Multi-**Agent** Oriented Programming using JaCaMo

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Context

From knowledge to action

From theoretical to **practical** reasoning

From mind to body & environment & others (interaction)

From individuals to **societies**



Context

An MAS is a loosely coupled network of problem solvers that interact to solve problems that are beyond the individual capabilities or knowledge of each problem solver

– Durfee and Lesser 1989



Outline

- Agents
 - Practical reasoning with JaCaMo
- Environment
- Organisation
- ► MAOP

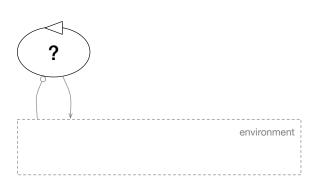
(slides written together with R. Bordini, O. Boissier, and A. Ricci)



— **AOP** —

Agent Oriented

Programming



JaCaMo

- http://jacamo.sourceforge.net
- Olivier Boissier, Rafael H. Bordini, Jomi Hübner and Alessandro Ricci Multi-Agent Oriented Programming: Programming Multi-Agent Systems Using JaCaMo MIT Press, 2020.
- ► (Chapter 6 for this part)





problem description

Develop a system to control the temperature of a room so that it reaches some desired temperature

- The room is equipped with a "Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning" (HVAC)
- The HVAC has an MQTT interface that provides
 - the current room temperature
 - operations to start cooling, start heating, and stop the machine



problem description

Develop a system to control the temperature of a room so that it reaches some desired temperature

- ► The room is equipped with a "Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning" (HVAC)
- ► The HVAC has an MQTT interface that provides
 - the current room temperature
 - operations to start cooling, start heating, and stop the machine



approach

Separation of concerns

- integration and interoperability with the HVAC
- strategy to keep the right temperature



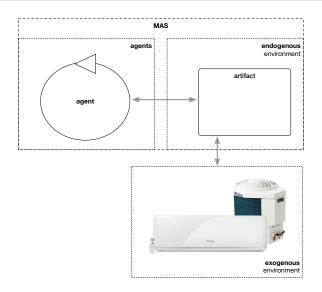
approach

Separation of concerns

- ▶ integration and interoperability with the HVAC→ environment modelling
- ► strategy to keep the right temperature → agent modelling

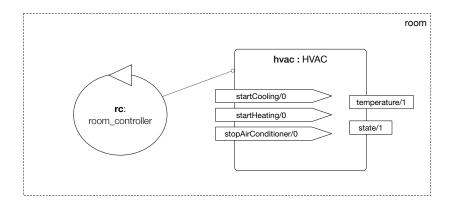


general view





artifact





Agent and Environment Integration

► (artifact) observable properties ~ (agent) beliefs

► (agent) actions ~ (artifact) operations



Agent and Environment Integration

► (artifact) observable properties \rightsquigarrow (agent) beliefs

hvac::

```
state("idle")[artifact_id(cobj_3),artifact_name(hvac),percept_type(obs_prop),source(percept),works temperature(41)[artifact_id(cobj_3),artifact_name(hvac),percept_type(obs_prop),source(percept),respectively.
```

► (agent) actions \rightsquigarrow (artifact) operations

```
!act.  // initial goal
+!act <- startCooling.  // plan</pre>
```



Reactive Behaviour

An agent can react to changes in its mental state:

new goals

new beliefs



Reactive Behaviour

An agent can react to changes in its mental state:



Choosing actions based on the context

```
!temperature(27).

+!temperature(T) : temperature(C) & C > T <- startCooling.
+!temperature(T) : temperature(C) & C < T <- startHeating.
+!temperature(T). // nothing to do

+temperature(T) : T < 0 <- stopAirConditioner.
+temperature(T) : T > 40 <- stopAirConditioner.</pre>
```



version 1 — reactive agent

```
preference(20).

+preference(P) <- !temperature(P).

+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C > T <- startCooling.
+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C < T <- startHeating.
+!temperature(T). // nothing to do

+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(P) & T == P <- stopAirConditioner.</pre>
```



version 1 — reactive agent

```
preference(20).

+preference(P) <- !temperature(P).

+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C > T <- startCooling.
+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C < T <- startHeating.
+!temperature(T). // nothing to do

+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(T) <- stopAirConditioner.</pre>
```



version 1 — reactive agent

```
preference(20).

+preference(P) <- !temperature(P).

+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C > T <- startCooling.
+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C < T <- startHeating.
+!temperature(T). // nothing to do

+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(T) <- stopAirConditioner.</pre>
```

what happens if the current temperature changes?



version 1 — reactive agent

```
preference(20).

+preference(P) <- !temperature(P).

+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C > T <- startCooling.
+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C < T <- startHeating.
+!temperature(T). // nothing to do

+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(T) <- stopAirConditioner.
+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(P) & T \== P <- !temperature(P).</pre>
```



version 1 — reactive agent

```
preference(20).

+preference(P) <- !temperature(P).

+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C > T <- startCooling.
+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C < T <- startHeating.
+!temperature(T). // nothing to do

+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(T) <- stopAirConditioner.
+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(P) <- !temperature(P).</pre>
```



version 1 — reactive agent

```
preference(20).

+preference(P) <- !temperature(P).

+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C > T <- startCooling.
+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C < T <- startHeating.
+!temperature(T). // nothing to do

+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(T) <- stopAirConditioner.
+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(P) <- !temperature(P).</pre>
```

what happens if the preference changes?



version 1 — reactive agent

```
preference(20).

+preference(P) <- !temperature(P).

+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C > T <- startCooling.
+!temperature(T) : hvac::temperature(C) & C < T <- startHeating.
+!temperature(T). // nothing to do

+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(T) <- stopAirConditioner.
+hvac::temperature(T) : preference(P) <- !temperature(P).</pre>
```

what happens if the preference changes?

we end up creating many (reactive) plans that create the goal.



