

# TRANSFERRING PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGIES FROM THE EXPERT TO THE END USERS

## *Supporting understanding*

Anne Håkansson

*Department of Information Science, Computer Science, Uppsala University, Box 513, SE-751 20, Uppsala, Sweden*

**Keywords:** Knowledge Management Systems, Knowledge Sharing, Knowledge Dissemination, E-Learning, Reasoning Strategies, Visualization, Graphical Diagrams and Modeling Formalisms

**Abstract:** If knowledge sharing between people in an organisation is to be encouraged, new types of systems are needed to transfer domain knowledge and problem-solving strategies from an expert to the end users and, thereby, make the knowledge available and applicable in a specific domain. If it is to be possible to apply the knowledge in the organisation, the systems will need a means of illustrating the reasoning strategies involved in interpreting the knowledge to arrive at the conclusions drawn. One solution is to incorporate different diagrams in knowledge management systems to assist the user to comprehend the reasoning strategies and to better understand the knowledge required and gained. This paper describes the manners by which knowledge management systems can facilitate transfer of problem-solving strategies from a domain expert to different kinds of end users. With this objective in mind, we suggest using visualization, graphical diagrams and simulation in conjunction to support the transfer of problem-solving strategies from a domain expert to the end users. Visualization can support end users, enabling them to follow the reasoning strategy of the system more easily. The visualization discussed here includes static and dynamic presentation of the rules and facts in the knowledge base that are used during execution of the system. The static presentation illustrates how different rules are related statically in a sequence diagram in the Unified Modeling Language (UML). The dynamic presentation, in contrast, visualizes rules used and facts relevant to a specific consultation, i.e., this presentation depends on the input inserted by the users and is illustrated in a collaboration diagram in the UML. Utilising these diagrams can support the sharing and reuse of the knowledge and strategies used for handling routine tasks and problems more efficiently and profitably whilst minimizing potential for loss of knowledge. This is important when experts are not available on the spot. These diagrams can also be used for the organisation and the disseminating of knowledge by locating experts in an organisation, which is important when these are to be relocated in large organisations or geographically distributed.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Knowledge management refers to an organisation's ability to learn from its environment and to incorporate knowledge into its business processes (Laudon & Laudon, 2002). This provides instruments with which to optimise the control and the management of crucial production factors and aims at preventing bottlenecks of the kind that arise when information is not transferred smoothly within an organisation. The essence is the organisation of processes through which knowledge is developed and distributed to those who need it. It also involves making knowledge accessible for future use by the

whole organisation and the combining of different knowledge areas (Liebowitz & Wilcox, 1997).

Knowledge management is embodied by a set of processes developed in an organisation to gather, organise, refine and disseminate knowledge (Awad & Ghaziri, 2004). In this, information technology plays an important role. For example, a knowledge management system can enable the creation, storage, maintenance, and dissemination of knowledge, it can optimise learning and protecting whilst allowing it to be shared between people in an organisation (Laudon & Laudon, 2002). It enables people to act in an informed manner when a new source of information becomes available and to deal with the information in a beneficial way.

When a user is operating a knowledge management system, the knowledge that should be transferred is that possessed by an expert, i.e. it is domain knowledge and will incorporate problem solving strategies that need to be passed on to the end users. In knowledge management systems, the domain knowledge is usually expressed in terms of facts, rules, concepts, relationships, assumptions and tasks (Tansley & Hayball, 1993). The problem solving or so-called reasoning strategy usually involves deductive or inductive strategies but could also involve a combination of these (Durkin, 1994).

Knowledge management systems must allow organisations to store and access information more efficiently (Awad & Ghaziri, 2004). Moreover, these systems must document how decisions are reached. This knowledge needs to be distributed within the organisation. Therefore, domain knowledge and reasoning strategies are to be transferred to end users to support the sharing of knowledge between people.

