

# Computational Emancipation of Problem Domains

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**Abstract**—In this paper we show how cloud computing can be used as a mechanism that supports computer integration within the problem solving process, independent of problem domain. The paper is organized as follows: Section II discusses the domain based problem solving process; Section III presents the domain algorithmic language, to be used by domain experts to develop domain algorithms for solving their problems; Section IV describes the process of computational emancipation of problem domains, which allows computer to be integrated within the specific problem solving process, characteristic to the domain; Section V describes the domain dedicated virtual machine, used to execute domain algorithms on the Internet, as web services; Section VI sketches the cloud computing implementation of the DAL System, the system that allows domain experts to subscribe to cloud for computer services required by their problem domain solving algorithms.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The problem we address in this paper is the integration of the computer as a brain assistant within the human problem solving process. Original computers have not been developed as problem solving tools. Rather, computers were developed as number crunching tools to be used by mathematicians and engineers. The computer based problem solving methodology provided by the creators of the original computer consists of:

- Formulate the problem;
- Develop a solution algorithm;
- Encode the algorithm and its data into a *program* in the language of the computer;
- Let the computer execute the program;
- Decode the result and extract the solution of your problem.

This problem solving methodology offers computer programming as an “one-size-fits-all” pattern for computer use as a problem solving tool, independent of the problem domain. Therefore one may say that this paradigm of computer use as a problem solving tool integrates the problem solving process within the computer.

Difficulties of this approach of using computers as problem solving tools result from the requirement to encode the algorithm into a program, which implies knowledge about computer architecture and functionality. Computer science experts diminish these difficulties by developing software tools (operating systems, programming languages, compilers, interpreters, graphic user interfaces, etc.,) which raise the

machine language abstraction level towards the logical level of problem solving process. The software tools thus created allow people to avoid thinking in terms of binary signal processing employed by the machine. But, irrespective of their level of abstraction, these software tools represent machine computation concepts: they do not represent the concepts used by the human problem solving process. Therefore, in order to use the computer during problem solving process one needs to learn the language provided by software tools, thus increasing the level of professionalism required to computer user. However, by increasing the number and the complexity of the problem domains where computer is used as a problem solving tool, the number and the complexity of software tools required by the translation from problem domain language into the software tool language increases dramatically. Consequently, current software complexity reached a level where it threatens to kill the current computer technology itself (Horn, 2001). To tackle this situation pioneers of current software technology (Markoff, 2012) suggest “Killing the Computer to Save It”.

Successes of computer use during problem solving process have evolved software tools at the level of information processing services (SaaS, 2010). Moreover, currently the networking technology allows software tools to be exchanged as standalone pieces of composable tools called Web Services (WS). A new problem solving paradigm based on WS-s emerges, where computer based problem solving process is split between problem domain expert and computer expert according to their expertise as follows:

- Problem domain expert formulates the problem and the solution algorithm in terms of problem domain concepts;
- Computer expert implements software tools and domain concepts as web services using computer languages;
- Computer user acquires and manipulates WS-s in order to solve her problems.

The architecture of the problem solving software resulted depends upon the problem domain and evolves as a Service Oriented Architecture (SOA). The computer platform that runs it is transparent to the problem solver. Therefore, one may say that with this problem solving methodology computer is integrated within the human problem solving process. The problems raised by the interoperability of WS-s components of SOA-s are resolved using new standards. XML technology led to the development of three main standards that are used for the implementation of SOA-s:

- 1) Standard (Small) Object Access Protocol (SOAP), a standard that allows applications to invoke WS-s irrespective of the computer architecture on which they run.
- 2) Web Service Description Language (WSDL), a standard that allows software developers to describe WS-s such that they can be discovered and used by other developers.
- 3) Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration (UDDI), a standard registry that allows software developers to advertise, sell, and buy WS-s.

These standards transform computer based problem solving process into a computer business where the exchange unit is the WS. Unfortunately this computer business is not targeted to the computer user. By the contrary, in addition to the language of the software tools, now computer user needs also to learn the intricacies of Web Programming, the language of the WS-s and SOA-s.

The recent hype about Cloud Computing (CC) promises to bring computers as problem solving tools to the masses. However, so far the main research on CC (Srinivasan and Getov, 2011) concerns mostly cloud infrastructure management, expressed in terms of Virtual Machines (VM-s) populating the cloud at a given time. But current VM-s in the cloud context are abstractions of computer architectures not abstractions of problem domains. Therefore CC is addressed to computer experts not to problem domain experts. Moreover, the goal of CC is stated mostly in terms of computer resource optimization and efficiency, not in terms of how computer use can be addressed to masses. We believe that populating the cloud with domain dedicated virtual machines CC can become a problem solving tool dedicated to masses.

In this paper we show how cloud computing can be used as a mechanism that supports computer integration within the problem solving process, independent of problem domain. The paper is organized as follows: Section II discusses the domain based problem solving process; Section III presents the domain algorithmic language, to be used by domain experts to develop domain algorithms for solving their problems; Section IV describes the process of computational emancipation of problem domains, which allows computer to be integrated within the specific problem solving process, characteristic to the domain; Section V describes the domain dedicated virtual machine, used to execute domain algorithms on the Internet, as web services; Section VI sketches the CC implementation of DAL System, the system that allows domain experts to subscribe to the cloud for computer services required by their problem domain solving algorithms.

## II. PROBLEM SOLVING PROCESS

Problem and problem solving are among the few concepts computer scientists use without defining them, under the assumption that everybody understands them a priori. However, for different domains of activity problem and problem solving may mean different things. For example, for a high-school student solving the equation  $a * x^2 + b * x + c = 0$  means the development of the formula  $x_1, x_2 = (-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4 * a * c}) / (2 * a)$  which when fed with the

coefficients  $a, b, c$  of the equation evaluates to the numbers  $x_1, x_2$  that satisfy the equality  $a * x^2 + b * x + c = 0$ . On the other hand, for a computer expert this may mean the development of a program that inputs the numbers  $a, b, c$  and evaluates the expression  $a * x^2 + b * x + c$  for all  $x \in [Min_R, Max_R]$ , where  $Min_R$  and  $Max_R$  are minimum and maximum real numbers representable in machine memory, and outputs those  $x$  for which the value of  $a * x^2 + b * x + c$  is zero. Teaching students the art of problem solving, Polya (Polya, 1957) has defined the concepts of a problem and problem solving as follows:

*To have a problem means to search consciously for some action appropriate to attain a given aim. To solve a problem means to find such an action.*

Notice that hidden here are three things: *unknown, action, purpose*. These concepts are independent of problem domain, therefore Polya's definition is robust. Polya's problem solving process involves the operations: identify the *unknown*, find the *action* that leads from the given *data* to the discovery of unknown, and check that the unknown thus found satisfies the *purpose*, i.e., satisfies the condition that characterizes the problem. Unknown, action, and purpose are natural language terms used to formulate and solve problems in any problem domain. In any scientific domain the natural language ambiguities in problem formulation and solution algorithm development are resolved by the domain context. That is, for mathematician an unknown may denote a mathematical abstraction while for a chemist it may denote a concrete chemical substance; the actions performed by the mathematician while developing a solution algorithm perform operations with mathematical abstractions while the actions performed by the chemist are operations with concrete physical instruments and chemical substances. Scientists solving problems manipulate the objects of their sciences whose meanings are different though their natural language notations may be the same. That is, though the natural language is infinite through the infinity of the discourse it manipulates, in any given domain the language used by the domain expert is unambiguous and is finitely generated by the mechanism of knowledge acquisition and use. Consequently, the problem solving process proposed by Polya is linguistically unambiguous and domain independent. Focusing on mathematical objects, Polya formulates it as the four steps problem solving methodology:

- 1) Formalize the problem;
- 2) Develop a plan (an algorithm) to solve the problem;
- 3) Perform the algorithm on the data characterizing the problem;
- 4) Validate the solution by checking the validity of problem conditions.

