

Discourse

BSc Artificial Intelligence, Spring 2011

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Plan for Today

- Summing up the course's contents
- Update and feedback on work in progress for final project
- Guidelines for final report and presentation

Objectives and Contents of the Course

(from first session)

This is a course about **logic** and **NLP**, focusing on *meaning* or *semantics*

- what techniques can we use to represent natural language meaning and what can we do with the resulting representations?

Main Objectives:

- to understand a number of fundamental techniques behind logic-based computational semantics for processing natural language.
- to develop hands-on experience in automating such processing in Prolog.

Structure:

- Part I: how to represent the meaning of sentences in First Order Logic
- Part II: core of the course, how to deal with discourses (coherent sequences of sentence)
 - * we'll introduce Discourse Representation Theory
 - * and deal with pronoun resolution and presuppositions
- Part III: time permitting, we'll look into dialogue management

Final Projects: Work-in-Progress

- Update report on your project plan:
 - * **what** is your project topic? what are the aims of your project? try to be as concrete as possible.
 - * **how** do you plan to reach your aims? try to break down your work plan into tasks and subtasks.
- Feedback: please give useful feedback to your fellow class mates:
 - * is it clear what the project is about? does the plan make sense? is it feasible? any suggestions for improvement?

Guidelines for Project Reports

Formatting

- font size 12pt, page margins 2.5cm, PDF file
- 2-3 pages long (5 max.)
- spell-check carefully

Contents and Structure

- give a title to your project
- introduce your topic
- cite any literature you have used as background and explain clearly what your particular contribution is
- point to possible improvements (related aspects you have not covered)
- include a list of references at the end

Implementation

- submit a self-contained implementation package
- provide clear instructions on how to run your code
- document your code with comments as much as possible

Guidelines for Project Presentations

Prepare an oral presentation of your project

- it should last around 10-15 minutes
- prepare slides (I suggest at most 10)
- the presentation should essentially cover the information contained in your report
- consider showing a demo of your system (highly recommended)

Timeline

- **Submission of final project report + implementation**
Friday, 20 May, midnight
(1 point less for each day of delay; not accepted after 22 May)
- **Presentations of final projects**
23 May, 13-15h. (“exam” date)