



Emergence of Communication Systems

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My researchs

Complex systems and evolutionary perspective on language, communication and institutions

Origin and Evolution of Language

- How did language emerged?
- What is linguistic creativity?

Design of Social Institutions

- How can we design institutions for a better society?
- How do institutions emerge, change, maintained?

Dynamics of Communication

- Why is communication possible?
- How does communication realize co-creation?

We aim at establishing a society with fruitful and fertile minds, Through communications for sharing, coexistence, and co-creation, Based on the deep understandings of humans

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Outline

- Complex systems (my view)
 - Interaction and Dynamics
 - Evolution, self-organization, emergence
- Evolution/emergence of language/communication
 - Communication as complex systems
 - Language and communication
 - Language evolution
- Emergence of communication systems
 - Experimental study
 - Simulation analysis
 - Summary
- Summary

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Complex Systems

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Complex systems

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Causal structure

“Causal structure” = causality as a *mode of thinking*
Looking at entity as a series of causes and results

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In reality...

Many-to-many causality

Chain of causality

“For want of a nail, the kingdom was lost.”
“A butterfly flapping its wings in Beijing might change the weather in New York.”

Complex causation

Something of great importance may depend on an apparently trivial detail. The saying comes from a longer proverb about a battle during which the loss of a nail in a horseshoe leads to the loss of a horse, which leads to the loss of the rider, which leads to the loss of the battle, which in turn leads to the loss of a whole kingdom.

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Moreover...

Ex: Self-reproduction, Deflationary spiral
Result strengthens its cause (destabilize)

Positive feedback

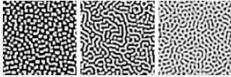

Fluctuation Cause Result Feedbacks Nonlinearity


Negative feedback
Result weakens its cause (stabilize)
Ex: Homeostasis, Thermostat

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Mixture of positive and negative feedbacks

- Emergence
- Ex: Pattern formation
 - Self-organization of spatial patterns from uniform or random state
- Ex: Turing pattern



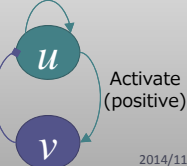
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = f(u, v) + D_u \Delta u$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = g(u, v) + D_v \Delta v$$

Activate (positive)

Inhibit (negative)

Activate (positive)



u : Activator, (Rapid diffusion)
v : Inhibitor, (Slow diffusion)

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Moreover...

Result strengthens its cause (destabilize)
 Ex: Self-reproduction, Deflationary spiral

Positive feedback

Fluctuation → Cause → Result

Result → Cause (+)


Result → Cause (-)

Negative feedback
 Result weakens its cause (stabilize)
 Ex: Homeostasis, Thermostat

Feedbacks
Nonlinearity

Emergence, maintain, and collapse of dynamic structure

Chaos Sensitivity to Initial Conditions



Ever changing,
Not fixed and periodic

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Complex systems


Chain of many-to-many causality

Mixture of negative and positive feedbacks

Nonlinearity

Fluctuations

- Openness
- Many bodies (many-to-many relationships)
- Diversity
- Autonomy
- Multi-scale
- Fractal structure
- ...
- ...



Complex systems

Emergence

Self-organization

Evolution

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Evolution/emergence of language/communication

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Communication from complex systems viewpoint

- Emergent global structure
- Historically/dynamically changes
 - Both occur through local interactions and bottom-up manner
- Coexistence of commonality and individuality
- Coexistence of stability and adaptability
- Ever-changing



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Symbol

	Form signifiant	Symbolic relation	Meaning signifié
English	cat	↔	
French	chat	↔	
Japanese	neko 猫	↔	
English	water	↔	
French	eau	↔	
Japanese	mizu 水	↔	
English	hot water	↔	
French	eau chaude	↔	
Japanese	yu 湯	↔	

Symbols

Emergent global structure through interactions

Change through interactions

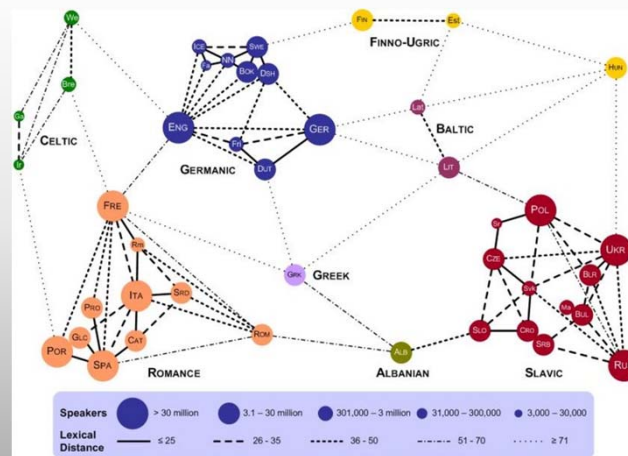
Both in forms and meanings

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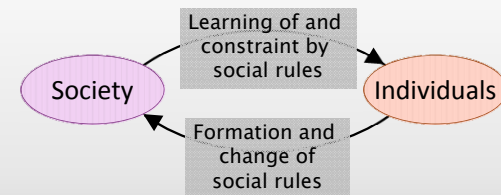
Lexical Distance Among the Languages of Europe



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<http://elms.wordpress.com/2008/03/04/lexical-distance-among-languages-of-europe/> 4/11/18

Rule dynamics



Symbolic relations are somehow shared and stable in a society.

Symbolic relations do not completely uniform and static.

This dynamic loop is always going on. Languages are ever-changing.

Coexistence of commonality and individuality
Coexistence of stability and adaptability

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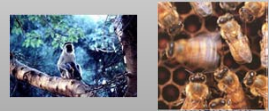
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Communication from Evolutionary Viewpoint

- Human communication
 - Both symbolic and non-symbolic
 - Meanings mostly depend on internal states
 - Send/Understand intentions
 - Displaced
 - Creation through communication
- Animal communication (Most living organisms do communication)
 - Mostly non-symbolic
 - Limited number of symbols indicating external objects and situations
 - Verbet monkey, Bee
 - Combination of symbols is rare, or static and innate

➔ **Language**
Unique to humans



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Three levels of communication

- Linguistic communication
- Symbolic, non-linguistic communication
- Non-symbolic communication

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Non-symbolic communication



If your face smile or you feel happy, it is a kind of non-symbolic communication.

