

What are the core  
skills of a designer?

# The Core Skills of a Designer

- To synthesize a solution from all of the relevant constraints
- To frame, or reframe, the problem and objective
- To create alternatives
- To select from those alternatives
- Prototyping

[Moggridge]

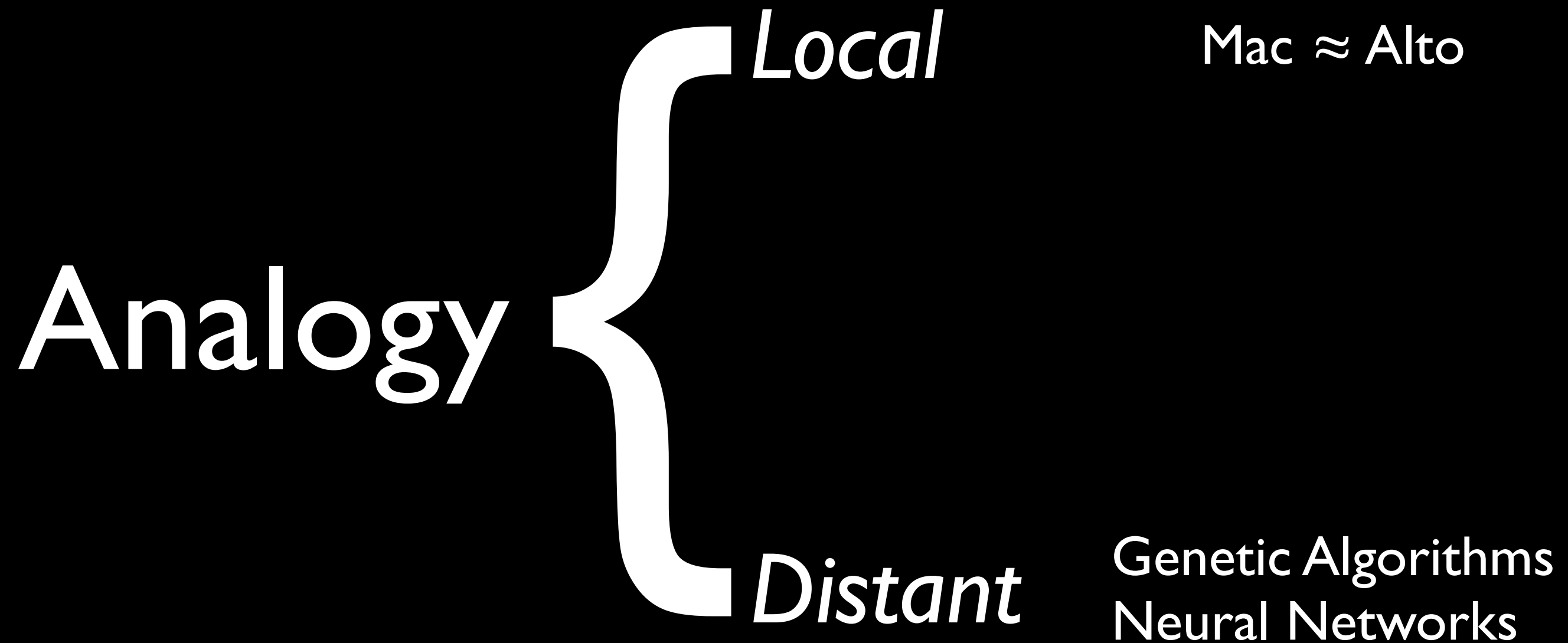
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[Moggridge]

How do you generate  
new ideas?

*Analogy*  
*Metaphor*  
*Simile*



*“We may say most aptly that the Analytical Engine weaves algebraic patterns just as the Jacquard loom weaves flowers and leaves.” — Ada Lovelace*

[Sanders & Thagard]



Make the familiar strange



Make the strange familiar

[W.J.J. Gordon, *Synectics*]

# Intense Mode Creativity

- Whiteboard
- Paper
- Focus

[Sanders & Thagard]



# Casual Mode Creativity

## **1. Immersion in problem domain**

2. Absence of immediate pressure

3. Absence of distractions

4. Mental relaxation

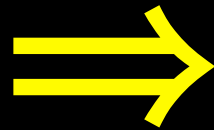
5. Unstructured time

6. Solitude

[Sanders & Thagard]

# Casual Mode Creativity

- take a shower
- go for a walk
- garden
- knit
- cook
- doodle



light physical activity  
that you are  
comfortable with and  
not distracted by

# Guiding Your Search

# Guiding Your Search

- Morphological Analysis
- Relax a Constraint
- Find another Pareto point
- Try a different architectural style / pattern
- Change the technology
- Local analogy to normal programs
- What would Dijkstra do?