version 2 — pro-active agent – maintenance goal

```
preference(20).
!start.
+!start : preference(P) <- !keep_temperature.
+!keep_temperature
   : preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C > P
   <- startCooling; !wait_until(P); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!keep temperature
   : preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C < P</pre>
   <- startHeating; !wait_until(P); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!keep_temperature
   <- .wait(100); !keep_temperature.
+!wait_until(T) : hvac::temperature(T) <- stopAirConditioner.
+!wait_until(T) <- !wait_until(T). // busy waiting (!)
```



version 2 — pro-active agent – maintenance goal

```
preference(20).
!start.
+!start : preference(P) <- !keep_temperature.
+!keep_temperature
   : preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C > P
   <- startCooling; !wait_until(P); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!keep_temperature
   : preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C < P</pre>
   <- startHeating; !wait_until(P); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!keep_temperature
   <- .wait(100); !keep_temperature.
+!wait_until(T) : hvac::temperature(T) <- stopAirConditioner.
+!wait_until(T) <- !wait_until(T). // busy waiting (!)
does it react to changes in the temperature? What is the delay?
```



version 3 — no busy waiting

```
preference(20).
!start.
+!start : preference(P) <- !keep_temperature.
+!keep_temperature
   : preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C > P
   <- startCooling; !wait_until(P); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!keep temperature
   : preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C < P</pre>
   <- startHeating; !wait_until(P); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!keep_temperature
   <- .wait( {+hvac::temperature(_)}, 100, _); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!wait_until(T) : hvac::temperature(T) <- stopAirConditioner.
+!wait_until(T) <- .wait( {+hvac::temperature(_)} ); !wait_until(T).
```



version 3 — no busy waiting

```
preference(20).
!start.
+!start : preference(P) <- !keep_temperature.
+!keep_temperature
   : preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C > P
   <- startCooling; !wait_until(P); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!keep_temperature
   : preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C < P</pre>
   <- startHeating; !wait_until(P); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!keep_temperature
   <- .wait( {+hvac::temperature(_)}, 100, _); !keep_temperature.</pre>
+!wait_until(T) : hvac::temperature(T) <- stopAirConditioner.
+!wait_until(T) <- .wait( {+hvac::temperature(_)} ); !wait_until(T).
does it react to changes in the preference? What is the delay?
```

Rules

. . . hot :- preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C > P. cold :- preference(P) & hvac::temperature(C) & C < P.</pre> +!keep_temperature : hot <- startCooling; !wait_until_pref; !keep_temperature.</pre> +!keep_temperature : cold <- startHeating; !wait_until_pref; !keep_temperature.</pre> . . .



Summary

Agents

- promptly react to the environment
- have goal oriented behaviour
- select actions based on circumstance
- combines theoretical and practical reasoning



Fundamentals

Literature

```
Books: [Bordini et al., 2005], [Bordini et al., 2009]

Proceedings: ProMAS, DALT, LADS, EMAS, AGERE, ...

Surveys: [Bordini et al., 2006], [Fisher et al., 2007] ...

Languages of historical importance: Agent0 [Shoham, 1993],

AgentSpeak(L) [Rao, 1996], MetateM [Fisher, 2005],

3APL [Hindriks et al., 1997],
```

Golog [Giacomo et al., 2000]

Other prominent languages:

Jason [Bordini et al., 2007], Jadex [Pokahr et al., 2005], 2APL [Dastani, 2008], GOAL [Hindriks, 2009], JACK [Winikoff, 2005], JIAC, ASTRA

But many others languages and platforms...



Some Languages and Platforms

Jason (Hübner, Bordini, ...); 3APL and 2APL (Dastani, van Riemsdijk, Meyer, Hindriks, ...); Jadex (Braubach, Pokahr); MetateM (Fisher, Guidini, Hirsch, ...); ConGoLog (Lesperance, Levesque, ... / Boutilier – DTGolog); Teamcore/ MTDP (Milind Tambe, ...); IMPACT (Subrahmanian, Kraus, Dix, Eiter); CLAIM (Amal El Fallah-Seghrouchni, ...); GOAL (Hindriks); BRAHMS (Sierhuis, ...); SemantiCore (Blois, ...); STAPLE (Kumar, Cohen, Huber); Go! (Clark, McCabe); Bach (John Lloyd, ...); MINERVA (Leite, ...); SOCS (Torroni, Stathis, Toni, ...); FLUX (Thielscher); JIAC (Hirsch, ...); JADE (Agostino Poggi, ...); JACK (AOS); Agentis (Agentis Software); Jackdaw (Calico Jack); ASTRA (Rem Collier); SARL (Stephane Galland); simpAL, ALOO (Ricci, ...);

• • •



Agent Oriented Programming

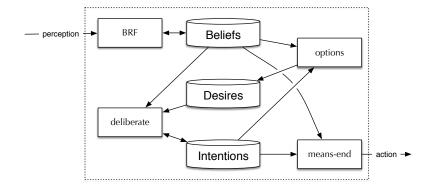
Fundamentals

- ► Use of **mentalistic** notions and a **societal** view of computation [Shoham, 1993]
- ► Heavily influenced by the **BDI** architecture and reactive planning systems [Bratman et al., 1988]



BDI architecture

(the mentalistic view)





AgentSpeak

The foundational language for Jason

- Programming language for BDI agents
- Originally proposed by Rao [Rao, 1996]
- Elegant notation, based on logic programming
- Inspired by PRS (Georgeff & Lansky), dMARS (Kinny), and BDI Logics (Rao & Georgeff)
- Abstract programming language aimed at theoretical results



lason

A practical implementation of a variant of AgentSpeak — agent dimension in JaCaMo

- Jason implements the operational semantics of a variant of AgentSpeak
- ► Has various extensions aimed at a more **practical** programming language (e.g. definition of the MAS, communication, ...)
- Highly customised to simplify extension and experimentation
- Developed by Jomi F. Hübner, Rafael H. Bordini, and others



Main Language Constructs

Beliefs: represent the information available to an agent (e.g.

about the environment or other agents)

Goals: represent states of affairs the agent wants to bring

about

Plans: are recipes for action, representing the agent's

know-how



Beliefs — Representation

Syntax

Beliefs are represented by annotated literals of first order logic

```
functor(term_1, ..., term_n)[annot_1, ..., annot_m]
```

Example (belief base of agent Tom)

```
red(box1)[source(percept)].
friend(bob,alice)[source(bob)].
lier(alice)[source(self),source(bob)].
~lier(bob)[source(self)].
```



Beliefs — Dynamics I

by perception

beliefs annotated with source(percept) are automatically updated accordingly to the perception of the agent

by intention

the **plan operators** + and - can be used to add and remove beliefs annotated with source(self) (**mental notes**)

```
+lier(alice); // adds lier(alice)[source(self)]
-lier(john); // removes lier(john)[source(self)]
```



Beliefs — Dynamics II

by communication

when an agent receives a **tell** message, the content is a new belief annotated with the sender of the message

```
.send(tom,tell,lier(alice)); // sent by bob
// adds lier(alice)[source(bob)] in Tom's BB
...
.send(tom,untell,lier(alice)); // sent by bob
// removes lier(alice)[source(bob)] from Tom's BB
```



Goals — Representation

Types of goals

- ► Achievement goal: goal **to do**
- ► Test goal: goal to know

Syntax

Goals have the same syntax as beliefs, but are prefixed by

! (achievement goal) or

? (test goal)

Example (Initial goal of agent Tom)

!write(book).



