

# Team-Knowledge-Model



Introduction & Experience Report, LeSS Conference  
2022

Mark Bregenzner

# My Background

## Self-employed

Organizational Design Coach, Agile Software Development Scaling Expert



## Agile Experience:

- Certified LeSS Trainer 2015
- Scaling Scrum Fundamentals, Scrum Alliance 2015
- Certified LeSS Practitioner 2015
- Certified Scaled Agile Program Consultant 2014
- Agile Coach since 2009, at Valtech since 2011
- Certified Scrum-Master since 2007

## Software development Experience:

Since 1997 as developer, lead developer, subproject leader, technical Coach...

## Business Areas:

Telecommunication, automotive, insurance, retail and e-commerce

[www.bregenzer.eu](http://www.bregenzer.eu)



## **Agenda**

### **Team-Knowledge-Model Introduction**

Motivation, Foundation & Purpose

What is Flow?

The Team-Knowledge-Model

How to...

### **Experiences**

Two Real Life examples

Initial & Follow-up Models

Team Learnings

### **Tips & Pitfalls**

General Learnings on How to Introduce And Use The TKM

### **Q & A**





# Team-Knowledge-Model Introduction





A young child is shown in profile, wearing a dark flight suit with a light-colored striped shirt underneath. They have aviator goggles on their forehead and are looking off to the side. The background is a blurred landscape of mountains and trees under a bright sky. A dark blue horizontal bar is positioned across the lower part of the image, containing the text.

# Motivation, Foundation & Purpose

# High-Performing Teams



How to scale-up the performance of a team?

Improving knowledge and skills.

In addition to the social  
development of the team.

# Ability to Scale is Key For High Performance

Four Team states according to their ability to scale:

- scaling potential
- scaling state
- scaling impediment
- scaling progress

**Successful scaling demands continuous know-how and skill building for (all) team members.**



# A Team is a Learning Community

**Members share, dare, and take care of each other...**  
**...and have fun at work!**

# The Team Owns Its Development Process

Often facing these questions and challenges:

- How to cope with learning and being productive simultaneously?
- How to see who is the expert, and who needs help?
- How to focus on which direction a team develops?
- How to combine individual and team targets?