Emotional Contagion *Automatic, unconscious, non-inferential*

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Symbolic, non-linguistic communication

- Some kind of behavior, styles, facial expressions
 - have particular meanings in some societies
 - play important roles in social interactions

Such symbolic social behavior in/around conversations is often used to understand intentions in communication.

Situation and flow of conversation, Paralinguistic information, Facial expression and attitude, Social status, Etc.

Paralinguistic features:
Aspects of verbal communication that are not involved in written words and modify lexical meanings of utterances.
Ex: Intonation, Prosody, Tone, pitch and volume of voice



↕
apology
thanks



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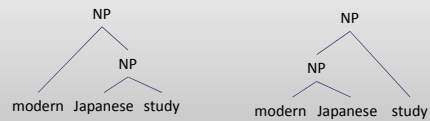
Linguistic communication

Communication using language

↓
Hierarchically structured symbol sequences

Not just a sequence of symbols
Meanings of a sequence depends on structure.

Ex: modern Japanese study



Ex: I watched a girl with a telescope.

Ambiguous, but both speaker and hearer can be creative

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Denotation + Connotation



(Frith, 1989)

In human symbolic communication

An utterance may have different meanings.

Denotation

Literal
Referential

Connotation

Intension
Inferred

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Conversation is dynamic



(Frith, 1989)

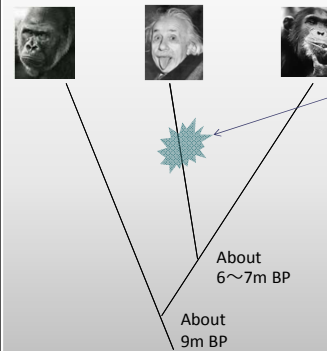
- Exchange of symbolic expressions between individuals + Sense-making within individuals
 - Subjective and independent (re)construction
- Communication ≠ (not just) Mutual understanding
 - Evoke different constructions, expressions, and mental activities → Further interactions, novel expressions and meanings
 - Chain process of generation and sharing (**daily creativity**)

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Language evolution



Human evolution

Origin of language

How, when and why did biological characters (**physical/cognitive capacities**) which make the human language possible evolve? (**biological evolution**)

Evolution of language

How, when, and why did the initial language **complexify** and **structuralize** into the present language? (**cultural evolution**)

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Darwinian evolution

- Frequency of species (genes) change to adapt to environment due to natural selection by environment
- Example: Finch's beak



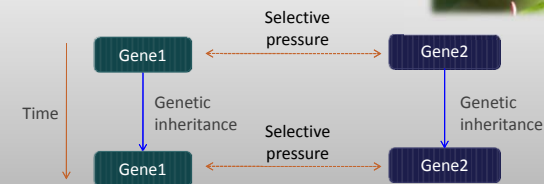
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Coevolution

- A process of biological evolution where plural species apply selective pressure with each other and affect their evolution (fitness) respectively
- Example: Flowers and insects



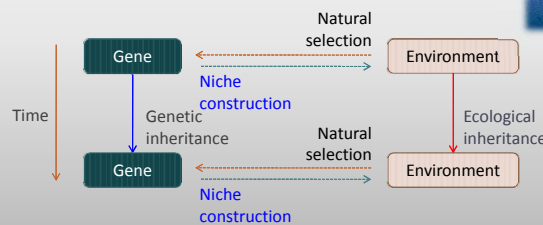
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Niche construction

- Living things make (change) their own environment
- The environment is sustained to some period (ecological inheritance) (Odling-Smee, et al, 2003)
- Example: Beaver's dam



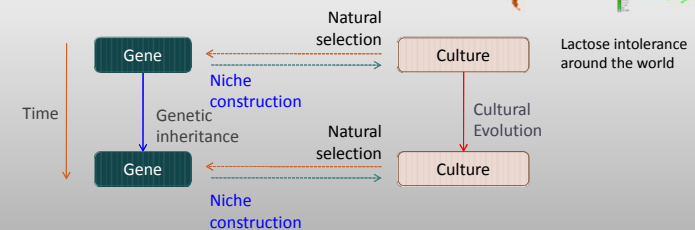
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Niche = Culture

- Humans make (change) their own culture.
- Culture is sustained to some period and changes with time through interactions.
- Culture may modify evolutionary environment.
- Example: Lactose intolerance



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Cultural evolution

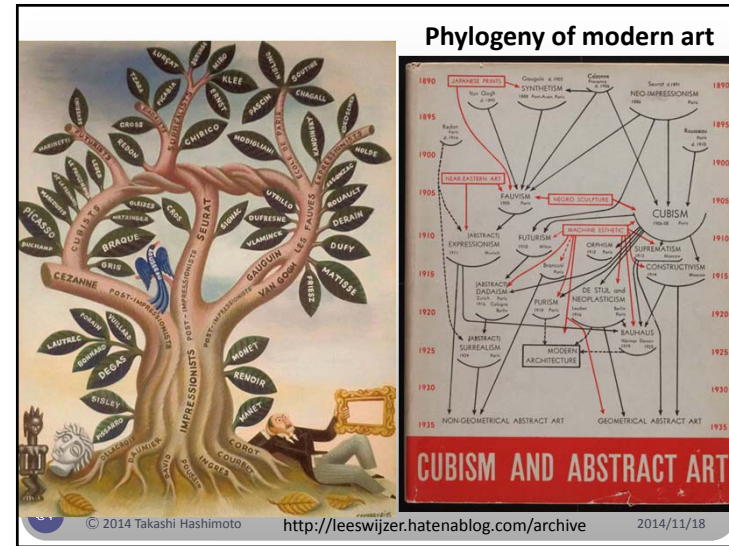
- Change of characters shared in a society through non-genetic transmission
 - Social learning such as imitation, instruction, and so on
 - Vertical + horizontal transmission



