# On the problems of interface

## explainability, conceptual spaces, relevance



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with the (supposedly) near advent of *autonomous artificial entities*, or other forms of *distributed automatic decision making*,

- humans less and less in the loop
- increasing concerns about *unintended consequences*



## Unintended consequences: bad or limited design

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- Wallet hacks, fraudulent actions and bugs in the in the blockchain sector during 2017:
  - CoinDash ICO Hack (\$10 millions)
  - Parity Wallet Breach (\$105 millions)
  - Enigma Project Scum
  - Parity Wallet Freeze (\$275 millions)
  - Tether Token Hack (\$30 millions)
  - Bitcoin Gold Scam (\$3 millions)
  - NiceHash Market Breach (\$80 millions)



• Several studies prove that associations extracted from linguistic corpora reproduce stereotypes.

Caliskan, A., Bryson, J. J., & Narayanan, A. (2017). Semantics derived automatically from language corpora contain human-like biases. Science, 356(6334), 183–186.

- Several studies prove that associations extracted from linguistic corpora reproduce stereotypes.
- Ex.: a simple Google visual search a few days ago:



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 Software used across the US predicting future crimes and criminals is biased against African Americans (2016).



- Software used across the US predicting future crimes and criminals is biased against African Americans (2016).
- Role of *circumstantial evidence*: how to integrate statistical inference in judgment?







Angwin J. et al. ProPublica, May 23 (2016). Machine Bias: risk assessments in criminal sentencing



## unintended consequences with ubiquitous devices/services?

#### scaling $\rightarrow$ wider effects $\rightarrow$ increased risks





## unintended consequences with ubiquitous devices/services?

scaling  $\rightarrow$  wider effects  $\rightarrow$  increased risks

necessity to review our conception methods!





#### statistical



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#### Reasoning

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- Two functions used in dual roles:
  - *generate* arguments that are accepted by the others
  - evaluate arguments given by others

#### Reasoning

- Herbert & Spencer [2011] insist on the *persuasion* aspect:
  - generation ↔ convincing others

  - evaluation ↔ protecting against being persuaded to take positions resulting in negative outcomes



Mercier, H., & Sperber, D. (2011). Why do humans reason? Arguments for an argumentative theory. The Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 34(2), 57-74

#### statistical alignment



#### statistical alignment



## Today the INTERFACE problem rousucced Process



#### Possible research approaches

- bottom-up: use statistical ML to recreate functions mimicking to some extent human cognition
- top-down: conceive algorithms reproducing by design functions observable in human cognition

#### the INTERFACE problem

computation

human cognition

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- bottom-up: use statistical ML to recreate functions mimicking to some extent human cognition
- top-down: conceive algorithms reproducing by design functions observable in human cognition

here we have control on what we want to reproduce

#### the INTERFACE problem



human cognition

#### Outline of this presentation

- Problems and solutions about similarity [KI2017]
- Computing contrast [AIC2018]
- An introduction to *Simplicity theory* [ST]
  - Pertinence of causes [COG2018]
  - Moral responsibility [JURIX2017]

Sileno, G., Bloch, I., Atif, J., & Dessalles, J.-L. (2017). Similarity and Contrast on Conceptual Spaces for Pertinent Description Generation. Proceedings of the 2017 KI conference, 10505 LNAI

Sileno, G., Bloch, I., Atif, J., & Dessalles, J. (2018). Computing Contrast on Conceptual Spaces. In Proceedings of the 6th International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Cognition (AIC2018)

https://simplicitytheory.telecom-paristech.fr/

Sileno, G., & Dessalles, J.-L. (2018). Qualifying Causes as Pertinent. Proceedings of the 40th Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2018)

Sileno, G., Saillenfest, A., & Dessalles, J.-L. (2017). A Computational Model of Moral and Legal Responsibility via Simplicity Theory. Proceedings of the 30th Int. Conf. on Legal Knowledge and Information Systems (JURIX 2017), FAIA 302, 171–176

#### Unveiling similarity

General (often implicit) hypothesis:



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#### **Practical uses:** description generation

*proximate elements* can be used as **reference** to identify a certain **target** (*object*, *situation*, etc.)

