

Semantic Technologies

Exploiting deduction and abduction services
for information retrieval

Ralf Moeller

Hamburg University of Technology

Semantic Technologies: Data Descriptions

- Ontologies (specified in, e.g., OWL, UML)
(aka knowledge bases, represented in DLs plus safe rules)
- Deductive databases (e.g., Datalog),
- Logic programming (e.g., Answer-Set-Programming)
- Constraint-Solving Approaches (e.g., constraint DBs)

- Combinations with
 - Probability theory
 - Fuzzy set theory / Rough set theory

What can semantic technologies be used for today?

- Combinatorial problem solving (e.g., Sudoku)
- Systematic construction of domain models
 - Consistency checks, subsumption checks
 - Explanation, modularization, concept suggestions
- Instance retrieval / query answering
 - Almost main-memory-scalable for expressive ontology languages
 - Secondary-memory-scalable (almost) for data-oriented ontology languages
- Data integration

This list is probably incomplete

There's More to Semantic Technologies in the Future

- Semantic Technologies now:
 - Data generation / query augmentation
- In some cases, only content-oriented retrieval is possible (e.g., for text, image, video, or audio data)
- Symbolic content descriptions are not directly available but have to be derived/provided (manual **annotation** / automatic **interpretation**)

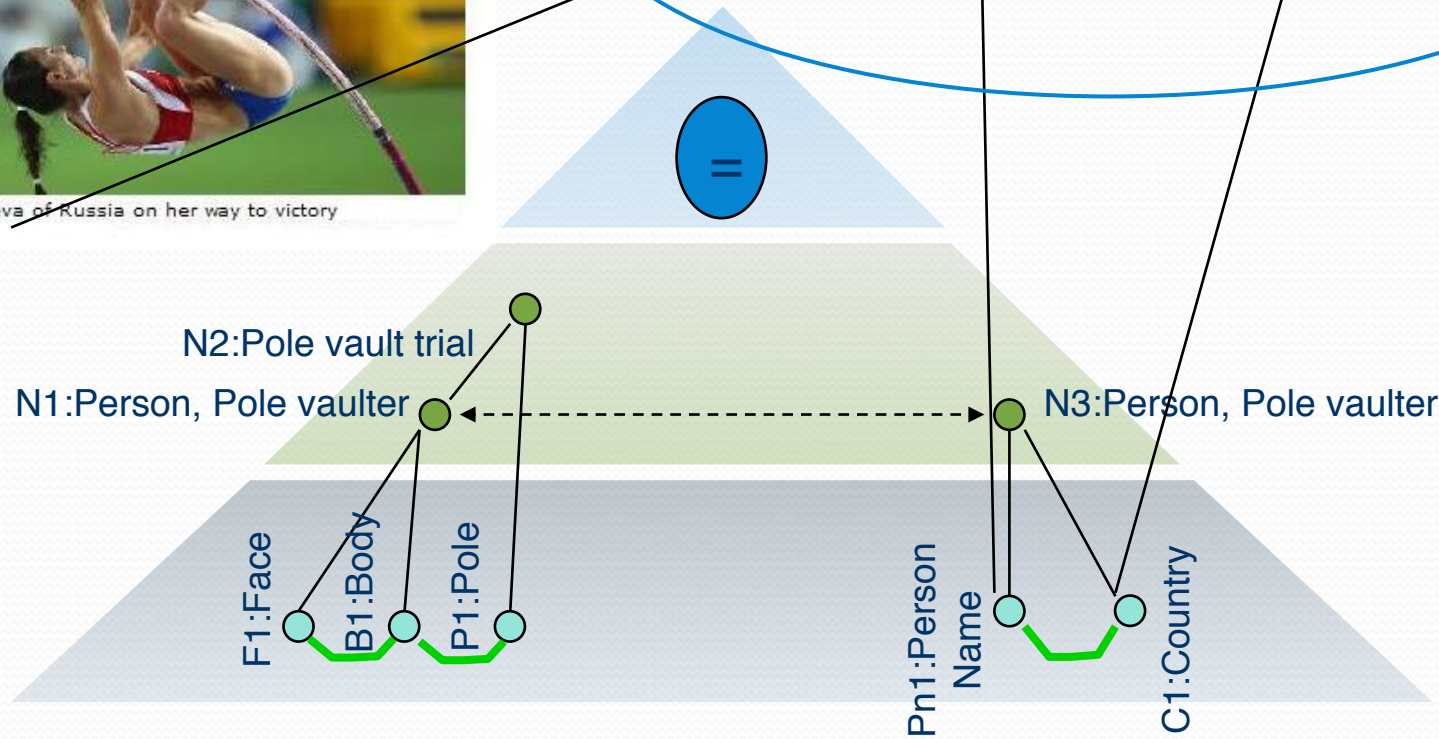
Interpreting Non-Symbolic Data

Example 1: Web Pages



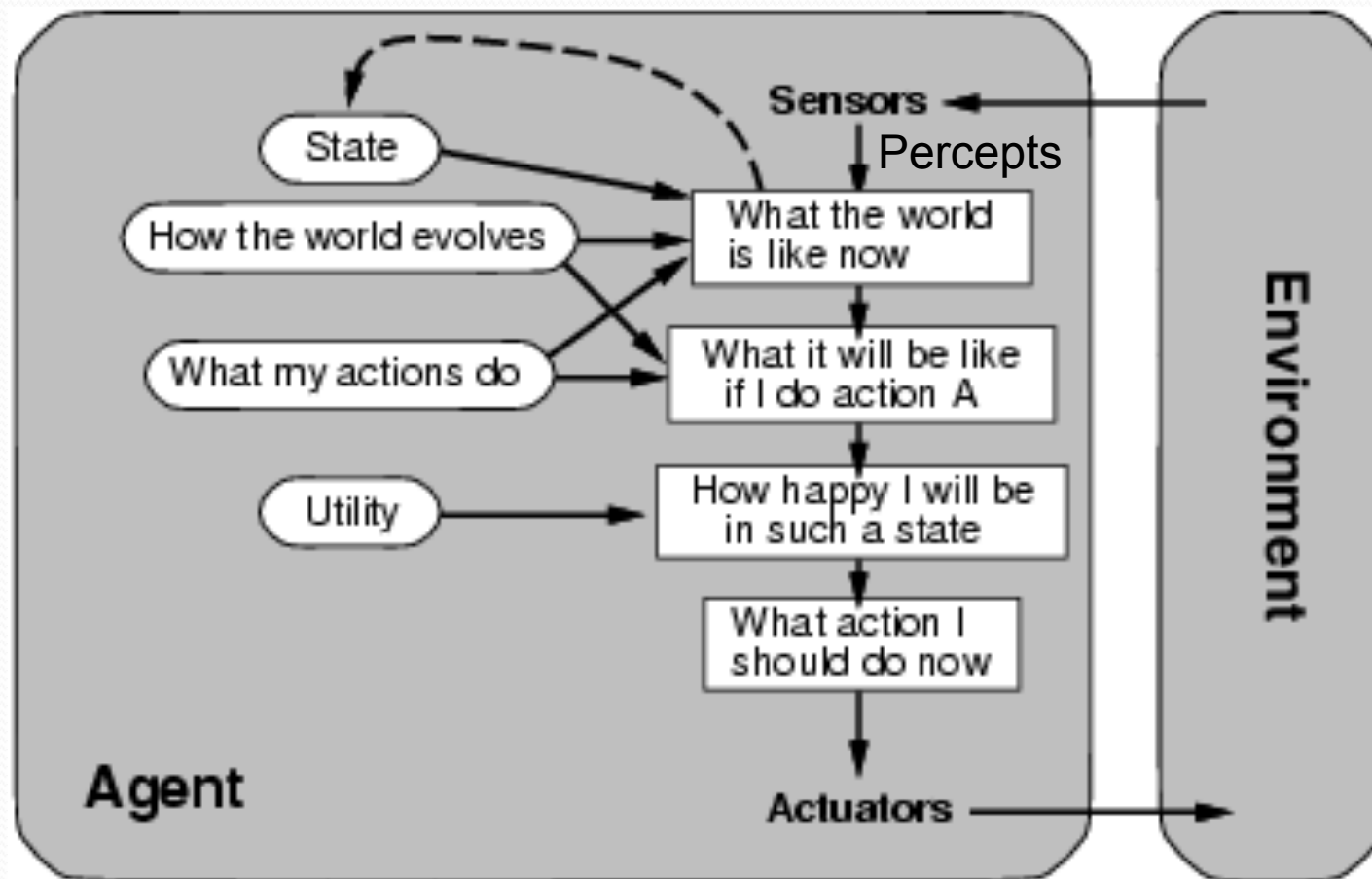
Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia on her way to victory (Getty Images)

Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia on her way to victory (Getty Images)

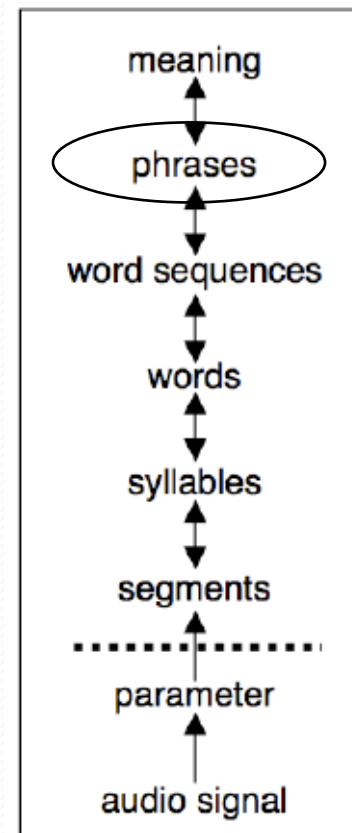
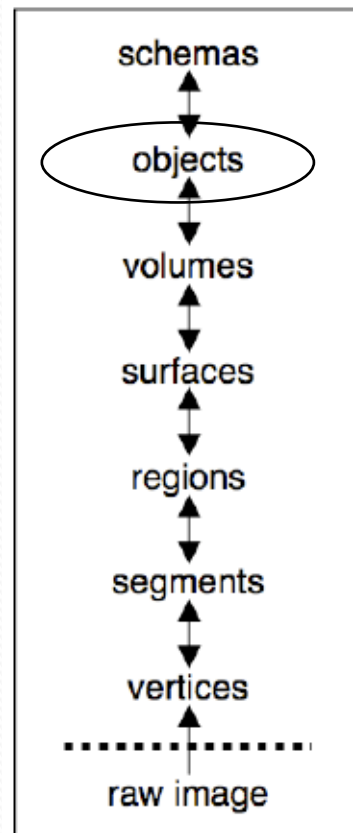


General View: Agents

How to Interpret Percepts?



Derivation of Percepts





Principles of Interpretation

- **Explanation** of percepts/observations
 - Compute possible explanations in a defined space
 - Space defined using logical formulas
 - Number of constants not limited
 - Interpretation = Explanation = Abduction
 - Traditional approach: ... [Hobbs et al. 93], [Shanahan 05]
- **Control** (ranking)
 - Accept (additional) explanations only if the probability that observations are true (given the additional explanations) is significantly increased.
- **Focus** of attention (forgetting)

Percepts and Interpretation as an Abox in RDF or OWL = Metadata

```
mailman1      : Mailman
bicycle1     : Bicycle
mail_deliv1  : MailDelivery
(mail_deliv1, mailman1) : hasPart
(mail_deliv1, bicycle1) : hasPart
(mail_deliv1, url1)   : hasURL
(mailman1, url2)     : hasURL
(bicycle1, url3)    : hasURL
(url1)           : ="http://www.img.de/image-1.jpg"
(url2)           : ="http://www.img.de/image-1.jpg#(200,400)/(300/500)"
(url3)           : ="http://www.img.de/image-1.jpg#(100,400)/(150/500)"
garbageman1   : Garbageman
garbageman2   : Garbageman
garbagetruck1 : Garbage_Truck
garbage_coll1 : Garbage_Collection
(garbage_coll1, garbageman1) : hasPart
(garbage_coll1, garbageman2) : hasPart
(garbage_coll1, garbagetruck1) : hasPart
(garbage_coll1, url4) : hasURL
...
```

Assume That We Have the Metadata...

