Soar Usage Outside the USA.

A. Kalus

University of Portsmouth

England

UK

tony.kalus@port.ac.uk

University of Portsmouth

The Soar Mailing Lists

❑ **13 people on the EURO-SOAR mailing list.**

❑ **95 people on the Soar-Group mailing list.**

Breakdown

❑ 56 definite non-US people on this list. (38)   (Last year's numbers in brackets)

  ○ **11 x UK (13)**

  ○ **5 x Canada (4), Netherlands (6)**

  ○ **4 x Japan (4), France (4), Germany (4)**

  ○ **3 x Australia (2)**

  ○ **2 x Poland, South Korea, Sweden, Argentina, Brazil.**

  ○ **1 x Kuwait, Thailand, Switzerland, Romania, Italy, Finland, Belgium,Mexico, Israel, Singapore.**

Replies to Questionnaire

❑ 11 replies received from a short questionnaire sent out to both lists.

  ○ 4 from the UK, (including me & postdoc)

  ○ 3 from the Netherlands,

  ○ 1 each from Australia, Brazil, Romania, Switzerland.

What Are People Using?

❑ Hardware
- ○ Sun Solaris
- ○ PCs, Macs, Notebooks

❑ OS
- ○ Solaris, NT, Win95, Linux, Digital Unix, MacOs

❑ Soar versions
- ○ Soar 6.2.3, Soar 7.0.4, Soar 7.2, MacSoar 7.0.5, Lisp (Jans)

Who's Doing What?

❑ **Technical University Delft - Jans Aasman**

    ❍ User modelling for 20 in-house products & related empirical research.

❑ **Leiden University Medical Centre - Ernst Bovenkamp**

    ❍ Automatic classification of tissue & vessel boundaries echo images.

    ❍ Soar used as an expert system for:

        ❍ image processing,

        ❍ image interpretation.

Who's Doing What?

❑ **University of Sydney - Gourabmoy Nath**

   ❍ Soar in architectural design:

      ❍ mapping situated learning to chunking,

      ❍ learning mapping between design context and existing design knowledge.

❑ **Rijksuniversiteit Groningen - Hans van den Broek**

   ❍ Multi-actor models of organisation.

      ❍ Proposes a cognitive approach to actor modelling and uses Soar for the actor implementation.

Who's Doing What?

❑ **University of Nottingham - Frank Ritter**

  ❍ Teaching Soar in a final year module,

  ❍ Job Shop scheduling (with Krems & Nerb),

  ❍ Able III published as a book chapter with Randy's subtraction model,

  ❍ Soar tutorials taught at conferences.
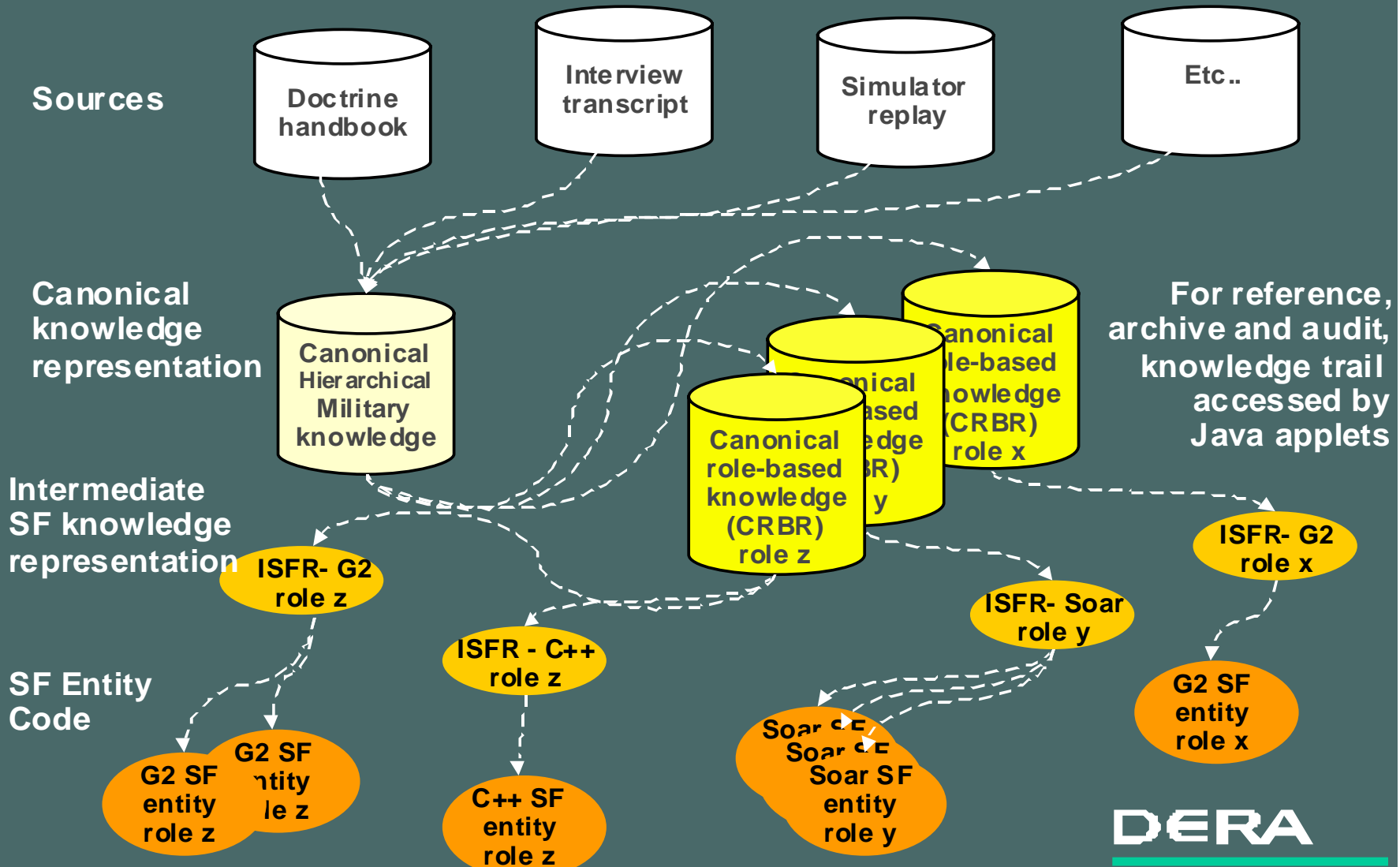
Who's Doing What?

