1 Exhaustive readings of embedded questions

- **Strong (SE)**: Only Mary and Alex danced.
- **Intermediate (IE)**: Mary and Alex danced + no false beliefs about others.
- **Weak (WE)**: Mary and Alex danced.

**Views in the literature**
- SE reading is hard coded in question semantics (Groenendijk & Stokhof 1984).
- SE reading is the only interpretation for questions embedded under know (Heim 1994).
- IE readings are available for question embedded under speech act verbs. (Klünenmeier & Rothschuld 2011).
- IE readings are available for questions embedded under know, SE is a pragmatic inference (Uegaki 2015).
- Experiments by Cremers & Chemla (2016) and Cremers et al. (2017): similar acceptance rate for SE and IE readings of questions embedded under know.

2 Research goal

Compare the “status” of the strong SE inference for the cognitive-factive verb wissen (know) and the speech act verb erzählen (tell) using a contradictions test.

- **SE inference**: (2) All knows who danced at the party. → All knows who didn’t dance the party.
- **Contradictions test**: (2) All knows who danced at the party, but he does not know who didn’t dance.
- **Sample items**: 4 items, 8 fillers per block (randomized).
- **Set-up**: Story about six female flatmates and their friend Jannick.
- **Different activities on a long weekend**: Four thematic blocks: games night, house renovation, Christmas party, funfair (randomized).

3 Method

- **Lab-experiment**: Participants had to judge whether the target sentences were contradictory (widersprüchlich) or non-contradictory (nicht widersprüchlich).
- **Design**: 2 verbs: wissen [tell], wissen [know]) x 2 (predicate: same, different).
- **24 items, 48 fillers**.

4 Results

- **49 participants (between age of 19 and 49, median: 23)**
- **no exclusions**
- **Test items**: “contradictory” judgments by condition

5 Discussion: wissen vs. erzählen

Wissen (know)
- High proportion of contradictory judgments suggest SE reading is the most prominent (for most people).
- The extent to which the SE inference is drawn is more in line with “classical” judgments from the literature than with experimental results by Cremers & Chemla (2016) and Cremers et al. (2017).
- Still, for some people IE interpretations are possible.

Erzählen (tell)
- Low proportion of SE inference is in line with most judgements from the literature.
- SE also seems possible, but less prominent.

6 Discussion: PARV

Observation by Theiler et al. (2018): internal vs. external knowledge ascriptions

(8) **Context**: All believes the exhaustive answer, but he is not aware that he knows the exhaustive answer.

(a) All knows who danced at the party.
(b) b. **RAI**: I know who danced at the party.

- **Theiler et al. stipulate two different lexical entries for know**.
- **Alternative approach to account for the SE reading** (Onea, p.c.):

(9) **Principle of attitude verification (PARV)**

In the lack of further evidence, assume that if the utterance “S has the attitude X” is true, it is in a state of mind that allows her to truthfully utter “I have the attitude X”.

- **PARV describes what we can prototypically assume in a situation in which a speaker utters a statement like (8a)**.
- **Accounts for default status of SE readings of questions embedded under know**.

References