

# What Is Joint Action?

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'joint action [is] any form of social interaction whereby two or more individuals coordinate their actions in space and time to bring about a change in the environment.'

(Sebanz, Bekkering & Knoblich  
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(Gilbert 2006, p. 5)

'The sine qua non of collaborative action is a joint goal [shared intention]'

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'joint action [is] social interaction between two or more individuals whose actions interact to bring about a common environment.'

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'The key question in the philosophy of collective action is simply ... under what conditions are two or more people doing something together'

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Show that a notion of joint action is  
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tidying up the toys together  
(Behne et al 2005)

lifting a heavy sofa together  
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cooperatively pulling  
handles in sequence to  
make a dog-puppet sing  
(Brownell et al 2006)

bouncing a ball on a large  
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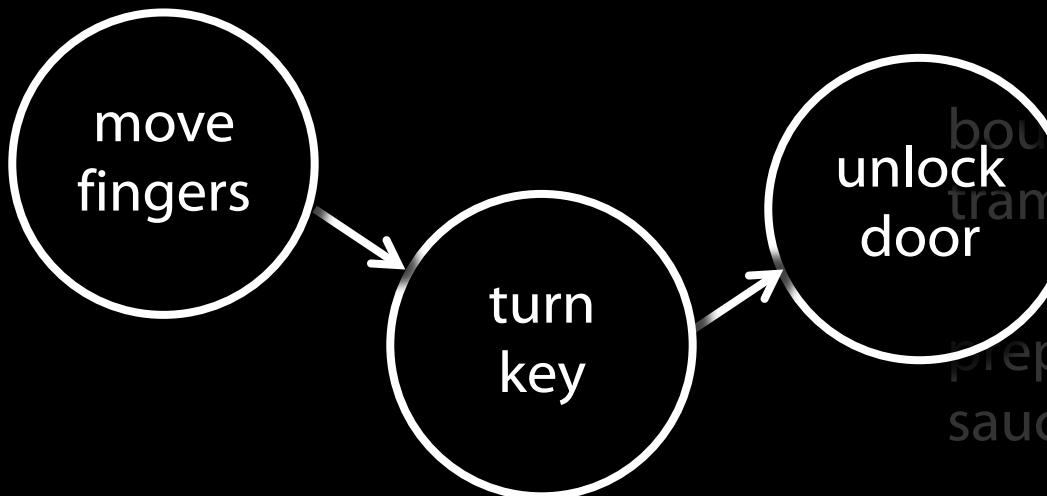
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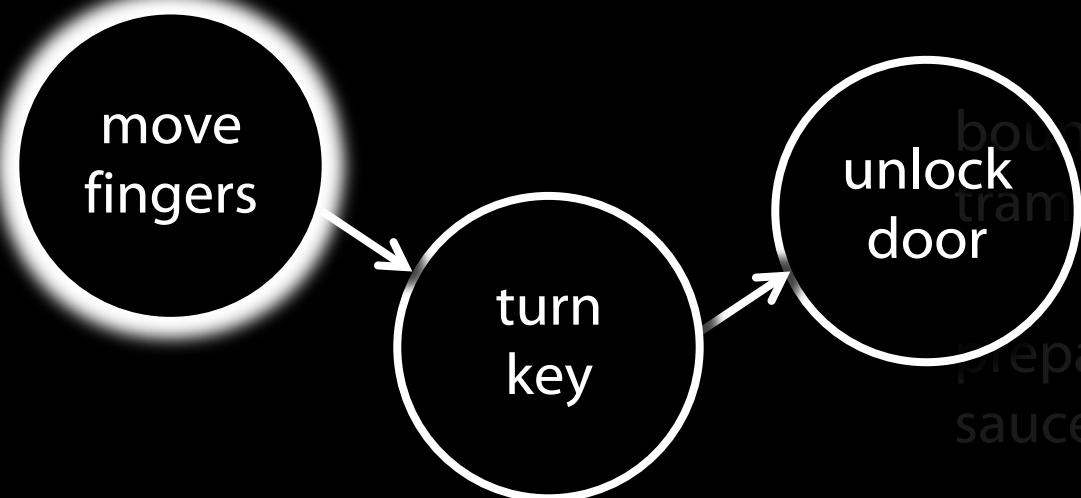