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Mechanism of cultural evolution

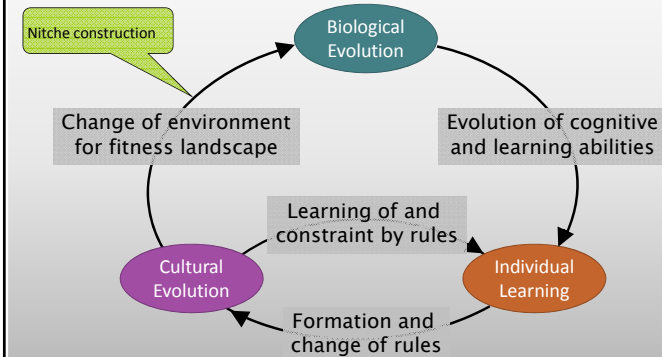
- Correspondence to three element of biological evolution
 - Variation → various types
 - Ex: Various product category (PC, car, hotel, and so on), Various items in a category
 - Ex: Various rituals (Festival, Funeral, Wedding, and so on)
 - It is controversial if source of variation is blind.
 - Inheritance → Transmission, Succession
 - Selection → Popularity, Easiness of transmission

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Double loop dynamics of language evolution



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Three adaptive changes

- Complex dynamics
 - Three adaptive dynamics with different spatio-temporal scales interact with each other
 - Biological evolution → genes
 - Individual learning → brain and nervous system
 - Cultural evolution → community of individuals
 - A selection environment where language users are selected is formed by other individuals in the population.
 - A selection environment where language is selected is formed by population of language users.
 - A process of language change = interaction between individuals and population

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Emergence of Communication Systems

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Formation of communication systems

- Communication systems play an important role behind the establishment of communication
 - Communication is **daily creative activity**
 - Generate new expressions, meanings, and intentions through communication
 - Can we **co-create symbolic communication systems from scratch?** (as well as the establishment of communication)
 - If yes, *how?*
 - processes, mechanisms, abilities
 - Critical to the origin and the evolution of language
 - = Formation of the basis of collaboration/knowledge co-creation
 - Investigate what occurs in forming communication systems, rather than just establishing communication

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Coordination problem



Coordination game (for dating)

	Beach	Mountain
Beach	1000,1000	0,0
Mountain	0,0	1000,1000

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Coordination problem

- You want to meet your partner at a room
- But you don't know partner's place
- Move one step (not diagonally)

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Coordination with messaging

- Using natural language
 - "I'm going to go the red room!"
 - "OK. Let's meet there."

Easy!
- Using meaningless figures
 - More difficult...*
 - Coordination of Communication code

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Coordination with messaging

- Use only meaningless figures to establish a communication code

Much more difficult ...!

Sharing situation and purpose is important

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An experiment for the formation of communication systems

An experimental paradigm for the formation of symbolic communication systems
without using existing media, such as natural language and gestures

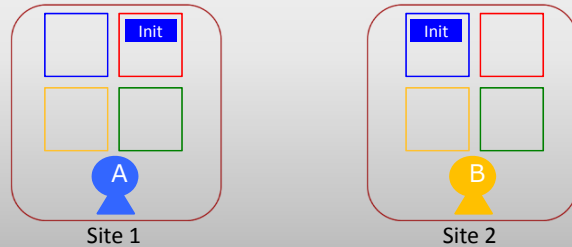
- Communication between two participants
- Two participants in different sites, unaware of the other's room, try to meet at a room = The common goal
- Sending messages

Based on (Galantucci, 2005)

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Task design

1. Initial rooms are **randomly** settled as not to the same room.
The partner's room is not disclosed.




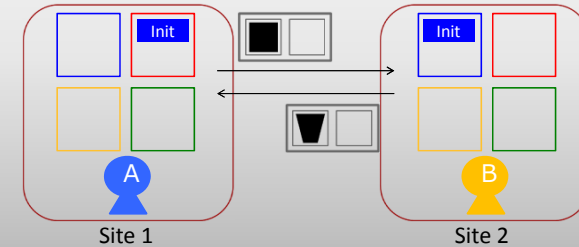
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Task design

2. Compose a message two **meaningless** figures from predefined set (six figures , and **send it** to the partner (any timing)



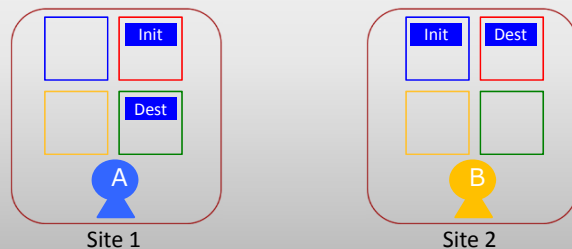
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Task design

3. **Move** one step or stay, diagonal moves are not allowed



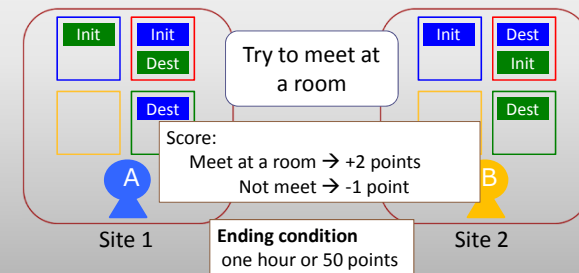
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Task design

4. Show results (message, movement),
Update score.
Go to the next round.



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Characteristics of this task

- Voluntary sense-making
 - We can consider the formation of symbol system
- Undefined meaning space
 - What is conveyed by messages (meaning of symbols) is not decided *a priori*.

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How do you play?

Please consider your strategy to get a good performance in this task.

How to make a communication code?
What meaning do you convey by sending messages?

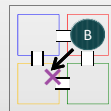
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Characteristics of this task

- Sharing a communication code (semantics and syntax, hereafter symbol system) is not enough to the full mark.
 - Due to inhibition of diagonal move.
 - If diagonal move is allowed, no communication is required to go to the same room.
- Non-synchronous messaging
 - Behavior other than symbols, such as timing, turn-taking, may have information



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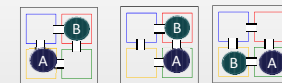
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Difficult situations

If each understands partner's position.

