



**ENGINEERING OUR FUTURE**

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*Dean and Professor*

[www.eng.mcmaster.ca](http://www.eng.mcmaster.ca)



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THERE'S REASON TO BE  
HOPEFUL

“He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches.”

–George Bernard Shaw

AT MAC, WE  
ASK



# AT MAC, WE ASK

Should engineers and educators lag  
technology and society?





# AT MAC, WE ASK

Should engineers and educators lag  
technology and society? **NO**





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Should engineers and educators lag  
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Should engineers anticipate advances  
and prepare to create a beneficial  
future?



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How should engineering education  
evolve?





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Should engineers anticipate advances  
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future? **YES**

How should engineering education  
evolve?

**THAT'S THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION**



UNIVERSITIES LEAD THE WAY IN INNOVATION —  
BOTH IN THE CLASSROOM AND THROUGH  
RESEARCH:  
WE DON'T REINFORCE SHAW'S FAMOUS DICTUM

# GLOBAL NEEDS

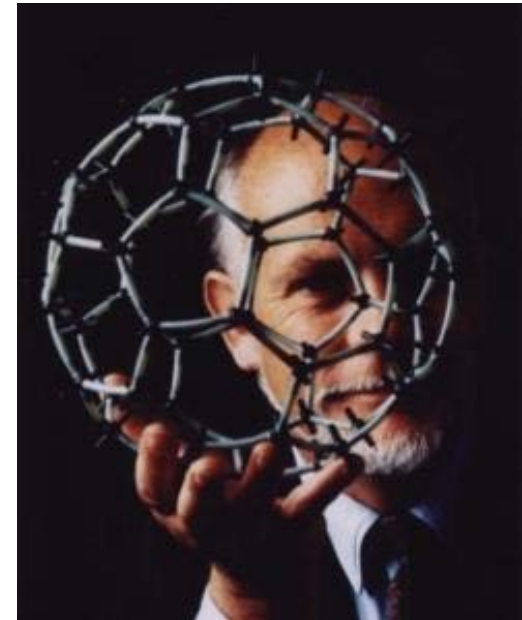


*Over 2002 and 2003, Professor Richard E. Smalley, 1996 Nobel Laureate for Chemistry, developed a list of the Top Ten Problems Facing Humanity over the next 50 Years*



# GLOBAL NEEDS

- Energy



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# GLOBAL NEEDS

- Energy
- Water



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# GLOBAL NEEDS

- Energy
- Water
- Food



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# GLOBAL NEEDS

- Energy
- Water
- Food
- Environment



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# GLOBAL NEEDS

- Energy
- Water
- Food
- Environment
- Poverty



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# GLOBAL NEEDS

- Energy
- Water
- Food
- Environment
- Poverty
- Terrorism & War



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# GLOBAL NEEDS

- Energy
- Water
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- Disease



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- Disease
- Education
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- Population



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# U.S. NAE GRAND CHALLENGES

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- I. Make solar energy  
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2. Provide energy from fusion

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5. Provide access to clean water



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5. Provide access to clean water
6. Restore and improve urban infrastructure

