





MINISTRY OF DEFENC

### INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE IN NETWORK & INFORMATION SCIENCES

### Extraction and Use of Domain Semantics from NL sentences using ITA Controlled English

David Mott (ETS, IBM UK) working with Ann Copestake (University of Cambridge) Stephen Poteet, Ping Xue (Research & Technology, Boeing) DELPHIN July 2014



• Extract facts in Controlled English from Natural Language documents

 Facilitate configuration of NL processing tools in Controlled English

• Provide rationale for linguistic and analytic processing

We are not tasked with creating fundamental breakthroughs in the theory of NL processing



- Controlled English is a Controlled Natural language, being a subset of English that is both human readable and machine interpretable
- Based upon Conceptual Models defined by the users:
  - types of things, and their relationships
  - the written language used to express facts about things and relations
  - logical rules allowing query and inference on sets of facts
- CE is one component to support reasoning
  - Support for different problem solving strategies
  - Conversion to other digitised semantic languages, eg OWL
  - Use of rationale to express flow of reasoning
  - Visualisation techniques for showing CE facts





# Models, Facts, Assumptions

Meta Model	Concept, Entity Concept, Relation Concept, Conceptual Model	belongs to, has as domain		
Semiotics Model	Thing, Meaning, Symbol	stands for, expresses		
General Model	Agent, Spatial Entity, Temporal Entity, Situation, Container	has as agent role, is contained in		
Linguistic Model	Sentence, Phrase, Noun, Word, Word Sense, Predicate, Linguistic Frame	has as dependent, is parsed from, expresses		
Analysts Domain Model	Place, Person, Village, Communication, IED, Facility, 	is located in, monitors		

there is a possible participant named Azuregroup that operates in the time interval daytime.

the agent Lion cannot work with the group Browngroup.

if ( the agent A cannot work with the agent B ) then ( the agent B cannot work with the agent A ).

it is assumed that the attack a1 involves the group Browngroup.



# The goal!





# Integrating CE and the ERG



- English Resource Grammar (ERG) to provide detailed syntactic structures
- Minimal Recursion Semantics (MRS) to express <u>Linguistic Semantics</u>
- <u>Generic semantics</u> to represent the world in terms of situations and roles
- <u>Domain semantics</u> to
  - express facts in the user's concepts
  - to extract high value facts from extracted facts
- Research into
  - the integration of domain semantics and linguistic processing
  - how linguistic knowledge can be represented in Controlled English



### **Mini-Demonstration**



### Linguistic information

#### "John chases the cat"

```
[LTOP: h1
  INDEX: e3 [ e SF: PROP TENSE: PRES MOOD: INDICATIVE PROG: - PERF: -
  RELS: <
     [proper q rel<0:4>
      LBL: h4
      ARG0: x7 [ x PERS: 3 NUM: SG GEND: M IND: + ]
      RSTR: h6
      BODY: h5]
     [ named rel<0:4>
      LBL: h8
      ARG0: x7
      CARG: "John" ]
     [ " chase v 1 rel"<5:11>
      LBL: h2
      ARG0: e3
      ARG1: x7
      ARG2: x9 [ x PERS: 3 NUM: SG IND: + ] ]
     [ the q rel<12:15>
      LBL: h10
      ARG0: x9
      RSTR: h12
      BODY: h11 ]
     [ "_cat_n_1_rel"<16:19>
      LBL: h13
      ARG0: x9]>
 HCONS: < h1 geg h2 h6 geg h8 h12 geg h13 > ]
```

MRS



#### MRS in CE

the mrs elementary predication #ep0 is an instance of the mrs predicate 'proper\_q\_rel' and has the thing x7 as zeroth argument.

the mrs elementary predication #ep1 is an instance of the mrs predicate 'named\_rel' and has the thing x7 as zeroth argument and has 'John' as c argument.

the mrs elementary predication #ep2 is an instance of the mrs predicate '\_chase\_v\_1\_rel' and has the situation e3 as zeroth argument and has the thing x7 as first argument and has the thing x9 as second argument.

the mrs elementary predication #ep3 is an instance of the mrs predicate '\_the\_q\_rel' and has the thing x9 as zeroth argument.

the mrs elementary predication #ep4 is an instance of the mrs predicate '\_cat\_n\_1\_rel' and has the thing x9 as zeroth argument.



