



What's the best way to say this?

# Agent-based Modeling



# 1. Rational speech act

Literal and pragmatic speakers/listeners, Bayesian inference

# 2. MATLAB

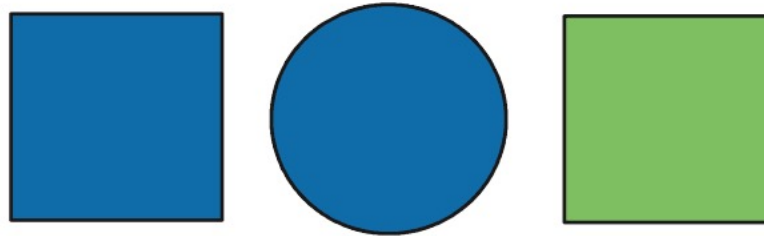
A primer

# 3. Breakout session

Building a pragmatic agent

## Literal speaker, S0

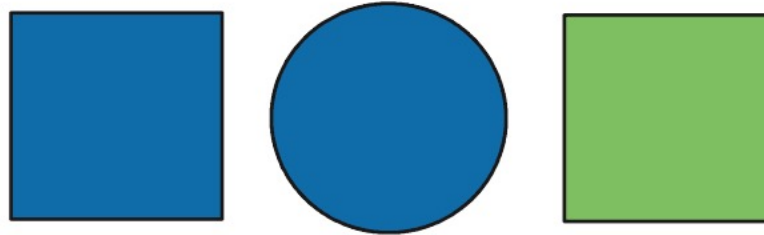
**Speaker:** Imagine you are talking to someone and you want to refer to the middle object. Which word would you use, “blue” or “circle”?



Blue	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
Green	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
Circle	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
Square	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
	2	2	2

## Literal speaker, S0

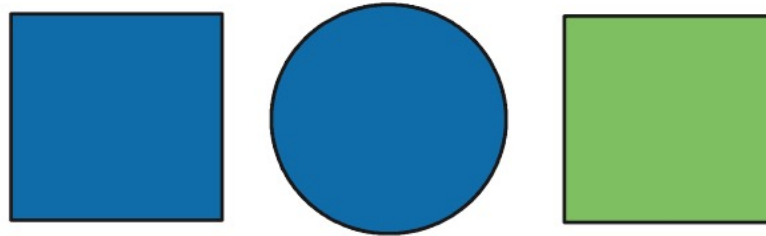
**Speaker:** Imagine you are talking to someone and you want to refer to the middle object. Which word would you use, “blue” or “circle”?



Blue	.5	.5	0
Green	0	0	.5
Circle	0	.5	0
Square	.5	0	.5

## Literal listener, L0

**Speaker:** Imagine you are talking to someone and you want to refer to the middle object. Which word would you use, “blue” or “circle”?

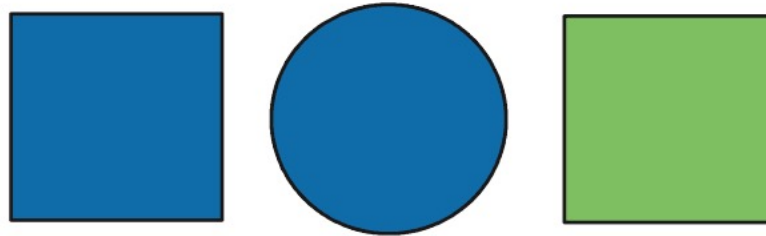


Blue	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	2
Green	0	0	$\frac{1}{1}$	1
Circle	0	$\frac{1}{1}$	0	1
Square	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	2

 listener's perspective

## Literal listener, L0

**Speaker:** Imagine you are talking to someone and you want to refer to the middle object. Which word would you use, “**blue**” or “**circle**”?

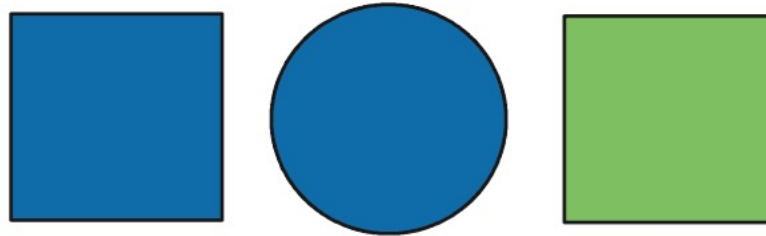


Blue	.5	.5	0
Green	0	0	1
Circle	0	1	0
Square	.5	0	.5

 listener's perspective

## Pragmatic speaker, S1

**Speaker:** Imagine you are talking to someone and you want to refer to the middle object. Which word would you use, “blue” or “circle”?



