

# Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

47th annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology

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Maksymilian Dąbkowski<sup>1</sup>, Roman Feiman<sup>2</sup>

June 28–July 2, 2021

<sup>1</sup>University of California, Berkeley, <sup>2</sup>Brown University

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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence  
comprehension  
└ Introduction

Introduction

# Introduction

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- what is the status of logic in thought?

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└ Introduction

└ logic in thought

What is the status of logic in thought?

- what is the status of logic in thought?

- what is the status of logic in thought?
- logic studies **relations among propositions**

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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Introduction

└ logic in thought

Logic, to characterize it broadly, is the formal study of relations which obtain among propositions.

- what is the status of logic in thought?
- logic studies **relations among propositions**

- what is the status of logic in thought?
- logic studies relations among propositions

## Dictum de omni

All rats love to eat.

∴ All spotted rats love to eat.

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└ Introduction

└ logic in thought

Logical schemata capture rules which govern correct inference. The example here is the *dictum de omni*, which is the principle that whatever is affirmed of a kind can be affirmed of its subkind.

- what is the status of logic in thought?
- logic studies relations among propositions

## Dictum de omni

All rats love to eat.

∴ All spotted rats love to eat.

- what is the status of logic in thought?
- logic studies relations among propositions

## Dictum de omni

All rats love to eat.

∴ All spotted rats love to eat.

- do such schemata capture the *nature of thought*?

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└ Introduction

└ logic in thought

While such schemata capture normatively accurate inferences, there has been a long standing debate over what their status is in human cognition. This is to say, are such logical schemata the rules of thought?

- what is the status of logic in thought?
- logic studies relations among propositions

## Dictum de omni

All rats love to eat.

∴ All spotted rats love to eat.

- do such schemata capture the *nature of thought*?

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└ Introduction

└ logic in psychology

The status of logic in thought has been viewed very differently by the disciplines of psychology and linguistics.

- **psychology** has focused on **difficulties in logical reasoning**
  - Wason's (1968) selection tasks easier when ecologically valid (Cheng and Holyoak, 1985, 1989; Cheng, Holyoak, et al., 1986)
  - dual-process theories (Evans and Stanovich, 2013; Kahneman, 2011)

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└ Introduction

└ logic in psychology

Research in psychology has tended to focus on documenting which logical tasks are more difficult than others and understanding why.

- **psychology** has focused on **difficulties in logical reasoning**
  - Wason's (1968) selection tasks easier when ecologically valid (Cheng and Holyoak, 1985, 1989; Cheng, Holyoak, et al., 1986)
  - dual-process theories (Evans and Stanovich, 2013; Kahneman, 2011)



- **formal semantics** presupposes **logical ability**  
*the logical notions are embedded in our deepest nature, in the very form of our language and thought*  
Chomsky (1988, p. 99)

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└ Introduction

└ logic in linguistics

On the one hand, certain branches of linguistics posit that language has a kind of logical form. Thus, implicitly, linguists credit language-users with a rather high degree of logical sophistication.

- **formal semantics** presupposes logical ability  
*the logical notions are embedded in our deepest nature, in the very form of our language and thought*  
Chomsky (1988, p. 99)
- linguists predict some **logical thought as effortless as language**

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└ Introduction

└ logic in linguistics

This view of language predicts that at least some inferences should be as intuitive, automatic, and effortless as thought and language themselves.

- **formal semantics** presupposes logical ability  
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Chomsky (1988, p. 99)
- linguists predict some **logical thought as effortless as language**

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- linguists predict some logical thought as effortless as language
- can we find **evidence for spontaneous logical computation?**

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└ Introduction

└ logic in linguistics

Thus, the following question arises: Can we find some evidence for fast and automatic reasoning?

- **formal semantics** presupposes logical ability  
*the logical notions are embedded in our deepest nature, in the very form of our language and thought*  
Chomsky (1988, p. 99)
- linguists predict some logical thought as effortless as language
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Chomsky (1988, p. 99)
- linguists predict some logical thought as effortless as language
- can we find evidence for **spontaneous logical computation**?
- **entailment**: if  $p$  is true, **then**  $q$  is also true

## Dictum de omni

All rats love to eat.

∴ All spotted rats love to eat.

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- └ Introduction

- └ logic in linguistics

To answer this question, in our study, we focused on the notion of entailment. Entailment is a relation between propositions such that when one proposition is true, another proposition is always also true. Entailment has been argued to be based in the structure of language. Thus, it is a good candidate for a logical notion that is processed fast and automatically.

