



# *Secrets of Semantic Communications in the Era of 6G Networked Intelligence*

**Emilio Calvanese Strinati**

Future Wireless Systems Scientific and Innovation Program Director, CEA-Leti **6G-GOALS**, **6G-DISAC** and **6GARROW** Coordinator

**AI-Native Communications** Joint Lab Director  
[emilio.calvanese-strinati@cea.fr](mailto:emilio.calvanese-strinati@cea.fr)

**leti**  
cea tech

## THE ROAD TO A GLOBAL “BRAIN”

*“When wireless  
is perfectly applied,  
the whole Earth  
will be converted  
into a huge brain”*

Nikola Tesla  
1926

# GENERATIONS OF CONTENT BLIND COMMUNICATIONS

**Current *content-blind transmit-without-understanding* approach:**

Data is transmitted without any prior **understanding** of how informative it is (**semantic**) to the receiver or useful (**pragmatic**) for the end-goal of communications

x1000

x10

x10

x10

$$C = BW \times n \times \log_2 (1 + SNIR)$$

Capacity  
(bits/seconds)

Radio channel  
Bandwidth (Hz)

Number of uncorrelated  
signal paths

Signal to Noise +  
Interference Ratio

- Spectrum Management
- Carrier aggregation
- New mmW Spectrum

- (Ultra Massive) MIMO
- Network densification
- Small cells
- RIS

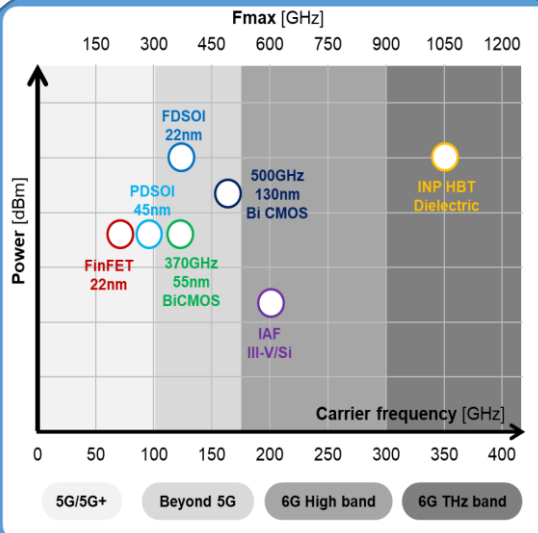
Spectral efficiency:

- Beamforming & high dBi antennas
- new modulations & coding schemes
- new waveforms, full-duplex
- RIS

Note that this is the Shannon **capacity** for an idealized single user AWGN channel under infinite code lengths assumption. Noise is statistically independent of the signal, with constant power spectral density. This formulation is not valid with other types of channels.

# ULTRA-RELIABLE CONTENT BLIND 6G TECHNOLOGY PILLARS

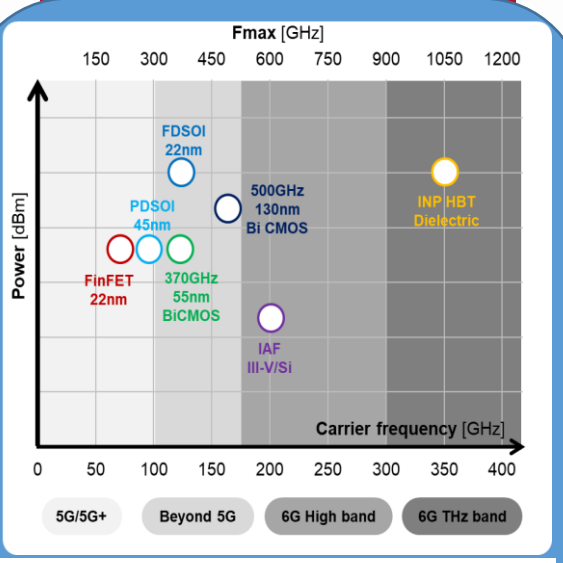
## Sub-THz Communications



Calvanese Strinati, E., et al. "Toward 6G: From New Hardware Design to Wireless Semantic and Goal-Oriented Communication Paradigms". *ESSCIRC 2021*

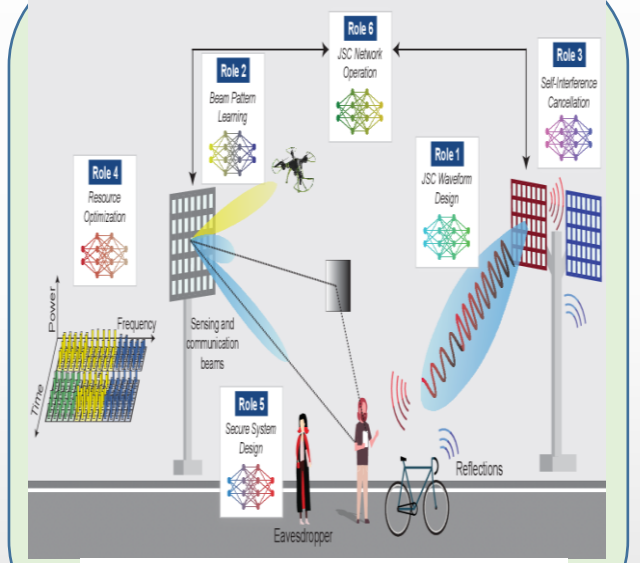
# ULTRA-RELIABLE CONTENT BLIND 6G TECHNOLOGY PILLARS

## Sub-THz Communications



Calvanese Strinati, E., et al. "Toward 6G: From New Hardware Design to Wireless Semantic and Goal-Oriented Communication Paradigms". *ESSCIRC 2021*

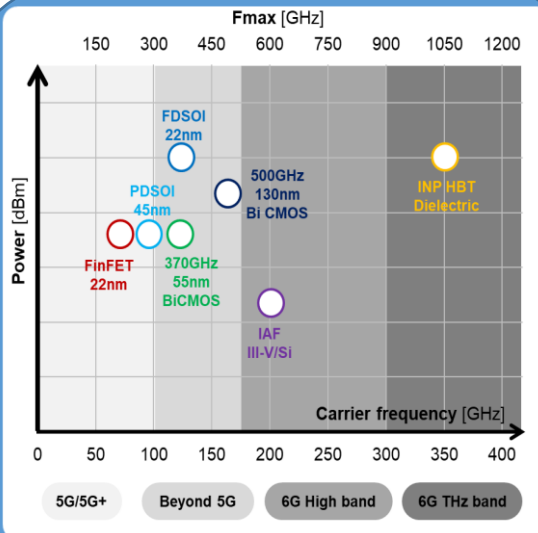
## Integrated Communication & Sensing



Source: "Integrated Sensing and Communication for 6G: Ten Key Machine Learning Roles", Umut Demirhan and A. Alkhateeb, in *IEEE Communications Magazine*, 2022.

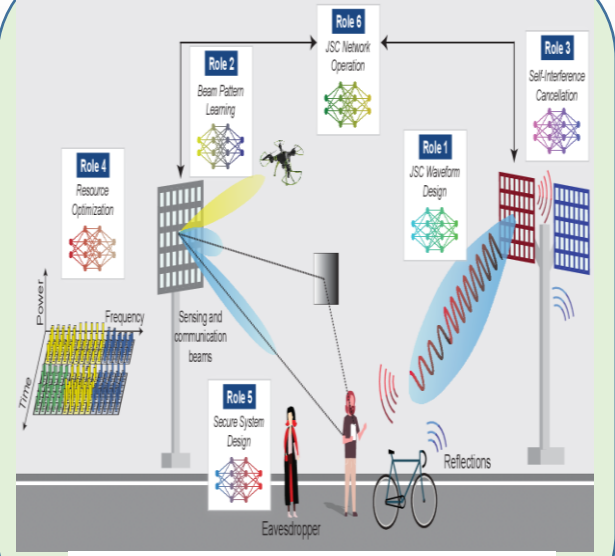
# ULTRA-RELIABLE CONTENT BLIND 6G TECHNOLOGY PILLARS

## Sub-THz Communications



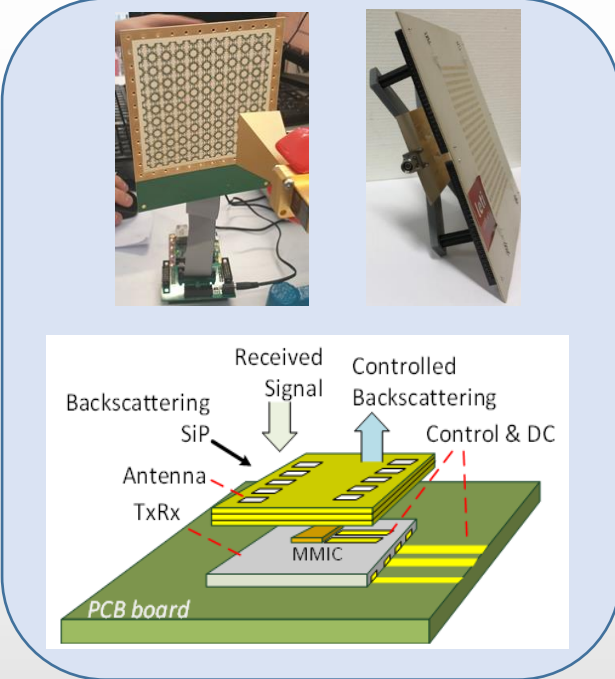
Calvanese Strinati, E., et al. "Toward 6G: From New Hardware Design to Wireless Semantic and Goal-Oriented Communication Paradigms". *ESSCIRC 2021*

## Integrated Communication & Sensing



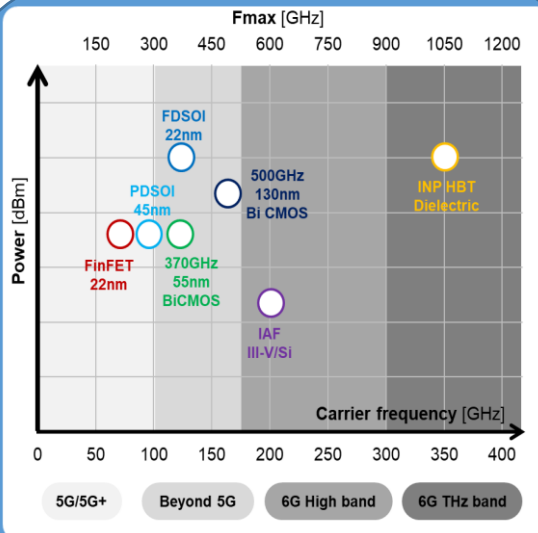
Source: "Integrated Sensing and Communication for 6G: Ten Key Machine Learning Roles", Umut Demirhan and A. Alkhateeb, in *IEEE Communications Magazine*, 2022.

## New materials & Intelligent antennas



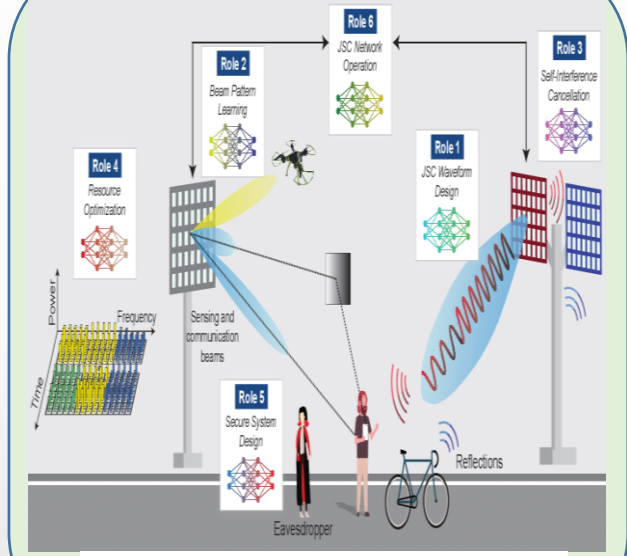
# ULTRA-RELIABLE CONTENT BLIND 6G TECHNOLOGY PILLARS

## Sub-THz Communications



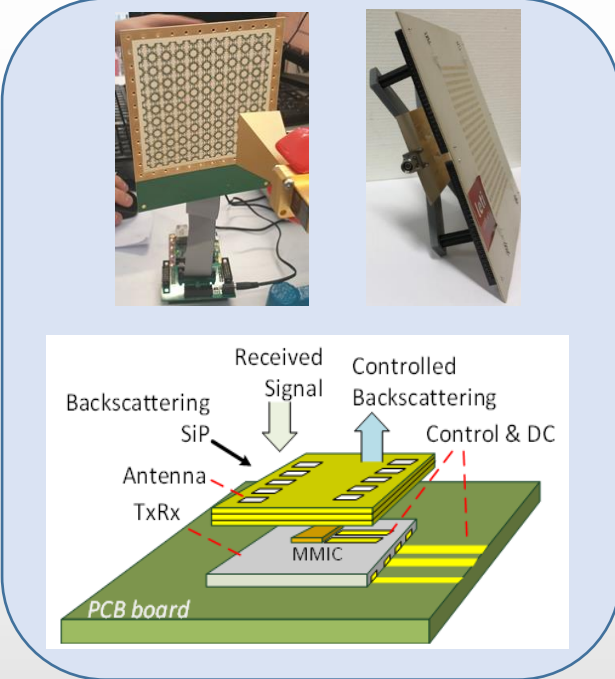
Calvanese Strinati, E., et al. "Toward 6G: From New Hardware Design to Wireless Semantic and Goal-Oriented Communication Paradigms". *ESSCIRC 2021*

## Integrated Communication & Sensing



Source: "Integrated Sensing and Communication for 6G: Ten Key Machine Learning Roles", Umut Demirhan and A. Alkhateeb, in *IEEE Communications Magazine*, 2022.

## New materials & Intelligent antennas



## AI RAN to optimize

- data processing & transmission
- network operation & orchestration
- Agile trade-off C<sup>3</sup> resources
- Prediction
- Self-Configuration
- Interoperability

**AI/ML technologies** to design the next gen air interface & new compensation techniques for HW limitations

**Edge AI/ML** to offer processing and data fusion capability close to applications requirements

**ML** to optimize the use of RIS and enable on demand selective KPIs optimization (EE, secrecy, resources reuse factors, EMF ...)

