

# How can generative AI further students' modelling process?



Center for Computing Education Research



Louise Meier Carlsen  
Assistant Professor  
IT-University of Copenhagen  
loca@itu.dk

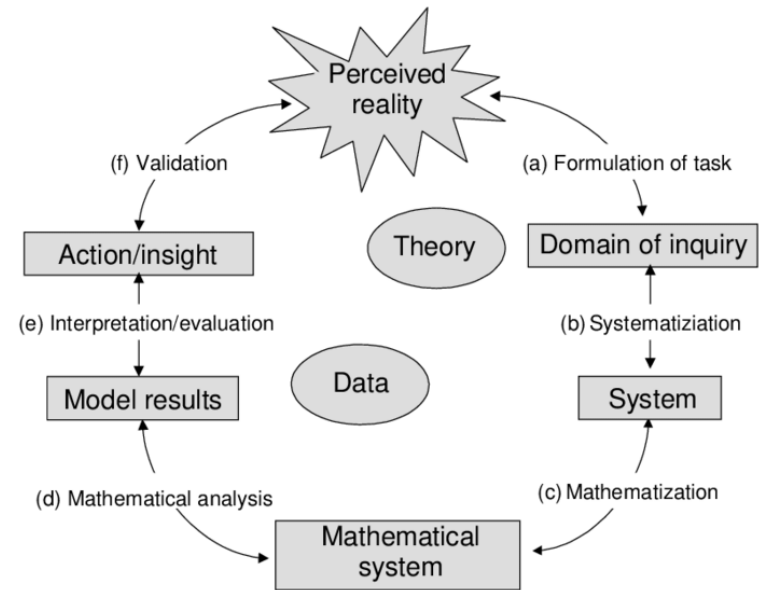
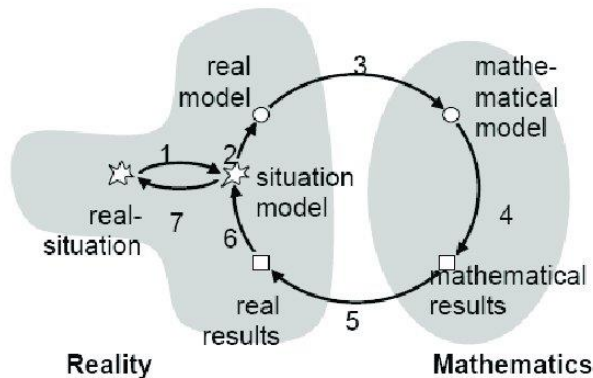
Britta Eyrich Jessen  
Tenure Track Assistant Professor  
Department of Science Education  
University of Copenhagen

# Agenda

1. Modelling and Frameworks
  - RQ
2. Designed Activity
3. A priori analysis
4. A posteriori analysis
  - The role of ChatGPT
5. Results

# 1: Modelling

1. Understanding the task
2. Simplifying/structuring
3. Mathematising
4. Working mathematically
5. Interpretation
6. Validation
7. Presenting



Question-driven process, where we can analyse the role of generative AI and its support of students' inquiry



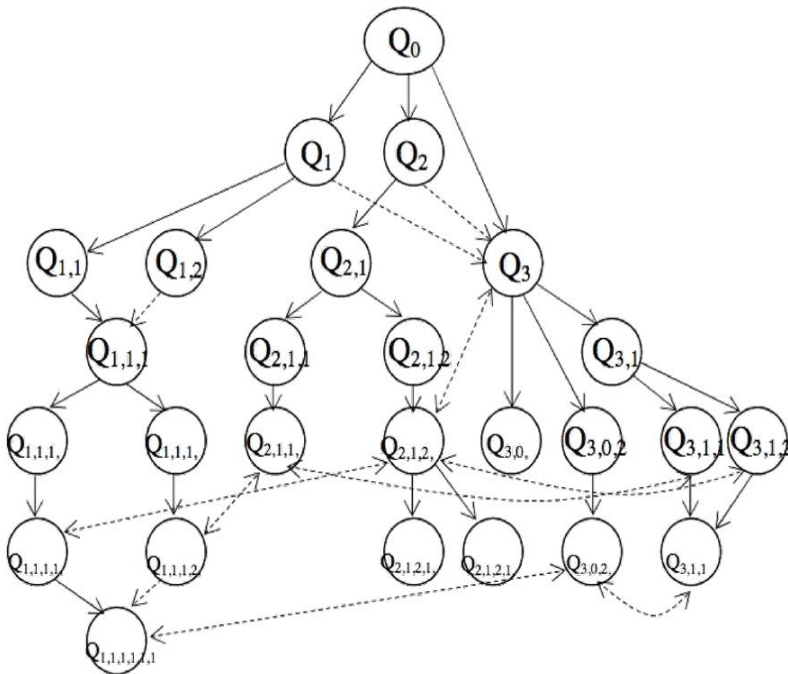
# 1: Modelling: Study and Research Process

