



The Best of Both Worlds: How to Integrate Paper and Digital Notes

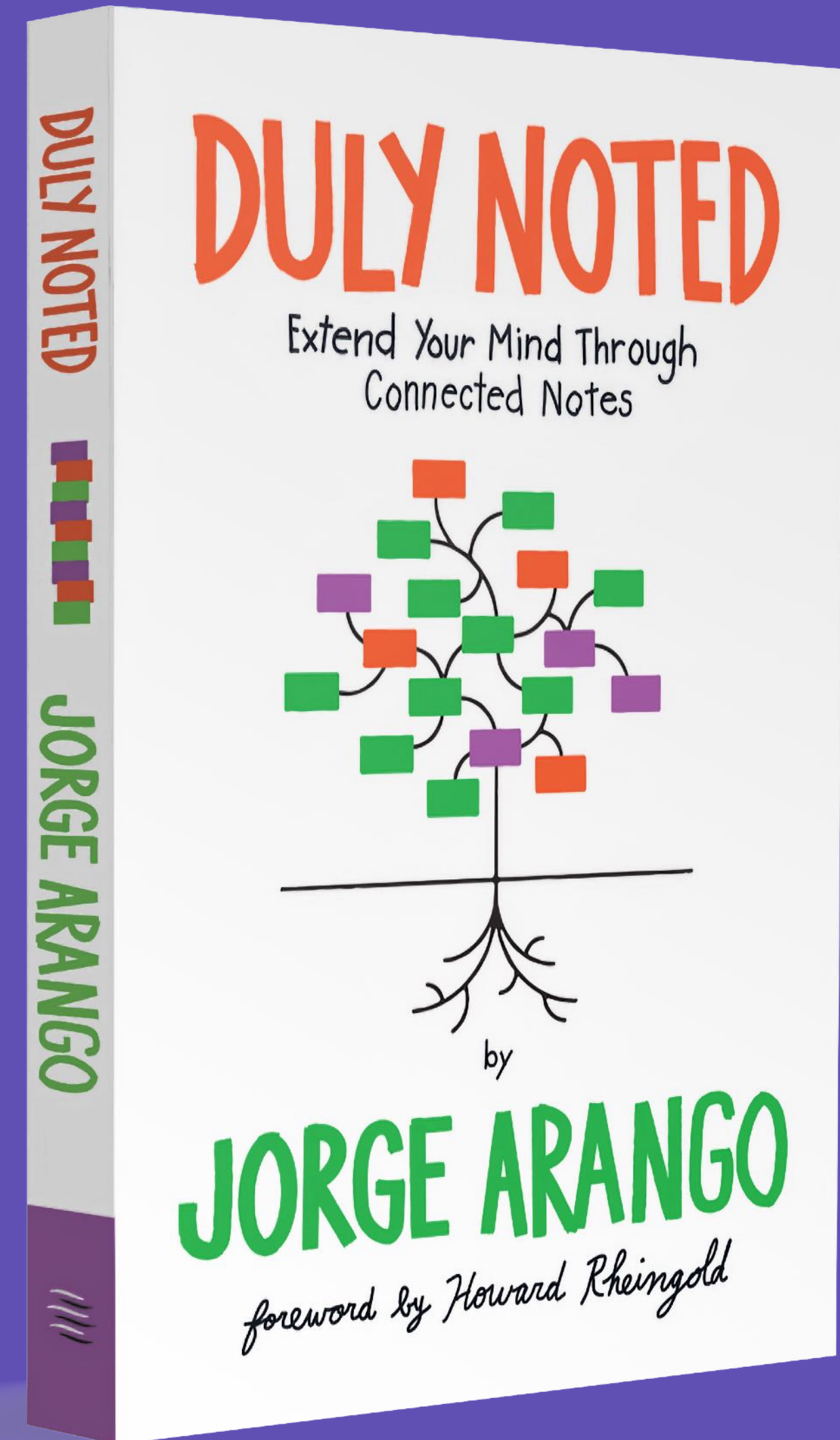
(Part 1 of a 3-part series)

WITH

Jorge Arango

Rosenfeld Community Videoconference

April 5 | 12PM - 1PM EDT

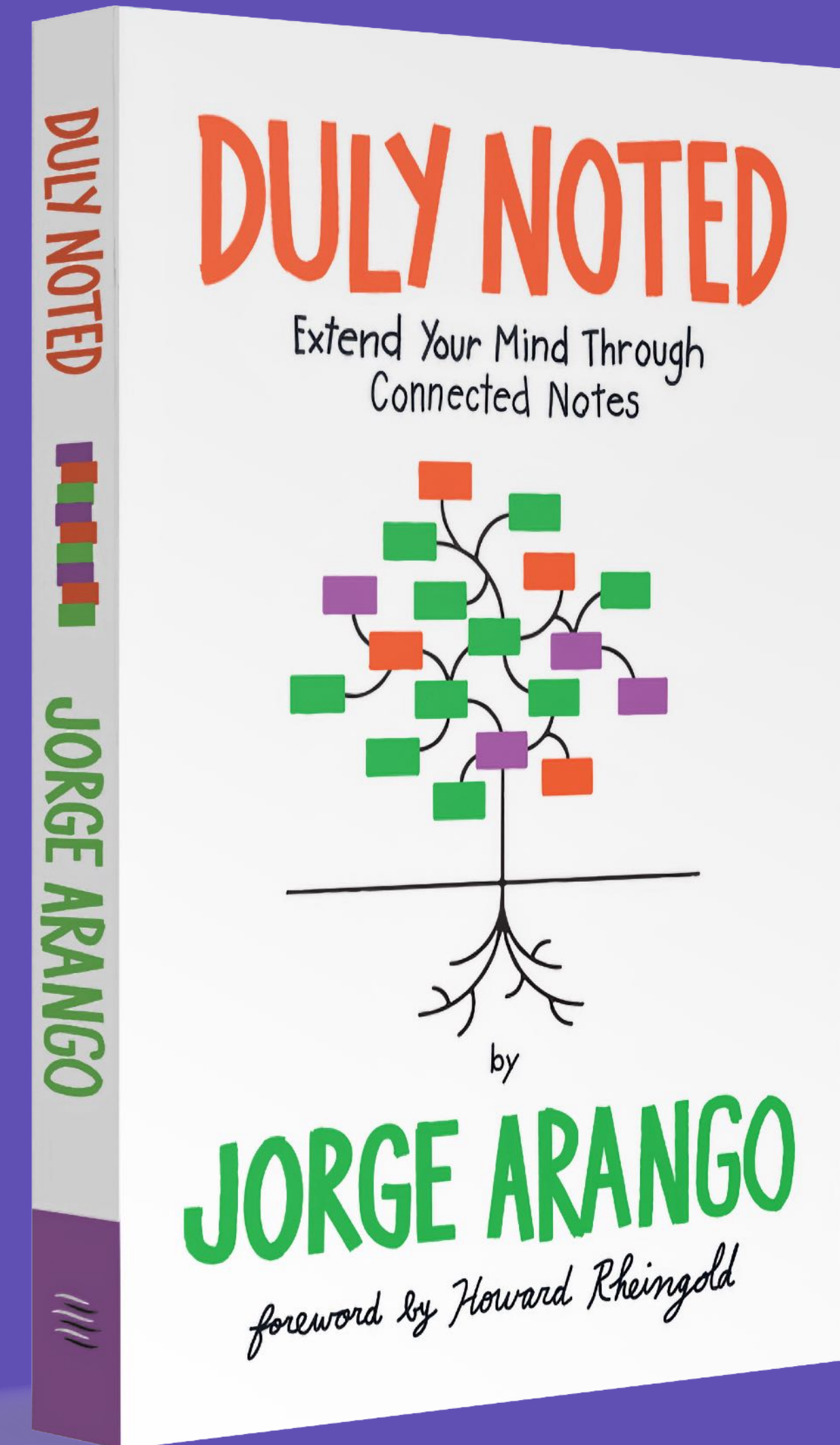


Seminars in the Series

Apr 5 – Combining hand-written & digital notes

Apr 19 – Getting the most out of hypertext notes

May 4 – Using LLMs to augment your thinking



Notes are more than you think.

