

COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE IN HUMAN GROUPS

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Most of us are familiar with the idea of "general intelligence" in individuals, but no one has systematically examined whether a similar kind of "collective intelligence" exists for groups of people. In two studies with 192 groups, we find converging evidence of a general collective intelligence factor that explains a group's performance on a wide variety of tasks. This "c factor" is not strongly correlated with the average or maximum individual intelligence of group members, but is correlated with the average social sensitivity of group members, the equality in distribution of conversational turn-taking, and the proportion of females in the group. Ongoing research explores the relationship between collective intelligence and performance in a variety of environments, as well as the relationship between collective intelligence, diversity, and learning.