

NC4OMAS: A Norms-based Approach for Open Multi-Agent Systems Controllability

Mohamed Sedik Chebout¹^a, Farid Mokhati¹^b and Mourad Badri²^c

¹*Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, ReLa(CS)2 Laboratory, University of Oum el Bouaghi, Oum el Bouaghi, Algeria*

²*Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Software Engineering Research Laboratory, University of Quebec, Trois-Rivières, Canada*

Keywords: Controllability, Norms, Open Multi-Agent Systems, AGR Model, JAVA Expert System Shell, Aspect-Oriented Programming.


Abstract: Normative Open Multi-Agent Systems (NOMAS) are systems in which norms play a crucial role for organizing, coordinating, controlling agents' behaviours and interactions. In addition, heterogeneous agents, in Open Multi-Agent Systems (OMAS), can work in similar or different ends. This might deviate the target system state and lead to a chaotic behaviour. A particular kind of OMAS is implemented based on AGR (Agent/Group/Role) model. This paper proposes a novel Norms-based Controllability approach for AGR-based OMAS (NC4OMAS). Mainly, the proposed approach is divided into two phases: monitoring and controlling. Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP) technique is used for norm monitoring compliance. Also, JAVA Expert System Shell (JESS) is used for norm specification, norm modification and for making inference over norms at runtime. In order to address limitations and advantages of our approach, we summarise the most relevant works on norms-based control according to some comparison criteria we proposed.


1 INTRODUCTION


Open MAS (OMAS) are characterized, mainly, by the heterogeneity of their participants (Criado et al., 2013), the member agents are developed by different parties and serve different, often competing interests (Artikis et al., 2016). Unlike classical MASs, agents in OMAS can freely join and leave systems at any time by requesting and/or leaving roles. Accordingly, heterogeneous agents playing their roles in such systems increase the risk to lead to non-desired situations, unanticipated interactions and expand the gap between the system observed behaviour and the expected one (Hewitt, 1991). To avoid that risk, it is necessary to define control mechanisms to lead the system behaviour from any unpredictable situation to a predefined target state. As stated in (Hewitt, 1991): “openness without control may lead to a chaotic behaviour”.

Roughly, the concept of controllability denotes the ability to move a system state with its entire current configuration using only certain potential manipulations (Liberty, 1972) (Sontag, 1998). Controllability and observability are dual aspects of the same problem. Observe (i.e., monitor) a given system consists to delegate another system (a monitor), which runs concurrently with the monitored one, for providing detailed information about the execution of the other program (ISO/IEC/IEEE, 2017) (Hammoud et al., 2016).

A special kind of OMAS is implemented using AGR (Agent/group/role) model in which the internal agent structure is not specified (i.e., agent heterogeneity). Also, groups in AGR model are considered as black boxes where what happens in a group cannot be seen from agents that do not belong to that group (Ferber & Gutknecht, 1998).

^a <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5373-4495>

^b <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4311-342X>

^c <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9034-9713>

This study is devoted to addressing the issue of AGR-based OMAS controllability by proposing a novel approach called NC4OMAS for Norms-based Controllability for Open Multi-Agent Systems. In NC4OMAS, norms specify the behaviours that agents should follow to achieve the objectives of the OMAS. JAVA Expert System Shell (JESS) (Friedman-Hill, 2008) is proposed, in the context of this paper, for norm specification, norm updating and for making inference over norms. Likewise, Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP) is used, in NC4OMAS, in order to implement norm monitoring process. An initial synthesis of OMAS control problem has been introduced and investigated in (Chebout et al., 2016) followed by an implementation of a dedicated software tool for monitoring AGR-based OMAS in (Chebout et al., 2019).

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides some related works about norms-based control for OMAS. Section 3 outlines the main preliminaries we used in our approach. Section 4 presents the proposed approach. Section 5 discusses our proposal in light of comparisons made with some relevant works. Finally, section 6 draws some conclusions and gives some future work directions.

