

A model of conceptual bootstrapping in human cognition

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TÜBINGEN





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Cognition

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Bootstrapping in a language of thought: A formal model of numerical concept learning

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Primitive operations allowed in the LOT. All valid compositions of these primitives are potential hypotheses for the model.

Functions mapping sets to truth values

(singleton? X)

Returns true iff the set *X* has exactly one element

(doubleton? X)

Returns true iff the set *X* has exactly two elements

(tripleton? X)

Returns true iff the set *X* has exactly three elements

Functions on sets

(set-difference X Y)

Returns the set that results from removing *Y* from *X*

(union X Y)

Returns the union of sets *X* and *Y*

(intersection X Y)

Returns the intersect of sets *X* and *Y*

(select X)

Returns a set containing a single element from *X*

Logical functions

(and P Q)

Returns TRUE if *P* and *Q* are both true

(or P Q)

Returns TRUE if either *P* or *Q* is true

(not P)

Returns TRUE iff *P* is false

(if P X Y)

Returns *X* iff *P* is true, *Y* otherwise

Functions on the counting routine

(next W)

Returns the word after *W* in the counting routine

(prev W)

Returns the word before *W* in the counting routine

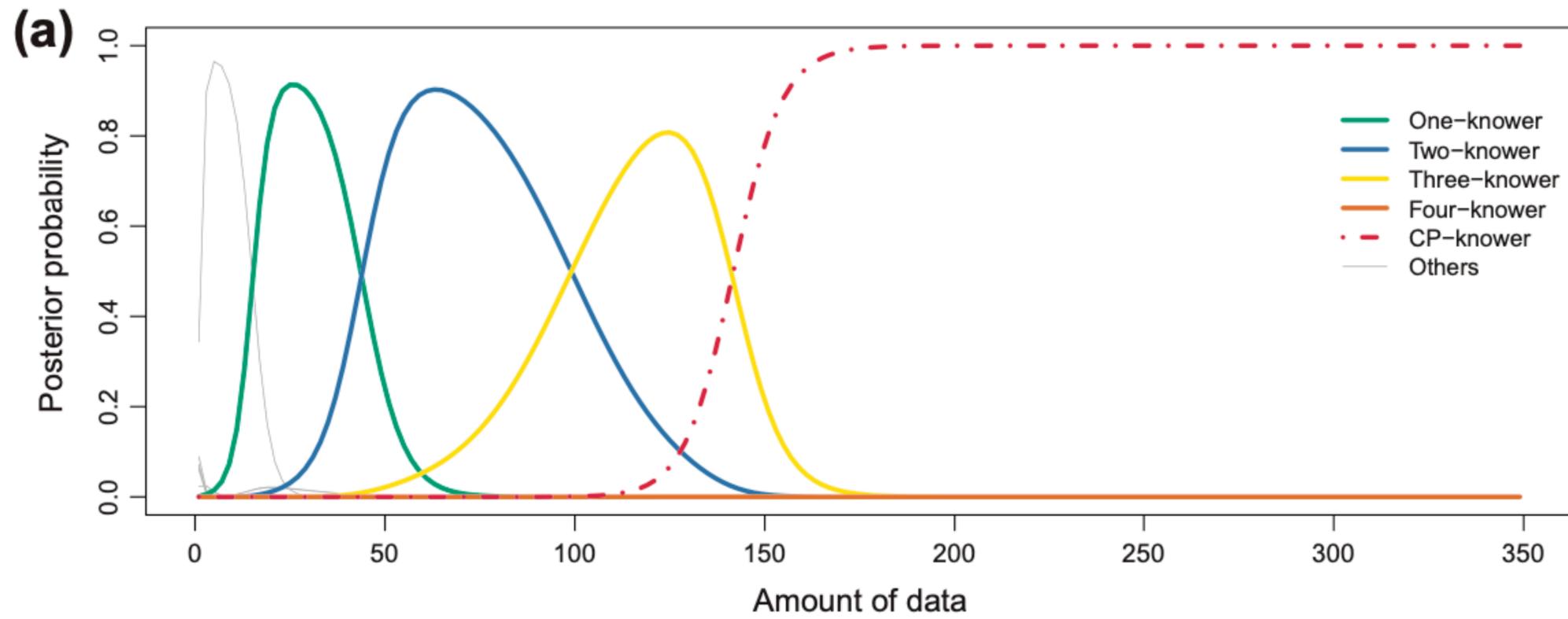
(equal-word? W V)

Returns TRUE if *W* and *V* are the same word

Recursion

(L S)

Returns the result of evaluating the entire current lambda expression on set *S*



One-knower

$\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
“one”
undef)

Two-knower

$\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
“one”
(if (doubleton? S)
“two”
undef))

Singular-Plural

$\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
“one”
“two”)

Mod-5

$\lambda S . (if (or (singleton? S)$
(equal-word? (L (set-difference S)
(select S))
“five”))
“one”
(next (L (set-difference S
(select S))))))

Three-knower

$\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
“one”
(if (doubleton? S)
“two”
(if (tripleton? S)
“three”
undef))

CP-knower

$\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
“one”
(next (L (set-difference S
(select S))))))

2-not-1-knower

$\lambda S . (if (doubleton? S)$
“two”
undef)

2N-knower

$\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
“one”
(next (next (L (set-difference S
(select S))))))

(Piantadosi et al., 2012)

D.S.: The numbers only go to million and ninety-nine.

Experimenter: What happens after million and ninety-nine?

D.S.: You go back to zero.

E: I start all over again? So, the numbers do have an end?

Or do the numbers go on and on?

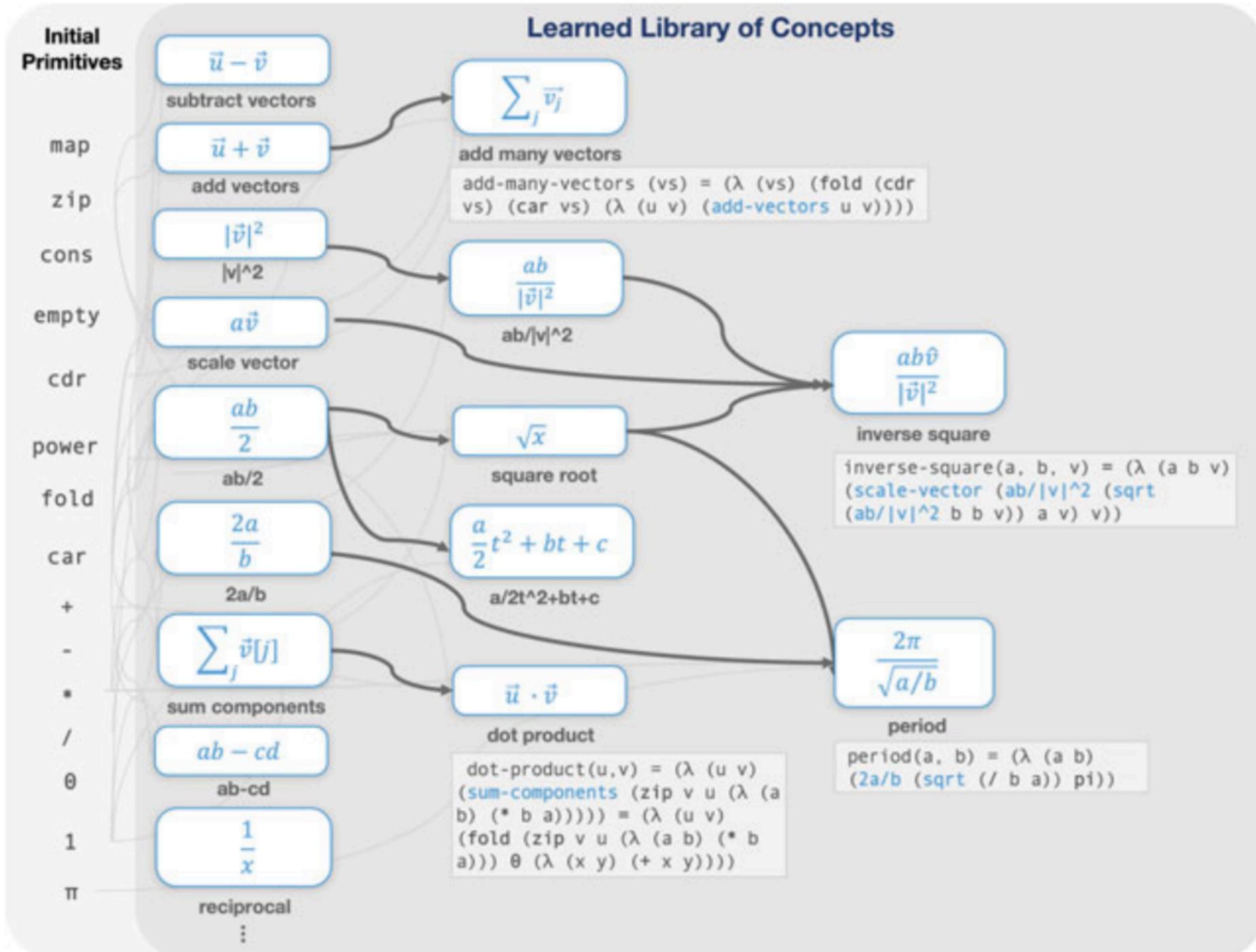
D.S.: Well, everybody says numbers go on and on because you start over again with million and ninety-nine.

...

E: How about if I tell you that there is a number after that?

A million one hundred.

D.S.: Well, I wish there was a million and one hundred, but there isnt.



Discovered Physics Equations

Newton's Second Law

$$\vec{a} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i \vec{F}_i$$

`(scale-vector (reciprocal m) (add-many-vectors Fs))`

Parallel Resistors

$$R_{total} = \left(\sum_i \frac{1}{R_i} \right)^{-1}$$

`(reciprocal (sum-components (map (λ(r) (reciprocal r)) Rs)))`

Work

$$U = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{d}$$

`(dot-product F d)`

Force in a Magnetic Field

$$|\vec{F}| = q|\vec{v} \times \vec{B}|$$

`(* q (ab-cd v_x b_y v_y b_x))`

Kinetic Energy

$$KE = \frac{1}{2} m |\vec{v}|^2$$

`(ab/2 m (|v|^2 v))`

Coulomb's Law

$$\vec{F} \propto \frac{q_1 q_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|^2} \widehat{r_1 - r_2}$$

`(inverse-square q_1 q_2 (subtract-vectors r_1 r_2))`

`(λ (x y z u) (map (λ (v) (* (/ (* (power (/ (* x x) (fold (zip z u (λ (w a) (- w a))) θ (λ (b c) (+ (* b b) c))) (/ (* 1 1) (+ 1 1))) y) (fold (zip z u (λ (d e) (- d e)) θ (λ (f g) (+ (* f f) g))) v)) (zip z u (λ (h i) (- h i))))))`

Solution to Coulomb's Law if expressed in initial primitives

List Processing

Sum List

[1 2 3] → 6
[4 6 8 1] → 17

Double

[1 2 3] → [2 4 6]
[4 5 1] → [8 10 2]

Check Evens

[0 2 3] → [T T F]
[2 9 6] → [T F T]

Text Editing

Abbreviate

Allen Newell → A.N.
Herb Simon → H.S.

Drop Last Three

shrdlu → shr
shakey → sha

Extract

a b (c) → c
a (bee) see → see

Regexes

Phone numbers

(555) 867-5309
(650) 555-2368

Currency

\$100.25
\$4.50

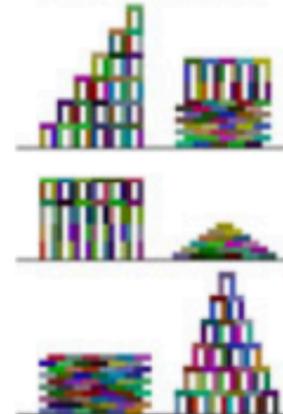
Dates

Y1775/0704
Y2000/0101

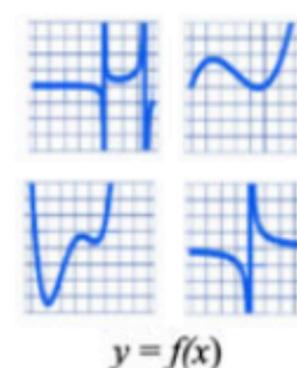
LOGO Graphics



Block Towers



Symbolic Regression



Recursive Programming

Filter Red

[red blue red] → [blue]
[red green red] → [green]
[red blue red] → [blue]

Length

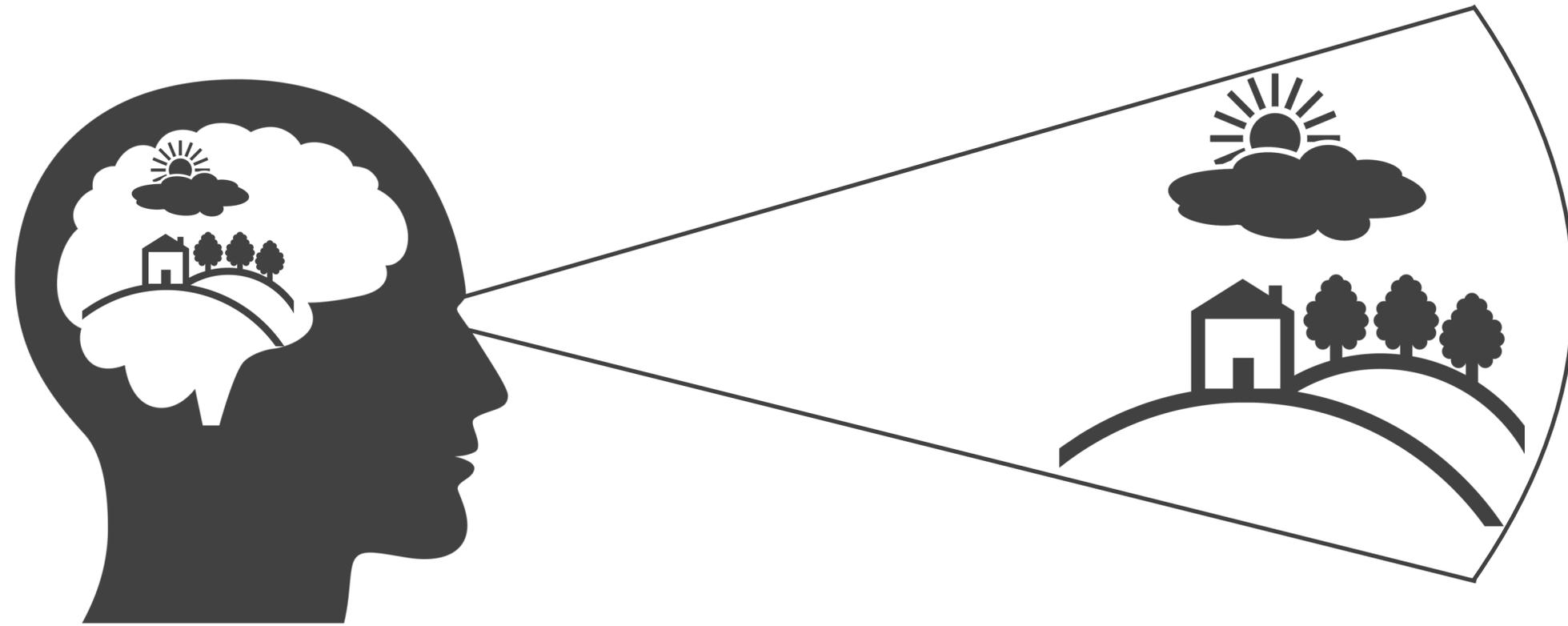
[red blue red] → 4
[red green red] → 6
[red green] → 3

