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A Survey on Chronicles and other Behavior Detection Techniques

Until recently, the processing of a rapidly changing dataflow used to be very costly in terms of computation duration. Thus, the extraction of semantic information, requiring complex correlations of events in a temporal pattern, was not possible in real time. Computer performance has sufficiently improved to now allow such processing to take place, with, obviously, a very broad range of interesting applications. Various underlying formal frameworks exist to perform this kind of analysis, and this paper is aimed at reviewing the various (families of) such formalisms, and at comparing them according to a series of general features. It also provides a detailed example of the kind of analysis that can be performed with these formalisms in aeronautics, where the recent evolution of air traffic management, the potential introduction of unmanned aircraft in general air traffic, and various other recent trends form a general context pointing toward a much wider use of dataflow exchanges.

Introduction

Over the past years, the handling of rapidly changing dataflows at a semantic level has attracted a lot of interest. Indeed, while the semantic processing of a large, fast-pace flow of data used to be too costly in terms of computation, thus obliging to a choice between online syntactic processing and offline semantic processing, computer performance now allows semantic information to be extracted on-the-fly from a large dataflow.

This is, of course, a quite interesting feature in a very broad spectrum of fields, as is evidenced by many recent applications of artificial intelligence. Aeronautics is a particularly interesting field for these dataflow extraction techniques: indeed, while exchanges between pilots and control used to rely mostly on radio, nowadays a large flow of data is exchanged between them. The potential introduction of unmanned aircraft and the recent evolution of air traffic management also point toward a large flow of data exchanges, to which agents of the system have partial access (each having different sensors to track the underlying events), and the introduction of reasoning and semantic processing of these events is a valuable assistance for the pilots and controllers involved.

Traditionally, information extraction from dataflows has been roughly classified into two families of approaches:

- on the one hand, *information flow processing* (IFP): these approaches focus on efficiently handling dataflows by treating incoming information on the fly and providing extracted information in real time;
- on the other hand, *knowledge representation and reasoning* (KRR): these approaches focus on complex reasoning abilities, but perform well mostly on data that changes in low volumes at low frequency.

Stream Reasoning is a multidisciplinary approach to this issue, which encompasses both families and is aimed at combining their respective benefits by enabling complex reasoning about rapidly-changing information flows.

Knowledge-representation and reasoning approaches are based on temporal logic, belief revision, changing vocabularies and evolving ontologies. They find lots of applications within the context of the Semantic Web and allow very complex reasoning tasks. However, there are two drawbacks with regard to these for handling rapidly-changing dataflows. First, the tools involved generally rely on strong combinatorics, and are often not able to scale up to high-frequency dataflows. Second, typical Semantic Web architectures generally

crawl and cache information, which is not a robust approach in the case of high-frequency dataflows, since the crawled and cached information would become obsolete too quickly.

Information flow processing is rooted in the so-called Data Stream Management Systems (DSMS), which historically stem from Data Base Management Systems (DBMS). As their name indicates, DBMS are intended to manage databases; i.e., persistent data, where updates are infrequent and where information is extracted through user-made queries. DSMS try to accommodate, within this transient framework, continuously updating data: instead of handling queries that are run just once and of returning a comprehensive answer, DSMS continuously run *standing queries* and return partial answers that are updated on the fly as new data arrives.

Even if they do not seem to have much in common (DBMS handle persistent data by executing ad-hoc queries just once, while DSMS handle transient data by continuously running generic queries), both approaches share a common background and, in particular, process data through transformations based on a relational algebra (e.g., selection, aggregation, joining, etc.). Thus, DSMS can be described, in general, as having very good performance in terms of efficiency, but a rather limited expressivity.

To overcome this limitation, other approaches have been developed in various communities, in which a notion of "distributed system" existed. These approaches have a common characteristic, which is that they consider incoming information in the dataflow not *per se*, but rather as a notification of events occurring in the real world, and are aimed at reconstructing the higher-level behavior of which these events are a trace, mostly through filtering and combinations. In this sense, they are pretty much inspired by the publish-subscribe model that is commonly found in distributed systems: on top of the usual publish-subscribe system, where events are considered separately from the others, they build a more expressive subscription language that allows complex event patterns involving (much) more than one event to be considered. These approaches are referred to by the generic designation of *complex event processing* (CEP). While traditionally classified as part of the IFP family, some CEP techniques have reached reasoning abilities that are comparable to some KRR approaches.

CEP techniques, due to the variety of applications and associated specific needs, exist in a broad variety. This paper is aimed at comparing several CEP frameworks, namely:

- Event Calculus: an approach based on situation calculus, but dealing with local rather than global events;
- ETALIS: an approach based on logical programming and aimed at combining temporal properties with database querying;
- Chronicles: a generic term encompassing various systems based on event signatures;
- Other approaches that are not strictly CEP, but rather based on active databases, DSMS, or KRR.

This paper is organized as follows. First of all, we describe the various important features that can be used to distinguish the various formal frameworks that exist in the CEP community. Then, we discuss the compared merits of the techniques (or technique families) described above, according to these features. We then illustrate the interest of the approach within an aeronautic context, considering an example. Finally, we conclude this survey by providing a brief overview of the various domains where CEP-related techniques have been used with success.

Important features

As stated above, there are many different approaches to stream reasoning and they fulfil the various needs of a broad variety of applications. This section lists the various features that can be used as distinctive criteria for different stream-reasoning approaches.

Language-related features

Any stream-reasoning technique relies upon a formal language that is used to describe the behaviors to be identified. As is frequently the case, expressivity generally results from a trade-off:

- on the one hand, high expressivity is desirable in order to be able to finely describe the behaviors to be detected, and to distinguish behaviors that have very similar traces in terms of observable events;
- on the other hand, higher expressivity inevitably implies a more complex recognition process, and thus less-efficient computation.

