

# **Conceptual Modeling**

**Interface Pessoa-Máquina - 25/26 - LEI / UM**

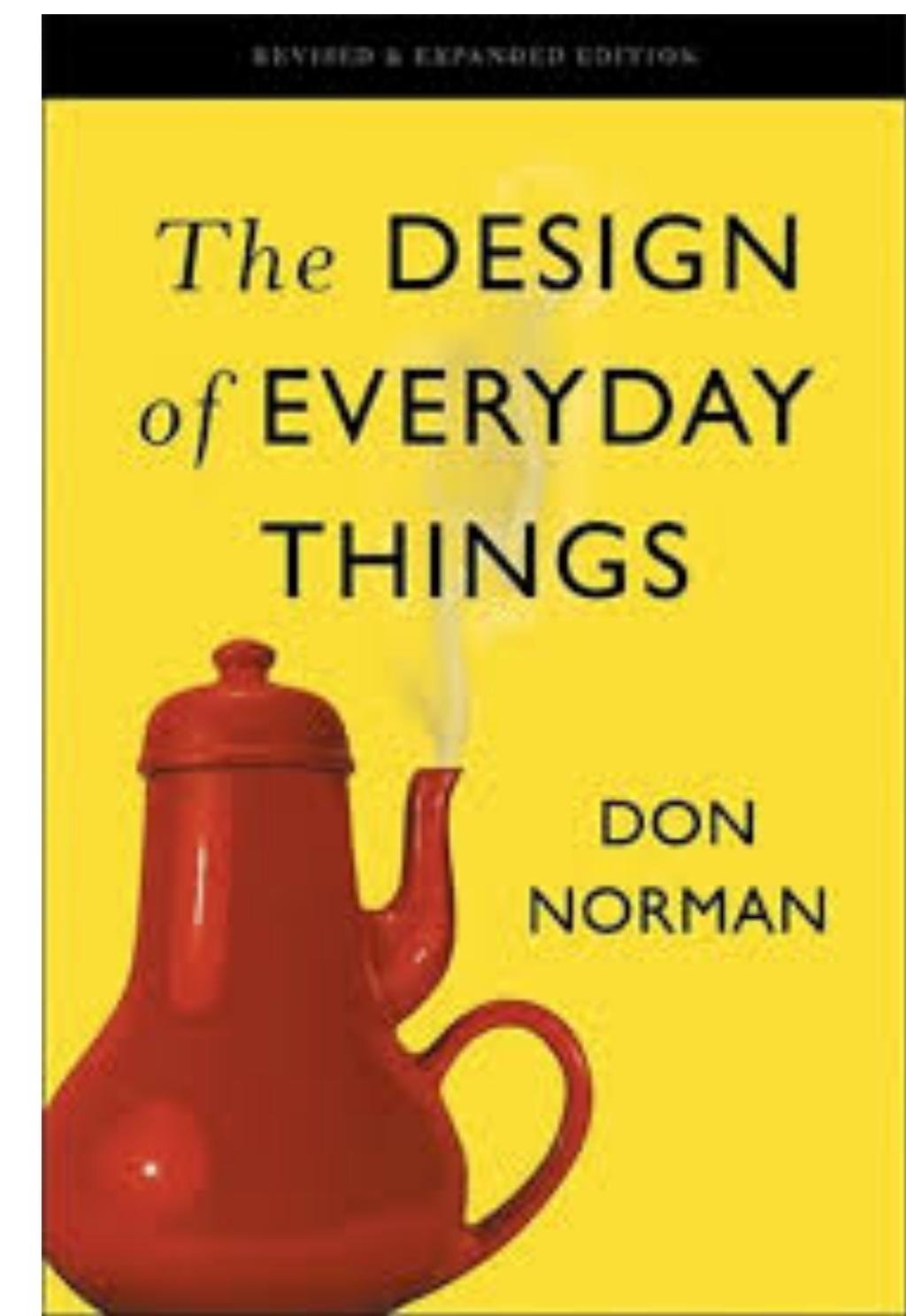
**Hugo Pacheco**

**hpacheco@di.uminho.pt**

# Modelo mental

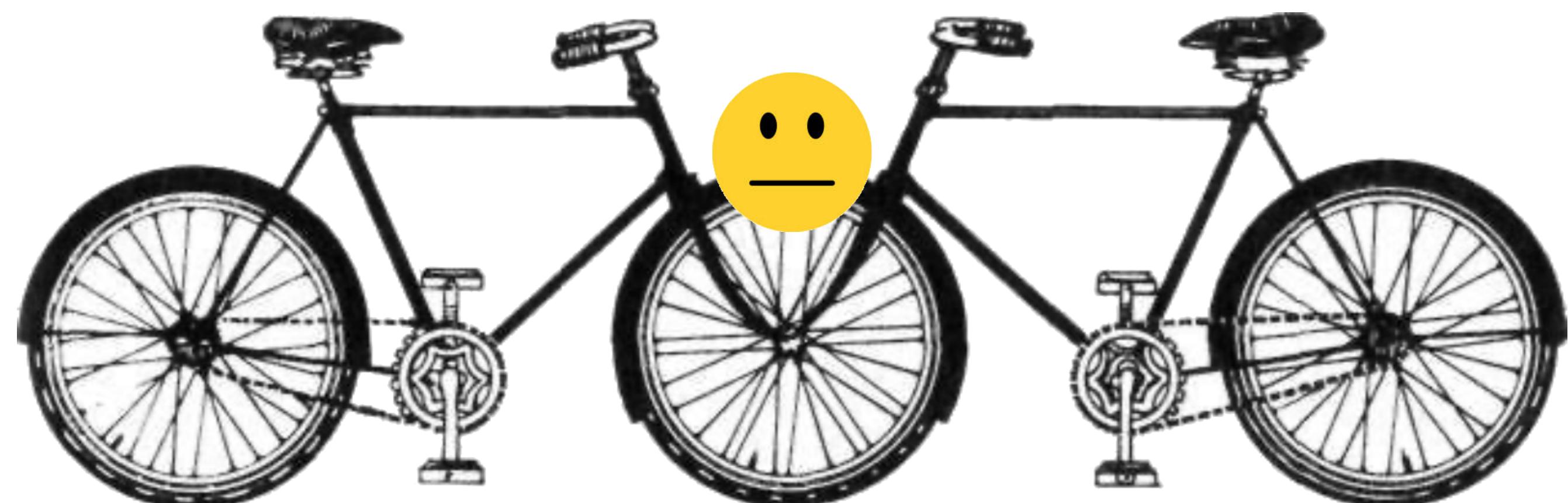


- Um **modelo mental** é a representação interna do utilizador de como um sistema funciona
- Já vimos que construir um modelo mental é essencial
  - Learnability ⊂ Usability
  - Match between System and Real World
- Também denominado “**user’s conceptual model**”
- “[...] you [**the user**] form a **conceptual model** of the device and mentally simulate its operation. You can do the simulation because the parts are visible and the implications clear.”

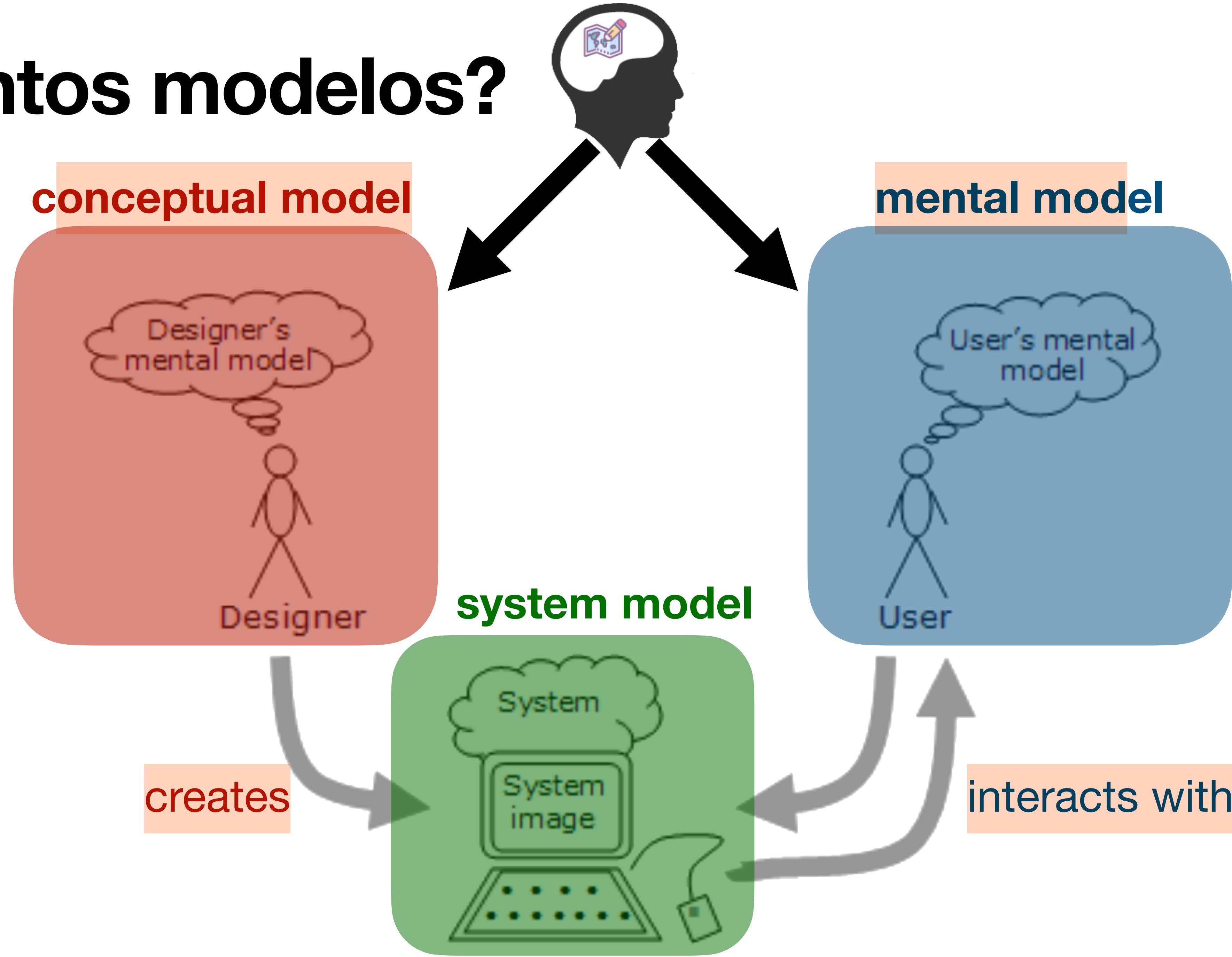


# Modelo mental

- Essencial para
  - Determinar causas e efeitos
  - Suportar explicações
  - Fazer previsões
  - Compreender dispositivos similares



# Quantos modelos?



# Quantos modelos?

- **Modelo Mental vs. Modelo Conceptual:** \* **Mental:** O que o utilizador *acha* que o sistema faz. ↗
  - **Conceptual:** O que o designer *planeou* para o sistema. ↗
  - **System Image:** A única ponte entre os dois (o que o utilizador realmente vê). ↗ +1

- **System model:** modelo de como o sistema realmente funciona
  - **System image:** o que o utilizador vê do **system model**
  - **Mental model:** interpretação do utilizador de como o sistema funciona
    - Desenvolvido por interação com o sistema
    - Objetivo: replicar o **system model**
  - **Conceptual model:** modelação do designer/developer de como o sistema funciona
    - Desenvolvido construindo a **system image**, que abstrai o sistema real
    - Objetivo: assistir o utilizador a criar um bom **mental model**

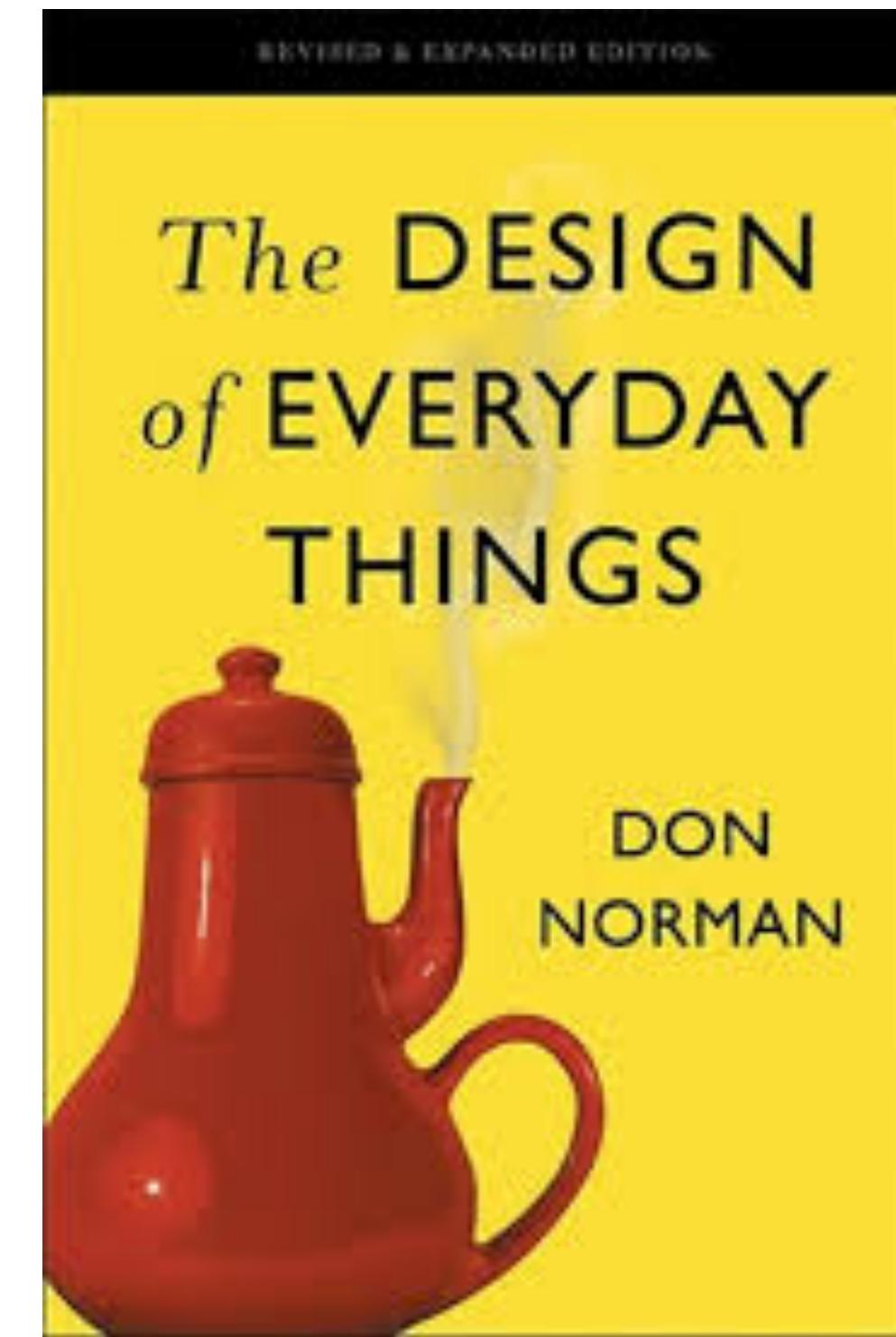
# Modelo mental !

