Neural-Symbolic Integration

PD Dr. Pascal Hitzler
AIFB, Universität Karlsruhe

Osnabrück, Germany, November 2007

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PD Dr. Pascal Hitzler

- Diplom (Mathematics) Univ. of Tübingen 1998
- PhD (Mathematics), Nat. Univ. of Ireland Cork 2001
- 2001-2004 AI Institute TU Dresden
- 2005 Habilitation (Computer Science)
- since 2004 Assistant Professor, AIFB, Univ. of Karlsruhe

  – Knowledge Representation and Reasoning for the **Semantic Web**
  – Neural-Symbolic Integration
  – Mathematical Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

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Main references for this talk

- S. Bader, P. Hitzler, S. Hölldobler. Connectionist Model Generation: A First-Order Approach. **Neurocomputing**. To appear.
- S. Bader, P. Hitzler, S. Hölldobler, A. Witzel. A Fully Connectionist Model Generator for Covered First-Order Logic Programs. In: Manuela M. Veloso, Proceedings of the Twentieth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, **IJCAI-07**, Hyderabad, India, January 2007, AAAI Press, Menlo Park CA, 2007, pp. 666-671.
- P. Hitzler, S. Hölldobler and A. K. Seda. Logic Programs and Connectionist Networks. **Journal of Applied Logic**, 2(3), 2004, 245-272.

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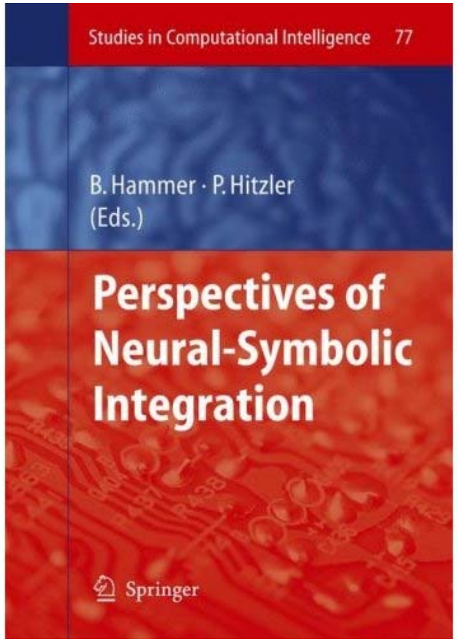
New book:

Barbara Hammer, Pascal Hitzler (eds.)

Perspectives of Neural-Symbolic Integration.

Studies in Computational Intelligence 77.

Springer, 2007.



With contributions by

Barreto, de Raedt, Frasconi, Garcez, **Geibel**, **Gust**,
Hölldobler, **Kühnberger**, Ritter, Saunders,
Seda, Shastri, Sperduti, Tino

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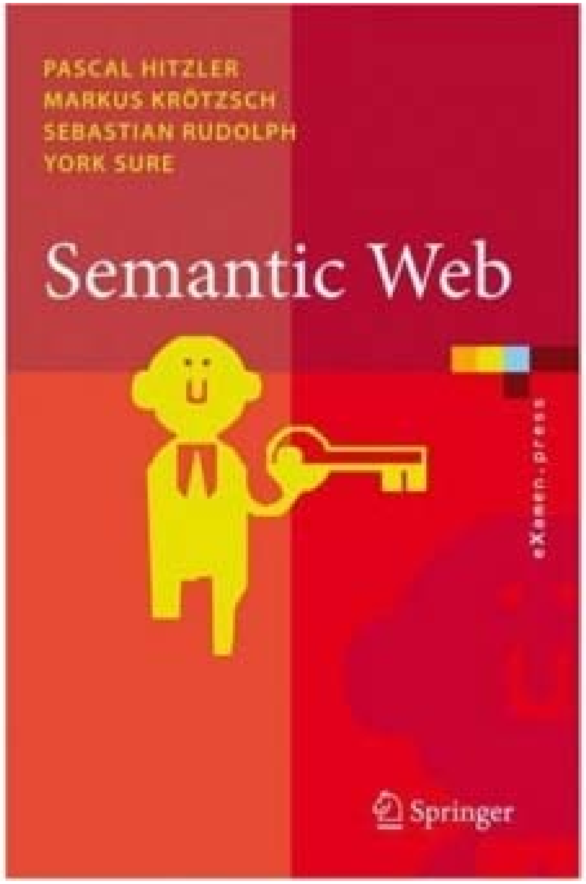
Another new book

- Hitzler, Krötzsch, Rudolph, Sure
  Semantic Web – Grundlagen.
  Springer, 2008.
  24,95 €

- First German Textbook on Foundations of the Semantic Web.