Always two possibilities in destinations
Although solvable by convention, three rules with priorities are needed.



If each understands partner's intending destination.

One play may not be able to go the destination.

Ex. A knows that B is going to the blue room,
But A cannot reach the room.



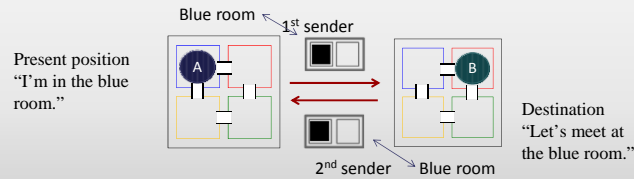
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Useful strategy

- Role division
 - The 1st sender sends the present position, the 2nd sender sends the destination



- The same message refers to a room (sharing the denotation (literal meaning))
 - 1st sender: **Intend** to decline the present position
 - 2nd sender: **Intend** to direct the destination

Need to agree connotations (intentions), in addition to denotations.

Denotation + Connotation



He understands the **denotation**.
Referential meanings of words
Literal meaning of message.

(Frith, 1989)

But he does not understand the **connotation**.
Intentional meanings of message.

Characteristics of this task (4 levels)

Chance levels

1. Random move : exp. of performance=2/9 (0.22)
2. Meet at a particular room: E=1/2 (0.5)
 - Establishment of conventional behavior (common ground, *pragmatics without messages*)
3. Send destination with each other: E=5/6 (0.83)
 - Establishment of sharing a symbol system (*semantics, syntax*)
4. 1st sender sends its present room, 2nd sender sends the destination both can reach.: E=1
 - Establishment of role-division (*pragmatics using messages*)

Communication system

= Pragmatics (nonlinguistic, linguistic)
+ Symbol system (communication code)

stable intentional communication
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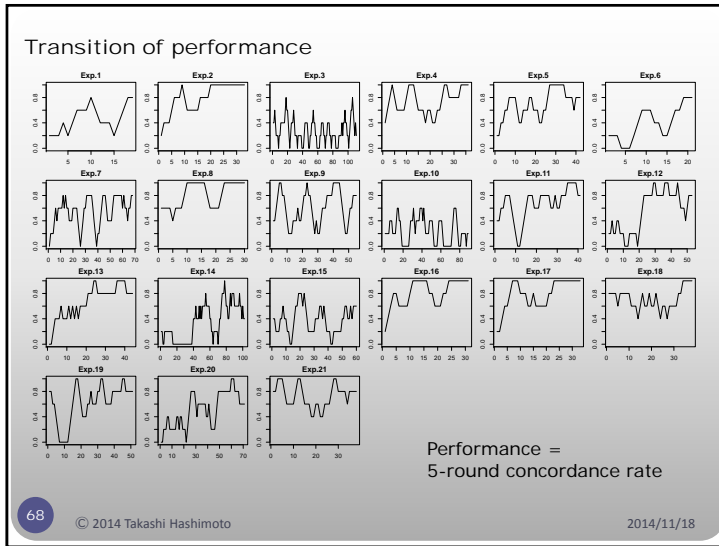
Purpose, Analysis

Purpose: Understand formation process and mechanism of symbolic communication systems

- Use figures as symbols
 - One message exchange per one round
 - One movement per one round
- We can analyze the meaning of messages and movements quantitatively.

A Site 1
B Site 2

Two groups
Within one hour
Attain 50 points → Success group
Not attain → Failure group

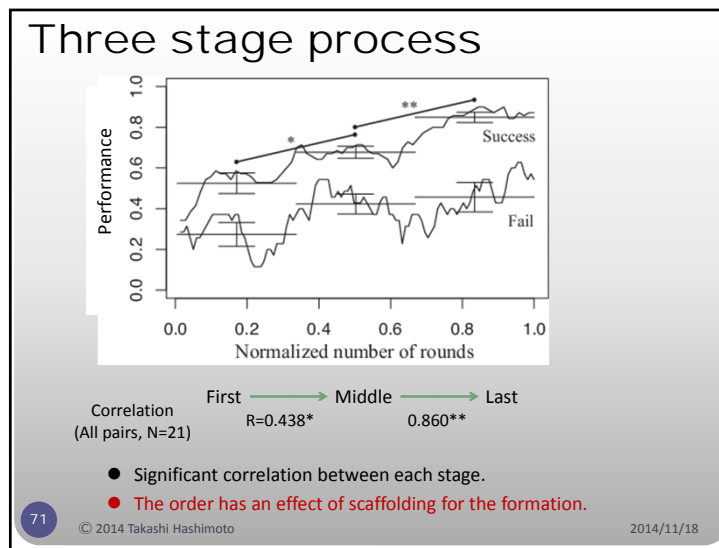
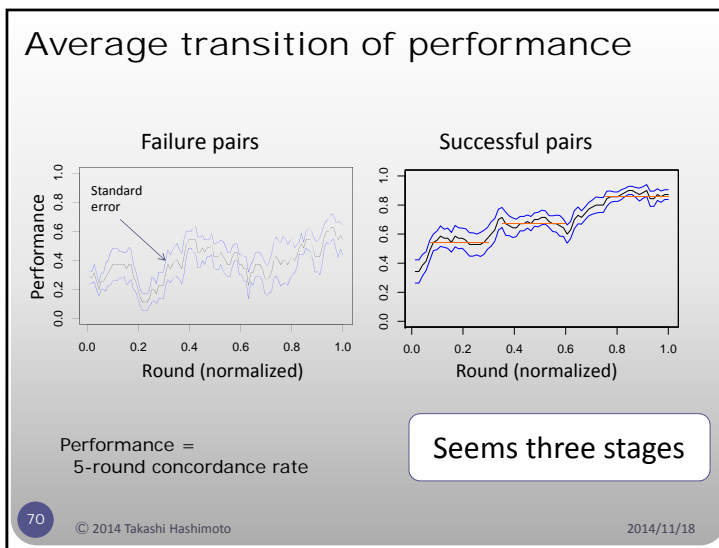


