Rapid Text-based Authoring of Defeasible Higher-Order Logic Formulas, via Textual Logic and Rulelog[†]

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[†] Work partly supported by Vulcan, Inc., http://www.vulcan.com

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Key Goal in Expressive KRR

•Reduce the cost of authoring rich logic

Textual Logic Approach: Overview

Logic-based text interpretation & generation, for KA & QA

- Map text to logic ("text interpretation"): for K and Q's
- Map logic to text ("text generation"): for viewing K, esp. for justifications of answers (A's)
- Map based on logic

Textual terminology – phrasal style of K

- Use words/word-senses directly as logical constants
- Natural composition: textual phrase ←→ logical term

Interactive logical disambiguation technique

- Treats: parse, quantifier type/scope, co-reference, word sense
- Leverages lexical ontology large-vocabulary, broad-coverage
- Initial restriction to stand-alone sentences "straightforward" text
 - Minimize ellipsis, rhetoric, metaphor, etc.
- Implemented in Automata LinguistTM

Leverage defeasibility of the logic

- For rich logical K: handle exceptions and change
 - Incl. for NLP itself: "The thing about NL is that there's a gazillion special cases" [Peter Clark]

KA = Knowledge Acquisition. QA = Question/Query Answering. NLP = Natural Language Processing.

Requirements on the logical KRR for KA of Rich Logical K

- The logic must be expressively rich higher order logic formulas
 - As target for the text interpretation
- The logic must handle <u>exceptions</u> and <u>change</u>, gracefully
 - Must be <u>defeasible</u>
 K can have exceptions, i.e., be "defeated", e.g., by higher-priority K
 - For empirical character of K
 - For evolution and combination of KB's. I.e., for **social scalability**.
 - For causal processes, and "what-if's" (hypotheticals, e.g., counterfactual)
 - I.e., to represent change in K and change in the world
- Inferencing in the logic must be <u>computationally scalable</u>
 - Incl. <u>tractable</u> = polynomial-time in worst-case
 - (as are SPARQL and SQL databases, for example)

Past Difficulties with Rich Logical K

KRR not defeasible & tractable

... even when not target of text-based KA

- E.g.
 - 1. FOL-based OWL, SBVR, CL: infer garbage
 - Perfectly brittle in face of conflict from errors, confusions, tacit context
 - 2. E.g., FOL and previous logic programs: run away
 - Recursion thru logical functions

Rulelog: Overview

First KRR to meet central challenge:

defeasible + tractable + rich

- New rich logic: based on databases, not classical logic
 - Expressively extends normal declarative logic programs (LP)
 - Transforms into LP
 - LP is the logic of databases (SQL, SPARQL) and pure Prolog
 - Business rules (BR) production-rules -ish has expressive power similar to databases
 - LP (not FOL) is "the 99%" of practical structured info management today
- RIF-Rulelog in draft as industry standard (RuleML submission to W3C)
- Associated new reasoning techniques to implement it
- Prototyped in Vulcan's SILK
 - Mostly open source: Flora-2 and XSB Prolog

Rulelog: more details

- Defeasibility based on argumentation theories (AT) [Wan, Grosof, Kifer 2009]
 - Meta-rules (~10's) specify principles of debate, thus when rules have exceptions
 - Prioritized conflict handling. Ensures consistent conclusions. Efficient, flexible, sophisticated defeasibility.
- Restraint: semantically clean bounded rationality [Grosof & Swift, AAAI-13]*
 - Leverages "undefined" truth value to represent "not bothering"
 - Extends well-foundedness in LP
- Omniformity: higher-order logic formula syntax, incl. hilog, rule id's
 - Omni-directional disjunction. Skolemized existentials. [Grosof (invited), RuleML-2013]
 - Avoids general reasoning-by-cases (cf. unit resolution).
- Sound interchange of K with all major standards for sem web K
 - Both FOL & LP, e.g.: RDF(S), OWL-DL, SPARQL, CL
- Reasoning techniques based on extending tabling in LP inferencing
 - Truth maintenance, justifications incl. why-not, trace analysis for KA debug, term abstraction, delay subgoals [Andersen et al, RuleML-2013 (Challenge)]