- Incompleto ou inexato (pode conter erros ou medidas incertas)
- Instável ou simplista (utilizador esquece-se facilmente de detalhes e pode ignorar fenómenos complexos)
- Não científico (utilizador pode ter comportamentos “supersticiosos”)
- Em constante evolução
- Sem limites claros (utilizador pode confundir dispositivos ou operações similares)
- Impulsivo (utilizador pode tentar executar ações erradas em vez de planear)



# Modelo conceptual

- Fundamental principles of designing for people
  1. provide a good **conceptual model**
    - **Affordances**: dicas de como operar o objeto
    - **Mappings**: relações entre propriedades do objeto e conceitos do modelo
    - **Constraints**: restrições ao uso do objeto
    - **Feedback**: dar informação do que está a ser ou foi feito
  2. make things visible
    - Reforçar os outros princípios, e.g., perceived affordances



# Modelo conceptual

- **Affordances**



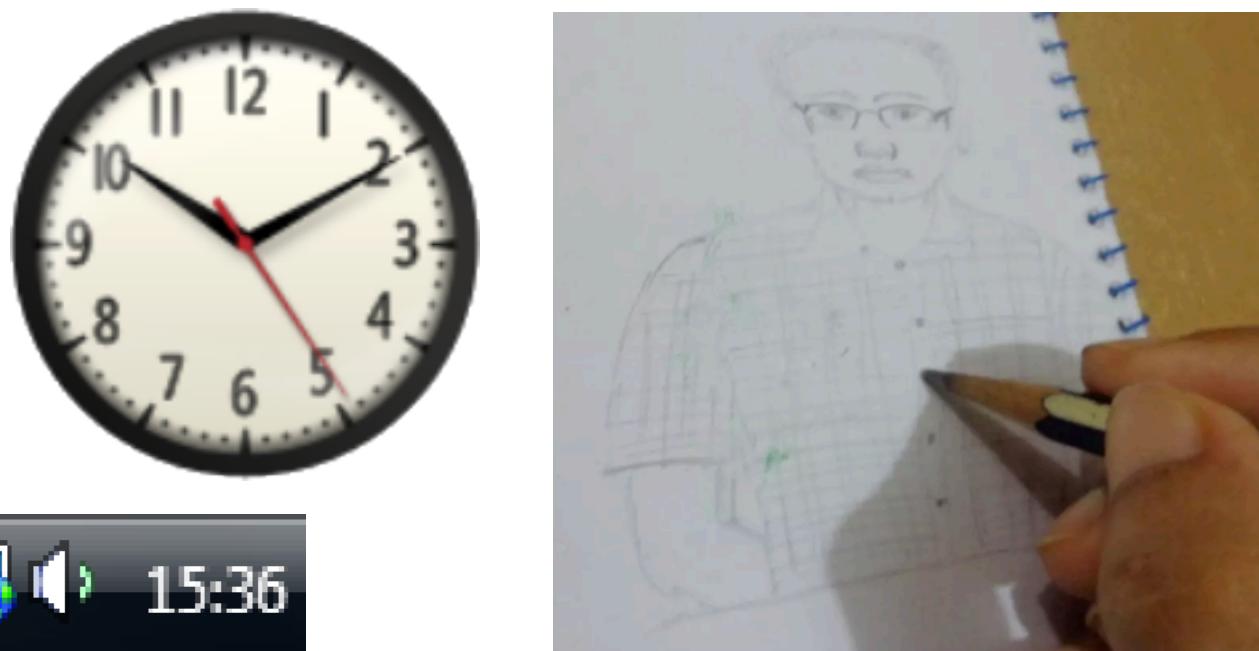
- **Mappings**



- **Constraints**



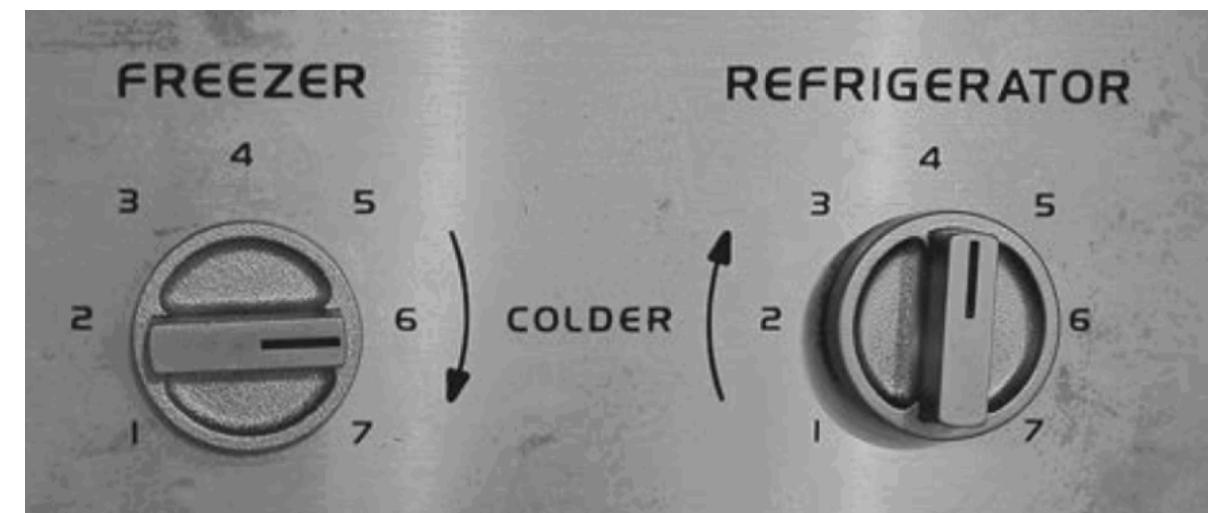
- **Feedback**



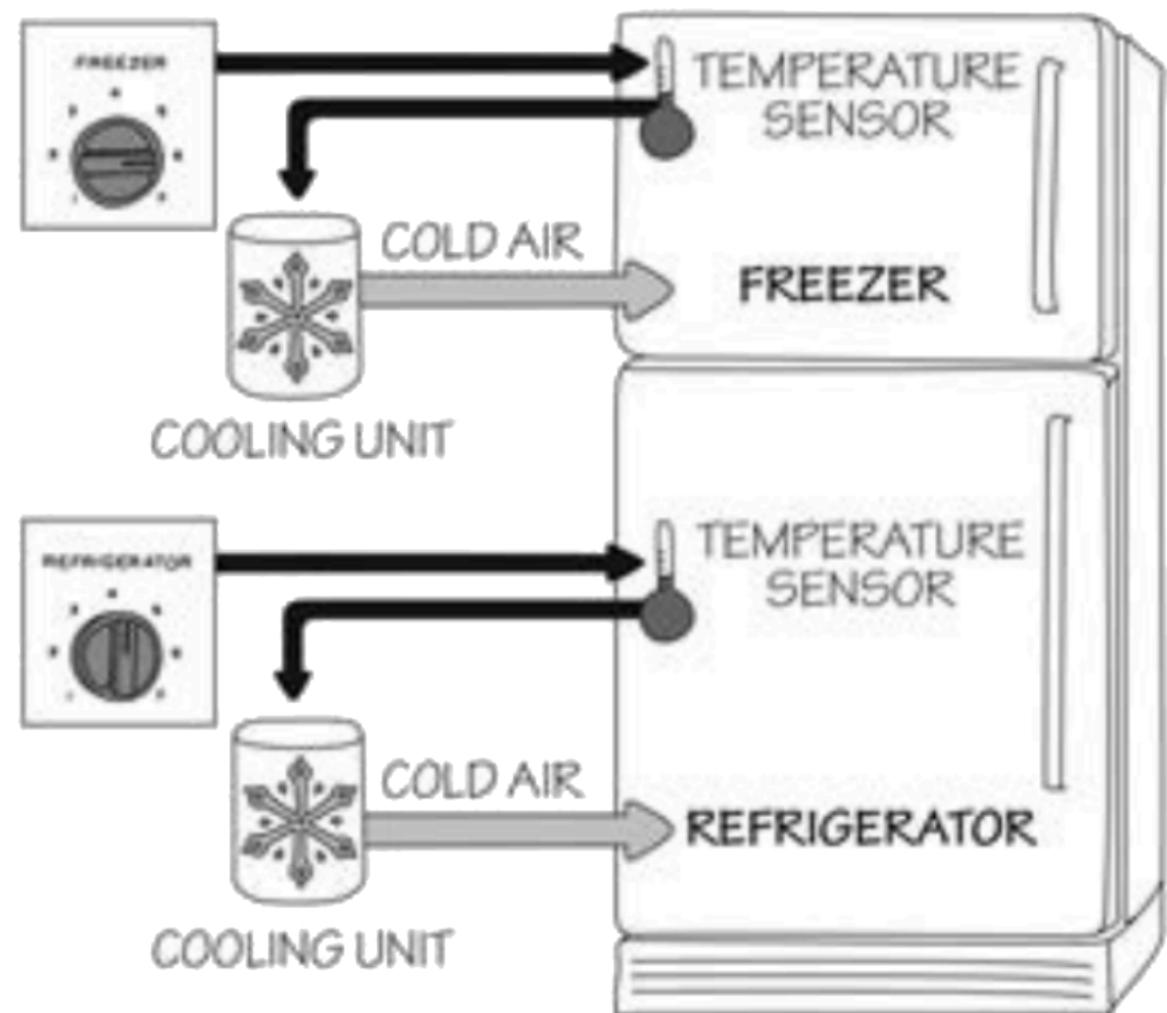
- **Affordances:** buracos para inserir algo
- **Mappings:** sugestão de buracos para inserir dedos
- **Constraints:** buraco grande estreito para vários dedos, buraco pequeno redondo para polegar
- **Feedback:** movimento das lâminas ao mover os dedos



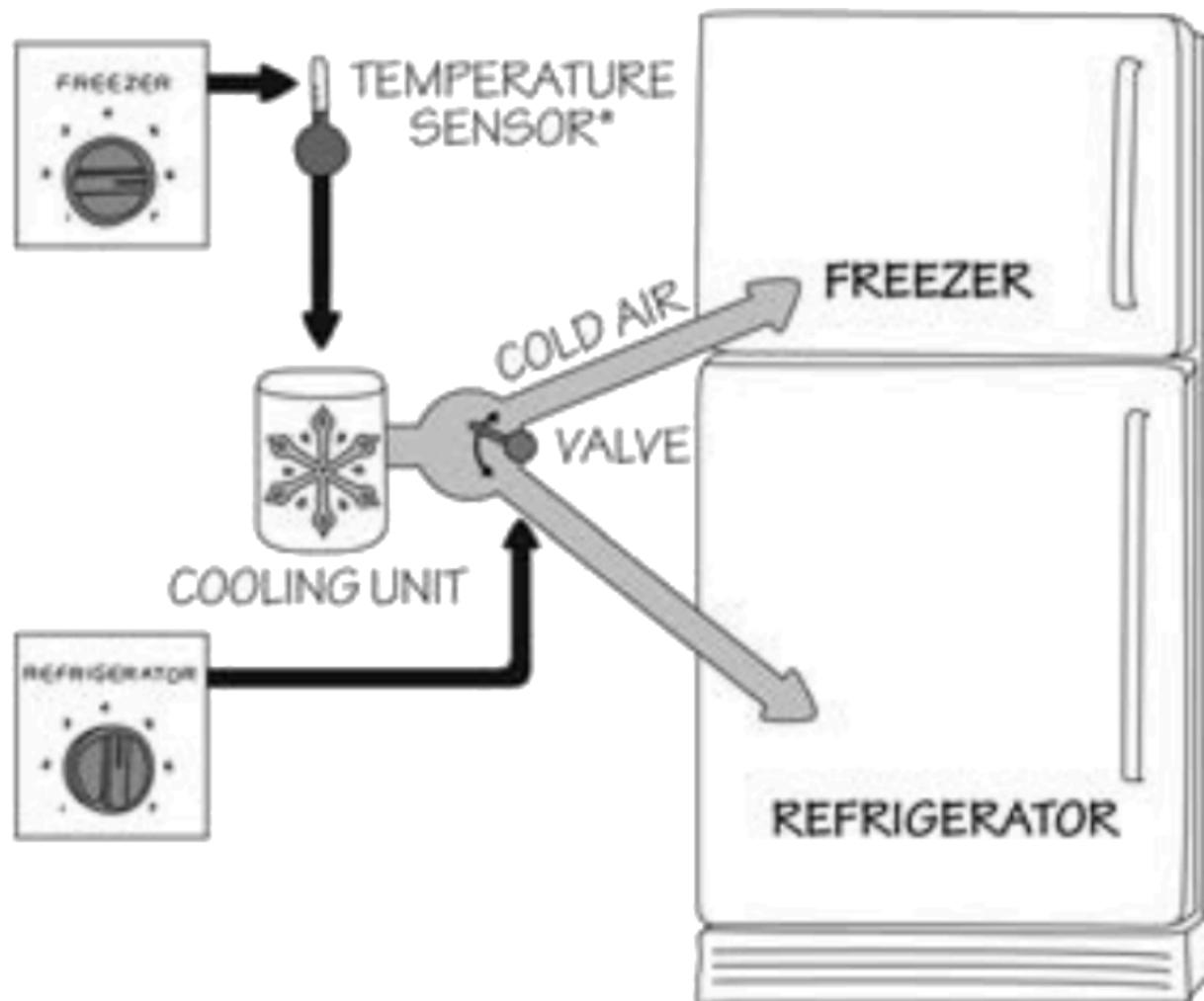
# Modelo conceptual ↵ Modelo mental



system image



mental model



conceptual model

- ! Controladores não são independentes
  - 💡 “Freezer” controla o termostato
- ! “Refrigerator” controla % de ar frio entre compartimentos
- ! Esperar 24h por feedback

# Modelo conceptual ↵ Modelo mental

- **Conceptual model** = como o designer quer que o utilizador veja o sistema
- No caso de uma má correspondência:
  - “When the designers fail to provide a **conceptual model**, we will be forced to make up our own **[mental model]**, and the ones we make up are apt to be wrong” (Don Norman 
  - “What users believe they know about a UI strongly impacts how they use it. Mismatched **mental models** are common, especially with designs that try something new.” (Nielsen Norman Group)
  - Erros de utilização, frustração, menor produtividade, ...



# Modelo conceptual ↵ Modelo mental

- “Control of the refrigerator is made difficult because the manufacturer provides a **false conceptual model**. [...] Given **the correct model**, life would be much easier.” (Don Norman)

o que eu achei é era a realidade



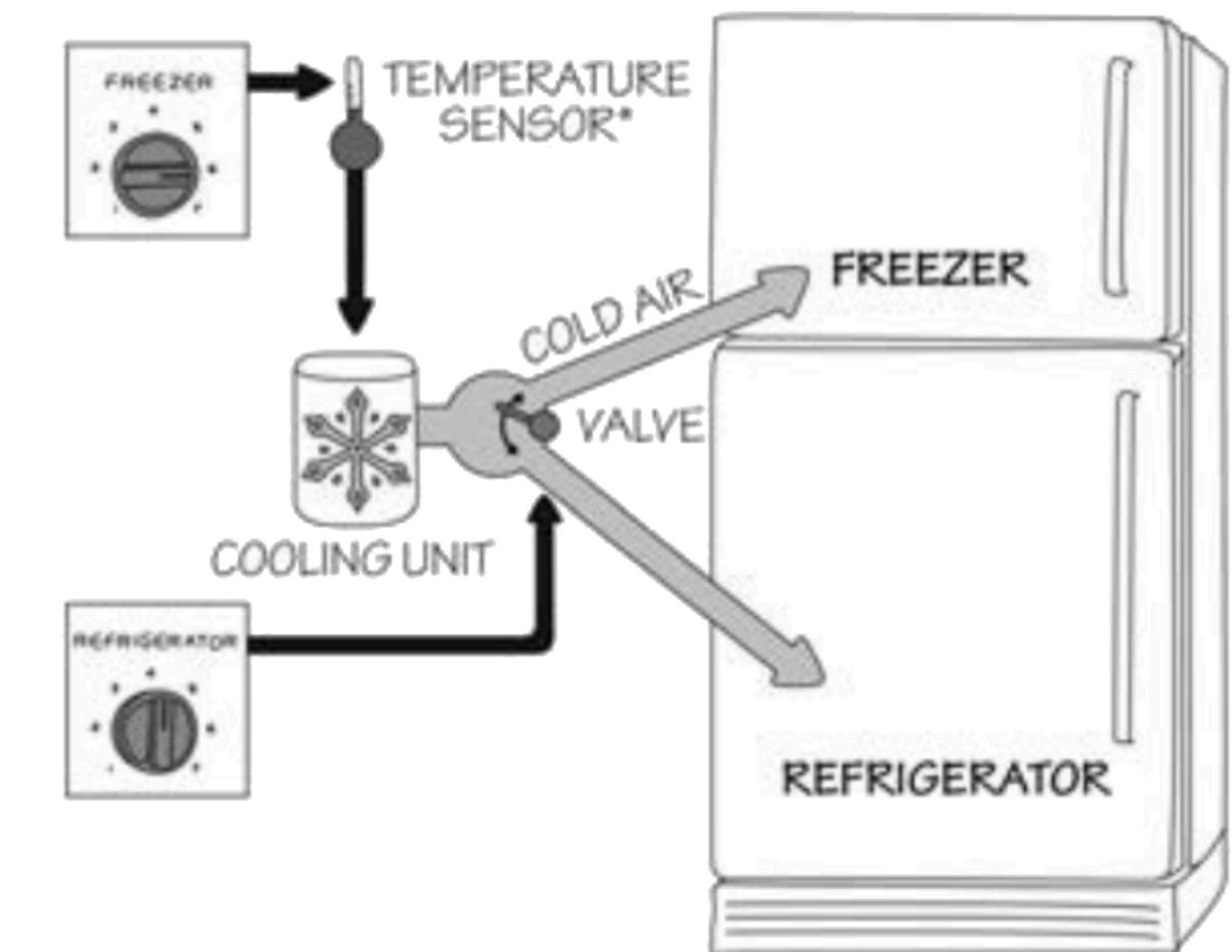
- 💡 Podemos tornar o modelo conceptual mais claro, e.g.:

- “Freezer” = “overall coldness”
- “Refrigerator” = “freezer/refrigerator ratio”

? É um bom modelo conceptual?