- Then, IR can be realized as QA

$ImageQuery_1 := \{(X, Y) \mid MailDelivery(X), Bicycle(Y), hasPart(X, Y)\}$
 $(mail_deliv_1, bicycle_1)$

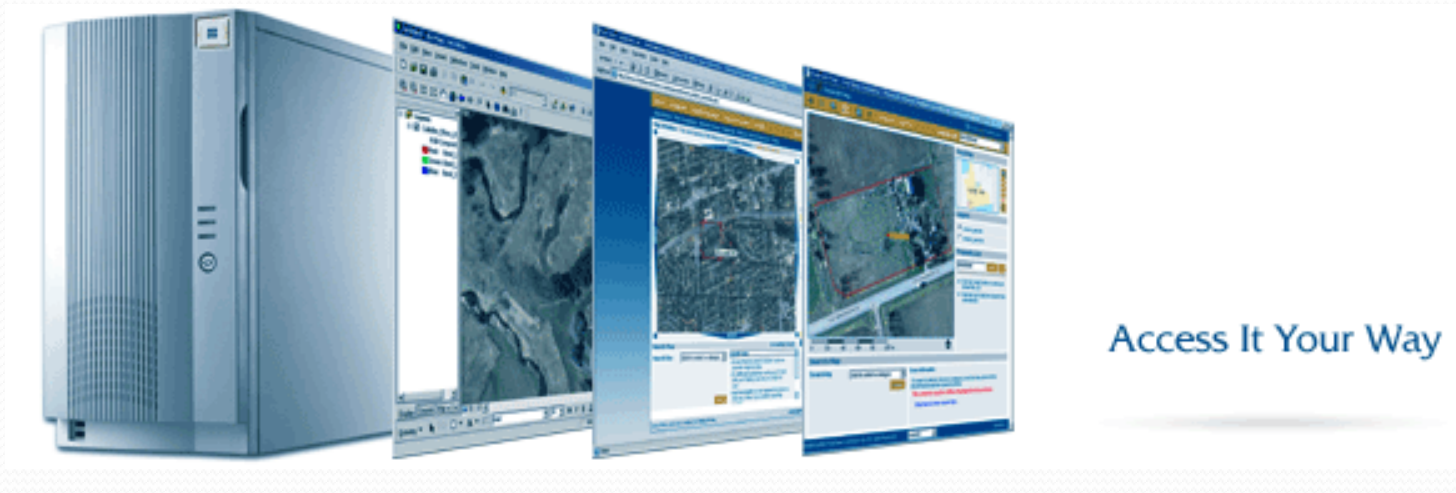
$URLQuery_1 := \{(X, value(X)) \mid hasURL(mail_deliv_1, X)\}$
 $(url_1, "http://www.img.de/image-1.jpg")$