Defeasible Existentials in Rulelog

- Existentials are needed, they arise often in natural language.
- Omniformity employs a transformation to normal LP that is based on <u>Tight</u> Normal Form, which differs somewhat from the Skolem Normal Form used in FOL clausification
 - Intuition: skolemize "after" directionalizing
 - Desirable to reduce the set of skolem terms that appear in bodies (post-transform)
 - See paper for details
- Also extended to treat existentials are:
 - The defeasible argumentation theory (AT)
 - A new family ("ATCO") of AT's. Implemented in Flora.
 - NAF's semantics and proof theory, when variables are unbound (i.e., NAF-unsafe)
 - Extension of "involuntary" restraint. Implemented in Flora.
 - Underlying technical issue: body universals arise from omni-directionality
 - In-preparation: forthcoming papers that describe more details

Example: Ontology Translation, leveraging hilog and exceptions

```
/* Company BB reports operating earnings using R&D operating cost which includes price of a
  small company acquired for its intellectual property. Organization GG wants to view
  operating cost more conventionally which excludes that acquisition amount. We use rules to
  specify the contextual ontological mapping. */
 @{normallyBringOver} ?categ(GG)(?item) :- ?categ(BB)(?item).
 @{acquisitionsAreNotOperating} neg ?categ(GG)(?item) :-
     acquisition(GG)(?item) and (?categ(GG) :: operating(GG)).
 \overrides(acquisitionsAreNotOperating, normallyBringOver). /* exceptional */
 acquisition(GG)(?item):- price of acquired R and D companies(BB)(?item).
 R and D salaries(BB)(p1001). p1001[amount -> $25,000,000].
 R_and_D_overhead(BB)(p1002). p1002[amount -> $15,000,000].
 price of acquired R and D companies(BB)(p1003). p1003[amount -> $30,000,000].
 R_and_D_operating_cost(BB)(p1003). /* BB counts the acquisition price item in this category */
 R_and_D_operating_cost(GG) :: operating(GG).
 Total(R and D operating cost)(BB)[amount -> $70,000,000]. /* rolled up by BB cf. BB's definitions */
 Total(R_and_D_operating_cost)(GG)[amount -> ?x] :- .... /* roll up the items for GG cf. GG's definitions */
As desired: |= R_and_D_salaries(GG)(p1001)
                    neg R_and_D_operating_cost(GG)(p1003) /* GG doesn't count it */
                  Total(R_and_D_operating_cost)(GG)[amount -> $40,000,000]
          Notation: @{...} declares a rule tag. ? prefixes a variable. :- means if. X :: Y means X is a subclass of Y.
```

\overrides(X,Y) means X is higher priority than Y.

Digital Aristotle and Project Halo

slide from: Gunning et al, AAAI & IAAI (2011)

	Pilot	Phase II	HaloBook	DA			
	Partial AP Syllabus	3 Partial AP Syllabi	Single Textbook	Complete Domain			
Authors	KR Expert	Single Domain Expert	Small Team of Domain and KR Experts	Community of Scientists, Teachers, and KR Experts AP QA General QA Education Research			
Uses	Logic Queries	AP Question Answering	AP QA General QA Education				
	2002-2003	2004-2009	2010-2015	2016-????			
_							



IBM Watson FAQ on QA using logic or NLP

- Classic knowledge-based AI approaches to QA try to logically prove an answer is correct from a logical encoding of the question and all the domain knowledge required to answer it. Such approaches are stymied by two problems:
 - the prohibitive time and manual effort required to <u>acquire massive</u> <u>volumes of knowledge</u> and <u>formally encode it as logical formulas</u> accessible to computer algorithms, and
 - the difficulty of <u>understanding natural language questions well enough to exploit such formal encodings</u> if available.
- Techniques for dealing with huge amounts of natural language text, such as Information Retrieval, <u>suffer from nearly the opposite problem</u> in that they can always find documents or passages containing some keywords in common with the query but <u>lack the precision</u>, <u>depth</u>, <u>and understanding necessary to</u> <u>deliver correct answers</u> with accurate confidences.

Why not QA using logic and NLP?

 What if it was "cheap" to acquire massive volumes of knowledge formally encoded as logical formulas?

 What if it was "easy" to understand natural language questions well enough to exploit such formal encodings?