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*proximate elements* can be used as **reference** to identify a certain **target** (*object*, *situation*, etc.)

the caudate nucleus is an internal brain structure which is very close to the lateral ventricles



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#### psychology

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"psychological space" hypothesis

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- relies on some *metric* to compare inputs
- offers *pseudo-metric* learning methods

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geometrical model of cognition



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#### **Problems:**

 similarity in human judgments does not satisfy fundamental geometric axioms [Tversky77]

basis of feature-based models

Tversky, A. (1977). Features of similarity. Psychological Review, 84, 327–352.



geometrical model of cognition



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• approaching logical structures through geometric methods (e.g. [Distel2014])

#### Towards an alternative solution..



#### grounded not intelligible associationistic methods





#### symbolic methods

not grounded intelligible

### Towards an alternative solution..



Gärdenfors, P. (2000). Conceptual Spaces: The Geometry of Thought. MIT Press.

Gärdenfors, P. (2014). The Geometry of Meaning: Semantics Based on Conceptual Spaces. MIT Press.

#### Overview on conceptual spaces

 Conceptual spaces stem from (continuous) perceptive spaces.

grounded

- Natural properties emerge as convex regions over integral dimensions (e.g. color).
- Concepts are *weighted combinations* of properties
- **Prototypes** can be seen as **centroids** of convex regions (properties or concepts).

Convex regions can be seen as resulting from the competition between prototypes (forming a *Voronoi Tessellation*).

#### conceptual spaces



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### "small" problem

The standard theory of conceptual spaces insists to *lexical meaning*: linguistic marks are associated to regions. → *extensional* as the standard symbolic approach.

If *red*, or *green*, or *brown* correspond to regions in the color space...



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why do we say "red dogs" even if they are actually brown?



images after Google

### Predicates resulting from contrast

Alternative hypothesis [Dessalles2015]:

Predicates are generated on the fly after an operation of contrast.



Dessalles, J.-L. (2015). From Conceptual Spaces to Predicates. Applications of Conceptual Spaces: The Case for Geometric Knowledge Representation, 17–31.

## Predicates resulting from contrast

Alternative hypothesis [Dessalles2015]:

Predicates are generated on the fly after an operation of contrast.





These dogs are "red dogs":

- not because their color is red (they are brown),
- because they are *more red* with respect to the dog prototype

## Predicates resulting from contrast

In logic, usually:  $above(a, b) \leftrightarrow below(b, a)$ However, people don't say





"the table is below the apple."

"the board is above the leg."

If the contrastive hypothesis is correct,  $C = A - B \sim$  "above"

We considered an existing method [Bloch2006] used in image processing to compute directional relative positions of visual entities (e.g. of biomedical images).



Bloch, I. (2006). Spatial reasoning under imprecision using fuzzy set theory, formal logics and mathematical morphology. International Journal of Approximate Reasoning, 41(2), 77–95.

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models of relations for a point centered in the origin













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If we settle upon contrast, we can categorize its output for relations!

"above b" operation scheme:  $a \sim b + "above"$  cf. with  $O - p \sim "red"$ alignment as overlap

- Contrast has been computed by operations inherent to integral dimensions. These may be interpreted as related to local perceptual **dissimilarity**.
  - no need to define a *holistic distance*
- But what about concept (i.e. multi-dimensional) similarity?

"she is strong."

this person – prototype person ~ "strong"

"she is strong."

this person – prototype person ~ "strong"

(metaphor as conceptual analogy)

"she is (like) a lion."

"she is strong."