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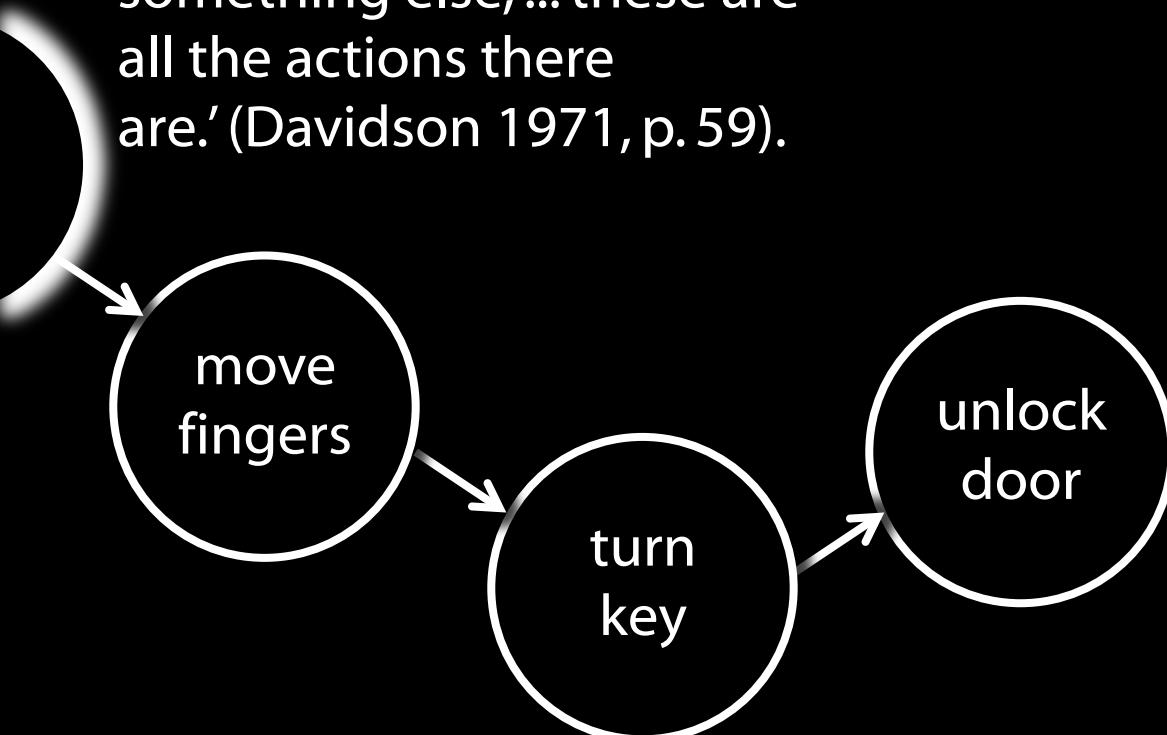
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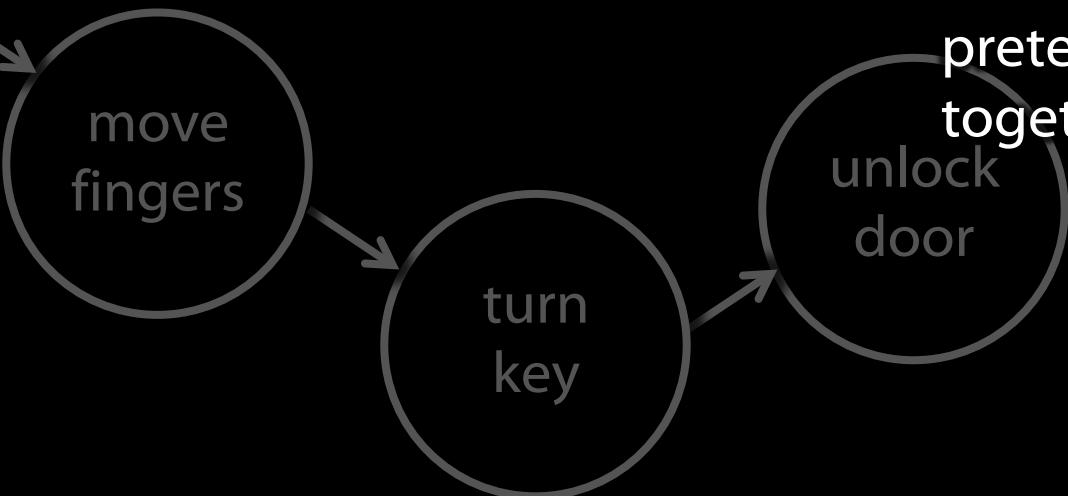
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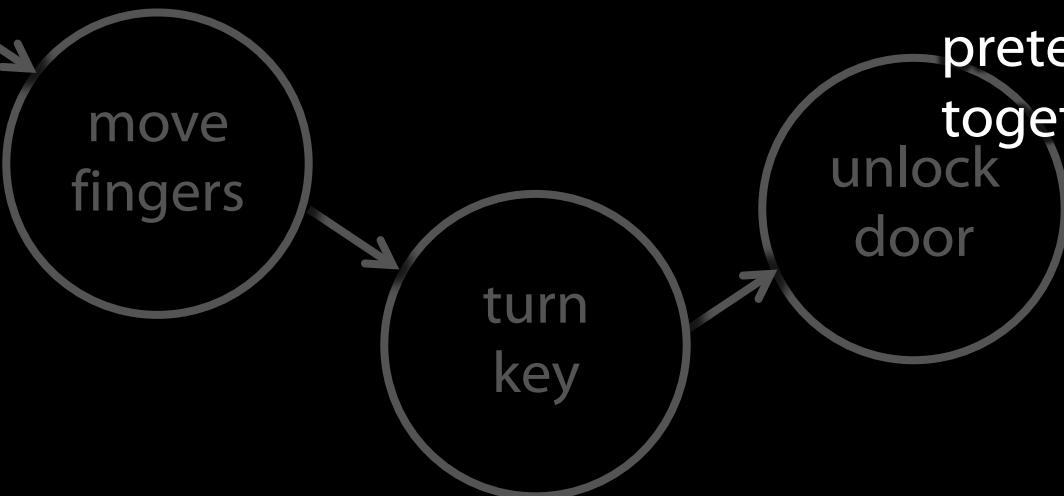
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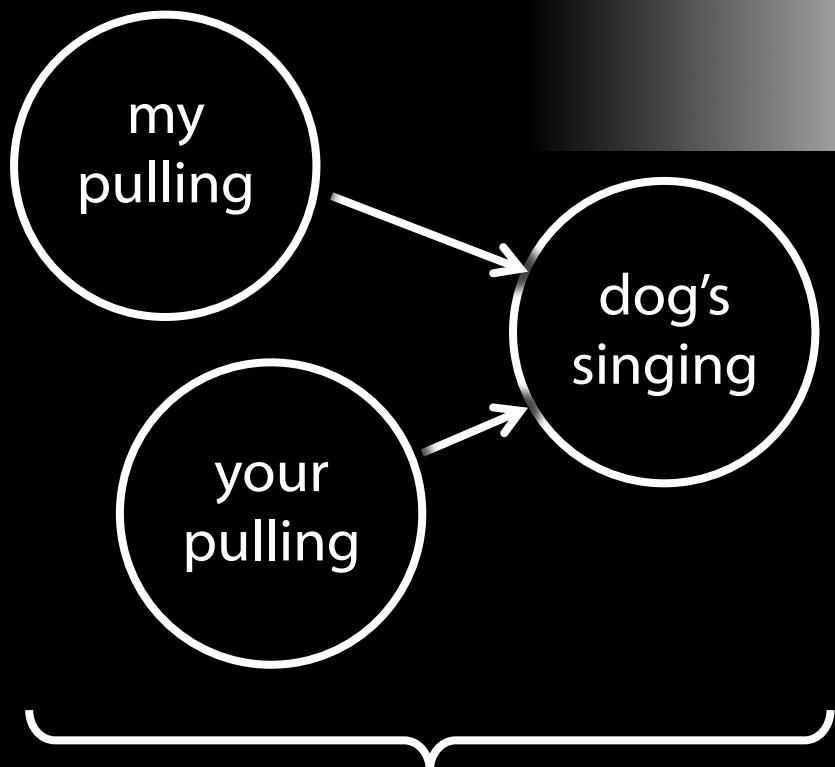
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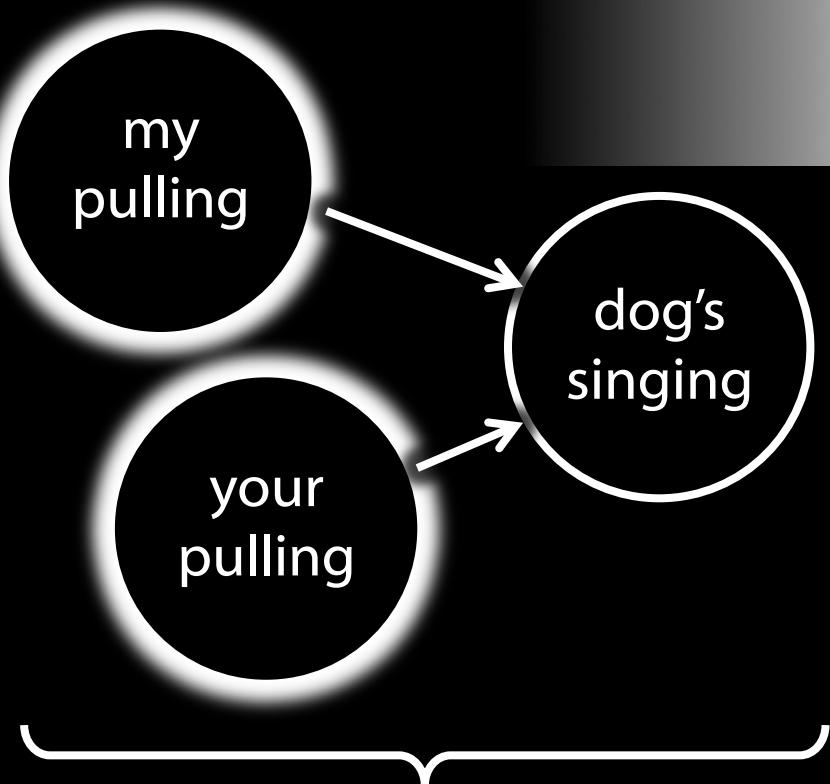
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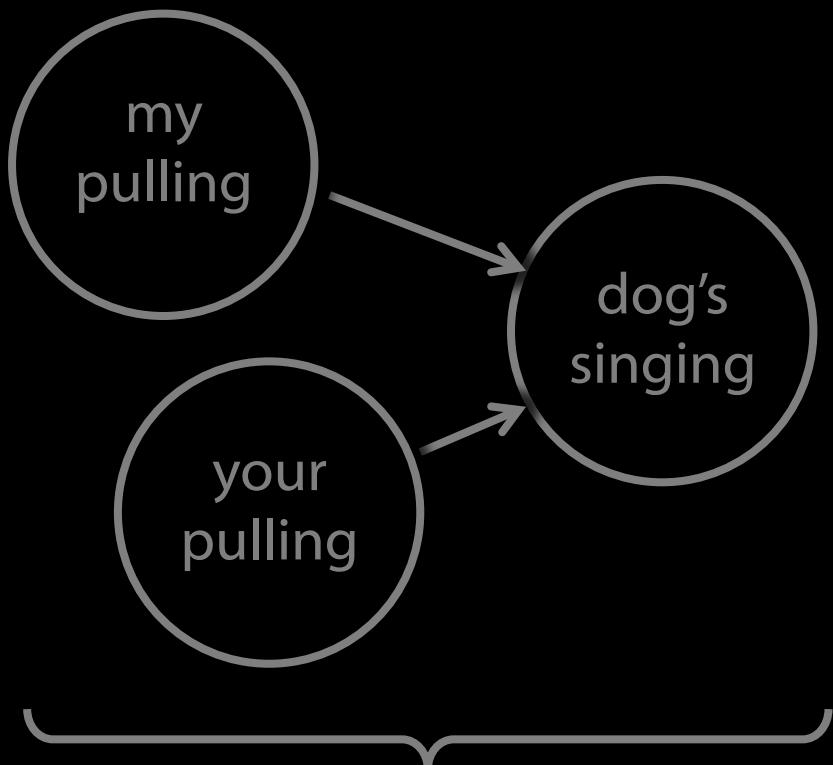
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3 In supposedly paradigm  
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Therefore:

4 Supposedly paradigm cases  
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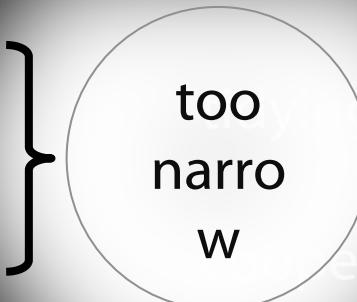
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## Grounding

events  $D_1, \dots D_n$  ground E, if:

$D_1, \dots D_n$  and E occur;

$D_1, \dots D_n$  are each (perhaps improper) parts of E; and

every event that is a proper part of E but does not overlap

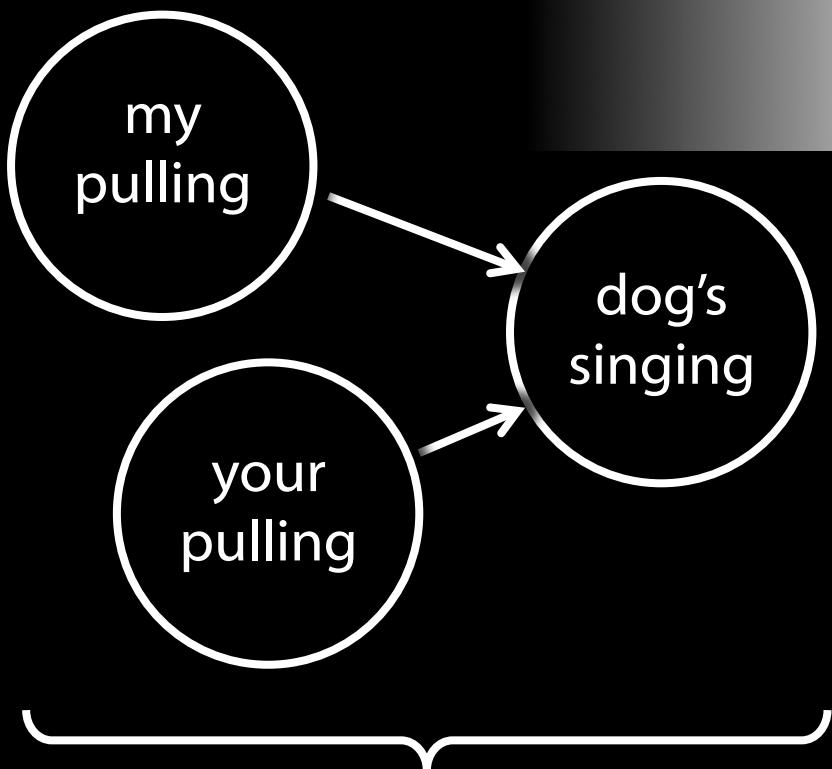
$D_1, \dots D_n$  is caused by some or all of  $D_1, \dots D_n$ .

## Agency

For an individual to be among the agents of an event is for there to be actions  $a_1, \dots a_n$  which ground this event where the individual is an agent of one or more of these actions.

(Adapted from Pietroski 1998)