What we think of as 'notes' are actually things that serve different purposes:

- Aiding memory
- Outlining ideas
- Annotating books
- Capturing ideas from lectures
- Etc.

Photo by [David Travis](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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Notes extend your mind.

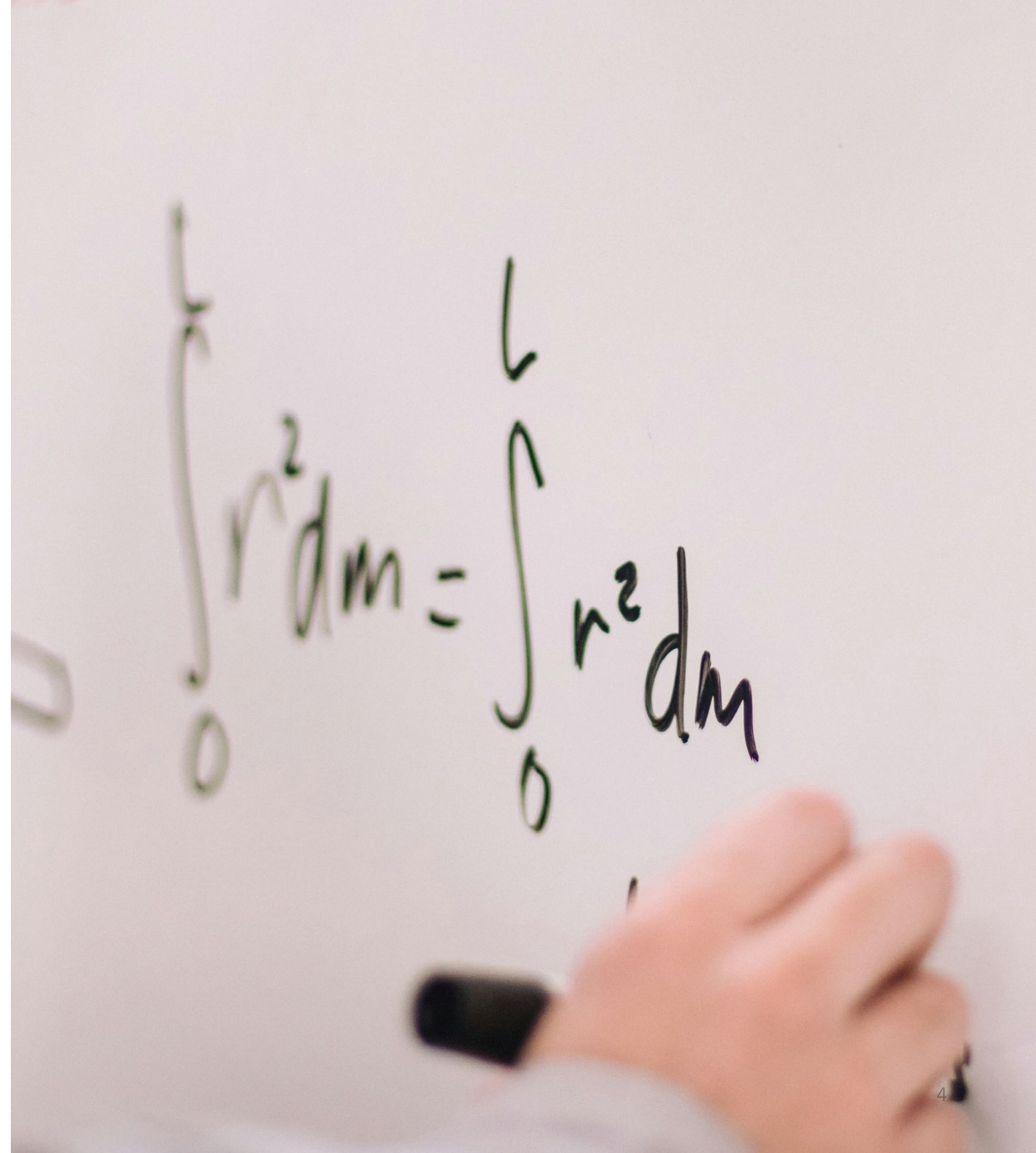
We don't just think with our brains.

Thinking happens as we interact with environments, people, and things.

Notes are things to think with.

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Notes should be in a system.

Some notes are transient, but others are 'evergreen.' They should be in a system that facilitates retrieval and sense-making.

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DULY NOTED 2023-02-04

CH 3 FRAMEWORK

Do I STILL STAND BEHIND THIS FW?
 Simplify, give it a clever acronym.
 Note: not doctrinaire
 Don't want to give the impression it's all under control. Much like a real garden, it's a bit wild. But don't let weeds grow!

Desktop as inbox

Where does FREEFORM come in?
 ↓
 This chapter's topics feel solid
 The second exercise feels weak

How can I give the reader more Obsidian time in this chapter?
 Make an inventory - where?
 Teach reader Markdown tables?
 Quick capture w/ Obsidian? one of
 Clearing your inbox - go through one of your current notes apps and look for transient notes - delete them

Handwritten notes

The screenshot shows a digital note-taking application interface. The title of the note is "2023-08-10 Duly Noted EXT". The content is organized into sections: "Participants:" followed by "Wednesday writer's session"; "Minutes" followed by "How to market the book? Ideas from other participants:" and "Podmatch - a service to get me on people's podcast."; "Reach out to former guests."; "Press release? Kate has a template. The challenge is finding the right publication. That's why agencies exist."; "Figuring audience:" followed by a bulleted list: "Tech for note-taking universities or large org", "Are there any publications or podcasts in this space?", "Trade press -- publication weekly", and "National correspondent? National paper etc."; "Press page on the website. Press kit."; "Being a guest on podcasts given an opportunity to find the phrases people resonate with. What is most important? What do people respond to?"; and "References" followed by "Project: Duly Noted (publication)" and "#meeting". At the bottom right, there is a status bar showing "[A] 1 backlink 119 words 787 characters".

Digital (text) notes

Handwritten notes

Pros

- Resilient, portable, and inexpensive
- Self-contained (i.e., no need for batteries!)
- Long-lasting with good care
- Immediate, encourages flow state
- Encourages better information processing

Cons

- Tied to bulky physical media
- Can be misplaced or lost
- Time-consuming to make copies
- Cannot be searched or navigated easily
- High organizational overhead

Digital notes

Pros

- Take up minimal physical space
- Notes are easily replicated and accessed
- Easily searchable and organizable
- Notes can link to each other
- Multimodal (incl. images, videos, sounds)

Cons

- Relatively expensive
- Less immediate to use
- Vendor lock-in, privacy
- Uncertain longevity of digital media

DULY NOTED 2023-02-04

CH 3 FRAMEWORK

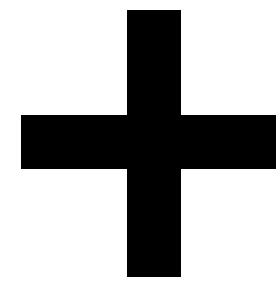
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2023-08-10 Duly Noted EXT

Participants:

Wednesday writer's session

Minutes

How to market the book? Ideas from other participants:

Podmatch - a service to get me on people's podcast.

Reach out to former guests.

Press release? Kate has a template. The challenge is finding the right publication. That's why agencies exist.

Figuring audience:

- Tech for note-taking universities or large org
- Are there any publications or podcasts in this space?
- Trade press -- publication weekly
- National correspondent? National paper etc.

Press page on the website. Press kit.