### MRS in Controlled English





### MRS shown in tabular form

#### John chases the cat.

#### MRS elementary predications

+ arguments

the ep #ep0  proper_q_rel					
	has as <u>zeroth</u> argument			x 7	
the ep #ep1  named_rel					
	has as <u>zeroth</u> argument			x 7	
	has as c argument	John			
the ep #ep2  _chase_v_1_rel					
	has as zeroth argument		the situation e	3	
	has as first argument			x 7	
	has as second argument				x
the ep #ep3   <u>the q rel</u>					
	has as zeroth argument				X.
the <u>ep</u> #ep4  _cat_n_1_rel					
	has as zeroth argument				x

Its still CE in tabular form!

things

# Semantics are linguistically "nuanced"

#### The person John chases the cat.



"Apposition" is a linguistic

 May look logical but still related to the language structure

the ep #ep0  appos_rel							
	has as zeroth argument			the situation e4			
	has as first argument						xe
	has as second argument					x5	
the ep #ep1   <u>the_q_rel</u>							
	has as zeroth argument						хe
the ep #ep2  _person_n_1_rel							
	has as zeroth argument						x
the ep #ep3  proper_q_rel							
	has as zeroth argument					x5	
the ep #ep4  named_rel							
	has as zeroth argument					x5	
	has as c argument	John					
the ep #ep5  _chase_v_1_rel							
	has as zeroth argument		the situation e3				
	has as first argument						хe
	has as second argument				x15		
the ep #ep6 <u>the q</u> rel							
	has as zeroth argument				x15		
the <u>ep</u> #ep7  _cat_n_1_rel							
	has as zeroth argument				x15		



- We want to abstract away as much of the linguistic details as possible
- We aim to map to "generic semantics"
  - Situations, roles, containers
- But we still need the extracted facts in terms of the domain concepts
  - People, cats, agents, "works with", etc
- So we must map <u>from</u> "generic semantics" to domain semantics

separation is not always clearcut



### Mapping to generic semantics - 1

### nouns like "cat" express types of things and words like "the" express specific individuals of that class



### Mapping to generic semantics - 2

"verbs like "chase" express situations or states of affairs together with actors that play roles in that situation"





### Mapping into domain semantics

### "situations can be seen as relationships between the actors"





### Processing an NL sentence



"ERG system"



### **ELICIT** identification task

#### 1 The Lion is involved

2 Word has it that an unprotected target is preferred to ensure the likelihood of success (can assume is true)

- 3 The Lion doesn't operate in Chiland
- 4 The Lion attacks in daylight
- 5 The Azure, Brown, Coral, Violet, or Chartreuse groups may be planning an attack
- 6 The Azure and Violet groups use only their own operatives, never employing locals
- 7 The Chartreuse group is not involved
- 8 The Lion is known to work only with the Azure, Brown, or Violet groups
- 9 The Purple or Gold group may be involved
- 10 All of the members of the Azure group are now in custody
- 11 Reports from the Coral group indicate a reorganization
- 12 There is a lot of activity involving the Violet group
- 13 The Brown group is recruiting locals intentions unknown
- 14 The Lion will not risk working with locals
- 15 The Jackal has been seen in Tauland
- 16 Members of the Purple group have been visiting Omegaland
- 17 The Chartreuse group has close ties with local media
- 18 The Azure group has a history of attacking embassies
- 19 The Purple and Gold groups have blood ties
- 20 The Brown group has been known to use IED's
- 21 Only the Coral and Violet groups have a capacity to hit protected targets
- 22 All high value targets belonging to Tauland and Epsilonland are well protected
- 23 The attackers are focusing on a high visibility target
- 24 Caches of explosives have recently been found in Epsilonland, Chiland, and Psiland
- 25 Financial institutions in Tauland, Chiland, and Omegaland were recently attacked there is evidence of more attacks
- 26 Reports that uniforms were stolen in Tauland, Epsilonland and Psiland
- 27 Bloggers are discussing the role of financial institutions in oppressing the Coral, Violet and Chartreuse groups
- 28 Members of the Violet and Chartreuse groups were active in planning protests at a recent financial summit
- 29 Security forces are providing highly visible, around the clock protection to all visiting dignitaries in the region
- 30 Dignitaries in Epsilonland employ private guards
- 31 Tau, Epsilon, Chi, Psi and Omega-lands are providing visible, around the clock protection to their own dignitaries at home
- 32 A new train station is being built in the capital of country Tauland
- 33 Tauland's embassy in Epsilonland has a flat roof
- 34 Until recently most of the dignitaries in Tauland rode in Mercedes
- 35 Dignitaries in Chiland have motorcycle escorts
- 36 Epsilonland's embassy in Tauland has two helicopter pads
- 37 The Azure, Brown, Coral, and Violet groups have the capacity to operate in Tau, Epsilon, Chi, Psi and Omega-lands
- 38 Locals in Tauland, Epsilonland and Omegaland are being recruited
- 39 Countries Chiland, Psiland and Omegaland are taking steps to protect their embassies abroad
- 40 The Brown group members have entered Tauland and Epsilonland
- 41 Reports from Tauland, Chiland and Psiland indicate surveillance ongoing at coalition embassies
- 42 The target is a coalition member embassy, visiting dignitary, or financial institution (Tau, Epsilon, Chi, Psi or Omega-lands)
- 43 No traces of members from the Coral group have been found in countries Psiland or Omegaland
- 44 Chiland is in the process of deploying troops to protect the embassies of coalition partners
- 45 The Azure, Brown, and Coral groups want to attack the interests of Tauland, Epsilonland or Chiland
- 46 The Coral and Violet group operatives have entered Psiland

