

Software
Architecture

Data-Centered (DC)
Software Architectures

Blackboard Architecture Style

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Types of Data-centered Architecture
Repository
Blackboard

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Blackboard Architecture Style



Blackboard Architecture Style

- Synopsis

- Similar to the classroom blackboard used in **solving problems without deterministic outcome**.

- share data in solving classroom problems via a blackboard
- play the role of agents to contribute to the problem solving
- in parallel, and independently, trying to find the best solution

- The Blackboard pattern is useful for problems

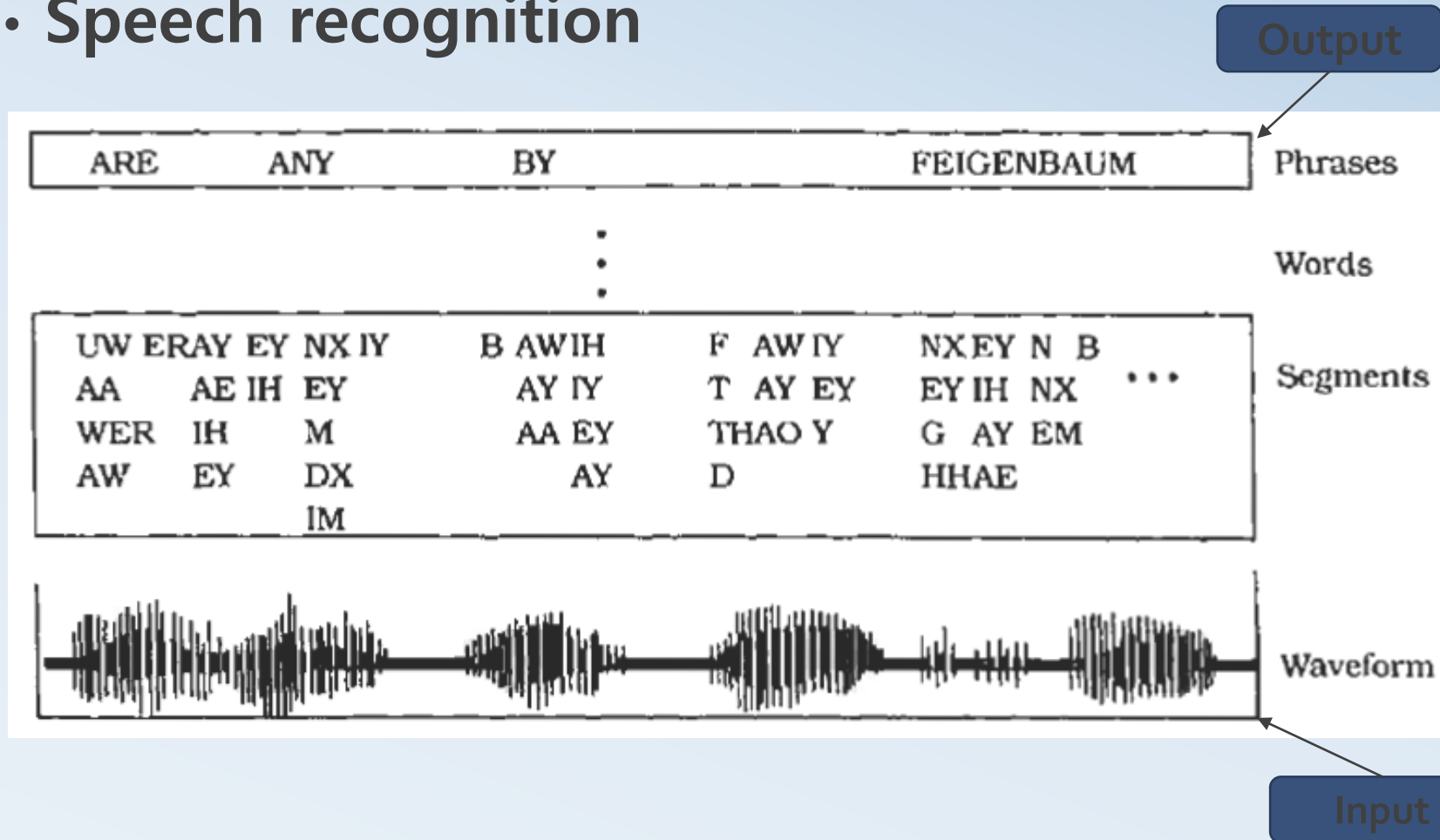
- **Transformation of raw data into high level data structures** (eg: diagrams, tables or English phrases) **that have no feasible deterministic solution**
- **Collection of independent programs** that work cooperatively on a common data structure (8~8:20)
 - Each program is **specialized for solving a particular part** of the overall task
 - **Specialized programs** are **independent** of each other
 - All programs **work together** on the solution

