

Semantic and Fuzzy Coordination Through Programmable Tuple Spaces

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Cesena - May 31, 2011



- 1 Programmability and Semantic in Tuple Spaces: Background and Motivation
- 2 Research Contribution: Design and Implementation of Programmable and Semantic Tuple Spaces
- 3 Application Scenarios for Programmable and Semantic Tuple Spaces
- 4 Fuzziness in Semantic Tuple Spaces
 - Limits of Semantic Tuple Centres
- 5 Fuzziness in Semantic Tuple Centres
- 6 Application Scenarios for Tuple Centres Supporting Semantic and Fuzziness
- 7 Other Research Activities
- 8 Bibliography



Outline

- 1 Programmability and Semantic in Tuple Spaces: Background and Motivation
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Referring Context

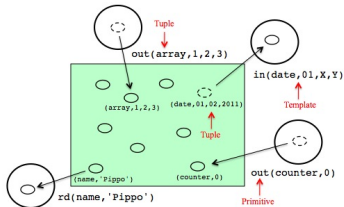
- Future and emerging software systems – like Internet-based, pervasive and self-organising systems – are mainly [Omicini and Viroli, 2011]:
 - ▶ **Distributed** in control, space and time
 - ▶ **Open** in terms of heterogeneity and dynamism
 - ▶ **Knowledge-intensive**—most of the activities are knowledge-based
- **Interaction** is one of the main sources of complexity in the software system engineering [Wegner, 1997]
- **Coordination** is the activity of **managing/costraining** the interactions occurring dynamically among software components
- **Coordination models and languages** are a set of approaches for the engineering of a system interaction space based on the following abstractions [Papadopoulos and Arbab, 1998, Busi et al., 2001]:
 - ▶ **Coordination media** enabling interaction among
 - ▶ **coordinables** – system components to be coordinated – by means of suitable
 - ▶ **coordination laws**

and on **communication languages** – syntax used to express and exchange data structures – and **coordination languages**—linguistic embodiments of the coordination model



The Tuple Space Model

- A growing interest in the **tuple space model** [Rossi et al., 2001]
 - ▶ Represents the main class of space-based coordination models [Papadopoulos and Arbab, 1998]
 - * **Coordination media**: tuple space
 - * **Coordination laws**: defined by the primitive semantic
 - * **Communication language**: tuples
 - * **Coordination language**: primitives *out*, *in* and *rd*
 - ▶ **Generative communication** [Gelernter, 1985]: tuples are permanently written in a tuple space
 - * Promotes **communication uncoupling**
 - Supports openness in distributed systems
 - ▶ **Associative access**: in order to read/consume a tuple, a tuple set description has to be specified
 - * Promotes **knowledge-based coordination**
 - Fits well with knowledge-intensive systems



Model Extensions [Omicini and Viroli, 2011]

- The original formulation of tuple spaces is within the [LINDA](#) model [Gelernter, 1985]
- A number of implementations and extensions have been developed and proposed in literature—e.g. [Sun's JavaSpaces](#) [Freeman et al., 1999] and [GigaSpaces](#) [GigaSpaces, 2007]
- Many other proposals have instead been focussed on extending the tuple-based coordination model beyond its original limitations. In particular, two are notable [Omicini and Viroli, 2011]:
 - ▶ [Programmability of the behaviour](#) of the tuple-based communication abstraction
 - ▶ Enhancing tuple-based communication with [semantic](#)



Programmability of the Behaviour

- The behaviour on LINDA tuple spaces is set once and for all by the model [Omicini and Denti, 2001]
 - It cannot be tailored to the specific application needs
 - Any coordination policy not directly supported by the coordination abstraction has to be charged upon system components
 - Growing complexity due the **coordination coupling** among system coordinables [Omicini and Zambonelli, 1999]
- Several proposals towards the programmability of the tuple space behaviour:
 - ▶ **Tuple centres** [Denti et al., 1997] introduced the very notion of **programmable tuple space**
 - ▶ **IBM's T Spaces** [Wyckoff et al., 1998]
 - ▶ **MARS** [Cabri et al., 2000]
 - ▶ **Law-governed Linda** (LGL) [Minsky and Leichter, 1995]
 - ▶ **EgoSpaces** [Julien and Roman, 2006]
 - ▶ **LighTS** [Balzarotti et al., 2007]
 - ▶ **LIME** [Murphy et al., 2006]
 - ▶ **TOTA** [Mamei and Zambonelli, 2004]



Semantically Enriched Information

- Associative access in LINDA tuple spaces is based on a **tuple matching mechanism** which is purely syntactic
- As already observed in contexts like Web applications [Paolucci et al., 2002] and Pervasive Computing [Bandara et al., 2008], syntactic-driven matching leads to several limitations in dealing with open and dynamic scenarios where the exchanged information may have different syntactic structures

Example: A system component could refer to the concept **Car** and in the shared spaces there is information about **SportCar** or **CityCar** concepts – that are both types of **Car** –, with a purely syntactic matching mechanism it is not possible to match those concepts

- Imposes to coordinables a design-time awareness of the structure and content of tuples
- **Information semantic coupling** [Nardini et al., 2010]

- The advent of the Semantic Web has increased the interest in the use of semantic description of information through
 - ▶ an **ontology language** describing application domain's *concepts*, *individuals* and *relations* among them and
 - ▶ **logical reasoning** over such descriptions to support information matching
- **Semantic tuple space computing** [Nixon et al., 2008] exploits such approaches in order to augment tuple spaces with semantic:
 - ▶ **Triple Space Computing** (TSC) [Fensel, 2004]
 - ▶ **Conceptual Spaces** (CSpaces) [Martín-Recuerda, 2005]
 - ▶ **Semantic Web Spaces** [Tolksdorf et al., 2008]
 - ▶ **sTuples** [Khushraj et al., 2004]

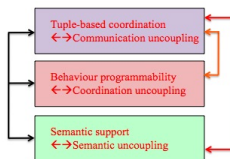


Research Aim

- Behaviour programmability and semantic support in tuple spaces are both essential requirements for open, distributed and knowledge-intensive systems
- However, none of the tuple-space-based approaches in literature accounts for both

→ Research objective:

- ▶ Design and implement a new coordination abstraction including three key elements:



supporting a **semantic coordination ruled by customisable coordination laws**

- ▶ No assumptions about the application context and keeping of the conceptual integrity with the original tuple-space model