Being a guest on podcasts given an opportunity to find the phrases people resonate with. What is most important? What do people respond to?

References

Project: [Duly Noted \(publication\)](#)

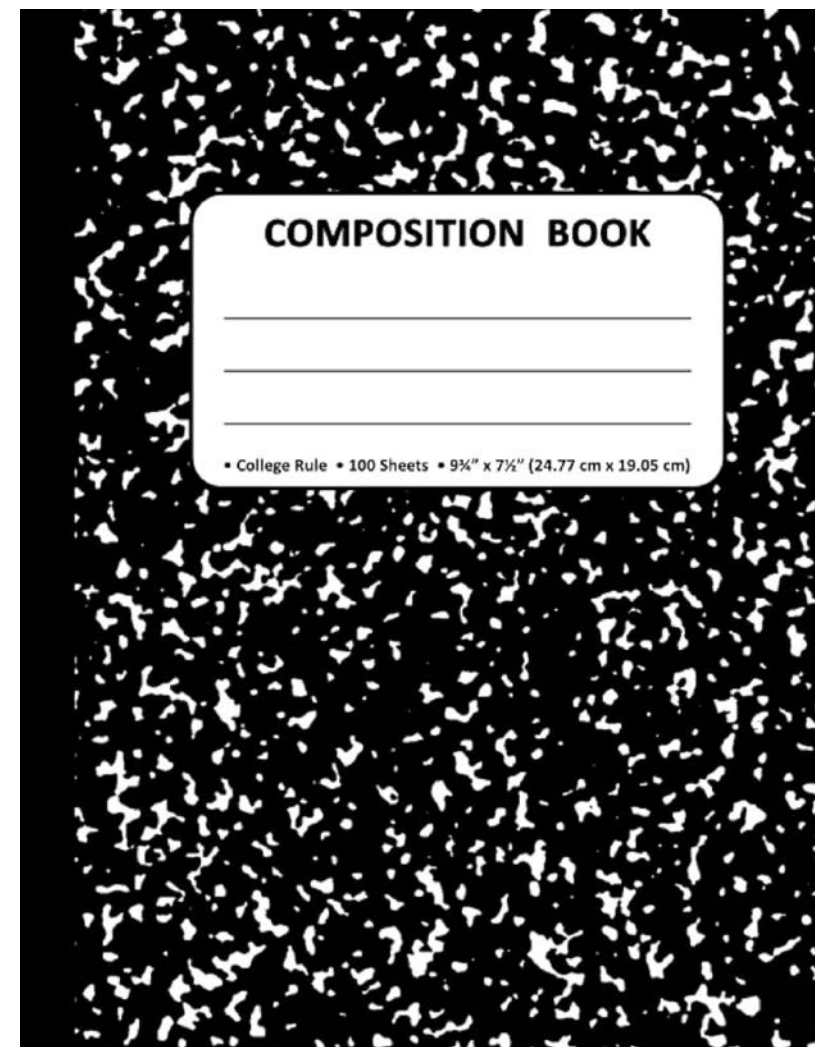
[#meeting](#)

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Handwritten notes

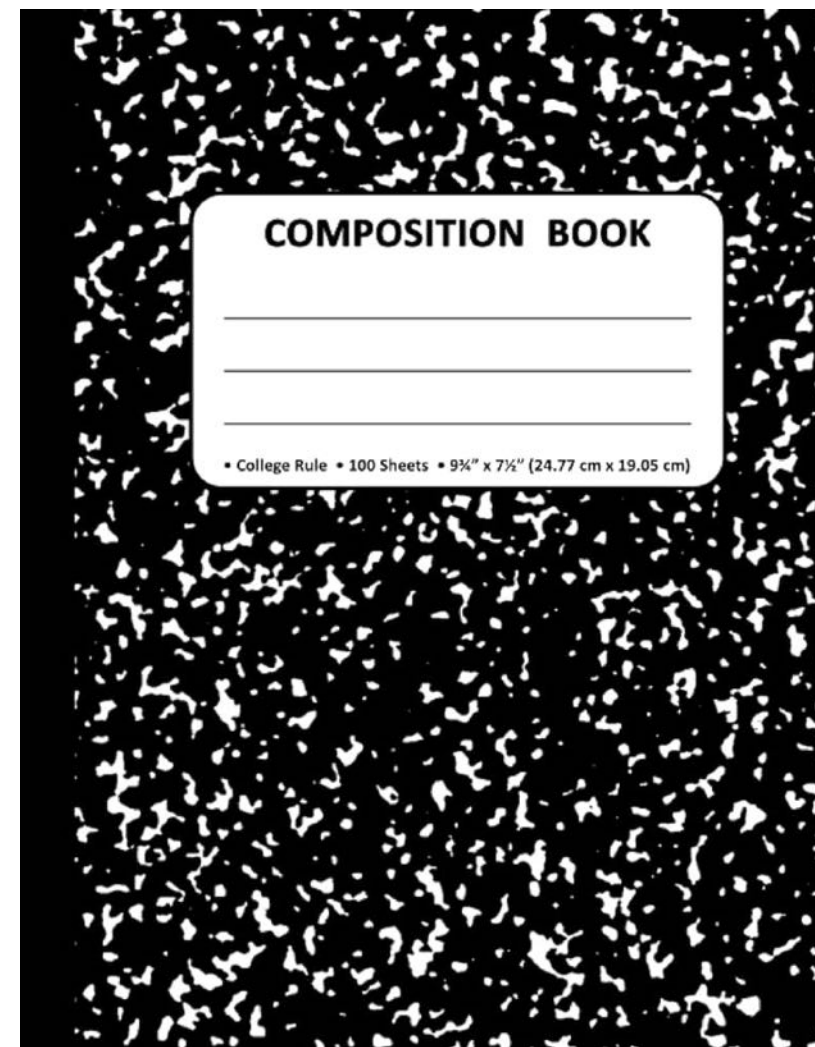
Digital (text) notes

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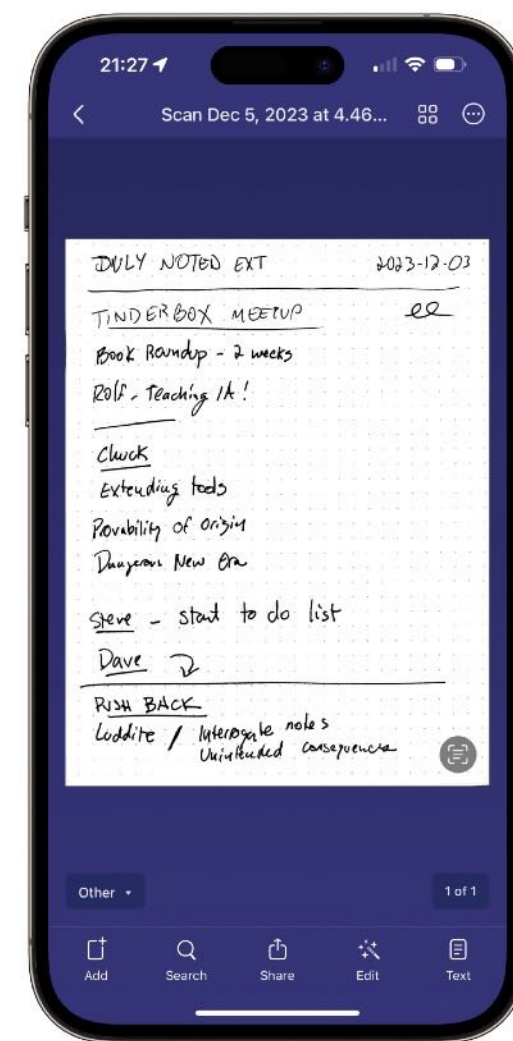
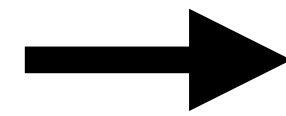


