Union of Intelligible Associations

Part C: Comprehension challenges

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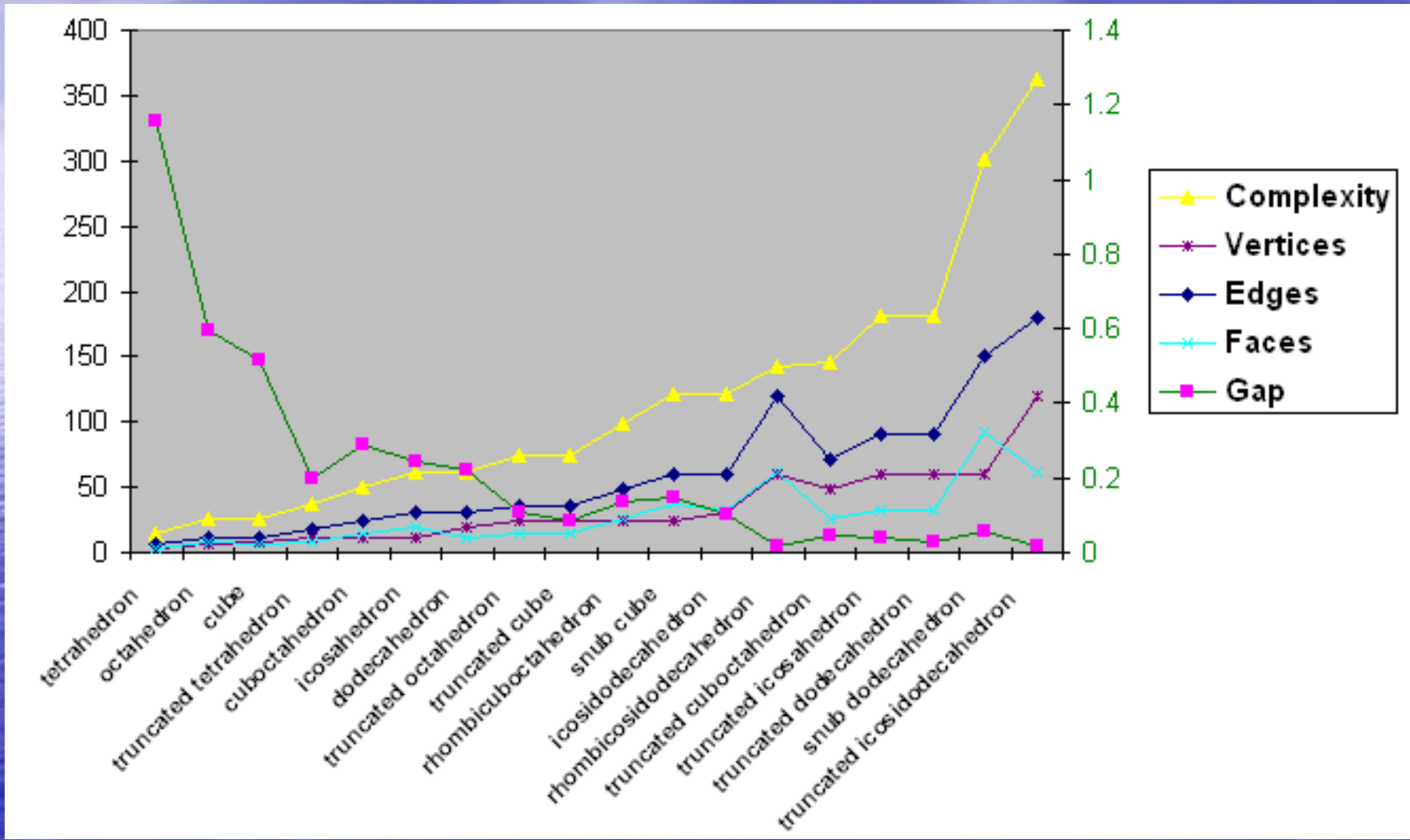
Union of International Associations
for
World Academy of Art and Science
Conference theme: The Future of Knowledge: Evolutionary challenges for the 21st Century (Zagreb, November 2005)

