

LeveragingMOSTs.org



Toward a Theory of Productive Use of Student Mathematical Thinking

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Supported by

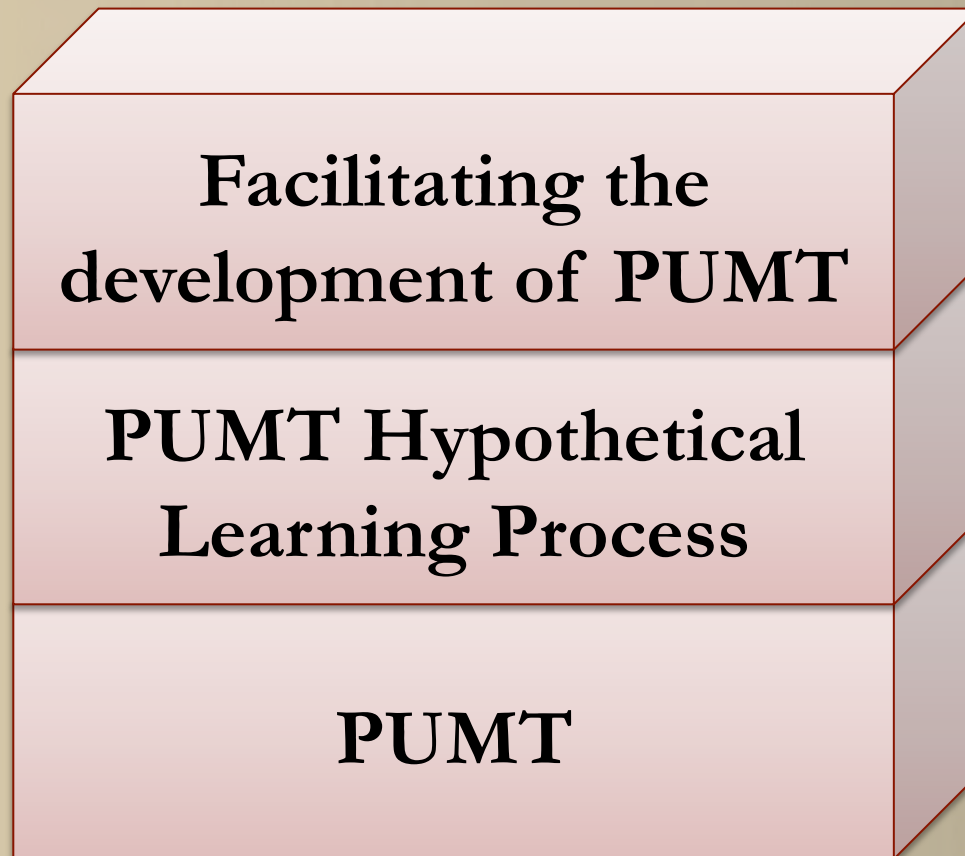
Leveraging MOSTs: Developing a Theory of Productive Use of Student Mathematical Thinking

a 4-year collaborative research project funded by the National Science Foundation
(DRL-1220141, DRL-1220357, DRL-1220148)

Why do we need a *Theory of Productive Use of Student Mathematical Thinking*?

- Benefits of instructional practices that build on student thinking
 - Fennema, et al., 1996 [CGI]
 - Stein & Lane, 1996 [QUASAR]
 - NCTM, 2014
- Difficult to implement such practices
 - Ball & Cohen, 1999
 - Sherin, 2002
 - Silver, Chousseini, Gosen, Charalambous & Font Strawhun, 2005
 - PI's earlier work
- Need theory that articulates
 - What the *practice of productively using student mathematical thinking* (PUMT) looks like
 - How this practice typically develops
 - How that development can be facilitated

Developing the *Practice of Productively Using Student Mathematical Thinking* (PUMT)



Mathematically significant
pedagogical **Opportunities**
to build on **Student**
Thinking





"Just a darn minute! Yesterday you said X equals two!"

MOST Characteristics

Student Mathematical Thinking

Student Mathematics

Can the student mathematics be inferred?

Mathematical Point

Is there a mathematical point closely related to the student mathematics?

Mathematically Significant

Appropriate Mathematics

Is the mathematical point accessible to students with this level of mathematical experience, but not like to be already understood?

Central Mathematics

Is understanding the mathematical point a central goal for student learning in this classroom?

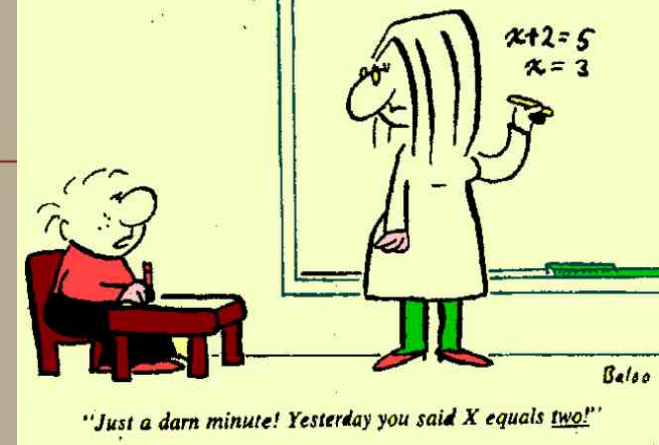
Pedagogical Opportunity

Opening

Does the expression of the student mathematics seem to create an intellectual need that, if met, will contribute to understanding the mathematical point of the instance?

Timing

Is now the right time to take advantage of the opening?