**The Team Knowledge Model, based on the “Flow Model”,  
can deliver some answers.**

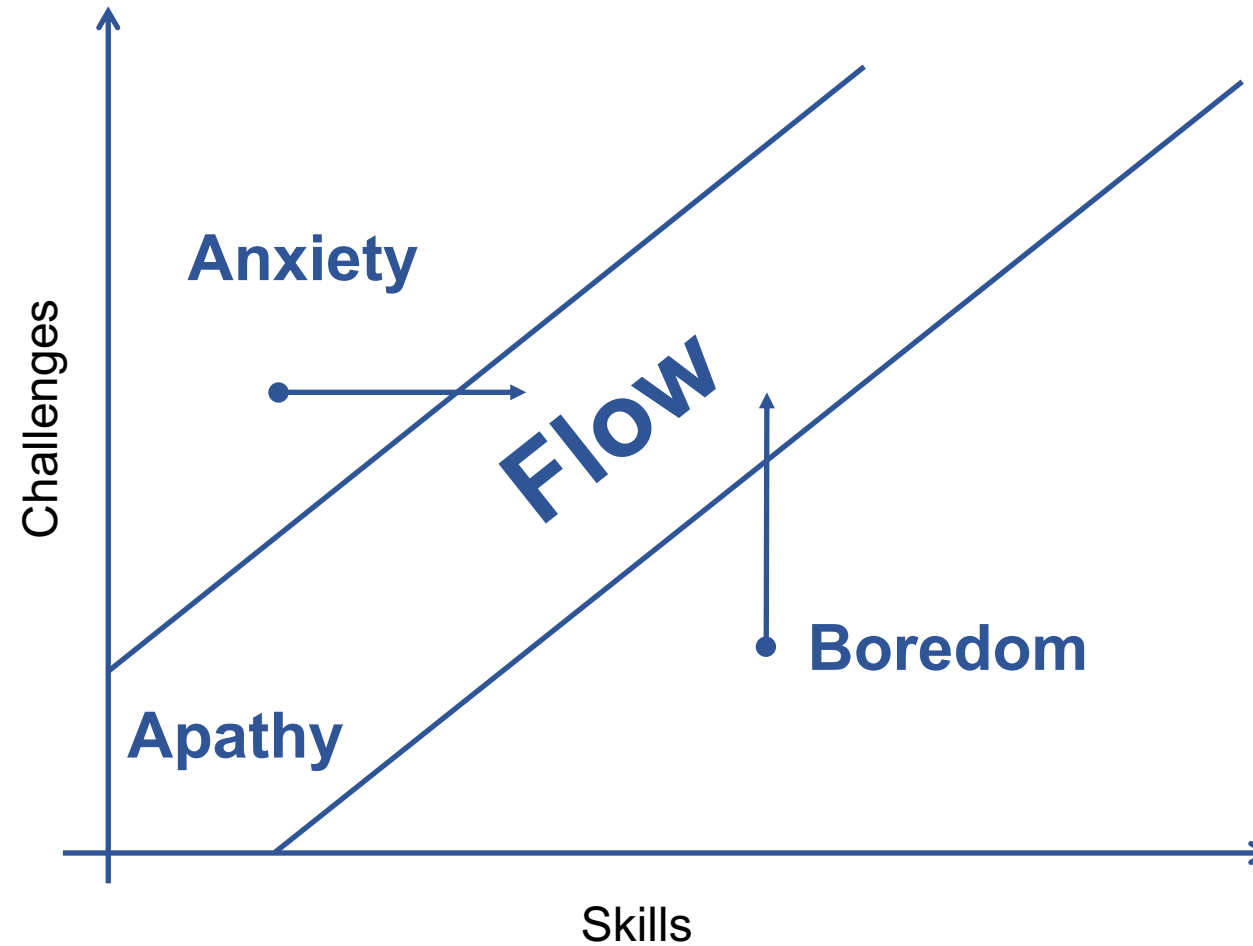




# The Flow Model



# The Flow Model (Mihály Csikszentmihalyi)



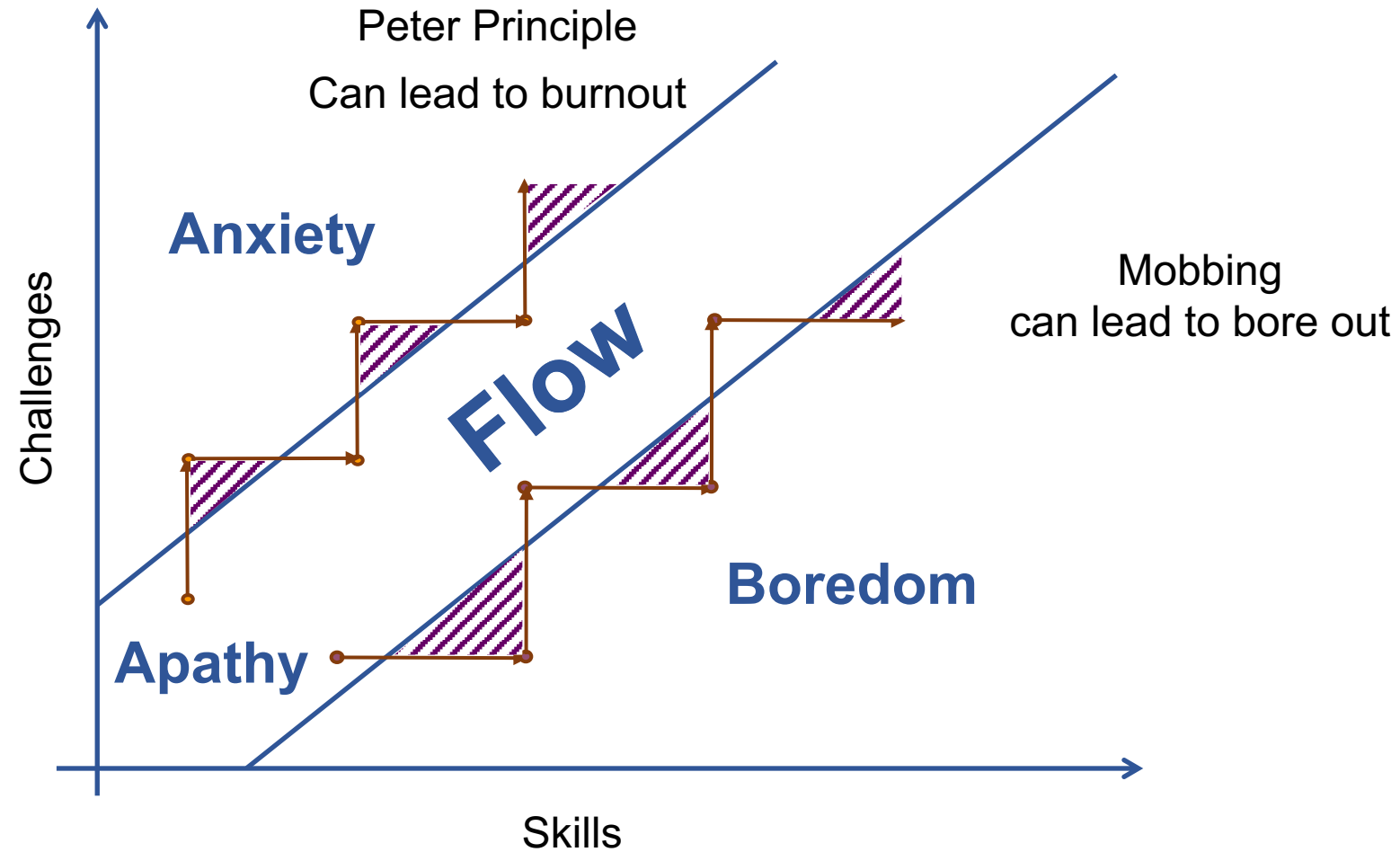
...what is the flow?

The flow in the world of working means the balance between requirements/challenges and skills.

You are in the flow, if you can say:

I've got interesting and challenging work.  
I'm working smoothly with unbroken continuity,  
as in the manner characteristic of a fluid!

# Learning at the edge of the flow (Joseph Pelrine)







# The Team-Knowledge-Model (TKM)

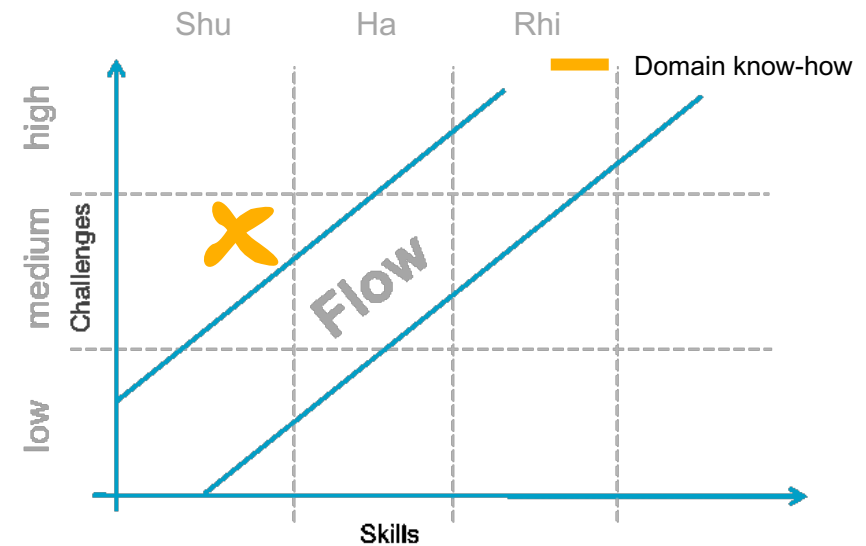
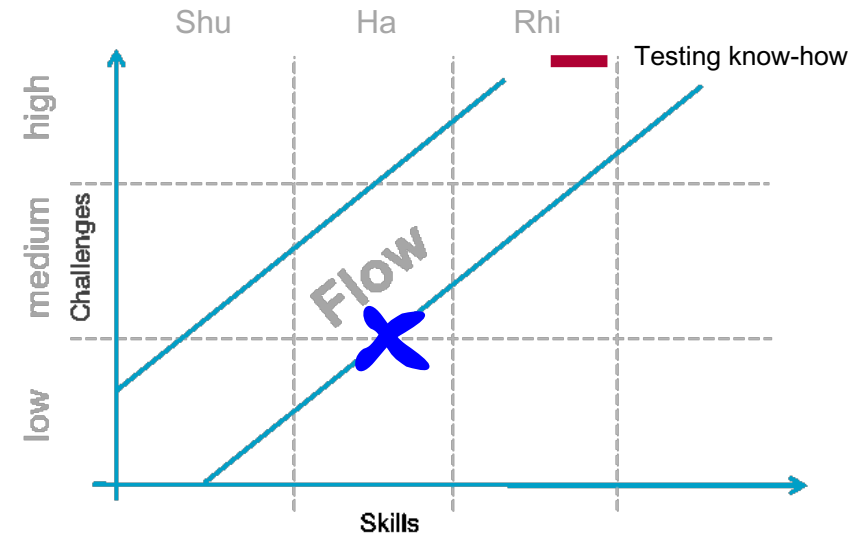
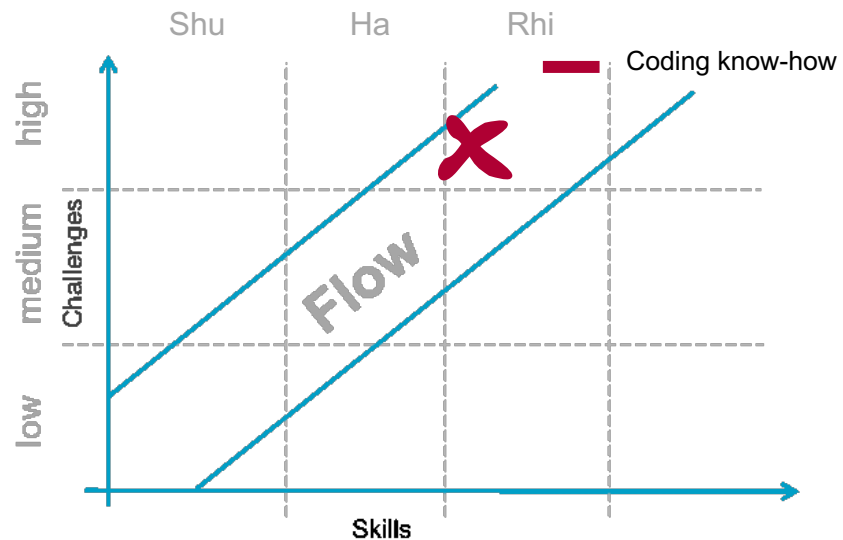
# Tracking Velocity is Not Enough!

