

D5.4.2 Robot Mission Language

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Executive Summary

This deliverable represents the outcome of Task 5.4.2. It comprises four elements: (i) a mode of abstract modelling — behavior trees — that can be used to formally specify the interactions in the use case scenarios and enact them in a culturally sensitive manner using the culture knowledge base and an environment knowledge base, (ii) two files containing a specification of the two use case scenarios using behavior trees, (iii) an environment knowledge base file with the information required to complete the robot mission, and (iv) the documented software required to compile a C++ helper class <code>EnvironmentKnowledgeBase</code> to read the environment knowledge base file, store the knowledge, and make the knowledge accessible through a suite of access methods. As such, this deliverable provides the input for the development in Task 5.4.3 of an interpreter that can translate this abstract specification into robot actions, thereby enacting the use case scenarios defined in Tasks 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 and documented in Deliverables D2.1, D2.2, and D2.3.

In the work plan, this deliverable and deliverable D5.4.3 were assigned to the University of the Witswatersrand. However, the material in this report was developed and written by Carnegie Mellon University Africa. This was necessary because of unavoidable delays in the completion of the associated task by Wits, and because the robot mission language and the robot mission interpreter, are essential for integrating and demonstrating the use case scenarios.

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1 Introduction

This deliverable represents the outcome of Task 5.4.2. It has four sections.

Section 2 addresses the specification of robot missions using behavior trees, a popular alternative to state machines as a model of abstract modelling to formally specify the interactions in the use case scenarios [?].

Section 3 provides the behavior tree specification for the two CSSR4Africa use case scenarios, the robot laboratory tour robot mission in Section 3.1 and the receptionist robot mission in Section 3.2.

Since we we are particularlarly focussed on enacting these missions in a culturally sensitive manner, we require both a cultural knowledge ontology & culture knowledge base, and an environment knowledge ontology & environment knowledge base. The former is described in Deliverable D.5.4.1, while the latter is described in Section 4 of this deliverable.

The deliverable concludes with Section 5 which addresses the implementation of the environment knowledge base and, specifically, with the description of a C++ helper class to read the environment knowledge base file, store the knowledge, and make the knowledge accessible through a suite of access methods. As such, it provides the input for the development in Task 5.4.3 of an interpreter that can translate the abstract behavior tree specifications in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 into robot actions, thereby enacting the use case scenarios defined in Tasks 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 and documented in Deliverables D2.1, D2.2, and D2.3.

In the work plan, this deliverable and deliverable D5.4.3 were assigned to the University of the Witswatersrand. However, the material in this report was developed and written by Carnegie Mellon University Africa. This was necessary because of unavoidable delays in the completion of the associated task by Wits, and because the robot mission language and the robot mission interpreter, are essential for integrating and demonstrating the use case scenarios.

2 **Specification of Robot Missions using Behavior Trees**

Pending completion.

3 Use Case Scenario Robot Missions

3.1 Lab Tour Robot Mission Behavior Tree

Pending completion.

Receptionist Robot Mission Behavior Tree

Pending completion.

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4 Environment Knowledge Ontology and Knowledge Base

Figure 1 presents a simple ontology of environment knowledge. In this ontology, internal nodes in the ontology tree form the key in the environment knowledge base, e.g., robotLocation. Leaf nodes represent the data entities and their types. This allows multiple elements in a value for each key, e.g., robotLocation 3 15.2 9.0 45.0. The identification number value element associated with each key is the means by which the different elements an environment location — robot location, location description, gesture target, pre-gesture message, post-gesture message — are related. The tour specification identifies the number and sequence of locations to be visited in the tour.

