A blue-toned image of a robotic hand hovering over a digital data interface. The hand is composed of various mechanical parts and joints, with a glowing blue light emanating from it. The background is a dark, blurred digital space with lines of code and data points. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and technological.

# Integrated Adaptive Cyber Defense and the Importance of Knowledge Representation & Reasoning

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Shawn P. Riley

Chief Cybersecurity Scientist

Cybersecurity Science with Shawn Riley



# About Me

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- 30+ years in Information Security
  - 13 years in applied AI for cybersecurity
- U.S. Navy Veteran
  - Cryptology Community
- Cat Dad
  
- Location: Las Vegas, NV, USA
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shawnriley71/>
- Blog: <https://cybersecurityscience.blogspot.com/>

# Agenda

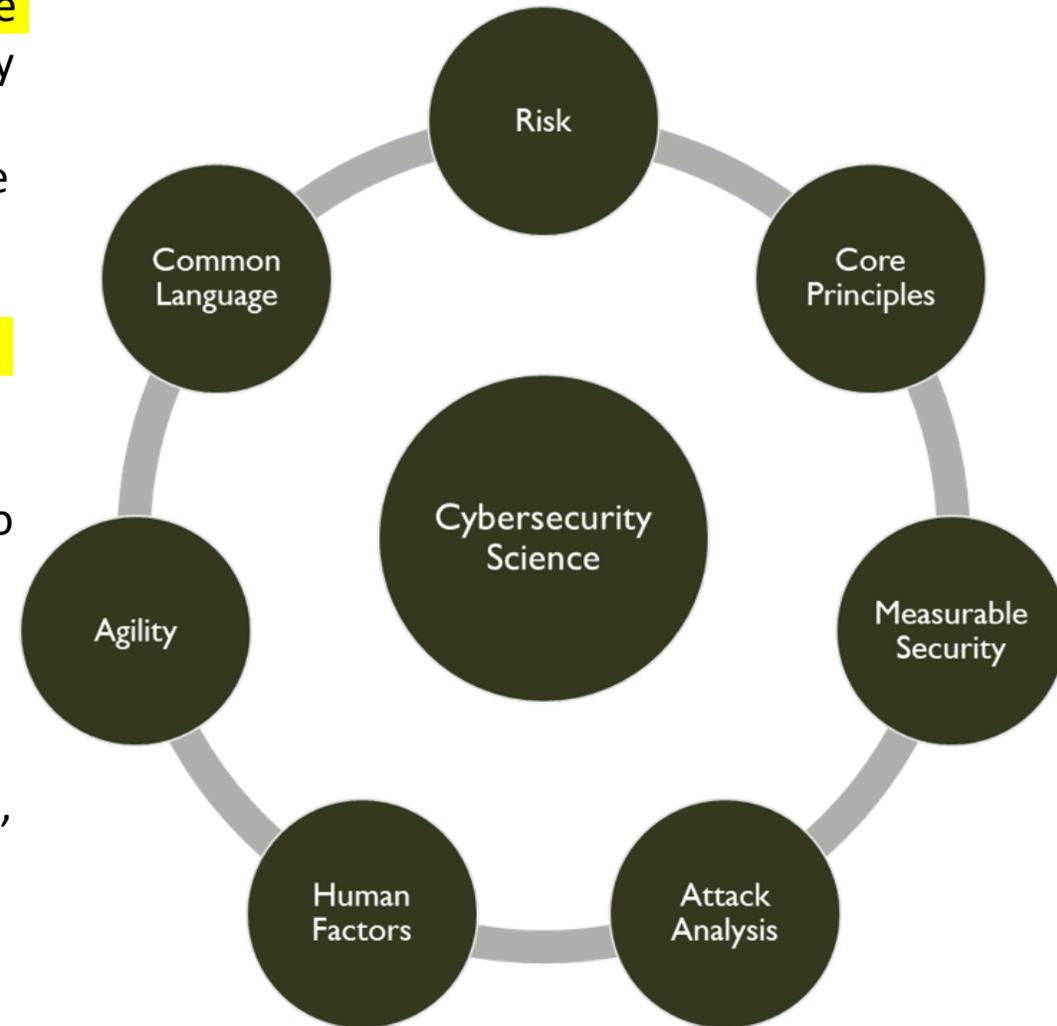
- How today's talk aligns with Cybersecurity Science
- Overview of Cybersecurity to frame the talk
- Overview of Integrated Adaptive Cyber Defense (IACD)
- Overview of Knowledge Representation & Reasoning (KR&R)
- Overview of the 4 Levels of Interoperability
- Practical Examples that pull it all together

# Cybersecurity Science

Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR&R) is closely related to the Cybersecurity Science core theme of Common Language. In cybersecurity science, Common Language refers to establishing a standardized and shared understanding of concepts, terms, and representations within the field.

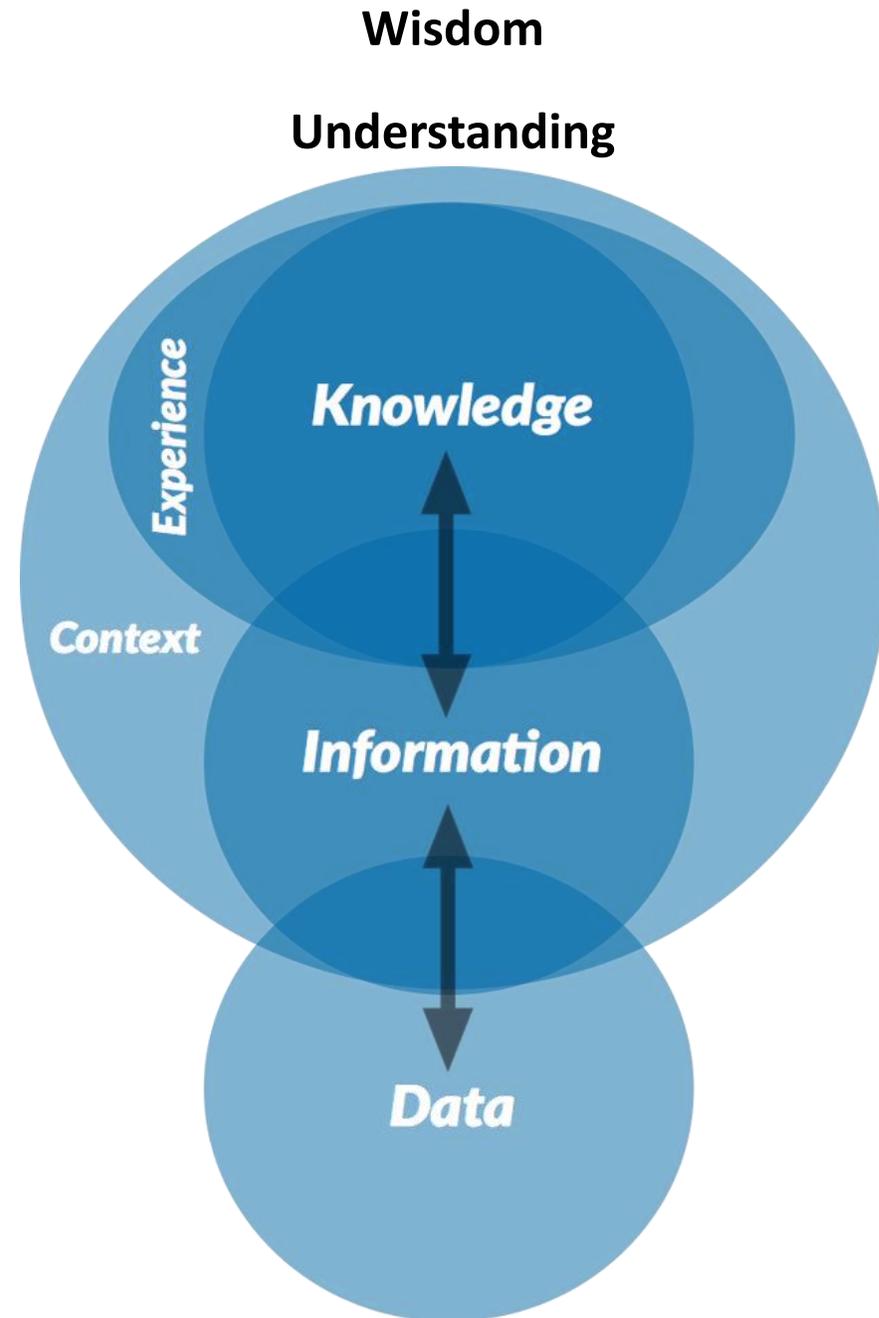
KR&R plays a vital role in achieving a Common Language in cybersecurity by providing a formal framework for representing and organizing knowledge related to cybersecurity concepts, threats, vulnerabilities, attacks, and defense mechanisms. It allows cybersecurity professionals to capture and structure domain-specific knowledge in a consistent and machine-readable manner.

By employing KR&R techniques, cybersecurity experts can create ontologies, taxonomies, and knowledge graphs that facilitate the sharing, integrating, and analyzing of cybersecurity information. These formal representations enable the development of intelligent systems and decision-support tools to reason about cybersecurity knowledge, detect anomalies, identify patterns, and propose effective countermeasures.



