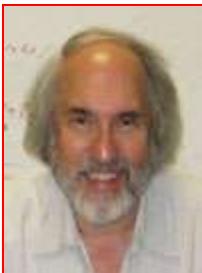


February 16, 2012

# ENGR110/210

## Perspectives in Assistive Technology



David L. Jaffe, MS



Professor Drew Nelson

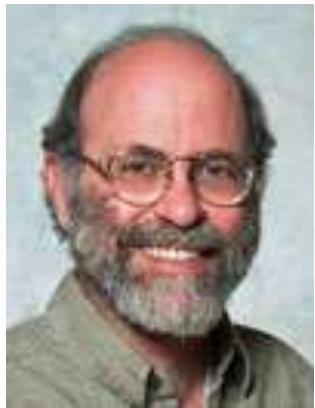


John Thiemer

# Items

1. Presentation evaluation forms
2. Mid-term reports - due in class Tuesday
3. Carpool drivers needed for tour of Gait & Motion Analysis Lab in Menlo Park – Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>
4. Passenger signup list in class next Tuesday

# Tuesday



Ray Grott, MA, ATP, RET  
*San Francisco State University*

**Practical and Appropriate Technology  
Solutions**

# Presentation Schedule

1. 4:15 - 4:25	RotaBrake
2. 4:25 - 4:35	Spin a Story
3. 4:35 - 4:45	Piano Pedal
4. 4:45 - 4:55	Accessible Eateries
5. 4:55 - 5:05	KinExpressions!
6. 5:05 - 5:15	Transfer-mations
7. 5:15 - 5:25	Friendly Cane
8. 5:25 - 5:35	Customize the Wheelchair

# *Wheelchair Brake*



***ROTAbrake:***

**Tyler Haydell, Jai Sajnani, and Mark Murphy**

**Project:** Explore designs for a low cost brake design for a manual wheelchair.

# ROTAbrake

**ENGR 110: Perspectives on Assistive  
Technology, Winter 2011-2012**

**Team:** Universal Braking Solutions (U.B.S)  
Jai Sajnani, Mark “Leko” Murphy, Tyler Haydell

# Abstract

- Our team is working to develop a universally adaptable wheelchair wheel package that addresses the following:
  - Creating an anti-rollback mechanism that can easily disengage
  - A new parking brake that can be easily activated and sustains consistent performance
  - Implement a retarding brake into wheelchairs

# Statement of Problem

- Wheelchair brakes currently on the market are difficult to activate and sensitive to tire size and wear. Anti-rollback mechanisms can not be easily disengaged, and they are separate from the actual brake. Wheelchair users must use the friction between their hands and the handrim as a retarding brake – which beyond being extremely strenuous and tolling, doesn't provide sufficient braking ability in normal or compromised situations.

# Magnitude of Problem We are Addressing

- We are working primarily to create a parking brake that is independent of tire pressure and can be easily activated.. Secondarily, we are attempting to develop an anti-rollback mechanism that can be easily activated. We are also working to lessen the force on the user's hands required to brake the wheelchair.

# Interviews

- **Marv Tuttle** – paraplegic; very active; tabs in handrim and lever brake damage hands; as tire wears brakes become less effective; always need hands on both rims; go through bike gloves in a week; wheels = costly; retarding brakes must be convenient
- **Ken** – quadriplegic; less hand function; exposed need for brake to not require much dexterity; again hand hits lever brake; wetness and dustiness make handrim slippery; had anti-rollback device that he didn't really use – wasn't convenient; chair must fit through doorways

# Statement of Specific Need

- Brake that is easily activated and doesn't depend upon status of tire.
- Anti-rollback mechanism that can be easily engaged/disengaged.
- Retarding brake that can be easily activated and doesn't require releasing handrim

# Existing solutions

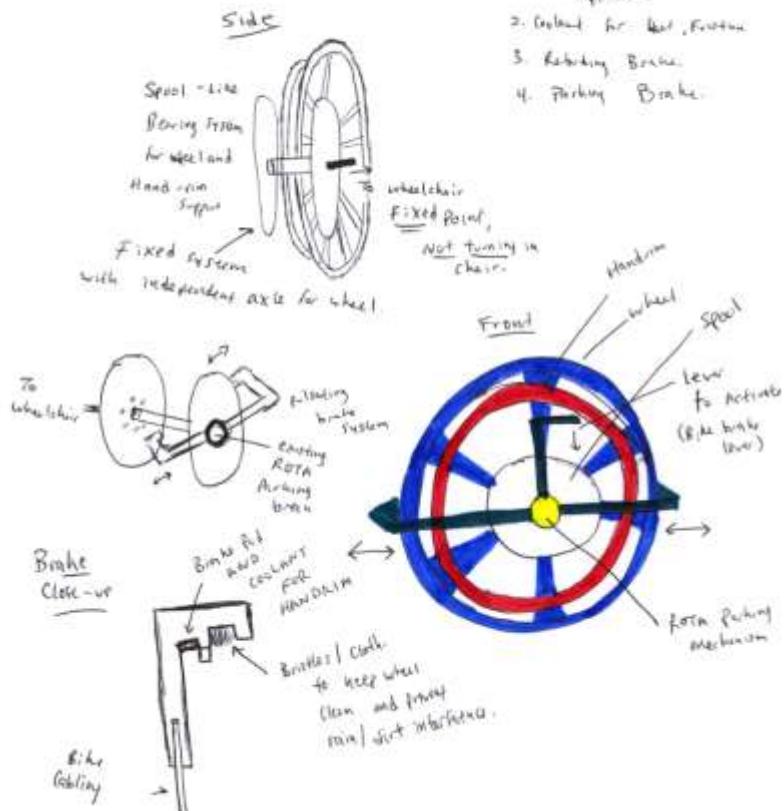


- Commercially Available Designs
  1. Traditional Lever Brakes
  2. Disc Brakes
  3. “Magic Wheels” Gear Breaks
  4. Coaster Brakes
- Limitations of These Solutions



# Brainstormed Ideas

- Complete External Axle
- Parking and Retarding Brakes



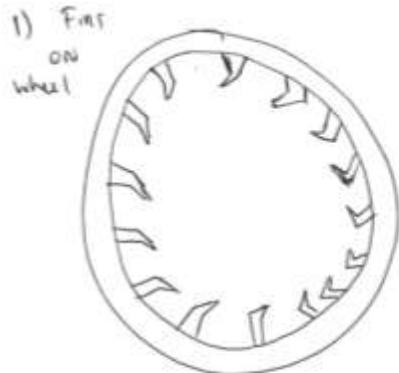
## Problems Addressed

1. Rain | Dirt on Wheel | Handrim
2. Creaking for Hand, Friction
3. Retarding Brake.
4. Parking Brake.

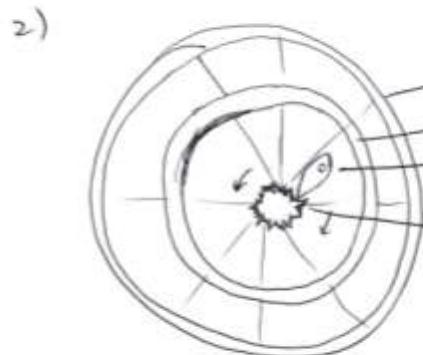
## • Handrim Device

- Description: Rod-like device that comes out of fixed axle and would clamp onto handrim
- Function: retarding brake; potentially a parking brake; could clean handrim
- Logistics: Activated by bicycle brake type mechanism
- Cons: Difficult to prototype, would require very sturdy metal that may add weight, activation with cables would be difficult

# Brainstormed Ideas



HANDRIM WHEN A SPOKE ON IT ALLOWING IT TO MOVE FORWARD, BUT WILL BE STOPPED BY FLAPS ON WAY BACK.



Allows travel forward, not backwards.  
Not like parking! Broken stop mechanism.

- **Wheel of fortune idea**

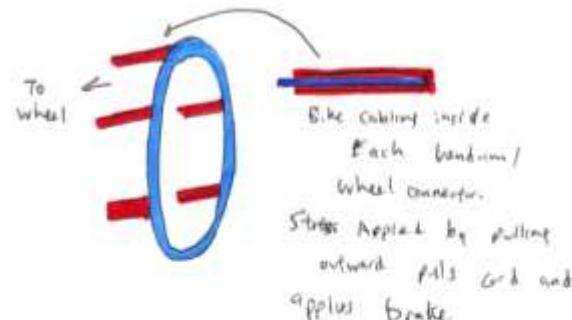
- Description: if pushed forward, wheel would move forward, but if wheel is stationary, tabs would slow down wheel
- Function: retarding brake; eliminate friction from hand when braking
- Logistics: handrim and wheel would exist on different axles; gear-like mechanism would allow generate forward motion if pushed forward, but oppose it if stopped
- Cons: would not allow for reverse; not a parking brake

# Brainstormed Ideas

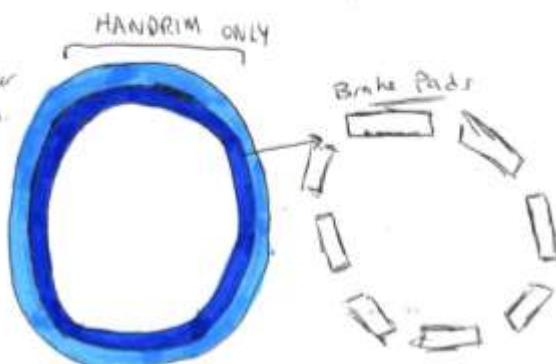
1) HANDRIM AS ACTUATOR

2) HANDRIM AS BRAKE

#1



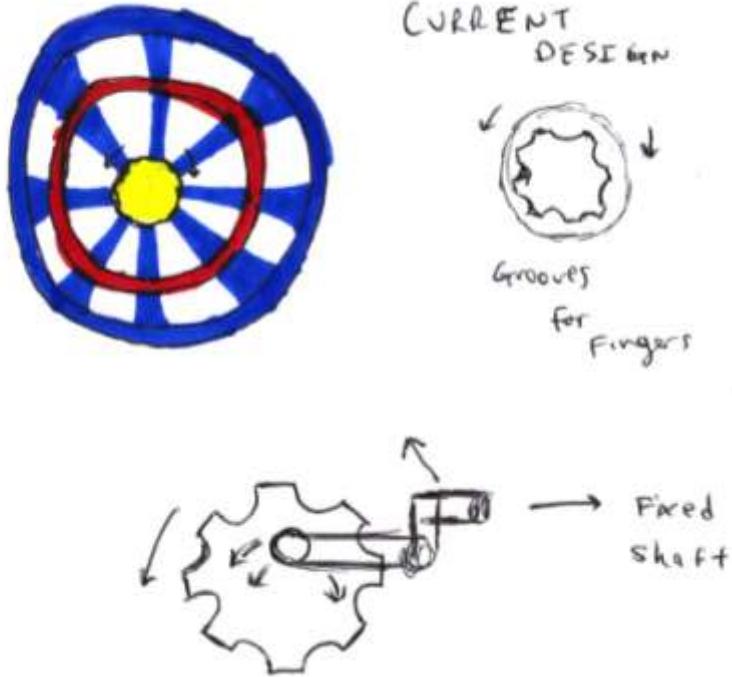
#2



- **Push in Handrim**

- Description: pushing inwards on handrims would activate brakes
- Function: retarding brake, potentially parking brake
- Logistics: would have to again make handrim semi-independent of wheel (forward motion would correspond to wheel, but not stationary or backwards); handrim would have to have various degrees of freedom
- Cons: difficult mechanically to create; type of brakes activated by handrim would probably be cable which introduces problems

# Brainstormed Ideas



- **Rotawheel crankshaft**
  - Description: utilize existing Rota parking brake but make it more accessible
  - Function: parking brake
  - Logistics: install crankshaft so that parking brake can be activated more easily
  - Cons: does not address retarding brake or anti-rollback mechanism; difficult to design crankshaft that remains upright