2 STATE OF THE ART

In the last two decades, several research works have been published in which norms-based control related concepts have been treated.

In (Criado et al., 2013), a distributed architecture for enforcing norms in OMAS has been proposed under the name of MaNEA (Magentix2 Norm-Enforcing Architecture). The main aim of MaNEA is to overcome problems of existing proposals on norm enforcement. Also, MaNEA supports the creation and deletion of norms on-line as well as the dynamic activation and expiration of instances. MaNEA shows good performance result in terms of: number of instantiations, number of agents, number of roles, number of norms, number of iterations and number of actions compared to (Modgil et al., 2009).

In (Mahmoud et al., 2014), a literature review of normative MAS has been established. That review work classifies norms into two main categories: conventional and essential norms. This latter, encompasses three norm types: constitutive, regulative, and procedural norms. A new norm type has been proposed under the term: recommendation norm. Authors contribute, also, with a norm lifecycle process that summaries the different stages that affect the norm from creation to removal.

In (Alechina et al., 2018), the problem of detecting norm violations in OMAS is considered. In that work, the MAS does not need to bear the cost of paying for monitoring, as assumed in (Fagundes et al., 2014). Agents are not always rewarded after they monitor, but only if they discover a violation. A key issue for that approach is how to incentivize the agents to monitor the actions of other agents.

In (Fagundes et al., 2014), an approach for analysing the trade-off between norm enforcement efficiency and its cost has been proposed. Furthermore, the cost is associated with norm enforcement. For that, a simulation-based method to calculate trade-offs involved in enforcement mechanisms has been developed and experimented. In that work, authors confirm that norm designers, based on information provided by their simulation, are able to analyse the trade-off between efficiency and cost of norm enforcement.

In (Marir et al., 2019), an extension of JADE agent platform (Bellifemine et al., 2007) named Normative JADE (NorJADE) has been proposed to support different aspects related to MAS normativity. The proposed extension consists in providing JADE developers with a normative framework in which norm representation, norm enforcement, and norm monitoring techniques are specified. Also, NorJADE implements several norm related mechanisms using AspectJ.

Although these works have considerably forwarded the control issue in OMAS by proposing novel approaches for each norm subareas (i.e., norm lifecycle, conflict resolution between norms, norm enforcement, and norm implementation), they did not take into account the specificities of AGR-based OMASs and they did not discuss, in a clear way, how operationally norm compliance is monitored. It should be pointed out that norm synthesis aspect is not considered in this paper nor in the studied literature. Although the enormous works in such domain, using a rule-based system for expressing norms is limited to a particular kind of system (i.e., electronic institutions). Norm enforcement proposed architectures, in existing literature, are almost centralized. However, a distributed architecture is strongly preconized in order to avoid drawbacks related to centralized ones (i.e., communication overhead, etc.).

Existing works on norm monitoring in MAS, except (Criado et al., 2013), delegate an agent for monitoring norm compliance (second- and third-party observability). Putting a particular agent in charge for observing other agent's behaviour is a good solution in the design level. However,

interaction between monitor agent and other agents implied in control process will increase the amount of communication and affect considerably the performances of controlled system. To the best of our knowledge, this work is the first that uses AOP techniques to provide support for norm monitoring. Also, norm modification issue was not treated as well.

3 PRELIMINARIES

In what follows, we introduce the main materials we used to support our proposal.

3.1 Normative Open Multi-Agent System

According to (Boella et al., 2008), a normative MAS “is a multi-agent system organized by means of mechanisms to represent, communicate, distribute, detect, create, modify, and enforce norms, and mechanisms to deliberate about norms and detect norm violation and fulfilment”. Also, norms have been incorporated into OMAS to express the expected behaviour of agents.

