

Computational Models for Human Reasoning and Beyond

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AIRBUS

What I will talk about today

1. Two Human Reasoning Tasks ↗ **Syllogistic Reasoning** and **Conditional Reasoning**
 - ▷ In both tasks, reasoning needs to be done based on language
 - ▷ (Natural) languages are quite ambiguous
 - ▷ The human reasoning tasks show that
 - ▶ Humans reasoning diverges from Classical Logic
 - ▶ The context influences how humans reason
2. We call these extra-logical properties ↗ **Cognitive Principles**
3. Cognitive principles can be modelled formally in Argumentation ↗ **Cognitive Argumentation**
4. Simulation within a cognitive architecture ↗ **Bridging to lower levels of cognition**
5. Cognitive Principles as one aspect to help ↗ **Benchmarking Cognitive Models**
6. How human reasoning might solve combinatorial problems in application ↗ **Excursion to Industry**

SYLLOGISTIC REASONING

Stelling 1:
Stelling 2:
conclusie: ?

Syllogistic Reasoning Task

Khemlani and Johnson-Laird (2012)

Some **artists** are not **bakers**

All **bakers** are **chemists**

What follows about the relation between **artists** and **chemists**?

- ▶ All artists are chemists
- ▶ No artists are chemists
- ▶ Some artists are chemists
- ▶ Some artists are not chemists
- ▶ All chemists are artists
- ▶ No chemists are artists
- ▶ Some chemists are artists
- ▶ Some chemists are not artists
- ▶ No valid conclusion (NVC)

~~ 19% !

~~ 46% !

~~ 20% !

Syllogisms: Moods

| mood | natural language | first-order logic | abbreviation |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| affirmative universal | <u>all a are b</u> | $\forall X(a(X) \rightarrow b(X))$ | Aab |
| affirmative existential | <u>some a are b</u> | $\exists X(a(X) \wedge b(X))$ | Iab |
| negative universal | <u>no a are b</u> | $\forall X(a(X) \rightarrow \neg b(X))$ | Eab |
| negative existential | <u>some a are not b</u> | $\exists X(a(X) \wedge \neg b(X))$ | Oab |

Some **artists** are **not bakers**

\Rightarrow Oab

All **bakers** are **chemists**

\Rightarrow Abc

Syllogisms: Figures

- ▶ 4 figures

| | premise 1 | premise 2 |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| figure 1 | a-b | b-c |
| figure 2 | b-a | c-b |
| figure 3 | a-b | c-b |
| figure 4 | b-a | b-c |

- ▶ 64 pairs of premises
- ▶ abbreviated by the first and the second mood of the figure

Some artists are not bakers

All bakers are chemists

⇒ OA1

- ▶ 512 (not necessarily valid) syllogisms
- ▶ possible conclusions are the 4 moods instantiated by a-c and c-a

All artists are bakers

All bakers are chemists

⇒ AA1

All artists are chemists

⇒ Aac

Human Syllogistic Reasoning

Khemlani and Johnson-Laird (2012) made a meta-study on syllogistic reasoning

- ▶ 64 different pairs of premises and 512 different syllogisms
- ▶ Data from 6 psychological experiments
- ▶ Comparison of this data with 12 cognitive theories
- ▶ None of the current theories models human syllogistic reasoning adequately!
- ▶ *If psychologists could agree on an adequate theory of syllogistic reasoning, then progress toward a more general theory of reasoning would seem to be feasible*

The human syllogistic reasoning approach under the **Weak Completion Semantics**,
a three-valued logic programming approach, outperforms any of the twelve cognitive theories!

Costa, Dietz Saldanha, Hölldobler (2017)

Dietz Saldanha, Hölldobler, Mörlitz (2018)

Formalization of observations made in psychology and philosophy of language (Grice [1975])

Existential Import ↵ All bakers are chemists implies that **bakers exist**

Maxim of Quantity ↵ Some artists are not bakers implies **Not all artists are not bakers**

↵ **Cognitive Principles !**

Some **artists** are **not bakers**

All **bakers** are **chemists**

Majority concluded **Some artists are chemists** (19%), **Some artists are not chemists** (46%) and **No valid conclusion** (20%)

Different sets of principles characterize different reasoners ! (Dietz Saldanha, Schambach 2019)

| | Cluster 1 | Cluster 2 | ... |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Principle 1 | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Principle 2 | - | ✓ | |
| ... | | | |
| | ↓ | ↓ | |
| | No valid conclusion | Some chemists are not artists | |

↵ **Modeling of cognitive principles in Cognitive Argumentation !** (Dietz Saldanha, Kakas (2019))

COGNITIVE ARGUMENTATION



WHY ARGUMENTATION?