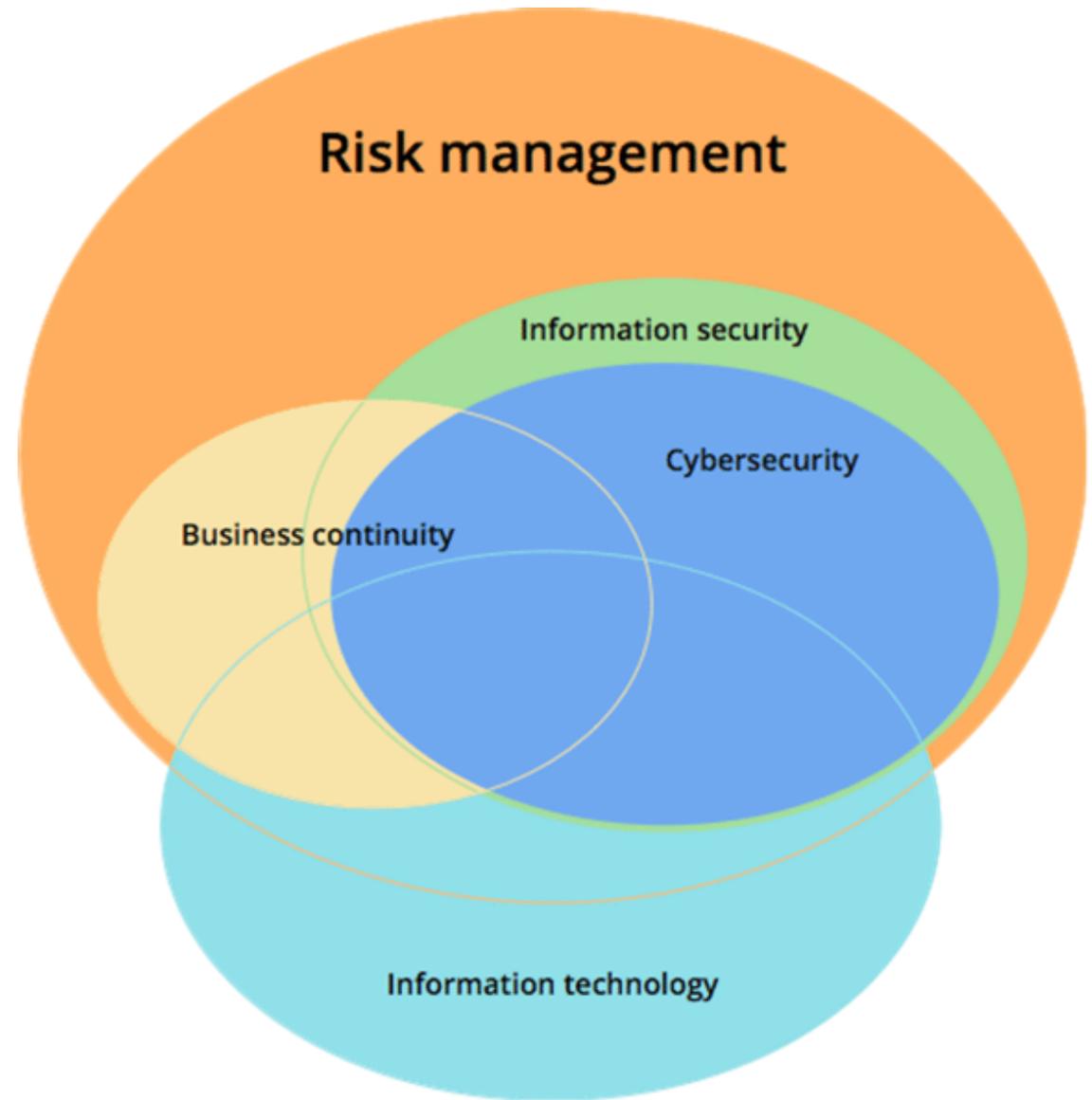
# From Data to Wisdom

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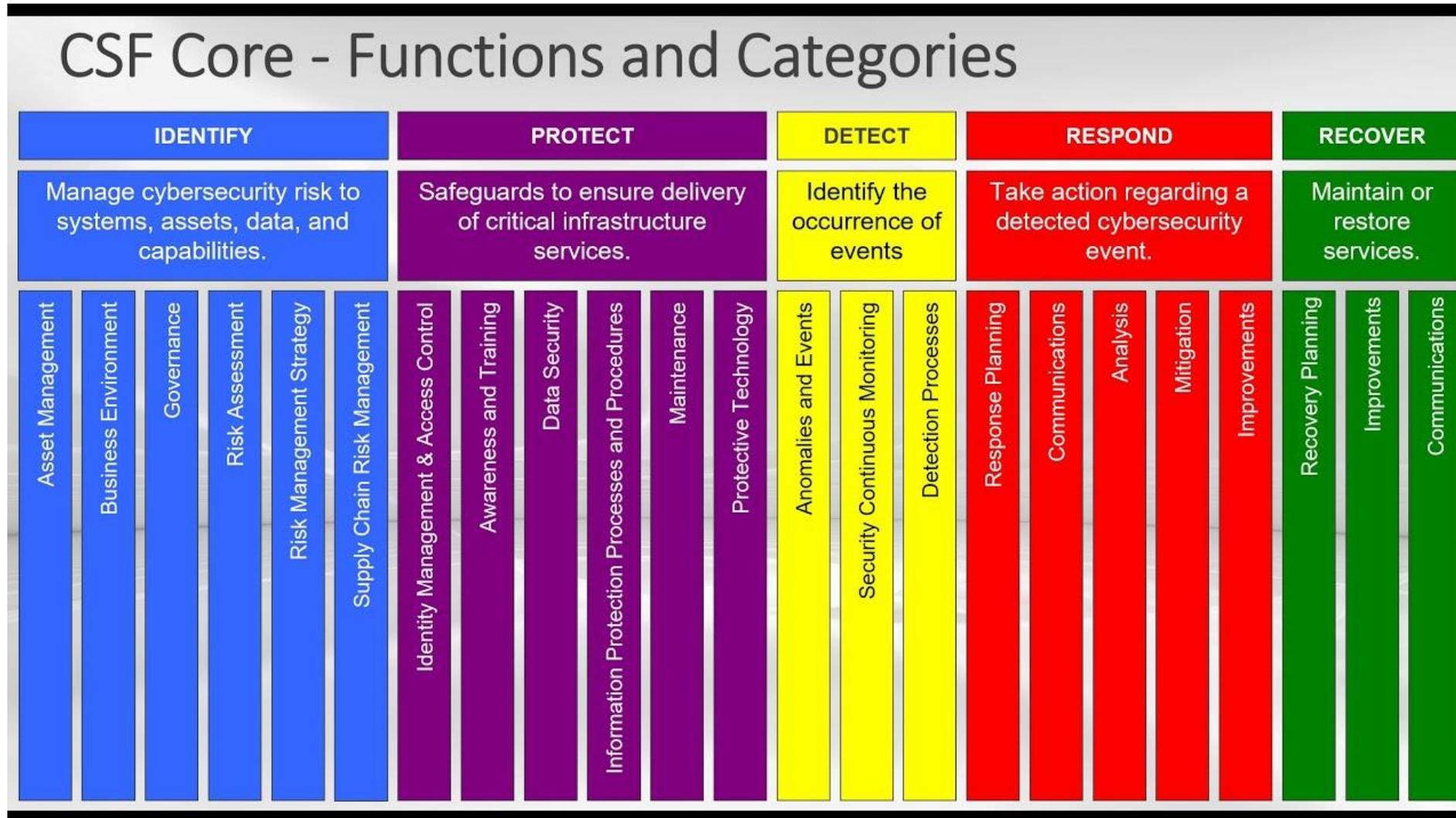


# What is Cybersecurity

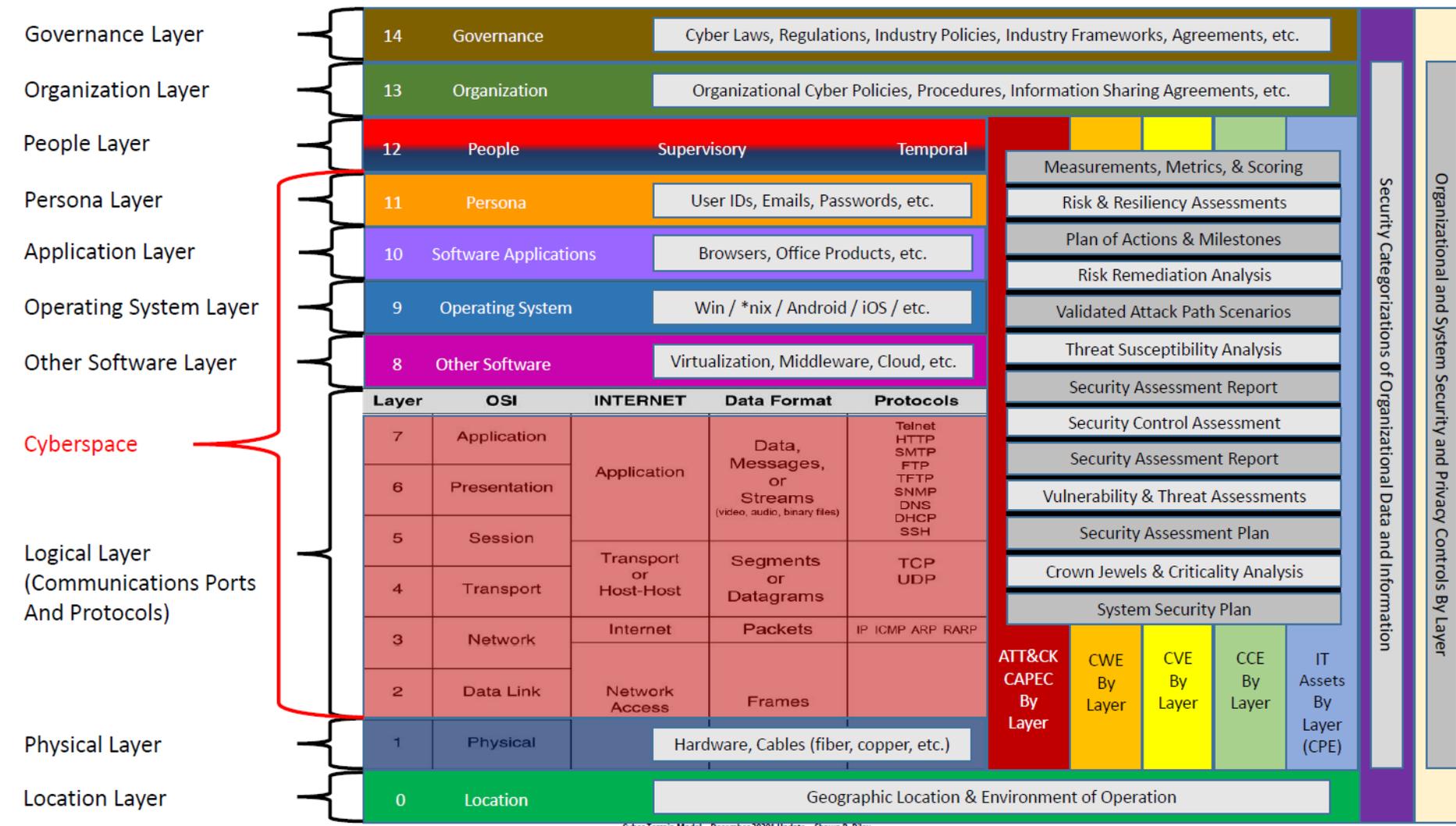
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# Cybersecurity Core Functions & Categories



