Who is the cause? Who is responsible?

1) nature of the chain (Miller & Gunasegaram, 1990)
   - events causally dependent or not

2) “logic-based accounts” (Mandel, 2003)
   - necessary vs. sufficient conditions

3) probabilistic account (Spellman, 1997)
   - degree of change of the probability of the effect

Problems with the probabilistic account

1) nature of the events
2) recency
3) quality of performance

How do (i) quality of performance and (ii) the extent to which a contribution made a difference to the result affect people’s perception of how responsible each contribution was for the eventual outcome?

Research Question

Predictions & Results

both performance and certainty of the team’s outcome influence blame/credit attributions
- performance effect (Experiment 1 & 2)
- certainty of outcome effect (Experiment 1)
- performance effect even if the result is already determined?

Discussion

Why rational? → What can be inferred from an agent’s performance in a certain outcome situation?
- high score: agent is in principle capable of performing well
- low score: ambiguous evidence → did not try hard vs. is not able

Why should it matter, it doesn’t make a difference?!
- not in the actual world but in many possible worlds it would have made a difference

References


Matching Pennies Game

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<th>Initial</th>
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Multiple Choice Game

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Probability Rating Phase

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Responsibility Attribution Phase

both performance and certainty of the team’s outcome influence blame/credit attributions
- performance effect (Experiment 1 & 2)
- certainty of outcome effect (Experiment 1)
- performance effect even if the result is already determined?

Discussion

Why rational? → What can be inferred from an agent’s performance in a certain outcome situation?
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