

# Challenges for modeling multi-modal team coordination dynamics

Travis J. Wiltshire, Ph.D.

Human Factors NL Jaarcongres 2019, November 28, 2019 Soesterberg, NL



This work by Travis J. Wiltshire is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License 2019. Not for commercial use. Approved for redistribution. Attribution required.

# Overview

1. Challenges
2. Overview of Team coordination dynamics
3. Some examples of my work examining forms and functions of coordination

# 10 Challenges for Modeling Team Coordination Dynamics

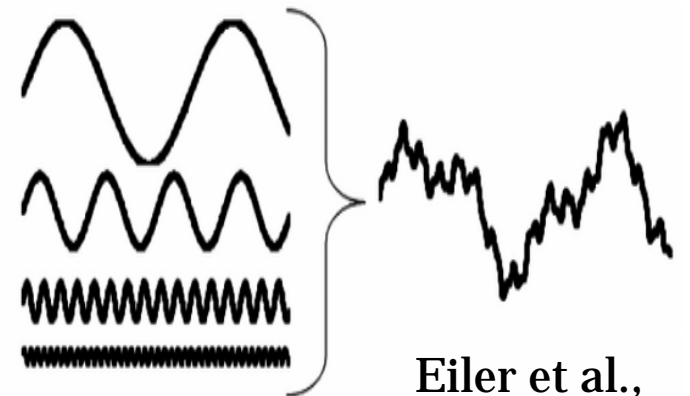
- Challenge 1: Making sense of the team coordination dynamics literature
- Challenge 2: Detecting important functions of social coordination in multiple modalities and contexts
- Challenge 3: What should we manipulate to determine the function of certain forms of coordination?
- Challenge 4: Issues with our models of coordination
- Challenge 5: Aggregate vs. continuous measures of coordination
- Challenge 6: How do we know we have observed meaningful change in coordination?
- Challenge 7: When do we maintain/emphasize idiographic information vs. nomothetic?
- Challenge 8: How do we know what time scales and time points are important?
- Challenge 9: Methods for modeling coordination in groups  $> 2$
- Challenge 10: How can we use all of this to augment team interactions?



# **Team Coordination Dynamics**

# Team Coordination Dynamics

- A form of multi-scale mutual information exchange between interlocutors (Oullier & Kelso, 2009)
- Effective (collaborative) team interactions require:
  - Coordination of behavior and knowledge
  - Across spatial and temporal scales
  - Both intra- and inter-individually
- Social phenomena manifest across individuals':
  - physiology, bodily movements, dialog acts, and technological systems



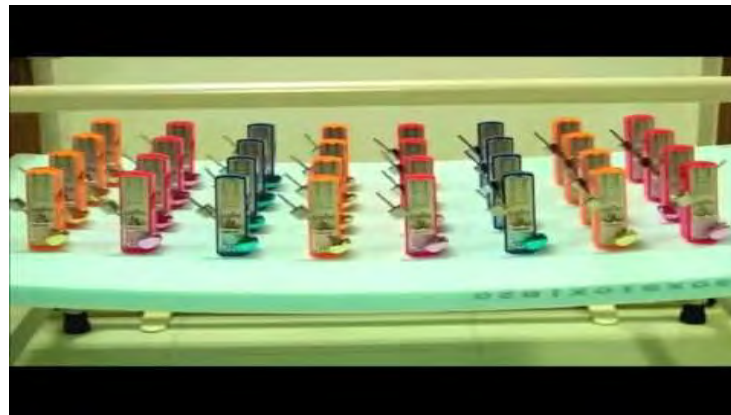
Eiler et al.,  
2013

# Team Coordination Dynamics

- The ways in which components and processes of a system change together over time (Butner et al, 2014)
- Can occur intra- and inter- personally
  - Referred to in different ways(forms): alignment, synchronization, co-regulation, entrainment, coupling, and more
- Observed in many modalities and contexts
- Knowledge of the functionality is limited

