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XPrag project  
The Preference for Approximation  
(Stephanie Solt, Chris Cummins & Marijan Palmovic)

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Working visit to Cambridge

Scientific Report

A.

The members of the project met in Cambridge, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2011. The aim of the meeting was to define two experiments that would be carried out during spring 2011.

B.

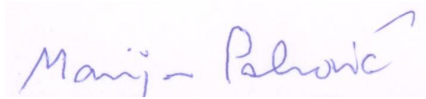
The first experiment is a version of the Sternberg paradigm. The participant is asked to recall a number from a list of numbers. The list increases as the experiment goes on thus increasing the memory load. In this experiment three conditions were defined within the Sternberg paradigm, each condition with the different level of coarseness/roundness of the stimulus. The numbers to be remembered were times given in the digital clock format (e.g. 6:15). The rationale of the experiment is to find evidence for the effect beyond the memory load, i.e. to document the preference for approximation as a pragmatic effect.

During the visit all details of the experiment were settled up (the list of stimuli and their combination) and the experiment was programmed in the E-prime stimulus presentation software. The data will be collected in Cambridge, but also in Berlin and Zagreb.

C.

The second experiment was planned. It will be a reading time experiment (i.e. the self-paced reading) that will be possible to extend into an eye-tracking experiment. It will be based on the differences in speed related to the sentence representation building in experimental conditions that differ in the precision level of the numerical information. The main methodological issues were discussed and settled down while the details will be discussed later.

It was agreed that the group would meet in Zagreb in August 2011.



Marijan Palmovic