

Symbolic AI

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Photo by Vasilyev Alexandr

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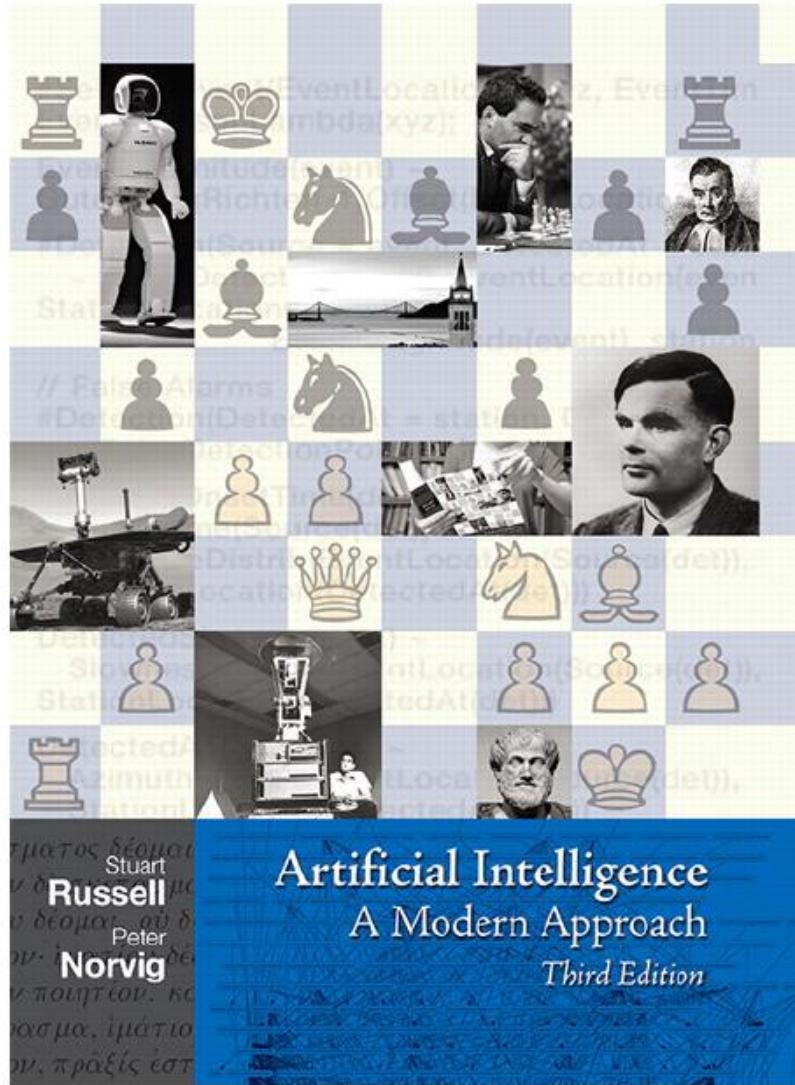


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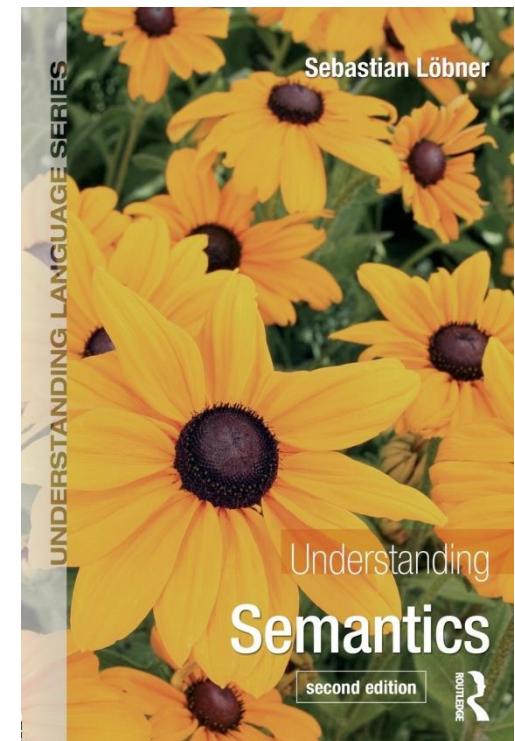
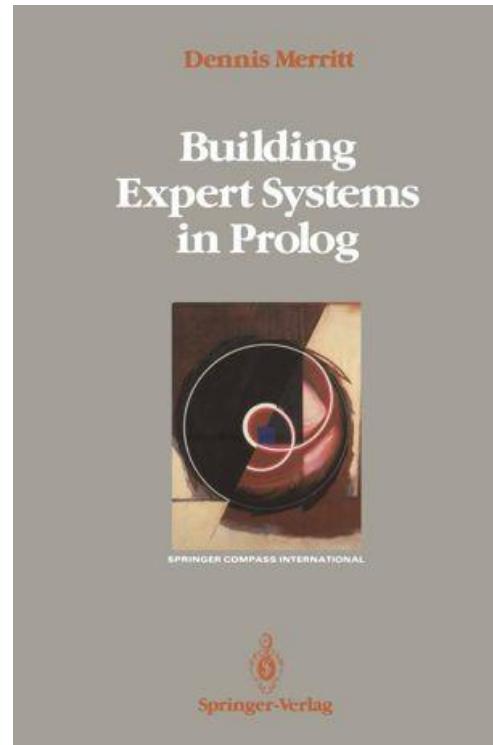
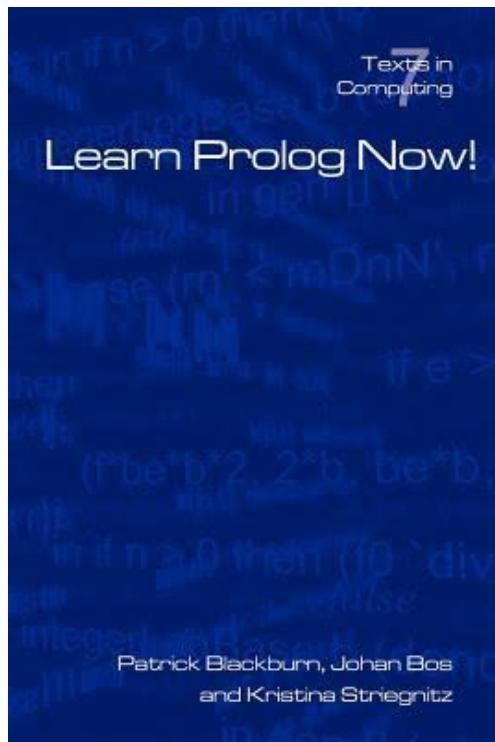
Employability Skills

- Contemporary AI is evolving rapidly in the direction of hybrid **neuro-symbolic models**.
- Larger palette to build AI Systems.

Main Suggested Reference



Complementary References



Assessment

- Labs (25%)
 - 3 exercises (1 small, 2 big)
 - 5 lab sessions.
 - Hands-on experience with tools.
- Quizzes (5%)
 - 3 Blackboard quizzes (every fortnight).
 - Purpose is to give useful feedback and preparation for exam.
- Exam (70%)
 - Hybrid (half on Blackboard, half on paper).
 - split between two parts.

Connecting to other Courses

COMP14112: Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence

Probabilistic models, Robot Localisation, Speech Understanding

COMP11120: Mathematical Techniques for Computer Science

Introduction to logic and reasoning

COMP21111: Logic and Modelling

Propositional models and reasoning

COMP24111: Machine Learning and Optimisation

Statistical Models of the world, Classification and Clustering

COMP34412 Natural Language Systems

Statistical Models of language, How to build and use those models

How to Study

- Understanding formalisms and principles.
- Be in a position to define and explain:
 - The core concepts and algorithms.
 - Why they are relevant?
 - When you should use/not use them?
- Basic application of the core algorithms.

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About 186,000,000 results (0.53 seconds)

Michelle Obama (m. 1992)

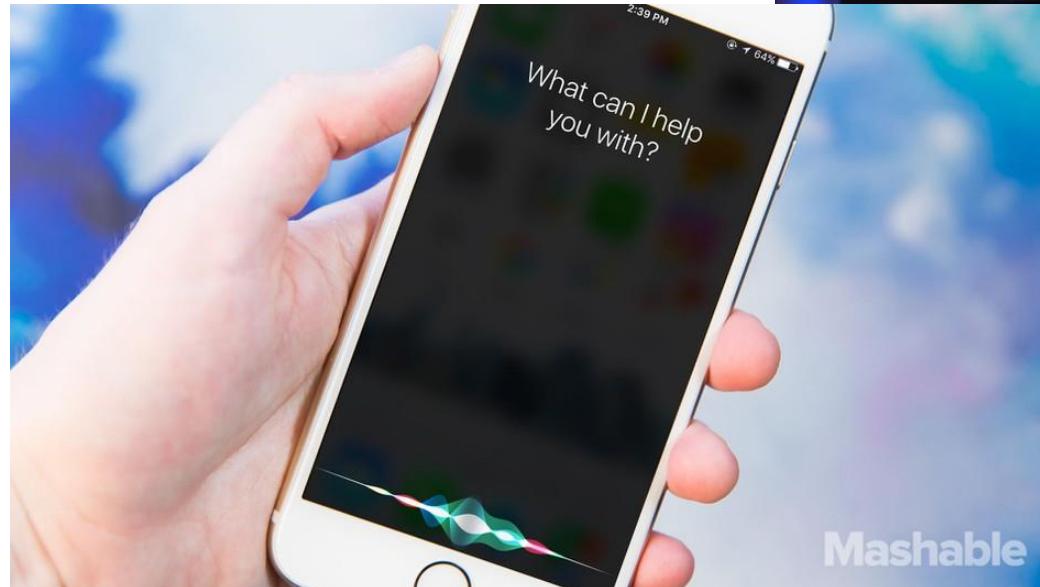
Barack Obama, Spouse



[Michelle Obama - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Obama ▾ Wikipedia

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama (born January 17, 1964), an American writer, is the wife of the 44th and current President of the United States, Barack Obama. She is also the First Lady of the United States.

Capers Funnye - Sidley Austin - Hyde Park, Chicago - Jeremiah Wright



S LARGEST AIRPORT IS NAMED FOR
A WORLD WAR II HERO;
ITS SECOND LARGEST,
FOR A WORLD WAR II BATTLE

What is
Toronto?????

