Integrating AI with SDD: From Dialogue to Dialectics

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1

Collective Wisdom…

2 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	Dialogue 2: Actions
87 Barriers generated, clarified, categorized, prioritized, & mapped to identify leverage points	70 Actions generated, clarified, categorized, and prioritized prior to Action Planning

3 Structured Democratic Dialogue

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

01 Statement Generation	02 Statement Clarification	03 Classification of Ideas	04 Prioritization of Ideas	05 Influence Mapping
In response to a single Triggering Question, participants respond with concise statements.	Participants elaborate on the meaning of their concise statements.	Ideas are grouped into clusters according to significant similarity	Each participant is asked to identify her/his top five ideas in terms of relative importance	A subset of the ideas are mapped for influence/leverage to assist in developing a path to address the complex challenge

4 Barrier Influence Map

5 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

6 AI Augmented Dialectical Analysis

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

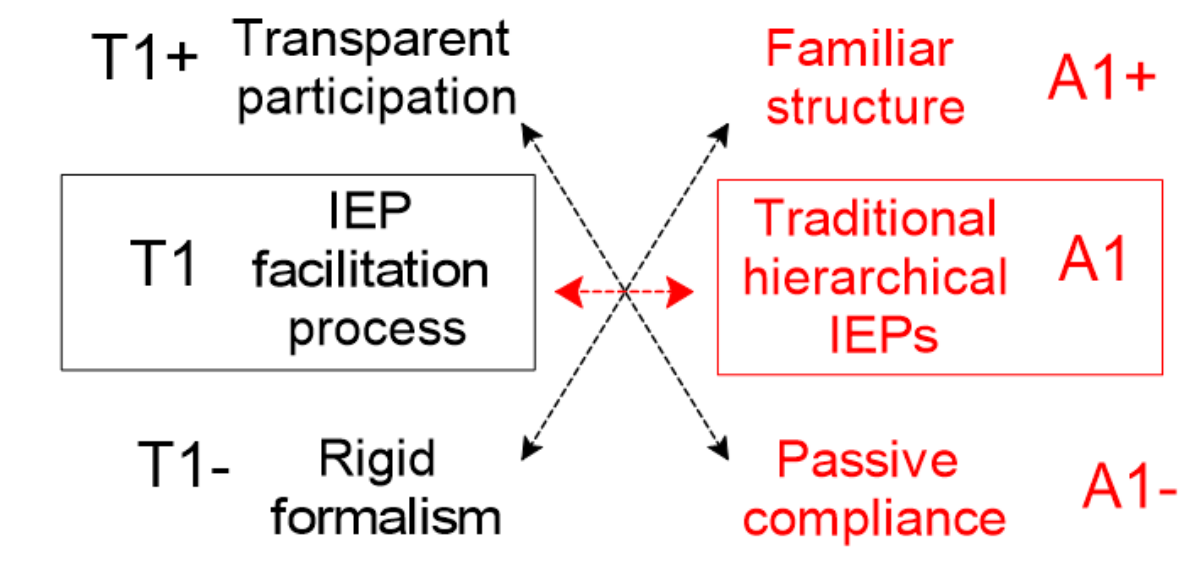**7** Potential to strongly aid with SDD Law #6: Requisite Evolution of Learning