New types of knowledge management systems are needed to display the contents of a system; these can work as knowledge systems with educational facilities. In that connection, the system has to provide several different views of the knowledge to support the different end users. Moreover, the system has to have a procedure for illustrating the strategies involved in the interpretation of the knowledge.

One way of transferring domain knowledge and reasoning strategies from a domain expert to an end user via a knowledge management system is by visualizing the knowledge and the strategies. To this end, we use conceptualization, i.e., we exploit concepts and relationships together with visualization. Concepts correspond to facts, and relationships are equivalent to rules and heuristics. Since it concerns strategies, the presentation needs to be illustrated with by a model showing stepwise execution. A candidate for this modeling language is the visual modeling language Unified Modeling Language (UML) (Booch *et al.*, 1999), particularly since UML has become a standard for working with software-intensive systems (Jacobson *et al.*, 1998).

UML provides several types of graphic diagrams that can be utilised for inserting, modifying and tutoring the domain knowledge, as well as to demonstrate reasoning strategies (Håkansson, 2001). These diagrams can also be used to generate knowledge about static and dynamic domain knowledge and to inform the expert and the end users about the system's processing (Håkansson, 2003:b).

For static presentation we use the sequence diagrams of the UML. These illustrate the interpretation of the knowledge base by displaying the time sequences conducting the relations between

the rules, or heuristics, i.e., it can demonstrate how different parts interact with each other. It also illustrates how different rules are related to other rules, and how these rules are dependent on each other.

For dynamic presentation we use the collaboration diagrams of the UML since these display how different parts collaborate with each other. Dynamic presentation depends on the input the users insert into the diagram, i.e., the diagram is dynamic in the sense that it changes with the input, and visualizes the rules and relationships according to the inserted facts. Thus, it visualizes the system's reasoning strategy, which changes with the input. Dynamic information is relevant since the rules that are used during an interpretation depend on the information that is supplied by the end users (Håkansson 2003:a; Håkansson 2003:b), and it is usually the case that the end users supply the additional information in these kinds of systems.

These different diagrams can be used for several different purposes. For instance, they can be used to solve tasks or problems when suitable opportunities of getting support from experts will not arise. This requires that the diagrams contain all the knowledge necessary to solve a problem or task.

These diagrams can also be used to locate experts in large organisations or at different geographical places who will be needed to solve a particular task. A combination of the questions appropriate to a particular task or problem and comprehensive rules can pinpoint that expert to be consulted to provide particular support or to find a solution.

The next section is an overview of related work; this is followed by a discussion of transferring problem solving and of the notion of conceptualization. The following sections contain descriptions of static and dynamic presentations where statically related rules are illustrated in sequence diagrams and dynamically related rules are illustrated in collaboration diagrams.

## 2 RELATED WORK

Within knowledge management, knowledge maps can be used to explore and solve problems (Liebowitz, 2001). Some of these maps are organisational maps and semantic networks. Organisational maps can link people's interactions by departments in the organisation, link expertise or knowledge areas to experts, or relate available knowledge areas to those that are needed or missing. The semantic network links different knowledge areas by means of the relationships between them. In

our work, we locate where expertise or knowledge areas can be found by examining the rules that pinpoint the expertise that is needed to handle a problem.

Different kinds of maps can be used to support analyse and structure knowledge graphically, examples of these being cognitive maps, inference networks, flowcharts and decision trees (Durkin, 1994). Cognitive maps present domain knowledge using nodes for concepts and objects, and links for relationships between these. Inference networks are also used to represent domain knowledge through the production rules in a system, with nodes and links providing “AND” and “OR” branches. Flowcharts, on the other hand, can be used to represent reasoning strategies since they present sequences of steps that will be performed. These are composed of blocks with the execution order being specified and “YES” and “NO” branches being presented. Decision trees can represent reasoning strategies since they use graphic presentations of problem search spaces, composed with nodes and arc linking related nodes. The arc can have any value, e.g., “LOOSE”, “>12”, and “BAD”. In our approach, graphic diagrams are used for modeling domain knowledge and reasoning strategy but since the maps mentioned above suffer from problems because they cannot cope with large systems, we will use the diagrams developed in UML.

