

AI agent with meta cognition

[Arti Chauhan: Dec-05 2016]

Introduction

This paper describes design of an AI agent that can not only solve Raven's Progressive Matrices (RPM) problem but also has meta-cognition capability to generate explanation about its problem solving approach.

My P3 Agent reasons over images at high level of abstraction, without any shape detection. Though this technique worked quite nicely for P3, it doesn't extend itself very well to answer some of the questions asked in Final exam. To that end, I propose to augment agent's design where information extracted from images in deliberative layer is stored in knowledge structure (Frames), which facilitates in building an explanation by metacognition layer.

Requirement

Agent should be able to take questions from user and be able to provide a satisfactory explanation for it. At very minimum, it should be able to answer following questions.

1. *What is the object in the eight images displayed in the matrix?*
2. *What is the relationship between the three images in the top row of the matrix?*
3. *What is the relationship between the three images in the middle column?*
4. *What is the difference between the #3 and #4 as potential answers?*
5. *Why did you select #5 as the answer?*
6. *Why is #3 not the correct answer?*

Design

To satisfy above requirement, Agent employs 3 main tasks, which are described in detail in subsequent section.

1. *Understand user's question.*
2. *Create explanation for question asked.*
3. *Output response in a human-friendly manner.*

Figure below shows approximate mapping between above-mentioned tasks, Agent's functional modules, AI architecture and KBAI concepts used in this design.

