

# Logic and Cognition

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Logic and Philosophy Today  
Delhi, January 6, 2011

# Outline

Introduction

From Level 1 to Level 1.5

Gathering data and searching for a model

Testing hierarchical predictions

Looking for familiar algorithms (Level 2)

Designing level 3 experiments

Discussion and Conclusions

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### Discussion and Conclusions

# Goals of the talk

Discuss examples of:

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1. Logics motivated by CogSci;

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2. Experiments motivated by logics;

# Goals of the talk

Discuss examples of:

1. Logics motivated by CogSci;
2. Experiments motivated by logics;
3. Selection of experimental methods.

# How can logic contribute?

1. In building cognitive theories;

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2. In computational modeling;

# How can logic contribute?

1. In building cognitive theories;
2. In computational modeling;
3. In designing experiments.

# Classically 3 levels of Marr

## 1. Computational level:

- ▶ specify cognitive task:
  - ▶  $f$ : initial state  $\longrightarrow$  desired state
- ▶ problems that a cognitive ability has to overcome

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- ▶ compute  $f$

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  - ▶ problems that a cognitive ability has to overcome
2. Algorithmic level:
  - ▶ the algorithms that may be used to achieve a solution
  - ▶ compute  $f$
3. Implementation level:
  - ▶ how this is actually done in neural activity



Marr, Vision: a computational investigation into the human representation and processing visual information, 1983

# Extending Classical Perspective

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## Observation

*Logical analysis informs about intrinsic properties of a problem.*

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↔ Level 1.5

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# Mastermind

The game consists of:

- ▶ a decoding board;
- ▶ code pegs of  $n$  colours;
- ▶ key (feedback) pegs (black and white).

Players:

- ▶ The codemaker: chooses a secret pattern.
- ▶ The codebreaker: guesses the pattern.



# Mastermind

## Moves:

- ▶ Each guess: placing a row of code pegs.
- ▶ The codemaker provides feedback.
  - ▶ Black key for each code peg of **correct color and position**.
  - ▶ White key for each peg of **correct color but wrong position**.
- ▶ After that another guess is made.

## Winning conditions for $k$ rounds:

- ▶ The codebreaker: obtains the solution within  $k$  rounds.
- ▶ The codemaker: otherwise.



# Mastermind: an inductive inquiry game

- ▶ Trials of experimentation and evaluation.
- ▶ Interactive game.
- ▶ How to transform it into a reasoning task?

# MM Setting in Rekentuin

The screenshot shows a farm-themed game interface. On the left, a vertical panel contains a red tulip, a yellow sunflower, and a brown flower. In the center, a brown rectangular area contains a red tulip and a yellow sunflower, with a dashed white box around them and a yellow 'OK' button. Below this is a brown oval area with two small green plants. To the right, a red barn with a grey roof is visible. In the foreground, there is a pink pig, a black and white cow, a brown wheelbarrow with a question mark, and a brown sack with a yellow ribbon and the number '0'. At the bottom, a row of 15 yellow circles is shown. A yellow vertical bar on the right side contains the text 'Score' at the top and 'rekentuin.nl' at the bottom.

- een bloem op de juiste plaats
- een bloem met de juiste kleur, op de verkeerde plaats
- een bloem met de verkeerde kleur

Score

rekentuin.nl

# MM Setting in Rekentuin

The screenshot shows a farm-themed game interface. On the left, a vertical panel displays a selection of flowers: a red tulip, two yellow sunflowers, and two green clovers. The main play area features a green field with a wooden fence, a red barn, a pink pig, a black and white cow, a wheelbarrow with a question mark, and a brown sack with the number 0. A central brown panel shows a grid of flower placement spots with an 'OK' button. A legend in the top right corner explains the flower colors: green for correct placement, yellow for correct color but wrong placement, and red for wrong color. At the bottom, a row of 15 yellow circles represents a progress or score indicator. The website 'rekentuin.nl' is visible in the bottom right corner.