- ▶ provides flexibility for reasoning, handling conflicts and changes
- ▶ Some arguments might be stronger than other arguments
 - ~~ can explain individual reasoning patterns
- ▶ Strong evidence from psychology (Mercier and Sperber, 2011)
 - ~~ **arguments are the means for human reasoning**

Associations represented through Argument Schemes (Pollock, 1995, Walton, 1996)

- ▶ Generic form of associations, common, stereotypical reasoning patterns
- ▶ Labeled with names, which allow meta-information about them such as relative strength relations
 - ~~ affects the ability of arguments to defend against other arguments
- ▶ powerful in understanding the structure of arguments & plays a key role in teaching critical thinking skills

~~ <https://www.rationaleonline.com/>

Cognitive Argumentation successfully accounts for all typical reasoning tasks Dietz, Kakas (2019; 2020, 2021)

~~ **Cognitive principles as argument schemes**

COGNITIVE ARGUMENTATION

Cognitive Principles

1. Humans make assumptions while reasoning
2. Many of these assumptions are not necessarily valid in classical logic
3. These typical assumptions are extra-logical
4. Yet, humans are pretty good in explaining plausibly why they make these assumptions

- ~~> Characterization as argument schemes
- ~~> These schemes guide argument construction

| TIME SCALE OF HUMAN ACTION | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Scale (sec) | Time Units | System | World (theory) |
| 10^7 | months | | SOCIAL BAND |
| 10^6 | weeks | | |
| 10^5 | days | | |
| 10^4 | hours | Task | RATIONAL BAND |
| 10^3 | 10 min | Task | |
| 10^2 | minutes | Task | |
| 10^1 | 10 sec | Unit task | COGNITIVE BAND |
| 10^0 | 1 sec | Operations | |
| 10^{-1} | 100 ms | Deliberate act | |
| 10^{-2} | 10 ms | Neural circuit | BIOLOGICAL BAND |
| 10^{-3} | 1 ms | Neuron | |
| 10^{-4} | 100 µs | Organelle | |

COGNITIVE ARGUMENTATION

\mathcal{P} set of propositional variables, $\neg\mathcal{P} = \{\neg x \mid x \in \mathcal{P}\}$

$\rightsquigarrow \{e, \ell, o, t\}$

$\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{A})$ cognitive state, with set of facts \mathcal{F} and relevance set \mathcal{A}

$\rightsquigarrow (\{e\}, \{e, \ell\})$

Argument scheme AS is a pair of precondition and position of the form

$$\text{AS} = (\text{Pre}, \text{Pos})$$

where $\text{Pre}, \text{Pos} \subseteq (\mathcal{P} \cup \neg\mathcal{P})$

► Argument Δ is a set of argument schemes

\rightsquigarrow A short introduction to the library task

THE LIBRARY TASK



THE LIBRARY TASK (Byrne, 1989)

- ▶ If she has an essay to finish, then she will study late in the library
- ▶ She has an essay to finish

What follows?

1. She will study late in the library 96%
2. She will not study late in the library
3. She may or may not study late in the library

THE LIBRARY TASK (Byrne, 1989)

- ▶ If she has an essay to finish, then she will study late in the library
- ▶ If she has a textbook to read, then she will study late in the library
- ▶ She has an essay to finish

What follows?

1. She will study late in the library 96%
2. She will not study late in the library
3. She may or may not study late in the library

- ~~ Humans seem to suppress previously drawn information. They reason non-monotonically!
- ~~ Instead of concluding that humans do not reason logically,
we assume that humans do not reason in accordance with Classical Logic!

THE LIBRARY TASK (Byrne, 1989)

- ▶ If she has an essay to finish, then she will study late in the library
- ▶ If the library is open, then she will study late in the library
- ▶ She has an essay to finish

What follows?

1. She will study late in the library 38%
2. She will not study late in the library
3. She may or may not study late in the library

- ~~ Humans seem to suppress previously drawn information. They reason non-monotonically!
- ~~ Instead of concluding that humans do not reason logically,
we assume that humans do not reason in accordance with Classical Logic!