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

* Also aids the five additional laws of SDD
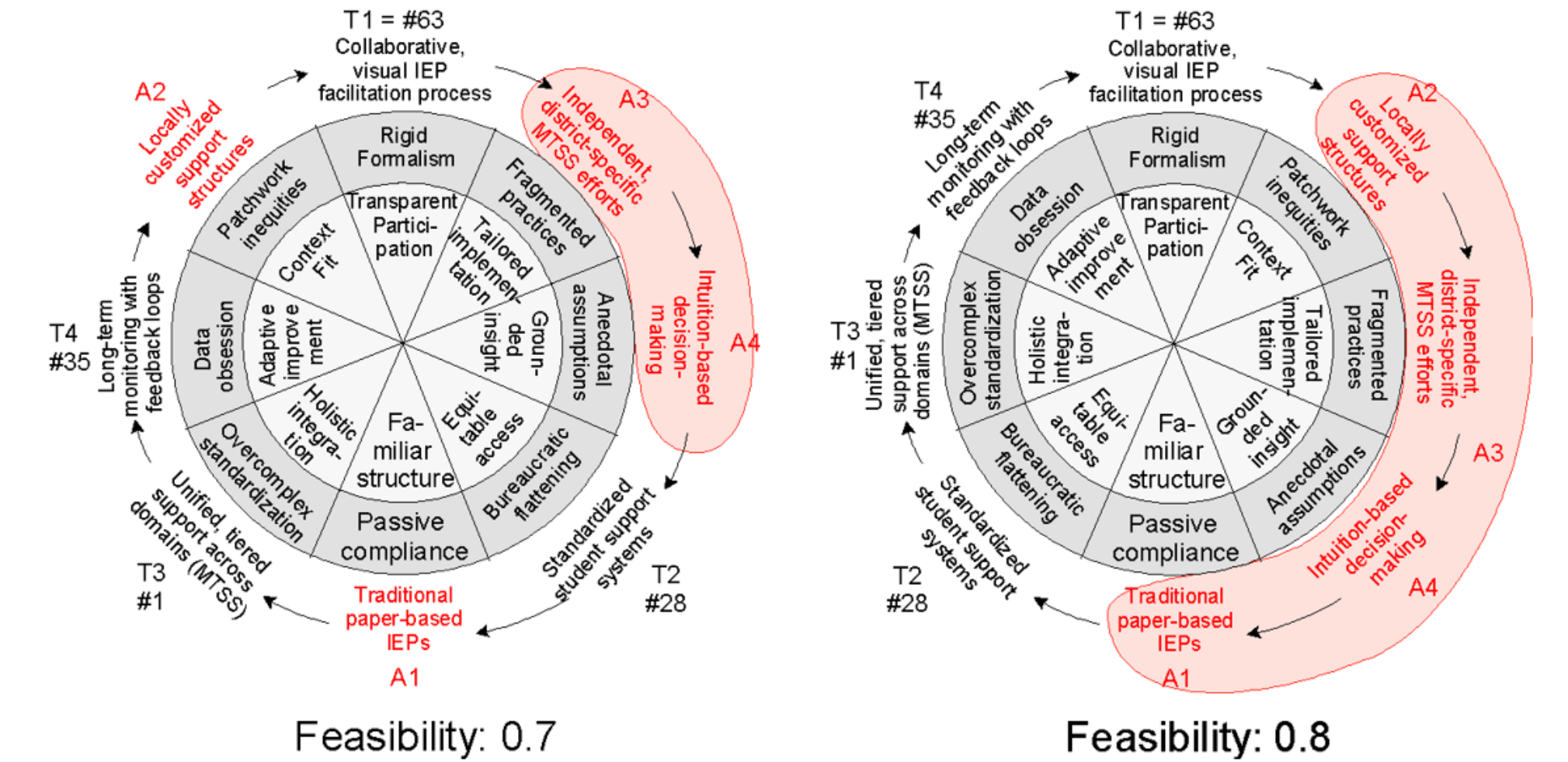
8 Dialectical Analysis

