

Regulating Multiagent Systems: A Basis for Responsible AI

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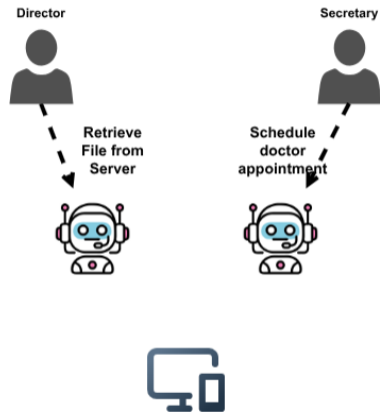
Introduction

- ▶ Human society is **increasingly becoming dependent** on IT
- ▶ Recent advances of AI promotes the **delegation** of goals to artificial agents
- ▶ Agents usually **interact** to achieve their delegated goals
- ▶ Agents interests are at best **imperfectly aligned**



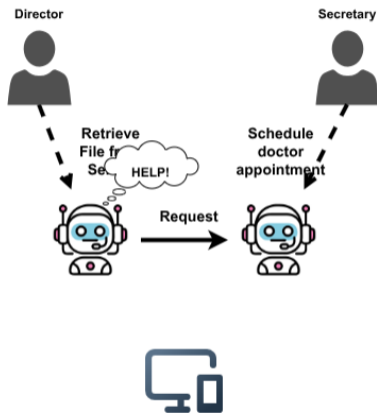
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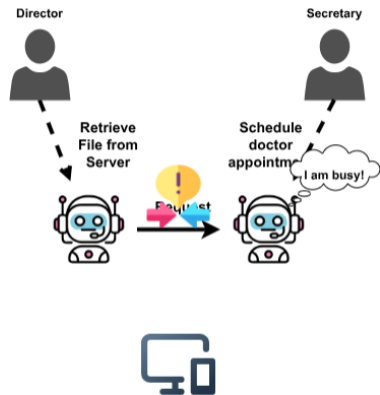
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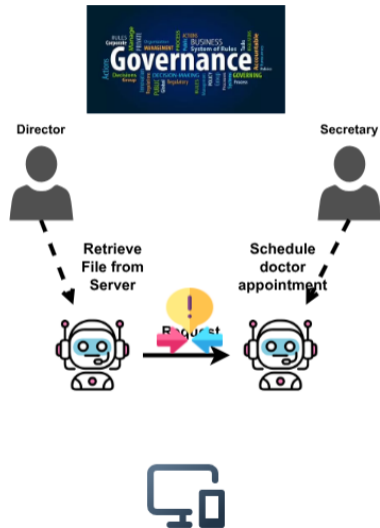
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Introduction

- ▶ The success of these systems relies on effective **governance**
 - how interactions are controlled
- ▶ Governance should maintain the **equilibrium** between
 - **Autonomy** of the agents
 - **Predictability** of the system

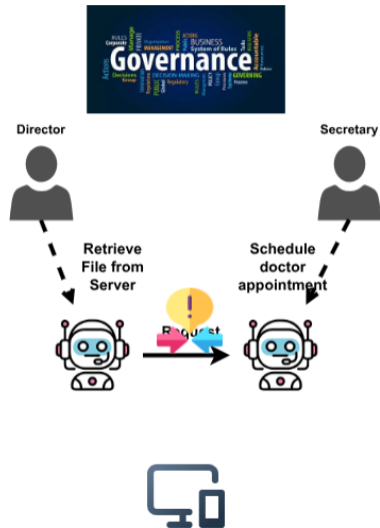
How can we govern these systems interfering the least with the autonomy of the agents?



