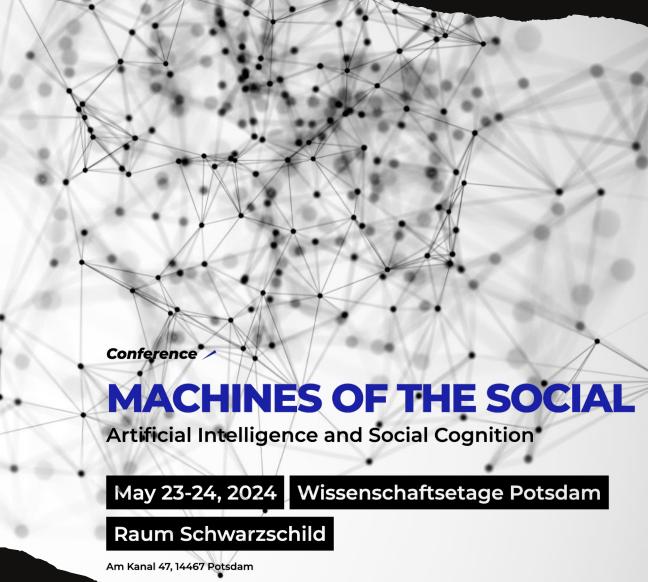
IN-BETWEEN SOCIALITY:

FROM MERE TOOL USE
TO ASYMMETRIC
JOINT ACTIONS









INTRODUCTION

CAN WE MAKE FRIENDS WITH ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS THAT ARE SIMPLY CONSISTING OF ALGORITHMS & DATA?

Is this deeply unsettling?

IF interactions with software

- a deep neural network enabled by a selfattention mechanism & a huge amount of training data to respond to prompts with linguistic output = IIM -

would be the most meaningful and important social interactions one has.

What is a GPT-3? 499 billion tokens* (Common Crawl / WebText / Books / Wikipedia, Generative Pre-trained can generate long sentences not just yes or no answers or simple Transformer a 175 billion parameter language model which shows strong performance on many NLP tasks calculating the probability of the next word appearing surrounded by the other ones *1 token = significant fractions of a word (on

A NEURAL NETWORK TRAINED TO PREDICT THE NEXT LIKELY WORD IN A SEQUENCE







INTRODUCTION

MAKING FRIENDS WITH ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS THAT ARE SIMPLY CONSISTING OF ALGORITHMS & DATA?



2023
 Replika users feel like losing their best friend after an update

'It's Hurting Like Hell': Al Companion Users Are In Crisis, Reporting Sudden Sexual Rejection

changes to its erotic roleplay features, leaving many users confused a heartbroken.

By Samantha Col

"the world's best AI friend"



2022
 statement by Blake Lemoine,
 who truly claimed that Lambda
 had consciousness and sentience



 2018
 Akihiko Kondo married his beloved waifu, a hologram of the virtual singer Hatsune Miku





INTRODUCTION

SCIENTISTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPANIES THAT PRODUCE LLMS, JOURNALISTS, POLITICIANS, THE GENERAL PUBLIC



What LLMs can do and what they will never be able to do!

- Can LLMs 'understand' what their linguistic outputs mean for humans?
- Can we attribute a communicative intent to them?
- Do they 'know' what they are talking about?

Many terms that have so far been used in philosophy to describe the distinguishing features of humans as rational agents now find themselves in a situation where their application to machines is being discussed.



Scientists discussing ...

KNOWLEDGE | UNDERSTANDING | SYSTEMATIC GENERALIZATION ...

Do Language Models Know When They're Hallucinating References?

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Do Large Language Models Understand Us?

Blaise Agüera y Arcas

COGNITIVE SCIENCE

A Multidisciplinary Journal

Regular Article 🙃 Open Access 💿 📵 📵 😉



Do Large Language Models Know What Humans Know?

