
Knowledge Representation for Reconfigurable Automation Systems

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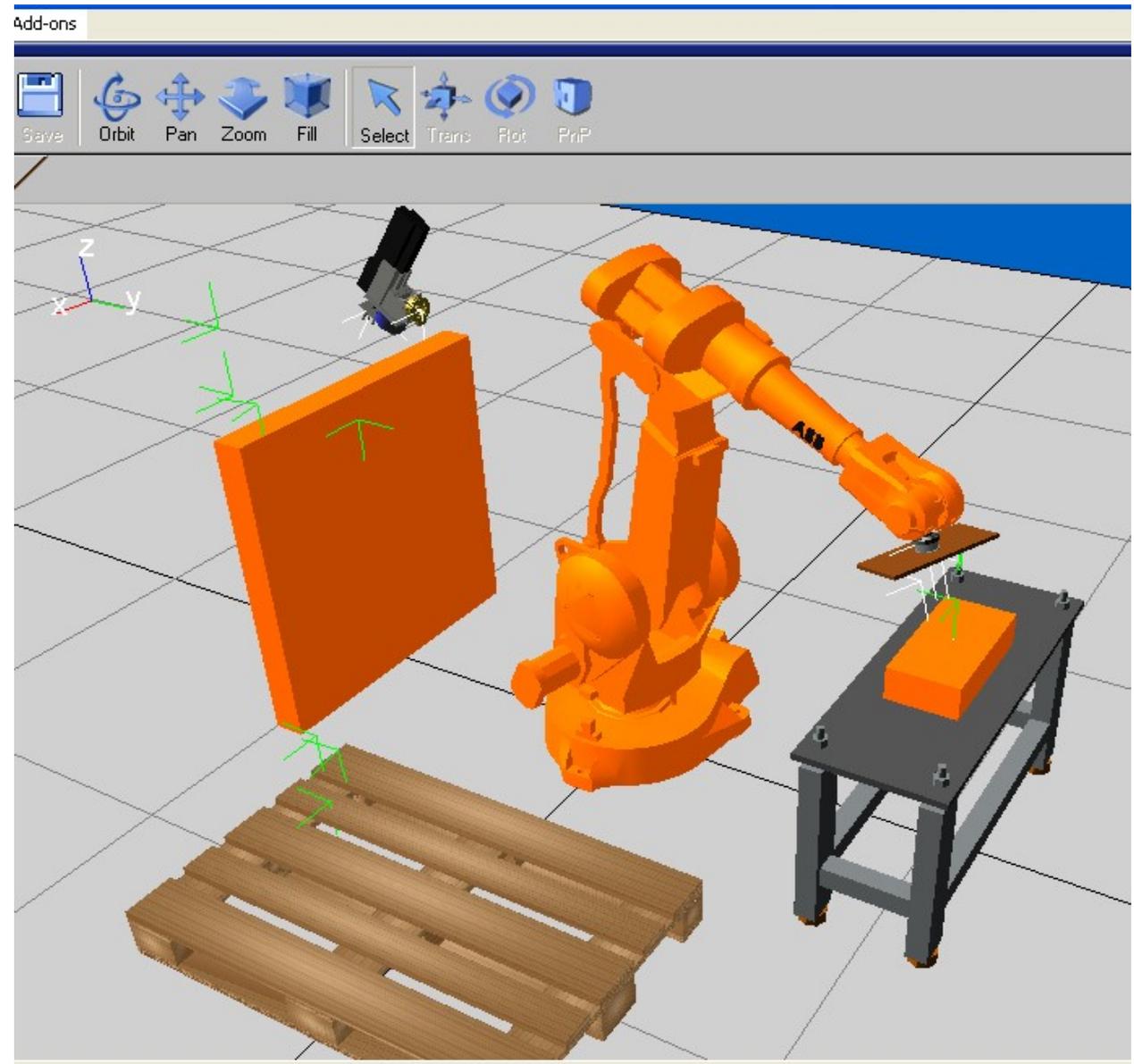
>> SIARAS >>

SIARAS

SIARAS: Skill-Based Inspection and Assembly for Reconfigurable Automation Systems.

Problem: given an existing, feasible task description, change some constraint (e.g., workpiece geometry, or gripping tool, or a quality criterion), and find out whether a reconfiguration is possible, together with a new parametrisation of devices.

Example to the right taken from a simulation of a drilling scenario: simulation tool used here is 3DCreate.



Drag mouse to Zoom 3D World
Click or drag to select components; hold shift+ctrl to toggle select.