# The complexity of Information in the Cyber Environment



# Offense

Organization Layer  
**Threat Actors / People**

**Adversarial Contextual Knowledge**

**Threat Actor's use of technology and observable technical indicators**

**Threat Actor's Modus Operandi (Methods of Operation)**

**Technology / Cyber Terrain**

Recon → Weaponize → Deliver → Exploit → Control → Execute → Maintain

**Processes TTPs**

**Defender's technology based mitigations and countermeasures**

**Defender's process based mitigations and countermeasures**

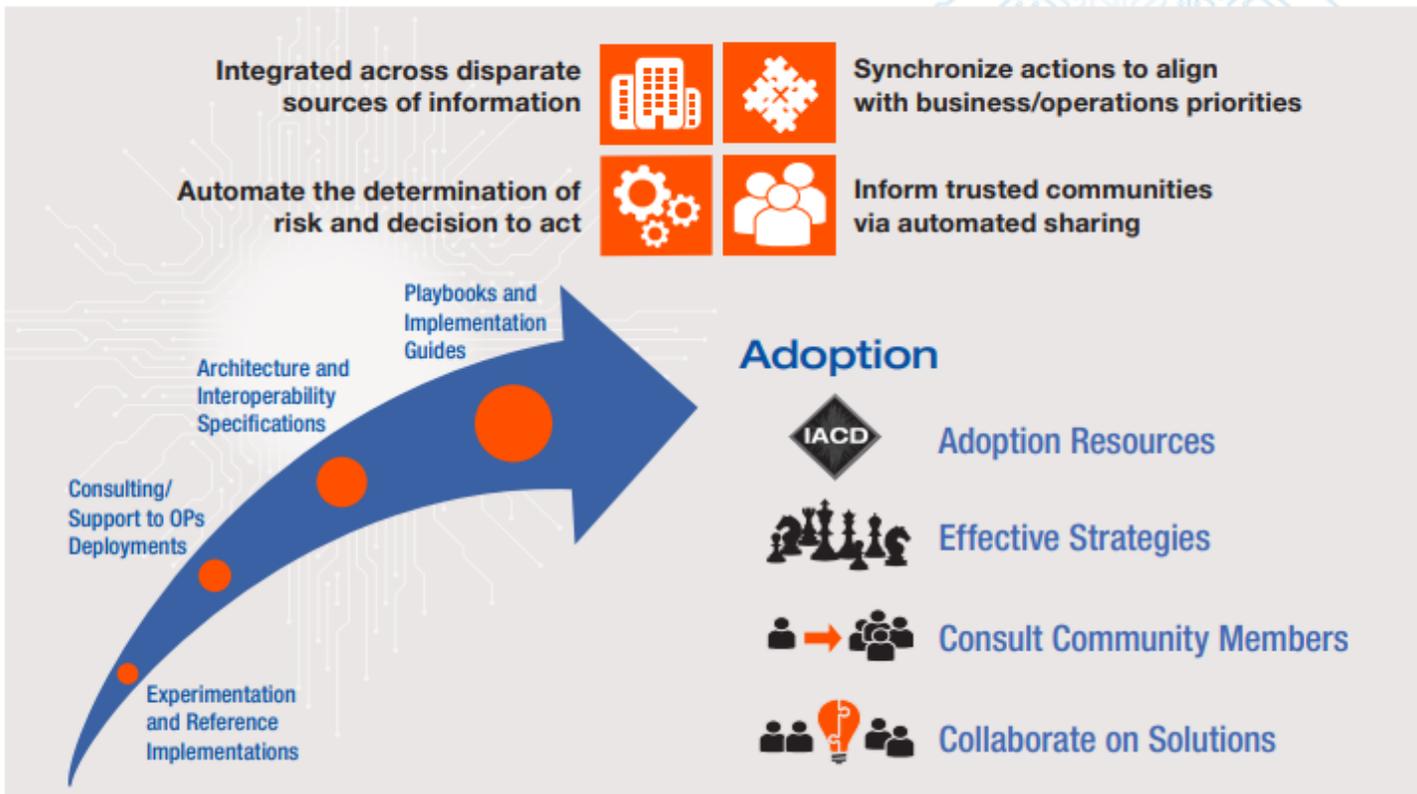
# Defense

**Defenders**

**Enterprise Contextual Knowledge**

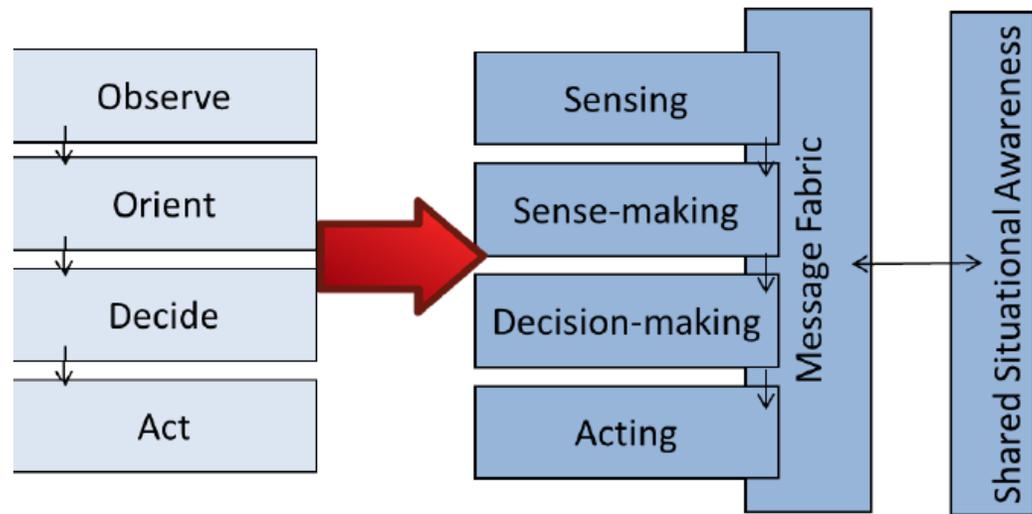
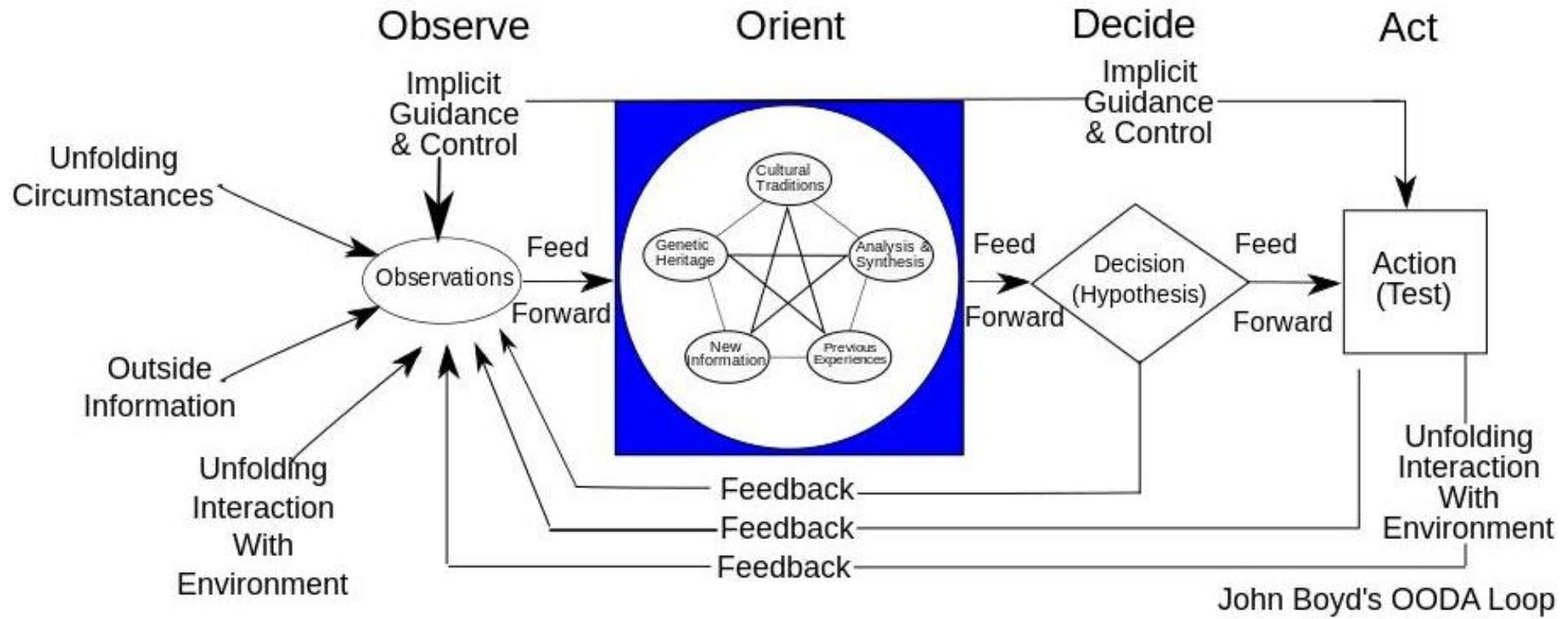
Organization Layer

**IACD is a strategy and framework to adopt an extensible, adaptive, COTS-based approach to cyber defense.**



# Integrated Adaptive Cyber Defense (IACD)

Our goal is to dramatically change the timeline and effectiveness of cyber defense via integration, automation, orchestration, and sharing of machine-readable cyber threat information.

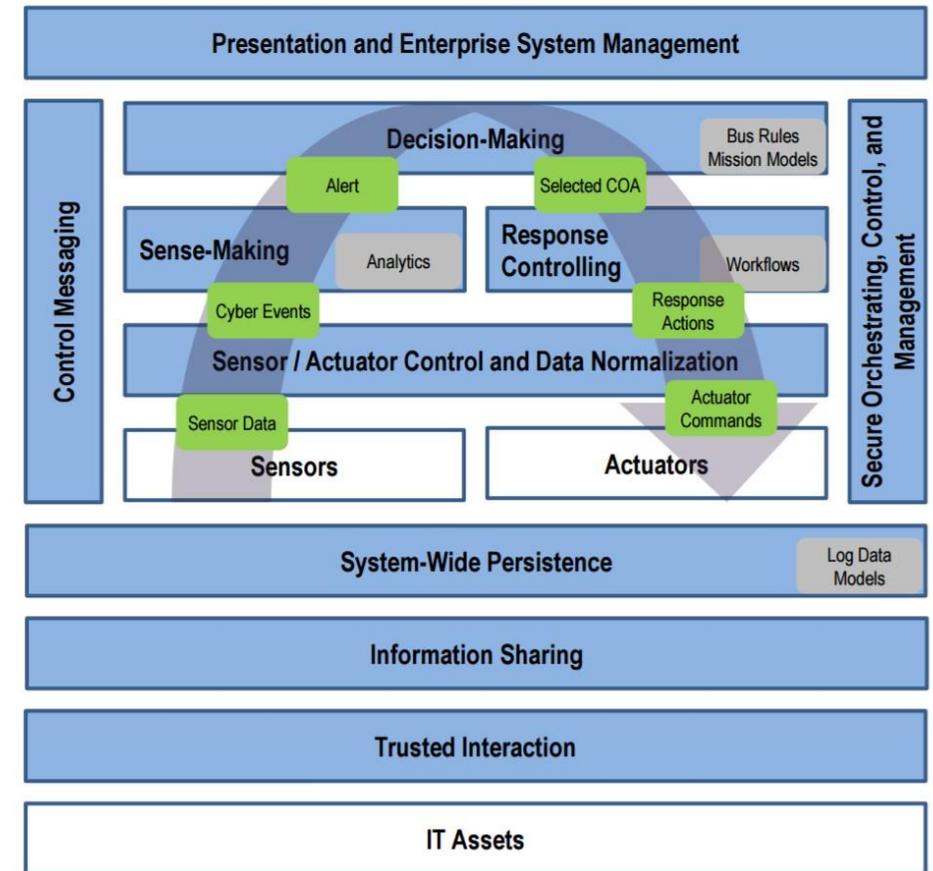
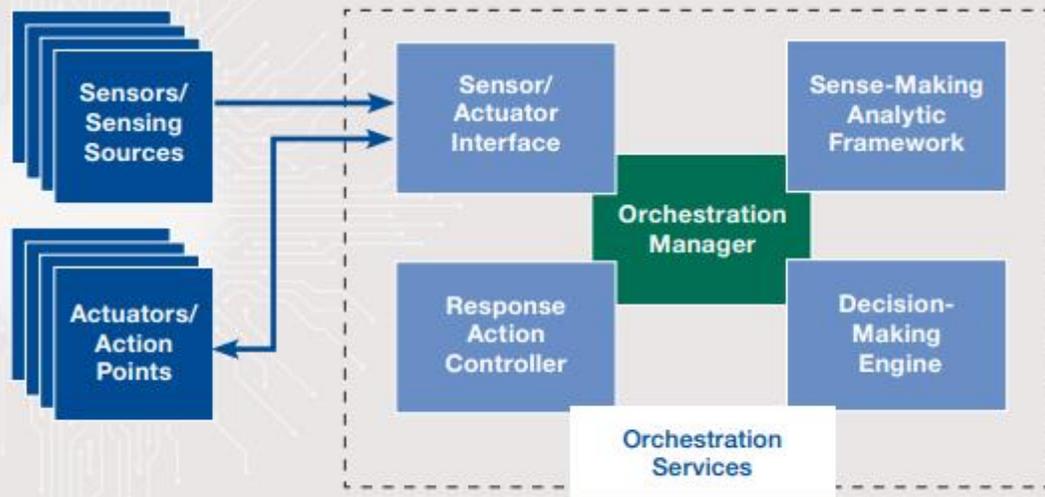