- 47 All high value targets of Omegaland are well protected 48 There has been an increase in messages intercepted in Psiland 49 The Lion was born in Tauland 50 There is no new information about Brown group operations in Chiland 51 Epsilonland is mountainous 52 Tauland is land locked 53 The attack will be at 11:00 54 The Azure and Brown groups prefer to attack at night 55 The Tauland embassy in Epsilonland is hosting a international conference on the 10th 56 The Chartreuse, Purple and Gold groups are known to attack at any time of the day 57 Attacking buildings when there are many people present increases casualties 58 The Coral, Chartreuse and Purple groups are capable of attacking year round 59 The Lion is planning something in April on the anniversary of his father's death 60 There are fewer attacks in the dead of winter (January thru March) 61 The Violet and Chartreuse groups want to attach the interests of Chiland, Psiland and Omegaland 62 The Violet group is planning something big on the 5th 63 The Violet group prefers to operate in daylight 64 The lion was born in June 65 The Coral group prefers to attack at night 66 The Purple group prefers to attack in daylight 67 The Brown group needs time to regroup
- 68 The Azure group does not attack on its holy days

#### WHO is attacking, WHAT is being attacked, WHEN, WHERE?

Ambiguities, eg "Dignitaries in Epsilonland employ private guards" what does "in" mean?



### Approach to solving the ELICIT task



18



### Examples of domain rules

#### [non\_operational]

```
if
( there is an agent named A that
is a non-operational agent )
then
```

( the agent A is a non-participant ).

# [ cannot\_work\_with ] if ( the agent A cannot work with the agent B ) and ( the agent B works with the agent C ) then ( the agent A cannot work with the agent C ).

#### [ sem\_participant ]

#### if

```
( there is a situation named elicitsituation ) and
```

```
( there is a participant named P )
```

```
then
```

```
( the situation elicitsituation involves the participant P ).
```

[ no\_time\_overlap ]

#### if

( the operative A operates in the time interval TA ) and ( the group B operates in the time interval TB ) and ( the time interval TA does not overlap the time interval TB ) then

( the operative A cannot work with the group B ).

#### [visiting\_dignitary]

```
if
```

( there is a dignitary named D that

 is an official of the country HOMEC and
 is located in the country HOSTC ) and
 ( the country HOMEC # the country HOSTC )
 then

( the dignitary D is visiting the country HOSTC ).



### Generating Facts and Rules

Original	Simplified	CE		
The Lion is involved	The Lion is a participant	there is a participant named Lion.		
The Lion attacks in daylight	The Lion operates in the daytime.	the operative 'Lion' operates in the time interval daytime.		
The Azure, Brown, Coral, Violet, or Chartreuse groups may be planning an attack.	The Azuregroup may be a participant. The Browngroup may be a participant. 	there is a possible participant named Azuregroup. there is a possible participant named Browngroup 		
The Chartreuse group is not involved	The Chartreusegroup is not a participant.	there is a non-participant named Chartreusegroup.		
All of the members of the Azure group are now in custody	The Azuregroup is not operational	there is a non-operational agent named Azuregroup.		
The Brown group is recruiting locals - intentions unknown	The Browngroup is recruiting locals.	the group 'Browngroup' recruits the local agent 'a local agent'.		
The Lion will not risk working with locals	The Lion does not work with locals.	the operative 'Lion' cannot work with the local agent 'a local agent'.		
The Azure and Brown groups prefer to attack at night	The Azuregroup operates in the nighttime. The Browngroup operates in the nighttime.	the group 'Azuregroup' operates in the time interval nighttime. the group 'Browngroup' operates in the time interval nighttime.		