In [33] (Section 3.8), Cugola and Margara list operators that are commonly found in the constructs of most CEP frameworks, notably:

- Sequence: two patterns following each other, generally with the sole condition that the first pattern must have been completely recognized before the recognition of the second one starts (some frameworks add that the ending point of the first one must coincide strictly with the starting point of the second one);
- Disjunction: either one of two patterns must be present; when dealing with a rich event (with valued attributes), this can lead to complications because, unless both patterns in the disjunction contain the same event attributes, it may no longer be possible to reason about these attributes;
- Conjunction: it is worth noting that the conjunction cannot be reduced with the two previous operators, since when the elements of conjunction are not elementary events, but rather involve more than one event, conjunction allows intertwined behavior which sequences do not;
- Iteration, which can be parameterized by the number of iterations (which is a parameter relating to the structure of the behavior);
- Negation: this operator is generally tricky when dealing with a flow of information. Indeed, there has to be some form of boundary on the part of the flow, in which a negation must be detected in order to be able to yield effective detections. Otherwise, there will always be a possibility that a later event may trigger the recognition of the negated behavior, and hence invalidate the recognition of its negation. Therefore, many authors prefer to refer to *absence* (implicitly on a bounded support) rather than negation;
- Temporal constraints: while many other temporal logics allow interval properties (e.g., Duration Calculus in [26]) to be expressed, the formalism of Allen's 13 relations [1] is a generally accepted reference in the domain of CEP (see [5, 51, 69]), since it exhaustively considers all possible arrangements between two time intervals;
- Parameter value constraints: the parameters here are parameters of elementary events or of higher-order behaviors.

In addition to the extent to which each of these operators can be expressed, another trait related to the underlying language is the question of whether an open or closed syntax should be used; i.e., whether to allow meaningless formulae or not.

Besides expressivity, an important not-unrelated issue in stream reasoning is how behaviors to be detected can be extracted from experts having an operational knowledge of the behaviors of interest. Within this context, a concise and readable language, where syntactical changes are easily associated with their semantics, is clearly desirable, but again there is a trade-off here, since a very-high readability could lead to an extreme oversimplification of the language, and thus to reduced expressivity.

Recognition-related features

The amount of information contained in recognition is also an important feature, as since recognitions are, in principle, done with a purpose, which implies processing that may require being able to return to the triggering events in the flow. In this sense, recognition information can constitute *evidence* of the recognition, and the nature of this evidence may depend on the application: for example, in some applications, one may be only interested in knowing that the behavior of interest occurred at least once. In other applications, e.g., telecommunication network monitoring [40], a single occurrence of a given behavior is generally not significant, whereas its repetition is. When dealing with security and safety, it is generally necessary to investigate all instances of hazardous behaviors, and not just any. However, another trade-off arises, since the identification of multiple recognitions requires keeping track of all possible recognition starts, and of all intermediate recognitions, thus having an adverse effect with regard to the efficiency of the recognition.

Thus, two main issues arise with regard to recognition: historization and multiplicity.

As explained above, historization is a feature where events are considered as a trace of the behaviors that have been recognized, and recognitions contain the necessary information to return to the events that triggered it.

As to multiplicity, a classification of recognition contexts with respect to this issue has been proposed in [33]:

- The "recent" context: only the most recent occurrence of an event initiating a recognition is kept (each pattern to be recognized is associated with a unique instance of its initiating event at any point during the processing of the flow);
- The "chronicle" context: occurrences are managed in a FIFO way, with the oldest occurrences being used first and discarded as soon as they have been used;
- The "cumulative" context: all event occurrences are stored but, whenever a pattern is recognized, all event occurrences involved are discarded;
- The "continuous" context: all events are stored and can always be used.

Flow-related features

An important feature of any stream-reasoning framework is the way in which it deals with the event flow, and, indeed, which assumptions it makes with regard to it, which determine what kinds of flows it is able to handle. An ideal flow would be a unique flow, totally and strictly ordered: while this kind of flow would probably be handled effectively by most recognition algorithms, it may be possible, depending on the context of the study, to consider other kinds of flows, and notably:

- Distributed flows: the flow may not be centralized, but rather be made of several distributed subflows – in this case, the ordering between events provided by different subflows could be a

problem for behavior patterns depending on event order (e.g., sequence), especially if they are not timestamped by a synchronous clock;

- Partially-ordered flows: events in the flow are not totally ordered, which is a generalization of the previous case and leads to the same problems;
- Non-strictly ordered flows: events may arise simultaneously; this is a case that may have unexpected side-effects in situations where event order is important for the behavior;
- Delayed flow: events may arise late, or their occurrence date may be corrected *a posteriori* (which happens, e.g., in cases where events may be revised following the failure of a transaction) – in general, the date on which the event occurs differs from the date on which it is entered into the reasoning system, which requires specific mechanisms to handle events properly.

In addition, another important aspect of the flow is the time model that it uses. Time is generally linear, but can be discrete, either with a fixed pace or with variable granularity, or continuous. The time model may also not exist: this is the case in most DSMS, where there is no time model and events are considered only with an order – but this has, of course, a negative impact on the expressivity of the language.

Uncertainty-related features

In real cases, lots of uncertainties appear naturally:

- With regard to event dates (or order);
- With regard to event attributes;
- With regard to the events themselves (whether they really occurred or not);
- With regard to behavior parameters;
- With regard to behavior structures.

Depending on the uncertainties considered, specific mechanisms have to be considered, either in the description language or in the recognition algorithm itself.