Focus of the project: robot-based automation systems

- Sensor-rich environment

including intelligent vision sensors, smart cameras, triangulation sensors, ...

- Robots equipped with exchangeable tools

like grippers, drills, welding guns, ...

- Question: **How to reconfigure** when requirements change?

What knowledge is needed for such analysis?

Knowledge required

In order to speak about (semi)automatic reconfiguration of a production line, one needs knowledge about:

- Tasks actually performed vs. tasks potentially executable
- Devices actually used vs. devices available
- Skills actually exploited vs. skills offered by the devices
- Scheduled operations and their interdependencies
- Configurations used vs. available configurations
- Quality measures and their applicability

Reasoning in AI approaches

In classical AI planning approach, knowledge is usually hand-coded and hardcoded, typically in a logical formalism with a well defined semantics.

However, such model-theoretical semantics is normally too weak to enable efficient reasoning about the system, in particular, to perform effective reconfiguration of a complex, sensor-rich assembly line of today.

We need much more knowledge about the domain, with models at different levels of granularity, in order to perform in acceptable manner. These models have to be related to each other in a clear, understandable fashion.

Reasoning in SIARAS

- Simple database/ontology-like querying (Pellet, Racer, SQL)
- Generic reasoning (constraint satisfaction, logic programming)
- Generic optimisation (linear programming, genetic algorithms)
- Domain-specific reasoning (plug-in modules, so called Utility Functions)
- External tools (modelling, simulation, visualisation)

The *skill server* coordinates all these listed above.

Ontology

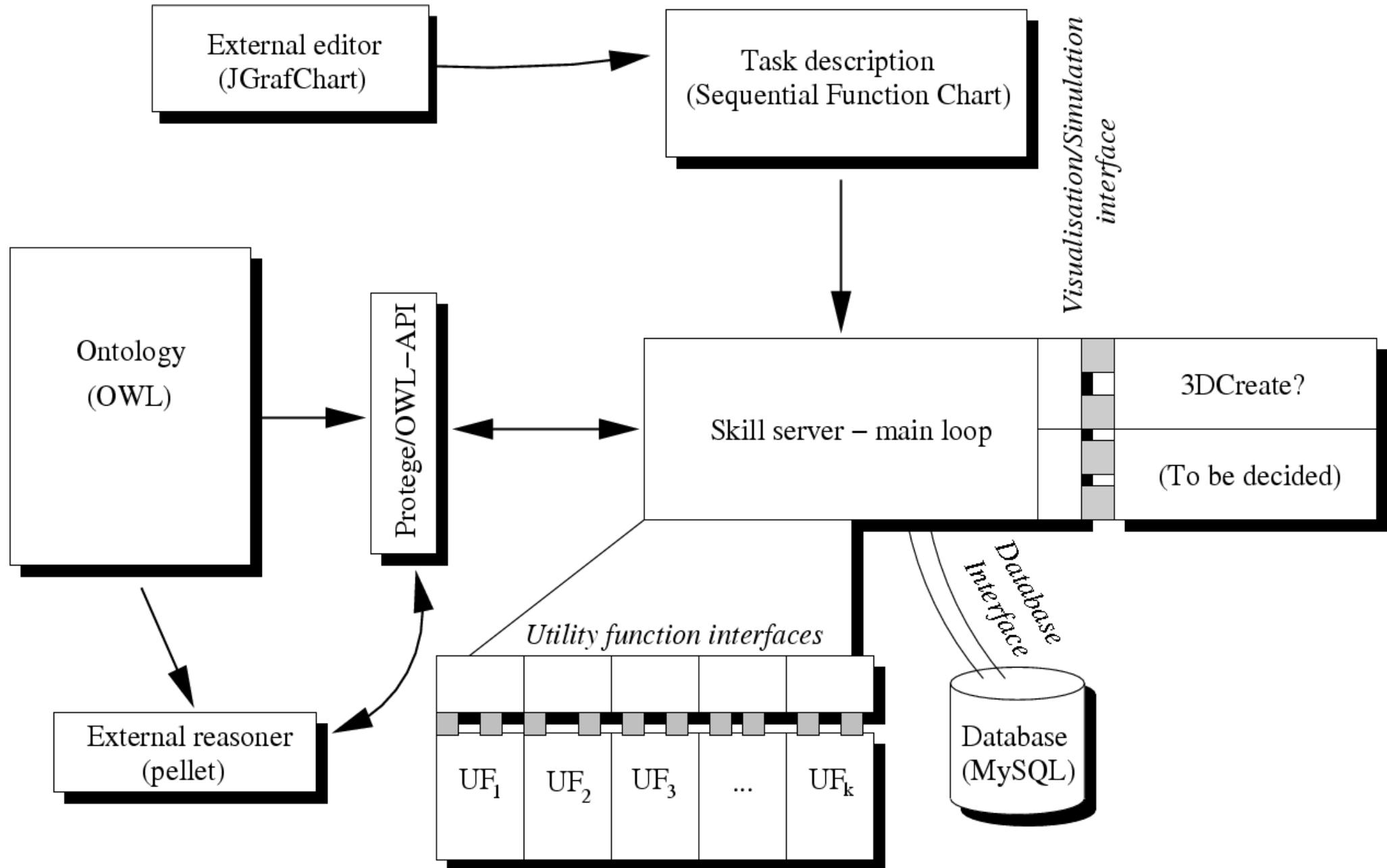
The screenshot displays the Protégé 3.2 ontology editor interface. The title bar shows the file path: `ontology Protégé 3.2 (file:/Users/jacek/Documents/EU/SIARAS/SkillServer/owl/ontology.pprj, OWL / RDF Files)`. The interface is divided into several main panels:

- CLASS BROWSER:** Shows the class hierarchy for the project 'ontology'. The hierarchy is as follows:
 - owl:Thing
 - Object
 - Device
 - ManipulationAndHandling
 - Gripper
 - FingerGripper
 - MagnetGripper
 - PincerGripper
 - AngleGripper (1)
 - ParallelGripper
 - VacuumGripper (4)**
 - Robot
 - Manufacturing (1)
 - Sensor
 - Workpiece
- ObjectBase
- Operation
- Property
- Skill
- Task

- INSTANCE BROWSER:** Shows instances for the class 'VacuumGripper'. It is divided into 'Asserted' and 'Inferred' sections. The 'Asserted Instances' list includes:
- IPA_AMMS_SimpleGripper-2DOF
- Schmalz_FSGA_20_SI-55_M5-AG
- Schmalz_FSGPL_200_NBR-55_G1-2-IG
- VacuumGripper_SIARAS
- Asserted Types:** Shows 'VacuumGripper' as an asserted type.
- INDIVIDUAL EDITOR:** Shows the editor for the individual 'IPA_AMMS_SimpleGripper-2DOF' (instance of VacuumGripper). It features a table for annotations and several property editors:
- Annotations Table:**

Property	Value	Lang
rdfs:comm...	2DOF-Gripper of the IPA AMMS Demonstrator.	
- hasAssembly:** Empty editor.
- hasProperty:** Lists properties: BusInterface_FastEthernet, MaxVoltageSupply_24, MaxAmbientTemperature_40, MinAmbientTemperature_0, DegreesOfFreedom_2.
- hasSkill:** Lists skills: IPA_AMMS_MoveUp, IPA_AMMS_MoveDown, IPA_AMMS_MoveFront, AMMS_IPA_PLACE_2DOF, AMMS_IPA_PICK_2DOF, IPA_AMMS_MoveBack.
- hasGeometry:** Empty editor.
- hasReference:** Empty editor.
- isDeviceOf:** Empty editor.
- hasIdentifier:** Lists identifier: ID_IPA_AMMS_SimpleGripper-2.

Usage of available semantic information



Multiple levels of abstraction

Utility level	Show human/machine	Eval check/quality	Find all/any/best	Tune disc/cont optim.	Make device config
ONT Ontology reasoning	Protege graphics	Protégé	Protégé & Pellet		
FOL First Order Logic	Formal text	Skill-Server Core	Skill-Server Core		
CLP Constraint & Lin ear Prog.	Standard graphics	Skill-Server Core	JaCoP	Simplex, etc.	Generation of native configuration files and device software
DES Discrete Event Systems	3D Visualize, J3D, etc.	3D Create	Rinas	Domain- specific know-how/rules	
DAE Diff. Algebraic Equation	Standard graphics	Modelica	Optimica (global)	Optimica (local)	

Conclusions

Semantic information is necessary to perform complex reconfiguration of sensor-rich, robot-based automation systems.

Large portion of this knowledge is declarative:

- Skill definitions (in ontology),
- Device descriptions (partly in ontology),
- Geometric models,
- Dynamic, behavioural models,
- Information-flow models,
- Simulation modules, ...

Some part needs to be procedural in order to achieve effectiveness.

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