... QA w.r.t. a Tbox, of course

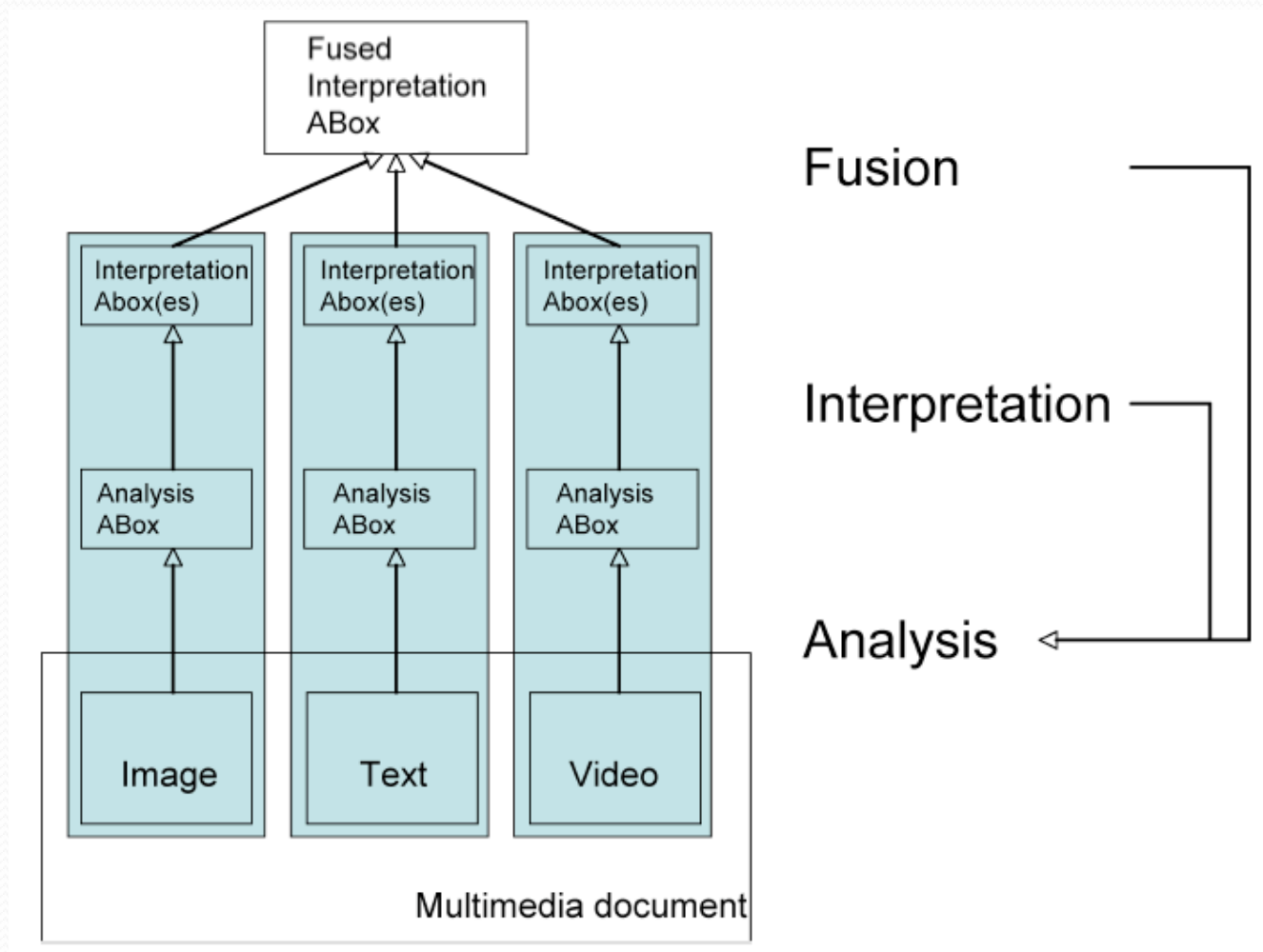
Mailman \sqsubseteq Postal_Employee

Mailman \equiv Postman

Need not necessarily be the same Tbox as has been used for creating the metadata



How to Derive Metadata?



Formal Approach

- Logic-based
- Abduction (Hobbs 1993, Shanahan 2005)

$$\Sigma \cup \Delta \models \Gamma$$

1st Modality: Still Images



Analysis Abox Γ

*pole*₁ : *Pole*
*jumper*₁ : *Human*
*bar*₁ : *Horizontal_Bar*
(*bar*₁, *jumper*₁) : *near*
(*jumper*₁, *pole*₁) : *touches*

Tbox Σ

(in-knowledge-base athletics)

(define-primitive-role **has-profession**)

(define-primitive-role **has-part**)

(define-primitive-role **has-component**)

(define-primitive-concept **phase**)

(define-primitive-concept **image**)

(define-primitive-concept **human**)

(define-primitive-concept **sports-equipment**)

(define-primitive-concept **body**)

(define-primitive-concept **face**)

(disjoint phase image human sports-equipment body face)

Tbox Σ (cntnd.)

(define-primitive-concept **athlete** human)

(define-primitive-concept **jumper** athlete)

(define-primitive-concept **pad** sports-equipment)

(define-primitive-concept **pole** sports-equipment)

(define-primitive-concept **javelin** sports-equipment)

(define-primitive-concept **horizontal-bar** sports-equipment)

Tbox Σ (cntnd.)

```
(define-primitive-concept jumping-event  
  (and event (some has-part jumper)  
    (at-most 1 has-part jumper)))
```

```
(define-primitive-concept pole-vault  
  (and jumping-event  
    (some has-part pole)  
    (some has-part horizontal-bar)  
    (some has-part foam-mat)))
```

```
(define-primitive-concept high-jump  
  (and jumping-event  
    (some has-part horizontal-bar)  
    (some has-part foam-mat)))
```

```
(define-primitive-concept pv-in-start-phase phase)  
(define-primitive-concept pv-in-end-start-phase phase)  
(define-primitive-concept hj-in-jump-phase phase)
```



Role of the Tbox

- Introduces the signature of the domain
 - Sets up the domain vocabulary (e.g., Athletics)
 - Sets up the vocabulary to specify the organization of metadata (MCO)
- Imposes restrictions (define the models of the KB)
 - such that additional data is implicitly added (deduction) to interpretations,
 - and (potentially abducible) explanations causing inconsistencies are discarded

Need a little more...

- Abduction rules

$touches(Y, Z) \leftarrow Pole_Vault(X),$
 $PV_InStartPhase(X),$
 $hasPart(X, Y), Jumper(Y),$
 $hasPart(X, Z), Pole(Z).$

$near(Y, Z) \leftarrow Pole_Vault(X),$
 $PV_InEndStartPhase(X),$
 $hasPart(X, Y), Horizontal_Bar(Y),$
 $hasPart(X, Z), Jumper(Z).$

$near(Y, Z) \leftarrow High_Jump(X),$
 $HJ_InJumpPhase(X),$
 $hasPart(X, Y), Horizontal_Bar(Y),$
 $hasPart(X, Z), Jumper(Z).$

...



... and maybe a few other things

- “Forward” rules (which extend an Abox)

$touches(X, Z) : \neg hasPart(X, Y), touches(Y, Z).$

$near(X, Z) : \neg hasPart(X, Y), near(Y, Z).$

Abduction: Refined Approach

- Refined version:

$$\Sigma \cup \Delta \cup \Gamma_1 \models \Gamma_2$$

Bona fide assertions

Assertions requiring fiat
("fiat assertions")

Γ

$pole_1$:	$Pole$
$jumper_1$:	$Human$
bar_1	:	$Horizontal_Bar$
$(bar_1, jumper_1)$:	$near$
$(jumper_1, pole_1)$:	$touches$

Abduction: Explanation Step

- Refined version:

$$\Sigma \cup \Delta \cup \Gamma_1 \models \Gamma_2$$

Bona fide assertions

$$\Gamma_1 = \Gamma \setminus \Gamma_2$$

Assertions requiring fiat
("fiat assertions")

Γ

$pole_1$: *Pole*
 $jumper_1$: *Human*

bar_1 : *Horizontal_Bar*

Γ_2

$(bar_1, jumper_1)$:	<i>near</i>
$(jumper_1, pole_1)$:	<i>touches</i>

Multiple Interpretations?



