



Collective Intelligence as a Central Characteristic of Small Groups

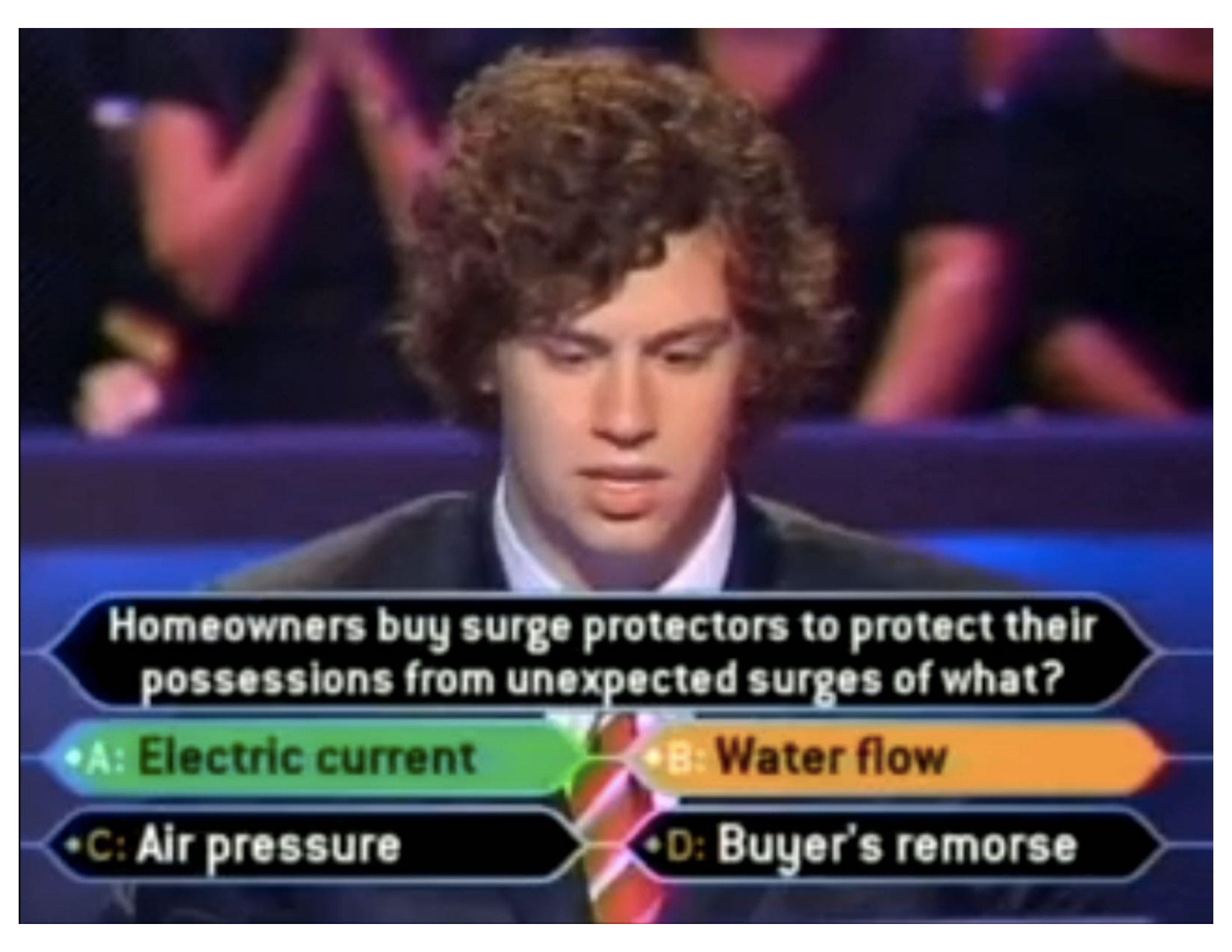
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THANKS TO: NSF, ARO, MIT Center for Collective Intelligence, Ishani Aggarwal, Matthew Brown, David Engel, Nada Hashmi, Elisa Huerta, Shannon Hughes, Lisa Jing, Young-Ji Kim, Eric Loken, **Tom Malone**, Sandy Pentland, Adrianna Ratajska, Christoph Riedl, **Anita Woolley**

A man with curly brown hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, white shirt, and a red and white striped tie, is looking down with a serious expression. He is on a game show set with a blue background and blurred audience members in the background.

Homeowners buy surge protectors to protect their possessions from unexpected surges of what?

•A: Electric current

•B: Water flow

•C: Air pressure

•D: Buyer's remorse



TOTAL PRIZE MONEY

\$0

ON

THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

BY MEANS OF NATURAL SELECTION,

OR THE

PRESERVATION OF FAVOURED RACES IN THE STRUGGLE
FOR LIFE.

By CHARLES DARWIN, M.A.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL, GEOLOGICAL, LINNEAN, ETC., SOCIETIES;
AUTHOR OF "JOURNAL OF RESEARCHES DURING H. M. S. BEAGLE'S VOYAGE
ROUND THE WORLD."

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1859.

The right of Translation is reserved.

equipment, and to Dr. G. E. R. Deacon and the captain and officers of R.R.S. *Discovery II* for their part in making the observations.

¹ Young, F. B., Gerrard, H., and Jevons, W., *Phil. Mag.*, **40**, 149 (1920).

² Longuet-Higgins, M. S., *Mon. Not. Roy. Astro. Soc., Geophys. Supp.*, **5**, 285 (1949).

³ Von Arx, W. S., Woods Hole Papers in Phys. Oceanog. Meteor., **11** (3) (1950).

⁴ Ekman, V. W., *Arkiv. Mat. Astron. Fysik. (Stockholm)*, **2** (11) (1905).

MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF
NUCLEIC ACIDS

A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid

WE wish to suggest a structure for the salt of deoxyribose nucleic acid (D.N.A.). This structure has novel features which are of considerable biological interest.

A structure for nucleic acid has already been proposed by Pauling and Corey¹. They kindly made their manuscript available to us in advance of publication. Their model consists of three intertwined chains, with the phosphates near the fibre axis, and the bases on the outside. In our opinion, this structure is unsatisfactory for two reasons: (1) We believe that the material which gives the X-ray diagrams is the salt, not the free acid. Without the acidic hydrogen atoms it is not clear what forces would hold the structure together, especially as the negatively charged phosphates near the axis will repel each other. (2) Some of the van der Waals distances appear to be too small.

Another three-chain structure has also been suggested by Fraser (in the press). In his model the phosphates are on the outside and the bases on the inside, linked together by hydrogen bonds. This structure as described is rather



This figure is purely diagrammatic. The two ribbons symbolize the two phosphate-sugar chains, and the horizontal rods the pairs of bases holding the chains together. The vertical line marks the fibre axis

this reason on it.

We wish to suggest a structure for the salt of deoxyribose nucleic acid. This structure has novel features which are of considerable biological interest. A structure for nucleic acid has already been proposed by Pauling and Corey¹. They kindly made their manuscript available to us in advance of publication. Their model consists of three intertwined chains, with the phosphates near the fibre axis, and the bases on the outside. In our opinion, this structure is unsatisfactory for two reasons: (1) We believe that the material which gives the X-ray diagrams is the salt, not the free acid. Without the acidic hydrogen atoms it is not clear what forces would hold the structure together, especially as the negatively charged phosphates near the axis will repel each other. (2) Some of the van der Waals distances appear to be too small. Another three-chain structure has also been suggested by Fraser (in the press). In his model the phosphates are on the outside and the bases on the inside, linked together by hydrogen bonds. This structure as described is rather

is a residue on each chain every 3.4 Å. in the z-direction. We have assumed an angle of 36° between adjacent residues in the same chain, so that the structure repeats after 10 residues on each chain, that is, after 34 Å. The distance of a phosphorus atom from the fibre axis is 10 Å. As the phosphates are on the outside, cations have easy access to them.

