

FuL

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Background

The body of knowledge in biology, particularly in virology and immunology, is increasing in volume and complexity. This is why it would be useful to have these knowledge represented in a formal language inside a knowledge base. Subsequently, different methodologies for analysis and manipulation could be developed, allowing validity checks to be performed on conclusions obtained in experiments.

FuDePAN's Logic processor (FuL) (<http://ful.googlecode.com>) is being developed to organize, interpret, verify and explore knowledge in molecular biology, applied to virology and immunology in particular. This will help find inconsistencies and automatically derive new information. Its main function will be the verification of conclusions obtained by results from experiments using queries.

Our initial test case will be the following conclusion obtained from experiments done by FuDePAN:

- ***Validate the conclusions obtained in the Junin experiment about the temperature-change effects over the virus secondary structure:***

Corroborate that the line of thought that includes the predictions of the effects of febrile state over the Junin RNA secondary structure, in which it is hypothesized that the temperature increment reduces the production of nucleoproteins because the hairpin loop in the intergenic region presents dissimilar characteristics when it is compared on the two ambisense genome strings when the temperature is increased.

FuL has a plug-in architecture, simplifying the inclusion of new kinds of reasoning services. An API will be provided, which defines the way in which knowledge flows between the plug-ins and FuL's core reasoning engine. An SDK composed of libraries and tools required for building plug-ins will also be made available.

The kernel of the tool will be composed of a planner that can handle PDDL (Planning Domain Definition Language) input, and a knowledge manager that will be the interface between the plug-ins registered in that session and the planner. Via a XML file, it will be possible to register the plug-ins that FuL will utilize in that session and configure different session parameters.

FuL will include a semantic reasoner for Description Logics (DL) as one of the plug-ins, and we will also provide a knowledge representation language for the virology domain based on DL. This language will allow the development of an ontology of virology knowledge that will be available for querying during a FuL session.

References

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3. Daniel Gutson, Agustín March, Maximiliano Combina, Daniel Rabinovich: **Prediction of consequences of the febrile status on the RNA secondary structure of the Junín Virus**, 2006. www.fudepan.org.ar/node/71