

Union of Intelligible Associations

Part C: Comprehension challenges

Anthony Judge

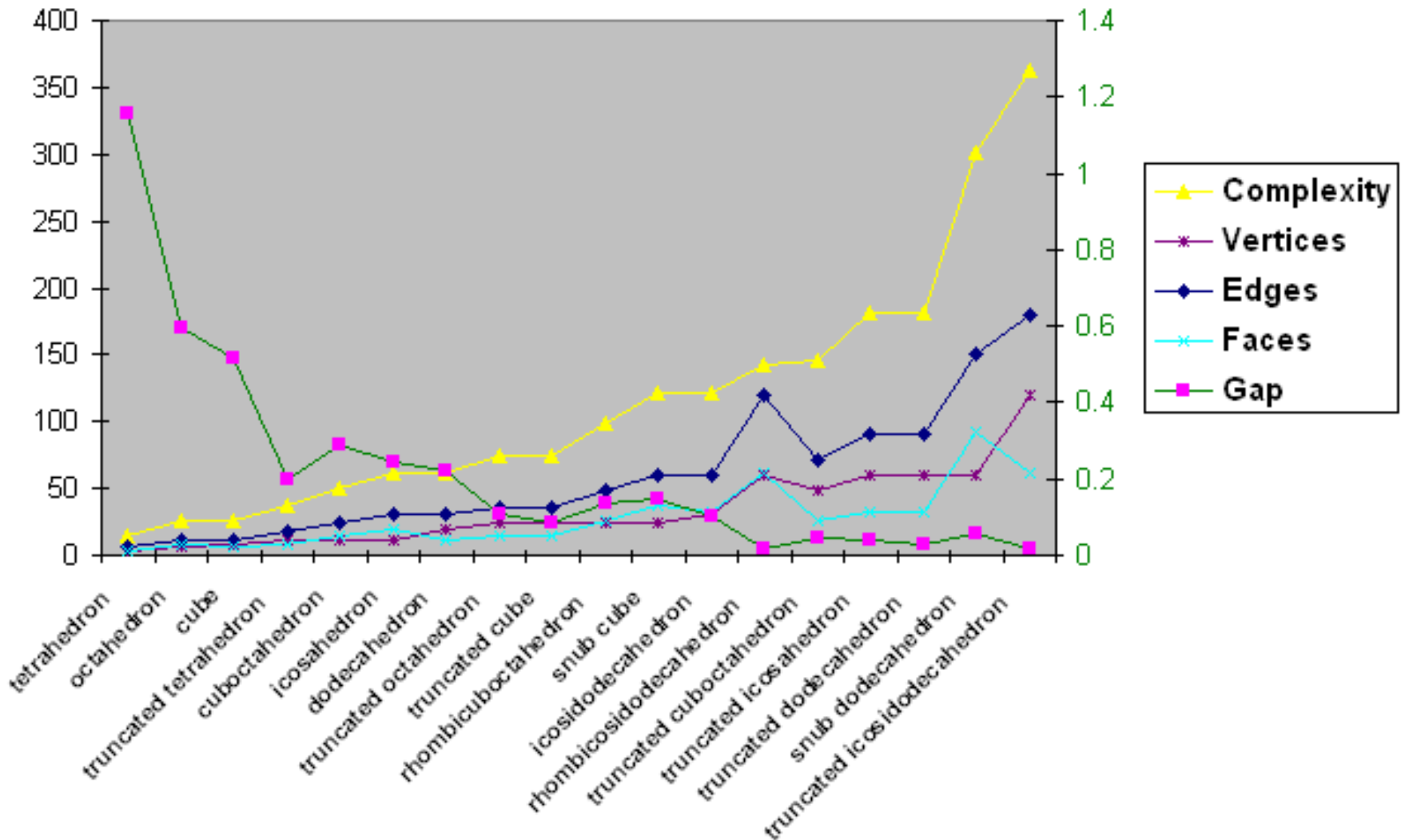
Union of International Associations
for

World Academy of Art and Science
*Conference theme: The Future of Knowledge:
Evolutionary challenges for the 21st Century
(Zagreb, November 2005)*

Panel theme: Organizing knowledge for human benefit

7. Comprehension gap: core challenge of governance





Polyhedral complexity & comprehension gap



Core challenge for governance

- **challenge for any "council of the wise":**
 - the greater the consonance (namely the lesser the "gap") between "outer" and "inner" comprehensive (or "global") understanding,
 - the more complex must be the mapping surface -- and hence the more difficult to understand it in its "globality", *and conversely*,
- **challenge of any media "public relations" presentation:**
 - the simpler the mapping surface required to articulate any strategic governance initiative,
 - the greater the "gap" between "outer" and "inner" comprehensive (or "global") understanding -- and hence the higher the degree of cognitive dissonance that may be experienced (whether by the governors or by the governed)

“New Strategic Vision” vs. “Policy Halitosis”?

