LAC Guide, Meeting 1, Mauritzberg, Sweden

Contribution to minutes: Session on Examples, Monday 4th, September 1995, 4.00pm, Jim Cunningham in the chair.
To place it in context, the purpose of this session was to agree what would go in the Guide on Examples, how it would be organised, and who would do it.

Based on some earlier remarks, the chairman started by suggesting a course division into *a*) small, and *b*) large examples.

Erik directed attention to the "K" index in the notes for the meeting where there was a list of seven small representative examples from his book. A sample description of the Yale shooting Scenario and a formalisation of it in the Chronicle language of the book appeared under the "R" index (Bibliography samples).

It seemed to be agreed that the purpose of the example section includes:

i pedagodic use as tutorials

ii a classification of problems

iii a collection for validating new methods

The ensueing discussion focused on

i the problem aspect illustrated by each small example (I take it that Erik's book records this for a section author)

ii which problem features and examples were missing (see below)

iii debate about what how some particular featurs should be classified

Examples and problem features which were not on Erik's list included:

i The shower example (non-minimal models?)

ii The stolen car example (surprises)

iii The potato in the tail pipe (??)

iv Problems on belief revision / updates (Camilla to suggest)

v Problems of concurrency (Bertram to suggest)

vi Problems of large systems (Jim's Medlar example/s?)

While the examples "section" could be most simply compiled as a collection "indexed" by example, there was considerable discussion on the appropriate component structure for each examples. The resolution seems to have been:

i informal natural language description

ii "epistemic" assumptions (no surprises, etc.), including intended conclusion,

iii original and key references

iv canonical formalisation in the guide chronicle language (including formalisation of intended conclusion)

v alternative formalisations

vi future comentary on these formalisations

No-one present felt able to commit to authoring work in this area in the forseeable future. Antonio and Erik may throw more light on the examples as a result of working to the Chronicle language. (Both should be interrogated by any eventual author/editor for examples).