

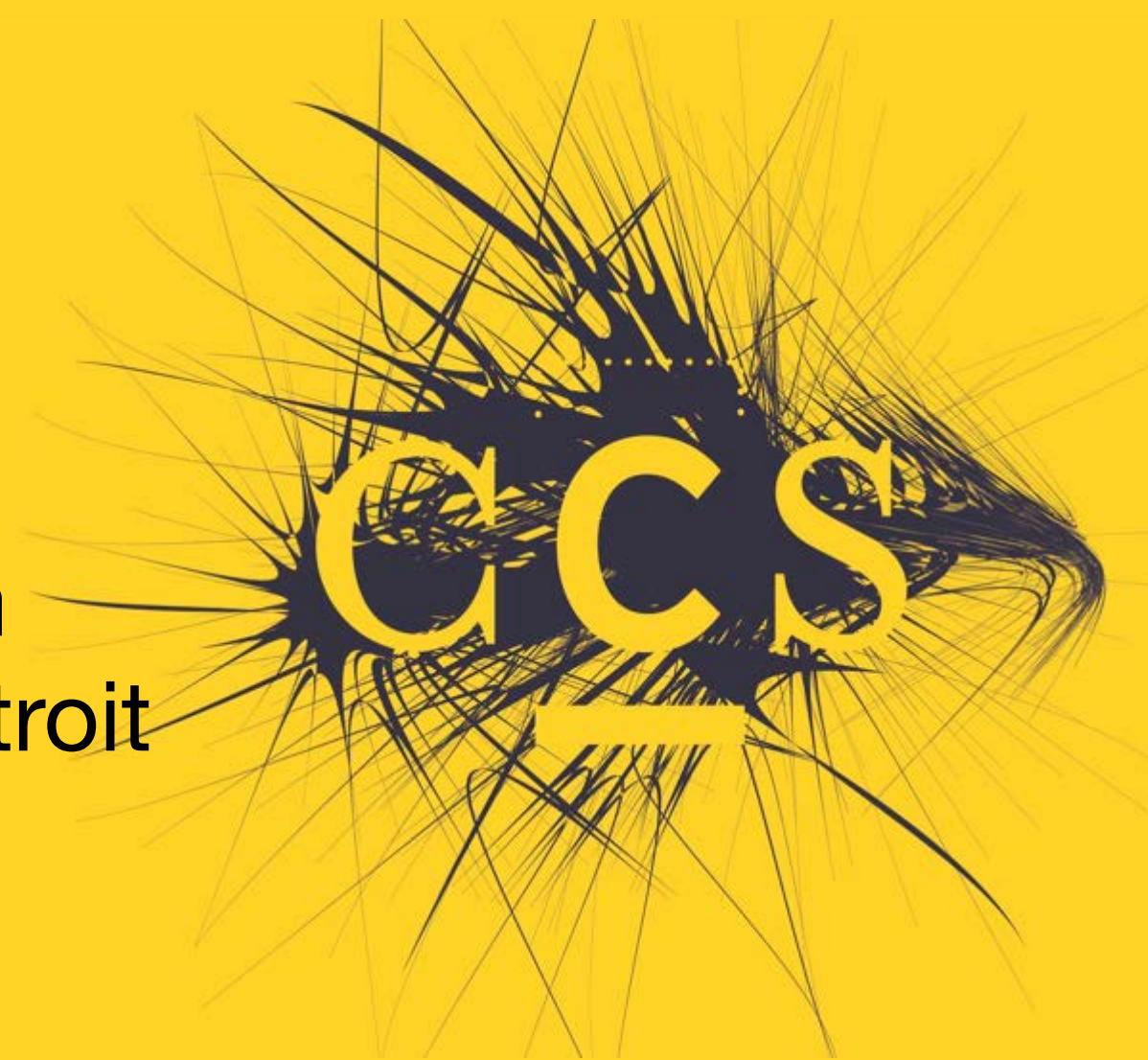
The Future of Cybernetics

Nano Worlds Fair

Pier 48 San Francisco

March 10, 2018

Paul Pangaro, Ph.D.
Chair and Associate Professor
MFA Interaction Design Program
College for Creative Studies, Detroit
paul@pangaro.com



The Future of Cybernetics

MFA Interaction Design
College for Creative Studies, Detroit

paul@pangaro.com

The Future of Cybernetics is...

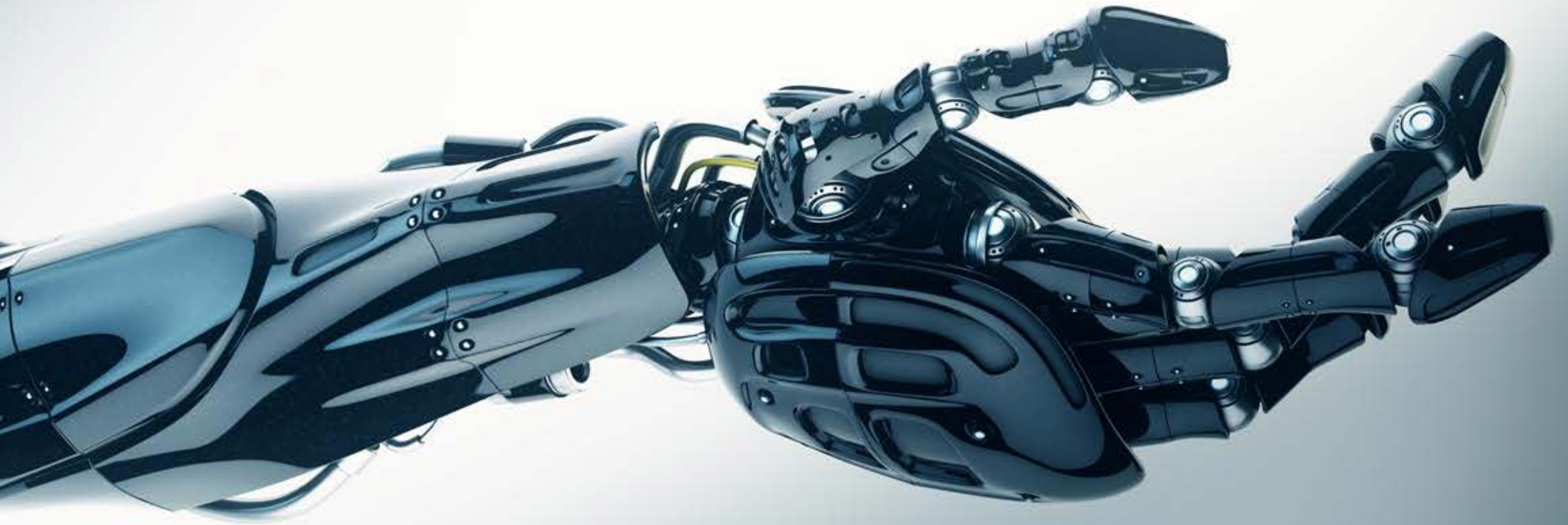
The Future of Cybernetics is Robotics



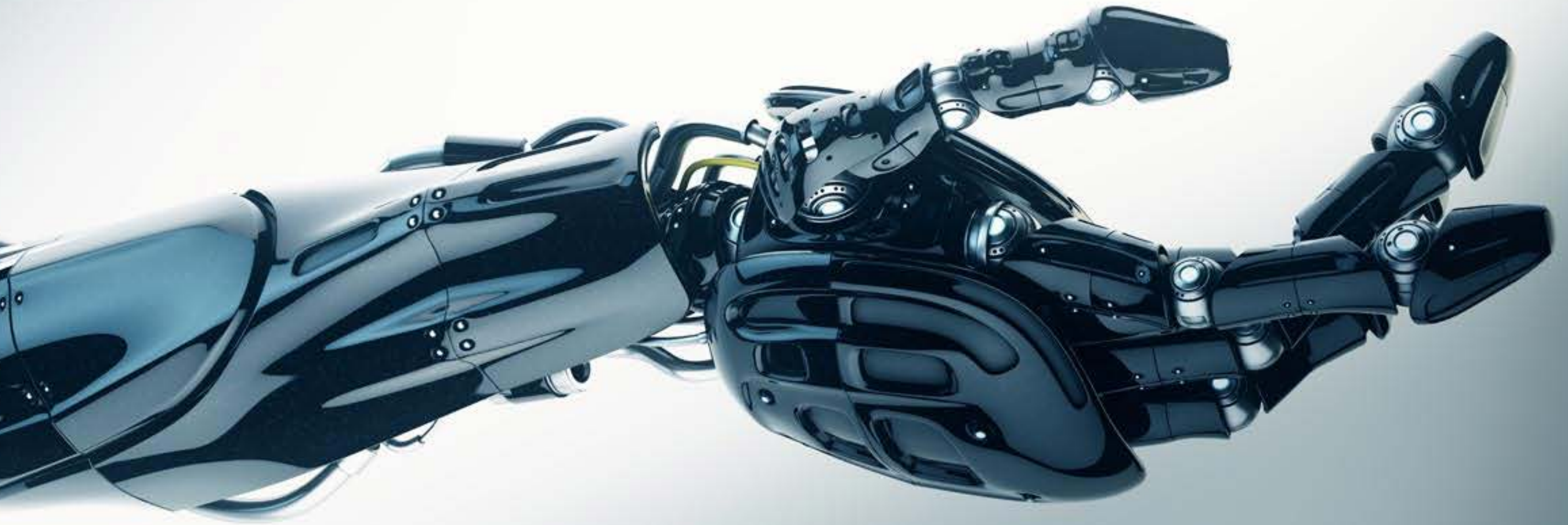
**The Future of Cybernetics is Robotics —
... but Cybernetics is not Robotics**



The Future of Cybernetics is Biomechatronics—



The Future of Cybernetics is Biomechatronics— ... but Cybernetics is not Biomechatronics

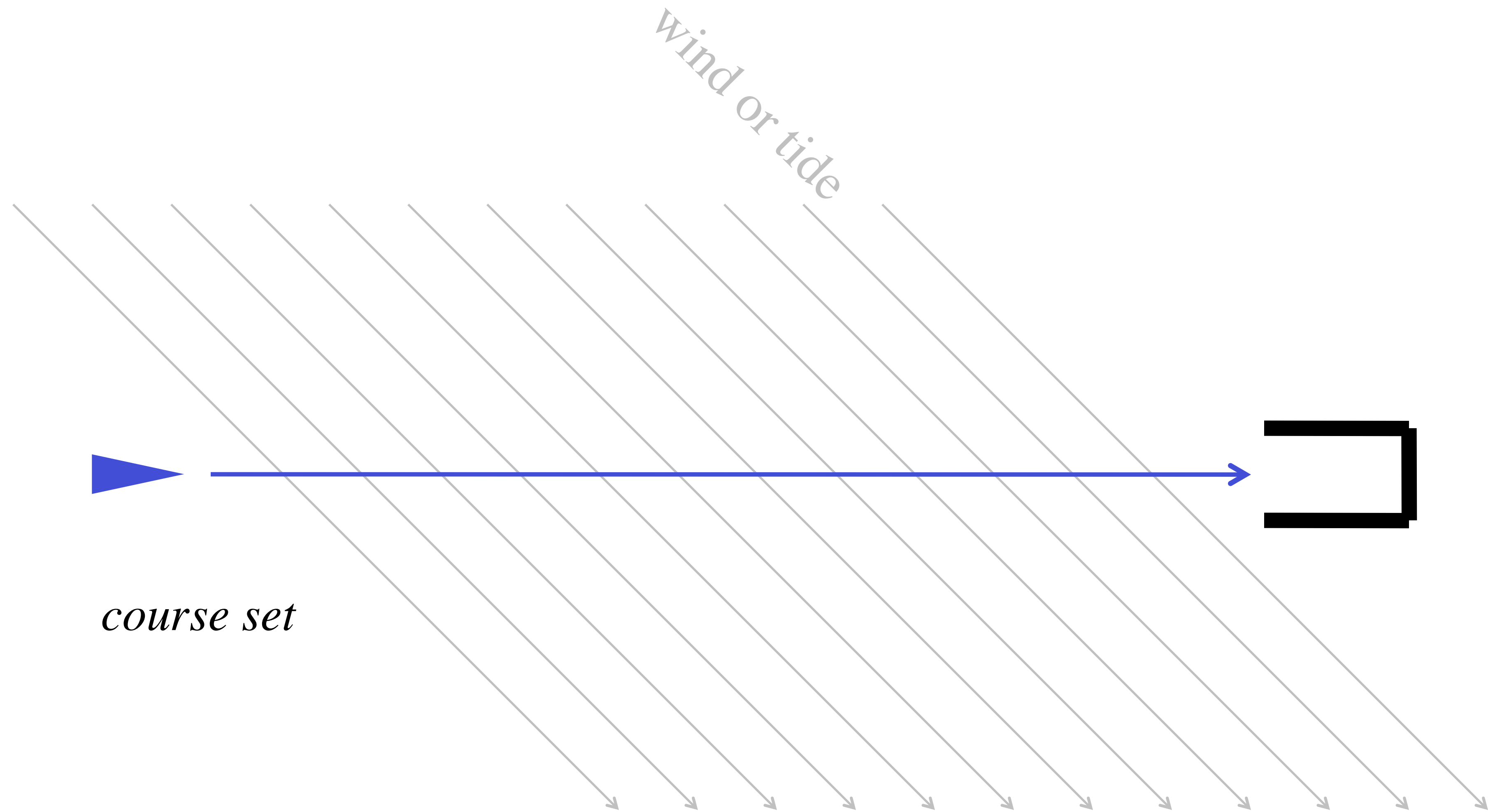


The Future of Cybernetics is AI—

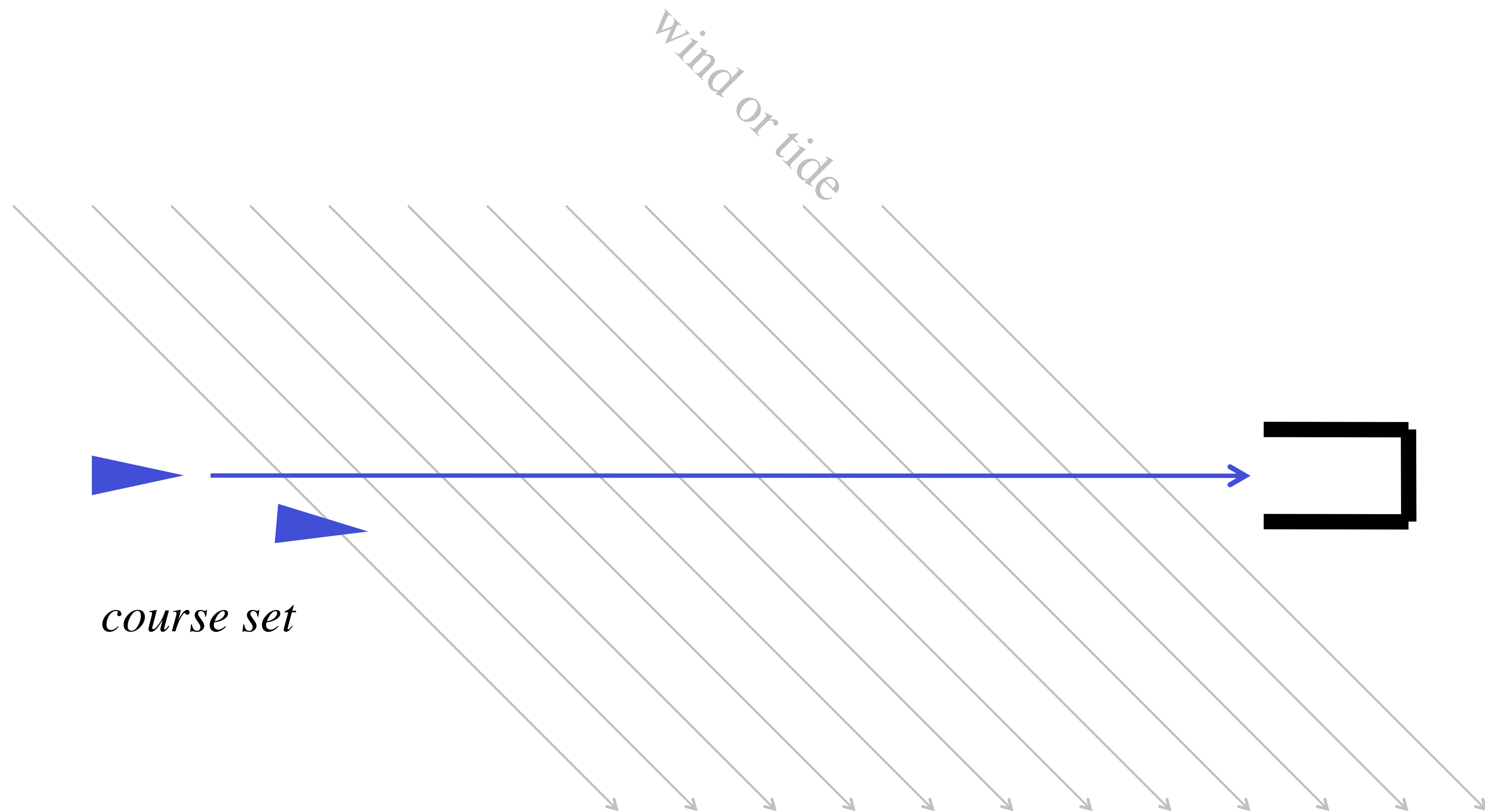
**The Future of Cybernetics is AI—
... but Cybernetics is not AI**

The Future of Cybernetics is AI—
... but Cybernetics is not AI
... but Cybernetics is not Biomechatronics
... but Cybernetics is not Robotics
... but Cybernetics is not Chips in Your Brain
... and Cybernetics is not Freezing Dead People!

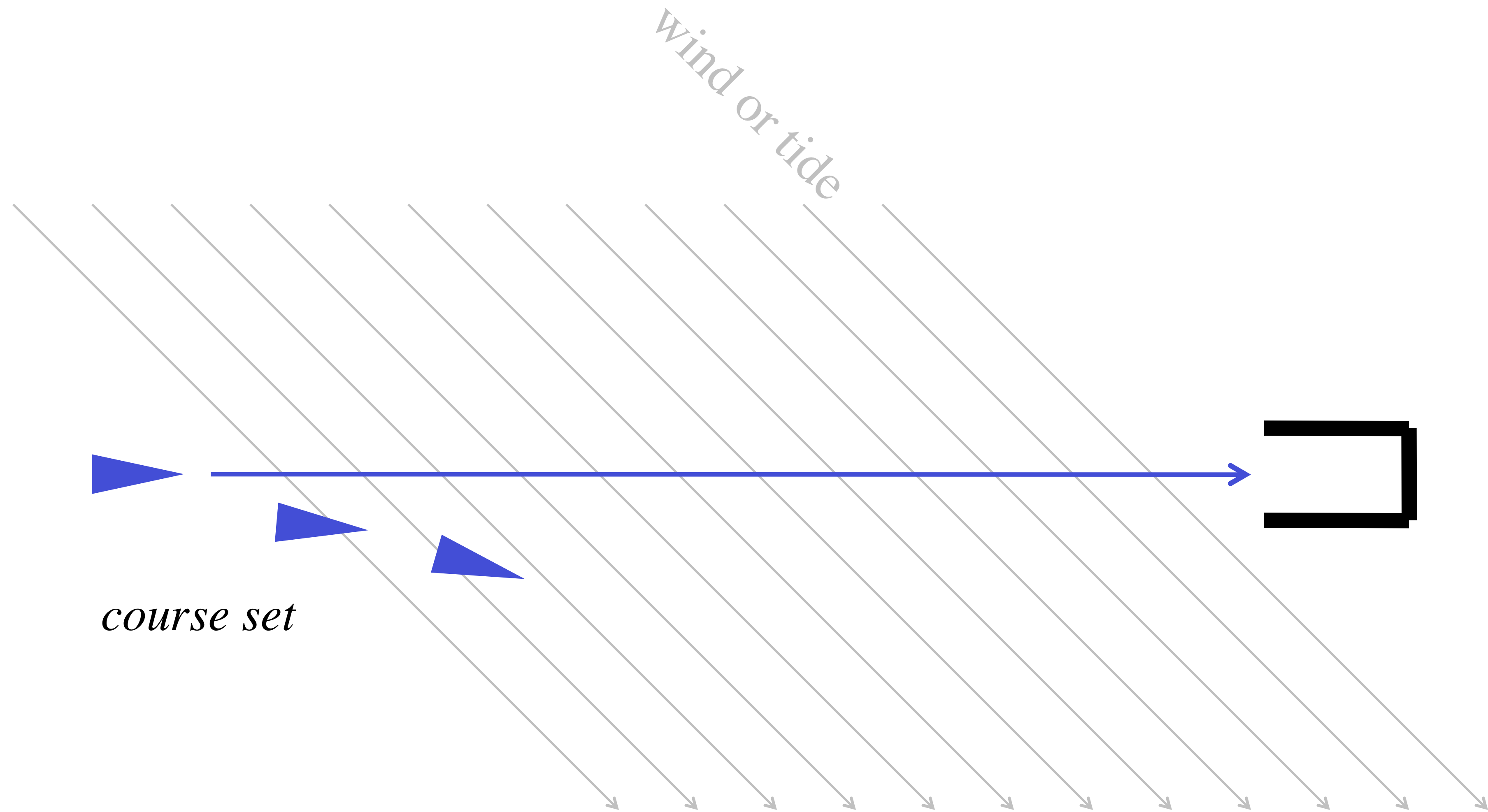
the art of steering



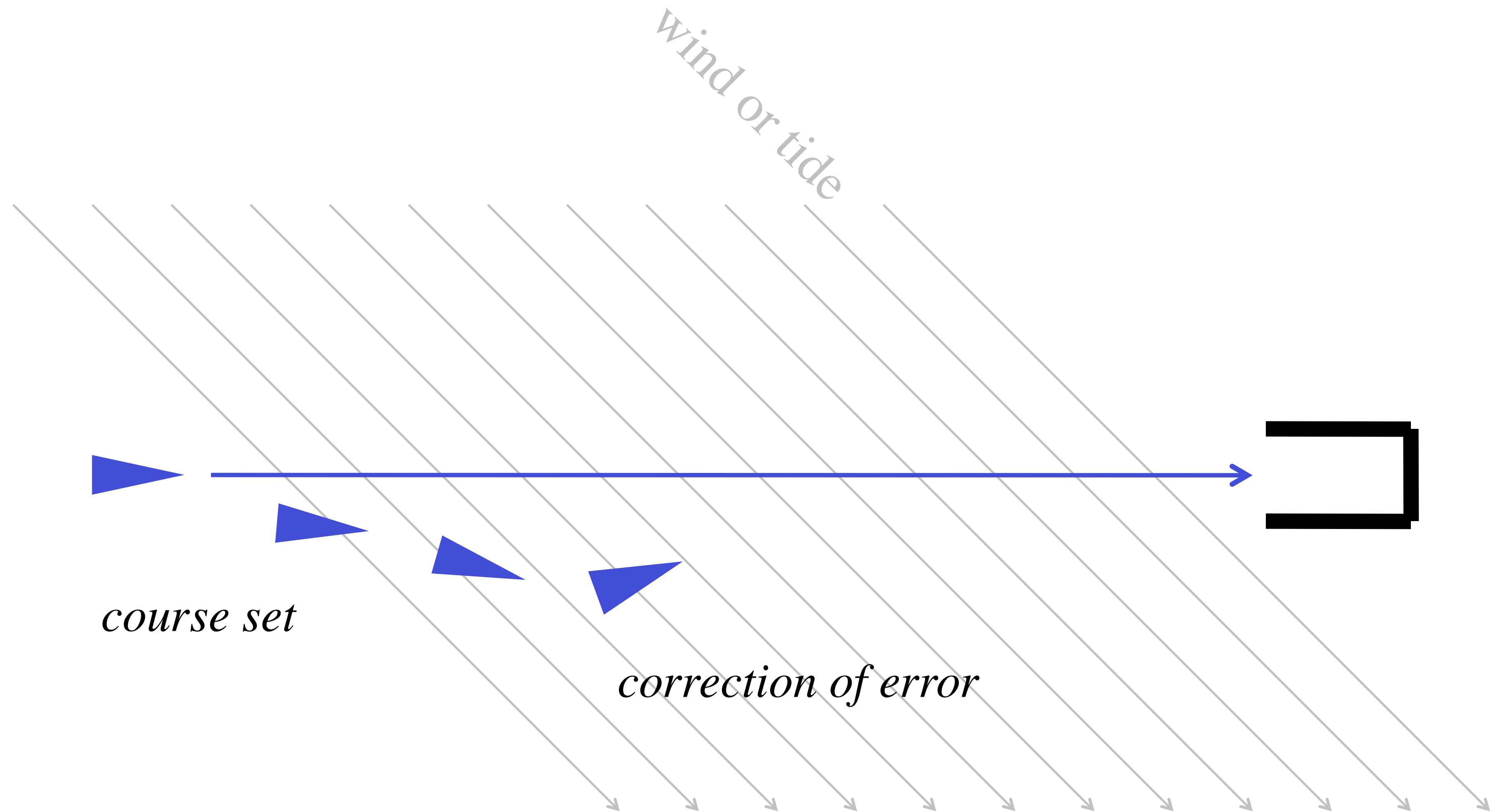
the art of steering



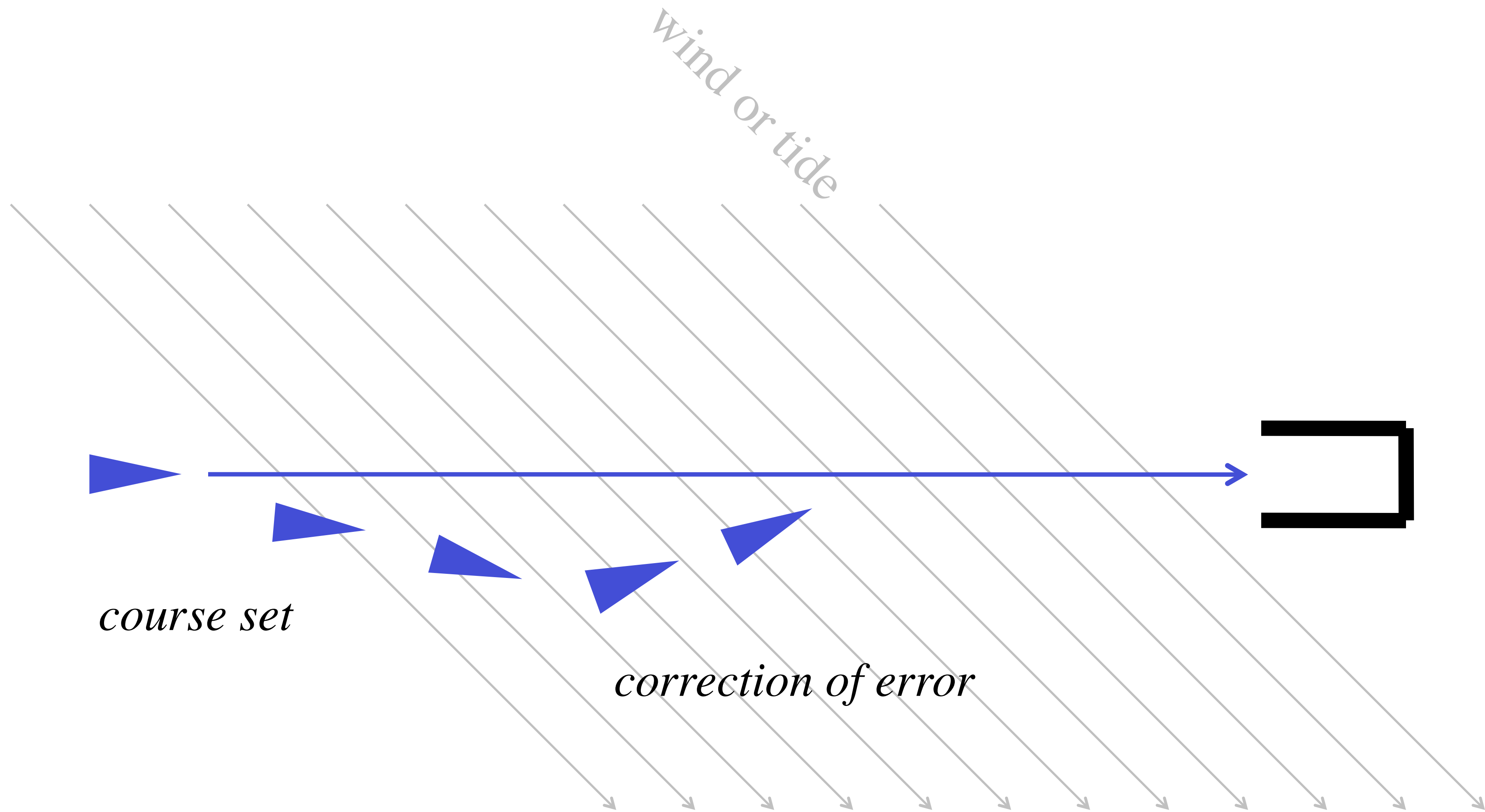
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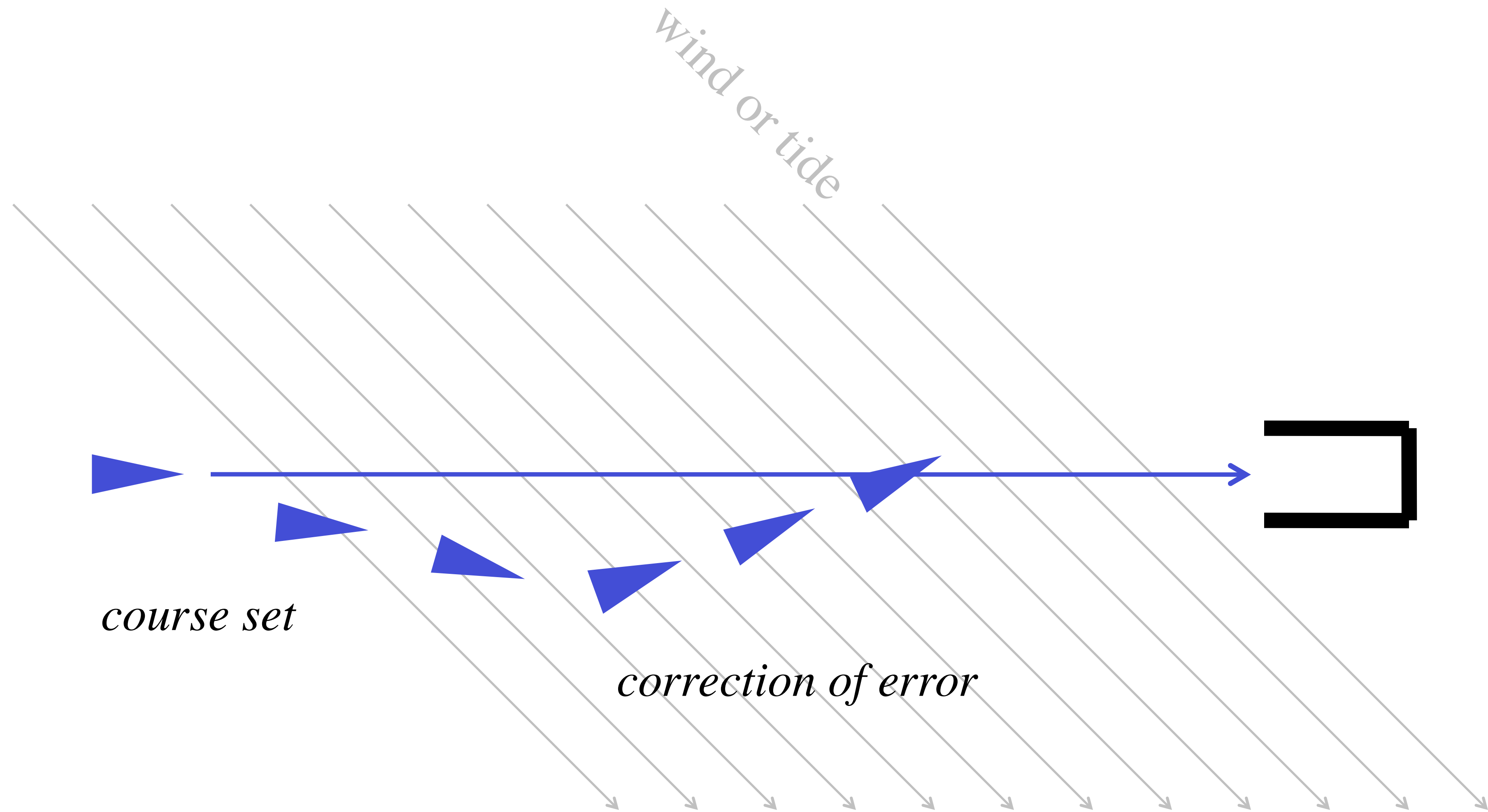
the art of steering



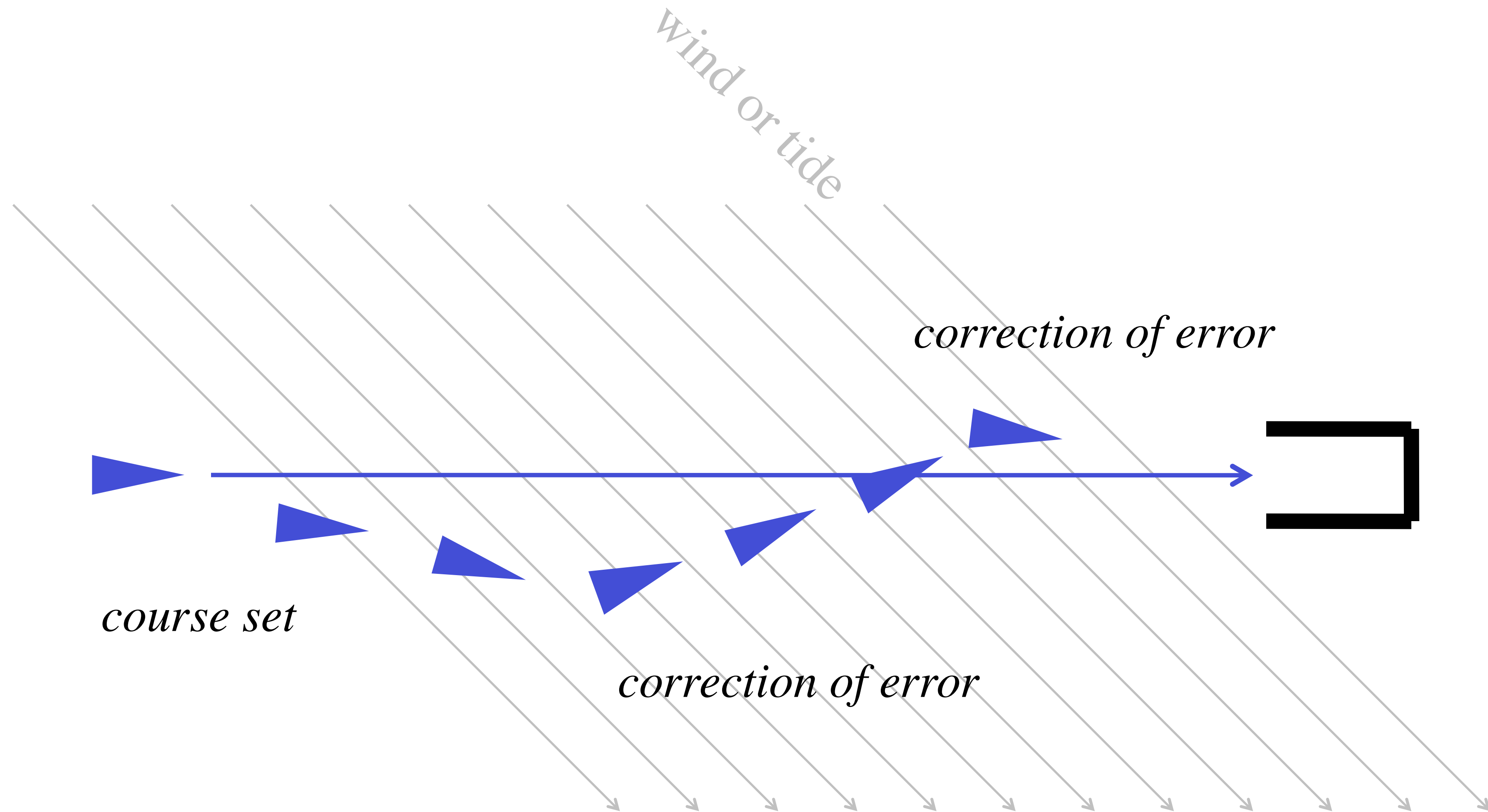
the art of steering



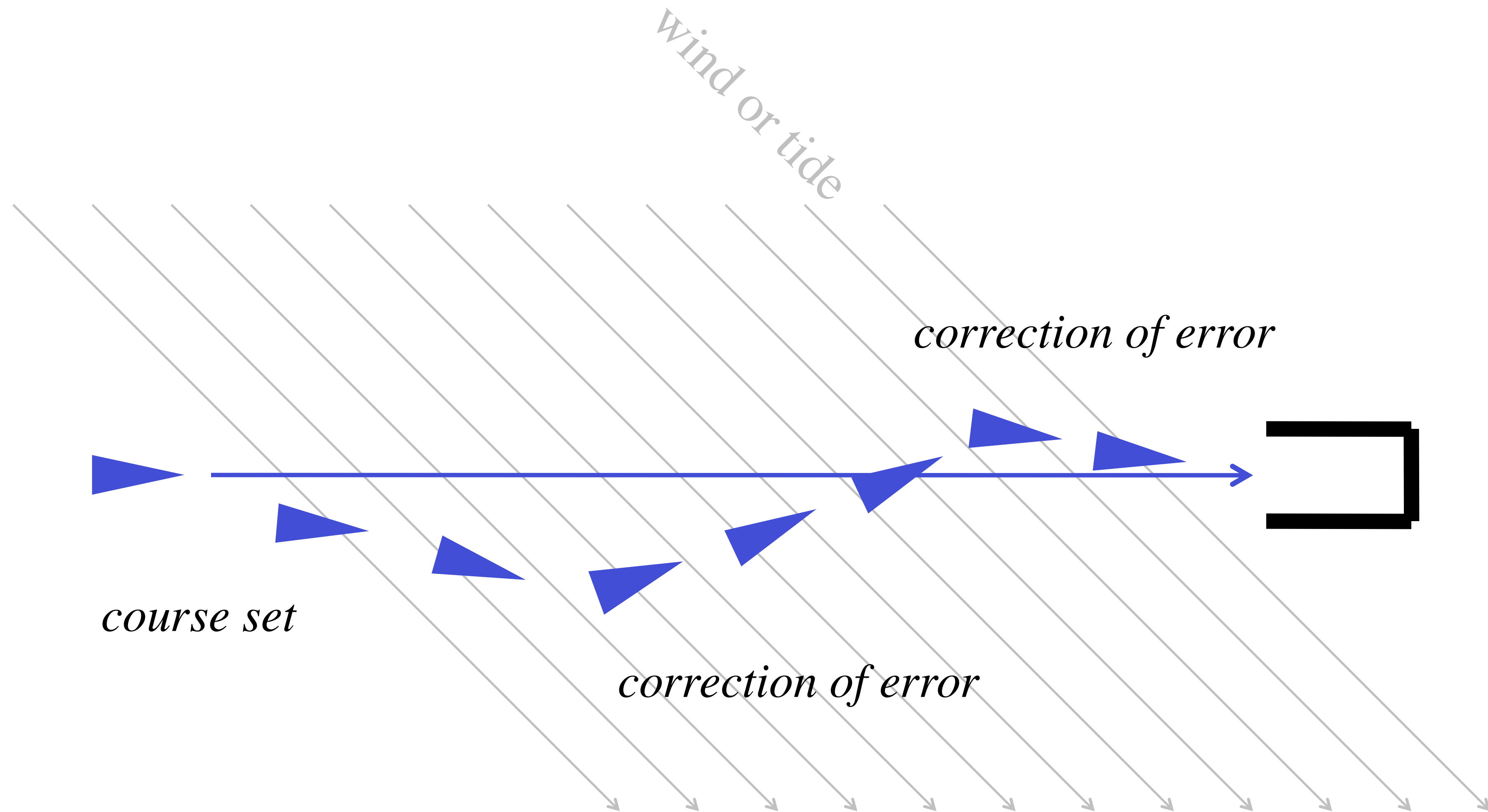
the art of steering



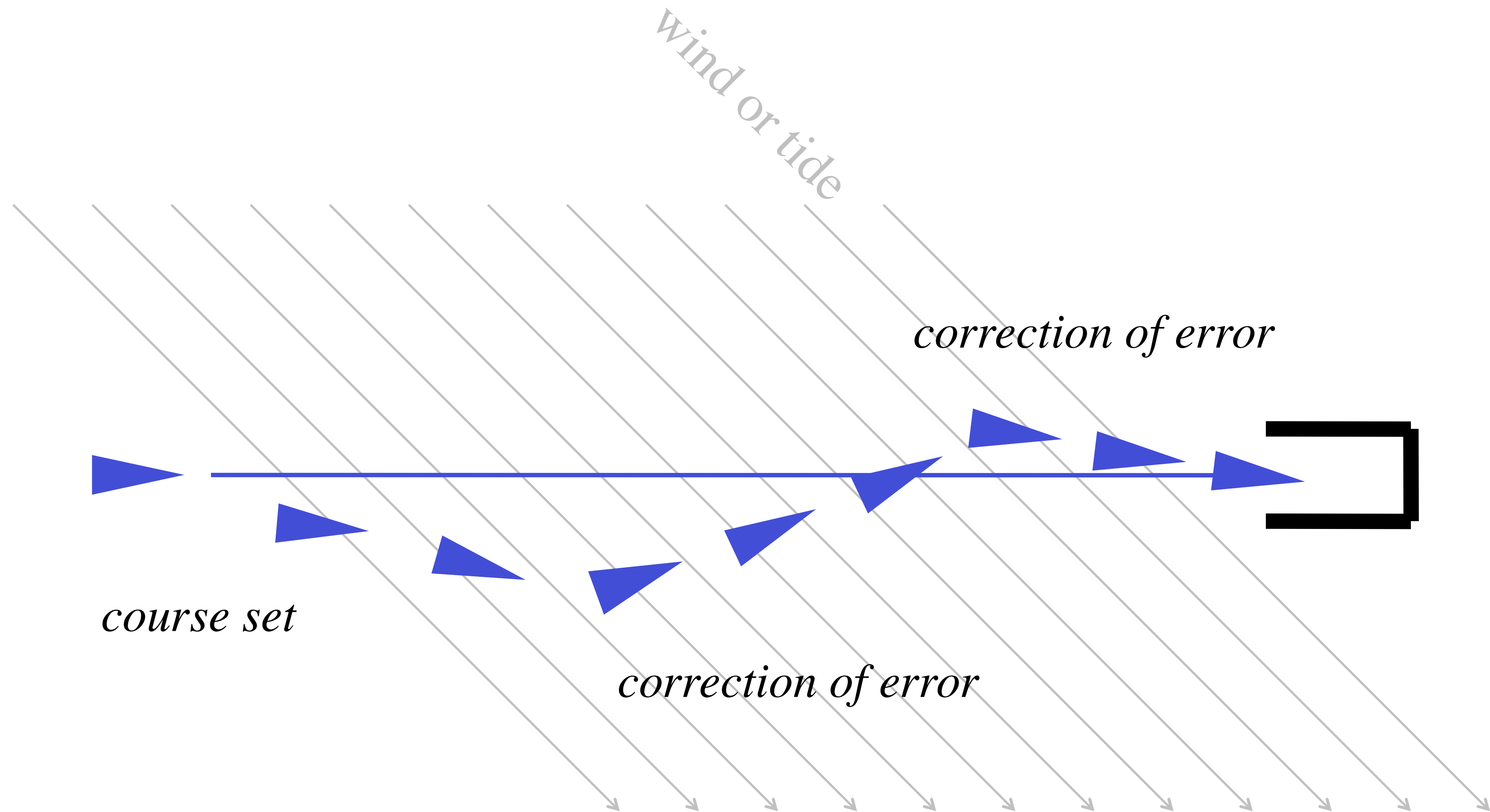
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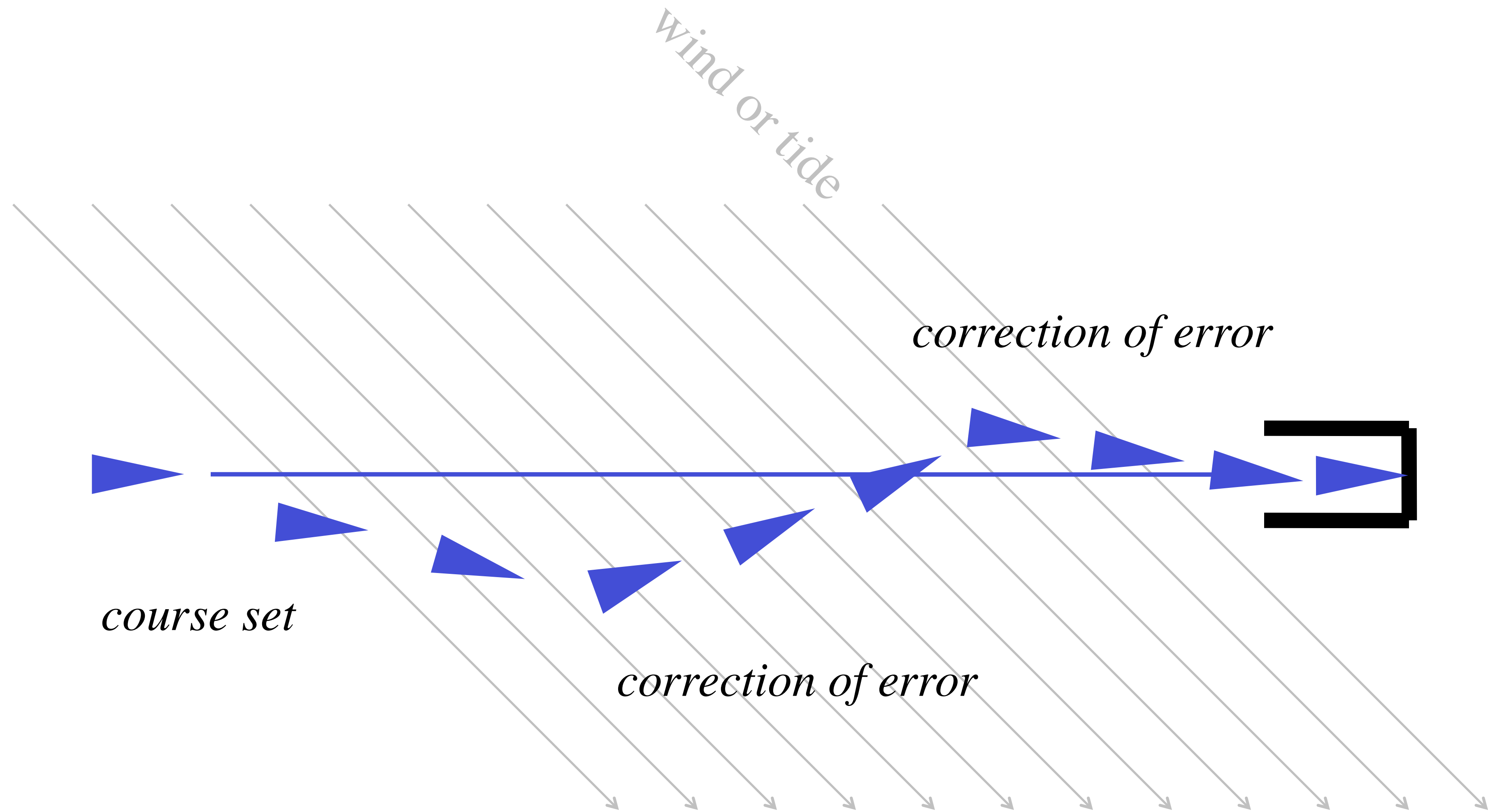
the art of steering



the art of steering

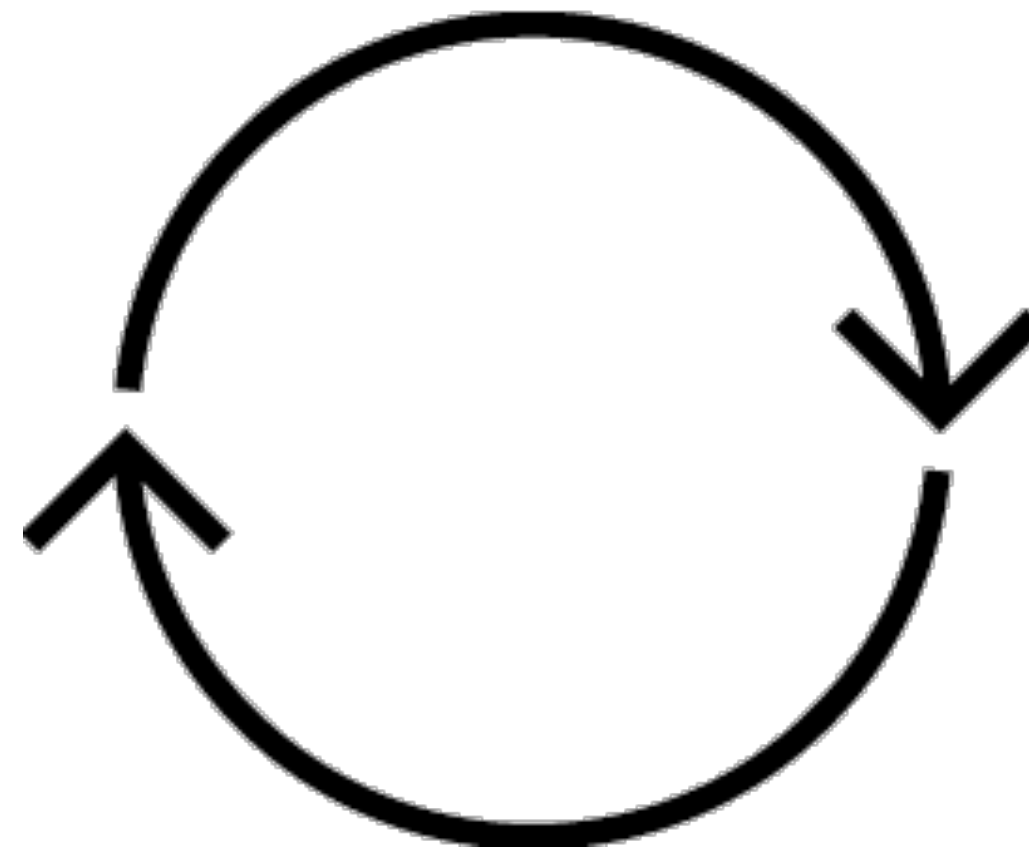


the art of steering



the art of regulation

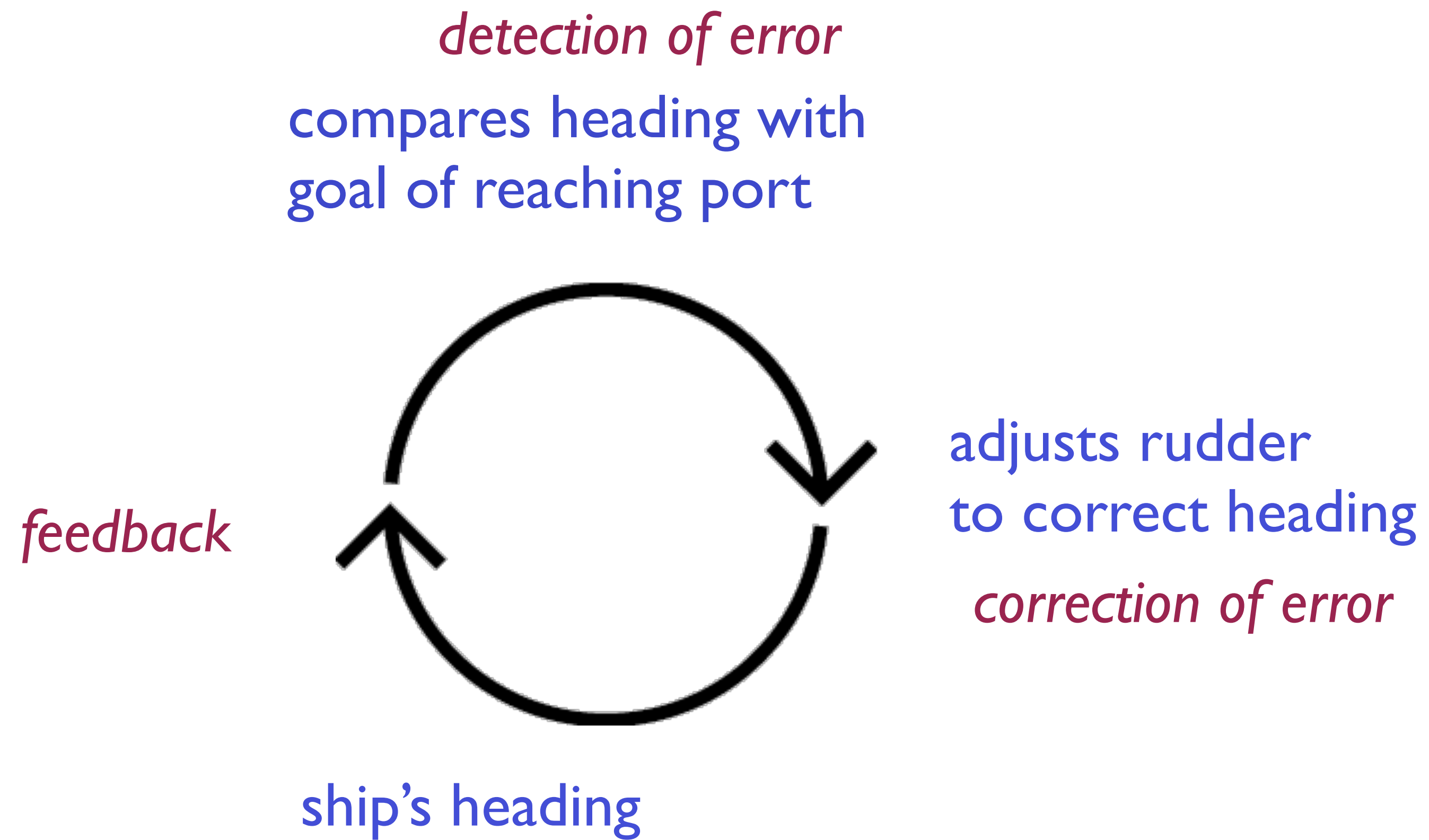
compares heading with
goal of reaching port