Ukraine's Andrey Sokolovskiy clears 2.38m in Rome (Getty Images)

Analysis Abox

bar_2 : *Horizontal_Bar*
 $jumper_2$: *Human*
 $(bar_2, jumper_2)$: *near*

Multiple Explanations

jumper₂ : Human
 bar₂ : Horizontal_Bar
 (bar₂, jumper₂) : near
 hj₂ : High_jump
 hj₂ : HJ_InJumpPhase
 (hj₂, jumper₂) : hasPart
 (hj₂, bar₂) : hasPart

jumper₂ : Human
 bar₂ : Horizontal_Bar
 (bar₂, jumper₂) : near
 pv₂ : Pole_Vault
 pv₂ : PV_InEndStartPhase
 (pv₂, jumper₂) : hasPart
 (pv₂, bar₂) : hasPart

Another Example: Ranking



High Jump?

bar_3 : *Horizontal_Bar*
 $jumper_3$: *Jumper*
 $pole_3$: *Pole*
 $(bar_3, jumper_3)$: *near*

Also should be able to explain the pole!

2nd Modality: Text

A new world record in this year's event was missed.
The remaining famous athlete touched
the crossbar and failed 2.40m.

*object*₁ : *Event*
*object*₂ : *Horizontal_Bar*
*object*₃ : *Athlete*
*object*₃ : *Famous*
(*object*₁, *object*₂) : *precedes*
(*object*₁, *object*₃) : *precedes*

Text Interpretation Knowledge:

hasPart \sqsubseteq *precedes*

Shallow Text Interpretation

Abduction query:

$$Q_2 := \{() \mid \textit{precedes}(\textit{object}_1, \textit{object}_2), \textit{precedes}(\textit{object}_1, \textit{object}_3)\}$$

Interpretation:

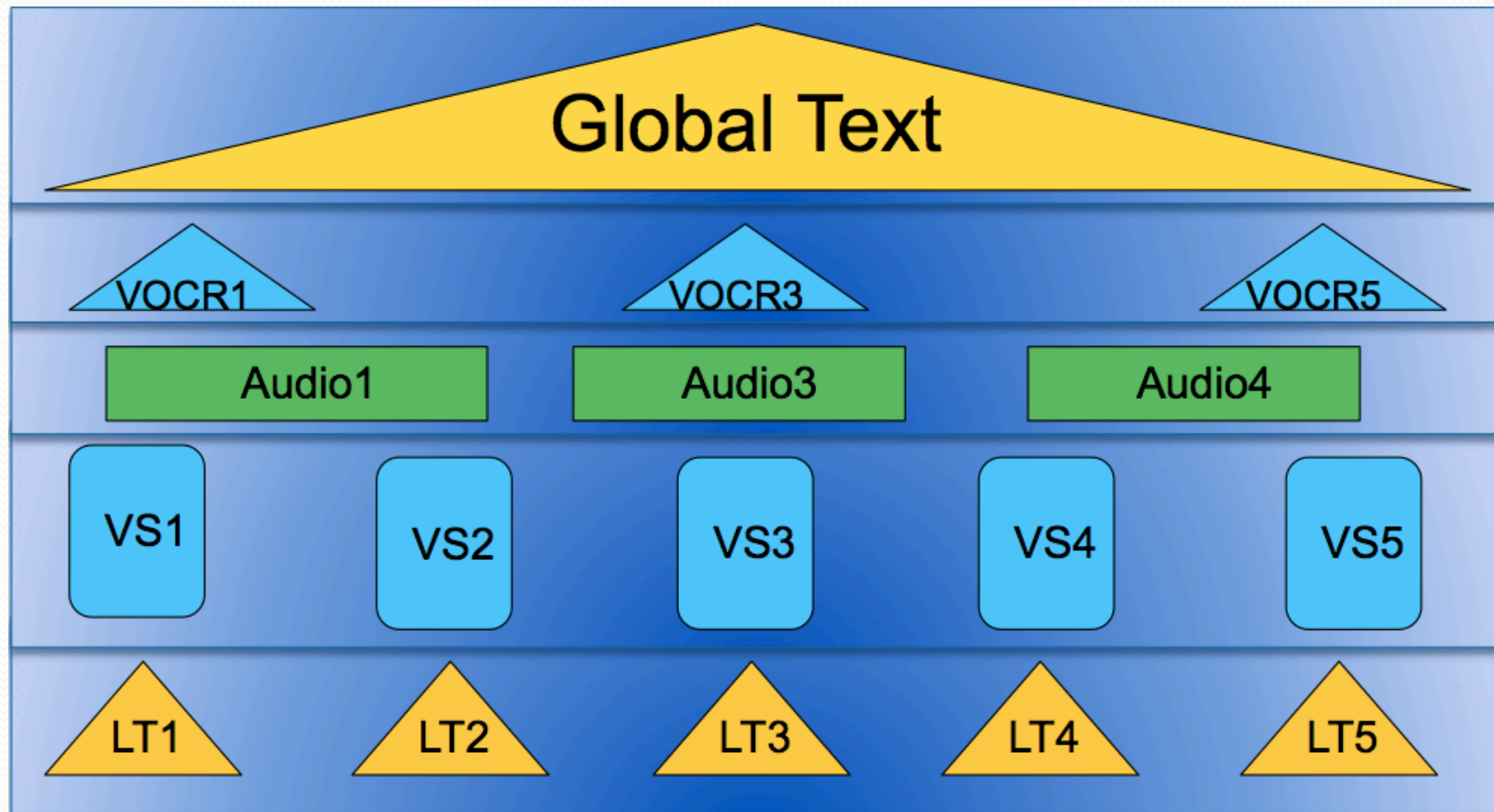
\textit{object}_1	:	$\textit{High_Jump}$
$(\textit{object}_1, \textit{object}_2)$:	$\textit{hasPart}$
$(\textit{object}_1, \textit{object}_3)$:	$\textit{hasPart}$