In Normative OMAS (NOMAS) literature, most used norms are those who use deontic logic operators (i.e., regulative norms): obligations, prohibitions, and permissions (von Wright, 2021) (Woleński, 2016). In our work, the focus is on a special type of norms in which temporal constraints are considered (i.e., conditional norms). Obligations, prohibitions, and permissions are submitted to temporal constraints: start time and deadline. For instance, obligation start time describes the moment when the norm is instantiated. However, obligation deadline means that obligation does not produce any effects after this time. The period between obligation start time and deadline expresses the fact when obligation is in force. In AGR-based OMAS, norms will be activated when agent requests a role. This means that norms are addressed to roles played by agents. In contrast, norm is deactivated when an agent leaves a role whatever norm is fulfilled or violated.

To address the norms-based control process in OMAS, norms should be communicated to agents newly integrated in the system and, as a consequence, agents may decide not to comply with the norms (Criado et al., 2013) (Mahmoud et al., 2014). In order to deal with agent autonomy in which agents can work toward similar or different goals, the step of agent decision related to comply or not with norms will be bypassed in this work.

3.2 AGR Model

Agent, Group and Role (AGR) Model, is a generic organizational model of multi-agent systems. According to (Ferber et al., 2003), an agent is an active, communicating entity playing roles within groups, a group is used as a context for a pattern of activities. Also, a group is defined as a set of agents sharing some common characteristics. A role is the abstract representation of a functional position of an agent in a group. An agent must play a role in a group, but an agent may play several roles (figure 1).

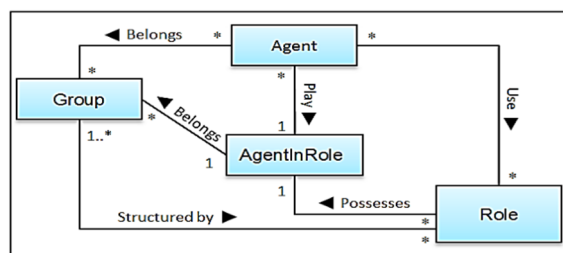


Figure 1: AGR core model (Ferber & Gutknecht, 1998).

Therefore, MaDKit (Multi-agent Development Kit) platform (Gutknecht & Ferber, 2001) consists of an operationalization of the AGR model and is selected in this work for proposed approach implementation purposes. Under MaDKit, an agent that wants to get in the system, should pass an explicit request via requestRole primitive. In contrast, agents that want to get out from the system use leaveRole primitive.

3.3 JESS

Java Expert System Shell (JESS) is an editor of expert systems and scripting language from Sandia National Laboratories, written entirely in JAVA and using a Lisp-like notation (Friedman-Hill, 2008). JESS supports the development of rule-based systems that can be tightly coupled to code written in JAVA (Garcia-Camino et al., 2005). There are three ways to represent knowledge in JESS: rules, functions and Object-Oriented Programming (Friedman-Hill, 2003). Also, JESS uses backward chaining inference method. A typical rule-based system has, at least, three basic components: fact-list (i.e., instance-list), knowledge-base (i.e., rule-base) and inference engine. By using JESS, JAVA functions may be called from JESS code, extending JESS by writing JAVA code and embedding JESS in JAVA Application (Friedman-Hill, 2008).

This feature adds more flexibility to the code. JESS is used, in the context of this work, for specifying and making inference over norms.