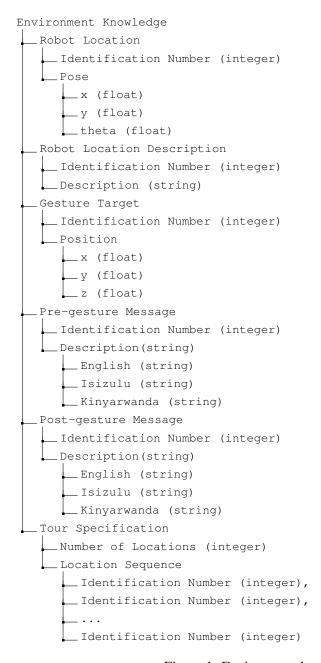


Figure 1: Environment knowledge ontology.



Table 1 lists the key-value pairs, i.e., each key and the associated multiple numeric or alphanumeric elements of the value that encapsulate the environment knowledge. These numeric or alphanumeric values can then be used directly in the robot mission interpreter, i.e., the behaviorController ROS node, and passed as arguments in the service requests it issues to the nodes in the system architecture to conduct a tour or provide directions as a response to an enquiry at reception.

The key-value pairs are stored in a file <code>environmentKnowledgeBaseInput.dat</code>. This file is read and the value-pairs are accessed using a helper class <code>EnvironmentKnowledgeBase</code> described in Section 5.

Environment Knowledge					
Key	Values	Units			
RobotLocationPose	<pre><idnumber> <x> <y> <theta></theta></y></x></idnumber></pre>	Metres, degrees			
RobotLocationDescription	<idnumber> <text></text></idnumber>	String			
GestureTarget	<IDNumber $>$ $<$ x $>$ $<$ y $>$ $<$ z $>$	Metres			
PreGestureMessageEnglish	<idnumber> <text></text></idnumber>	String			
PreGestureMessageIsizulu	<idnumber> <text></text></idnumber>	String			
PreGestureMessageKinyarwanda	<idnumber> <text></text></idnumber>	String			
PostGestureMessageEnglish	<idnumber> <text></text></idnumber>	String			
PostGestureMessageIsizulu	<idnumber> <text></text></idnumber>	String			
PostGestureMessageKinyarwanda	<idnumber> <text></text></idnumber>	String			
TourSpecification	<n> <id1>, <id2>, <idn></idn></id2></id1></n>				

Table 1: Key-value pairs for specifying environment knowledge actions using the ontology depicted in Figure 1. As noted above, the identification number element of the value associated with each key is the means by which the robot location, the location description, the gesture target, the pregesture message, the post-gesture message are related. The tour specification identifies the number of locations and the sequence of locations to be visited in the tour.



5 Environment Knowledge Base Implementation

The key-value pairs listed in Tables 1, comprising an alphanumeric key and associated numeric or symbolic values that encapsulate the environment knowledge, are stored in a file named environmentKnowledgeBaseInput.dat. This file is accessed using a C++ helper class EnvironmentKnowledgeBase described in this section. Specifically, a C++ object instantiation of the helper class reads the environment knowledge base file, store the knowledge, and make the knowledge accessible through three public access methods. The remainder of this section details the implementation of this C++ helper class.

5.1 File Organization

Since the C++ helper class is intended to be embedded in behaviorController ROS node, it is not included as an individual component in the GitHub software repository. That said, the constituent files are organized is several subdirectories in a utilities package, as shown in Figure 2.

There are three C++ source code files: environmentKnowledgeBaseApplication.cpp, environmenteKnowledgeBaseImplementation.cpp, and environmentKnowledge.h. The implementation file contains the helper class definition. The interface file contains the helper class declaration.

The application file is essentially a unit test to illustrate how the helper class is used and to verify that it works correctly. It instantiates a C++ helper class object which reads the environment knowledge base file, and uses the access method to retrieve values in the environment knowledge base, implemented using a binary search tree dictionary data structure, write them to the terminal.

It is intended that the implementation and interface files, along with the configuration and data files, be integrated in the behaviorController ROS node files. The relevant parts of the behaviorController software can use the application code as the basis of its implementation of functionality to access the knowledge base.



Figure 2: Directory Structure for the EnvironmentKnowledgeBase C++ helper class.