Score

- een bloem op de juiste plaats
- een bloem met de juiste kleur, op de verkeerde plaats
- een bloem met de verkeerde kleur

rekentuin.nl

# MM in Rekeningtun

- ▶ massive data bank (over 150 schools in The Netherlands);
- ▶ the next step: a logical reasoning system;
- ▶ perhaps similar to the one for syllogisms.



Gierasimczuk et al., Static Mastermind in Rekeningtun. A computational, logical, and cognitive perspective, under construction

# Syllogistic Reasoning: Meta-data analysis

Table 1  
Percentage of times each syllogistic conclusion was endorsed according to the meta-analysis by Chater and Oaksford (1999)<sup>a</sup>

<i>premises</i>				<i>conclusion</i>				<i>premises</i>				<i>conclusion</i>				<i>premises</i>				<i>conclusion</i>			
<i>&amp; figure</i>				A	I	E	O	<i>&amp; figure</i>				A	I	E	O	<i>&amp; figure</i>				A	I	E	O
AA1				90	5	0	0	AO1				1	6	1	57	IO1				3	4	1	30
AA2				58	8	1	1	AO2				0	6	3	67	IO2				1	5	4	37
AA3				57	29	0	0	AO3				0	10	0	66	IO3				0	9	1	29
AA4				75	16	1	1	AO4				0	5	3	72	IO4				0	5	1	44
AI1				0	92	3	3	OA1				0	3	3	68	OI1				4	6	0	35
AI2				0	57	3	11	OA2				0	11	5	56	OI2				0	8	3	35
AI3				1	89	1	3	OA3				0	15	3	69	OI3				1	9	1	31
AI4				0	71	0	1	OA4				1	3	6	27	OI4				3	8	2	29
IA1				0	72	0	6	II1				0	41	3	4	EE1				0	1	34	1
IA2				13	49	3	12	II2				1	42	3	3	EE2				3	3	14	3
IA3				2	85	1	4	II3				0	24	3	1	EE3				0	0	18	3
IA4				0	91	1	1	II4				0	42	0	1	EE4				0	3	31	1
AE1				0	3	59	6	IE1				1	1	22	16	EO1				1	8	8	23
AE2				0	0	88	1	IE2				0	0	39	30	EO2				0	13	7	11
AE3				0	1	61	13	IE3				0	1	30	33	EO3				0	0	9	28
AE4				0	3	87	2	IE4				0	1	28	44	EO4				0	5	8	12
EA1				0	1	87	3	EI1				0	5	15	66	OE1				1	0	14	5
EA2				0	0	89	3	EI2				1	1	21	52	OE2				0	8	11	16
EA3				0	0	64	22	EI3				0	6	15	48	OE3				0	5	12	18
EA4				1	3	61	8	EI4				0	2	32	27	OE4				0	19	9	14
																OO1				1	8	1	22
																OO2				0	16	5	10
																OO3				1	6	0	15
																OO4				1	4	1	25

A = all	E = no
I = some	O = some ... not

<sup>a</sup> All figures have been rounded to the nearest integer; valid conclusions are shaded. Whenever two conclusions in the same row are valid, only the first one is valid in predicate logic.



Chater and Oaksford, The probability heuristic model of syllogistic reasoning, Cognitive Psychology, 1999

# Monotonicity calculus

- ▶ Logic rendering many valid arguments.
- ▶ Including syllogistic.
- ▶ Pivoting on monotonicity, e.g.,

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Rule 1	Rule 2	Example 1	Example 2
$\alpha \implies \beta$	$\beta \implies \alpha$	$all(A, B)$	$all(C, B)$
$\dots \alpha^+ \dots$	$\dots \alpha^- \dots$	$some(A^+, C)$	$no(B^-, A)$
<hr/>			
$\dots \beta^+ \dots$	$\dots \beta^- \dots$	$some(B^+, C)$	$no(C^-, A)$

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<hr/>			
$\dots \beta^+ \dots$	$\dots \beta^- \dots$	$some(B^+, C)$	$no(C^-, A)$