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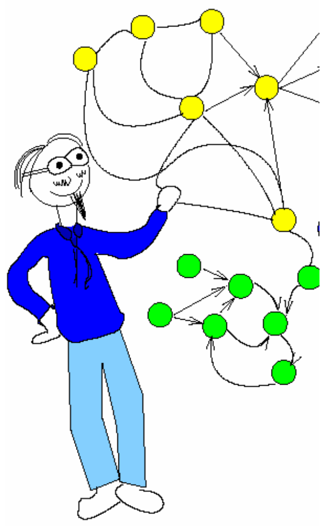
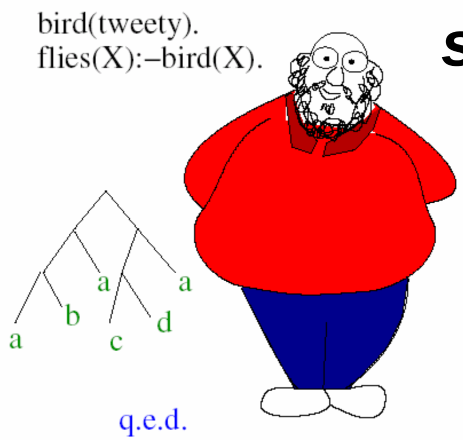
Why neural-symbolic integration?

Neural-symbolic Integration

connectionism

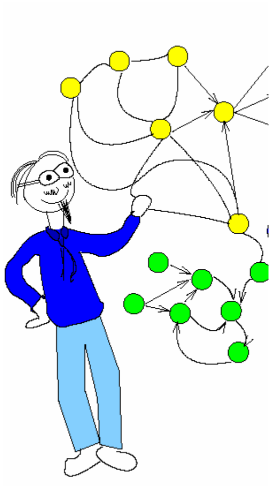




symbolic AI

- Artificial neural networks and symbolic AI are two fundamentally different paradigms in AI.
- Their strengths and weaknesses are complementary.
- *Neural-symbolic Integration* is about integrating the paradigms while retaining their strengths.

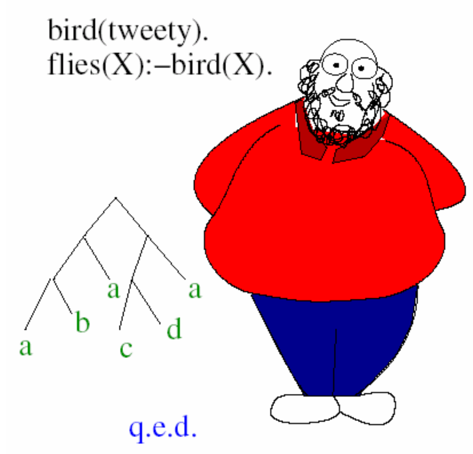
Artificial neural networks



- Powerful machine-learning paradigm.
- Inspired by Biology/Neuroscience.
- Learning from noisy data possible.
- Robust. *Graceful degradation*.

- No declarative semantics. *Black boxes*.
- Recursive structures difficult.
- Cannot learn with background knowledge.

Knowledge representation/symbolic AI



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- Logic-based. *Declarative*.
- Modelled from human thinking.
- Explicit coding of knowledge.
- Highly recursive.

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- Learning is difficult.
- Hardly tolerant against noise.
- Reasoning has high computational complexity.

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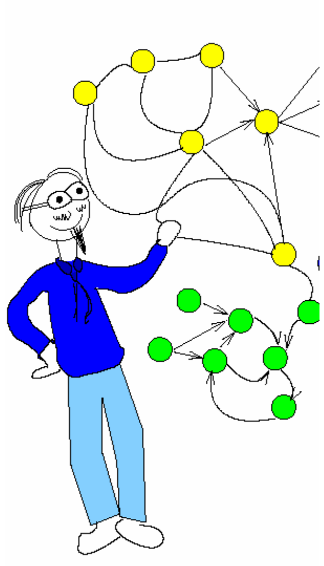
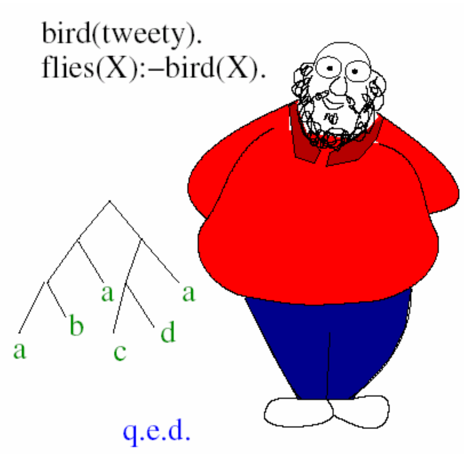
neural **-** ***symbolic***