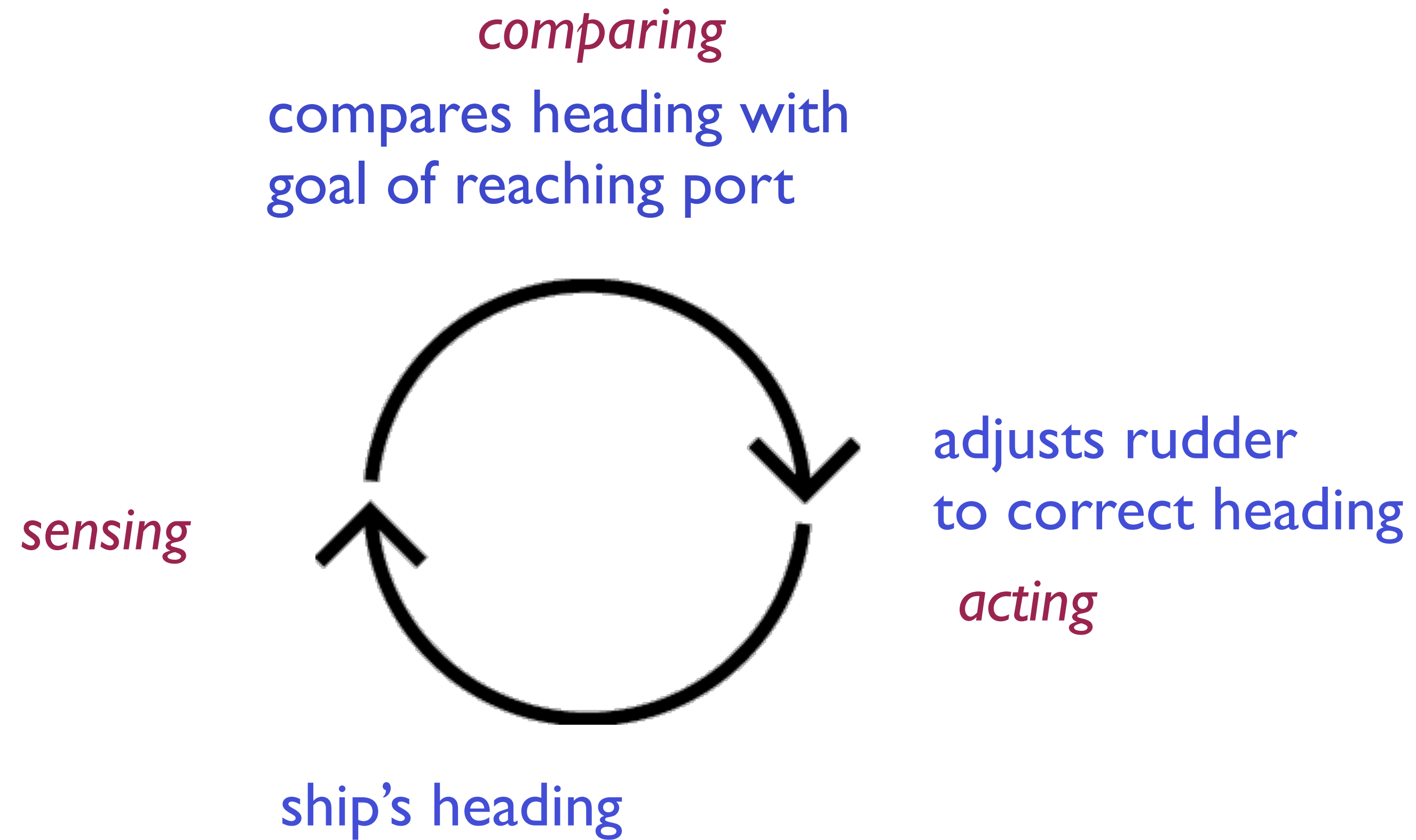
adjusts rudder
to correct heading

ship's heading

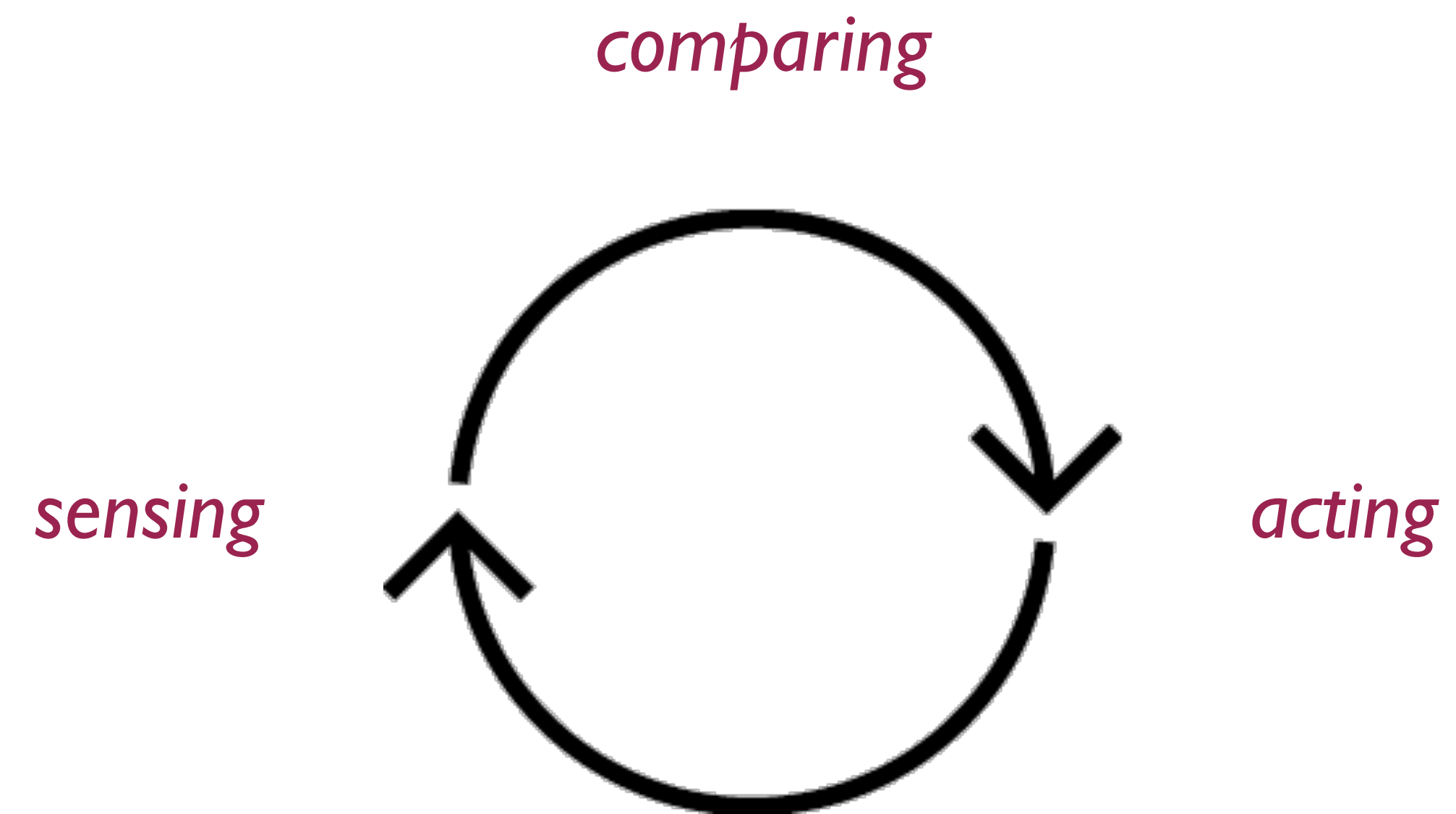
the art of regulation



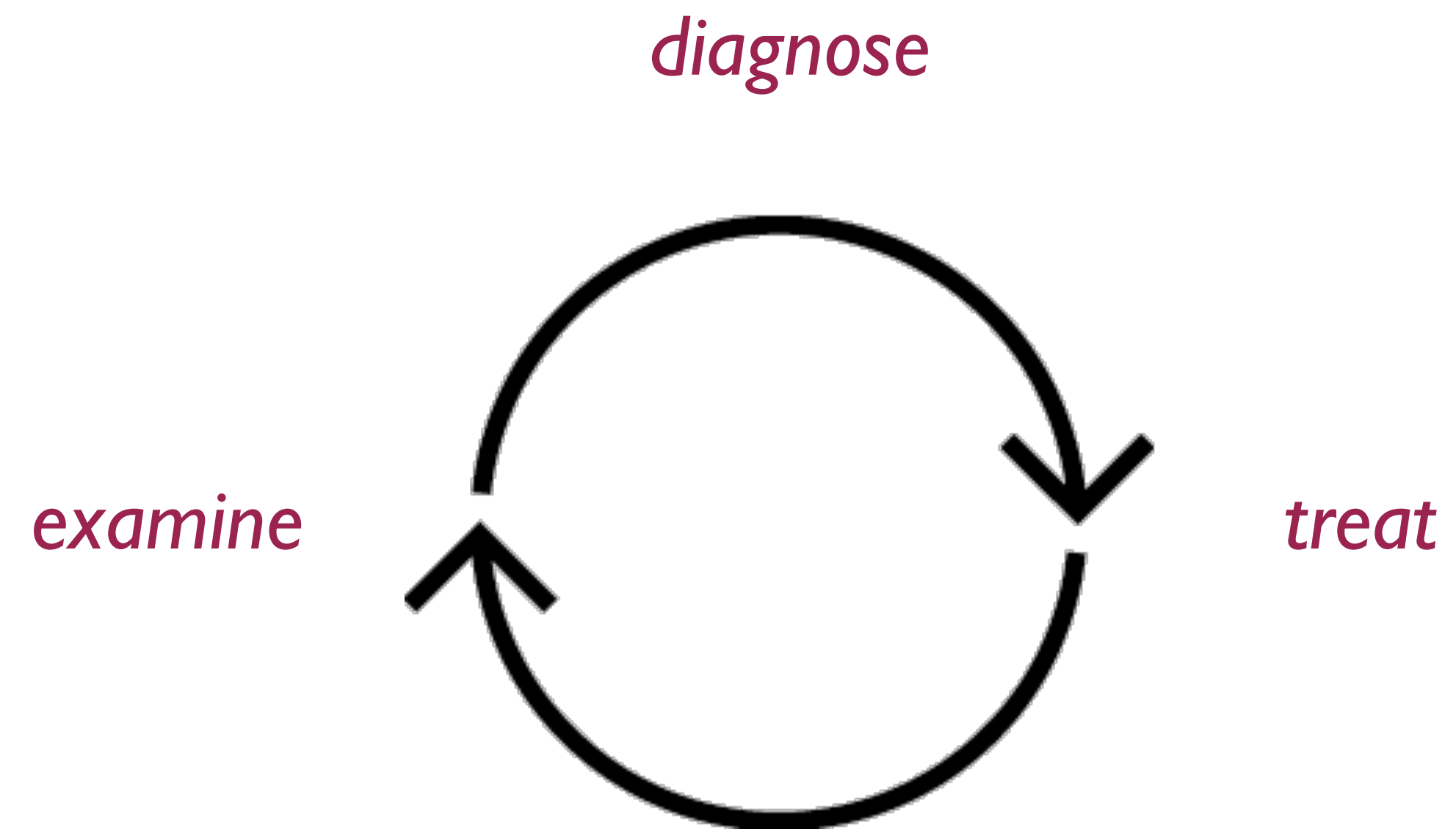
the art of regulation



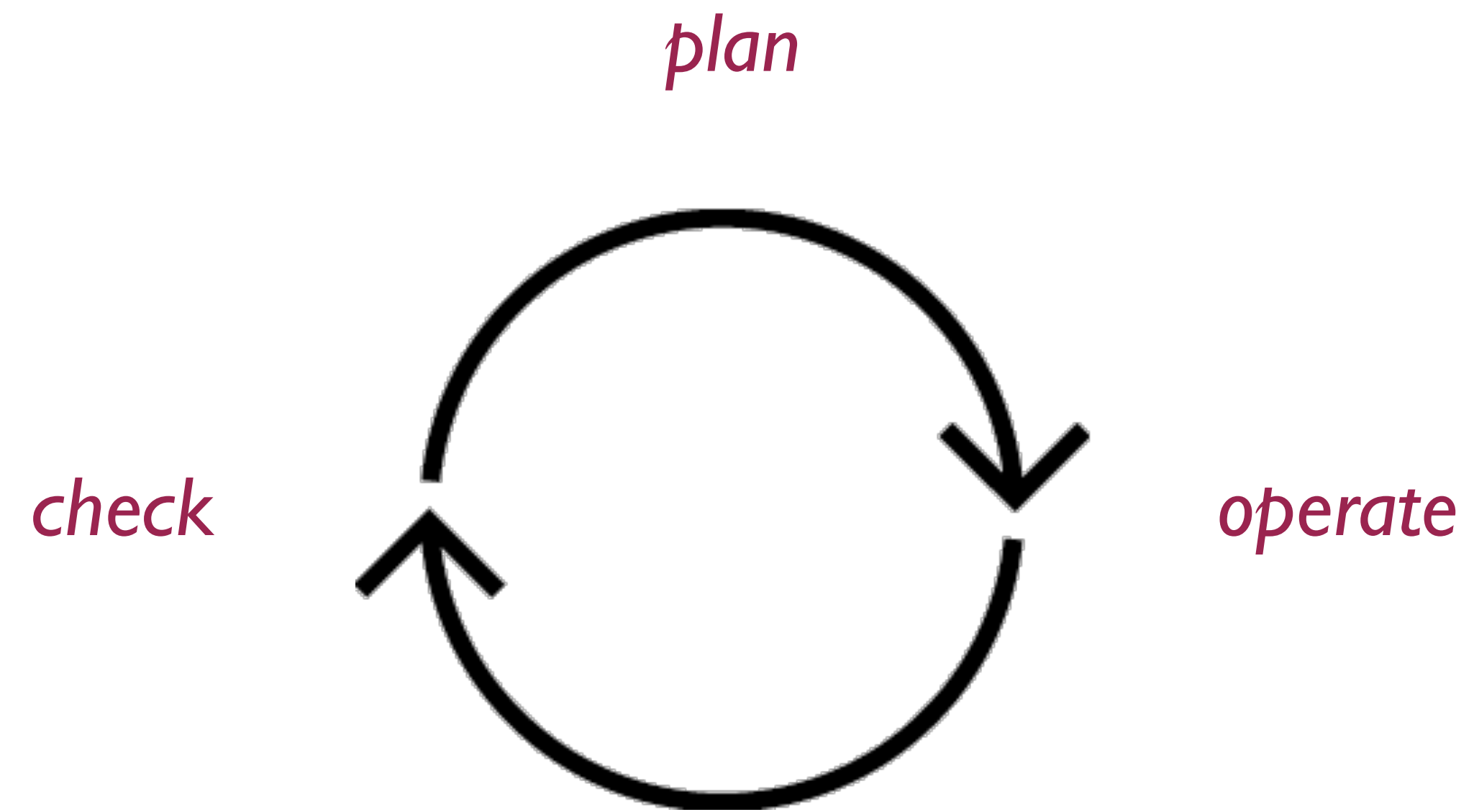
the art of regulation



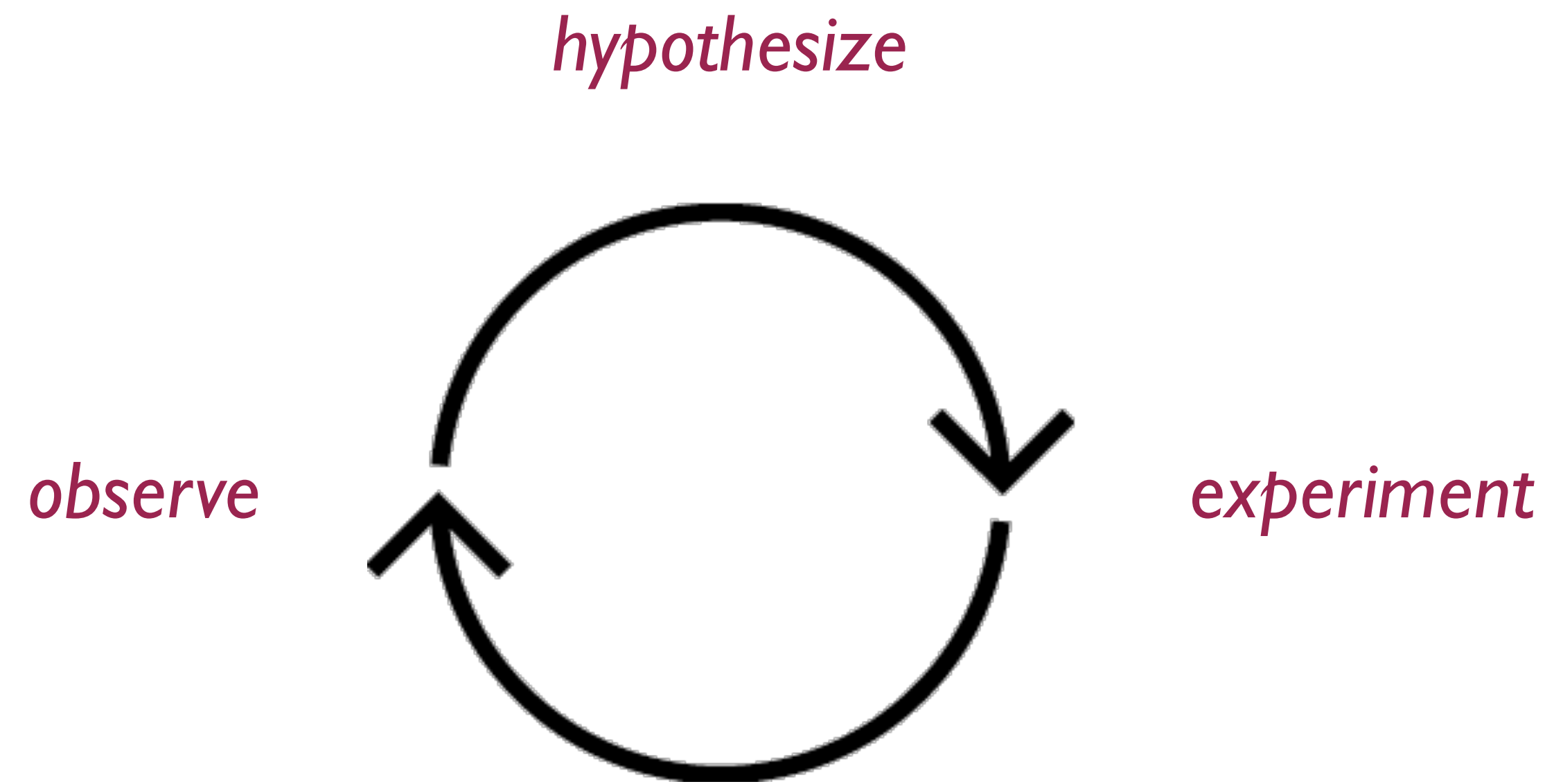
clinical practice (medicine)



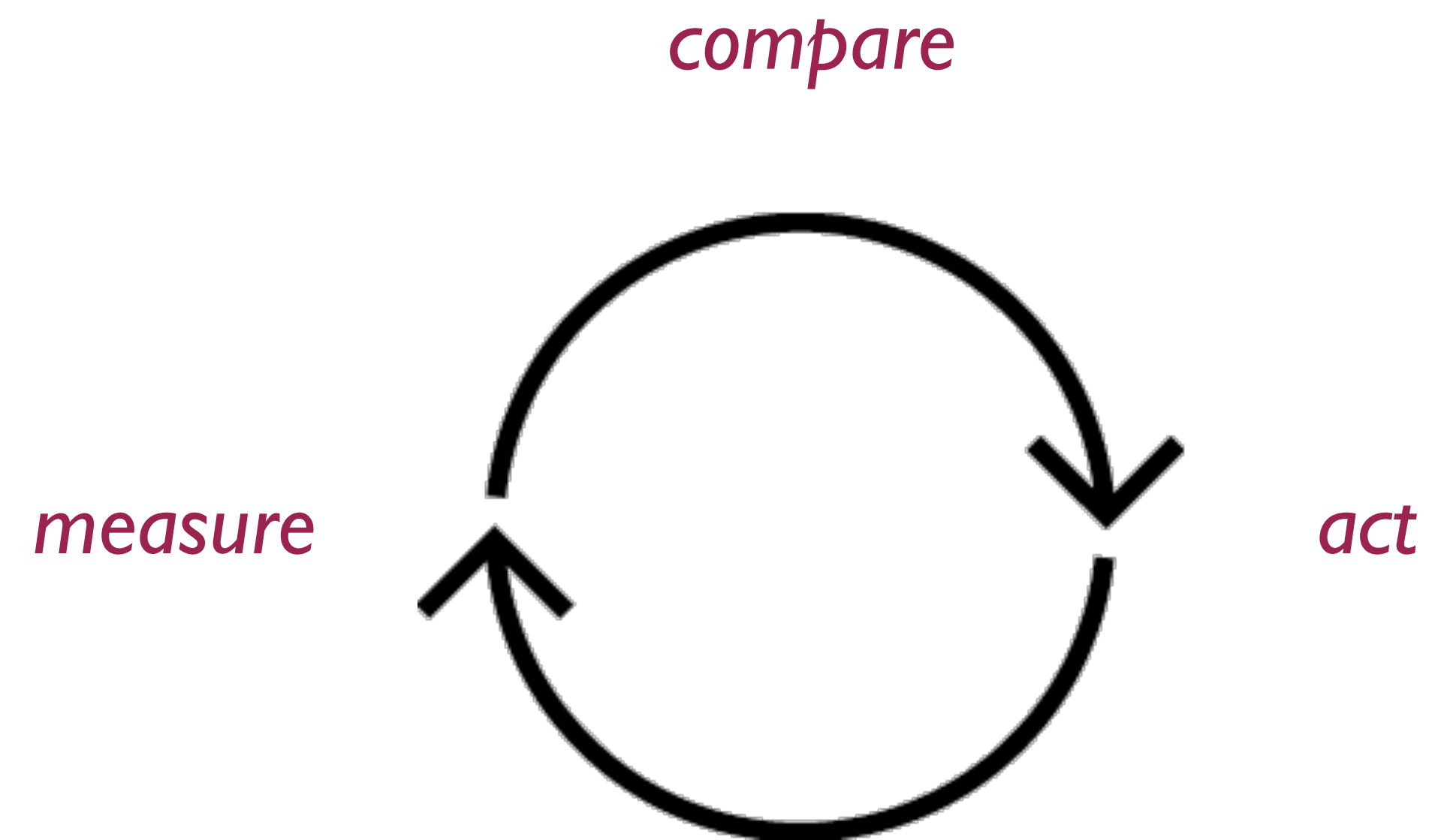
quality cycle (management)



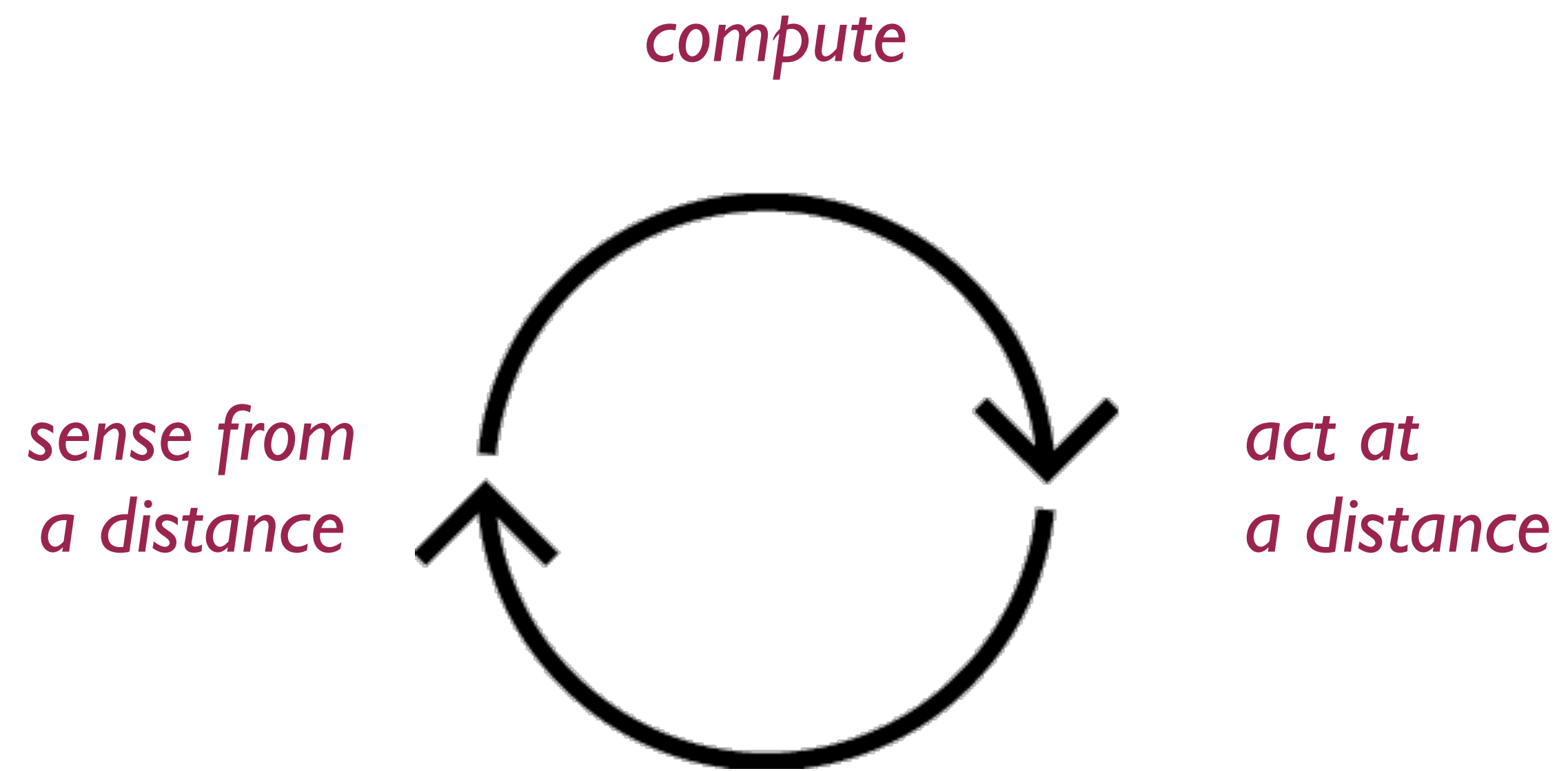
scientific method



design process

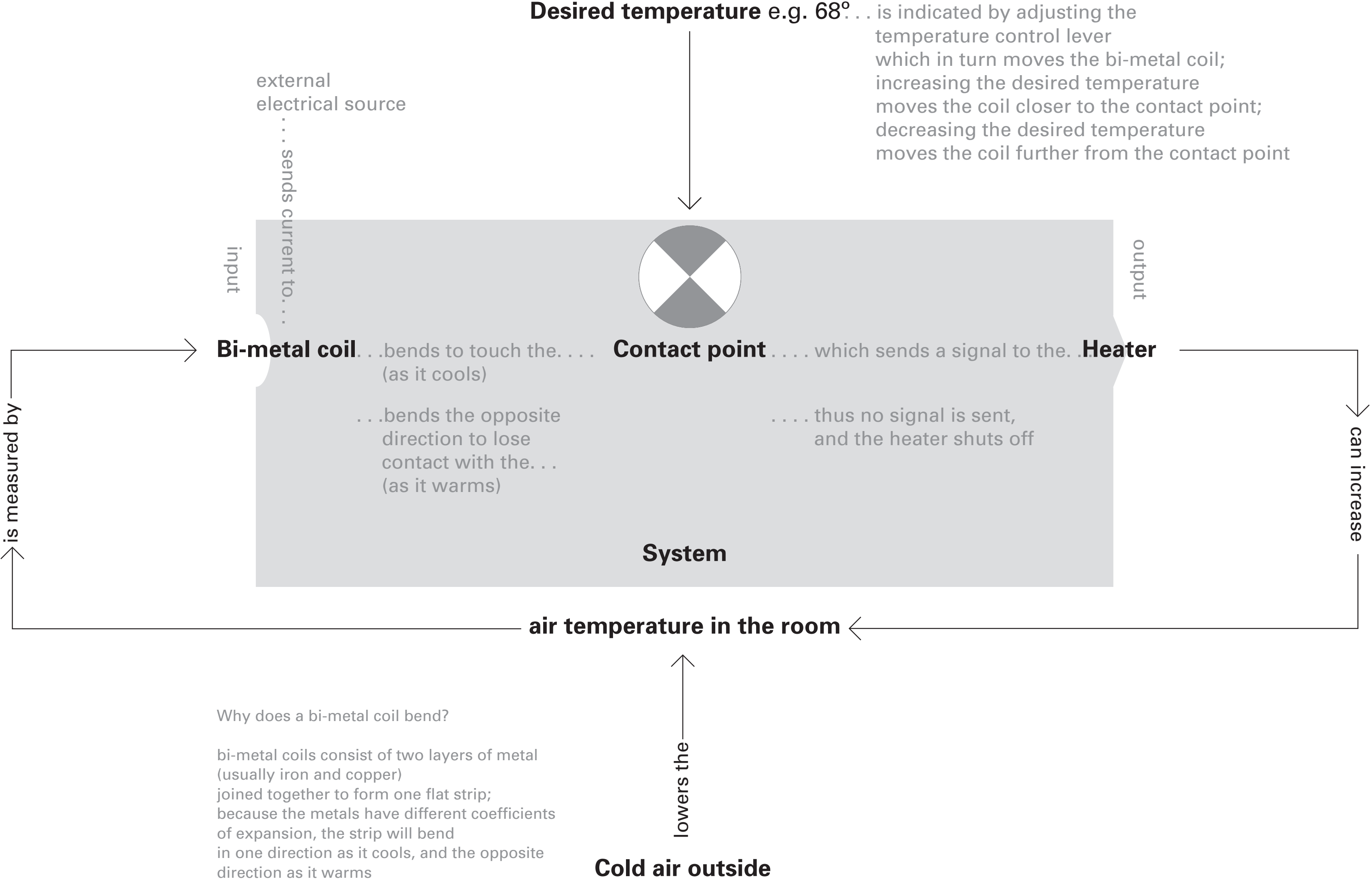


mobile devices

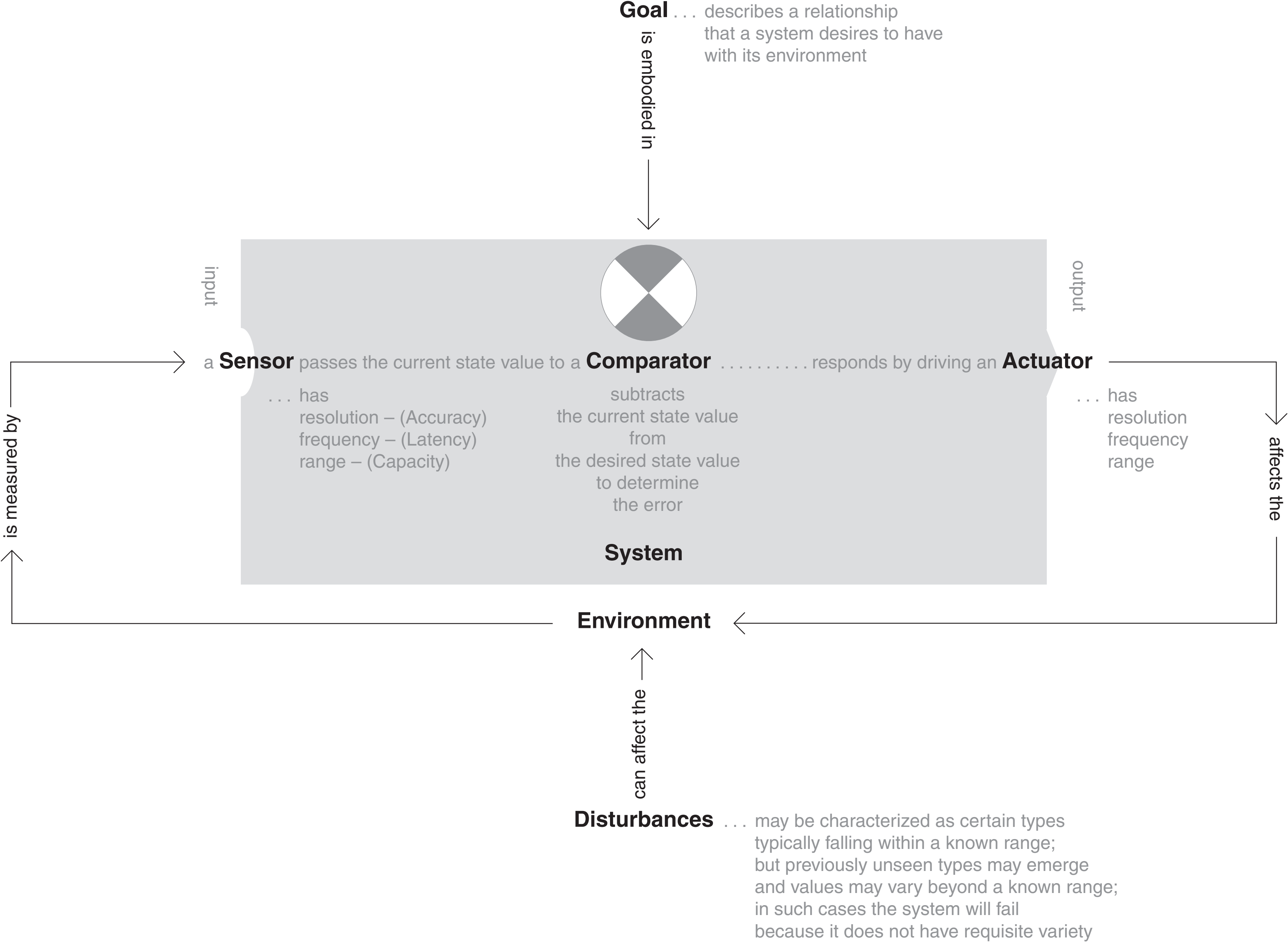


Feedback: Classic Example

Thermostat regulating room temperature (via a heater)

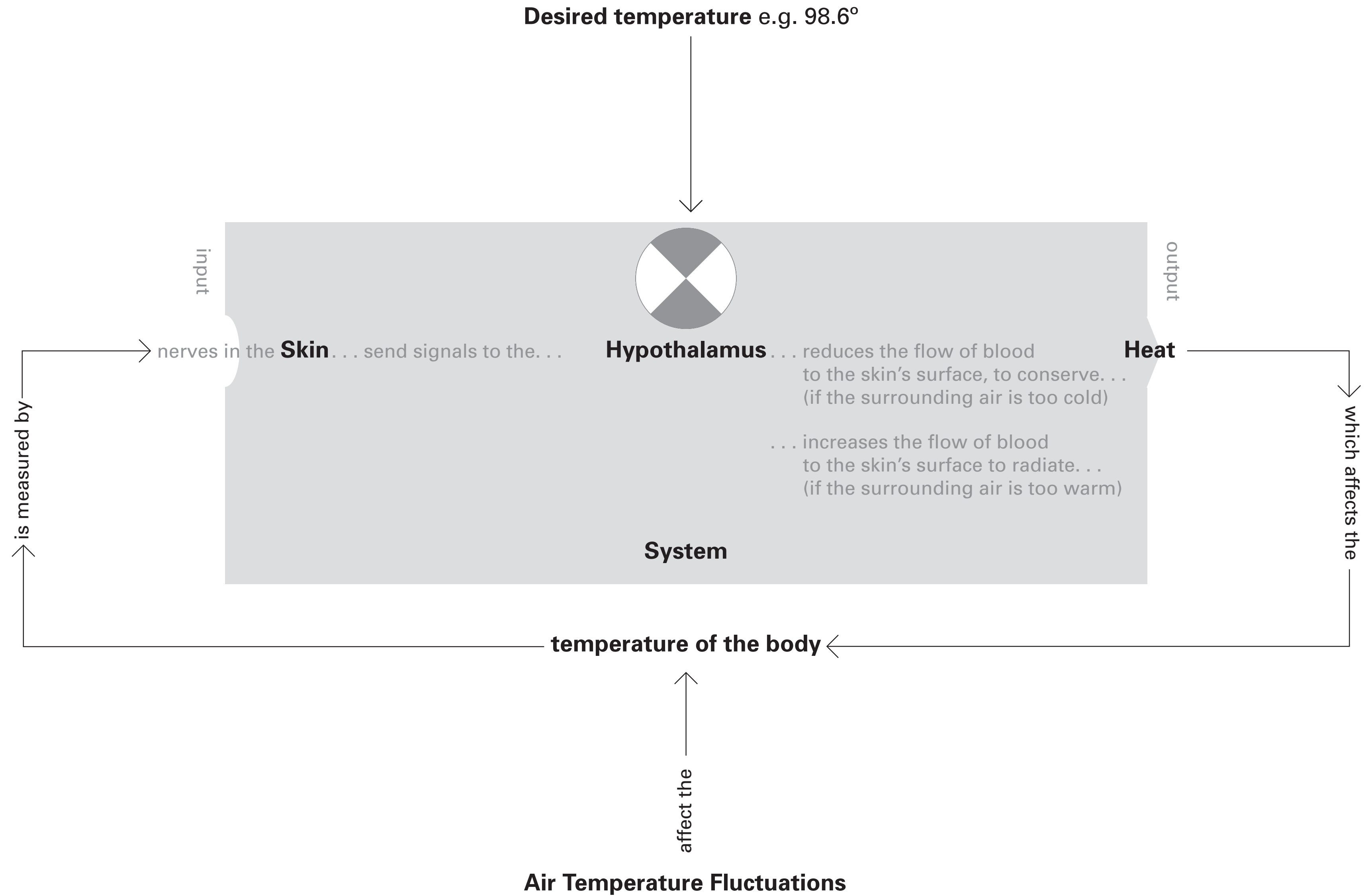


Feedback: Formal Mechanism



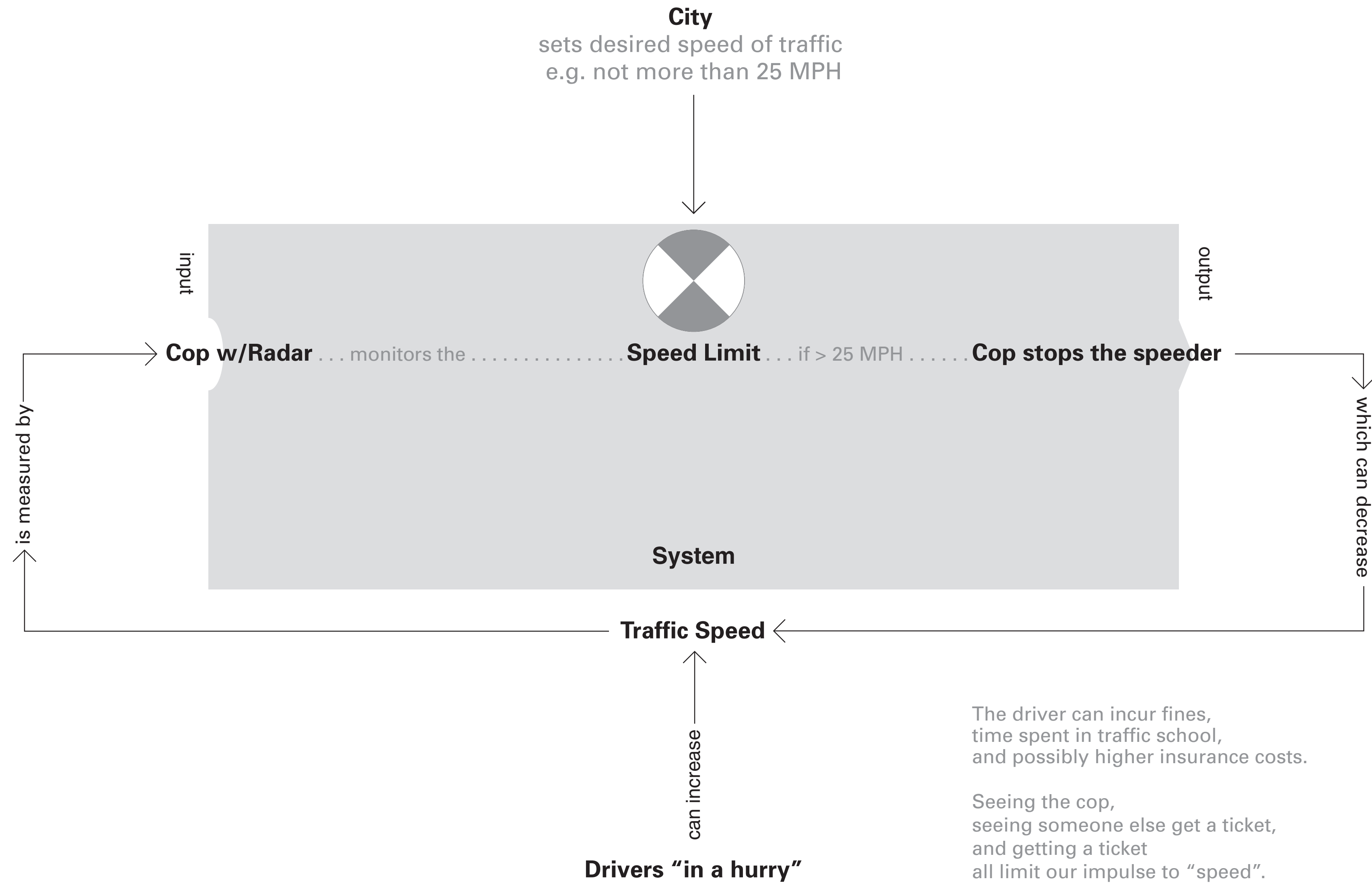
Feedback: Biological Example

Regulating temperature in the human body



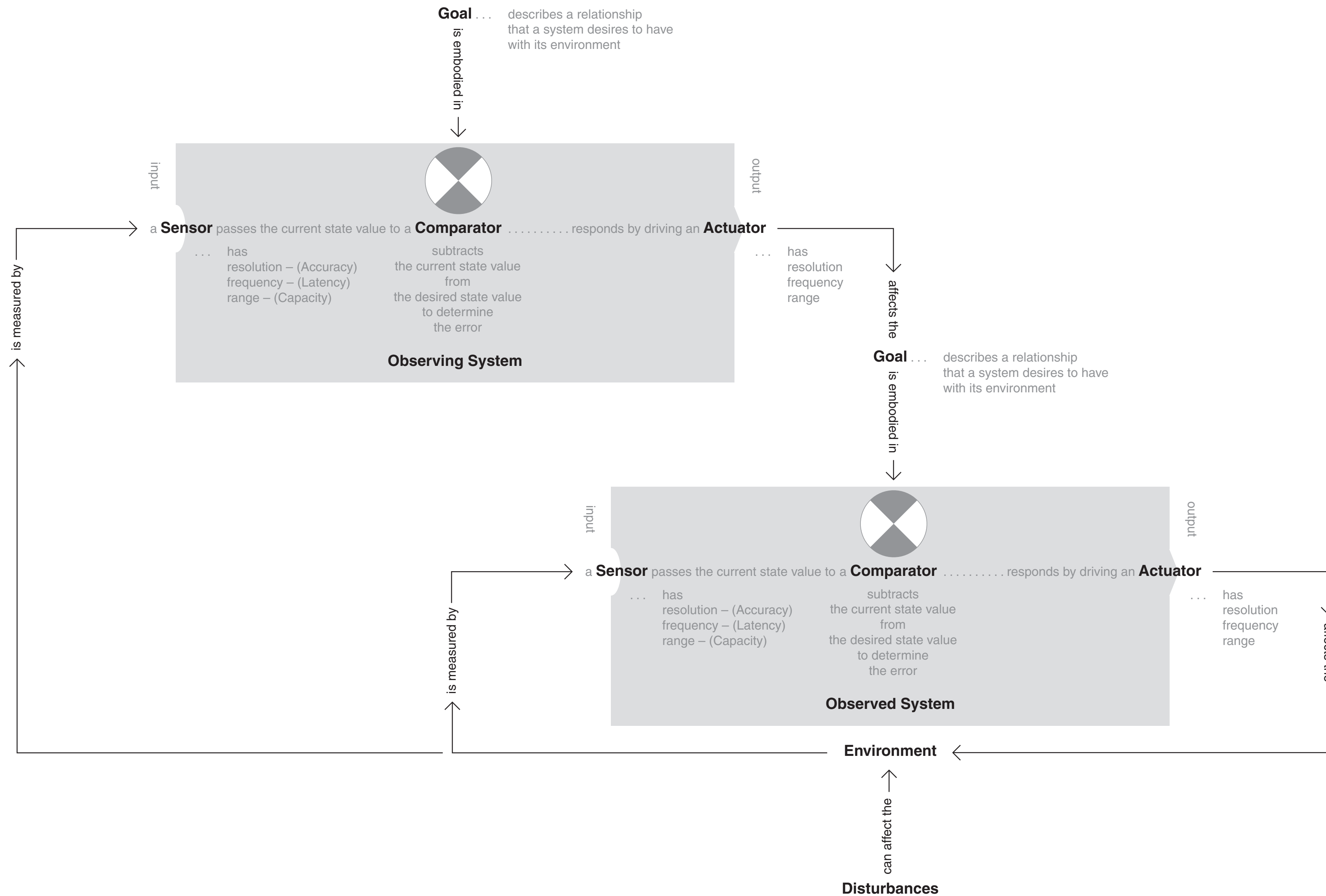
Feedback: Social Example

Regulating traffic speed



Second-order Feedback: Formal Mechanism

An automatic feedback system (first-order) is controlled by another automatic feedback system (second-order). The first system is 'nested' inside the second.





Comparator responds by driving an **Actuator**

... subtracts
... current state value
... from
... desired state value
... to determine
... error

Control System

output

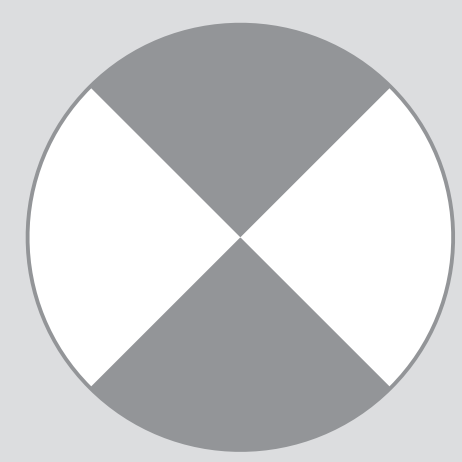
... has
... resolution
... frequency
... range

affects the

Goal ... describes a relationship
... that a system desires to have
... with its environment

is embodied in

input



output

a **Sensor** passes the current state value to a **Comparator** responds by driving an **Actuator**

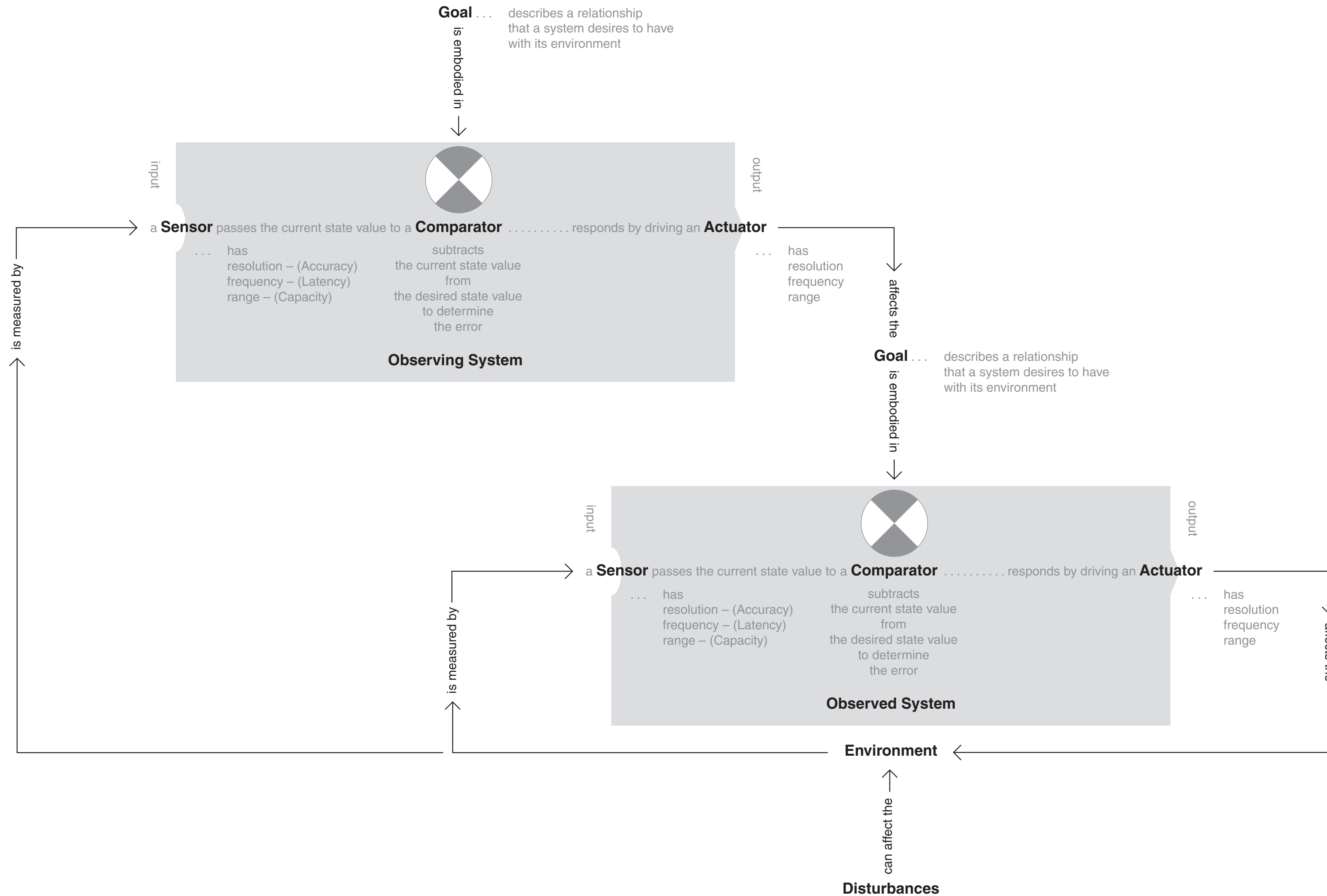
has

subtracts

has

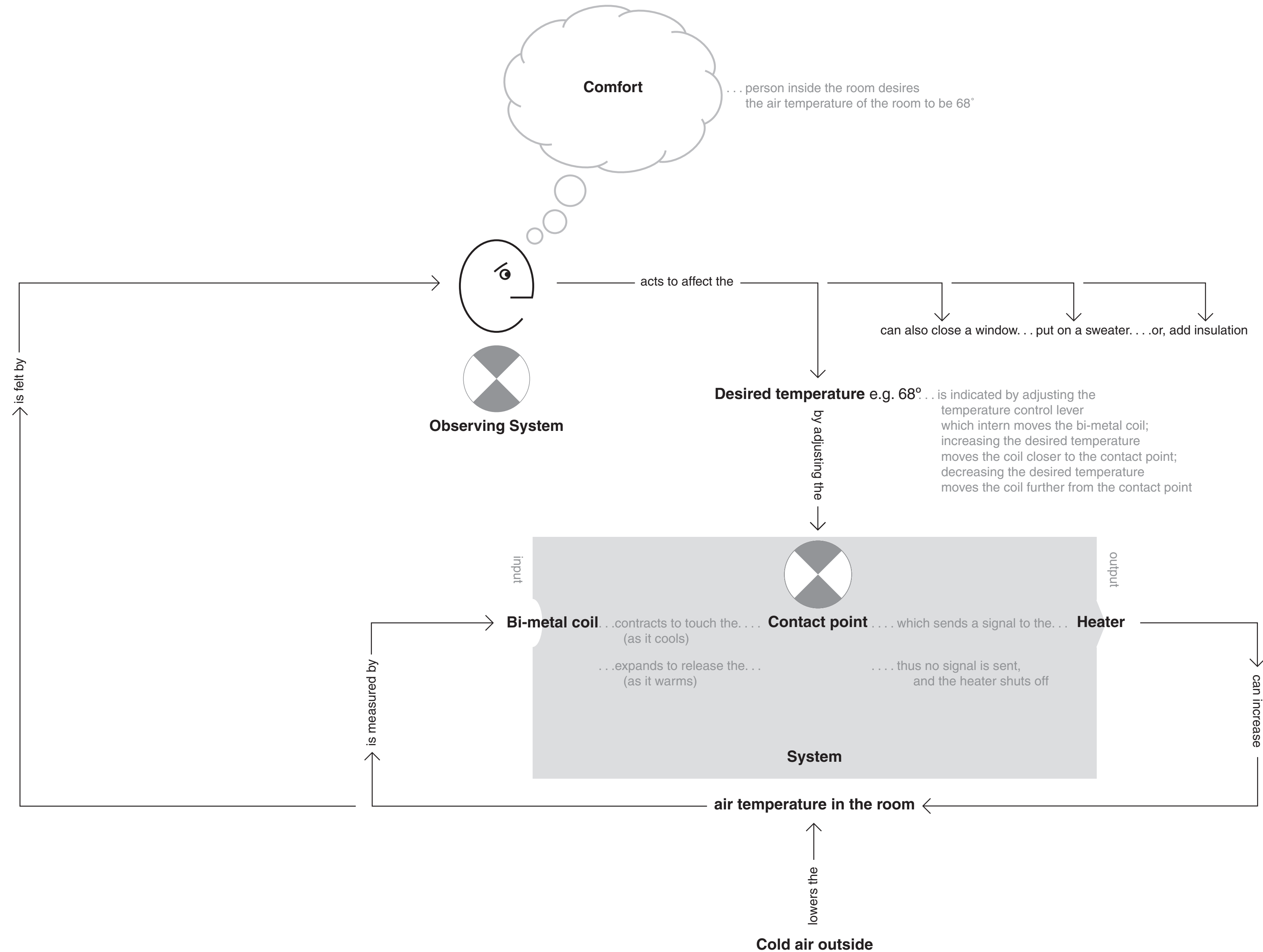
Second-order Feedback: Formal Mechanism

An automatic feedback system (first-order) is controlled by another automatic feedback system (second-order). The first system is 'nested' inside the second.



Second-order Feedback: Classic Example

Person controlling a thermostat (regulating a regulator)



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CYBERNETICS

OR CONTROL AND
COMMUNICATION
IN THE ANIMAL
AND THE MACHINE

Norbert Wiener

PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS
THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

THE TECHNOLOGY PRESS

JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC., NEW YORK

HERMANN et CIE, PARIS

1948

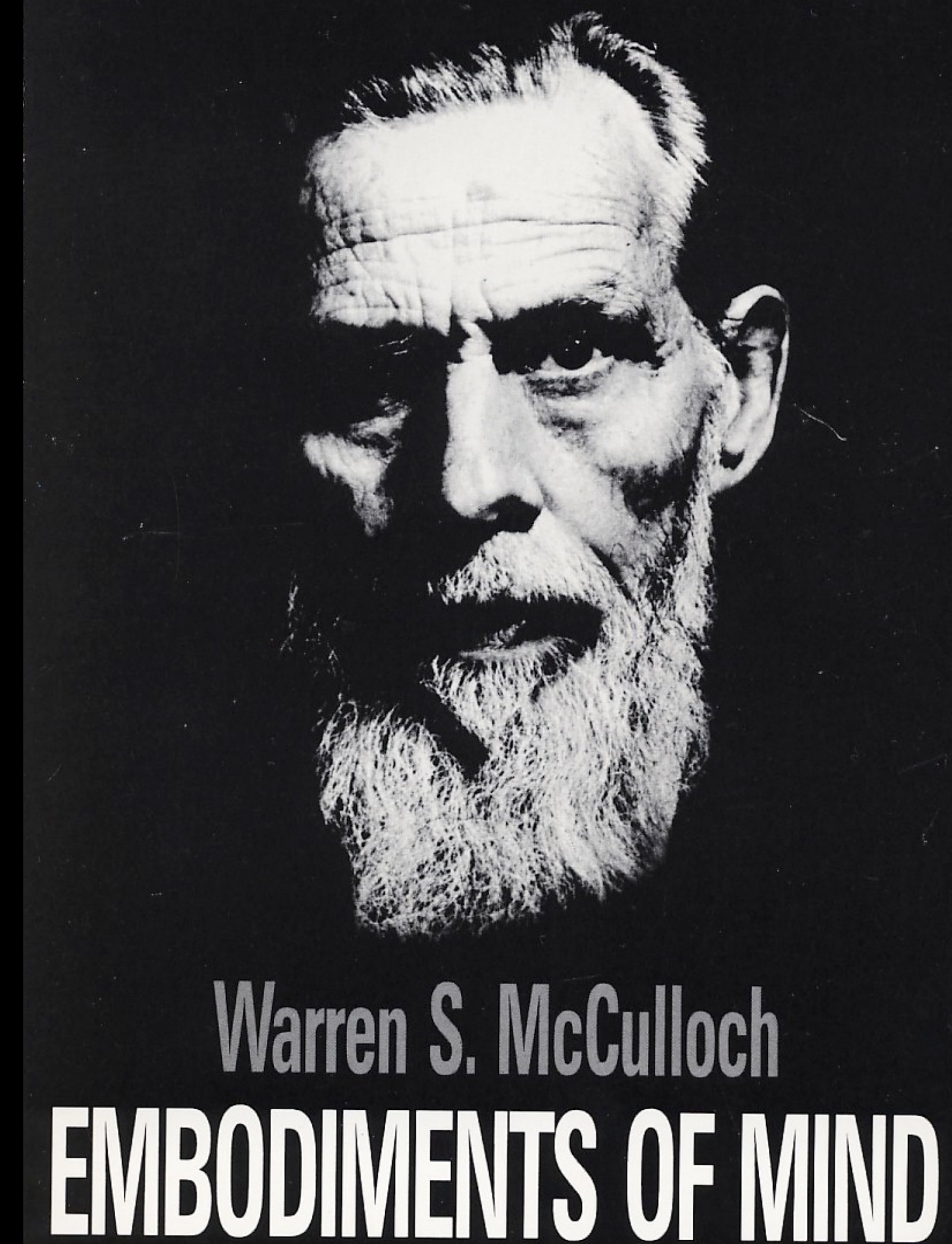
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Mathematician

Author of *Cybernetics*
1948



Warren McCulloch
Neurophysiologist & Poet

Author of *Embodiments of Mind*
1965



Warren S. McCulloch
EMBODIMENTS OF MIND

Introduction by Seymour Papert

New Foreword by Jerome Y. Lettvin

Margaret Mead
Anthropologist

Founder of
American Society
for Cybernetics



Proceedings of
The Macy Meetings

Conferences in Cybernetics
1946–1953

CYBERNETICS

CIRCULAR CAUSAL AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS
IN BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS

*Transactions of the Tenth Conference
April 22, 23, and 24, 1953, Princeton, N. J.*

Edited by

HEINZ VON FOERSTER

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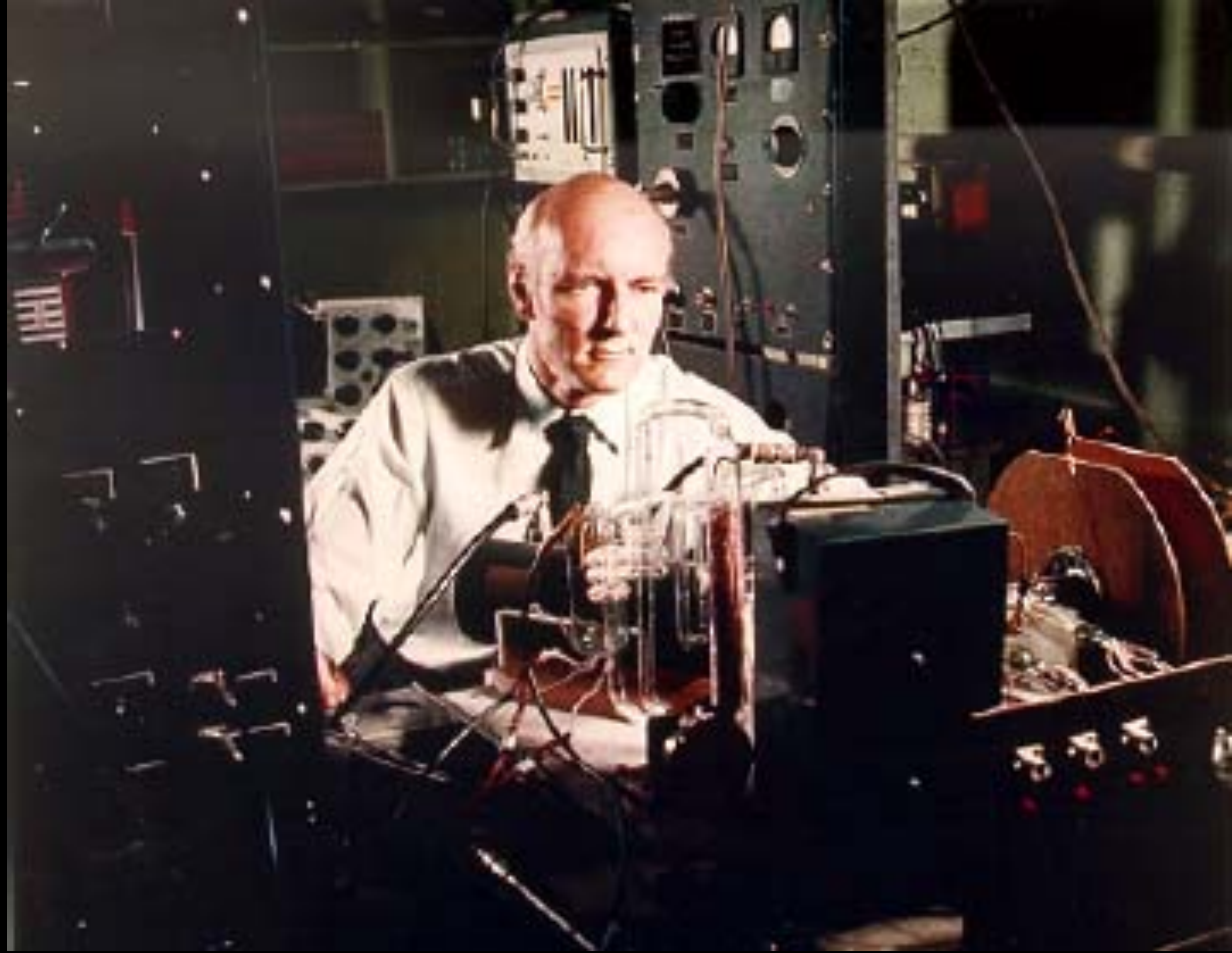
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1982

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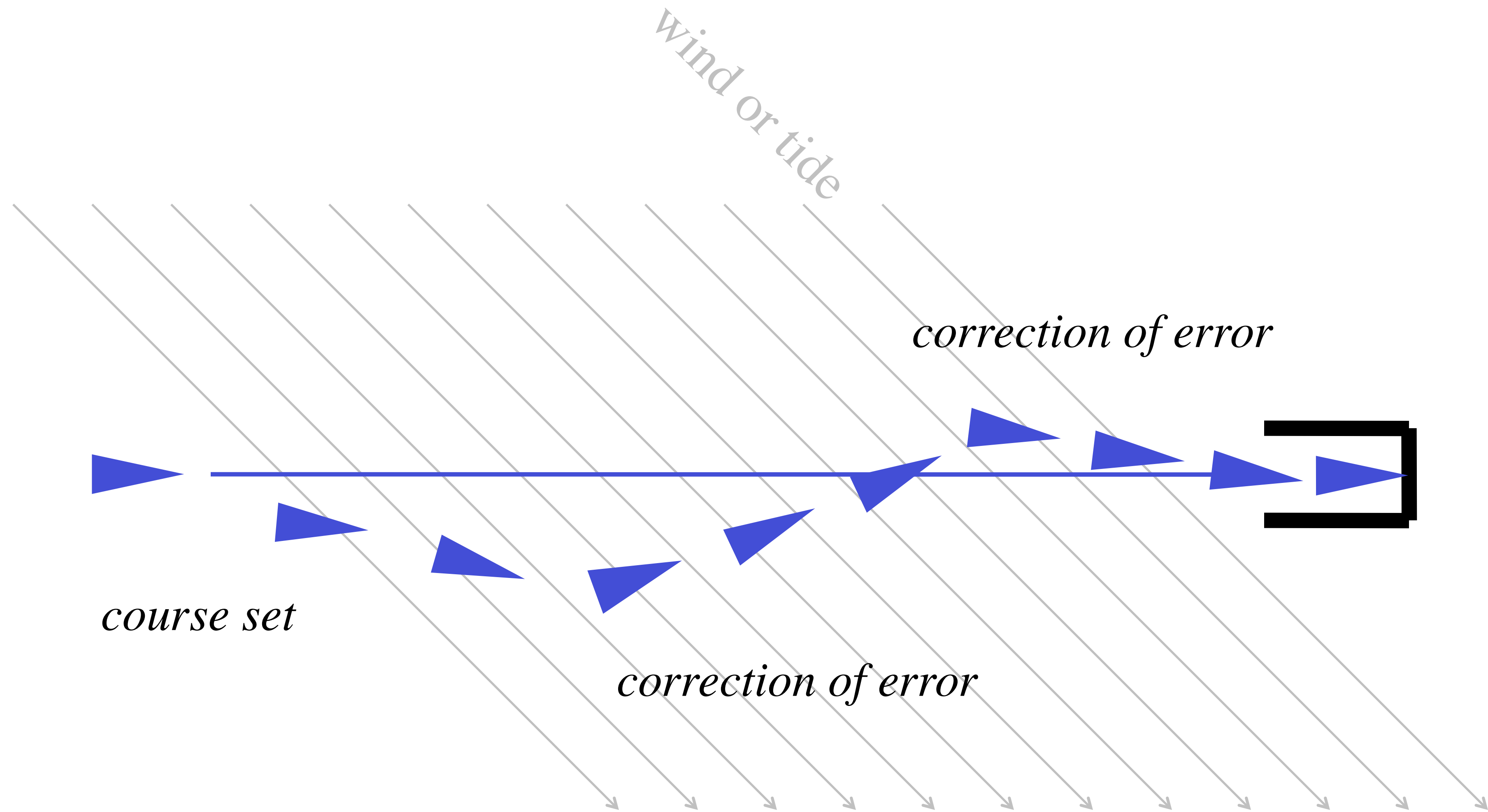
† Absent.

1953

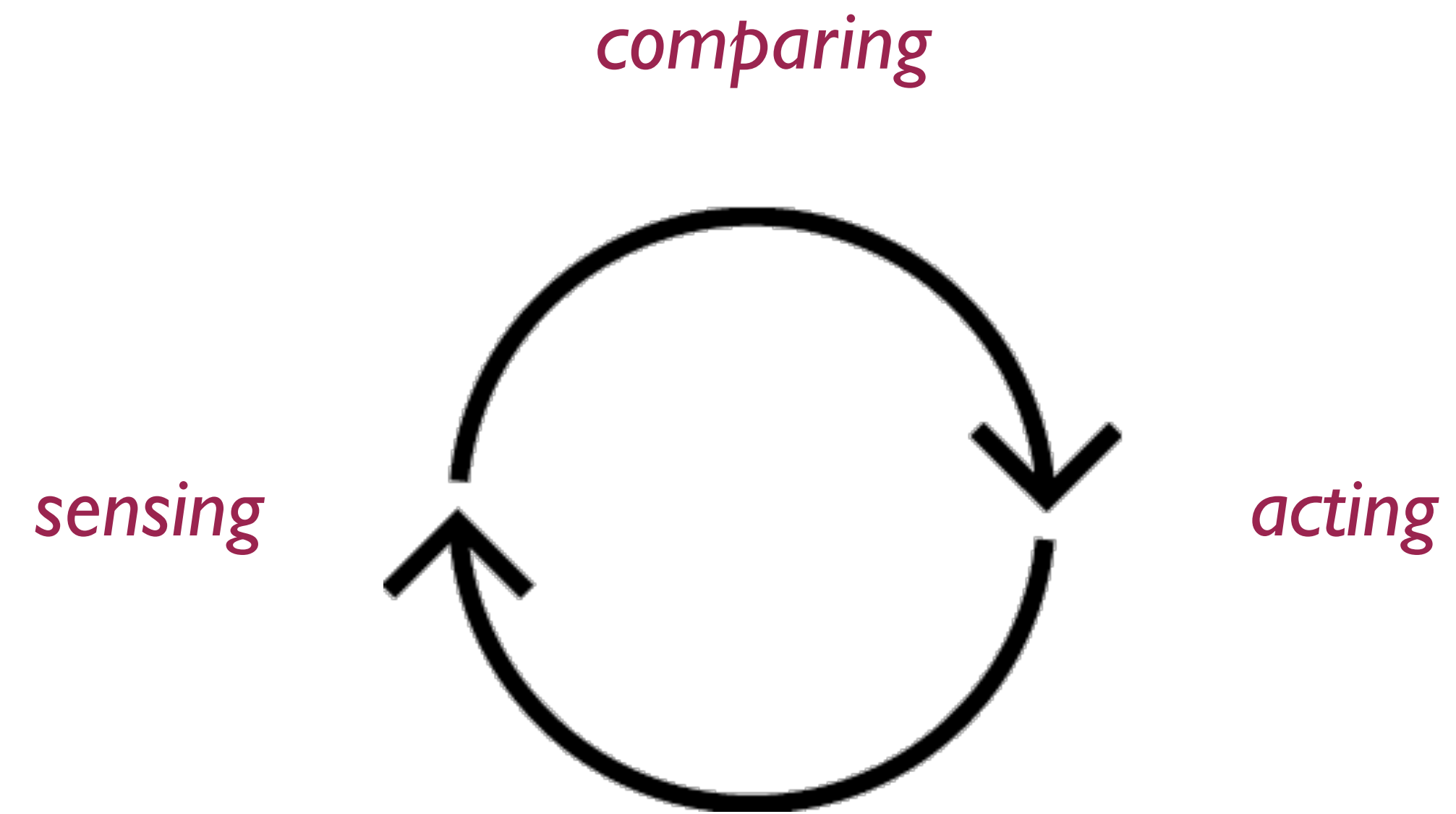
* This is the final conference.