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

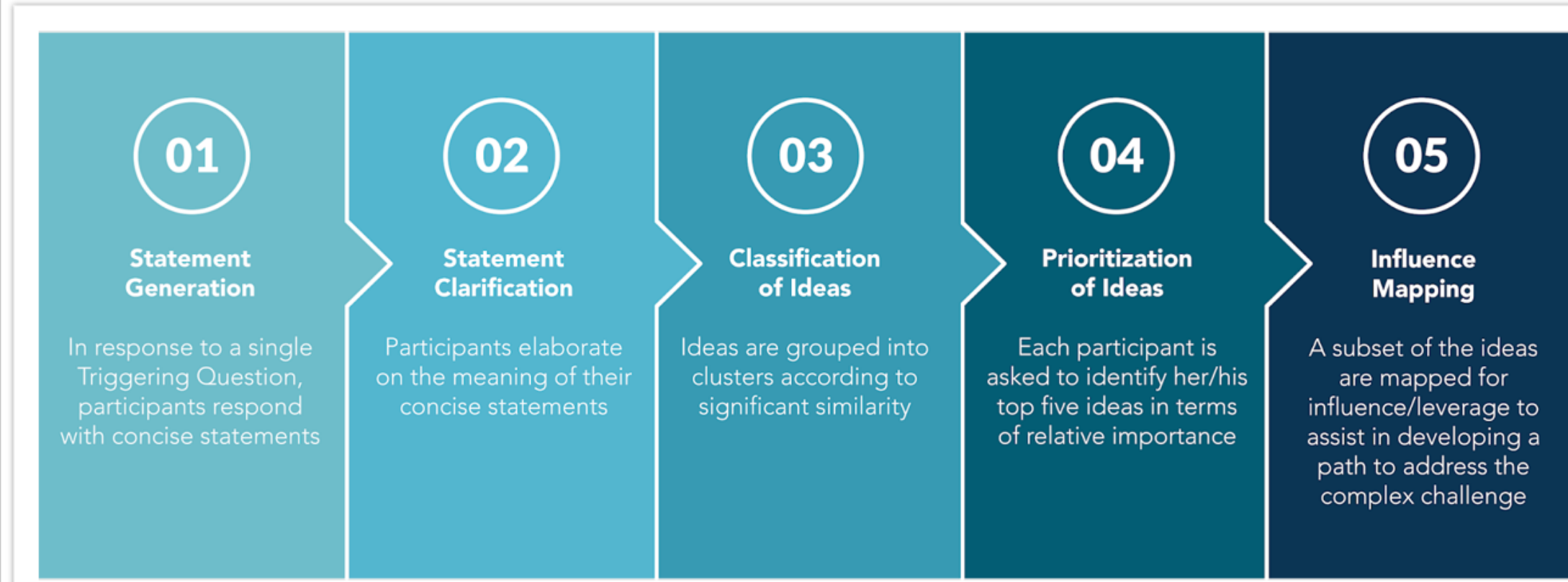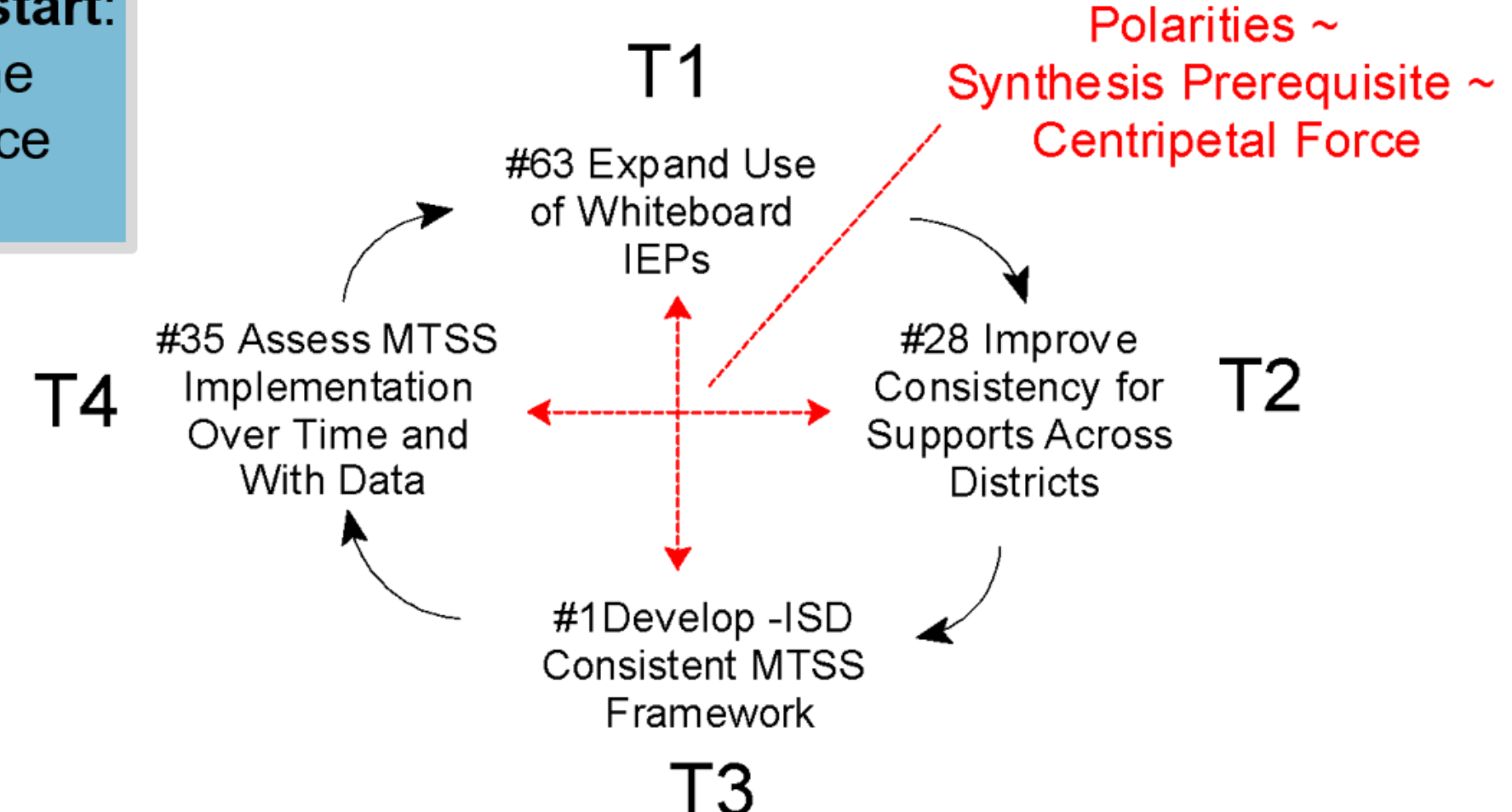