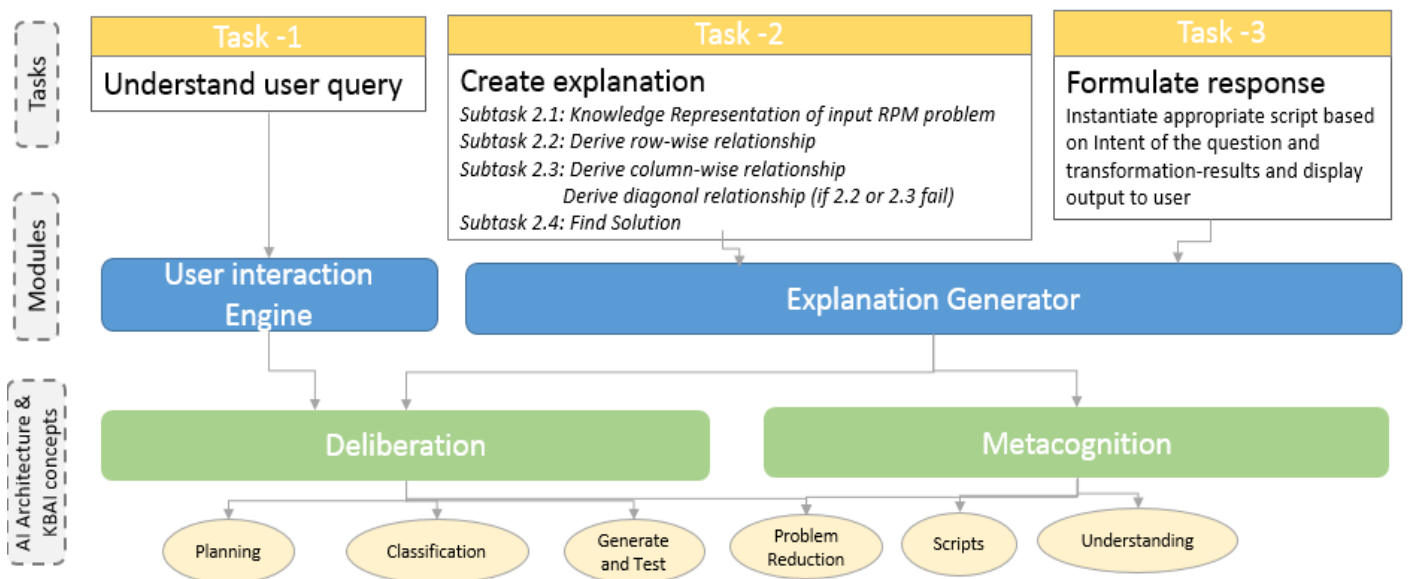


Figure: 1

Agent's Architecture

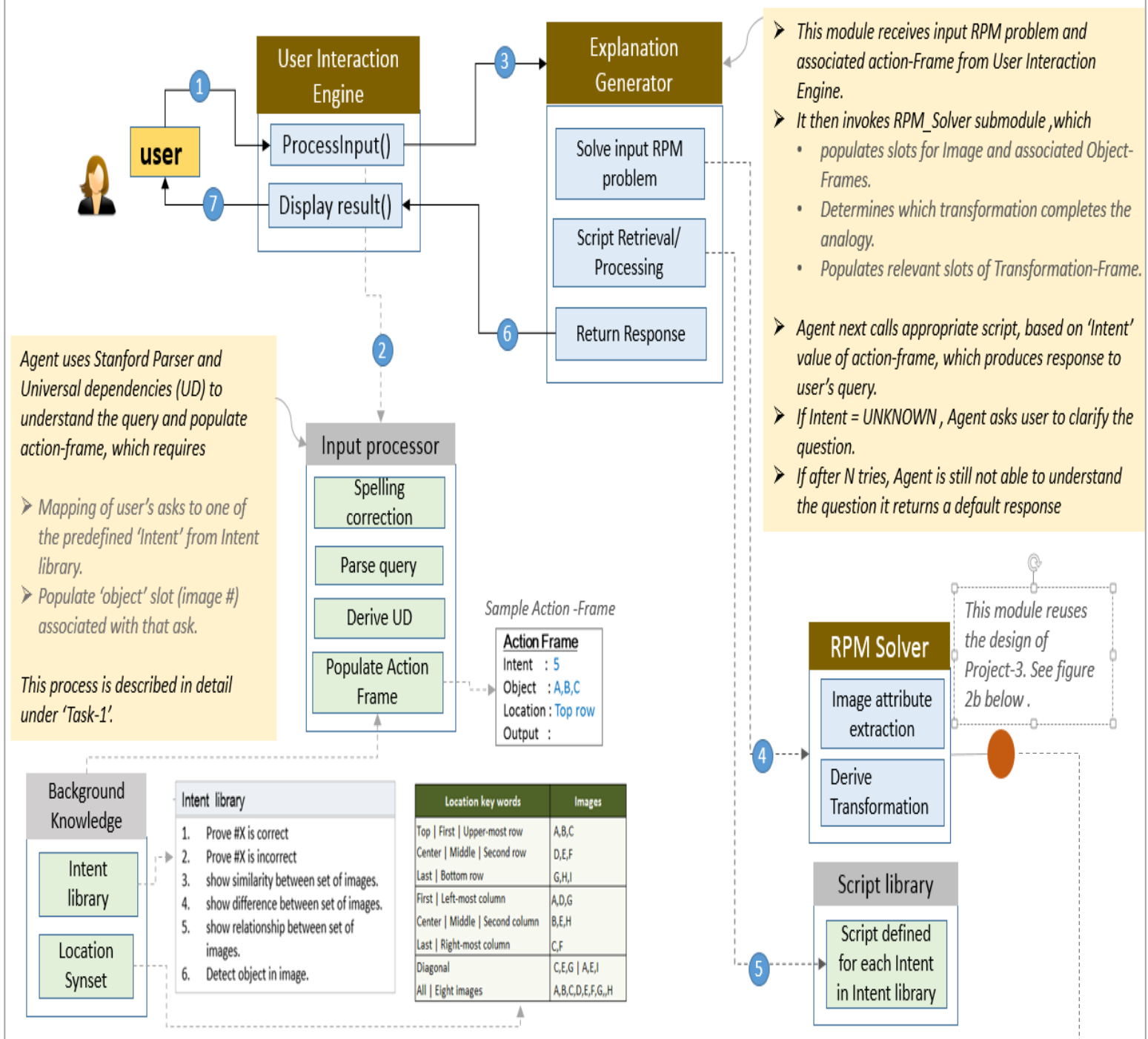


Figure: 2a

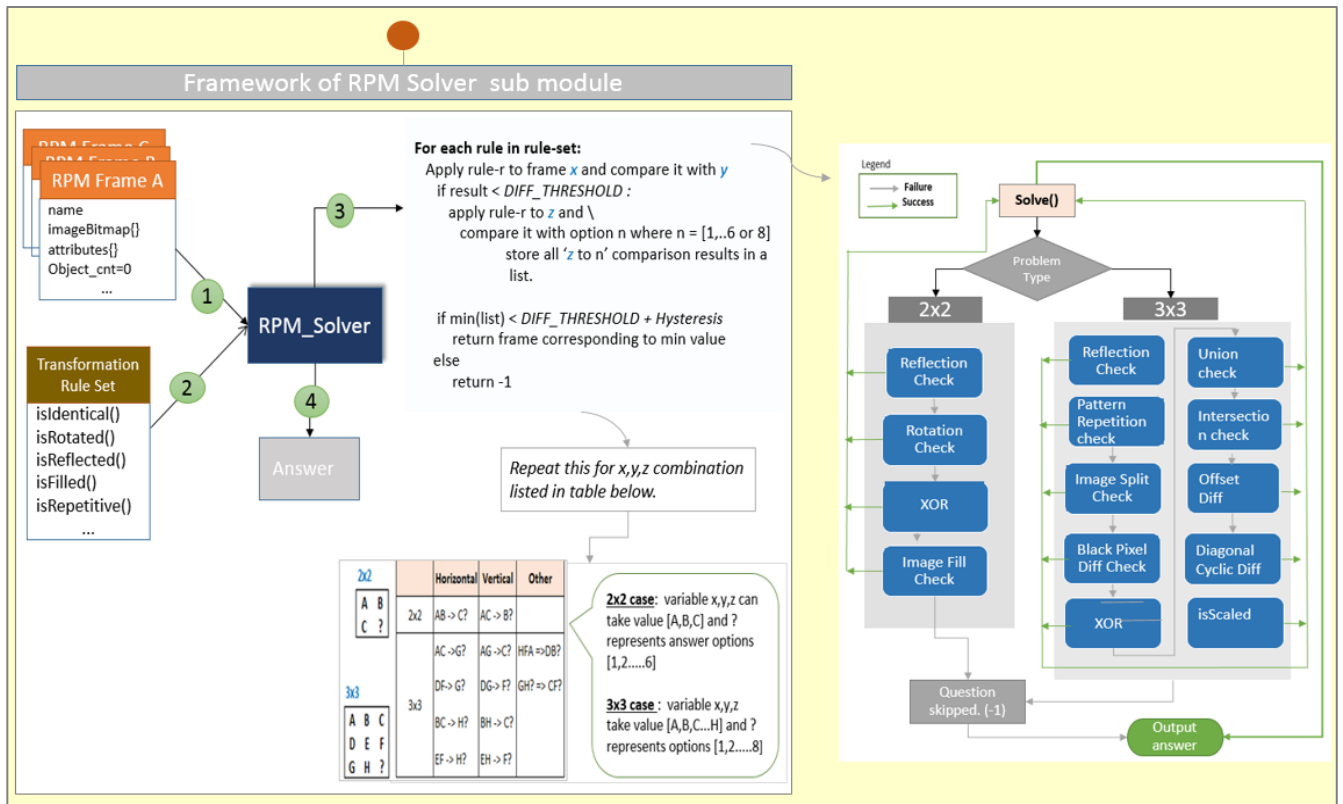


Figure: 2b

Task 1: Understanding user's input/question

Agent is preconfigured with a library of 'Intents'. Goal of this task is to interpret the question and determine appropriate 'Intent' slot in action frame and objects (ie images) associated with that Intent.

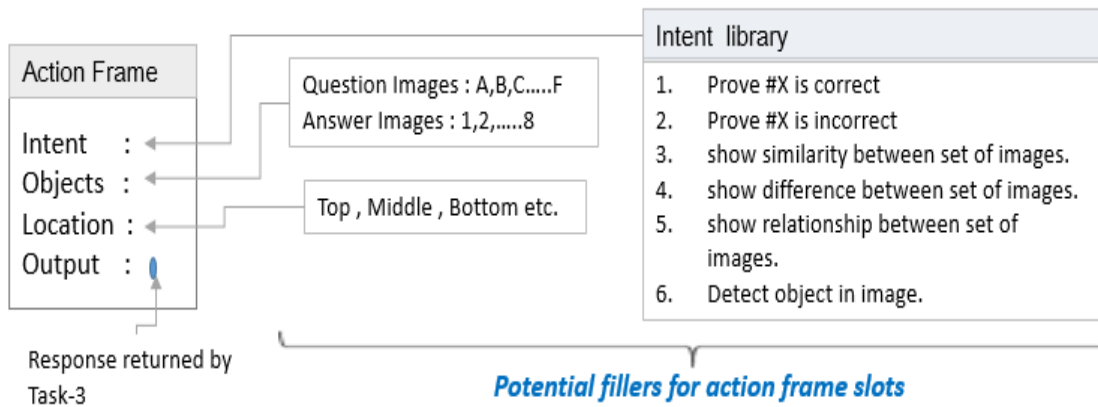


Figure: 3

In order to make sense of the question posed to it, Agent has to be equipped with rules of English grammar and part of speech, which will help Agent derive semantic understanding of the question/sentence. Agent will use Stanford parser and universal dependencies (UDs) for this purpose. I will explain this process with help of two examples, which in essence covers interpretation of most of the questions mentioned in Final-Exam.

Example-1 Why is #8 not the correct answer ?

Agent will parse this sentence and derive UDs as shown below in Figure-3a and 3b.

- SBARQ tag in Parse-Tree helps Agent understand that user input is a question, introduced by Wh-phrase.
- SQ ("is #8 not the correct answer") is the main clause of Wh-question. Verb 'is' is followed by a noun phrase.
- From dependency tree (Figure-3b), Agent determines subject is a cardinal number '8'. So it knows that '#8' is the image question being asked about and assigns this to 'object' slot in action frame.
- In order to understand what exactly about image-8 is being asked, it has to further analyze the noun phrase "not the correct answer". Figure-3b also tells agent that subject '#8' has dependency on noun 'answer' which has a negation ('not') and an adjective 'correct' associated with it.

