



NPCs Have Feelings Too: Verbal Interactions with Emotional Character AI

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GDC

GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE

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TEAM

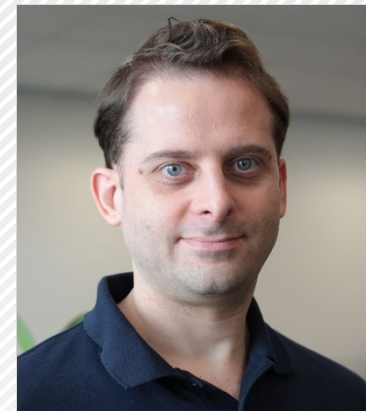
SQUARE ENIX JAPAN – ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



Gautier Boeda



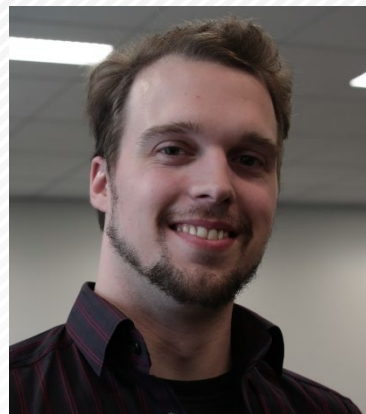
Yuta Mizuno



Remi Driancourt



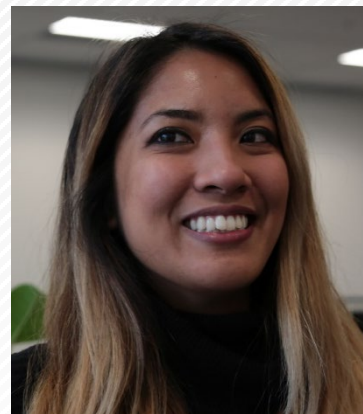
Brian Wanamaker



Perry Leijten



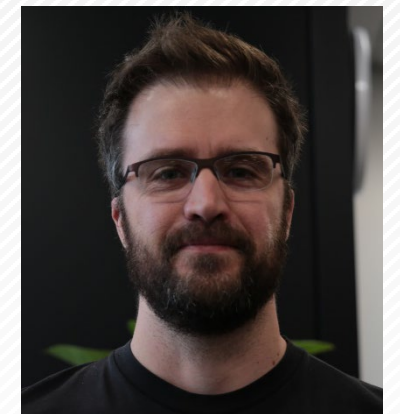
Stephanie Timmins



Adelle Bueno



Eduardo Mosena



Louis-Philippe
Sanschagrin

MOTIVATION

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO IMPROVE?

- Non-playable characters in virtual reality feel really close!
 - Enhance immersion
- Interacting with them felt sloppy, breaking the immersion
 - Limited to buttons or other classic mechanism
 - No reaction, as if the player was a ghost

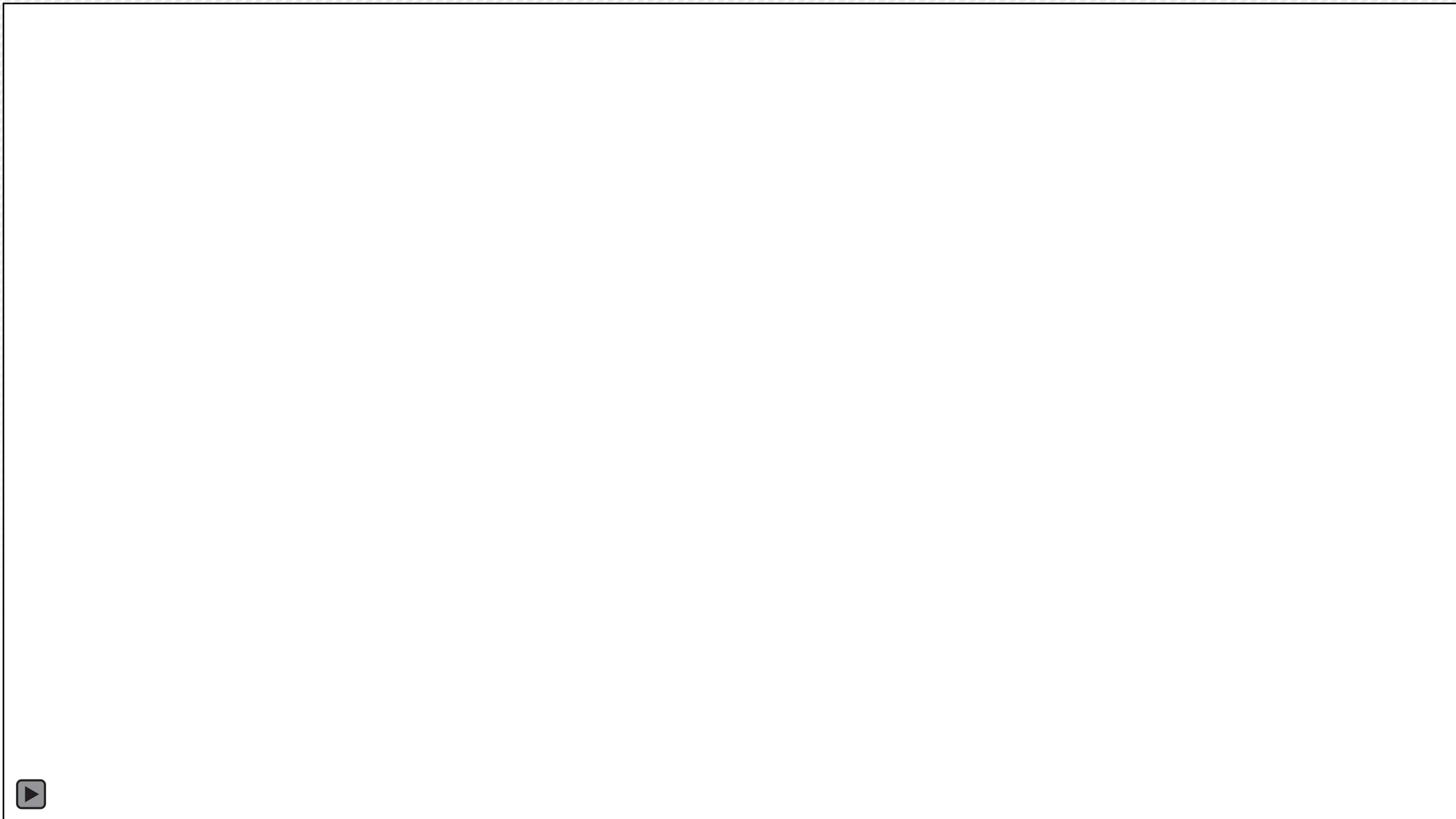
MOTIVATION

HOW CAN IT BE ACHIEVED?

- Mission
 - Bring more natural interactions:
 - Voice interaction
 - Body interaction
 - Create more aware, expressive and lively agents
 - Interact with the player appropriately (Actions, Emotions, Reactions, ...)
 - Answer their own needs

DEMO

FIRST GLANCE AT KOBUN



■ WHAT'S ON THE MENU TODAY?

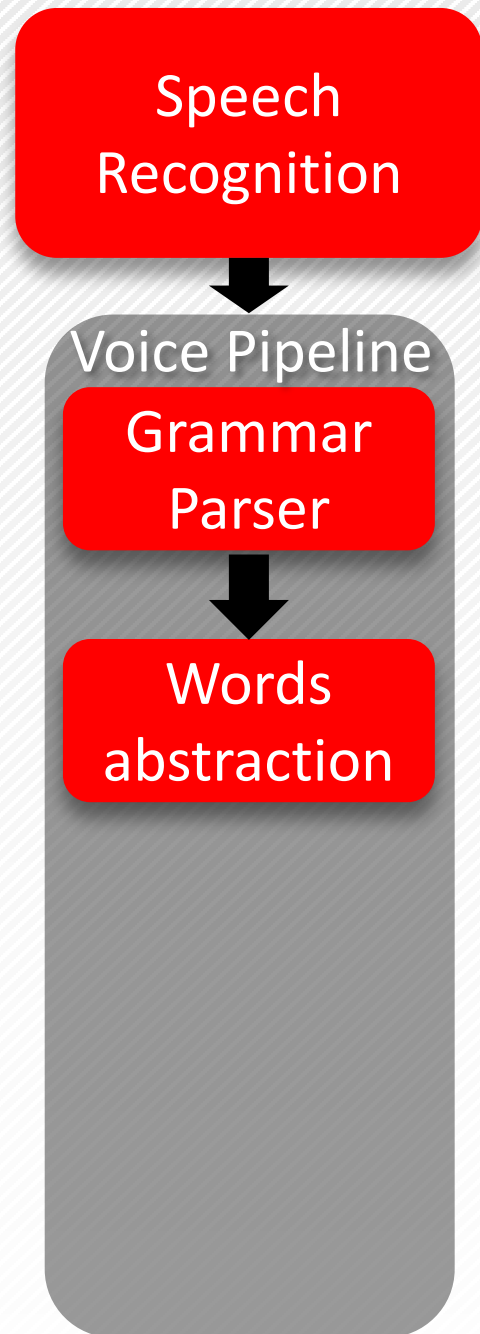
- Speech recognition pipeline
- Decision Making
- Emotional Component
- Factual statement





SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

PIPELINE SUMMARY



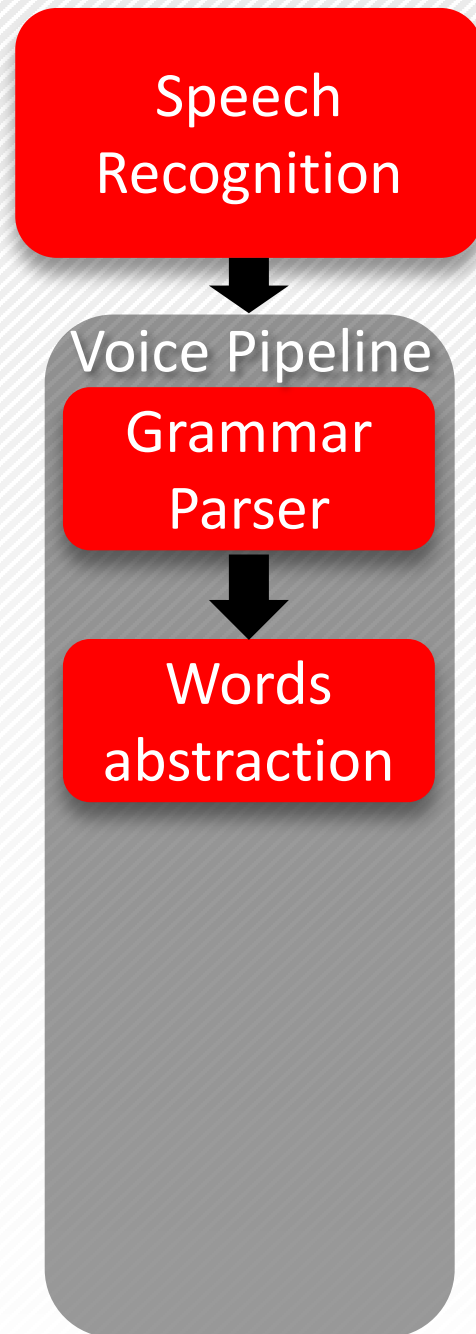
Pick up an enormous apple
[Verb: Pick] [Preposition: up] [Determiner: an] [Adjective: enormous] [Noun: apple]

[Verb: Pick up] [Predicate: enormous] [Object: apple]

[Verb: 

SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

WORDS ABSTRACTION



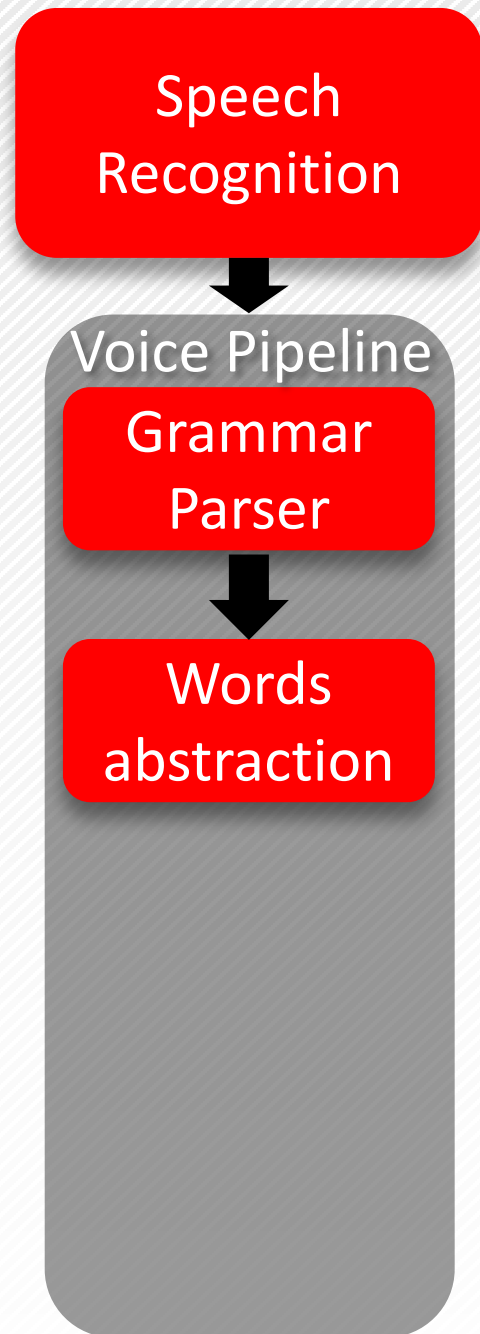
- Problem to solve:
 - Support multiple languages without limiting the player's set of vocabulary
- Cause of the Problem:
 - Words are language-based. They don't have bindings between languages.

↓

We need to abstract them.
- Idea:
 - Can we create the DNA of a word? What could be the genes?