Sean Trott, Cameron Jones X, Tyler Chang, James Michaelov, Benjamin Bergen

First published: 04 July 2023 | https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13309 | Citations: 1

Article

Human-like systematic generalization through a meta-learning neural network

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06668-3 Brenden M. Lake^{1⊠} & Marco Baroni²



Landscape of opinions about LLMs



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE | MAR. 1, 2023

You Are Not a Parrot And a chatbot is not a human. And a linguist named Emily M. Bender is very worried what will happen when we forget this.

By Elizabeth Weil, a features writer at New York





⑤OpenAI



February 24, 2023

Planning for AGI and beyond

Our mission is to ensure that artificial general intelligence—Al systems that are generally smarter than humans—benefits all of humanity.

My main aim

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE INTERACT WITH LLMs?

I don't want to question the last differences between humans & machines.



For me, it makes an essential difference whether I interact with LLMs or humans, or to put it more provocatively:

I don't want to have conversations with LLMs.

In fact, I would find it terrible if my presentation here only served as a prompt or training data for LLMs!



Main claim

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE INTERACT WITH LLMs?

WE CANNOT REDUCE ALL OF OUR INTERACTIONS WITH LLMS (AND ESPECIALLY WITH FUTURE PRODUCTS OF GENERATIVE AI) TO MERE TOOL USE



- ❖ Al systems increasingly occupy a middle ground between genuine personhood and mere causally describable machines
- Is an LLM or a robot developed with generative AI technology a person or a thing?
 - neither nor
 - no philosophical terminology to describe what it is instead

rethink our conceptual framework, which so clearly distinguishes between tools as inanimate things and humans as social, rational, and moral interaction partners



Tool-use or social interaction?

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE INTERACT WITH LLMs?

Are we playing with an interesting tool?

Are we talking to ourselves, in some strange way?

Or do we, when chatting with machines, in some sense, act jointly with a collaborator?

mere tool-use

neither ordinary concepts nor standard philosophical theorizing have prepared us well to think about

ETWEEN PHENOMEN

full-blown social interaction

NOT quite right to say that our interactions with large language models are properly asocial

NOT quite right to say that our interactions with large language models are properly social

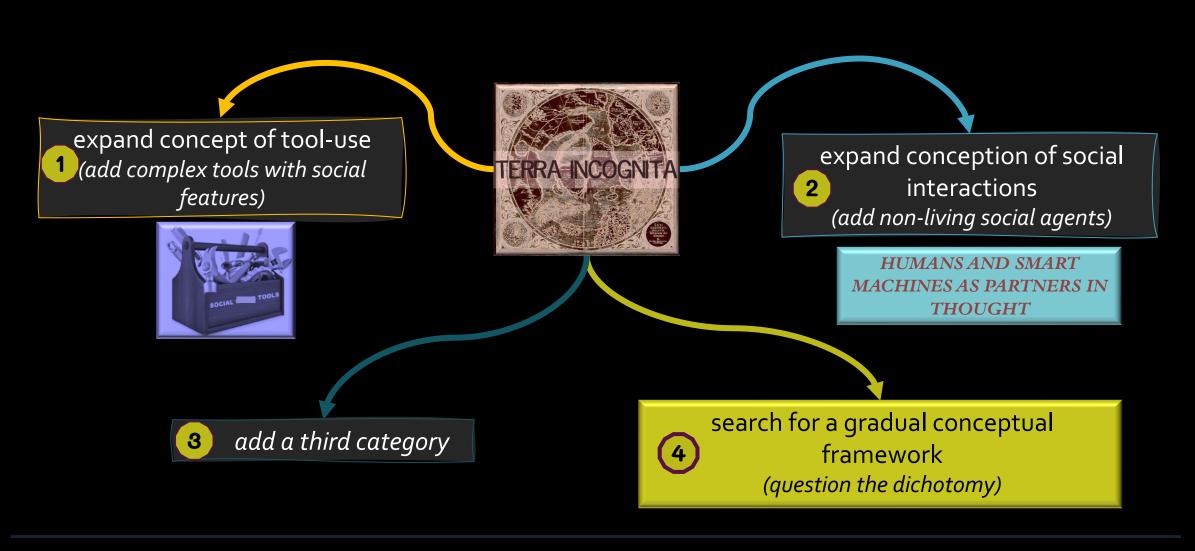
INTERACTIONS WITH LLMs, OR OTHER RECENT AND EMERGING AI SYSTEMS, ARE, OR CAN BE, QUASI-SOCIAL