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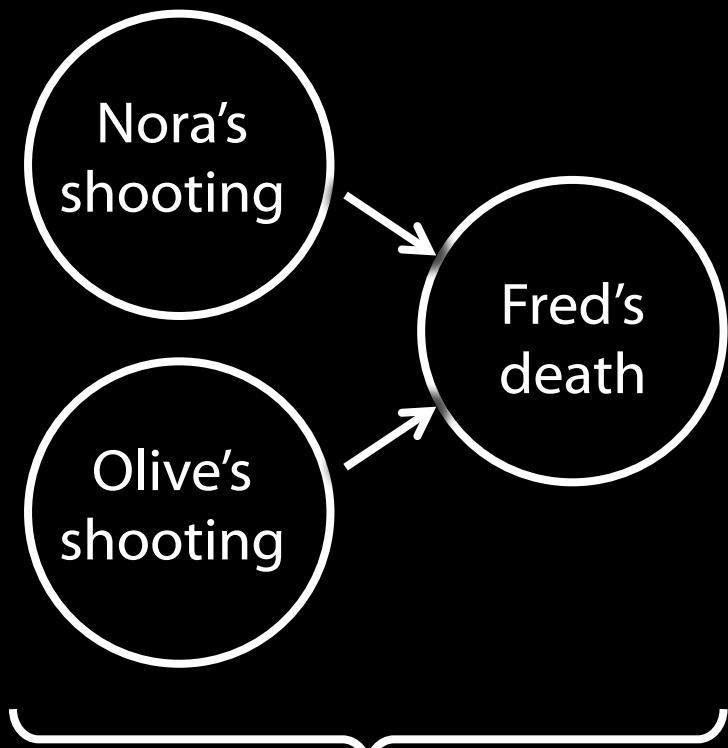
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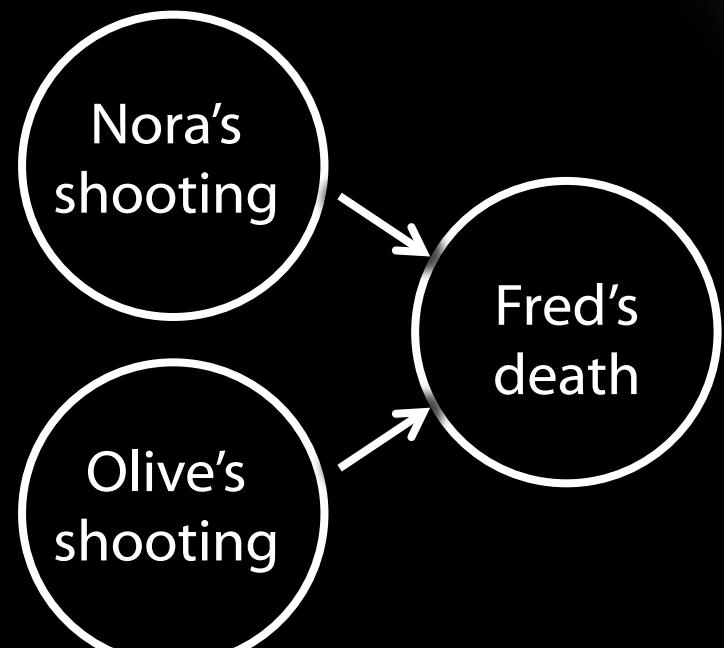
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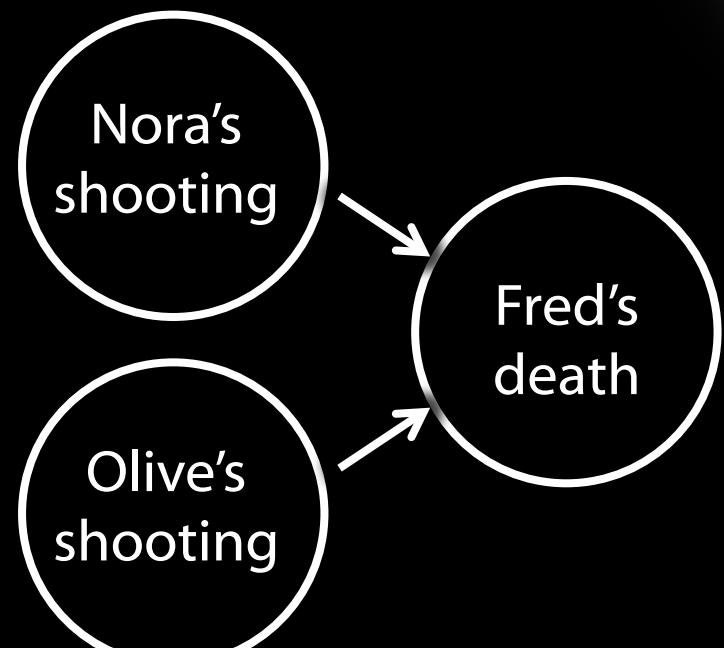