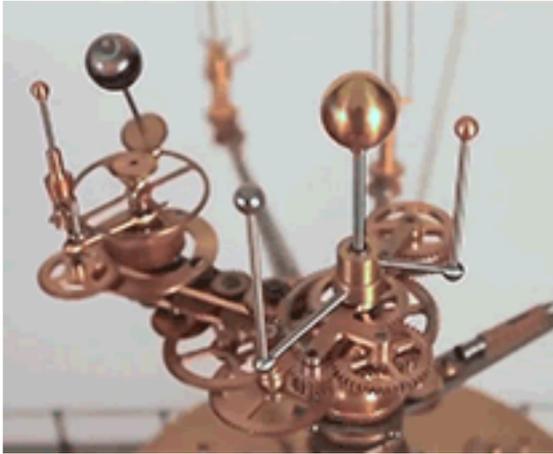
Physical Laws

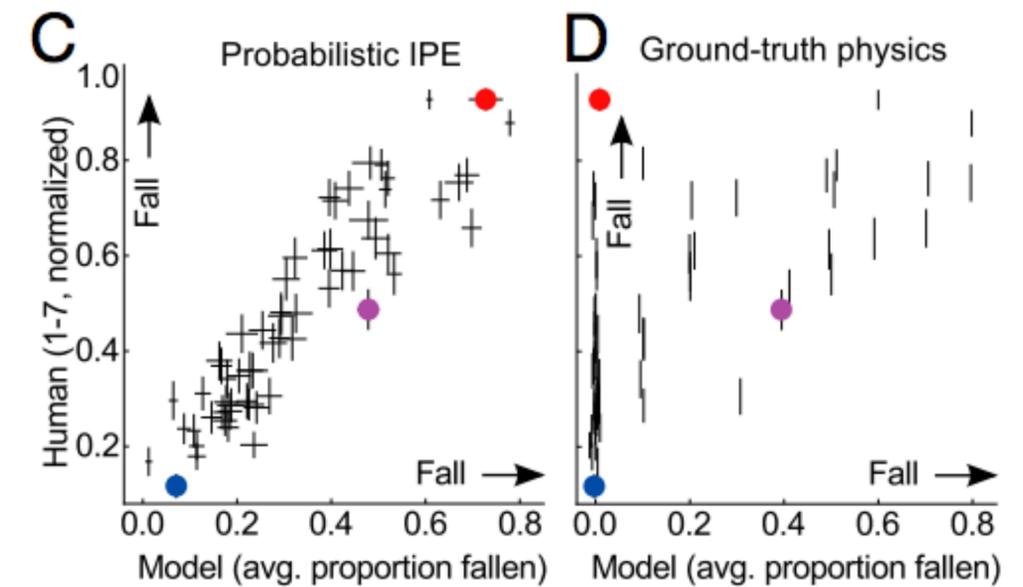
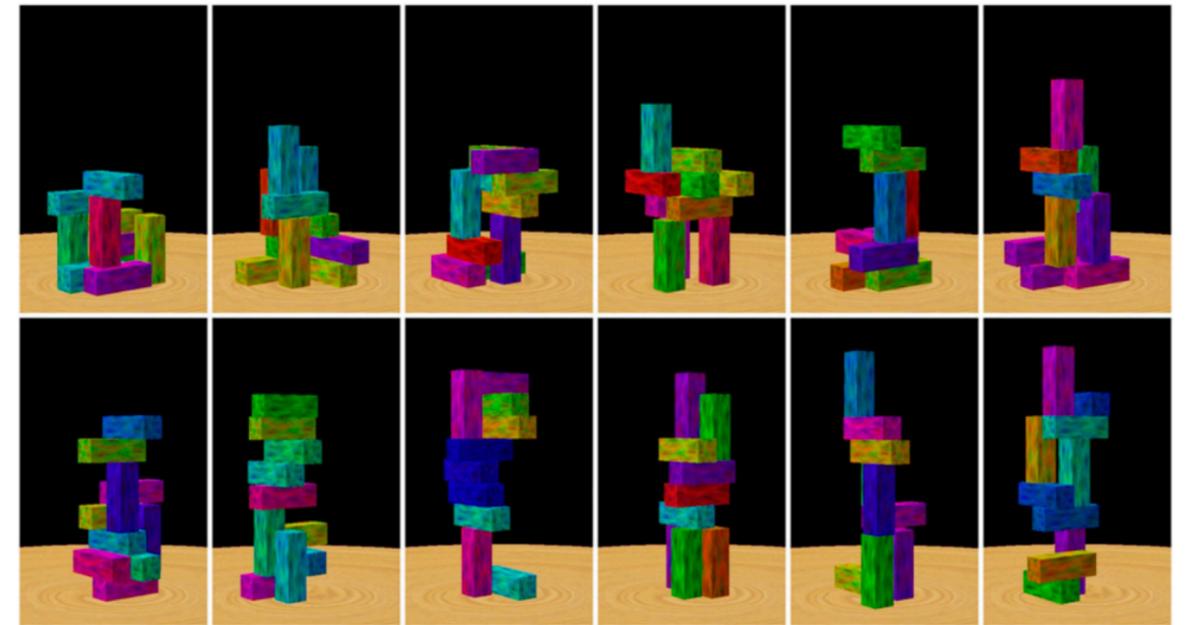
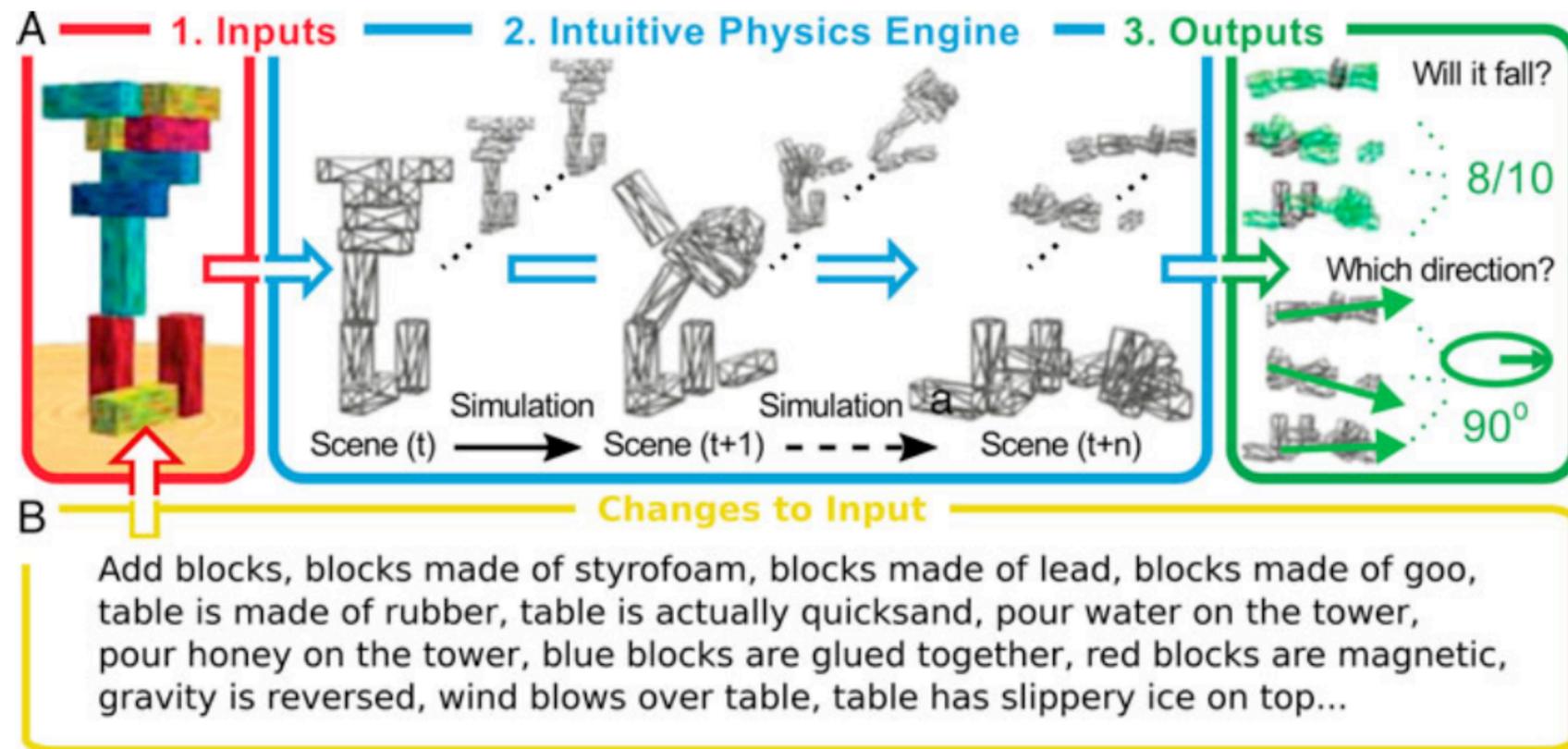
$$\vec{a} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i \vec{F}_i$$

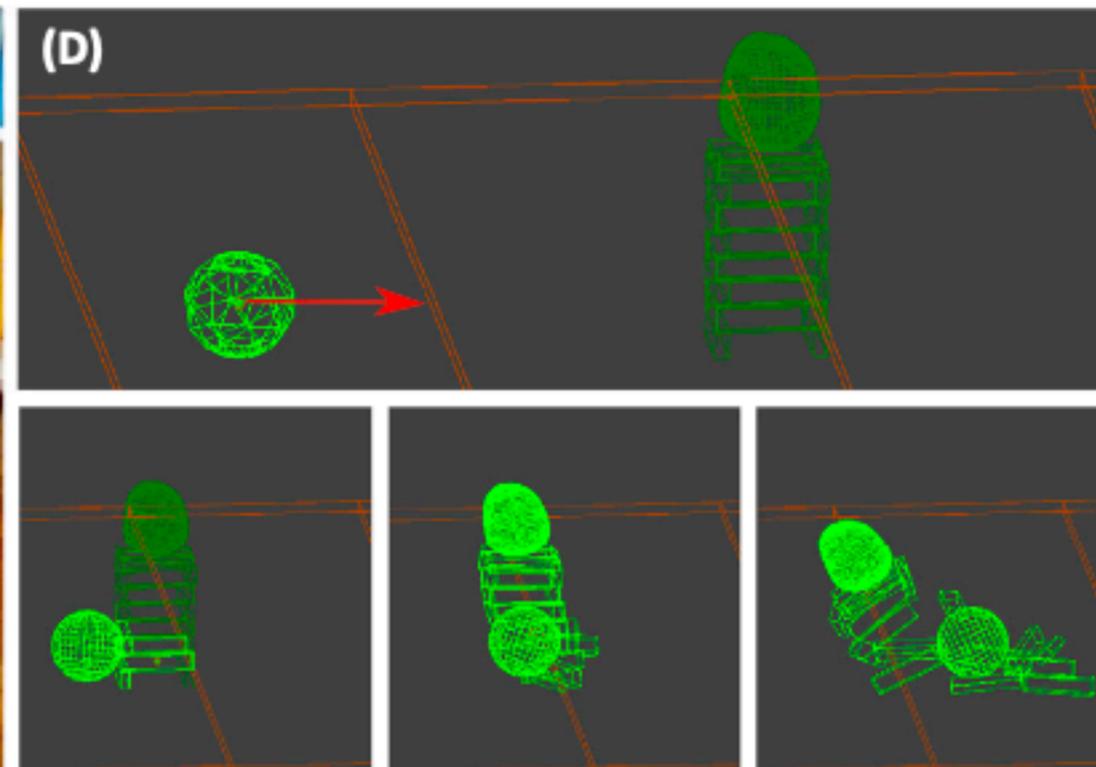
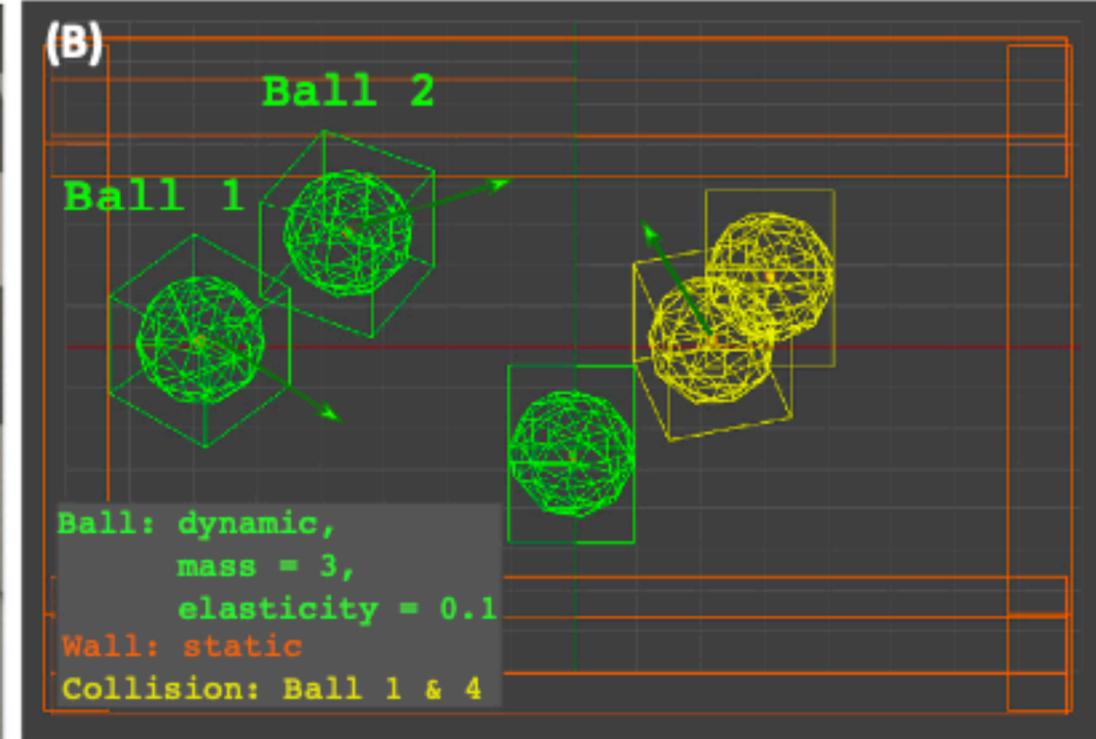
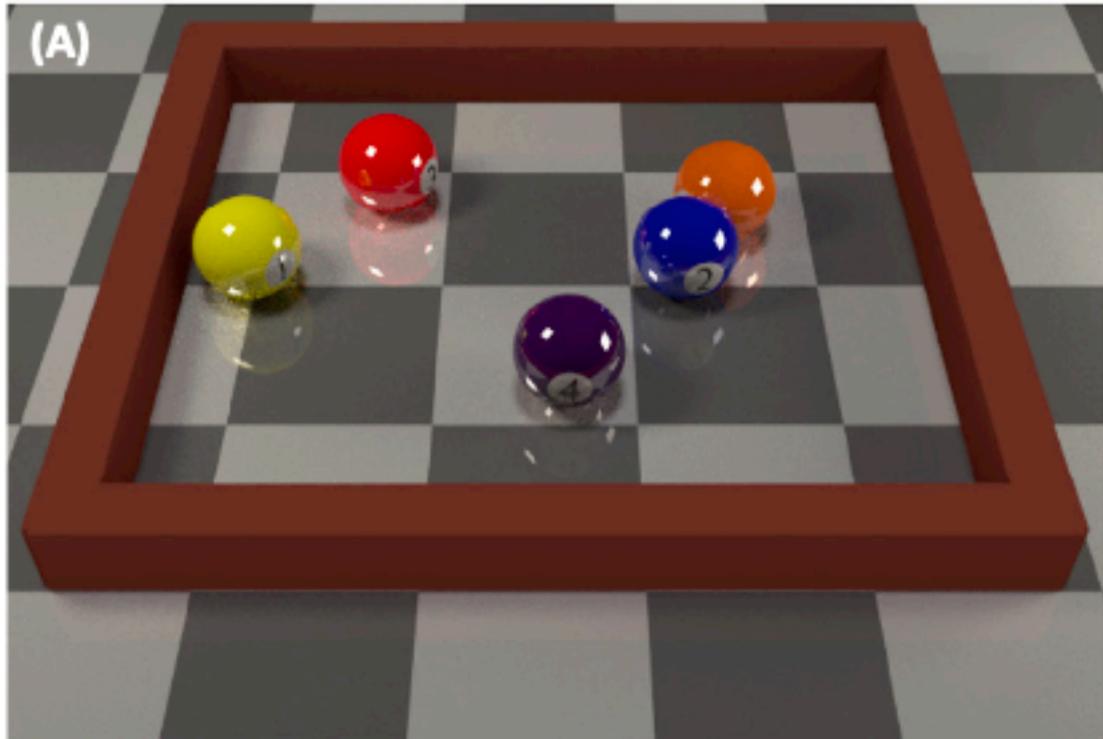
$$\vec{F} \propto \frac{q_1 q_2}{|\vec{r}|^2} \hat{r}$$

$$R_{\text{total}} = \left(\sum_i \frac{1}{R_i} \right)^{-1}$$









Octodad™ Editor - Content/Levels/Church_SubReception.irr

File Edit View Options Tools Window Help

Scene Tree Attributes Scene Viewer Asset Library

Scene Tree: Collapse Go To ID

- root
 - (LevelInfo)_999
 - Reception
 - Architecture
 - ArchitectureTemp
 - Chairs
 - Door_183
 - Door_1184
 - GrabKnob
 - CakeTable
 - CakeTable
 - Vases
 - Tables
 - Cake
 - Spot_1001
 - Spot_1002
 - Party
 - Sign
 - TieGone_1066
 - TieGame_1065
 - GrabTie
 - ChangingRoom
 - Objectives
 - Cameras
 - Camera_269
 - CamSnap_1306
 - Camera_1312
 - Cam_1304
 - SplineCam_1305
 - Camera_1308
 - SplineCam_1307
 - DressCam_304
 - CamLeft
 - Cam_305
 - RightCam_1314
 - Bananners
 - Life
 - DressingSpot_8000
 - (light)_1004
 - (light)_1005
 - DanceMusic_1003
 - CelebrationSound_1068
 - ClothesChange_1070

Attributes

1- ID & Positions

Name Architecture
 Id -1
 AbsolutePosition 1.783, 10.972, 1.703
 Position 1.783, 10.972, 1.703
 Rotation 0, 0, 0
 Scale 1, 1, 1

1- Transform Settings

IgnoreParentTransfo False

2- General Flags

Visible True
 VisibleInEditor True
 Pickable True
 VisibleInSublevelOn False

3- Gameplay

IsGrabbable False
 ReduceWeightOnGr True
 TurnDynamicOnGra False
 TurnDynamicOnTou False
 IsGold False
 IsButton False
 IsTripHazard False
 CanHangFrom False

4- Graphics

MeshFileName Content/Models/Church/Reception.ob
 AlphaOverride 1
 HasTransparency False
 DisableAntialiasing False
 IsReflective False
 ReceiveCaustics False
 CastShadow False
 ReceiveShadow True
 UseRimShading False
 ClipObject True

5- Physics

BoundType Mesh
 ColMeshFileName Content/Models/Church/ReceptionCO
 PhysicsState Static

Name
 A string identifying the object.

Attributes Materials Animators

Scene Viewer: Content/Levels/Church_SubReception.irr

Asset Library

Models

- Church
 - Altar.obj
 - altoids.obj
 - archway.obj
 - archwayCOL.obj
 - balloon.obj
 - balloonCluster.obj
 - BananaBowl.obj
 - BananaBowlCOL.obj
 - BananaWhole.obj
 - Dish.obj

Scene Notes

Level notes go here.

Scene Search

Name	ID	Type
DanceMusic	1003	SoundO...
DiningPlate	7002	Physics...
Door	183	Advanc...
Door	1184	Advanc...
DoorKey	1188	Physics...
DoorStay	-1	Trigger...
DressCam	304	Camera...
DressingSpot	8000	light
Figure	-1	Physics...
FlickerLight	-1	empty
FlickerLightOn	8001	Trigger

Log Window

Could not open material file: BananaBowlCOL.mtl
 Loaded mesh: Content/Models/Church/BananaBowlCOL.obj
 Loaded texture: Content/Models/Church/BananaWholeTexture.jpg
 Loaded mesh: Content/Models/Church/BananaWhole.obj
 Loaded texture: Content/Models/Editor/default_objective.png
 Loaded mesh: Content/Models/Editor/Path.obj
 Loaded texture: Content/Models/Editor/Gray.png
 Loaded texture: C:\Users\Kevin\Desktop\Octodad 2\Octodad\aa\Octodad\Content\Models\Church\archway.
 Loaded mesh: C:\Users\Kevin\Desktop\Octodad 2\Octodad\aa\Octodad\Content\Models\Church\archway.o

FPS: 350 | Total Collision Polys: 0 | Total Polys Drawn: 54621 | Objects Drawn: 169 | Objects Culled: 12 | Cam Pos: {37, 33, 0}



File Edit View Editors Camera Renderer Engine Tools DEV Help

- Scene Entity List
- Lights
 - Default - Light Directional
- Characters
 - Knightress_153
 - Knightress_154**
 - Knightress_152
 - Knightress_151
 - Knightress_154
- Scene
 - City Wall
 - Fence
 - Misc
 - Rocks
 - Rock2_2
 - Rock1B_247
 - Rock4A_12
 - Rock2_46
 - Rock2_29
 - Rock2_75
 - Rock2_40
 - Rock2_8
 - Rock4A_120
 - Rock2_6
 - Rock2_26

Skyline Console

```
Finished Updating Billboards
Finished Updating Billboards
Finished Updating Billboards
LOADING XML: Terrain Road Settings
LOADING XML: CAMERA Settings
LOADING XML: Load Bookmarks
LOADING XML: Post Effects
LOADING XML: SHADOW Settings
LOADING XML: Navmesh Settings

***** XML - MISSING FILE:
FileName = E:/03 - Ogre/01 - Projects/aRa_PROJ
file E:/03 - Ogre/01 - Projects/aRa_PROJECT-SH

LOAD LEVEL COMPLETED [XML]
```

Clear Log Enter Commands Here.....

