

What can Bootstrapped Learning Tell us about Lifelong Learning Companions?

Candy Sidner

BAE Systems AIT

Bootstrapped Learning

- Goal is to provide human instruction to an electronic student.
- This project is the opposite of a lifelong learning companion (who teaches a human)!
- So

What can we learn from BL that will inform Lifelong Learning Companions?

First, a bit about the BL project....

Claim: a Bootstrapped Learner

- Has some of the prerequisite skills for a lifelong teacher:
 - Knows how to do certain tasks;
 - Able to use input from the world around it (albeit in limited ways)
 - (Will) have some knowledge of conversing in a human language.

Bootstrapped Learners

- Use learning algorithms so that they may be instructed by a human;
- Maintain underlying representations needed for instruction;
- Have knowledge that **in theory** should be expressible in English;
- Learn by observation as well as instruction and hence can observe the human learner's needs.

Questions and Comments