# The Cyber OODA loop in IACD



## IACD Baseline Architecture

Derived from the OODA (Observe–Orient–Decide–Act) Loop, the IACD architecture has evolved into a framework that is composed of sensors bringing in shared and trusted information to trigger the Orchestration Services to act in response to cyber events.

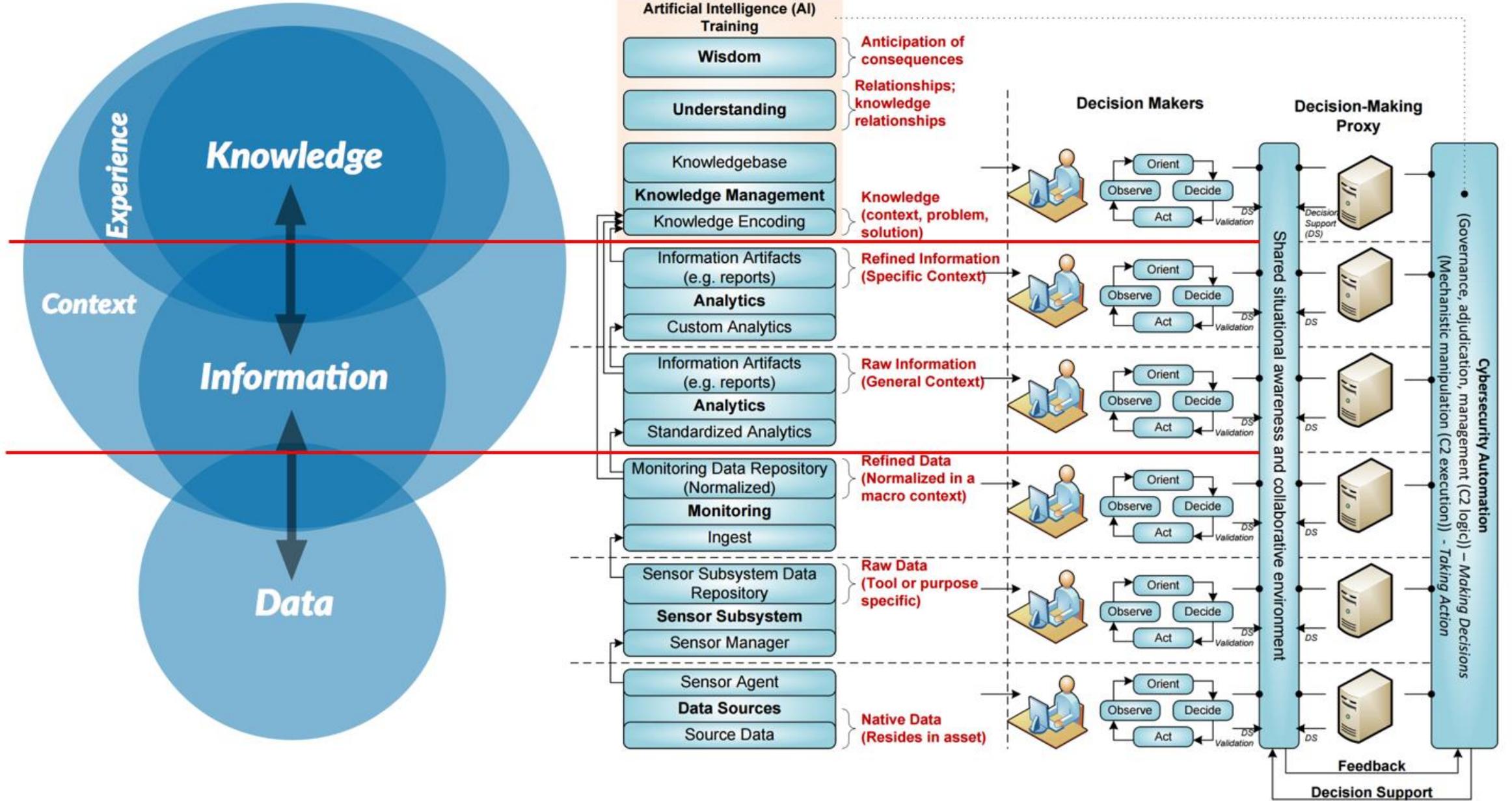


Blue – CORE IACD Capabilities    White– Existing Infrastructure    Grey – Data    Green– Inputs/Outputs

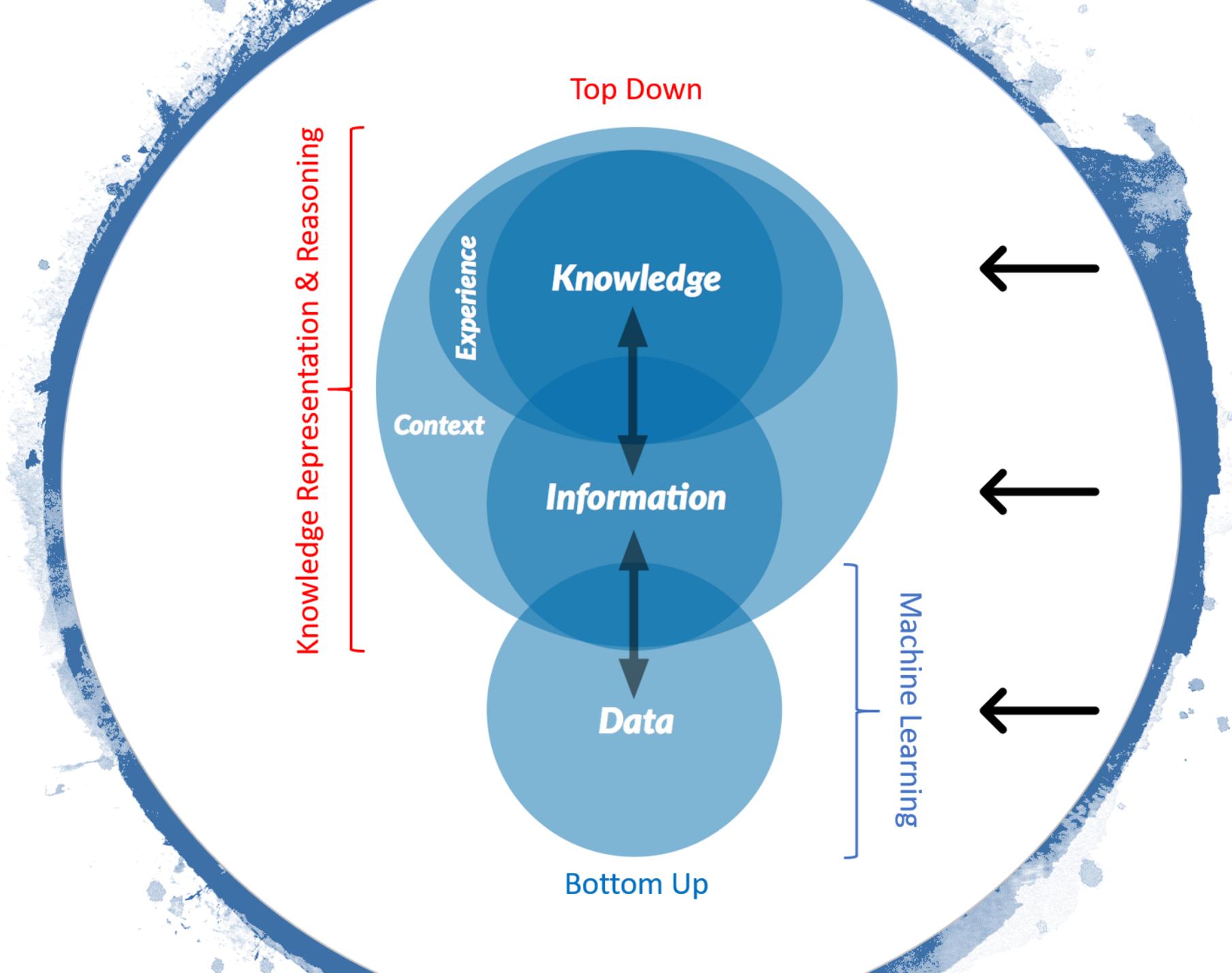
Figure 1 Integration of IACD Capabilities through the OODA Loop