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realising connectionist processing of symbolic knowledge

The four main problems of neural-symbolic integration

- Connectionist representation of symbolic knowledge.
- Extraction of symbolic knowledge from artificial neural networks.
- Connectionist learning of symbolic knowledge.
- Learning under background knowledge.

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Besides ...

... the *technical* motivation just given:

- neural-symbolic integration is about the study – from a computer science perspective – how knowledge can be processed within models of the brain

- standard artificial neural networks appear to be insufficient to capture human knowledge processing

- logic also appears to be insufficient to capture human knowledge processing

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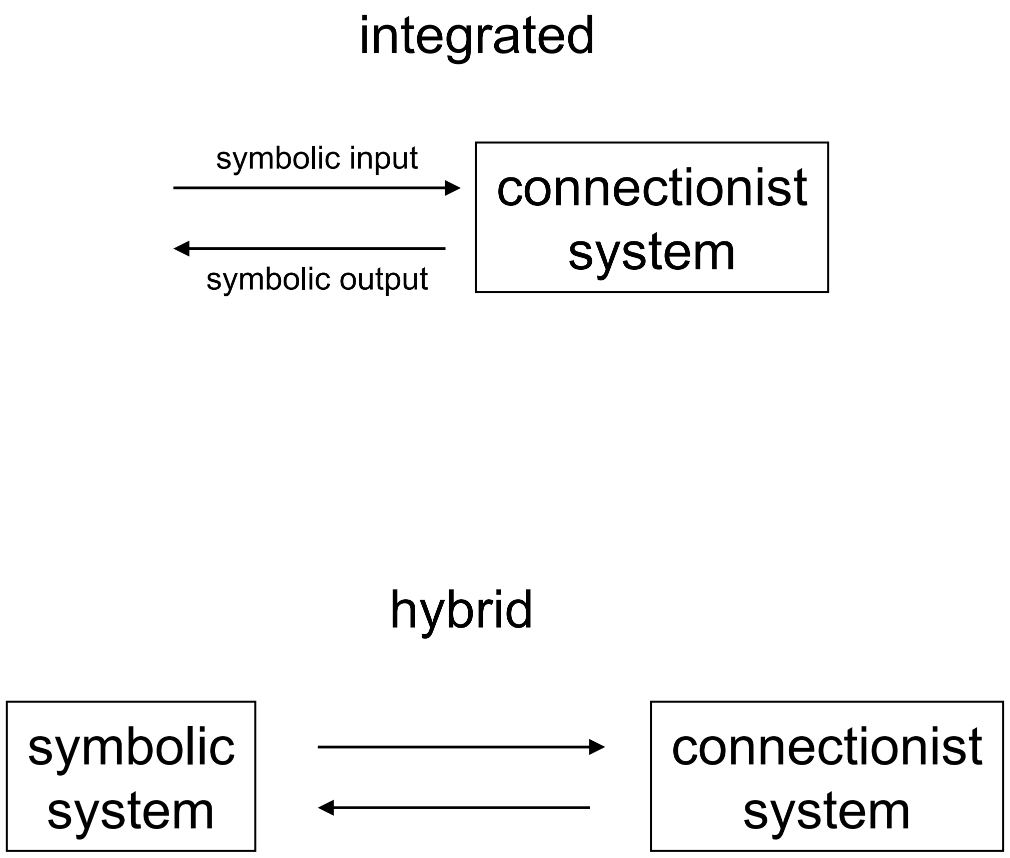
Driving motivation

- Our approach is mainly *computer-science-driven*.
  - realisation of intelligent systems
- It contributes only indirectly to the question, how humans model reality and think about it.
- At hindsight, our approach probably rather shows, how humans do ***not*** model reality and think about it.
- Generally, neural-symbolic research requires more input from recent developments in neuroscience!

