Human-AI Communication for Deontic Reasoning Devops (CODORD)

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Exploratory: Automatically converting natural language to complex logic – is it possible?

Information Session

• Note: The solicitation takes precedence over everything said in this presentation. When in doubt, refer to the solicitation!!!

October 8, 2024







10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Log-in to Webcast

- 11:00 AM -11:05 AM Welcome Dr. Benjamin Grosof, DARPA PM
- 11:05 AM 11:20 AM Defense Sciences Office (DSO) Overview Dr. Bart Russell, Deputy Director, DSO

11:20 AM - 12:00PM CODORD Disruption Opportunity Overview Dr. Benjamin Grosof, DARPA PM





1. CODORD aims to make

Al reasoning with high assurance about obligation and permission become widely practical in cyber systems for the first time, by combining advanced logic with machine learning.

2. Such reasoning is important in defense for complying with commander's intents, regulations, ethics, laws, operational policies, directives, supply chain contracts, and international agreements.





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Program Solicitation Has the Final Say

If there is any discrepancy between what is presented today and the program solicitation, the program solicitation takes precedence.



Logic and Deontics



Logical reasoning infers conclusions from assertions, based on principles

- Provides assurance in reasoning
 - Inherent verifiability, extreme correctness
 - Unachievable with Machine Learning techniques (e.g., [Zhang+'22])

Human domain requires deontic reasoning





CODORD Objective: Deontic Reasoning that's <u>Both</u> Highly Assured and Highly Cost-Efficient

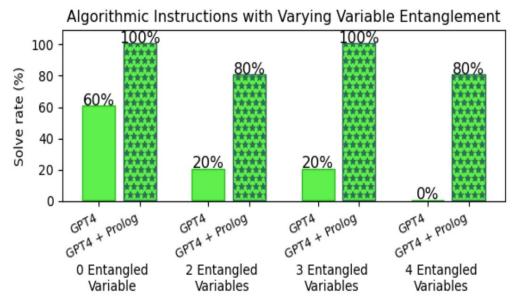


	Automated reasoning (e.g., recently available [1])	LLM (& ML)	CODORD
Extremely high correctness (>>99%)		× [2]	×
Explicit, verifiable logical explanation	A 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	×	A
Rapid development	×	· •	MVP
No specialized expertise required to use	×	×	MVP

- Key MVP step towards cost-efficient:
 - Automatic-from-NL logic generation
 - ... with high assurance on <u>focal implications</u>

[1] [Kifer+ '23] Kifer, Michael, et al, ErgoAI software, manuals & tutorials, <u>https://github.com/ErgoAI</u>; also see on later slide (slide ~13) references related to ErgoAI, Rulelog, and explanation, including: [Grosof+ '10] [Andersen+ '13] [Grosof+ '13] [Swift '14] [Swift+ '22] [Swift '23] [Grosof+ '23].

MVP: DARPA terminology for "Minimal Viable <u>Program</u>" LLM: Large Language Model, e.g., GPT-4 ML: Machine Learning, e.g., Neural Networks (NN) which are the basis for LLM's NL: Natural Language, e.g., English Prolog = a logic programming language, ancestor of Rulelog, roughly a subset of Rulelog and of ErgoAI

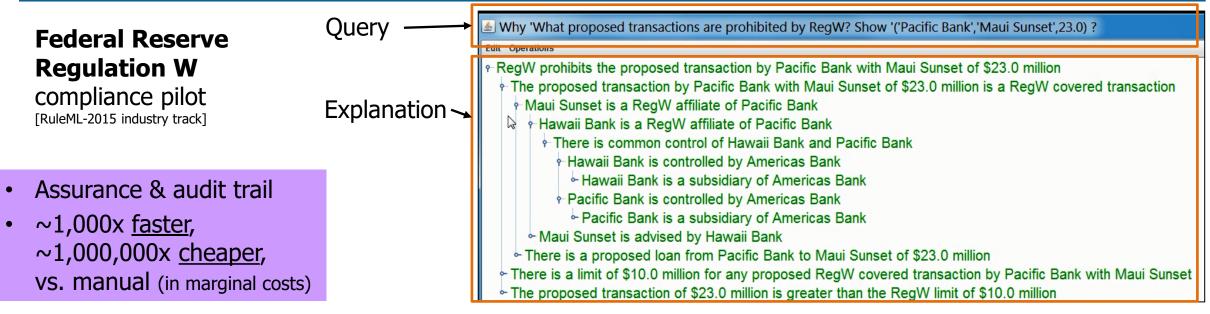


[2] [Borazjanizadeh+ '24] Borazjanizadeh, Nasim, et al, Reliable Reasoning Beyond Natural Language, arxiv.