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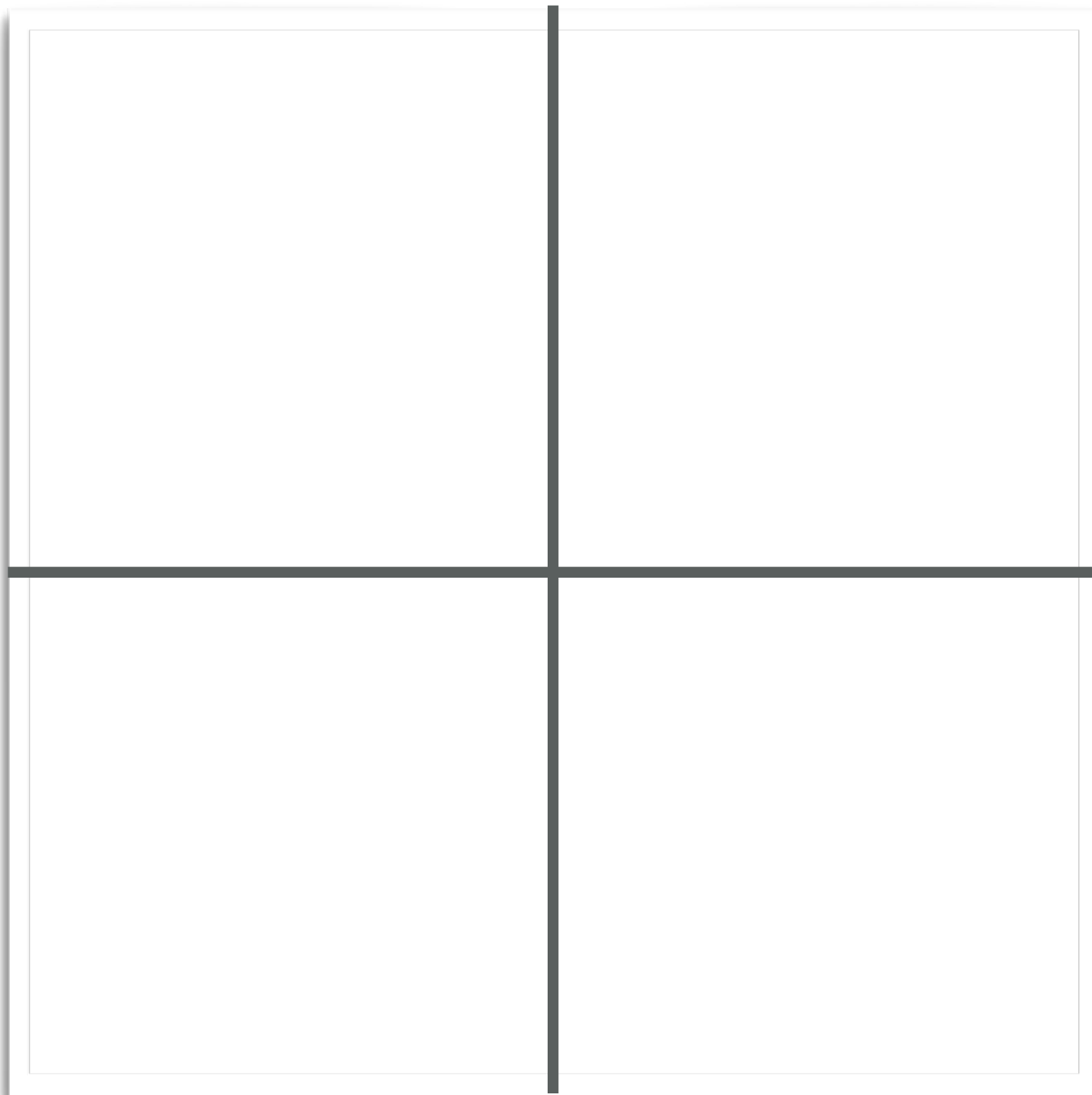
12. Enhance virtual reality

