# Learning by Learning to Communicate 

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## Jake's Quest for Intelligence



## Jake's Quest for Intelligence





# Human intelligence comes from integrating specialists 

- Infants = Rats (Spelke)
- Orienting from geometry + color

- "Left" and "Right," language vs. rhythm
- Counting numbers (Carey)
- Numerosity + tracking + sequence
- Four stages



# Integration takes communication 

Novel situations need combinatoric signals

## Architectural Approaches

|  | Hard-Wired <br> Communication | Learned <br> Communication |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hard-Wired <br> Integration | Cognitive <br> Architectures <br> SOAR, ACT-R, EPIC, <br> ICARUS, ... | Synthetic <br> Language <br> Kirby, Steels, Batali, <br> Yanco, ... |
| Learned <br> Integration | Multi-Modal <br> Learning <br> Kohonen, Coen, <br> Singh, Minsky, Roy,.... | (this work) |

## Communication $=$ Integration

- Specialists agree on signals, but may disagree on their interpretation
- Differences can capture information
- Exchanging messages can be reasoning




## Shared experiences $\rightarrow$ agreement on signals



Communication Bootstrapping

## Bootstrapping v1.0



## Agreed Combinatoric Signals



Symbols \& Inflections
PERSON = LEFT
STAND = LEFT
NEAR $=$ FOCUS+LEFT
CAR = FOCUS
VEHICLE = FOCUS+ABOVE
BUS $=$ ABOVE
bIG = AbOVE

Can this work for different specialists?


## How do we make the engineering tractable?

## Example: Deciding on Coupled Proposals



## Unsatisfiable Specifications



- Fast
- Follow evidence
- Firm
- Revisable

We must accept misbehavior!

## Nonlinear analysis is hard



## Choose the lesser evil



Dossier reveals major behaviors

$$
\operatorname{miss}=-2
$$



Failure Simplication:
choose easy cases, lengthen time scale ${ }_{19}$

## Predictable Composition

Agent A
Does B agree on X ? (inventor of $X$ )


Agent B
Does X make sense?



Agreement No Agreement Interference


## Is a part within the envelope of plausibility?

## Not from Zeus's Forehead



## Plausibility

- Asymptotic cost vs. budget
- Hunger can be pricy, words must be cheap
- Synthetic biology gives upper bounds
- Variation during development means frequent hardware faults

| Development <br> Space |  | Imperfection | Time | Mature <br> Space |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| growth | encoding | variation | execution |  |  |  |



## Can vocabulary capture world dynamics?

## Environment for Easy Communication Bootstrapping

- Strong input correlations
- Sparse usage in examples
- Independent examples
- Sparse signal encodings



Key: Messages Signals Interpretation Self-Organization Development

| Time | Space | Imperfection | Time | Space | Imperfection |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{O ( s )}$ | $\mathbf{O ( 1 )}$ | unusable <br> symbols/ <br> inflections | $\mathbf{O ( b )}$ | $\mathbf{O ( s}$ ^2) | lost/extra <br> message <br> elements |

## Random Bipartite Graph



|  | Development |  | Mature <br> Sime <br> Space |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Imperfection | Time | Space | Imperfection |  |  |
| $\mathbf{O ( A )}$ | $O(1)$ | more/less <br> links | $O(1)$ am. | $O\left(k^{*} A\right)$ | noise |



## Distributed Map



Set A
Rendezvous
Development
Time
$O(\min (A, B)$
O(1)
more/less elements

Mature
Space Imperfection
 $\sqrt{ } \min (A, B)) \quad \begin{gathered}\text { dropped } \\ \text { mappings }\end{gathered}$

| Development |  |  | Mature |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time | Space | Imperfection | Time | Space | Imperfection |
| $O(\min (A, B)$ | O(1) | more/less elements | O(1) am. | $\begin{gathered} O\left((A+B)^{*}\right. \\ \sqrt{\min (A, B))} \end{gathered}$ | noise, dropped mappings |