Knowledge Acquisition for Deep QA: Expt.

- Goal 1: represent the knowledge in one chapter of a popular collegelevel science textbook, at 1st-year college level
 - Chapter 7 on cell membranes, in Biology 9th ed., by Campbell et al
- Goal 2: measure what KA productivity is achieved by KE's
 - Assess level of effort, quality of resulting logic, and coverage of textbook

- Software used in this case study:
 - for translating English to logic
 - Automata Linguist[™] and KnowBuddy[™] (patents pending)
 - English Resource Grammar (http://www.delph-in.net/erg/)
 - for knowledge representation & reasoning
 - Vulcan, Inc.'s SILK (http://www.projecthalo.com/): prototype implementation of Rulelog

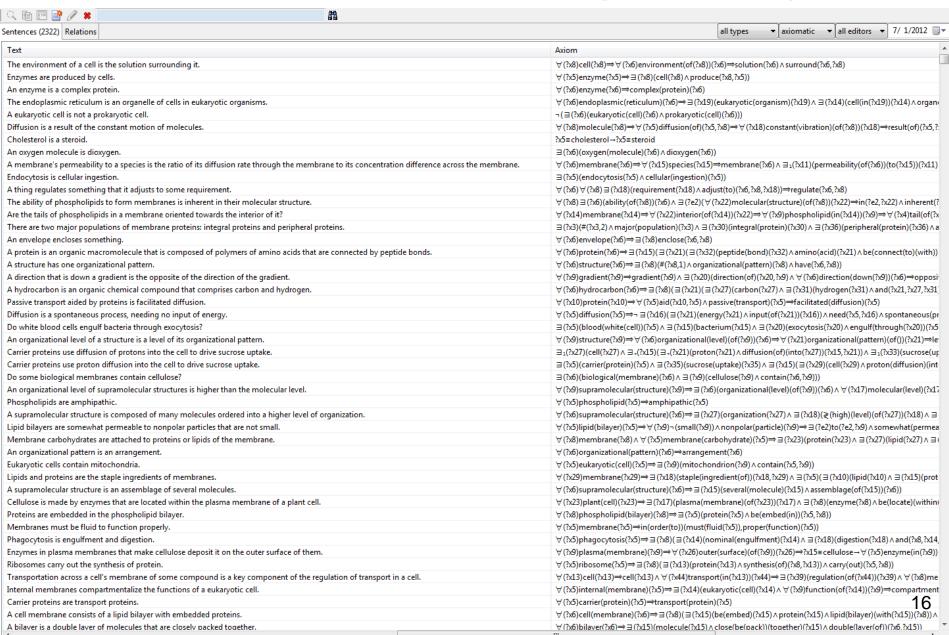
Summary of Effort & Results

- Captured 3,000+ sentences concerning cellular biology
 - hundreds of questions (2 examples herein)
 - 600 or so sentences directly from Campbell's Biology textbook
 - 2,000 or so sentences of supporting or background knowledge
- Sentence length averaged 10 words up to 25 words
 - background knowledge tends to be shorter
 - disambiguation of parse typically requires a fraction of a minute
 - hundreds of parses common, > 30 per sentence on average
 - the correct parse is typically not the parse ranked best by statistical NLP
- Sentences disambiguated and formalized into logic in very few minutes on average
 - resulting logic is typically more sophisticated than skilled logicians typically produce
- Collaborative review and revision of English sentences, disambiguation, and formalization approximately doubled time per sentence over the knowledge base

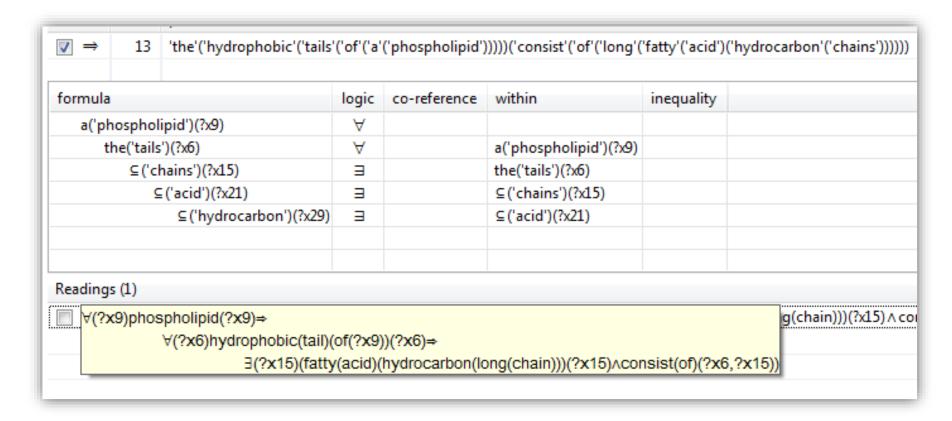
Tracked effort & collaboration per sentence