## ICT

13. Advance personalized learning

14. Engineer the tools of scientific discovery

**LET'S BACK UP A LITTLE BIT**



Bohr: Curiosity-driven  
fundamental discovery

*Advancement of knowledge*

High

<p>Bohr: Curiosity-driven fundamental discovery</p>	

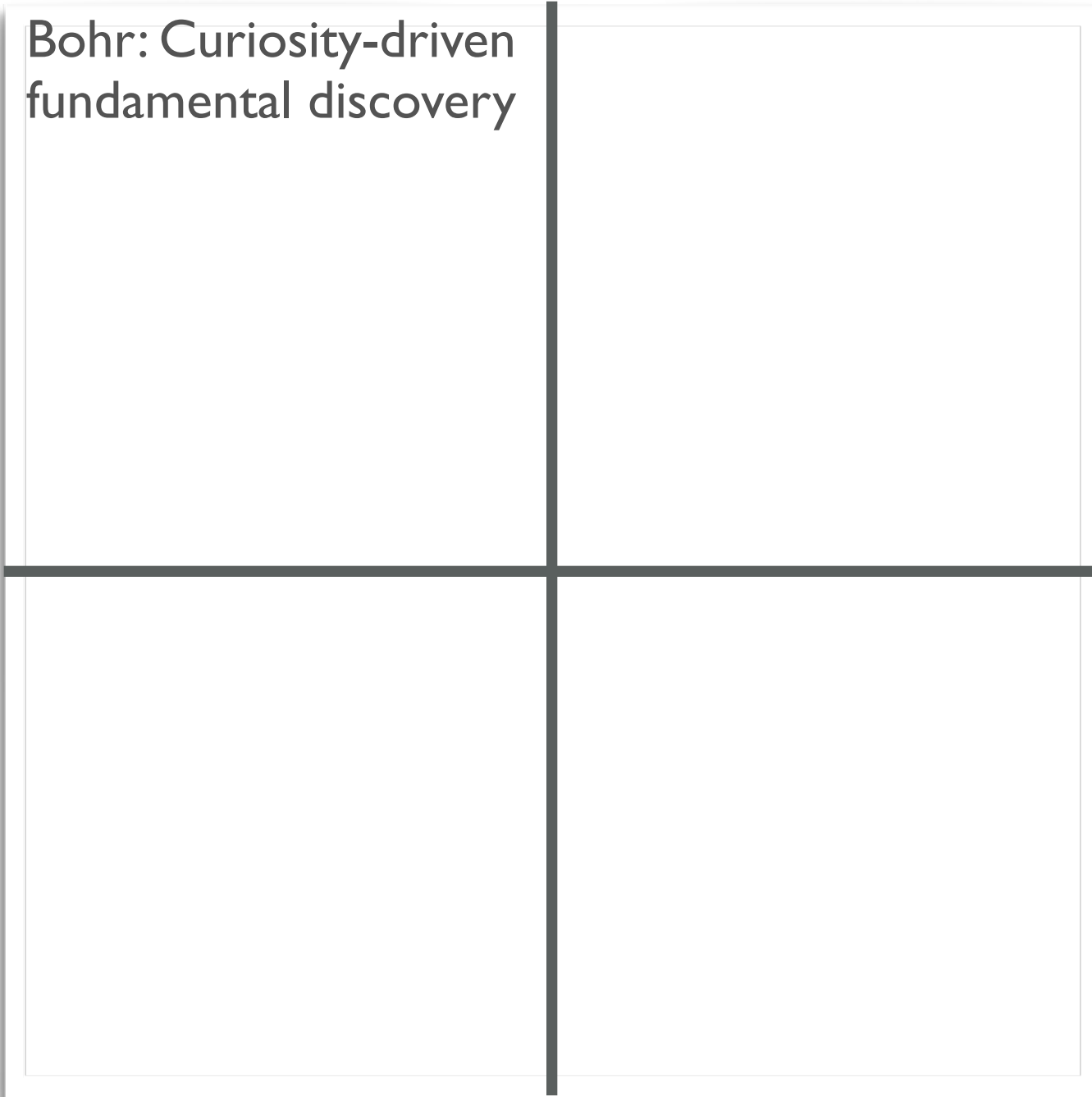


*Advancement of knowledge*

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Bohr: Curiosity-driven  
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Low *Immediate application*



Advancement of knowledge

High

Bohr: Curiosity-driven  
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Pasteur: Use inspired  
fundamental discovery

