

today's topics:

- knowledge representation

Introduction

- Using logic is one approach to knowledge representation.
- Another possibility is to design specific mechanisms for representing the kind of knowledge we need in AI.
- Leads to an area of AI called *knowledge representation*.
- This lecture will look at some general aspects of knowledge representation, and also the specific example of production rules.

The Knowledge Principle

- Ed Feigenbaum:
 - “... power exhibited ... is primarily a consequence of the specialist knowledge employed by the agent and only very secondarily related to ... the power of the [computer]”
 - “Our agents must be knowledge rich, even if they are methods poor.”

The Role of Knowledge

- Knowledge about a domain allows problem solving to be *focussed* — not necessary to exhaustively search.
- *Explicit* representations of knowledge allow a *domain expert* to understand the knowledge a system has, add to it, edit it, and so on.
Knowledge engineering.
- Comparatively *simple* algorithms can be used to *reason* with the knowledge and derive *new* knowledge.

Knowledge Representation

- Question: How do we *represent* knowledge in a form amenable to computer manipulation?
- Desirable features of KR scheme:
 - *representational adequacy*;
 - *inferential adequacy*;
 - *inferential efficiency*;
 - *well-defined syntax & semantics*;
 - *naturalness*.

Representational Adequacy

- A KR scheme must be able to actually represent the knowledge appropriate to our problem.
- Some KR schemes are better at some sorts of knowledge than others.
- *There is no one ideal KR scheme!*

Inferential Adequacy

- KR scheme must allow us to make new *inferences* from old knowledge.
- It must make inferences that are:
 - *sound* — the new knowledge actually does follow from the old knowledge;
 - *complete* — it should make all the right inferences.
- Soundness usually easy; completeness very hard!

- Example. Given knowledge...
 - Michael is a man.*
 - All men are mortal.*the inference
 - Simon is mortal.*is not sound, whereas
 - Michael is mortal.*is sound.

Inferential Efficiency

- A KR scheme should be *tractable* — make inferences in reasonable (polynomial) time.
- Unfortunately, *any* KR scheme with interesting *expressive power* is not going to be efficient.
- Often, the more *general* a KR scheme is, the *less efficient* it is.
- Use KR schemes tailored to problem domain — less general, but more efficient.
- (Any KR scheme with expressive power = first-order logic is *undecidable*.)

Syntax and Semantics

- It should be possible to tell:
 - whether any construction is “grammatically correct”.
 - how to read any particular construction — no *ambiguity*.
- Thus KR scheme should have *well defined syntax*.
- It should be possible to precisely determine, for any given construction, exactly what its meaning is.
- Thus KR scheme should have *well defined semantics*.
- *Syntax is easy; semantics is hard!*

Naturalness

- Ideally, KR scheme should closely correspond to our way of thinking, reading, and writing.
- Allow *knowledge engineer* to read & check *knowledge base*.
- Again, *more general* a KR scheme is, less likely it is to be readable & understandable.

Rules

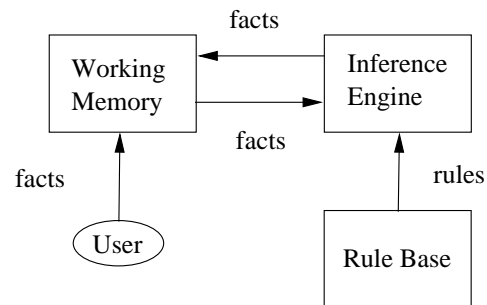
- Knowledge is specified as a collection of *production rules*.
- Each rule has the form

condition \longrightarrow *action*

which may be read
if *condition* then *action*.

- The *condition* (antecedent) is a *pattern*.
- The *action* (consequent) is an operation to be performed if rule *fires*.

- A rule-based (production) system has a *working memory* of *facts* against which *condition* is matched.
- Action is often a *fact* to be added to working memory.
- Rule fires if match is successful; Mechanism that fires rules is *inference engine*.



- Example rule base:

```

R3: IF animal has feathers
    THEN animal is a bird

R4: IF animal is a bird
    THEN animal can fly

R5: IF animal can fly
    THEN animal is not scared of heights
  
```

Relation to search

- Using rules can be thought of as just another form of search.
- Facts are states.
- Working memory is the agenda.
- Rules are the operations on states.
- This suggests that there are schemes for applying rules which are similar to breadth-first search etc.
- We will look at these next.