UML is usually used for modeling object-oriented systems, but it can also be used for modeling other types of systems, such as rule-based, frames and constraint-based ones (Schreiber *et al.*, 2001; Håkansson, 2001; Helenius, 2001; Cranefield *et al.*, 2001; Renker *et al.*, 2002).

UML diagrams are used in CommonKADS to build knowledge-based systems in an object-oriented fashion. Diagrams can help to model the state of a system over a period of time and to model the dynamic behaviour of the system, providing an image of the sequence of events and assisting with the decision-making (Schreiber *et al.*, 2001). Diagrams are also used to clarify the context, from which the information has come, for the task analysis and the structure of objects handled in a task. Moreover, diagrams can be incorporated to present the actors and the services (or use-cases) and to include additional chunks of information that are difficult to model, e.g., large or complex systems (Schreiber *et al.*, 2001).

In our approach, however, we will apply UML diagrams to rule-based knowledge management systems that have been developed in a declarative fashion. This affects the UML’s diagrams, since they cannot be used in their original form as they are to be used in CommonKADS. In its current form, UML is not directly applicable for modeling

knowledge in systems that are rule-based, however UML can easily be adapted to knowledge management systems by utilising rules in the knowledge base.

### 3 TRANSFERRING PROBLEM SOLVING

If the end users are to be provided with adequate support, an understanding of how the problem solving strategies work has to be passed on to the users. This requires that the domain knowledge, which is used to construct the system’s reasoning, and the strategies are explicitly described in the system.

The domain knowledge can be expressed in the form of declarative and semantic knowledge, which in turn can be expressed by using conceptualization. Conceptualization is the use of concepts and relationships applied to the domain knowledge (Håkansson, 2003:c). These concepts and relationships are then presented as facts and rules or heuristics in the system to provide the declarative knowledge. The concepts can also express semantic knowledge, provided that these concepts are described with words and used in a well-defined context.

The expert’s problem-solving strategy is presented as a reasoning strategy, often in the form of deductive reasoning and/or inductive reasoning, both of which are common in these systems. The reasoning strategy is the interpretation of the system’s knowledge, and in the process of interpretation facts, rules and heuristics are examined to reach the conclusions.

During the interpretation, the system will gather the specific concepts, including facts, and relationships between rules and heuristics that led to the different conclusions. These concepts and relationships constitute paths with knowledge. These paths can be considered to be simulation strategies illustrating how the problem solving is used to solve a particular problem. Thus, simulation, together with explicit reasoning strategies and conceptualization can support different end users to help them to understand the problem solving strategy and the domain knowledge (Mayiwar, & Håkansson, 2004).

### 4 CONCEPTUALIZATION

Some kind of knowledge representation has to be used to represent the knowledge and strategies in a system. In this work, we use facts and production

rules. However, as contents of the system grow it becomes difficult to explore the system because there is too much internal complexity. The complexity of the production rules can be attributed to the information in the conclusion-part and to the internal rules specified in the premises-part. The premises-part is usually comprised of relationships to other rules and facts, and thus constitutes a complex knowledge space. This complexity influences the way the search of the bases is performed and affects the information retrieval. If a small number of rules with little internal content are used, the processing of the rules is effortless, but otherwise the processing will be time-consuming and labour intensive. This needs to be improved and simplified if one is to be able to handle large bases.

A comprehension of what the rules achieve can be obtained by examining what happens when it is executed. This action can be labelled by adding some semantic information, i.e., a elucidate concept. Thereby, these concepts can be applied to rules with the intention of grasping the meaning of the rules. The users can define their own concepts and then utilise and apply these self-defined concepts to the rules. An assigned concept corresponds to drawing a conclusion about the role of a rule by applying a semantic meaning to that rule, which corresponds to gaining an understanding of what the application of that rule achieves.