Paper notebook

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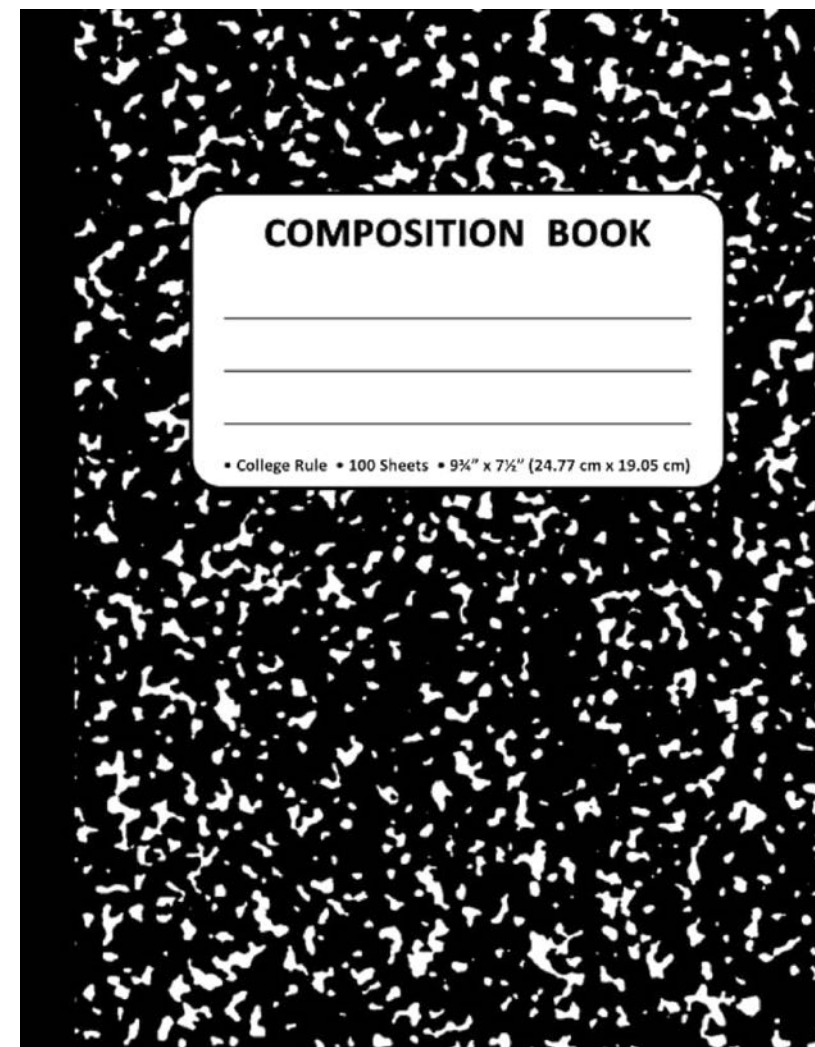


Paper notebook

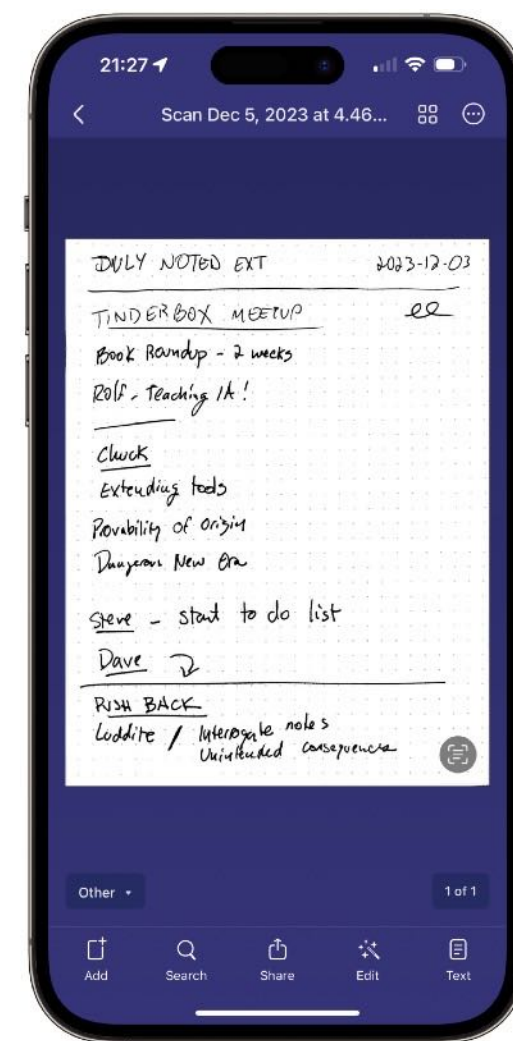
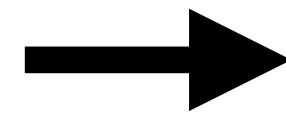


Scanner Pro app

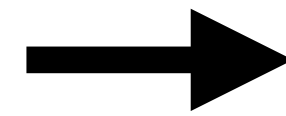
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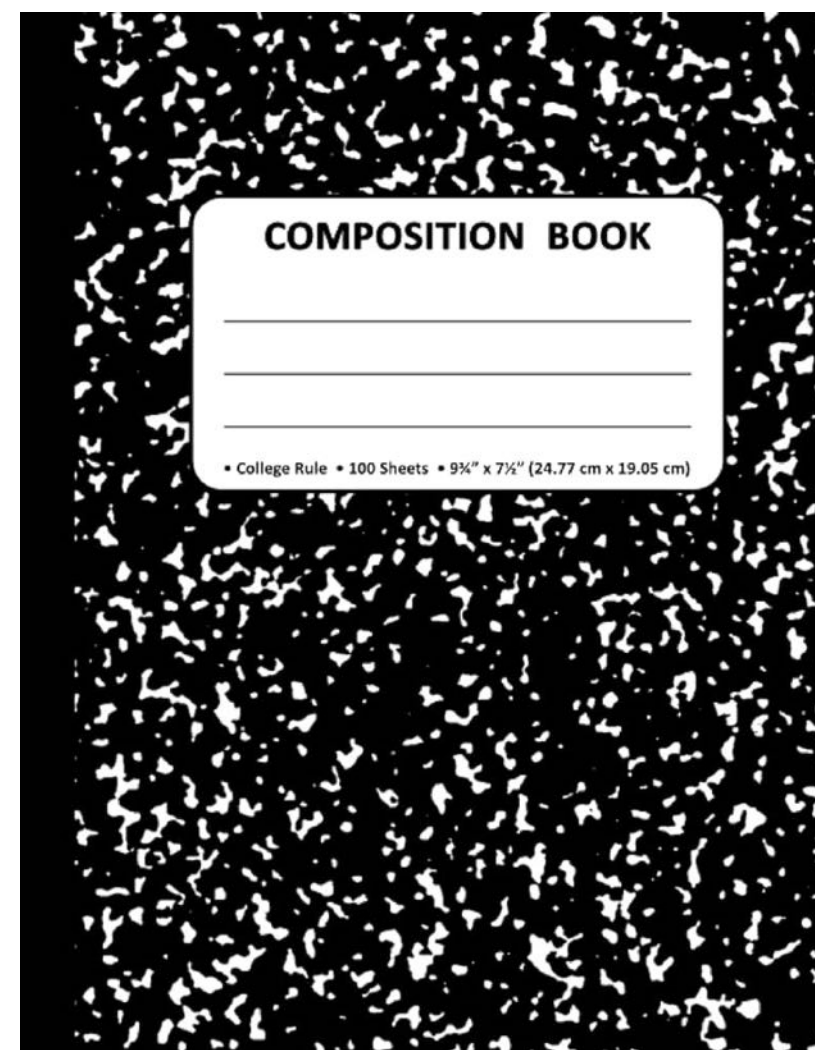
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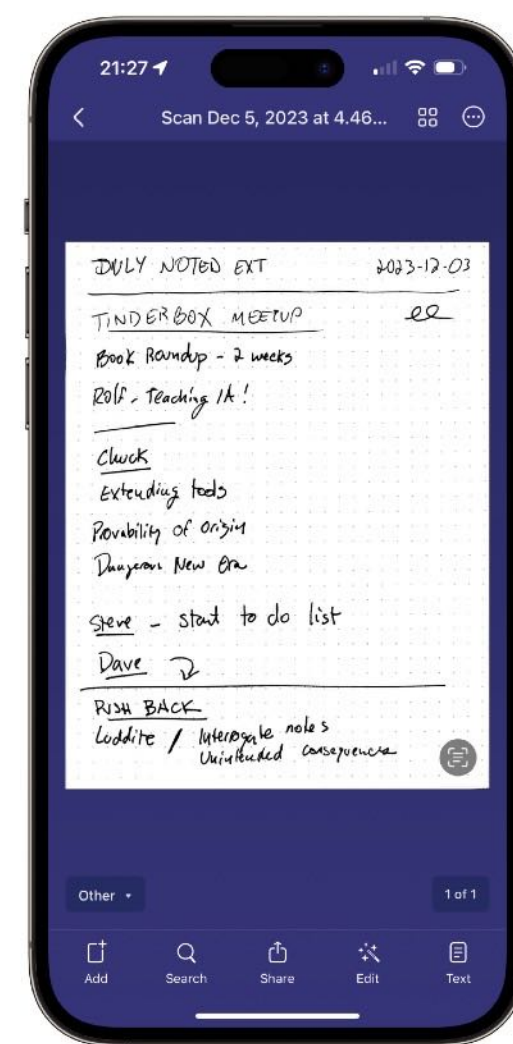
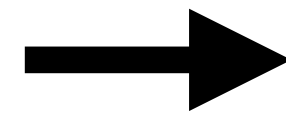
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Dropbox