Terrain Editor

Creation Height Edit Paint Vegetation

Terrain Generator

Terrain Setup

Terrain Size (Resolution) 512

World Size (Size in World Units) 1000

Texture Blend Map Size: 1024

Tiles X 0 Tiles Y 0

Generate

Terrain Options:

Generate Remove

Apply Physics

Import Options: Export Options:

Load Terrain file Export Terrain file

Load HeightMap Export HeightMap

Terrain Properties

Heightmap Multiplier 75

Use Surface Names Update Surfaces

Open AM Heightmaps Open

Lightmap Material

Brush Size x 1

Brush Strength x 2

Some Settings Terrain Editor Particle Editor

**learning the 'game
engine in your head'**

Opinion

The Child as Hacker

Joshua S. Rule,^{1,*} Joshua B. Tenenbaum,¹ and Steven T. Piantadosi²

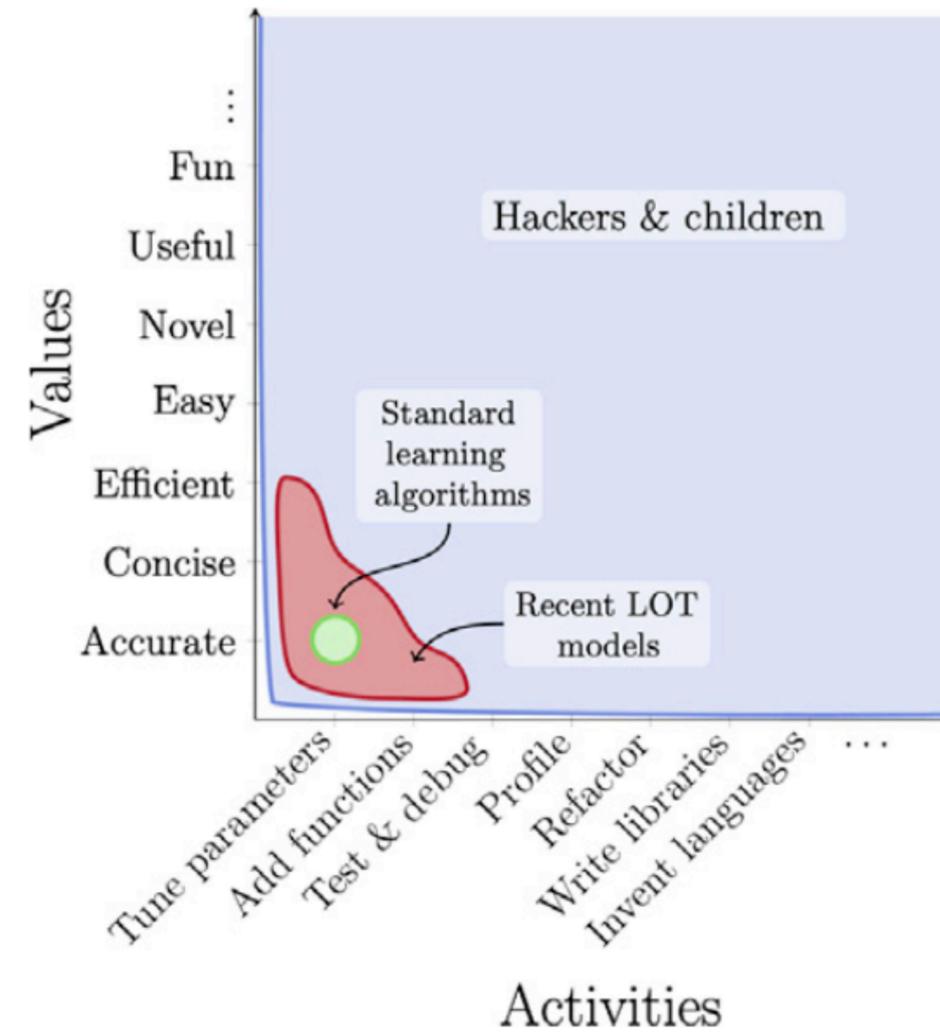
Table 2. Learners and Hackers Share Similar Techniques^a

Tune parameters	Adjust constants in code to optimize an objective function.
Add functions	Write new procedures for the codebase, increasing its overall abilities by making new computations available for reuse.
Extract functions	Move existing code into its own named procedure to centrally define an already common computation.
Test and debug	Execute code to verify that it behaves as expected and fix problems that arise. Accumulating tests over time increases code's trustworthiness.
Handle errors	Recognize and recover from errors rather than failing before completion, thereby increasing robustness.
Profile	Observe a program's resource use as it runs to identify inefficiencies for further scrutiny.
Refactor	Restructure code without changing the semantics of the computations performed (e.g., remove dead code, reorder statements).
Add types	Add code explicitly describing a program's semantics, so syntax better reflects semantics and supports automated reasoning about behavior.
Write libraries	Create a collection of related representations and procedures that serve as a toolkit for solving an entire family of problems.
Invent languages	Create new languages tuned to particular domains (e.g., HTML, SQL, $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$) or approaches to problem solving (e.g., Prolog, C, Scheme).

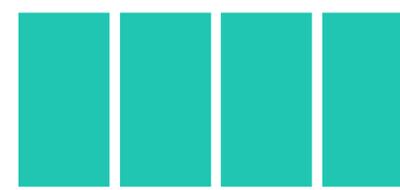
(Rule et al., 2020)

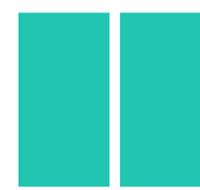
Table I. A Sampling of Domains Requiring Algorithmic Knowledge Formalizable as Programs, with Motivating Examples.

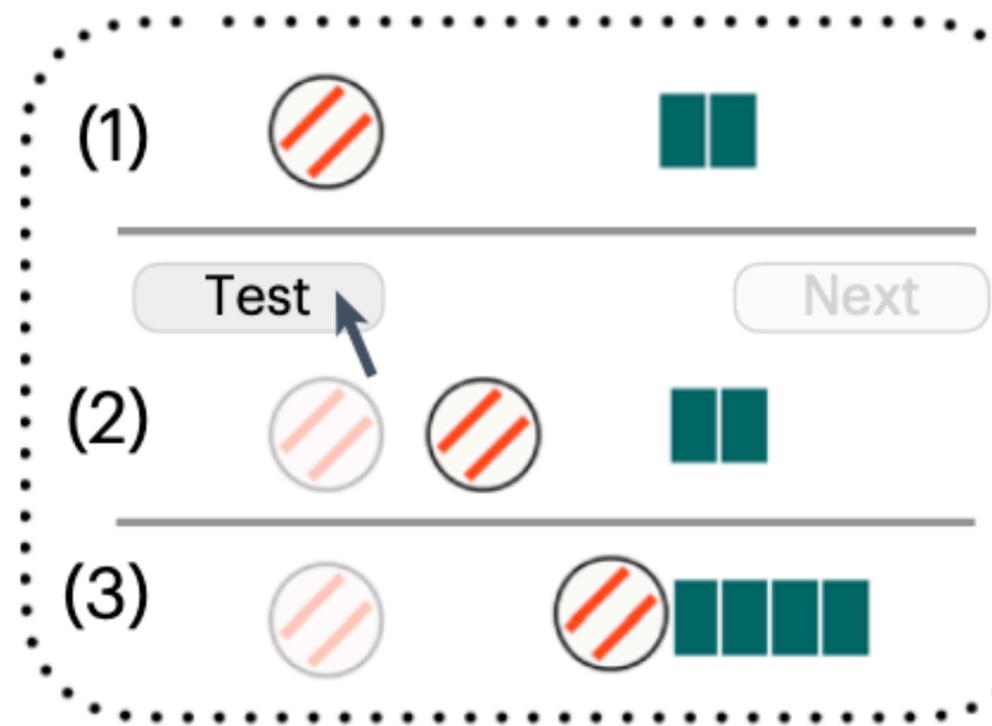
Logic	First-order, modal, deontic logic
Mathematics	Number systems, geometry, calculus
Natural language	Morphology, syntax, number grammars
Sense data	Audio, images, video, haptics
Computer languages	C, Lisp, Haskell, Prolog, $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$
Scientific theories	Relativity, game theory, natural selection
Operating procedures	Robert's rules, bylaws, checklists
Games and sports	Go, football, 8 queens, juggling, Lego
Norms and mores	Class systems, social cliques, taboos
Legal codes	Constitutions, contracts, tax law
Religious systems	Monastic orders, vows, rites and rituals
Kinship	Genealogies, clans/moieties, family trees
Mundane chores	Knotting ties, making beds, mowing lawns
Intuitive theories	Physics, biology, theory of mind
Domain theories	Cooking, lockpicking, architecture
Art	Music, dance, origami, color spaces



