

Multi-Agent Coordination

– Agent –

O. Boissier

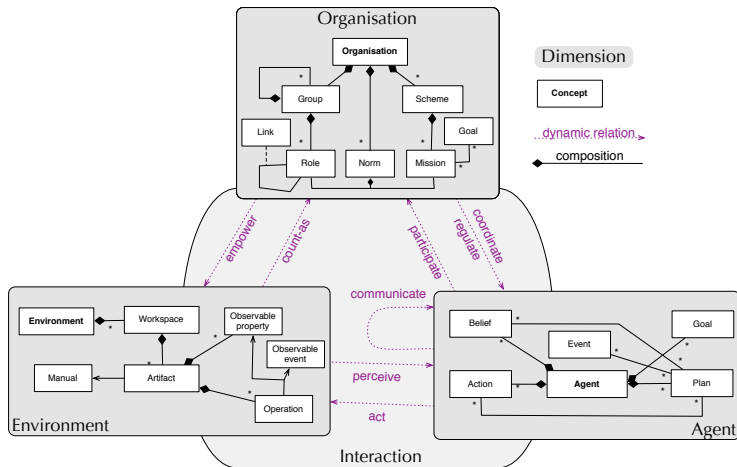
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CPS2 M2 – Fall 2023



Multi-Agent Oriented Programming
Agent Programming with JaCaMo

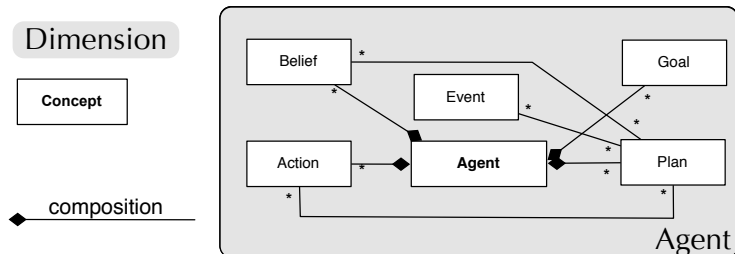
JaCaMo meta-model



Simplified view on JaCaMo meta-model [Boissier et al., 2011]

A seamless integration of three dimensions based on **Jason** [Bordini et al., 2007],
Cartago [Ricci et al., 2009], **Moise** [Hübner et al., 2009] meta-models

Agent dimension



Simplified Conceptual View (Jason meta-model [Bordini et al., 2007]):

Simple Agent Program:

```
happy(bob). // initial belief
!say(hello). // initial goal
/* Plans */
+!say(X) : happy(bob) <- .print(X).
// ...
```

example bob.asl

```
+happy(A) <- !say(hello(A)).
+!say(A) : not today(friday) <- .print(X); !say(X).
+!say(X) : today(friday) <- .print("stop").
-happy(A) : .my_name(A) <- .drop_intention(say(_)).
```

example carl.asl

Agent in JaCaMo: *Jason*

The foundational language for *Jason* is AgentSpeak

- ▶ Originally proposed by Rao [Rao, 1996]
- ▶ Programming language for BDI agents
- ▶ Elegant notation, based on **logic programming**
- ▶ Inspired by PRS [Georgeff and Lansky, 1987], dMARS [d'Inverno et al., 1997], and BDI Logics [Rao et al., 1995]
- ▶ Abstract programming language aimed at theoretical results

Jason

A practical implementation of a variant of AgentSpeak

- ▶ *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

Outline

Agent Abstractions

Agent Dynamics

Other language features

Integrating **A** & **A** dimensions

Agent Management Infrastructure in JaCaMo

Comparison with other paradigms

Conclusions and wrap-up

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
Actions can be internal, external, communicative or organisational ones

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

Intentions: plans instantiated to achieve some goal

Note: identifiers starting in upper case denote variables

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
Actions can be internal, external, communicative or organisational ones

Runtime structures:

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

Intentions: plans instantiated to achieve some goal

Note: identifiers starting in upper case denote variables

(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

```
happy(bob).                // B
!say(hello).               // D

+!say(X) : happy(bob) <- .print(X).
```

beliefs: prolog like (First Order Logic)

