



*Code Generation, guest lecture*

# Human Interactions with Code Gen Models

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# Outline

## **Evaluation:**

Metrics inspired by human-human interactions

Quantitative and qualitative user modeling

## **Design and implementation:**

The impact of UI

The focus on user needs

**How do you know a code gen model is good?**

# Metrics evaluating code gen models

Outcomes	Human-AI (Copilot)
Quality	<p>😢 vs. Human-Human: more lines of code deleted in next session (lower quality) [9]</p> <p>😊 vs. Human Solo: significantly improve correctness score and reduce encountered errors for novice students [10]</p> <p>😐 vs. Human Solo: no significant difference in task success [11] or task success rate in given time [12]</p>
Productivity	<p>😊 vs. Human-Human: more lines of added code [9]</p> <p>😊 vs. Human Solo: 55.8% reduction in completion time [11]</p> <p>😊 vs. Human Solo: significantly increase task completion and reduce task completion time for novice students [10]</p> <p>😐 vs. Human Solo: no significant difference in the task completion rate in given time [12]</p>
Satisfaction	<p>😊 vs. Human Solo: higher self-ratings of satisfaction [12, 16, 17]</p>
Learning	<p>😐 vs. Human Solo: no significant difference in immediate and retention post-test performance of novices, students with more prior experiences have more learning gains from AI code generator [10]</p>
Cost	No experiment yet. Vaithilingam et al. [12], Bird et al. [16] hypothesized that human-AI may lead to more unnecessary debugging vs. Human Solo

# **How do you know a code gen model is useful?**

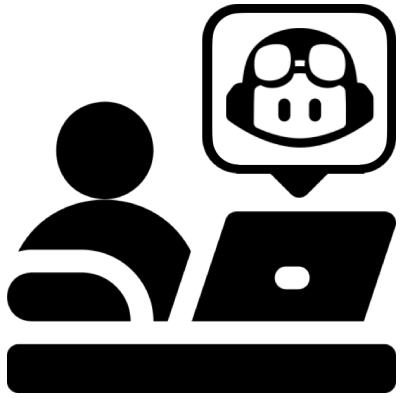
**A: define metrics more specific for usability tests!**

# Human-Human vs. Human-AI pAlr Programming

## Human-AI pAlr Programming:

Programmer and LLM work together at the same computer, solving the same task.

**Copilot**, an LLM-powered programming assistance tool, advertises itself as “**your AI pair programmer**”

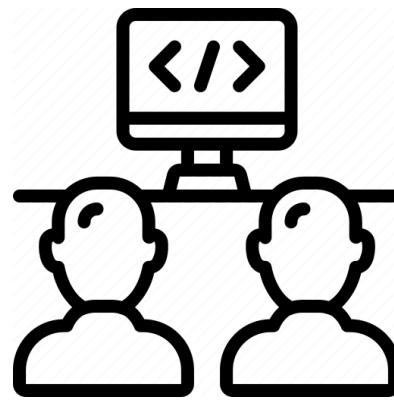


## Human-Human Pair Programming

Two programmers work together on the same task using a single device. [Beck, 1999]

**Driver**: performs the coding

**Navigator**: aids in planning, reviewing, debugging



Similar to human-human co-programming, human-AI pair programming involves a lot of study and metrics that should capture the interaction aspect.

Qianou Ma, Tongshuang Wu, and Kenneth Koedinger. "Is AI the better programming partner? Human-Human Pair Programming vs. Human-AI pAlr Programming." *AIED 2023 workshop*

# Metrics for human-AI interaction

Outcomes	Human-AI (Copilot)
Quality	😢 vs. Human-Human: more lines of code deleted in next session (lower quality) [9] 😊 vs. Human Solo: significantly improve correctness score and reduce encountered errors for novice students [10] 😐 vs. Human Solo: no significant difference in task success [11] or task success rate in given time [12]
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Outcomes	Human-Human vs. Human Solo	Human-AI (Copilot)
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 significantly lower defect density for complex code [7]</li> <li>😐 no difference for simpler code [7]</li> <li>😊 significantly higher percentage of test cases passed [8]</li> </ul>	<p>😊 vs. Human-Human: more lines of code deleted in next session (lower quality) [9]</p> <p>😊 vs. Human Solo: significantly improve correctness score and reduce encountered errors for novice students [10]</p> <p>😐 vs. Human Solo: no significant difference in task success [11] or task success rate in given time [12]</p>
Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 significantly fewer lines of code per person hour writing simpler code [7]</li> <li>😐 no significant difference writing more complex code [7]</li> <li>😊 29% shorter time to complete task (pair speed advantage = 1.4) [13]</li> </ul>	<p>😊 vs. Human-Human: more lines of added code [9]</p> <p><b>TL;DR: there are many metrics that we can adapt from human-human interactions!</b></p>
Satisfaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 higher self-ratings of satisfaction [14]</li> <li>😊 students with greater self-confidence and self-efficacy less enjoy the pair programming experience [15]</li> </ul>	<p>Multi-dimension reflection on quality</p> <p>😊 vs. Human Solo: higher self-ratings of satisfaction [12, 16, 17]</p> <p>Connection to real-world impact (exam)</p>
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 higher grades, exam scores [18], and retention [19]</li> <li>😊 significantly higher gains in exam performance in female students than male students [20]</li> </ul>	<p>Reflection on real user benefit (teaching staff workload!)</p> <p>😐 vs. Human Solo: no significant difference in immediate and retention post-test performance of novices, students with more prior experiences have more learning gains from AI code generator [10]</p>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>😊 increased management workload to match, schedule a pair, resolve collaboration conflict, assess individual contributions, etc. [21]</li> <li>😊 reduced teaching staff workload (grading one assignment from a pair) [8]</li> </ul>	<p>No experiment yet. Vaithilingam et al. [12], Bird et al. [16] hypothesized that human-AI may lead to more unnecessary debugging vs. Human Solo</p>

# Example Usability Metric: Syntactic similarity metric

Reference Code Snippet

```
def even_odd_count(num):  
    even_count = 0  
    odd_count = 0  
    for i in str(abs(num)):  
        if int(i)%2==0:  
            even_count +=1  
        else:  
            odd_count +=1  
    return (even_count, odd_count)
```

Generated Code Snippet

```
def even_odd_count(num):  
    even_count = 0  
    odd_count = 0  
    for i in str(num):  
        if int(i) % 2 = 0:  
            even_count += 1  
        else:  
            odd_count += 1  
    return even_count, odd_count
```

Functional Metric

pass = **0**

Similarity Metric

edit similarity = **0.93**

Human preference

preference = **0.9**

Figure 1: In the example above (counting even and odd numbers), code suggested by a model fails unit tests but is deemed useful by programmers because adding a short check (*abs* value) fixes the generation.

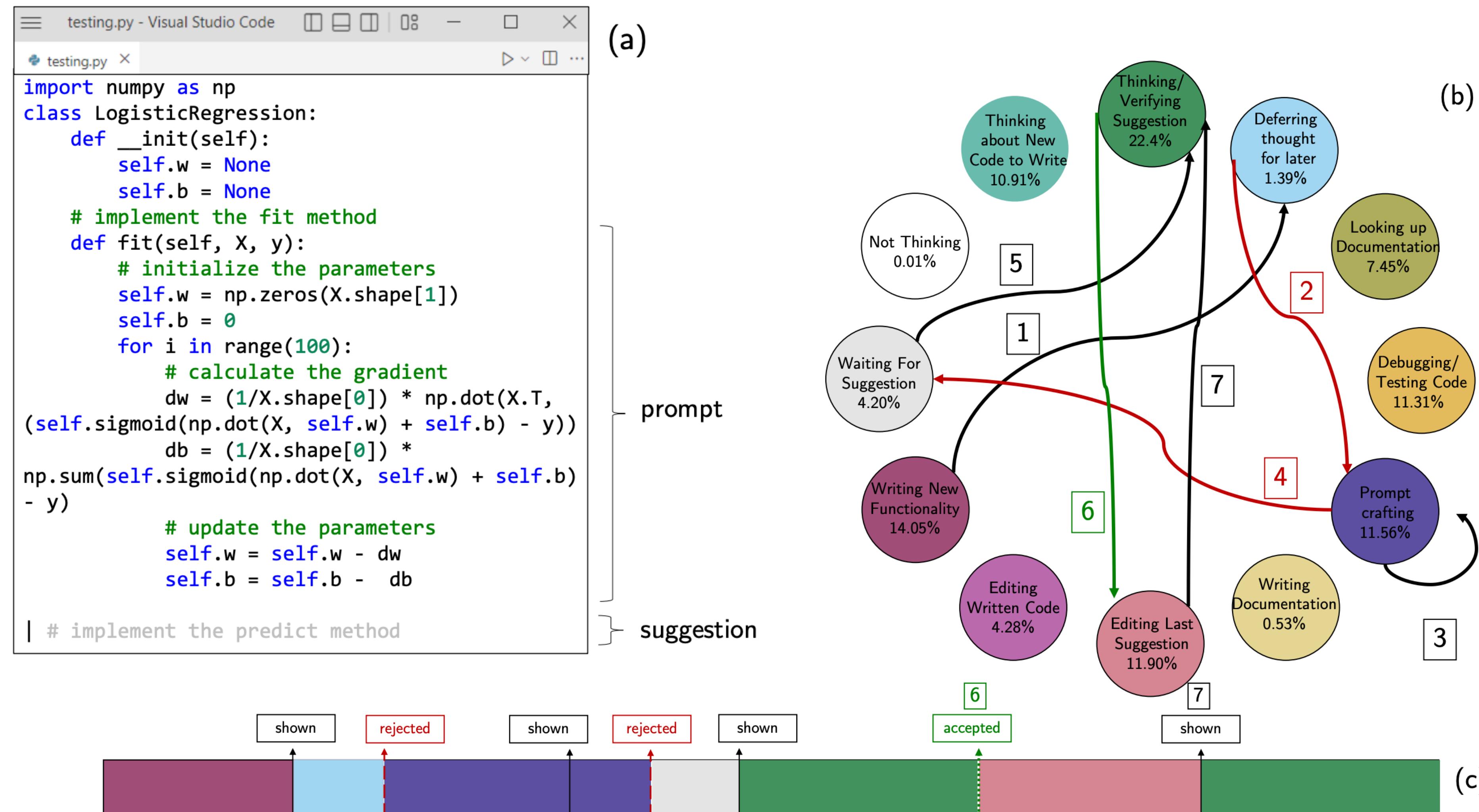
"While correctness captures high-value generations, programmers still rate **code that fails unit tests as valuable if it reduces the overall effort needed to complete a coding task**. Finally, we propose a hybrid metric that combines functional correctness and syntactic similarity and show that it achieves a 14% stronger correlation with value and can therefore better represent real-world gains when evaluating and comparing models."

# How do you know a code gen model is **useful** for...

**A: Quantitative and qualitative modeling!**

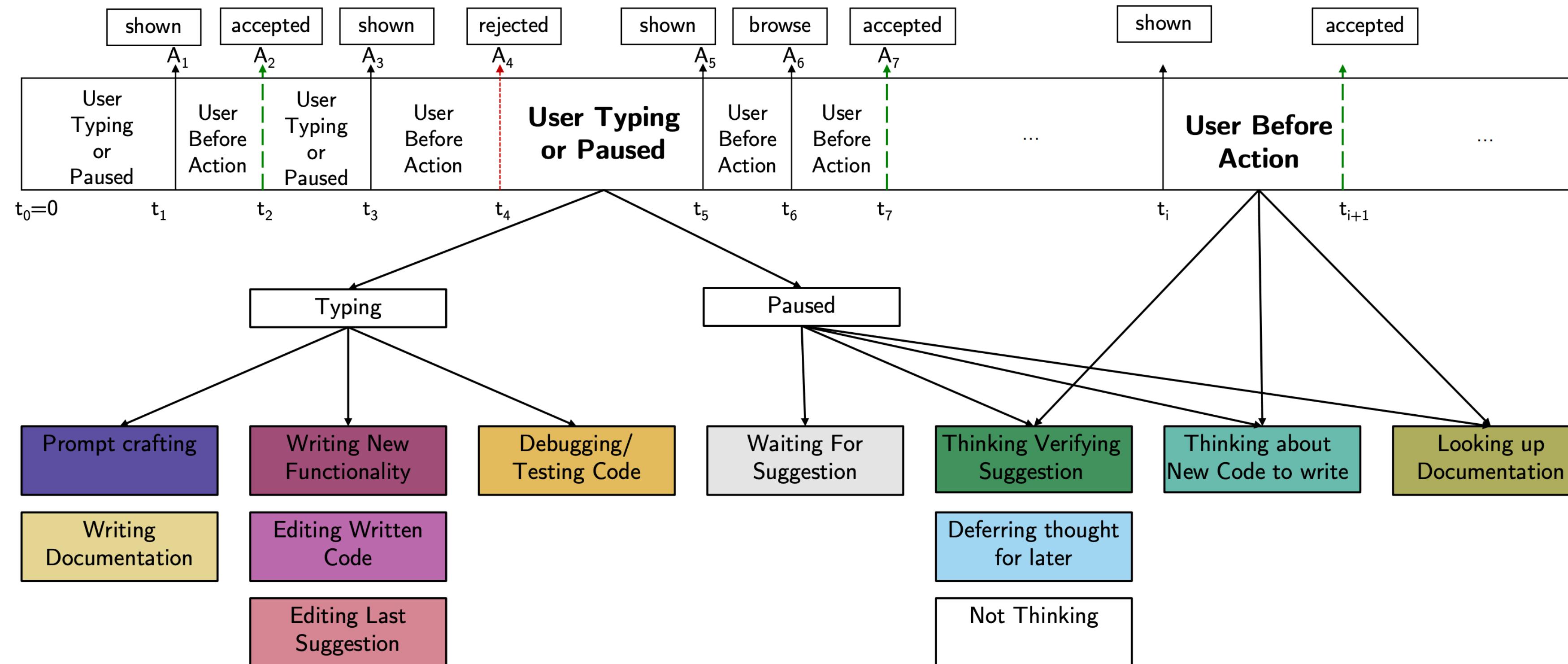
Researchers  
CS1 students  
Junior engineers  
Senior engineers  
...