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tathan	Feb 11	tathan	Feb 11	cogbuji	Mar 7	axiomatic	encoding	5	2		40	39		1			5	5	1	2	00:00:16	
tathan	Feb 11	tathan	Feb 11	tathan	Mar 7	axiomatic	encoding	6	2		39	38		1			4	4	1	2	00:00:21	
pvhaley	Jan 2	cogbuji	Jan 8	tathan	Mar 11	axiomatic	source	11	3		36	36					17	8	2	2	00:03:03	
tathan	Jan 4	tathan	Jan 18			axiomatic	encoding	8	2		35	32		3			7	5	2	2	00:01:18	
dwitting	Jan 4	tathan	Mar 11	pfodor	Mar 10	axiomatic	deprecated	10	4		26	2	21		3		18	8	2	4	00:02:09	
tathan	Feb 11	tathan	Feb 11			axiomatic	encoding	4	1		22	20	1	1			3	4	1	2	00:00:27	
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tathan	Feb 16	tathan	Feb 28	tathan	Mar 7	axiomatic	question	14	106		16		15	1			15	6	3	2	00:04:55	
dwitting	Jan 3	dwitting	Feb 26	tathan	Mar 4	axiomatic	source	13	93		16		15			1	11	7	2	3	00:03:00	
bulicny	Feb 21	bulicny	Feb 26	cogbuji	Mar 7	axiomatic	background	4	1		16	16					3	8	2	3	00:00:06	
bulicny	Jan 9	bulicny	Jan 9			axiomatic	encoding	20	100		15	14		1			52	10	1	3	00:15:24	
tathan	Jan 8	tathan	Jan 8			axiomatic	background	6	1		14	12	2				12	7	1	2	00:08:54	
tathan	Feb 7	tathan	Feb 7			axiomatic?	background	16	140	1	13	12	1						1	2	00:04:24	
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dwitting	Jan 4	tathan	Feb 6	bulicny	Mar 5	axiomatic	source	8	18		12	1	5	1	4	1	10	9	1	3	00:01:22	
dwitting	Jan 4	dwitting	Feb 27	pfodor	Mar 13	axiomatic	source	10	4		11	4	5		2		6	8	2	3	00:05:49	
tathan	Feb 21	tathan	Feb 21			axiomatic	question	8	102		11		3		8		7		1	2	00:00:48	
tathan	Jan 8	tathan	Jan 8	tathan	Mar 7	axiomatic	background	13	1		11	6	5				21		1	2	00:08:12	
tathan	Feb 1	tathan	Feb 1			axiomatic?	encoding	13	100	1	10		6	4			13		1	2	00:07:24	
tathan	Jan 30	tathan	Jan 30			axiomatic?	encoding	12	26		10		6	4			18	7	2	2	00:03:38	
cogbuji	Jan 23	cogbuji	Jan 23			axiomatic	question	6	1		10		10				3	4	1	2	00:00:18	
tathan	Jan 8	tathan	Jan 8	tathan	Mar 7	axiomatic	encoding	12	1		10	1	8	1			36	6	1	2	00:10:14	
tathan	Jan 8	tathan	Jan 8	bulicny	Mar 1	axiomatic	encoding	3	1		10	4	4	1		1	2	4	1	3	00:00:07	
tathan	Jan 16	tathan	Mar 8	tathan	Mar 7	axiomatic	source	15	16		9		5		3	1	34	10	3	2	00:08:21	
tathan	Jan 23	tathan	Jan 23			axiomatic?	encoding	12	100	1	9	1	6	2					1	2	00:02:25	
tathan	Jan 16	tathan	Jan 16			axiomatic	encoding	11	20		9	5	1	1		2	24		1	2	00:06:59	
tathan	Jan 8	tathan	Jan 8			axiomatic	background	6	1		9	8	1				3		1	2	00:00:16	
dwitting	Sep 3	bulicny	Nov 5	cogbuji	Mar 7	axiomatic	encoding	4	2		9	3	4	2			6	5	1	3	00:00:43	
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dwitting	Jan 3	tathan	Mar 9	' '		axiomatic	encoding	9	1		8	2	3	3			20	12	4	4	00:02:15	
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dwitting	Jan 3	tathan	Mar 7	tathan	Mar 7	axiomatic	source	7	6		8	1	3	1	3		4	9	2	4	00:00:21	
dwitting	Jan 3	bulicny	Mar 1	tathan	Mar 8	axiomatic	source	7	25		8	_	5	2	1		14	9	2	3	00:06:12	
tathan	Feb 21	tathan	Feb 21	cogbuji	Mar 7	axiomatic?	background	5	3	1	8	7	1						1	2	00:00:14	
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tathan	Jan 29	tathan	Jan 29	- 55-		axiomatic	encoding	20	100		8	-	7	1			24		1	2	00:09:21	
dwitting	Dec 20	cogbuji	Jan 15	cogbuji	Mar 8	axiomatic	encoding	9	1		8		7	1					1	3	00:00:07	
cogbuji	Aug 24	cogbuji	Jan 15			axiomatic	encoding	5	1		8	6	-	2				7	2	2	00:00:30	
bulicny	Jan 10	bulicny	Jan 10	bulicny	Mar 4	axiomatic	encoding	11	12		8	5		2		1	11		1	2	00:01:45	4.5
bulicny	Jan 9	bulicny	Jan 9	pvhalev	Jan 20	axiomatic	encoding	13	100		8	6		1		1			4	3	00:01:11	15.