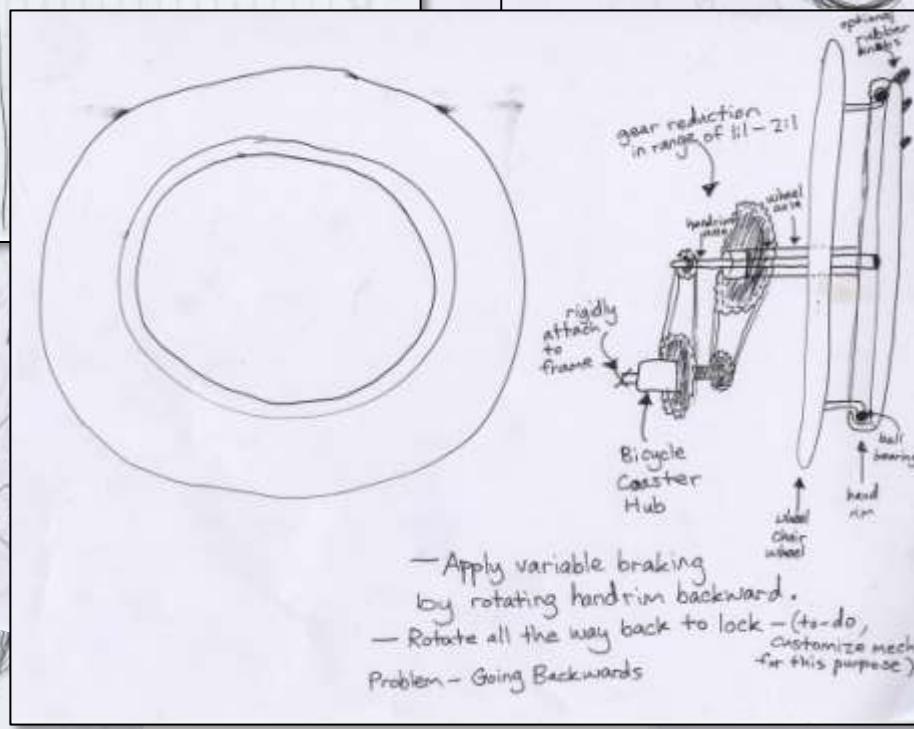
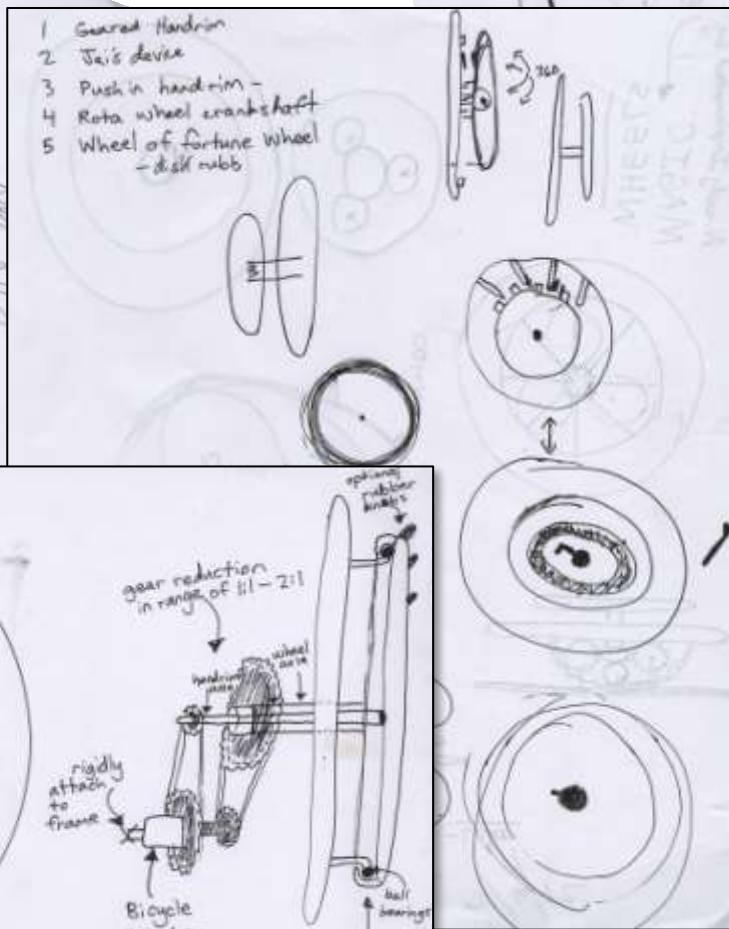
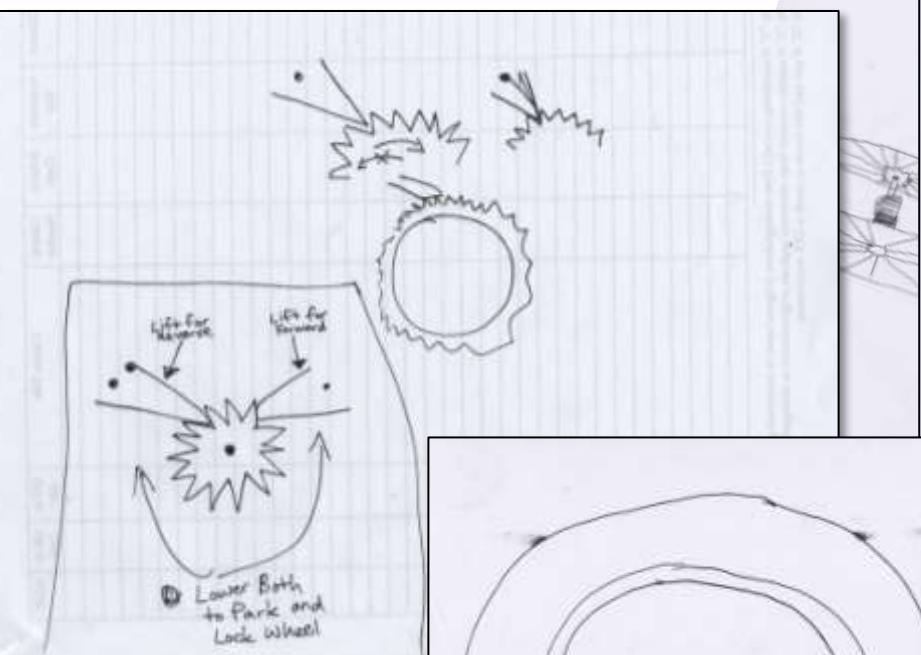
# Brainstormed Ideas

- **Independent handrim**
  - Description: pushing forward on handrim would push wheel forward, but back ward would activate a brake instead of using friction to stop wheel
  - Function: retarding brake; potentially parking brake
  - Logistics = cons

# Selected Idea

- **Coaster Hub Anti Rollback Brake System**
  - Description: Incorporates many of our ideas, including an independent hand rim, variable braking and anti rollback
  - Function: Uses the mechanism found in many 1-speed bikes, called a coaster brake hub. Instead of bike pedals, we attach a handrim
  - Logistics: These coaster brake hubs are commercially available and easy to obtain.
  - Pros: Simple installation, lessens need for custom manufacturing, no friction on hands when applying a braking force
  - Cons: The standard coaster brake hub does not include a parking brake solution

# Visualizations



# Selected Idea

- **Technical Feasibility:** not a totally new concept, simply taking it from a bike and putting it on a wheelchair
- **Engineering Difficulty:** creating an adaptor from the wheel to the chair can be easily done on the lathe.
- **Estimated Cost:** \$249, commercially-available package
- **User Acceptance:** after our interviews, this solution seems to solve many of the problems faced by wheelchair users. Implementation looks like a normal wheelchair
- **Safety Considerations:** Our solution is safer than existing wheels because it lessens wear and risk of injury to the hands.

# Selected Solution



Axe is rigidly  
attached to chair



Handrim connects  
directly to sprocket

# Future of Rota brake

- Modify coaster hub to include a parking brake
- Allow coaster hub to easily switch between forward and reverse
- Design and manufacture an adaptor for the coaster hub axle to fit the wheelchair
- User testing and feedback on design

# *Spin a Story*



***SuperK:***

**Krystal Le**

**Project:** Investigate and develop new educational activities appropriate for children with disabilities. This may include mechanical and/or computer software solutions that will provide interactive access for these learners.



# Spin a Story

Krystal Le

Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) Project

# Brief Abstract



- **Background:** Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) creates hands-on activity kits for students nationally.
- **Problem:** Special education teachers report that they often wish there were more activities focused on children with disabilities.
- **Aim:** Investigate and develop new educational activities appropriate for children with disabilities.

# Design Criteria



Intellectually  
Stimulating



Accessible



Affordable

# Overview

- Problem & Unmet Needs
  - Needfinding
  - Existing Solutions
- Brainstormed Design Concepts
- Description of 3 Selected Designs
  - Future Steps

# The Problem + Needfinding

Challenges Students with Autism Face

# Difficulty Communicating!



# Hope Technology School

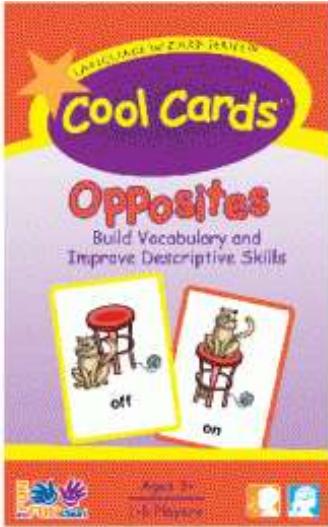


- Erlinda Cruz Quintero  
Vocational Education Program  
Teacher
- Sandra Burke  
Speech Language Pathologist
- Jen and Maisa  
Special Education Teachers

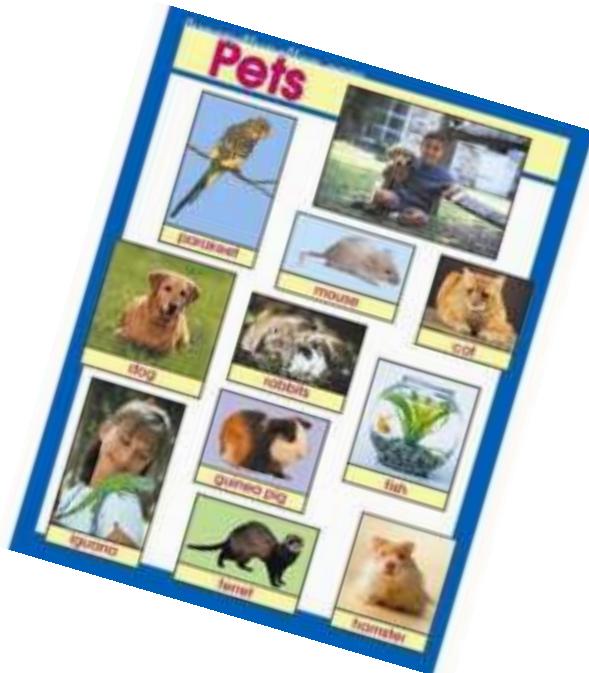
# Common Challenges



# Existing Solutions



Flashcards!



