



Building a Better Project...with Legos!

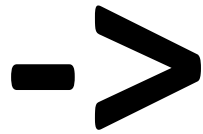
Matt House

What does your work look like?



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Matt House

Agile Coach

Sketch Development Services

ST. LOUIS, MO

- Education:

 - BA - Computer Science

 - MS - Management Information Systems

 - MBA

- Industries:

 - Manufacturing

 - Finance

 - Healthcare

- Experience:

 - Developer

 - Project Management Office Lead

 - Scrum Master

 - Release Train Engineer

 - Subpar skateboarder



Defined Process



- Every piece of work is completely understood
- Given a well-defined set of inputs, the same outputs are generated every time

Empirical Process



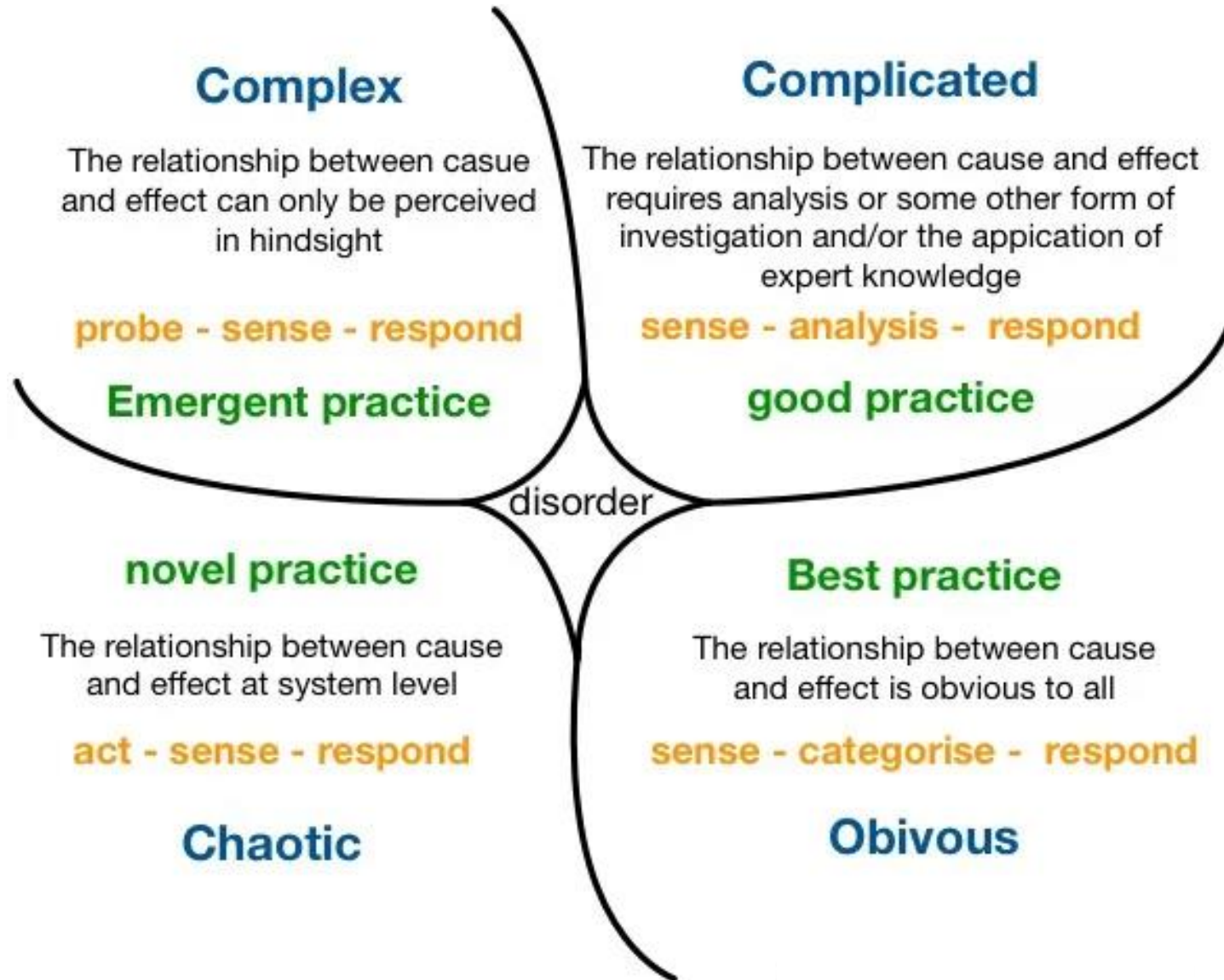
- Every piece of work is not completely understood
- Given a well-defined set of inputs, the same outputs are not generated every time

The Yada Yada Test



Understanding our problem spaces

Cynefin



Simple



- Known Knowns
- Best Practices
- Find the proper rule and apply it
- sense-categorize-respond

Complicated

- Known Unknowns
- The relationship between cause and effect requires analysis or expertise
- sense-analyze-respond