\$36,681

\$



12 FEET

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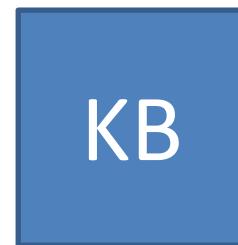
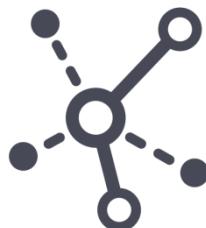
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Representation



**Problem
Task**

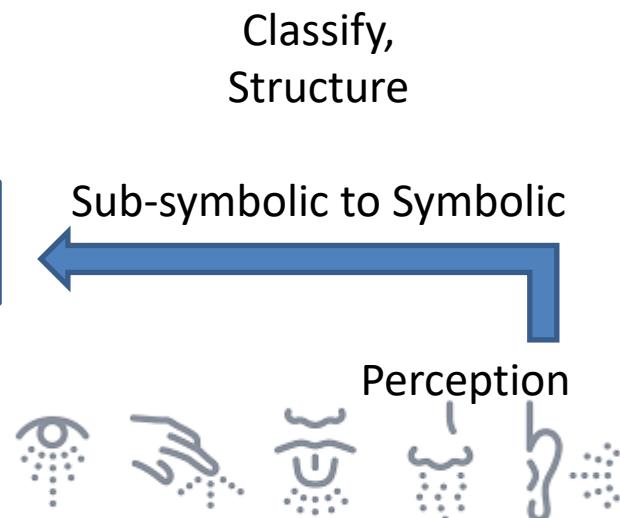


Answer
Explain
Act

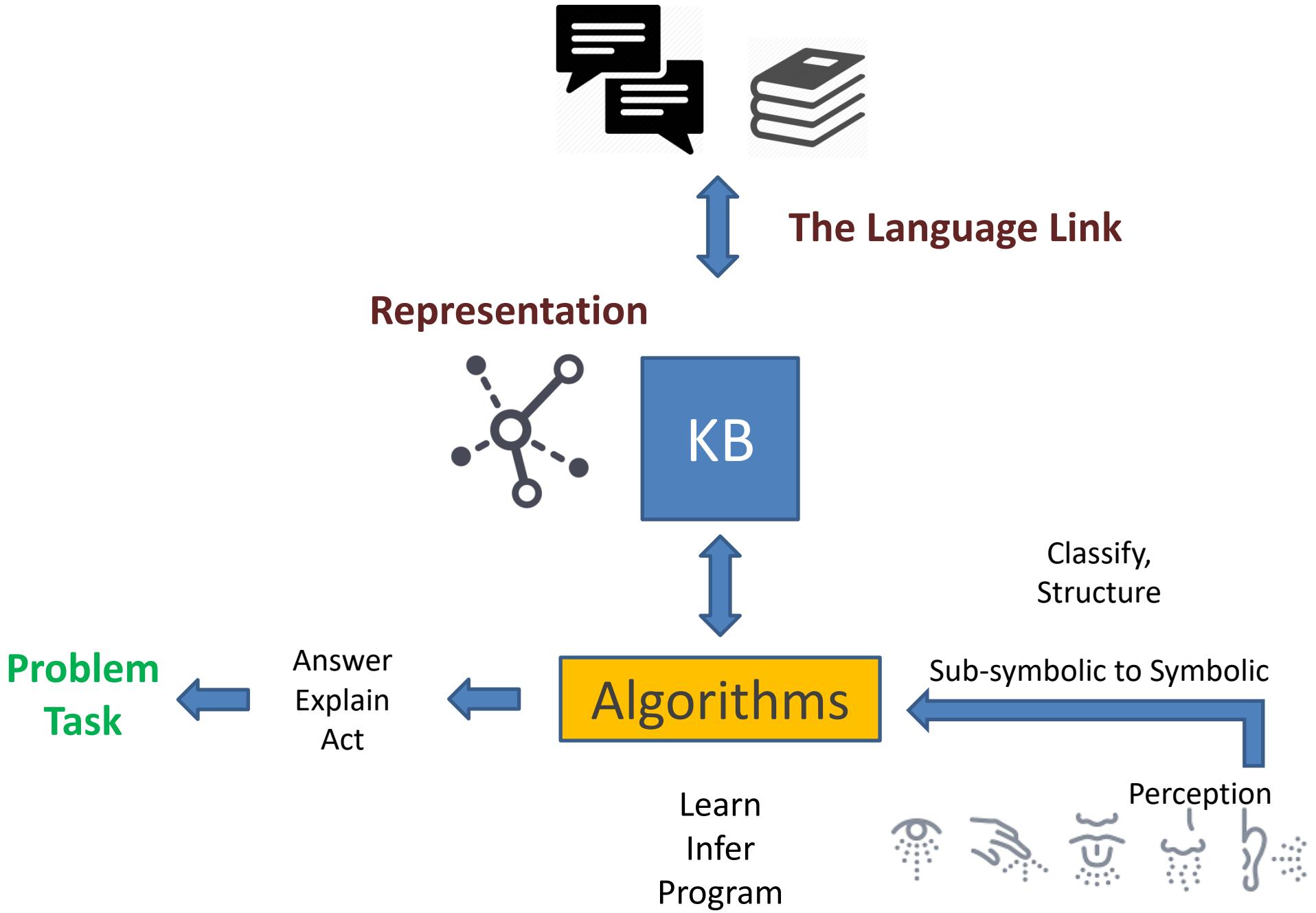


Algorithms

Learn
Infer
Program



Classify,
Structure



Syllabus - Nexus

3. Syntactic & Semantic Parsing



1. Knowledge Representation



2. Prolog

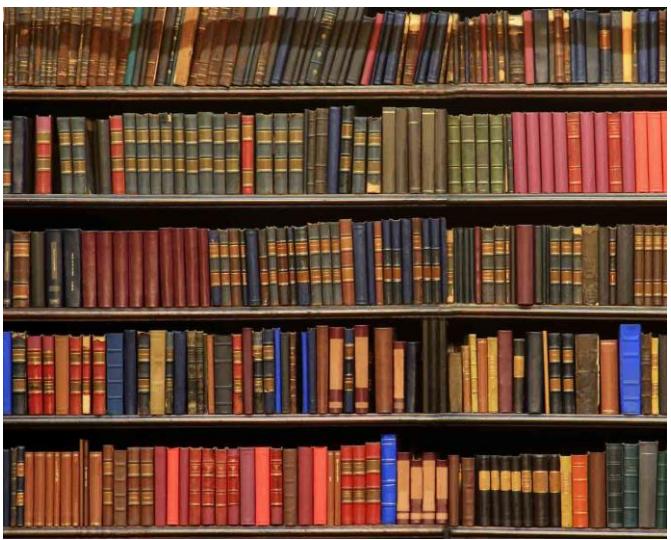
4. First-order logics & Reasoning

5. Abductive Reasoning

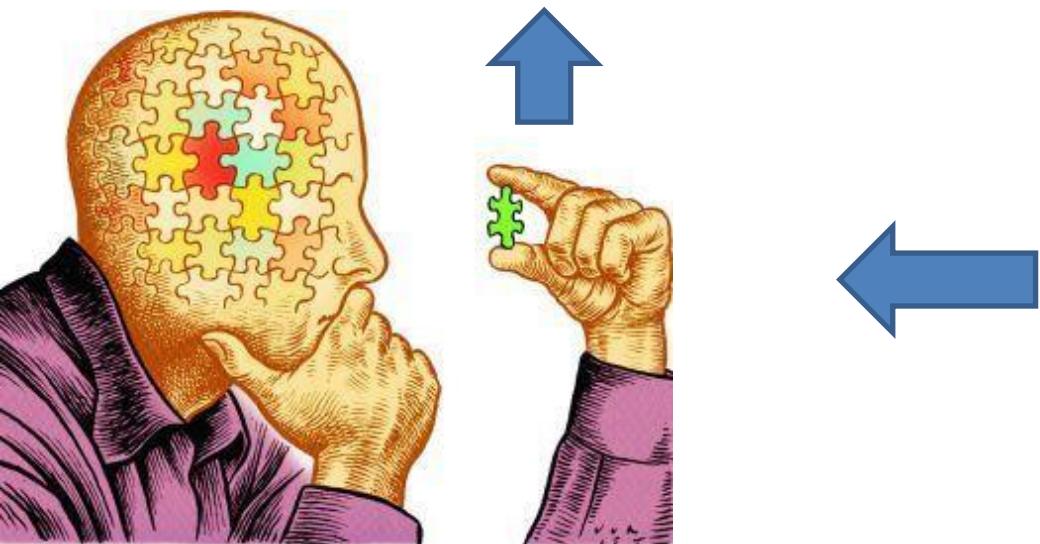
6. Inductive Logic Programming

Algorithms

Knowledge Representation



Communication of the Representation



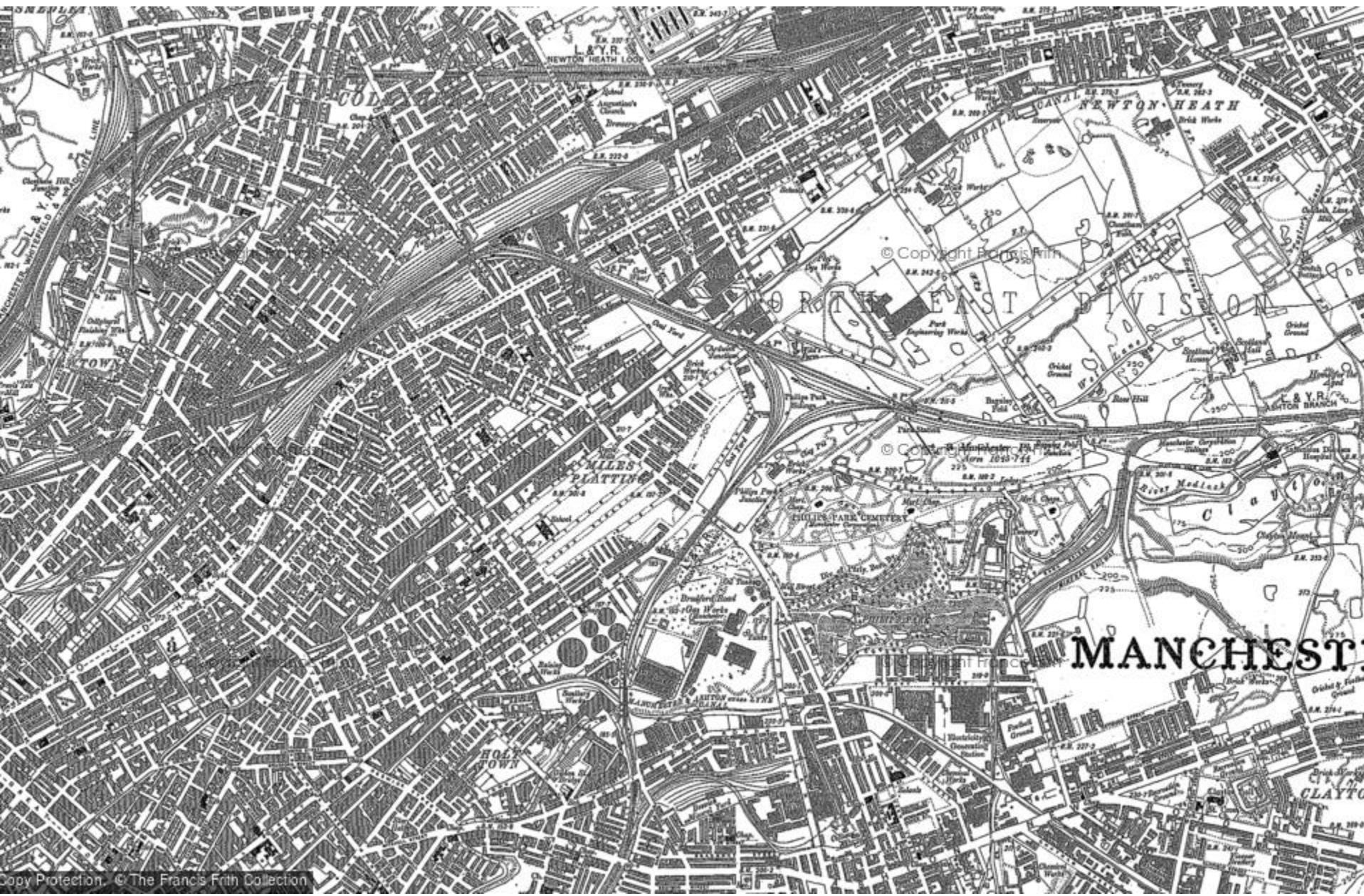
Representation
of the Reality



Structure of the
Reality



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Services

- 1** Altrincham – Bury
- 2** Altrincham – Piccadilly
- 3** Ashton-under-Lyne – Eccles

4 Bury – Piccadilly

5 East Didsbury – Rochdale Town Centre

6 Manchester Airport – Victoria*

7 MediaCityUK – Etihad Campus

* Early services operate on a 20 minute frequency between Manchester Airport and Didsgate-Castlefield. Please check journey planning posters or [tfgm.com](#) before travelling.

Key

— Metrolink stop

— Bus interchange

— Rail interchange

— Change with other services

(P+R) 302 Park + Ride with number of spaces

(P) Car park fewer than 50 spaces

(C) Cycle Hub membership required



Ceci n'est pas une pipe.

“Human knowledge is a process of approximation. In the focus of experience, there is comparative clarity. But the discrimination of this clarity leads into the penumbral background. There are always questions left over. The problem is to discriminate exactly what we know vaguely.”

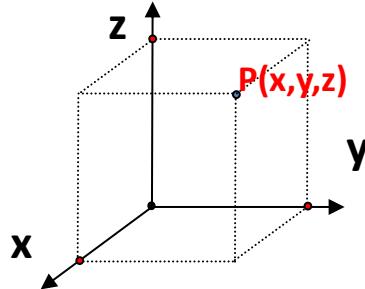
Alfred North Whitehead

KR: Five Roles

- 1. Surrogate
 - That is, a representation
- 2. Expression of ontological commitment
 - of the world
- 3. Theory of intelligent reasoning