3rd Modality

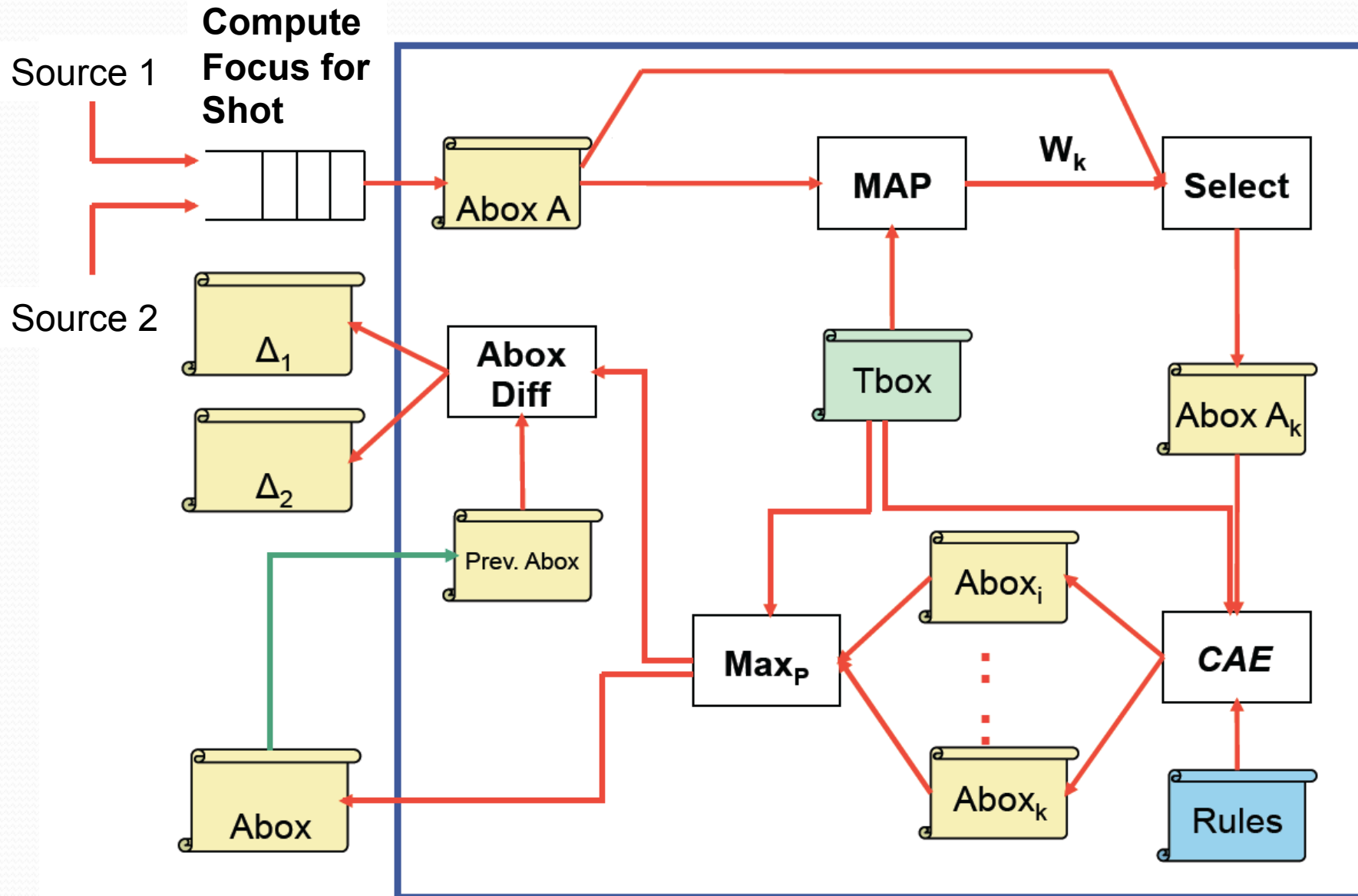
Scene Understanding

- Prerequisite: Video (automatically) decomposed into small shots (video + audio data)
- Data-driven (low-level) results are computed
 - Object recognition/tracking (incl. object relations)
 - Speech recognition
 - Video OCR
- Shot-relevant Abox assertions are collected
 - Lower-level analysis results
 - Interpretation results from the interpretation Abox of previous shot (focus of attention)
- Derivation of shot-specific interpretations

Video Metadata



Interpretation Architecture



Controlling Interpretation

- Based on Markov logic networks [Domingos et al.]
- Knowledge base (syntax, signature, and semantics)

$$MLN = (\mathcal{F}_{MLN}, \mathcal{W}_{MLN})$$

$$(\vec{X}) =$$

$$rand_vars((\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{W})) := \{P(\underline{C}) \mid P(\underline{C}) \text{ is mentioned in some grounded formula } F \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{MLN}(\vec{X}) = (P(\vec{X} = \vec{x}_1), \dots, P(\vec{X} = \vec{x}_n))$$

$$P(\vec{X} = \vec{x}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{F}_{MLN}|} w_i n_i(\vec{x})\right)$$

$$Z = \sum_{\vec{x} \in \vec{X}} \exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{F}_{MLN}|} w_i n_i(\vec{x})\right)$$

Another part of the KB

- Weighted rules

$$5 \forall z \text{ CarEntry}(z) \wedge \text{hasObject}(z, x) \wedge \text{hasEffect}(z, y) \rightarrow \\ \text{Car}(x) \wedge \text{DoorSlam}(y) \wedge \text{causes}(x, y)$$
$$5 \forall z \text{ EnvConference}(z) \wedge \text{hasSubEvent}(z, x) \wedge \text{hasLocation}(z, y) \rightarrow \\ \text{CarEntry}(x) \wedge \text{Building}(y) \wedge \text{OccursAt}(x, y)$$

MLN Query Answering

- **Probability query:**

- Syntax: $P_{MLN}(x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_m \mid \vec{e})$

- Semantics:

$$P_{rand_vars(MLN)}(x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_m \mid \vec{e}) \text{ w.r.t. } \mathbf{P}_{MLN}(rand_vars(MLN))$$

