Word Games

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Dialogue

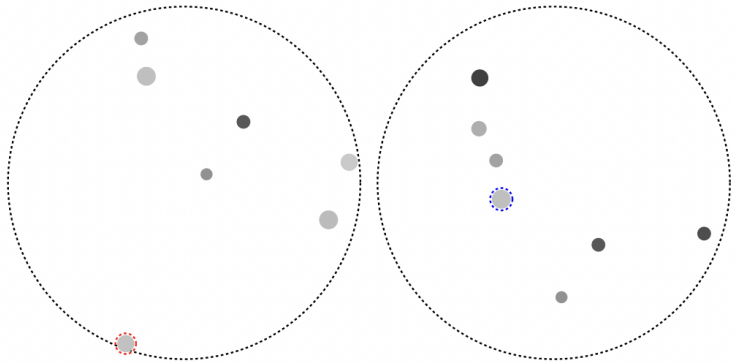
- Communication is rarely unambiguous
  - Ambiguity resolution through dialogue
  - Clarification questions
- Interactive, symmetric reference games
  - Isolates ambiguity resolution
  - Both give and request information

Games

Friends of agent A:

Name	School	Major	Company
Jessica	Columbia	Computer Science	Google
Josh	Columbia	Linguistics	Google
...	...	...	...

A: Hi! Most of my friends work for Google
B: do you have anyone who went to columbia?
A: *Hello?*
A: I have Jessica a friend of mine
A: and Josh, both went to columbia
B: *or anyone working at apple?*
B: SELECT (Jessica, Columbia, Computer Science, Google)
A: SELECT (Jessica, Columbia, Computer Science, Google)



Human A's view Human B's view

Human B: three light grey dots in a diagonal line
Human A: i dont have that but i have a black dot neer the top to the right, the only black dot in the circle
Human B: i have two black dots. find something else
Human A: ok i have a light grey dot by itself at the bottom to the left. right on the line
Human B: how big is it
Human A: its one of the bigger ones
Human B: okay just pick it then
Human A: ok
Human B: SELECT blue
Human A: SELECT red

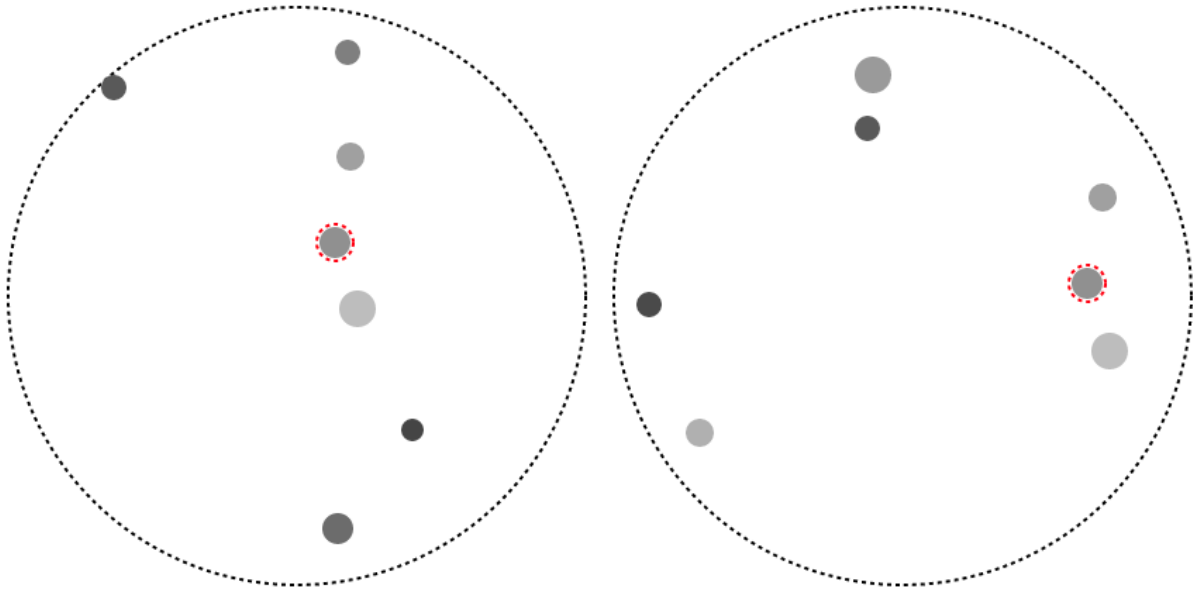
Mutual Friends and OneCommon

Issue: Poor neural reasoning

From Mutual Friends: Neural + Human

- A: Know anyone who likes chess?
- B: None of my friends like chess.
- (conversation continues)
- A: Crocheting?
- B: None like crocheting.
- A: Chess?
- B: None like chess either, haha.

