

Fragebogen

1 General_Instruction

Dear participant,

thank you very much for your participation in this experiment in which we investigate causal reasoning.

On the next screens, we will show a fictitious scenario that we use to investigate this issue.

Please take your time and make sure that you fully understand the scenario. This is important for us because we will later ask you to provide particular judgments. Please note that we are interested in your **intuitive decisions**.

Finally, please notice that your participation in this study is fully anonymous and that we guarantee that we do not collect any personal information. You can quit the study at any time by simply closing the browser window.

*This research is conducted under the scientific direction of:
Dr. Simon Stephan
Department of Cognitive and Decision Sciences,
University of Göttingen, Germany.*

Before you start, please:

- **maximize your browser window;**
- **switch off phone/e-mail/music & anything else distracting**
- **and please enter your Prolific ID [it can be found at the top of this webpage or when going to your account info]:**

This study works properly only on Desktop PCs and Laptops, and not on Smartphones or Tablets. Please confirm that you take part via Desktop PC or Laptop.

- ☐ I confirm that I take part via Desktop PC or Laptop.
- ☐ I do not confirm that I take part via Desktop PC or Laptop.

For the scientific utility of the results, it is very important that you provide complete and careful responses.

How seriously will you take your participation in the study?

- ☐ I confirm that I will take my participation in this study seriously.
- ☐ I confirm that I will not take my participation in this study seriously.

2.1 page

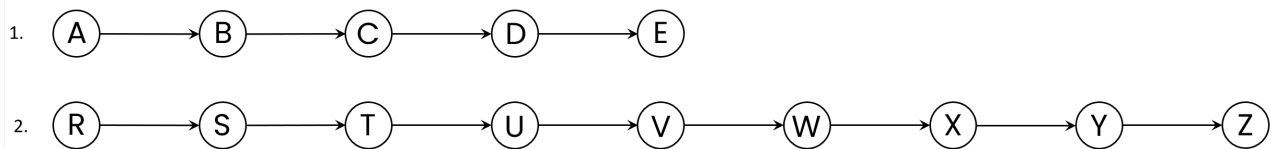
Please read the following information:

Below you see the abstract diagrams of two different and independent causal chains. Each chain depicts the causal relation between different factors labelled with abstract letters. These abstract factors could be anything, for the present purposes it is only important that you understand how they are causally related, which is indicated by the causal arrows.

As you can see, the two causal chains differ in length.

In the first causal chain, factor A has a causal influence on factor B, factor B has a causal influence on factor C, factor C has a causal influence on factor D, and factor D has a causal influence on factor E.

In the second causal chain, factor R has a causal influence on factor S, factor S has a causal influence on factor T, factor T has a causal influence on factor U, factor U has a causal influence on factor V, factor V has a causal influence on factor W, factor W has a causal influence on factor X, factor X has a causal influence on factor Y, and factor Y has a causal influence on factor Z.



The diagrams of the causal chains only show how the different factors are causally linked (indicated by the arrows), but the diagrams do not show how strong the different causal links are.

Nonetheless, we now would like to learn about your intuition about the strengths of the different links of the two causal chains.

On this screen, you'll start with the first chain. Please use the sliders displayed below to indicate for each link of the first chain how strong you think this link is.

How strong do you think is the causal link between A and B?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between B and C?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between C and D?

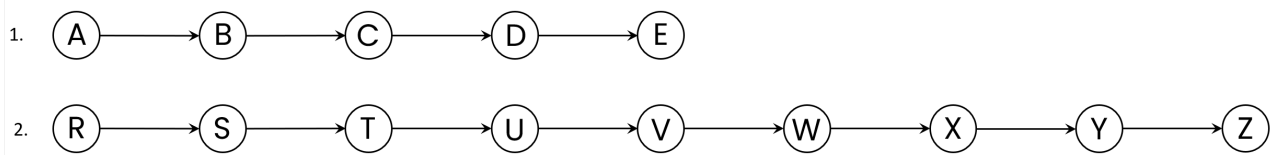
Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between D and E?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

2.2 second chain

On the previous screen, you've indicated your intuition about the strengths of the links of the first chain. On this screen, we'd like to get to know your intuition about the strengths of the links of the second chain.



