

Making Sense of Streaming Data

Alexander Artikis^{1,2}

Periklis Mantenoglou³

Manos Pitsikalis¹

¹NCSR Demokritos, Athens, Greece

²University of Piraeus, Greece

³Örebro University, Sweden



Slides, Papers, Code & Data



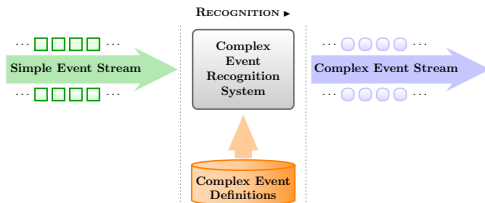
Making Sense of Streaming Data



Complex Event Recognition lab

Complex Event Recognition

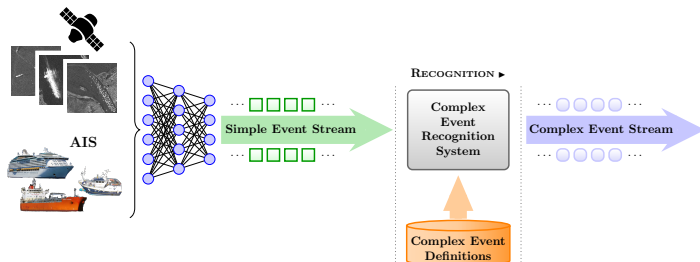
Complex Event Recognition (CER)^{*,†}



^{*} Giatrakos et al, Complex Event Recognition in the Big Data Era: A Survey. VLDB Journal, 2020.

[†] Alevizos et al, Probabilistic Complex Event Recognition: A Survey. ACM Computing Surveys, 2017.

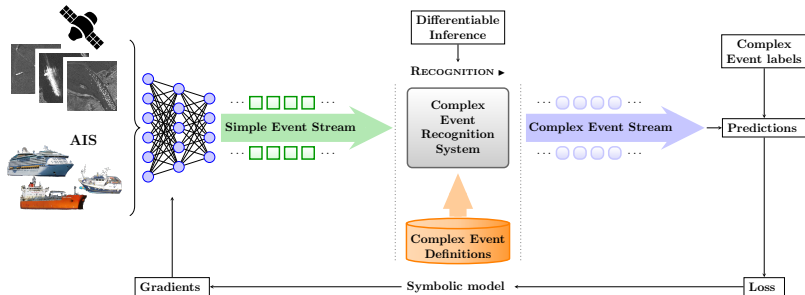
Complex Event Recognition (CER)^{*,†}



^{*} Giatrakos et al, Complex Event Recognition in the Big Data Era: A Survey. VLDB Journal, 2020.

[†] Alevizos et al, Probabilistic Complex Event Recognition: A Survey. ACM Computing Surveys, 2017.

Complex Event Recognition (CER)^{*,†}



^{*} Giatrakos et al, Complex Event Recognition in the Big Data Era: A Survey. VLDB Journal, 2020.

[†] Alevizos et al, Probabilistic Complex Event Recognition: A Survey. ACM Computing Surveys, 2017.

CER for Maritime Situational Awareness*



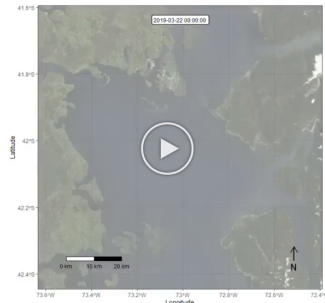
<https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr> (fishing vessel)

* Artikis and Zissis, Guide to Maritime Informatics, Springer, 2021.

CER for Maritime Situational Awareness*



<https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr> (fishing vessel)



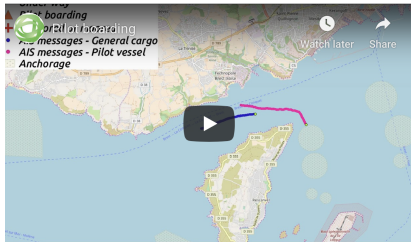
<https://rdcu.be/cNkQE>

* Artikis and Zissis, Guide to Maritime Informatics, Springer, 2021.