The user is the person who develops the knowledge management system, decides the relevant similarity between the rules and clusters the rules (Murphy & Pazzani, 1994; Wiratunga & Craw, 2000) that together accomplish a certain task. The application of concepts can decrease the search for rules dealing with similar tasks or topics and, in so doing, decrease redundancy. Moreover, conceptualization by using clustering can support the definition of concepts on a higher level of abstraction and recognising similar rules at this level may allow them to be generalised.

## 5 STATIC AND DYNAMIC PRESENTATION

When a knowledge management system is consulted or when its operation needs to be understood, the order in which the different parts of the sequence interact with each other needs to be understood. This specification of the order in which the relevant rules are applied is called the call sequence. It is important because the sequence in which the rules are applied determines time sequence of the execution order, i.e., when an operation is performed. The structure of the content will already have been determined

since this is imposed during the development of the system. One of the challenges of the presentation is to illustrate how different rules are related. Usually one single rule is related to several others and, therefore, becomes dependent on them. Thus, these connections or relations are also important since the output depends on them too (Håkansson 2003:a; Håkansson 2003:b).

The contents of the knowledge base, comprised of rules and relationships, facts and conclusions are illustrated to obtain a static picture of the knowledge. This illustration should be a pure presentation of the contents of the knowledge base at a given time without any external influence from the users. The sequence presentation is used to obtain an overview of the contents by illustrating the rules and their relationships in a sequence diagram. The diagram can be used to check the static relationship between rules. As mentioned, static information reveals the manner in which rules are connected to the other rules in the knowledge base.

A dynamic presentation of the knowledge incorporates the user-supplied facts in a collaboration diagram with relations showing the flows over time as computations are performed. In this diagram, the dynamic presentation of the rules depends on the input of the users. It is dynamic in the sense that it changes with the inputs, and it visualizes the rules and their relationships in accordance with the inputs. Since the collaboration diagrams show how different rules and facts are invoked, they provide a sequential illustration of the steps that are involved in the interpretation made to arrive at a specific conclusion.

The dynamic presentation can show the entire execution through simulation of the reasoning strategy of the system. The presentation is a step-by-step performance of the system's execution of its rules. As a starting point, the diagram takes the inputs as facts into the diagram and then processes the rules, stepwise, until a conclusion is reached. In this way, the end users can follow the reasoning strategy reproduce a particular session. For educational purposes the end users can carry out experiments by changing the inputs and then check the new result. It is possible to simulate strategies as long as the inputs and rules lead to a conclusion. Thus end users can comprehend a strategy adopted and participate in simulations (Håkansson, 2003:c).

Now that we have introduced concepts and terms, it is possible to examine an example to see how these ideas work in practice. The example selected is childhood diseases, which is collected from a lexicon about diseases and includes measles, rubella and chicken pox or allergic purpura and cerebral membrane inflammation.

## 6 STATICALLY RELATED RULES IN SEQUENCE DIAGRAMS

As mentioned above, sequence diagrams provide a static image of the rules and the relationships between rules, thereby revealing how the rules are connected in the knowledge base. Call sequences reveal the order in which the different parts of the sequence interact with each other, thereby facilitating interpretation.

The order in which the rules and facts are incorporated within each rule is irrelevant. This means that the rules do not necessarily have to be described first as they have been in this example. Facts are obtained from the end user's input and each fact is the answer to a specific question being answered. Of course, when it is known relevant facts may already have been implemented in the system.

A sequence diagram presents the interpretation by displaying time sequences between the rules, and, as can be seen in figure 1, it demonstrates how different parts interact with each other. It illustrates how different rules are related to other rules, and how these rules are dependent on each other. Thus, the sequence diagram can be utilised to determine the behaviour of the system by investigating its performance.

