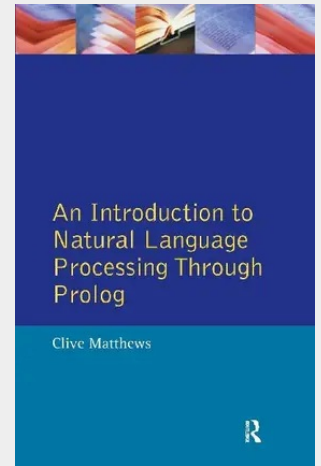


An Introduction to Natural Language Processing Through Prolog

Research into Natural Language Processing - the use of computers to process language - has developed over the last couple of decades into one of the most vigorous and interesting areas of current work on language and communication. This book introduces the subject through the discussion and development of various computer programs which illustrate some of the basic concepts and techniques in the field. The programming language used is Prolog, which is especially well-suited for Natural Language Processing and those with little or no background in computing. Following the general introduction, the first section of the book presents Prolog, and the following chapters illustrate how various Natural Language Processing programs may be written using this programming language. Since it is assumed that the reader has no previous experience in programming, great care is taken to provide a simple yet comprehensive introduction to Prolog. Due to the 'user friendly' nature of Prolog, simple yet effective programs may be written from an early stage. The reader is gradually introduced to various techniques for syntactic processing, ranging from Finite State Network recognisers to Chart parsers. An integral element of the book is the comprehensive set of exercises included in each chapter as a means of cementing the reader's understanding of each topic. Suggested answers are also provided. An Introduction to Natural Language Processing Through Prolog is an excellent introduction to the subject for students of linguistics and computer science, and will be especially useful for those with no background in the subject.

Presents a practical introduction to the processing of natural language by computer. The subject is approached through the discussion and development of various computer programs which illustrate basic concepts and techniques in the field. The programming language used, Prolog, is especially well-suited for natural language processing and for those with no previous background in computing. From an early stage, the text will help those with no experience in programming to produce simple, yet effective, programs using Prolog that will be capable of analysing sentences in English. The main emphasis is on syntactic processing and the reader is led through gradually more complex techniques as different approaches to parsing are examined.



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