

# INSPECTION AND SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIONS

**Aaron Stockdill**   **Daniel Raggi**   **Mateja Jamnik**

University of Cambridge, UK

**Grecia Garcia Garcia**   **Holly Sutherland**   **Peter Cheng**

University of Sussex, UK

26 June 2019

## **OVERVIEW**

Motivation

How to describe representations?

How to select representations?

Conclusions and work in progress

# Motivation

## THE BIG PICTURE

## **THE BIG PICTURE**

People change representation to get to information

## THE BIG PICTURE

People change representation to get to information

They generally do this naturally, but for some it can be challenging

## THE BIG PICTURE

People change representation to get to information

They generally do this naturally, but for some it can be challenging

We aim to build a tool that can help choose a suitable representation for a given problem for a particular person

## PROBLEM

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*



## PROBLEM

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

**Bayesian approach:** represent problem in formal conditional probability.

## PROBLEM

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

**Bayesian approach:** represent problem in formal conditional probability.

*Assume:*

## PROBLEM

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

**Bayesian approach:** represent problem in formal conditional probability.

Assume:  $\Pr(b) = \frac{1}{4}$

## PROBLEM

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

**Bayesian approach:** represent problem in formal conditional probability.

Assume:  $\Pr(b) = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\Pr(f | b) = \frac{2}{3}$

## PROBLEM

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

**Bayesian approach:** represent problem in formal conditional probability.

Assume:  $\Pr(b) = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\Pr(f | b) = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\Pr(b | f) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

## PROBLEM

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

**Bayesian approach:** represent problem in formal conditional probability.

Assume:  $\Pr(b) = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\Pr(f | b) = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\Pr(b | f) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

Calculate:  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f})$

## SOLUTION UNDER BAYESIAN APPROACH

Notice the following facts:

$$\Pr(\bar{b}) = \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (1)$$

$$\Pr(f) = \Pr(b \cap f) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (2)$$

$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(\bar{b} | f) \Pr(f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(f). \quad (3)$$

From (2) and (3) we can show that  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(b \cap f) + \frac{1}{2} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f)$ , from which we obtain

$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b \cap f). \quad (4)$$

Thus, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) && \text{from (1)} \\ &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(b \cap f) && \text{from (4)} \\ &= (1 - \Pr(b)) - \Pr(f | b) \Pr(b) && \text{from probability axioms} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}. && \text{from assumptions} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

## **ANOTHER APPROACH (GEOMETRIC)**

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*



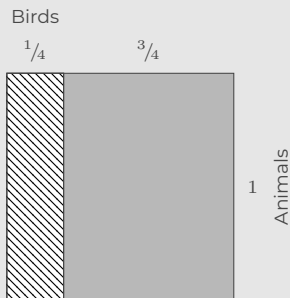
## ANOTHER APPROACH (GEOMETRIC)

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*



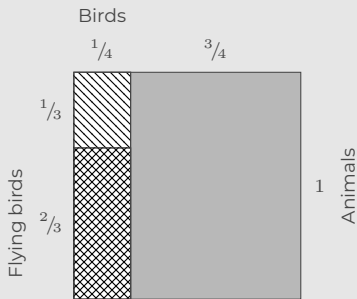
## ANOTHER APPROACH (GEOMETRIC)

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*



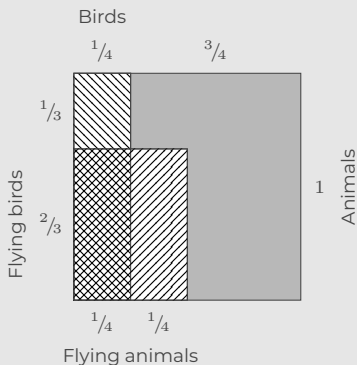
## ANOTHER APPROACH (GEOMETRIC)

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If X is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*



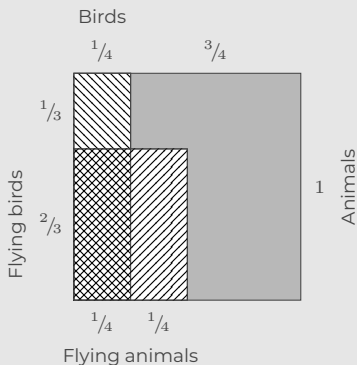
## ANOTHER APPROACH (GEOMETRIC)

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*



## ANOTHER APPROACH (GEOMETRIC)

One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?



