

Cogs 102A * READING PROMPT

Kirsh, D. (2009). Interaction, external representation and sense making.
31st Annual Conf of Cognitive Science Society.

1) This paper describes several affordances of external representations that differ from those of internal representations. For each of the following, provide an example and describe some advantages which that affordance provides for simplifying the cognition involved.

A) Perceptibility

B) Share-ability

C) Persistence

D) Independence

2) Among the affordances of such external representations are that they enable one to more easily perform certain operations on the relevant information. Give an example (from the paper, or from your own experience) of each of the following operations, and describe its epistemic advantages.

A) Rearrangement

B) Juxtaposition

C) Reformulation

3) In his brief discussion of “simplifying control”, Kish includes an example of a representation that prompts for missing information. What might another example of a representation that explicitly “schematizes” information, in such a robust way, that missing information becomes easier to generate.