



**IMT Lille Douai**  
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**GESTION ET OPTIMISATION DYNAMIQUE  
DES RESSOURCES DE PRODUCTION  
BASÉE SUR DES SYSTÈMES MULTI-  
AGENTS**

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Introduction: Software agents

Problem: self-optimization and self-reconfiguration in manufacturing

Approach: Distributed Multi-Robot Coordination

Architecture ORCAS: Optimized Robots Configuration and Scheduling

Conclusions

A computational metaphore of Artificial Intelligence

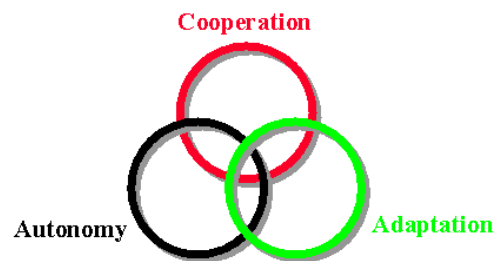
*Intelligent agent*: Computational entity with autonomy:

**Reactivity**: capacity to respond to the changes in the environment,

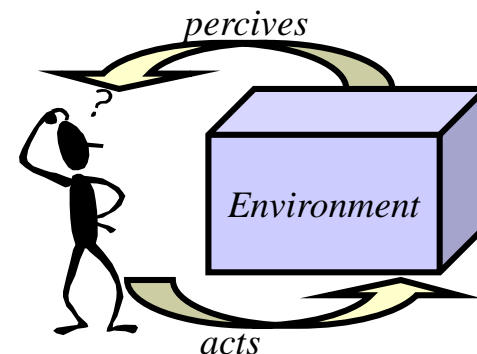
**Proactivity**: capacity to exhibit a behavior directed towards accomplishing its objectives,

**Sociability**: capacity to communicate and collaborate with other agents.

## Software Agent Characteristics



after Hyacinth Nwana, 1996



An agent:

**Percives the environment**

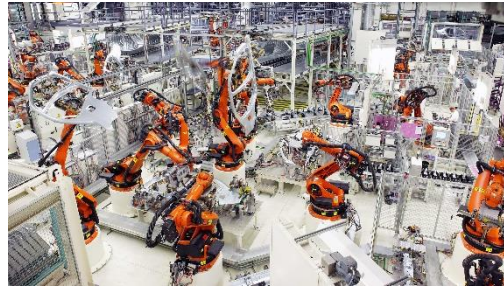
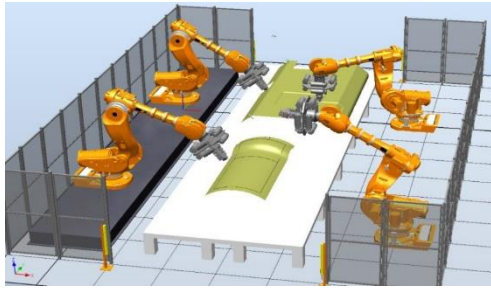
→ sensors

**Asigns perceptions to actions**

**Acts in the environment →  
efectuators**

**Measures how well it has  
been done.**





Distributed and intelligent Multi-Robot Systems (MRS) as Multi-Agent Systems (MAS)

Robots have partially overlapping capabilities

Focus on:

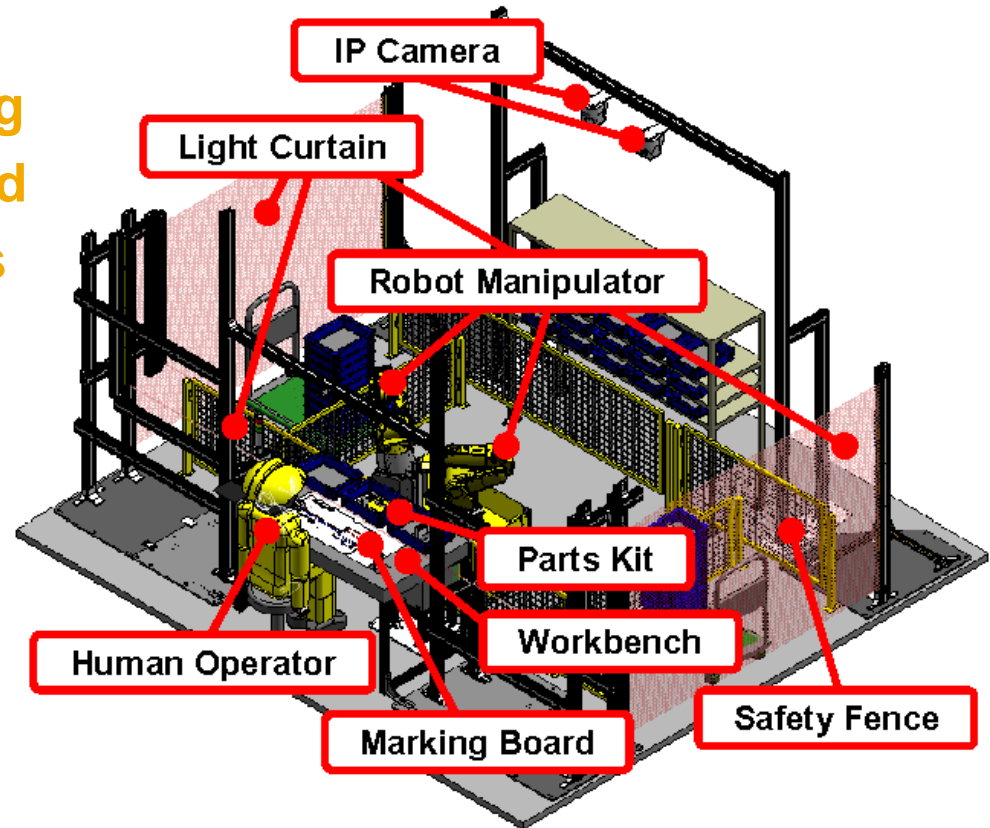
**Systems' self-configuration and self-optimization**

**Dynamically changing environments**

**Varying production resource availability and demand**

## Three steps

1. Feasible semantic matching between product requests and available assembly resources
2. Optimized scheduling
3. Real-time execution and monitoring