 - and our knowledge of it
- 4. Medium of efficient computation
 - that is accessible to programs
- 5. Medium of human expression
 - and usable

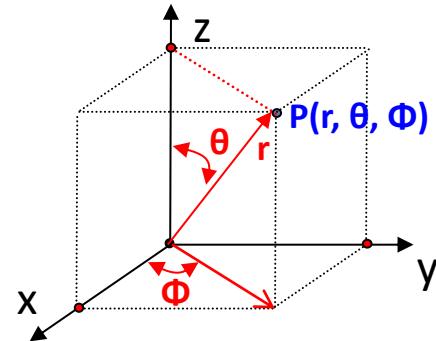
Cartesian Coordinates

$P(x, y, z)$



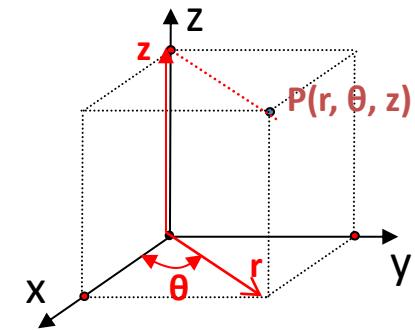
Spherical Coordinates

$P(r, \theta, \Phi)$



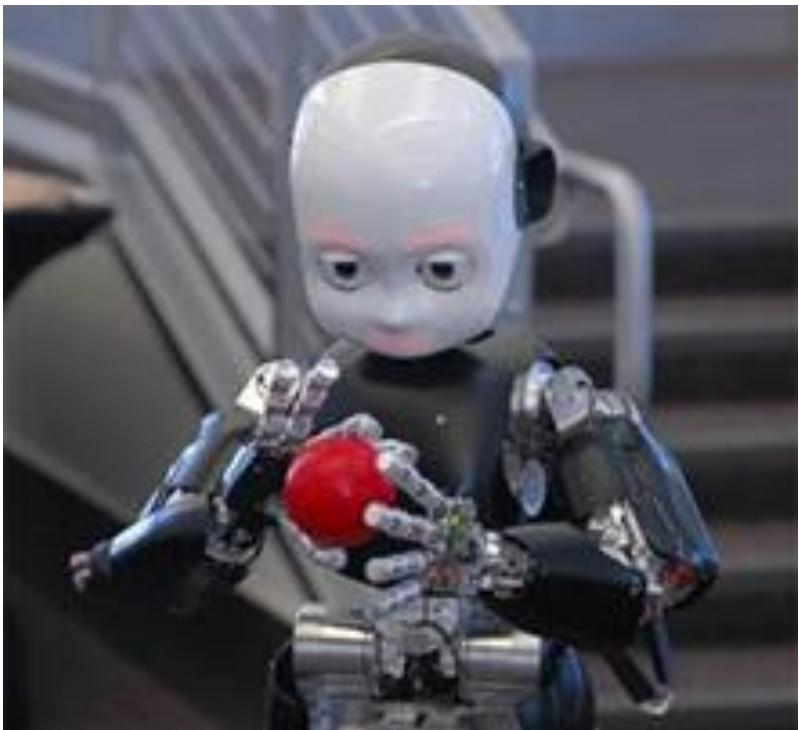
Cylindrical Coordinates

$P(r, \theta, z)$



$$ds^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2m}{r}\right) dt^2 - \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{2m}{r}\right)} dr^2 - (r)^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2(\theta)d\phi^2)$$

Representations deeply impact on learning and inference



Embodied representations

An **apple** is a sweet, edible [fruit](#) produced by an **apple tree** (*Malus pumila*). Apple [trees](#) are [cultivated](#) worldwide and are the most widely grown species in the [genus Malus](#). The tree originated in [Central Asia](#), where its wild ancestor, *Malus sieversii*, is still found today. Apples have been grown for thousands of years in [Asia](#) and [Europe](#) and were brought to North America by [European colonists](#). Apples have religious and [mythological](#) significance in many cultures, including [Norse](#), [Greek](#) and [European Christian traditions](#).

Symbolic representations

“The distinctive feature of brains such as the one we own is their uncanny ability to create maps...

But when brains make maps, they are also creating images, the main currency of our minds. Ultimately consciousness allows us to experience maps as images, to manipulate those images, and to apply reasoning to them.”

Antonio Damasio (2010)

Semantics

=

Formal meaning representation
model (lots of data)

+

inference model

This behaves a lot
like intelligence!

> 2000 years of tradition!

Semantics

=

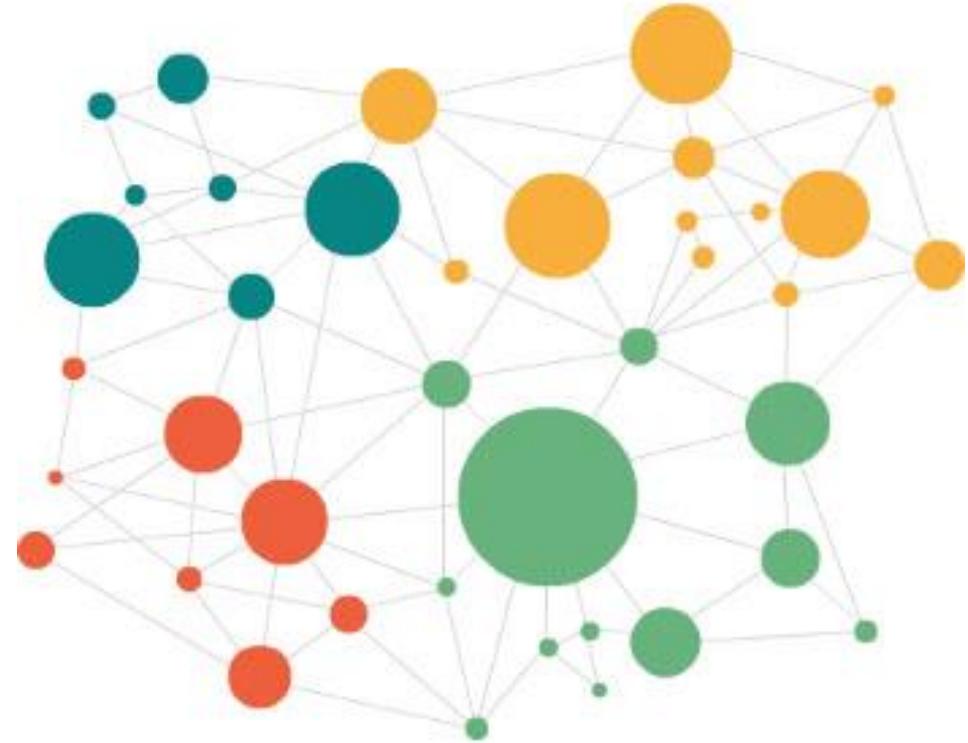
Logics, linguistics, philosophy, cognitive sciences, computer science

Formal meaning representation model (lots of data)

+

inference model

This behaves a lot like intelligence!