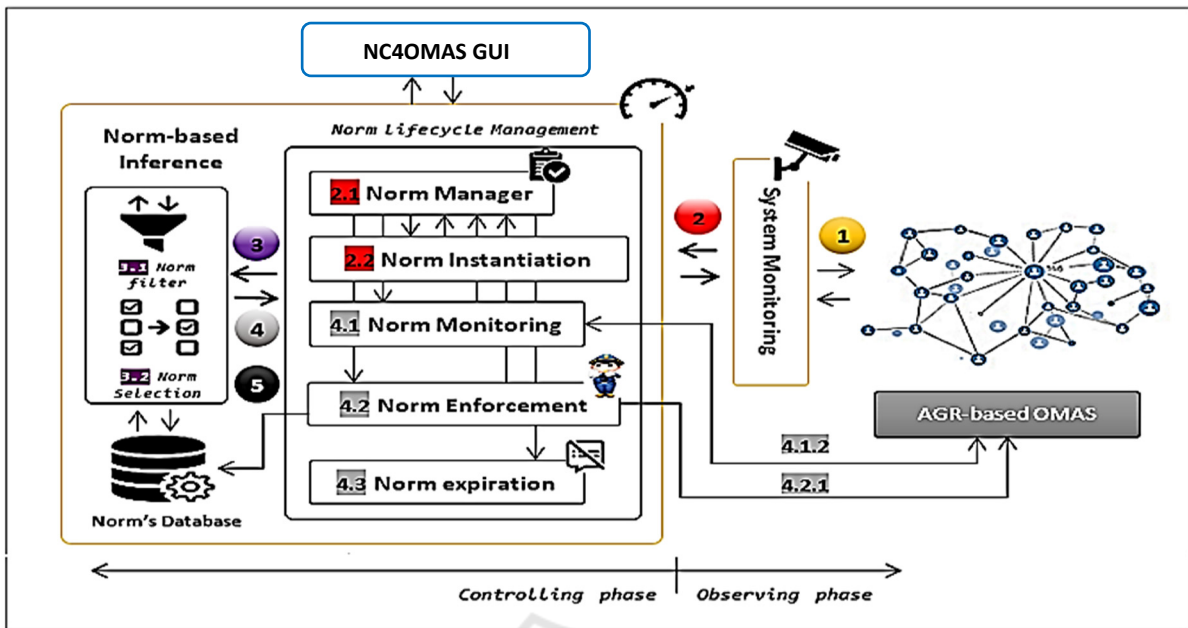


Figure 2: NC4OMAS architecture.

3.4 AspectJ

AspectJ is the most common AOP implementation for JAVA (Kiczales et al., 2001). AspectJ supports the definition of aspects, advices, join points, and pointcuts. An advice is a special method-like construct attached to join points. Join points are well-defined points in the structure and dynamic execution of a system. Examples of join points are method calls, method executions, etc. Pointcuts are collections of join points and are used in advice definitions. An aspect defines sets of pointcuts and advices (Kiczales et al., 2001). AspectJ provides an effective way for monitoring agent movements and norm compliance.

4 PROPOSED APPROACH

The main purpose of Norms-based Controllability for Open Multi-Agent Systems (NC4OMAS) is to control AGR-based OMASs in order to guide, based on a norm-driven process, their behaviour for achieving expected states. To this end, NC4OMAS approach is divided into two main phases (figure 2): observing (i.e., monitoring) phase and controlling phase.

4.1 Observing Phase

The monitoring phase consists of tracking and gathering AGR related information. System

monitoring module in NC4OMAS architecture is implemented as a set of AspectJ aspects. Based on AspectJ pointcuts, system monitoring tracks agent's entrance, departure and performed actions. Snippet 1 shows a piece of code of system monitoring aspect in which a pointcut named `observeRequiredRole` intercepts all calls to `requestRole` primitive. After that, a particular list named `activatedRequestedRoleList` will be updated. `activatedRequestedRoleList` encompasses information about agentID and assigned roles.

```
pointcut observeRequiredRole(String
communityName, String groupName, String
roleName, Object passKey) :

call(ReturnCode *.requestRole(..) &&
args(communityName, groupName, roleName,
passKey);

after (String communityName, String
groupName, String roleName, Object
passkey) returning (Returncode r) :
observeRequiredRole(communityName,
groupName, roleName, passKey){
AbstractAgent ag = (AbstractAgent)
thisJoinPoint.getTarget();
//...
if (r.equals(ReturnCode.SUCCESS)){
activatedRequestedRoleList.put(agAd.getN
etworkID(), roleName);}
}
```

Snippet 1: Monitoring the agent requested roles.