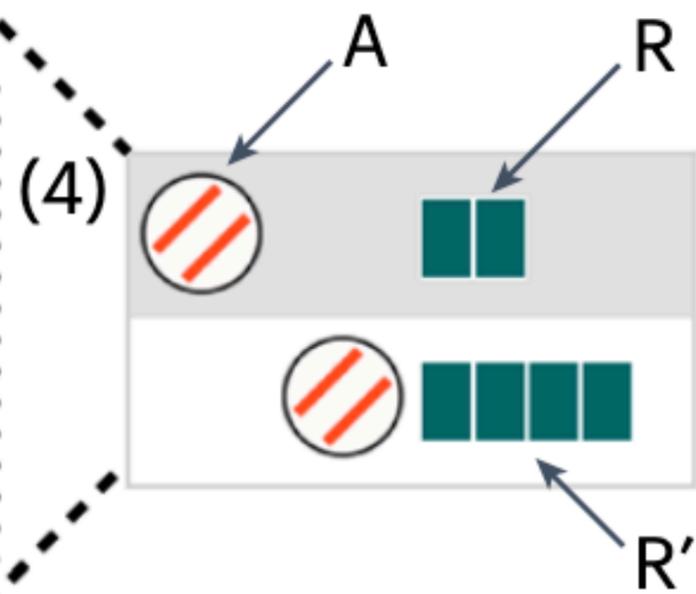
experiment



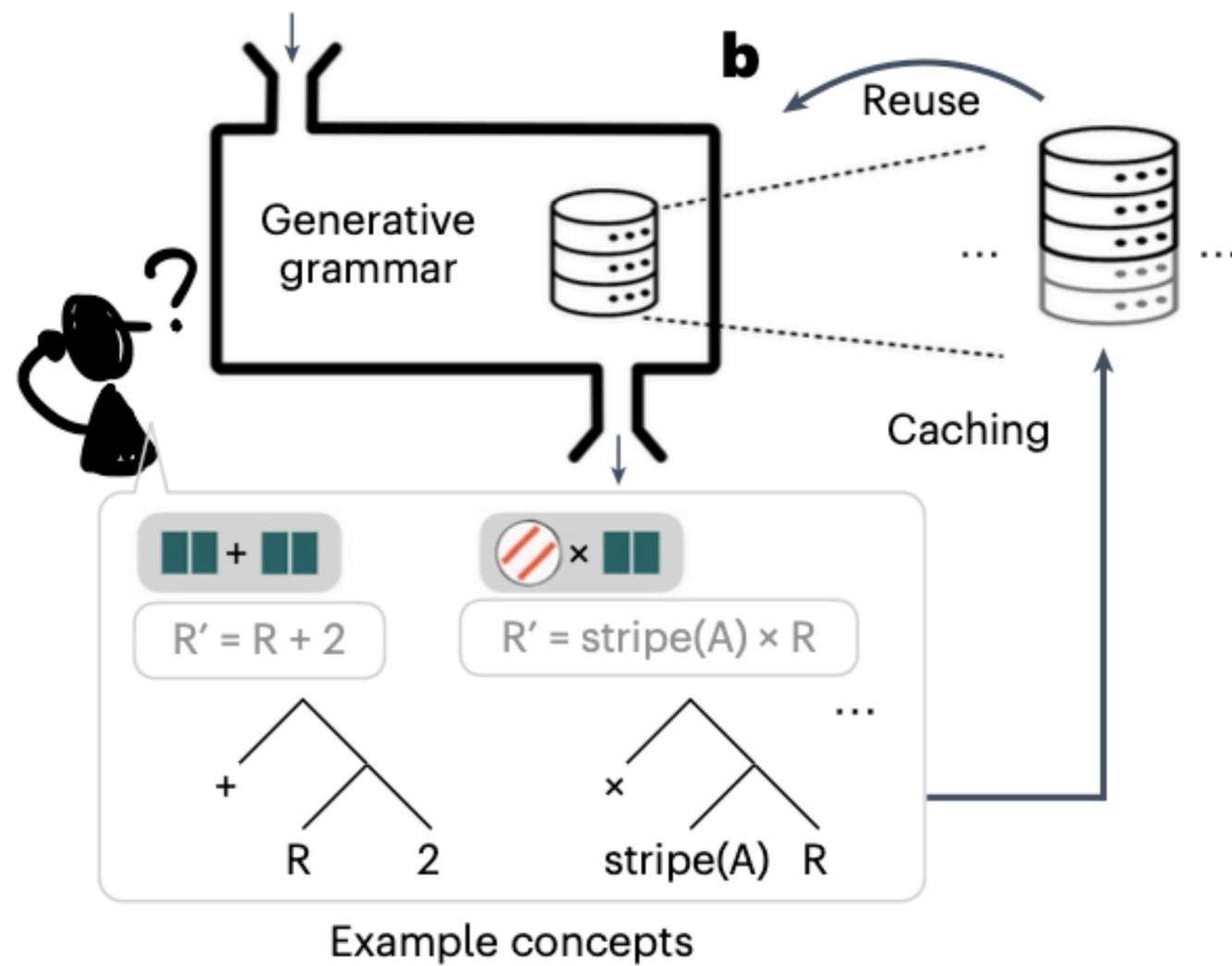




Example animation

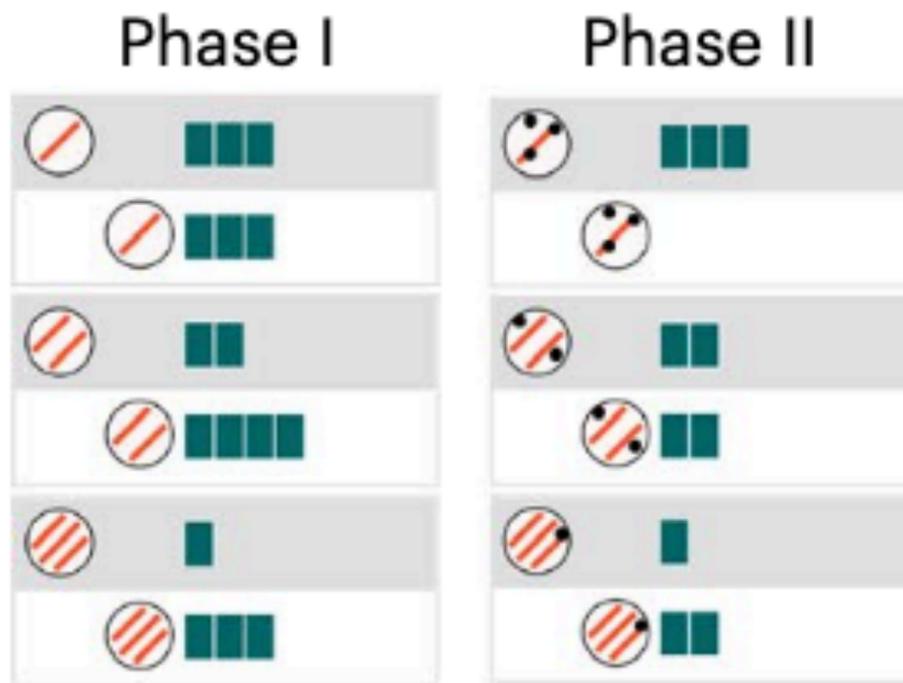


Visual summary

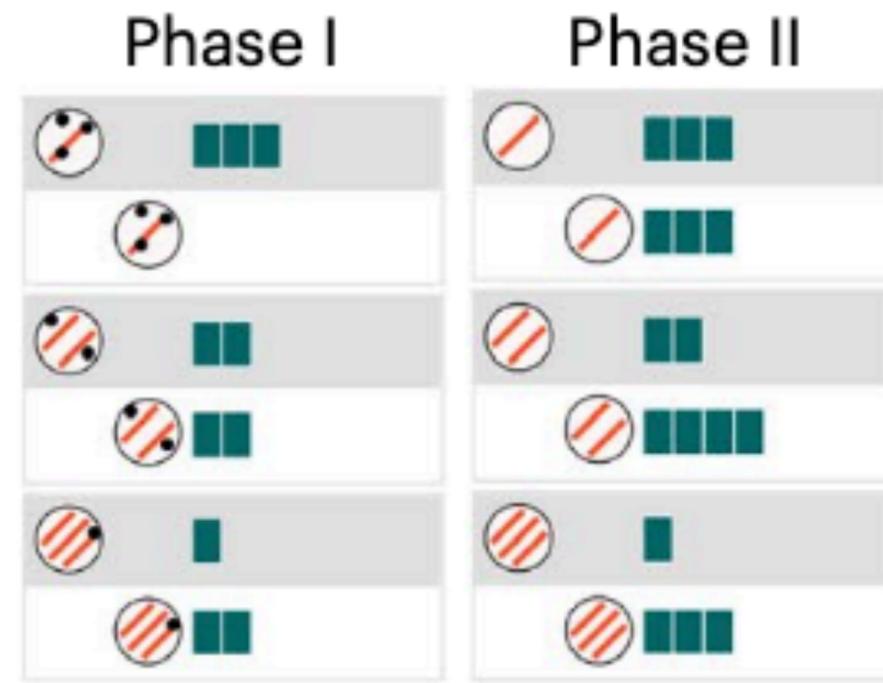


curricula

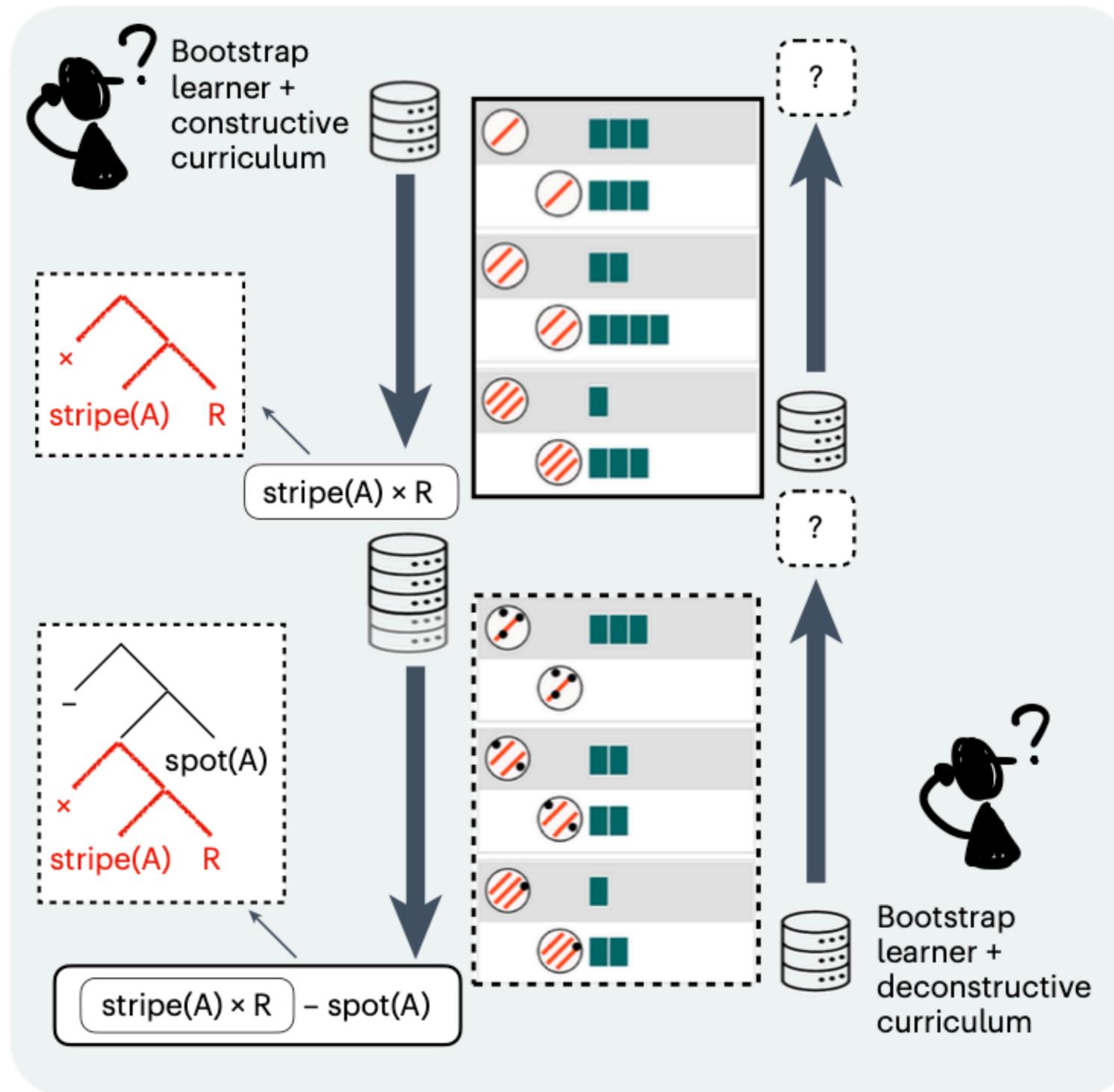
Construct

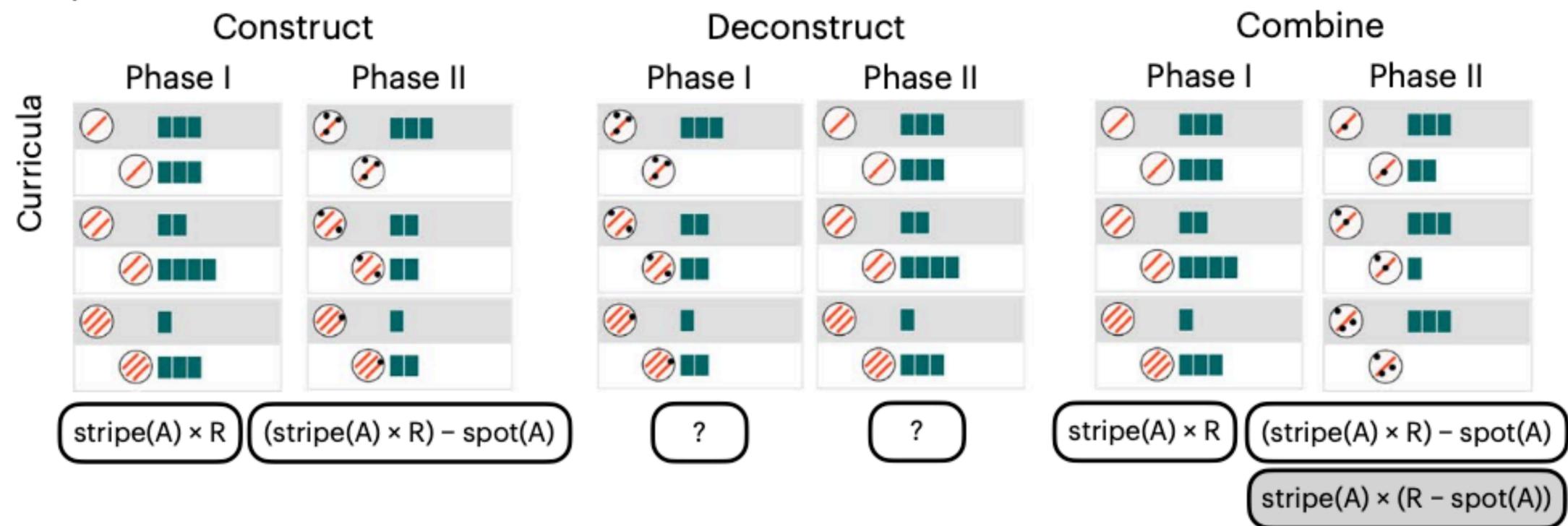
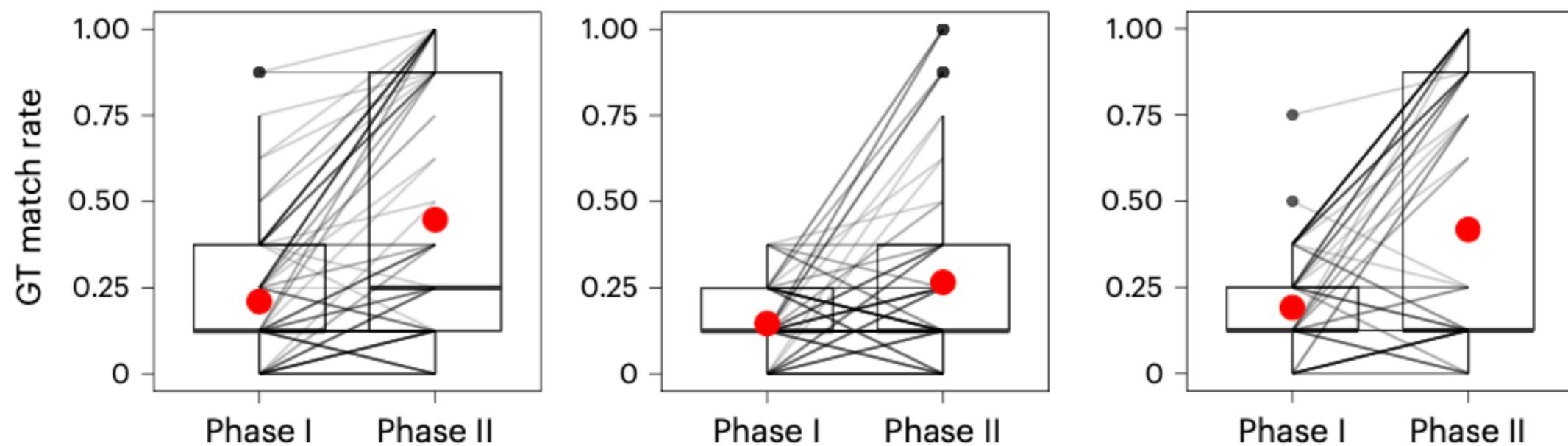


Deconstruct

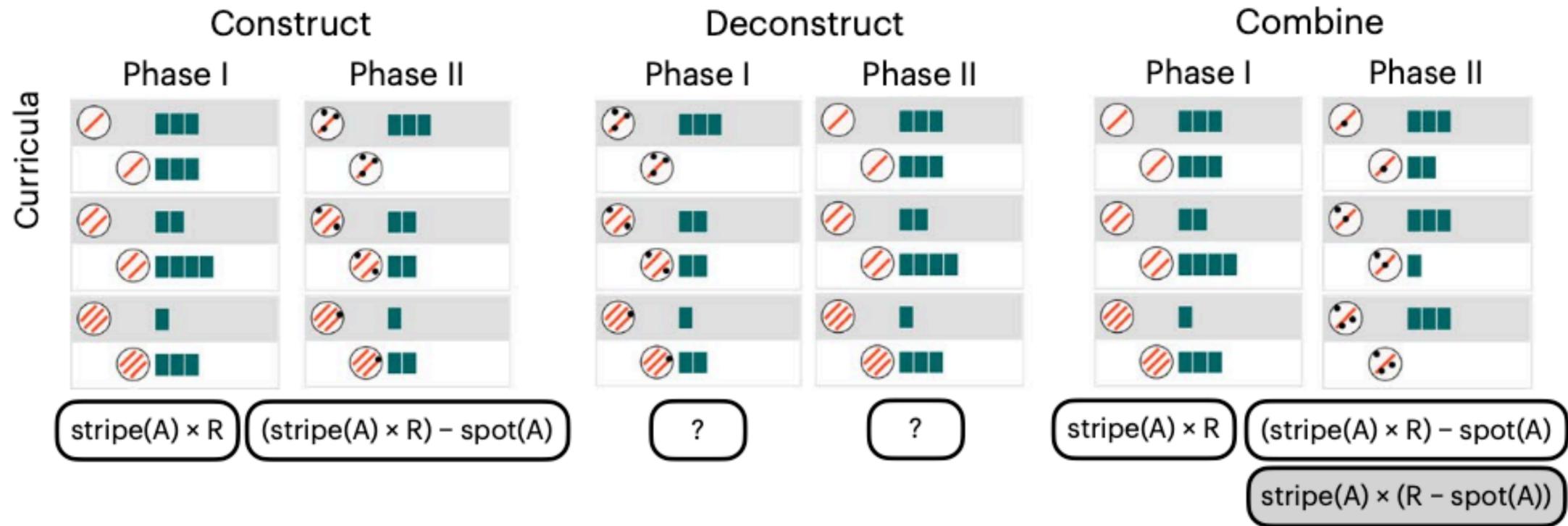


curricula

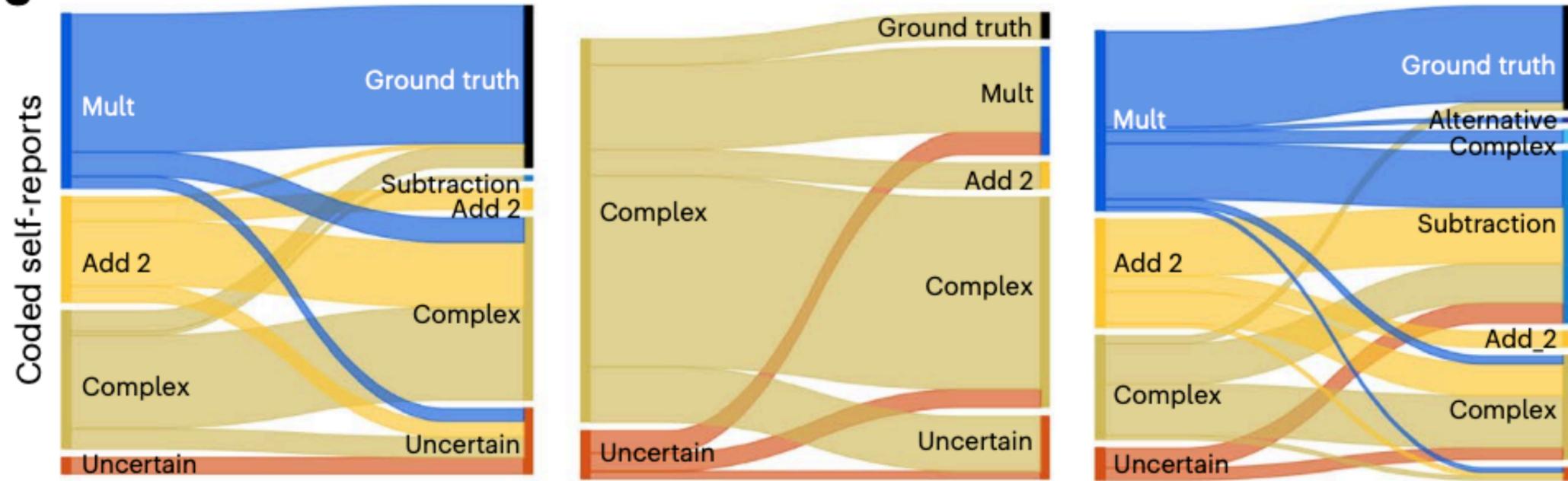


a Experiments 1 and 2**b**

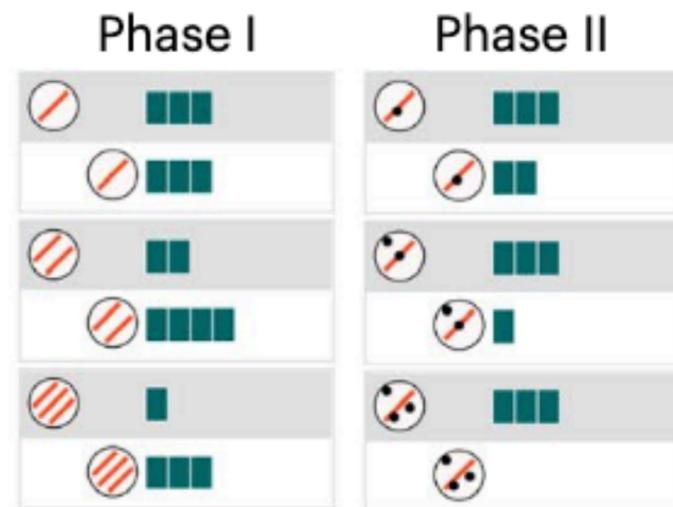
a Experiments 1 and 2



c



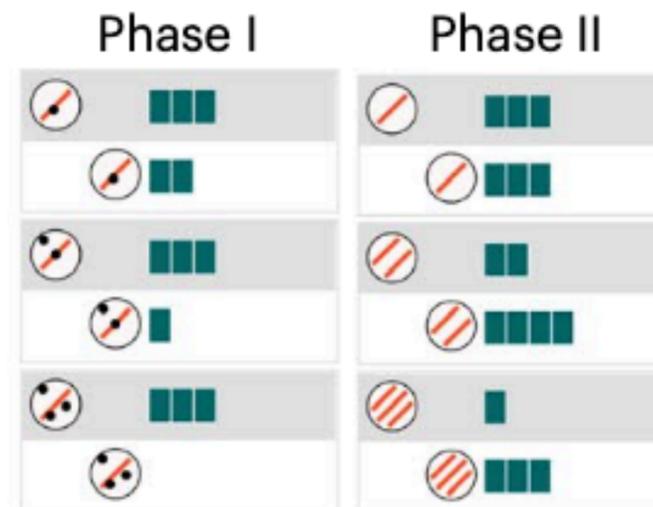
d Experiments 3 and 4
Combine



(stripe(A) × R) – spot(A)

stripe(A) × (R – spot(A))

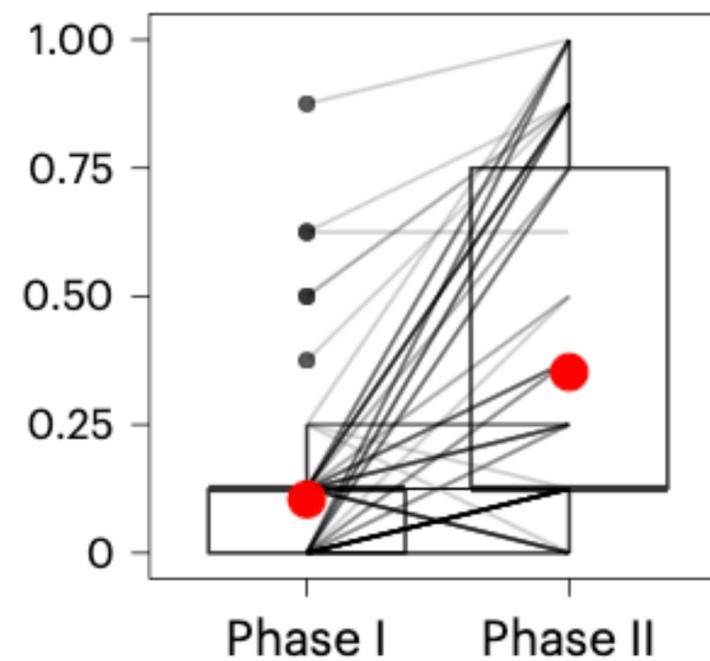
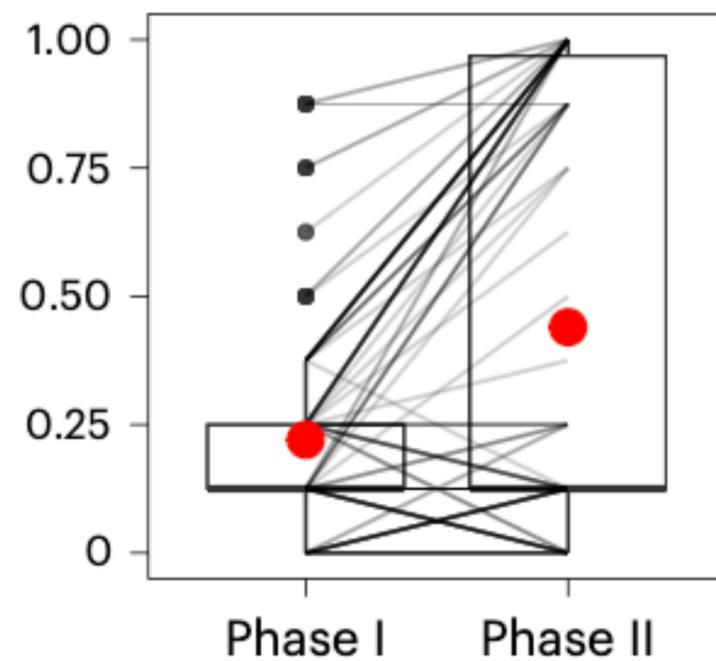
Flip



stripe(A) × (R – spot(A))