The structure is an open one, and its water content is rather high. At lower water contents we would expect the bases to tilt so that the structure could become more compact.

The novel feature of the structure is the manner in which the two chains are held together by the purine and pyrimidine bases. The planes of the bases are perpendicular to the fibre axis. They are joined together in pairs, a single base from one chain being hydrogen-bonded to a single base from the other chain, so that the two lie side by side with identical z-coordinates. One of the pair must be a purine and the other a pyrimidine for bonding to occur. The hydrogen bonds are made as follows: purine position 1 to pyrimidine position 1; purine position 6 to pyrimidine position 6.

If it is assumed that the bases only occur in the structure in the most plausible tautomeric forms (that is, with the keto rather than the enol configurations) it is found that only specific pairs of bases can bond together. These pairs are: adenine (purine) with thymine (pyrimidine), and guanine (purine) with cytosine (pyrimidine).

In other words, if an adenine forms one member of a pair, on either chain, then on these assumptions the other member must be thymine; similarly for guanine and cytosine. The sequence of bases on a single chain does not appear to be restricted in any way. However, if only specific pairs of bases can be formed, it follows that if the sequence of bases on one chain is given, then the sequence on the other chain is automatically determined.

King's College, London. One of us (J. D. W.) has been aided by a fellowship from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

J. D. WATSON

F. H. C. CRICK

Medical Research Council Unit for the
Study of the Molecular Structure of
Biological Systems,
Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge.
April 2.

¹ Pauling, L., and Corey, R. B., *Nature*, **171**, 346 (1953); *Proc. U.S. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, **39**, 84 (1953).

² Furberg, S., *Acta Chem. Scand.*, **6**, 634 (1952).

³ Chargaff, E., for references see Zamenhof, S., Brawerman, G., and Chargaff, E., *Biochim. et Biophys. Acta*, **9**, 402 (1952).

⁴ Wyatt, G. R., *J. Gen. Physiol.*, **36**, 201 (1952).

⁵ Astbury, W. T., *Symp. Soc. Exp. Biol.*, **1**, Nucleic Acid, 66 (Camb. Univ. Press, 1947).

⁶ Wilkins, M. H. F., and Randall, J. T., *Biochim. et Biophys. Acta*, **10**, 192 (1953).

Initial sequencing and analysis of the human genome

International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium*

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Why we need to understand group performance

- As work becomes more complex, groups become more crucial:
 - Medicine is increasingly team-based
 - Over half of the articles produced in the natural and social sciences are authored by more than one person
 - The average size of teams producing patents and scientific articles nearly doubled between 1955 and 2000
- Many groups perform a wide variety of tasks rather than repeatedly do one particular thing
- BUT: smart people can choose horrible group processes!
 - The intelligence of a group as a whole—the group's *collective intelligence*—may not be determined just by the intelligence of its individual members

“For each individual among the many has a share of excellence and practical wisdom, and **when they meet together, just as they become in a manner one man,** who has many feet, and hands, and senses, so too with regard to their character and thought.”

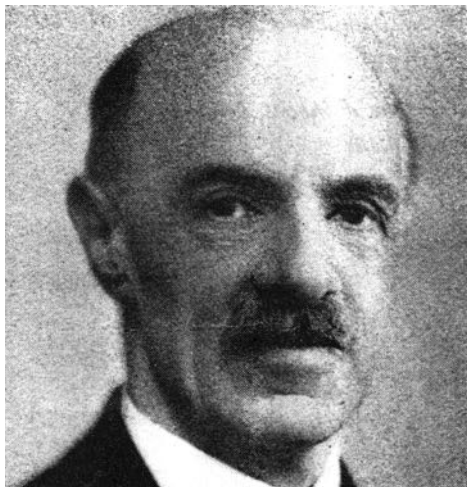
— Aristotle, *Politics*, c. 350 B.C.E.



The Law of General Intelligence (*g*)

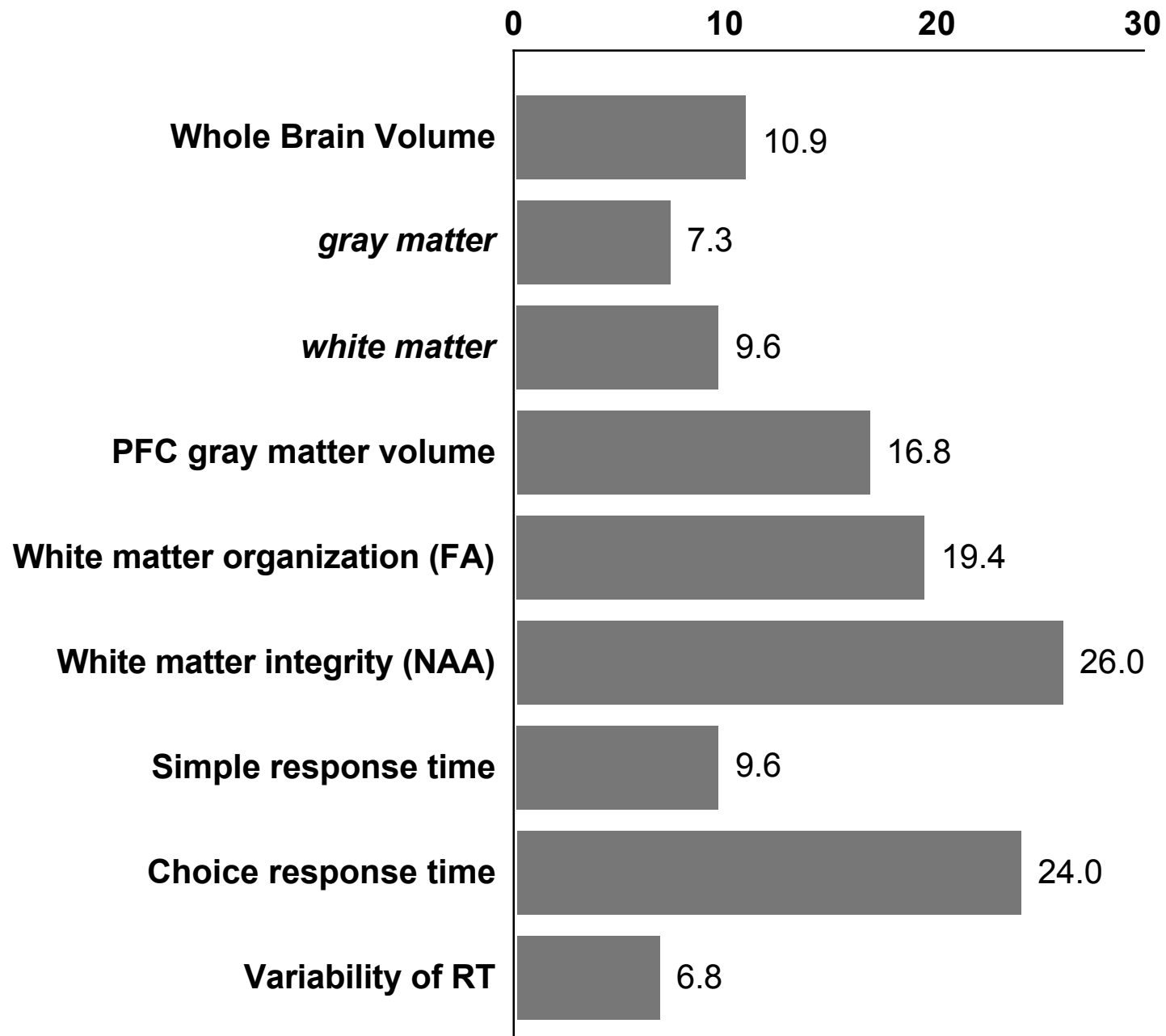
	RAPM	WM	VF	RT	MR	Coo	Cat	<i>g</i>
Raven's Advanced Progressive Matrices	—							.50
Working Memory	.39	—						.46
Verbal Fluency	.36	.48	—					.42
Response Time	.41	.28	.41	—				.39
Mental Rotation	.41	.29	.15	.21	—			.34
Coordinate Spatial Encoding	.32	.30	.07	-.02	.04	—		.25
Categorical Spatial Encoding	.21	.12	-.02	.13	.16	.21	—	.20

