

Some (Dis)Assembly Required: Speculative Making, Breaking, and Learning

Ruben R. Puentedura, Ph.D.

I. Everything Has... Changed?

“Anger is an energy

Anger is an energy

Anger is an energy

Anger is an energy”

–Public Image Ltd., *Rise*

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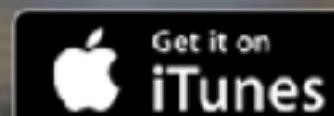
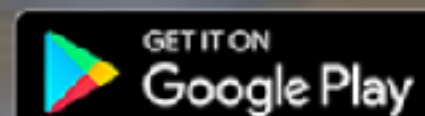
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magenta

Make Music and Art Using Machine Learning

[GET THE CODE](#)[TRY THE DEMOS](#)

About Magenta

Magenta is a research project exploring the role of machine learning in the process of creating art and music. Primarily this involves developing new deep learning and reinforcement learning algorithms for generating songs, images, drawings, and other materials. But it's also an exploration in building smart tools and interfaces that allow artists and musicians to extend (not replace!) their processes using these models. Magenta was started by some researchers and engineers from the [Google Brain team](#) but many others have contributed significantly to the project. We use [TensorFlow](#) and release our models and tools in open source on our [GitHub](#). If you'd like to learn more about Magenta, follow this blog, where we post technical details. You can also join our [discussion group](#).



What is biodiversity?

the rich variety of
life in every
ecosystem on
Earth

the animal and
plant species that
live only in your
backyard

the animals that
live only in
rainforests

NAME Smith Mary Jane DATE June 20 AGE 17 SEX F
SCHOOL Central CITY Middletown
GRADE OR CLASS 7E INSTRUCTOR R. E. Woods
NAME OF TEST Mathematics PART 4

SCORES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150

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1937

NAME Smith Mary Jane DATE June 20
LAST FIRST MIDDLE
SCHOOL Central CITY Middletown

DATE OF BIRTH AGE 17 SEX F
GRADE OR CLASS 7E INSTRUCTOR R. E. Woods
NAME OF TEST Mathematics PART 4

SCORES

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61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
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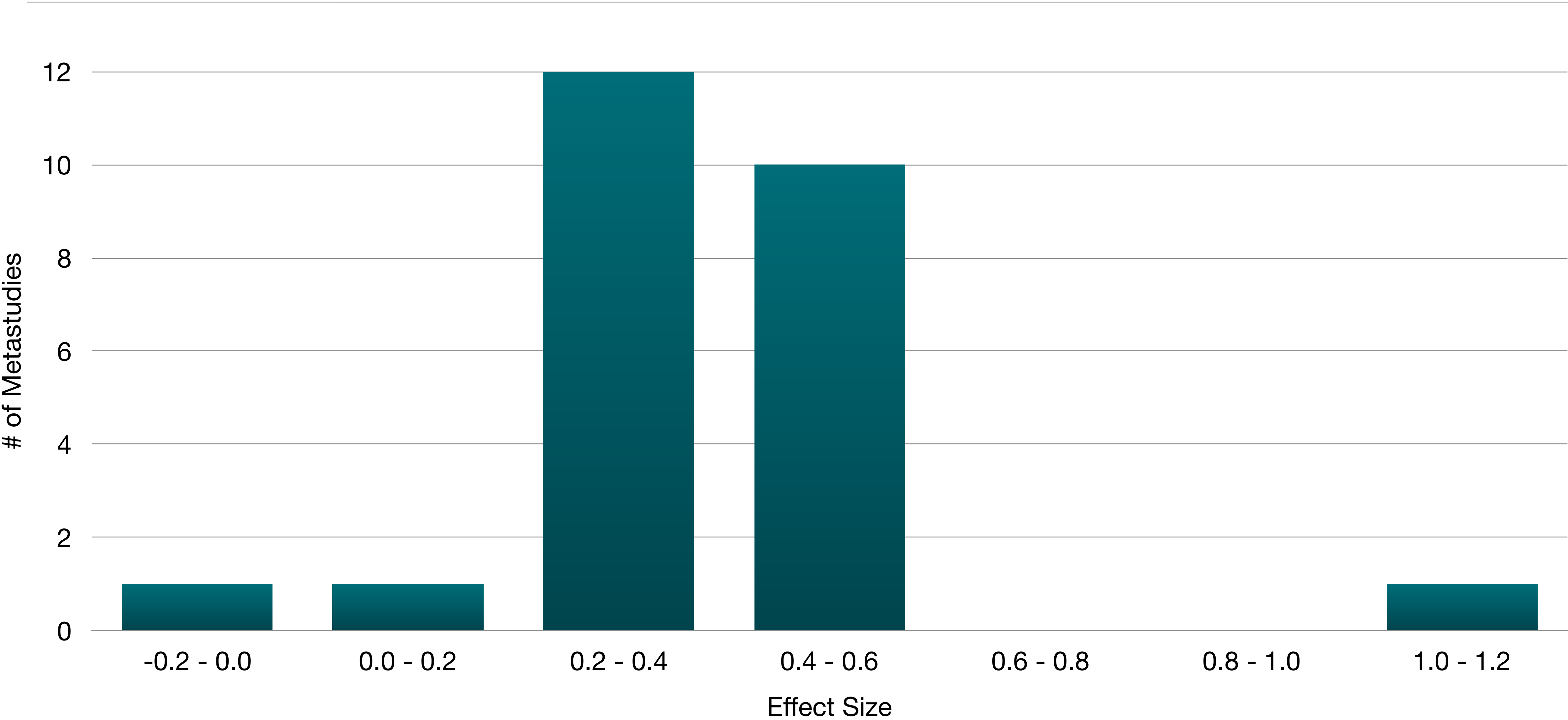
2018