Blackboard Architecture Style

- Application Examples
 - AI community shows the idea to be seen in a wider context
Ex) **Vision, Image recognition, Speech recognition** AI :
 - speech recognition applications(created in 1970s)
 - image pattern recognition
 - weather broadcast systems
 - Hearsay-II speech recognition expert system
 - CRYSTALIS molecular structure analysis system

Blackboard: Example

- Speech recognition



Blackboard Architecture Style

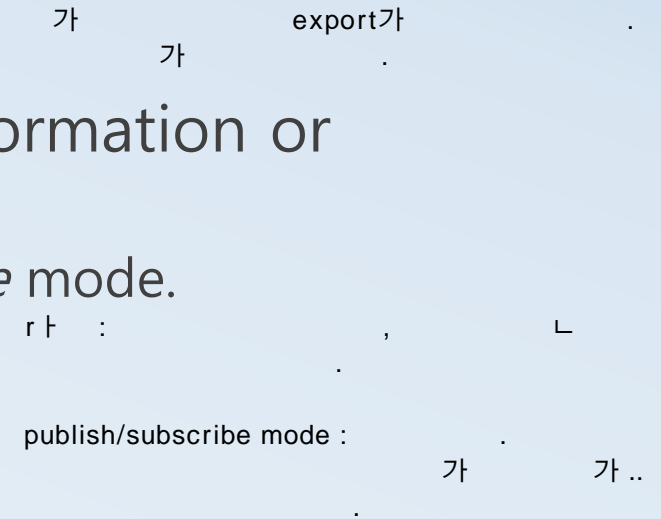
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- Property
 - a **data-directed** and a partially data-driven architecture.
- Structure
 - The entire system is decomposed into two major partitions.
 - One partition, called the **blackboard**, is used to store data (hypotheses and facts),
 - The other partition, called **knowledge sources**, stores domain-specific knowledge.
 - The third partition, called the **controller**
 - initiate the blackboard and knowledge sources and that takes a bootstrap role and overall supervision control.

Blackboard Architecture Style

- Structure

- The connections between the blackboard subsystem and knowledge sources are basically implicit invocations from the blackboard to specific knowledge sources, which are registered with the blackboard in advance.
- Data changes in the blackboard trigger one or more matched knowledge source to continue processing.
- Data changes may be caused by new deduced information or hypotheses results by some knowledge sources.
 - This connection can be implemented in *publish/subscribe* mode.

