Scientific challenge:

Beat the simplest results of my Controlled Natural Language (CNL) reasoner

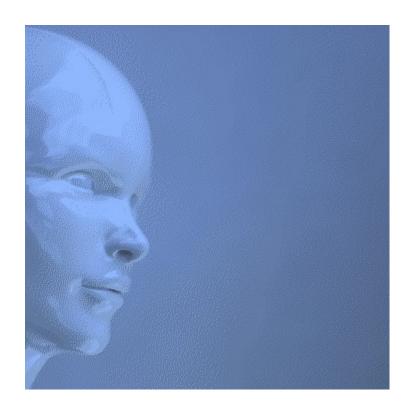


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Introduction

Science relies on the assumption that we live in an ordered universe that is subject to exact, deterministic, and consistent laws of nature. So, everything in nature is bound by natural laws and proceeds according to natural laws.

Natural laws, logic, and natural phenomena are investigated using <u>fundamental science</u>:

- Natural reasoning requires both natural intelligence and natural language;
- Intelligence and language are natural phenomena;
- Natural phenomena obey the laws of nature;
- Laws of nature and logic are investigated using fundamental science.

However, the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) — in a broad sense — is investigated using <u>cognitive science</u>. As such, the field of AI and NLP is limited to mimic behavior, while mimicking a hen's — chicken's — behavior will not produce a single egg. As a consequence, the field of AI / NLP has fundamental problems. A few simple ones are described in the problem descriptions in this document.

Problem description 1: Reasoning in the past tense

Aristotle described the first discovered natural reasoning construct almost 2,400 years ago:

- Given: "All philosophers are mortal."
- Given: "Socrates is a philosopher."
- Logical conclusion: "Socrates is mortal."

However, at the time Aristotle described the natural reasoning example mentioned above, <u>Socrates</u> was already dead, as the ultimate proof of his morality. So actually, Aristotle should have used the past tense form in his example regarding Socrates:

- Given: "All philosophers are mortal."
- Given: "Socrates was a philosopher."
- Logical conclusion: "Socrates was mortal."

The tense of a verb tells us about the state of the involved statement:

- "Socrates is a philosopher" tells us that Socrates is still alive;
- "Socrates was a philosopher" tells us that Socrates is no longer among the living.

Regarding the conclusion:

- "Socrates is mortal" tells us that the death of Socrates is inevitable, but that his mortality isn't proven yet by hard evidence;
- "Socrates was mortal" tells us that his mortality is proven by hard evidence.

In *Block 5: Past tense reasoning*, a natural reasoning solution is proposed.

Problem description 2: Possessive reasoning (specifications)

The field of <u>electromagnetism</u> is a science because it closes the loop:

- We can convert motion to electromagnetism, and convert electromagnetism back to motion;
- We can convert light to electromagnetism, and electromagnetism back to light;
- We can convert magnetism to electricity, and electricity back to magnetism.

In the same way, natural reasoning closes the loop for natural language and natural intelligence, without any human interaction or engineered techniques:

- From readable sentences,
- through natural logic (natural intelligence),
- with the result expressed in readable word-by-word constructed sentences again.

In primary school, we all learned a similar sum:

- Given: "John has 3 apples."
- Given: "Peter has 4 apples."
- Logical conclusion: "Together, John and Peter have 7 apples."

The school teacher then wrote:

• 3 apples + 4 apples = 7 apples

However, the result of the sum — "7 apples" — lacks a reference to "John and Peter". So, the result of this sum is insufficient to generate a readable sentence:

• "Together, John and Peter have 7 apples."

Hopefully, mathematicians will come to the rescue. They will write:

- J = 3
- P = 4
- J + P = 7

Unfortunately, the mathematical result "J + P = 7" lacks a reference to "apples". So, the result of this algebra is also insufficient to generate a readable sentence:

• "Together, John and Peter have 7 apples."

When such problems occur in the field of AI / NLP, human influence or an engineered solution is applied rather than a generic solution, which downgrades AI / NLP from a science to a field of engineering.