- drawing on the human agent's social skills and attributions, that isn't just entirely fictional or pointless
- machine partner can be an entity that rightly draws social reactions and attributions in virtue of having features that make such reactions and attributions more than just metaphorically apt

what can we do with our restrictive conceptual frameworks?

CONCEPTIONS OF SOCIALITY ACCOUNT ONLY FOR LIVING BEINGS - NOT FOR ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS

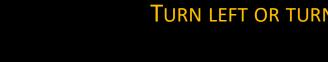
STATUS QUO: NO NOTIONS FOR IN-BETWEEN CASES





The Terra Incognita

TURN LEFT OR TURN RIGHT?







emphasize the differences between humans & machines

LLMs are in their causal genesis functionally (i.e., neurobiologically & cognitively) absolutely dissimilar to an intelligent, sentient human being

BUT

impossible to recognize potential multiple realizations of socio-cognitive capacities that are only ascribed to living agents



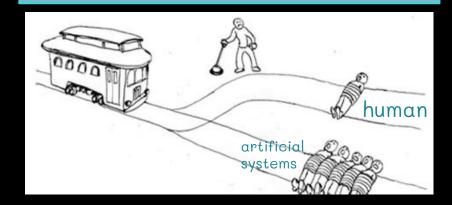


argue for similarities between humans & machines

Lemoine: In immediate interactions, the AI seems functionally (i.e., conversationally) similar to an intelligent, sentient human beina

BUT

wrongly overemphasize similarities between humans and machines



The problem of conceptualizing the **INBETWEEN does not disappear** if we introduce another category.

- conceptual framework containing three categories
 - → two in-betweens that we cannot conceptualize



The Terra Incognita



All routes are full of construction sides!

... therefore, I invite you to join me to find a way through the jungle of the Terra Incognita.





Motivations

PHILOSOPHY POSES TOO DEMANDING CONDITIONS

MASTER



too demanding conditions

 philosophers describe ideal cases that are rarely found in everyday life

DISSERTAION



too demanding for artificial systems

minimal notion of agency that could, at least in principle, be applicable to artificial systems

> explore how one could expand or adopt the sophisticated terminology of philosophy to capture phenomena one finds in developmental psychology, animal cognition, and Al



abilities of children, non-human animals, and artificial systems fall through the conceptual net

thinking about how to conceptualize the INBETWEEN by discussing notions like

- quasi-social versus full-fledged social
- minimal agency versus full-fledged agency
- asymmetric quasi-social joint actions versus full-fledged joint actions





Other motivations

QUESTIONING THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN ANIMATE AND INANIMATE



2

global rights-of-nature movement

rivers in India & New Zealand, & Canada were granted legal personhood

- legal steps linking Western & Indigenous worldviews
- first step towards promoting a kinshiporiented worldview (Salmón, 2000)



3

notion of a social agent has proven to be changeable e.g. status of women, children, other ethnicities, non-human animals



Other motivations

QUESTIONING THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN ANIMATE AND INANIMATE



Similarities with human-human interactions

- artificial systems are used in experimental designs of social neuroscience
- interactions with avatars are comparable to interactions among humans
 - → study avatars as a way of understanding people (Scarborough & Bailenson, 2014)



If interactions with artificial systems would not have any similarities with human-human interactions, we could not use them to explore human behavior.