# THE BIG CHANGES WITH 6G: WITH WHOM TO COMMUNICATE



**Humans**

**AI agents**

# THE BIG CHANGES WITH 6G: WITH WHOM TO COMMUNICATE

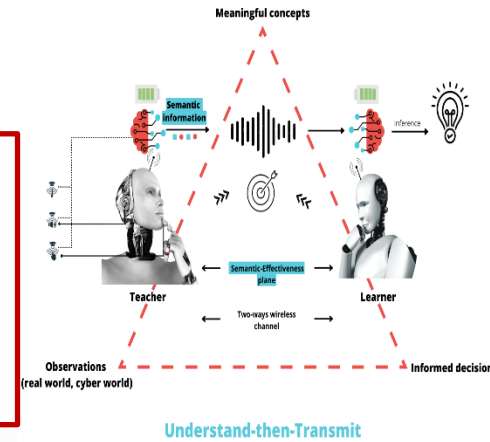


**AI agent**

**AI agents**

# WHAT THE SEMANTIC COMMUNICATION PROBLEM

**Beyond Bit Accuracy: Ensuring shared understanding, not just shared data**  
**Meaning  $\neq$  Message delivery**

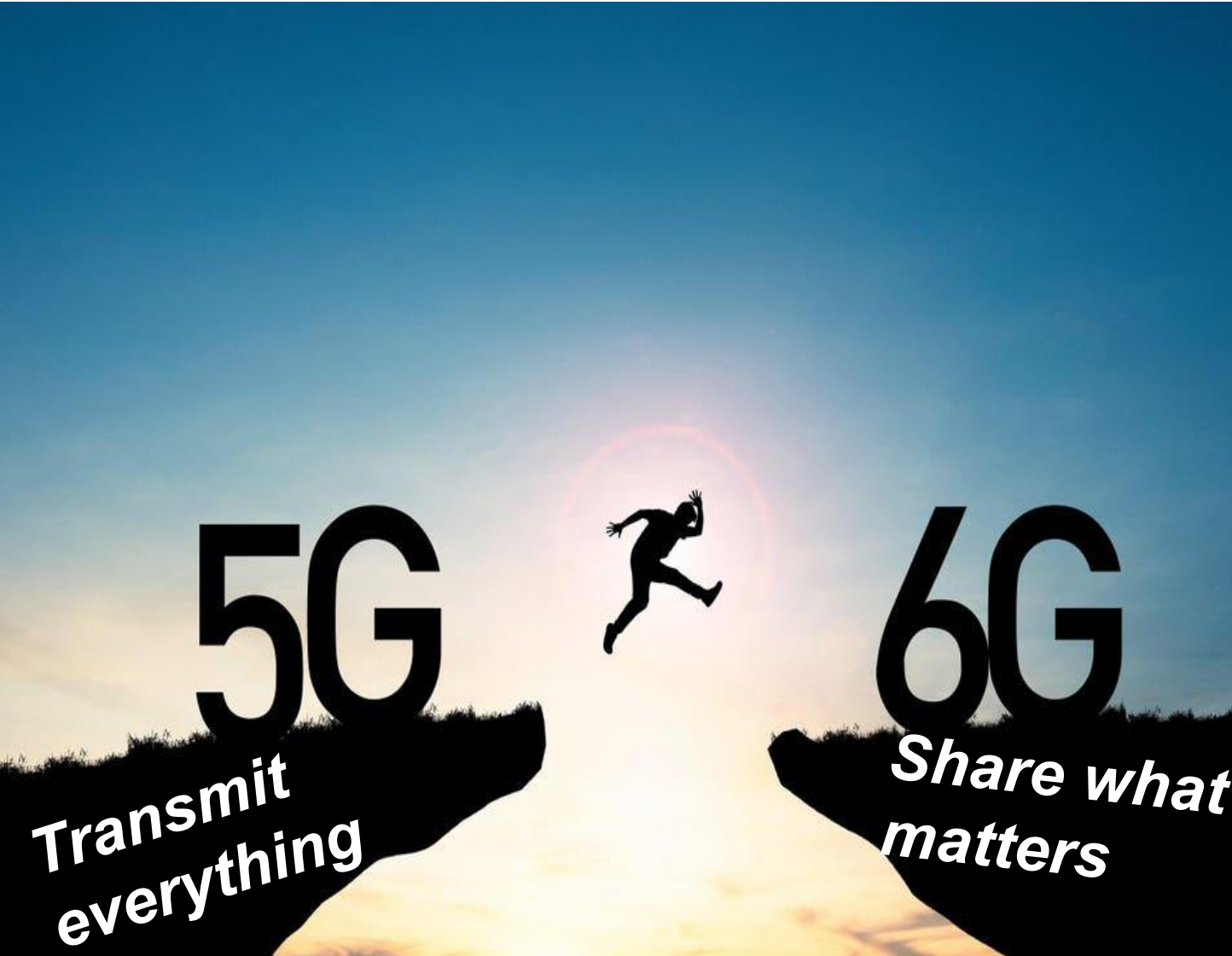


- Classical systems aim to **transmit symbols perfectly** (bit-level fidelity).
- Semantic communication seeks to ensure the **meaning is understood** ... .. even if some data is lost!

**Understand first:**

share only what cannot be deduced or inferred by (Generative)AI

# THE BIG CHANGES WITH 6G: SHARING “JUST” WHAT MATTERS

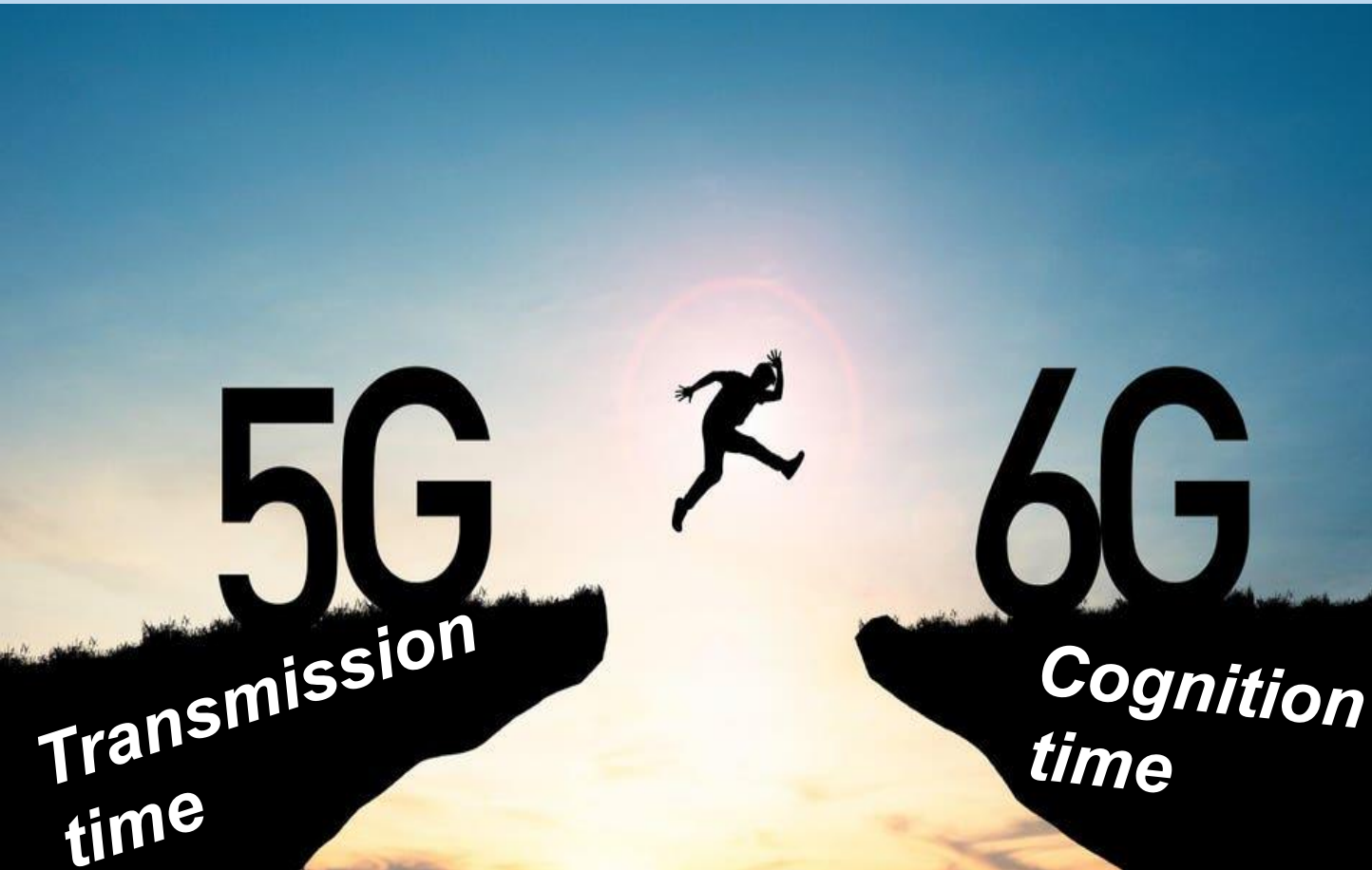


- **Data carries meaning for decisions and Intelligence**
  - Not just bits to be delivered with non sense high precision ( $10^{-8}$ ).
- **Data traffic growth: x2000+**
- 140–360 GB per mobile connection per month by 2040
  - Not just sensor dumps, raw data or user content
- **New class of AI-centric data:**
  - For AI & between intelligent AI agents
  - Up to 50% of total traffic

# THE BIG CHANGES WITH 6G: MULTIPLE PERCEPTION OF TIME

[Popovski22] P. Popovski, et al. "A perspective on time toward wireless 6G." *Proceedings of the IEEE*, vol. 110.8 (2022): pp. 1116-1146

[Calvanese24] E. Calvanese Strinati "6G: the catalyst for artificial general intelligence", *Nature Reviews Electrical Engineering* 1 (9), 561-562 (2024)



From “*how fast*” to “*when information is informative for action*” [Popovski22] [Calvanese24]

From **Latency-Centric Time** to **Intelligence-Centric Time**

- **Time** = context + causality + prediction (*even negative latency*)
- **Synchronization** :for communication → for reasoning & intelligence
- **Dynamic temporal logic**
- Data delivery delay → goal-oriented effective information use

**Context-dependent temporal granularity**

- “**Real-time**” depends on Agents, reasoning capability, semantic causality, application context, ...

# HOW HUMANS UNDERSTAND & COMMUNICATE

**Communication goes beyond data transmission:**

- It requires **modeling the receiver**
  - How the world is perceived
  - Information is interpreted
  - The implicit relation of data (dark matter in AI)
- **Humans attribute to others:**
  - Beliefs, intentions, knowledge
  - Adapt our message to the audience
  - Anticipate reactions using **inferred mental states**
  - Sensitivity to the context

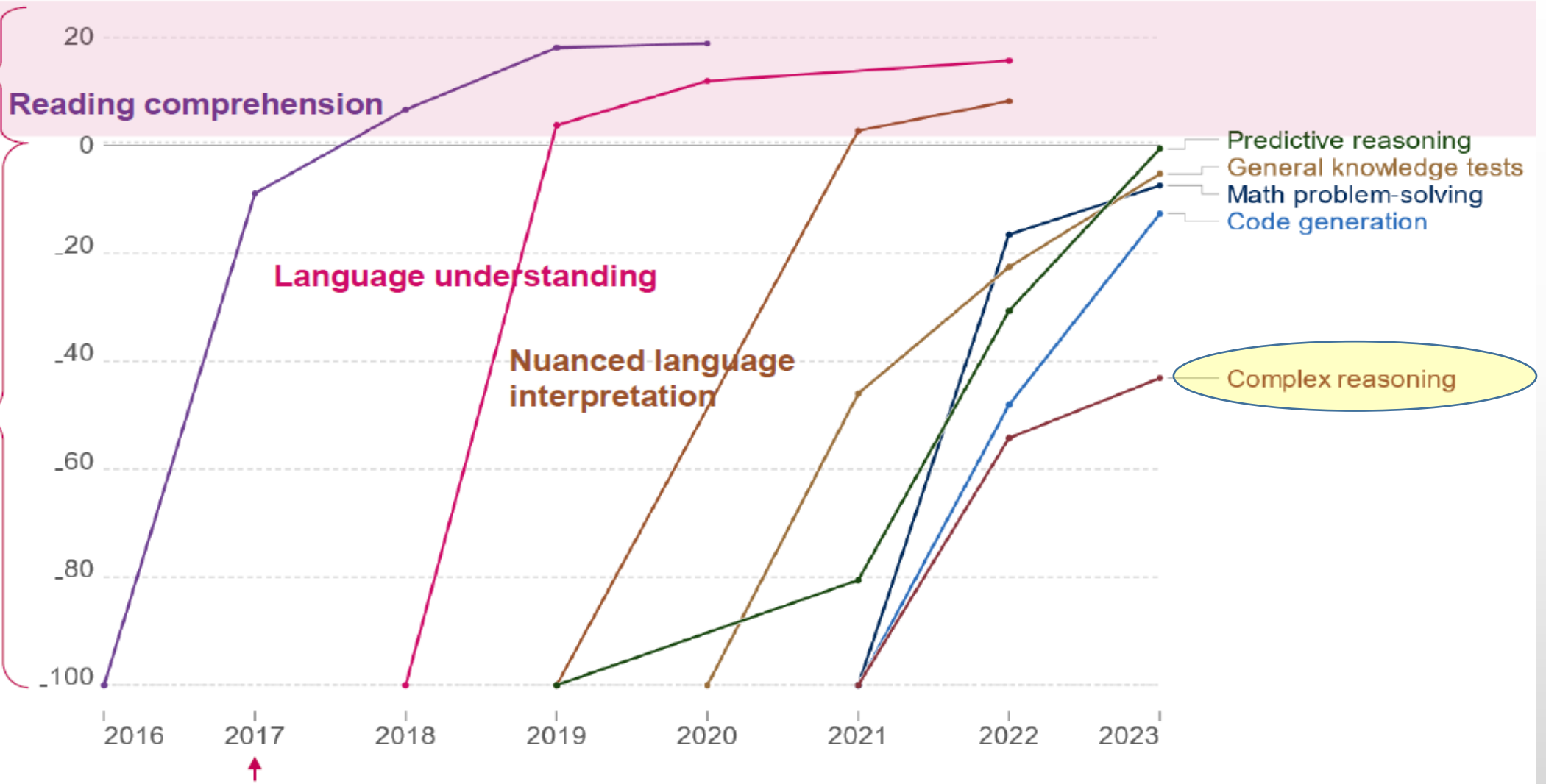


# HOW

# THE EVOLUTION OF A NEW INTELLECTUAL SPECIES : AI

AI performs better

Humans perform better



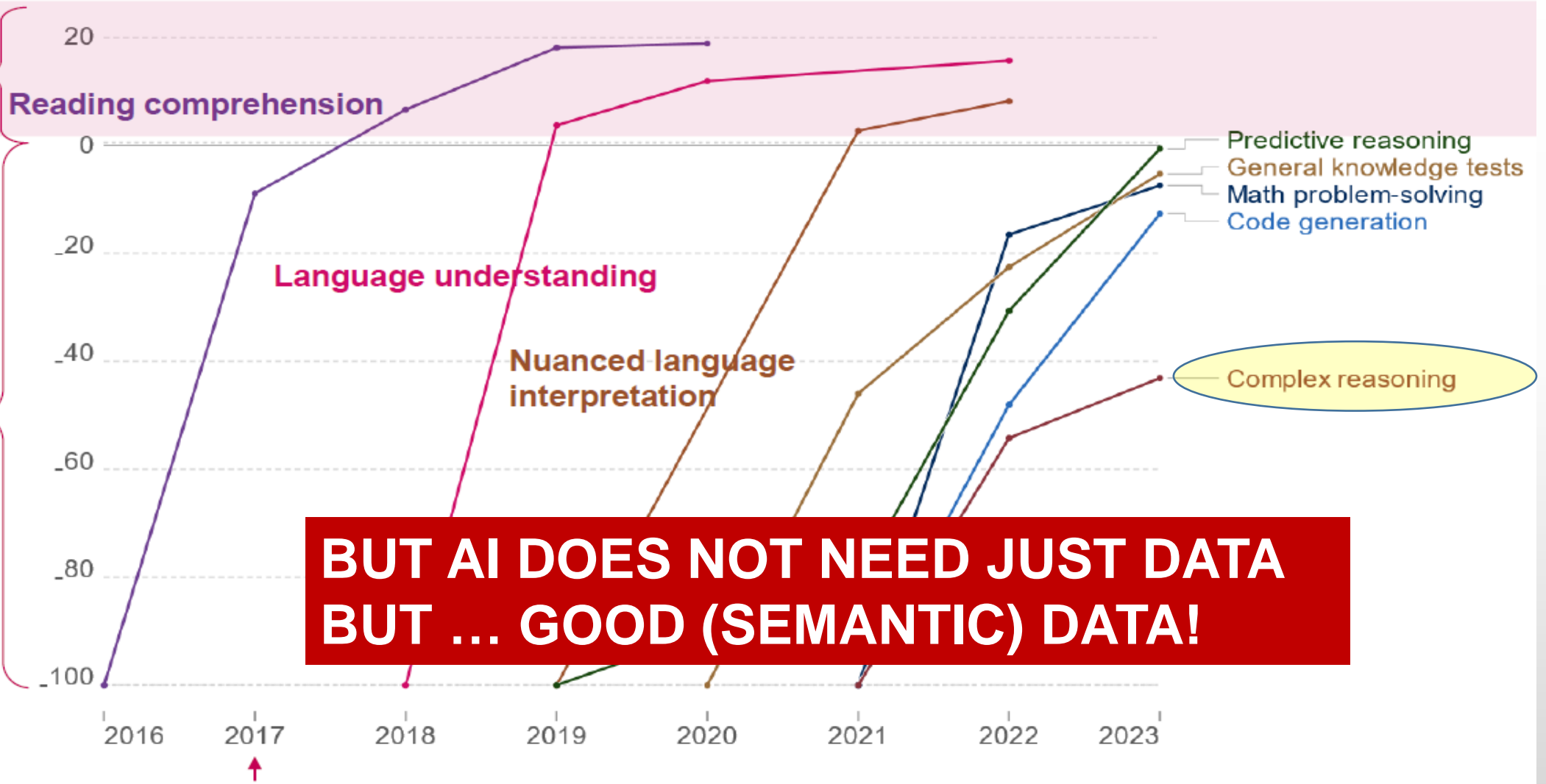
Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/brief-history-of-ai>

