

Pluralism about Joint Action

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What are the perceptual, cognitive, and motor processes that enable effective joint action?

What distinguishes joint from individual actions?

The Obstacle

painting the house together
lifting a heavy sofa together
preparing a hollandaise sauce together
going to Chicago together
walking together

painting the house together

lifting a heavy sofa together

preparing a hollandaise sauce together

going to Chicago together

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There are characteristic features common to all joint actions (e.g. shared intention).

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Only such features are relevant to answering constitutive questions about what joint action is.

Shared Intention

**'I take a collective action to involve
a collective intention.'**



'the key property of joint action lies in its internal component [...] in the participants' having a "collective" or "shared" intention.'

(Facundo Alonso, 2009, pp. 444-5)

awareness of joint-ness

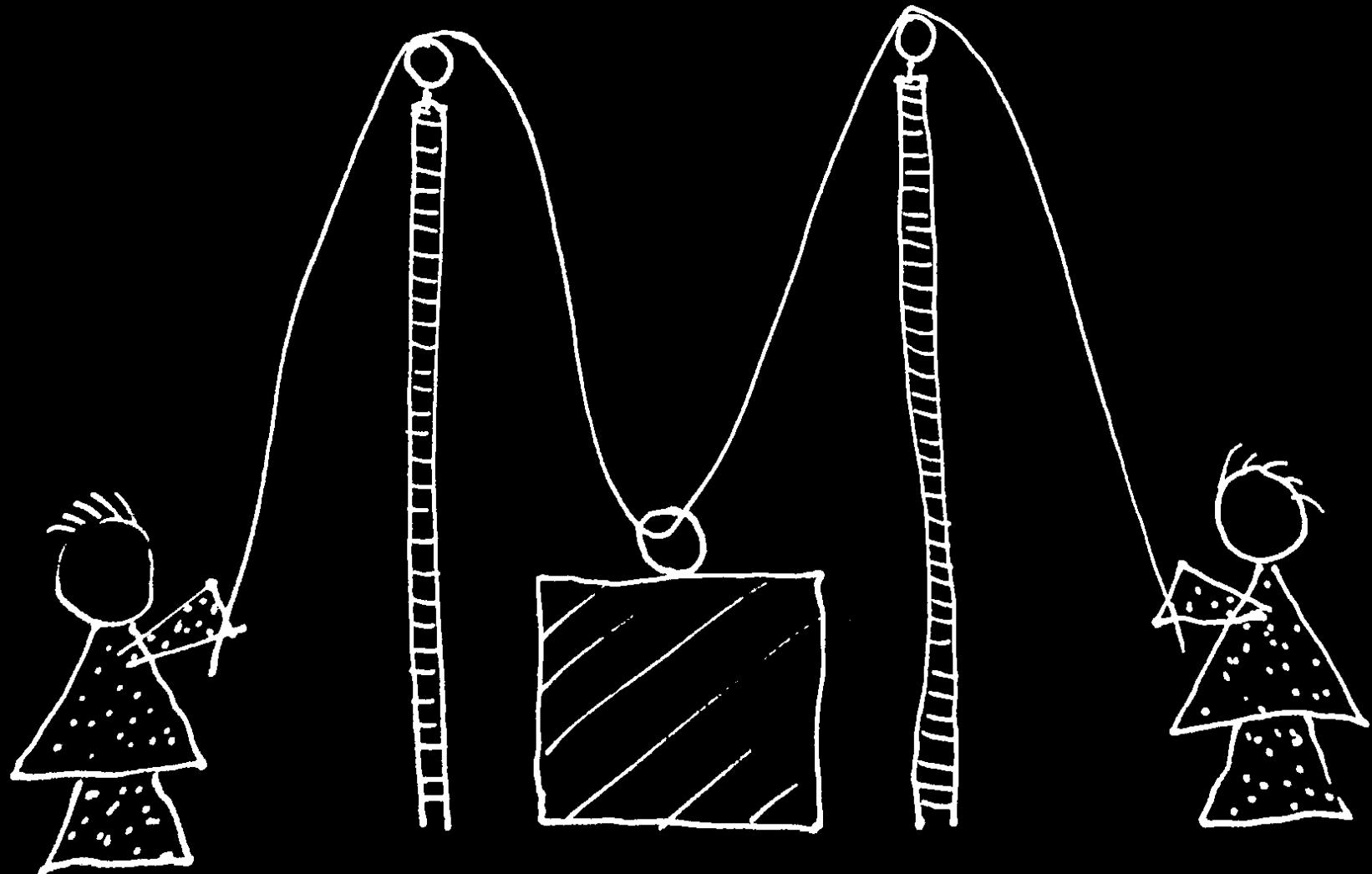
at least one of the agents knows that they are not acting individually; she or they have 'a conception of themselves as contributors to a collective end.'

awareness of others' agency

at least one of the agents is aware of at least one of the others as an intentional agent.

