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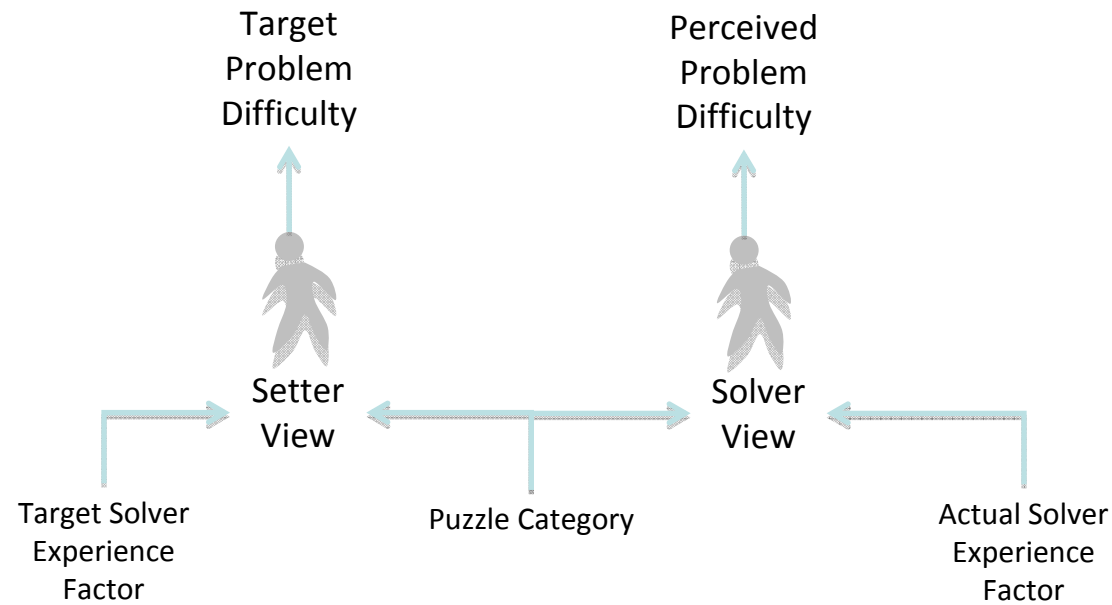
Assessing the Difficulty and Complexity of ELICIT Factoid Sets

