## Databases and Natural Language Processing

Challenges and contributions

Information Technologies for Business Intelligence (IT4BI)
Erasmus Mundus Master's Program
Computer Science Department
Faculty of Science and Technology
Université François Rabelais Tours, Blois, France

May, 2013



## Research team behind IT4Bl in Blois/Tours

#### People

BdTln

- 4 full professors: Jean-Yves Antoine, Thomas Devogele, Arnaud Giacometti, Denis Maurel
- 9 associate professors: Béatrice Bouchou Markhoff, Nathalie Friburger, Haoyuan Li, Patrick Marcel, Nizar Messai, Verónika Peralta, Yacine Sam, Agata Savary, Arnaud Soulet
- 2 doctors: Samir Sebahi, Wissam Khalil
- 4 PhD students: Julien Aligon, Mouhamadou Saliou Dialo, Anaïs Lefeuvre, Cheikh Niang

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#### Sites

- Faculty of Science, Computer Science Department, Blois/Tours
- University Institute of Techology, Blois/Tours

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#### Collaborations

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#### International

23 European countries, Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Russia, Senegal, Tunisia, Uruguay, USA



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#### <u>N</u>ational

universities, research agencies, enterprises, associations



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#### Unstructured data

 natural language processing, language resources, named entity recognition, multi-word expressions, coreference resolution, human-computer interaction, text mining



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 natural language processing, language resources, named entity recognition, multi-word expressions, coreference resolution, human-computer interaction, text mining

#### Semi-structured data

 XML processing, semantic web, schema and document evolution, web services



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#### Unstructured data

 natural language processing, language resources, named entity recognition, multi-word expressions, coreference resolution, human-computer interaction, text mining

#### Semi-structured data

 XML processing, semantic web, schema and document evolution, web services

#### Structured data

 data warehouses, data mining, geographical information systems, decision support



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## Science and Technology Responding to Societal Needs

- IT support for impaired people,
- improving health care by decision support in medicine,
- multilingual language technology tools which pay greater attention to language phenomena,
- efficient use of heterogeneous and dynamic web data,
- facilitate the use of decision support techniques, in particular to non experts.



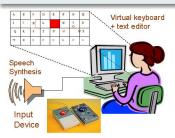
## Support for the Impaired (JYA)

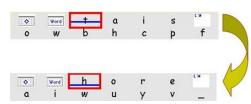
#### Societal need

Support people with severe speech and motion impairments by **virtual keyboards** 

#### Scientific challenge

Speeding up and facilitating message composition on a virtual keyboard





## SIBYLLE system

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#### Novelty

- Among the first methods to use semantic context for prediction (Latent Semantic Analysis).
- Improved word prediction (up to 54% keystroke saving). Highly adaptive interface.



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## SIBYLLE system

#### **Impact**

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- journal papers: ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (AWCR-pA: 32.5; SRJ h-index: 8; Harzing h-index: 12; 42 citations), Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (AWCR-pA: 138.6; SRJ h-index: 17)
- Daily use by dozens of patients in Kerpape Rehabilitation Center
- Integration in the CVK open source Keyboard (Garches hospital)

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#### **Perspectives**

- Commercializing the tool.
- Integrating the word prediction in large domotics (smart home). Semantics could stem from sensors, remote control devices, etc.

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## French anti-cancer campaign support (NM, ArSou)

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## French anti-cancer campaign support

#### Societal need

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- Improve patient health care by identifying lacks in clinical guidelines.
- Increase the efficiency of decision support in medicine.

#### Scientific challenge

Characterizing clinicians' wrong decisions



## French anti-cancer campaign support

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#### Scientific challenge

Characterizing clinicians' wrong decisions

#### Techniques

General-purpose mining approaches adapted to clinical data:

- FCA
- contrast mining



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## Customized data mining

#### Novelty

Better assessment of the unexpectedness of clinician's decisions



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## Customized data mining

#### Novelty

Better assessment of the unexpectedness of clinician's decisions

#### **Impact**

- conference papers: AIME (CORE: A), AMIA (h-index: 47),
   MEDINFO (CORE: B),
- results used by Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris
   (federation of Parisian hospitals) for improving clinical guidelines
   and recommendation systems.

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#### **Perspectives**

• Taking the semantics of data into account.



 
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# Linguistic Precision and Multilingualism (JYA, NF, DM, AgSa, ArSou)

#### Societal needs

Provide language technology tools which pay greater attention to language phenomena (variation, composition etc.). Support multilingualism.

