

Cognitive Modeling (2009-2010)

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1 Cogent

There is some online documentation for Cogent at <http://cogent.psyc.bbk.ac.uk/help/version2.3/>, although it's not as helpful as I would like and can be difficult to find the information you want, so I have pointed out a few things you might find useful below.

- Once you have defined a condition, it will appear in the `User-defined` section of the `Add Condition` menu and you can use it in other conditions and rules.
- To add multiple conditions inside the scope of a single qualifier, first add a single condition and its qualifier, then use the triangular button between the qualifier and the condition to open the drop-down menu and insert another condition inside the scope of the qualifier.
- If you want to send messages from a process to itself, you need to tick the `Recurrent` box in the properties tab of that process.
- When entering probabilities or other numbers between 0 and 1 into Cogent, make sure to include a leading 0 to avoid syntax errors (i.e., enter `0.5`, not `.5`).
- If you want to change the display precision (the number of digits shown to the right of the decimal place), click on the `Preferences...` menu in the `Research Programme Manager` window, then click on the `Miscellaneous` tab and change the number in the `Display precision` box.
- If you are having trouble debugging by just looking at the messages flowing to and from each component, it might help to use the `trace` qualifier, which can be added to any condition using the drop-down list to the left of the condition. This will print out (in the `Messages` view) the call that was generated by that condition and any return value, so you can see whether the variables are binding as you think they should.
- Cogent does not have a standard copy-paste feature (don't ask me why!). If you want to duplicate a rule or buffer element on the canvas, right-click on it and select `Duplicate`. You can also copy rules and conditions inside the rule editor by clicking on the triangular button to the left of the condition.

2 Screen shots

For some questions, you may want to take a screenshot of your model diagram or rules. One way is by using the program `xv`:

1. To start `xv`, just type `xv` from the command prompt in your DICE account; this will open the main `xv` window.
2. Right-click on the main window; this will open the control window.
3. Click on the `Grab` button in the control window; this will open a dialog box.
4. Click on the `Grab` button in the dialog box, and then use the middle mouse button to select part of the screen to grab. (Click the button at one corner of the rectangle you want, then drag it to the opposite corner, and release.) You should see the grabbed image in the main window.

5. You can save the image by clicking on the Save button in the control window and choosing a format (you'll probably want JPEG, unless you're using Latex, in which case you may want PostScript or PNG).