- **Most-probable world query (Maximum A-Posterior, MAP)**

$$MAP_{MLN}(\vec{e}) := \vec{e} \cup \operatorname{argmax}_{\vec{x}} \frac{1}{Z_e} \exp \left(\sum_i w_i n_i(\vec{x}, \vec{e}) \right)$$

which can be slightly optimized s.th.

$$MAP_{MLN}(\vec{e}) := \vec{e} \cup \operatorname{argmax}_{\vec{x}} \sum_i w_i n_i(\vec{x}, \vec{e})$$

Concept-based Abduction Engine:

Basic Idea

1. Given a set of observations Γ , try to explain each assertion (Explanation Step as discussed before)
2. Each explanation introduces new assertions
3. Apply rules to each explanation (possibly gives us new assertions as well)
4. Continue with step 1. unless none of the explanations derived in this round cause the probability that the initial observations are true to increase “substantially”
5. Return the explanations (to be ranked afterwards)

Example

Tbox:

$CarEntry \sqsubseteq \neg DoorSlam$

...

Abduction rules:

$Causes(x, y) \leftarrow CarEntry(z), HasObject(z, x), HasEffect(z, y), Car(x), DoorSlam(y)$

$OccursAt(x, y) \leftarrow EnvConference(z), HasSubEvent(z, x), HasLocation(z, y), CarEntry(x), Building(y)$

Forward rules:

$\forall x CarEntry(x) \rightarrow \exists y Building(y), OccursAt(x, y)$

Weighted rules:

$5 \forall z CarEntry(z) \wedge hasObject(z, x) \wedge hasEffect(z, y) \rightarrow$
 $Car(x) \wedge DoorSlam(y) \wedge causes(x, y)$

$5 \forall z EnvConference(z) \wedge hasSubEvent(z, x) \wedge hasLocation(z, y) \rightarrow$
 $CarEntry(x) \wedge Building(y) \wedge OccursAt(x, y)$

Formulas are extremely simplified to make them fit on a slide.

Example (cont.)

Γ

1.3	<i>Car</i> (C_1)
1.2	<i>DoorSlam</i> (DS_1)
-0.3	<i>EngineSound</i> (ES_1)
	<i>Causes</i> (C_1, DS_1).

Combination of audio
and video for this focus

MAP



<i>Ground atoms</i>	<i>W</i>
<i>Car</i> (C_1)	1
<i>DoorSlam</i> (DS_1)	1
<i>EngineSound</i> (ES_1)	0
<i>Causes</i> (C_1, DS_1)	1

Select



Γ'

1.3	<i>Car</i> (C_1)
1.2	<i>DoorSlam</i> (DS_1)
	<i>Causes</i> (C_1, DS_1).

Example (cont.)

Γ'

1.3 *Car*(C_1)
1.2 *DoorSlam*(DS_1)
Causes(C_1, DS_1).

$\Delta_1 = \{CarEntry(Ind_{42}), HasObject(Ind_{42}, C_1), HasEffect(Ind_{42}, DS_1)\}$

Abox A_1

1.3 *Car*(C_1)
1.2 *DoorSlam*(DS_1)
Causes(C_1, DS_1).

CarEntry(Ind_{42}).
HasObject(Ind_{42}, C_1).
HasEffect(Ind_{42}, DS_1).

$P(Car(C_1) \wedge DoorSlam(DS_1) \wedge Causes(C_1, DS_1) \mid \Delta_1) = 0.840$

Example (cont.)

$$\forall x \text{ CarEntry}(x) \rightarrow \exists y \text{ Building}(y), \text{OccursAt}(x, y)$$
$$\Delta_f = \{\text{Building}(\text{Ind}_{43}), \text{OccursAt}(\text{Ind}_{42}, \text{Ind}_{43})\}$$

1.3 *Car*(C_1)
1.2 *DoorSlam*(DS_1)
Causes(C_1, DS_1).

CarEntry(Ind_{42}).
HasObject(Ind_{42}, C_1).
HasEffect(Ind_{42}, DS_1).

Building(Ind_{43}).
OccursAt($\text{Ind}_{42}, \text{Ind}_{43}$).

$$\Delta_2 = \{\text{EnvConference}(\text{Ind}_{44}), \text{hasSubEvent}(\text{Ind}_{44}, \text{Ind}_{42}), \text{hasLocation}(\text{Ind}_{44}, \text{Ind}_{43}), \dots\}$$

Example (cont.)

Abox \mathcal{A}_2

1.3 $Car(C_1)$
1.2 $DoorSlam(DS_1)$
 $Causes(C_1, DS_1)$.

$CarEntry(Ind_{42})$.
 $HasObject(Ind_{42}, C_1)$.
 $HasEffect(Ind_{42}, DS_1)$.

$Building(Ind_{43})$.
 $OccursAt(Ind_{42}, Ind_{43})$.

$EnvConference(Ind_{44})$.
 $HasSubEvent(Ind_{44}, Ind_{42})$.
 $HasLocation(Ind_{44}, Ind_{43})$.
...

Δ_1

Δ_f

Δ_2

$$P(Car(C_1) \wedge DoorSlam(DS_1) \wedge Causes(C_1, DS_1) \mid \Delta_1 \cup \Delta_f \cup \Delta_2) = 0.819$$

The termination condition is fulfilled.

→ Abox \mathcal{A}_1 is considered as the output Abox.