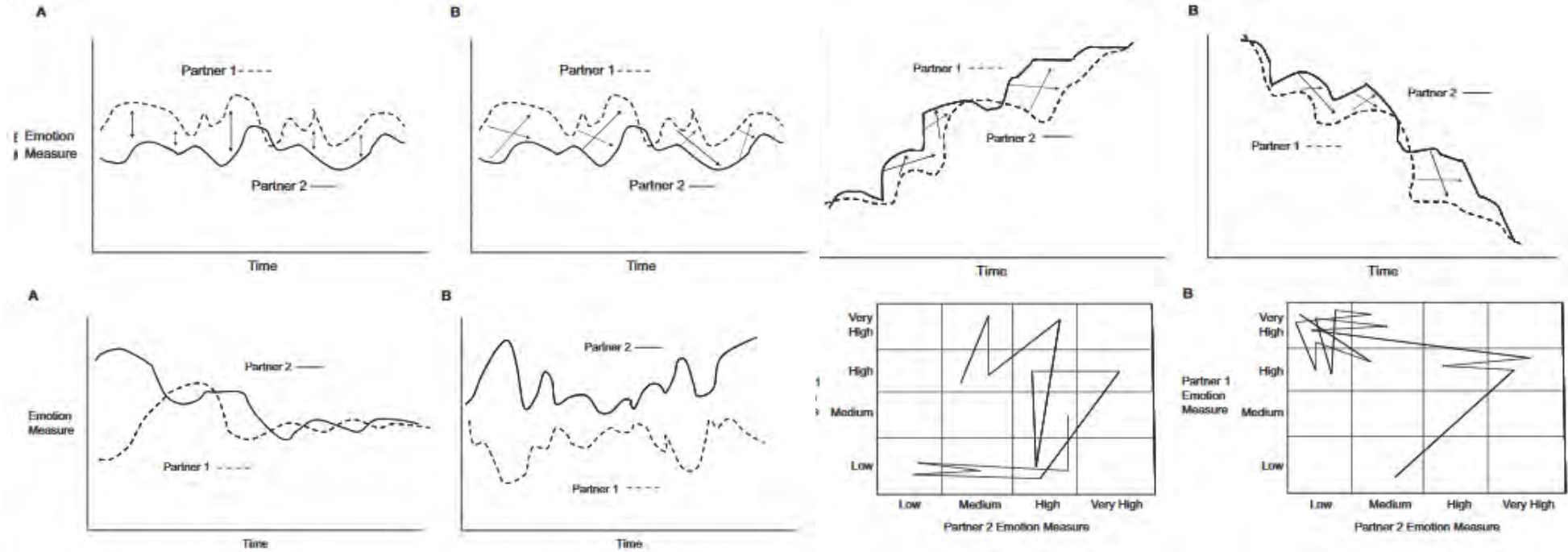


Christaan Huygens  
(1629-1695)



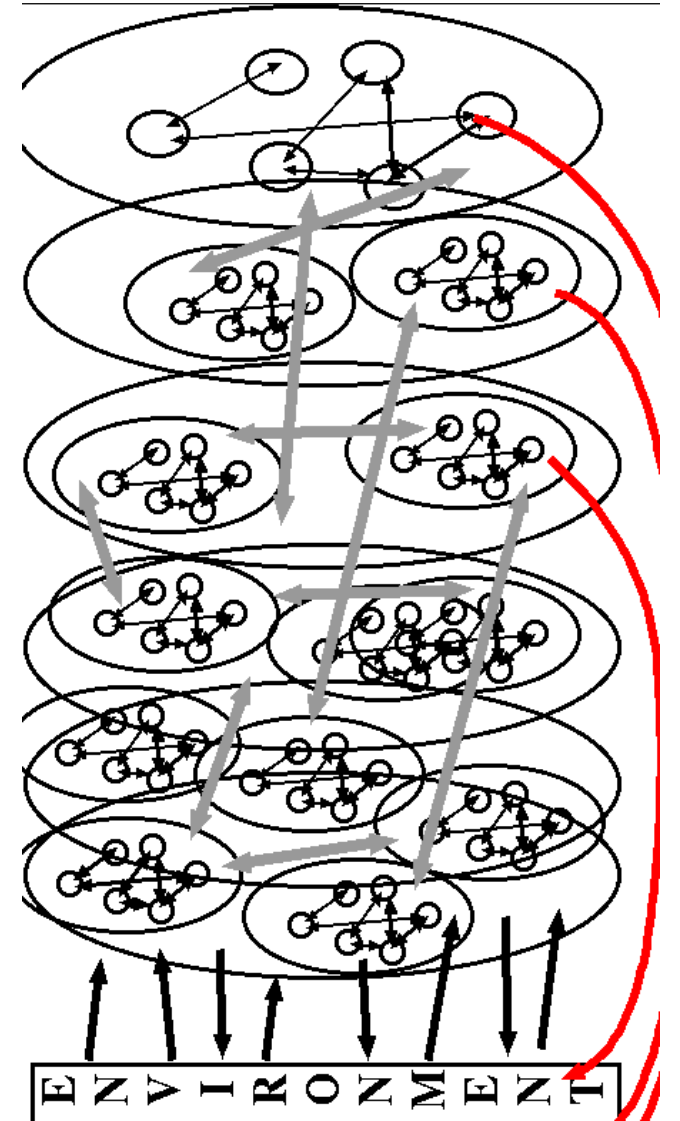
# Team Coordination Dynamics (Forms)

