What's A Concept?

Design Political Research: Week 5

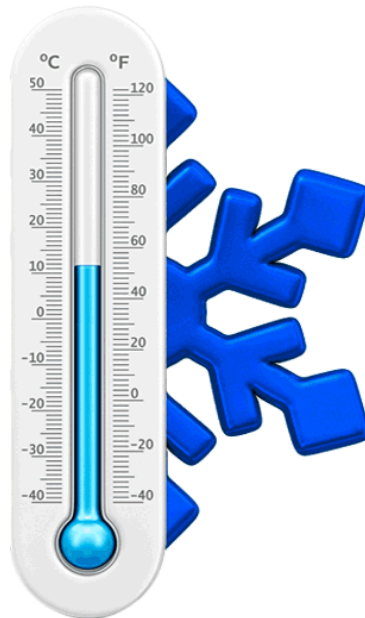Yue Hu

Why do we need conceptualization?

1. Description NB:Seeking for general pattern

2. Validation NB:For readers' check
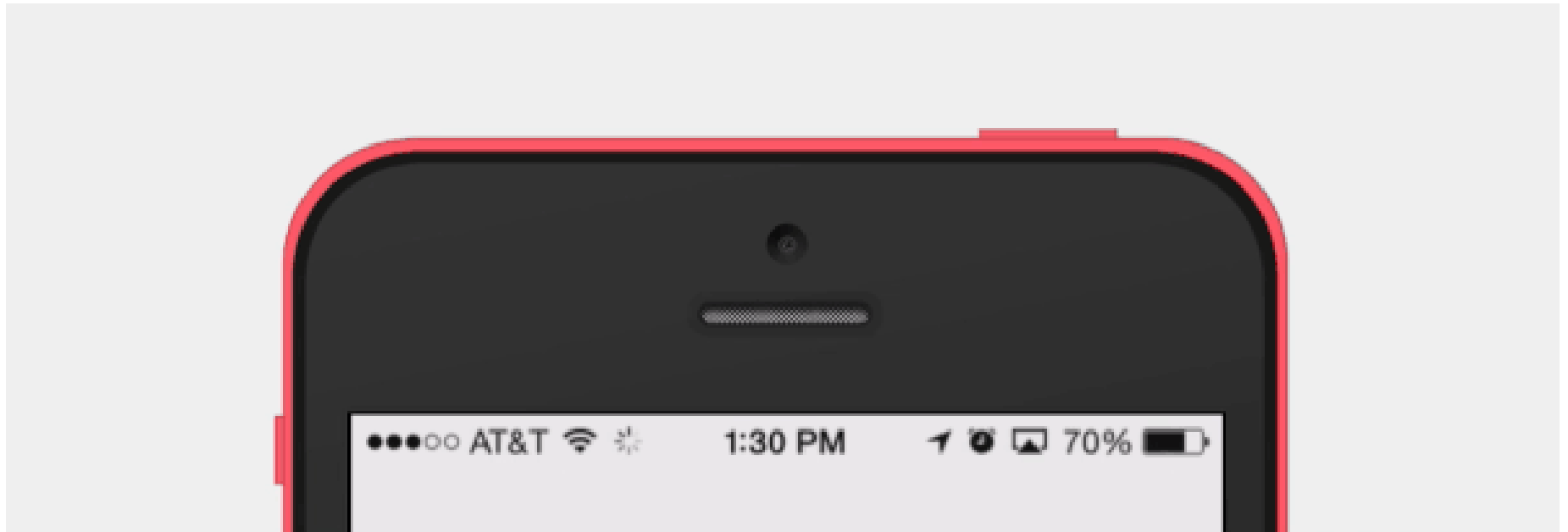
3. Clarification NB:Marking the boundary

What's a valid concept?