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”

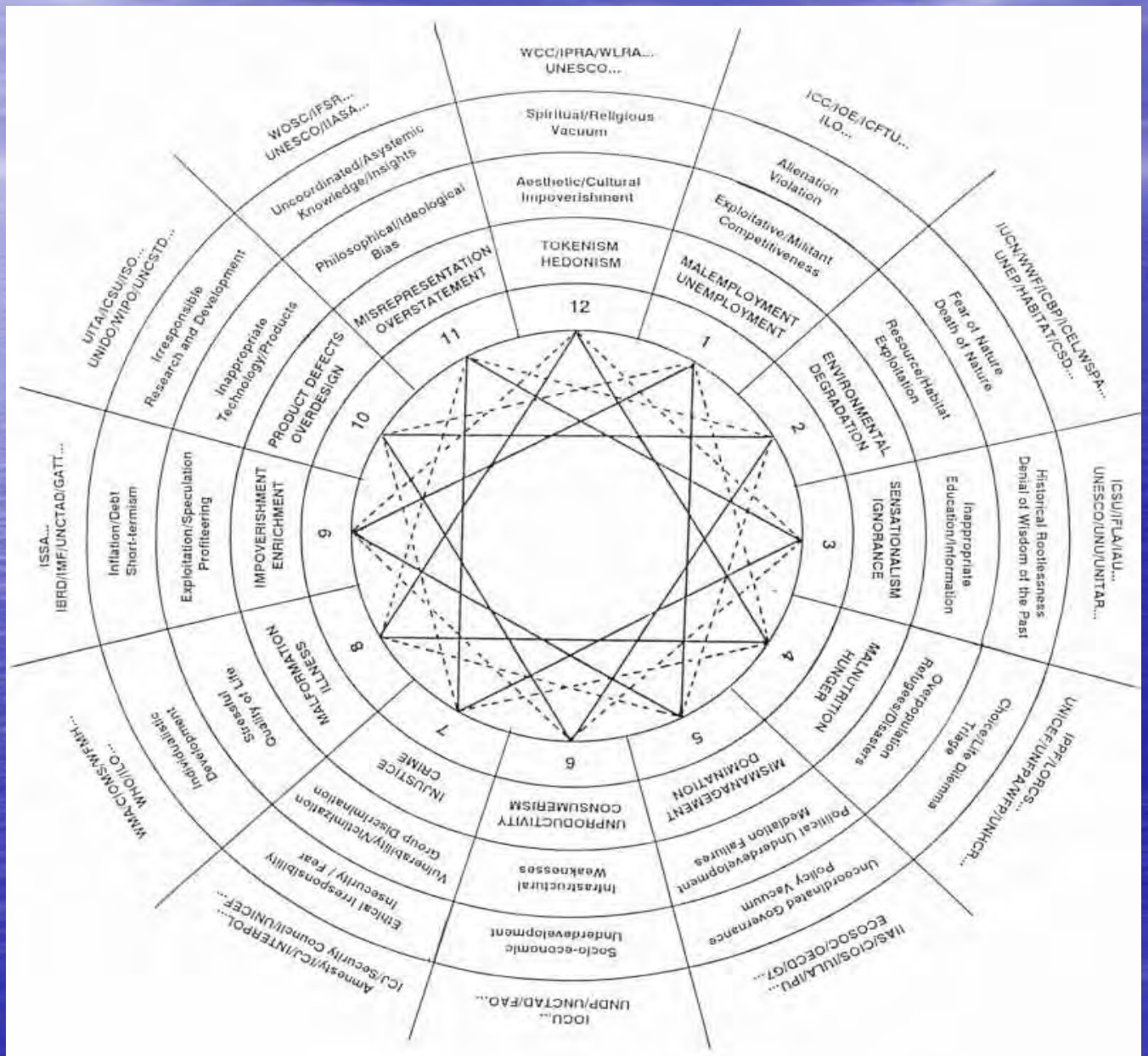
Integrating the “12 integrative modes”