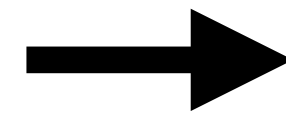
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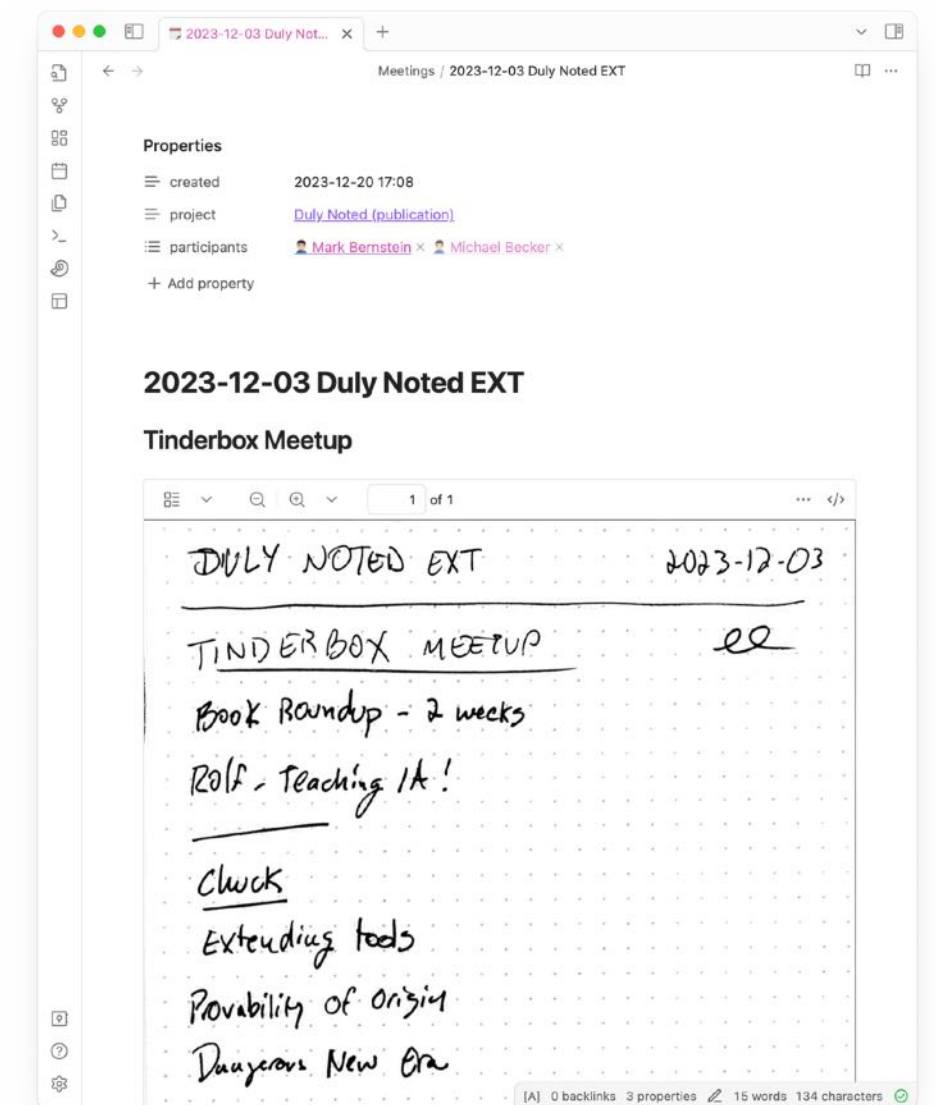


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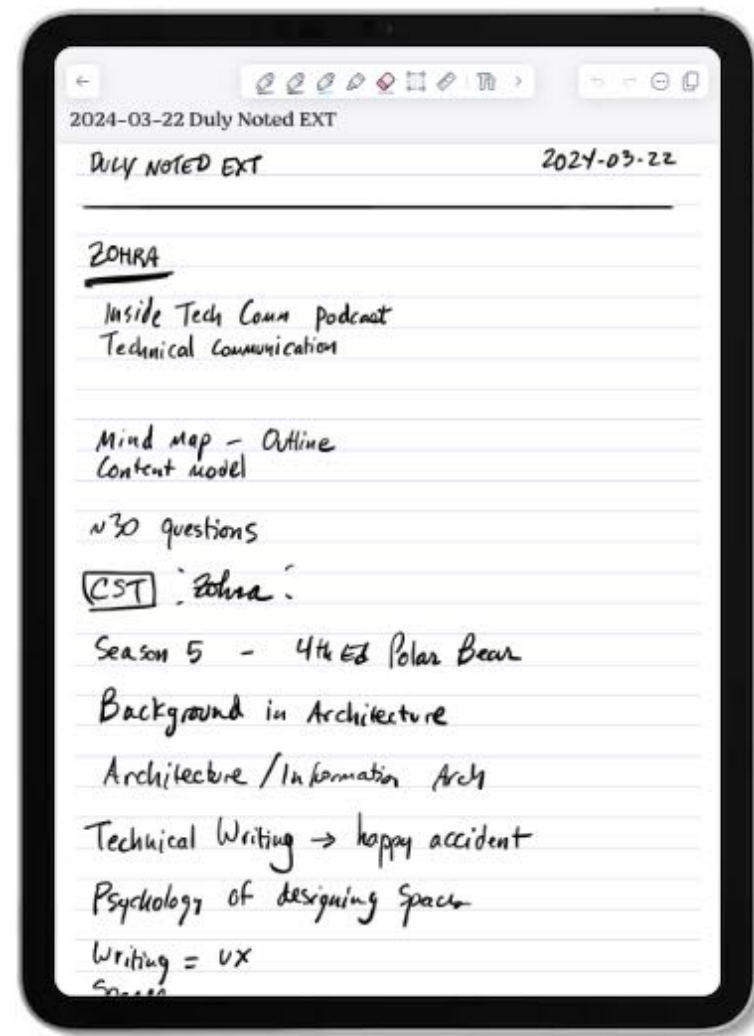
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Obsidian

