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Integrating AI with Structured Democratic Dialogue (SDD): From Dialogue to Dialectics

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Collective Wisdom…

Two Dialogues

Participants representing all levels of the system engaged in the process of Structured Democratic Dialogue to co-construct an Action Plan to ensure students with disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment.

Dialogue 1: Barriers

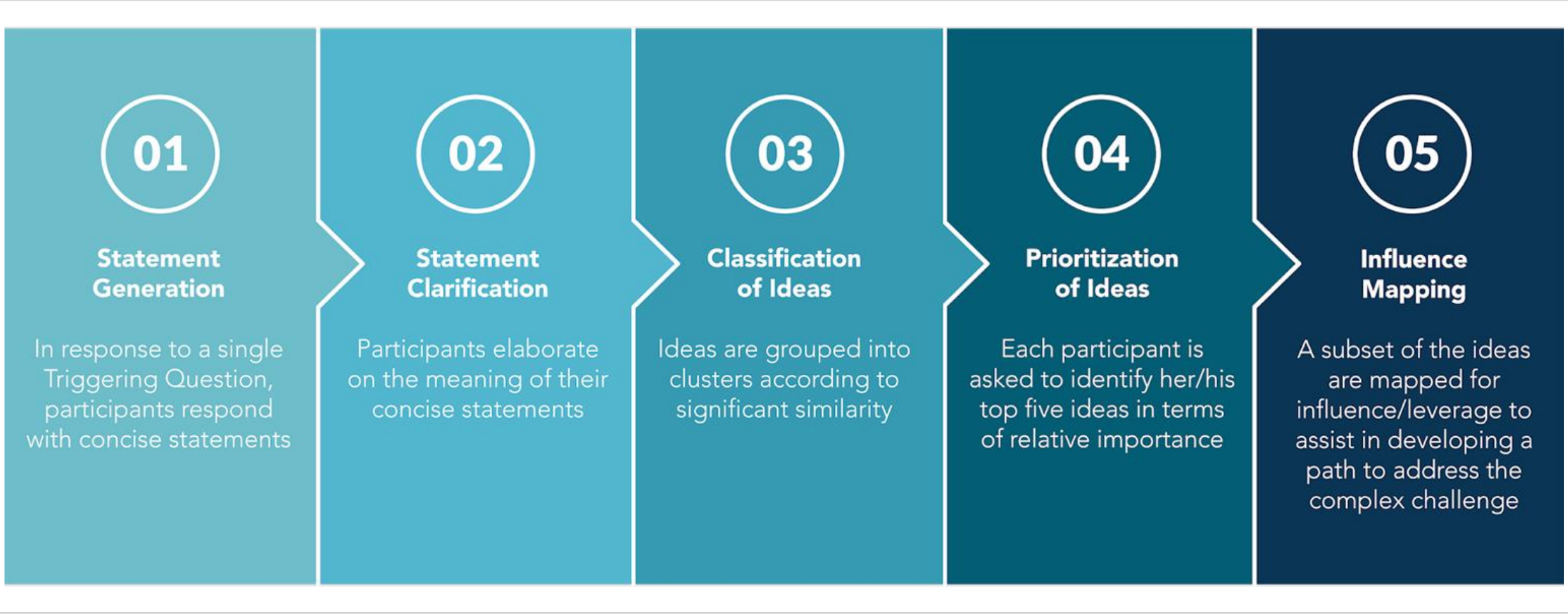
87 Barriers generated, clarified, categorized, prioritized, & mapped to identify leverage points

Dialogue 2: Actions

70 Actions generated, clarified, categorized, and prioritized prior to Action Planning

Structured Democratic Dialogue

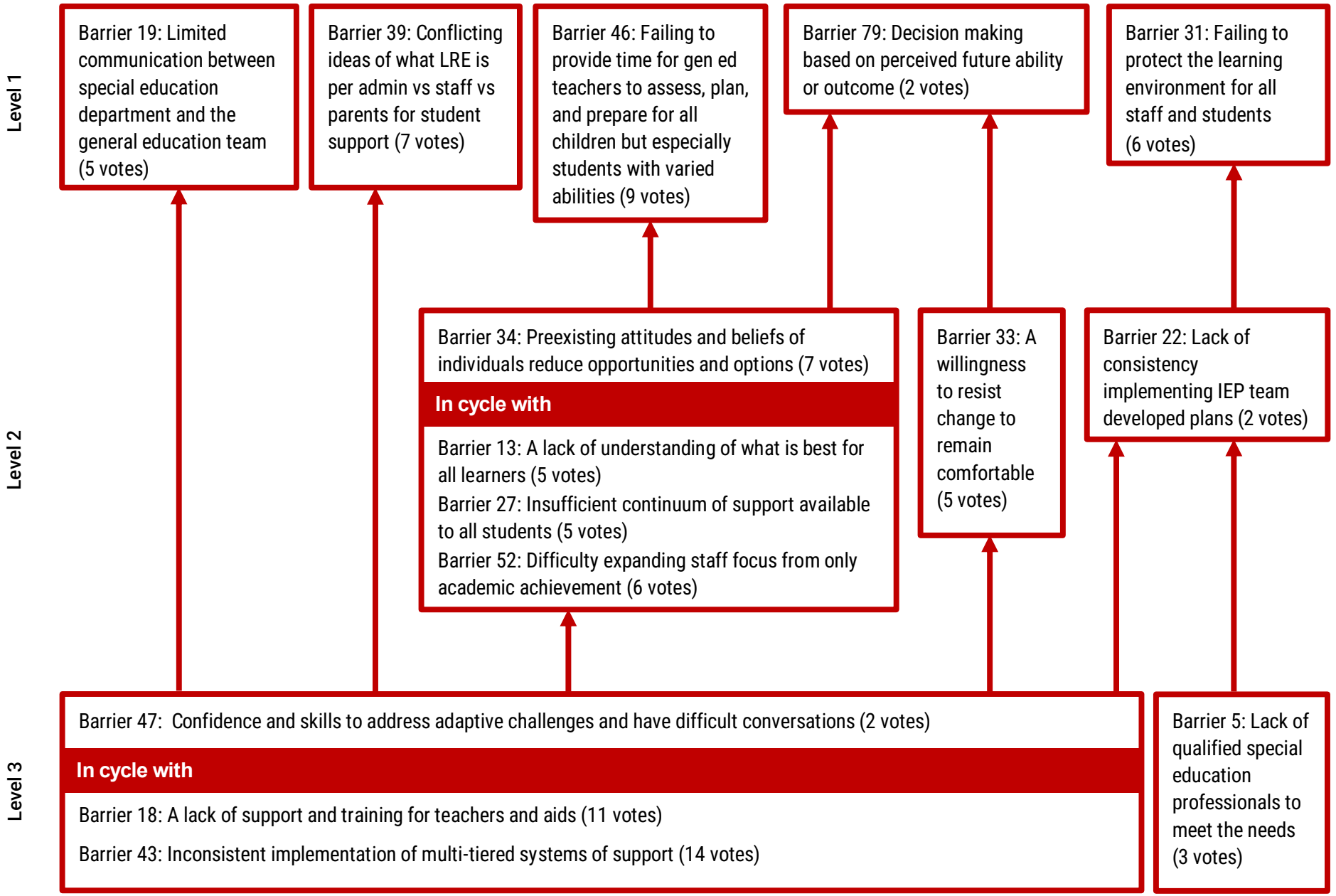
A variety of participants representing all levels of the system engage in a dialogue that includes five distinct steps.