Goals — Dynamics I

by intention

the **plan operators!** and **?** can be used to add a new goal annotated with source(self)

```
// adds new achievement goal !write(book)[source(self)]
!write(book);

// adds new test goal ?publisher(P)[source(self)]
?publisher(P);
```



Goals — Dynamics II

by communication - achievement goal

when an agent receives an **achieve** message, the content is a new achievement goal annotated with the sender of the message

```
.send(tom,achieve,write(book)); // sent by Bob
// adds new goal write(book)[source(bob)] for Tom
...
.send(tom,unachieve,write(book)); // sent by Bob
// removes goal write(book)[source(bob)] for Tom
```



Goals — Dynamics III

by communication – test goal

when an agent receives an **askOne** or **askAll** message, the content is a new test goal annotated with the sender of the message

```
.send(tom,askOne,published(P),Answer); // sent by Bob
// adds new goal ?publisher(P)[source(bob)] for Tom
// the response of Tom unifies with Answer
```



Triggering Events — Representation

- Events happen as consequence to changes in the agent's beliefs or goals
- ► An agent reacts to events by executing **plans**
- ► Types of plan triggering events
 - +b (belief addition)
 - -b (belief deletion)
 - +!g (achievement-goal addition)
 - -!g (achievement-goal deletion)
 - +?g (test-goal addition)
 - -?g (test-goal deletion)



Plans — Representation

An AgentSpeak plan has the following general structure:

triggering_event : context <- body.</pre>

where:

- the triggering event denotes the events that the plan is meant to handle
- the context represent the circumstances in which the plan can be used
- the body is the course of action to be used to handle the event if the context is believed true at the time a plan is being chosen to handle the event



Plans — Operators for Plan Context

Boolean operators

```
& (and)
```

(or)

not (not)

= (unification)

>, >= (relational)

<, <= (relational)

== (equals)

 $\setminus ==$ (different)

Arithmetic operators

- + (sum)
- (subtraction)
- * (multiply)
- / (divide)
- div (divide integer)
- mod (remainder)
 - ** (power)



Plans — Operators for Plan **Body**

```
+rain : time to leave(T) & clock.now(H) & H >= T
   <- !g1; // new sub-goal
      !!g2; // new goal
     ?b(X); // new test goal
     +b1(T-H); // add mental note
      -b2(T-H); // remove mental note
      -+b3(T*H); // update mental note
      jia.get(X); // internal action
      X > 10; // constraint to carry on
      close(door);// external action
      !g3[hard deadline(3000)]. // goal with deadline
```



Plans — Dynamics

The plans that form the plan library of the agent come from

- initial plans defined by the programmer
- plans added dynamically and intentionally by
 - ▶ .add_plan
 - .remove_plan
- plans received from
 - tellHow messages
 - untellHow



Main Language Constructs and Runtime Structures

Beliefs: represent the information available to an agent (e.g.

about the environment or other agents)

Goals: represent states of affairs the agent wants to bring

about

Plans: are recipes for action, representing the agent's

know-how

Events: happen as consequence to changes in the agent's

beliefs or goals

Intentions: plans instantiated to achieve some goal

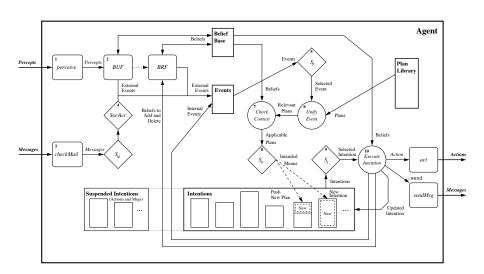


Basic Reasoning cycle

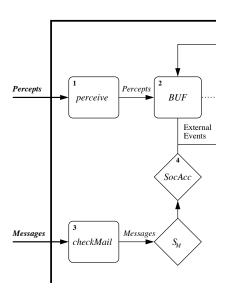
runtime interpreter

- perceive the environment and update belief base
- process new messages
- select event
- select relevant plans
- select applicable plans
- create/update intention
- select intention to execute
- execute one step of the selected intention



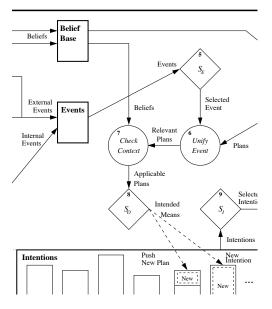






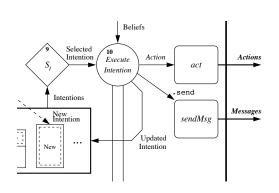
- machine perception
- belief revison
- knowledge representation
- communication, argumentation
- trust
- social power





- planning
- reasoning
- decision theoretic techniques
- learning (reinforcement)





- intention reconsideration
- scheduling
- action theories



A note about "Control"

Agents can control (manipulate) their own (and influence the others)

- beliefs
- ▶ goals
- ▶ plan

By doing so they control their behaviour

The developer provides initial values of these elements and thus also influence the behaviour of the agent



Other Features

Failure Handling: Contingency Plans

Example (an agent blindly committed to g)

```
+!g:g. // g is a declarative goal
+!g : ... <- a1; ?g.
+!g : ... <- a2; ?g.
+!g : ... <- a3; ?g.
+!g <- !g. // keep trying
-!g <- !g. // in case of some failure
+g <-.succeed_goal(g).
```



Failure Handling: Contingency Plans

Example (single minded commitment)

```
+!g:g. // g is a declarative goal
+!g : ... <- a1; ?g.
+!g : ... <- a2; ?g.
+!g : ... <- a3; ?g.
+!g <- !g. // keep trying
-!g <- !g. // in case of some failure
+g <-.succeed_goal(g).
+f : .super_goal(g,SG) <-.fail_goal(SG).
f is the drop condition for goal q
```