- 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

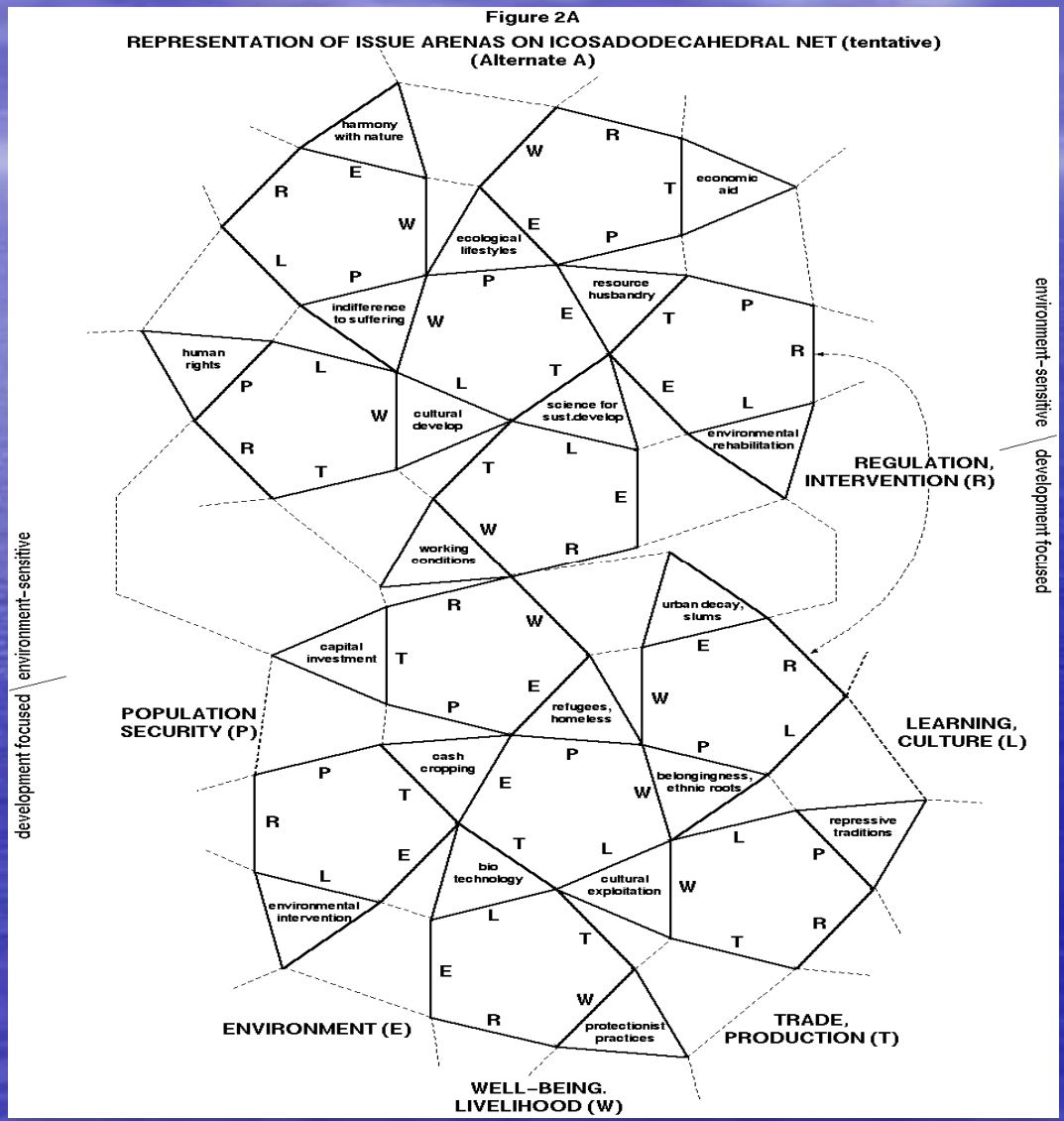
Meeting insight capture

- 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

