Ho exact OS natches for host

```
run completed -- 1 IP address (1 host up) scanneds
          Ceaseless, Sequential-Case Based CBR
 Attempting to exploit SSHv1 CRC32 ... successful.
 Reseting root password to "210H0101".
System open: Access Level (9)
8 ssh 10.2,2,2 -1 root
                                               enter password
root@10,2,2,2's password:
```

Sisè Congrés Català d'Intel·ligència Artificial
Divendres, 23 d'octubre de 2003

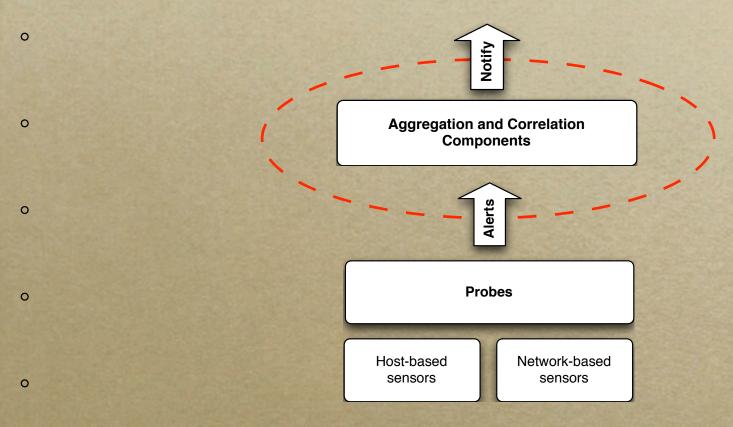
Alba - A Cognitive Assistant for Network Administration

Francisco J Martin
EECS-OSU
Corvallis, Oregon (USA)

Enric Plaza
IIIA-CSIC
Bellaterra, Catalonia (Spain)

Our approach overview (I)

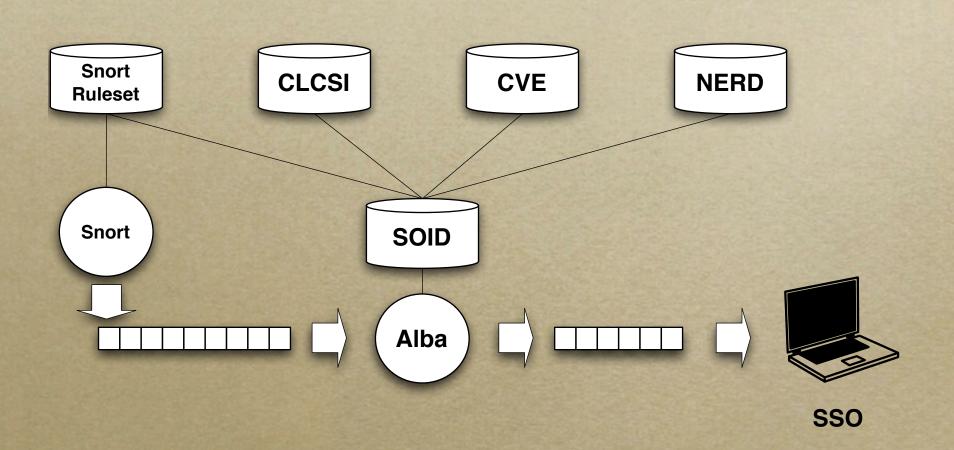
 Alert Triage (AT) is the process of rapid and approximate prioritization for subsequent action of an IDS alert stream.



0

Our goal is to increase the efficiency of current IDSes.

Our approach overview (II)



Three-layered approach

Perception layer

 sensors emit alerts on suspicious actions in the network

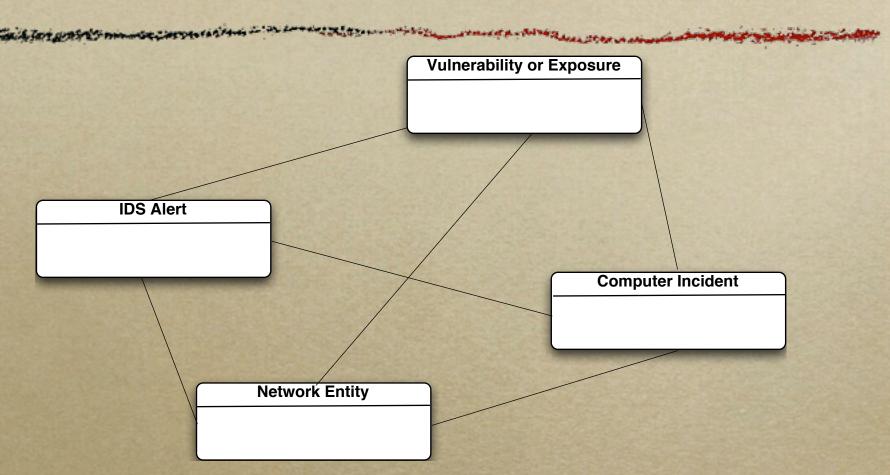
Recognition layer

- SOID ontology models monitored actions
- sequential cases (actionable trees)