4.2 Controlling Phase

The purpose of NC4OMAS controlling phase is to delegate a third-party MAS in order to ensure, for OMAS, the achievement of expected state. Also, delegated MAS is composed by a set of agents in which their tasks are related to norm lifecycle. In this work, four essential norm lifecycle phases have been adopted: norm creation, norm instantiation, norm monitoring, and norm enforcement. In Norm creation step, a set of domain dependent norms will be created and saved in norm database before launching the controlled system (i.e., offline norm design). Norm instantiation and norm enforcement steps are delegated to specific agents named: *norm instantiator* and *norm enforcer* respectively. Also, norms monitoring step is implemented by a specific agent that uses AspectJ constructors for observing norm compliance. A particular agent type called *norm manager* consists of supervising several norm related tasks assigned to norm instantiator and norm enforcer. Delegated MAS entities are dispatched over groups of agents of the OMAS submitted to control. Likewise, norm manager, norm instantiator, and norm enforcer agents should pass, every one, an explicit request for performing norm management, norm instantiation and norm enforcement roles respectively in each created group.

In contrast, *norm instantiation* consists of making a copy of created norm (i.e., from norm database) that corresponds to requested role using JESS pattern matching mechanism. Instantiated norm for a given role is taken based on JESS inference engine following two successive steps: selection and filtering which will be proceeded based on JESS built-in RETE algorithm (Forgy, 1982). Once norm is instantiated (i.e., in force), it will be inserted in a particular list named *instantiatedNormList*. Conversely, norm expiration process consists of removing instantiated norms from the enforcement process when a given agent gets out of the system. For that, a specific list named *desactivatedNormList* is maintained.

In NC4OMAS, a norm is specified as JESS rule. This latter is similar to an IF-THEN statement. Rules have two parts a left-hand side (LHS) and a right-hand side (RHS) separated by the connective (\Rightarrow). The LHS is employed for matching fact patterns based on RETE algorithm. Snippet 2 shows a prohibition norm named *AuthorProhibitionRule* related to paper submission in the context of Conference Review System (CRS). Also, an author is prohibited to submit a paper after submission deadline.

```
(deftemplate AuthorPaperSubmission
  (slot agentid) (slot group) (slot role)
  (slot status (type STRING)))
(deftemplate SubmissionProhibition
  (slot agentid) (slot group) (slot role)
  (slot status (type STRING)))
(deftemplate rdPS
  (slot submissionDeadline (type LONG)))
(defglobal ?*currentdate* = (System.
currentTimeMillis))

; check if currentDate > SubmissionDeadline
(defrule AuthorProhibitionRule
  (AuthorPaperSubmission
  (agentid ?author) (group ?gr)
  (role ?role) (status ?s))
  (rdPS (submissionDeadline ?sdl))
  (test (> ?*currentdate* ?sdl))
  (test (= ?s "preregistred")))
=>
  (assert (SubmissionProhibition
  (agentid ?author) (group ?gr)
  (role ?role) (status "LeavingSystem")))

(printout t "Author " ?author " is
Prohibited to submit a paper " crlf))
```

Snippet 2: Prohibition norm for author paper submission.

Norm modification process consists of dynamically modifying norms' temporal constraints in order to give more time to agents to adapt their behaviours with normative ones. Hence, norm modification will take place mainly after checking the non-achievement of the expected system state. JESS provides support for updating norm related facts by using constructs like: *defquery*, *modify*, *assert*.

In *norm enforcement* process, norm monitoring module observes, permanently, each change made on *instantiatedNormList* and check which norm is currently in force. In the case of obligation norms, norms monitoring tracks if current performed action by a given agent is submitted to an obligation and check if the obligation deadline is reached. Norm instantiator agent asserts, consequently, the obligation related fact in the Working Memory (WM). This means that action performed by a given agent has been submitted to an obligation. Also, asserted fact encompasses a set of agents' relevant information such as: *agentID*, *agentRole*, *agentGroup*, and *currentAgentStatus*. In order to determine fulfilled or violated obligations, norm monitoring gets, after deadline expiration, asserted obligation facts from the WM. By formulating a set of JESS queries to the WM. An obligation is considered as fulfilled, if current agent status matches with status indicated in the obligation. Conversely, obligation is considered as violated. A particular list named: *normStatusList* is maintained by norm manager for updating obligation enforcement-related