II. The Risks Of Stasis

“I might be movin’ to Montana soon
Just to raise me up a crop of
Dental floss”

–Frank Zappa, *Montana*

The Research: 1,097 Studies, 25 Metastudies, 19 Years



Tamim, Rana M., Robert M. Bernard, Eugene Borokhovski, Philip C. Abrami, and Richard F. Schmid. "What forty years of research says about the impact of technology on learning a second-order meta-analysis and validation study." *Review of Educational Research* 81, no. 1 (2011): 4-28.

Transformation

Redefinition

*Tech allows for the creation of new tasks,
previously inconceivable*

Modification

Tech allows for significant task redesign

Augmentation

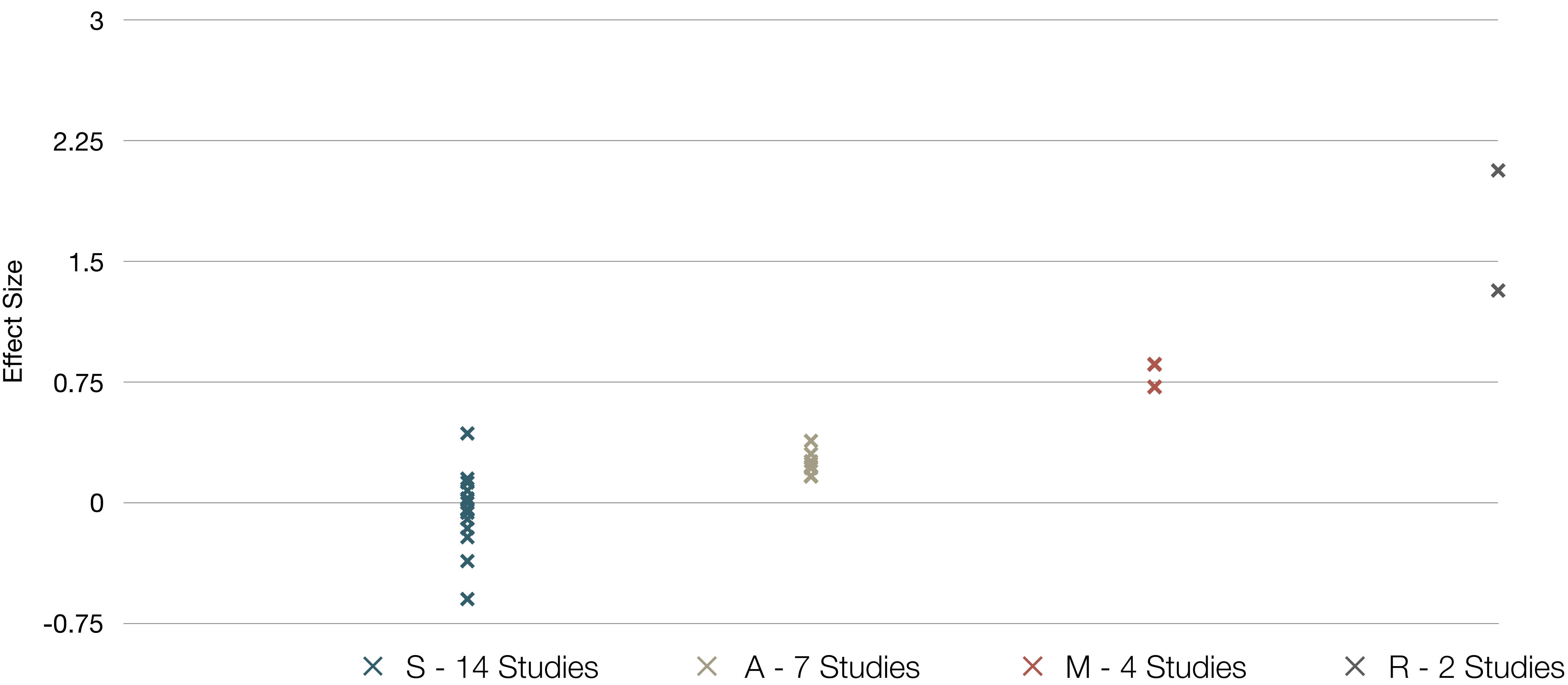
*Tech acts as a direct tool substitute,
with functional improvement*

Substitution

*Tech acts as a direct tool substitute,
with no functional change*

Enhancement

SAMR and the Use of Tablets in Education



III. Trust In Our Tools

“I’m guided by the beauty of our weapons
First we take Manhattan, then we take Berlin”

–Leonard Cohen, *First We Take Manhattan*

Social	Mobility	Visualization	Storytelling	Gaming
200,000 years	70,000 years	40,000 years	17,000 years	8,000 years
				

The EdTech Quintet – Associated Practices

Social	Communication, Collaboration, Sharing
Mobility	Anytime, Anyplace Learning and Creation
Visualization	Making Abstract Concepts Tangible
Storytelling	Knowledge Integration and Transmission
Gaming	Feedback Loops and Formative Assessment