#### Scientific challenges

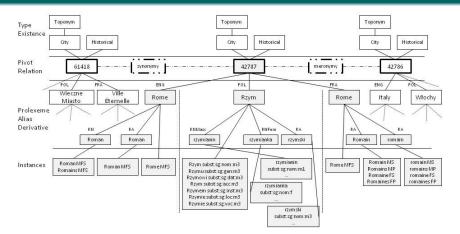
- Linguistic precision in modeling Named Entities (NEs) and Multi-Word Expressions (MWEs), in particular in morphologically-rich languages.
- Named Entity Recognition (NER) with a fine-grained typology and nested structures, possibly in a noisy input (dialogues)

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## ProlexBase - multilingual ontology of proper names

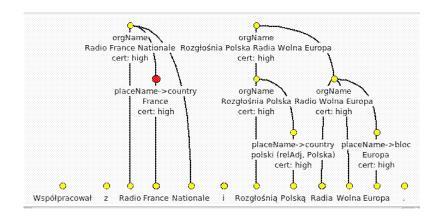


200,000 proper names in FR, PL and EN; morphological variants; manual validation

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## Nested Named Entity Recognition (CassEN, MXS, Nerf)

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## Linguistic Precision and Multilingualism

#### Novelty

- Modeling proper names as ontology concepts
- Large, fine-grained, manually validated language resources
- Conflating morpho-syntactic variants within the same framework
- First NER system recognizing separately the left and the right frontiers of NEs (MXS).
- First Polish NER system recognizing nested structures (Nerf).

#### Techniques

- Ontology population from open sources (Wikipedia, GeoNames),
- Finite-state transducers with unification, transducer cascades,
- Conditional Random Fields.

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## NLP Impact

- journal papers: **Theoretical Computer Science**; H-index: 63, SJR: 1,175, **Control & Cybernetics**; h-index: 22; SJR: 0.35, IF: 0.38,
- editor of TAL journal special issue on named entities;
- integration of tools and resources in corpus and dictionary processors: Unitex, Leximir, Toposław; users in France, Greece, Poland, and Serbia,
- international conference CIAA/FSMNLP 2011 organized in Blois,
- European expert for the FP7-SME-2013 call,
- French and Polish national (ANR EPAC, NKJP) and regional projects (Variling, ANCOR, Renom, ERDF NEKST),
- coordinator of the FP7-COST-IC1207 PARSEME action.



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## IC1207 PARSEME: Parsing and Multi-Word Expresions



24 countries, 80 members, 23 languages, experts from Brazil and USA meetings, missions (<6 months), workshops, training schools, impact on ESRs

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## **NLP** Perspectives

- Integrating MWEs in parsing
- Integrating fine-grained language data into Linked Data (DBPedia, YAGO...)
- NER with semantic grounding (attaching NER mentions to ontology nodes)



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## Web Data Support (BBM, DM, ChN, YS, AgSa)

#### Societal needs

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Efficient use of heterogeneous and dynamic web data.

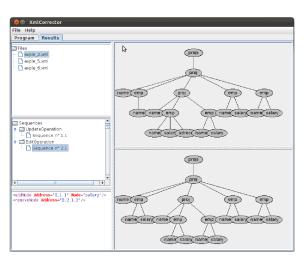
#### Scientific challenges

- Management of dynamic XML documents and schemas,
- Making heterogeneous ontologies **interoperable** with a minimum human intervention/expertise.



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## XMLCorrector – correcting an XML doc. wrt. a DTD



Outputs all correction trees whose distance from the initial tree is no higher than a given threshold



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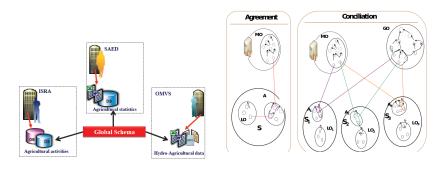
## ProLMF: a multilingual data exchange XML standard for proper names

```
Global Information
                                        Lexical Resource
                                                         <?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8' ?>
                      Lexicon
                                                         <LexicalRessource>
                                n · Subcategorization
                                                                 <GlobalInformation languageCoding="ISO 639" scriptCoding="ISO
                                         Frame
                                                        15924" characterCoding="UTF-8" entrySource="Prolexbase"
                                                        resourceName="ProImf" version="1.2"/>
                    Lexical Entry
                                                                 <Lexicon languageIdentifier="fra" script="latn">
     Lemma
                                   Syntactic Behavior
                                                                          <LexicalEntry partOfSpeech="noun">
                                                                                   <Lemma>Italie</Lemma>
                                                                                   < WordForm grammaticalGender="feminine"
        Word Form
                                                        grammaticalNumber="singular">Italie</WordForm>
                       Sense
                                          Sense Axis
                                                                                   <Sense idSense="P42786" refSenseAxis="42786"</pre>
                                                        termProvenance="fullForm" frequency="commonlyUsed"
                                         0..*0 0..*1
                                                        label="properName">
                                                                                            <SvntacticBehaviour
Form Representation
                    Sense Relation
                                      Sense Axis Relation
                                                        refSubcategorizationFrame="CO4"/>
                                                                                            <SvntacticBehaviour
                                                        refSubcategorizationFrame="CO7"/>
                                                                                   </Sense>
            Monolingual External Ref
                                  Interlingual External Ref
                                                                          </LexicalEntry>
                                                        [...]
```