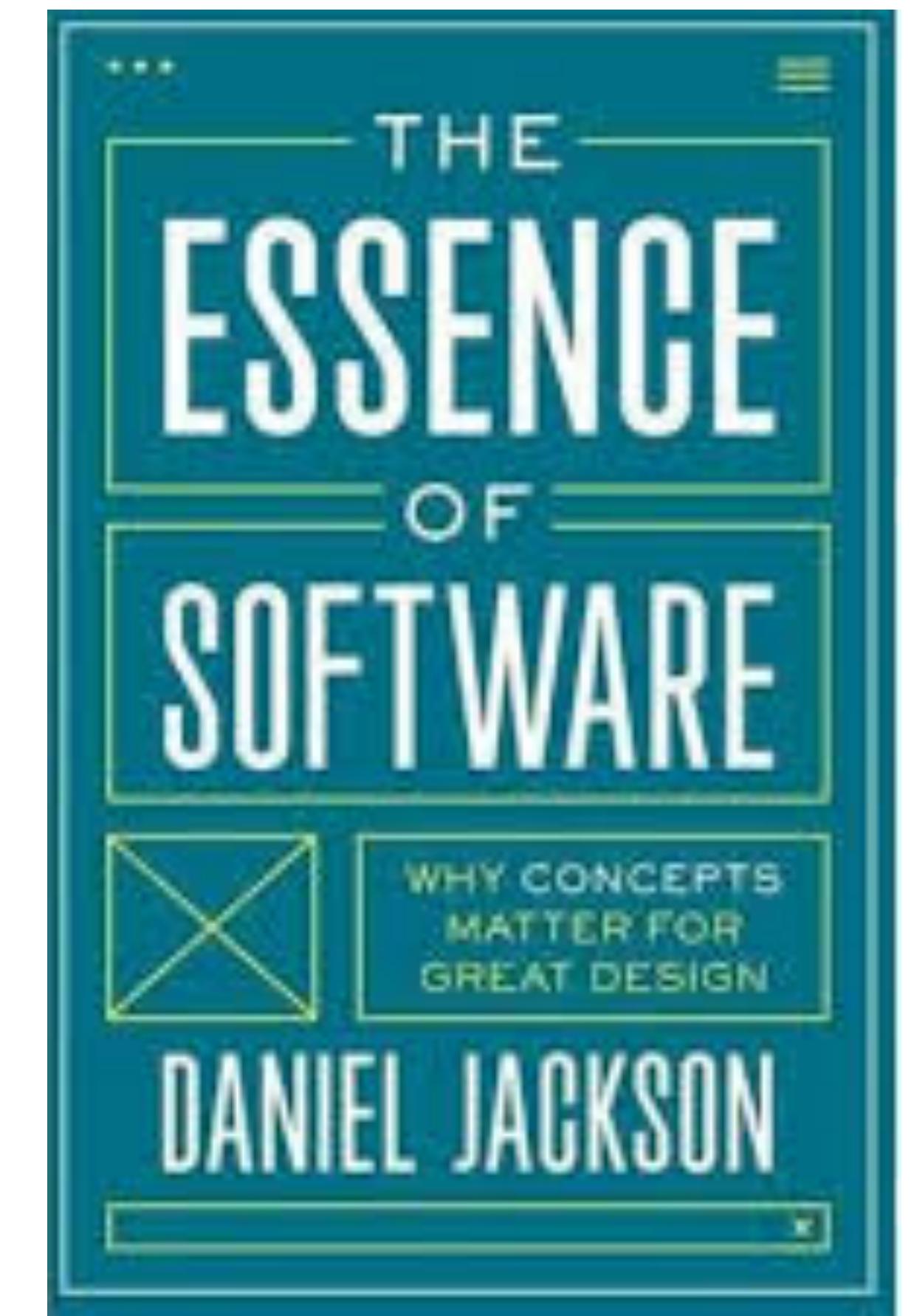
! Nem por isso. Podemos melhorar?

! Depende da realidade



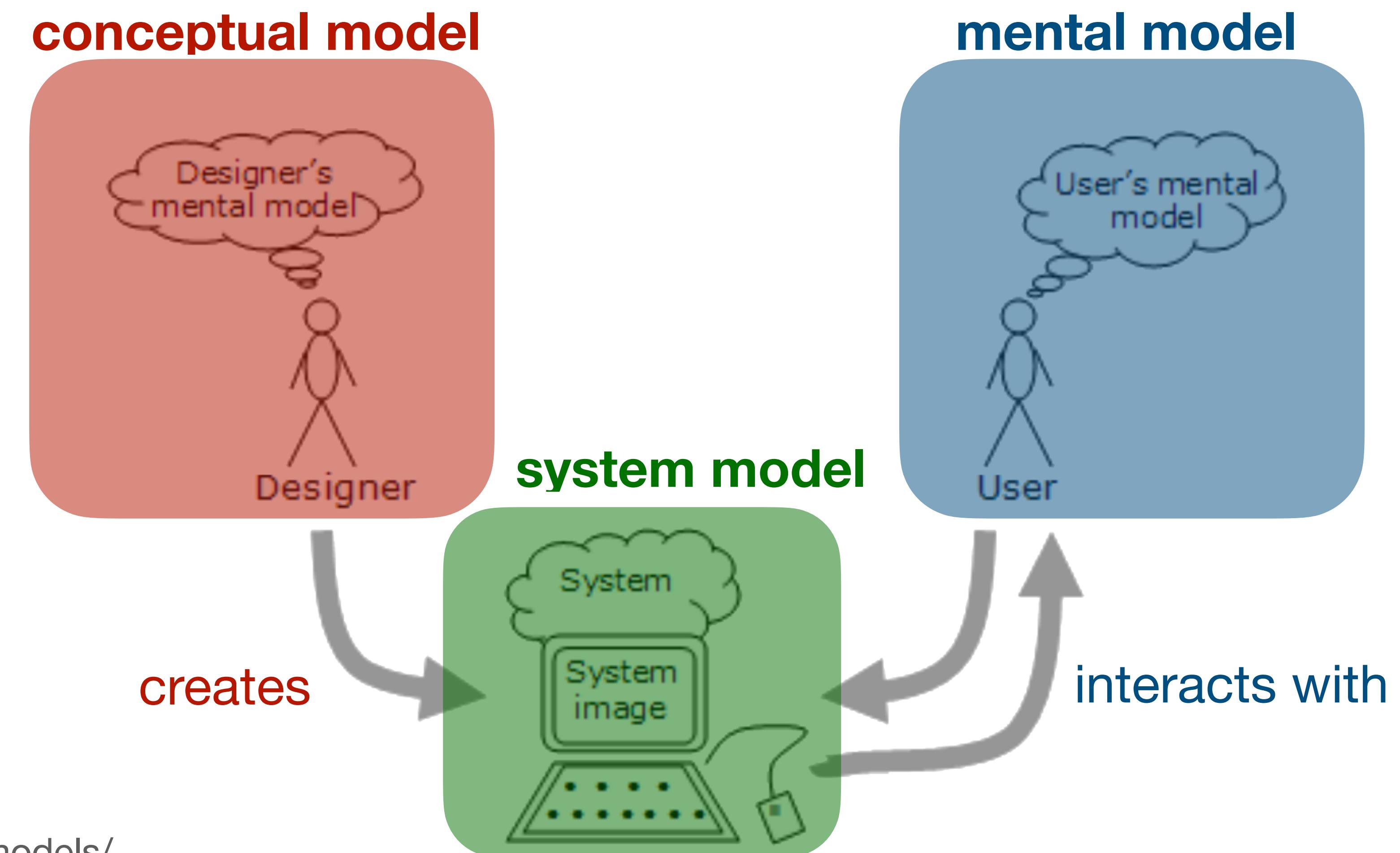
# Modelo conceptual ↵ Modelo mental

- “The design would still be bad even if the controls were accurately labeled”
- “The **user’s purposes**— adjusting the temperatures of the fresh and frozen compartments—exist independently of any mental intention, and it is the fundamental misalignment of **purposes** and **concepts** that makes the design bad”
- “The notion of gulfs is invaluable for exposing usability snags, but in discovering a gulf between a **user intention** and a **system action**, one should not regard either the intention or the action as given, and **the best design solution may involve changing both**”



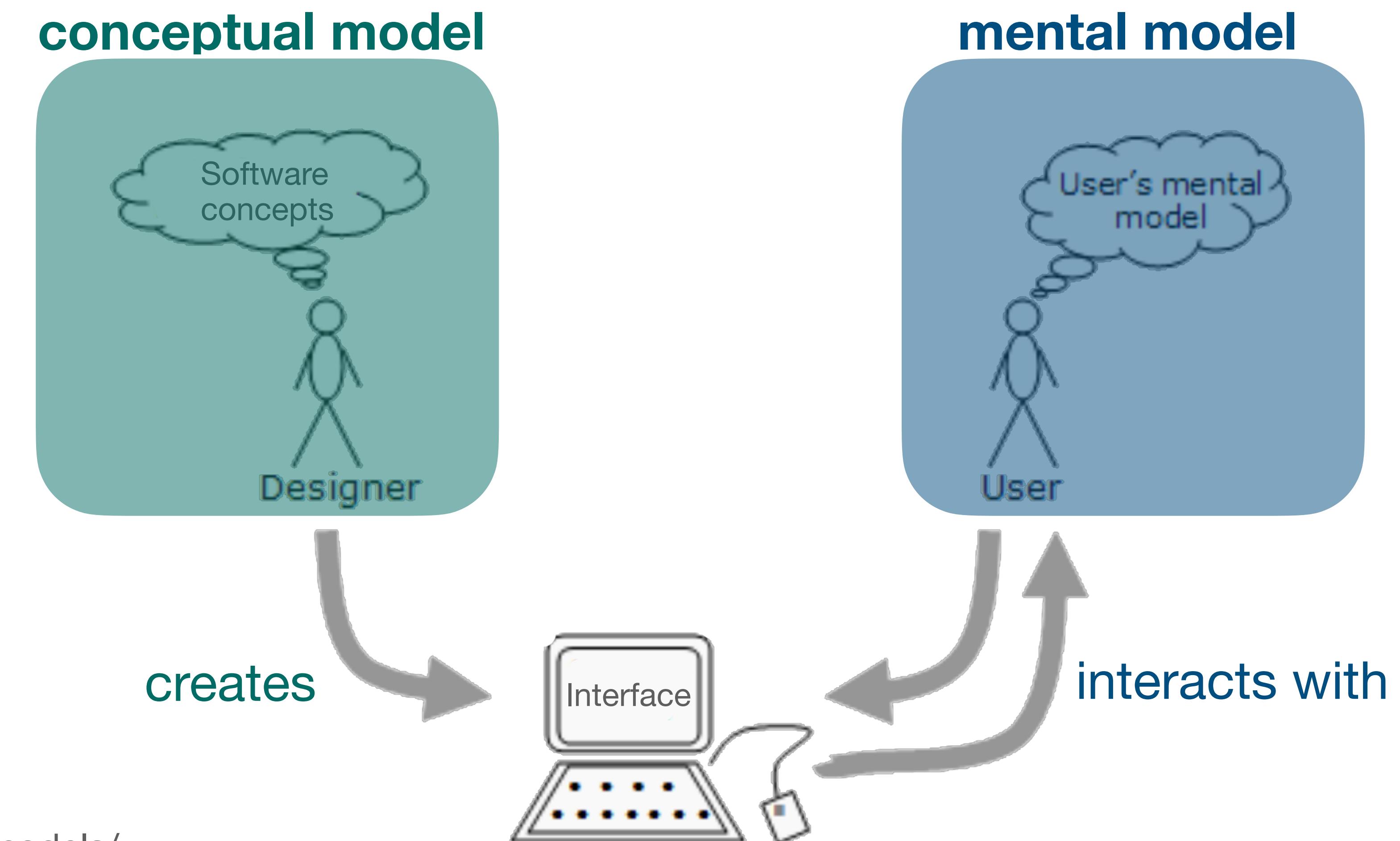
# Software concepts

- Em software, temos a capacidade de “construir e moldar a realidade”
- “To speak of a **software** system [...] as having a **conceptual model** is misleading. It suggests there is some model distinct from the reality of the software itself. On the contrary, the **conceptual design** is the **design of the software**.”