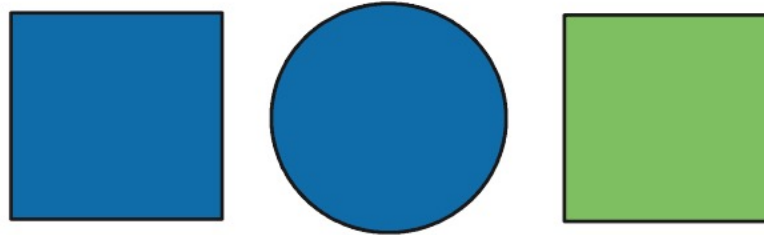
Blue	.5 <sub>/1</sub>	.5 <sub>/1.5</sub>	0
Green	0	0	1 <sub>/1.5</sub>
Circle	0	1 <sub>/1.5</sub>	0
Square	.5 <sub>/1</sub>	0	.5 <sub>/1.5</sub>
	1	1.5	1.5

 listener's perspective



## Pragmatic speaker, S1

**Speaker:** Imagine you are talking to someone and you want to refer to the middle object. Which word would you use, “**blue**” or “**circle**”?

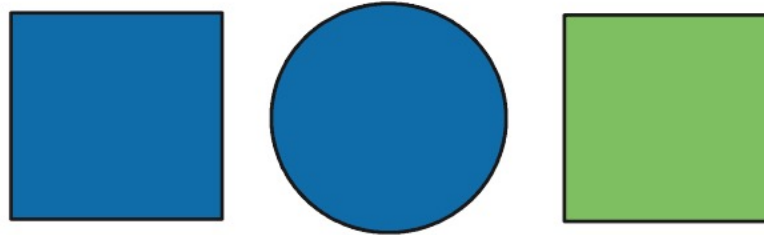


Blue	.5	.33	0
Green	0	0	.67
Circle	0	.67	0
Square	.5	0	.33

 listener's perspective

## Pragmatic listener, L1

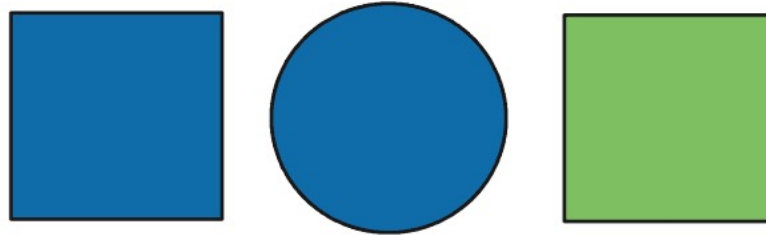
**Listener/Saliency:** Imagine someone is talking to you and uses [the word “**blue**”/a word you don’t know] to refer to one of these objects. Which object are they talking about?



Blue	.5 <sub>/.83</sub>	.33 <sub>/.83</sub>	0	.83
Green	0	0	.67 <sub>/.67</sub>	.67
Circle	0	.67 <sub>/.67</sub>	0	.67
Square	.5 <sub>/.83</sub>	0	.33 <sub>/.83</sub>	.83

## Pragmatic listener, L1

**Listener/Saliency:** Imagine someone is talking to you and uses [the word “**blue**”/a word you don’t know] to refer to one of these objects. Which object are they talking about?



Blue	.6	.4	0
Green	0	0	1
Circle	0	1	0
Square	.6	0	.4

# Bayesian inference

Likelihood speaker  $s$  would utter word  $w$  to refer to object  $r$       Prior probability that object  $r$  would be referred to

$$P(r_s | w, C) = \frac{P(w | r_s, C) P(r_s)}{\sum_{r' \in \mathcal{C}} P(w | r', C) P(r')}$$

Likelihood that speaker  $s$  intended object  $r$  given uttered word  $w$  in context  $C$

Normalizing constant, sum of the above computed for all referents in the context

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## Array Creation

To create an array with four elements in a single row, separate the elements with either a comma (,) or a space.

```
a = [1 2 3 4]
```

```
a = 1×4
```

```
    1    2    3    4
```

This type of array is a *row vector*.