$$\frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}$$



# WHY DIFFERENT REPRESENTATIONS?

Assume:  $\Pr(b) = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\Pr(fb) = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\Pr(b|f) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

Calculate:  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f})$

Notice the following facts:

$$\Pr(\bar{b}) = \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (1)$$

$$\Pr(f) = \Pr(b \cap f) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (2)$$

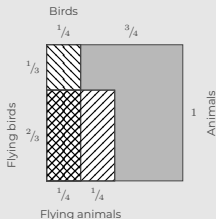
$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b|f) \Pr(f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(f). \quad (3)$$

From (2) and (3) we can show that  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(b \cap f) + \frac{1}{2} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f)$ , from which we obtain

$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b \cap f). \quad (4)$$

Thus, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) && \text{from (1)} \\ &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(b \cap f) && \text{from (4)} \\ &= (1 - \Pr(b)) - \Pr(f|b) \Pr(b) && \text{from probability axioms} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}. && \text{from assumptions} \end{aligned}$$



$$\frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}$$

# WHY DIFFERENT REPRESENTATIONS?

Assume:  $\Pr(b) = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\Pr(fb) = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\Pr(b|f) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

Calculate:  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f})$

Notice the following facts:

$$\Pr(\bar{b}) = \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (1)$$

$$\Pr(f) = \Pr(b \cap f) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (2)$$

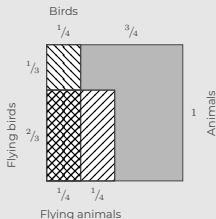
$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b|f) \Pr(f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(f). \quad (3)$$

From (2) and (3) we can show that  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(b \cap f) + \frac{1}{2} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f)$ , from which we obtain

$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b \cap f). \quad (4)$$

Thus, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) && \text{from (1)} \\ &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(b \cap f) && \text{from (4)} \\ &= (1 - \Pr(b)) - \Pr(f|b) \Pr(b) && \text{from probability axioms} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}. && \text{from assumptions} \end{aligned}$$



$$\frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}$$

They make different things evident.

# WHY DIFFERENT REPRESENTATIONS?

Assume:  $\Pr(b) = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\Pr(f|b) = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\Pr(b|f) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

Calculate:  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f})$

Notice the following facts:

$$\Pr(\bar{b}) = \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (1)$$

$$\Pr(f) = \Pr(b \cap f) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (2)$$

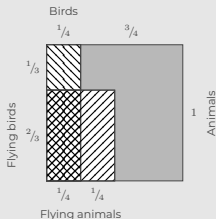
$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b|f) \Pr(f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(f). \quad (3)$$

From (2) and (3) we can show that  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(b \cap f) + \frac{1}{2} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f)$ , from which we obtain

$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b \cap f). \quad (4)$$

Thus, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) && \text{from (1)} \\ &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(b \cap f) && \text{from (4)} \\ &= (1 - \Pr(b)) - \Pr(f|b) \Pr(b) && \text{from probability axioms} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}. && \text{from assumptions} \end{aligned}$$



$$\frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}$$

They make different things evident.  
They require different kinds of knowledge.



# WHY DIFFERENT REPRESENTATIONS?

Assume:  $\Pr(b) = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\Pr(f|b) = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\Pr(b|f) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

Calculate:  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f})$

Notice the following facts:

$$\Pr(\bar{b}) = \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (1)$$

$$\Pr(f) = \Pr(b \cap f) + \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) \quad (2)$$

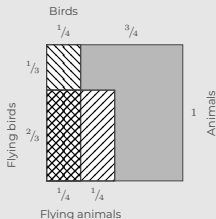
$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b|f) \Pr(f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(f). \quad (3)$$

From (2) and (3) we can show that  $\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \frac{1}{2} \Pr(b \cap f) + \frac{1}{2} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f)$ , from which we obtain

$$\Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) = \Pr(b \cap f). \quad (4)$$

Thus, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\bar{b} \cap \bar{f}) &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(\bar{b} \cap f) && \text{from (1)} \\ &= \Pr(\bar{b}) - \Pr(b \cap f) && \text{from (4)} \\ &= (1 - \Pr(b)) - \Pr(f|b) \Pr(b) && \text{from probability axioms} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}. && \text{from assumptions} \end{aligned}$$



$$\frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{7}{12}$$

They make different things evident.  
 They require different kinds of knowledge.  
 They allow different manipulations.

# How to describe representations?

## HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT REPRESENTATIONS?

Should we assume we have formal system specifications?

## HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT REPRESENTATIONS?

Should we assume we have formal system specifications?

No, we need a method to describe representational systems from examples (e.g., textbooks)

## HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT REPRESENTATIONS?

Should we assume we have formal system specifications?

No, we need a method to describe representational systems from examples (e.g., textbooks)

By the *symbols* they use, the *inferences* that can be done, and the *knowledge* they encode.

# REPRESENTATIONAL SYSTEMS

Grammatical & Inferential

# REPRESENTATIONAL SYSTEMS

## Grammatical & Inferential

- ▶ **tokens:** atomic symbols
- ▶ **types:** classes of tokens and expressions
- ▶ **patterns:** typical or salient classes of expressions

# REPRESENTATIONAL SYSTEMS

## Grammatical & Inferential

- ▶ **tokens:** atomic symbols
- ▶ **types:** classes of tokens and expressions
- ▶ **patterns:** typical or salient classes of expressions
- ▶ **facts/laws:** knowledge
- ▶ **tactics:** valid manipulations of the system



# REPRESENTATIONAL SYSTEMS

## Grammatical & Inferential

- ▶ **tokens**: atomic symbols
- ▶ **types**: classes of tokens and expressions
- ▶ **patterns**: typical or salient classes of expressions
- ▶ **facts/laws**: knowledge
- ▶ **tactics**: valid manipulations of the system

For each RS, encode this into a table.

This is our knowledge of the RS.

## Bayesian

kind	value
types	real, event
tokens	$\Omega, \emptyset, 0, 1, =, +, -, *, \div, \cup,$ $\cap, \setminus, ^-, \text{Pr},  $
patterns	$_ : \text{real} = _ : \text{real},$ $\text{Pr}(_   _) = _, \dots$
facts	Bayes' theorem, law of total probability, non-negative probability, ...
tactics	rewrite, arithmetic calculation

## Geometric

kind	value
types	point, segment, region, real, string
tokens	$\$point, \$segment,$ $\$shade$
patterns	$\$rectangle, \$contained,$ ...
facts	scale-independence of ratio, non-negative area, area additivity, ...
tactics	draw point, draw segment, delete, join, compare sizes

## PROBLEMS

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

## PROBLEMS

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If  $X$  is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

Presented in some RS (natural language in this case).  
Its table must look a bit like a sub-table of RS,  
BUT...

## PROBLEMS

*One quarter of all animals are birds. Two thirds of all birds can fly. Half of all flying animals are birds. Birds have feathers. If X is an animal, what is the probability that it's not a bird and it cannot fly?*

Presented in some RS (natural language in this case).  
Its table must look a bit like a sub-table of RS,  
BUT...

**Not everything is equally important!**

## PROBLEMS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE HIERARCHY

	kind	value	
	error allowed	0	
	answer type	ratio	
	tokens	probability, and, not	
	types	ratio, class	
importance ↑	patterns	_ : ratio of _ : class are _ : class, . . .	
	facts	Bayes' theorem, law of total probability, . . .	
	tactics	deduction, calculation	
	tokens	one, quarter, all, animal, birds, two, thirds, can, fly, half, flying, X, cannot	
	related tokens	times, divided_by, plus, minus, equals, or, union, intersection, . . .	
	# of tokens	67	
	# of distinct tokens	31	
	noise ↓	tokens	feathers
		related tokens	beast, animate, creature, . . .

# How to select representations?

## CORRESPONDENCES

A *correspondence* is a reason why one RS is suitable for a problem.



## CORRESPONDENCES

A *correspondence* is a reason why one RS is suitable for a problem.

Mostly analogical representational matches between tokens, types, patterns, tactics, facts etc.

