

# Hierarchical TRIZ Algorithms

8th Installment- Dec 2005

**Hierarchical TRIZ Algorithms** is a how-to TRIZ book. It is designed to assist both beginning and advanced users. Each month, the TRIZ-Journal will publish another chapter of the book. This month's installation will cover the appendix which is required to perform steps 7 and 8:

## **L. Appendix--Table of Knobs (Object Properties)**

Next month's installation will cover the seventh process step:

## **G. What Causes the Problem**

In all, there will be 12 installments. Should you decide to purchase the most current edition of the complete book contact the publisher at:

<http://www.3mpub.com/TRIZ/>

# L Appendix Table of Knobs

**The Table of Knobs** is a restructuring and reinterpretation of the parts of the “Standard Solutions” which deal with object knobs (knob resources).

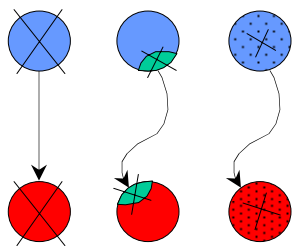
In its original form the “Standard Solutions” presented solution models with the conflict already removed. In the Table of Controlling Variables, the removal of the contradiction is delayed until the “Remove Contradiction” step, thus allowing for a greater number of ways to resolve the contradiction than those included in the “Standard Solutions”.

Using the Table of Controlling Variables will help the problem solver uncover several unanticipated ways to control the function.

# Table of Knobs

## Existence

### Existence



### Knob

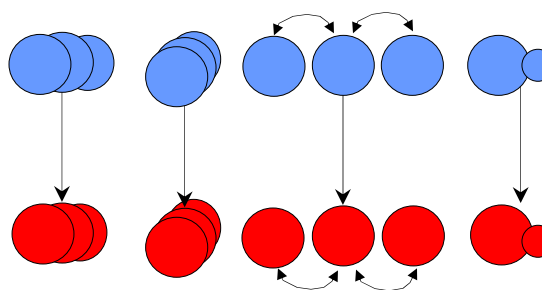
- Consider existence of the **tool**, its **source** or its **path**
- Consider existence of the **product**, its **source** or its **path**
- Consider existence of the interaction site on the tool or product.
- Consider the **micro-constituents** that interact

### Extreme Setting

- Eliminate the **tool**, its **source** or its **path**
- Eliminate the **product**, its **source** or its **path**
- Identify and eliminate only the interaction site on the tool or product.
- Remove only the **micro-constituents** that interact.
- Contradiction often solved by transparency

## Number of Objects

### Number of Like Elements



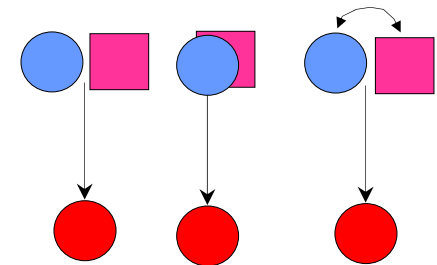
### Knob

- Do any of the following changes affect the outcome? (With each of these, new capabilities should emerge)
- number of **tool elements**
- number of **product elements**
- **orientation** of multiplied elements.
- **combining or interacting** of multiplied elements
- Variety of size or features of multiplied elements?

### Extreme Setting

- Multiply the product
- Multiply the tool
- Combine multiple elements in different orientations. New capabilities should emerge.
- Make the multiplied elements modify each other. New capabilities should emerge.
- **Nest or stack** the elements
- **Bias** some of the elements to handle different operating conditions

### Hybrid Combination Of Tools



### Knob

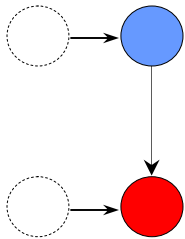
- Identify another effect/tool which performs the same function.
- What is the feature of the new tool which would extend the capability of the first tool?
- Identify the cheap tool which should deliver most of the function.

### Extreme Setting

- Transfer the whole new tool or just the desirable feature of the new tool.
- Merge the tools. A new capability should emerge.
- Make the tools modify each other. **A new capability should emerge.**

# Location or Movement

## Location



## Knob

- Define the entire location  
Envelope for the tool and product (What space can the tool and product be located in?)
- Move the tool about in higher dimensions. Are the fields affected?
- Move the product about in higher dimensions. Are the fields Affected?

## Extreme Setting

- Move the product and tool to environments that are conducive to their operation or where the environment is much better

## Interaction Zone Location



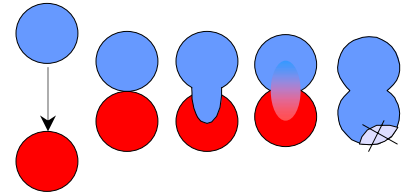
## Knob

- Locate the **exact zone** of the modification on the tool and product.
- Does changing the location affect the fields of the function?

## Extreme Setting

- Make the interaction zone a completely benign region on the tool and product.
- If the action degrades either the product or the tool, make sure that the location is not important

## Distance Contact or Combining



## Knob

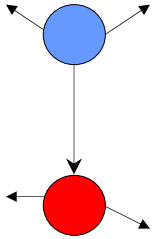
Consider the following changes:

- **Distance**
- **Contact or separation**
- **Location of contact**
- **Mixing** of tool and product
- **Absorption** of tool into product
- **Combining** the tool and product

## Extreme Setting

- Move the parts **far away** from each other
- Try **different distances** from each other
- **Nestle** one into the other
- **Mix** the tool and product
- **Combine** the tool and product.  
Consolidate. Look for new capabilities
- **Combine with super-system.** Look for much consolidation, new capabilities and room for growth.