Workflow 2: Using an iPad

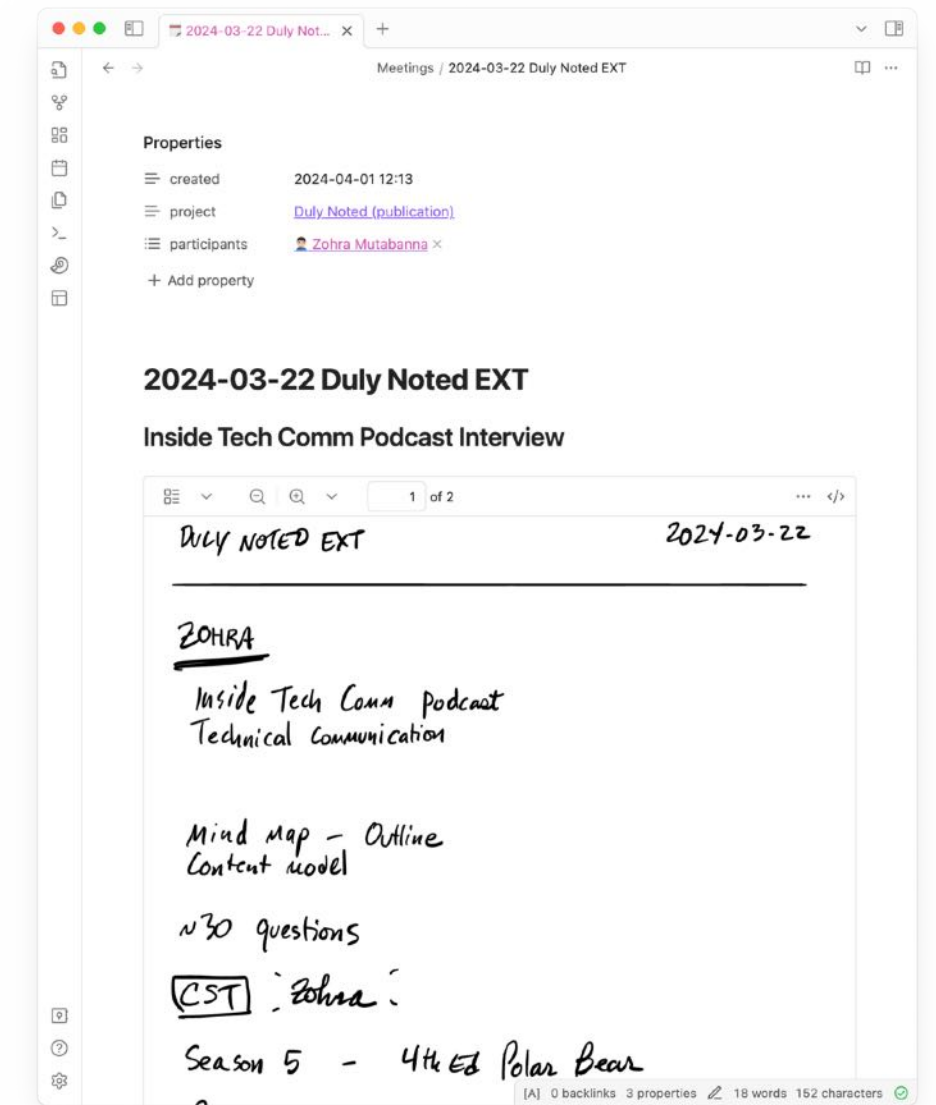


Notability app



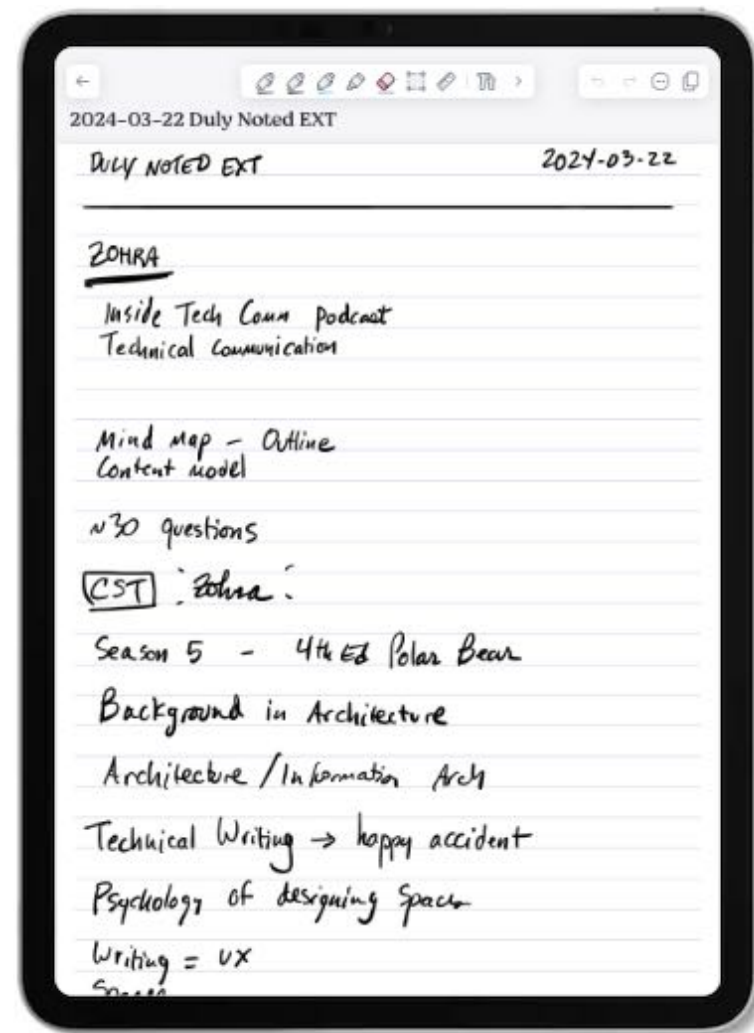
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Obsidian

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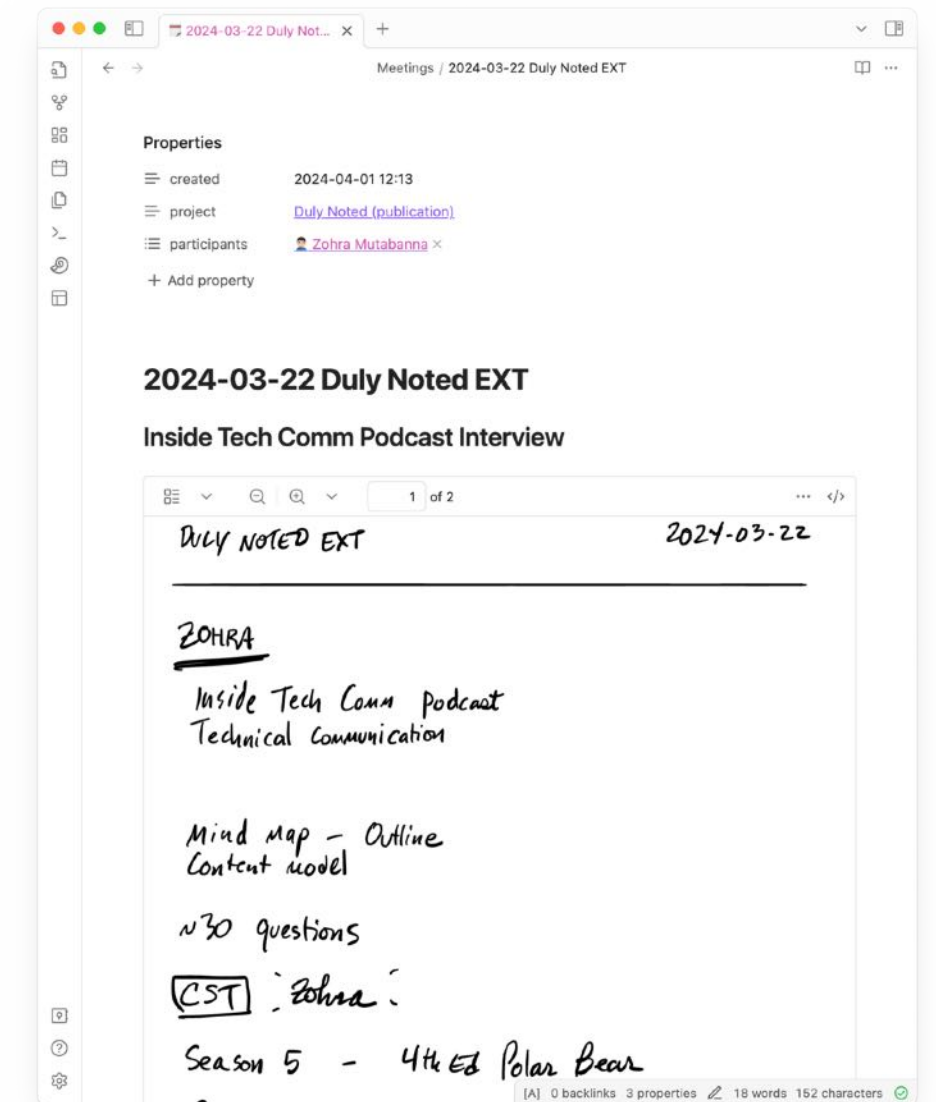


