AI'S MISSING REAL-WORLD CONNECTION, AND ITS ESSENTIAL AND MULTIFACETED ROLES

Authors: Justin Brody, Timothy C. Clausner, Don Perlis, **David Sekora**

SOMETIMES, THINGS GO WRONG

- Competition robot hits fence, doesn't realize anything is wrong because wheels are still spinning;
- Robot voice command demo creates infinite loop of robot talking to itself because it doesn't know it is talking;
- Lunar probe lost contact with Earth after series of malfunctions, could have been prevented if it knew facing receiver towards Earth was a priority.



CURRENT APPROACH: AD-HOC SOLUTIONS

- Can solve any particular failure.
 - Example: Hardcode probe navigation system to always force it to face Earth.
- Inflexible can only handle problems we anticipate/observe.
- Can't anticipate all possible problems examples on previous slide demonstrate this!

APPEARANCE-REALITY DISTINCTION + SELF-AWARENESS

- Appearance-Reality Distinction: knowledge is internal to a reasoning system, but is about information external to the system.
- Internal-external connection is key! The problems mentioned earlier, and many others, could be solved if systems understand their connection to the world.
- Useful for:
 - Anomaly detection
 - General learning
 - Scene interpretation
 - Explanation

OUR APPROACH: MCL

- MCL Meta-Cognitive Loop
 - General strategies for resolving a wide variety of problems
- ALMA Active Logic Machine
 - Active Logic time-situated extension of first-order logic.
 - Reasoning systems and logics historically ignore time constraints even a "temporal logic" system, while it reasons *about* time, does not reason *in* time.
 - Includes a notion of "now", as well as an internal clock. Facts are tagged with timestamps, improves context/attention.



NEXT STEPS: SPATIAL REASONING

- Time was a natural first step "time passes, and sometimes things change" is fundamental to working in the real world.
- Space seems similarly important, but is more complicated:
 - We have a notion of "now", should we also have "here"? What would that look like?
 - Can we tag facts with spatial data to improve context/attention?
 - Space is 3-dimensional, not linear.
 - An agent can change space, but not time.
- Currently exploring: physics simulator + machine learning assistance.

THANKS! QUESTIONS?

FURTHER READING

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