Chartlets



Board Games



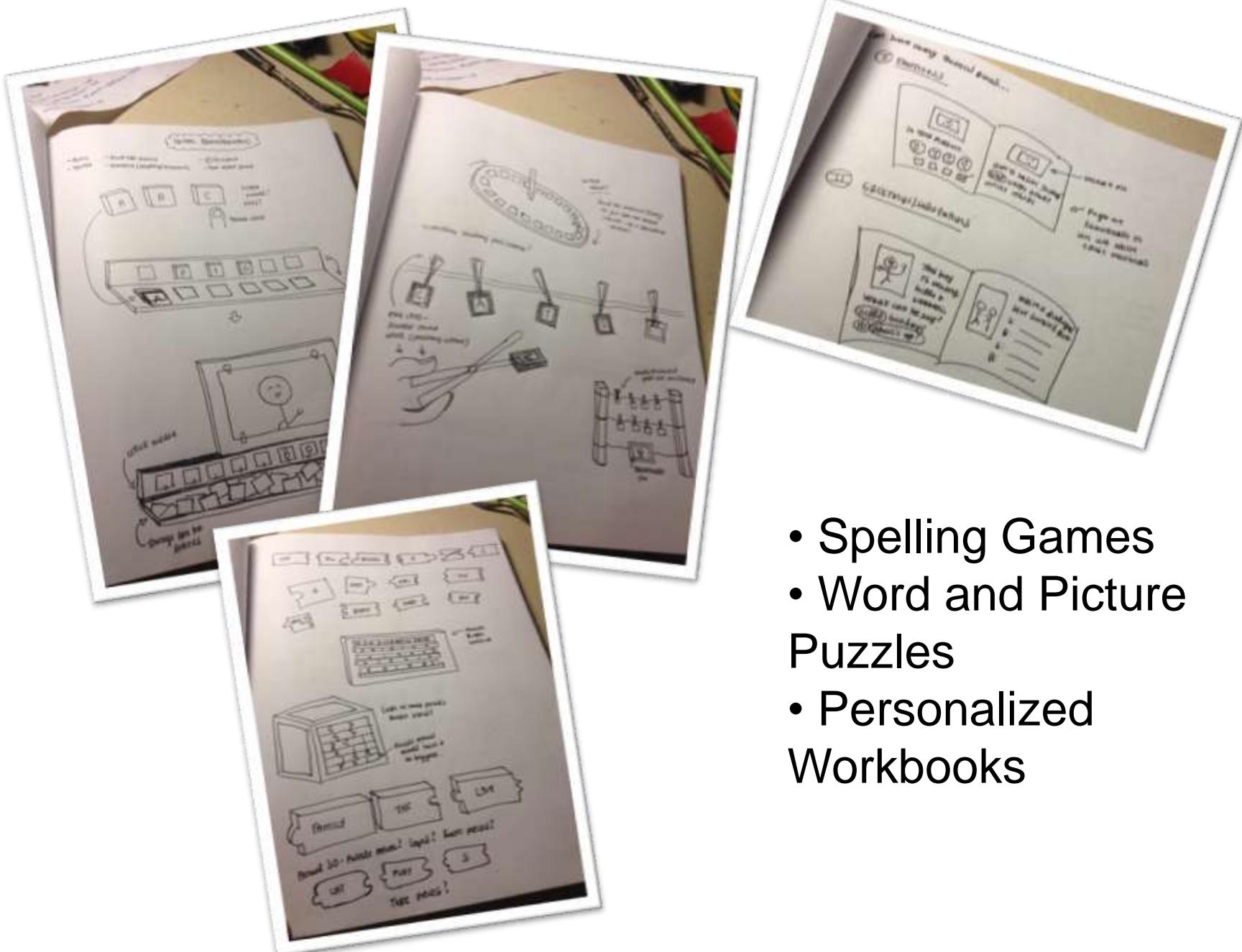
iPad Apps

# Sensory OVERLOAD!



# Brainstorming

- Spelling Games
- Word and Picture Puzzles
- Personalized Workbooks



# Quick Prototypes

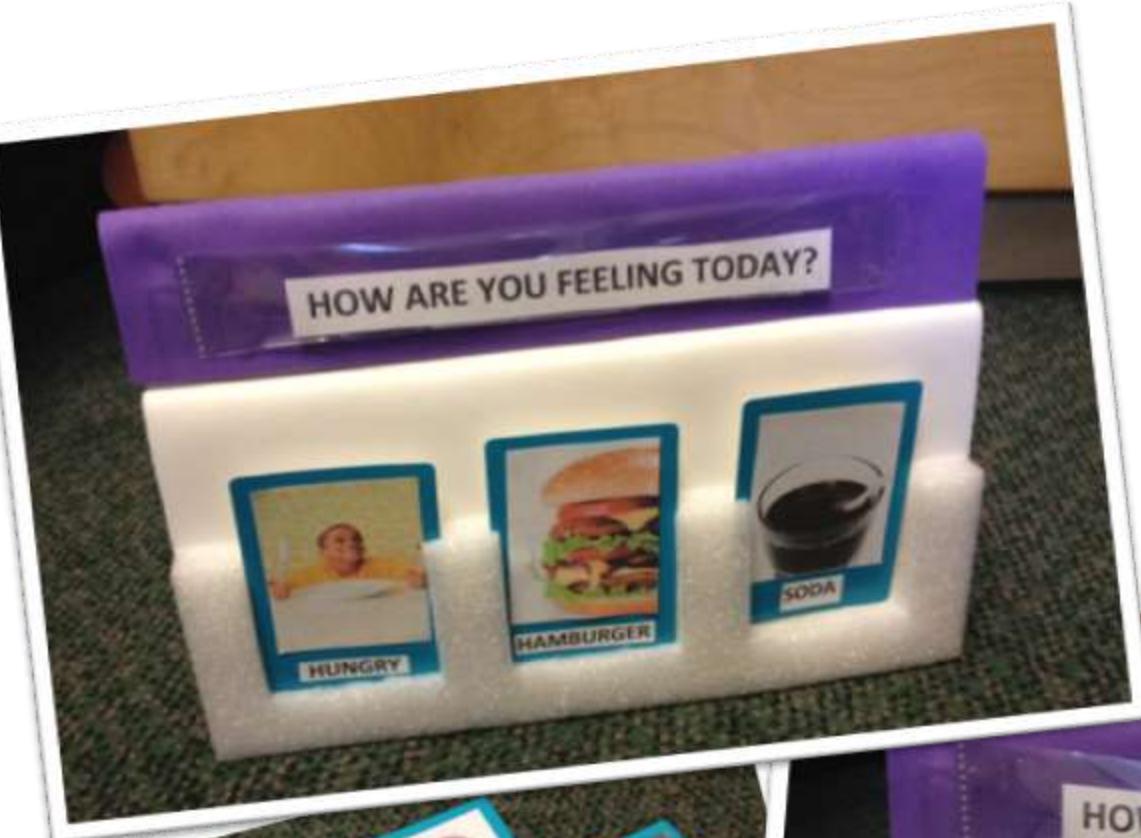


Prototyping + 3 Designs

# TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT!



**Physical Description:** A rectangular box with a clear pocket at the top and a series of flashcard holders at the bottom. In this picture, there is a piece of paper in the pocket with the question, "What do you want to do today?" written on it. The three flashcards at the bottom show pictures of a computer, a family running outside, and a mother and daughter sleeping. Each flashcard is accompanied with a word or phrase ("Computer," "Go outside," "Sleep").



**Physical Description:** A similar picture but with the question, "How are you feeling today" instead with different flashcards.

# GIVE ME SOME SENTENCES!



**Physical Description:** A series of flashcards with different pictures of subjects ("mommy", "house"), verbs ("run", "eat"), and articles/prepositions ("to", "the") pinned with thumbtacks to a cork board. The flashcards are arranged to form sentences.

# TELL ME A STORY!



**Physical Description:** Different pieces of fabric (with stickers on top of them) are lying on a corkboard/storyboard. Some of these stickers are pictures of bears, dancing hippos, penguins, etc.

# Future Steps

## USER TESTING + REITERATION



# Thank You!

Questions after  
class!

# *Piano Pedal*



***Team name:***

**Ntokozo Bhembe**

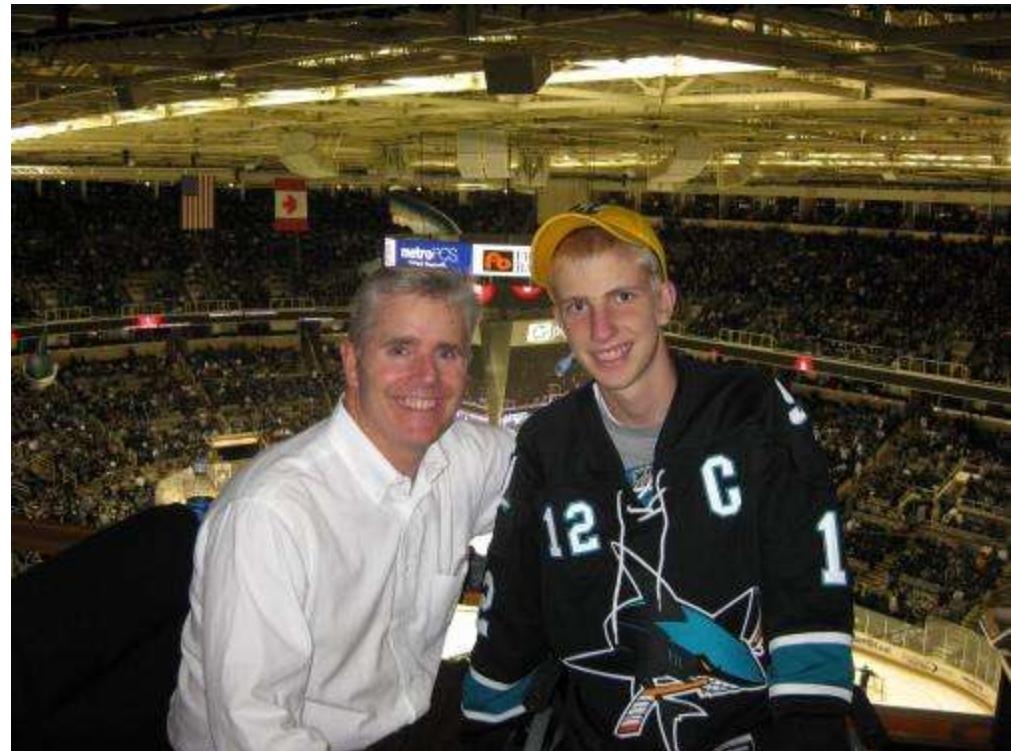
**Project:** Explore designs that would enable a Menlo Atherton high school student with paralysis to operate the sustain foot pedal on his electronic music keyboard.

# Piano Pedal Project

Project Suggestor: Zack & Darci Wentz  
Ntokozo Bhembe

# Zack “Music and Sports are my two passions”

- Has signed basketball from Lebron James
- Also plays the guitar and enjoys rapping



# Project background

- Zack Wentz
- Amazing young man born with acute epidural hematoma (blood clot) along his spinal cord from vertebrae C6 to T4
- Zack has lost use of his body starting



# Investigating the Problem

- Zack plays electronic keyboard but has no use of his legs
- He also has no control of his upper body posture due to lack of core muscles

# Existing solutions: None

- Zack's solutions:
- Tried using his mouth but that didn't work because he couldn't fit the entire pedal in his mouth and wanted to sing/rap
- Has tried to use forehead (very uncomfortable and not practical)
- Often gets help from his mom/family members to operate the pedal for him

# Existing potential solutions:

- Zack has done extensive research
- Switch sip/puff switch



# Existing potential solutions:

- AM/FM Radio with tilt switch headset (Model 340) with set of head position headphones



# HeadMouse® Extreme

## Wireless Head Controlled Mouse

- Uses head movement to move cursor on screen
- Could be adapted as a switch

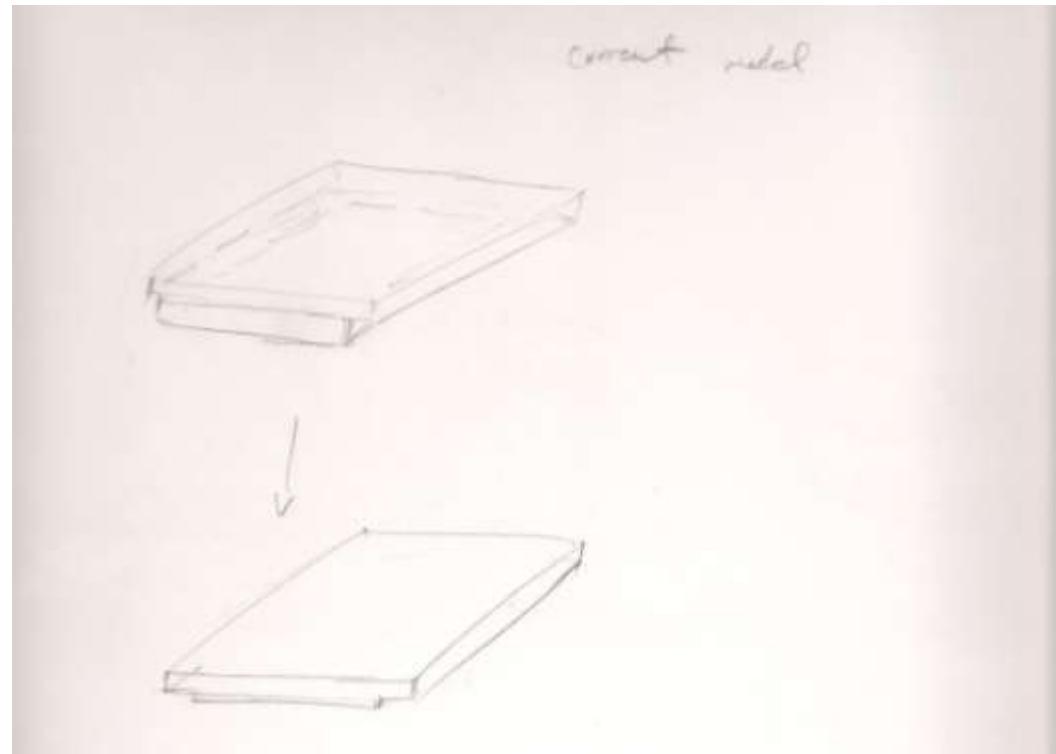


# The problem with these:

- Too expensive to be practical
- Involve “unnatural movement” from use
- Restrict the use of the mouth
- Too complicated

# Explored ideas: The pedal

- Understanding the Sustain Pedal
- Just a switch



# Explored ideas: Back operated pedal

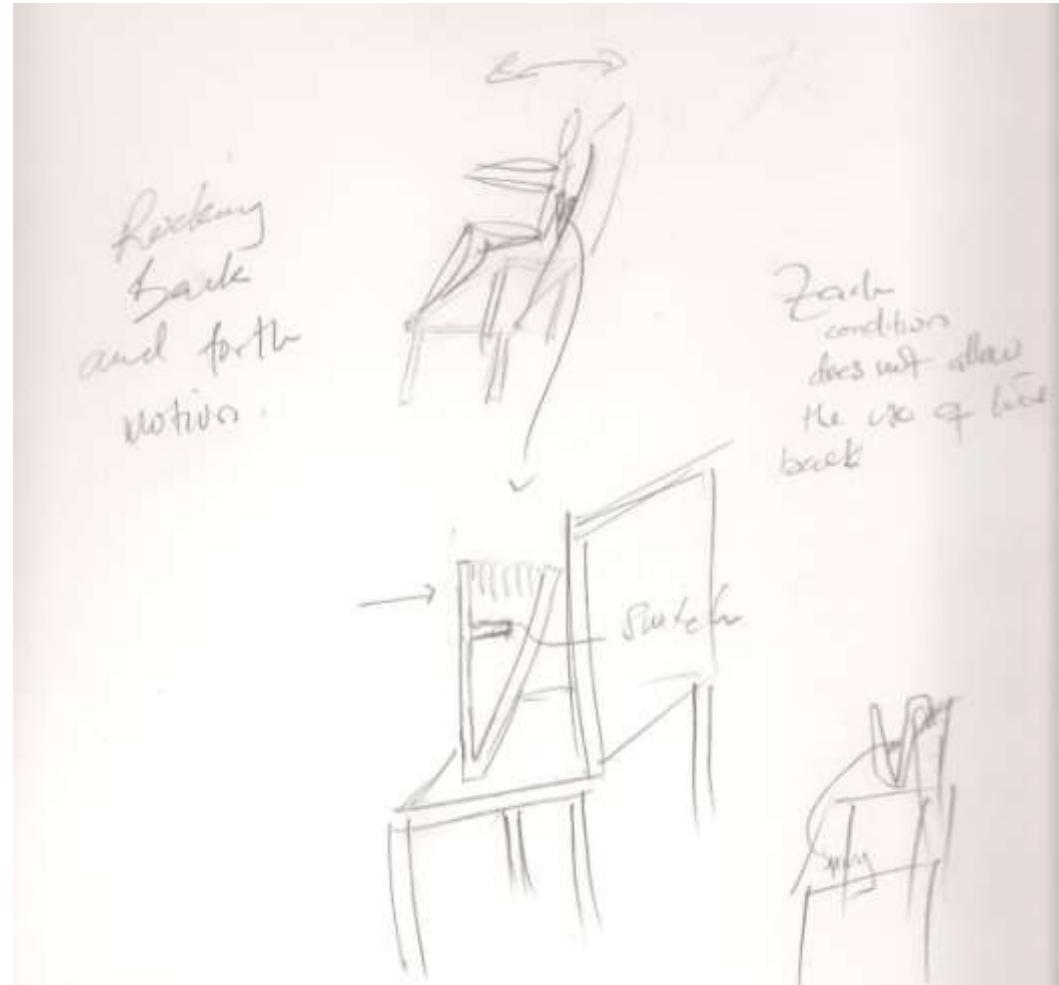
By rocking back and forth the pedal is operated