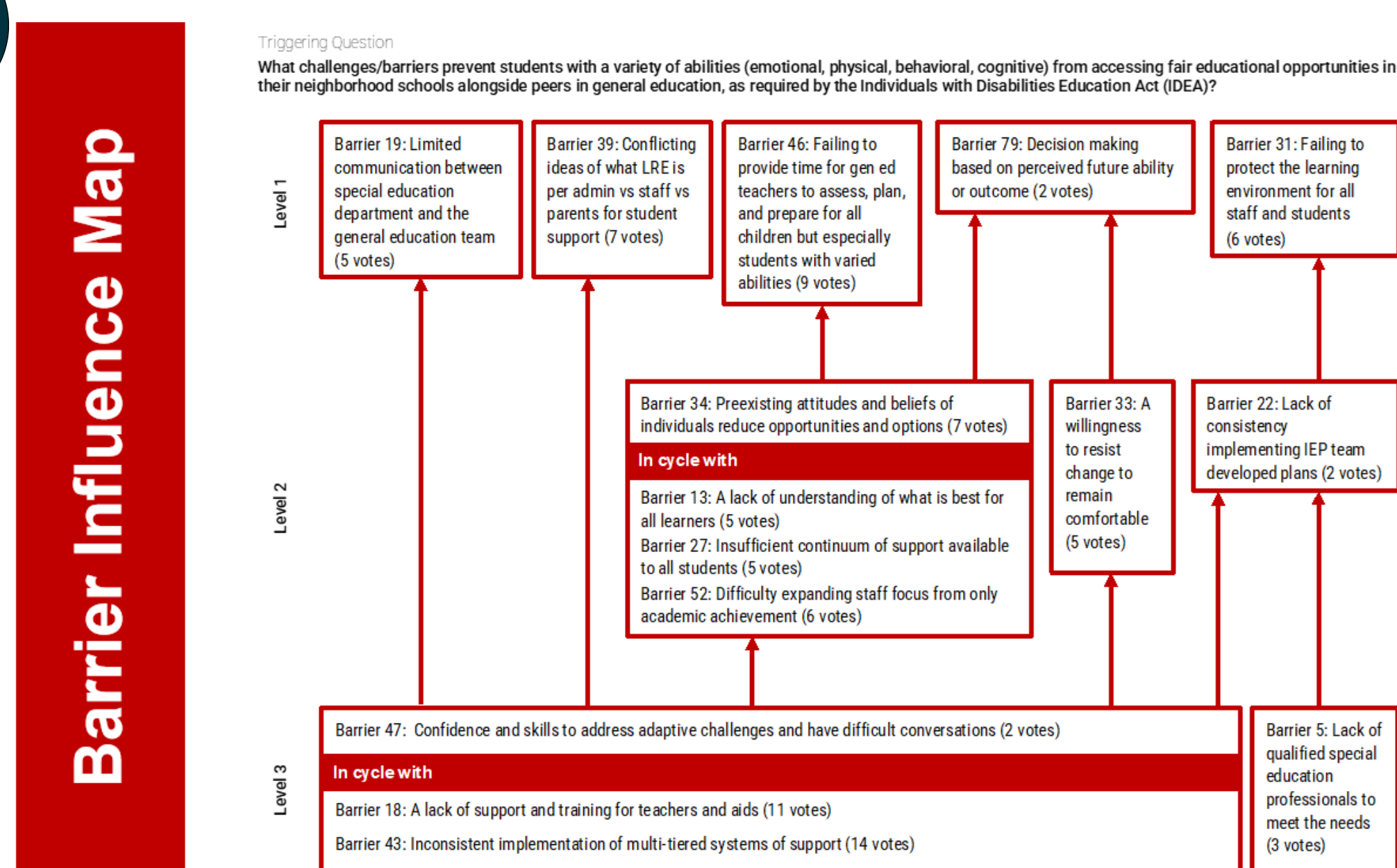| Uploaded the data generated by stakeholders to GPT with a variety of prompts	Asked GPT to identify the 4 most important actionable concepts from those prioritized by participants	Identified Circular Causality and Diagonal Oppositions for the selected actions