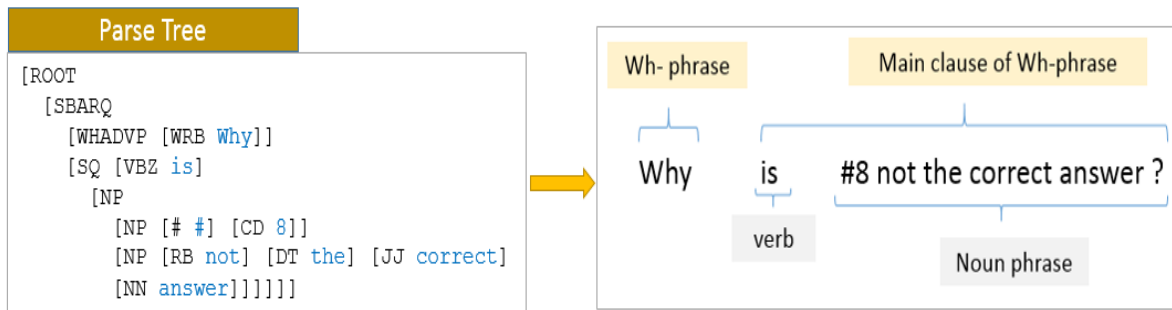


Figure: 3a

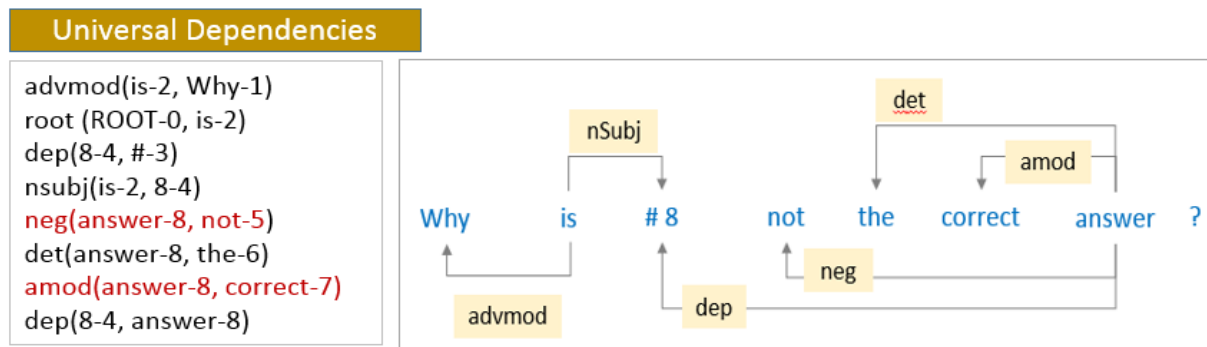


Figure: 3b

- From its background knowledge, Agent knows that word 'not' and 'correct' maps to 'incorrect' and hence maps to 'Intent' slot to #2 ('Prove #x is incorrect')
- Note that this background knowledge also helps agent make sense of negation of negation. Let's say user poses a question 'why is #8 not the incorrect answer?' Agent learns negation 'not' and adjective 'incorrect' associated with subject (#8). It checks its background knowledge which tells it that 'Not Incorrect' => correct, which helps agent map this question to right Intent (#1)

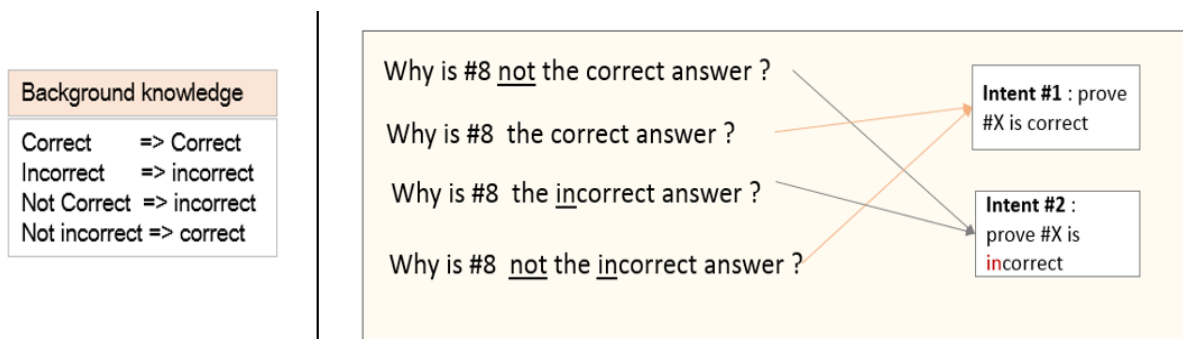


Figure: 3c

Example-2 What is the relationship between the three images in the top row of the matrix?

Parse tree

```
[ROOT
  [SBARQ
    [WHNP [WP What]]
    [SQ [VBZ is]
      [NP
        [NP [DT the] [NN relationship]]
        [PP [IN between]
          [NP
            [NP [DT the] [CD three] [NNS images]]
            [PP [IN in]
              [NP
                [NP [DT the] [JJ top] [NN row]]
                [PP [IN of]
                  [NP [DT the] [NN matrix]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]
  [. ?]]]
```

Figure: 4a

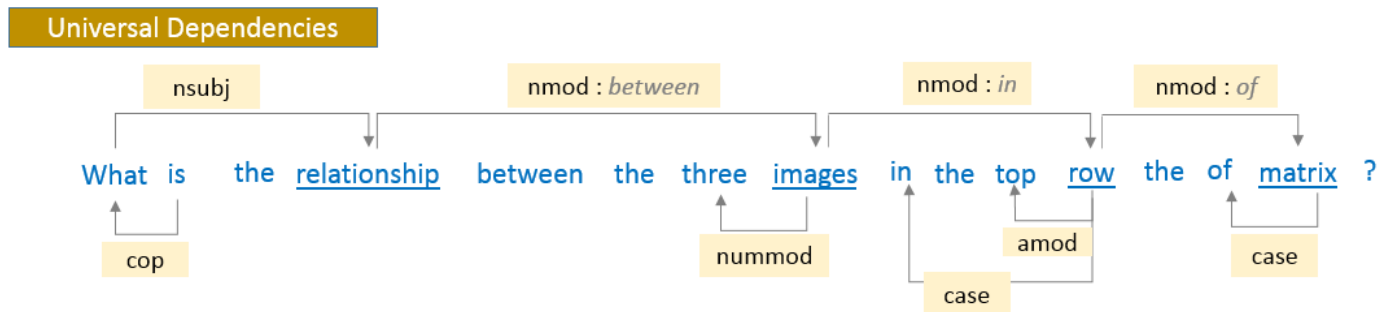


Figure: 4b

Agent proceeds with same procedure as described in previous example. After parsing and retrieving UD's, it can understand that this is a question (SBARQ tag) where copula 'what is' has subject 'relationship' associated with it. This information helps Agent fill slot 'Intent' with #5 ("show relationship between set of images.")

It further analyses the noun phrase ('the three images in the top row of the matrix') to determine relationship between which images is being asked about.

1. From dependency tree (Fig-4b), Agent learns that 'relationship' between 'images' of 'row' of a 'matrix' is being asked about.
2. 'Top' (Adjective Modifier - amod) for noun 'row' tells agent which row is being asked about. In order to fill 'object' slot, Agent probes its knowledge to determine which images map to 'Top row'. In this case, memory returns images A, B, C (Fig-4c)
3. Note that Agent is supplied with knowledge (Table-2) that acts as a mini Synset and helps Agent understand that word 'top', 'First', 'Upper-most' - all mean the same and hence resolve to image set A,B,C.

Once Agent has interpreted user's input and successfully filled 'Intent' and 'Object' slots, it moves to Task-2 to create explanation.

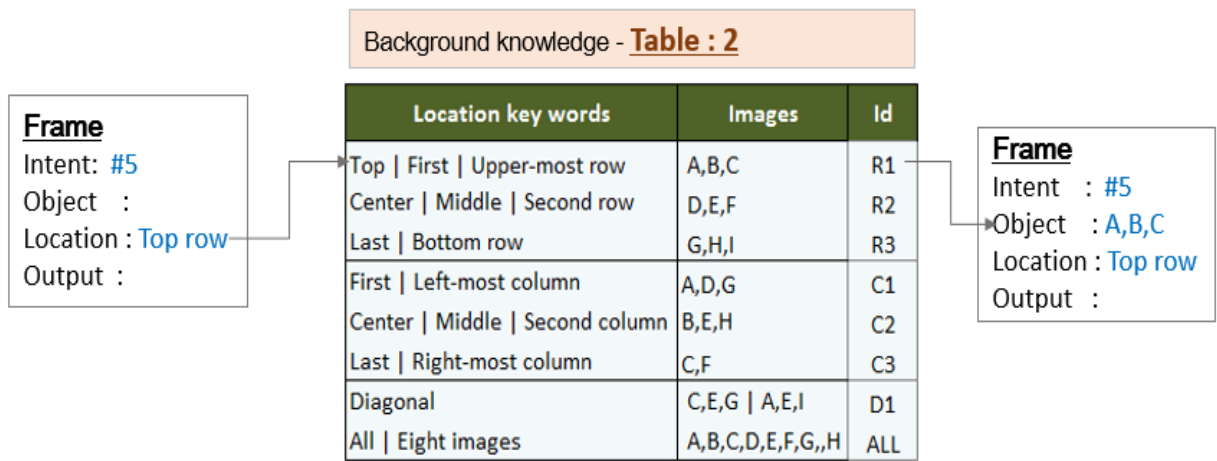


Figure: 4c

Task 2: Creating explanation

This task relies heavily on Agent's deliberative layer which is responsible for extracting visual representation of images and reasons over it. Agent uses '**Classification**' to categorize RPM problems either as 2x2 or 3x3 and then invokes appropriate plan to solve that problem. Each **Plan** has a rule-set that helps agent determine sequence of transformation to be checked and populates appropriate slots in Agent's RPM knowledge construct (Figure-5a). Agent uses **Frames** for knowledge representation and **Generate and Test** in conjunction with planning for problem solving. With help of Pillow (Python Image Processing) library, Agent employs **Visuospatial Analogy** at its core to solve the problem. This aspect of Agent's design is described in detail in P-3 Reflection. Here' I will cover just the overview. In summary, Agent executes following steps to derive the answer and gathers all the necessary information to be able to explain itself.