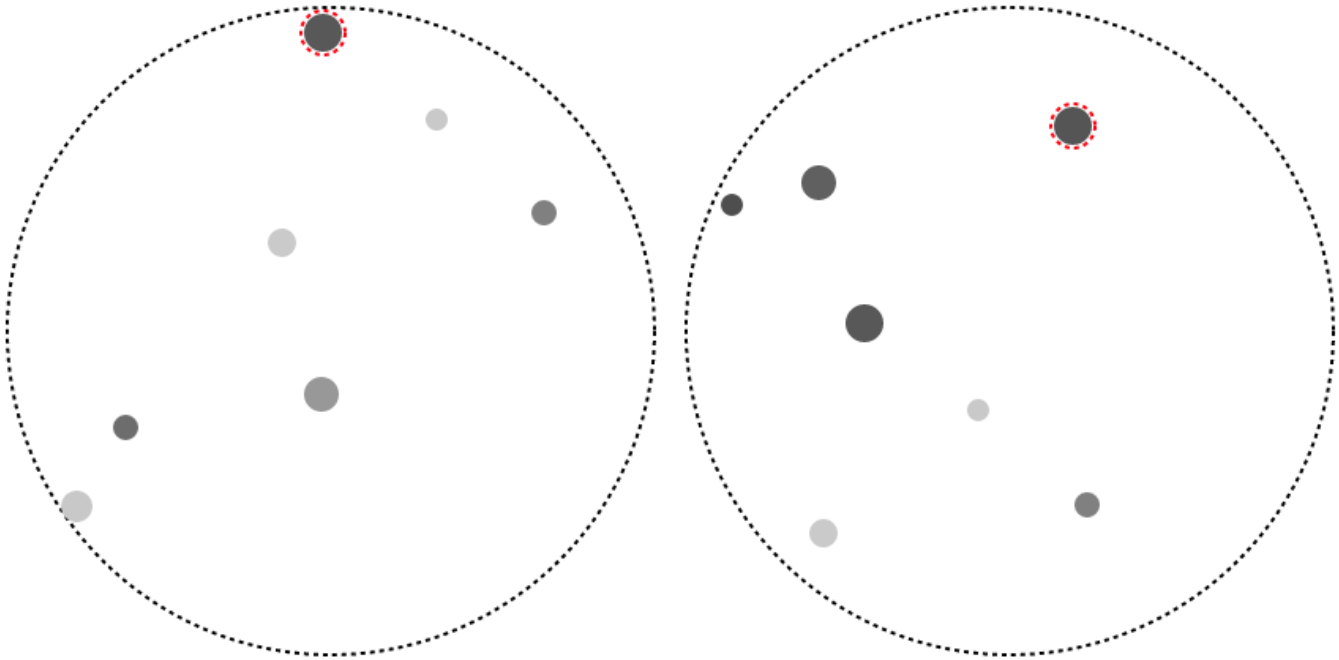
Issue: Poor neural reasoning



Agent 0: human || 1: human

	0	1
0	1	I see a large grey dot with a smaller black dot right below it
1	0	is the smaller black dot to the right and below
2	1	No, it is slightly to the left and below
3	0	Might not be the same one. Do you have a lot of dots in a fairly vertical conformation
4	1	I have three dots in a kinda vertical line with different shade of gray but close in size
5	0	Is the middle dot curved to the left or right a little bit?
6	1	the middle dot is slighty to the left of the other two and is also a little bit darker than the rest
7	0	Yes pick that middle dot