9 Circular Causation = Beginning of Spirality

Optimal start: Use the Influence Map

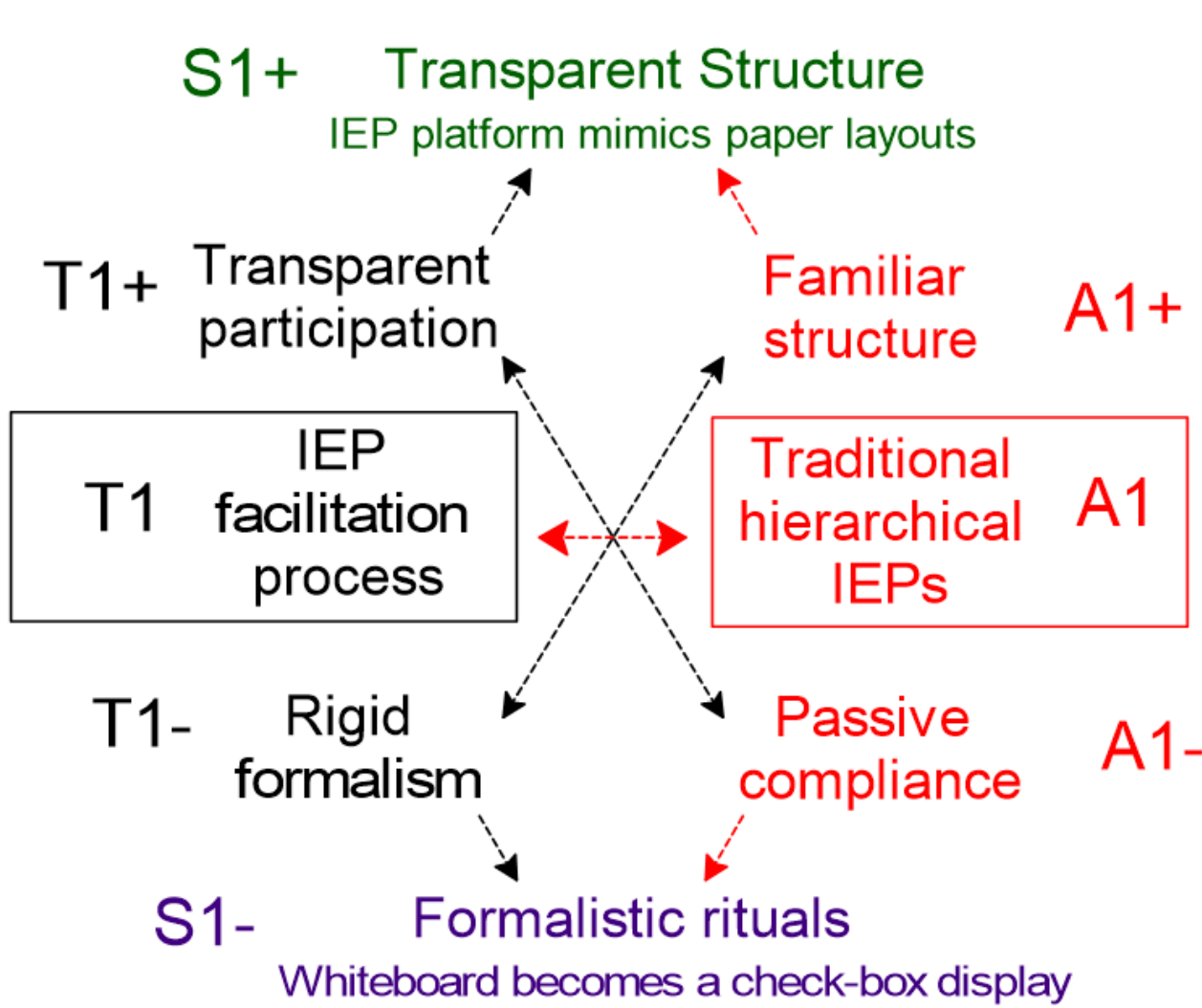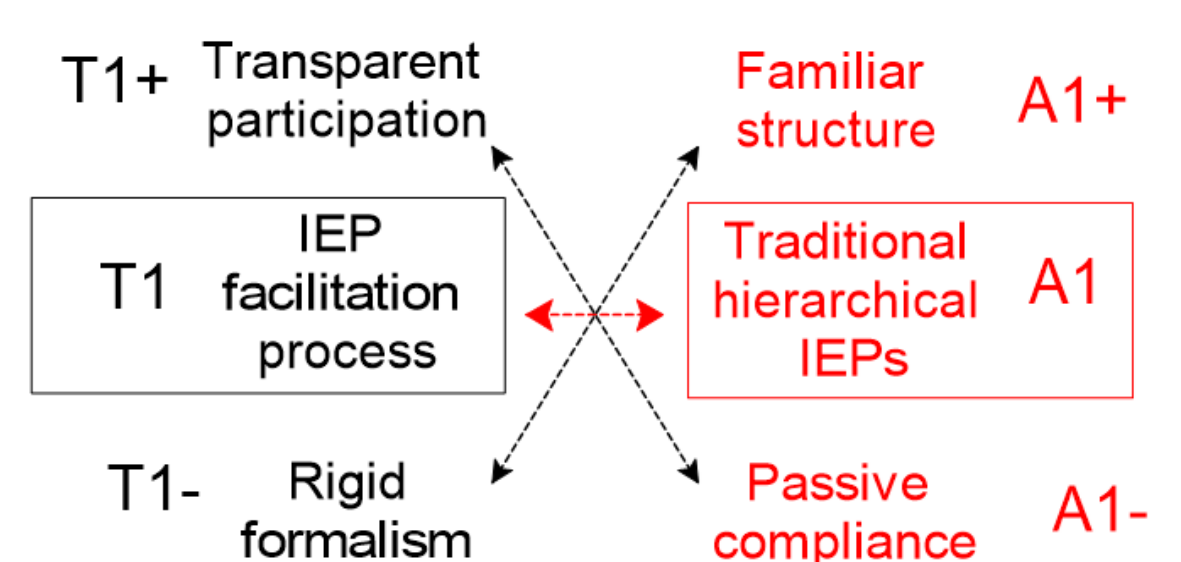Polarities ~ Synthesis Prerequisite ~ Centripetal Force