COGNITIVE ARGUMENTATION

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where $\text{Pre}, \text{Pos} \subseteq (\mathcal{P} \cup \neg\mathcal{P})$

- Argument Δ is a set of argument schemes

If she has an essay to finish, then she will study late in the library $(e \rightsquigarrow \ell)$
She has an essay to finish (e)

- Argument Schemes $(e \rightsquigarrow \ell) = (\{e\}, \{\ell\})$ $\text{fact}(e) = (\emptyset, \{e\})$
- Argument $\Delta = \{\text{fact}(e), (e \rightsquigarrow \ell)\}$ is argument for ℓ given $\mathcal{S} = (\{e\}, \{e, \ell\})$

rightsquigarrow Evaluation of arguments as Dung [1995]

rightsquigarrow Applied to preference based structured argumentation

e.g. Kakas and Moraitsis [2003], Modgil and Prakken [2013], Prakken and Sartor [1997]

COGNITIVE PRINCIPLES IN THE LIBRARY TASK

Maxim of Quality (Grice, 1975) (factual) information is assumed to be true

$\Rightarrow \Delta^{\text{fact}}$

Maxim of Relevance (Grice, 1975) (mentioned) information is assumed to be relevant

$\Rightarrow \Delta_{\text{hyp}}$

If she has an essay to finish, then she will study late in the library

- *She has an essay to finish* is **sufficient** support for *She will study late in the library*

\rightsquigarrow *She has an essay to finish* is a **sufficient condition!** $\Rightarrow \Delta_{e \rightsquigarrow s \rightsquigarrow l}$

\rightsquigarrow *She has an essay to finish* is also a **necessary condition!** $\Rightarrow \Delta_{\overline{e} \rightsquigarrow \overline{s} \rightsquigarrow \overline{l}}$

If the library is open, then she will study late in the library

- *The library is open* is not sufficient support for *She will study late in the library*

- *The library is not open* **plausibly** explains *She will not study late in the library*

\rightsquigarrow *The library is open* is a **necessary condition!** $\Rightarrow \Delta_{\overline{o} \rightsquigarrow \overline{n} \rightsquigarrow \overline{l}}$

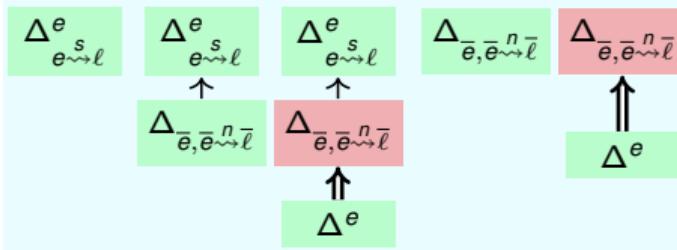
Relative strength relations

- Fact schemes are **strongest schemes**, hypothesis schemes are **weakest schemes**

- necessary schemes (\overline{n}) are stronger than sufficient schemes (\overline{s})

What follows? Will she study late in the library? Will she not study late in the library?

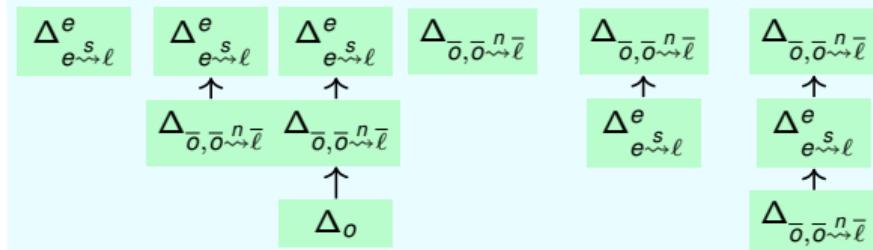
For ℓ and $\bar{\ell}$ in Group I $S = (\{e\}, \{e, \ell\})$



Arg for ℓ Attack Defense Arg for $\bar{\ell}$ Attack

\rightsquigarrow only ℓ is an acceptable conclusion

Construction for ℓ and $\bar{\ell}$ in Group III $S = (\{e\}, \{e, \ell, o\})$



Arg for ℓ Attack Defense Arg for $\bar{\ell}$ Attack

\rightsquigarrow ℓ and $\bar{\ell}$ are acceptable conclusions

Argumentation works on a two-level decision procedure

Symbolic level What are the arguments for and against a certain position?