- **formal semantics** presupposes logical ability  
*the logical notions are embedded in our deepest nature, in the very form of our language and thought*  
Chomsky (1988, p. 99)
- linguists predict some logical thought as effortless as language
- can we find evidence for **spontaneous logical computation**?
- **entailment**: if  $p$  is true, **then**  $q$  is also true

## Dictum de omni

All rats love to eat.

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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence  
comprehension  
└─ Methods

Methods

## Methods

- two novel self-paced reading experiments

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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Methods

└ methods

We designed two novel self-paced reading experiments.

methods

• two novel self-paced reading experiments

- two novel self-paced reading experiments
- tested for **signatures of accurate inferences** between quantified sentences

Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Methods

└ methods

We tested for signatures of normatively accurate logical inferences between quantified sentences during sentence comprehension.

- two novel self-paced reading experiments
- tested for **signatures of accurate inferences** between quantified sentences

- two novel self-paced reading experiments
- tested for signatures of accurate inferences between quantified sentences
- **experiment 1** involved detecting logical contradictions

Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Methods

└ methods

Experiment 1 tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions.

- two novel self-paced reading experiments
- tested for signatures of accurate inferences between quantified sentences
- **experiment 1** involved detecting logical contradictions



- two novel self-paced reading experiments
- tested for signatures of accurate inferences between quantified sentences
- experiment 1 involved detecting logical contradictions
- experiment 2 leveraged **variable entailments** of the first and second arguments of quantifiers to detect incorrect inferences

Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Methods

└ methods

And Experiment 2 tested detecting something subtler... which is incorrect inferences in the absence of downright contradictions.

methods

- two novel self-paced reading experiments
- tested for signatures of accurate inferences between quantified sentences
- experiment 1 involved detecting logical contradictions
- experiment 2 leveraged **variable entailments** of the first and second arguments of quantifiers to detect incorrect inferences

- two novel self-paced reading experiments
- tested for signatures of accurate inferences between quantified sentences
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- preregistered design and analyses on [OSF](#)

└ Methods

└ methods

- two novel self-paced reading experiments
- tested for signatures of accurate inferences between quantified sentences
- experiment 1 involved detecting logical contradictions
- experiment 2 leveraged variable entailments of the first and second arguments of quantifiers to detect incorrect inferences
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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence  
comprehension  
└ Experiment 1

Experiment 1

## Experiment 1

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# experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions

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└ Experiment 1

└ Methods

└ experiment 1

But first, experiment 1.

experiment 1

• tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions

# experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
- 400 participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk

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└ Experiment 1

└ Methods

└ experiment 1

We ran 400 participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk.

experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
- 400 participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk

# experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
- 400 participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk
- 12 target items displayed line by line

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└ Experiment 1

└ Methods

└ experiment 1

Participants read 12 target items displayed line-by-line, with line breaks at clausal boundaries.

experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
- 400 participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk
- 12 target items displayed line by line

# experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
- 400 participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk
- 12 target items displayed line by line
- 6 conditions differing in quantifiers

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- └ Experiment 1
  - └ Methods
    - └ experiment 1

Across participants, each item appeared in six conditions which differed in what quantifiers were used.

experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
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- 12 target items displayed line by line
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# experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
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- 12 target items displayed line by line
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## Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
- (2) who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.
- (3) They tested white, black, and spotted rats of both sexes.
- (4) The scientists discovered that QUANT1 of the rats loved the food.
- (5) Now that they knew that QUANT2 of the rats loved the food,
- (6) they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.

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- Experiment 1
  - Methods
    - experiment 1

Each item contained a “premise” in line 4 and a “conclusion” in line 5, which began with *now that they knew that ...*, presupposing that what comes next appeared earlier in the discourse. Otherwise, the two lines differed only in the quantifiers they used.

experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
- 400 participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk
- 12 target items displayed line by line
- 6 conditions differing in quantifiers

### Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
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# experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
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- (5) Now that they knew that QUANT2 of the rats loved the food,
- (6) they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.