Planning layer

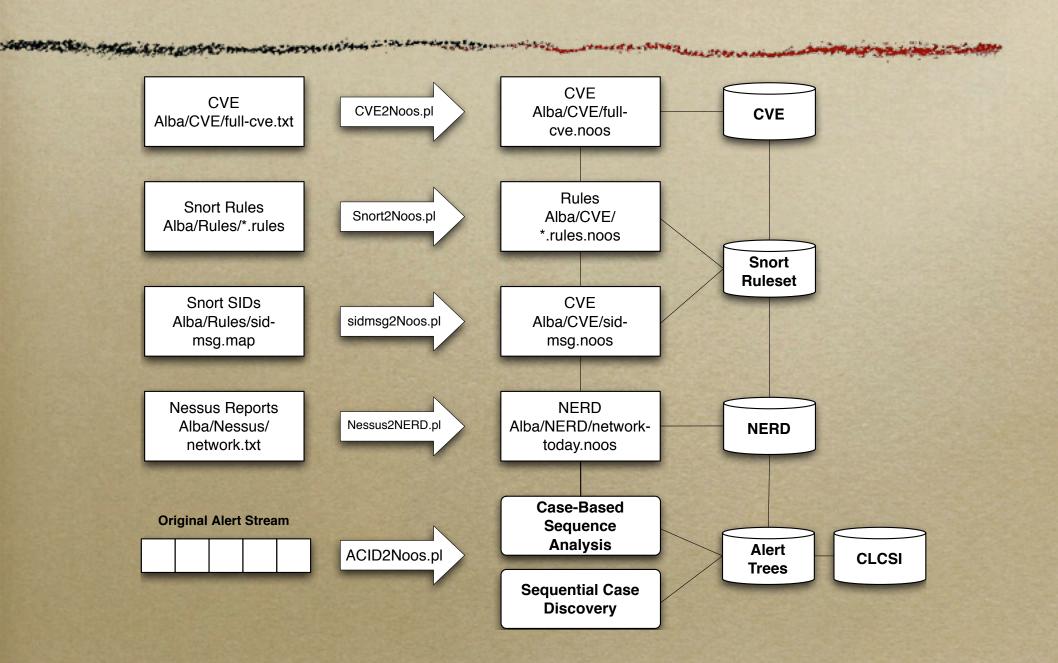
 plan recognition to prioritise alerts and use them to anticipate final goals

SOID overview



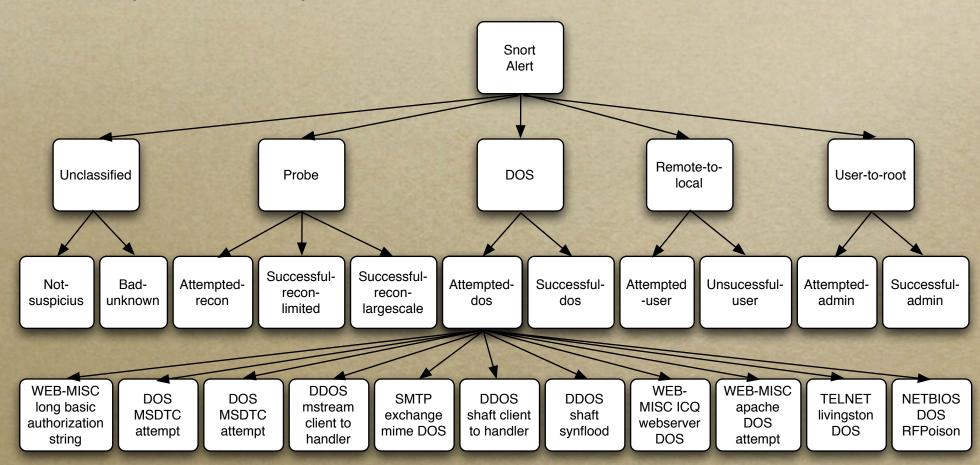
- For each knowledge source a separate ontology has been built.
- SOID merges those ontologies on top of the Noos knowledge representation language.

SOID details



Example of a taxonomy of Snort alerts

A simple taxonomy of Snort alerts.

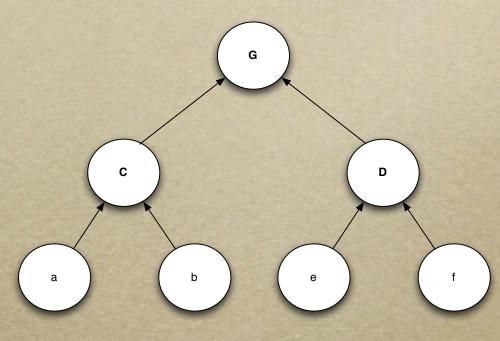


Outline

- Actionable Trees
- Case Activations
- Ceaseless Retrieve
- Ceaseless Reuse
- Ceaseless Revise
- Ceaseless Retain

Actionable Trees: Definition

- A highly intuitive and machine learnable knowledge structure that enables the representation of sequential cases.
- An actionable tree (AT) is a Multi-Rooted Directed Acyclic Graph (MDAG) with the semantics that roots represent observable symptom events, intermediate nodes (in the trunk and crown) represent composite (serial or parallel) cases and the arcs represent part-whole relationships.
- The crown made up of only one node represents the overall case. There is one and only one path from each root node to the crown.

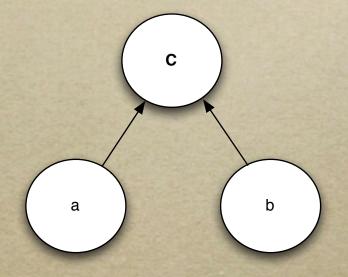


Actionable Trees: Definition (II)

- Roots represent observable symptom events (i.e. alerts)
 - nodes a and b are complex objects represented by means of feature terms.
- The crown represents a case:

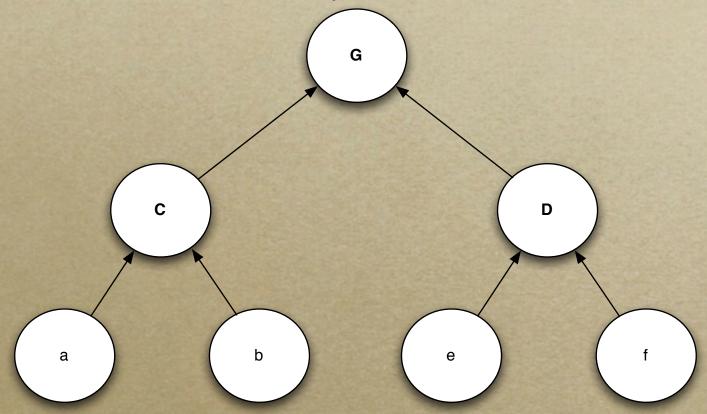
0

- node c stores information about:
 - the risk that supposes the occurrence of a and b together. Risk is a combination of threat, exposure, and cost.
 - constraints that limit the correlation of a and b (using a set of common features of a and b for which path equality must be hold)
 - the prioritization that received a and b
 (i.e. the case solution)



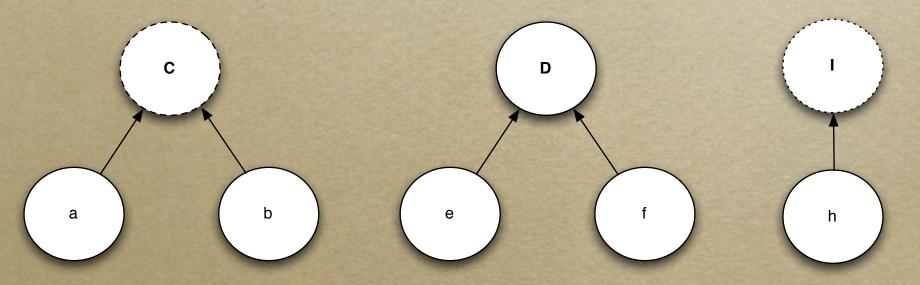
Actionable Trees: Compoundability

Actionable Trees are compoundable



Actionable Trees: types of intermediate nodes

- There are three types of intermediate nodes:
 - a-nodes (dashed nodes) represent parallel cases
 - s-nodes represent serial cases
 - b-nodes (doted nodes) represent burst cases (i.e. flood situations)



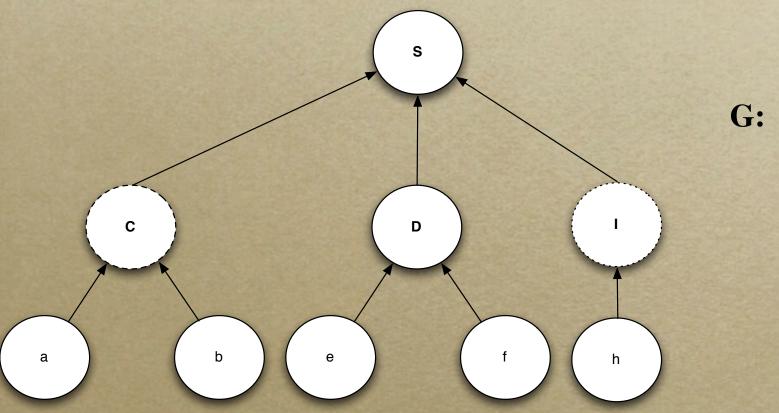
yields: {[a b] [b a]}

yields: {[e f]}

yields: $\{[h^n] n > X/t\}$

Actionable Trees and Context-Free Grammar correspondence

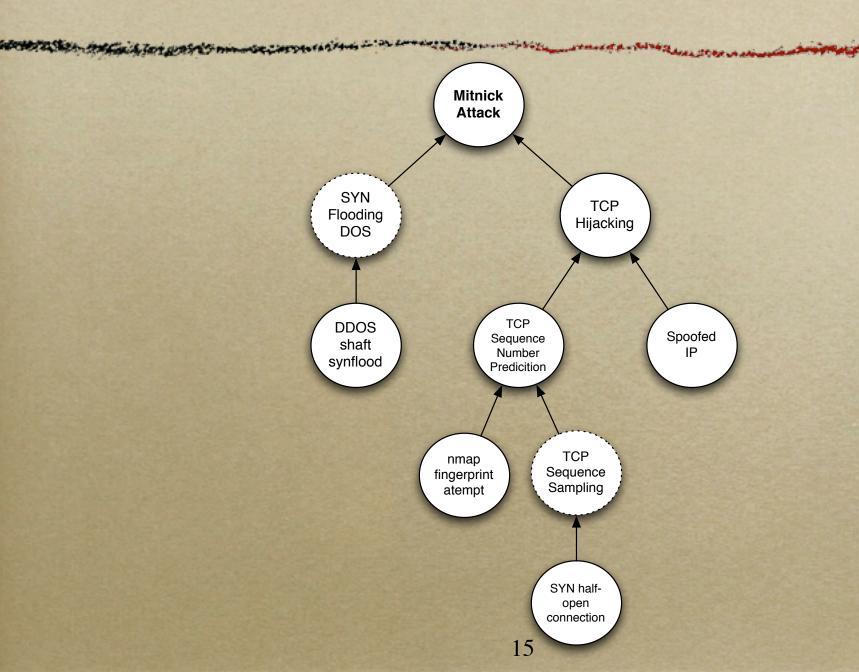
 A direct mapping can be established between an Actionable Tree and a Context-Free Grammar that yields all the sequences represented by the Actionable Tree.