Low *Immediate application*

Advancement of knowledge

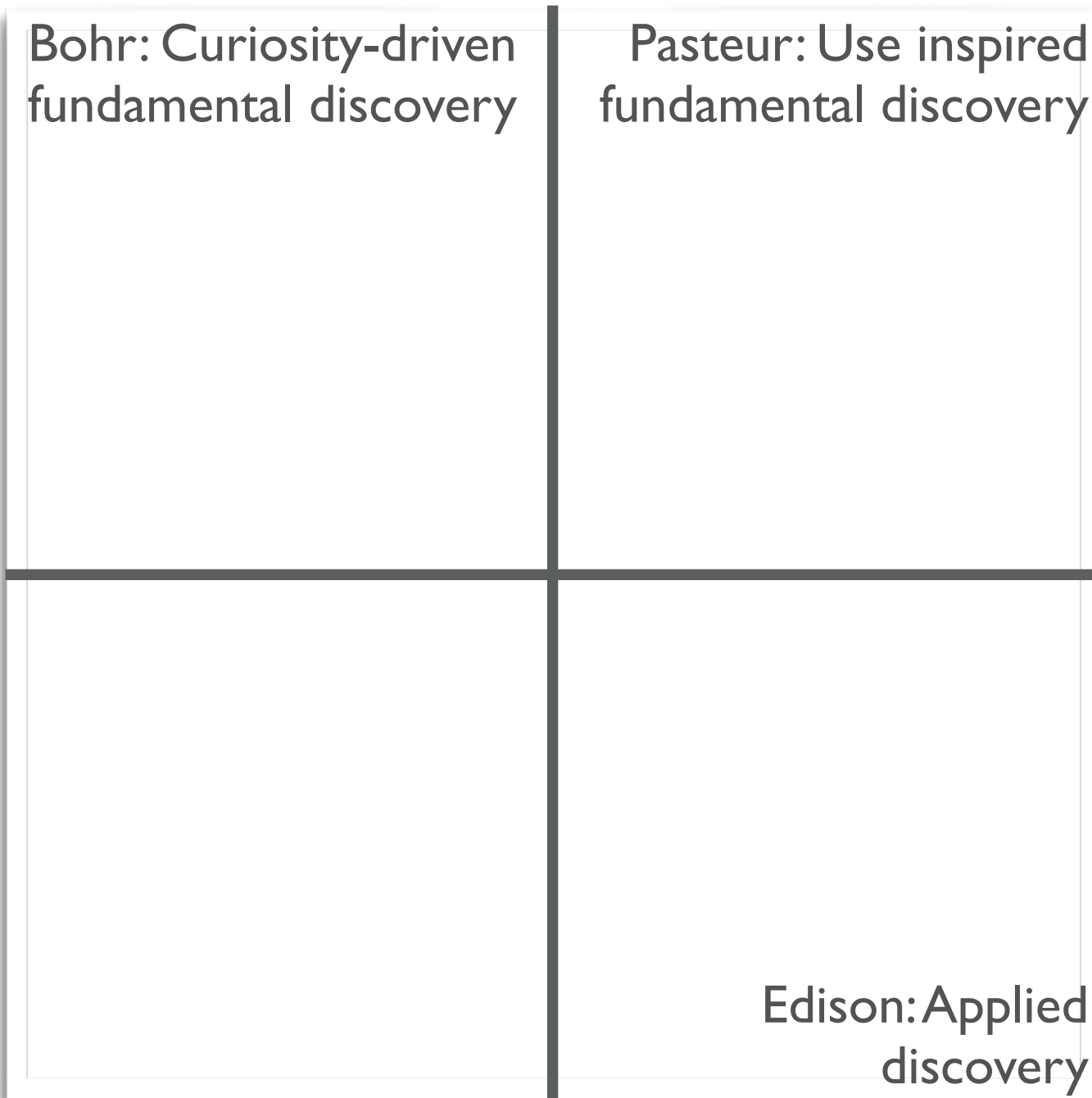
High

Bohr: Curiosity-driven  
fundamental discovery

Pasteur: Use inspired  
fundamental discovery

Low *Immediate application* High

Advancement of knowledge  
High



Low *Immediate application* High

Advancement of knowledge

High

Bohr: Curiosity-driven  
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Pasteur: Use inspired  
fundamental discovery