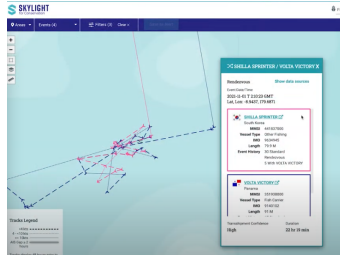
CER for Maritime Situational Awareness*



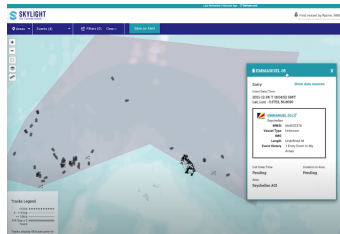
[https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr \(tugging\)](https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr (tugging))



[https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr \(pilot boarding\)](https://cer.iit.demokritos.gr (pilot boarding))



[https://www.skylight.global \(rendez-vous\)](https://www.skylight.global (rendez-vous))



[https://www.skylight.global \(enter area\)](https://www.skylight.global (enter area))

* Artikis and Zissis, Guide to Maritime Informatics, Springer, 2021.

Data Challenges

- ▶ **Velocity, Volume:** Millions of position signals/day at European scale.

Data Challenges

- ▶ **Velocity, Volume:** Millions of position signals/day at European scale.
- ▶ **Variety:** Position signals need to be combined with other data streams
 - ▶ Weather forecasts, sea currents, etc.
- ▶ ... and static information
 - ▶ NATURA areas, shallow waters areas, coastlines, etc.

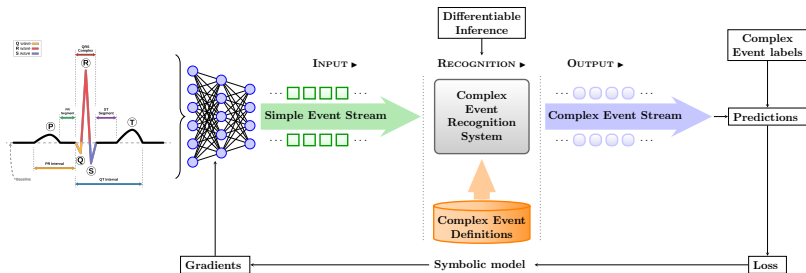
Data Challenges

- ▶ **Velocity, Volume:** Millions of position signals/day at European scale.
- ▶ **Variety:** Position signals need to be combined with other data streams
 - ▶ Weather forecasts, sea currents, etc.
- ▶ ... and static information
 - ▶ NATURA areas, shallow waters areas, coastlines, etc.
- ▶ Lack of **Veracity:** GPS manipulation, vessels reporting false identity, communication gaps.

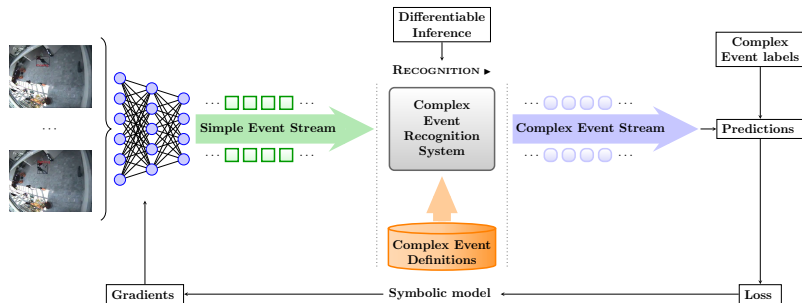
Data Challenges

- ▶ **Velocity, Volume:** Millions of position signals/day at European scale.
- ▶ **Variety:** Position signals need to be combined with other data streams
 - ▶ Weather forecasts, sea currents, etc.
- ▶ ... and static information
 - ▶ NATURA areas, shallow waters areas, coastlines, etc.
- ▶ Lack of **Veracity:** GPS manipulation, vessels reporting false identity, communication gaps.
- ▶ **Distribution:** Vessels operating across the globe.