G:
$$S \rightarrow CDI$$

 $C \rightarrow ab \mid ba$
 $D \rightarrow ef$
 $I \rightarrow h^{X/t}I$

Actionable Trees Example: Mitnick Attack



Dynamic Sequence Similarity

- We have defined a **dynamic similarity** between two sequences of complex objects based on the following components:
 - 1. A dynamic subsumption scoring scheme that:
 - o establishes the similarity between two individual alerts according to its probability of occurrence and its position in the hierarchy of sorts.
 - o Rare alerts receive a high score and frequent alerts receive a low score.
 - o is continuously updated upon arrival of new alerts.
 - 2. A **semi-global alignment** obtained by insertion of a number of dummy feature terms such that both sequences have the same length and in the individual alignment of the elements at least one of the two element isn't a dummy feature term.
 - 3. Two **operations** that allow a sequence to be altered so that corresponding elements in both sequences to be comparable.
 - O **Abduction**: injecting an alert of sort a in the alert stream at a given position.
 - Neglection: ignoring an alert in the alert stream.
 - 4. A **dynamic programming** formulation that computes the score of the optimal alignment.

Dynamic Sequence Similarity

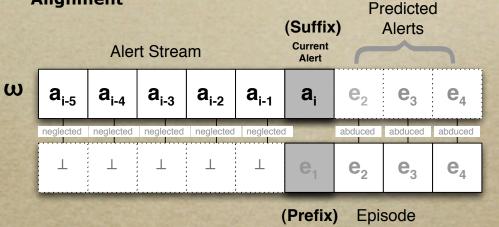
$S_1 \sim_S S_2 = \max_{1 \le j \le |S_2|} S(|S_1|, j).$

1. Dynamic Scoring Scheme

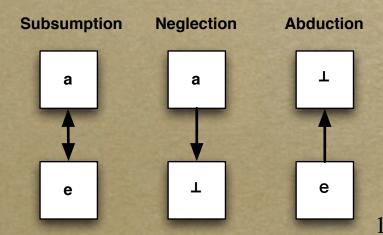
$$\mathcal{M}_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \frac{1-q_i}{q_j} & \text{if } \psi^{a_i} \sqsubseteq \psi^{a_j} \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

						1300		100	7792	
	М	Α	В	С	D	E	z	Y	х	Т
ı	A	2.167	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
į	В	-1	2.8	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
	С	-1	-1	2.8	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
	D	-1	-1	-1	18	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
	Е	-1	-1	-1	-1	8.5	-1	-1	-1	-1
	z	2.167	-1	-1	-1	-1	2.167	-1	-1	-1
	Υ	-1	1.8	1.8	-1	-1	-1	0.9	-1	-1
	х	-1	-1	-1	16	8	-1	-1	5.333	-1
	Т	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2. Semi-Global **Alignment**



3. Operations



4. Dynamic Programming **Formulation**

$$S(0,0) = 0$$

$$S(i,0) = S(i-1,0)$$

$$S(0,j) = S(0,j-1) + C^{a}(\vec{S}_{2}[j])$$

$$S(i,j) = max \begin{cases} S(i-1,j) & +C^{n}(\vec{S}_{1}[i]) \\ S(i,j-1) & +C^{a}(\vec{S}_{2}[j]) \\ S(i-1,j-1) + \mathcal{M}(root(i), root(j)) \end{cases}$$

E

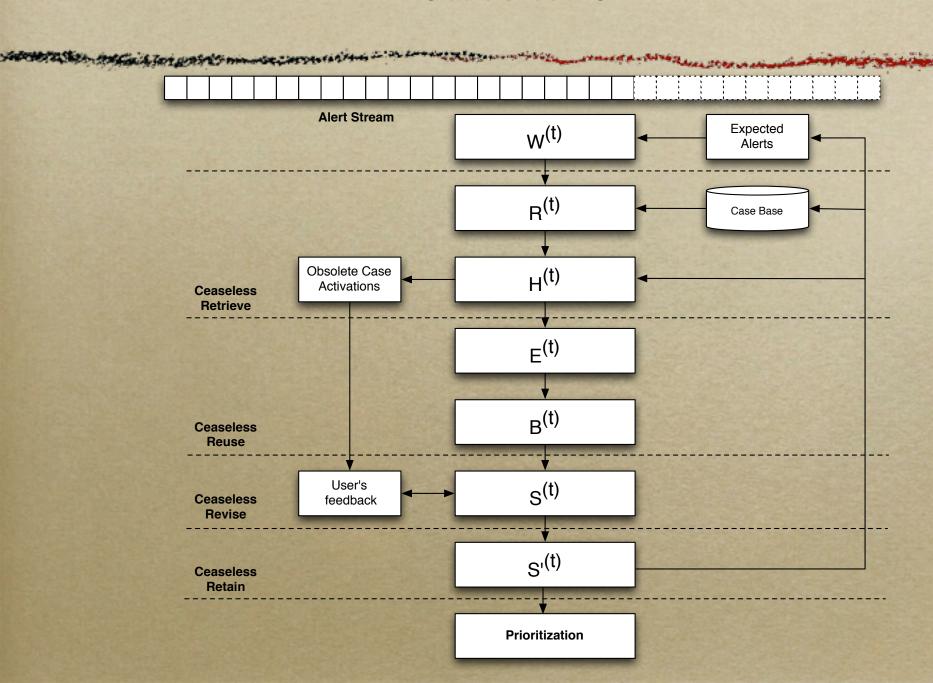
Case Activations

- A case activation represents a hypothesis on a case explaining the current situation.
- A case activation is composed of:
 - Case (risk(threat, exposure, cost), yields of observable symptom events, and prioritization).
 - Observed (O) symptoms that represent observed alerts.
 - Abducted (A) symptoms that represent lost symptoms.
 - Neglected (N) symptoms that represent spurious symptoms.
 - Evidence computed in terms of O, A, and N symptoms.
- Cases are activated using a similarity-based likelihood judgment (i.e. similarity between the current window of alerts and a case's yield of observable events).