Butler, 2011



# Team Coordination **Dynamics**

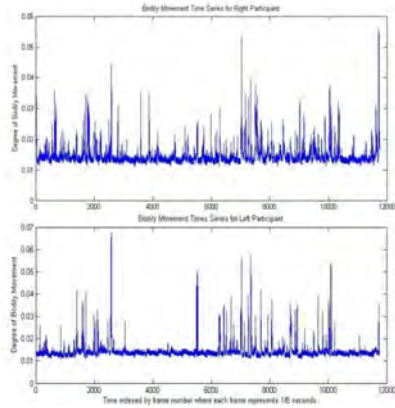
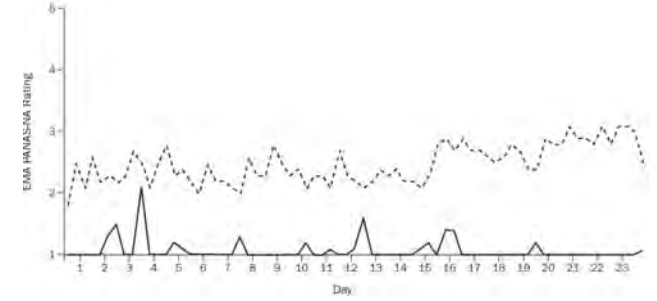
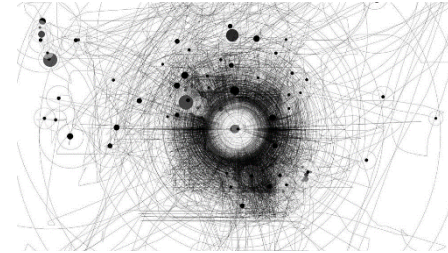
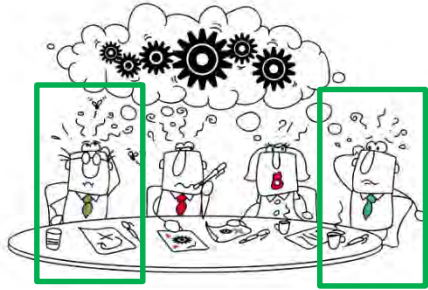
- Dynamical systems are:
  - Comprised by a set of reciprocally interacting components (system)
  - Hierarchically and nested structures (complex)
  - Change over time (dynamic)
    - Coordination changes (relative strength, and can breakdown)
  - Reciprocal influence with influence the environment (open)
    - We can influence coordination