## The Team Knowledge Model visualizes...

- the knowledge distribution within the team (scaling potential)
- balance of challenges and skills (scaling state)
- lack of knowledge in the team (scaling impediment)
- knowledge development over time (scaling progress)

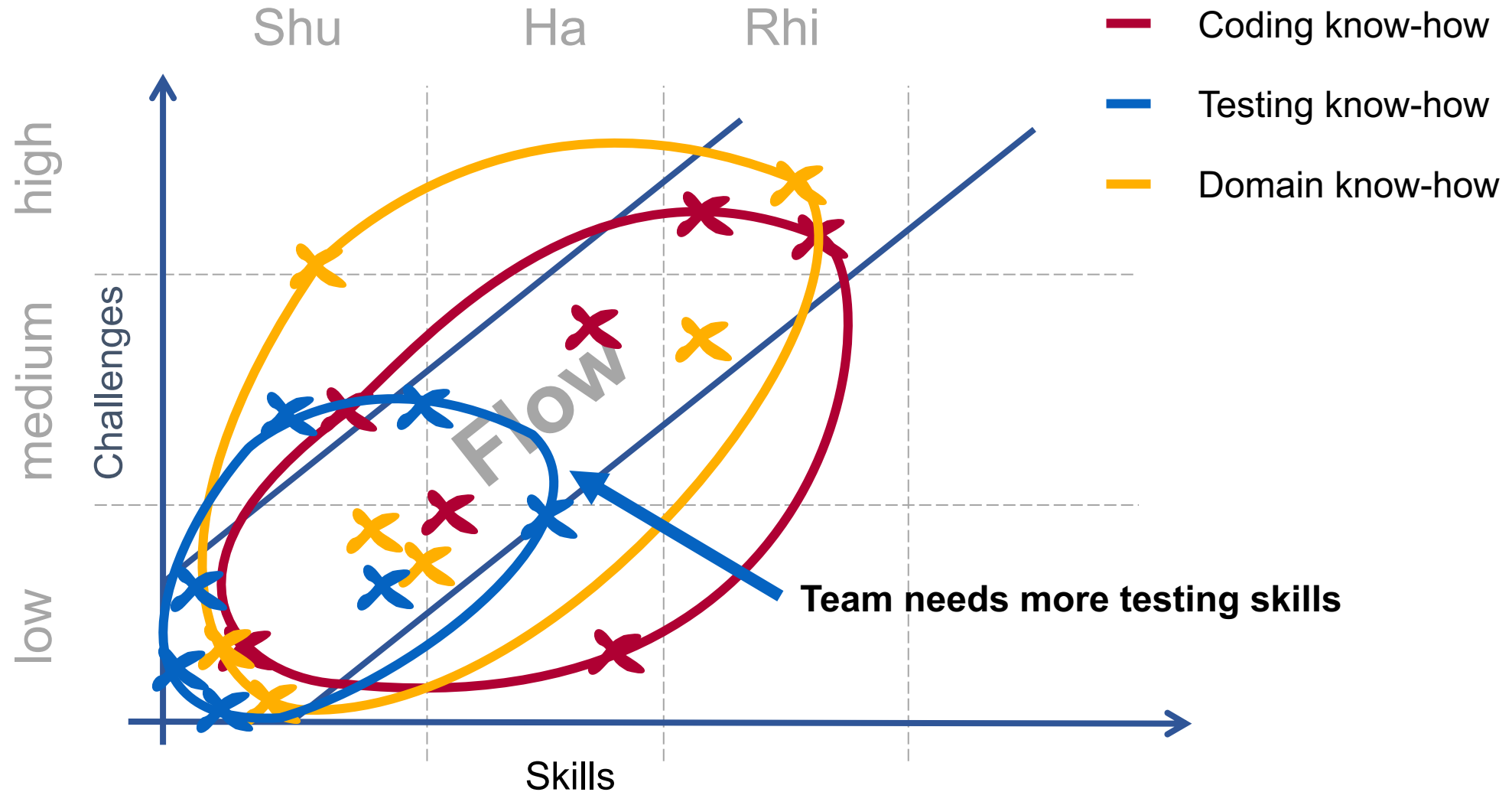
# TKM: How to Start

- Individual
- Independent
- Self-estimate





# TKM: Starting point

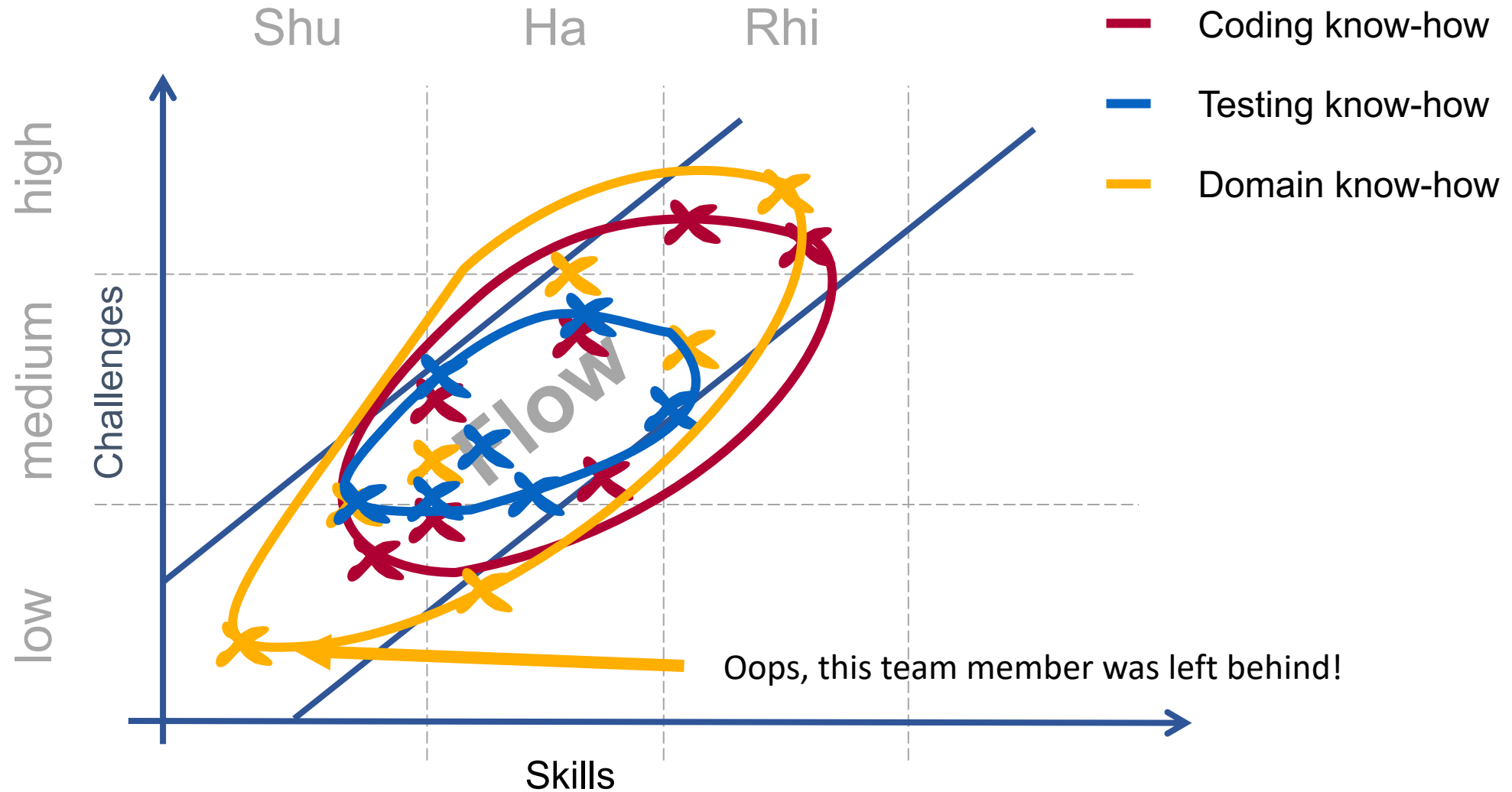


# TKM: Working on results

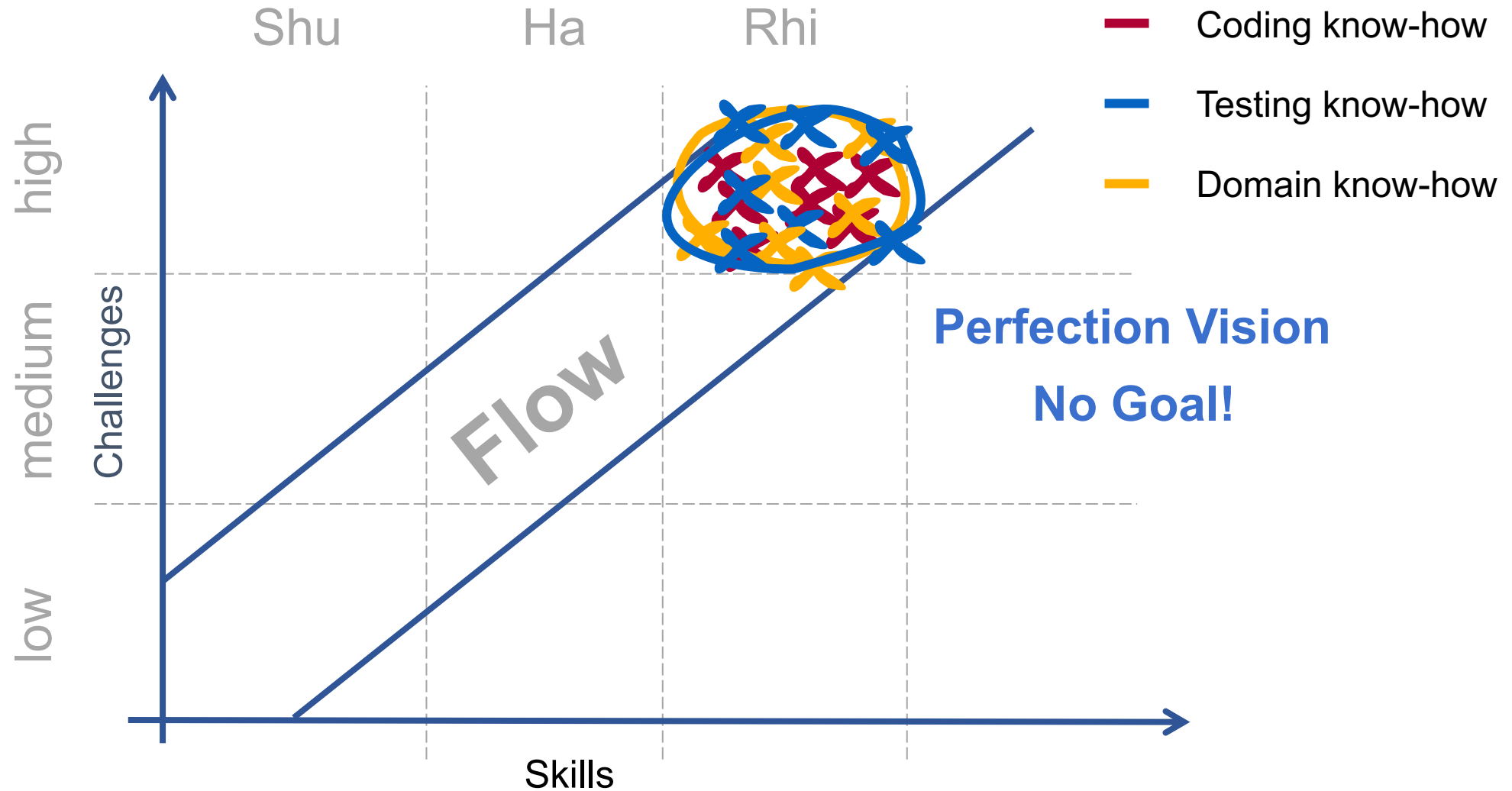
Improvement of team knowledge is a team target

- Find concrete measures
- Identify pairs for learning
- Agree on the schedule for the update of the TKM