Hybrid vs. Integrated Approach



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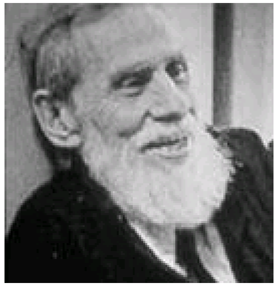
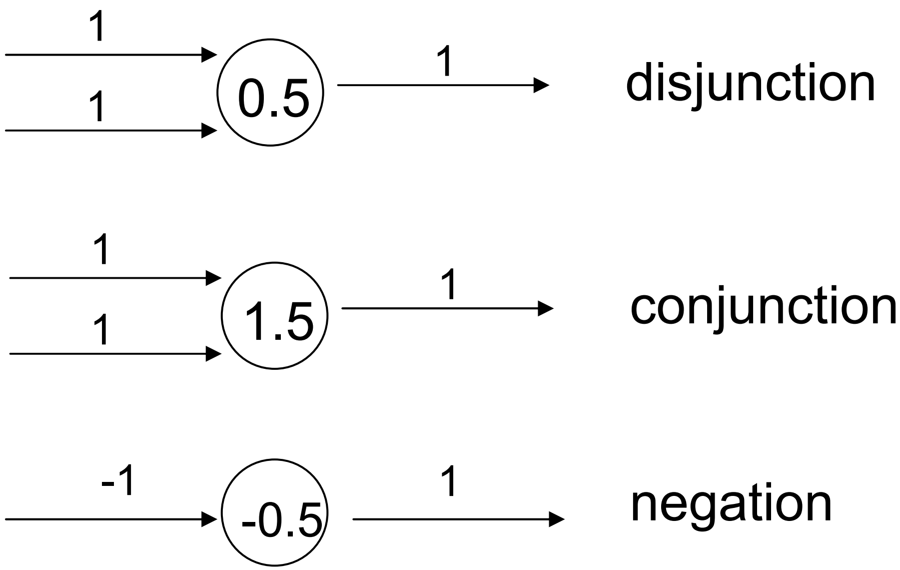
Earlier work



- McCulloch & Pitts 1943
  - Neurons with binary activation functions.
  - Modelling of propositional connectives.
  - Networks equivalent to finite automata.

Values 0 („false") and 1 („true") being propagated.

Simultaneous update of all nodes in network.



The propositional *Core Method*

- Hölldobler & Kalinke 1994
  - Extends the approach by McCulloch & Pitts.
  - Representation of propositional logic programs and their semantics.
  - „Massively parallel reasoning.“