- Dependence on a single global vision?
- Dependence on a single metaphor - “vision”?
 - no “**sound**”  an “**unsound**” future?
 - no “**smell**”  great visions that “**stink**”?
 - no “**touch**”  for future “**untouchables**”?
 - no “**taste**”  towards a “**tasteless**” future?
- From vision to super-vision?
- Vision “myopia” or “presbyopia”?

Beyond policy billboards !!!

- Dependence on strategic “vision” metaphor
 - **vision**: myopia, blindness, billboarditis
- Complementary metaphors
 - **sound**: hearing the voice of the people (soundscapes)
 - **touch**: touching the hearts of the people (touchscapes)
 - **smell**: policies that stink !!! (policy smellscapes)
 - **taste**: tasteless policy (policy tastescapes)
- Sound (as opposed to Vision)
 - as the metaphoric key to strategic harmony

8. Design challenge of
knowledge organization:

meeting “roundtables”

“keystones”

“Rosetta stones”

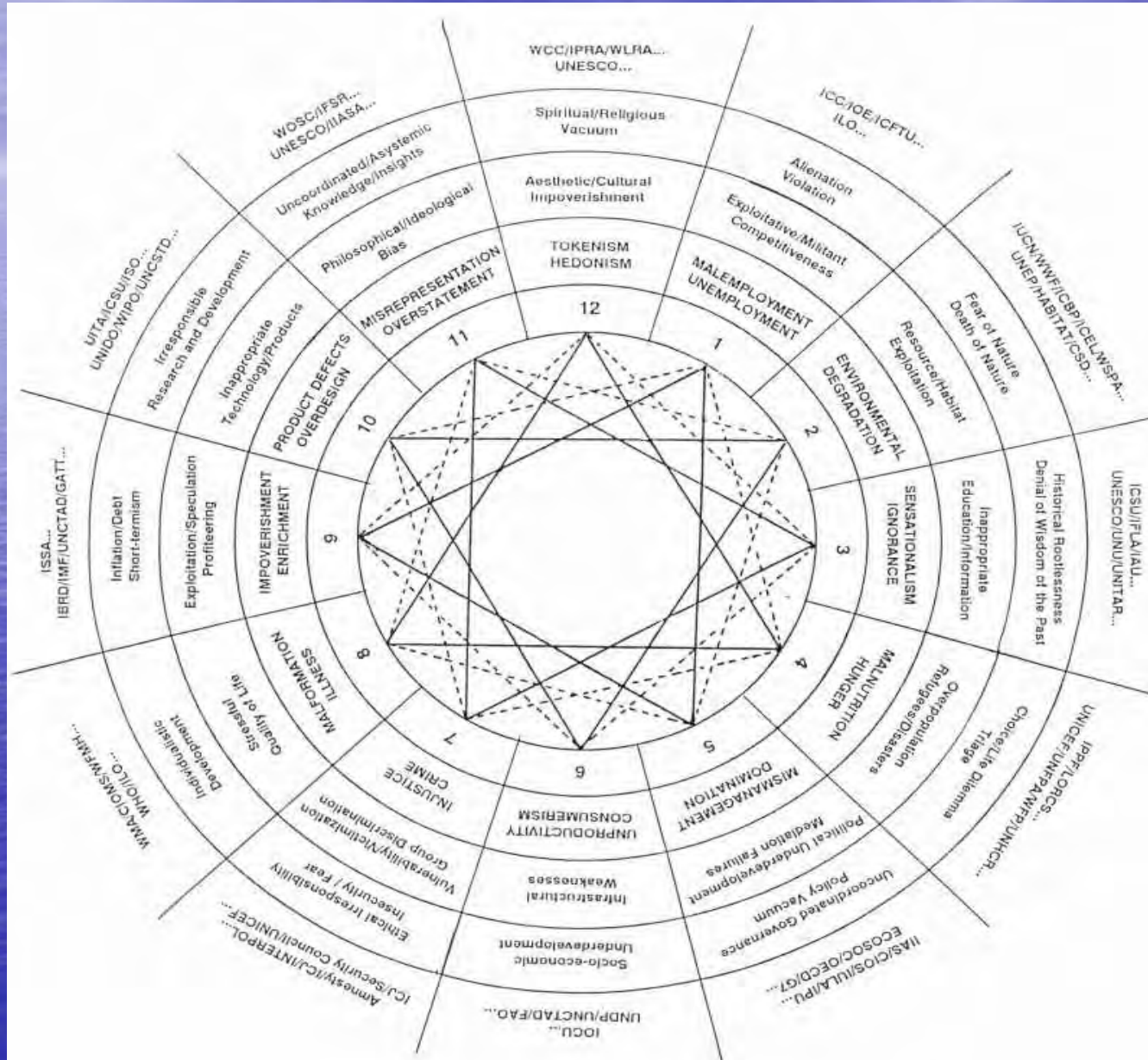
Integrating the “12 integrative modes”