- measured variable: RT of the conclusion line (5)
- participants were asked unrelated comprehension questions
  - The researchers studied rodents. TRUE FALSE

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└ Experiment 1  
└ Methods  
└ experiment 1

We measured the reading times of the boxed conclusion line as a proxy for processing costs.

experiment 1

- tested whether speakers detect logical contradictions
- 400 participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk
- 12 target items displayed line by line
- 6 conditions differing in quantifiers

### Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
- (2) who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.
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- measured variable: RT of the conclusion line (5)
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# experiment 1 conditions

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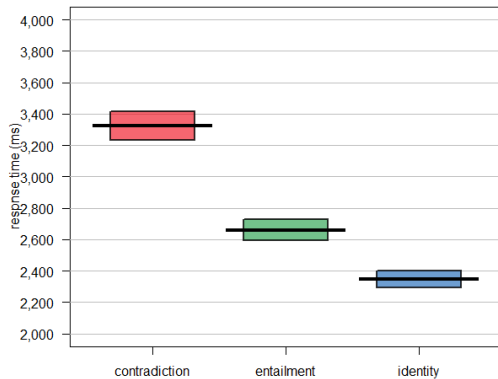
- Experiment 1
  - Methods
    - experiment 1 conditions

	QUANT1	QUANT2
IDENTITY	<b>some</b> of the rats loved . . . . they knew that <b>some</b> of the rats . . .	
IDENTITY	<b>not all</b> of the rats loved . . . . they knew that <b>not all</b> of the rats . . .	
ENTAILMENT	<b>all</b> of the rats loved . . . . . they knew that <b>some</b> of the rats . . .	
ENTAILMENT	<b>none</b> of the rats loved . . . . . they knew that <b>not all</b> of the rats . . .	
CONTRADICTION	<b>none</b> of the rats loved . . . . . they knew that <b>some</b> of the rats . . .	
CONTRADICTION	<b>all</b> of the rats loved . . . . . they knew that <b>not all</b> of the rats . . .	

	QUANT1	QUANT2
IDENTITY	<b>some</b> of the rats loved . . . . they knew that <b>some</b> of the rats . . .	
IDENTITY	<b>not all</b> of the rats loved . . . they knew that <b>not all</b> of the rats . . .	
ENTAILMENT	<b>all</b> of the rats loved . . . . . they knew that <b>some</b> of the rats . . .	
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CONTRADICTION	<b>none</b> of the rats loved . . . . . they knew that <b>some</b> of the rats . . .	
CONTRADICTION	<b>all</b> of the rats loved . . . . . they knew that <b>not all</b> of the rats . . .	

There were two conditions where the premise was identical to the conclusion, two conditions where it differed from but entailed the conclusion, and two conditions where it contradicted it.

# experiment 1 results



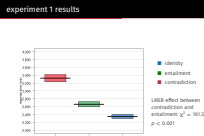
- identity
- entailment
- contradiction

LMER effect between contradiction and entailment:  $\chi^2 = 161.31$   
 $p < 0.001$

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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

- Experiment 1
  - Results
    - experiment 1 results



All of the conditions were significantly different from each other. Participants took significantly longer to advance to the conclusion line when it contradicted the premise than when it was entailed by the premise. This is consistent with rapid, normatively accurate sensitivity to the logical relations between these clauses.

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comprehension  
└ Experiment 2

Experiment 2

## Experiment 2

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## experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)

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└ Experiment 2

└ Methods

└ experiment 2

experiment 2

• same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)

Experiment 2 used the same paradigm to test for the capacity to detect subtler unlicensed inferences, even in the absence of strict contradictions.

## experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

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└ Experiment 2

└ Methods

└ experiment 2

experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

We manipulated the quantifiers in both the premise and the conclusion ... ..  
as well as the noun phrase in first argument of the quantifier in the premise.

## experiment 2

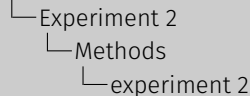
- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

### Test item

- (1) *A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,*
- (2) *who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.*
- (3) *They tested white, black, and spotted rats of both sexes.*
- (4) *The scientists discovered that QUANT of the ((male) spotted) rats loved the food.*
- (5) *Now that they knew that QUANT of the spotted rats loved the food,*
- (6) *they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.*

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In the test items, we changed lines four and five to manipulate whether the conclusion was entailed by the premise.