Self-reference features

Recognitions can be self-referent and create events at various points of the recognition process. The most frequent occurrence of this feature is when the recognition of a behavior triggers a new event that is added to the flow. This yields many issues, since such systems are intrusive: in particular, the flow depends on the monitored activities. In extreme cases, recognitions may also have an effect on the monitored activities, where new activities to be recognized are dynamically added into the flow, leading to a retroaction loop that is difficult to manage, both theoretically and practically.

Event Calculus

Event Calculus (EC) is a formal framework allowing events and actions to be represented and reasoned upon in the form of an executable logical program. It is aimed at determining time-evolved values for logical propositions (the so-called *fluents*).

EC was introduced by Kowalski and Sergot in [50]. Its name is derived from Situation Calculus; the difference between these two frameworks being that it deals with local, rather than global, events:

the purpose of this change is to avoid the frame problem for the sake of efficiency. EC claims to provide a formal analysis of the concepts involved; i.e., events and actions. It can be expressed using Horn clauses, to which, consistently with the logical programming foundation of the approach, a notion of negation by failure is added (thus introducing a closed-world assumption).

The founding principles of EC are the following:

- Events can be processed in any order, not necessarily in relationship with their order of occurrence, since the past and future are considered symmetrically;
- Events can be concurrent and are not necessarily punctual (an elementary event can have a duration);
- Updates are possible, but only if they are additive: they can add information but never remove information;
- The dates of events are not particularly relevant, whereas their relative order is.

Many EC dialects exist, some of which allow the handling of delayed actions or continuous state changes, such as, e.g. [58, 57], an interval-based work built with reaction rules; these approaches are catalogued in [54].

An interesting modular approach can be found in the EC dialect developed by Artikis et al.: this dialect allows a low-level event to be composed into high-level complex behaviors, using the predicates found in Table 1 to express temporal constraints, with an underlying linear time model. These predicates are defined relying upon axioms, some of which may be independent from the application domain. The formalism is quite expressive, and allows constraints, whether temporal or not, to be expressed and contains a form of absence, in the form of a situation where a given behavior must not occur within a certain time interval [9]. High-level behaviors can be defined using punctual events (through predicate `happensAt`) or fluents, initially using predicates such as `initiatedAt`, `holdsFor`, etc.

Predicate	Intuitive meaning
<code>happensAt(E, T)</code>	Event E occurs at time T .
<code>initially(F = V)</code>	Fluent F has value V at time 0.
<code>holdsAt(F = V, T)</code>	Fluent F has value V at time T .
<code>holdsFor(F = V, I)</code>	I is the list of all maximum time intervals over which F has value V .
<code>initiatedAt(F = V, T)</code>	A time interval where F has value V starts at time T .
<code>terminatedAt(F = V, T)</code>	A time interval where F has value V ends at time T .
<code>union_all(L, I)</code>	I is the list of all maximum time intervals resulting from the union of all intervals in List L .
<code>intersect_all(L, I)</code>	I is the list of all maximum time intervals resulting from the intersection of all intervals in List L .
<code>relative_complement_all(I', L, I)</code>	I is list of maximum time intervals minus each set of intervals in List L .

Table 1 - Main predicates of Event Calculus

The issue of behavior extraction and writing is studied in [13, 8]. Indeed, writing activities in the EC framework is tedious and error-prone, hence the idea of developing an automated process to generate definitions from temporal data. Thus, the authors use a learning method based on abductions and inductions to infer the behaviors to be recognized.

As explained in the introduction to this article, a major issue for stream reasoning is whether behaviors can be recognized or not in real time. The algorithm in this EC dialect uses a system query method: the reasoning is not performed gradually, but rather on demand, whenever a high-level activity is queried [10]. Thus, in order to perform an online analysis, it is necessary to constantly make queries: without a cache, this implies starting computations over again each time. Moreover, one of the principles of AC is that the order in which events occur further increases the complexity of the computation. In [28], Chittaro et al. introduce a version of EC called Cached Event Calculus (CEC), an implementation managing a cache memory to reduce the complexity of the process. However, CEC has no pre-emption mechanism and it accepts the processing of events with an earlier date than already processed events.

Therefore, recognition times increase gradually as low-level events occur, and after the computation becomes too time-expensive to keep up in real time. Artikis et al. attempted to address this issue in [12], where they introduce RTEC (Run-Time reasoning Event Calculus), an efficient YAProlog¹ implementation of their EC. Their program is also based on successive queries, with a cache memory preserving maximum intervals computed for the `HoldsFor` predicates of each fluent.

In addition, in order to address uncertainty, several stochastic approaches of EC have been developed. Artikis et al. extended the formalism of EC in [65] by means of Markov logical networks (MLN) [38], combining first-order logic with the probabilistic semantics of Markov networks. In [64] they also provided another extension, this time to probabilistic logical programming, using Prob-Log [49]. This way, they addressed the issue of incorrect low-level event detections by adding confidence indices to the events in the flow. The uncertainty here is limited to event uncertainty: in particular, it is not possible to handle incompletely specified behaviors. Moreover, the authors admit that online recognition is not possible in this formalism, which is corroborated in a recent work by Rincé et al. [63], who showed that, for a whole class of problems, the local search algorithms necessary in MLN and ProbLog perform poorly due to the structural characteristics of the problem.

Another approach for uncertainty handling is introduced in [14]. It is orthogonal to that in [64] in the sense that they may be combined. It relies upon the use of various event sources to determine their likelihood, with an auto-adaptation system based on the behavior recognition process itself: complex behavior definitions are written to identify the uncertainty domains and react accordingly: when the uncertainty becomes significant, the system may ignore events over a certain time interval, or even momentarily discard an event source. In [15], the authors add crowdsourcing to this framework, in order to make decisions when discrepancies between sources become significant.