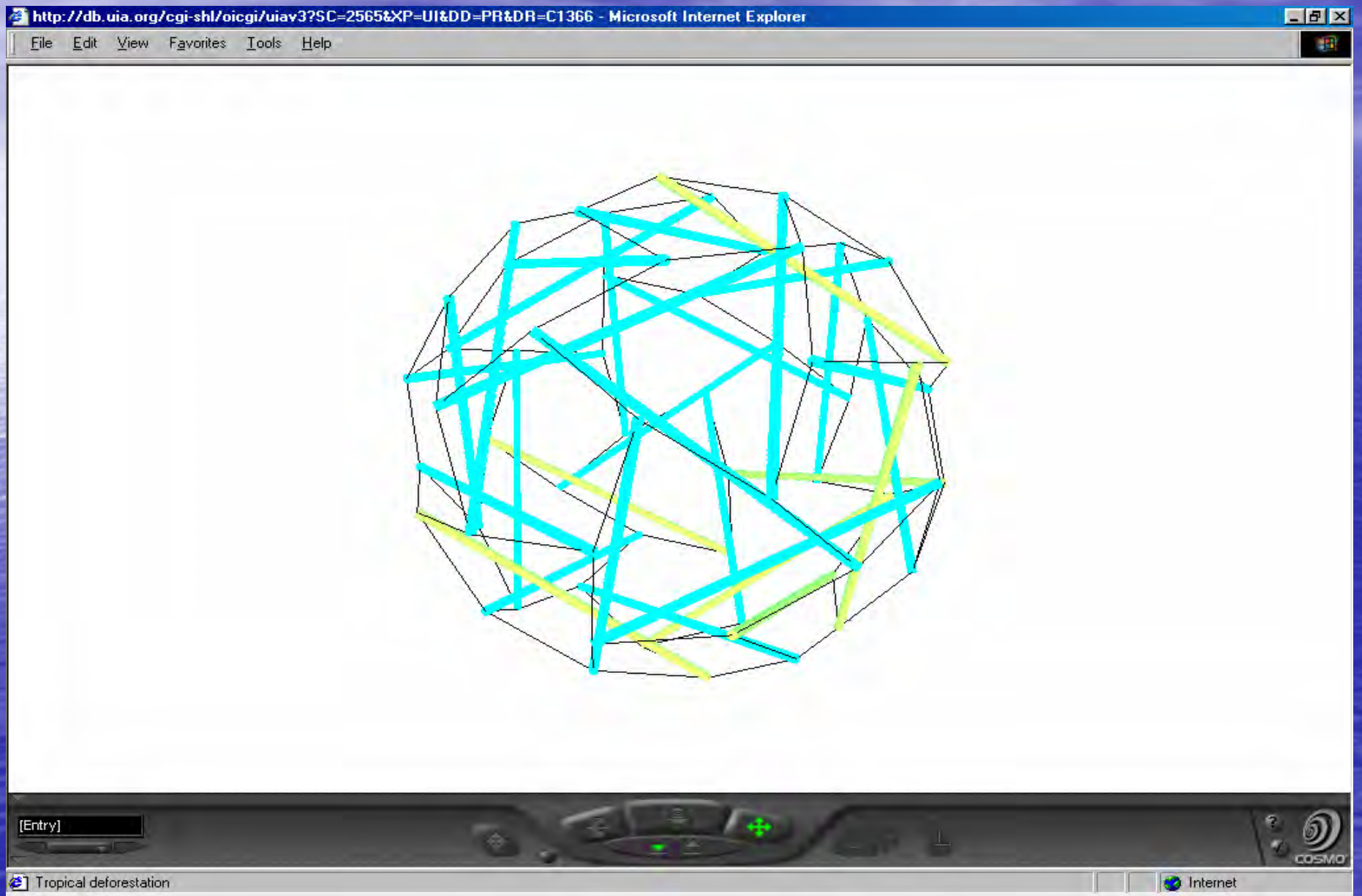
Implicit “roundtable” within meetings



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

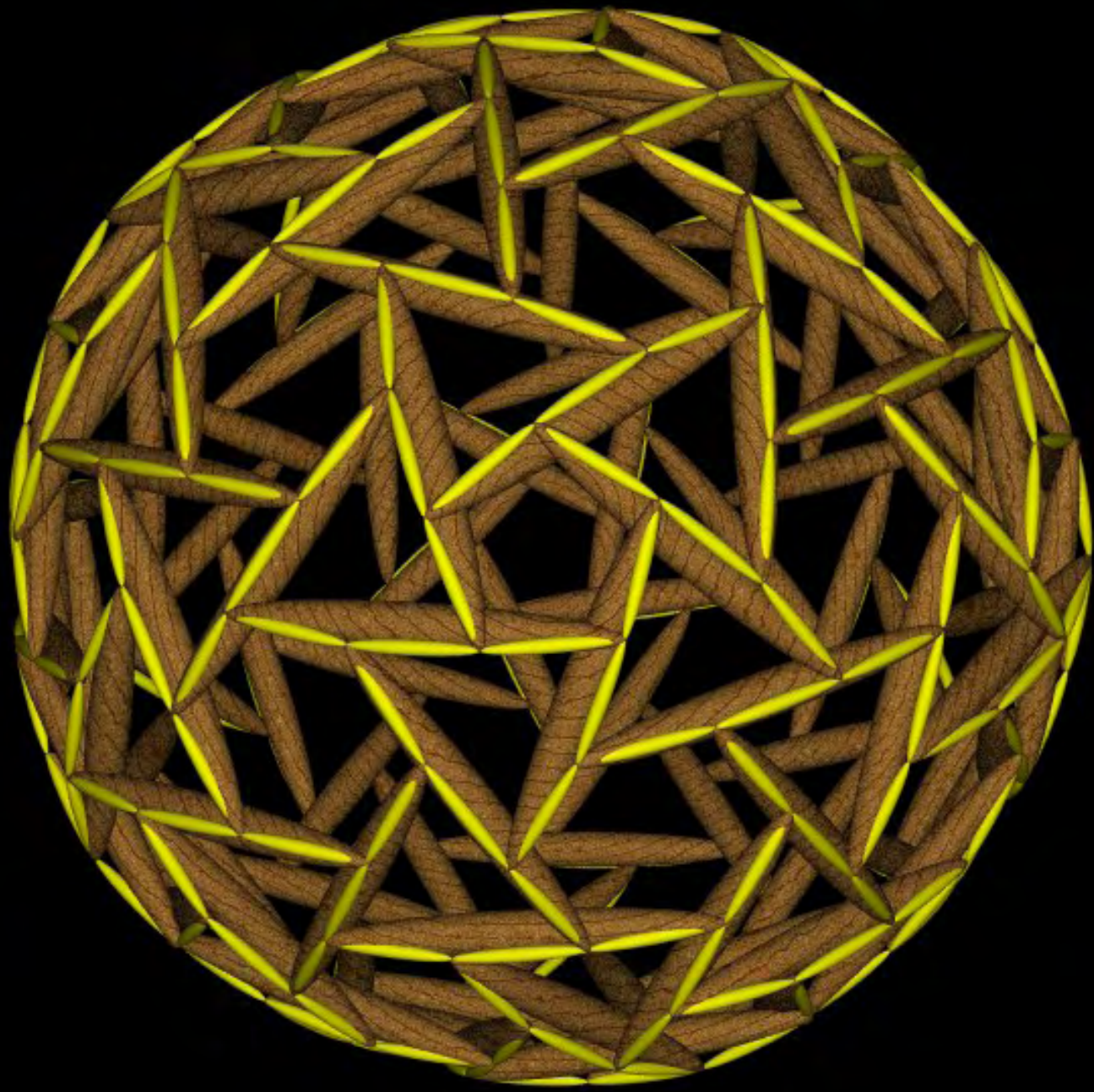


Sustainability through cyclic interlocking



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 entites
  - 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