Compiler pre-processing – directives

Example (single minded commitment)

```
{ begin smc(g,f) }
    +!g: ... <- a1.
    +!g: ... <- a2.
    +!g: ... <- a3.
{ end }</pre>
```



Meta Programming

Example (an agent that asks for plans on demand)

```
-!G[error(no_relevant)] : teacher(T)
<- .send(T, askHow, { +!G }, Plans);
    .add_plan(Plans);
    !G.

in the event of a failure to achieve any goal G due to no relevant plan, asks a teacher for plans to achieve G and then try G again
```

- ► The failure event is annotated with the error type, line, source, ... error(no_relevant) means no plan in the agent's plan library to achieve G
- ► { +!G } is the syntax to enclose triggers/plans as terms



Other Language Features

Strong Negation

```
+!leave(home)
   : ~raining
   <- open(curtains); ...

+!leave(home)
   : not raining & not ~raining
   <- .send(mum,askOne,raining,Answer,3000); ...</pre>
```



Prolog-like Rules in the Belief Base

```
tall(X) := woman(X) & height(X, H) & H > 1.70.

tall(X) := man(X) & height(X, H) & H > 1.80.
```



Internal Actions

- Unlike actions, internal actions do not change the environment
- Code to be executed as part of the agent reasoning cycle
- AgentSpeak is meant as a high-level language for the agent's practical reasoning and internal actions can be used for invoking legacy code elegantly
- Internal actions can be defined by the user in Java

```
libname.action_name(...)
```



Standard Internal Actions

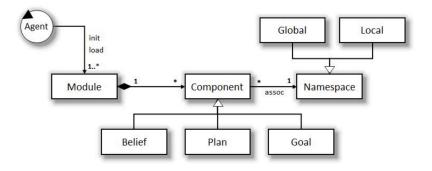
 Standard (pre-defined) internal actions have an empty library name

```
.print(term<sub>1</sub>, term<sub>2</sub>,...)
.union(list<sub>1</sub>, list<sub>2</sub>, list<sub>3</sub>)
.my_name(var)
.send(ag,perf,literal)
.intend(literal)
.drop_intention(literal)
```

► Many others available for: printing, sorting, list/string operations, manipulating the beliefs/annotations/plan library, creating agents, waiting/generating events, etc.



Namespaces & Modularity





Namespaces & Modularity

Inspection of agent alice

- Beliefs

tv::

introduction(participant)_[source(compan] propose(11.075337225252543)_[source] propose(12.043311087442898)_[source] propose(12.81277904935436)_[source] winner(company_A1)_[source](selfi)

#8priv::

state(finished)[source(self)]

pc::

introduction(participant)_{[source(compart}} propose(11.389500048463455)_[source] propose(11.392553683771682)_[source] propose(12.348901000262853)_[source] winner(company_A2)_[source] selfili-



Jason Customisations

- Agent class customisation: selectMessage, selectEvent, selectOption, selectIntention, buf, brf, ...
- Agent architecture customisation: perceive, act, sendMsg, checkMail, ...
- ▶ **Belief base** customisation: add, remove, contains, ...
 - Example available with *Jason*: persistent belief base (in text files, in data bases, ...)



Jason × Java

Consider a very simple robot with two goals:

- when a piece of gold is seen, go to it
- ▶ when battery is low, go charge it



Java code – go to gold

```
public class Robot extends Thread {
   boolean seeGold, lowBattery;
   public void run() {
     while (true) {
         while (! seeGold) {
             a = randomDirection();
             doAction(go(a));
         while (seeGold) {
             a = selectDirection();
             doAction(go(a));
```



Java code – charge battery

```
public class Robot extends Thread {
   boolean seeGold, lowBattery;
   public void run() {
      while (true) {
          while (! seeGold) {
              a = randomDirection();
              doAction(go(a));
              if (lowBattery) charge();
          while (seeGold) {
              a = selectDirection():
              if (lowBattery) charge();
              doAction(go(a));
              if (lowBattery) charge();
} } }
```

lason code

```
direction(gold) :- see(gold).
direction(random) :- not see(gold).
+!find(gold)
                                // long term goal
   <- ?direction(A):
      go(A);
      !find(gold).
+battery(low)
                                // reactivity
   <-!charge.
^!charge[state(executing)]
                                // goal meta-events
   <- .suspend(find(gold)).
^!charge[state(finished)]
   <- .resume(find(gold)).
```



$Jason \times Prolog$

- With the Jason extensions, nice separation of theoretical and practical reasoning
- ▶ BDI architecture allows
 - long-term goals (goal-based behaviour)
 - reacting to changes in a dynamic environment
 - handling multiple foci of attention (concurrency)
- Acting on an environment and a higher-level conception of a distributed system



Summary

AgentSpeak

- ► Logic + BDI
- Agent programming language

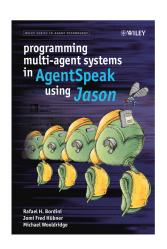
Jason

- AgentSpeak interpreter
- ► Implements the operational semantics of AgentSpeak
- Speech-act based communication
- ► Highly customisable
- Useful tools
- Open source



Further Resources

- ▶ http://jason.sourceforge.net
- R.H. Bordini, J.F. Hübner, and M. Wooldrige
 Programming Multi-Agent Systems in AgentSpeak using Jason John Wiley & Sons, 2007.

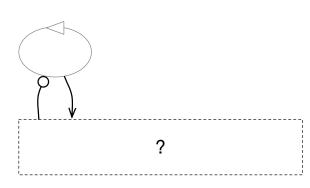




Programming

Environment Oriented

— **EOP** —

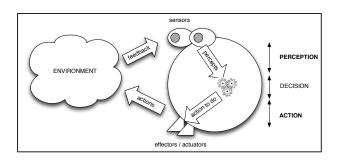


Back to the Notion of Environment in MAS

- ► The notion of environment is intrinsically related to the notion of agent and multi-agent system
 - "An agent is a computer system that is situated in some environment and that is capable of autonomous action in this environment in order to meet its design objective" [Wooldridge, 2002]
 - "An agent is anything that can be viewed as perceiving its environment through sensors and acting upon the environment through effectors." [Russell and Norvig, 2003]
- Including both physical and software environments



Single Agent Perspective



Perception

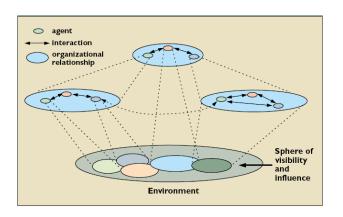
process inside agent inside of attaining awareness or understanding sensory information, creating percepts perceived form of external stimuli or their absence