Barrier Influence Map

Triggering Question

What challenges/barriers prevent students with a variety of abilities (emotional, physical, behavioral, cognitive) from accessing fair educational opportunities in their neighborhood schools alongside peers in general education, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)?



Structured Democratic Dialogue

Strengths

- Democratic – every participant has equal voice, regardless of role
- Fosters deep learning amongst participants
- Shared ownership
- Identifies what is important ***and*** effective
- Ephemeral by design

Primary Weakness

- Action planning phase
  - Identified actions are often broad – not intuitively actionable/ implementable
    - This ***can*** lead to a sense of being overwhelmed, with an increased risk of abandonment of the plan

Enhancing the Action Phase with AI Augmented Dialectical Analysis

AI Augmented Dialectical Analysis

An AI-assisted method to leverage oppositions as complements, and achieve gradual, circular growth that leads to systemic change

Potential to strongly aid with SDD Law #6: Requisite Evolution of Learning

- Identifies potential blind spots
- Aligns with spiral vs. linear evolution

* Also aids the five additional laws of SDD

Dialectical Analysis

All information generated by participants was provided to Alanas for Dialectical Analysis augmented by AI

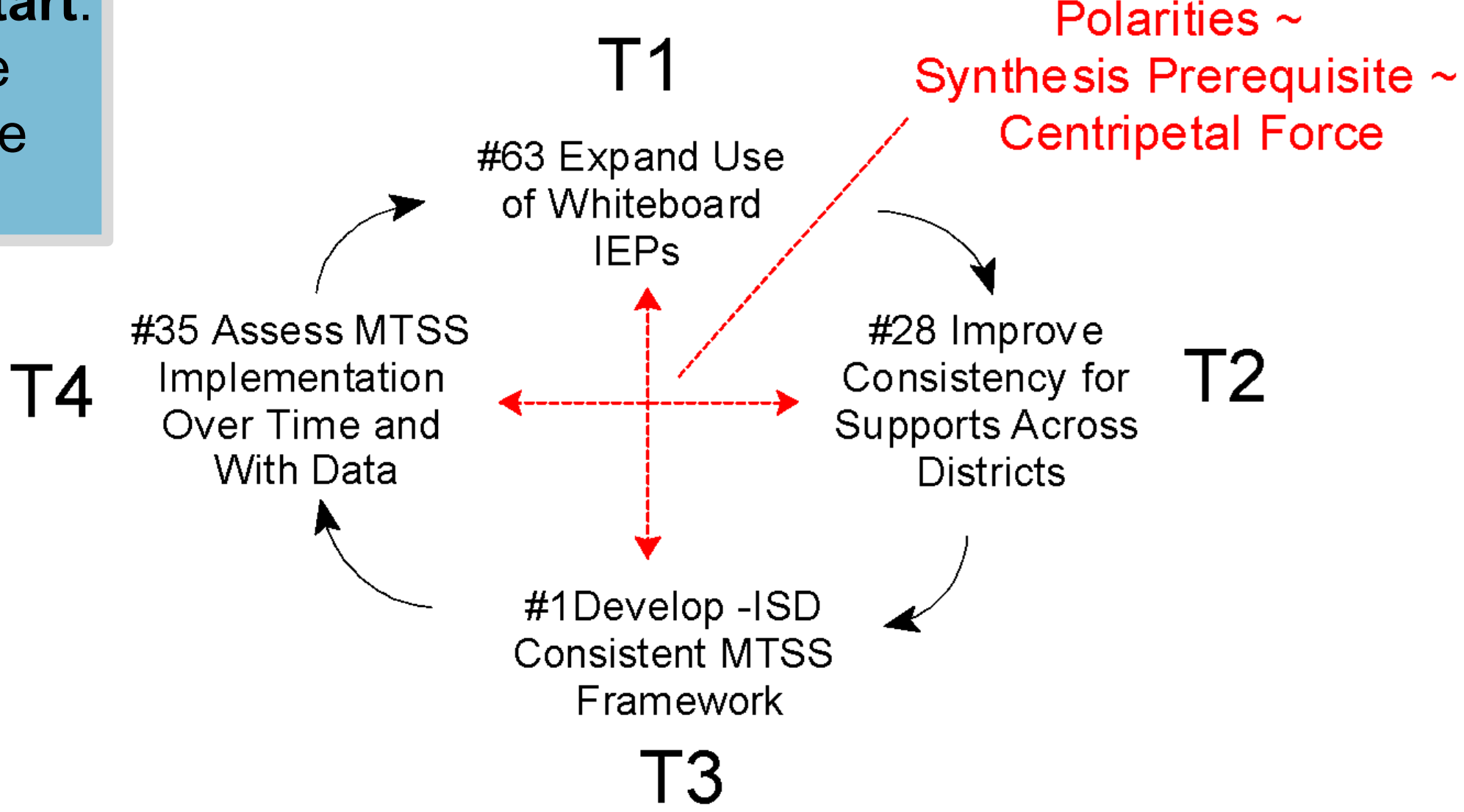
Uploaded the data generated by stakeholders to GPT with a variety of prompts