# TKM: Progress



# TKM: Ideal world



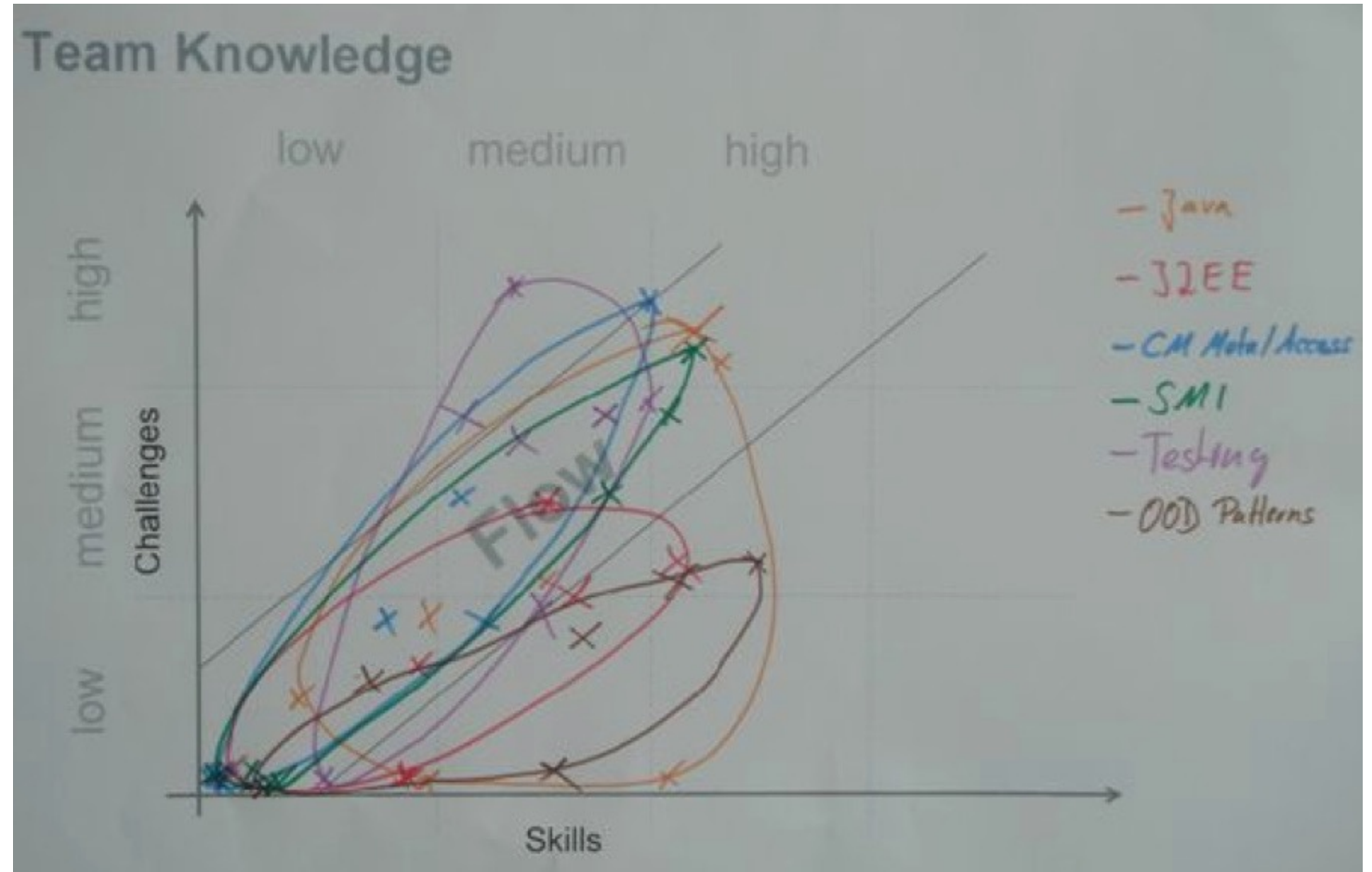


# Experiences, Real Life Examples

# TKM Example of a Real Team

This chart was created during the first team-building workshop.

Team setup with newbies and experienced employees.





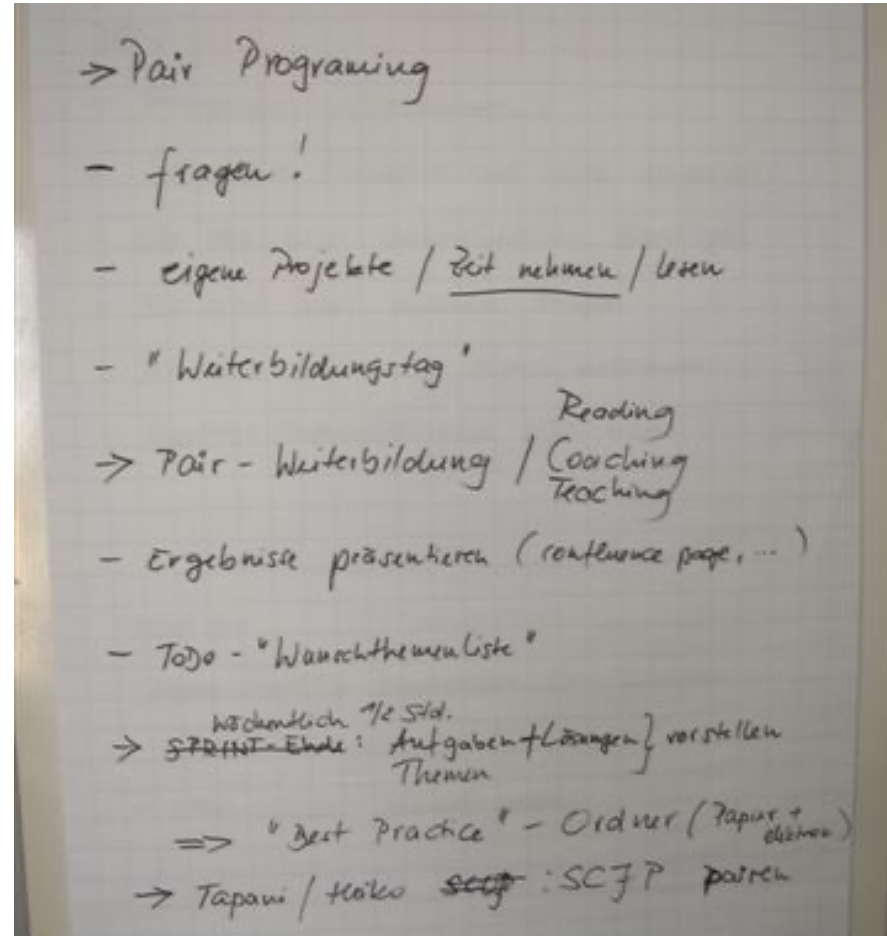
# Team Working on Results

## Discuss results

- Expert needed?
- Hugh circle?
- Smal circle?