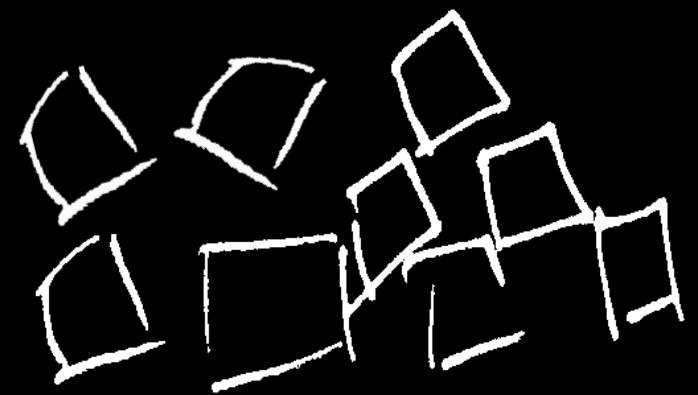
awareness of others' states or commitments

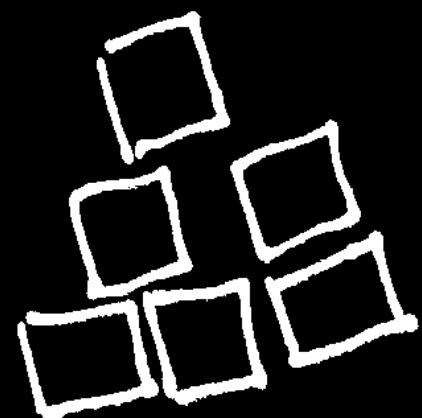
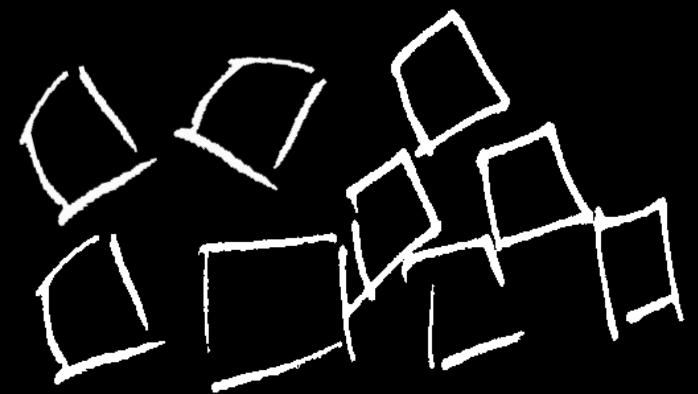
at least one of the agents who are F-ing is aware of, or has individuating beliefs about, some of the others' intentions, beliefs or commitments concerning F.



cf. Vesper et al (forthcoming)







But Are They Joint Actions?

an imaginary super-agent



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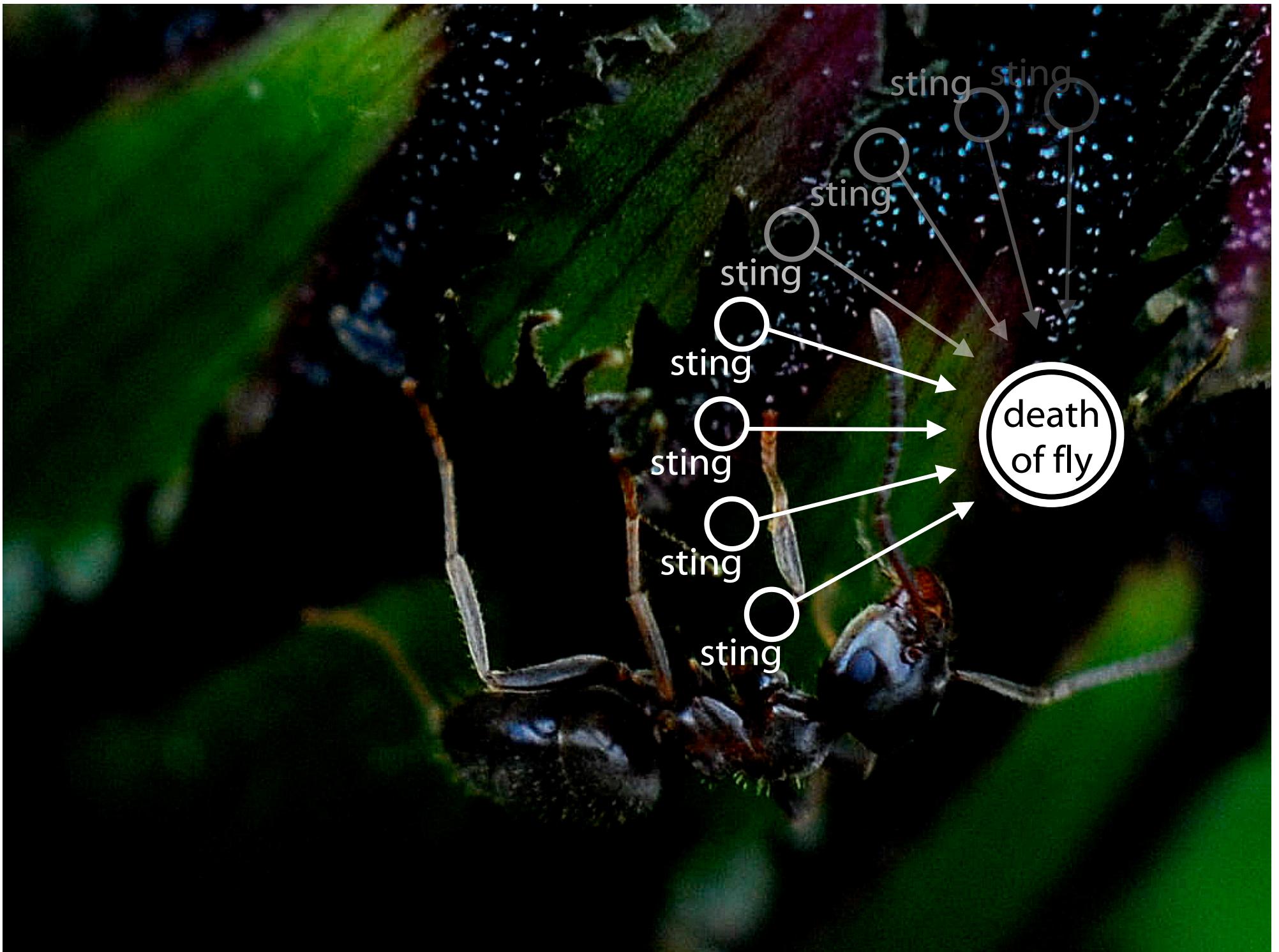
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There are no characteristic features common to all joint actions