## CORRESPONDENCES

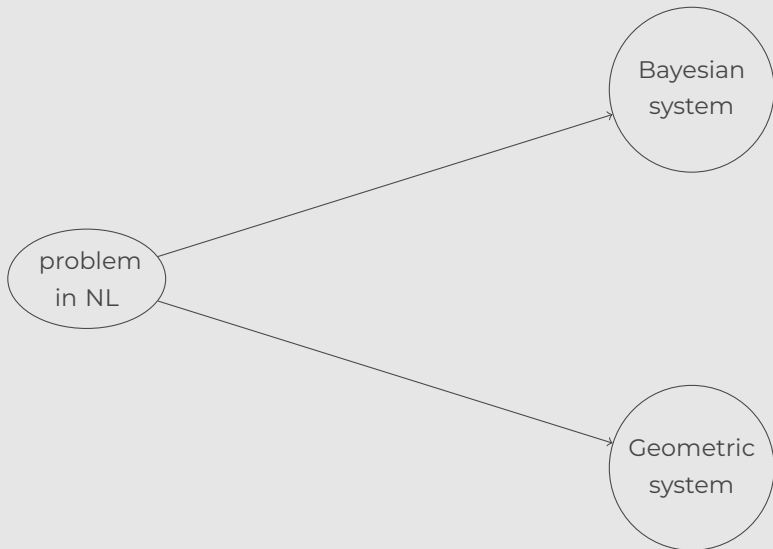
<b>Problem in NL</b>	<b>Bayesian RS</b>	<b>Geometric RS</b>
is about <i>classes</i>	represents <i>events</i>	represents <i>regions</i>
is about <i>probability</i>	represents $P_r$	represents <i>area</i> (size)
is about <i>ratios</i>	represents <i>real</i> <i>numbers</i>	represents <i>real</i> <i>numbers</i>
<i>law of total</i> <i>probability</i> is useful	<i>law of total</i> <i>probability</i> is a fact	<i>additivity of areas</i> is a fact
<i>no error allowed</i>	is <i>rigorous</i>	is <i>rigorous</i>

## CORRESPONDENCES

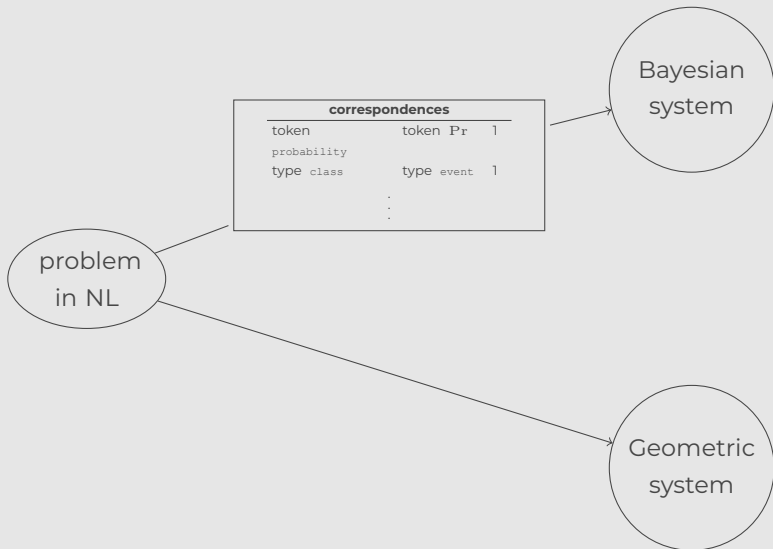
<b>Problem in NL</b>	<b>Bayesian RS</b>	<b>Geometric RS</b>
is about <i>classes</i>	represents <i>events</i>	represents <i>regions</i>
is about <i>probability</i>	represents $P_r$	represents <i>area</i> (size)
is about <i>ratios</i>	represents <i>real</i> <i>numbers</i>	represents <i>real</i> <i>numbers</i>
<i>law of total</i> <i>probability is</i> useful	<i>law of total</i> <i>probability is a fact</i>	<i>additivity of areas</i> is a fact
<i>no error allowed</i>	<i>is rigorous</i>	<i>is rigorous</i>

In practice, we build correspondence tables to relate pairs of properties with a score (how good a reason is it?)