(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

```
happy(bob).                // B
!say(hello).               // D

+!say(X) : happy(bob) <- .print(X).
```

beliefs: prolog like (First Order Logic)

desires: prolog like, with ! prefix

(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

```
happy(bob) .                // B
!say(hello) .              // D

+!say(X) : happy(bob) <- .print(X).
```

beliefs: prolog like (First Order Logic)

desires: prolog like, with ! prefix

plans:

- ▶ define when a desire becomes an intention \rightsquigarrow **deliberate**
- ▶ how it is satisfied
- ▶ are used for practical reasoning \rightsquigarrow **means-end**

(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

desires from perception – options

```
+happy(bob) <- !say(hello).
```

```
+!say(X) : not today(monday) <- .print(X).
```

(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

source of beliefs

```
+happy(bob) [source(A)]  
  : someone_who_knows_me_very_well(A)  
  <- !say(hello).  
  
+!say(X) : not today(monday) <- .print(X).
```

(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

plan selection

```
+happy(H) [source(A)]  
  : sincere(A) & .my_name(H)  
  <- !say(hello).
```

```
+happy(H)  
  : not .my_name(H)  
  <- !say(i_envy(H)).
```

```
+!say(X) : not today(monday) <- .print(X).
```

(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

intention revision

```
+happy(H) [source(A)]  
  : sincere(A) & .my_name(H)  
  <- !say(hello).
```

```
+happy(H)  
  : not .my_name(H)  
  <- !say(i_envy(H)).
```

```
+!say(X) : not today(monday) <- .print(X); !say(X).
```

```
-happy(H)  
  : .my_name(H)  
  <- .drop_intention(say(hello)).
```


(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

intention revision

```
+happy(H) [source(A)  
  : sincere(A) & .my_name(H)  
  <- !say(hello).
```

```
+happy(H)  
  : not .my_name(H)  
  <- !say(i_envy(H)).
```

```
+!say(X) : not today(monday) <- .print(X); !say(X).
```

```
-happy(H)  
  : .my_name(H)  
  <- .drop_intention(say(hello)).
```

(BDI & Jason) Hello World – agent bob

intention revision / Features

- ▶ we can have several intentions based on the same plans
- ~> running concurrently
- ▶ long term goal running
- ~> reaction meanwhile!

Beliefs representation

Agent Abstractions

Syntax

Beliefs are represented by annotated literals of first order logic

$\text{functor}(\text{term}_1, \dots, \text{term}_n) [\text{annot}_1, \dots, \text{annot}_m]$

Example (belief base of agent Tom)

$\text{red}(\text{box1})[\text{source}(\text{percept})].$
 $\text{friend}(\text{bob}, \text{alice})[\text{source}(\text{bob})].$
 $\text{liar}(\text{alice})[\text{source}(\text{self}), \text{source}(\text{bob})].$
 $\sim \text{liar}(\text{bob})[\text{source}(\text{self})].$

Goals representation

Agent Abstractions

Syntax

Goals are represented as beliefs with a prefix:

- ▶ ! to denote achievement goal (goal **to do**)
- ▶ ? to denote test goal (goal **to know**)

Example (Initial goal of agent Tom)

!write(book).

Plans representation

Agent Abstractions

Syntax

An AgentSpeak plan has the following general structure:

```
triggering_event : context <- body.
```

where:

- ▶ **triggering_event**: events that the plan is meant to handle
- ▶ **context**: situations in which the plan can be used
- ▶ **body**: course of action to be used to handle the event if the context is believed to be true at the time a plan is being chosen to handle the event

Plans representation – Triggering events

Agent Abstractions

- ▶ Events happen as consequence to changes in the agent's beliefs or goals
- ▶ An agent reacts to events by executing **plans**

Syntax

- ▶ belief addition: **+b**
- ▶ belief deletion: **-b**
- ▶ achievement-goal addition: **+!g**
- ▶ achievement-goal deletion: **-!g**
- ▶ test-goal addition: **+?g**
- ▶ test-goal deletion): **-?g**

Plans representation – Context

Agent Abstractions

Context is a boolean expression with the following operators:

Syntax

▶ Boolean operators

& (and)

| (or)

not (not)

= (unification)

>, >= (relational)

<, <= (relational)

== (equals)

\ == (different)

▶ Arithmetic operators

+ (sum)

- (subtraction)

* (multiply)

/ (divide)

div (divide – integer)

mod (remainder)

** (power)

Plans representation – Body

Agent Abstractions

A plan body may contain:

- ▶ Belief operators
 - + (new belief)
 - (dispose belief)
 - + (update belief)
- ▶ Goal operators
 - ! (new achievement sub-goal)
 - ? (new test sub-goal)
 - !! (new achievement goal)
- ▶ External actions defined from artifact operations (see course on **Agent Working Environment**)
- ▶ Internal actions
 - ▶ Unlike actions, internal actions do not change the environment
 - ▶ Encapsulate code to be executed as part of the agent reasoning cycle
 - ▶ Internal actions can be used for invoking legacy code
- ▶ Constraints

Internal Actions

Agent Abstractions

- ▶ Internal actions can be defined by the user in Java
`libname.action_name(...)`
- ▶ Standard (pre-defined) internal actions in standard library (no library name):
 - ▶ `.print(term1, term2, ...)`
 - ▶ `.union(list1, list2, list3)`
 - ▶ `.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.

Plans representation

Agent Abstractions

Example

```
+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 representation

Agent Abstractions

Example

```
+green_patch(Rock) [source(percept)]
  : not battery_charge(low)
  <- ?location(Rock,Coordinates);
      !at(Coordinates);
      !examine(Rock).

+!at(Coords)
  : not at(Coords) & safe_path(Coords)
  <- move_towards(Coords);
      !at(Coords).

+!at(Coords)
  : not at(Coords) & not safe_path(Coords)
  <- ...

+!at(Coords) : at(Coords).
```

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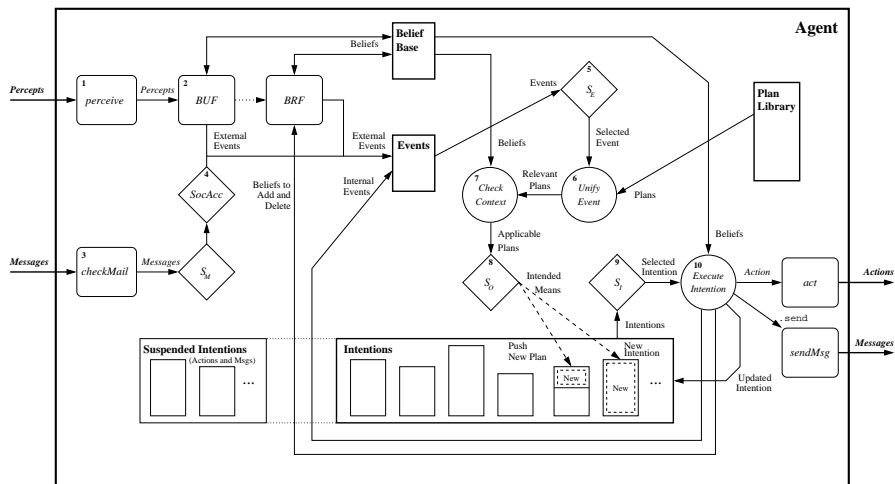
Agent Management Infrastructure in JaCaMo

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Agent dynamics

Agent Dynamics

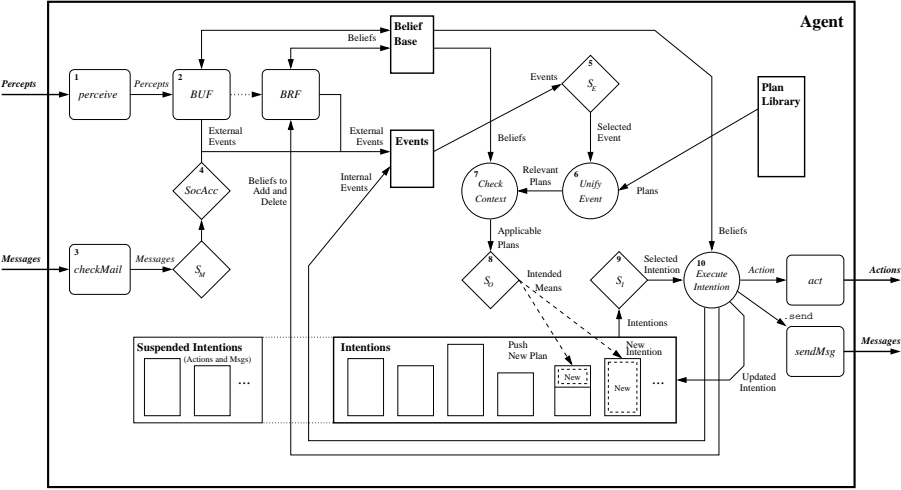


Basic Reasoning cycle

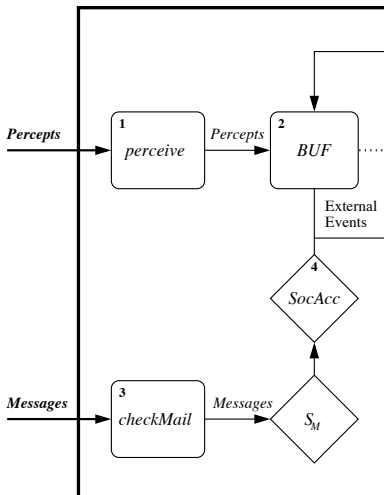
runtime interpreter

- ▶ 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

Basic Reasoning Cycle

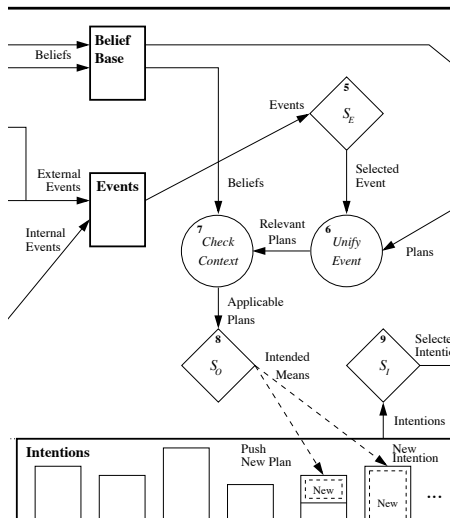


Basic Reasoning Cycle



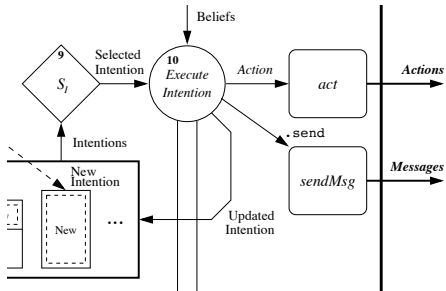
- ▶ machine perception
- ▶ belief revision
- ▶ knowledge representation
- ▶ communication, argumentation
- ▶ trust
- ▶ social power

Basic Reasoning Cycle



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

Basic Reasoning Cycle



- ▶ intention reconsideration
- ▶ scheduling
- ▶ action theories

Beliefs dynamics

Agent Dynamics

Internal reasoning

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)]
```