Original	Simplified	CE
The Lion is known to work only with the Azure, Brown, or Violet groups	The Lion only works with the Azuregroup and Browngroup and Violetgroup.	<pre>if   ( there is a agent named Lion ) and   ( the agent A is different to the agent Azuregroup ) and   ( the agent A is different to the agent Browngroup ) and   ( the agent A is different to the agent Violetgroup )   then   ( the agent Lion cannot work with the agent A ).</pre>



### "The Lion is a participant" - rules

the ep #ep0 _the_q_rel				if		the exect line has literal ex
	has as zeroth argument	<b>x</b> 7		( the mrs e has the	elementary predication P thing T as first argument ) and	common name and
the ep#ep1 named_rel				( there is a	an mrs elementary predication NP that	is a reference entity.
	has as zeroth argument	<b>x</b> 7		is an ins has the	stance of the mrs predicate 'named_rel' a thing T as first argument and	nd
	has as c argument Lic	on		has the	value C as c argument ) and	Match
the ep #ep2_be_v_id_rel				( there is a	a reference entity named REF that	arguments
	has as zeroth argument		the situation e3	has the v then	value C as common name )	entities
	has as first argument	x7		( the mrs e	elementary predication P	
	has as second argument		<mark>x9</mark>	has the	reference entity REF as first domain argu	ment ).
the ep #ep3[_a_q_rel						
	has as zeroth argument		<mark>x9</mark>		the mrs elementary predication #ep2 h	as the agent Lion
the ep #ep4_participant_n_1_rel	1				as first domain argument	
	has as zeroth argument		<mark>x9</mark>			
				$\perp$ if ( the mr	s elementary predication EP	
				is an ir	nstance of the mrs predicate '_be_v_i	d_rel' and
[mrs_normal_situat	tion 1			has th	e normal situation S as zeroth domair	argument and
if				has th	e thing SUBJ as first domain argumen	<u>t and</u>
( there is an mrs ele	ementary predication nam	ned P th	nat	has th	e thing PRED as second domain argun	nent ) and
has the situation S	S as zeroth domain argum	ent) and	d	( the mr	rs elementary predication EP1	
( it is false that the	mrs elementary predicati	ion P		is an ir	nstance of the mrs predicate '_a_q_re	I' and "he a XXX"
is a marked ele	ementary predication )			has th	e thing PRED as zeroth domain argum	lent) and
then				( the mr	rs elementary predication EP2	
( the situation S is a	normal situation ).			is an ir	nstance of the mrs predicate CATEGO	RY and
				has th	e thing PRED as zeroth domain argum	ent ) and
Identify a				🚽 🤇 ( the mr	rs predicate CATEGORY expresses the	entity concept EC )
normal				then		, , ,
situation				( the thi	ing SUBJ realises the entity concept EC	2).
				(	<b>1</b>	
the mrs predicate	' narticinant n 1 re	evor	esses	the	agent Lion realises the entity con	cent narticinant
the entity concent	participant'	capi		circ		
					•	
					there is a participant named Lior	n.

### "The Lion is a participant" - abstract



### "The Azuregroup may be a participant" - abstract





### **Extracting Rules**

### "sentences using "only" seem to express rules"



### Generalising rules with meta-logic





## "only" information flow

The Lion only worked with the Azuregroup and the Browngroup.





### Identification

# • WHO

### the attack situation elicitsituation involves the operative Lion and involves the group VioletGroup.



# Summary of Reasoning





# Summary of Reasoning





## Some linguistic questions

- "The Coralgroup is a non participant" seems to describe a negative situation
  - is that a situation or isn't it?
- "The Lion only works with the Azuregroup" seems to describe a rule (of habitual behaviour)
  - How does the rule relate to the basic propositional content?
- "The daytime" has a strange semantics
  - is it a thing, a class of things?
  - why cant you say "a daytime"
- Do the following refer to the same thing?
  - The Browngroup is recruiting locals.
  - The Lion does not work with locals.
  - Yes and No!
    - Yes: they mean the same generic idea of "locals"
    - Therefore the Browngroup and the Lion cant work together
    - No: in general, one set of "locals" may not be the same as another set.

These questions, and others, lead to theoretical discussions!

Using CE we can describe the possible approaches



- Word Sense Disambiguation
  - Assume a word sense.
  - Infer consequences and use domain knowledge to rule out impossible situations
  - Would like to use Wordnet, Verbnet, Wikipedia?
- Sentence interpretations
  - Record any "simplifying assumptions" when translating sentences
  - Track through the rationale to show user
- Uncertainty in NL expressions, eg "is thought to"
  - Convert the basic sentence to propositions
  - Label the specific expressions with assumptions
  - Track through rationale and show users

Main focus for future work



### Resolving the "tank" ambiguity

#### the engineer drove the tank





- How do we avoid the "1-rule-per-sentence" trap?
  - Systematic handling of all linguistic phenomena via the MRS test suite
  - Generalise as much as possible
    - Build intermediate structures, eg compounds, sets
    - Use meta-modelling to turn specific rules to general rules
- How do we make the reasoning more intelligible
  - Design reasoning in small steps using "stepping stone" concepts
  - Provide more abstract "reasoning engines" with CE sentences to configure
  - Be able to explain all of the logical inferences
  - Present the reasoning in a coherent order
    - Storytelling?



- I seem to be doing a lot of work in turning MRS into domain semantics.
  - Is this really necessary?



### Thank You!