Notability app



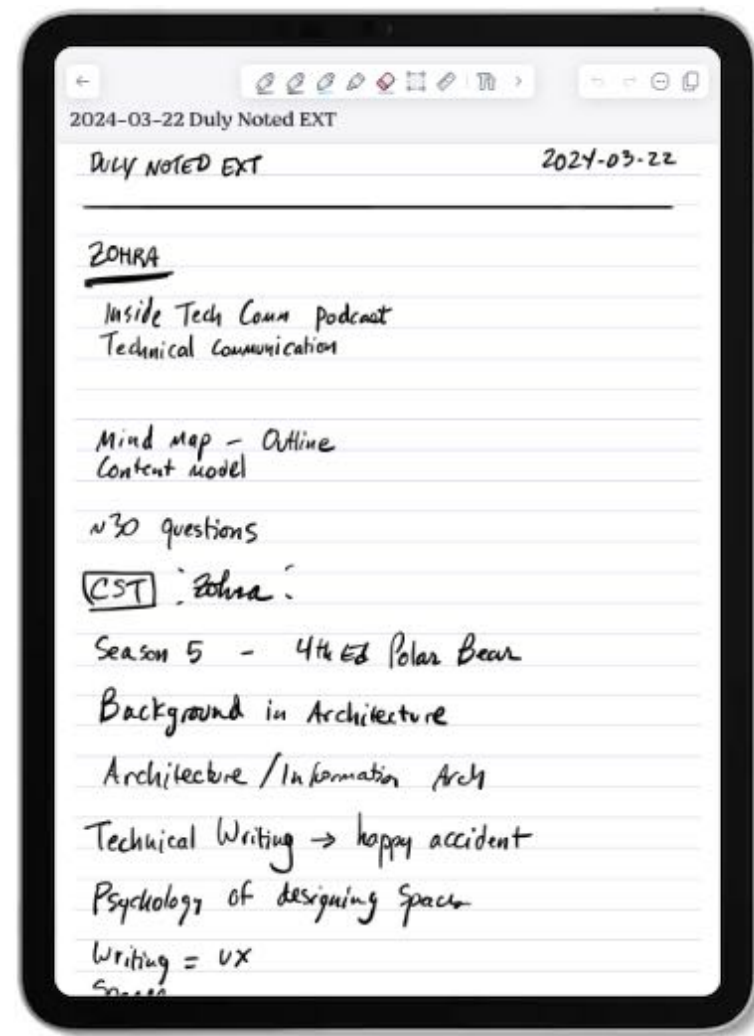
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Obsidian

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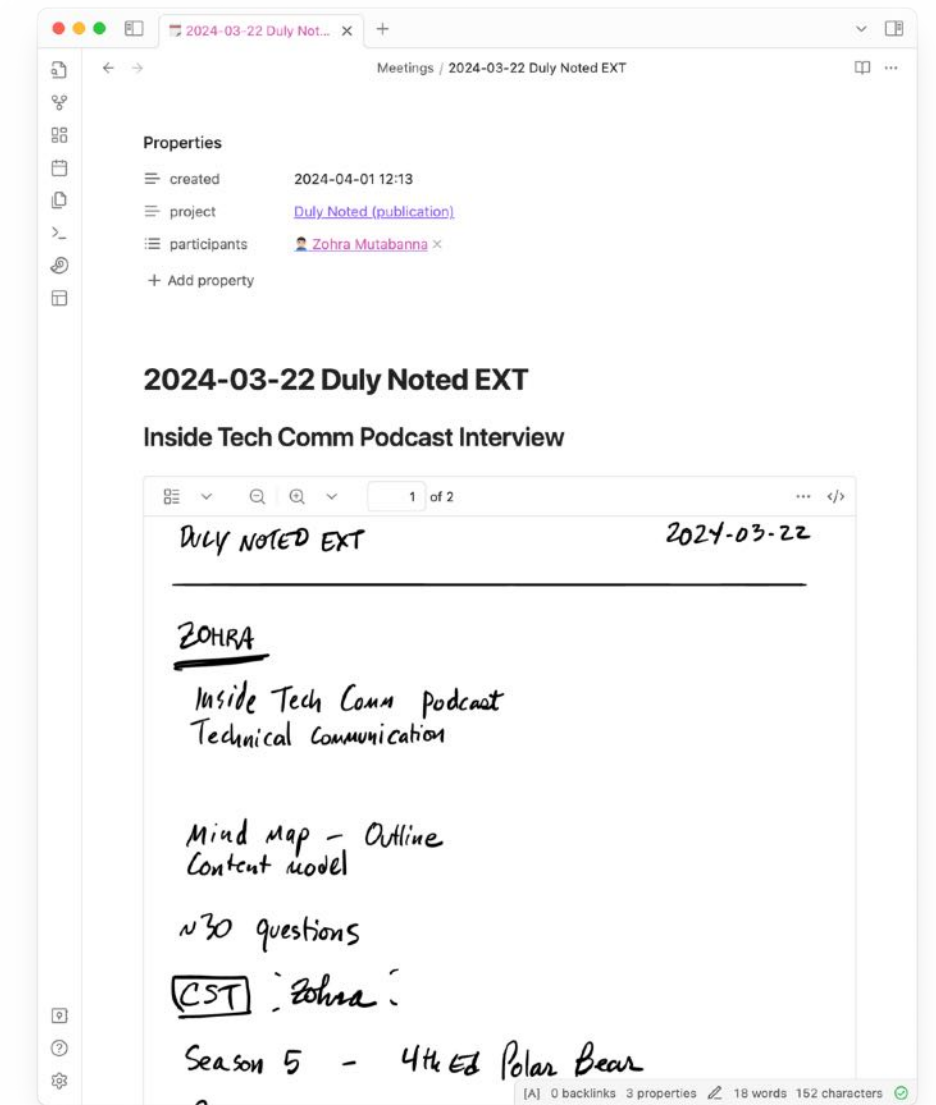