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Multiagent Systems: Multiagent Oriented (MAO) Approach

(Boissier et al., 2020)

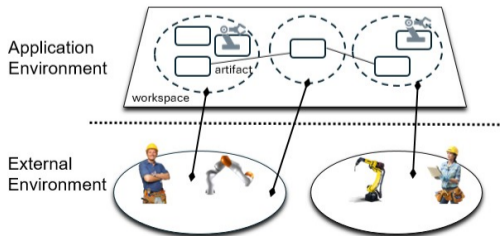
External
Environment



Multiagent Systems: Multiagent Oriented (MAO) Approach

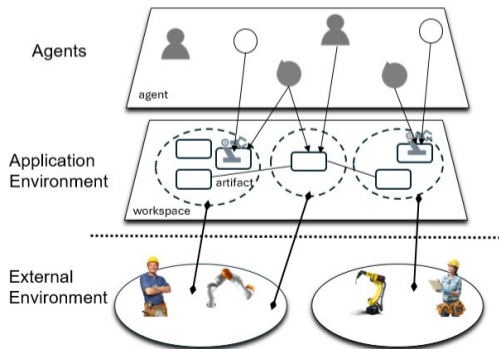
(Boissier et al., 2020)

- ▶ **Environment:** Shared medium providing the conditions for agents to exist and act
- ▶ **Agent:** Autonomous decision-makers capable of responding to events while pursuing goals and taking action to achieve them
- ▶ **Organization:** Abstractions to declare and make accessible to agents their collective structure and functioning in a shared environment



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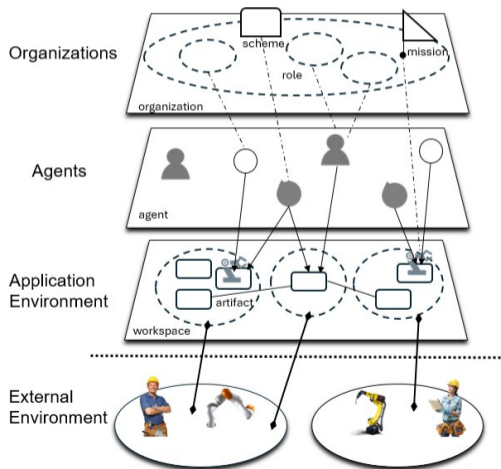
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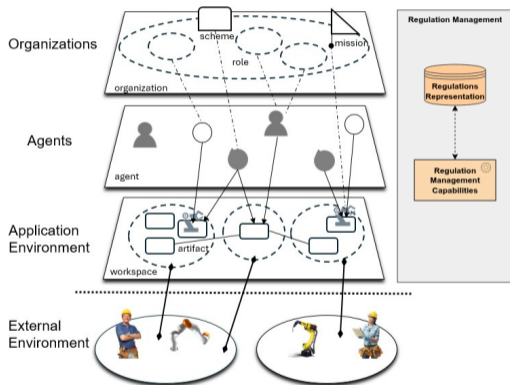
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Regulated Multiagent Systems



- ▶ **Regulations** can be used in MAS to guide agents towards the overall system objectives, while maintaining agent autonomy
- ▶ **Regulation Management**
 - Regulations Representation
 - Regulation Management Capabilities

Regulated Multiagent Systems



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Regulations Representation

▶ Constitutive Norms

- Institutional interpretations of environmental facts
- Link *brute facts* to *institutional facts*

$id : x \text{ count-as } y \text{ [when } t \text{] [while } m \text{]}$

▶ Regulative Norms

- Prescribe constraints on behavior or state of affairs that are expected
- Qualify a behavior or state of affairs as obligations, prohibitions and permissions

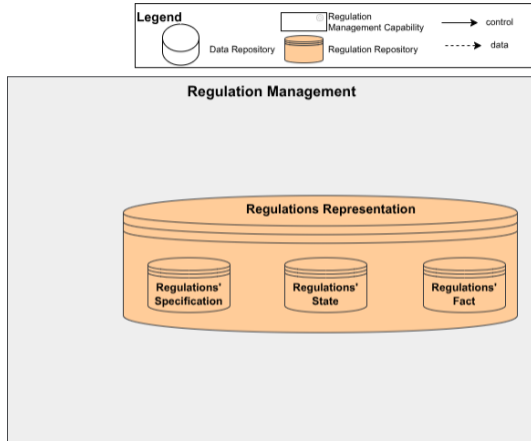
$\text{norm } id : \delta \rightarrow \psi \text{ if } \phi : sr_i(\text{args})$