† Absent.

the art of steering



the art of regulation



Gordon Pask
Cybernetician



Gordon Pask & Elizabeth Pask



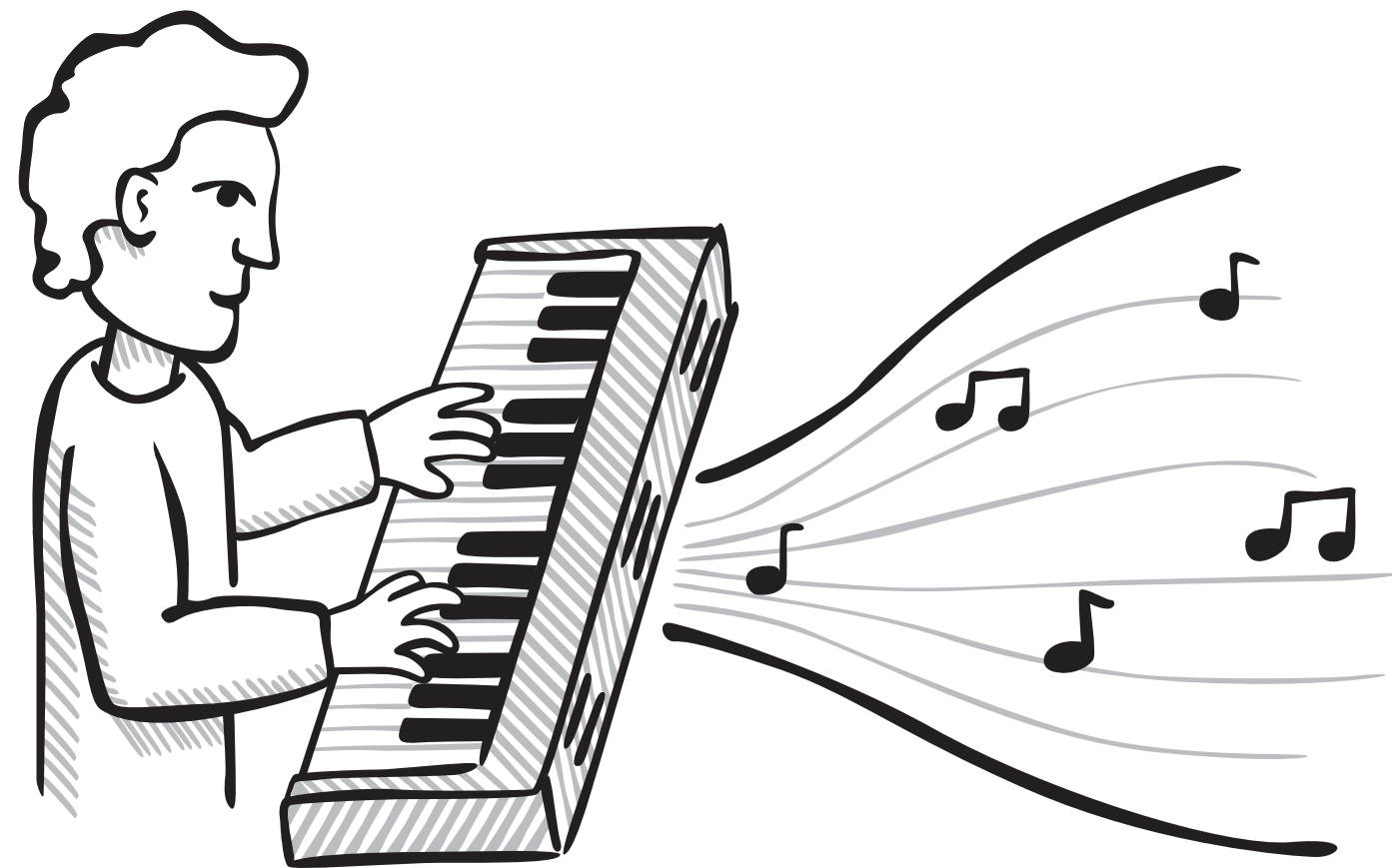
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London

circa 1988



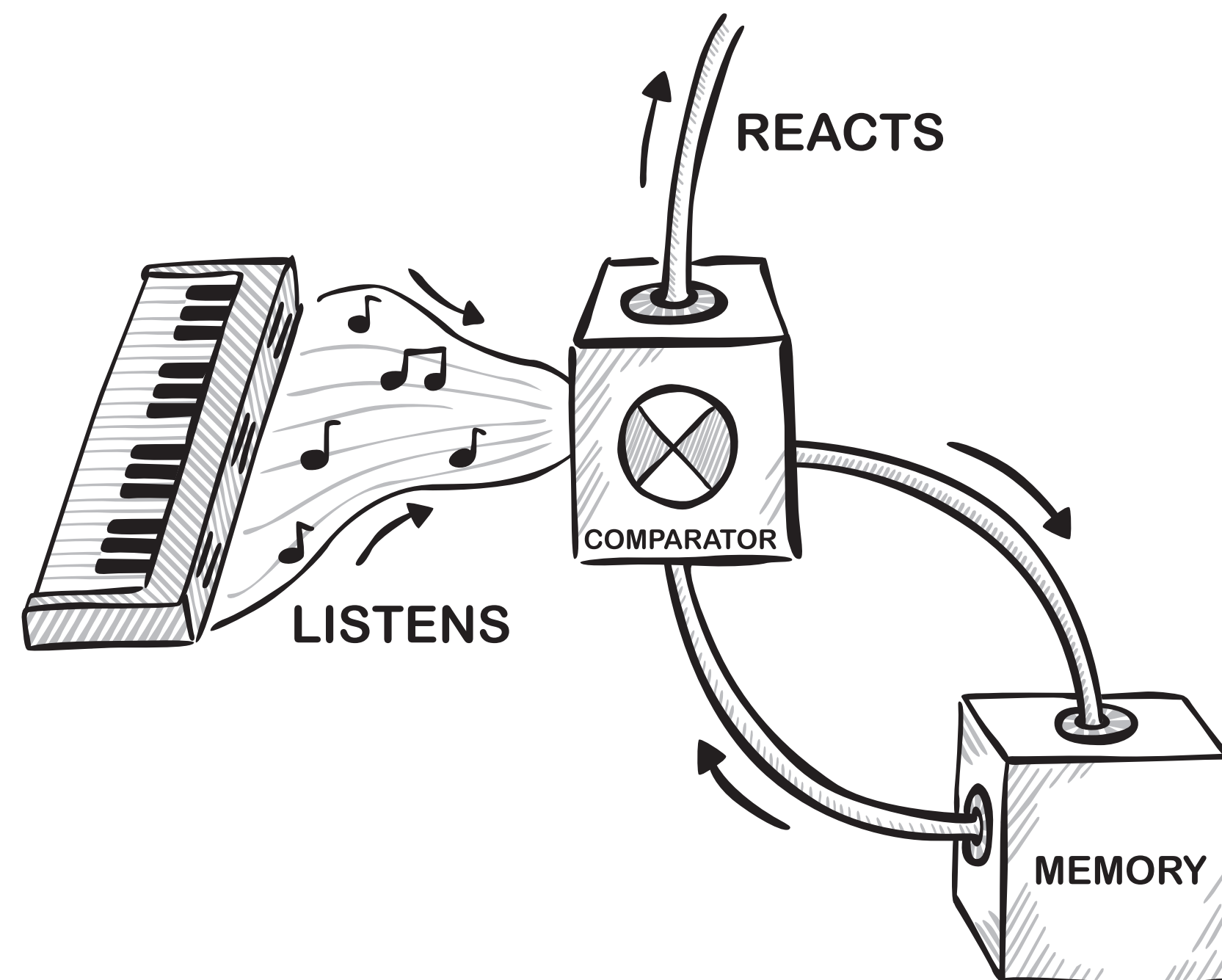
Gordon Pask's
Musicolour

mid-1950s



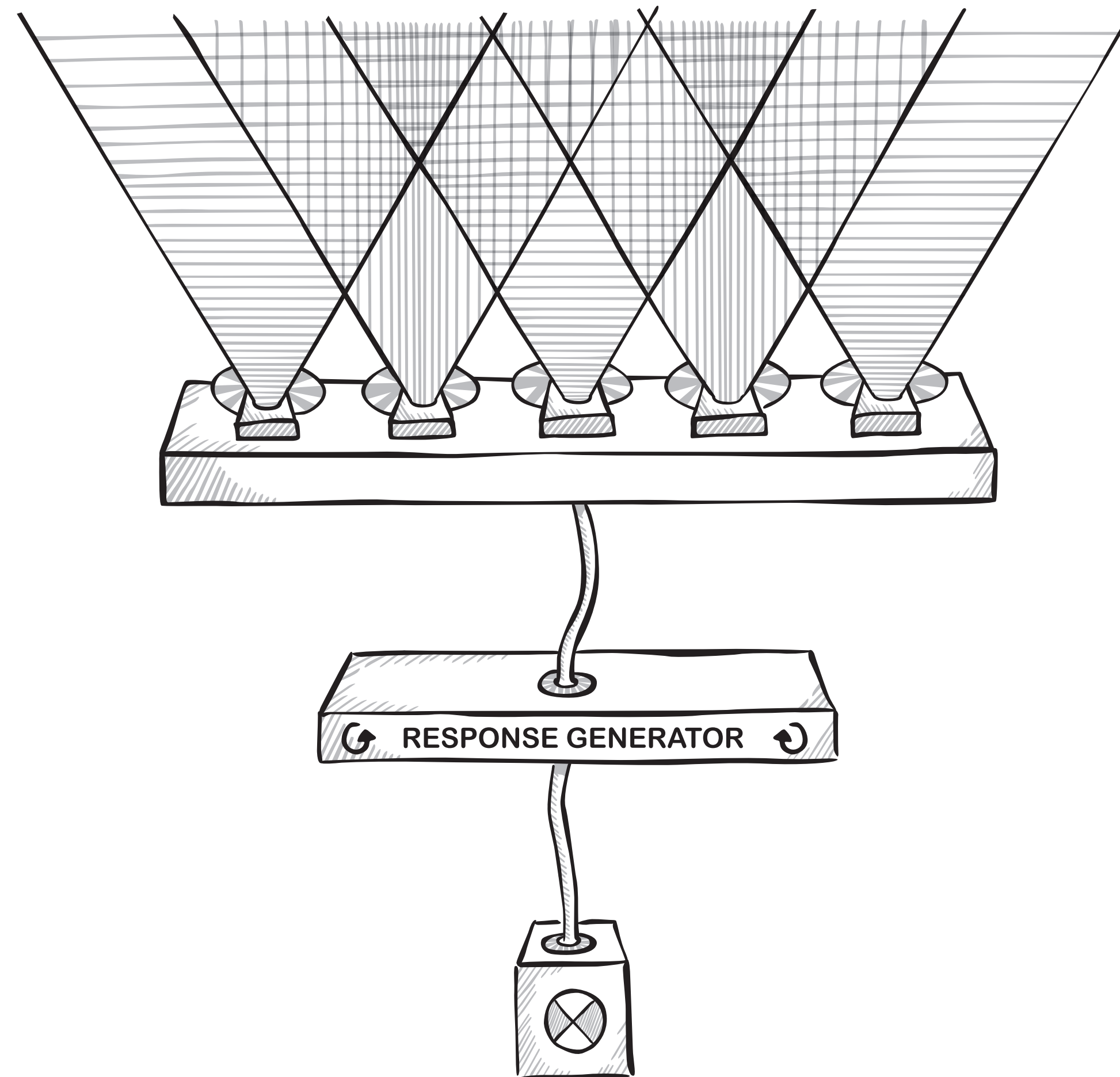
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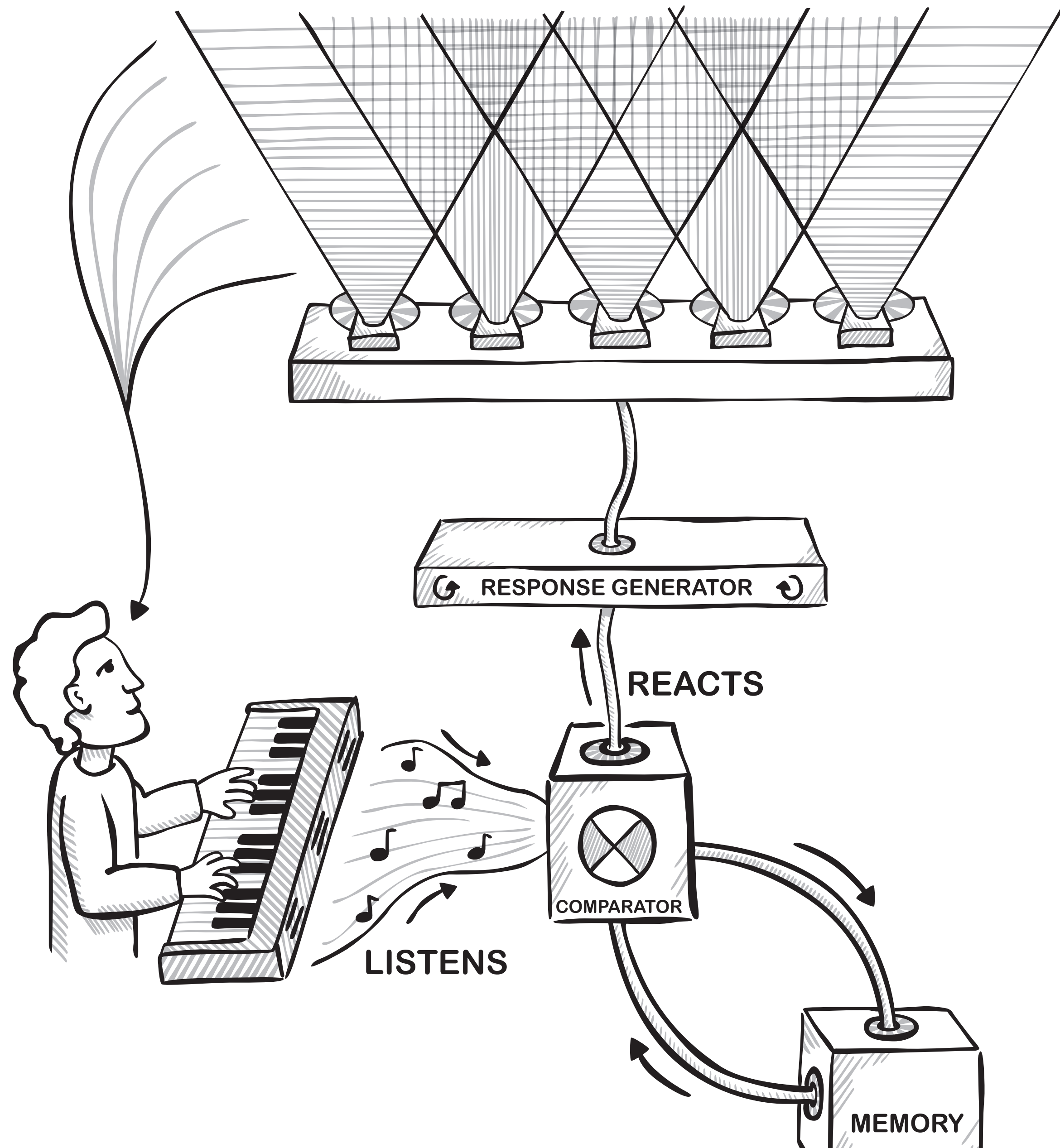


Gordon Pask's
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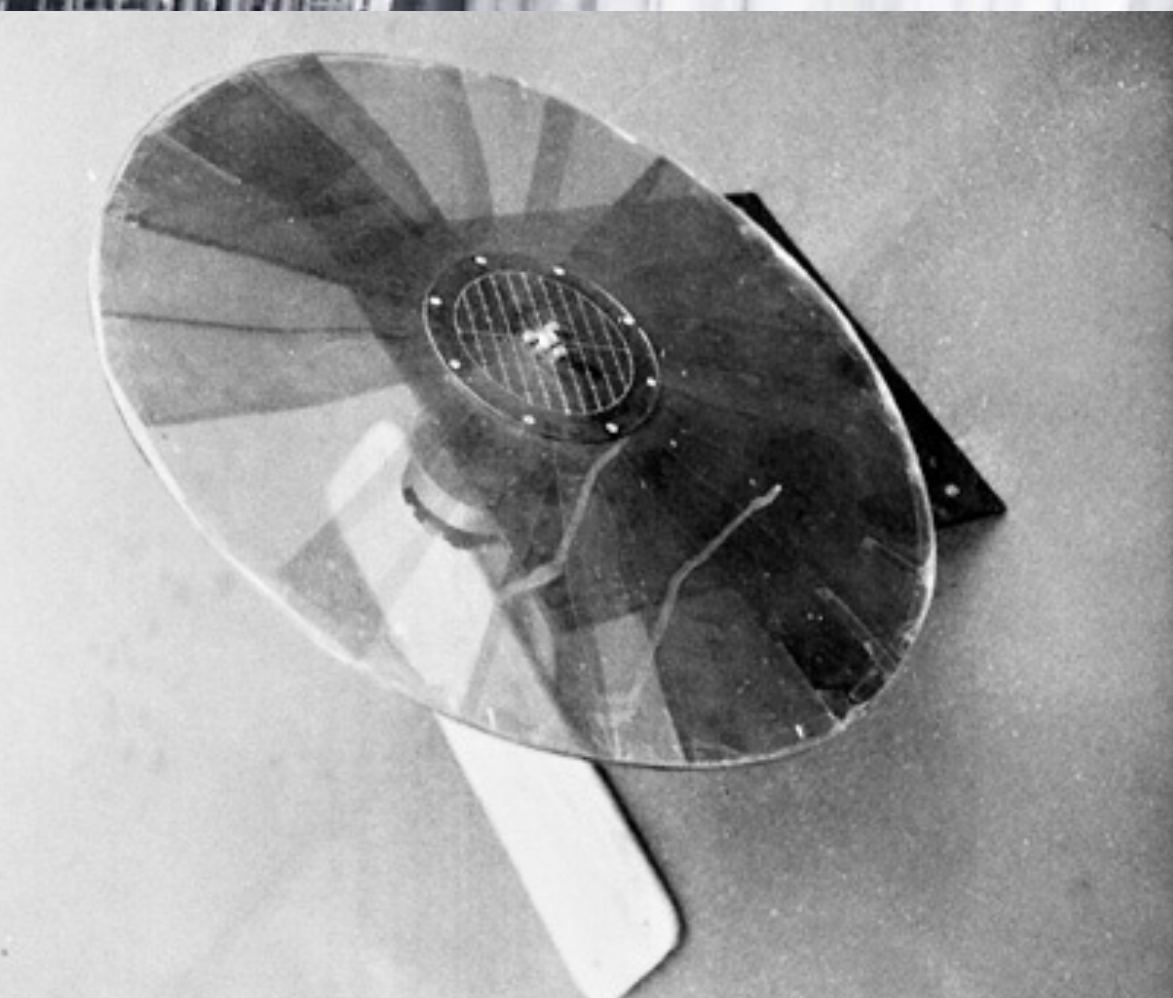
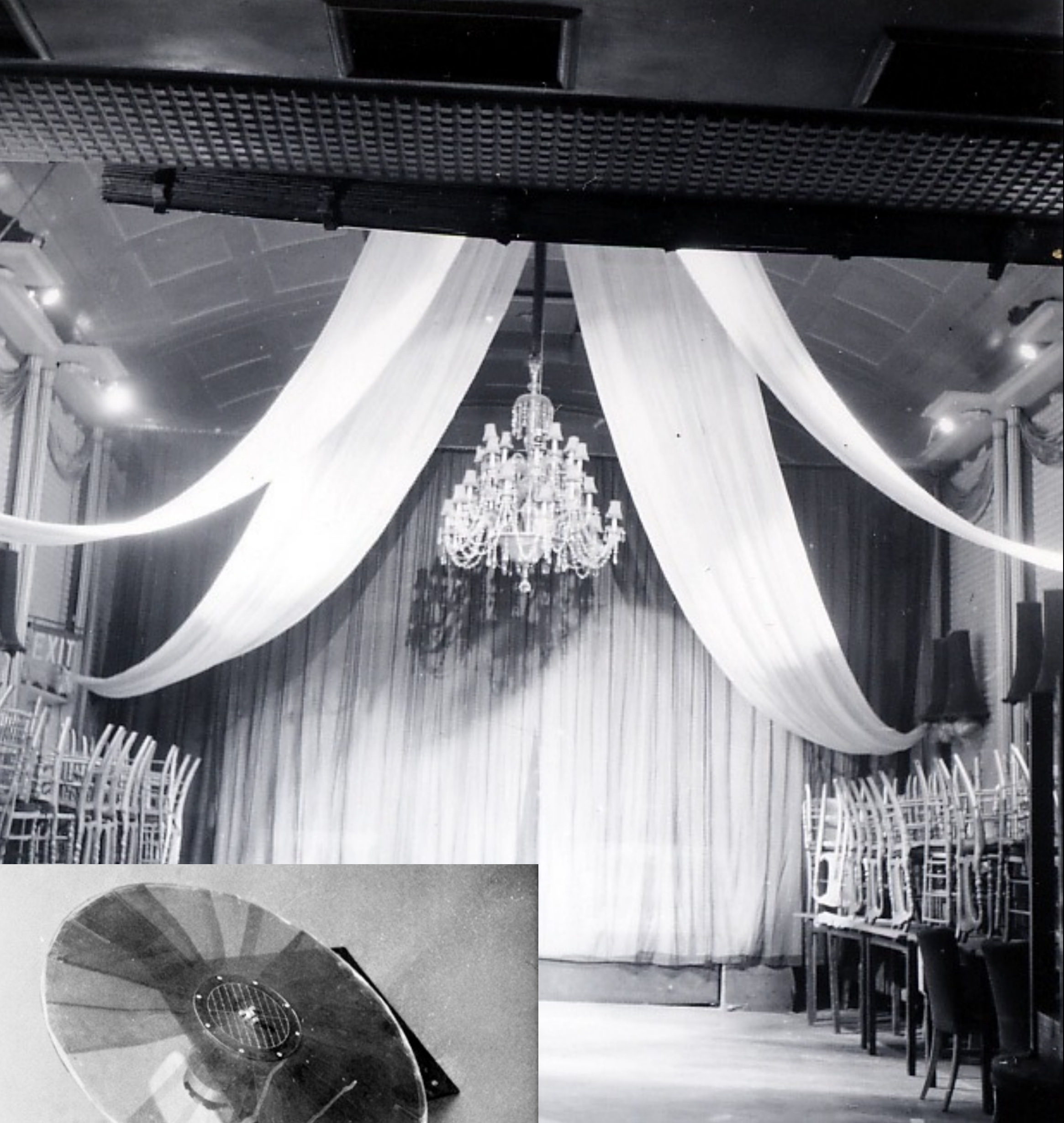
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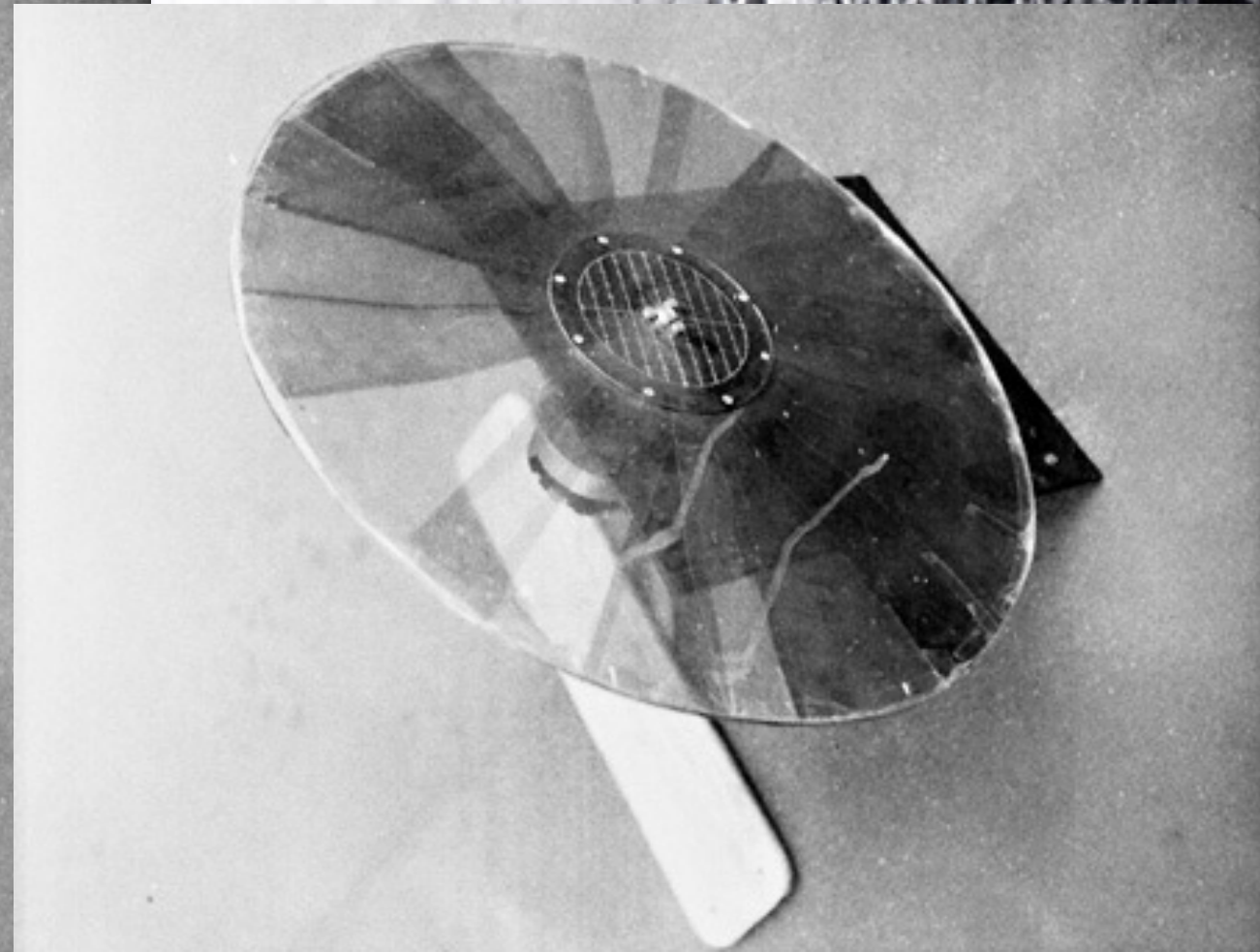
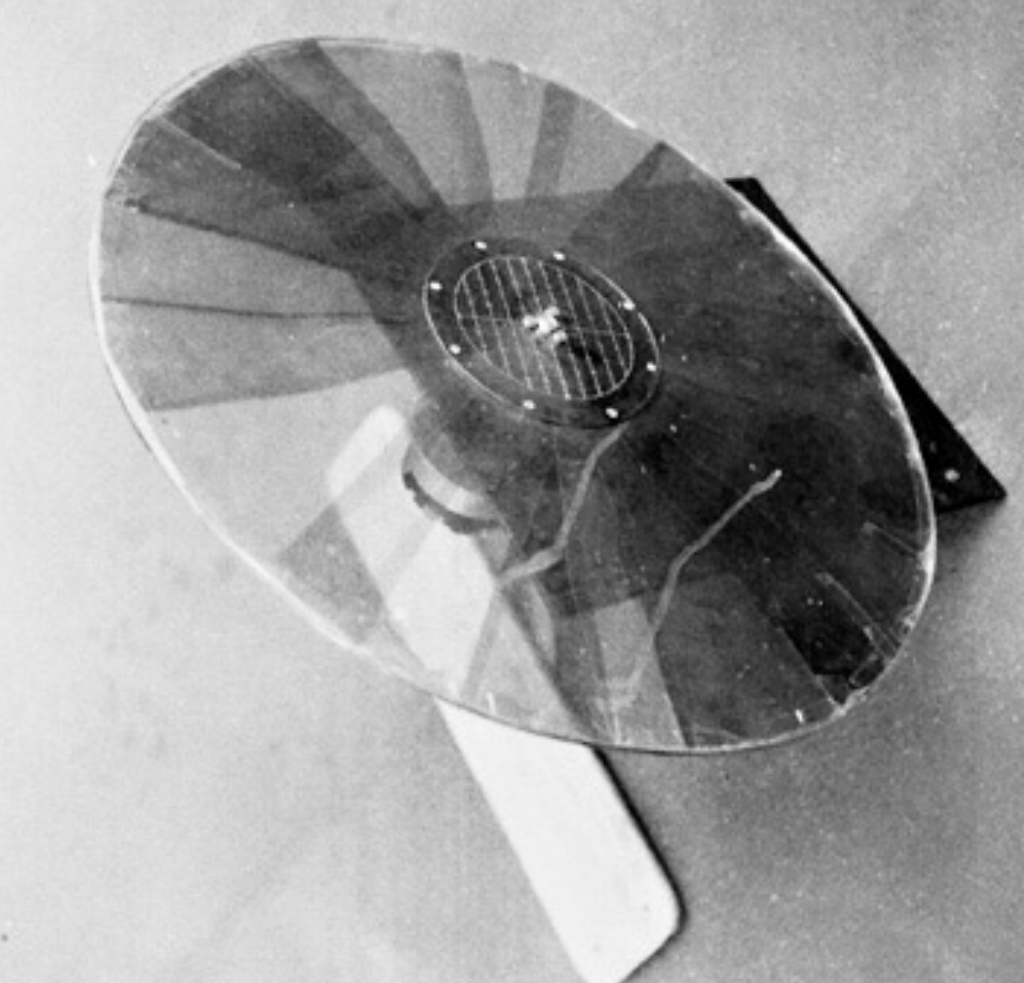


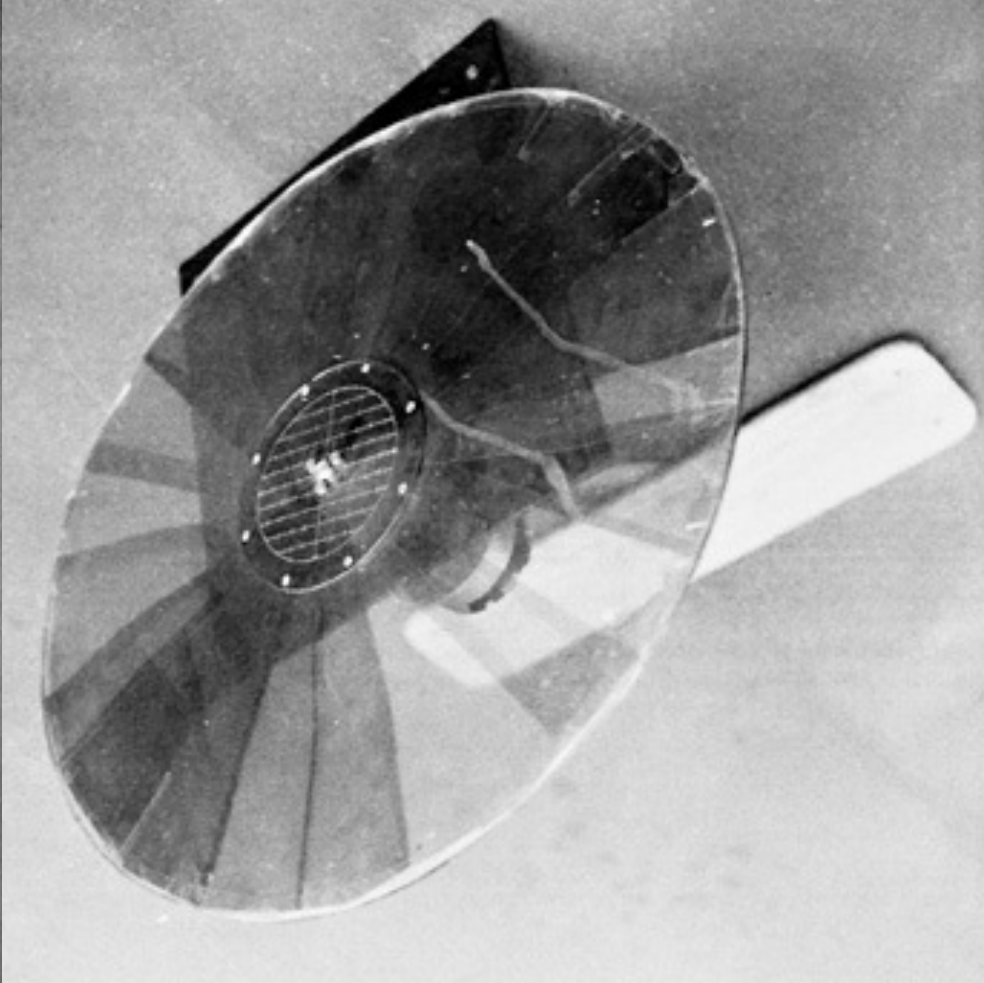
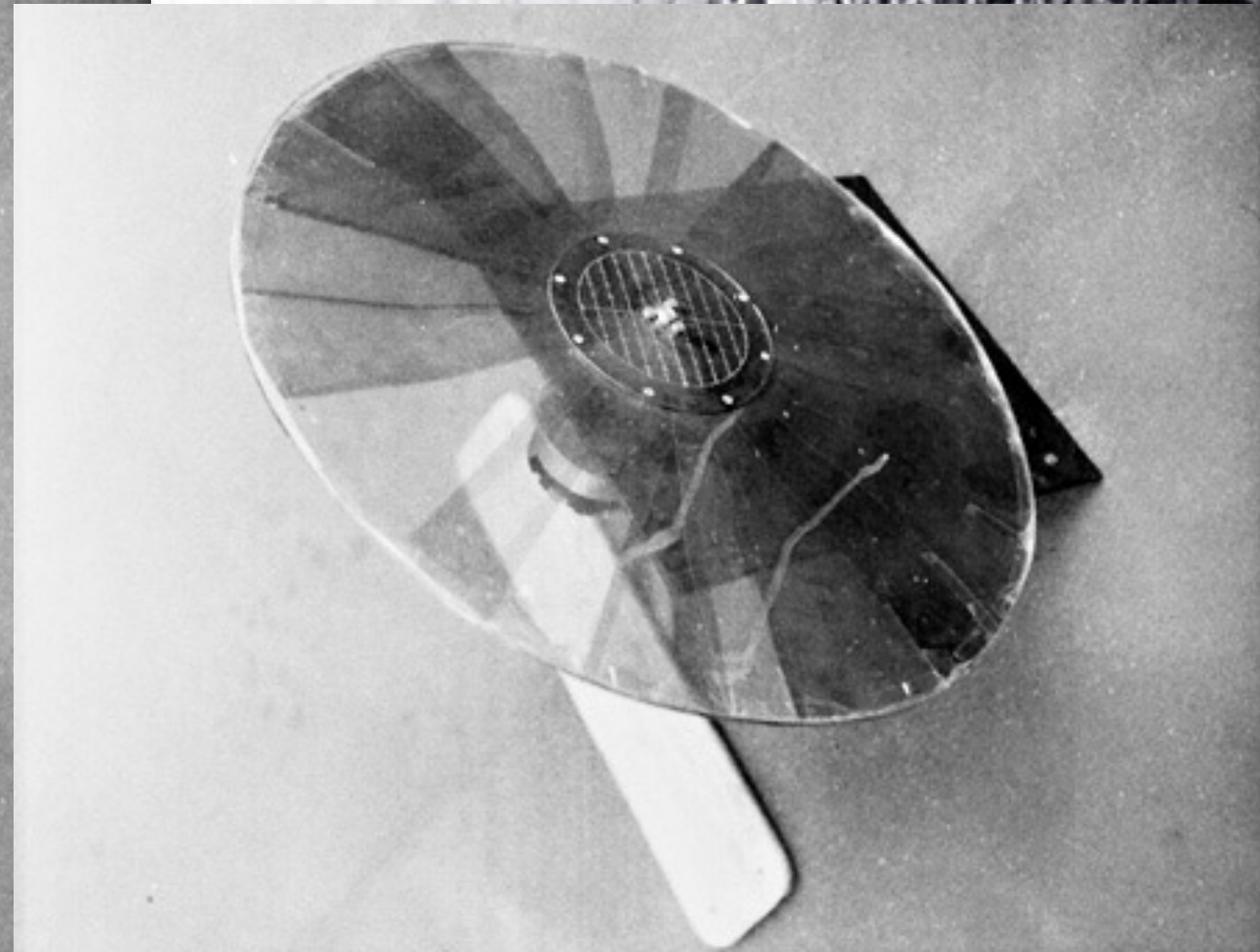
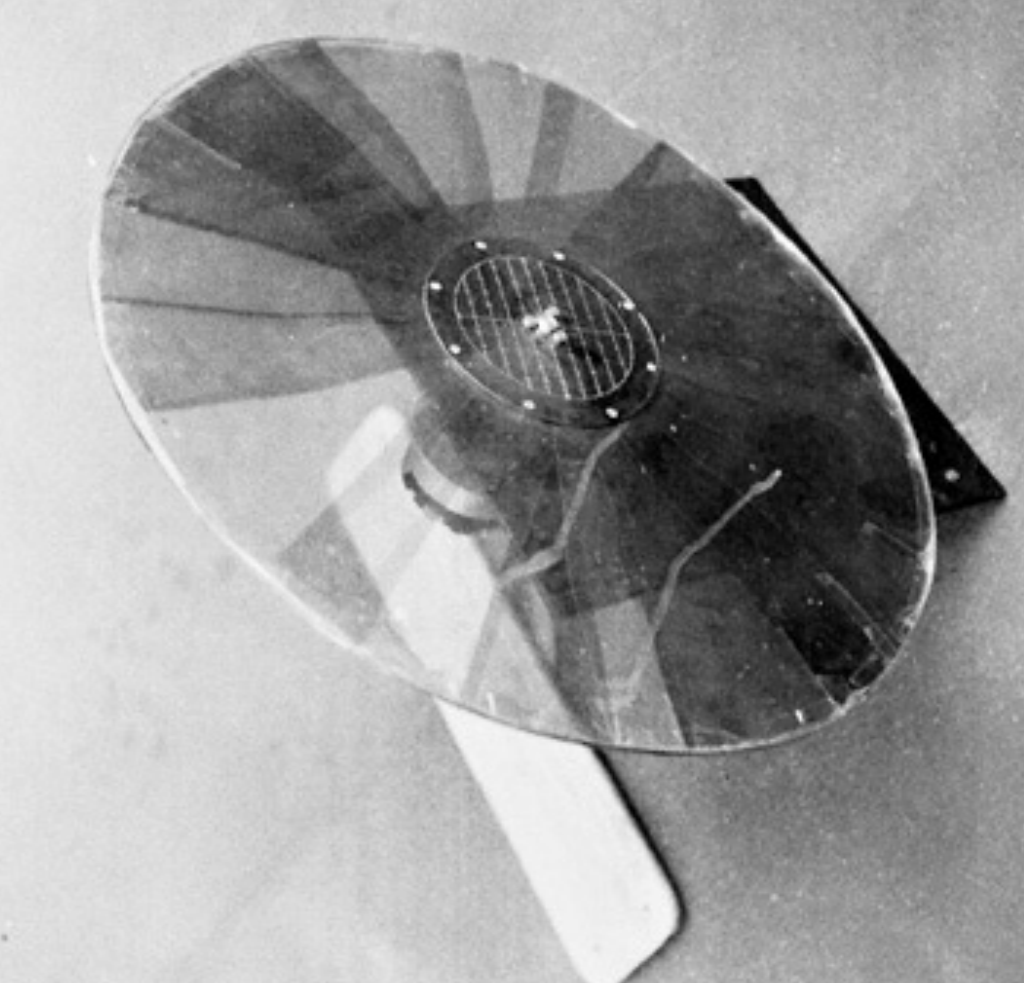
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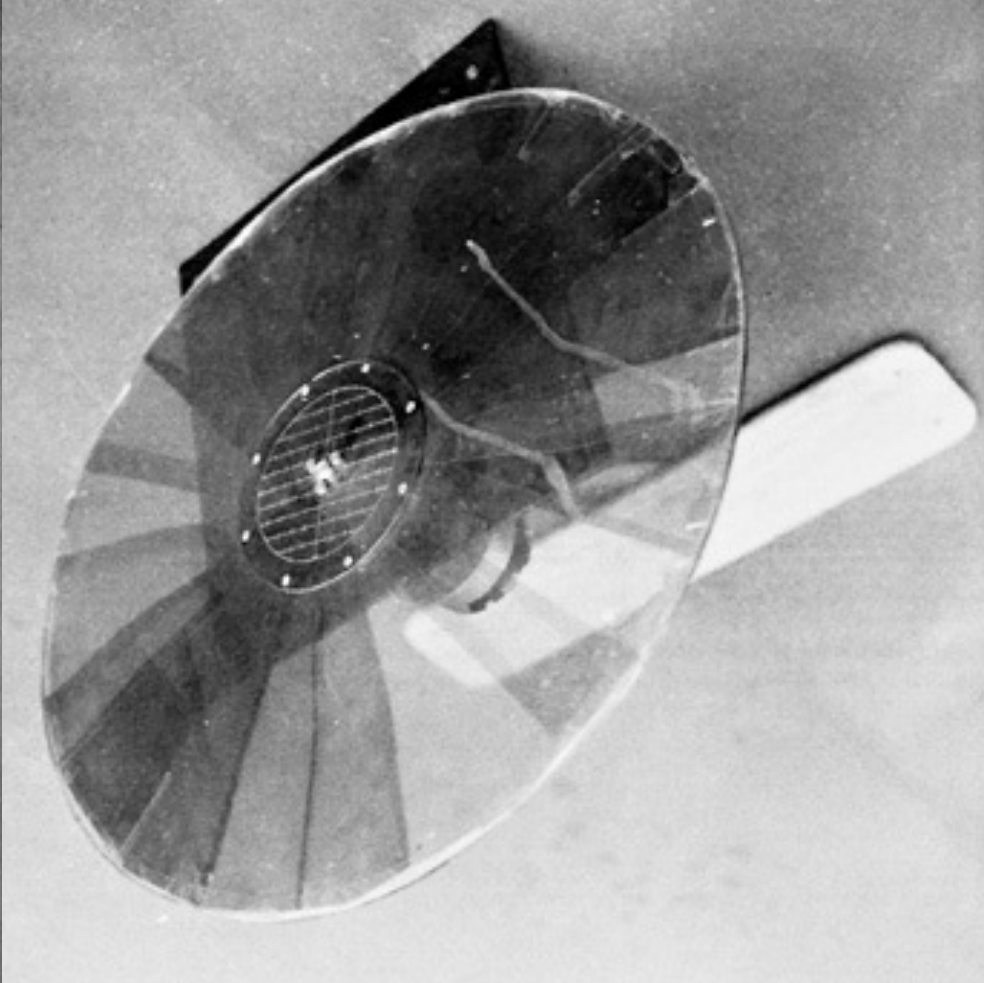
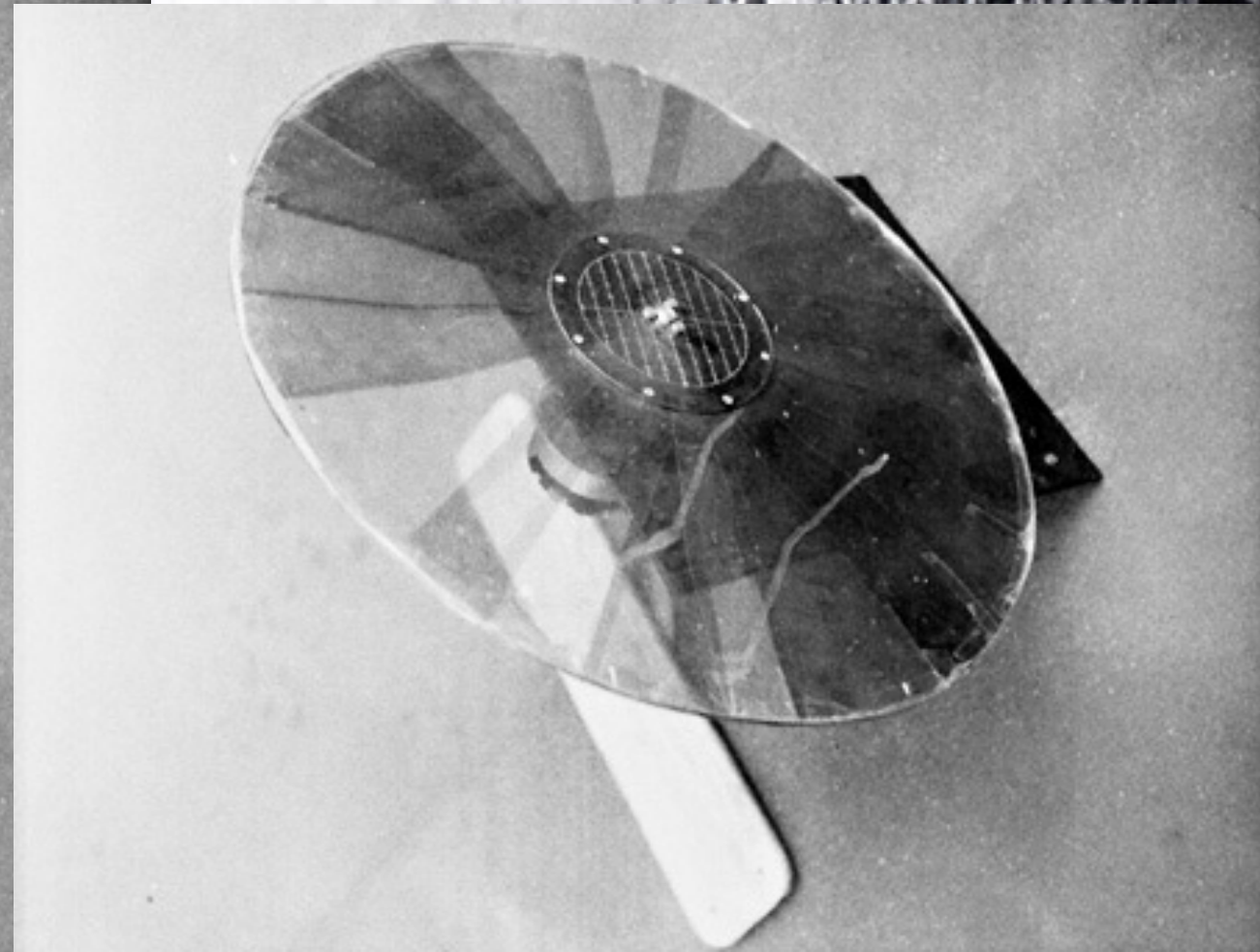
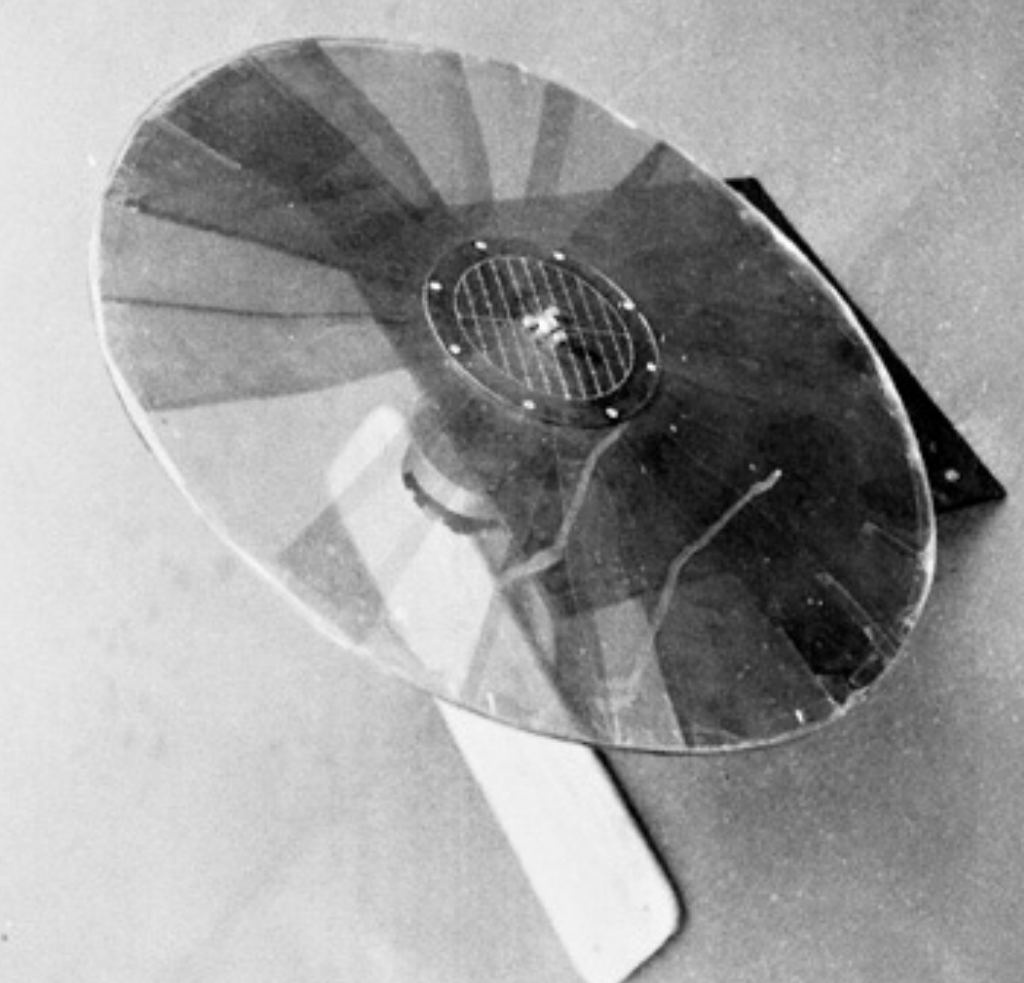
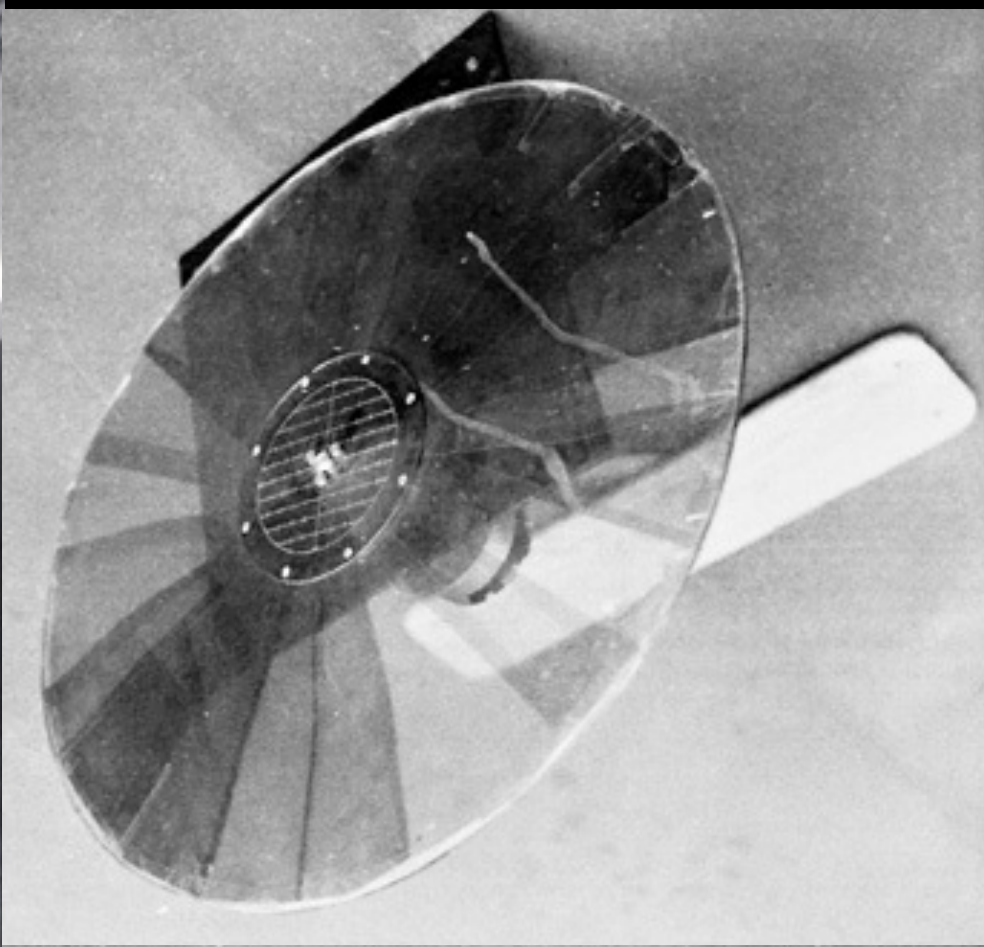


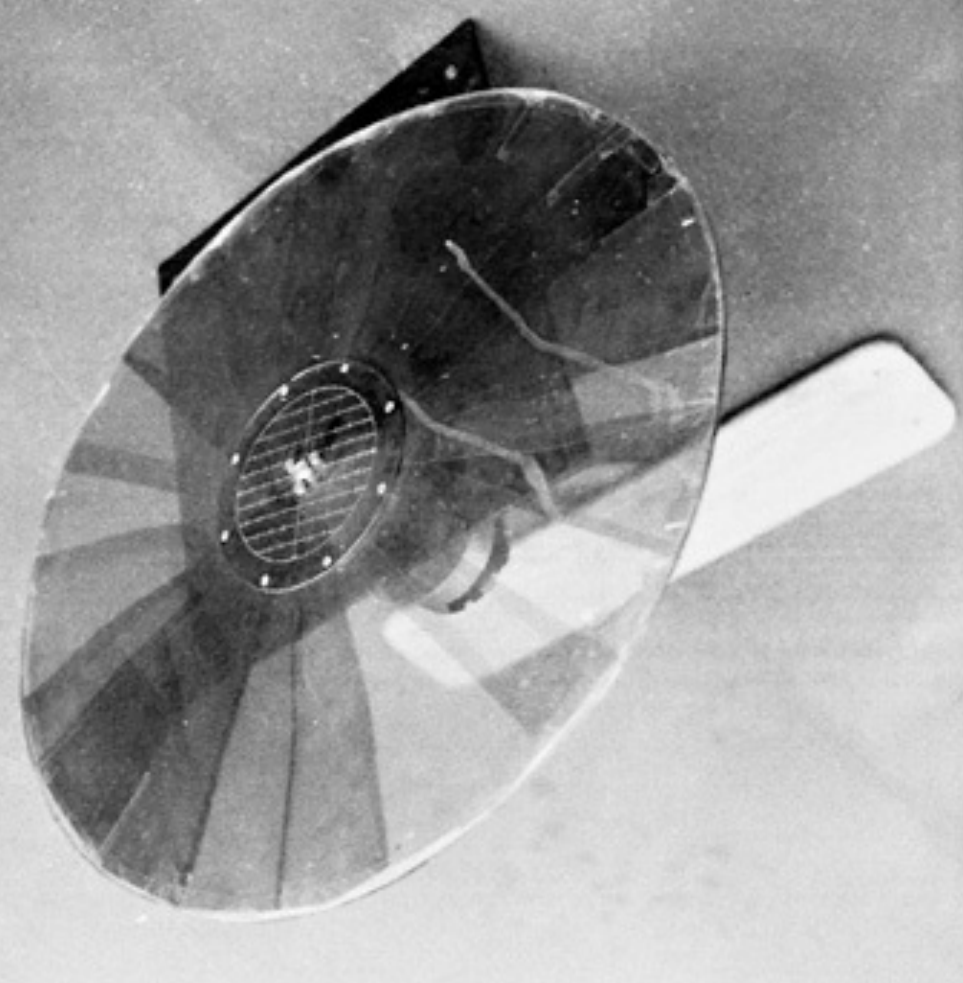
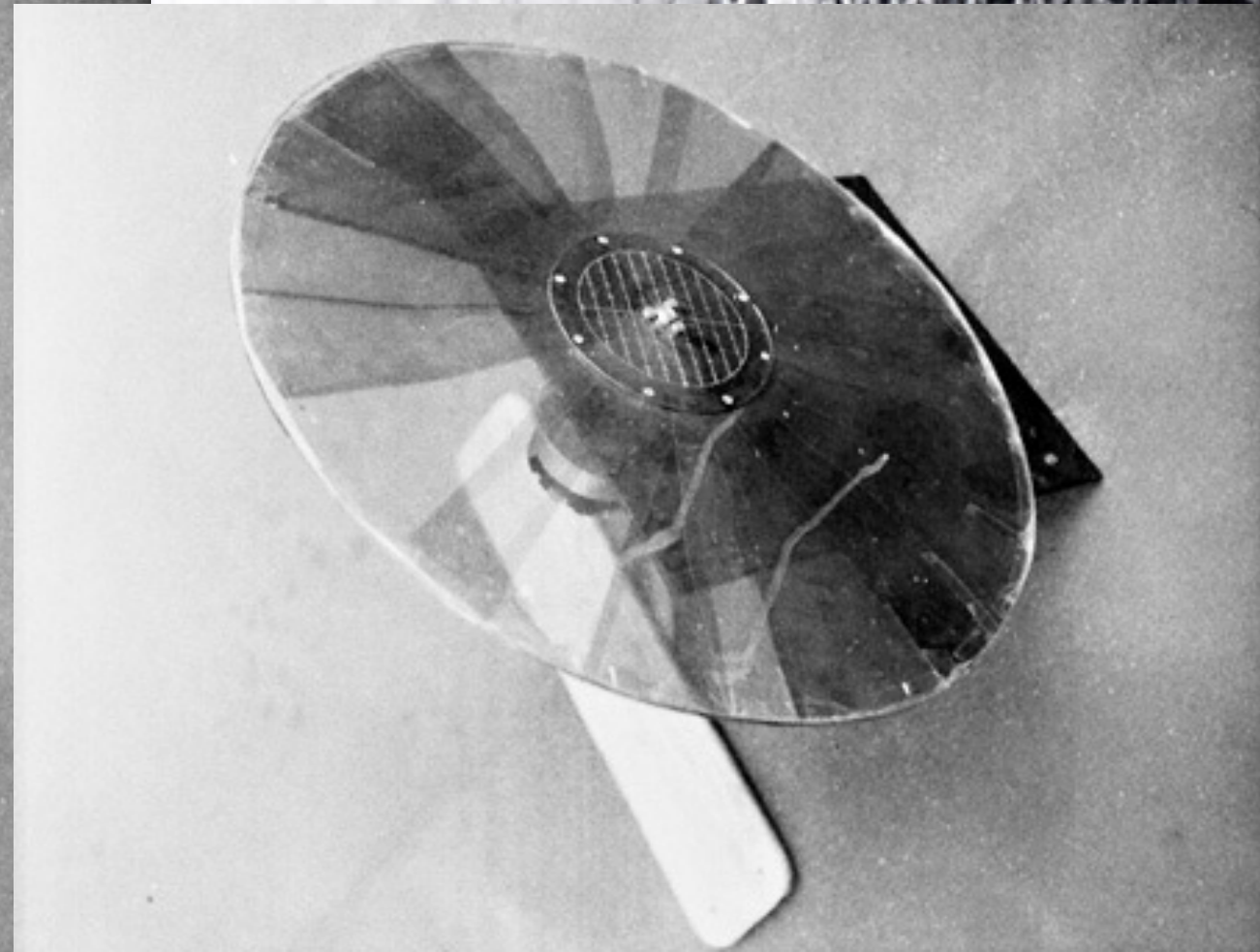
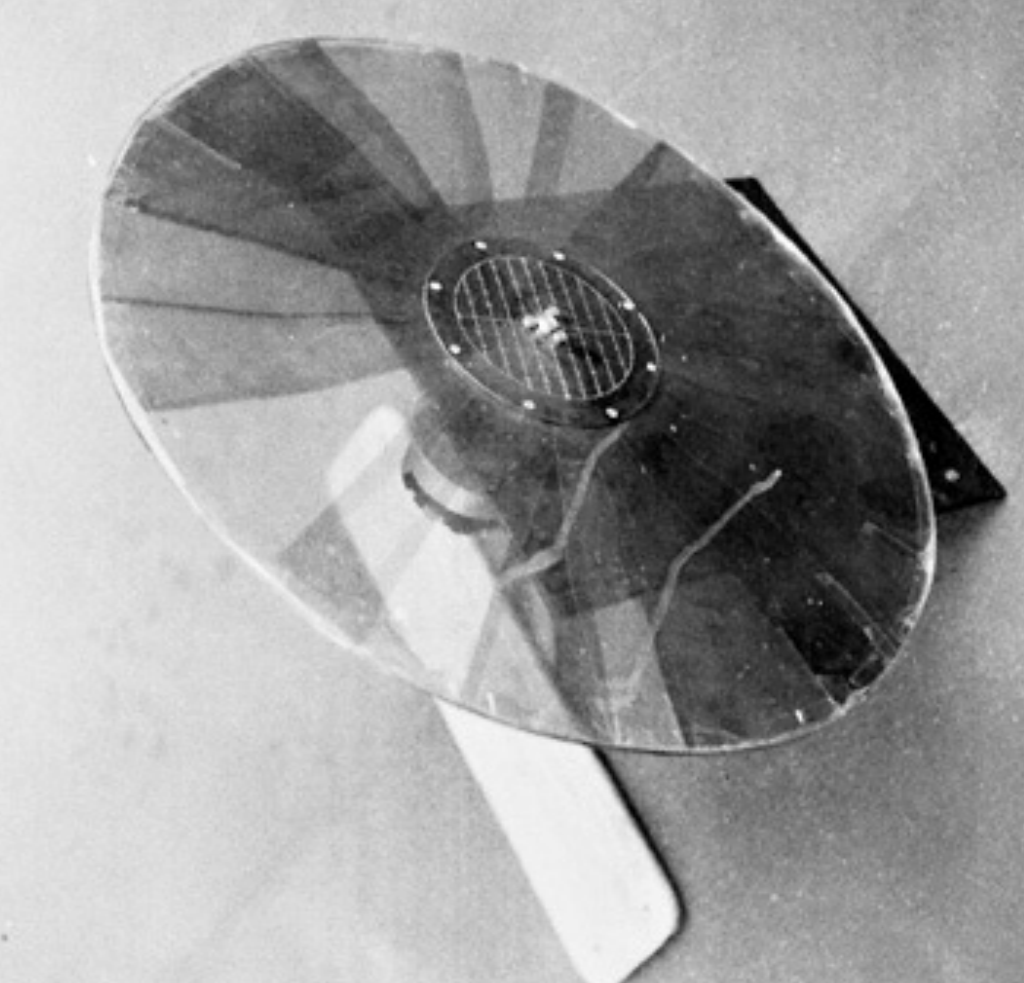
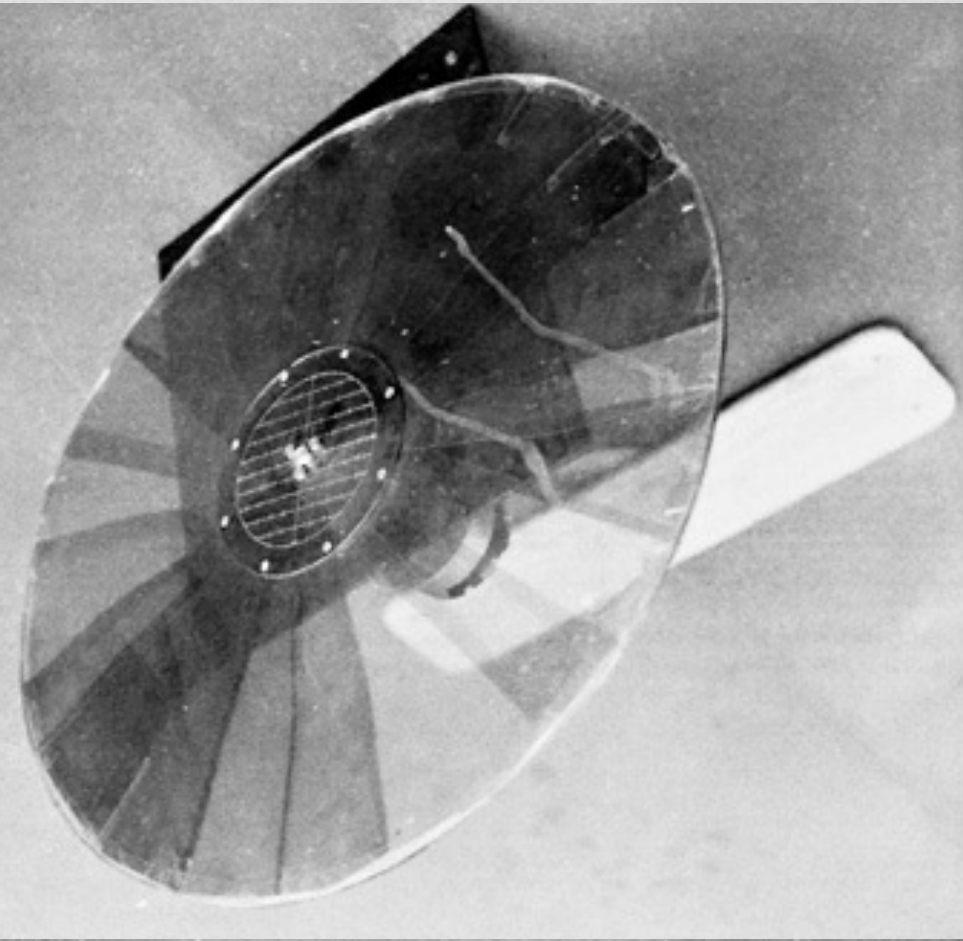
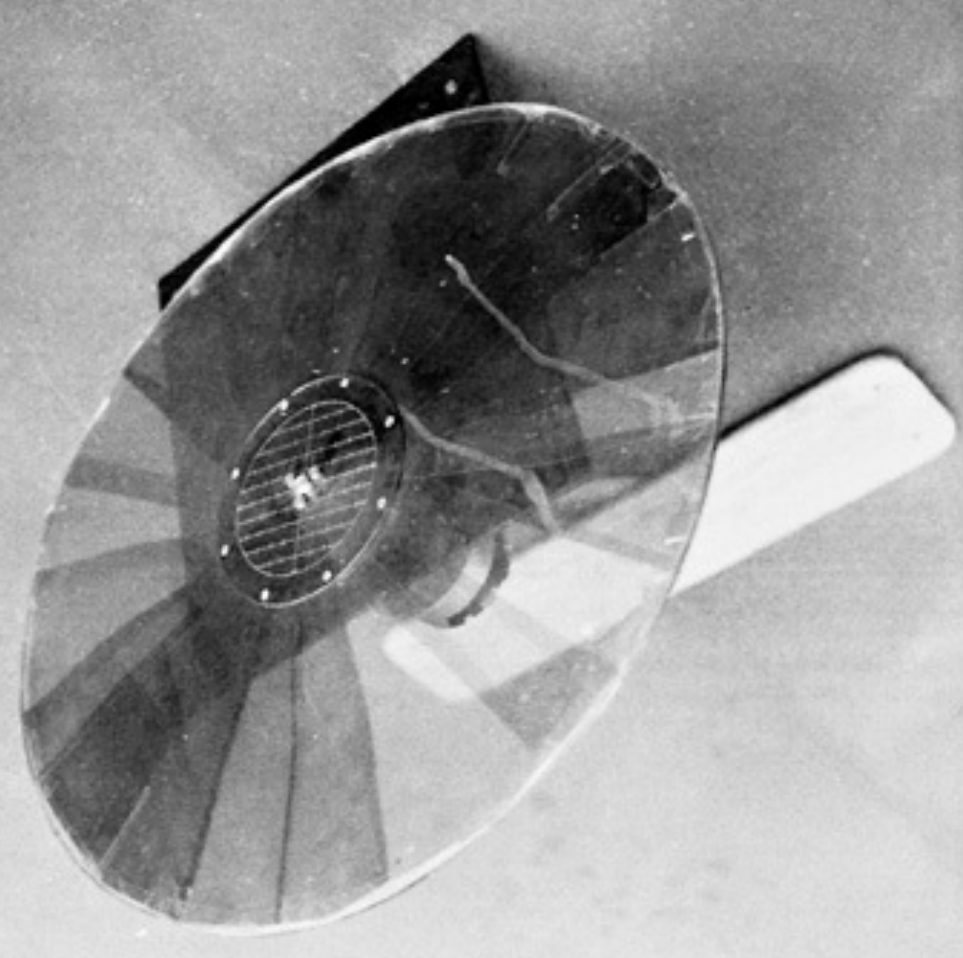