However, displaying all rules in a system, in which, typically, there will be usually several hundreds, would be uncontrollable. Therefore, instead of only visualizing rules at the lowest and most concrete level, the diagrams can allow the visualization of the rules' structures at different levels of abstraction.

The rules in a knowledge base for childhood diseases are used to illustrate the employment of concepts and their relations. The following rules are to be implemented in the system, which is the formal modeling of the domain knowledge:

```
rule(3, symptoms_object, symptoms_text):-
    reply(size_rash, =, 'Yes'),
    reply(several_symptoms, =, 'No' ),
    reply(swelling_back, =, 'No' ).

rule(7, non_conclusion_object, contact_doctor_text):-
    (check(symptoms_object, symptoms_text);
    reply(size_rash, =, 'No'),
    reply(rash_blister, =, 'No'),
    reply(one_red_spot, =, 'No')).
```

This example illustrates two different rules. The rule "symptoms\_object" (rule 3) contains three different facts (replies): the "size\_rash" with the value "Yes" (the meaning of this value is that the answer is yes to the question concerning the size of

the rash), the "several\_symptoms" with the value "No" and the "swelling\_back" that has the value "No". In the other rule, "non\_conclusion\_object" (rule 7) uses another rule (check in line 2) by referring to the rule "symptoms\_object" (i.e., rule 3). It also has the facts "size\_rash" where the value is "No" meaning that there is no rash of the size specified, "rash\_blister" with the value "No" and "one red spot" which has also the value "No". As can be seen in this case, the rule includes an "or-clause" (i.e., a ";" at the end of line 2), which means that either the rule "symptoms\_object" or the fact "size\_rash" can be used during the consultation.

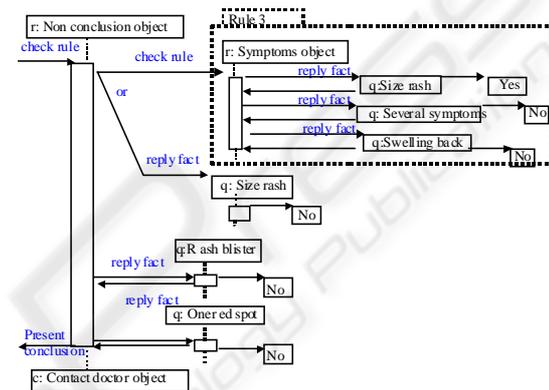


Figure 1: A sequence diagram including concepts applied to a knowledge base.

A problem arises when using UML's sequence diagrams because there is a clumsy facility for presenting the rules containing or-clauses, and or-clauses are often found in rules. Because of this, the diagram needs to be modified to support these clauses and, in Figure 1, the or-clauses are marked with arrows and the word "or" labelling the branches. In addition, the diagrams do not support not-clauses. The not-clause is illustrated as a cross in the figure to mark the box that cannot be satisfied, i.e., "Not reply fact" or "Not check rule" meaning that the response to the question or rule is negative.

Moreover, the "Contact doctor text" is a conclusion that is to be presented to the end users on occasions where this conclusion is reached, the system fetches the corresponding text from a conclusion base. The text presented in this case is: "If you cannot make any diagnosis by using this schema, you should contact a doctor".

In a sequence diagram, each object (illustrated as a square) is an instance of a class. To mark this the name of the object is underscored. Sometimes the initial of the name of the class is also used. In this diagram, the rules, facts and conclusion can also be seen as objects since they are either the class

question (facts), the class rule or the class conclusion. The underscore is omitted, but the initials (q, r and c in figure 1) are used to make the information in the diagram more easily digestible.

By using the diagrams it is possible to identify the expertise that is required for a particular problem. The conclusion of the session points out where in the organisation one should search for the expertise.

## 6.1 Packages

As the complexity of the diagrams is too great, steps need to be taken to reduce it. The approach adopted uses the notion of packages can be utilised in the system as a means for encapsulating several rules and facts included in a rule. The package facility, which is also a UML notation for organising elements into groups, facilitates folding knowledge that is not currently relevant and unfolding packages containing knowledge that is. These packages are only used for rules since it is unlikely that packages for facts will have any substantial impact on the screen space. Moreover, the packages can be nested within other packages, which means that a system may be represented by a single high-level package.