# Integrated Cybersecurity Decision Pattern Knowledge = Context, Problem, Solution



# AI



Top Down

Knowledge Representation & Reasoning

Experience

Knowledge

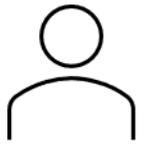
Context

Information

Data

Machine Learning

Bottom Up



Key AI Skills

Knowledge Engineering

Information Science

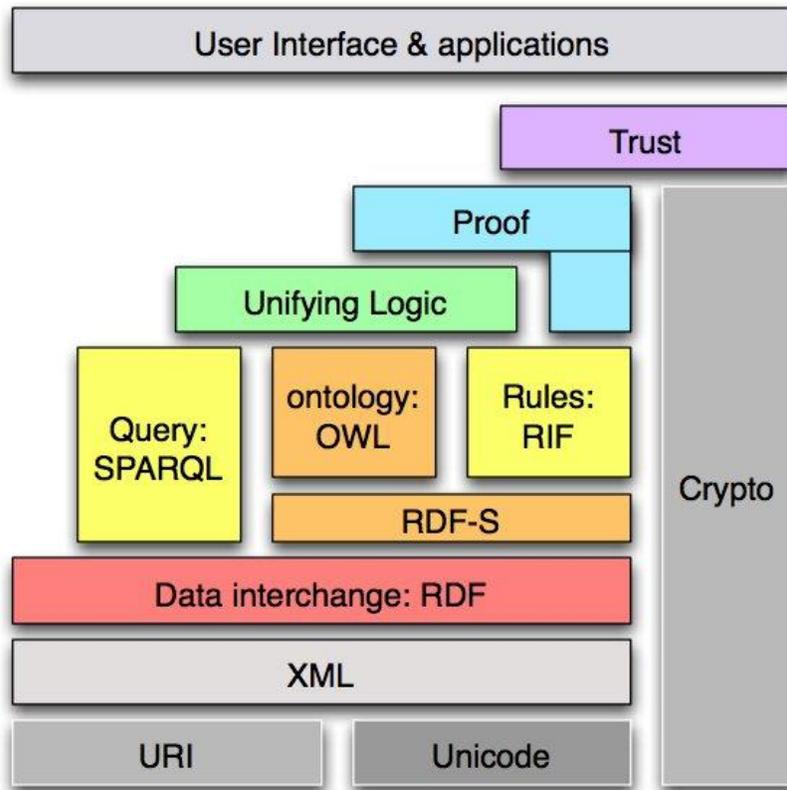
Data Science



# Knowledge Representation & Reasoning

- Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR&R) is a field of artificial intelligence that deals with the representation of knowledge, allowing computational systems to reason, make inferences, and solve problems. It involves the development of formal languages, frameworks, and techniques to capture and organize knowledge in a structured and computationally tractable form.
- Knowledge representation refers to capturing and encoding knowledge from a specific domain into a formal representation that a computer can understand and process. This representation typically uses symbols, concepts, relationships, rules, and constraints to model real-world knowledge.
- Reasoning refers to drawing logical deductions, making inferences, and answering questions based on the knowledge representation. It involves applying rules, algorithms, and inference mechanisms to manipulate and derive new knowledge from existing knowledge.
- A.K.A. Machine Reasoning, Machine Understanding, Expert Systems, Knowledge-Driven AI, Knowledge Graph AI, etc.

# Most Used for KR&R – W3C OWL/RDF (Not Prolog)



**SHACL – Constraints**

**RML – RDF Mapping  
(Not W3C but popular)**

**OWL (Web Ontology Language) and RDF (Resource Description Framework) are considered leading knowledge representation languages for several reasons:**

1. Expressive Power: OWL and RDF provide a rich set of constructs for representing knowledge, including classes, properties, individuals, relationships, and axioms.

2. Semantic Interoperability: OWL and RDF promote interoperability by providing a standardized and flexible framework for representing and linking data across different domains and sources. They enable the integration of diverse information and facilitate data sharing and exchange.

3. Reasoning Capabilities: OWL, specifically, is designed to support automated reasoning. It provides a set of logical constructs and reasoning mechanisms that allow for inferencing and deduction.

4. Semantic Web Compatibility: OWL and RDF are designed to capture and convey semantic information, enabling machines to understand and process the meaning of data.

