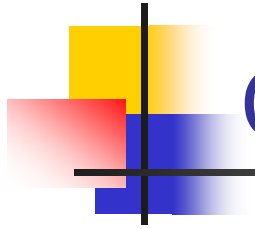




# History of Cognition: Basic Principles

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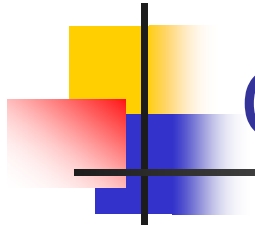
# Overview

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- Cognition

- **Humans operate as “information processors”**

- (1) Environment provides data
    - (2) Some information selected for processing
    - (3) Behavioral impact, attitude formation, etc.

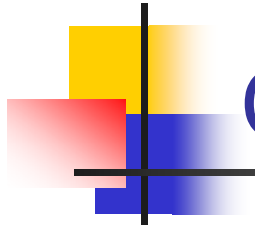


# Overview

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- **Mental representations**

- Used to interpret and convey meaning
- Two major facets
  - (1) the **format** used to represent concepts
  - (2) the **content** or meaning of concepts



# Overview

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- **Mental processing**

- Mental input generates mental output
- Human-as-a-computer analogy
  - (1) Environment provides data
  - (2) Information selected for processing
  - (3) Behavioral impact, attitude formation, etc.



# History

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- **Wundt (1879)**

- Established first psychological research laboratory in Germany
- Many early psychologists started in Wundt's lab, including cognition researchers
- Problem: used introspection to report functions of consciousness, memory, and attention



# History

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- **Ebbinghaus (1879)**

- Nonsense syllables and “forgetting curve”
- Like Wundt, also drew heavily on introspection
- Used a singular test subject throughout his entire career – himself!

lig	bap	yug
deg	nos	fep
waz	sav	sab
pij	fiv	div
suz	dac	nes
wox	sij	pak
vug	kag	fov
huk	xuz	lim
suf	kuj	waf



# History

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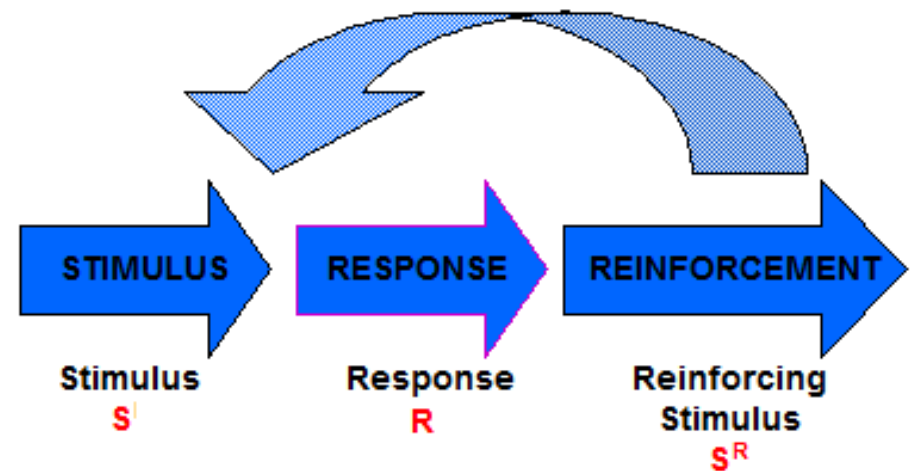
- **William James (1879)**
  - Also a student of Wundt's lab
  - Began career by asking questions like “Why?”  
(and not very successful answering them)
  - How does the mind adapt to new circumstances?
  - Proposed ‘*Functionalism*’



# History

## ■ Behaviorism (1910-1960s)

- Major paradigm in psychology for decades
- Mind as a 'black box'
- Stimulus  $\Rightarrow$  Response model





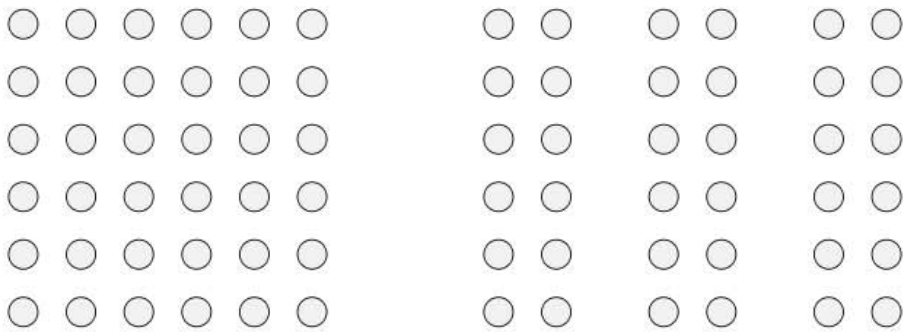
# History

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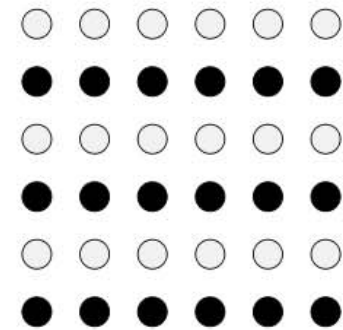
- **Gestalt psychology (1920s-1940s)**
  - The mind reacts to external stimuli as a whole, rather than the sum of their parts
  - How we interpret stimuli is what matters