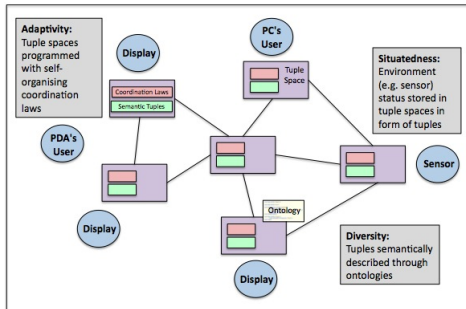
A Motivating Scenario [Viroli et al., 2011]

● Pervasive service coordination

- ▶ Increasing availability of pervasive sensing and actuating devices like RFID tags, PDAs and localisation devices
- ▶ A new generation of general-purpose adaptive services:
 - * Services to coordinate and ease customers' activity
 - * Pervasive location-based information services
 - * Social services exploiting contextual information

● Requirements: **situatedness**, **adaptivity** and **diversity**

● The idea:



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Tuple-based Coordination through Tuple Centres

- **Tuple centres** [Omicini and Denti, 2001]: *tuple spaces whose behaviour can be determined through a specification language defining how a tuple centre should react to incoming/outcoming communication events*
 - ▶ A behaviour specification can associate any event possibly occurring in the tuple centre to a set of computational activities called **reactions**
 - ▶ Tuple centres are modelled as runtime **runtime first-class abstraction** [Ricci and Omicini, 2003] promoting the **online engineering**
 - Tuple centres are implemented in the coordination infrastructure **TuCSon** [Omicini and Zambonelli, 1999]
 - ▶ Reactions are specified with **ReSpecT** [Omicini, 2007]—a Turing-equivalent (\rightarrow general-purpose), logic-based specification language
 - \rightarrow TuCSon tuple centres are **logic**, thus making it possible to spread intelligence through the system where needed, for example by exploiting cognitive agents [Wooldridge and Jennings, 1995].
- \rightarrow Tuple centres seem to provide the coordination abstraction closest to the research aim
- \rightarrow **The idea:** Design the new coordination abstraction as a **general-purpose semantic tuple-space**
- ▶ Starting from the tuple centre model
 - ▶ Semantically enriching the model by exploiting **ontology-based techniques**
- and implement the new coordination model – the **semantic tuple-centre model** – in TuCSon

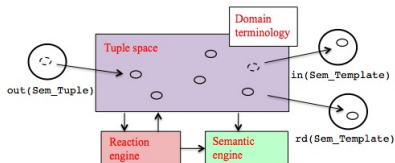


The Semantic Tuple-Centre Model

- **Ontology**: a formal explicit specification of a shared conceptualisation in terms of concepts, individuals and of relations among them [Gruber, 1995]
 - **Description Logic (DL)** [Baader et al., 2003] is a family of formal **knowledge representation** languages providing a logical formalism for ontologies
 - ▶ **TBox** (terminological box) encoding the domain of the discourse
 - ▶ **ABox** (assertional box) encoding the existence of some individuals of the discourse
 - ▶ **Reasoning service** executing reasoning tasks on **TBox** and **ABox**: **consistency checking**, **instance checking**, **instance retrieval** and **subsumption checking**
- From an ontological viewpoint a tuple centre has a simple and natural interpretation:
A knowledge repository structured as a set of tuples that can be seen as representing objects of the application domain whose meaning is described by an ontology

→ Ingredients:

- (1) Domain terminology
- (2) Semantic tuples
- (3) Semantic templates
- (4) Semantic primitives
- (5) Semantic reactions
- (6) Semantic matching



- Semantic tuple-centre definition through the conceptual framework of **SHOIN(D)** [Horrocks et al., 2003]
 - ▶ A very expressive DL [Baader et al., 2003]
 - ▶ Represents the counterpart of **OWL DL**—a kind of **OWL**, that is the **W3C** standard for the *Semantic Web* and the standard de-facto for semantic applications in general



Semantic Tuple Centres in TuCSoN—Domain Terminology

- Describes the domain concepts and their relations attached to a tuple centre
- Formally defined as SHOIN(D) **TBox**—describing the terminological axioms: **concepts** and their **relations** called **roles**
- OWL DL as domain terminology language for TuCSoN tuple centres

Example:

```
(1)   $\text{Maker} \sqsubseteq \top$   
(2)   $\text{Car} \sqsubseteq (=1 \text{ hasMaker})$   
(3)   $(=1 \text{ hasMaker}) \sqsubseteq \text{Car}$   
(4)   $\top \sqsubseteq \forall \text{hasMaker}.\text{Maker}$   
(5)   $\text{CityCar} \sqsubseteq \text{Car}$ 
```

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Maker"/>  
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Car"/>  
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:ID="hasMaker">  
  <rdf:type rdf:resource=  
    "http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl\#FunctionalProperty"/>  
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="\#Car"/>  
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="\#Maker"/>  
</owl:ObjectProperty>  
<owl:Class rdf:ID="CityCar">  
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="\#Car"/>  
</owl:Class>
```



Semantic Tuple Centres in TuCSoN—Semantic Tuples

- Represent domain individuals semantically interpreted by the domain terminology
- Formally defined through a SHOIN(D) **ABox**—defining the axioms to assert specific **domain objects** ($C(a)$) and their **roles** ($R(a,b)$)

TuCSoN **semantic tuple grammar**:

```
Individual ::= iname ':' C  
C ::= cname | cname '(' R ')'  
R ::= rname ':' V | rname 'in' '(' Vset ') ' | R ',' R  
Vset ::= V | V ',' Vset  
V ::= iname | string | int | float
```

Example:

```
(1) Car(f550)  
(2) hasMaker(f550,ferrari)  
(3) hasMaxSpeed(f550,285)  
(4) hasColour(f550,red)  
(5) hasColour(f550,black)
```

```
f550 : 'Car' (hasMaker : ferrari, hasMaxSpeed : 285,  
             hasColour in (red, black))
```



Semantic Tuple Centres in TuCSoN—Semantic Templates

- *Consist in specifications of sets of domain individuals described by the domain terminology*
- Formally defined as SHOIN(D) **TBox axioms**—**concepts** and **role descriptions**

TuCSoN semantic template grammar:

```
C ::= 'All' | 'None' | cname | C 'and' C | C 'or' C | 'not' C | D |  
      '{' [ iname { ',', iname } ] '}' | C '(' D ') ' | '(' C ') ' |  
      'String' | 'Int' | 'Float'  
D ::= F | 'exists' F | 'only' F | M  
F ::= R 'in' C | R ':' I | R ':' I | R ':' Msymb N |  
      R ':' 'eq' string | R  
M ::= '#' R Msymb N  
R ::= rname | rname '/' vname  
Msymb ::= 'gt' | 'lt' | 'geq' | 'leq' | 'eq'
```



Semantic Tuple Centres in TuCSoN—Semantic Templates

Template-SHOIN(D) grammar mapping:

<i>SHOIN(D)</i>	<i>Language Expression</i>
\top	All
\perp	None
$C \sqcap D$	C and D
$C \sqcup D$	C or D
$\neg C$	not C
$\forall R.C$	only R in C
$\exists R.C$	exists R in C
$> n R, \leq n R$	# R lt n, # R leq n
$> n R, \geq n R$	# R gt n, # R geq n
$= n R$	# R eq n
$\{a_i, \dots, a_n\}$	$\{iname_i, \dots, iname_n\}$
concrete domains	String, Int, Float
concrete domain operators	String: eq. Int, Float: eq, lt, leq, gt, geq.

Example:

$\text{Car} \sqcap \exists \text{hasMaker.ford}$

'Car' and (exists hasMaker : ford)
'Car' and (exists hasMaker / X in 'Maker')



Semantic Tuple Centres in TuCSoN—Semantic Primitives

- Represent the language whereby system components can read (*rd*), consume (*in*) and write (*out*) tuples described by the domain terminology
- Require to revisit the **semantic** of the basic primitives
 - ▶ Is needed to check whether the relations and concepts associated to the individuals and concepts exist in the domain terminology
 - ▶ While an *out* in a tuple centre always succeeds, in a semantic tuple centre may fail. In particular, in face of the primitive has to be checked:
 - * The individual already exists in the tuple centre
 - * The consistency of the tuple to be written with the domain ontology—TBox plus ABox
 - Such kind of checks can be performed through the DL **reasoner service**
- The TuCSoN primitive **syntax** has to be extended in order to:
 - ▶ Include both semantic and syntactic primitives
 - ▶ Obtain an individual as a result from a semantic template

Example:

```
out(semantic fiat500: 'CityCar'( hasMaker : fiat))  
in(semantic Result matching ('CityCar' and (exists hasMaker : fiat)))
```



Semantic Tuple Centres in TuCSoN—Semantic Reactions

- *Sets of computational activities within a tuple centre defined through a reaction specification language*
- TuCSoN exploits ReSpecT as a reaction specification language
 - ▶ A ReSpecT reaction is a *logic term* of kind `reaction(E, (G, R))`
 - * `E` describing the set of communication events `Ev` for which a reaction has to be executed
 - * `G` describing a set of conditions to be satisfied in order to execute a reaction
 - * `R` describing the computation associated to a reaction



Semantic Tuple Centres in TuCSoN—Semantic Reactions

- In a semantic view:

- ▶ **E** represents a specification of a coordination primitive related to a concept description (*in/rd*) or to a domain individual (*out*)
- **E** should contain a concept description expressed in terms of the semantic template language

Example:

```
reaction( in(semantic 'Car'), ..., ... )
in(semantic Result matching ('CityCar' and (exists hasMaker : fiat)))

reaction( out(semantic 'Car' and (exists hasMaker : fiat)), ..., ... )
out(semantic fiat500: 'CityCar'( hasMaker : fiat))
```

- ▶ **G** represents a set of constraints on the communication event **Ev**
- **G** is extended so that the guard could contain a concept description expressed in terms of the semantic template language

Example:

```
reaction( out(semantic 'CityCar'), semantic (exists hasMaker : fiat), ...)
```

- ▶ **R** can read, remove and write tuples from/to the tuple centre
- **R** can contain semantic primitives

Example:

```
reaction( out(semantic 'CityCar'), semantic (exists hasMaker : ford), (
    rd (semantic ford 'Maker' and (exists hasCars / N in Int)),
    N1 is N + 1,
    out(semantic ford : 'Maker'(hasCars : N1)) ))
```

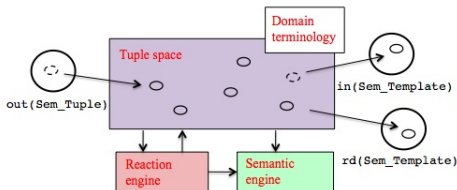


Semantic Tuple Centres in TuCSoN—Semantic Matching Mechanism

- *Represents the algorithm checking the relationships between individuals and concepts described by tuples and templates or among concepts, in the execution of coordination primitives and reactions*
 - ▶ **Primitives:** When a semantic *reading/consuming* primitive is performed, the matching mechanism should identify and retrieve an individual matching the provided semantic template
 - ▶ **Reactions:** The semantic matching mechanism should work in two ways:
 - * **E** describes a *writing* event: Matching **E** with **Ev** consists in checking:
 - (1) if **Ev** is a writing event
 - (2) if the individual in **Ev** belongs to the concept described in **E** and **G**
 - * **E** describes a *consuming/reading* event: Matching **E** with **Ev** consists in checking:
 - (1) if **Ev** is a consuming/reading event
 - (2) if the concept description in **Ev** is a sub-concept of the concept in **E** and **G**
- The matching mechanism can be easily obtained by exploiting the **reasoning service**:
 - ▶ **Instance retrieval:** finds the individuals that are instance of a given concept
 - ▶ **Instance checking:** verifies whether a given individual is an instance of a specified concept
 - ▶ **Subsumption checking:** verifies the subsumption of two concepts



The Semantic Tuple-Centre Architecture

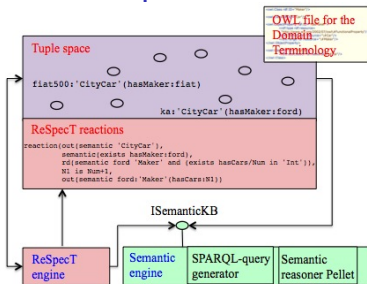


• The semantic engine provides the semantic support

- ▶ Manages the domain terminology related to a tuple centre
- ▶ Provides a reasoning service (internal or external) executing reasoning tasks on TBox and ABox: consistency checking, instance checking, instance retrieval and subsumption checking
- ▶ Interacts with both the tuple space and the reaction engine providing the following operations:
 - (1) **Individual assertion**: insert a new individual *a* in the ABox and checks if the ABox is consistent with the new individual (exploited for the primitive *out*)
→ The ABox can or not coincide with the tuple space; it depends if we exploit an internal reasoner engineered specifically for the tuple space or an external DL reasoner with its own ABox representation
 - (2) **Individual deletion**: deletes an individual from the ABox (exploited for the primitive *in*)
 - (3) **Instance checking**: checks if an individual *a* belongs to a concept *C* (exploited to select semantic reactions to be activated)
 - (4) **Instance retrieval**: retrieves all the individuals belonging to a concept *C* (exploited for the primitive *in*/*rd*)
 - (5) **Subsumption checking**: checks if a concept *C* subsumes a concept *D* (exploited to select semantic reactions to be activated)



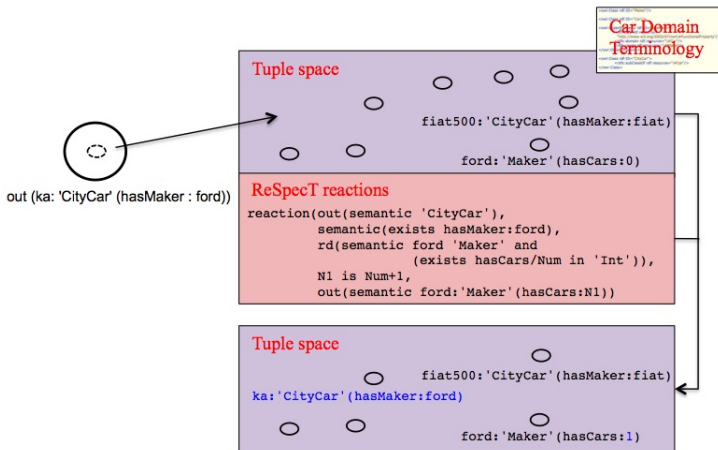
The TuCSoN Semantic Tuple-Centre Architecture



- The **semantic engine** provides the semantic support through the **ISemanticKB** interface
 - ▶ Loads the **OWL domain terminology** related to a tuple centre
 - ▶ Provides the **reasoning service** by exploiting an external reasoner
 - * The most popular DL reasoners are: **RACER** [Haarslev and Möller, 2001], **Pellet** [Sirin et al., 2007], **FACT++** [Tsarkov and Horrocks, 2006], **KAON2** [Motik and Sattler, 2006] and **Hermit** [Shearer et al., 2008]
 - * TuCSoN tuple centres implement **ISemanticKB** via the **Pellet**:
 - Represents the most complete SHOIN(D) reasoner with competitive performance
 - Is Java-based like TuCSoN and ReSpecT
 - Is free and open-source
 - Supports conjunctive queries as an expressive formalism for querying DL knowledge bases through the **SPARQL** language [Pérez et al., 2009], that is a *W3C Candidate Recommendation* as query language for **RDF**, so, suitable for querying OWL ontologies



Example of Usage



Some Evaluation Results

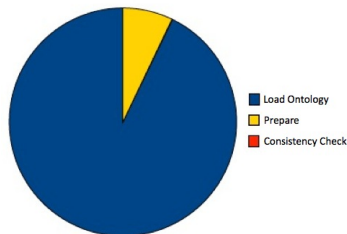
- **Aim:** Evaluate how much the use of semantic techniques affects the tuple centre behaviour in terms of performance
- Test the implementation of semantic tuple centres with [Pellet 2.2.2](#) against one of the W3C reference ontologies for DL reasoner benchmarks [Bock et al., 2008]:
 - ▶ **Lumb ontology:** covers only part of the constructs supported by OWL DL (SHIQ(D)). It contains 44 classes with 36 subclass axioms and 6 equivalent class axioms and 32 roles
- The test was executed on *Intel (R) Core(TM)2 Quad CPU Q8200 2.33GHz*, equipped with *8 GB of RAM*, running on *Eclipse Helios* and *Microsoft Window Vista Home Premium*
- **Test:**
 - ▶ Time to load a domain terminology
 - ▶ Time to insert a tuple
 - ▶ Time to read a tuple and to consume a tuple
 - ▶ Time to execute an instance check and to execute a subsumption check—both exploited in reaction activations



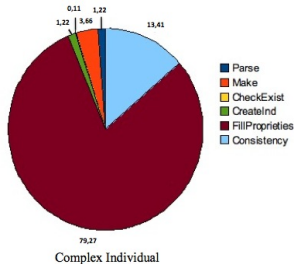
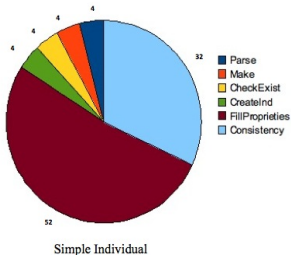
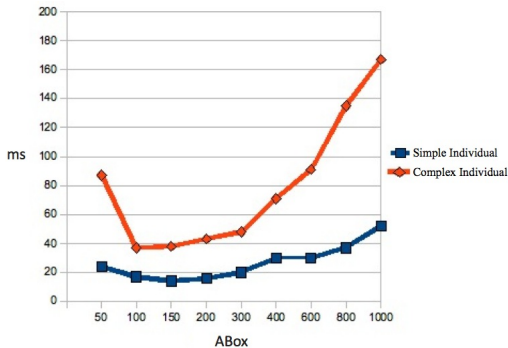
Domain Terminology Loading

- **Total time:** 1744 ms

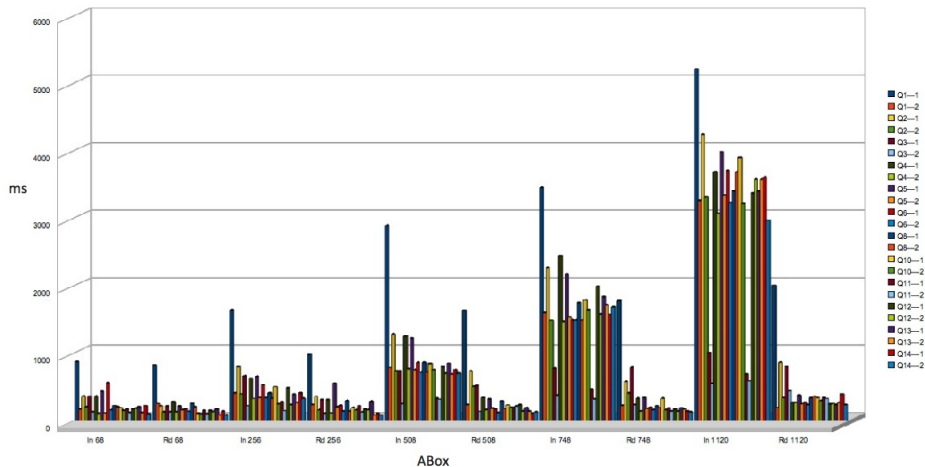
- ▶ Time to load the terminology in RAM
- ▶ Terminology prepare