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Similar needs for DoD \rightarrow

"Order 91748115 (revocable) is that Col. Smith grants permission to Maj. Kinjay to air drop equipment packages, if operation Blue Falcon is greenlighted."

2015 example is still SOA, due to lack of progress on knowledge authoring (KA)

[RuleML-2015 industry track] demonstration and paper: Grosof, Benjamin, et al, Automated Decision Support for Financial Regulatory/Policy Compliance, using Textual Rulelog, 9th Intl. Web Rule Symposium (RuleML-2015).

KA: Knowledge Authoring COA: Course of Action planning



Decision Support Demands Assurance and Deontics



COA planning



"How to fulfill orders from higher, joint, coalition?"

Highly expressive logical reasoning is required

DoD Need

Decisions (about actions) must be based on beliefs,

Multiple agents with differing levels & scopes of authority;

Assurance is a growing need, across many crucial scenarios,

Autonomy in weapon systems



"Which system actions are ethical?"

Navigating international agreements



"What transportation logistic plans comply?" **SOA**

 Existing logical languages & toolsets (e.g., Rulelog/ErgoAI) enable deontic logical reasoning

https://www.pexels.com/photo/birds-eye-view-photo-of-freight-containers-2226458/

- Highly expressive, yet computationally scalable
- Has resisted practical wide deployment for decades, because NL's logical semantics is far from solved (not addressed by LLMs)

Time cost of developing logic spec that captures domain knowledge ("Knowledge Authoring (KA) bottleneck") limits scalability

COA: Course Of Action planning NL: Natural Language, e.g., English LLM: Large Language Model, e.g., GPT-4 KA: Knowledge Authoring spec = specification, as set of statements