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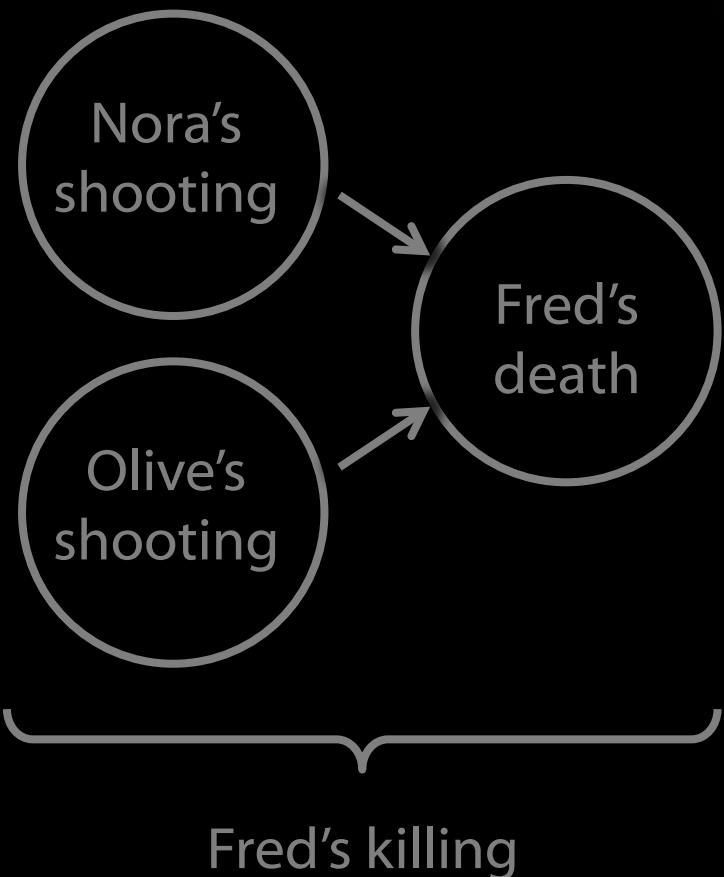
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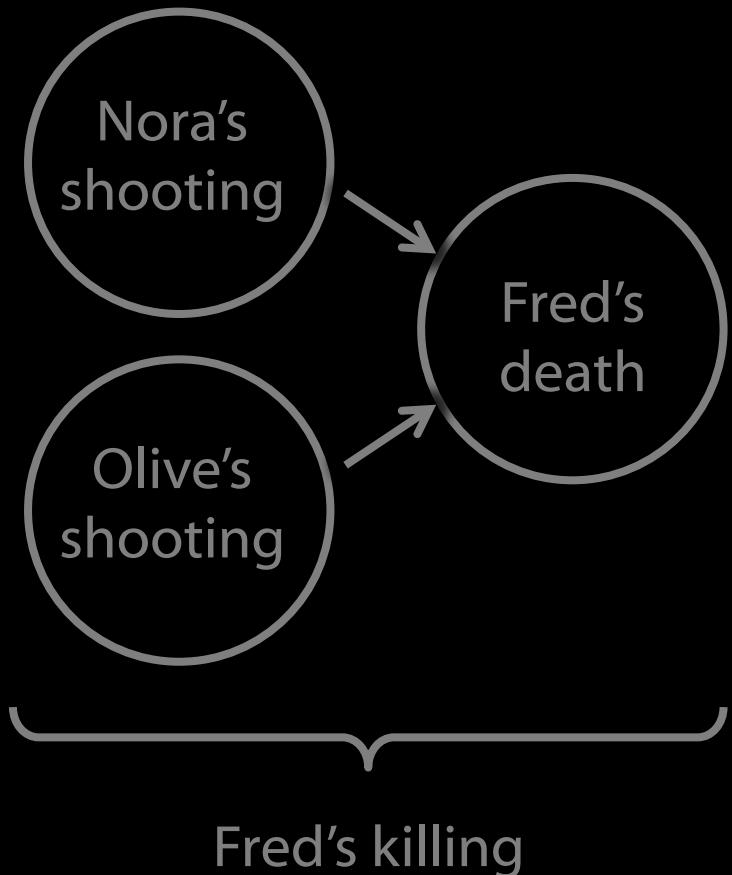
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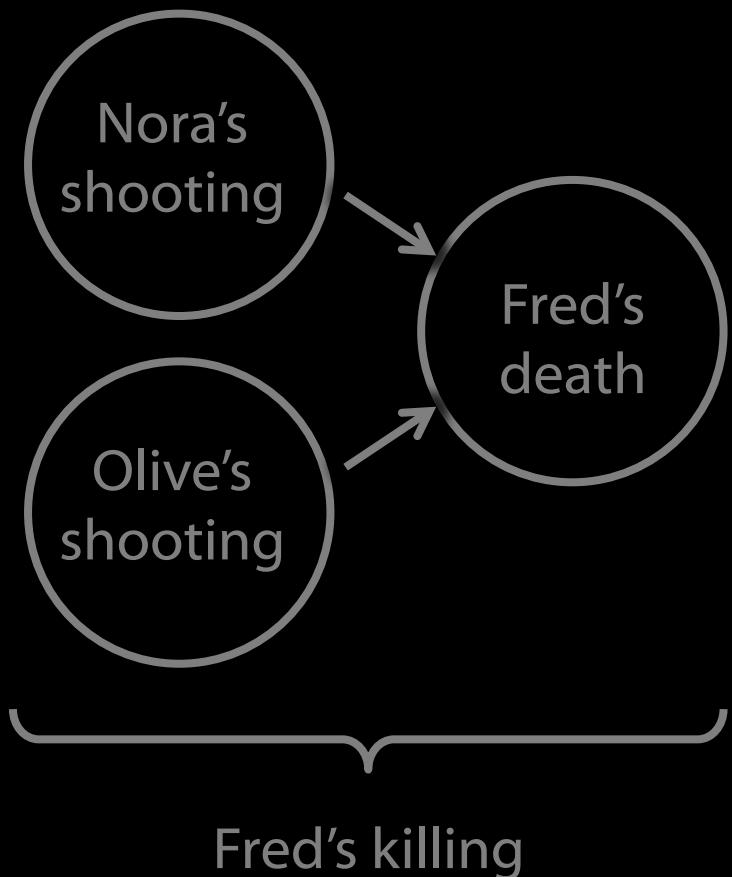
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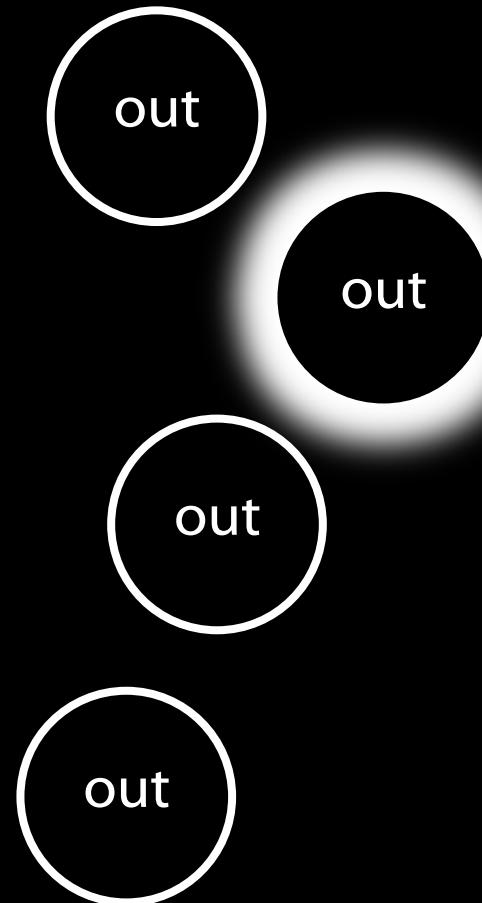