Pros

Relatively simple

Cons

Zack has virtually no core muscles



# Explored ideas: Mouth operated switch

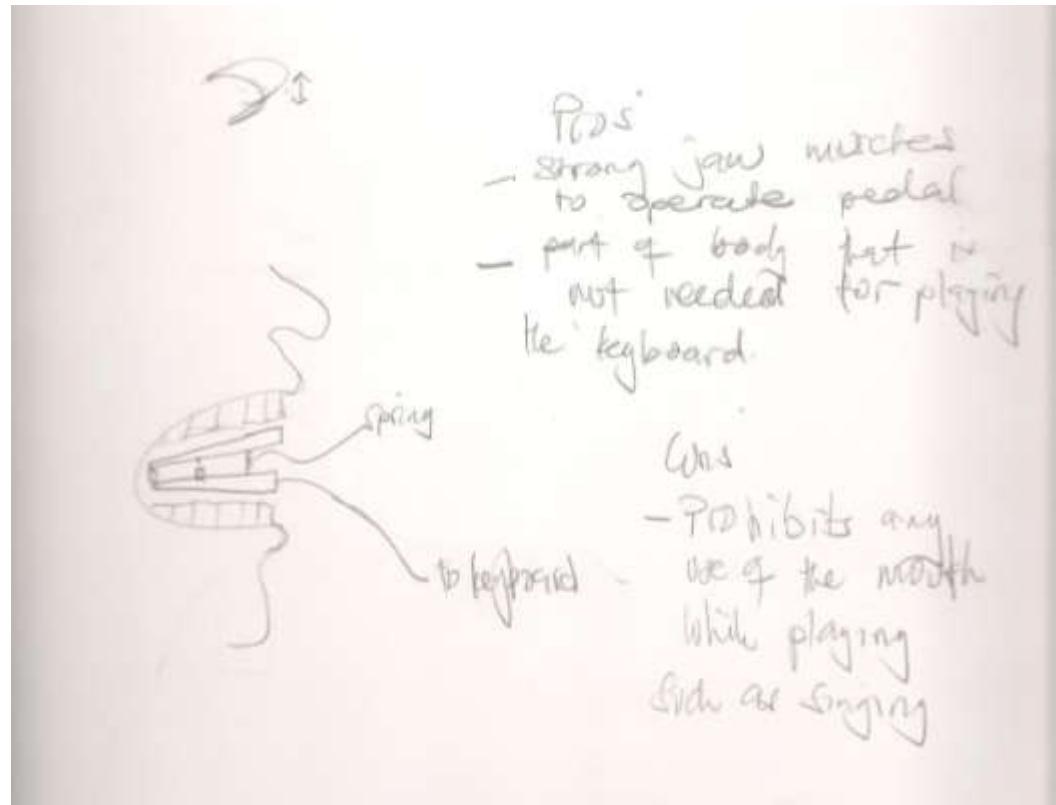
Operated by  
pressing switch with  
teeth by biting

Pros

Simple and small

Cons

Prohibits singing



# Explored ideas: Armpit switch

Operated by  
pressing pedal in  
between the armpit

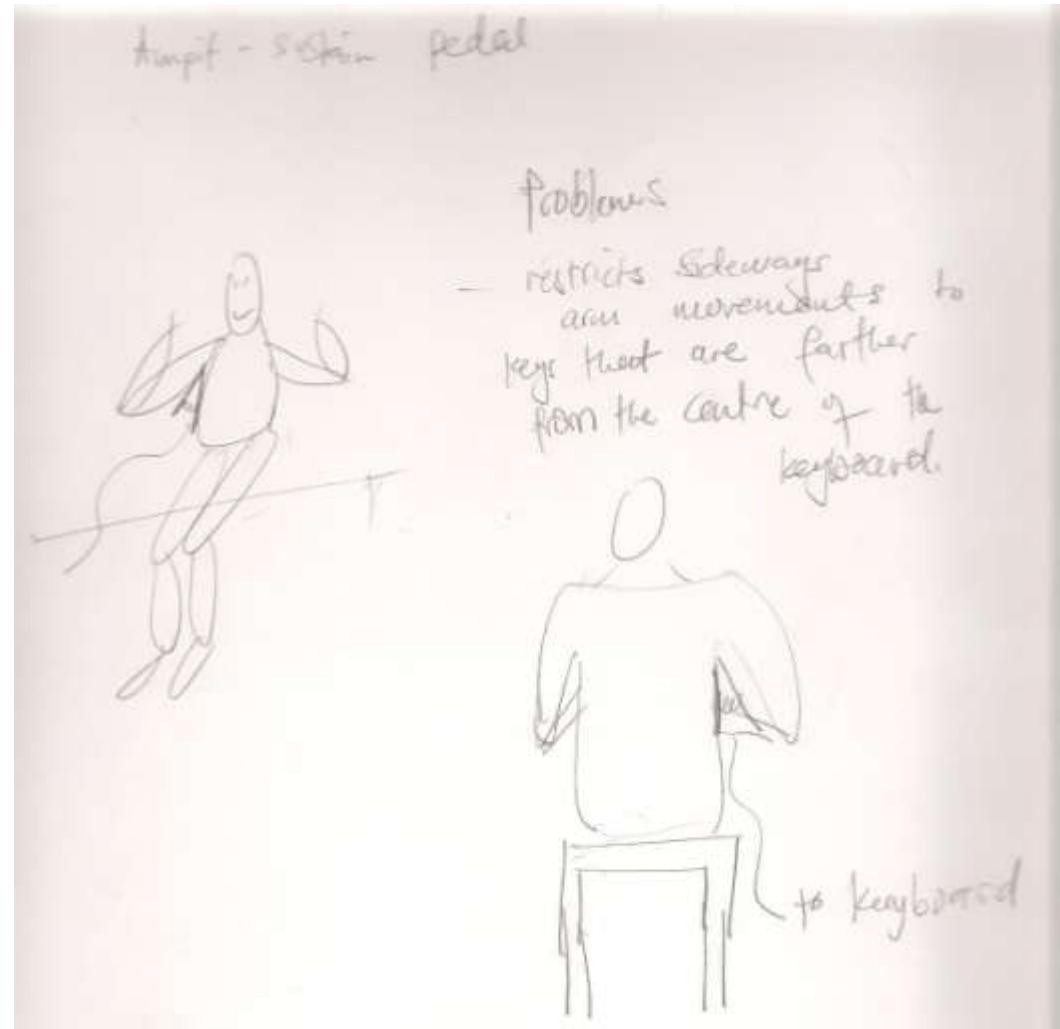
Pros

Not as weird and easy  
to make.

Would be cheap

Cons

Restricts arm range of  
motion

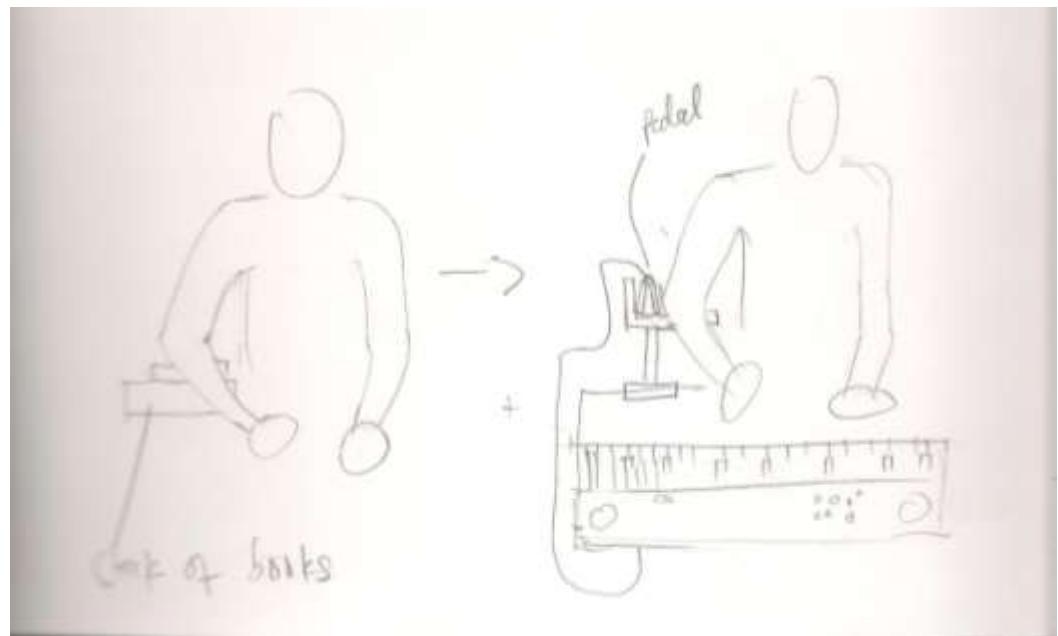


# Explored ideas: Winner

Came out of  
observations made  
during visit with Zack  
for a meeting

Zack has to lean with  
his left arm to support  
his torso

Integrate pedal into  
arm-rest solution



# Problems encountered

- Acquiring a piano pedal to take apart and perform a product forensics
- Means to travel and see Zack more often
- Lack of teammates to bounce ideas with

# *Accessible Eateries*



***Team name:***

**Nicole Torcolini**

**Project:** Create an accessible database of restaurant menus that can be accessed via a website or a mobile application.

# Accessible Eateries

Nicole Torcolini  
(and Lexia)

# A Table Using a Screen Reader

table with 3 columns and 3 rows

**A La Carte**

**Combo**

The Axe

6.25

7.25

Five ounces of Angus Beef

The Billy Erb

6.00

7.00

Free Range Turkey Burger

table end

# The Real Table

	A La Carte	Combo
<b>The Axe</b>	6.25	7.25
Five ounces of Angus Beef		
<b>The Billy Erb</b>	6.00	7.00
Free Range Turkey Burger		

# An Alternative

## **The Axe**

Five ounces of Angus Beef

- A La Carte \$6.25
- Combo \$7.25

## **The Billy Erb**

Free Range Turkey Burger

- A La Carte \$6
- Combo \$7

# The Website

- <http://www.accessibleeateries.com>

# *Social skills for elementary students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*



***KinExpressions!:***

**Anna Ly and Hain-Lee Hsueh**

**Project:** Explore mechanisms of enhancing social skills for students with Autism.

# kinExpressions!

## Learning and Applying Emotions with Kinect

Assistive Technology  
ENGR 110 | 210  
Anna Ly | Hain-Lee Hsueh

kinExpressions!

Assistive Technology  
ENGR 110 / 210  
Mid-Term Presentation

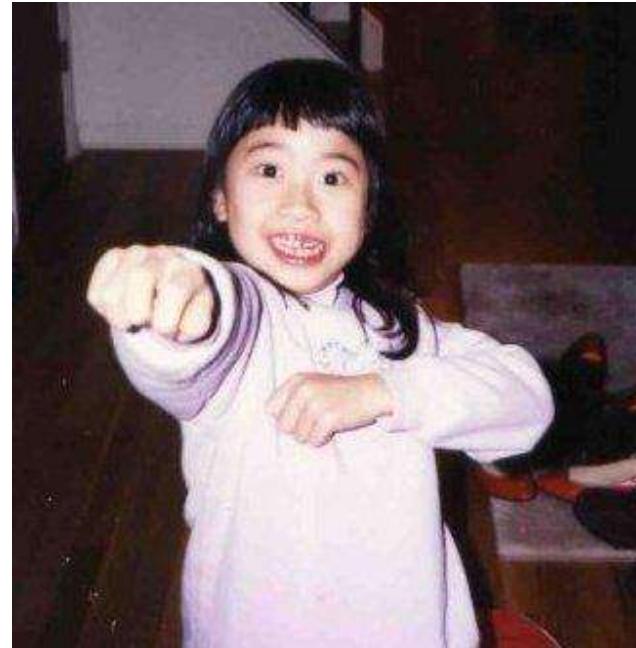
# Team LDT



Hain-Lee Hsueh

Background in ECE and Software Engineering from Cornell. Formally worked for Oracle Enterprise Applications.

[background](#)



Anna Ly

Background in HCI, Business & Communication Design from Carnegie Mellon. Formally worked for IBM Strategy.

# Background

## Autism Today

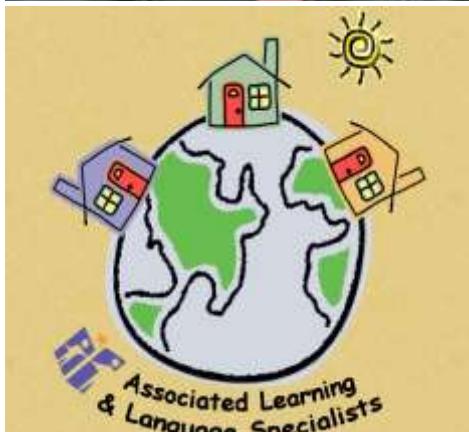
- 1 in 110 American children are on the autism spectrum
- More children this year will be diagnosed with autism than with cancer, diabetes or pediatric AIDS  
COMBINED
- ASD affects 3 million individuals in US / 10 million worldwide

## Diagnosis Criteria (DSM-IV)

Qualitative impairment in social interaction as manifested by two of the following:

- Use of nonverbal behaviors
- Failure to develop peer relationships
- Lack of social or emotional reciprocity
- Lack of empathy

# Empathy



empathy

## Pamela Wolfberg

*SFSU, Associate Professor of Special Education*

- "We stress integrated play **initiated by the children themselves.**"
- " We don't want them to see this as instruction time. We want the situation as **natural and random as possible**"

## Michelle Fong

*Associated Learning & Language Specialists, CCC & SLT*

- "A lot of kids **can't imitate facial expressions**...or sometimes they over-exaggerate so it looks unnatural."
- "The facial teaching tools they have today where you put together faces (eyes, noses and mouths) have parts that don't even look human. The smiles **are angular and look robotic.**"
- "**Play needs to be complex** and they need to be able to **transfer it** to a natural context. If they do not reach that level, they will continuously be **behind as they grow older**"

# Empathy



empathy

**Sandra, Erlinda, Jen, Maisa**

*OT / SLT @ Hope Technology School*

- "What's frustrating about applications is that sometimes, kids just want to click on it to get the feedback instead of actually learning"
- *Sandra*: "One kid once came up really close to me (\*stands up against another staff member to illustrate) and said, "It's nice to meet you!" and I had to back away to let him know that he was standing too close."