Conversion	No/All-not
$Q(A, B)$	$no(A, B)$
<hr/>	
$Q(B, A), Q = some$	$all(A, not B)$

# Processing model: example

## Example

1. *no*( $B, C$ ) premiss
2. *some*( $B, A$ ) premiss

# Processing model: example

## Example

1.  $no(B, C)$  premiss
2.  $some(B, A)$  premiss
3.  $some(A, B^+)$  Conv from 2

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# Processing model: example

## Example

1.  $no(B, C)$  premiss
2.  $some(B, A)$  premiss
3.  $some(A, B^+)$  Conv from 2
4.  $all(B, not C)$  No/All-not from 1
5.  $some(A, not C)$  Mon from 3 and 4

# Processing model: example

1. The shorter the proof the easier the syllogism.

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# Processing model: example

1. The shorter the proof the easier the syllogism.
  - ▶ Level 1.5,
  - ▶ Rule application may be empirically weighted,
2. It gives a good fit with data.

Table 4

Predicted difficulty of valid syllogisms according to the model described in the text, compared with Chater and Oaksford's scores (in parentheses)

AA1A	80	(90)	OA3O	70	(69)	EA1O	40	(3)
EA1E	80	(87)	AO2O	70	(67)	EA2O	40	(3)
EA2E	80	(89)	EI1O	60	(66)	EA3O	40	(22)
AE2E	80	(88)	EI2O	60	(52)	EA4O	40	(8)
AE4E	80	(87)	EI3O	60	(48)	AE2O	40	(1)
IA3I	80	(85)	EI4O	60	(27)	AE4O	40	(2)
IA4I	80	(91)	AA1I	60	(5)			
AI1I	80	(92)	AA3I	60	(29)			
AI3I	80	(89)	AA4I	60	(16)			



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# Complexity of quantifiers

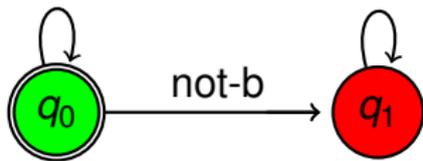
Definability	Examples	Recognized by
FO	“all”, “at least 3”	acyclic FA
FO( $D_n$ )	“an even number”	FA
PrA	“most”, “less than half”	PDA

Quantifiers, definability, and complexity of automata

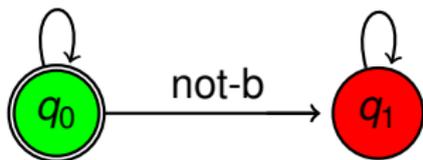
Van Benthem, Essays in logical semantics, 1986.

Mostowski, Computational semantics for monadic quantifiers, 1998.

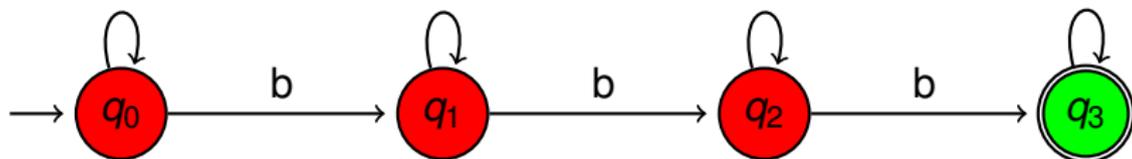
All flowers are blue.



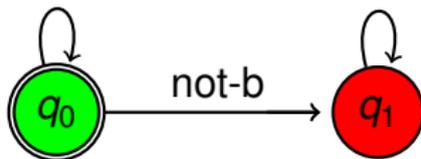
All flowers are blue.



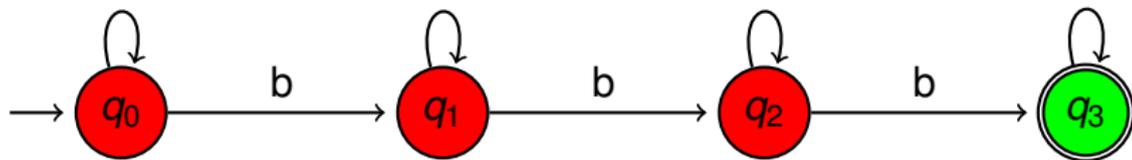
At least 3 flowers are blue.



