

WILL AND INTENT

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Abstract

Even though it is difficult for many to accept the fact that the human mind is able to act unconventionally on physical reality across a distance, there have already been several attempts in the scientific field to apply this mental ability.

This presentation is a brief summary of the current status of the practical applications of this ability. It also provides some early data on the mind's unexpected and unconventional mode of action in the distant influence of physical targets and proposes a functional difference between 'will' and 'intent'.

Furthermore, it is suggested that this mechanism of influence is also responsible for the placebo effect.

At present the most common theory of the human mind is strictly reductionist and excludes any possibility of it influencing distant physical objects, its tenet being that all mental activity is solely dependent on the brain's local properties, and that it can only interact directly through biological activity.

Nonetheless, although many still find it difficult to accept the mind's ability to influence and acquire information unconventionally across a distance, there have already been attempts in the scientific field to apply these abilities and it can now be confirmed that, after fine-tuning some aspects, they will in the near future lead to true mental technologies.

Small electronic devices that generate random bit sequences – logical states of 0 and 1 – are currently commercially available at affordable prices (for example, the excellent Psyleron™ REG-1, created during studies at Princeton started in the 1960s – Fig. 1) and are deemed scientifically reliable.



Fig. 1

These devices generate totally random bit sequences, of which statistically half have the value of 1 and the other half of 0. The probability of the sequence deviating from 50% is predictable according to statistical rules regarding totally random events; the acronym REG, in fact, stands for Random Event Generator (events here being bits). There is also the acronym RNG (Random Number Generator).

So, given that world-wide experiments conducted over several years by Princeton University's PEAR project showed that strong emotion emitted by multiple persons caused a significant deviation from 50% of the 0:1 balance from an REG, we asked ourselves if one person could do likewise, and we demonstrated with various experiments that one can indeed do so, with significant results even over a distance of 200 Km⁽¹⁾.

Moreover, after a detailed study of the physical mechanism employed by the REG ⁽²⁾, we realised that it was better not to ask the experiments' participants to mentally generate an increase in 0 or 1 states, later to be compared with a reference state, but rather, in order to simplify the procedure, ask them to alter the normal random flow of 0 and 1 equally towards an excess of either 0 or 1.

Using this expedient, in 2015 we also built a small self-powering electronic device (called MindSwitch 1 – Fig. 2), based on a single-board computer (Fig. 3) interfaced with a True Random Number Generator (TRNG 2 – Fig. 4), which turned on an LED when the mental signal exceeded a pre-determined level. In 2018 we built a new much more sophisticated version (MindSwitch 2 – Fig. 5), which was used in an experiment that allowed us to compare several methods of separating the mental signal ⁽³⁾.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The decision to carry out these measurements stems from the theory – progressively being validated – that distant mental interaction may favour order where there is disorder and therefore is able to reduce the level of randomness in data collected from mental interactions.

However, we did not limit ourselves to random bit generators: in a series of experiments we also worked at influencing, from Italy, a photon counter at the Rhine Center in Durham, North Carolina (USA) – a distance of over 7000 kilometres.

The photon counter we worked with is a standard scientific instrument (a photomultiplier-counter – Fig. 6) which detects and only counts ultraviolet photons that appear in its window when the shutter is open; this device is enclosed in a special dark room impenetrable to light. And so from Italy, by mental command, we made ultraviolet photons appear in short bursts in front of the device, which then counted them ⁽⁴⁾. We can discard the possibility that the electronic device itself was influenced, because the photons were not detected while the shutter was closed.



Fig. 6

More than six years of (published) experiments on the human mind's ability to influence physical reality assisted us in creating a clear distinction between what are called 'will' and 'intent', which are often used interchangeably in everyday language. We believe that will implies uncertainty due to possible unforeseen dangers or mistakes, while intent does not allow for doubts or mistakes.

The following are two deliberately exaggerated examples to help illustrate the concepts.

