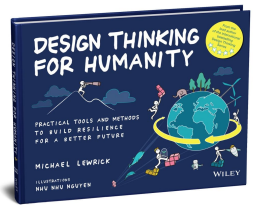
Project:
Team:
Version & Date:

Ladder of Inference



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Quick guide: The Ladder of Inference is a model illustrating how we climb from raw observed data to assumptions, beliefs, and finally action, often without noticing the leaps of logic along the way.

More tips & tricks on book page: 88

1 Deconstruct The Cognitive Rungs (bottom to top)

Deconstruct the cognitive rungs from bottom to top, identifying where the team filters data, applies subjective meanings, or develops assumptions.

[5] Take Action: *What concrete strategic choices or design interventions are we executing?*

[4] Form Conclusions: *What absolute convictions about the future system state have we locked in?*

[3] Develop Assumptions: *What unverified cognitive leaps did we introduce?*

[2] Affix Meaning: *What professional or subjective interpretations did we automatically apply?*

[1] Filter Data: *What specific data segments or industry signals did we notice while ignoring others?*

[0] Observable Pool: What are the pure, uninterpreted facts or fringe signals objectively available?

2 Map the Reflective Feedback Loop

Our deep convictions dictate which facts we choose to notice next. Dissect this loop: How are pre-existing group beliefs causing us to filter out valid, alternative signals or disruptive fringe data?

3 Climb Down: Re-ground Interventions

Challenge top-tier decisions. Step back down to base reality: What specific real-world facts are missing from our mental model? How do we adjust our parameters based on objective signals?

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