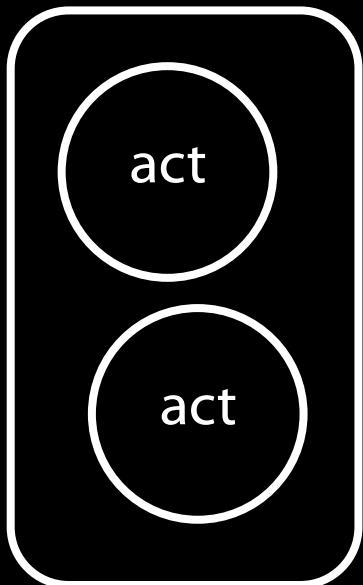
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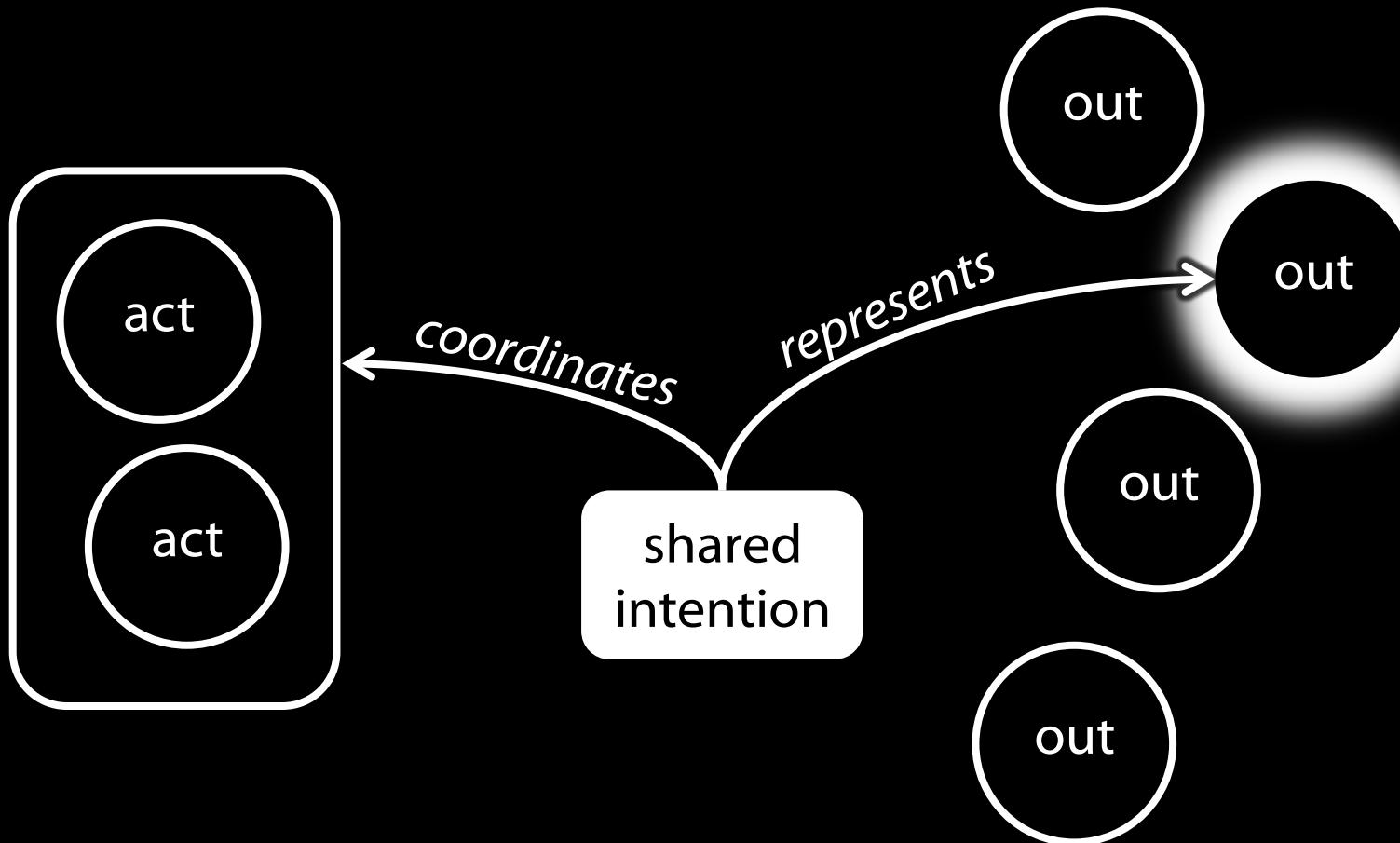
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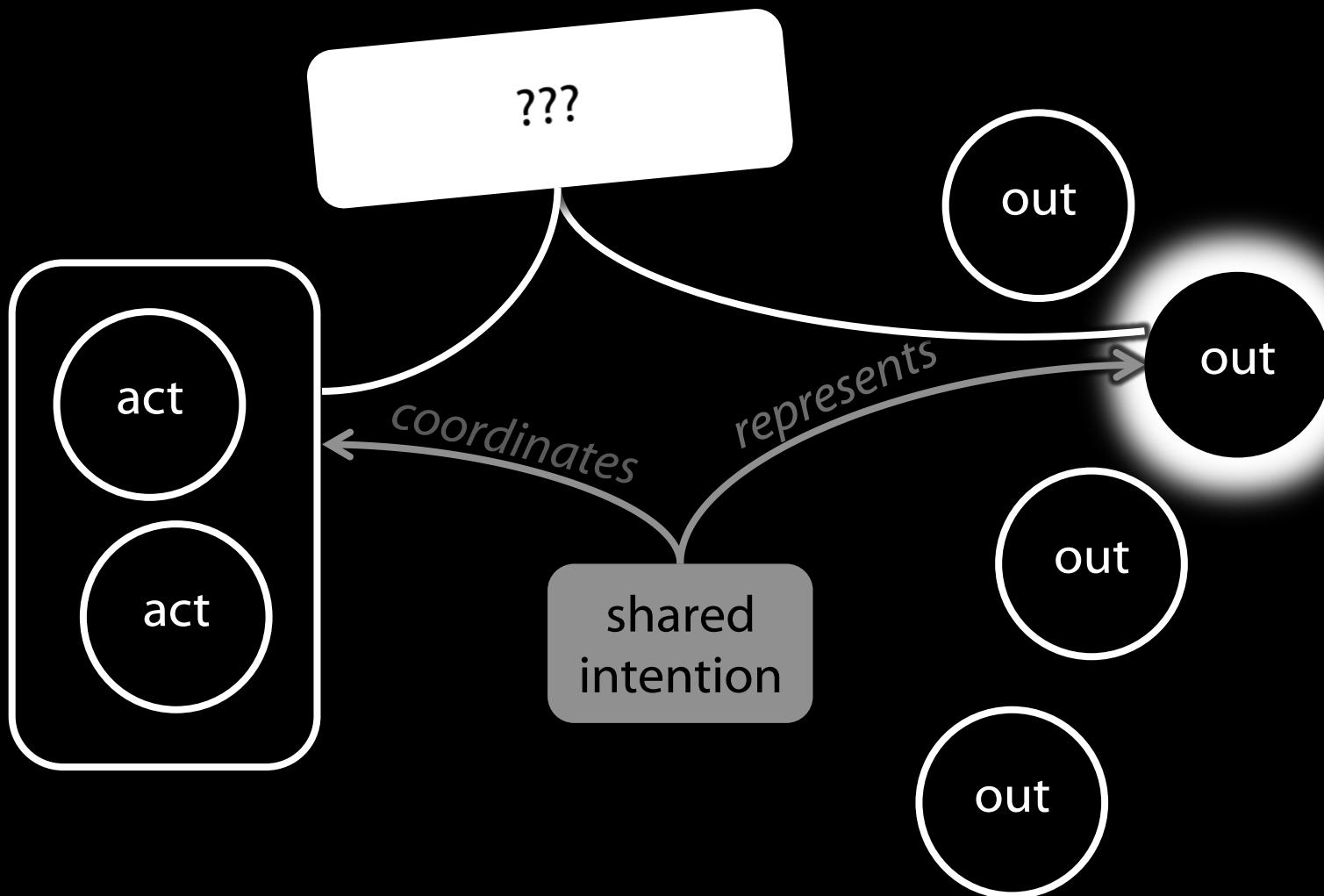
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### G is a distributive goal