1. Initialize and populate Image-Frame and Object-Frame data structure (RPM Knowledge construct) when new RPM problem is received. [Subtask 2.1]
2. Derive row-wise relationship. [Subtask 2.2]
3. Derive column-wise relationship. [Subtask 2.3]
 - Derive diagonal relationship if #2 or #3 don't provide an answer within confidence threshold.
4. Find solution image that satisfies #2 and #3. [Subtask 2.4]

Below is walk-through of above-mentioned fours steps for example problem from Final-Exam.

Subtask 2.1: Knowledge Representation of input RPM problem

Agent receives a RPM problem and extracts attributes (such as width and length of bounding box, number of objects) for each image and attributes of each object (shape, length, width, area, center etc.) within that image and populates slots for Image-Frame and corresponding Object-Frame(s) as shown in Figure-5a.

Note that only default slots for Image and Object Frames are shown below. However, Agent can dynamically insert new slots (Eg: angle or BW_pixel_ratio) depending on type of transformation being tested.

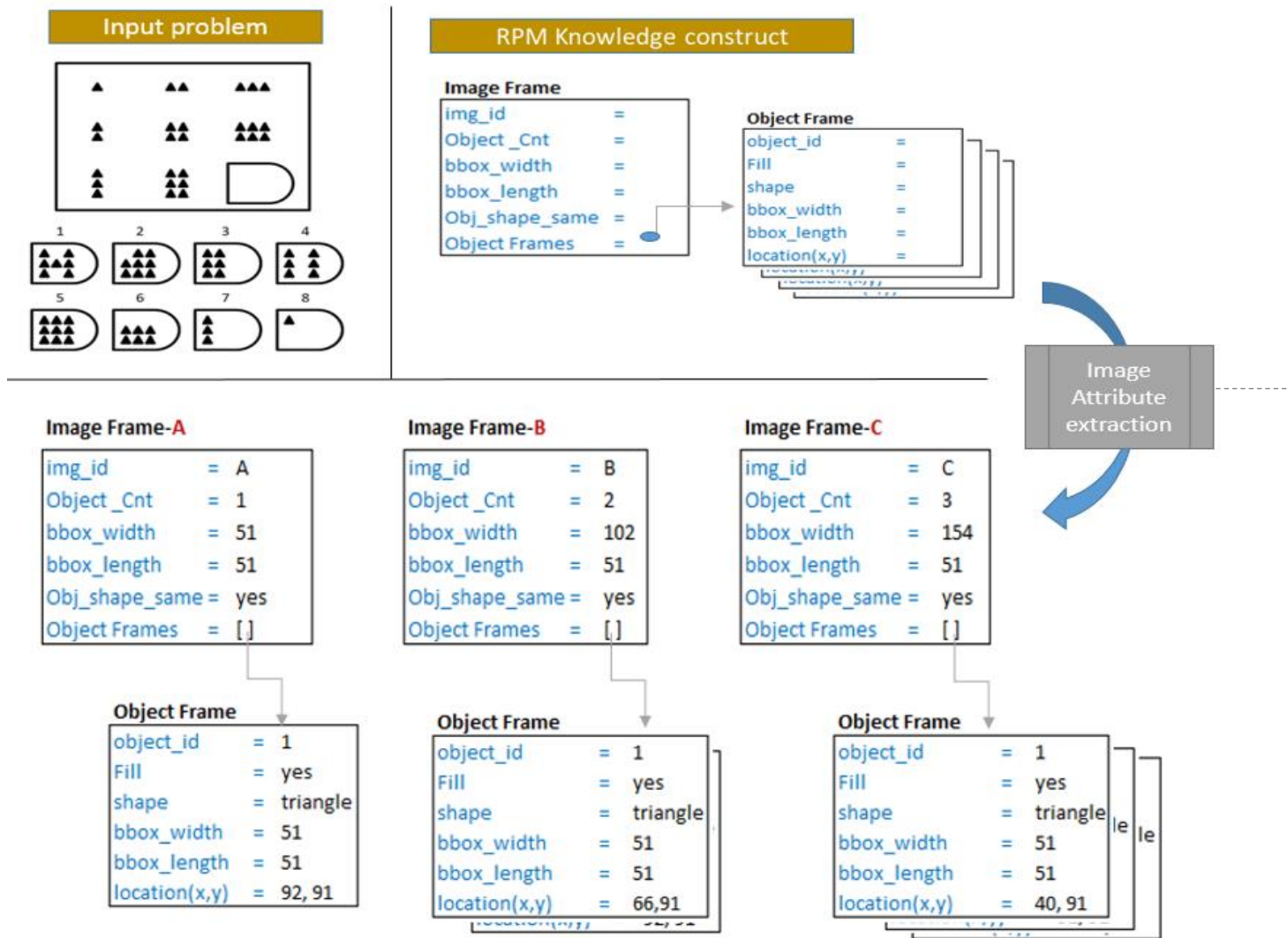


Figure: 5a

Brief description of processing inside 'Image Attribute Extraction' module in Fig-5a

- **Object extraction/count:** Agent employs Connected Component (CC) analysis for this purpose. It uses Depth First Search to compute number of objects in the image and stores black pixel location of each CC (object) and total black pixels in a python dictionary.
- **Bbox_width /length:** Uses Pillow's bounding box function ($W = (x1-x0)$ $L = (y1-y0)$)
- **Location:** compute x, y coordinates of center of the object ($x0+W/2$, $y0+L/2$)
- **Fill:** Total black pixels in the object / black pixels on perimeter .Agents creates a new image that displays only the edge of the object (ImageFilter.FIND_EDGES) and compares it with original object-image. Ratio of >95% - Fill , <5% - Not Fill else partially filled)
- **Shape:** Agent first computes area by summing black pixels in perimeter and internal white pixels. For this purpose Agent uses new image that it created via (ImageFilter.FIND_EDGES). It compares object's area with area of known images (square, rhombus, circle, triangle, hexagon, and octagon).If this comparison is not within a confidence threshold, object is classified as 'unknown'.
- **Object pairing** - This is required when set of images being compared has more than one object.



Subtask 2.2: Deriving row-wise relationship

Agent compares attribute of each image in a row and captures which attributes changed (and to what degree) and which remained same. In example below, attributes that remained same across the row are marked green and the ones that changed are in red. Agent captures this variances in Transformation-Frame (shown on the right). Eg: object count changed from 1->2->3 as we move from A->B->C but shape of the object(s) remains the same.