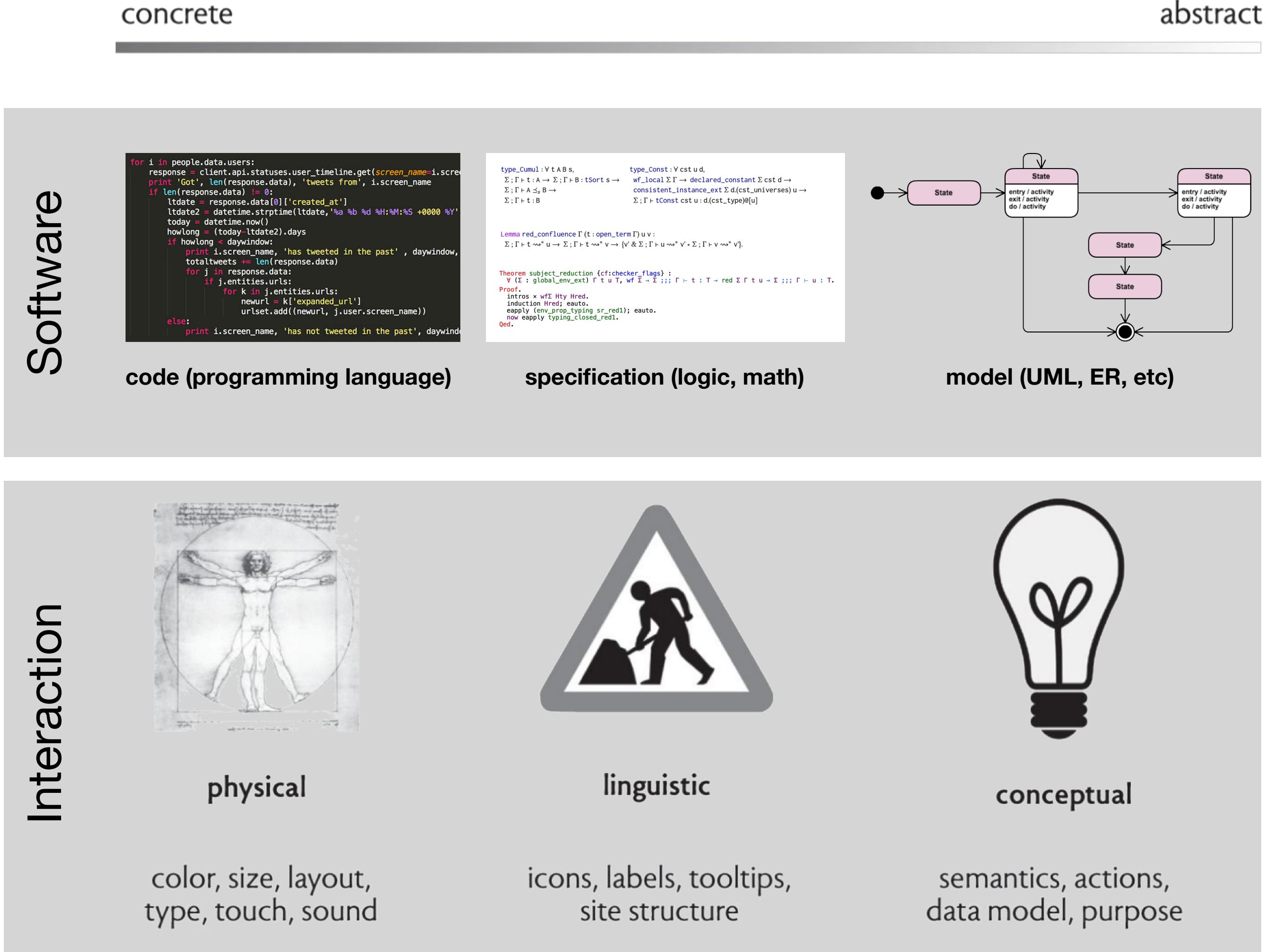


# Software concepts

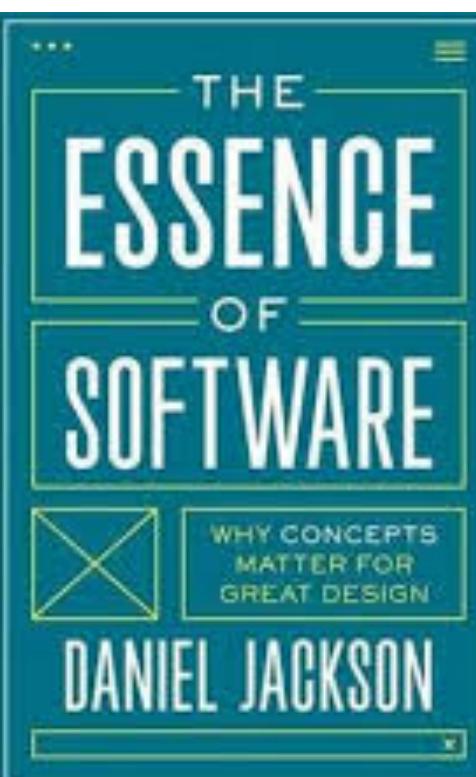
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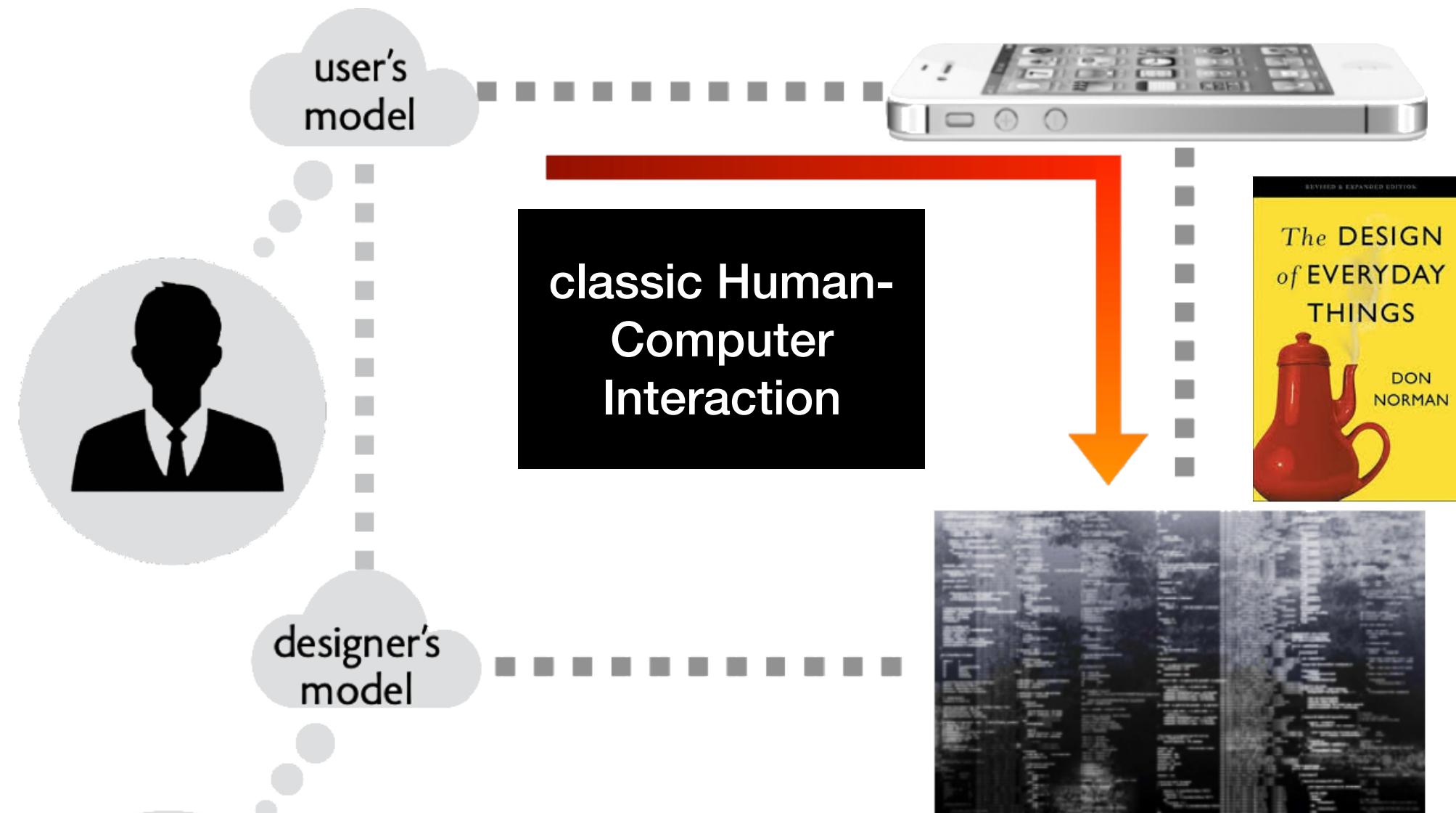
# Software concepts: Representação / Abstração



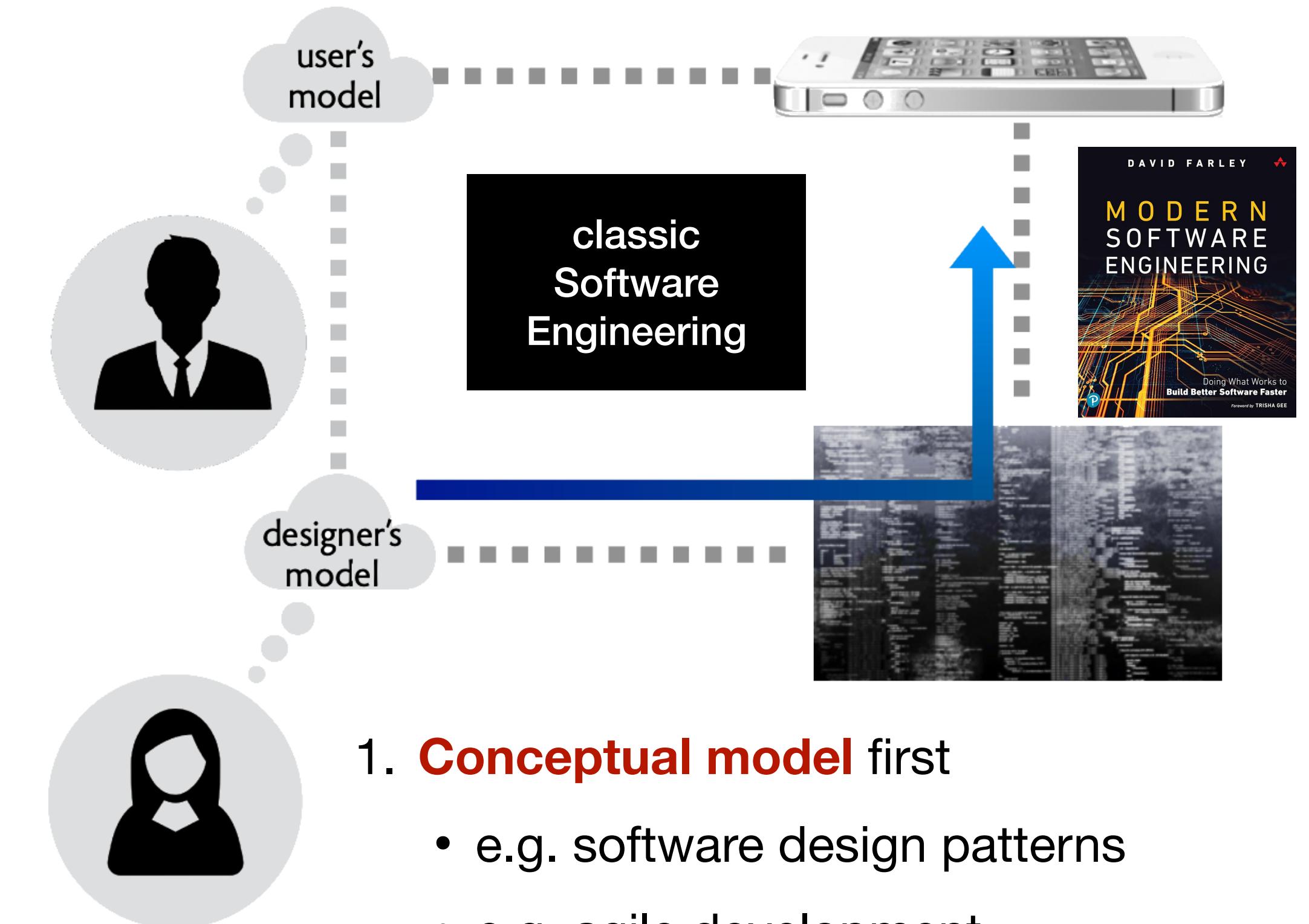
- Designers shall be able to “express **conceptual design** ideas without representing them in a concrete **user interface**”
- “Just as a single programming abstraction can have different representations, so a **concept** can be realized in different **user interfaces**”
- “Just as programmers think first about the abstraction and only second about the representation, so designers think at the conceptual level before the lower levels.”



# Conceptual modeling

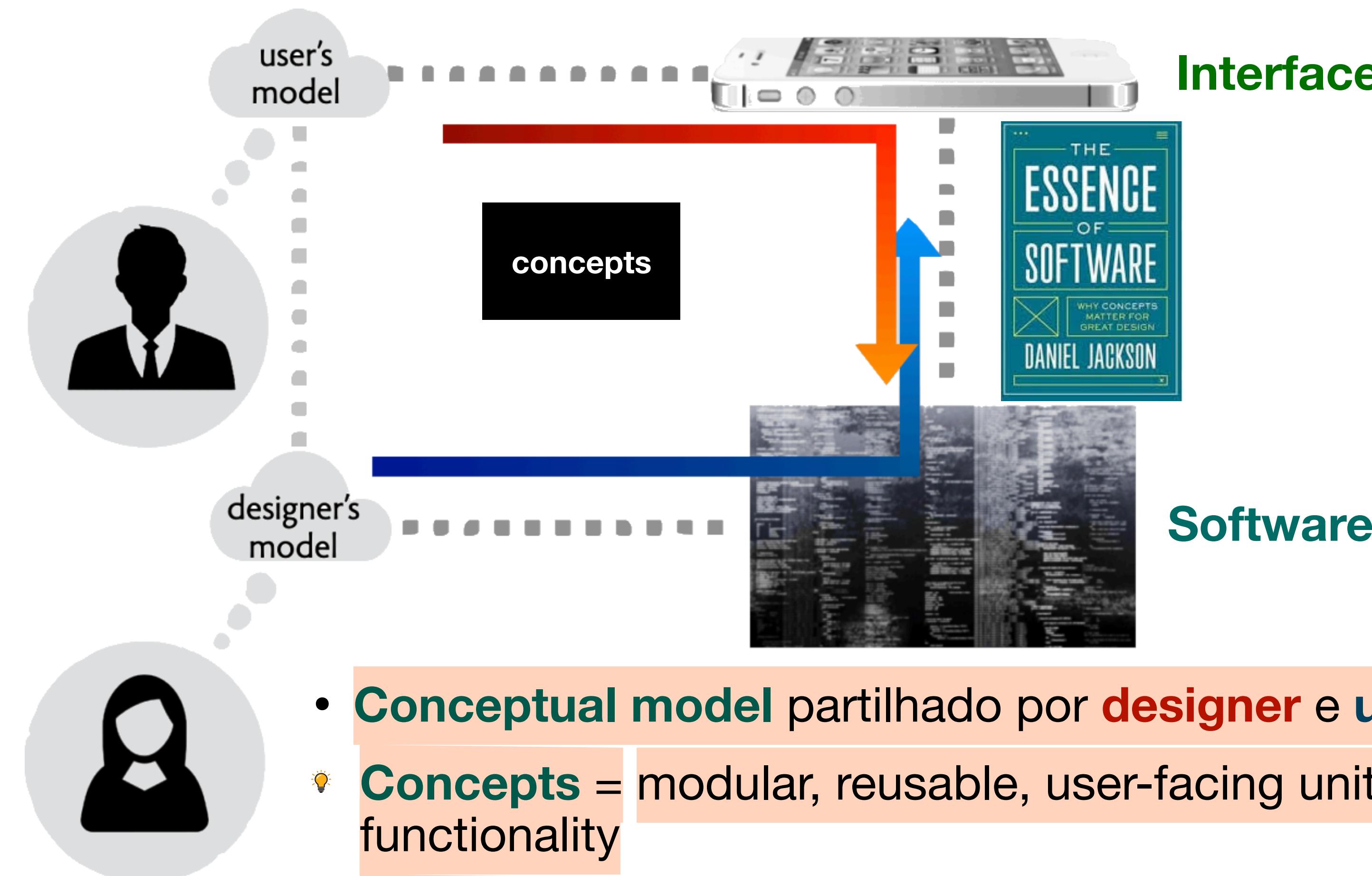


1. **Mental model** first
  - e.g. prototipagem
  - e.g. user studies
2. Design de um **conceptual model** que ligue a realidade do **sistema** à intuição do utilizador



1. **Conceptual model** first
  - e.g. software design patterns
  - e.g. agile development
2. Construção de um **mental model** que reflete o comportamento do **sistema** para o utilizador

# Conceptual modeling



- **Conceptual model** partilhado por **designer** e **utilizador**
- 💡 **Concepts** = modular, reusable, user-facing units of functionality
- ❗ **Interface** é relevante apenas na forma como representa os **concepts** ao utilizador

# Um concept é...

- ...um incremento de funcionalidade...
  - independente de outros **concepts**
- ... que serve um **purpose**...
  - contribuindo para o **purpose** geral do **sistema**
- ...com o seu próprio **state**...
  - visível para o **utilizador**
- ...com as suas **actions**.
  - executadas pelo **utilizador**

# Concepts: Trash

- “If you can find the trash can, you can run a computer” (Apple Lisa 1982)
- Mais do que uma metáfora
  - Tem um **purpose** definido
  - inclui **state** e **actions**
  - Intuição descrita num **operational principle**
    - “if you delete a file, it moves to a special folder; you can restore from there, but emptying it removes contents for good”



**concept** trash [Item]

**purpose**

to allow undoing of deletions

**state**

accessible, trashed: set Item

**actions**

create (x: Item)

when x not in accessible or trashed

add x to accessible

delete (x: Item)

when x in accessible but not trashed

move x from accessible to trashed

restore (x: Item)

when x in trashed

move x from trashed to accessible

empty ()

when some item in trashed

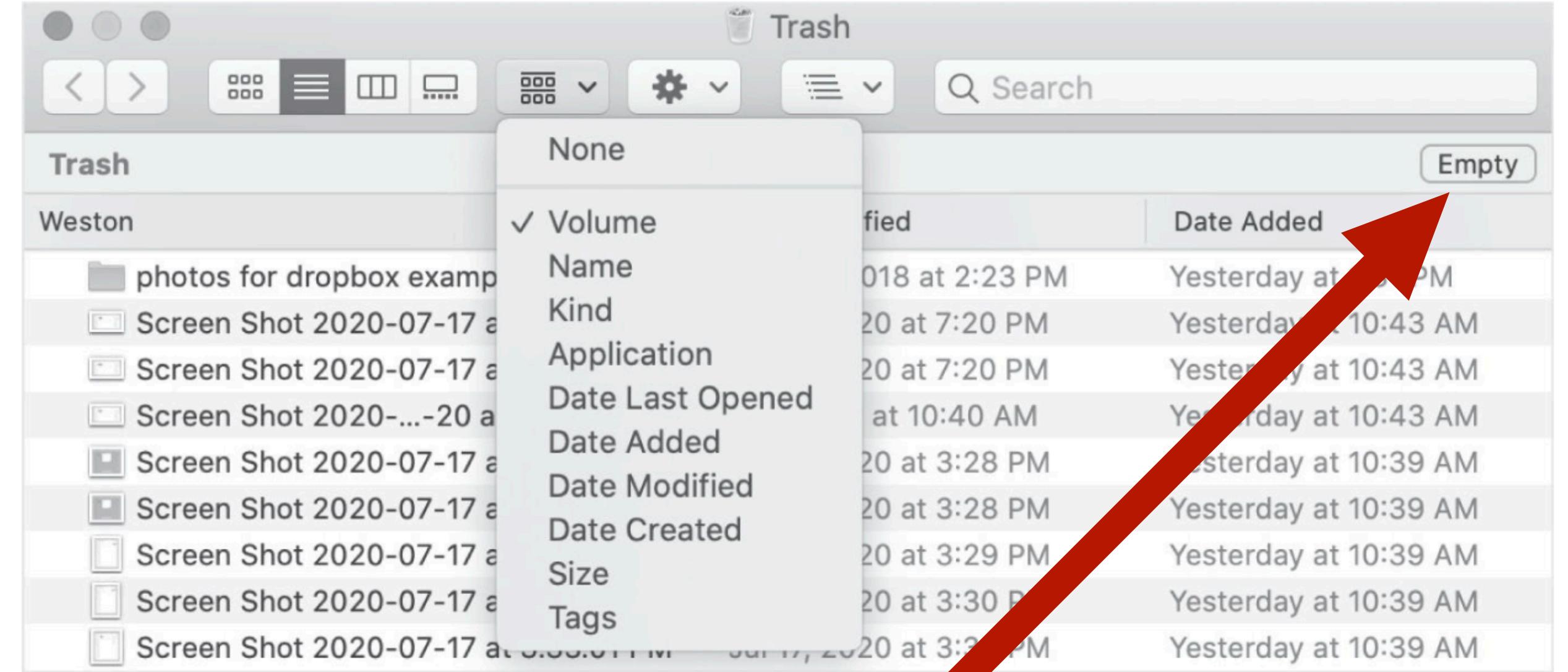
remove every item from trashed

# Concepts: Trash

- Composição de concepts
  - **Trash visto como uma folder**
  - Items no **trash** são **folders**
- “Date Added” no **trash** = data em que o item foi removido

## ? Questões

- Um só **trash**?
- O que acontece com devices externos?



