Human-Robot Collaboration: How Emotions Help to Do the Right Thing?

Mahni Shayganfar and Charles Rich and Candace L. Sidner
Fuller Laboratories
Computer Science Department
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-2280
mshayganfar | rich | sidner@wpi.edu

Abstract—The abstract goes here.

I. INTRODUCTION

Cognitive architectures involve various components and processes to provide cognitive functions to intelligent agents. All these cognitive functions ultimately serve the agents what to do next. Therefore, the underlying processes of an intelligent agent is in the service of action selection procedure. Hence, any intelligent agent must continually answer the question "What do I do next?", since action is the real measure of intelligence.

All of the solutions for the action selection problem address the question of which action to perform at what time [1].

[2]

For an intelligent agent to convey appropriate behavior, its actions should be chosen based on an accurate evaluation of the environment [3].

II. BACKGROUND

III. CONTRIBUTION

In this paper, we focus on small part of a larger architecture framework built based on our *Affective Motivational Collabo- ration Theory* [4], [5]. First, we investigated the influence of a collaboration structure on appraisal processes [6], and now we are investigating the influence of appraisal on collaboration structure (see Figure 1).

In the first part of our work, we implemented distinct algorithms for different appraisal processes for a collaborative robot. According to the appraisal theory, the outcome of these processes are separable antecedents of emotion with which the robot evaluates the environment. Our appraisal variables included: a) *relevance* used to measure the significance of an event for the robot, b) *desirability* to characterize the value of an event to the robot in terms of whether the event facilitates or thwarts the collaboration goal, c) *expectedness* indicating the extent to which the truth value of a state could have been predicted from causal interpretation of an event, and d) *controllability* indicating the extent to which an event can be influenced, and it is associated with a robot's ability to cope with an appraised event in a collaborative environment.

The outcome of each appraisal process is a specific value for the corresponding appraisal variable. The vector containing these appraisal variables can be mapped to a particular emotion instance at each point in time. For instance, a *relevant, undesirable, expected*, and *uncontrollable* event can elicit *anger* in an individual. However, it is not the actual emotion instance that is important for us. In fact, it is a) the functions of emotions in a social setting, e.g., *action selection*, and b) the meaning of the collabrator's perceived emotion that we are interested to investigate in collaboration context.

In our current work, we are investigating how appraisal can influence the *action selection* process during collaboration. The action selection process should provide the most appropriate action out of repertoire of possible actions.

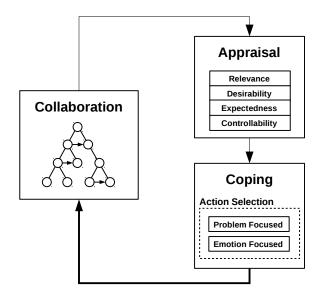


Fig. 1. Using coping strategies (action selection schemas) to select appropriate goal.

IV. CONCLUSION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work is supported by the National Science Foundation under award IIS-1012083. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

REFERENCES

- T. Tyrrell, "Computational mechanisms for action selection," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Edinburgh, 1993.
 M. Scheutz and V. Andronache, "Architectural mechanisms for dynamic
- [2] M. Scheutz and V. Andronache, "Architectural mechanisms for dynamic changes of behavior selection strategies in behavior-based systems," *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics, Part B*, vol. 34, no. 6, pp. 2377–2395, 2004.
- [3] S. Franklin, Artificial Minds, ser. A Bradford book. MIT Press, 1997.
- [4] M. Shayganfar, C. Rich, and C. L. Sidner, "Human-robot collaboration: Affect-driven functional coexistence," in *In Proceedings of Symbiotic Cognitive Systems Workshop at the 13th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 2016.
- [5] M. Shayganfar, C. Rich, and C. Sidner, "Toward improving human-robot collaboration with emotional awareness," *Under Review*, 2015.
- [6] M. Shayganfar, C. Rich, and C. L. Sidner, "Appraisal in human-robot collaboration," in *Under Review*, 2016.