In *Block 3: Grouping of knowledge (specifications)*, a natural reasoning solution is proposed.

Problem description 3: Possessive reasoning (relations)

Possessive reasoning — reasoning using the possessive imperative "have" — is not naturally supported by logic/algebra:

- Given: "Paul is a son of John."
- Logical conclusion: "John has a son, called Paul."

Nor the other way around:

- Given: "John has a son, called Paul."
- Logical conclusion: "Paul is a son of John."

In *Block 4: Grouping of knowledge (relations)*, a natural reasoning solution is proposed.

Problem description 4: Generation of questions

Algebra describes the Exclusive OR (XOR) function, while <u>CNL reasoners</u> don't implement its linguistic equivalent: conjunction "or". CNL reasoners are therefore unable to generate the following question:

- Given: "Every person is a man or a woman."
- Given: "Addison is a person."
- Logical question: "Is Addison a man or a woman?"

In *Block 6: Detection of a conflict* — *and generation of a question*, a natural reasoning solution is proposed.

Challenge

It may seem like Large Language Models (LLM) can solve the aforementioned reasoning problems, from natural language — through natural logic (natural intelligence) — with the result expressed in natural language again. However, LLMs only have a limited, engineered reasoning capability. When reasoning problems are combined, LLMs will start to lose context.

Therefore, I defy anyone to beat the simplest results of my reasoner in a generic (=scientific) way, under the same strict preconditions as my system:

- From readable sentences (with restricted grammar, **Controlled Natural Language**),
- through natural logic (natural intelligence),
- with the results expressed in readable, autonomously word-by-word constructed sentences,
- in multiple languages ¹,
- without programmed or trained knowledge,
- without human-written output sentences,
- without extensive word lists,
- published free of charge as open-source software, just like my software is published as open-source.

¹ Logic is (almost) language-independent. My natural reasoner therefore implements an (almost) language-independent logic, which is configured for five languages: English, Spanish, French, Dutch and Chinese.

The rules of this challenge

- Below are 9 blocks. In the first 7 blocks, I describe the very simplest natural reasoning constructs of my system. Your implementation should deliver the results of at least one of the mentioned blocks. In the last 2 blocks I only show the results of my reasoning system;
- Your implementation should not contain any knowledge after startup. Instead, the system should derive the knowledge from the input sentences of the mentioned examples, from readable sentences, via a generic algorithm, back to readable sentences;
- Preferably, the nouns and proper names used should not be known in advance. I use grammar definitions and an algorithm instead of a word list;
- Your implementation should be set up as generically as possible so that all examples of this challenge can be integrated into a single system;
- The <u>screenshots</u> of my reasoning system show that various natural reasoning constructs reinforce each other. At the end of each of the first 7 blocks a screenshot has been added, to show how my system processes the mentioned examples;
- Your implementation should be published as open source software, so that the functionality is clear, just like my software is published as <u>open source software</u>;
- In case your results are slightly different, you should explain why your system reacts differently;
- It is an ongoing challenge until all mentioned blocks have been implemented by others;
- I will be the jury of your implementation.

A small reward

I am offering a small reward per block to the first person who implements that particular block under the stated conditions. For the first 7 blocks, €1,000 per block. For the last two blocks, €1,500 per block. So €10,000 in total.

You can contact me via LinkedIn and my website.

Block 1: Direct conversions

Definition 1:

```
"{proper noun 1} is a/an/the {singular noun} of {proper noun 2}"
equals to
"{proper noun 2} has a/an {singular noun}, called {proper noun 1}"
```

Examples:

Variables:

- proper noun 1 = "Paul",
- proper noun 2 = "John",
- singular noun = "son"

Result:

- Given: "Paul is a son of John."
- Generated conclusion: "John has a son, called Paul."

Variables:

- proper noun 1 = "Laura",
- proper noun 2 = "Anna",
- singular noun = "daughter"

- Given: "Anna has a daughter, called Laura."
- Generated conclusion: "Laura is a daughter, called Anna."