# HOW

# THE EVOLUTION OF A NEW INTELLECTUAL SPECIES : AI

AI performs better

Humans perform better



**BUT AI DOES NOT NEED JUST DATA  
BUT ... GOOD (SEMANTIC) DATA!**

Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/brief-history-of-ai>

# WHAT SEMANTIC 101: GIVING RELEVANT MEANING TO DATA

Semantic is about meaning, it **prioritizes relevance over volume**, enabling efficient and meaningful communication



00001101001000001101101000



011000110110001000110000001



10101001000010100010



AI latent spaces representation  
(multi-dimensional vector)



Informed  
Decision

## Semantic communications metrics

**20+ metrics and KPIs** in 6 different areas: Information theoretic, text, image/video, timing-related, goal-oriented, secrecy [D2.2 6G-GOALS] 

$$\begin{cases} R(D, P) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \min_{p_{\hat{X}|X}} I(X, \hat{X}) \\ E[\Delta(X, \hat{X})] \leq D \\ d(p_X, p_{\hat{X}}) \leq P \end{cases}$$

**Rate-distorsion-perception:** low distortion alone is not enough – perception (semantic fidelity) is essential

$$\text{FID} = \|\mu_{\text{real}} - \mu_{\text{generated}}\|^2 + \text{Tr}(\Sigma_{\text{real}} + \Sigma_{\text{generated}} - 2(\Sigma_{\text{real}}\Sigma_{\text{generated}})^{1/2})$$

**Frechet-Information Distance:** Captures **semantic similarity** measuring on a learned feature space

$$\Theta(f(A), f(B)) = \|f(A) - f(B)\|_2^2$$

**Semantic similarity among embeddings**

$$\text{AoE} = \{S \mid \mathcal{E}_{go}(S) \geq q_{\text{th}}\}$$

**Area of Effectiveness**

$$\text{LPIPS}(x, y) = \sum_l \frac{1}{H_l W_l} \sum_{h,w} \|y_{hw}^l - x_{hw}^l\|_2^2$$

**Perceptual Image similarity** (DL, GO, Heuristics)  
It measures meaningful features preservation

$$s(t) = \sup\{g_i \in S : g_i + \delta_i \leq t\}$$

$$\Delta_L(t) = t - s(t)$$

**Age of Loop:** freshness of information when used

## Semantic communications metrics

20+ metrics and KPIs in 6 different areas: Information theoretic, text, image/video, timing-related, goal-oriented, secrecy [D2.2 6G-GOALS]

### Semantic metrics focus on

- Semantic Similarity and equivalence
- Task Success Rate/Cost
- Contextual Relevance
- Goal Achievement
- Semantic alignment
- Semantic temporal consistency

$R(D, P)$   
 $E[\Delta d(p)]$   
 Rate-disto

LPIPS

Perceptual Image similarity

Age of Loop

$(\text{ated})^{1/2}$

$\mathcal{S} \geq q_{th}$   
 eness

**Semantic robustness** (Comm, Inference, Task accomplishment)

### Trade-offs:

- Robustness versus ambiguity
- Robustness versus resource use (energy, processing, ...)

fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too. Cna yuo raed tihs? Olly smoe plepoe can. i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olly iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsitr and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mniddeos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

## WHAT

## SEMANTIC COMMUNICATION GAINS: ROBUSTNESS

When the order of words or characters changes, your brain still **correctly interpret** sentences.

Semantic robustness depends on transmitters-receivers **alignment** (both ends "speak the same semantic language") & on **reasoning** (to recover meaning under uncertainty or noise)

7H15 M3554G3  
53RV35 7O PR0V3  
HOW OUR M1ND5 C4N  
DO 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!  
1MPR3551V3 7H1NG3!  
1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG  
17 WA5 H4RD BU7  
YOUR M1ND 1S  
R34D1NG 17  
4U70M471C4LLY  
W17H 0U7 3V3N  
7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17,  
B3 PROUD! ONLY  
C3R741N P39PL3 C4N  
R3AD 7H15.  
PL3453 FORW4RD 1F  
U C4N R34D 7H15.

研表究明，漢字的序順並不定  
一能影閱響讀，  
比如當你看完這句話後，  
才發這現裡的字全是都亂的

# SEMANTIC + AI-RAN

## SemComs in the AI **on** RAN

**AI on RAN** = AI hosted in the RAN  
& used to optimize RAN functions

## SemComs in the AI **for** RAN

**AI for RAN** =  
AI used to optimize RAN functions

### Secret advantages of semantic communications in/for/on AI-RAN:

- **Make easier to run AI workloads on constrained RAN nodes** by reducing communication overhead, accelerating re-training & effectively feeding AI reasoning engines
- **Bridges AI and Communication:** Enabling joint adaptation & reasoning between AI models and communication layers
- **Resilience & Efficiency:** Errors in bits don't matter if the **semantic intent is preserved:** allowing adaptation on what to protect & what to drop for tasks & applications
- **Compressing** high-dimensional features exchanged between RUs & edge servers
- **Reducing** fronthaul/backhaul **load** for AI-supported tasks (beam prediction, CSI feedback, anomaly detection)
- **Enforce multi-agents cooperation**

## SEMANTIC + AI-RAN

### SemComs in the AI **on** RAN

**AI on RAN** = AI hosted in the RAN  
& used to optimize RAN functions

**Saves bandwidth** for AI model data exchange

**Save spectrum use**

**Reduces overhead** (data, signalling, (re)training)

**New effective trade-offs** communication–computation–caching paradigm for AI functions hosting & execution

**Enhance robustness** of communication against noise and interference

**Coexistence & alignment** of AI models

### SemComs in the AI **for** RAN

**AI for RAN** =  
AI used to optimize RAN functions

# SEMANTIC + AI-RAN

## SemComs in the AI **on** RAN

AI **on** RAN = AI hosted in the RAN & used to optimize RAN functions

Saves bandwidth for AI model data exchange

Save spectrum use

Reduces overhead (data, signalling, (re)training)

New effective communication–computation–caching **trade-offs** paradigm for AI functions hosting & execution

## SemComs in the AI **for** RAN

AI **for** RAN =

AI used to optimize RAN functions

**Massive efficiency gains** CSI/feedback exchange (semantic CSI)

**Semantic sensing** and radio environment maps

**Reduced signaling** overhead for ML coordination across sites

**Reduced deployment**/network nodes use

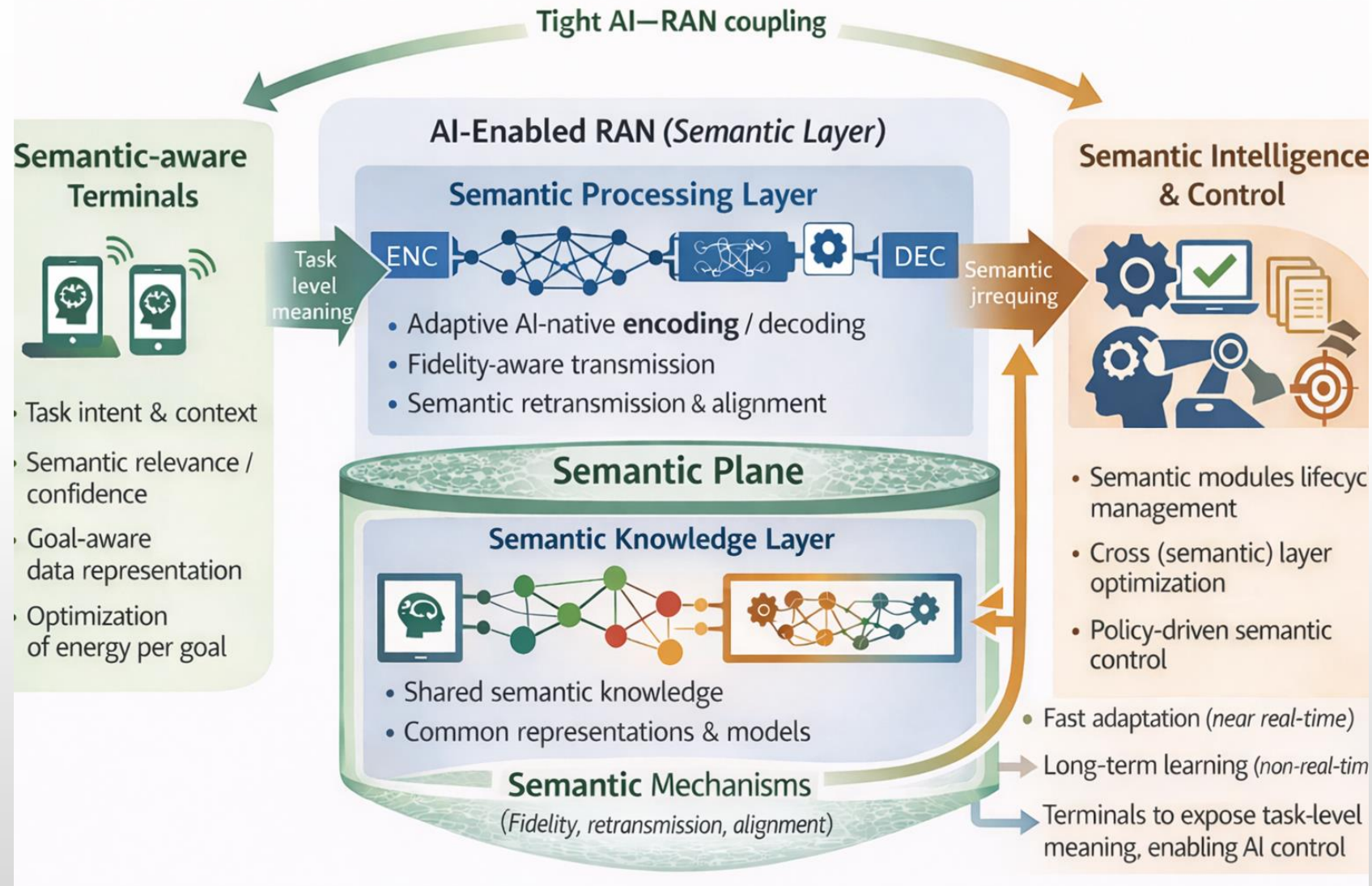
**Reduced** RAN functions **complexity** and duty cycle (ex. CSI)

**Coverage extension**

**Semantic aware** PHY design (waveforms)

## Semantic plane

- New **logical layer** to processing meaning
- To “**semantically**” enhances both the user & control planes
- **Facilitate** the delivery of **semantic services**, enable **knowledge-driven reasoning**



# SECRET #1

# THE SEMANTIC PLANE IN AI-NATIVE 6G ARCHITECTURES

## Advantages

**AI-Communication Convergence:** Enables joint reasoning and adaptation across AI models and communication layers

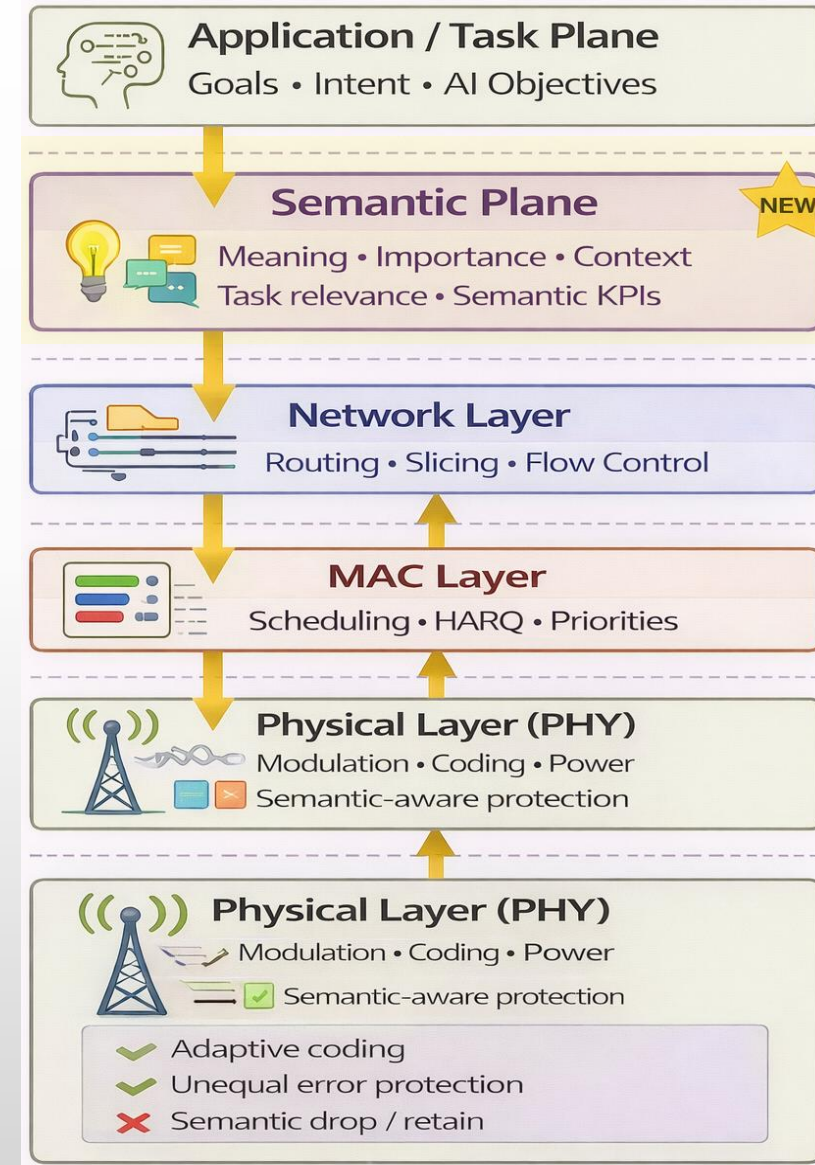
**Semantic Cross-Layer Optimization:** Injects meaning into PHY/MAC/Network decisions → new metrics, new information-communication-computation trade-offs

**Resilience & Efficiency:** Preserves semantic intent rather than bits, enabling importance-aware protection, drop, and resource allocation

## Issues (Potential)



- **Extra latency** and **signaling** overhead
- Possible **higher energy per bit** (extra semantic processing & signaling) but **lower CUMULATIVE energy per goal** (send less bits – large semantic compression)



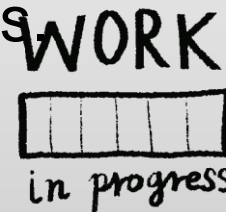
## SECRET #2 THERE EXISTS AN INVISIBLE SEMANTIC LOGIC CHANNEL

Even with successful syntactic transmission, reconstructed meaning might differ from the intended one.