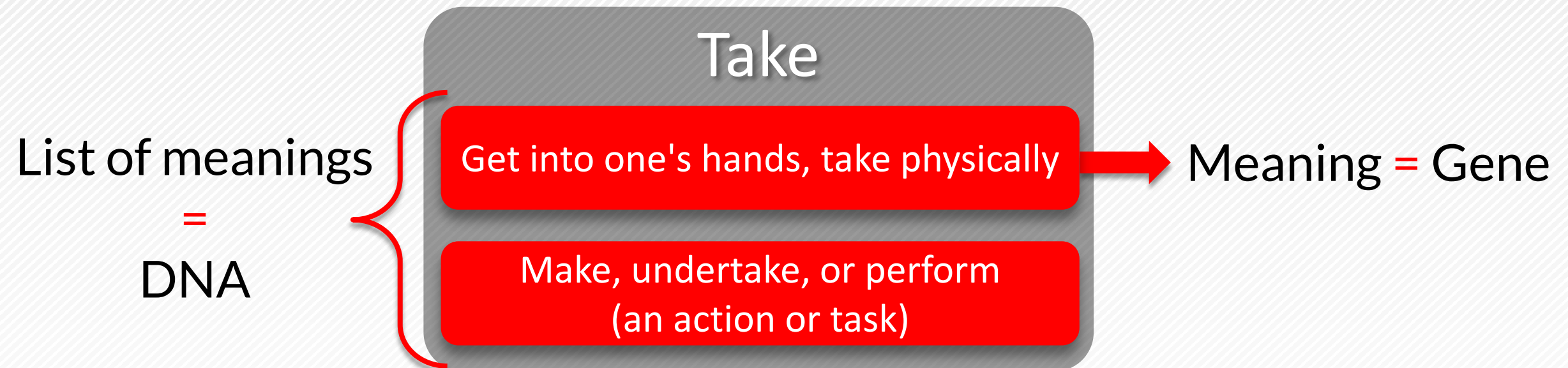
SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

WORDS ABSTRACTION



Take an **apple**
Get into one's hands, take physically

Take a **break**
Make, undertake, or perform (an action or task).



How? → **WordNet**

- Database of “sets of cognitive synonyms (synset), each expressing a distinct concept” wordnet.princeton.edu/
- Support multiple languages

SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

WORDS ABSTRACTION

Speech
Recognition

Voice Pipeline

Grammar
Parser

Words
abstraction

- Example:
 - We need a concept of “**Big**” in our experience, as in “A **big** apple”

00225892-r	big	on a grand scale
01890752-a (1)	boastful, big, braggart, bragging, braggy, cock-a-hoop, crowing, self-aggrandizing, self-aggrandising	exhibiting self-importance
01488616-a (5)	full-grown, grown, adult, big, fully grown, grownup	(of animals) fully developed
01191780-a	big	marked by intense physical force
00225672-r (2)	boastfully, big, vauntingly, large	in a boastful manner
00226054-r (1)	big	extremely well
01382086-a (246)	large, big	above average in size or number or quantity or magnitude or extent
00225805-r	big	in a major way
01890187-a (1)	swelled, big, vainglorious	feeling self-importance
00173391-a (2)	gravid, big, enceinte, expectant, great, large, heavy, with child	in an advanced stage of pregnancy
01276872-a (7)	big	significant
01114658-a	big, large, magnanimous	generous and understanding and tolerant
01111418-a (6)	handsome, liberal, big, bountiful, bighearted, bounteous, freehanded, giving, openhanded	given or giving freely
02402439-a	big, heavy	prodigious
01510444-a (5)	bad, big	very intense
00579622-a (11)	prominent, big, large	conspicuous in position or importance
01453084-a (2)	big	loud and firm

SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

WORDS ABSTRACTION

Speech
Recognition

Voice Pipeline

Grammar
Parser

Words
abstraction

Which “**big**” meaning
are we interested in?

1) Keep adjectives
r = adverb
a = adjective

2) Select concepts

01890752-a	(1)	boastful, big , braggart, bragging, braggy, cock-a-hoop, crowing, self-aggrandizing, self-aggrandising	✗exhibiting self-importance
01488616-a	(5)	full-grown, grown, adult, big , fully grown, grownup	✗(of animals) fully developed
01191780-a		big	✗marked by intense physical force
01382086-a	(246)	large, big	above average in size or number or quantity or magnitude or extent
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SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

WORDS ABSTRACTION

Speech
Recognition

Voice Pipeline

Grammar
Parser

Words
abstraction

- Our “**Big**” predicate DNA will be composed of:
[01382086-a] above average in size or number or quantity or magnitude or extent
[01276872-a] Significant

Big

- Check our synsets:
— Multi languages!

Japanese

サイズ、数、量、大きさまたは範囲において平均以上の — 大都市; 世界の広範囲; 大都市に出发してください; 多額; 大きい (または大きい) 納屋; 大家族

English

above average in size or number or quantity or magnitude or extent — a large city; large areas of the world; set out for the big city; a large sum; a big (or large) barn; a large family

Italian

Superiore a misura ordinaria per dimensioni, quantità, durata e simili

01382086-a 'above average in size or number or quantity or magnitude or extent';

Search WN

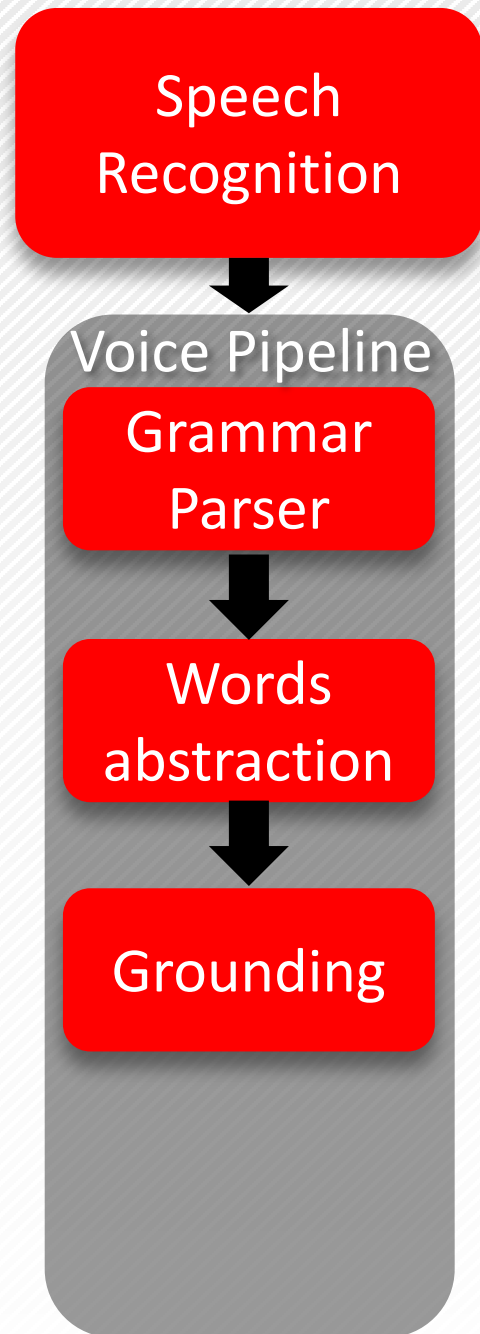
English

Albanian	<i>i madh , i gjerë</i>
Arabic	كبير
Bulgarian	голям
Catalan	<i>gran</i>
Chinese (simplified)	大+,的 , 巨大+,的 , 大 , 巨大
Danish	<i>stor</i>
Greek	<i>μεγάλος</i>
English	<i>large</i> ₁₃₉ (↗ ↘ ↙) , <i>big</i> ₁₀₇ (↗ ↘)
Finnish	<i>iso , suuri</i>
French	<i>grand , gros , large , nombreux</i>
Hebrew	גדול
Croatian	<i>krupan , obiman , velik</i>
Indonesian	<i>gedang , terbesar , banyak , besar , bidang , luas , gadang , gede , ramai</i>
Icelandic	<i>stór , stæðilegur , fastur fyrir , þéttur fyrir</i>
Italian	<i>grosso , vasto , grande</i>
Japanese	でっかい , 太い , でかい , 大き , 偉い , 大 , おっきい , 大きい , 広い
Lithuanian	<i>didelis</i>
Bokmål	<i>stor</i>
Polish	<i>niemały , duży</i>
Portuguese	<i>grande</i>
Chinese (traditional)	碩 , 大量 , 豪
Romanian	<i>mare</i>
Slovak	<i>veľký , početný , obrovský</i>
Slovene	<i>velik</i>
Spanish	<i>gran , grande</i>
Swedish	<i>stor</i>
Thai	ใหญ่
Malaysian	<i>gedang , terbesar , banyak , besar , bidang , luas , gadang , gede , ramai</i>



SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

PIPELINE SUMMARY



Pick up an enormous apple
[**Verb**: Pick] [**Preposition**: up] [**Determiner**: an] [**Adjective**: enormous] [**Noun**: apple]

[**Verb**: Pick up] [**Predicate**: enormous] [**Object**: apple]

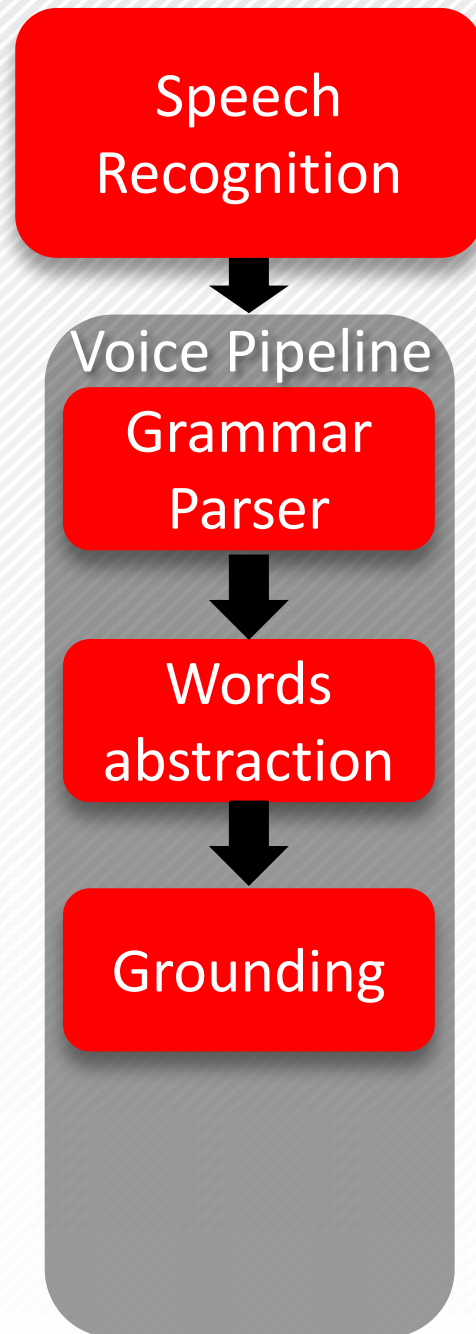
[Verb: 

[Take] [big] [Object: 

SQUARE ENIX

SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

GROUND THE WORDS INTO THE CONCEPTS OF OUR WORLD

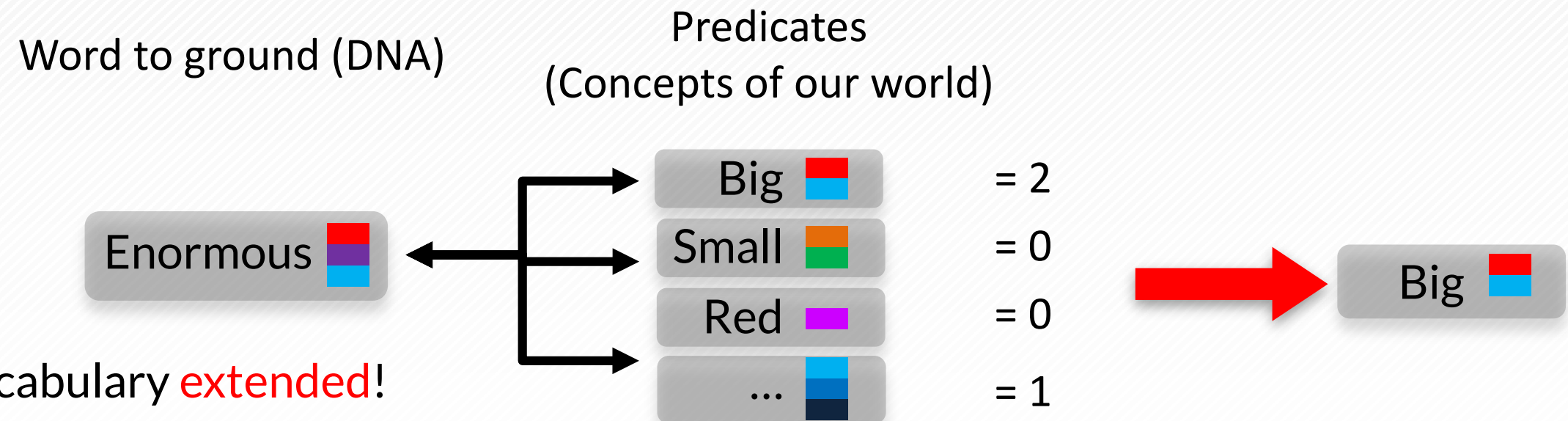


Ground the abstracted words to our concepts:

- Locations (above, behind, left, etc)
- Predicates (color, size, etc)
- Verbs
- ...

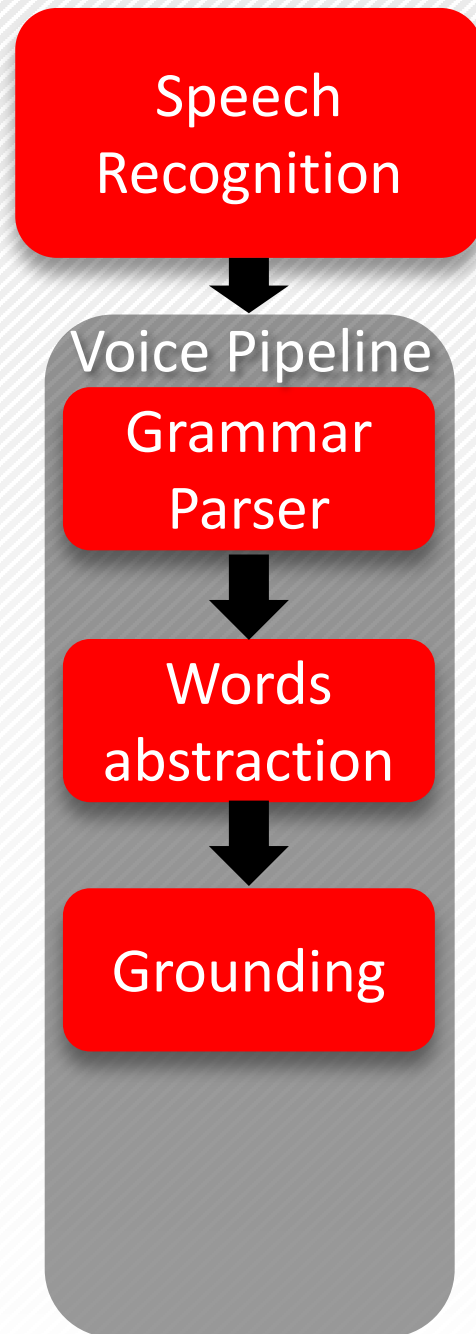
Using a utility-based scoring method.