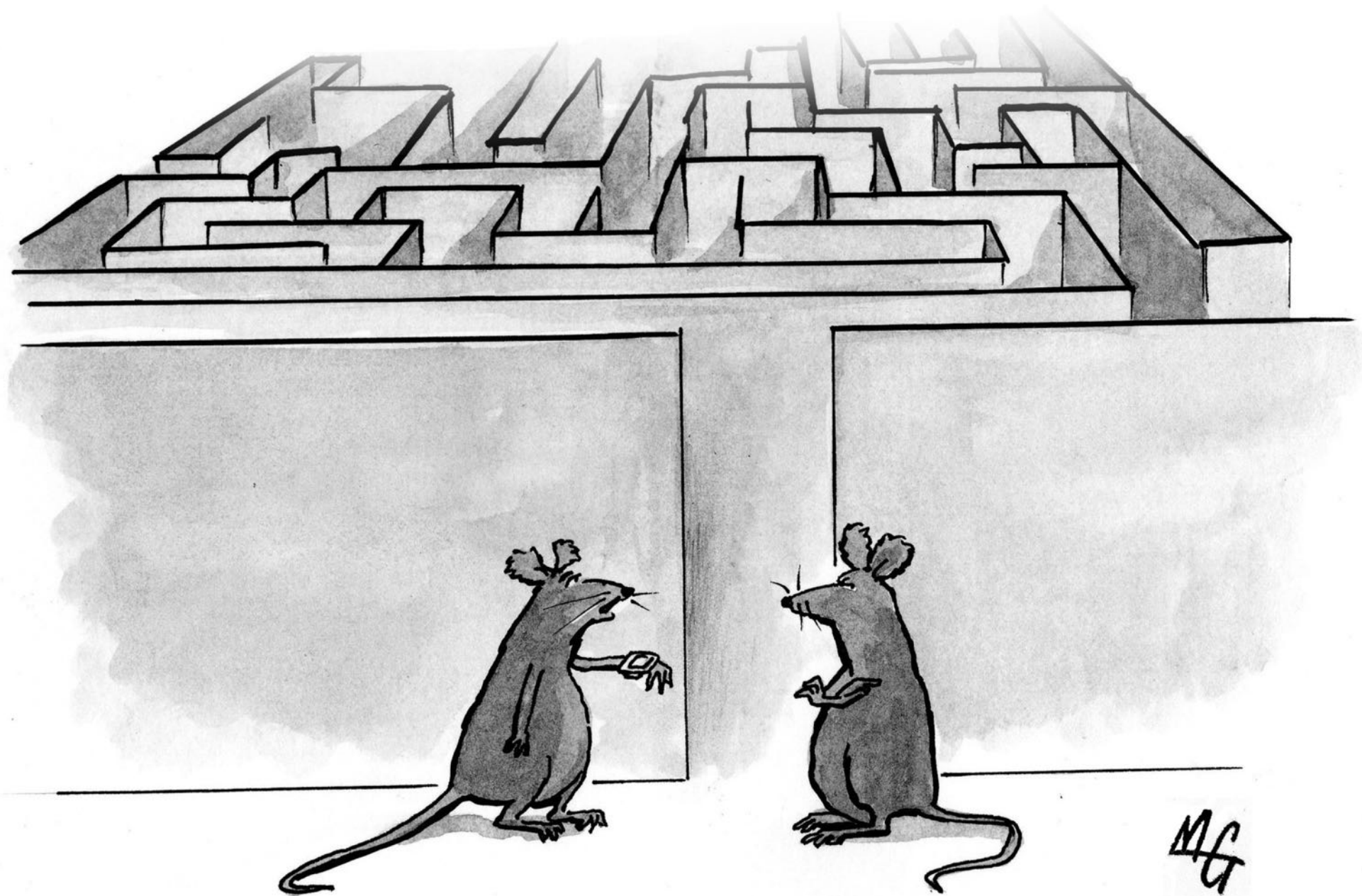
(*N* = 111, *g* = 36%)



Measurements of cognitive ability tend to correlate positively across individuals (Spearman)

**% Variance Explained by
Measures of g or IQ**





“This GPS eliminates the guesswork.”

General intelligence in mice

	BP	HW(l)	PP	HW(e)	MWM	TM	<i>g</i>
Burrowing Puzzle	—						.66
Hebb-Williams Maze (latency)	.21	—					.65
Plug Puzzle	.52	.30	—				.62
Hebb-Williams Maze (errors)	.12	.32	.13	—			.60
Morris Water Maze	.25	.39	.05	.18	—		.56
T Maze	.32	.22	.06	.17	.14	—	.40

($N = 84$, $g = 35\%$)





Microcar
Mini car



Subcompact car
Small car



Compact car
Medium car



Mid-size car
Large car



Entry-level luxury car
Large car



Full-size car
Executive car



Mid-size luxury car
Executive car



Full-size luxury car



Convertible
Sport coupe



Grand tourer
Sport coupe



Sports car
Sport coupe



Supercar
Sport coupe



Roadster



Station wagon



Compact minivan
Multi Purpose vehicle (MPV)



Minivan
Large MPV



SUV - mini off road
Sport Utility Vehicle



SUV - compact off road
Sport Utility Vehicle



SUV - mid size off road
Sport Utility Vehicle



SUV - full size off road
Sport Utility Vehicle



Pickup truck - mini



Pickup truck - mid size



Pickup truck - full size



Pickup truck - full size
Heavy Duty

12.9-in. iPad Pro

10.5-in. iPad Pro

iPad

iPad mini 4



12.9"

Retina display
ProMotion technology and
True Tone display

10.5"

Retina display
ProMotion technology and
True Tone display

9.7"

Retina display

7.9"

Retina display



A10X Fusion chip



A10X Fusion chip



A10 Fusion chip



A8 chip

12MP

photos and 4K HD
video recording

12MP

photos and 4K HD
video recording

8MP

photos and 1080p HD
video recording

8MP

photos and 1080p HD
video recording



Discovering the *c*-factor: Study 1 design

- 40 teams of 3 people each
- 51% of subjects male; average age 32 (range 18–66)
- Each subject completed individual IQ test
- Groups worked together, face-to-face, on 5-task battery:
 - Brainstorming
 - Group matrix reasoning
 - Group moral reasoning
 - Plan shopping trip
 - Group typing
- Groups completed a more complex task (“video game” = playing checkers vs. computer)