Patient Monitoring



Activity Recognition



Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
 - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.

Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
 - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.
- ▶ Efficient reasoning
 - ▶ to support real-time decision-making in large-scale, (geographically) distributed applications.

Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
 - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.
- ▶ Efficient reasoning
 - ▶ to support real-time decision-making in large-scale, (geographically) distributed applications.
- ▶ Automated knowledge construction
 - ▶ to avoid the time-consuming, error-prone manual CE definition development.

Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
 - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.
- ▶ Efficient reasoning
 - ▶ to support real-time decision-making in large-scale, (geographically) distributed applications.
- ▶ Automated knowledge construction
 - ▶ to avoid the time-consuming, error-prone manual CE definition development.
- ▶ Reasoning under uncertainty
 - ▶ to deal with various types of noise.

Requirements

- ▶ Expressive representation
 - ▶ to capture complex relationships between the events that stream into the system.
- ▶ Efficient reasoning
 - ▶ to support real-time decision-making in large-scale, (geographically) distributed applications.
- ▶ Automated knowledge construction
 - ▶ to avoid the time-consuming, error-prone manual CE definition development.
- ▶ Reasoning under uncertainty
 - ▶ to deal with various types of noise.
- ▶ Complex event forecasting
 - ▶ to support proactive decision-making.

Course Structure

- ▶ Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
 - ▶ We have Deep Learning and Large Language Models — can we go home now?

Course Structure

- ▶ Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
 - ▶ We have Deep Learning and Large Language Models — can we go home now?
- ▶ Formal Models for CER.
 - ▶ Expressive representation and efficient reasoning.

Course Structure

- ▶ Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
 - ▶ We have Deep Learning and Large Language Models — can we go home now?
- ▶ Formal Models for CER.
 - ▶ Expressive representation and efficient reasoning.
- ▶ Probabilistic CER
 - ▶ ... to handle uncertainty.

Course Structure

- ▶ Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
 - ▶ We have Deep Learning and Large Language Models — can we go home now?
- ▶ Formal Models for CER.
 - ▶ Expressive representation and efficient reasoning.
- ▶ Probabilistic CER
 - ▶ ... to handle uncertainty.
- ▶ Tensor-based reasoning
 - ▶ ... for neuro-symbolic CER.

Course Structure

- ▶ Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
 - ▶ We have Deep Learning and Large Language Models — can we go home now?
- ▶ Formal Models for CER.
 - ▶ Expressive representation and efficient reasoning.
- ▶ Probabilistic CER
 - ▶ ... to handle uncertainty.
- ▶ Tensor-based reasoning
 - ▶ ... for neuro-symbolic CER.
- ▶ Topics not covered.

Complex Event Recognition & Related Research

CER vs DataBase Management Systems*

Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.

*Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

CER vs DataBase Management Systems*

Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.
- ▶ Data are continuously updated.
 - ▶ Data stream into the system in high velocity.
 - ▶ Data streams are large (usually unbounded).

*Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

CER vs DataBase Management Systems*

Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.
- ▶ Data are continuously updated.
 - ▶ Data stream into the system in high velocity.
 - ▶ Data streams are large (usually unbounded).
- ▶ No assumption can be made on data arrival order.

*Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

CER vs DataBase Management Systems*

Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.
- ▶ Data are continuously updated.
 - ▶ Data stream into the system in high velocity.
 - ▶ Data streams are large (usually unbounded).
- ▶ No assumption can be made on data arrival order.
- ▶ Users install **standing/continuous queries**:
 - ▶ Queries deployed once and executed continuously until removed.
 - ▶ Online reasoning.

*Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

CER vs DataBase Management Systems*

Complex event recognition (CER) systems:

- ▶ Process data without storing them.
- ▶ Data are continuously updated.
 - ▶ Data stream into the system in high velocity.
 - ▶ Data streams are large (usually unbounded).
- ▶ No assumption can be made on data arrival order.
- ▶ Users install **standing/continuous queries**:
 - ▶ Queries deployed once and executed continuously until removed.
 - ▶ Online reasoning.
- ▶ Latency requirements are very strict.

*Gugola and Margara, Processing Flows of Information: From Data Stream to Complex Event Processing. ACM Computing Surveys, 2012.

CER vs Deep Learning

We have **Deep Learning** and it seems to work. Can we go home?

CER vs Deep Learning

We have Deep Learning and it seems to work. Can we go home?

CER:

- ▶ Formal semantics* for trustworthy models.

* Grez et al, A Formal Framework for Complex Event Recognition. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 2021.

CER vs Deep Learning

We have Deep Learning and it seems to work. Can we go home?

CER:

- ▶ Formal semantics* for trustworthy models.
- ▶ Explanation — why did we detect a complex event?

* Grez et al, A Formal Framework for Complex Event Recognition. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 2021.

CER vs Deep Learning

We have **Deep Learning** and it seems to work. Can we go home?

CER:

- ▶ Formal semantics* for trustworthy models.
- ▶ Explanation — why did we detect a complex event?
- ▶ **Machine Learning** is necessary. But:
 - ▶ Complex events are rare.
 - ▶ Supervision is scarce.

* Grez et al, A Formal Framework for Complex Event Recognition. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 2021.

CER vs Deep Learning

We have **Deep Learning** and it seems to work. Can we go home?

CER:

- ▶ Formal semantics* for trustworthy models.
- ▶ Explanation — why did we detect a complex event?
- ▶ **Machine Learning** is necessary. But:
 - ▶ Complex events are rare.
 - ▶ Supervision is scarce.
- ▶ More often than not, background knowledge is available — let's use it!

* Grez et al, A Formal Framework for Complex Event Recognition. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 2021.

CER vs Large Language/Reasoning Models

Large Language Models (LLM)s:

- ▶ Deep learning trained on large-scale corpora.
- ▶ Based on transformer architectures.
- ▶ Predict the next token in context.

CER vs Large Language/Reasoning Models

Large Language Models (LLM)s:

- ▶ Deep learning trained on large-scale corpora.
- ▶ Based on transformer architectures.
- ▶ Predict the next token in context.

Large Reasoning Models (LRM)s:

- ▶ Designed to think step-by-step.
- ▶ Plan sequences, handle scheduling, solve puzzles.

CER vs Large Language/Reasoning Models

Large Language Models (LLM)s:

- ▶ Deep learning trained on large-scale corpora.
- ▶ Based on transformer architectures.
- ▶ Predict the next token in context.

Large Reasoning Models (LRM)s:

- ▶ Designed to think step-by-step.
- ▶ Plan sequences, handle scheduling, solve puzzles.

Challenges:

- ▶ Sensitive to prompt phrasing.

CER vs Large Language/Reasoning Models

Large Language Models (LLM)s:

- ▶ Deep learning trained on large-scale corpora.
- ▶ Based on transformer architectures.
- ▶ Predict the next token in context.

Large Reasoning Models (LRM)s:

- ▶ Designed to think step-by-step.
- ▶ Plan sequences, handle scheduling, solve puzzles.

Challenges:

- ▶ Sensitive to prompt phrasing.
- ▶ Prone to hallucinations.

CER vs Large Language/Reasoning Models

Large Language Models (LLM)s:

- ▶ Deep learning trained on large-scale corpora.
- ▶ Based on transformer architectures.
- ▶ Predict the next token in context.

Large Reasoning Models (LRM)s:

- ▶ Designed to think step-by-step.
- ▶ Plan sequences, handle scheduling, solve puzzles.