## Distributed Map

## Effect of Expected Rendezvous Size on Distributed Map

- Connections fail, snap others
- A few spare parts = almost no misbehavior



## Unidirectional Link



| Time |
| ---: |
| $\mathbf{O ( s )}$ |

Development
Time
O(s)
Space Imperfection
O(1) $\begin{gathered}\text { more/less } \\ \text { links, coders }\end{gathered}$

Mature
Space
O(ib+
$\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{i}+\sqrt{ } \mathbf{s})$ )

Imperfection lost/extra message elements

## Unidirectional Link

- Coders align very quickly ( $\sim 10$ rounds each)



## Unidirectional Link

- Reallocation can cause thrashing
- A few spare parts = almost no misbehavior



## Unidirectional Link

- Interference causes gradual degradation



## Unidirectional Link

- Noise also causes gradual degradation



## Bidirectional Link



## Bidirectional Link



- Tradeoff: pairing speed vs. error
- A broad sweet spot exists



## Relation Maps



Outgoing Symbols



Key: Messages Signals Interpretation Self-Organization

| Development | Mature |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time | Space | Imperfection | Time | Space | Imperfection |
| $\mathbf{O ( s )}$ | O(1) | unusable <br> symbols/ <br> inflections | O(b) | O(s^2) | Iost/extra <br> message <br> elements |

## Proof of Concept



# Results: interpretations of symbols capture dynamics 

- 156 relations from 83 min , including:
- DONTWALK sometimes leads to cuckoo, then disappears.
- cuckoo and walklite are the same thing.
- A moderately loud sound is always followed by the appearance of a CAR.
- walklite only happens when engines idle, which in turn happens only when there is a CAR.



# Results: interpretations of symbols capture dynamics 

- Robust to sampling rate, activity level



## Contributions

- Developed a method for engineering robust, composable devices: dossiers characterize a device's behavior over a wide range of conditions and failure simplification can manage its misbehavior.
- Established a six-part measure of Developmental Cost that allows us to estimate the plausibility of individual devices contributing to a larger model of intelligence.
- Developed a mechanism that creates the four sendipity conditions for Communication Bootstrapping in a set of specialist parts.
- Used a simulated world observed by two senses, vision and hearing, to demonstrate that differing symbol interpretations can capture world dynamics,


## Our Quest for Intelligence



## END OF MAIN TALK

## Observable Signature

(tests for the C.B. mechanism's presence)

## Observable Signature?

- Structure: high graph expansion
- Activity: three distinct phases
- Unidirectional organization
- Bidirectional organization
- Normal use


## Predicting a Pendulum

(proof of concept for future work)

```
x=-3
x=-2
x=-1
x=0
    va
```


## Device Details

(competition, shared focus, relation maps)

## Competition



Mat. Time Mat. Space Dev. Time Dev.Space $O(1) a m . \quad O(n) \quad O(1) \quad O(1)$

## Shared Focus






## Message Ambiguity

(ambiguity in related objects)


# Incremental Interval Example Segmentation 

(learning from streams of messages)

| $70 \mathrm{db}=\mathrm{FOCUS} 1$ | $70 \mathrm{db}=\mathrm{FOCUS} 1$ | $70 \mathrm{db}=\mathrm{FOCUS} 1$ | $70 \mathrm{db}=\mathrm{FOCUS} 1$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DRIVE=FOCUS 1 | DRIVE=FOCUS 1 | DRIVE=FOCUS 1 | DRIVE=FOCUS 1 |
| LF=FOCUS 1 | LF=FOCUS 1 | LF=FOCUS 1 | LF=FOCUS 1 |

DRIVE=FOCUS1 DRIVE=FOCUS1 DRIVE=FOCUS1
LF=FOCUS1 LF=FOCUS1

LF=FOCUS 1
F=FOCUS 1

| CAR=FOCUS 1 | CAR=FOCUS 1 | CAR=FOCUS1 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| PICKUP=FOCUS 1 | PICKUP=FOCUS1 | PICKUP=FOCUS1 |
| R=FOCUS 1 | R=FOCUS1 | R=FOCUS1 |
| $16 d=F O C U S 1 ~$ | $24 d=F O C U S 1$ | $24 d=F O C U S 1$ |
| $24 d=F O C U S 1$ | YELLOW=FOCUS1 | YELLOW=FOCUS1 |
| YELLOW=FOCUS 1 |  | BRIGHT=FOCUS1 |

