

## ROADS TO HUMAN LEVEL AI?

biological—imitate humans. Even neural nets, should work eventually.

engineering—solve problems the world presents— present ahead

direct programming, e.g. genetic algorithms

use logic, loftier objective. If it reaches human level, we will understand intelligence, and so will robots. Logical AI has partly solved some inevitable problems that haven't even been noticed by physiological approaches.

The logic approach is the most awkward—except for the others that have been tried.

## Logic in AI

Features of the logic approach to AI—starting in 195

- Represent information by sentences in a logical language, e.g. first order logic, second order logic, modal logic.
- Auxiliary information in tables, programs, states, etc. is described by logical sentences.
- Inference is logical inference—deduction supplemented by calculation and some form of nonmonotonic inference. 1980.

- Action takes place when the system infers that it should do the action.
- Observation of the environment results in sentences being added to memory.

## Topics, methods and problems of logical AI

- deduction, nonmonotonic reasoning, theories of action, problem solving,
- The frame, qualification, and ramification problems have been partly solved.
- concepts as objects, contexts as objects, approximate objects
- Elaboration tolerance (educate without brain surgery)

## THE COMMON SENSE INFORMATIC SITUATION

- **Common sense:** A structure composed of abilities and knowledge. “Programs with common sense”—1959.
- **The *common sense* informatic situation**, which differs from a ***bounded* informatic situation**, has been difficult to define precisely.
- Bounded informatic situations, e.g. chess positions, take specific facts into account. In common sense, there is no limitation on what objects and facts may become relevant.
- New facts may require revising conclusions, plans, and algorithms. Formal *nonmonotonic reasoning*, e.g. circumscription and default logic, are important tools for representing common sense reasoning in logic.

- Actions and other events often have only partly knowable effects. Often not even probabilistic models available.

## COMMON SENSE INFORMATIC SITUATION—2

- Specific theories, e.g. scientific theories, are embedded in common sense. Skills are also embedded in common sense.
- Common sense physics: When two objects collide, there is a noise. An object pushed off a table will fall to the floor.
- Common sense psychology: A person comes to discover someone whom he thinks killed his fellow countrymen.
- The facts behind many human abilities are not ordinarily expressed in language **but** are often expressible in language or logic.
- Common sense abilities: Grasp object being touched. Recognize a surface of an object—the knife. Fumble plastic surface.

- Common sense facts:  $In(Rpocket, Knife, Now) \wedge (\exists x)(Plastic-feel(x) \wedge Surface(x, Knife))$ ,
- Human-level common sense requires representing up-to-now mental state as an object and reasoning about it.



## EMBEDDING A SCIENTIFIC FACT IN SITUATION CALCULUS

- Scientific theories are embedded in common sense, the formulas are embedded in natural language.
- Galileo's formula  $d = \frac{1}{2}gt^2$  can be embedded in a simple common sense theory of situation calculus by

$$\begin{aligned} & Falling(b, s) \wedge Velocity(b, s) = 0 \wedge Height(b, s) = h \wedge \Delta \\ & \quad d = \frac{1}{2}gt^2 \\ & \rightarrow (\exists s')(time(s') = time(s) + t \wedge Height(b, s') = Height(b, s) - d) \end{aligned}$$

- For controlling a robot (1) must be used in connection with facts about concurrent events.
- The situation calculus formula connects Galileo's formula to quantities that are defined in (mostly unobservable) situations to which the theory applies.

- Like other scientific formulas, Galileo's formula is used more in constructing theories than in planning actions in a specific situation. Robots may use (1), i.e.  $d = \frac{1}{2}at^2$ , expanded into situation calculus, directly if they can immediately measure the physical quantities involved.

## EMBEDDING A SKILL IN COMMON SENSE—a philosophical path

- Objects exist independent of perception.
- Machine learning research is mistaken in concentration on classifying perception. Herbert Simon's Bacon method for scientific discovery is limited by its concentration on discovering relations among observables.
- A 3-d object is not a construct from 2-d views. Learn **about** objects from view and by other means. The blind live in the same world as the sighted.
- Draw an object you can only feel but can't see. A program that can get an object from a pocket is a good *Drosophila*.

## EMBEDDING A SKILL IN SITUATION CALCULUS

The skill of finding an object in a pocket can be partially embedded in situation calculus.

$$\begin{aligned} &In(Knife, RPocket, s) \rightarrow Holding(Knife, \\ &Result(Move(RHand, Interior(RPocket)); FumbleFor( \\ &Grasp(Knife); Remove(RHand, RPocket), s)) \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively,

$$\begin{aligned} &In(Knife, RPocket, s) \rightarrow (\exists \text{finger surface}) \\ &(surface \in Surfaces(Knife) \wedge \text{finger} \in Fingers(RHand) \\ &\wedge (\lambda(s') (Touches(\text{finger}, \text{surface}, s') \wedge Observes(Touches \\ &\text{surface}, s')))) (Result( \\ &Move(RHand, Interior(RPocket)); \\ &FumbleFor(Knife)), s)). \end{aligned}$$

Complications: Conscious guiding of the fumbling: fumble until object is found, very little detailed information is needed, and very little is available. For example, doesn't need information about the other objects in pocket.