**Velocity  
Acceleration  
Or Jerk**



**Knob**

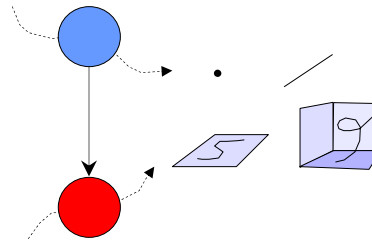
Consider the following changes:

- **Velocity** or relative velocity
- **Stopping** the tool or product
- **Acceleration**
- Rate of change of the acceleration (jerk)

**Extreme Setting**

- **Stop** the tool or product
- Try **extremely high or low** rates of acceleration

**Path**



**Knob**

Consider the following changes:

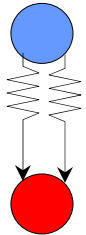
- Path or relative path
- Moving paths to different dimensions. (Useful functions **increase** path dimensions. Harmful functions **decrease** path dimensions).

**Extreme Setting**

- Use paths in **different dimensions**
- Useful functions **increase** path dimensions. Harmful functions **decrease** path dimensions.

# Scale

## Intensity or Scope



### Knob

- If you were an **artist**, how would you work the defect into the picture?
- How would you artistically extend the defect?
- Imagine the **defect multiplied**, what pattern would you multiply it to yield a useful function?

### Extreme Setting

- Grossly increase the intensity of the interaction, whether it is harmful or useful
- **Excessively perform** the function and then remove the excess.
- Artistically work the defect in.
- Increase the number of defects and arrange artistically

## Size of Interaction Zone



### Knob

- Identify the location of the interaction zone.
- How big is it?
- **Volume or surface area** of the interaction site
- **Size** of the interaction zone.
- **Dimension** of the zone.

### Extreme Setting

- Greatly increase or decrease the size of the interaction zone
- Increase **dimension** of the zone.
- Purposely cross or avoid **critical boundaries**

## Number of Interaction Sites



### Knob

- How many interaction sites are there now on the tool and product?
- Consider the **number** and locations of the sites.

### Extreme Setting

- Greatly increase or decrease the number of interaction sites

## Use of Micro-Sites



### Knob

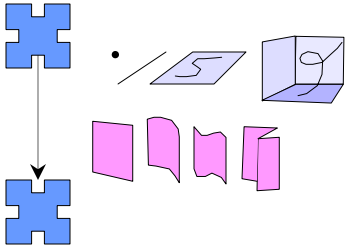
- Imagine interaction at smaller and smaller scales at multiple small interaction sites.
- Are the sites on the surface or in the volume?
- Does the function **already exist, to any degree**, at the bulk material level?

### Extreme Setting

- Greatly increase or decrease the number of Micro-sites

# Object Structure

## Shape or Size



## Knob

- Identify **poorly used space** around the tool and product
- Identify the dimensional construction of the interaction zone.
- If you were looking at a dimensioned drawing of the tool and product, what would be the **critical dimensions** for the function?
- Consider **shape, size and aspect ratio**.

## Extreme Setting

- Play like the tool and product are made from expandable clay. Form the tool and product into the ideal **shape, size and aspect ratio**.
- Change surfaces to higher order dimensions.

## Symmetry



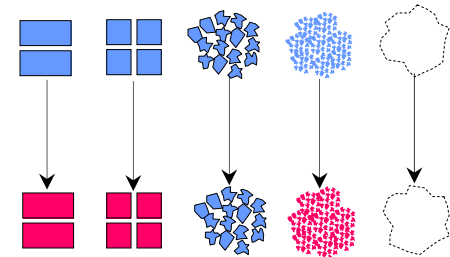
## Knob

- Consider parameters or knobs which have already been identified. Are they symmetrically located?
- Consider **symmetry** or **asymmetry** of the tool and product

## Extreme Setting

- Change symmetry to **another axis**
- Make the tool or product **unsymmetrical**
- Make **symmetrical**

## Segmentation



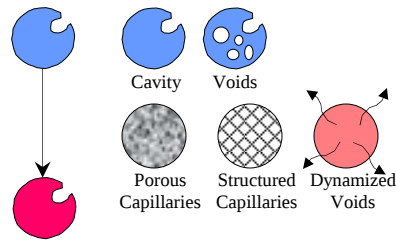
## Knob

- Would increasing the number of **interaction sites** improve the function? Can the sites be **independent**?
- Consider the affect that the following would have on the segmented pieces:
  - Dividing into **multiple copies** of the original elements.
  - **Size**
  - **Shape**
  - **Aspect Ratio**

## Extreme Setting

- Make the sites **independent**
- Break the original piece into **sections** that can be easily dismantled and assembled.
- Make **multiple copies** of the original elements. Reduce in size. Combine or make interact
- Change the shape of the segmented pieces
- Change to a **powder or aerosol**
- **Decompose:** Grains--Dust--Molecules--Atoms--Ions--Sub Atomic Particles
- **Combine:** Sub Atomic Particles--Ions--Atoms--Molecules--Dust--Grains
- **Solidify a liquid** or its constituents into particles

## Voids and Capillary Structures



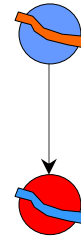
### Knob

- Consider the affect of the following changes to the tool or product
- Voids
- **Porosity**
- **Structured capillaries**
- **Fluids** in voids or capillary structures