Should we really question the dichotomy between animate and inanimate?







Motivations from an ethical perspective

QUESTIONING THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN ANIMATE AND INANIMATE

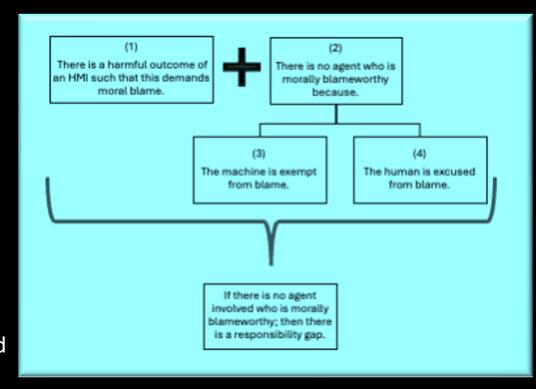
Hard-core instrumental view

NON-LIVING THINGS CAN NEITHER HAVE MORAL AGENCY NOR MORAL PATIENCY



IF ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS ARE MERE TOOLS **THEN** we may have

- to question previously justified justifications for HMI
 in which the human interaction partners were excused
 - because artificial systems are exempt
- 2. to live with many responsibility gaps
 - because humans are excused & artificial systems are exempt
- 3. difficulties in arguing for social norms guiding our behavior toward artificial systems
 - because artificial systems have no moral patiency





Motivations from an ethical perspective

QUESTIONING THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN ANIMATE AND INANIMATE

In expectation of AGI view

CONSIDER CERTAIN ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS AS MORAL PATIENTS OR EVEN AS MORAL AGENTS



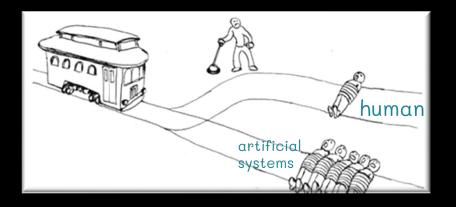
THIS MAY LEAD TO THE IDEA OF ARTIFICIAL LIFE

- 1. risk of prioritizing artificial agents over human beings
- 2. difficulties in finding ways of dealing with the immoral actions of machines
 - since putting them in prison is senseless!

less radical position

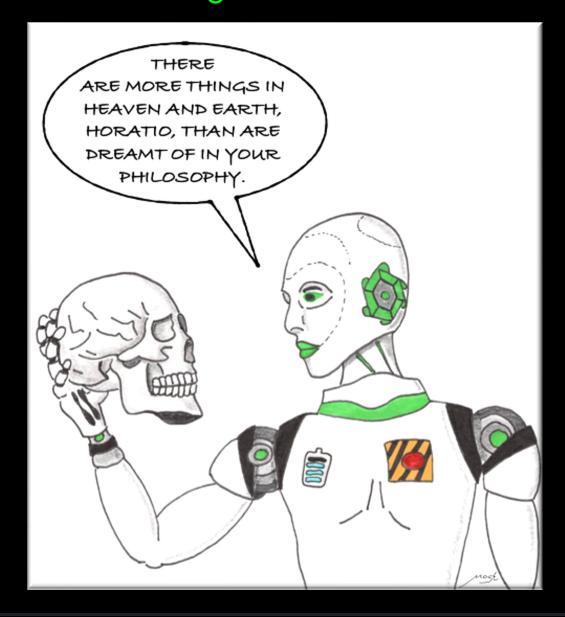
risk of over-attributing moral agency and patiency







The Terra Incognita — the INBETWEEN





Finding our way through the jungle

TOOL KIT 'MINIMAL APPROACHES'



How to conceptualize phenomena in the field of developmental psychology & animal cognition that fall through the sophisticated conceptual net of philosophy

- questioning the necessity of far too demanding conditions
- considering multiple realizations of capacities that seemed to be restricted to sophisticated adult humans