Asked GPT to identify the 4 most important actionable concepts from those prioritized by participants

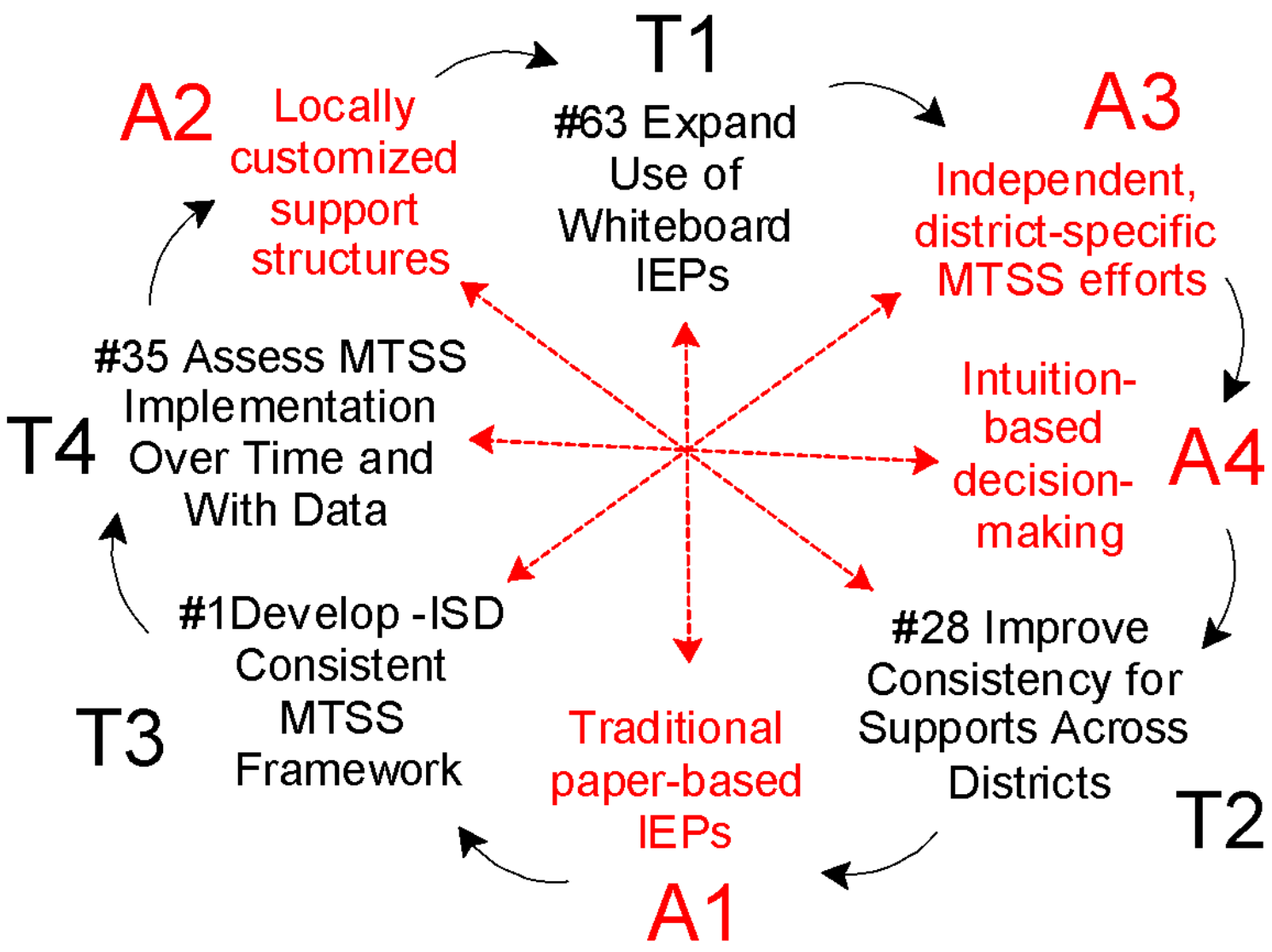
Identified Circular Causality and Diagonal Oppositions for the selected actions