## 💡 Sincronização de concepts

- Esvaziar **trash**?
- Mover ficheiros de/para **trash** coerente com mover entre **folders**
- Apagar na **trash folder** = repôr

# Exemplo: Dropbox

- Ava (AA) partilhou uma pasta chamada “Bella Party” com Bella (BB)
  - Incluindo uma sub-pasta “Bella Plan”

The screenshot shows the Dropbox interface with a search bar at the top left and user icons (AA and BB) at the top right. Below the search bar, the text "Dropbox > Bella Party" is displayed. An "Overview" section follows, featuring a header with "Name ↑", "Members", and a sorting dropdown. A table lists one item: "Bella Plan" (with a star icon), which has "2 members". There is also a "..." button next to the item.

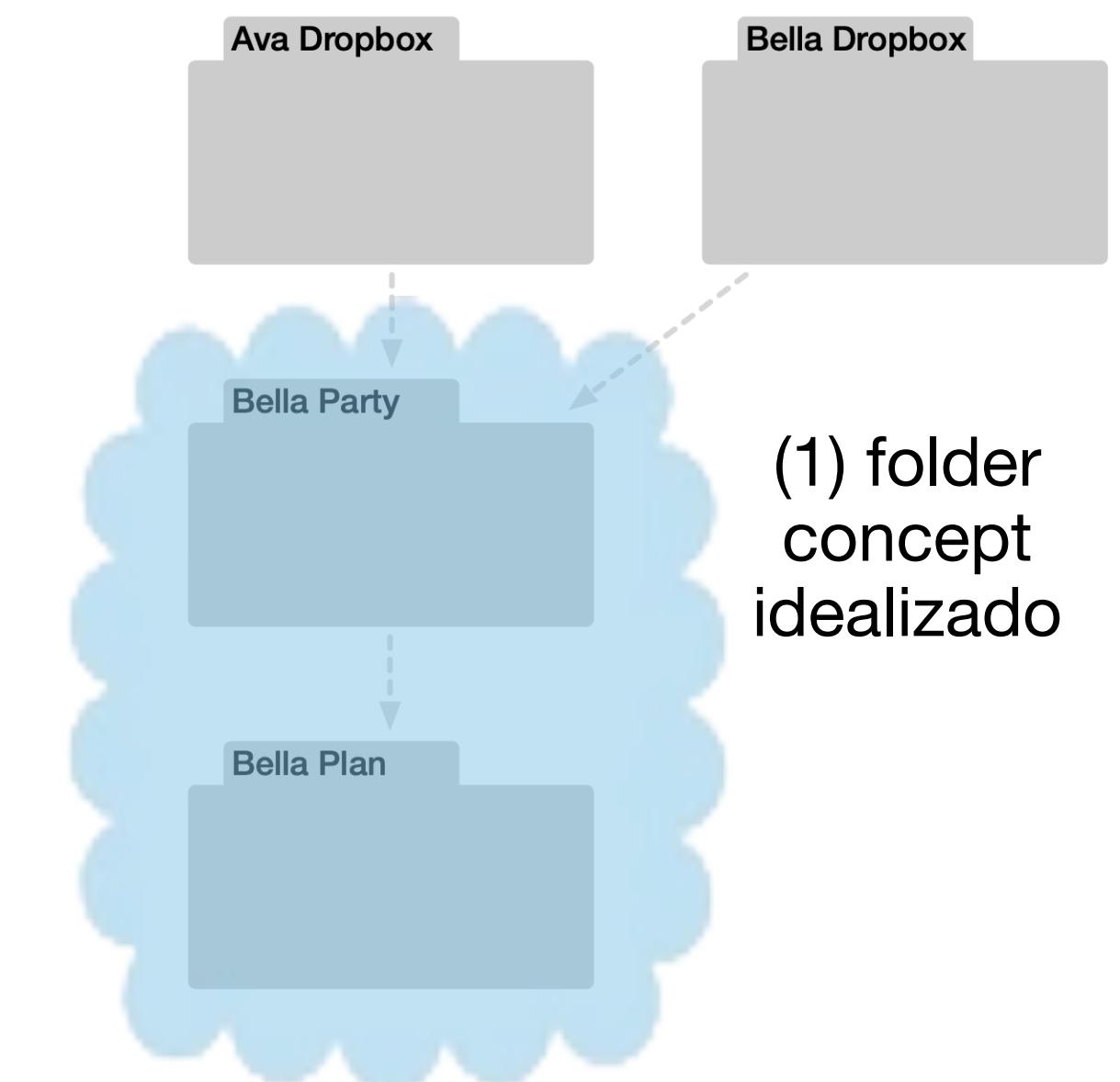
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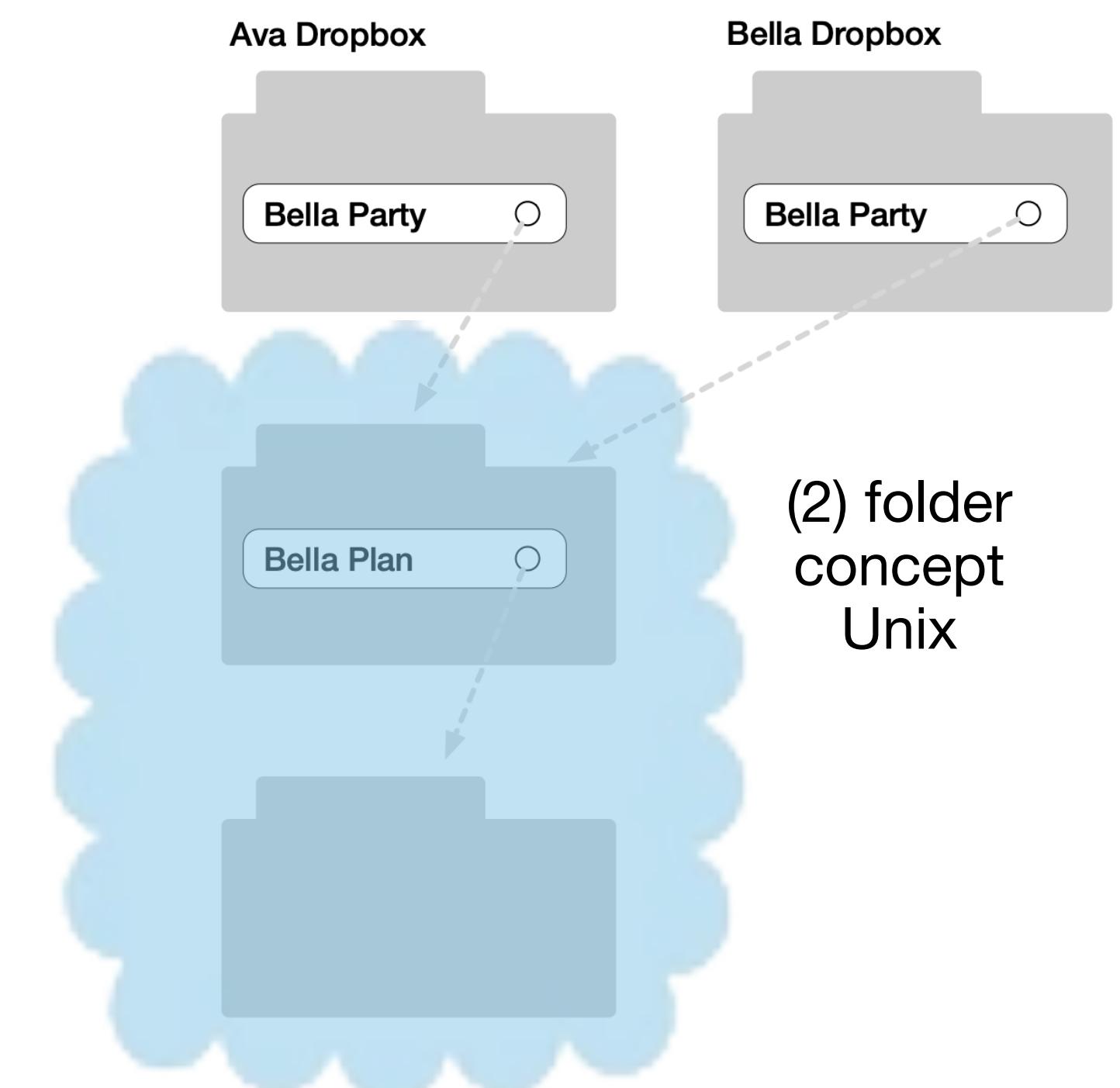
# Exemplo: Dropbox

? Qual o **modelo conceptual**?

- Se Bella renomear “Bella Party” para “My Party”
  - Renomeia só a sua pasta, Ava vê nome original
- Se Bella apagar a pasta “Bella Party”
  - (1) Apaga para ambas (2) Apaga só para si
- Se Ava apagar a pasta “Bella Plan”
  - Apaga para ambas