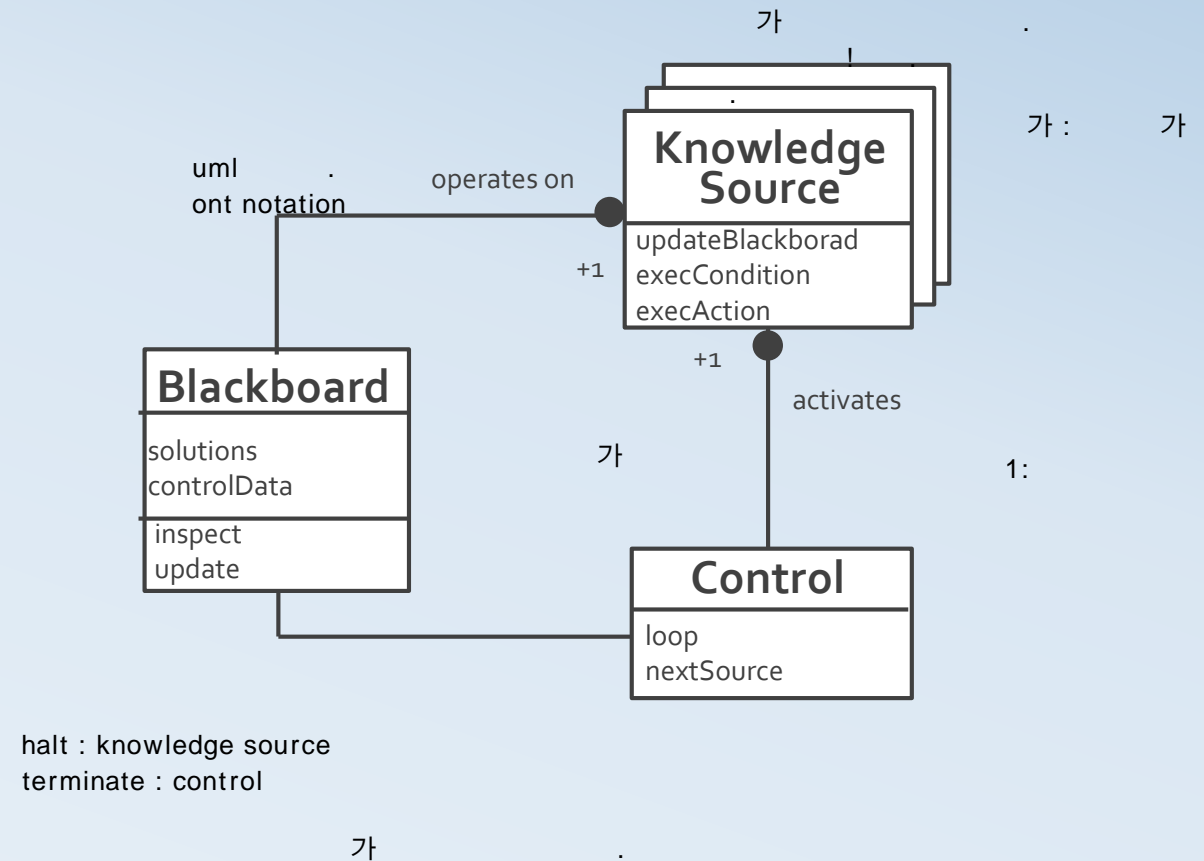


Blackboard: Forces

- **Domain is immature**
- Different partial problems need to have **different resolution algorithms**
- **Input, intermediate and final results have different representations** account for the implementation algorithms are complex
- Algorithm usually **works on the results of other algorithms**
- **Uncertain data and approximate solutions**
- Employing disjoint algorithms induces **potential parallelism**