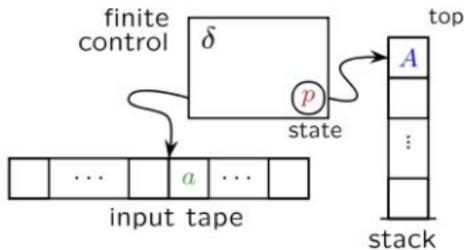
All flowers are blue.



At least 3 flowers are blue.



Most of the flowers are blue.

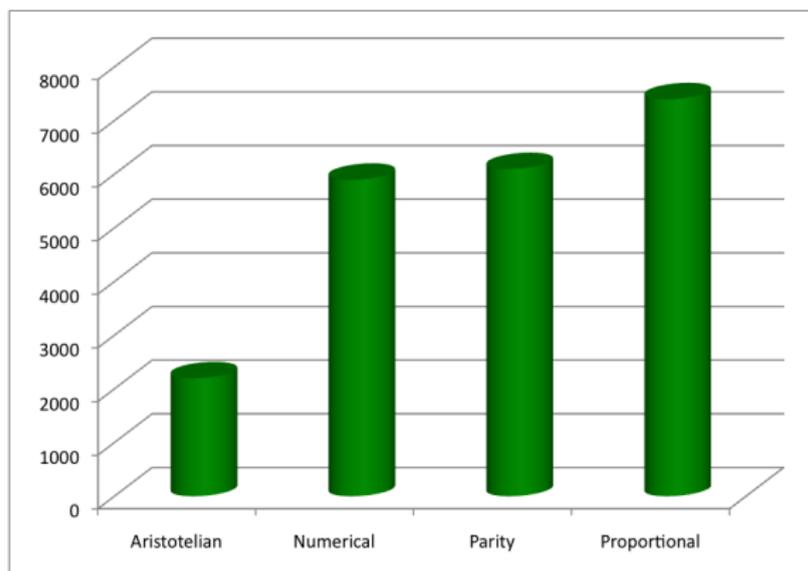


# Does it say anything about processing?

## Question

*Do minimal automata predict differences in verification?*

# Complexity and reaction time



Szymaniki & Zajenkowski, Comprehension of simple quantifiers. Empirical evaluation of a computational model, Cognitive Science, 2010

# Complexity and working memory

- ▶ Compare performance of:

# Complexity and working memory

- ▶ Compare performance of:
  - ▶ Healthy subjects.

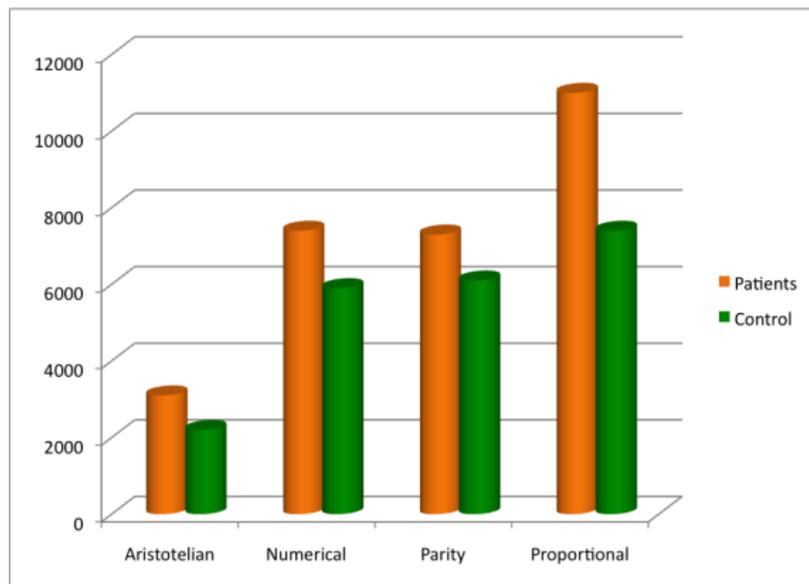
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- ▶ Compare performance of:
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  - ▶ Patients with schizophrenia.

