AI Large Practical

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School of Informatics

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AILP: Course Description

The official descriptor is on-line:

`http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/15-16/dpt/cxinfr09018.htm`

- There is no exam for this course;
  assessment is based entirely on your work during the
  practical: the programs you write, and your reports
  of those programs.

- The course is compulsory for several degrees.

Course Aims, 1

- Most practical work in the formal curriculum has asked you to solve closely specified problems, in a short time

- AILP asks you to manage your time, and organise how you set about a larger task.

- You will play a larger role in setting the direction of your work, and in reporting on your work.

Course Aims, 2

AILP is intended as a small introduction to research, which will involve:

- Understanding the problem
- Reading some associated literature
- Designing an extended computational system.
- Experimenting and evaluating.
- Writing a final report on your work,

Outline

Assignment	Issue	Due	Weight
A1	Today	Thurs 29 Oct, 16:00	42%
A2	Soon	Thu 17 Dec, 16:00	42%

There is also an AILP wiki and 16% of the overall mark will be allocated for participation in the wiki.

Sessions

Lectures   Wednesday, 9:00 in Seminar Room 6, CMB weeks 1, 2, 6, 7 — and possibly others

Drop-in   Tuesdays, 13:00 in Forrest Road 3.D01.
Labs   Thursdays 13:00 in Forrest Road 3.D01

Drop-in labs allow you to ask questions about the assignments in general, and about design and programming issues.

Spreading the load

You are expected to budget your own time and pace your work to meet the deadlines.

Beware

There will be other coursework deadlines falling towards the end of the semester. Remember that the AILP submissions count for a lot more than coursework associated with courses with exams.

For most people, the three final weeks of semester will be free from other coursework deadlines.

Organisation

- If you need to contact me, please use email: soa@inf.ed.ac.uk
- We'll be using Python this year.
- Does it make sense to have student rep for the course? Volunteers?

Do read your email!

If I need to make announcements, I'll do it via email to the mailing list for this course.

Reminder: plagiarism

Claiming someone else's work as your own is a serious offence within a university; this includes failure to acknowledge where your work is based upon someone else's work.

- It's good to discuss problems and ways to solve them with others.
- But you must:
    - Write your own code;
    - Do your own experiments;
    - Write your own report.

More discussion at

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http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/admin/policies/
              guidelines-plagiarism
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Area of Practical

- The area of the practical is in argumentation systems.
- Argumentation involves making sense of arguments both for and against some claim or course of action.
- Examples:
    - Choice of treatment for a patient;
    - Choice of action by a governing body;
    - Legal arguments for guilt or innocence;
    - Individual choice of 'considered action'

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  - Legal arguments for guilt or innocence;
  - Individual choice of 'considered action' — should I eat the whole tub of ice cream?

Exercise 1

- Write down three examples of arguments.
- Reflect on your examples: do the arguments have internal structure, identifiable components?

Exercise 2

- Work with a partner; one of you will be proponent, the other will be opponent.
- The proponent selects one of his/her examples from Exercise 1, and puts the argument forward. The opponent tries to rebut the argument with a counterargument.
- Now swap roles.

Exercise 3

Next week, we'll be looking at something called the
Carneades model of argumentation. This is partly
motivated by the goal of representing legal arguments.

- What is the difference between arguments and legal arguments?
- Try to come up with a few examples of legal arguments.

Stuff to read

Douglas Walton (2009) 'Argumentation Theory: A Very Short Introduction.'
`http://www.dougwalton.ca/papers%20in%20pdf/09ArgShort.pdf`

Thomas F. Gordon, Henry Prakken, and Douglas Walton (2007) 'The Carneades model of argument and burden of proof.'
`http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0004370207000677`

Next Week

- Meet at 09:00 on Wednesday;
- Assignment 1, and how it will be assessed.