Blackboard: Solution - Structure

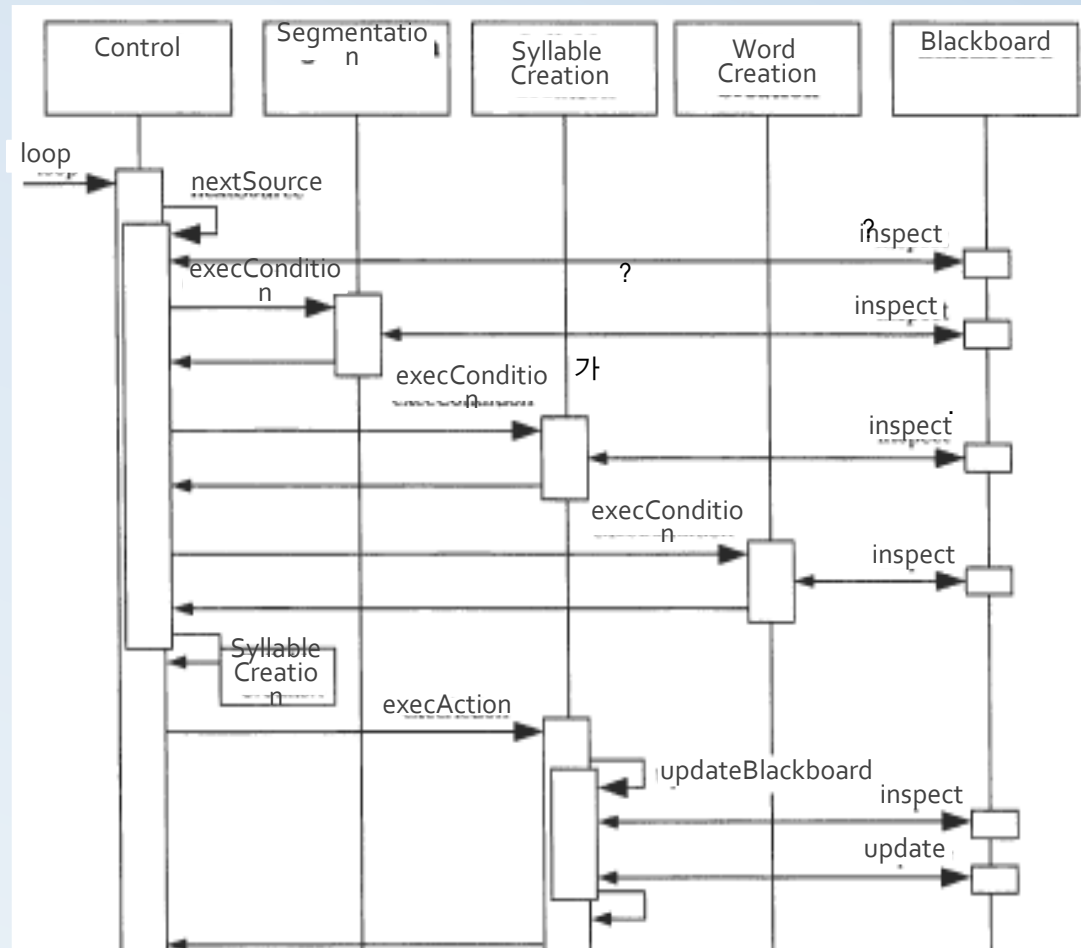
- Blackboard:
 - call inspect to check the current solutions on the blackboard.
 - update is used to make changes to the data on the blackboard.
- Knowledge Source:
 - determines when the system should halt, and what the final result is.
- Control:
 - runs a loop that monitors changes on the blackboard and decides what actions to take next.



Blackboard: Solution - Dynamics

- **Main loop** of the Control component is **started**
- Control **calls the nextsource ()** procedure to **select the next knowledge source**
- **nextsource()** **invokes the condition-part** of each candidate knowledge source
- The Control component **chooses a knowledge source to invoke**, and **a hypothesis or a set of hypotheses to be worked on**