(1) folder  
concept  
idealizado



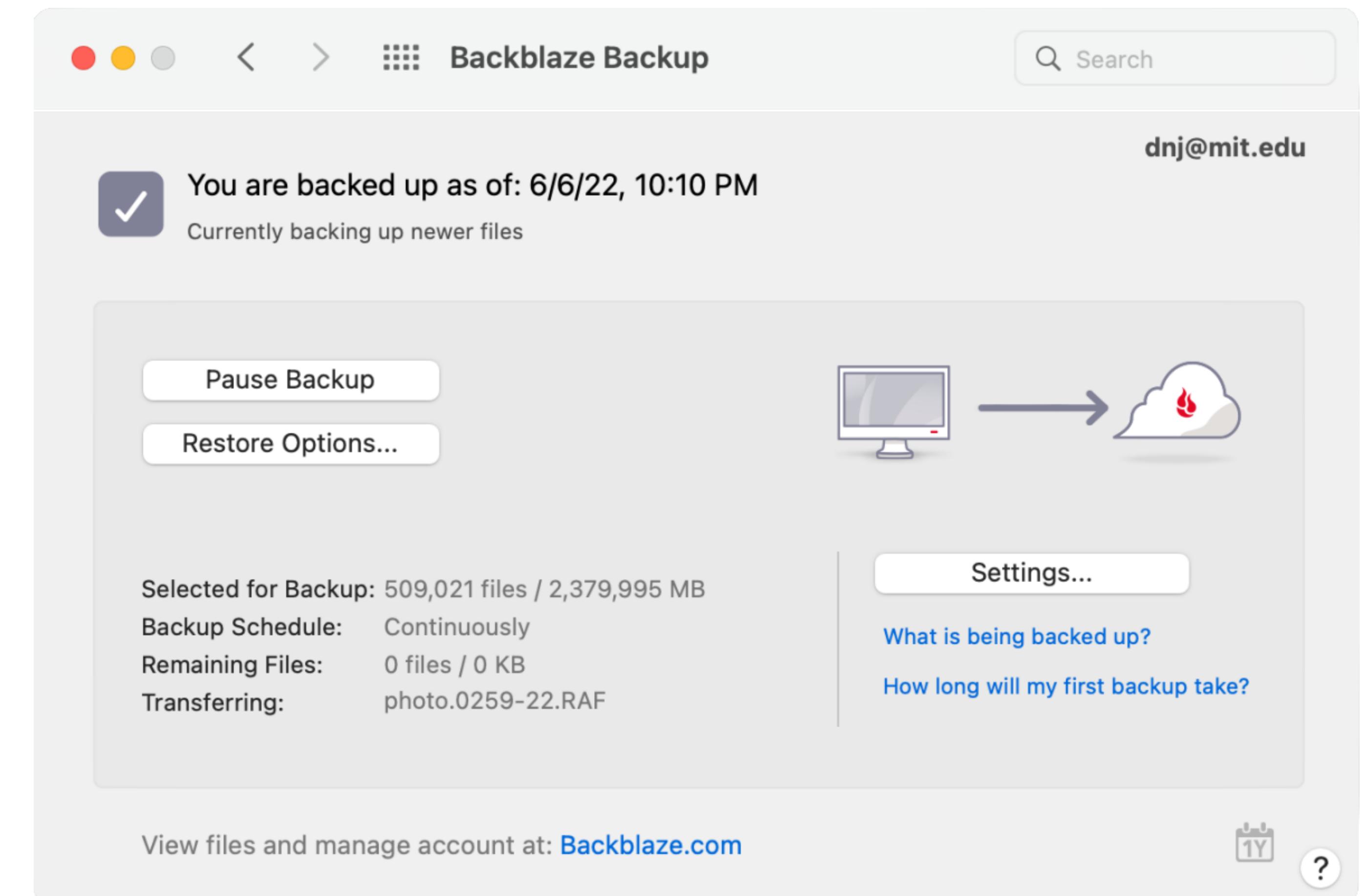
(2) folder  
concept  
Unix

# Exemplo: Backblaze

- Considerem uma aplicação de backups automáticos para a cloud

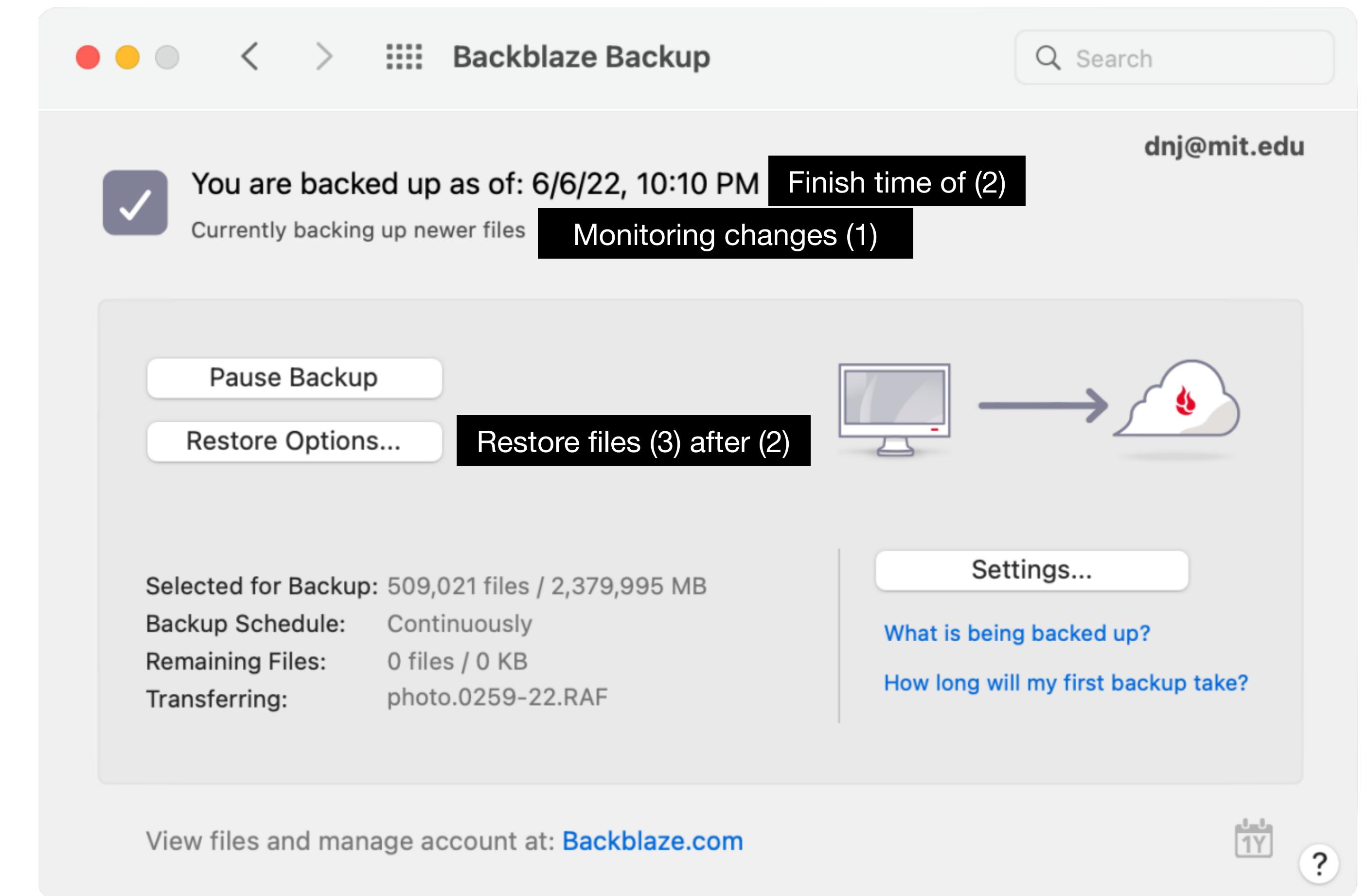
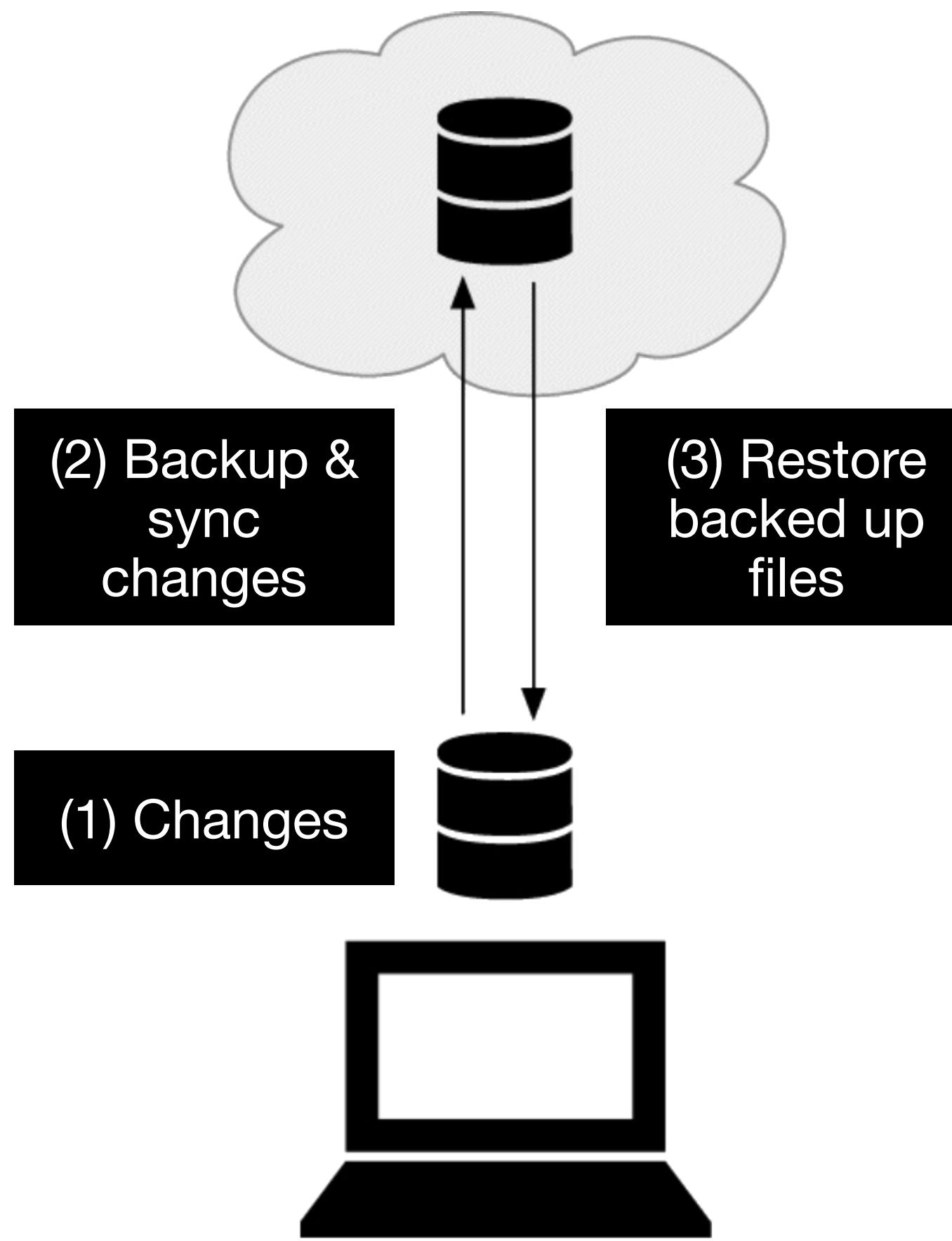
? Qual o **modelo conceptual**?

- Está atualmente a fazer backup?
- Que modificações antes das 10:10PM estão guardadas? Onde?



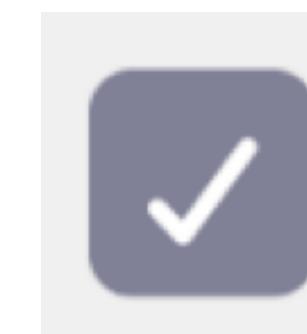
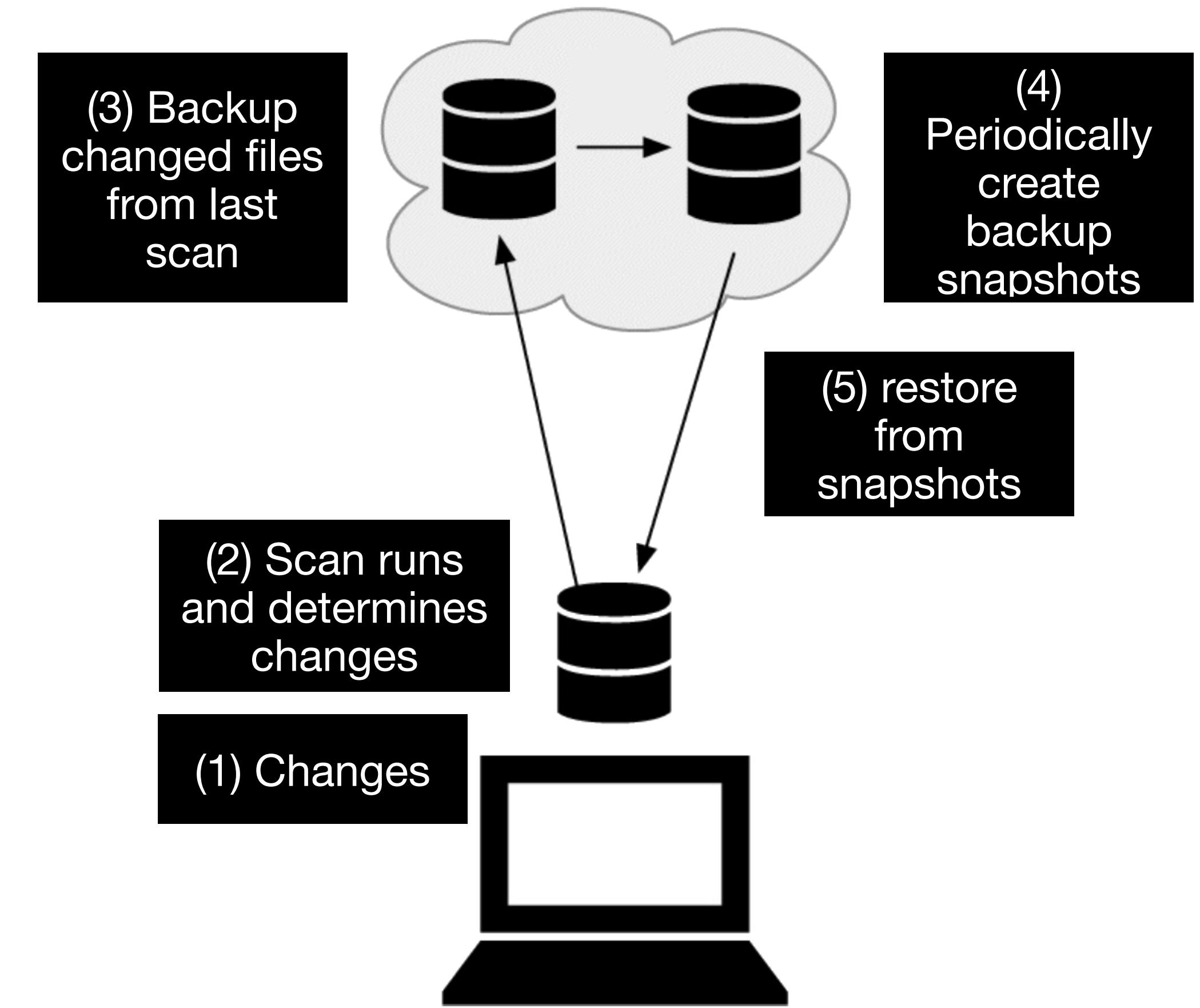
# Exemplo: Backblaze

- Um possível modelo



# Exemplo: Backblaze

- O modelo “real”
  - Modificações não são diretamente sincronizadas
    - Scan → Backup
  - Mais do que uma localização na cloud
    - Backups → Snapshots
  - Restore de snapshots



Last backup completed at: 6/6/22, 10:10PM.  
This includes all files saved prior to the scan completed at:  
6/6/22, 10:00PM.

# Exemplo: Backblaze

**concept** FileStore [Name, Content]

**purpose** store files persistently

**principle** after creating and updating a file, you can get the content

**state**

a set of files  
for each file  
name, contents

**actions**

create (n: Name, c: Content)

update (n: Name, c: Content)

delete (n: Name)

get (n: Name): Content

**concept** Backup [Name, Content]

**purpose** retrieve old version of files

**principle** after a file's contents are saved, they can be retrieved later by date

**state**

a set of files with versions  
for each file  
name, contents, date

**actions**

save (n: Name, c: Content)

restore (n: Name, d: Date): Content

**concept** Workset [Item]

**purpose** process items in batches

**principle** after items are added, and processing is started, the items are processed

**state**

current set of items being worked on  
next set of items to work on

**actions**

start ()

requires current == {}

current = next

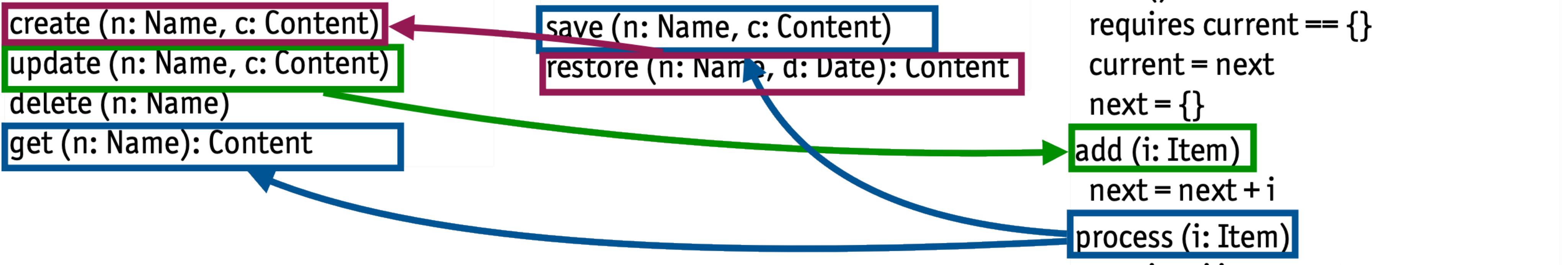
next = {}

add (i: Item)

next = next + i

process (i: Item)

requires i in current  
current = current - i



# Concepts: composição

💡 Concepts são independentes

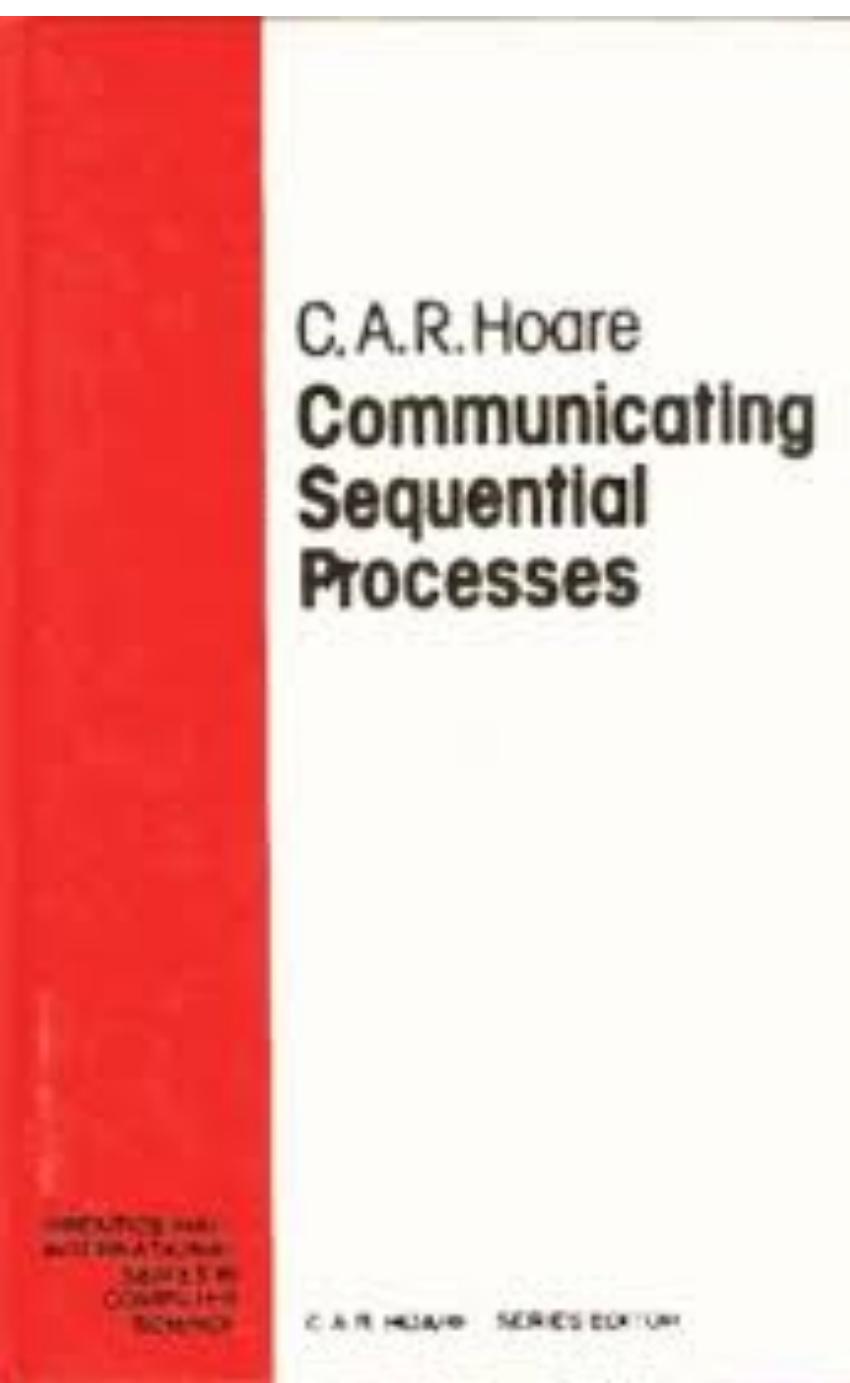
- Existem simultaneamente
- Têm estado próprio
- Executam ações em paralelo