# Morphological Analysis

- Identify components
- Compute all component combinations
- Evaluate each
- Find the Pareto Front

# Relax a Constraint

- Restaurants:
  - have menus
  - serve food
  - charge money for food
- The kernel manages the file system

# Another Pareto Point

- Your current design(s) represent different trade-offs in terms of the analytical criteria
- Pick a different trade-off and design for it

# Different Pattern/Style

- Garlan & Shaw designed KWIC in four different architectural styles
  - they have additional (larger) case studies
- Exercise #2 used two different patterns for a simple calculator
- Grab a catalog of patterns/styles and start browsing through it



# Change the Technology

- *Weak Form:*
  - substitute an interchangeable component
- *Strong Form:*
  - change programming paradigms
  - Haskell? Prolog?
  - etc.

# Local Analogy to *the* Normal Programs

- **OS**: monolithic, microkernel, hypervisor
- **DB**: hierarchical, relational row-store, relational column-store, object-oriented, time-series
- **Compilers**: ahead-of-time batch, ahead-of-time incremental, just-in-time, interpreter
- **Distributed systems**: centralized, p2p

# What would Dijkstra do?

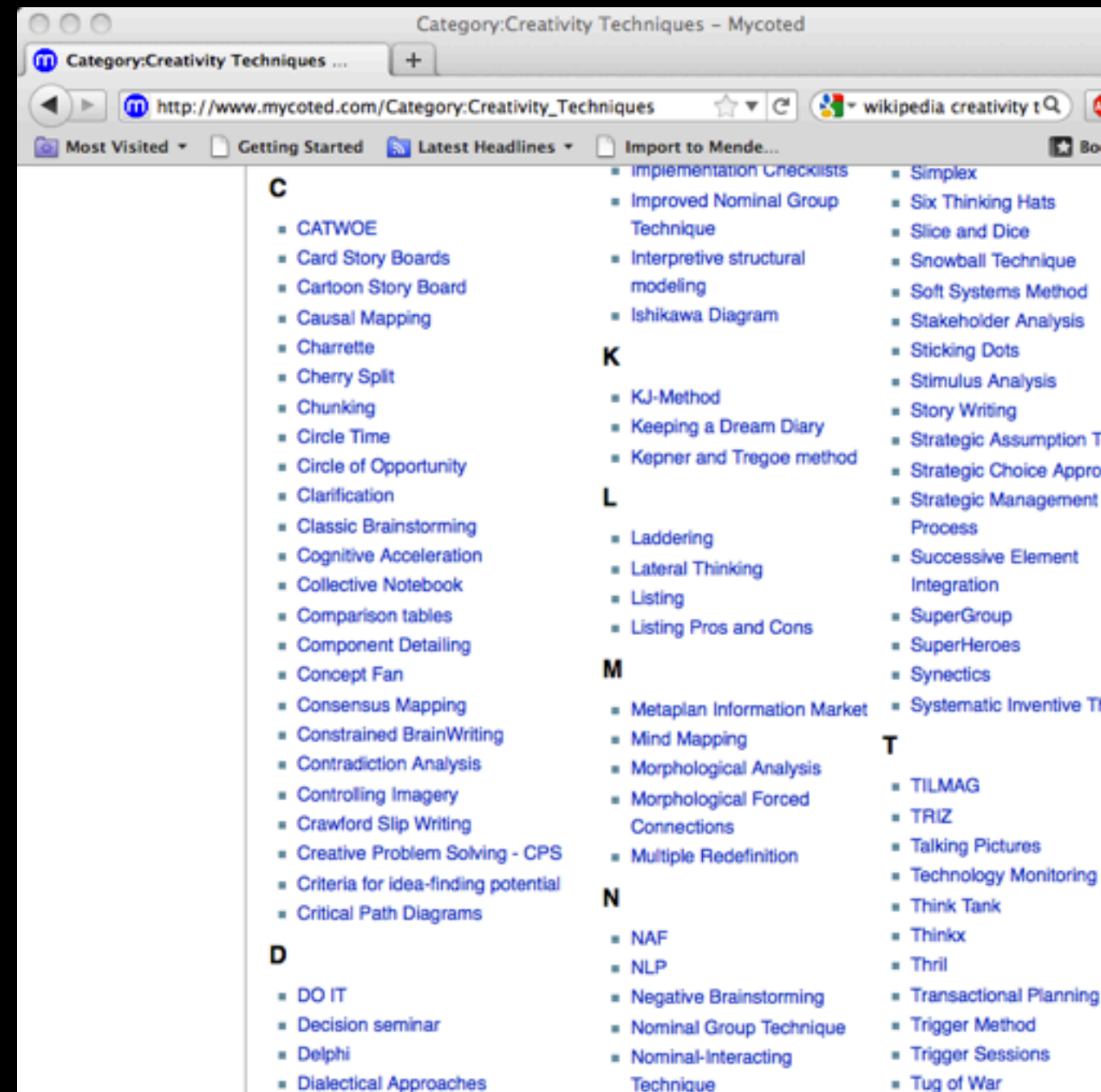
- Simon Peyton-Jones
- Tony Hoare
- Rob Pike
- Joshua Bloch
- Michael Stonebreaker
- Ted Codd
- Linus Torvalds
- Larry Wall
- Donald Knuth
- David Parnas
- Fred Brooks
- Michael Jackson