Three test tasks

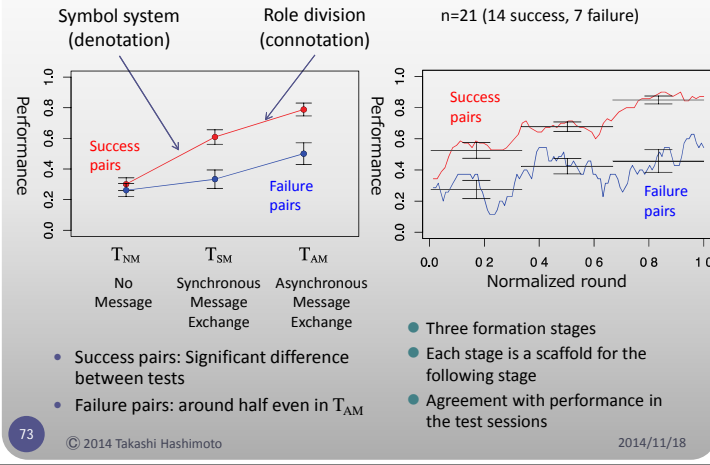
- Evaluate the performance of communication system formed
 - Test with no message (T_{NM})
 - Check **common ground** without symbol use
 - Test with synchronous message exchange (T_{SM})
 - No turn taking
 - Check **symbol systems** shared
 - Test with asynchronous message exchange (T_{AM})
 - same as the game
 - Check **role division**
- Each played 12 rounds

- What we know from the differences
 - 2-1: The degree of contribution of **symbol use**
 - 3-2: The degree of contribution of **turn-taking** in communication system

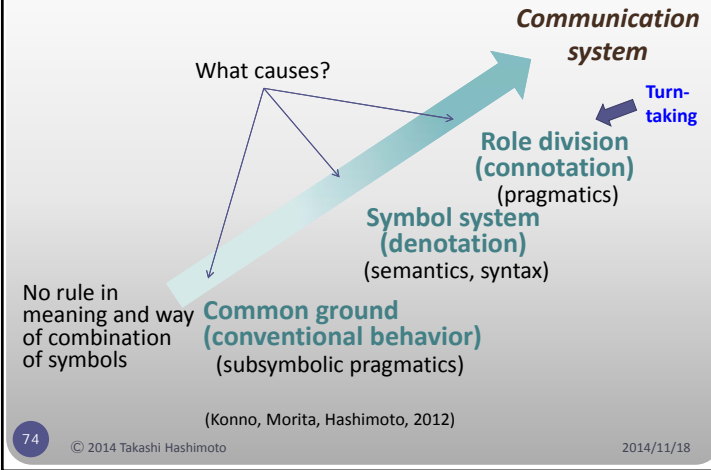
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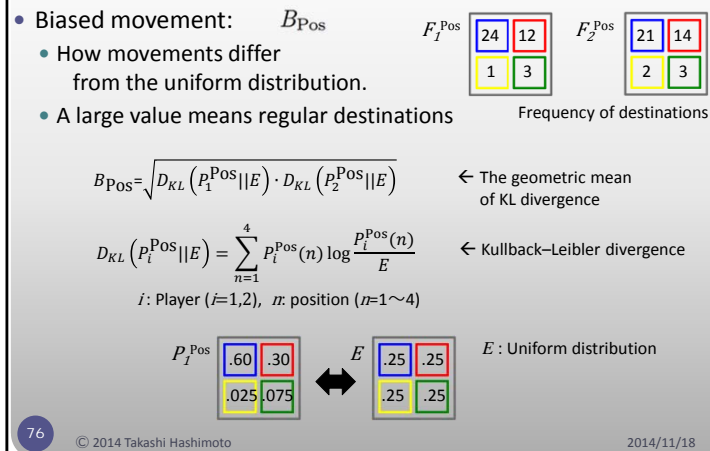
Test and trial sessions



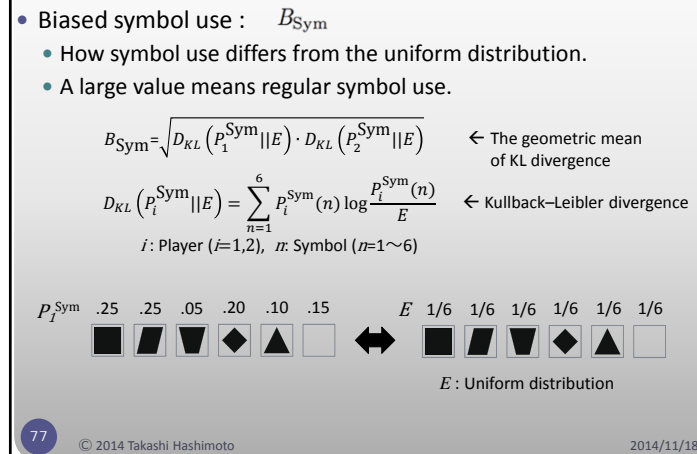
Formation of communication system



Index for behavioral tendency(1)



Index for behavioral tendency(2)



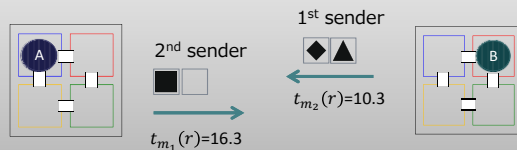
Index for behavioral tendency(3)

- Time difference of message exchange: TD_{Mes}
 - Small value means smooth message exchange.

$$TD_{Mes} = \frac{1}{N_r} \sum_{r=1}^{N_r} |t_{m_1}(r) - t_{m_2}(r)|$$

r : Round ($r=1 \sim N_r$), N_r : Final round (depends on pairs)