logic program ⟶ core net ⟶ recurrent net

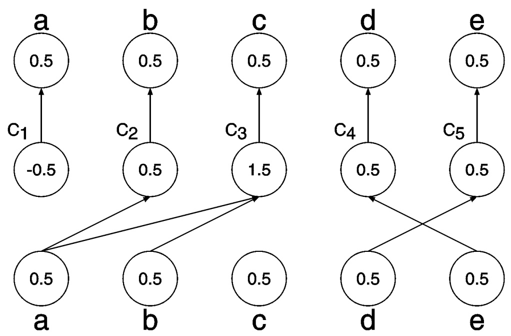
$a \leftarrow$

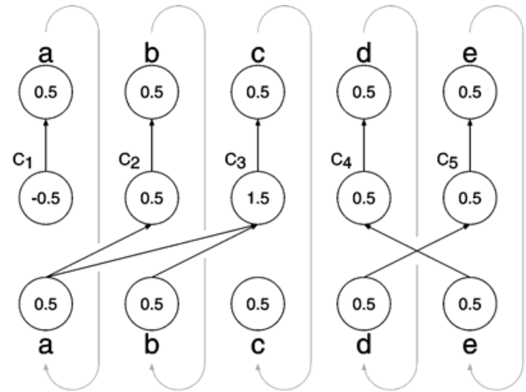
$b \leftarrow a$

$c \leftarrow a \wedge b$

$d \leftarrow e$

$e \leftarrow d$

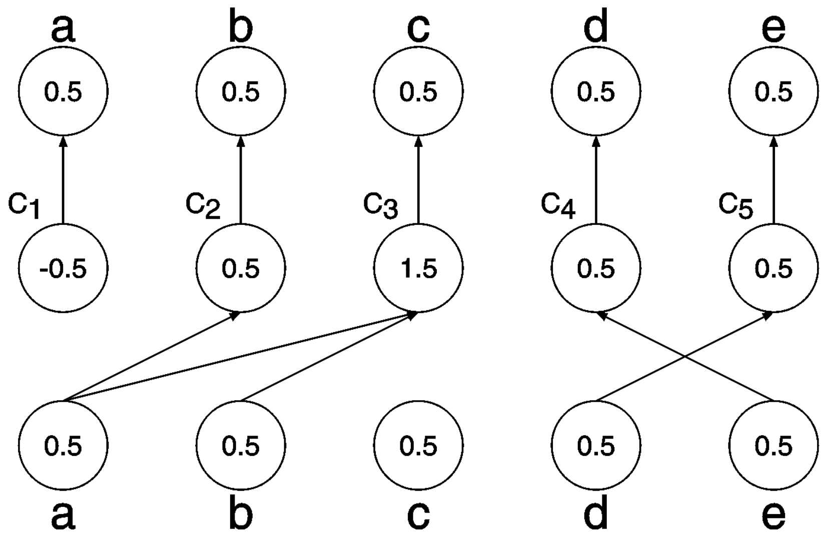




The propositional *Core Method*

Logic program P → core net

$a \leftarrow$
$b \leftarrow a$
$c \leftarrow a \wedge b$
$d \leftarrow e$
$e \leftarrow d$



- Update „along implication".
- Corresponds to computing the semantic operator T_P.
- T_P represents meaning (semantics) of P through its fixed points.

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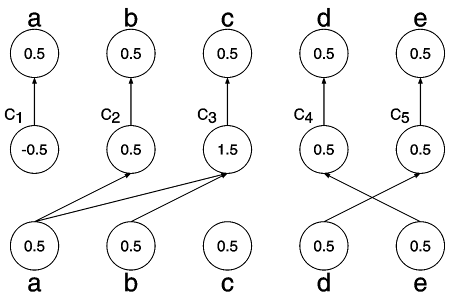
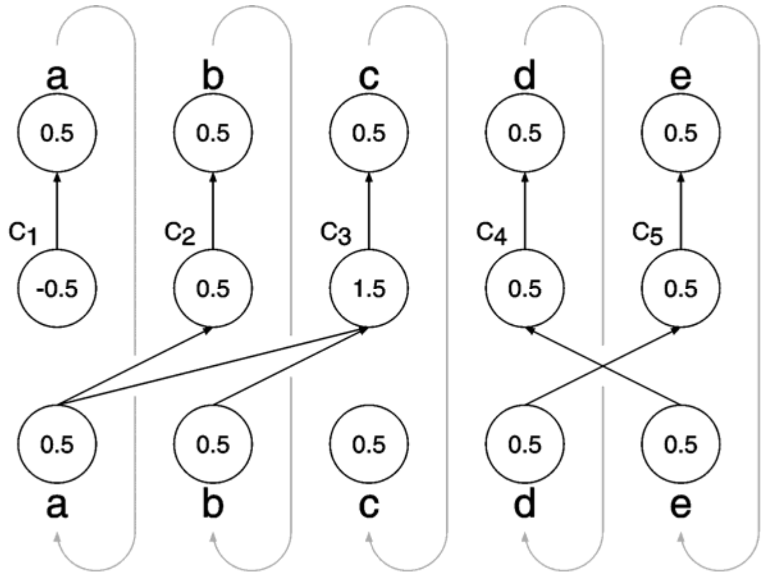
The propositional *Core Method*

core net

recurrent net

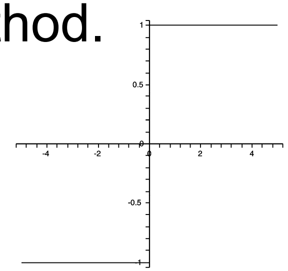


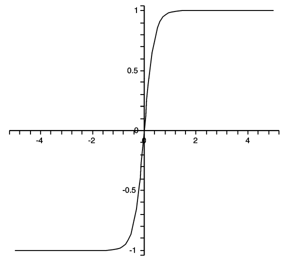


- Repeated updates along layers corresponds to iterations of the semantic operator.
- Semantics of the program (= fixed point of the operator) can be computed in a parallel manner.