5.2 Configuration File

The population of the knowledge base is determined by the contents of a configuration file environmentKnowledgeBase.ini that contain a list of key-value pairs, as shown below in Table 2.

The configuration file is named environmentKnowledgeBaseConfiguration.ini.

Table 2: Configuration file for the EnvironmentKnowledgeBase helper class.

Key	Value	Description
knowledgeBase	environmentKnowledgeBaseInput.dat	Specifies the filename of the file in which the cultural knowledge key-value pairs are stored.
verboseMode	true or false	Specifies whether diagnostic data is to be printed to the terminal.



5.3 Environment Knowlege Base

The environment knowledge base file comprises a list of key-value pairs as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Key-value pairs listed in the knowledge base file environmentKnowledgeBaseInput.dat.

```
1 Pepper's starting location
1 2.6 8.1 -90
1 0.0 0.0 0.0
robotLocationDescription
robotLocationPose
gestureTarget
preGestureMessageEnglish
                                      Welcome the the robotics lab at Carnegie Mellon University Africa
preGestureMessageIsiZulu
preGestureMessageKinyarwanda
                                     No message in isiZulu
Murakazaneza muri laboratwari ya robotikisi muri kaneji meloni iniverisite yafurika.
postGestureMessageEnglish
                                    1 I will give you a short tour. I hope you enjoy it
postGestureMessageIsiZulu
                                      No message in isiZulu
postGestureMessageKinyarwanda 1 Nizeyeko muribuze kuryoherwa no gutemberezwa.
robotLocationDescription
                                   2 The (other) Pepper robot
gestureTarget
                                   2 3.2 8.4 0.82
preGestureMessageEnglish
                                   2 This is the Pepper humanoid robot
preGestureMessageIsiZulu
                                   2 No message in isiZulu
                                      Iyi yitwa pepa humanoyidi roboti
preGestureMessageKinyarwanda
                                   2 We use it for research in social robotics and human-robot interaction
postGestureMessageEnglish
postGestureMessageIsiZulu
                                    2 No message in isiZulu
postGestureMessageKinyarwanda 2 Tuyikoresha mubushakashatsi mubijyanye nimibanire hamwe nimikoranire hagati yabantu
                                      ndetse naza robo
robotLocationDescription
                                   3 Lynxmotion
                                   3 2.0 6.3 -45
3 0.6 4.8 0.82
robotLocationPose
gestureTarget
                                    3 This is the Lynxmotion robot
preGestureMessageEnglish
preGestureMessageIsiZulu
preGestureMessageKinyarwanda
                                   3 No message in isiZulu
3 Iyi robo ni likisi moshoni
postGestureMessageEnglish
postGestureMessageIsiZulu
                                   3 We use it for teaching robot manipulation 3 No message in isiZulu
postGestureMessageKinyarwanda 3 Tuyikoresha mukwigisha roboti manipileshoni
robotLocationDescription
                                    4 5.0 3.9 110
robotLocationPose
gestureTarget
preGestureMessageEnglish
                                   4 6.8 4.8 0.82
4 This is the Roomba
preGestureMessageIsiZulu
                                   4 No message in isiZulu
                                    4 Iyiyo yitwa rumba
preGestureMessageKinyarwanda
postGestureMessageenglish
postGestureMessageIsiZulu
                                   4 We use it for teaching mobile robotics 4 No message in isiZulu
postGestureMessageKinyarwanda 4 Tuyikoresha mukwigisha mobile robotikisi
robot LocationDescription
                                   5 Pepper's starting location
                                   5 2.6 8.1 -90
5 0.0 0.0 0.0
robotLocationPose
gestureTarget
preGestureMessageEnglish
                                   5 I hope you enjoyed the tour
preGestureMessageIsiZulu
                                    5 No message in isiZulu
preGestureMessageKinyarwanda
                                   5 Nizereko mwaryohewe no gutemberezwa
                                   5 See you again soon
5 No message in isiZulu
postGestureMessageEnglish
                                    5 No message
postGestureMessageKinvarwanda 5 Tuzongere kubonana ubutaha
tourSpecification 5 1 4 3 2 5
```

5.4 Output Data File

There is no output data file for the environment knowledge base helper class.