$t_{m_i}(r)$: Timing of sending message of the i th sender at the r th round



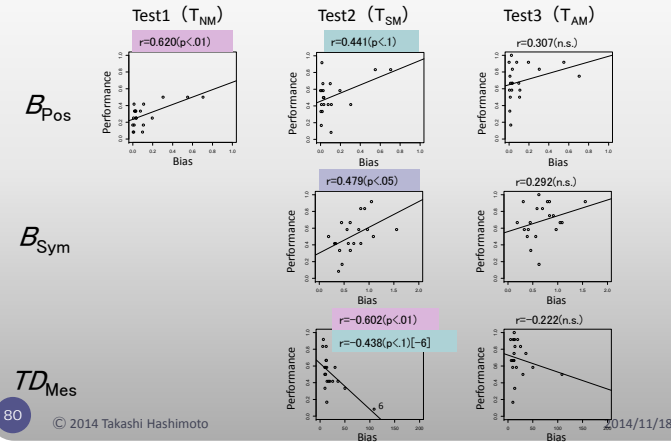
Note that 1st and 2nd senders are not fixed and do not the same as 1st and 2nd players. (A, B)

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Correlation analysis

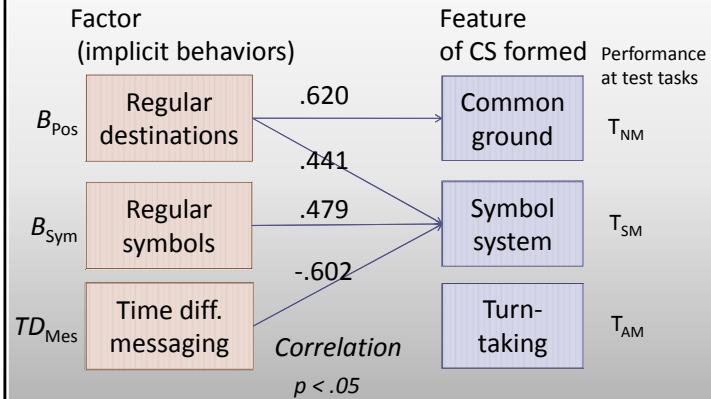


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Factors for the formation of CS



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Correlation with performance

	Performance		
	Initial 12 rounds	Middle 12 rounds	Last 12 rounds
B_{Pos} Regular destinations (At initial 12 rounds)	0.49**	0.10	0.29
B_{Sym} Regular symbol use (At initial 12 rounds)	0.43^	0.47*	0.36

^ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

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Results (Behavioral indices)

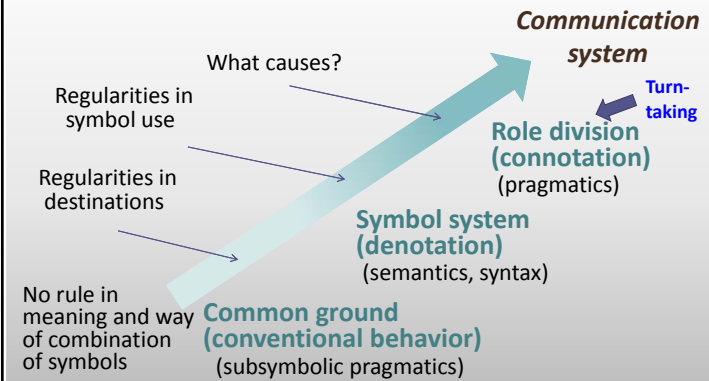
- Correlations between the test performances and the trial sessions
 - Behavioral regularities provide the scaffold for building a communication system.
 - They does not contribute to establish the temporal structure (turn-taking).
- Correlations between behavioral indices at the initial stage and performances at three stages
 - Regular destinations contribute to form common ground.
 - Regular symbol use contributes to form symbol system.
 - They do not contribute to form role division.

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Formation of communication system



(Konno, Morita, Hashimoto, 2012)

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Analysis of symbol systems

We tried to analyze symbol systems that participants made.

Ambiguity

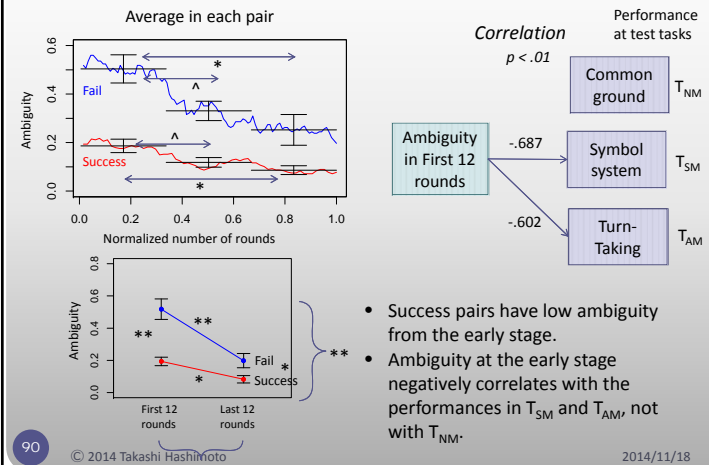
Similarity

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Ambiguity in symbol use



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- Success pairs have low ambiguity from the early stage.
- Ambiguity at the early stage negatively correlates with the performances in T_{SM} and T_{AM} , not with T_{NM} .