in decision support

objectives, and *deontics*

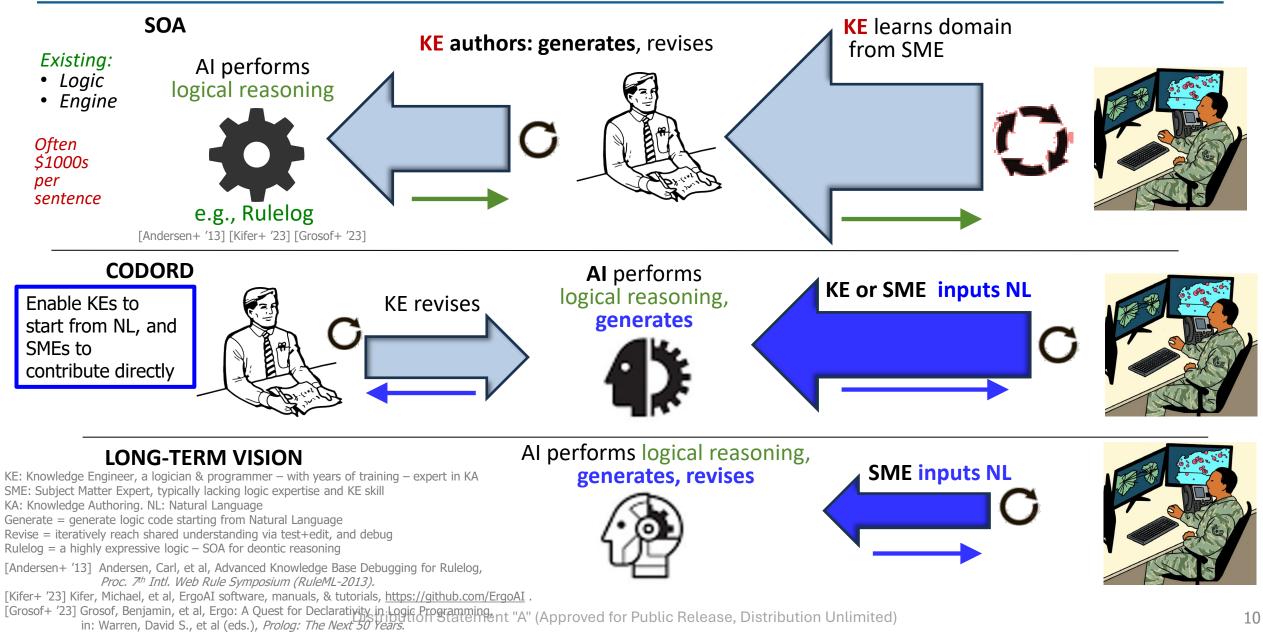
exceptions exist for most rules

SOA: State Of the Art https://nara.getarchive.net/media/medium-close-shot-lto-r-flight-crew-cpt-joseph-speight-nav-1lt-dave-jesurun-0cebc7 DoD: (US) Department of Defense https://www.flickr.com/photos/joncutrer/43252568250 Image credits: Distribution Statement "A" (Approved for Public



CODORD: Alleviate Bottleneck in KA Process for Deontic Reasoning









Hypothesis: We can enable humans to do much of the Knowledge Authoring while speaking only in <u>Natural Language</u> (NL), and using <u>automation</u>

Cannot rely on LLMs for reasoning. Rather, use LLMs for their strengths – in language translation.

Technical Challenges in KA limiting SOA practicality

- 1. Lack Automation: Even KEs must manually author into logic
 - Logical semantics of NL is far from solved in general
- 2. Lack Accessibility: <u>SMEs *cannot* directly author</u> into logic
 - Logic expertise is needed to encode expressive K
- 3. Iterativity: Even KEs cannot accomplish authoring in one round
 - *Revising:* Contextualization is complex, requires test+edit
 - To reach shared understanding: Agreement on focal implications

SOA: ~ $\$10^2 - \10^4 (est.) per assertion, and days – months elapsed, for debugged knowledge; depending largely on expressive complexity of the assertion

NL: Natural Language KA: Knowledge Authoring LLM: Large Language Model KE: Knowledge Engineer K: Knowledge. edit = add/modify/delete

[Kifer+ '23] Kifer, Michael, et al, ErgoAI software, manuals & tutorials, https://github.com/ErgoAI

Example logical formulation (in Rulelog [Kifer+ '23]):

@!{order_91748115} @{default}
 Permission[grantor->`Col. Smith', actor->`Maj. Kinjay',
 action->\${`air drop'[obj->?ep, location_descr->?place]}]

`Blue Falcon':`assault operation'[proceed->green],
?ep:`equipment package', in(?place,`map sector'(578306)).

CODORD: Automate *Generating* (NL to logic) CODORD: Re-run *Generating* within *Revising*

> Industry experience - Little/no academic research







- Open hard problem: Generate high-expressiveness logic code (e.g., Rulelog or other extended logic programs)
- Can leverage recent Machine Learning (ML) advances in techniques for code generation from NL
 - Via LLM into imperative programming code (e.g., [Agarwal+'24]); **1.5x 2.0x productivity gains** (McKinsey study '23)
 - Via semantic parsing, combined with LLM/NN, into formulas incl. logic
 - Query formulation for databases <u>subset</u> of high-expressiveness logic programs (e.g., [Liu+ '24] 90.3% accuracy on a Yelp task) ٠
 - Can enhance semantic parsing for higher expressiveness (e.g., [Bao+'24] 90.2 95.3% accuracy on a logic task suite)
 - Can create synthetic training data via: Logic-to-NL generation, + diverse rephrasings (e.g., [Maini+'24] – 5x less real data required)
- Can choose coding <u>style conventions</u> in: logic; semantic parsing Comparison: logic KA, vs. Imperative coding assistant

harder in logic KA	opportunities
complex contextualization	no procedural state
far less existing training data	create synthetic
SMEs don't speak coding language	SMEs are familiar with reasoning

Example of query formulation for database [Liu+'24] Hey! Can you recommend me an Italian DB schema restaurant with a romantic atmosphere? Few-shot examples Semantic Parser 🗸 SUQL Compile SELECT *, summary(reviews) FROM restaurants WHERE 'italian' = ANY (cuisines) AND answer(reviews, 'is this restaurant romantic?') = 'Yes' LIMIT 1; Ş I found Penny Roma, which has a 4.0 rating on our database and offers a variety of Italian dishes. Overall, the atmosphere is described

