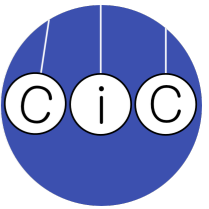




# Who went fishing? Inferences from social evaluations



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1. Stanford University, 2. Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## What can you infer from blame judgments?



The striker vs. the goalie was blamed for the team's loss.

## Our setting: group coordination

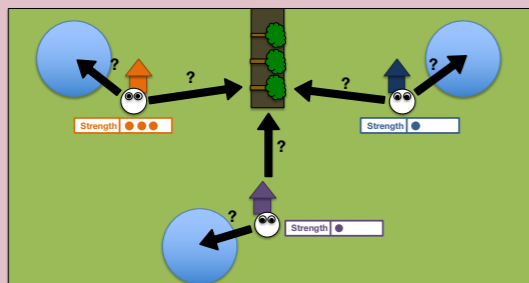
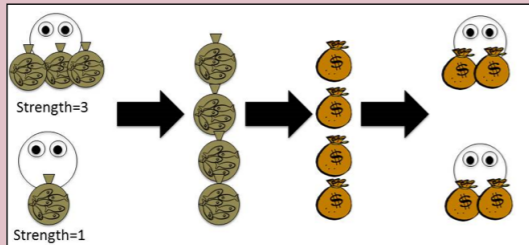
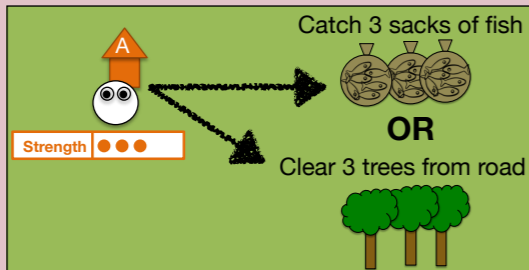
Fishermen sell their fish to a truck.

Sometimes fallen trees block the truck's route.

Their strength determines how many fish they can carry, or how many trees they can clear.

The fishermen split their earnings from the fish equally.

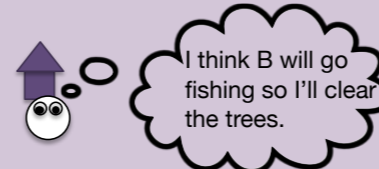
The fishermen must decide whether to go fishing or clear the trees.



## Generative model of blame

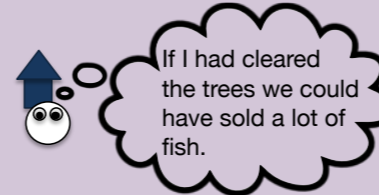
### Rationality

Blame: Failure to use recursive reasoning to correctly respond to others' anticipated actions



### Pivotality

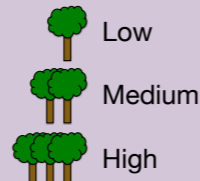
Blame: If the agent had acted differently, would it have made a difference to the outcome?



## Inference

Inference involves comparing observed blame against expected blame in different situations.

Fisherman C's expected blame for different numbers of trees:

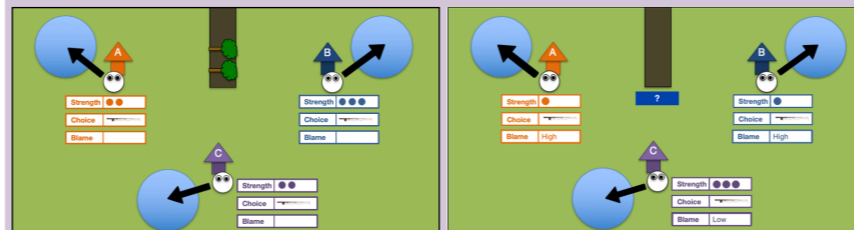


Repeat this comparison for all fishermen to find the most likely situation.

## Experiment

**Blame.** The group achieved a suboptimal outcome. How much is each fisherman to blame?

**Inference.** The group achieved a suboptimal outcome. Try to fill in the missing information:



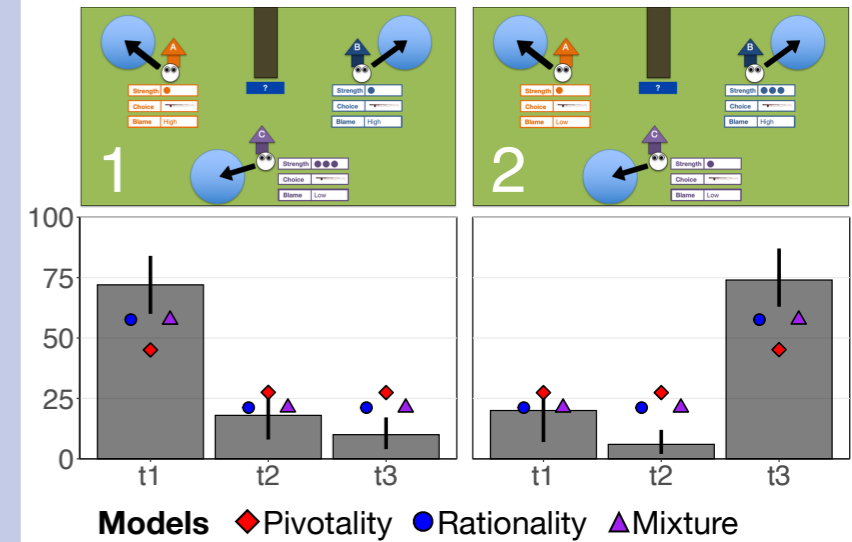
**Situational features:** how many trees were there?

**Actions:** did A go fishing or to the trees?

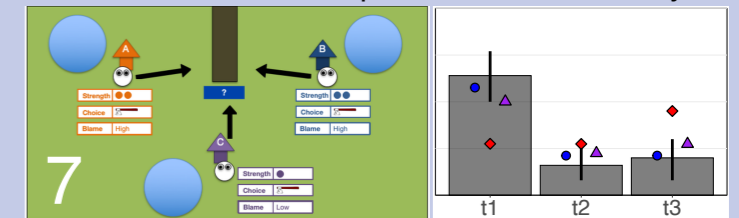
**Characteristics:** how strong was C?

## Results

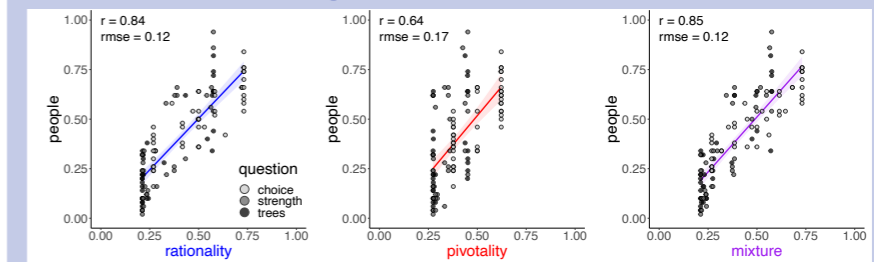
### How many trees blocked the road?



People inferred what happened assuming that blame reflects whether the person acted rationally.



## People infer what happened based on judgments of blame



## References

- 1. Allen, K., Jara-Ettinger, J., Gerstenberg, T., Kleiman-Weiner, M., & Tenenbaum, J. B. (2015). Go fishing! Responsibility judgments when cooperation breaks down. In *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 84–89).
- 2. Davis, Z.J., Allen, K., & Gerstenberg, T. (2021). Who went fishing? Inferences from social evaluations. In *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