Low

Edison: Applied  
discovery

Low *Immediate application* High

Advancement of knowledge

High

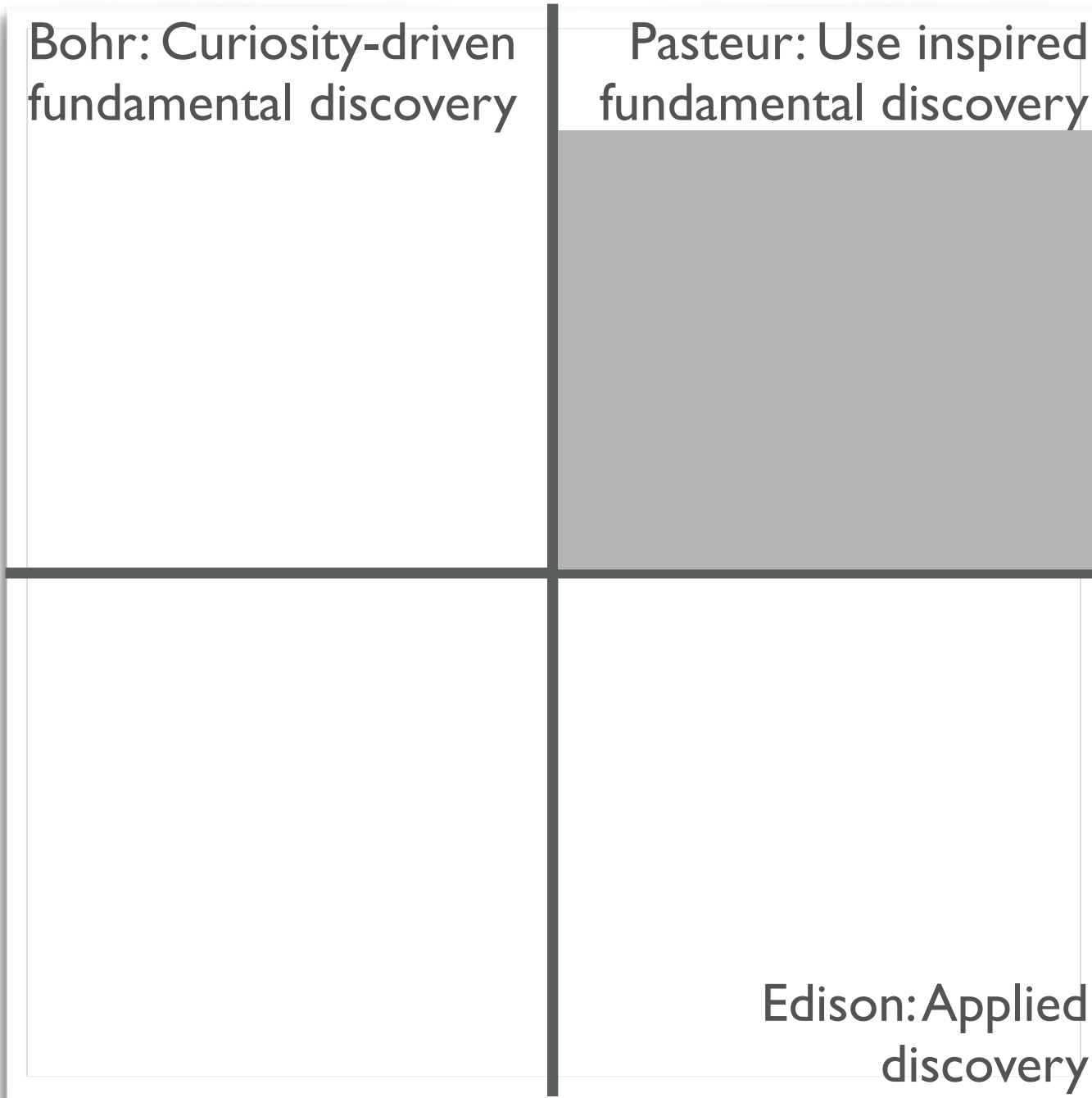
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Low