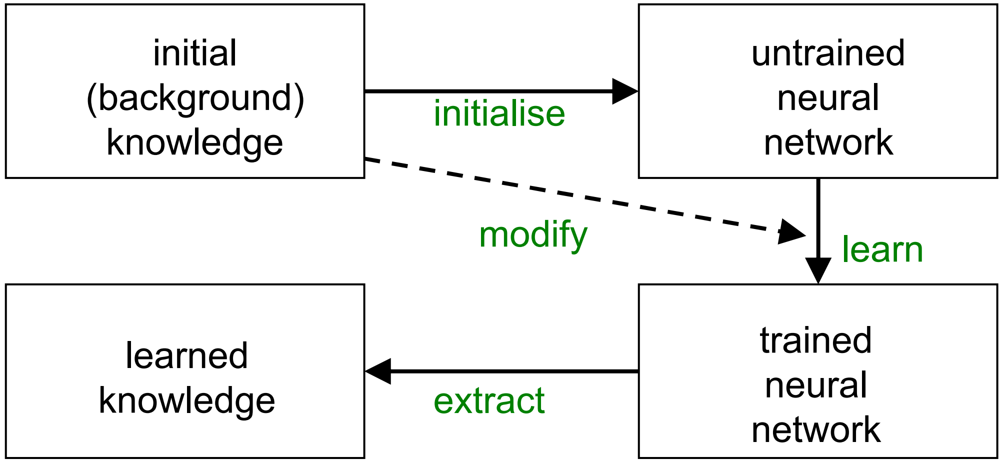
CILP – Connectionist Inductive Logic Programming

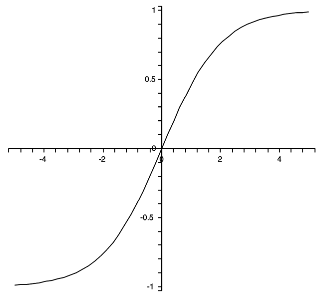
- Garcez & Zaverucha 1999
  Garcez, Broda & Gabbay 2001
- Development of a learning paradigm from the Core Method.
- Required: differentiable activation function.
  - Allows learning with standard methods.
  - Backpropagation algorithm.





- Establishing the *neural-symbolic learning cycle*.





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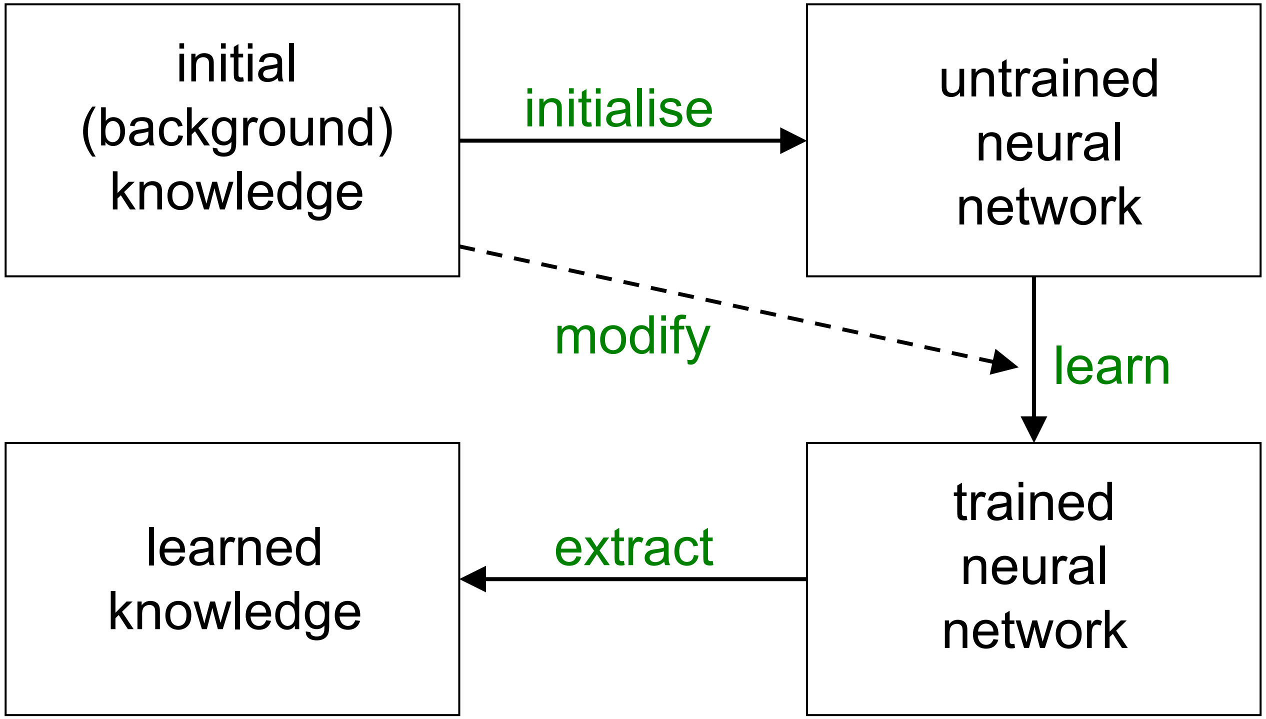
The neural-symbolic learning cycle



