



KULeuven

Department of  
Computer Science

**ADVANCED CAPITA SELECTA**  
**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (H02A8A)**  
Contemporary AI topics  
Report

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## I. INTRODUCTION

February 1996, **Deep Blue**<sup>1</sup> wins the first ever game of Chess as a computer against the world champion at the time Garry Kasparov. March 2016, **AlphaGo** defeats 18-time world champion Lee Sedol in a five-game Go match with a score of 4-1.

Originally the biggest test for an artificial intelligence was the Turing test. The test requires that a human being is unable to distinguish the machine from another human being during a conversation where it has to answer to questions. A limitation of this test is that there is no objective way to measure the progress towards the goals of AI [3].

Computers have been able to perform tasks better than humans like path planning, finding patterns and playing games. After 20 years of progress, computers are now able to defeat the human mind at very complex games, but can it solve the same questions as asked in a 4th grade exam?

Even though 4th grade exams are trivial to solve for humans, they present an enormous challenge for our current AI systems. Researchers are actively working on this problem as this is seen as a key component of any new measurement of artificial intelligence [3].

There are several reasons behind this. It has all the requirements of a test [3]: Accessible, Comprehensible, Measurable and offer a graduated progression for simple everyday things to deeper understanding of subjects. Also, to answer these questions, a significant improvement in language understanding and the modelling of the world are required. In this report we will be discussing some of the current methods that are being used to improve the performance of AI on these kind of tests.

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<sup>1</sup>The Chess playing computer designed by IBM.

## II. OVERVIEW

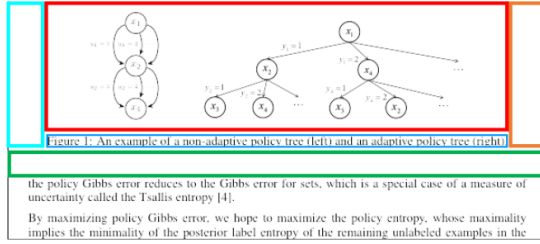
To learn the required knowledge, the artificial intelligence needs a source of data to work with. These data will almost exclusively consist of scientific papers and elementary school books. Currently two separate directions are being pursued for the Aristo system: image recognition [1] and text based knowledge extraction [4, 5].

Both streams will be explained in this report, but the focus will be put on the latter. The first will try to retrieve images from scientific papers and correctly label it by using the caption that is included with the table or figure. In the second method the goal is to extract logical statements from the text. When taking the test, the questions are translated into logical queries. The questions all use a multiple-choice format. This means that the system can focus on determining the most likely answer from the given possibilities. By matching every possibility to the concepts and relations extracted from the text, the support for each answer can be quantified by measuring how well it fits within the knowledge that's available. The answer with the best support is considered to be the best answer for this question.

## III. IMAGE RETRIEVAL

In current academic documents figures and tables are key sources of information, i.e. taking a look at a table in a paper can quickly summarize the work that has been done. However, these are not currently used in academic search engines. To better answer any kind of question the use of figures and tables is encouraged.

When there is a focus on scientific papers, it has been shown that **captions** are the key elements to identify figures and tables. The difference between body text and captions has been proven to be relatively easy to detect [1]. The search is done by looking for keywords that are likely to start a caption. Afterwards false positives are removed by applying a filter to



**Figure 1:** An example of separation into regions

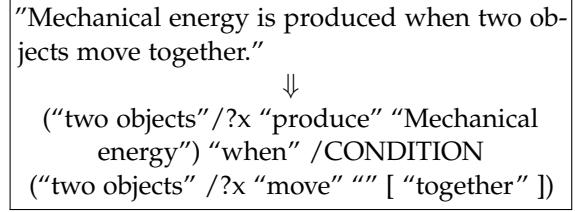
them. This filter is focused on a particular format convention. This process of these filters is repeated until no false positives remain.

The second step is to classify every part of the paper as a certain region: caption, body text, graphical element or figure text. Caption regions are made from the captions and the following lines of text (if there are any). Poppler’s algorithm is used to define body text or figure text. Additional heuristics are applied for improved accuracy. To find the graphical elements, the pdf is directly parsed. Internally PDF’s make use of various “operators” that draw elements on the page. The algorithm uses the bounding boxes defined by the operators that the PDF would use to draw. The boxes can be merged if required to form the complete graphical region. An example of this can be seen in Figure 1.

To assign captions/titles to figures or tables clustering is utilized. These clusters would be pruned with additional rules for increased performance. Questions that would match up with elements in a caption can now be linked to a corresponding image which might contain useful information to answer the question.