Building Knowledge Bases

Data

Intelligence

Structure/Semantics



Unstructured
Data

KB Construction

Structured
Data

Easy to generate

Easy to analyze
(computationally)

Consistent
Comparable
Processable

From Text to Structure

...

Barack Obama went with his daughter Malia to the baseball game.

...

...

Today, during an official visit, Natasha called to her father, the president of the United States.

...

From Text to Structure

...
Barack Obama went with
his daughter **Malia** to the
baseball game.

...
Today, during an official
visit, **Natasha** called to
her father, the president
of the United States.

From Text to Structure

...
Barack Obama went with
his daughter **Malia** to the
baseball game.
...

...
Today, during an official
visit, **Natasha** called to
her father, the **president
of the United States**.
...

Co-reference resolution

From Text to Structure

...
Barack Obama went with
his daughter **Malia** to the
baseball game.
...

...
Today, during an official
visit, **Natasha** called to
her father, the **president**
of the United States.
...

Regularities in Natural Language

Barack Obama went with his daughter Malia to the baseball game.

Barack/NNP

Obama/NNP

went/VBD

with/IN

his/PRP\$

daughter/NN

Malia/NN

to/TO

the/DT

baseball/NN

game/NN

./.

Regularities in Natural Language

Barack Obama went with his daughter Malia to the baseball game.

Barack/**NNP**



Proper noun

Obama/**NNP**

went/**VBD**

with/**IN**

his/**PRP\$**

daughter/**NN**

Malia/**NN**

to/**TO**

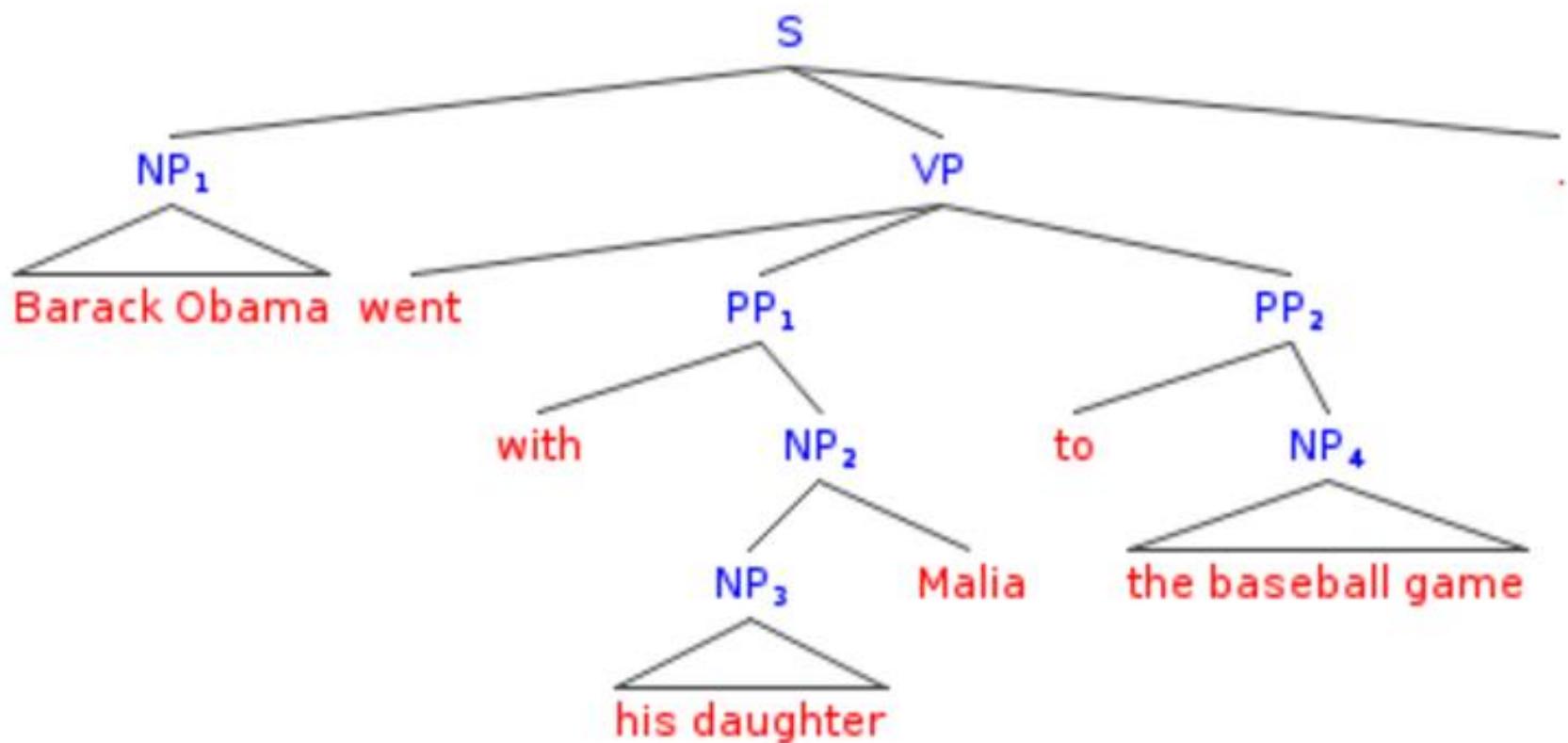
the/**DT**

baseball/**NN**

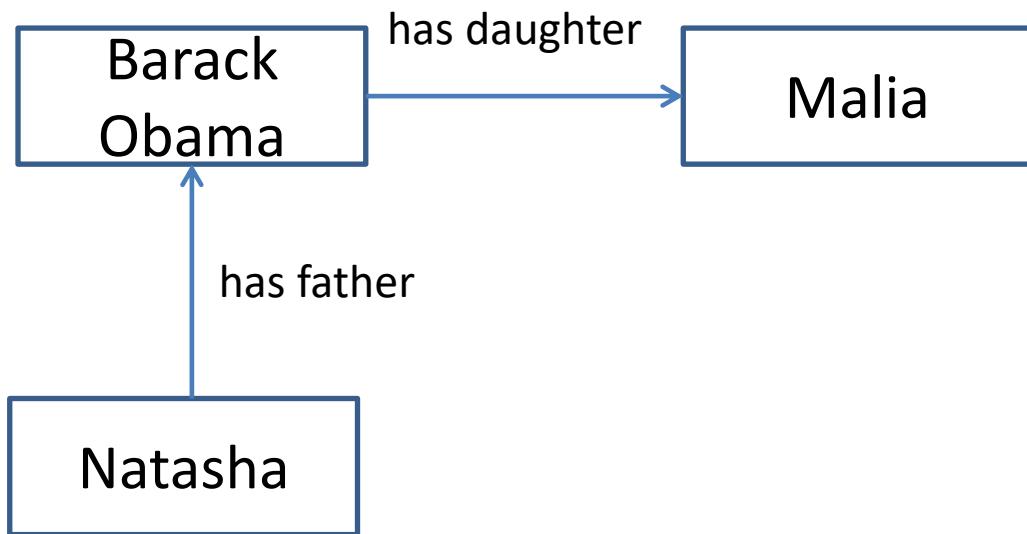
game/**NN**

./.
./.

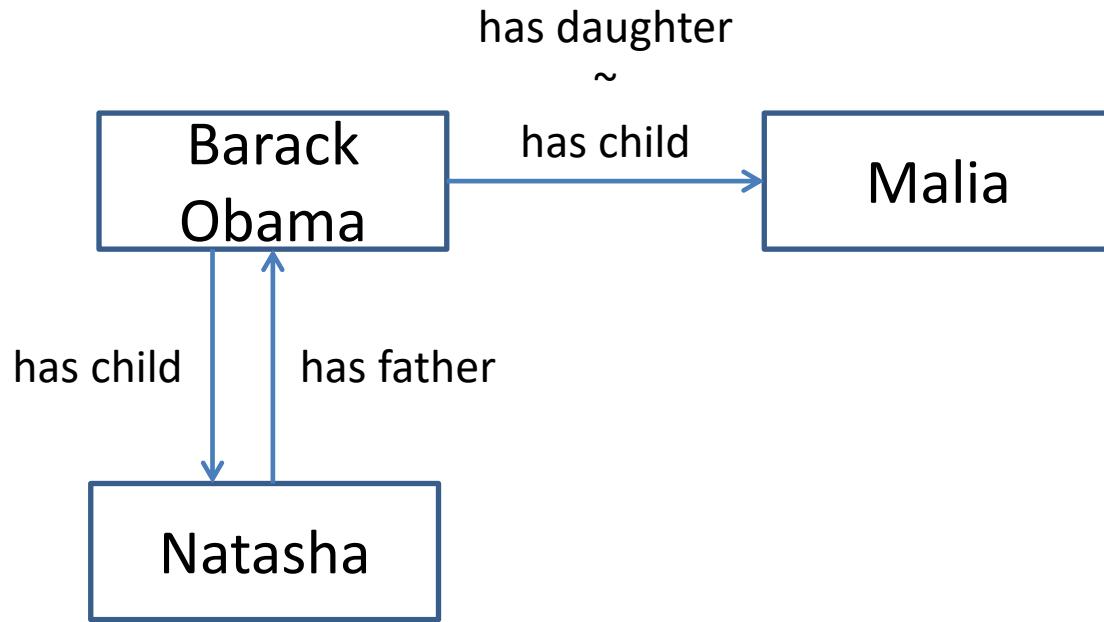
Regularities in Natural Language



Structural/Logical Form



Structural/Logical Form



Applying some logical or corpus-based inference we get

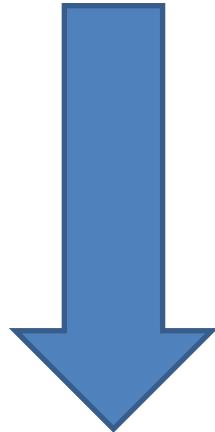
Rephrasing it

- has_child(Barack_Obama, Malia)
- has_child(Barack_Obama, Natasha)
- ...