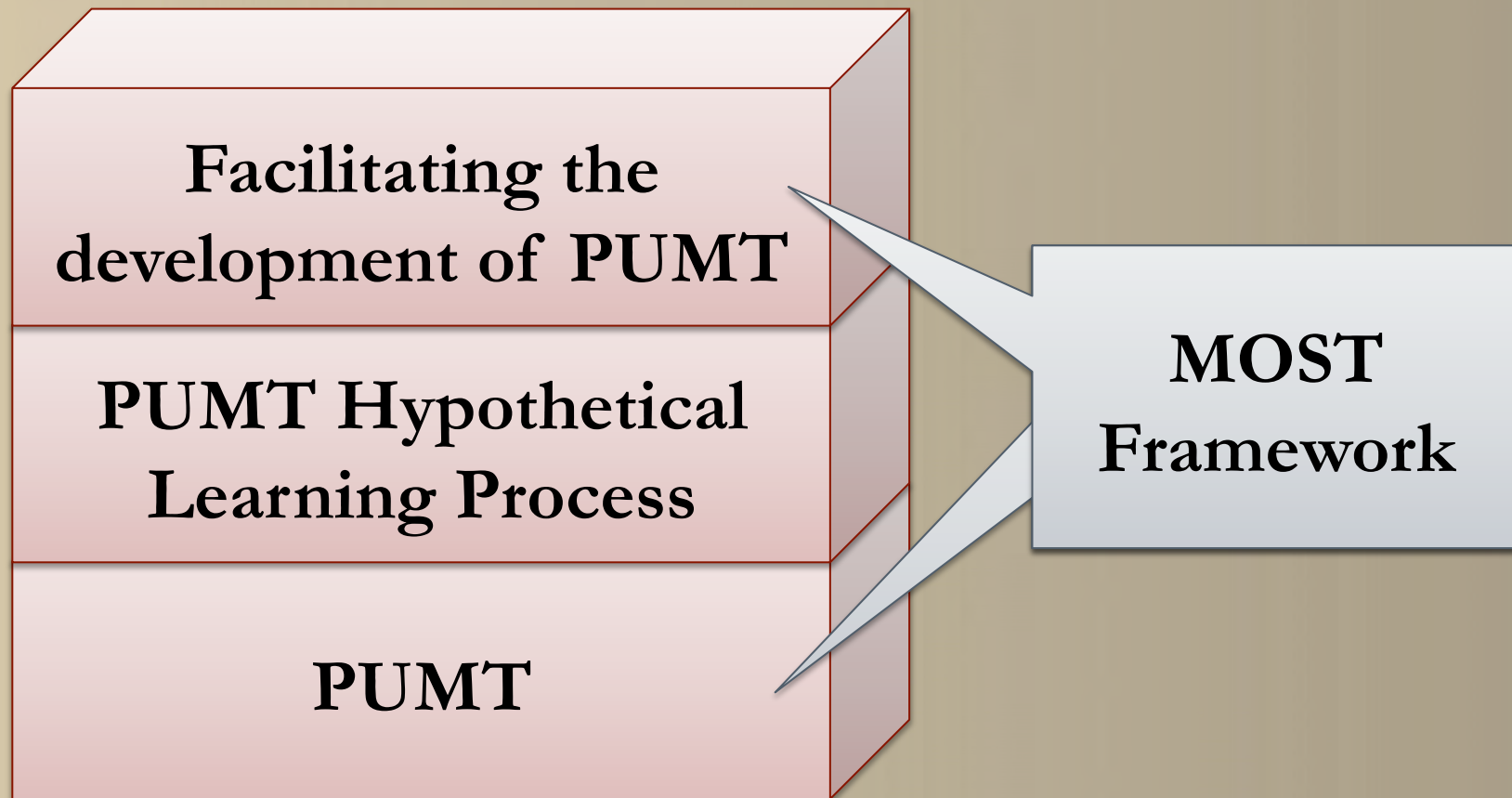
Leatham, K. R., Peterson, B. E., Stockero, S. L., & Van Zoest, L. R. (2015). Conceptualizing mathematically significant pedagogical opportunities to build on student thinking. *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education*, 46, 88-124.

MOSTs are opportunities...

...for the teacher to make student thinking the object of consideration by the class in order to engage the class in making sense of that thinking to better understand an important mathematical idea.

...to **build** on student thinking.

Developing the *Practice of Productively Using Student Mathematical Thinking* (PUMT)



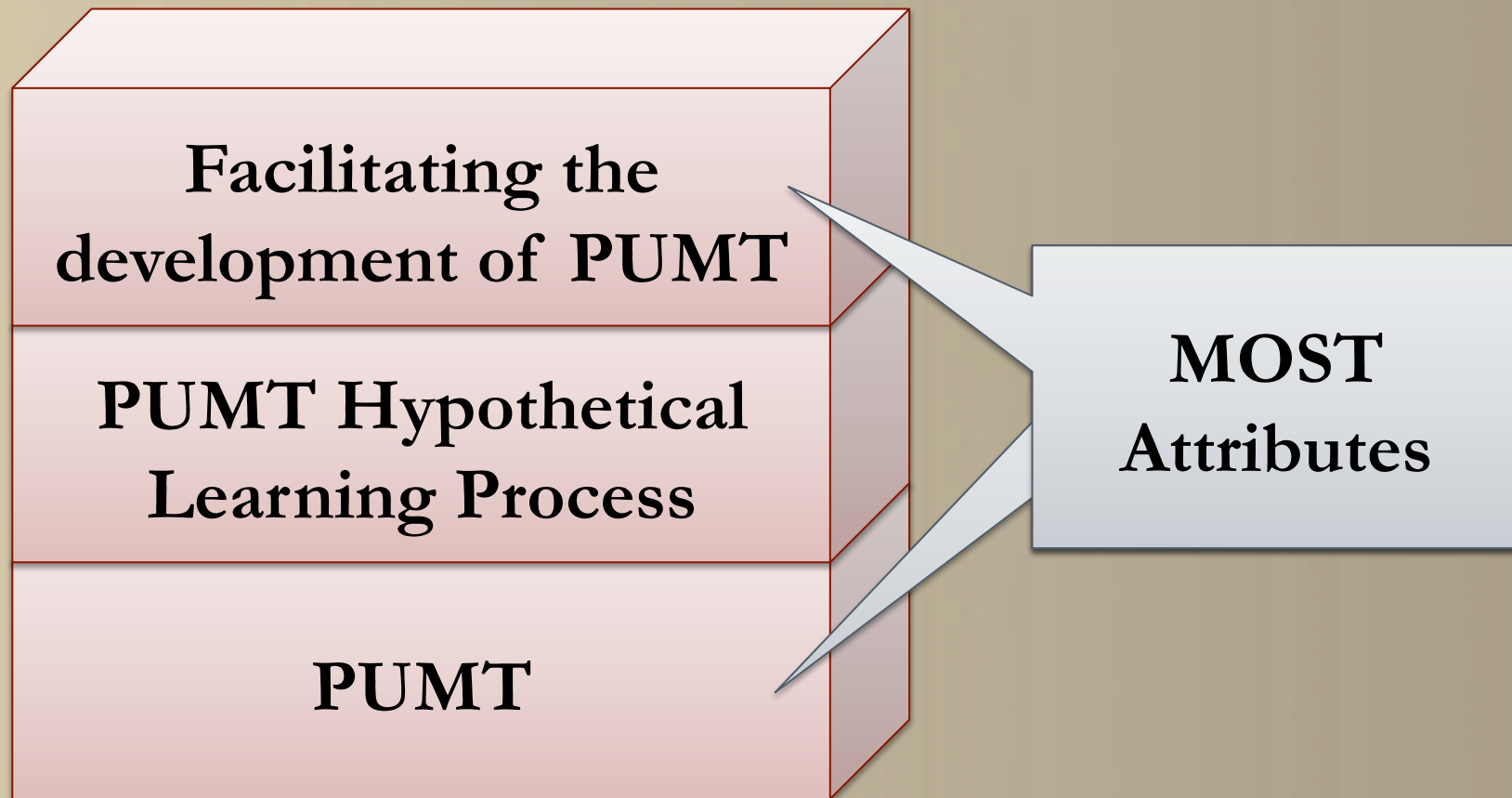
Focus of Today's Session

- Analyzing attributes of MOSTs (Presentation 1)
What are the attributes of MOSTs available to teachers to build on in secondary mathematics instruction?
- Investigate teachers' perceptions of productive use of student mathematical thinking (Presentation 2)
What are teachers' perceptions of productive use of student mathematical thinking?
- Analyze teachers' responses to MOSTs (Presentation 3)
To what extent are teachers able to recognize and productively respond to secondary school students' mathematical thinking?

