CSE 3401: Intro to Artificial Intelligence & Logic Programming Introduction

- Required Readings: Russell & Norvig Chapters 1 & 2.
- Lecture slides adapted from those of Fahiem Bacchus.

What is Artificial Intelligence?

- What is **AI**?
- What is **intelligence**?
- What features/abilities do humans (animals? animate objects?) have that you think are indicative or characteristic of intelligence?

Webster says: a. the capacity to acquire and apply knowledge. b.the faculty of thought and reason. …

Alternate Definitions (Russell + Norvig)

	Like humans	Not necessarily like humans
Think	Systems that think like humans	Systems that think rationally
Act	Systems that act like humans	Systems that act rationally

Human intelligence

- Is imitating humans the goal?
- Pros?
- Cons?

Human intelligence

- The Turing Test:
  - A human interrogator. Communicates with a hidden subject that is either a computer system or a human. If the human interrogator cannot reliably decide whether on not the subject is a computer, the computer is said to have passed the Turing test.

Human intelligence

- Turing provided some very persuasive arguments that a system passing the Turing test is intelligent.
- However, the test does not provide much traction on the question of how to actually build an intelligent system.

Human intelligence

- In general there are various reasons why trying to mimic humans might not be the best approach to AI.
  - Computers and Humans have a very different architecture with quite different abilities.
    - Numerical computations
    - Visual and sensory processing
    - Massively and slow parallel vs. fast serial

Human intelligence

- But more importantly, we know very little about how the human brain performs its higher level processes. Hence, this point of view provides very little information from which a scientific understanding of these processes can be built.
- However, Neuroscience has been very influential in some areas of AI. For example, in robotic sensing, vision processing, etc.

Rationality

- The alternative approach relies on the notion of **rationality**.
- Typically this is a precise mathematical notion of what it means to *do the right thing* in any particular circumstance. Provides
  - A precise mechanism for analyzing and understanding the properties of this ideal behavior we are trying to achieve.
  - A precise benchmark against which we can measure the behavior the systems we build.

Rationality

- Mathematical characterizations of rationality have come from diverse areas like logic (laws of thought) and economics (utility theory how best to act under uncertainty, game theory how self-interested agents interact).
- There is no universal agreement about which notion of rationality is best, but since these notions are precise we can study them and give exact characterizations of their properties, good and bad.
- We' ll focus on acting rationally
  - this has implications for thinking/reasoning

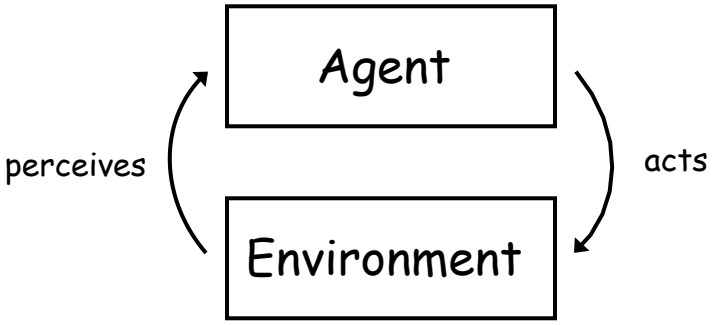
Computational Intelligence

- *AI tries to understand and model intelligence as a computational process.*
- Thus we try to construct systems whose computation achieves or approximates the desired notion of rationality.
- Hence AI is part of Computer Science.
  - There are other areas interested in the study of intelligence, e.g., cognitive science which focuses on human intelligence. Such areas are very related, but their central focus tends to be different.

Agency

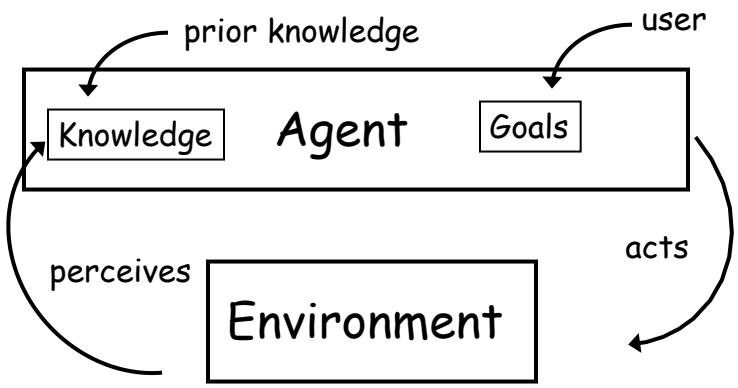
- It is also useful to think of intelligent systems as being **agents**, either:
  - with their own goals
  - or that act on behalf of someone (a "user")
- An *agent* is an entity that exists in an *environment* and that *acts* on that environment based on its *perceptions* of the environment
- An *intelligent agent* acts to further its own interests (or those of a user).

Agent Schematic (I)



- This diagram oversimplifies the internal structure of the agent.

Agent Schematic (II)



- Require more flexible interaction with the environment, the ability to modify one's goals, knowledge that be applied flexibly to different situations.

Degrees of Intelligence

- Building an intelligent system as capable as humans remains an elusive goal.
- However, systems have been built which exhibit various specialized degrees of intelligence.
- Formalisms and algorithmic ideas have been identified as being useful in the construction of these "intelligent" systems.
- Together these formalisms and algorithms form the foundation of our attempt to understand intelligence as a computational process.
- *In this course we will study some of these formalisms and see how they can be used to achieve various degrees of intelligence.*

AI Successes

- In 1997 IBM's Deep Blue beat chess world champion
- In 2011, IBM's Watson beat the top Jeopardy winners.
- In 1999, NASA Remote Agent used AI planning to control a spacecraft
- In 2005 Stanford team won DARPA Grand Challenge 132mi race in desert
- Many successes in speech recognition, machine translation, robotics, scheduling, spam fighting

Subareas of AI

- Perception: vision, speech understanding, etc.
- Robotics
- Natural language understanding
- Reasoning and decision making (our focus)
  - **Knowledge representation**
  - **Reasoning** *(logical, probabilistic)*
  - **Decision making** *(search, planning, decision theory)*
  - **Machine Learning**

Some Interesting & Entertaining Videos

- James May's Big Idea Man-Machine episode where he meets Honda's Asimo robot programmed so it can learn to recognize objects http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfPkHU_36Cs
- Google's self driving car project http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdgQpa1pUUE