Authorial Goals

in Discourse Planning

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The Bard Planning System

Bard is an implementation of the DPOCL algorithm allowing modal logic.

- Decompositional – actions are hierarchical
- Partial Order – actions have minimal orderings
- Causal-Link – actions are linked by enablement

Discourse Planning

Discourse planning is the process of selecting the correct content to be conveyed to the reader in the correct order.

- The basic actions of the discourse are speech acts that convey a particular aspect of the story.
- These actions have an effect on the mental state of the experiencer of the narrative (e.g., the reader or audience).
- The planner creates a plan that will generate a sequence of mental states that constitutes the eventual narrative experience.

Narrative Discourse Components

What we typically think of as a unified narrative is composed of a number of constituent parts that involve the story's actions and its telling. Narrative discourse generation centers on the problems of selecting content and organization for the communication of a story.

- Story—the events and existents (characters, locations, etc.)
- Discourse—what to communicate and how to communicate it.
- Narration—the actual product (textual reports, cinematics, map images, etc.)

Authorial Goals

We seek to generate engaging narratives based on existing story structure. The narratives must however be able to convey certain information in order to be adequate.

- The planner understands how to affect the audience, but needs further input in order to guide its selection.
- Authorial goals can be in terms of specific beliefs to impart, or in terms of overall experience.

Discourse Segmentation

The hierarchical nature of Bard gives it an advantage over its counterparts. We break up narrative not only into primitive discourse acts, but also track their relationship to the larger structure of a narrative.

We organize and select discourse content based on these relationships, for instance:

- to convey a larger event, such as a fight, we create one discourse frame for the entire fight and break the fight into the precipitating events, core of the fight, and any relevant context.

Reader Model

The mental state of the audience includes:

- The sequence of speech acts and resulting beliefs.
- The particular inference model of the audience.

This model is used in discourse planner to better accommodate the intended audience.

N4SA

The Bard Planner is a part of the Narrative for Sensemaking Architecture:

- N4SA is a comprehensive system to the analysis and communication of large sets of data.
- All information about a domain is input, making it completely modular from a particular data source.