**Evelina Liu**

*Mother of 5 year old boy with autism*

- **"Communication is a major problem...**when I ask him a question, he often doesn't answer it and just says whatever happens to be on his mind at the moment."

# Define

5-10 year old children with mild to moderate autism need a way to recognize and express both emotions and social nuances because failing to do so may lead to *social isolation* as well as *delayed psychological and educational development*.

# Existing Solutions



mindreading



Feel Electric



market research

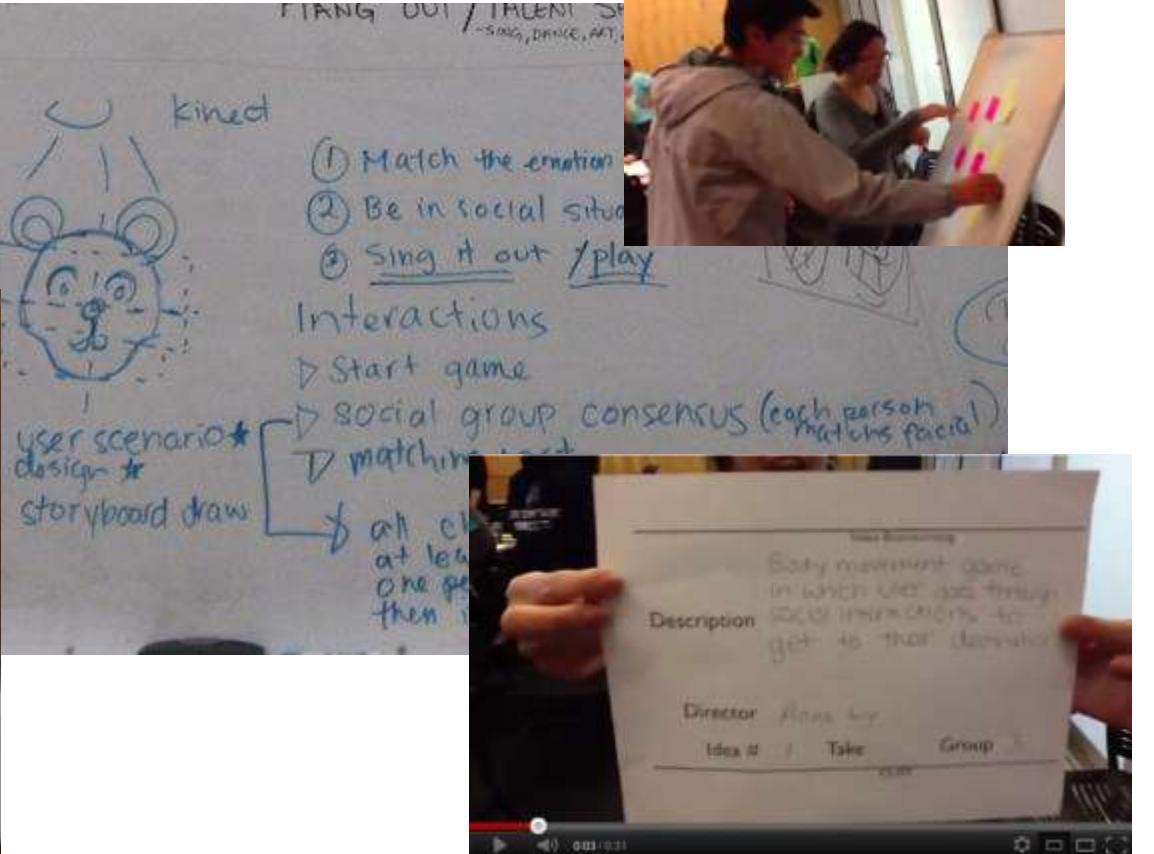
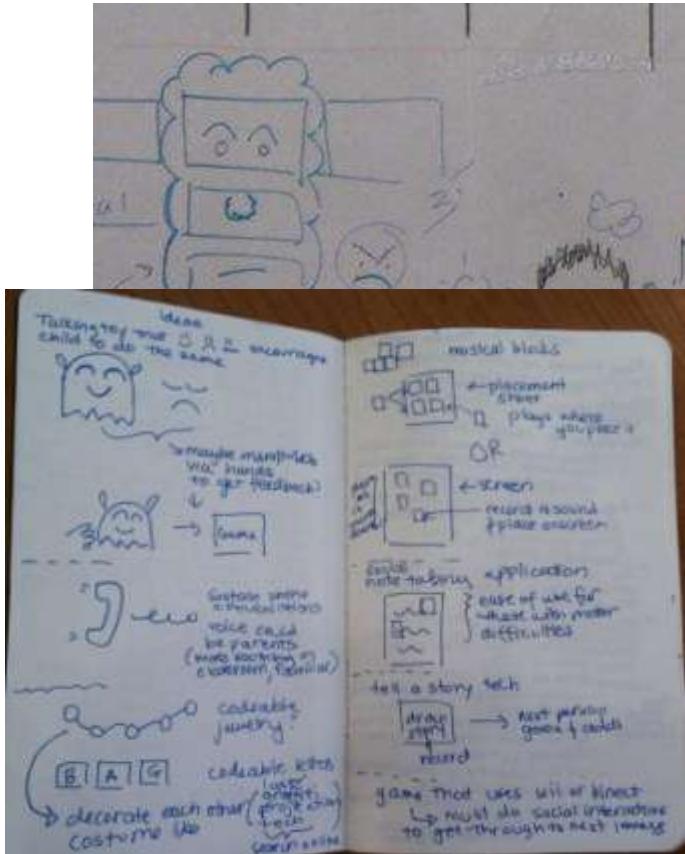


The Transporters

# Limitations

- “Glorified Flashcards”
- Unrealistic
- Effective emotion recognition, but no solution for evaluating emotion expression
- Individual learning vs. interpersonal experience
- Not multisensory or kinesthetic
- Gender constraints

# Ideation: Initial Brainstorming



ideation

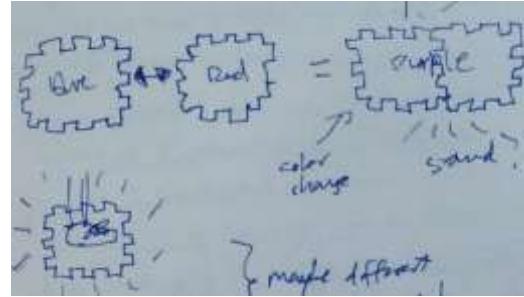
# Ideation: Design Concepts



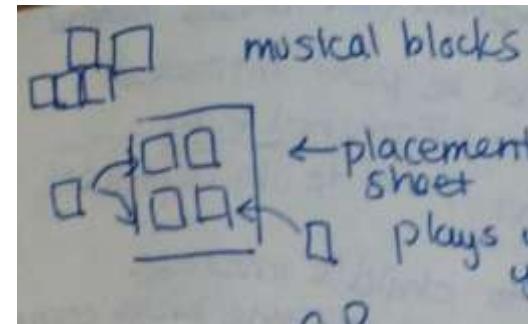
**Facilitated Group Story Creation**  
([video](#))



**Interactive Social Story Quest**



**Color-changing Tiles**



**Music Generation with Blocks**  
([video](#))

ideation

# Selected Design: kinExpressions!

## Core Concept

- Teaching and practicing emotions with others through facial & gestural recognition and expression using the Microsoft Kinect.

## Core Mechanic

- Facial & gestural expressions are modeled
- Players must imitate and match the face
- Players' faces are displayed real-time
- [Video Prototype](#) ("MotionEmotion")

refine

# kinExpressions!

## Technical Feasibility

- Kinect resolution can distinguish facial features
- Numerous SDK's available for development

## Engineering Difficulty and Performance

- Processing, filtering, and analyzing data from the Kinect sensor
- Algorithms for matching two facial expressions
- Fidelity of graphics, animation, and texturing (for displaying characters and players' face)

refine

# kinExpressions!

## Estimated Cost

- Kinect sensor: \$150
- Learning resources for Kinect development: \$0 - \$30?
- License for existing facial recognition algorithms and data: ??

## User Acceptance

- Therapists forecast Kinect as the "next big thing"
- Off-the-shelf Kinect games already being used (video)
- Therapists constantly seeking for multisensory tools

refine

# Design Considerations

- **HMW** get kids with autism to empathize? (i.e. imagine things from others' perspective?)
  - *Ex: Cars in the cookie bag*
- **HMW** get kids to transfer what they see on the screen
  - *Ex: Child getting a haircut*
- **HMW** convince kids with autism that social rules are important (e.g. picking your nose is bad)
- **HMW** leverage multi-sensory input without inducing sensory overload

refine

# Current Activities / Status

- **Underway**
  - Meeting with Director of Developmental Pathways for Kids
  - Participatory design for our current prototype
  - Fleshing out more interaction points
  - Evaluating idea of prototyping a mobile app to demonstrate proof of concept
- **Pending**
  - Obtaining algorithms for facial/emotion recognition
  - Contact with researchers at Microsoft
  - Potential meetings with other researchers in emotion recognition and autism

status

# Challenges

- Difficulty in observing children play groups
- Working with non-typical children
- Strategies for "off-loading" engineering challenges to existing solutions
- Coordinating shared access to a Kinect sensor

# Going Forward

Week 7 – Feb 20	Week 8 – Feb 27	Week 9 – Mar 1	Week 10 – Mar 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phone conference with researchers from MIT</li><li>• Decide which SDK to use</li><li>• Get up and running with kinect and sdk (sample code)</li><li>• Get IRB</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program to display a picture on one side, and a skeletal/face-tracking picture of the player next to it</li><li>• Decide on 1-2 key emotions and 2 scenarios for each</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• User test to see what ideas come out of this kind of set up and interaction</li><li>• More partic. design</li><li>• Refine prototype to flesh out 2-4 scenarios and game play</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue refining</li><li>• Explore ideas for multi-player interaction</li></ul>

# ***Low Cost Transfer Device***



***Transfer-mations:***

**Sofia Rojasova, Nick Akiona, and Rahul Sastry**

**Project:** Explore designs for a low cost transfer device for a wheelchair user.

# Transfer-Mations

Nick Akiona, Sofia Rojasova, and Rahul Sastry

# Mission Statement

Under guidance from Rotamobility, we aim to create a low cost transfer device that reduces the physical strain of transfers, is portable yet applicable to most situations, and provides a feeling of safety.

# Scope of the Problem

- Understand the point-to-point transfer challenges
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJWo8FFfjuE#t=0m18s>
- Understand clinical recommendations for how-to transfer
  - PT/OT endorsement
- ~2.8 million U.S. wheelchair users
- ~10,000 people every year are spinal cord injured
- ~80% of wheelchair users are over 44 years old



# Interviews and Needfinding

We interviewed 3 wheelchair users and are in the process of consulting with a PT.

- Issues to consider:
  - Cost
  - Material strength
  - Portability
  - Strain injuries
    - Peak strain force
    - Repetitive strain
  - Elevation changes
  - Feeling of security
  - Feeling of independence
  - Family
  - Low profile

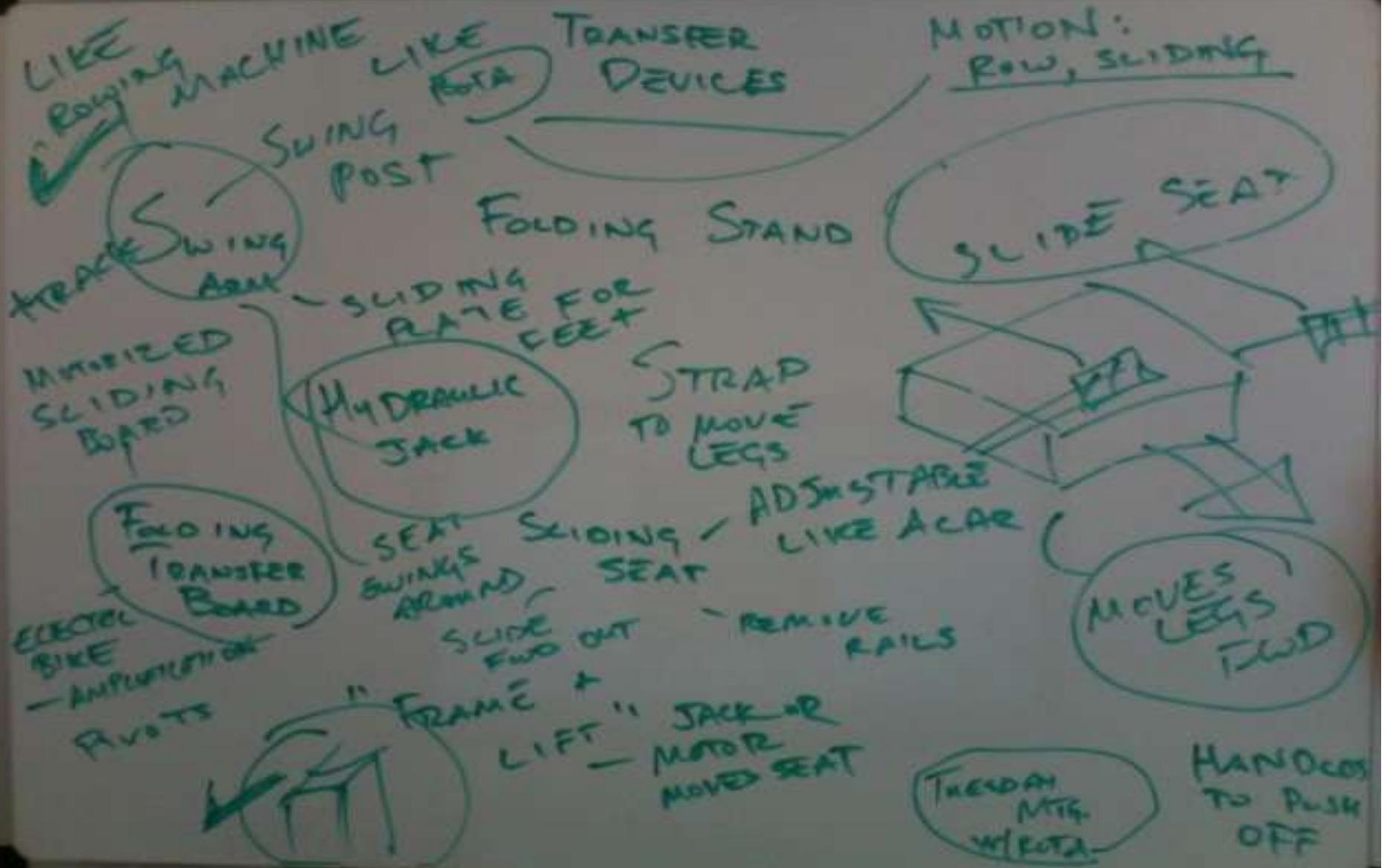


# Existing Solutions



- Transfer Boards
  - Sliding Transfer Boards
- Transfer Handle
- "Magic Pole"
- Motorized Lift