Now we can answer this query

- *How many children does Barack Obama have?*

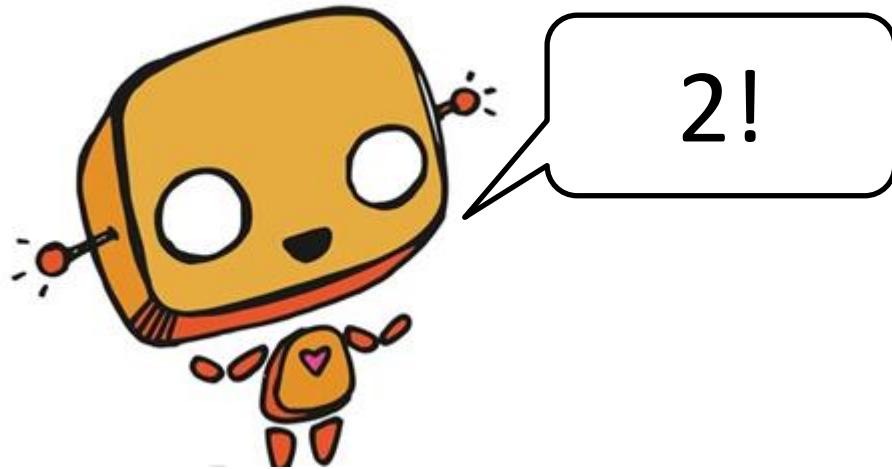
some magic called **semantic parsing** goes on ...



- `count(has_child(Barack_Obama, ?x))`

It computes!

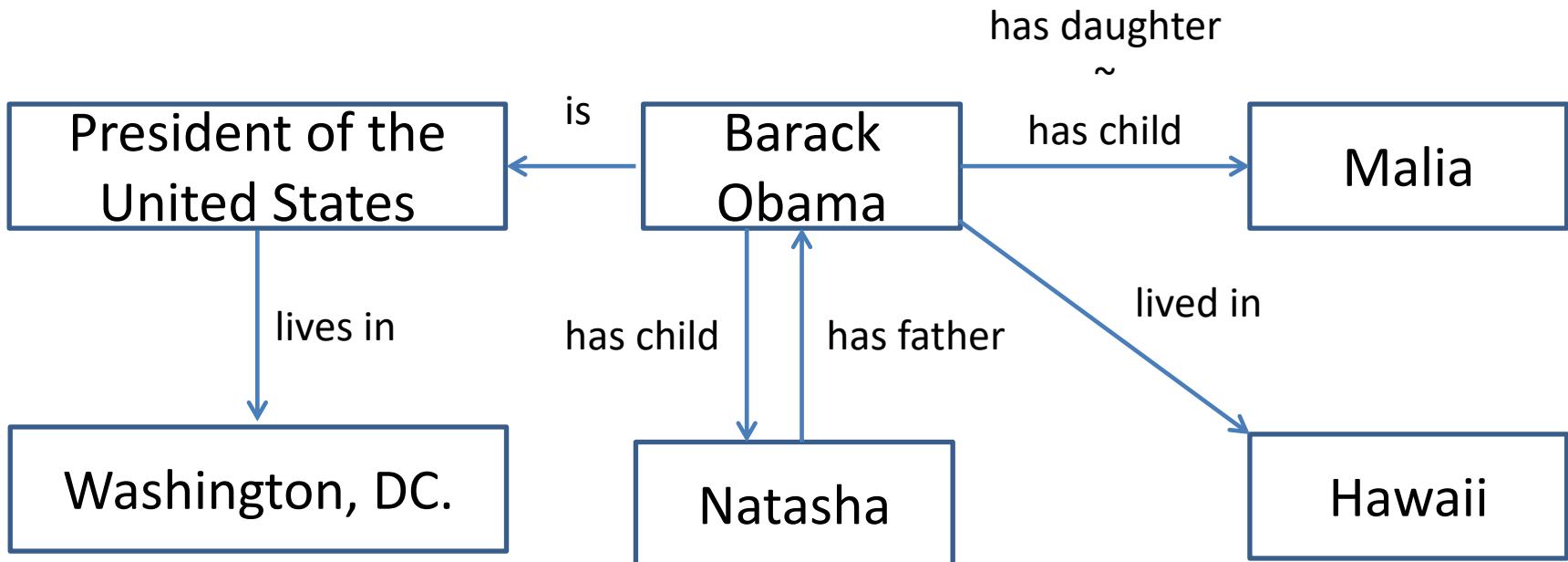
Query: count(has_child(Barack_Obama, ?x))



KB:

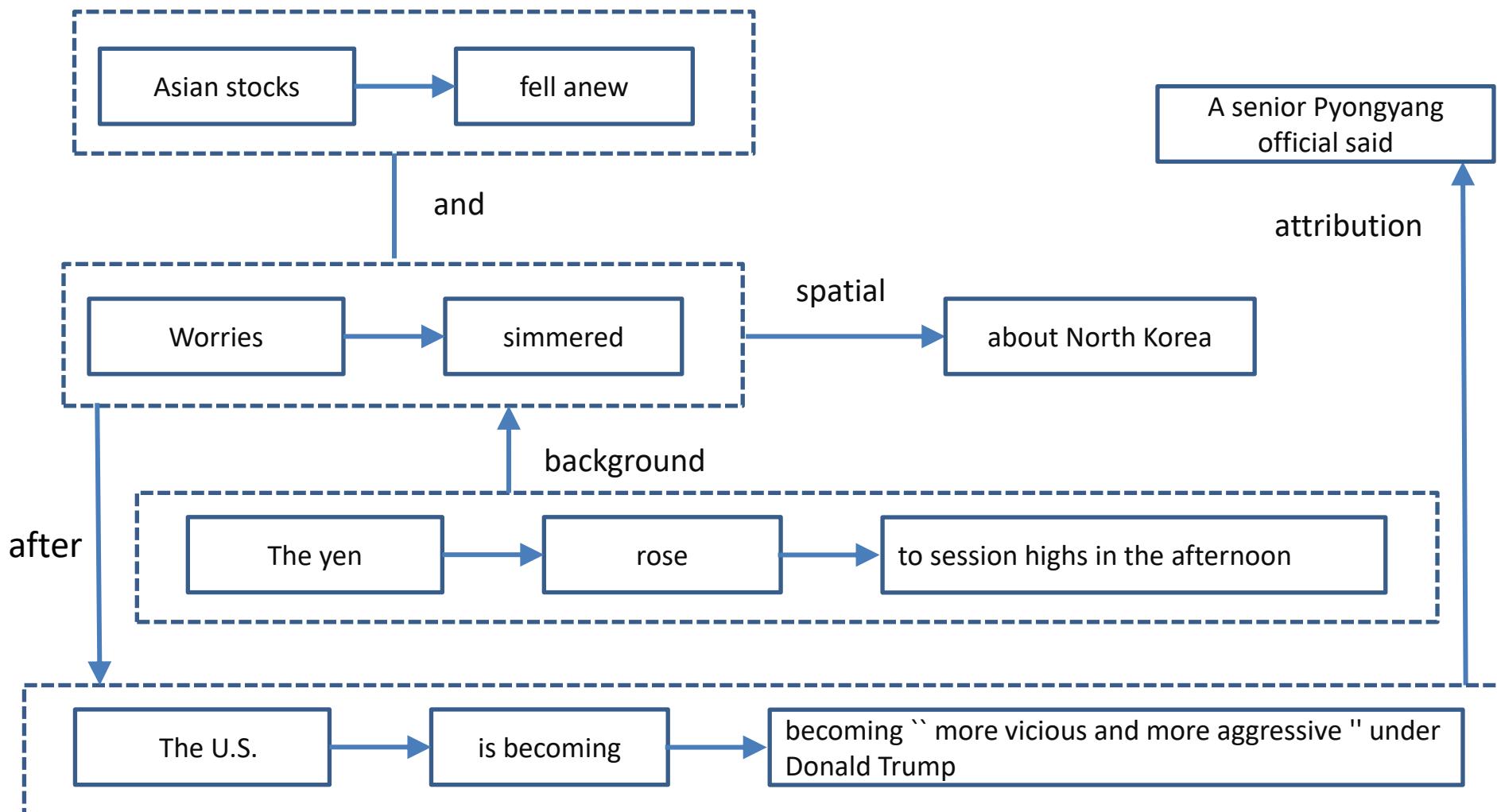
- has_child(Barack_Obama, Malia)
- has_child(Barack_Obama, Natasha)
- ...

Extrapolating



Semantic representation

Asian stocks fell anew and the yen rose to session highs in the afternoon as worries about North Korea simmered, after a senior Pyongyang official said the U.S. is becoming ``more vicious and more aggressive'' under President Donald Trump .