In folding the rule, the user who is developing the system must be confident of the contents of that rule, unless automatic verification or validation tools are implemented in the system. That is, the user must be aware if automatic verification or validation tools have been implemented in the system because folding a rule in which they have been implemented could be at the expense of introducing verification and validating problems.

## 6.2 Change the Execution Order of the Rules

The adoption of different strategies generally has a marked effect upon the performance characteristics of programs. The strategies determine the manner in which a program searches for a solution. By visualizing the interpretation, the reasoning strategy of the system becomes more perceptible. With the help of a diagram showing the rules, it should be possible to change the execution order of the rules and, thereby, examine the reasoning strategy but also experiment with the execution order.

A domain expert might prefer not to reason by starting with a conclusion and working backwards to find a solution, as one does in backward chaining. Instead, the expert may start with several facts in an attempt to find a solution through forward chaining, or, more probably, it might be decided to use a

mixed reasoning strategy. The reasoning may start out with some facts and then use a hypothesis or theory to find a solution. For instance, it is possible to form a theory about a project and start to check whether the premises that would be required to satisfy the theory (or hypothesis) are valid. The result would be displayed as a sequence diagram, a diagram that allows both facts and rules to be inserted, yielding different strategies.

With aid of such a diagrams, end users can be able to learn how to solve a problem. The diagrams can make it possible to experiment with the strategy by placing the facts and rules at the lifeline corresponding to the strategy and then moving them back and forth. Changing the strategy will affect the reasoning, which will give different results, because of the different application of the facts and rules.

## 7 DYNAMICALLY RELATED RULES IN COLLABORATION DIAGRAMS

Instead of using one sequence diagram for several purposes, dynamic knowledge can be presented in what is known as a collaboration diagram by incorporating user-supplied facts in the diagram. This collaboration diagram can be used to modify the execution order or the reasoning strategy of the system by illustrating how these rules are related dynamically.

Dynamic information is important since the rules that are used during an execution depend on the information that is supplied by the end users. User-supplied facts are incorporated in a collaboration diagram in which the relations show the flows that are made over time to perform computations, and that, therefore, illustrate the dynamic changes. In such a diagram, the dynamic presentation of the rules depends on the inputs the users insert into the diagram. It is dynamic in the sense that it changes with the inputs, and it visualizes the rules and their relationships according to the inputs. Since collaboration diagrams show how different rules and facts are invoked, they give a sequential demonstration of the steps that are involved in arriving at a specific conclusion.

It is difficult to control and gain an overview of relations between different parts: between the input, the output and the rules. As demonstrated in Figure 2, the interrelation between these parts shows how they are linked. For example, to reach the conclusion "Contact doctor text", the inputs, "No rash blister", "No rash size" and "No one red spot", have been inserted into the diagram. Then the rules, "Non

conclusion object” (Rule 7) and “Symptoms object” (Rule 3) are used with the facts “Size rash”= “No”, “Rash blister”= “No” and “One red spot” = ”No”.

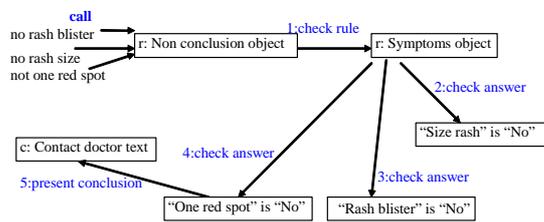


Figure 2: A dynamic presentation of rules

In this diagram, the initials corresponding to the name of the class have not been displayed for the questions because these questions are displayed with an alternative answer. This can, of course, be included if the users prefer to use the initials.

Since the collaboration is dynamic, it is possible to check the result against the input being changed. By using collaboration diagrams, it may be easier to get an overview of the entities in the sets.

