## Imagistic vs. propositional representations

An imagistic representation stores the sensory experience


## A propositional representation stores the abstract relation

under(cat,chair) $3<4$<br>is_a(robin,bird) capital(NJ,Trenton)

## Mental rotation

## (Roger Shepard, 1970s)

## Same or different?



A



## Mental imagery

- Mental rotation involves a mental analog of physical rotation

A spatially organized analog of a real picture is progressively transformed

- This is very different from propositional or declarative information.

It encodes information that hasn't been verbalized.

## Mental imagery

- The mental image is a representation of a visual scene

Stored in LTM
Retrieved and placed in a short-term visual buffer

Examined by the visual system

## Mental scanning

Imagine moving from... to ....


Results


Map distance

Conclusion: mental distance is an analog of actual distance