- ▶ Terminology consistency check



Tuple Insert

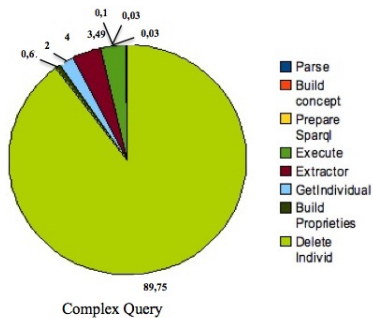
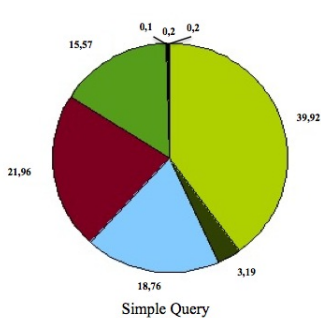


Tuple Read and Consume



Tuple Read and Consume

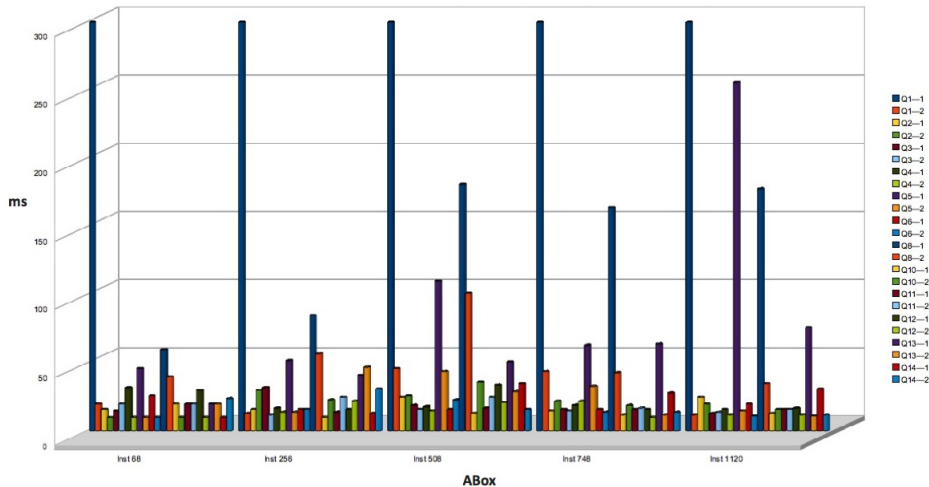
- In with 1120 individuals in ABox



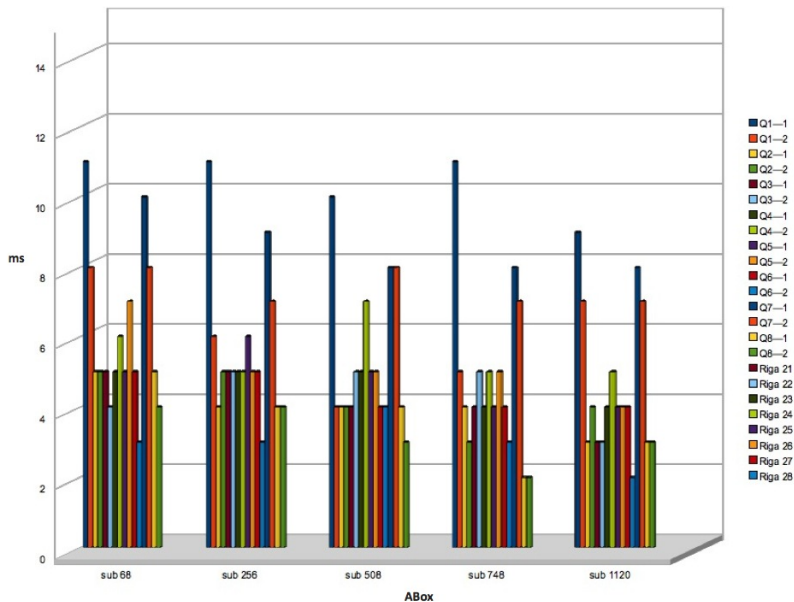
- Parse
- Build concept
- Prepare Sparql
- Execute
- Extractor
- GetIndividual
- Build Proprieties
- Delete Indiv



Instance Checking



Subsumption Checking



Other Ontologies

- <http://protege.cim3.net/file/pub/ontologies/>
- **Travel** ontology: 35 classes with 30 subclass axioms and 7 equivalent class axioms and 10 roles
 - ▶ *In* under 1500 ms
- **Camera** ontology: 35 classes with 10 subclass axioms and 3 equivalent class axioms and 15 roles
 - ▶ *In* under 500 ms



Basic Papers

- Elena Nardini, Mirko Viroli, Emanuele Panzavolta. Coordination in Open and Dynamic Environments with TuCSoN Semantic Tuple Centres. *The 25th Annual ACM Symposium on Applied Computing (SAC 2010)*, 22-26 March 2010. **The paper was selected as a best paper.**
- Elena Nardini, Andrea Omicini, Mirko Viroli. Semantic Tuple Centres. *Science of Computer Programming*. **Submitted.**



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Medical-Data Sharing via Semantic Tuple Centres

- October 2009–February 2010, collaboration with Prof. Dr. Michael Ignaz Schumacher of *Institute of Business Information Systems* at the *University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland* in Sierre, Switzerland
- A scenario in the **healthcare** domain:
 - ▶ Digital storage and computerised acquisition of medical data have been evolving quickly over the past decades [Van der Lei et al., 1991, Denny et al., 2005, Khon et al., 2000]
 - ▶ Communication of health data is an important factor in computerised data acquisition to overcome limits of paper-based information exchange, which is often slow [van der Kam et al., 2000] and error prone [Khon et al., 2000]
 - ▶ Among the several e-Health research activities concerning the health information exchange, research on **Electronic Health Record** (EHR) – medical record of a patient stored in a digital format – is particularly intensive [Khon et al., 2000, Varshney, 2009]
 - ▶ Medical data – like demographics, medical history, medication, allergy list, lab results or radiology – belonging to an EHR are called **fragments**, and can be distributed over different EHR systems
 - ▶ The introduction of EHR offers several benefit [Malloch, 2007]:
 - * Better patient safety
 - * Lower cost of health services
 - * Better audit and research
 - ▶ **Requirements:** In order to keep the EHR benefits, EHR systems should ensure **interoperability** among EHR fragments in a open and distributed context
 - ▶ **The idea:** TuCSon semantic tuple centres in order to face with such requirements
- Collaboration financed from **COST Action IC0801** <http://www.agreement-technologies.eu/>
- Project *SemHealthCoord* – *Semantic Health Coordination* (<http://aislab.hevs.ch/projects/semhealthcoord-semantic-health-coordination/>) accepted from the **Swiss National Science Foundation** (SNSF) <http://www.snf.ch/E/Pages/default.aspx>



Basic Papers

- Elena Nardini, Andrea Omicini, Mirko Viroli, Michael Ignaz Schumacher. Coordinating e-Health Systems with TuCSoN Semantic Tuple Centres. *ACM Applied Computing Review*. **In press**.



Outline

- 1 Programmability and Semantic in Tuple Spaces: Background and Motivation
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Imprecise and Vague Knowledge

- **Artificial Intelligence** literature puts in evidence real-world information is often **vague** and **imprecise** [Klir and Yuan, 1994, Straccia, 2001, Zadeh, 1965]
 - ▶ In applications involving sensors, reading measurements usually come with **degrees of evidence** [Lukasiewicz and Straccia, 2007]
 - ▶ In applications like multimedia processing, object recognition might come with **degrees of truth**
 - ▶ Knowledge required to formulate **precise queries** is typically **unavailable** in open contexts [Balzarotti et al., 2007].
 - ★ For example, a user may request to find a cinema that is **close** to her, without bothering about a precise distance range



An Application Scenario

- A **Virtual Bookshop** is a kind of a *Virtual Enterprise* application aggregating several companies of different sorts to sell books through the Internet [Ricci et al., 2002]
- Four basic roles can be identified:
 - ▶ bookseller
 - ▶ carrier
 - ▶ interbank service
 - ▶ Internet service provider
- Two main problems
 - 1 Different syntactic structure of information

Example: when a Web portal receives a request for a book of genre **fantasy**, whereas sellers only have books of genre **classic fantasy** and **contemporary fantasy**, a syntactic approach could not match the genres
 - 2 How to manage vague knowledge?

Example: in the book domain there could be vague/imprecise information like **book for kids** or **book for adults**.
Then, books could belong to a category with a given degree, for example, a book could be **fantasy** with degree **0.7**



Aim of the Paper

- Although several works discuss how to represent vague knowledge, we found only the work of Balzarotti et al. [Balzarotti et al., 2007] exploiting fuzziness to describe knowledge in tuple spaces