information. As far as normStatusList is dynamically modified, norm manager informs norm enforcer to proceed to punish or reward agent in question. Punishments and rewards are domain dependent. In the context of NC4OMAS, multiple lists are maintained for managing rewarded and punished agents (i.e., rewardedAgentList and punishedAgentList respectively). Also, putting rewarded or punished agents in such list is the simplest way to behave with. Agent manager informs, at runtime, sanctioned agents by the result of enforcement process. In the case of prohibition, an agent will be rewarded if its status does not much with one indicated in the norm.

5 DISCUSSION

NC4OMAS is proposed mainly in order to control AGR-based OMAS using a norms-based control process. JESS is used to deal with norm specification and modification issues thanks to its flexibility in which JESS can be tightly coupled to JAVA code. AspectJ is used, basically, for monitoring purposes. However, AspectJ coding needs a particular attention when manipulating data structures like, HashMap, ArrayList, etc. These data structures are accessed by both aspects for putting or updating data and NC4OMAS agents for getting specific information

like activatedRequestedRoleList, instantiatedNormList, deactivatedNormList, etc. Therefore, data structures with multiple access need a particular control in order to avoid JAVA exceptions like ConcurrentModificationException. To avoid such exception, ConcurrentHashMap is opted instead HashMap and CopyOnWriteArrayList instead ArrayList and so on.

In order to address limitations and advantages of our approach, Table 1 summarizes the most relevant works on norms-based control according to some comparison criteria we proposed. *Norm enforcement* (i.e., rewards and penalties). *Norm modifications* means the ability of dynamically updating some norm settings (i.e., temporal constraints). *Distributed enforcement architecture* consists of the way for doing enforcement mechanism (i.e., centralised or distributed). *Performed actions* mean the possibility of monitoring actions performed by agents. *Norm lifecycle* investigates the evolutionary process of norm's lifecycle developed over several phases: creation, instantiation, emergence, adoption, internalization, and norm removal. *Exchanged messages* underline the way in which agents implicated in control process communicate with. *Norm representation* indicates which formalism is used to represent norm either rule-based systems, deontic logic, binary strings or game theory. As a MAS is constituted of *environments, organizations,*

Table 1: Summary of norms-based control proposals.

Criteria	Norm Enforcement		Norm Modification	Distributed enforcement architecture	Performed actions	Norm lifecycle	Exchanged messages	Norm Representation	Deontic Concepts				Context			Conflict resolution
	Punishment	Reward							Permission	Obligation	Interdiction	Recommendation	Interaction	Environment	Organization	
(Felicissimo et al., 2008)					√			√		√						√
(Garcia-Camino et al., 2005)	√	√			√			√	√	√	√					√
(Ahmad et al., 2016)	√	√			√			√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
(Dastani & van der Torre, 2004)	√	√			√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
(Criado et al., 2013)	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		
(Mahmoud et al., 2014)	√	√				√						√				
(Alechina et al., 2018)	√	√		√	√			√								
(Marir et al., 2019)	√	√			√			√	√	√	√	√	√			
NC4OMAS	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√			√

and *agents interacting* and *playing roles*, context criterion is chosen for specifying which issue is addressed by proposed normative approaches. Finally, *conflict resolution* denotes the fact that proposals are endowed with capabilities for applying conflicts resolution techniques between norms. A normative conflict arises when a given agent is prohibited and obliged to perform the same action at the same time (Belchior et al., 2018).