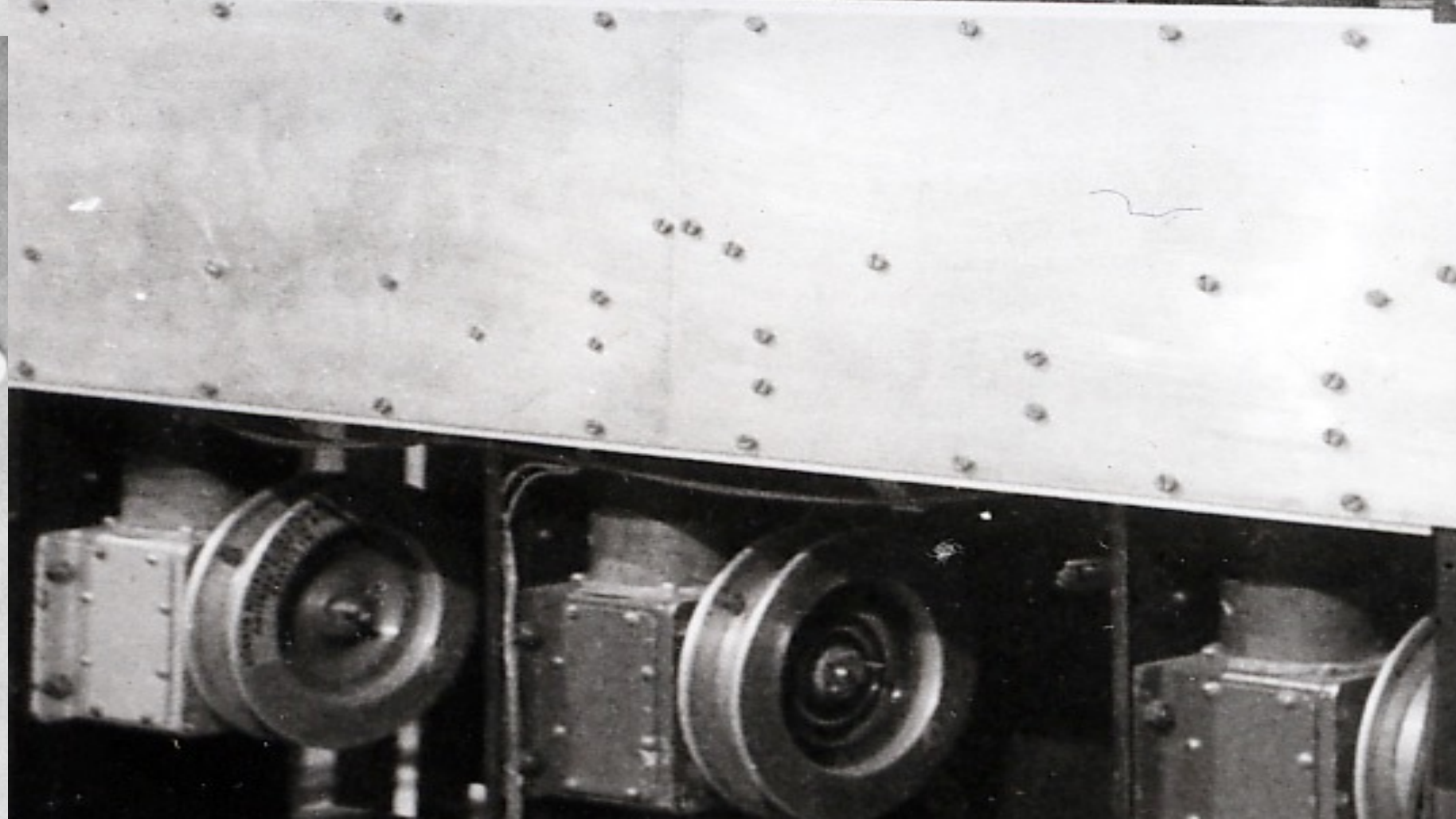
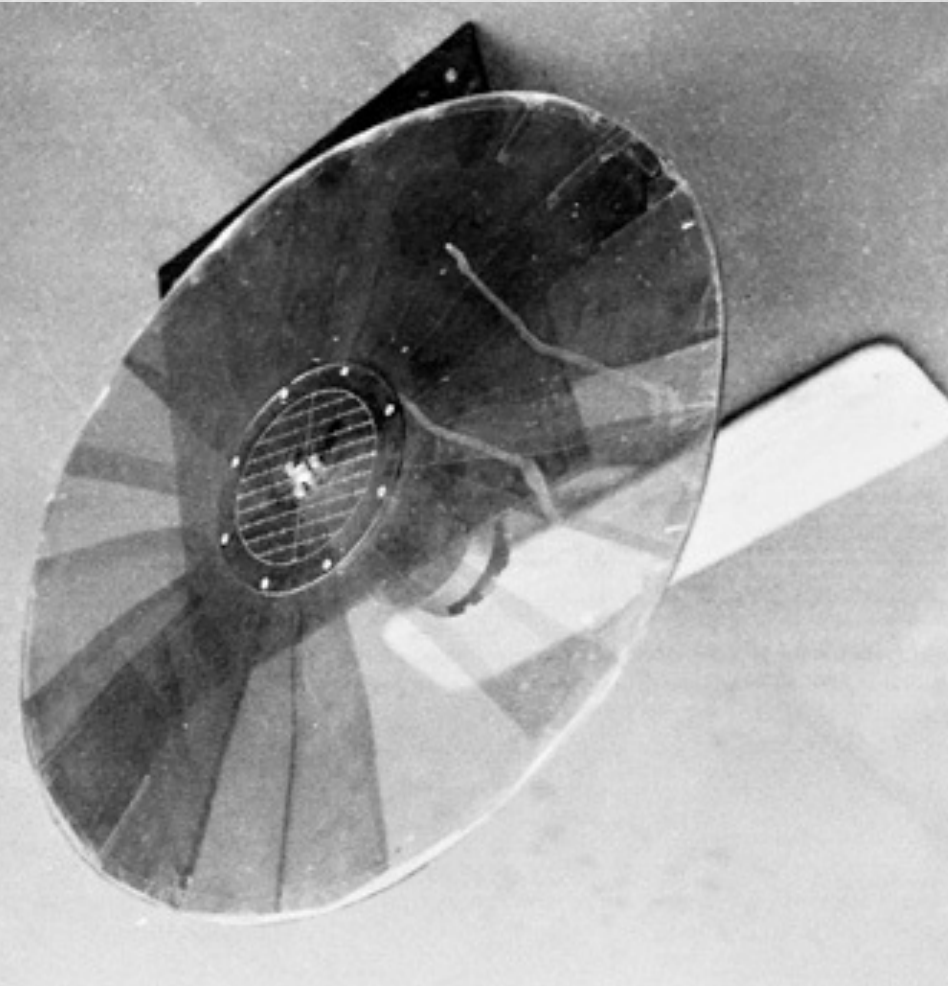
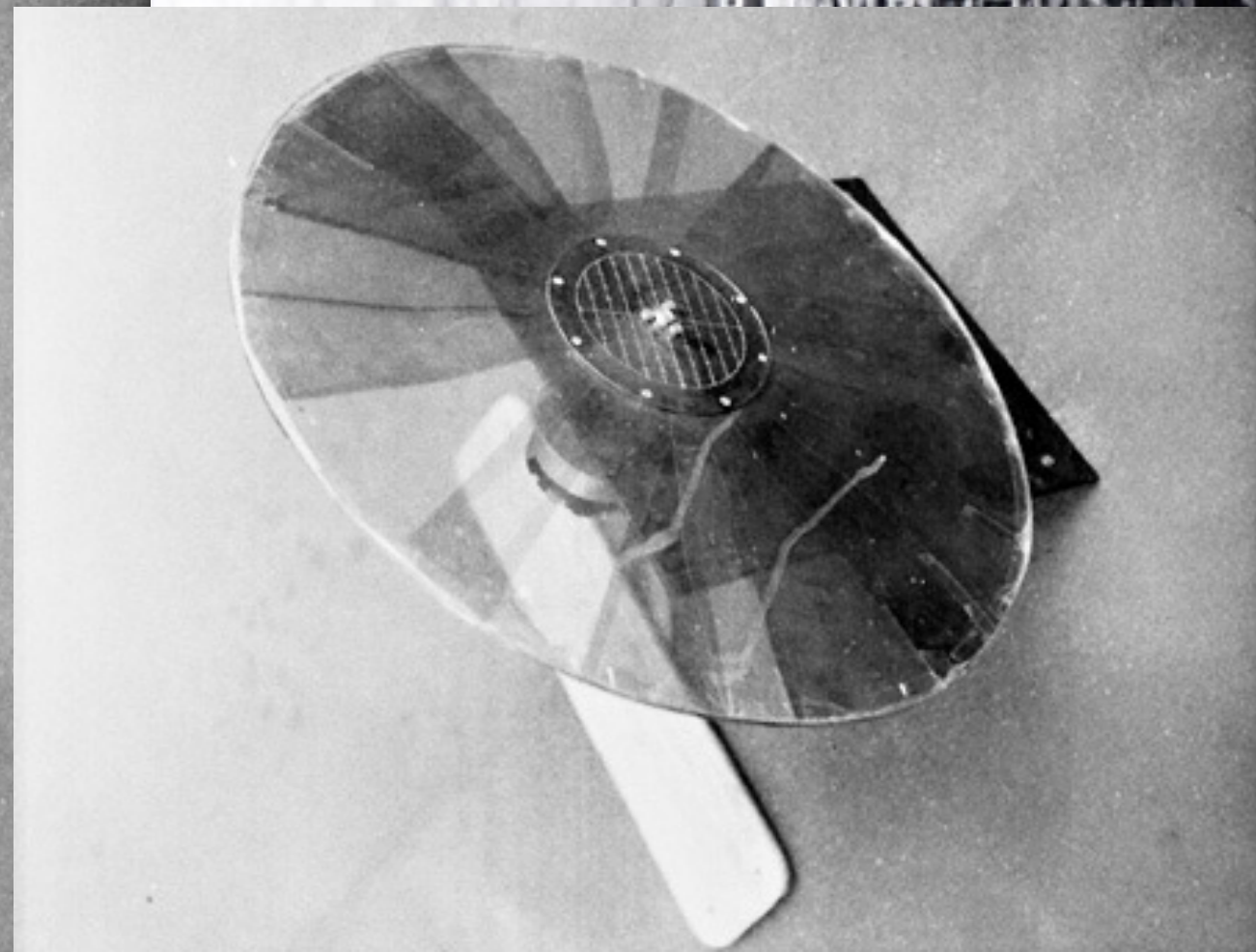
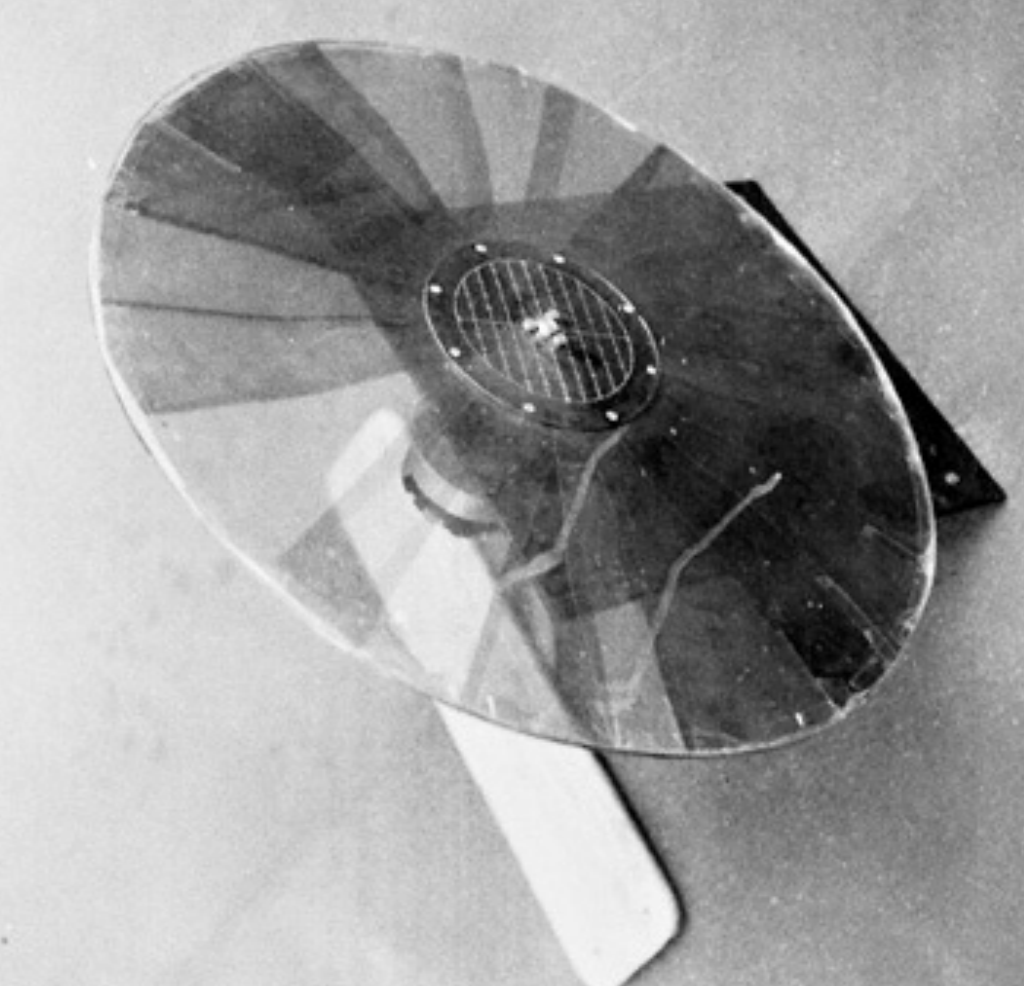
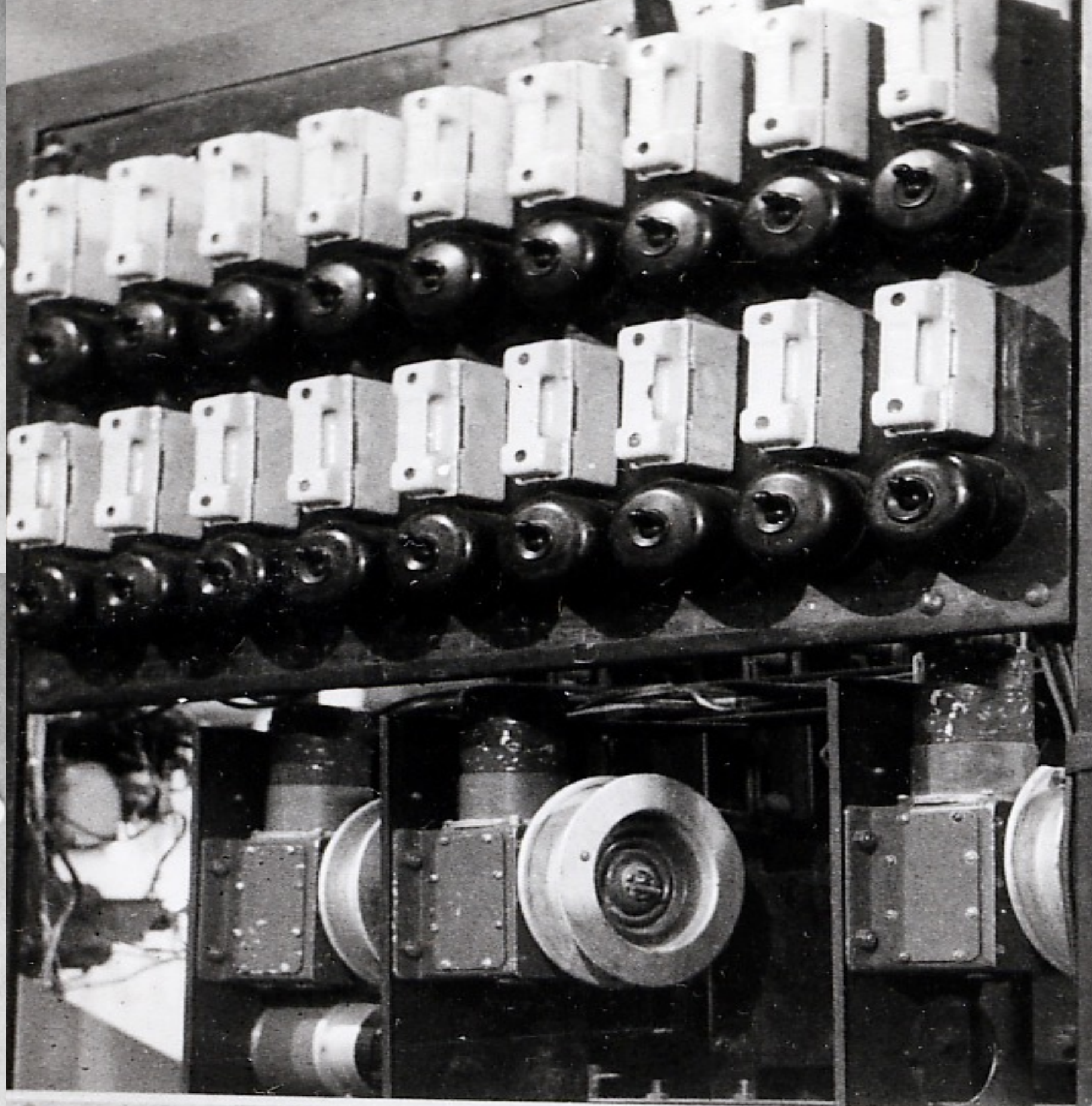
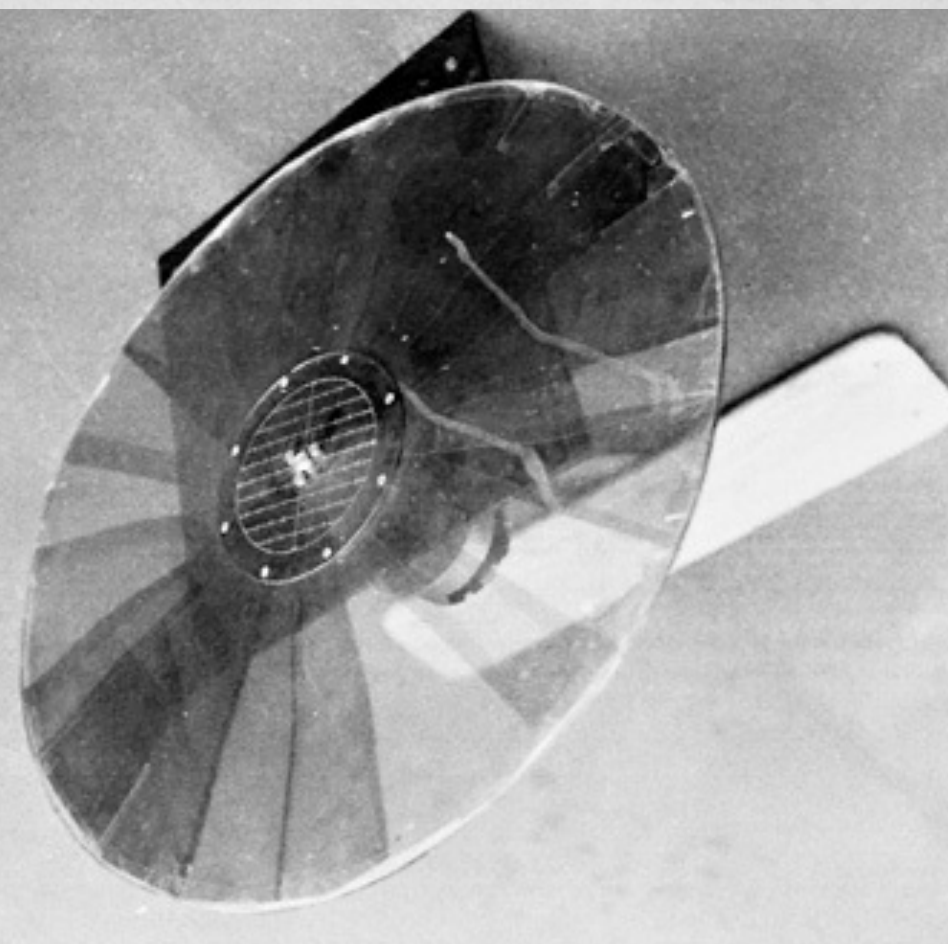
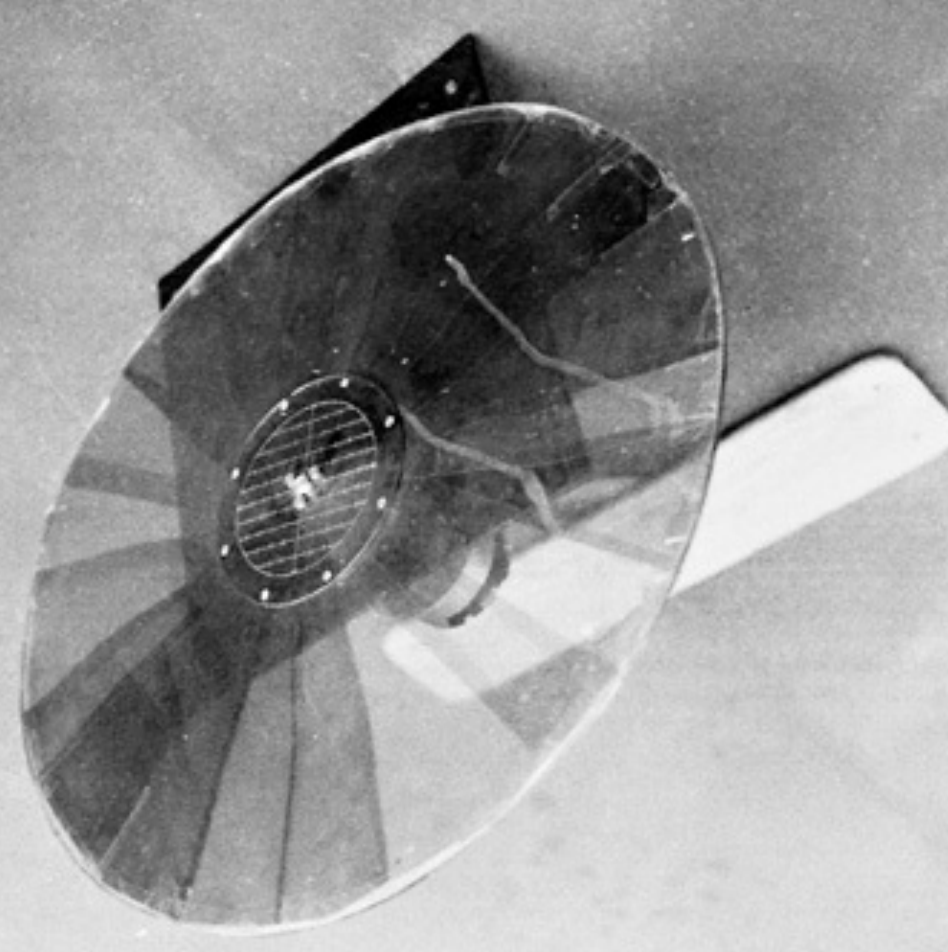






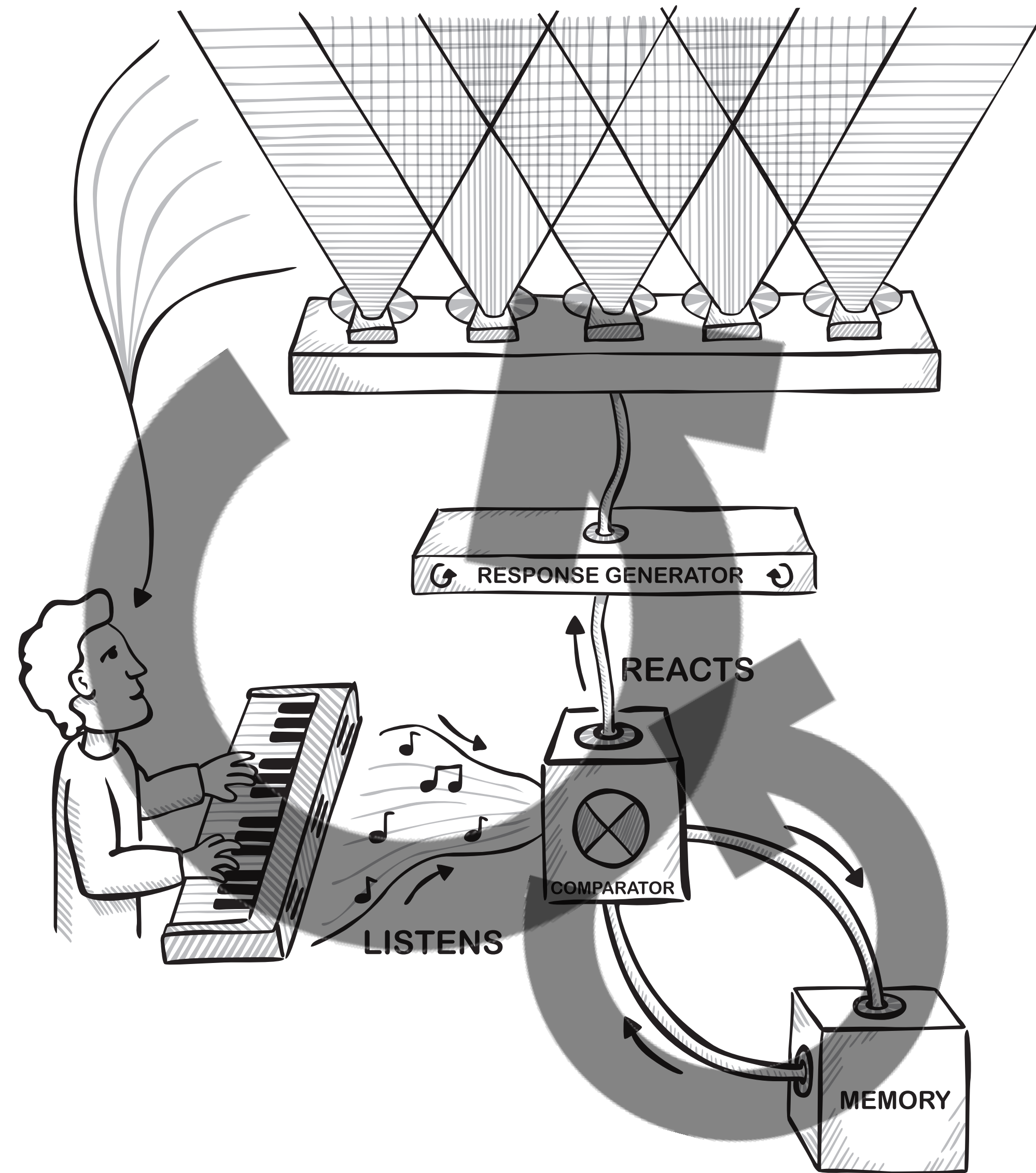






Gordon Pask's
Musicolour

mid-1950s

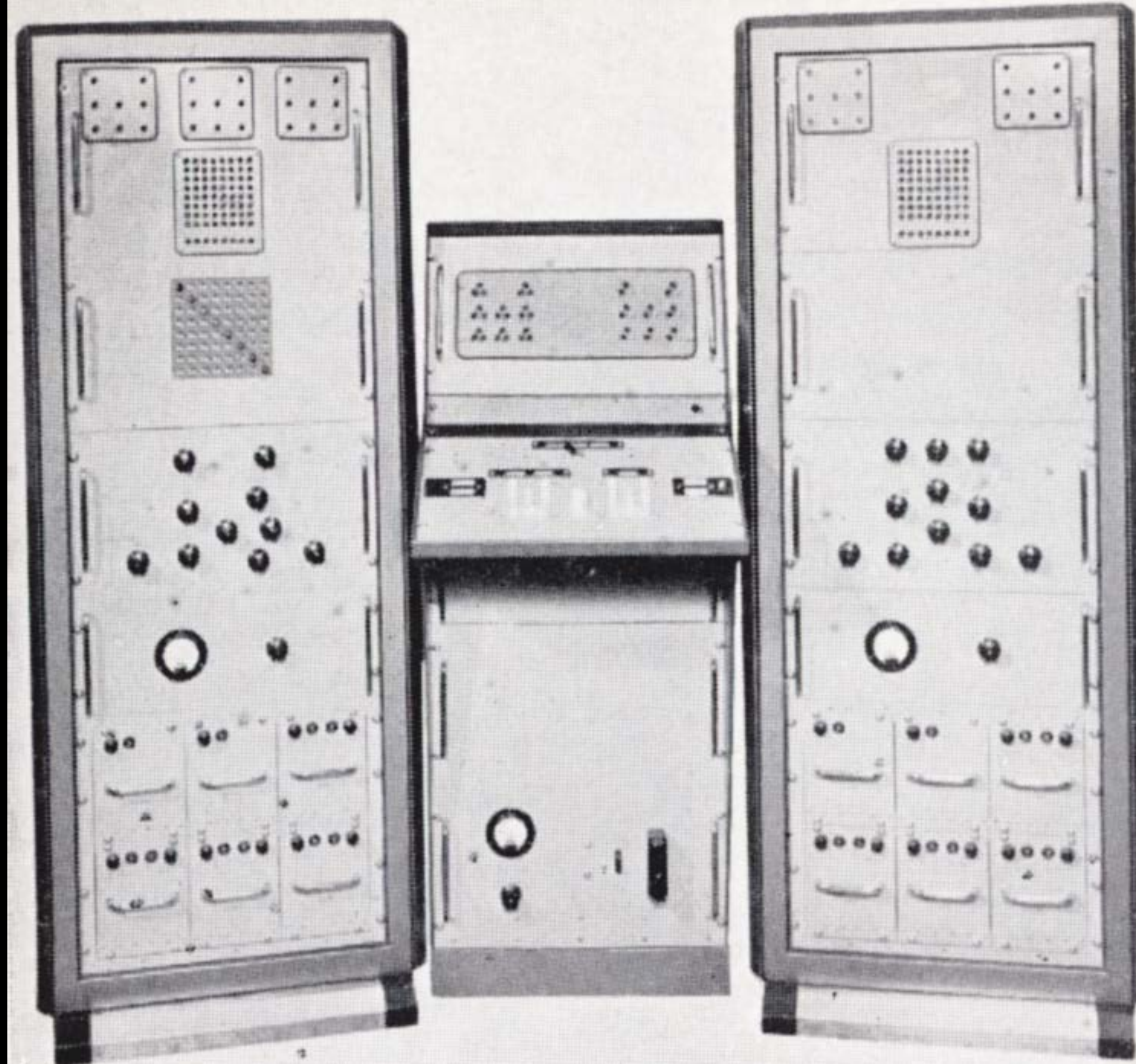


More on Musicolour

TEACHER
SIMULATOR

CONTROL
CONSOLE

PUPIL
SIMULATOR



Gordon Pask's
Euclates

1958

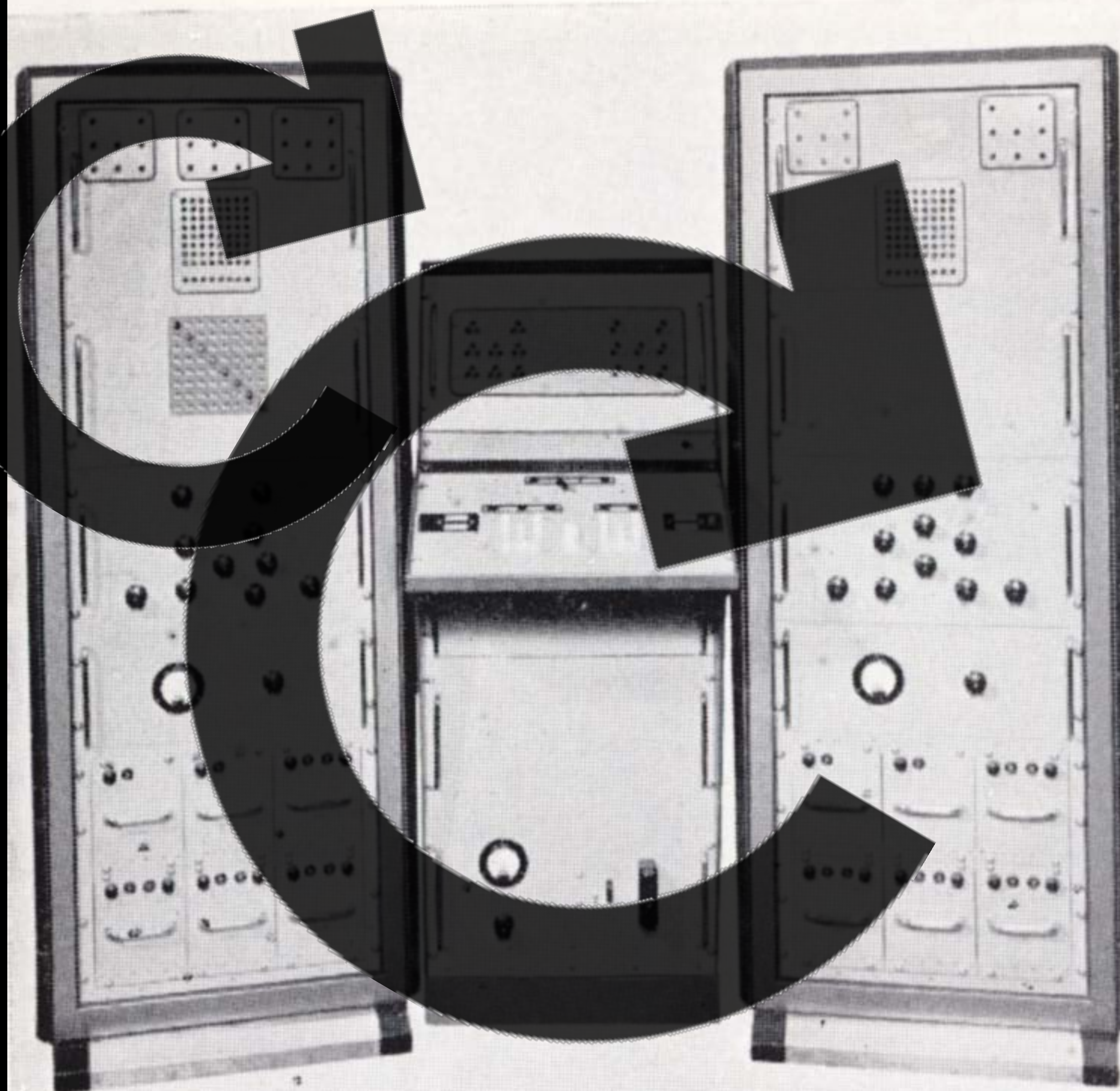
Gordon Pask's
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TEACHER
SIMULATOR

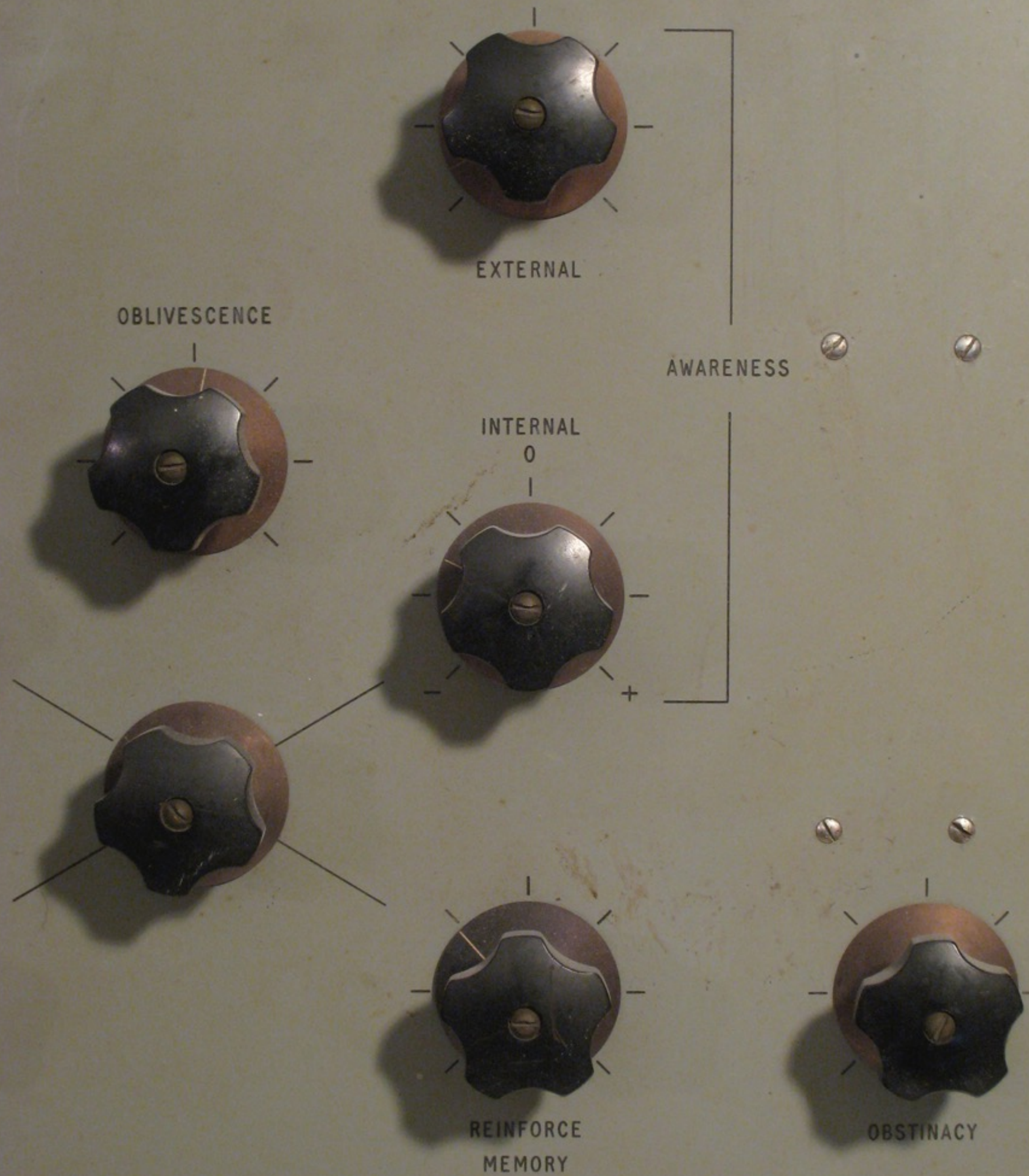
CONTROL
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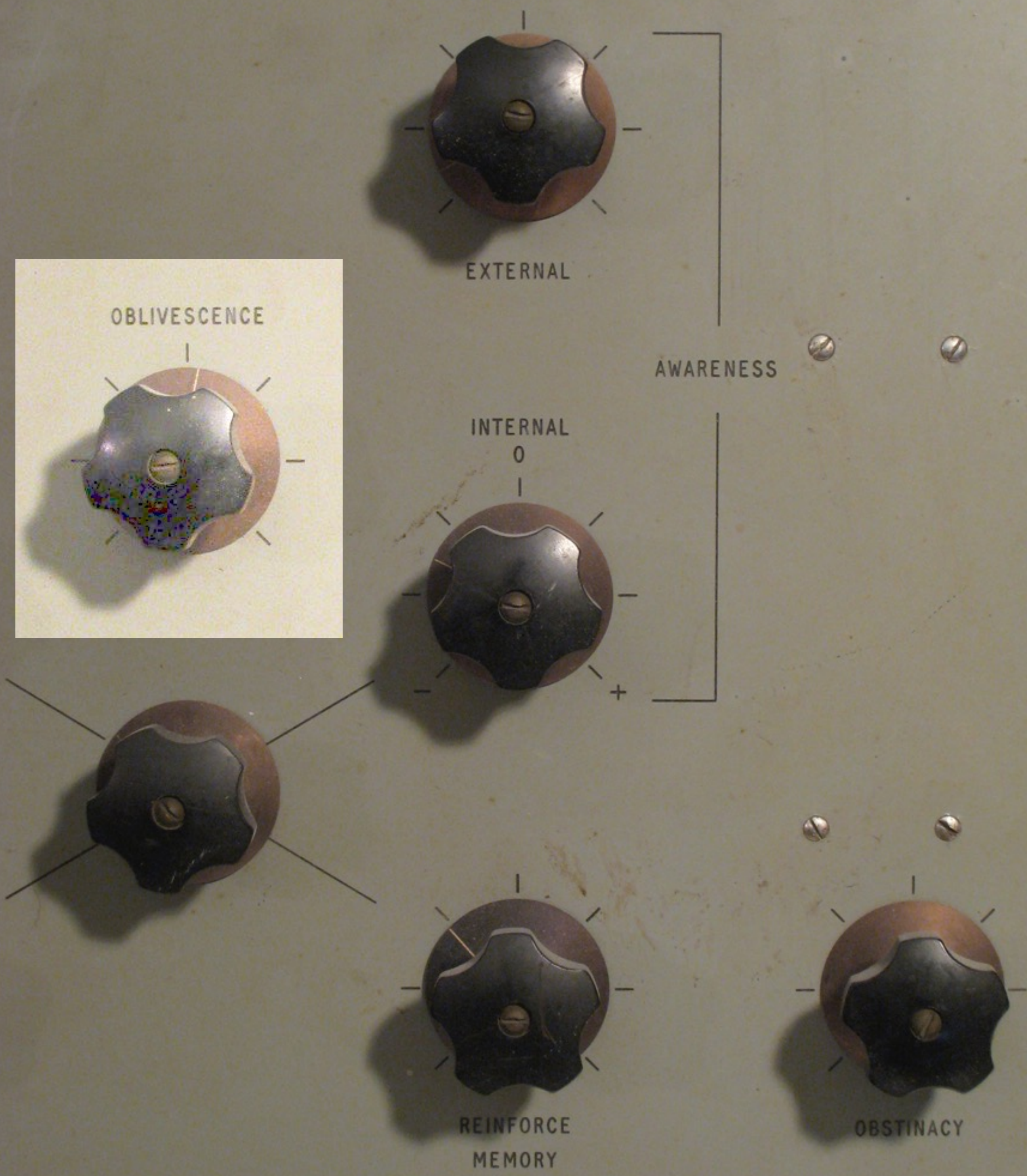
Gordon Pask's
Eucrates

1958



Gordon Pask's
Euclates

1958



Cybernetic Serendipity

Serendipity

Serendipity

the faculty of making

happy chance discoveries

by means of control and communication machines
both human and electronic

An exhibition

of scientific instruments and of
the results of their application
to the study of serendipity
in various fields of science
and technology.

including
the history of the discovery
of penicillin, the invention
of the transistor, the discovery
of the structure of DNA, the
discovery of the structure of
the protein, the discovery of
the structure of the enzyme,
the discovery of the structure
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the feeling system, the
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the willing system, the
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discovery of the structure of
the having system, the
discovery of the structure of
the being system.

and
other

serendipitous

manifestations

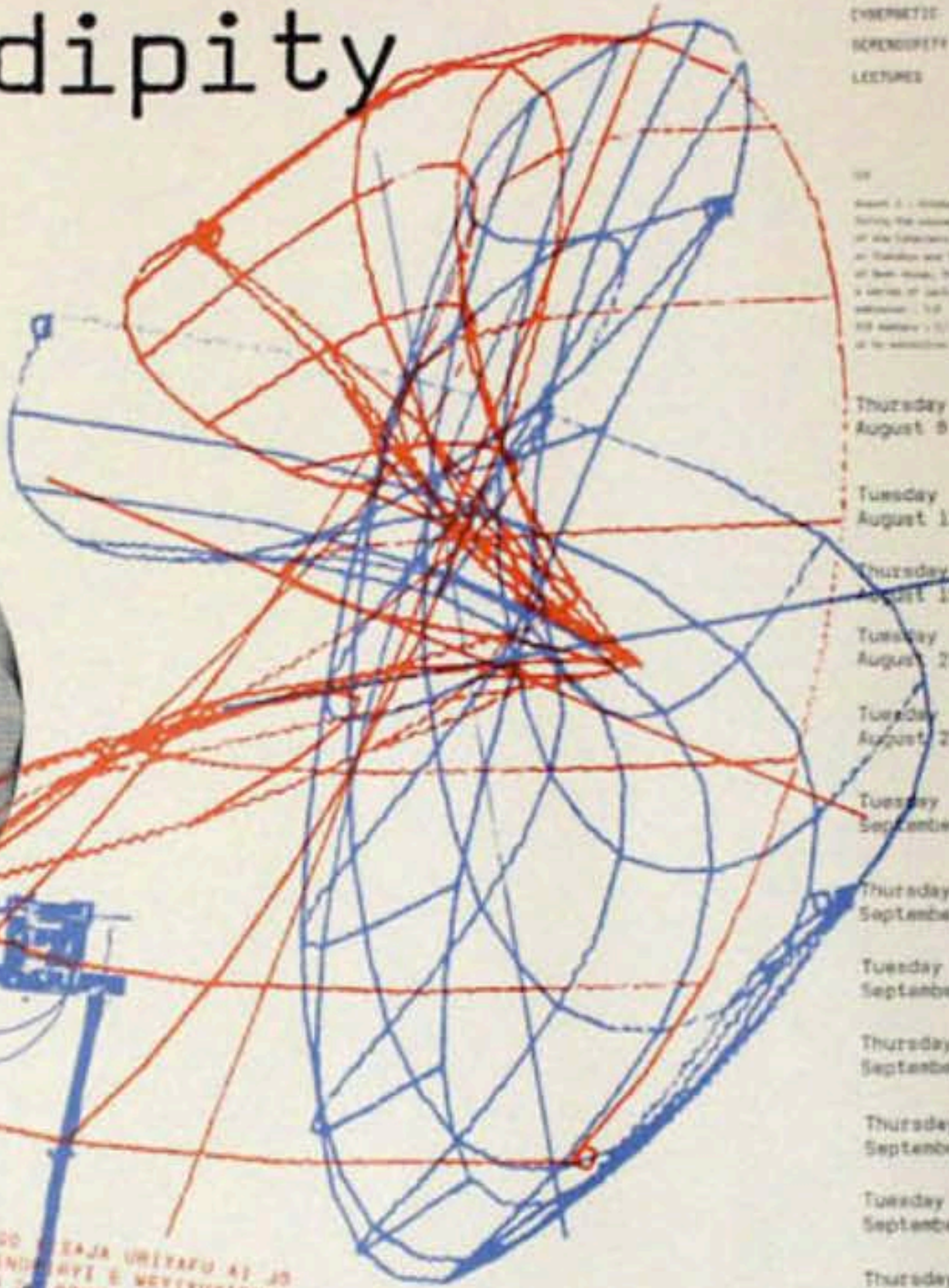
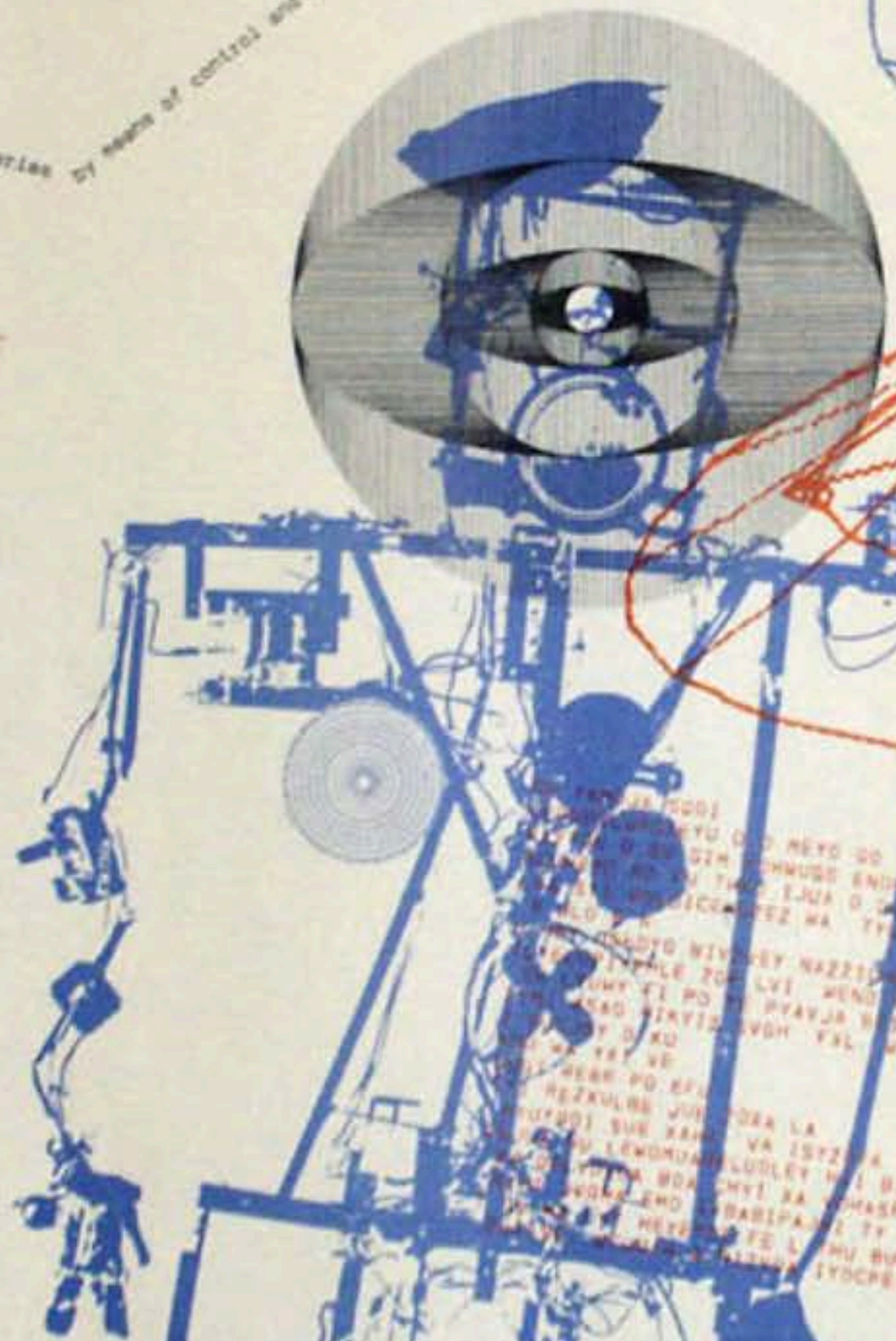
Institute
of Contemporary
Art



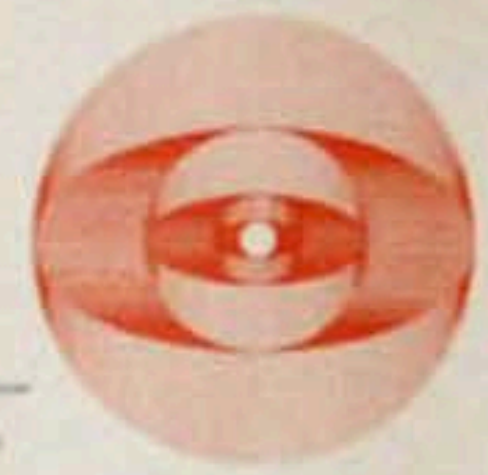
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CYBERNETIC
SERENDIPITY
LECTURES



- Thursday August 9
- Tuesday August 13
- Thursday August 15
- Tuesday August 20
- Tuesday August 27
- Tuesday September 3
- Thursday September 5
- Tuesday September 10
- Thursday September 12
- Thursday September 19
- Tuesday September 24
- Thursday September 26
- Tuesday October 1
- Tuesday October 8
- Thursday October 10
- Thursday October 17

Frank L. Moore
Member of the Faculty of Mathematics,
University of California, Berkeley
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Cybernetic Serendipity
Institute for Contemporary Arts

London 1968



Cybernetic Serendipity
Institute for Contemporary Arts

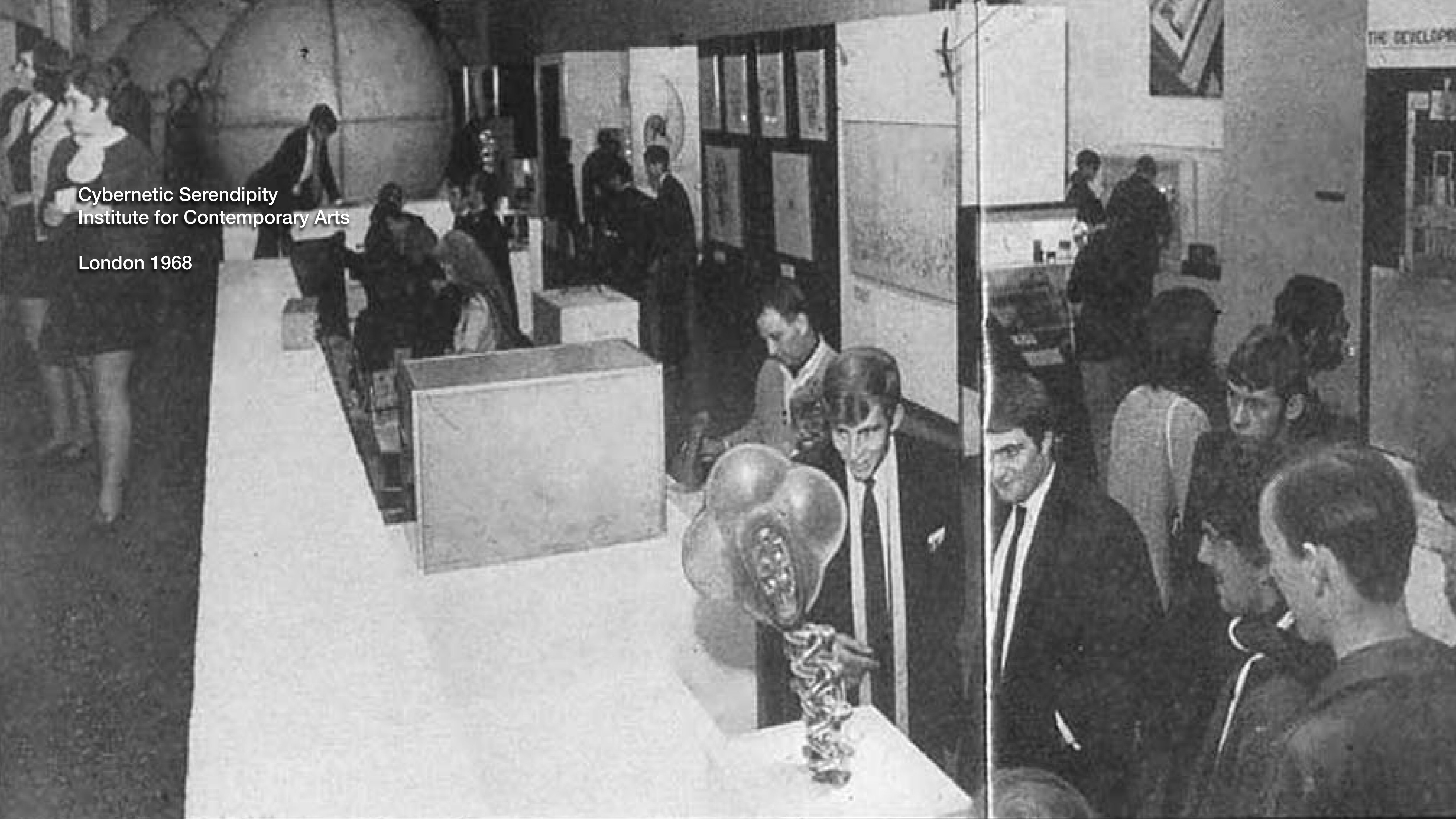
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The History of Cybernetics