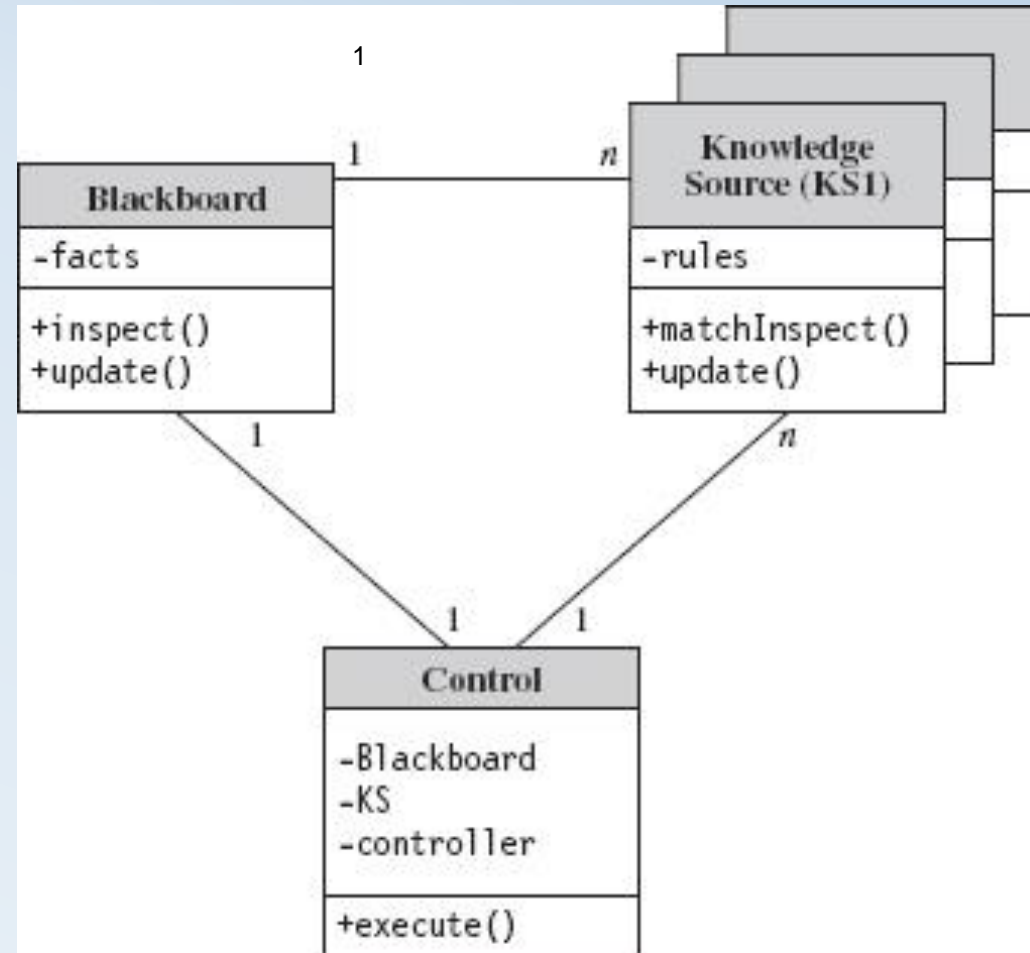
Blackboard: Dynamics Example



Blackboard: Rule-based

- Rule-based blackboard

(facts) 가



Blackboard: Rule-based

- Rule-based blackboard
 - Each knowledge source helps to solve problems in its expertise area
 - Knowledge can be stored in different knowledge representation formats depending on the reasoning strategy
 - A knowledge source stores all related rules and provides activation mechanisms for the blackboard to trigger in rule-based expert system
 - Each individual knowledge source may have its own problem solving strategy and use its own knowledge expertise to contribute to a partial solution which will lead to a final solution.
 - There are many other problem solving strategies that can be applied including Fuzzy set theory, probability and statistics, neural network, data mining, and heuristic searching. (AI)
 - The blackboard class holds the current data state, and the final problem solution will be placed in the blackboard for the controller to pick up and use to generate a final report.

Blackboard Architecture Style

activating .

- Since the blackboard architecture is basically a self-activated system, the controller subsystem in the architecture only acts at the beginning of the process to initiate blackboard and all knowledge sources;
- It also periodically inspects the current state of the blackboard to determine whether to terminate the processing if the solution is acceptable or optimal enough.

