Imagistic vs. propositional representations





A propositional representation stores the abstract relation

under(cat,chair) 3<4

is_a(robin,bird) capital(NJ,Trenton)

Mental rotation

(Roger Shepard, 1970s)

Same or different?







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



Results



Conclusion: mental distance is an analog of actual distance