[Liu+ '24] Liu, Shicheng, et al, SUQL: Conversational Search over Structured and Unstructured Data with Large Language Models, arxiv. [Bao+ '24] Bao, Qiming, et al, Abstract Meaning Representation-Based Logic-Driven Data Augmentation for Logical Reasoning, arxiv. (McKinsey study '23) https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/mckinsey-digital/ our-insights/unleashing-developer-productivity-with-generative-ai#/

as delightful, authentic, and perfect for a date spot.

[Agarwal+ '24] Agarwal, Anisha, et al, Copilot Evaluation Harness: Evaluating LLM-Guided Software Programming, arxiv. [Maini+ '24] Maini, Pratyush, et al, Rephrasing the Web: A Recipe for Compute and Data-Efficient Language Modeling, arxiv.

ML: Machine Learning NL: Natural Language LLM: Large Language Model NN: Neural Networks

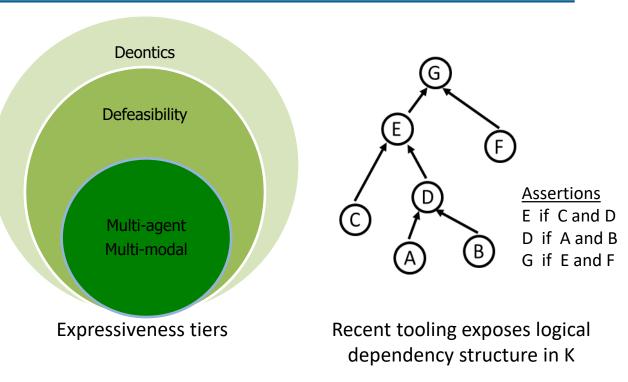
Distribution Statement "A" (Approved for Public Release, Distribution Unlimited) Imperative programming – language examples: Python, C, Javascript, C++, C#, Java, Fortran, Visual Basic





- 1. Recent advances in NN-based NLP, incl. LLMs: competence, incl. integration & breadth (e.g., [Yang+'24])
- Focus on target logic that meets
 4 practical requirements
 - a. Sufficient <u>expressiveness</u>; concisely [Kifer+'23]
 - b. <u>Scalable</u> computationally [Grosof+'13] [Swift'14]
 - c. Strong explainability [Andersen+'13]
 - d. Commercial-quality open-source <u>toolset</u> recently available [Kifer+'23] [Swift+'23]
- 3. Focus on deontics for decision support
 - In contrast to general semantic NL Understanding, which has hugely broad diffuse scope

NN: Neural Networks NLP: Natural Language Processing LLM: Large Language Model NL: Natural Language K: Knowledge. Modal – examples: Belief, Intention, Obligation, Permission



[Yang+ '24] Yang, Jingfeng, et al, Harnessing the Power of LLMs in Practice: A Survey on ChatGPT and Beyond, ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data 18.6: 1-32 [Kifer+ '23] Kifer, Michael, et al, ErgoAI software, manuals & tutorials, https://github.com/ErgoAI ; also see: [Swift+ '22] Swift, Theresa, et al, XSB software & manuals, https://xsb.sourceforget.net [Grosof+ '23] Grosof, Benjamin, et al, Ergo: A Quest for Declarativity in Logic Programming, in: Warren, David S., et al (eds.), Prolog: The Next 50 Years. [Grosof+ '13] Grosof, Benjamin, et al, Radial Restraint: A Semantically Clean Approach to Bounded Rationality, Proc. AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Vol. 27, No. 1. [Swift '14] Swift, Theresa, Incremental Tabling in Support of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, Theory and Practice of Logic Programming 14(4-5):553-567. [Andersen+ '13] Andersen, Carl, et al, Advanced Knowledge Base Debugging for Rulelog, Proc. 7th Intl. Web Rule Symposium (RuleML-2013); also see: [Grosof+ '10] Grosof, Benjamin, et al, A SILK Graphical UI for Defeasible Reasoning, with a Biology Causal Process Example, 9th Intl. Semantic Web Conference. [Swift+ '23] Swift, Theresa, et al, The Janus System: Multi-Paradigm Programming in Prolog and Python, arxiv. Distribution Statement "A" (Approved for Public Release, Distribution Unlimited) 13