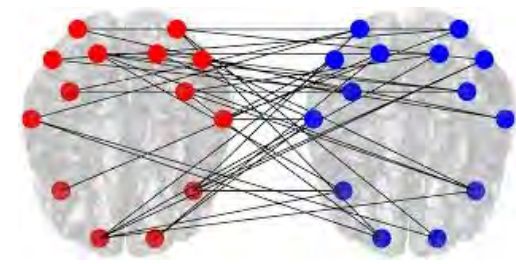
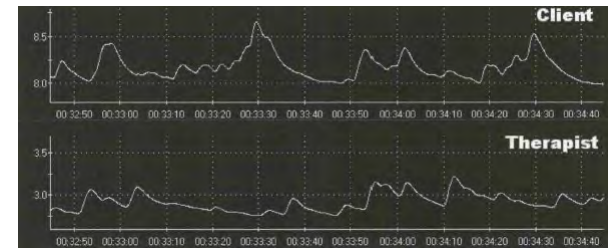
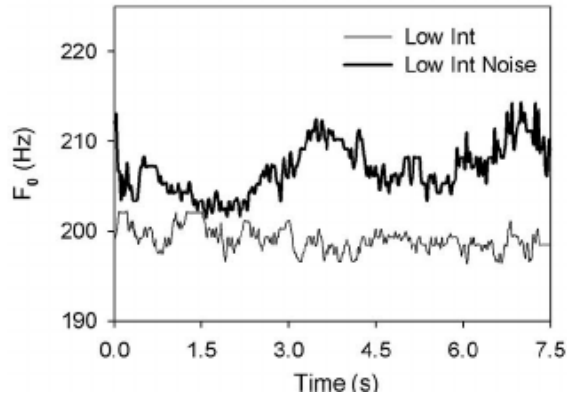
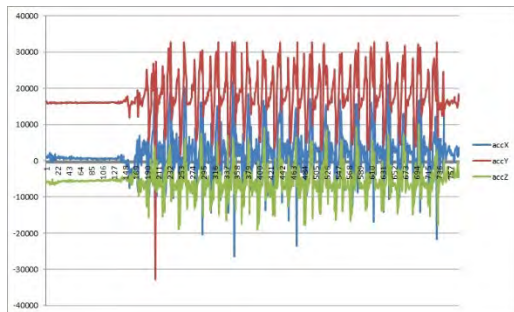
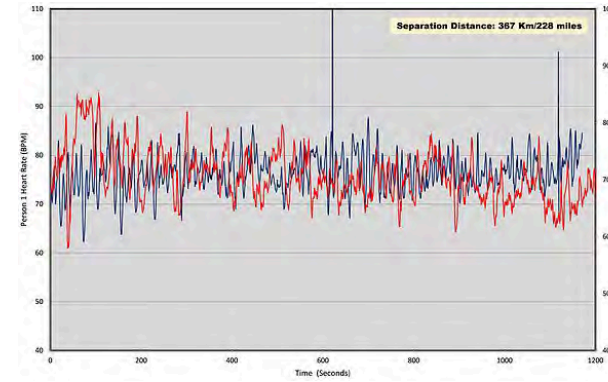
Gelo & Salvatore (2016)



# Team interaction data is complex



```
ELIZA: You're not really talking about me -- are you ?
YOU: What?
ELIZA: What do you think ?
YOU: I mean, I feel happy to be writing right now, to be typing this as we spe
ak. Lately, I've had writer's block.
ELIZA: You say you mean ?
YOU: That's what I said.
ELIZA: Can you elaborate on that ?
YOU: I only really feel happy when I'm writing.
ELIZA: How long have you been writing ?
YOU: Always, but I've been writing seriously since I was eighteen.
ELIZA: What incident are you thinking of ?
YOU: Um.
ELIZA: What does that suggest to you ?
YOU: I don't think it's enough, to only be happy when you write.
ELIZA: Does that trouble you ?
YOU: ...Um, because you can't write all the time. And then there's the real
world, and you still have to deal with real people.
ELIZA: What are your feelings now ?
YOU: I've been thinking a lot of that poem by Yeats: "The Man and the Echo."
Do you know it?
ELIZA: Do you say you've been thinking a lot of that poem by yeats: "the man and
the echo for some special reason ?
YOU: Yes.
```