Sentences translated from English to logic



Knowledge Acquisition



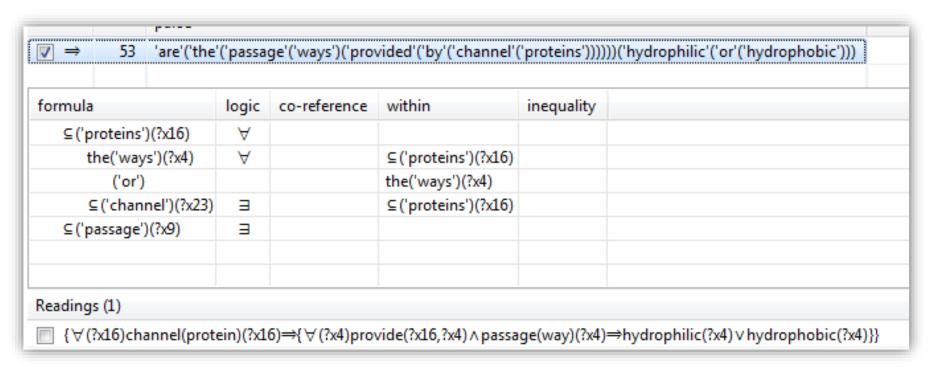
 Note: the "parse" ranked first by machine learning techniques is usually not the correct interpretation

IF TIME PERMITS: SHOW HERE

Mini-demo video of Linguist[™] text interpretation

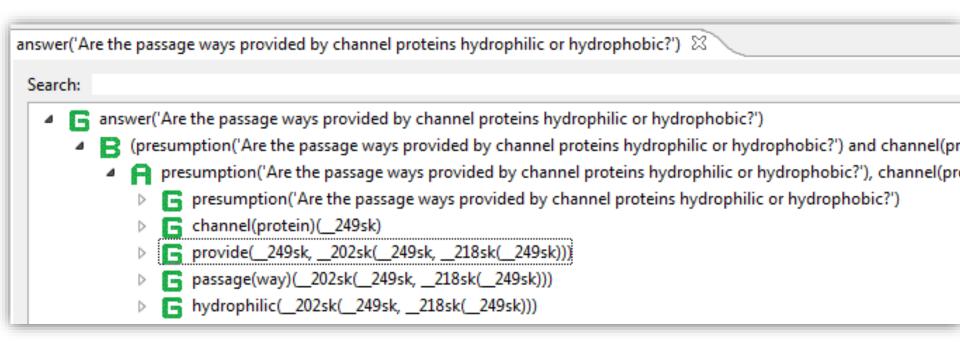
Query Formulation

 Are the passage ways provided by channel proteins hydrophilic or hydrophobic?