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## Data Integration



- Algorithm for automatically building a global ontology from several local ontologies and a mediator ontology
- System for querying the global ontology



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## Web Data Support

#### Novelty

- The first full-fledged algorithm solving the problem of the document-to-schema correction
- The first framework for a grammarware incremental validation of data integrity constraints.
- An international **standard** for representating proper names.
- Minimizing human intervention by mediator ontology use.
- Incremental data integration (adding a new ontology is easy).

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#### **Techniques**

- Finite state automata, tree automata, dynamic programming, attribute grammar,
- String-to-string & tree-to-language edit distance,

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## Web Data Support

#### **Impact**

- Papers: The Computer Journal (since 1962, A+ in CORE, 5-year IF: 0.943), Transactions on Large-Scale Data and Knowledge-Centered Systems (since 2011); IJARAS (since 2010); chapter in a reference book on LMF,
- National project: ANR CODEX, collaboration with Senegal.



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#### **Perspectives**

- Taxonomy of the existing XML correction algorithms.
- Applications in the **humanities**:
  - SIC-Senegal: geographic data on the Senegal river,
  - **PERSONAE**: prosopography of the Renaissance period,
  - BIBLIMOS: ancient manuscripts of the Western Sahara.

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## Decision Support (JA, TD, MSD, AG, HL, PM, VP, ArSou)

#### Societal needs

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**Facilitate** the use of Decision Support techniques, in particular to **non experts**.



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## Decision Support (JA, TD, MSD, AG, HL, PM, VP, ArSou)

#### Societal needs

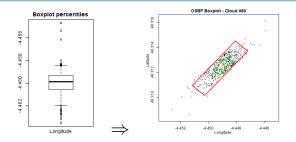
**Facilitate** the use of Decision Support techniques, in particular to **non experts**.

#### Scientific challenges

- Improving outlier detection, better data visualization and analysis,
- Benchmarking OLAP sessions for effectiveness (what is a "useful" OLAP session?),
- Providing user profiles that are sound, concise, and easy to interpret.
- High-level modeling of data mining tasks.



#### Contributions



- 3-dimensional BoxPlot,
- Recommendation approaches for OLAP session detection and comparison.
- An approach to build user profiles from interesting sets of contextual preferences,
- A declarative **high-level language** for modeling data mining tasks.

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## **Decision Support**

#### Novelty

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- The first 3-dimensional **spacio-temporal BoxPlot**.
- Pioneering work on personalizing OLAP queries and on exploiting OLAP logs.
- The first method which offers a user-understandable profile (others are "black boxes"). The user can modify and complete his/her profile easily.
- The first method enabling reasoning on queries.



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- The first method enabling reasoning on queries.

#### Techniques

- Collaborative filtering,
- Symbolic semi-supervised learning,
- Relational algebra.

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#### **Impact**

- A chapter in Mobility Data: Modeling, Management and Understanding, Cambridge press,
- Member of European COST IC0903 MOVE Action,
- Journal and conference papers: KAIS (IF=2.225); DASFAA (A in CORE); DAWAK'2012 (B in CORE),
- Invited speaker in the VLDB (CORE: A) workshop,
- Collaborations: Bologna, Barcelona, Quebec, Uberlandia (Brazil),
   Saint Louis (Senegal).

## Perspectives

- Full integration of personalization into OLAP systems,
- Scalability: taking into account the characteristics of the user preferences,
- Use of profiles for collaborative filtering,
- Extracting temporal preferences,
- Implementation the modeling language within hadoop framework; cost model.



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#### Call for Collaboration

#### Research contracts

- Research internships in semester 4 (6 months),
- PhD theses.
- European networks (MOVE, PARSEME),
- Development contracts,
- Funding: permanent budget, current projects, pending national and European project proposals.



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#### Research and R&D collaborations

- International and national projects (European, AUF, CAPES-COFECUB, Egide, ANR, ...),
- **Missions** (Eiffel PhD grants, post-doctoral grants, Marie-Curie programs, . . . ).

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