

Francis Lam

Comments for week 4

Reading: Beating some Common Sense into Interactive Applications, Lieberman et. Al.

The paper gives some lucid examples of how to use common sense knowledge in interface agents. When the commonsense knowledgebase grows bigger and bigger, and its interface provides opportunity for correction and completion by user input, putting common sense knowledge in computers will become useful in many aspects of our daily life. But the first question is what applications require common sense knowledge?

No current systems can cover all our common sense knowledge, so the accuracy is still a significant problem. The kind of system in which we use commonsense knowledgebase should be fail-soft, where accuracy is not crucial. I think GOOSE is a very good use of the common sense agent, it suggests better query results by commonsense reasoning while does not interfere with the user's task. However, I have questions about the use of common sense in affective classification of text. Empathy Buddy may not be appropriate in predicting the affect of an email, as the mood of an email is crucial where misinterpretations may lead to serious consequences. Even though it can avoid negation tricks and has a better algorithm in guessing the emotional state of a sentence, it still cannot handle all complex semantic changes in our language. After all, understanding our emotions is not just a common sense.

-----