Ceaseless CBR

- A push-pull constructive situation awareness process governed ceaselessly by:
 - 1. Observational data. The sequence of events received pushes towards a situation
 - 2. The sequential case base pulls towards the best explanation of the current situation interpreted in terms of past cases.
- Ceaseless CBR is decomposed in four parallel processes:
 - Ceaseless Retrieve
 - Ceaseless Reuse
 - Ceaseless Revise
 - Ceaseless Retain

Ceaseless CBR



Ceaseless Retrieve (I)

Ceaseless Retrieve:

- $^{\circ}$ R^(t): Using the sequence of alerts (O) returned by the corresponding window model (W^{wm(t)}) and a dynamic similarity measure, **retrieve** those cases that are similar to such sequence above a user-defined threshold (\square).
- H_i: A case activation (H_i) is created for each retrieved case containing observed, abducted and neglected alerts as well as an estimation of its evidence and the risk that supposes.
- H^(t): New case activations (hypotheses) are merged with previous case activations considering the constraints imposed by each case (path equality checking). For example, the same source and address in all the sequence of alerts.

Ceaseless Retrieve (II)

• Initially:

$$\circ$$
 c⁽⁰⁾={C₁...C_n} (i.e. case-base)

$$\circ R^{(0)} = \emptyset, H^{(0)} = \emptyset,$$

$$^{\circ}$$
 E⁽⁰⁾ = \emptyset , max B⁽⁰⁾ = 1

$$\circ$$
 $S^{(0)} = \emptyset$, $S'^{(0)} = \emptyset$

- w^{wm(t)} extracts the next sequence of alerts from the alert stream according to a given window model wm (landmark, sliding, damped or alert-driven).
- \circ $\mathbf{R^{(t)}(\mathbf{W}^{wm(t)})} = \{\text{Case Activations} : C_i \in C^{(t)} \text{ and } \text{sim}(\mathbf{W}^{wm(t)}, C_i) > 0\}$
- $^{\circ}$ H^(t) = H^(t-1) ∪ R^(t) \Leftarrow Current Situation
- H^(t) keeps a number of case activations for each pending alert (i.e. alerts that have not received an explanation/prioritization yet).

Ceaseless Reuse (I)

- E^(t): Computes a set of explanations (combinations of case activations that explain completely the current sequence of observed alerts (O)). This set is computed following a minimum description length (MDL) principle. Those explanations:
 - that contain case activations that appear in other explanations that are already in the set.
 - whose size is greater than the minimum size of the combinations above are not contemplated.
- $^{\circ}$ **B**^(t): An estimation of the goodness of each explanation in **E**^(t) is computed. This estimation considers the probability of occurrence and can also consider the risk and cost of each explanation.
- Explanations are ranked according to B^(t) and then proposed to the user for their revision.

Ceaseless Reuse (II)

- ° $\mathbf{E^{(t)}}(S^{(t)}, O) = \{H' \subseteq H^{(t)} : H' \text{ explains all events in } O \text{ and } !∃ H" : |H"| < |H'| and H' ∩ H"≠Ø}$
 - E^(t) is computed following a minimum description length (MDL) principle.
 - The following observation: "the probability of multiple coincidental sources is low" induces the following heuristic:
 - \circ H'_i is not included in E^(t) if it contains a case activation that is already contained by H'_i \in E^(t) such that its size is lower and its risk is greater.
- \circ **B**^(t)(E_i) is a **belief function** that represents the likelihood that all cases in E_i have occurred and E_i explains all events in O:

$$B^{(t)}(\mathbf{E}_{i}^{(t)}, \mathcal{O}) = \prod_{H_{i}.c_{i} \in E_{i}} p(c_{i}) \prod_{a_{i} \in \mathcal{O}} \left(1 - \prod_{H_{i}.c_{i} \in E_{i}} (1 - p(a_{i}|c_{i})) \right)$$

- ° $\mathbf{B^{(t)}}$ is computed incrementally: $\mathbf{B^{(t)}}(\mathsf{E^{(t)}}) = \mathsf{B^{(t-1)}} \cup \mathsf{E^{(t)}}(\mathsf{H^{(t)}}, \mathsf{O})$
- $^{\circ}$ Explanations are **ranked** according to B $^{(t)}$

the terminate the proper minute conservations in the conservation of the conservation

• Best Explanations $\Rightarrow \{E_i \in E^{(t)} : B^{(t)}(E_i) \text{ is maximal}\}$

Ceaseless Revise

- This process continuously provides a human (expert) operator with the set of most likely explanations given the alerts received so far (instead of presenting a solution periodically).
- \circ The operator can define a **threshold** θ ' such that individual explanations whose likelihood is above it produce an automatic triage of the corresponding alerts and initiates the same process that above.

$$S^{(t)} = \{E_i \in E^{(t)} : B^{(t)}(E_i) \text{ is maximal}\} \cup \{H_i : B^{(t)}(H_i) > \theta'\}$$