ETALIS

Event-driven Transaction Logic Inference System (ETALIS)² [5, 2] is a CEP language, the syntax and semantics of which allow reasoning simultaneously on temporal assertions and on stable or evolving knowledge (rules, facts, ontologies, encyclopedic data, etc.). Its processing engine allows behaviors to be analyzed online.

¹ <http://www.dcc.fc.up.pt/~vsc/Yap/>

² available in open-source at <http://code.google.com/p/etalis/>

ETALIS is a logical programming language, and its syntax is defined by rules, the main constructs of which are shown in Table 2. The underlying time model is linear, dense, but countable (i.e., \mathbb{Q}), and low-level events may be instantaneous events, as well as events with a duration: events are dated by time intervals $[T_1, T_2]$ (with $T_1 = T_2$ in the case of instantaneous events). The language has a high expressiveness and contains:

- all of Allen's 13 interval relations;
- constraints on event properties;
- a rather limited notion of absence within the framework of the sequence;
- two precisely distinguished kinds of conjunction (in series and in parallel);
- recursive behavior definitions, allowing, for example, the definition of a function accumulating a value over a sequence of events.

A first formal declarative semantic approach is provided in [3, 5], where event patterns (i.e., behaviors) are defined by induction in the manner of model theory. A recognition is a couple (q_1, q_2) , with $q_i \in \mathbb{Q}$ delimiting the necessary and sufficient time interval for the recognition (its support). Other than this support, in which they must all have been encompassed, information pertaining to the events triggering the recognition is not kept: there is no possibility of historization, and multiplicity is limited to the cases in which the supports of the multiple recognitions are distinct.

Constructs	Intuitive meaning
$p \text{ WHERE } t$	Behavior p has been recognized and the term t is valued to true.
q	This corresponds to the absolute instant q (for any $q \in \mathbb{Q}$).
$(p).q$	Behavior p has been recognized and lasts exactly q , with $q \in \mathbb{Q}$.
$p_1 \text{ SEQ } p_2$	Behavior p_1 is strictly followed (in time) by behavior p_2 .
$p_1 \text{ AND } p_2$	Behaviors p_1 and p_2 have been recognized, without any temporal constraint.
$p_1 \text{ PAR } p_2$	Behaviors p_1 and p_2 have been recognized in parallel; i.e., they overlap in time.
$p_1 \text{ OR } p_2$	Either one of both behaviors has been recognized.
$p_1 \text{ EQUALS } p_2$	Both behaviors have been recognized over the exact same time interval.
$p_1 \text{ MEETS } p_2$	Both p_1 and p_2 have been recognized, and the last recognition instant for p_1 exactly matches the first recognition instant of p_2 .
$p_1 \text{ DURING } p_2$	Behavior p_1 has been recognized within the recognition of p_2 .
$p_1 \text{ STARTS } p_2$	The recognition interval of p_1 is an initial segment of the recognition interval of p_2 .
$p_1 \text{ FINISHES } p_2$	The recognition interval of p_1 is a final segment of the recognition interval of p_2 .
$\text{NOT}(p_1).[p_2, p_3]$	Behaviors p_2 and p_3 have been recognized in this order, without any occurrence of p_1 strictly contained between both in time.

Table 2 - Main constructs of ETALIS [3]

The ETALIS recognition system is implemented in Prolog. This implementation relies on an operational semantics defined using logic programming rules. The complex behaviors to be recognized are broken up into intermediate events called *goals*. ETALIS compiles complex behaviors into a set of rules allowing Event-Driven Backward Chaining, which allows an online recognition process. Two types of rules result from the compilation:

- rules creating the goals to be recognized, in order to progress in the recognition of a complex behavior, in the form of an event and the expectation of another event: $\text{goal}(b^{[-,-]}, a^{[T_1, T_2]}, ie_1^{[-,-]})$ means that when a (potentially complex) behavior a has been recognized over interval $[T_1, T_2]$, the system expects an event b to recognize behavior ie_1 ;
- rules creating intermediate events or event patterns: these check the database to determine whether a certain goal already exists, and, if this is the case, trigger the event that has been recognized by the goal: if $\text{goal}(b^{[T_3, T_4]}, a^{[T_1, T_2]}, ie_1^{[-,-]})$ is in the database, then event $ie_1^{[T_3, T_4]}$ is triggered and propagated if it is an intermediate event, or is used to trigger an action if it is one of the complex behaviors sought.

Rules of the latter type also allow goals that are obsolete and not needed anymore to be suppressed from the database.

In other terms, the underlying recognition structure is a binary tree. However, the equivalence of both these semantics has not been proven.

As to recognition multiplicity, ETALIS allows the following event consumption policies: recent, chronicle, and "free" (i.e., without any restriction). However, the declarative aspect is lost with any policy other than free, which means that the rule-evaluation order ceases to be neutral.

The performance of ETALIS is also assessed on a so-called Fast Flower Delivery use case [43].

ETALIS also handles delayed events [44] through two additional rule types:

- $\text{goal_out}(a^{[-,-]}, b^{[T_3, T_4]}, ie_1^{[-,-]})$, expressing that Event b has been received and that an Event a having occurred *before* b is expected to finalize the recognition of ie_1 .
- $\text{if goal_out}(\dots)$ and $T_2 < T_3$, expressing that if an event a indeed occurs at $T_2 < T_3$, then event $ie_1^{[T_3, T_4]}$ is triggered.

This algorithm does not have adverse effects on the efficiency of the recognition for events occurring on time. However, it requires a specific procedure to free memory by suppressing goal_out rules after a while. Reference [44] explains that, due to practical reasons (probably a matter of recognition efficiency by preventing rule overload) this functionality has not been implemented: therefore, multiplicity is lost. To handle delayed events in the case of an absence, ETALIS also allows the handling of *revised* events [4]: new *rev* goals are introduced to suppress revised goals.