Example:



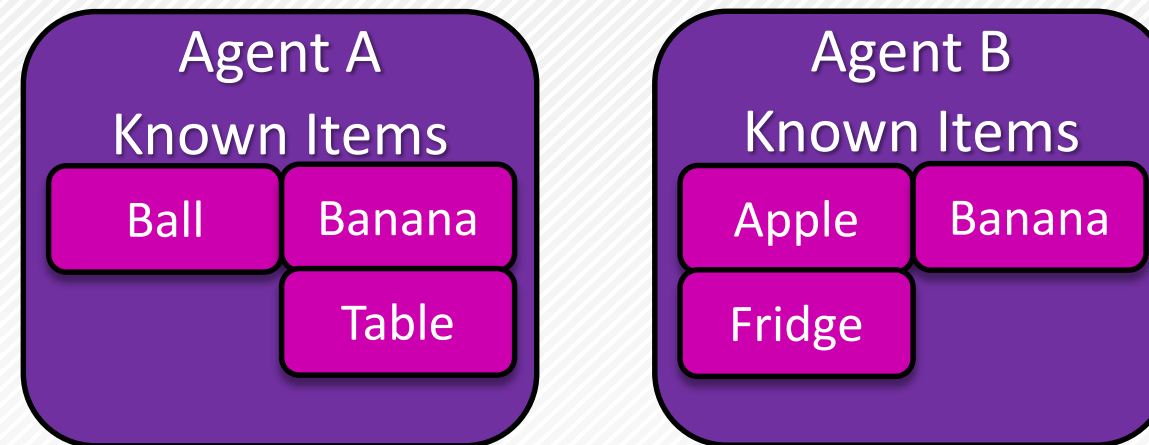
SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

GROUND THE WORDS INTO THE CONCEPTS OF OUR WORLD



Everything cannot be grounded!

→ Objects relies on the knowledge of each agent.



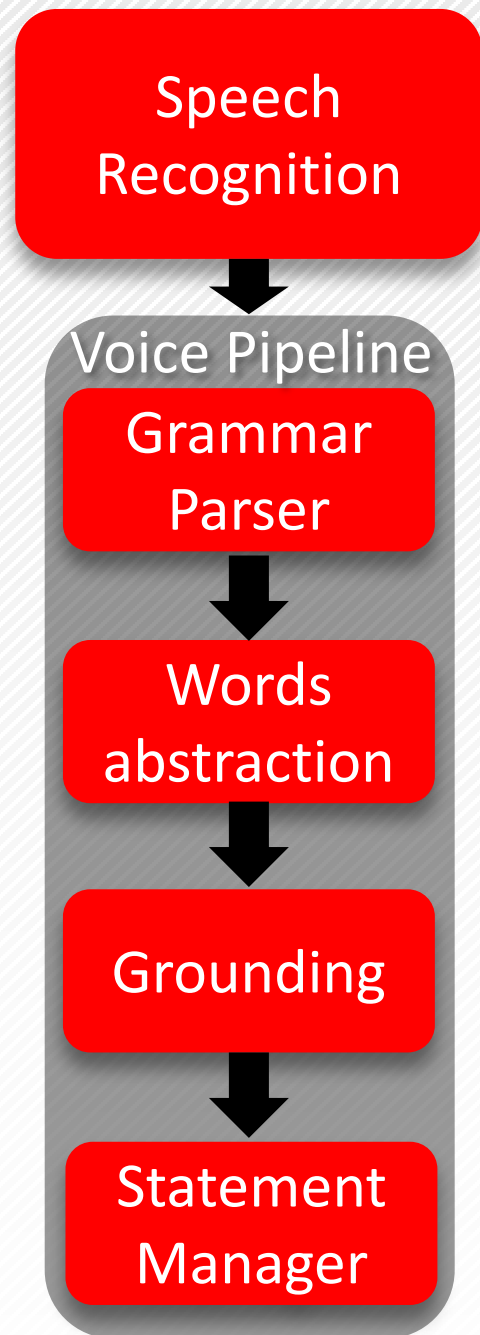
We need to ground them on a per-agent basis.

→ We will do this at a later stage



SPEECH RECOGNITION PIPELINE

PIPELINE SUMMARY




Pick up an enormous apple
[Verb: Pick] [Preposition: up] [Determiner: an] [Adjective: enormous] [Noun: apple]

[Verb: Pick up] [Predicate: enormous] [Object: apple]

[Verb: 

[Take] [big] [Object: 

Store the statement in memory.

[Take] [big] [Object: 

DECISION MAKING

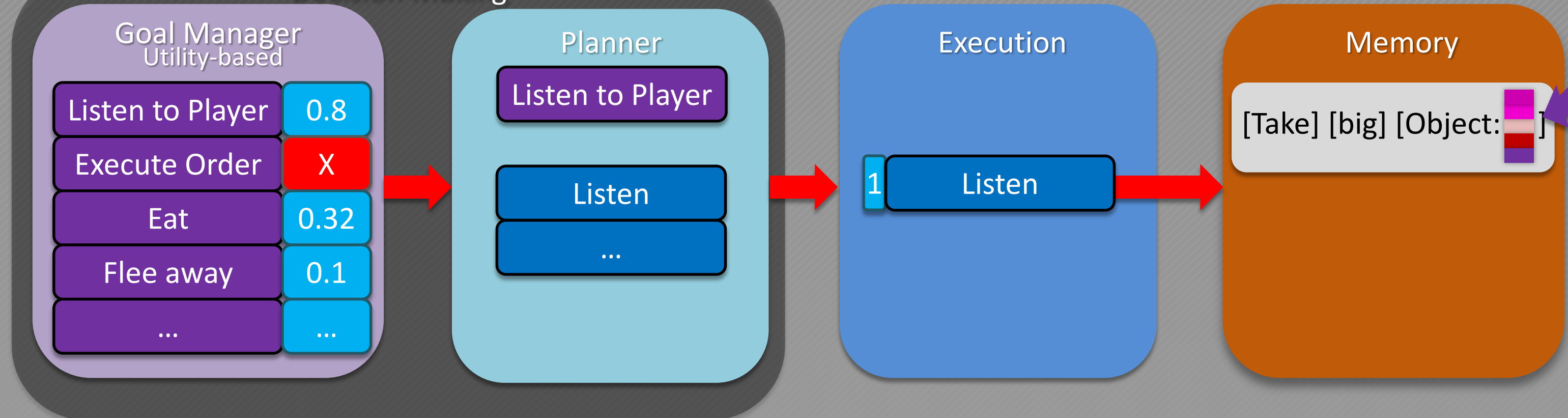
GOAL MANAGER

Voice Pipeline



AI Pipeline

Decision Making



DECISION MAKING

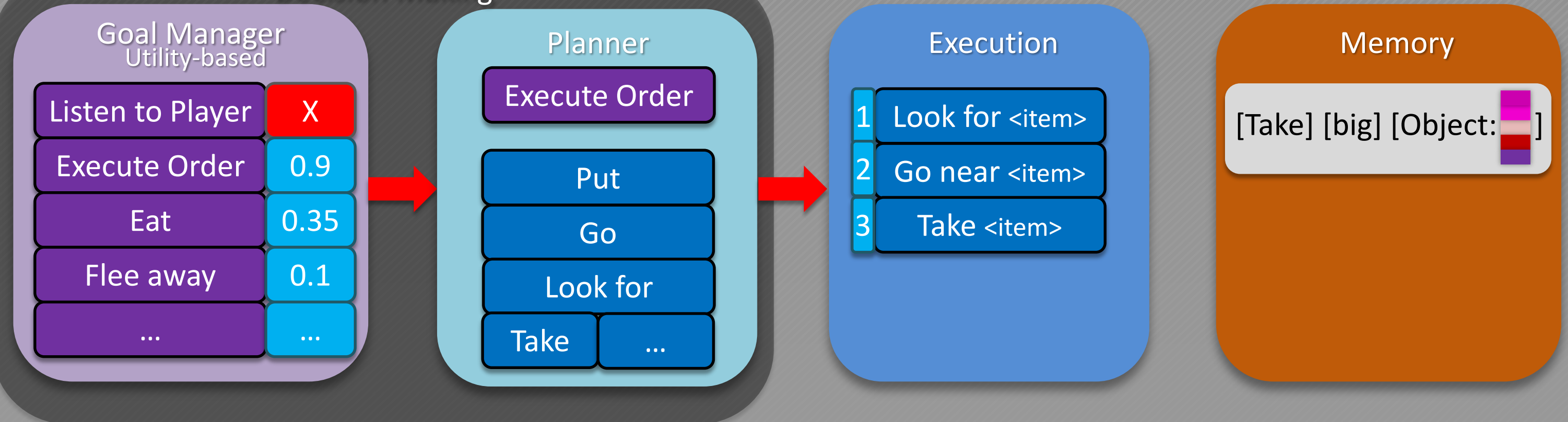
GOAL MANAGER

Voice Pipeline



AI Pipeline

Decision Making





GROUNDING OBJECTS

LOOK FOR “BIG APPLE”

(Pick up an enormous apple)

Look for [Object: 

Execution

1

Look for <item>

2

Go near <item>

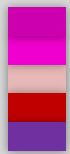
3

Take <item>

How to find a suitable object in our knowledge?

→ Using again an utility-based system
(Infinite Axis Utility System)

Memory

[Take] [big] [Object: 

Known Items

Apple A	Banana
Apple B	Table
Apple C	...

Look for [Object: 

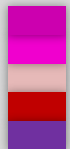
Goals	Targets	
Attack	Target A	0.7
Attack	Target B	0.5
Eat	Meat	0.1
Eat	Apple	0.8

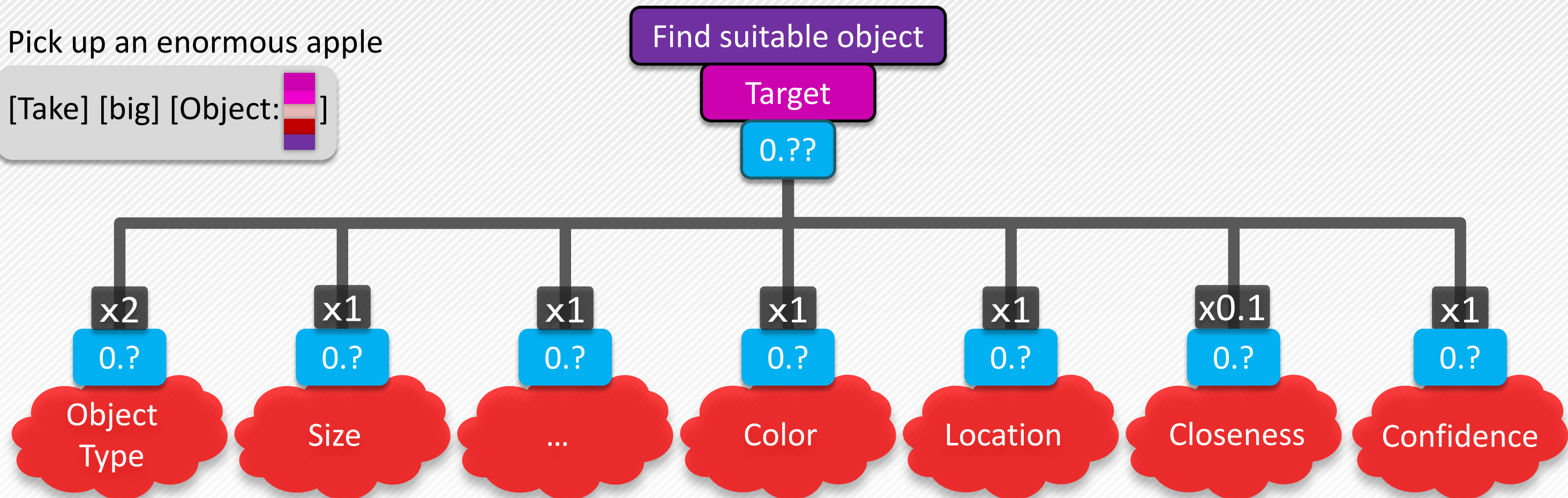
Goals	Targets
Find suitable object	Item A
Find suitable object	Item B
Find suitable object	Item C
Find suitable object	Item D

GROUNDING OBJECTS

LOOK FOR “BIG APPLE”

Pick up an enormous apple

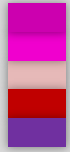
[Take] [big] [Object: 



GROUNDING OBJECTS

LOOK FOR "BIG APPLE"

Pick up an enormous apple

[Take] [big] [Object: 

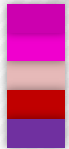
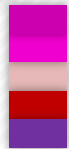
Find suitable object

Apple

x2

1

Object
Type

[Object: ][:Apple A]

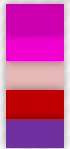

Find suitable object

Banana

x2

0

Object
Type

[Object: ][:Banana]

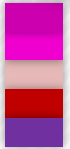

Find suitable object

Table

x2

0

Object
Type

[Object: ][:Table]

Fruit, edible

GROUNDING OBJECTS

LOOK FOR "BIG APPLE"

