Senters Protocol and Framework: Technical Specification

[WORK IN PROGRESS]

Senters is a project to develop a framework for attention-flow computing. Attention-flow computing is an attempt to integrate computing systems more deeply into human sensemaking activities, in order to enable computing systems to augment and amplify these activities. The approach developed here is based on the theoretical cognitive science orientation argued for in https://github.com/senters/senters/blob/master/centers-of-attention.org. In that paper we mostly build on the work of others, and introduce a novel theoretical claim that follows from this work. In that paper some proposals for constructive validation of the hypothesis are laid out. The senters project is an effort to do exactly that. The thesis is that human joint attention is able to solve the hard problem because it registers an observable and tractable basis for coordinating semiotic self-control– the contexts of engaging, supporting, and realizing, which through an iterative process I refer to as "coordinated focus compression" (CoFoCo), creates effective and powerful shared symbols. This is a testable claim, and to test it we are developing senters. Here we develop an engineering-oriented corollary of the thesis to bridge over into computing, that artificial agents trained on the data of joint attention as traced in accord with this model, can meaningfully support and extend these human practices. This document outines how we intend to develop a framework for augmenting joint attention, which we will detail the technical design and implementation of.