Abstract
ET: Enhanced Tool
The effectiveness of <business process models> in supporting the design of <distributed processes> has been demonstrated. An enhanced tool / method is described for the design of <business processes> based on <decomposition by separating concerns using protocols>. Examples are provided confirming the effectiveness of its support for <construction of business process models, particularly with respect to the issue of representing the interface that agents see within the distributed process>.

Why ET?
The authors propose using a protocol-centric decomposition of business processes. Neither modular decomposition nor business processes are new. This is just an enhanced model type / solution strategy, per Newman's categorization.

Question - [Method/means of development]
How can we control the complexity of business process specification, and perhaps render it more amenable to automated analysis?

Results - [Tool / notation]
The authors use protocols to decompose business processes in a manner analogous to how interfaces are used to decompose software artifacts. Each business protocol is represented as a finite state machine, where each edge indicates a caller, a callee, and the name of a signal that must be sent from the caller to the callee in order to traverse the edge. A successful interaction is represented by arrival at the end state of the state machine.

The interface that one agent (either caller or callee) sees from the protocol is called a “skeleton,” probably to be consistent with the terminology in Corba and similar environments. The authors provide an algorithm for automatically generating skeletons from a protocol state machine description.

Validation – [Example and Analysis (Proof)]
The authors briefly prove the (somewhat intuitive) correctness and completeness properties of their skeleton-construction framework. They also try to show that their notation has something to do with reality by applying it to a small industry example (the NetBill protocol). Finally, there is a little bit of good persuasion, in that the ability to create composite skeletons leads naturally to the conclusion that this approach allows users to build up complex processes from simpler protocols.