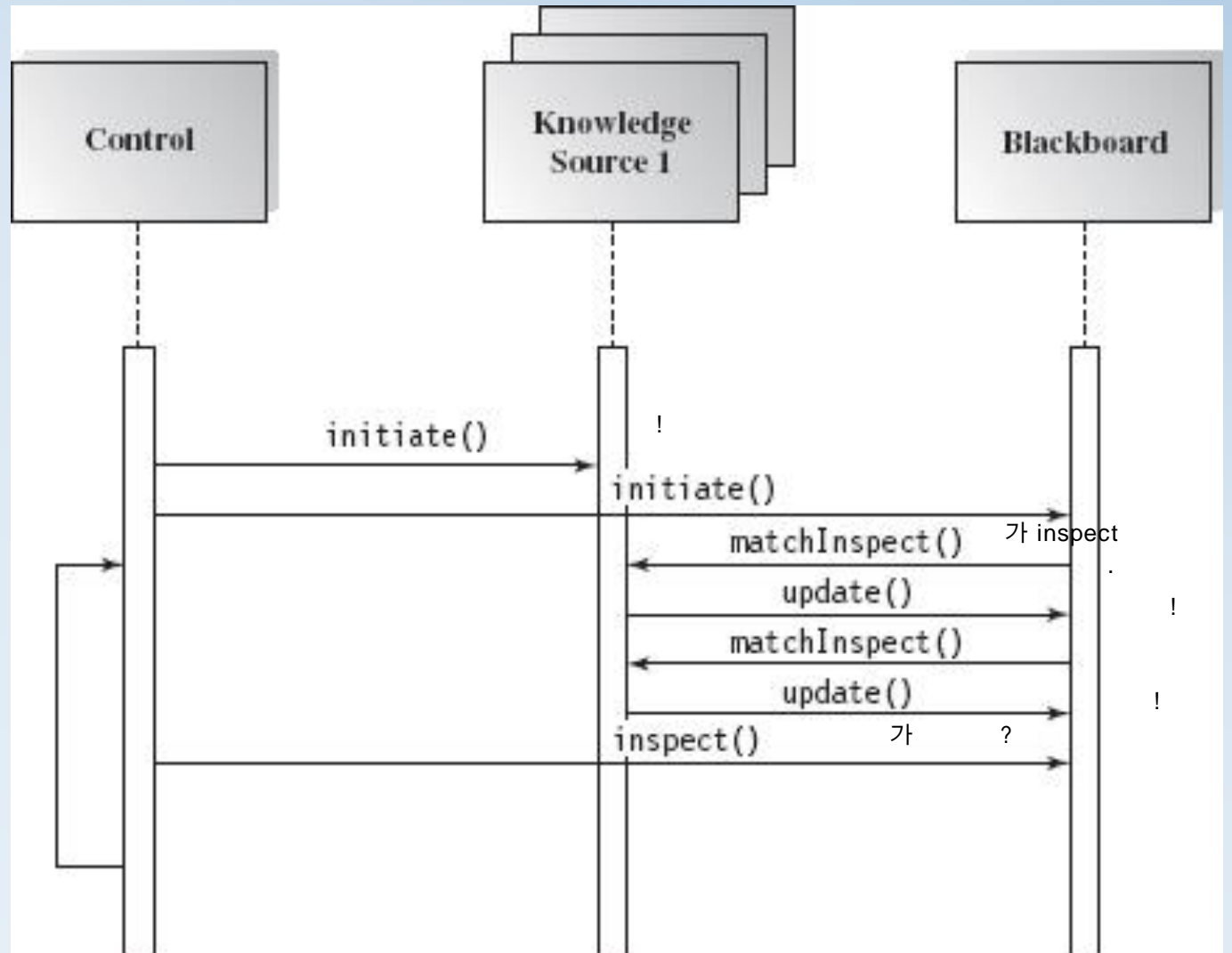
28:30~29:10

Blackboard: Example

- Example: animal identification knowledge-based system (KBS)
 - The goal is to recognize the animal
 - A set of rules:
 - R1: IF animal gives milk then animal is mammal
 - R2: IF animal eats meat then animal is carnivore
 - R3: IF animal is mammal and animal is carnivore and animal has tawny color and animal has black stripes then animal is tiger
 - Set of facts
 - F1: animal eats meat
 - F2: animal gives milk
 - F3: animal has black stripes
 - F4: animal has tawny color
 - Forward Reasoning vs. Backward Reasoning