- Individually insufficient as “ways of knowing”
 - Ashby’s Law of Requisite Variety
- Need insights via all of them
- Challenge is how to integrate the distinct modalities
- Self-reflexively each may be used to integrate the others
- Potential of most value:
 - Those capable of formally encompassing the others
 - Therefore the interest of the cuboctahedron model
 - Modelling 12-degrees of freedom

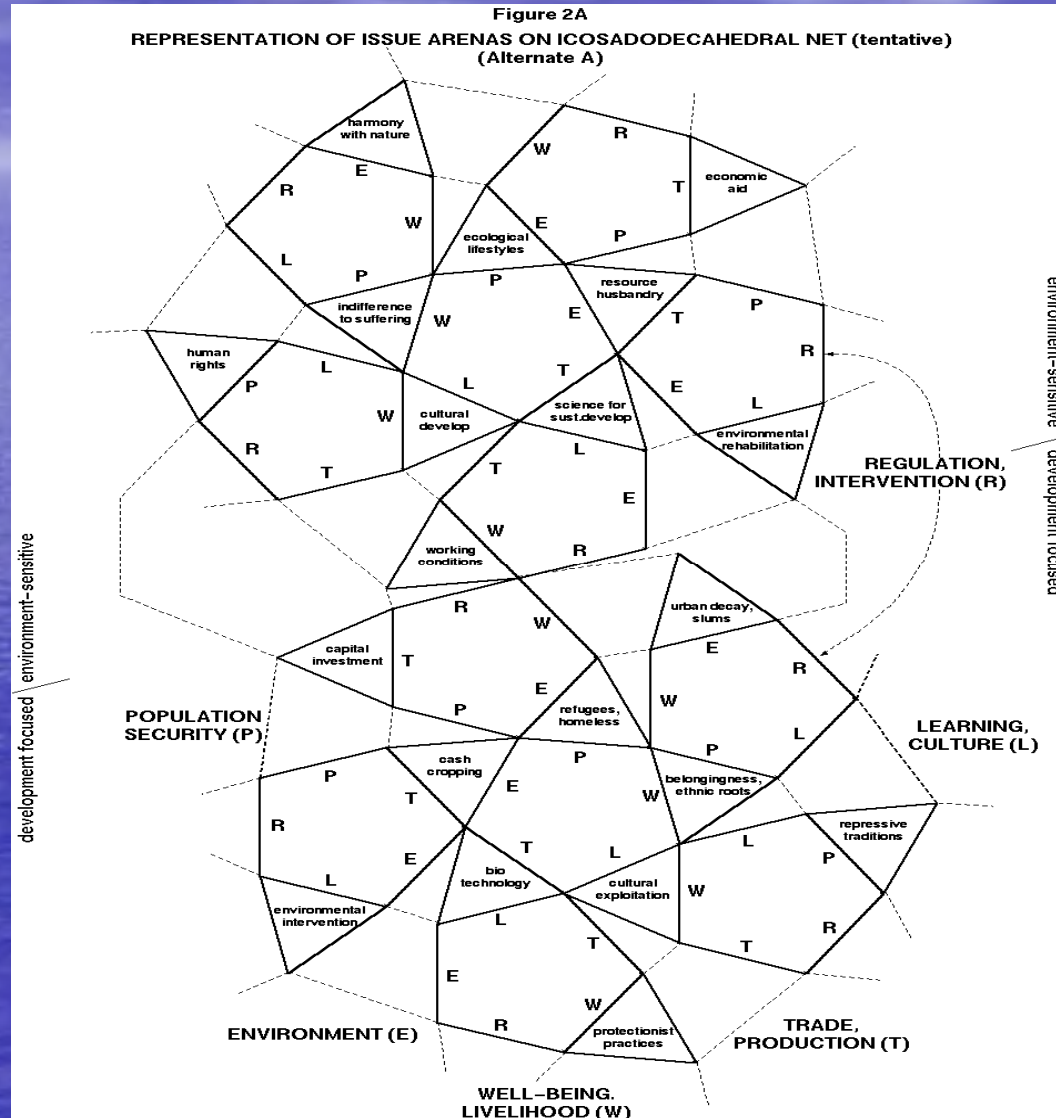
Meeting insight capture

- 7,000 future int. meetings: key events?
- Binding moments
- Speed vs Configuration
- Eliciting patterns
- Cognitive resonance with patterns
- Maps / Morphs / Melodies
- Time binding vs Ever-rolling present

Implicit "roundtable" within meetings



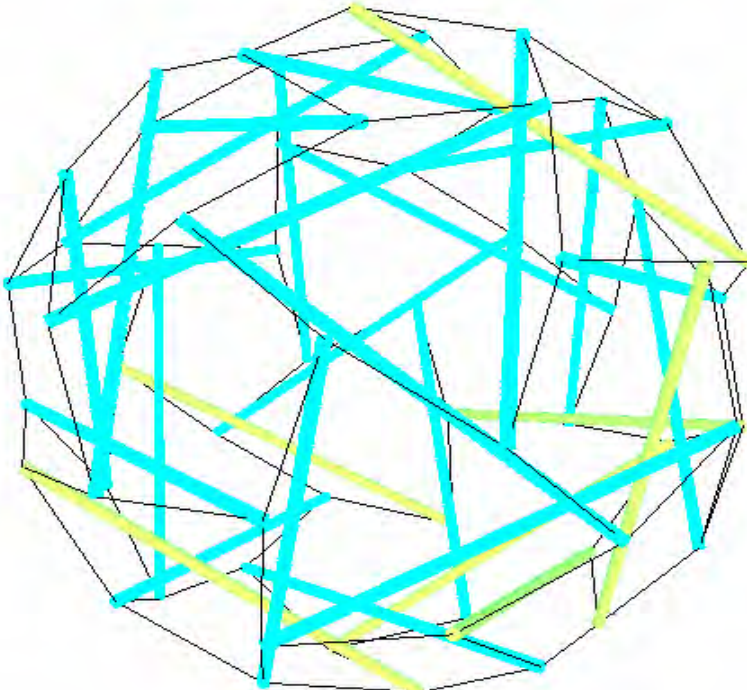
Interlocking pathways of strategic dilemmas (from Rio Earth Summit, 1992)



Sustainability through cyclic interlocking

http://db.uia.org/cgi-shl/oicgi/uiav3?SC=2565&XP=UI&DD=PR&DR=C1366 - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help



[Entry]