Program Design



Objective: Alleviate KA Bottleneck for deontic reasoning

Hypothesis: We can enable humans to do much of the Knowledge Authoring while speaking only in **Natural Language** (NL), and using **automation**, with high assurance

- **MVP Program Scoping:** Show *feasibility*, for deterministic (defer probabilistic)
 - Automation from NL: manual → automated *fully* for Generating (*partially* for Revising/Overall) spec in logic language only → spec in NL

Performer task:

- Automate generating from NL: into Logic
 - & the reverse direction (easier)
 - Create and deliver a novel KA technique:
 - <u>Software</u>
 - <u>ML models</u>
 - <u>Methodology guidance</u>
 - Insights/rationale for design of approach

Underlining indicates program outputs

KA: Knowledge Authoring NL: Natural Language from/in NL = NL plus graphical interaction ML: Machine Learning. spec: specification T&E tasks:

- Create programmatic <u>use/test cases</u>
 - Multiple test problems per use case
- Create <u>T&E protocol for KA</u>
- Execute KA for evaluations
 - Operate KE teams
 - Measure SOA too required
- Develop & support <u>test framework</u> software for all performers
 - Common manual KA, data gathering

- Collaboration among Performers and T&E to develop:
 - <u>Training examples for ML</u>
 - Style conventions in logic, NL
 - <u>Test cases</u>
 - Best practices
 - <u>Novel measures & insights</u>
 - Exploring the space





Evaluation Protocol	 <u>Performer tasks:</u> 1. Train T&E in their new KA approach • Software + recommended methodology 	<u>T&E Compares</u> head-to-head, for each use case: 1. SOA KA (manual <i>Generating</i>) 2. each performer's KA approach (automated <i>Generating</i>)
		T&E explores additional measures

Metric for performer KA approach	Phase 1 (12 months)	Phase 2 (12 months)
 Assurance*: on focal implications 		
 <u>Correctness</u> of answers to focal queries, compared to SOA KA for each use case 	(1 – Correctness) is within 3x of SOA KA	Correctness ≥ SOA KA
Cost-Efficient: on <i>Generating</i>		
 <u>Automatic-from-NL</u> logic generation, as percentage of: logic sentences after <i>Revising</i> 	40%** of: logic sentences after <i>Revising</i>	80% of: logic sentences after <i>Revising</i>
 <u>Total KA labor time</u> (including <i>Revising</i>), compared to SOA for each use case 	Total KA Labor Time $\leq 4x^{***}$ SOA KA	Total KA Labor Time $\leq 2x$ SOA KA

* Observation: The automated reasoning is fully verifiable ** Observation: SOA is 0%

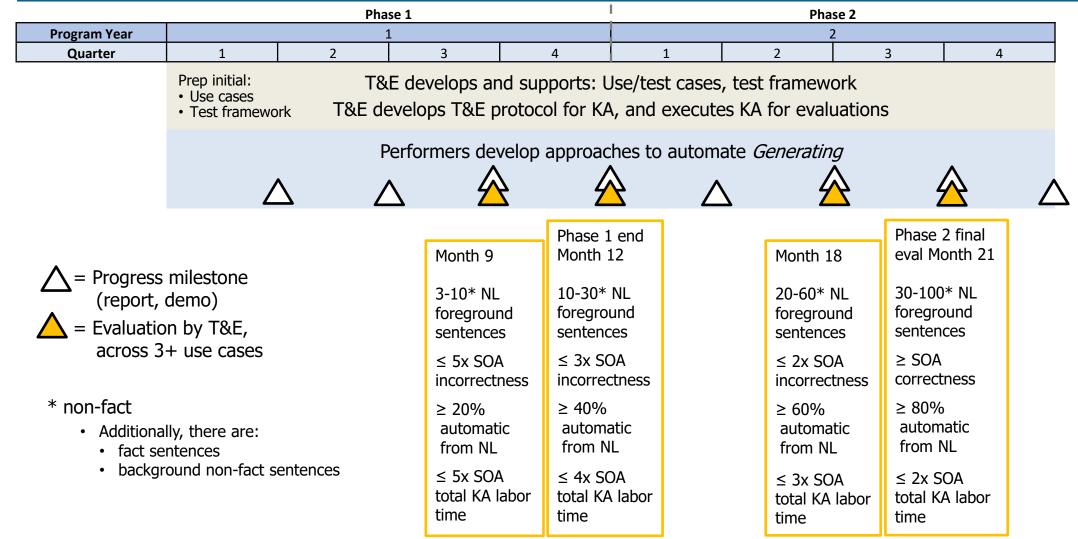
KE: Knowledge Engineer (expert in logic, reasoning, and KA) KA: Knowledge Authoring NL: Natural Language