IV. Revisiting An Old Friend

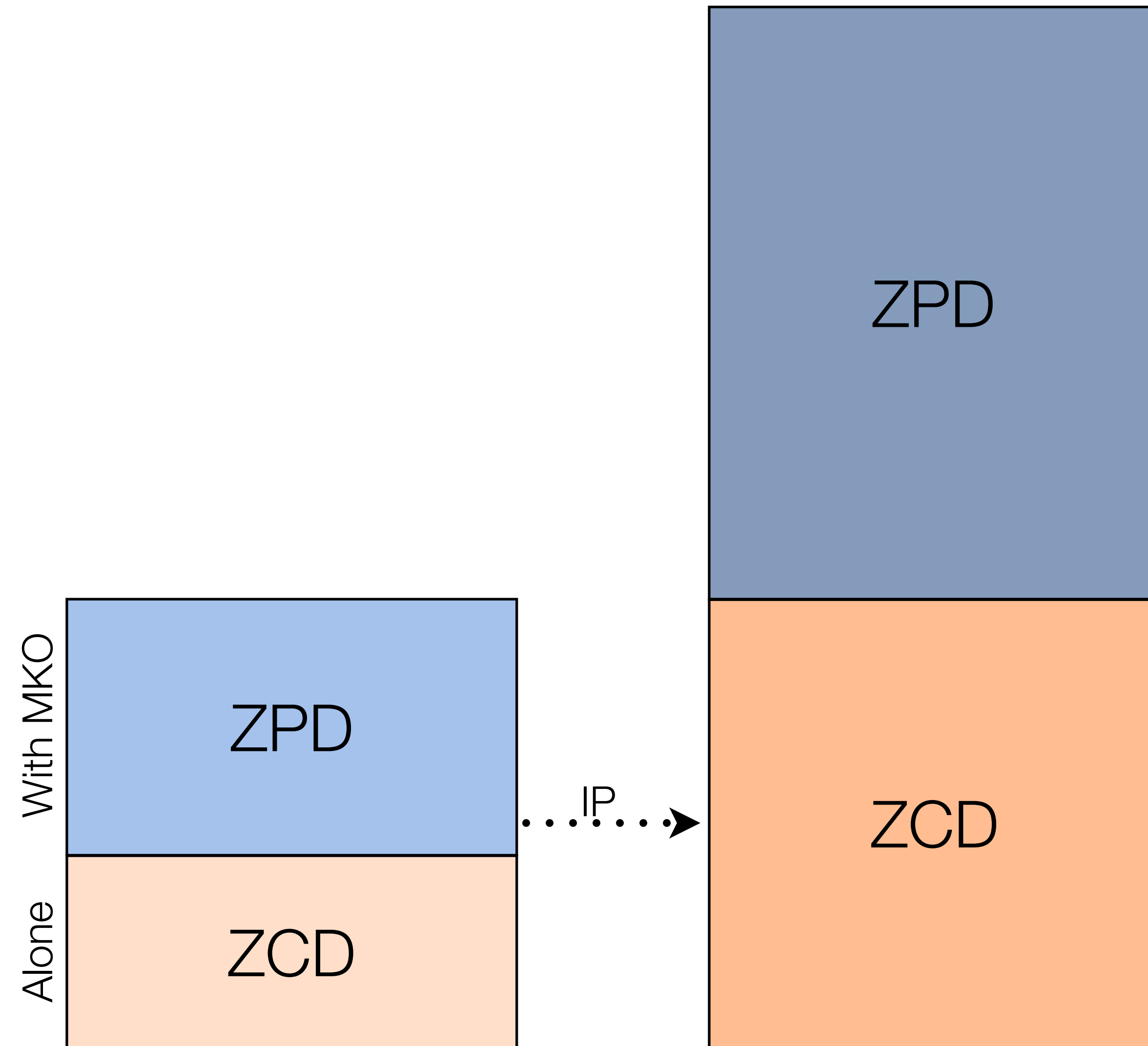
“I repeat myself when under stress