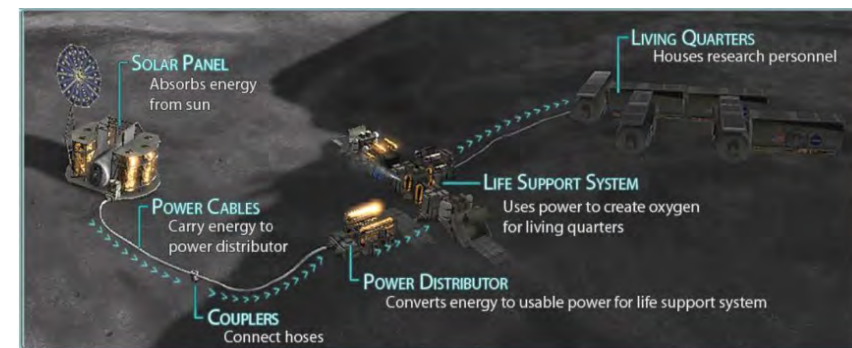
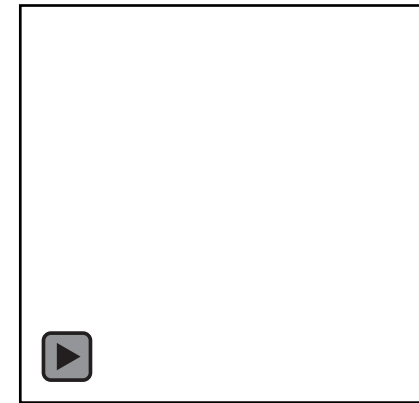
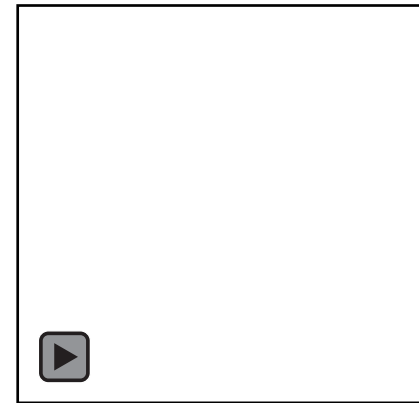
# **Challenge 1: Making sense of the team coordination dynamics literature**

**Examples from (mostly) my own work**

Modalities, Methods, Form & Function

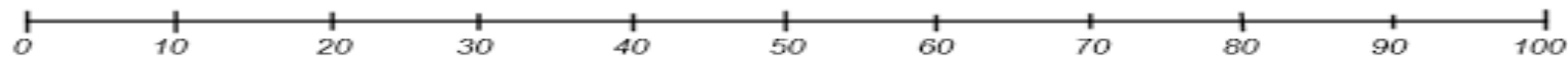
# NASA Moonbase Alpha Task

- Meteorite damaged moonbase, must work together figure out how to fix all components
- Allotted 25 minutes of 'oxygen' to complete task
- Complex, dynamic, time-dependent, necessitates collaboration
- No predefined sequence for how to solve
- Tools are major task constraint



# Team Performance

- Rescaled combination of three variables:
  - (a) the total **time** taken to restore life support (0-25 minutes),
  - (b) the total **percentage of oxygen** restored (0-100%),
  - (c) a ratio of completed **object repairs** to the total possible repairs (0-25; only for teams that restored zero oxygen).
- Each team got a score from 0 - 100
  - Also used grouping variable for performance



# Movement coordination at certain time scales predicts CPS performance

**Modality:** Bodily movements extracted using video-frame differencing

**Methods:** Cross-wavelet coherence, surrogate/virtual pairs analyses, growth curve analysis

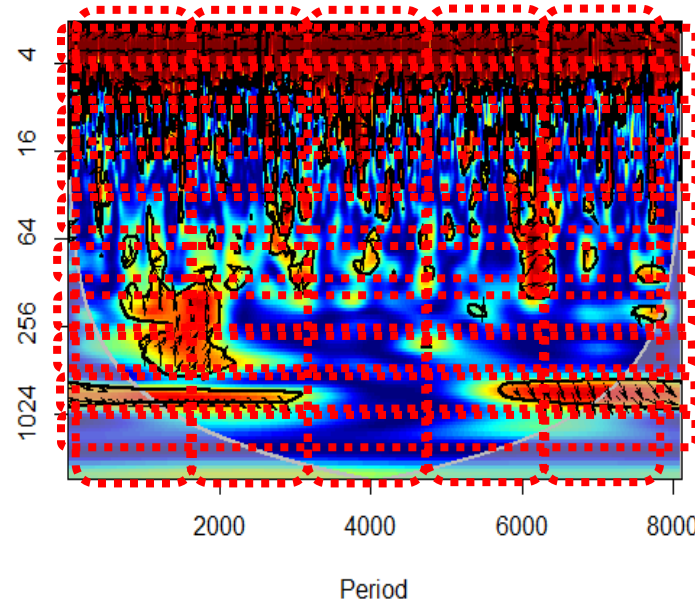
**Form:** Bodily movement coordination emerges at a level greater than expected due only to chance and task demands at **2s time scales and lower**

**Function:** Teams with high **in-phase** coordination at 1s time scale performed better



## Changes in Coordination

- Over duration of the task, the average coordinate across scales changes and is moderated by task performance.