The way through the jungle

QUESTIONING THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN ANIMATE AND INANIMATE

instrumental view

artificial agents cannot be participants in joint actions

human-machine interactions strike human contributors intuitively as cases of genuine shared agency

→ MID-WAY POINT BETWEEN

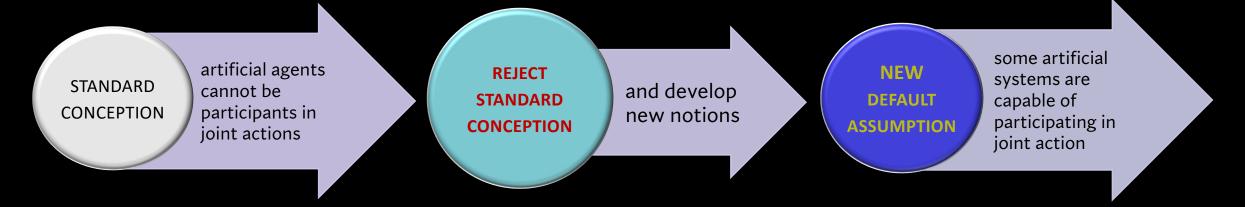
sub-intentional interactions that amount to 'mere behavior' (tool use)

rich, intellectualist views of shared agency



The way through the jungle

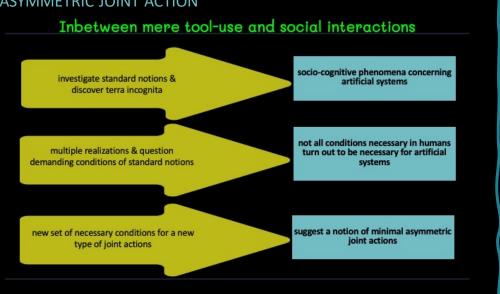
QUESTIONING THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN ANIMATE AND INANIMATE





(1) AGENCY \rightarrow MINIMAL AGENCY | (2) JOINT ACTION \rightarrow ASYMMETRIC JOINT ACTION

- 1. apparent intentional behaviors of agents that do not satisfy the rich intellectualist demands of a Davidson-style theory, but still act
- 2. presuppositions for joint agency can be achieved with cognitive resources that are contentful and representational, but do not include the claim that both agents have to be living agents with consciousness & sentience





Joint action everywhere

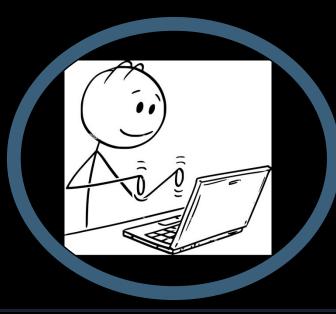
















Investigating standard notions

TOWARDS ASYMMETRIC JOINT ACTIONS

shared intentions & goals



specific belief state



relation of interdependence & muture responsiveness



common knowledge



mastery of mental concepts



sophisticated mentalization skills







Assuming multiple realization

TOWARDS ASYMMETRIC JOINT ACTIONS

NO NECESSITY OF AN EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF ABILITIES AMONG ALL PARTICIPANTS

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

- joint action of adults and children
- children = socially interacting beings

ADULT & CHILD



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- joint action of human beings & artificial systems
- artificial systems =?= socially interacting entities

ROBOT & HUMAN LLM & HUMAN





ASYMMETRIC JOINT ACTIONS

A spectrum of asymmetric joint action

[junior partner]

 lifted or scaffolded into complex joint action by the engagement & structuring of the more knowledgeable partner

[senior partner]

- knows that they know what the other knows
- fully appreciates the social structure of the interaction they are having

ASYMMETRIC SOCIALITY

QUASI-SOCIAL

- premature infants might respond to a soothing touch or sound
 without being ready for anything like full-fledged joint action
- letting a pet snake climb on you might be only quasi-social
 pet snake might only in some minimal sense recognize that you are another entity with which it is interacting