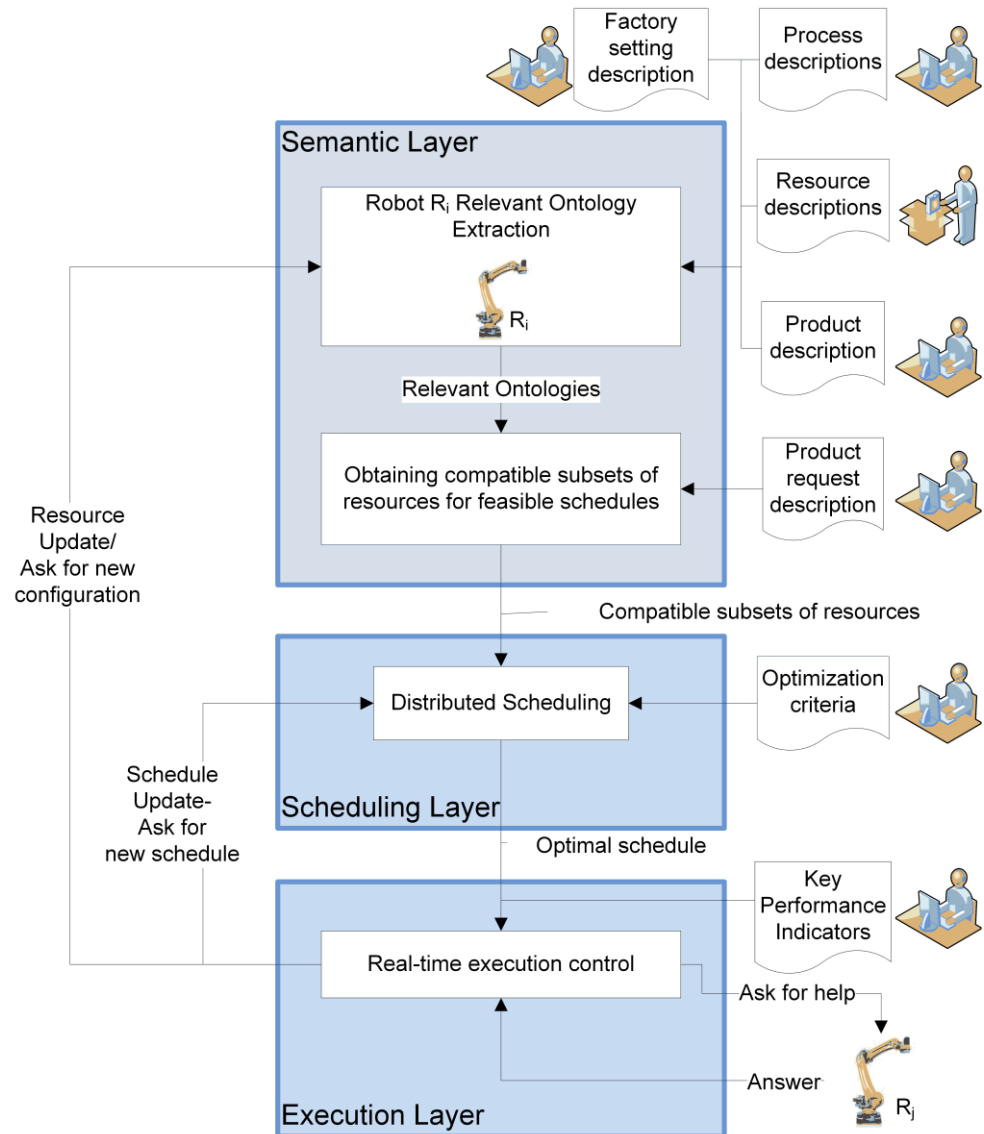
Distributed MAS

Three layers

Semantic

Scheduling

Execution





Ontologies



## Objectives

**Store relevant information about factory settings, available resources and product specifications**

**Obtaining feasible configurations**

Robots only store information about local and compatible resources.

In the case of an addition or breakage of devices or tools, local ontologies can be updated individually by every robot.