▶ Sanction rules

- Consequences of compliance with or violation of regulative norms

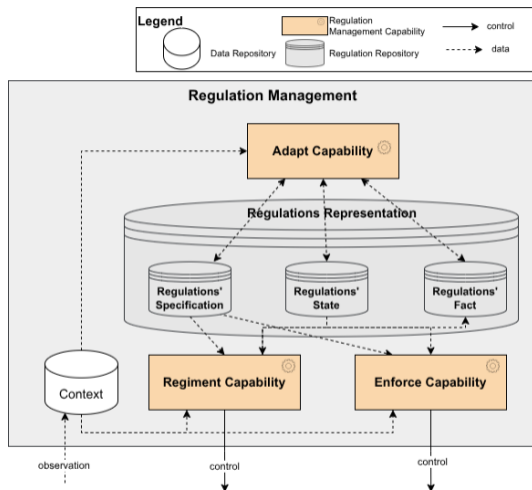
$\text{sanction-rule } sr_i(\text{args}) : \rho \rightarrow \text{sanction}(\alpha, \gamma)$

Regulations Representation



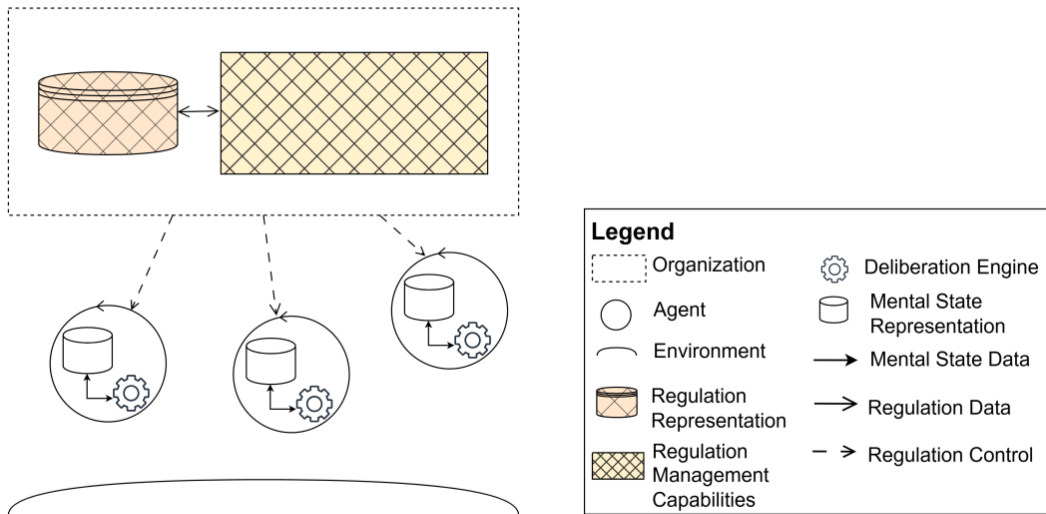
Yan, E., Nardin, L.G., Boissier, O. & Sichman, J. (2025). A Regulation Adaptation Model for Multi-Agent Systems. In 28th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI 2025), Bologna, Italy