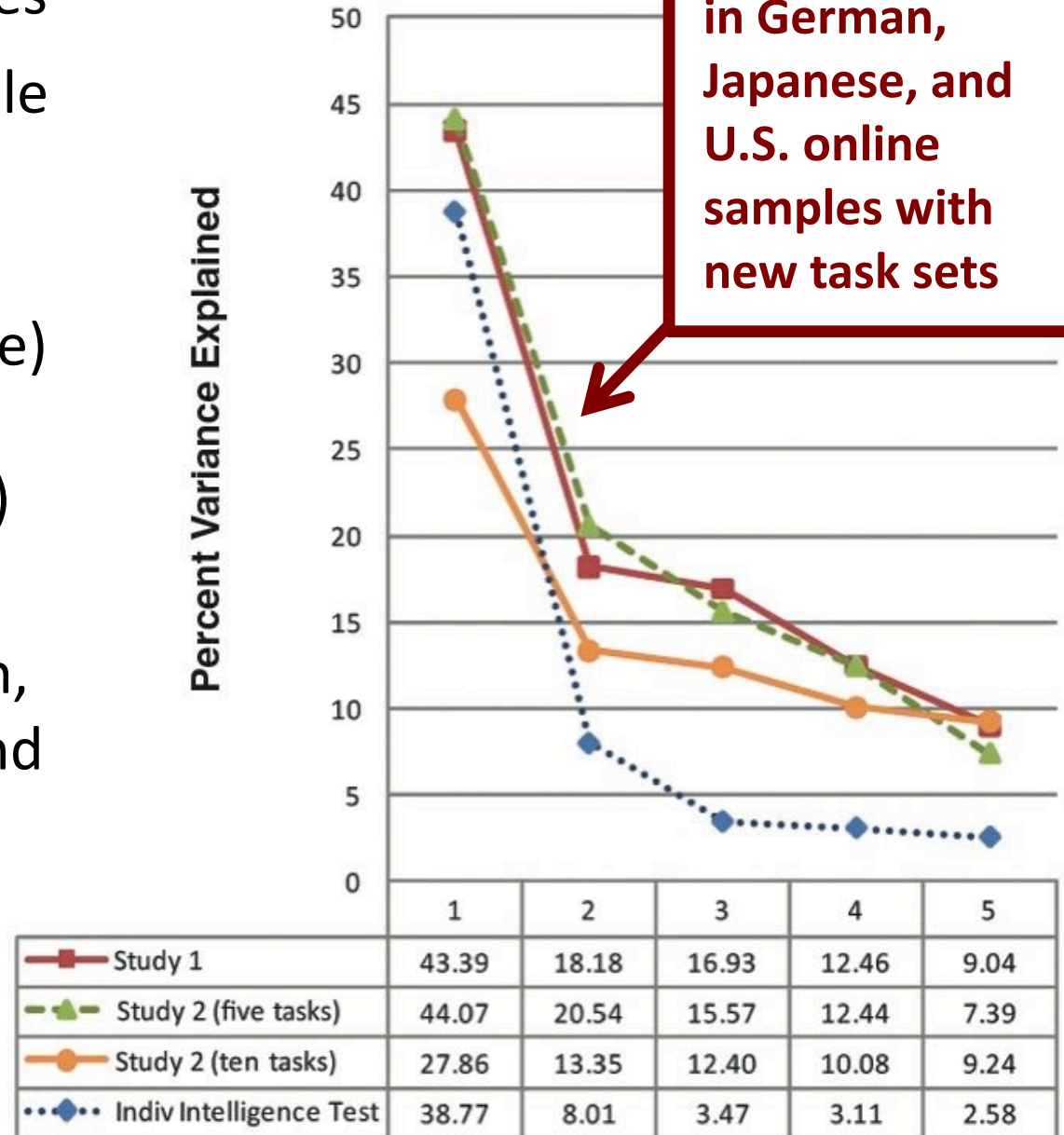
Discovering the c-factor: Study 1 results

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 Collective intelligence (c)								
2 Brainstorming	0.38*							
3 Group matrix reasoning	0.86**	0.30*						
4 Group moral reasoning	0.42*	0.12	0.27					
5 Plan shopping trip	0.66**	0.21	0.38*	0.18				
6 Group typing	0.80**	0.13	0.50**	0.25*	0.43*			
7 Avg member intelligence	0.19	0.11	0.19	0.12	-0.06	0.22		
8 Max member intelligence	0.27	0.09	0.33*	0.05	-0.04	0.28	0.73**	
9 Video game	0.52*	0.17	0.38*	0.37*	0.39*	0.44*	0.18	0.13

c-factor = 43%

Replicating the c-factor: Study 2

- 579 subjects @ two sites
- 152 teams of 2–5 people
- Additional individual measures (personality traits, social intelligence) + different IQ test (WPT instead of RAPM)
- Individuals rated satisfaction, motivation, psychological safety, and group's cohesiveness
- Sociometric badges recorded turn-taking during discussions



Meta-analysis (17 studies, 985 teams, 3777 individuals)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Brainstorm Object (1)							
Brainstorm Words (2)	0.24**						
Matrix Reasoning (3)	0.24***	0.16**					
Unscramble Words (4)	0.21***	0.33***	0.19***				
Memory Picture (5)	0.11	0.13***	0.27**	0.17***			
Sudoku (6)	0.19***	0.26***	0.25***	0.30***	0.19**		
Typing Numbers (7)	0.17***	0.05	0.28***	0.15*	0.13***	0.16*	
Typing Text (8)	0.19***	-0.02	0.27***	0.13**	0.16***	0.10*	0.36***

*** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

Woolley et al., *Collective Intelligence* 2017



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Intelligence



Smart groups of smart people: Evidence for IQ as the origin of collective intelligence in the performance of human groups



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Journal of Management Information Systems