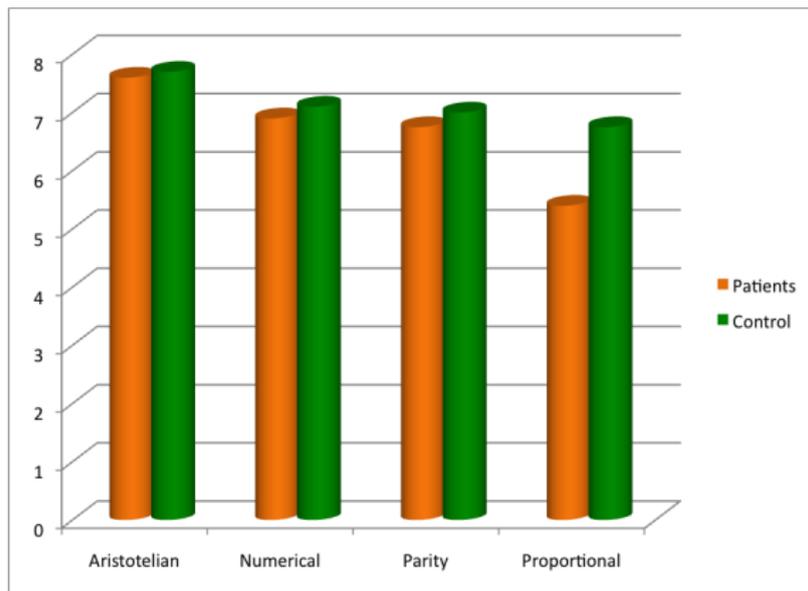
# Complexity and working memory

- ▶ Compare performance of:
  - ▶ Healthy subjects.
  - ▶ Patients with schizophrenia.
    - ▶ Known working memory deficits.

# RT data



# Accuracy data



Zajenkowski et al., A computational approach to quantifiers as an explanation for some language impairments in schizophrenia, under review.

# Tractability/Intractability:

extending difficulty/complexity analogy

1. Most villagers and most townsmen hate each other.
2. All/Most of the dots are connected to each other.

## Conjecture

*Subjects avoid intractable interpretations.*



Gierasimczuk and Szymanik, Branching quantification vs. two-way quantification, Journal of Semantics, 2009



Szymanik, Computational Complexity of Polyadic Lifts of Generalized Quantifiers in Natural Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, 2010.



Bott et al., Interpreting Tractable versus Intractable Reciprocal Sentences, Proceedings of the International Conference on Computational Semantics, 2011.

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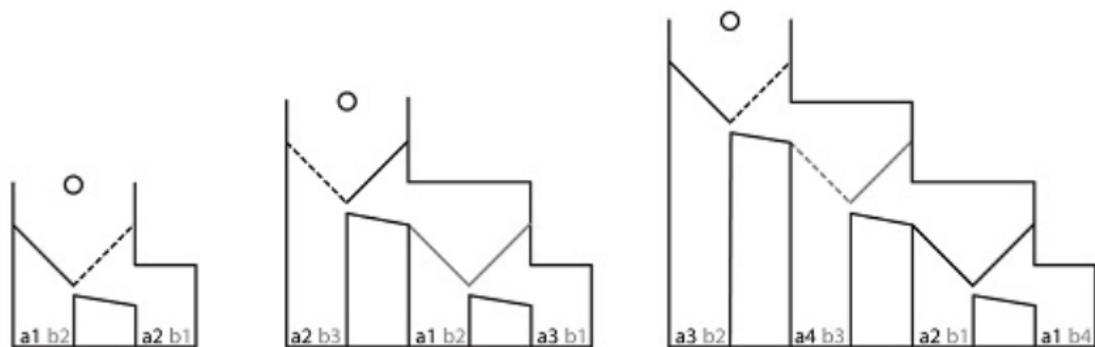
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# Higher-order social reasoning

## Marble Drop Game



# Question

- ▶ Subjects are good in second-order reasonings (Mean Acc =0,91; Mean RT=7.8).
- ▶ And they even get better with training.