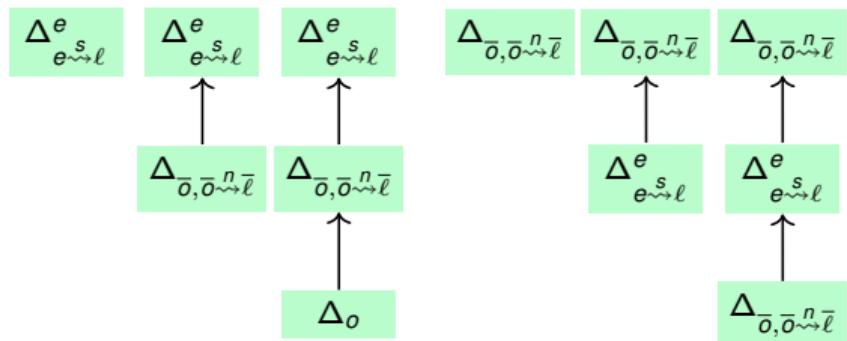
Meta-level What are their relative strength relations? Which argument wins?

She has an essay to finish. Will she study late in the library?

Argument Construction What are the arguments for and against a position?

Preference-based decision What are their relative strength relations?

Group III, construct argument for library (ℓ) and not library ($\neg\ell$) given fact essay (e)
possible hypotheses: essay (e), not essay ($\neg e$), library (ℓ), not library ($\neg\ell$), open (o), not open ($\neg o$)



~~ ℓ and $\bar{\ell}$ are acceptable conclusions
(only 38% concluded ℓ)

Person A if e then ℓ . e is fact.
Thus ℓ (Arg for ℓ).

Person B if $\neg o$ then $\neg\ell$ (necessary condition).
 $\neg o$ is hypothesis. Thus $\neg\ell$ (Attack).

Person A o is equally strong to $\neg o$.
 o is hypothesis (Defense).

Person B if $\neg o$ then $\neg\ell$. $\neg o$ is hypothesis.
Thus $\neg\ell$ (Arg for $\neg\ell$).

Person A if e then ℓ . e is fact.
Thus ℓ (Attack).

Person B 'if $\neg o$ then $\neg\ell$ ' (necessary) is stronger
than 'if e then ℓ ' (sufficient) (Defense).

| Fact | Group | Predictive | | Explanatory | | Experimental Results | |
|--------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| | | suff&necc | suff | suff&necc | suff | Byrne [1989] | Dieussaert et al. [2000] |
| e | I | ℓ | ℓ | - | - | 96% ℓ | 88% ℓ |
| e | II | - | ℓ | - | - | 96% ℓ | 93% ℓ |
| e | III | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | - | - | 38% ℓ | 60% ℓ |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| \bar{e} | I | $\bar{\ell}$ | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | - | - | 46% $\bar{\ell}$ | 49% $\bar{\ell}$ |
| \bar{e} | II | - | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | - | - | 4% $\bar{\ell}$ | 22% $\bar{\ell}$ |
| \bar{e} | III | $\bar{\ell}$ | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | - | - | 63% $\bar{\ell}$ | 49% $\bar{\ell}$ |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| ℓ | I | e | e, \bar{e} | e^* | e, \bar{e} | 71% e | 53% e |
| ℓ | II | - | e, \bar{e} | - | e, \bar{e} | 13% e | 16% e |
| ℓ | III | e | e, \bar{e} | e^* | e, \bar{e} | 54% e | 55% e |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| $\bar{\ell}$ | I | \bar{e} | \bar{e} | \bar{e}^* | e, \bar{e} | \bar{e}^* | e, \bar{e} |
| $\bar{\ell}$ | II | - | \bar{e} | - | \bar{e}^* | e, \bar{e} | 96% \bar{e} |
| $\bar{\ell}$ | III | \bar{e} | \bar{e} | e, \bar{e} | e, \bar{e} | 33% \bar{e} | 44% \bar{e} |

Summary on Cognitive Argumentation

- ▶ models all twelve cases of the suppression task accounting for different majorities (Dietz, Kakas 2020)
- ▶ generalizes from the specific case to general assumptions motivated from cognitive science
- ▶ models also other typical reasoning tasks (Dietz, Kakas 2019, 2020, 2021)

However, ...

- ~~ it does not seem plausible that humans consider **all arguments** for and against a certain position
- ~~ Can argument construction be guided by 'lower levels' of cognition implemented in a cognitive architecture?