The requirement to formalize the problem means to express the three characteristic concepts components of the problem, unknown, condition, data, as mathematical objects. The result of "problem formalization" step depends upon mathematical knowledge and problem understanding. The requirement to develop a solution algorithm asks the problem solver to discover a sequence of well-coordinated operations which when applied to the data characterizing the problem leads to the values of the requested unknowns. The algorithm could be defined over a class of problems a member of which the problem at

hand is, or it could be a heuristic that is used for one given problem when no good algorithm is known. The requirement to perform the algorithm asks the problem solver to actually execute the operations involved in the algorithm using her brain as a tool. This means to instantiate the problem by appropriate data, conditions, and unknown and to execute the operations defining the algorithm on the problem instance thus obtained. The requirement to validate the solution means to show that conditions characterizing the problem are satisfied by the solution discovered by the algorithm execution.

There are two kinds of difficulties involved in Polya problem solving methodology: difficulties that pertain to the discovery of the problem solving algorithm and difficulties that pertain to the execution of the problem solving algorithm. Algorithm discovery is characteristic to human problem solving process and due to the diversity of human range of problem domains and problems there is little mechanical help for general algorithm discovery. However, computers evolved from tools that can help performing numerical operations to tools that can perform any kind of well-defined operations. Hence, computer can be used to help with algorithm execution irrespective of the problem and problem solving algorithm. To straighten the mechanism used by computers to perform operations during an algorithm execution, we give below an algebraic specification of a computer (Rus and Rus, 1993):

```
beginSpec Computer
  name Hardware System is
  sort Memory, Processor, Devices, Control;
  opns receive:Device x Control->Memory;
  transmit:Memory x Control->Device;
  store:Processor x Control->Memory;
  fetch:Memory x Control->Processor;
  process:
    Memory x Processor x Control->Processor,
    Memory x Processor x Control->Memory,
    Processor x Control->Processor;
  vars PC:Control;
  axms PC.operation is receive|transmit|stores|
    fetch|process;
  actn PEL: while PluggedIn and PowerOn do
    l_0: Perform(PC);PC:=Next(PC):^l_0
endSpec Computer
```

The essential part is the action Program Execution Loop (PEL) composed of the functions `Perform()` and `Next()`. `Perform()` takes as the argument the control register called Program Counter (PC) and evaluates the operation encoded as its contents; `Next(PC)` determines the operation of the algorithm to be performed next. Computer Based Problem Solving Process (CBPSP) uses Polya methodology where problem solving algorithm is performed by a computer. This requires that problem characteristic components `unknown`, `data`, `condition`, as well as problem solving algorithm, be encoded in computer memory. The process of this encoding has been called the computer programming. In addition, a mechanism for activating the computer on a given program and for controlling computer's actions during program execution, must also be provided. This has been called the program execution.

Computer programming and program execution are tedious and error prone tasks, and they require problem solver to be a computer expert. So, to make computers usable by the human problem solving process, an evolving collection of programming tools have been developed as the system software. According to services provided for program development and execution, system software tools can be classified as translators and operators. Translator tools allow programmers to use high level mnemonic terms for machine operations during programming process. Operator tools manipulate computer resources (memory, processor, devices, control, information) and events (interrupts and exceptions) that occur during program execution process. But it doesn't matter the abstraction level of the terms used to denote computer resources, events, and system software tools, these terms represent computer elements and computer computation concepts. Software tools are not problem domain concepts. Therefore CBPSP actually embeds problem solving process into the computer language, irrespective of the problem it solves. To bring computers to masses it means to reverse this process, i.e., to embed the computer into the problem solving process. This is achievable by letting computer user employ the computer during the algorithm evaluation as a brain assistant that performs operations required by the control flow of the algorithm evaluation process. Current computer technology makes this task feasible by developing software tools that allow domain expert and computer expert to share the problem solving process according to their domains of expertise, as follows:

- Problem domain experts formulate problems and develop solution algorithms using problem domain logics;
- Computer experts develop software tools and provide them to computer users as web service;
- Computer network experts develop tools that allow problem solvers to ask computer networks to perform the tasks involved in their problem solving processes.

The new software tools required by this computer based problem solving methodology are:

- The Domain Algorithmic Language (DAL) a computational language to be used by the problem solver to express problem solving algorithms.
- Computational Emancipation of the Application Domain (CEAD), which provides a data-representation of the problem domain that automates algorithm evaluation using a Domain Dedicated Virtual Machine (DDVM);
- The DAL System that implements the DDVM (in the cloud) and offers computer services to the computer user by subscription, without asking computer knowledge in order to consume these services.

### III. COMPUTATIONAL LANGUAGE OF THE PROBLEM DOMAIN

Polya's problem solving methodology is centered around problem formalization and problem solving algorithm development, using problem domain concepts. This is easily done for mathematical problems because mathematical well defined concepts are implicitly formalized. But for other problem domains, problem formalization and algorithm development may not be so obvious. However, whatever problem domain may be, problem formalization means define problem concepts and methods in terms of well-understood concepts and methods. Using a mathematical say, "one cannot expect to be able to solve a problem one does not understand". Our conjecture here is that solvable problems of any problem domain are expressible in terms of a finite number of well defined concepts. This is trivially true for the common sense problems raised by the usual real-life. A formal proof of this conjecture can actually be sought using decidability theory (Sipser, 2006).

We assume further that for a problem solver, the problem domain consists of a set of well defined domain characteristic concepts, and is modeled by a tree as shown in Figure 1.

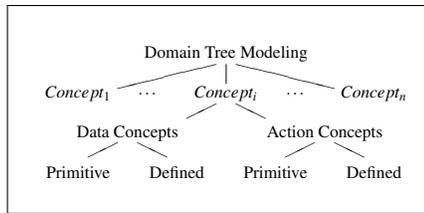


Fig. 1. Tree modeling of a problem domain

The *Primitive* leaves of the modeling tree represent domain characteristic concepts that are common to all domain experts. Primitive data are expressed by the concepts of variable and value. Primitive actions are expressed by the simple phrases of the form:  $Subject \xrightarrow{Action} Object$ ,  $Subject \xrightarrow{Property} Object$  where *Subject* and *Object* are data or actions (as appropriate), and  $\xrightarrow{Action}$  and  $\xrightarrow{Property}$  are operations to perform or predicates to check, expressed by the common linguistic jargon of the domain. The *Defined* leaves of the modeling tree represent concepts created by problem solving process and are specific to the problem solver. However, the mechanisms used to define new data and action concepts during problem solving process are specific to the domain. We assume here that data definition mechanisms are formalized by mathematical concepts of *pair*, *vector*, *table*, *list*, *set*, *function*. Linguistic expressions of these definitions are domain characteristic and are tailored to the problem and, as appropriate, are formulated by the problem solver. The action definition mechanisms are formalized by mathematical rules that define the action-composition operations by *expression-well-formation*, *concatenation*, *choice*, *iteration*. The linguistic expressions of these definitions are domain specific phrases.

These are actually valid expressions in the natural language of the problem solvers, which are understood by all domain experts because these expressions uses only concepts familiar to the domain experts.