In light of these comparison results described in Table 1, NC4OMAS takes a remarkable place between existing proposals. Our proposal joins the majority of proposed approaches in the enforcement process, performed actions, norm representation, deontic concepts in terms of permission, obligation, and prohibition. Also, our work joins (Criado et al., 2013) and (Alechina et al., 2018) in the distributed enforcement architecture criteria in which we adopt AGR model for implementing OMAS. Also, AGR model allows decomposition over groups of roles. With regards to norm lifecycle, our approach joins proposals of (Criado et al., 2013) (Mahmoud et al., 2014) and (Dastani & van der Torre, 2004) in which norms are submitted to several phases starting with creation, instantiation, enforcement, and finally removal. In contrast, norm conflict resolution and normative environment are excluded in NC4OMAS. In our approach, there is no need to impose any constraints (i.e., norms) on agent entrance and/or departure and required capabilities for an agent for doing a requested role. The purpose of norm modification allows a dynamic update of norm settings expressed in terms of temporal constraints. This latter makes the behaviour specified in the norm more flexible and gives, as a result, an opportunity for agents to adapt their behaviour with normative one.

6 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS

In this paper, a Norms-based Controllability approach for Open Multi-Agent systems (NC4OMAS) was proposed. The idea of NC4OMAS consists of delegating a third-party MAS in order to manage norm related issues (i.e., norm instantiation, norm monitoring, and norm enforcement). Delegated MAS is designed in a distributed way in which agents implied in control process are dynamically dispatched over system groups. The originality of our proposition is the runtime control by considering its current system state and the target one using AspectJ for norm monitoring compliance and JESS for

specifying, updating and making inference over norms. Currently, a software tool called NC4OMAS tool is being developed in order to demonstrate the feasibility of our approach. NC4OMAS tool is designed as a middleware and will be executed concurrently with the system submitted to control in order to maximize compatibility with any type of AGR-based platform.

REFERENCES

- Ahmad, A., Ahmed, M., Mohd Yusof, M. Z., Ahmad, Mohd. S., & Mustapha, A. (2016). Resolving Conflicts between Personal and Normative Goals in Normative Agent Systems. *Journal of IT in Asia*, 4(1). <https://doi.org/10.33736/jita.43.2014>.
- Alechina, N., Halpern, J. Y., Kash, I. A., & Logan, B. (2018). Incentive-compatible mechanisms for norm monitoring in open multi-agent systems. *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research*, 62. <https://doi.org/10.1613/jair.1.11214>.
- Artikis, A., Sergot, M., Pitt, J., Busquets, D., & Riveret, R. (2016). Specifying and Executing Open Multi-Agent Systems. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-33570-4_10.
- Belchior, M., dos Santos, J. S., & da Silva, V. T. (2018). Strategies for resolving normative conflict that depends on execution order of runtime events in multi-agent systems. *ICAART 2018 - Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence*, <https://doi.org/10.5220/0006593202160223>.
- Bellifemine, F., Caire, G., & Greenwood, D. (2007). Developing Multi-Agent Systems with JADE. In *Developing Multi-Agent Systems with JADE*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470058411>.
- Boella, G., van der Torre, L., & Verhagen, H. (2008). Introduction to the special issue on normative multiagent systems. *Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems*, 17(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10458-008-9047-8>.
- Chebout, M. S., Mokhati, F., Badri, M., & Babahenini, M. C. (2016). Towards preventive control for open MAS: An aspect-based approach. *ICINCO 2016 - Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics*. <https://doi.org/10.5220/0006005602690274>.
- Chebout, M. S., Mokhati, F., Badri, M., & Babahenini, M. C. (2019). Monitoring open multi-Agent systems: An aspect-oriented programming-based approach. *Multiagent and Grid Systems*. <https://doi.org/10.3233/MGS-190307>.
- Criado, N., Argente, E., Noriega, P., & Botti, V. (2013). MaNEA: A distributed architecture for enforcing norms in open MAS. *Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence*, 26(1). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.engappai.2012.08.007>.