Chronicles

Chronicles are a family of formal languages developed to formally describe an event signature and, as such, provide a framework for CEP.

A chronicle language was introduced in [45], and developed mainly by Dousson *et al.* [39, 40, 41]. Within this framework, a chronicle is somehow a partial order of observable events in a certain context. Together with the language comes an efficient online recognition process enabling the analysis of a flow of timestamped events that do not necessarily arrive in their order of occurrence, with the possibility of triggering actions or producing events at a date defined in relation to the dates of the events having caused the recognition.

In [39]: a *chronicle model* is presented as a set of formulae or temporal schemas defining how the association of several *observable* events can lead to a new *deduced* event, and a set of constraints is given. A chronicle is thus a set of events together with contextual and temporal constraints. In this approach, the time model is discrete, totally ordered, and precise enough to take into account the observed events. In more recent works, Dousson *et al.* [41] associate attributes with events that can change their values: chronicles are represented by constraint graphs, with events as nodes, and the edges are labelled with integer intervals that represent time constraints.

This framework has also been used and adapted by Subias and Boufaied [18, 46] to various contexts, but always with discrete time. In his PhD work [42], Vu Dũ'ong applies Dousson's work to telecommunication network diagnosis through alarm correlation.

Here is a broad idea of how chronicles are expressed in Dousson's formalism. They are multi-sets of events with additional constraints expressed as time intervals (which may contain negative values, meaning that the events occur in reverse order than that specified) that must be fulfilled by pairs of events. For instance (see Figure 1), a chronicle may be $ABCD$ where the interval between A and C must be within $[-3, 2]$, the interval between A and D must be within $[4, 6]$, and the interval between D and B must be within $[-1, 4]$. Each event in the multi-set has to be mapped exactly once to an event of the flow, and the mapping must be consistent with the constraints.

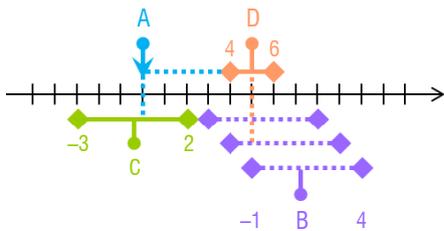


Figure 1 - An example of Dousson's Chronicle: $C \xleftarrow{[-3,2]} A \xrightarrow{[4,6]} D \xrightarrow{[-1,4]} B$

The expressivity of Dousson's formalism is rather low. In particular, the fact that chronicles can combine various intermediate patterns that may or may not share elementary events cannot be expressed. For instance, it is not possible to write a chronicle of the form $(ABC) \& (DBE)$, that would be recognized if an event B occurs between A and C , and an event B (possibly the same, but not necessarily) occurs between D and E . This cannot be expressed in Dousson's formalism, where it is necessary to specify when designing the chronicle whether there is a single B or two distinct B . In addition, absence is difficult to account for in Dousson's work. Moreover, the issue above regarding shared events between subchronicles also applies for absence.

In the formalism of ONERA chronicles, events are represented as ordered pairs comprising an event name and a real number (its occurrence *date*). The underlying time model is linear and continuous. These events can be endowed with information, called *attributes*, which are ordered pairs of an *attribute name* and a *value*.

Attributes are a very expressive feature of the language: an event can have any number of attributes and, given that recognitions are built upon events, new attributes can be computed, named and associated with recognitions, so as to be used at a higher level.

The chronicle language is built by induction, using, among others, four constructs expressing the sequence, the conjunction, and the disjunction of two behaviors, as well as the absence of a given behavior during another behavior. These constructs have been presented in [20, 21].

In addition to this, ONERA chronicles express all of Allen's 13 relations, as well as constraints on the durations of behaviors and a few additional constructs, such as a change of state and a derived event associated with the instant of recognition completion. Moreover, the chronicle language allows reasoning on *event attributes*: a predicate can express desired constraints on manipulated attributes. Constraints on attributes and attribute creations can be added at each level, and a notion of the evaluation context allows attributes to be handled properly in constructs where not all subchronicles are present in the recognition of a chronicle (typically, absence and disjunction).

The notion of chronicle recognition, originally [20, 21] based on a notion of a set of events leading to it, has therefore been replaced by a tree-based notion: indeed, an event model set does not retain the information specifying which event led to the recognition of which sub-chronicle, which becomes an issue when properties are expressed over event attributes. Consider, for example, Chronicle $C = (AB) \& A$. Some recognitions of C may be due to two distinct events a (a denotes an instance of A). In a set formalism, these two events are undistinguishable, so it is impossible to determine which a led to the recognition of sub-chronicle AB , and which led to the recognition of the single A . Not only is this information lost, but this also affects the combinatorics, since the number of recognitions depends on this information: if this information is kept, two events a lead to two different recognitions of C depending on the distribution³.

Continuous time is managed through the use of a look-ahead function $T_C(\varphi, d)$ providing a future date until which the system does not need to be re-examined, since the recognition set would not have changed until then. Indeed, the systems considered here are asynchronous, and this function provides the next time when it will be necessary to check for the completion of a given chronicle with delays.

More details on the theoretical framework of chronicle recognition are presented in [60], but their general form is that of a triplet (C, P, f) , where:

- $C \in \mathcal{X}$ is a *chronicle formula* (see below);
- $P \in \mathcal{G}$ is a predicate symbol;
- $f \in \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V})$ is an attribute transformation.

³ Note that there is also one additional recognition for each event a leading to the recognitions of both sub-chronicles.