Multiscale movement coordination dynamics in collaborative team problem solving

Travis J. Wiltshire<sup>a,c,d</sup>, Sune Vork Steffensen<sup>a</sup>, Stephen M. Fiore<sup>b</sup>

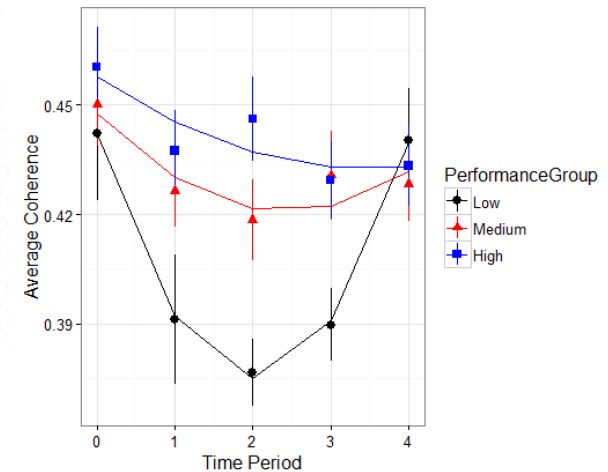
<sup>a</sup> Centre for Human Interactivity, Department of Language & Communication, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark  
<sup>b</sup> Institute for Simulation and Training and Department of Philosophy, University of Central Florida, 4009 Central Florida Blvd, Orlando, FL, USA  
<sup>c</sup> Department of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence, Tilburg University, Storm Building room 0.366, Warandelaan 2, 5037 AB, Tilburg, the Netherlands

### ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**  
Coordination  
Collaboration  
Problem solving  
Team performance  
Distributed systems  
Inclusiveness

### ABSTRACT

During collaborative problem solving (CPS), coordination occurs at different spatial and temporal scales. This multiscale coordination should play a functional role in facilitating effective collaboration. To evaluate this, we conducted a study of computer-based CPS with 42 dyadic teams. We used cross-wavelet coherence to examine movement coordination, extracted from videos, at several scales, and tested whether the observed coordination was greater than expected due to chance and due to task demands. We found that coordination at scales less than 2s was greater than chance and at most scales (except 16s, 1s, and 2s), was greater than expected due to task



# Changes in coordinated communication patterns relate to CPS performance

- **Modality:** Semantic content of speech (CPS processes)
- **Method:** Sliding window entropy can be used to identify transition points in team communications
  - Entropy is an information theoretic quantification of order in the system
- **Form:** General measures of order disorder in communication states
- **Function:** Separates distinct phases of collaborative cognition (based on distribution of communication states)



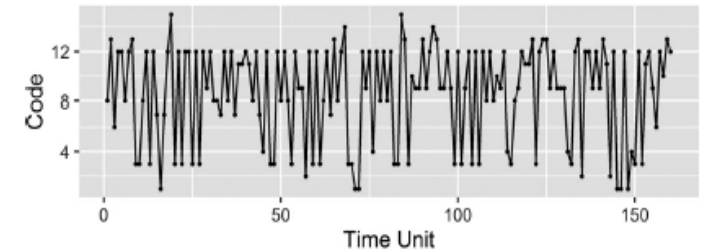
- **Lower average levels of entropy at transition points significantly predicted CPS performance (more ordered transitions)**



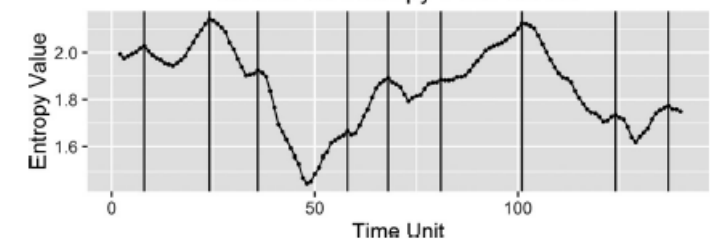
## Problem-Solving Phase Transitions During Team Collaboration