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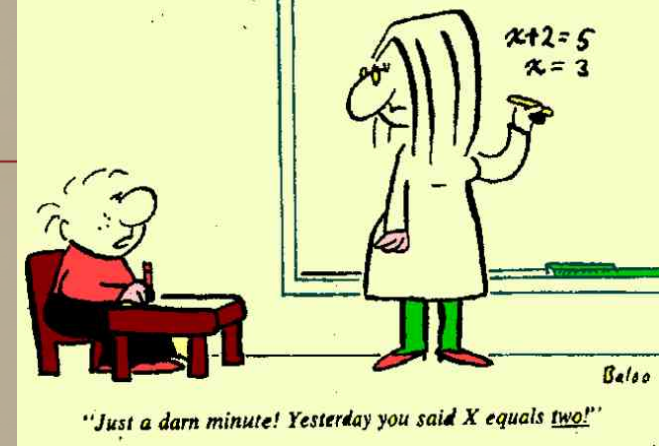
Methods

- 11 mathematics lessons
- 10 teachers
- California, Hawaii, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico & Utah
- Whole-class interactions (349 minutes)
- Unit of analysis was an instance of student thinking

MOST Analysis

- Pass 1 - Identified each instance of student mathematical thinking
 - 1651 instances in the 349 minutes of whole-class interaction
 - 4.7 instances per minute (range of 1.4 to 6.9 across 11 lessons)
- Pass 2 - Used the MOST Analytic Framework (Leatham et al., 2015) to identify MOSTs
 - 297 of the 1651 instances of student thinking were MOSTs
 - 0.9 MOSTs per minute (range of 0.1 to 1.6 across 11 lessons)
- Pass 3 – Investigated attributes of MOSTs (coding scheme expanded from Stockero & Van Zoest, 2013)
 - Seven attributes
 - Fall into two groups

MOST Attributes: Example



Student Mathematics:

Yesterday x equaled 2 and today x equals 3.

Mathematical Point:

A letter can be used to represent an unknown value in an equation and can represent different values for different equations.

Coding for Attributes

Locus

| Attribute | Definition | Codes |
|------------------|---|--|
| Prompt | The invitation or lack thereof that precipitated the MOST | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spontaneous• Open Invitation Spontaneous• Open Invitation Selected• Targeted Invitation |
| Basis | Whether the student mathematics (SM) in the MOST is based on earlier work or in-the-moment thinking | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-the-Moment• Pre-Thought |
| Math Goal | How far the mathematical idea captured in the MOST is from the day's lesson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesson• Unit• Course• Math |

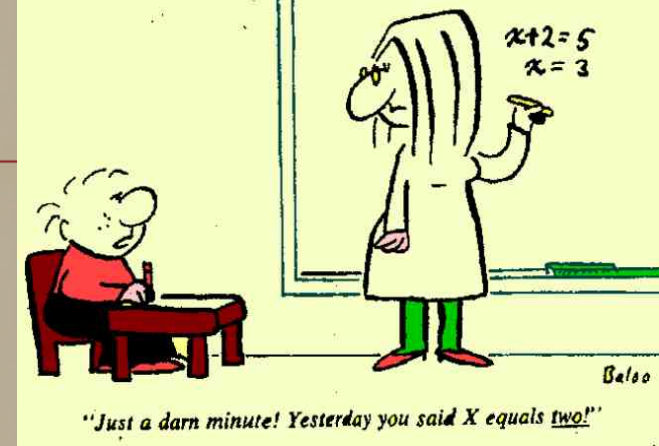
Coding for Attributes

Cognition

| Attribute | Definition | Codes |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Form | The way in which the student thinking is expressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question • Tentative Statement • Declarative Statement |
| Accuracy | The validity of the student mathematics (SM) of the MOST | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct • Incorrect • Incomplete • Combination • N/A |
| Intellectual Need | The extent to which the compelling nature of the MOST is transparent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obvious • Translucent • Hidden |
| Type | The nature of the SM that made the instance compelling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect or Incomplete • Sense Making • Multiple Ideas or Solutions • Other |

MOST Attributes: Example

Student Mathematics: Yesterday x equaled 2
and today x equals 3.



Mathematical Point: A letter can be used to represent an unknown value in an equation and can represent different values for different equations.