Correlation with performance

	Performance		
	Initial 12 rounds	Middle 12 rounds	Last 12 rounds
Ambiguity at initial 12 rounds	-0.61**	-0.59**	-0.79**
Similarity at initial 12 rounds	-0.08	0.11	0.26
Similarity at middle 12 rounds	0.17	0.56*	0.61**

* p<0.05, ** p<0.01

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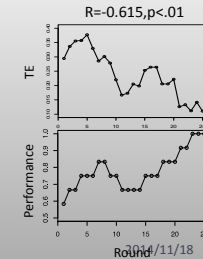
Transfer Entropy

- An effective measure of the one-way information dependence (*information flow*) between two variables (jointly distributed stochastic processes)

$$T_{I \rightarrow J} = \sum_{y_{n+1}, x_n, y_n} p(y_{n+1}, x_n, y_n) \log \left(\frac{p(y_{n+1} | x_n, y_n)}{p(y_{n+1} | y_n)} \right)$$

- Ex:

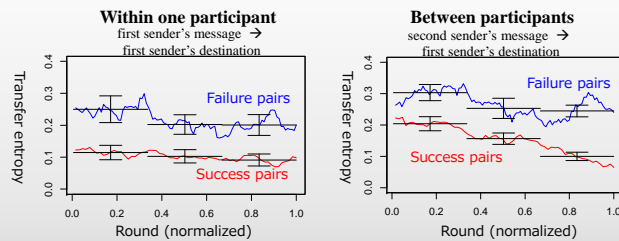
- I: 1st sender's message
- J: 2nd sender's destination



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Transition of transfer entropy



Success pairs

- Consistent behavior from the beginning of the experiment. (The correspondence between the messages and movements of within one participant)
- Make the information flow between a pair of participants ordered (i.e., certain and predictable),
- They were able to incorporate their partners' behavior adequately.
- awareness of the other

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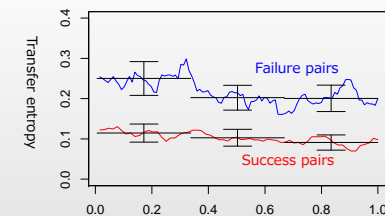
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Transition of transfer entropy

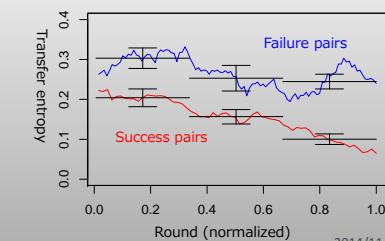
Within one participant

- first sender's message → first sender's destination



Between participants

- second sender's message → first sender's destination



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Results (Transfer entropy)

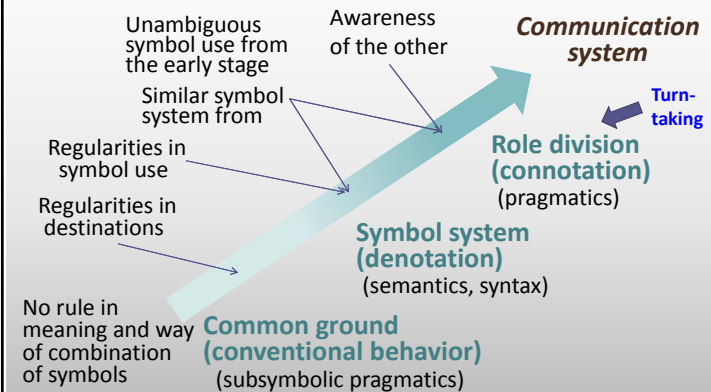
- Success pairs show low transfer entropy within one individuals from the beginning.
 - That of fail pairs is not at low level and does not decrease.
 - Success pairs behave consistently from the beginning of the experiment. (The correspondence between the messages and movements of within one participant)
- Success pairs reduce the transfer entropies across individuals in each pair.
 - Fail pairs do not reduce.
 - Make the information flow between a pair of participants ordered (i.e., certain and predictable)

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Formation of communication system



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(Konno, Morita, Hashimoto, 2012)

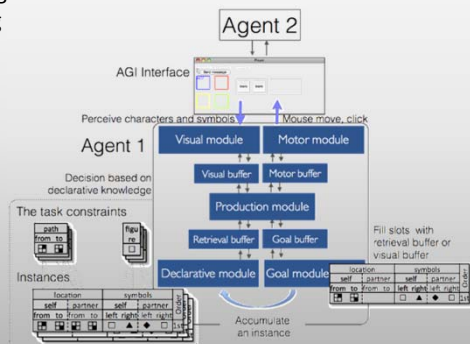
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Simulation with ACT-R

Simulating the behavior of players of the coordination game with message exchanging

The role-reversal imitation strategy is implemented and analyzed

The roles of an agent and his/her partner are reversed in learning (Tomasello, 1999)



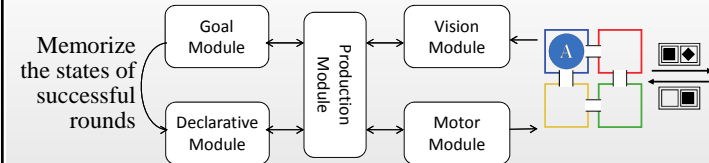
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(Morita, Konno, Hashimoto, 2012)

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Modeling with ACT-R



Which **internal mechanism** can make communication systems and solve the coordination task?

Instance-Based

the use of one's own decisions

Role reversal imitation

the use of the partner's decisions by reversing roles in addition to the first strategy

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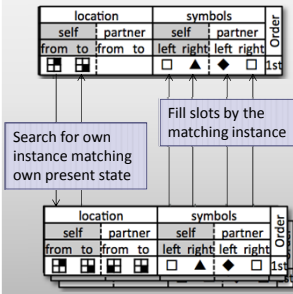
(Morita, Konno, Hashimoto, 2012)

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Use of memory for decision

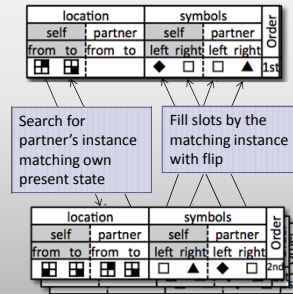
Instance-Based

Use instances directly



Role reversal imitation

Use instances by imitation



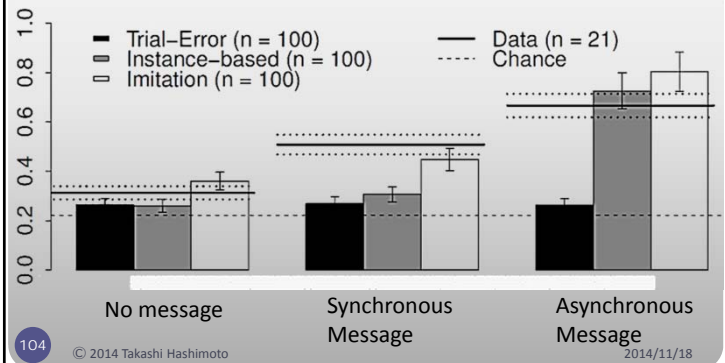
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Comparison in test performance

