Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology HST.952: Computing for Biomedical Scientists

Data and Knowledge Representation Lecture 6



Last Time We Talked About

Major KR schemes
 Semantic Network
 Frame-based Representation

Production Rules



Today We Will Talk About

Process

Finite state machine
Flow chart
Petri Net



Process

Object: continuant
E.g. diagnosis, medication, data repository
Process: occurrent
E.g. diagnose, treat, retrieve



Describing Process

 Predicate logic • treat (Dr. Jones, Ms. List) Frame-based system Patient Frame has a slot "primary care" or "attending physician" There are more about "treat" to specify When, where, how, why, what result





Example

Continuous Process

Aging

Discrete Process

Out patient visit (make appointment, check in with nurse, see a doctor, have test/receive medication)



Basic Distinctions

- Discrete or continuous
- Linear or branching
- Independent or ramified
- Immediate or delayed
- Sequential or concurrent
- Predictable or surprising

Basic Distinctions

Normal or equinomral
Flat or hierarchical
Timeless or time-bound
Forgetful or memory-bound



Process, Procedure and History

- Sequence of events and state
- Process: one event or state is current
- Procedure: abstract (pattern or script of processes)
- History: record of a past process

Finite State Machine (FSM)

- Discrete process (continuous process can be simulated with fine time steps)
- State transition diagram
- Formal Definition:
 - A finite set of states: Q
 - A finite set of inputs: I
 - A transition function F(Q, I) -> Q, F can be a partial Function



FSM

Basic components: state (circle), transition (arrow), input (label on the arrow)
End state can be marked with double circles





Flow Chart

- Event (box) and decision (diamond)
- Arrow (transition) and label on the arrow (condition for decision)
- Start and end can be specified with box



- A finite set of places (circle)
 A finite set of transactions (line)
- A finite set of arrows connecting either places to transactions or transactions to places



- Marking: assign a non-negative integer to each place. (dot/token)
- Firing: a transaction take place after enabled
- Firing sequence: the sequence of transaction firings for a given PN with a given initial marking

Conflict
Starvation
Deadlock



Assign values to tokens
Define functions for transaction
Specify scheduling policies
Times Petri Net



Exercise

Overweight patients should be instructed either excise regularly or keep a healthy diet for 3 months. When one fails, try both for 3 months. When both fail, a patient should be given medication x for 2 months.



Reading

• Sowa Chap. 3