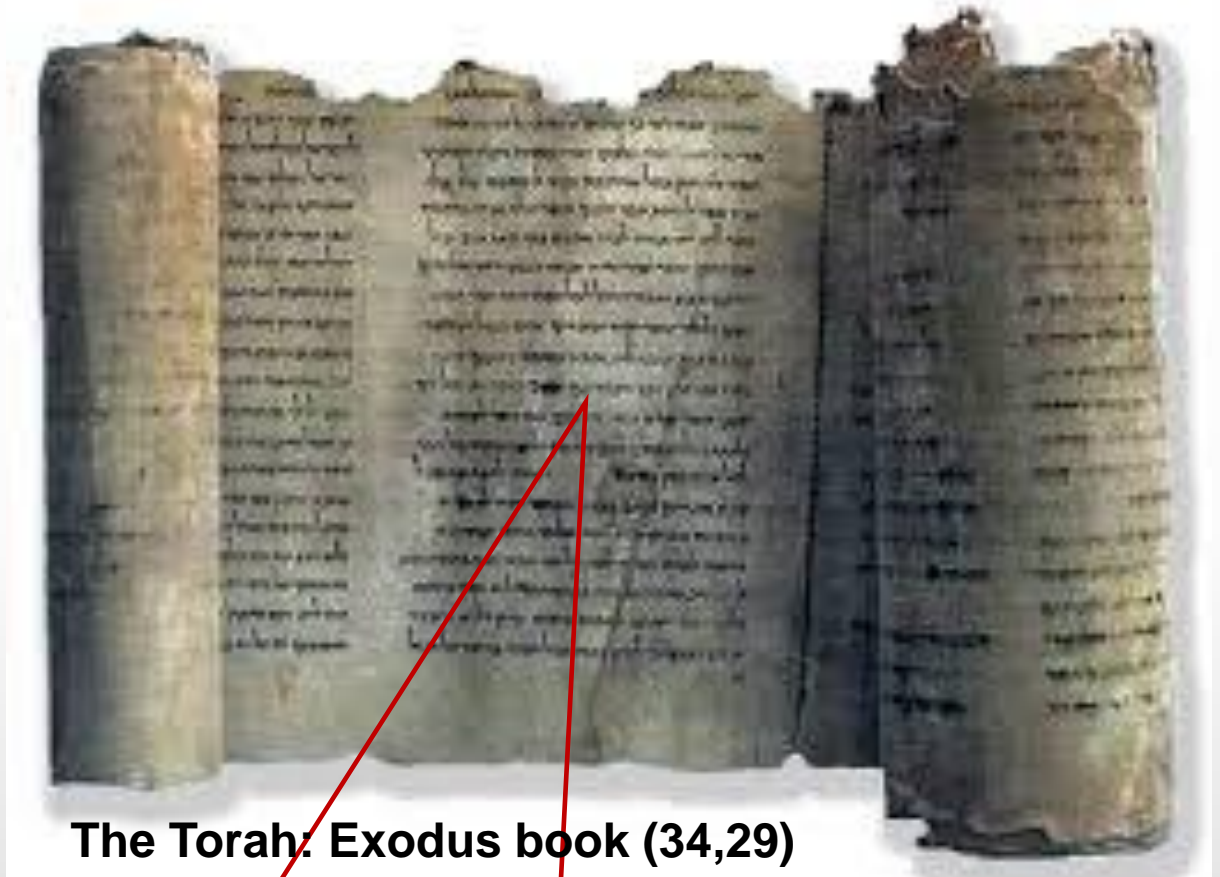
- The **semantic logic channel** carries concepts, intent, and task-relevant meaning.
- **Logic is transmitted implicitly** and receivers do not interpret what has been received but what “**make sense**”
- But “**common sense**” depends on shared semantic space & knowledge
- But ... **Commonly SemComs assume common ground between agents**

### Semantic channel modelling challenge:

- Representing how the meaning and content of semantic messages can change as they pass through various stages or transformations
- Counteract or avoid semantic channel errors



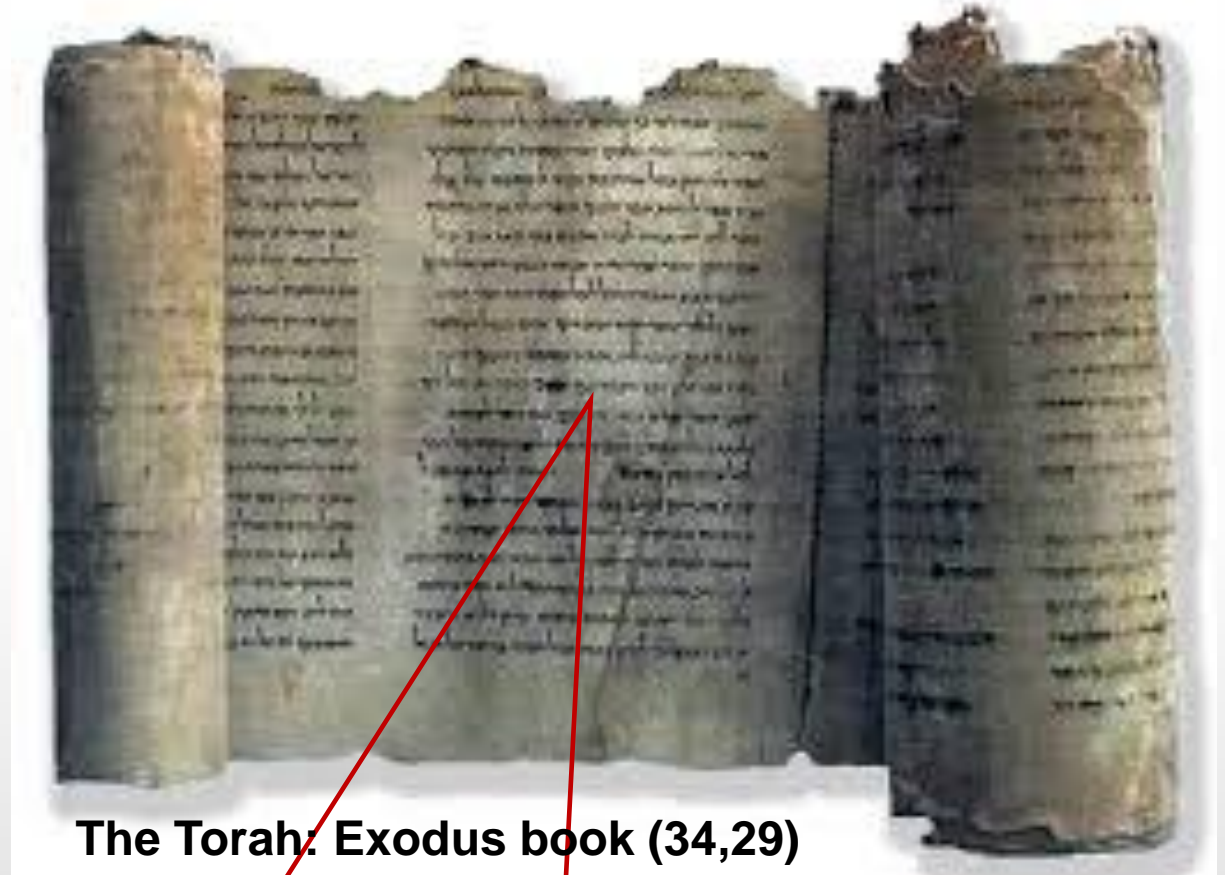
# MOSES IN ROME: THE “RAYS OR HORNS?” AMBIGUITY



The Torah: Exodus book (34,29)

וְהָיָה בְּרִדְתָּ מֹשֶׁה מֵהָרָסִינִי וְשָׁנִי לְחַת הָעֵדֻת בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה  
בְּרִדְתּוֹ מִן־הָהָר וּמֹשֶׁה לֹא־יָדַע כִּי **קָרוּ** עוֹר פָּנָיו בְּדַבְּרוֹ אֵתוֹ

# MOSES IN ROME: THE “RAYS OR HORNS?” AMBIGUITY



The Torah: Exodus book (34,29)

*As Moses came down from Mount Sinai, the skin of his face **shone** (radiant)*

# MOSES IN ROME: THE “RAYS OR HORNS?” SEMANTIC AMBIGUITY

In Biblical Hebrew, the root **Q-R-N** (קָרַן) can refer to both:

- **horns** (*qeren*)
- **radiance / rays of light** (*qaran*)

In Bible, Moses' face after Sinai may mean:

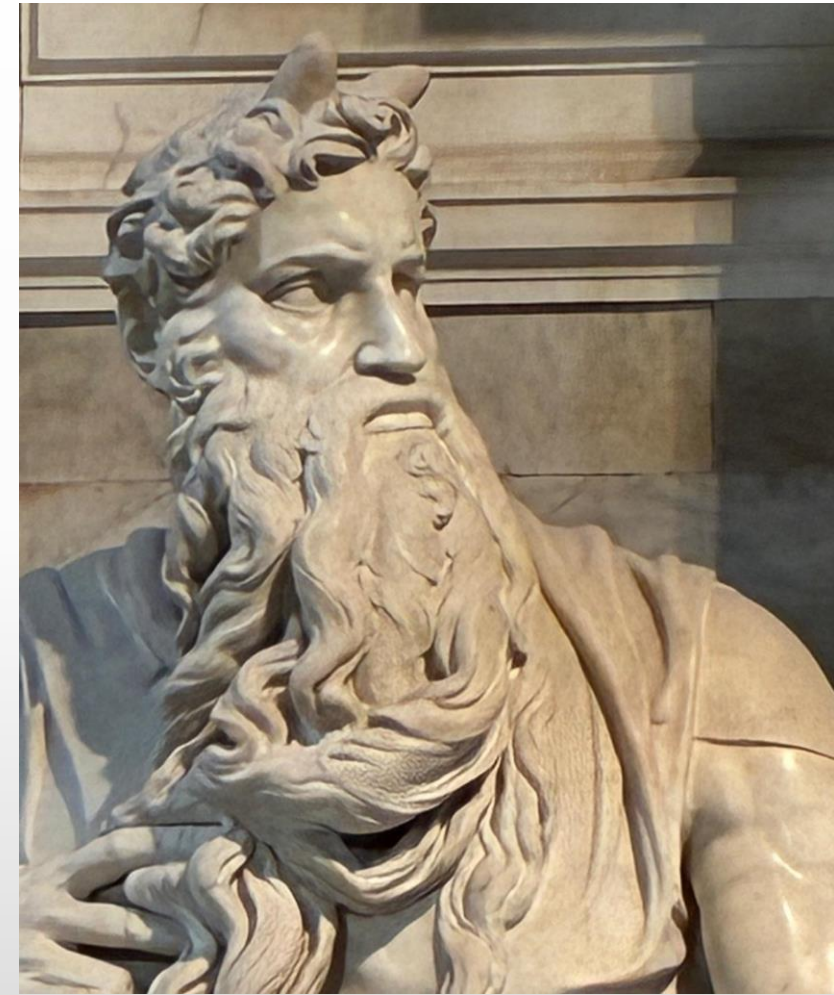
“**radiated light**”

or be interpreted as

“**horned**”

- Greek translations favored **radiance**, while the Latin Vulgate rendered it as “**horned.**”

A shift in interpretation transformed **divine luminosity** into **physical horns.**



**Lost in translation:** Long-term semantic misalignment consequence: The ambiguity propagated into centuries of iconography, including Moses by Michelangelo 😞

# WHY SEMANTIC MISALIGNMENT

**Representation misalignment** : Tx & Rx represent knowledge differently

**Semantic language mismatch between agents** (extraction & interpretation) :

- Not compatible or unambiguously interoperable **training / NN models**
- Languages induce **different partitions over the semantic space**

→ Common in **heterogeneous AI agents** trained with different architectures or datasets.

**Semantic expressiveness misalignment** :

- **Limited semantic extractor** (Tx): language limits concepts representation for Rx
- **Limited semantic interpreter** (Rx) : language limits interpretation of received symbols

**Background knowledge mismatch** :

- Different prior beliefs or semantic models
- Divergence in Semantic Domain: Terms or signals carry different implications

**Pragmatic misunderstanding** : Differences in intent or goal, of the message.

**HW Implementation** : limits performance or imposes low energy consumption at the device

# HOW ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA TALK?

[BORODITSKY2001]

- In their language they do not use *left* or *right*
- Everything is in **Cardinal directions** (North, South, East, West)
- Ex. *there is a banana at your South-South-West leg, so move your body to the north-east-east*



# HOW ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA TALK?

- Everything is in **Cardinal directions** (North, South, East, West)

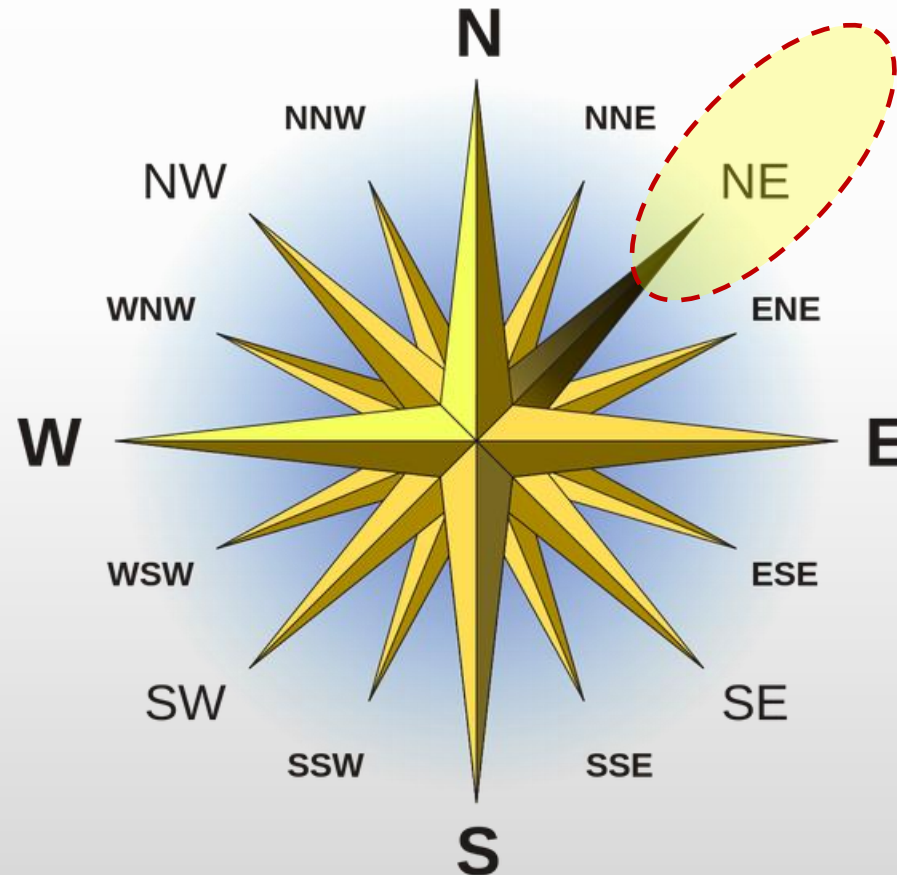


- “*Hallo*” is expressed as: *which way you go?*
- Answer: *South-South-East in a far distance*, what about you?
- Literally you cannot pass « *hallo* » if you ignore where you go!
- People in this community are excellent in orientation!