Challenges:

- ▶ Sensitive to prompt phrasing.
- ▶ Prone to hallucinations.
- ▶ Limited reasoning capabilities*.

*Ishay and Lee, LLM+AL: Bridging Large Language Models and Action Languages for Complex Reasoning About Actions. AAAI 2025.

Models of Complex Event Recognition

A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
ce^*		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from T_1 to T_2)

- *Sequence*: Two events following each other in time.

A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
ce^*		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from T_1 to T_2)

- ▶ *Sequence*: Two events following each other in time.
- ▶ *Disjunction*: Either of two events occurring, regardless of temporal relations.

A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
ce^*		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from T_1 to T_2)

- ▶ *Sequence*: Two events following each other in time.
- ▶ *Disjunction*: Either of two events occurring, regardless of temporal relations.
- ▶ The combination of *Sequence* and *Disjunction* expresses *Conjunction* (both events occurring).

A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
ce^*		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing (from T_1 to T_2)</i>

- *Iteration*: An event occurring N times in sequence, where $N \geq 0$.

A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
ce^*		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from T_1 to T_2)

- *Negation*: Absence of event occurrence.

A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
ce^*		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing</i> (from T_1 to T_2)

- *Negation*: Absence of event occurrence.
- *Selection*: Select those events whose attributes satisfy a set of predicates/relations θ , temporal or otherwise.

A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
ce^*		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing (from T_1 to T_2)</i>

- *Projection*: Return an event whose attribute values are a possibly transformed subset of the attribute values of its sub-events.

A Simple Unifying Event Algebra

$ce ::= se$		
$ce_1 ; ce_2$		<i>Sequence</i>
$ce_1 \vee ce_2$		<i>Disjunction</i>
ce^*		<i>Iteration</i>
$\neg ce$		<i>Negation</i>
$\sigma_\theta(ce)$		<i>Selection</i>
$\pi_m(ce)$		<i>Projection</i>
$[ce]_{T_1}^{T_2}$		<i>Windowing (from T_1 to T_2)</i>

- ▶ *Projection*: Return an event whose attribute values are a possibly transformed subset of the attribute values of its sub-events.
- ▶ *Windowing*: Evaluate the conditions of an event pattern within a specified time window.

Processing Model

Selection strategies filter the set of matched patterns.

- ▶ Assume the pattern $\alpha; \beta$ and the stream $(\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$.

Processing Model

Selection strategies filter the set of matched patterns.

- ▶ Assume the pattern $\alpha; \beta$ and the stream $(\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$.
- ▶ The **multiple selection** strategy produces $(\alpha, 1), (\beta, 3)$ and $(\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$.

Processing Model

Selection strategies filter the set of matched patterns.

- ▶ Assume the pattern $\alpha; \beta$ and the stream $(\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$.
- ▶ The **multiple selection** strategy produces $(\alpha, 1), (\beta, 3)$ and $(\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$.
- ▶ The **single selection** strategy produces either $(\alpha, 1), (\beta, 3)$ or $(\alpha, 2), (\beta, 3)$.
- ▶ The single selection strategy represents a family of strategies, depending on the matches actually chosen among all possible ones.

Instantaneous vs Interval-based Reasoning^{*,†}

Consider:

- ▶ the pattern $\beta; (\alpha; \gamma)$
- ▶ and the stream $(\alpha, 1), (\beta, 2), (\gamma, 3)$.

Does the stream match the pattern?

^{*}Paschke, ECA-LP / ECA-RuleML: A Homogeneous Event-Condition-Action Logic Programming Language. RuleML, 2006.

[†]White et al, What is “Next” in Event Processing?, PODS, 2007.

Course Structure

- ▶ Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).

Course Structure

- ▶ Introduction to Complex Event Recognition (CER).
- ▶ Formal Models for CER
 - ▶ ... including interval-based reasoning.
- ▶ Probabilistic CER.
- ▶ Tensor-based CER.
- ▶ Topics not covered.