## Allen's Time Interval Relations

| Time |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (Before A B) | $\xrightarrow{\text { A }}$ | (Before ${ }^{-1} \mathrm{~B} \mathrm{~A}$ ) |
| (Meets A B) |  | ( Meets $^{-1} \mathrm{~B} \mathrm{~A}$ ) |
| (Overlaps A B) | $\longleftrightarrow \stackrel{A}{\longleftrightarrow} \longleftrightarrow$ | (Overlaps ${ }^{-1} \mathrm{~B} \mathrm{~A}$ ) |
| (Starts A B) | $\xrightarrow{\mathrm{A}} \longrightarrow$ | (Starts ${ }^{-1} \mathrm{~B} \mathrm{~A}$ ) |
| (During A B) | $\xrightarrow[\mathrm{B}]{\mathrm{A}} \longmapsto$ | (During ${ }^{-1} \mathrm{~B} \mathrm{~A}$ ) |
| (Finishes A B) |  | (Finishes ${ }^{-1} \mathrm{~B} \mathrm{~A}$ ) |
| (Equal A B) |  |  |

## Predictive Relations

| Name | Predictions | Allen Relations <br> BMOSDFEfdsomb |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| EQUAL | A,A | $\mathbf{0 - 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 - 0}$ |
| SUBCLASS | A,a | $---\mathbf{- 1 1 1 - - 1 - - 0}$ |
| SEQUENCE | A,D | $\mathbf{0 1 1 - - - - - - 0 0 0 ~}$ |
| CAUSE | A,- | $\mathbf{0 1 1 - - 1 - 0 - 0 0 - 0 0 -}$ |
| ENABLE | a,- | $-11111100100-$ |
| DISABLE | -,D | $-000---0-11-$ |



## Focus of Attention

(bootstrapping precondition)










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Request Throttle

## Developmental Primitives

(details of developmental cost)

## Popular Constraints

- Anatomy
- Brodmann areas, fMRI, injury studies, ...
- Cellular Biology
- Neurons, synapses, transmitters, glia, ...
- Behavior
- Reflexes, infant cognition, illusions, ...


## Popular Constraints

- Anatomy How do parts cooperate?
- Brodmann areas, fMRI, injury studies, ...
- Cellular Biology 1K+ neurons do anything
- Neurons, synapses, transmitters, glia, ...
- Behavior How do we debug?
- Reflexes, infant cognition, illusions, ...

These do not constrain our models much!

## Calculating Cost

- Three building blocks:
- Simple program
- Set of communication paths
- Set of parts
- Building block costs are abstractions of neuroscience \& synthetic biology

Problems with building block assumptions are likely to change cost constants only

## Primitive: Simple Program

(defun add-example (state example) (if example (incf (strength state)) (decf (strength state) miss)))

|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time | Space | Imperfection |  |
|  | O(ops+bits) | O(ops*bits) | abort |
| Ovelopment | O(ops+bits) | O(ops+bits) | DOA |

Loops, function calls handled by expansion Simple programs are cheap

## Primitive: Communication Paths



Time<br>Space<br>Imperfection<br>Mature<br>Development<br>O(1)<br>O(length)<br>O(bits*paths) noise<br>$\mathbf{O}$ (length) $\mathbf{O}($ bits/reuse) absent paths

Precision connections are expensive

## Primitive: Set of Parts



Can add mesh network for O(1) added cost Making copies is cheap

## Other Random Slides

(example dossier, "Hilbert questions")

## Compiling a Dossier


"When in doubt, use brute force" -Ken Thompson

What makes human intelligence unique? How are concepts grounded in experience? How are perception and reasoning related? What makes natural intelligence so robust? How is an integrated mind formed from a collection of many different parts?

What makes human intelligence unique? How are concepts grounded in experience? How are perception and reasoning related? What makes natural intelligence so robust? How is an integrated mind formed from a collection of many different parts?