Find suitable object


Target

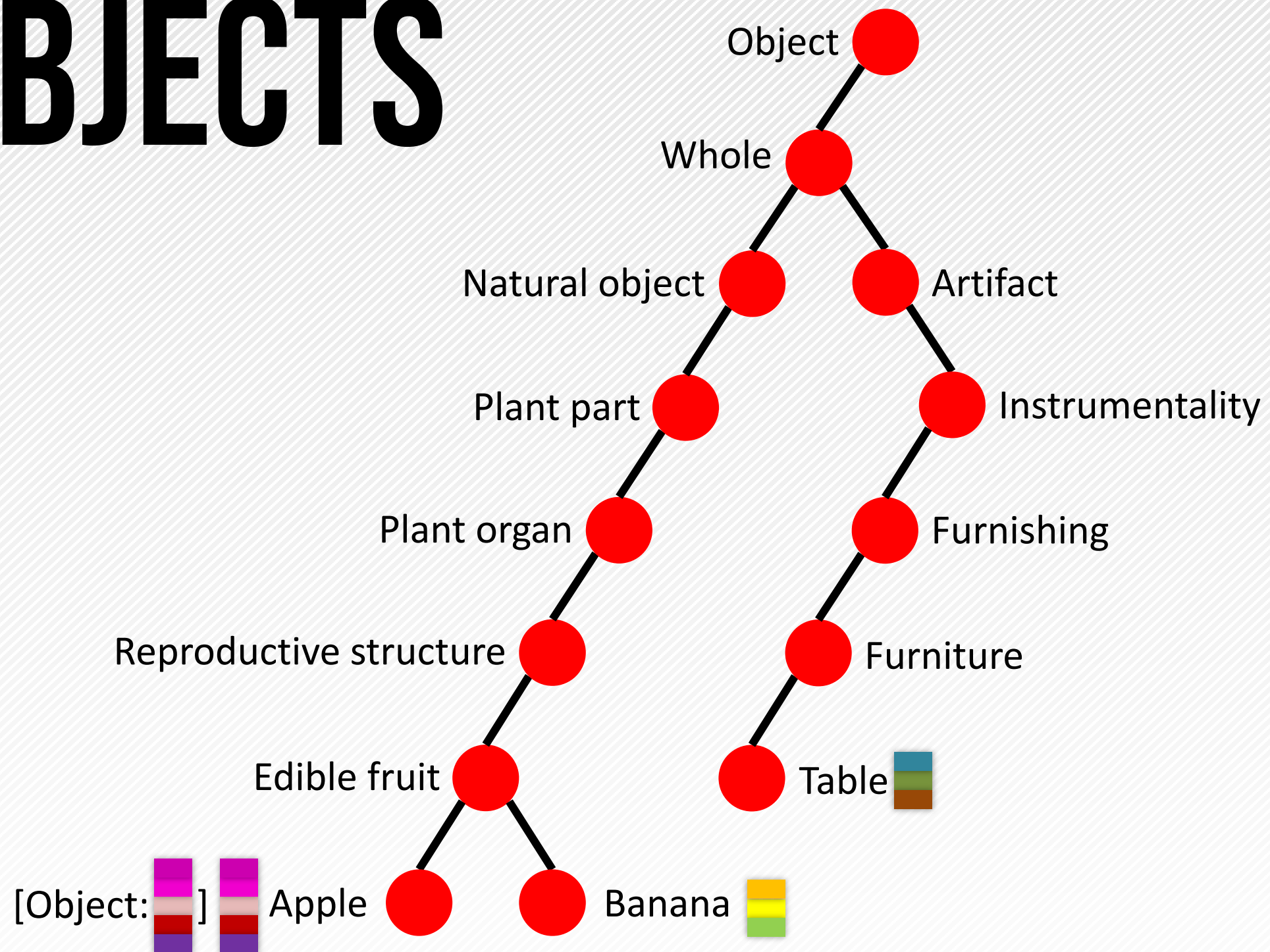
[:Apple]

[:Banana]

[:Table]

Pick up an enormous apple

[Take] [big] [Object:]



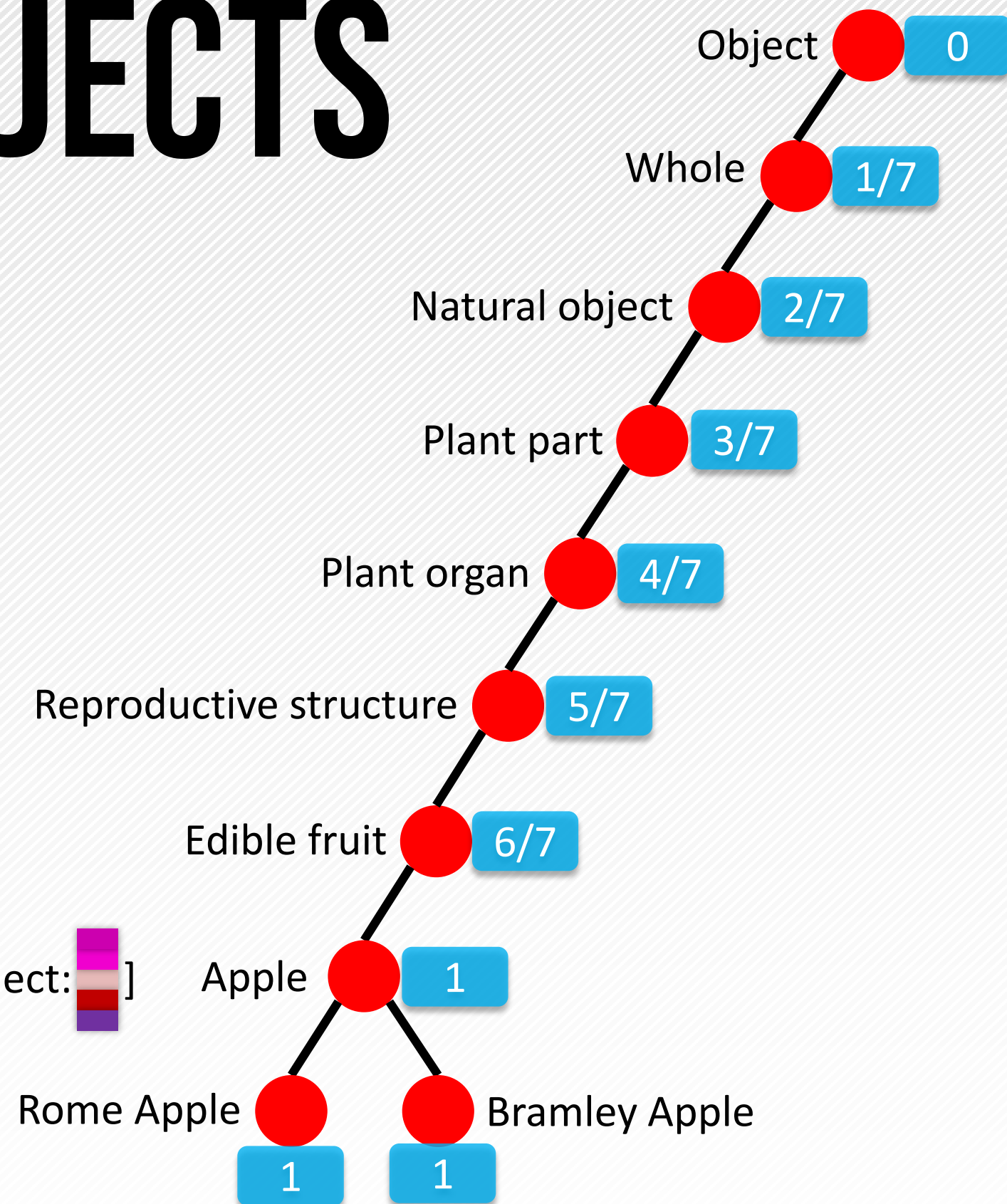
GROUNDING OBJECTS

LOOK FOR "BIG APPLE"

Pick up an enormous apple

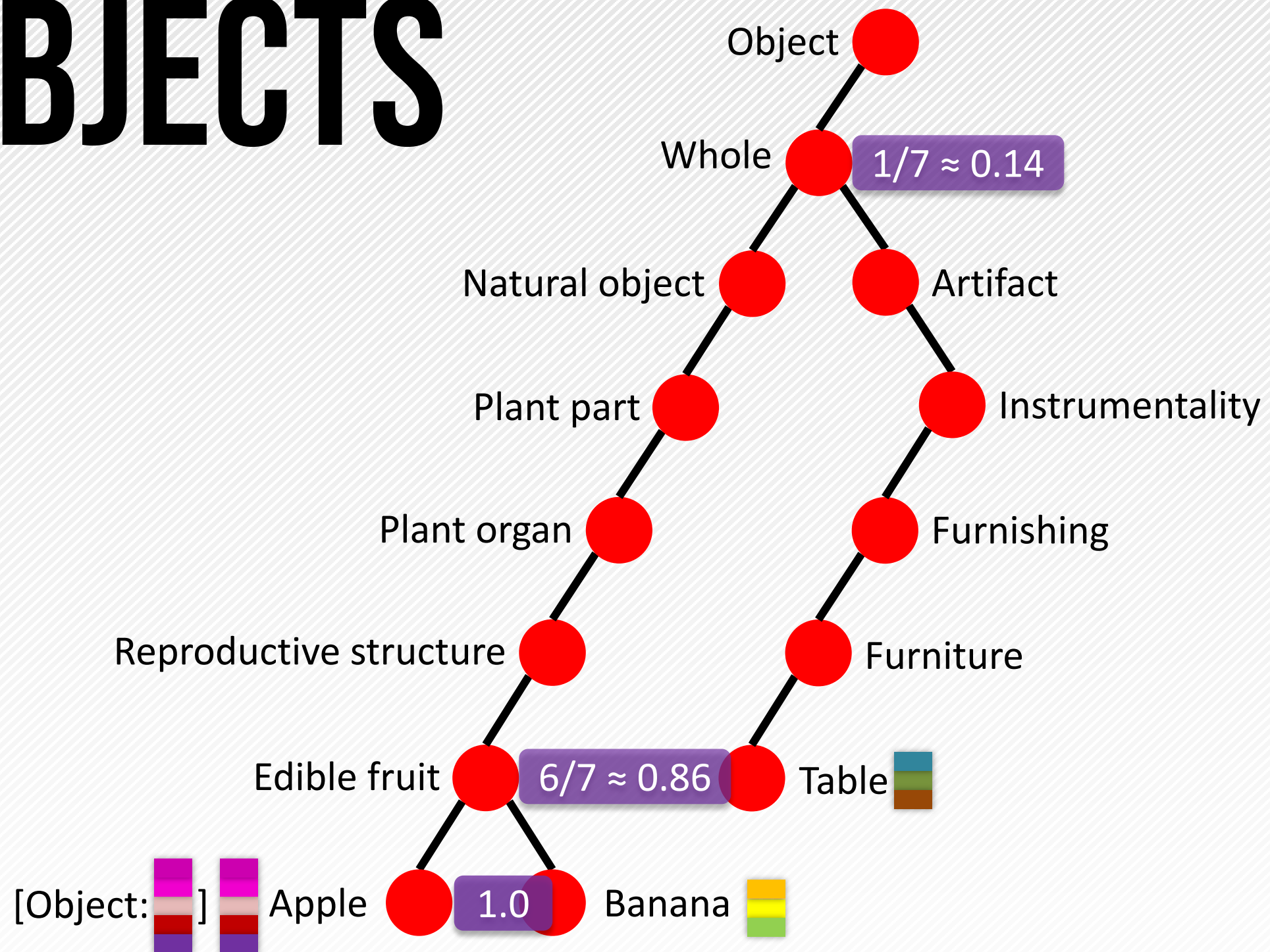
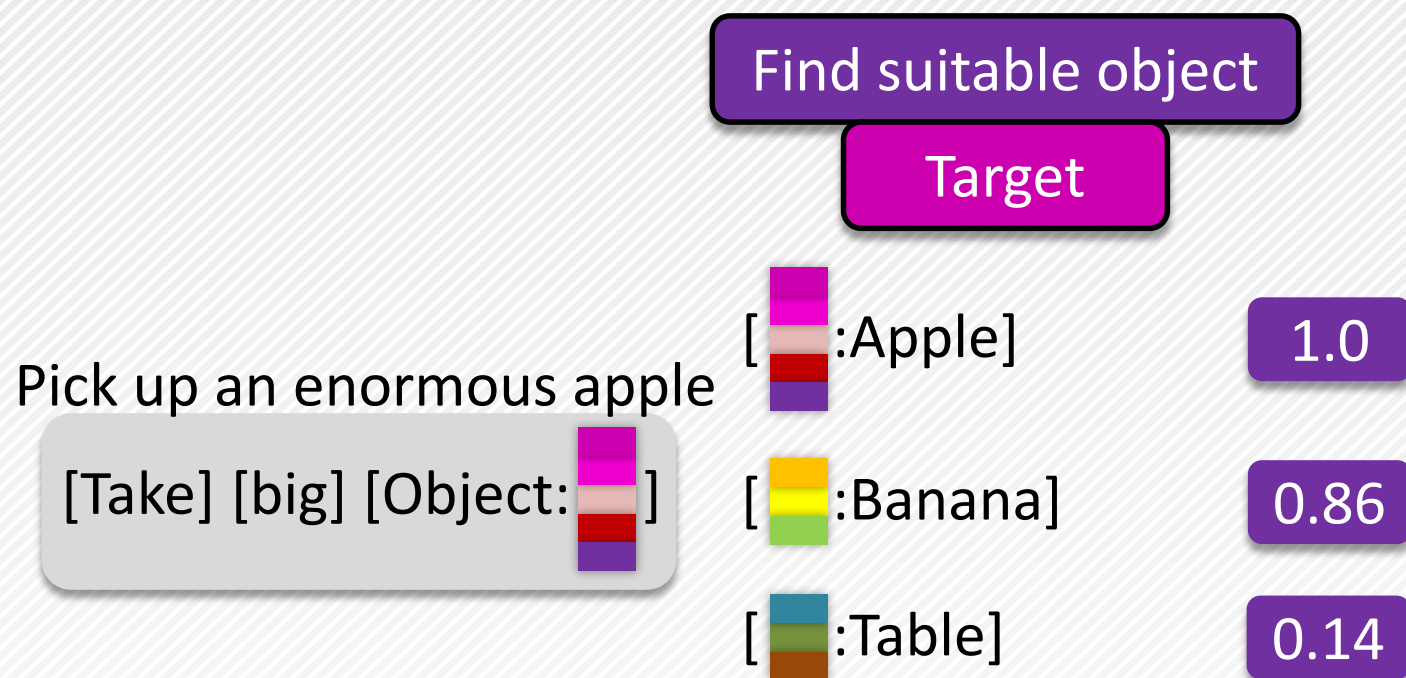
[Take] [big] [Object:]

[Object:]



GROUNDING OBJECTS

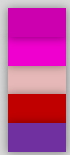
LOOK FOR "BIG APPLE"



GROUNDING OBJECTS

LOOK FOR "BIG APPLE"

Pick up an enormous apple

[Take] [big] [Object: 


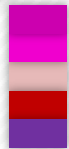
Find suitable object

Apple

x2

1

Object
Type

[Object: ][:Apple A]



Find suitable object

Banana

x2

0.86

Object
Type

[Object: ][:Banana]



Find suitable object

Table

x2

0.14

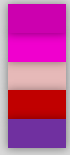
Object
Type

[Object: ][:Table]

GROUNDING OBJECTS

LOOK FOR "BIG APPLE"

Pick up an enormous apple




[Take] [big] [Object: ]