- Dastani, M., & van der Torre, L. (2004). Programming BOID-Plan Agents deliberating about conflicts among defeasible mental attitudes and plans. Proceedings of the Third International Joint Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems, AAMAS 2004, 2.
- Fagundes, M. S., Ossowski, S., & Meneguzzi, F. (2014). Analyzing the tradeoff between efficiency and cost of norm enforcement in stochastic environments. *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications*, 263. <https://doi.org/10.3233/978-1-61499-419-0-1003>.
- Felicissimo, C., Chopinaud, C., Briot, J. P., Seghrouchni, A. E. F., & Lucena, C. (2008). Contextualizing normative open multi-agent systems. Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on Applied Computing. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1363686.1363703>.
- Ferber, J., & Gutknecht, O. (1998). A meta-model for the analysis and design of organizations in multi-agent systems. Proceedings - International Conference on Multi Agent Systems, ICMAS 1998. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICMAS.1998.699041>.
- Ferber, J., Gutknecht, O., & Michel, F. (2003). From agents to organizations: An organizational view of multi-agent systems. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science (Including Subseries Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence and Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics)*, 2935. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-24620-6_15.
- Forgy, C. L. (1982). Rete: A fast algorithm for the many pattern/many object pattern match problem. *Artificial Intelligence*, 19(1). [https://doi.org/10.1016/0004-3702\(82\)90020-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/0004-3702(82)90020-0).
- Friedman-Hill, E. (2003). Jess in action. Rule-Based systems in java. In *Jess in action: rule-based systems in Java*.
- Friedman-Hill, E. (2008). *Jess The rule engine for Java Platform*. In Sandia National Laboratories.
- Garcia-Camino, A., Noriega, P., & Rodriguez-Aguilar, J. A. (2005). Implementing norms in electronic institutions. Proceedings of the International Conference on Autonomous Agents. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1082473.1082575>.
- Gutknecht, O., & Ferber, J. (2001). The MadKit agent platform architecture. *Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence (Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science)*. https://doi.org/10.1007/3-540-47772-1_5.
- Hammoud, M., Tang, A. Y. C., & Ahmad, A. (2016). Negative norms detection technique in open normative multi-agent systems. ICAART 2016 - Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence, 2. <https://doi.org/10.5220/0005654502410249>.
- Hewitt, C. (1991). Open Information Systems Semantics for distributed artificial intelligence. *Artificial Intelligence*, 47(1-3). [https://doi.org/10.1016/0004-3702\(91\)90051-K](https://doi.org/10.1016/0004-3702(91)90051-K).
- ISO/IEC/IEEE. (2017). *Systems and software engineering: Vocabulary*. ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765:2017(E), 2017.
- Kiczales, G., Hilsdale, E., Hugunin, J., Kersten, M., Palm, J., & Griswold, W. G. (2001). An overview of AspectJ. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science (Including Subseries Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence and Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics)*. https://doi.org/10.1007/3-540-45337-7_18.
- Liberty, S. (1972). Modern control engineering. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 17(3). <https://doi.org/10.1109/tac.1972.1100013>.
- Mahmoud, M. A., Ahmad, M. S., Mohd Yusoff, M. Z., & Mustapha, A. (2014). A review of norms and normative multiagent systems. In *Scientific World Journal (Vol. 2014)*. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2014/684587>.
- Marir, T., Silem, A. E. H., Mokhati, F., Gherbi, A., & Bali, A. (2019). NorJADE. *International Journal of Open Source Software and Processes*. <https://doi.org/10.4018/ijosp.2019040101>.
- Modgil, S., Faci, N., Meneguzzi, F., Oren, N., Miles, S., & Luck, M. (2009). A framework for monitoring agent-based normative systems. Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems, AAMAS, 1.
- Sontag, E. (1998). *Mathematical control theory: deterministic finite dimensional systems*. In *Texts in applied mathematics: Vol. 2nd ed.*
- von Wright, G. H. (2021). A New System of Deontic Logic. *Danish Yearbook of Philosophy*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.1163/24689300-00101017>.
- Woleński, J. (2016). How deontic logic contributes to the analysis of legal systems. *Revus*, 29. <https://doi.org/10.4000/revus.3518>.