This domain modeling implies that the solution (algorithm) of any domain problem defines a new characteristic concept

of the problem domain. Consequently, by problem solving, a problem domain becomes a potentially infinite collection of concepts usable to solve other potential problems of that domain. Problem solutions (algorithms) are expressed in terms of concepts and operations characteristic to the domain.

For example, for a high-school student learning arithmetic, the problem domain may be characterized by the set  $I$  of integer numbers with the operations  $+: I \times I \rightarrow I$ ,  $-: I \times I \rightarrow I$ ,  $*: I \times I \rightarrow I$ . Then, solving the equation  $a * x + b = 0$ ,  $a, b \in I, a \neq 0$  means finding  $c \in I$  such that  $a * c + b = 0$ . Using the properties of equality, the problem solver develops the formula  $c = a/b$ . But one can easily observe that  $a/b$  is not always an integer. Therefore, problem solver concludes that  $a * x + b = 0$  is not always solvable over the set of integers. However, if she extends  $I$  to  $R$ , the set of all real numbers, then the equation  $a * x + b = 0$  is solvable and its solution is  $x = -b/a$ . Since division by zero is not defined, the problem solver requires the condition  $a \neq 0$ . Thus, by solving the problem a new well-defined concept, the set  $R$  of real numbers, has been developed and problem domain was enlarged with the new concept.

The specification of the Domain Algorithmic Language (DAL) can be done using a vocabulary that contains language terms used for few characteristic concepts of the domain, and very simple rules for sentence formation. The potential ambiguity of these terms is eliminated by their meaning in the domain. In other words, though phrases containing these terms may be ambiguous as natural language expressions, these ambiguities are transparent for a domain expert. That is, for a problem domain  $D$ ,  $DAL(D)$  is the language spoken by an expert of the domain  $D$ .

The problem solving process expands the vocabulary of  $DAL(D)$  with the terms used to name problem solutions. In addition, problem solution expressions (algorithms) expand the sentence formation rules with the rules provided by the solution expression. This mimics the natural learning process that characterizes the problem domain. We should observe here the difference between computer languages and DAL. Computer languages have a fixed vocabulary (lexicon) and a fixed set of algorithm well formation rules. DAL's vocabulary (lexicon) and the concept terms well formation rules evolves dynamically with the domain learning process.

Formally DAL may be specified using a pattern similar to the pattern used to specify computer languages, which consists of given a finite set of BNF rules specifying terms denoting domain characteristic concepts and few simple BNF rules for statement formation. Further, DAL specification mechanism allows both its vocabulary and formation rules to grow dynamically with domain learning process. We call this the process of DAL's evolution. Since DAL terms and algorithms are natural language concepts (though they may have machine representations) domain experts can freely reuse them as components of the new concepts and solution algorithms developed during problem solving process, while preserving the unambiguity of DAL.

Grammatically, the initial terms of the DAL vocabulary would be categorized as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The statement formation rules are chosen to fit

the Resource Description Framework (RDF) used by the Semantic Web (McBride, 2004; Kline and Carroll, 2004),  $Subject \xrightarrow{Action} Object$ ,  $Subject \xrightarrow{Property} Object$ , where  $Subject$ ,  $Object$ ,  $Action$ ,  $Property$  are elements of the DAL vocabulary. Of course, solution algorithms developed by the problem solving process are seen as statement formation rules expressed in terms of the already defined statement formation rules. The evolving DAL specification defined above could be best illustrated by any of the formal systems provided by the axiomatic specification of set theory (Takeuti and Zaring, 1971).

Computational nature of DAL is obtained by DAL's semantics specification using a description logic (Badder et al., 2005) whose model is defined as follows:

- Implement every concept  $C$  of the DAL terminology as a web service  $WS(C)$ . Let  $URI(C)$  be the URL of the  $WS(C)$ .
- Implement formation rules  $Subject \xrightarrow{Action} Object$  by web services  $WS(Action)$  whose input and output are elements of  $Subject \times Object$ .
- Implement formation rules  $Subject \xrightarrow{Property} Object$  by web services  $WS(Property)$  that input tuples of  $Subject \times Object$  and return true or false.
- Implement every solution algorithm by a web service obtained by the composition of the web services employed in the algorithm using the following rules:
  - 1) Implement concept concatenation  $C_1;C_2$  by service concatenation  $WS(C_1);WS(C_2)$ ;
  - 2) Implement concept composition  $C_1(C_2)$  by service composition  $WS(C_1)(WS(C_2))$ ;
  - 3) For each domain specific operator, *rator*, implement concept composition  $C_1 \text{ rator } C_2$  by a domain specific web service composition operator  $WS(\text{rator})(WS(C_1), WS(C_2))$ .

In order to allow algorithm evaluation by the problem solver using the computer as a brain assistant, we further structure DAL and its model using a domain ontology represented by a file in the Web Ontology Language, (OWL) (McGuinness and van Harmelen, 2003). For a problem domain  $D$ , let  $OWL(D)$  be the OWL file representing the  $DAL(D)$ . A solution algorithm in the domain  $D$  is then executed by the problem solver using an approach similar to the usage of a calculator to evaluate an expression. However, data and operations of the DAL algorithm are evaluated using computers available on the Internet and the  $OWL(D)$  as follows. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a solution algorithm to be executed.

- 1) Map the expression of  $\mathcal{A}$  into an expression tree. A Polish-form (prefix or postfix) can be used to express this tree. Let  $PF(\mathcal{A})$  be the postfix form of the DAL algorithm.
- 2) Evaluate  $PF(\mathcal{A})$  using a stack and  $OWL(D)$ , by the following rules:
  - a) Examine the  $PF(\mathcal{A})$  from left to write.
  - b) If a data concept  $d$  is examined, search  $d$  in the  $OWL(D)$ . Let  $URL(d)$  be the web service implementing the concept  $d$ . Call the web

service at  $URL(d)$  and push the result on the stack;

- c) If an action  $a$  (operation or property) is examined, search  $a$  in the  $OWL(D)$  and let  $URL(a)$  be the web service implementing  $a$ . Call  $URL(a)$  taking as input arguments the elements on top of the stack. Let  $r$  be the result. Delete the arguments taken as input by  $URL(a)$  from the top of the stack and push  $r$  on the stack;
- d) The result of the DAL algorithm evaluation is on top-of the stack when the  $PF(\mathcal{A})$  is completely examined.

This algorithm is well-known in compiler construction (Aho et al., 1986) and does not require any computer knowledge in order to perform it by a domain-expert. However, in this context the  $PF(\mathcal{A})$  algorithm interpretation assumes that: (a) problem domain is represented as a data structure (the OWL file) that can be searched by the computer user, and (b) domain concepts are implemented as web services available on the Internet. Since computer user handles only domain concepts, this paradigm of computer use integrates the computer within the problem solving process.

**Note:** though the DAL algorithm evaluation described above follows a sequential approach, it can be implemented by a distributed system, as we shall see in Section V.

#### IV. COMPUTATIONAL EMANCIPATION OF A PROBLEM DOMAIN

The DAL algorithm execution discussed in Section III demonstrates that current software technology allows computer integration within the problem solving process, as a brain assistant. But this integration lacks the efficiency because computer user spends all the time searching for web services in the  $OWL(D)$ . In addition, it imposes new complexities during problem solving process determined by the structure of the  $OWL(D)$  and by the web service calling mechanism. Therefore, in order to be effective, this integration must be automated. How can this be done?