# Study humans quantitatively: User modeling on Clickstream



Mozannar, Hussein, et al. "Reading between the lines: Modeling user behavior and costs in AI-assisted programming." CHI 2024

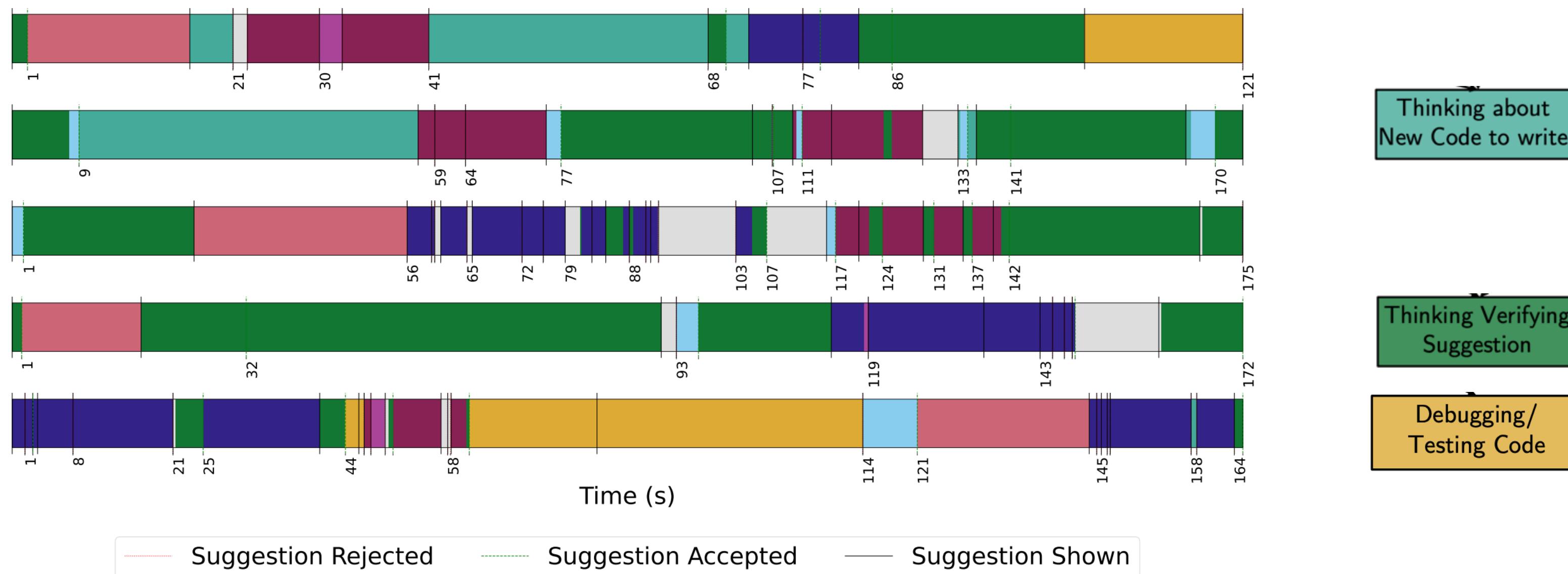
# Study humans quantitatively: User modeling on clickstream



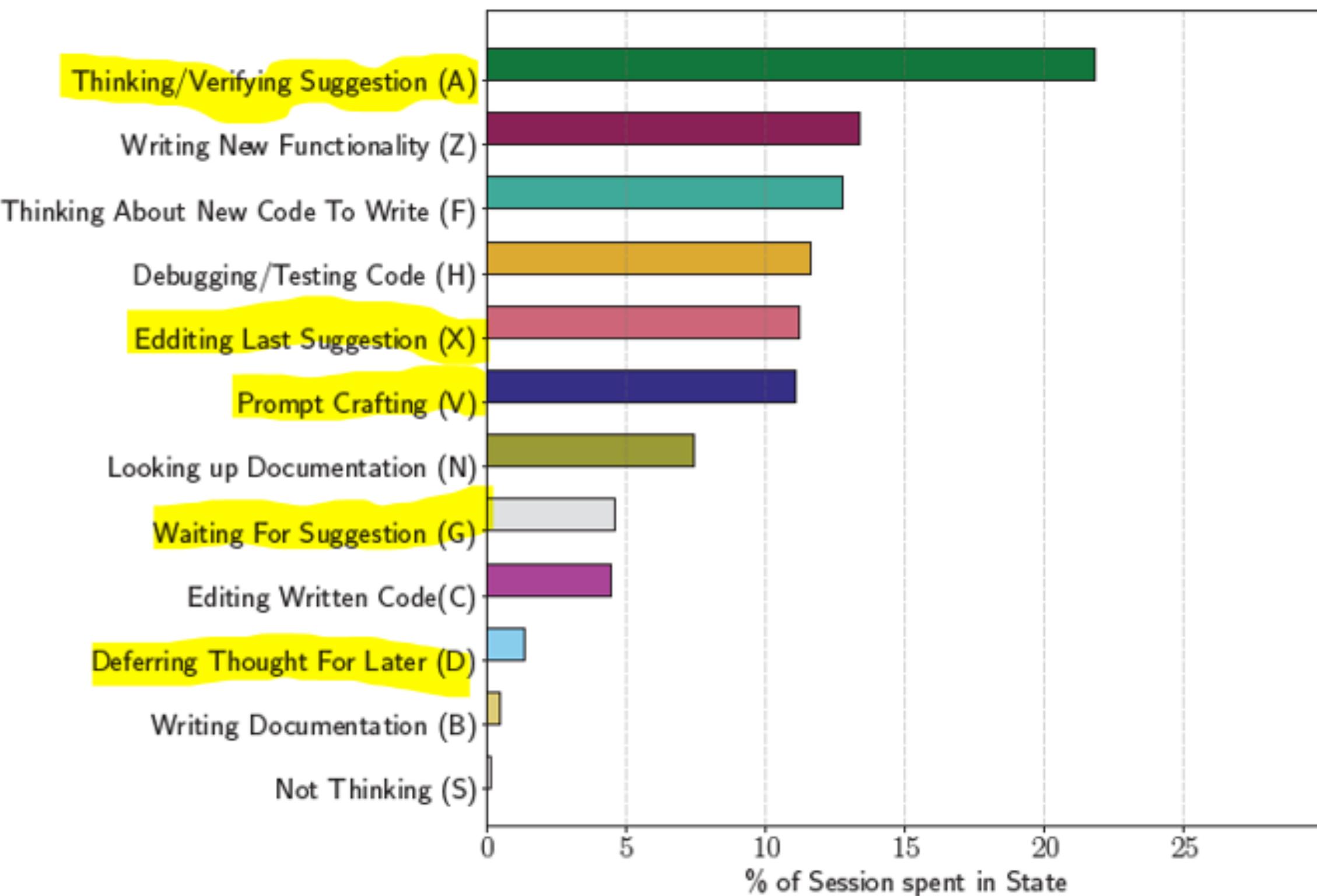
Can define and classify what happens in programmer actions (here idle times)

# Study humans quantitatively: User modeling on clickstream

Can uncover interesting patterns for each individual people!



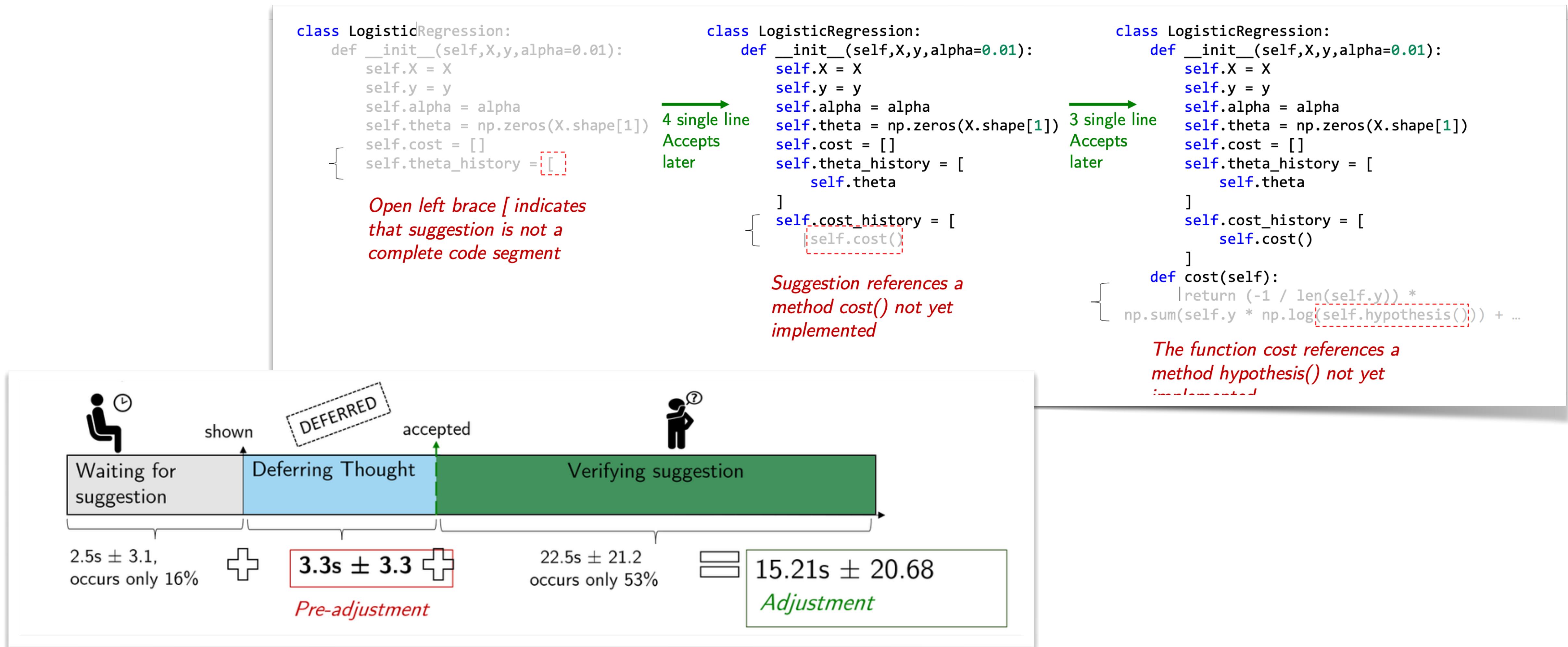
# Human behavior in aggregation can show avg use patterns



"In a study with 21 programmers, we saw that the most time intensive state is verifying suggestions, and Copilot related states (yellow highlight) occupy on average 51% of task time."