BRIDGING TO LOWER LEVELS OF COGNITION

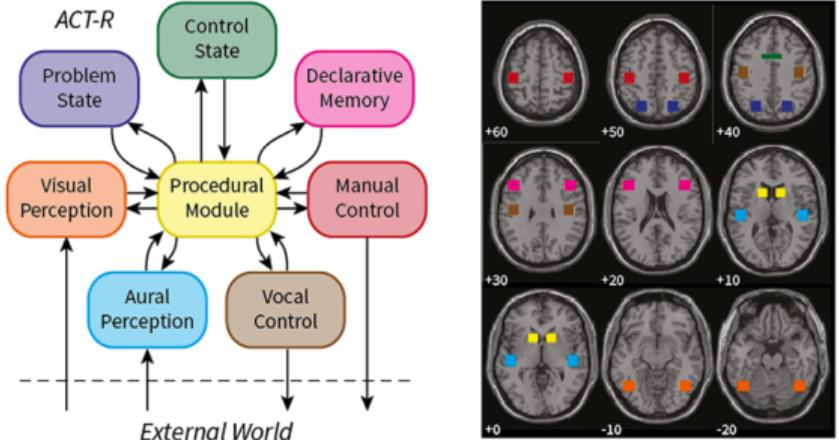


Image retrieved from [Borst and Anderson, 2017]

ACT-R: A THEORY ABOUT HOW HUMAN COGNITION WORKS (ANDERSON [2007])

Arguments as Chunks in Declarative Module

- ~ Model stores information as **chunks**
- ~ **Each chunk has a name** (used for reference)
- ~ A chunk possibly contains a set of **named slots with single values**

(chunk-type context value hypo)

(chunk-type argument fact hypo

 position context neg-position strength)

(add-dm

(SUF isa context value SUFFICIENT hypo ALTERNATIVE)

(NEC isa context value NECESSARY hypo DISABLER)

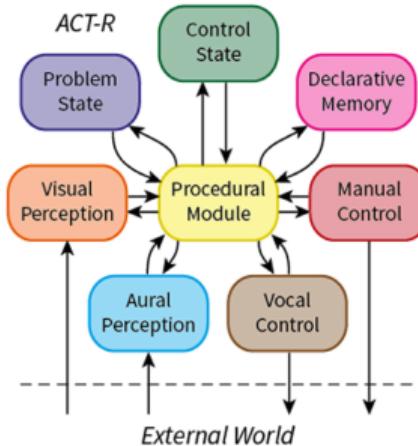
(ARG-E-SUF isa argument fact ESSAY hypo NONE

 position "YES" context SUF

 neg-position "UNKNOWN" strength 1)

)

Simulation of Cognitive Functions (Anderson [2007])



Functions as modules

- **Declarative memory**
- **Procedural module**

ACT-R: A THEORY ABOUT HOW HUMAN COGNITION WORKS (ANDERSON [2007])

Procedural System and Knowledge Retrieval

- Modification of the system's state through execution of rules:

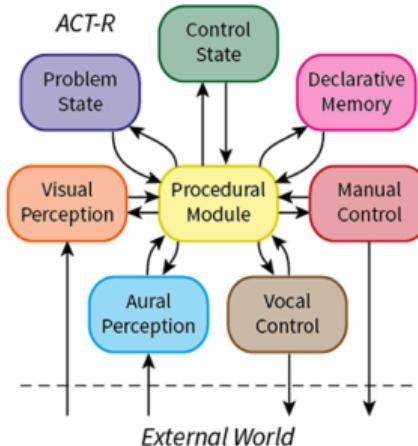
Procedural module, Utility module, Production-compilation module

```
(p retrieve-counter    (...)  
  =goal>  
    state          argue  
  =retrieval>  
    position       =position  
  (...)  
  ==>  (...)  
  +retrieval>  
  (...)  
    neg-position   =position  
  =goal>  
    state          argue)
```

- Retrieval of knowledge through chunk activation

spreading activation, base-level activation, noise, partial matching

Simulation of Cognitive Functions (Anderson [2007])