CEAD is the process that transforms the DAL from a fragment of natural language used by the problem solver during problem solving process into a computational language used to automate the problem solving process. Therefore CEAD can actually be seen as a new step towards domain formalization described in Section III and can be achieved by:

- 1) Software tools to automate the process of domain ontology creation and implementations using the  $OWL(D)$ ;
- 2) Software tools that automate WS generation and optimize the search for the concept implementation in  $OWL(D)$  during the DAL algorithm execution;
- 3) Software tools that automate the process of WS evaluation during DAL algorithm execution;
- 4) Software tools that expand domain ontology with the terms denoting new algorithms developed during problem solving process and with the formation rules provided by these algorithms.

Many such software tools are already provided by current software technology. However, these tools have not been designed with this goal in mind. Therefore, while computer research creates tools dedicated to the goal set forth by the CEAD process, the challenge is to use the existing software as appropriate, in the context of the new problem solving methodology, which integrate the computer in the human problem solving process, further referred to as the Web Based Problem Solving Process (WBPSP).

### A. Domain Ontology

In this paper, domain ontology is a mechanism that facilitates the goal of domain algorithm execution, by the domain expert, employing the computer as a brain assistant, which uses web services to perform algorithm's operations. Therefore, while much of current work on ontology focuses on development and modeling (Guarino and Welty, 2000; Guarino and Welty, 2002; Welty and Guarino, 2001; Hruby, 2005) we concentrate on a Domain Ontology structuring and representation that supports the automation of concept identification in the domain ontology and the execution of the web services implementing domain concepts. Since WBPSP ensures domain evolution by the problem solving process, our ontology structuring must be automatically updated with the new concepts representing problems and solution algorithms. Hence, the ontology structuring we assume here is similar to that described in (Rector, 2003). That is:

- 1) The domain ontology is specified by a taxonomy that is representable by a collection of disjoint trees whose nodes are primitive concepts of the domain and whose edges are relationships interpreted as logical subsumptions, that is to say that if concept  $C_1$  subsumes concepts  $C_2$  then  $\forall x.C_1(x) \rightarrow C_2(x)$ .
- 2) Ontology trees are of two kinds: DataConcept trees and ActionConcept trees. The relations among them are explicitly specified by definitions. Example of such definitions are the references to the input and the output of actions used in the domain algorithms.
- 3) New concepts are constructed by domain specific tree constructors which represent problem solving algorithms.

The methodology we use to build a domain ontology is similar to the "adaptive methodology" reported in (OpenStructs,TechWiki,2011) tailored to the goal of WBPSP. That is, the domain ontology reflects the problem solving process which evolves the ontology by the user learning process, and thus consists of two parts: a part that represents the user own ontology and a part that represents the domain expert ontology. Domain Expert Ontology (DEO) is built by hand, using a small taxonomy chosen from a textbook. This is performed by a collaboration between domain expert and computer expert as shown in Figure 2.

The User Own Ontology (UOO) is built automatically by tools from the DEO, thus extending automatically the TBox and the ABox during algorithm execution by the DDVMs. That is, initially UOO coincides with the DEO. Then, during problem solving process UOO is automatically expanded with new concepts representing problems and solution algorithms developed by the particular user. Hence, at a given time, the

domain ontology consists of the core DEO, that is available to all domain users, and a private part (UOO) which is specific to a given domain user. The DEO may be extended by the system to represent the domain evolution containing the new domain discoveries developed by the activity of the collection of domain users. This may be illustrated with the evolution of arithmetic ontology to a vector space.

Consider an application domain modeled by a tree as shown in Figure 1.

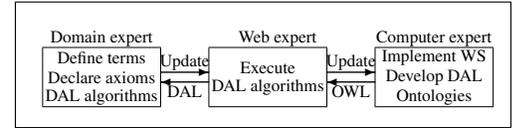


Fig. 2. Domain Ontology Implementation and Use Data

concepts represent data that can be used in a computational process such as input and output of such a process. The three attributes of a data concept are: *type*, *value*, *literal*. The *type* of a data concept is defined by the collection of operations defined on that data; the value of the data concept is the abstraction it represents; and the *literal* is a string representing that data value during problem solving process. For example, *Integer* type is defined by the collection of operations identified by  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $*$ ,  $/$  where  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $*$  are total operations and  $/$  is a partial operation; *Integer* values are decimal numbers and are formally defined as *cardinals of sets*; *Integer* literals could be sequences of decimal digits (potentially prefixed by  $+$  or  $-$ ) representing integer numbers. Using appropriate definitions, one can extend the primitive operations  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $*$ ,  $/$  to the operations *add*, *subtract*, *multiply*, *divide*, which are defined on *Number* that subsumes both *Integer* and *Rational*.

The CEAD process associates both data concepts and action concepts of the domain modeled with WS-s which represent their semantics. As suggested in Figure 2, the WS-s are constructed by computer experts cooperating with domain experts. For example, the concepts in the arithmetic domain in Figure ?? are modeled by WS-s automatically generated from Java classes as we shall see further.

The domain concepts are represented in the OWL file by their properties. As seen above, a data concept such as *Integer*, has three main attributes: *type*, *value*, and *literal*. These attributes are represented in OWL language by three properties: *hasType*, *hasValue*, and *hasLiteral*. The RDF triples of these properties look like:  $Integer \xrightarrow{hasType} URI(integerType)$ ,  $Integer \xrightarrow{hasValue} URI(integerValue)$ , and  $Integer \xrightarrow{hasLiteral} URI(integerLiteral)$ . The action concepts like *add*, *subtract*, *multiply*, etc., are associated with WS-s which implements them via a Concept Agent. There could be several WS instances that implement the same concept so that if one instance is down other instances can take over. For example, the concept *add* may have the agent *addAgent* implemented by two WS instances: *addInstance1*, *addInstance2*. The agent maintains the list of web services which it can execute as implementations of the action it performs. Therefore, the RDF triples that define an action concept *a* in the OWL file will look like:  $a \xrightarrow{hasAgent} aAgent$  and  $aAgent \xrightarrow{implementedBy} aAgent$ .

$aInstance_1; \dots; aAgent \xrightarrow{\text{implementedBy}} aInstance_n$ . For example, the add action of the Integer type is represented in OWL by the RDF triples:  $add \xrightarrow{\text{hasAgent}} addAgent$ , and  $addAgent \xrightarrow{\text{implementedBy}} addInstance1, addInstance2$ . The signature  $Integer \times Integer \xrightarrow{\text{add}} Integer$  of the add action is represented in the OWL file using the three RDF triples:  $add \xrightarrow{\text{hasInput}} IntegerPair$ ,  $add \xrightarrow{\text{hasOutput}} Integer$ , and  $add \xrightarrow{\text{hasAgent}} addAgent$ .

### B. Using Protégé For OWL File Development

An OWL file is usually composed of a header and a body. The header tells us about the namespaces used in the ontology document and the ontology documents imported in the ontology document. Each namespace is specified by a Prefix construct and each ontology imported is specified by an Import construct. The body is basically composed of entity declarations (classes, properties, objects, individuals, axioms). Such declarations are in the form of RDF triples. We may use either XML syntax or OWL 2 Manchester Syntax (OWL2,2009) to express them. Though XML syntax is verbose, we believe that it is better understood by people and therefore we use XML syntax in the examples that follow. Since the goal of this paper is to describe a system that allows a computer user to perform problem solving using her computer as a brain assistant, we simplify the concept representation in OWL language and split the activity of OWL file creation in two steps. The first step is where the domain concepts are represented in the OWL file without being associated with web services implementing them, and the second step is where concepts in the OWL file are associated with their semantics. The first step is automatically performed by domain expert using Protégé tool (Horridge, 2011), and second step is performed by the computer expert collaborating with domain expert. So far there are no tools assisting this activity. However, as we shall see in the next section, such tools can be easily developed.

