

Rationality *IN AN* Uncertain World

Essays on the Cognitive Science
of Human Reasoning

Mike Oaksford
Nick Chater



Rationality In An Uncertain World Essays On The Cognitive Science Of Human Reasoning

Arthur James Wells



Rationality In An Uncertain World Essays On The Cognitive Science Of Human Reasoning:

Rationality in an Uncertain World Mike Oaksford, Nick Chater, 1998 This book brings together an influential sequence of papers that argue for a radical re conceptualisation of the psychology of inference and of cognitive science more generally The papers demonstrate that the thesis that logic provides the basis of human inference is central to much cognitive science although the commitment to this view is often implicit They then note that almost all human inference is uncertain whereas logic is the calculus of certain inference This mismatch means that logic is not the appropriate model for human thought Oaksford and Chater s argument draws on research in computer science artificial intelligence and philosophy of science in addition to experimental psychology The authors propose that probability theory the calculus of uncertain inference provides a more appropriate model for human thought They show how a probabilistic account can provide detailed explanations of experimental data on Wason s selection task which many have viewed as providing a paradigmatic demonstration of human irrationality Oaksford and Chater show that people s behaviour appears irrational only from a logical point of view whereas it is entirely rational from a probabilistic perspective The shift to a probabilistic framework for human inference has significant implications for the psychology of reasoning cognitive science more generally and for our picture of ourselves as rational agents

Rationality In An Uncertain World Nick Chater, Mike Oaksford, 2004-08-02 This book brings together an influential sequence of papers that argue for a radical re conceptualisation of the psychology of inference and of cognitive science more generally The papers demonstrate that the thesis that logic provides the basis of human inference is central to much cognitive science although the commitment to this view is often implicit They then note that almost all human inference is uncertain whereas logic is the calculus of certain inference This mismatch means that logic is not the appropriate model for human thought Oaksford and Chater s argument draws on research in computer science artificial intelligence and philosophy of science in addition to experimental psychology The authors propose that probability theory the calculus of uncertain inference provides a more appropriate model for human thought They show how a probabilistic account can provide detailed explanations of experimental data on Wason s selection task which many have viewed as providing a paradigmatic demonstration of human irrationality Oaksford and Chater show that people s behaviour appears irrational only from a logical point of view whereas it is entirely rational from a probabilistic perspective The shift to a probabilistic framework for human inference has significant implications for the psychology of reasoning cognitive science more generally and for our picture of ourselves as rational agents

[Rationality in an Uncertain World](#) Michael R. Oaksford, 2001

Rationality in an Uncertain World M. R. Oaksford, 2001 [Common Sense, Reasoning, & Rationality](#) Renée Elio, 2002 While common sense and rationality have often been viewed as two distinct features in a unified cognitive map this volume engages with this notion and comes up with novel and often paradoxical views of this relationship *The Probabilistic Mind* Nick Chater, Mike Oaksford, 2008 The Probabilistic Mind is a follow up to the influential and highly cited Rational Models of

Cognition OUP 1998 It brings together developments in understanding how and how far high level cognitive processes can be understood in rational terms and particularly using probabilistic Bayesian methods *Bayesian Models of Cognition* Thomas L. Griffiths, Nick Chater, Joshua B. Tenenbaum, 2024-11-12 The definitive introduction to Bayesian cognitive science written by pioneers of the field How does human intelligence work in engineering terms How do our minds get so much from so little Bayesian models of cognition provide a powerful framework for answering these questions by reverse engineering the mind This textbook offers an authoritative introduction to Bayesian cognitive science and a unifying theoretical perspective on how the mind works Part I provides an introduction to the key mathematical ideas and illustrations with examples from the psychological literature including detailed derivations of specific models and references that can be used to learn more about the underlying principles Part II details more advanced topics and their applications before engaging with critiques of the reverse engineering approach Written by experts at the forefront of new research this comprehensive text brings the fields of cognitive science and artificial intelligence back together and establishes a firmly grounded mathematical and computational foundation for the understanding of human intelligence The only textbook comprehensively introducing the Bayesian approach to cognition Written by pioneers in the field Offers cutting edge coverage of Bayesian cognitive science's research frontiers Suitable for advanced undergraduate and graduate students and researchers across the sciences with an interest in the mind brain and intelligence Features short tutorials and case studies of specific Bayesian models