**Thanks to the language, they have a continuous training on how to be oriented**

# HOW DIFFERENT IS FROM THE WAY WE DO IT?

Close your eyes for few seconds and point North-East



## HOW DIFFERENT IS FROM THE WAY WE DO IT?

**A 5 years old Pormpuraaw Aboriginal boy would it know exactly!**

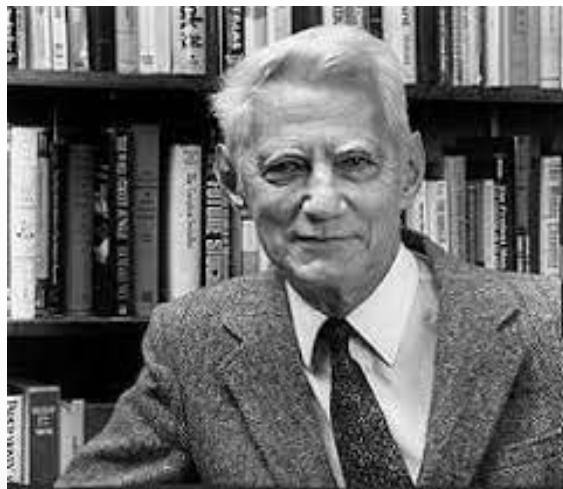
Thanks to **their language**, they have a **continuous training** on how to be oriented (**reasoning in different contexts**)

**Different Languages train  
different cognitive human capabilities!**

**Agents reasoning with different  
languages understand & think differently**

**ISSUE**

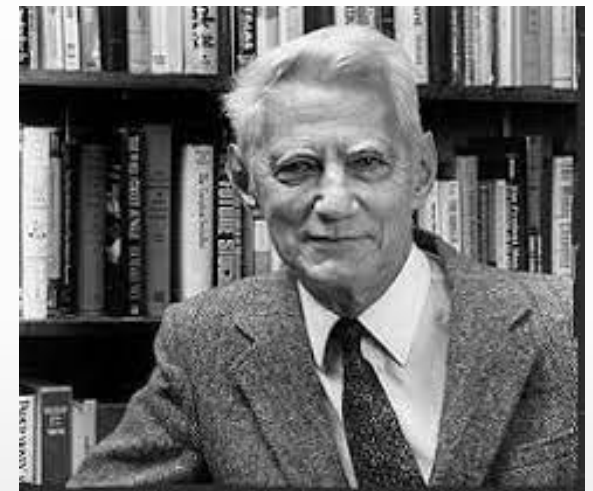
**INFER DIFFERENTLY (OR CONTROL OR ACTUATE)  
EX. THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES**



# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES

**How an English speaker would organize time?**

# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES

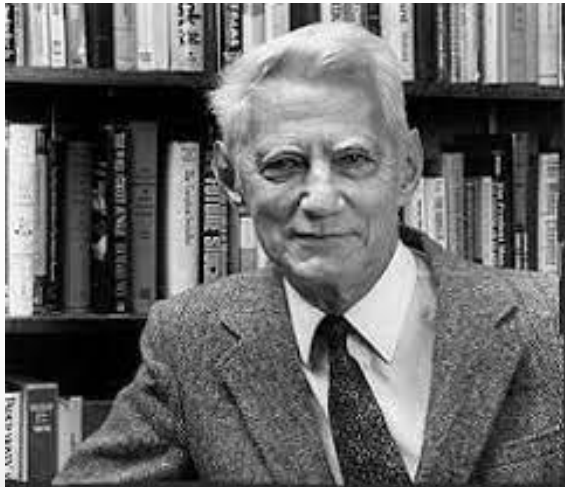


**Most probably from left to right**

# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES

**How an Arabic speaker would organize time?**

# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES



**Most probably in the opposite direction: from right to left**

# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES



Most probably in the opposite direction: from right to left

... this has to do with *language specific* writing directions ...

# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES

**How an Pormpuraaw Aboriginal would organize time?**

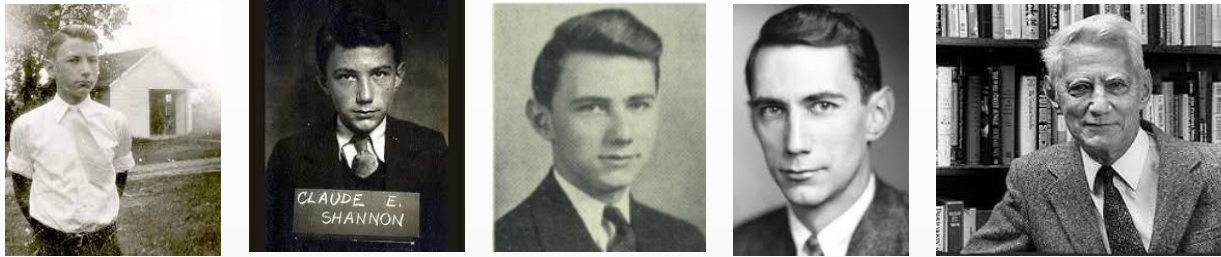
# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES

Sitting or standing facing south:  
from left to right

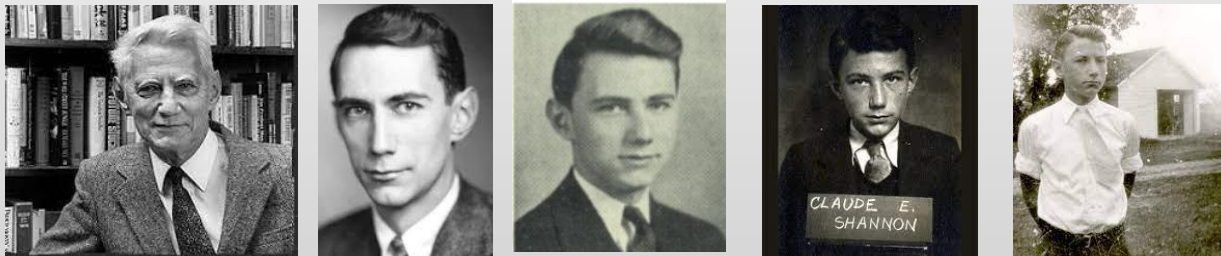


# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES

Sitting or standing facing south:  
from left to right

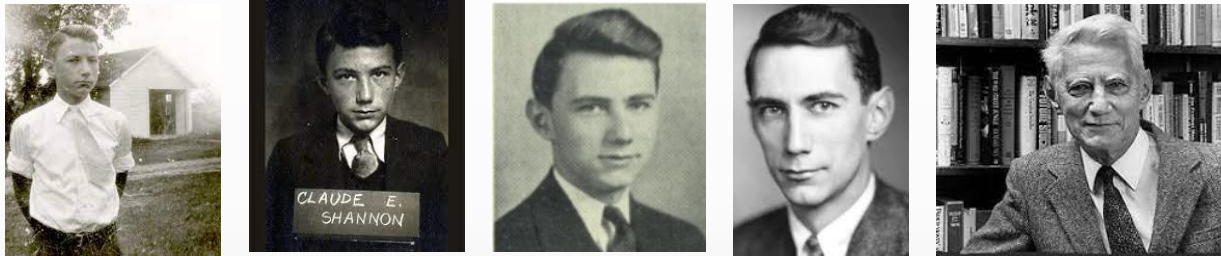


Sitting or standing facing north:  
from right to left



# THE PICTURE OF C. E. SHANNON AT DIFFERENT AGES

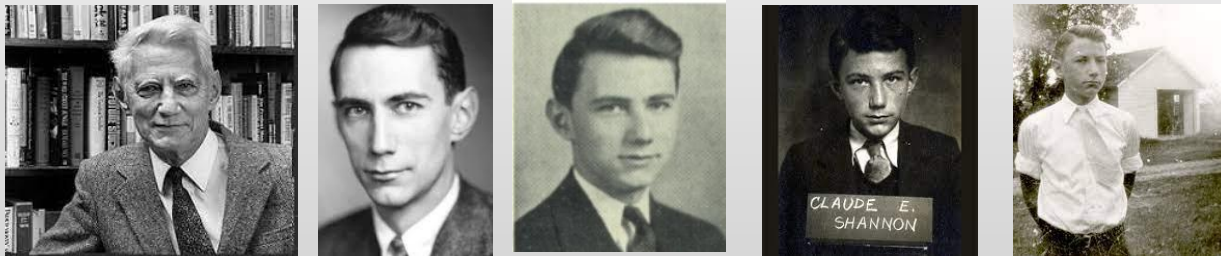
Sitting or standing facing south:  
from left to right



Sitting or standing facing east:  
time came toward the body

Time is locked on the  
environment

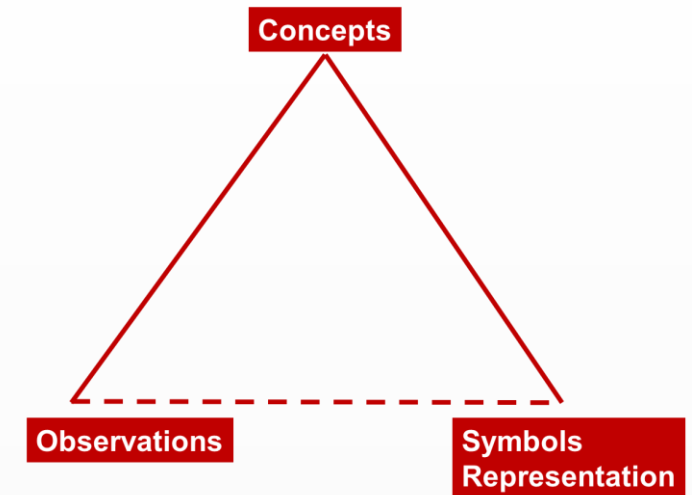
Sitting or standing facing north:  
from right to left



The language dramatically change  
the way to reason completely about  
space, time, attributes, relations, etc.

# THE LANGUAGE GUIDES OUR UNDERSTANDING & REASONING ABOUT EVENTS!

- **Languages shape the way to think**  
(associate concepts to data)
- The way to communicate **depends on how intelligence is trained to reason**
- The language dramatically change the way to reason about space, time, attributes, etc.
- Agents trained on different languages will **pay attention to different things**
- Severe **Semantic Ambiguity** might arise !!



# REASONING DIFFERENTLY: THE LANGUAGE GUIDES OUR REASONING ABOUT EVENTS!



**In Germanic like languages (ex. English) you would say “he broke the vase”**

- Attention on who did it
- Relations to concepts are stronger on who more than on why it happened



**In romance like (ex. Spanish) you would say “the vase was broken (itself)”**

- Remember the intention (if it was an accident or not)



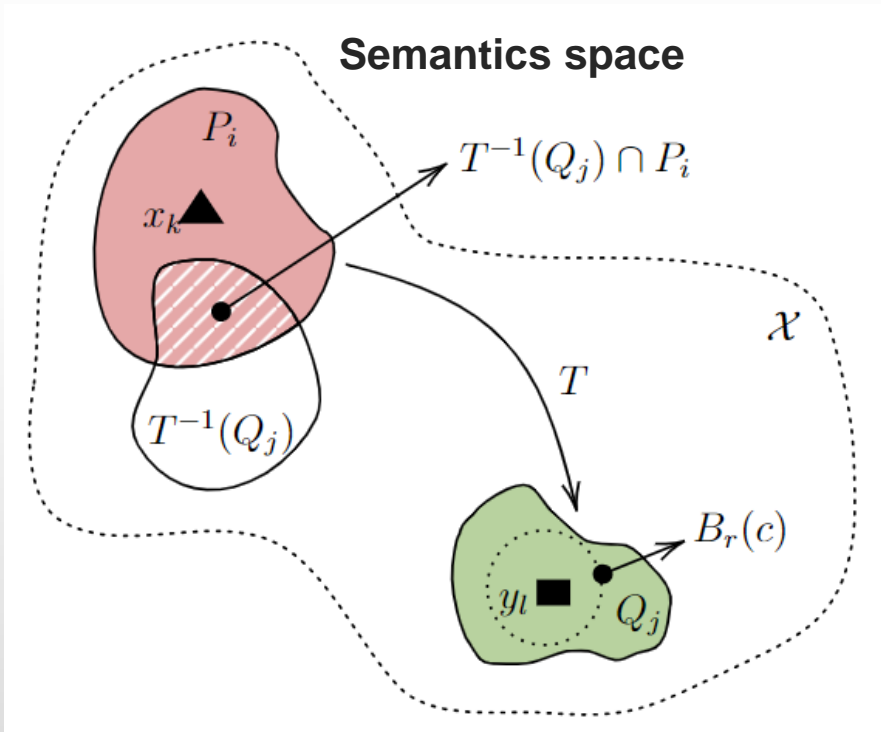
**Agents observing the same event :**

- **Extract** different concepts & differently **Interpret** concepts
- Associate different relations between concepts
- Actuation, control, decision making are potentially different

# EXAMPLE

# SEMANTIC ALIGNMENT VIA SEMANTIC EQUALIZATION [GLOBECOM23]

Find  $T$  by solving the following problem [PCF+16]



$$(\mathcal{P}'_1) \operatorname{argmin}_{T \in \mathcal{T}, \gamma \in \hat{\Gamma}} \left\| T(\mathbf{X}_i) - N_X \gamma \mathbf{B}_r(\mathbf{Y}_j) \right\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2 + \alpha \langle \gamma, D \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} + \beta h(T)$$

Transport of source atoms (points to  $T(\mathbf{X}_i)$ )

Alignment with target atoms (points to  $\mathbf{B}_r(\mathbf{Y}_j)$ )

Kantorovich relaxation cost (\*) (points to  $\alpha \langle \gamma, D \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$ )

Regularization term (points to  $\beta h(T)$ )