Blackboard: Example

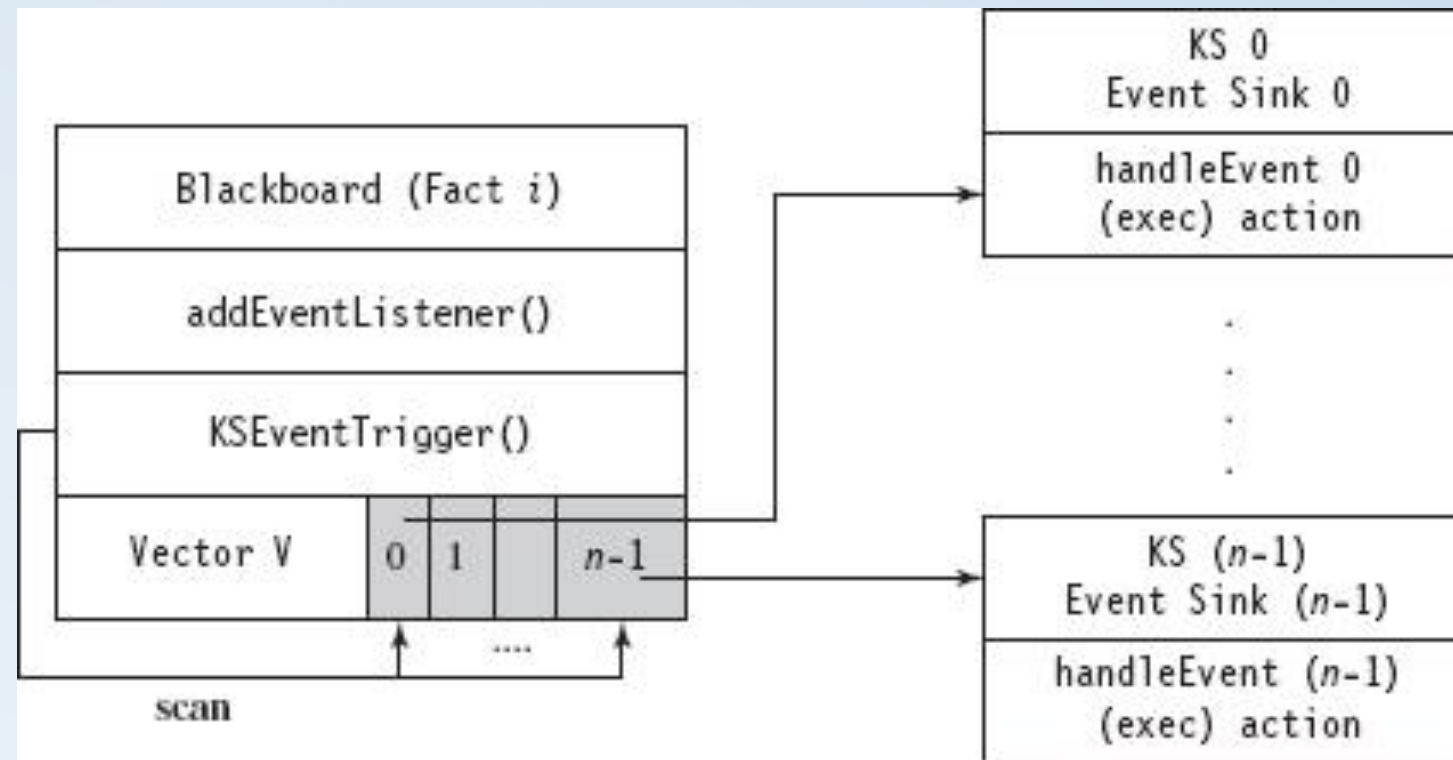
- Sequence diagram of blackboard architecture



Blackboard: Example

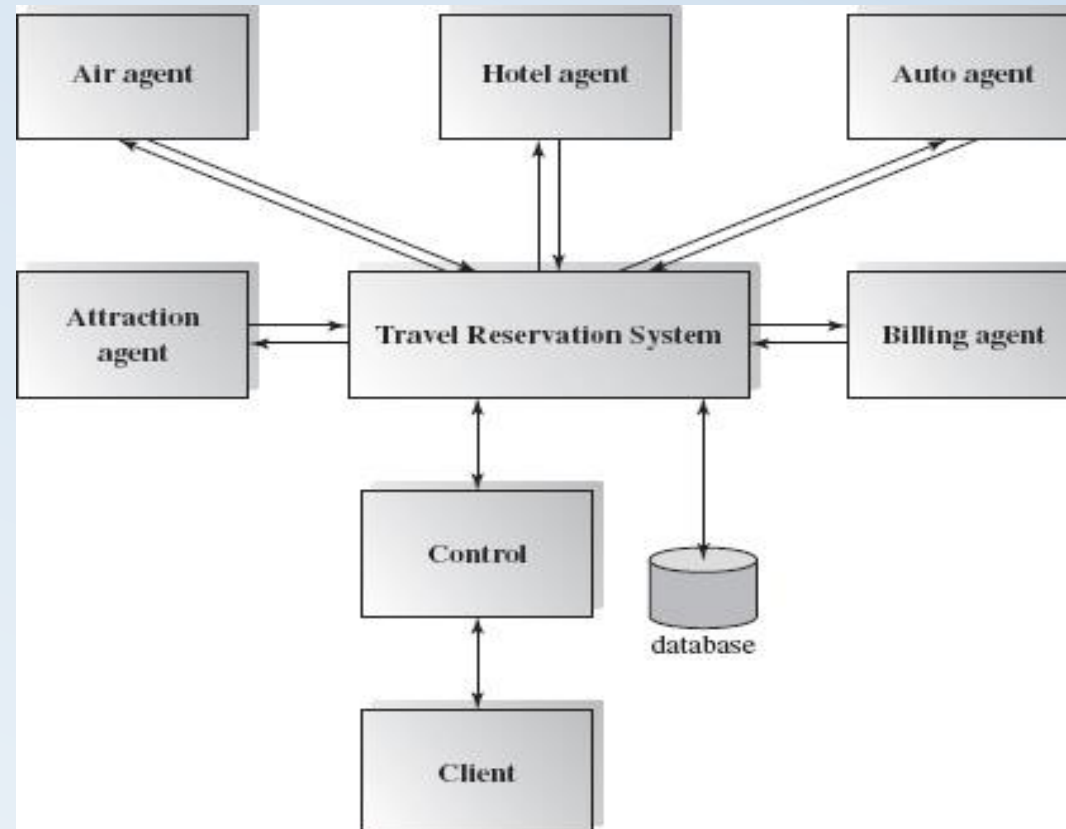
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- Publish/subscribe relationship between blackboard and knowledge sources