Perception (from the environment)

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

Beliefs dynamics

Agent Dynamics

Communication (from other agents)

When an agent receives a **tell** (resp. **untell**) message, the content is a new belief (annotated with the sender of the message) (resp. belief corresponding to the content is deleted)

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

Goals dynamics

Agent Dynamics

Internal reasoning

The **plan operators** **!**, **!!** and **?** are 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

Agent Dynamics

Communication of 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
```

Communication of 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 will unify with Answer
```

Plans dynamics

Agent Dynamics

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

- ▶ plans added (resp. removed) dynamically by intentions in internal reasoning:
 - ▶ `.add_plan` (resp. `.remove_plan`)
- ▶ plans added (resp. removed) by communication:
 - ▶ **tellHow** (resp. **untellHow**)

Example

```
.send(bob, askHow, +!goto(_,_) [source(_)], ListOfPlans);  
...  
.plan_label(Plan, hp); // get a plans based on a plan's label  
.send(A, tellHow, Plan);  
.send(bob, tellHow, "+!start : true <- .println( hello ).").
```

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

Outline

Agent Abstractions

Agent Dynamics

Other language features

- Namespaces

- Strong Negation

- Prolog-like Rules

- Plan Annotations & Concurrent Plans

- Declarative Goal Patterns

- Meta Programming

Integrating **A** & **A** dimensions

Agent Management Infrastructure in JaCaMo

Comparison with other paradigms

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Namespace

Other language features

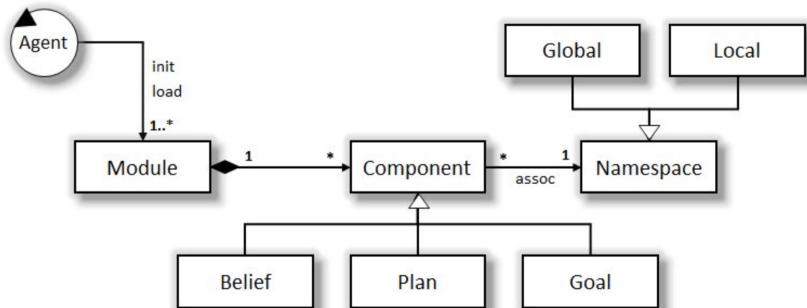
- ▶ Abstract container in the mind of agent, created to hold a logical grouping of beliefs, goals, events, plans and actions
- ▶ Identified by a name, used to prefix (using ::) the elements belonging to it:

`ns1::color(box,blue) // color is in namespace ns1`

- ▶ Two types:
 - ▶ Global namespace: any element associated with the global namespace can be consulted, changed by any other namespace
 - ▶ Local namespace: elements can only be used by the namespace
 - ▶ ↷ possibility of sharing elements by means of a common global namespace
- ▶ Namespace can be defined by:
 - ▶ module program of beliefs, goals and plans (i.e. a usual agent program).
Every agent has one initial module (its initial program) into which other modules can be loaded
 - ▶ associating observable properties or actions of artifacts

Modules and Namespaces

Other language features



Modules and Namespaces

Other language features

```
{include("initiator.asl", pc)}  
{include("initiator.asl", tv)}  
  
!pc::startCNP(fix(pc)).  
!tv::startCNP(fix(tv)).  
  
+pc::winner(X)  
  <- .print(X).
```

Inspection of agent **alice**

- Beliefs

```
tv::  
introduction(participant)[source(compan  
propose(11.075337225252543)[sourc  
propose(12.043311087442898)[sourc  
propose(12.81277904935436)[sourc  
winner(company_A1)[source(self)].
```

```
#8priv::  
state(finished)[source(self)].
```

```
pc::  
introduction(participant)[source(compan  
propose(11.389500048463455)[sourc  
propose(11.392553683771682)[sourc  
propose(12.348901000262853)[sourc  
winner(company_A2)[source(self)].
```

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Strong Negation

Other language features

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

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

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Prolog-like Rules in the Belief Base

Other language features

```
tall(X) :-  
    woman(X) & height(X, H) & H > 1.70  
    |  
    man(X) & height(X, H) & H > 1.80.  
  
likely_color(Obj,C) :-  
    colour(Obj,C)[degOfCert(D1)] &  
    not (colour(Obj,_) [degOfCert(D2)] & D2 > D1) &  
    not ~colour(C,B).
```

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Plan Annotations

Other language features

- ▶ Like beliefs, plans can also have **annotations**, which go in the plan **label**
- ▶ Annotations contain meta-level information for the plan, which selection functions can take into consideration
- ▶ The annotations in an intended plan instance can be changed **dynamically** (e.g. to change intention priorities)
- ▶ There are some pre-defined plan annotations, e.g. to force a breakpoint at that plan or to make the whole plan execute atomically

Example (an annotated plan)

```
@myPlan[chance_of_success(0.3), usual_payoff(0.9),  
        any_other_property]  
+!g(X) : c(t) <- a(X).
```

Concurrent Plans

Other language features

▶ fork-join-and operator `|&|`

```
+!ga <- ...; !gb; ....
```

```
+!gb <- ...; (!g1 |&| !g2); a1; ... // fork-join-and  
// a1 will be executed when !g2 and !g1 will be achieved
```

▶ fork-join-xor operator `|||`

```
+!ga <- ...; !gb; ....
```

```
+!gb <- ...; (!g1 ||| !g2); a1; ... // fork-join-xor  
// a1 will be executed after !g2 or !g1 are achieved  
// when one of !g2 or !g1 is achieved the other is dropped
```

```
-!g1 : true <- !g1. // in case of some failure
```

```
-!g2 : true <- !g2. // in case of some failure
```

```
+g1 : true <- .succeed_goal(g1).
```

```
+g2 : true <- .succeed_goal(g2).
```

```
+f1 : true <- .fail_goal(g1). // f1 drop condition for g1
```

```
+f2 : true <- .fail_goal(g2). // f2 drop condition for g2
```