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## Question

*How can we try to answer the question?*

# Method

- ▶ Registering subjects' behavior.

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- ▶ Tracking eye fixations.

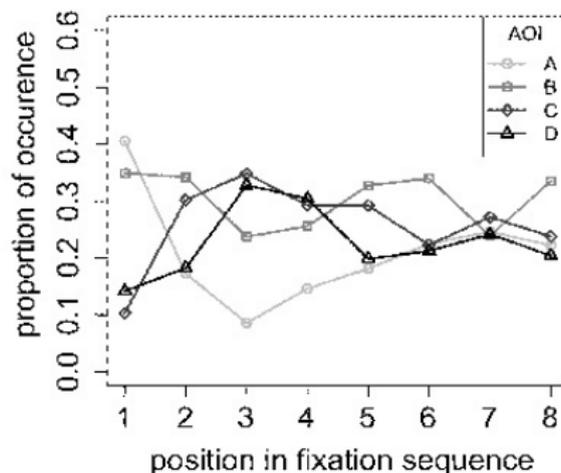
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  - ▶ Bin 4, 3, next Bin 2, finally Bin 1.

# Method

- ▶ Registering subjects' behavior.
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- ▶ Using BI suggests fixation pattern:
  - ▶ Bin 4, 3, next Bin 2, finally Bin 1.
- ▶ Area of Interests pattern for BI:
  - ▶ 4321
  - ▶ 3421

# Results



Data consistent with AOIs: 1234 against BI hypothesis!



Meijering et al., Context facilitates theory of mind: What eye movements tell about higher-order strategic reasoning, 2011.

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# McMillan et al. fMRI studies

Differences in brain activity.

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Differences in brain activity.

- ▶ All quantifiers are associated with numerosity:  
recruit right inferior parietal cortex.
- ▶ Only higher-order activate working-memory capacity:  
recruit right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex.

# McMillan et al. fMRI studies

## Differences in brain activity.

- ▶ All quantifiers are associated with numerosity: recruit right inferior parietal cortex.
- ▶ Only higher-order activate working-memory capacity: recruit right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex.



McMillan et al., Neural basis for generalized quantifiers comprehension, 2005



Szymanik, A Note on some neuroimaging study of natural language quantifiers comprehension, Neuropsychologia, 2007



Szymanik & Zajenkowski, Quantifiers and working memory, LNCS, 2010

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# To sum up

Level 1.5 Mastermind, Syllogisms, Verification

Level 2 Marble Drop Game

Level 3 Quantifiers and Definability

# Discussion

- ▶ Adequacy of Marr's Levels.
- ▶ Idealized logical agents.
- ▶ How to measure difficulty?
- ▶ Logic & CogSci: can the benefits be mutual?

# धन्यवाद

# Static Mastermind (Chvatal 1983)

- ▶ finding the minimum number of guesses the codebreaker can make all at once at the beginning of the game;
- ▶ without waiting for the answers;
- ▶ and upon receiving the answers;
- ▶ completely determine the code in the next guess.

## Observation (Greenwell 1999)

*Static Mastermind ( $n = 6, \ell = 4$ ) can be solved with six initial guesses. In particular:  $(1, 2, 2, 1), (2, 3, 5, 4), (3, 3, 1, 1), (4, 5, 2, 4), (5, 6, 5, 6), (6, 6, 4, 3)$ .*

## Conjecture

*It is not possible to reduce to five (exhaustive check: approx  $3.7 \times 10^{15}$  computations).*

# Static Mastermind: Computational Complexity

Mastermind (satisfiability) decision problem:

**Input** A set of guesses  $G$  and their corresponding scores.

**Question** Is there at least one valid solution?

**Theorem**

*Mastermind Problem in NP-complete wrt  $\ell$  (positions).*

**Objective computational measure!**

# Monotonicity profiles determine difficulty

1. Some of the sopranos sang with more than three of the tenors.
2. None of the sopranos sang with fewer than three of the tenors.
3. Some of the sopranos sang with fewer than three of the tenors.