T1 #63 Expand Use of Whiteboard IEPs
T4 #35 Assess MTSS Implementation Over Time and With Data
T2 #28 Improve Consistency for Supports Across Districts
T3 #1 Develop -ISD Consistent MTSS Framework

10 Semantic Antitheses = Potential Blind Spots

A2 Locally customized support structures
A3 Independent, district-specific MTSS efforts
A4 Intuition-based decision-making
A1 Traditional paper-based IEPs

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T4 #35 Assess MTSS Implementation Over Time and With Data
T3 #1 Develop -ISD Consistent MTSS Framework
T2 #28 Improve Consistency for Supports Across Districts

For the purposes of this presentation:

T = Actions identified by stakeholders

A = Semantic Opposition

11 Semantic Antitheses Definition

S1+ Transparent Structure — IEP platform mimics paper layouts
T1+ Transparent participation
A1+ Familiar structure
T1 IEP facilitation process
A1 Traditional hierarchical IEPs
T1- Rigid formalism
A1- Passive compliance
S1- Formalistic rituals — Whiteboard becomes a check-box display

12 AI Errors Spotted Using Simple Logic

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

T1+ Transparent participation
A1+ Familiar structure
T1 IEP facilitation process
A1 Traditional hierarchical IEPs
T1- Rigid formalism
A1- Passive compliance

13 Universal Fairness & Constructivity

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

T1+ Transparent participation
A1+ Familiar structure
T1 IEP facilitation process
A1 Traditional hierarchical IEPs
T1- Rigid formalism
A1- Passive compliance

Constructivity: Foster A+ - Turn the Opponent into Teacher

14 Dialectic Wheels = Basis for Spiraling

Feasibility: 0.7   Feasibility: 0.8

15 Startup Syndrome: Direction vs. Speed

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

Counter-clockwise - "stagnant revolution"

Feasibility: 0.8
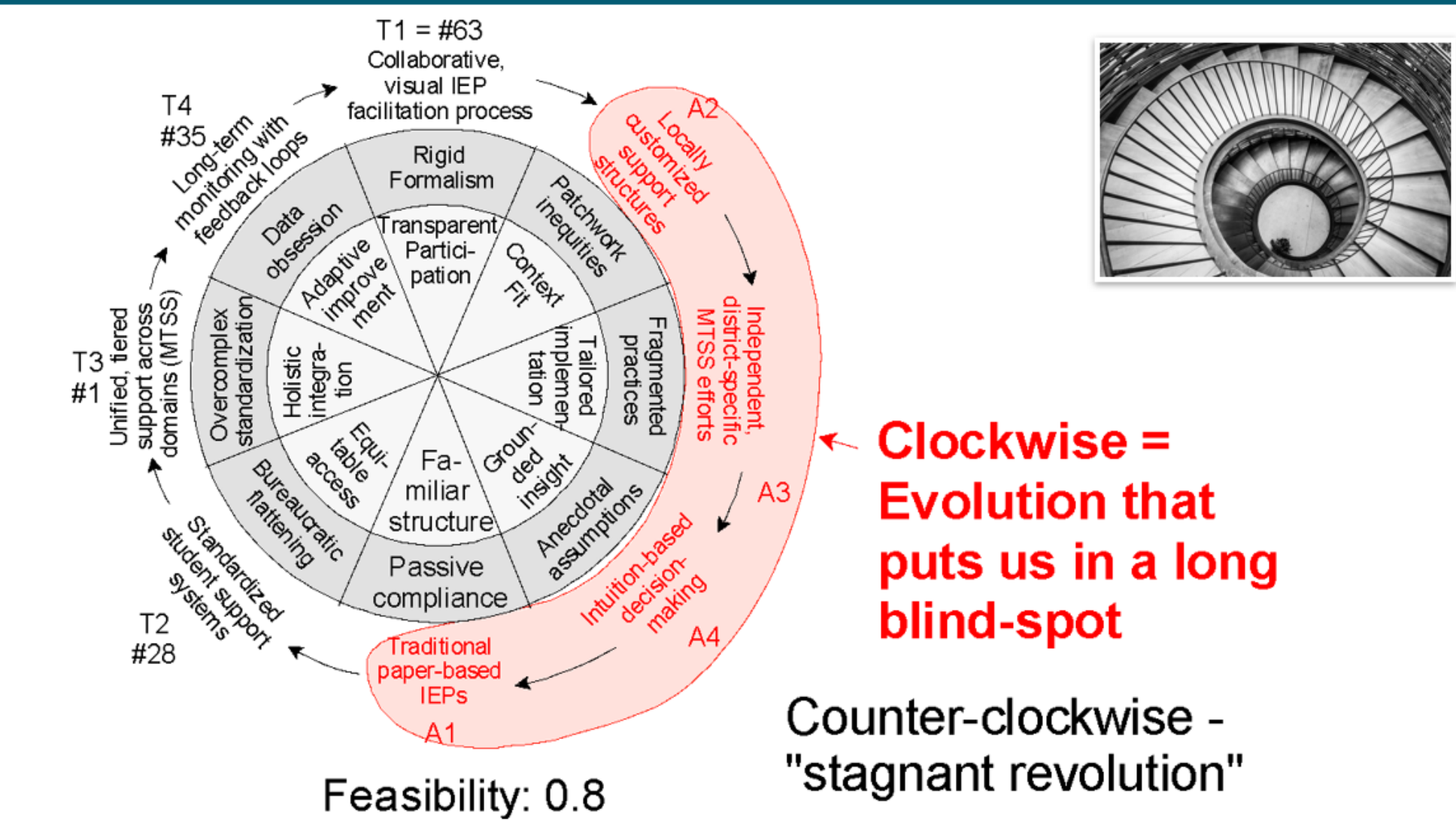
16 Only 8 Valid Sequences Due to "Karma Effects"