Prompt: Spontaneous

Basis: In-the-Moment

Math Goal: Course

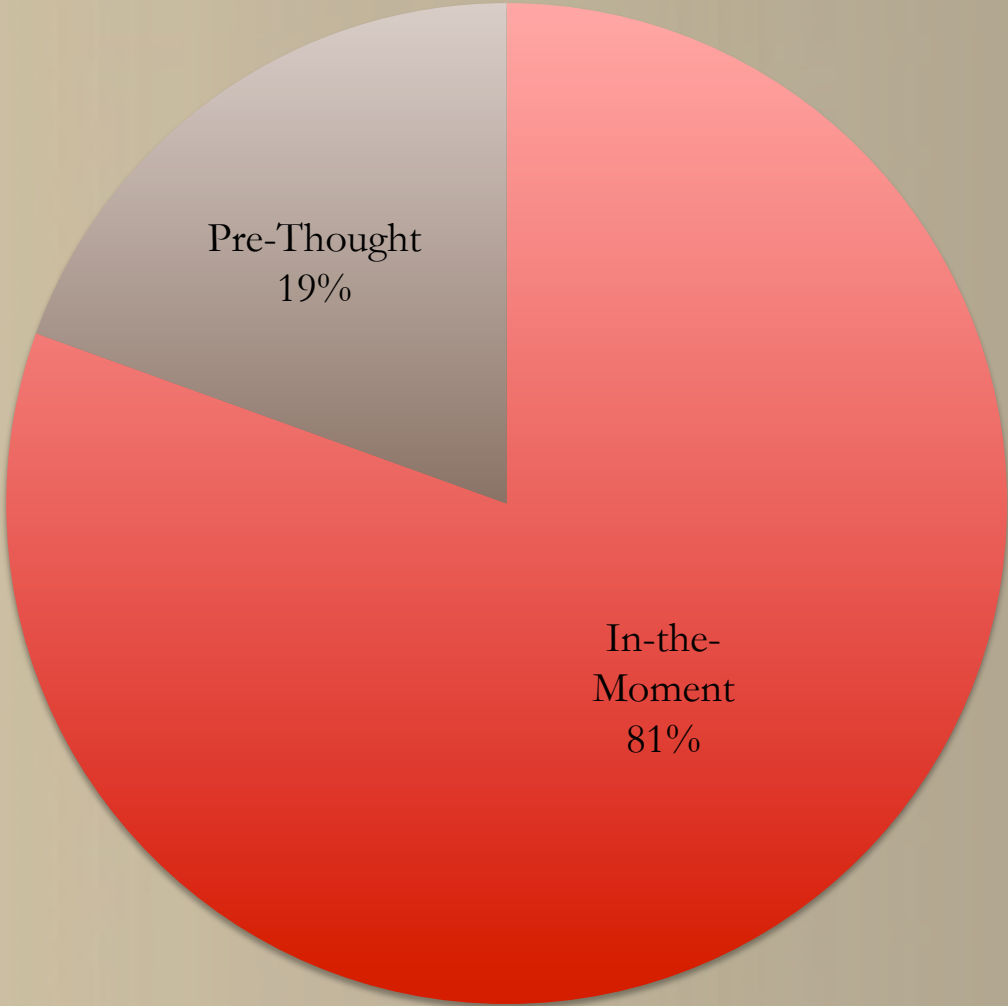
Form: Declarative

Accuracy: N/A

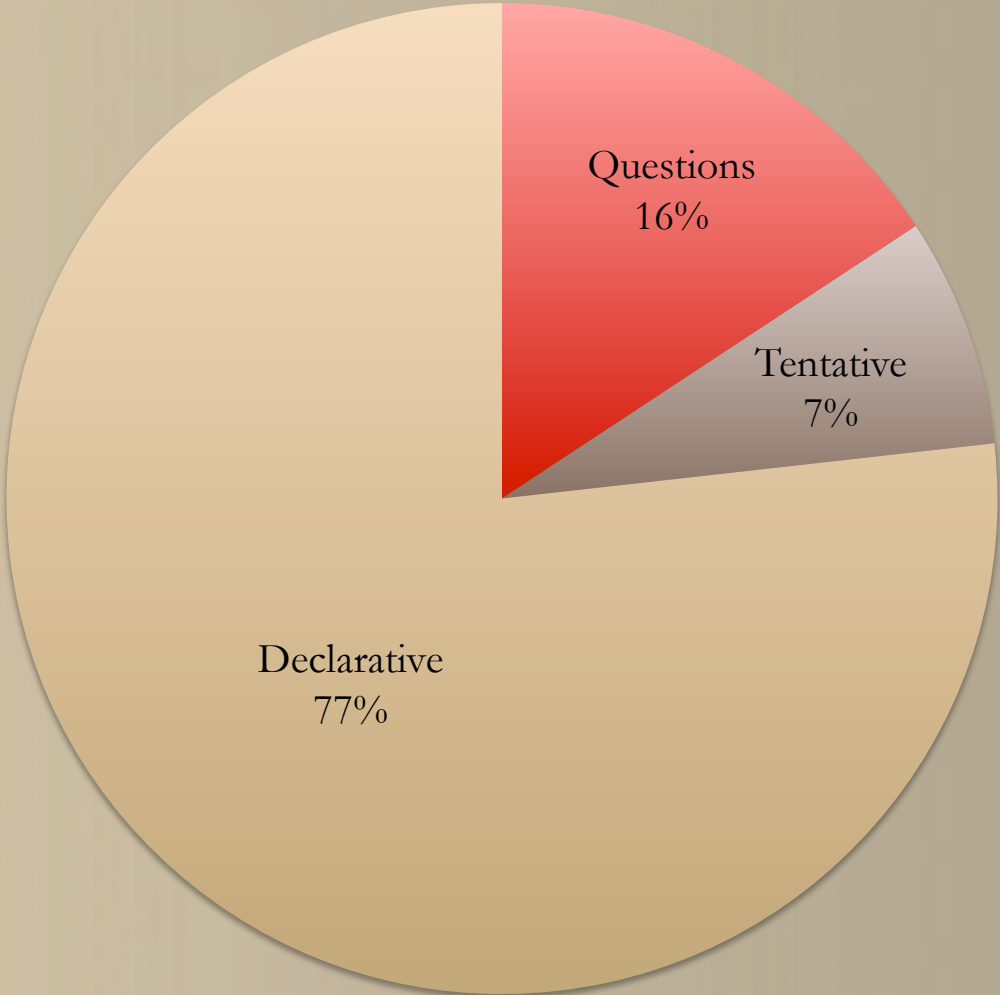
Intellectual Need: Obvious

Type: Sense Making

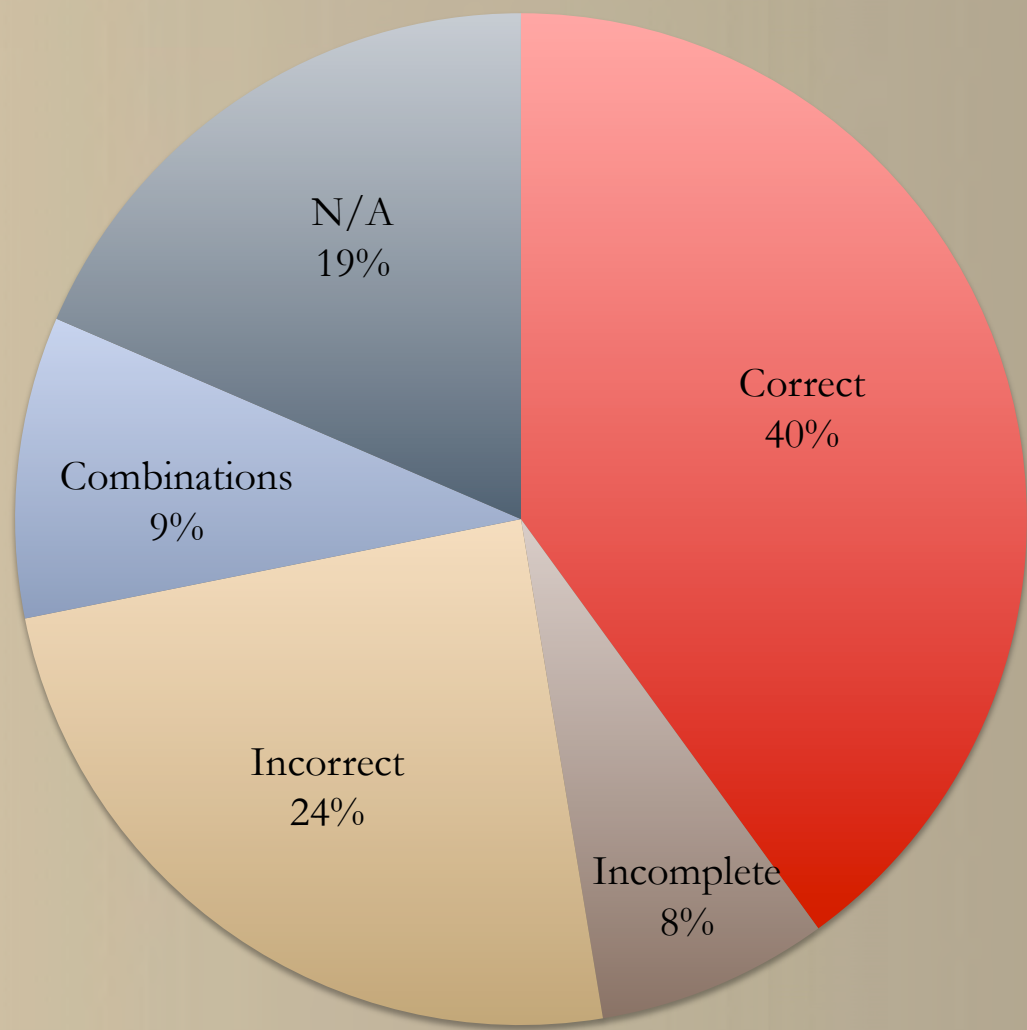
MOST Basis