[Note: While deriving row/column/diagonal relationship, Agent compares both Image and Object Frame attributes. Since object-Frame attributes don't change from one image to another in this example, Object-Frames are not shown in Figure 5a-5d for the sake of readability]

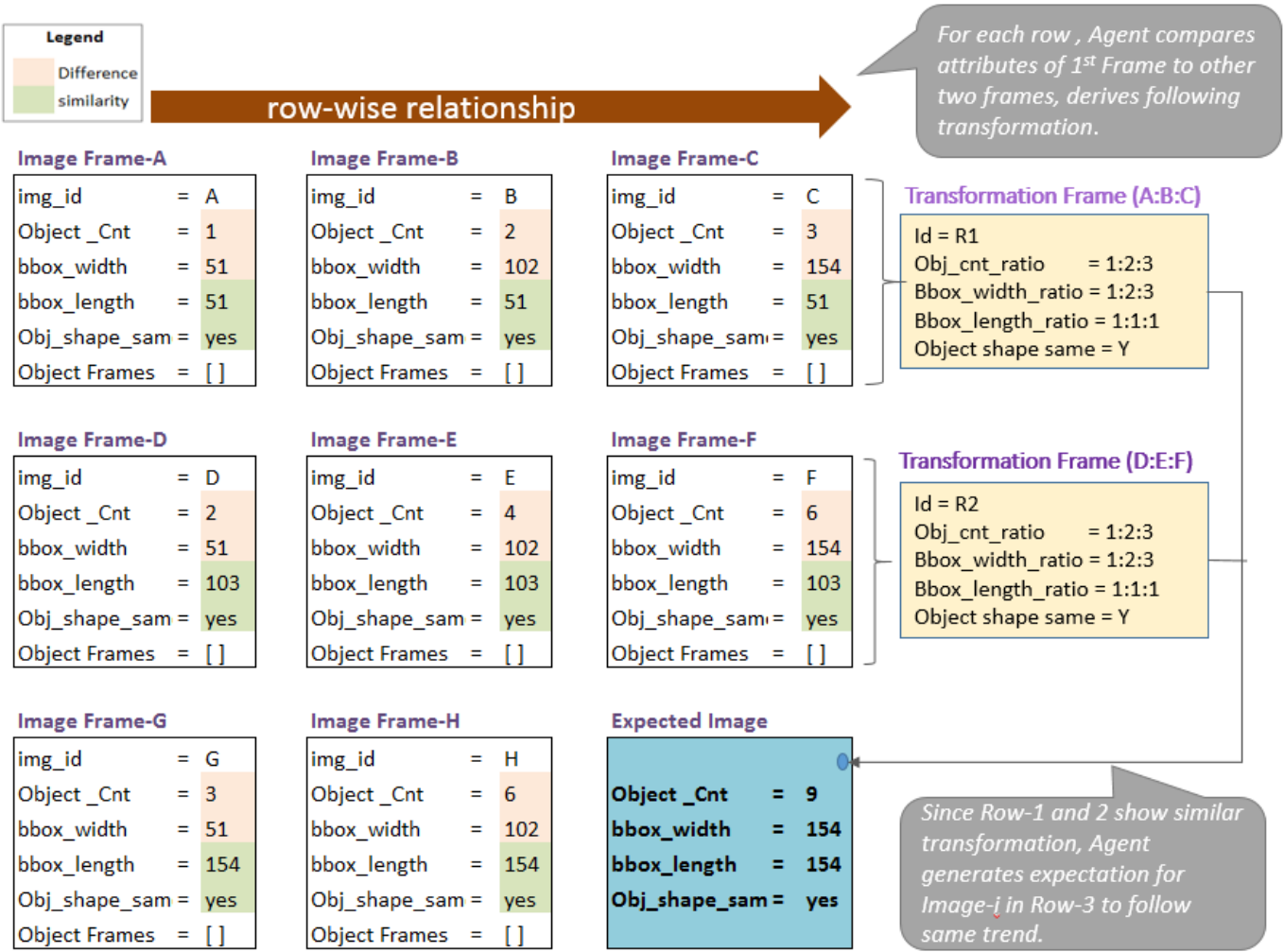


Figure: 5b

Subtask 2.3: Deriving column-wise relationship

Same as subtask 2.2 except processing now occurs column-wise and variance is captured in Transformation-Frame as shown at the bottom of Figure-5c below.