Here is an example of will: a climber wants to reach the summit of a notoriously difficult mountain. The climber checks the reliability of the weather forecast, his/her own physical fitness, suitable equipment, possible avalanches or landslides along the path, and any mistakes to avoid. Basically, the climber has a very strong will, even though associated with risks, but there are also doubts – success is not guaranteed.

And here is an example of intent: I am at the table with my wife, there's a nice pork roast on the table and we wish to eat it with a suitable good wine. We decide on a particular wine, I go and get the bottle and a bottle opener, uncork it and pour some for both of us, all while we continue discussing the wine and roast. I simply expressed an intent to get and open the bottle and, having done this thousands of times already, I had no doubt whatsoever that I could do it, so much so that I continued talking away during the task, barely giving it any thought. No uncertainty about the outcome of a task.

From our understanding so far, it seems that when influencing reality, intent ensures success while will does not. However, the intent must be "pure", in that it must not be clouded by doubt or curiosity about the outcome. It's not as easy as it seems, because society has conditioned us to believe we are incapable and that we cannot mentally influence reality; even just thinking about it is heresy.

We also noticed a "delayed effect": once an 'effective' intent has been expressed, it continues to produce effects for over an hour. We are studying this aspect in order to understand its origin.

We publish everything we do and make available to the public all the data from our experiments, so that other researchers can use them for their own research. We will also do this with the results from an experiment that is currently underway, but obviously only after they are published. Therefore I can't talk about this experiment, but I will say that it has produced an unexpected result: a type of "early effect".

To explain this, I will use as an example something totally unrelated to the current experiment. Let's assume that in a different room to where I am there is a random number generator and that I am about to randomly choose an amount of time after which I should enter it, and which method to use in a conscious attempt to influence it for 5 minutes, while watching the monitor showing the balance between the generated 1 and 0 states.

The random choice of time says that I should begin the influence attempt in 20 minutes but, since at this point I can't see a monitor because it is with the generator in another room, in the instant I choose a random length of time the monitor shows a peak which quickly falls but leaves a 'trail' for several minutes. When I do begin the actual conscious influence for 5 minutes, if I do it properly, the generator produces another higher peak, as expected, and longer 'delayed effect'.

For now we theorize that, at the moment the time is randomly chosen, the mind is concentrated for an instant on what will be done and how, thus producing something like a 'pure intent' which is, so to speak, 'unconscious', and is able to produce an influence.

After all the mental influence experiments performed, even on a target more than 7000 Km away, it is no longer surprising that distance has no lessening effect; on the contrary, it seems that neither distance – however much it is – nor physical obstacles interfere with intent.

Of course we also commit ourselves to analyzing the human mind's ability to distantly influence another mind without any form of technical aid. In the research field dedicated to mind-to-mind interaction we have been studying "unconscious instrumental telepathy" for over 6 years; this is the instrumental detection via electroencephalography of the interaction – below consciousness threshold – between the minds of two people in different places and sensorially isolated. One of them (the "Sender") is given random computer-generated visual and auditory stimulations, and the other (the "Receiver") is not stimulated and sense nothing, but this person's Electroencephalogram output is recorded on a second computer, to be analyzed later (Fig. 7).