Anthony Alston

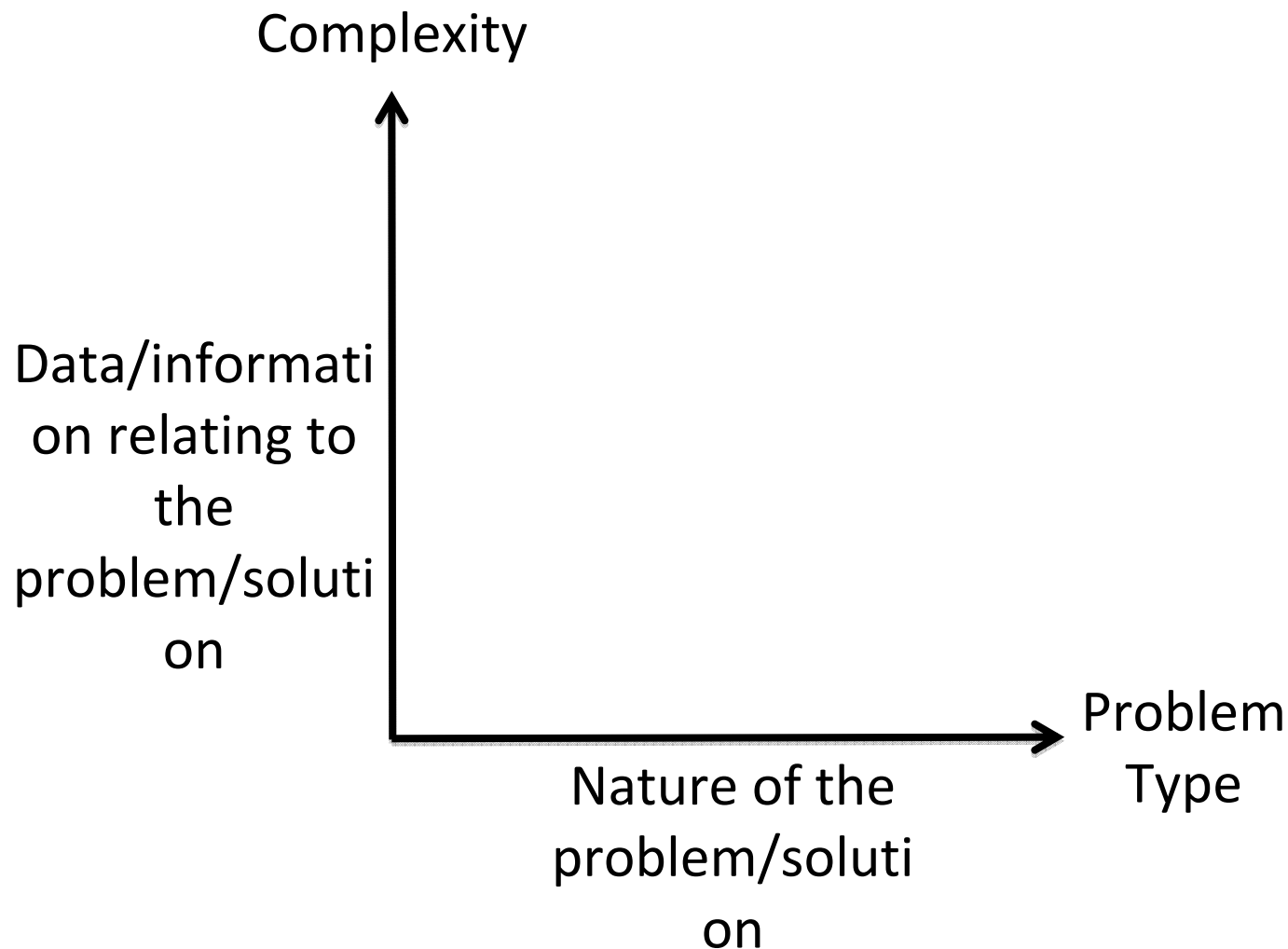
Lorraine Dodd

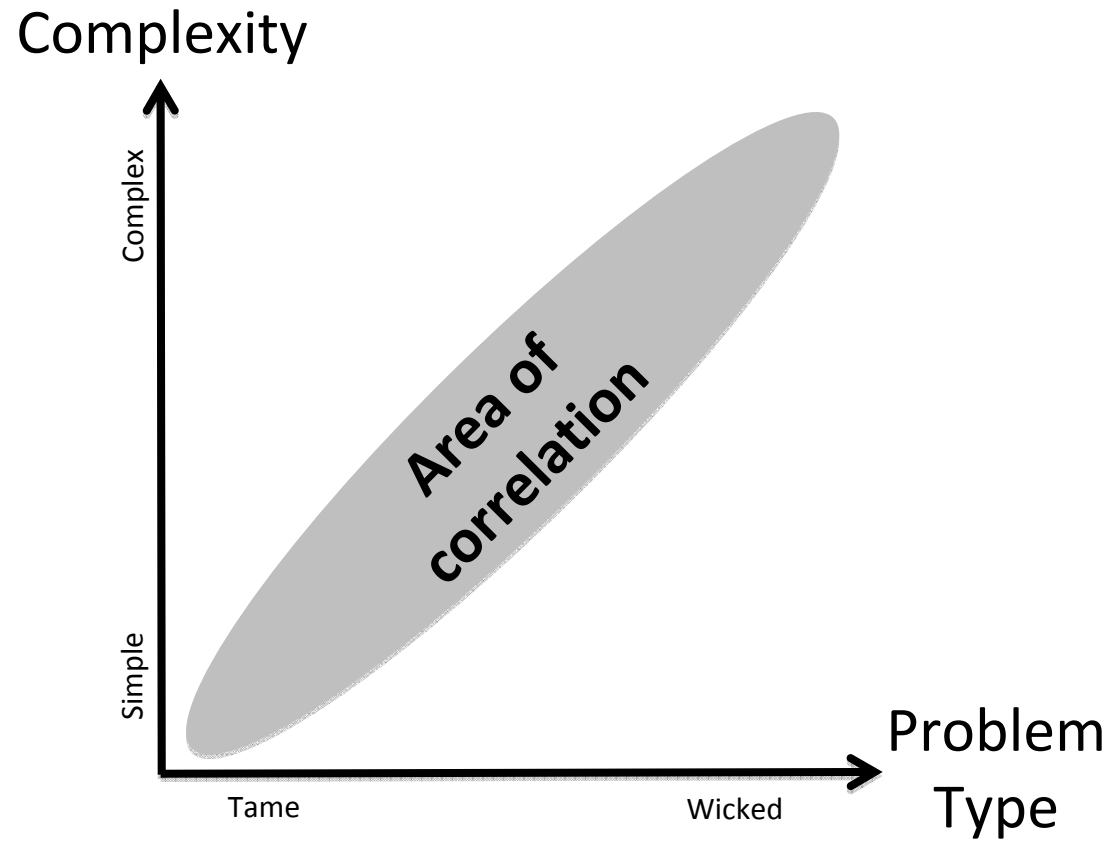
ICCRTS June 2010

Difficulty due to experience

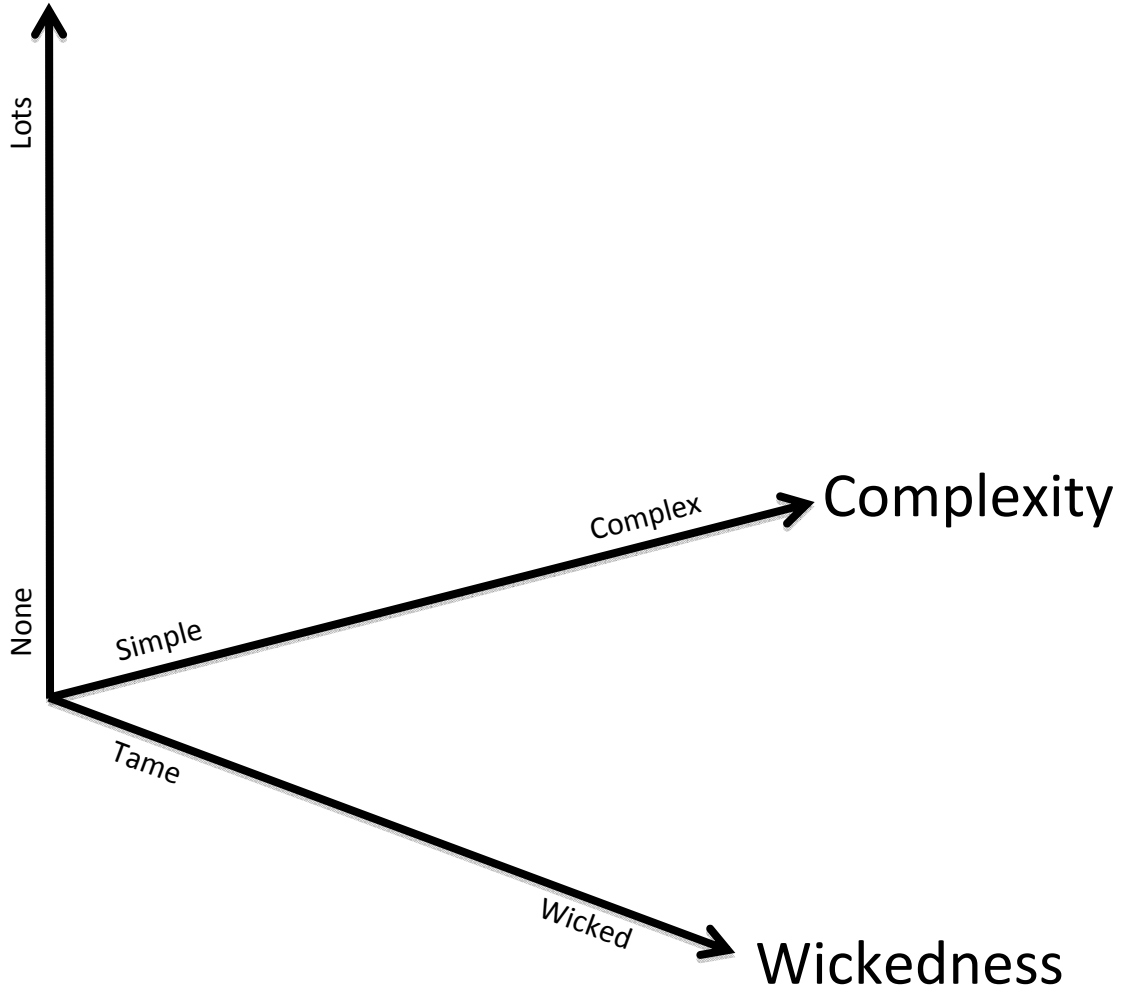


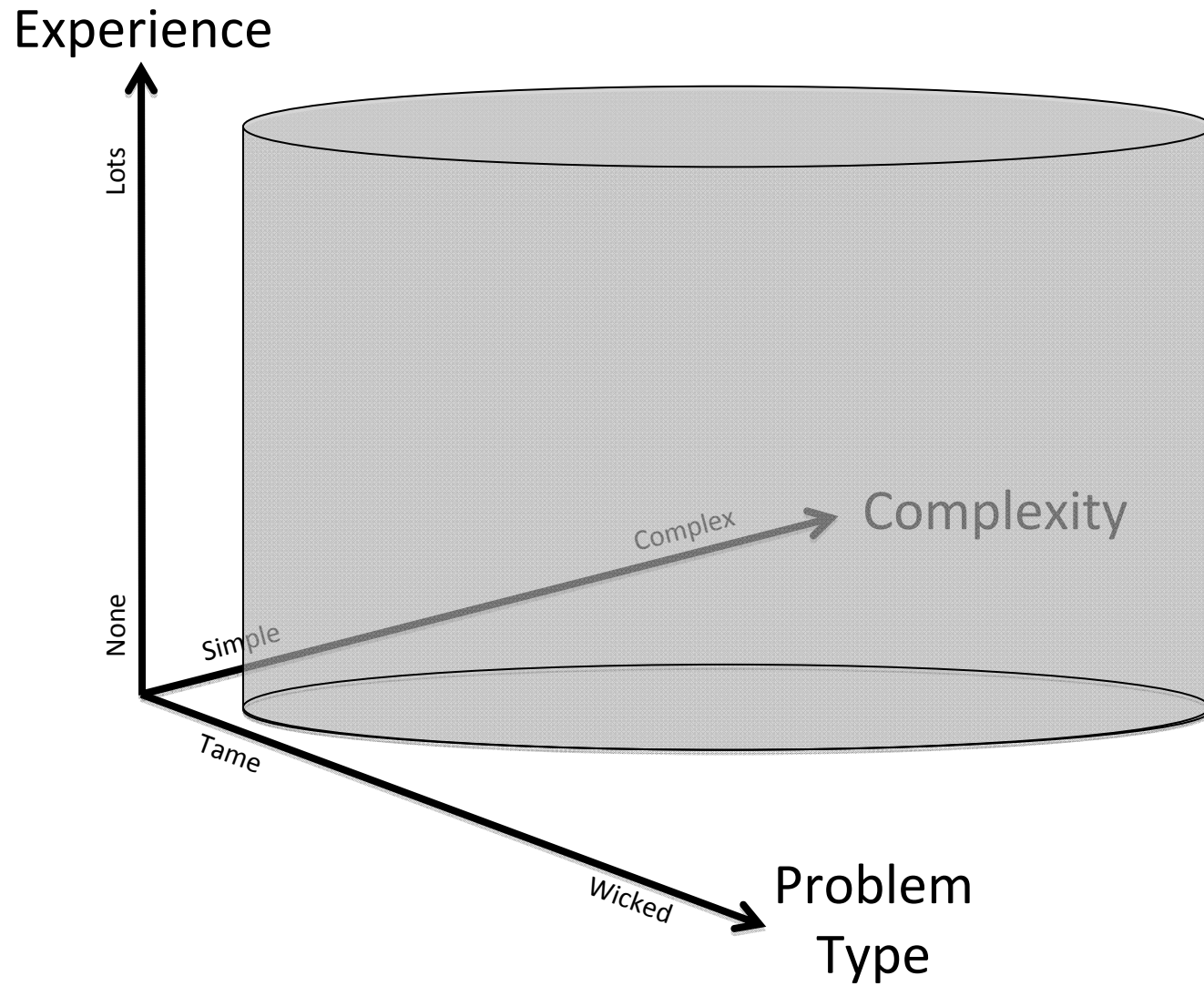
Factoid complexity and problem type

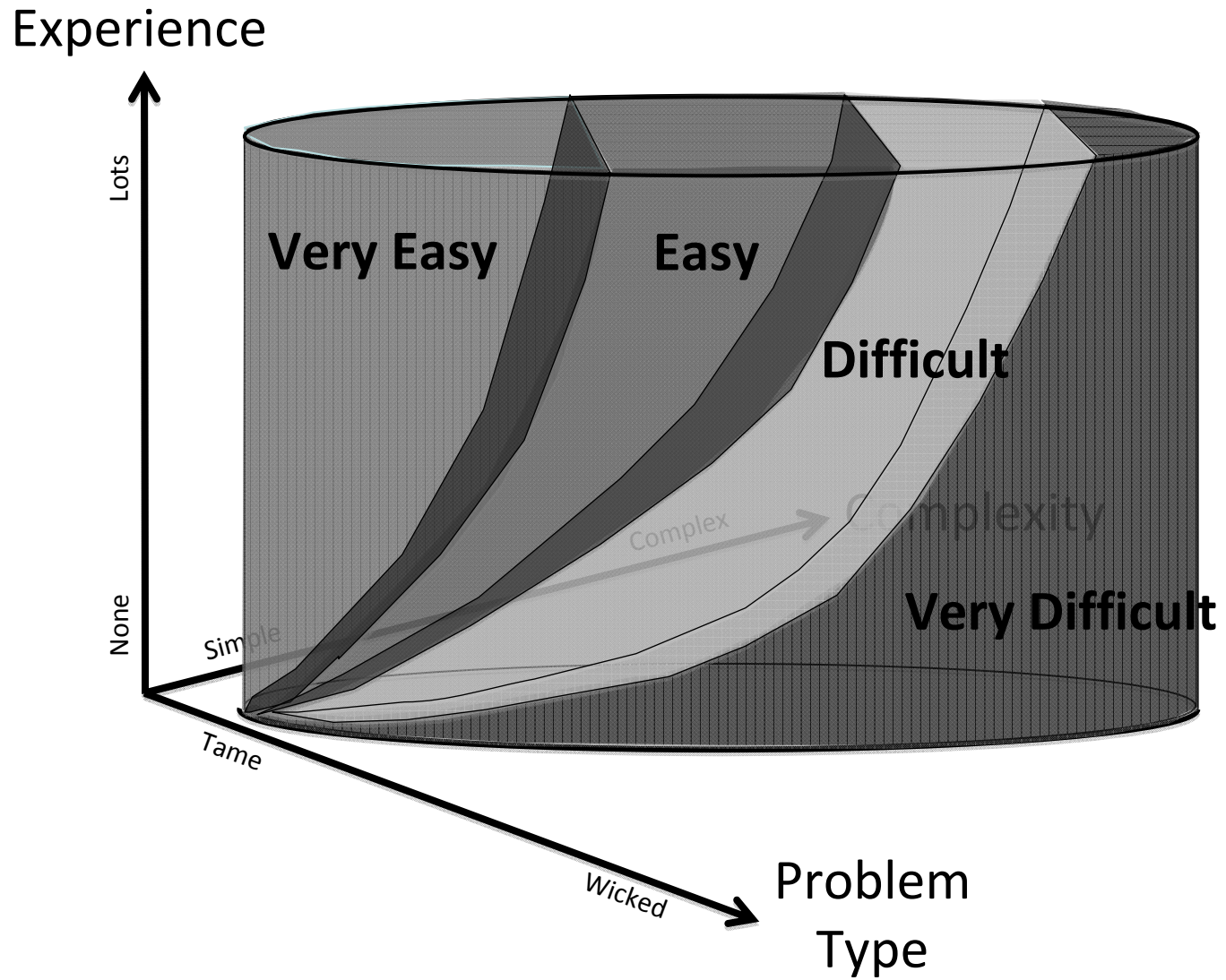


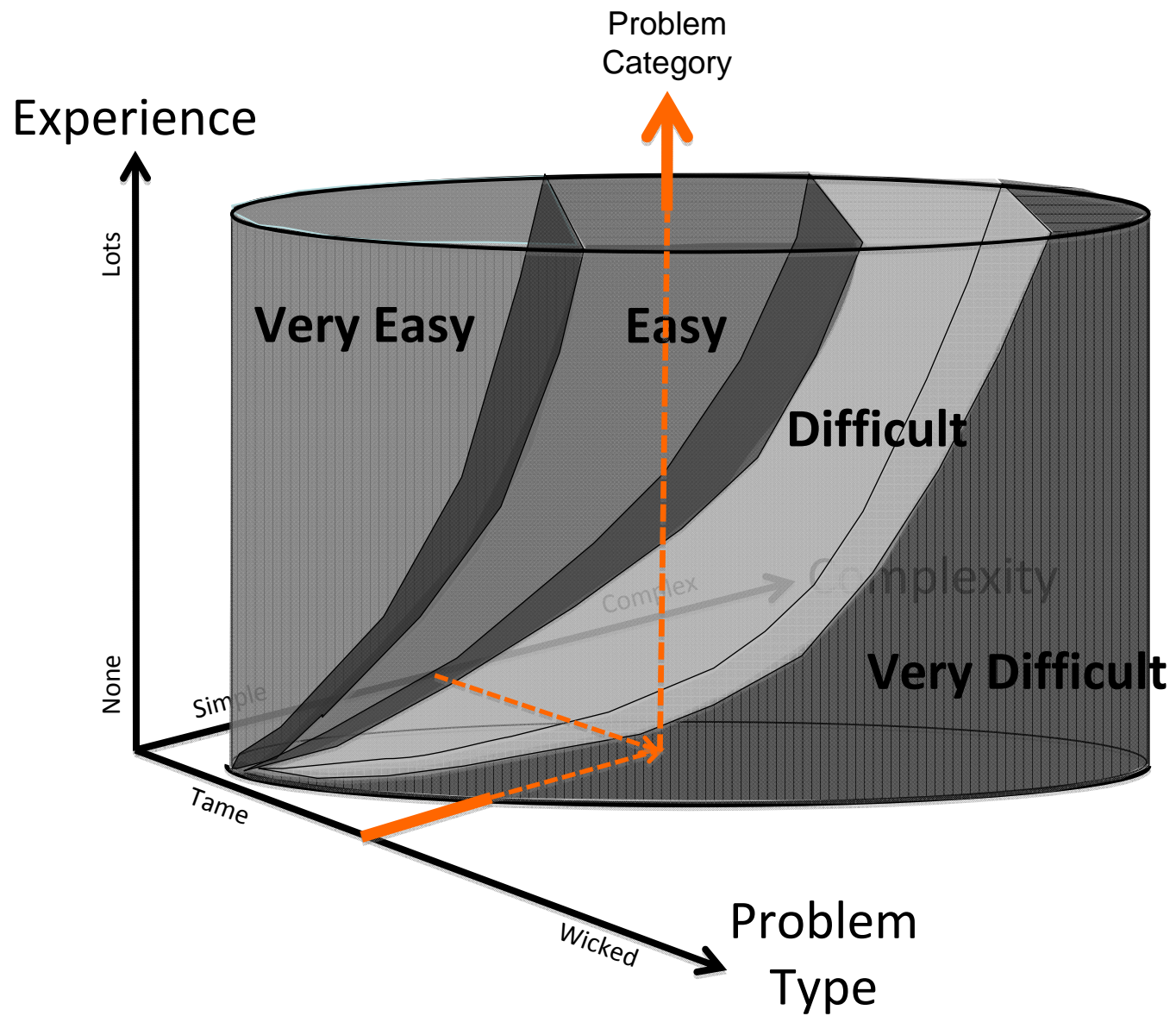