 - ▶ However semantic matching is not supported
- We aim at enhancing coordination in open context where information is often not completed and precise
- Starting from the model of the semantic tuple centres – as defined in [Nardini et al., 2010] – we devise out the elements required to equip them with fuzziness:
 - ▶ fuzzy ontologies
 - ▶ fuzzy tuples
 - ▶ fuzzy templates
 - ▶ fuzzy semantic matching
 - ▶ fuzzy primitives
- Then, we propose a possible extension of the model toward fuzziness, in particular by referring the **TuCSon** infrastructure



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The Semantic Tuple Centre Model [Nardini et al., 2010]

Ingredients

- **Domain ontology** allowing the tuples stored to be semantically interpreted
- **Semantic tuples** representing individuals that can be semantically interpreted by means of the domain ontology
- **Semantic tuple templates** used to retrieve semantic tuple, consisting in specification of sets of domain individual described by the domain ontology
- **Semantic matching mechanism** providing the semantic tuples described through templates in the execution of semantic primitives
- **Semantic primitives** (**out**, **in** and **rd**) representing the language whereby system components can write, read and consume semantic tuples

Such components are formally defined through **SHOIN(D)**—a *Description Logic* formalism [Baader et al., 2003, Horrocks et al., 2003]



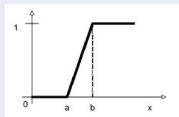
Fuzzy SHOIN(D) I

Starting from the pioneering work by Yen [Yen, 1991], Description Logics – SHOIN(D) included – were the subject of several fuzzy extensions
[Bobillo et al., 2008a, Lukasiewicz and Straccia, 2007, Straccia, 2005]

Syntactic components

- **Fuzzy datatypes** – fuzzy data-sets specified through functions providing membership degrees

Example: Fuzzy data-set **High** defined as $\text{High}(x) = \text{rs}(x; 80, 250)$



Right-shoulder (rs) function

- **Fuzzy modifiers** – functions applied to fuzzy sets so as to change their membership function

Example: Fuzzy modifiers **very** applied to **High** through the function $f_{\text{very}}(x) = x^2$ in order to obtain the data-set **very(High)**

- **Fuzzy knowledge base and fuzzy axioms** – composed by **fuzzy TBox** and **fuzzy ABox**. In fuzzy TBox we can define concepts like $([\geq 0.8] \text{ Car})$ whereas in fuzzy ABox we can define individuals like $\text{SportsCar}(\text{audi_tt}) \geq 0.92$

Fuzzy SHOIN(D) II

Semantic

- **Fuzzy interpretation functions** \cdot^I are introduced associating a degree in $[0,1]$ to each fuzzy concept construct
- For instance, the concept constructs \sqcap and \sqcup have the following fuzzy interpretation functions in [Lukasiewicz and Straccia, 2007]:

$$(C_1 \sqcap C_2)^I(x) = C_1^I(x) \otimes C_2^I(x)$$

$$(C_1 \sqcup C_2)^I(x) = C_1^I(x) \oplus C_2^I(x)$$

where the operators \otimes and \oplus are interpreted according to one of the following logics:

- ▶ Lukasiewicz Logic
- ▶ Gödel Logic
- ▶ Product Logic
- ▶ Zadeh Logic

Example: Gödel Logic defines $\alpha \oplus_G \beta$ such as $\max\{\alpha, \beta\}$, whereas Lukasiewicz Logic defines $\alpha \oplus_L \beta$ such as $\min\{\alpha + \beta, 1\}$



Extending Tuple Centres for Supporting Fuzziness

- Following semantic tuple centres components, the ingredients required to extend them toward fuzziness are:
 - ▶ **fuzzy ontologies** – from crisp to fuzzy TBox
 - ▶ **fuzzy tuples** – from crisp to fuzzy ABox
 - ▶ **fuzzy templates** – from crisp to fuzzy concepts described in the fuzzy-TBox formalism
 - ▶ **fuzzy semantic matching** – from crisp to fuzzy reasoning upon fuzzy and semantic knowledge by exploiting fuzzy SHOIN(D) reasoners
 - ▶ **fuzzy primitives** – from individuals retrieved with degree 1 to individuals retrieved with degree in $[0,1]$
- In the following we describe how it is possible to extend with fuzziness the **ReSpecT** semantic tuple centres provided by the infrastructure **TuCSon**



Fuzzy Ontology

- The domain ontology associated to a tuple centre is formally described as a **SHOIN(D) TBox** [Baader et al., 2003]
- Fuzzy ontologies described through fuzzy SHOIN(D) TBoxes
- Example:** We can define the following concept assertions:
$$\text{High} \equiv \text{rs}(80, 250)$$
$$\text{SportsCar} \equiv \text{Car} \sqcap \exists \text{hasSpeed.very(High)}$$
- For ReSpecT tuple centres there are the following possibilities:
 - 1 exploit fuzzy OWL DL
 - they are not standard
 - 2 exploit crisp OWL DL ontologies describing fuzzy ontologies [Bobillo et al., 2008b]
 - very large ontologies with performance problems
 - 3 exploit crisp OWL DL ontologies
 - it is only possible to describe crisp ontologies



Fuzzy Tuples

- Semantic tuples are formally described as **SHOIN(D) individuals** belonging to an **ABox** [Baader et al., 2003]

→ Fuzzy tuples described through fuzzy SHOIN(D) individuals belonging to a fuzzy ABox

Example: We can define the following fuzzy individuals:

$\text{SportsCar}(\text{audi_tt}) \geq 0.92$
 $\text{hasMaker}(\text{audi_tt}, \text{audi}) \geq 1$

- The language for ReSpecT fuzzy tuples becomes as follows