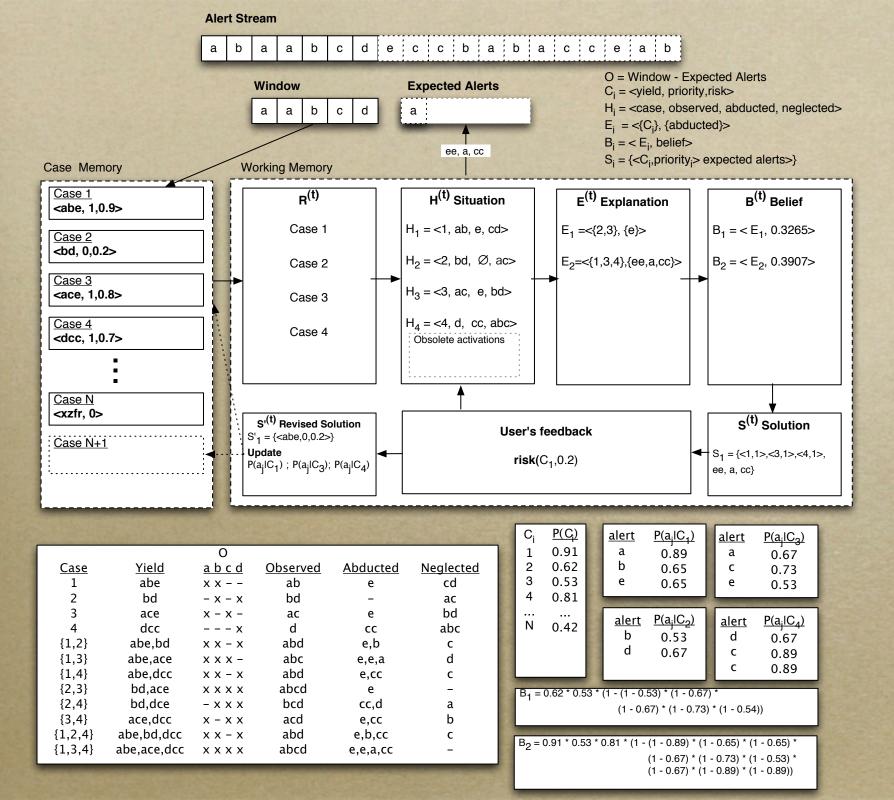
- The operator's feedback may create a completely new case or update a past case:
 - adding, deleting or altering observable events or constraints among them.
 - altering its risk(threat, exposure, or cost) or the corresponding prioritization.
- The operator's feedback produces a set of revised solutions that in turn produces the triage of the corresponding alerts and initiates a back-propagation process that automatically updates H^(t) and the set of expected alerts (i.e. alerts that are probably to occur and have already received an explanation).

$$S'^{(t)} = feedback(S^{(t)})$$

Ceaseless Retain

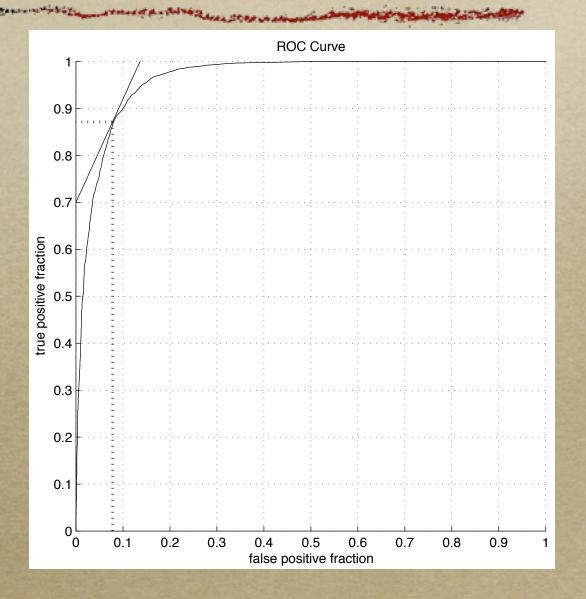
- Once a solution has been revised by the user:
 - The probability of occurrence of each case is updated as well as the probability of occurrence of each alert in the cases that have been used in the solution.
 - Those cases whose probability of occurring together is above the probability of occurring separately are merged together in a new case.
 - Other features of intervening cases such as risk or cost can also be updated in this process.
 - New cases are created using alerts that do not appear in any other case.
- In other words, this process ceaselessly stores the solutions revised by the former process

$$C^{(t)} = C^{(t-1)} \cup S'^{(t)}$$



Preliminary Experiments

ROC curve generated in a set of preliminary experiments where we employed an alert stream composed of **84168** alerts coming from 8848 different IPs that was generated after four months of real surveillance in a networked organization using 3 Snort sensors, 18 sequential cases corresponding to wellknown attack patterns, an error type weighting of 1:500 (i.e. a cost of 1 for each false positive and cost of 500 for each false negative), and 12 variants of 3 different multi-stage attacks. The optimal decision threshold corresponded the to performance line with slope equal to 2.2 as shown in the Figure.



Ho exact OS natches for host

```
map run completed -- 1 IP address (1 host up) scanneds sshnuke 10,2,2,2 -rootpu="Z10N0101"
Connecting to 10.2.2.2:ssh successful Attempting to explain State IS Considered Reseting root password to "210H0101".

System open: Access Level (9)

# ssh 10.2.2.2 -1 root root@10,2.2.2's password:
                                                                                                                   enter password
```

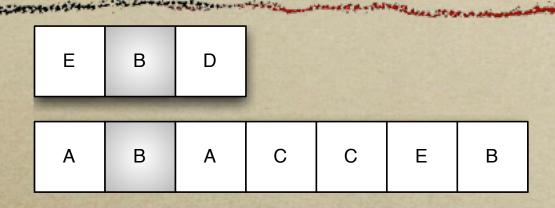
Ho exact OS natches for host

```
nap run completed -- 1 IP address (1 host up) scanneds
sshnuke 10,2,2,2 -rootpu="Z10N0101"
 Connecting to 10.2.2.2:ssh is successful.
Attempting to exploid and kitaly Dauccessful.
Reseting root password to "210H0101".
System open: Access Level (9)
# ssh 10.2.2.2 -1 root
root@10,2.2.2's password:
                                                                                             enter password
```

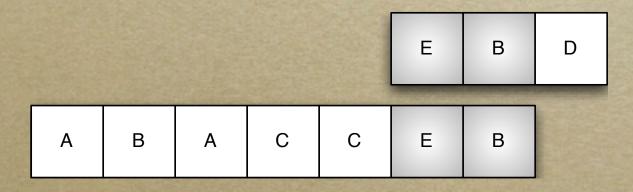
Sequence Similarity

- Commonalities -- Comparable elements that appear at the same position in both sequences.
- Alignable Differences -- Comparable elements that appear in both sequences but a different position.
- Non-alignable Differences -- Non-comparable elements that appear in one sequence but not in the other.

