15-400 Milestone Report I

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0.1 Milestone Progress

My stated goal for the first two weeks was to have manually explored WordNet definitions and to have looked at how they would need to be represented in Scone. To that end, I downloaded the WordNet database and looked at previous work done by Dr. James Allen that used WordNet definitions for EPILOG. As one of the steps in his work included using the TRIPS parser to provide deeper context to the WordNet definitions, I found the TRIPS parser and was using its API to note what useful information it might provide for my goal. Since the TRIPS parser provides semantic roles - e.g. in the phrase "stop sleeping" it identifies that there is an agent involved in this process, this information would be useful to Scone, which can have roles added between two objects. As another example, in "slept" TRIPS identifies the "original" word, "sleep", which is useful for matching WordNet concepts with some that might already be present in Scone or would have been populated earlier; it is likely that both "sleep" and "slept" in Scone would need to refer to the same concept with various connections. I explored also the WordNet data file structure and discovered that some of the work has already been done for me. The files are categorized by their part of speech and some higher-order category, which seems to ease at least some of the processing. For example, nouns have files labeled with "act," "animal," "attribute," "person," "phenomenon," etc.

0.2 Changes + Surprises

As of now, no changes to the project or milestones have been planned. There have not been any unexpected surprises either.

0.3 Resources Needed

So far I have had all the resources I have needed. Dr. Fahlman has contacted Dr. Allen to see whether he would be able and willing to share any other tools that might be useful and we are waiting for a response.