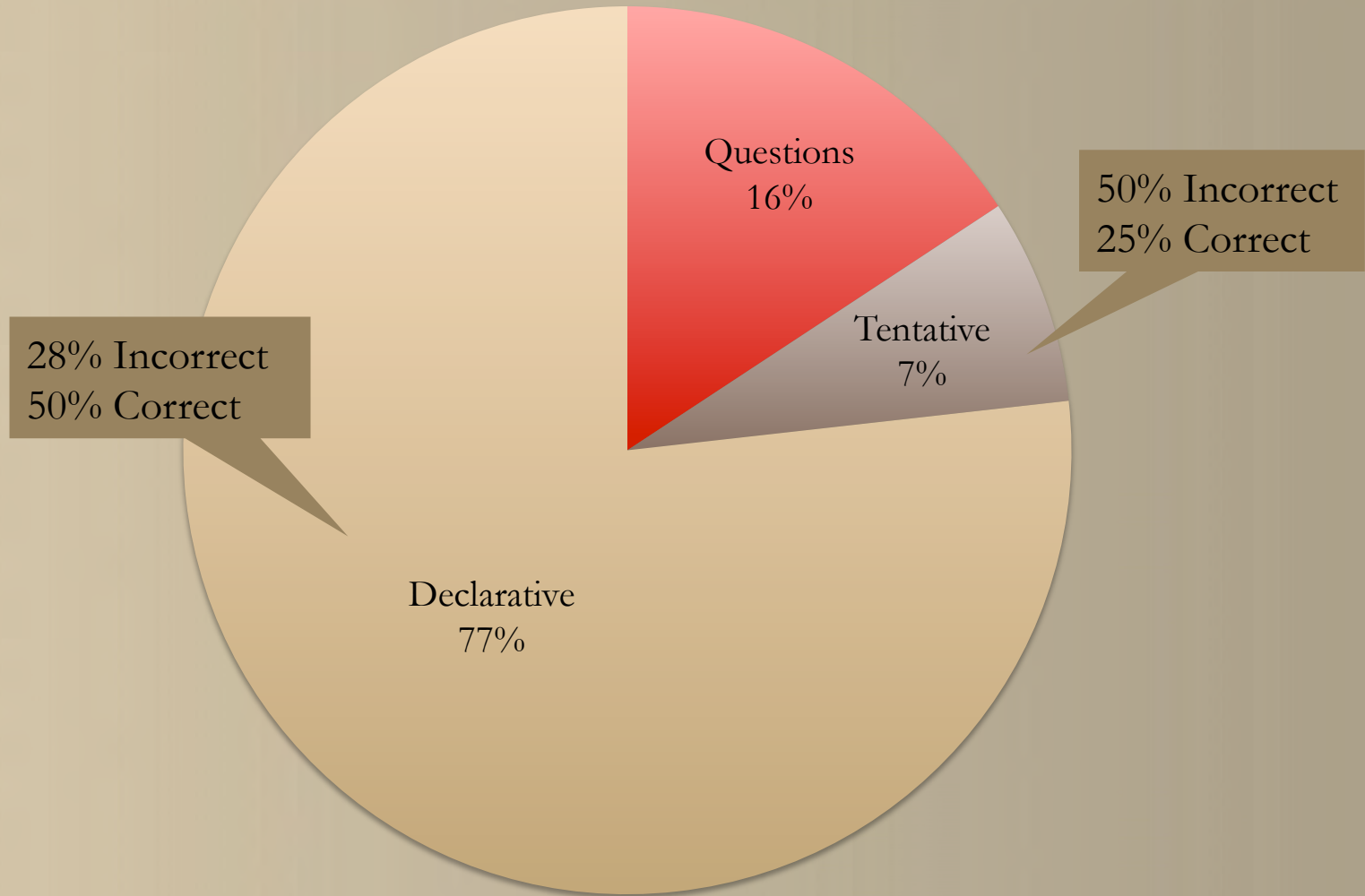
MOST Forms



MOST Accuracy



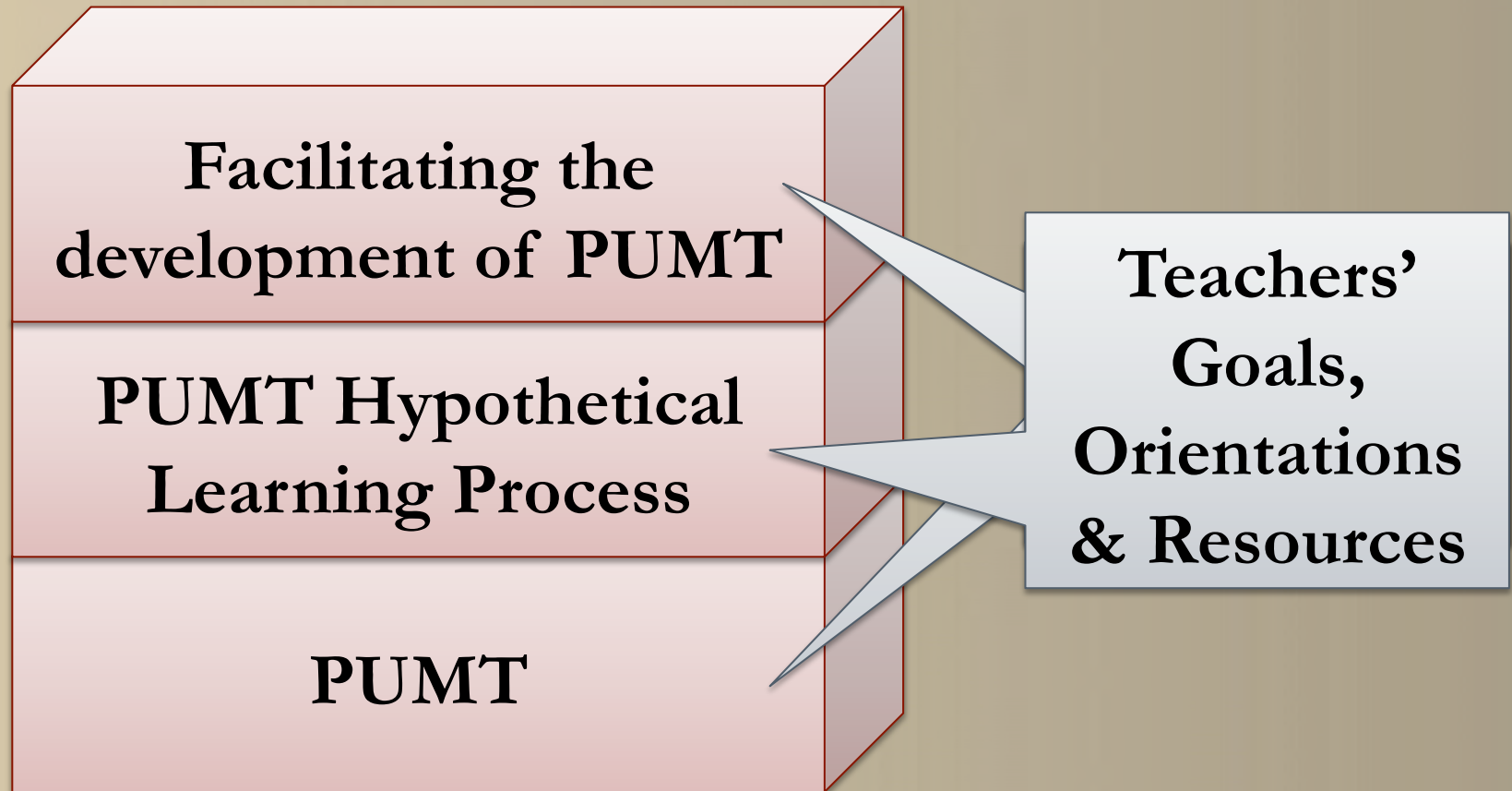
MOST Forms



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Developing the *Practice of Productively Using Student Mathematical Thinking* (PUMT)