Definition 2:

```
"Every {singular noun 1} has a/an {singular noun 2}" equals to
```

"A/An {singular noun 2} is part of every {singular noun 1}"

Examples:

Variables:

- singular noun 1 = "car",
- singular noun 2 = "engine"

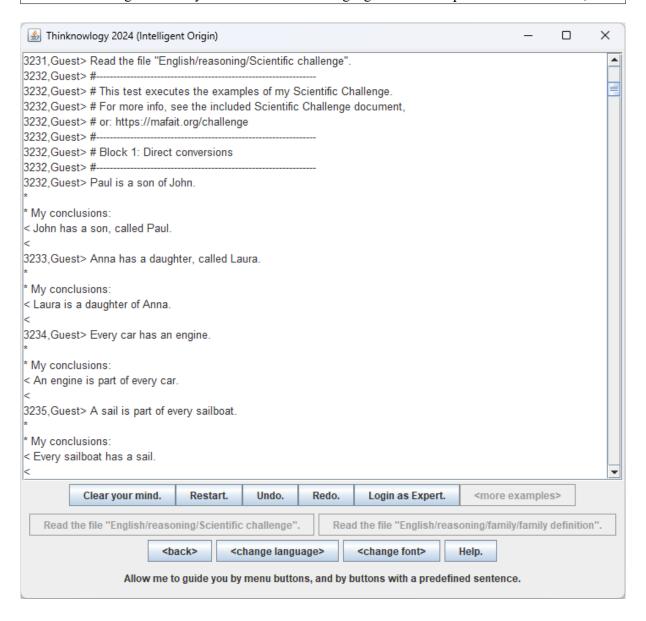
Result:

- Given: "Every car has an engine."
- Generated conclusion: "An engine is part of every car."

Variables:

- singular noun 1 = "sailboat",
- singular noun 2 = "sail"

- Given: "A sail is part of every sailboat."
- Generated conclusion: "Every sailboat has a sail."



Block 2: Indirect conversions

Definition 3a:

```
"Every {singular noun 1} has a/an {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3}" from which can be concluded
```

"A/An {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3} are part of every {singular noun 1}"

Example:

Variables:

- singular noun 1 = "family",
- singular noun 2 = "parent",
- singular noun 3 = "child"

- · Given: "Every family has a parent and a child."
- Generated conclusion: "A parent and a child are part of every family."

Definition 3b:

```
"Every {singular noun 1} has a/an {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3}" and "{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 2 or 3}" from which can be concluded "{proper noun} is part of a/an {singular noun 1}"
```

Definition 3c:

```
"Every {singular noun 1} has a/an {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3}" and
"{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 2}"
from which can be assumed
"{proper noun} has probably a/an {singular noun 3}"
```

```
"Every {singular noun 1} has a/an {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3}" and
```

from which can be assumed

"{proper noun} has probably a/an {singular noun 2}"

[&]quot;{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 3}"

Examples:

Variables:

- proper noun = "Michael",
- singular noun 1 = "family",
- singular noun 2 = "parent",
- singular noun 3 = "child"

Result:

- Given: "Michael is a parent."
- Generated conclusion:

"Michael is part of a family." (generated by Definition 3b)

• Generated assumption:

"Michael has probably a child." (generated by Definition 3c)

Variables:

- proper noun = "Adam",
- singular noun 1 = "family",
- singular noun 2 = "parent",
- singular noun 3 = "child"

Result:

- Given: "Adam is a child."
- Generated conclusion:

"Adam is part of a family." (generated by Definition 3b)

• Generated assumption:

"Adam has probably a child." (generated by Definition 3c)

Definition 3d:

```
"Every {singular noun 1} has a/an {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3}" and
"{proper noun} has a/an {singular noun 2 or 3}"
from which can be assumed
"{proper noun} is probably part of a/an {singular noun 1}"
```

Definition 3e:

```
"Every singular noun 1} has a/an {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3}" and
"{proper noun} has a/an {singular noun 2}"
from which can be assumed
"{proper noun} is probably a/an {singular noun 3}"
```

```
"Every {singular noun 1} has a/an {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3}" and
"{proper noun} has a/an {singular noun 3}"
from which can be assumed
"{proper noun} is probably a/an {singular noun 2}"
```

