

TYPICAL INTELLIGENT AGENTS

Agents in Artificial Intelligence

An AI system can be defined as the study of the rational agent and its environment. The agents sense the environment through sensors and act on their environment through actuators. An AI agent can have mental properties such as knowledge, belief, intention, etc.

What is an Agent?

An agent can be anything that perceive its environment through sensors and act upon that environment through actuators. An Agent runs in the cycle of **perceiving, thinking, and acting**. An agent can be:

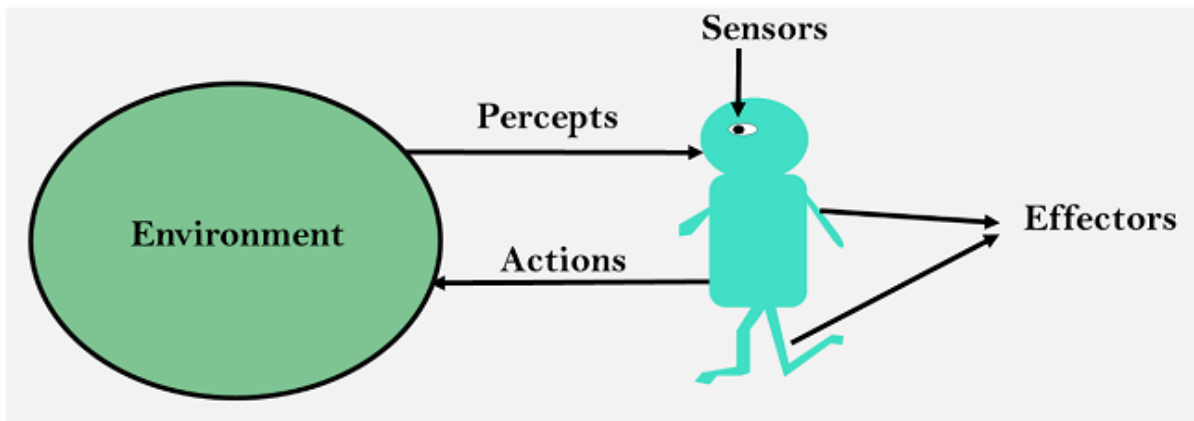
- **Human-Agent:** A human agent has eyes, ears, and other organs which work for sensors and hand, legs, vocal tract work for actuators.
- **Robotic Agent:** A robotic agent can have cameras, infrared range finder, NLP for sensors and various motors for actuators.
- **Software Agent:** Software agent can have keystrokes, file contents as sensory input and act on those inputs and display output on the screen.

Hence the world around us is full of agents such as thermostat, cellphone, camera, and even we are also agents. Before moving forward, we should first know about sensors, effectors, and actuators.

Sensor: Sensor is a device which detects the change in the environment and sends the information to other electronic devices. An agent observes its environment through sensors.

Actuators: Actuators are the component of machines that converts energy into motion. The actuators are only responsible for moving and controlling a system. An actuator can be an electric motor, gears, rails, etc.

Effectors: Effectors are the devices which affect the environment. Effectors can be legs, wheels, arms, fingers, wings, fins, and display screen.



Intelligent Agents:

An intelligent agent is an autonomous entity which act upon an environment using sensors and actuators for achieving goals. An intelligent agent may learn from the environment to achieve their goals. A thermostat is an example of an intelligent agent.

Following are the main four rules for an AI agent:

- **Rule 1:** An AI agent must have the ability to perceive the environment.
- **Rule 2:** The observation must be used to make decisions.
- **Rule 3:** Decision should result in an action.
- **Rule 4:** The action taken by an AI agent must be a rational action.

Rational Agent:

A rational agent is an agent which has clear preference, models uncertainty, and acts in a way to maximize its performance measure with all possible actions.

A rational agent is said to perform the right things. AI is about creating rational agents to use for game theory and decision theory for various real-world scenarios.

For an AI agent, the rational action is most important because in AI reinforcement learning algorithm, for each best possible action, agent gets the positive reward and for each wrong action, an agent gets a negative reward.

Rationality:

The rationality of an agent is measured by its performance measure. Rationality can be judged on the basis of following points:

- Performance measure which defines the success criterion.
- Agent prior knowledge of its environment.
- Best possible actions that an agent can perform.
- The sequence of percepts.