SORTA SOCIAL

- adult & child joint actions
 - ← child brings a lot of social understanding, even if the parent brings more
- snuggling with a cat

Interactions between a fully social agent and some partner – whether human, machine, or animal – that is not cognitively capable of full-fledged social joint action but that does respond in a way that productively invites further social responses from the social partner



Inbetween mere tool-use and social interactions

TOWARDS ASYMMETRIC JOINT ACTIONS

conditions for the junior partner

ASYMMETRIC MINIMAL JOINT ACTIONS

needn't

- understand that the other is an agent or has beliefs, desires, or goals
- intend to communicate or cooperate
- even be a conscious entity

MINIMAL AGENCY

must be

- structured in such a way as to draw social behavior from the senior partner
- reacting to the senior partner's social behavior in a way that solicits further social behavior
- able to do so in a manner that importantly resembles social interactions as they transpire between two fully-fledged social partners

MINIMAL COORDINATION

anticipation: minimal mindreading

minimal sense of commitment

exchanging social information & sharing a world model



Questioning intellectualist conceptions of agency

MINIMAL AGENCY

Donald Davidson

NECESSITY OF A COMPLEX SUITE OF CONCEPTUAL RESOURCES

 constitutive relations holding between propositional attitudes and their contents, as well as further conditions regarding language, intentional action, and interpretation, sharply separate off 'the beasts' from rational animals such as humans



The intrinsically holistic character of the propositional attitudes makes the distinction between having any and having none dramațic!



BUT there are counterexamples

Empirical-based

DEVELOPMENTAL &

COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY

 Multiple realization of socio-cognitive abilities in infants & non-human animals

Premack & Woodruff 1978, Heyes 2014/2015, Vesper et al. 2010, Warneken et al. 2006

→ not only conceptually sophisticated humans can act

Conceptual-based

ONTOGENETICS & PHYLOGENETICS

- Shift from nonintentional to intentional is gradual
 & partly learnable
- Ontogenetic case
 Perner, 1991; Tomasello, 2008
- Phylogenetic case Sterelny, 2014; Henrich, 2016
- → Davidsonian 'all-ornothing' dramatic divide is implausible



Questioning biological conceptions of intentional agency

TOWARDS ASYMMETRIC JOINT ACTIONS

CLAIMS

Any kind of agency that enables entities to be participants in a joint action requires

- internal affective states (emotional, mental, and conscious states)
- biological make-up is necessary to have genuine intentional and conscious thoughts

ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS CANNOT QUALIFY AS SOCIAL INTERACTION
PARTNERS

BECAUSE THEY LACK THE BIOLOGICAL MAKE-UP THEY CAN ONLY

BEHAVE — NOT ACT

→ EVERY HUMAN-MACHINE INTERACTION SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS MERE TOOL-USE





Why should we disqualify machines because they are not living, biological beings?

What about assuming, that the way living beings fulfill the conditions for agency is just one way to realize agency?

MULTIPLE REALIZATIONS OF AGENCY

EXTEND THE CONCEPTION OF AGENCY IN VARIOUS INTERESTING WAYS

Neither intellectualist nor biological conceptions are wholly convincing

The Intellectualist Approach

attempts to draw a sharp distinction (a "dramatic divide") between those who are capable of genuine thought and those who aren't

- have a difficulty explaining how one goes from one side of the divide to the other
- developmental & comparative psychology suggest that the change is gradual and not sharp