Actions

the means to affect, change or inspect the environment



Multi-Agent Perspective



- ► In evidence
 - overlapping spheres of visibility and influence
 - ..which means: interaction

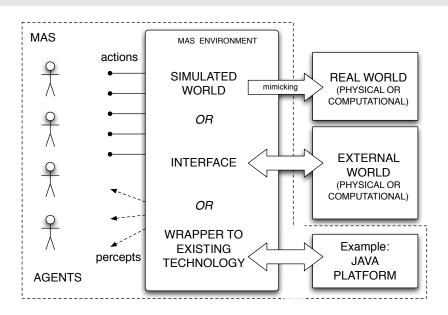


Why Environment Programming

- Basic level
 - ► to create testbeds for real/external environments
 - to ease the interface/interaction with existing software environments
- Advanced level
 - to uniformly encapsulate and modularise functionalities of the MAS out of the agents
 - typically related to interaction, coordination, organisation, security
 - externalisation
 - this implies changing the perspective on the environment
 - environment as a first-class abstraction of the MAS
 - endogenous environments (vs. exogenous ones)
 - programmable environments

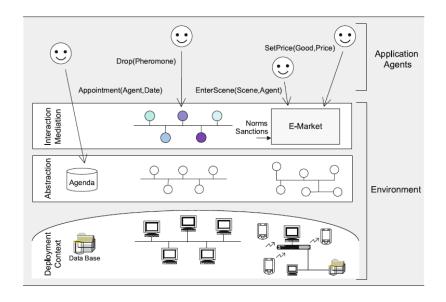


Basic Level Overview





Advanced Level Overview [Weyns et al., 2007]





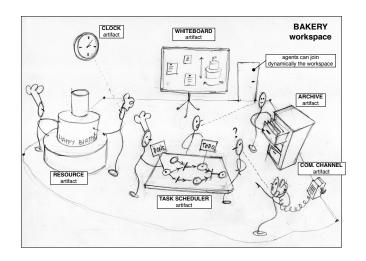
Existing Computational Frameworks

- ► AGRE / AGREEN / MASQ [Stratulat et al., 2009]
 - AGRE integrating the AGR (Agent-Group-Role) organisation model with a notion of environment
 - Environment used to represent both the physical and social part of interaction
 - AGREEN / MASQ extending AGRE towards a unified representation for physical, social and institutional environments
 - Based on MadKit platform [Gutknecht and Ferber, 2000]
- ► GOLEM [Bromuri and Stathis, 2008]
 - Logic-based framework to represent environments for situated cognitive agents
 - composite structure containing the interaction between cognitive agents and objects
- ► A&A and CArtAgO [Ricci et al., 2010a]
 - introducing a computational notion of artifact to design and implement agent environments



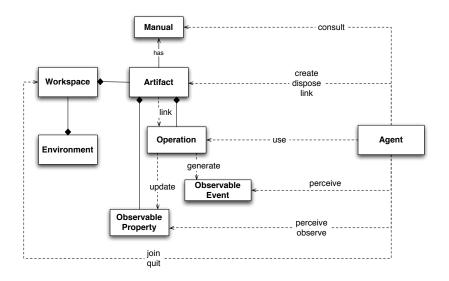
A&A and CArtAgO

Agents and Artifacts (A&A) Conceptual Model: Background Human Metaphor



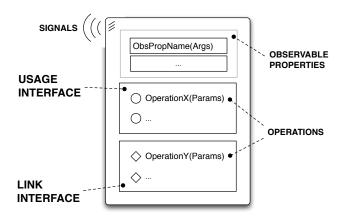


A&A Meta-Model in More Detail [Ricci et al., 2010a]



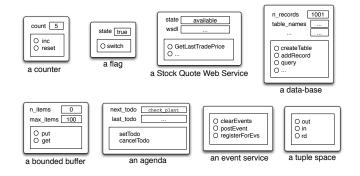


Artifact Abstract Representation





A World of Artifacts





Actions and Percepts in Artifact-Based Environments [Ricci et al., 2010b]

actions ←→ artifacts' operation

the action repertoire is given by the dynamic set of operations provided by the overall set of artifacts available in the workspace can be changed by creating/disposing artifacts

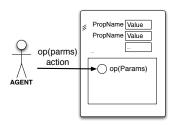
 action success/failure semantics is defined by operation semantics

percepts ←→ artifacts' observable properties + signals

properties represent percepts about the state of the environment signals represent percepts concerning events signalled by the environment



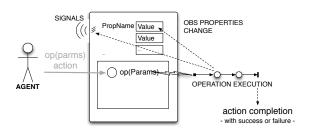
Interaction Model: Use



- Performing an action corresponds to triggering the execution of an operation
 - acting on artifact's usage interface



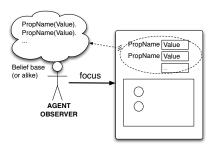
Interaction Model: Operation execution



- a process structured in one or multiple transactional steps
- asynchronous with respect to agent
 - ...which can proceed possibly reacting to percepts and executing actions of other plans/activities
- operation completion causes action completion
 - action completion events with success or failure, possibly with action feedbacks



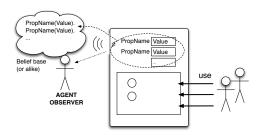
Interaction Model: Observation



- Agents can dynamically select which artifacts to observe
 - predefined focus/stopFocus actions



Interaction Model: Observation



- By focussing an artifact
 - observable properties are mapped into agent dynamic knowledge about the state of the world, as percepts
 - e.g. belief base
 - signals are mapped as percepts related to observable events



CArtAgO

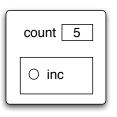
- Common ARtifact infrastructure for AGent Open environment (CArtAgO) [Ricci et al., 2009a]
- Computational framework / infrastructure to implement and run artifact-based environment [Ricci et al., 2007]
 - Java-based programming model for defining artifacts
 - set of basic API for agent platforms to work within artifact-based environment
- Distributed and open MAS
 - workspaces distributed on Internet nodes
 - agents can join and work in multiple workspace at a time
 - Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) security model
- Open-source technology
 - available at https://github.com/CArtAgO-lang/cartago



