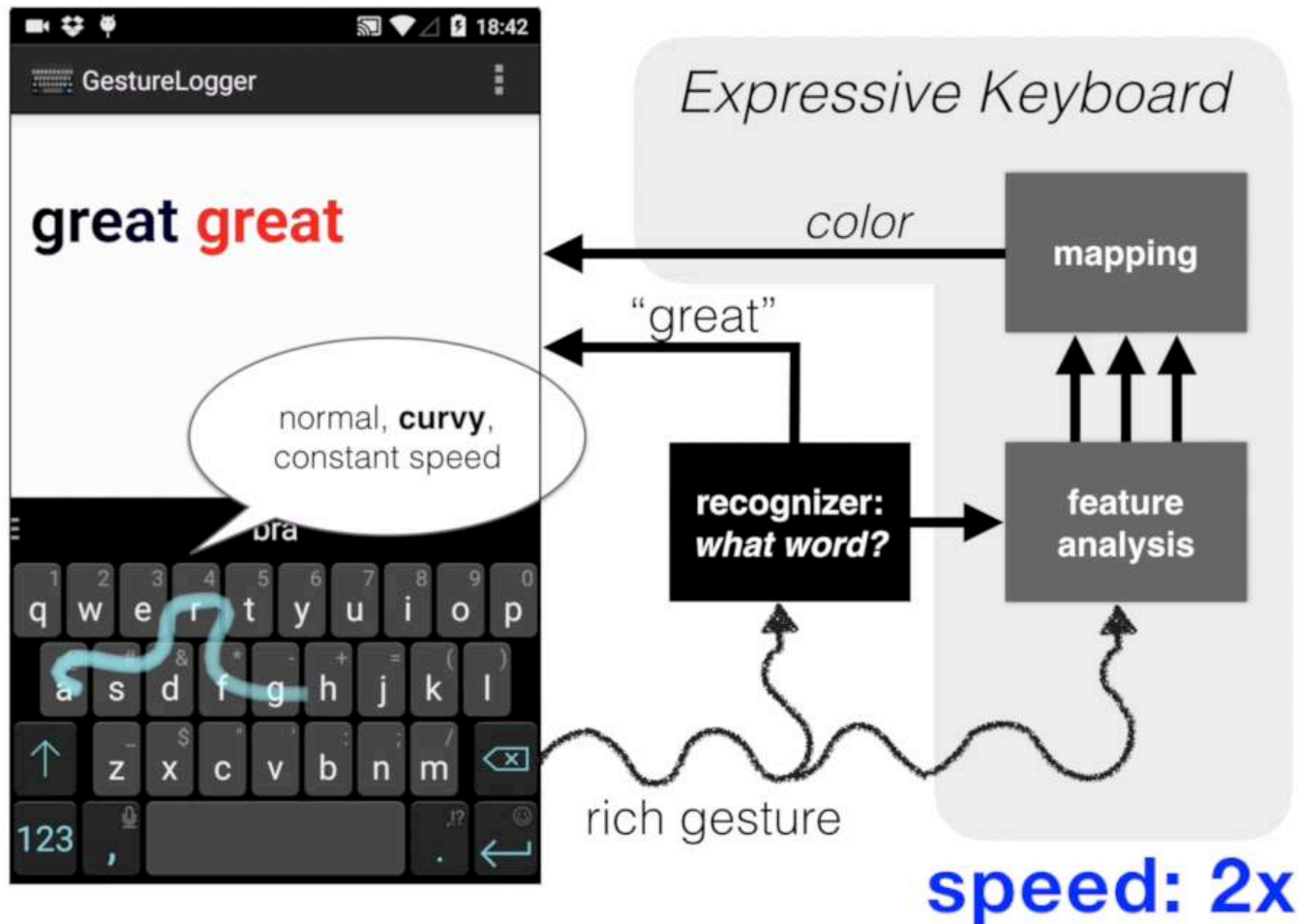


Our approach  
**Transform** human variation into expressive output  
color, emojis, typography ...

# Expressive Keyboard



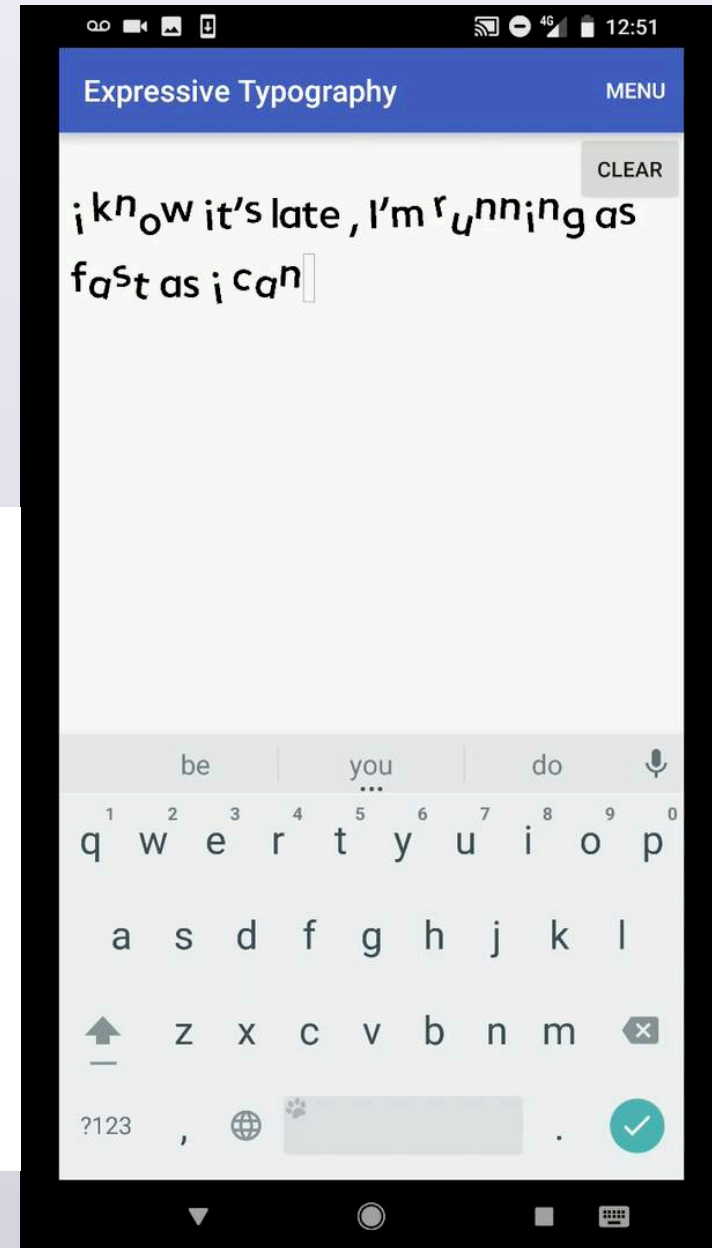
# Expressive Keyboard – measure variation



# Expressive Typography

Vary fonts for different audiences, goals and contexts

Dynamic typography plain style  
 Dynamic **typography** plain style  
 Dynamic typography informal style  
 Dynamic **typography** kids style  
 Dynamic typog<sup>r</sup>aphy spread style  
 Dynamic *typography* elegant style  
 Dynamic typography *scripte* style



# Human-Computer Partnerships



Discoverability

Appropriability

Expressivity



# Human-computer partnerships like these?

Discover

Appropriate

Express



Thank you !

Wendy E. Mackay

Inria, Université Paris-Saclay

11 October 2018