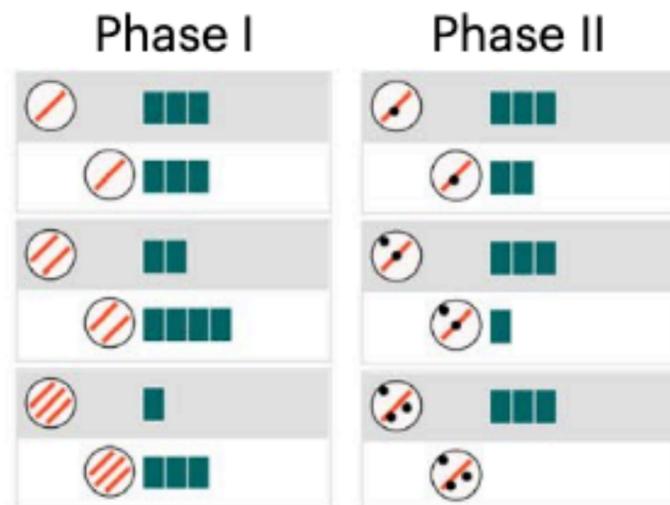
(stripe(A) × R) – spot(A)

e



d

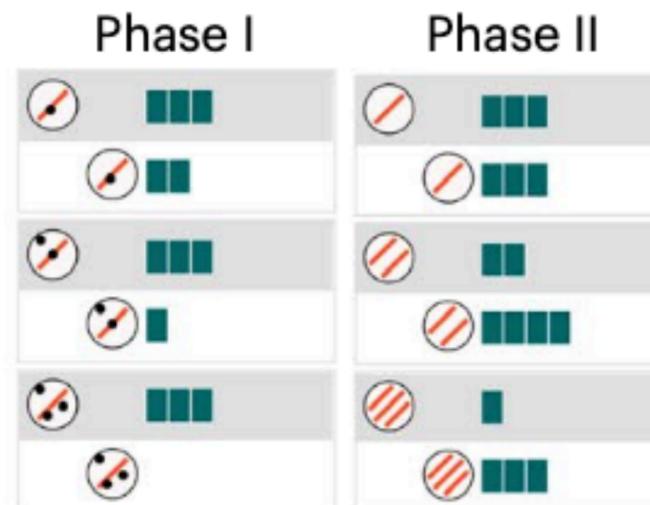
Experiments 3 and 4 Combine



$$(\text{stripe}(A) \times R) - \text{spot}(A)$$

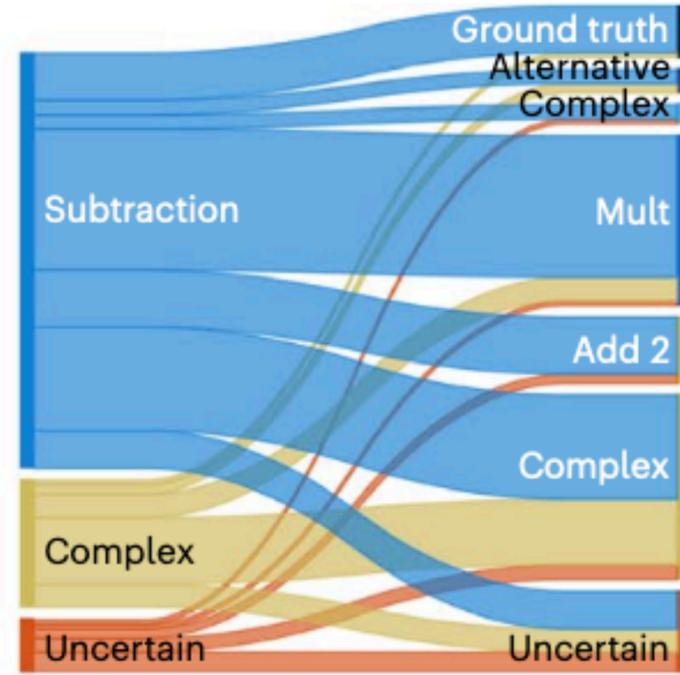
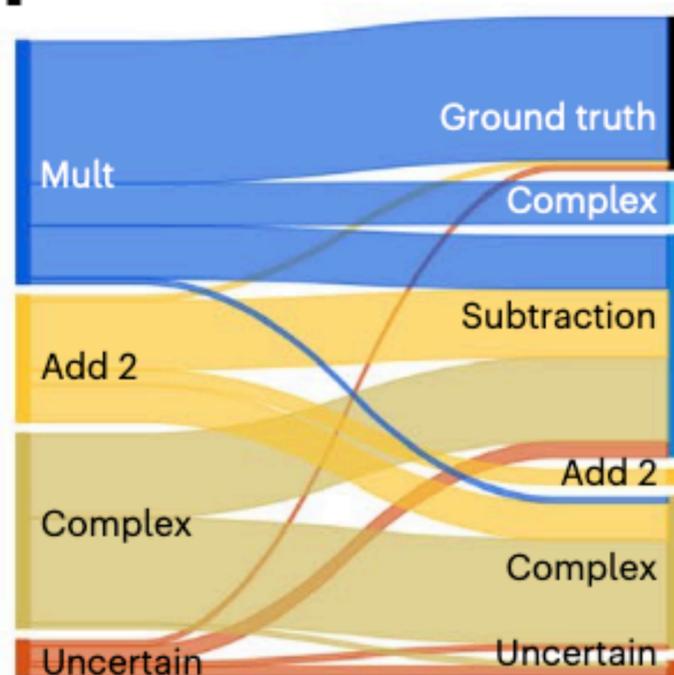
$$\text{stripe}(A) \times (R - \text{spot}(A))$$

Flip



$$\text{stripe}(A) \times (R - \text{spot}(A))$$

$$(\text{stripe}(A) \times R) - \text{spot}(A)$$

f

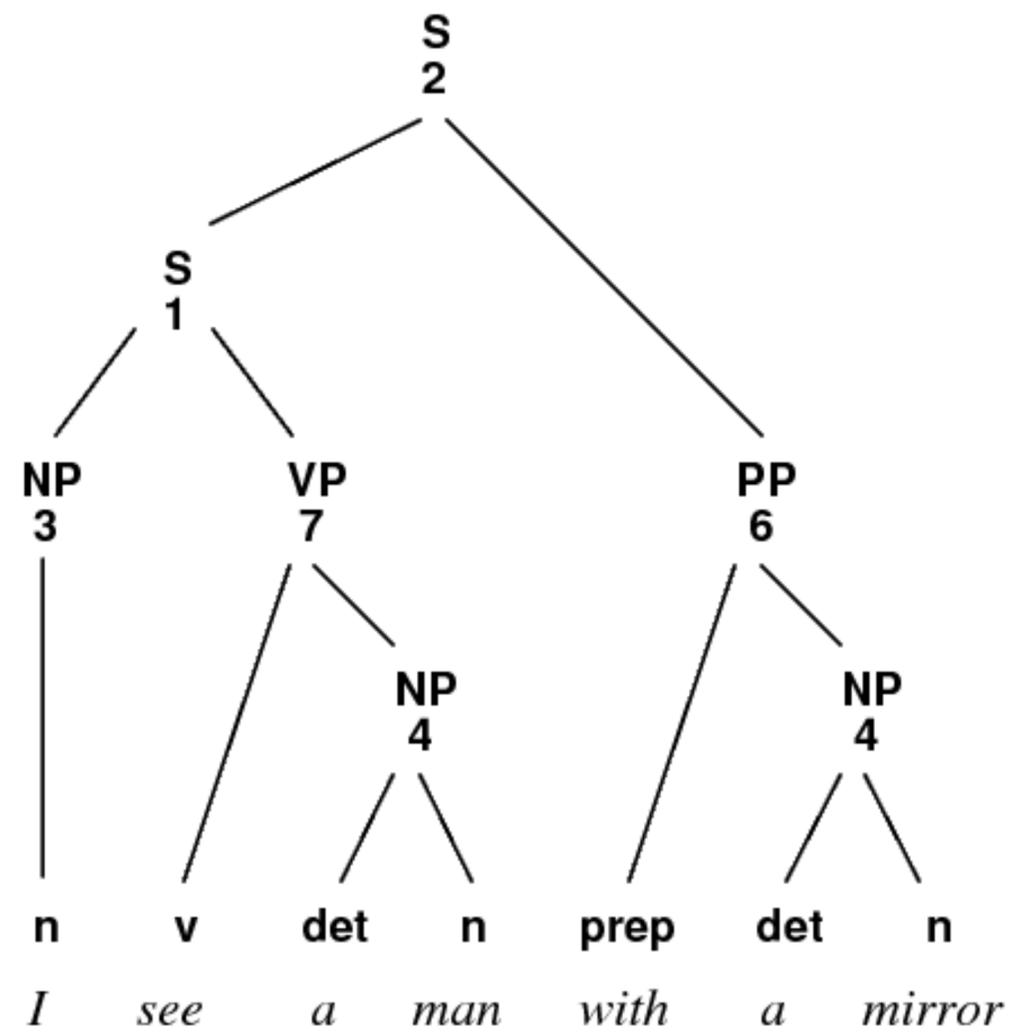
model

background

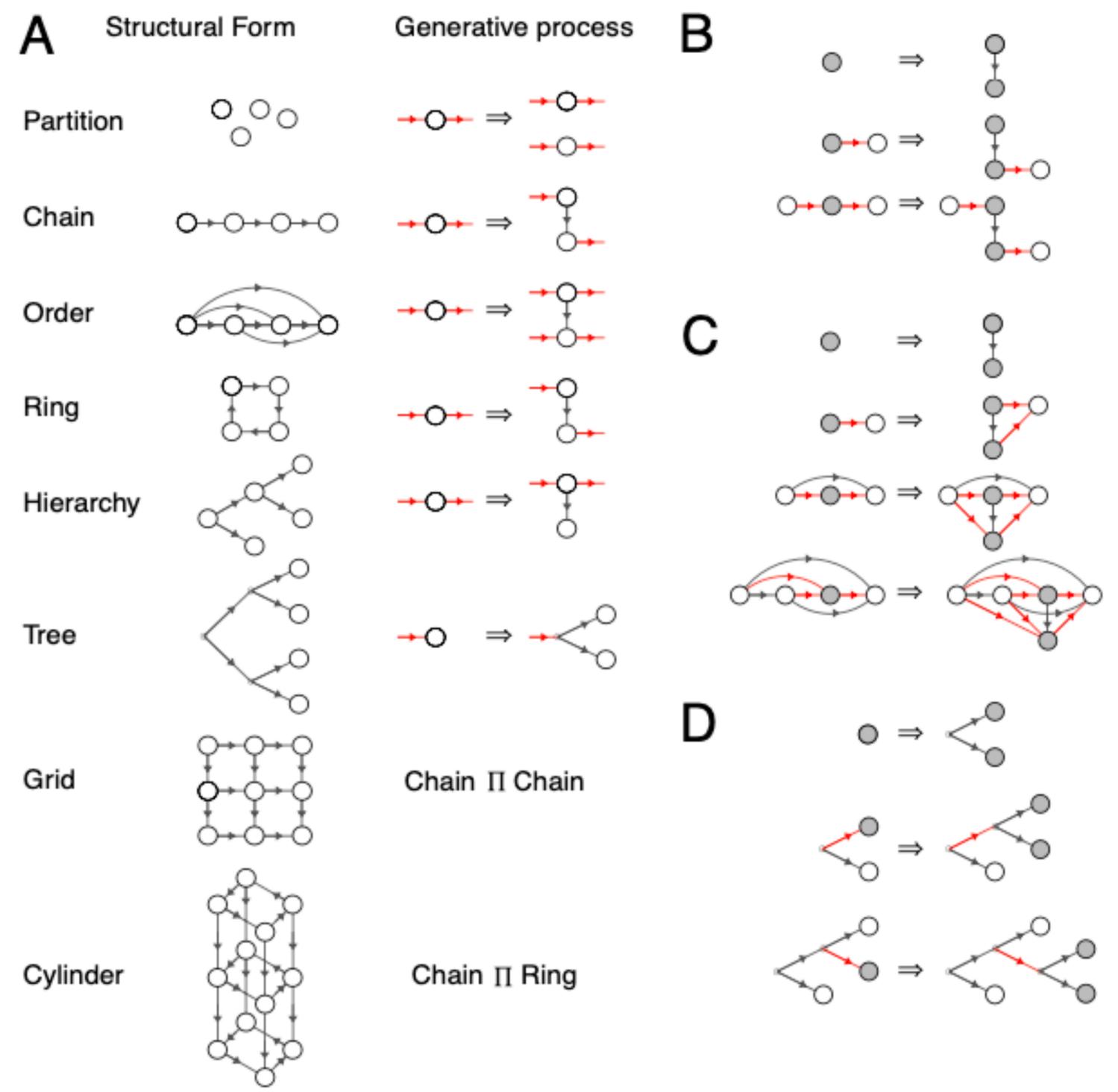
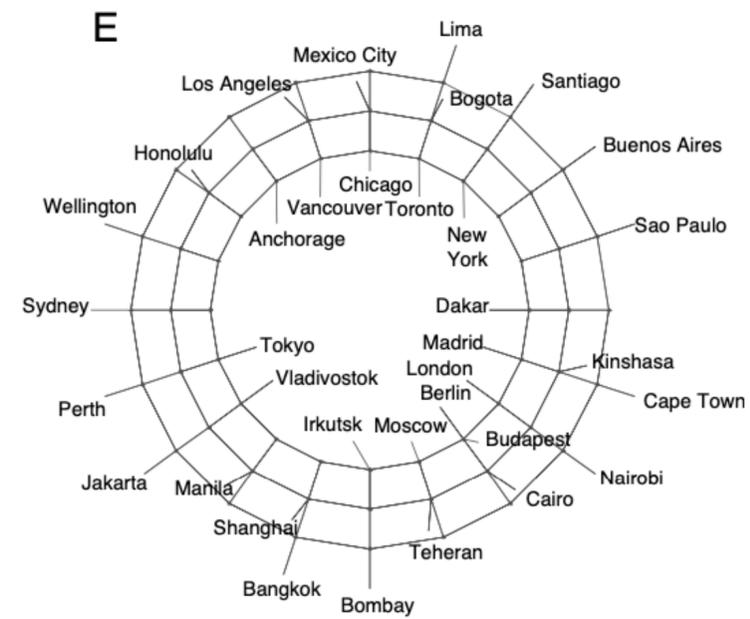
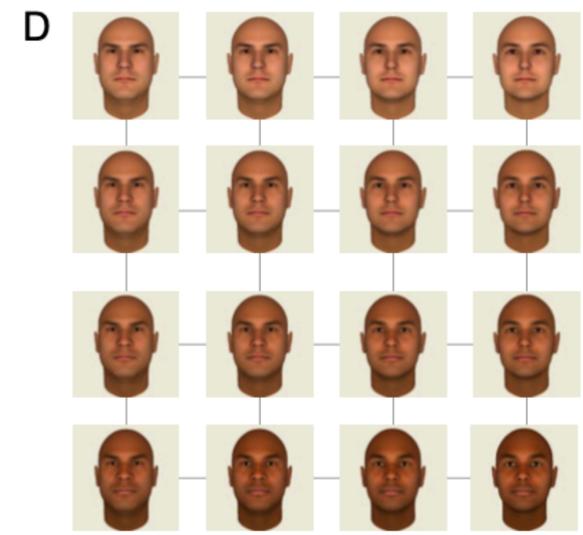
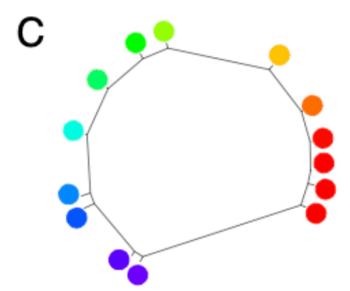
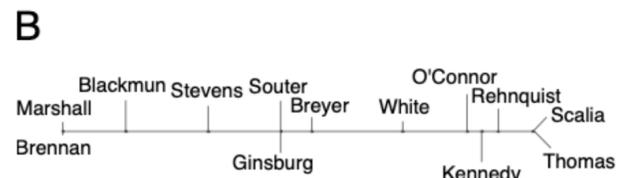
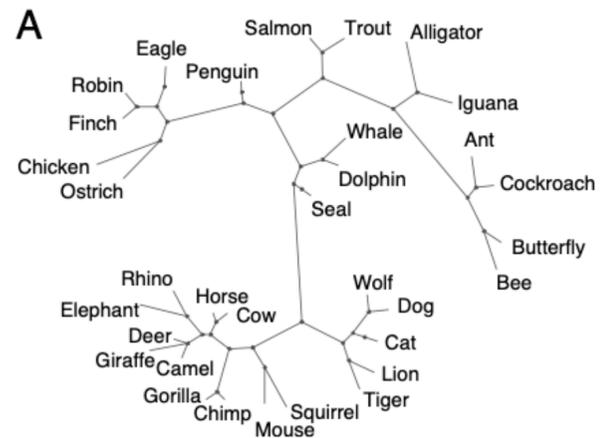
1. Probabilistic context free grammar (PCFG)
2. Adaptor Grammar (AG)
3. Pitman-Yor Adaptor Grammar (PYAG)
4. Combinatory Logic (CL)
5. CL with routers

background

- 1. Probabilistic context free grammar (PCFG)**
2. Adaptor Grammar (AG)
3. Combinatory Logic (CL)
4. CL with routers



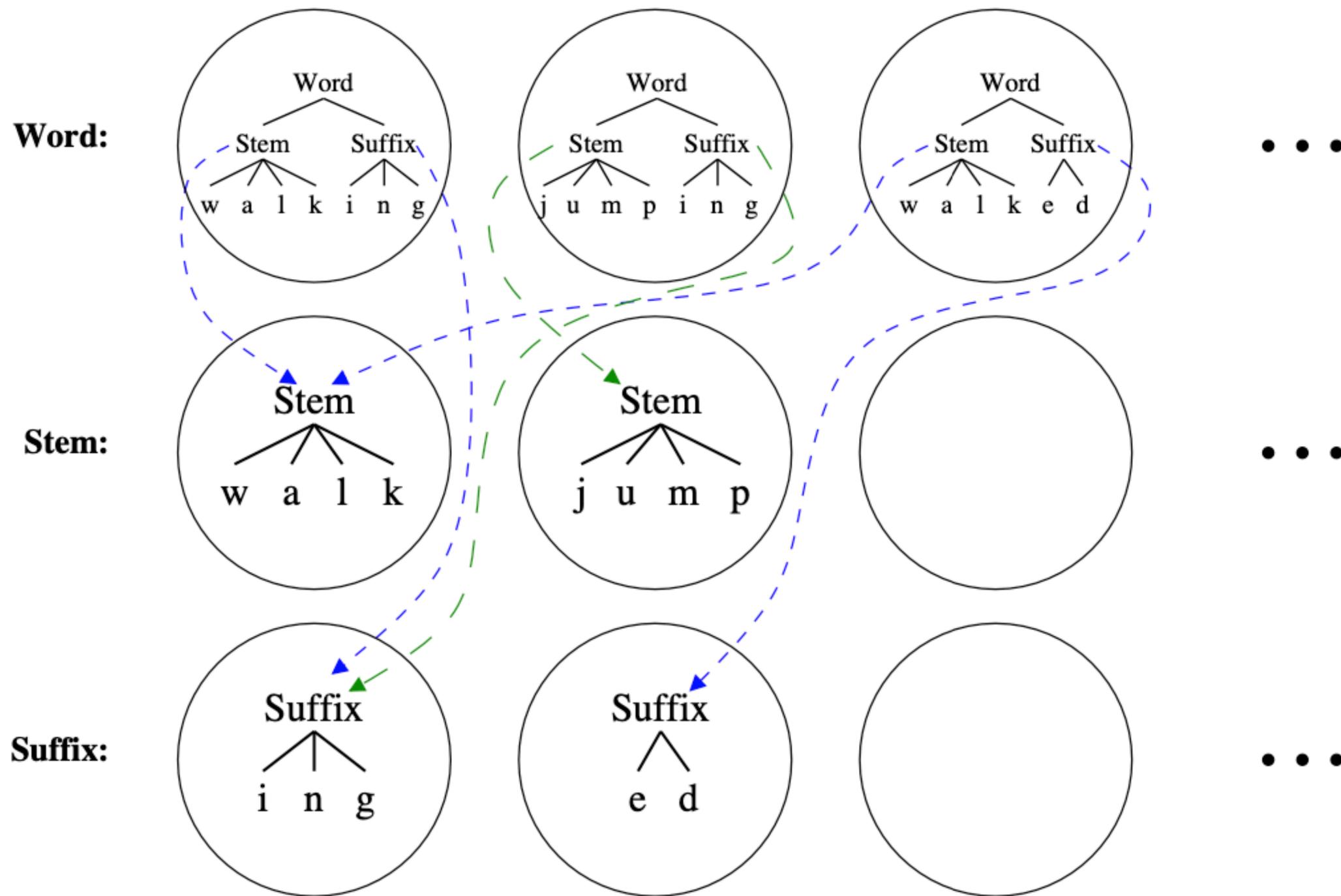
- (1) S ::= NP VP
- (2) S ::= S PP
- (3) NP ::= n
- (4) NP ::= det n
- (5) NP ::= NP PP
- (6) PP ::= prep NP
- (7) VP ::= v NP



(Kemp & Tenenbaum 2008)

background

1. Probabilistic context free grammar (PCFG)
- 2. Adaptor Grammar (AG)**
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CRP