"she is (like) a lion."

this person – prototype person ~ "strong"

(metaphor as conceptual analogy)

double contrast

```
target

this person – prototype person
~ "strong", etc.

prototype lion – prototype animal
~ "strong", etc.

reference
< comparison ground</td>
```

"she is strong."

this person – prototype person ~ "strong"



The reference activates certain discriminating features.

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The reference activates certain discriminating features.

Concept similarity is a sequential, multi-layered computation





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## 1. Problems with symmetry

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#### However,

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Our explanation: changing of reference activates different features

#### 2. Problems with triangle inequality

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Our explanation: different/no comparison grounds after contrast

## 3. Problems with minimality

#### $d(a,b) \ge d(a,a) = 0$

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#### Our explanation: sequential nature of similarity assessment.

• The distance between two points in a set should not change when changing the set.

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Our explanation: effect due to the **change of group prototype** 

# Two types of similarity

- There is a fundamental distinction between:
  - perceptual similarity
  - contrastively analogical similarity
- The two are commonly conflated:
  - by using MDS on people's similarity judgments to elicit dimensions of psychological (conceptual) spaces
  - in similar dimensional reduction techniques used in ML
- This hypothesis provides simple explanations to empirical experiences manifesting non-metrical properties, yet maintaining a geometric infrastructure.

Sileno, G., Bloch, I., Atif, J., & Dessalles, J.-L. (2017). Similarity and Contrast on Conceptual Spaces for Pertinent Description Generation. Proceedings of the 2017 KI conference, 10505 LNAI.

#### How does contrast work?

 Consider coffees served in a bar. Intuitively, whether a coffee is qualified as being *hot* or *cold* depends mostly on what the speaker expects of coffees served at bars, rather than a specific absolute temperature.





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• For simplicity, we represent objects on 1D (temperature) with real coordinates.



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- Because prototypes are defined together with a concept region, let us consider some regional information, for instance represented as an *egg-yolk* structure.
  - internal boundary (yolk)  $p \pm \sigma$  for typical elements of that category of objects (e.g. coffee served at bar).
  - external boundary (egg)  $p \pm \rho$  for all elements directly associated to that category of objects



- Two required functions:
  - *centering* of target with respect to typical region
  - scaling to neutralize effect of scale (e.g. "hot coffee", "hot planet")



• As *contrastors* are extended objects, they might be compared to model categories represented as regions by measuring their *degree of overlap:* 



- Applying the previous computation, we easily derive the membership functions of some general relations with respect to the objects of that category.
- For instance, by dividing the representational container in 3 equal parts, we have:



 The previous formulation might be extended to consider contrast between two regions, by utilizing *discretization* ([.] denotes the approximation to the nearest integer):

$$C = \operatorname{contrast}_{\mathbb{I}} \left( \left\langle t, \tau \right\rangle, \left\langle r, \sigma \right\rangle, \left\langle f, \rho \right\rangle \right) \approx \operatorname{contrast} \left( \lfloor \frac{t}{2\tau} \rfloor, \left\langle \lfloor \frac{r}{2\tau} \rfloor, \lfloor \frac{\sigma}{\tau} \rfloor, \lfloor \frac{\rho}{\tau} \rfloor \right\rangle \right)$$

• If dimensions are *perceptually independent*, we can apply contrast on each dimensions separately:

 $C = (C_1, \ldots, C_n) = (\mathsf{contrast}(o_1, \langle p_1, \sigma_1, \rho_1 \rangle), \ldots, \mathsf{contrast}(o_n, \langle p_n, \sigma_n, \rho_n \rangle))$ 

- The result can be used to create a contrastive description of the object, i.e. its *most distinguishing* features.
- e.g. *apple* (as a fruit): red, spherical, quite sugared



- In the case of 2D visual objects, the two dimensions are not perceptually independent.
- Let us consider two objects A and B. We can apply contrast iteratively for each point of A with respect to B, and then *aggregate* the resulting contrastors.