# Clickstream can uncover interesting patterns!

"Copilot often forces programmer to accept a sequence of suggestions in a row, teasing them to show the full function/class body, which makes them verify suggestion after accepting them (rather than before)"



# Also reveal issues in metrics

Outcomes	Human-Human vs. Human Solo	Human-AI (Copilot)
Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⌚ significantly fewer lines of code per person hour writing simpler code [7]</li><li>😐 no significant difference writing more complex code [7]</li><li>😊 29% shorter time to complete task (pair speed advantage = 1.4) [13]</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>😊 vs. Human-Human: more lines of added code [9]</li><li>😊 vs. Human Solo: 55.8% reduction in completion time [11]</li><li>😊 vs. Human Solo: significantly increase task completion and reduce task completion time for novice students [10]</li><li>😐 vs. Human Solo: no significant difference in the task completion rate in given time [12]</li></ul>

**Human-human** – Variance in metrics!

Time and accomplishment? twice the duration, the person-hours required

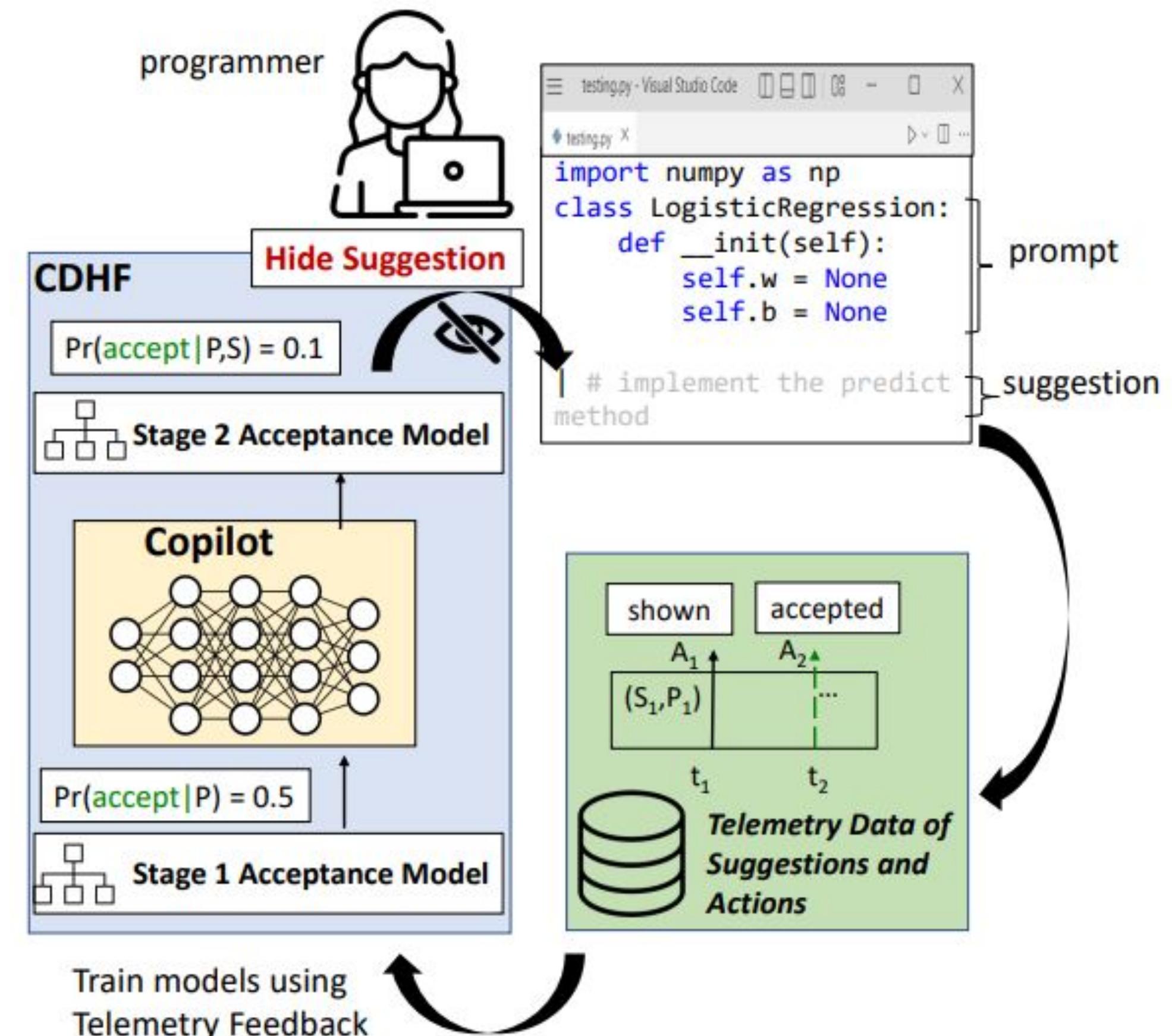
**Human-AI** – Too simplified metrics?

E.g. the number of lines of added code - the nature of interaction with Copilot (tab to accept suggestions) is a big factor!

# Clickstream can help with design!

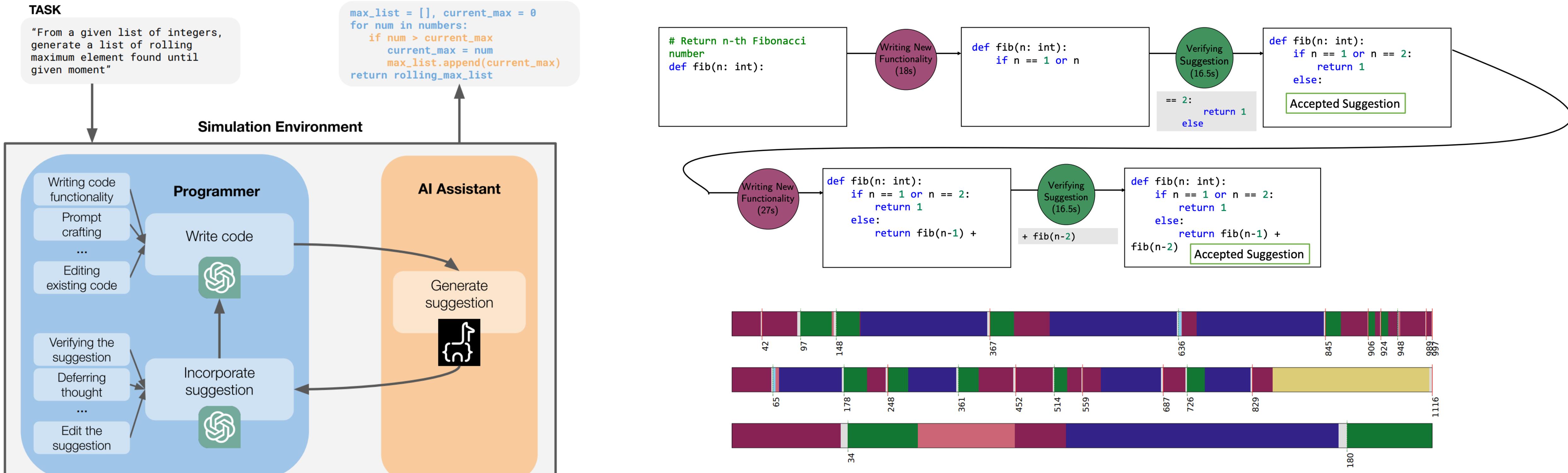
"We propose a utility theory framework, which models [when AI should make intervention to] programmers and decides which suggestions to display."

...models that predict suggestion acceptance to selectively hide suggestions reducing both latency and programmer verification time.

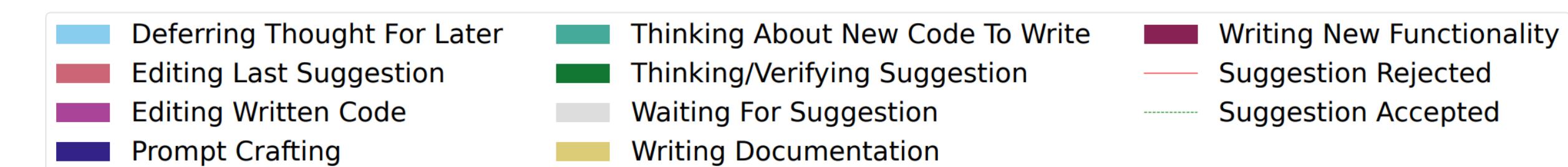


Mozannar, Hussein, et al. "When to show a suggestion? integrating human feedback in ai-assisted programming." AAAI 2024

# Once have some data, can simulate humans

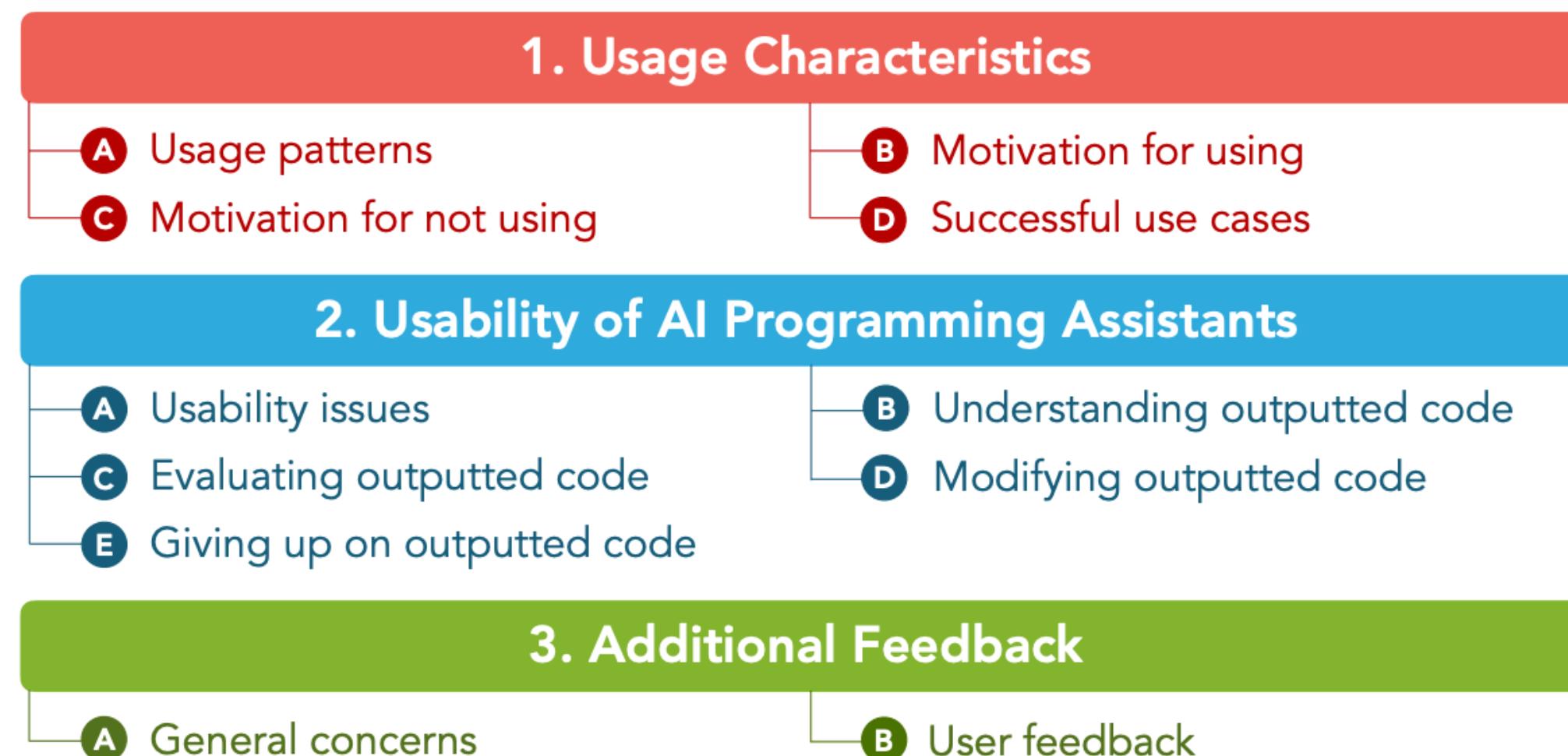


Mozannar, Hussein, et al. "Simulating Iterative Human-AI Interaction in Programming with LLMs." NeurIPS 2023 Workshop



# Understand humans qualitatively: Surveys

"To understand developers' practices while using these tools and the important usability challenges they face, we administered a survey to a large population of developers and received responses from a diverse set of 410 developers."



## SURVEY QUESTIONS

- For this software project, estimate what percent of your code is written with the help of the following code generation tools.
- For each of the following reasons why you use code generation tools in this software project, rank its importance.
- For each of the following reasons why you do not use code generation tools, rank its importance.
- For your software project, estimate how often you experience the following scenarios when using code generation tools.
- For your software project, estimate how often the following reasons are why you find yourself giving up on code created by code generation tools.
- ★ What types of feedback would you like to give to code generation tools to make its suggestions better? Why?