Semantic Parsing using CCGs

Language

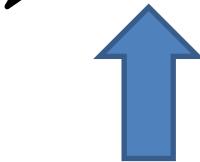
$$\begin{array}{cccc} \text{show} & \text{me} & \text{flights} & \text{to} \\ \hline S/N & & N & PP/NP \\ \lambda f.f & & \lambda x.\text{flight}(x) & \lambda y.\lambda x.\text{to}(x,y) \\ \hline & & & \hline & & & NP \\ & & & BOSTON \\ \hline & & & \hline & & & PP \\ & & & \lambda x.\text{to}(x, BOSTON) \\ \hline & & & \hline & & & N \setminus N \\ & & & \lambda f.\lambda x.f(x) \wedge \text{to}(x, BOSTON) \\ \hline & & & \hline & & & N \\ & & & \lambda x.\text{flight}(x) \wedge \text{to}(x, BOSTON) \\ \hline & & & \hline & & & S \\ & & & \lambda x.\text{flight}(x) \wedge \text{to}(x, BOSTON) \end{array}$$

Structure

Artzi

Symbol

Tree



Any cognitive representation for long, vertical, usually green with a wood basis

Tree is the name of a set

Tree is a noun

Some Goal



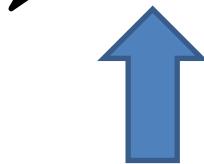
Similarity, discrimination



Representation

Structure of the Reality

Symbol



Any cognitive representation
for long,
vertical,
usually green
with a wood basis

**Some
Goal**



Similarity,
discrimination

Extension
of the set



Representation

Structure of the Reality

Symbol

Operating on the Representation

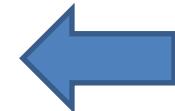
Tree



Any cognitive representation for long, vertical, usually green with a wood basis

The tallest tree

Some Goal



Similarity, discrimination



Representation

Structure of the Reality

Symbol

Tree



Any cognitive representation for long, vertical, usually green with a wood basis

Operating on the Representation

Definite article: “get me one”

The tallest tree

Some Goal
Similarity, discrimination



Representation

Structure of the Reality

Symbol

Tree



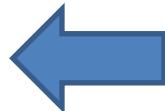
Any cognitive representation for long, vertical, usually green with a wood basis

Operating on the Representation

Superlative adjective : "top most"

The tallest tree

Some Goal



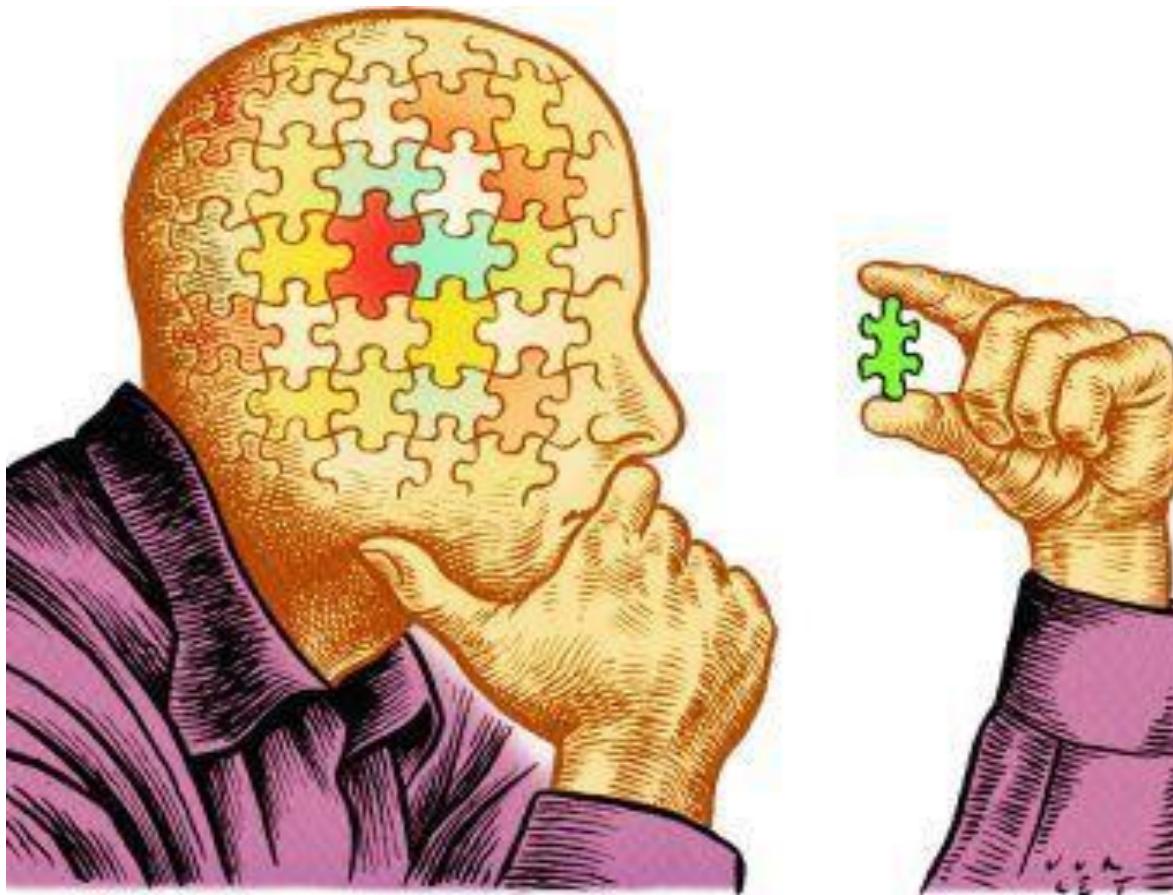
Similarity, discrimination



Structure of the Reality

Natural Language Representation

- There is a mapping between natural language and knowledge representation.
- Looking at natural language is looking at the representation (constrained by the communication medium).



Knowledge & Inference

Reasoning

Should you take COMP24412?...

Let us represent the knowledge we have about the course and then see what follows (logically).

Representing some Knowledge

The Facts

COMP24412 teaches Logic

COMP24412 is about AI

Prolog is a programming language

COMP24412 teaches Prolog

AI is cool

Yachts cost lots of money

The Rules

If you take a course and it teaches X then you know X

If you take a course about X and X is cool then you are cool

If you know a programming language then you can program

If you can program and know logic you can get a good job

If you have a good job you get lots of money

If you have X and Y costs X then you can have Y

Reger

Representing some Knowledge

The Facts

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)

COMP24412 is about AI

Prolog is a programming language

COMP24412 teaches Prolog

AI is cool

Yachts cost lots of money

The Rules

If you take a course and it teaches X then you know X

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If you have X and Y costs X then you can have Y

Reger

Representing some Knowledge

The Facts

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)

about(COMP24412, AI)

language(Prolog)

teaches(COMP24412, Prolog)

cool(AI)

costs(Yacht, LotsOfMoney)

The Rules

If you take a course and it teaches X then you know X

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If you have X and Y costs X then you can have Y

Reger

Representing some Knowledge

The Facts

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)	teaches(COMP24412, Prolog)
about(COMP24412, AI)	cool(AI)
language(Prolog)	costs(Yacht, LotsOfMoney)

The Rules

$$\text{take}(U, C) \wedge \text{teaches}(C, X) \Rightarrow \text{know}(U, X)$$

If you take a course about X and X is cool then you are cool

If you know a programming language then you can program

If you can program and know logic you can get a good job

If you have a good job you get lots of money

If you have X and Y costs X then you can have Y

Reger

Inferring some more Knowledge

The Facts

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)
about(COMP24412, AI)
language(Prolog)

teaches(COMP24412, Prolog)
cool(AI)
costs(Yacht, LotsOfMoney)

The Rules

take(U, C) \wedge teaches(C, X) \Rightarrow know(U, X)
take(U, C) \wedge about(C, X) \wedge cool(X) \Rightarrow cool(U)
know(U, X) \wedge language(X) \Rightarrow canProgram(U)
canProgram(U) \wedge know(U, Logic) \Rightarrow hasGoodJob(U)
hasGoodJob(U) \Rightarrow has($U, \text{LotsOfMoney}$)
has(U, X) \wedge costs(Y, X) \Rightarrow has(U, Y)

Inferring some more Knowledge

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)	teaches(COMP24412, Prolog)
about(COMP24412, AI)	cool(AI)
language(Prolog)	costs(Yacht, LotsOfMoney)

take(U, C) \wedge teaches(C, X) \Rightarrow know(U, X)
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has(U, X) \wedge costs(Y, X) \Rightarrow has(U, Y)

take(you, COMP24412)

Inferring some more Knowledge

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)	teaches(COMP24412, Prolog)
about(COMP24412, AI)	cool(AI)
language(Prolog)	costs(Yacht, LotsOfMoney)

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hasGoodJob(U) \Rightarrow has($U, \text{LotsOfMoney}$)
has(U, X) \wedge costs(Y, X) \Rightarrow has(U, Y)

know(you, Logic) take(you, COMP24412)
 know(you, Prolog)

Inferring some more Knowledge

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)	teaches(COMP24412, Prolog)
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 know(you, Prolog)

Inferring some more Knowledge

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about(COMP24412, AI)	cool(AI)
language(Prolog)	costs(Yacht, LotsOfMoney)

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has(U, X) \wedge costs(Y, X) \Rightarrow has(U, Y)

take(you, COMP24412)
know(you, Logic) know(you, Prolog) cool(you)

Inferring some more Knowledge

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)
about(COMP24412, AI)
language(Prolog)

teaches(COMP24412, Prolog)
cool(AI)
costs(Yacht, LotsOfMoney)

$\text{take}(U, C) \wedge \text{teaches}(C, X) \Rightarrow \text{know}(U, X)$
 $\text{take}(U, C) \wedge \text{about}(C, X) \wedge \text{cool}(X) \Rightarrow \text{cool}(U)$
 $\text{know}(U, X) \wedge \text{language}(X) \Rightarrow \text{canProgram}(U)$
 $\text{canProgram}(U) \wedge \text{know}(U, \text{Logic}) \Rightarrow \text{hasGoodJob}(U)$
 $\text{hasGoodJob}(U) \Rightarrow \text{has}(U, \text{LotsOfMoney})$
 $\text{has}(U, X) \wedge \text{costs}(Y, X) \Rightarrow \text{has}(U, Y)$

know(you, Logic) **know(you, Prolog)** cool(you) canProgram(you)

Inferring some more Knowledge

teaches(COMP24412, Logic)	teaches(COMP24412, Prolog)
about(COMP24412, AI)	cool(AI)
language(Prolog)	costs(Yacht, LotsOfMoney)

take(U, C) \wedge teaches(C, X) \Rightarrow know(U, X)
take(U, C) \wedge about(C, X) \wedge cool(X) \Rightarrow cool(U)
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hasGoodJob(U) \Rightarrow has($U, \text{LotsOfMoney}$)
has(U, X) \wedge costs(Y, X) \Rightarrow has(U, Y)

take(you, COMP24412)
know(you, Logic) know(you, Prolog) cool(you) canProgram(you)
hasGoodJob(you)

Inferring some more Knowledge

- take(U, C) \wedge teaches(C, X) \Rightarrow know(U, X)
- take(U, C) \wedge about(C, X) \wedge cool(X) \Rightarrow cool(U)
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take(you, COMP24412)
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hasGoodJob(you) has(you, LotsOfMoney)

Inferring some more Knowledge

- $\text{take}(U, C) \wedge \text{teaches}(C, X) \Rightarrow \text{know}(U, X)$
- $\text{take}(U, C) \wedge \text{about}(C, X) \wedge \text{cool}(X) \Rightarrow \text{cool}(U)$
- $\text{know}(U, X) \wedge \text{language}(X) \Rightarrow \text{canProgram}(U)$
- $\text{canProgram}(U) \wedge \text{know}(U, \text{Logic}) \Rightarrow \text{hasGoodJob}(U)$
- $\text{hasGoodJob}(U) \Rightarrow \text{has}(U, \text{LotsOfMoney})$
- $\text{has}(U, X) \wedge \text{costs}(Y, X) \Rightarrow \text{has}(U, Y)$

take(you, COMP24412)
know(you, Logic) know(you, Prolog) cool(you) canProgram(you)
hasGoodJob(you) has(you, LotsOfMoney) has(you, Yacht)

In Prolog

- Convert the previous KB into Prolog.
- Does it work?