Alignment Example



$$C = \{B\} A = \{B,E\} N = \{A,C,D\}$$

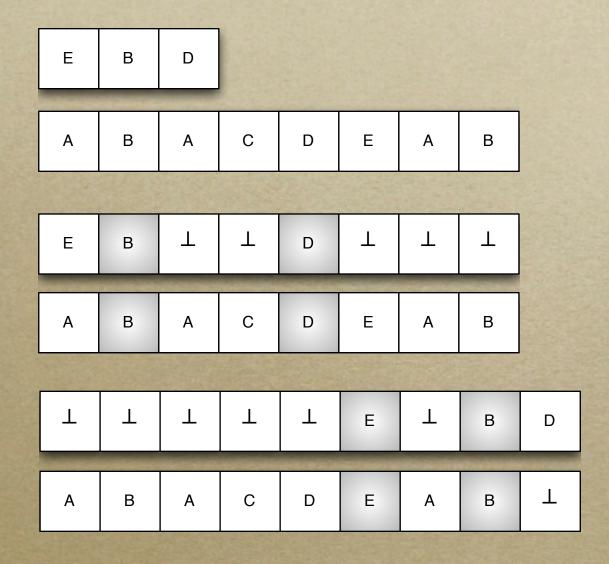


$$C = \{E,B\} A = \{B\} N = \{A,C,D\}$$

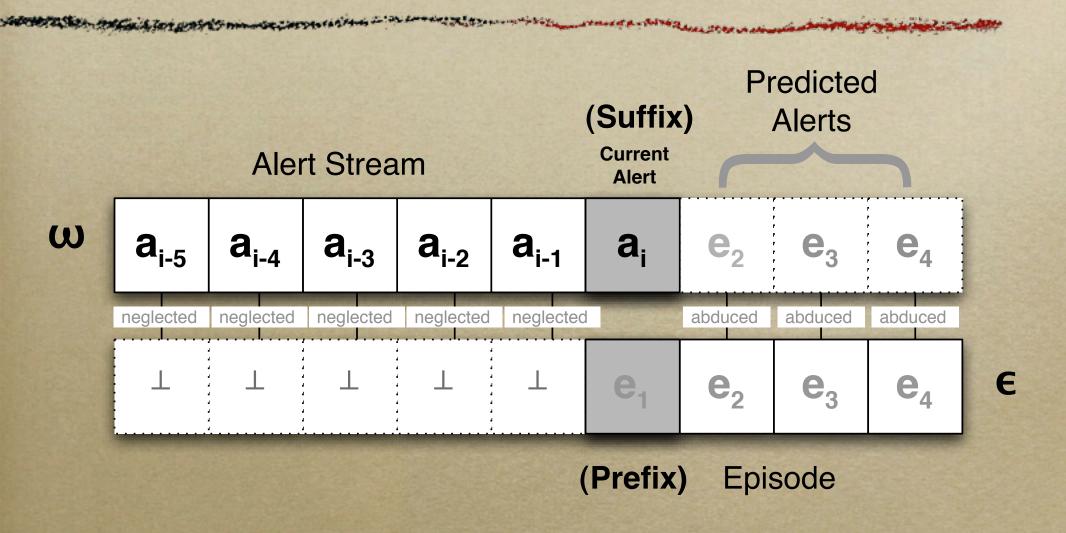
Sequence alignment

° **Definition** 5. (**Sequence Alignment**) Given a signature $\Sigma = \langle S, \bot, F, \le \rangle$ and two sequences S_1 , $S_2 \in \Sigma^*$. An alignment of sequences S_1 and S_2 is a pair $\{S'_1, S'_2\}$ attained by insertion of a number of dummy feature terms (\bot) in both sequences such that: $|S'_1| = |S'_2|$ and $\forall_{1 \le i \le |S'_1|} S'_1[i]$ is aligned with $S'_2[i]$ and either $S'_1[i]$ or $S'_2[i]$ is not a dummy feature term.