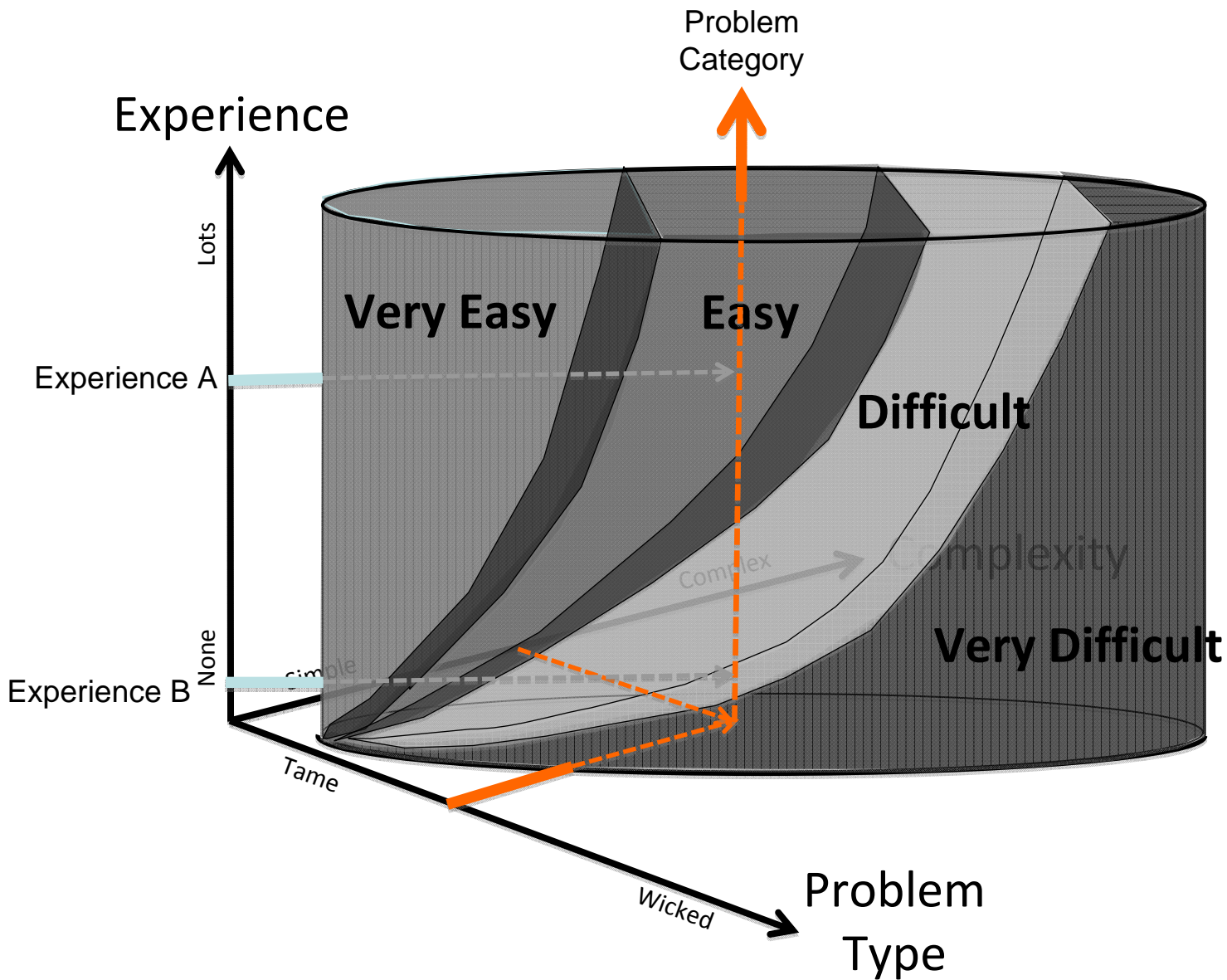
Experience











ELICIT Factoids

What is ELICIT?

ELICIT provides an experiential education facility for investigating effects of different structures for information-sharing on problem-solving.

U.S. DoD (OASD/NII) Command and Control Research Program (CCRP) sponsored the design and development of the ELICIT platform for exercises focused on information-sharing and problem-solving.

Principal purpose of ELICIT-related Exercises and Analysis is to investigate the impacts of edge versus hierarchical network structures on problem-solving performance.

Attributes

1. Sharing

1. Just Factoids
2. Factoids and guesses
3. Factoids and sub-answers
4. Factoids guesses and sub-answers

2. Factoid Content

1. Just facts that are part of a logical argument
2. Solutions or sub-solutions
3. Both

3. Factoid Characterisation

1. Obvious which sub-solution the Factoid contributes to (including multiple sub-solutions)
2. Factoid required for non-obvious sub-solution

4. Factoid Distribution

1. Factoids only distributed to the appropriate sub-solution teams
2. Factoids distributed to any team

5. Logic

1. Factoids contain all information required and are unambiguous
2. Factoids contain all information required and are ambiguous
3. Factoids do not contain all information required and are unambiguous
4. Factoids do not contain all information required and are ambiguous