A collaboration diagram makes it quite easy to see where the rules or facts do not satisfy the inputs. By changing the inputs until a particular fact is satisfied, the end users can experiment with inputs to the system and use the diagram to assist in learning. Of course, the end users can change other inputs as well. It should be noted that another way to present this diagram is to display the complete diagram, as in the first case, but to mark the non-satisfied box.

An analogy to company reports can demonstrate difference between static and dynamic. In annual reports there are two parts: the cashflow statement and balance sheet. The cashflow statement shows the movement of cash throughout the year and, therefore, enables one to see what changes have taken place, how the company runs, how the core business is operating, and so on. The balance sheet gives a frozen image of the state of the company at one point in time and which, because companies are obliged to produce these accounts annually, enables one to compare the situation with previous years' figures.

## 8 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Transferring problem solving strategies from an expert to end users via a knowledge management system is accomplished by conceptualization and by visualization in the form of graphical diagrams. Conceptualization is applied to on top of rules to cope with the domain knowledge and the reasoning strategy. The internal contents of the system are

dealt with by applying concepts in diagram-form, in addition to which, including relationships facilitates the handling of reasoning strategies. To transfer the knowledge, it is necessary to include visualization for presenting and understanding the problem solving strategy to ensure that the end users comprehend where the knowledge comes from.

The diagrams use concepts that correspond to the rules. Thus, instead of presenting a rule's physical structure, a concept with semantic meaning is applied to a rule. In these systems, the notion of a concept is expected to grasp the semantics of a rule and to convey a meaning of the operation it brings about. Such semantics can be utilised to change how the end users' comprehension of the knowledge, enabling them to understand the result of following the different paths from a semantic meaning point of view. Thus, diagrams can be used to explain how the order the interpreter traverses the knowledge base to reach a particular conclusion.

Utilising concepts and visualizing these in a sequence and collaboration diagrams can illustrate the rules and their relationships, in a static and dynamic manner. Static presentation refers to the visualization of the actual contents of the system, here, a system promote understanding of the reasoning strategy. Dynamic presentation, in contrast, depends on the input the user makes to the diagram, and thus, it is dynamic in the sense that it changes with the input, and is visualizes the concepts and relationships corresponding to a particular conclusion. Thus, it is visualizing the system's reasoning strategy that is visualized and this changes depending on the particular situation or task to be solved.

Domain knowledge and problem solving strategies are of great importance for improving domain knowledge and clarifying the strategies. Each advance in the understanding of problem solving and learning processes provides new insights about the ways in which a learner can usefully be supported. The systems under investigation here simulate human reasoning and judging capabilities by accepting knowledge from an external source and accessing stored knowledge, applying a reasoning process to solve problems.

If a transfer of knowledge is to be realized, knowledge not only needs to be sent to a recipient, but also to be absorbed and put to use (Andersson, 2000). Thus, if the knowledge and the strategies, extracted from a system, can satisfy the users' different learning styles then the knowledge can be absorbed. By visualizing static reasoning strategies, such as deductive reasoning of declarative knowledge through the use of concepts, we believe that people can learn to understand the problem solving strategies. Declarative knowledge, such as

statements, is provided in the diagrams as well as semantic knowledge, such as meanings, since the diagram uses concepts to capture semantic notions at different levels of abstraction. The declarative knowledge and semantic knowledge can be used by end users, who learn in different ways, for example, verbal-linguistic intelligence, semantic knowledge for logical-mathematical intelligence and visualization with concepts for visual-spatial intelligence (Mayiwar, & Håkansson, 2004).

Simulation of the dynamic behavior of an interactive execution (or session) with the system is another means of providing support to end users. Visualizing procedural knowledge, i.e., step-by-step execution, together with building student models can support the types of intelligence mentioned above.