To create a matrix that has multiple rows, separate the rows with semicolons.

```
a = [1 2 3; 4 5 6; 7 8 10]
```

```
a = 3×3
```

```
    1    2    3  
    4    5    6  
    7    8   10
```

# 1. Rational speech act

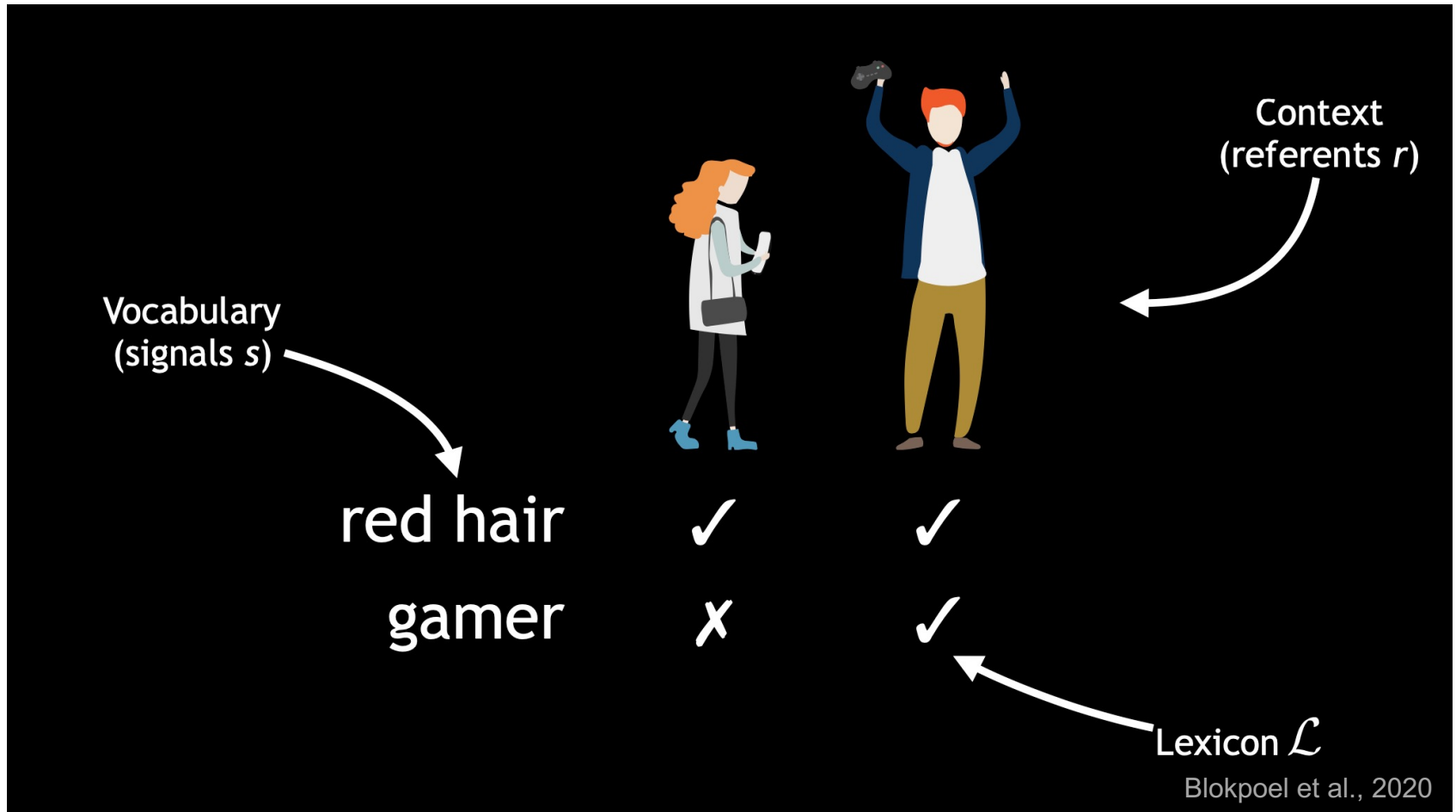
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Whom is referred to with “red hair”?



open Lab2.m or .ipynb

# Problem



red hair	✓	✓	✗
tall one	✗	✓	✗
gamer	✗	✓	✓

Whom is referred to with “red hair”, from the perspective of a literal and of a pragmatic listener?