Query: What do we know about the physics of pocket and how is it represented in the human brain, and how should robots represent it?

“Keep trying  $a$ , and you will shortly achieve a situation such that  $Holds(f, s')$ .” How should this be represented logically?

## SPECIFIC ABILITIES IMBEDDED IN COMMON SENSE

- Skills like walking, playing tennis
- Scientific theories
- AI programs, e.g. Mycin
- A chess player and a chess program
- Make a decision based determining which of two tions leads to a better resulting situation. Hum only maybe.

## INTERACTION OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- **Partial** knowledge of the skills and of situations.
- Picking my knife from my pocket containing coins keys.
- Interaction of observation with reasoning about actions in logical AI, e.g. Filman, Reiter, Levesque, Shanahan, Sandewall, Doherty.
- It may be new to emphasize partial knowledge about effects of exercising a skill.

## CURRENT PROJECT—DOMAIN DEPENDENT CONTROL FOR LOGICAL PROBLEM SOLVER

- General logical problem solvers without domain dependent control experience combinatorial explosion.
- There is a profusion of cut-down logics.
- STRIPS should be a strategy for a logical problem solver. Likewise DASL.
- Minsky proposed in 1956 that a geometry theorem prover should only try to prove sentences true in the diagram. Herbert Gelernter implemented it, but in 1968 IBM decided IBM should not be seen as making anything but data-processing machines.
- Selene Makarios works on domain dependent control. She has some results in reducing search in the block world.



## EXAMPLES OF CONTROL

- When looking for feasible actions, don't substitute in formulas of the form  $Result(a, s)$ . This is part of STRIP.
- When trying to prove two triangles congruent and have side  $a$  in one triangle equal to side  $a'$  in the other, try to prove the corresponding adjacent angles equal.
- In blocks world and heuristically similar problems I look for moves to final position.
- Josefina Sierra-Ibañez and more recently Selene Mariño.

## APPEARANCE AND REALITY

- The world is made of three-dimensional objects which are only partly observable.
- History is only partly observable or even knowable.
- Reality is more persistent than appearance.
- Appearance of a scene after an event depends on reality of the scene and not just on what could be served.
- Pattern recognition and scientific discovery research not properly taken these facts into account.

## ELABORATION TOLERANCE

- A collection of facts, e.g. a logical theory, is elaboration tolerant to the extent that it can be readily elaborated. [www.formal.stanford.edu/jmc/elaboration.html](http://www.formal.stanford.edu/jmc/elaboration.html) contains a formal theory and extensive examples.
- English language statements are very elaboration tolerant provided human common sense is available. Additional sentences will almost always work.
- Neural nets, connectionist systems, and present chess programs have almost no elaboration tolerance. Example: T. Sejnowski's Nettetalk cannot be elaborated to include Pinyin pronunciations of the letters "x" and "q".

- Many elaborations of well constructed nonmonotonic logical theories can be accomplished just by adding sentences.
- Example from “Missionaries and Cannibals”. There is an oar on each bank of the river, . . . .
- *Formalizing Elaboration Tolerance* by Aarati Parmar, a forthcoming Stanford dissertation.

## FREE WILL IN A DETERMINIST WORLD

- We can make a situation calculus theory of a process more determinist by adding axioms asserting that certain events occur.
- Human free will may consist of using a non-determinist theory to decide deterministically on an action.

Here's a minimal example of using a non-determinist theory within a determinist rule.

```
Occurs(Does(Joe,  
    if Better-for(Joe, Result(Does(Joe, a1), s),  
        Result(Does(Joe, a2), s))  
    then a1  
    else a2  
    ), s).
```

- Here  $\text{Better-for-Joe}(s1, s2)$  is to be understood as asserting that Joe thinks  $s1$  is better for him than  $s2$ .

If we take the actor as understood, as is common in situation calculus studies, we get a shorter formula

$$\text{Occurs}(\text{if Better}(\text{Result}(a1, s), \text{Result}(a2), s) \\ \text{then } a1 \\ \text{else } a2 \\ ), s).$$

- Do animals, even apes, make decisions based on comparing anticipated consequences? If not, can apes be trained to do it? Chess programs do. According to Dan Dennett, some recent experiments suggest that apes sometimes consider the consequences of alternate actions. Jane Goodall (personal communication) assumes that chimpanzees do.

## OTHER ASPECTS OF LOGICAL AI

- non-monotonic reasoning
- concepts as objects
- contexts as objects

## REFERENCES

- Murray Shanahan, *The frame problem in artificial intelligence* M.I.T. Press, 1997
- “What is artificial intelligence” –John McCarthy <http://formal.stanford.edu/jmc/whatisai.html>.
- My AI articles are all on [www-formal.stanford.edu/jm](http://www-formal.stanford.edu/jm)
- These references are completely inadequate.
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