ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON
REASONING ABOUT ACTIONS AND CHANGE

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Today

Today, a question by François Lévy to the ETAI submitted article by Kakas and Miller.

ETAI Publications

Discussion about received articles

Additional contributions have been received for the discussions about the following article(s). For the full context, please refer to the on-line structure which contains one article interaction page with the entire discussion for each article.

Reasoning about Actions, Narratives and Ramification

by Antonis Kakas and Rob Miller

Dear Antonis and Rob

Here are two late questions about your paper.

First, according to your view of ramifications, fluents can be initiated/terminated in two ways: either when an event occurs, or due to changing fluents in a constraint. The formal difference is that a fluent changing its value is not by itself an event. Do you consider it to rely on an ontological difference – i.e. in the process of modeling the real world, two kinds of objects of different nature have to be considered : events on the one side, (instantly) changing fluents on the other one. Or do you consider both similar, and make a difference on a purely technical ground (trigered events don't work to render this if the time line is dense)?

Second, as far as I understand, your predicate 'Whenever' embeds both a domain constraint and a notion of influence, in Michael Thielscher's sense in his AI97 paper. The domain constraint is what you call the static view – i.e. 'Whenever' being replaced by a material implication. The influence information is: in the formula L $\mathsf{Whenever}$ C, only L can be initiated, so one domain constraint yields as many 'Whenever' formulas as fluents can be influenced in it. But Thielscher's Influence predicate is binary, and of course his cause –> effect propagation is a different technique. I tried shortly some example, and couldn't find a difference in the flow of causality. Do you agree with these remarks? And do you believe that some formal correspondence could be established between your two formalisms?

Best Regards

François

in alternative typography. Instruction for contributors and other additional information is found at the following URL:

`http://www.ida.liu.se/ext/etai/actions/njl/`