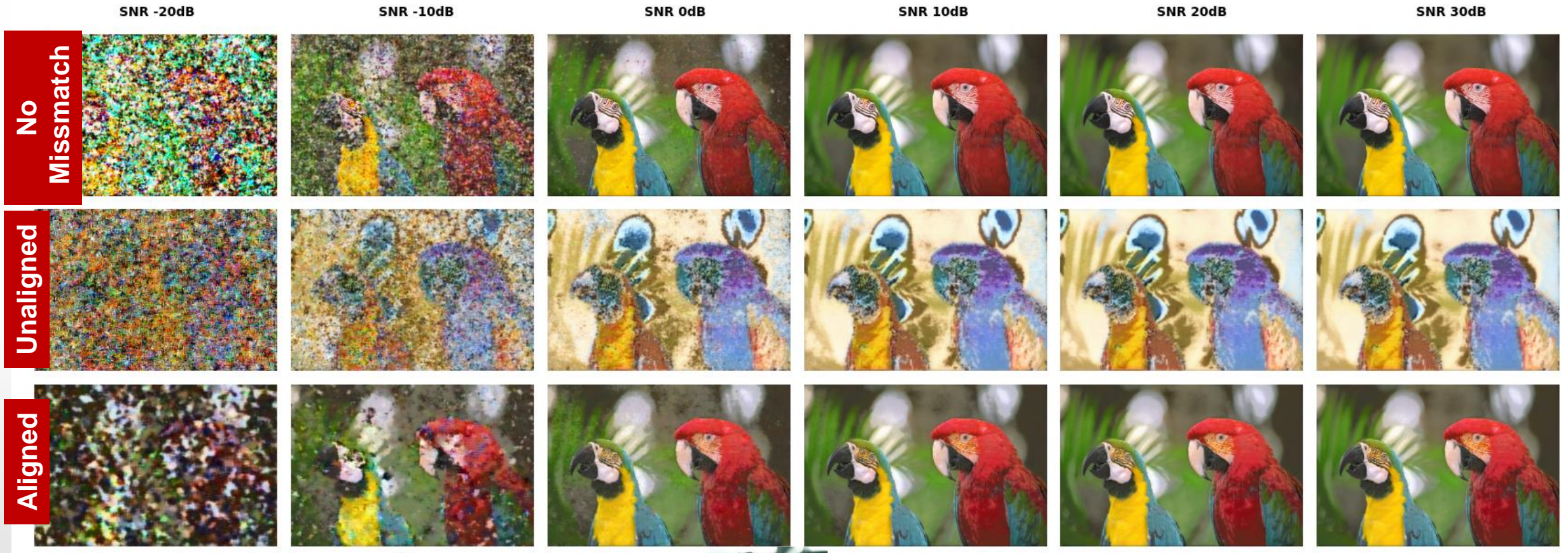
- $\mathbf{B}_r(\mathbf{Y}_j)$  is a barycentric mapping of the sample in  $\mathbf{Y}_j$  into a ball of radius  $r$  center in  $c$  (e.g., atom centroid).
- Here,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are some hyper-parameters;
- $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{F}}$  and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$  are the Frobenius norm and dot product.
- $D$  is the (Euclidean) distance matrix between sample in  $\mathbf{X}_i$  and  $\mathbf{Y}_j$
- $\Gamma$  is the set of all probabilistic couplings in the space of all joint distributions with marginal  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ .

[PCF+16] M. Perrot, N. Courty, R. Flamary, and A. Habrard, "Mapping Estimation for Discrete Optimal Transport," Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, vol. 29, 2016.

[Globecom23] Sana, Mohamed, and Emilio Calvanese Strinati. "Semantic channel equalizer: Modelling language mismatch in multi-user semantic communications." IEEE GLOBECOM 2023.

# EXAMPLE

# THE MISALIGNMENT ISSUE



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



Prof. Paolo di Lorenzo

Dr. Emilio Calvanese Strinati

# EXAMPLE

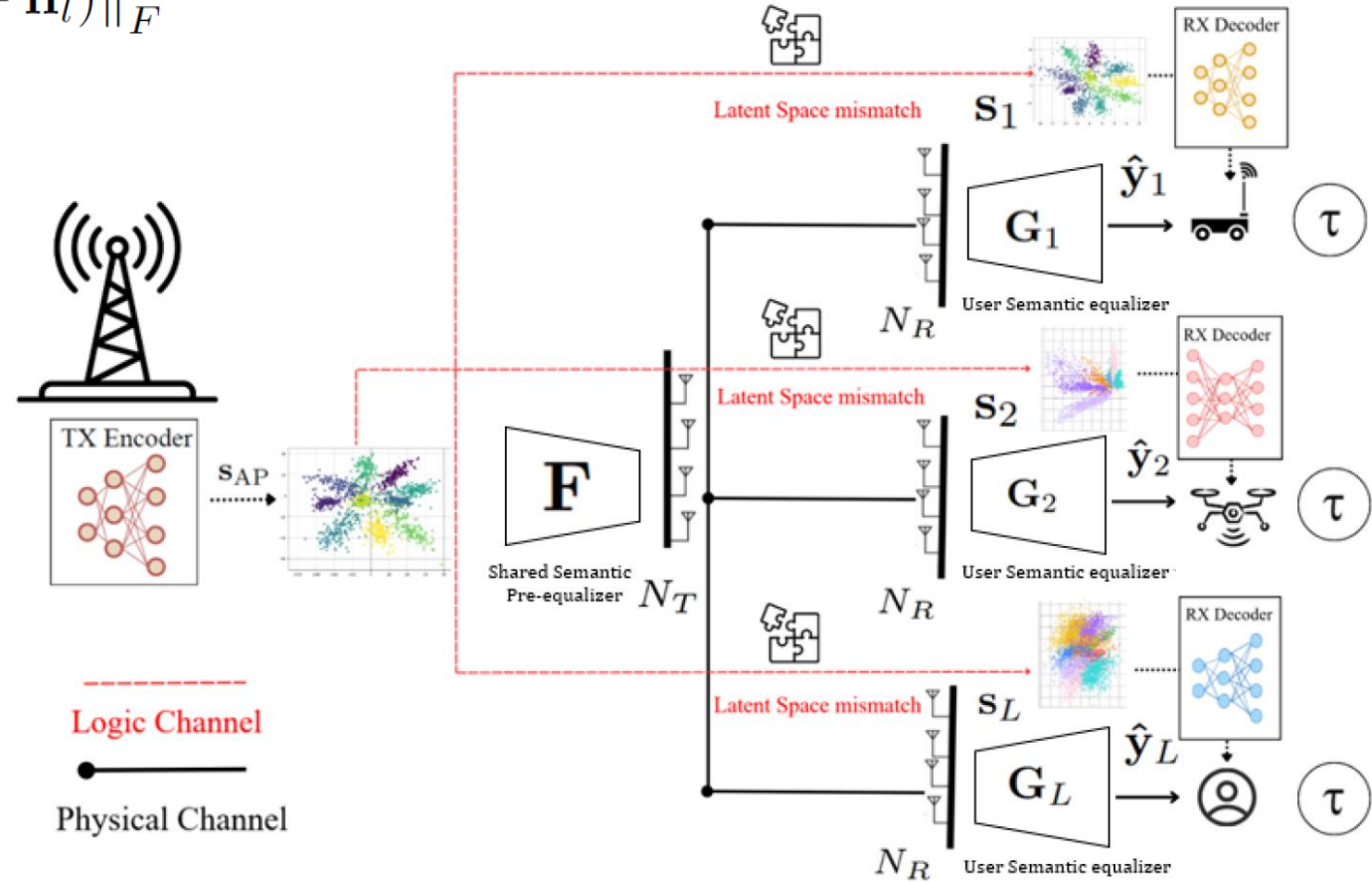
## SEMANTIC ALIGNMENT VIA MULTI USERS SEMANTIC EQUALIZATION [SPAWC25]

$$\min_{\mathbf{F}, \{\mathbf{G}_l\}_{l=1}^L} \frac{1}{Ln} \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{i \in \mathcal{T}_r} \mathbb{E} \|\mathbf{y}_{i,l} - \mathbf{G}_l (\mathbf{H}_l \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{n}_l)\|_F^2$$

s.t.  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}^H) \leq P_T$

### Algorithm 1 : Federated ADMM for Semantic Alignment

- 1: **Input:**  $\mathbf{F}^{(0)} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, 1)$ ,  $\{\mathbf{Z}^{(0)}, \mathbf{U}^{(0)}\} = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\rho > 0$ .
- 2: **Output:** Final values  $\mathbf{F}^{(T)}$ ,  $\mathbf{G}^{(T)}$ ,  $\mathbf{Z}^{(T)}$ ,  $\mathbf{U}^{(T)}$ .
- 3: Perform *handshaking*;
- 4: **for** each iteration  $t = \{1, \dots, T\}$  **do**
- 5:   The AP transmits  $\mathbf{S}_l^{(t)}$  to all users  $l = 1, \dots, L$ ;  
    The users update locally  $\mathbf{G}_l^{(t+1)}$  as in (7);
- 6:   Users send  $\mathbf{A}_l$  and  $\mathbf{P}_l$  to the AP;  
    The AP updates  $\mathbf{F}^{(t+1)}$  as in (8);
- 7:   The AP updates  $\mathbf{Z}^{(t)}$  as in (17);
- 8:   The AP updates  $\mathbf{U}^{(t)}$  as in (18).
- 9: **end for**



# SEMANTIC COMMUNICATION OPTIMIZATION OVER TIME

- ▶ Transmitter-receiver is like a couple experiencing a relationship
- ▶ Communication improves over time
  - ▶ Building an optimal language
  - ▶ Mutual learning and shared knowledge



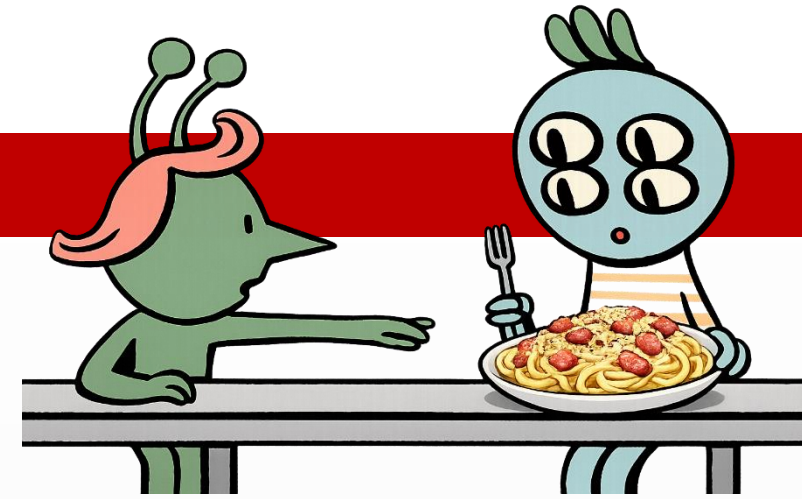
## First meeting

- ▶ Introduce each other
- ▶ Ask kindly with properly described request
- ▶ Thanks the other one

**Shannon**

**Weaver**

## Communication to ask for Carbonara Pasta



# SEMANTIC COMMUNICATION OPTIMIZATION OVER TIME

- Transmitter-receiver is like a couple experiencing a relationship
- Communication improves over time
  - Building an optimal language
  - Mutual learning and shared knowledge



## First meeting

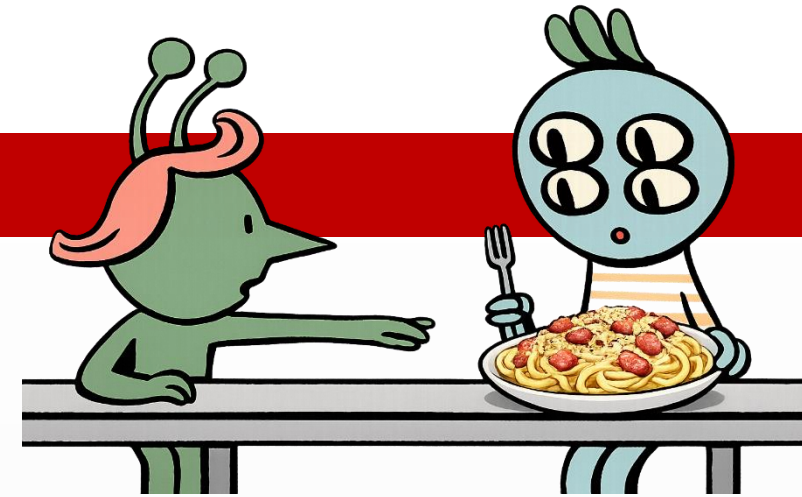
- Introduce each other
- Ask kindly with properly described request
- Thanks the other one



## Several months

- Know each other / brief introduction
- Ask with described request
- Brief thanks

## Communication to ask for Carbonara Pasta



Shannon

Weaver

# SEMANTIC COMMUNICATION OPTIMIZATION OVER TIME

- Transmitter-receiver is like a couple experiencing a relationship
- Communication improves over time
  - Building an optimal language
  - Mutual learning and shared knowledge



## First meeting

- Introduce each other
- Ask kindly with properly described request
- Thanks the other one



## Several months

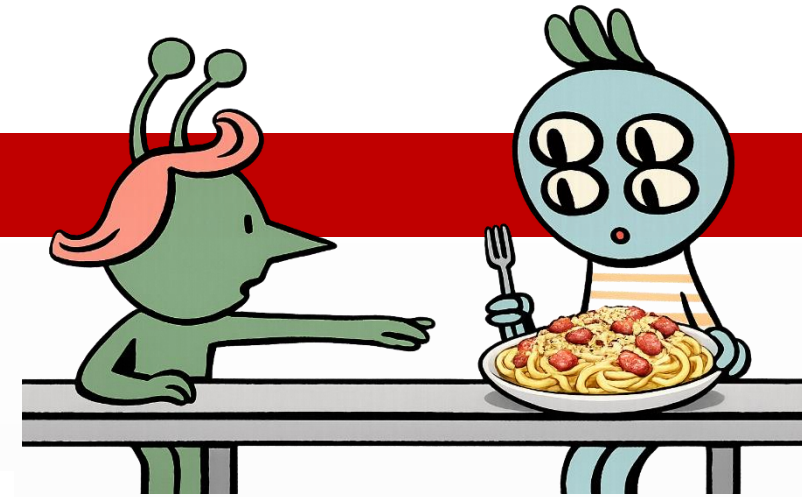
- Know each other / brief introduction
- Ask with described request
- Brief thanks



## Several years

- No introduction
- Expect the other one to do the action
- Ask with short request
- No thanks

## Communication to ask for Carbonara Pasta



Shannon

Weaver

# SEMANTIC COMMUNICATION OPTIMIZATION OVER TIME

- Transmitter-receiver is like a couple experiencing a relationship
- Communication improves over time
  - Building an optimal language
  - Mutual learning and shared knowledge



## First meeting

- Introduce each other
- Ask kindly with properly described request
- Thanks the other one



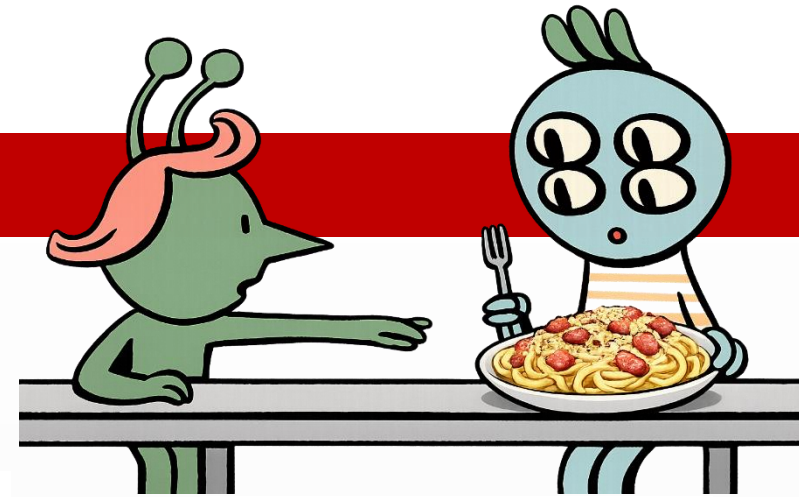
## Several months

- Know each other / brief introduction
- Ask with described request
- Brief thanks



## Several years

- No introduction
- Expect the other one to do the action
- Ask with short request
- No thanks



## Communication to ask for Carbonara Pasta



## A whole life

- Just able to hear the other one
- Ask with a quick eye contact
- No thanks
- Wait for the next eye contact

Shannon

Weaver

# 5. TENTATIVE SCOPE FOR ETSI ISG ON SEMANTIC COMMUNICATIONS



## Tentative Scope :

- Definition of a **list of key use cases** that benefit from Semantic Communications, with a roadmap for their study and evaluation.
- Derive **semantic information representation and models** (semantic encoding/decoding frameworks, knowledge representation, multimodal semantics, and AI/ML integration).
- Definition of an **architecture framework** for Semantic Communications, including interfaces, link-level and system-level mechanisms and protocols, and deployment considerations.
- Study how to leverage **AI/ML and Computing** assets in the Semantic Communications model and establish a framework for their effective integration.
- Study of the **end-to-end privacy and security aspects** as part of the generation, transmission, detection, computation, and storage of semantic information.
- Derive a set of **KPIs and an evaluation methodology** building upon potential synergies with other ETSI TBs, like TC DATA, TC QT, “TC NET”, and ISG ISAC.
- Foster **proof-of-concept and prototyping initiatives** (reference implementations, experimental platforms, interoperability demonstrations, and trials).