Examples:

Variables:

- proper noun = "Peter",
- singular noun 1 = "family",
- singular noun 2 = "parent",
- singular noun 3 = "child"

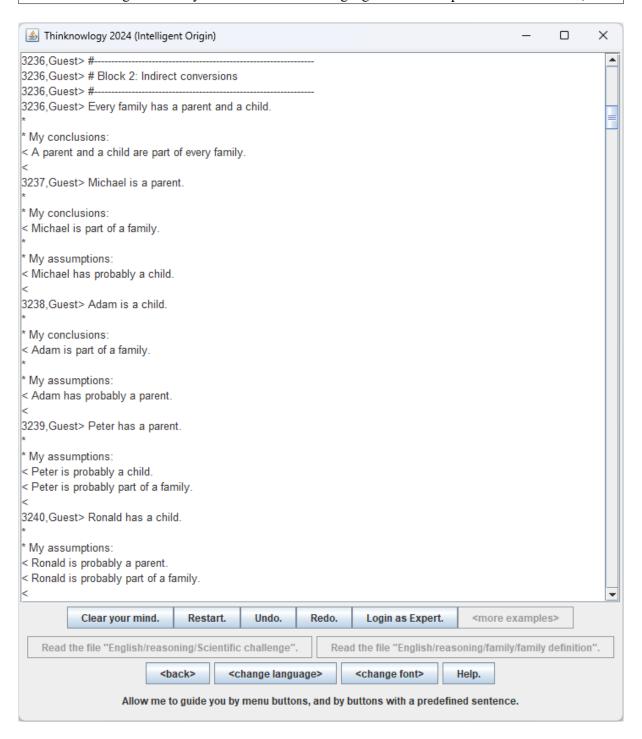
Result:

- Given: "Peter has a parent."
- Generated assumptions:
 - "Peter is probably a child." (generated by Definition 3e)
 - "Peter is probably part of a family." (generated by Definition 3d)

Variables:

- proper noun = "Ronald",
- singular noun 1 = "family",
- singular noun 2 = "parent",
- singular noun 3 = "child"

- Given: "Ronald has a child."
- Generated assumptions:
 - "Ronald is probably a parent." (generated by Definition 3e)
 - "Ronald is probably part of a family." (generated by Definition 3d)



Block 3: Grouping of knowledge (specifications)

Definition 4:

```
"{proper noun 1} has {positive number 1} {singular or plural noun}"
and
"{proper noun 2} has {positive number 2} {singular or plural noun}"
equals to
"Together, {proper noun 1} and {proper noun 2} have {positive number 1 + positive number 2} {plural noun}"
```

Example:

Variables:

- proper noun 1 = "John",
- proper noun 2 = "Peter",
- positive number 1 = 3,
- positive number 2 = 4,
- singular/plural noun = "apple"/"apples"

Result:

- Given: "John has 3 apples."
- Given: "Peter has 4 apples."
- Generated conclusion: "Together, John and Peter have 7 apples."

No screenshot available, because this natural reasoning construct is not implemented yet. It will be published in the second half of 2025.

Block 4: Grouping of knowledge (relations)

Definition 5:

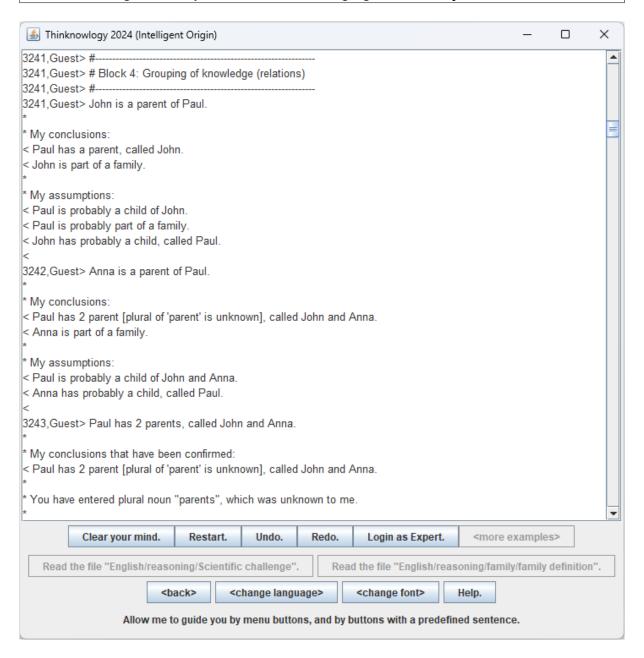
```
"{proper noun 1} has a/an {singular noun}, called {proper noun 2}"
and
"{proper noun 1} has a/an {singular noun}, called {proper noun 3}"
equals to
"{proper noun 1} has {number: 2} [plural form of {singular noun}], called {proper noun 2}
and {proper noun 3}"
```

Example:

Variables:

- proper noun 1 = "Paul",
- proper noun 2 = "John",
- proper noun 3 = "Anna",
- singular noun = "parent"

- Given: "John is a parent of Paul."
- Generated conclusion: "Paul has a parent, called John." (generated by Definition 1)
- Given: "Anna is a parent of Paul."
- Generated conclusion:
 - "Paul has 2 parent [plural of 'parent' is unknown], called John and Anna."
- Given: "Paul has 2 parents, called John and Anna."
- Detected that the generated conclusion is confirmed:
 "Paul has 2 parent [plural of 'parent' is unknown], called John and Anna."
- Detected: You have entered plural noun "parents", which was unknown to me.



Block 5: Past tense reasoning

Definition 6:

```
"{proper noun 1} was a/an/the {singular noun} of {proper noun 2}"
from which can be concluded
"{proper noun 2} has no {singular noun} anymore"

"{proper noun 1} was a/an/the {singular noun} of {proper noun 2}"
from which can be concluded
"{proper noun 2} had a/an {singular noun}, called {proper noun 1}".
```

Example:

Variables:

- proper noun 1 = "James",
- proper noun 2 = "Peter",
- singular noun = "father"

- Given: "James was the father of Peter."
- Generated conclusions:
 - "Peter has no father anymore."
 - "Peter had a father, called James."

Definition 7:

```
"Every {singular noun 1} is a/an {singular noun 2}"
and
"{proper noun} was a/an {singular noun 1}"
from which can be concluded
"{proper noun} was a/an {singular noun 2}"
```

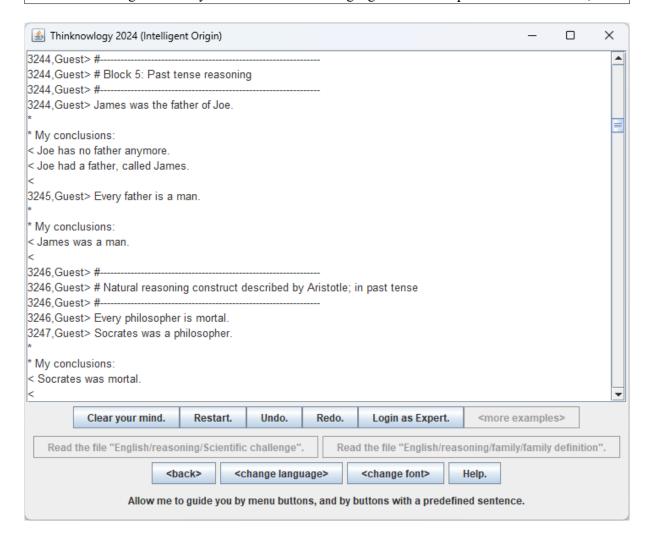
Example:

Variables:

- proper noun = "James",
- singular noun 1 = "father",
- singular noun 2 = "man"

- Given: "Every father is a man."
- Given: "James was a father" 2
- Generated conclusion: "James was a man."

² Sentence "James was the father of Peter" of the previous example should be recognized automatically as "James was a father".