sting sting

sting

sting

sting

sting

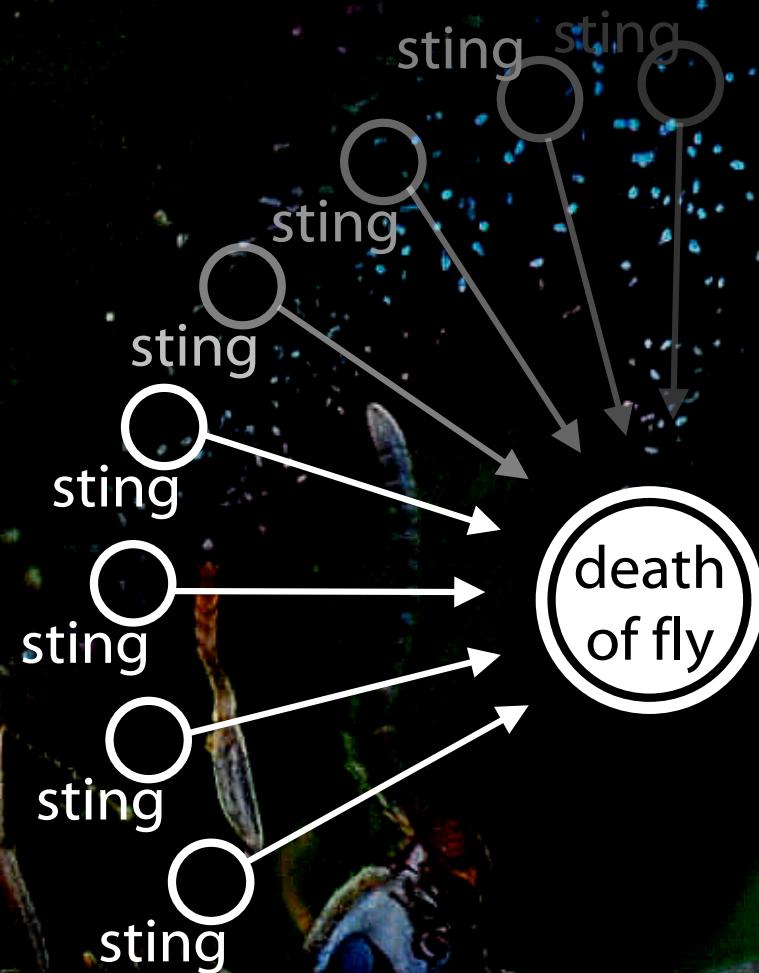
sting

sting

death
of fly

Plural activity

- multiple agents' activities are individually organised around a single outcome
- this outcome occurs as a common effect of, or is constituted by, all their activities



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Collectively sufficient conditions for joint action

- plural activity
- something coordinates the agents' activities
- the coordination is, or would normally be, among the causes of the outcome

'Ayesha and Beatrice
between them lifted the
block'



'Ayesha and Beatrice
between them lifted the
block'

'Left Leg and Right Leg
between them supported
the table'

'Ayesha and Beatrice
between them lifted the
block intentionally'



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