### Extreme Setting

- Place a specially shaped cavity in the tool or product.
- Place **specially shaped** voids in the tool or product (honeycomb, spherical, random)
- Use open or closed celled **porous** materials
  - Sintered powders
  - Dried or fired clays
  - porcelain
  - Sand
  - Loose Powders
  - Pumice
- Make the tool or product from **structured capillary** materials such as:
  - Fabrics
  - Fiber batting
  - Fiber bundles (thread, string, rope...)
  - Screen or layers of screens
  - Capillary tubes or tube bundles
- Fill the porous material with special **fluids** or allow fluids to move through the porous material

## Thickness



### Knob

- Does the thickness of the tool or the product affect the function

### Extreme Setting

- Replace solid constructions with flexible membranes
- Isolate objects with thin films

## Curvature



### Knob

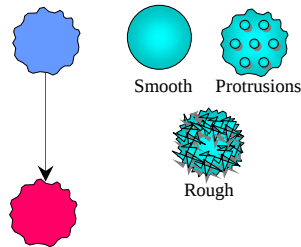
- Does the curvature of the tool or product affect the outcome

### Extreme Setting

- Change from linear shapes to curved shapes
- Use rollers or balls
- Change from linear to rotary motion

# Surface Properties

## Surface Shape



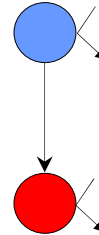
### Knob

- How does the surface shape affect the fields of interaction?

### Extreme Setting

- Make the surface **smooth** if it is not already
- Make ridges **protrusions** in the surface of the tool or product (Random or structured)
- Make the surface of the tool or product **rough** (random or structured)
- Use a finer and finer surface roughness

## Surface Properties



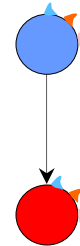
### Knob

- Identify the fields which deliver the modification.
- Consult the **Table of Surface Properties** to see which ones modify the fields of the function

### Extreme Setting

- Greatly increase the surface properties.
- Change to new materials or coatings if necessary.

## Surface Cleanliness



### Knob

- Can contaminants find their way to the surface?
  - Solids
  - Liquids
  - Gasses

### Extreme Setting

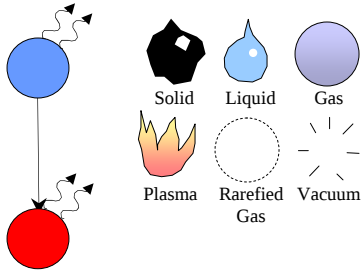
- Greatly decrease the surface contaminants until the surface is ultra-clean
- Greatly increase the contaminants
- Add a lubricant to the surface
- Condense a liquid onto the surface

# Surface Properties

|                                                                                                        |  |                                                                                   |  |                                                                                    |                |                                                                                    |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Elastic Force Internal & External<br>Creep Coefficient--Strength--<br>Elasticity--Toughness--Ductility |  | Gravity<br>Density                                                                |  | Friction<br>Protrusions--Roughness--Matter<br>State--Friction Couple--Slipperiness |                | Adhesive<br>Adhesiveness--Matter<br>State--Cohesiveness                            |  |
| Centrifugal Force                                                                                      |  | Inertia of Bodies (Note Direction)                                                |  |                                                                                    | Coriolis Force |                                                                                    |  |
| Buoyant force                                                                                          |  | Hydrostatic Pressure<br>Surface State                                             |  | Jet Pressure                                                                       |                | Surface Tension<br>Bulk Properties--State--<br>Wetted Circumference--Temperature   |  |
| Odor & Taste<br>Chemical Composition<br>Surface State                                                  |  | Diffusion<br>Surface Porosity<br>Surface State                                    |  | Osmosis<br>Surface Molecular Structure<br>Surface State                            |                | Chemical Fields<br>Chemical Reactivity<br>Surface State--Concentration             |  |
| Sound                                                                                                  |  | Vibrations & Oscillations                                                         |  | Ultrasound<br>Surface State                                                        |                | Waves                                                                              |  |
| Corona Discharge<br>Surface Protrusions<br>Roughness--Surface State                                    |  | Current<br>Continuity--Surface State<br>Conductivity                              |  | Eddie Currents (Internal and Skin)<br>Continuity--Surface State<br>Conductivity    |                | Particle Beams<br>State--Chemical Reactivity<br>Surface Molecular Weight           |  |
| Surface<br>Properties                                                                                  |  | Thermal Heating or Freezing<br>Surface Protrusions<br>or Roughness--Surface State |  | Thermal Shocks<br>Surface Protrusions<br>or Roughness--Surface State               |                | Nuclear Forces<br>Nuclear<br>Particle Type                                         |  |
|                                                                                                        |  | Electrostatic Field<br>Protrusions<br>Roughness                                   |  | Magnetic Field                                                                     |                | Information                                                                        |  |
|                                                                                                        |  | Electromagnetic (Voltage)<br>Continuity<br>Conductivity                           |  |                                                                                    |                |                                                                                    |  |
| Radio Waves<br>Reflectivity--State<br>--Absorbitivity<br>--Emissivity                                  |  | Micro-waves<br>Reflectivity--State<br>--Absorbitivity<br>--Emissivity             |  | Infrared<br>Reflectivity--State<br>--Absorbitivity<br>--Emissivity                 |                | Visible Light<br>Reflectivity--State<br>--Absorbitivity<br>--Emissivity            |  |
|                                                                                                        |  |                                                                                   |  |                                                                                    |                | Ultra-violet<br>Reflectivity--Absorbitivity<br>Emissivity--State<br>--Fluorescence |  |
|                                                                                                        |  |                                                                                   |  |                                                                                    |                | X-Ray<br>Atomic<br>Weight                                                          |  |