You can use SWISH:

<https://swish.swi-prolog.org/example/kb.pl>

Inductive Logic Programming

- ILP algorithms are constructive induction algorithms
 - Able to create new predicates to facilitate the expression of explanatory hypotheses

- Express Grandparent
 - Empty background
 - Hypotheses are long and complicated

$\text{Grandparent}(x, y) \Leftrightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} & [\exists z \text{ Mother}(x, z) \wedge \text{Mother}(z, y)] \\ \vee & [\exists z \text{ Mother}(x, z) \wedge \text{Father}(z, y)] \\ \vee & [\exists z \text{ Father}(x, z) \wedge \text{Mother}(z, y)] \\ \vee & [\exists z \text{ Father}(x, z) \wedge \text{Father}(z, y)] \end{aligned}$$

Chu

Inductive Logic Programming

- By creating a new predicate, the definition of Grandparent can be reduced

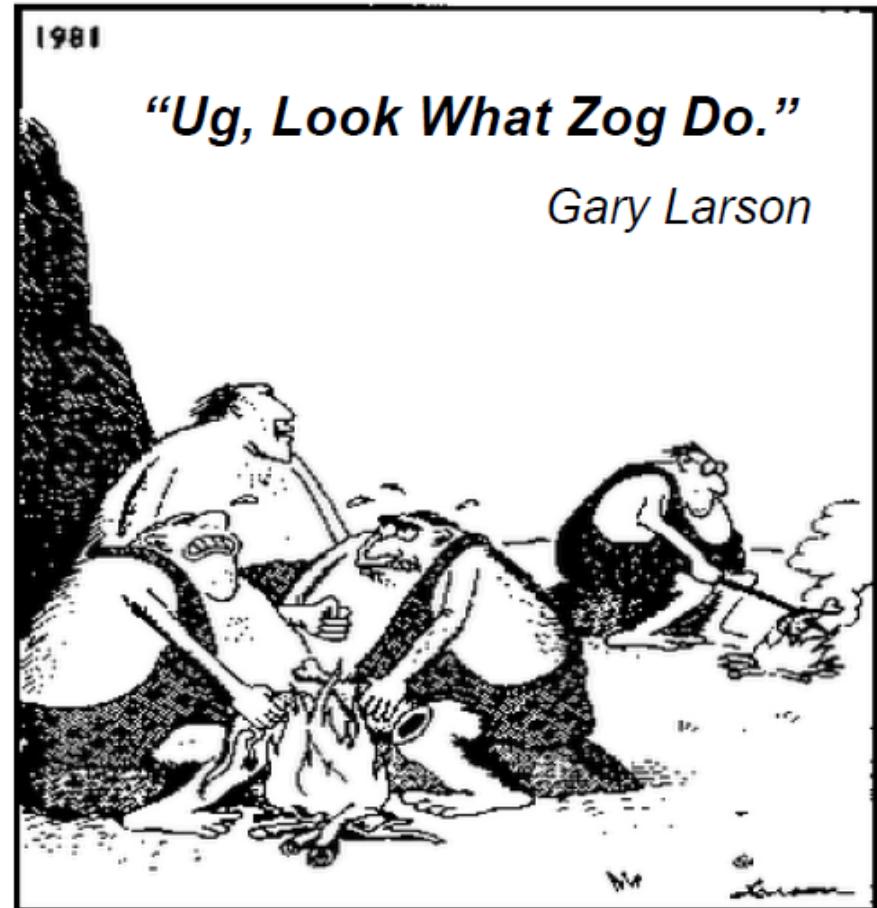
$$\text{Parent}(x, y) \Leftrightarrow [\text{Mother}(x, y) \vee \text{Father}(x, y)]$$

$$\text{Grandparent}(x, y) \Leftrightarrow [\exists z \text{ Parent}(x, z) \wedge \text{Parent}(z, y)]$$

- Background knowledge can reduce the size of hypotheses required to explain the observations
- Why?

Inference & Explanation

- **Explanation-based Learning (EBL)**
 - Method for extracting rules from individual observations through an explanation.
- **Explanation**
 - Stick holds the food over the fire while keeping hands safe.
- **Generalization**
 - Any long, rigid, sharp object can be used to toast food over the fire.
 - General rule follows logically from the background knowledge of the cavemen's usual cooking process.



Chu

Inference & Explanation

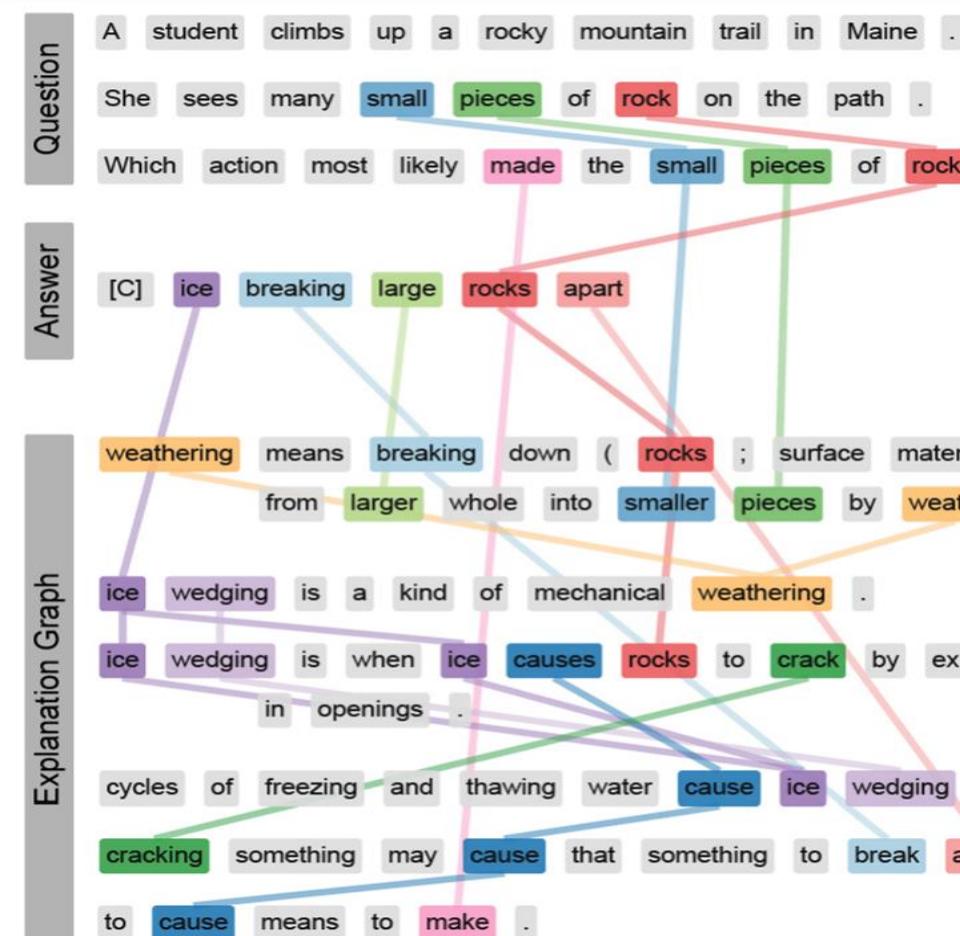
Q: A student climbs up a rocky mountain trail in Maine. She sees many small pieces of rock on the path. Which action most likely made the small pieces of rock?

- [0]: sand blowing into cracks
- [1]: leaves pressing down tightly
- [2]: ice breaking large rocks apart
- [3]: shells and bones sticking together