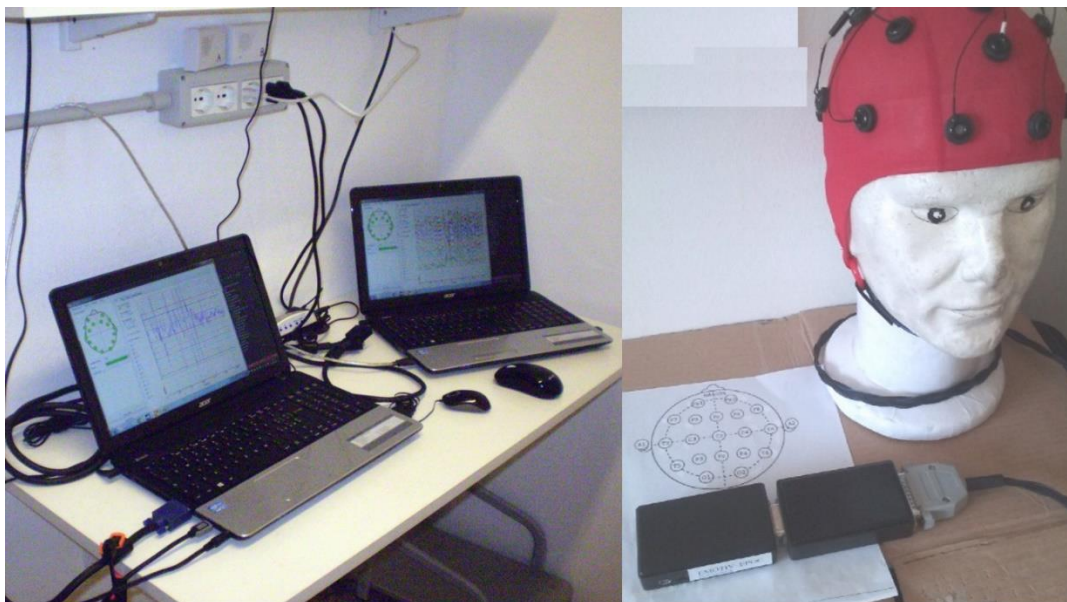


Fig. 7

The analyses, with three independent algorithms, showed the presence of a very weak but detectable signal in the Receiver's EEG which actually allows us to determine the frequency of the on/off modulation of the stimuli received by the Sender ⁽⁵⁾, ⁽⁶⁾. The received signals are well below the threshold of conscious perception, but we noted that their presence and intensity very much depends on the degree of empathy between the two participants, of whom one – the Sender – expresses the intent to send signals to the other, while the other – the Receiver – expresses the intent to receive them, despite not noticing anything consciously.

The large variation in signal intensity amongst participant pairs leads us to reasonably assume that more able or 'gifted' people than those used by us could produce much stronger signals, perhaps even exceeding the threshold of consciousness perception.

We noticed that much depends on how interesting the stimuli are, especially in the Sender. Unfortunately the limitations and the many repetitions required by proper scientific method did not allow us to investigate truly 'interesting' stimulations, also because our experiments were

aimed at using participants purely as ‘radio transceivers’ in order to obtain binary signals between the Sender computer – generator of standardized stimuli – and the Receiver, and to analyse EEG signals and extract transmitted data.

At this point it is evident to us that interest in the goal and the ability to express a strong intent with the total certainty of a result are the most significant abilities of a Sender, however, it seems a certainty that the Receiver is essential: if we say that 100 is the highest score that an able Sender can achieve, if the Receiver is sceptical, the result will be zero. If the Receiver is only slightly believing, we can estimate that the result will not exceed 30% of the maximum possible.

If the Receiver is motivated, then depending on the degree of motivation the result may vary from 60% to 100%. Even if our goal is scientific research rather than treating patients, for us it is nonetheless easy to infer that these principles should also apply to the doctor-patient relationship: a strong intent to heal from the doctor and an equally strong intent to heal in the patient may represent the best chance for the patient’s recovery.

Even the placebo effect can be easily understood in light of what has been described here. If the doctor intends to heal the patient and the patient intends to heal, the result will be excellent: the placebo will simply be a tangible testimony to these two complementary intents.

If one of these is missing or insufficient, the result will be unsatisfactory. On the other hand, it is well known that not even a pharmaceutical product can heal if there is no intent to heal.

The final consequence is that both patient and doctor should collaborate with the best of intention.

If not, it will be detrimental to the patient and a significant ethical problem for the doctor.

Fortunately for me I’m not a doctor!

NOTES

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