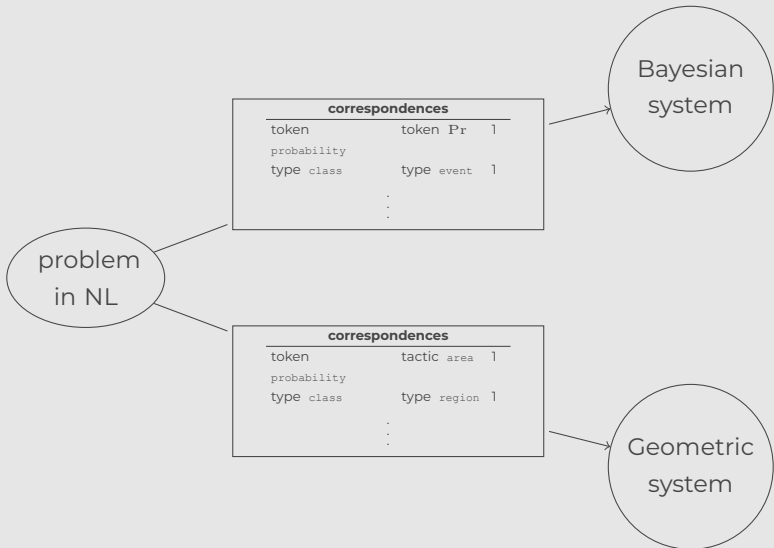
## CORRESPONDENCE TABLES



## CORRESPONDENCE TABLES



# CORRESPONDENCE TABLES



# DESIGNING A REPRESENTATION-SELECTION ALGORITHM

## DESIGNING A REPRESENTATION-SELECTION ALGORITHM

To assess the value of some candidate system  $S$  given a problem  $q$ :



## DESIGNING A REPRESENTATION-SELECTION ALGORITHM

To assess the value of some candidate system  $S$  given a problem  $q$ :

- ▶ Add up correspondence scores (i.e., count reasons why  $S$  is good)?

## DESIGNING A REPRESENTATION-SELECTION ALGORITHM

To assess the value of some candidate system  $S$  given a problem  $q$ :

- ▶ Add up correspondence scores (i.e., count reasons why  $S$  is good)?
- ▶ But reasons are not equally important,

## DESIGNING A REPRESENTATION-SELECTION ALGORITHM

To assess the value of some candidate system  $S$  given a problem  $q$ :

- ▶ Add up correspondence scores (i.e., count reasons why  $S$  is good)?
- ▶ But reasons are not equally important,
- ▶ and reasons may not be independent from each other!

## DESIGNING A REPRESENTATION-SELECTION ALGORITHM

To assess the value of some candidate system  $S$  given a problem  $q$ :

- ▶ Add up correspondence scores (i.e., count reasons why  $S$  is good)?
- ▶ But reasons are not equally important,
- ▶ and reasons may not be independent from each other!

Thus we weight the score by the importance relative to the problem,

## DESIGNING A REPRESENTATION-SELECTION ALGORITHM

To assess the value of some candidate system  $S$  given a problem  $q$ :

- ▶ Add up correspondence scores (i.e., count reasons why  $S$  is good)?
- ▶ But reasons are not equally important,
- ▶ and reasons may not be independent from each other!

Thus we weight the score by the importance relative to the problem, and we encode correspondences with a simple logic.

## MAKING A RECOMMENDATION

Bayesian	9.3
Geometric	7.2
Natural Language	6.9
Contingency	5.4
Euler	1.5

# **Conclusions and work in progress**

**WHAT DO WE HAVE?**



## WHAT DO WE HAVE?

A framework for representing representations

A proof-of-concept algorithm for suitability

## WHAT DO WE HAVE?

A framework for representing representations

A proof-of-concept algorithm for suitability

Main limitation is reliance on a human analyst for:

- ▶ describing RSs and problems (including importance)
- ▶ finding correspondences (including logical dependencies and scores)

## WHAT DO WE HAVE?

A framework for representing representations

A proof-of-concept algorithm for suitability

Main limitation is reliance on a human analyst for:

- ▶ describing RSs and problems (including importance)
- ▶ finding correspondences (including logical dependencies and scores)

Can we automate this?

## WHAT DO WE HAVE?

A framework for representing representations

A proof-of-concept algorithm for suitability

Main limitation is reliance on a human analyst for:

- ▶ describing RSs and problems (including importance)
- ▶ finding correspondences (including logical dependencies and scores)

Can we automate this?

How can we evaluate this?

## WHAT ARE WE WORKING ON NOW?

How to formalise the concept of correspondence.

- ▶ The probability of observing certain property in a solution in some candidate RS, given some observed properties in a problem.
- ▶ If so, how to infer correspondence scores, and how to use them?

## WHAT ARE WE WORKING ON NOW?

How to formalise the concept of correspondence.

- ▶ The probability of observing certain property in a solution in some candidate RS, given some observed properties in a problem.
- ▶ If so, how to infer correspondence scores, and how to use them?

Cognitive properties of representations.

- ▶ Figuring out what how to calculate cognitive costs
- ▶ How to work the user into the calculations?

# INSPECTION AND SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIONS

**Aaron Stockdill** **Daniel Raggi** **Mateja Jamnik**

University of Cambridge, UK

**Grecia Garcia Garcia** **Holly Sutherland** **Peter Cheng**

University of Sussex, UK

26 June 2019