```
Individual ::= iname ':' C
C ::= cname [ $\rightarrow \alpha$ ] | cname '(' R [ $\rightarrow \alpha$ ] ')'
R ::= rname ':' V | rname 'in' '(' C Vset ')' | R ',' R
Vset ::= V [ $\rightarrow \alpha$ ] | V [ $\rightarrow \alpha$ ] ',' Vset
V ::= iname | number | string
```

- We could obtain the following fuzzy tuples

```
ca:'CityCar'(hasMaker:ford, hasMaxSpeed:130,
             hasColour in (red  $\rightarrow 0.7$ , black  $\rightarrow 0.3$ ))
audiTT:'SportCar'  $\rightarrow 0.8$  (hasMaker:audi, hasMaxSpeed : 260,
                           hasColour : black)
```



Fuzzy Templates I

- Semantic templates are formally described as **SHOIN(D) concepts** in TBox formalism [Baader et al., 2003]
- Fuzzy templates described as fuzzy SHOIN(D) concepts in fuzzy TBox formalism

Example: We can define the following fuzzy concept:

$[\geq 0.8]$ SportCar



Fuzzy Templates II

- The language for ReSpecT fuzzy templates becomes as follows

```
C ::= '$ALL' | '$NONE' | cname | C ',' C |  
C ';' C | '$not' C | D |  
'{ [ iname [→ α] { ',' , iname [→ α] } ] }' |  
C '(' D ')' | '(' C ')'  
CW | C '[' ≥ α ']' | C '[' ≤ α ']' |  
DT | M '(' C ')'  
  
CW ::= C → α | CW + CW  
DT ::= crisp>('N', 'N') | l>('N', 'N') |  
r('N', 'N') | M  
  
M ::= triangular('N', 'N', 'N') |  
trapezoidal('N', 'N', 'N', 'N')  
  
D ::= F | '$exists' F | '$all' F | M  
F ::= R 'in' C | R ':' I | R ':' Msymb N |  
R ':' string | R  
  
M ::= '#' R Msymb N  
  
R ::= rname | rname '/' vname  
  
Msymb ::= '>' | '<' | '≥' | '≤' | '='
```

- We could obtain the following fuzzy templates

```
'Car', ((hasMaxSpeed:280 → 0.6) +  
      (hasMaker:ferrari → 0.4))  
[≥ 0.8] 'SportCar'  
  
'Car', ($exists hasSpeed in linear(0.8)(r(80,250)))
```



Fuzzy Matching Mechanism I

- The semantic matching mechanism is realised by exploiting [SHOIN\(D\) reasoner services](#) allowing ABox to be queried through TBox-based descriptions
- In order to support matching between fuzzy tuples and templates there are three different ways
 - 1 exploiting fuzzy reasoners with fuzzy ontologies
 - ★ fuzzy SHOIN(D) reasoners do not exist
 - 2 exploiting crisp reasoners with crisp ontologies representing fuzzy ontologies
 - ★ to best of our knowledge, the only reasoner supporting fuzzy SHOIN(D) is [DeLorean](#) [Bobillo et al., 2008b]
 - ★ it uses crisp domain ontologies to represent fuzzy ontologies reducing the reasoning within fuzzy SHOIN(D) to reasoning within crisp SHOIN(D)
 - it is possible to exploit existent crisp reasoners like [Pellet](#) [Sirin et al., 2007]
 - ★ the complete version is not yet available
 - ★ there are performance problems caused by the huge ontologies (5 sec for a complex query with 44 classes and 25 properties)



Fuzzy Matching Mechanism II

3 exploiting crisp reasoners without fuzzy ontologies

It is possible to realise a *(de)fuzzificator* in charge of bridging between the tuple centre interface and a crisp SHOIN(D) reasoner

- ★ it transforms a fuzzy individual description in a crisp one when the corresponding tuple is inserted in the tuple centre
 - ★ the crisp individual is stored in the crisp SHOIN(D) reasoner whereas the corresponding fuzzy individual is stored in the tuple centre
 - ★ in face of a reading or consuming operation:
 - 1 it interprets the fuzzy template as a crisp template to query the crisp reasoner
 - 2 it retrieves an individual with the degree with which it matches the fuzzy template, by exploiting the fuzzy individual version stored in the tuple centre
- It is needed to store some information about fuzzy tuples and an algorithm to process fuzzy templates, but ontologies are smaller



Fuzzy Matching Mechanism III

- Example of such a matching mechanism in ReSpecT

- 1 When a new tuple is inserted in the tuple in the tuple centre, the (de)fuzzificator should separate the degrees associated to the tuple in order to obtain a non-fuzzy individual-assertion description in the ReSpecT language for semantic tuples.

The degrees remain stored only in the tuple inserted in the tuple centre

Example: We can have the two following fuzzy tuples to be inserted in the tuple centre:

```
audiTT : 'SportCar' → 0.8(hasMaker : audi, hasMaxSpeed : 260,  
                           hasColour : black)  
  
f380 : 'SportCar' → 0.9(hasMaker : ferrari, hasMaxSpeed : 320,  
                           hasColour : red)
```

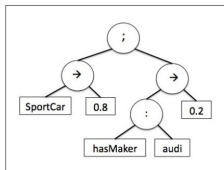


Fuzzy Matching Mechanism IV

2 In face of fuzzy template like the following

`'SportCar'→0.8; (hasMaker:audi)→0.2`

the following abstract syntax tree can be exploited



in order to:

- 1 query the DL reasoner for individuals belonging to the concept SportCar
- 2 calculate for each of them its degree as the product of 0.8 by the degree as specified in the tuple centres
- 3 query the DL reasoner for individuals belonging to the concept hasMaker:audi by querying the DL reasoner
- 4 calculate for each of them its degree as the product of 0.2 by the degree as specified in the tuple space
- 5 execute the fuzzy operator ; (the counterpart of SHOIN(D) operator \sqcup) over the two above sets of individuals. By using e.g. the implementation based on *Lukasiewicz t-conorm*, we join the two sets and update degrees of each tuple by formula $\min\{\alpha+\beta, 1\}$, where α and β are the two original degrees—0 if the tuple was not in the set



Fuzzy Matching Mechanism V

- Accordingly, supposing to have the following tuples:

```
audiTT : 'SportCar' → 0.8(hasMaker : audi, hasMaxSpeed : 260,  
                             hasColour : black)  
f380 : 'SportCar' → 0.9(hasMaker : ferrari, hasMaxSpeed : 320,  
                           hasColour : red)
```

and the following template

```
'SportCar' → 0.8; (hasMaker:audi) → 0.2
```

matching the fuzzy tuple template $'SportCar' \rightarrow 0.8; (hasMaker:audi) \rightarrow 0.2$ returns tuple audiTT with degree 0.84 and f380 with degree 0.72



Fuzzy Primitives

- The semantic tuple space primitives – **in**, **rd** and **out** – represent the coordination language whereby system components can read, consume and write knowledge described by means of a domain ontology [Nardini et al., 2010]
- Extending the tuple centre model with fuzziness requires some extensions in primitives

1 **out** is unchanged

Example:

```
out(semantic audiTT : 'SportCar' → 0.8(hasMaker : audi,  
hasMaxSpeed : 260,  
hasColour : black))
```

2 **in** and **rd** change

In face of a fuzzy template, to return a fuzzy tuple along with the degree by which it satisfies the template, since this could be different from 1

Example:

```
in(semantic (X degree Y matching ([≥ 0.8] 'SportCar')))
```



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SAPERE Project

Self-Aware Pervasive Service Ecosystems

EU STREP Project (October 2010-October 2013)

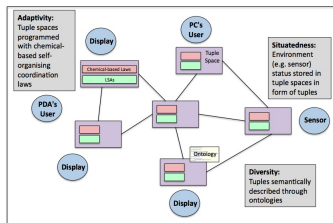
FP7-ICT-2009.8.5: Self-awareness in Autonomic Systems

Home page: <http://www.sapere-project.eu/>

Main aim: Development of a highly-innovative theoretical and practical framework for the decentralized deployment and execution of self-aware and adaptive services for future and emerging pervasive network scenarios

Early research ideas:

- ▶ Tuple spaces + chemical reactions as coordination laws [Viroli and Casadei, 2009]
- ▶ Tuples have a concentration (a.k.a. weight, or activity value)
- ▶ Concentration is evolved exactly as in chemistry
- ▶ Some reactions can even fire a tuple from one space to another



- ▶ Match between chemical laws and reactants:
 - **Semantic matching** in order to deal with openness requirements
 - **Fuzzy matching** in order to deal with vagueness of information [Lukasiewicz and Straccia, 2007]



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- Mirko Viroli, Matteo Casadei, Elena Nardini, Andrea Omicini. Towards a Chemical-Inspired Infrastructure for Self-* Pervasive Applications *Self-Organizing Architectures, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 6090*, July 2010.
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- Elena Nardini, Andrea Omicini, Mirko Viroli. Description Spaces with Fuzziness. *The 26th Annual ACM Symposium on Applied Computing (SAC 2011)*, 21-25 March 2011. **In press.**
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Agent Coordination Context

- Elena Nardini, Andrea Omicini, Mirko Viroli. General-Purpose Coordination Abstractions for Managing Interaction in MAS. *The WI-IAT 2009 Workshops Proceedings*, 15-18 September 2009.



Conclusion

- Model and implementation of the semantic tuple centre model—a basic brick of coordination infrastructures for [open](#), [distributed](#) and [knowledge-intensive](#) systems
- Description of the model, the architecture and the implementation in TuCSoN and evaluation of performance
- Application scenarios in which the semantic tuple centre model seems to be suitable to engineer the software system coordination space
- Ongoing work:
 - ▶ Exploit the experience with the semantic tuple centre model in the context of the e-Health and SAPERE project
 - ▶ Evaluate other semantic reasoners (external or internal) that can trade-off speed for expressiveness
 - ▶ From the model viewpoint, evaluating of a basic extension concerns the introduction of fuzziness, relying on approaches like [fuzzyDL](#) [Bobillo and Straccia, 2008]



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Cesena - May 31, 2011