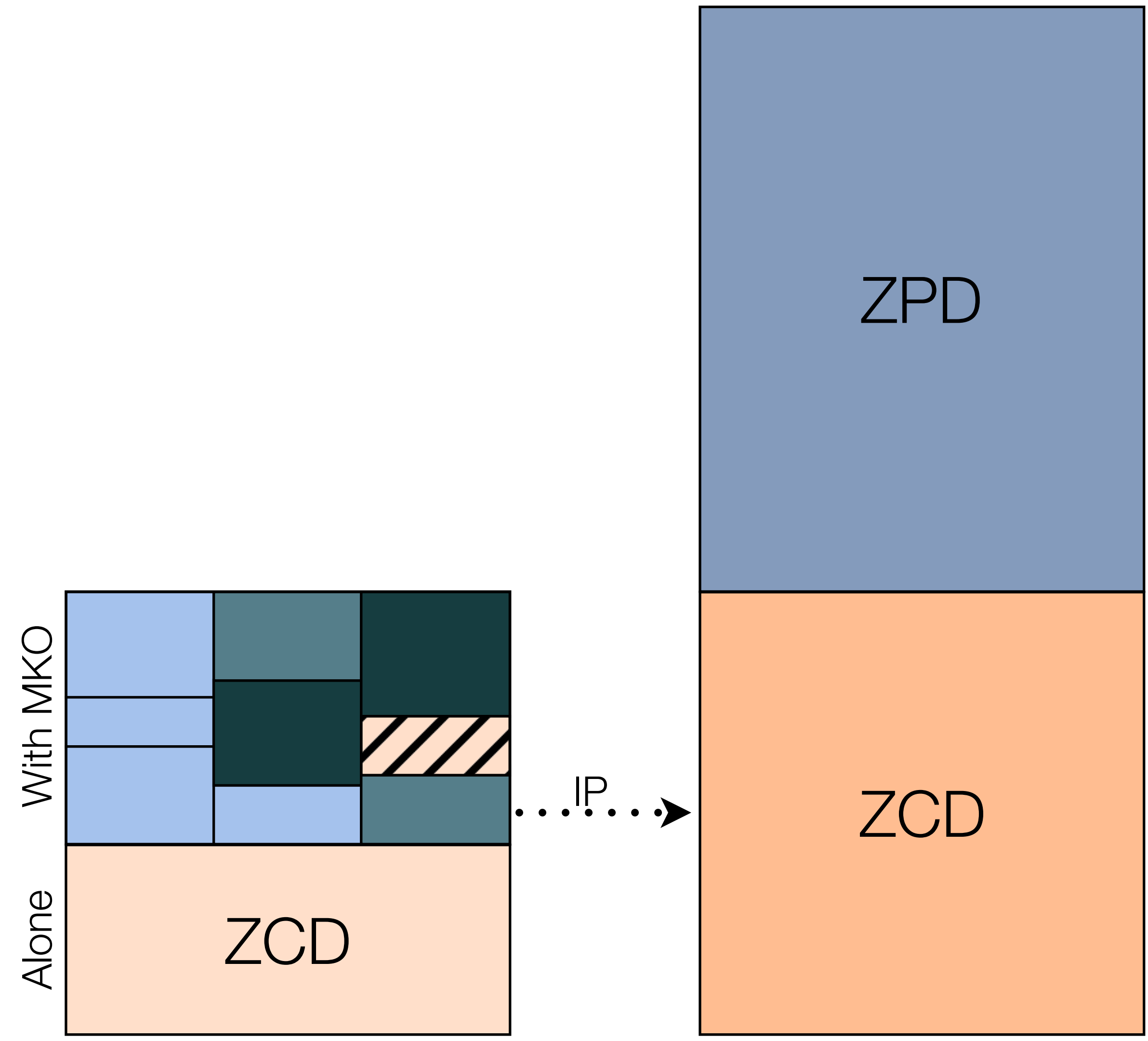
I repeat myself when under stress

I repeat myself when under stress

I repeat myself when under stress”