- Another example:

```

R1: IF animal has hair
    THEN animal is a mammal

R2: IF animal gives milk
    THEN animal is mammal

R3: IF animal has feathers
    THEN animal is a bird

R4: IF animal can fly
    AND animal lays eggs
    THEN animal is bird
  
```

R5: IF animal eats meat
THEN animal is carnivore

R6: IF animal has pointed teeth
AND animal has claws
THEN animal is carnivore

R7: IF animal is mammal
AND animal has hoofs
THEN animal is ungulate

R8: IF animal is mammal
AND animal chews cud
THEN animal is ungulate

R9: IF animal is mammal
AND animal is carnivore
AND animal has tawny colour
AND animal has dark spots
THEN animal is cheetah

R10: IF animal is mammal
AND animal is carnivore
AND animal has tawny colour
AND animal has black stripes
THEN animal is tiger

R11: IF animal is ungulate
AND animal has long legs
AND animal has dark spots
THEN animal is giraffe

R12: IF animal is ungulate
AND animal has black stripes
THEN animal is zebra

R14: IF animal is bird
AND animal does not fly
AND animal has long legs
AND animal has long neck
THEN animal is ostrich

R14: IF animal is bird
AND animal does not fly
AND animal can swim
AND animal is black and white
THEN animal is penguin

R15: IF animal is bird
AND animal is good flyer
THEN animal is albatross

Forward Chaining

- Given a set of rules like these, there are essentially two ways we can use them to generate new knowledge:
 - *forward chaining* — data driven;
 - *backward chaining* — goal driven.
- In what follows...
 - let (c,a) be a rule.
 - let `fires(c,WM)` be true if condition c fires against working memory WM.
- Forward chaining algorithm is as follows.

```
var WM : set of facts
var goal : goal we are searching for
var RuleBase : set of rules
var firedFlag : BOOLEAN
repeat
  firedFlag = FALSE
  for each (c,a) in RuleBase do
    if fires(c,WM) then
      if a == goal then return success
    end-if
    add a to WM
    set firedFlag to TRUE
  end-if
end-for
until firedFlag = FALSE
return failure
```

- Example. Suppose

```
WM = { animal has hair,
       animal eats meat,
       animal has tawny colour,
       animal has dark spots}
```

and goal is

```
animal is cheetah
```

- Note that *all rules which can fire do fire*.
- Can be inefficient — lead to spurious rules firing, unfocussed problem solving (cf. breadth-first search).
- Set of rules that can fire known as *conflict set*.
- Decision about which rule to fire — *conflict resolution*.
- Number of strategies possible (cf. heuristic search):
 - *most specific rule first* (with most antecedents).
 - *most recent first*;
 - *user specified priorities*.

Meta Knowledge

- Another solution: *meta-knowledge*, (i.e., *knowledge about knowledge*) to guide search.

```
IF
  conflict set contains any rule (c,a) such that
  a = 'animal is mammal'
THEN
  fire (c,a)
```

- So meta-knowledge encodes knowledge about how to guide search for solution.
- Explicitly coded in the form of rules, as with "object level" knowledge.

Backward Chaining

- Backward chaining means reasoning from *goals* back to *facts*.
- The idea is that this focusses the search.
- Thinking of the rules as building a tree connecting facts, ...
- ... in backward chaining, every path ends with the goal.
- Since, in general, there are more initial facts than goals, ...
- ... more of the paths built will be solutions than in forward chaining (we hope :-).

```
var WM : set of facts
var RuleBase : set of rules
var firedFlag : BOOLEAN
function prove(g : goal)
  if g in WM then
    return TRUE
  if there is some (c,a) in WM
    such that a == g then
    for each precondition p in c do
      if not prove(p,WM) then return FALSE
    return TRUE
  else
    return FALSE
end-function
```

- Example. Suppose
WM = { animal has hair,
animal eats meat,
animal has tawny colour,
animal has dark spots}
- and goal is
animal is cheetah

Semantic Networks

- Taxonomic reasoning can be more efficient not in logic.
- Developed by Quillian in 1968, for *semantic memory*.
- Models the “associations” between ideas that people maintain.
- Semantic net is a *labelled graph*.
 - nodes in graph represent *objects, concepts, or situations*;
 - arcs in graph represent *relationships between objects*.

Key types of arc:

- $x \xrightarrow{\text{subset}} y$
 “ x is a kind of y ” (\subset)
 Example: *penguin* $\xrightarrow{\text{subset}}$ *bird*
- $x \xrightarrow{\text{member}} y$
 “ x is a y ”
 Example: *opus* $\xrightarrow{\text{member}}$ *penguin*
- $x \xrightarrow{R} y$
 “ x is R -related to y ”
 Example: *bill* $\xrightarrow{\text{friend}}$ *opus*
- Inference is then by traversing arcs.



- *Binary* relations are easy and natural to represent.
- Others kinds of relation are harder.
- Unary relations (properties).
 Example: “Opus is small”.
- Three place relations.
 Example: “Opus brings tequila to the party.”
- Some binary relations are problematic ...
 “Opus is larger than Bill.”