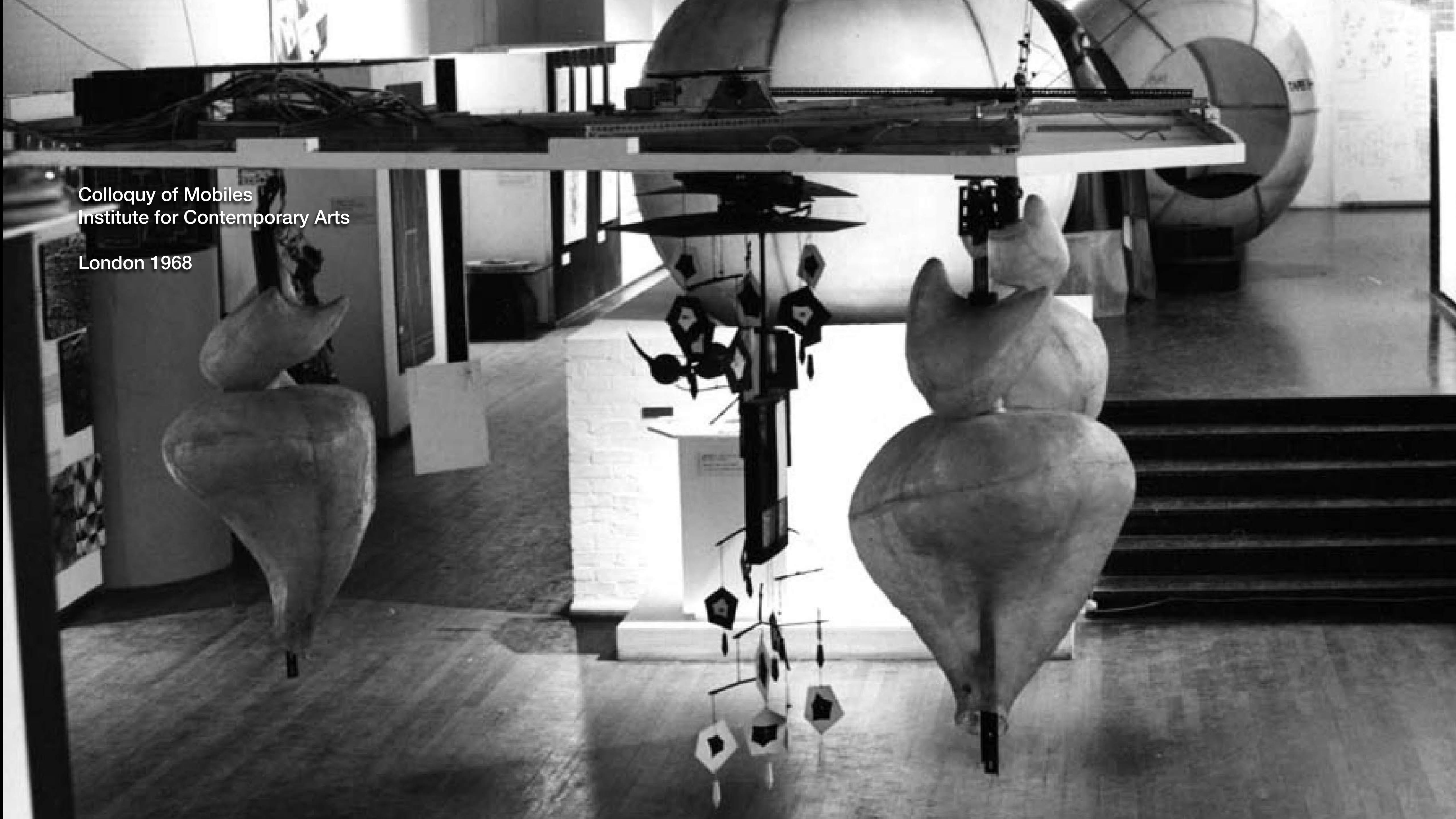
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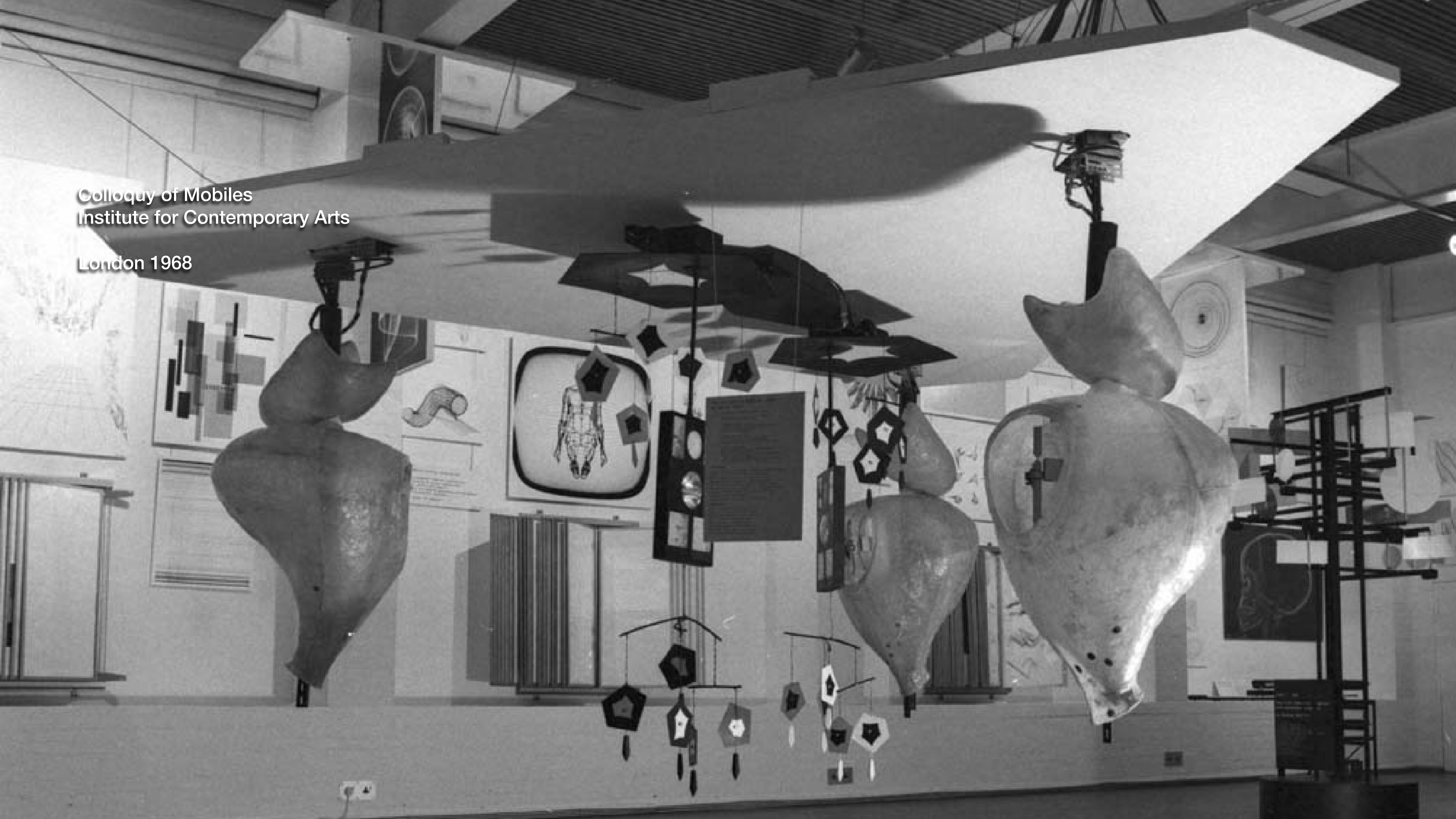
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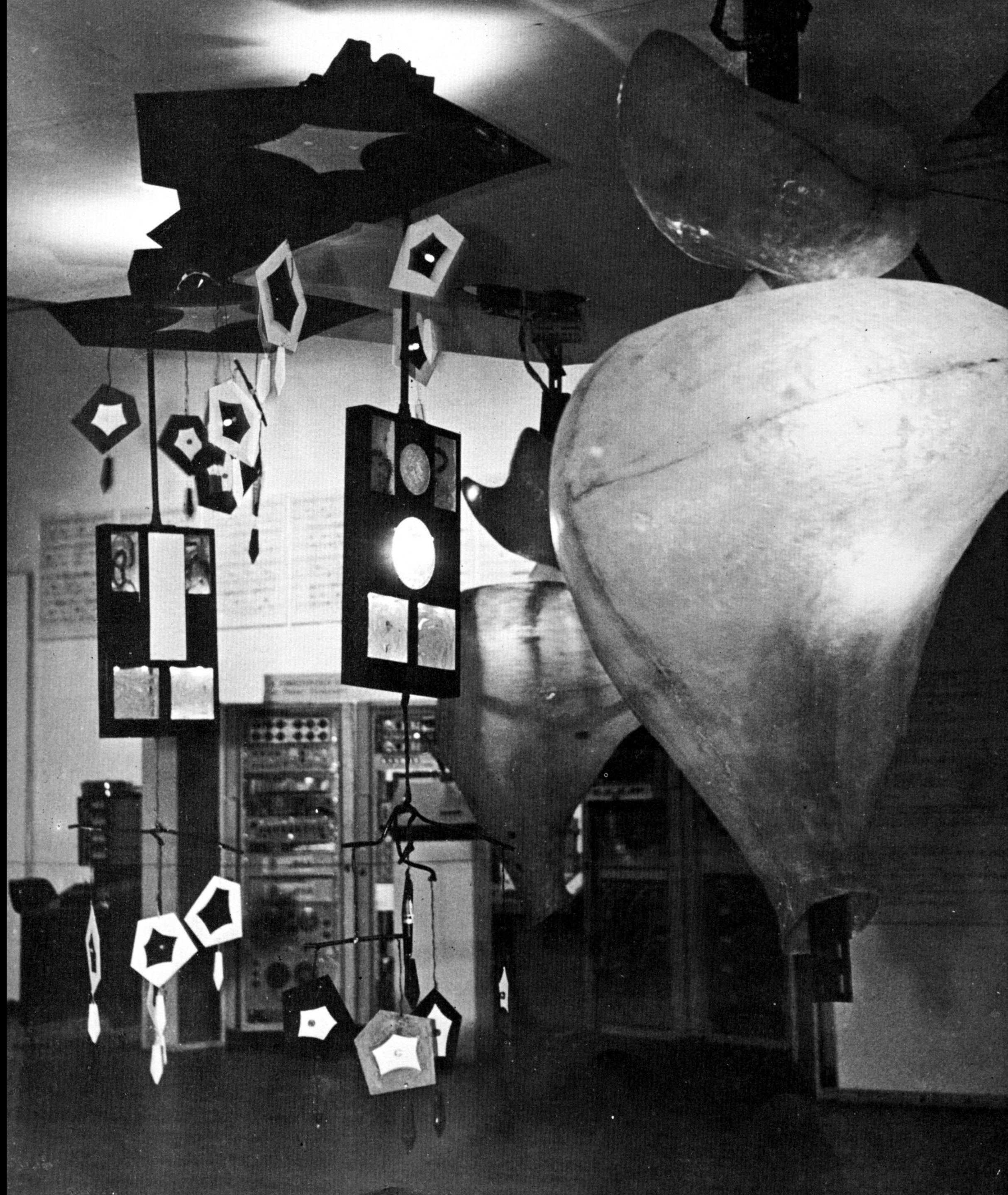
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COLLOQUY 2018 Project](#)

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Concordia University
Montreal, Canada

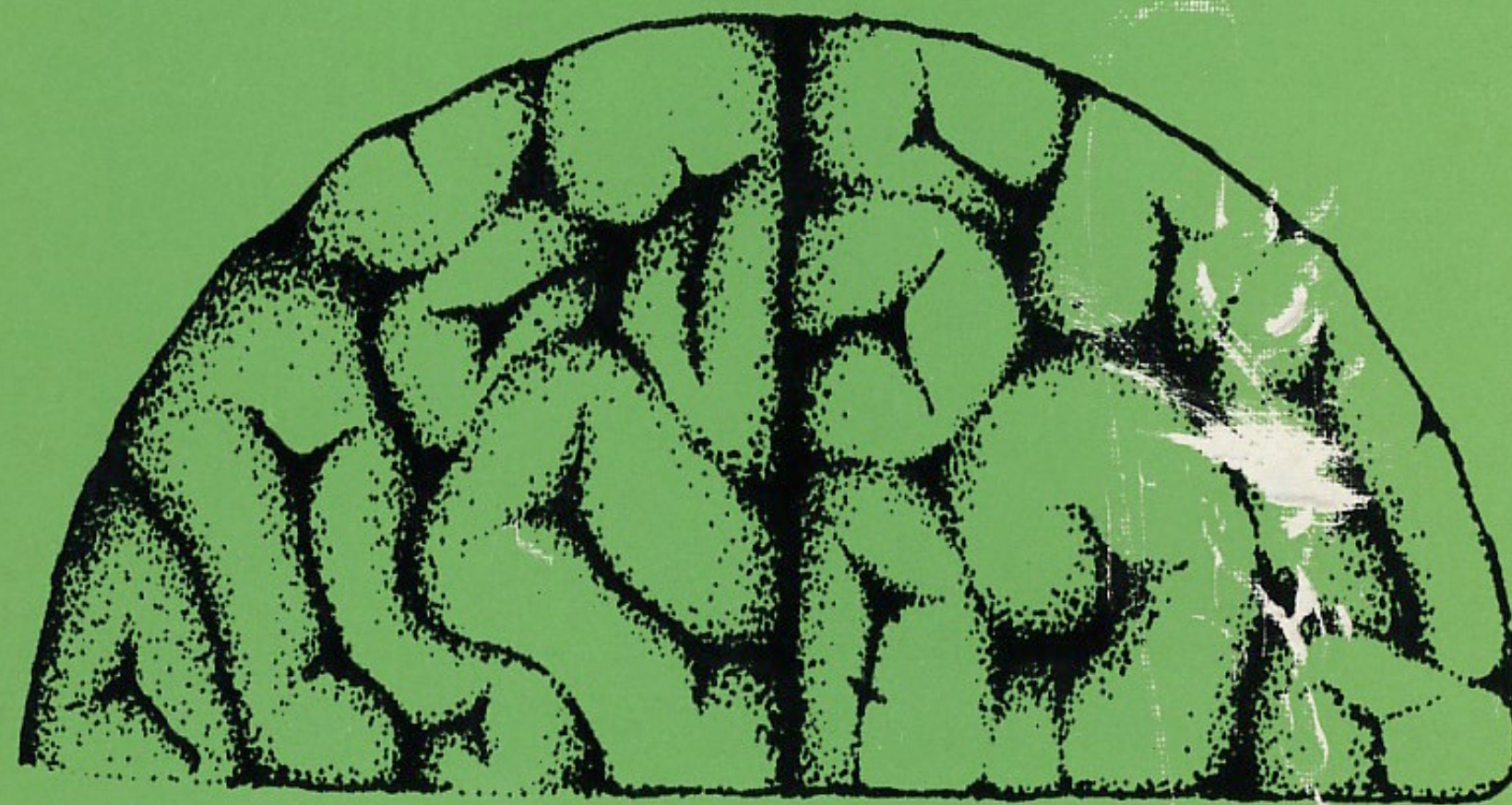
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GORDON PASK

CONVERSATION,
COGNITION AND
LEARNING



A CYBERNETIC THEORY-
AND METHODOLOGY

ELSEVIER

1975

GORDON PASK

CONVERSATION
THEORY



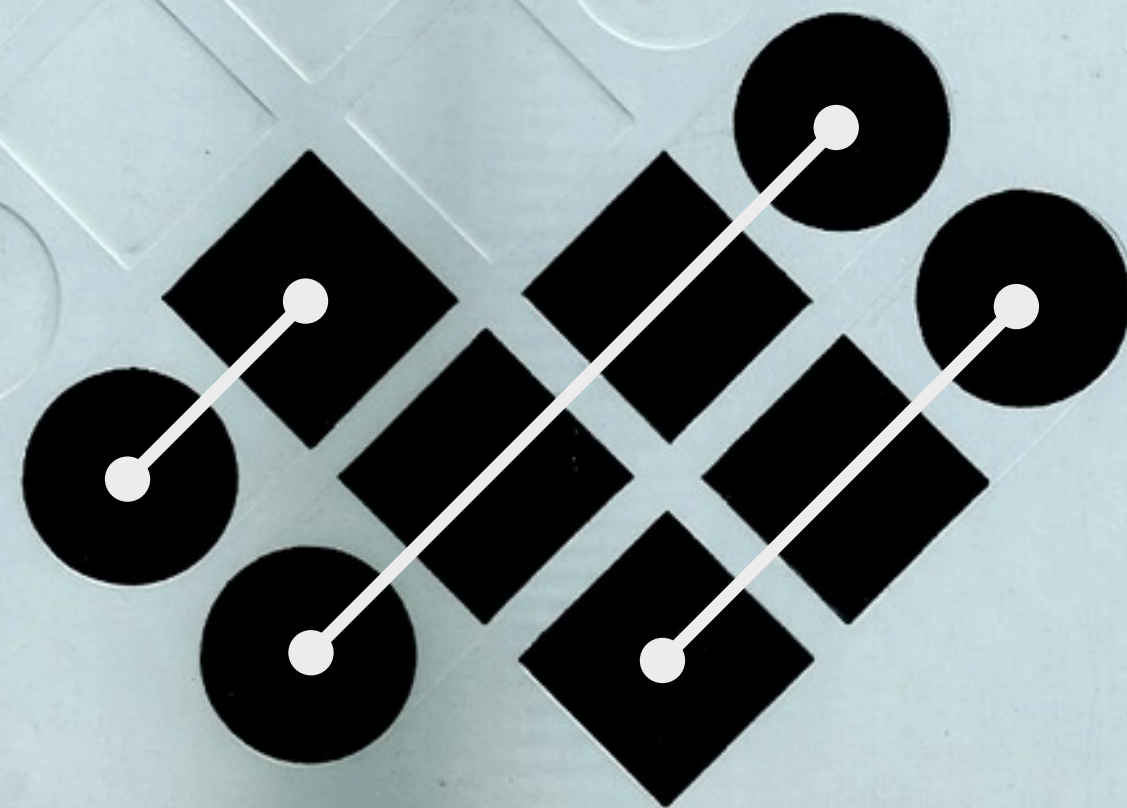
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GRAPHICAL
CONVERSATION
THEORY



Nicholas
Negroponte's
*Soft Architecture
Machines*

1976

Soft Architecture Machines

Negroponte



Soft

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Aspects of
Machine
Intelligence

Introduction by Gordon Pask

Soft Architecture Machines

Negroponte



Nicholas
Negroponte's
*Soft Architecture
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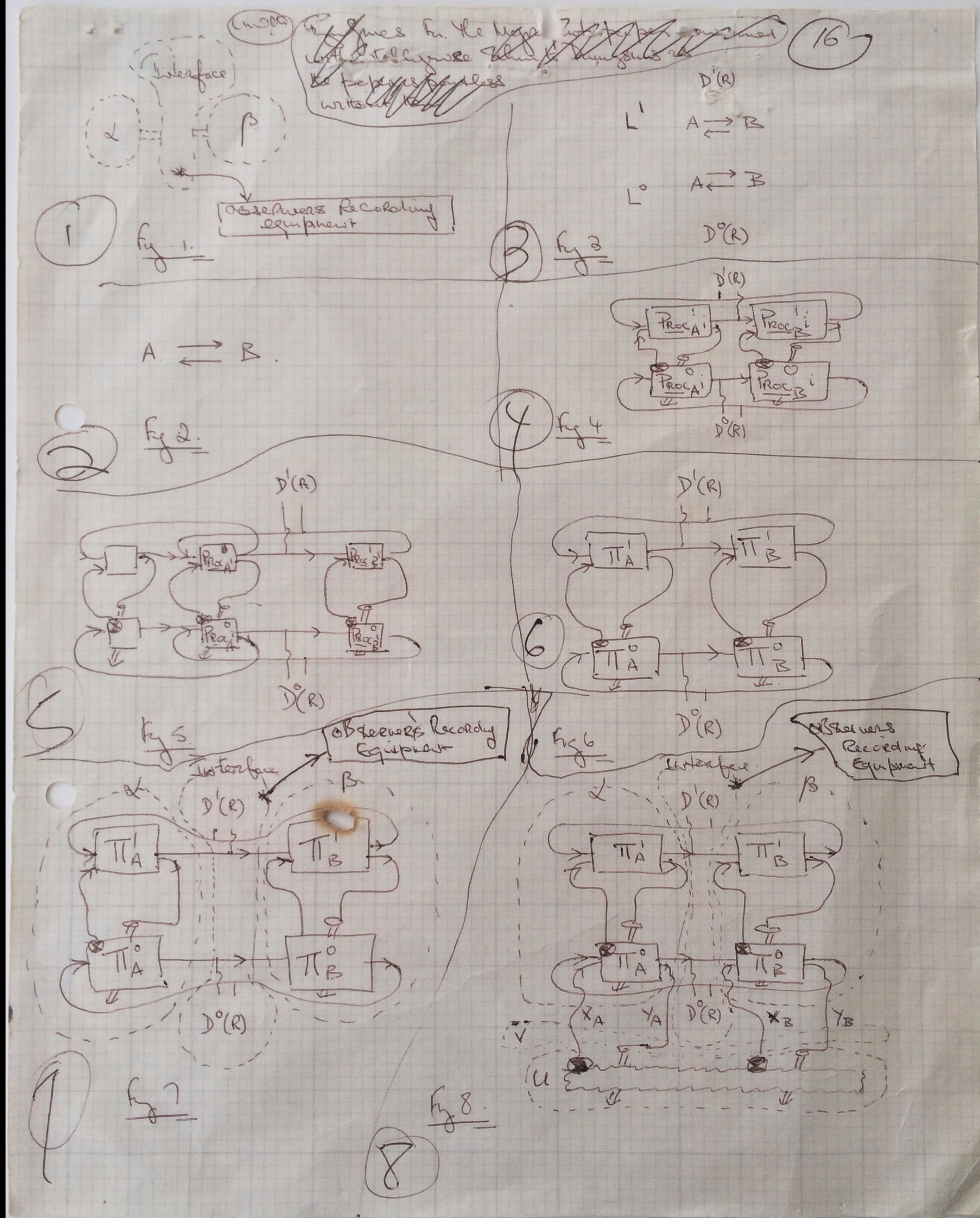
1976

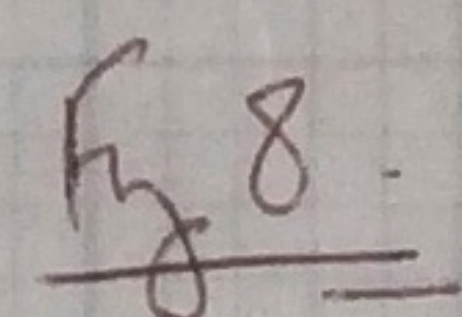
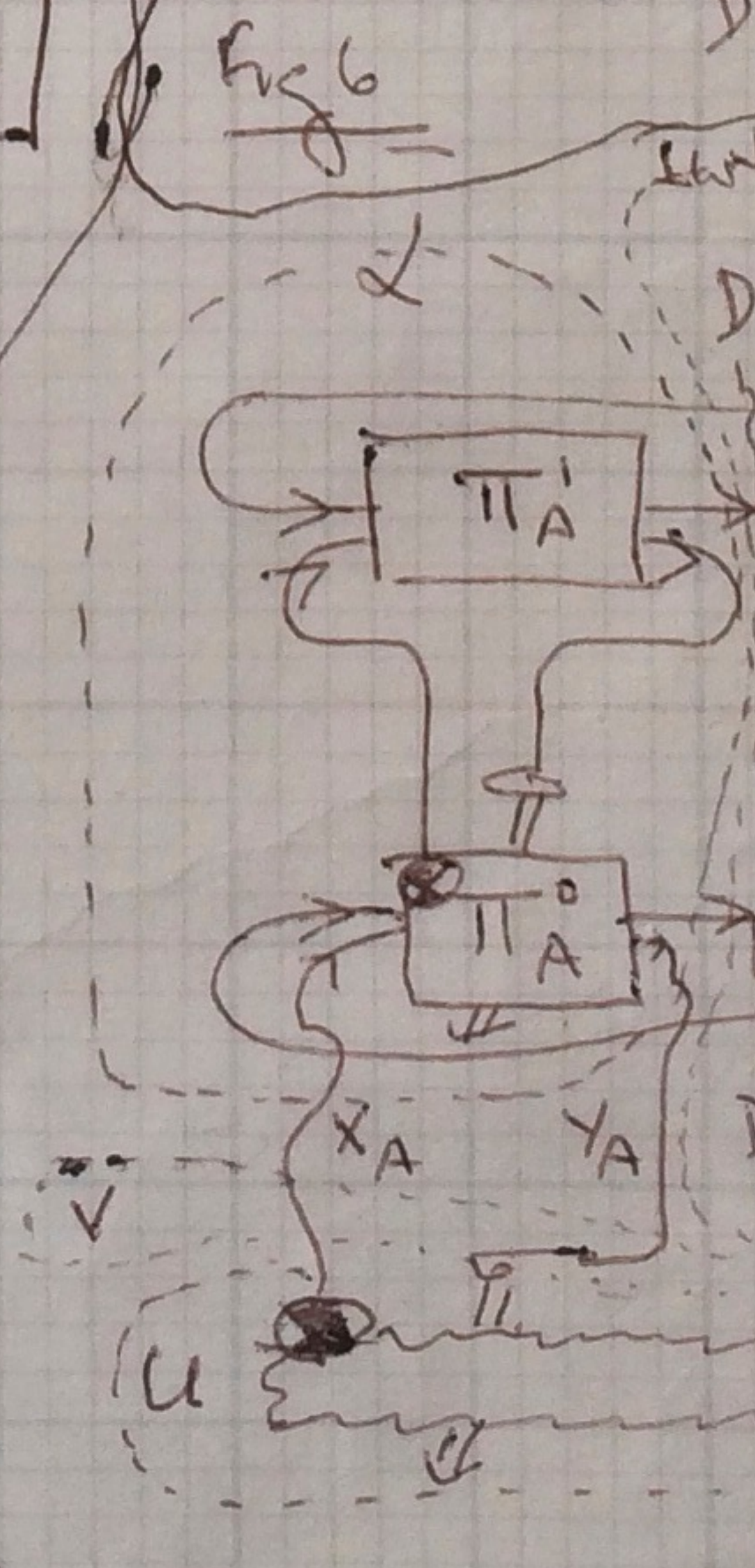
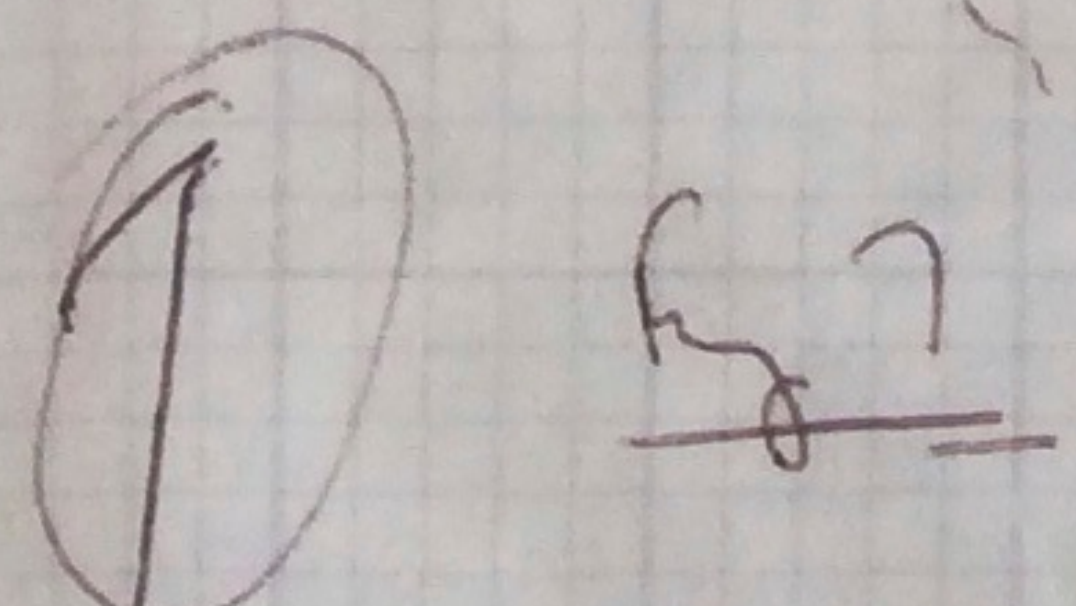
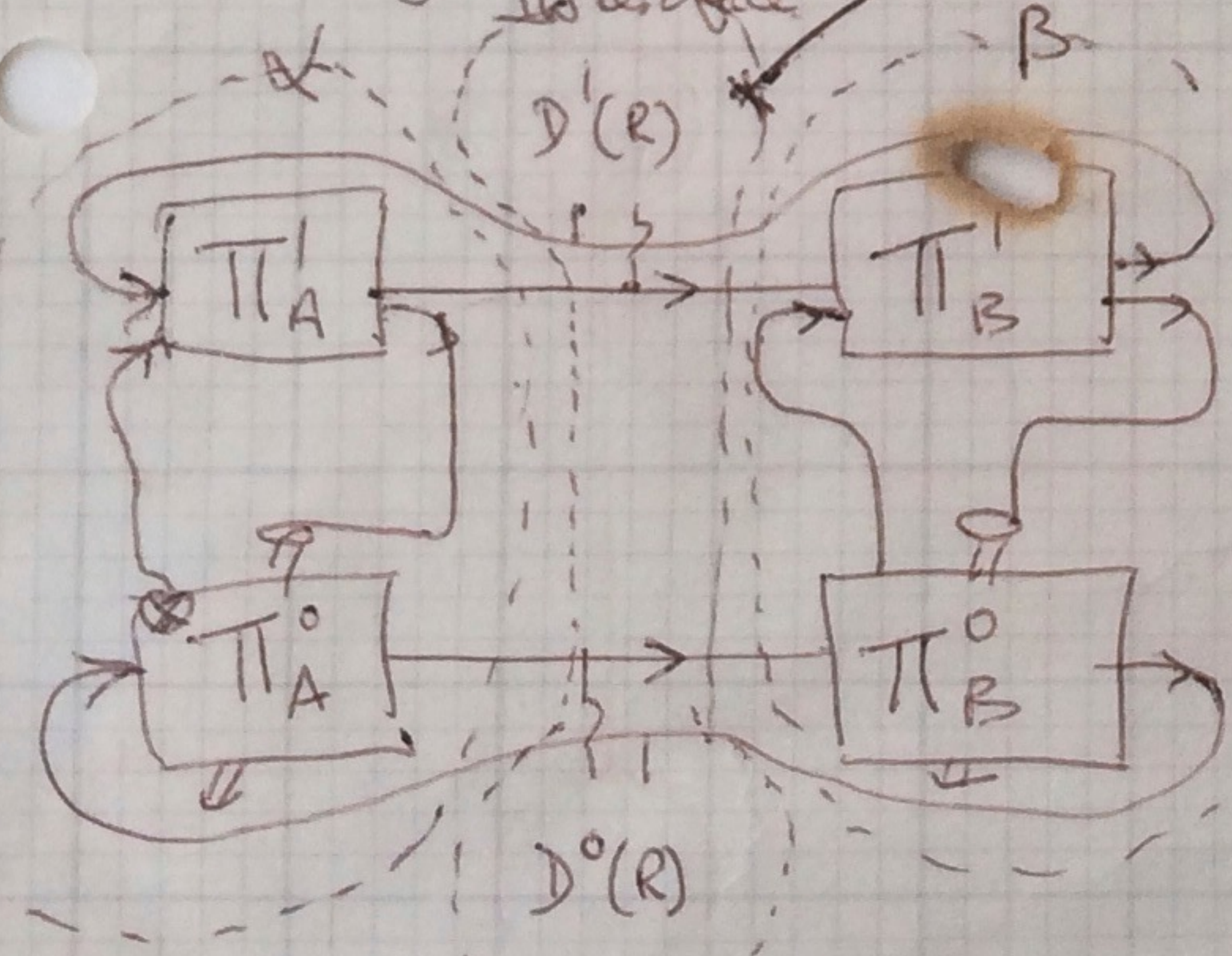
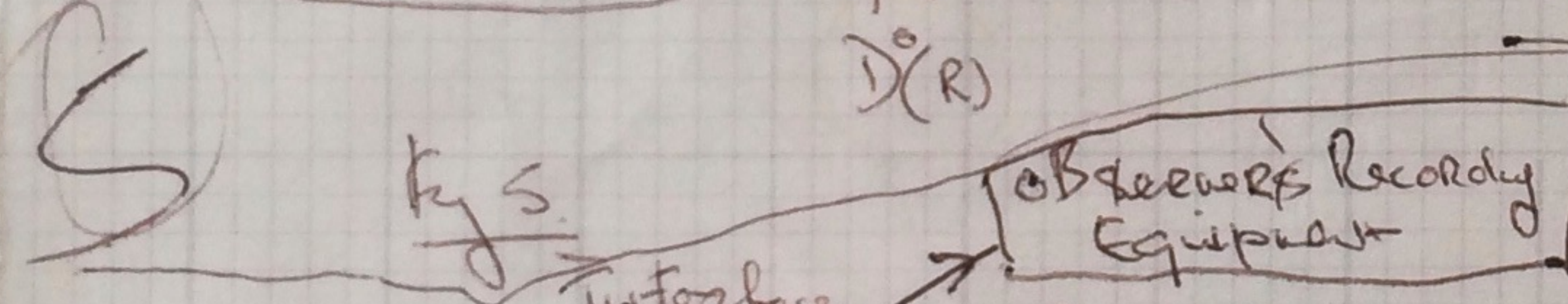
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Hand-drawn Figures

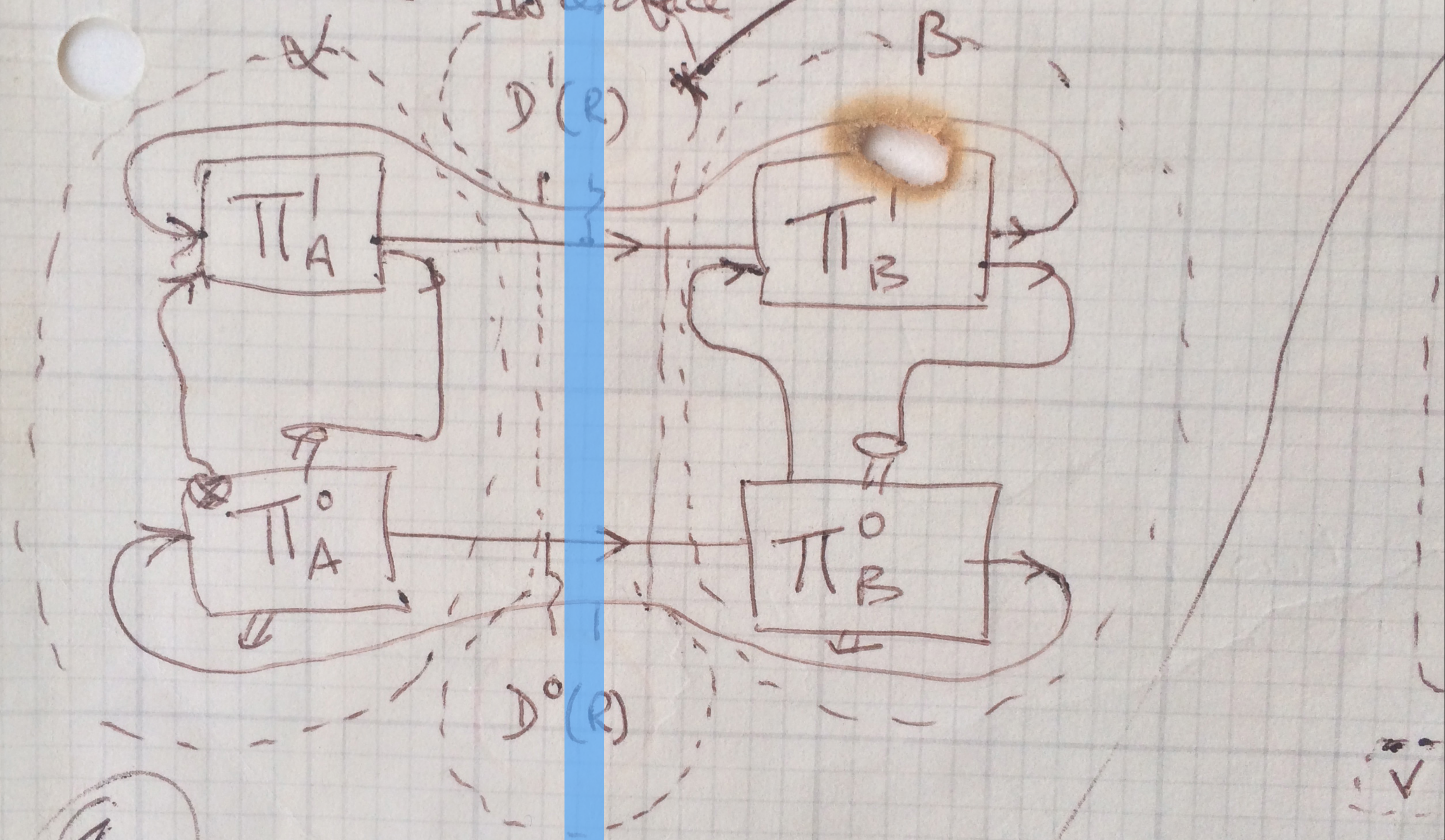
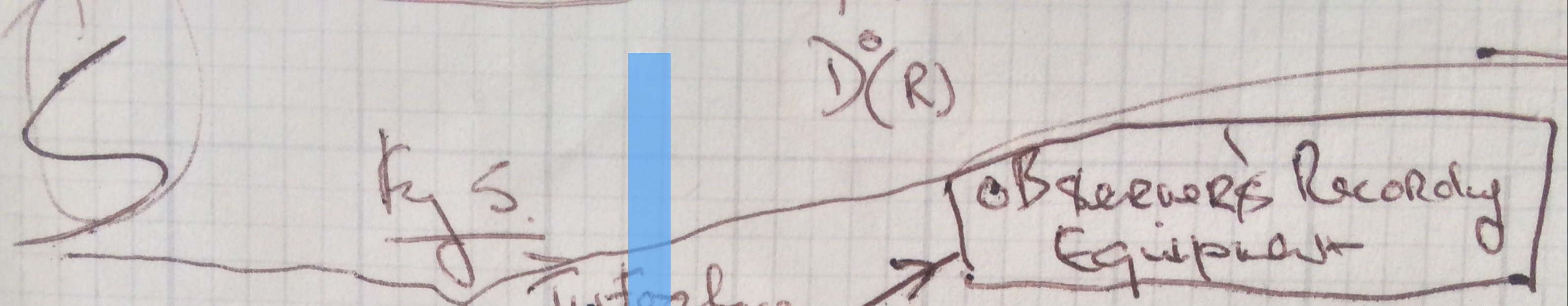
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edited by N. Negroponte

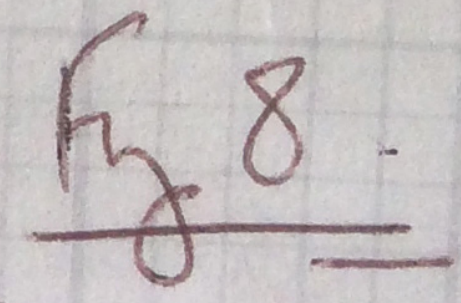
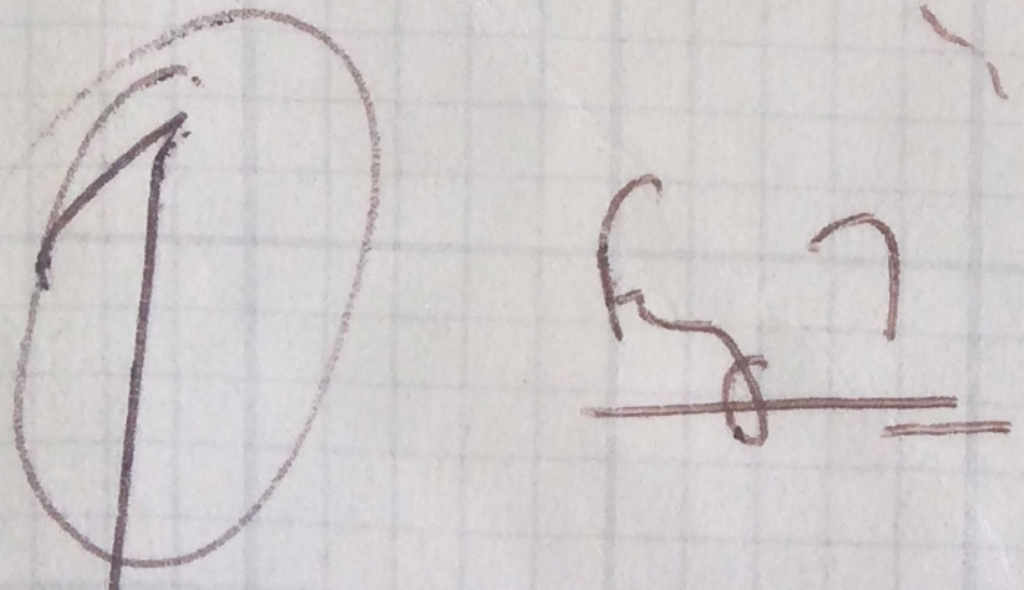
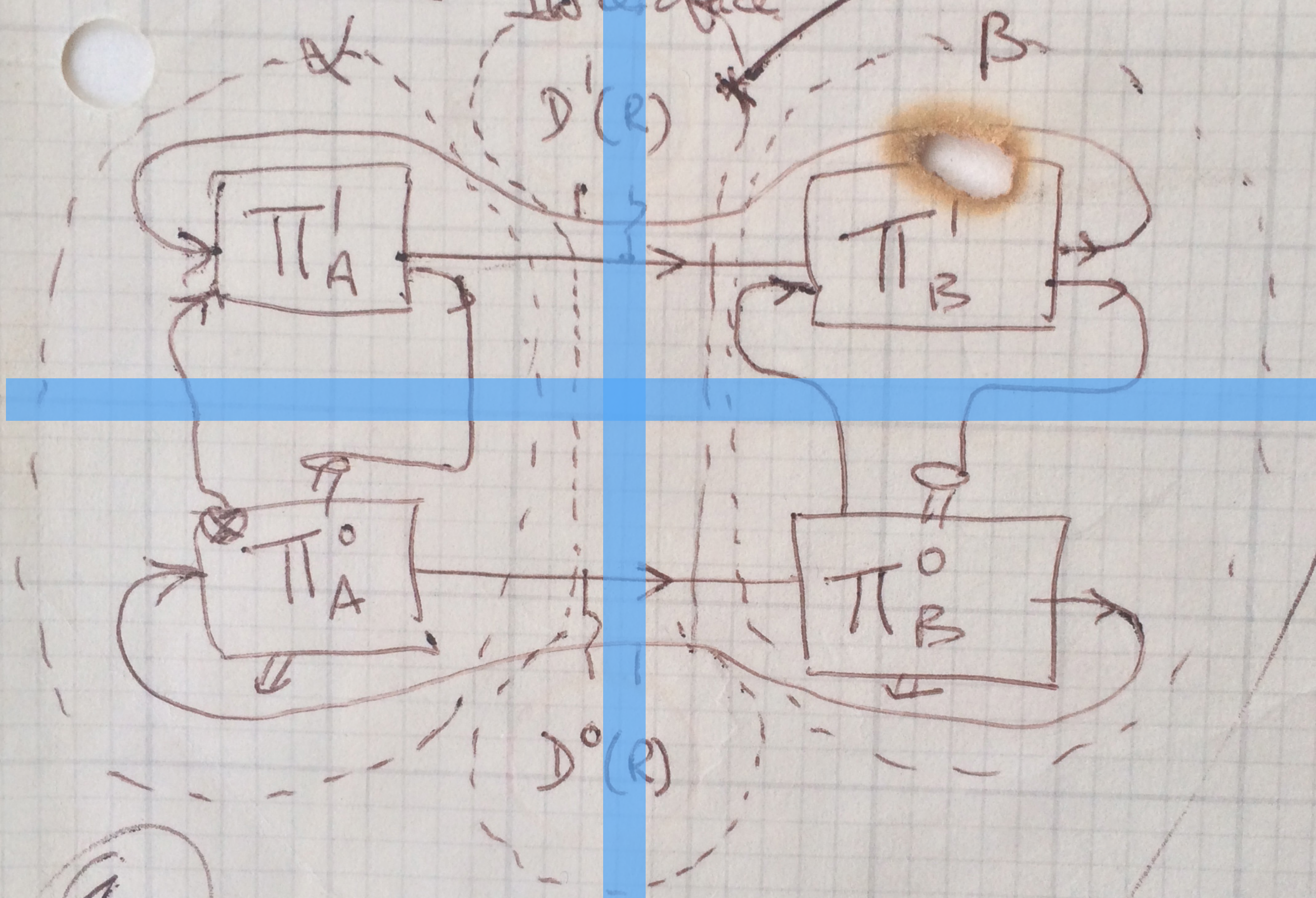
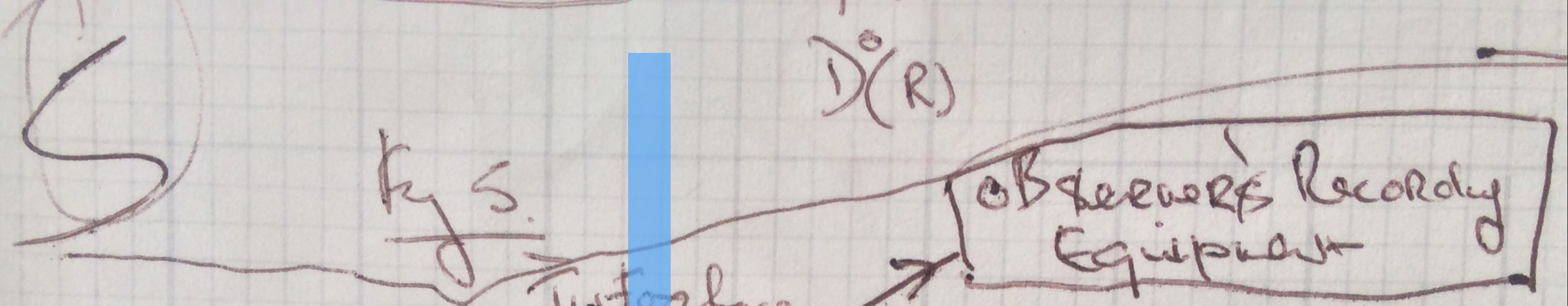
1976

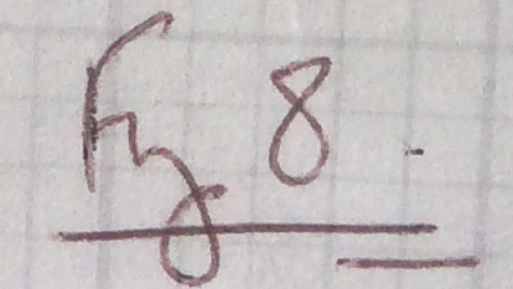
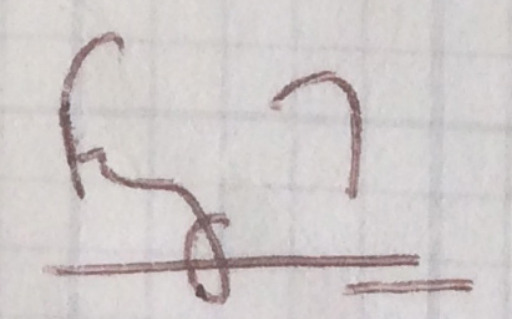
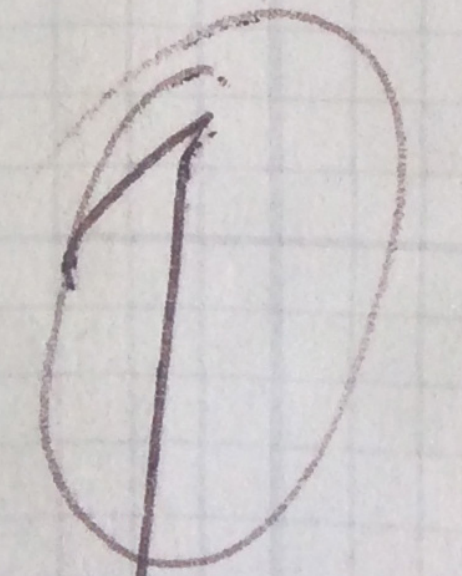
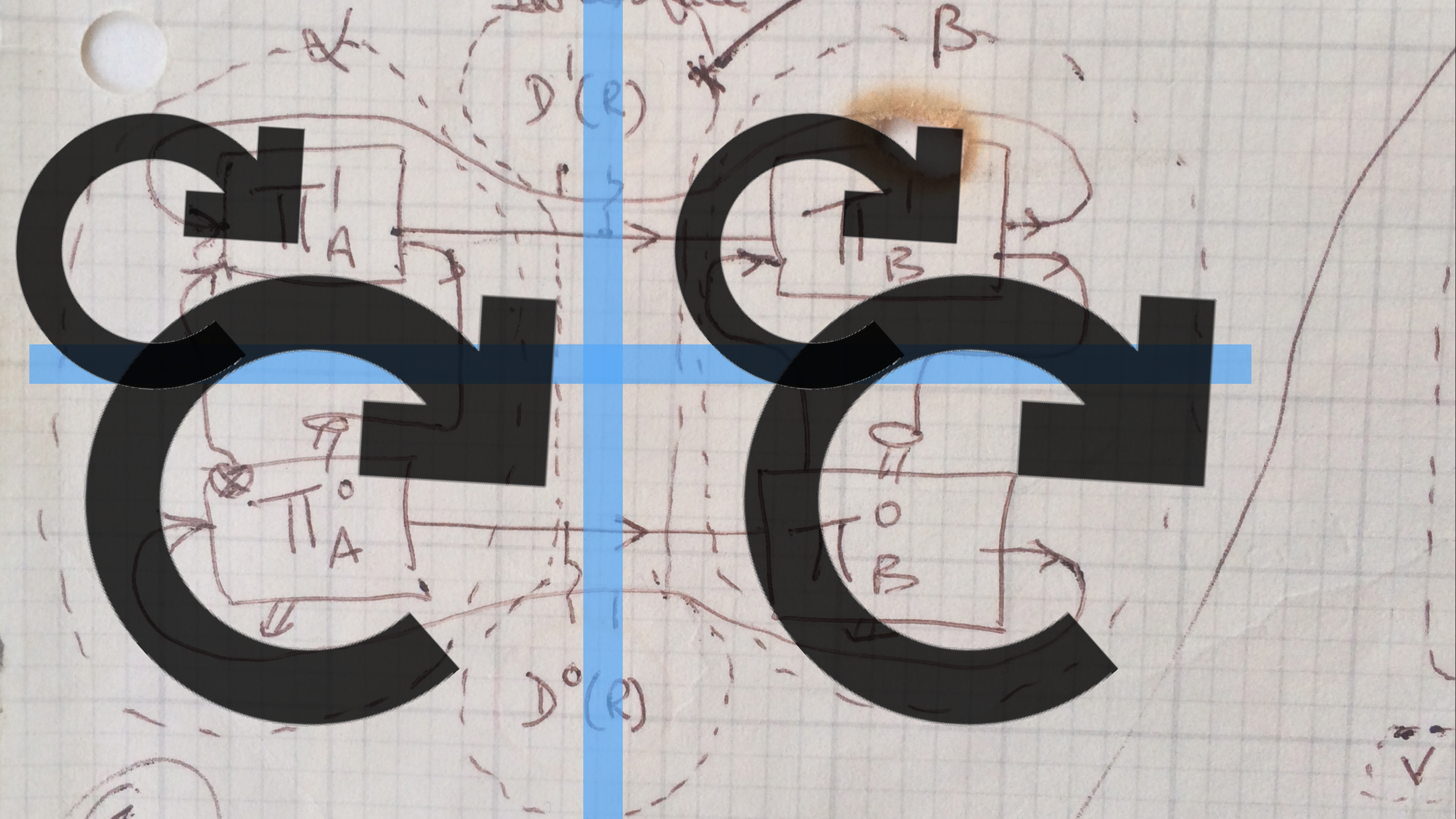
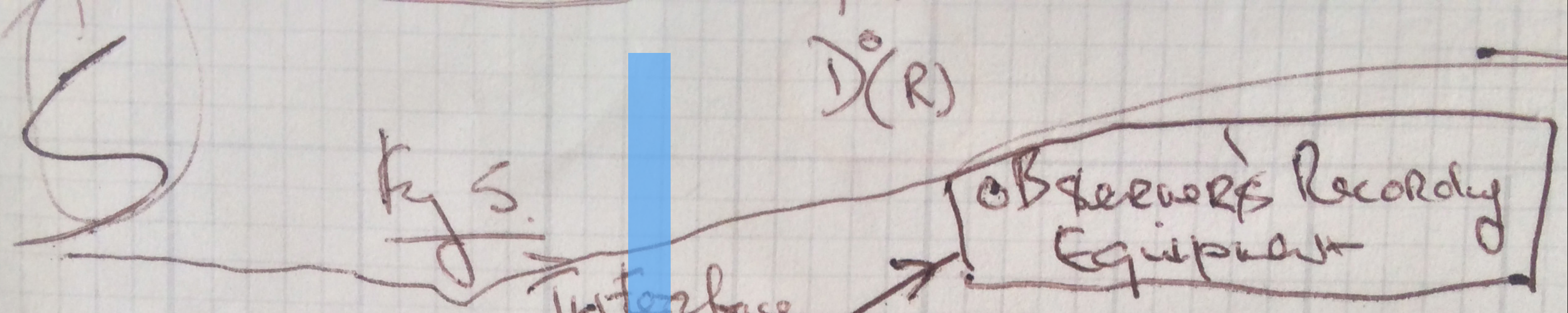
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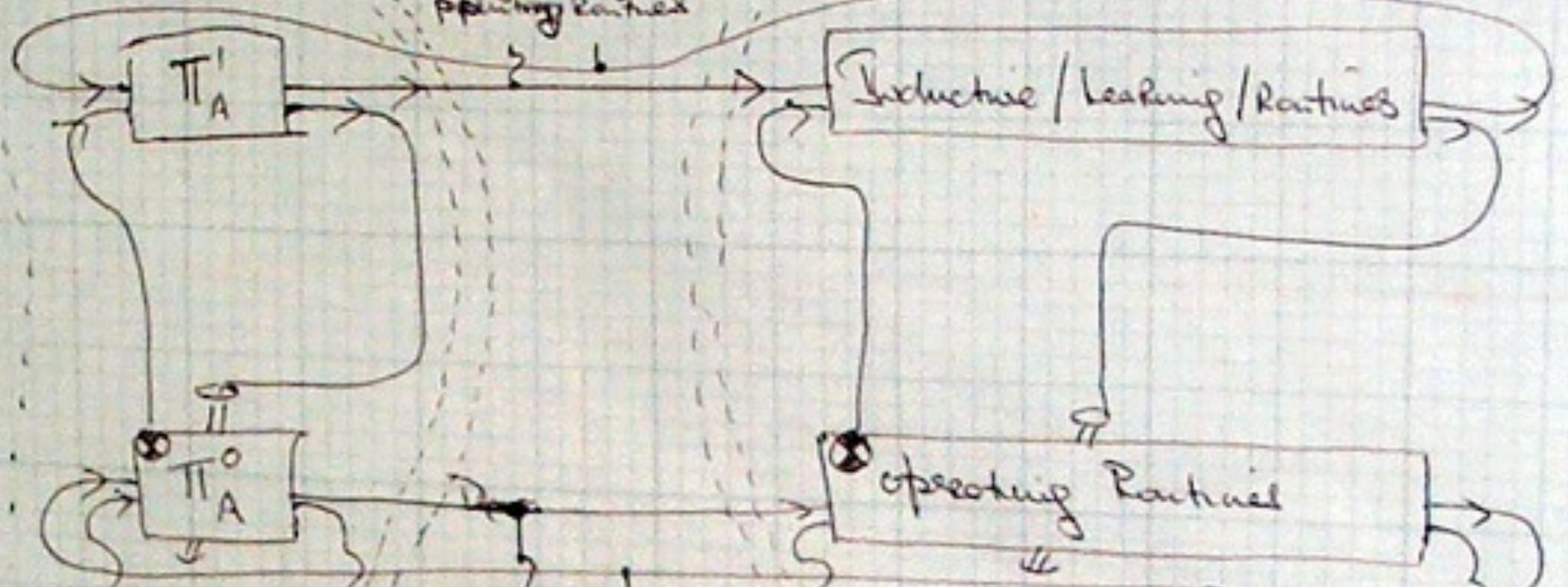
Interface consisting in display tubes and sketch pads and function keys (augmented as in later years discussion).

Observes Recording Equipment

Designed as physically localised processes.

Architecture Machine as physically localised processes.

Description of relation between H's model of T and its rules for generating perceiving relations.



Designed description of these objects

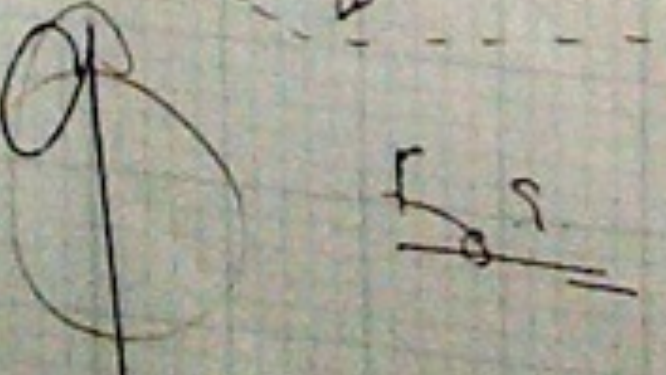
Designed attempts to make objects

Description of relation in architecture, geometry and mechanics

M attempts to make objects

Description of objects

Environment of objects interacting Relations R; it includes internal "abstract" models output along the visual display as well as the "operational" construction environment of which the ultimate descriptor is a hierarchical tree whose root is the designed structure & physically realizable.