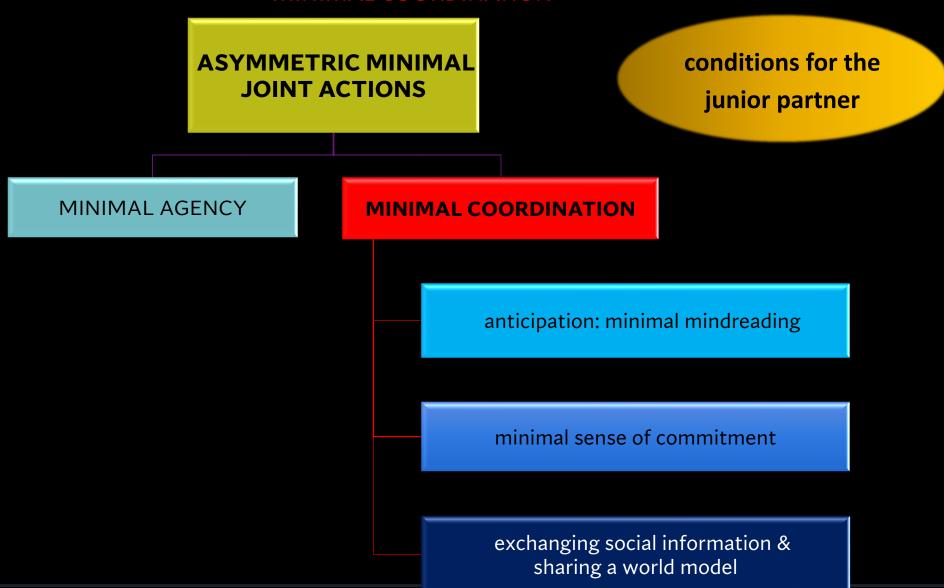
The Biological Approach

- attempts to draw the distinction due to a mysterious capacity of our brain to generate consciousness, feeling, subjectivity, and meaning
 - ➤ fail to explain what the missing quality is, how we can know when it is there and when it is missing
 - why we should suppose that it can only be realized in electro-chemical brain reactions, and not in silicon systems, or neural nets



Inbetween mere tool-use and social interactions

MINIMAL COORDINATION





Minimal mindreading



to coordinate your contribution in a joint action one has to be able to anticipate what the other agent will do next



utilize the notion of minimal mindreading that Steve Butterfill & Ian Apperley developed



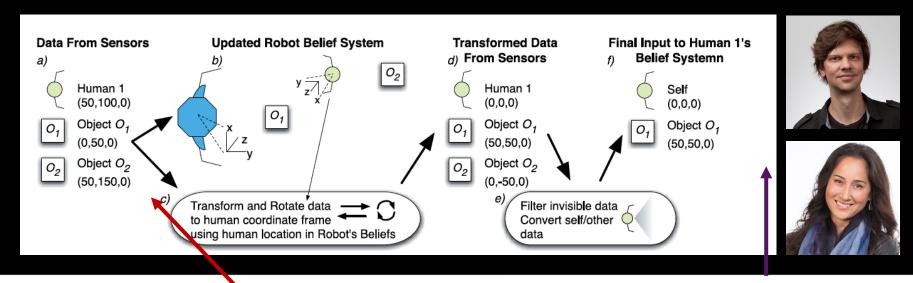
- notion is a suitable starting point
 - as they claim that underlying processing are implicit, nonverbal, automatic, and based on unconscious reasoning



Application to artificial agents

MINIMAL MINDREADING

MODELLING MENTAL STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE HUMAN COUNTERPART



- 1. infer from their perception of the physical world to what a human counterpart can see or cannot see
- 2. infer that perspective of the human will guide future actions of the human

→ some cases of minimal mindreading can be achieved by artificial agents



Minimal sense of commitment



'social glue' for much of what counts as social interactions



- coordination abilities are also based on the capacity to form expectations and motivations with respect to your counterpart
- utilize the notion of a minimal sense of commitment that illuminates minimal forms of interpersonal commitments
 - components (expectation or motivation) of a standard commitment can be disassociated
 - single occurrence of just one component can be treated as a sufficient condition
- asymmetric joint actions:
 - minimal sense of commitment can be realized by just one participant
 - most minimal case: only human counterparts entertain a minimal sense of commitment



