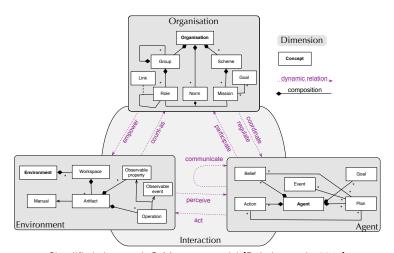
Multi-Agent Oriented Programming **Agent Programming with JaCaMo**

JaCaMo meta-model



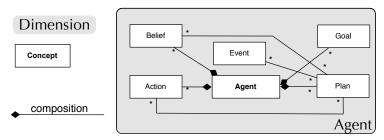
Simplified view on JaCaMo meta-model [Boissier et al., 2011]

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).
// ...

+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(_)).</pre>
```

example bob.asl

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



5

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



```
happy(bob).  // B
!say(hello).  // D
+!say(X) : happy(bob) <- .print(X).
beliefs: prolog like (First Order Logic)</pre>
```



```
happy(bob).  // B
!say(hello).  // D
+!say(X) : happy(bob) <- .print(X).
beliefs: prolog like (First Order Logic)
desires: prolog like, with ! prefix</pre>
```



▶ are used for practical reasoning ~> means-end



desires from perception - options

```
+happy(bob) <- !say(hello).
+!say(X) : not today(monday) <- .print(X).</pre>
```



source of beliefs

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



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).</pre>
```



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).
```



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)).
```



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

```
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)].
```



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.</pre>

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
```

\ == (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(term<sub>1</sub>, term<sub>2</sub>,...)
```

- ▶ .union(list₁, list₂, list₃)
- .my_name(var)
- .send(aq, 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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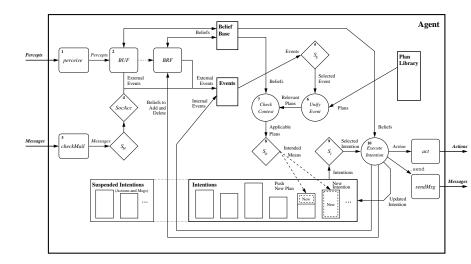
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Agent dynamics

Agent Dynamics

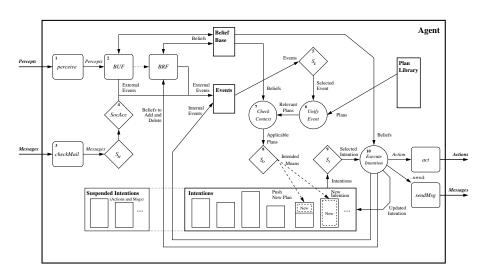




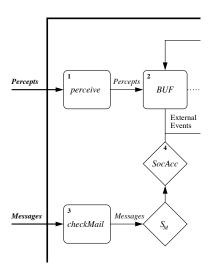
runtime interpreter

- 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



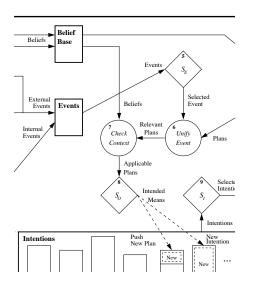






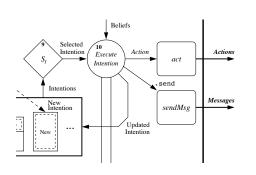
- machine perception
- belief revison
- knowledge representation
- communication, argumentation
- trust
- social power





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





- ► intention reconsideration
- scheduling
- action theories



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).").</pre>
```



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



Agent Abstractions

Agent Dynamics

Other language features

Strong Negation

Plan Annotations & Concurrent Plans

Declarative Goal Patterns

Meta Programming

Integrating A & A dimensions

Agent Management Infrastructure in JaCaMo



Agent Abstractions

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Other language features

Namespaces

Strong Negation

Prolog-like Rules

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Namespace

Other language features

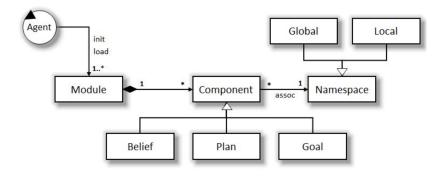
- ► Abstract container in the mind of agent, created to hold a logical grouping of beliefs, goals, events, plans and actions
- ▶ Identified by a name, used to prefix (using ::) the elements belonging to it:

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
- 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





Modules and Namespaces

Other language features

Inspection of agent alice

- Beliefs

tv::

introduction(participant)[source(compan propose(11.075337225252543)[sourc propose(12.043311087442898)[sourc propose(12.81277904935436)[source 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

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

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



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Prolog-like Rules in the Belief Base

```
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).
```



Agent Abstractions

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Other language features

Namespaces Strong Negation Prolog-like Rules

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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)



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
```

Agent Abstractions

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Drolog like Pules

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Declarative Goal Patterns: Achievement goal

```
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

```
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

```
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).
```



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

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.



Other language features

Example (Example)

```
!q1 // initial goal
+!q1 : true < - !q2(X); .print("end q1",X).
+!q2: true <- !q3(X); .print("end q2",X).
+!g3: true <- !g4(X); .print("end g3",X).
+!g4: true <- !g5(X); .print("end q4".X).
+!q5 : true <- .fail.
-!g3(X): true <- .print("in g3 failure").
saying: in q3 failure
saying: end q2 failure
saying: end q1 failure
```



```
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).
```



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 }</pre>
```



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Dlan Apparations % C

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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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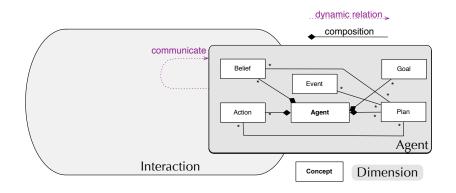
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Integrating A & A dimensions





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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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();
```

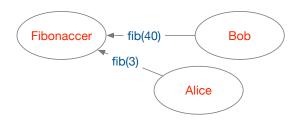


Jason code

```
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)).
```



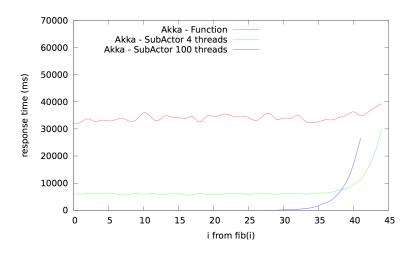
Fibonacci calculator server - "java" version



How long will Alice wait?

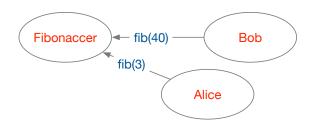


Fibonacci calculator server – Akka





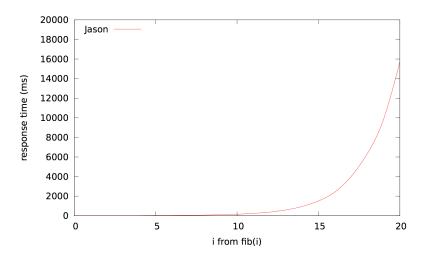
Fibonacci calculator agent – Jason version



```
+?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



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



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 environmentsJoin 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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