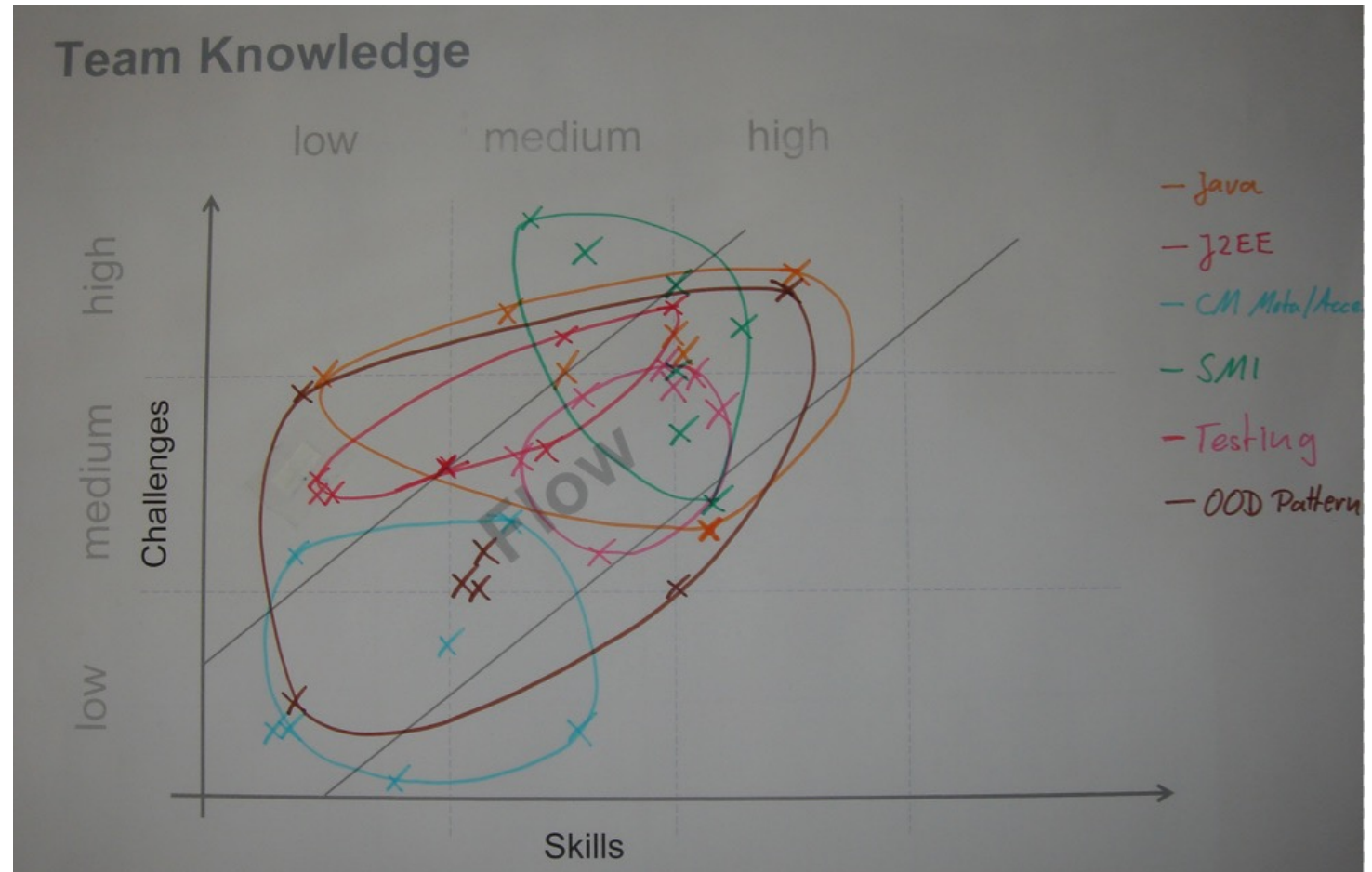
## Find measures to improve

- Pair-Programming
- Pair-Learning
- Questioning
- Learning day
- Wish list

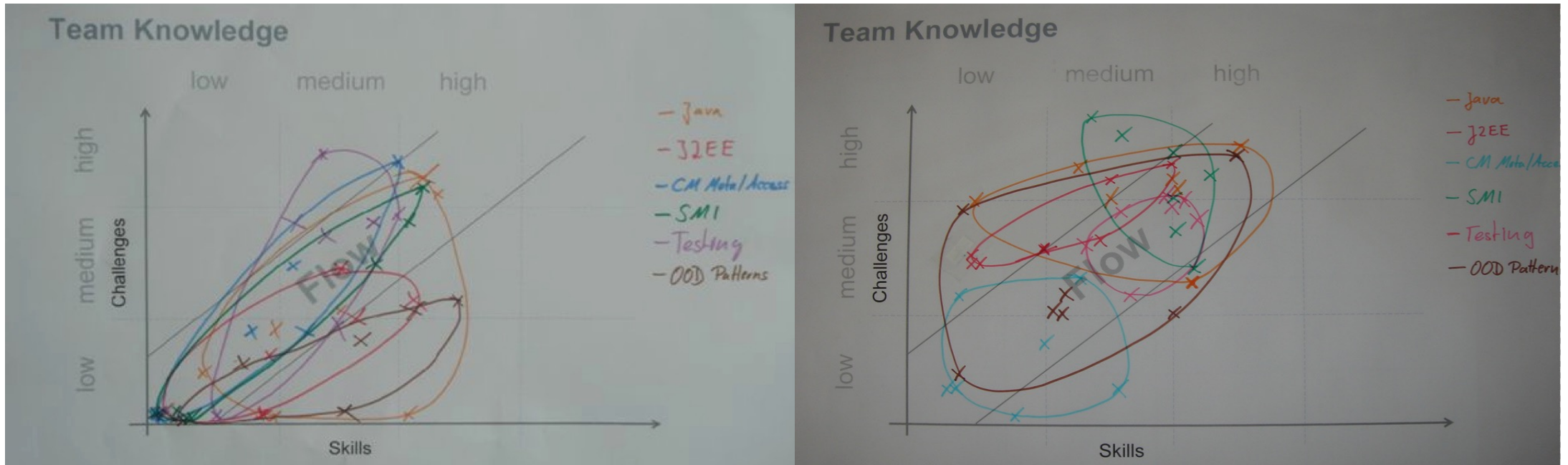


# Team Follow-up TKM

This chart was created after one year of team working and learning.

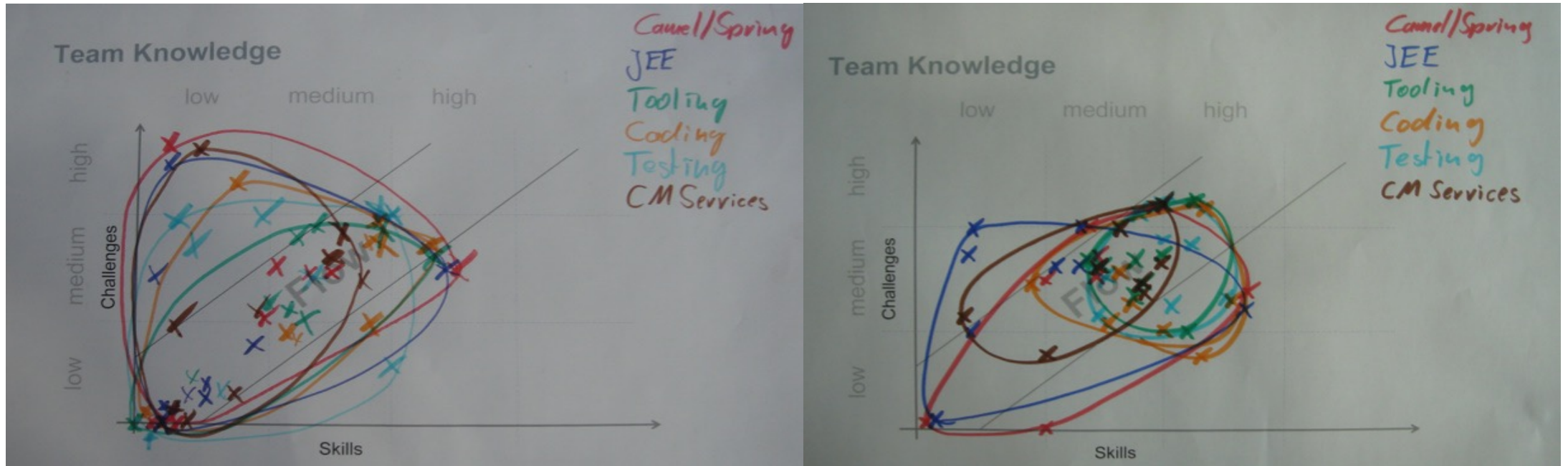


# Visible Team Improvement



- Nearly all areas improved
- Team works mainly on SMI Interface, which is visible
- Testing knowledge increases in the whole team quite well

# Another Team Example



- The team developed quite well at Testing, Coding, and Tooling.
- Fewer people felt overwhelmed
- Scrum-Master and Interface Architect caused the three X at the bottom.