From Is to Ought: The Place of Normative Models in the Study of Human Thought Shira Elqayam, David E. Over, 2016-08-12 In the study of human thinking two main research questions can be asked Descriptive Q What is human thinking like Normative Q What ought human thinking be like For decades these two questions have dominated the field and the relationship between them generated many a controversy Empirical normativist approaches regard the answers to these questions as positively correlated in essence human thinking is what it ought to be although what counts as the ought standard is moot In contemporary theories of reasoning and decision making this is often associated with a Panglossian framework an adaptationist approach which regards human thinking as a priori rational In contrast prescriptive normativism sees the answers to these two questions as negatively correlated Normative models are still relevant to human thought but human behaviour deviates from them quite markedly with the invited conclusion that humans are often irrational Prescriptive normativism often results in a Meliorist agenda which sees rationality as amenable to education Both empirical and prescriptive normativism can be contrasted with a descriptivist framework for psychology of human thinking Following Hume's strict divide between the is and the ought descriptivism regards the descriptive and normative research questions as uncorrelated or dissociated with only the former question suitable for psychological study of human behaviour This basic division carries over to the relation between normative ought rationality based on conforming to normative standards and instrumental is rationality based on achieving one's goals Descriptivist approaches regard the two as dissociated whereas

normativist approaches tend to see them as closely linked with normative arguments defining and justifying instrumental rationality This research topic brings together diverse contributions to the continuing debate Featuring contributions from leading researchers in the field the e book covers a wide range of subjects arranged by six sections The standard picture Normativist perspectives In defence of soft normativism Exploring normative models Descriptivist perspectives Evolutionary and ecological accounts Empirical reports With a total of some 24 articles from 55 authors this comprehensive treatment includes theoretical analyses meta theoretical critiques commentaries and a range of empirical reports The contents of the Research Topic should appeal to psychologists linguists philosophers and cognitive scientists with research interests in a wide range of domains from language through reasoning judgment and decision making and moral judgment to epistemology and theory of mind philosophical logic and meta ethics *Bayesian Rationality* Mike Oaksford,Nick Chater,2007 For almost 2 500 years the Western concept of what is to be human has been dominated by the idea that the mind is the seat of reason humans are almost by definition the rational animal In this text a more radical suggestion for explaining these puzzling aspects of human reasoning is put forward The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology ,2004 The Shape of Reason Vittorio Girotto,Philip N. Johnson-Laird,2004-11 Over the past three decades there has been a rapid development of research on human thinking and reasoning This volume provides a comprehensive review of this topic by looking at the important contributions Paolo Legrenzi has made to the field by bridging the gap from Gestalt ideas to modern cognitive psychology The contributors including some of the most distinguished scholars of reasoning and thinking in Europe and the USA reflect upon the ways in which he has influenced and inspired their own research and contributed to modern approaches to human inference This volume draws on both traditional and new topics in reasoning and thinking to provide a wide ranging survey of human thought It covers creativity problem solving the linguistic and social aspects of reasoning and judgement and the social and emotional aspects of decision making through telling examples such as the cognitive mechanisms underlying consumers attitudes towards herbal medicines It considers a series of key questions such as how do individuals who are unfamiliar with logic reason And how do they make choices if they are unfamiliar with the probability calculus and decision theory The discussions are placed throughout within a wider research context and the contributors consider the implications of their research for the field as a whole making the volume an essential reference for anyone investigating the processes that underlies our thinking reasoning and decision making in everyday life *Proceedings of the European Cognitive Science Conference 2007* Stella Vosniadou,2017-09-29 This volume contains the invited lectures invited symposia symposia papers and posters presented at the 2nd European Cognitive Science Conference held in Greece in May 2007 The papers presented in this volume range from empirical psychological studies and computational models to philosophical arguments meta analyses and even to neuroscientific experimentation The quality of the work shows that the Cognitive Science Society in Europe is an exciting and vibrant one There are 210 contributions by cognitive scientists from

27 different countries including USA France UK Germany Greece Italy Belgium Japan Spain the Netherlands and Australia
This book will be of interest to anyone concerned with current research in Cognitive Science **Rationality and
irrationality** Barry Smith,2001 Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes ,2003 *Journal of the
American Institute for Conservation* American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works,2005
 Schizophrenia Bulletin ,2005 **Management Science** ,2006 Issues for Feb 1965 Aug 1967 include Bulletin of the
Institute of Management Sciences **Optimal Experimental Design as a Theory of Perceptual and Cognitive
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