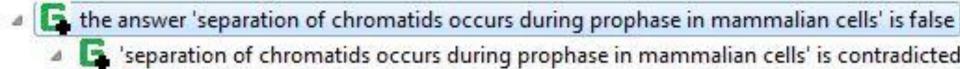


The Answer is "Hydrophilic"

- Hypothetical query uses "presumption" below
- Presumption yields tuples with skolems
- The answer is on the last line below

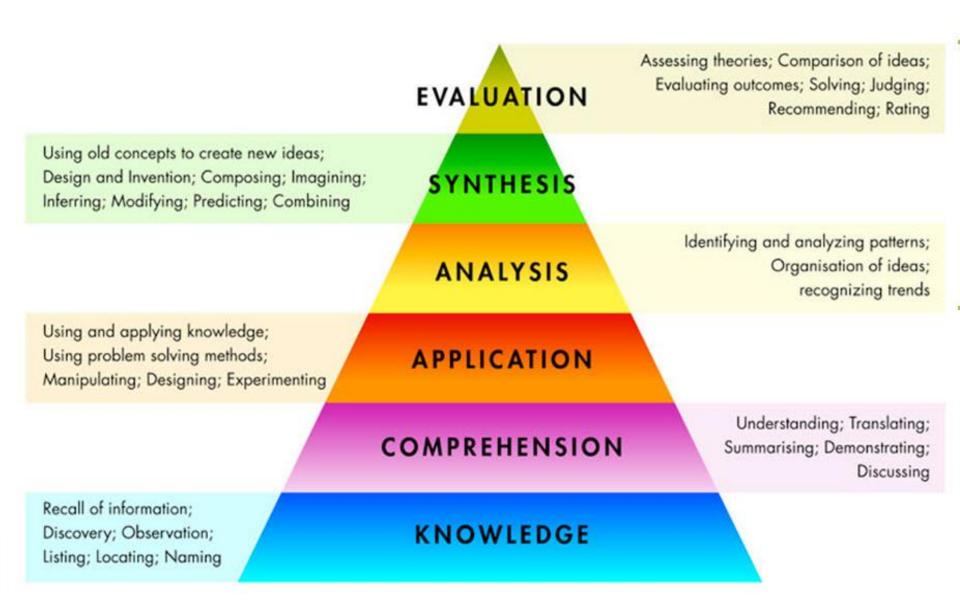


Logic to text (not focal in KA experiment)



- 'separation of sister chromatids occurs during prophase in mammalian cells' is con
 - separation of sister chromatids begins after prophase in mammalian cells
 - separation of sister chromatids begins after prophase
 - separation of sister chromatids begins no earlier than anaphase
 - 📭 separation of sister chromatids occurs only during anaphase
 - anaphase begins after prophase
 - anaphase begins no earlier than metaphase
 - metaphase begins after prophase

BLOOMS TAXONOMY



A Bloom level 4 question

 If a Paramecium swims from a hypotonic environment to an isotonic environment, will its contractile vacuole become more active?

```
\forall(?x9)paramecium(?x9)

\Rightarrow3(?x13)(hypotonic(environment)(?x13)

\land3(?x21)(isotonic(environment)(?x21)

\land\forall1(?x31)contractile(vacuole)(of(?x9))(?x31)

\Rightarrowif(then)(become(?x31,more(active)(?x31)),swim(from(?x13))(to(?x21))(?x9))))
```

• The above formula is translated into a hypothetical query, which answers "No".