6. Answer

1. There is a single answer and it is used as the metric.

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Complexity

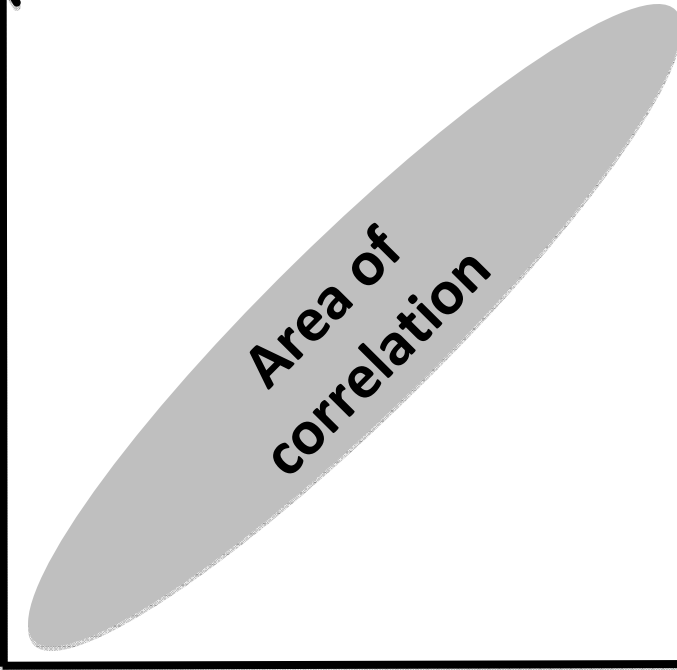


Tame

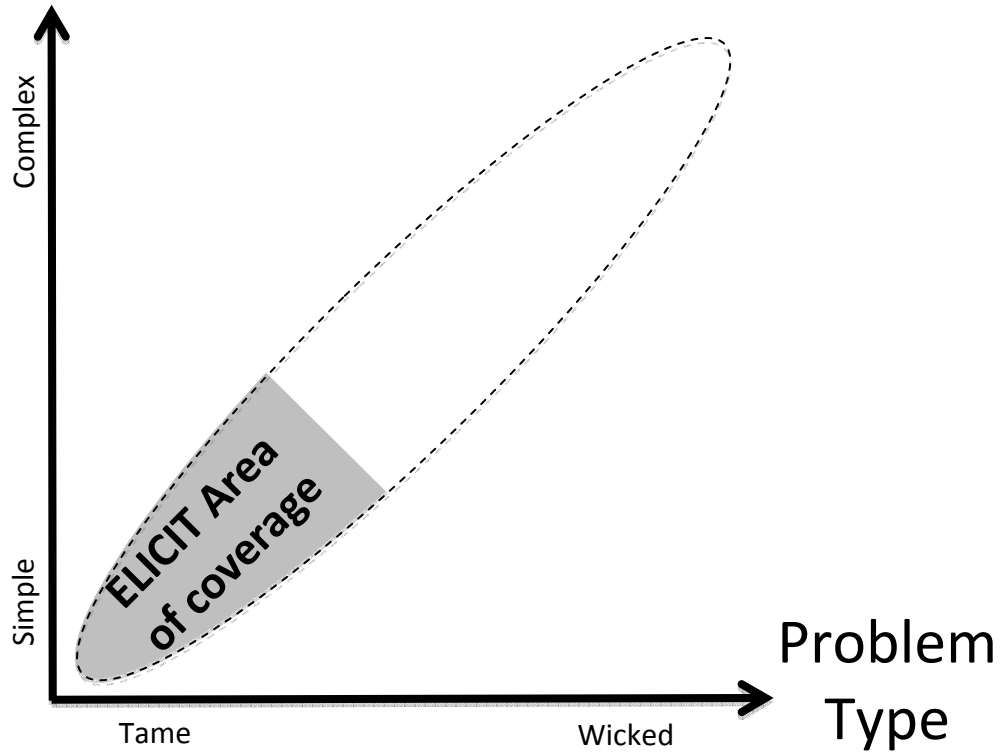
Wicked

Problem
Type

**Area of
correlation**



Complexity



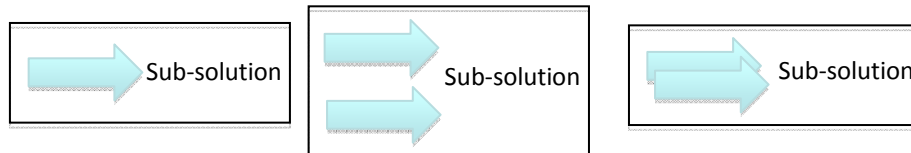
What can we change?

- Cannot changed 'Problem Type' without major changes to ELICIT and experimental set-up.
- Can change 'Complexity'.
- Can say something about 'Experience'.

Parameters

Conceptual level

*What is the puzzle
'big picture'.*



Logic level

*What logical
structure has been
employed within
each sub-solution.*

- Number of Factoids required to deduce sub-solution
- Number of relationships between the Factoids
- Number of candidate sub-solutions

Factoid level

*What is the language used
in each Factoid (e.g.
ambiguity/vagueness and
categorisation).*

- Positive or negative language
- Clarity of Factoid - Defines key or support Factoid?
- Single or multiple Factoid Categorisation
- Factoid Categorisation not deducible from the Factoid language
- Sub-solution within Factoid
- Noise Factoids?

Distribution level

*How are the Factoids
distributed between the
players.*

- Factoids relating to sub-solution sent to appropriate team only
- Factoids relating to sub-solution sent to numerous teams
- Factoids with non-deducible categorisation sent to other sub-solution team
- Key Factoid distribution – but what is a key Factoid?

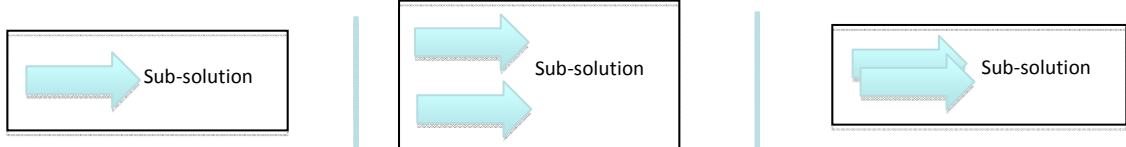
‘Complexity’

‘Experience’

Complexity



Conceptual level



of logic streams per sub-solution

One logic stream

Many logic streams

Not applicable

of logic streams

Not applicable

Not applicable

Little



Lot

Logic level

of Factoids required to deduce sub-solution

Few



Many

Few



Many

Few



Many

of relationships between the Factoids

Few



Many

Few



Many

Few



Many

of candidate sub-solutions

Few



Many

Few



Many

Few



Many

Factoid level

or negative language

+ve



-ve

+ve



-ve

+ve



-ve

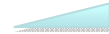
of Factoid - Defines key or support Factoid

Definite



Vague

Definite



Vague

Definite



Vague

and Factoid (and)

Simple



Compound

Simple



Compound

Simple



Compound

and Factoid (or)

Simple



Compound

Simple



Compound

Simple



Compound

multiple Factoid Categorisation

Single



Multiple

Single



Multiple

Single



Multiple

Categorisation not deducible from the Factoid language

Deducible



Not Deducible

Deducible



Not Deducible

Deducible



Not Deducible

ation within Factoid

Sub-sol



No sub-sol

Sub-sol



No sub-sol

Sub-sol



No sub-sol

ctoids

No noise



Noise

No noise



Noise

No noise



Noise

Experience

Distribution level

n to teams of Factoids based upon category

Appropriate team



Spread between teams

Appropriate team



Spread between teams

Appropriate team



Spread between teams

n of non-deducible Factoids

Appropriate

Spread between

Appropriate

Spread between

Appropriate

Spread between

Ordered Parameters

Conceptual level

1. Mixed logic streams
2. Number of logic streams per sub-solution

Logic level

1. Number of Factoids required to deduce sub-solution
2. Number of relationships between the Factoids
3. Number of candidate sub-solutio