- (a) it is an outcome to which each action is individually directed; and
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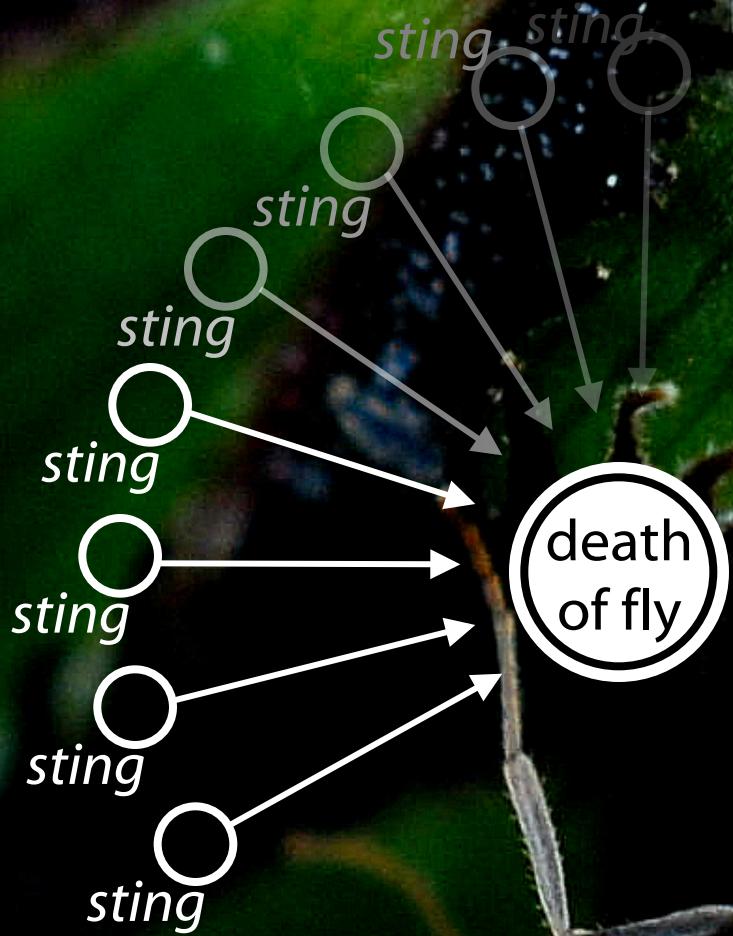
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G is a collective goal

- (a) it is a distributive goal;
- (b) the actions are coordinated; and
- (c) coordination of this type would normally facilitate occurrences of outcomes of G's type.





A black and white photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, standing close together against a dark background. The boy, on the left, has light-colored hair and is wearing a patterned long-sleeved shirt under dark overalls. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The girl, on the right, also has light-colored hair and is wearing a dark dress with a subtle pattern. She is also smiling and looking towards the camera. They appear to be in a joyful, interactive pose.

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# solution

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grounded by two or more agents' actions  
where these actions have a collective goal.

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