# Bulk Properties

## State of Matter



## Knob

Consider how the following affect the interaction or fields:

- State of the tool
- State of the Product
- State of the Environment
- Note that **state of matter controls most fields**

## Extreme Setting

- Change the State of the tool
- Change the State of the Product
- Change the State of the Environment
- (Note that **state of matter controls most fields**)

## Bulk Properties of Substance



### Cheap Substances

- Grocery store products
- Powders
- Foam
- Void
- Loose Bodies
- Waste or transformed waste
- Garbage
- Water, Steam or Hydrates
- Air and its components

## Knob

- Identify the current fields throughout the tool or product
- What materials are affected by these these fields. What are their bulk properties (Properties spread throughout the volume)

## Extreme Setting

- Change the product or tool to create the ideal bulk properties
  - Density
  - Conductivity
  - Magnetic Properties
  - Elasticity
  - Dielectric Strength
- Change the bulk properties by chemically transforming, decomposing, combining existing materials or by heat treatment.
- further enhance by adding a field

## Example of Bulk Properties

- Creep Coefficient
- Strength
- Elasticity
- Toughness
- Ductility
- Physical State
- Density
- Temperature
- Viscosity
- Coefficient of restitution
- Gas Constant
- Gamma
- Cohesiveness
- Chemical Composition
- Molecular Weight
- Ionization Potential
- Molecular size
- Ease of Ionization
- Rarefaction
- Conductivity
- Trans Conductance
- Thermal Conductivity
- Coefficient of Thermal Expansion
- Thermal Capacity
- Dielectric Constant
- Magnetic Permeability
- Magnetic Hysteresis
- Curie Point
- Permeability
- Transparency
- Image Splitting Properties
- Refractive Index

## Use of Foam



## Extreme Setting

- Change the product or tool to a foam structure

# Bulk Properties

|                                                                                                                     |  |                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                               |  |                                                                                                   |  |                                                                              |                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Elastic Force Internal & External<br>Creep Coeff...--Strength--Elasticity--<br>Toughness--Ductility--Physical State |  | Gravity<br>Density--State                                                                                  |  | Friction<br>Temperature--Viscosity<br>--State                                                 |  | Adhesive<br>Temperature<br>State of Mater                                                         |  |                                                                              |                              |
| Centrifugal Force<br>Density                                                                                        |  | Inertia of Bodies (Note Direction)<br>Density--State--Elasticity<br>Coeff. of Restitution                  |  | Coriolis Force<br>Density                                                                     |  |                                                                                                   |  |                                                                              |                              |
| Buoyant force<br>Density--State                                                                                     |  | Hydrostatic Pressure<br>Gas Constant--State--<br>Gamma--Temperature                                        |  | Jet Pressure<br>Density--State                                                                |  | Surface Tension<br>Cohesiveness<br>--State                                                        |  |                                                                              |                              |
| Odor & Taste<br>Chemical Composition<br>--State                                                                     |  | Diffusion<br>Molecular<br>Weight--State                                                                    |  | Osmosis<br>Molecular Size<br>Ionization Potential--State                                      |  | Chemical Fields<br>Chemical Composition<br>Concentration--State                                   |  |                                                                              |                              |
| Sound<br>Coeff. of Restitution<br>Viscosity--Density--State                                                         |  | Vibrations & Oscillations<br>Coeff. of Restitution<br>Viscosity--Density--State                            |  | Ultrasound<br>Coeff. of Restitution<br>Viscosity--Density--State                              |  | Waves<br>Coeff. of Restitution<br>Viscosity--Density--State                                       |  |                                                                              |                              |
| Corona Discharge<br>Ease of Ionization<br>Rarefaction--State                                                        |  | Current<br>Conductivity--State<br>Trans-conductance                                                        |  | Eddie Currents (internal and skin)<br>Conductivity--State<br>Trans-conductance                |  | Particle Beams<br>Molecular Weight                                                                |  |                                                                              |                              |
| Bulk<br>Properties                                                                                                  |  | Thermal Heating or Freezing<br>Thermal Conductivity<br>Coeff. Thermal Expansion<br>Thermal Capacity--State |  | Thermal Shocks<br>Thermal Conductivity<br>Coeff. Thermal Expansion<br>Thermal Capacity--State |  | Nuclear Forces<br>Atomic Weight--Density<br>Temperature                                           |  |                                                                              |                              |
|                                                                                                                     |  | Electrostatic Field<br>Dielectric Constant                                                                 |  | Magnetic Field<br>Magnetic Permeability<br>Magnetic Hysteresis--Curie Point                   |  | Information                                                                                       |  |                                                                              |                              |
|                                                                                                                     |  | Electromagnetic (Voltage)<br>Permeability--Conductivity<br>Dielectric Constant                             |  |                                                                                               |  |                                                                                                   |  |                                                                              |                              |
| Radio Waves<br>Transparency--State<br>--Image Splitting<br>Refractive index                                         |  | Micro-waves<br>Transparency--State<br>--Image Splitting<br>Refractive index                                |  | Infrared<br>Transparency--State<br>--Image Splitting<br>Refractive index                      |  | Light (Coherent & light Pressure)<br>Transparency--State<br>--Image Splitting<br>Refractive index |  | Ultra-violet<br>Transparency--State<br>--Image Splitting<br>Refractive index | X-Ray<br>Molecular<br>Weight |

### Match or Mis-Match of Properties



#### Knob

- Are the tool and product alike? Do the bulk properties match each other?
- Consider the following and how well matched the tool and product are
  - Thermal expansion
  - Thermal Conductivity
  - Electrical Conductivity
  - Modulus of Elasticity

#### Extreme Setting

- **Match or mismatch** tool and product properties, especially if they are in contact or must move or expand together
- Make the product and tool **from the same materials**

### Gradients of Components



#### Knob

- Consider the bulk constituents. Can they be made non-uniform?
- How would a material gradient affect the internal fields?