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Program Schedule & Milestones





Fact = relatively simple form of logic sentence, lacking an if-then connective

Incorrectness = 1 - Correctness

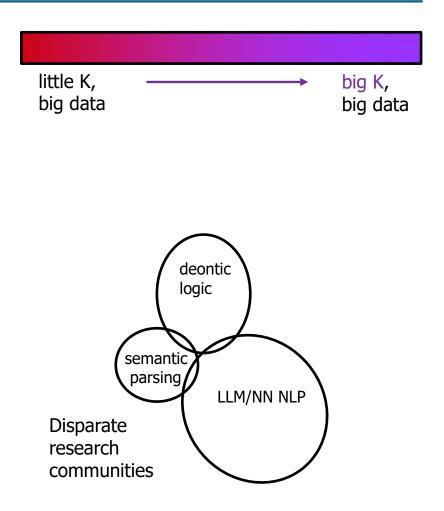
Foreground = in the explicit focus of domain/use-case/test-problem description and at SME specific (Approved for Public Release, Distribution Unlimited)

Non-fact = a more complex form of logic sentence, containing an if-then connective. Background = non-foreground; often identified as needed, then authored, during *Revising*





- Paradigm shift, bend AI trajectory for complex K back towards logic too ("*reasoning and* learning")
 - High assurance
 - Huge realm of applications value for deontic and similar high-expressive reasoning
- Expertise in deontic reasoning and semantic parsing is dispersed and disparate







- CODORD is a Disruption Opportunity (DO): <u>https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/disruptioneering</u>
- DO's are solicited under a common program announcement: <u>https://sam.gov/opp/cb7a935d59bb4ceeb62b9515f7d9f9b0/view</u>
- DO awards are Other Transactions (OT's)
 - What are OT's?: <u>https://acquisitioninnovation.darpa.mil/what-are-ots</u>
- Expect the CODORD DO **solicitation** within the next few days or weeks (if it's not there already): on SAM.gov
 - <u>https://sam.gov/content/home</u>
- Note: The solicitation takes precedence over everything said in this presentation. When in doubt, refer to the solicitation!!!





- DARPAConnect: how to work with DARPA, e.g., doing business, process, and resources
 - <u>https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/darpaconnect</u>
- CODORD Resource (web) page: find it on the DARPA.mil website
- Explainer videos, e.g., on deontics: find on the DARPA.mil website, e.g., in news –ish
 - We aim to link that from the Resource page
- CODORD FAQ
 - We aim to link that from the Resource page
 - Q&A protocol: potential-proposer Qs are answered here (perhaps after aggregating or restating Q's), with A's being available to all (for maximum fairness), NOT answered only to the individual questioner
- CODORD email address: <u>CODORD@darpa.mil</u>
 - Appropriate for submitting questions (Q's) about the proposal process, clarifying the solicitation, etc.
 - But check the above resources first, please (including on the last slide)
 - NOT appropriate for submitting questions about your technical approach!!
 - Please use this rather than emailing individuals; this is a mailbox shared by the DARPA CODORD team





- Day 0: CODORD <u>solicitation</u>: <u>Program Announcement</u> (analogous to a BAA) <u>released</u> on SAM.gov
- Day ~11: <u>Teaming profiles</u> due by 1pm EDT
 - The <u>Special Notice</u> about CODORD (find it on SAM.gov) gives info on teaming profiles
 - Also look for that info on the CODORD Information Session's associated Resource Page for CODORD, on the DARPA.mil website
 - (Day ~11: DARPA sends the batch of teaming profiles to those who submitted one)
- Day ~25: proposal <u>Abstracts</u> due
 - Submission of an Abstract is optional, not required, but is recommended
- Day ~32: DARPA provides <u>feedback</u> on abstracts incl. to encourage/discourage submission of full proposal, and often also technical questions/requests for points to cover in a full proposal
 - (If you receive discouraging feedback, it might not be worth your while to prepare & submit a full proposal)
- Day 60: Full proposals due
- For more precise dates, and other details, refer to the solicitation!!