Complex



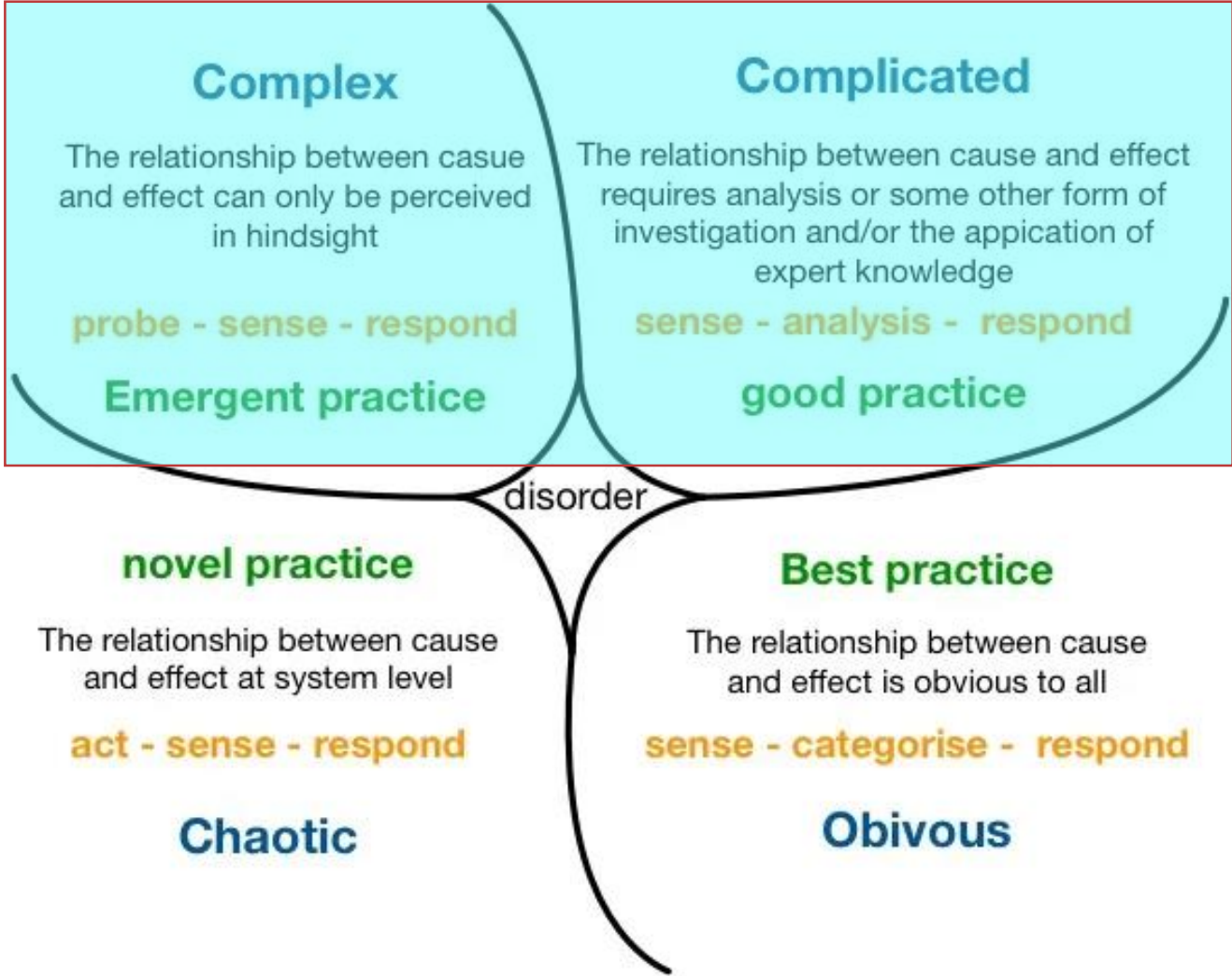
- Unknown Unknowns
- Cause and effect can only be deduced in retrospect
- probe-sense-respond

Chaotic

- cause and effect are unclear
- too confusing to wait for a knowledge-based response
- act-sense-respond



What can I manage?



Lets Play!



The right tool for the right job

What kind of feedback do I need?

- Building something new
 - Requires frequent feedback to see if I'm on the right track
- Building something you're familiar with
 - Requires little feedback due to experience

When to be agile?



- Need frequent feedback
- Empirical work
- Solving complex problems

You'll probably need a mix

- More often than not, all your work doesn't fall into one category or the other
- You still need to find the right tool for the right job
- If 90% of your work requires a hammer and 10% requires a screwdriver, you don't use the hammer for all of it
- If most of work is defined, don't try and apply traditional practices for the parts of your work that's empirical and vice versa



Questions



Thank you

 sketch
sketchdev.io



References

- Snowden, David J.; Boone, Mary E. (2007). "A Leader's Framework for Decision Making". Harvard Business Review.
- Stewart, Thomas A. (November 2002). ["How to Think With Your Gut"](#). *Business 2.0*. pp. 4-5.