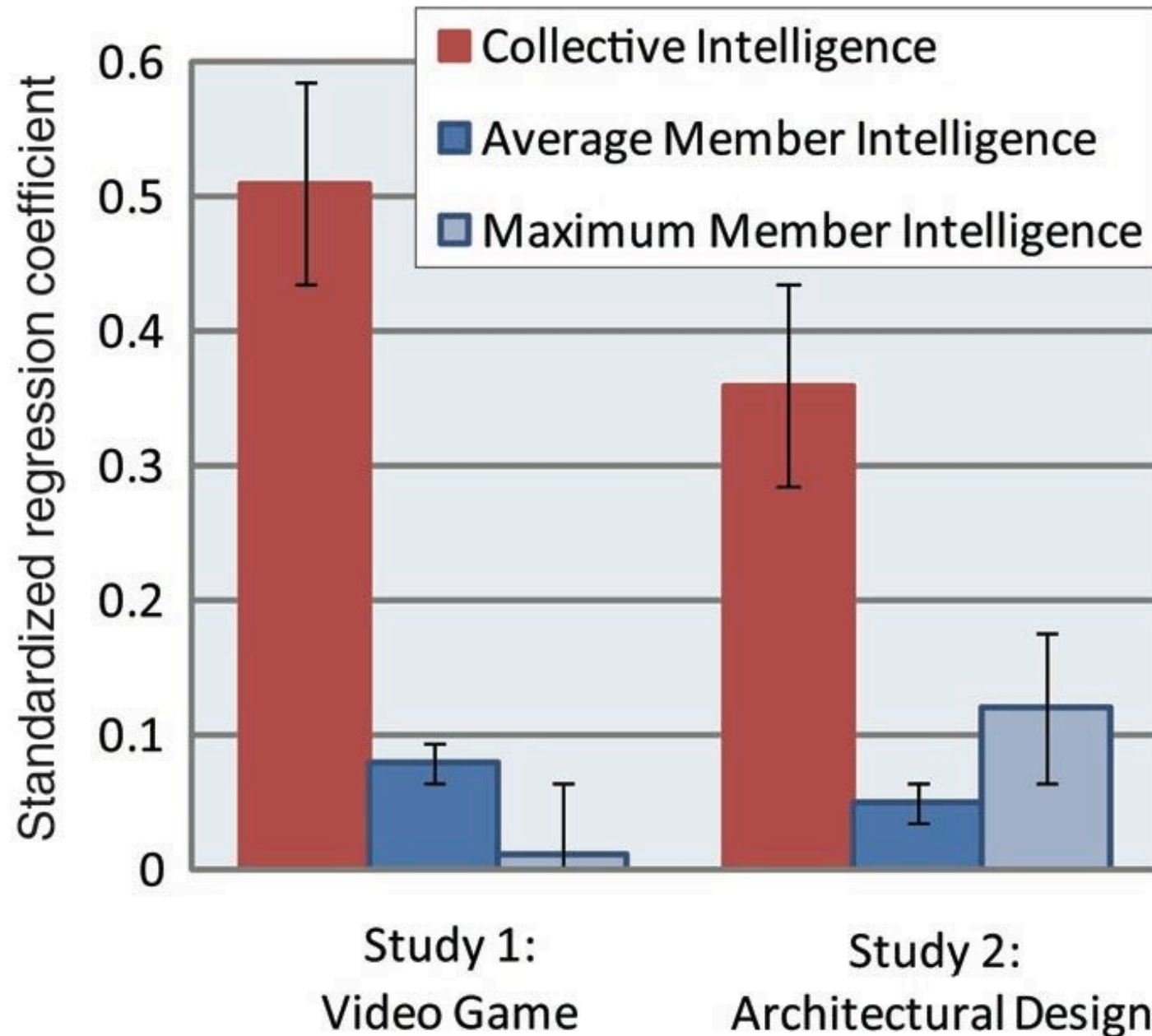


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Not As Smart As We Think: A Study of Collective Intelligence in Virtual Groups

Jordan B. Barlow & Alan R. Dennis

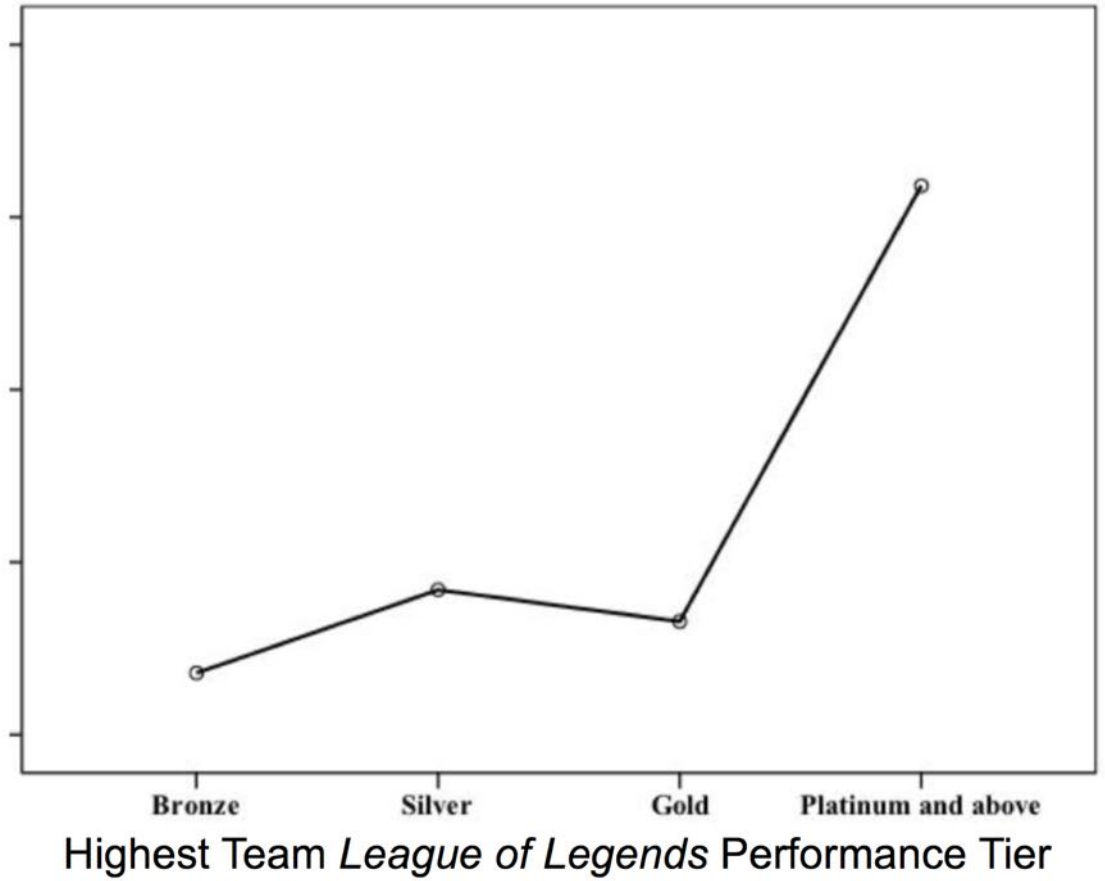
c predicts complex task performance



LEAGUE of LEGENDS



Team Collective Intelligence

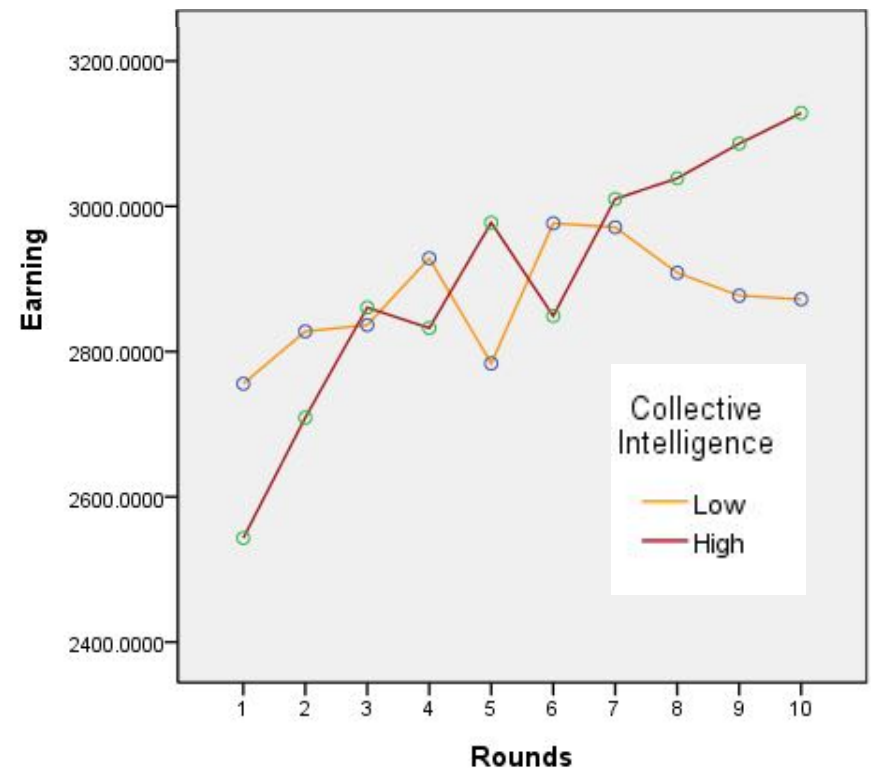


High-*c* groups earn more in tacit coordination game

- 98 teams did our collective intelligence test and played a 10-round “tacit coordination” game for real stakes (up to \$10 per person)
- *c* did not predict earnings in initial round
- *c* → rate of increase in earnings: $r = .33, p < .01$
- *c* → 6% incremental variance after controlling for average IQ