#### IV. TEXT BASED KNOWLEDGE EXTRACTION

Texts from books and other sources often contain a large amount of information. Natural languages are flexible enough to communicate complex concepts, intricate relations and more. However, AI systems currently have a hard



**Figure 2:** An example of an extraction

time accessing and reasoning with the knowledge contained in texts.

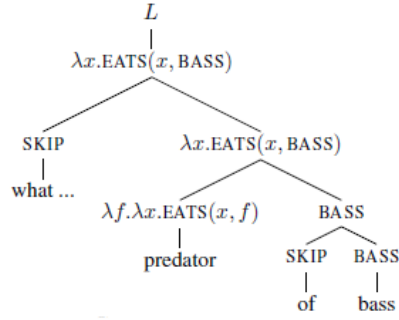
Even though interpreting natural language is, so far, an unsolved problem, the limited scope of solving science tests brings a solution within reach. A significant part of the knowledge can be expressed with relations like “X causes Y”, “X is part of Y”, “X is an example of Y” or “X [verb] Y”. The algorithm by Clark et al. [2] uses a hand-crafted set of extraction rules to generate a set of expressions from the text, where relations of interest are expressed. Figure 2 shows an example of this. Extractions are a semi-formal data structure, but they can easily be translated into formal representation. Many of these rules combined form a knowledge base.

#### V. ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Answering a question is a two-fold problem: The first part is actually understanding the question. A question is a query for a piece of knowledge, so the text of the question needs to be translated to a formal language. The second part is actually answering the question. Once the query is expressed in the right format, it needs to be executed on the knowledge base. Not every answer is stated explicitly in the knowledge base, so logical inference is required to combine multiple rules into a single answer.

##### i. Lexical analysis of questions

The approach chosen by Krishnamurthy [4] to parse the question is to actually reconstruct it



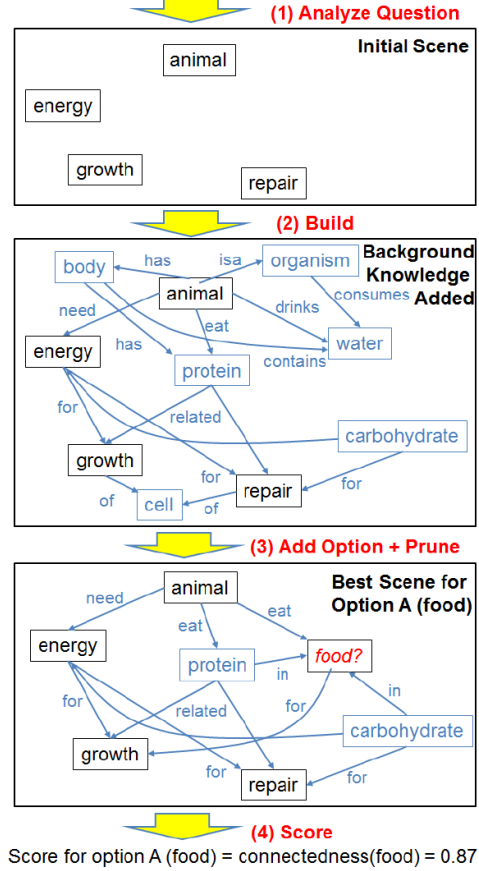
**Figure 3:** The parse tree for the question “What is the predator of bass?” During training, the algorithm works from the top down to build the lexical rules. When the model is actually applied, these lexical rules are applied from the bottom up to come up with the final interpretation.

from logical rules. The model is trained with manually translated questions. This allows the model to come up with possible rules and the likelihood that words and combinations of words translate into those rules. When the model is executed with a new question, it can look up the words and combine their corresponding rules from the bottom up. The probabilities calculated during training are used to decide at each step which of the options is the most likely.

## ii. Querying the knowledge graph

Once the meaning of the question is clear, an answer needs to be found in the knowledge base. The algorithm by Li and Clark [5] is one way to achieve that goal. After parsing the question, they extract keywords. Background knowledge is added, which results in a knowledge graph of concepts connected by the relations found in the knowledge base. These concepts are the keywords themselves, but also other related words which provide context. The questions are multiple choice, so each option is placed within that graph and

“Animals get energy for growth and repair from (A) food (B) ...



**Figure 4:** An example of a question being answered using a knowledge graph.

connected to the other concepts. The answer that gets the highest confidence score in the knowledge graph is chosen as the solution.

## VI. CONCLUSION

To conclude this report, we can say that the current scientific progress is hopeful and improving rapidly. Texts can be interpreted to reasonable extent and converted to logical rules. Images can be extracted with the corresponding title and caption. With every iteration the scores that the artificial intelligence is able to achieve increases.

## REFERENCES

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