

The Method of Cross-Conceptualization

1. **First Conceptualization:**

- a. List the concepts of the field, write a definition for each of your concepts.
- b. As you write out your definitions, any words of the field which show up in these definitions should be added to the list of concepts and defined.
- c. Create new terms if they seem needed to capture facts of the field.

2. **Second Conceptualization:** re-read your concepts and definitions and:

- a. Correct any falsehoods, unclarities or inefficient formulations in your definitions.
- b. If your conceptual framework is unable to specifically* refer to existents with certain characteristics, change and/or add concepts to the framework to specifically refer to those existents.
- c. If a concept ascribes characteristics to its units that don't actually have that characteristic, or treats its units as not having characteristics it does have, revise your concepts to eliminate that error.
- d. If a concept treats its units as the same in ways they are different, split the concept into multiple concepts.
- e. If two or more concepts treat their units as different in ways they are the same, examine the set of concepts which are doing this and come up with a different set of concepts which capture the similarity between those units.
- f. Delete or merge concepts which are already covered by other concepts, or by trivial combinations of other concepts. When possible, define your concepts in terms of other concepts on the list.
- g. If any of the above revisions produce definitions which contain concepts of the field which have not yet been included, include them in the list.

3. **Conditional Hierarchy of Definitions:**

- a. Write all the terms of your field and their definitions in no particular order. Go through all the definitions and bold all the words which are terms of the field.
- b. Put your definitions in the order of a conditional hierarchy by reading through all your definitions several times and re-ordering them according to the following principles:
 - i. For a given first concept, if a second concept appears in its definition, then the second concept must be above the first in the hierarchy.
 - ii. For any two concepts, if those concepts appear in each other's definitions, those two concepts must be placed next to one another, at the same level in the list.
- c. As you complete step 3b for each concept, apply all methods of step 2.

4. Iterate this process by reading through your list of concepts from top to bottom and applying the principles of steps 2 and 3 as appropriate.

Conceptualization of BPCs Reached at the end of the Demonstration:

Existent: Ostensive.

Identity: Ostensive.

Characteristic: an aspect of an **existent's identity**.

Entity: An **existent** having **properties** particular to it.

Property: An aspect of an **entity**.

Conditioning Connection: a state of affairs where the **identity** of one **property** is dependent on the **identity** of another **property**.

Cause: a **property** which **conditions** another **property**.

Effect: a **property** which is **conditioned** by another **property**.

Relationship: a **property** of an **entity** where that **entity conditions** the **properties** of another **entity**.

Change: A state of affairs where an **entity** has one **property** at one time and a different **property** at a different time.

Action: a **change** in a **relationship** between two or more **entities**.

Causal Connection: A **conditioning connection** involving **action**.

Composite Entity: An **entity** composed of a set of **entities** which are **related** to one another in such a way as to give the **entity** as a whole its own particular **properties**.

Constituent Entity: An **entity** which is in a set of **relationships** with other **constituent entities** so as to constitute a **composite entity**.

Matter: The **constituents** which make up a **composite entity**.

Form: The **relationships** between the **constituents** of a **composite entity** which **Condition** its particular **properties**.

Material Conditioning: A **conditioning connection** between an **entity's matter** and its **properties**.

Formal Conditioning: A **conditioning connection** between an **entity's form** and its **properties**.

Efficient Conditioning: A **conditioning connection** between the **properties** of a first entity and the **properties** of a second **entity** it is in a **relationship** with.

Passive Conditioning: A **conditioning connection** between an **entity's properties** and the identity of a **relationship** which **conditions** its **properties**.

Material Cause: A **causal connection** between an **entity's matter** and its **actions**.

Formal Cause: A **causal connection** between an **entity's form** and its **actions**.

Efficient Cause: A **causal connection** between the **actions** of a first **entity** and the **properties** of a second **entity**.

Passive Cause: A **causal connection** between the **properties** of an **entity** and the identity of an **action** which **changes** it.

Formal entity: An **entity** having particular **properties** which are the result of **formal conditioning**.

Material Entity: An **entity** having particular **properties** which are the result of **material conditioning**.