Unlike experiment 1, here, the quantifier was kept constant between the premise and the conclusion. The premise noun phrase appeared with two, one, or zero modifiers. The conclusion noun phrase always appeared with one modifier.

experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

### Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
- (2) who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.
- (3) They tested white, black, and spotted rats of both sexes.
- (4) The scientists discovered that QUANT of the ((male) spotted) rats loved the food.
- (5) Now that they knew that QUANT of the spotted rats loved the food,
- (6) they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.

## experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

### Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
- (2) who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.
- (3) They tested white, black, and spotted rats of both sexes.
- (4) The scientists discovered that QUANT of the ((male) spotted) rats loved the food.
- (5) Now that they knew that QUANT of the spotted rats loved the food,
- (6) they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.

- 4 quantifiers × 3 containment relations = 12 conditions

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Experiment 2  
Methods  
experiment 2

Thus, the premise noun phrase was a subset of, identical to, or a superset of the conclusion noun phrase. **Four** quantifiers and **three** containment relations yielded twelve experimental conditions in total, which will ultimately reduce to a two-by-two.

Depending on the combination of the quantifier and containment,

experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
- (2) who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.
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- 4 quantifiers × 3 containment relations = 12 conditions



## experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

### Test item

- (1) *A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,*
- (2) *who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.*
- (3) *They tested white, black, and spotted rats of both sexes.*
- (4) *The scientists discovered that QUANT of the ((male) spotted) rats loved the food.*
- (5) *Now that they knew that QUANT of the spotted rats loved the food,*
- (6) *they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.*

- 4 quantifiers × 3 containment relations = 12 conditions
  - 4 conditions: **premise identical to (trivially entails) conclusion**

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- Experiment 2
  - Methods
    - experiment 2

there were four conditions where the premise was identical to the conclusion, and so it trivially entailed it,

experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

### Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
- (2) who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.
- (3) They tested white, black, and spotted rats of both sexes.
- (4) The scientists discovered that quant of the ((male) spotted) rats loved the food.
- (5) **Now that they knew that quant of the spotted rats loved the food,**
- (6) they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.

- 4 quantifiers × 3 containment relations = 12 conditions
  - 4 conditions: **premise identical to (trivially entails) conclusion**

## experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
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### Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
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  - 4 conditions: **premise identical to (trivially entails) conclusion**
  - 4 conditions: **premise entails conclusion**

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- Experiment 2
  - Methods
    - experiment 2

four conditions where the premise differed from but entailed the conclusion,

experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
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### Test item

- (1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,
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- (5) Now that they knew that QUANT of the spotted rats loved the food,
- (6) they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.

- 4 quantifiers × 3 containment relations = 12 conditions
  - 4 conditions: **premise identical to (trivially entails) conclusion**
  - 4 conditions: **premise entails conclusion**
  - 4 conditions: **premise does not entail conclusion**

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- Experiment 2
  - Methods
    - experiment 2

and four conditions where the premise did not entail the conclusion.

experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

Test item

(1) A group of scientists wanted to know whether spotted rats,  
(2) who are pickier eaters than other rats, liked a new kind of food.  
(3) They tested white, black, and spotted rats of both sexes.  
(4) The scientists discovered that QUANT of the ((male) spotted) rats loved the food.  
(5) Now that they knew that QUANT of the spotted rats loved the food,  
(6) they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.

- 4 quantifiers × 3 containment relations = 12 conditions
  - 4 conditions: **premise identical to (trivially entails) conclusion**
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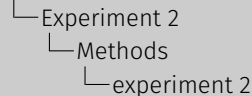
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- (6) they decided to issue a recommendation based on their findings.

- 4 quantifiers × 3 containment relations = 12 conditions
  - 4 conditions: premise identical to (trivially entails) conclusion
  - 4 conditions: premise entails conclusion
  - 4 conditions: premise does not entail conclusion
- within quantifier, critical lines have identical lexical content

## Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

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An elegant feature of our design is that within quantifier, we're looking at differences in reading times among lines that have identical lexical content, so whatever the difference is on the critical line, that difference *must be* due to preceding context.

experiment 2

- same paradigm to detect subtler unlicensed inferences (n = 400)
- manipulated quantifiers and premise quantifier's 1<sup>st</sup> arg

Test item

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- 4 quantifiers × 3 containment relations = 12 conditions
  - 4 conditions: premise identical to (trivially entails) conclusion
  - 4 conditions: premise entails conclusion
  - 4 conditions: premise does not entail conclusion
- within quantifier, critical lines have identical lexical content

# experiment 2 conditions, full

	SOME	NOT ALL	ALL	NONE
SUBSET →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...
IDENTICAL →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...
SUPERSET →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...