❑ University of Portsmouth - Tony Kalus & Tony Hirst (T^2)

  ❍ Modifying TacAir to use UK tactics (DERA),

  ❍ Introduction of fatigue into TacAir pilot models,

  ❍ Using and extending Milind's teamwork model,

  ❍ FIPA ACL for Soar agents,

  ❍ ViSoar - 'Visual' Programming Environment - more later!

Who's Doing What?

❑ University of Portsmouth (continued)

   ❍ **Reducing the Cost of Acquiring Behaviours - RCAB Project (DERA)**

      ❍ Similar to DARPA's KSE/KIF/HPKB/ontology work, but on a smaller scale.

      ❍ Using Soar as one of the 'end-user' agent architectures.

RCAB - From knowledge source to SF entity

Sources

Doctrine handbook

Interview transcript

Simulator replay

Etc..

Canonical knowledge representation

Canonical Hierarchical Military knowledge

Canonical role-based knowledge (CRBR) role z

Canonical role-based knowledge (CRBR) role y

Canonical role-based knowledge (CRBR) role x

For reference, archive and audit, knowledge trail accessed by Java applets

Intermediate SF knowledge representation

ISFR- G2 role z

ISFR - C++ role z

ISFR- Soar role y

ISFR- G2 role x

SF Entity Code

G2 SF entity role z

G2 SF entity role z

C++ SF entity role z

Soar SF Soar SF Soar SF entity role y

G2 SF entity role x

DERA

11

Who Might Use Soar?

❑ Marcelo Cunha Santos - Brazil.

   ❍ Starting PhD in Cognitive Science - intends to use Soar for this.

❑ Horia-Emil Popa - Romania.

Who's Not Using Soar?

❑ University of Hertfordshire, UK.-
Richard Young
  ○ No funding
  ○ Looking at ACT-R.

Who's Not Using Soar?

❑ University of Zurich - Thomas Rothenfluh (Dept of Psychology)

  ❍ Uses Soar for instruction & classroom demos, but has moved to ACT-R for practical simulations.

WHY?

  ❍ ACT easier to integrate into other projects

  ❍ Requires less 'programming'

  ❍ Allows better and quicker focus on issues under study.

Who's Not Using Soar?

WHY (continued)

○ ACT has better supporting material that appeals to psychology students & researchers

○ Initial setup and new scripting environment better geared towards experimentation and is more transparent

○ ACT community in Europe is active - allows for better help within Europe.

What Attracted Newcomers to Soar?

❑ General philosophy

❑ Availability of source code

❑ Manuals & tutorials

❑ Software is free of commercial rights

❑ Ongoing research

❑ Proven technology

❑ Soar help & mailing lists for questions

❑ Availability of chunking mechanism

What Would Make Soar More Attractive?

❑ More Examples!!!
  - both generally and
  - on 'advanced' topics - SCA, recovery from incorrect knowledge, use of default knowledge, abstraction, data chunking, core communications for a simple MAS, more on MAS generally.
  - More library rulesets.
  - More help on (C/C++) interfacing issues.
  - A Windows (not Tcl/Tk) interface.

Other Comments

❑ Still hard to use!!

❑ Writing good Soar programs has proved more difficult than expected!!!

❑ Is anyone doing psychological work with Soar anymore??