- Component 1: Indicators

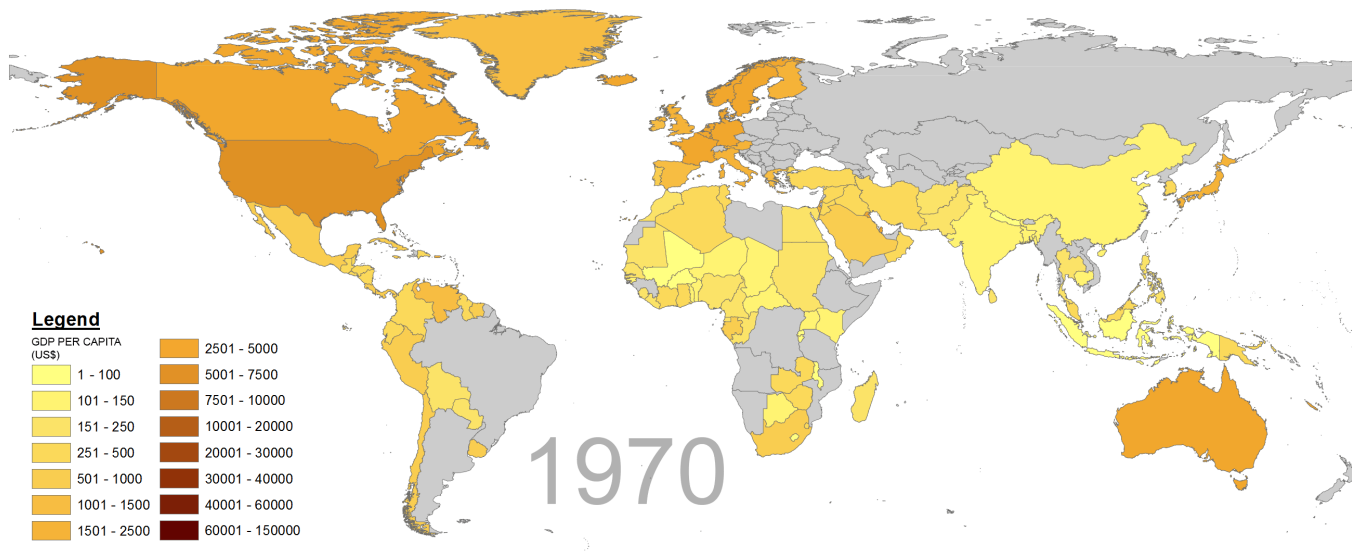   - "A reflection of a variable we wish to study." (Babbie 128)

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Exercise I: Which one is an indicator?
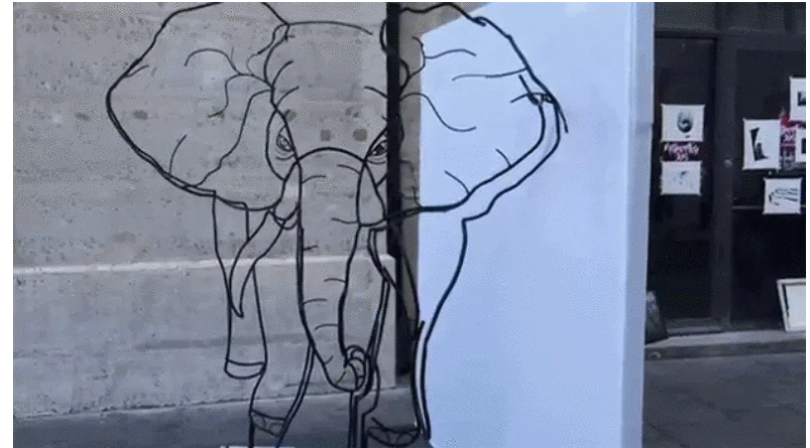

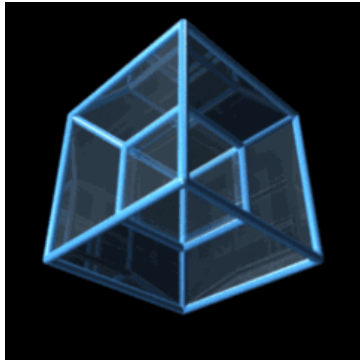讨论手机屏幕上有几个indicators，为什么是，为什么不是？

Exercise II: Which one is an indicator?

颜色，年

Component 2: Dimension

- "A specifiable aspect" (Babbie 129)

- This?

- Also this.

从不同角度看问题，明确你的角度

Exercise I:

- Sour:

- pH scale:

- Feeling:
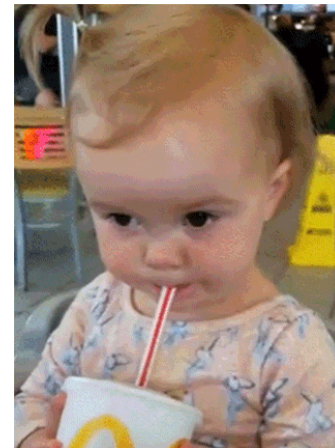
Exercise II:

- Hotness

- Temperature:

50°C (122°F)
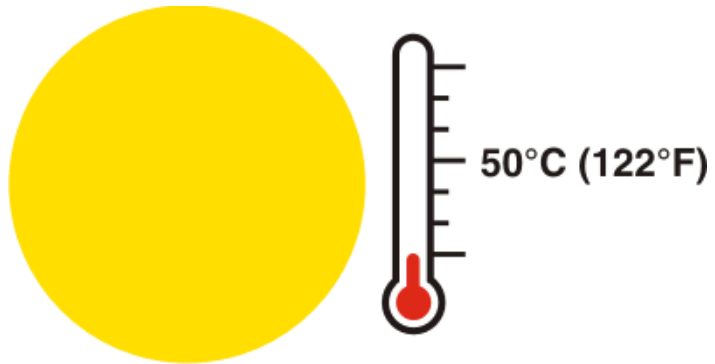
- Taste:

Of course, you can define it by:

- Face shape

- Hot

- Not hot

Component 3: Mutually agreement

Does your definition make sense?

定义是不是make sense: Trump 的行为是典型的Democrats行为

Invalid conceptualization: stretching

"When the concept of democracy is applied to cases for which, by relevant scholarly standards, it is not appropriate."