The Scenario Interview

Purpose:

- To infer teachers' goals, orientations, and resources (GOR) in the context of using student thinking
- To capture how a teacher thinks about attending to student thinking during instruction
- To compare teachers' responses to a common set of instances of student thinking

Interview Format

- Interviewee presented with student statements that represent a range of thinking from two classroom lessons.
- Interviewee situated as the teacher.
- Contextual information is not initially provided; the teacher can ask for any contextual information they would like to know.
- Teacher is asked to describe what they might do next.
- A series of follow up questions probe the teacher's decision, rationale, possible assumptions, and use of contextual information.

Sample Instance of Student Thinking

Jamie says, “I found the number in front of the x by subtracting the y -values in the table, $21 - 19$, so that number is 2.”

| x | y |
|-----|-----|
| 0 | 15 |
| 2 | 19 |
| 3 | 21 |
| 5 | 25 |

Theoretical Framework

- Schoenfeld's (2011) theory of goal-oriented decision making
 - Goals: short or long-term; may relate to the learning of specific content, but may be broader outcomes for students or to teacher actions
 - Orientations: defined to include teachers' "dispositions, beliefs, values, tastes and preferences" (p. 29)
 - Resources: everything that a teacher could access to support instruction (e.g., physical materials; teachers' knowledge of mathematics content, teaching strategies, and typical student conceptions)

Analysis

- Unit of analysis: teacher statements
- Coded for goals, orientations, and resources
- Reconciled codes
- Grouped into themes
- Compared themes across teachers

Student Thinking as a Resource

| Ms. Shaw | Mr. Mead | Ms. Dean |
|--|---|---|
| for making instructional decisions and helping students make sense of the mathematics in a lesson | to develop the mathematical ideas in a lesson and to tie ideas together | to accomplish what she wants to happen during a lesson |
| Example: | Example: | Example: |
| Responses to questions such as “Why are you using [2] as your radius?” (I5) as opportunities for students to “start to see yes it's a difference of 2 but it's not a circle of a radius of 2. I need to look at the difference of the [areas of the] circles versus just the difference of the radius.” (I5) | After two students share different methods of solving a problem: “let’s verify whether or not the methods that you saw on the board today are correct or not, and that would give me something to go back to at the end as well.” (I54) | “If someone’s got a suggestion on how something works, hear them out because if they are correct, then you can use that as the stepping off place....or no, she is not right and let's address why before it becomes a huge misconception, like that they think it works every time.” (I21) |

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Goals for Using Student Thinking

| Ms. Shaw | Mr. Mead | Ms. Dean |
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| to engage the student(s) in making sense of the mathematics behind the thinking | to position the students as thinkers by providing them with opportunities to share their thinking | to accurately evaluate students' thinking and use it to launch (if it is correct) or address misconceptions (if it is incorrect) |
| Example: | Example: | Example: |
| “What would my table look like [in this new situation]? What would my graph look like? How does [this modification] change those two representations?” (I42). | “I want to know more of that idea; I want to try to figure out what, yeah, what is the student actually thinking at that point” (I26). “I like to reward [students' thinking] and grab onto that thinking” (I31) | “[I]f they explain it, I can figure out where their thinking process is incorrect and I can nip that in the bud so that it doesn't become ingrained” (I67). |

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Orientations toward Student Thinking

Ms. Shaw

an important part of student learning is providing students ample opportunity to think about mathematical ideas

Example:

“I'm thinking I still have a lot of kids in the classroom who haven't had a chance to resolve the dilemma between these two [different approaches]; I want every student in the classroom to have a chance to look through it and go, ‘How am I going to process this?’” (I23)

Mr. Mead

students can learn mathematics through mathematical exploration activities

Example:

“I was assuming that this was where they're developing their understanding through this problem. And so, they've had some situations before, or maybe not. Maybe they're just beginning to look at this situation and try[ing] to model it with some type of equation.” (I13)

Ms. Dean

she is responsible for explaining and demonstrating mathematical ideas to students

Example:

“[S]o I would explain that what you started with, that's the y-intercept. That's the initial amount. And what you're adding each week is the slope. And then show how that would work on the equation.” (I6)

Orientations toward Student Thinking

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Goals, Orientations and Resources

| | Student Thinking as a <i>Resource</i> | <i>Goals</i> for Using Student Thinking | <i>Orientations</i> toward Student Thinking |
|----------|--|--|--|
| Ms. Dean | to accomplish what she wants to happen during a lesson | confirm correct answers and address misconceptions in incorrect answers | she is responsible for explaining and demonstrating mathematical ideas to students |
| Ms. Shaw | develop students' mathematical understanding | engage students in sense- making | students need ample time and opportunities to think about mathematical ideas |
| Mr. Mead | | position students as mathematical thinkers | students can learn through mathematical exploration |