Textual Logic (TL) KA – Study Results

- Axiomatized ~2.5k English sentences during 2013:
 - One defeasible axiom in Rulelog (SILK syntax) per sentence
 - On average, each of these axioms correspond to > 5 "rules"
 - e.g., "rule" as in logic programs (e.g., Prolog) or business rules (e.g., PRR, RIF-PRD)
- << 10 minutes on average to author, disambiguate, formalize, review & revise a sentence
- The coverage of the textbook material was rated "A" or better for >95% of its sentences
- Collaboration resulted in an average of over 2 authors/editors/reviewers per sentence
- Non-authors rated the logic for >90% of sentences as "A" or better; >95% as "B+" or better
- TBD: How much will TL effort ↑ during QA testing?
- TBD: How much will TL effort ↓ as TL tooling & process mature?

TL KA – Study Results (II)

- Expressive coverage: very good, due to Rulelog
 - All sentences were representable but some (e.g., modals) are TBD wrt reasoning
 - This and productivity were why background K was mostly specified via TL
 - Small shortfalls (< few %) from implementation issues (e.g., numerics)
- Terminological coverage: very good, due to TL approach
 - Little hand-crafted logical ontology
 - Small shortfalls (< few %) from implementation issues
 - Added several hundred mostly domain-specific lexical entries to the ERG

TL KA: KE labor, roughly, per Page

- (In the study:)
- ~~\$3-4/word

(actual word, not simply 5 characters)

~~\$500-1500/page

(~175-350 words/page)

- Same ballpark as: labor to author the text itself
- ... for many formal text documents
 - E.g., college science textbooks
 - E.g., some kinds of business documents
 - "Same ballpark" here means same order of magnitude
- TBD: How much will TL effort ↑ when K is debugged during QA testing?
- TBD: How much will TL effort ↓ as its tooling & process mature?

KA Advantages of Approach

- Approach = Textual Logic + Rulelog
- Interactive disambiguation: relatively rapidly produces rich
 - With logical and semantic precision
 - Starting from effectively unconstrained text
- Textual terminology: logical ontology emerges naturally
 - From the text's phrasings, rather than needing effort to specify it explicitly and become familiar with it
 - Perspective: Textual terminology is also a bridge to work in text mining and "textual entailment"
- Rulelog as rich target logic
 - Can handle exceptions and change, and is tractable
- Rulelog supports K interchange (translation and integration)
 - Both LP and FOL; all the major semantic tech/web standards (RDF(S), SPARQL, OWL, RIF, CL, SBVR); Prolog, SQL, and production rules. (Tho' for many of these, with restrictions.)

Conclusions

- Research breakthrough on two aspects:
- 1. rapid acquisition of rich logical knowledge
- 2. reasoning with rich logical knowledge
- Appears to be significant progress on the famous "KA bottleneck" of Al
 - "Better, faster, cheaper" logic. Usable on a variety of KRR platforms.
- It's early days still, so lots remains to do
 - Tooling, e.g.: leverage inductive learning to aid disambiguation
 - More experiments, e.g.: push on QA; scale up

Recent News

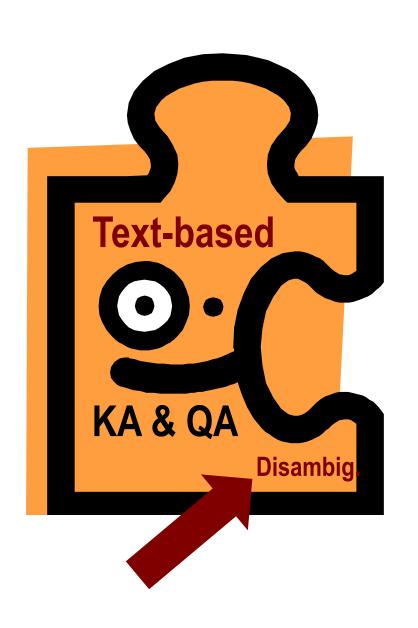
Company created to commercialize approach