Data

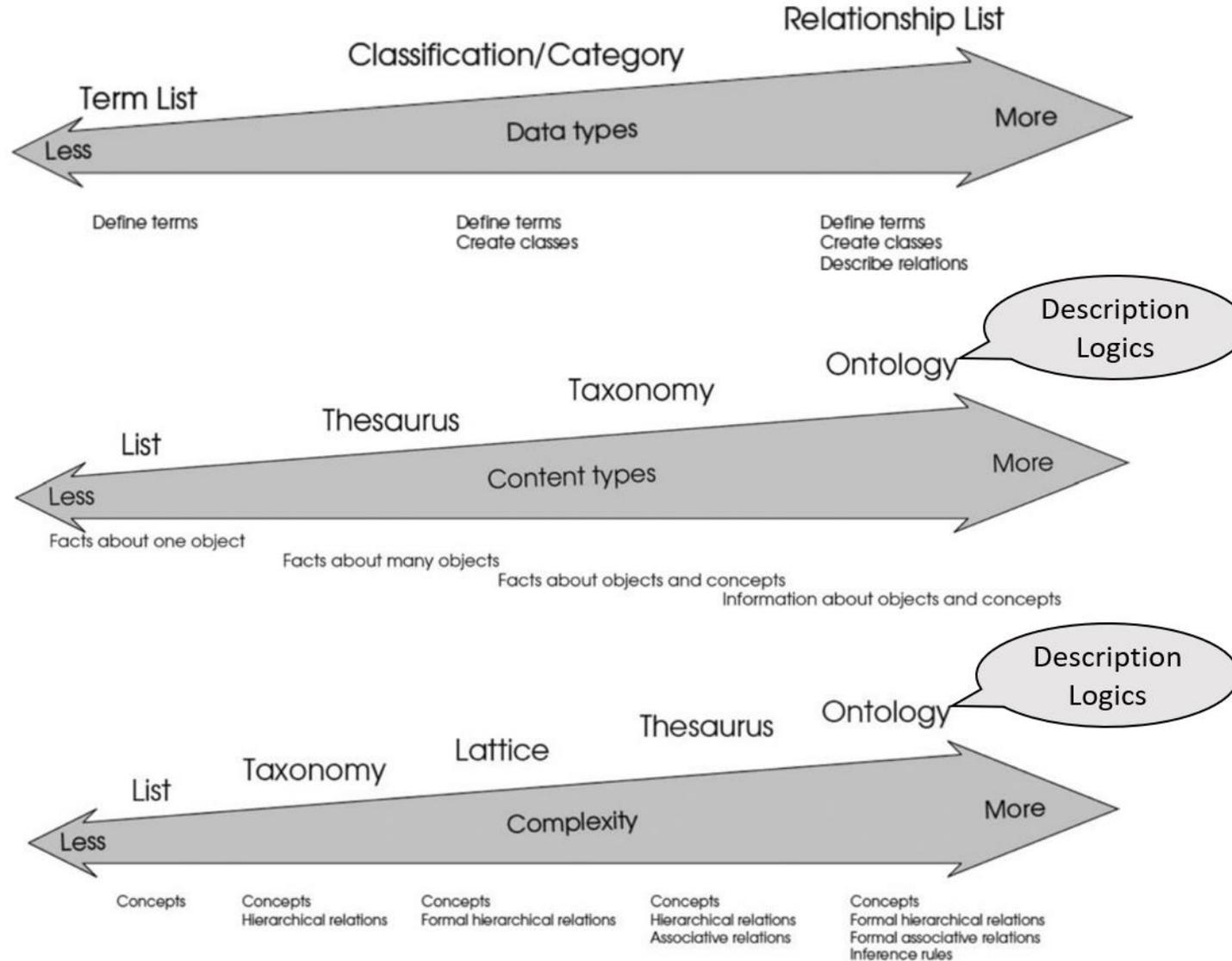
Information

Knowledge

Data Science

Machine Learning

Inductive Statistical Inference



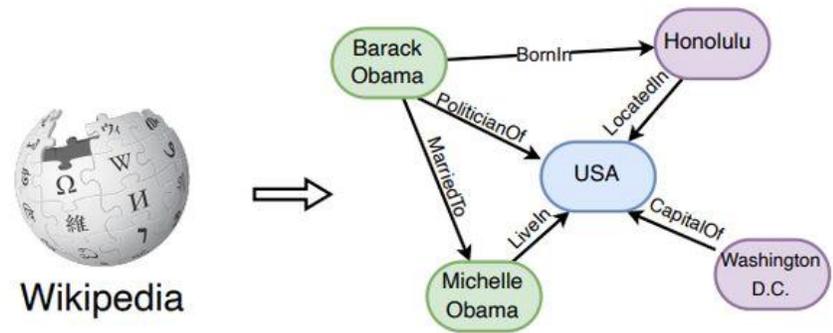
Deductive Logical Inference

Machine Understanding

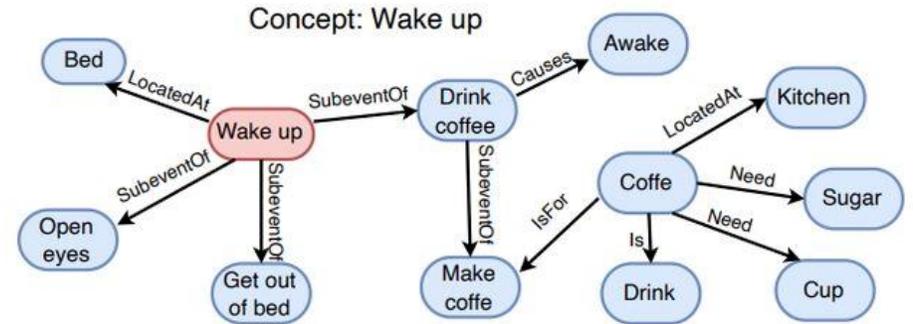
Knowledge Engineering

# Knowledge Graphs

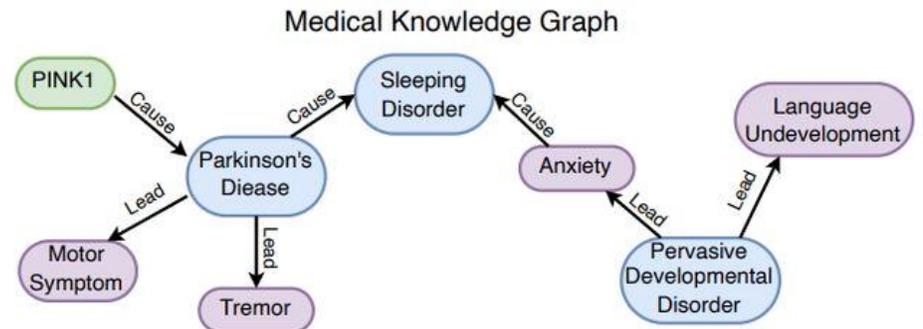
Encyclopedic  
Knowledge Graphs



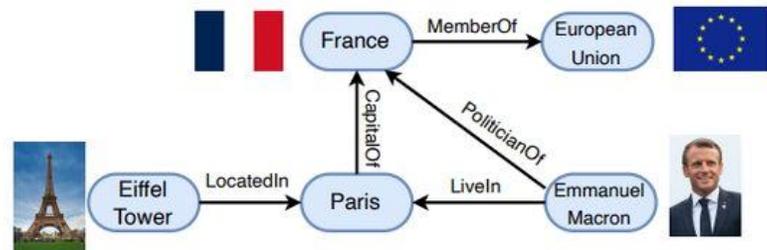
Commonsense  
Knowledge Graphs



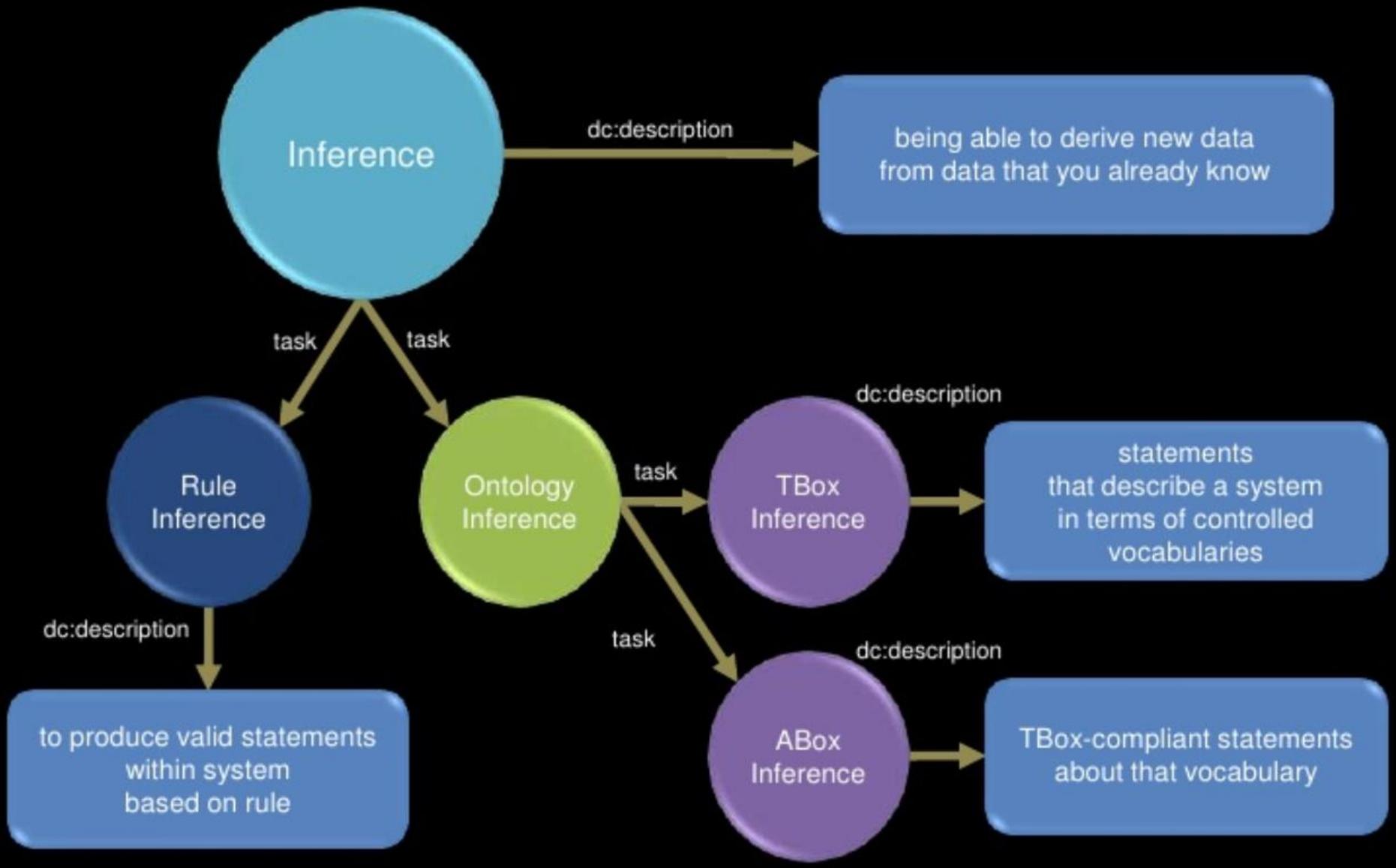
Domain-specific  
Knowledge Graphs



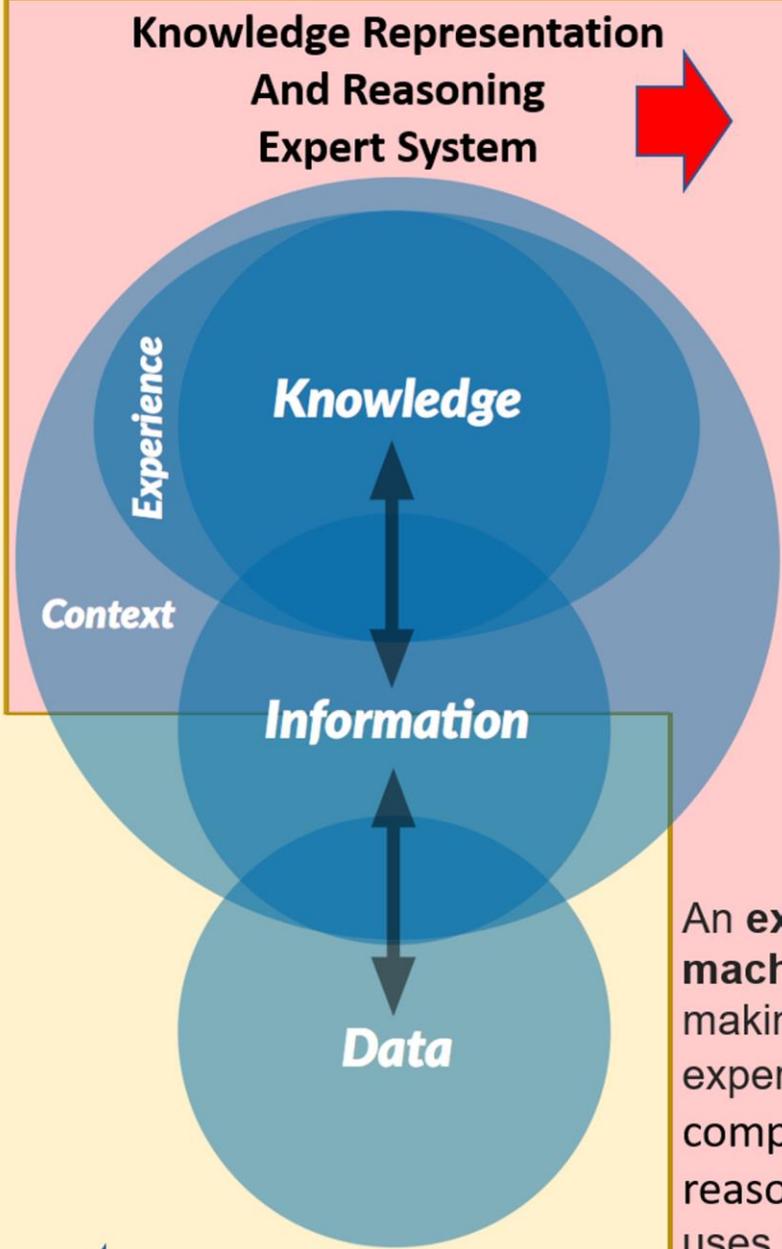
Multi-modal  
Knowledge Graphs



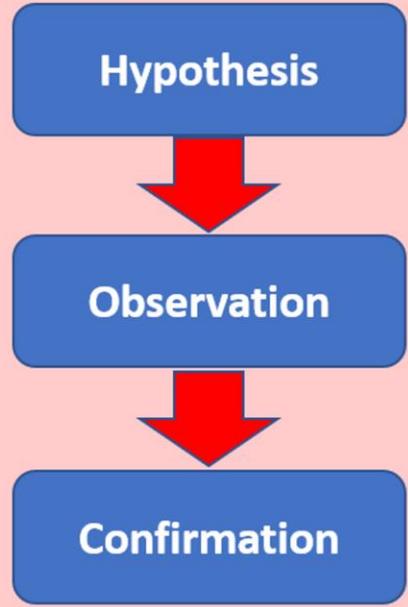
# Task of Inference



**Machine Learning** focuses on prediction, based on *known* properties learned from the training data. **Inductive Reasoning** uses patterns to arrive at a conclusion (**conjecture**). **Note:** A conclusion derived through inductive reasoning is called a hypothesis and is always less certain than the evidence itself. In other words, the conclusion is **probable**.

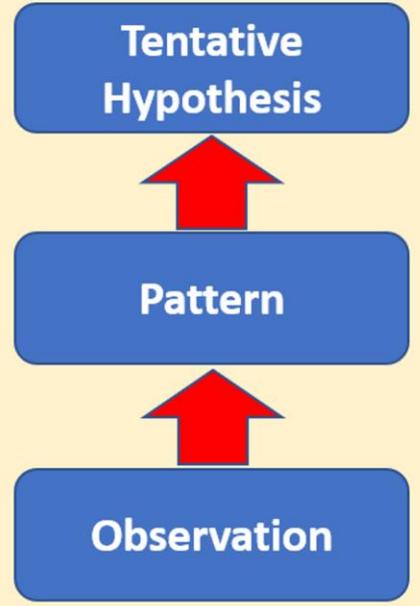


**Knowledge Representation And Reasoning Expert System** → **Deductive Reasoning Top-Down Approach General to Specific**



Knowledge Graphs

An **expert system** is an A.I. system focuses on **machine understanding** that emulates the sense-making and decision-making ability of a human expert. Expert systems are designed to solve complex problems by understanding and reasoning about knowledge. **Deductive Reasoning** uses facts, rules, definitions or properties to arrive at a conclusion.