Pitman-Yor

$$z_{n+1} | z_1, \dots, z_n \sim \frac{\cancel{ma} + b}{n + b} \delta_{m+1} + \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{\cancel{n_k - a}}{n + b} \delta_k$$

new table

old table k

$$a = 0$$

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models of computation



Turing machines



λ-calculus



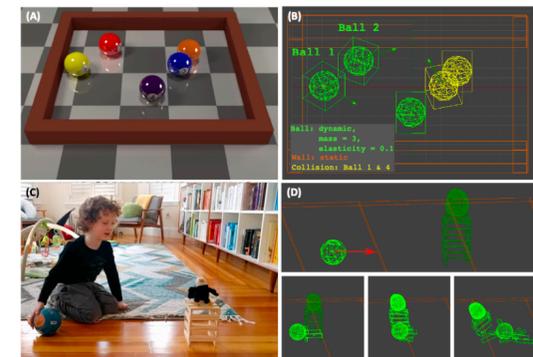
Church (ψλ-calculus)



Combinatory logic



this is something else



Kinetic Energy
 $KE = \frac{1}{2} m |v|^2$
 (ab/2 = (|v|^2 v))

Coulomb's Law
 $\vec{F} \propto \frac{q_1 q_2}{|r_1 - r_2|^2} \hat{r}_1 - \hat{r}_2$
 (inverse-square q_1 q_2
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```
(λ (x y z u) (map (λ (v) (* (/
(* (power (/ (* x x) (fold (zip
z u (λ (w a) (- w a))) 0 (λ (b
c) (+ (* b b) c)))) (/ (* 1
1) (+ 1 1))) y) (fold (zip z u
(λ (d e) (- d e))) 0 (λ (f g)
(+ (* f f) g)))) v)) (zip z u
(λ (h i) (- h i))))
```

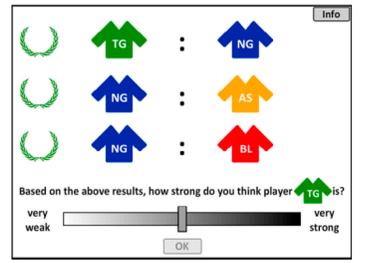
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 $\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
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2-not-1-knower
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 undef)

Mod-5
 $\lambda S . (if (or (singleton? S)$
 (equal-word? (L (set-difference S
 (select S))
 "five"))
 "one"
 (next (L (set-difference S
 (select S))))))

2N-knower
 $\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
 "one"
 (next (next (L (set-difference S (select S))))))



S combinator

$s[x_][y_][z_]$ \rightarrow $x[z][y[z]]$

K combinator

$k[x_][y_]$ \rightarrow x

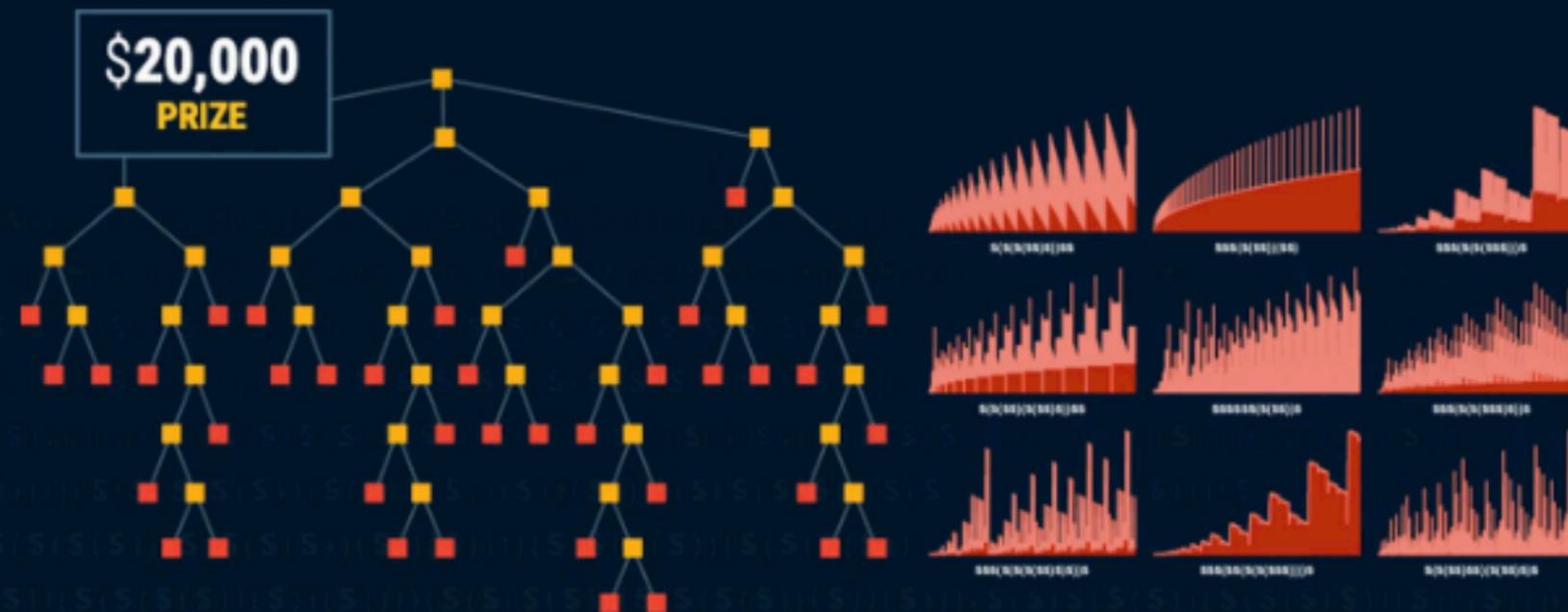
$a[b[a][c]]$



$s[s[k[s]][s[k[k]][s[k[s]][k]]]][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]]$

$s[s[k[s]][s[k[k]][s[k[s]][k]]]][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $s[k[s]][s[k[k]][s[k[s]][k]]][a][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $k[s][a][s[k[k]][s[k[s]][k]][a]][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $s[s[k[k]][s[k[s]][k]][a]][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $s[k[k]][s[k[s]][k]][a][b][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
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 $s[k[s]][k][a][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $k[s][a][k[a]][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $s[k[a]][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $k[a][c][s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $a[s[k[s[s[k][k]]]][k]][a][b][c]$
 $a[k[s[s[k][k]]]][a][k[a]][b][c]$
 $a[s[s[k][k]][k[a]][b][c]$
 $a[s[k][k][b][k[a]][b]][c]$
 $a[k[b][k[b]][k[a][b]][c]$
 $a[b[k[a][b]][c]$
 $a[b[a][c]]$

THE WOLFRAM S COMBINATOR CHALLENGE



Is the S combinator on its own computation universal?

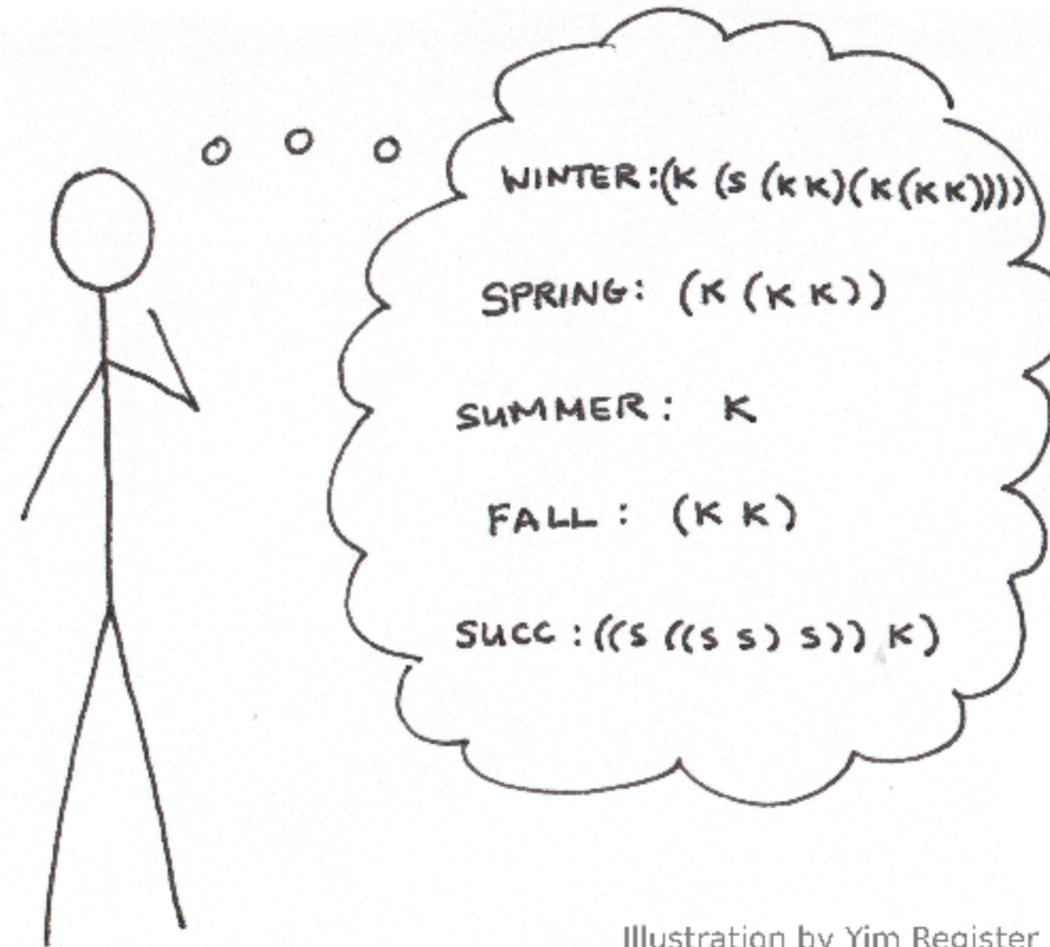
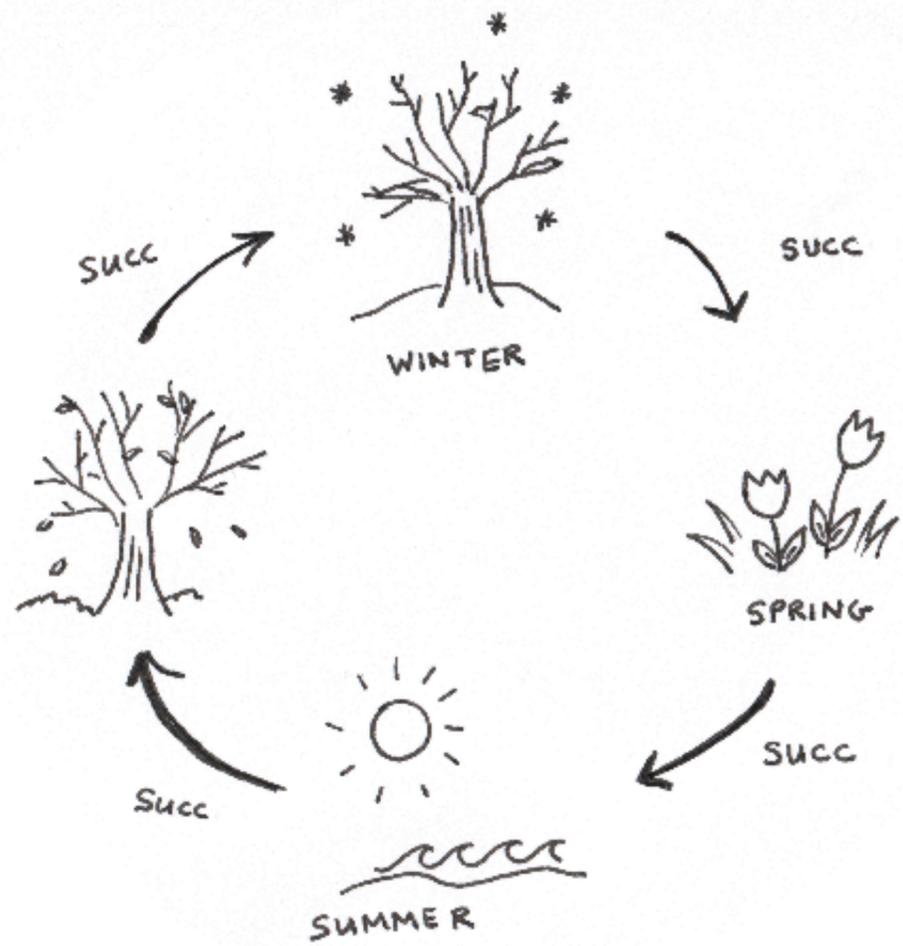
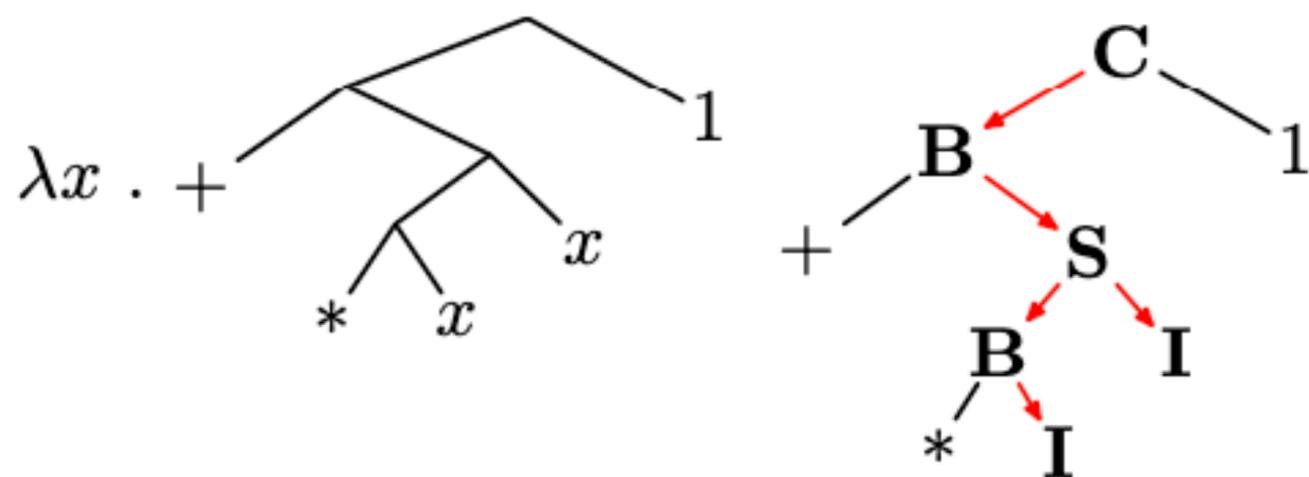


Illustration by Yim Register

background

1. Probabilistic context free grammar (PCFG)
2. Adaptor Grammar (AG)
3. Pitman-Yor Adaptor Grammar (PYAG)
4. Combinatory Logic (CL)
- 5. CL with routers**

To strike a balance between minimality and practical usability, we make two modifications to **SK** combinatory logic: (1) we introduce higher-order combinators to capture the intuition of routing; and (2) we place these combinators at internal nodes.

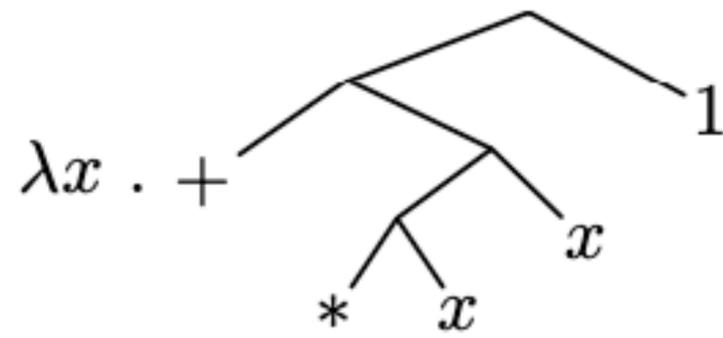