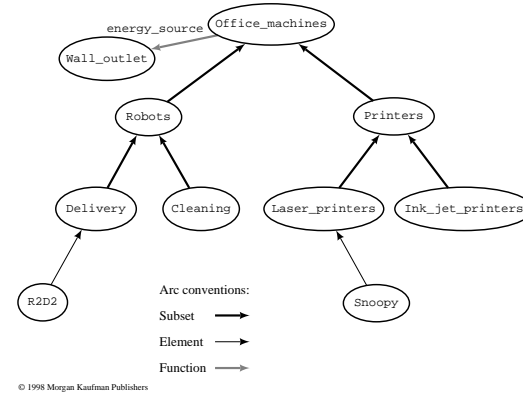
- *Quantified* statements are very hard for semantic nets.

Examples:

- “every dog has bitten a postman”
- “every dog has bitten every postman”

- *Partitioned* semantic nets can represent these.
- Of course, expressions like this are very easy to represent in first order logic.

- Example semantic net:



Frames

- Frames are a kind of *structured* knowledge representation mechanism.
- All information relevant to a particular concept is stored in *frame* which resembles C struct, PASCAL record, Java object...
- Each frame has a number of *slots*.
- Each slot may be *filled* by:
 - a value;
 - a pointer to another frame;
 - a procedure.
- Slots may have *default values* associated with them.
- Frames = OO!

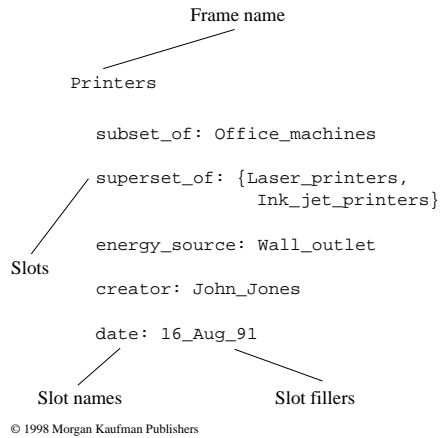
- Frames are typically used to represent the *properties* of objects, and the relationships between them.
- Frames may represent:
 - *generic concepts* (cf classes) or
 - *specific items* (cf objects).

- Most important kind of link between frames:

is-a

- Facilitates reasoning about object properties.
- Allows *default values* to be *inherited*.

- Example frame system:



- How to reason with frame systems?
- Easy to answer questions such as *is x a y?*
Simply follow the *is-a* links.
- Example: Is snoopy a laser printer.
- (Problem of *multiple inheritance* — Nixon diamond.)
- Also useful for *default* reasoning.
Simply *inherit* all default values that are not explicitly provided.
- Example: Does snoopy the printer have a wall outlet?

- *Scripts* are a variant of frames, for representing *stereotypical sequences of events*.
- A script is thus a frame with a set of prescribed slots, for example:
 - Some initial conditions;
 - Some final conditions;
 - Some state description;
 - Some actions; and
 - Some actors
- The structure of the script is heavily domain dependent.

- Example:


```

SCRIPT
Name: RESTAURANT
Roles: Customer, Waiter, Cook, Cashier
Entry condition: Customer is hungry
Props: Food, table, money, menu, tip
Events:
  1/ Customer enters restaurant
  2/ Customer goes to table
  3/ Waiter brings menu
  4/ Customer orders food
  5/ Waiter brings food
  6/ Customer eats food
...
      
```

...
10/ Customer leaves restaurant

Main concept: 6

Results: Customer not hungry,
Customer has less money,
Restaurant has more money,
Waiter gets tip

- Scripts developed by Roger Schank for *understanding stories*.
- Used to help *understand language*.
- Scripts provide *context* information without which sentences cannot be understood:
 - sentences are not unconstrained sequences of words;
 - stories are not unconstrained sequences of sentences.
- Schank developed SAM (Script Applier Mechanism) that could *fill in gaps* in stories.
- Also able to “explain” elements of stories, e.g., people get upset or angry when story deviates from script.

Problems with Frames & Semantic Nets

- Both frames and semantic nets are essentially *arbitrary*.
- Both are useful for representing certain sorts of knowledge.
- But both are essentially *ad hoc* — lack precise meaning, or *semantics*.
- Inference procedures poorly defined & justified.
- The *syntax* of KR scheme is *irrelevant*.
- *Logic* generalises these schemes... and that is both an advantage and a disadvantage.

Summary

- This lecture has introduced the idea of knowledge representation, and some of the requirements of a knowledge representation scheme.
- We also looked at several knowledge representation schemes:
 - production rules
 - semantic nets
 - frames
 - scripts