#### Extreme Setting

- Allow a gradation or mixture gradient of material constituents
- Allow a sharp gradation of material constituents
- Add a new material and allow the gradient to vary

### Chemical Activity



#### Knob

- Consider how chemically reactive the Product is to the Tool

#### Extreme Setting

##### Increase Chemical Activity

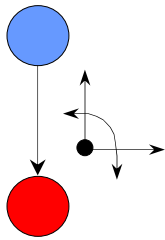
- Change to very active chemical substances
- Use progressively activated oxygen.
  - Ambient Air
  - Oxygenated Air
  - Pure Oxygen
  - Ionized Oxygen
  - Ozone
  - Singlet Oxygen

##### Change the tool or product to an inert substance

- Introduce inert gasses
- Introduce or mix in inert substances
- Use a vacuum

# Direction

## Direction of Action or Fields



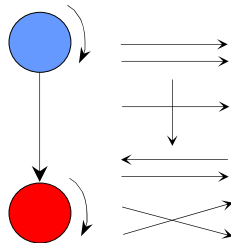
### Knob

- Identify the Field Gradients
- Identify current direction of Action or fields
- How does the direction of the fields affect the interaction?

### Extreme Setting

- **Reverse** the direction of action or fields.
- Change from linear to rotary motion.
- Change from rotary to linear motion.
- Go 90 degrees to the current direction

## Relative Orientation



### Knob

- Try different rotational orientations, relative to each other.
- Consider differences between linear and rotary motion.

### Extreme Setting

- Change the orientation of the tool to the product

## Direction of Action



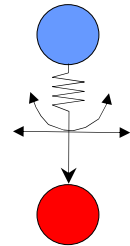
### Knob

- What constitutes the reverse of the current action?
- What is the action performed relative to?

### Extreme Setting

- Change the relative action
- Perform the reverse action
- Place parts upside down or backward
- Make moving parts stationary

## Movement Relative to Gradients



### Knob

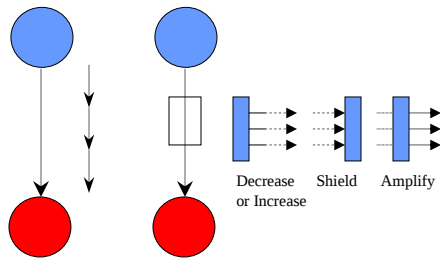
- **Draw the field lines** and the equipotential lines
- Does either element move or rotate through a field gradient?
- What direction do they move relative to the gradient?

### Extreme Setting

- Make elements move **along** equipotential lines
- If either element already moves along equipotential lines, **changing the field slightly** can make the function adjustable. How can the fields be changed?
- Avoid lifting at all

# Field Structure

## Field Intensity or Conductance



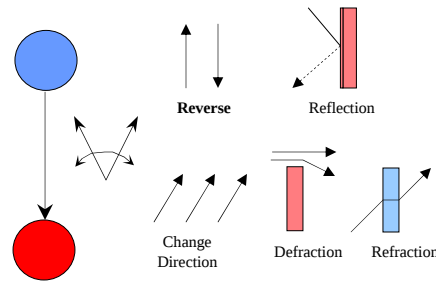
### Knob

- Draw Field Potential Lines and Gradients
- How does the conductivity of the medium affect the interaction?

### Extreme Setting

- Increase or Decrease the field intensity from the Tool
- Use an intermediate substance to shield, amplify or decrease the field
- Change the Conductivity of the Mediator

## Field Direction



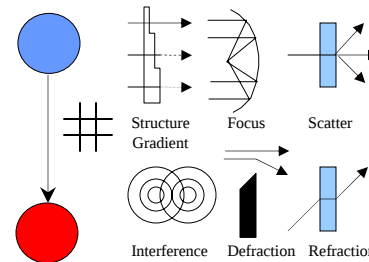
### Knob

- Identify the field gradients and potential lines
- Is the field **direction** important?
- What would happen if the fields were **reversed**?

### Extreme Setting

- Change to the ideal field direction.
- **Reverse** the fields?