Protege is an ontology editor tool which provides Graphical User Interface (GUI) so that the process of editing OWL files is easier. The user can create the OWL file by entering each concept as a class via the Protégé GUI. The subsumption relation present in the domain model is called the sub-class relation in Protégé. The major benefit of using Protégé for the first step of the OWL file development is automatic creation of the OWL ontology file header. An example of an OWL file as created by Protégé is shown below. To gain space we collected all constructs `Class:concept` on one line though Protégé would place each of them on its own line.

```
Prefix: xml: <http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace>
Prefix: xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>
Prefix: rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
Prefix: rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
Prefix: owl: <http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#>
Prefix: : <http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/ontologies/arithmetic.owl#>
```

```
Ontology: <http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/ontologies/arithmetic.owl>
Class:Integer Class:add Class:multiply Class:subtract Class:divide
```

### C. Updating an OWL File with Web Services

The file created by Protégé in the first step of the CEAD process represents a *pure* domain ontology where concepts

are predefined (primitive) and are not associated with their implementations. We denote this file by `domainPURE.owl`. The second step of the CEAD process consists of creating the file `domainCEAD.owl`. This is initiated by including in the `domainCEAD.owl` the file `domainPURE.owl`. Then the entities in the file `domainCEAD.owl` are associated with computer artifacts implementing them, thus performing the second step of the CEAD process. This activity is standardized by the two kind of knowledges we are handling: data concepts and action concepts. The patterns used to specify data concepts and action concepts consist of sequences of text lines where:

- 1) First line represents the domain term used to denote the concept;
- 2) Each line that follows represents a property (in the sense of OWL) of the concept specified on its previous lines. We use indentation conventions for the identification of the domain and range of the property, as follows:

```
Property term
  Property Domain
  Property Range
```

Since we use WS-s as semantics of data concepts the primitive data are supplied by XML schema and are: `xsd:int`, `xsd:double`, `xsd:boolean`, `xsd:string`, `xsd:time`, etc., (see XML schema). All the other concepts are represented in terms of the predefined or already defined concepts.

The two kind of patterns that represent the two kind of concepts are:

- Data concepts are specified by the pattern:

```
DataConcept: domain term used to denote it
Individuals: concept term itself as an individual
Objects: instantiations of the DataConcept
  Individuals: object's elements
  Constant: an immutable element
  Variable: a mutable element
Type: Set of action concepts available on the objects
```

Example data concept is the Integer which when fit in the above pattern becomes:

```

Integer
  integer
  xsd:int
  "3":int
  x:int
Operations available on xsd:int

```

- Action concepts are specified by the pattern:

```

ActionConcept: domain term denoting the action
Individuals: concept term itself as an individual
Objects: instantiations of the ActionConcept
Input: a data concept
Output: a data concept
Agent: language expressions of the action
Implemented by:
  Brain | Hardware | Software
  Resource implementing
  Communication protocol

```

### Example of action concept is:

```

ActionConcept: add
"add"
add | + | add-code | etc.
Input: (integer, integer)
Output: integer
Agent: URI (addAgent)
Implemented by
  Software
  URI (WebService)
  SOAP

```

**Note:** though the representation structure of the domain concepts is standardized, when they are represented in the OWL file these standards may vary. Therefore the concrete rules used to represent domain concepts in OWL(D) are collected by the computer expert in an OWL file called here `cead.owl`. The

`cead.owl` is an XML file that contains OWL rules used to describe domain concepts in the `domainCEAD.owl` file. The structure of this file is defined by the template:

```

<?xml version="1.0"?>
<rdf:RDF attributes defining namespaces>
  Ontology imported
  Concepts
  Properties
</rdf:RDF>

```

The namespaces in the head part of the `cead.owl` file are automatically supplied by Protégé. In addition, the computer expert provides the namespaces of the system. Example namespaces pattern is:

```

xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
xmlns:protege="http://protege.stanford.edu/plugins/owl/protege#"
xmlns:xsp="http://www.owl-ontologies.com/2005/08/07/xsp.owl#"
xmlns:owl="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#"
xmlns:pl="http://www.daml.org/services/owl-s/1.1/Profile.owl#"
xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#"
xmlns:swrl="http://www.w3.org/2003/11/swrl#"
xmlns:swrlb="http://www.w3.org/2003/11/swrlb#"
xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#"
xmlns="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/cead.owl#"
xml:base="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/cead.owl"
<owl:Ontology rdf:about="">
  <owl:imports rdf:resource="
    http://www.daml.org/services/owl-s/1.1/Profile.owl"/>
</owl:Ontology>

```

Concepts are defined as XML elements whose tag is `owl:Class` and whose `Id` is domain term such as `DataConcept`, `ActionConcept`, `Input`, `Output`, etc. The RDF constructors such as `union`, `subClass`, etc., may also be used. Example concept definitions are:

```

<owl:Class rdf:ID="Concept">
  <owl:unionOf rdf:parseType="Collection">
    <owl:Class rdf:about="#DataConcept" />
    <owl:Class rdf:about="#ActionConcept" />
  </owl:unionOf>
</owl:Class>
<owl:Class rdf:ID="ActionConcept"/>

```

```

<owl:Class rdf:ID="DataConcept"/>
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Input"/>

```

Properties of the concepts are defined as XML elements whose tags are OWL properties `ObjectProperty`, `DataProperty`, `FunctionProperty`, whose `ID` attribute identifies the property name, such as `hasInput`, `hasOutput`, etc., and the XML element components define the domain, range, and the type of the property. Example property definitions are:

```

<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:ID="hasInput">
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#ActionConcept"/>
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="#Input"/>
</owl:ObjectProperty>
<owl:DatatypeProperty rdf:ID="inputName">
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#Input"/>
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
</owl:DatatypeProperty>
<owl:FunctionalProperty rdf:ID="serviceName">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#DataProperty"/>
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#ServiceInstance"/>
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string"/>
</owl:FunctionalProperty>

```

The description of namespaces, concepts, and properties in `cead.owl` follows a standard pattern. Therefore the examples given above are sufficient to understand the concept representation in `arithmeticCEAD.owl` that illustrates the domain `CEAD.owl` file. Here we illustrate WS generation for domain's primitive concepts using the file `ArithmeticsPure.owl`. To simplify the matter we show only the web services associated with the data concept `Integer` and action concept `add`, and use XML syntax which we believe is more accessible to the reader. The rest of the entities of the `ArithmeticsPure.owl` ontology are treated similarly.

```

<?xml version="1.0"?>
<rdf:RDF
  xmlns="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/ontologies/arithmetic.owl#"
  xmlns:sadl="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/site/sadl.owl#"
  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#"
  xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#"
  xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#"
  xmlns:owl="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#"
  xml:base="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/ontologies/arithmetic.owl"
  xmlns:tns1="http://webservices.nld.cs.uiowa.edu/">
  <sadl:DataConcept rdf:about="#Integer">
    <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#Class"/>
    <sadl:description> Integer concept of arithmetics domain </sadl:description>
    <sadl:datatype rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
      xs:int
    </sadl:datatype>
  </sadl:DataConcept>
  <sadl:ComputationalConcept rdf:about="#Add">
    <sadl:description> Returns the sum of two integers </sadl:description>
    <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#Class"/>
    <sadl:hasInput>
      <sadl:Input rdf:ID="addI1">
        <sadl:inputType rdf:resource="#Integer"/>
        <sadl:order> 1 </sadl:order>
      </sadl:Input>
    </sadl:hasInput>
    <sadl:hasInput>
      <sadl:Input rdf:ID="addI2">
        <sadl:inputType rdf:resource="#Integer"/>
        <sadl:order> 2 </sadl:order>
      </sadl:Input>
    </sadl:hasInput>
    <sadl:hasOutput rdf:resource="#Integer"/>
    <sadl:hasProfile>
      <owls2:Profile rdf:ID="addProfile">
        <cead:implementedBy rdf:resource="#addServiceInstance1"/>
      </owls2:Profile>
    </sadl:hasProfile>
  </sadl:ComputationalConcept>
  <sadl:ServiceInstance rdf:ID="addServiceInstance1">
    <sadl:uri rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">