More work is needed to analyse the extent to which the sequence and collaboration diagrams can be supportive during learning and when changing of the reasoning strategy. This may require illustration of the relationships between certain rules by simulating the execution order that is used to reach a specific conclusion. Simulation will show how the rules and facts contribute to the reasoning and, thereby, support the development as well as the consultation with the system.

Finally, more work is needed to analyse the degree to which the end users can benefit from these diagrams since they can learn to use a the strategy by examining the reasoning followed. Moreover, it is important to check whether they are able to experiment with the facts and rules used by the reasoning strategy to reach alternative conclusions.

## REFERENCES

- Andersson, K., 2000. *Knowledge Technology Applications for Knowledge Management*, PhD thesis, Department of Information Science, Computer Science Division, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- Awad, E.M., & Ghaziri H.M., 2004. *Knowledge Management*. Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.
- Booch, G., Rumbaugh, J., & Jacobson, I., 1999. *The Unified Modeling Language User Guide*. Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.
- Durkin, J., 1994. *Expert System Design and Development*. Prentice Hall International Editions. Macmillian Publishing Company, New Jersey.
- Helenius, E., 2001. *UML and Knowledge Engineering of Frame Based Knowledge Systems*. Master Thesis, Department of Information Science, Computer Science Division, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- Håkansson A., 2001. UML as an approach to Modelling Knowledge in Rule-based Systems. (*ES2001*) *The Twenty-first SGES International Conference on Knowledge Based Systems and Applied Artificial Intelligence*. Peterhouse College, Cambridge, UK December 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.
- Håkansson, A., 2003:a. *Graphic Representation and Visualisation as Modelling Support for the Knowledge Acquisition Process*. PhD thesis, Department of Information Science, Computer Science Division, Uppsala University, Sweden. ISBN 91-506-1727-3.
- Håkansson, A., 2003:b. Supporting Illustration and Modification of the Reasoning Strategy by Visualisation. (*SCAI'03*) *The Eighth Scandinavian Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, Bergen, Norway, November 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>nd</sup>.
- Håkansson, A., 2003:c. Visual Conceptualisation for Knowledge Acquisition in Knowledge Based Systems. Accepted in: Frans Coenen (ed.): *Expert Update (SGAI) Specialist Group on Artificial Intelligence*, ISSN 1465-4091.
- Jacobson, I. Rumbaugh, J. & Booch, G., 1998. *The Unified Modeling Language User Guide*. Addison-Wesley, USA.
- Laudon, K., & Laudon, J., 2002. *Management Information Systems: Managing the Digital Firm*. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 7<sup>th</sup> edition.
- Liebowitz J., & Wilcox, L., 1997. *Knowledge Management and Its Integrative Elements*. CRC Press, LLC 2000 Corporate Blvd., N.W., Boca Raton, Florida.
- Liebowitz J., 2001. *Knowledge Management: Learning from Knowledge Engineering*. CRC Press, LLC 2000 Corporate Blvd., N.W., Boca Raton, Florida.
- Mayiwar, N. & Håkansson, A., 2004. Considering Different Learning Styles when Transferring Problem Solving Strategies from Expert to End Users. (*KES'2004*) *8th International Conference on Knowledge-Based Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems*, Wellington, New Zealand, September 22<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>.
- Murphy, P. & Pazzani, M., 1994. Revision of Production System Rule-Bases, *Machine Learning: Proceedings of the Tenth International Workshop*.
- Schreiber, G., Akkermans, H., Anjewierden, A., de Hoog, R., Shadbolt, N., Van de Velde, W., & Wielinga B., 2001. *Knowledge Engineering and Management – the CommonKADS Methodology*. The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England.
- Tansley, D.S.W., & Hayball, C.C., 1993. *Knowledge-Based Systems Analysis and Design - A KADS Developer's Handbook*. Prentice Hall, UK.
- Wiratunga, N. & Craw, S., 2000. Informed Selection of Training Examples for Knowledge Refinement, *Proceedings of the EKAW2000*, 233—248.