Travis J. Wiltshire,<sup>a,b</sup> Jonathan E. Butner,<sup>a</sup> Stephen M. Fiore<sup>c</sup>

### Code Time Series



### Smoothed Entropy Time Series

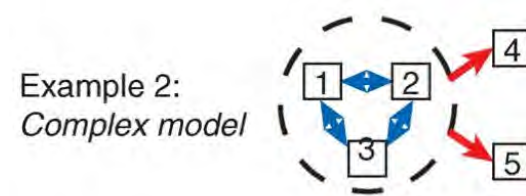
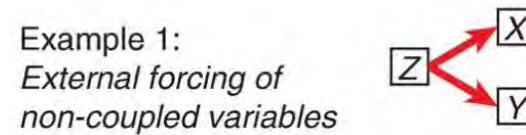
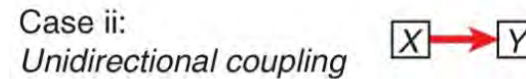
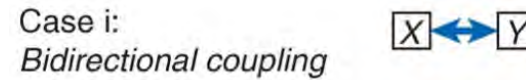


# Behaviors can drive (dynamically cause) behavior and physiology of others

- **Modalities:** Behavior, skin conductance, and RSA during a conflict interaction between mothers and daughters
- **Method:** Convergent cross mapping – a method for detecting ‘causality’ in complex systems
- **Form:** Unidirectional driving/coupling
- **Function:** Mothers of self-injuring teens drove their daughters behavioral and physiological trajectories



**Relevant to individual performance and teamwork**



Sugihara et al., 2012

Empirical Article

## Evaluating Emotional and Biological Sensitivity to Maternal Behavior Among Self-Injuring and Depressed Adolescent Girls Using Nonlinear Dynamics

Sheila E. Crowell<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan E. Butner<sup>1</sup>, Travis J. Wiltshire<sup>1</sup>, Ascher K. Munion<sup>1</sup>, Mona Yaptangco<sup>1</sup>, and Theodore P. Beauchaine<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Utah and <sup>2</sup>The Ohio State University

**Table 2.** MCCM Analyses Showing Directional Effects From Mother to Adolescent or Adolescent to Mother Behavior or Physiology

Group	Variable	<i>p</i> value	Embedding dimension	Proportion of replication of <i>p</i>
Behavior outcomes				
Control	TeenBeh → MomBeh	.41 <sup>a</sup>	3	1.00
	MomBeh → TeenBeh	.54 <sup>a</sup>	2	.86
Depressed	TeenBeh → MomBeh	.45 <sup>a</sup>	3	.90
	MomBeh → TeenBeh	.04*	5	.17
Self-injuring	TeenBeh → MomBeh	.37 <sup>a</sup>	2	.72
	MomBeh → TeenBeh	.00**	6	.42
Electrodermal outcomes				
Control	TeenBeh → MomEDA	.43 <sup>a</sup>	3	.80
	MomBeh → TeenEDA	.38 <sup>a</sup>	2	.97
Depressed	TeenBeh → MomEDA	.36 <sup>a</sup>	3	.76
	MomBeh → TeenEDA	.45	5	.86
Self-injuring	TeenBeh → MomEDA	.23 <sup>a</sup>	2	1.00
	MomBeh → TeenEDA	.01**	6	.41
respiratory sinus arrhythmia outcomes				
Control	TeenBeh → MomRSA	.15 <sup>a</sup>	3	.36
	MomBeh → TeenRSA	.16 <sup>a</sup>	2	.83
Depressed	TeenBeh → MomRSA	.85 <sup>a</sup>	3	.98
	MomBeh → TeenRSA	.18	5	.50
Self-injuring	TeenBeh → MomRSA	.08 <sup>a</sup>	2	.79
	MomBeh → TeenRSA	.01**	6	.84

Note: Beh = observed behavior during conflict; EDA = electrodermal activity; Mom = mother; RSA = respiratory sinus arrhythmia; Teen = adolescent daughter.

<sup>a</sup>Hypothesized nonsignificant result.