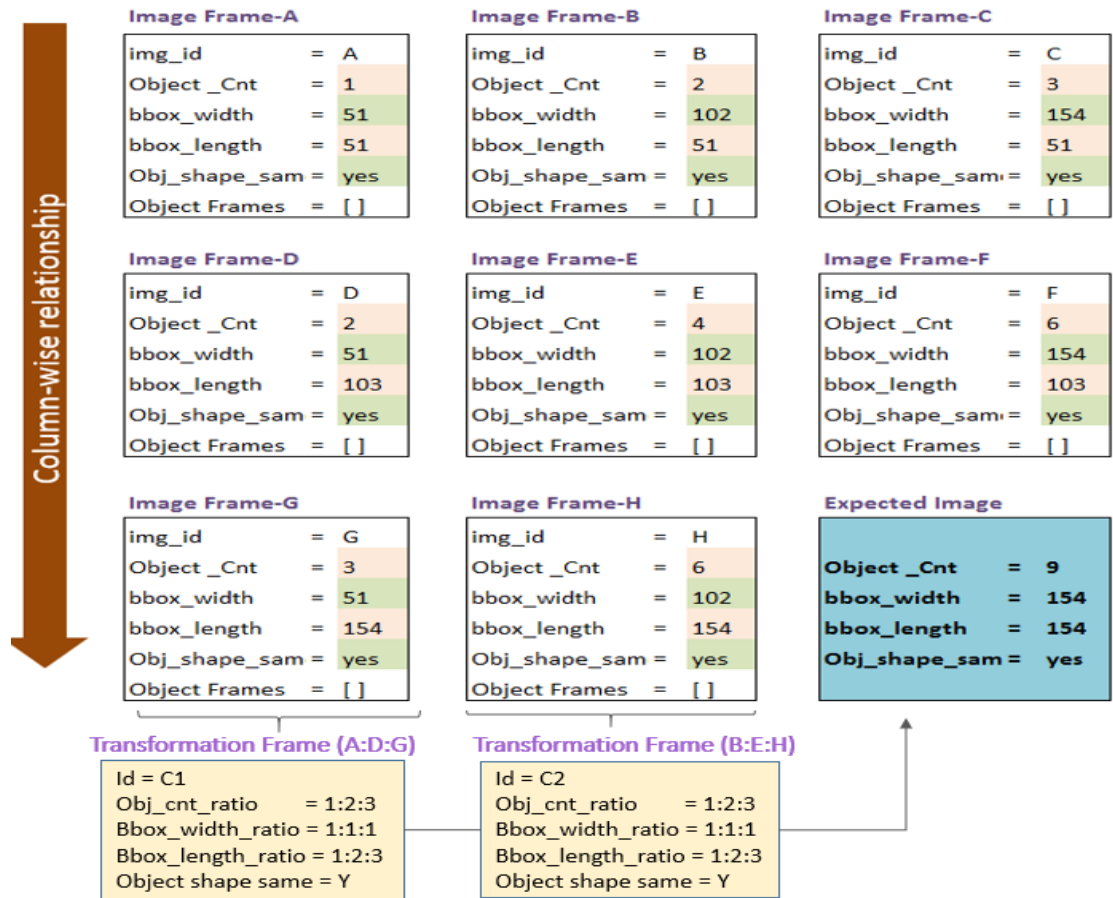


Figure: 5c

Subtask 2.4: Find solution Image

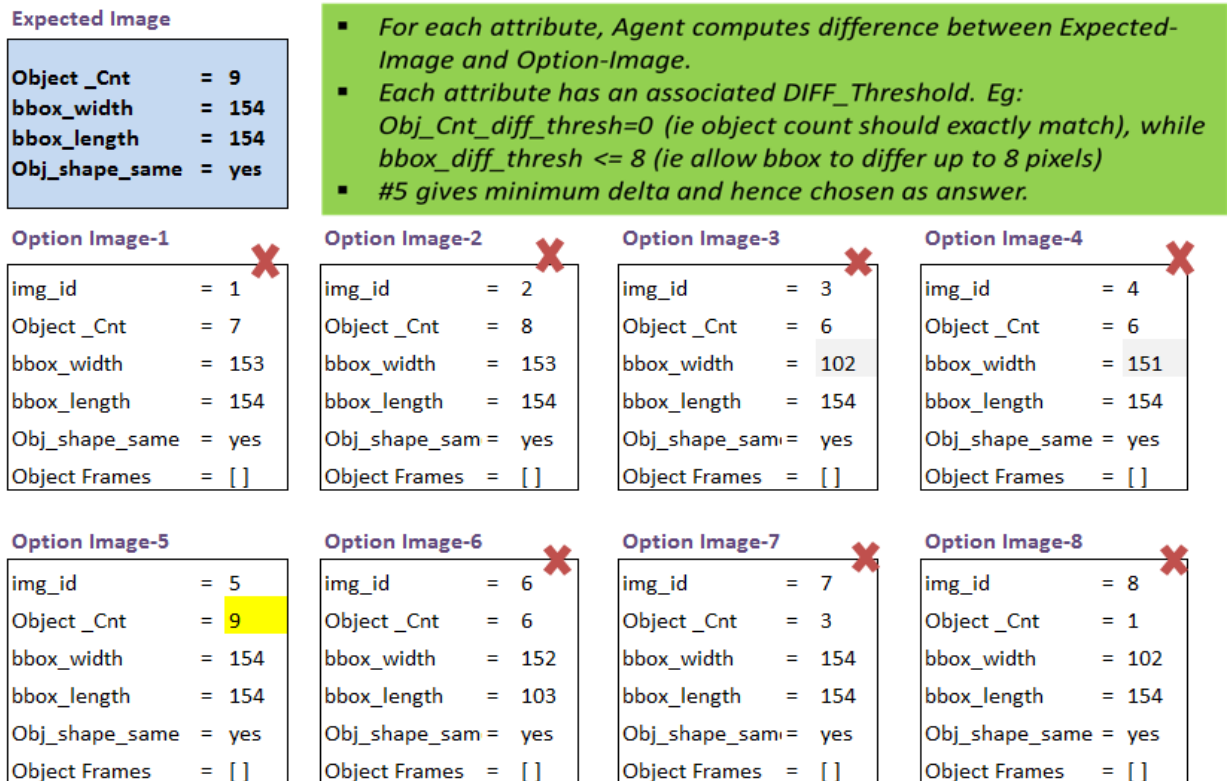


Figure: 5d

Task 3: Generating Response (to user's query)

Armed with the knowledge from Task-1 and Task-2, Agent is now ready to trigger appropriate script that will create response for user.

- Figure-6a below shows resulting Action-Frame (for each of the six questions) at the end of Task-1.
- Output of Task-2 is shown in Figure 5a-5d above.

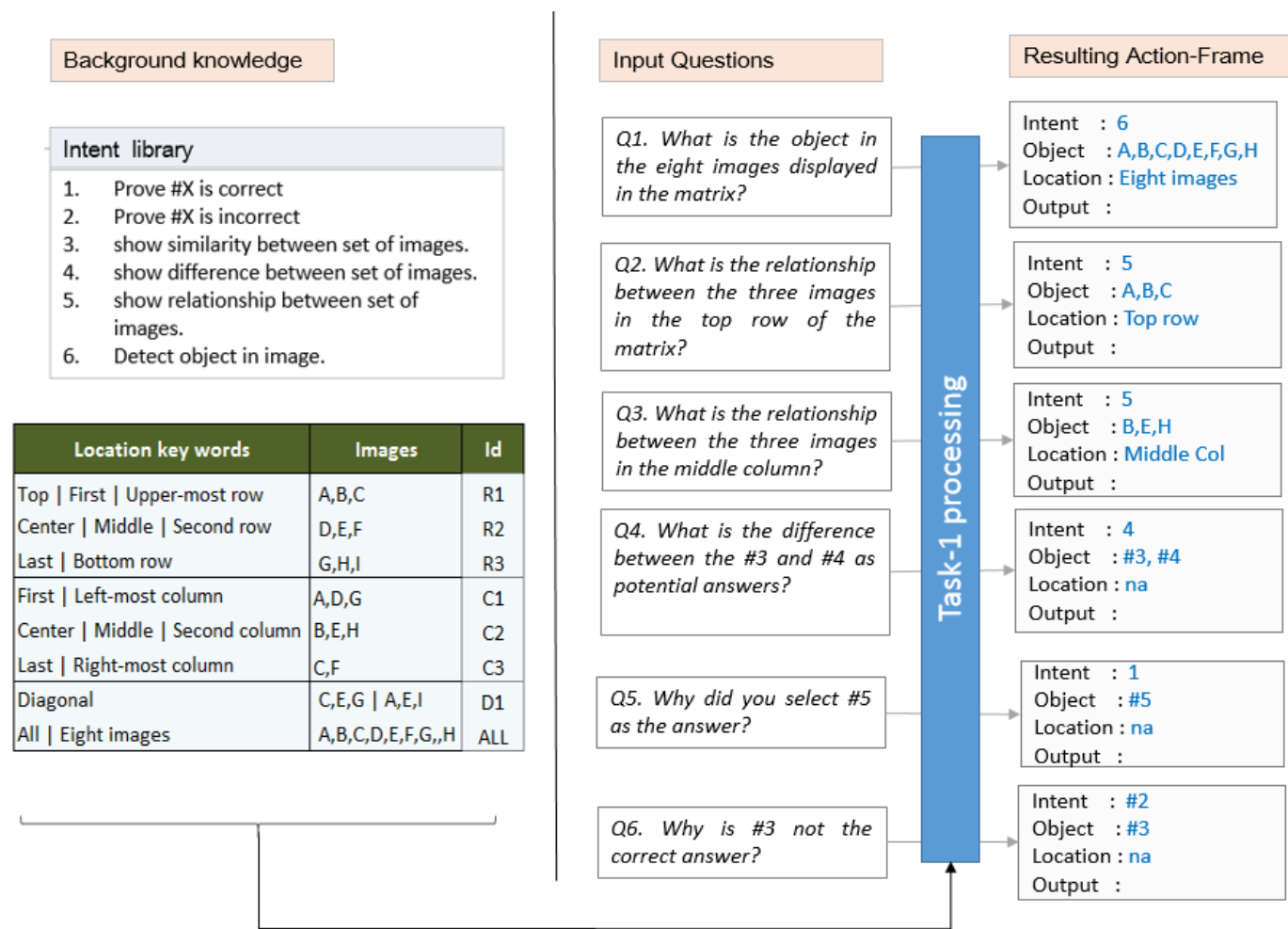


Figure: 6a

Q2-Q3

Agent is equipped with scripts that are indexed by Intent#. Let's say agent receives Q2. (Figure-6b)

1. Task-1 maps Q2 to Intent#5 ('show relationship') and 'Object' slot to A, B and C.
2. Task-2 populates all Image, Object and Transformation Frames (Fig 5a-5d).
3. Agent will retrieve script at index 5 from script-library and pass
 - Q = Images mentioned in user's query, which are values stored in Object slot (A, B, C)
 - T = Images and Transformation Frames from Task-2
4. From its background knowledge, Agent knows Top-Row maps to R1. It extracts Transformation-Frame for R1 and send this information to User Interaction Engine to display.

Location key words	Images	Id
Top First Upper-most row	A,B,C	R1

Transformation Frame (A:B:C)

Id = R1
Obj_cnt_ratio = 1:2:3
Bbox_width_ratio = 1:2:3
Bbox_length_ratio = 1:1:1
Object shape same = Y

5. Let's say if question was to about similarity or difference instead of relationship.
 - Script will return only those attributes that didn't change (bounding box length and object shape in this example) if similarity was asked.
 - Script will return only those attributes that changed (Object count and bounding box width) if difference was asked.
6. This approach allows agent to answer questions related to 'relationship', 'similarity' and 'difference' between any set of images.

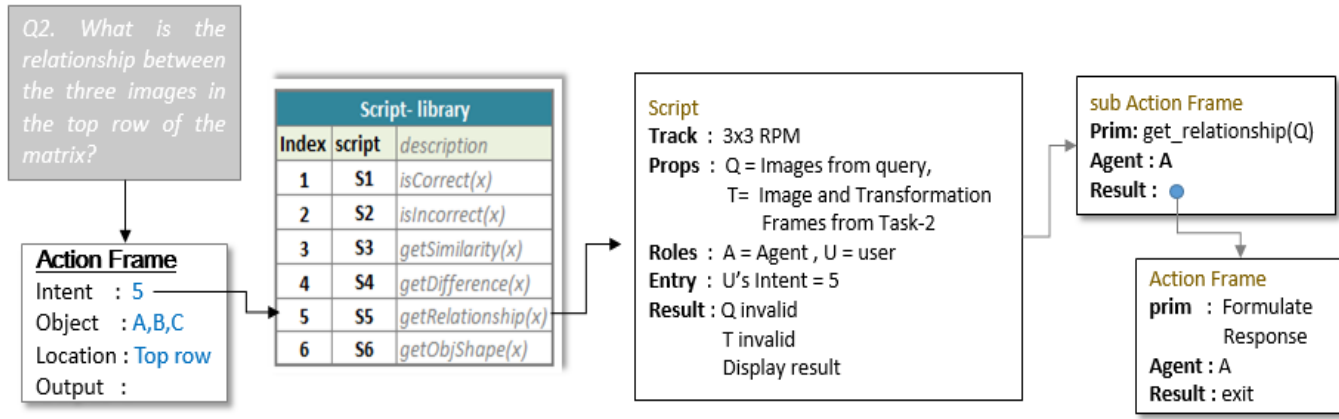


Figure: 6b

Q1 what is the object in the eight images displayed in the matrix?