Property Graphs

**Inductive Reasoning Bottom-Up Approach Specific to Generalization**

**Machine Learning Predictive Analytics Scoring Engines**

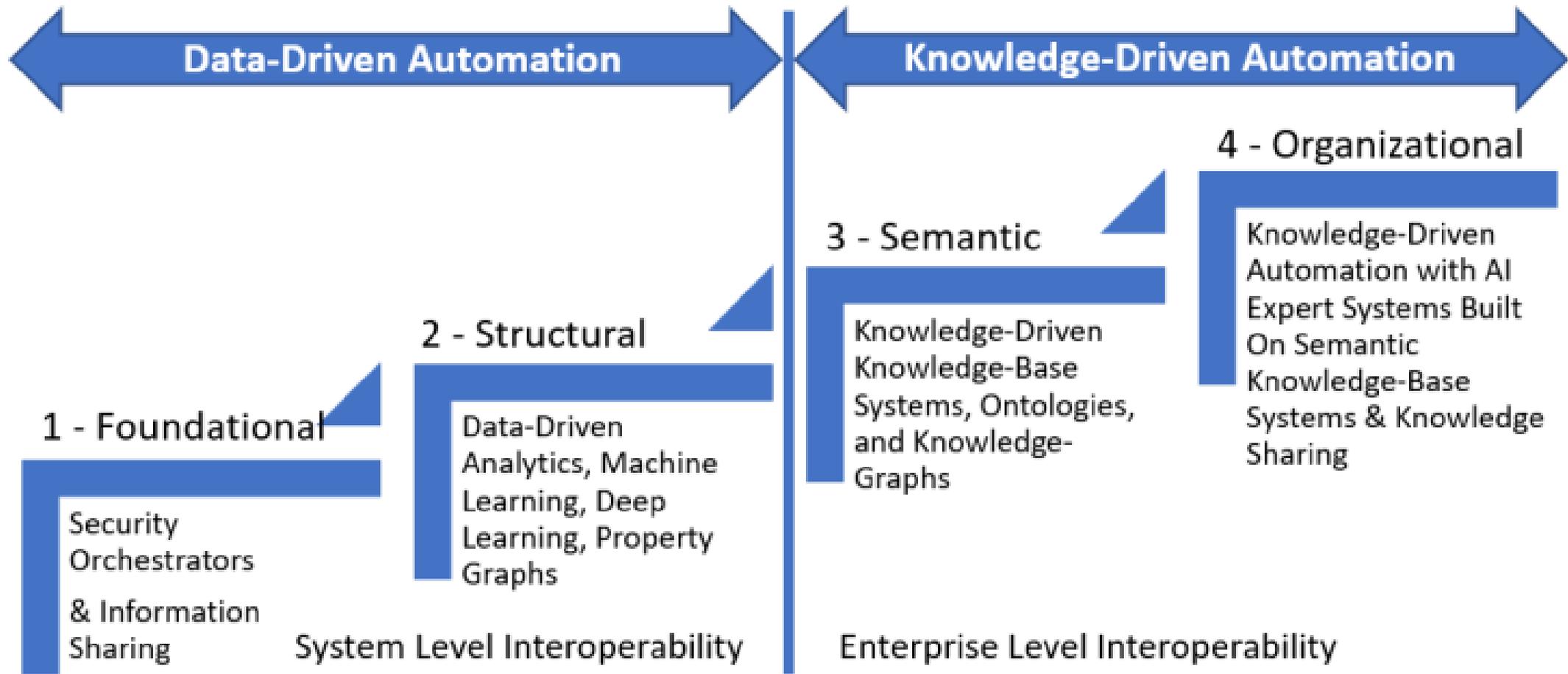
# KR&R Supports FAIR Data Principles

**F**  indable **A**  ccesible **I**  nteroperable **R**  eusable

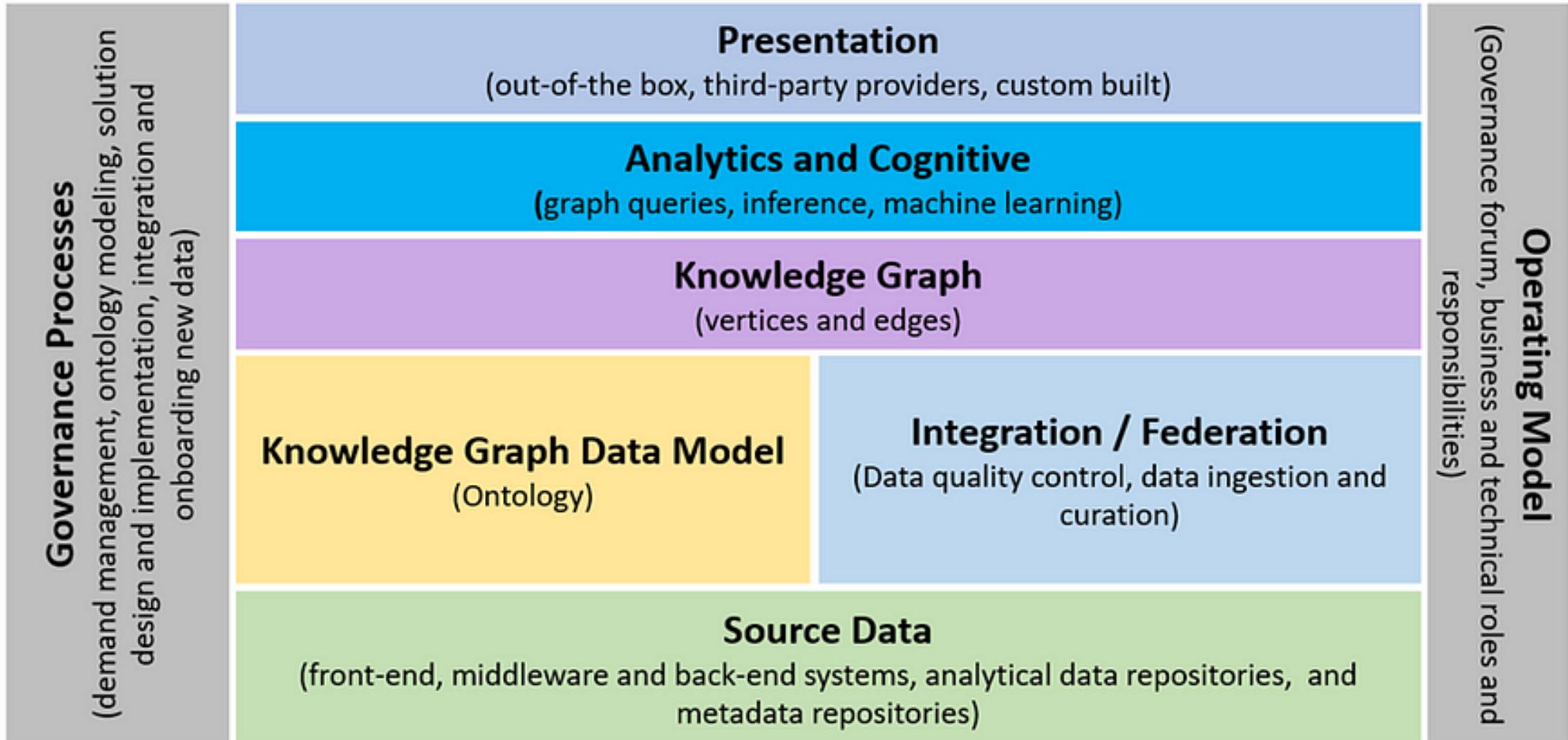
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**Open** 