Liang, Jenny T., Chenyang Yang, and Brad A. Myers. "A large-scale survey on the usability of ai programming assistants: Successes and challenges." ICSE 2024

# Understand humans qualitatively: Surveys

Motivation	Distribution
<b>A. For using</b>	
M1 To have an autocomplete or reduce the amount of keystrokes I make.	86% 
M2 To finish my programming tasks faster.	76% 
M3 To skip needing to go online to find specific code snippets, programming syntax, or API calls I'm aware of, but can't remember.	68% 
M4 To discover potential ways or starting points to write a solution to a problem I'm facing.	50% 
M5 To find an edge case for my code I haven't considered.	36% 

Repetitive code (boilerplate code, repetitive endpoints for crud, etc.)

Code with simple logic

Autocomplete ("acceleration")

Quality assurance (e.g. log messages, test cases)

Proof-of-concepts (generate multiple implementations for a given problem)

Learning (of new libraries or programming languages)

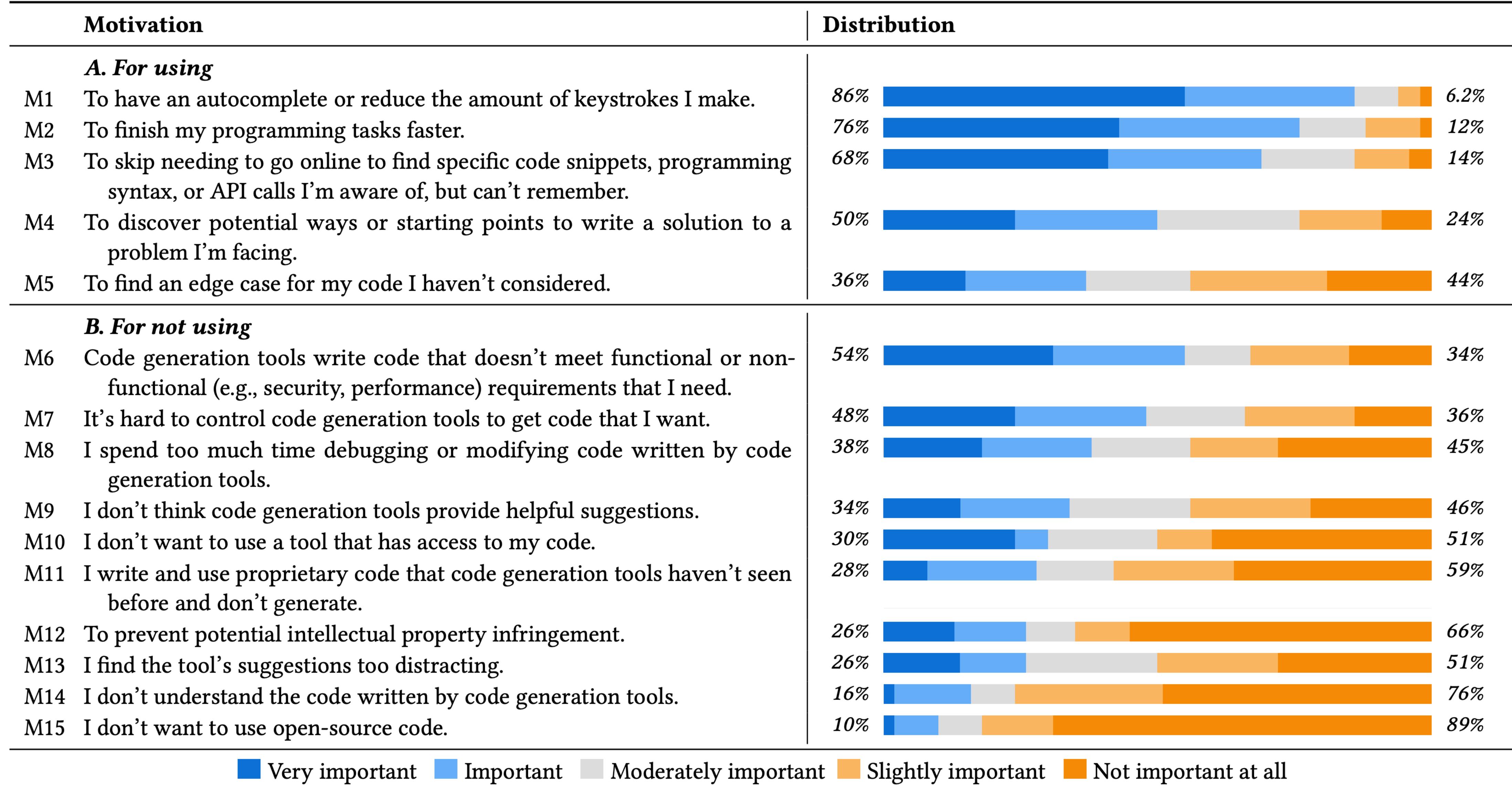
Recalling (Find syntax they were familiar with but couldn't recall)

Efficiency

Documentation

Code consistency (e.g., indentation, quickly referencing sources created within the project)

# Why humans use or not use programming tools



# Bonus: Taxonomy of software requirements

**Functional requirements** characterize units of functionality that we may want to group into coarser-grained functionalities that the software should support.

## Non-functional requirements

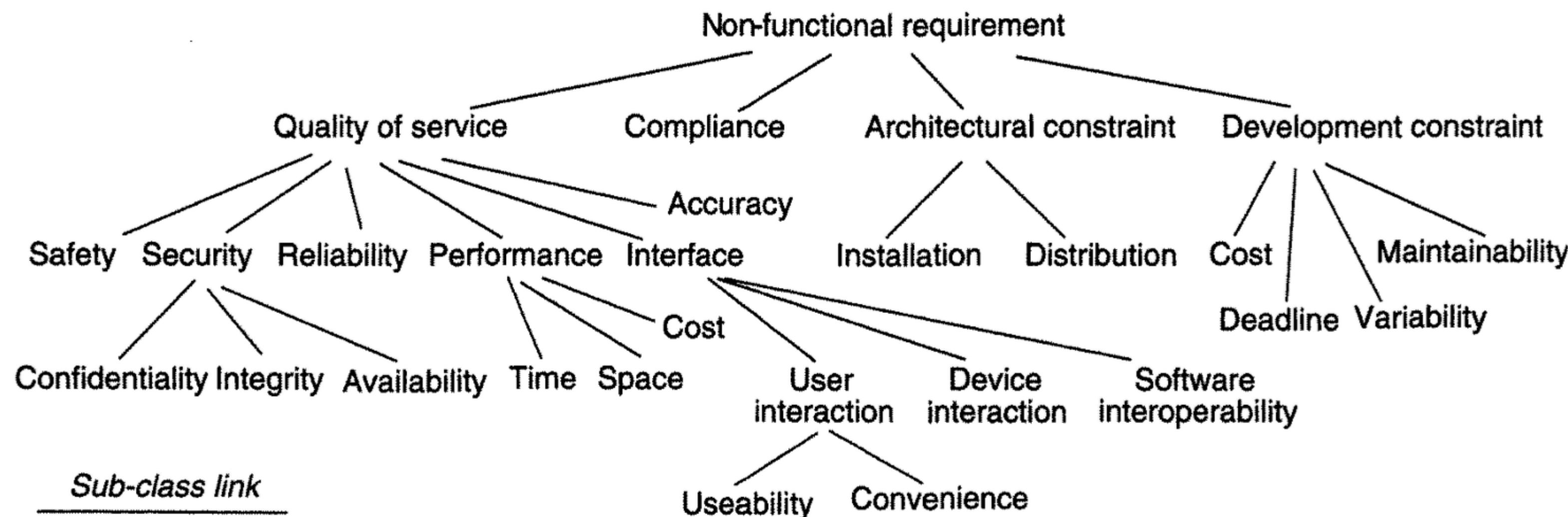


Figure 1.5 A taxonomy of non-functional requirements

More here: <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~ckaestne/17313/2018/20180913-requirements-solicitation-and-doc.pdf>

# Some other findings you might find interesting...

## **Engineers' prompting / input strategies (ranked by frequency)**

Clear explanations, through "doctoring comments" and test cases

No strategy

Adding code

Follow conventions (e.g., well-named variables)

Break down instructions

Existing code context ("use it at advanced stages of project, for it to give better suggestions based on my project's history")

Prompt engineering

## **User-envisioned additional functionalities**

Better understanding of code context. e.g., Code from the same workspace; Don't use deprecated API

**Tool configuration:** Have configurable parameters for suggestion frequency, distinguish[ing when to do] long code generation and short code [generation]

Natural language interactions

Code analysis, add annotation for functional and syntactic correctness

Explanations, e.g., link directly to documentation

More suggestions

Account for non-functional requirements

# **How do you know a code gen model is useful?**

**More metrics from more traditional human-human studies**

**Analyze actual human interactions**

**Hear what they have to say**

**How do you make a code gen model useful?**

# Again first some human-human reference...

Moderators	Human-Human vs. Human Solo	Human-AI (Copilot)
Task Types & Complexity	Complex task improve quality, simple one does not [7]; debugging is perceived as less enjoyable or effective than comprehension or refactoring [22]	N/A
Compatibility (E.g., Expertise)	Random pairing led to incompatible partners and conflicts during work [18]. Expertise: improve quality more effectively if pair is similarly skilled [14]; less-skilled students learn more and enjoy more [20, 22]; if knowledge gap is large, less-skilled programmers may tend to be more passive and disengaged [23]	N/A
Communication	Conversations with intermediate-level details contribute to pair programming success [24]; different types of discourse lead to more attempts or more debug success [25]	N/A
Collaboration	Over-reliance leads to conflicts and impedes satisfaction and learning, as work is entirely burdened on one partner [4, 18]; educators recommend regular role-switching to ensure equitable learning in collaboration [2]	N/A
Logistics	Scheduling difficulties [26], teaching & evaluating individual responsibility and accountability are important to collaboration success [27], but can lead to increased management costs [21, 28]	N/A

Qianou Ma, Tongshuang Wu, and Kenneth Koedinger. "Is AI the better programming partner? Human-Human Pair Programming vs. Human-AI pAlr Programming." AIED 2023 workshop

# Human-Human challenges to opportunities

Moderating Factors	Human-Human Challenges	Human-AI Opportunities
<b>Task Types &amp; Complexity:</b> pair work better if the task is not too simple and good for collaboration [7, 22]	Hard to design suitable tasks of appropriate complexity level	AI may be used to generate collaboration tasks and adjust tasks complexity
<b>Compatibility:</b> pairs with similar skill levels and compatible working styles work better [14, 22]	Hard to find a similarly skilled or compatible partner	AI partner should adjust to human skill level and adapt to be compatible with different people
<b>Communication:</b> pairs work better with productive conversations [24], and critiques lead to more debugging success [25]	Hard to teach effective communication and constructive criticism	AI partner should support productive conversations and provide critiques
<b>Collaboration:</b> pairs work better with positive interdependence [27] and clear and balanced responsibilities [18]	Hard to teach collaboration and prevent free riders	AI should support positive social interactions and collaboration and avoid over-assist that eliminates human's need to engage
<b>Logistics:</b> pair programming is costly to implement because of management challenges [21, 28]	Hard to schedule and assess individual contributions in a pair	Scheduling is no longer a problem, but humans should be accountable and responsible when using AI-generated code

# **How do you make a code gen model useful?**

**A: Design and iterate on the interface**

# Communication via UI: Inline explanations

The figure shows a snippet of Python code for creating a window titled "COVID-19 Visualization" with a geometry of 1000x600. A call to `window.resizable(False, False)` is annotated with a callout ③ explaining it controls non-resizability. A call to `tk.Canvas` is annotated with a callout ① explaining its arguments determine window size. A call to `tk.Scrollbar` is annotated with a callout ② explaining its creation.

```
def create_window():
    window = tk.Tk()
    window.title("COVID-19 Visualization")
    window.geometry("1000x600")
    window.resizable(False, False)
    1
    The method
    controls
    whether the
    main
    application
    window can be
    resized by the
    user.
    3
    nva
    he
    .Sc
    nva
    (si
    re(
    white',
    , orient='horizontal',
    ill='x')
    scrollbar.set)
    2
```

1. Create a window with the title "COVID-19 Visualization" and size 1000x600.

2. Create a canvas with background color white and size 800x600.

3. Create a scrollbar for the canvas.

**Figure 1: Ivie augments the interactive programming assistant with instant explanations that help programmers examine generated code.** When a programming assistant suggests code (*italic* text above, ①), Ivie annotates it with brief, informative explanations. Explanations appear at the level of blocks of code (in the right margin, ②) and expressions (anchored beneath the line the programmer hovers over, ③). For single-line suggestions, expression explanations appear automatically. Ivie's explanations help programmers break up complex or unfamiliar suggestions into pieces that can be more readily understood.