A: ice breaking large rocks apart

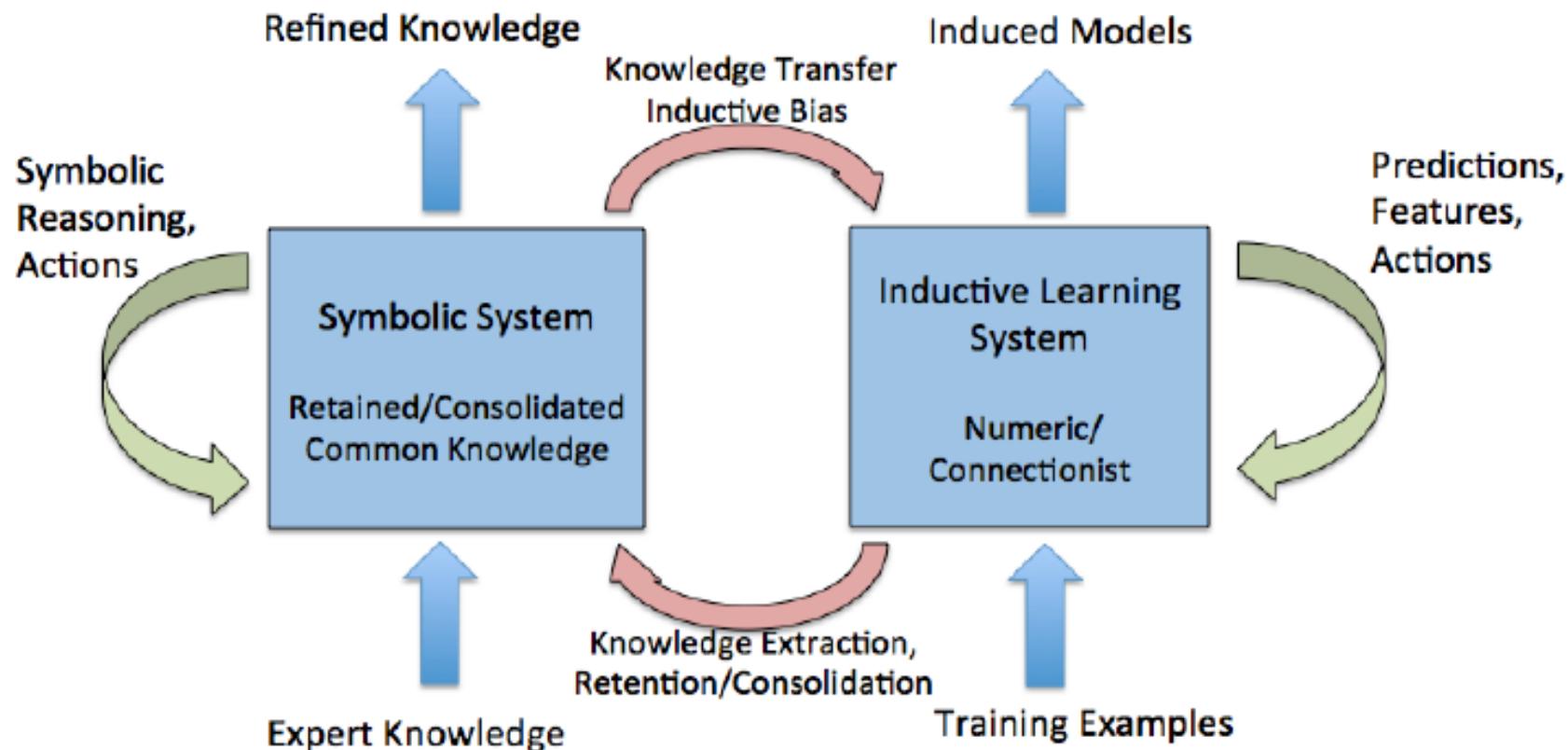
Explanation:

- weathering means breaking down (rocks ; surface ; material) by weather
- ice wedging is a kind of mechanical weathering
- ice wedging is when ice causes rocks to crack by expanding in openings
- cycles of freezing and thawing water cause ice wedging
- cracking something may cause that something to break
- to cause means to make



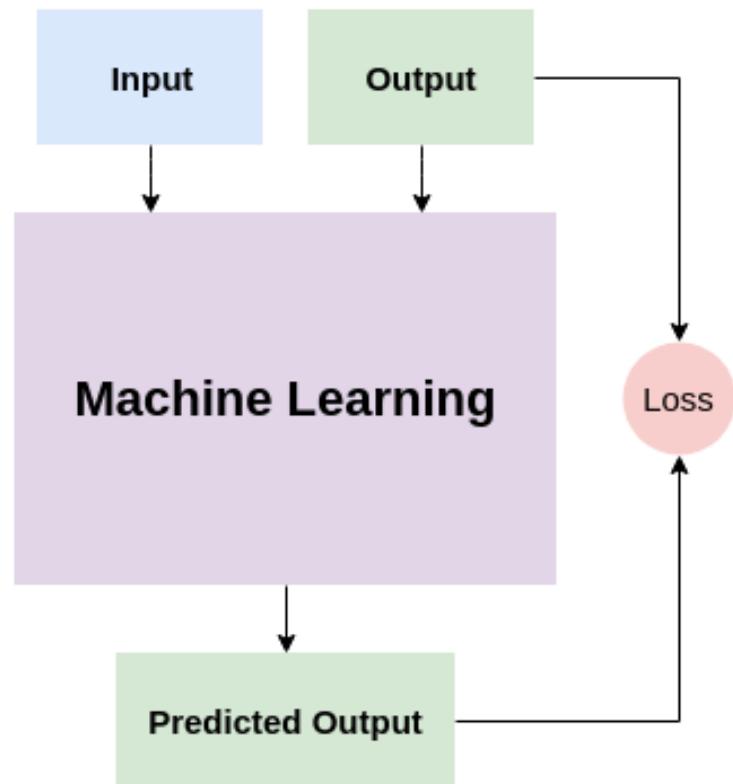
Going Beyond

Neuro-Symbolic Models

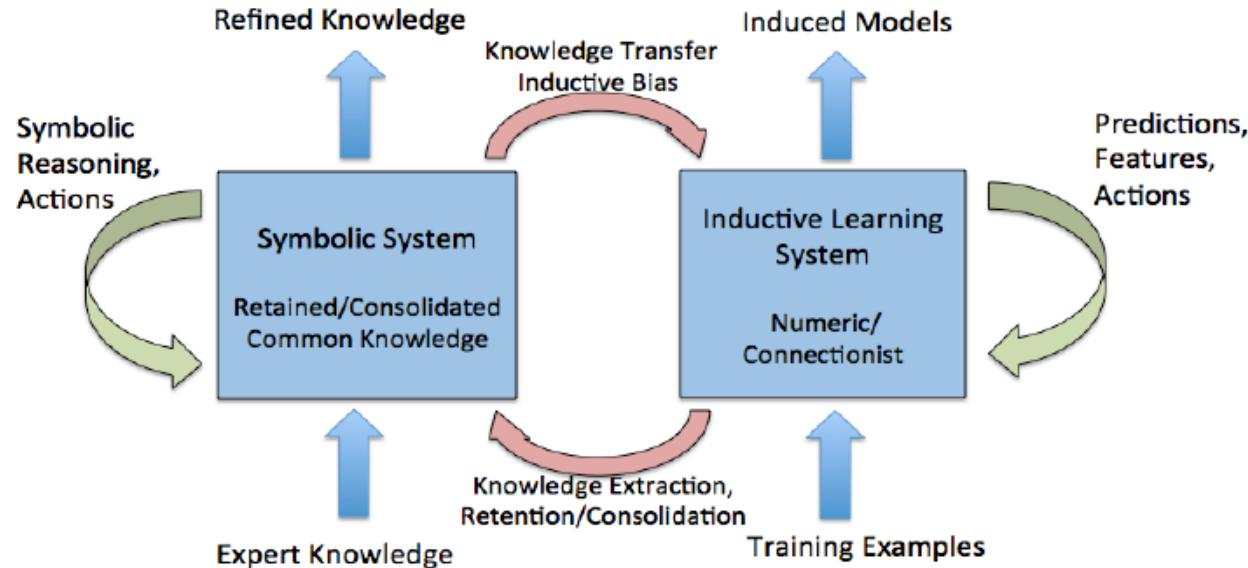


Current Limits of Deep Learning

1. Deep learning thus far is data hungry
2. Deep learning thus far is shallow and has limited capacity for transfer
3. Deep learning thus far has no natural way to deal with hierarchical structure
4. Deep learning thus far is not sufficiently transparent
5. Deep learning thus far has not been well integrated with prior knowledge
6. Deep learning thus far cannot inherently distinguish causation from correlation
7. Deep learning presumes a largely stable world, in ways that may be problematic
8. Deep learning thus far works well as an approximation, but its answers often cannot be fully trusted
9. Deep learning thus far is difficult to engineer with



Statistical vs Symbolic AI Systems



	Statistical	Symbolic
Explainability	Hard	Easy
Generalizing algebraic operations	Hard	Easy
Robustness to noise	Easy	Hard
Robustness to ambiguity	Easy	Hard
Robustness to mislabeling	Easy	Hard

Recommended Reading

Deep Learning: A Critical Appraisal

Gary Marcus¹
New York University

<https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1801/1801.00631.pdf>

Summary of Today

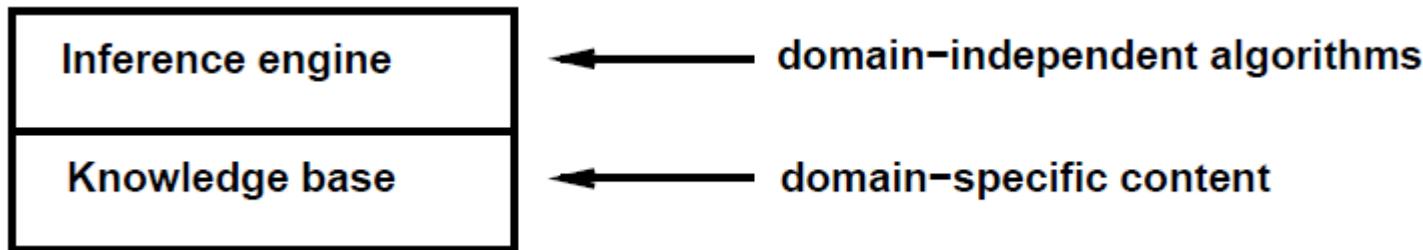
- Motivation behind Symbolic AI.
- Link between Language, Representation and Inference.
- End-to-end overview of the components of the course.

Complementary Reference Slides

Knowledge in Learning

- Task: to design agents that already know something, and are trying to learn more.
- Agents must have a learning process to gain the background knowledge in the first place
 - Learning taken place afterwards define the agent's incremental/cumulative development
- Agents can start off like normal agents
 - Gain initial knowledge through inductive learning
 - After, uses background knowledge to learn more effectively

Knowledge Bases



- Knowledge base = set of sentences in a formal language
- Declarative approach to building an agent (or other system):
 - Tell it what it needs to know
- Then it can Ask itself what to do | answers should follow from the KB
- Agents can be viewed at the knowledge level
 - i.e., what they know, regardless of how implemented
- Or at the implementation level
 - i.e., data structures in KB and algorithms that manipulate them

KB Agent

function KB-AGENT(*percept*) **returns** an *action*

static: *KB*, a knowledge base

t, a counter, initially 0, indicating time

 TELL(*KB*, MAKE-PERCEPT-SENTENCE(*percept, t*))

action \leftarrow ASK(*KB*, MAKE-ACTION-QUERY(*t*))

 TELL(*KB*, MAKE-ACTION-SENTENCE(*action, t*))

t \leftarrow *t* + 1

return *action*

A simple knowledge-based agent

- The agent must be able to:
 - Represent states, actions, etc.
 - Incorporate new percepts
 - Update internal representations of the world
 - Deduce hidden properties of the world
 - Deduce appropriate actions
- => sound and complete reasoning with partial information states