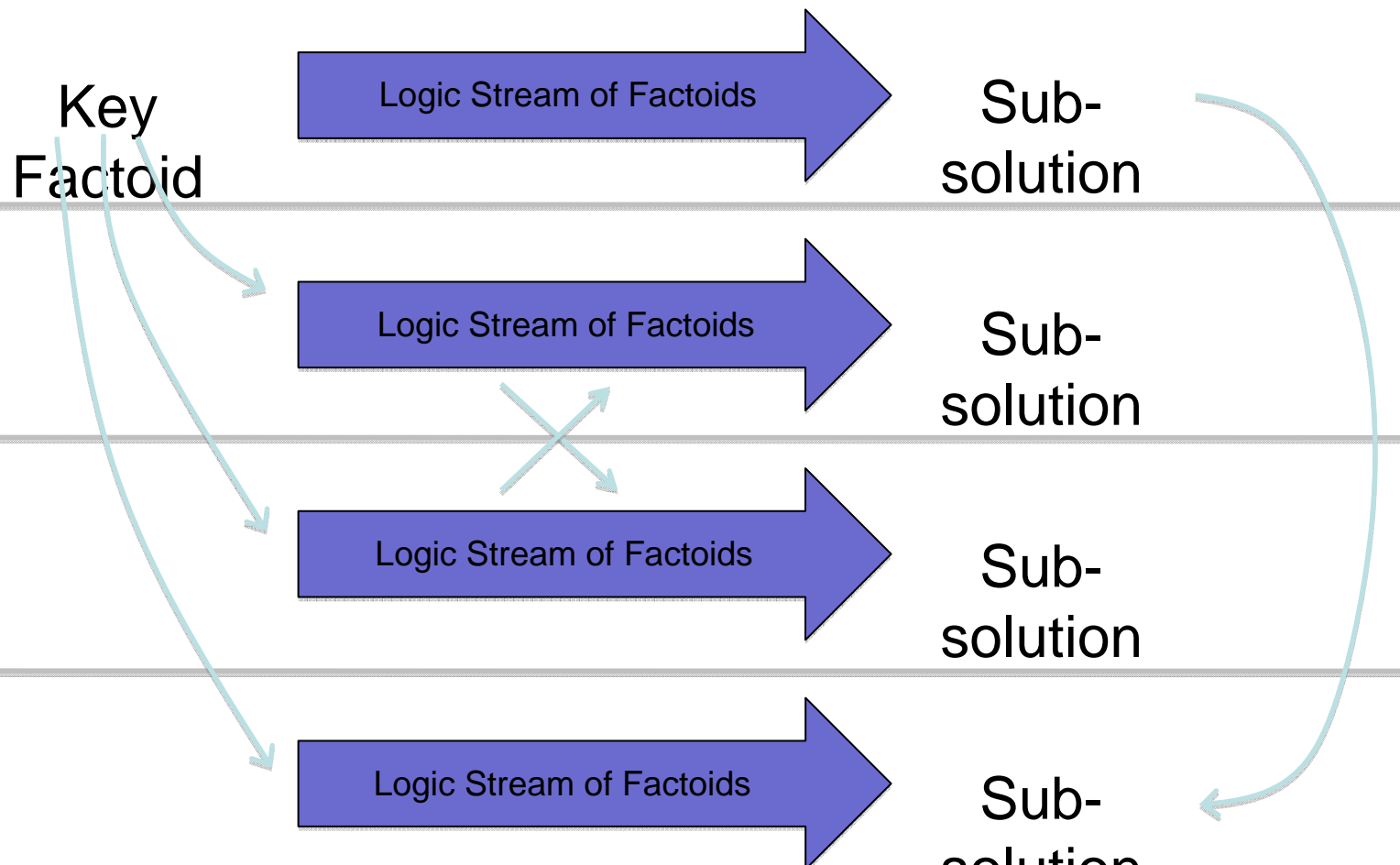
Factoid level

1. Factoid Categoriation not deducible from the Factoid language
2. Compound Factoid (or)
3. Clarity of Factoid - Defines key or support Factoid
4. Positive or negative language
5. Compound Factoid (and)
6. Single or multiple Factoid Categorisation
7. Noise Factoids
8. Sub-solution within Factoid

Distribution level

- Distribution to teams of Factoids based upon category
- Distribution of non-deducible Factoids
- The order in which the Factoids are distributed

General form common to all the Factoid Sets



Ordered Parameters

Conceptual level

1. Mixed logic streams
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Logic level

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Comparison

	Factoid Set 1	Factoid Set 2	Factoid Set 3	Factoid Set 4
Number of Logic Streams:	7	8	9	4
Number of Factoids per sub-solution:	5,5,5,9 (24)	5,11,8,10 (34)	10,8,14,4 (36)	5,7,6,4 (22)
Number of relationships:	25	25	27	17
Number of Factoids:	15	15	16	12

Comparison

	Factoid Set 1	Factoid Set 2	Factoid Set 3	Factoid Set 4
Logic Streams:	7	8	9	4
Factoids per sub-solution:	24	34	36	22
Number of relationships:	25	25	27	17
Number of Factoids:	15	15	16	12
TOTAL	71	82	88	55

Comparison

	Factoid Set 1	Factoid Set 2	Factoid Set 3	Factoid Set 4
Number of Logic Streams:	3	2	1	4
Number of Factoids per sub-solution:	3	2	1	4
Number of relationships:	2=	2=	1	4
Number of Factoids:	2=	2=	1	4
TOTAL	10	8	4	16

'Experience'

Why is 'distribution of Factoids' a parameter of difficulty?

Degree of difficulty involves the 'experimental set-up'.

- The environment you sit in when you do the exam can make it more difficult.
- Giving them a calculator can make it easier.

In the ELICIT experiments the 'information sharing' regimes act as the environment in which the problem is being solved.

When organising the distribution of the Factoids, difficulty can be altered using knowledge of the 'info sharing' regimes.

So – Distribution of factoids acts as an 'experience' factor and as such it directly affects the degree of difficulty in problem-solving.

Summary

- A measurement method can be developed for factoids.
- It measures the relative difficulty of problems.
- It is sensitive enough to be used to distinguish between the ELICIT Factoids
 - However, ELICIT in its current form can only deal with ‘tame’ problems.
- The experimental set-up is critical to deriving the difficulty of a problem.
 - And could be used to ‘skew’ the outcome.
- ELICIT could be used to examine different problem types, but the experimental set-up would have to be very different.
 - And some cosmetic changes would be required, eg graphic interface.