# 5. TENTATIVE SCOPE FOR ETSI ISG ON SEMANTIC COMMUNICATIONS



## Tentative Scope :

- Definition of a **list of key use cases** that benefit from Semantic Communications, with a roadmap for their study and evaluation.
- Derive **semantic information representation and processing** frameworks, knowledge representation (e.g., ontologies, graph-based representation), and integration (e.g., with existing standards).
- Definition of an **architecture** for Semantic Communications, including interfaces, link layer protocols, and deployment considerations.
- Study of the **end-to-end privacy and security aspects** as part of the generation, transmission, detection, computation, and storage of semantic information.
- Derive a set of **KPIs and an evaluation methodology** building upon potential synergies with other ETSI TBs, like TC DATA, TC QT, “TC NET”, and ISG ISAC.
- Foster **proof-of-concept and prototyping initiatives** (reference implementations, experimental platforms, interoperability demonstrations, and trials).

**Contact me if you wish to join the ETSI Semantic Communication ISG**  
[emilio.calvanese-strinati@cea.fr](mailto:emilio.calvanese-strinati@cea.fr)

# 6GARROW EU-KR HORIZON PROJECT

# 6GARROW



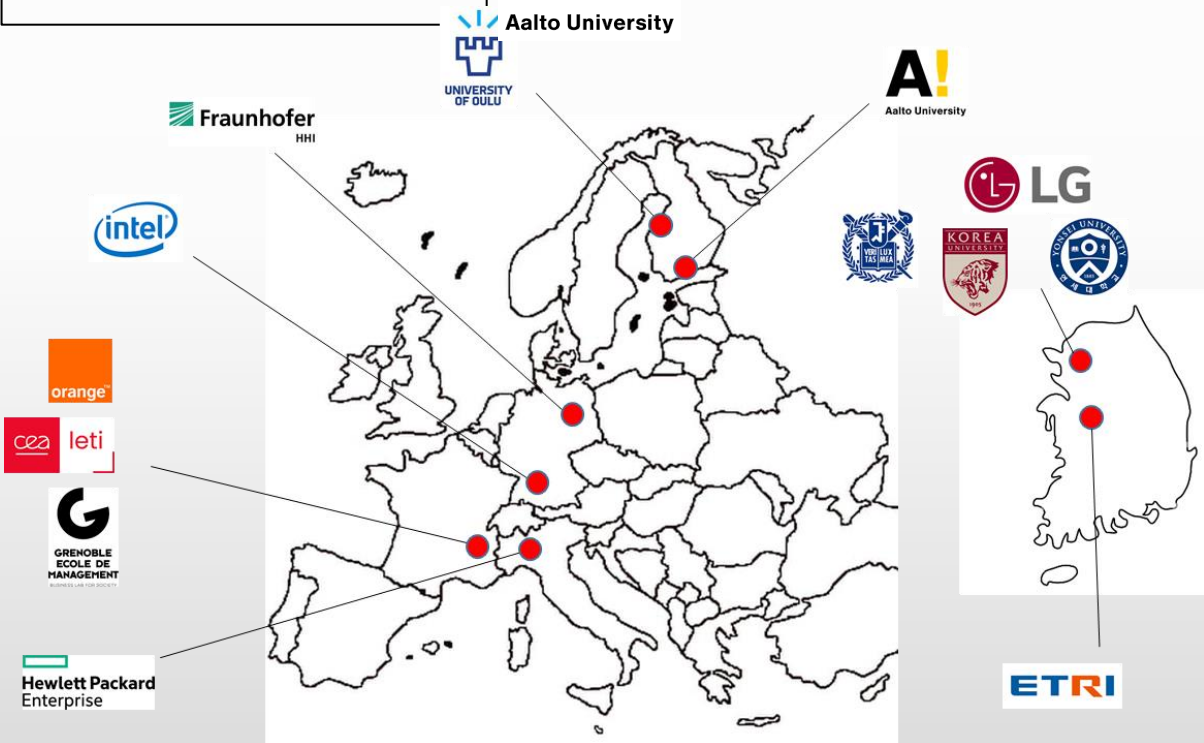
**Project Coordinator:**  
Emilio CALVANESE STRINATI



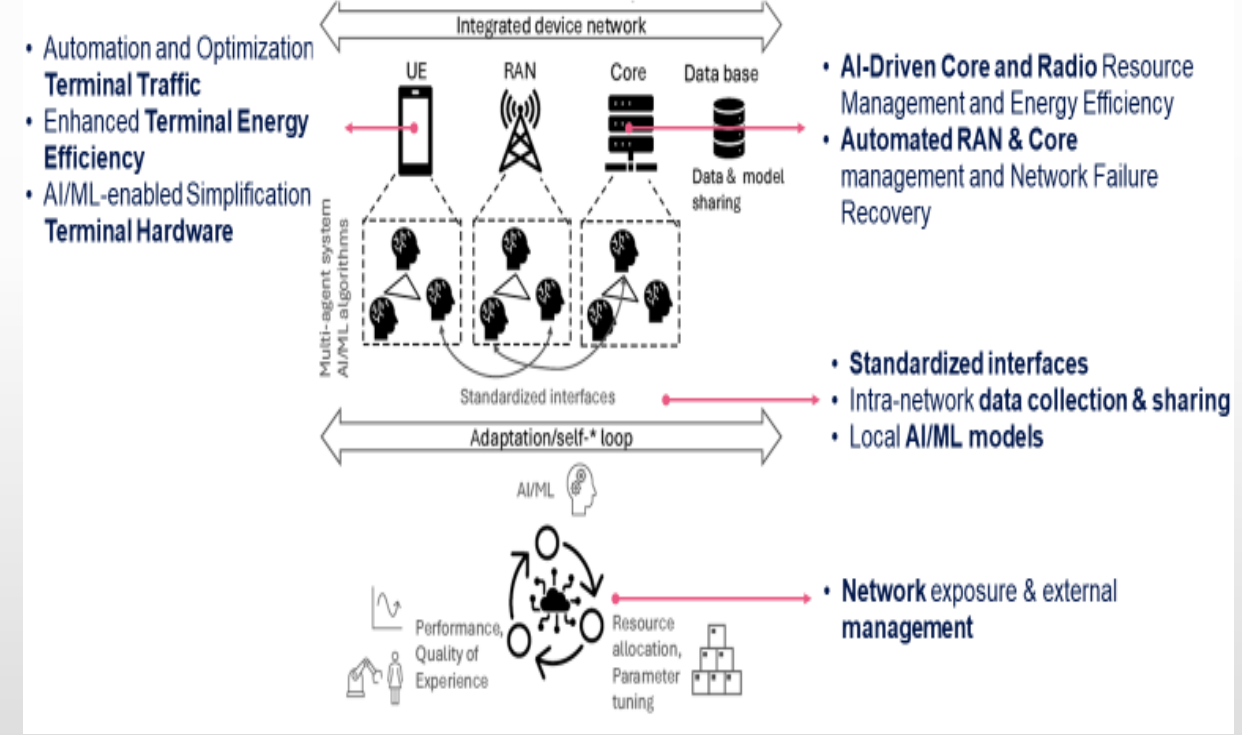
**Project Coordinator KR**  
Prof. Seong-Lyun Kim



**Technical Manager:**  
Riku Jäntti



## 6GARROW AI-Native system



**13** Consortium Partners **4**

EU Member States + Korea

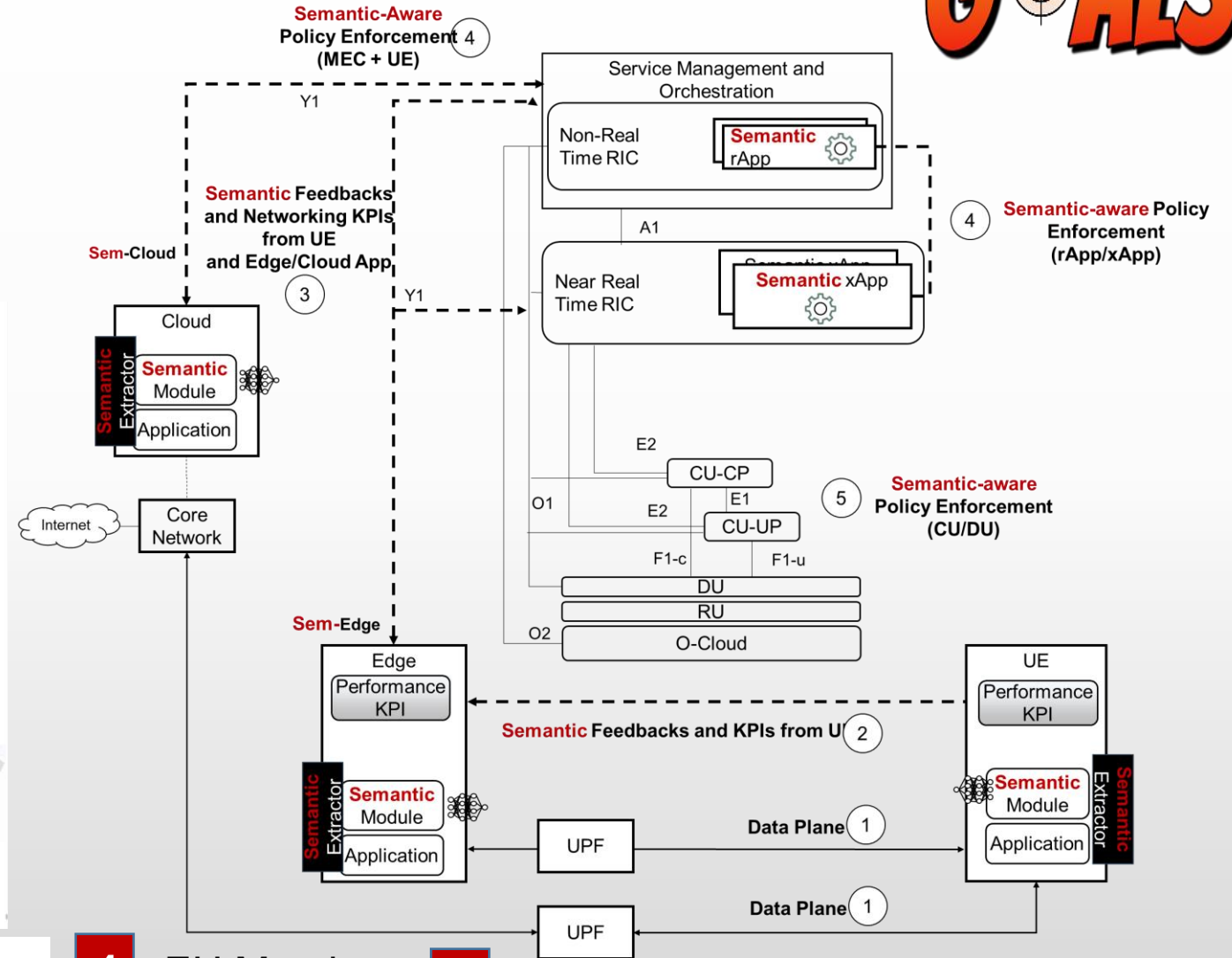
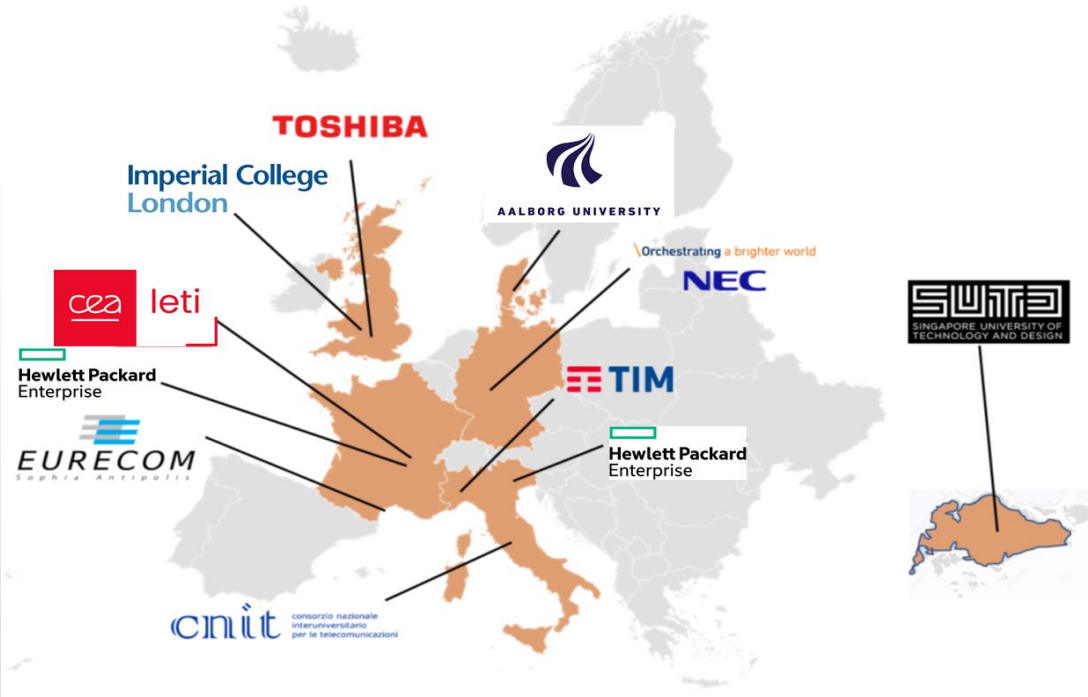
# 6G-GOALS HORIZON PROJECT