Functions as modules

- Declarative memory
- Procedural module

Cognitive Architecture

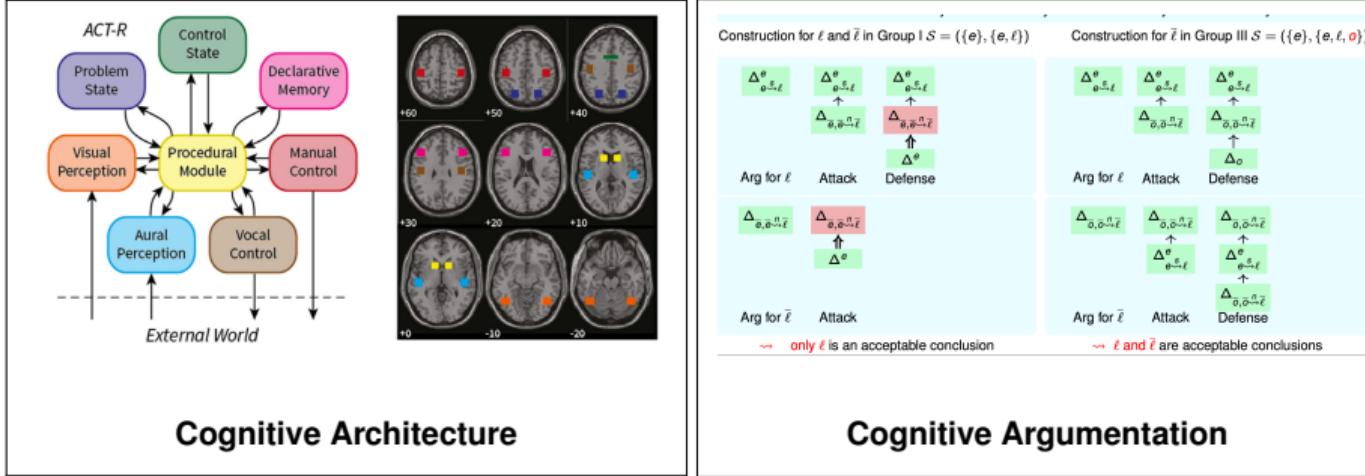
| Construction for ℓ and $\bar{\ell}$ in Group I $S = \{e\}, \{e, \ell\}$ | | | Construction for $\bar{\ell}$ in Group III $S = \{e\}, \{e, \ell, o\}$ | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| $\Delta_{\emptyset \vdash \ell}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset \vdash \ell}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset \vdash \ell}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset \vdash \ell}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset \vdash \ell}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset \vdash \ell}^o$ |
| \uparrow | \uparrow | \uparrow | \uparrow | \uparrow | \uparrow |
| $\Delta_{\emptyset, \emptyset \dashv \bar{\ell}}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset, \emptyset \dashv \bar{\ell}}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset, \emptyset \dashv \bar{\ell}}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset, \emptyset \dashv \bar{\ell}}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset, \emptyset \dashv \bar{\ell}}^o$ | $\Delta_{\emptyset, \emptyset \dashv \bar{\ell}}^o$ |
| Arg for ℓ | Attack | Defense | Arg for ℓ | Attack | Defense |
| $\Delta_{\emptyset, \emptyset \dashv \bar{\ell}}^o$ | | | $\Delta_{\emptyset, \emptyset \dashv \bar{\ell}}^o$ | | |
| \uparrow | | | \uparrow | | |
| Δ^o | | | Δ^o | | |
| Arg for $\bar{\ell}$ | | | Arg for $\bar{\ell}$ | | |
| Attack | | | Attack | | |
| \rightsquigarrow only ℓ is an acceptable conclusion | | | \rightsquigarrow ℓ and $\bar{\ell}$ are acceptable conclusions | | |

Cognitive Argumentation

Cognitive Argumentation (Dietz and Kakas [2020])

| Fact | Group | sufficient&necessary | sufficient | Byrne [1989] | ACT-R (Dietz [2022]) |
|--------------|-------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| e | I | ℓ | ℓ | 96% ℓ | 90% ℓ |
| e | II | - | ℓ | 96% ℓ | 90% ℓ |
| e | III | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | 38% ℓ | 37% ℓ |
| \bar{e} | I | $\bar{\ell}$ | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | 46% $\bar{\ell}$ | 31% $\bar{\ell}$ |
| \bar{e} | II | - | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | 4% $\bar{\ell}$ | 10% $\bar{\ell}$ |
| \bar{e} | III | $\bar{\ell}$ | $\ell, \bar{\ell}$ | 63% $\bar{\ell}$ | 65% $\bar{\ell}$ |
| ℓ | I | e | e, \bar{e} | 71% e | 31% e |
| ℓ | II | - | e, \bar{e} | 13% e | 10% e |
| ℓ | III | e | e, \bar{e} | 54% e | 64% e |
| $\bar{\ell}$ | I | \bar{e} | \bar{e} | 92% \bar{e} | 90% \bar{e} |
| $\bar{\ell}$ | II | - | \bar{e} | 96% \bar{e} | 89% \bar{e} |
| $\bar{\ell}$ | III | \bar{e} | \bar{e} | 33% \bar{e} | 37% \bar{e} |

