CS2109S

AY22/23 Sem 2

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01. Introduction

- **Agent** - Anything that can perceive its environment through sensors and acting upon that env. through actuators
- **Agent Function** - Maps from percept histories to actions
- **Rational Agent** - Chooses an action that is expected to maximize its performance measure, given by percept sequence and built-in knowledge
- **Autonomous Agent** - If behavior is determined by its own expereince

Performance Measure of Function

- Motivation: For an agent to do the right thing, need a measure of goodness
- Performance vs. Cost

1. Best for whom?
2. What are we optimizing?
3. What information is available?
4. What are the side effects and costs?

Defining the Problem: PEAS

1. Performance measure
2. Environment
3. Actuators
4. Sensors

Characterizing the Environment

1. **Fully observable** - (vs. Partially) Agent's sensors can access complete state of env. all the time
2. **Deterministic** - (vs. Stochastic) Next state of env. is determined by **current state** and **action executed by agent**
   - **Strategic** - If env. is deterministic except for actions of other agents
3. **Episodic** - (vs. Sequential) Agent's experience is divided into atomic **episodes**, where each episode includes perceiving and an action, and **action depends on episode** itself
4. **Static** - (vs. Dynamic) Env. is unchanged while agent is deciding
   - **Semi** - Time does not affect env., but affects performance score
5. **Discrete** - (vs. Continuous) Discrete num. of percepts and actions
6. **Single Agent** - (vs. Multi-agent) Agent operating by itself in an env.

Implementing Agents (in ascending complexity)

1. **Simple Reflex Agents** - Fixed conditional rules
2. **Model-based Reflex Agents** - Stores percept history to make decisions about internal model of world with conditional rules. Eg. Roomba
3. **Goal-based Agents** - Keep in mind a goal and action aims to achieve it
4. **Utility-based Agents** - Find best way to achieve goal
5. **Learning Agents** - Learn from previous experiences

Exploitation vs. Exploration

- **Explotation** - Maximize expected utility using current knowledge of world
- **Exploration** - Learn more about the world to improve future gains. May not always maximize performance measure.