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Declarative Goal Patterns: Achievement goal

Other language features

Example (Example)

```
+!g : g <- true. // g declarative goal
```

```
+!g : c1 <- p1; ?g.
```

```
+!g : c2 <- p2; ?g.
```

```
...
```

```
+!g : cn <- pn; ?g.
```

```
+g : true <- .succeed_goal(g).
```

Backtracking Declarative Goal Patterns

Other language features

Example (Example)

```
+!g : g <- true. // g declarative goal
```

```
+!g : c1 <- p1; ?g.
```

```
+!g : c2 <- p2; ?g.
```

```
...
```

```
+!g : cn <- pn; ?g.
```

```
+g : true <- .succeed__goal(g).
```

```
-!g : true <- !!g.
```

Exclusive Backtracking Declarative Goal Pattern

Other language features

Example (Example)

```
+!g : g <- true. // g declarative goal
```

```
+!g : not p(1,g) & c1 <- +p(1,g); p1; ?g.
```

```
+!g : not p(2,g) & c2 <- +p(2,g); p2; ?g.
```

...

```
+!g : not p(n,g) & cn <- +p(n,g); pn; ?g.
```

```
-?g : true <- !!g.
```

```
+g : true <- .abolish(p(_,g); .succeed_goal(g).
```


Failure Handling: Contingency Plans

Other language features

Example (Example)

```
!g1 // initial goal
```

```
+!g1 : true <- !g2(X); .print("end g1 ",X).
```

```
+!g2 : true <- !g3(X); .print("end g2 ",X).
```

```
+!g3 : true <- !g4(X); .print("end g3 ",X).
```

```
+!g4 : true <- !g5(X); .print("end g4 ",X).
```

```
+!g5 : true <- .fail.
```

```
-!g3(X) : true <- .print("in g3 failure").
```

Failure Handling: Contingency Plans

Other language features

Example (Example)

```
!g1 // initial goal
```

```
+!g1 : true <- !g2(X); .print("end g1 ",X).
```

```
+!g2 : true <- !g3(X); .print("end g2 ",X).
```

```
+!g3 : true <- !g4(X); .print("end g3 ",X).
```

```
+!g4 : true <- !g5(X); .print("end g4 ",X).
```

```
+!g5 : true <- .fail.
```

```
-!g3(X) : true <- .print("in g3 failure").
```

```
saying: in g3 failure
```

```
saying: end g2 failure
```

```
saying: end g1 failure
```

Failure Handling: Contingency Plans

Other language features

Example (blind commitment to g)

```
+!g : g. // g is a declarative goal

+!g : ... <- a1; ?g.
+!g : ... <- a2; ?g.
+!g : ... <- a3; ?g.

+!g : true <- !g. // keep trying
-!g : true <- !g. // in case of some failure

+g : true <- .succeed_goal(g).
```

Failure Handling: Contingency Plans

Other language features

Example (single minded commitment)

```

+!g : g. // g is a declarative goal

+!g : ... <- a1; ?g.
+!g : ... <- a2; ?g.
+!g : ... <- a3; ?g.

+!g : true <- !g. // keep trying
-!g : true <- !g. // in case of some failure

+g : true <- .succeed_goal(g).
+f : true <- .fail_goal(g). // f is the drop
condition for g

```

Failure Handling: Compiler pre-processing – directives

Other language features

Example (single minded commitment)

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

Outline

Agent Abstractions

Agent Dynamics

Other language features

Namespaces

Strong Negation

Prolog-like Rules

Plan Annotations & Concurrent Plans

Declarative Goal Patterns

Meta Programming

Integrating **A** & **A** dimensions

Agent Management Infrastructure in JaCaMo

Comparison with other paradigms

Meta Programming

Other language features

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

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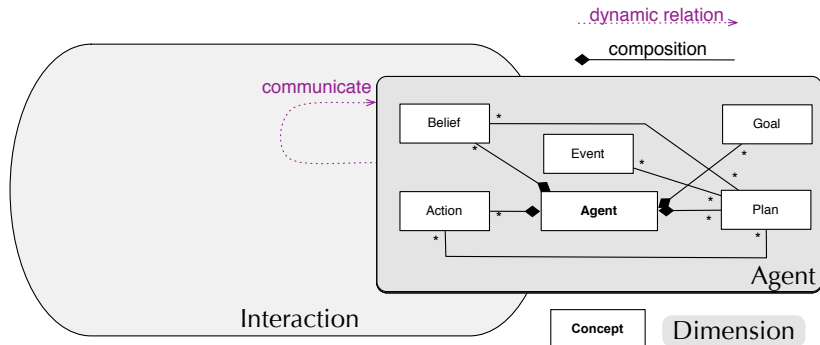
Integrating **A** & **A** dimensions