(a) lambda calculus

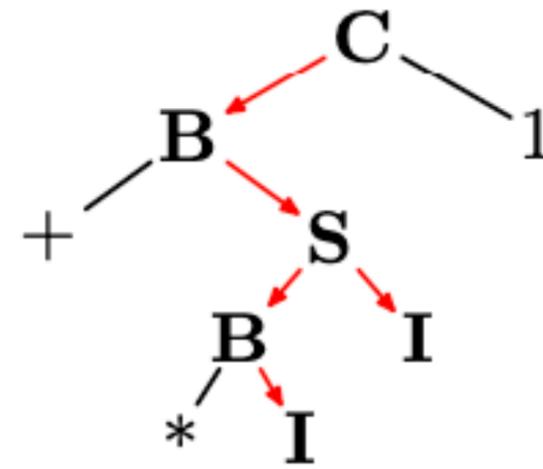
(b) no variables

Replace the variable x with **I** and label internal nodes of the tree with a *router* (for now, one of **B**, **C**, **S**) depending on whether x appeared in the right subtree, left subtree, or both, respectively. The result is Figure 1(b). To apply this function on an argument, we start the argument at the root of the transformed tree. The router at each node determines to which subtrees the argument should be sent. When the argument reaches **I**, it replaces **I**.

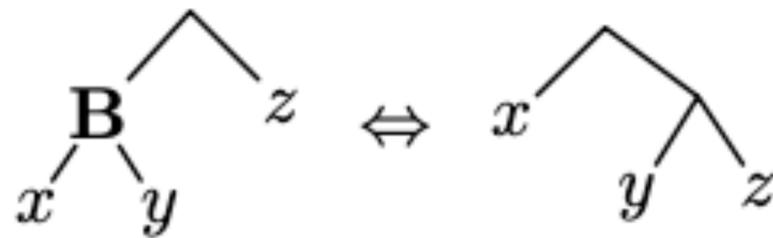
One significance of the variable-free formalism is that we have eliminated the distinction between program and subprogram. Each subtree is now a valid standalone program, and thus a candidate for multi-task sharing. For example, $(\mathbf{S} (\mathbf{B} * \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{I})$ denotes the square function, which could be useful elsewhere.



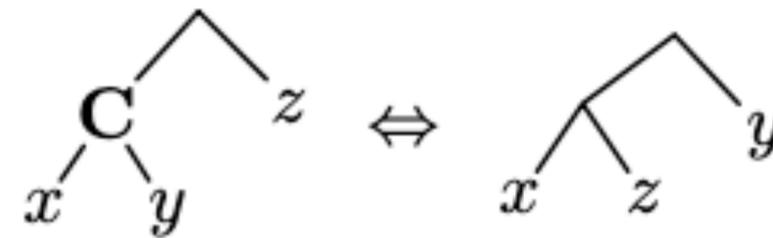
(a) lambda calculus



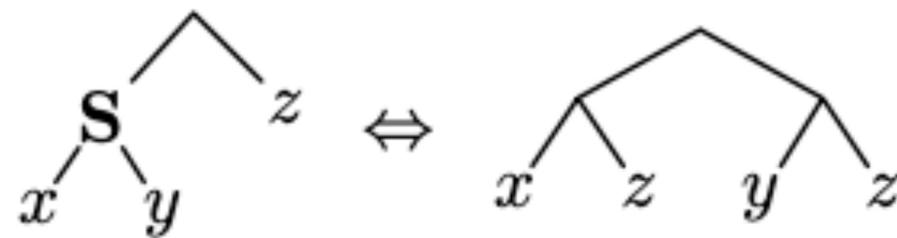
(b) no variables



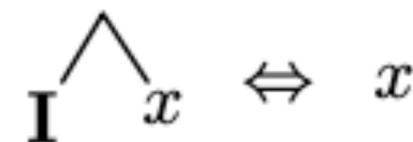
route right



route left



route left and right

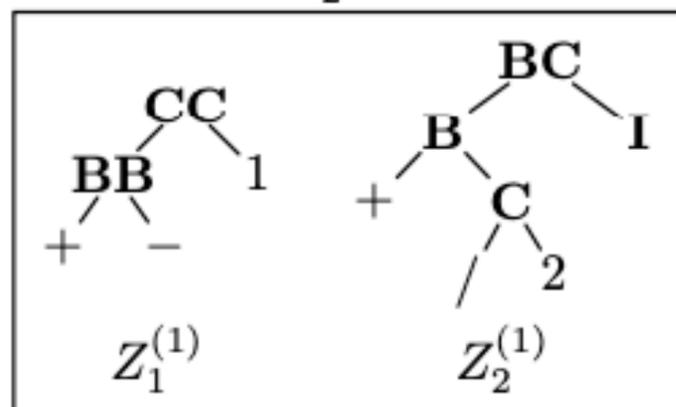


destination

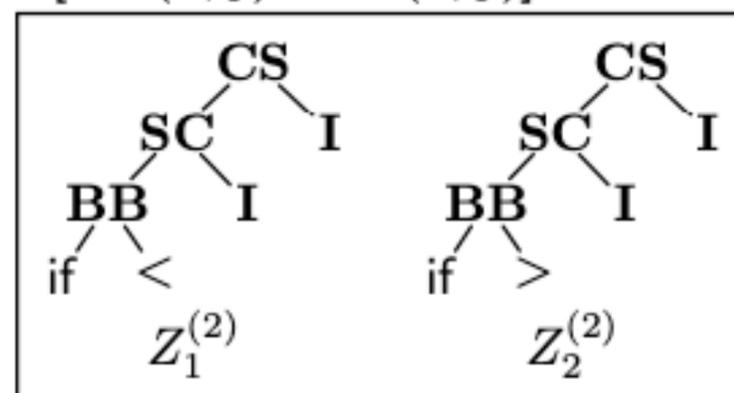
Task 1 examples: $X_{11} = (3, 2), Y_{11} = 2, X_{12} = (7, 4), Y_{12} = 4$

Task 2 examples: $X_{21} = (3, 6), Y_{21} = 6, X_{22} = (2, 4), Y_{22} = 4$

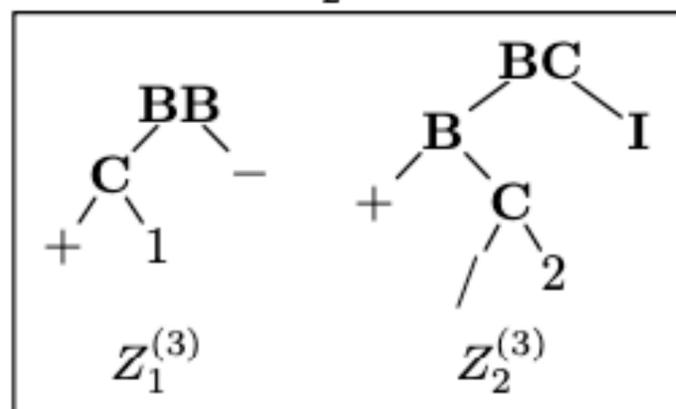
$\mathbf{Z}^{(1)}$ $[x - y + 1; \frac{y}{2} + x]: \ell = -46.76$



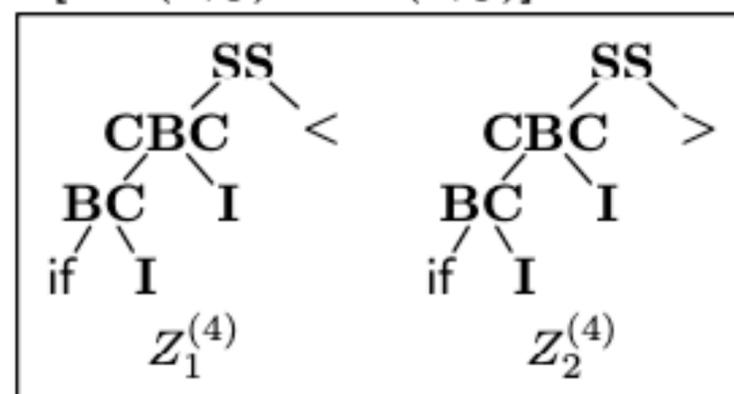
$\mathbf{Z}^{(2)}$ $[\min(x, y); \max(x, y)]: \ell = -54.96$

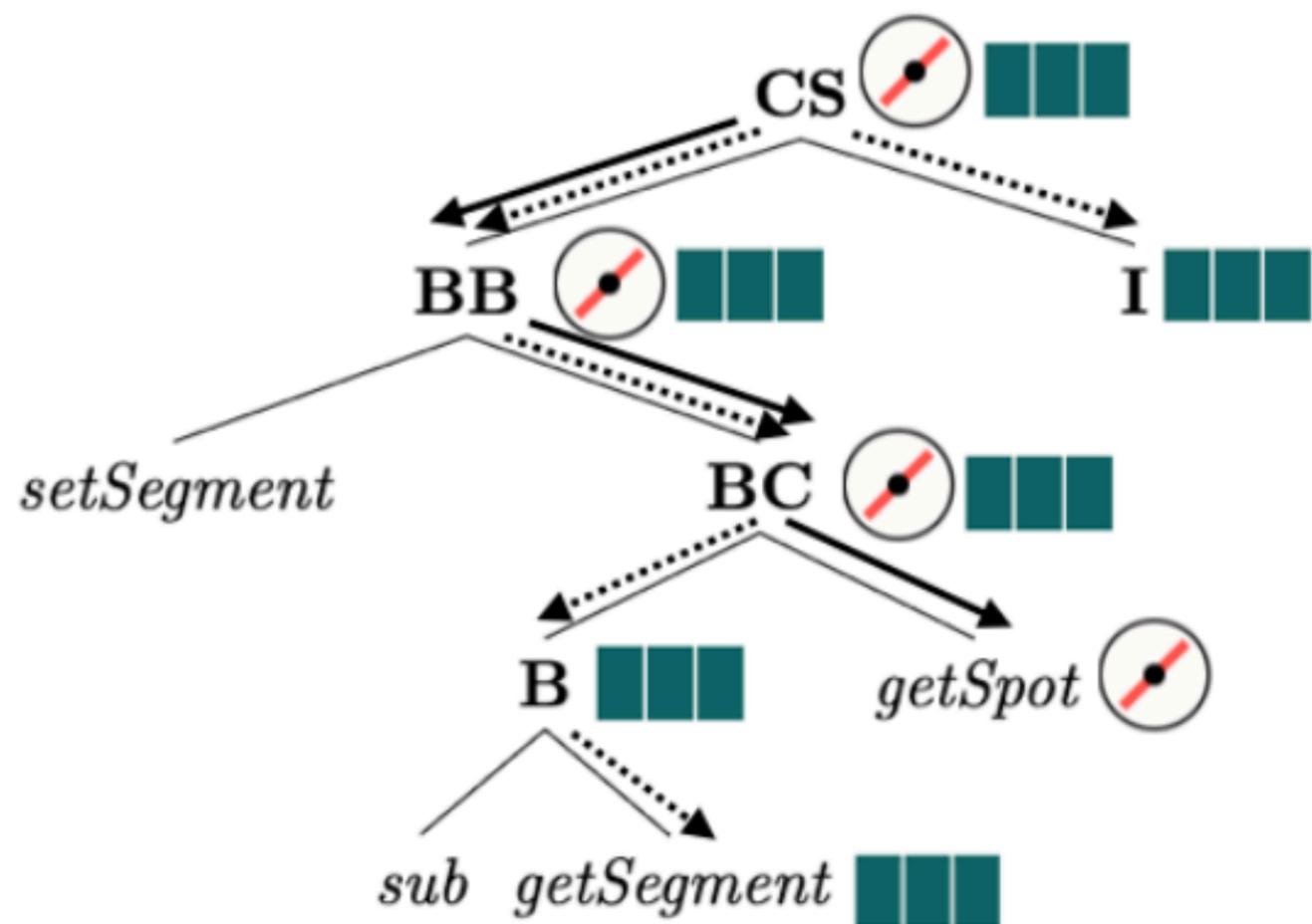
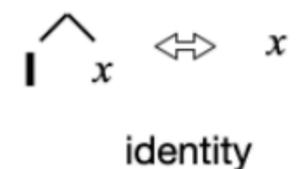
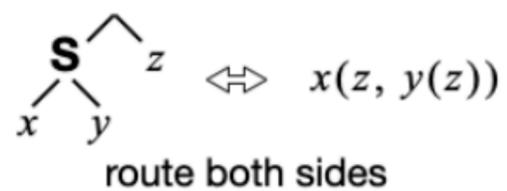
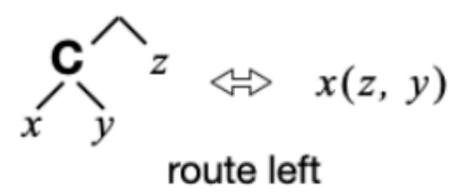
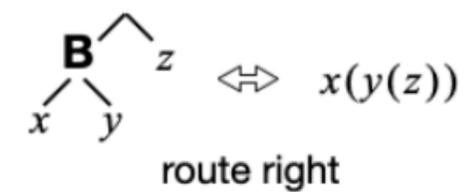


$\mathbf{Z}^{(3)}$ $[x - y + 1; \frac{y}{2} + x]: \ell = -42.89$

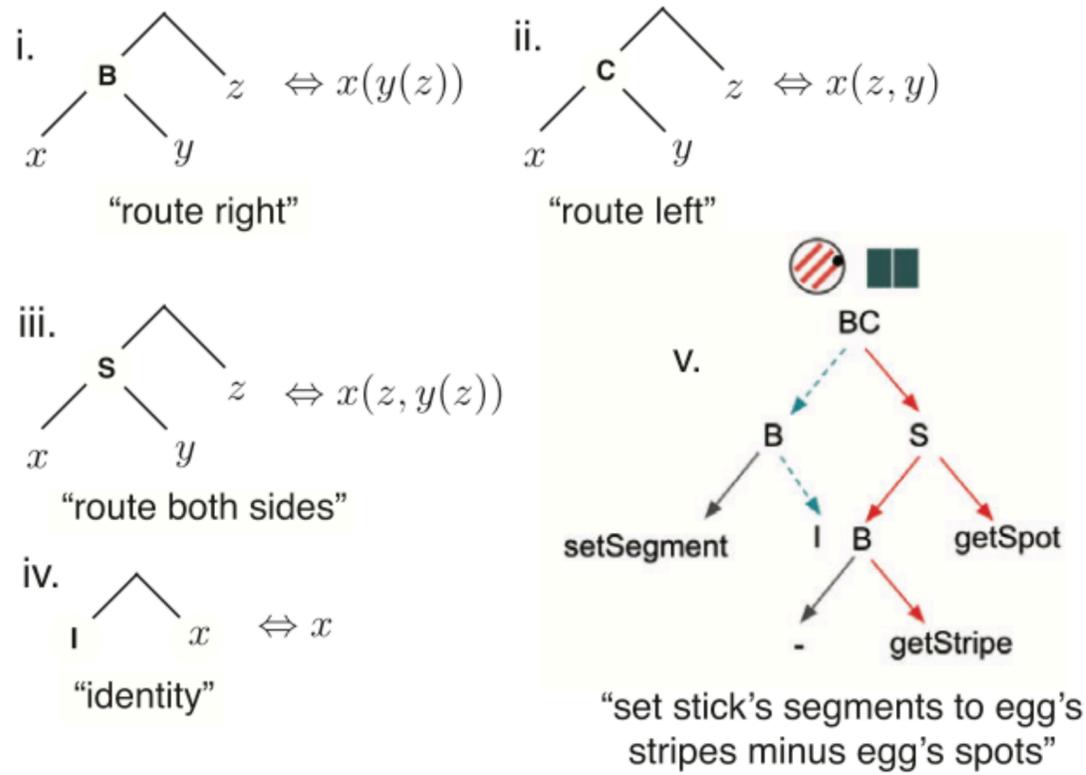


$\mathbf{Z}^{(4)}$ $[\min(x, y); \max(x, y)]: \ell = -35.96$

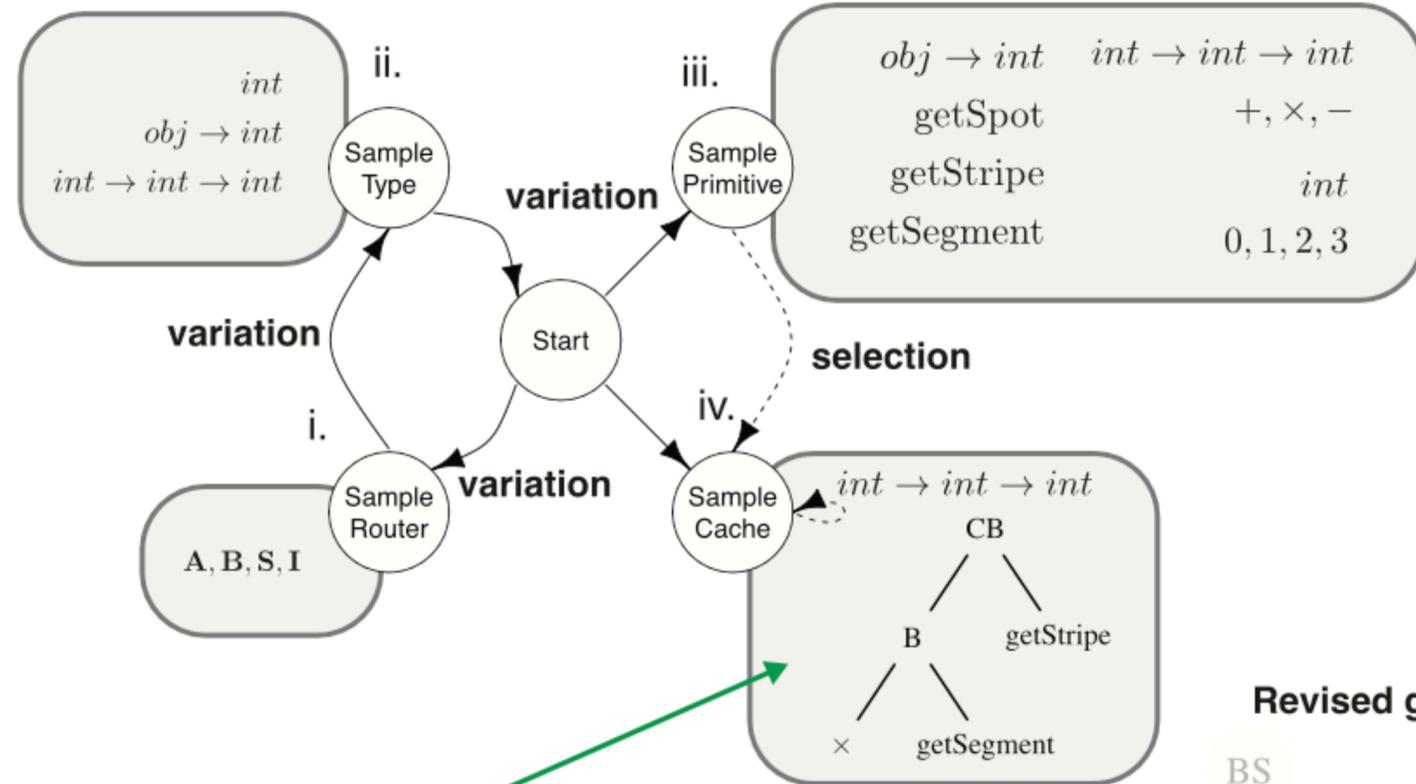


C
 $S \rightarrow \text{add}(A, A) \mid \text{sub}(A, A) \mid \text{mult}(A, A)$
 $A \rightarrow S \mid B$
 $B \rightarrow C \mid D$
 $C \rightarrow \text{stripe} \mid \text{spot} \mid \text{segment}$
 $D \rightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3$
b

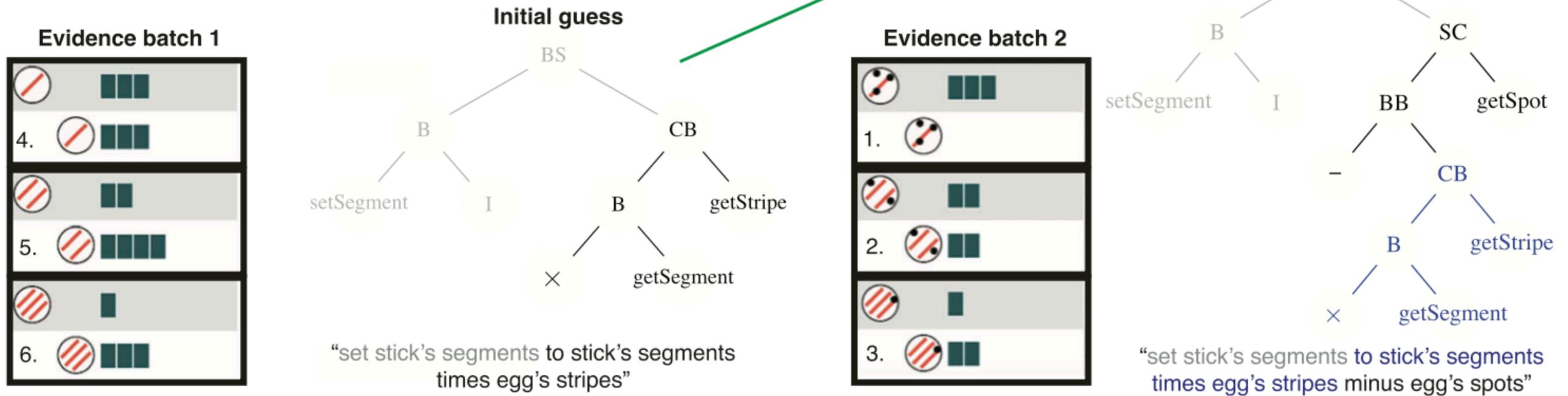
(a) Routers



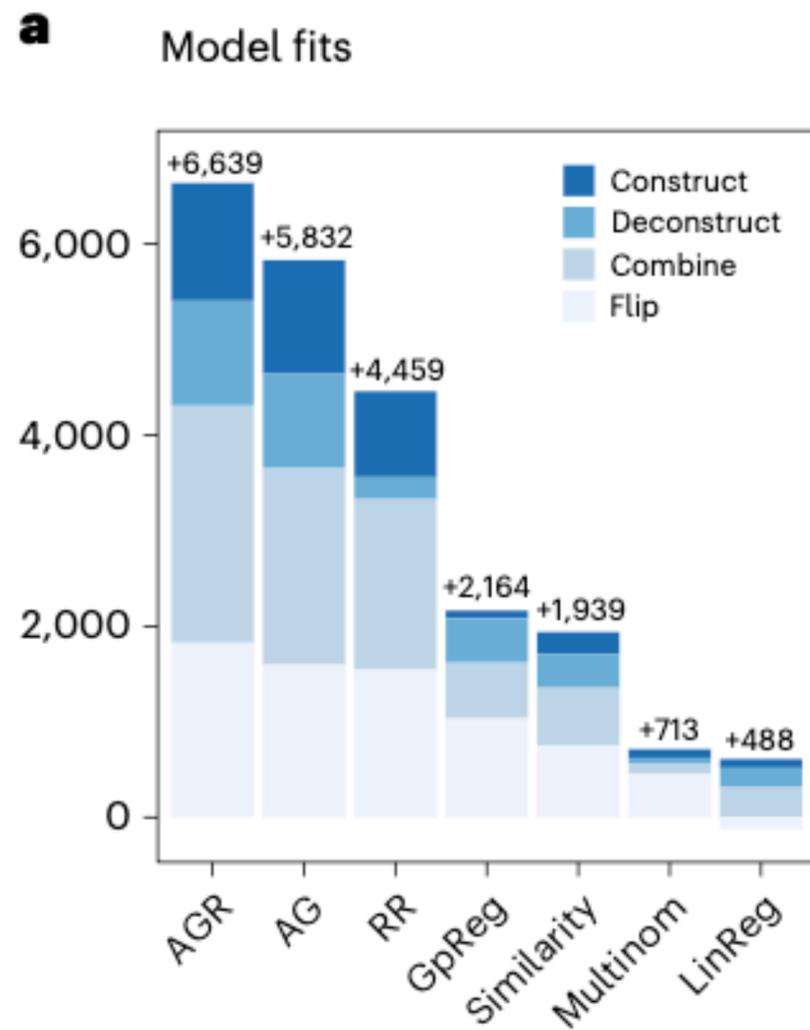
(b) Adaptor Grammar generation mechanism



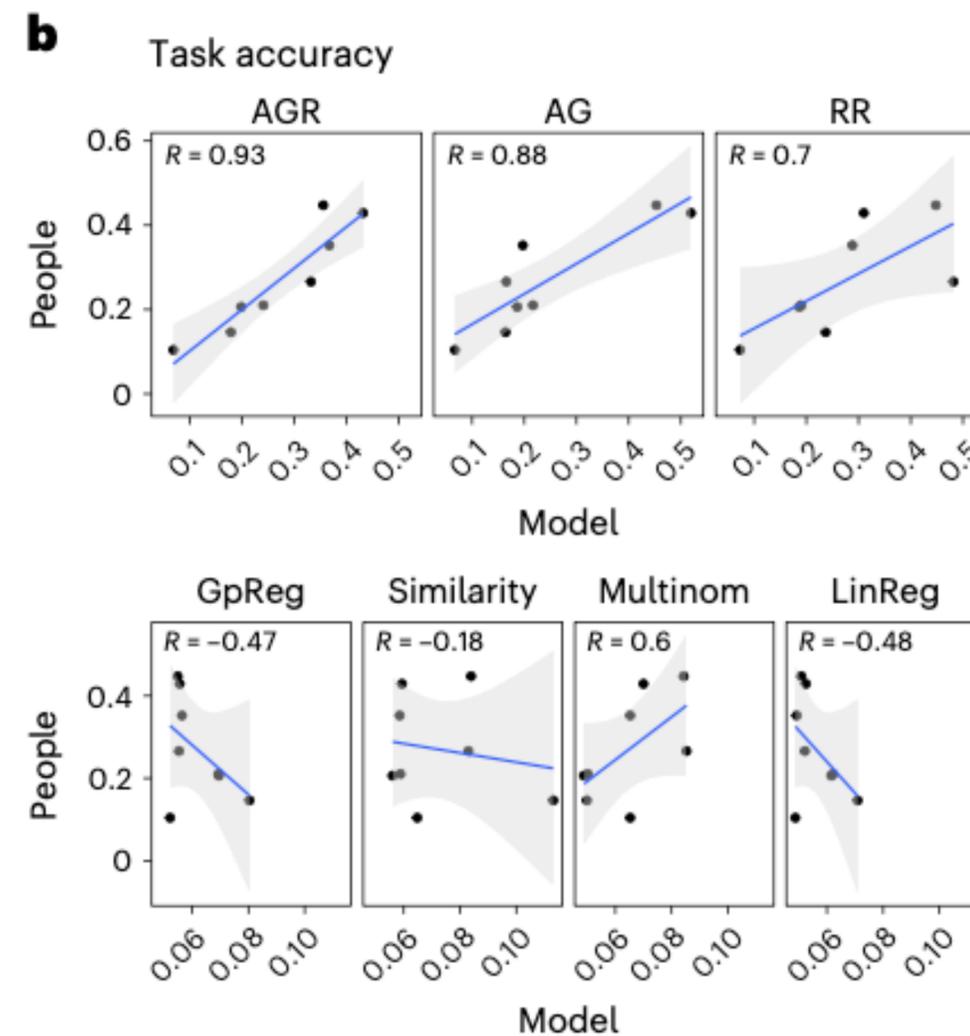
(c) Worked example of bootstrapping



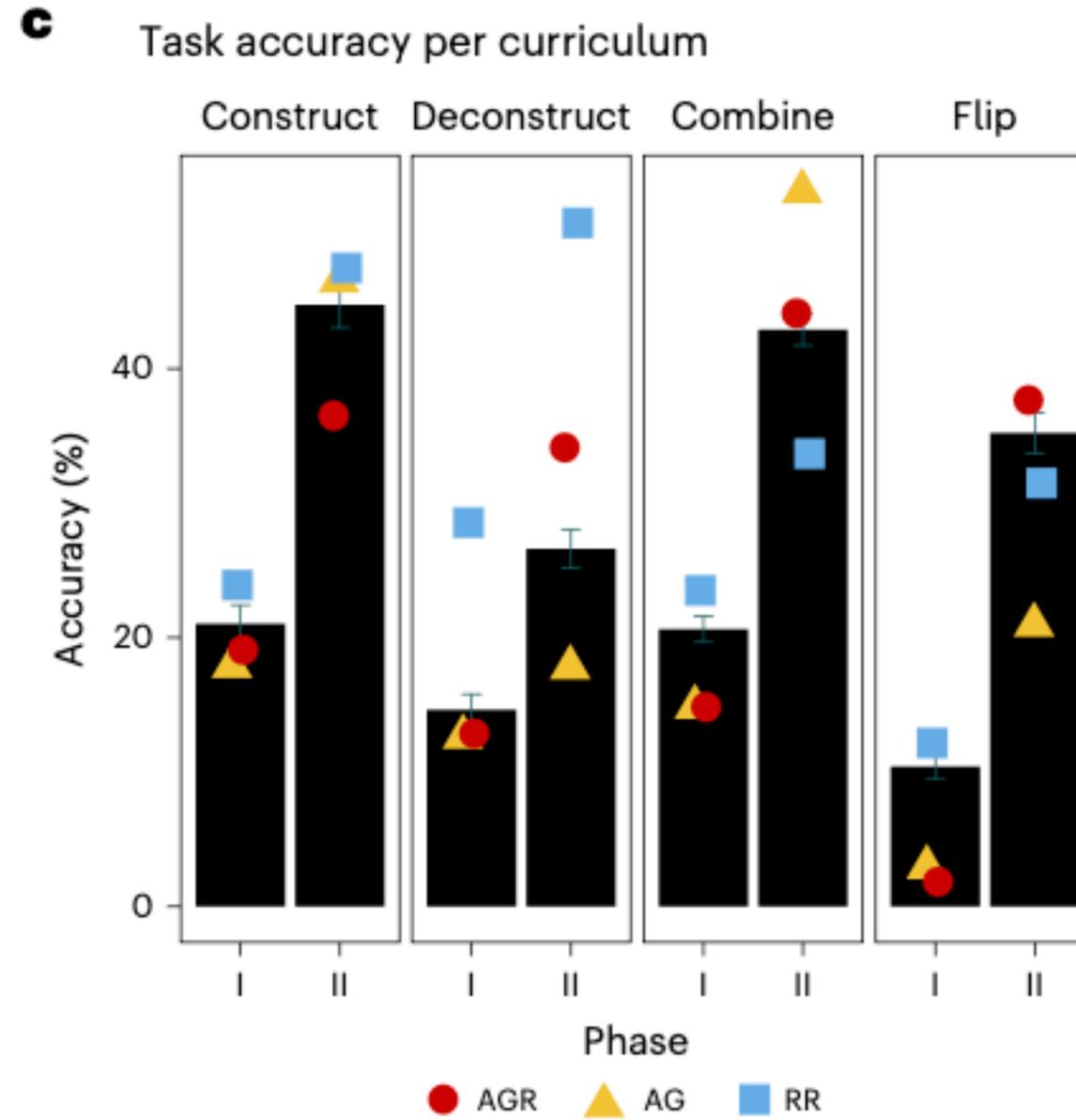
model comparison

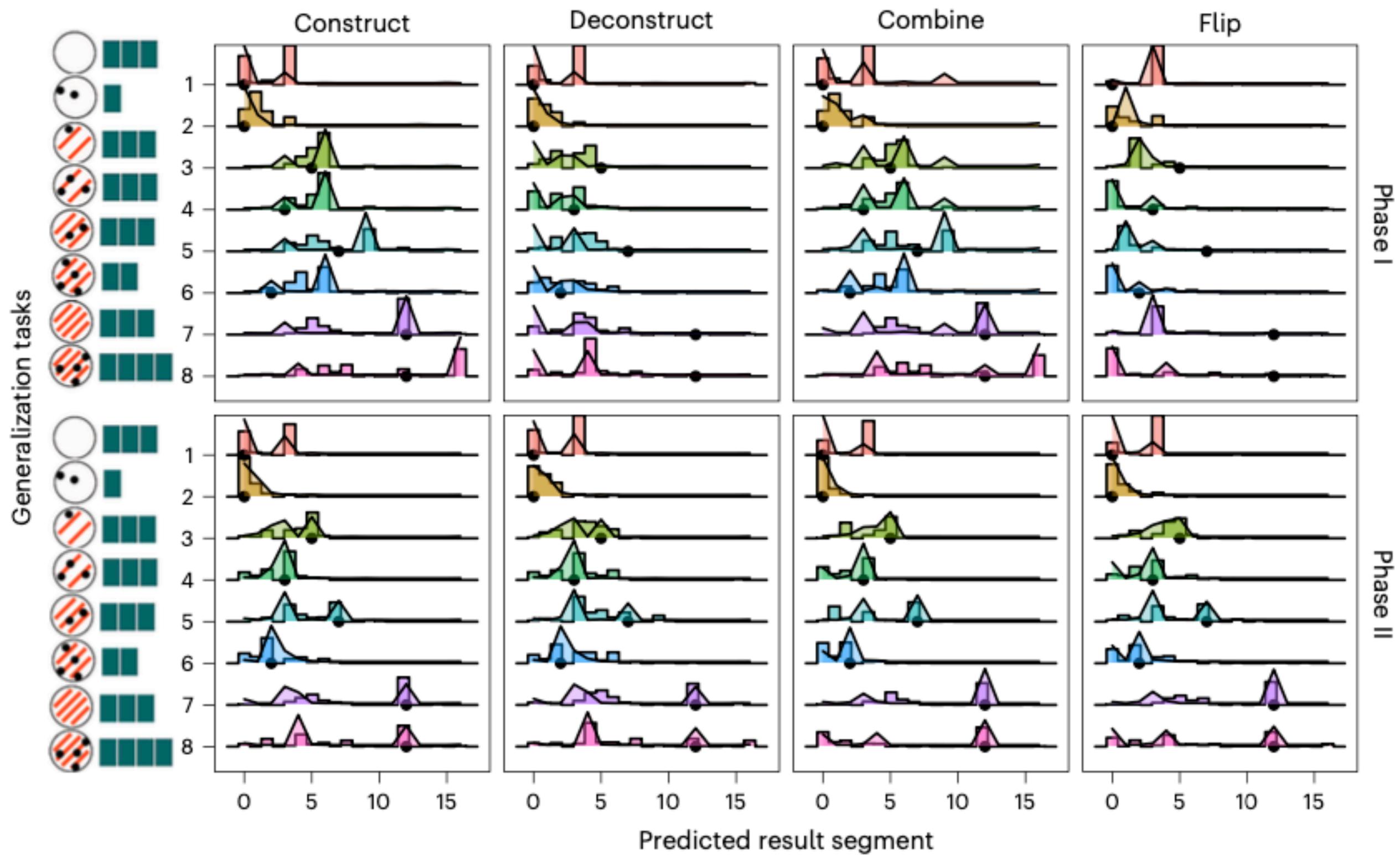


$$\text{AGR: } \hat{y}_r \propto \theta \times \hat{y}_{\rightarrow} + (1 - \theta) \times \hat{y}_{\leftarrow}$$



model comparison





models of computation



Turing machines



λ-calculus



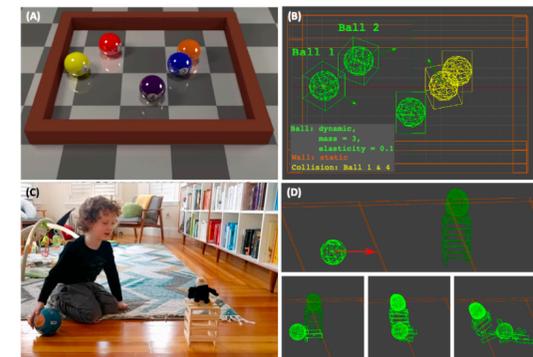
Combinatory logic



Church (ψλ-calculus)



this is something else



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 $KE = \frac{1}{2} m |v|^2$
 (ab/2 = (|v|^2 v))

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 $\vec{F} \propto \frac{q_1 q_2}{|r_1 - r_2|^2} \hat{r}_1 - \hat{r}_2$
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(+ (* f f) g)))) v)) (zip z u
(λ (h i) (- h i))))
```