Issue: Poor neural reasoning



Agent 0: pragmatic_confidence || 1: human

	0	1
0	0	i have one large black dot by itself . do you have it ?
1	1	Yes, I do have that.
2	0	let 's pick that one
3	1	ok
4	0	ok

Issue: Scaling rule-based

- Rule-based text generation and understanding is somewhat viable for Mutual Friends
  - Very optimistic selection, but can be tuned
- Continuous and spatial nature of OneCommon makes writing rules difficult
  - Size, color, and positions all continuous
  - Descriptions are relative

Current approaches: Two extremes

- Neural encoder-decoder
  - Encode past interactions with a neural net
  - Generate what to say with a neural net
  - Brittle strategy, less brittle language
- Rule-based
  - Encode past interactions in a table
  - Use rules for what to say next
  - Nonparametric lookup of utterances
  - Brittle language, less brittle strategy
- Meet in middle with interpretable planning + neural language

A dialogue turn

- Engaging in dialogue requires
  - Inference: What do I know? How do I represent it?
  - Planning: What should I do and say?
- Formulate as model-based optimization
  - Plan what to say through a simple model of our partner
  - Model of partner conditions on past information

Problem setup

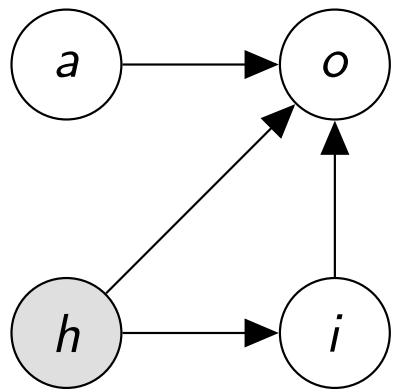
- Goal: Mutually select the same item as partner
  - Row in knowledge base, dot
  - Coordinate through dialogue
- Given history h, we need to chose an action a by optimizing value

$$\max_a V(h, a)$$

- Value V = information gain + utterance + pragmatic cost
  - IG: Entropy reduction of item selection probability
  - Utterance cost: Can't send a full paragraph
  - Pragmatic cost: Want utterance to be accurate
- Represent h, a using attributes
  - Columns of knowledge base, spatial configuration of dots

Information Gain

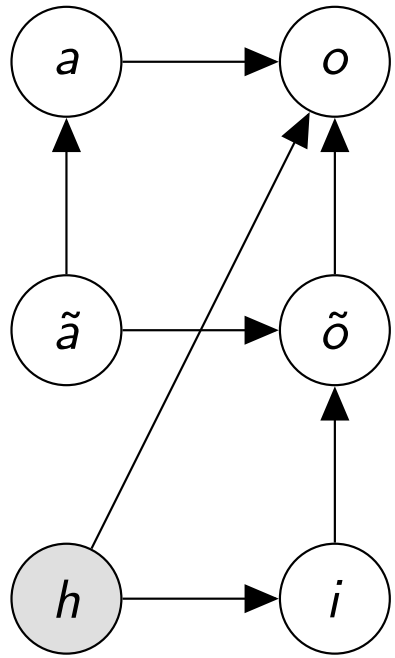
- A good action should move us closer to game success
- Game success depends on our knowledge of our partner's context
- Requires
  - Belief distribution over selection item given history $p(i \mid h)$
  - Partner response model $p(o \mid h, a, i)$
- Represent a turn as



- Language and planning coupled

Decoupling language and planning

- Compress actions a and observations o into language and abstract representations $\tilde{a}, \tilde{o}$
  - Language is high dimensional, redundant, and inefficient for planning
- Represent a turn as



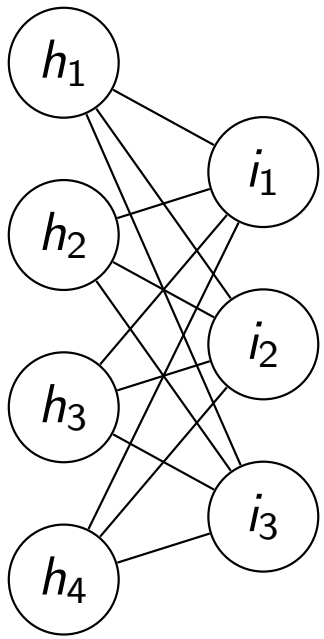
- Abstract observation $\tilde{o} \perp\!\!\!\perp h \mid \tilde{a}, i$