# Can creativity be done in a group?

Or is it a flicker of solitary genius?

# Group Approaches

- Brainstorming
- Think, Pair, Share
- Six Hats [de Bono]
- Synectics [Gordon]
- *etc*



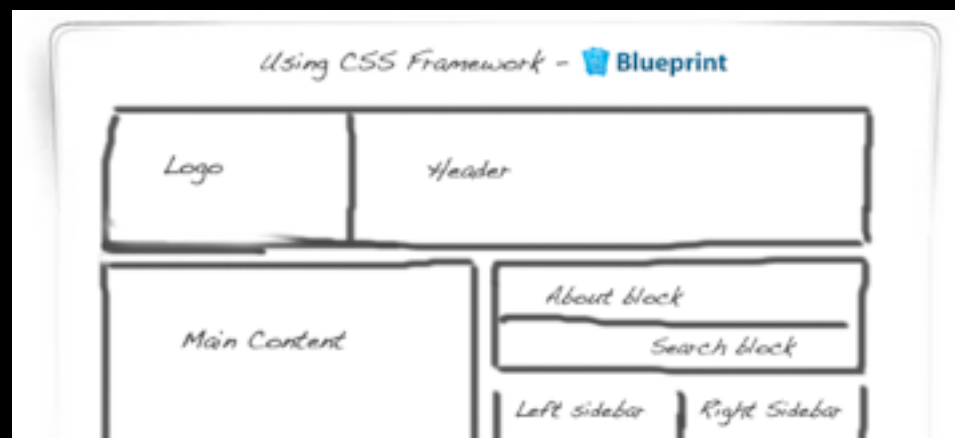
blurt out ideas  
lower inhibitions



