### Reward Processing and Social Exchange

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## Natural visual statistics

# Specific algorithms evolved to solve efficiently the array of problems of early vision

# The real world imposes another difficult requirement on all mobile organisms



Recharge or die

### Natural reward-harvesting statistics?





woodland creature

### What computations should we expect?

Reward harvesting is an economic problem involving both valuation and choice

Models of reinforcement learning can provide insight



Select goal

Sustain goal



Midbrain dopamine neurons

Pause, burst, and 'no change' responses represent reward prediction errors – ongoing emission of information



Can we detect a reward prediction error signal in a human subject?

Neural correlates of these error signals have been observed in conditioning and decision tasks

Passive conditioning tasks

Instrumental conditioning tasks

Sequential decision tasks

Social and economic exchange tasks

#### Midbrain dopamine neurons

burst and pause responses encode reward prediction errors



Can these systems be re-deployed for abstractly defined rewards (ideas)?

What about the something more abstract like the expression and repayment of trust?



Modeling

Must involve risk (uncertainty)

Harvesting returns from another agent



## Simplifying and quantifying Trust

(Berg et al., 1995; Weigelt and Camerer, 1988)

## Trust is the amount of money a sender sends to a receiver without external enforcement.



### A dynamic version of the Trust game (10 rounds)



#### Structure of a round



What is the behavioral signal that most strongly influences changes in trust (money sent)?



### **Reciprocity** = TIT-FOR-TAT



## Questions about brain response

### Surprise response

**Responses that differentiate benevolent from neutral?** 

**Responses that differentiate malevolent from neutral?** 

**Responses that differentiate benevolent from malevolent?** 

#### **Trustee Brain:**

## 'intention to increase trust' shifts with reputation building



# Temporal shift resembles value transfer in reward learning experiments



# Why should intentions to increase repayment burn more energy?



# Trust?

- 1. Social trust is about modeling others always some underlying currency.
- 2. Re-deploy reward-harvesting machinery that we share with all vertebrates (abstractions gain reward status)
- 3. Use to probe pathologies (addicted state, autism spectrum disorder, borderline...)

#### Collaborators

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www.hnl.bcm.tmc.edu/trust

### How do we know a reputation is forming?



**Investment phase** 



#### collective ownership? common goods?