5.5 Class Definition

Instantiating the EnvironmentKnowledgeBase class as a C++ object causes the contents of the environment knowledge base file to be read and stored in private dictionary data structure. Diagnostic messages are printed on the screen, depending on the value of verboseMode key in the configuration file. The contents of the dictionary are accessed using the identification number. Appendix A provides the full definition of the EnvironmentKnowledgeBase class.



5.5.1 Constructor

The EnvironmentKnowledgeBase() constructor reads the configuration file to determine the mode of operation, the name of the knowledge base value types file, and the name of the knowledge base file. It sets a private data member flag with the mode of operation, initializes the private dictionary data structure with the key-value pairs read from the knowledge base file. If operating in verbose mode, it echoes the keys and values to the terminal.

5.5.2 Destructor

The <code>~EnvironmentKnowledgeBase()</code> destructor deletes the dictionary data structure and write a diagnostic message if in verbose mode.

5.5.3 Private Data

The dictionary is implemented using a binary search tree with an element of type struct KeyValueType, with ten fields.

```
typedef struct {
   float x;
   float y;
  float theta;
} RobotLocationType;
typedef struct {
  float x;
  float y;
  float z:
} GestureTargetType;
typedef struct {
                          key; // location identification number
   RobotLocationType
                          robotLocation:
   char
                          robotLocationDescription[STRING_LENGTH];
   GestureTargetType
                         gestureTarget;
                        preGestureMessageEnglish[STRING_LENGTH];
   char
                         preGestureMessageIsiZulu[STRING_LENGTH];
   char
                         preGestureMessageKinyarwanda[STRING_LENGTH];
   char
   char
                         postGestureMessageEnglish[STRING_LENGTH];
   char
                          postGestureMessageIsiZuluSTRING_LENGTH];
                          postGestureMessageKinyarwanda[STRING_LENGTH];
   char
} KeyValueType;
```

The first field key is the identification number for this location. The data type is integer. This is the key that is used to access data in the binary search tree dictionary data structure.

The second field robotLocation is a structure with three fields containing the x, y, and θ floating point values that specify the pose of the robot at this location.

The third field robotLocationDescription is a description of this robot location. The data type is a C-string, i.e., a null-terminated array of characters.

The fourth field gestureTarget is a structure with three fields containing the x, y, and z floating point values that specify the position of the target to which the robot is to gesture.

The fifth, sixth, and seventh fields are messages to be spoken by the robot prior to executing the



gesture; there are three versions, one in English, one in isiZulu, and one in Kinyarwanda. The data type is a C-string, i.e., a null-terminated array of characters.

The eighth, ninth, and tenth fields are messages to be spoken by the robot after executing the gesture; again, there are three versions, one in English, one in isiZulu, and one in Kinyarwanda. The data type is a C-string, i.e., a null-terminated array of characters.

In addition to the binary search tree dictionary data structure, there is also a data structure tourSpecification to specify the tour. This is a structure with two fields: an integer specifying the number of robot locations in a tour and an array of integer identification numbers specifying sequence of robot locations that the robot should visit during the tour, in the order in which they are stored in the array.

```
typedef struct {
  int numberOfLocations;
  int locationIdNumber[MAX_NUMBER_OF_TOUR_LOCATIONS];
} TourSpecificationType;
```

There are also a small number of other private utility data fields to store the configuration filename, the configuration data, a keyValue, and the verbose mode flag.

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5.5.4 Public Access Methods

There are three public methods, one to print the knowledge base to the screen, one to retrieve a key-value pair, given the identification number of the location, and one to retrieve the tour specification. These are printToScreen(), getValue(), and getTour(), respectively.