SUMMARY ON COGNITIVE ARGUMENTATION IN ACT-R

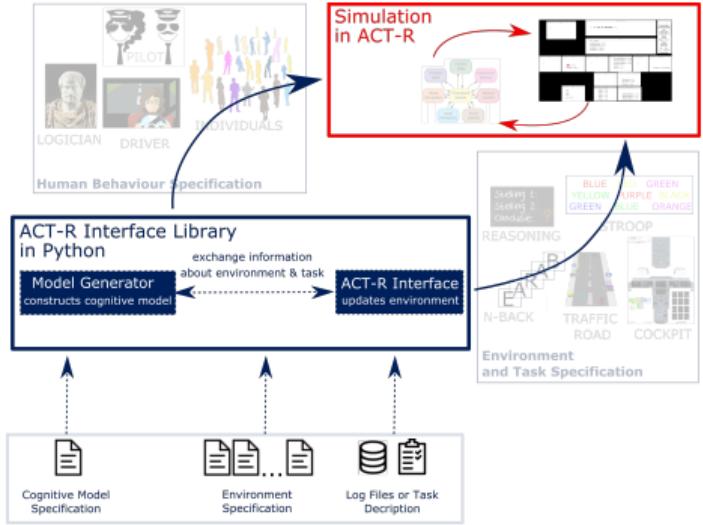


First step towards reasoning with argumentation and bridging between different levels of cognition...

... argumentation provides **contrastive explanations** (why not choose the other answer ? ...)

... further development between **cognitive argumentation**, spreading activation and learning in ACT-R !

BENCHMARKING COGNITIVE MODELS



Criteria for a **good model** [Taatgen and Anderson, 2010]

1. Applicability to other tasks
2. Simplicity
3. Eventually, the ability to predict the outcome of new experiments

but ...

So far there are no criteria (...) to identify relevant problems

but this is a necessary condition to develop a generally accepted benchmark [Ragni, 2020]

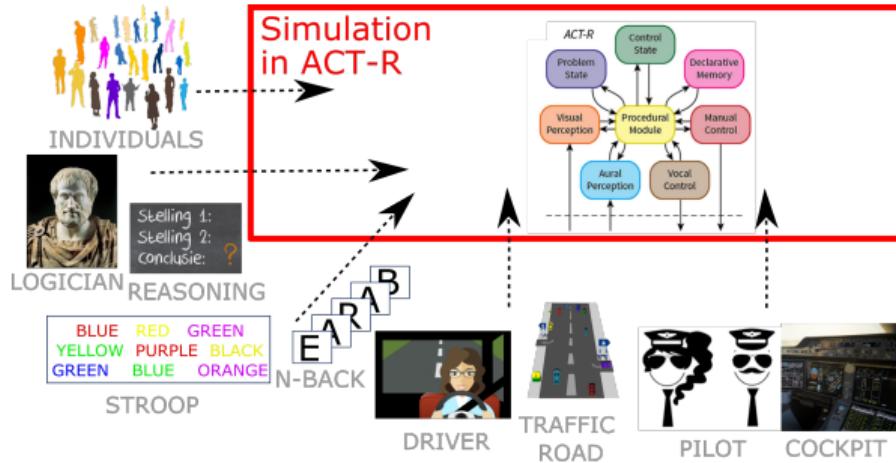
Existing Idea applied to a Different Domain ↵ **Develop benchmarks for tasks and cognitive models !**

