CS 1571 Introduction to AI
Lecture 1

Course overview

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Course administrivia

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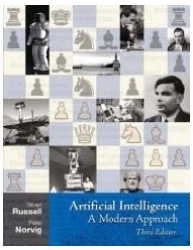
Course web page:
http://www.cs.pitt.edu/~milos/courses/cs1571/

Textbook

Course textbook:



Stuart Russell, Peter Norvig.
Artificial Intelligence: A modern approach.
3rd edition, Prentice Hall, 2009

Other widely used AI textbooks:
Dean, Allen, Aloimonos: Artificial Intelligence.
P. Winston: Artificial Intelligence, 3rd ed.
N. Nillson: Principles of AI.

Grading

- **Lectures** **10%**
- **Homework assignments** **45%**
- **Midterm** **20%**
- **Final** **25%**

Lectures

- **10 % of the grade**
- **Attendance + activity**
- **3-4 short quizzes**
  - 10 minutes at the beginning of the lecture
  - Random
  - Short question(s) from previous lectures

Homework assignements

- **Homework assignments:**
  - 45 % of the grade
  - Weekly assignments
  - A mix of pencil and paper, and programming assignments
  - No extensions. Homework due dates are strict.

- **Collaborations:**
  - No collaborations on homework assignments

- **Programming language:**
  - C/C++
  - g++ compiler under UNIX

Exams

- **Midterm**
  - 20 % of the grade
  - In-class
- **Final**
  - 25 % of the grade
  - Cumulative exam with focus on the second half of the course

Academic honesty

- All the work in this course should be **done independently.**
- **Collaborations on homework assignments, quizzes and exams are not permitted.**
- Cheating and any other anti-intellectual behavior, including giving your work to someone else, will be dealt with severely.
- **Academic Integrity Code for the Faculty and College of Arts and Sciences:** http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity

Artificial Intelligence

- The field of **Artificial intelligence:**
  - The design and study of computer systems that behave intelligently
- **AI programs:**
  - Go beyond numerical computations and manipulations
  - Focus on problems that require reasoning (intelligence)
- **Why is AI research important?**
  - Engineering aspect
    - solving of hard problems
  - Cognitive aspect
    - Understanding the nature of human intelligence

Intelligence and machines

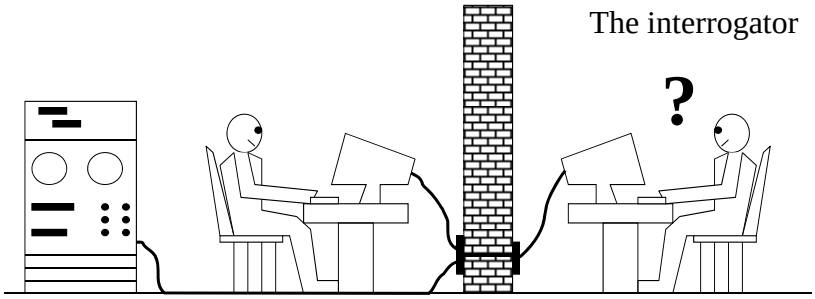
Can we make machines intelligent?

- **Symbolic system hypothesis** (Newell and Simon)
  - Intelligence is substrate neutral;
  - A physical symbol system has necessary and sufficient means for general intelligent action.
- **Biological substrate only** (John Searle, philosopher).
  - Intelligence is substrate dependent. The material humans are made of is fundamental for our intelligence. Thinking is possible only in special machines – living ones made of proteins.
- Other researchers believe that **sub-symbolic processing** (signal processing) may be needed to replicate intelligence.

Turing test

How to test the "intelligence" of a program?

- **Behavioral view of intelligence**
  - A behavior capable of fooling a human interrogator



- Acting humanly is sufficient to pass the test.
- Is it necessary the AI system also thinks humanly?

Eliza program

- **Eliza, a computer therapist**, created by Joseph Weizenbaum in 1966 at MIT, is one of the most famous early AI programs.
- Eliza functions by "twisting the statements of her 'patients' back at them in the classic manner of a non-directive psychotherapist."
- The fact that is understands the subject's statements is an illusion. Surprisingly, many users were taking its performance quite seriously.
- **You can run Eliza at:**
  - **http://www-ai.ijs.si/eliza/eliza.html**
- **Info:**
  - **http://web.mit.edu/STS001/www/Team7/eliza.html**

Eliza program. Sample dialogue.

Eliza: Hello. I am ELIZA. How can I help you?
You: I am frustrated by the traffic I have to face every morning .
Eliza: How long have you been frustrated by the traffic you have to face every morning?
You: For about a year now.
Eliza: Please go on.
You: Why should I go on? Give me some advice.
Eliza: Can you elaborate on that?
You: Why? Give me some solution.
Eliza: Can you elaborate on that?
You: It is obvious you cannot pass the Turing test
Eliza: Oh, i cant pass the turing test.
You: That is correct.
Eliza: Please go on.
…

Try it yourself at: http://www-ai.ijs.si/eliza/eliza.html

Evaluation of an AI system

Depends on what matters more.