# Tips & Pitfalls



# Hints



- The team needs to understand/agree that they are all responsible for helping in learn and grow each other
- The self-estimation process is not accurate science, but a good indicator of self-confidence and mood
- Use Retrospectives or explicit Team-Building-Workshops
  - Recommended frequency: 3,4 or 6 month
  - Use a maximum of six improvement areas
  - Do not write names to the Xs



# Pitfalls



- Some people have problems with offering their self-estimation to others
- TKM can be misused by management to judge people
- Finding proper measures is more complicated, if it's done anonymously







# Potential of The Team-Knowledge-Model



# Potentials



- Use the TKM in a multi-team environment to check or setup right team structures
- Hypothetical target TKMs might help optimize and coordinate Know-how development in a multi-team environment.

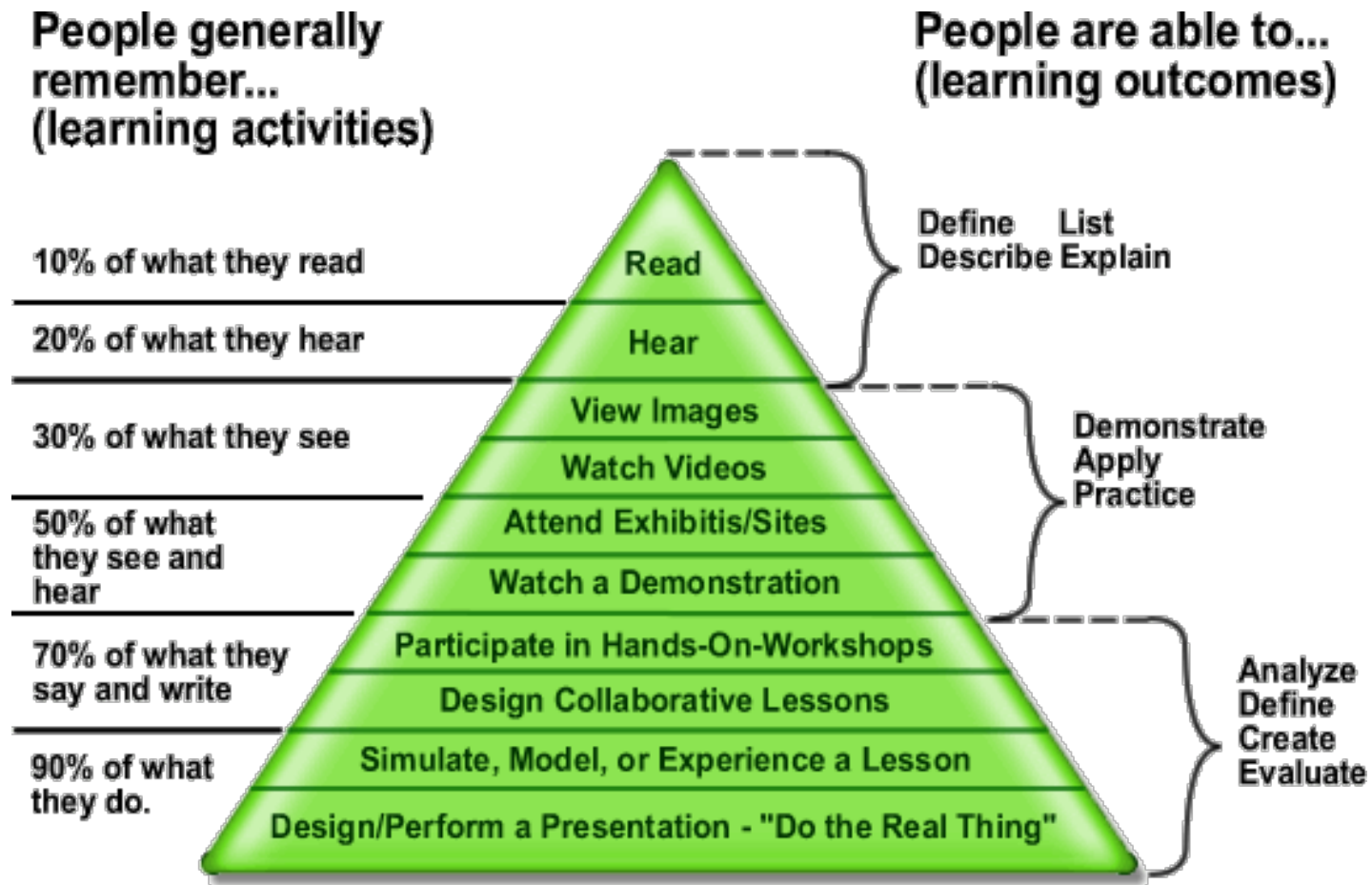


A blue-tinted background image showing a close-up of grass blades covered in water droplets, creating a fresh and natural feel.