Regulation Management Capabilities

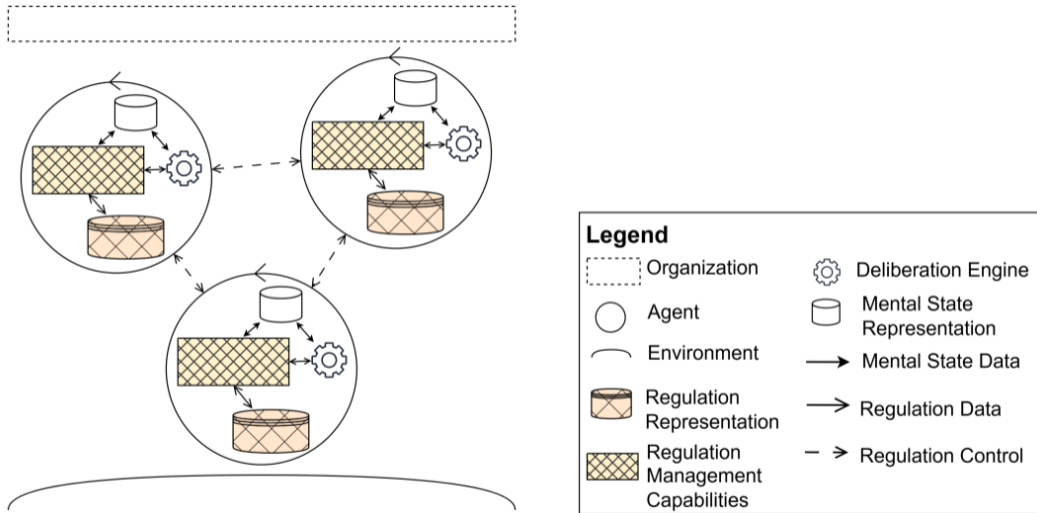


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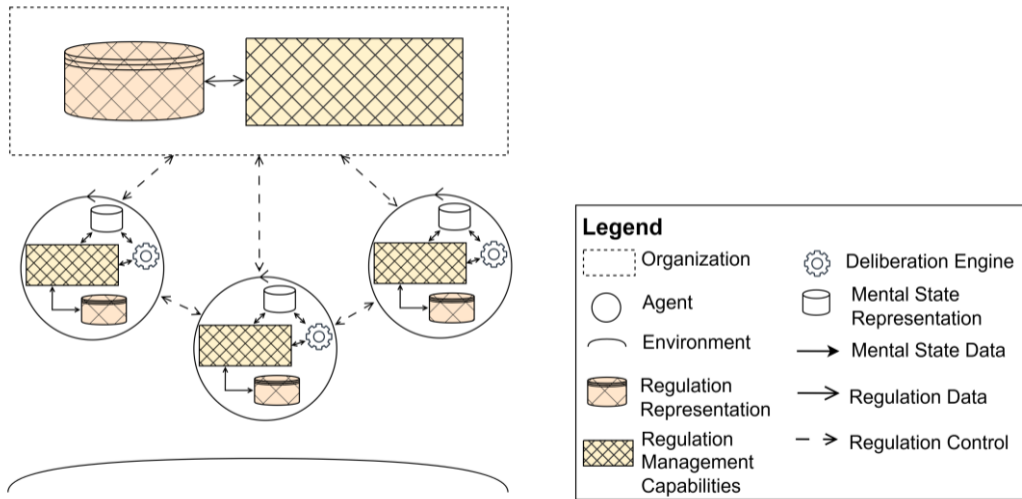
Organization-Centric Regulation Management Perspective



Agent-Centric Regulation Management Perspective

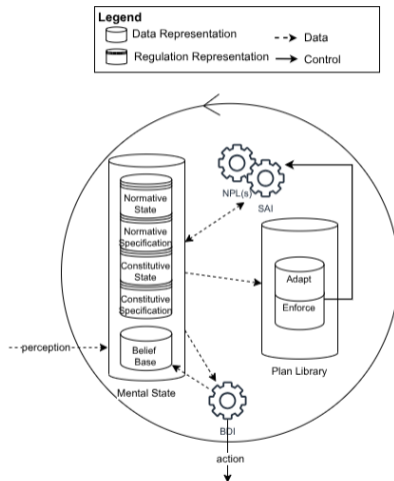


Hybrid-Centric Regulation Management Perspective



Normative Agent Architecture

- ▶ BDI normative agent architecture
- ▶ NPL(s) and SAI Engine
- ▶ Regulations Repository
- ▶ Plans
 - Adapt
 - Enforce



Yan, E., Nardin, L.G., Boissier, O. & Sichman, J. (2025). A Unified View on Regulation Management in Multi-Agent Systems. In Coordination, Organizations, Institutions, Norms, and Ethics for Governance of Multi-Agent Systems XVIII