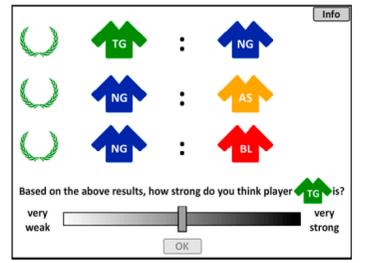
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Mod-5
 $\lambda S . (if (or (singleton? S)$
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 $\lambda S . (if (singleton? S)$
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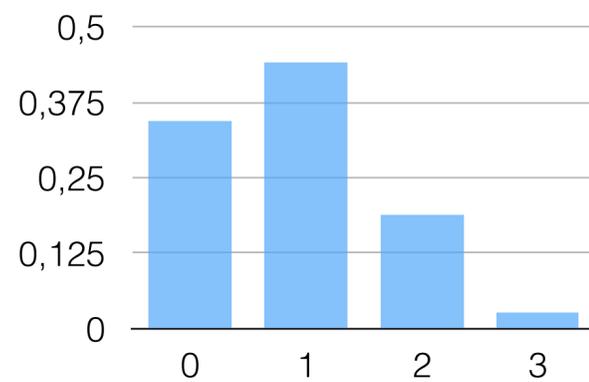


```

a = flip(0.3) → 1 0 0
b = flip(0.3) → 0 0 0
c = flip(0.3) → 1 0 1
a + b + c → 2 0 1

```

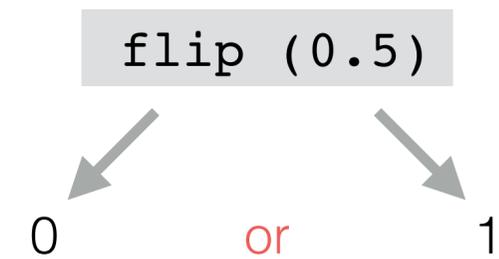
sampling



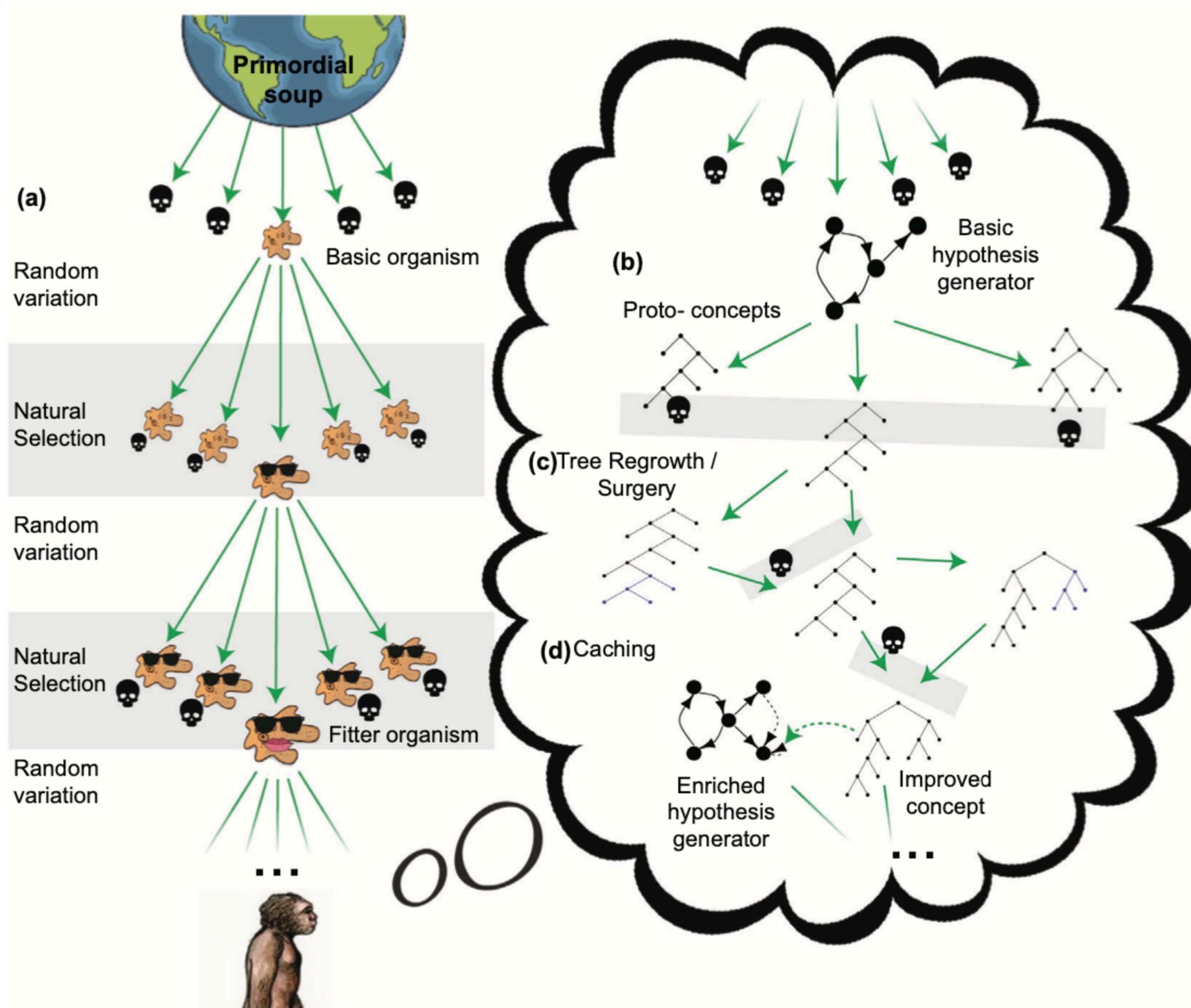
$$P(n) = \binom{3}{n} 0.3^n 0.7^{3-n}$$

distribution

- Turing-complete language
- random choice operator



- conditioning (inference) as language primitive



Tree regrowth / Tree surgery