## Field Gradient or Concentration



### Knob

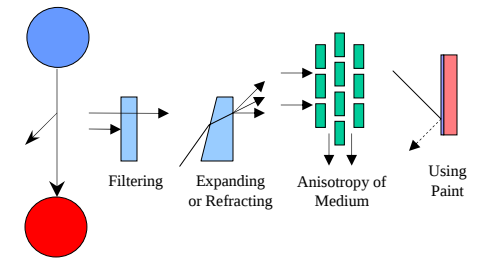
Draw the field gradients and field potential lines as they currently exist. Consider the following:

- Concentration of the field
- Rate of change of field gradient
- Coherence of field
- Interference of field
- Field Scatter

### Extreme Setting

- Change the **gradient** to the ideal
- Move to higher dimensions
- Change the dimension of the affected area of the product
- Use heat to change the refractive index
- Sharply change the field gradient to eliminate harmful functions
- Make the Field **Coherent**

## Variety or Separation of Field Components



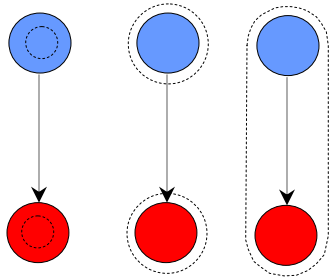
### Knob

- Can the field be broken into various components by direction, Frequency or Variety of Fundamental Fields?
- Identify the **truly useful components**
- What properties of the product or tool affect the variety of field components?
  - Transmission of frequency
  - Absorption of frequency
  - Reflection of frequency
  - Anisotropy of Medium
  - Resonance properties of medium

### Extreme Setting

- Break the field into various component
  - Direction
  - Frequency
  - Variety of Fundamental Fields
- Separate out the **useful components**
- Use a different Color: Filter field or reflect only certain frequencies
- Change the receptivity of the product to certain field components
- Search the **Table of Effects** for ways to separate field components
- Move to a higher dimension to enhance the filter.

# Adding or Superimposing Fields



Knob

- Identify substances and constructions which react strongly to the existing fields or fields which would react strongly to the existing substances
- Identify other fields in the environment
- Consider **assisting fields** or **counter fields**, that could be superimposed **into**, **onto** or **in the environment** of the elements?
- Consult the table of Storage of Fields for consideration of **residual fields**

## Extreme Setting

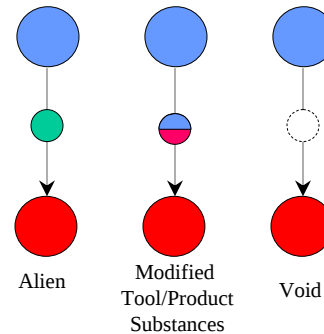
- Superimpose a **counter field**
- Superimpose an **assisting field**
- Superimpose a **new field type**
- **Pre-stress** the parts

### Possible Modifications to Substances

- |                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • State of Matter    | • Internal additives             |
| • Chemically altered | • Ionized                        |
| • Heat treatment     | • Recombined                     |
| • Electrification    | • Dilution of constituents       |
| • Heated             | • Concentration of constituents  |
| • Foam               | • Change of Bulk Properties      |
| • Decomposed         | • Form structures at micro level |
| • Mobilized          |                                  |

# Mediators

## Type of Mediator



Alien

Modified  
Tool/Product  
Substances

Void

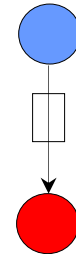
Knob

- Is direct contact required?
- What is currently between the tool and product?
- Can a substance be introduced ?
- If no contact is required, what is the medium or mediator which transmits the field?
- Consider the Refractive index of medium
- Consider the Gradient of the medium
- Break the function down into two separate functions. Consider each separately

## Extreme Setting

- Add an **alien mediator**
- Use a **modification** of the tool substance
- Use a **modification** of the product substance
- Use a **mixture** of the tool and product
- Use **multiplied versions** of the tool or product
- Place a **void** or rarified gas between the tool and product
- **Enclose** both the tool and the product in the mediator

## Conductivity of the Medium



Knob

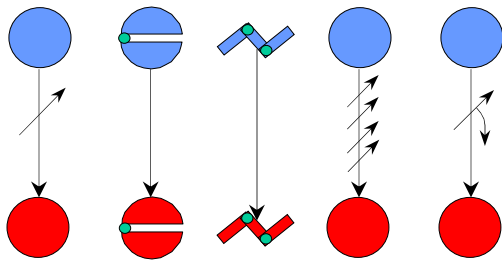
- What medium is between the tool and product?
- Is the conductivity of the medium adjustable?
- Should a different medium be used?

## Extreme Setting

- Change the conductivity of the medium by using concentrated additives
- Change the gradient of conductivity
- Change to a different medium with higher or lower conductance

# Making Adjustable

## Adjustability



### Knob

- Which of the features of the tool, product or field can be made adjustable? Consider the following:
  - Number of **Joints** in the tool or product
  - **Degrees of freedom**
  - **Variety** of adjustable features
  - **Continuity** of Adjustment

### Extreme Setting

- Make adjustable to adapt to each stage of operation.
- Make self adjusting according to operating conditions. Immobile objects become mobile.
- Place **Joints** in the tool or product
- Increase the **number of joints**
- If a parameter is already adjustable, **increase** the degrees of freedom.
- Make **several** controlling parameters adjustable
- Make an existing or new parameter **continuously adjustable**.

## Flexibility



### Knob

- Everything** is flexible. Look at the system as a collection of springs, masses and dampers.
- Consider the flexibility of the **tool**.
  - Consider the flexibility of the **product**.
  - Consider the **direction** of flexibility
  - Consider the **State of Matter**

### Extreme Setting

- Change the flexibility of the **tool**.
- Change the flexibility of the **product**.
- Change the **direction** of flexibility.
- Make very flexible by transforming to a **liquid or gas**.

