

Keynote: Design patterns for neuro-symbolic medical decision support systems

Frank van Harmelen¹

¹Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Abstract

The medical domain is rich in both data and knowledge, and therefore very well suited for the deployment of neuro-symbolic techniques that combine data-driven learning with knowledge-driven reasoning. In this talk I will present an analysis of a corpus of some 40 neuro-symbolic medical decision support systems. The encouraging finding is that this variety of systems can be captured as refinements of only five archetypal neuro-symbolic architectures, and that each of these architectures can be captured in terms of just a handful of basic components. This offers new avenues for systematic development and comparison of neuro-symbolic AI for healthcare.

SeWebMeDA-2026: 9th International Workshop on Semantic Web Solutions for Large-scale Biomedical Data Analytics, May 10, 2026, Dubrovnik, Croatia

✉ frank.van.harmelen@cs.vu.nl (F. v. Harmelen)

🌐 <https://www.cs.vu.nl/~frankh/> (F. v. Harmelen)

🆔 0000-0002-7913-0048 (F. v. Harmelen)



© 2026 Copyright for this paper by its authors. Use permitted under Creative Commons License Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0).