Semantic tree

Knowledge

Representation

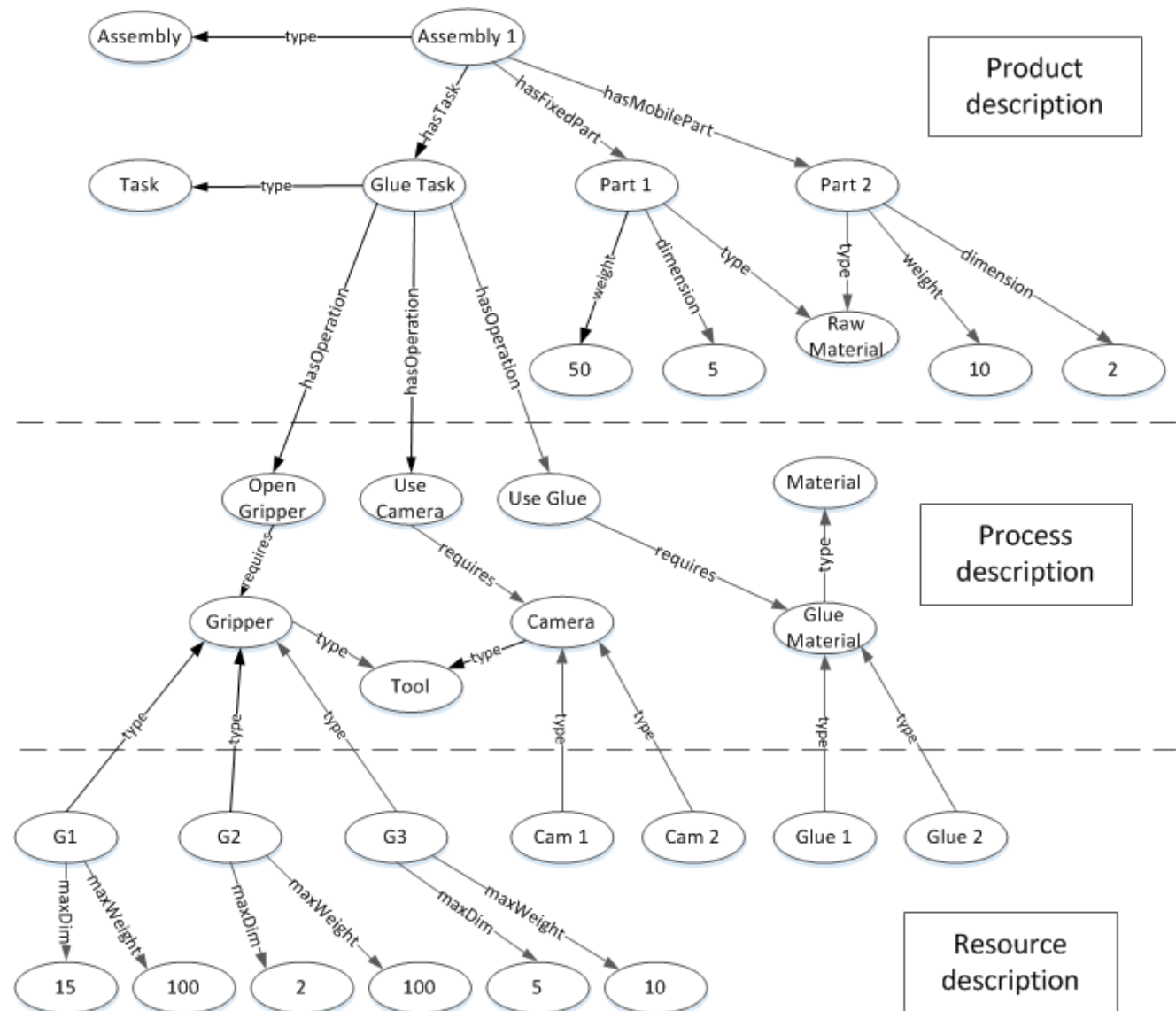
RDF, RDFS, OWL

Inference

OWL inference

Rules

SPARQL queries





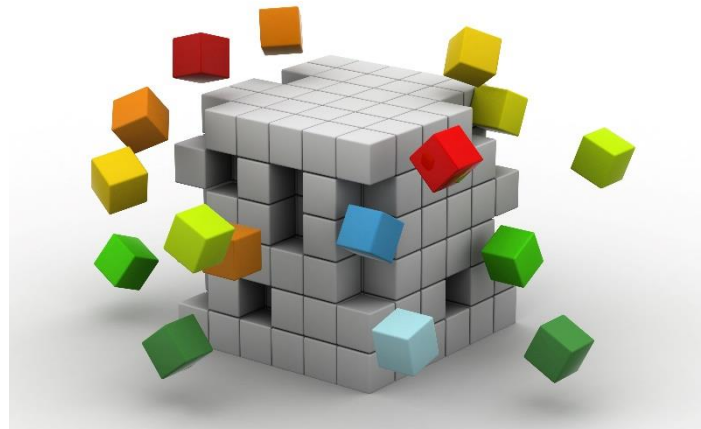
Computing the **best combination** of compatible subsets of robots

**Distributed optimization** of total production time and cost

Each robot agent finds its feasible **local configuration(s)**, communicates relevant information and **negotiates** with other robot agents to reach a globally satisfactory solution

Distributed Artificial Intelligence and Distributed Optimization:

1. **Coordinator (auctioneer) communicates to product agents (bidders) current prices of robot configurations**
2. **Each product agent determines and communicates a bid maximising its utility**
3. **The coordinator allocates robot configurations**
4. **If there are conflicts, the coordinator updates robot combinations' prices**



Enable the multi-robot system to seamlessly perform tasks and **adapt to unexpected events** without operational interruption

The real-time performance is controlled through the KPIs of **utility and stability**

In case of **disturbances**:

**Schedule repair (locally adjusted)**

**Rescheduling**



Multi-agent distributed and optimised multi-robot configuration and scheduling system

Advantages

**Modular and scalable MRS**

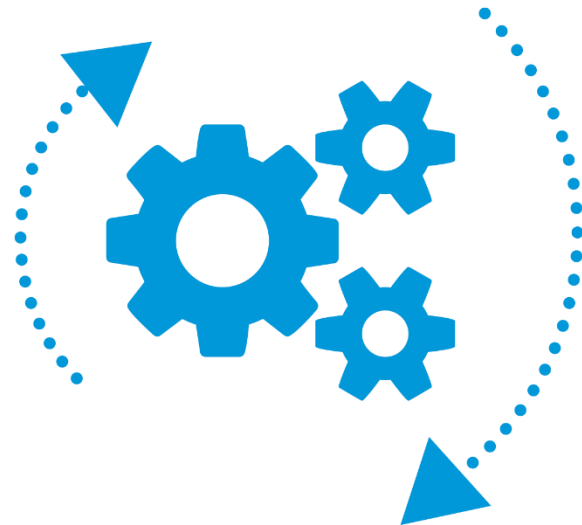
**Towards Robot Plug & Play**

**Online reconfiguration**

**Higher autonomy and less down times**

Further applications:

**R&D IMT Project COMRADES (Coordinated Multi-Robot Assistance Deployment in Smart Spaces) (IMT Atlantique and IMT Lille Douai).**



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