💡 Composição através de sincronização

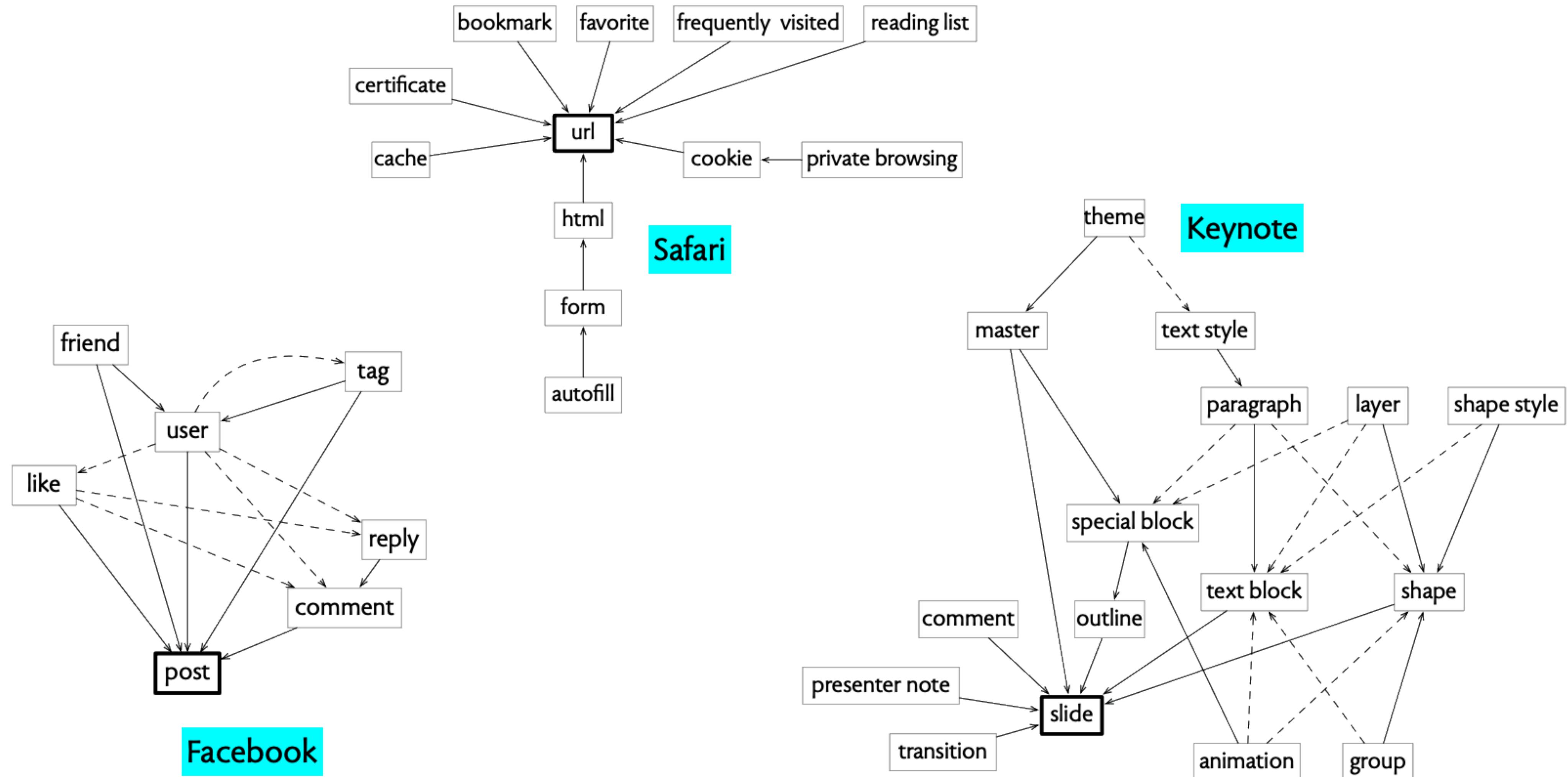
- A. action  $\Rightarrow$  B. action

❗ Não significa que as duas ações executam atomicamente

- Apenas que B. action tem que ocorrer no futuro se A. action ocorrer
- Outras ações podem ocorrer pelo meio



# Concepts caracterizam apps



# Concepts caracterizam apps

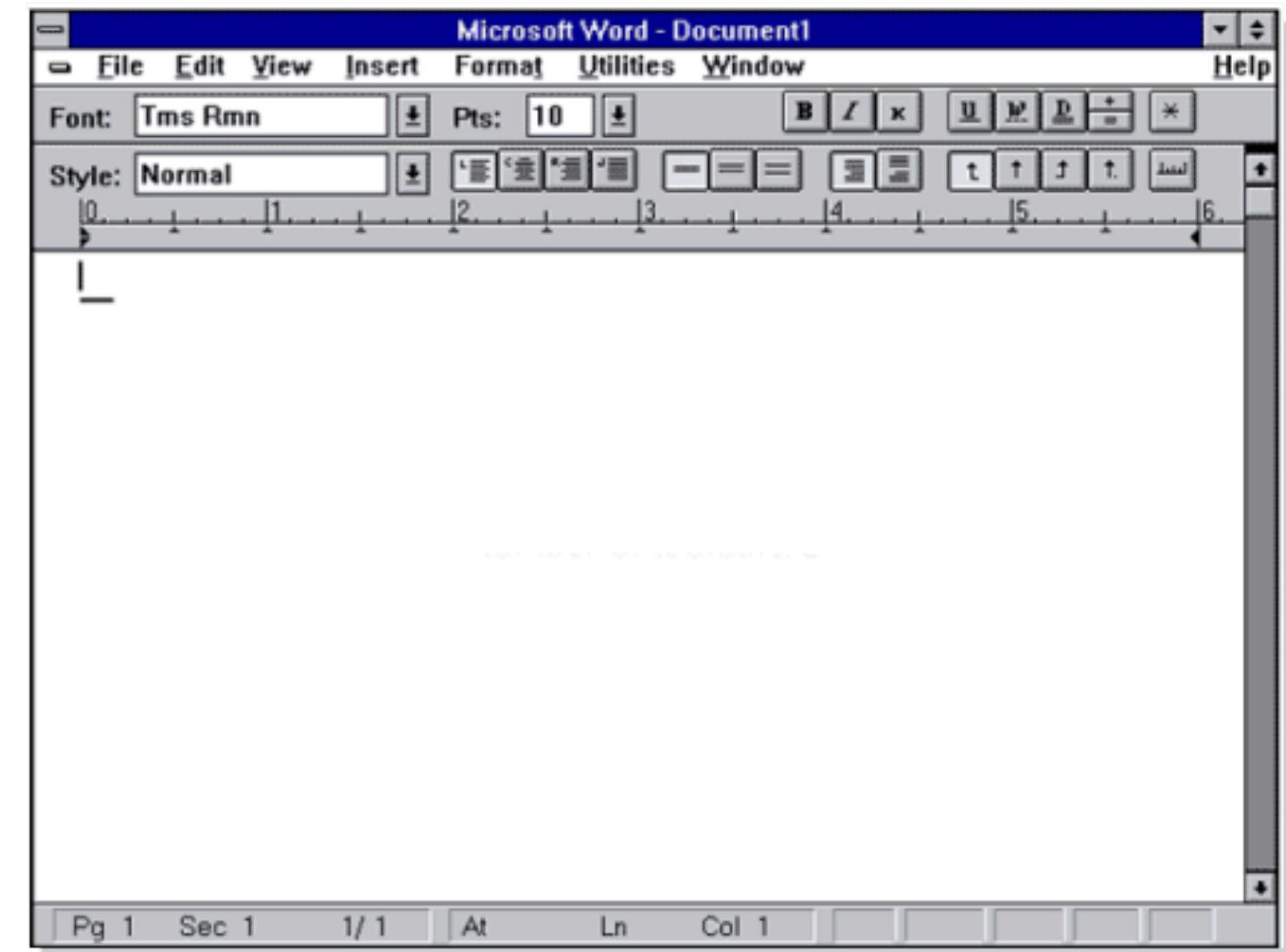
```
44 - approaches, not satisfying: surely something essential
45
46 Take a step back: concepts
47 - examples: Microsoft Word's line and para
48 - where concepts come from
49 - implications of concepts
50 - how concepts distinguish apps (Word from LaTeX) and app classes (Word from bold)
51 - what's software made off concepts
52
53 Towards a theory of concepts:
54 - what's a concept?
55 state machine of their example
56 abstract state, usually structural, explains behavior
57 can explain with an operational principle without referring to purpose
58 more complex examples: style, alias, trash, tagging, selection or Po
59 in all cases the concept does not fulfill a function HELPFULLY
60
61 - granularity
62 smallest concept that's a functionality increment
63 eg. can have layer without mask
64 but may choose to group into larger concept
65
66 - dependence
67 concepts have dependences based on functional subsets
68 what's the point of that?
69
70 - criteria: compelling, coherent, controllable (decoupled), general, complete, consistent,
```

**text editor**

line

character set

markup

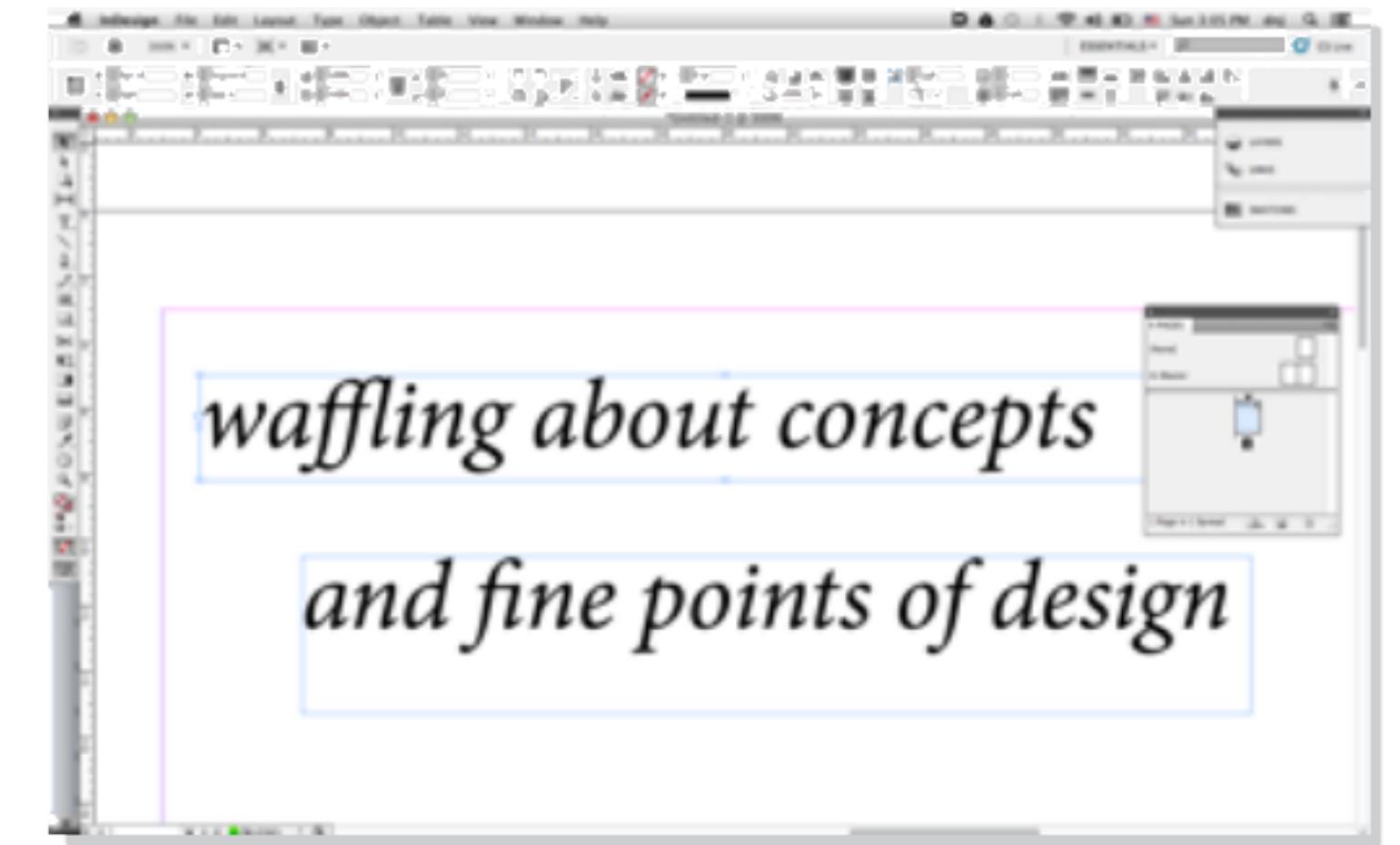


**word processor**

paragraph

format

style



**desktop publishing app**

paragraph

format

style

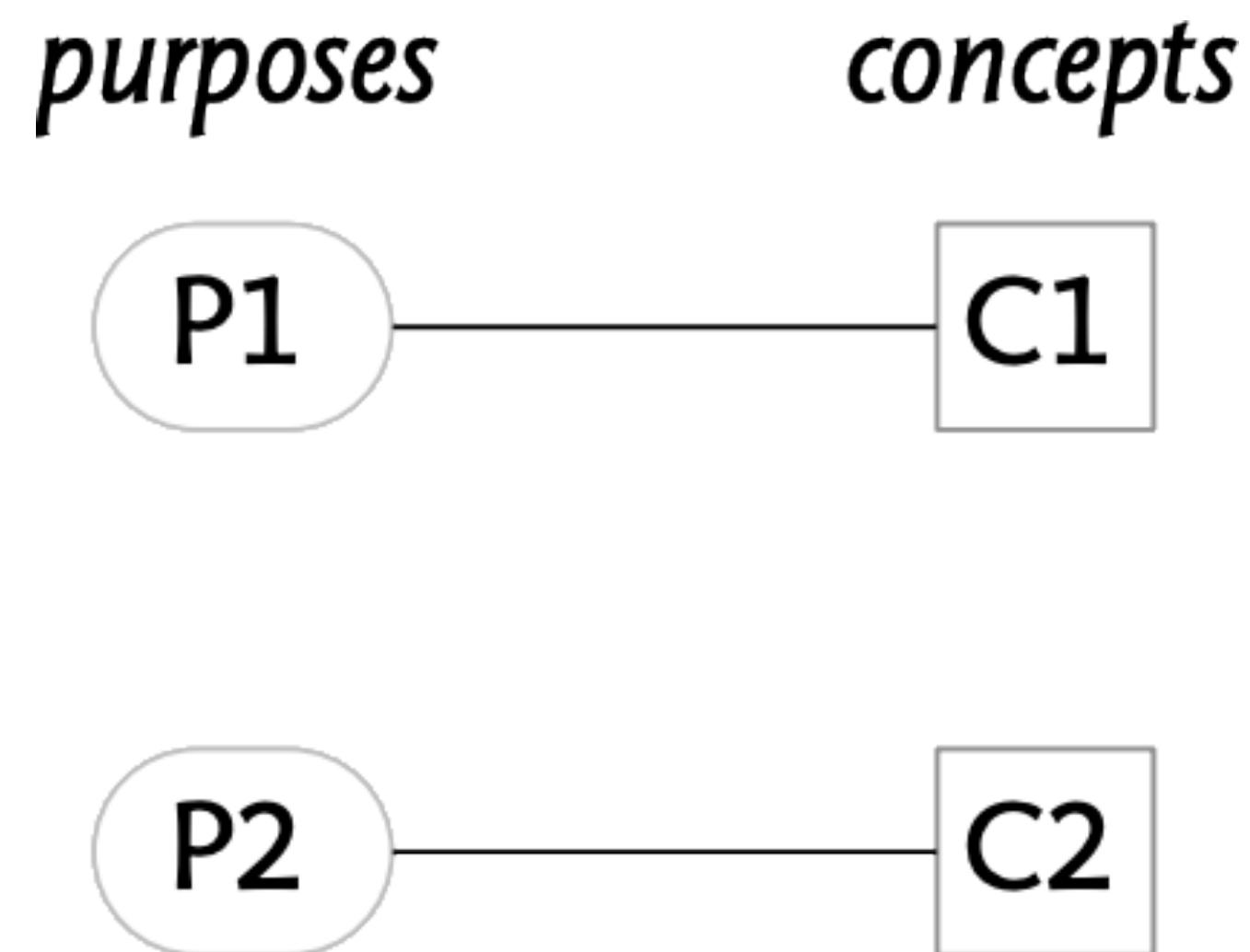
page

textflow

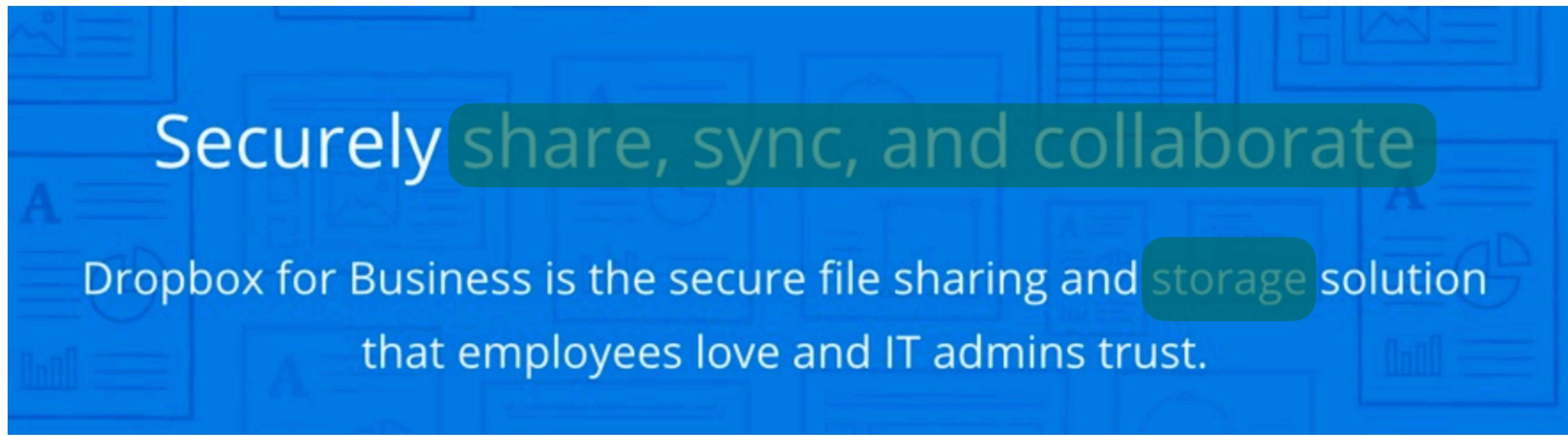
# Concepts: Mapeamento

- Princípio fundamental
  - “Design is driven by purpose”
  - Cada **concept** deve ser motivado por exatamente um **purpose**
  - Mapeamento ideal:

1 Propósito = 1 Conceito



# Exemplo: Dropbox



- **share**: control who can read your files
- **sync**: keep files on multiple machines consistent
- **collaborate**: support multi-user editing of documents
- **store**: expand space available by storing files in the cloud

P1

C1

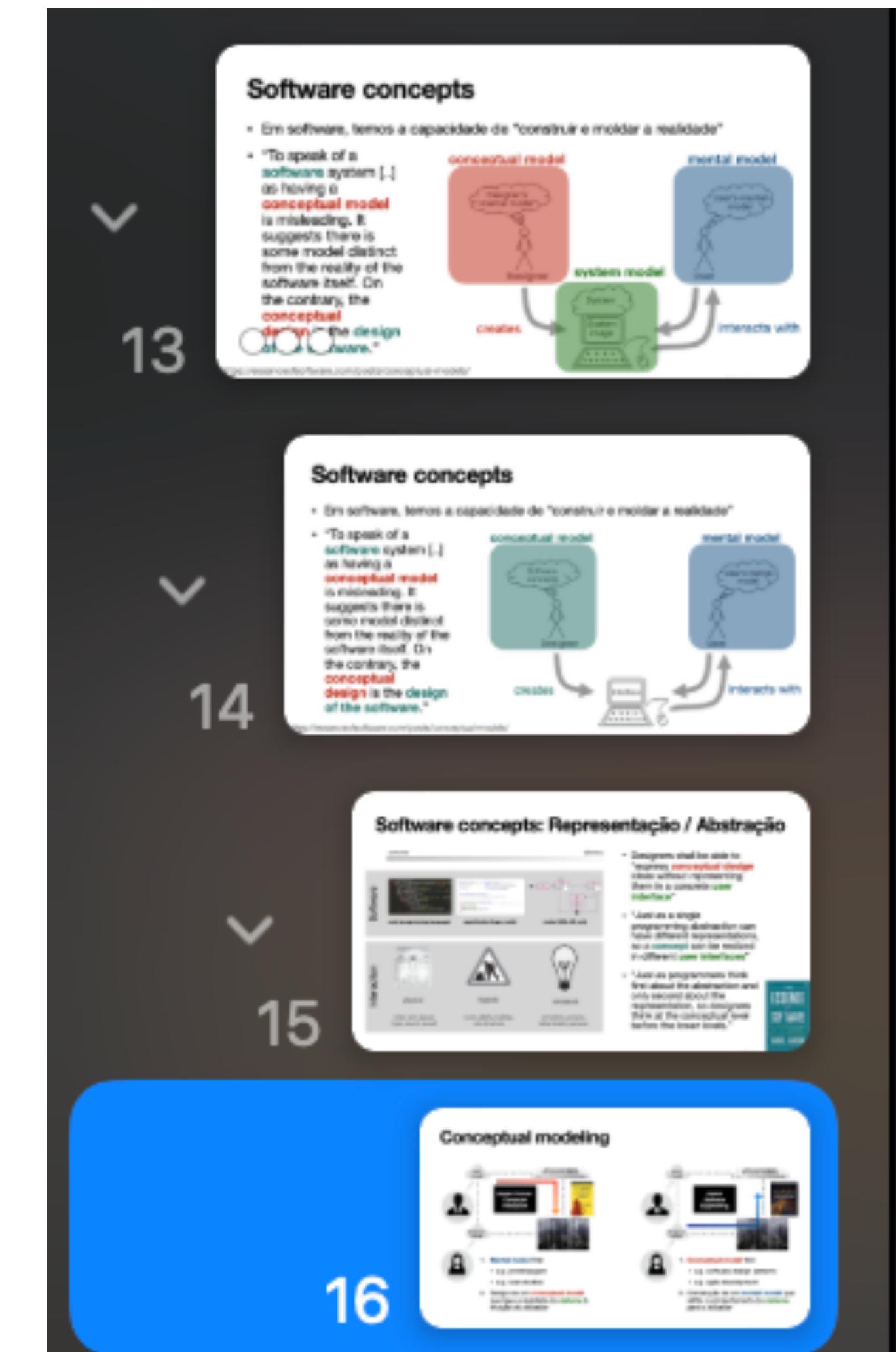
# Concepts: Mapeamento

- Hierarquia de slides
- + KeyNote organiza slides numa árvore
- PowerPoint suporta só um nível

PowerPoint



KeyNote

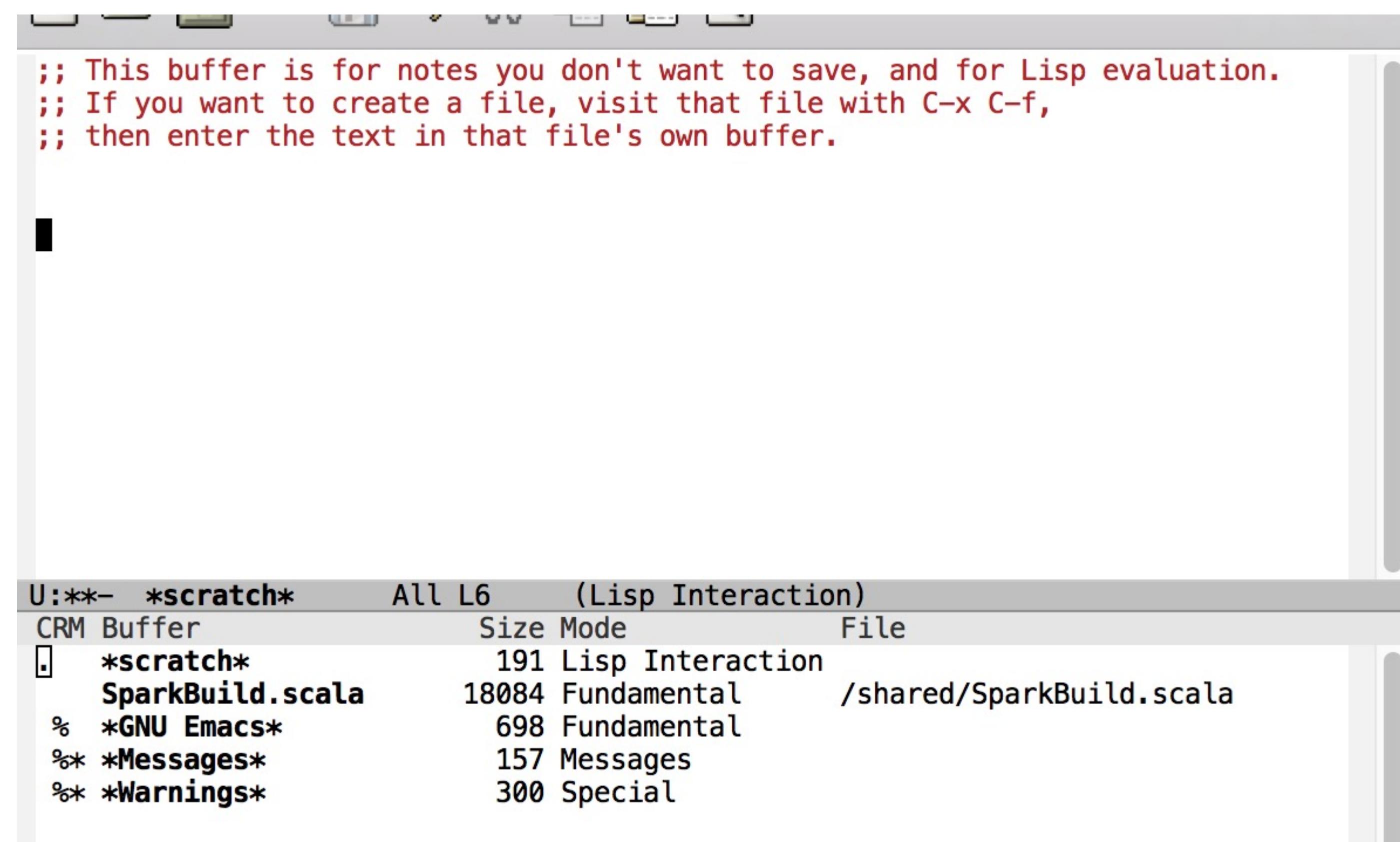


P2

# Concepts: Mapeamento

- Qual o purpose do buffer concept?
  - Performance...
  - Uma preocupação do utilizador?
  - Não

Emacs



The screenshot shows an Emacs interface. The top part of the window displays the text:

```
;; This buffer is for notes you don't want to save, and for Lisp evaluation.
;; If you want to create a file, visit that file with C-x C-f,
;; then enter the text in that file's own buffer.
```

Below this, there is a small black square icon followed by a vertical line.

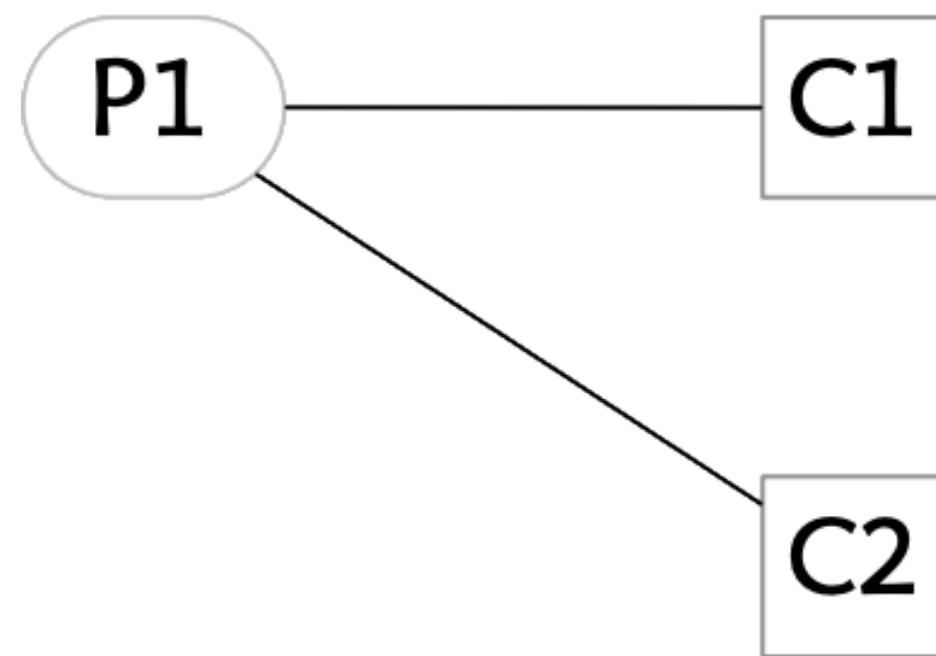
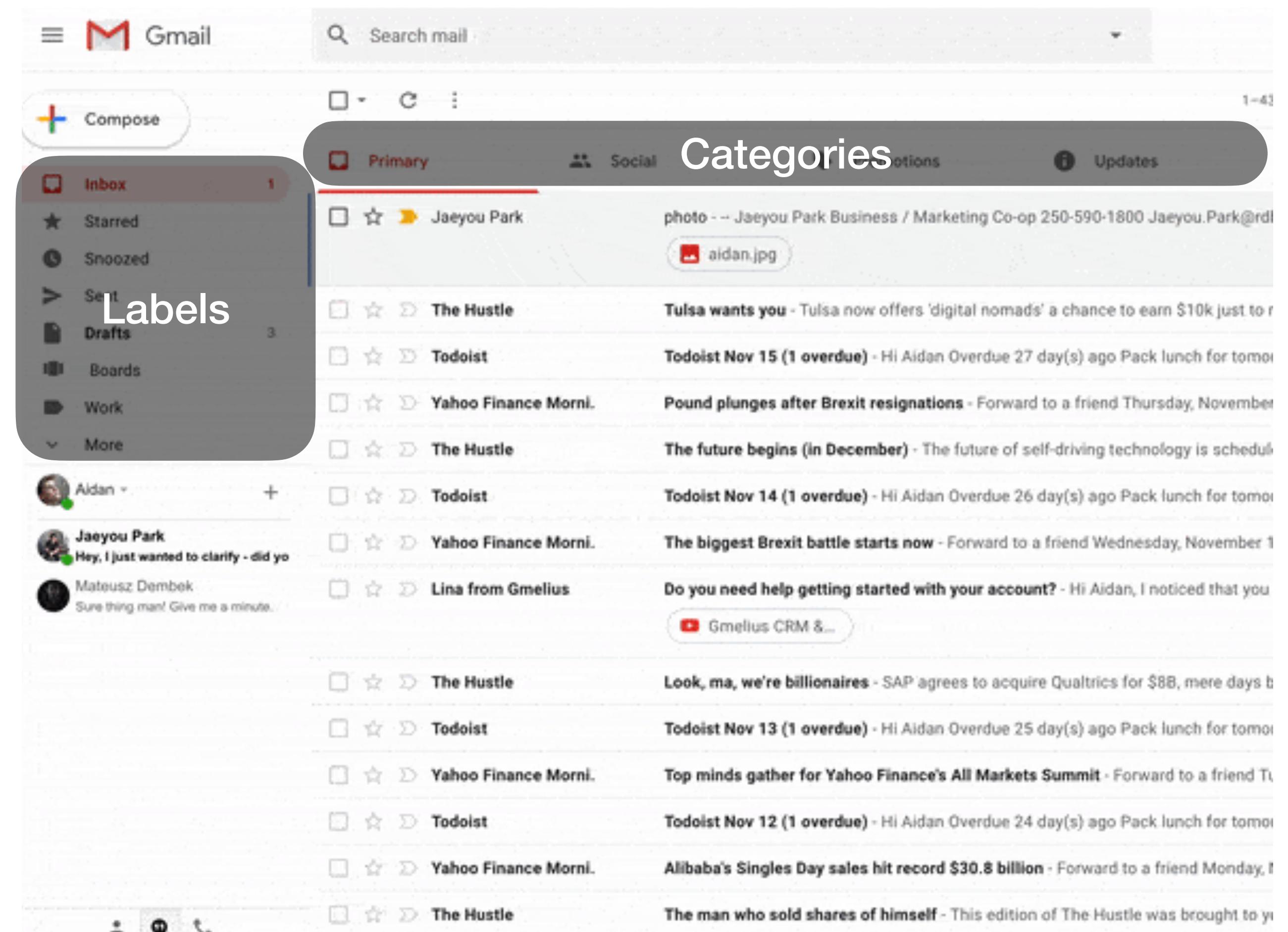
U:**- *scratch* All L6 (Lisp Interaction)			
	Size	Mode	File
CRM Buffer	191	Lisp Interaction	
[], *scratch*	18084	Fundamental	/shared/SparkBuild.scala
% *GNU Emacs*	698	Fundamental	
%* *Messages*	157	Messages	
%* *Warnings*	300	Special	



# Concepts: Mapeamento

- Classificação de mensagens

Gmail



overloaded concept

# Concepts: Mapeamento

- Configurar “Paper Size” em drivers de impressoras