Example 1: A Simple Counter Artifact

```
class Counter extends Artifact {
  void init(){
    defineObsProp("count",0);
}

@OPERATION void inc(){
    ObsProperty p = getObsProperty("count");
    p.updateValue(p.intValue() + 1);
    signal("tick");
}
```



- Some API spots
 - ► Artifact base class
 - QOPERATION annotation to mark artifact's operations
 - set of primitives to work define/update/.. observable properties
 - signal primitive to generate signals



Example 1: User and Observer Agents

```
USER(S)
!create and use.
+!create and use : true
  <- !setupTool(Id);
     // use
     inc:
     // second use specifying the Id
     inc [artifact id(Id)].
// create the tool
+!setupTool(C): true
  <- makeArtifact("c0", "Counter", C).
```

```
OBSERVER(S)
!observe.
+!observe : true
  <- ?myTool(C); // discover the tool
     focus(C).
+count(V)
  <- println("observed new value: ",V).
+tick [artifact name(Id,"c0")]
  <- println("perceived a tick").
+?myTool(CounterId): true
  <- lookupArtifact("c0",CounterId).
-?myTool(CounterId): true
  <- .wait(10);
     ?mvTool(CounterId).
```

Working with the shared counter



Action Execution & Blocking Behaviour

- Given the action/operation map, by executing an action the intention/activity is suspended until the corresponding operation has completed or failed
 - action completion events generated by the environment and automatically processed by the agent/environment platform bridge
 - no need of explicit observation and reasoning by agents to know if an action succeeded
- ► However the agent execution cycle is not blocked!
 - the agent can continue to process percepts and possibly execute actions of other intentions



Summary

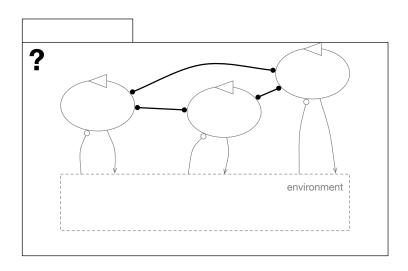
- Environment programming
 - environment as a programmable part of the MAS
 - encapsulating and modularising functionalities useful for agents' work
- Artifact-based environments
 - artifacts as first-class abstraction to design and program complex software environments
 - usage interface, observable properties / events, linkability
 - artifacts as first-order entities for agents
 - interaction based on use and observation
 - agents dynamically co-constructing, evolving, adapting their world
- CArtAgO computational framework
 - programming and executing artifact-based environments
 - integration with heterogeneous agent platforms



Programming

Organisation Oriented

-OOP-



Introduction: Some definitions

- Organisations are structured, patterned systems of activity, knowledge, culture, memory, history, and capabilities that are distinct from any single agent [Gasser, 2001]
 - --- organisations are supra-individual phenomena
- ▶ A decision and communication schema which is applied to a set of actors that together fulfill a set of tasks in order to satisfy goals while guarantying a global coherent state [Malone, 1999]
 - → definition by the designer, or by actors, to achieve a purpose
- An organisation is characterised by: a division of tasks, a distribution of roles, authority systems, communication systems, contribution-retribution systems [Bernoux, 1985]
 - → pattern of predefined cooperation
- ▶ An arrangement of relationships between components, which results into an entity, a system, that has unknown skills at the level of the individuals [Morin, 1977]
 - → pattern of emergent cooperation

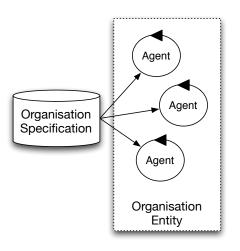


Organisation in MAS – a definition

- ► Pattern of agent **cooperation**
 - with a purpose
 - supra-agent
 - emergent or
 - predefined (by designer or agents)



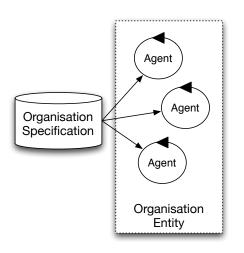
Organisation Oriented Programming (OOP)



- Programming outside the agents
- Using organisational concepts
- ► To define a cooperative pattern
- Program = Specification
- By changing the specification, we can change the MAS overall behaviour



Organisation Oriented Programming (OOP)

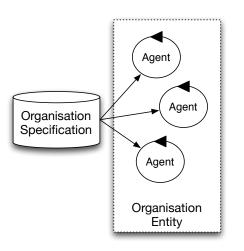


First approach

Agents read the program and follow it



Organisation Oriented Programming (OOP)

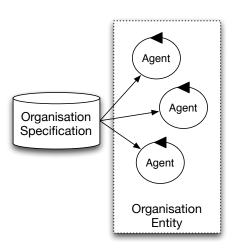


Second approach

- Agents are forced to follow the program
- Agents are rewarded if they follow the program
- ...



Organisation Oriented Programming (OOP)

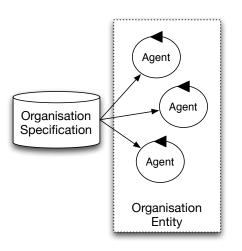


Second approach

- Agents are forced to follow the program
- Agents are rewarded if they follow the program
 - ▶ ...



Organisation Oriented Programming (OOP)



Components

- Programming language (OML)
- Platform (OMI)
- Integration to agent architectures and to environment



Some OOP approaches

- AGR/Madkit [Ferber and Gutknecht, 1998]
- ► STEAM/Teamcore [Tambe, 1997]
- ► ISLANDER/AMELI [Esteva et al., 2004]
- Opera/Operetta [Dignum and Aldewereld, 2010]
- PopOrg [Rocha Costa and Dimuro, 2009]
- 2OPL [Dastani et al., 2009]
- ► THOMAS [Criado et al., 2011],
- ▶ ..