- trivially entailed
- entailed
- not entailed

Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

2021-05-29

- Experiment 2
  - Methods
    - experiment 2 conditions, full

Here, you can see the twelve conditions schematized.



# experiment 2 conditions, full

	SOME	NOT ALL	ALL	NONE
SUBSET →	... <b>some</b> of the male spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>not all</b> of the male spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>all</b> of the male spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>none</b> of the male spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the spotted rats ...
of spotted rats →				
IDENTICAL →	... <b>some</b> of the spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>not all</b> of the spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>all</b> of the spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>none</b> of the spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the spotted rats ...
to spotted rats →				
SUPERSET →	... <b>some</b> of the rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>not all</b> of the rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>all</b> of the rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>none</b> of the rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the spotted rats ...
of spotted rats →				

- trivially entailed
- entailed
- not entailed

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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

- Experiment 2
  - Methods
    - experiment 2 conditions, full

For example, if we look at a quantifier which is upward entailing, such as “some,” when the premise noun phrase is a subset of the conclusion noun phrase, the conclusion follows.

experiment 2 conditions, full

	SOME	NOT ALL	ALL	NONE
SUBSET →	... <b>some</b> of the male spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>not all</b> of the male spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>all</b> of the male spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>none</b> of the male spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the spotted rats ...
of spotted rats →				
IDENTICAL →	... <b>some</b> of the spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>not all</b> of the spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>all</b> of the spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>none</b> of the spotted rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the spotted rats ...
to spotted rats →				
SUPERSET →	... <b>some</b> of the rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>not all</b> of the rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>all</b> of the rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the spotted rats ...	... <b>none</b> of the rats loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the spotted rats ...
of spotted rats →				

■ trivially entailed  
■ entailed  
■ not entailed

# experiment 2 conditions, full

	SOME	NOT ALL	ALL	NONE
SUBSET → of spotted rats →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...
IDENTICAL → to spotted rats →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...
SUPERSET → of spotted rats →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...

- trivially entailed
- entailed
- not entailed

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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

- Experiment 2
  - Methods
    - experiment 2 conditions, full

When the premise noun phrase is a superset of the conclusion noun phrase we get an unlicensed inference.



# experiment 2 conditions, full

	SOME	NOT ALL	ALL	NONE
SUBSET →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>male spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...
IDENTICAL →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...
SUPERSET →	... <b>some</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>some</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>not all</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>not all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>all</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>all</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...	... <b>none</b> of the <b>rats</b> loved the food. Now that they knew that <b>none</b> of the <b>spotted rats</b> ...

- trivially entailed
- entailed
- not entailed

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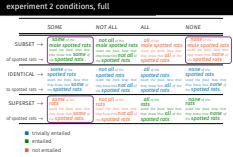
Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

Experiment 2

Methods

experiment 2 conditions, full

When we look at a quantifier that is downward-entailing, such as “none,” the pattern reverses.

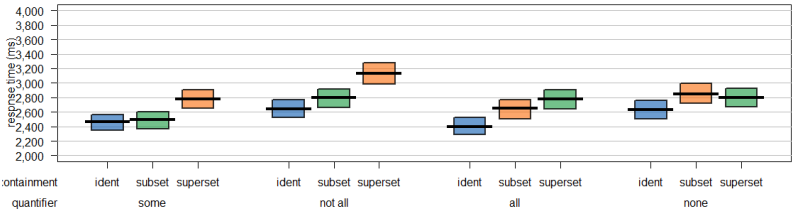




# experiment 2 results

Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

- Experiment 2
  - Results
    - experiment 2 results

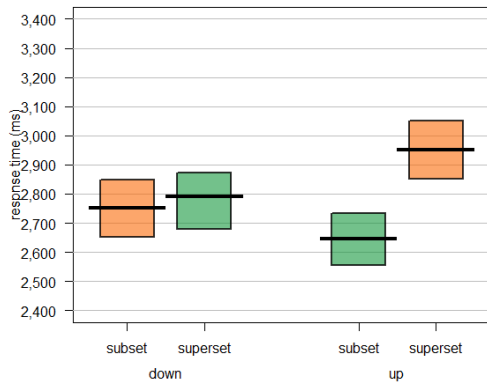


In the results of Experiment 2, the twelve conditions are grouped by quantifiers.