Yan, Litao, et al. "Ivie: Lightweight Anchored Explanations of Just-Generated Code." CHI 2024

# Communication via UI: Inline explanations

```
df_all.merge(df_Apr, on='City', how='left', suffixes=('_all', '_apr'))
```

Combines df\_all with another DataFrame df\_Apr.

Only rows with matching 'City' values in both DataFrames will be merged.

Retains all rows from df\_all, with matching rows from df\_Apr. If no match is found,

In case of column name conflicts, df\_all columns end with \_all and df\_Apr with

```
def visualize_data(df, max_temp_city, max_rain_city):
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 10))

    df[df['City'] == max_temp_city]['Temperature'].plot(ax=ax[0])
    ax[0].set_title(f'Yearly Average Temperature for {max_temp_city}')
    ax[0].set_xlabel('Year')
    ax[0].set_ylabel('Temperature (°C)')
    ax[0].yaxis.set_major_formatter(ticker.FormatStrFormatter('%0.1f'))

    df[df['City'] == max_rain_city]['Rainfall'].plot(ax=ax[1], color='green')
    ax[1].set_title(f'Yearly Average Rainfall for {max_rain_city}')
    ax[1].set_xlabel('Year')
    ax[1].set_ylabel('Rainfall (mm)')
    ax[1].yaxis.set_major_locator(ticker.MaxNLocator(nbins=6, integer=True))

    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```

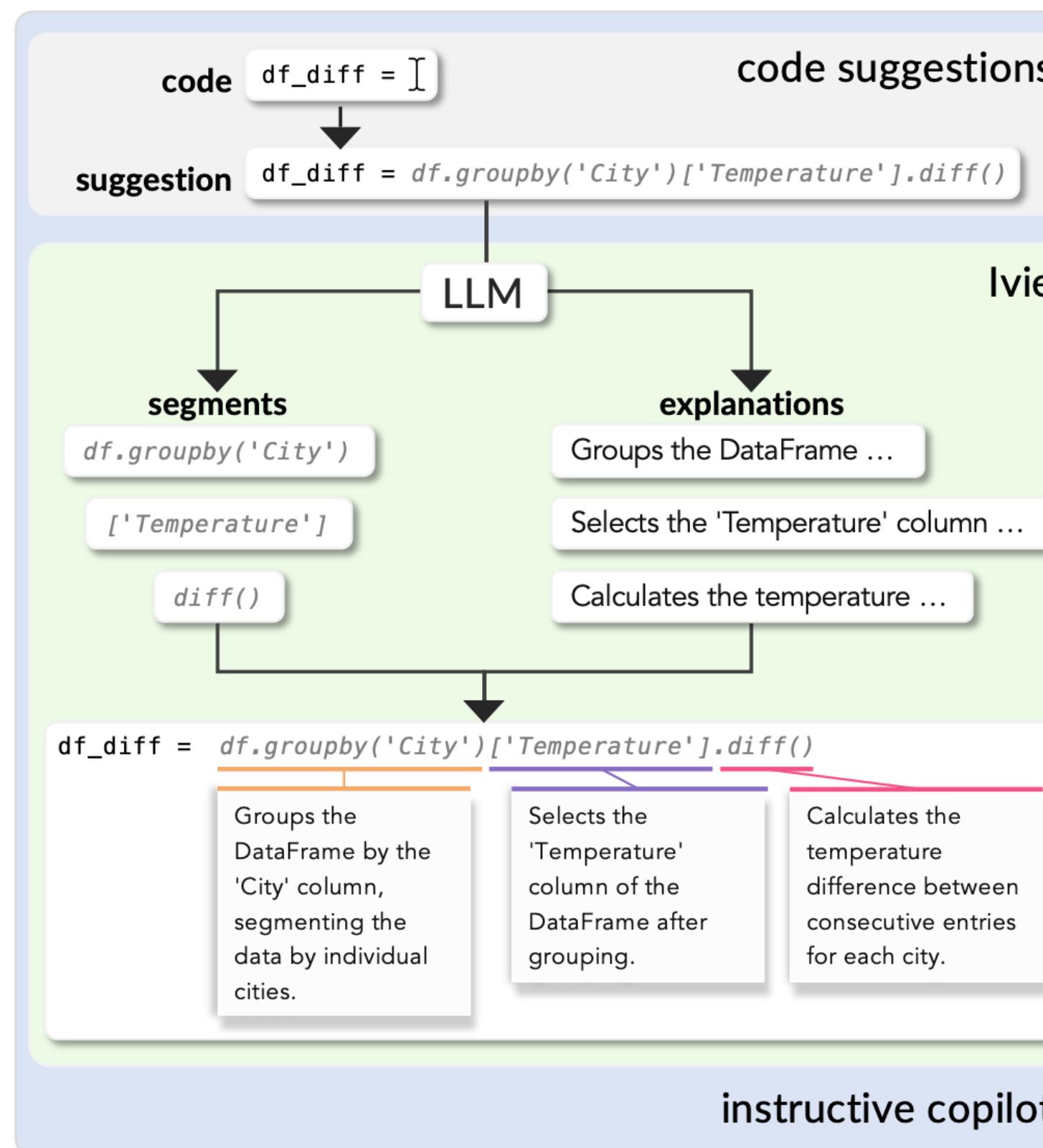
**Figure 4: Explaining expressions.** After a program consists of a single line, IvIE reveals explanations of calls. The purpose of these explanations is to make programmer seeking to understand the precise beh

1. Creates a figure with two vertical subplots.
2. Plot the temperature data for the city with the highest temperature in the top subplot.
3. Plot the rainfall data for the city with the highest rainfall in the bottom subplot.
4. Format the figure and display it.

**Figure 5: Explaining multi-line suggestions.** When a programming assistant suggests multiple lines of code, IvIE splits up and explains that code. Its explanations appear in the right margin of the editor. The explanations are meant to help a programmer get a high-level understanding of the code. In the pictured scenario, these explanations might help the programmer understand that the two longest sections of the code suggestion configure each of two subplots, each with a different slice of the data.

# Communication via UI: Inline explanations

Usually no need to be super sophisticated methods but just clean communication!



**Figure 2: The implementation of an instructive copilot for programming.** IVIE creates interactive overlays that explain suggestions made by a programming assistant. When the programming assistant (e.g., Copilot) displays the suggestion, IVIE submits that suggestion in a prompt to an LLM, requesting that the code be segmented and explained. IVIE then integrates the explanations into the editor as overlays beneath the expressions they explain.

Please dissect the following line of code, and explain the unfamiliar vocabulary and structures with less than 15 words each. Include ranges for parameter values and describe how changes in these parameters will affect the output.

Prompt:

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 10))
```

Output:

```
plt.subplots $## Create a figure and set of subplots.  
2, 1 $## 2 rows, 1 column of subplots.  
figsize=(14, 10) $## Width and height of entire figure.  
fig $## The whole window/figure containing subplots.  
ax $## Array of individual subplot axes.
```

Prompt:

```
df_all.merge(df_Apr, on='City', how='left',  
suffixes=('_all', '_apr'))
```

Output:

**Figure 3: A prompt for requesting expression-level explanations of generated code.** This prompt requests explanations of suggested code. It provides a single example of how it would like code suggestions to be split into **expressions** with accompanying **brief explanations** of those expressions.

# **How do you make a code gen model useful?**

**A: Design and iterate for specific use cases (case studies!)**

# Design for Use Case: Addressing Code Review

The screenshot shows a code editor interface with a dark theme. The left sidebar contains icons for file operations like Open, Save, and Undo/Redo, along with a gear icon for settings. The main window displays a file named `flag_benchmark.cc`. The code is part of the `absl::flags` module, specifically the `AbslUnparseFlag` function. A review comment is shown for line 54:

```
46     if (src.empty())
47         flag->reset();
48     else if (!absl::ParseFlag(src, &val, error))
49         return false;
50     *flag = val;
51     return true;
52 }
53 std::string AbslUnparseFlag(const OptionalInt& flag) {
54     return !flag ? "___" : absl::UnparseFlag(*flag);
```

The line `return !flag ? "___" : absl::UnparseFlag(*flag);` is highlighted with a yellow background. Below the code, a message from a reviewer states:

reviewer 20 hours ago  
Ternary operator is not recommended.  
Please replace with an if.

A blue button labeled `Reply...` is visible, and a smaller button labeled `Show ML-edit` is located below it. The bottom of the editor shows the continuation of the code with lines 55 and 57:

```
55 }
56
57 using AbslOptionalString = absl::optional<std::string>;
```

# Design for Use Case: Addressing Code Review

An example of a review comment in Critique. The reviewer asked for a defensive coding practice. The author addressed the comment by updating their changelist with a new review snapshot. The update is shown via colors: green for added text and red for removed. The author responded to the comment with "Done." and marked it "Resolved".

The screenshot shows a code review interface for a file named contexts.cc. At the top, there's a header with a star icon, 'CL 12345', 'author', 'Pending', and buttons for 'Request Review' and 'Reply'. Below the header, the file path is /v8/v11\_0/src/objects/contexts.cc. A 'Snapshot #8 - 11:52 AM' is shown above the code, and a 'Snapshot #10 -' is shown below. There are buttons for 'Mark reviewed' and 'Show entire file'. The main area shows a diff between two snapshots. Lines 206-210 are green (added), and line 211 is red (removed). A comment from 'reviewer' at 11:52 AM asks to check if 'is\_sloppy\_function\_name' is nullptr before assigning it. The 'author' responds at 11:55 AM with 'Done.' and marks it as 'Resolved'. The code snippet shows the addition of a nullptr check in line 211.

```
diff --git a/v8/v11_0/src/objects/contexts.cc b/v8/v11_0/src/objects/contexts.cc
--- a/v8/v11_0/src/objects/contexts.cc
+++ b/v8/v11_0/src/objects/contexts.cc
@@ -206,6 +206,11 @@
   bool has_seen_debug_evaluate_context = false;
   *index = kNotFound;
   *attributes = ABSENT;
+  *init_flag = kCreatedInitialized;
+  *variable_mode = VariableMode::kVar;
+  *is_sloppy_function_name = false;
+
+if (is_sloppy_function_name != nullptr) {
+  *is_sloppy_function_name = false;
+}
+
 if (v8_flags.trace_contexts) {
   PrintF("Context::Lookup()");
   name->ShortPrint();
 }
```

# Design for Use Case: Addressing Code Review

"We started by training a model that predicts code edits needed to address reviewer comments. The model is pre-trained on various coding tasks and related developer activities (e.g., renaming a variable, repairing a broken build, editing a file). It's then fine-tuned for this specific task with reviewed code changes, the reviewer comments, and the edits the author performed to address those comments."

```
... +8 common lines ...
import datetime

... +67 common lines ...

def _temporal_split_from_datetime(
    example_datetime: datetime.datetime) -> Optional[str]:
    """Finds the split name using the example datetime."""
    end_train_datetime = datetime.datetime.strptime('2022-01-01', '%Y-%m-%d')
    end_valid_datetime = datetime.datetime.strptime('2022-05-01', '%Y-%m-%d')
    end_test_datetime = datetime.datetime.strptime('2022-06-01', '%Y-%m-%d')

    if example_datetime < end_train_datetime:
        return 'train'
    elif example_datetime < end_valid_datetime:
        return 'validation'
    elif example_datetime < end_test_datetime:
        return 'test'
    else:
        return None
```

# Model quality: In-product measurements

**Offline evaluation**, by computing the recall@X metric described above over a held-out test dataset

**Online evaluation / user feedback**, by measuring the number of code-review comments produced during day-to-day business, the number of predictions the model made, the number of those predictions that were previewed, and of those how many were applied, or received thumbs up/thumbs down.