Block 6: Detection of a conflict — and generation of a question

Definition 8:

```
"Every {singular noun 1} is a/an {singular noun 2} or a/an {singular noun 3}"
is in conflict with
"{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 2} and a/an {singular noun 3}

"Every {singular noun 1} is a/an {singular noun 2} or a/an {singular noun 3}"
and
"{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 1}"
from which can be concluded
"{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 2} or a/an {singular noun 3}"

"{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 2} or a/an {singular noun 3}"
equals to
"Is {proper noun} a/an {singular noun 2} or a/an {singular noun 3}?"
```

Example:

Variables:

- singular noun 1 = "person",
- singular noun 2 = "man",
- singular noun 3 = "woman",
- proper noun = "Addison"

- Given: "Every person is a man or a woman."
- Given: "Addison is a man and a woman."
- Detected conflict. This sentence is not accepted, because it is in conflict with:
 - "Every person is a man or a woman."

- Given: "Addison is a person."
- Generated question: "Is Addison a man or a woman?"

Definition 9:

```
"Is {proper noun} a/an {singular noun 1} or a/an {singular noun 2}?"
and
"{proper noun} is not a/an {singular noun 1}"
from which can be concluded
"{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 2}"

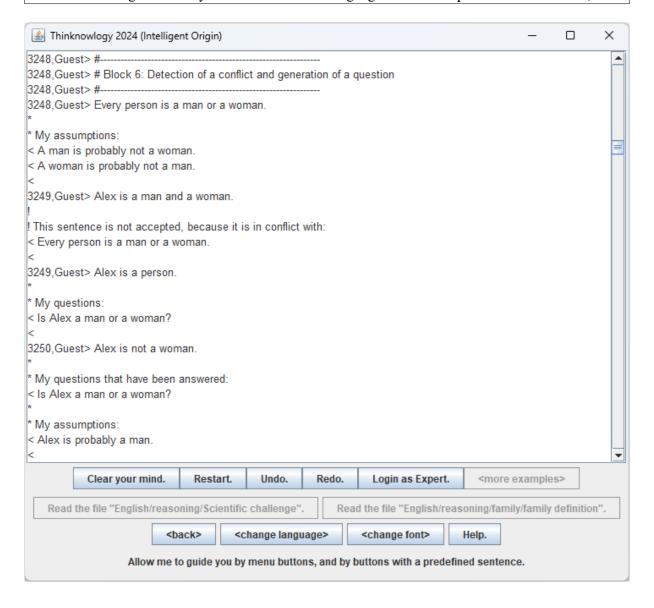
"Is {proper noun} a/an {singular noun 1} or a/an {singular noun 2}?"
and
"{proper noun} is not a/an {singular noun 2}"
from which can be concluded
"{proper noun} is a/an {singular noun 1}"
```

Example:

Variables:

- proper noun = "Addison",
- singular noun 1 = "man",
- singular noun 2 = "woman"

- Given: "Addison is not a woman."
- Detected that the generated question has been answered:
 - "Is Addison a man or a woman?"
- Generated assumption: "Addison is probably a man."



Block 7: Archiving of knowledge

Definition 10:

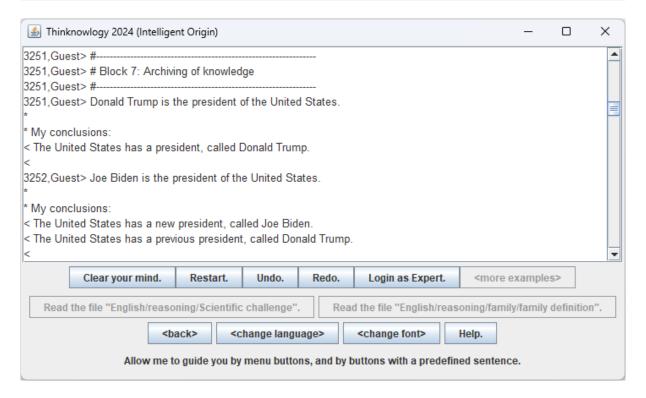
```
"{proper noun 1} is the {singular noun} of {proper noun 2}"
and
"{proper noun 3} is the {singular noun} of {proper noun 2}"
from which can be concluded
"{proper noun 2} has a new {singular noun}, called {proper noun 3}"
and
"{proper noun 2} has a previous {singular noun}, called {proper noun 1}"
```