# Interesting Facts About Learning (in Teams)



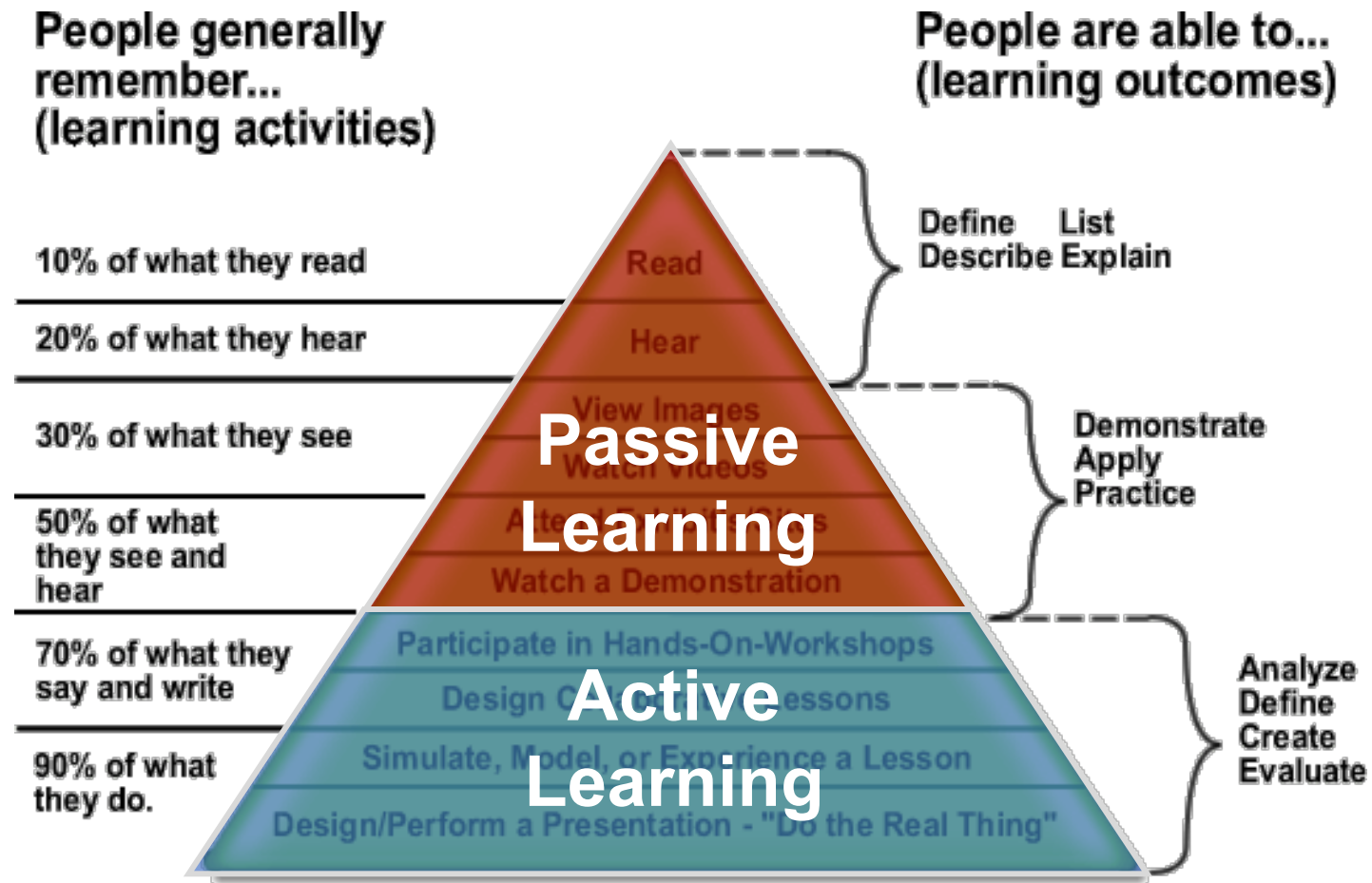
# Effectivity of learning practices



Source: <http://www.edutechie.ws/2007/10/09/cone-of-experience-media/>

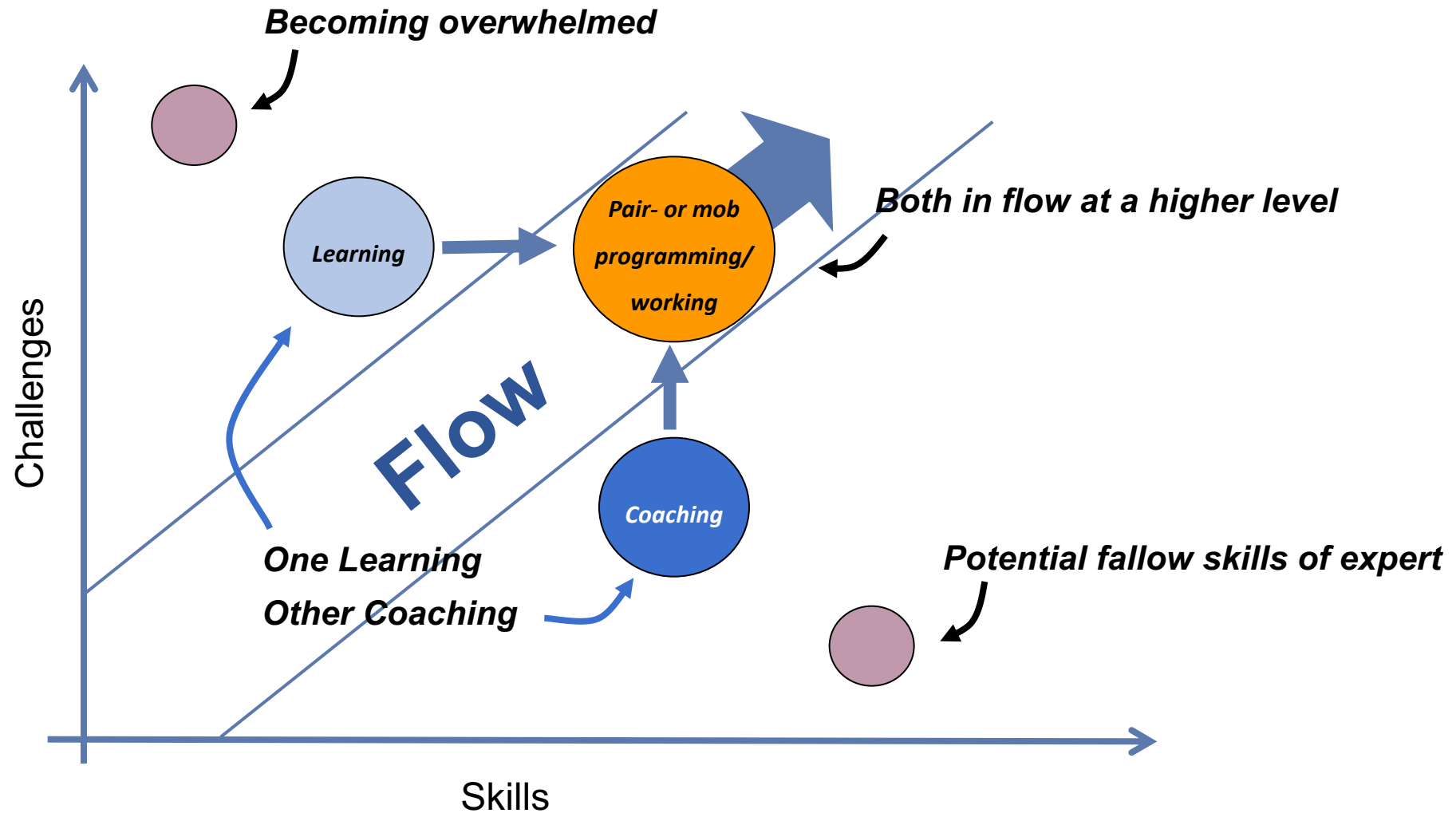


# Effectivity of learning practices



Source: <http://www.edutechie.ws/2007/10/09/cone-of-experience-media/>

# Pair-Programming as learning practice



# Some helpful learning practices

- Pair-Programming
- Coding-Dojos
- Community of Practice (cross-team-learning)
- Pair-Learning, Pair-Reading
- Reserve time for individual learning in each sprint
- Forums (e.g. an Agile-Design-Forum and introduce the S.O.L.I.D. and GRASP design principles)
- Introduce ATDD and TDD  
(will lead to a better domain, test and coding understanding)

# Q & A Session