Blackboard: Example

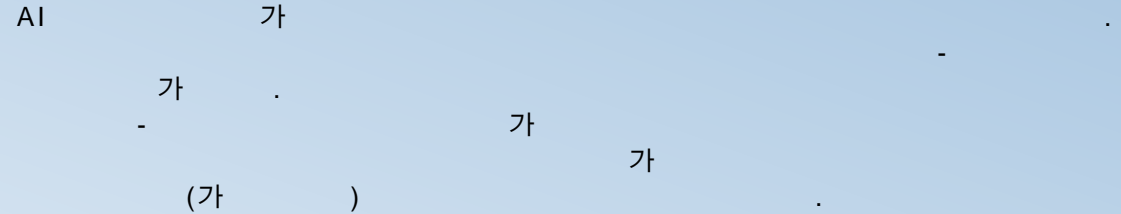
- Application Examples
 - smart travel consulting system
 - involves a data store of budget, available time, and other facts to be shared by all agents



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Blackboard: Application



- Applicable domains
 - Suitable for **solving open-ended and complex problems** such as artificial intelligence (AI) problems where no preset solutions exist.
 - The problem spans multiple disciplines, and each problem involves completely **different types of knowledge expertise** and problem-solving paradigms that require cooperation.
 - **Partial or approximate solution** is acceptable to the problems.
 - Exhaustive searching is impossible and impractical since it may take forever because available knowledge and even data and hypotheses may not be complete or precisely accurate.

Blackboard: Benefits & Limitations

- **Benefits:**

- *Scalability*: easy to add or update knowledge source.
- *Concurrency*: all knowledge sources can work in parallel since they are independent of each other.
- Supports experimentation for hypotheses. 가
- Reusability of knowledge source agents.

- **Limitations:**

- Due to the close dependency between the blackboard and knowledge source, the structure change of the blackboard may have a significant impact on all of its agents. 가
- Since only partial or approximate solutions are expected, it can be difficult to decide when to terminate reasoning. 가 ,
- Synchronization of multiple agents is an issue. Since multiple agents are working and updating the shared data in the blackboard simultaneously, the preference or priority of executions of multiple agents must be coordinated. 가 , 가
- Debugging and testing of the system is a challenge. 이 가

- **Related Architecture**

- Implicit invocation architecture such as event-based, MVC architecture

Types of Data-centered Architecture
Repository
Blackboard

Summary of Data-Centered (DC) Software Architectures



Summary of DCR

- Repositories are often used in layered architecture, client-server architecture, data tier in multi-tier architecture, and many other architecture designs.
- Agents of the data store in data-centered repository architecture control the logic flow.
- The data store is passive in the repository architecture, and agents control and trigger all operations on the data store.
- There are many expert systems for pattern recognition, voice or speech recognition, or other similar systems with this architecture.