# Monotonicity profiles determine difficulty

1. Some of the sopranos sang with more than three of the tenors.
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$$\begin{array}{l} Q_1 A \text{ played against } Q_2 B \\ \text{All } B \text{ were } C. \\ \hline Q_1 A \text{ played against } Q_2 C \end{array}$$

# Monotonicity profiles determine difficulty

1. Some of the sopranos sang with more than three of the tenors.
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$$\frac{Q_1 A \text{ played against } Q_2 B}{\text{All } B \text{ were } C.}$$

---

$$Q_1 A \text{ played against } Q_2 C$$

$$\uparrow Q_1 \uparrow Q_2 < \downarrow Q_1 \downarrow Q_2 < \begin{matrix} \uparrow Q_1 \downarrow Q_2 \\ \downarrow Q_1 \uparrow Q_2 \end{matrix}$$



Geurts and Van der Slik, Monotonicity and Processing Load, Journal of Semantics, 2005

# Discussion

## Conclusion

*Automata model is psychologically plausible.*

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*Computational complexity  $\approx$  cognitive difficulty.*

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# Discussion

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*Computational complexity  $\approx$  cognitive difficulty.*

- ▶ As far as we know this is the first empirical proof.
- ▶ Between Marr's level 1 and 2.

# P-Cognition Thesis

## Hypothesis

*Human cognitive (linguistic) capacities are constrained by polynomial time computability.*



Frixione, Tractable competence. Minds and Machines, 2001.

# Hintikka's branching reading

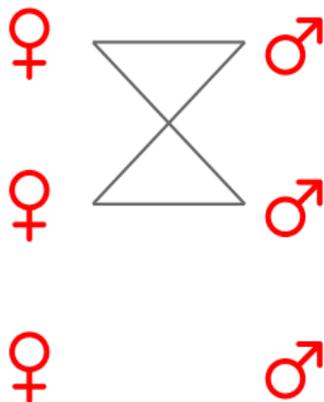
- ▶ Most girls and most boys hate each other.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{most } x : G(x) \\ \text{most } y : B(y) \end{array} H(x, y).$$

$$\exists A \exists A' [\text{most}(G, A) \wedge \text{most}(B, A') \wedge \forall x \in A \forall y \in A' H(x, y)].$$

# Illustration

- ▶ Most girls and most boys hate each other.



# Branching readings are intractable

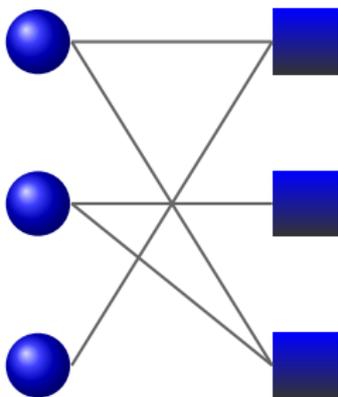
## Theorem

*Proportional branching sentences are NP-complete.*

What about a tractable alternative?

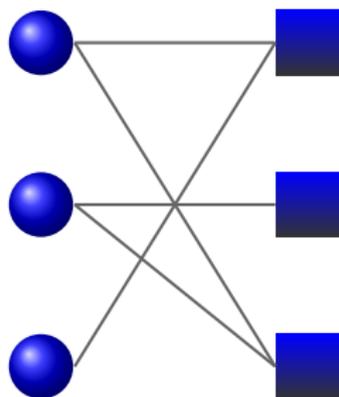
# Two-way quantification

$$(Q_1 Q_2) \wedge (Q_2 Q_1)$$



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$$(Q_1 Q_2) \wedge (Q_2 Q_1)$$



Subjects are happy to accept such interpretation.



Gierasimczuk and Szymanik, Branching quantification vs. two-way quantification, Journal of Semantics, 2009