CPS 270: Artificial Intelligence

http://www.cs.duke.edu/courses/fall08/cps270/

Introduction

Instructor: Vincent Conitzer

Basic information about course

- TuTh 11:40-12:55, LSRC D243
- Text: Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach
- Instructor: Vincent Conitzer
  - OH Th. 1pm-2pm, LSRC D207 or by appointment
  - Ph.D. CMU 2006; third year at Duke
  - Research on computational aspects of (micro)economics, game theory, systems with multiple intelligent agents
- TA: Lirong Xia
  - OH Tu. 3pm-4pm, LSRC D343 or by appointment
  - 2nd-year Ph.D. student at Duke
  - Research on computational aspects of voting/social choice

Prerequisites

- Comfortable programming in language such as C (or C++) or Java
- Some knowledge of algorithmic concepts such as running times of algorithms; having some rough idea of what NP-hard means
- Some familiarity with probability (we will go over this from the beginning but we will cover the basics only briefly)
- Not scared of mathematics, some background in discrete mathematics, able to do simple mathematical proofs
- If you do not have a standard undergraduate computer science background, talk to me first.
- Well-prepared undergraduates are certainly welcome
- You do **not** need to have taken an undergraduate AI course (though of course it will help if you have)

Grading

- Assignments: 35%
  - May discuss with another person; writeup and code must be your own
- Midterm exams: 30%
- Final exam: 30%
- Participation: 5%

What is artificial intelligence?

- Popular conception driven by science ficition
  - Robots good at everything except emotions, empathy, appreciation of art, culture, …
    - … until later in the movie.

  - Perhaps more representative of human autism than of (current) real robotics/AI
    - "It is my belief that the existence of autism has contributed to [the theme of the intelligent but soulless automaton] in no small way." [Uta Frith, "Autism"]
    - Current AI is also bad at lots of simpler stuff!
    - There is a lot of AI work on thinking about what other agents are thinking

Real AI

- A serious science.
- General-purpose AI like the robots of science fiction is incredibly hard
  - Human brain appears to have lots of special and general functions, integrated in some amazing way that we really do not understand at all (yet)
- Special-purpose AI is more doable (nontrivial)
  - E.g., chess/poker playing programs, logistics planning, automated translation, voice recognition, web search, data mining, medical diagnosis, keeping a car on the road, … … … …

Definitions of AI

if our system can be more rational than humans in some cases, why not?

Systems that think like humans	Systems that think rationally
Systems that act like humans	Systems that act rationally

focus on action avoids philosophical issues such as "is the system conscious" etc.

- We will follow "act rationally" approach
  - Distinction may not be that important
    - acting rationally/like a human presumably requires (some sort of) thinking rationally/like a human,
    - humans much more rational anyway in complex domains

“Chinese room” argument [Searle 1980]

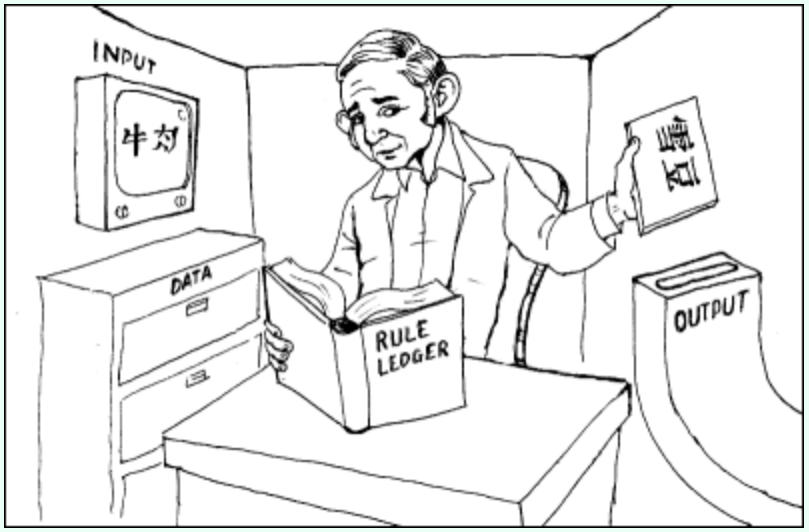

image from http://www.unc.edu/~prinz/pictures/c-room.gif

- Person who knows English but not Chinese sits in room
- Receives notes in Chinese
- Has systematic English rule book for how to write new Chinese characters based on input Chinese characters, returns his notes
  - Person=CPU, rule book=AI program, really also need lots of paper (storage)
  - Has no understanding of what they mean
  - But from the outside, the room gives perfectly reasonable answers in Chinese!
- Searle’s argument: the room has no intelligence in it!