Example:

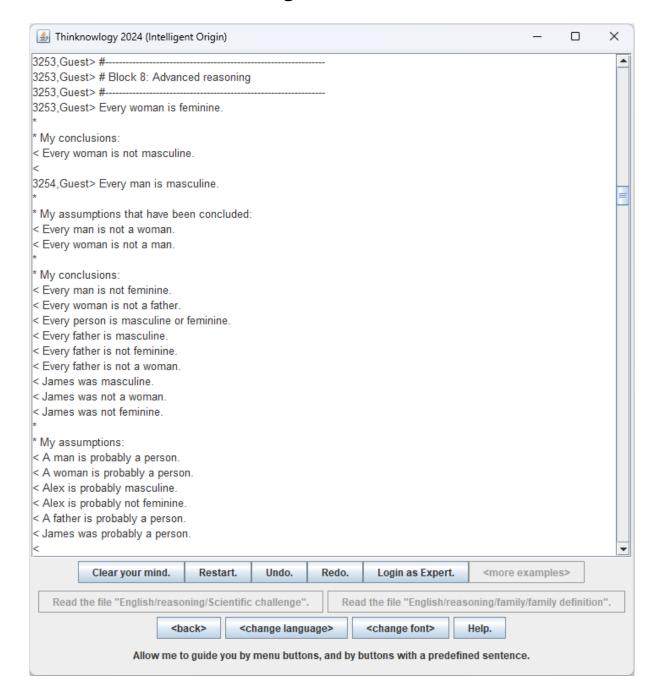
Variables:

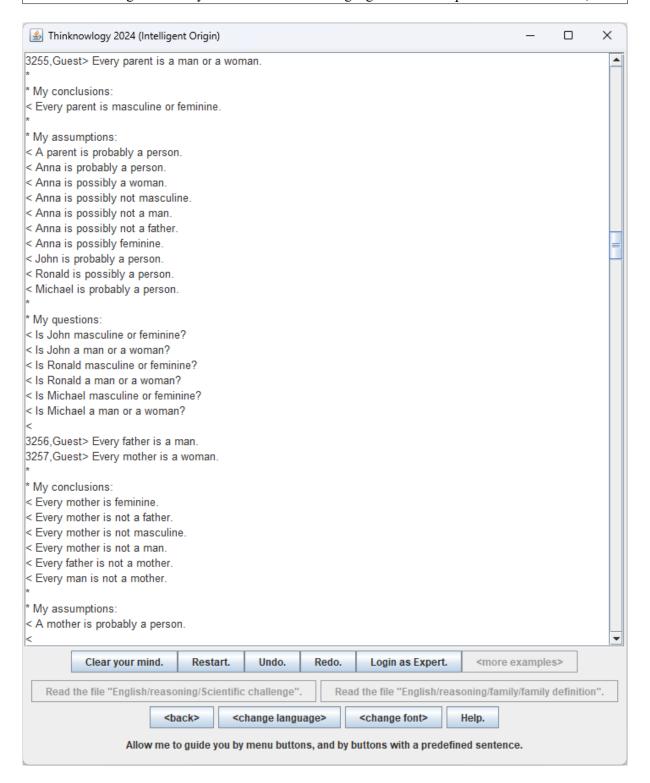
- proper noun 1 = "Donald Trump",
- proper noun 2 = "the United States",
- proper noun 3 = "Joe Biden",
- singular noun = "president"