Tropical deforestation

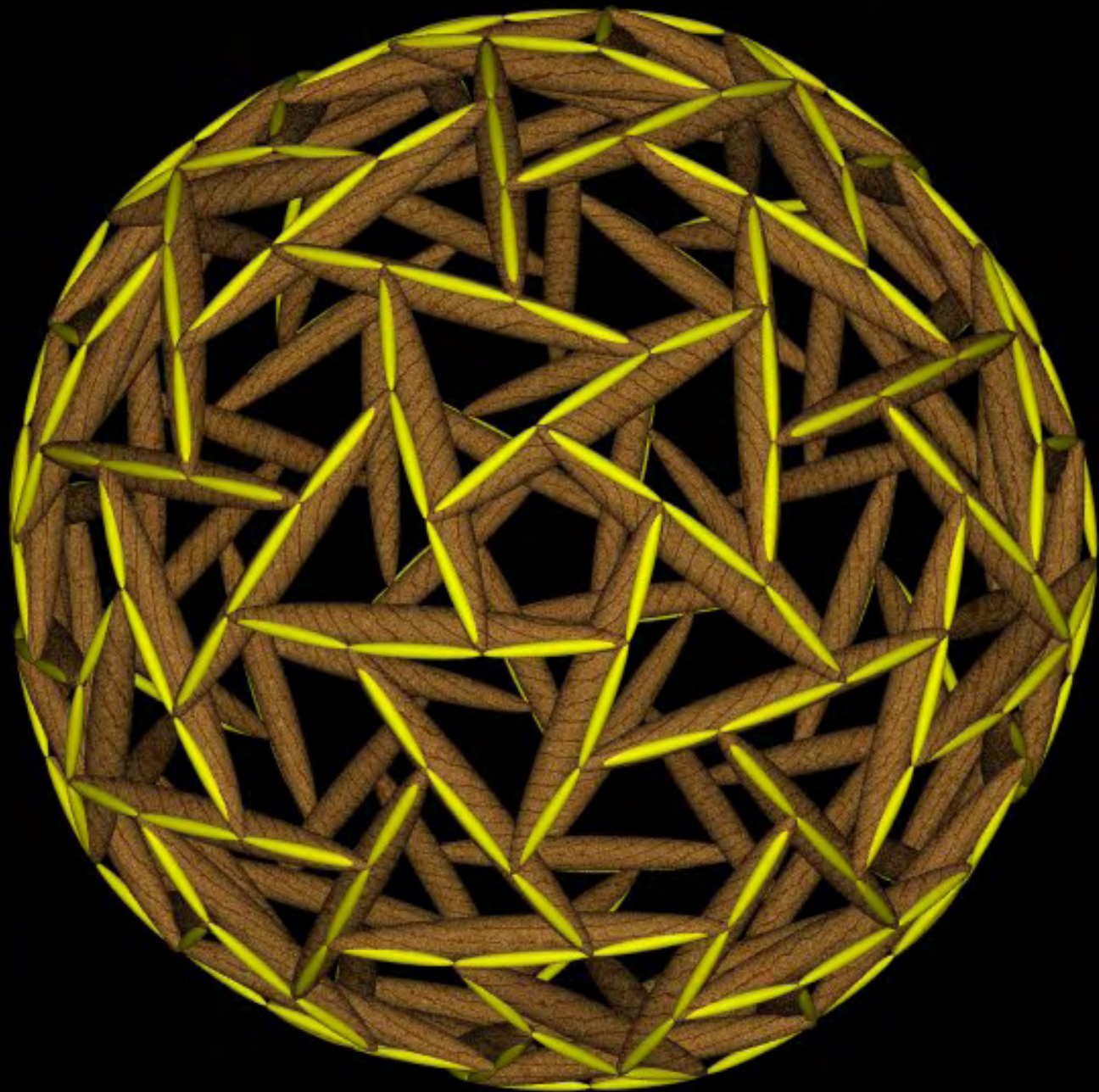
Internet

cosmo

The image shows a screenshot of a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar contains the URL 'http://db.uia.org/cgi-shl/oicgi/uiav3?SC=2565&XP=UI&DD=PR&DR=C1366'. The browser's menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Favorites', 'Tools', and 'Help'. The main content area displays a 3D wireframe model of a spherical structure, possibly a geodesic dome or a complex network. The structure is composed of thin black lines forming the outer shell and thick, colored lines (cyan and yellow) representing internal connections or pathways. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the text '[Entry]', 'Tropical deforestation', and 'Internet'. A 'cosmo' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the browser window.

Communication protocols (for the semantic web?)

- Construction of interlocking cycles
 - Interlocking in 3-D, beyond “web rings”
- Sustaining higher patterns of order via protocols
- Sustaining more complex virtual entities
 - Configurations of “incommensurable” concepts
 - Configurations of “incommensurable” strategies
 - Configurations of “incommensurable” stakeholders
- Ensuring the emergence of more complex entities
 - New kinds of profile “matching” to enable links



9. Integrating new metaphors with configurative software

marrying “Beauty” and the “Beast”

towards insight scaffolding & prosthetics

Beyond: "Active Worlds" ??