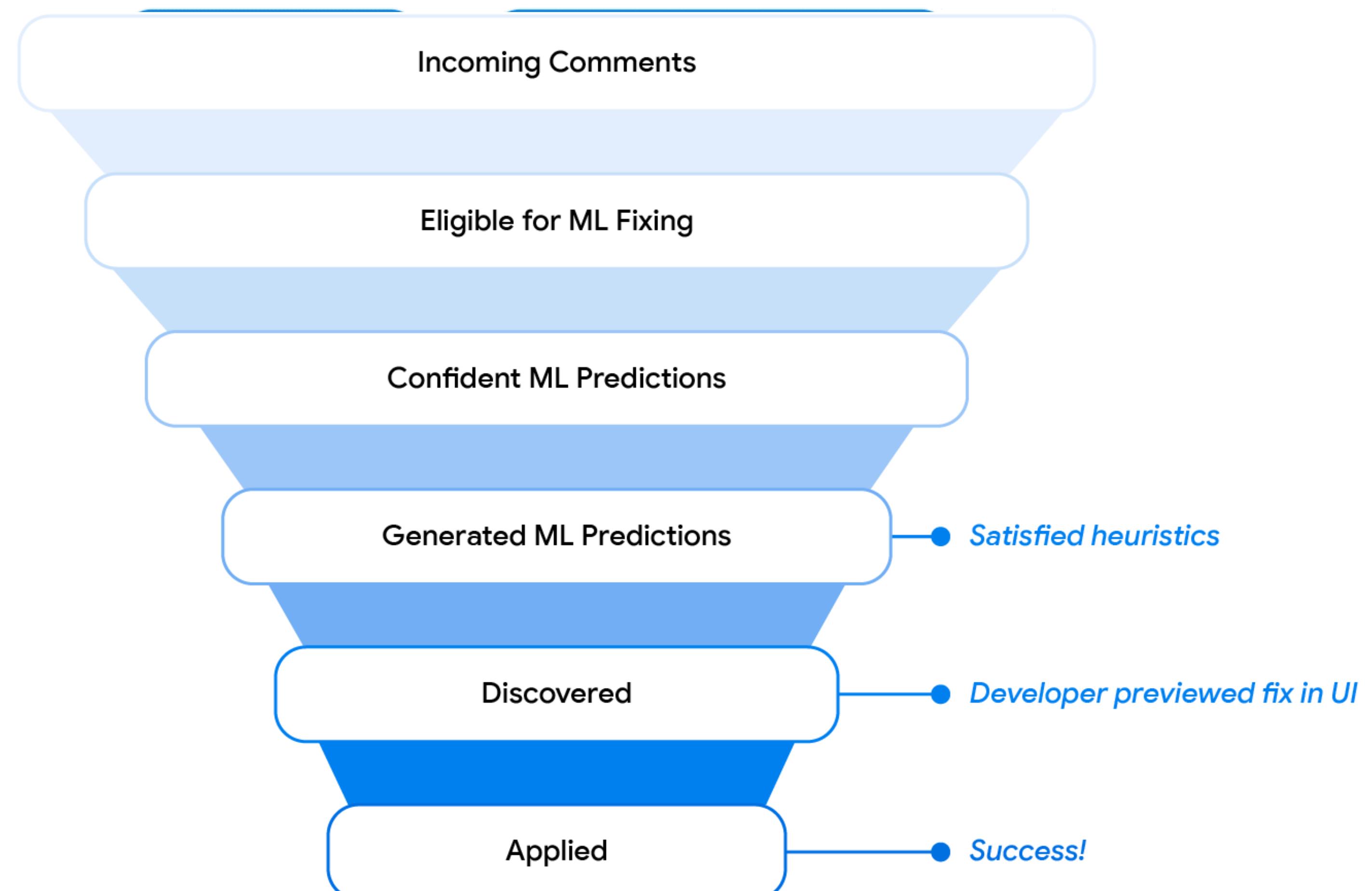
All types of such evaluation are meant to detect an increase in developer productivity, but act as easier-to-measure proxies of that measure.

**Acceptance rate**: the fraction of comments resolved by an accepted ML suggestion

**Discoverability**: the fraction of surfaced suggestions that were previewed by system users.

# Filters between model and usage

"For every new reviewer comment, we generate the model input in the same format that is used for training, query the model, and generate the suggested code edit. **If the model is confident in the prediction and a few additional heuristics are satisfied**, we send the suggested edit to downstream systems."



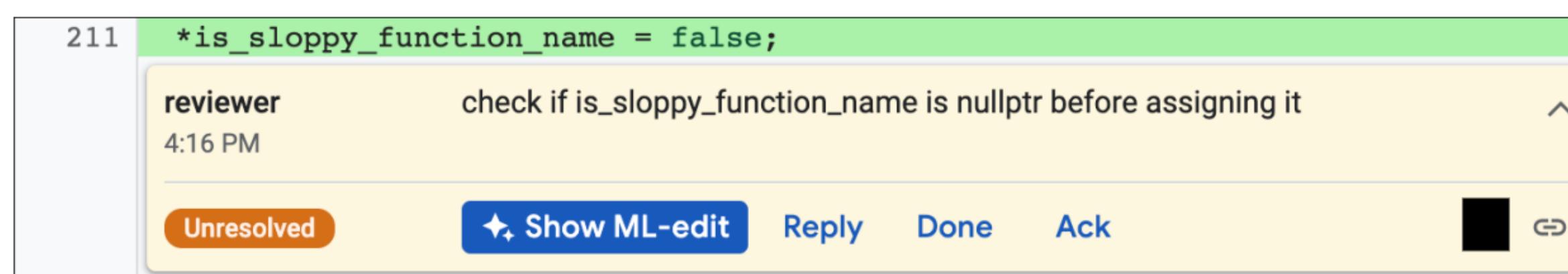
# The impact of UIs



**Original:** A separate, asynchronous analyzer queried the model and produced the suggested edit as an independent code finding, in a *separate annotation*.

## Pitfall: decoupled comment and suggested edit.

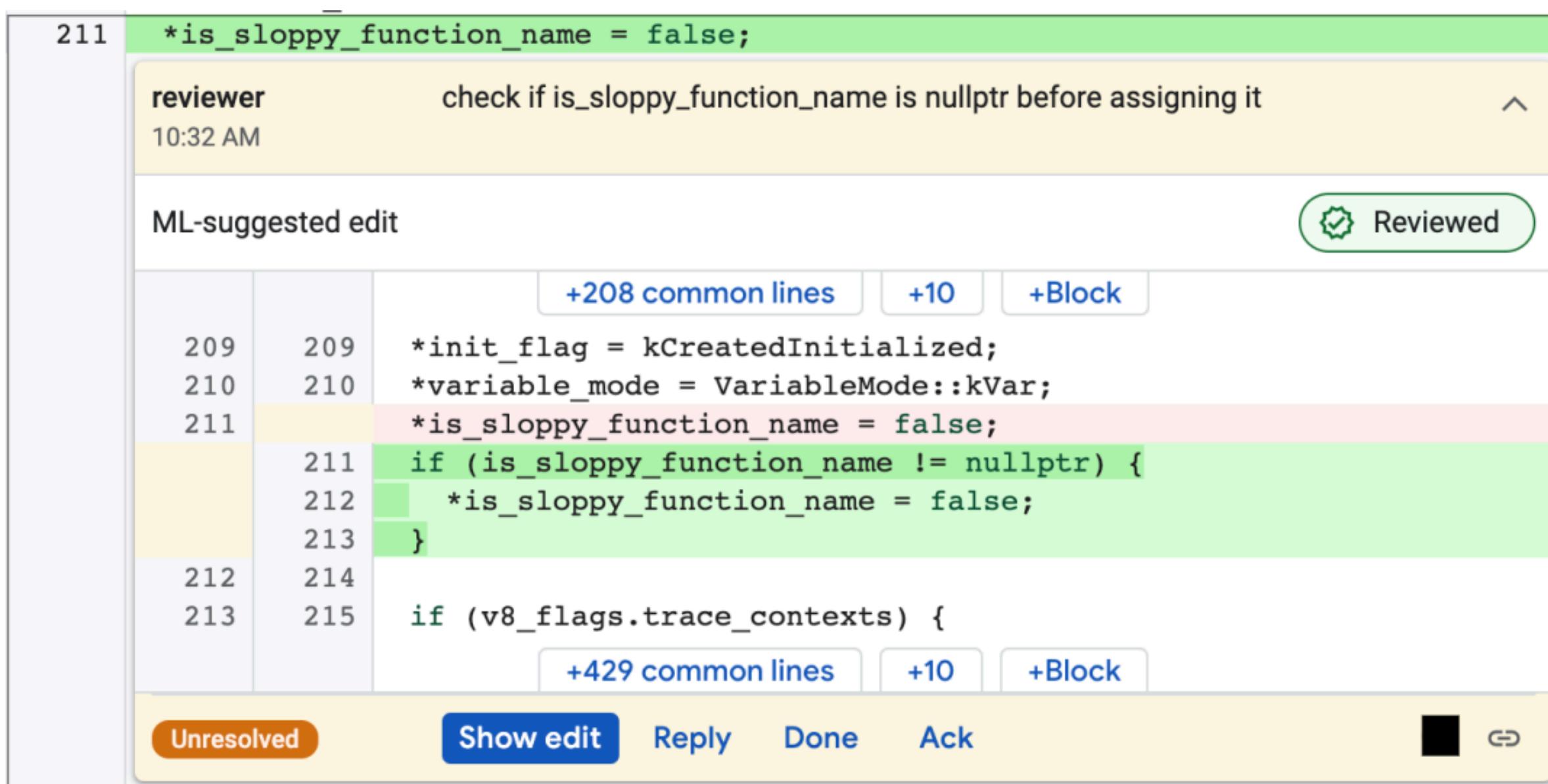
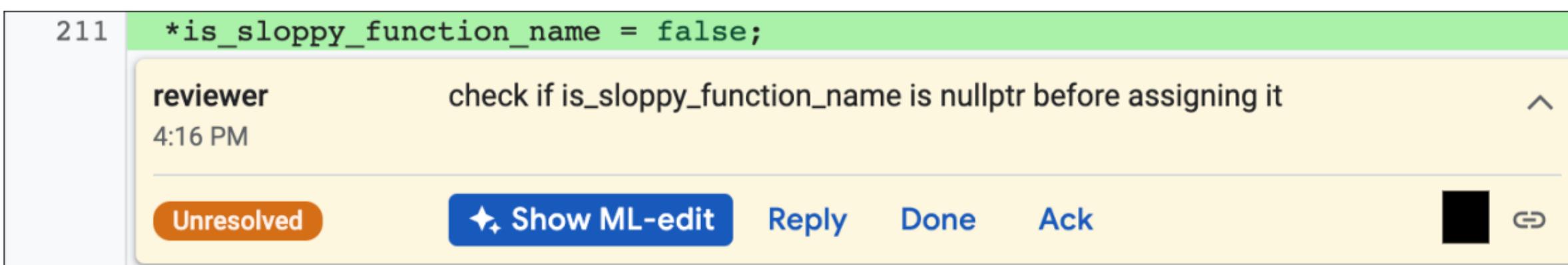
-> Duplication of information, wasted precious UI real-estate, and confused the prevailing visual language of review comments.



**Revision:** combine the two sources of information, by placing a “Show ML edit” in the same box where the reviewer comment appears

**Result:** improved discoverability considerably

# The impact of UIs



**Pitfall: click to view.** Since code shepherding (i.e., editing the changelist in light of the reviewer comments) takes a significant fraction of developers' time—one study at Google measured the median to be around 60 minutes [7]—efficiency in addressing comments is important

**Revision:** Showing the suggested edit immediately next to the reviewer comment, rather than requiring a click of the “Show ML edit” button.

**Result:** ML-suggested edit discoverability for the changelist author improved.

# The impact of UIs

A screenshot of a code review interface. At the top, there's a yellow header bar with a star icon, the text "CL [REDACTED] by [REDACTED]", a red dot labeled "Unresolved", and buttons for "Request Review" and "Reply". Below the header, the URL "O [REDACTED] v8/v11\_0/src/objects/context.cc" is shown, along with a "Snaps" button. The main area displays a diff between lines 213 and 212. Line 212 contains the code: `*is_sloppy_function_name = false;`. A red arrow points from the text "Check if this is null bef" in a comment box above the code to the word "bef" in the code. Below the code, there are three checkboxes: "No action required" (unchecked), "Attach ML-suggested edit (1)" (checked), and "Markdown" (checked). Buttons for "+209 common lines", "+10", and "+Block" are also present. The bottom of the interface shows buttons for "Unresolved", "Save draft", and "Cancel".

*The location of the comment and the mention of "check" and "null" were sufficient to trigger the assistant to suggest the intended edit.*

**Original:** Just show suggested revision to the code author but not the reviewer.

## Pitfall: decoupled reviewer from ML assistant.

Reviewers who were uncomfortable having an ML model "interpret" their comment into a suggested edit, and would prefer to preview the suggestion before providing it to the code author. "the pedagogical function of code review – It is often how new engineers are trained on local conventions and programming discipline."

**Revision:** The reviewer is shown the ML-suggested edit as they type their comment. The reviewer can decide to reject the suggested edit (in which case the author will only see the reviewer's comment).

**Result:** Many incorrect suggestions are pre-filtered out; Can use a less lower auto-filter because human filter is in the loop!