–King Crimson, *Indiscipline*





The EdTech Quintet – Associated Practices

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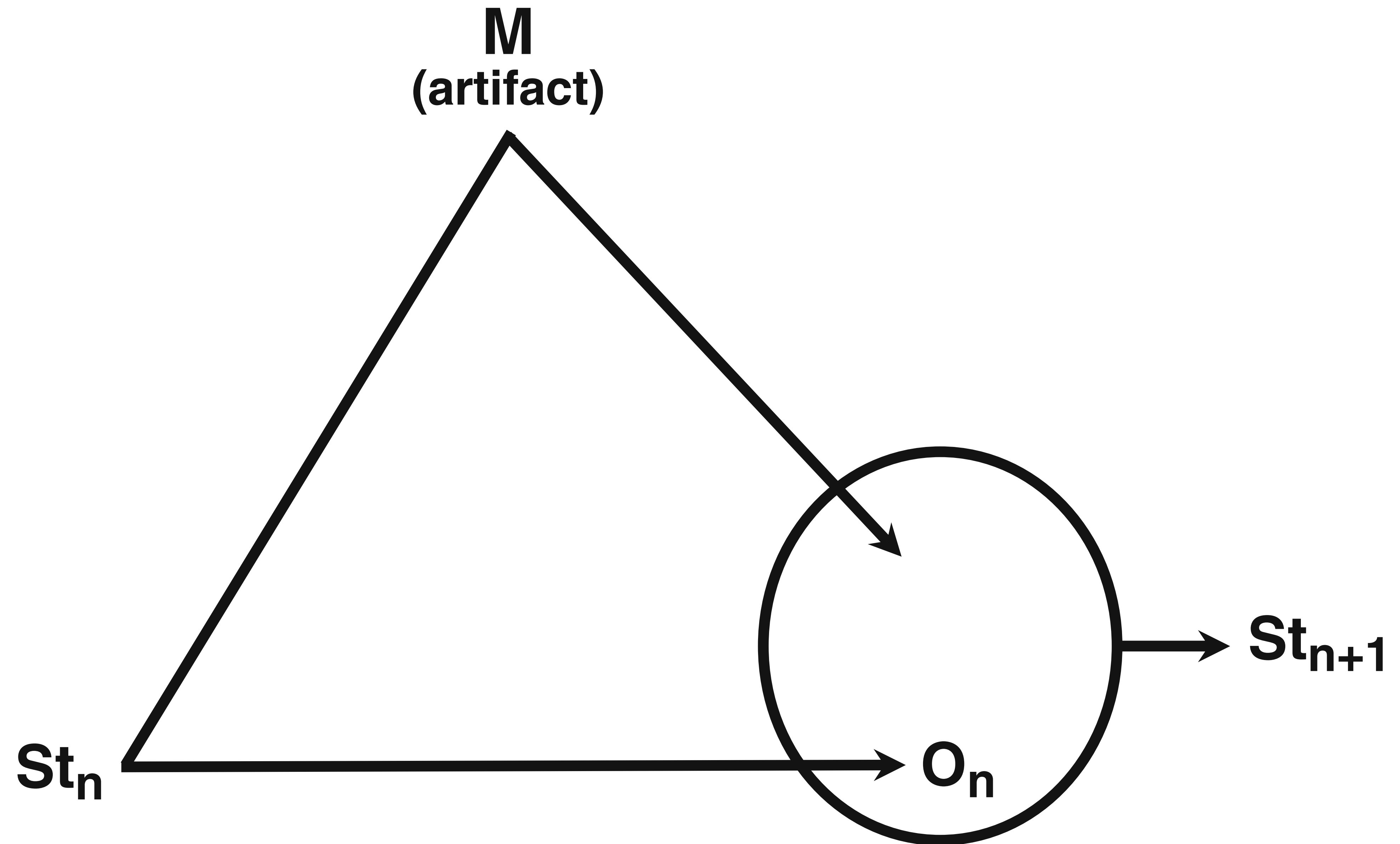
The EdTech Quintet – Associated Practices