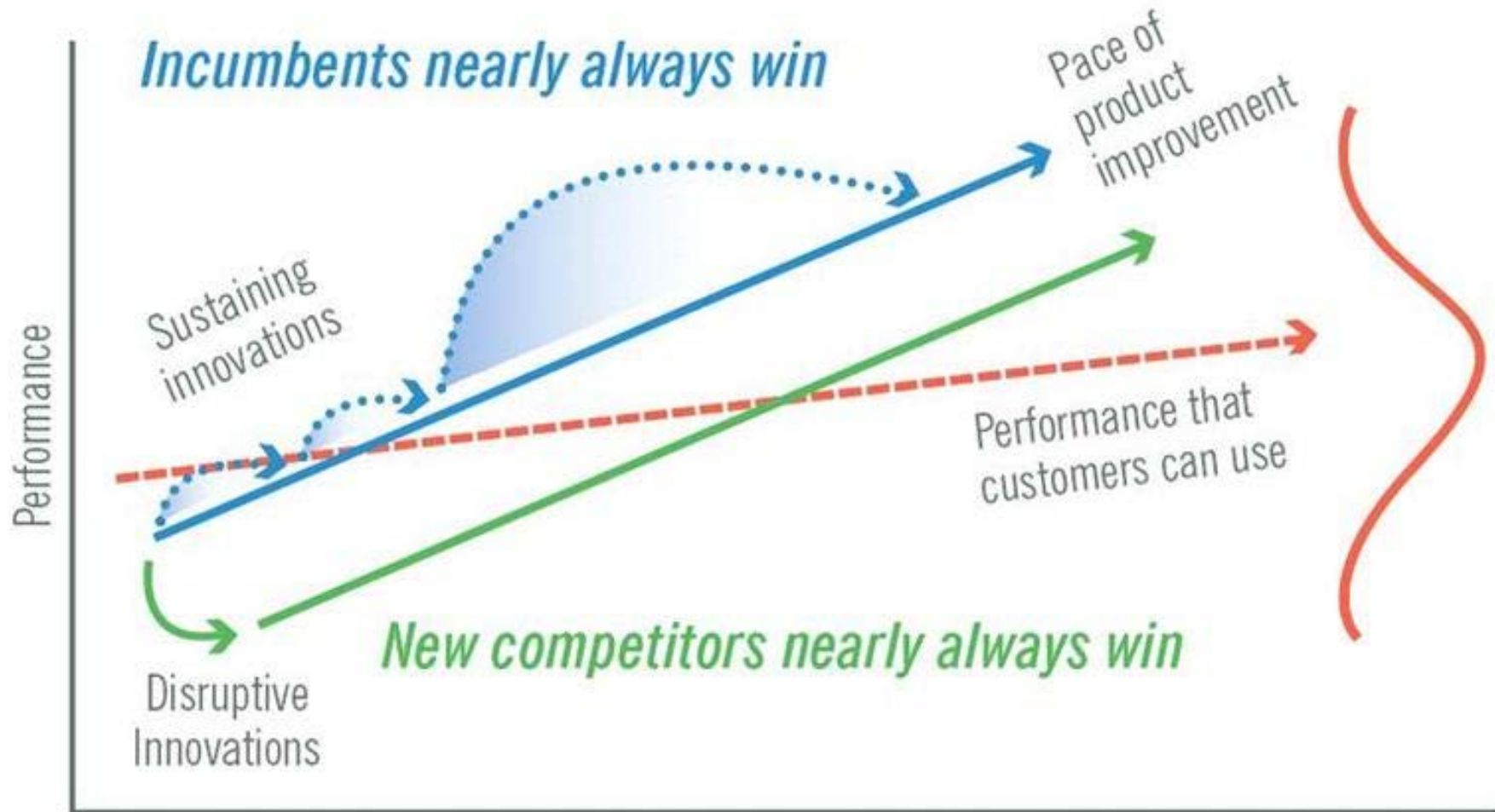
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WHAT DOES USEFUL MEAN?

# DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION

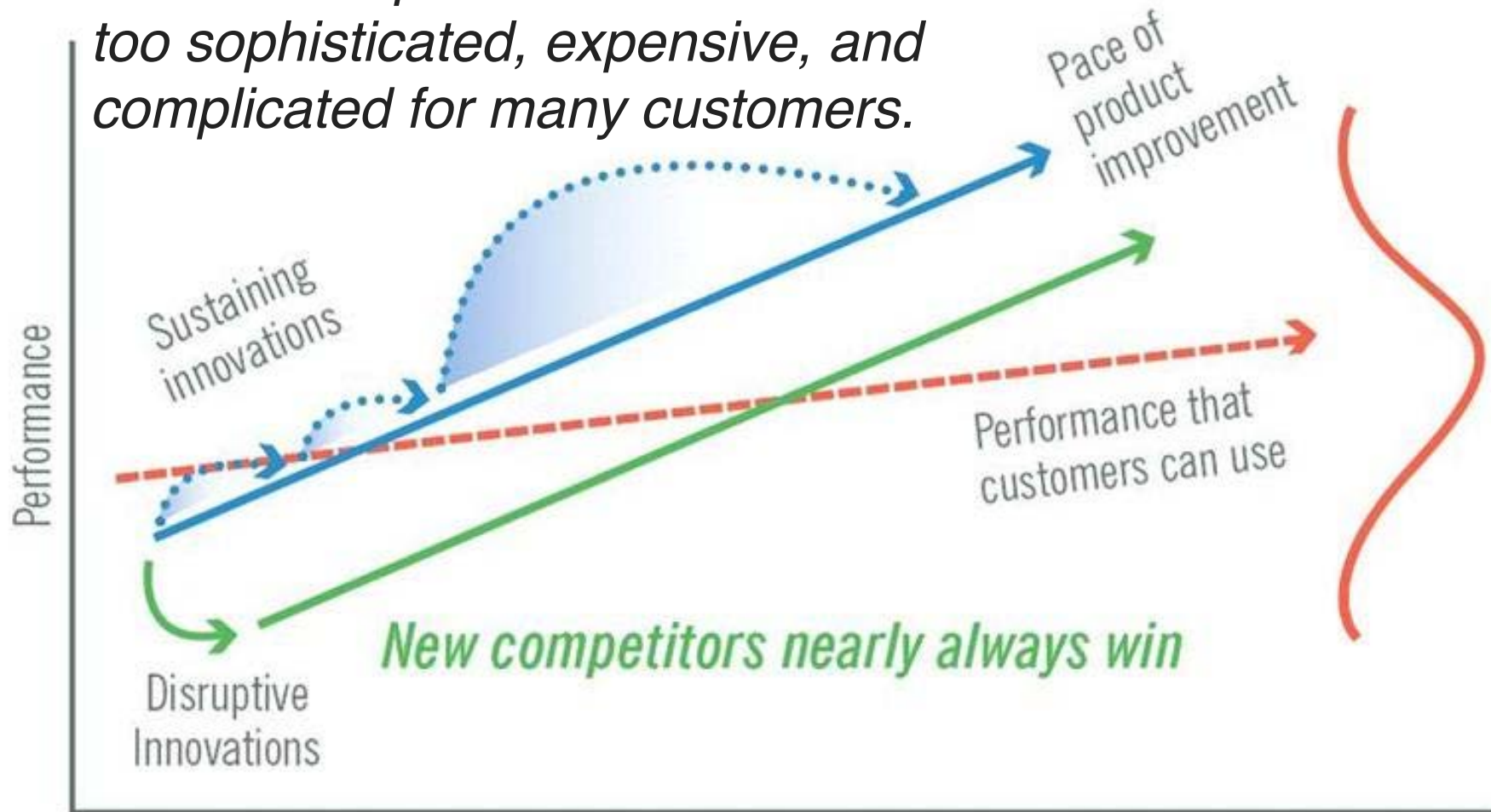


Source: Clayton Christensen, *The Innovators Solution*



# DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION

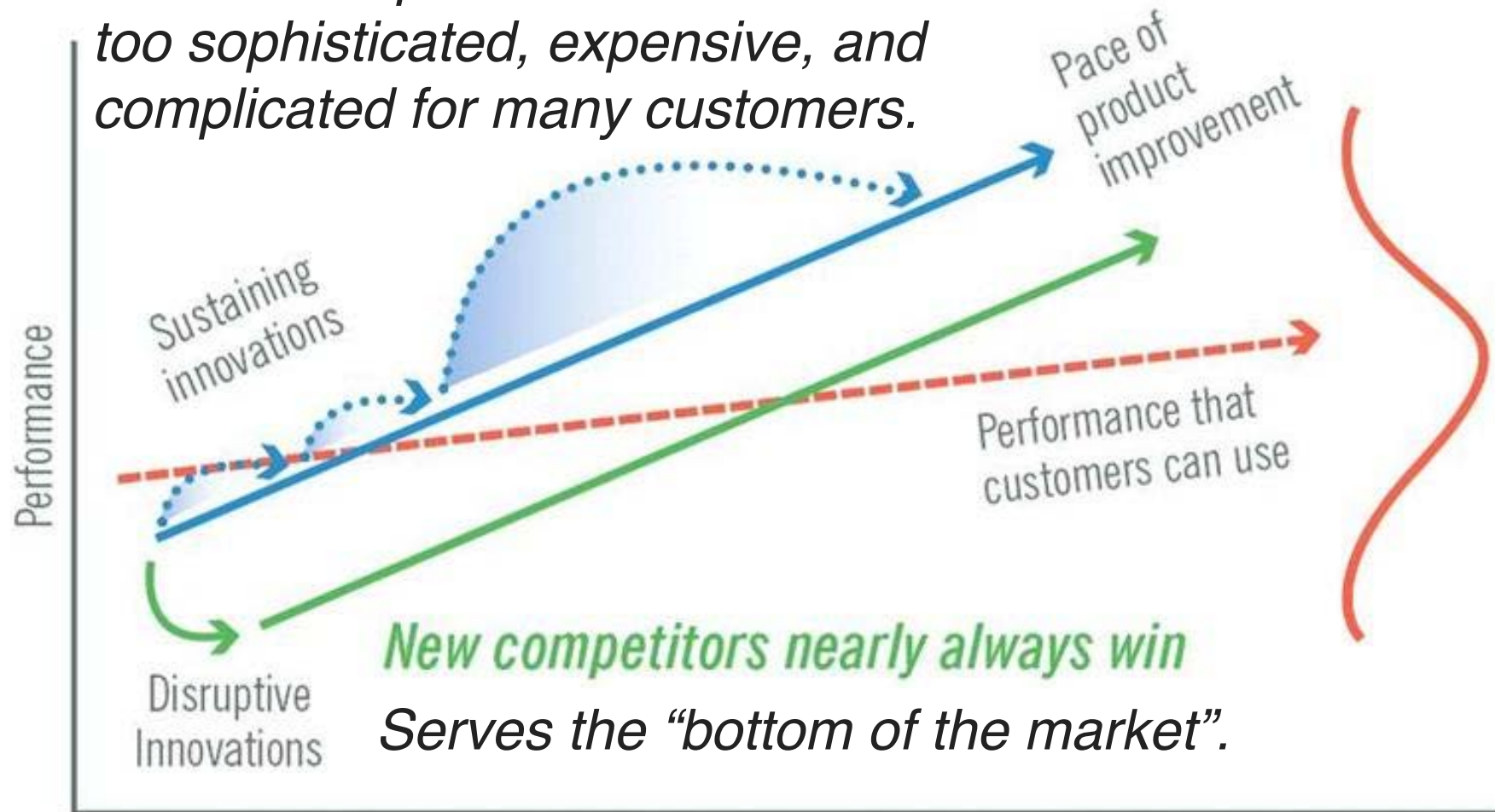
*Innovations produce stuff that is too sophisticated, expensive, and complicated for many customers.*



