CS 2710 Foundations of AI
Lecture 8

Propositional logic

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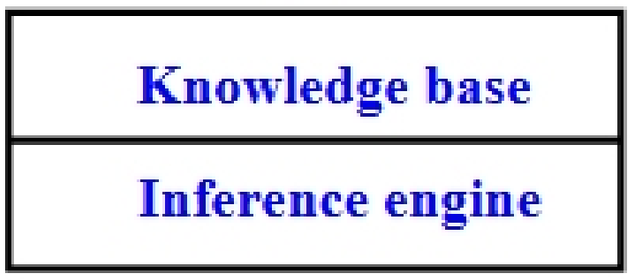
Knowledge representation

Knowledge-based agent



- **Knowledge base (KB):**
  - A set of sentences that describe facts about the world in some formal (representational) language
  - **Domain specific**
- **Inference engine:**
  - A set of procedures that use the representational language to infer new facts from known ones or answer a variety of KB queries. Inferences typically require search.
  - **Domain independent**

Example: MYCIN

- MYCIN: an expert system for diagnosis of bacterial infections
- **Knowledge base** represents
  - Facts about a specific patient case
  - Rules describing relations between entities in the bacterial infection domain

If	1. The stain of the organism is gram-positive, and 2. The morphology of the organism is coccus, and 3. The growth conformation of the organism is chains
Then	the identity of the organism is streptococcus

- **Inference engine:**
  - manipulates the facts and known relations to answer diagnostic queries (consistent with findings and rules)

Knowledge representation

- The objective of knowledge representation is to express the knowledge about the world in a computer-tractable form

- Key aspects of knowledge representation languages:
  - **Syntax:** describes how sentences are formed in the language
  - **Semantics:** describes the meaning of sentences, what is it the sentence refers to in the real world
  - **Computational aspect:** describes how sentences and objects are manipulated in concordance with semantical conventions

Many KB systems rely on some variant of logic

Logic

A formal language for expressing knowledge and ways of reasoning.

Logic is defined by:

- **A set of sentences**
  - A sentence is constructed from a set of primitives according to syntax rules.
- **A set of interpretations**
  - An interpretation gives a semantic to primitives. It associates primitives with values.
- **The valuation (meaning) function** V
  - Assigns a value (typically the truth value) to a given sentence under some interpretation

$$V : \text{sentence} \times \text{interpretation} \rightarrow \{True, False\}$$