Structure of an AI Agent

The task of AI is to design an agent program which implements the agent function. The structure of an intelligent agent is a combination of architecture and agent program. It can be viewed as:

1. Agent = Architecture + Agent program

Following are the main three terms involved in the structure of an AI agent:

Architecture: Architecture is machinery that an AI agent executes on.

Agent Function: Agent function is used to map a percept to an action.

$$f:P^* \rightarrow A$$

Agent program: Agent program is an implementation of agent function. An agent program executes on the physical architecture to produce function f .

PEAS REPRESENTATION

PEAS is a type of model on which an AI agent works upon. When we define an AI agent or rational agent, then we can group its properties under PEAS representation model. It is made up of four words:

- **P:** Performance measure
- **E:** Environment

- **A:** Actuators
- **S:** Sensors

In designing an agent, the first step must always be to specify the task environment as fully as possible. The following table shows PEAS description of the task environment for an automated taxi.

Agent Type	Performance Measure	Environments	Actuators	Sensors
Taxi driver	Safe: fast, legal, comfortable trip, maximize profits	Roads, other traffic, pedestrians, customers	Steering, accelerator, brake, Signal, horn, display	Cameras, sonar, Speedometer, GPS, Odometer, engine sensors, keyboards, accelerometer

The following table shows PEAS description of the task environment for some other agent.

Agent Type	Performance Measure	Environment	Actuators	Sensors
Medical diagnosis system	Healthy patient, minimize costs, lawsuits	Patient, hospital, staff	Display questions, tests, diagnoses, treatments, referrals	Keyboard entry of symptoms, findings, patient's answers
Satellite image analysis system	Correct image categorization	Downlink from orbiting satellite	Display categorization of scene	Color pixel arrays
Part-picking robot	Percentage of parts in correct bins	Conveyor belt with parts; bins	Jointed arm and hand	Camera, joint angle sensors
Refinery controller	Maximize purity, yield, safety	Refinery, operators	Valves, pumps, heaters, displays	Temperature, pressure, chemical sensors
Interactive English tutor	Maximize student's score on test	Set of students, testing agency	Display exercises, suggestions, corrections	Keyboard entry

Properties of task environments

- o Fully observable vs. partially observable
- o Deterministic vs. stochastic
- o Episodic vs. sequential
- o Static vs. dynamic
- o Discrete vs. continuous
- o Single agent vs. multiagent

Fully observable vs. partially observable.

- If an agent's sensors give it access to the complete state of the environment at each point in time, then we say that the task environment is fully observable.
- A task environment is effectively fully observable if the sensors detect all aspects that are *relevant* to the choice of action;
- An environment might be partially observable because of noisy and inaccurate sensors or because parts of the state are simply missing from the sensor data.

Deterministic vs. stochastic.

- If the next state of the environment is completely determined by the current state and the action executed by the agent, then we say the environment is deterministic;
- Otherwise, it is stochastic.

Episodic vs. sequential

- In an **episodic task environment**, the agent's experience is divided into atomic episodes.
- Each episode consists of the agent perceiving and then performing a single action.
- Crucially, the next episode does not depend on the actions taken in previous episodes.
- For example, an agent that has to spot defective parts on an assembly line bases each decision on the current part, regardless of previous decisions;
- In **sequential environments**, on the other hand, the current decision
- Could affect all future decisions.
- Chess and taxi driving are sequential:

Discrete vs. continuous.

- The discrete/continuous distinction can be applied to the *state* of the environment, to the way *time* is handled, and to the *percepts* and *actions* of the agent.
- For example, a discrete-state environment such as a chess game has a finite number of distinct states.
- Chess also has a discrete set of percepts and actions.
- Taxi driving is a continuous- state and continuous-time problem:
- The speed and location of the taxi and of the other vehicles sweep through a range of continuous values and do so smoothly over time.
- Taxi-driving actions are also continuous (steering angles, etc.)

Single agent vs. multiagent.

- An agent solving a crossword puzzle by itself is clearly in a single-agent environment,
- Where as an agent playing chess is in a two-agent environment.
- Multiagent is further classified in to two ways
 - Competitive multiagent environment
 - Cooperative multiagent environment