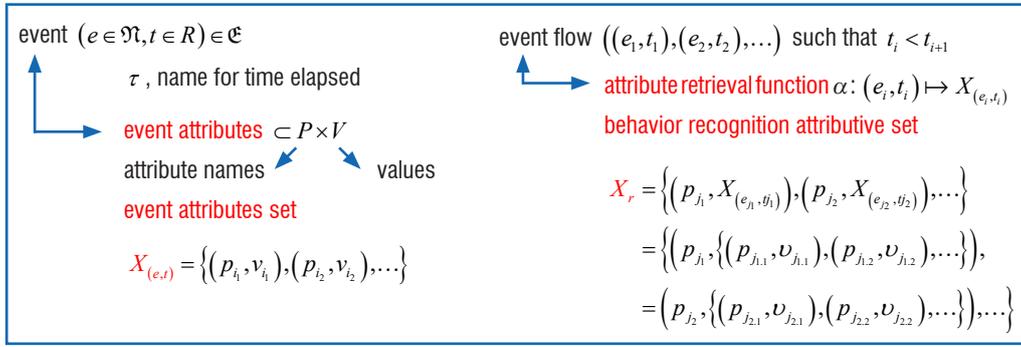


Figure 2 - Events and attributes for chronicles

\mathfrak{X} is inductively defined together with two notions of *contexts*, which are functions from \mathfrak{X} to \mathfrak{B} (an evaluation context \mathcal{C}_e and a resulting context \mathcal{C}_r):

simple event: If $A \in \mathfrak{N}$, then $(A, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(A, P, f) = \{\diamond\}$, et $\mathcal{C}_r(A, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(A, P, f)$;

sequence: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, et $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 C_2, P, f)$;

conjunction: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 \& C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \& C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \& C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \& C_2, P, f)$;

disjunction: $(C_1 \parallel C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \parallel C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \parallel C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \parallel C_2, P, f)$;

absence: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $((C_1) - [C_2], P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e((C_1) - [C_2], P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r((C_1) - [C_2], P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1)$;

meets: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 \text{ meets } C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ meets } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ meets } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ meets } C_2, P, f)$;

overlaps: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 \text{ overlaps } C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ overlaps } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ overlaps } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ overlaps } C_2, P, f)$;

starts: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 \text{ starts } C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ starts } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ starts } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ starts } C_2, P, f)$;

during: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 \text{ during } C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ during } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ during } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ during } C_2, P, f)$;

finishes: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 \text{ finishes } C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ finishes } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ finishes } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ finishes } C_2, P, f)$;

equals: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 \text{ equals } C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ equals } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ equals } C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ equals } C_2, P, f)$;

lasts δ : If $\delta \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$, then $(C_1 \text{ lasts } \delta, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ lasts } \delta, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ lasts } \delta, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ lasts } \delta, P, f)$;

at least δ : If $\delta \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$, then $(C_1 \text{ atleast } \delta, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ atleast } \delta, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ atleast } \delta, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ atleast } \delta, P, f)$;

at most δ : If $\delta \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$, then $(C_1 \text{ atmost } \delta, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ atmost } \delta, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ atmost } \delta, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ atmost } \delta, P, f)$;

then δ : If $\delta \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$, then $(C_1 \text{ then } \delta, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ then } \delta, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \text{ then } \delta, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \text{ then } \delta, P, f)$;

naming: If $x \in \mathfrak{B} \setminus \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 \rightarrow x, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 \rightarrow x, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1)$, $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 \rightarrow x, P, f) = \{x, \diamond\}$;

cut: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 ! C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 ! C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 ! C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 ! C_2, P, f)$;

change of state: If $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1) \cap \mathcal{C}_e(C_2) = \{\diamond\}$, then $(C_1 !! C_2, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(C_1 !! C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1) \cup \mathcal{C}_r(C_2)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(C_1 !! C_2, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1 !! C_2, P, f)$;

recognition event: $(@C_1, P, f) \in \mathfrak{X}$, $\mathcal{C}_e(@C_1, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_r(C_1)$, and $\mathcal{C}_r(@C_1, P, f) = \mathcal{C}_e(C_1)$.

Chronicles allow for multiplicity and historization of recognitions. They also allow the gradual recognition of behaviors in real time, as events flow. The need for multiplicity and historization prevents the use of simple finite-state automata (see [17]), but a first recognition tool called Chronicle Recognition System (CRS/ONERA) was developed at ONERA in the late 1990s in [19], based on duplicating automata so as to comply with performance and inter-operability requirements. A colored Petri net model was also developed, implementing chronicle recognition for the initial operators – sequence, conjunction, disjunction, and absence – and its adequacy has been proven (see [23, 21]). A new recognition tool has also been developed in the form of a C++ library called Chronicle Recognition Library (CRL)⁴, which can be easily used for real-world critical applications. Its algorithms are directly based on the formal semantics of the chronicle language, therefore the recognitions produced by CRL are considered to be adequate by construction. The efficiency of CRL is also ensured by a validity window mechanism that eliminates obsolete initiated recognitions after a time specified by the user. Applications of CRL are presented in [24, 22].

Other approaches

Other families of approaches to stream reasoning are at the two far ends of the spectrum of SR techniques: DSMS and KRR. We illustrate them in this section through two representative examples: CQL (a DSMS framework) and LARS (based on KRR and answer set programming).

Continuous Query Language

Continuous Query Language (CQL) [6, 7] is a language based on the database query language SQL, extended with streams as additional data sources. In CQL, a *stream* is viewed as a bag of elements in the form $\langle c, t \rangle$, where c is a tuple and t is a timestamp; a *relation* maps timestamps to bags of tuples. To make these concepts compatible, the operational semantics of CQL relies on three kinds of operators:

- Relation-to-Relation operators contain usual SQL operators to manipulate relations;
- Stream-to-Relation operators apply window functions to the input stream to create a relation for recent tuples;
- Relation-to-Stream operators translate back a relation into a stream for the output of continuous queries.