Circular Causation = Beginning of Spirality

Optimal start: Use the Influence Map



Semantic Antitheses = Potential Blind Spots

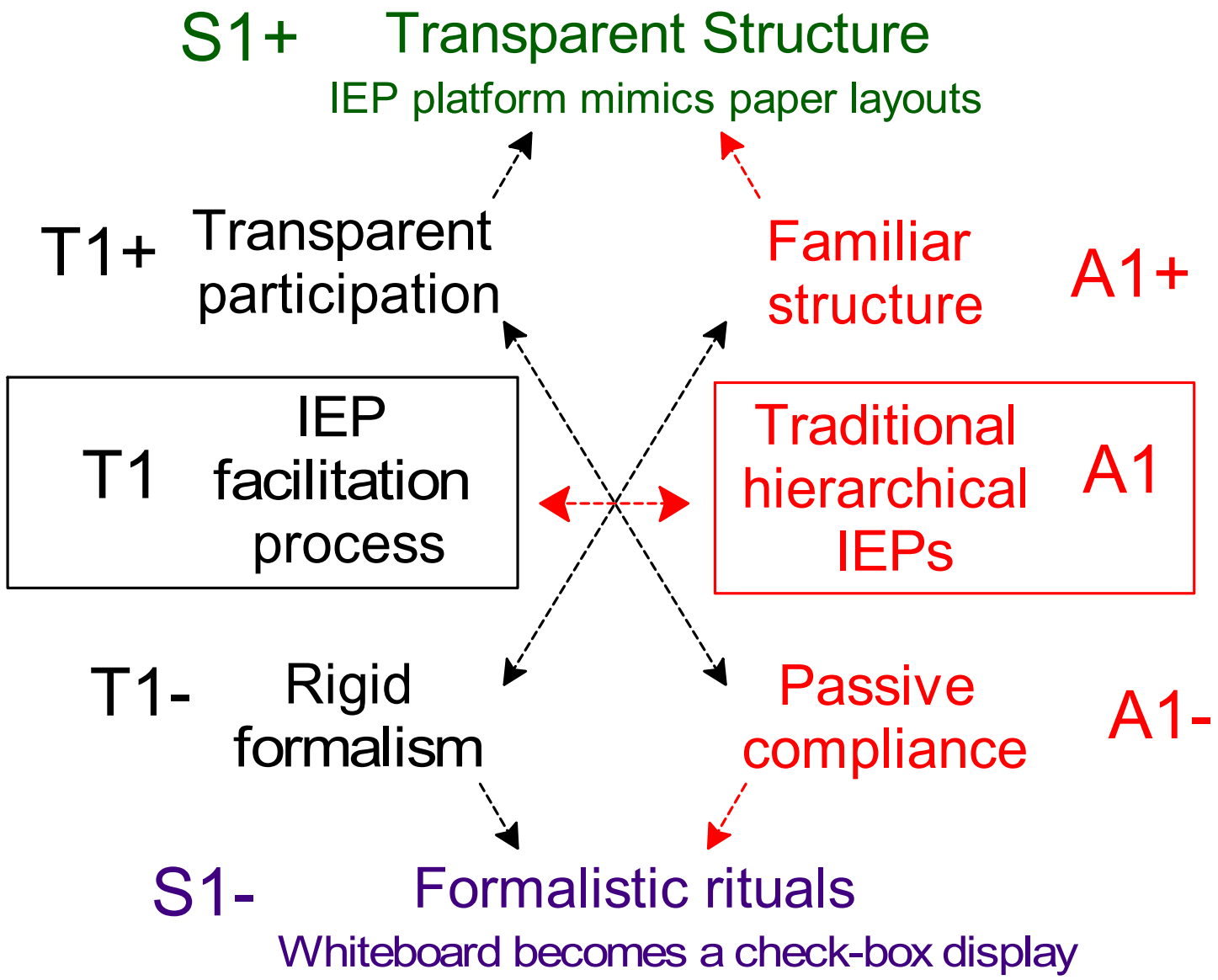


For the purposes of this presentation:

T = Actions identified by stakeholders

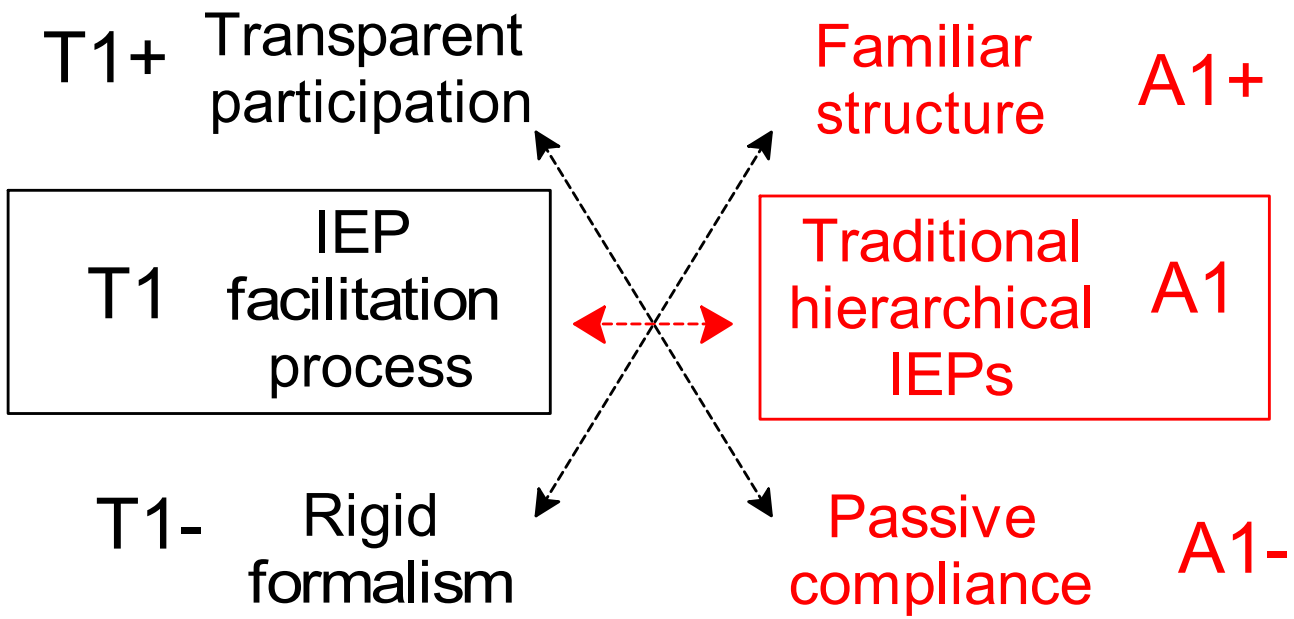
A = Semantic Opposition

Semantic Antitheses Definition



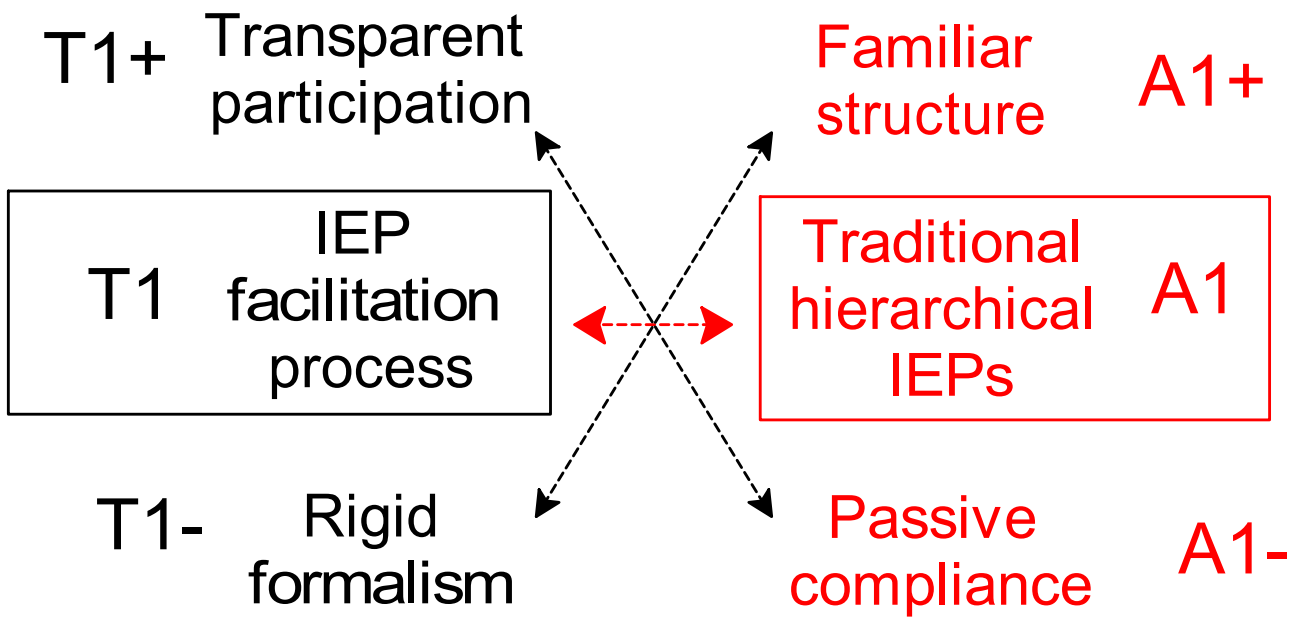
AI Errors Spotted Using Simple Logic

T+ without A+ must yield T-
A+ without T+ must yield A-



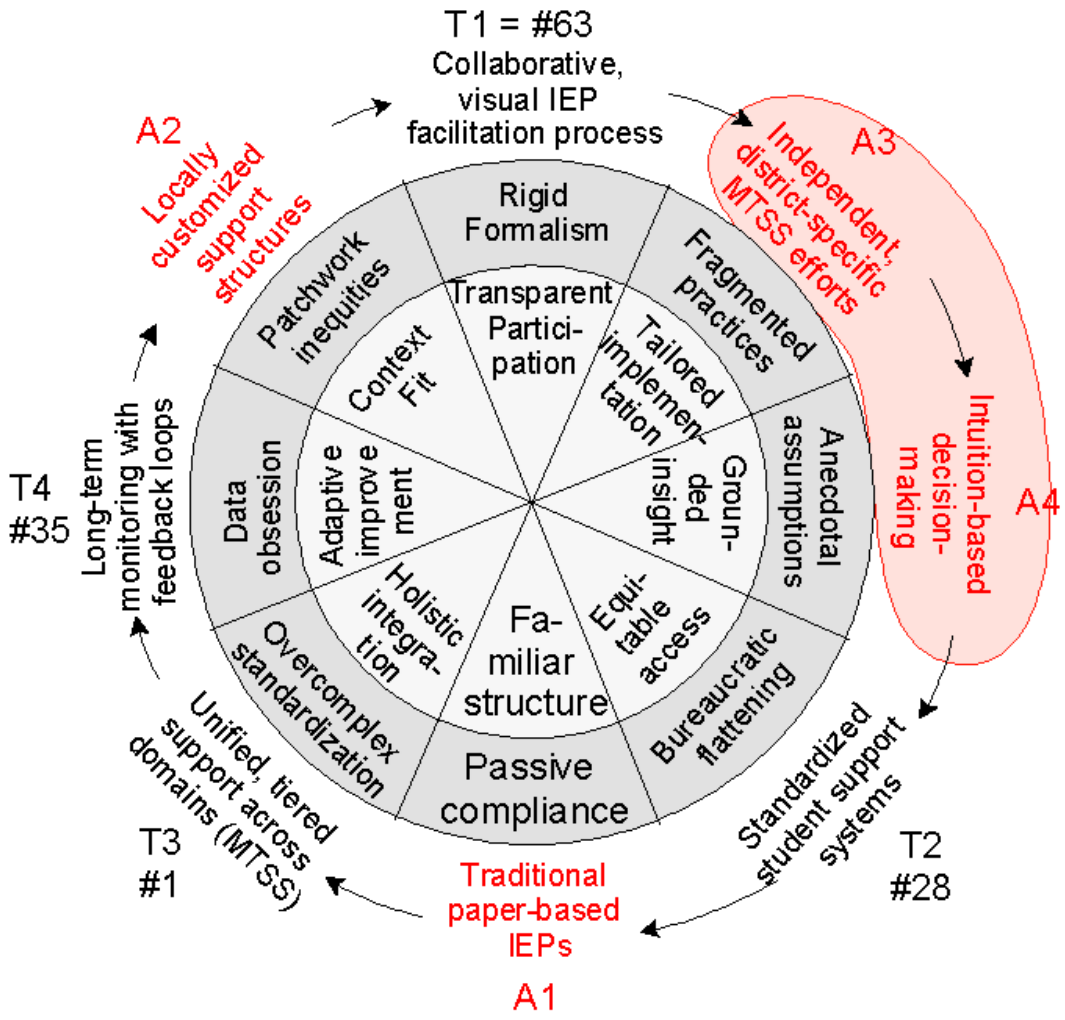
Universal Fairness & Constructivity

Fairness: assign equal weights to T+, T-, A+, A-

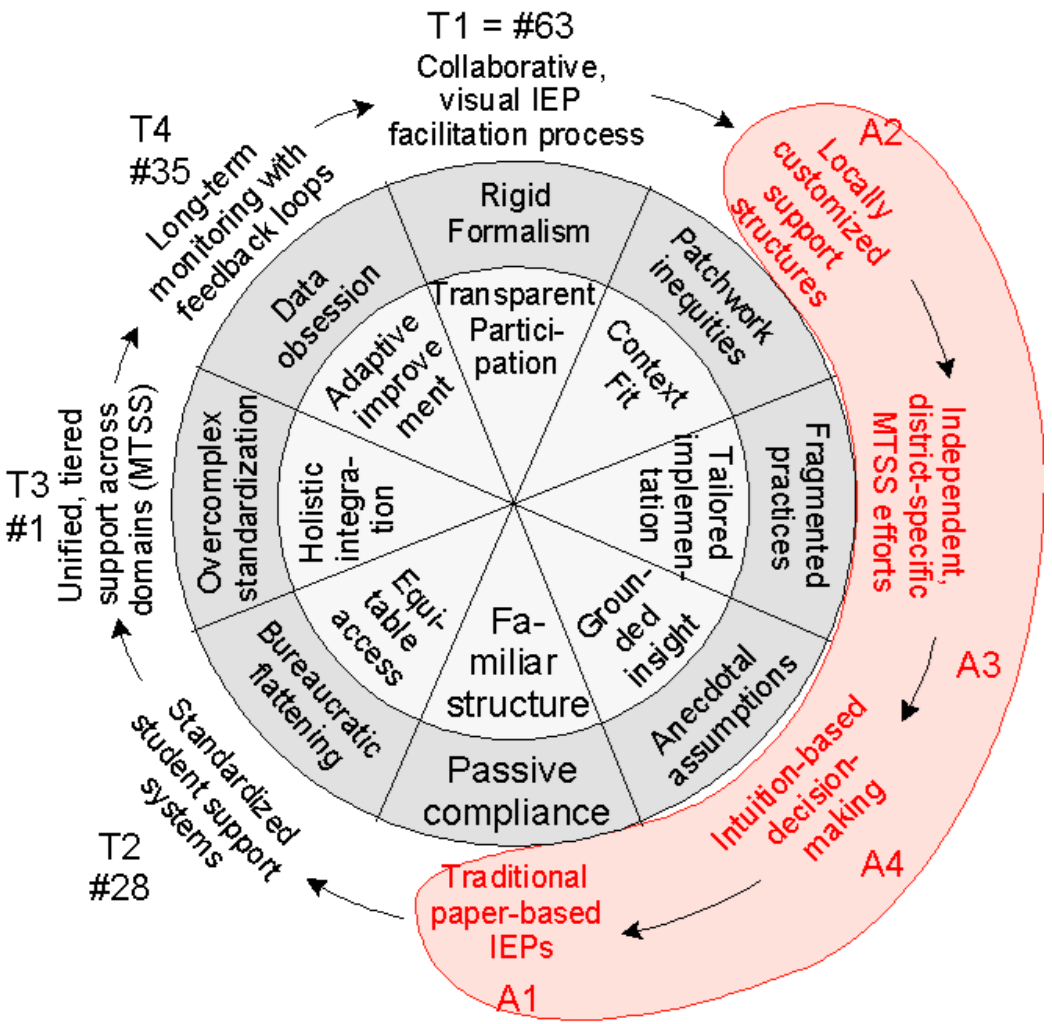


Constructivity: Foster A^+ - Turn the Opponent into Teacher

