
Study Questions

Nowak, Komarova, and Niyogi 2002 – Nature

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1 Notes

- This article introduces many of the ideas we discuss this week in plain language. It goes on however to discuss two areas that we don't discuss so much—learning theory and evolutionary models of language change. Focus your attention on the perspective these approaches give to Universal Grammar.

2 Questions

1. page 611. Explain in your own words the sentence “Without loss of generality, we can consider the binary alphabet, $\{0,1\}$, by enumerating the actual alphabet in binary code.”
2. Show a derivation of the sentence 001122 from the context sensitive grammar given in Figure 2, page 616.
3. See page 614, column 1 and page 615 column 1. What is Universal Grammar from the perspective given by learning considerations? Explain.
4. Summarize in a paragraph the perspective the evolutionary language theory brings to UG. (pages 616-7).