There are interesting parallels between CQL and our approach; in particular, the fact that CQL has operational semantics where evaluation is performed stepwise as a query is evaluated. However, being based on SQL-like queries, CQL handles the stream by filtering, joining and aggregating data in a deterministic way, and does not allow for abstractions, constraints, complex negation, and non-determinism.

Compared to CQL, our approach allows additional abstraction and reasoning features, including the absence (which is a form of complex negation) and temporal modalities. Both features are particularly important in our approach, as evidenced by the various levels of reasoning in aerospace case studies that we have treated (cf. Table 5.9 in [60]): indeed, intermediate (i.e., Level-2) and interest (i.e., Level-3) chronicles contain temporal modalities (e.g., at least, @, and !! in Level-2 chronicles, as well as in Level-3 chronicle NoClearanceToTakeOff(ID),

as well as absences with additional correlations to event attributes; e.g., Level-3 chronicle NoFrequencyToTakeOff(ID).

LARS

LARS [16] consists of two languages: *LARS formulae* extend propositional logic with generic window operators and additional controls to handle temporal information, and, on top of this, *LARS programs* extend Answer Set Programming (ASP) with rich stream-reasoning capabilities. It is aimed at targeting AI applications in a streaming context, such as diagnosis, configuration, or planning.

Fragments of LARS have been implemented in several experimental prototypes [16], based on different realization principles, but they either lack efficiency or are restricted to specific LARS programs, in particular with restrictions on the use of negations.

In contrast to chronicles, LARS semantics is based on time points. Nevertheless, as stated in [16], when comparing LARS and ETALIS, it is possible to represent intervals in LARS and thus partially capture the notion. However, this representation is unable to take into account overlapping intervals (for a same formula): indeed, LARS assigns atoms to a single timeline by an evaluation function, so it can encode intervals only by assigning atoms to consecutive time points. Adjacent or overlapping intervals for the same atom cannot be distinguished and, worse still, merge into a single larger interval, which is incompatible with our objective of multiple recognitions.

An application to aeronautics

To illustrate the interest of these techniques in the aeronautic field, we present an example of a hypothetical unmanned aircraft inserted into general air traffic, as described in Figure 3.

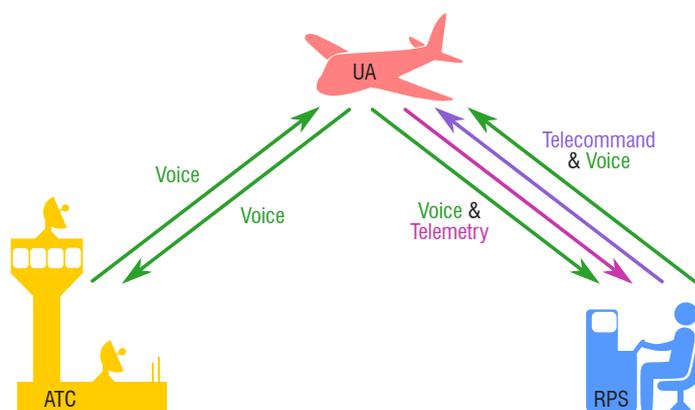


Figure 3 - Schematic representation of the three-agent system

This is a global problem that raises many interesting issues, and implies interactions between the aircraft, its pilot (on the ground) and Air Traffic Control (ATC). We focus here on a potential hazard, which is the loss of the telecommand (TC) link, meaning that the pilot is unable to transmit orders to the unmanned aircraft. In such a case, there has to be a pre-determined course of action (e.g., return to base, pursue current route, land at the nearest airport, etc., – which one exactly is not relevant here). If such a loss occurs, it is obviously important that all three agents (ATC, pilot, and aircraft) share the same understanding of the situation, so that, in particular, both of the human actors act consistently.

⁴ CRL has been deposited at the French Agency for Program Protection and is available under the GNU LGPL license.