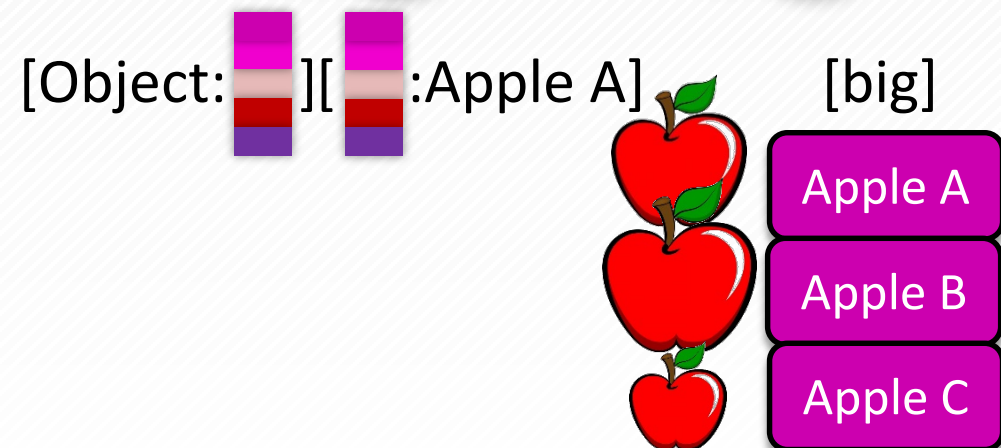
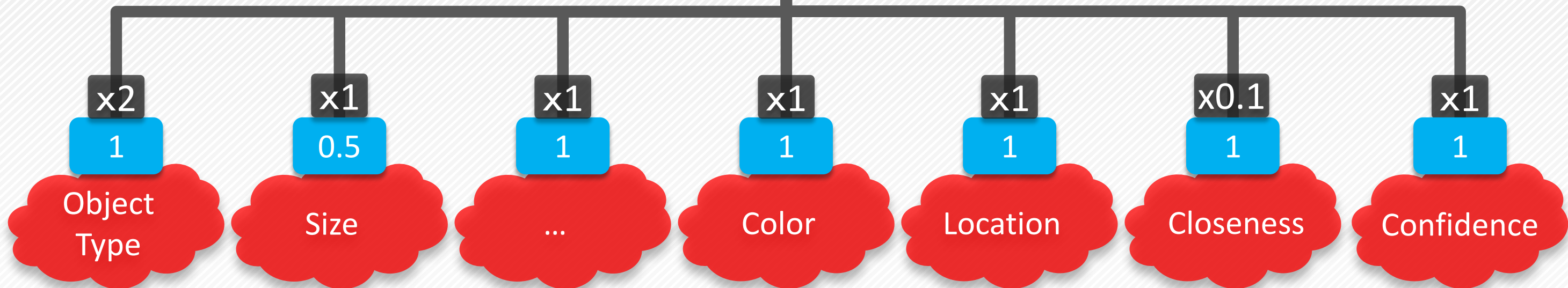
Find suitable object

Apple A

0.91

Known Items	
Apple A	Banana
Apple B	Table
Apple C	...

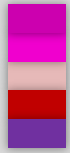
	Apple A	0.91
	Banana	
	Table	
	Apple B	
	Apple C	
	...	



GROUNDING OBJECTS




LOOK FOR "BIG APPLE"

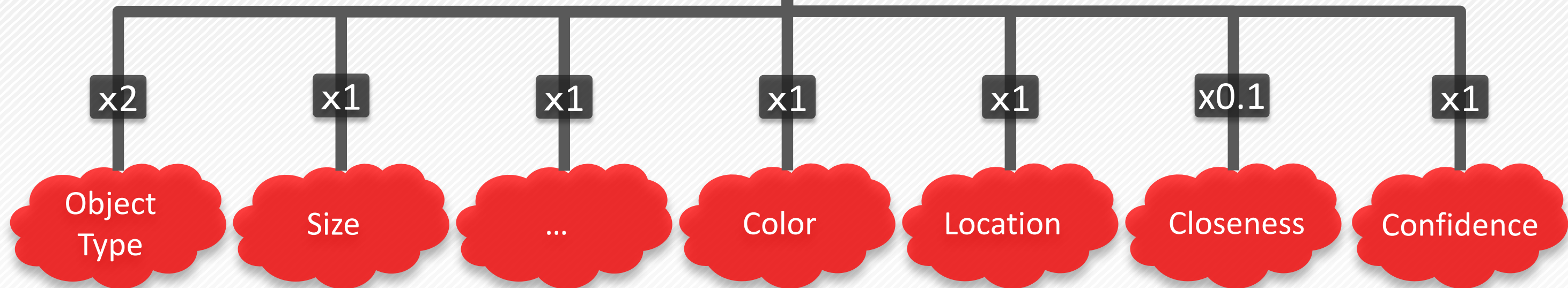
Pick up an enormous apple

[Take] [big] [Object: 

Find suitable object

Known Items	
Apple A	Banana
Apple B	Table
Apple C	...

	Apple A	0.91
	Banana	0.89
	Table	0.47
	Apple B	0.97
	Apple C	0.86
	...	0.35



Look for <big apple>
Apple B 0.97

GROUNDING OBJECTS

LOOK FOR “BIG APPLE”

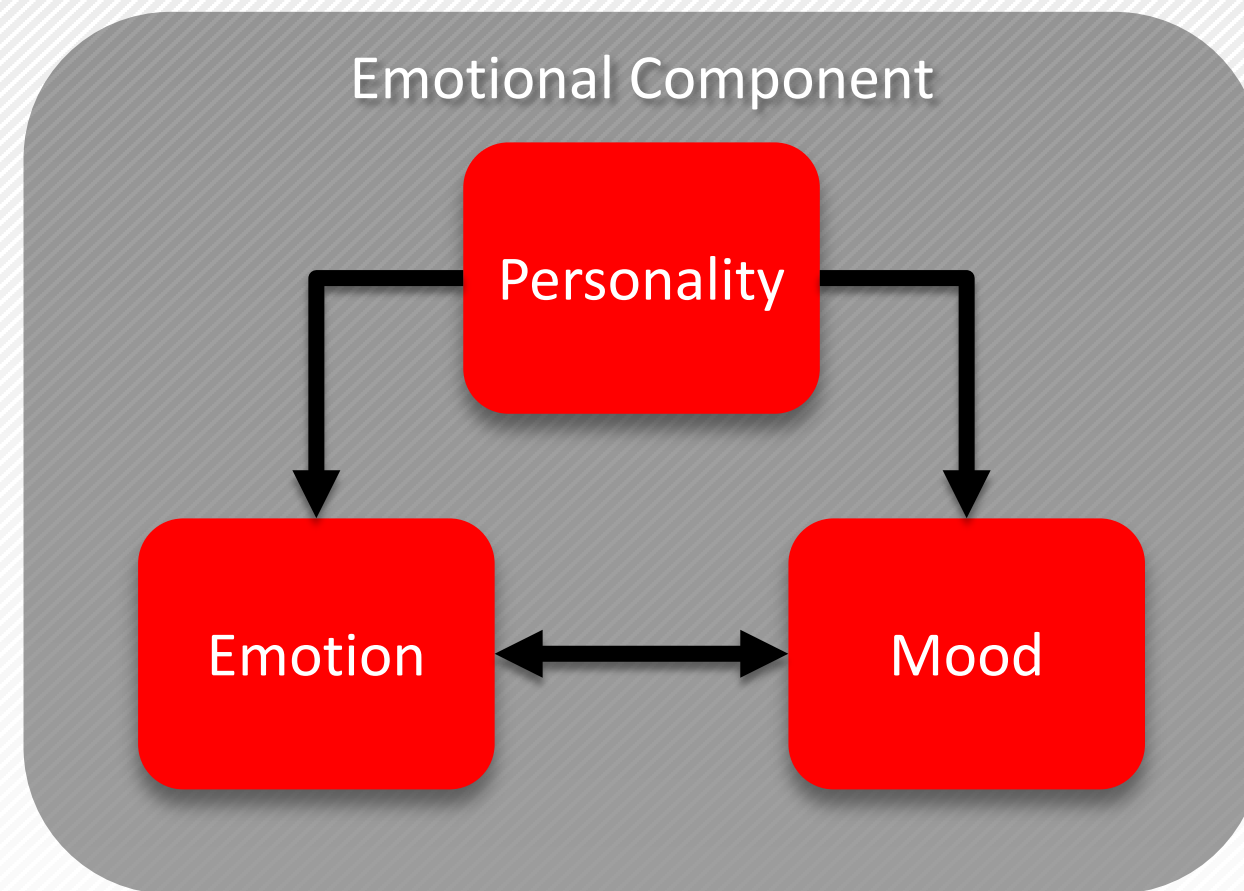
Execution

- 1 Look for <item> Apple B
- 2 Go near <item>
- 3 Take <item>

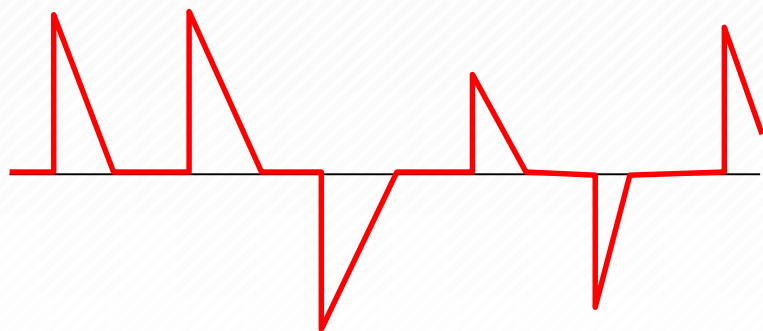


EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

PIPELINE OVERVIEW

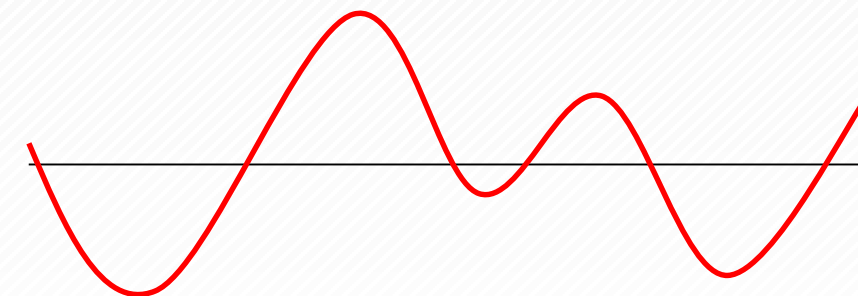


Short term feeling
Evolve quickly over time
Joy, Distress, Fear, ...



Defines the agent
No evolution over time
Curiosity, Shyness, Laziness, ...

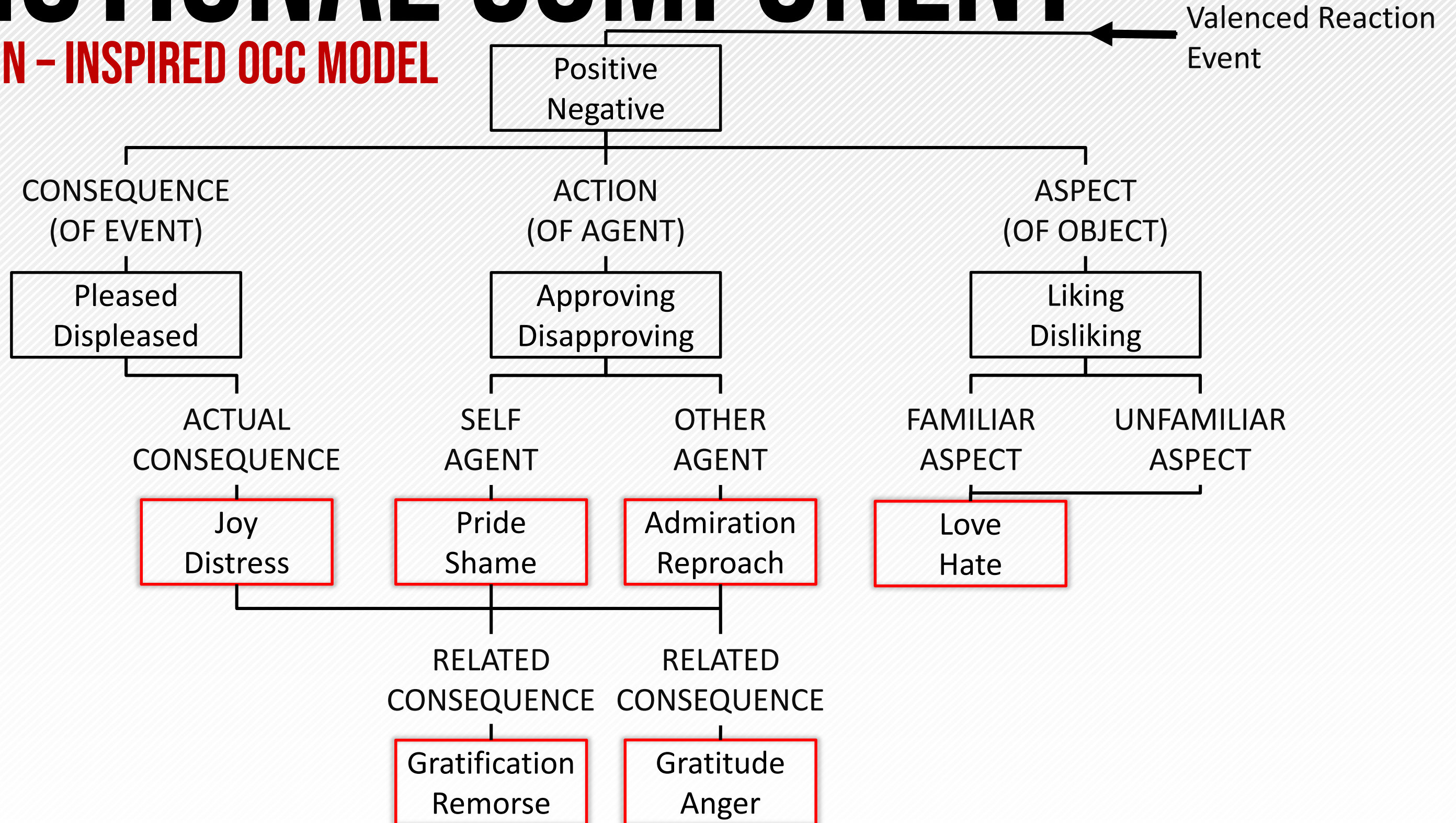
Long term feeling
Evolve slowly over time
Exuberant, Depressed, Afraid, ...





EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

EMOTION - INSPIRED OCC MODEL



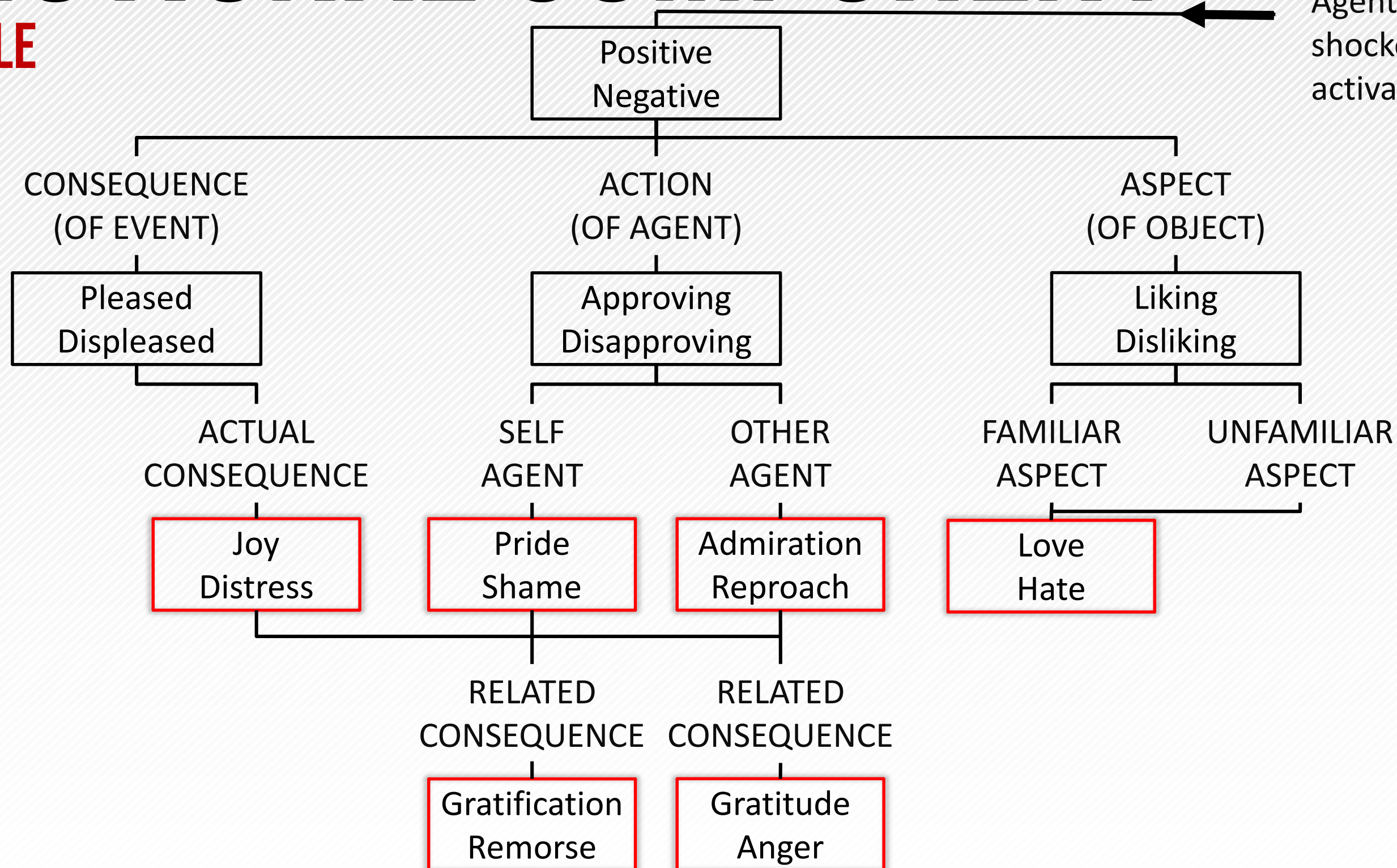


EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

EXAMPLE



Agent has been shocked by a cable, activated by the player





EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

DEVELOP A LIKING OR DISLIKING TOWARD WHAT THE AGENT EXPERIENCES IN THE WORLD

CONSEQUENCE
(OF EVENT)



ACTUAL
CONSEQUENCE



Agent has been shocked by a cable,
activated by the player



1. Generate a Distress emotion
 - Intensity computed based on the severity of the shock
2. Add a negative affect to
 - “cable” object
 - “electrified” predicate

An affect has:

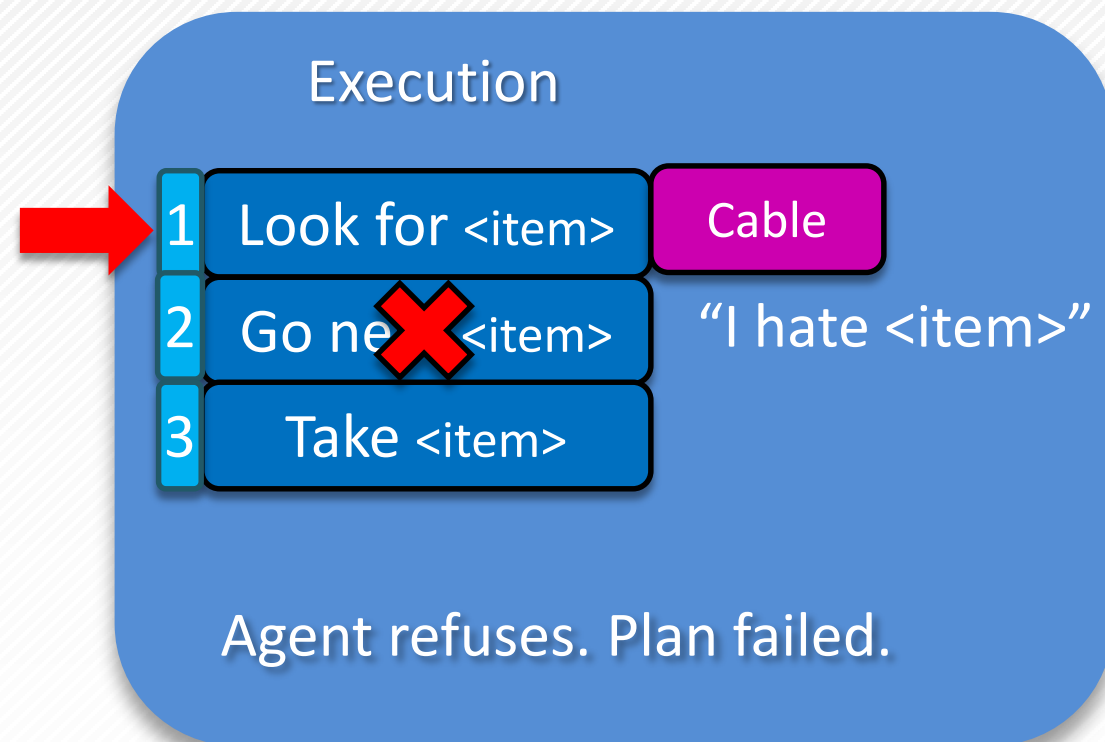
- intensity
- memorable duration



EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

DEVELOP A LIKING OR DISLIKING TOWARD WHAT THE AGENT EXPERIENCES IN THE WORLD

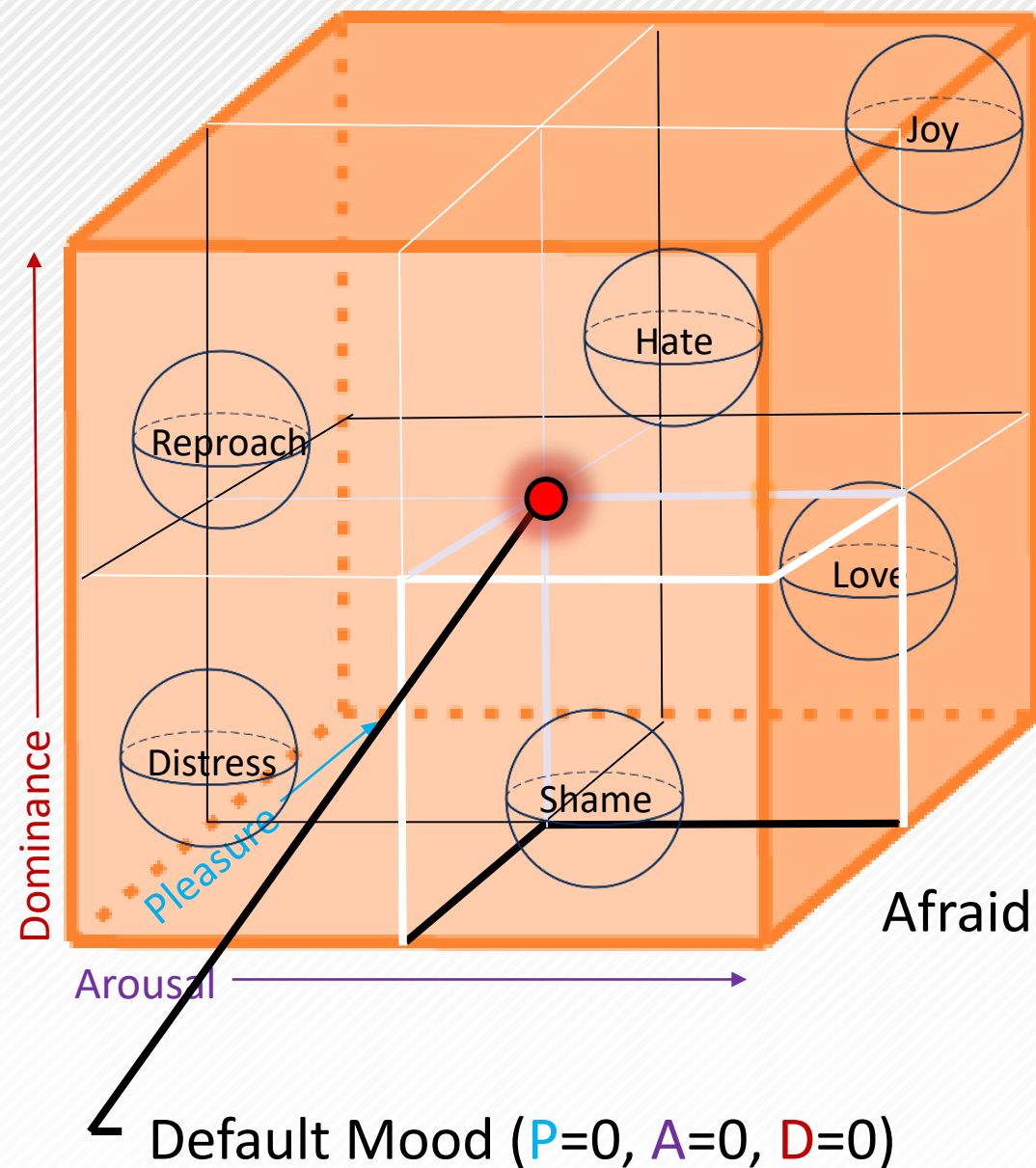
- Great! The agent does not like the “electrified cable” anymore.
- What if we tell him to take it again?





EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

MOOD – PAD MODEL (PLEASURE AROUSAL DOMINANCE)



P Pleasure Displeasure

How **pleasant** is an emotion.
Joy ↔ Fear

A Arousal Nonarousal

How **intense** is an emotion.
Rage ↔ Boredom

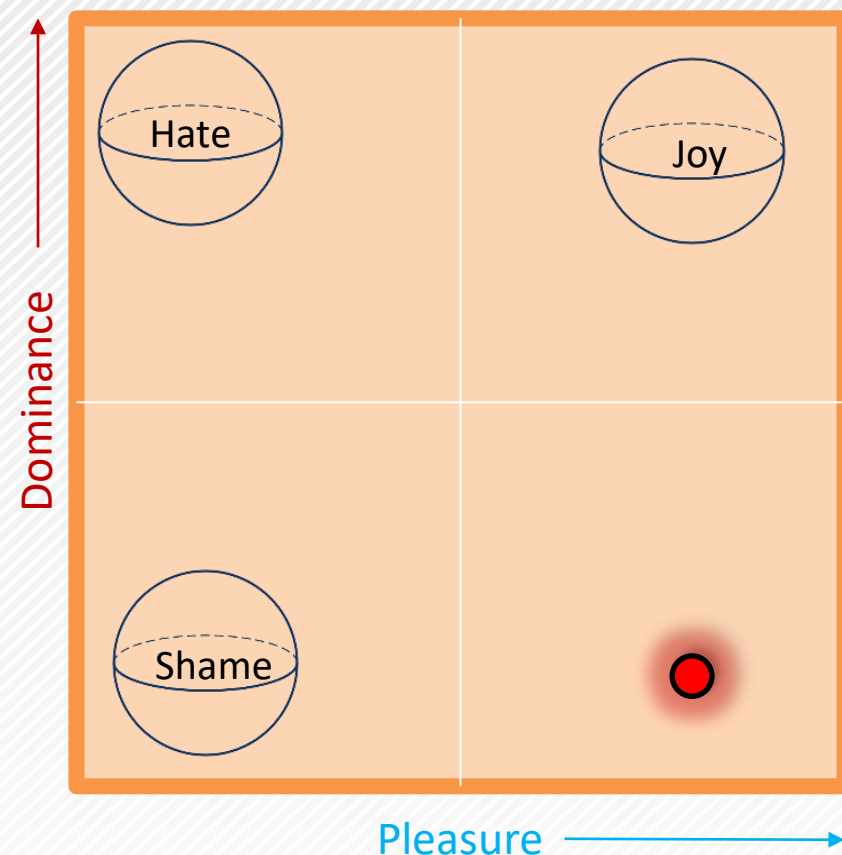
D Dominance Submissiveness

How much **control** and **influence** the agent has over situations
Anger ↔ Distress

MOOD OCTANT	P	A	D	EMOTION
Exuberant	+	+	+	Joy
Dependent	+	+	-	Admiration
Relaxed	+	-	+	
Docile	+	-	-	
Afraid	-	+	-	Shame
Hostile	-	+	+	Hate
Disdainful	-	-	+	Reproach
Depressed	-	-	-	Distress

EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

MOOD – PLEASURE AROUSAL DOMINANCE MODEL

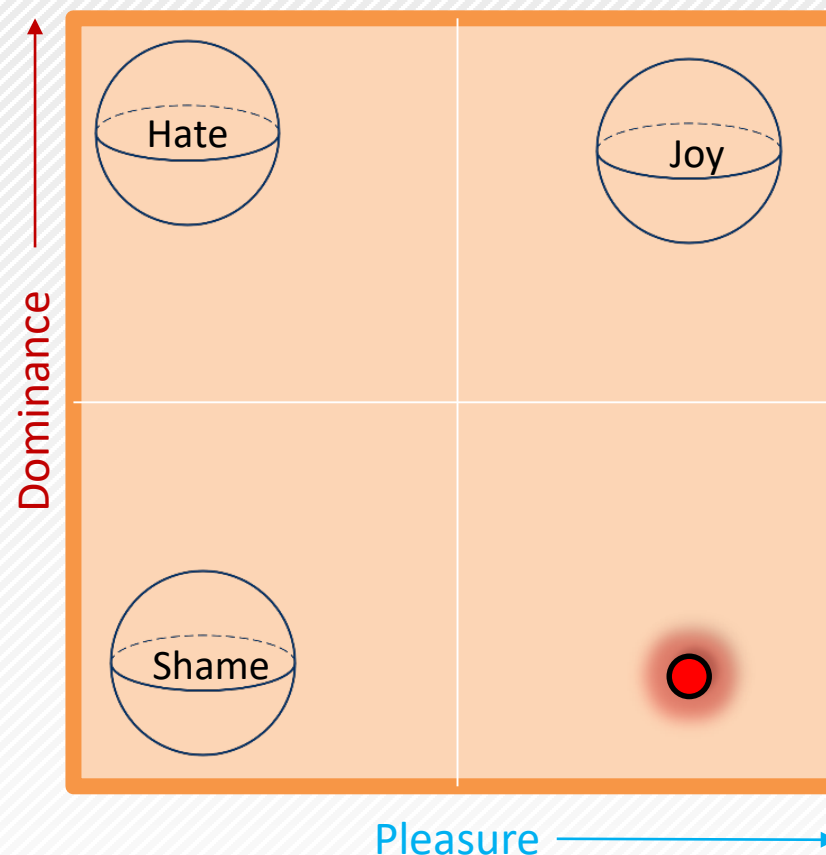


Emotions Intensity Time

Joy

0.5

5s



Emotions Intensity Time

Joy

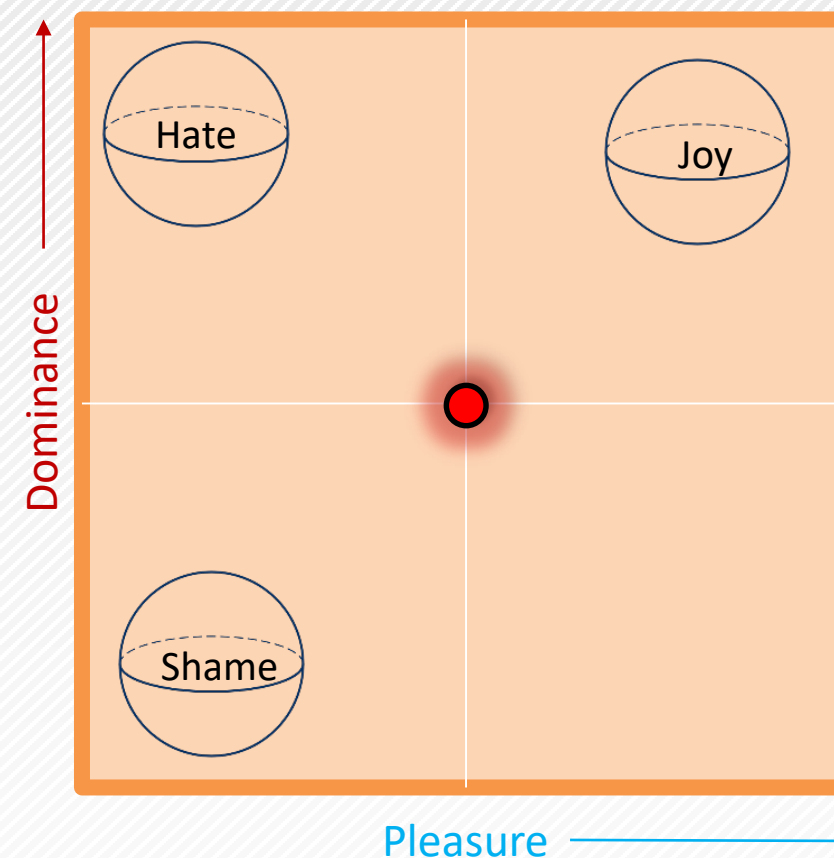
1.0

5s

EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

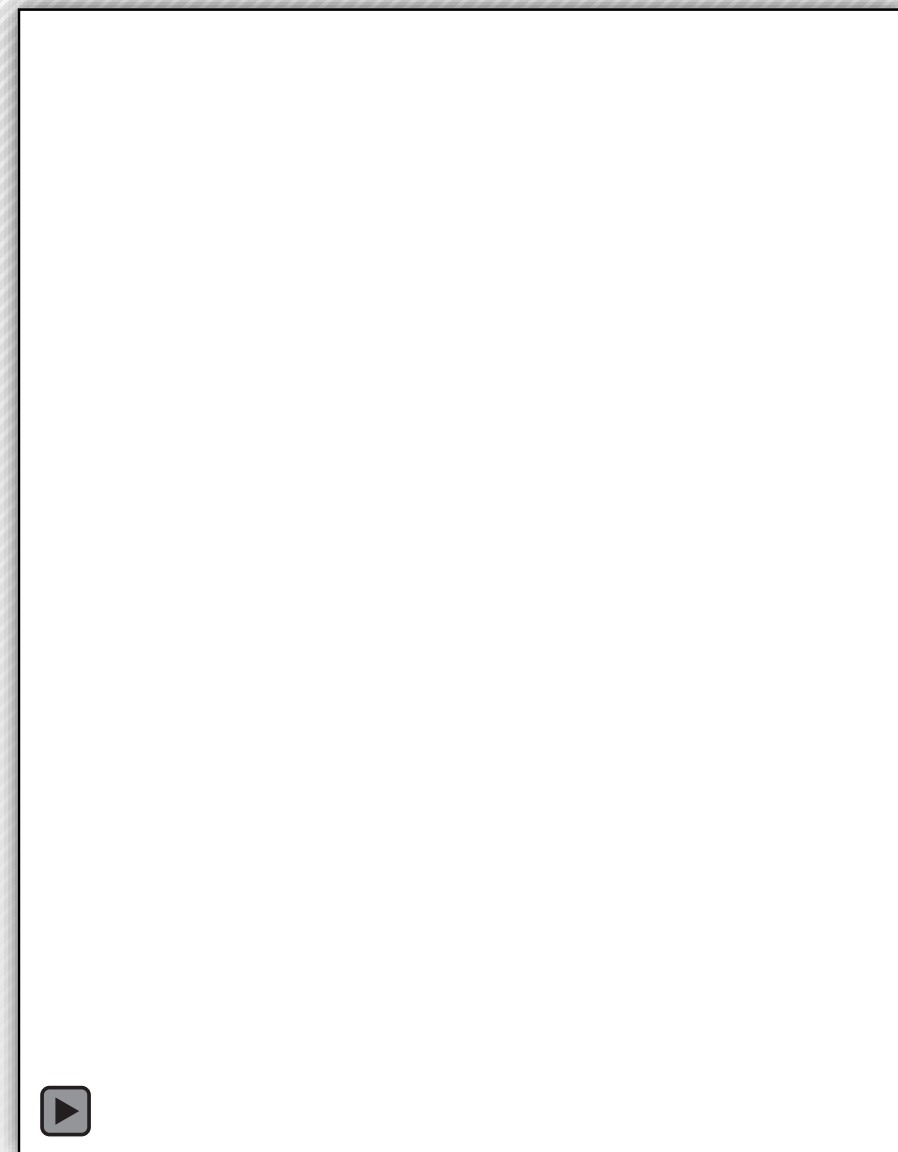
MOOD – PAD MODEL (PLEASURE AROUSAL DOMINANCE)

Emotions	Intensity
Joy	1.0
Hate	0.5
Shame	0.75
Hate	1.0



Current Mood

Afraid



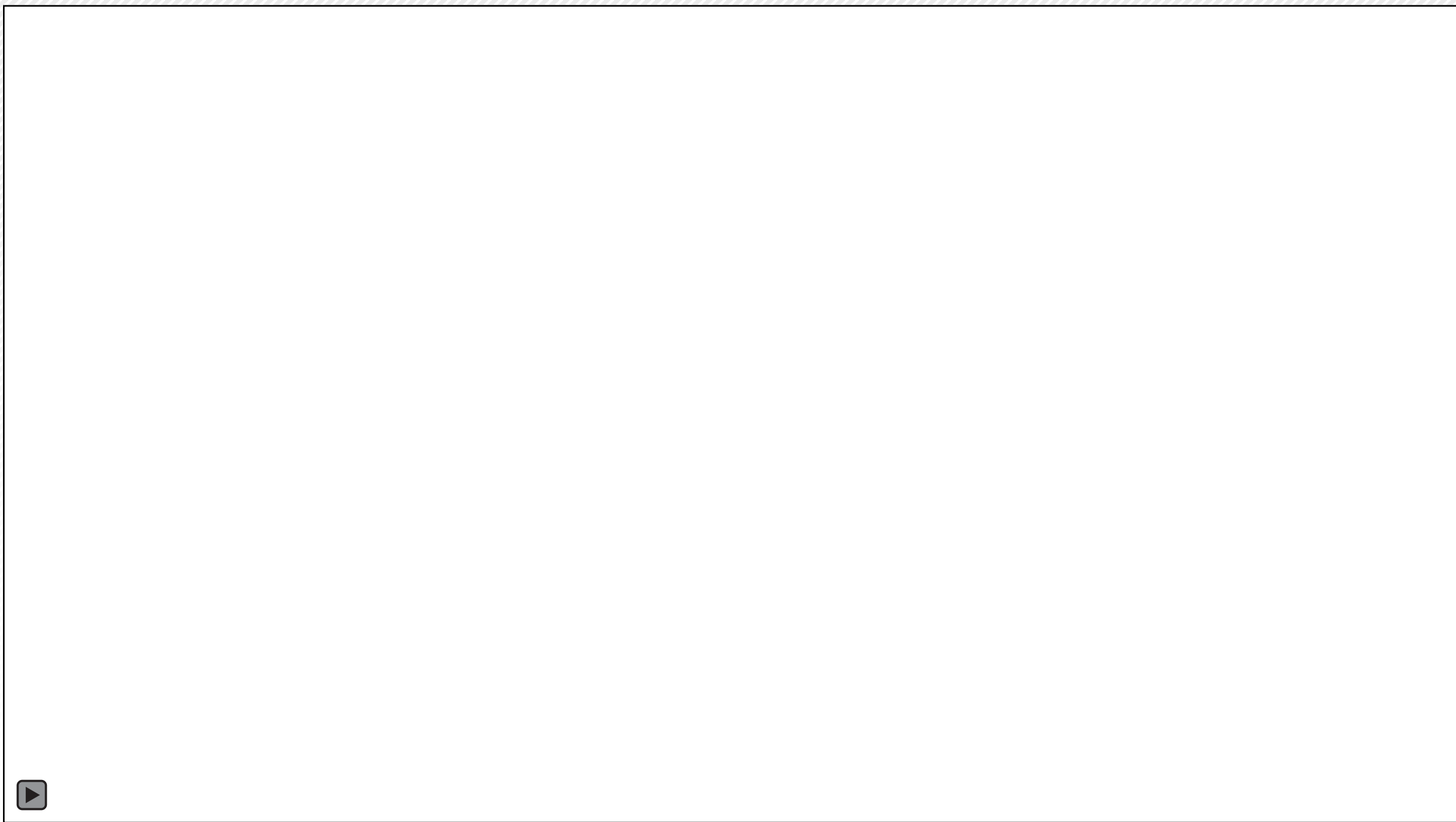
EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

PERSONALITY

- Simple structure (utility parameters in [0..1])
 - Laziness = 0.8
 - Curiosity = 0.3
 - Honesty = 0.1
 - Obedience = 0.9
 - ...

EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

PERSONALITY



EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

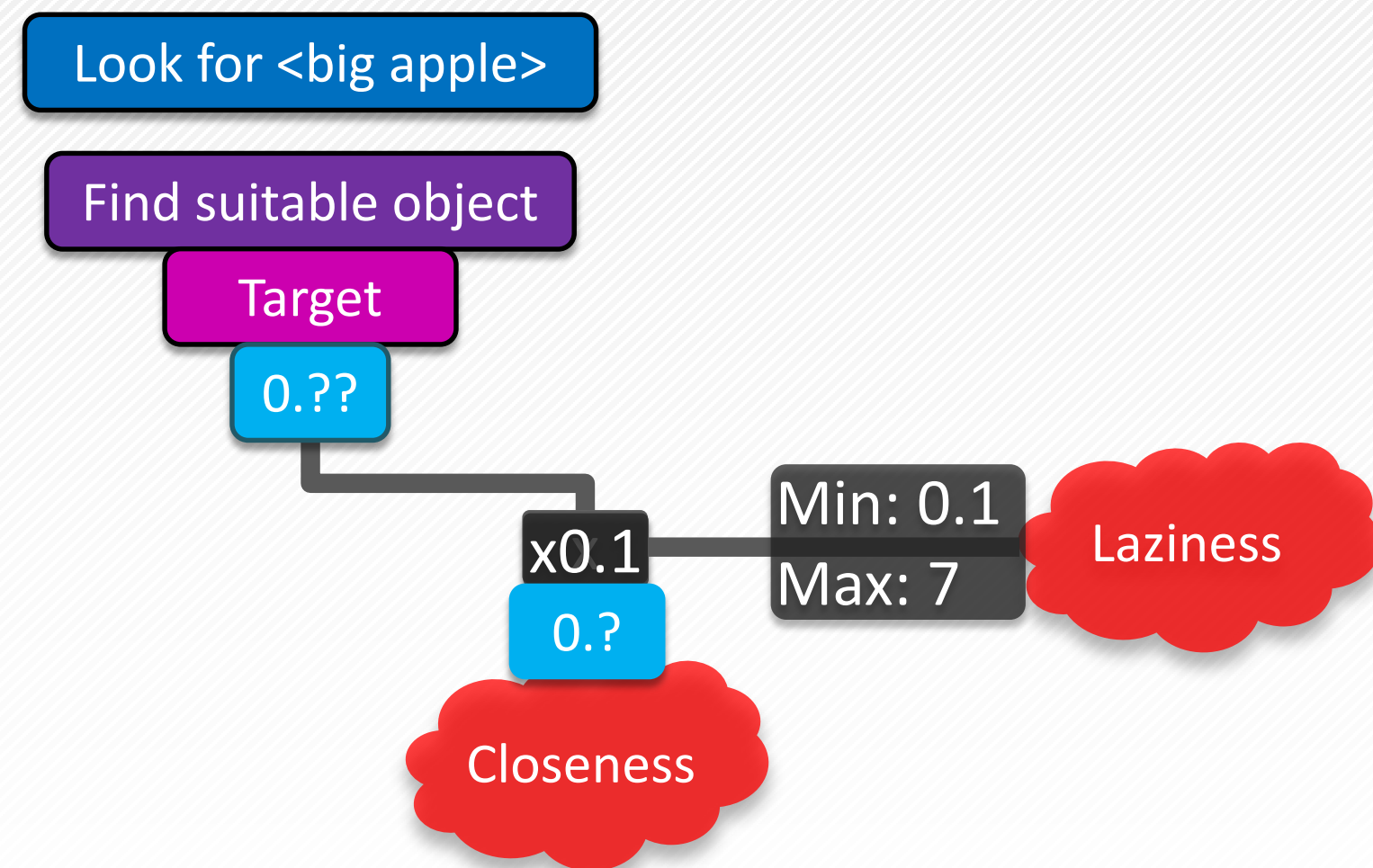
PERSONALITY: LAZINESS

- Affect “Look For” action
 - Will favor closer object over farther object

How can it be done?