This question gets mapped to Intent# 6, which invokes script S6, which iterates over objectFrame list for each image mentioned in user query and return shapes along with its count.

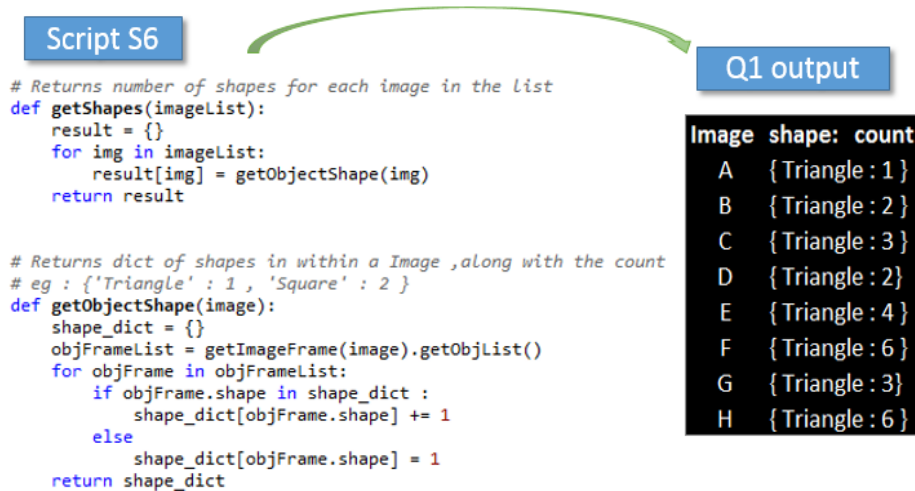


Figure: 6c

Q4, 5, 6

Agent generates expectation for solution image (Figure 5b and 5c). As illustrated in Fig-5d, Agent determines which option-images did/didn't satisfy the constraint of expected transformation and hence can answer why a certain option-image is correct or incorrect answer.

Q4. What is the difference between the #3 and #4 as potential answers?

Agent checks the attributes that differ in image #3 and #4, which shows bbox_width of #4 is 33% (49/151) larger than that of #3 and returns this as answer.

Option Image-3	Option Image-4	Difference
img_id = 3	img_id = 4	Object_Cnt_diff = 0
Object_Cnt = 6	Object_Cnt = 6	bbox_width_diff = 49
bbox_width = 102	bbox_width = 151	bbox_length_diff = 0
bbox_length = 154	bbox_length = 154	Obj_shape_diff = 0
Obj_shape_same = yes	Obj_shape_sam = yes	
Object Frames = []	Object Frames = []	

Q.5 why did you select #5 as the answer?

Agents knows expected Image attributes, based on transformation observed in Row-1, 2 and Col-1, 2 from Task-2. #5 is the only image that matches up with expected image.

- Agent's response: "#5 shows least amount of difference from Expected image, hence chosen as the answer."
- Agent also displays attributes of Transformation-Frame, Expected-Image frame and difference (shown below)

Expected Image	Option Image-5	Difference
Id = R1	img_id = 5	Object_Cnt = 0
Obj_cnt_ratio = 1:2:3	Object_Cnt = 9	bbox_width = 0
Bbox_width_ratio = 1:2:3	bbox_width = 154	bbox_length = 0
Bbox_length_ratio = 1:1:1	bbox_length = 154	Obj_shape_sam = 0
Object shape same = Y	Obj_shape_sam = yes	
	Object Frames = []	

Q.6 Why is #3 not the correct answer?

Similar approach as above. Agent returns the differences between #3 and Expected image as reason for #3 not qualifying as the correct answer.

Expected Image	Option Image-3	Difference
Object_Cnt = 9	img_id = 3	Object_Cnt_diff = 3
bbox_width = 154	Object_Cnt = 6	bbox_width_diff = 52
bbox_length = 154	bbox_width = 102	bbox_length_diff = 0
Obj_shape_same = yes	bbox_length = 154	Obj_shape_diff = 0
	Obj_shape_sam = yes	
	Object Frames = []	

[Note: I have shown response for above questions in graphical format for ease of understanding. Agent outputs response (frame attributes/ differences etc.) in text format, similar to Bonnie's output]

Handling of unknown/error cases

Agent will generate a canned response

- If Agent is not able to map user's query to an Intent (from its preconfigured library).
 - Eg: user: "Why #3 is so blur?"
 - Agent: "sorry I can't answer that question."
- If image# extracted from user query is not within expected range.
 - Eg: user: "Why #14 is incorrect?"
 - Agent: "Invalid Image# in query. Expected Images are A -H and 1-8."

Limitation and Enhancement

1. **Web Based Interface:** Though this assignment asked to us to use text-based interface for user interaction, I strongly believe allowing visual response will help the purpose greatly. My agent's shape detection is its weakest point (Figure-7)
 - It makes mistake when objects are overlapping.

- It can't classify odd-shaped objects or the ones for which is there no easy way to compute area formula like star, heart or a flower.