Performance

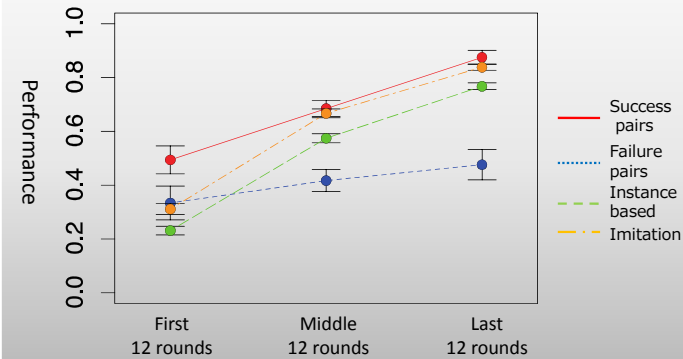


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Comparison in performance



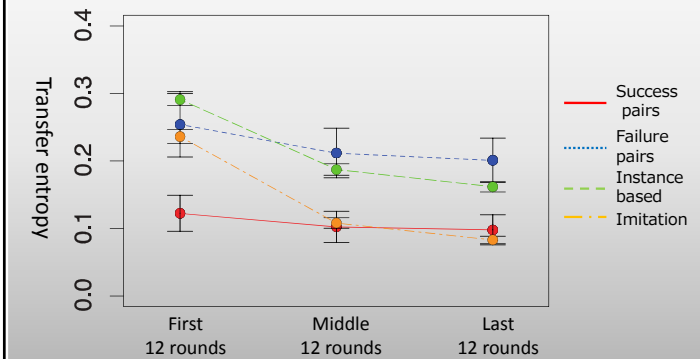
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Comparison in TE

Within one participant

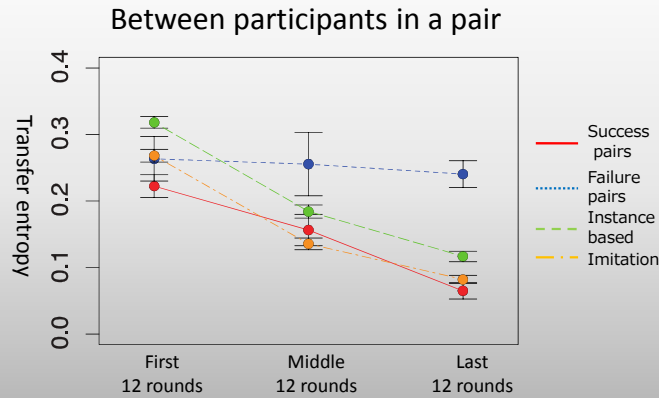


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Comparison in TE

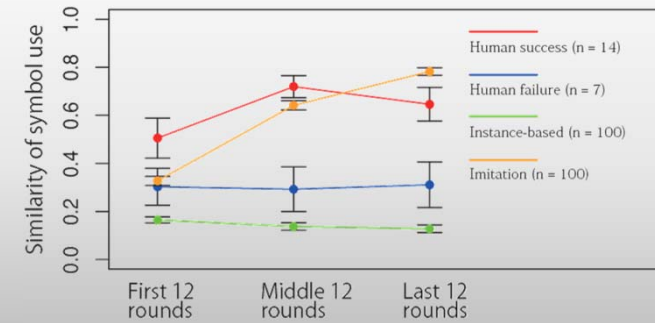


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Comparison in similarity of symbol systems



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Result

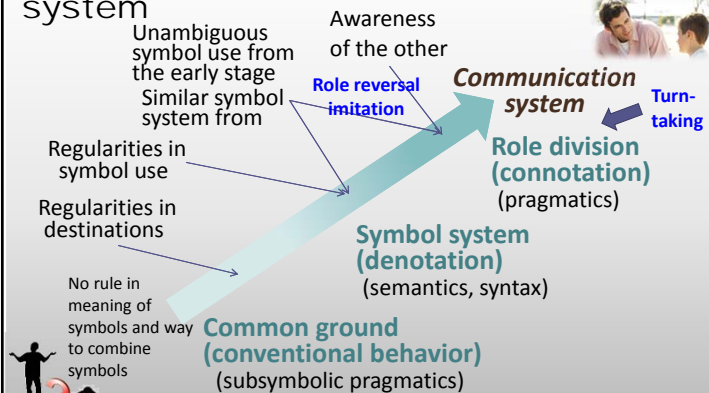
- The **imitation strategy** is more similar to the success pairs than the instance-based.
- **Imitation mechanism** may be effective to form communication systems
- The imitation strategy is not similar to the success pairs in initial period
 - Simulation models do not have bias.
- The similarity of the imitation strategy overshoots that of success pairs.
 - Humans have a different mechanism to realize role division?

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Emergent process of communication system



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Summary

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Complex systems

Putting importance on
Interaction and Dynamics

Complex causation	➔	Evolution
Mixture of feedbacks		Self-organization
Nonlinearity		Emergence
Fluctuations		

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Evolution/emergence of language/communication

Communication as complex systems

Emergent global structure through interactions Change through interactions ← *Rule dynamics*

Human linguistic communication

Linguistic communication	} →	<i>Hierarchical structure</i>
Symbolic, non-linguistic communication		
Non-symbolic communication		

↓ *Intentional*

Language evolution Co-creative communication

Complex interactions among different dynamics such as Biological evolution, individual learning, cultural evolution

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Emergence of communication systems

Process: three stages	Mechanisms
1. building common ground (sub-symbolic pragmatics)	← Regularity in behavior
2. sharing a symbol system (semantics and syntax)	← Regularity in symbol use
3. forming a role division using turn-taking (pragmatics).	← Unambiguous symbol use
<i>connotations</i> (intentional meanings)	← Similar symbol system from
A remarkable feature of human communication	↑ <i>Role reversal imitation</i>

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