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$$\mathcal{H}(A,B)(z) = \{a \in A, b \in B | a - b = z\}$$

$$\mu_{A \ominus B}(z) = \frac{|\mathcal{H}(A,B)(z)|}{\max_{w} |\mathcal{H}(A,B)(w)|} \leftarrow \text{counting}$$
normalization

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Work in progress: use of *erosion* to compute contrastor!

### **Computing pertinence**

#### Relevance

- Given a certain image,
  - what is <u>relevant</u> to be recognized?
  - what is <u>relevant</u> to be said?



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  - what is <u>relevant</u> to be interpreted?
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 Simplicity Theory (ST) offers a computational cognitive model for computing relevance, based on unexpectedness and emotion.

For a more detailed overview and further references see https://simplicitytheory.telecom-paristech.fr/

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The two complexities are defined following Kolmogorov complexity.

### Kolmogorov complexity

*length* in bits of the **shortest** program generating a string description of an object

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string

equivalent programs

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depends on the available operators!!

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instructions = **causal operators** 

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SIMULATION

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about how the world generates the situation

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#### REPRESENTATION

#### Simplicity theory: unexpectedness

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(in a fair extraction)

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#### meeting Obama is more unexpected than meeting Dupont (or any other famous person) (or any other unknown person)

#### meeting an old of friend of mine

(or any other known person)

**Unexpectedness** captures **plausibility** 

$$U(s) = C_W(s) - C_D(s)$$

informativity is maximized by maximizing unexpectedness

when  $C_{W}$  (s) is the same, we look for low C<sub>c</sub>(s)

(in a fair extraction)

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### Simplicity Theory: Emotion

• Focusing on intensity, we can capture anticipation as:

$$AE(s) = E(s) - U(s)$$

$$unexpectedness$$

$$emotion$$
what the situation induces to the agent
reward model

### Simplicity Theory: Emotion

• Focusing on intensity, we can capture anticipation as:



• Attention is intuitively associated to situations that might occur depending on their emotional impact.

- Fundamental principles:
  - situations with high anticipated emotion are relevant
  - situations with *high unexpectedness* are *relevant*

epistemically

epithymically

- Fundamental principles:
  - situations with *high anticipated emotion* are *relevant*
  - situations with *high unexpectedness* are *relevant*
- Intuitively, contrast and similarity play a role with  $C_D$  as they function with the most accessible references, i.e.:

target is determined as proximate to *simple* references with respect to *simple* relations

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- Several factors play a role:
  - *descriptively* simple (qualitatively distinctive, accessible references),
  - **causally** difficult (supposing a normal distribution of temperatures),
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- In the following I'll briefly present two additional tracks I've started studying, concerning  $C_w(s)$  and E(s)

### Identifying causes

#### An experiment

- Causes play a central role in the way we conceptualize the world.
- But there is no established model about how people qualify a cause as *pertinent* (literally, holding together) to a specific event.

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#### An experiment

- Causes play a central role in the way we conceptualize the world.
- But there is no established model about how people qualify a cause as *pertinent* (literally, holding together) to a specific event.
- We performed an experiment to compare:
  - the computation of *actual causation* via
    - conterfactuals (*structural equations*)
    - Bayesian inference
    - Simplicity Theory
  - people's responses

#### Example of task

Johnny is 7 years old. In recent months his mother has been worried because he developed a craving for sweet things. She bought some pots of strawberry jam and put them into the larder (a small room near the kitchen). Then one afternoon she finds that Johnny has gone into the larder and has eaten half a pot of strawberry jam.