```

```

    http://localhost:8080/ArithmeticsWebServices/calculator
  </sabl:uri>
  <sabl:wSDLFile rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    http://localhost:8080/ArithmeticsWebServices/calculator?wsdl
  </sabl:wSDLFile>
  <sabl:serviceName rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    Calculator Service
  </sabl:serviceName>
  <sabl:portName rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    CalculatorServiceHttpSoap12Endpoint
  </sabl:portName>
  </sabl:ServiceInstance>
  ...
  Copy all operatios
  Copy concepts
  </rdf:RDF>

```

For convenience, the domainCEAD.owl file is associated with two dedicated namespaces:

- <http://bula1.cs.uiowa.edu/site/domain.owl> which is one per domain called *domain vocabulary* (in our case domain is arithmetic) where each term is paired with the URI of the WS implementing it in the cloud;
- <http://bula1.cs.uiowa.edu/site/sabl.owl> which is the vocabulary of the domain dedicated virtual machine used to perform computations, as seen in section V, and it is the same for all domains.

The computer artifacts used to represent concept semantics in the domainCEAD.owl file are in general developed by computer experts collaborating with domain experts. They can use any tools to implement them. The computer technology abounds of such tools (Axis/Java, 2011; ApacheCXF, 2011; Wikipedia, 2011; Metro, 2008) and many other. These tools allow computer experts to develop WS by hand or to automatically generate them from conventional computer artifacts such as programs written in various programming languages as are Java, C, C++, etc. Among these tools Apache Axis, currently Apache Axis2, is a light-weight, yet powerful tool for automatic WS generation from plain Java classes or C functions. We develop WS-s used to CEAD a domain of interest using two approaches:

- 1) WS-s associated with primitive concepts are automatically generated from Java programs using Apache Axis technology. The URL [bula-site.documentation](http://bula-site.documentation) shows how do we use Axis2 in this project.
- 2) WS-s associated with user concepts defined during problem solving process are automatically developed by our own method as we shall see in section V.

## V. DOMAIN DEDICATED VIRTUAL MACHINE

The efficiency of the DAL algorithm execution by problem solver using the computer as a brain assistant is improved by associating each concept used in the  $PF(\mathcal{A})$  with the WS that implements it. This can be easily done by hand, by the problem solver, or by an appropriate automaton that operates on  $PF(\mathcal{A})$  and OWL(D). The result can be seen as a “program” in the language of the brain assistant used by problem solver to execute the DAL algorithm. However, since the operations performed by this automaton (the brain assistant) are WS-s

implementing the concepts of the problem domain, we call it the Domain Dedicated Virtual Machine (DDVM).

Formally, DDVM can be seen as a tuple  $DDVM = \langle ConceptC, Execute, Next \rangle$  where:

- ConceptC is a Concept Counter, that, for a given DAL algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$ , points to the web service in the OWL(D), that implements the concept, to be performed next during the algorithm execution;
- Execute() is the process that execute the computations in the WS pointed to by ConceptC;
- Next() is a function which determines the next concept of the DAL algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  to be performed by Execute() during algorithm execution.

The DDVM performs similarly with the PEL (see Section II) and therefore the algorithm execution by DDVM can be described by the following Domain Algorithm Execution Loop (DAEL):

```

ConceptC = FirstDALConcept (DAL algorithm)
while (ConceptC is not End)
    Execute (ConceptC);
    ConceptC = Next (ConceptC, DAL algorithm)
Extract result + dysplay it to the user

```

On closer inspection one can easily see the similarity between DDVM and a Virtual Monitor (Popek and Goldberg, 1974). The ConceptC is an abstraction of the program counter, the WS pointed to by the ConceptC is similar to the function executed by the OS simulating instructions of the machine implemented by the VM, and Next() is similar to the process that determines the next instruction of the program run by the VM. The difference is that the memory of the machine implemented by DDVM is the OWL(D), the processor of the DDVM is the collection of all processors available on the Internet (in the cloud) that implement WS-s used in the OWL(D), and the Next() is well defined by the relationship of the data and operations in the Polish form of the DAL algorithm expression. Therefore, the DDVM is a true domain dedicated virtual machine.

Once an application domain is CEAD-ed, the automation of DAL algorithm execution is based on two main software components:

- 1) a translator that maps the DAL algorithm into an expression tree whose nodes are labeled by domain concepts associated with the URL of the WS-s implementing them, and
- 2) an interpreter operating on the expression tree generated by the translator, executing WS-s encountered at the tree nodes.

The translator is implemented by the conventional compiler construction tools and the interpreter is implemented by a stack machine similar to Java Virtual Machine (JVM).

For a given DAL algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  the mapping of  $\mathcal{A}$  into the expression tree  $ET(\mathcal{A})$  is automatically performed by the DAL

parser, that transforms  $\mathcal{A}$  into its parse tree,  $PT(\mathcal{A})$ . A bottom-up traversal of the  $PT(\mathcal{A})$ , that searches the OWL(D) for the domain concepts used in the  $PT(\mathcal{A})$  and associates them with the URL of the WS-s implementing them, maps the parse tree  $PT(\mathcal{A})$  into the expression tree  $ET(\mathcal{A})$ . The automation of the DAL algorithm execution using the WS-s available on the Internet requires the  $ET(\mathcal{A})$  to be transformed into an appropriate language that has WS-s as operations performed by DDVM. For this purpose we use the Software Architecture Description Language (SADL) (Rus and Curtis, 2007; Rus, 2008).

### A. Software Architecture Description Language

Software Architecture Description Language (SADL), inspired by Armani (Monroe, 2001), has been conceived as a language suitable to describe functional behavior of component-based software architectures, where components are standalone and composable pieces of software. Hence, its goal is similar to the goal of the Intermediate Language (IL) used by Microsoft's ASP.NET Framework. However, SADL evolved as a language suitable to describe functional behavior of component-based software architectures, where components are Web Services. Consequently the SADL software is designed to run on the network, therefore CC provides a suitable mechanism to implement it.