\**p* ≤ .05. \*\**p* ≤ .01.

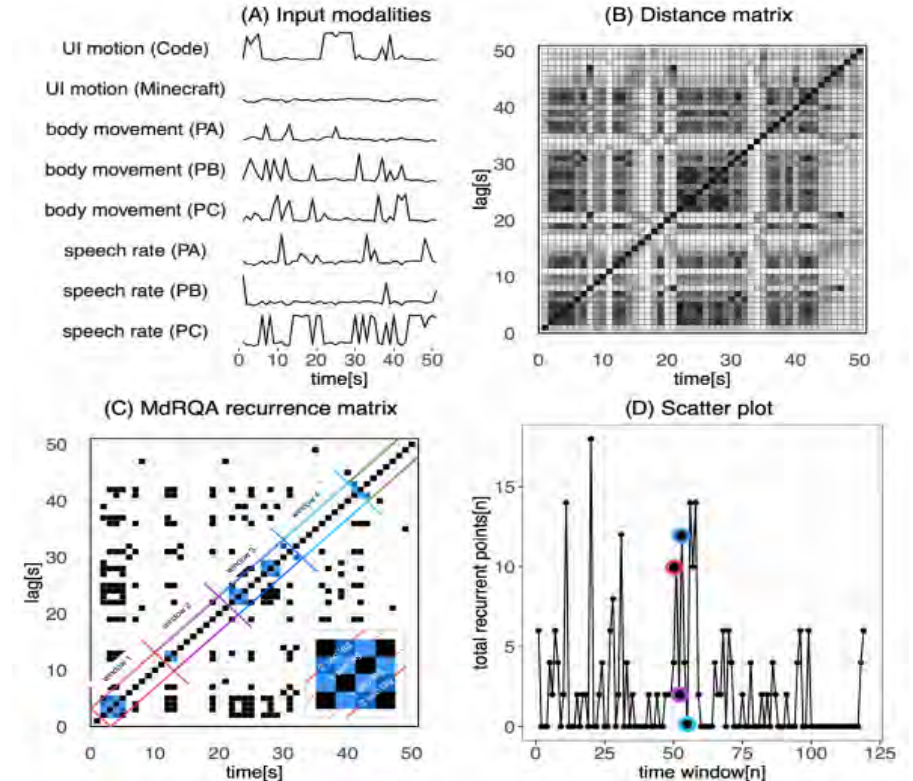
# Multimodal coordination predicts collaborative processes

- **Modalities:** Movements, speech rate, and changes in user interface
- **Method:** multidimensional recurrence quantification analysis (mdRQA), mixed effects modeling
- **Form:** Regularity of their temporal matching between multiple signals
- **Function:** Less systemic regularity predicts collaborative processes of constructing shared knowledge as well as negotiation/coordination.



## Beyond Dyadic Coordination: Multimodal Behavioral Irregularity in Triads Predicts Facets of Collaborative Problem Solving

Mary Jean Amon, Hana Vrzakova, Sidney K. D'Mello





# Team Coordination Dynamics Recap

- Mutli-scale
  - Coordination occurs **and spans multiple modalities** and certain **time scales** in those might have particular functions
- Multi-methodological
  - There are many methods we can use to quantify coordination
- Coordination can have different **forms** and it can change over time
- The **function** of coordination can be examined as:
  - A predictor of task performance (outcomes)
  - A comparison of the levels of coordination between conditions/contexts

# Want to investigate teamwork dynamics with me and my colleagues?

4 year - PhD position in Cognitive Science, Complex Systems, and Team Dynamics  
Tilburg University

4 year - PhD-position Field Research in Team Coordination and Wearable Technology  
Eindhoven Technical University

**Application DUE December 1, 2019**

\*\*\*Masters degree required

Email me or come chat for more details:

[t.j.wilthshire@uvt.nl](mailto:t.j.wilthshire@uvt.nl)



Thanks to my collaborators!

Contact me:

[t.j.wiltshire@uvt.nl](mailto:t.j.wiltshire@uvt.nl)



Acknowledgement: This work was supported by the Velux Foundations and the Carlsberg Foundation.

THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS

VILLUM FONDEN ✕ VELUX FONDEN

CARLSBERG FOUNDATION

# Thanks!