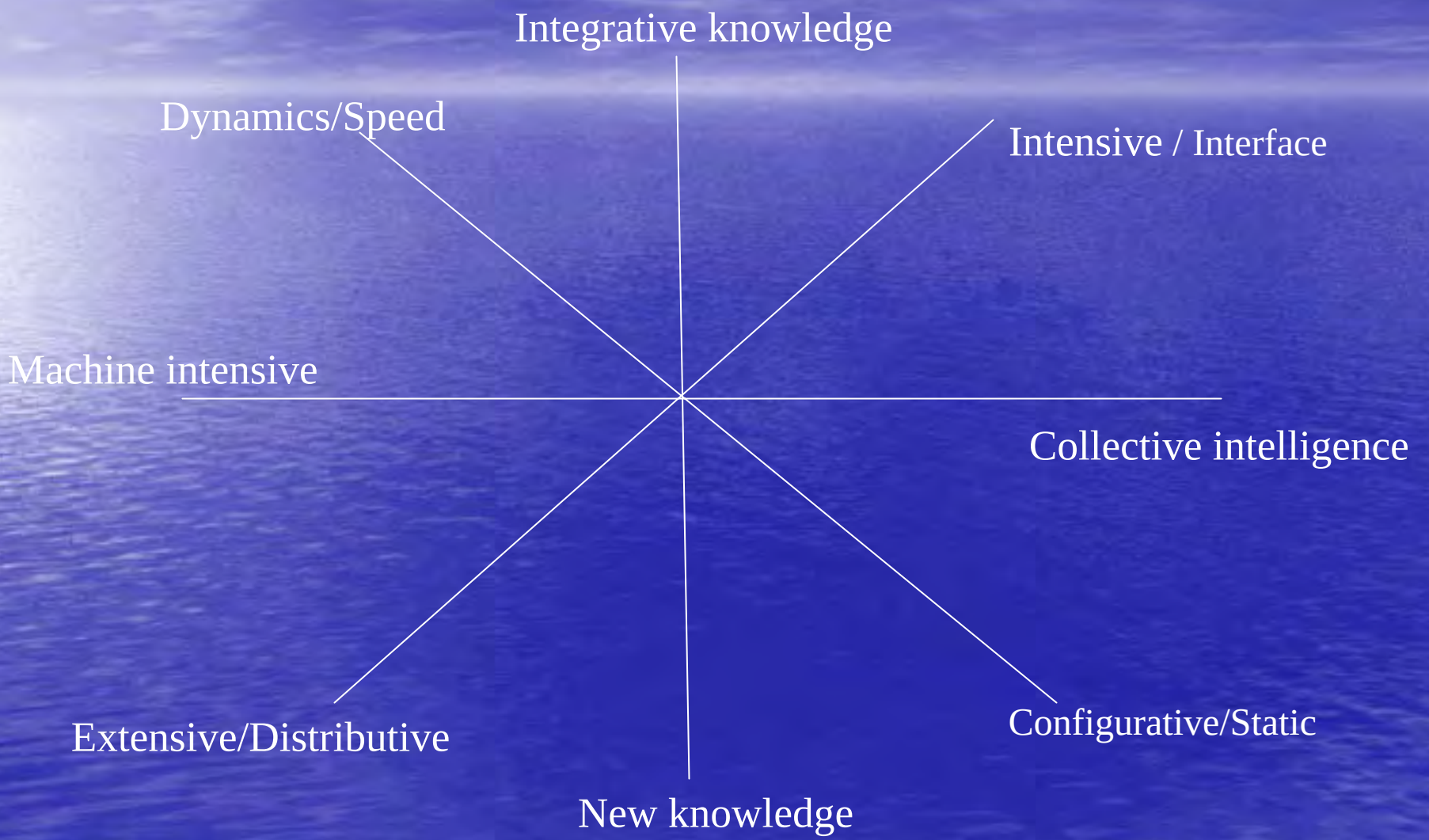
GB-concerns in practice

- 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/l 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 *Mahabarata* (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

Anthony Judge:
Email: Anthony.Judge@gmail.com
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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)