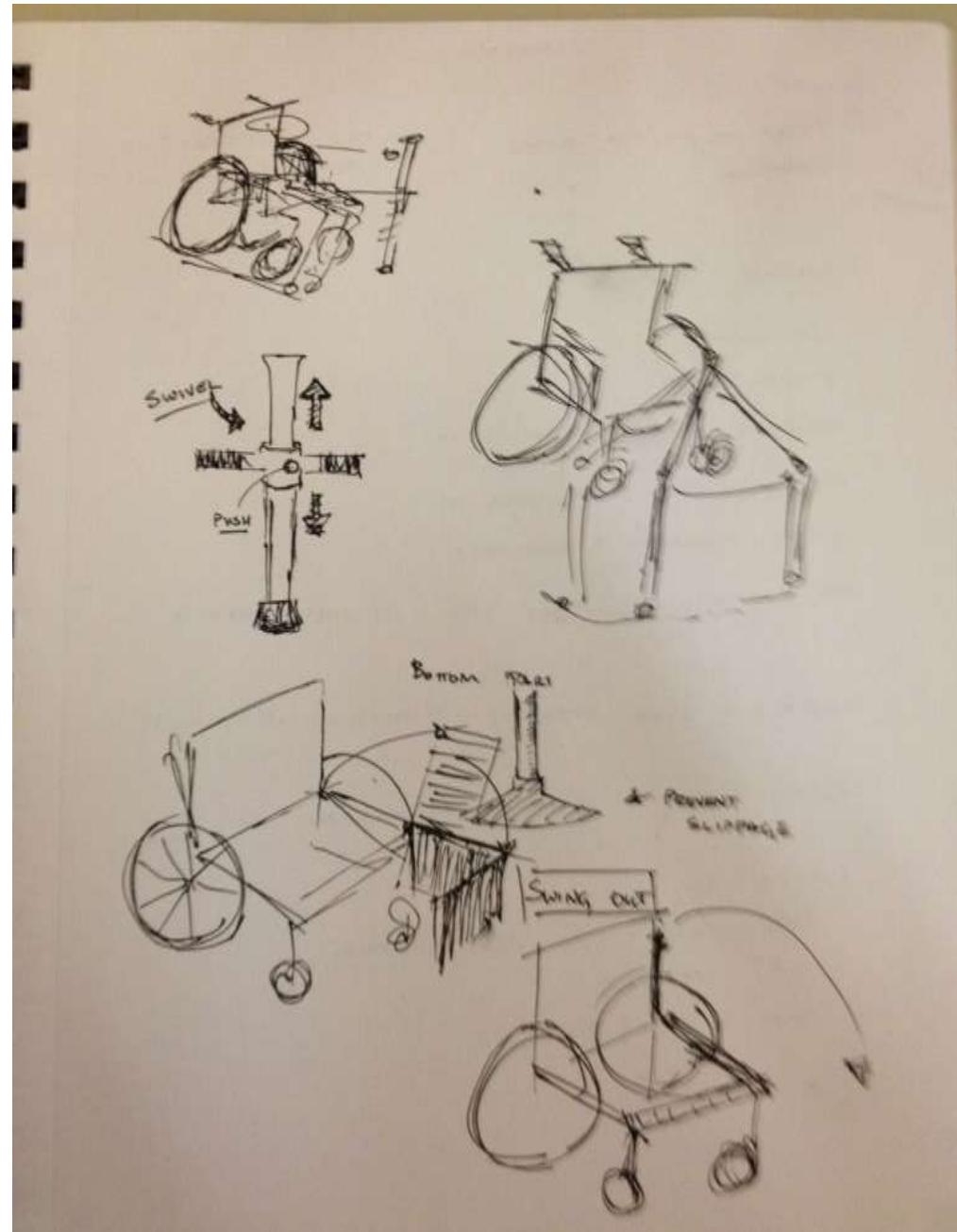
# Brainstorms



# Final 3 Candidates

- Swing arm
- Seat Jack
- Transfer Board 2.0

# The Swing Arm



CHAIR  
CHAIR → OLD  
→ LUNCH  
→ BENCH  
→ STROLLER  
FOLDABLE

MOUNT TO  
CHAIR WHEN  
NOT IN USE

EASIER FOR  
FAMILY MEMBERS

MAGNETS

ATTACH  
TO BACK

CENTRE  
THE BODY

PULL UP  
HANDLES

SECURE MOUNT  
TO CHAIR

SECURE MOUNT  
TO CHAIR

ELEVATION  
LINE

ELEVATION  
LINE

Goes only  
ONE WAY

Goes only  
ONE WAY

WAYS TO IMPROVE THE  
SLIDE BOARD

FOOTING  
LEG STABILITY

WEIGHT SLIDES

OR ONE SIDE

SLIDING SEAT

RIGID MOUNT  
TO CHAIR

BETTER  
ADHESIVE  
SUBSTANCE  
USE GLUE

Fold out

PULL UP  
SEAT

→ MORE  
WEIGHT PADS

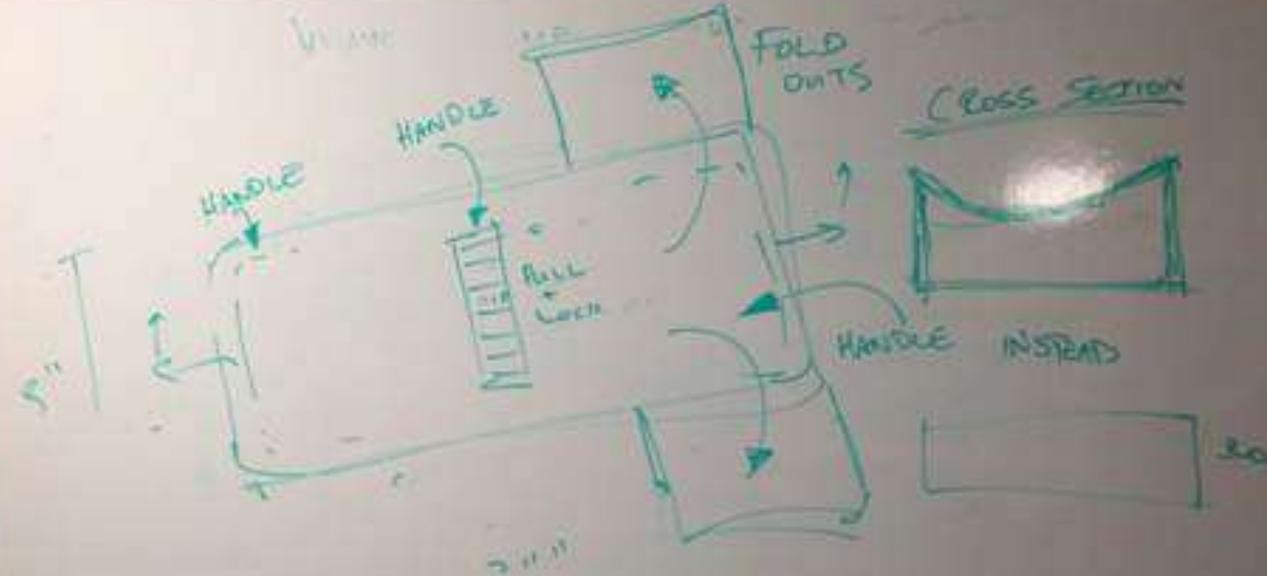
TIKE  
PARK  
BALANCE

SHAPE

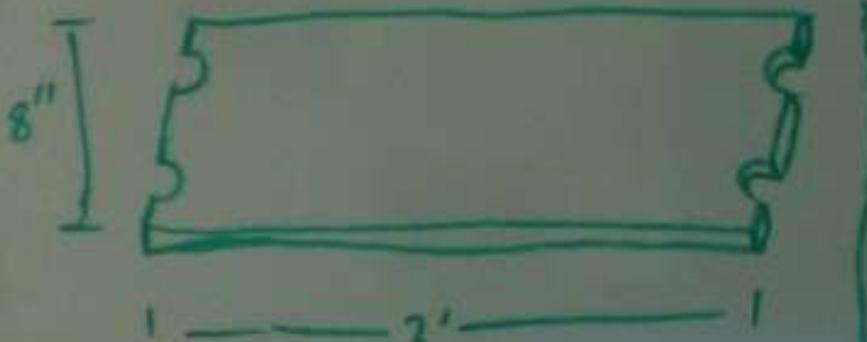
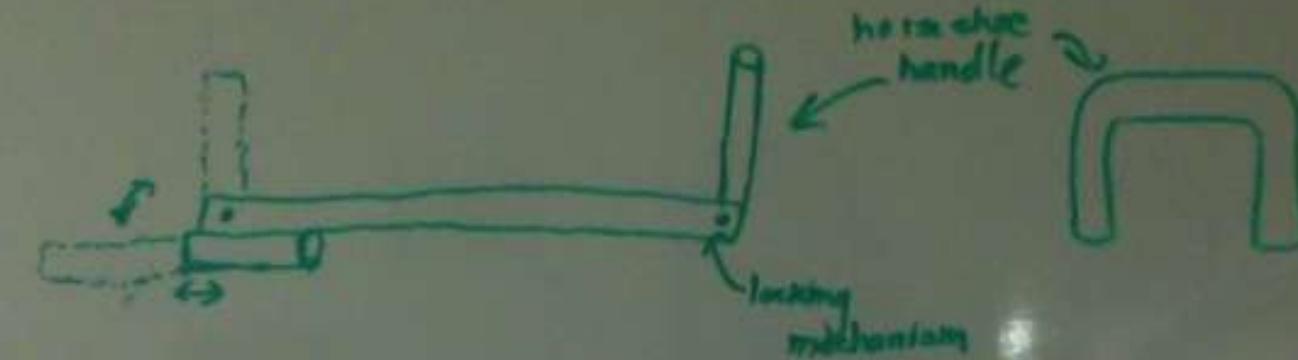
TIKE  
PARK  
BALANCE

TIKE  
PARK  
BALANCE

ONLY  
3

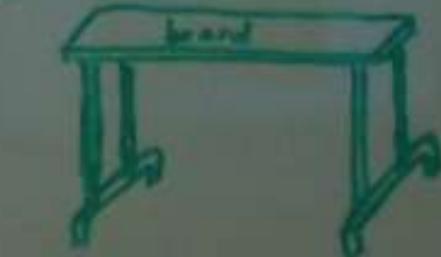
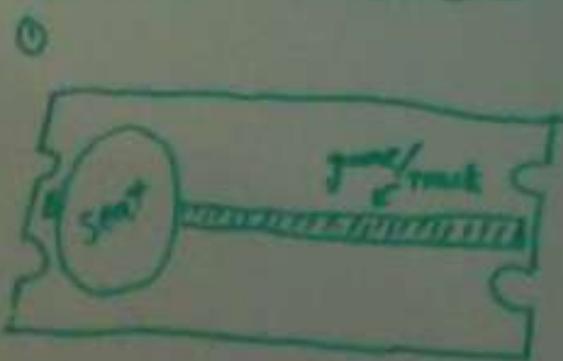


# Best Solution

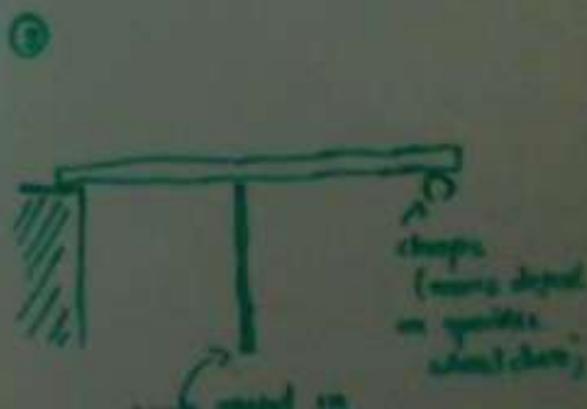


Add one :

- ① Sliding Seat
- ② Folding Stand
- ③ mount to wheelchair



top capable of adjusting



# Next Steps

- Interview with OTs & PTs
- Prototyping
- Concept Evaluation with Actual Users
- More Iterations

The End

# Works Cited

- <http://www.newdisability.com/wheelchairstatistics.htm>
- [http://codi.buffalo.edu/graph\\_based/.demographics/.statistics.htm](http://codi.buffalo.edu/graph_based/.demographics/.statistics.htm)

# ***Friendly Cane***



***Team Wombat:***

**Nate Wynn and Cindy Au**

**Project:** Explore designs for a light weight cane that can accommodate the weight of its user and easily retract and extend with one hand.