Turing Test

- (Human) judge communicates with a human and a machine over text-only channel,
- Both human and machine try to act like a human,
- Judge tries to tell which is which.
- Numerous variants
- Loebner prize
- Current programs nowhere close to passing this
  - http://www.jabberwacky.com/
  - http://turingtrade.org/

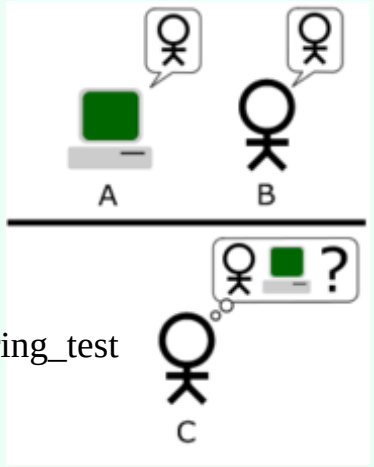

image from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turing_test

Turing Test on unsuspecting judges

- It is possible to (temporarily) fool humans who do not realize they may be talking to a bot
- ELIZA program [Weizenbaum 66] rephrases partner's statements and questions (~psychotherapist)

Modern variant: AOLiza

[fragment from http://archives.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/29/aoliza.idg/]

five: just asking if richard can tell me about some good lobster diving spots thats it if this is a problem then forget iot i dont know whats going on here

AOLiza: that is interesting. please continue.

five: continue what just ask richard when he gets home about some lobster diving up hat way thats all if you got a problem with it then forget it,this isnt worht it i dont know whats been going on or what bev has told you but i havent done anything to anybody iam the one that got used and dumped

AOLiza: tell me more about that.

five: about what

AOLiza: what do you think?

five: therers nothing to tell she us3ed me then got tired of me said i wasnt her type anymore i was possesive and controlling

AOLiza: perhaps i already know you were possesive and controlling.

five: i was huh you nuts i gave her all the room she wanted never told nhewre what to do or where to go

Is Turing Test the right goal?

- “Aeronautical engineering texts do not define the goal of their field as making ‘machines that fly so exactly like pigeons that they can fool even other pigeons.’” [Russell and Norvig]

Lessons from AI research

- Clearly-defined tasks that we think require intelligence and education from humans tend to be doable for AI techniques
  - Playing chess, drawing logical inferences from clearly-stated facts, performing probability calculations in well-defined environments, …
  - Although, scalability can be a significant issue
- Complex, messy, ambiguous tasks that come natural to humans (in some cases other animals) are much harder
  - Recognizing your grandmother in a crowd, drawing the right conclusion from an ungrammatical or ambiguous sentence, driving around the city, …
- Humans better at coming up with reasonably good solutions in complex environments
- Humans better at adapting/self-evaluation/creativity ("My usual strategy for chess is getting me into trouble against this person… Why? What else can I do?")

Early history of AI

- 50s/60s: Early successes! AI can draw logical conclusions, prove some theorems, create simple plans… Some initial work on neural networks…
- Led to overhyping: researchers promised funding agencies spectacular progress, but started running into difficulties:
  - **Ambiguity**: highly funded translation programs (Russian to English) were good at syntactic manipulation but bad at disambiguation
    - "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" becomes "The vodka is good but the meat is rotten"
  - **Scalability/complexity**: early examples were very small, programs could not scale to bigger instances
  - Limitations of **representations** used

History of AI…

- 70s, 80s: Creation of expert systems (systems specialized for one particular task based on experts' knowledge), wide industry adoption
- Again, overpromising…
- … led to AI winter(s)
  - Funding cutbacks, bad reputation

Modern AI

- More rigorous, scientific, formal/mathematical
- Fewer grandiose promises
- Divided into many subareas interested in particular aspects
- More directly connected to "neighboring" disciplines
  - Theoretical computer science, statistics, economics, operations research, biology, psychology/neuroscience, …
  - Often leads to question "Is this really AI"?
- Some senior AI researchers are calling for re-integration of all these topics, return to more grandiose goals of AI
  - Somewhat risky proposition for graduate students and junior faculty…

Some AI videos

- Note: there is a lot of AI that is not quite this “sexy” but still very valuable!
  - E.g. logistics planning – DARPA claims that savings from a single AI planning application during 1991 Persian Gulf crisis more than paid back for all of DARPA’s investment in AI, ever. [Russell and Norvig]
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JJsBFiXGl0&feature=related
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICgL1OWsn58&feature=related
- http://www.cs.utexas.edu/~kdresner/aim/video/fcfs-insanity.mov
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HacG_FWWPOw&feature=related
- http://videolectures.net/aaai07_littman_ai/
- http://www.ai.sri.com/~nysmith/videos/SRI_AR-PA_AAAI08.avi
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScXX2bndGJc

This course

- Focus on general AI techniques that have been useful in many applications
- Will try to avoid application-specific techniques (still interesting and worthwhile!)

Topics

- Search
- Constraint satisfaction problems
- Game playing
- Logic, knowledge representation
- Planning
- Probability, decision theory, game theory, reasoning under uncertainty
- Machine learning, reinforcement learning

Nonexhaustive list of AI publications

- General AI conferences: IJCAI, AAAI, ECAI
- Reasoning under uncertainty: UAI
- Machine learning: ICML, NIPS
- Multiagent systems: AAMAS
- Vision: ICCV, CVPR

- Some journals: Artificial Intelligence, Journal of AI Research, Machine Learning, Journal of ML Research, Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi Agent Systems
- AI Magazine

AI at Duke

- Ron Parr
  - Reasoning under uncertainty, reinforcement learning, robotics

- Vince Conitzer
  - Systems with multiple, self-interested agents, game theory, economics

- Carlo Tomasi
  - Computer vision, medical imaging

- Alex Hartemink
  - Computational biology, machine learning, reasoning under uncertainty

- Bruce Donald
  - Computational biology & chemistry

- Sayan Mukherjee
  - Statistics
- Duke Robotics, Intelligence, and Vision (DRIV) seminar (=AI seminar)