Agent Management Infrastructure in JaCaMo

Comparison with other paradigms

Conclusions and wrap-up

Integrating A & A dimensions



Communicative Actions

Use of the internal action `.send` with performative verbs and corresponding content:

- ▶ **tell**, **untell**: to share beliefs,
- ▶ **achieve**, **unachieve**: to delegate achievement goal,
- ▶ **askOne**, **askAll**: to delegate test goal,
- ▶ **askHow**: to request plans,
- ▶ **tellHow**, **untellHow**: to share plans.

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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, ...)

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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();
            }
        }
    }
}
```


Jason code

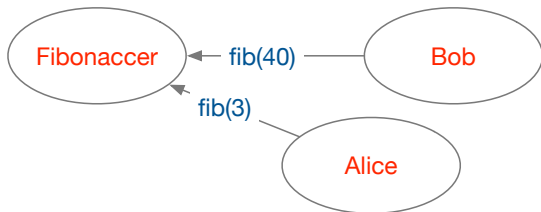
```
direction(gold)    :- see(gold).
direction(random) :- not see(gold).

+!find(gold)                // long term goal
  <- ?direction(A);
      go(A);
      !find(gold).

+battery(low)              // reactivity
  <- !charge.

^!charge[state(started)]  // goal meta-events
  <- .suspend(find(gold)).
^!charge[state(finished)]
  <- .resume(find(gold)).
```

Fibonacci calculator server – “java” version

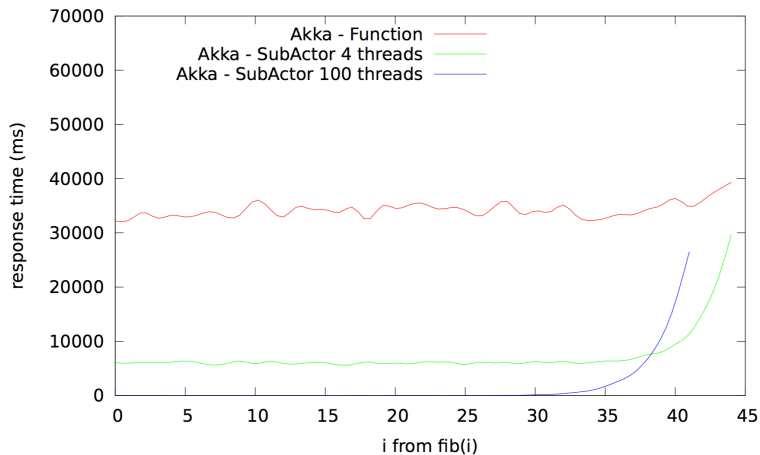


```
while true
  m = receiveMsg()
  if m == fib(N)
    m.answer(fib(m.getArg(0)))
  ...
```

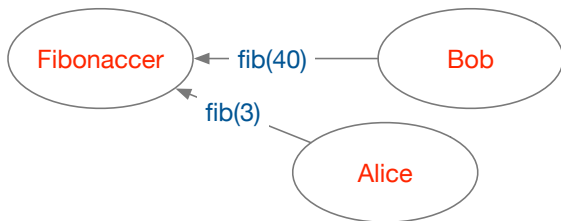
```
int fib(int n)
  if n <= 2
    return 1
  else
    return fib(n-1)+fib(n-2)
```

How long will Alice wait?

Fibonacci calculator server – Akka



Fibonacci calculator agent – Jason version



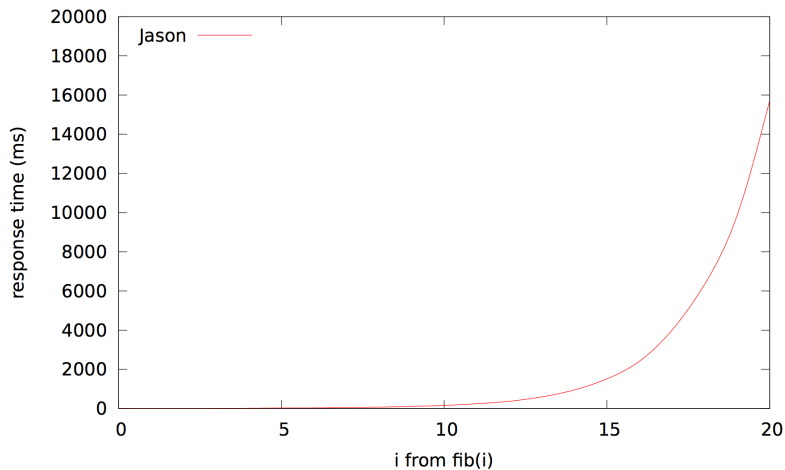
```
+?fib(1,1).
```