Situation Awareness





Thank you

- This work has been supported by
 - the European Commission (Projects CASAM and BOEMIE),
 - and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) (Project PRESINT)
- Thanks also to all members of my group at TUHH,
 - in particular Oliver Gries, Anahita Nafissi, Maurice Rosenfeld, Kamil Sokolski, Michael Wessel

Rules with Time Variables

$High_Jump_Event_{[T_1, T_2]}(X, Y) \quad :- \quad$ $accelerate_horizontally_{[T_1, T_3]}(Y),$
 $vertical_upward_movement_{[T_3, T_4]}(Y),$
 $turn_{[T_4, T_5]}(Y),$
 $vertical_downward_movement_{[T_5, T_2]}(Y).$
 $Jumper(Y),$
 $High_Jump(X),$
 $hasPart(X, Y),$

Temporal Propositions

- High-level interpretation results:

*accelerate_horizontally*_[219,224] (*moving_object*₁)
*vertical_upward_movement*_[224,226] (*moving_object*₁)
*turn*_[226,228] (*moving_object*₁)
*vertical_downward_movement*_[228,230] (*moving_object*₁)
*moving_object*₁ : *Jumper*
*event*₁ : *High_Jump*
(*event*₁, *moving_object*₁) : *hasPart*

- Query: $\{(X)_{[T_1, T_2]} \mid High_Jump_Event_{[T_1, T_2]}(X, Y)\}$
- Result: $\{((X, event_1)), (T_1, (219, 223)), (T_2, (229, 230))\}$

CAE:

Conceptual Abduction Engine

Function $CAE(\Omega, \Xi, \Sigma, \mathcal{R}, S, \mathfrak{A})$:

Input: a strategy function Ω , a termination function Ξ , a background $\text{KB } \Sigma$, rules \mathcal{R} , a scoring function S , and an agenda \mathfrak{A}

Output: a set of interpretation Aboxes \mathfrak{I}'

$\mathfrak{I}' := \{assign_level(l, \mathfrak{A})\};$

repeat

$\mathfrak{I} := \mathfrak{I}';$

$(\mathcal{A}, \alpha) := \Omega(\mathfrak{I})$ // $\mathcal{A} \in \mathfrak{I}$, $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ s.th. *requires_fiat*(α^l) holds;

$l = l + 1;$

$\mathfrak{I}' := (\mathfrak{A} \setminus \{\mathcal{A}\}) \cup assign_level(l, explanation_step(\Sigma, \mathcal{R}, S, \mathcal{A}, \alpha));$

until $\Xi(\mathfrak{I})$ or no \mathcal{A} and α can be selected such that $\mathfrak{I}' \neq \mathfrak{I}$;

return \mathfrak{I}'

Interpret

Function Interpret(\mathcal{A} , $CurrentI$, Γ , \mathcal{T} , \mathcal{FR} , \mathcal{BR} , \mathcal{WR} , ϵ)

Input: an agenda \mathcal{A} , a current interpretation Abox $CurrentI$, an Abox of observations Γ , a Tbox \mathcal{T} , a set of forward chaining rules \mathcal{FR} , a set of backward chaining rules \mathcal{BR} , a set of weighted rules \mathcal{WR} , and the desired precision of the results ϵ

Output: an agenda \mathcal{A}' , a new interpretation Abox $NewI$, and Abox differences for additions Δ_1 and omissions Δ_2

$i := 0$;

$p_0 := P(\Gamma, \Gamma, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{WR}, \mathcal{T})$;

$\Xi := \lambda(\mathcal{A}) \bullet \{i := i + 1; p_i := \max_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{A}} P(\Gamma, \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{A}_0, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{WR}, \mathcal{T}); \mathbf{return} \mid p_i - p_{i-1} \mid < \frac{\epsilon}{i}\}$;

$\Sigma := (\mathcal{T}, \emptyset)$;

$\mathcal{R} := \mathcal{FR} \cup \mathcal{BR}$;

$S := \lambda((\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A}_0), \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{A}, \Delta) \bullet P(\Gamma, \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{A}_0 \cup \Delta, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{WR}, \mathcal{T})$;

$\mathcal{A}' := CAE(\Omega, \Xi, \Sigma, \mathcal{R}, S, \mathcal{A})$;

$NewI = \mathit{argmax}_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{A}'} (P(\Gamma, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{WR}, \mathcal{T}))$;

$\Delta_1 = \mathit{AboxDiff}(NewI, CurrentI)$; // additions

$\Delta_2 = \mathit{AboxDiff}(CurrentI, NewI)$; // omissions

return (\mathcal{A}' , $NewI$, Δ_1 , Δ_2);

Media Interpretation Agent

Function $MI_Agent(Q, Partners, Die, (T, A_0), \mathcal{FR}, \mathcal{BR}, \mathcal{WR}, \epsilon)$

Input: a queue of percept results Q , a set of partners $Partners$, a function Die for the termination process, a background knowledge set (T, A_0) , a set of forward chaining rules \mathcal{FR} , a set of backward chaining rules \mathcal{BR} , a set of weighted rules \mathcal{WR} , and the desired precision of the results ϵ

Output: –

$CurrentI = \emptyset$;

$\mathcal{A}'' = \{\emptyset\}$;

repeat

$\Gamma := extractObservations(Q)$;

$W := MAP(\Gamma, \mathcal{WR}, T)$;

$\Gamma' := Select(W, \Gamma)$;

$\mathcal{A}' := filter(\lambda(\mathcal{A}) \bullet consistent_{\Sigma}(\mathcal{A}), map(\lambda(\mathcal{A}) \bullet \Gamma' \cup \mathcal{A} \cup A_0 \cup forward_chain(\Sigma, \mathcal{FR}, \Gamma' \cup \mathcal{A} \cup A_0), \{select(MAP(\Gamma' \cup \mathcal{A} \cup A_0, \mathcal{WR}, T), \Gamma' \cup \mathcal{A} \cup A_0) \mid \mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{A}''\})))$;

$(\mathcal{A}'', NewI, \Delta_1, \Delta_2) := Interpret(\mathcal{A}', CurrentI, \Gamma', T, \mathcal{FR}, \mathcal{BR}, \mathcal{WR} \cup \Gamma, \epsilon)$;

$CurrentI := NewI$;

$Communicate(\Delta_1, \Delta_2, Partners)$;

$\mathcal{A}'' := manage_agenda(\mathcal{A}'')$;

until $Die()$;