<http://www.activeworlds.com/>

- Home to hundreds of thousands of users and millions of kilometers of virtual territory.
- In Active Worlds you can:
 - explore over 1000 unique virtual worlds (3D "conferences" ?)
 - build your own 3D world on the Internet (own conference centre?)
 - make new contacts and chat with people from all over the world
 - play interactive 2D and 3D games
 - choose from a vast range of identities (conference roles?)
 - shop online in a 3D virtual mall
- **Future relevance to policy elaboration ???**

Gardening Knowledge !!!

- Cultivating patterns of knowledge
 - from menus to petals
- Ecologies of policies
 - conserving policy ecosystems
- Working virtually with patterns of hyperlinks
 - towards memetic engineering
- Integrating musical feedback
 - towards resonant knowledgescapes

Psycho-technical challenges

- Massaging active (web) information into memorable integrative configurations
- Enabling (web) users to explore their own aesthetic/imaginative preferences in doing so
- Converting such structures into communication templates (patterning/filtering message flow)
- Converting such evolving templates into evolving policy, legal and funding structures
- Ensuring the emergent and movement of strategic metaphors

10. Implications for a “Global Brain” ?

GB-relevant conceptual entities

- **Organizations**
 - Globally connected distributive knowledge systems (of global brain?)
- **Problems**
 - Collective phobias, neuroses (of global brain?)
- **Strategies**
 - Collective procedure, best practices (of global brain?)
- **Human values**
 - Attractors / Repulsors (of global brain?)
- **Meetings**
 - Binding moments (of global brain?)

GB-relevant integrative features

- Global: “world” / “unitary” / “integrative”
- Interrelating different kinds of entity
- Interaction with information sources
- Hyperlink context and generated links
- Hypertext editing
- Use of multi-media for conceptual integration
- Feedback loops

GB-relevant challenges

- Reflection of real-world preoccupations
- Perceptions vs Facts
- Exaggerated claims and contradictory statements
- Non-closure and incompleteness
- Global modelling and simulation
- Subject matrix
- Humour