don't judge  
don't discuss

aim for quantity  
set a quota





**Think:** sketch  $k$  ideas

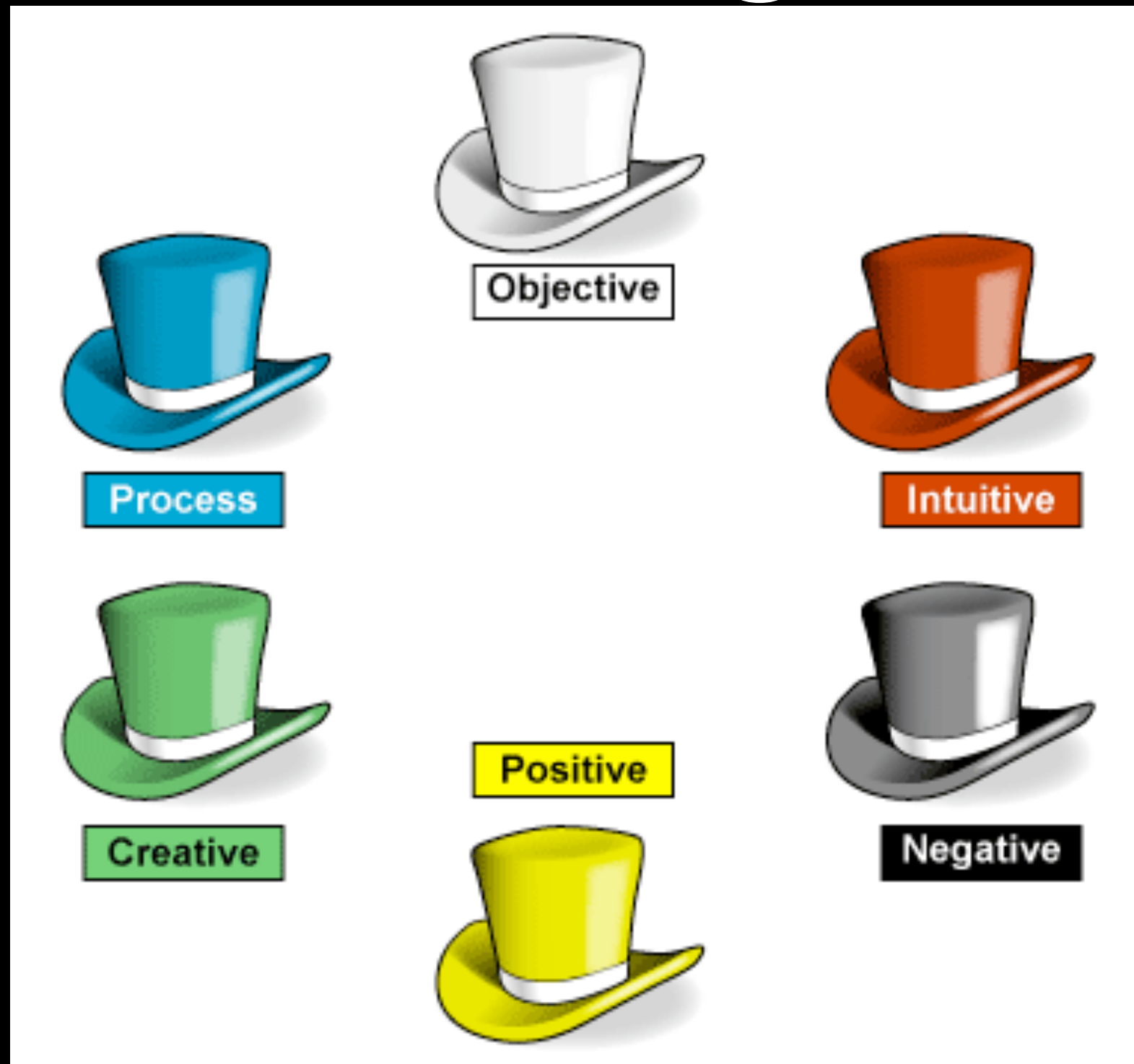


**Pair:** annotate sketches



**Share:** post & discuss

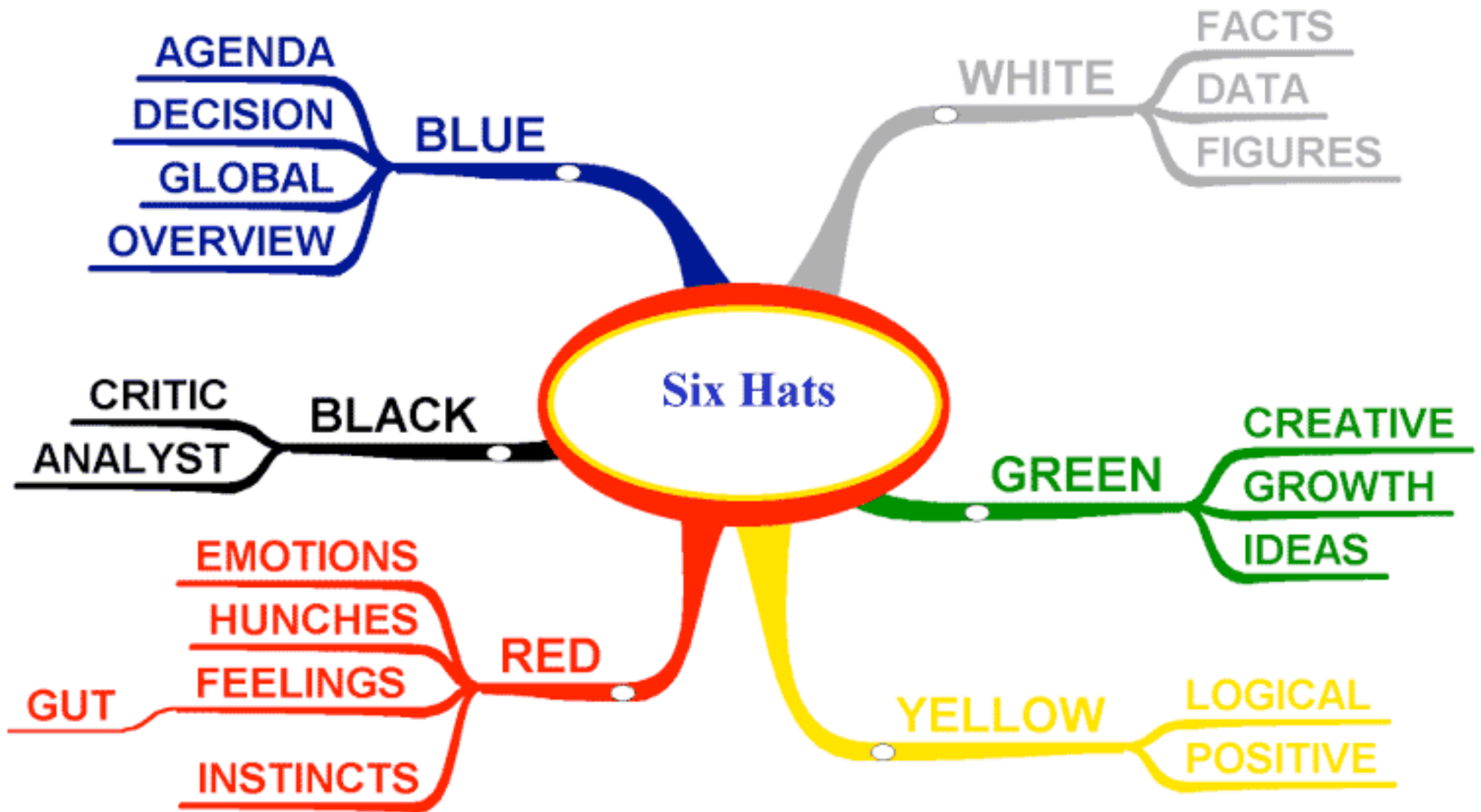