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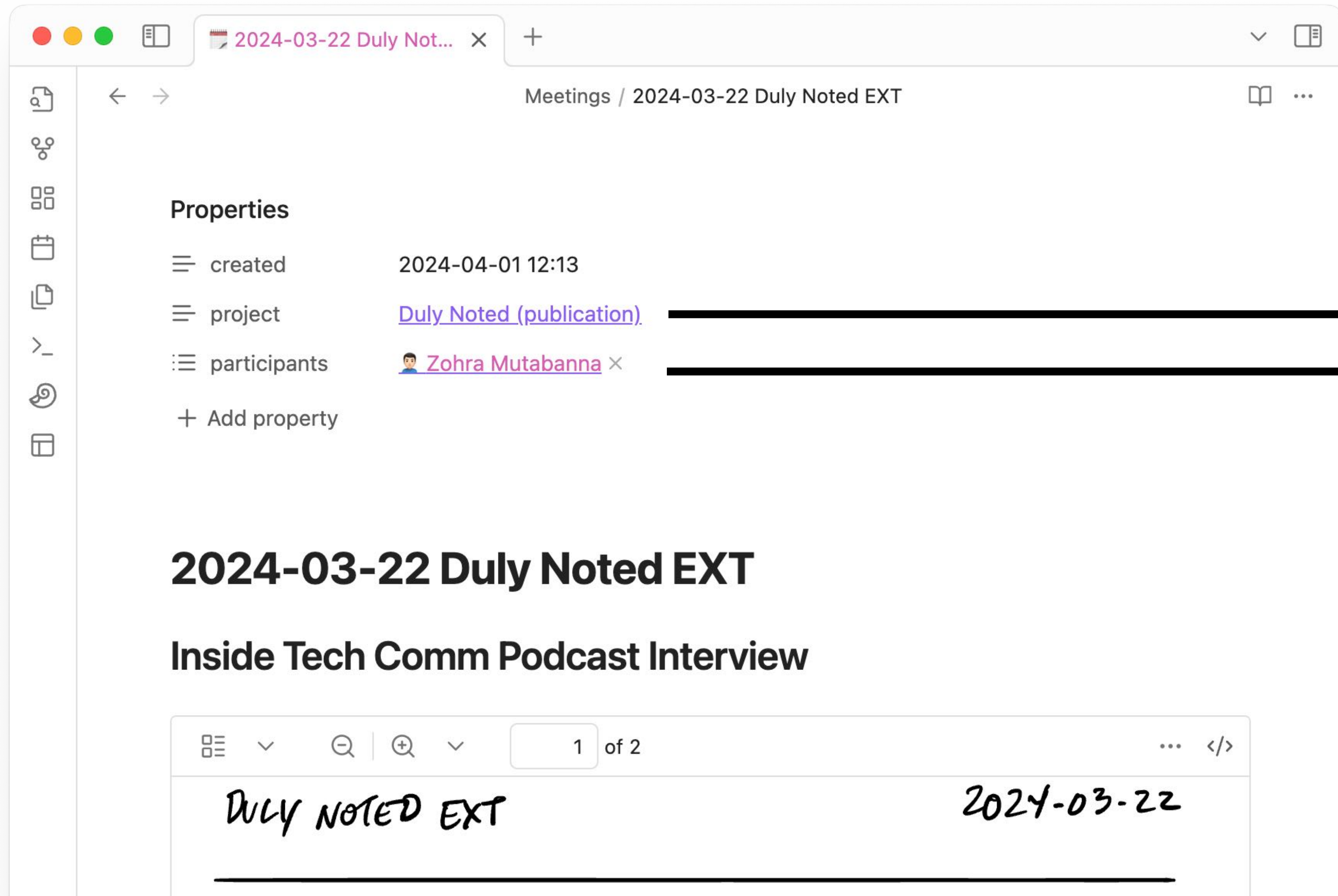
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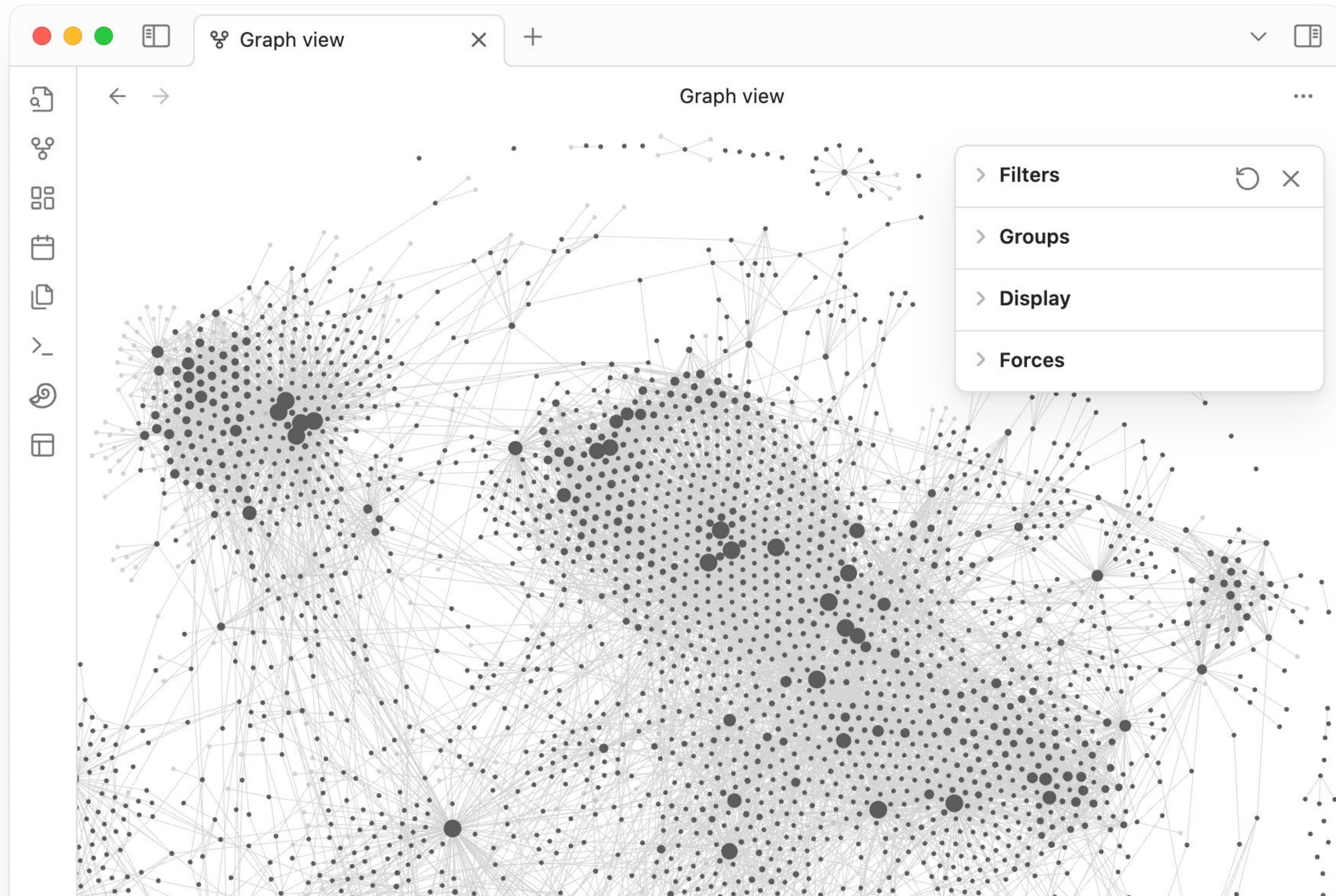
Obsidian

'Wrapper' Notes in Obsidian



Link to note about this project
Link to note about this person

'Wrapper' Notes in Obsidian



The object of interest isn't a 'note';
it's a graph.

Tips & Recommendations

- Don't transcribe; synthesize
- Be disciplined with metadata so you can be flexible with data
- Beware of meta-work!



**"The goal is not to take notes –
the goal is to think effectively."
– Andy Matuschak**

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