**Listener  $L_1$**


$$\Pr_{L_n}(r|s, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\Pr_{S_n}(s|r, \mathcal{L})}{\sum_{(s, r') \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{S_n}(s|r', \mathcal{L})}$$

**Speaker  $S_1$**

$$\Pr_{S_n}(s|r, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\Pr_{L_{n-1}}(r|s, \mathcal{L})}{\sum_{(s', r) \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{L_{n-1}}(s'|r, \mathcal{L})}$$

**Listener  $L_0$**

$$\Pr_{L_0}(r|s, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\mathcal{L}(s, r)}{\sum_{(s, r') \in \mathcal{L}} \mathcal{L}(s, r')}$$



Solution

red hair  
tall one  
gamer

Whom is referred to with “red hair”, from the perspective of a literal and of a pragmatic listener?

Listener  $L_1$  ←

$$\Pr_{L_n}(r|s, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\Pr_{S_n}(s|r, \mathcal{L})}{\sum_{(s,r') \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{S_n}(s|r', \mathcal{L})}$$

Speaker  $S_1$  ←

$$\Pr_{S_n}(s|r, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\Pr_{L_{n-1}}(r|s, \mathcal{L})}{\sum_{(s',r) \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{L_{n-1}}(s'|r, \mathcal{L})}$$

Listener  $L_0$

$$\Pr_{L_0}(r|s, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\mathcal{L}(s, r)}{\sum_{(s,r') \in \mathcal{L}} \mathcal{L}(s, r')}$$

**Solution**

red hair	0.5	0.5	0.0
tall one	0.0	1.0	0.0
gamer	0.0	0.5	0.5

Whom is referred to with “red hair”, from the perspective of a literal and of a pragmatic listener?

$$\text{Listener } L_1 \quad \leftarrow \quad \text{Speaker } S_1 \quad \leftarrow \quad \text{Listener } L_0$$

$$\Pr_{L_n}(r|s, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\Pr_{S_n}(s|r, \mathcal{L})}{\sum_{(s,r') \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{S_n}(s|r', \mathcal{L})}$$

$$\Pr_{S_n}(s|r, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\Pr_{L_{n-1}}(r|s, \mathcal{L})}{\sum_{(s',r) \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{L_{n-1}}(s'|r, \mathcal{L})}$$

$$\Pr_{L_0}(r|s, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\mathcal{L}(s,r)}{\sum_{(s,r') \in \mathcal{L}} \mathcal{L}(s,r')}$$

**Solution**



red hair	1.0	0.25	0.0
tall one	0.0	0.5	0.0
gamer	0.0	0.25	1.0

Whom is referred to with “red hair”, from the perspective of a literal and of a pragmatic listener?

Listener  $L_1$  ←

$$\Pr_{L_n}(r|s, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\Pr_{S_n}(s|r, \mathcal{L})}{\sum_{(s,r') \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{S_n}(s|r', \mathcal{L})}$$

Speaker  $S_1$  ←

$$\Pr_{S_n}(s|r, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\Pr_{L_{n-1}}(r|s, \mathcal{L})}{\sum_{(s',r) \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{L_{n-1}}(s'|r, \mathcal{L})}$$

Listener  $L_0$

$$\Pr_{L_0}(r|s, \mathcal{L}) = \frac{\mathcal{L}(s, r)}{\sum_{(s,r') \in \mathcal{L}} \mathcal{L}(s, r')}$$

**Solution**



red hair	0.8	0.2	0.0
tall one	0.0	1.0	0.0
gamer	0.0	0.2	0.8

Whom is referred to with “red hair”, from the perspective of a literal and of a pragmatic listener?



	red hair	0.5	0.5	0.0		$P(\text{red hair})=1.0$	<div style="border: 1px solid white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <math>P(\text{woman})=0.5</math>  <math>P(\text{tall man})=0.5</math> </div>	
$L_0$	tall one	0.0	1.0	0.0	×	$P(\text{tall one})=0.0$		$=$
	gamer	0.0	0.5	0.5		$P(\text{gamer})=0.0$		$P(\text{woman})=0.0$

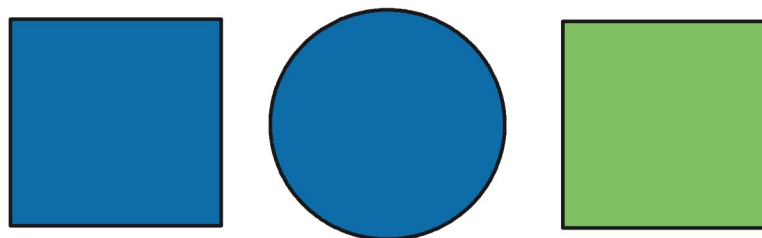
Whom is referred to with “red hair”, from the perspective of a literal and of a pragmatic listener?