The lazier the agent,
The more important the Closeness axis should be

The weight should depend on the Laziness



EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

PERSONALITY

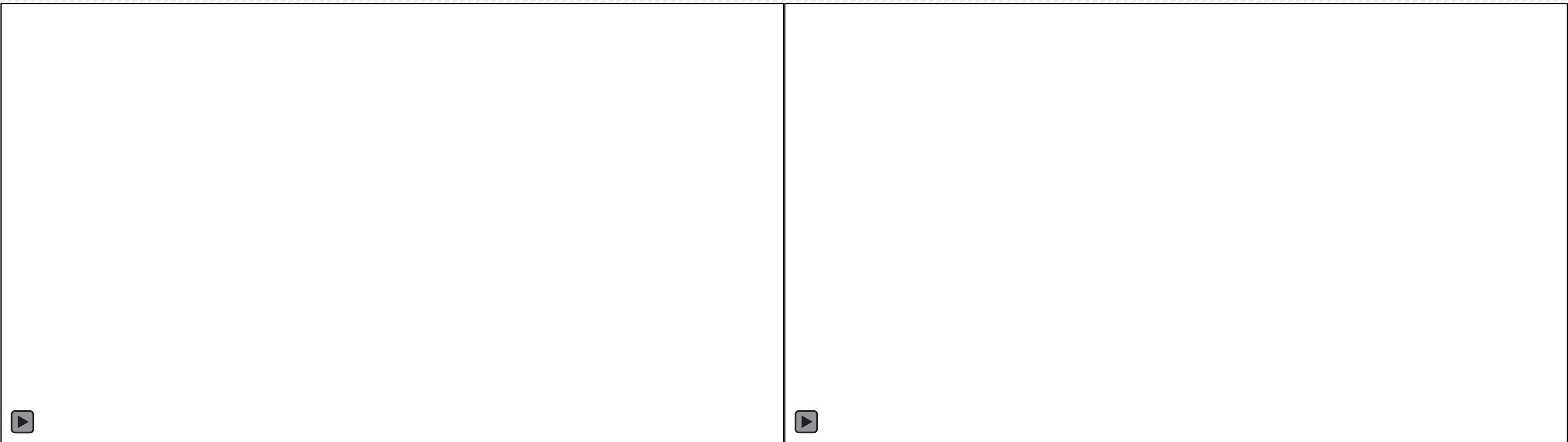
- Affect the Decision Making and the Expression

- Goal Manager:
 - Goal score
- Planner:
 - Action cost, changing the plan
 - Different set of actions
- Action
 - Tolerance on Liking/Disliking (objects, etc)
 - Execution
- Emotion:
 - Change the emotions expression (shyness)
 - Reacts to specific events (curiosity)
- Mood:
 - default mood

Great variation of play
- NPCs will feel different to each other

FACTUAL STATEMENTS

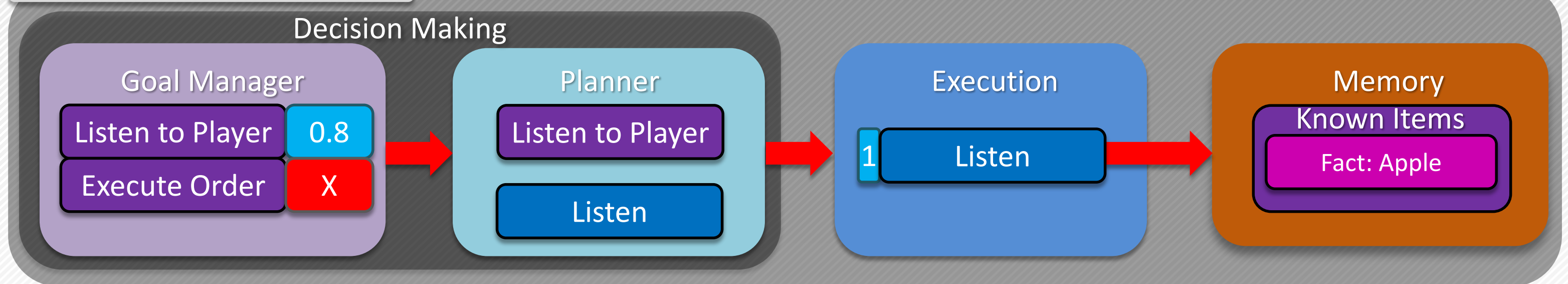
WHAT ABOUT INFORMING THE AGENT ABOUT THE WORLD?



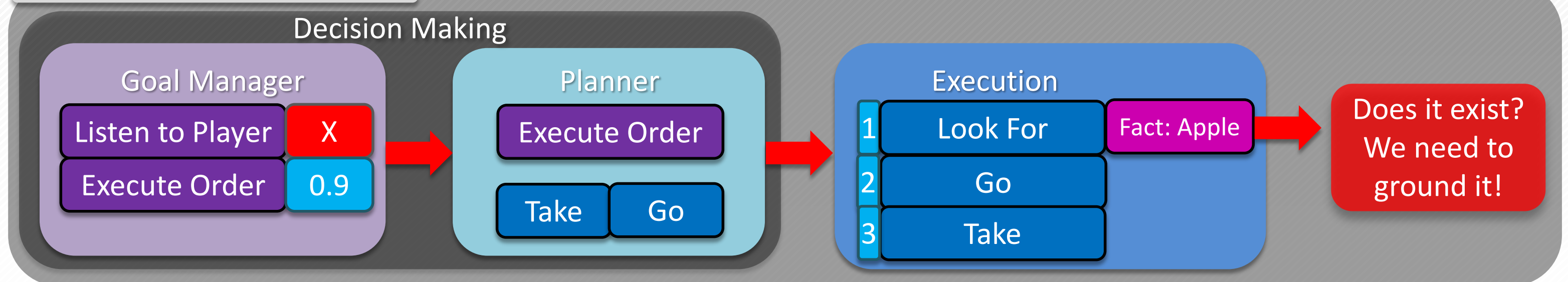
FACTUAL STATEMENTS

WHAT ABOUT INFORMING THE AGENT ABOUT THE WORLD?

[There is] [Apple] [On] [Table]



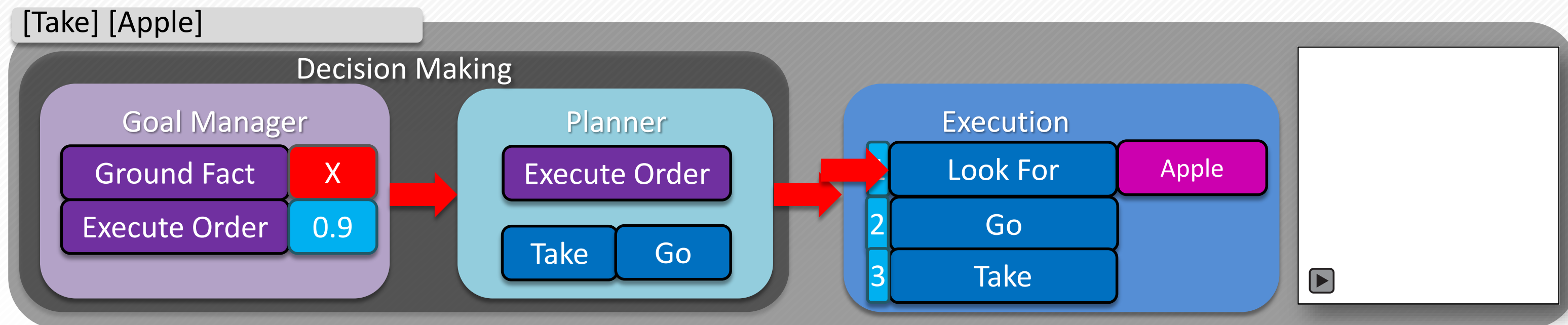
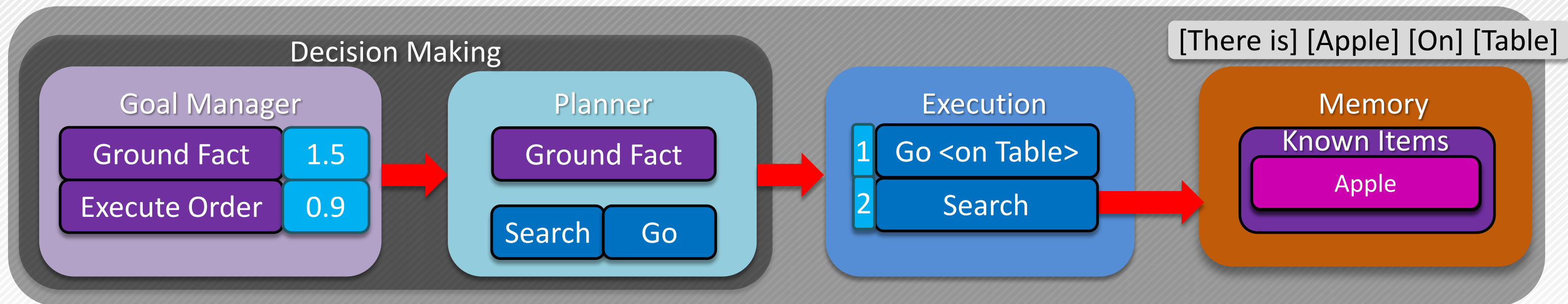
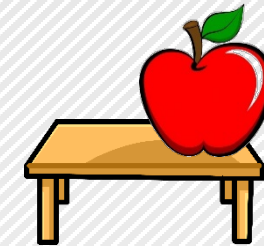
[Take] [Apple]





FACTUAL STATEMENTS

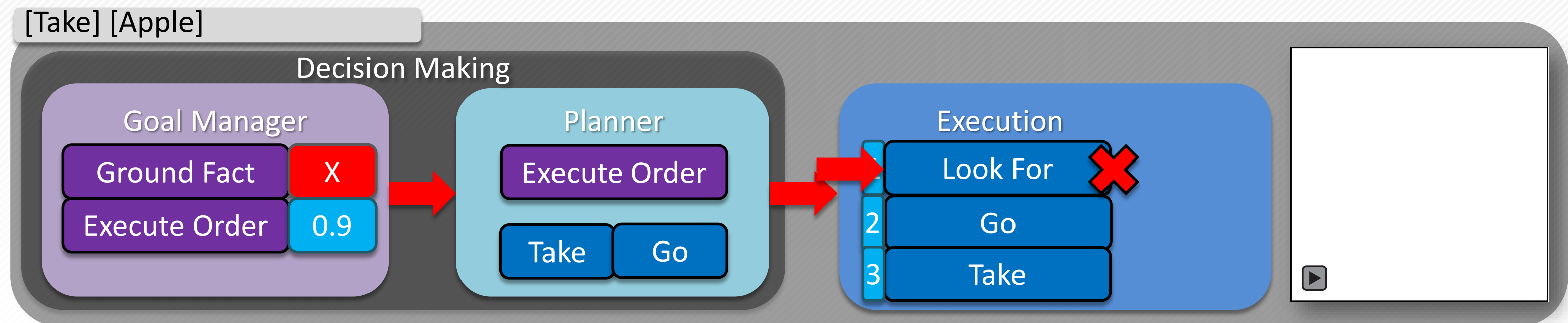
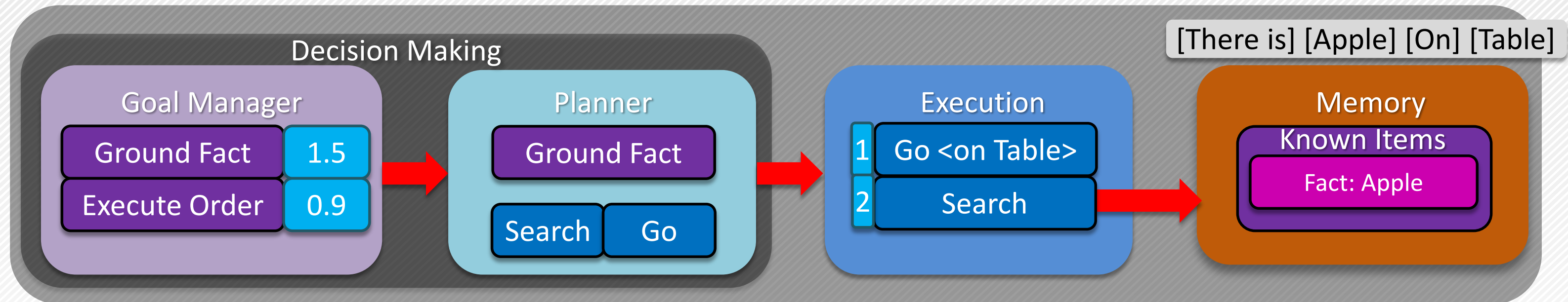
GROUNDING A FACT – CASE OF A TRUTH





FACTUAL STATEMENTS

GROUNDING A FACT - CASE OF A LIE



■ WHAT DID WE ACHIEVED SO FAR

- Bring more natural interactions:
 - Voice interaction (Speech recognition pipeline)
- Create more aware, expressive and lively agents
 - Emotional reactions (Emotion, Mood)
 - Have great variations (Personality)
 - Environment awareness
 - Can like/dislike, and react appropriately
 - Refuse to do an action involving something it hates
 - NPCs can reacts to truths and lies

■ WHAT CAN WE DO FROM HERE?

- Relationship development
- Multi-agents
- More diverse feedback from the AI-agent
 - I did not understand your speech
 - I did not find what you were talking about
 - I understand but I don't have the ability to execute your order
 - I don't like you, therefore I won't listen to you
 - I don't like the object, therefore I won't execute your order.
 - ...



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NPCs Have Feelings Too: Verbal Interactions with Emotional Character AI

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