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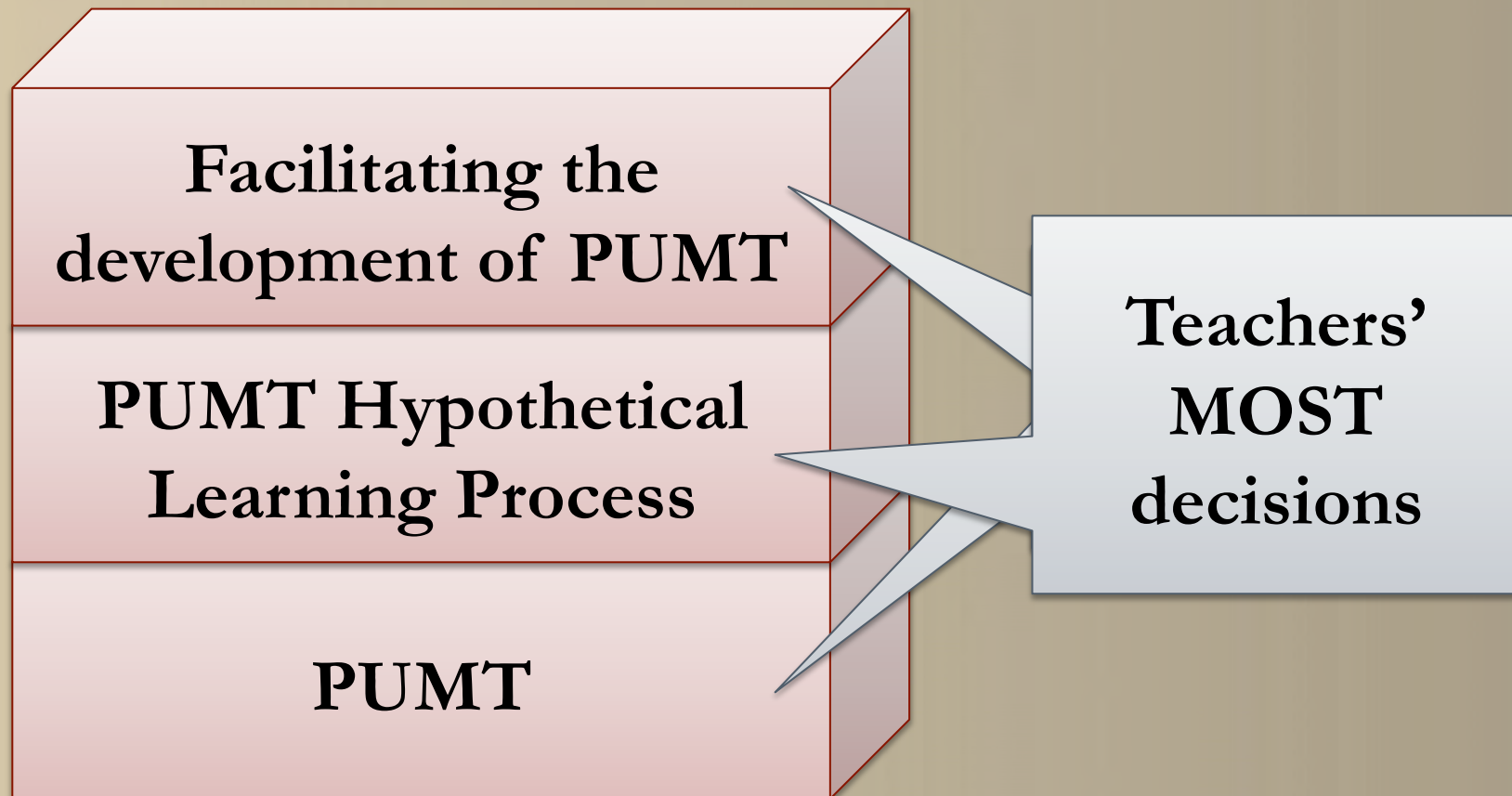
The Scenario Interview data allows us:

- To make inferences about what a teacher's practice might look like
- To understand the possible reasoning behind the teacher moves that we might observe during a lesson
- To understand why different uses of student thinking might make sense to different teachers based on the GOR that underlie their practice
- To perceive distinctions among teachers

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Developing the *Practice of Productively Using Student Mathematical Thinking* (PUMT)



Analyzing teachers' responses

Two data sources:

- Classroom videos which we can use to analyze teachers' responses to MOSTs we have identified
- Scenario interviews which we can use to analyze teachers' responses to a variety of student thinking

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Preliminary Coding Scheme

- *Actor* - Who was allowed or invited to participate in the MOST follow up?
- *Object of Consideration* – To what extent was the student thinking made the focus of discussion in the classroom?
 - Mathematical Point (MP)
 - Student Mathematics (SM) Words
 - Student Mathematics (SM) Idea
- *Move* – What action did the teacher take in response to the student statement?

Sample Instance of Student Thinking

Jamie says, “I found the number in front of the x by subtracting the y -values in the table, $21 - 19$, so that number is 2.”

Student Mathematics (SM): I found the m value in the equation $y = mx + b$ by subtracting the y -values in the table, $21 - 19$, so that number is 2.

Mathematical Point (MP): To find the slope from a table of values, one must divide a change in the values of the dependent variable by the corresponding change in the values of the independent variable [$m = (y_2 - y_1) / (x_2 - x_1)$].

Ms. Dean

“So I would answer that by saying, ‘You’re on the right track.’ I would probably go through and show the differences, you know 0 to 2 is a difference of 2, 2 to 3 is a difference of 1, 3 to 5 is a difference of 2. I’d probably write that up there, and show them the difference in corresponding y’s. And then from there would be the lead in to how you find the slope as the change in y over the change in x. And I would say she was just lucky--he, Jamie, boy--um, because the change in x happened to be 1. And so they only had to do the change in y in that case. But if they had taken like 25 and 21, then the change in x is not 1 and you know--I probably would have done that example using her philosophy, Jamie’s philosophy. And said ‘see now the answer is different. How could that possibly be?’ And explained you have to do change in y over change in x. And then I probably would have made a joke, and said ‘lucky guess.’”

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| Actor | Teacher |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Object of Consideration | |
| Move | |

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|-------------------------|----------|
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| Object of Consideration | MP: Core |
| Move | |

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| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Move | |

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| Object of Consideration | MP: Core SM Words: Implicit; SM Ideas: Core |
| Move | |

“So I would answer that by saying, ‘You’re on the right track.’ I would probably go through and show the differences, you know 0 to 2 is a difference of 2, 2 to 3 is a difference of 1, 3 to 5 is a difference of 2. I’d probably write that up there, and show them the difference in corresponding y’s. And then from there would be the lead in to how you find the slope as the change in y over the change in x. And I would say she was just lucky--he, Jamie, boy--um, **because the change in x happened to be 1. And so they only had to do the change in y in that case. But if they had taken like 25 and 21, then the change in x is not 1 and you know--I probably would have done that example using her philosophy, Jamie’s philosophy. And said ‘see now the answer is different. How could that possibly be?’ And explained you have to do change in y over change in x. And then I probably would have made a joke, and said ‘lucky guess.’”**

Ms. Dean

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|-------------------------|--|
| Actor | Teacher |
| Object of Consideration | MP: Core SM Words: Implicit; SM Ideas: Core |
| Move | Correct |

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Mr. Mead

“Okay, so Jaime, why, why did you pick the numbers 2 and 3? Why did you pick where the x-values were 2 and 3? Why did you pick those two? [W]hat would happen, Jaime, if you used 15 and 19, what would be the rate of change then? Or 21 and 25? What would be the rate of change if you did that? Somehow to get them to think about that it is the change in y over the change in x and so, once again were they...did they have a reason? I'd be very interested 'cause those aren't the first, most of my students would pick the first two numbers. Right, so, this person didn't pick the first two numbers, they picked 2 and 3, which I'm intrigued by. Ummm. Did the reason that she picked it or he picked it was it because they only went up by one? So they actually understood that and they wanted to pick those. Or, was it just kind of random that they picked those two numbers, so...I'd really have to dig into why they picked those two numbers, and if they picked them for the reason that that went up by one.”

Mr. Mead

Actor

MOST Student

Object of
 Consideration

Move

“Okay, so Jaime, why, why did you pick the numbers 2 and 3? Why did you pick where the x-values were 2 and 3? Why did you pick those two? [W]hat would happen, Jaime, if you used 15 and 19, what would be the rate of change then? Or 21 and 25? What would be the rate of change if you did that? Somehow to get them to think about that it is the change in y over the change in x and so, once again were they...did they have a reason? I'd be very interested 'cause those aren't the first, most of my students would pick the first two numbers. Right, so, this person didn't pick the first two numbers, they picked 2 and 3, which I'm intrigued by. Ummm. Did the reason that she picked it or he picked it was it because they only went up by one? So they actually understood that and they wanted to pick those. Or, was it just kind of random that they picked those two numbers, so...I'd really have to dig into why they picked those two numbers, and if they picked them for the reason that that went up by one.”