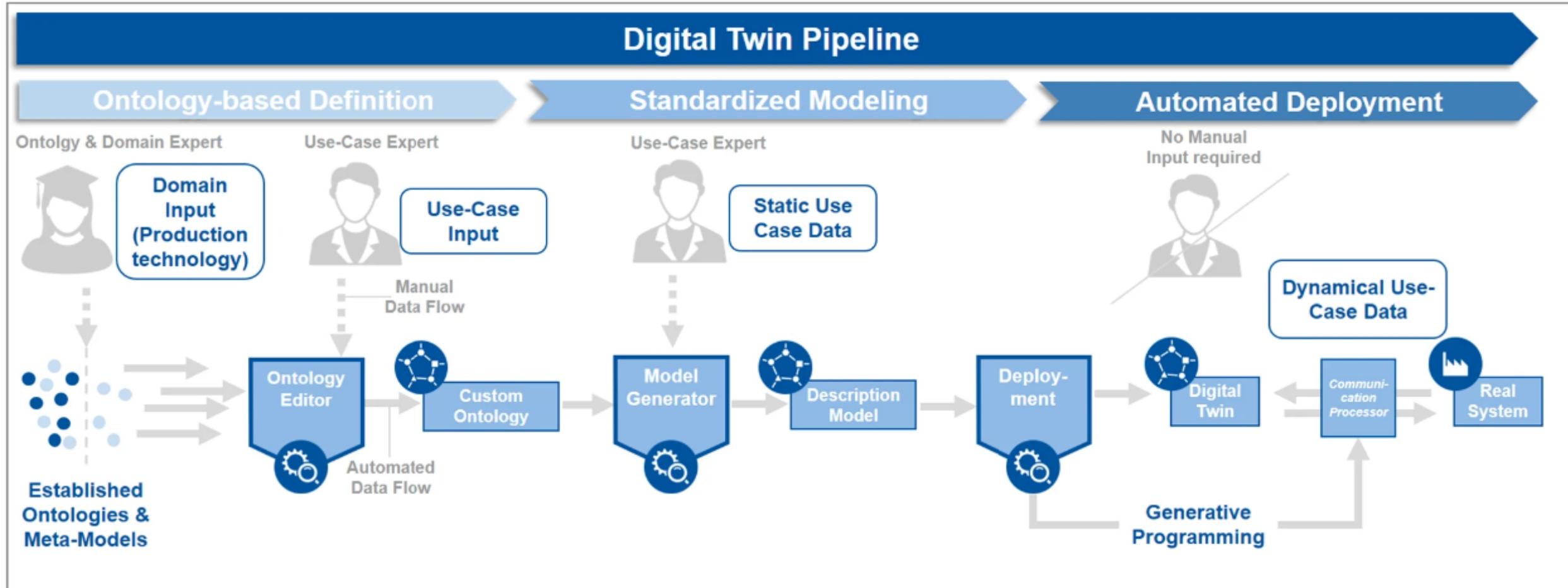
# 4 Levels of Interoperability



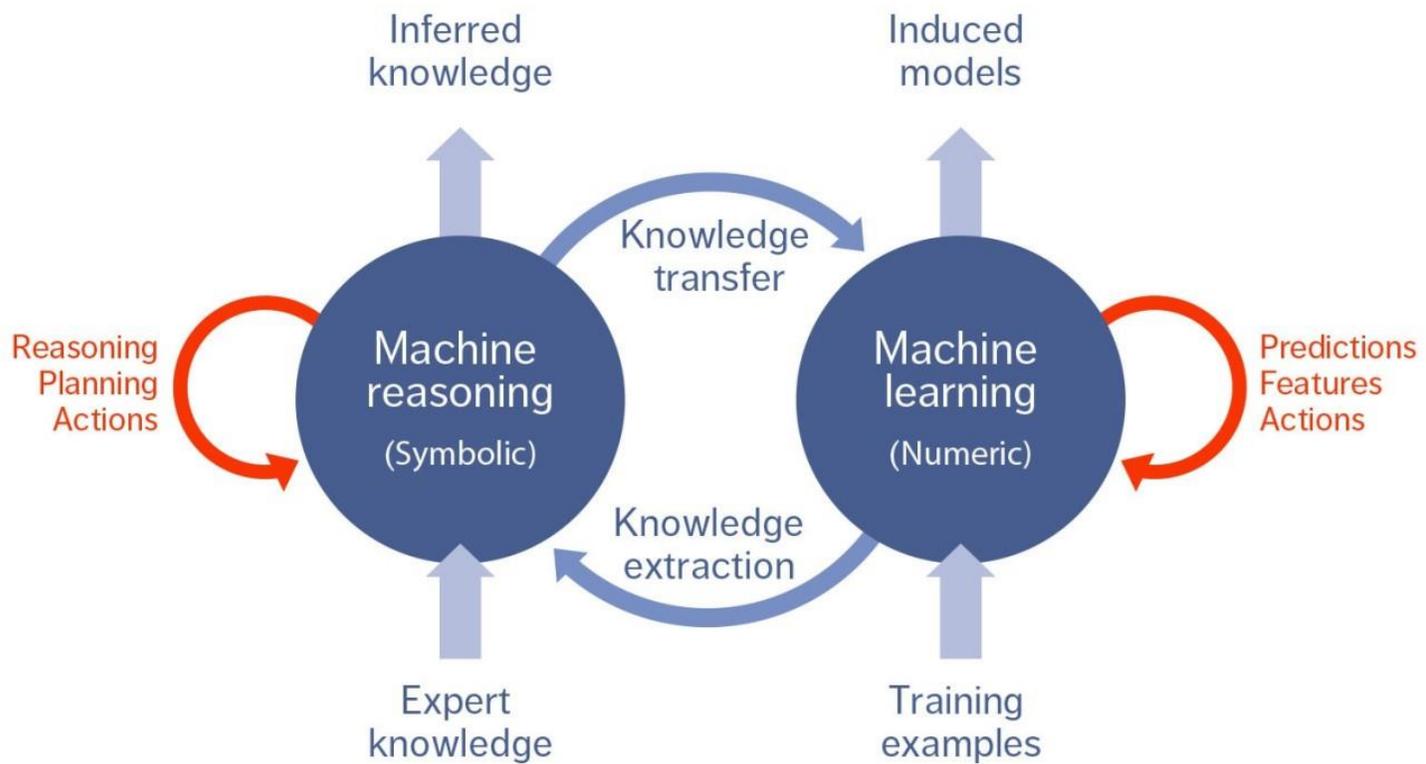
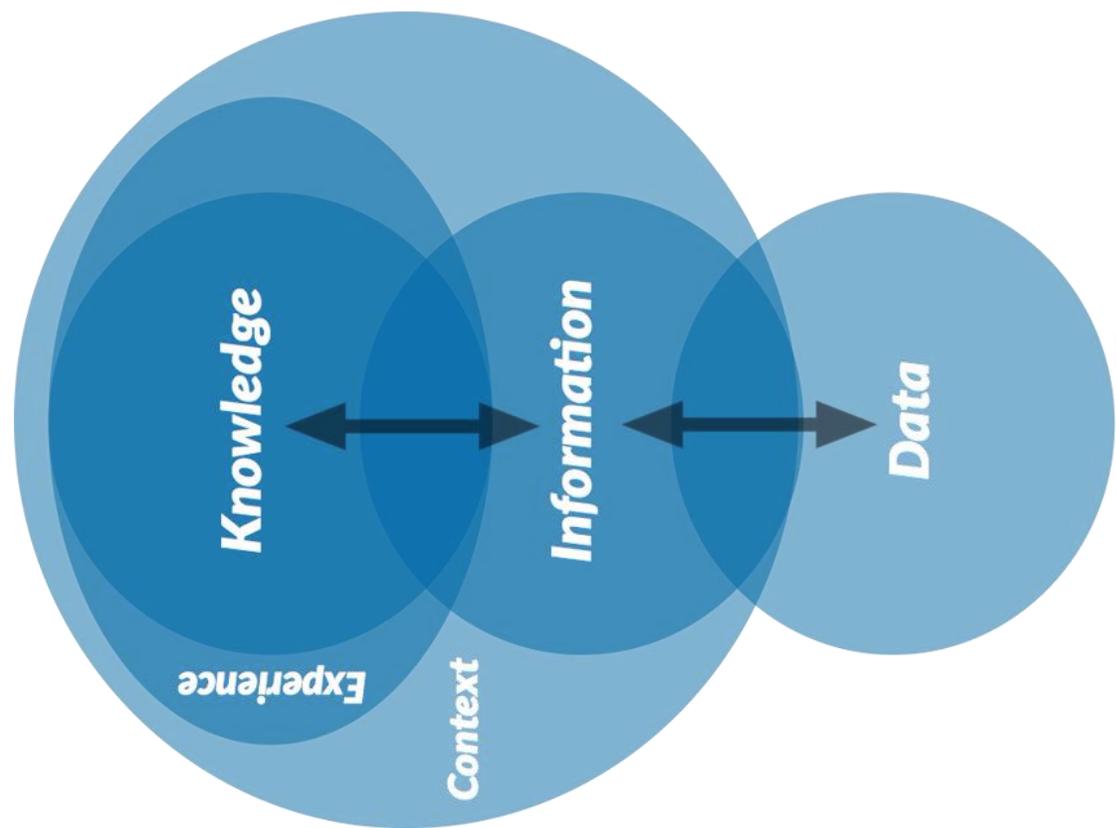
# We Need Cybersecurity Data Fabrics w/KR&R



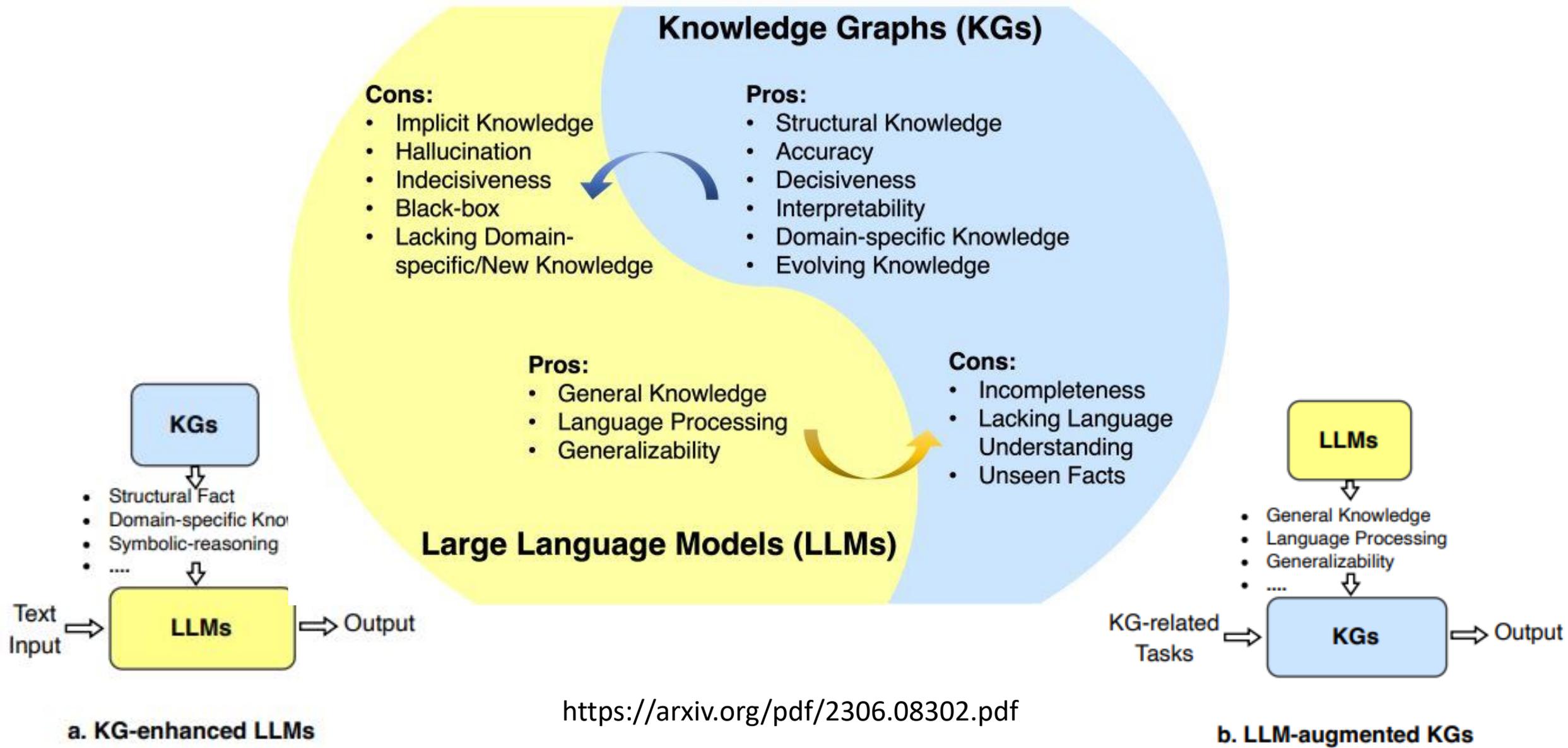
# We Need Cybersecurity Digital Twins w/KR&R



Three phases of the end-to-end digital twin pipeline for the application in cyber-physical systems

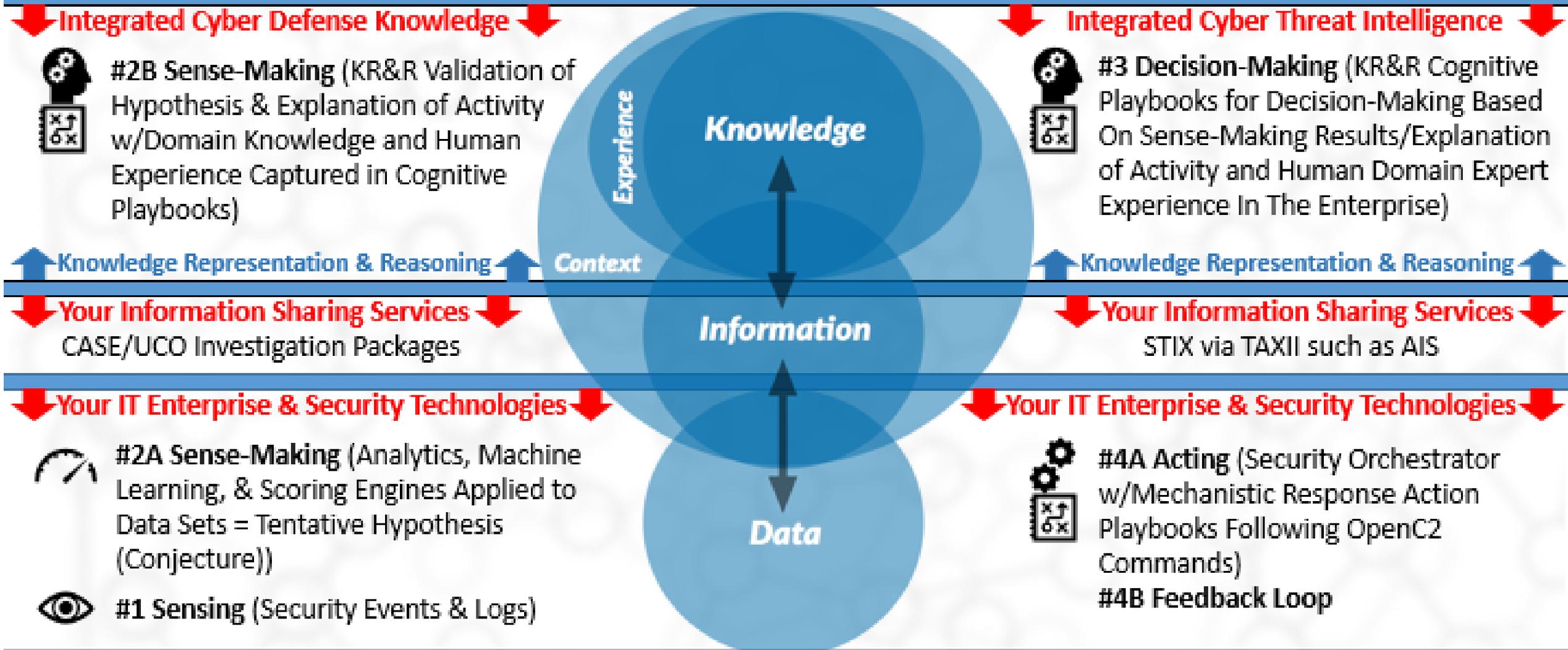


# We Need Cybersecurity Hybrid LLMs w/KR&R



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2306.08302.pdf>

# AI-Driven Integrated Adaptive Cyber Defense Overview



# W3C Working on Updates to RDF & SPARQL

The W3C published the first (mostly skeletal) documents for the **RDF 1.2 and SPARQL 1.2** Working groups. Little new has been added yet and a quick survey indicates that much of what does exist has primarily been imported from 1.1, but the very fact that this working group has been established is important in that it indicates that the **W3C is actively working on an upgrade, not just tinkering around the edges.**

Questions