## Theory:

The Anthropological Theory of Didactic (ATD)

## Framework:

Study and Research Paths (SRP)  
&  
Herbatian Schema



# 1: Modelling: Study and Research Process

Initiated by a *Generating Question*,  $Q_0$

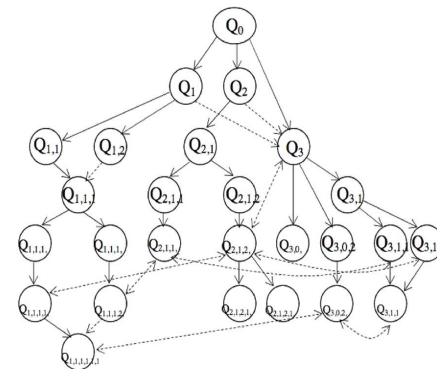
*Study*: acquire new knowledge from different sources i.e., textbooks, videos, existing models, etc.

*Research*: decompose and reconstruct the new knowledge to give partial answers to  $Q_0$

Example:

$Q_0$ : "Are boys better at math than girls?"

Study: Study a model to analyse the data set, study how to apply the model, etc.



# 1: Modelling: The Herbartian Schema

$$[S(X;Y;Q) \Rightarrow M] \Rightarrow A \heartsuit$$

**S**: the Didactical System

**X**: a group of learners

**Y**: someone to guide the process

**M**: Milieu

**A $\heartsuit$** : Personal answer

**A $_i^\diamond$** : existing answers or knowledge

**W $_i$** : works

**D $_i$** : Data

$$M = \{ A_1^\diamond, A_2^\diamond, \dots, A_n^\diamond, W_1, W_2, \dots, W_m, D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n \}$$

How does ChatGPT enrich the milieu?

## 2: Designed Activity

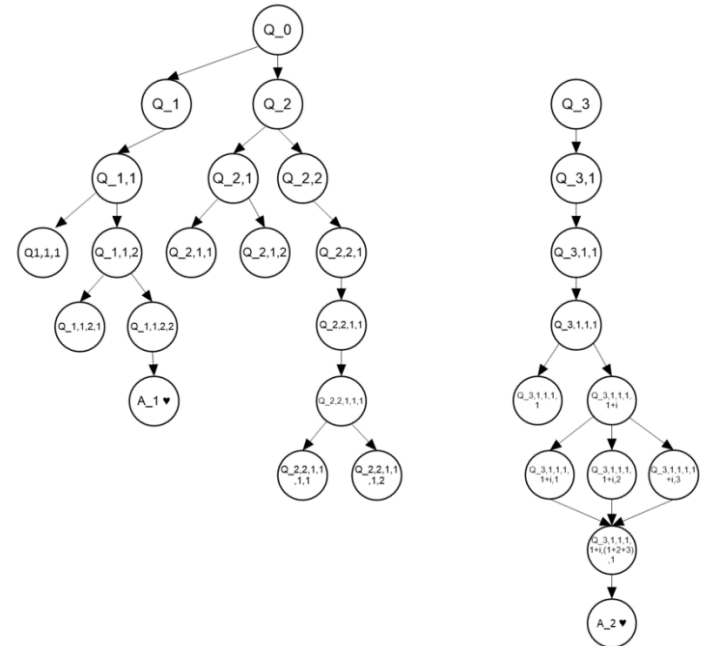
2'nd week in the course  
Applied Statistics (15  
ECTS) for 2'nd semester  
data science bachelor  
students

$Q_0$ : Design a study that  
aims at answering the  
question “Are boys better  
at math than girls?”

Hand in 5 pages + logbook  
of questions and resources

$Q_3$ : What does the  
following data set say  
about “Are boys better at  
math than girls?”