## Nearness to Critical Point



### Knob

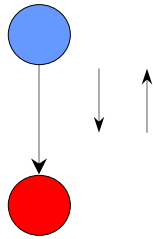
- Does the feature have a **natural critical condition** or threshold, such as boiling point or curie temperature?
- Can a critical condition or threshold **be created** for a feature which does not normally have one, such as a bi-stable condition?
- If the function is useful, **operation near the critical condition** can trigger large results.
- If the function is harmful, operating **far away** from the critical point reduces the effect.

### Extreme Setting

- **Operate near the critical condition**
- Operate **far away** from the critical point.

# Timing

## Continuity of Operation



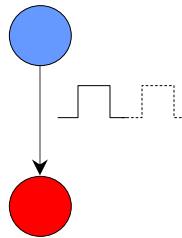
### Knob

- Does the Tool Follow a Path?
- Can the Tool perform the function on the entire path, both coming and going?
- Is the function at full load (always operating)?
- Have dummy runs and downtimes been eliminated?

### Extreme Setting

- Make the Tool perform the function on the entire path

## Different Time



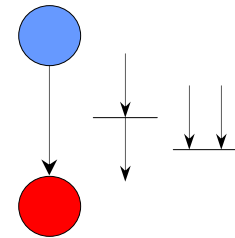
### Knob

- Process Map the changing conditions over time.
- Does the requirement for the function vary over time?
- Could other tools help out at another time?
- If the modification is performed as a step in a process, can the sequence be varied?

### Extreme Setting

- Change the Sequence
- Change the time
- Perform during transportation or while queued or waiting

## Partial Modification



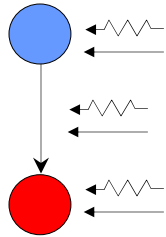
### Knob

- Can the modification be broken into two (or more) **stages**?
- Can the operation be broken into **parallel** processes?

### Extreme Setting

- Separate the modification into two or more serial **stages**
- Separate the operation into **parallel** stages
- Perform setup at the same time as the operation.
- Implies use of a **previously placed tool**.

### Addition or Subtraction of Other Functions



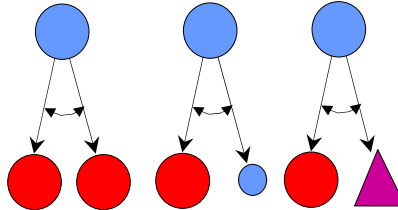
#### Knob

- Identify other functions performed on the tool, product and field.
- Does uncoupling these other functions affect the interaction
- Would coupling other functions such as vibration affect the outcome?

#### Extreme Setting

- Couple or uncouple other functions such as vibration

### Uninterrupted Operation



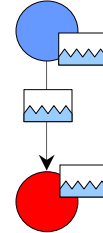
#### Knob

- Are all parts of the system at full load?
- Have dummy runs and downtimes been eliminated?
- What else in the system requires the same modification?

#### Extreme Setting

- Move to uninterrupted operation
- Make the tool operate on other similar products
- Modify the tool to operate on diverse products

### Storage of Action or Field



#### Knob

- Identify the main fields of the function.
- Consult the next page for ways to store this field
- Is this field stored, even for an instant in the tool, product or in space? (is there a lag between field generation and application?)
- Is there energy storage in oscillations?
- Does storage improve the function?
- Can storage be a mediator between the tool and product?

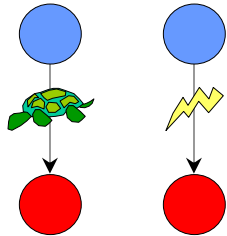
#### Extreme Setting

- Store the field in the lag between field generation and application
- Store Energy in oscillations
- Make storage a mediator between the tool and product

|                                                                           |  |                                                                                               |  |                                                                                |  |                                                                           |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Elastic Force Internal & External<br>Springs<br>Elastic Media             |  | Gravity<br>Height of Objects<br>Weight or Density                                             |  | Friction                                                                       |  | Adhesive                                                                  |  |
| Centrifugal Force<br>Momentum                                             |  | Inertia of Bodies (Note Direction)<br>Momentum                                                |  | Coriolis Force<br>Momentum                                                     |  |                                                                           |  |
| Buoyant force<br>Average Density of<br>Buoyant Object                     |  | Hydrostatic Pressure<br>Pressure Vessel                                                       |  | Jet Pressure<br>Fluid Momentum                                                 |  | Surface Tension<br>Surface Tension<br>Area                                |  |
| Odor & Taste<br>Container                                                 |  | Diffusion<br>Pressure<br>Vessel                                                               |  | Osmosis<br>Container                                                           |  | Chemical Fields<br>Explosives<br>Chemical Potential                       |  |
| Sound<br>Oscillation Chamber--Distance<br>of Travel--Resonance of Objects |  | Vibrations & Oscillations<br>Oscillation Chamber--Distance<br>of Travel--Resonance of Objects |  | Ultrasound<br>Oscillation Chamber--Distance<br>of Travel--Resonance of Objects |  | Waves<br>Oscillation Chamber--Distance<br>of Travel--Resonance of Objects |  |
| Corona Discharge<br>Low Field<br>Vacuum                                   |  | Current<br>Inductance<br>Super-conducting media                                               |  | Eddie Currents (internal and skin)<br>Inductance<br>Super-conducting media     |  | Particle Beams<br>Low Field<br>Vacuum                                     |  |
| Storage<br>of Fields                                                      |  | Thermal Heating or Freezing<br>Thermal Mass                                                   |  | Thermal Shocks<br>Thermal Mass of Two<br>Objects                               |  | Nuclear Forces<br>Radio-active<br>Materials                               |  |
|                                                                           |  | Electrostatic Field<br>Capacitance--Piezo<br>Electric Materials                               |  | Magnetic Field<br>Permanent<br>Magnet                                          |  |                                                                           |  |
|                                                                           |  | Electromagnetic (Voltage)<br>Separation Space                                                 |  |                                                                                |  | Information<br>Data Fields                                                |  |
|                                                                           |  |                                                                                               |  |                                                                                |  |                                                                           |  |
| Radio Waves<br>Separation Space<br>Oscillating Circuits                   |  | Micro-waves<br>Separation Space<br>Oscillating Circuits                                       |  | Infrared<br>Separation Space<br>Hot Objects                                    |  | Visible Light<br>Separation Space<br>Hot Objects<br>Fluorescence          |  |
|                                                                           |  |                                                                                               |  |                                                                                |  | Ultra-violet<br>Separation Space<br>Hot Objects<br>Fluorescence           |  |
|                                                                           |  |                                                                                               |  |                                                                                |  | X-Ray<br>Separation Space<br>Radio-active Materials                       |  |