Minimum of Group Member Choices

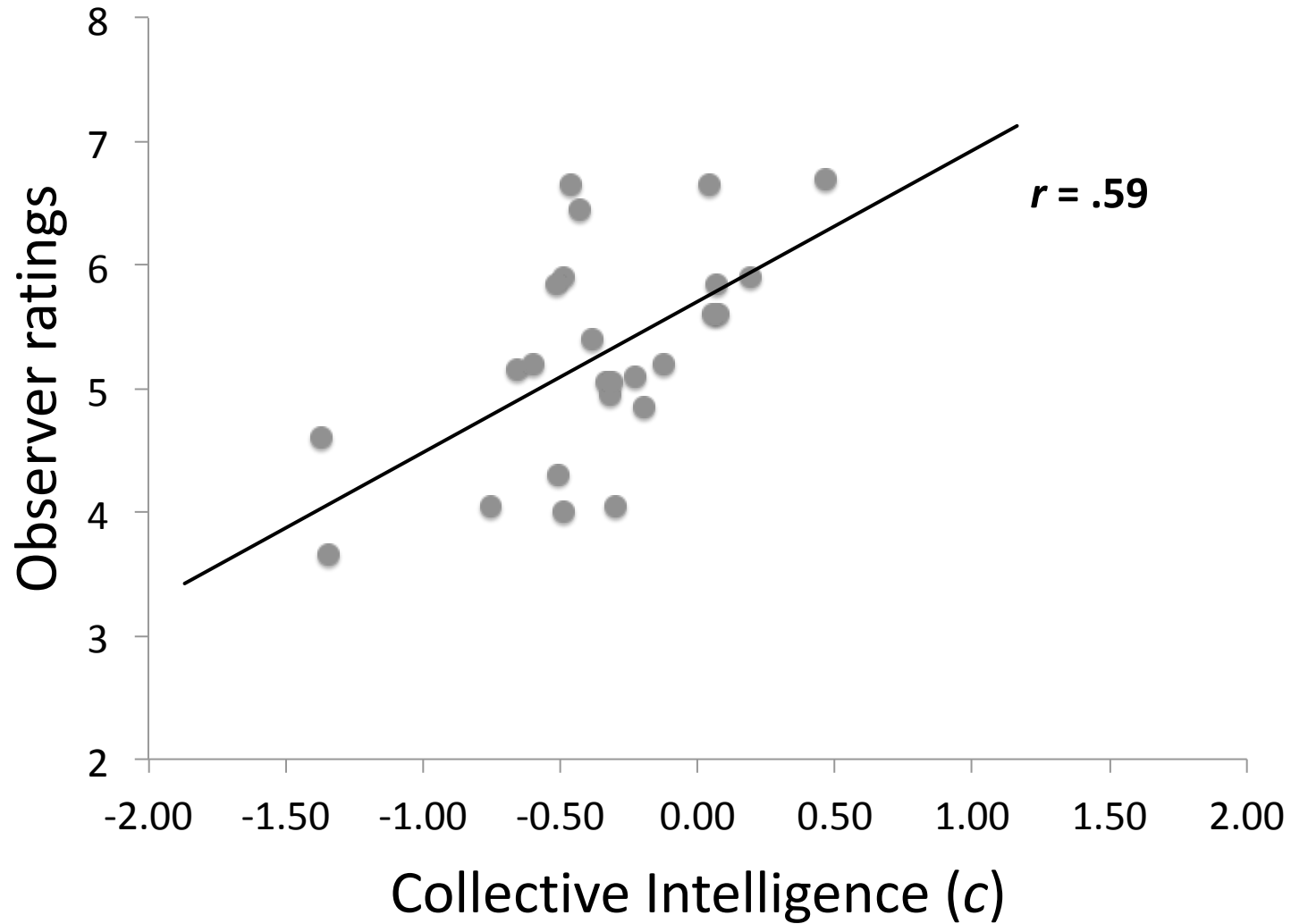
	0	10	20	30	40
0	2400				
10	2200	2800			
20	1600	2600	3200		
30	600	2000	3000	3600	
40	-800	1000	2400	3400	4000



