Embodiment and Human-Inspired Socio-Cognitive Mechanisms in Artificial Agents A Systematic Scoping Review

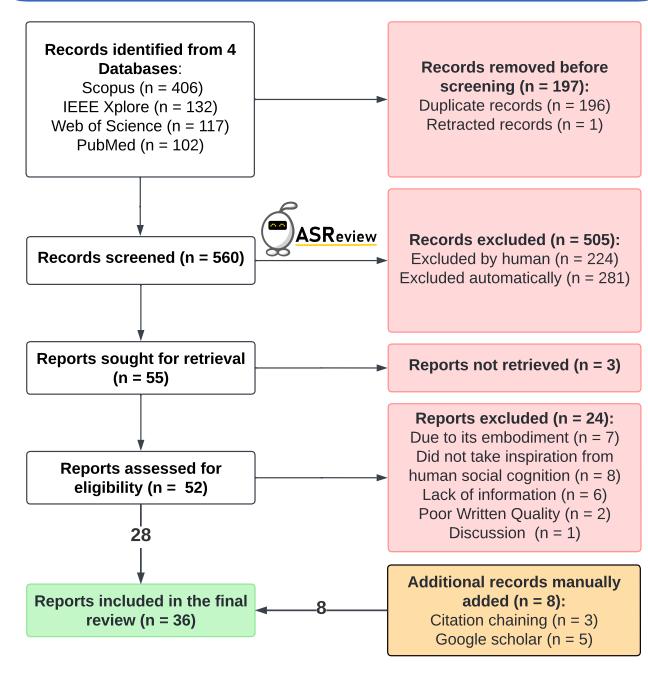
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1. Motivation

- To develop socially intelligent agents capable of interacting in complex environments and with other agents, we need to create embodied and biologically inspired agents [1].
- **Embodiment** is when agents are able to display states of facial expressions, postures and other gestures that appear during a social interaction [2].
- **Biologically inspired** is when implementation of agent architecture takes inspiration from neuroscience and psychology. It enables these agents to adapt to realistic environments [1].

2. Objective

To explore and systematically map the diverse ways in which human-inspired social cognition has been integrated into embodied agents, and to understand the benefits of these integrations



3. Methodology

Figure 1: PRISMA Flow Diagram showing the number of papers in each step of the review process

- Systematic scoping review
- Databases: IEEE Xplore, Scopus, WebOfScience, PubMed

References

[1] Samuele Bolotta and Guillaume Dumas. Social Neuro AI: Social Interaction as the "dark matter" of AI, April 2022. arXiv:2112.15459 [cs].

[2] T. Ziemke, "What's that Thing Called Embodiment?" Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, vol. 25, no. 25, 2003. [Online]. Available: https://escholarship.org/uc/item/60w6v9j

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4. Results and Conclusions

Various studies emphasised the importance of mutual eye contact and gaze cue in increasing anthropomorphism and joint action coordination.

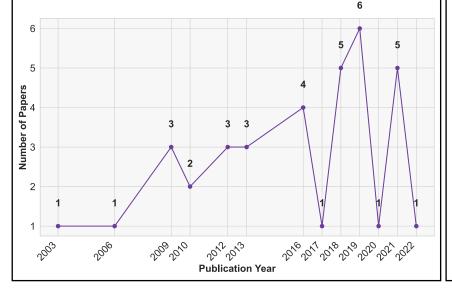
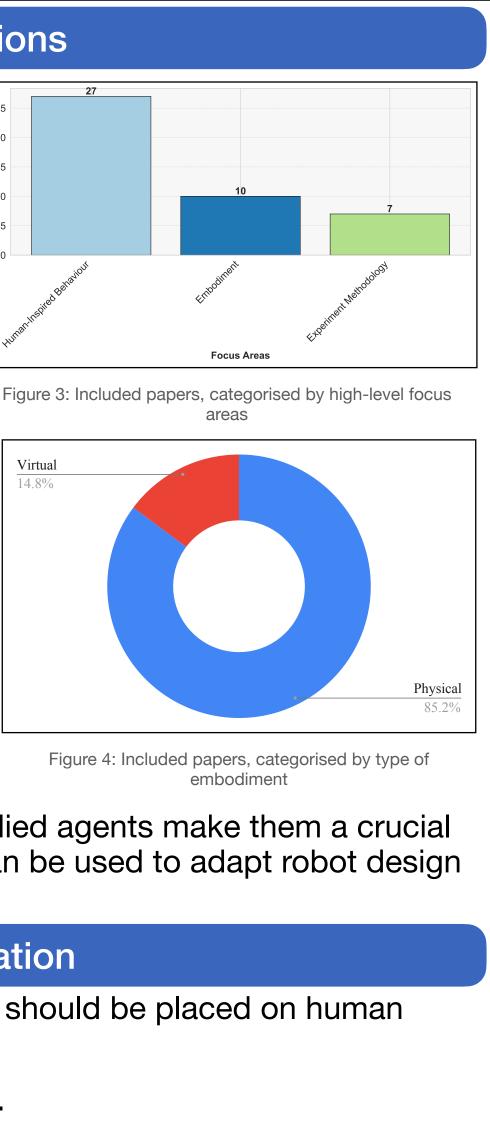


Figure 2: Included papers, categorised by publication year

- Focus Area
- Inspiration was taken from **curiosity-driven**, affordance-based to predictive learning mechanisms, leading to emergent behaviours.
- **Embodiment** offers a wide range of modes of communication to exchange information with social partners.
- **Embodiment** can be manifested physically, virtually or a mix of both.



Ecological validity and **behavioural control** of embodied agents make them a crucial tool to study human behaviours. Insights from these can be used to adapt robot design accordingly.

5. Discussion and Limitation

- Most papers on human-inspired eye gaze, more focus should be placed on human mechanisms leading to emergent behaviours.
- The **optimal** choice of embodiment is *task-dependent*.
- **Limitations**: Review process conducted by **one** author, *only a sample of the papers* were reviewed.