Mr. Mead

Actor MOST Student

Object of
 Consideration MP: Core

Move

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Mr. Mead

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| Actor | MOST Student |
| Object of Consideration | MP: Core SM Words: Implicit |
| Move | |

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Mr. Mead

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| Actor | MOST Student |
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| Move | |

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Mr. Mead

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| Actor | MOST Student |
| Object of Consideration | MP: Core SM Words: Implicit; SM Ideas: Core |
| Move | Elaborate |

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Ms. Shaw

“At this point, I think what I want Jamie to show is how that representation shows up on the graph as well. And the reason I want to do that is because if they’re looking at--well, here’s an assumption that I’m making. When they graphed it, they graphed using a scale of one for the weeks. Because what I want Jamie to think about is ‘Yes, that two shows up because you’re going over every single one on the graph. What would happen if I took out week two and I had week one and week three? Then what am I looking at and how would that show up? So I want to start out looking at the graph first. Why does that show up in the graph? How do you resolve that? And then what happens if it’s not every week? What happens if it’s every other week? And see, pose that question to them and see if they could justify and resolve that. So, you know if I did twenty-one minus seventeen now I have four, why is it four instead of two? And be able to bring that back to the graph and to the table.”

Ms. Shaw

Actor

MOST Student

Object of
 Consideration

Move

“At this point, I think **what I want Jamie to show is how that representation shows up on the graph as well.** And the reason I want to do that is because if they’re looking at--well, here’s an assumption that I’m making. When they graphed it, they graphed using a scale of one for the weeks. Because **what I want Jamie to think about is ‘Yes, that two shows up because you’re going over every single one on the graph.** What would happen if I took out week two and I had week one and week three? Then what am I looking at and how would that show up? So I want to start out looking at the graph first. Why does that show up in the graph? How do you resolve that? And then what happens if it’s not every week? What happens if it’s every other week? And see, pose that question to them and see if they could justify and resolve that. So, you know if I did twenty-one minus seventeen now I have four, why is it four instead of two? And be able to bring that back to the graph and to the table.”

Ms. Shaw

Actor MOST Student

Object of
 Consideration MP: Core

Move

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Ms. Shaw

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Actor | MOST Student |
| Object of Consideration | MP: Core SM Words: Implicit |
| Move | |

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Ms. Shaw

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| Actor | MOST Student |
| Object of Consideration | MP: Core SM Words: Implicit; SM Ideas: Peripheral |
| Move | |

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Ms. Shaw

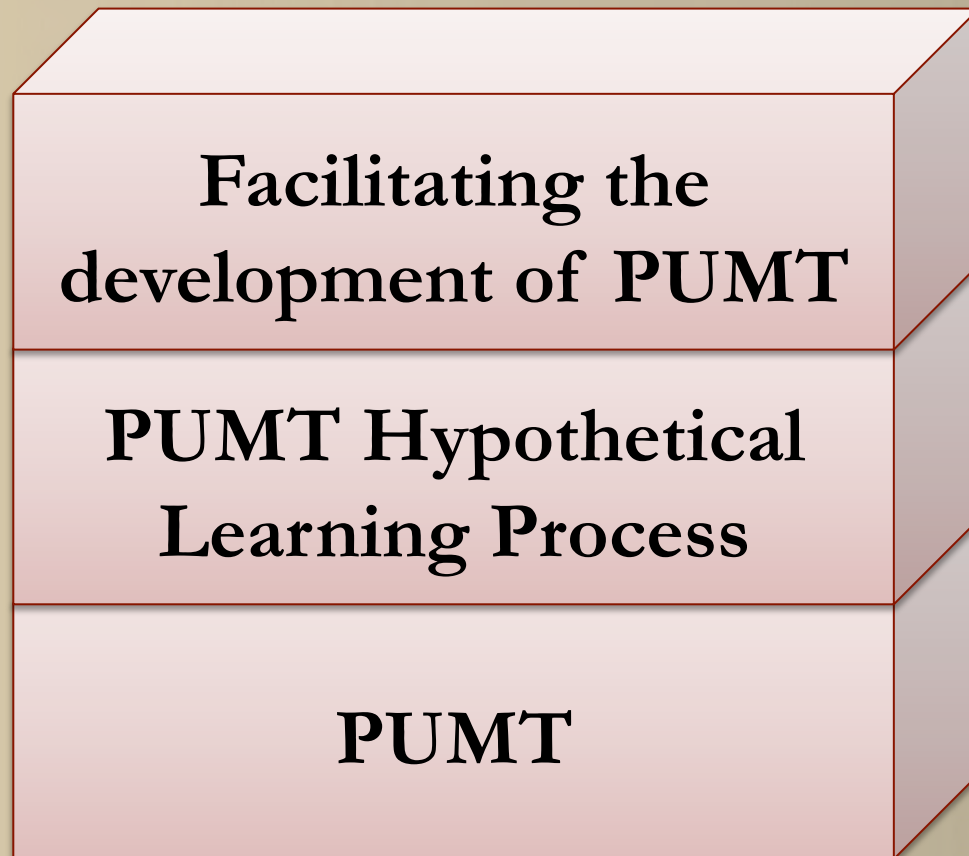
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|-------------------------|--|
| Actor | MOST Student |
| Object of Consideration | MP: Core SM Words: Implicit; SM Ideas: Peripheral |
| Move | Connect |

“At this point, I think what I want Jamie to show is **how that representation shows up on the graph as well**. And the reason I want to do that is because if they’re looking at--well, here’s an assumption that I’m making. When they graphed it, they graphed using a scale of one for the weeks. Because what I want Jamie to think about is ‘Yes, **that two shows up because you’re going over every single one on the graph**. What would happen if I took out week two and I had week one and week three? Then what am I looking at and how would that show up? **So I want to start out looking at the graph first**. Why does that show up in the graph? How do you resolve that? And then what happens if it’s not every week? What happens if it’s every other week? And see, pose that question to them and see if they could justify and resolve that. So, you know if I did twenty-one minus seventeen now I have four, why is it four instead of two? And be able to **bring that back to the graph and to the table**.”

Teacher Decisions

| | Ms. Dean | Mr. Mead | Ms. Shaw |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Actor | Teacher | MOST Student | MOST Student |
| MP | Core | Core | Core |
| SM Words | Implicit | Implicit | Implicit |
| SM Ideas | Core | Core | Peripheral |
| Move | Correct | Elaborate | Connect |

Developing the *Practice of Productively Using Student Mathematical Thinking* (PUMT)



Discussion Questions

- What else needs to be known to understand the *Practice of Productively Using Student Mathematical Thinking*?
 - MOST Framework
 - MOST Attributes
 - Goals, Orientations and Resources
 - Teacher Responses to MOSTs
- How can the things identified in the first bullet be researched?