Section Headings	Required Content
Page limit total	4 pages
Cover Sheet (Counted towards the 4-page limit.)	Proposer Name, Title, Date, E-Mail Addresses, Phone Numbers, and Addresses for Technical Point of Contact and Administrative Point of Contact. [See the solicitation ("Program Announcement") for organizational conflict of interest information]
Technical Content on your proposed approach (No more than 2 pages, and is counted towards the total page limit)	 Provide a summary of the following: Your technical vision to achieve the goals of this program Overall technical approach to meet the goals and milestones of Phases 1 and 2 Technical expertise of your performer team, described briefly, including links to bios/CVs Less than half a page, on why the proposer believes their team can be successful at achieving program goals if selected to participate in CODORD. The proposer may include past experience, organizational capabilities, team members' qualifications, or anything else that demonstrates competence in logical reasoning, knowledge authoring, machine learning, and natural language processing, e.g., large language models.
References (No longer than 1 page, and is counted towards the 4-page limit, although is excluded from the 2-page limit for the Technical Content)	Provide a list of citations, references, or end notes.

* Submitting an abstract is optional (see last slide)



Back-up slides





Context:

Technical Challenges in KA limiting SOA practicality

- Logical semantics of NL is far from solved in general
- Many-many mapping of phrasing $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ formulation

KA: Knowledge Authoring NL: Natural Language

Rulelog syntax is cf. ErgoAI [Kifer+ '23]

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Example logical formulation in Rulelog; it uses "frame syntax":
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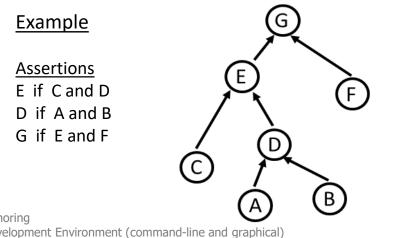
Alternative formulation (one among many) in Rulelog; it uses "predicate syntax":





- What: Agree in <u>implications</u>, reach shared human-machine understanding
- How: KEs do iterative test+edit, in the Reasoner's IDE, via command line and visual interface
 - Plus: Re-run Generating
 - Inspect: Explanations, logical dependency structure in K, intermediate sub-queries & conclusions ("tables"), sizes & CPU times
 - Compose/organize the set of K, via: Hierarchical modularity; scaffolding of tests
 - Activities: Create tests. Find knowledge gaps, then specify additional/background K. E.g., via: run Generating.
 - Overall: Heavily Manual

Can expose to the human: the machine's understanding via <u>NL</u> representation of: <u>logical dependency structure</u> in K (e.g., [Kifer+'23])



KA: Knowledge Authoring IDE: Integrated Development Environment (command-line and graphical) K: Knowledge NLP: Natural Language Processing Distribu [Kifer+ '23] Kifer, Michael, et al, ErgoAI software, manuals & tutorials, <u>https://github.com/ErgoAI</u>; also see: on earlier slide (slide ~13) references related to ErgoAI, Rulelog, and explanation; as well as: [Ullman '88] Ullman, Jeffrey, *Principles of Database and Knowledge-Based Systems.* (2 volumes.) [Przymusinski '94] Well Founded and Stationary Models of Logic Programs, *Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence* 12;141-187.

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<u>Examples</u> of deontic assertions knowledge: orders, laws, regulations, directives, doctrines, ethics, treaties, agreements, contracts, operational policies

- Potential to open gate to huge realm of applications value in military & commercial
 - Where deontic reasoning, and/or similar high-expressiveness reasoning, is crucial
 - Operations planning, policies, & execution; confidentiality; ethical/legal compliance; M&S, systems integration, wargaming; autonomy
 - Supply chain & financial/contracting; health care treatment guidance & insurance
 - *Compliance* in the above



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