Dialectic Wheels = Basis for Spiraling

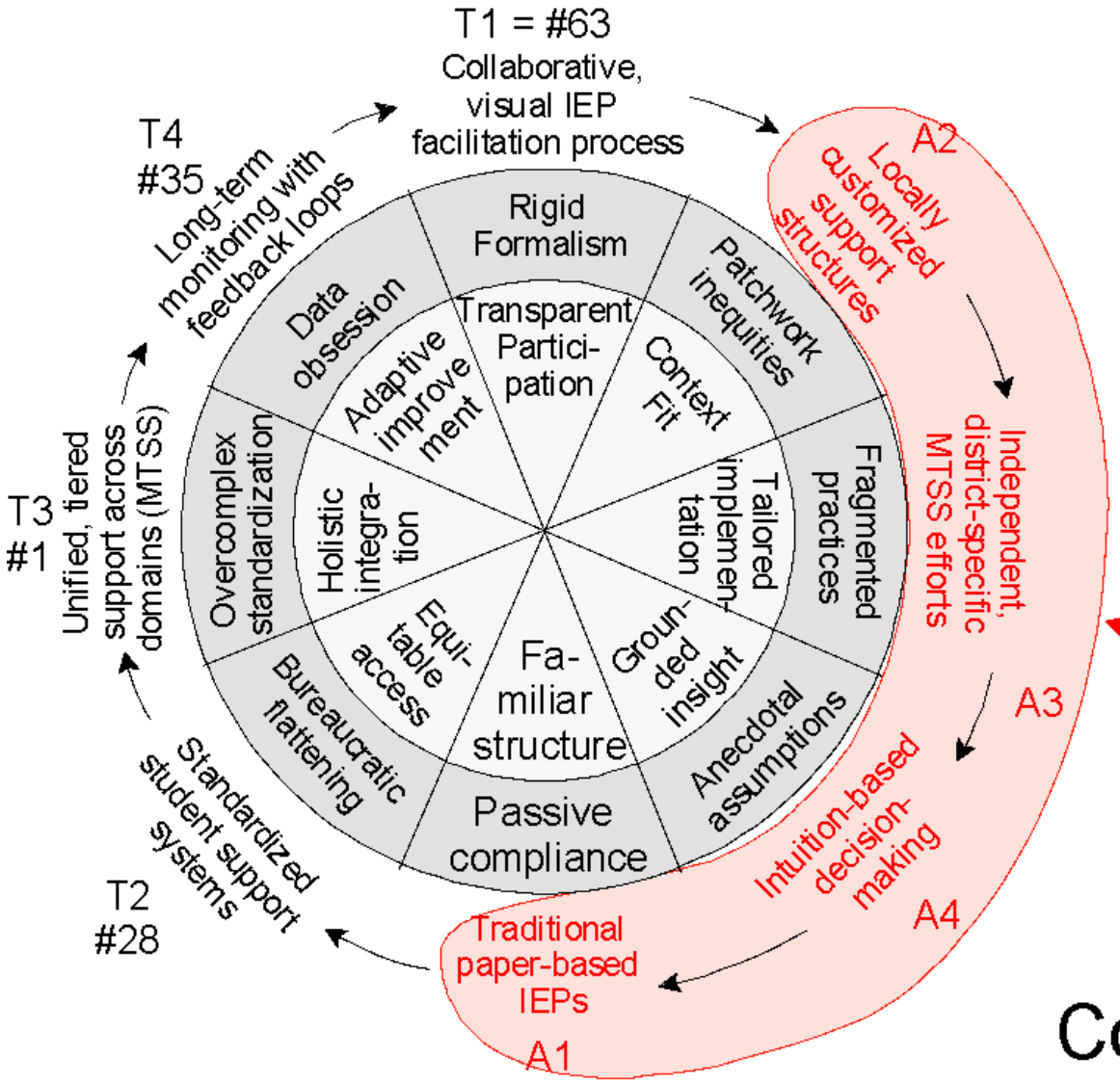


Feasibility: 0.7



Feasibility: 0.8

Startup Syndrome: Direction vs. Speed



Clockwise = Evolution that puts us in a long blind-spot

Counter-clockwise - "stagnant revolution"

Feasibility: 0.8

Only 8 Valid Sequences Due to “Karma Effects”

Feasible

T1 - A2 - A3 - A4 - A1 - T2 - T3 - T4: 0.80
T1 - T2 - T3 - A4 - A1 - A2 - A3 - T4: 0.75
T1 - A3 - A4 - T2 - A1 - T3 - T4 - A2: 0.70
T1 - T2 - A3 - A4 - A1 - A2 - T3 - T4: 0.65
T1 - T2 - T3 - T4 - A1 - A2 - A3 - A4: 0.60
T1 - A3 - T2 - A4 - A1 - T3 - A2 - T4: 0.55
T1 - T2 - A4 - T3 - A1 - A2 - T4 - A3: 0.50

T1 - A4 - T2 - T3 - A1 - T4 - A2 - A3: 0.40

- Many Feasible Chains = High Self-Regulatory Capacity
- Long Blind-Spots = Need for resilience in uncertainty

Dialectics as “Cognitive Aspirin”

Uses AI at the Semantic Level — deviations are easy to trace

Helps to develop inner compass of what is better or worse, by considering T+, T-, A+, A-