## Gestalt Grouping Principles

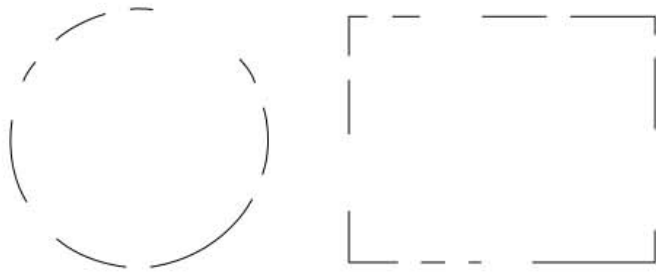
Law of Proximity



Law of Similarity

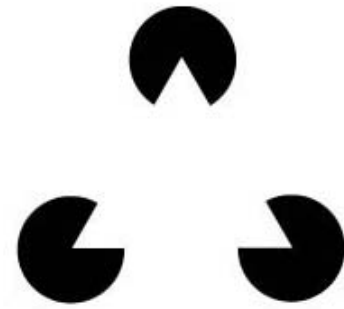


Law of Closure

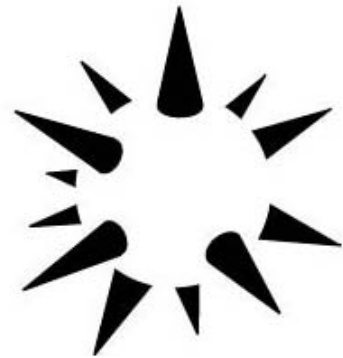


Law of Continuity

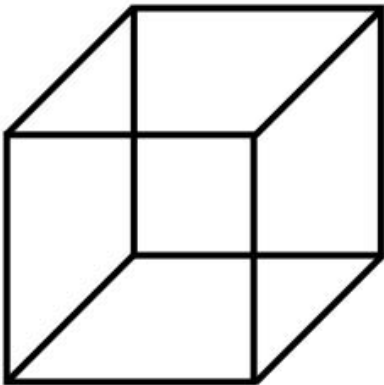




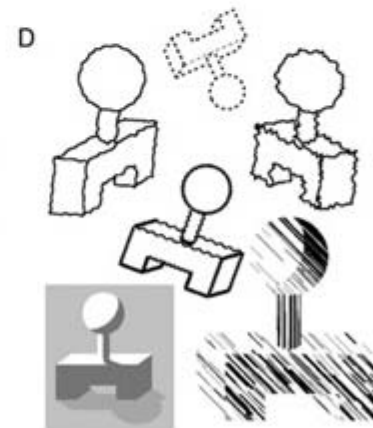
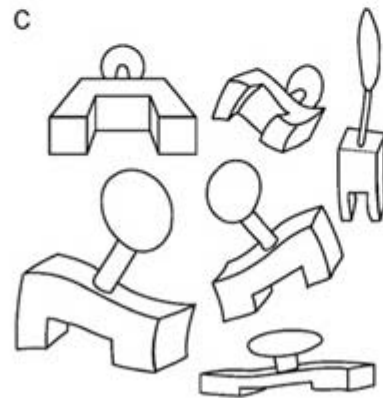
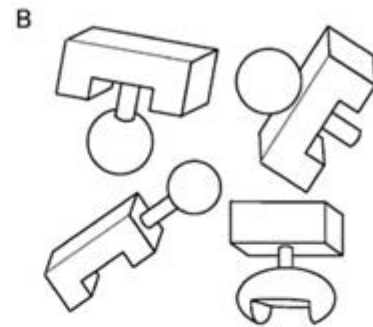
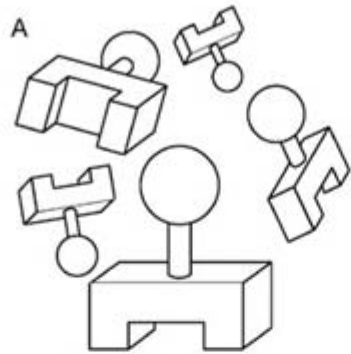
Reification



Multistability



# Invariance



You can type upside down

you can type upside down

**IF YOU CAN READ THIS, YOU HAVE A STRONG MIND**

THIS MESSAGE  
SERVES TO PROVE HOW OUR MINDS  
CAN DO AMAZING THINGS.  
IMPROVE THINGS.  
IN THE BEGINNING IT WAS HARD BUT NOW,  
ON THIS LINE YOUR MIND IS READING  
AUTOMATICALLY WITH OUT EVEN  
THINKING ABOUT IT, BE PROUD.  
ONLY CERTAIN PEOPLE  
CAN READ THIS