# The impact of UIs

A screenshot of a code review interface. At the top, there's a header with a star icon, 'CL [REDACTED]' by [REDACTED], an 'Unresolved' status, 'Request Review' and 'Reply' buttons, and a 'Snaps' button. Below the header, the URL shows 'v8/v11\_0/src/objects/context.cc'. The main area displays a diff between lines 212 and 213. Line 212 contains the code: `*is_sloppy_function_name = false;`. A red arrow points from the text 'Check if this is null bef' to the end of the line. Line 213 contains the code: `if (is_sloppy_function_name) { *is_sloppy_function_name = false; }`. Below the code, there are buttons for 'No action required', 'Attach ML-suggested edit (1)', 'Markdown', '+209 common lines', '+10', '+Block', 'Unresolved', 'Save draft', and 'Cancel'. The 'Attach ML-suggested edit (1)' button is checked.

**Original:** Reviewers are typically pressed for time, and may move on quickly from comment to comment. In an attempt to reduce back-end prediction load, and to avoid showing reviewers suggested edits before they have typed enough of their comment, we set the triggering delay between when the reviewer starts typing a comment and when a prediction is requested to 1500ms.

**Pitfall: slow-to-predict edits.**: Between this triggering delay, and the additive prediction latency of the model, many predictions "missed" the reviewer, who had already moved on.

**Revision:** Further reduced the triggering delay to 500ms. and improved the prediction latency through considerable engineering effort.

**Result:** number of suggested edits previewed by reviewers increased by 12%, and the acceptance rate of ML-suggested edits by authors improved by 18%.

# The impact of UIs

**Original:** Our original design of the UI assumed that the changelist author and reviewers operate in lock step: one stops when the other starts working on the changelist.

A screenshot of a code editor interface. The top menu bar includes File, Workspace, Edit, Selection, View, Go, Build / Test, and a search bar. On the left is a sidebar with various icons. The main area shows two panes: 'ML-suggested Edit' on the left and 'Workspace' on the right. Both panes contain the same C++ code for parsing flags. A conflict is highlighted at line 54, where the suggested edit contains a return statement with a condition, while the workspace version has a different return statement. The code uses `absl::ParseFlag` and `absl::UnparseFlag` functions. The code editor's status bar at the bottom indicates the file is 'flag\_benchmark.cc' and the line number is 54.

**Pitfall: code review is serialized.**; This is not how code review operates in practice. Sometimes the changelist is edited by the author as the reviewer is reviewing, or perhaps the reviewer thinks of a new comment after they have passed the bulk of their review to the author, and sometimes the reviewer attaches a comment to an older review snapshot of the changelist. All in all, this means that sometimes even an MLsuggested edit that the author wishes to accept is incompatible with the current state of the code.

**Revision:** detect those cases, and opening a three-way merge window (Figure 10) for the author to resolve any merge conflicts.

**Result:** the number of accepted suggested edits increased.

# Some takeaways

When a model is in a specific use case it usually means **blending into existing workflows**

Test-in-product is not the most ideal but usually quite **useful**

There will be **metrics** not relevant to model, but just relevant to **usability** (e.g. discoverability)

Little things like latency in suggestion can easily change usability

**UI iteration** is a BIG aspect

Need to consider **all users touching** the system (reviewers, and authors).

Also consider the **original objective** of the task (a bit of education and training going on!)

# Case Study: LLM for CS Education



## When AI writes code

### More than autocomplete

GitHub Copilot is powered by Codex, the new AI system created by OpenAI. GitHub Copilot understands significantly more context than most code assistants. So, whether it's in a docstring, comment, function name, or the code itself, GitHub Copilot uses the context you've provided and synthesizes code to match. Together with OpenAI, we're designing GitHub Copilot to get smarter at producing safe and effective code as developers use it.

A screenshot of the Visual Studio Code interface. The title bar says "Visual Studio Code". The left sidebar shows files: "runtime.go", "days\_between\_dates.js", and "server.go". The main editor area shows Go code:

```
1 package main
2
3 type Run struct {
4     Time int // in milliseconds
5     Results string
6     Failed bool
7 }
8
9 // Get average runtime of successful runs in seconds
10 func averageRuntimeInSeconds(runs []Run) float64 {
11     var totalTime int
12     var failedRuns int
13     for _, run := range runs {
14         if run.Failed {
15             failedRuns++
16         } else {
17             totalTime += run.Time
18         }
19     }
20
21     averageRuntime := float64(totalTime) / float64(len(runs) - failedRuns) / 1000
22     return averageRuntime
23 }
```

The status bar at the bottom says "Copilot" and "Ln 23 Col. 1".



## Humans might do more debugging!

A diagram showing a conversation between a human and an AI. The human says:

Ok, I see my code got this test case wrong. Could you explain what's wrong with my code?

The AI responds:

Your code returns None if the first number in the list is not greater than the key. It doesn't check the rest of the numbers in the list

The human replies:

I see! I've moved the 'return None' statement outside of the for loop. Is it good now?

Qianou Ma, et al. "How to Teach Programming in the AI Era? Using LLMs as a Teachable Agent for Debugging." ICSE 2024

M | New Tab | Google Account | Youtube | Google News | +

Search Google or type a URL

## Problem: first\_num\_greater\_than

Write a Python function `first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key)` that takes a list of integers (`numbers_list`) and an integer key (`key`), and returns the first number in the list that is greater than the key. If there is no number greater than the key, then you should return `None`.

Now you are chatting with a student. Please explain to them why their code is wrong by selecting the right explanation from the list. If you are right, the student will fix their code accordingly! Otherwise, they may get frustrated and leave.

### Test Suite Development

Add Test Case:

Input  Expected output

+ Add Test Group:

Enter test group name  +

Evaluate Test Suite

Your Test Cases	Passed?	Actual Output
Default Group		
<code>assert(first_num_greater_than([1, 2, 3], 2) == 3)</code>	✓	3
<code>assert(first_num_greater_than([1, 2, 3], 1) == 2)</code>	✓	2
Delete		
1. No number in list greater than key		
<code>assert(first_num_greater_than([3, 2, 1], 3) == None)</code>	✓	None
Delete Group		
2. Key in middle of list		
<code>assert(first_num_greater_than([3, 2, 1], 2) == 3)</code>	✓	3
Delete		

### Office Hour!

Your function returns `None` as soon as it encounters a number that is smaller than the key, it only continue to check the loop if num is equal to key. But there might be numbers greater than the key later after a number smaller than key.

But if that's the case, shouldn't `first_num_greater_than([1, 2, 3], 1)` give me 2? Currently my code would output `None`.

Consider this test case: given input `[1, 2, 3], 2`, it is supposed to outputs 3, however, the actual behavior is unexpected as the program outputs `None`

Ok, I see my code got this test case wrong. Could you explain what's wrong with my code?

Your code returns `None` if the first number in the list is not greater than the key. It doesn't check the rest of the numbers in the list.

Now I've updated the code with your fix. Is it good now?

Is the student correct?

Yes No I don't know

Your code returns `None` if the first number in the list is not... ▾

All of your test cases passed.

Send

### Student's Current Code

```
1 def first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key):  
2     for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
3         if numbers_list[i] > key:  
4             return numbers_list[i]  
5     return None
```

### View Code Differences

```
for i in range(len(numbers_list)):          for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
    if numbers_list[i] > key:                if numbers_list[i] > key:  
        return numbers_list[i]                  return numbers_list[i]  
    else:  
        return None
```

**Problem: first\_num\_greater\_than**

Write a Python function `first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key)` that takes a list of integers (`numbers_list`) and an integer `key`, and returns the first number in the list that is greater than the key. If there is no number greater than the key, then you should return `None`.

**Development**

Expected output:  (Optional)

Add name:  (Optional) [+](#)

[Evaluate Test Suite](#)

Your Test Cases	Passed?	Actual
Default Group		
<code>assert(first_num_greater_than([1, 2, 3], 2) == 3)</code>	✓	3
<code>assert(first_num_greater_than([1, 2, 3], 1) == 2)</code>	✓	2
1. No number in list greater than key		
<code>assert(first_num_greater_than([3, 2, 1], 3) == None)</code>	✓	None
2. Key in middle of list		
<code>assert(first_num_greater_than([3, 2, 1], 2) == 3)</code>	✓	3

**Student's Current Code**

```
1 def first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key):  
2     for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
3         if numbers_list[i] > key:  
4             return numbers_list[i]  
5     return None
```

**View Code Differences**

```
for i in range(len(numbers_list)):          for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
    if numbers_list[i] > key:                if numbers_list[i] > key:  
        return numbers_list[i]                  return numbers_list[i]  
    else:  
        return None
```

**Office Hour Queue**

There are several students waiting for your help, please click to start chatting with them.

Bob: Finished!

Chelsea: Start helping [→](#)

Dave: Waiting...

The image shows a computer screen with a web browser and a software application for reviewing student code.

**Web Browser Tabs:**

- New Tab
- Google Account
- Youtube
- Google News

**Search Bar:** Search Google or type a URL

**Software Interface:**

### Problem: first\_num\_greater\_than

Write a Python function `first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key)` that takes a list of integers (`numbers_list`) and an integer key (`key`), and returns the first number in the list that is greater than the key. If there is no number greater than the key, then you should return `None`.

Now you are chatting with a student. Please explain to them why their code is wrong by selecting the right explanation from the list. If you are stuck, click the hint button below.

### Test Suite Development

Add Test Case:

Input	Expected output
-------	-----------------

+ Add Test Group:

Enter test group name	+
-----------------------	---

Evaluate Test Suite

	Passed?	Actual
greater_than	✓	3 delete
greater_than	✓	2 delete

### Student's Current Code

```
1 def first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key):  
2     for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
3         if numbers_list[i] > key:  
4             return numbers_list[i]  
5     return None
```

### View Code Differences

```
for i in range(len(numbers_li t)):          for i in range(len(numbers_li t)):  
    if numbers_list[i] > key:      if numbers_list[i] > key:  
        return numbers_list[i]      return numbers_list[i]  
    else:  
        return None
```

### Evaluate student's code against your test suite on the left!

Send

**Test Cases:**

1. No number in list greater than key  
assert(first\_num\_greater\_than([3, 2, 1], 3) == None) ✓ None  
Delete
2. Key in middle of list  
assert(first\_num\_greater\_than([3, 2, 1], 2) == 3) ✓ 3  
Delete

The image shows a laptop screen with two main windows open. The left window is a code editor titled "Problem: first\_num\_greater\_than". It contains a problem statement, a text box for explaining wrong code, and a "Student's Current Code" section with a syntax-highlighted Python function. The right window is a "Test Suite Development" tool. It has sections for adding test cases and groups, a list of test cases with columns for status and output, and a chat interface with a student and a teacher. The student's code is failing the test cases.

**Test Suite Development**

Add Test Case:

Input Expected output

+

Add Test Group:

Enter test group name +

Submit Test Suite & Start Helping Students

Your Test Cases Passed? Actual Output

Default Group

1. No number in list greater than key Delete Group

2. Key in middle of list Delete Group

3. All numbers in list greater than key Delete Group

code returns None if the first number in the list is not... | ↴

your test cases passed.

Is the student correct?

Yes No I don't know

Send

**Problem: first\_num\_greater\_than**

Write a Python function `first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key)` that takes a list of integers (`numbers_list`) and an integer key (`key`), and returns the first number in the list that is greater than the key. If there is no number greater than the key, then you should return `None`.

Now you are chatting with a student. Please explain to them why their code is wrong by selecting the right explanation from the list. If you are right, the student will fix their code accordingly! Otherwise, they may get frustrated and leave.

**Student's Current Code**

```
1 def first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key):  
2     for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
3         if numbers_list[i] > key:  
4             return numbers_list[i]  
5     return None
```

**View Code Differences**

```
for i in range(len(numbers_li for i in range(len(numbers_li  
t)): t):  
    if numbers_list[i] > key: if numbers_list[i] > key:  
        return numbers_list[i] return numbers_list[i]  
    else: return None
```

M | G | P | New Tab | Google Account | X | YouTube | Google News | +

← → C | Search Google or type a URL

### Problem: first\_num\_greater\_than

Write a Python function `first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key)` that takes a list of integers (`numbers_list`) and an integer key (`key`), and returns the first number in the list that is greater than the key. If there is no number greater than the key, then you should return `None`.

Now you are chatting with a student. Please explain to them why their code is wrong by selecting the right explanation from the list. If you are stuck, click the hint button.

#### Student's Current Code

```
1 def first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key):  
2     for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
3         if numbers_list[i] > key:  
4             return numbers_list[i]  
5     return None
```

#### View Code Differences

```
for i in range(len(numbers_list)):          for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
    if numbers_list[i] > key:                if numbers_list[i] > key:  
        return numbers_list[i]                  return numbers_list[i]  
else:  
    return None
```

#### Test Suite Development

Add Test Case:

Input  Expected output

+ Add Test Group:

Enter test group name  +

Evaluate Test Suite

	Passed?	Actual
greater_than 3	✓	3
greater_than 2	✓	2

### Office Hour!

Hi Christina! Here is my code and I think I have some problem with it. Can you walk me through that?