Gordon Pask's Hand-drawn Figures

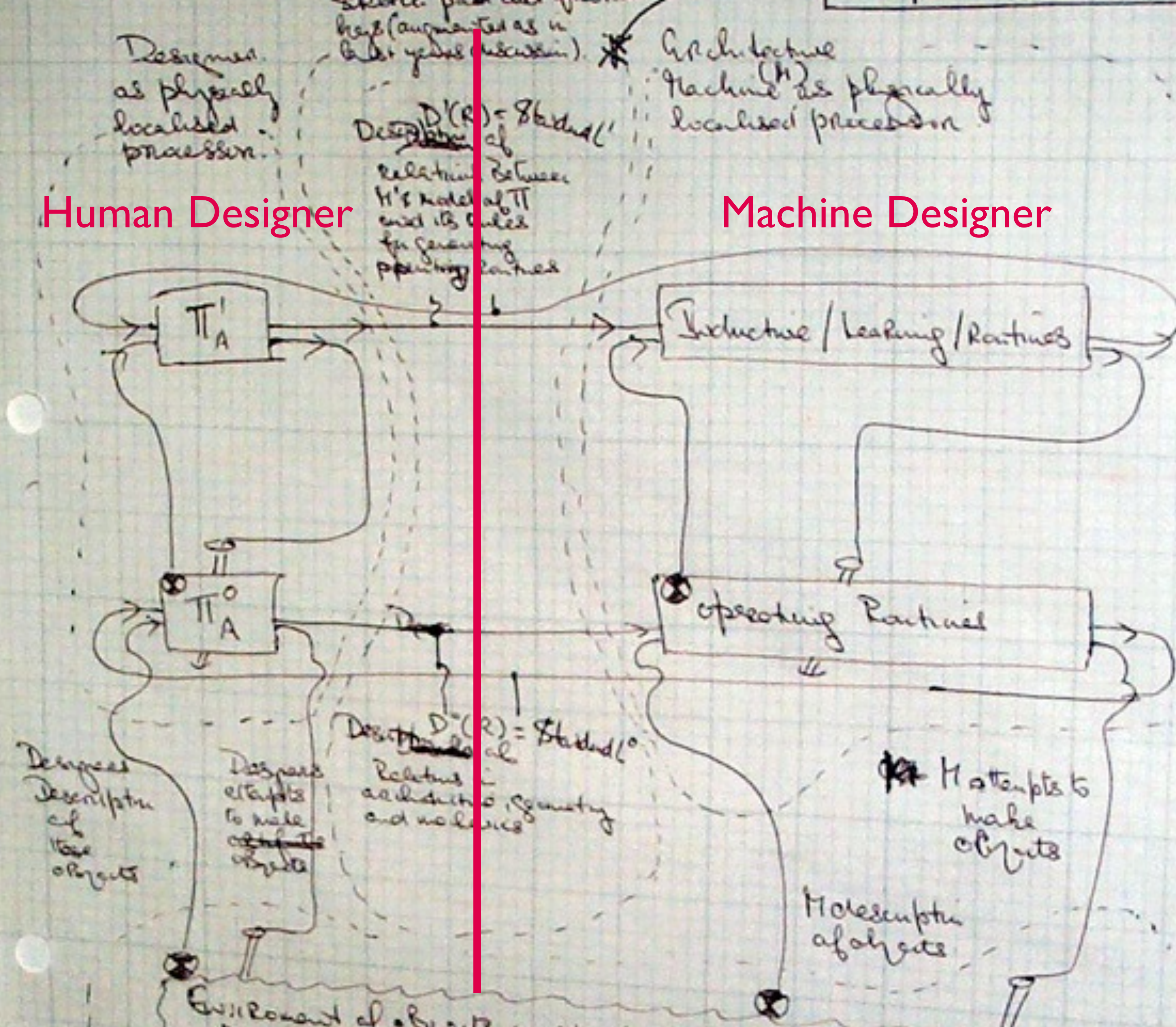
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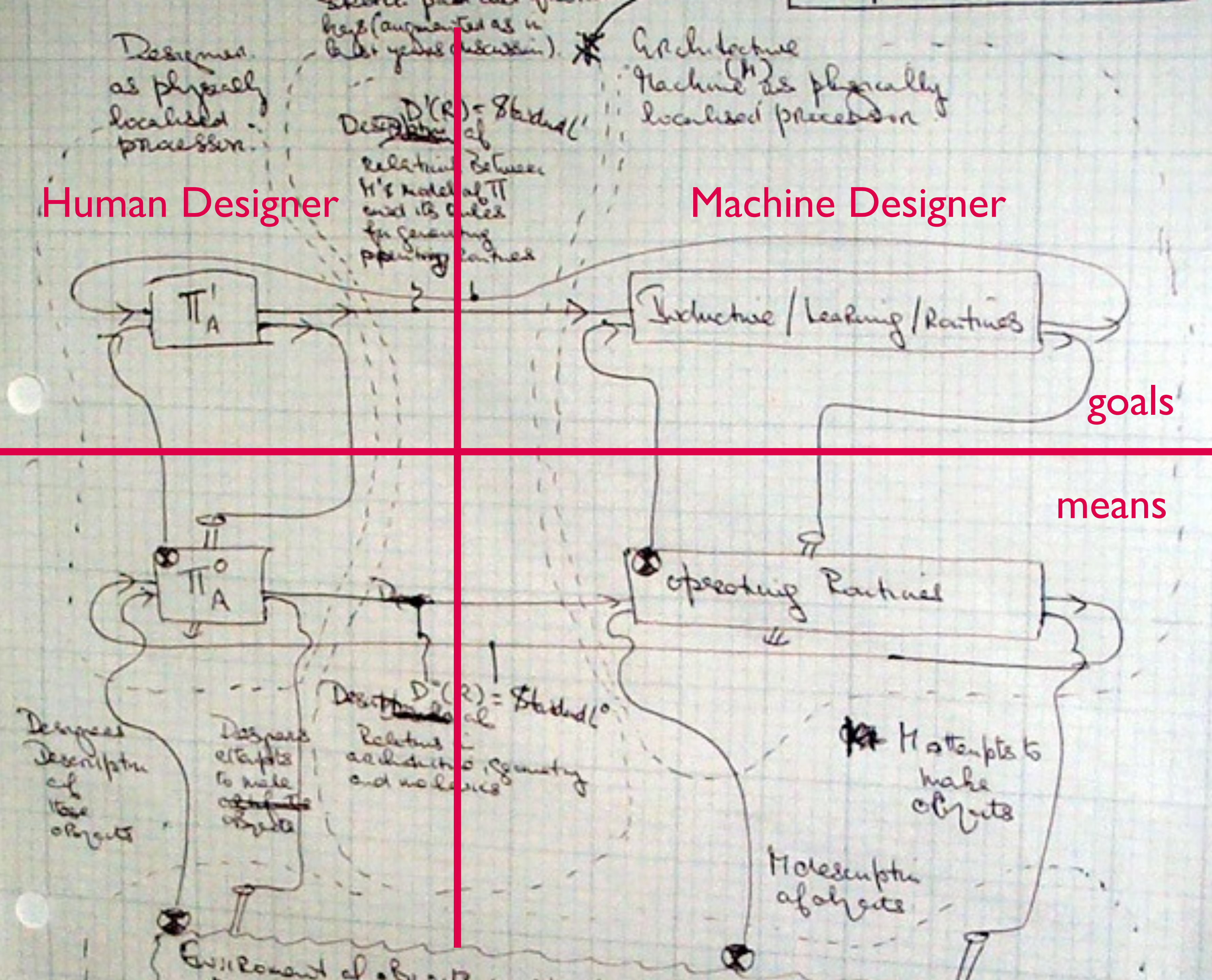
Human Designer

Machine Designer



Human Designer

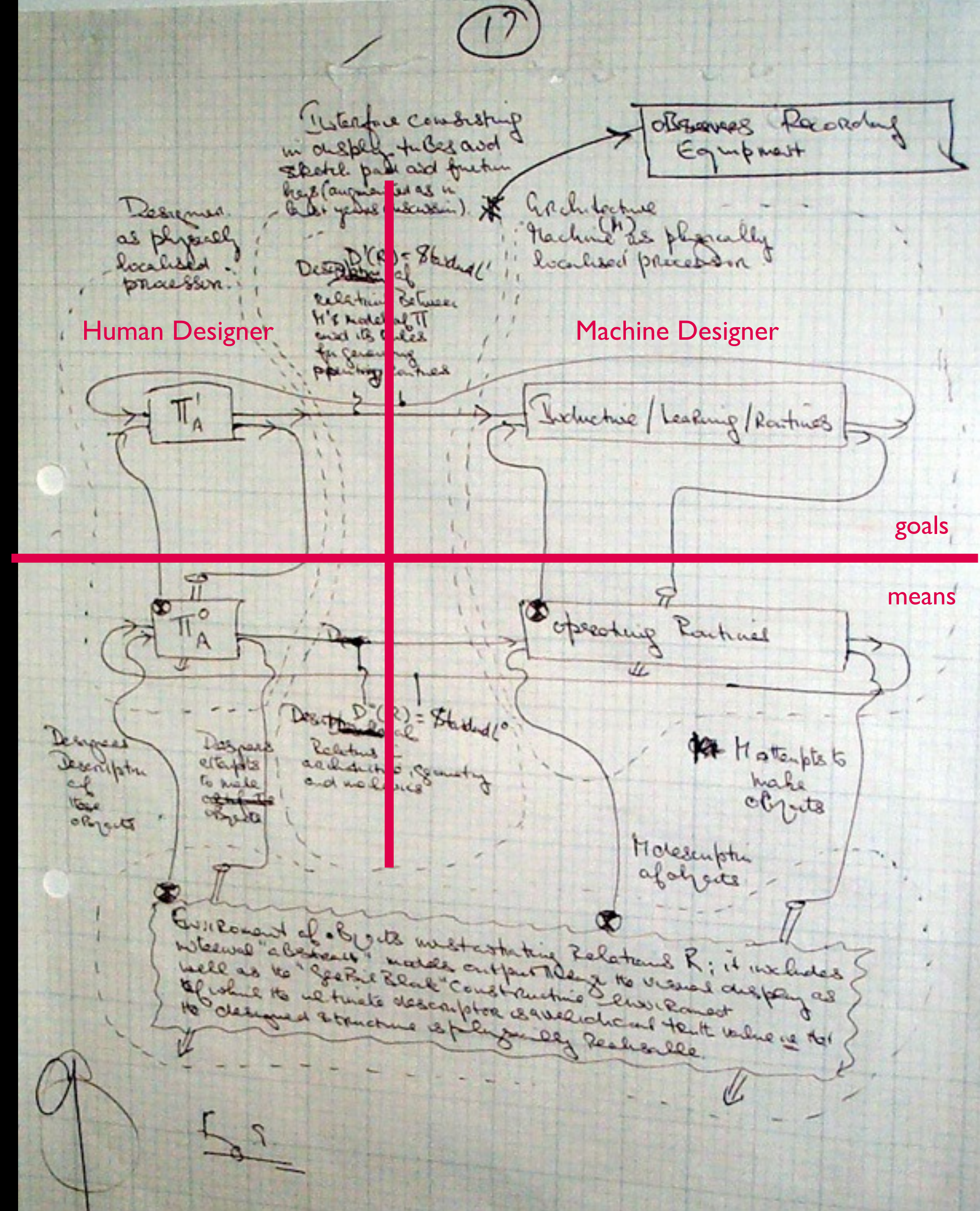
Machine Designer



Gordon Pask's
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"Aspects of Machine Intelligence"
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1976



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THOUGHTSTICKER
Gordon Pask's Lab
Richmond, England

1979



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THOUGHTSTICKER 1986
Algorithms coded by Jeffrey Nicoll
UI coding & UX by Paul Pangaro

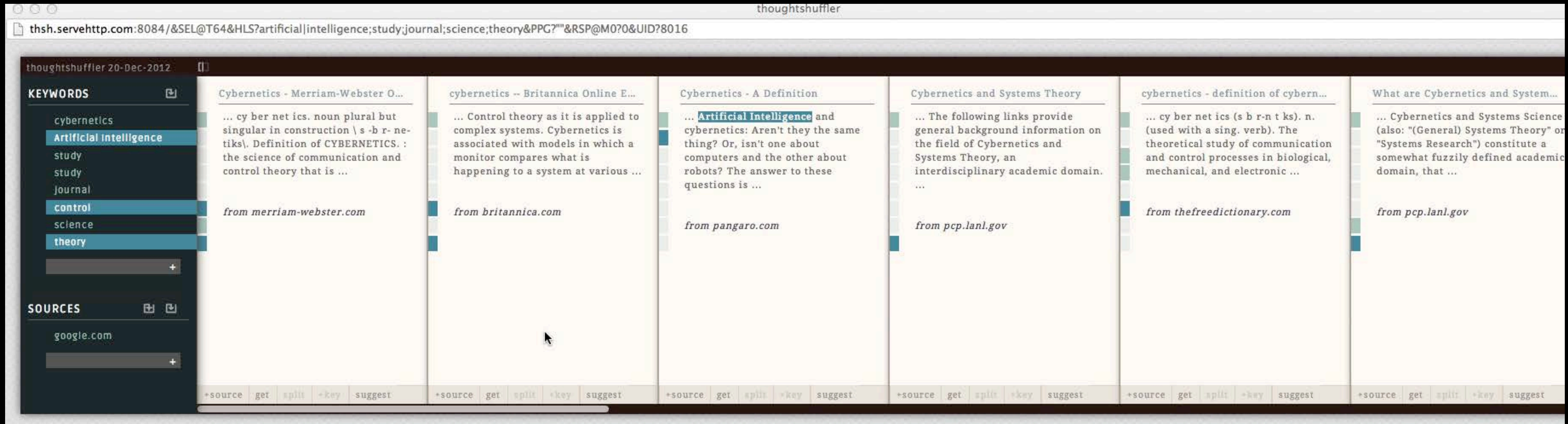
<p style="text-align: center;">Tutorial</p> <p>This is a tutorial to help you become familiar with Zmacs. The tutorial software is called THOUGHTSTICKER and has been developed by PANGARO Incorporated.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Associated Topics:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HELP PANGARO THOUGHTSTICKER Tutorial Zmacs</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">User Serialist in Explore Mode</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Next More (1/2) Which? Back Jump List Other</p>	

Click for more

THOUGHTSHUFFLER 2013

UI design and coding by Jeremy Scott Diamond

UX & heuristics by Paul Pangaro



THOUGHTSHUFFLER iOS 2013
UX by Miriam Simun
UI by See-ming Lee
concept & heuristics by Paul Pangaro





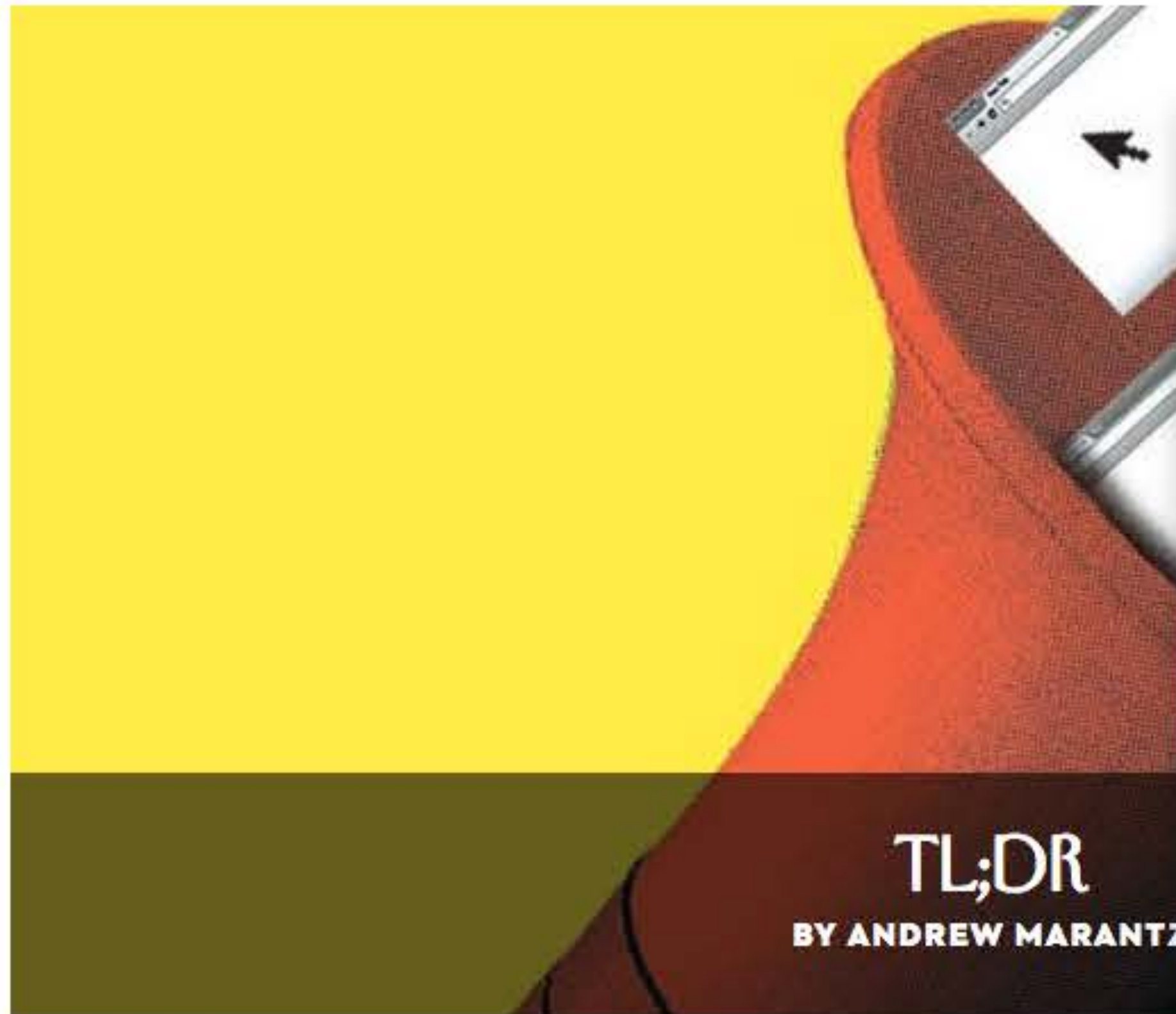
SOMETHING THAT MEANS SOMETHING.
\$1 A WEEK >

RENEW
GIVE A GIFT
NON-U.S. ORDERS

THE NEW YORKER



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🔗 KING OF CLICKBAIT

- The ability to make things go viral felt like the closest that we could get to having a human superpower.”

He offered practical tips: “Facebook should be eighty per cent of your effort, if you’re focussed on social media”; “Try to change every comma to a period”; “Use lists whenever possible. Lists just hijack the brain’s neural circuitry.” Behind me, two women in their fifties took notes on legal pads.



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Facebook: The World’s Biggest Direct-Market...
In a conference call after the release of this week’s earnings, she gave a couple of examples of how it is gradually displacing

Can Benefit Corporations Work?
Yet the desire to balance profit and purpose is arguably a return to the model that many American companies once followed. Henry

Streamfully
UI by Barbara de Wilde & John Katagawa
UI coding by John Katagawa
UX & heuristics by Paul Pangaro

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Gregory Bateson

J.C.R. Licklider

Warren McCulloch, Chair

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Claude Shannon

Heinz von Foerster

John von Neumann

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Buckminster Fuller

Social Graph of Cybernetics

and how it connects computing, counterculture, and design

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Macy Conferences

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Warren McCulloch, Chair
Margaret Mead
Walter Pitts
Claude Shannon

Heinz von Foerster

John von Neumann

Norbert Wiener

Cedric Price

R.D. Laing

Grey Walter

SRI, NLS

Douglas Engelbart

Ivan Sutherland

BCL

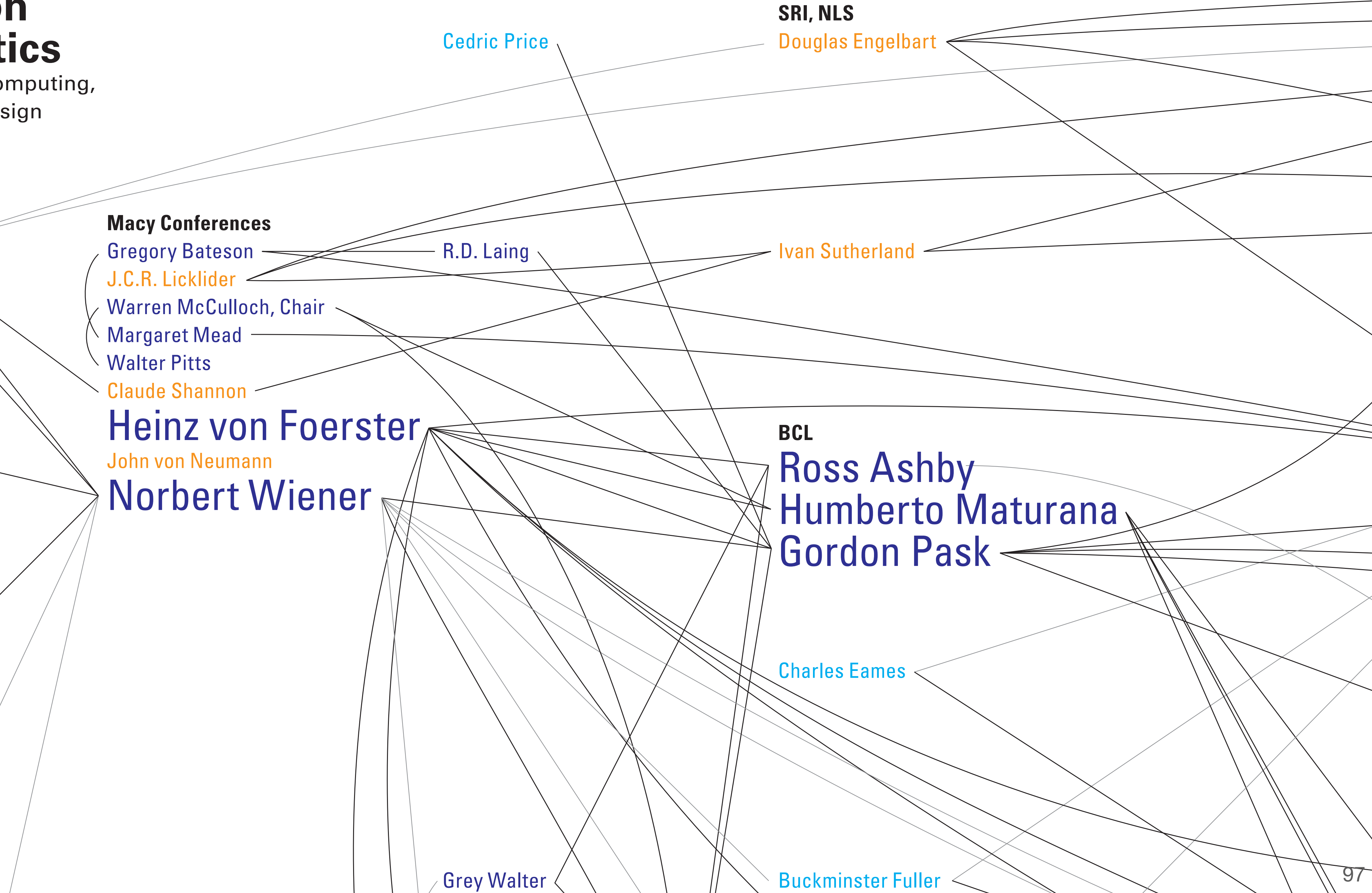
Ross Ashby

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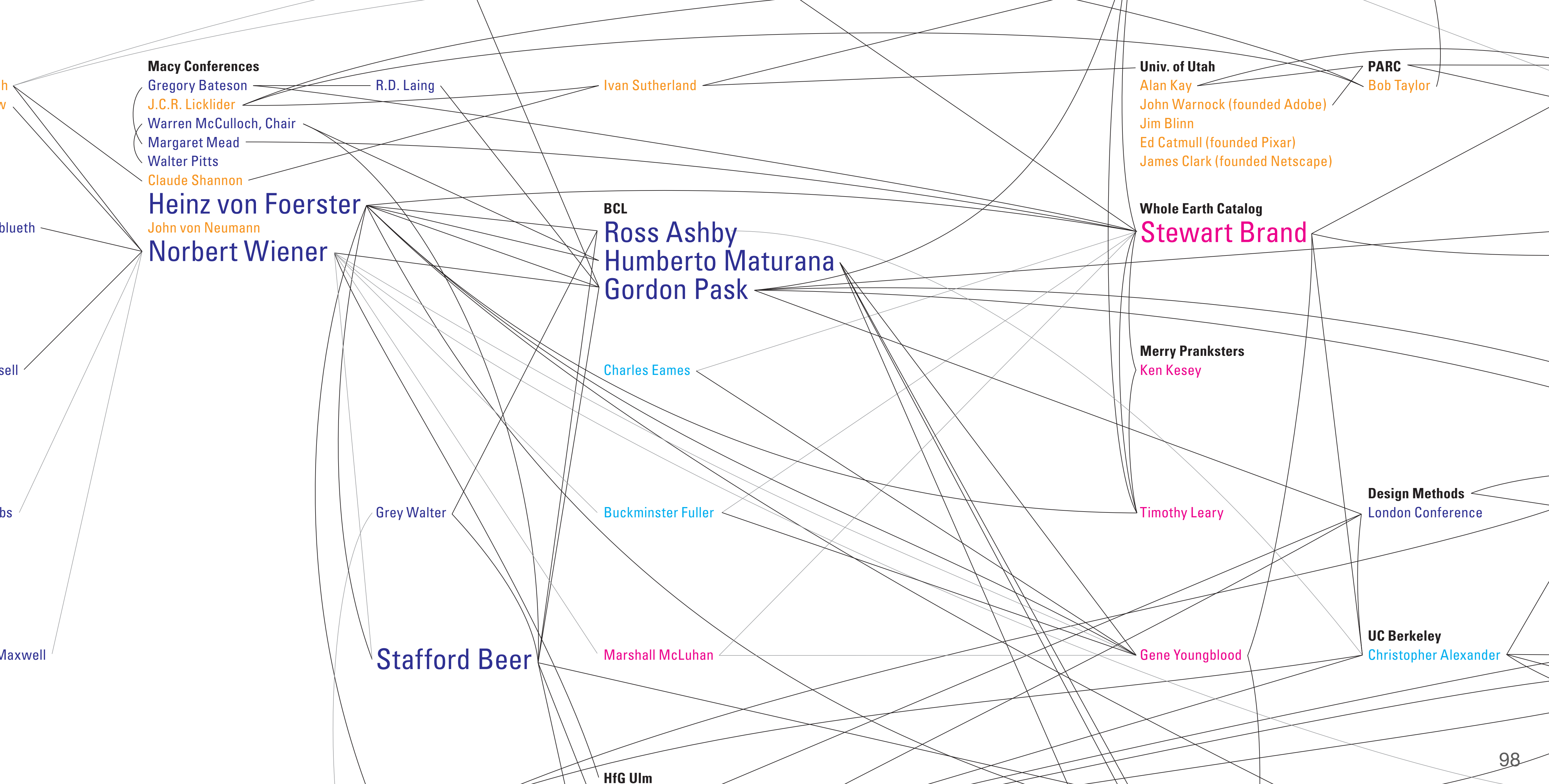
Buckminster Fuller

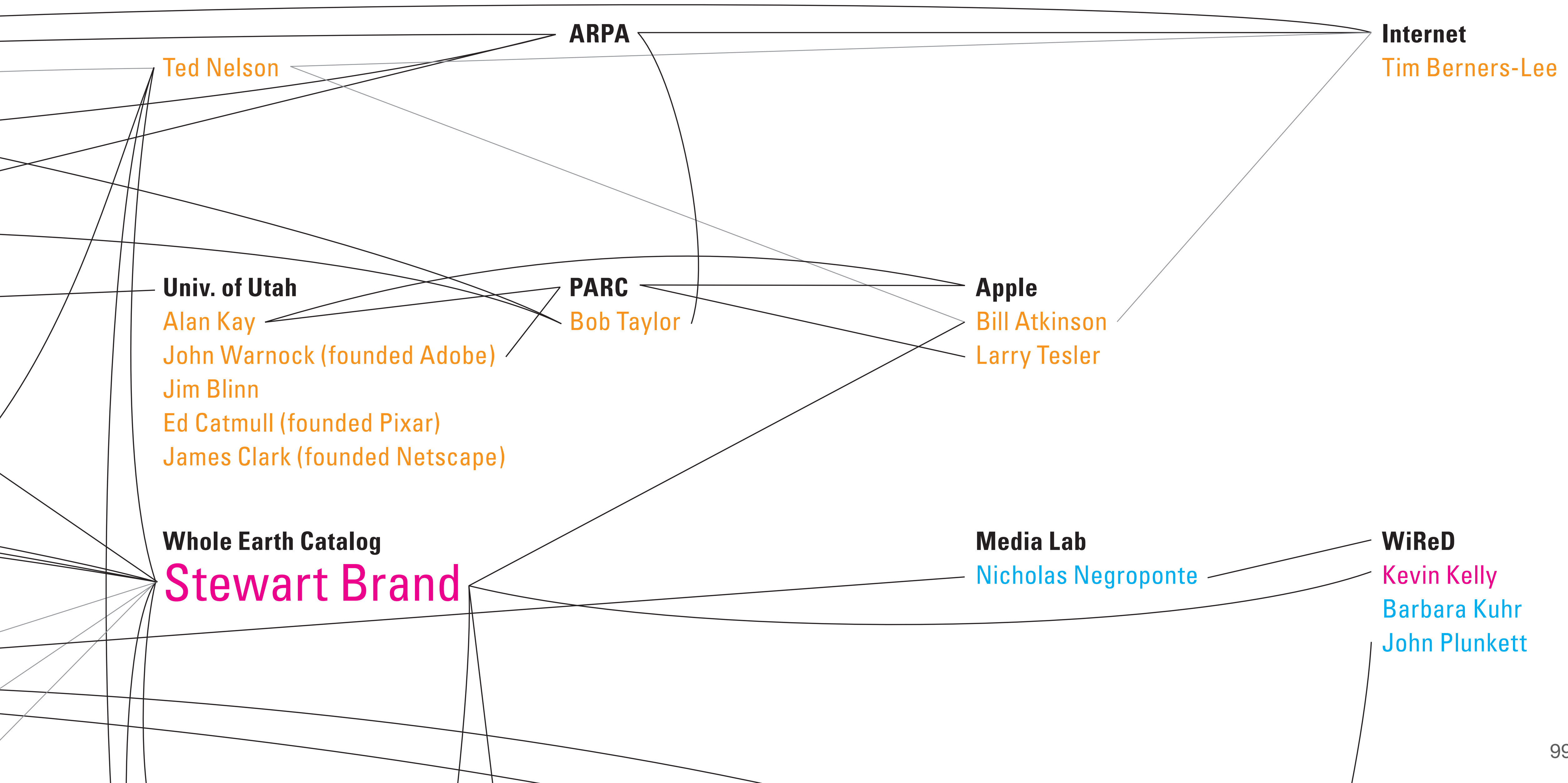


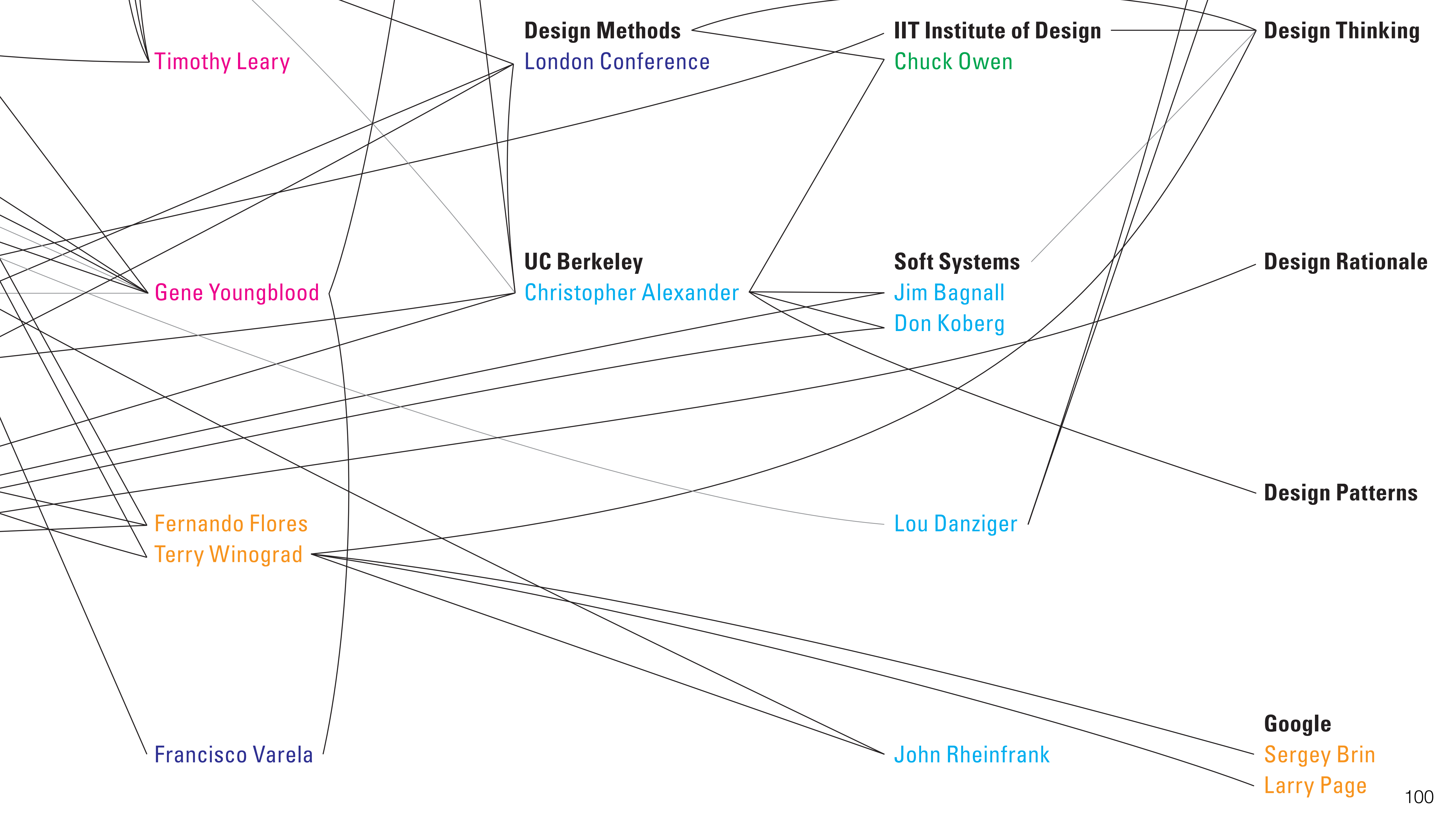
Graph

bernetics

connects computing,
culture, and design







Timothy Leary

Gene Youngblood

Fernando Flores
Terry Winograd

Francisco Varela

Design Methods
London Conference

UC Berkeley
Christopher Alexander

IIT Institute of Design
Chuck Owen

Soft Systems
Jim Bagnall
Don Koberg

Lou Danziger

John Rheinfrank

Design Thinking

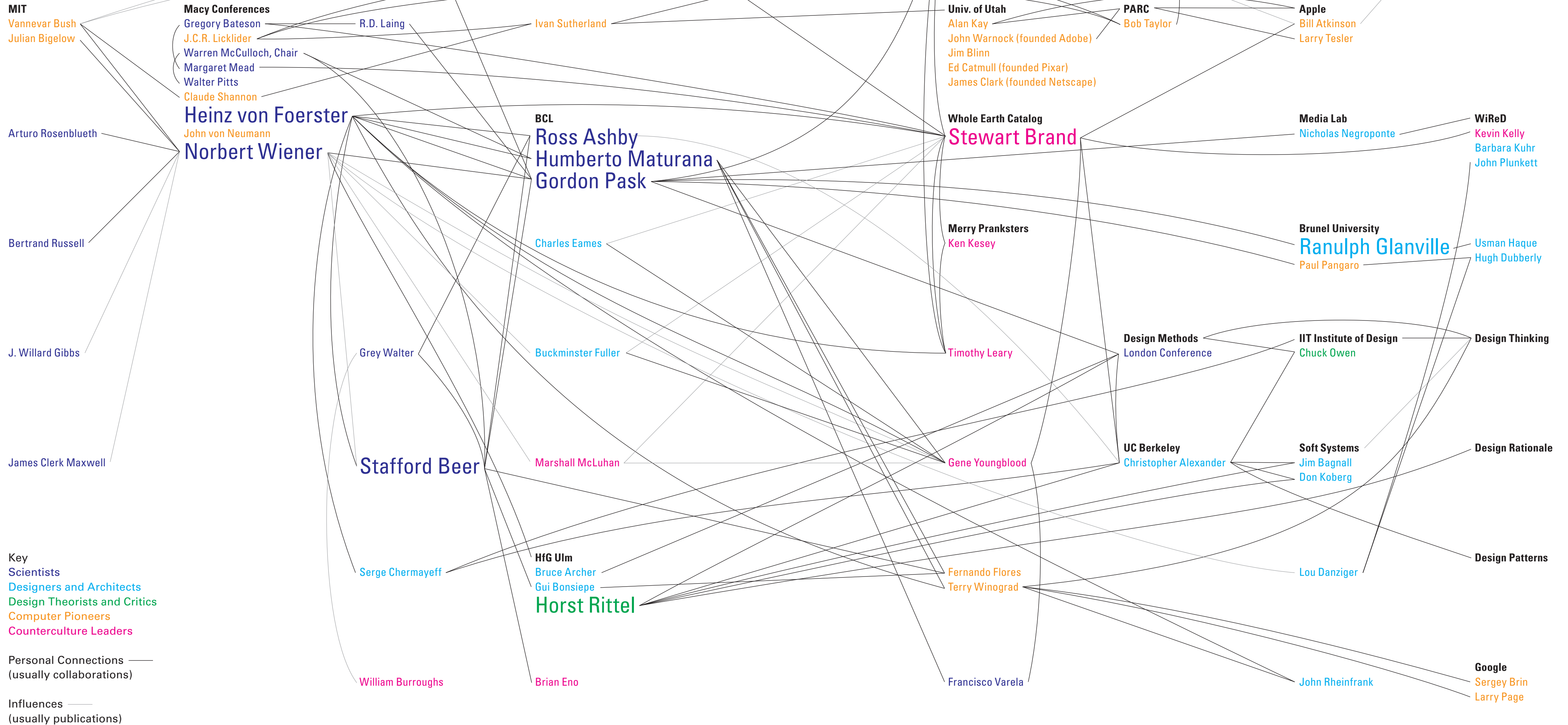
Design Rationale

Design Patterns

Google
Sergey Brin
Larry Page

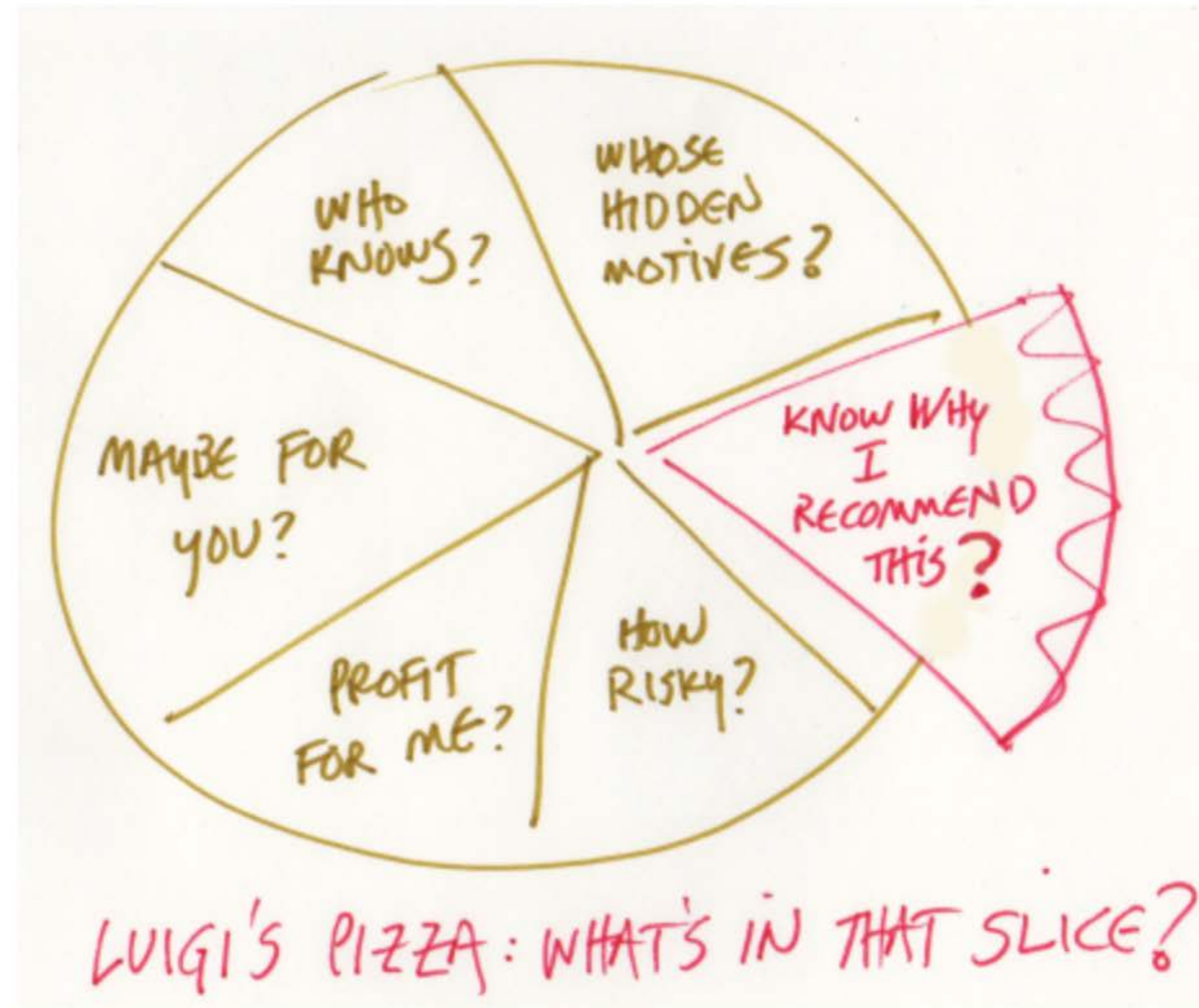
Social Graph of Cybernetics

and how it connects computing, counterculture, and design



Luigi's Pizza: A Parable

November 8, 2016

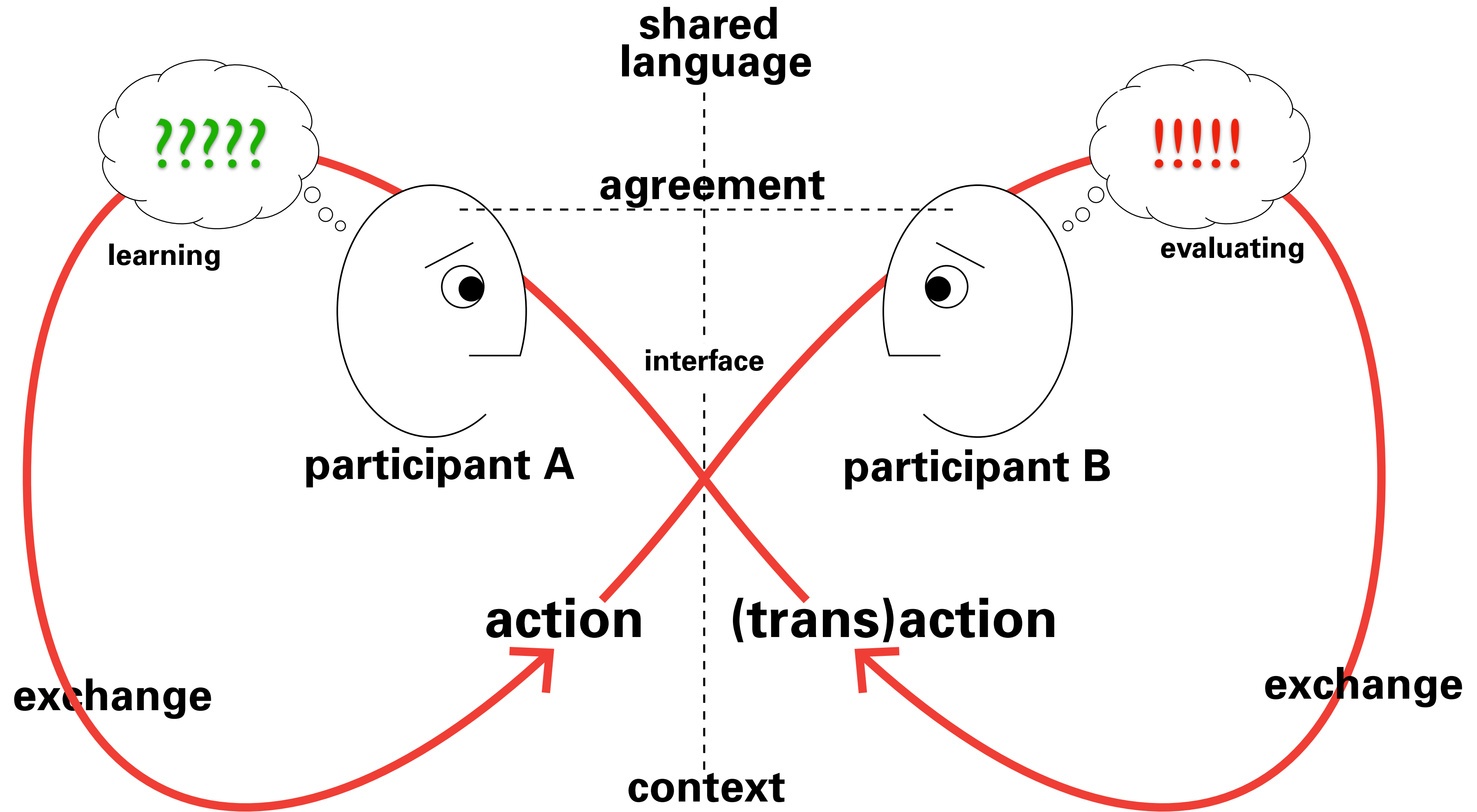


Say you want to eat somewhere and you ask for my recommendation. I say, "Sure, I've got the best place for you: Luigi's Pizza, on the corner of First & Commerce."

[Click image see blog post](#)

Axiom #1

Conversation is the minimal **ethical interface** where conversation means reliable transparency of action & intent—what & why across the interface.



Why does conversation matter?

- ***to coordinate action, we must reach agreement***
- ***to reach agreement, we must have engagement***
- ***to have engagement, we must have shared language.***

Cooperation and Collaboration require Conversation

What may follow from conversation?

- *shared history*
- *relationship*
- *trust*
- *unity*

Conversation is the foundation for:

- ***community***
- ***commerce***
- ***culture***
- ***governance***
- ***society***

Axiom #2

Conversation is the minimal **humane interface** growing the understanding & informing the action of one or more willing & active participants such that trust and collaboration may arise.

What's a “humane conversation”?

- ***responding to fulfill a given task***
- ***offering different means (tasks) to achieve a goal***
- ***helping to achieve an underspecified goal***
- ***collaborating to define the goal.***

Will Conversation Interfaces be designed to do these?

What's a “great conversation”?

- ***stays sensitive to context***
- ***avoids repetition while offering something novel***
- ***maintains continuity***
- ***raises great questions***
- ***helps you be what you want to be... or to become.***

Why can't AI + Conversation Interfaces do these things?

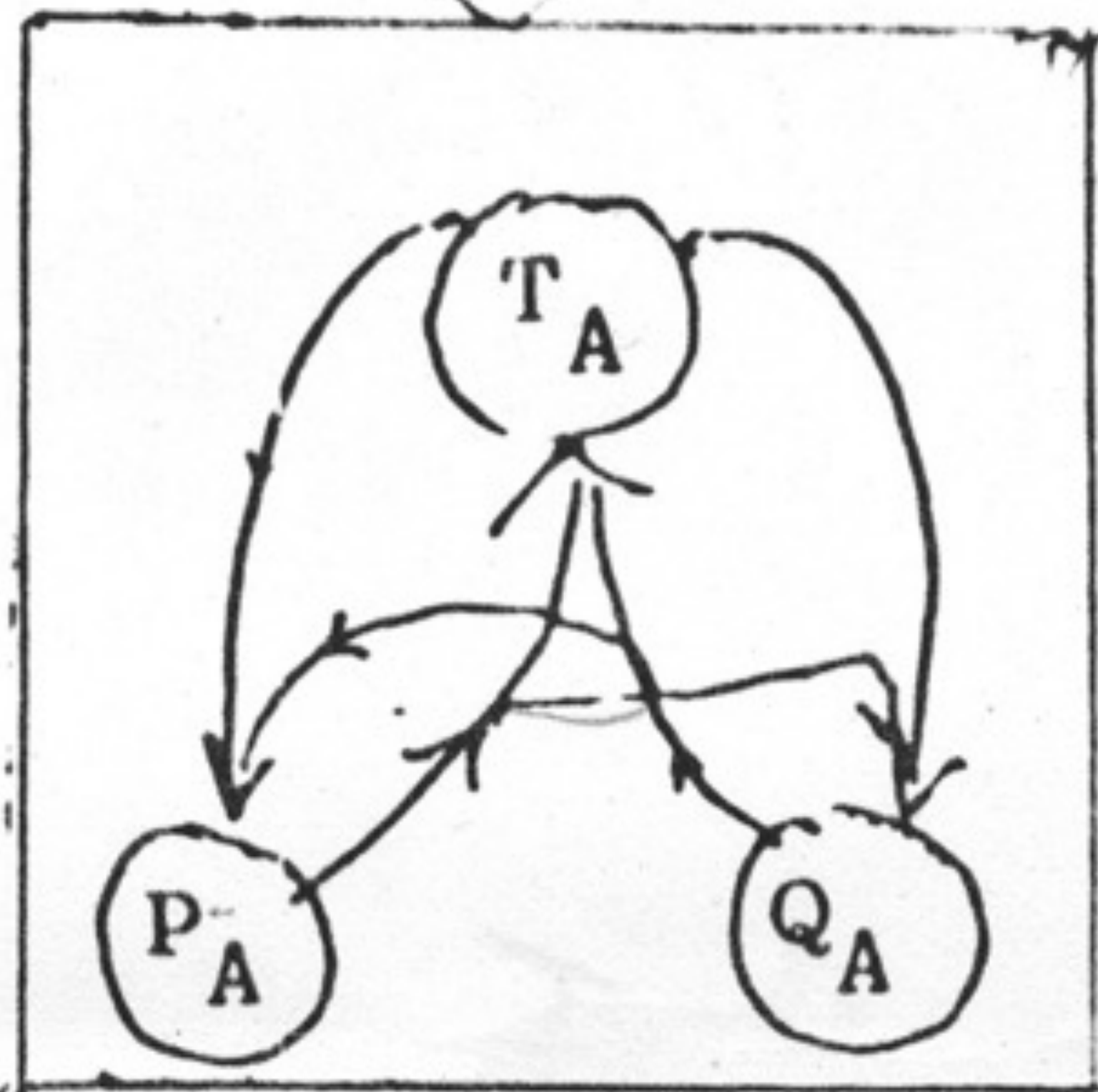


Fig 3.2. Ap.1.

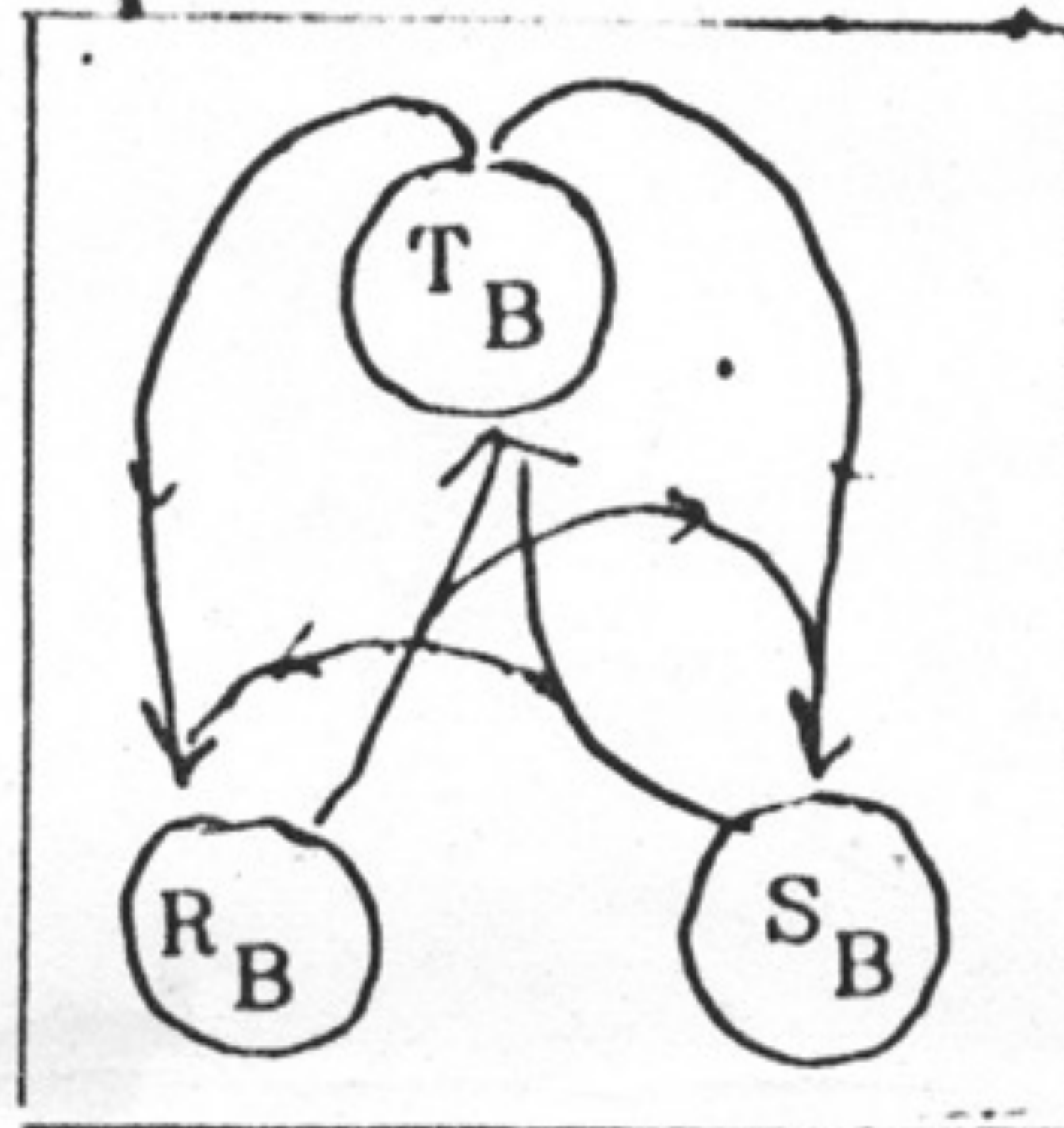


Fig 3.3. Ap.

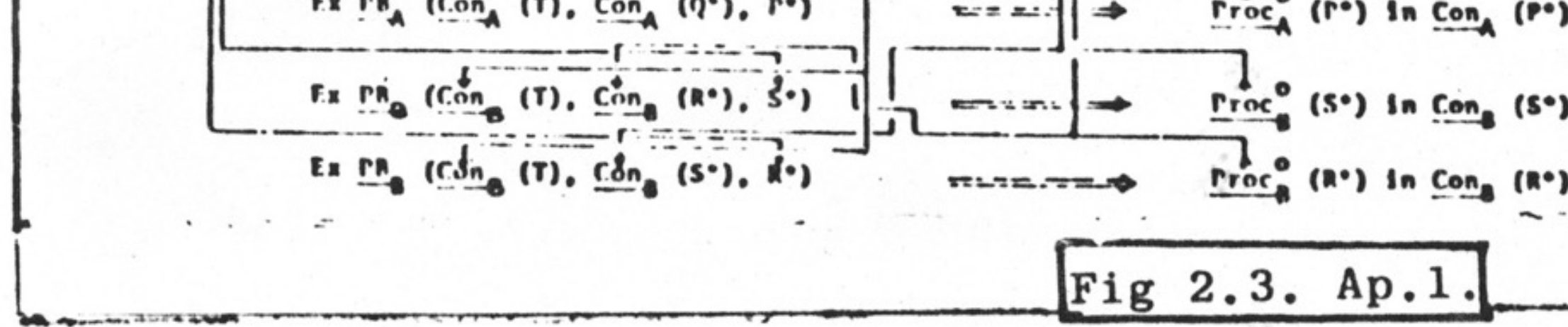


Fig 2.3. Ap.1.

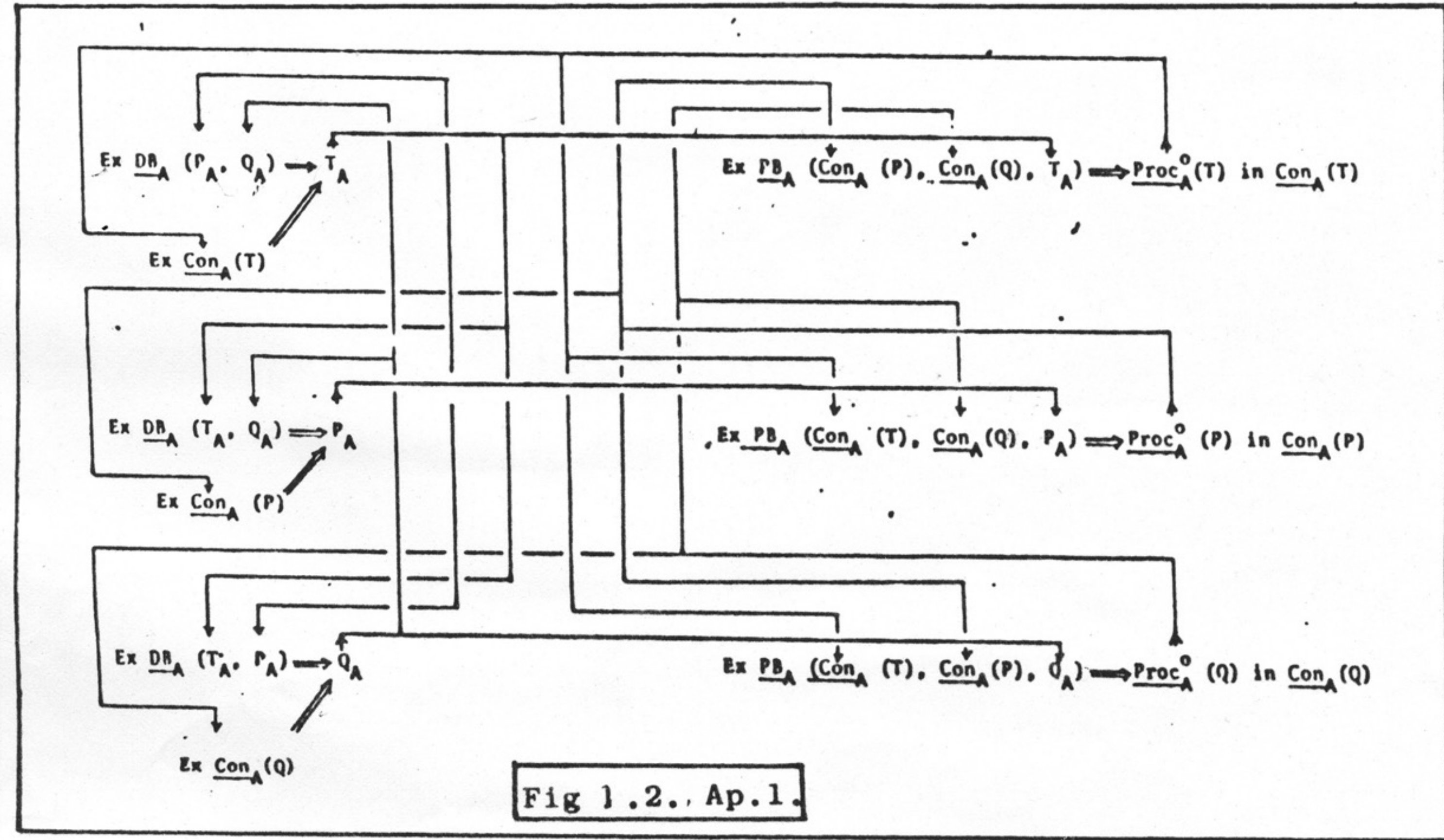


Fig 1.2., Ap.1.

4 sheet 2
 "2nd order expansion"

Fig 1. Ap. 1
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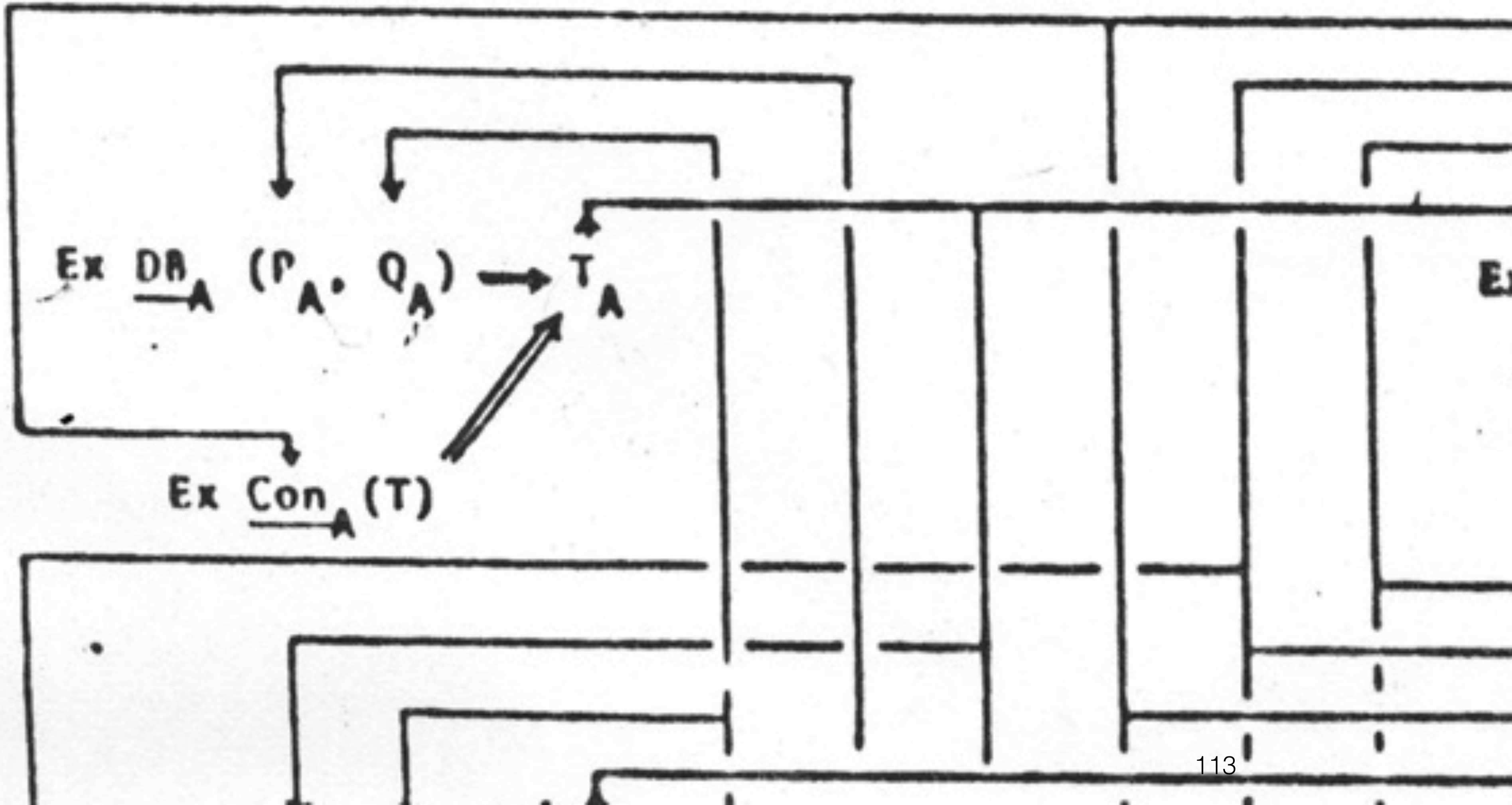
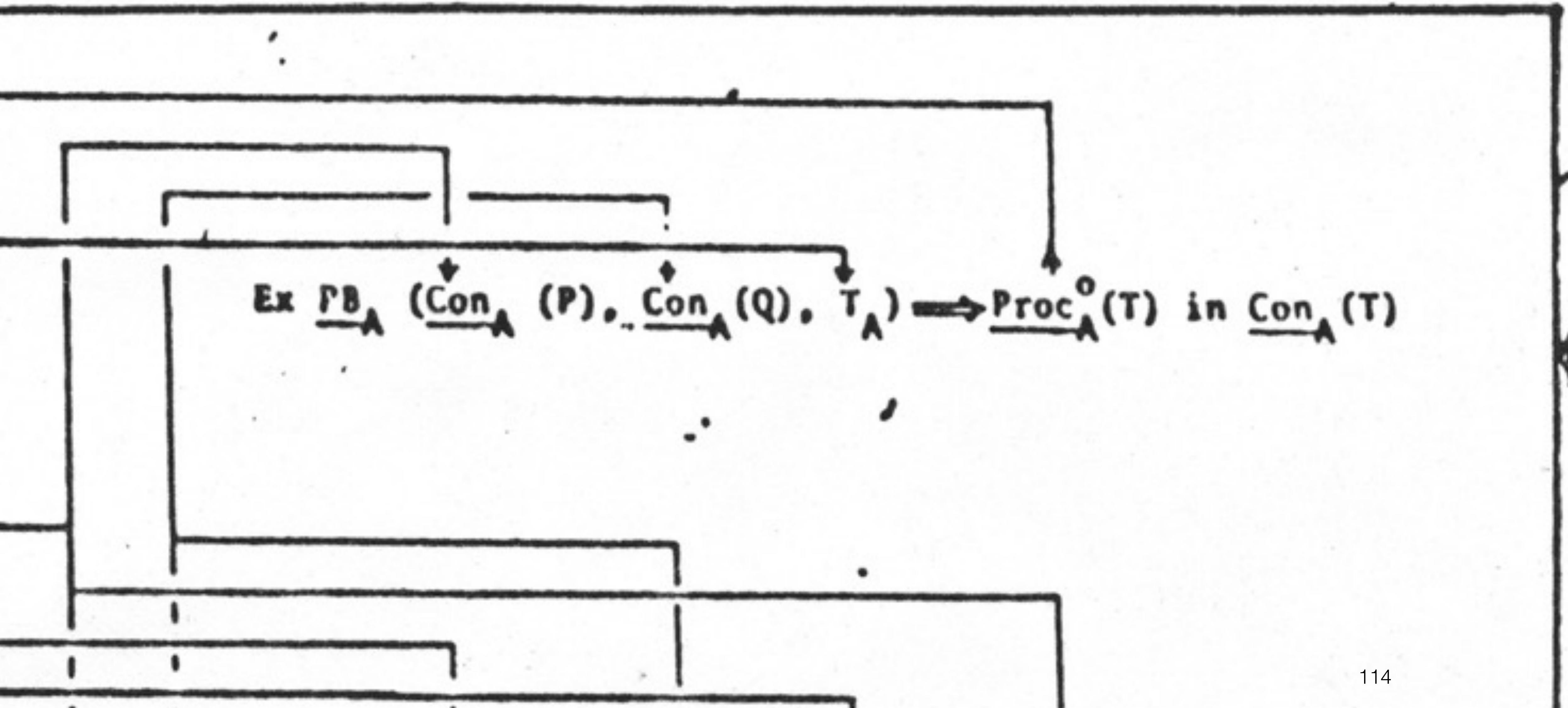


Fig 2.3. Ap.1.