# Six Thinking Hats



[de Bono]

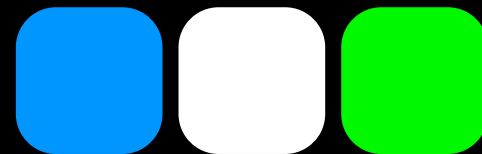


# Summary of Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats

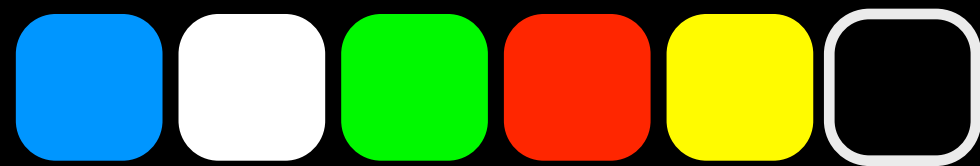


# Hat Sequences

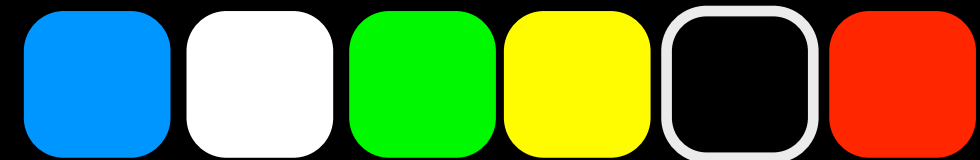
- Initial Ideas:



- Solving Problems:



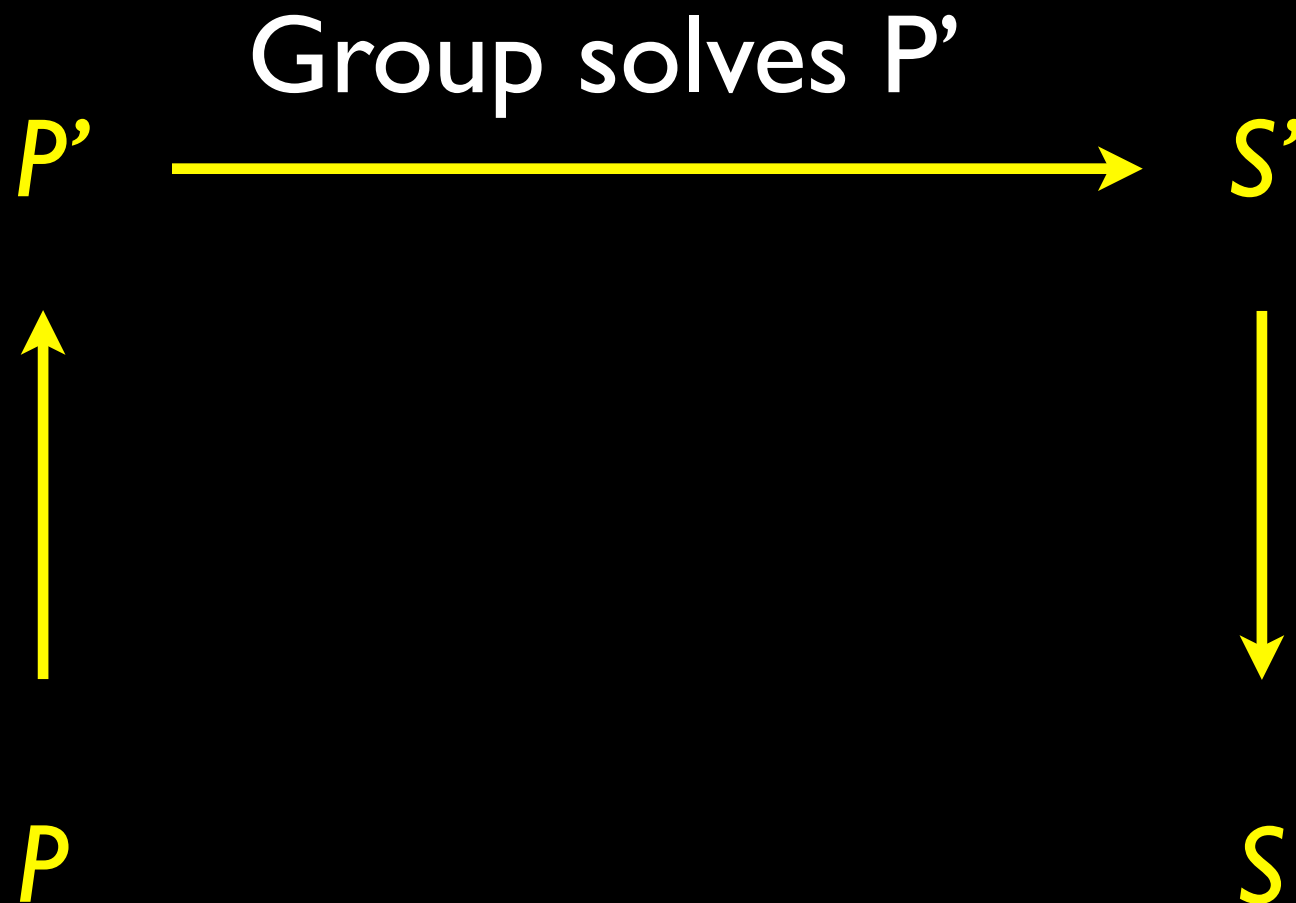
- Choosing:



- *etc.*

# Solve an Analogous Problem

Facilitator maps original problem to analogous problem



Facilitator reveals original problem and mapping

[W.J.J. Gordon, *Synectics*]