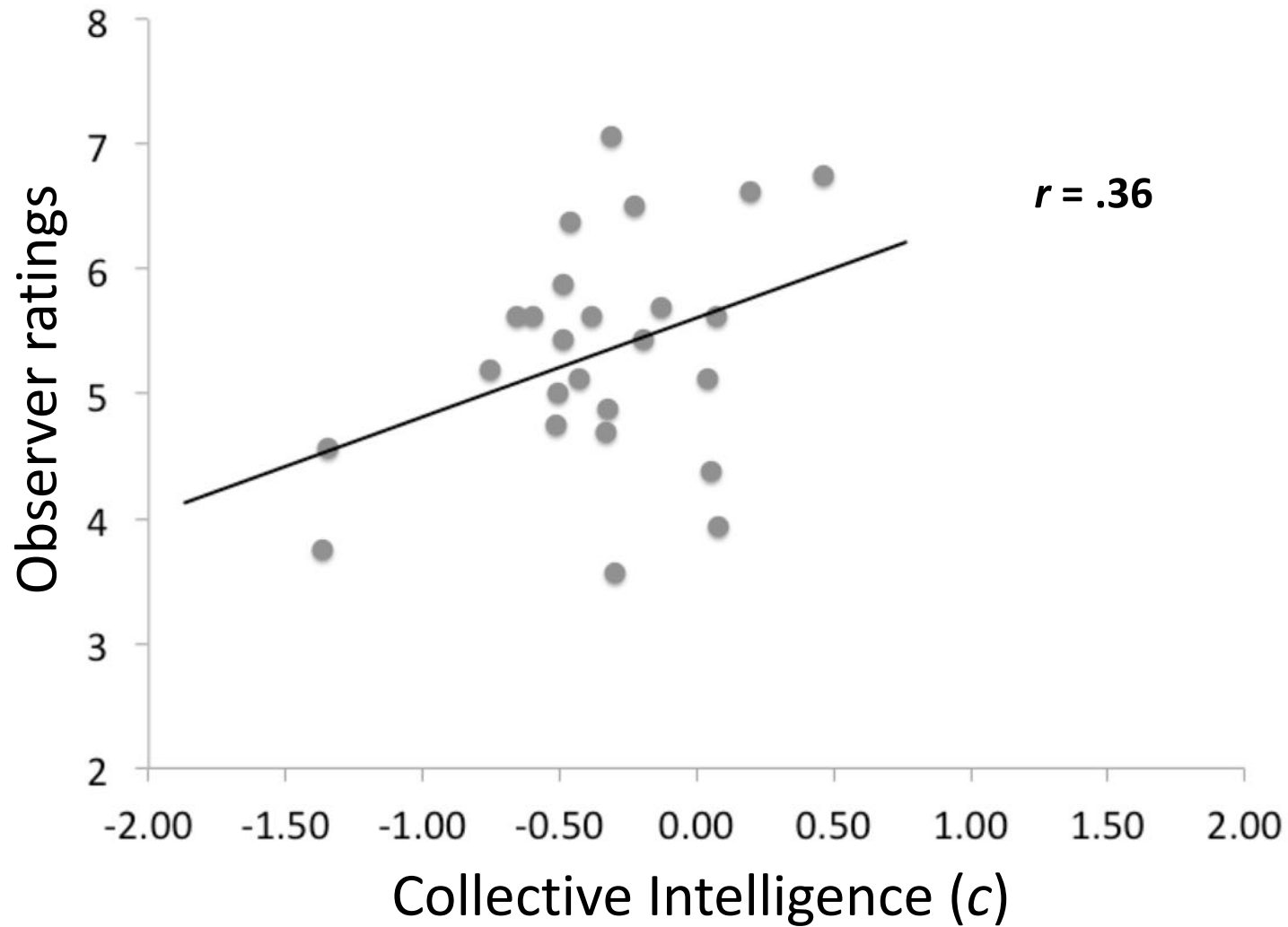




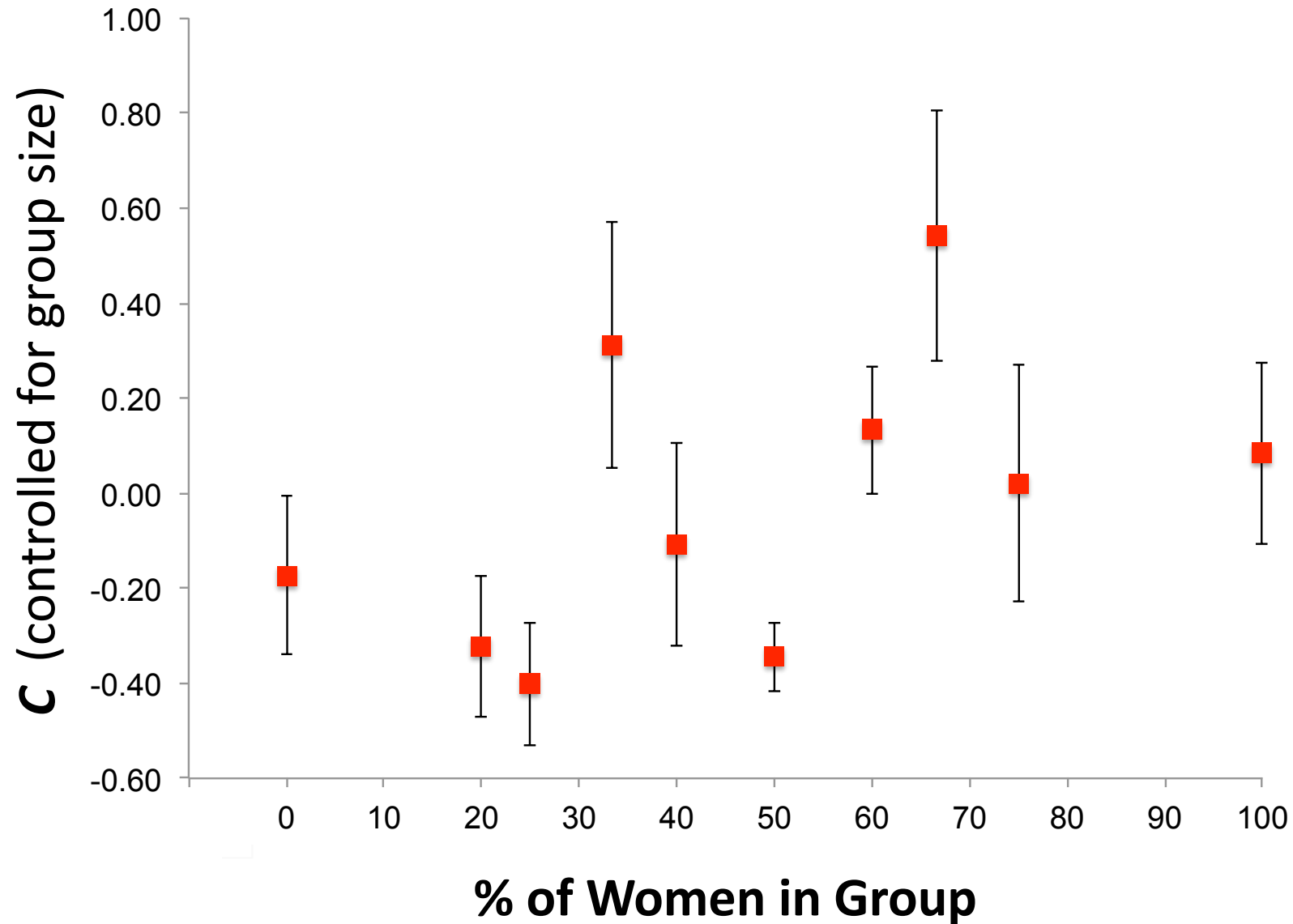
Recognizing c – Group Matrix Reasoning Task



Recognizing *c* – Group Moral Reasoning Task



% of women and collective intelligence



What explains collective intelligence?

- **Turn-taking in the group**

- measured by MIT Media Lab sociometric badges

- the more even the distribution of # of speaking turns among the members, the smarter the group ($r = .41, p = .01$)



- **Proportion of *women* in the group** ($r = .23, p = .007$)

- **Average *social intelligence* of group members** ($r = .26, p = .002$)

Social intelligence explains collective intelligence

- Measured by *Reading the Mind in the Eyes* (RME) test:
 - Example: terrified, upset, arrogant, or annoyed?



- Example: playful, comforting, irritated, or bored?



- How do we know this is social intelligence and not just facial expression processing?



Screenshot :: Sudoku (20 of 2) :: 210 seconds [show instructions](#)

[new window](#)

As a group, please fill in this sudoku puzzle so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box has the digits 1-9 once and only once.

The puzzle spaces are synchronized so your group will see what you type as soon as you click out of a space.