TEAM WOMBAT

PROJECT *i*CANE

---

- ENGR 110: Perspectives in Assistive Technology

**Midterm presentation**

**16 Feb 2012**

# OUR TEAM



**CINDY AU**

Class of 2013

**Major:**

Biomechanical Engineering

**Hometown:**

Bentre, Vietnam



**NATE WYNN**

Class of 2012

**Major:**

Mechanical Engineering

**Hometown:**

Spokane, Washington

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



**1**  
introduction



**2**  
need-finding



**3**  
research



**4**  
our project



**5**  
future work

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



**1**  
introduction



**2**  
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**3**  
research



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our project



**5**  
future work

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

problem

Current canes are heavy and awkward to stow when they are not being used, and clumsy to use when both hands are needed - such as when carrying something.

aim

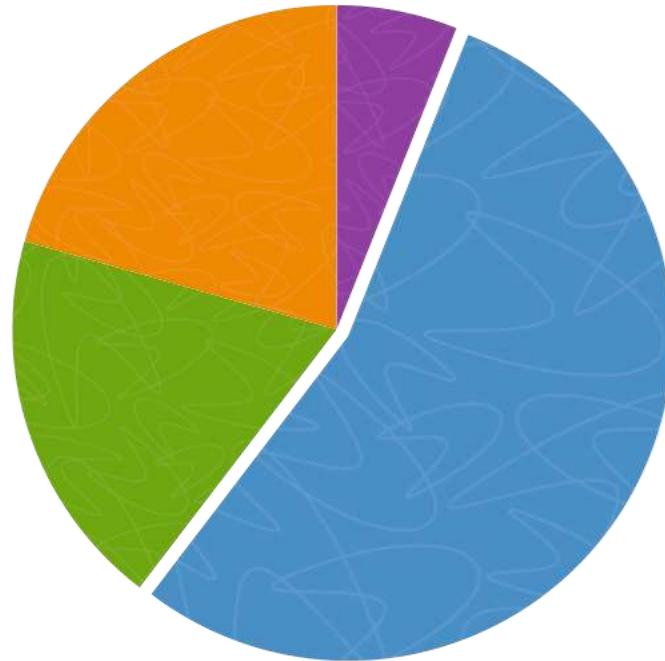
Explore designs for a light weight cane that can accommodate the weight of its user and easily retract and extend with one hand

design  
criteria

1. Effective in addressing users' need
2. Attractive
3. Low cost

# AID DEVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

Mobility device use in the United States



- Crutches
- Cane
- Wheelchair
- Walker

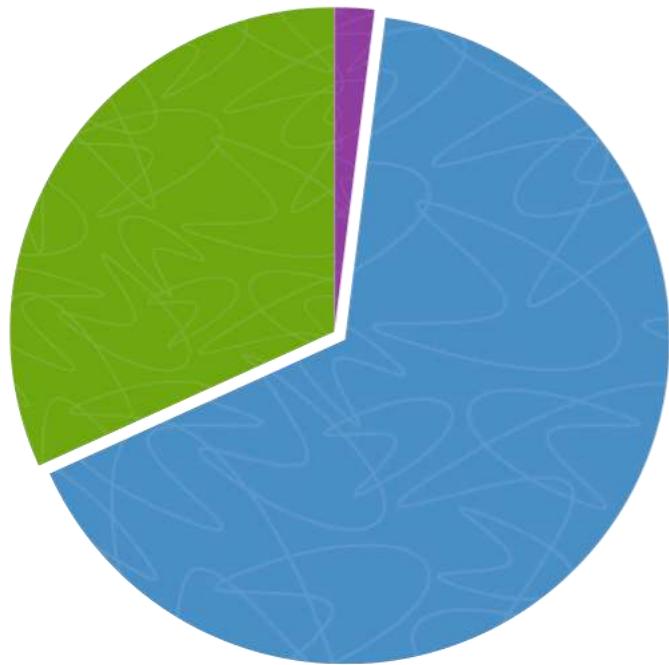
According to a study completed in 2000:

Just over **6.8 million** Americans living outside of institutions use assistive devices to help them with mobility.

Canes are by far the most widely used mobility devices: **4.8 million** Americans use them.

# AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

Cane use in the United States



● Under 18

● 65 and over

● 18-64

According to a survey involved 1000 Canadian seniors aged 70 and older, **7 out of 10** seniors report having a mobility or health issue that reduces their quality of life due to a physical limitation. Yet, **46 percent** of those surveyed refuse to use a cane, walker or scooter.

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



**1**  
introduction



**2**  
need-finding



**3**  
research

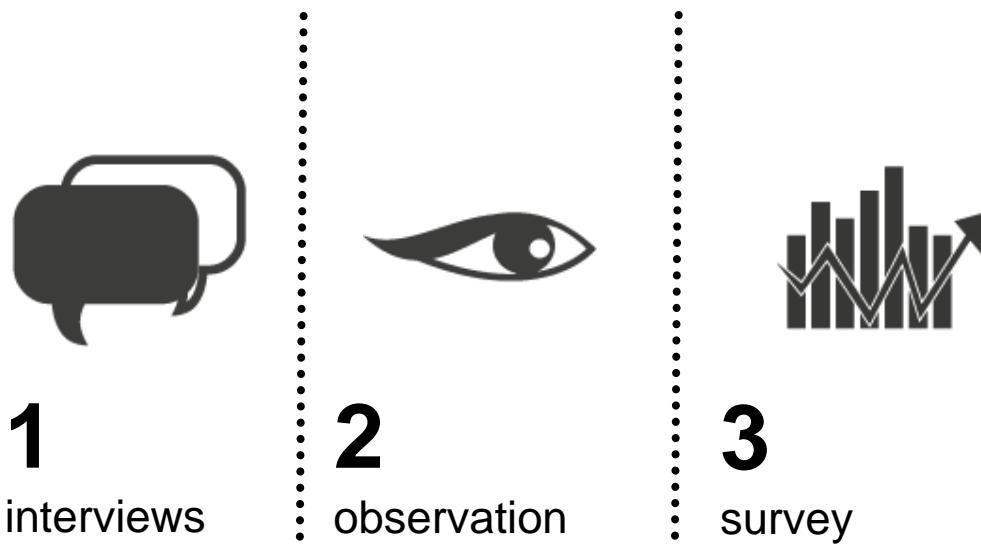


**4**  
our project



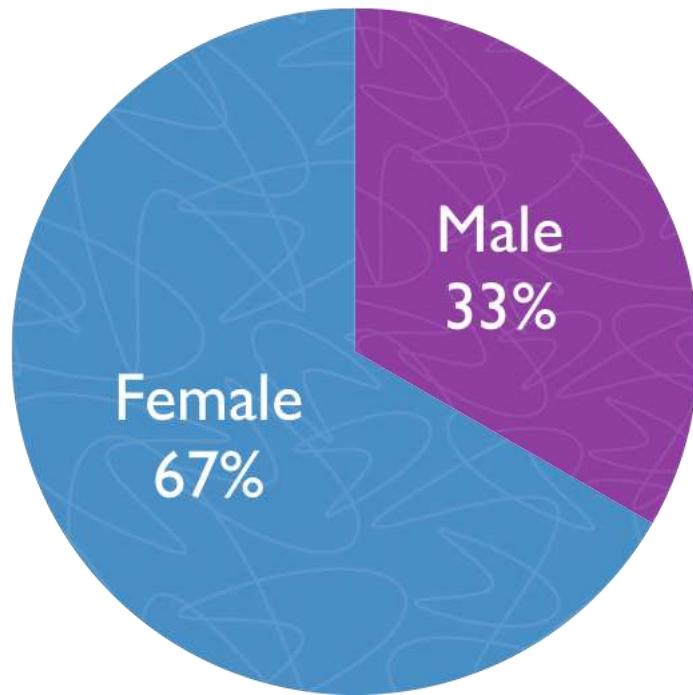
**5**  
future work

# NEED-FINDING METHODS

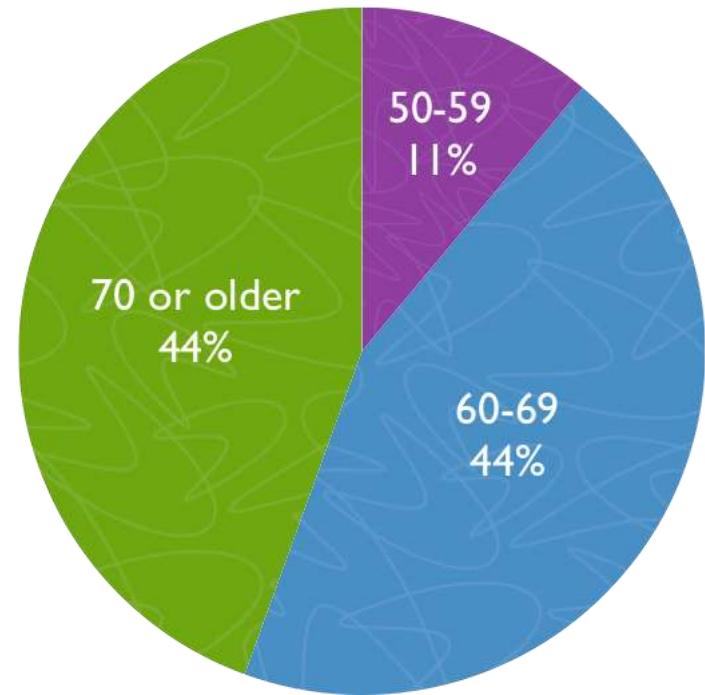


# SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

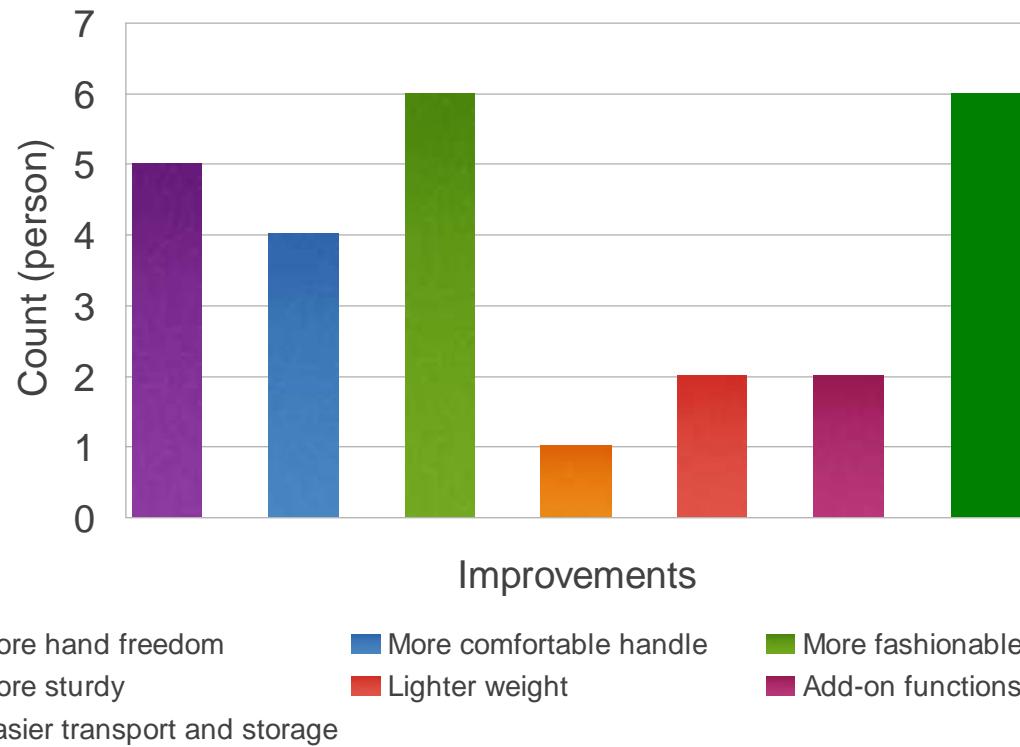
Gender



Age



# DESIRABLE IMPROVEMENTS



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



1  
introduction



2  
need-finding



3  
research



4  
our ideas



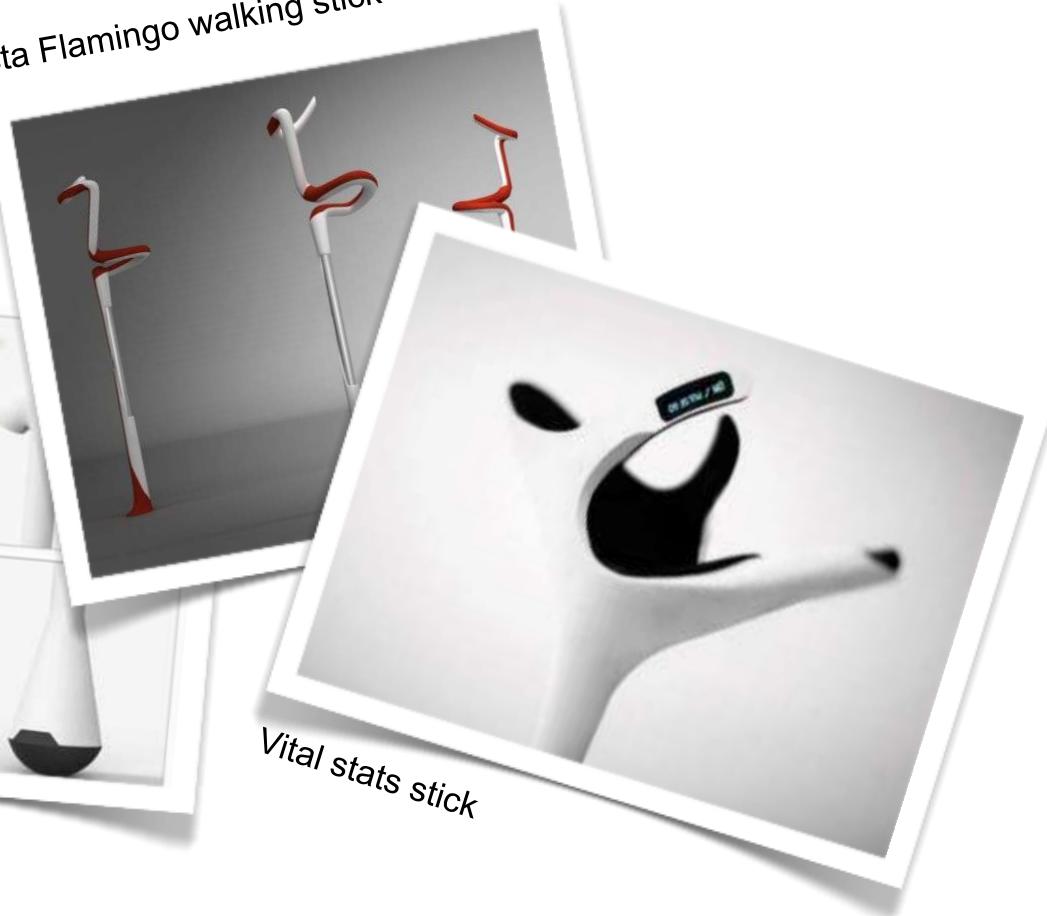
5  
future work

# EXISTING SOLUTIONS

Adjustable folding cane



Fiesta Flamingo walking stick



Self-balance walking stick

# EXISTING SOLUTIONS

## PRODUCT

Adjustable folding cane

## DETAILS

- Lightweight anodized aluminum body
- Height adjustments from 31" to 35"
- Can be folded up into four sections to be conveniently stored in a black canvas bag
- Supports up to 250 pounds
- By far the most well-received commercially available product