We find a main effect of containment, with superset conditions generally slower than subset. What matters, however, is the interaction of entailment and containment, which you can see as the difference between the green bars and the orange bars within each quantifier.

- trivial
  - entailed
  - not entailed
- subset: *male spotted rats*  $\prec$  *spotted rats*  
ident: *spotted rats*  $\prec$  *spotted rats*  
superset: *rats*  $\prec$  *spotted rats*

## experiment 2 results, quantifiers grouped by entailment



■ entailed

subset: *male spotted rats*  $\prec$  *spotted rats*

■ not entailed

superset: *rats*  $\prec$  *spotted rats*

containment (subset vs. superset)  $\times$  entailment (up vs. down):  $\chi^2 = 10.9, p < 0.001$

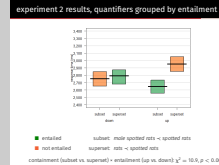
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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Experiment 2

└ Results

└ experiment 2 results, quantifiers grouped by



Here, we group the upward- and downward-entailing quantifiers together and drop the “ident” conditions to show the relevant interaction of containment and entailment more clearly. This interaction is significant, showing rapid sensitivity to logical relations between clauses.

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Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence  
comprehension  
└ Discussion

Discussion

## Discussion

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- language involves accurate and spontaneous logical computations

Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Discussion

└ discussion

In summary, our findings suggest that language processing involves automatic, accurate, and spontaneous logical computations, even in the absence of a task that requires making these inferences to verify text comprehension.

- language involves accurate and spontaneous logical computations
- **differs** from **dual-process theories** of cognition  
*it is assumed that people's intuitive logical knowledge emerges from a learning process in which key principles have been practiced to automaticity*

De Neys and Pennycook (2019)

Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Discussion

└ discussion

This view differs from what is assumed by dual-process theories of cognition.

- language involves accurate and spontaneous logical computations
- **differs** from **dual-process theories** of cognition  
*it is assumed that people's intuitive logical knowledge emerges from a learning process in which key principles have been practiced to automaticity*

De Neys and Pennycook (2019)

- language involves accurate and spontaneous logical computations
  - differs from dual-process theories of cognition
    - it is assumed that people's intuitive logical knowledge emerges from a learning process in which key principles have been practiced to automaticity*
- De Neys and Pennycook (2019)
- **consistent** with some logic being naturally intuitive
    - **natural logic** in reasoning (e.g. Braine and O'Brien, 1998)
    - logic (**L-analyticity**) in grammar (e.g. Gajewski, 2002)

## Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

└ Discussion

└ discussion

On the other hand, our findings are anticipated by frameworks which take some logical inferences as naturally intuitive.

- language involves accurate and spontaneous logical computations
- differs from dual-process theories of cognition
  - it is assumed that people's intuitive logical knowledge emerges from a learning process in which key principles have been practiced to automaticity*
- **consistent** with some logic being naturally intuitive
  - **natural logic** in reasoning (e.g. Braine and O'Brien, 1998)
  - logic (**L-analyticity**) in grammar (e.g. Gajewski, 2002)

- language involves accurate and spontaneous logical computations
  - differs from dual-process theories of cognition
    - it is assumed that people's intuitive logical knowledge emerges from a learning process in which key principles have been practiced to automaticity*
- De Neys and Pennycook (2019)
- consistent with some logic being naturally intuitive
    - natural logic in reasoning (e.g. Braine and O'Brien, 1998)
    - logic (L-analyticity) in grammar (e.g. Gajewski, 2002)
  - **inference** derives from **compositionality**?

## Evidence of accurate logical reasoning in online sentence comprehension

### └ Discussion

### └ discussion

Thus, we conclude the compositionality of language and at least *some* inferential thought may both derive from the same cognitive mechanisms.

- language involves accurate and spontaneous logical computations
  - differs from dual-process theories of cognition
    - it is assumed that people's intuitive logical knowledge emerges from a learning process in which key principles have been practiced to automaticity*
- De Neys and Pennycook (2019)
- consistent with some logic being naturally intuitive
    - natural logic in reasoning (e.g. Braine and O'Brien, 1998)
    - logic (L-analyticity) in grammar (e.g. Gajewski, 2002)
  - **inference** derives from **compositionality**?

thank you!






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sentence comprehension  
└ Discussion

Thank you very much!

thank you!







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