The printToScreen() method does not have any parameters.

The getValue() method has two parameters: a key and a value, as follows.

```
bool getValue(int idNumber, KeyValueType *keyValue);
```

The method returns true if the key value was successfully retrieved from the knowledge base, false otherwise.

The getTour() method has one parameter: the tour data, as follows.

```
bool getTour(struct TourSpecificationType *tourSpecification);
```

The method returns true if the tour was successfully retrieved from the knowledge base, false otherwise.

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6 Example Application

The example application in environmentKnowledgeBaseApplication.cpp illustrates the use of the class to read the environment knowledge base file and print each key-value pair with multiple elements. It also provides examples of how to retrieve the values associated with a robot location given by its identification number, and how to retrieve the sequence of robot locations in a tour.

```
#include <utilities/environmentKnowledgeBaseInterface.h>
int main() {
                      keyValue; // structure with key and values
  KeyValueType
  idNumber; // location id
                                // counter
                       i;
  /* instantiate the environment knowledge base object
  /\star this reads the knowledge value types file and the knowledge base file
  /* as specified in the environmentKnowledgeBaseConfiguration.ini file
  EnvironmentKnowledgeBase knowledgebase;
  /* verify that the knowledge base was read correctly */
  printf("main: the environment knowledge base data:\n");
  printf("-----
                    -----\n\n");
  knowledgebase.printToScreen();
  printf("main: the environment knowledge base tour:\n");
  printf("----\n\n");
  knowledgebase.getTour(&tour);
  /\star query the contents of the knowledge base:
  /* retrieve all the locations on a tour
  /\star and print them in the order in which they are specified \star/
  for (i = 0; i <= tour.numberOfLocations; i++) {
     idNumber = tour.locationIdNumber[i];
     if (knowledgebase.getValue(idNumber, &keyValue) == true) {
        printf("main:\n"
        "Kev
                                         %-4d \n"
        "Location Description
                                        %s \n"
        "Robot Location
                                        (%.1f, %.1f %.1f)\n"
        "Gesture Target
                                        (%.1f, %.1f %.1f) \n"
        "Pre-Gesture Message English %s \n"
"Pre-Gesture Message isiZulu %s \n"
                                        %s \n"
        "Pre-Gesture Message Kinyarwanda %s \n"
        "Post-Gesture Message
                                        %s \n"
        "Post-Gesture Message isiZulu
                                        %s \n"
        "Post-Gesture Message Kinyarwanda %s \n\n",
        keyValue.key,
        keyValue.robotLocationDescription,
        keyValue.robotLocation.x, keyValue.robotLocation.y, keyValue.robotLocation.theta,
        keyValue.gestureTarget.x, keyValue.gestureTarget.y, keyValue.gestureTarget.z,
        keyValue.preGestureMessageEnglish,
        keyValue.preGestureMessageIsiZulu,
        keyValue.preGestureMessageKinyarwanda,
        keyValue.postGestureMessageEnglish,
        keyValue.postGestureMessageIsiZulu,
        keyValue.postGestureMessageKinyarwanda);
```



Run the application by entering the following command:

rosrun utilities environmentKnowledgeBaseExample

This assumes the existence of a utilities package, as shown in Figure 2, and that the package has been built with catkin_make.

Screenshots of the output of running this application are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

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```
main: the environment knowledge base date:

Key
Location Description
Pre-Gesture Message talights
Pre-Gesture Message talight
Pre-Gesture Message talights
Pre-Ge
```

Figure 3: Screenshot of the output of running the example application: invoking printToScreen().

Figure 4: Screenshot of the output of running the example application: invoking getTour() and invoking getValue() successively for each location on the tour.



Appendix A The EnvironmentKnowledgeBase Class

Note: documentation comments for the private methods have been removed due to space constraints but are retained in the source file.