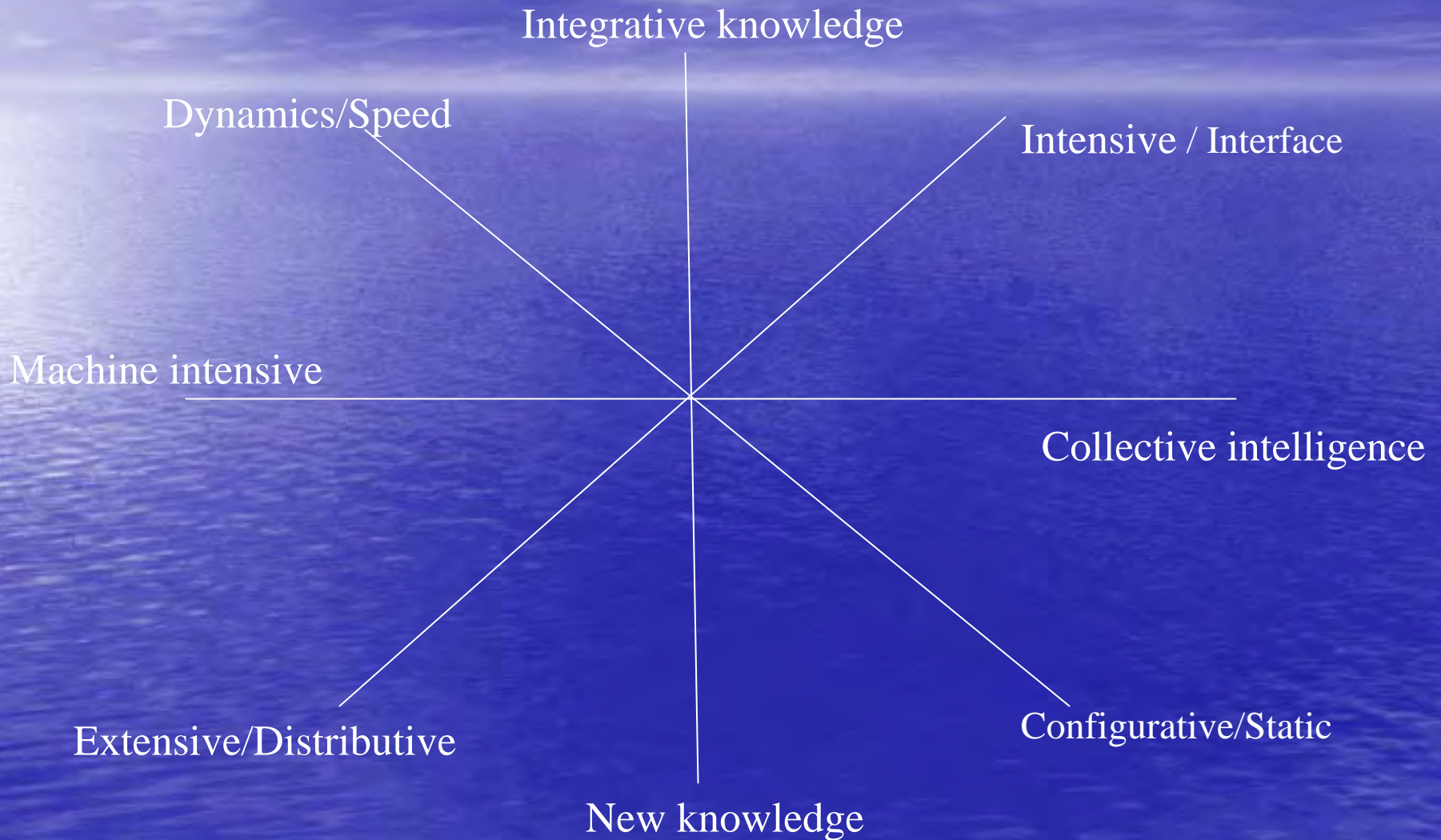
GB-concerns in practice

- Knowledge “corruption” and “diseases” of GB
- Funding development of a GB
- Limits to collaboration in GB development
- Global brain: What for?
 - Because it is possible?
 - Because it is needed?
 - Because it is a powerful symbol?
 - Because it would engender new learnings?
 - Because it is effectively emerging?

GB challenging assumptions

- Cultural assumptions
- Styles of global brain
- Volatility and coherence within a GB
- Expanding knowledge universe
- Globality of person // Resonance with GB
- Hemispheric organization?
- Higher order functions and self-awareness

Dimensions of a global brain?



Higher order strategic questions?

- Richer cognitive frameworks enable
 - More relevant questions to be asked
 - More relevant answers to be comprehended
- What are the strategic questions the future would wish us to ask at this time?
- How can polarizing frameworks be transcended?
- *Engaging with Questions of Higher Order: cognitive vigilance required for higher degrees of twistedness (2004)*

12. Challenges for a Union of Intelligible Associations

- Mathematical limitations
- Provision of meaningful integrative tools
- Integrating multimedia tools into h/I editing
- Role of metaphor
- Quality intelli-work / Fruitful input

Future challenges -- for memorable policies with soul

Aesthetics of governance in the future:

- *Agenda 21* versus the *Mahabharata* (or *Dynasty*!)
- A "singable" *Declaration of Human Rights* -- to make it memorable rather than just "signable"