#### Q1. Why is "half a pot of jam gone"?

- a. because of Johnny's gluttony
- b. because Johnny ate it
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- c. because mother has put the pot in the larder
- For each task, a model of the story is constructed, based on a general action-scheme



#### Evaluation

- Measures based on probability:
  - p(E|C)  $p(E|C) \cdot p(C)$   $\log \frac{p(E|C)}{p(E|\neg C)}$   $\frac{p(E|C) p(E|\neg C)}{p(E|C) + p(E|\neg C)}$
- Measure based on complexity:

 $C_W(E) - C_W(E||C)$ 

#### Evaluation

•



 $C_W(E) - C_W(E||C)$  somputation of complexities using minimal path search

#### Evaluation

• Measures based on probability:

 $p(E|C) \longrightarrow computation using a$   $p(E|C) \cdot p(C) \longrightarrow Bayesian Network$ 

given a certain model:

motivation

а

**Results:** No probabilistic measure is consistently aligned.

*Causal contribution* as defined by ST performs much better, and divergences can be explained by intervention of description complexity.

• Measure based on complexity:



affordance

consequences

 $C_W(E) - C_W(E||C)$   $\sim$  computation of complexities using *minimal path search* 

#### Attributing responsibility



12 Angry Men, 1956

#### Responsibility attribution for humans

 In human societies, responsibility attribution is a *spontaneous* and *seemingly universal* behaviour.

Sileno, G., Saillenfest, A., & Dessalles, J.-L. (2017). A Computational Model of Moral and Legal Responsibility via Simplicity Theory. Proceedings of the 30th Int. Conf. on Legal Knowledge and Information Systems (JURIX 2017), FAIA 302, 171–176



12 Angry Men, 1956

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  - → responsibility attribution may be controlled by fundamental cognitive mechanisms.

# *Working hypothesis*: attributions of **moral** and **legal responsibility** share a similar cognitive architecture



flooded mine dilemma (trolley problem variation)

• Experiments show that people are more prone to blame an agent for an action:



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  - the more the outcome is severe,
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- Experiments show that people are more prone to blame an agent for an action:
  - the more the outcome is severe,
  - the more they are closer to the victims,
  - the more the outcome follows the action.
- The cognitive model of *Simplicity Theory* predicts these results.

### Simplicity Theory: Emotion

• Focusing on intensity, we can capture anticipation as:

$$AE(s) = E(s) - U(s)$$
*unexpectedness emotion*
what the situation induces to the agent
reward model

• The anticipated emotion of doing *a* to reach *s*:

 $AE(a * s) = E(a * s) - U(\overset{\circ}{a} * s) = E(a * s) - U(s||a) - U(a)$ 

$$I(a,s) = E(a * s) - U(s||a) - U(a)$$

intention as driven by anticipated emotional effects

Difference between intention\* and moral responsibility is one of **point of views**.

$$I(a) = E^{A}(s) - U^{A}(s||a) - U^{A}(a)$$

Difference between intention and moral responsibility is one of **point of views**.

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• Introducing causal responsibility  $R^{\downarrow A}(a,s) = C_W(s) - C_W^{\downarrow A}(s||a)$ 

$$M(a) \approx E_h(s) + R^{\downarrow A}(a,s) - C_D(s) - U^{\downarrow A}(a)$$

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actualized emotion for observer O

+

causal responsibility attributed to A conceptual remoteness for observer O

*inadvertence attributed to A* 

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• From moral to legal responsibility:

- equity before the law
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This enables to consider *extrinsic commitments*!

### Simplicity Theory: Moral responsibility

 $M(a) \approx E_h(s) + R^{\downarrow A}(a,s) - C_D(s) - U^{\downarrow A}(a)$ 

actualized emotion for observer O

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#### Conclusion

#### The call for Explanaible AI (XAI)



### The call for Explanaible AI (XAI)

automated decision-making need to be:

- non (primarily) statistical
- cognitively plausible
- linguistically competent
- able to take into account norms



### Outlining the kernel of agency

• The core problem – of *normative, epistemic* and *ontological* **alignment** – is related to the different modalities that we, as agents, attribute to reality...



#### collective





physical

#### individual

### Outlining the kernel of agency

 The core problem – of *normative, epistemic* and *ontological* alignment – is related to the different modalities that we, as agents, attribute to reality...



#### individual

This holds for humans, but also for artificial agents.