Please use the sliders displayed below to indicate for each link of the second chain how strong you think this link is.

How strong do you think is the causal link between R and S?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between S and T?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between T and U?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between U and V?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between V and W?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between W and X?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between X and Y?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between Y and Z?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

3.1 page

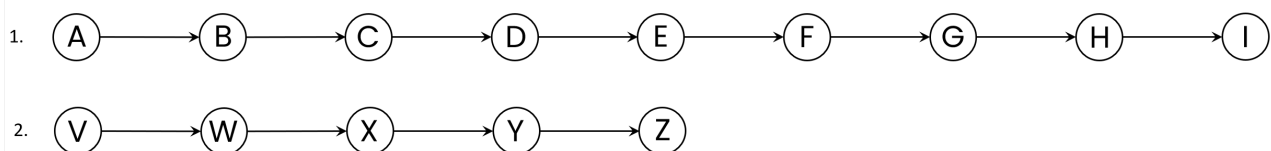
Please read the following information:

Below you see the abstract diagrams of two different and independent causal chains. Each chain depicts the causal relation between different factors labelled with abstract letters. These abstract factors could be anything, for the present purposes it is only important that you understand how they are causally related, which is indicated by the causal arrows.

As you can see, the two causal chains differ in length.

In the first causal chain, factor A has a causal influence on factor B, factor B has a causal influence on factor C, factor C has a causal influence on factor D, factor D has a causal influence on factor E, factor E has a causal influence on factor F, factor F has a causal influence on factor G, factor G has a causal influence on factor H, and factor H has a causal influence on factor I.

In the second causal chain, factor V has a causal influence on factor W, factor W has a causal influence on factor X, factor X has a causal influence on factor Y, and factor Y has a causal influence on factor Z.



The diagrams of the causal chains only show how the different factors are causally linked (indicated by the arrows), but the diagrams do not show how strong the different causal links are.

Nonetheless, we now would like to learn about your intuition about the strengths of the different links of the two causal chains.

On this screen, you'll start with the first chain. Please use the sliders displayed below to indicate for each link of the first chain how strong you think this link is.

How strong do you think is the causal link between A and B?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between B and C?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between C and D?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between D and E?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between E and F?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between F and G?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between G and H?

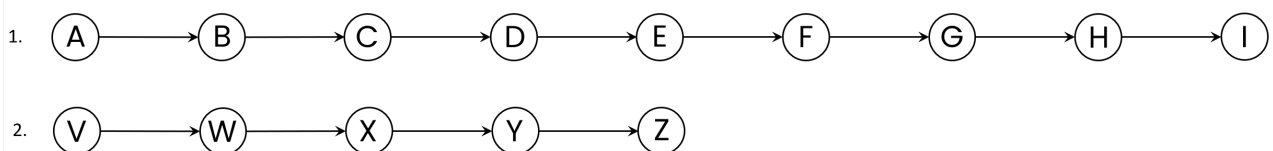
Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between H and I?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

3.2 second chain

On the previous screen, you've indicated your intuition about the strengths of the links of the first chain. On this screen, we'd like to get to know your intuition about the strengths of the links of the second chain.



Please use the sliders displayed below to indicate for each link of the second chain how strong you think this link is.

How strong do you think is the causal link between V and W?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between W and X?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between X and Y?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

How strong do you think is the causal link between Y and Z?

Please use the slider below to provide your answer.

4 Demographie

Thank you very much for your effort, you are almost done with the survey. Please provide the following additional information:

Please indicate with which gender you identify.

- ☐ male
- ☐ female
- ☐ other
- ☐ prefer not to say

How old are you?

In the text field below you can report any errors that you came across during the study (e.g., technical issues, layout problems, spelling errors, errors in program logic and flow, etc.).

5 Endseite

Thank you for taking part in this study!

The aim of this experiment is to find out more about how people reason about causality. If you are interested in further details or if you have any questions or comments concerning the experiment, feel free to contact me (Simon Stephan) under sstepha1@uni-goettingen.de

To ensure you receive your reward, please click on the following link to return to the Prolific website:

[Link to Prolific](#)