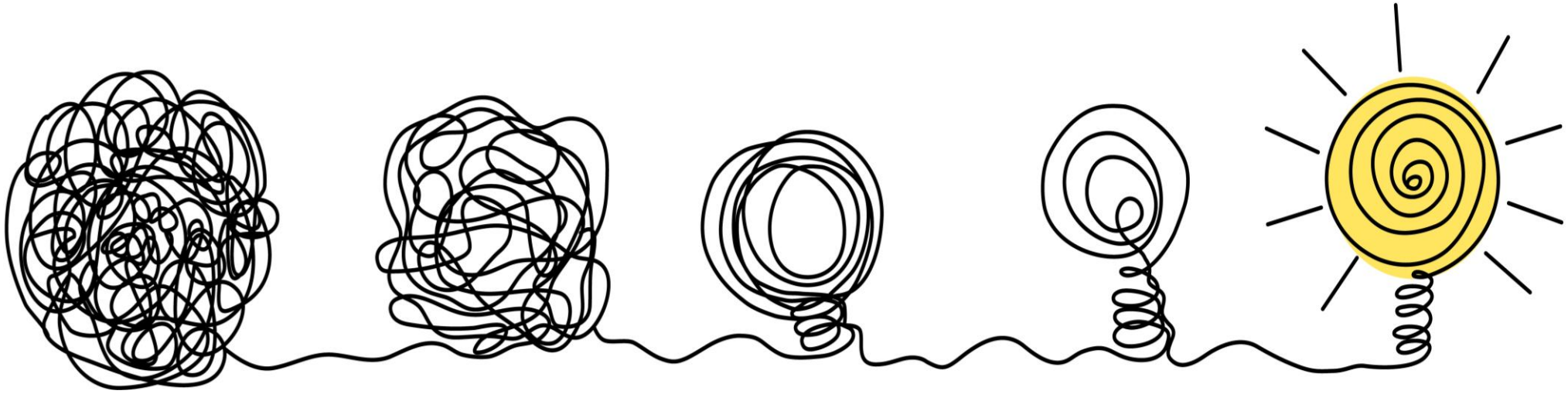
Limits the number of scenarios by considering the “delayed karma” effects

So What? Moving Forward…

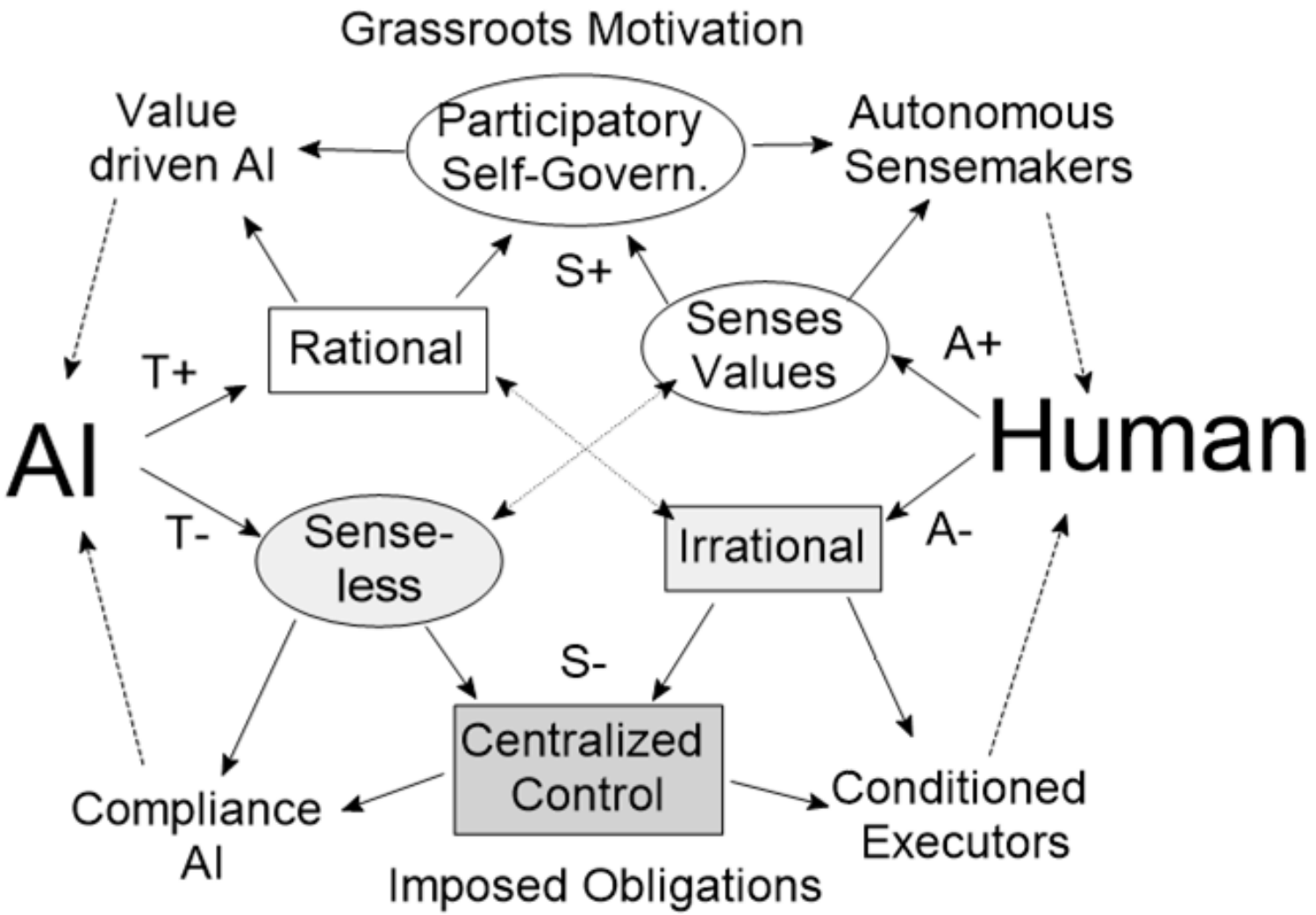
AI-augmented dialectical analysis offers significant value when properly implemented with human oversight. However, sponsors must approach it with healthy skepticism and ensure meaningful dialogue among implementation teams.

When used correctly, this tool can deepen understanding of systemic change requirements, strengthen stakeholder ownership, and build resilience against implementation turbulence.

Without proper human guidance, however, it risks becoming a convenient scapegoat for project failures rather than a genuine aid to transformation.



The Choice…



AI should make sense of irrationality using rational means. While AI excels at structured logic, humans uniquely integrate senses and values to produce qualitative effects.

Our choice: harness our "irrationality" for self-governance, making AI value-driven, or neglect this advantage and become dependent on systems that can't replicate our existential integration.