```
+?fib(2,1).
```

```
+?fib(N,F) <- ?fib(N-1,A); ?fib(N-2,B); F = A+B.
```

How long will Alice wait?

Fibonacci calculator agent – Jason version



Jason × 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

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Some Shortfalls

- ▶ **IDEs** and programming tools are still not anywhere near the level of OO languages
- ▶ **Debugging** is a serious issue — much more than “mind tracing” is needed
- ▶ Combination with **organisational** models is very recent — much work still needed
- ▶ Principles for using **declarative goals** in practical programming problems still not “textbook”
- ▶ Large applications and **real-world** experience much needed!

Some Trends

- ▶ **Modularity** and encapsulation
 - ▶ **Debugging** MAS is hard: problems of concurrency, simulated environments, emergent behaviour, mental attitudes
 - ▶ Logics for Agent Programming languages
 - ▶ Further work on combining with interaction, environments, and organisations
 - ▶ We need to put everything together: rational agents, environments, organisations, normative systems, reputation systems, economically inspired techniques, etc.
- ↪ **Multi-Agent Programming**

Some Related Projects I

- ▶ **Speech-act** based communication
Joint work with Renata Vieira, Álvaro Moreira, and Mike Wooldridge
- ▶ **Cooperative** plan exchange
Joint work with Viviana Mascardi, Davide Ancona
- ▶ **Plan Patterns** for Declarative Goals
Joint work with M. Wooldridge
- ▶ **Planning** (Felipe Meneguzzi and Colleagues)
- ▶ **Web and Mobile Applications** (Alessandro Ricci and Colleagues)
- ▶ **Belief Revision**
Joint work with Natasha Alechina, Brian Logan, Mark Jago

Some Related Projects II

- ▶ **Ontological** Reasoning
 - ▶ Joint work with Renata Vieira, Álvaro Moreira
 - ▶ **JASDL**: joint work with Tom Klapiscak
- ▶ Goal-Plan Tree Problem (Thangarajah et al.)
Joint work with Tricia Shaw
- ▶ Trust reasoning (ForTrust project)
- ▶ Agent verification and model checking
Joint project with M.Fisher, M.Wooldridge, W.Visser, L.Dennis, B.Farwer

Some Related Projects III

- ▶ Environments, Organisation and Norms
 - ▶ Normative environments
 - Join work with A.C.Rocha Costa and F.Okuyama
 - ▶ MADeM integration (Francisco Grimaldo Moreno)
 - ▶ Normative integration (Felipe Meneguzzi)
- ▶ More on `jason.sourceforge.net`, related projects

Summary

- ▶ **AgentSpeak**

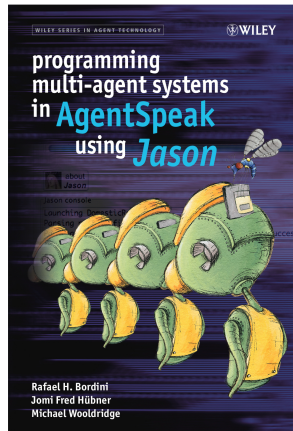
- ▶ Logic + BDI
- ▶ Agent programming language

- ▶ **Jason**

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

Further Resources

- ▶ <http://jason.sourceforge.net>
- ▶ R.H. Bordini, J.F. Hübner, and M. Wooldrige
Programming Multi-Agent Systems in AgentSpeak using Jason
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