## LIMITATIONS

- Difficult to assemble and to take apart using one hand
- Metal tube body doesn't look attractive
- Ergonomics



# EXISTING SOLUTIONS

## PRODUCT

Self-balancing staff

## DETAILS

- Consist of a simple hand grip and a weighted bottom
- Stand upright by itself on both even surfaces and slopes
- Hands can be used for other tasks when needed
- Small base to allow easy climbing of stairs
- Nice, clean design

## LIMITATIONS

- Not yet commercially available
- Cost - might not be covered by insurance
- Weight - heavy weighted bottom can cause fatigue.
- Can't be stored in bag
- Difficult to store in car



# EXISTING SOLUTIONS

## PRODUCT

Fiesta Flamingo Crutch

## DETAILS

- Ergonomic
- Simple and aesthetic form
- Shock absorbing
- Height adjustable
- Looks really cool

## LIMITATIONS

- Concept only
- Might be difficult to store and carry around
- Seniors who don't want their cane to look too conspicuous might not find the "fiesta" look to their liking



# EXISTING SOLUTIONS

## PRODUCT

The Aid

## DETAILS

- “The world’s first smart cane”
- Monitor seniors’ pulse, blood pressure and body temperature
- Offer a simple navigation system
- SOS button to alert home location when getting lost
- Won Grand Prize at the Fujitsu’s Design AWARD 2011

## LIMITATIONS

- Ergonomics
- Cost
- Storage



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



1  
introduction



2  
need-finding



3  
research



4  
our project

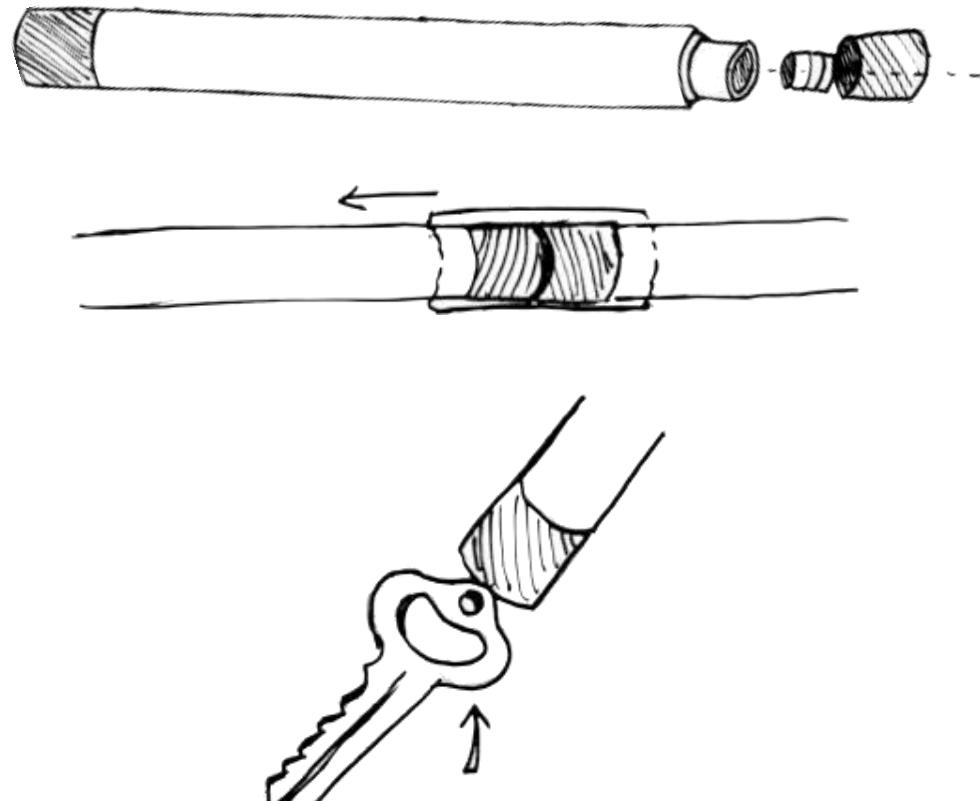


5  
future work

IDEA  
#1



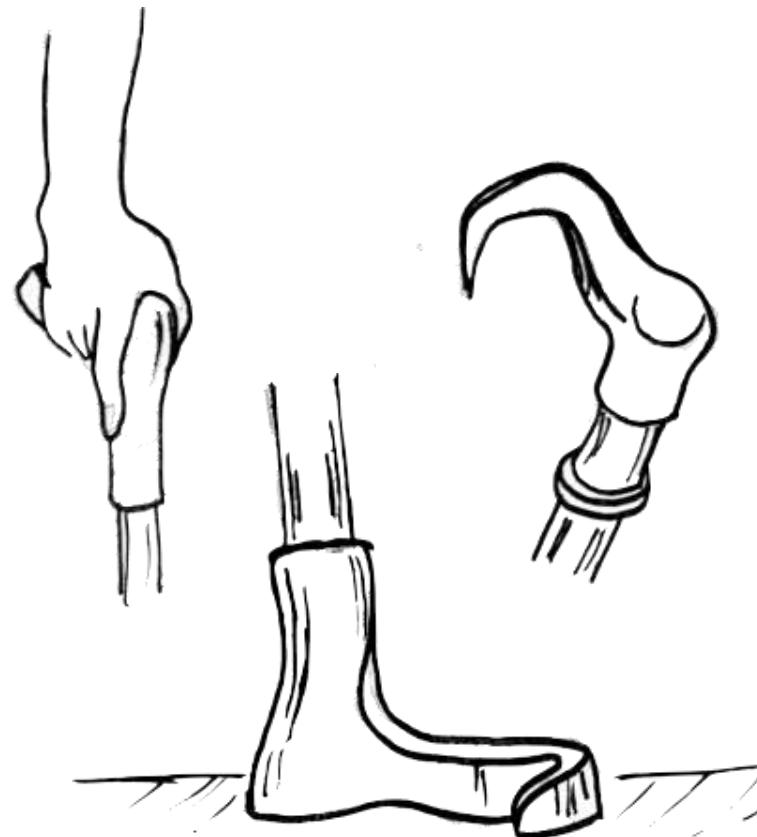
• Detachable magnetic cane segments





IDEA  
#2

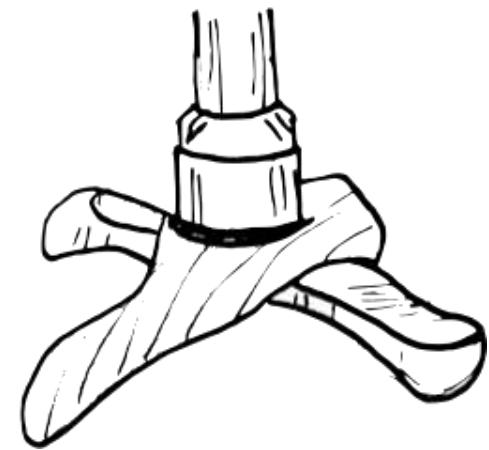
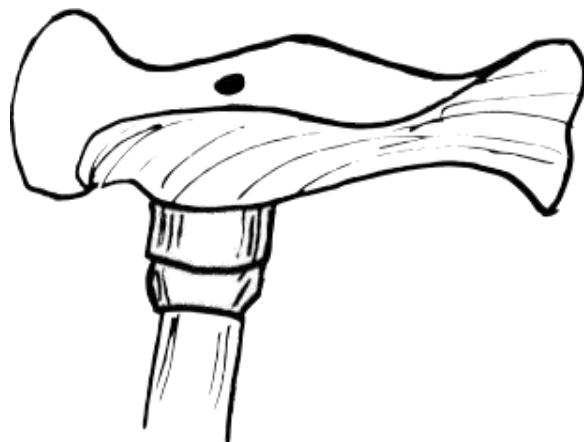
Ergonomic self-standing inverted handle



IDEA  
#3



Expandable handle





PROTOTYPE  
#1





PROTOTYPE  
#1

• • • • •

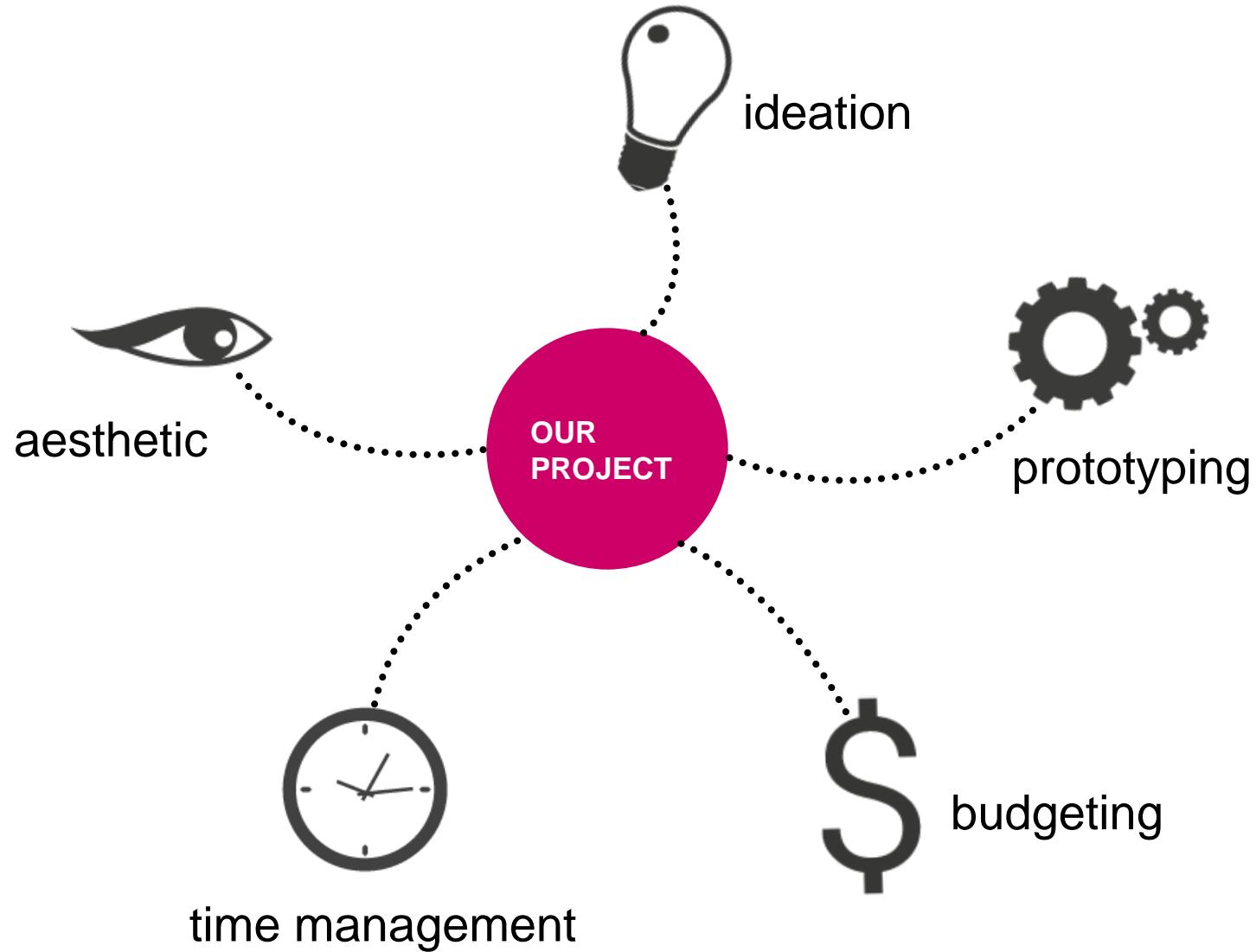




PROTOTYPE  
#1

• • • • •





# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



1  
introduction



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need-finding



3  
research



4  
our ideas



5  
future work

# E WORK

Winter  
quarter

## MAKING THE DESIGN FUNCTIONAL

- › Integrate the handle design and the collapsible shaft design
- › Have a functional prototype of a collapsible, ergonomic, and free standing cane by the end of the quarter

Spring  
quarter

## MAKING THE DESIGN ELEGANT

- › Explore ways to improve the aesthetic of the prototype
- › Manufacture the new design

Summer

## QUALITY CHECK

- › Usability test
- › Refinement

# THANK YOU

for your attention

?

# *Customize the Wheelchair*



**Team name:**

**Mia Davis**

**Project:** Explore ways to add a personal aesthetic to wheelchairs.

*Fini*

# Short Break