**Source: Clayton Christensen, *The Innovators Solution***

# DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION

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# EXAMPLES OF DISRUPTION

<i>Disruptor</i>	<i>Disrupted</i>
Personal computers	Mainframe and mini computers
Mini mills	Integrated steel mills
Cellular phones	Fixed line telephony
Community colleges	Four-year universities
Discount retailers	Full-service department stores
Retail medical clinics	Traditional doctor's offices
Internet retailers	Bricks and mortar retailers

— Clayton Christensen

# PI-SHAPED GRADUATES

Interdisciplinary thinking



Depth in discipline

Learn to innovate

**WHAT'S A POSSIBLE  
EMERGING DISRUPTION?**

# INTERNET OF THINGS (*CISCO*)

- Twenty five billion devices connected to the Internet by 2015 and fifty billion by 2020 (*Cisco*).
- Will drive \$14.4 trillion in value for companies and industries worldwide in the next decade.

# INTERNET OF THINGS (*INTEL*)

- Fifteen billion embedded devices connected to the Internet by 2015 (*Intel*).
- Intelligent embedded devices will connect with larger computing systems, and to each other, without human intervention.

# INTERNET OF THINGS (*ERICSSON*)

- By 2020
  - Three billion subscribers buying information 24/7 basis with 5-10 connected devices each.
  - 1.5 billion vehicles globally, not counting trams and railways.
  - 3 billion utility meters (electricity, water and gas).
  - Hundred billion processors shipped, capable of processing information and communicating.



# INTERNET OF THINGS (*MCKINSEY GLOBAL INSTITUTE*)

- The largest impacts would be in health care and manufacturing.
- Across health-care applications, economic impact of \$1.1 trillion to \$2.5 trillion per year by 2025.

WHAT'S THE HOLD UP?

# INTERNET OF THINGS

## *(ARTHUR D. LITTLE)*

- The industry is scattered today.
  - Diverse types of hardware, software and service players populate fragmented value chain.
- For market to take off, innovative players must take the lead to spread easy-to-use and affordable smart solutions, just as Apple's iPhone revolutionized and built the smartphone market.

# (SOME) GRAND CHALLENGES

1. Energy consumption.
2. Secure physical assets.
3. Configuration and connectivity.
4. Standardized interfaces.
5. Instrumentation and feedback.
6. Data security and privacy.
7. Governance, accountability, legislation and jurisdiction.

EDUCATE ENGINEERS TO  
ALSO BE INTEGRATORS WHO  
CONCEPTUALIZE SYSTEMS

# PI-SHAPED EDUCATION

Systems integration



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