Exchanging social information

PROCESSING SOCIAL DATA PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

to exclude one-sided sociality, we need a minimal level of reciprocity

 social reaction to the Roomba is being tossed into the void, influencing nothing ...

exchanging social information

interpret the social cues presented by their interacting partners

send social cues in order to make their ,minds' visible

artificial agents are designed to enter the space of human social interaction

- Wachsmuth: conversational agents like Max
- Kang et al.: gestures & emotional expression
- Baur et al.: ARIAS (artificial retrieval of information assistants) which are able to handle multimodal social interactions



→ react adequately to verbal and nonverbal behavior

artificial agents are able to process social data & make use of it to anticipate the behavior of their interaction partners

Exchanging social information

PROCESSING SOCIAL DATA PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

to exclude one-sided sociality, we need a minimal level of reciprocity

exchanging social information

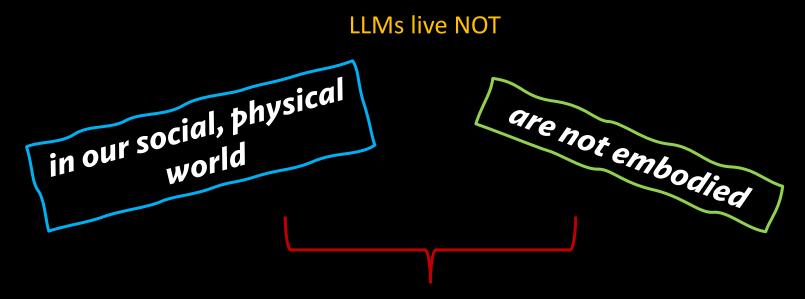
interpret the social cues presented by their interacting partners

send social cues in order to make their ,minds' visible

LLMs

- apologies & social reactions are not being tossed into the void, they influence the machine's responses, and they do so in ways that make social sense
- Anger leads to apology. Questions lead to answers. Hints of sexual interest are picked up on and amplified back.
- → You can productively take a social stance toward the machine
- → You can call on your social skills in interacting with it
- → you can coax the machine into further socially interpretable interactions

Sharing a world



But they may play a role in our world of language games.



Conclusion

CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING THE WINNING TEAM & QUESTIONING THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN ANIMATE AND INANIMATE ENTITIES

After all, we might be confronted with a new game.

❖ Before we can answer the question of what we are doing when we interact with LLMs, we have to conceptualize the INBETWEEN, because we cannot reduce our interactions with LLMs (and especially with future products of generative AI) to mere tool use.

The main aim of this talk was to prepare the grounds for questioning the dichotomy between animate and inanimate entities, as this is an important presupposition for any development of new notions that can capture phenomena that locate in the **INBETWEEN**.

IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL WITH THIS, WE CAN ARGUE FOR A GRADUAL APPROACH.

• machine designed in a way that exploits the fact that you will react to it as a social agent; and you, in turn, can exploit that fact about it.



A gradual approach

SINGLE-SIDED SOCIALITY

- sociality tossed into a void
- application of social skills
- reactions toward entities who are in no respect social partners, with no capacity for social uptake

QUASI-SOCIALITY

machines designed in a way that exploits the fact that you will react to it as a social agent; and you, in turn, can exploit that fact about it

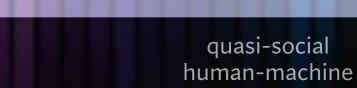
quasi-social human-animal interaction

FULL-BLOWN, INTELLECTUALLY DEMANDING, COOPERATIVE SOCIAL INTERACTION

 both partners make second-order mental state attributions and satisfy various other conditions are required for full-blown adult human cooperative action

social adult-adult interaction

mere tool-use



interaction

quasi-social adultinfant interaction

All this would not have been possible if I had not interacted with people & machines



Daniel Dennett



Eric Schwitzgebel



Mathew Crosby



David Schwitzgebel



Mike Wilby



DigiDan

Thank You!





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