- Measure of a word's uncertainty given “context”  
(set of possible signals and referents)
- Scalability in terms of multi-order reasoning
- But, assumes humans are rational thinkers
- Requires exhaustive definition of the “context”
- Questionable if it scales to the real world or  
maps onto human cognition

- Audience Design



# Bonus: Computer says no



“blue”



$1/2$
$1/2$

$1/2$

0

0

$1/2$

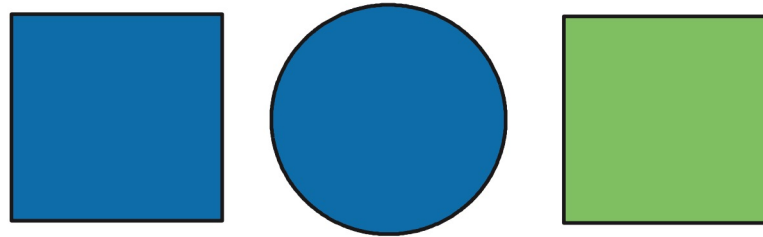
2

2

← listener's perspective

L0 correctly interprets the composite signal as referring to the blue square

# Bonus: Computer says no



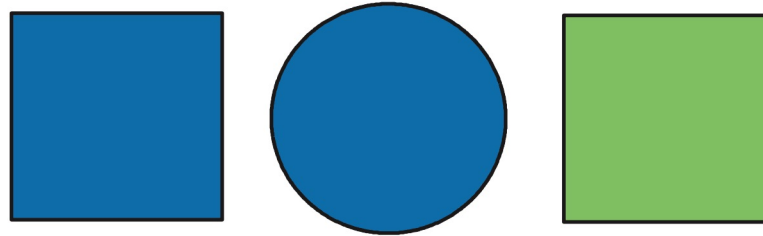
“blue”



.5	.5	0
.5	0	.5
1	.5	.5

← listener's perspective

L0 correctly interprets the composite signal as referring to the blue square



  
“blue”



.5 /1

.5 /*.5*

0

.5 /1

0

.5 /*.5*

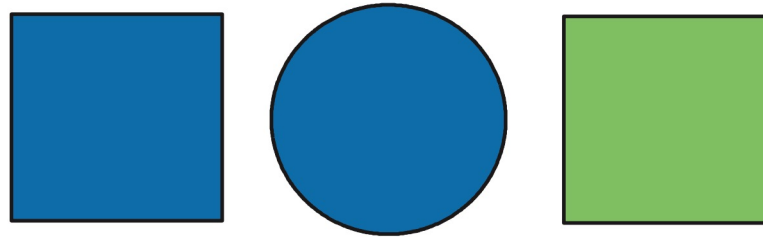
1

.5

.5

 listener's perspective

Perspective of pragmatic speaker, S1



  
“blue”



.5  
/1.5

1  
/1.5

0

1.5

.5  
/1.5

0

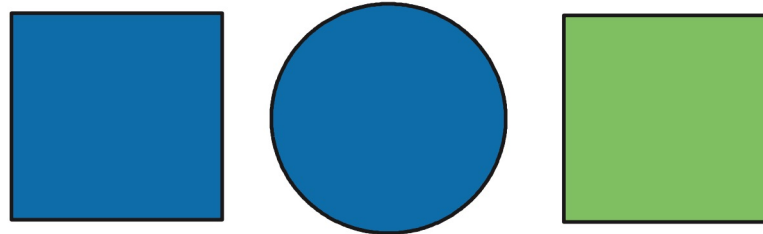
1  
/1.5

1.5



listener's  
perspective

# Bonus: Computer says no



“blue”



.33	.66	0
.33	0	.66
.66	.66	.66

← listener's perspective



L1 cannot reliably distinguish between the three referents

“blue”



1.05      1.2      .75

L1 selects a non-intended referent

← listener's perspective