State and belief: Representation

- History: whether attributes have been confirmed $h \in \{0,1\}^N$
- Items: $i \in [M], N >> M$
- Logistic regression with attributes as features

$$p(i \mid h) = \frac{\exp(\sum_n \psi(h_n, i))}{\sum_{i'} \exp(\sum_n \psi(h_n, i'))}$$
$$\psi(h_n, i) = W_{ni} 1(h_n(i))$$

- Generate per-game $W = f(\text{context})$ from neural network
  - Many correlated features
  - How to (conditionally) sparsify?
- Dialogue = online feature selection



Attributes

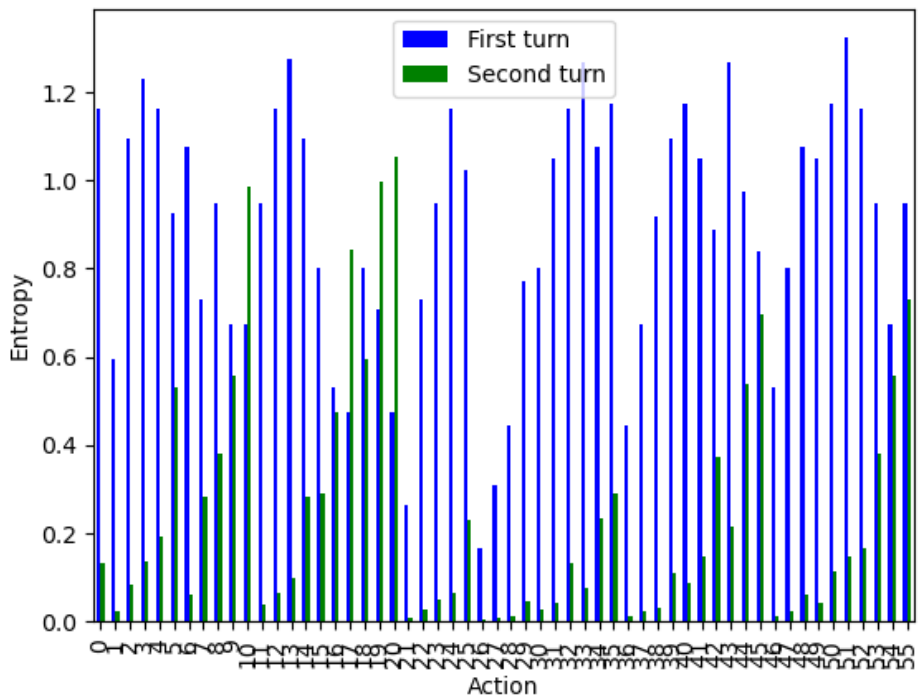
- Mutual Friends
  - Combinations of columns of knowledge base
  - Name, major, company
- OneCommon
  - Which dots are mentioned
  - Need to learn lower-level attributes
- Numerical reasoning?

Experiments

- Mutual Friends
  - Augment rule-based (prior work) to optimize info gain
  - After OneCommon: Add neural on top
- OneCommon
  - Use attributes = raw mention configurations
    - Need belief / info gain / LR weights
    - How to deal with redundancy? (i.e. correlation between features)
  - Learn latent refinement on top of mention configurations

Information gain issues

- Best info gain could be to ask the same question twice
- Usual fix: Limit to asking once only
- Would be nice to have a principled way to deal with correlated features though



End

Concerns

- Would a large LM solve all of this?
  - Fine tune on small onecommon dataset, are there still repeats?
  - Unlikely to solve strategy / over optimistism

End

Value: Information Gain

- drop slide
- Picture would be much better here...
- Value = expected information gain

$$IG(h, a) = H(i \mid h) - \mathbb{E}_{p(o|h,a)}\left[H(i \mid h, a, o)\right]$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(o|h,a)}\left[H(i \mid h, a)\right] = \sum_{o}\sum_{i'} p(o \mid h, a, i)p(i \mid h)H(i \mid h, a, o)$$

- Equivalent to minimizing expected uncertainty after receiving a response
- Cite Yu et al, White et al

Citations I