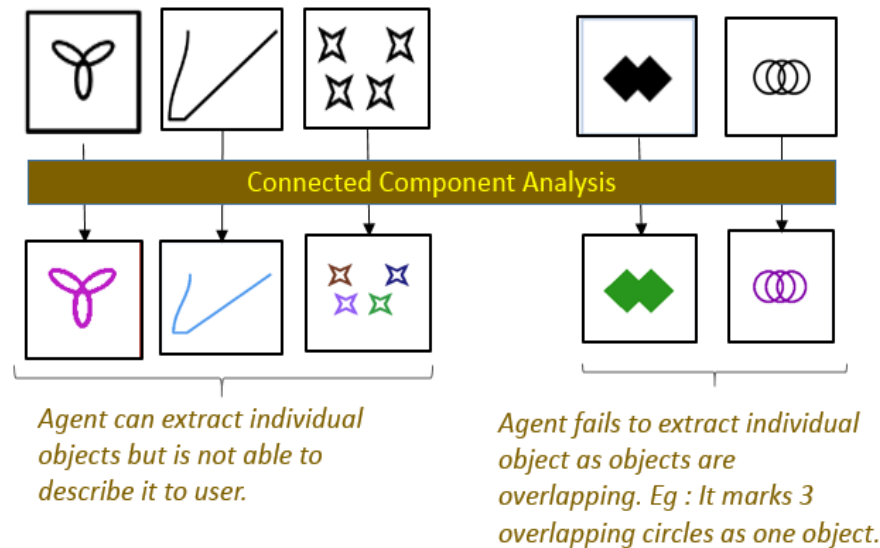


Figure: 7

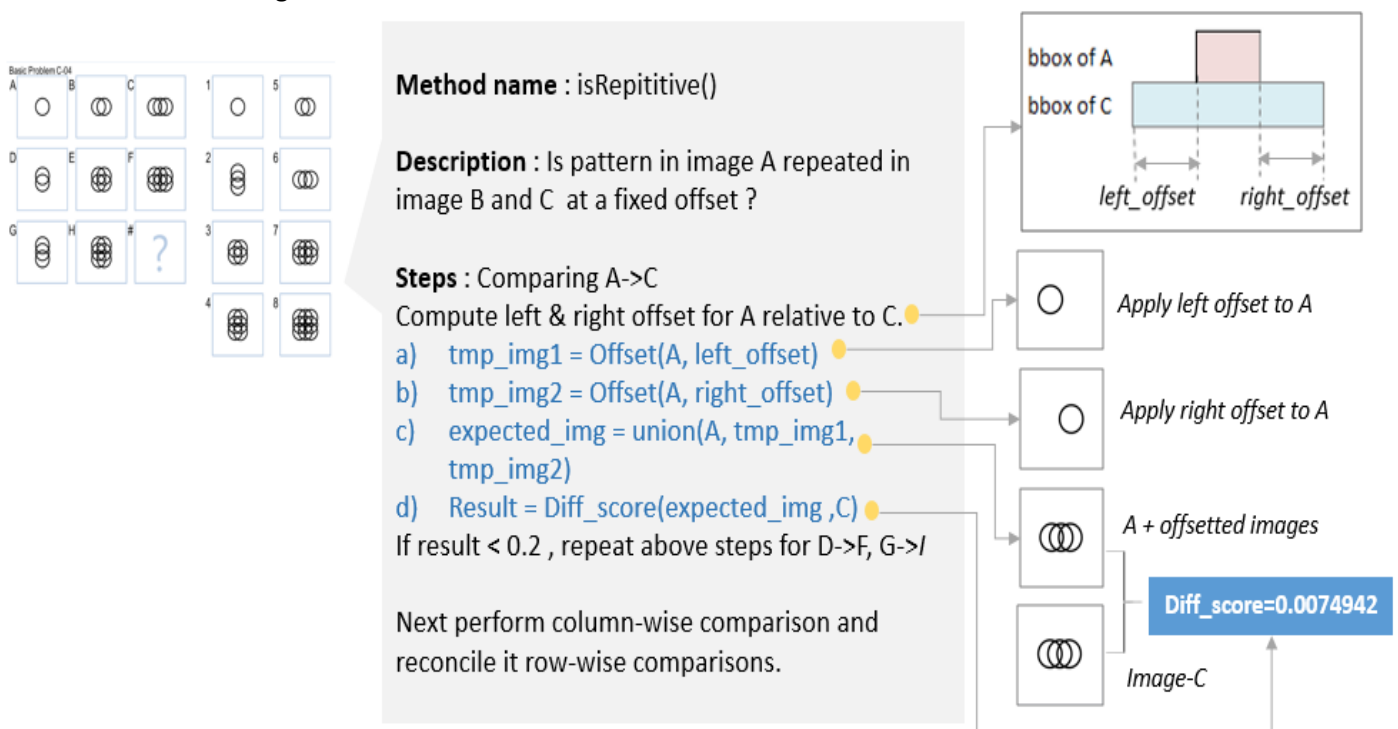
I propose to enhance user interface to be web based so that Agent has option to provide visual response for cases where

- Agent's processing is shape agnostic.
- Agent is able to extract the object but can't put it in words (unless agents trained to describe complex/odd images, which requires time and effort)

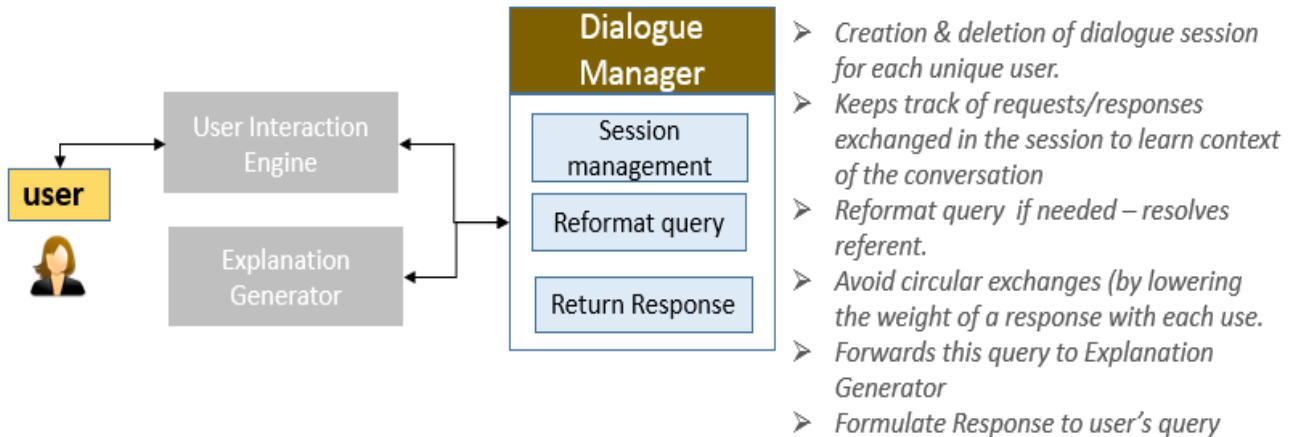
Shape agnostic processing - In cases where agent is not able to derive an answer by shape extraction, it will fall back to shape agnostic processing. I will explain this with an example that is similar to the problem given in Final-Exam document.

In example below, Agent's shape extraction logic fails as objects are overlapping. So it tries a generic shape-agnostic transformation described in figure below. This method is generic enough to handle Fig-5a problem as well other problems like Basic C-4, C-6, C-10, and Challenge C-2.

While agent can't describe the object, it can very well explain its logic at each step with help of images as shown on the right.



2. **Discourse Coherence:** Current design is built for Question-Answer type interaction. Agent can't carry out conversation. This can be achieved by introducing a new functional module called 'Dialogue Manager' which will interact with User-Interaction module to Explanation-Generator to fill this gap.

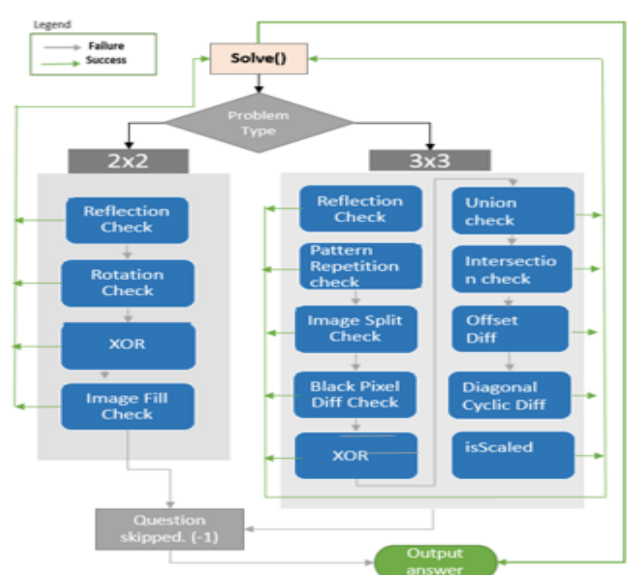


3. Current design can be augmented to allow Agent to answer question related to its Transformation knowledge base. Eg:

- User can ask "What all transformation type do you know"?
Agent can display description of all transformation modules in its library.

- User may ask "Why Transformation# X is not a valid transformation for this problem?" or "What all transformations did you try for this problem?"

As illustrated in Figure-2b, Agent knows sequence of transformation it is configured with (blue boxes in snap shot below). Hence it can display Transformation-Frame generated when a given transformation was tried. It can also explain why a particular Transformation was not valid, if it didn't yield an answer within desired confidence threshold.



Conclusion

Dystopian narratives by Hollywood movies and some business leaders have made many people not to trust AI systems. Simplicity of design presented in this paper makes up for its ease of implementation and is a small step towards gaining that trust.

References

1. Goel, A. & Joyner, D. (2016). KBAI eBook: Knowledge Based Artificial Intelligence. *Retrieved from* https://files.t-square.gatech.edu/access/content/group/gtc-c01a-0bd6-5b67-9c88176eb86d0533/KBAI%20ebook/kbai_ebook.pdf
2. Chauhan, Arti (2016) , CS 7637 Project-3 Reflection - unpublished paper
3. Stanford Parser and universal dependencies
 - <http://nlp.stanford.edu/software/stanford-dependencies.shtml>
 - <http://nlp.stanford.edu/software/lex-parser.shtml>