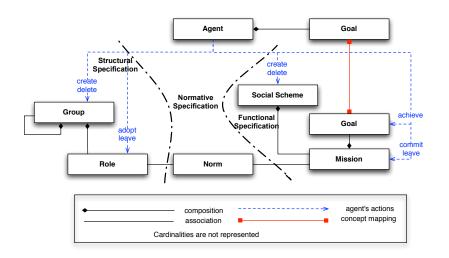


Moise Framework

- OML (language)
 - ► Tag-based language (issued from Moise [Hannoun et al., 2000], Moise⁺ [Hübner et al., 2002], Moiselnst [Gâteau et al., 2005])
- ► OMI (infrastructure)
 - ▶ developed as an artifact-based working environment (ORA4MAS [Hübner et al., 2009] based on CArtAgO nodes, refactoring of S-Moise+ [Hübner et al., 2006] and Synai [Gâteau et al., 2005])
- Integrations
 - Agents and Environment (c4Jason, c4Jadex [Ricci et al., 2009b])
 - ► Environment and Organisation ([Piunti et al., 2009])
 - Agents and Organisation (\mathcal{J} - \mathcal{M} oise⁺ [Hübner et al., 2007])



Moise OML meta-model (partial view)





Moise OML

- OML for defining organisation specification and organisation entity
- ► Three independent dimensions [Hübner et al., 2007] (→ well adapted for the reorganisation concerns):
 - ► **Structural**: Roles, Groups
 - ► Functional: Goals, Missions, Schemes
 - Normative: Norms (obligations, permissions, interdictions)
- Abstract description of the organisation for
 - the designers
 - the agents
 - \rightarrow \mathcal{J} - \mathcal{M} oise⁺ [Hübner et al., 2007]
 - the Organisation Management Infrastructure
 - → ORA4MAS [Hübner et al., 2009]

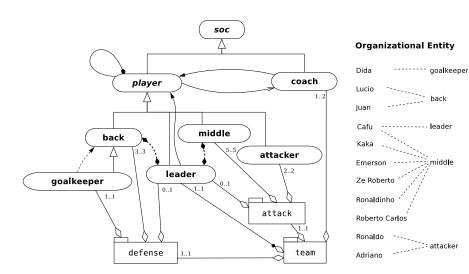


Structural Specification

- Specifies the structure of an MAS along three levels:
 - ► Individual with Role
 - ► Social with Link
 - Collective with Group
- ► Components:
 - Role: label used to assign rights and constraints on the behavior of agents playing it
 - ► Link: relation between roles that directly constrains the agents in their interaction with the other agents playing the corresponding roles
 - ► **Group**: set of links, roles, compatibility relations used to define a shared context for agents playing roles in it



Structural Specification Example



Graphical representation of structural specification of 3-5-2 Joj Team

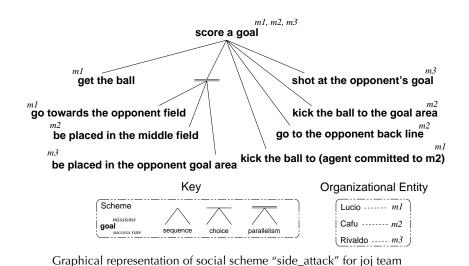


Functional Specification

- Specifies the expected behaviour of an MAS in terms of goals along two levels:
 - Collective with Scheme
 - ► Individual with Mission
- Components:
 - ► Goals:
 - Achievement goal (default type). Goals of this type should be declared as satisfied by the agents committed to them, when achieved
 - Maintenance goal. Goals of this type are not satisfied at a precise moment but are pursued while the scheme is running. The agents committed to them do not need to declare that they are satisfied
 - Scheme: global goal decomposition tree assigned to a group
 - Any scheme has a root goal that is decomposed into subgoals
 - Missions: set of coherent goals assigned to roles within norms



Functional Specification Example





Normative Specification

- Explicit relation between the functional and structural specifications
- Permissions and obligations to commit to missions in the context of a role
- ► Makes explicit the normative dimension of a role

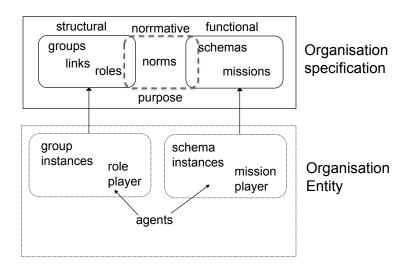


Norm Specification – example

role	deontic	mission		TTF
back	obliged	m1	get the ball, go	1 minute
left	obliged	<i>m</i> 2	be placed at, kick	3 minute
right	obliged	<i>m</i> 2		1 day
attacker	obliged	<i>m</i> 3	kick to the goal,	30 seconds



Organisational Entity





Organisation Entity Dynamics

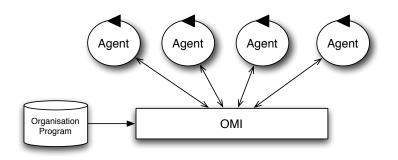
- 1. Organisation is created (by the agents)
 - ▶ instances of groups
 - instances of schemes
- 2. Agents enter into groups adopting roles
- 3. Groups become **responsible** for schemes
 - Agents from the group are then obliged to commit to missions in the scheme
- 4. Agents **commit** to missions
- 5. Agents **fulfil** mission's goals
- 6. Agents leave schemes and groups
- 7. Schemes and groups instances are destroyed



Organisation management infrastructure (OMI)

Responsibility

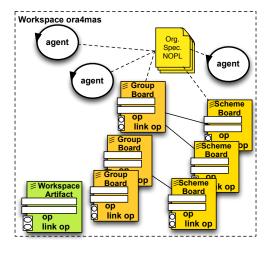
 Managing – coordination, regulation – the agents' execution within organisation defined in an organisational specification



(e.g. MadKit, AMELI, S-Moise⁺, THOMAS, ...)



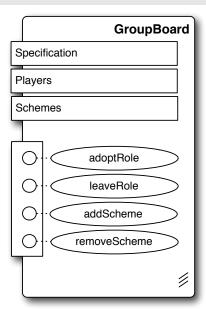
Organisational artifacts in ORA4MAS



- ▶ based on A&A and Moise
 - agents create and handle organisational artifacts
- artifacts in charge of regimentations, detection and evaluation of norms compliance
- agents are in charge of decisions about sanctions
- distributed solution



ORA4MAS – GroupBoard artifact

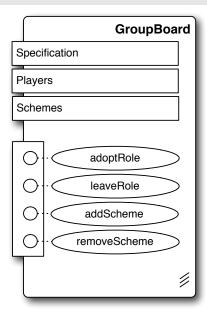


Observable Properties:

- specification: the specification of the group in the OS (an object of class moise.os.ss.Group)
- players: a list of agents playing roles in the group.
 Each element of the list is a pair (agent x role)
- schemes: a list of scheme identifiers that the group is responsible for



ORA4MAS – GroupBoard artifact

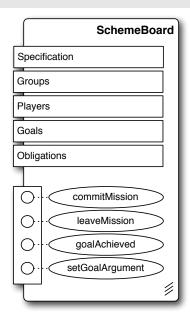


Operations:

- adoptRole(role): the agent executing this operation tries to adopt a role in the group
- ► leaveRole(role)
- addScheme(schid): the group starts to be responsible for the scheme managed by the SchemeBoard schid
- removeScheme(schid)



ORA4MAS – SchemeBoard artifact



Observable Properties:

- specification: the specification of the scheme in the OS
- groups: a list of groups responsible for the scheme
- players: a list of agents committed to the scheme.
 Each element of the list is a pair (agent, mission)
- goals: a list with the current state of the goals
- obligations: list of obligations currently active in the scheme



ORA4MAS - SchemeBoard artifact



Operations:

- commitMission(mission) and leaveMission: operations to "enter" and "leave" the scheme
- goalAchieved(goal): defines that some goal is achieved by the agent performing the operation
- setGoalArgument(goal, argument, value): defines the value of some goal's argument



Agent integration

- Agents can interact with organisational artifacts as with ordinary artifacts by perception and action
- Any Agent Programming Language integrated with CArtAgO can use organisational artifacts

Agent integration provides some "internal" tools for the agents to simplify their interaction with the organisation:

- maintenance of a local copy of the organisational state
- production of organisational events
- provision of organisational actions



Organisational actions in Jason 1

Example (GroupBoard)

```
joinWorkspace("ora4mas",04MWsp);
makeArtifact(
    "auction",
    "ora4mas.nopl.GroupBoard",
    ["auction-os.xml", auctionGroup],
    GrArtId);
adoptRole(auctioneer);
focus(GrArtId);
```



Organisational actions in Jason II

Example (SchemeBoard)

```
makeArtifact(
   "sch1",
   "ora4mas.nopl.SchemeBoard",
   ["auction-os.xml", doAuction],
   SchArtId):
focus(SchArtId);
addScheme(Sch);
commitMission(mAuctioneer)[artifact id(SchArtId)];
```



Organisational perception

When an agent focus on an Organisational Artifact, the observable properties (Java objects) are translated to beliefs with the following predicates:

- specification
- play(agent, role, group)
- commitment(agent, mission, scheme)
- goalState(scheme, goal, list of committed agents, list of agent that achieved the goal, state of the goal)
- obligation(agent,norm,goal,dead line)
- **....**



Organisational perception – example

Inspection of agent **bob** (cycle #0)

Beliefs

commitment(bob,mManager,"sch2")[artifact_id(cobj_4),c cept),artifact_name(cobj_4,"sch2"),artifact_type(cobj_4,"ora4m commitment(bob,mManager,"sch1")[artifact_id(cobi_3).c cept),artifact_name(cobj_3,"sch1"),artifact_type(cobj_3,"ora4m current_wsp(cobj_1,"ora4mas","308b05b0-2994-4fe8 formationStatus(ok)[artifact_id(cobj_2),obs_prop_id("obs_iobj_2,"mypaper"),artifact_type(cobj_2,"ora4mas.nopl.GroupBo goalState("sch2",wp,[bob],[bob],satisfied)[artifact_id(cot.



Handling organisational events in Jason

Whenever something changes in the organisation, the agent architecture updates the agent belief base accordingly producing events (belief update from perception)

Example (new agent entered the group)

```
+play(Ag,boss,GId) <- .send(Ag,tell,hello).</pre>
```

Example (change in goal state and norm violation)

```
+goalState(Scheme,wsecs,_,_,satisfied)
    : .my_name(Me) & commitment(Me,mCol,Scheme)
    <- leaveMission(mColaborator,Scheme).
+normFailure(N) <- .print("norm failure event: ", N).</pre>
```



Typical plans for obligations

```
+obligation(Ag, Norm, committed(Ag, Mission, Scheme), DeadLine)
    : .my name(Ag)
   <- .print("I am obliged to commit to ", Mission);
      commitMission(Mission, Scheme).
+obligation(Ag, Norm, achieved(Sch, Goal, Ag), DeadLine)
    : .my name(Ag)
   <- .print("I am obliged to achieve goal ",Goal);
      !Goal[scheme(Sch)];
      goalAchieved(Goal,Sch).
+obligation(Ag, Norm, What, DeadLine)
   : .my_name(Ag)
   <- .print("I am obliged to ", What,
             ", but I don't know what to do!").
```



Summary

- Ensures that the agents follow some of the constraints specified for the organisation
- Helps the agents to work together
- ► The organisation is **interpreted at runtime**, it is not hardwired in the agents code
- ► The agents 'handle' the organisation (i.e. their artifacts)
- ► It is suitable for open systems as no specific agent architecture is required

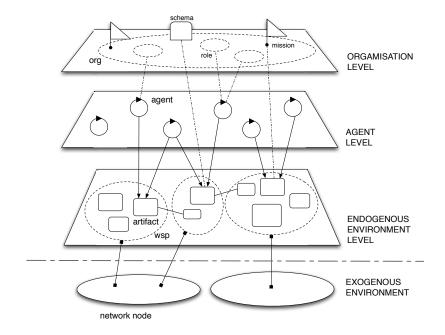


Conclusions

Multiagent Sytems

- ► MAS is an **organisation** of autonomous **agents** interacting together to achieve their goals within a shared **environment**
- MAOP is a conceptual and practical tool to design and implement distributed, complex, huge, open, systems







Agents

Programming actions with

- ► high level abstraction (beliefs, plans, goals, ...)
- concurrent, distributed, decoupled, open, ...



Environment

Programming tools for the agents

- high level abstraction (workspaces, artifacts, perception, action, ...)
- concurrent, distributed, decoupled, open, ...



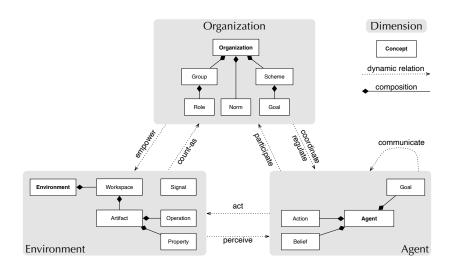
Organisation

Helping the agents to live together

- ► high level abstraction (group, roles, schemes, norms, ...)
- concurrent, distributed, decoupled, open, ...



Main Abstractions





What we have learnt?

- ► MAS is not only agents
- ► MAS is not only organisation
- ► MAS is not only environment
- MAS is not only interaction
- → separation of concerns
- → the right tool for each problem



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- ► Various colleagues and students
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