As any language, SADL syntax has a three layer structure: vocabulary, simple constructs, and composed constructs. SADL vocabulary is a dynamic collection of terms used to denote problem domain concepts. Since SADL is meant as the target for any DAL implementation, it needs to be implemented as a domain dedicated namespace where each terms is associated with the collection of semantic properties that defines it in the respective domain. For example the term Integer in the SADL namespace of the High-School Arithmetic is specified by:

```
<cead:DataConcept rdf:about="#Integer">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#Class"/>
  <cead:description>
    This is the integer number concept in arithmetics domain.
  </cead:description>
  <cead:type rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    xs:int
  </cead:type>
</cead:DataConcept>
```

SADL vocabulary is the collection of DAL terms used by problem solvers in their DAL algorithms during problem solving process. Thus, from a computational viewpoint SADL terms denote computer process names. The code executed by these processes is associated with the term in the SADL namespaces and specifies completely the WS implementing that term. For example, the process executing the integer addition is associated with the term addI as follows:

```
<cead:ActionConcept rdf:about="#addI">
  <cead:description>
    This is the add operation in the arithmetics domain.
  </cead:description>
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#Class"/>
  <cead:hasInput rdf:ID = "orderedPair">
    <cead:pairFirst rdf:resource = "#Integer"/>
    <cead:pairSecond rdf:resource = "#Integer"/>
  </cead:hasInput?>
  <cead:hasOutput rdf:resource = "#Integer"/>
  <cead:hasAgent>
    <cead:Agent rdf:ID = "addAgent"/>
    <cead:ImplementedBy = rdf:resource = "#addServiceInstance1"/>
  </cead:hasAgent>
</cead:ActionConcept>
```

```
<cead:ServiceInstance rdf:ID="addServiceInstance1">
  <cead:wSDLFile rdf:datatype = "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    http://bula1.cs.uiowa.edu:8080/axis2/services/CalculatorService?wsdl
  </cead:wSDLFile>
  <cead:serviceName rdf:datatype = "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    CalculatorService
  </cead:serviceName>
  <cead:operationName rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    add
  </cead:operationName>
  <cead:portName rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    CalculatorServiceHttpSoap12Endpoint
  </cead:portName>
</cead:ServiceInstance>
```

The simple constructs of the SADL are simple XML elements: `<tag attributes />` where tag is a term in the SADL namespace and each attribute is a tuples of the form `property = "value"` where property is a property of the process (data are considered here as nulary operations) represented by the term tag. For example, the process that perform the addition of two integers is specified by: `<ari:addI input = "x, y" output = "z"/>` where ari is the prefix of the namespace `"http://bula1.cs.uiowa.edu/owl/arithmic.owl"`.

The composed constructs of the SADL language are XML constructs composed with the terms: `foreach`, `if`, `ifthen`, `next`, etc. Example, the SDAL expression of the formula:  $x1 = (-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4 * a * c}) / (2 * a)$  is represented by the following XML code:

```
<ari:delta input="a, b, c" output="delta" />
<ari:sqrt input="delta" output="tmp1" />
<ari:unaryMinus input="b" output="tmp2" />
<ari:subtract input="tmp2, tmp1" output="tmp3" />
<ari:multiply input="2, a" output="tmp4" />
<ari:divide input="tmp3, tmp4" output="x1" />
```

Note that SADL composition operators are provided as tags in the SADL namespace, as any other term of the problem domain.

SADL expressions are SADL representations of DAL algorithms.

### B. SADL Interpreter

SADL interpreter inputs a SADL expression and interpret it on a stack, in a manner similar to the byte-code interpretation of a Java code. Since each SADL simple element composing a SADL expression represents a process executed on Internet, the flow of control during a SADL expression evaluation requires synchronization of these processes. Thus, the SADL interpreter performs a distributed implementation of the the DAL algorithm. The simplest synchronization mechanism used to control the flow of processes performing a DAL algorithm is provided by a (wait, signal) inserted in the SADL expression, after each SADL simple element. While this SADL implementation performs DAL algorithm distributed, on Internet, the algorithm execution is restricted to being sequential, where the computation unit is the WS. This mechanism can be extended to allow the processes executing a DAL algorithm to perform in parallel.

### C. Evolving Domain Ontology

One of the key ideas of the DAL system is to provide a method that allows domain experts to create and extend their own CEAD-ed domain knowledge base. The DAL system solves this problem by allowing domain experts to create new action concepts and data concepts.

1) *Creating new Action Concepts:* In order to create a new action concept a domain expert expresses the new concept by n DAL expressions which is then saved in a file. Then she adds the concept to her UOO via an DAL Console program by executing "add2Onto <file>" command. This command translates the DAL expression into a SADL expression and sends it to her private space in the cloud, to which she subscribed. An Ontology Manager in the cloud automatically analyzes the submitted SADL expression and creates a new domain concept in the user's UOO with a name specified in the DAL expression. The Ontology Manager also creates a web service broker which wraps around the SADL code so that the concept is available on the Internet as a standalone, composable software component. All the information about this concept's web service is automatically linked back to the user's UOO so that newly created domain concept is CEAD-ed. From now on, the user can use that new concept as any other CEAD-ed domain concepts such as using it in a DAL Consoles or composing it with other CEAD-ed domain concepts in an DAL expression to express the user's new computation.

The above scenario is demonstrated with the example in high school algebra that maps the algorithm solving quadratic equations into a new concept called Solver. We assume that the DAL expression of the algorithm that solves quadratic equations is written as follows and saved as the file solver.nld:

```
algorithm "Solver";
description: "This is a quadratic equation solver.";
message: "Provide coeffs of equation ax^2 + bx + c = 0";
input: a, b, c real;
output: x1, x2 real;
local: t real;
t = b * b - 4 * a * c;
if t >= 0 then
  x1 = (-b - sqrt(t)) / (2 * a);
  x2 = (-b + sqrt(t)) / (2 * a);
else
  print "the equation has no real solution";
endif;
```

Then using the DAL Console program, the user executes the command

```
add2Onto solver.nld
```

With the help of user's profile including user's CEAD-ed ontologies and dictionaries, the DAL Console program translates the above DAL expression into the following SADL expression:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<sadl xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" name="Solver">
  <imports>
    <import type="ontology"
      uri="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/owl/arithmetricPURE.owl"/>
    <import type="ontology"
      uri="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu/owl/arithmetricCEAD.owl"/>
    <import type="ontology"
      uri="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu:8080/NLDPortal/profile/<user>/PURE.owl"/>
    <import type="ontology"
      uri="http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu:8080/NLDPortal/profile/<user>/CEAD.owl"/>
  </imports>
```

```
<declaration>
  <inConst a, b, c type = "xs:double" />
  <outVar x1, x2 type = "xs:double" />
  <localVar t0 type = "xs:boolean" />
  <localVar t1, t2, t3, t4, t5 type="xs:double" />
</declaration>
<perform>
  <ari:delta input="a, b, c" output="t1" />
  <ari:greaterOrEqual input="t1, 0" output="t0">
    <ifTrue "t0">
      <perform>
        <ari:unaryMinus input="b" output="t2" />
        <ari:sqrt input="t1" output="t3" />
        <ari:add input="t2, t3" output="t4" />
        <ari:subtract input "t2, t3" output = "t5" />
        <ari:multiply input="2, a" output="t2" />
        <ari:divide input="t4, t2" output="x1" />
        <ari:divide input="t5, t2" output="x2" />
      </perform>
    <else>
      <perform>
        <print message="the equation has no real solutions" />
      </perform>
    </else>
  </if>
</perform>
</sadl>
```

This SADL expression is then sent to the Ontology Manager in the cloud. The Ontology Manager analyzes the SADL expression and create a web service broker for this SADL expression at the URL address

<http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu:8080/NLDPortal/profiles/<user>/services/Service?wsdl>

The Ontology Manager also creates a new entry in the user private ontology (<user>PURE.owl and <user>CEAD.owl) as follows:

```
<cead:ActionConcept rdf:about="#Solver">
  <cead:description>
    This is a quadratic equation solver.
  </cead:description>
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#Class"/>
  <cead:hasInput rdf:List = "a, b, c" rdf:resource = "#Real"/>
  <cead:hasOutput rdf:List = "x1, x2" rdf:resource = "#Real"/>
  <cead:hasAgent>
    <cead:Agent rdf:ID="solverAgent">
      <cead:implementedBy rdf:resource="#solverServiceInstance1"/>
    </cead:Agent>
  </cead:hasAgent>
</cead:ActionConcept>
<cead:ServiceInstance rdf:ID="solverServiceInstance1">
  <cead:wsdlFile rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    http://bulal.cs.uiowa.edu:8080/NLDPortal/profiles/<user>/services/Service?wsdl
  </cead:wsdlFile>
  <cead:serviceName rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    Solver
  </cead:serviceName>
  <cead:operationName rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    solver
  </cead:operationName>
  <cead:portName rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    ServiceHttpSoap12Endpoint
  </cead:portName>
</cead:ServiceInstance>
```

Now the user can use the concept "Solver" as any other primitive concepts by executing the command use Solver. The user can also use this concept in another DAL expression as shown by the following example:

```
x = Solver(a, b, c);
print "First solution of the equation: ";
print x.x1;
print "Second solution of the equation: ";
print x.x2;
```

2) *Creating new Data Concepts:* DAL System is also provided with the mechanism that allows a user to add data

concepts to her UOO. New data concepts must be defined as compositions of other known data concepts using such definition schemes as *record*, *vector*, *set*. Since all the known data concepts are represented as some XML data type, the DAL system represents the new data concept using an appropriate constructor *record*, *vector*, *set* that maps the user defined data concept into an XML data type. The method for a user to create a new data concepts are described in the following steps:

- 1) The user defines the new concept in an DAL expression as shown in the above pattern.
- 2) The user use a DAL Console to submit the DAL expression to her private space in the cloud.
- 3) The Ontology Manager in the cloud receives the DAL expression and analyze it.
- 4) When the Ontology Manager finds a data concept definition:
  - a) creates the corresponding domain data concept and add to the user's UOO.
  - b) creates a new XML Data type which represents the data concept following the above pattern.
  - c) automatically link the newly created data concept with the corresponding XML Data type.
- 5) The CEAD-ing process for creating new data concept finished.

We illustrate the mechanism of extending domain ontology with new data concepts with the example where a user defines the data concept *Complex* that represents complex numbers in the high school arithmetic domain. Since a complex number is a record of two real numbers the user defines the concept *Complex* using the following DAL expression:

```
concept Complex is
  record
    ImgPart integer;
    RealPart integer;
  endrecord;
endconcept,
```

The XML schema used to transform this DAL expression into a SADL expression is:

```
<xs:schema attributeFormDefault="qualified"
  elementFormDefault="qualified" targetNamespace="some-URI">
  <xs:complexType name="NewDataConceptName">
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element minOccurs="0" name="fieldName1" type="fieldType1"/>
      <xs:element minOccurs="0" name="fieldName2" type="fieldType2"/>
      ...
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:schema>
```

In the case of the *Complex* concept, we have the following concrete XML data type definition: small

```
<xs:schema attributeFormDefault="qualified"
  elementFormDefault="qualified"
  targetNamespace="some-URI">
  <xs:complexType name="Complex">
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element minOccurs="0" name="imgPart" type="xs:double"/>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:schema>
```

```
<xs:element minOccurs="0" name="realPart" type="xs:double"/>
</xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:schema>
```

## VI. DAL SYSTEM

DAL System provides a user-dedicated implementation of a computer. That is, a computer user who install this system on her computer can further use the computer as a brain-assistant dedicated to her problem domain. Since the computer use lack the efficiency when used in this manner we chose to describe here the implementation of the system in the cloud. This manner of DAL System implementation dedicates the system to a problem domain, thus allowing the computer to be shared among many users, who in effect share the problem domain in a manner in which the students of a class share the class instructor's knowledge.

### A. Cloud Implementation of DAL System

Cloud-implementation of the DAL System is described in Figure 3. The assumption is that CC that accommodates the DAL System would have an administrator that manage the system allowing various users to register for DAL System use on a given problem domain. For that the CC maintains a data base where all the domain ontologies of the CEAD-domain are maintained. The user subscription for a domain D is performed by an installation procedure that activates DAL System with the domain ontology required. Further,

as shown in Figure 3, the user customizes the system to her personal use, evolving the problem domain she sub-

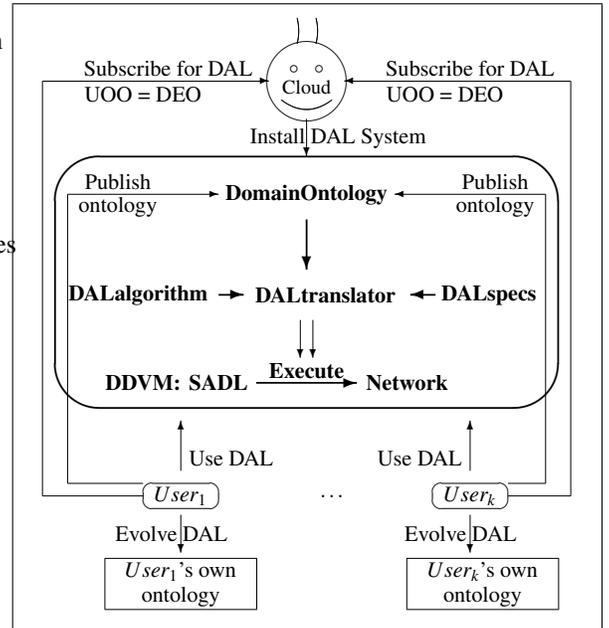


Fig. 3. Architecture of an DAL System

scribed for with the concepts she learned and/or created during her own problem solving process. When the user decides to leave the system and cancel her subscription, the DAL System's manager may buy the knowledge developed by the user and update the domain, thus ensuring domain evolution with the concepts developed by the respective user. This

ensures a domain evolution with the knowledge developed by problem solving process of all domain experts.

### B. User Interaction with DAL System

A user doesn't need a computer in order to interact with the DAL System. An iPad (or any other display) which provide a two-way communication using a command language can be used in this purpose. We envision here a Unix shell interaction as described in Figure 4.

The DAL System is not appropriate for iconic-language implementation because it manipulates concepts that can be created by the user. Since the system is natural language based, and natural language is infinite through the infinite sequences of human generations speaking it, Window-implementation, though possible, would not be appropriate.

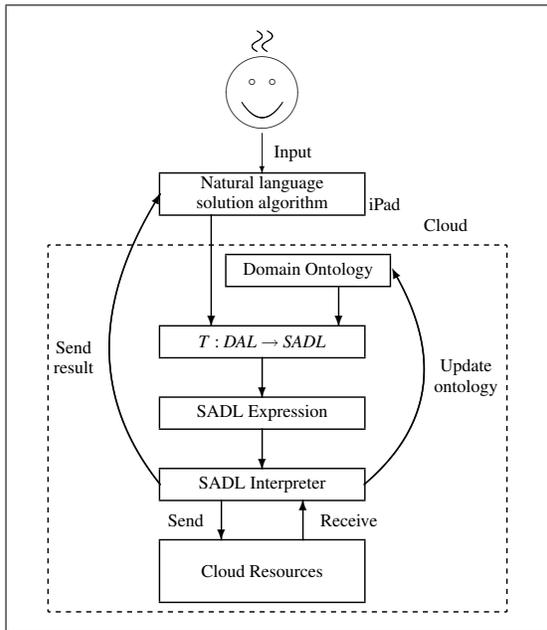


Fig. 4. Interacting with an DAL System

## VII. CONCLUSION

The research reported in this paper shows that software development for non-expert computer user open an unlimited area for computer technology development. This has the potential to empower human being with the computer as a brain tool (oracle). To achieve this potential computer needs to be freed from its universal feature, and let it be, as it has proven to be, a problem solving tool that may act in any problem domain as a domain oracle.

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