```
#define NUMBER_OF_CONFIGURATION_KEYS 3
#define NUMBER_OF_VALUE_KEYS 7
#define MAX_NUMBER_OF_TOUR_LOCATIONS 20
typedef char Keyword[KEY_LENGTH];
typedef struct {
   char knowledgeBase[MAX_FILENAME_LENGTH];
   hool werhoseMode:
} ConfigurationDataType;
typedef struct {
    float x;
float y;
float theta;
RobotLocationType;
   float x;
float y;
   float z;
} GestureTargetType;
typedef struct {
  int numberOfLocations;
   int locationIdNumber[MAX_NUMBER_OF_TOUR_LOCATIONS];
} TourSpecificationType;
typedef struct {
                                 key; // i.e., idNumber
    RobotLocationType
                                 robotLocation;
                                 robotLocationDescription[STRING_LENGTH];
gestureTarget;
    GestureTargetType
                                 preGestureMessageEnglish[STRING_LENGTH];
preGestureMessageIsiZulu[STRING_LENGTH];
    char
    char
    char
                                 preGestureMessageKinyarwanda[STRING_LENGTH];
                                 postGestureMessageEnglish[STRING_LENGTH];
    char
                                 postGestureMessageIsiZuluSTRING_LENGTH];
postGestureMessageKinyarwanda[STRING_LENGTH];
    char
     char
} KeyValueType;
typedef struct node *NodeType;
typedef struct node {
             KeyValueType keyValue;
               NodeType left, right;
           } Node;
typedef NodeType BinaryTreeType;
typedef BinaryTreeType WindowType;
class EnvironmentKnowledgeBase {
   EnvironmentKnowledgeBase():
    ~EnvironmentKnowledgeBase();
                                getValue(int key, KeyValueType *keyValue);
                                getTour(TourSpecificationType *tour);
   bool
   BinaryTreeType
                               tree = NULL;
   TourSpecificationType tourSpecification;
KeyValueType keyValue;
   ConfigurationDataType configurationData;
   char
                                configuration_filename[MAX_STRING_LENGTH] = "environmentKnowledgeBaseConfiguration.ini";
   BinaryTreeType
                                *delete element (KeyValueType keyValue, BinaryTreeType *tree);
                                *delete_element(neyvalue;ype keyvalue, BinaryTreelype *tree);
delete_min(BinaryTreeType *tree);
getValue(int key, KeyValueType *keyValue, BinaryTreeType *tree);
initialize(BinaryTreeType *tree);
inorder_print_to_file(BinaryTreeType tree, int n, FILE *fp_out);
   KeyValueType
   bool
   void
   int
                                inorder_print_to_screen(BinaryTreeType tree, int n);
*insert(KeyValueType keyValue, BinaryTreeType *tree, bool update);
   BinaryTreeType
                                postorder_delete_nodes(BinaryTreeType tree);
print_to_file(FILE *fp_out);
   int
   int
                                print_to_file(BinaryTreeType tree, FILE *fp_out);
   int
                                print_to_screen(BinaryTreeType tree);
   int
   void
                                readConfigurationData();
   void
                                readKnowledgeBase();
};
```



Principal Contributors

The main authors of this deliverable are as follows (in alphabetical order).

Tsegazeab Tefferi, Carnegie Mellon University Africa. David Vernon, Carnegie Mellon University Africa.

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Document History

Version 1.0

Partial version to address the specification of the environment knowledge base and EnvironmentKnowledgeBase helper class.

David Vernon.

5 March 2025.

Version 1.1

Removed the utilities sub-directory since the C++ helper classes will be integrated directly in the software for the behaviorController node and not be made available independently. Extended the ontology and added new keys to allow for pre- and post-gesture messages in English, isiZulu, and Kinyarwanda.

David Vernon.

11 March 2025.

Version 1.2

Updated the ontology to rectify the duplicate robot location internal nodes, changing the second to robot location description.

Changed the robotLocation key to robotLocationPose in the list of keys and in the example data file.

David Vernon.

13 March 2025.

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