•**Reasoning vs. Behavior**

– the **computational process** or the **end-product** matters

•**Human performance vs. Rationality**

– Compare against human model (with its weaknesses) or a normative "ideal" model (rational system)

RN textbook

- The textbook adopts the **rational agent perspective**
  Focus on Behavior and rational (normative) models

- **Agent:** an entity that perceives and acts
  - On abstract level the agent maps percepts to actions

$$f : Percepts \rightarrow Actions$$

- **Design goal:** for any given environment find the agent that performs the best with respect to some normative model

- **Caveat:** The design may be limited by resources: memory, time
  - Find agents with best resource-performance trade-off

History of AI

- **Artificial Intelligence** – name adopted at Dartmouth conference in 1956

- "Contemporary" AI starts in 20th century (1940s),
  But the origins go back many years.

Origins of AI:

- **Artificial people**.
  - Beings or devices capable of substituting or replacing humans in various activities.
- **Mathematical models of reasoning**.
  - Formal models of thought and reasoning.

Artificial people

- Beings or devices capable of substituting or replacing humans in various activities
- **Legends, stories:**
  - **Androids** (artificial people):
    - Android constructed by Albert the Great (13-th century)
    - Golem: made from clay, household chores (14-th century)
  - **Homunkulus** – a human-like being created in other than natural way (Paracelcus, 16-th century)
- **Mechanical people** capable of writing, drawing, playing instruments (18-th century)
- **Kempelen's chess machine** (18-th century).
- **Robots.** Drama R.U.R. by K. Capek (early 20th century)

Mathematical models of reasoning.

- Philosophers and mathematicians worked on **models of reasoning and thought**.
- **Aristotle** (384-322 B.C), ancient Greece, philosopher
  - Tried to explain and codify certain types of **deductive reasoning** he called syllogisms.
- **George Boole** (1854)
  - Foundations of **propositional logic**.
    - Formal language for making logical inferences.
- **Gottlieb Frege** (end of 19-th century).
  - **First order logic**.

The beginnings of AI (40s-50s).

Two streams:

- **Neural network approach** (McCulloch and Pitts 1943).
  - Models of a human brain.

- **Computer programs** capable of **simple reasoning tasks**:
  - chess programs (Shannon 1950, Newell, Shaw & Simon 1958)
  - checkers (Samuel 1959)
  - Theorem prover in geometry (Gelernter 1959)
  - Logic Theorist (Newell, Shaw & Simon 1957). Used propositional logic to prove theorems.

- **Dartmouth meeting (1956),** the name **Artificial Intelligence** adopted (due to John McCarthy)

60s.

Developments in the two streams:

- **Neural network models for learning patterns and pattern recognition**
  - Build on McCulloch and Pitts' work (1943)
  - **Objective:** replicate self-organization and subsequently phenomenon intelligence
  - **Adaline networks** (Widrow, Hoff 1960)
  - **Perceptrons** (Rosenblatt 1961)
  - Minsky and Papert (1969) – strong critique of perceptrons, it killed the area for a decade
- **Symbolic problem solvers**:
  - **General problem solver** (Newell, Simon) – think humanly
  - **LISP –** AI-specific programming language
  - **Micro-worlds –** focus on problem-solving in restricted worlds (e.g. blocks world)

70s. Knowledge-based system era.

- Early AI systems did not scale-up well to large applications
- The need for background knowledge

Edward Feigenbaum: **"knowledge is the power"**

Power of the system derived from the knowledge it uses

- Expert systems: obtain the knowledge from experts in the field, and replicate their problem-solving

Examples of KB systems:

- **Dendral** system (Buchanan et al.). Molecular structure elicitation from mass spectrometer readings.
- **Mycin.** Diagnosis of bacterial infections.
- **Internist** (Pople, Myers, Miller). Medical diagnosis.

80s. AI goes commercial.

AI becomes an industry

- Many tools for the design of KB systems were developed

Revival of neural network (connectionist) approach.

- **Multi-layer neural networks**
  - Modeling and learning of non-linear functions.
  - Back-propagation algorithm (learning)

Failure of AI in 80s

- High expectations in very short time
- Computational complexity: some problems are intrinsically hard
- Modeling uncertainty
- Separation of connectionist - logic approaches.

90s. Moving ahead

- **Modeling uncertainty** (a breakthrough in late 80s)
  - Bayesian belief networks, graphical models.
  - Speech recognition.
- **Machine learning and data mining**
  - Analysis of large volumes of data
  - Finding patterns in data
  - Learning to predict, act
- **Autonomous agents** with intelligence:
  - Software agents
  - Robots

AI today

AI is more rigorous and depends strongly on: applied math, statistics, probability, control and decision theories

Recent advances:

- Machine Learning and Data mining
- Image analysis and vision
- Natural language processing
- Optimization
- Robotics

Applications:

- Focus on **partial intelligence** (not all human capabilities)
- Systems with components of intelligence in a specific application area; not general multi-purpose intelligent systems