Sequence alignment example



Semi-global alignment



Score of an alignment

$$S(S_1, S_2) = \sum_{1 \le i \le |S_1|} S(S_1[k], S_2[k])$$

Subsumption

 \mathbf{a}



 \mathbf{e}

Neglection

a



工

Abduction





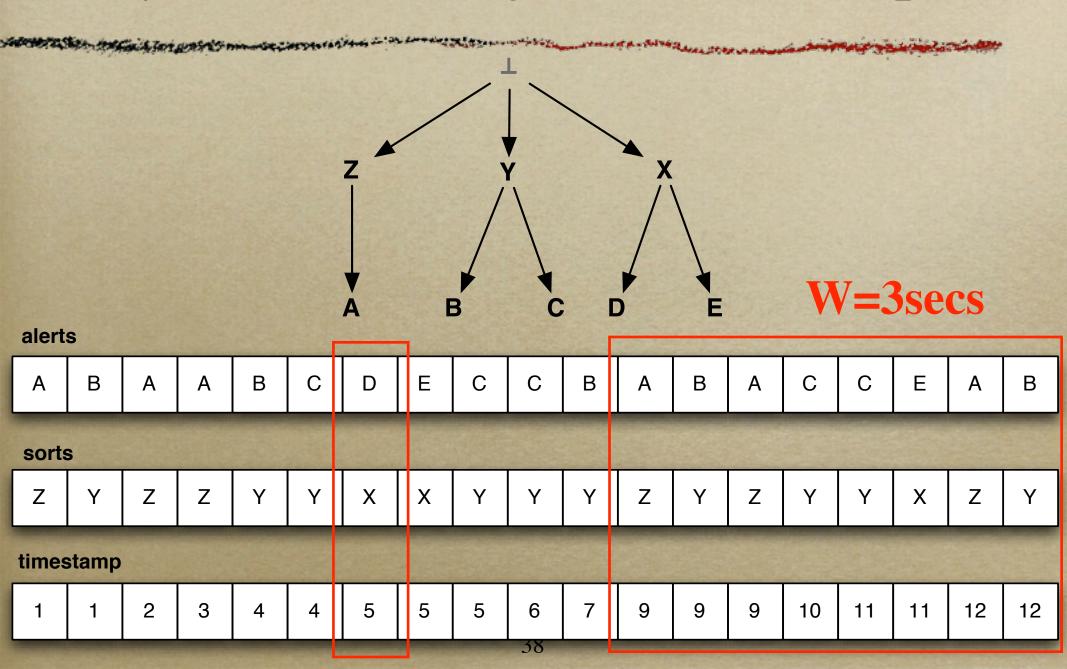
e

Subsumption scoring scheme

° **Definition** 7. (Subsumption Scoring Scheme). Given the following signature $\Sigma = \langle S, \bot, F, \le \rangle$, a subsumption scoring scheme M is a square $|S \cup \bot| \times |S \cup \bot|$ matrix such that:

$$\mathcal{M}_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \frac{1-q_i}{q_j} & \text{if } \psi^{a_i} \sqsubseteq \psi^{a_j} \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Dynamic scoring scheme example



Dynamic scoring scheme example

M	Α	В	С	D	E	Z	Υ	Х	
А	2.167	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
В	-1	2.8	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
С	-1	-1	2.8	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
D	-1	-1	-1	18	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
E	-1	-1	-1	-1	8.5	-1	-1	-1	-1
z	2.167	-1	-1	-1	-1	2.167	-1	-1	-1
Υ	-1	1.8	1.8	-1	-1	-1	0.9	-1	-1
х	-1	-1	-1	16	8	-1	-1	5.333	-1
Τ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

q

Α	0.316
В	0.263
С	0.263
D	0.053
E	0.105
Z	0.316
Υ	0.526
X	0.158
	1

Abduction (C^a) and Neglection (Cⁿ) Costs

 \circ **Abduction**(S, a,i): injects an alert a in alert stream S at postion i.

$$C^{a}(a) = -\sum_{a' \in \mathcal{S}: root(a) \sqsubseteq a'} \rho_{\alpha}(a')$$

$$\rho_{\alpha}(a) = \frac{\alpha - rare(a)}{\sharp distinct}$$

 \circ **Neglection**(S, i): ignores an alert at position i from alert stream S.

$$C^n(a) = -\rho_\alpha(a)^{-1}$$

Abduction (C^a) and Neglection (Cⁿ) Costs

	Ca	C ⁿ	
А	-1.2	-0.83	
В	-1	-1	
С	-1	-1	
D	-0.2	-5	
E	-0.4	-2.5	
Z	-2.4	-0.83	
Υ	-4	-0.5	
X	-1.2	-1.67	
	-11.4	-0.26	

Sequence Similarity

 $^{\circ}$ **Definition 6.** (Sequence Similarity). The similarity between two sequences S_1 and S_2 is the score of the optimal alignment between a suffix of S_1 and a prefix of S_2 : $S_1 \sim_S S_2 = \max_{1 \leq j \leq |S_2|} S(|S_1|, j)$.

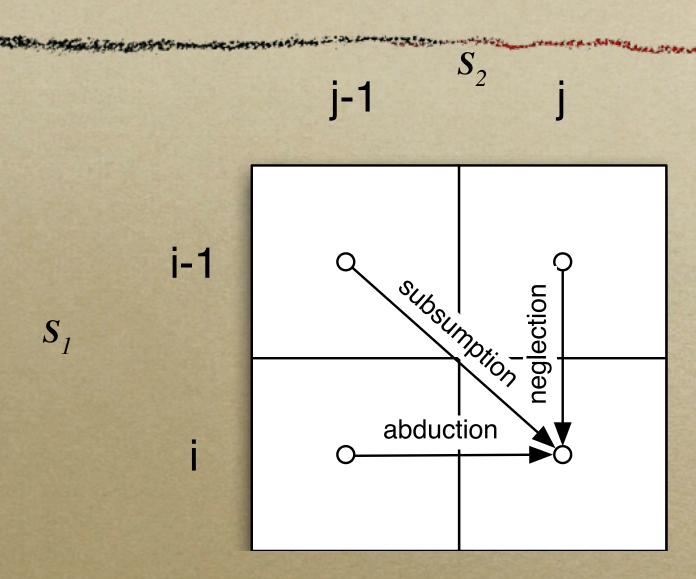
$$S(0,0) = 0$$

$$S(i,0) = S(i-1,0)$$

$$S(0,j) = S(0,j-1) + C^{a}(\vec{S}_{2}[j])$$

$$S(i,j) = max \begin{cases} S(i-1,j) & +C^{n}(\vec{S}_{1}[i]) \\ S(i,j-1) & +C^{a}(\vec{S}_{2}[j]) \\ S(i-1,j-1) + \mathcal{M}(root(i), root(j)) \end{cases}$$

Sequence similarity



Dynamic programming trace