- *UN Charter* as a poem integrated by a pattern of resonant associations
- The set of UN Specialized Agencies as an integrated mythological pantheon
- A pattern of intelligent associations embodied in the EU Constitution through song – meaningful to the peoples of Europe

UIA Links

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This presentation:

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs00s/untelos2.pdf>

Associated text (and references):

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/untelos.php>

UIA home page

<http://www.uia.org/>

Online database access

<http://www.uia.org/data.htm>

Some related texts

- Humour and Play-Fullness: essential integrative processes in governance, religion and transdisciplinarity (2005)
- Animating the Representation of Europe (2004)
- Spherical Accounting: using geometry to embody developmental integrity (2004)
- Simulating a Global Brain: using networks of international organizations, world problems, strategies, and values (2001)
- Dynamically Gated Conceptual Communities: emergent patterns of isolation within knowledge society (2004)
- Knowledge Gardening through Music: patterns of coherence for future African management as an alternative to Project Logic (2000)
- Coherent Policy-making Beyond the Information Barrier (1999)
- From Information Highways to Songlines of the Noosphere: Global configuration of hypertext pathways for meaningful collective transformation (1996)
- Poetry making and Policy making: marrying Beauty and the Beast (1993)
- Aesthetics of Governance in the Year 2490 (1990)