# Time Variation

## Speed



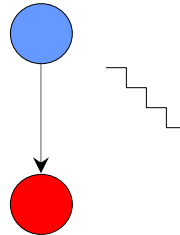
## Knob

- How are the fields changed by performing the modification at different speeds?
- If the modification were performed more rapidly, would other harmful functions be precluded?

## Extreme Setting

- Slow the function way down (hours, days, weeks, months, years)
- Perform the modification very rapidly to preclude harmful or hazardous functions.

## Discrete or Continuous



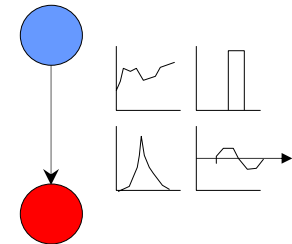
## Knob

- If the action is continuous, is there any advantage to make it **discrete**?
  - Can the Tool be **Multiplied or segmented** into separate pieces.
  - Can each piece moves into action in discrete steps or into fixed positions or amplitudes.
- If the action is discrete, can it be made **continuous**

## Extreme Setting

- Continuous actions move to discrete actions
  - **Multiply or segment** the tool into separate pieces.
  - Each piece moves into action in discrete steps or into fixed positions or amplitudes.
- Discrete actions move to continuous actions

## Time Variance or Pulse



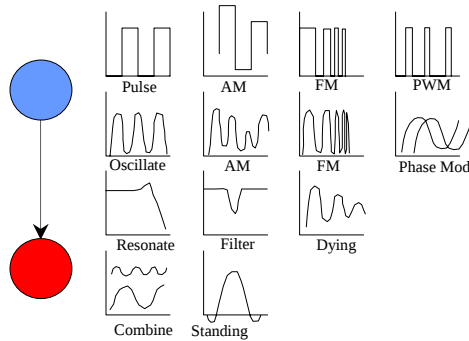
## Knob

- How is the interaction affected if you could continuously vary the action in time?

## Extreme Setting

- Shape the curve
- Square pulse the action.
- Shape the pulse.
- Make the pulse travel.

## Pulsation or Oscillation



## Knob

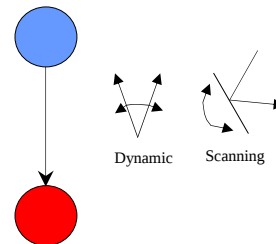
Is the interaction affected by pulsing or oscillating the **tool, product or field**?

- Can a feature or knob of the tool, product or field be oscillated
- How do the natural frequencies of the tool and product affect the interaction?

## Extreme Setting

- Pulsate or oscillate the tool
- Pulsate or oscillate the product
- Pulsate or oscillate the field
- Pulsate or oscillate the product receptivity
- Resonate the tool, product or field
- Create standing waves
- Cancel oscillations in the tool, product or field
- Mismatch the product natural frequency with the tool driving frequency
- Increase or decrease the frequency

## Vary Field Direction



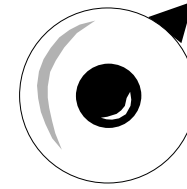
## Knob

- Identify the field gradient and potential
- Does varying the field direction affect the function?

## Extreme Setting

- Vary the field direction

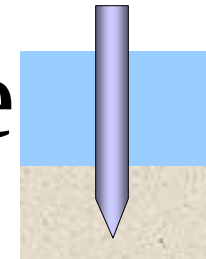
# 5 Types of Knobs



- Easily Turned (Full control and nothing else gets worse)
- Little Effect (Turning the knob through the full range has little effect)

- Something Else Gets Worse

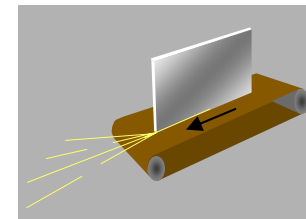
(Turning the knob makes something else worse)



Sharp for driving &  
Blunt for supporting

- One Flavor or Setting

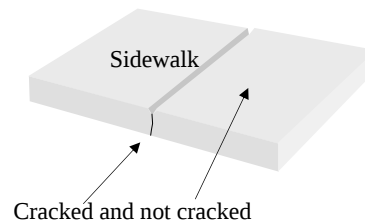
The knob cannot be turned, it only has one setting



The glass only came thin yet it needed to be thick for polishing

- Outcome

(The knob cannot be turned dependent on other knob settings)



The sidewalk must crack because we are not going to address what causes the crack but it must not crack