	7				2	5	6	8
	9	6			1			7
	5		9	3				
1		5	7	2	9	4	8	3
6			8	9				5
2	8	4		1	5			
	1				8		4	
7			4	6		3	5	
9	3	5	1				6	2

4

- Lia
- George
- Harry
- May

Lia: I think the bottom left "3" is wrong 17:07

Harry: No, it can work 17:07

Harry: We should keep going until there's a traffic jam 17:07

George: I think, if someone is really good at Sudoku, they should take the lead 17:08

George: Then we'll fill in the rest behind him/her 17:08

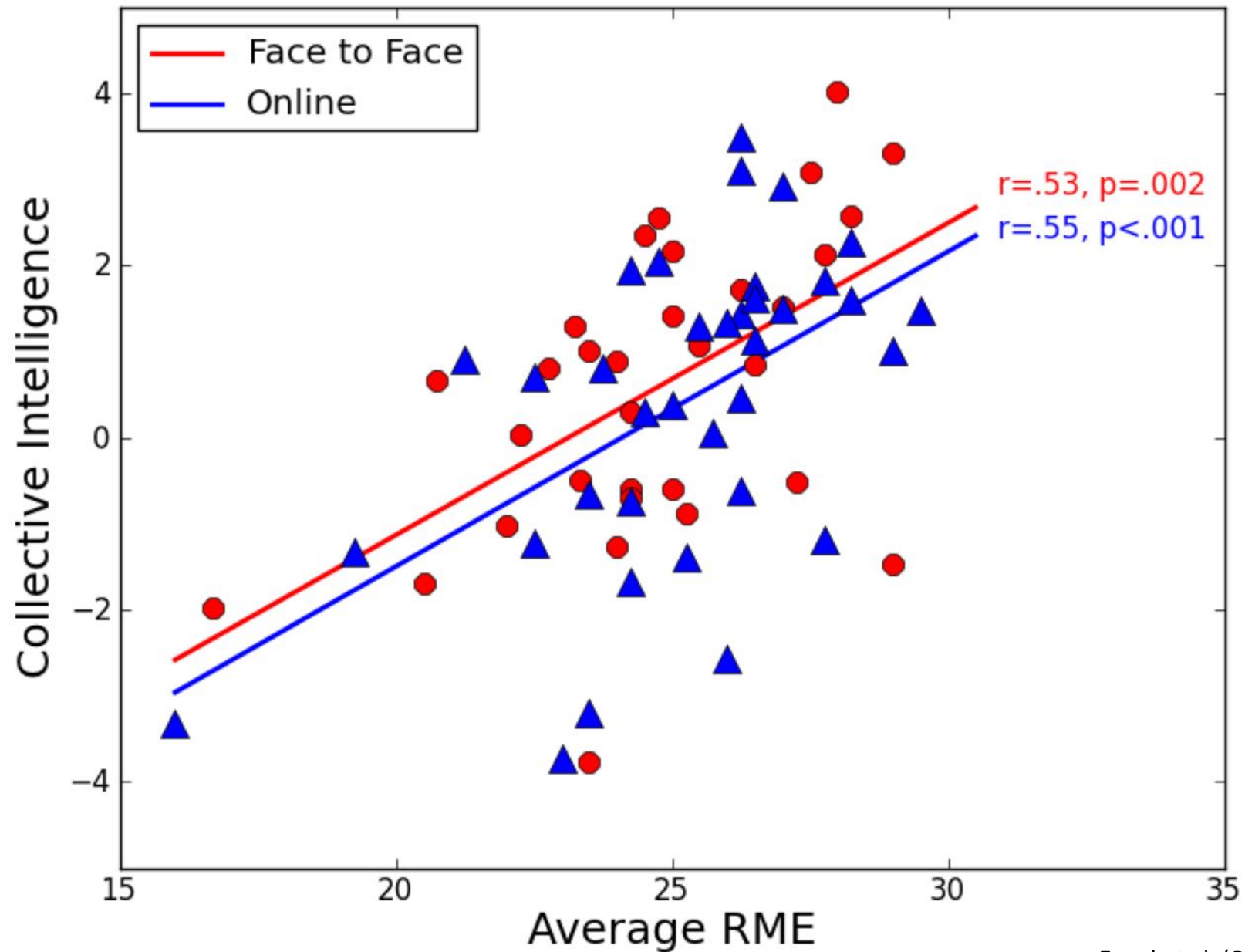
May: That makes sense. I do these everyday—I'll be the leader. 17:08

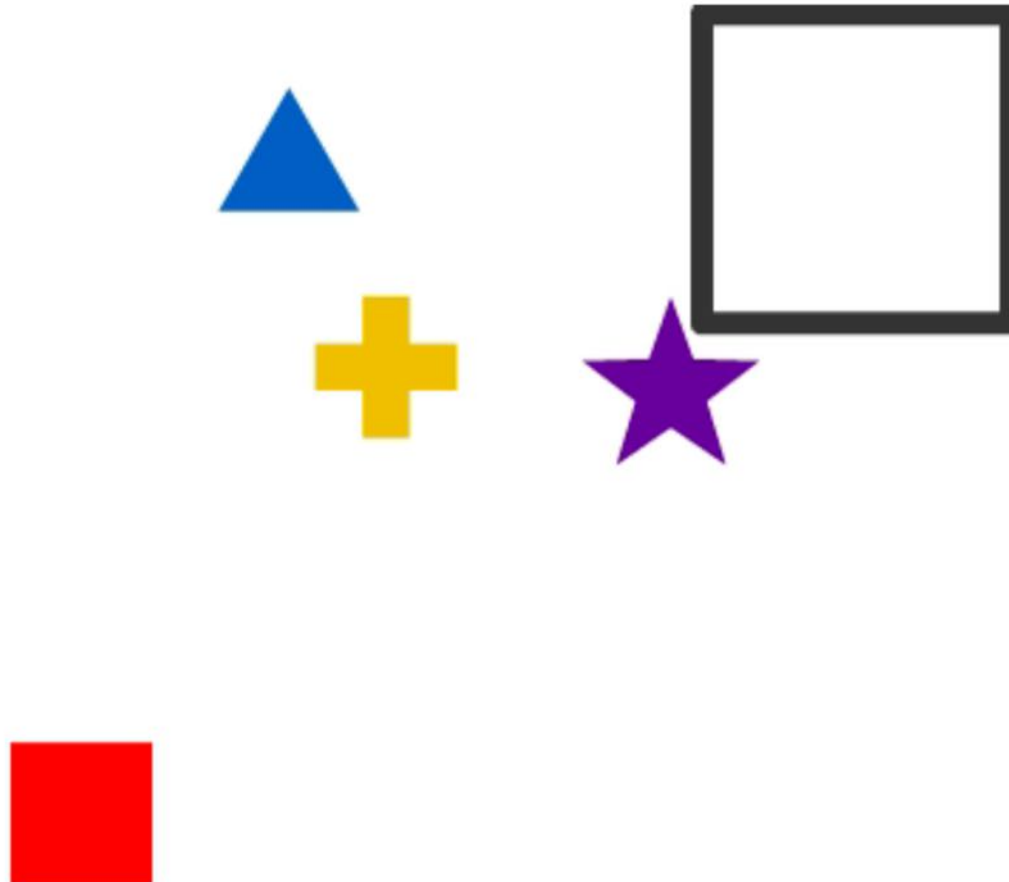
Harry: Me too, I can help May. 17:08

Harry: The rest of you, check our progress and fill in behind us 17:08

Lia: Sounds good 17:08

Reading the Mind in the Eyes test predicts *c* equally online or face to face





Who is being rude?

(a) yellow +

(b) purple ☆

(c) red □

(d) blue △

Implications of collective intelligence

- Measurability of c provides foundation for a new approach to the science of group performance
 - an important factor to control for or consider
 - a way to link individual and group levels in cognition
- Better understanding of collective intelligence can help to improve individual decision-making
- Enhancing collective intelligence could be a strategic aim for organizations
- Collective intelligence may be easier to enhance than individual g
 - change composition of team
 - change interaction processes and support mechanisms
 - add computers, AI, machine learning to human teams





An illustration of four stylized human figures in orange, pink, blue, and white, gathered around a grey table. The table is covered with numerous colorful sticky notes in shades of blue, pink, orange, and green. A white coffee cup is on the table, and a pink pen is visible. The background is a light grey.

SUMMING UP

Thank you!

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