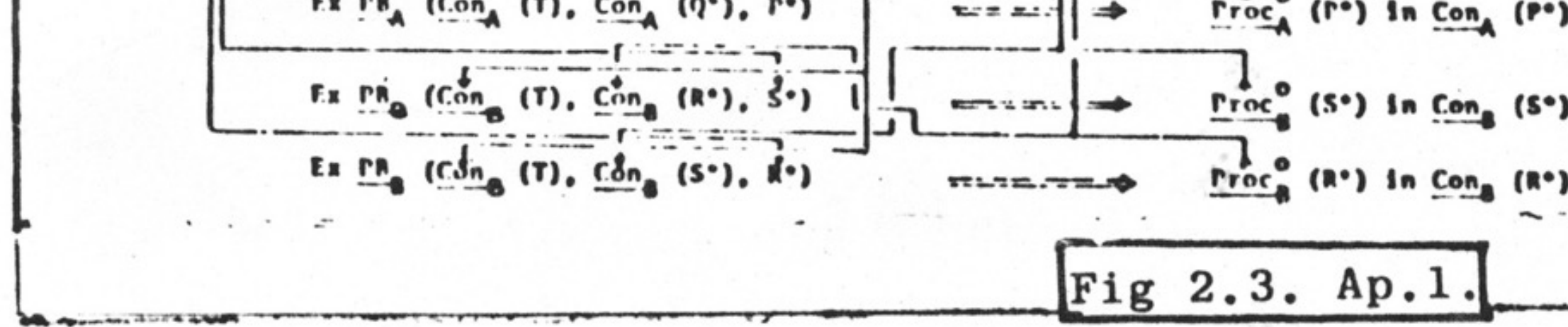


Fig 2.3. Ap.1.

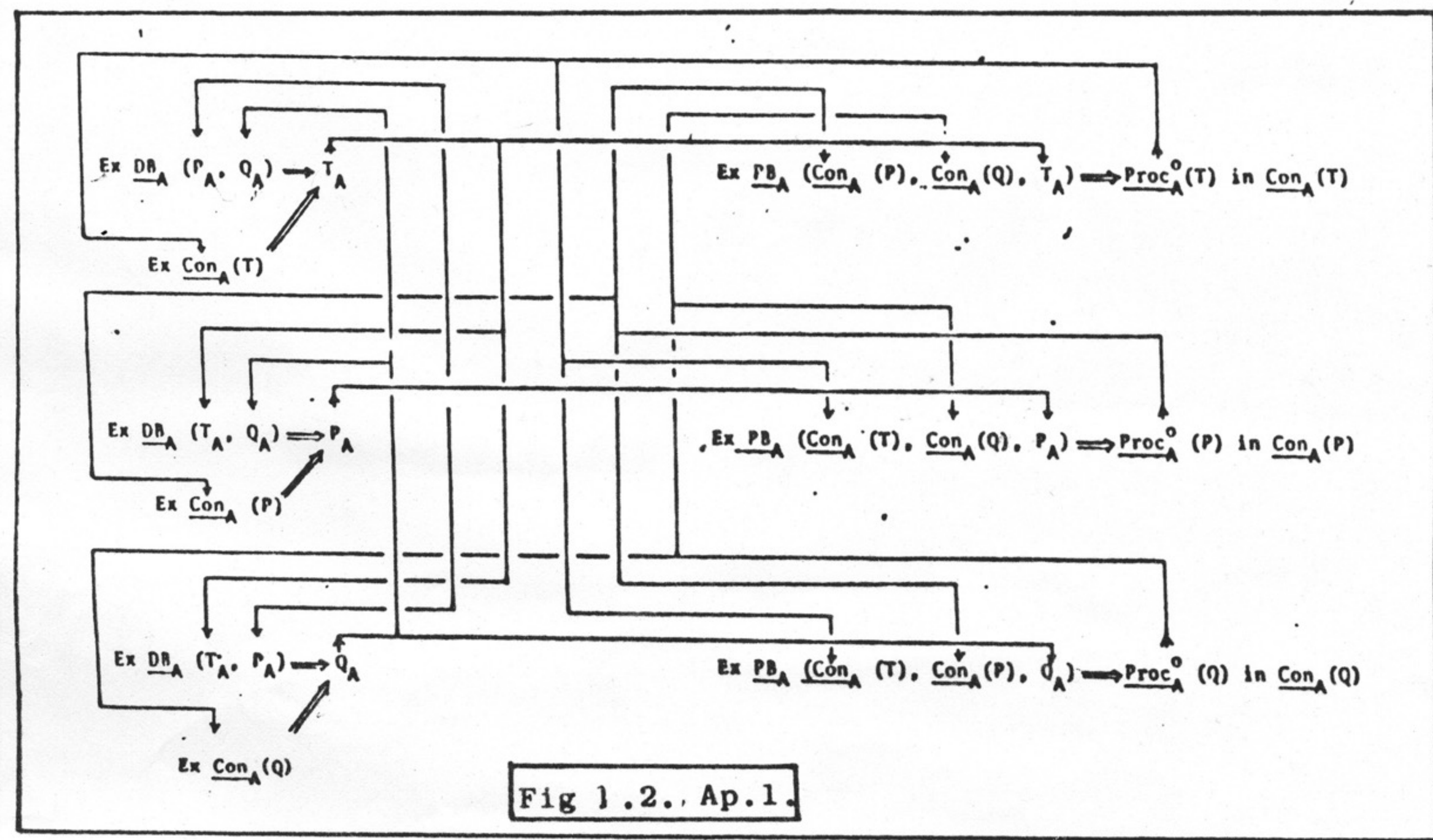


Fig 1.2. Ap.1.

4 sheet 2
"2nd order expansion"

Fig 1. Ap. 1
Con_B, DB_A, DE
informational
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FIG 3.4. Ap. 1.

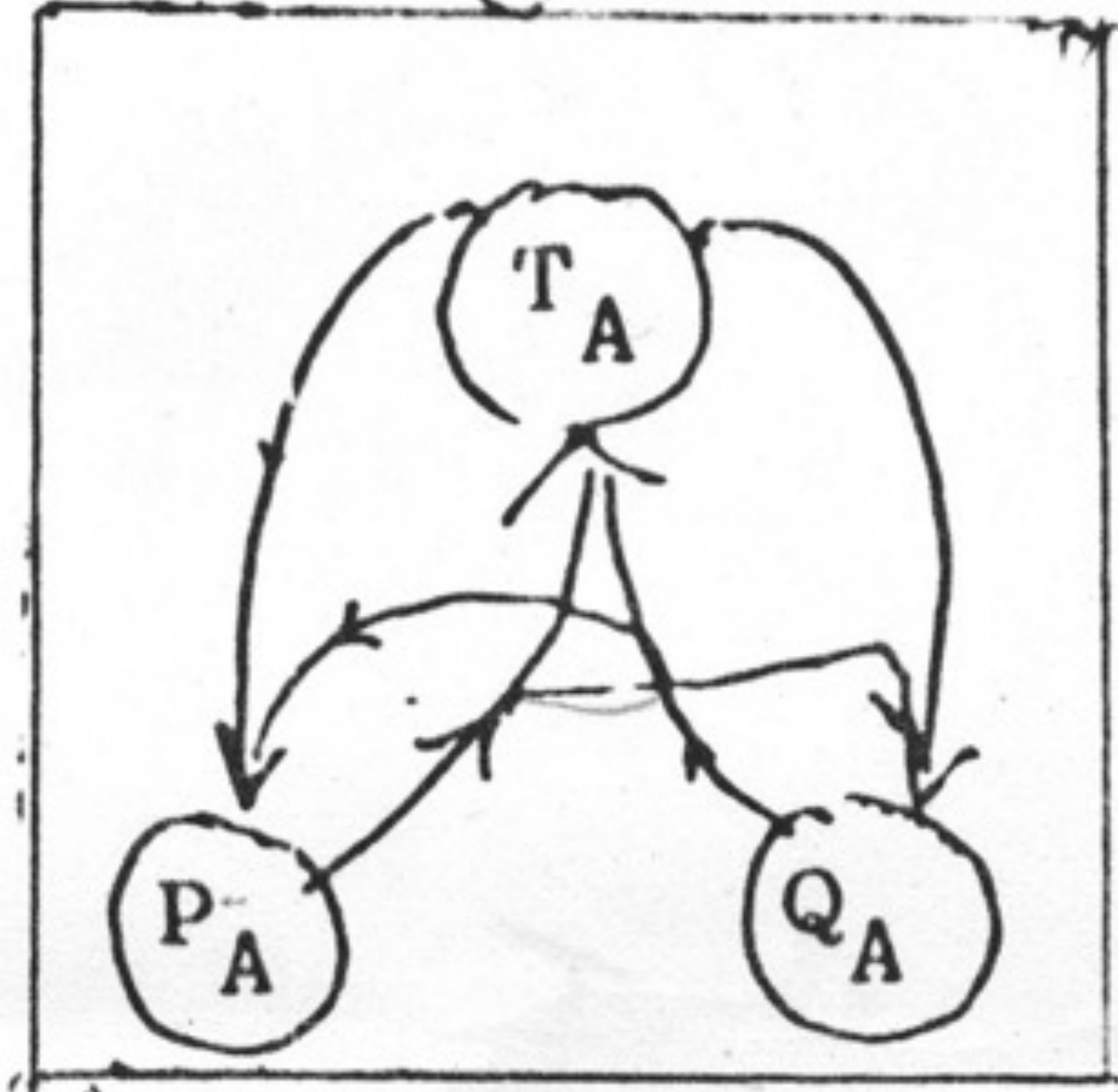


Fig 3.2. Ap.1.

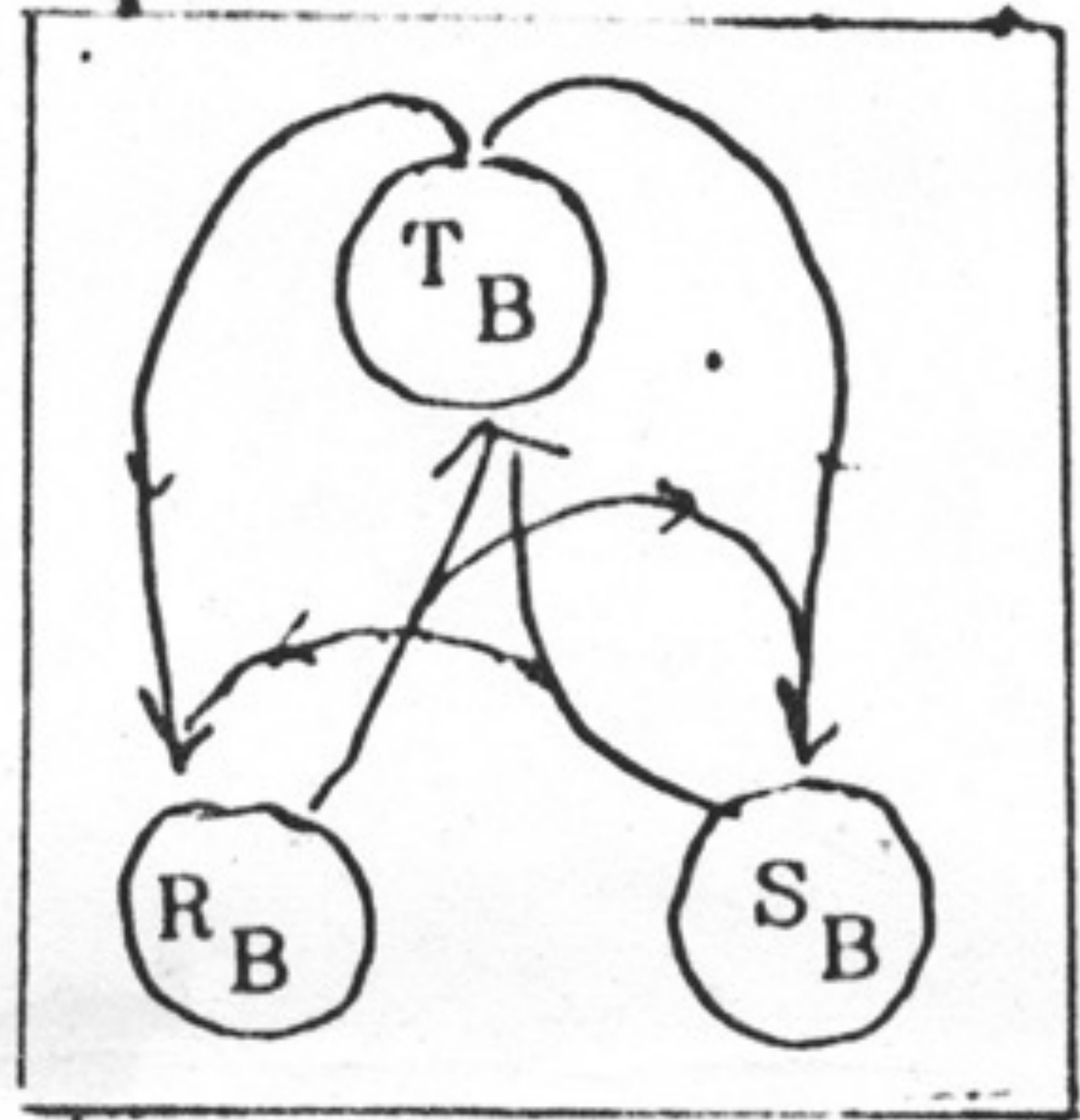
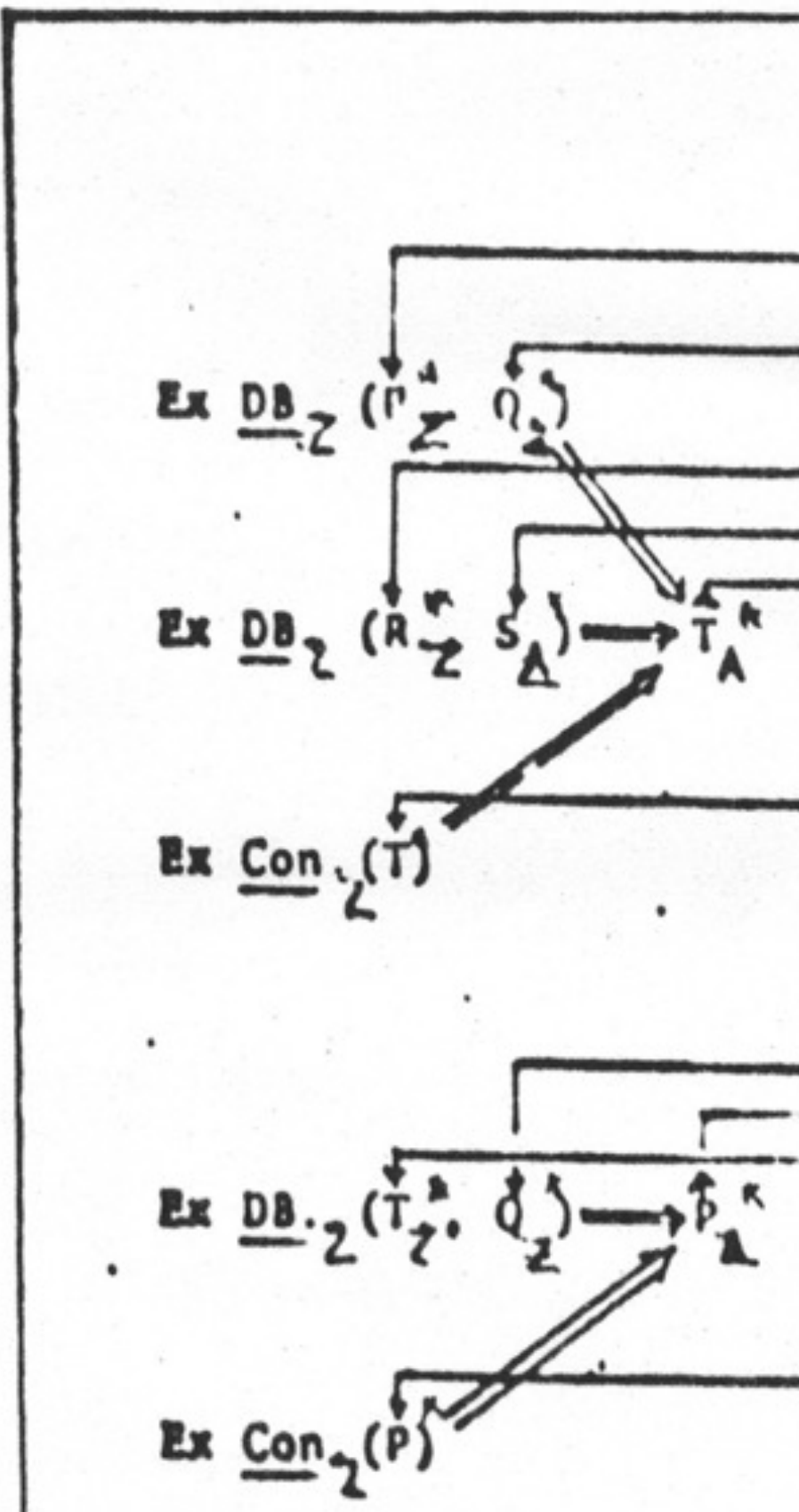
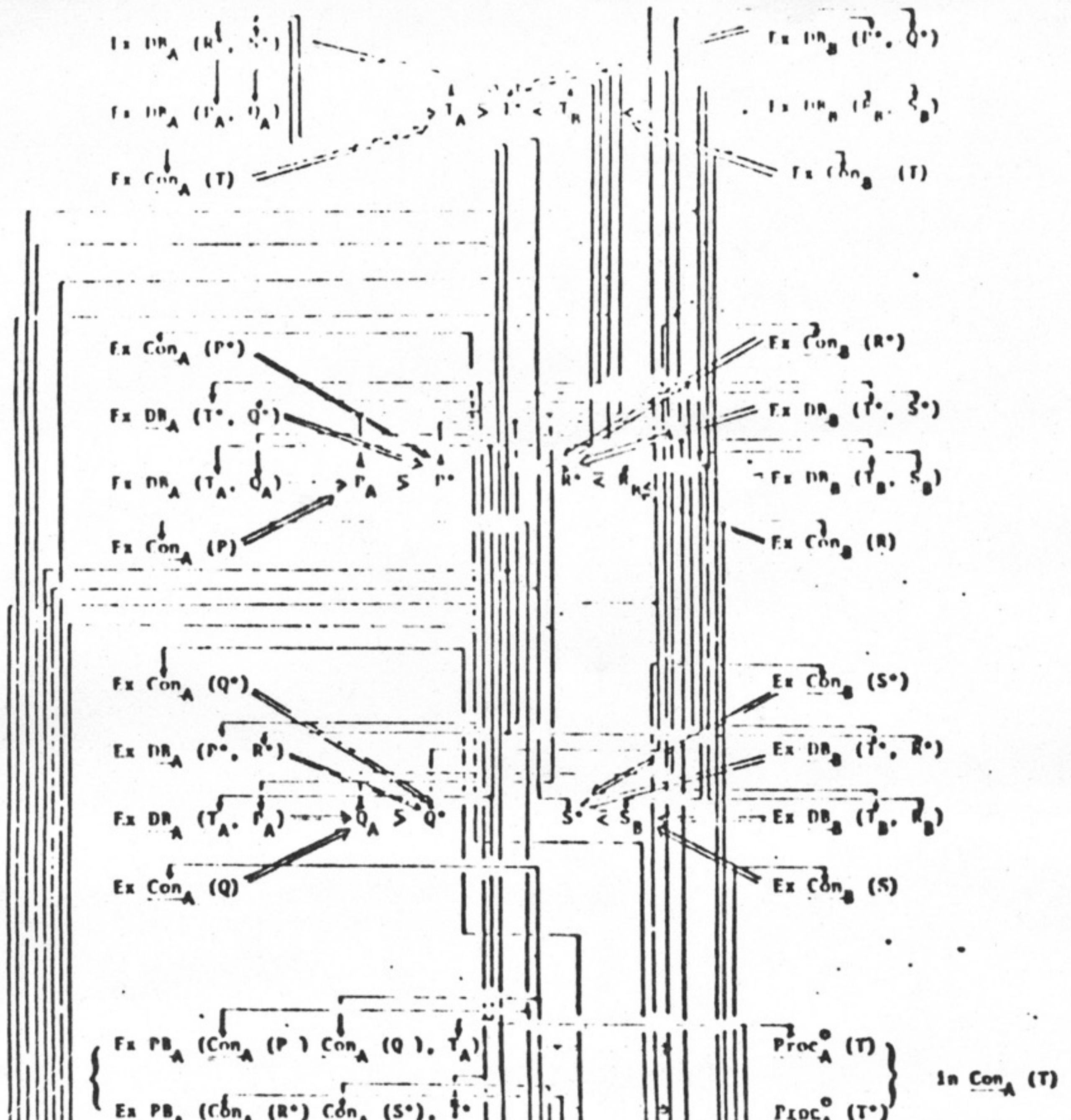


Fig 3.3. Ap.

Pruning



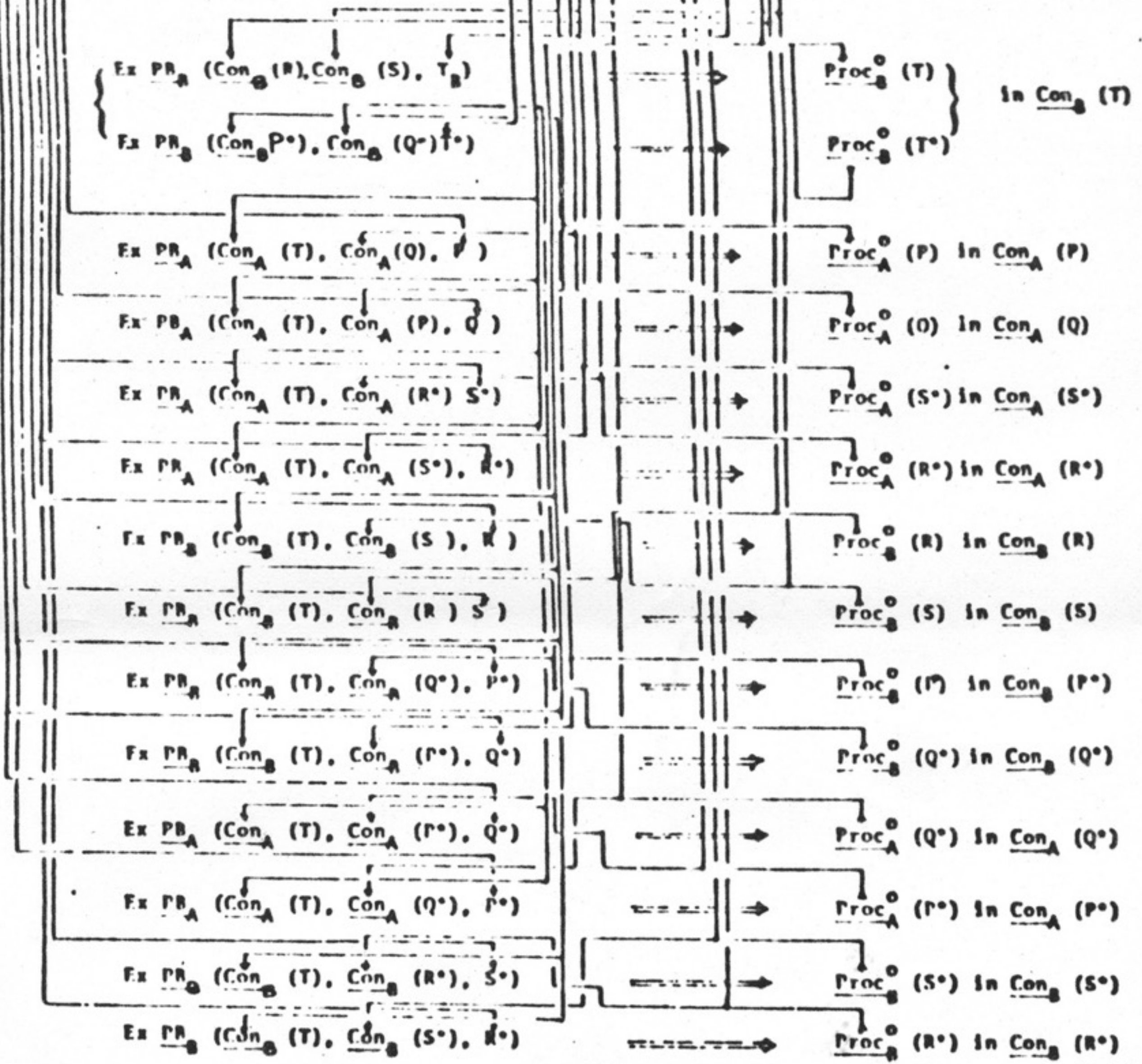
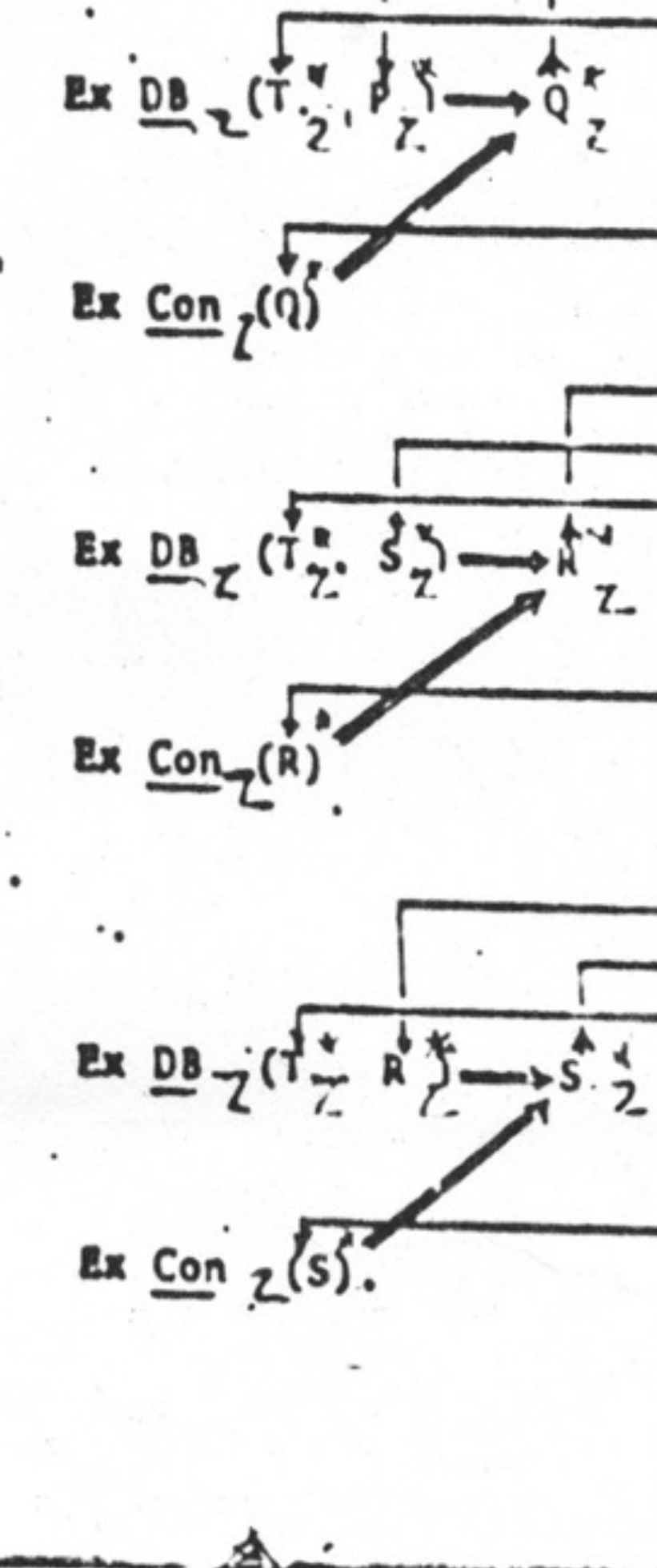


Fig 2.3. Ap.1.



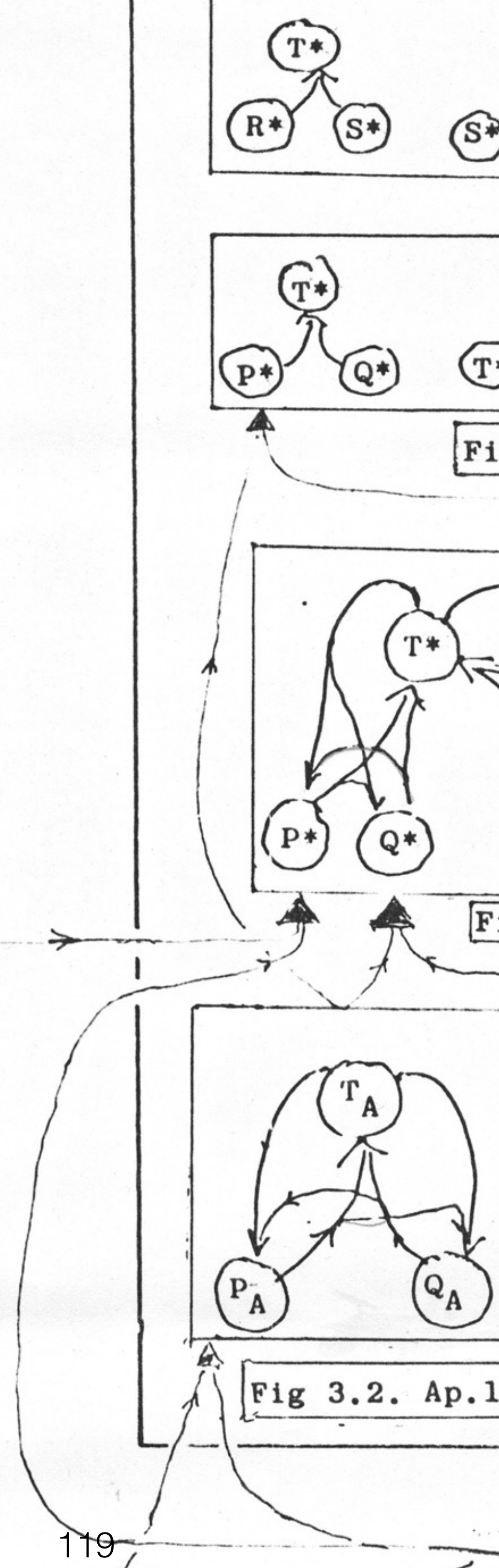
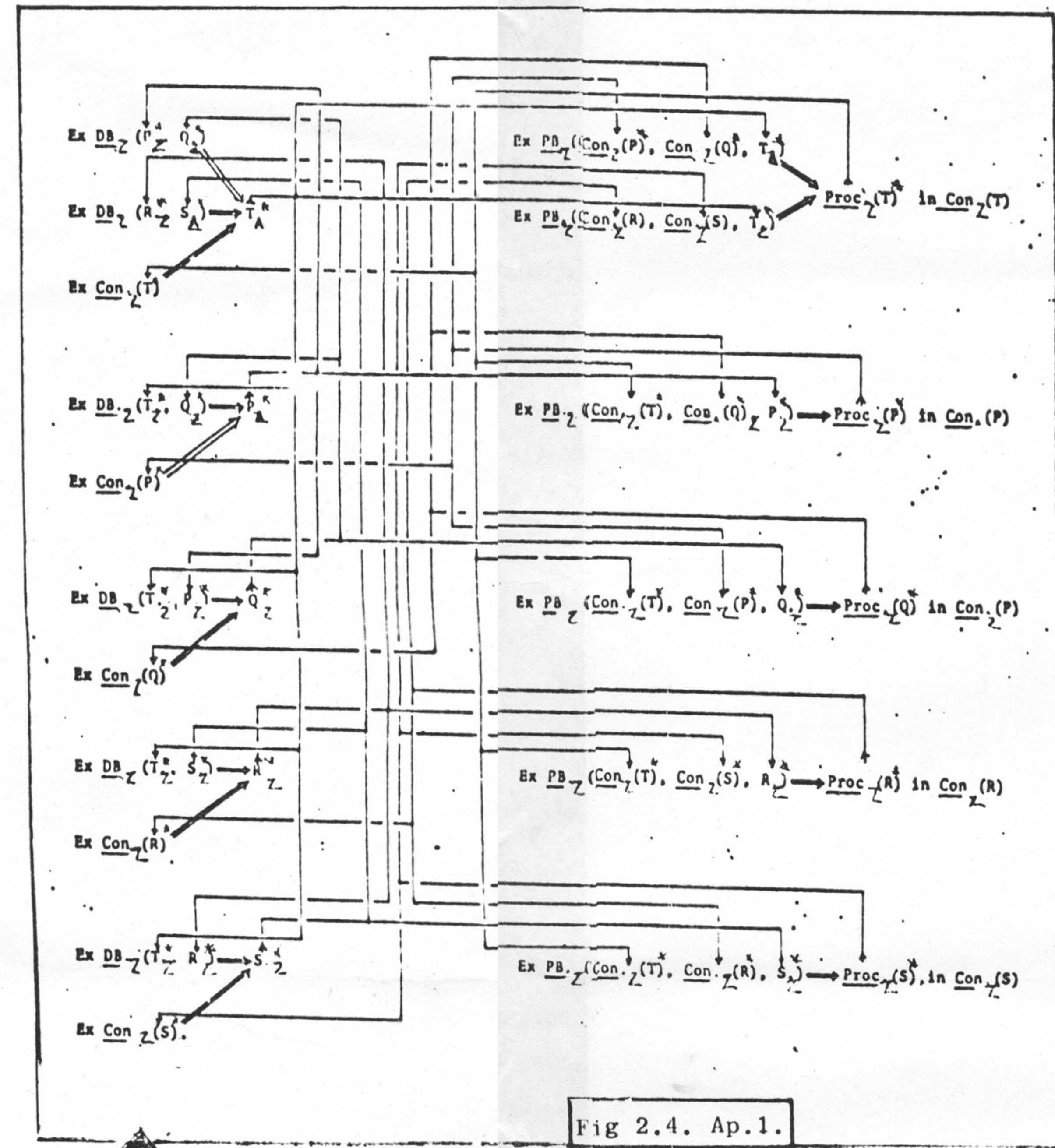
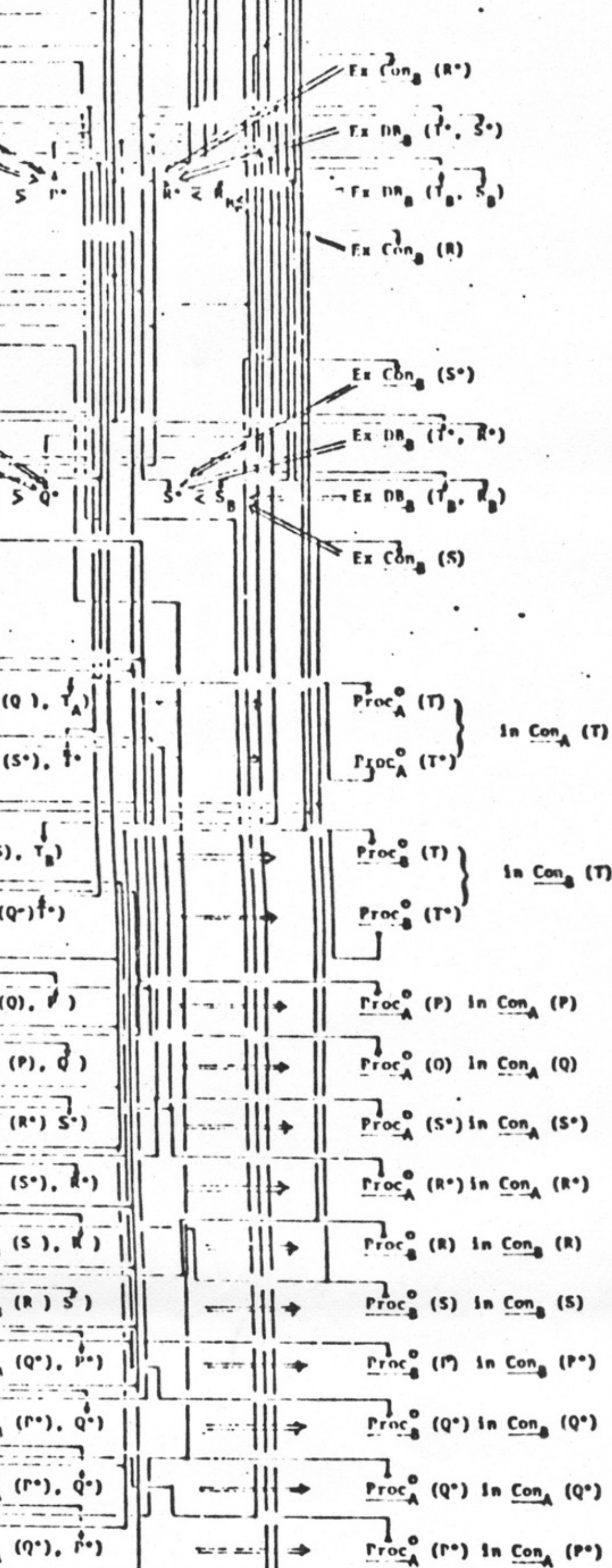


Fig 3.5. Ap. 1.

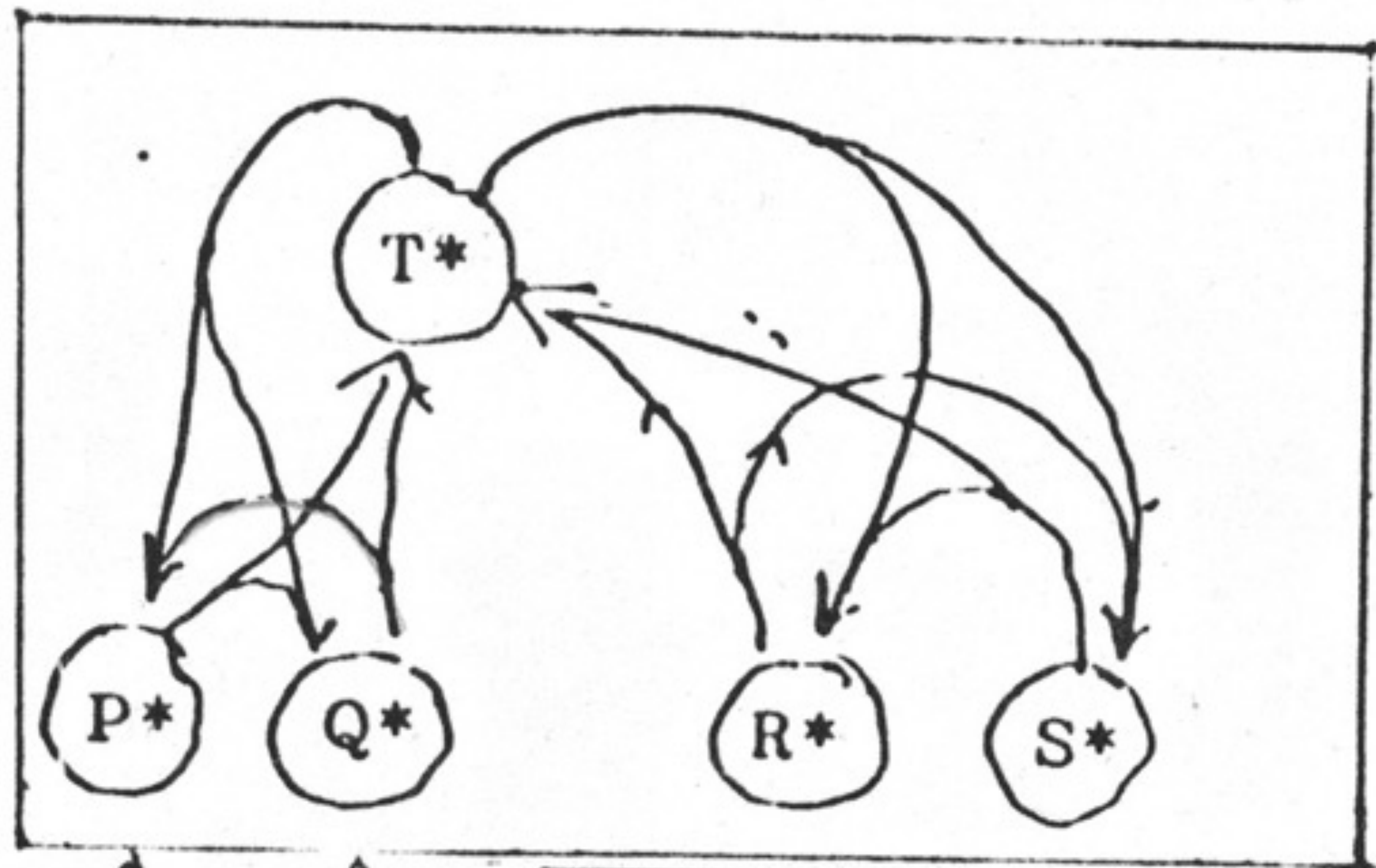
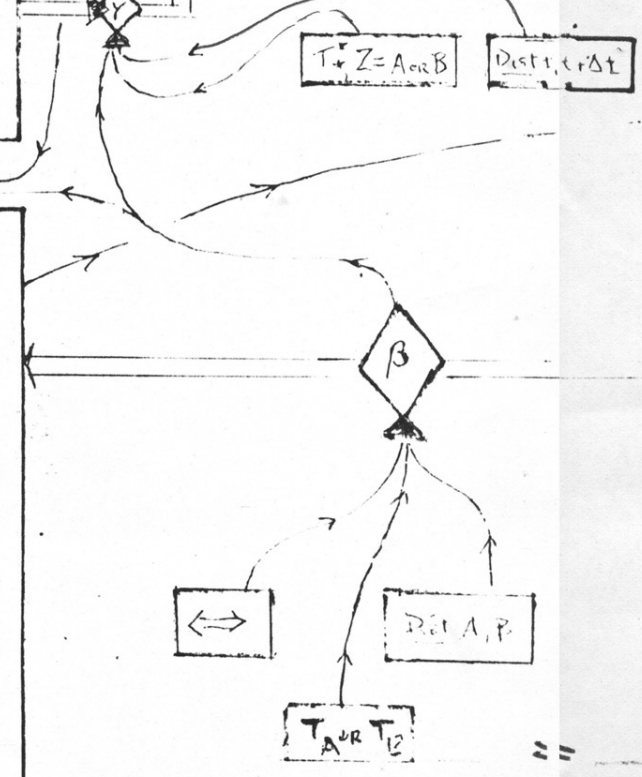
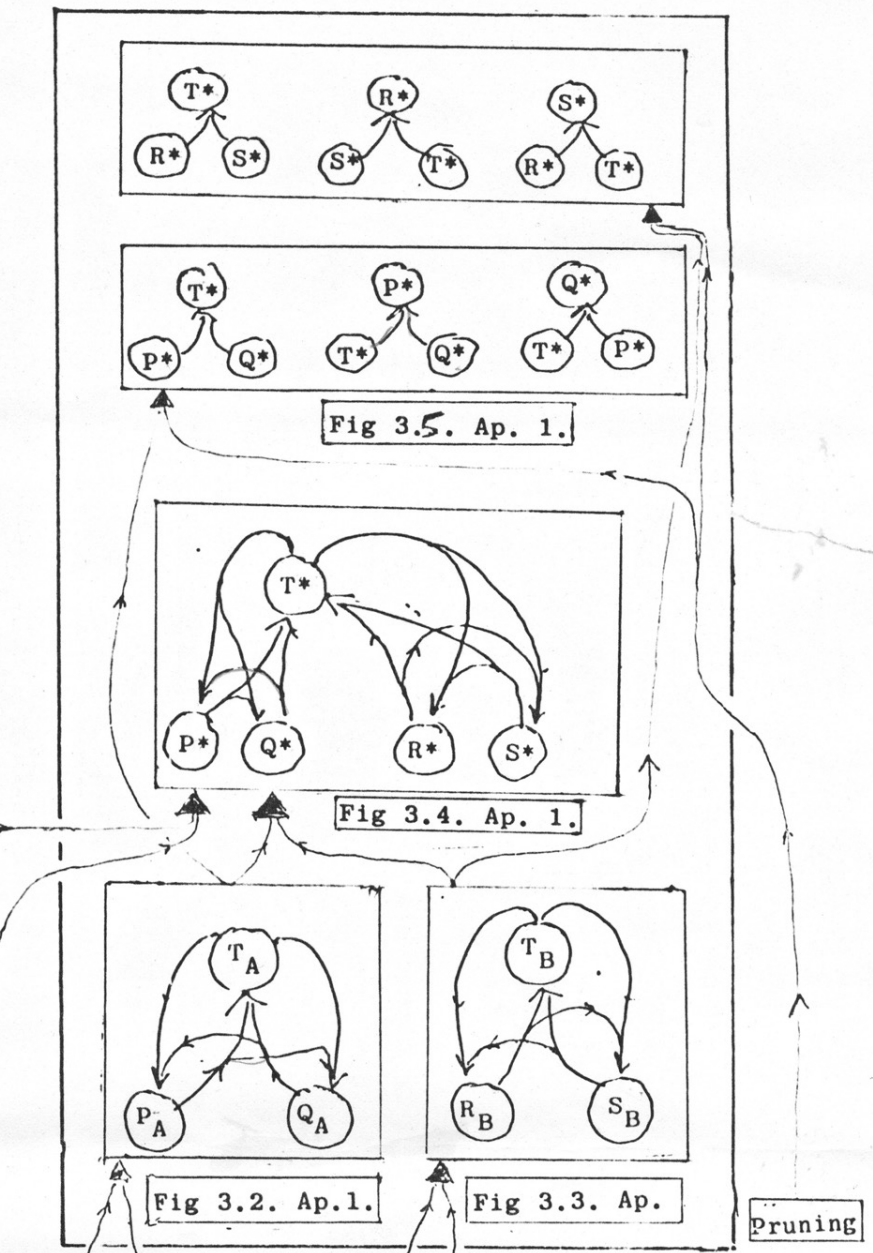
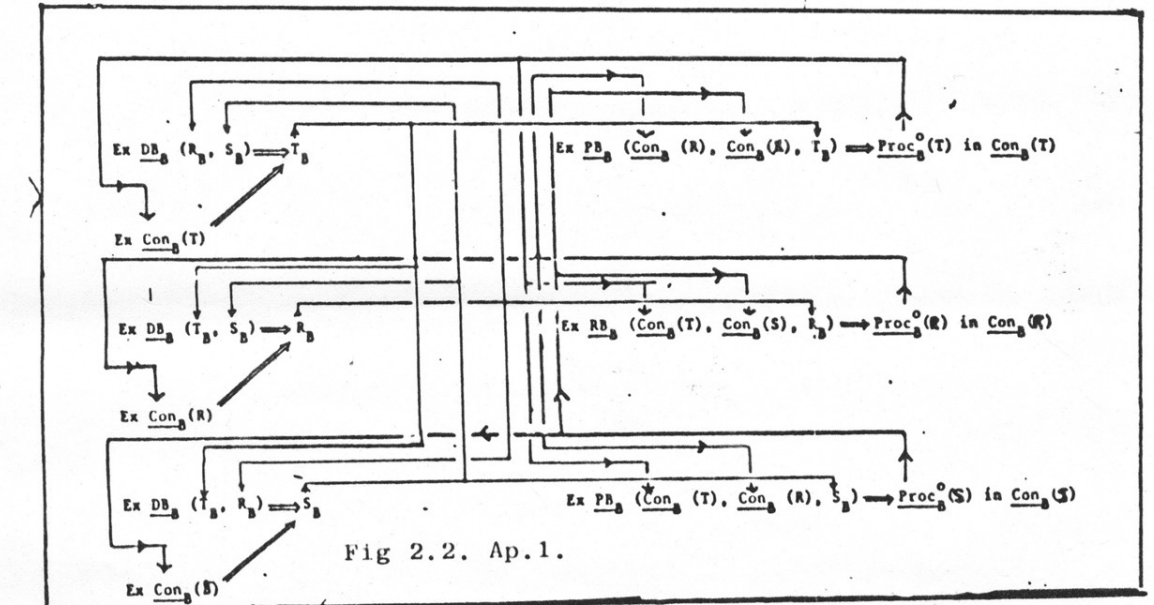
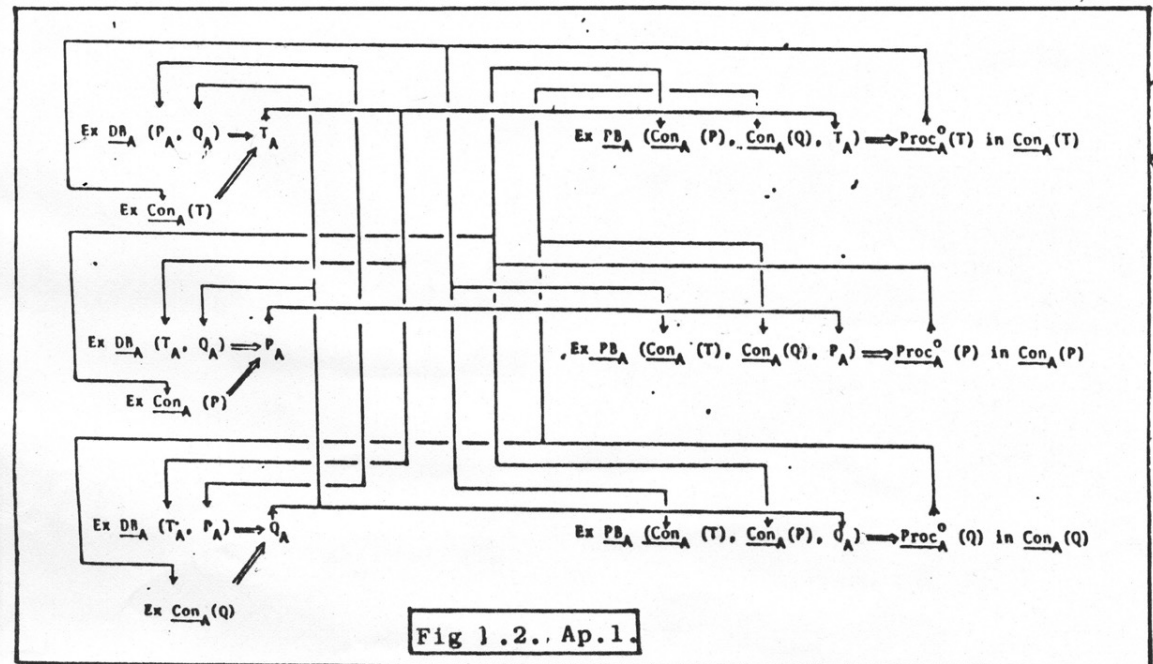
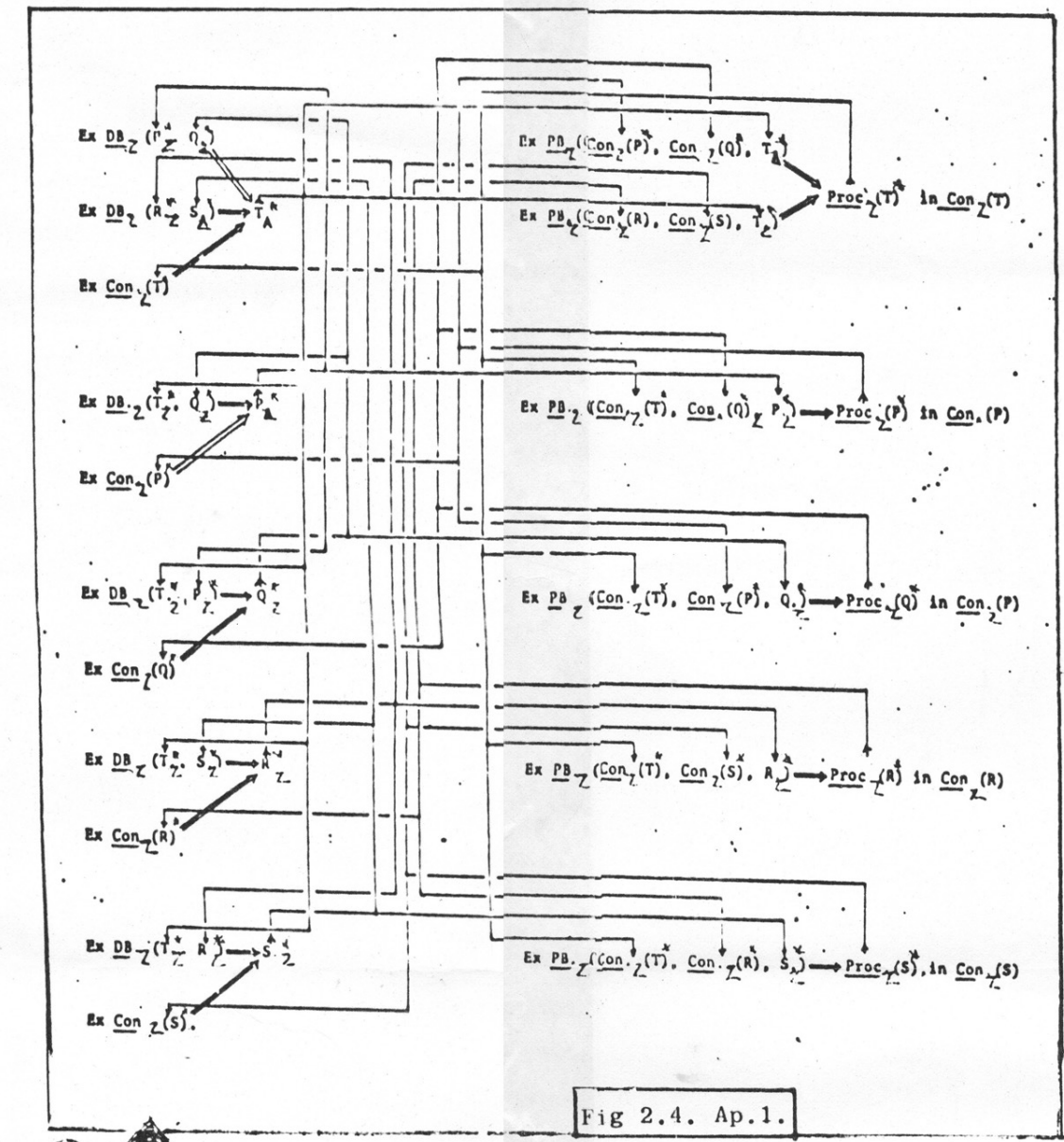
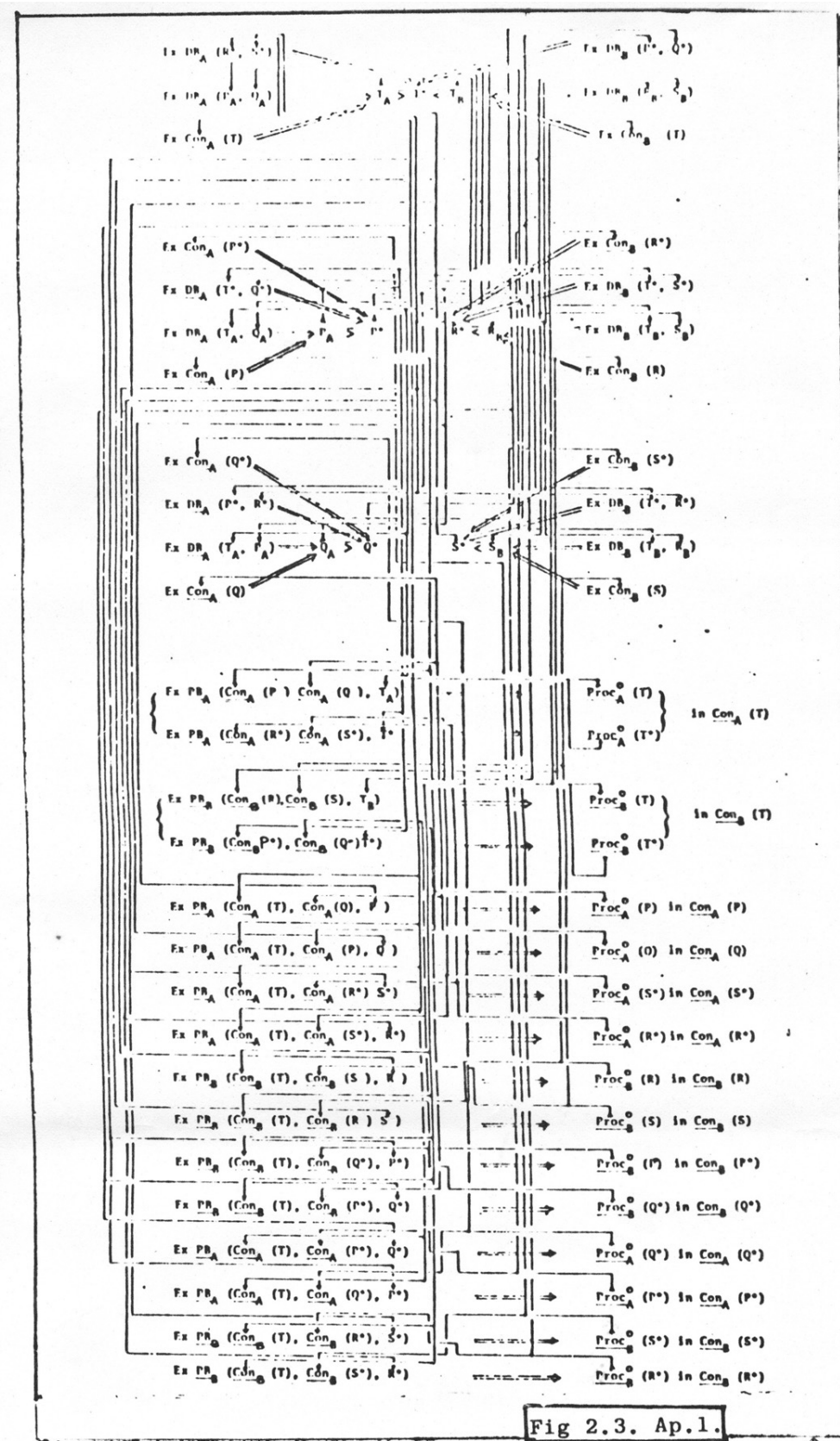


Fig 3.4. Ap. 1.