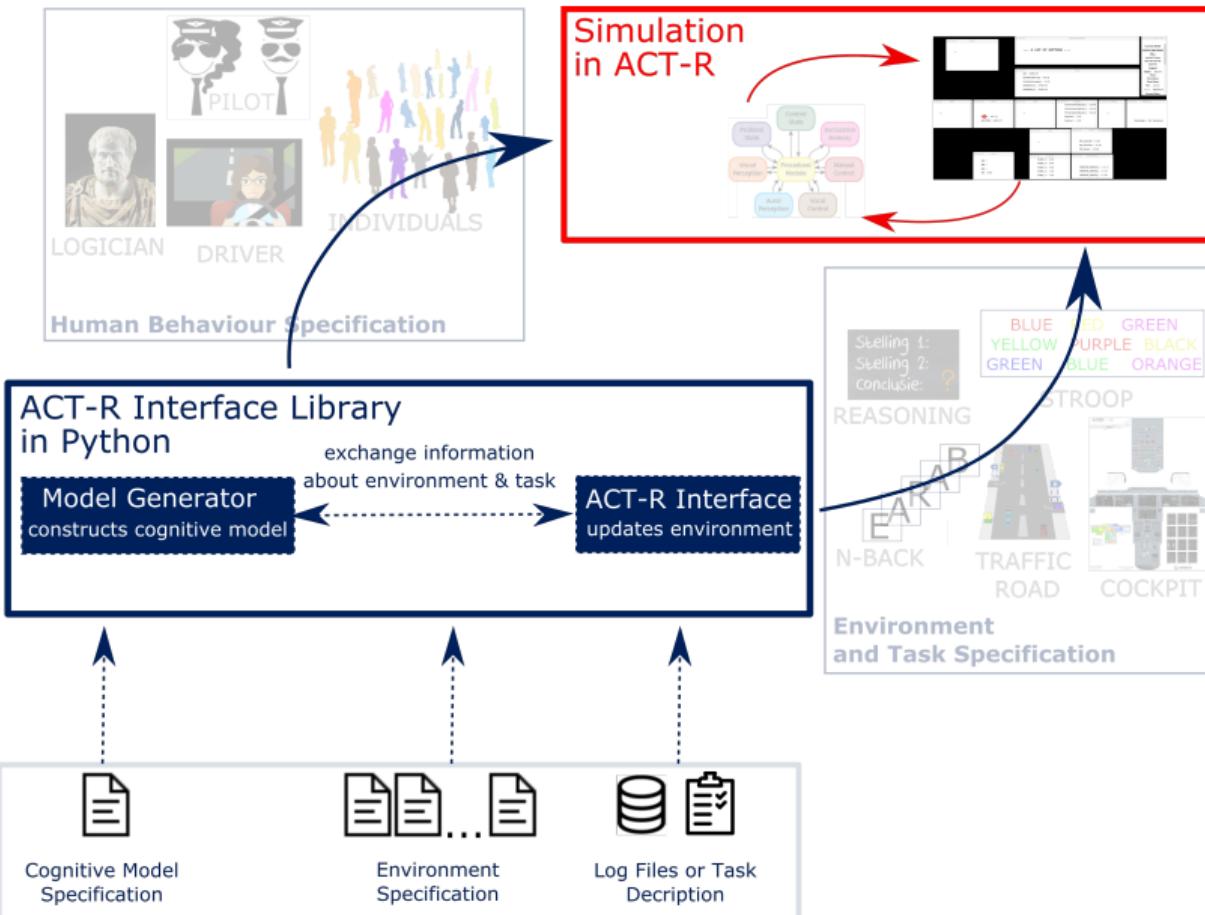
similar as PRECORE Challenge [Ragni, Riesterer, and Khemlani, 2019]

- ↪ Parametrization of the task as modular task design through ACT-R interface
- ↪ Parametrization of the model by **modular and guided production and chunk engineering**

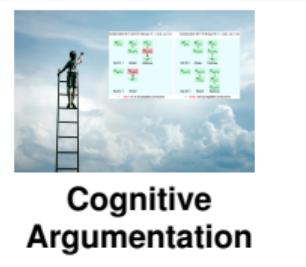
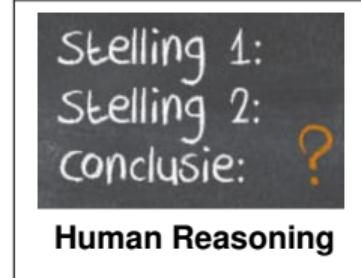
Towards benchmarking cognitive models [Dietz and Klaproth, 2021]

↪ **A python library for partial model generation in ACT-R**

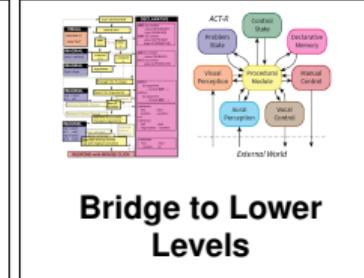




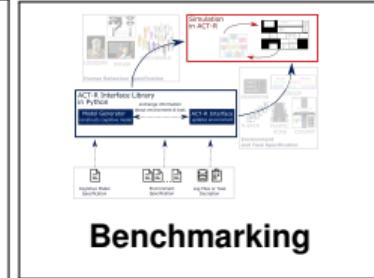
TAKE HOME MESSAGE



Cognitive Argumentation



Bridge to Lower Levels



Benchmarking

- ▶ Cognitive Principles in Argumentation seem to plausibly model episodes of human reasoning
- ▶ Heuristics in ACT-R can serve as a guidance for the selection of arguments
- ▶ A Unified benchmark catalogue of models and tasks could help to make
 - ~~> the research contributions of last decades **accessible** and **visible**

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