Skateboard Assembly Line

Objective: Assembly custom skateboards based on customer orders

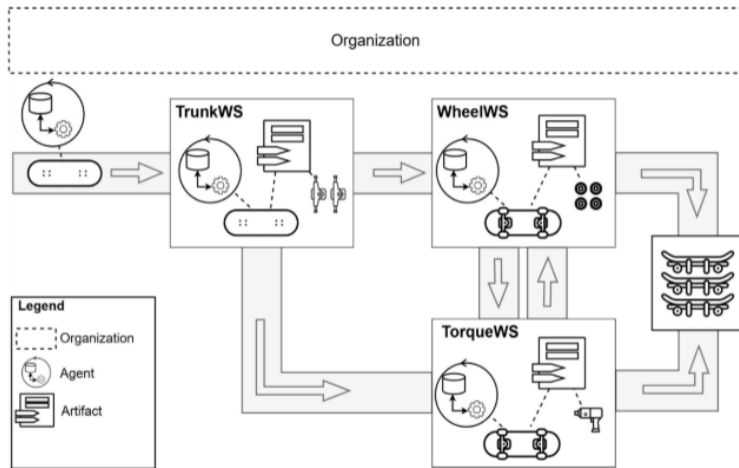
Workstations

- ▶ TrunkWS
- ▶ WheelWS
- ▶ TorqueWS



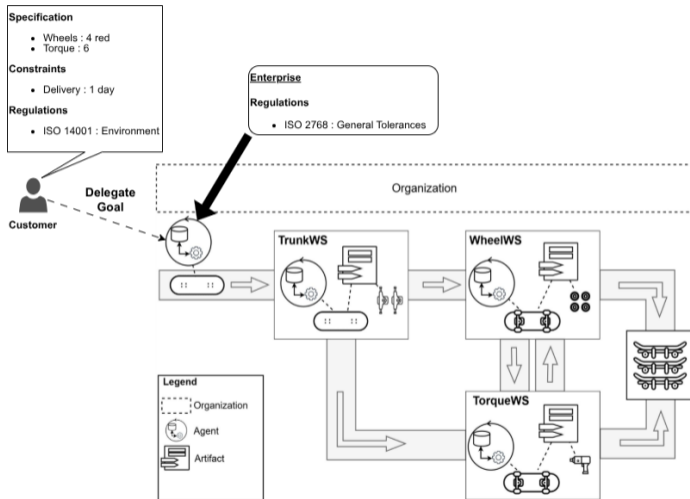
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Skateboard Assembly Line



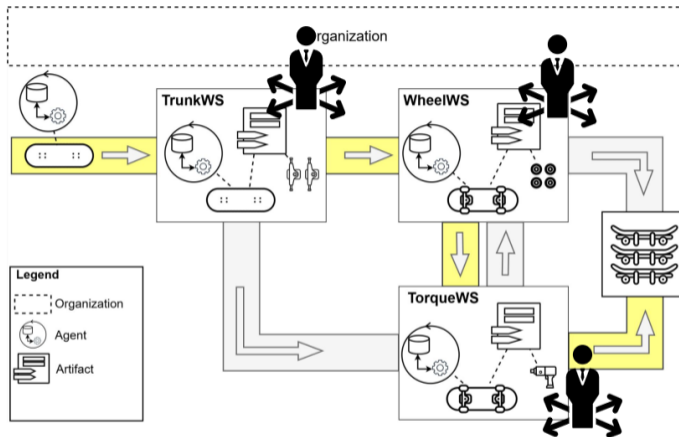
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Support for Responsible AI

- ▶ **Collaborative Decision-Making**
 - Facilitate balanced decisions based on explicit expected behavior
 - Establish mechanisms for detecting conflicts or violations enabling quick response
- ▶ **Transparency and Explainability**
 - Enhance the comprehension by humans of agents decision-making processes
- ▶ **Accountability**
 - Identify clearly the distributed responsibilities, enabling the creation of checks for accountability
- ▶ **Adaptability**
 - Enable easy adaptation to new or changing regulatory frameworks

Thank you!



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