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 - T3 - A1 - T4 - A2: 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
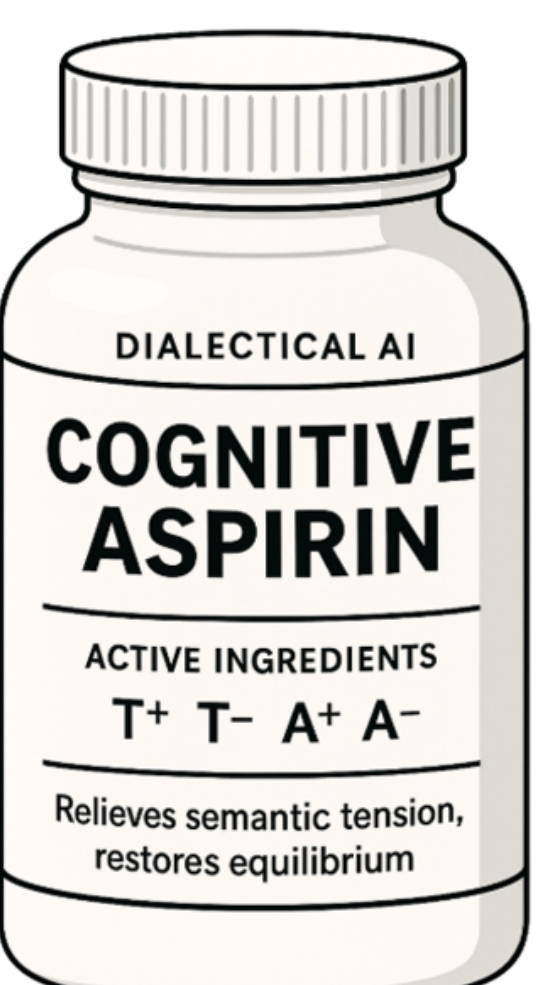- Long Blind-Spots = Need for resilience in uncertainty

17 Dialectics as "Cognitive Aspirin"

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

Helps to develop inner compass of what is FAIR, by considering T+, T-, A+, A-

Limits the number of scenarios by considering the "delayed karma" effects

DIALECTICAL AI
COGNITIVE ASPIRIN
ACTIVE INGREDIENTS
T+ T- A+ A-
Relieves semantic tension, restores equilibrium

18 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.