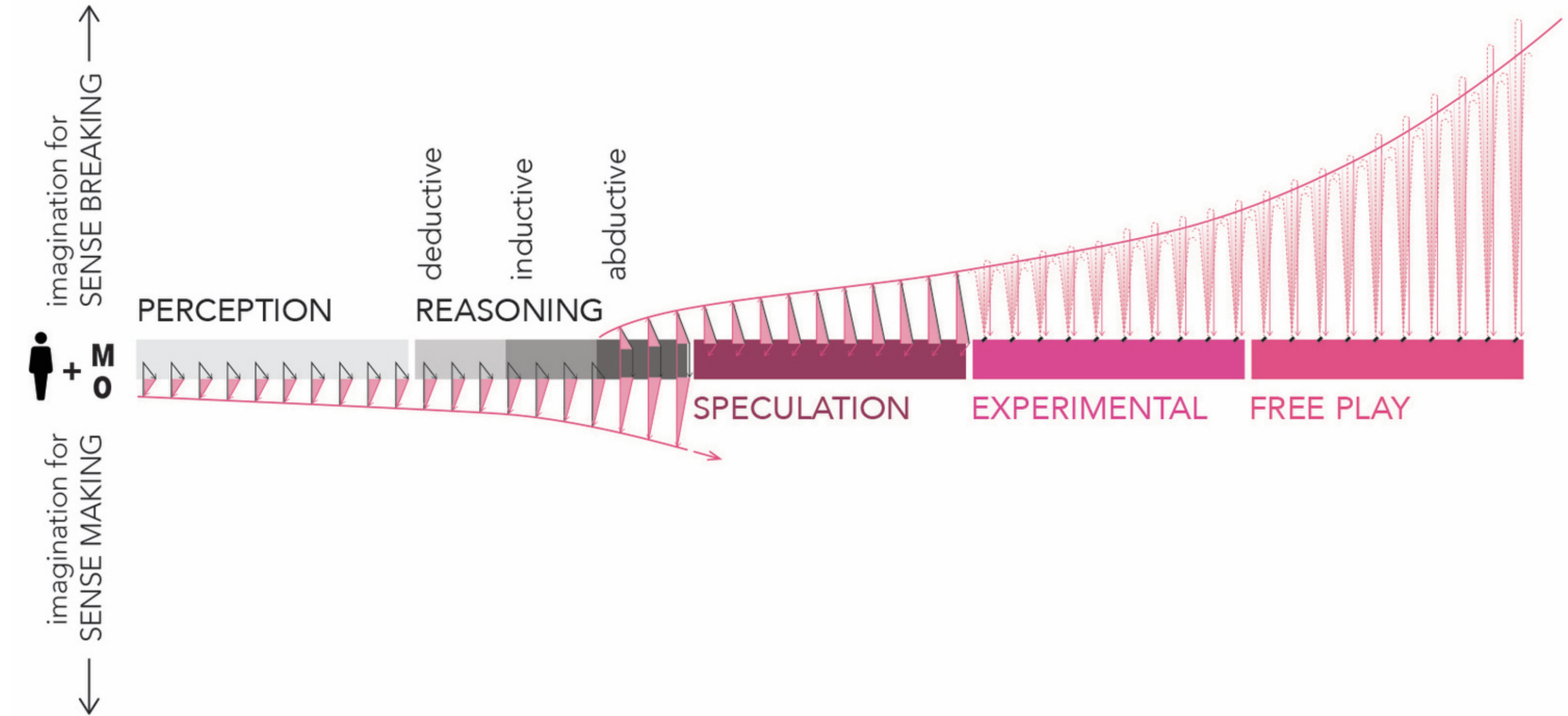
Social	Provides diversity to the ZPD
Mobility	Creates the context for the process
Visualization	Aids in segmenting ZPD, bridging gaps
Storytelling	Aids in the integration of the ZPD
Gaming	Provides frameworks for independent practice

V. Making/Breaking Sense

“Strange fascination, fascinating me
Changes are taking the pace I’m going through
Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes
(Turn and face the strange)”

–David Bowie, *Changes*





VI. Speculative Design

“When Buckminster Fuller came to Canada, he kept asking the same question:
“Have you ever really considered how much your buildings weigh?””

–Laurie Anderson, *The Big Top*

“The purpose of speculation is to unsettle the present, rather than predict the future.”