Avoid stretching

- Sartori's ladder:
    - Defining attributes (   )
    - Applied cases (   )

    -

Some techniques

Compromise with the reality.
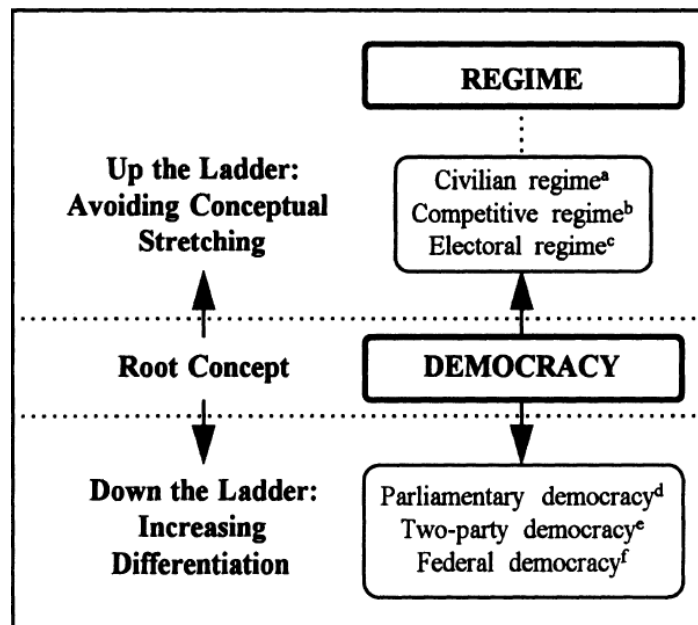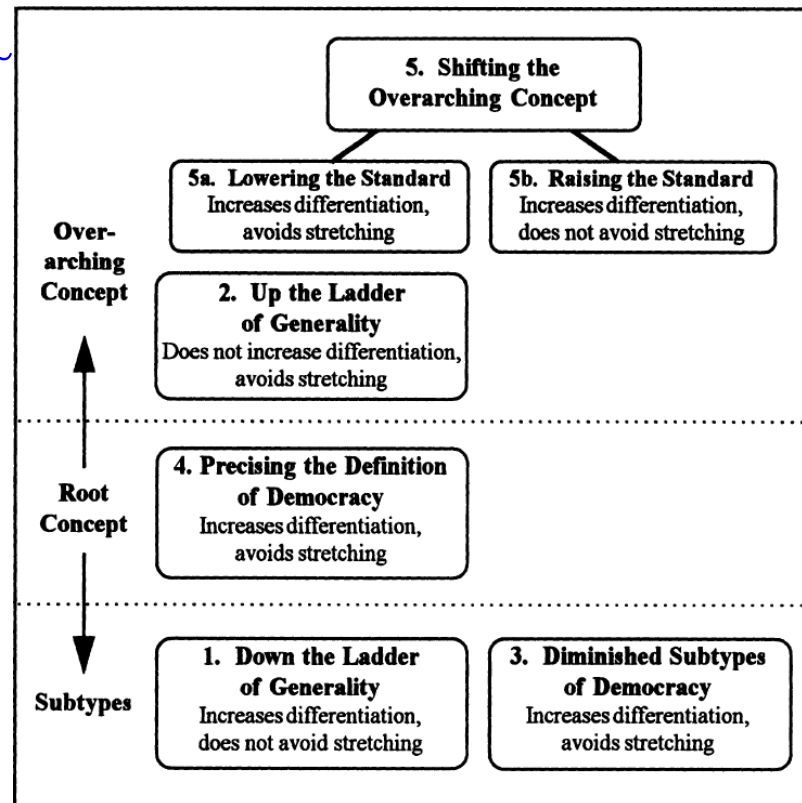
1. parliamentary ~
2. elected regime
3. illiberal ~
4. adding defining attributes (no reserved domains of military)
5. ~ government/ situation/state

	5. Shifting the Overarching Concept	
	5a. Lowering the Standard Increases differentiation, avoids stretching	**5b. Raising the Standard** Increases differentiation, does not avoid stretching
Over-arching Concept	**2. Up the Ladder of Generality** Does not increase differentiation, avoids stretching	
Root Concept	**4. Precising the Definition of Democracy** Increases differentiation, avoids stretching	
Subtypes	**1. Down the Ladder of Generality** Increases differentiation, does not avoid stretching	**3. Diminished Subtypes of Democracy** Increases differentiation, avoids stretching

Let's try it

How to define "democracy" so that China can be included?

- Suffrage   over 18
- Contestation
- Civil liberties
- Elected government

Contestation: 符合被选举人条件的参选人，由政党、人民团体提名或有选举权的居民10人以上联合提名，即可向选举委员会报名参选。但如果在基层人大代表选举中出现了两名以上的符合当选资格的候选人，则需要通过一个"选民小组"来确定最终候选人。

人大常务委员实行差额选举，而国家主席是等额选举，候选人只须得到总代表数的过半数支持即可