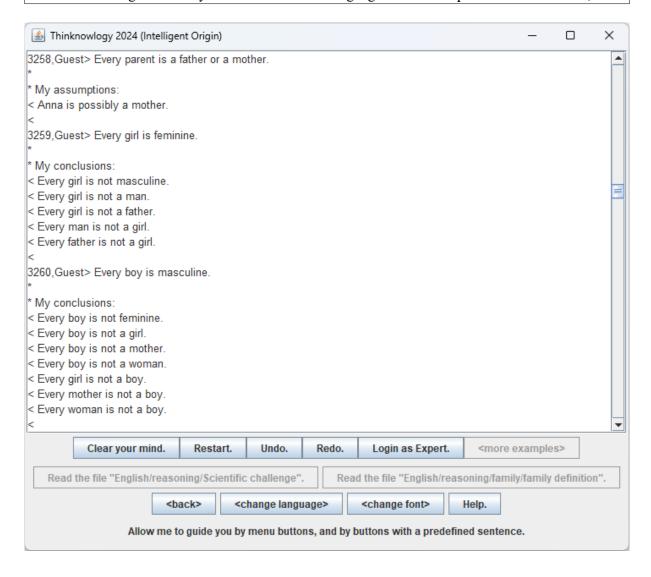
- Given: "Donald Trump is the president of the United States."
- Generated conclusion:
 - "The United States has a president, called Donald Trump." (generated by Definition 1)
- Given: "Joe Biden is **the** president of the United States."
- Generated conclusions:
 - "The United States has a new president, called Joe Biden."
 - "The United States has a previous president, called Donald Trump."

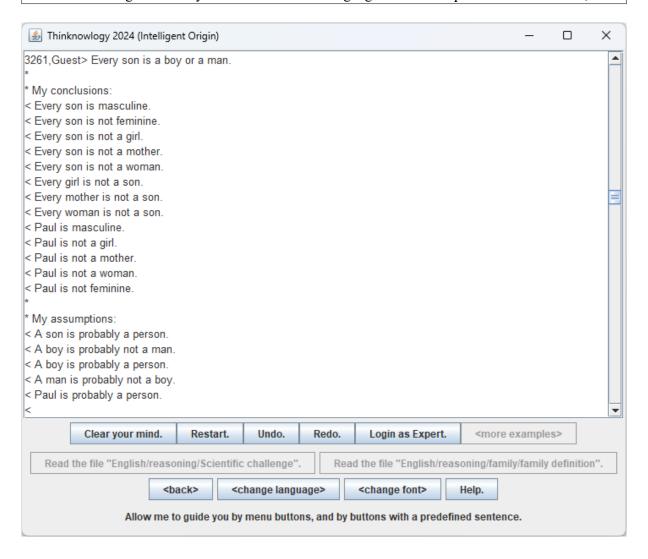


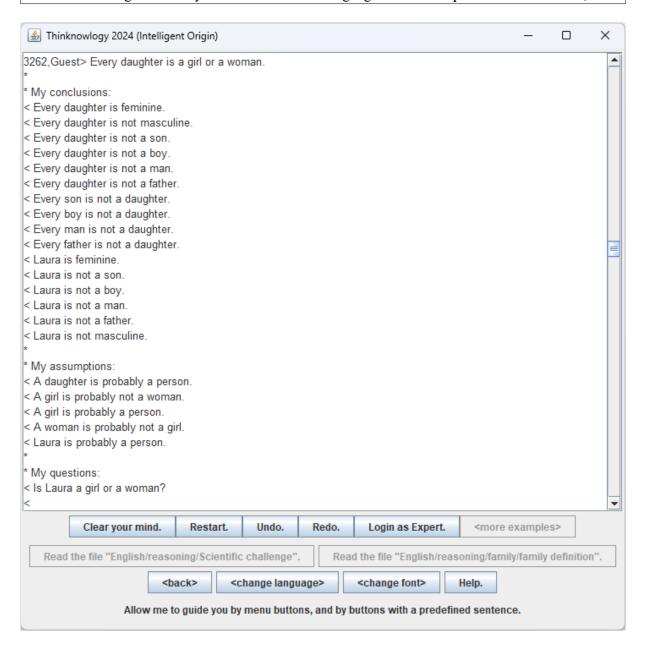
Block 8: Advanced reasoning











Block 9: Justification reports