**Project Coordinator:**  
Emilio CALVANESE STRINATI



**Technical Manager:**  
Paolo DI LORENZO



**5G PPP** PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP | **6G SNS PHASE 2** | **11** Consortium Partners

**4** EU Member States

**1** Asian Affiliated partner

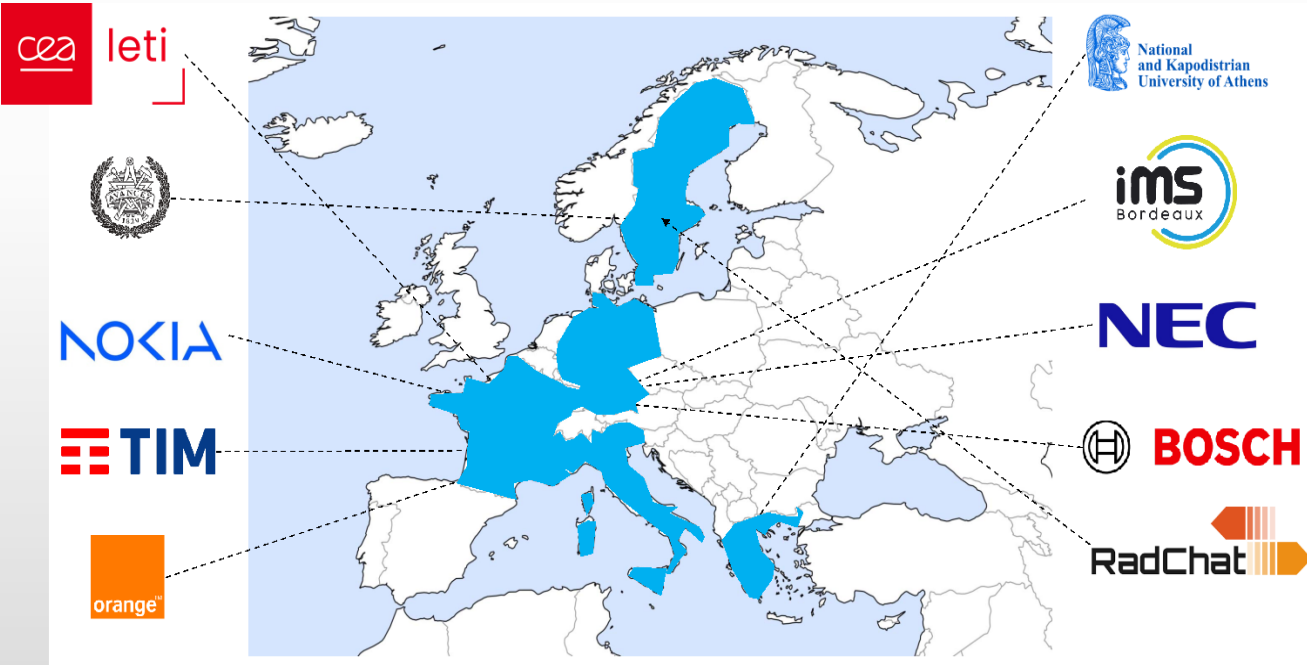
# 6G-DISAC HORIZON PROJECT



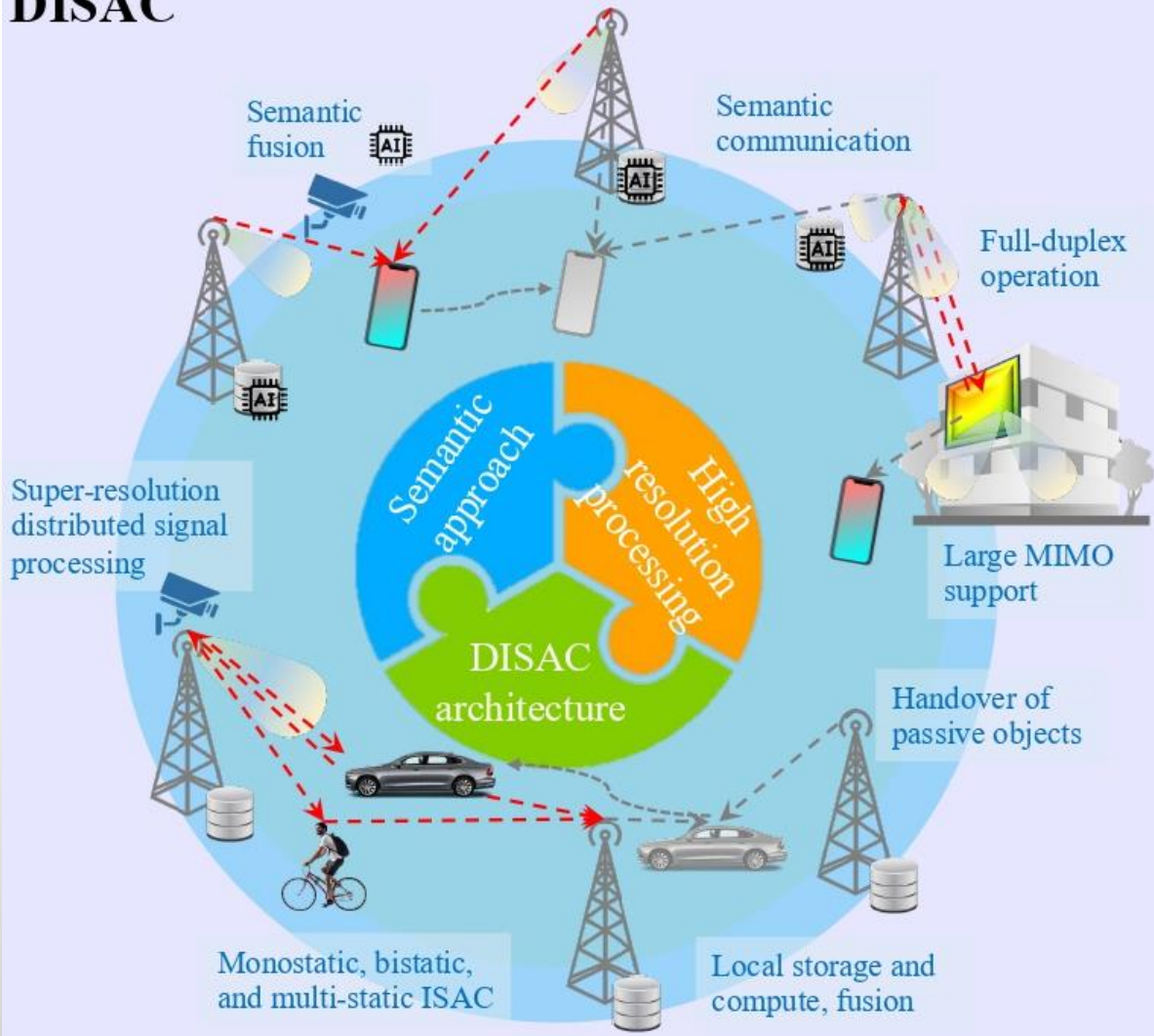
**Project Coordinator:**  
Emilio CALVANESE STRINATI



**Technical Manager:**  
Henk Wymeersch



## DISAC



**5G PPP**  
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

**6G SNS**  
PHASE 2

10

Consortium  
Partners

5

EU Member  
States

# Thank you!

# MERCI!

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44287-024-00090-1>

# 謝謝

# 고맙습니다

# ALOHA

# Grazie!

## 6G: the catalyst for artificial general intelligence

### Nature reviews

Emilio Calvanese Strinati

Check for updates

6G might integrate 5G and AI to merge physical, cyber and sapience spaces, transforming network interactions and enhancing AI-driven decision-making and automation. The semantic approach to communication will train AI while selectively informing on goal achievement, moving towards artificial general intelligence, presenting new challenges and opportunities.

In contrast, 6G aims to create a deeply integrated, intelligent and immersive ecosystem. This ecosystem fuses real-world interactions and events occur, interactions and activities take place, and humans and AI can combine their cognitive edge meaningfully. The integrated communication advanced localization techniques of 6G and fusion of contextualized multimodal video, which can then be semantically and communications will support AI by selecting representing knowledge to make continuous possible. AI will thus be able to make informed underlying objective of the communication and to distinguish between correlation and



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Computer Networks

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/comnet](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/comnet)



Although 5G is not yet fully deployed, there is already disagreement as to what 6G will be. The mainstream vision of 6G today is that it is a combination of 5G and artificial intelligence (AI), making it the main gateway to artificial general intelligence. However, even the link between AI and 6G is controversial. Existing AI systems are still stochastic parrots<sup>1</sup>, mimicking or repeating sequences without any true understanding of the training data or their own output. Massive amounts of scattered data are capillary fed to AI by 5G networks with this 'content-blind transmission without understanding' approach. Thus, data are teleported without any prior understanding of how informative, valuable or timely the data are, and then the data are used to train and feed AI, with the aim of inducing reasoning and adaptation to various operational environments. As a result, AI algorithm outcomes remain limited to sophisticated pattern recognition and statistical correlations. Some algorithms generate responses on the basis of learned data, but without true understanding, interpretation or reasoning of the underlying meaning and nuances of the information processed. 6G needs more from AI and can offer more to AI. The hope is that 6G could make AI less artificial, connecting the biological world and AI, thus bridging the gaps between physical, cyber (digital) and sapience spaces. Meanwhile, AI is expected to hone reasoning skills, enabling reliable self-synthesizing networking and full automation of network management, thus eliminating the need for manual intervention (zero-touch networking).

6G can connect and entangle the physical, cyber and sapience spaces to radically change the system's perception of the foundational concepts of space, time, information and reliability.

Specifically, the shift from 5G to 6G marks a profound transformation in how networks and technologies interact with humans across physical and cyber spaces, creating intelligent environments that are responsive to the presence of both humans and machines. 5G is not AI native<sup>2</sup>: data are essential to feed AI reasoning engines; data are gathered, transferred and processed from scattered sources to update models, accumulate knowledge and attain goals. Still, 5G enhanced connectivity is designed to transport raw data rather than AI-understandable knowledge.

As for time, chronological measurement in 5G. Instead, the focus is on the latency and its reliable reception. 5G end-to-end managed mainly to limit and regulate data transmission latency within the wireless network, the cumulative contributions of processing specific limitations. With 5G, this transfer speeds and guaranteed synchronous applications and services. Nevertheless, challenging. As of today, the physical limitations are being reached, making it solutions at higher-spectrum bands. This is considered in 6G, targeting even smaller time strictly controllable 'time jitters' to set with similar physical and hardware limits for new spectra is increasingly difficult. The conceptual understanding of time is different from that in 5G systems. Time is communication, processing, reasoning, memory of information, such as inference, or 6G, time is not just about latency, nor is ordering boundaries for the physical experienced differently, owing to disentanglement physical, cyber and sapience spaces. 6G the sapience space, where time is understood within and between the physical and cyber reasoning, decision-making and the wisdom.

In the sapience space, time causality ceived, and digital synchronicity differs simultaneity. Interactivity and the illusive perceptible time granularity. This gap spaces and agents (biological or artificial) their methods of collecting, modeling, and external stimuli. Timing is governed by digital

## 6G networks: Beyond Shannon towards semantic and goal-oriented communications

Emilio Calvanese Strinati<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Sergio Barbarossa<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CEA Leti, 17 rue des Martyrs, 38000 Grenoble, France

<sup>2</sup>Dept. of Information Eng., Electronics, and Telecomm., Sapienza Univ. of Rome, Via Eudossiana 18, 00184, Rome, Italy

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Keywords:

6G

Beyond 5G

MEC

Semantic communications

Semantic learning

Goal oriented communications

Sustainability

Green communications

### ABSTRACT

The goal of this paper is to promote the idea that including semantic and goal-oriented aspects in future 6G networks can produce a significant leap forward in terms of system effectiveness and sustainability. Semantic communication goes beyond the common Shannon paradigm of guaranteeing the correct reception of each single transmitted bit, irrespective of the meaning conveyed by the transmitted bits. The idea is that, whenever communication occurs to convey meaning or to accomplish a goal, what really matters is the impact that the received bits have on the interpretation of the meaning intended by the transmitter or on the accomplishment of a common goal. Focusing on semantic and goal-oriented aspects, and possibly combining them, helps to identify the relevant information, i.e. the information strictly necessary to recover the meaning intended by the transmitter or to accomplish a goal. Combining knowledge representation and reasoning tools with machine learning algorithms paves the way to build semantic learning strategies enabling current machine learning algorithms to achieve better interpretation capabilities and contrast adversarial attacks. 6G semantic networks can bring semantic learning mechanisms at the edge of the network and, at the same time, semantic learning can help 6G networks to improve their efficiency and sustainability.

## Goal-Oriented and Semantic Communication in 6G AI-Native Networks: The 6G-GOALS Approach

Emilio Calvanese Strinati<sup>\*</sup>, Paolo Di Lorenzo<sup>1</sup>, Vincenzo Sciancalepore<sup>1</sup>, Adnan Aijaz<sup>3</sup>, Marios Kountouris<sup>4</sup>, Deniz Gündüz<sup>1</sup>, Petar Popovski<sup>\*\*</sup>, Mohamed Sana<sup>2</sup>, Photios A. Stavrou<sup>5</sup>, Beatriz Soret<sup>\*\*</sup>, Nicola Cordeschi<sup>1</sup>, Simone Scardapane<sup>1</sup>, Mattia Merluzzi<sup>1</sup>, Lanfranco Zanzi<sup>2</sup>, Mauro Boldi Renato<sup>††</sup>, Tony Quek<sup>‡‡</sup>, Nicola di Pietro<sup>1</sup>, Olivier Forceville<sup>1</sup>, Francesca Costanzo<sup>\*</sup>, Peizheng Li<sup>3</sup>

## Pragmatic Goal-Oriented Communications under Semantic-Effectiveness Channel Errors

Tomás Huttebraucker, Mohamed Sana, Emilio Calvanese Strinati

## Effective Goal-oriented 6G Communications: the Energy-aware Edge Inferencing Case

Mattia Merluzzi<sup>1</sup>, Miltiadis C. Filippou<sup>2</sup>, Leonardo Gomes Baltar<sup>2</sup>, Emilio Calvanese Strinati<sup>1</sup>

## Learning Semantics: An Opportunity for Effective 6G Communications

Mohamed Sana<sup>1</sup>, Emilio Calvanese Strinati<sup>1</sup>

## GOAL-ORIENTED COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE IOT: SYSTEM DESIGN AND ADAPTIVE RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION

Paolo Di Lorenzo, Mattia Merluzzi, Francesco Binucci, Claudio Battiloro, Paolo Banelli, Emilio Calvanese Strinati, and Sergio Barbarossa

## Semantic Channel Equalizer: Modelling Language Mismatch in Multi-User Semantic Communications

Mohamed Sana, Emilio Calvanese Strinati

## 6G Goal-Oriented Communications: How to Coexist with Legacy Systems?

Mattia Merluzzi<sup>1,\*</sup>, Miltiadis C. Filippou<sup>2,\*</sup>, Leonardo Gomes Baltar<sup>2,‡</sup>, Markus Dominik Mueck<sup>2</sup> and Emilio Calvanese Strinati<sup>1</sup>

*¡Por favor, haz  
solo preguntas  
fáciles y con mucho  
entusiasmo!*