UAS in controlled air space

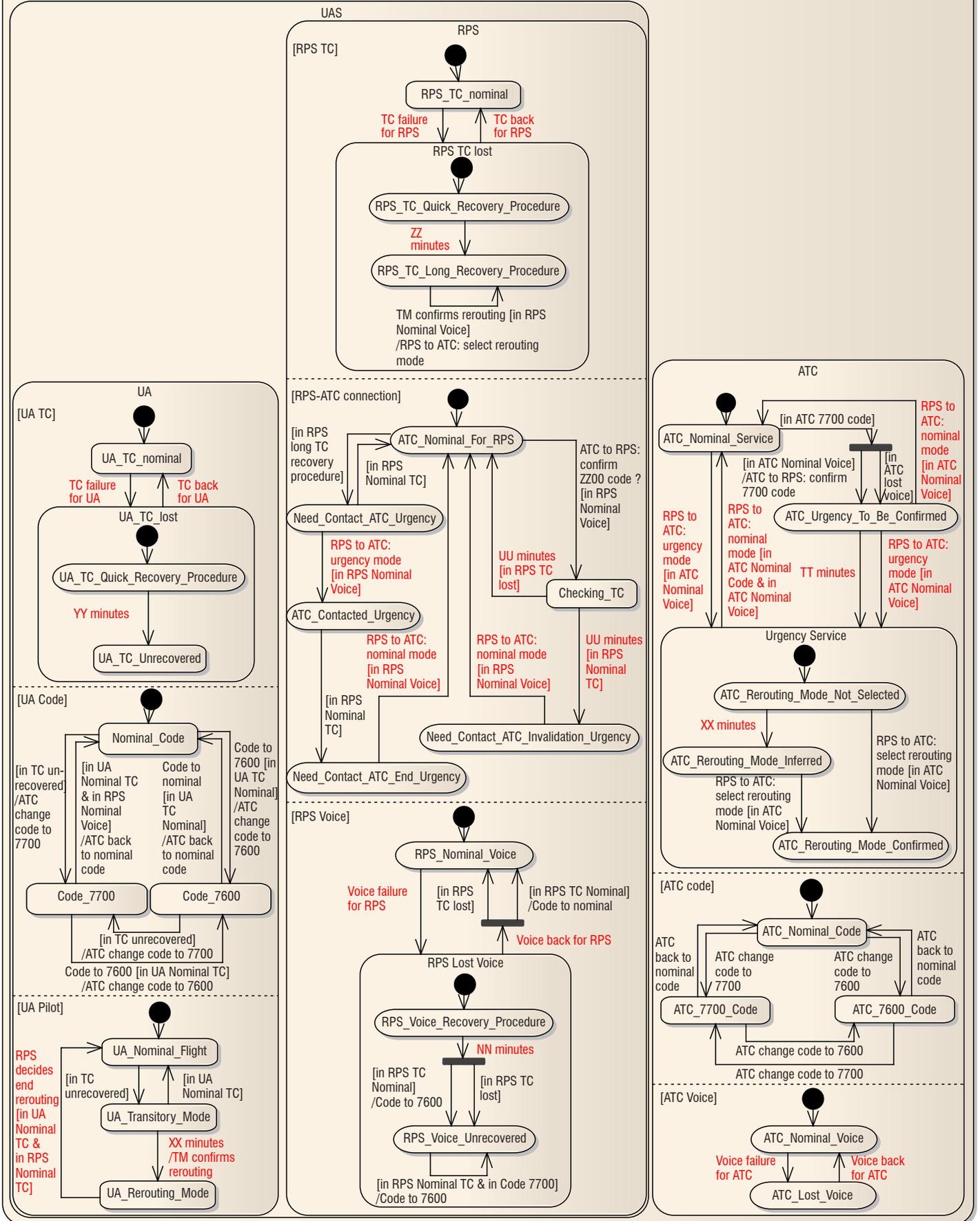


Figure 4 - State diagram of telecommand loss

However, each actor has access only to a partial subset of information, from which they deduce the status of the TC link. Hence, their reasoning can be modelled through chronicles and this can be used to detect inconsistencies.

Here, low-level observable events will schematically be the actions performed by each agent on the system or their changes of state, which are modelled according the state diagram in Figure 4 representing the protocol followed by each agent. The diagram is distributed between the three agents: UA (Unmanned Aircraft), RPS (Remote Pilot Station), ATC. Each agent is broken down into sub-systems. A sub-system represents a functionality controlled by the agent, or a specific knowledge that it may possess about the overall system situation; e.g., the RPS Voice sub-system describes whether the RPS is aware of a potential radio communication loss. Each sub-system is a set of states that have to be followed in a specific order regarding the system evolution. Arrows between states describe this order and the necessary conditions to trigger a state change, and may possibly be associated with a specific action to be performed by the agent. This information is labelled on the arrows in three different parts: *event*, *condition* and *action*, and written event [condition]/action.

The formalism can then be used to detect undesired behaviors, such as:

- *Incoherent ATC Voice*: the transponder code emitted by the UA starts indicating code 7600 to Air Traffic Control, which means that there is a voice failure, but the controller has not realized this, and this is expressed by the fact that the diagram does not switch to *ATC Lost Voice*.
- *Incoherent flight mode UA/ATC*: after a fault that has been solved, the UA has switched back to a nominal flight but ATC remains in an urgency service.

Once one of these behaviors is detected, its origins have to be determined. If the cause is due to faulty behavioral guidelines, then the model has to be corrected, and, otherwise, if the source is human, it should be planned to trigger alarms warning the pilot and/or the air traffic controller of the situation.

These behaviors are represented by the following chronicles:

- *Incoherent ATC Voice*

(to_ATC_Nominal_Code to_ATC_7600_Code then 5) - [to_ATC_Lost_Voice]

- *Incoherent flight mode UA/ATC*
(from_UA_Nominal_Flight
((to_UA_Nominal_Flight then 10) - [from_UA_Nominal_Flight]))
-[to_ATC_Nominal_Service]

The possibility, once a hazardous behavior has been recognized, of determining its origin is provided by the properties of the chronicle framework.

Conclusion

While no single Stream-Reasoning approach can claim to be able to tackle all possible uses of Stream Reasoning, the overview of methods presented in this paper shows that handling a rapidly changing dynamic dataflow with elaborate reasoning is now feasible. These methods find applications in a very broad spectrum, which includes:

- the detection of inconsistencies between pilot and air traffic control in a scenario where an unmanned aircraft may lose its telecommand [24] (see above), with chronicles;
- the supervision and analysis of hazardous situations using an unmanned aircraft to assist police services [47, 35, 36, 34], with chronicles;
- various medical applications, including heart monitoring [30, 25, 62, 37, 61, 27], using chronicles together with learning techniques;
- management of alarms for the detection of cyber-intrusions [56], with Dousson's chronicles;
- Web-service diagnostics [59, 31, 52], with chronicles;
- public transportation quality assessment [48, 68], with EC (project PRONTO);
- video-surveillance [66, 13, 11, 9], with EC (project CAVIAR);
- social media analysis [66];
- assistance in decision-making during air combat [29], with chronicles;
- network supervision and monitoring management [67], with chronicles;
- supervision of a gas turbine in a petrochemical plant [55] and supervision of a milk factory [53], with chronicles;
- characterization of human activities [32], with chronicles ■

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