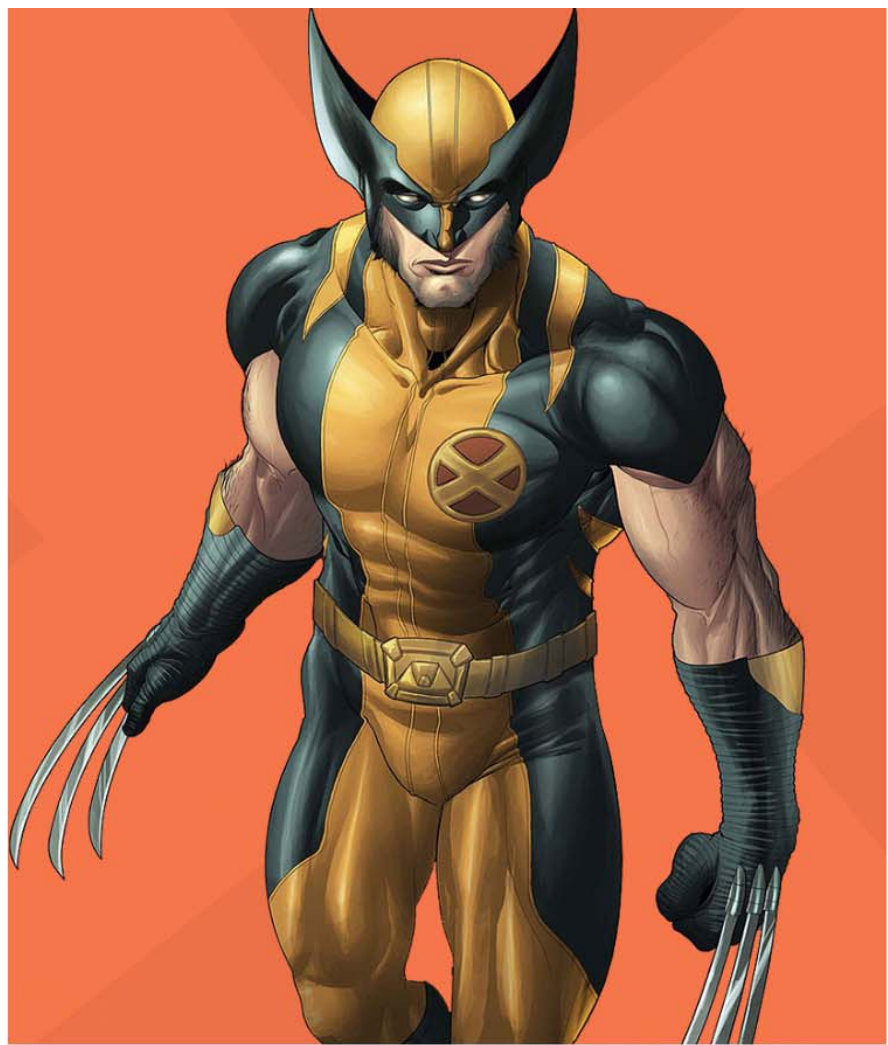
HIT (LIKE) AND SHARE IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND



WOLVERINE?....



OR 2 BAT MEN?





WOLVERINE?....



OR 2 BAT MEN?

Maple leaf or two faces arguing?





# History

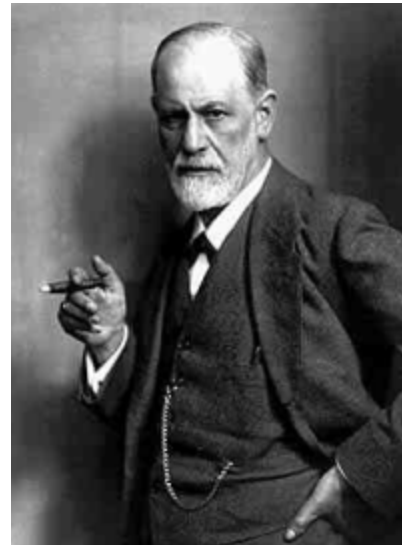
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- Human performance and mental health (1940s)
  - Scientists from different fields during WWII joined efforts on human cognition
  - Many military studies on attention/perception
    - Best practices to train soldiers to use radio and radar, signal detection, sonar...

# History

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- Other perspectives: Psychoanalysis (1910-1950s)
  - Freud
    - Existed
    - Now he doesn't
  - Moving on...





# History

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- **Artificial intelligence (1940s-present)**
  - How can we make computers behave intelligently?
  - Human-technology interface
- **Linguistics (1950s)**
  - Interest in cross-cultural language development
  - Behaviorism fading as new models emerge for language acquisition and complexity (e.g., Chomsky)





## History

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- **Cognitive revolution (1960s)**
  - Increased dissatisfaction with Behaviorism
  - Convergence of several fields during WWII (linguistics, human performance, AI)
  - Mental processes/structures CAN be revealed, studied, and predicted through proper observation and measurement