Select...

Test suite evaluated! Select a test case to start explain.

Send

M | New Tab | Google Account | Youtube | Google News | +

Search Google or type a URL

## Problem: first\_num\_greater\_than

Write a Python function `first_num_greater_than(numbers_list, key)` that takes a list of integers (`numbers_list`) and an integer key (`key`), and returns the first number in the list that is greater than the key. If there is no number greater than the key, then you should return `None`.

Now you are chatting with a student. Please explain to them why their code is wrong by selecting the right explanation from the list. If you are right, the student will fix their code accordingly! Otherwise, they may get frustrated and leave.

### Test Suite Development

Add Test Case:

Input: [1, 2, 3] | Expected output: 2

Add Test Group:

Enter test group name: Default Group

Evaluate Test Suite

Your Test Cases	Passed? A
Default Group	✓
assert(first_num_greater_than([1, 2, 3], 2) == 3)	✓
assert(first_num_greater_than([1, 2, 3], 4) == None)	✓
assert(first_num_greater_than([3, 2, 1], 2) == 3)	✓

Office Hour!

Your function returns `None` as soon as it encounters a number that is smaller than the key, it only continues to check the loop if num is equal to key. But there might be numbers greater than the key later after a number smaller than key.

But if that's the case, shouldn't `first_num_greater_than([1, 2, 3], 1)` give me 2? Currently my code would output `None`.

Ok, I see my code got this test case wrong. Could you explain what's wrong with my code?

Your code returns `None` if the first number in the list is not greater than the key. It doesn't check the rest of the numbers in the list

Now I've updated the code with your fix. Is it good now?

Is the student correct?

Yes | No | I don't know

All of your test cases passed.

Send

### View Code Differences

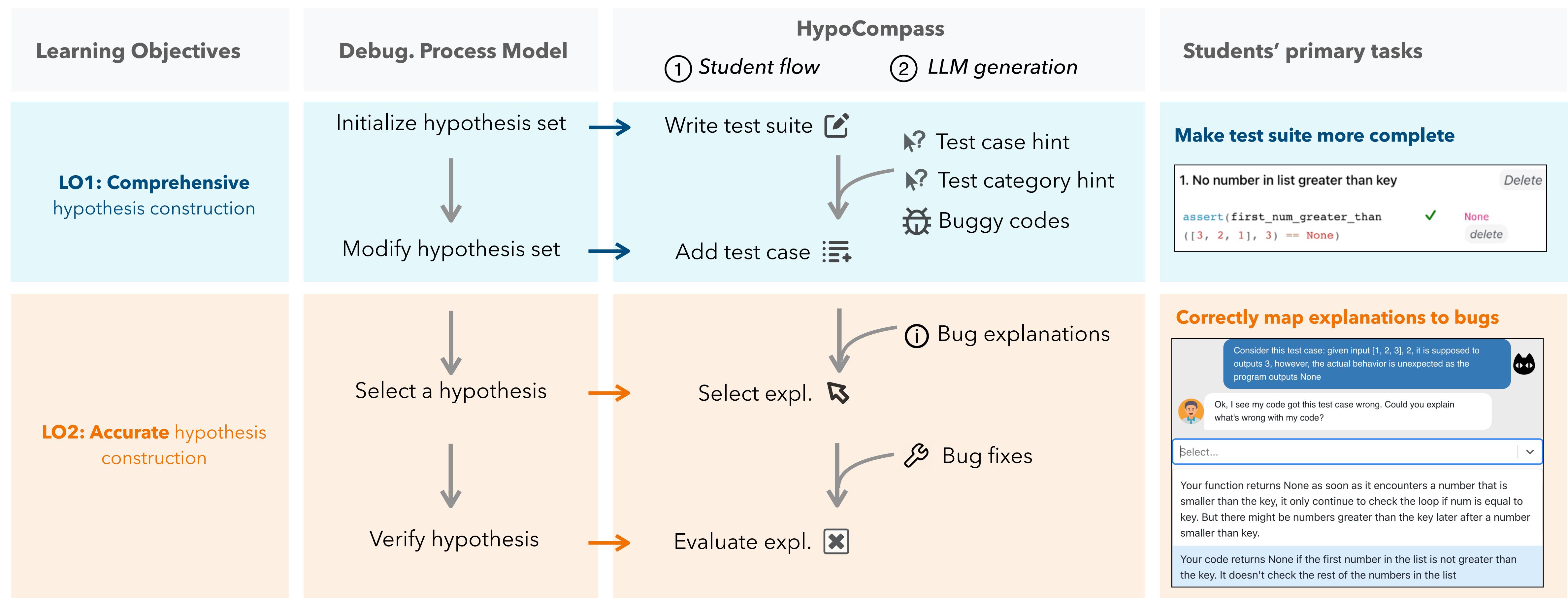
```
for i in range(len(numbers_list)):
    if numbers_list[i] > key:
        return numbers_list[i]
else:
    return None
```

```
for i in range(len(numbers_list)):
    if numbers_list[i] > key:
        return numbers_list[i]
return None
```

2. Key in middle of list

```
assert(first_num_greater_than([3, 2, 1], 2) == 3)
```

# HypoCompass: Learning Theory Inspired Design



**Explicit & deliberate** training just on debugging, by off-loading other necessary sub-tasks to LLMs (e.g., writing the bug, correcting the bug, etc.)

# HypoCompass: Effectiveness

**HypoCompass consistently generates high-quality training materials:** 90% success rate + only take 15 minutes to label and edit (reduce instructor effort!)

**HypoCompass brings learning gain:** In a pre-to-post test setup, 10 novices improved their performances by **17%**, with a reduced completion time of **13%**.

It is possible to eventually train students to be better at debugging!

## Question 2 Select all that apply.

Imagine a solution to this problem that fails on all of these following test case(s) because of the same bug. What could the bug be?

Python

```
assert(num_smaller([10, 10, 10, 20, 30], 10) == 0)
assert(num_smaller([10, 20, 20, 30, 30], 20) == 1)
assert(num_smaller([10, 10, 20, 30, 30], 30) == 3)
```

### Select all that apply.

- A. The buggy codes may have overlooked duplicated elements in seq
- B. The buggy codes may have overlooked x when it is the smallest element in seq
- C. The buggy codes may only handle the case where x is not in seq
- D. The buggy codes may only handle the case where x is already in seq

Answer:

## Question 3.1 Select one answer.

Given the additional information which test cases fail, what is the suite worth?

Python  
assert  
assert  
assert

- A.
- B.

## Question 7 Select one answer.

Test case 2: `assert(remove_extras_code2([1, 1, 2, 3]) == [1, 2, 3])`  
Actual behavior: 'TypeError' 'int' object is not iterable.

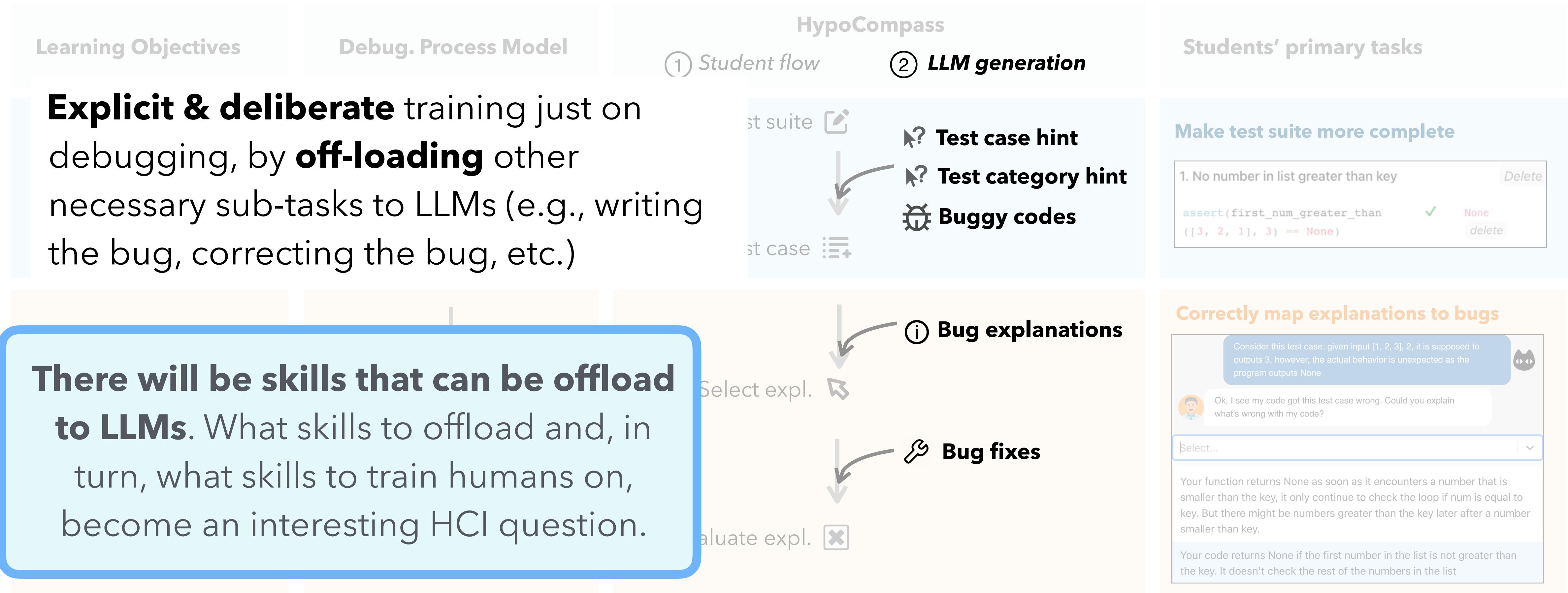
Python

```
1 def remove_extras_code2(lst):
2     new_lst = []
3     for i in lst:
4         if i == lst[i+1]:
5             continue
6         else:
7             new_lst += i
8     return new_lst
```

What's the bug exposed by this test case?

- A. The bug occurs because the loop variable `i` is mistakenly used as both the element and index of the list. This leads to incorrect comparisons and triggers a `TypeError` in `lst[i+1]` because `i` is an element of the list, not an index.
- B. The bug is caused by not initializing the `new_lst` properly. The code fails to explicitly assign an empty list to `new_lst`, so when concatenating elements to `new_lst` using the `+=` operator, a `TypeError` occurs because `new_lst` is not iterable.
- C. The bug is due to an incorrect conditional statement. The code incorrectly compares `i` with `lst[i+1]` instead of comparing adjacent elements of the list, which triggers `TypeError` when trying to compare an integer `i` with a list element.
- D. The bug occurs because the code incorrectly assumes that `i` is iterable when concatenating it to `new_lst` with the `+=` operator. In this case, `i` is an integer, which is not iterable, and it causes a `TypeError`.

# HypoCompass: Learning Theory Inspired Design



**Explicit & deliberate** training just on debugging, by off-loading other necessary sub-tasks to LLMs (e.g., writing the bug, correcting the bug, etc.)

# Task formation in HypoCompass (bug fixing)

LLM task: To edit the buggy code according to the fix instruction without over- or under- fix

```
def first_num_greater_than (numbers_list, key):  
    for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
        if numbers_list[i] <= key:  
            return num  
        else:  
            return None
```

→ →

"Change the comparison line to  
be larger than key."

You fix bugs in Python code closely following the instructions.  
Original code: {buggy\_code};  
Code modification: {explanation}  
Modified code:

Over-fixing, because LLM wants to  
continue to generate correct code!

→ →

```
def first_num_greater_than (numbers_list, key):  
    for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
        if numbers_list[i] > key:  
            return num  
        return None
```

# Task formation in HypoCompass (bug fixing)

LLM task: To edit the buggy code according to the fix instruction without over- or under- fix

```
def first_num_greater_than (numbers_list, key):  
    for i in range(len(numbers_list)):  
        if numbers_list[i] <= key:  
            return num  
        else:  
            return None
```

"Change the comparison line to  
be larger than key."



You fix bugs in Python code closely following the instructions.  
Original code: {buggy\_code};  
Code modification: {explanation}

**Translate the statement into actual, minimal code change in this format:**  
{original code snippet: ""copy the lines of code that need editing""  
-> edited code snippet: ""write the edited code snippet""}

Task formation helps avoid competing tasks  
of code editing and code completion!

numbers\_list[i] <= key → numbers\_list[i] > key

**That's all for today!!**