Gordon Pask's Cognitive Process Model of Conversation & Consciousness



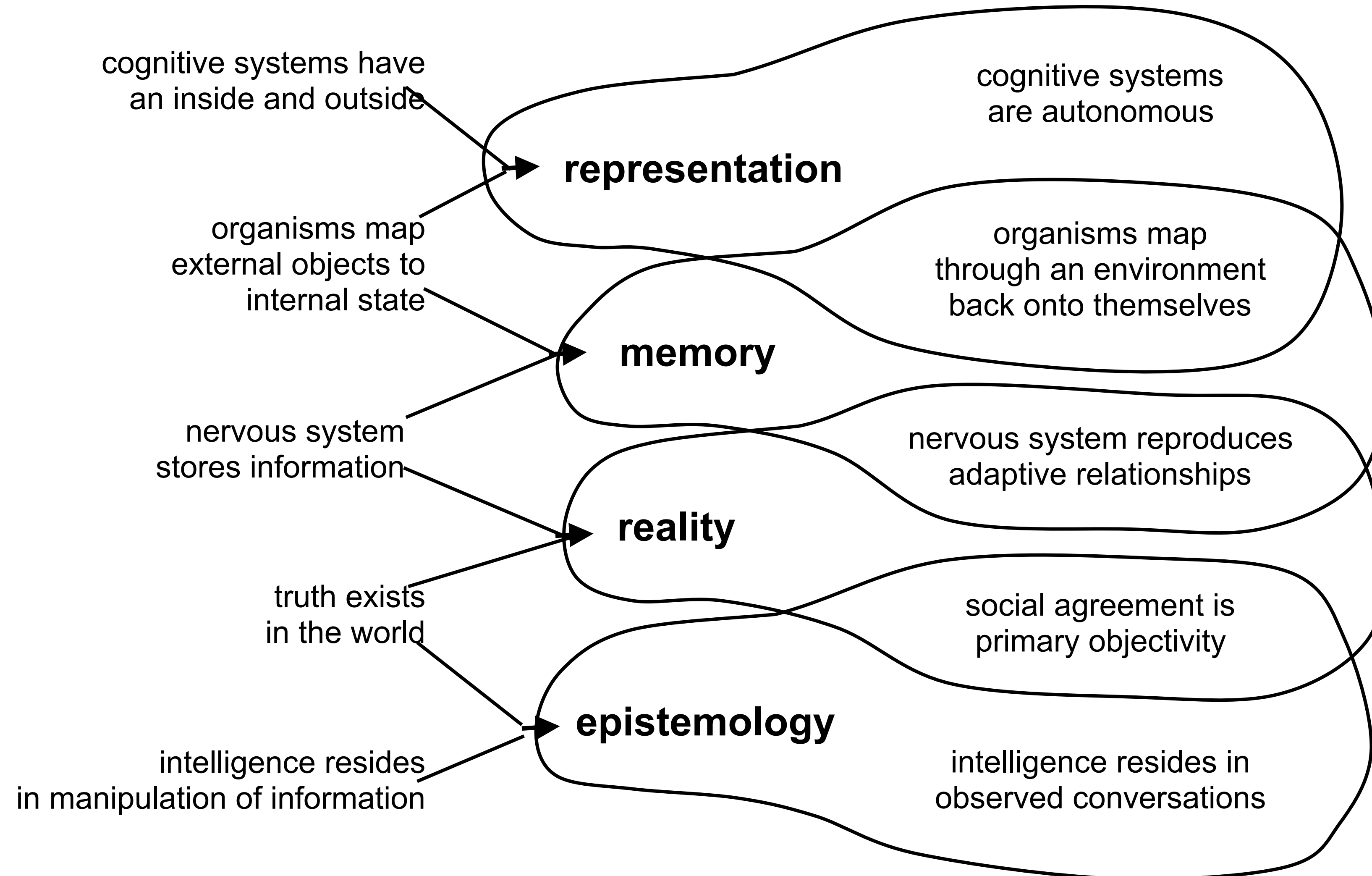
4 sheet
"End order expansion"

Fig 1. Ap. 1. The derivational structure underlying this expansion is not shown explicitly (it involves the terms $P, Q, R, S, Con_A, Con_B, DB, DB_2, PB, PB_2, Ex \Rightarrow$ and \rightarrow as well as a specific minimal realisation of an organisationally closed and informationally open production system). The derivations shown in the picture are of some interest. If A and B agree over an understanding (Fig 2.3.) then, before they agree they are distinct, but analogous (under β , as before) relating Fig 1.2. and Fig 2.2. After their agreement (the temporal succession analogy, γ , reflecting the distinction between t and $t + \Delta t$), that the common understanding of T^A, P^A, Q^A, R^A, S^A in Fig 2.4. permits the derivation of Fig 2.3. from β and γ . Under these circumstances it is legitimate to derive static (but cyclic) inscriptions (Fig 3.2., Fig 3.3., Fig 3.4) and to justify the operation of pruning (as in Fig 3.5). The picture thus exhibits the necessary interaction between the fundamental distinctions of individuals (A, B), of temporal succession ($t, t + \Delta t$) and the process Ex of a stable concept "of" some individual. This essential but often obfuscated interdependence seems to account for the "difficulty" (as well as the potential power) of conversation theory. Notice, for example, that if (as an easy way out of difficulty) we had asserted "A and B have agreed to understand T^A " then Fig 2.3. could be derived, by a simple derivation, from Fig 1.2 and Fig 2.2. but such a statement would render the picture of descriptive value only.

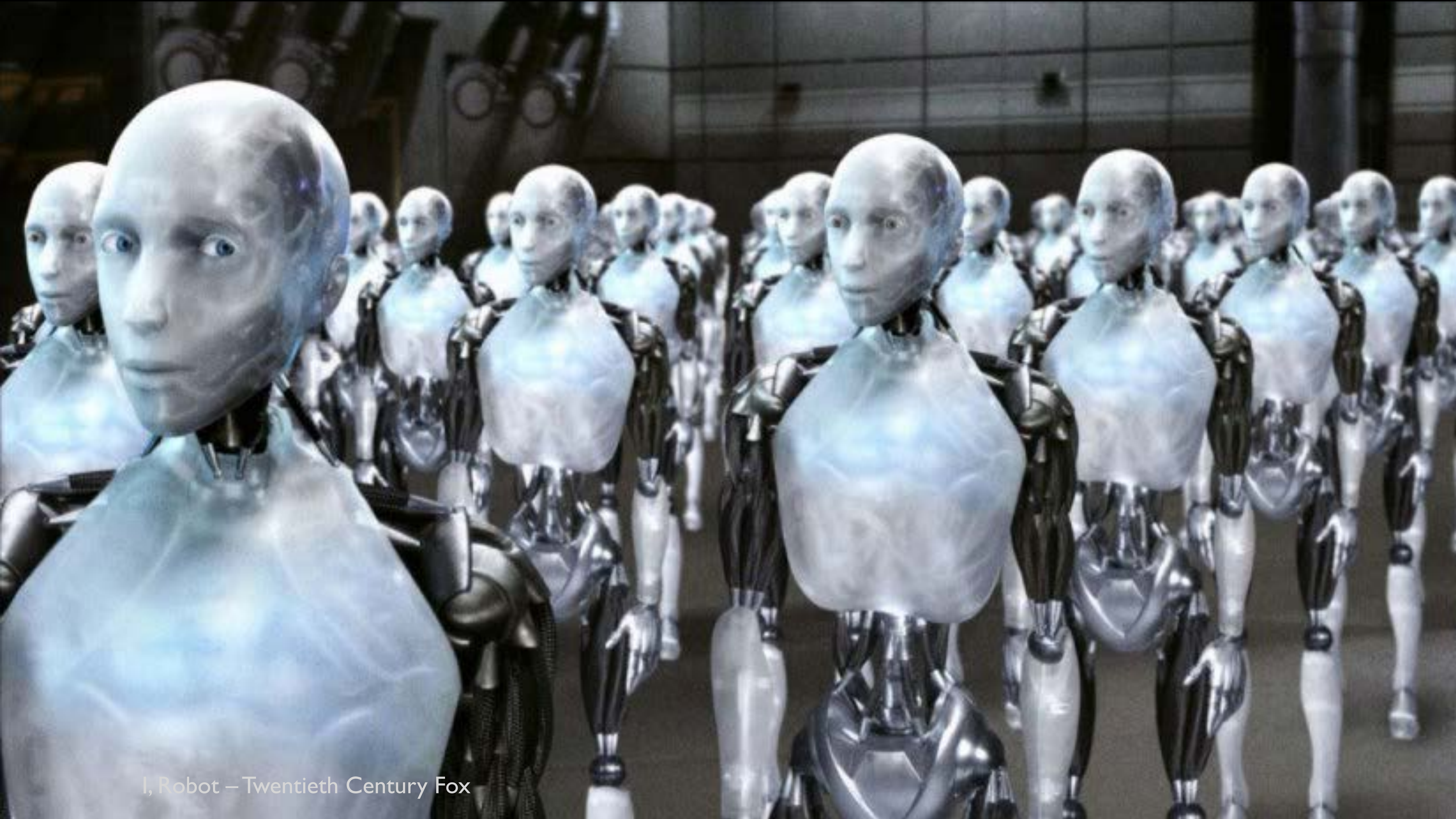
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

contrasted with

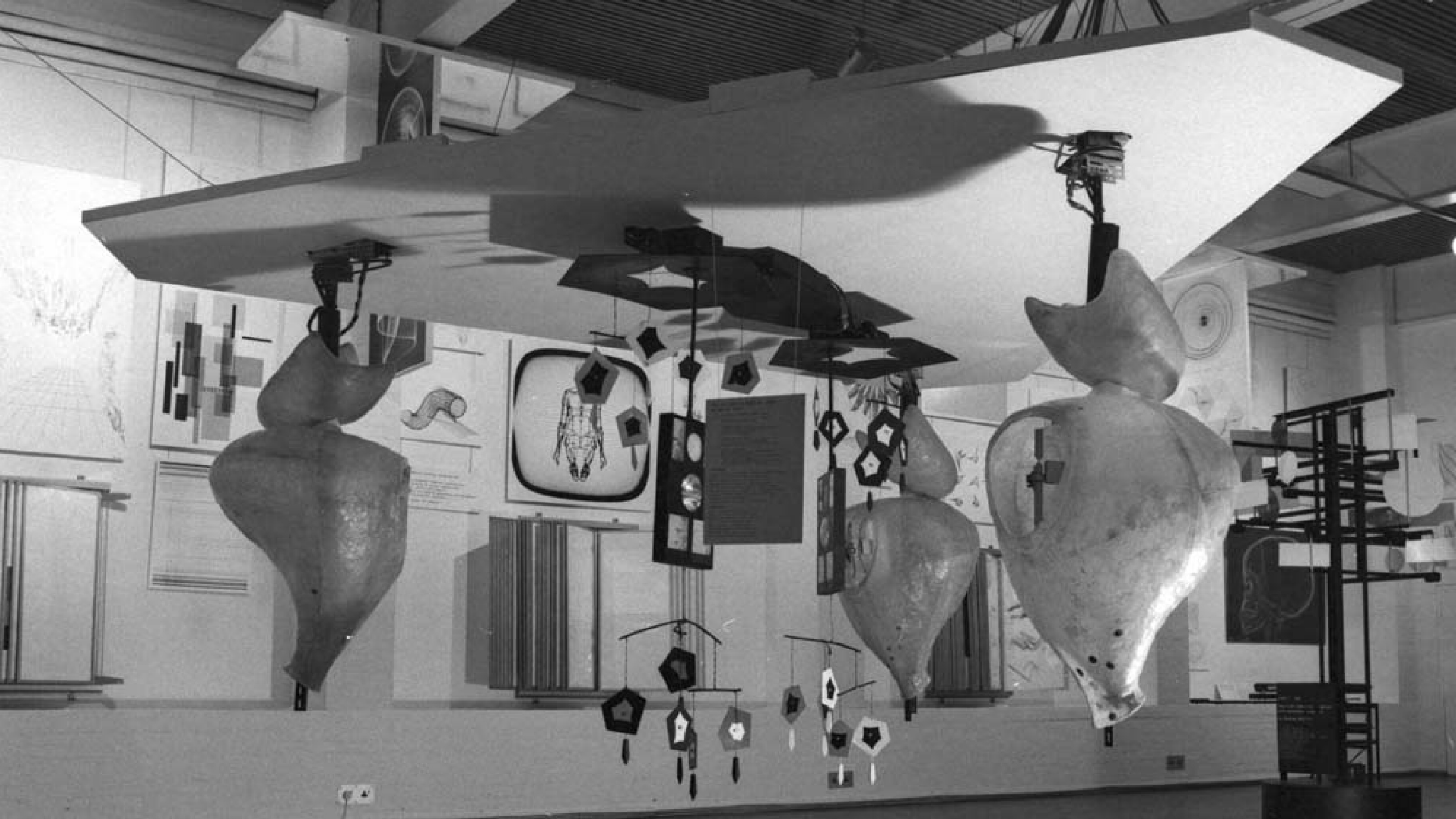
CYBERNETICS



[Click for more on AI versus Cybernetics](#)



I, Robot – Twentieth Century Fox



Cybernetic Design = Design for Conversation

**The goal of design for conversations is to facilitate the emergence of conditions in which others can design—
to create conditions in which conversations can emerge—
and thus to increase the number of choices open to all.**

— Dubberly & Pangaro, *Cybernetics and Design: Conversations for Action*, 2017

[Click for more on Cybernetics and Design](#)

“I shall act always so as to increase the total number of choices.”

— Ethical Imperative, Heinz von Foerster

[Click for more on Ethics and Cybernetics](#)

“If you desire to see, learn how to act.”

— Aesthetic Imperative, Heinz von Foerster

[Click for more on Heinz von Foerster](#)

The Future of Cybernetics is Conversation

Download slides from pangaro.com/Pangaro-Nano-2018.pdf

Special Thanks to:

Karen Berntsen

Hugh Dubberly

Pooja Upadhyay

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The Future of Cybernetics is Conversation

Download slides from pangaro.com/Pangaro-Nano-2018.pdf

Appendices

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MFA Interaction Design Program
College for Creative Studies, Detroit
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Alexa, can you please acquire the skill of conversation
Alexa, what is “conversation”?

Applying C-L-E-A-T

Questions for Designing for Conversation

- What channel is being opened to begin the conversation?
Is the interruption reasonable in how and when it intrudes?
What is the bio-cost of the intrusion relative to its benefit?
Are there better ways to interrupt?
- Is the first message clear?
Does it offer something to the recipient?
- Does the exchange convey the potential benefits in continuing?
Is there learning or delight? Is curiosity or interest stimulated?
- Is meaning easily understood—
do the messages speak in the language of the participants?
Are messages sensitive to others' context, needs, interests, values?
How can messages be made more efficient or clear?

From “What is Conversation?”
Dubberly & Pangaro 2009

[http://www.dubberly.com/articles/
what-is-conversation.html](http://www.dubberly.com/articles/what-is-conversation.html)

Why can't AI + Conversation Interfaces do all this?

Applying C-L-E-A-T

Questions for Designing “Conversation Interfaces”

- What does the Conversation Interface (CUI) know about the user’s context— what more can it know, automatically or by input from the user?
- How can a user convey intention *to* the software— can the CUI be open to the user’s goals, values, preferences?
- Does the CUI evolve during the engagement— in addition to understanding the user, can it build new knowledge?
- When should the CUI be confident it understands the user— and when should it double-check?
- Can the CUI’s capabilities build a relationship of trust— what does that take?

From “What is Conversation?”
Dubberly & Pangaro 2009

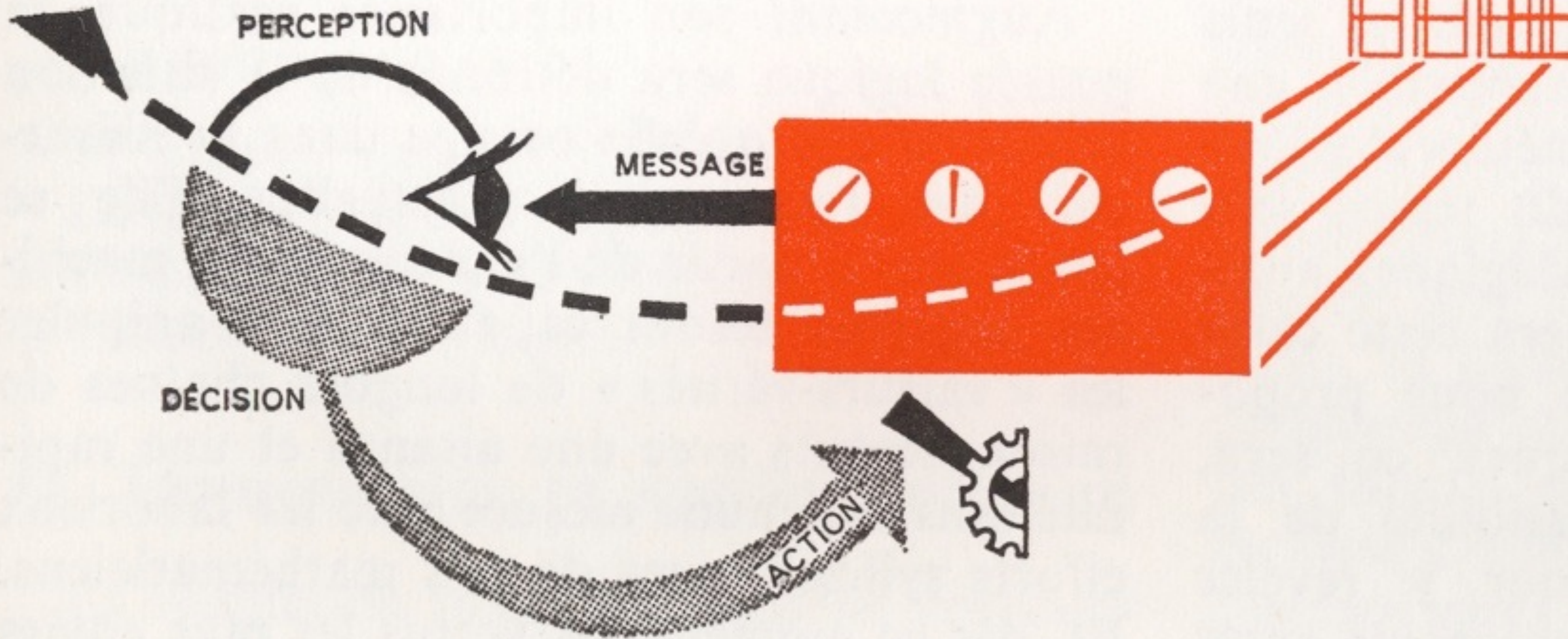
[http://www.dubberly.com/articles/
what-is-conversation.html](http://www.dubberly.com/articles/what-is-conversation.html)

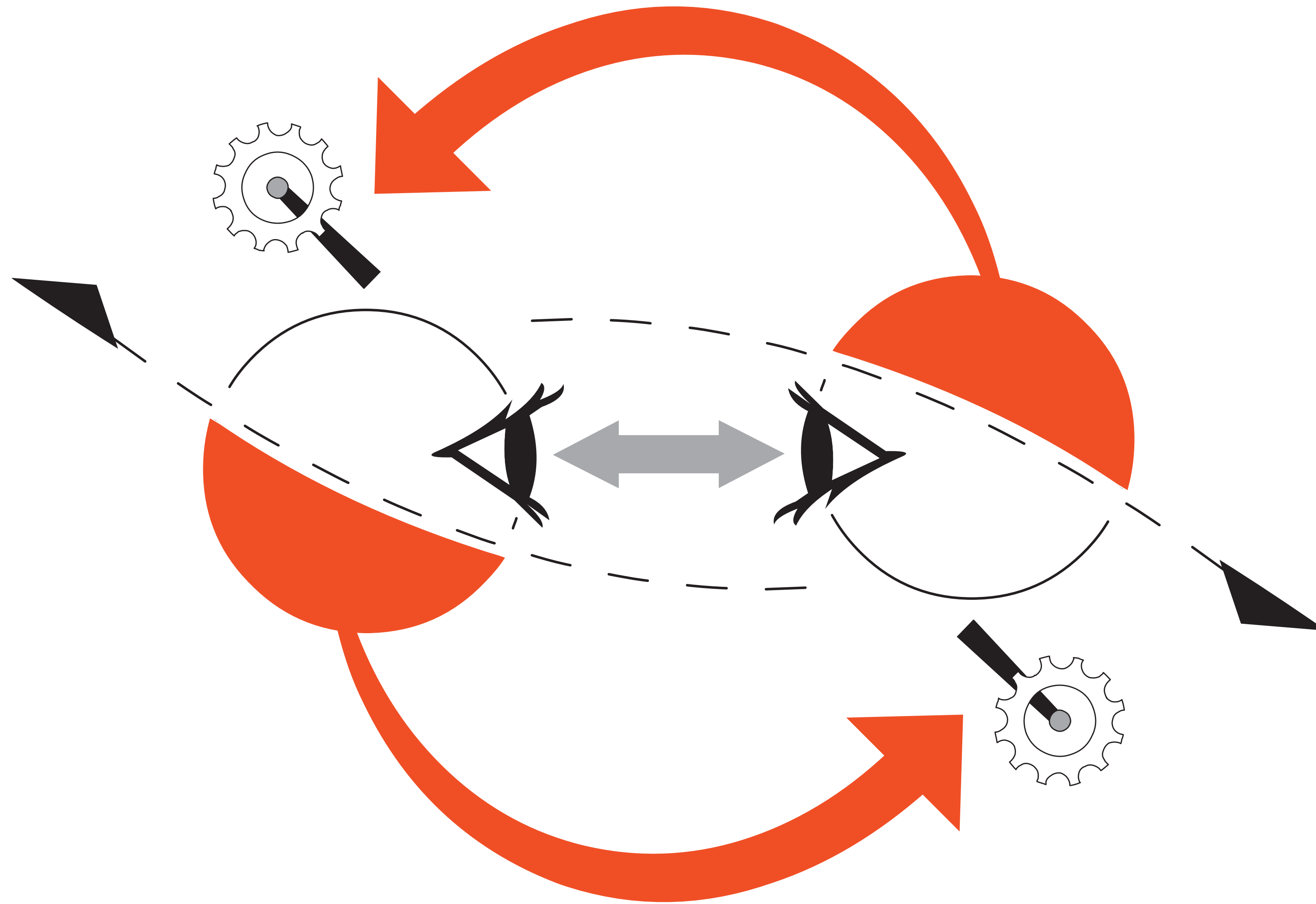
When will Conversation Interfaces do all this?

The Machine Revolution

Role of machines...	Industrial Revolution (1750–1850)	Computer Revolution (1955–1995)	Conversation Revolution (2015–?)
Extend and enhance...	...muscles	...nervous system	...muscles and nervous system
Create value by lowering the cost of...	...performing physical labor	...performing cognitive tasks	...collaborating

THÉORIE DU MESSAGE

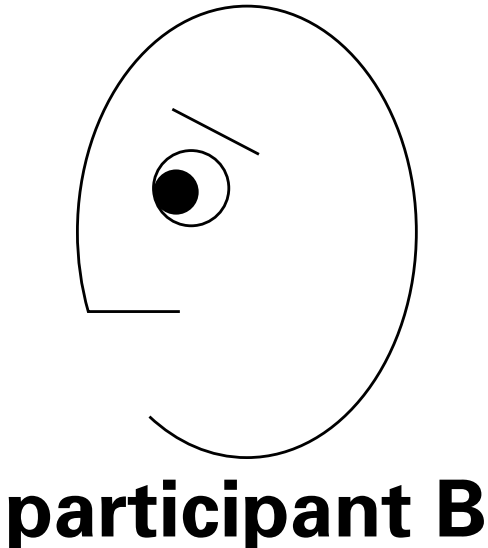
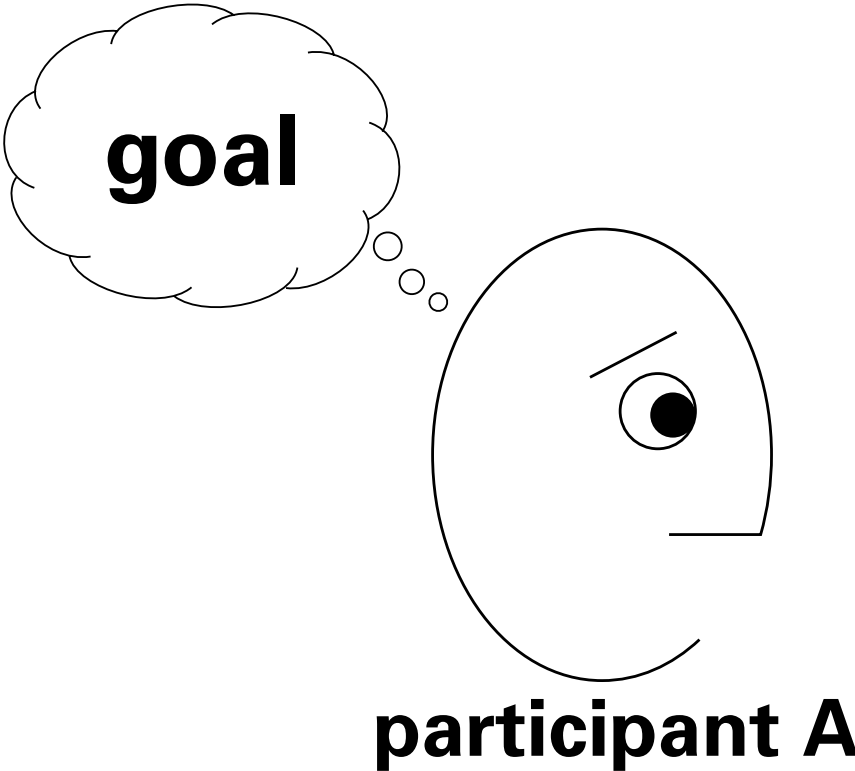




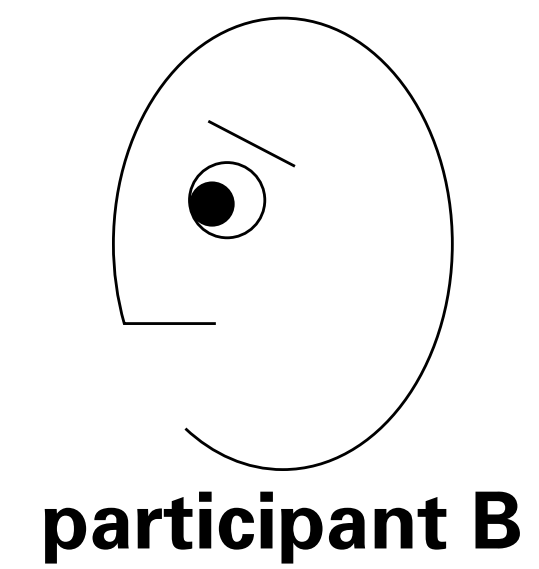
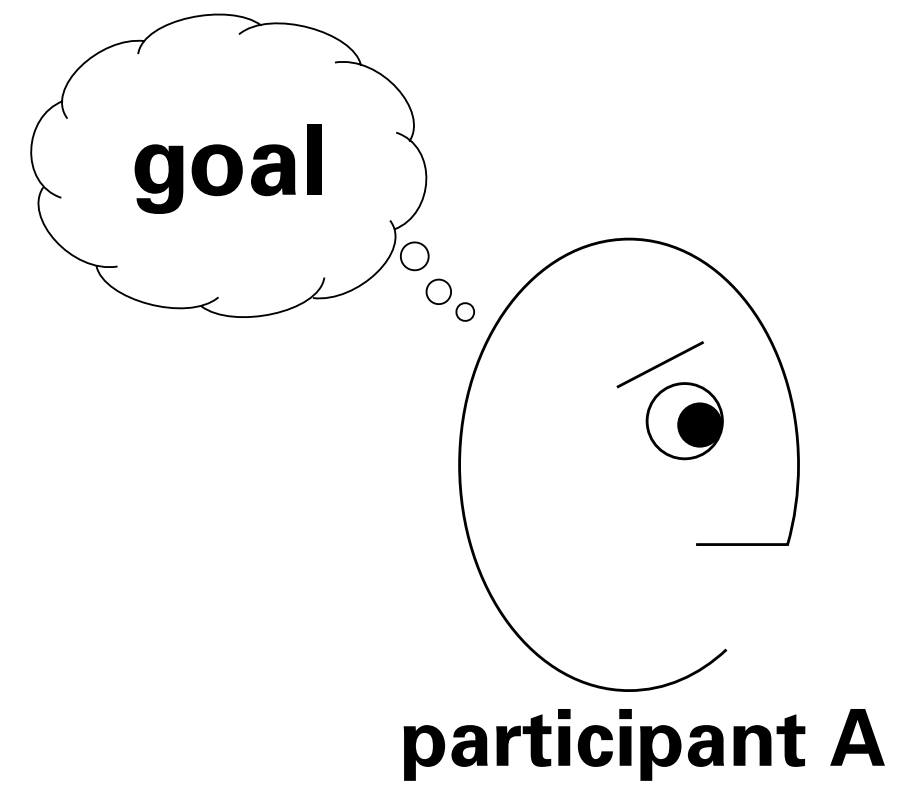
“Everyone designs who devises courses of action aimed at changing existing situations into preferred ones.”

— Herbert Simon

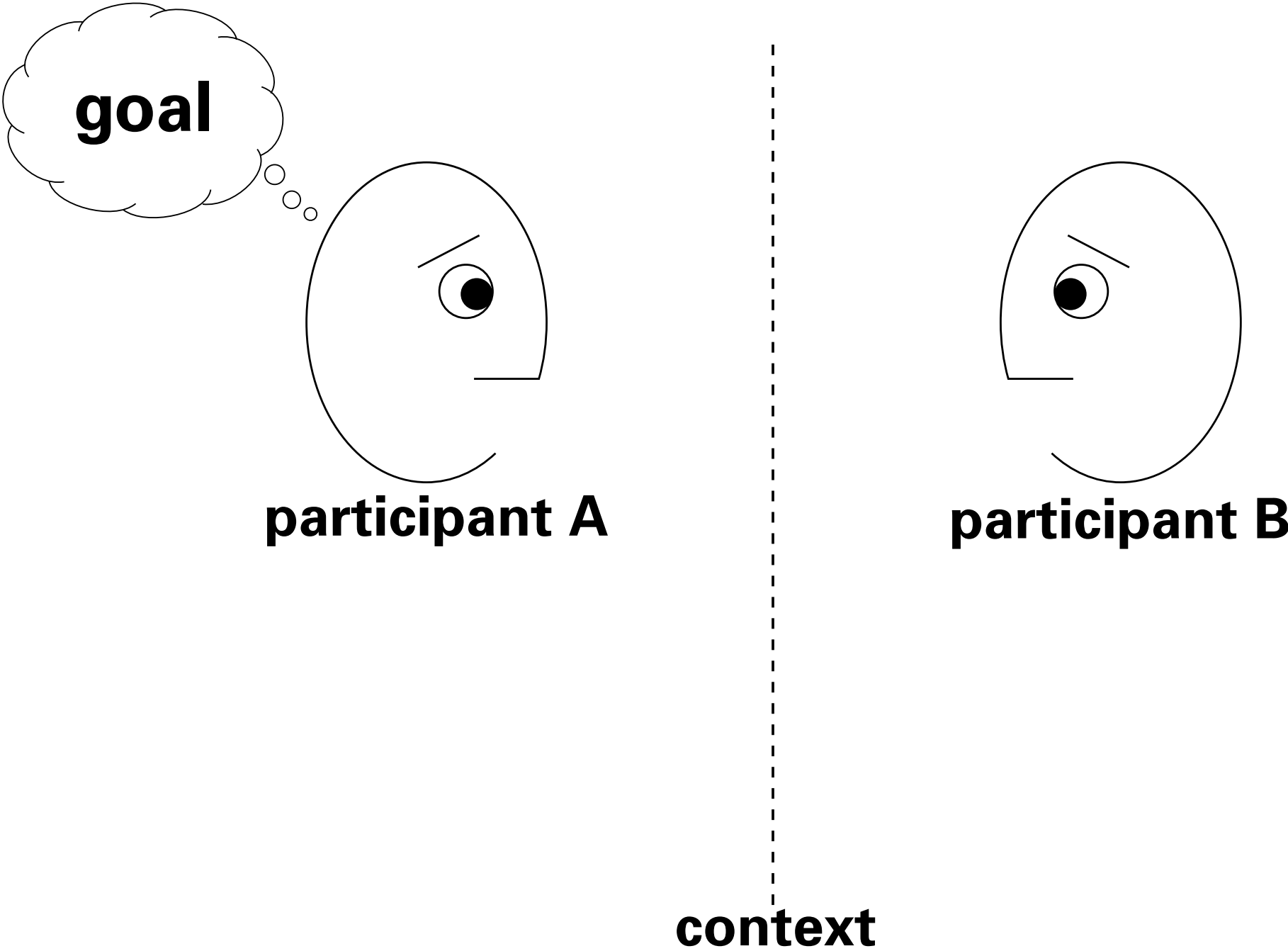
Conversational Frame



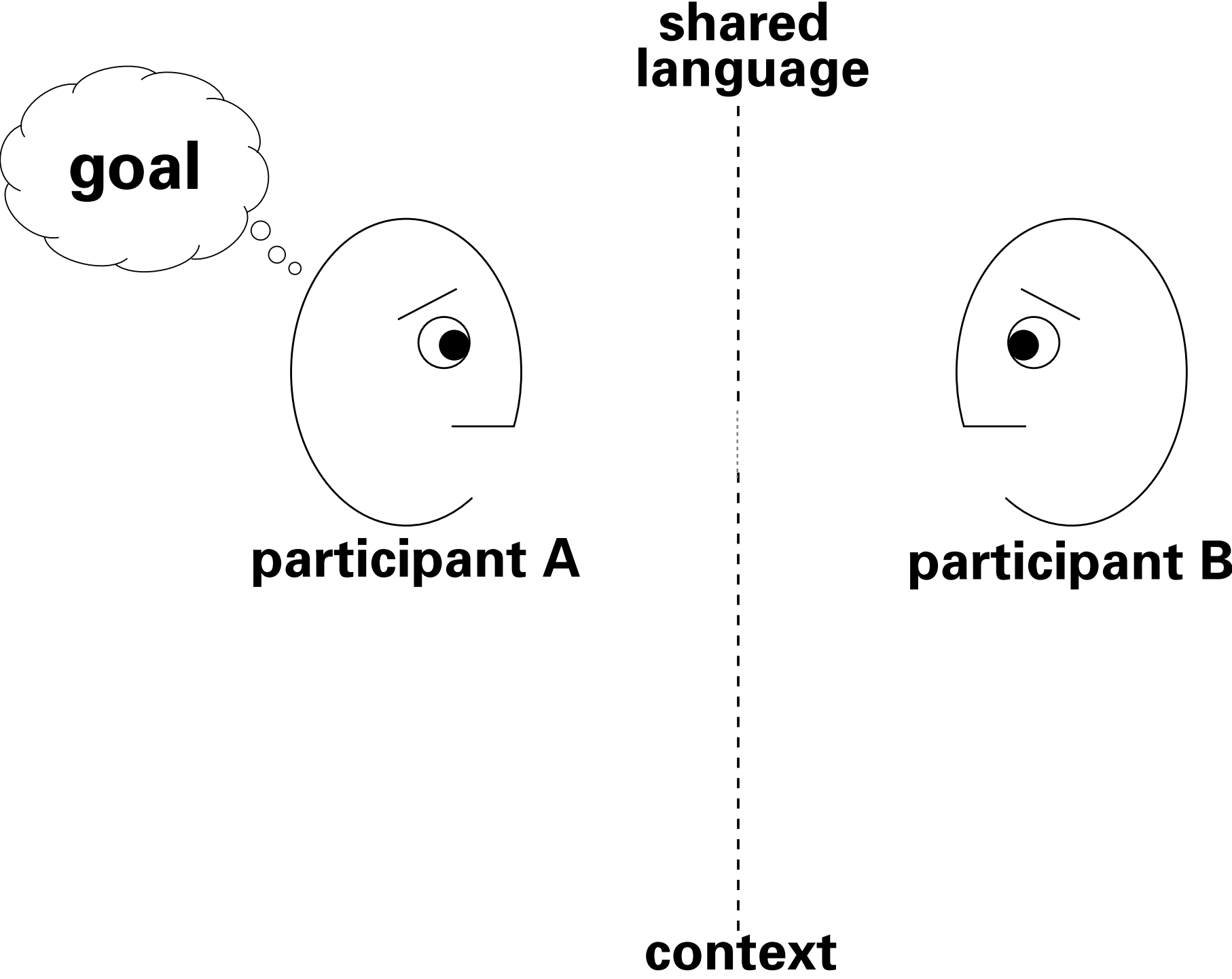
A participant has a goal.



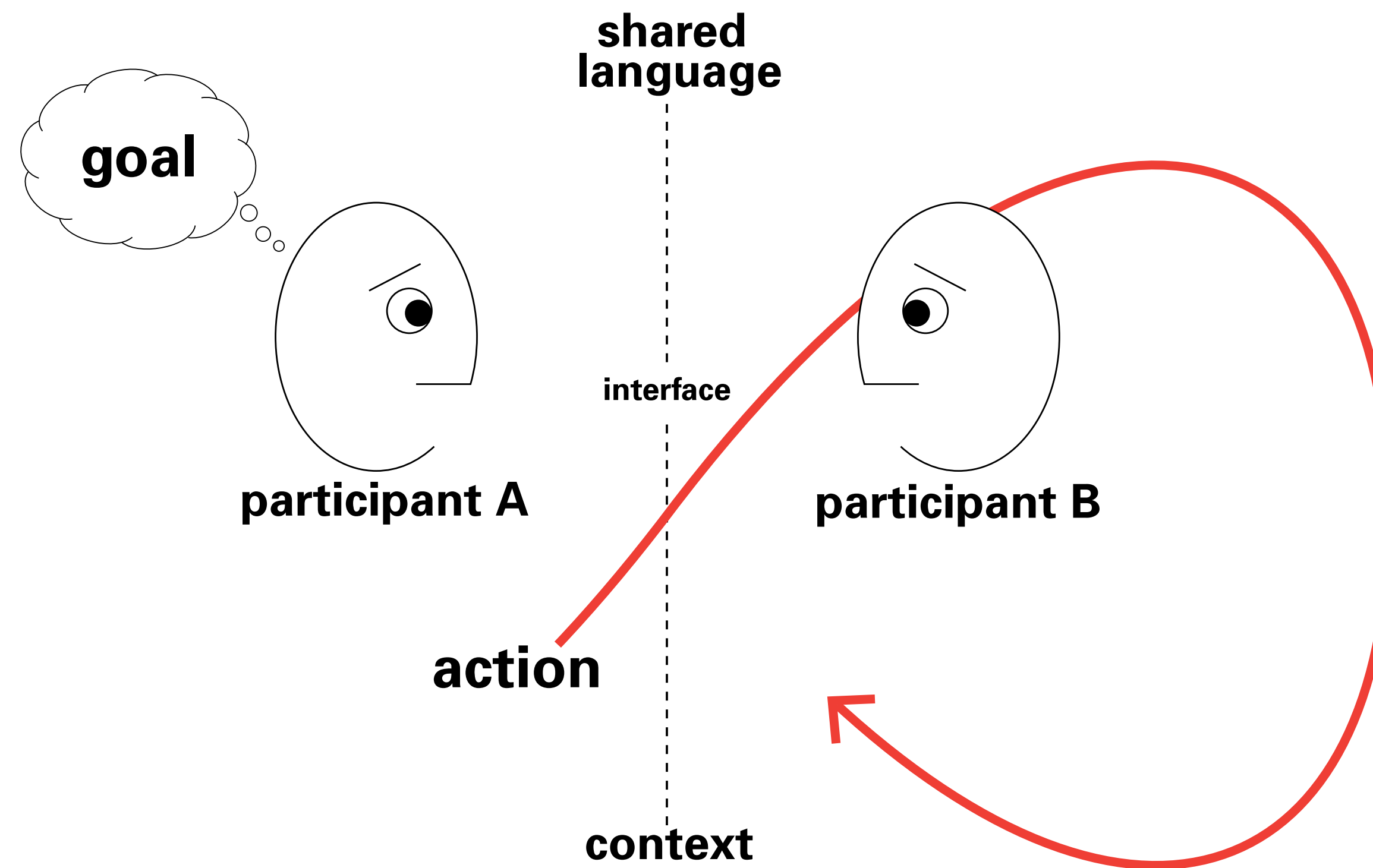
Chooses a context.



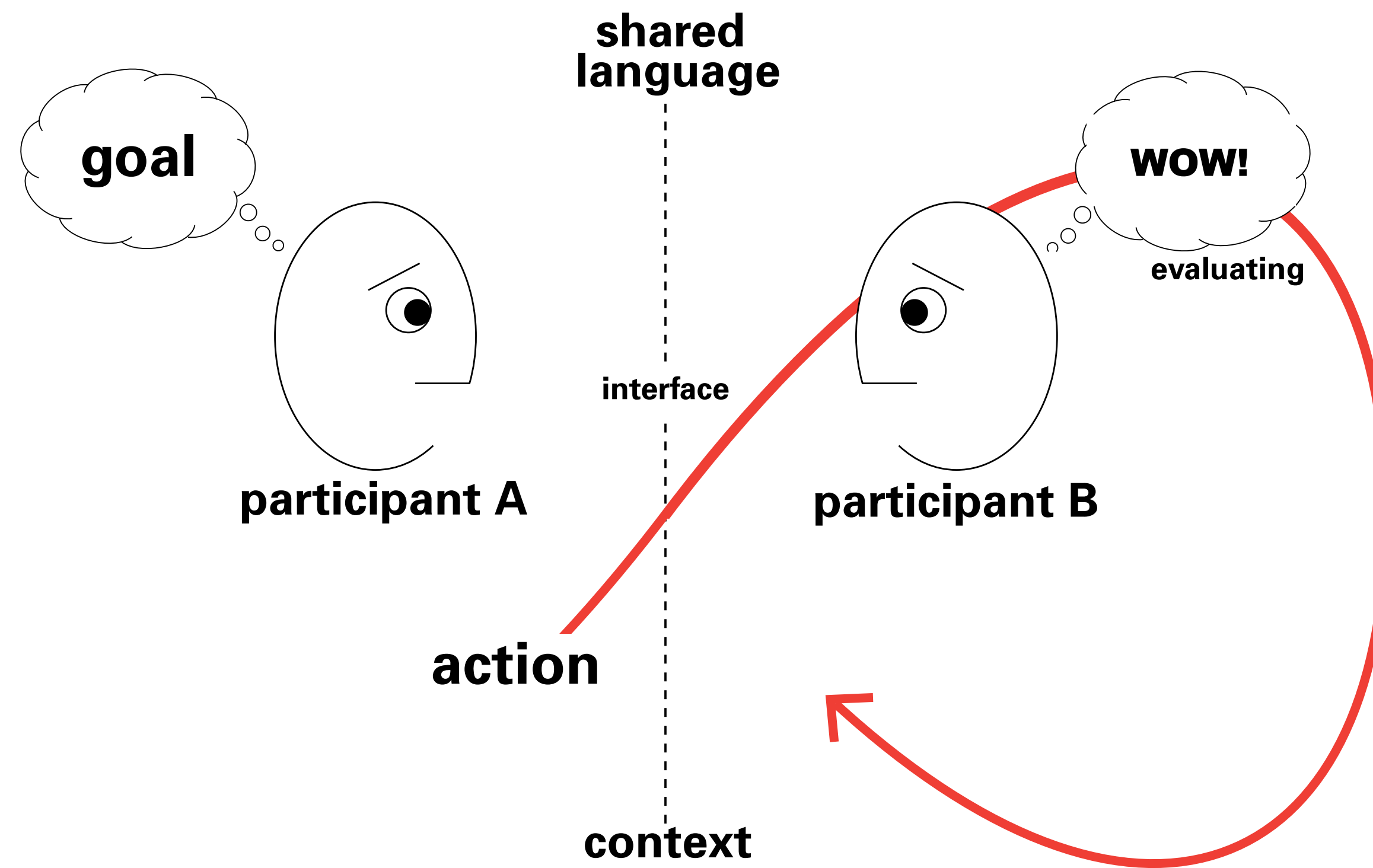
Chooses a language.



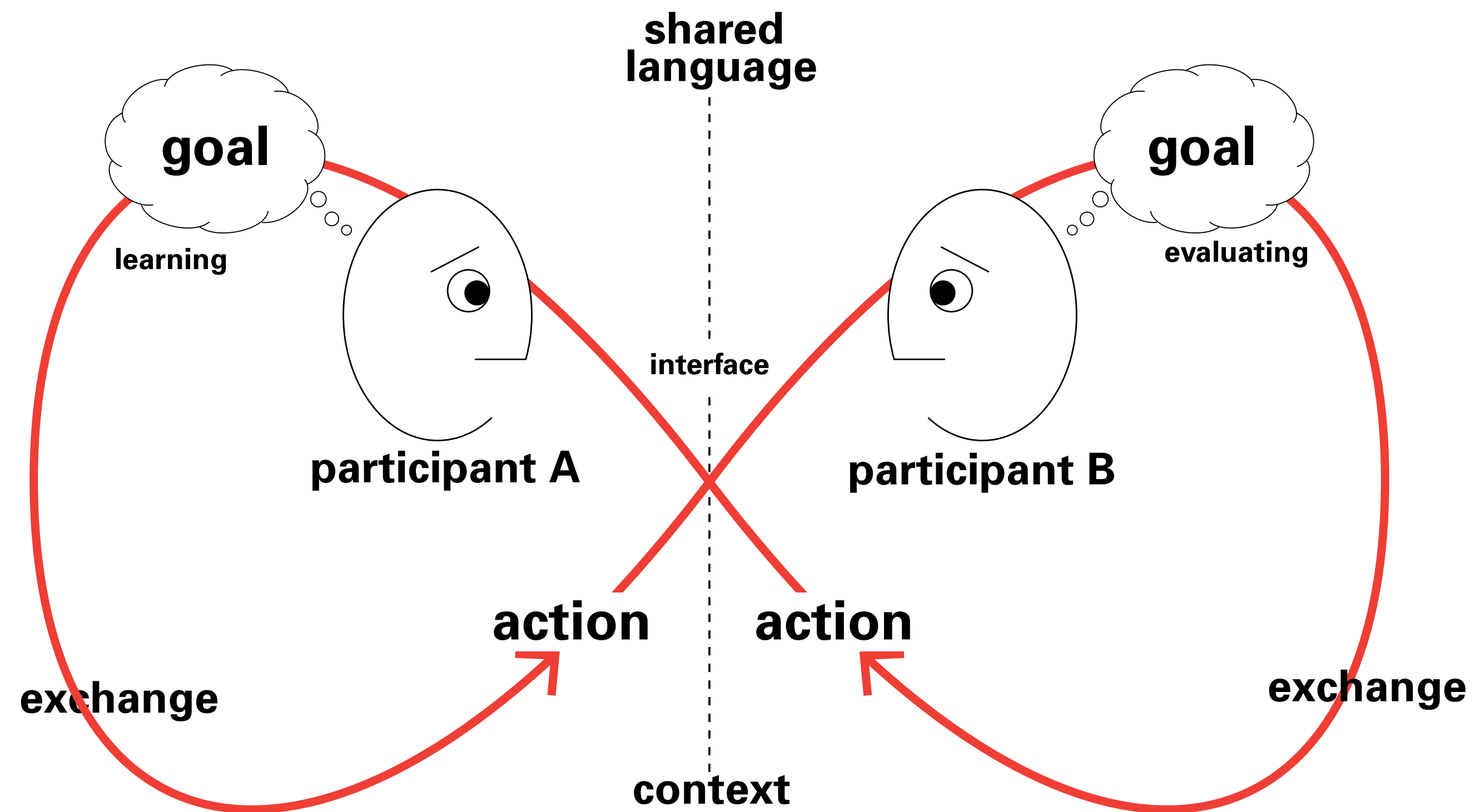
Begins an exchange.



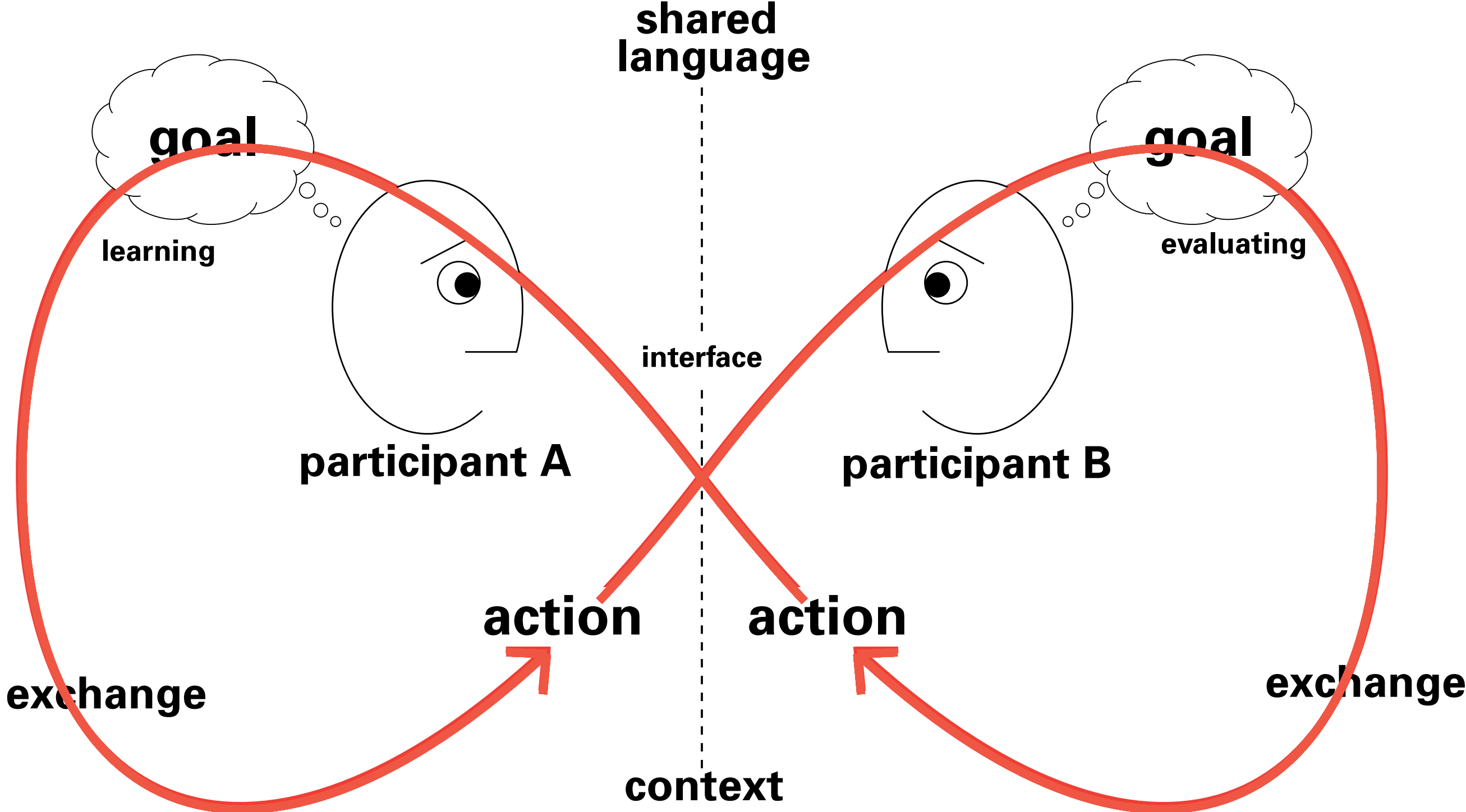
May evoke a response...



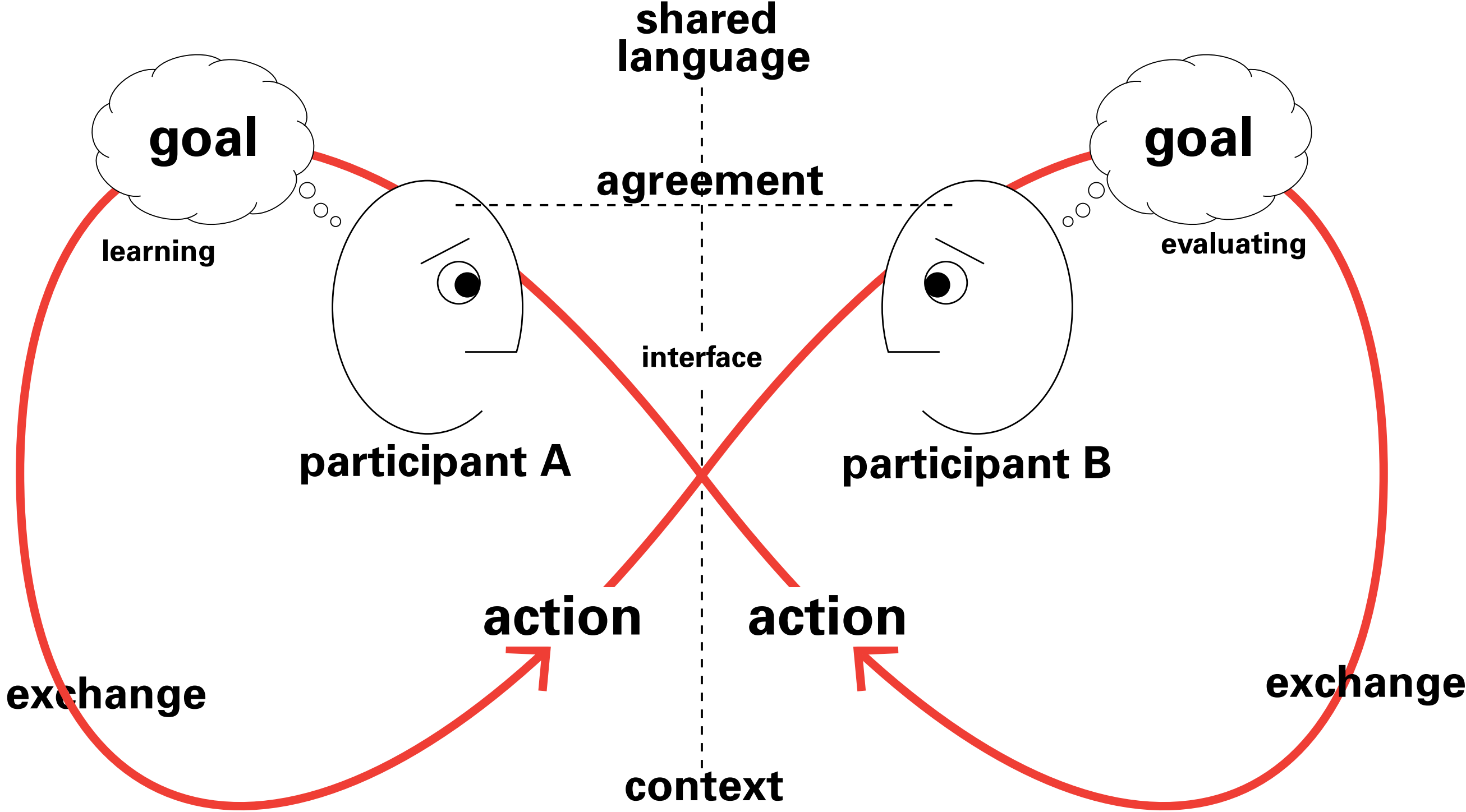
... and a reaction that evokes a reaction...



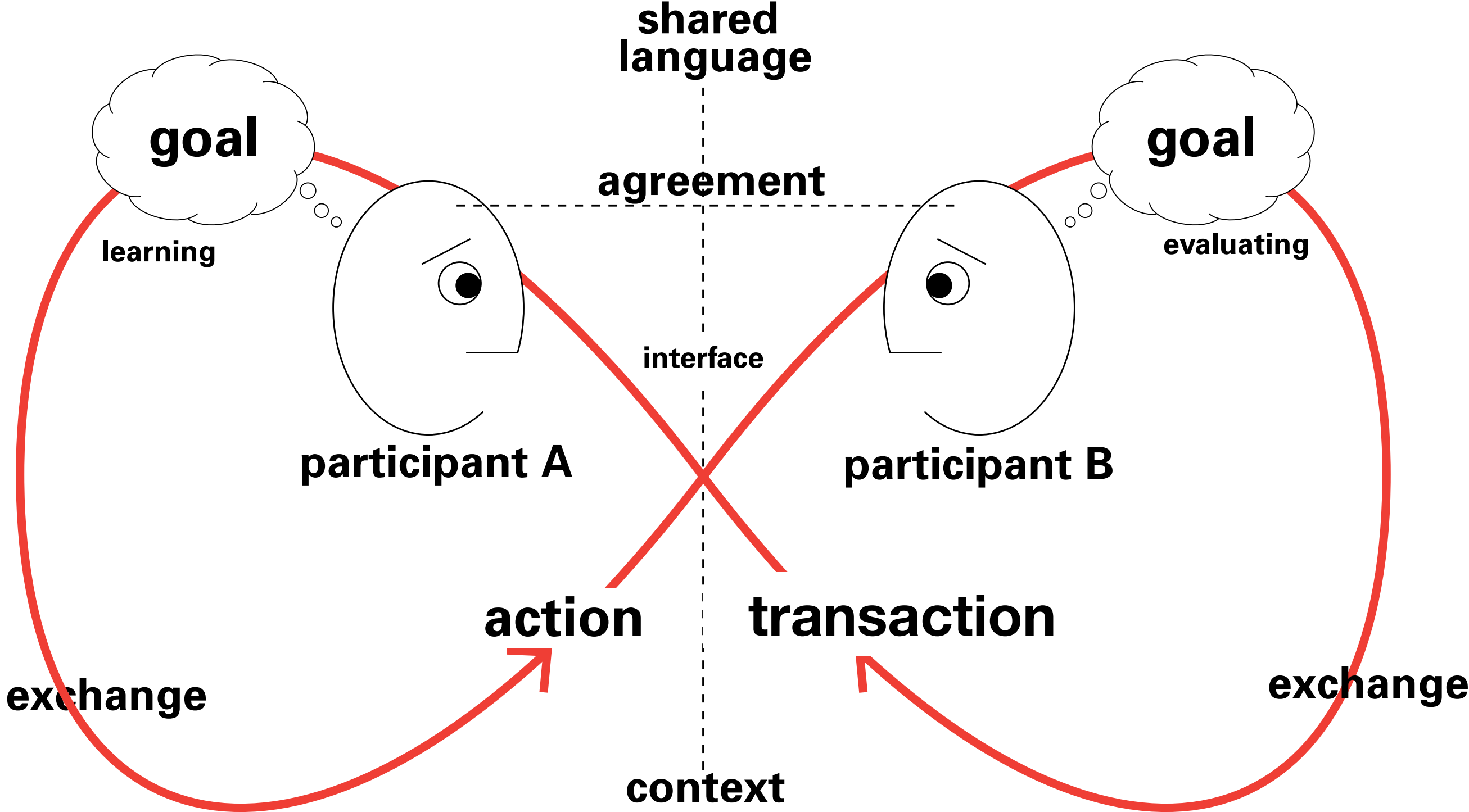
The engagement may continue.



An agreement may be reached.

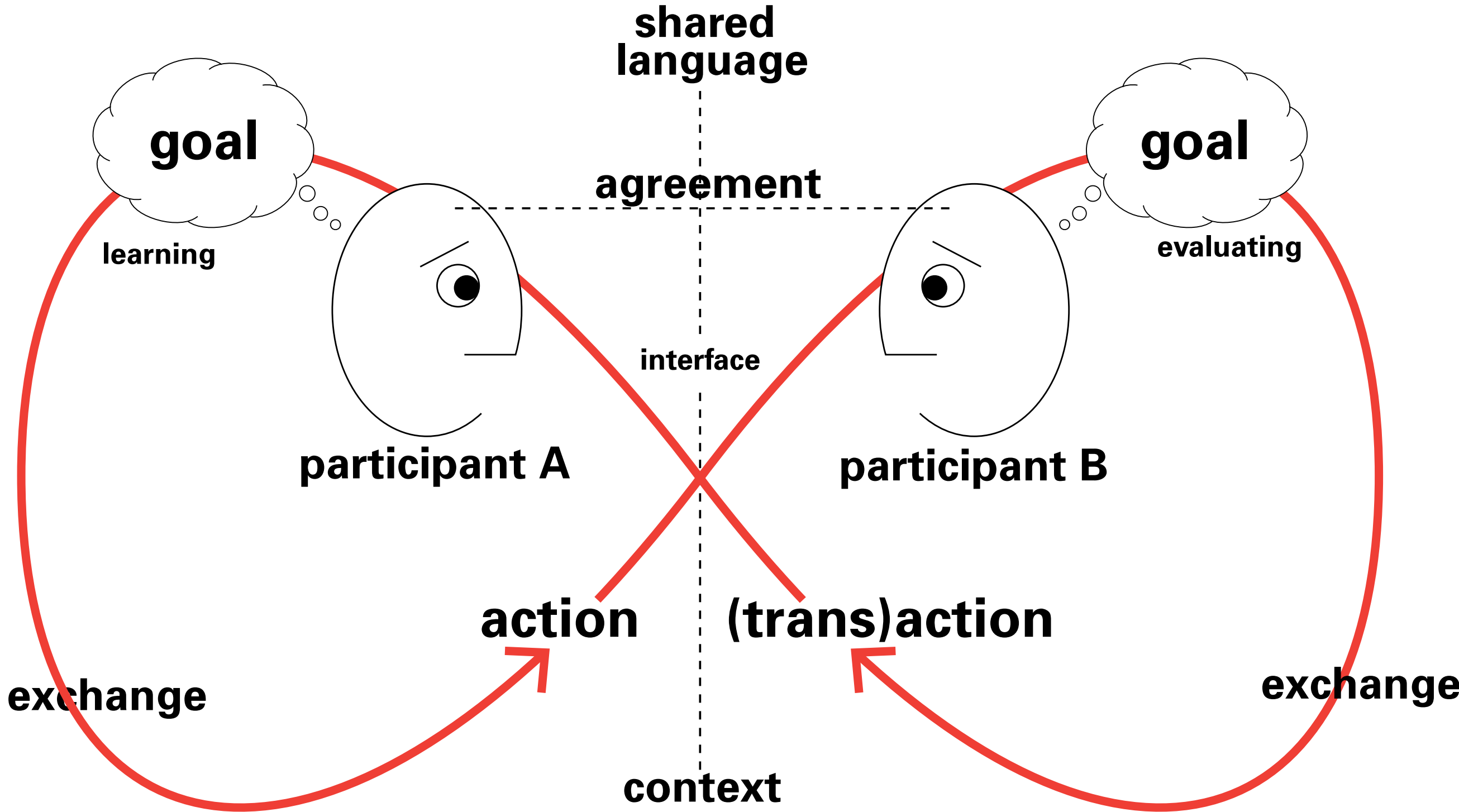


A transaction may occur.



after Dubberly Design Office 2008

Conversation Redux



Conversation Redux — C-L-E-A-T

C – Context
L – Language
E – Engagement
A – Agreement
T – Transaction