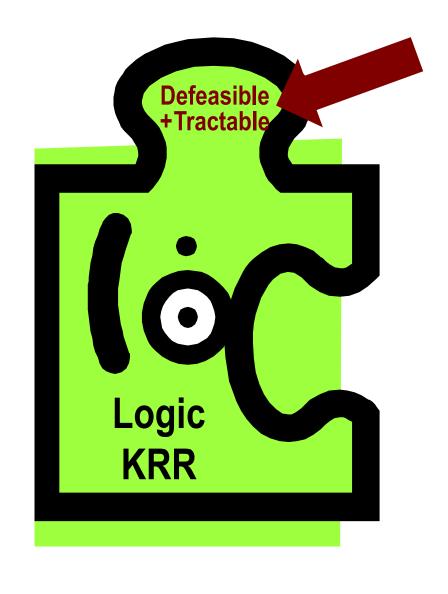
Coherent Knowledge Systems

http://coherentknowledge.com

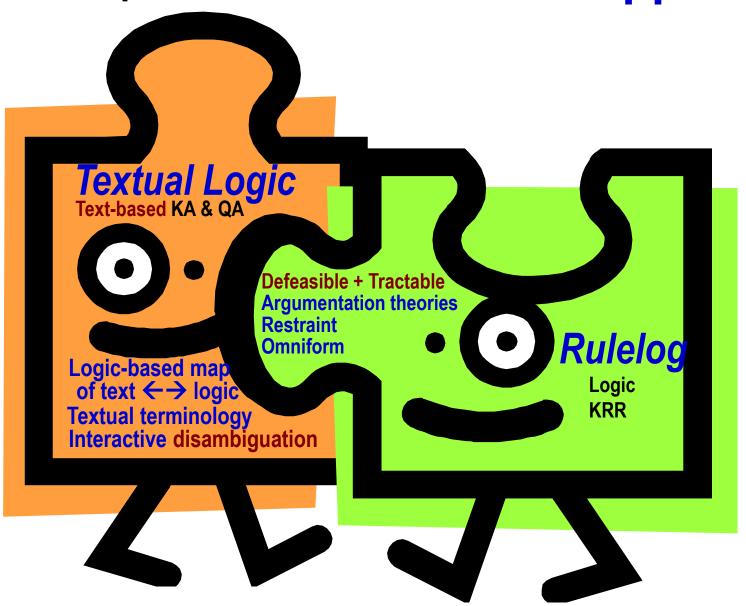
- Announced at SemTechBiz SF 2013 on June 3, 2013
- Target markets:
 - Policy-based compliance and decision support
 - NL QA and HCI

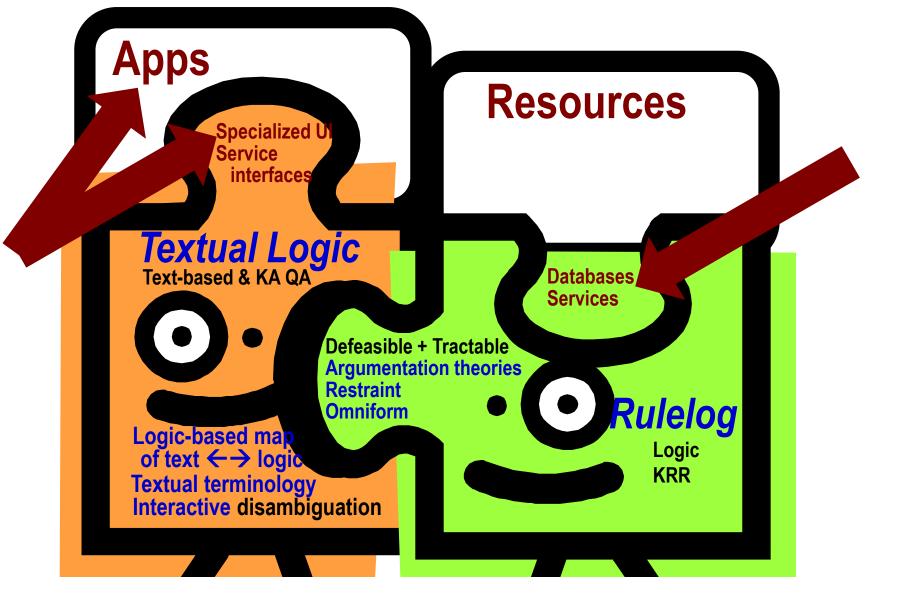
recap: Scalable Rich KA - Requirements





recap: Scalable Rich K - Approach





Usage Context for Approach

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 - The Project Sherlock team at Automata. Especially Tara Athan.
 - The Project Halo team at Vulcan
 - RuleML and W3C, for their cooperation on Rulelog



Thank You

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