Hand in 10 pages +  
logbook of questions and  
resources



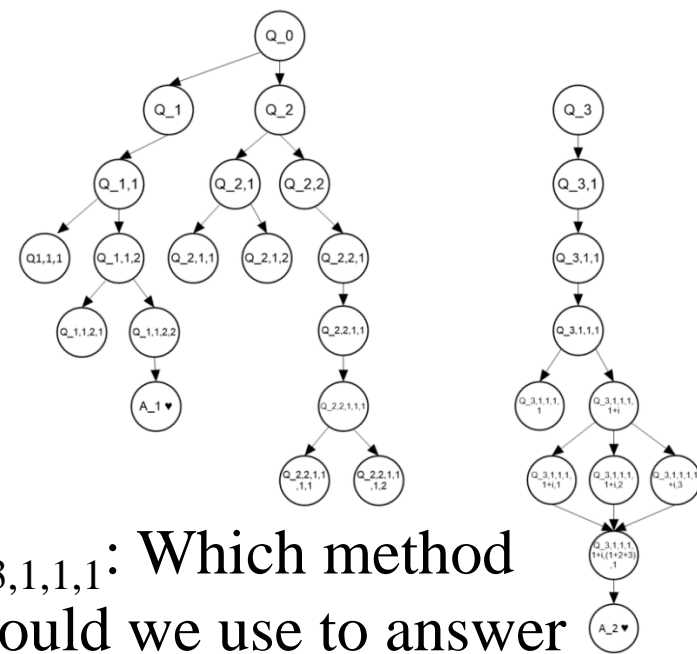
# 3: A priori analysis

Data set: all given grades in written mathematics A-level, and the sex of the student in the year 2019.  
(10.000+ data points)

before applying a statistical test assumptions must be met and the research question as well as context should be considered

$Q_{3,1,1,1,1+i,1,3}$ : Can the method answer  $Q_{3,1,1}$

$Q_{3,1,1,1,1+i,2}$ : Is the method appropriate for the context of our



$Q_{3,1,1,1,1}$ : What is the distribution of our data set?

$Q_{3,1,1,1,1+i,1}$ : Are the assumptions of the method fulfilled

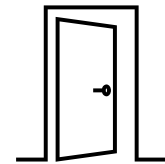


# 3:Posteriori

## How does ChatGPT enrich the milieu?

$Q_1$ : “what kind of approaches are there to conduct a statistical analysis on a data set about grades?”

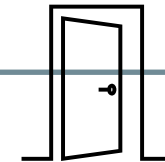
descriptive statistics, data visualisation, inferential statistics, regression analysis, multivariate analysis, longitudinal analysis, cluster analysis, machine learning, survival analysis and text analysis



works to be studied:  $W_1, W_2, W_3, \dots, W_{10}$

$Q_{1,1}$ : “expand on inferential statistics”,

hypothesis testing, confidence interval, sample distribution, central limit theorem, type I and type II errors, power analysis, effect size and assumptions

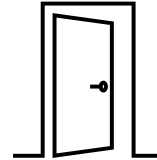


new works,  $W_{11}, \dots, W_{20}$

### 3: Posteriori How does ChatGPT enrich the milieu?

$Q_{1,1,1}$ : “how do I go about hypothesis testing”

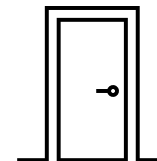
formulate hypotheses, select a significant level, choose test statistics, etc.



w\_23: “test statistic depends on the type of data and the hypothesis being tested. Common test statistics include t-test, z-test,  $\chi^2$ -test, ANOVA, etc.”



Null hypothesis: definition directly applicable to data set.



works to be studied:  
 $W_{21}, W_{22}, \dots, W_{30}$

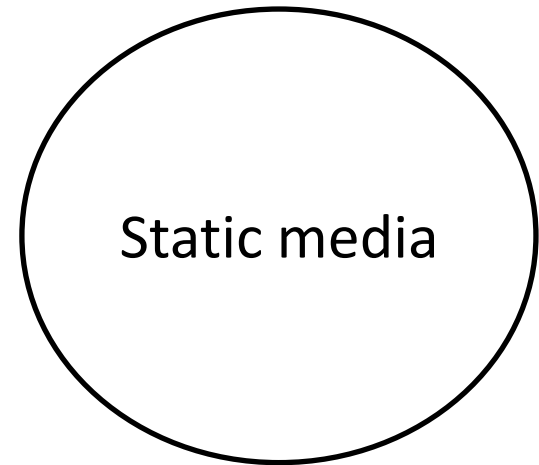
## What did the students not use ChatGPT for?

$Q_2$  :“What can a bootstrap analysis be used for?”

$Q_{2,1}$  :“How to perform it?”

$Q_{2,2}$  : How to “conclude on bootstrap analysis, the importance of confidence intervals”

$Q_{2,3}$  : “What are the shortcomings of a bootstrap analysis”



# 4: Result

ChatGPT is used for both broad domains to be studied but also provides definitions.

YouTube videos and webpages enrich the milieu with concrete techniques and methods to be used.

Nudging the continuous questioning done by students

Productive to engage university students in stochastic simulations

Some students were reluctant to go beyond their existing knowledge

Let us ask more complex questions to be studied by the students

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Videos introducing the Anthropological Theory of Didactic

<https://www.mathunion.org/icmi/awards/amor/yves-chevallard-unit>

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