Introduction to Cognitive Science for Mathematical Scientists

Cognitive Science 050.313/613

Putting it all together

Problem Set 11-14

November 21, 2003

Due: Friday, December 5, 2003

No reading for last class, December 5, 2003.

Please write an essay of about 5 double-spaced pages on the following topic.

The first day of class we discussed the question, "if you were to go out and start a science of cognition, how would you go about it?" In light of what you've learned this term, answer that question again (you need not compare your current views to your initial ideas, although you may if you like). In addressing this question, try to make reference to a number of readings from the course, and try to include discussion of the following kinds of questions.

What kinds of phenomena must a theory of cognition explain?

What does "mind" refer to, and how is it related to the brain?

What are "connectionist computation" and "symbolic computation", and what are they good for in cognitive theory?

How are "connectionist networks" different from biological neural networks, and how do those differences relate to what connectionism is useful for in cognitive science?