**–Anthony Dunne and Fiona Raby
(referencing Stephen R.L. Clark)**

Joey Ruiter, *Snoped*



Adelita Husni-Bey, *The Council*



VII. Speculative Learning Design

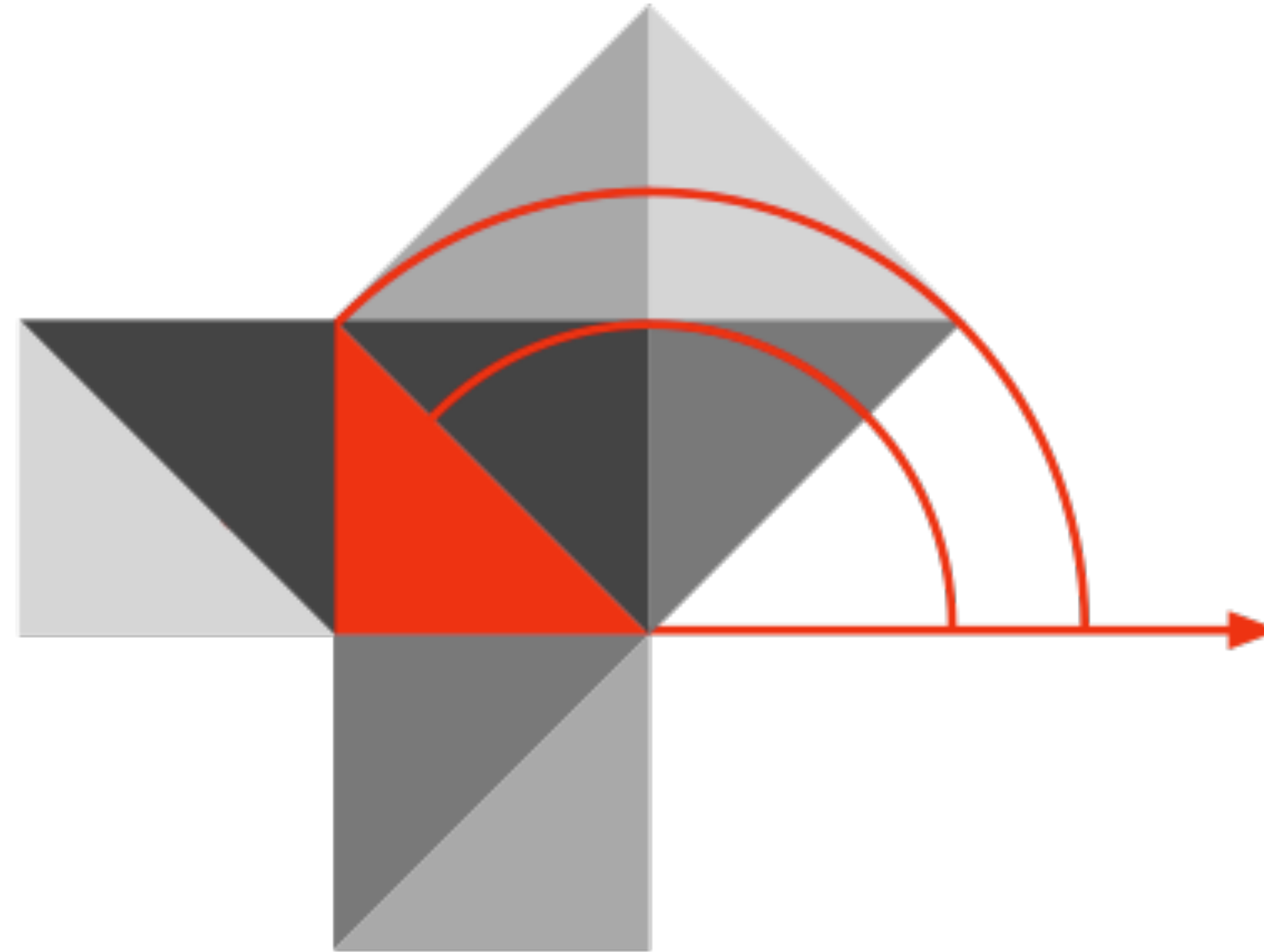
“Stop making sense,
Stop making sense...
Stop making sense,
Making sense”

–Talking Heads, *Girlfriend is Better*

What if we made...

- ...an LMS that steered the student *away* from “best fit” courses?
- ...a course that used technology to *erase* all trace of its existence?
- ...a learning space design that *required* new forms of collaboration?
- ...or other learning experiences, that by design *challenged* what we’ve come to accept as the desirable/possible affordances of our toolset?

Hippasus



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