The four main problems of Neural-symbolic Integration.

Some new developments on CILP

- We carried over the approach to *Description Logic Programs* (DLP).

- Although not propositional, DLP lends itself to a propositional handling.
- Its special nature allows for some *data compression*, which enables to use CILP on large knowledge bases.

- Result: First neural-symbolic learning paradigm for an ontology language!

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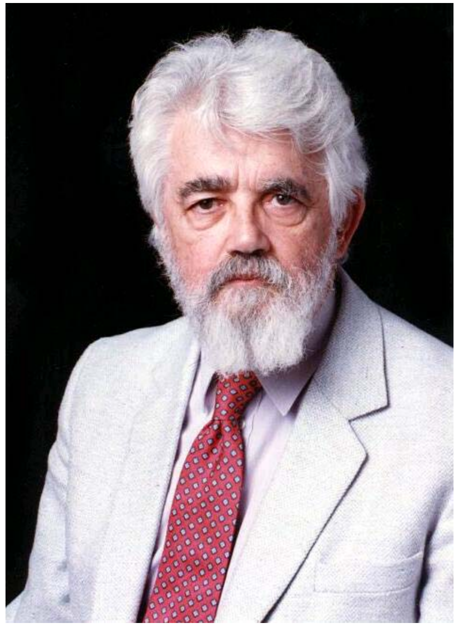
Conectionism and first-order predicate logic (PL)

- Connectionist representation of PL-knowledge very hard to realise.
  McCarthy 1988: „Propositional fixation.“

  We need to capture the infinite in a finite way.



  – infinite ground instantiations
    $(\forall x)\ \mathrm{male}(x) \wedge \mathrm{hasSon}(x,\mathrm{son}(x)) \rightarrow \mathrm{father}(x)$
  – term representations
    member(X, [a,b,c | [d,e]])
  – variable bindings
    $\mathrm{male}(x) \wedge \mathrm{hasSon}(x,y) \rightarrow \mathrm{father}(x)$

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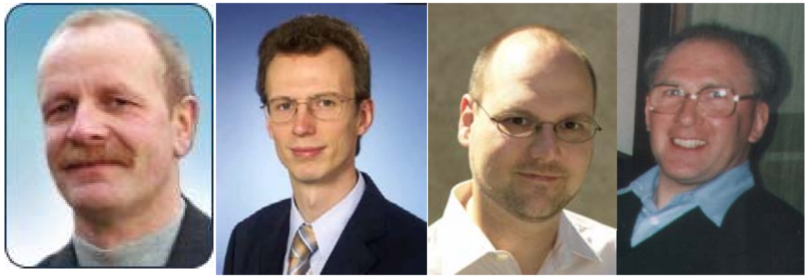
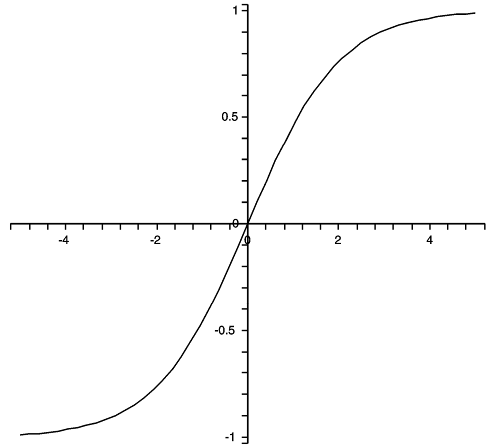
PL Core Method



- Hölldobler, Kalinke, Störr 1999
  Hitzler, Hölldobler, Seda 2004

- Idea:
  - Use results by Funahashi 1989: „Every continuous function on the reals is approximable by standard feedforward networks. “
  - Hence: Consider logic programs for which T_P-operator is continuous in this sense.

Funahashi 1989 (simplified)



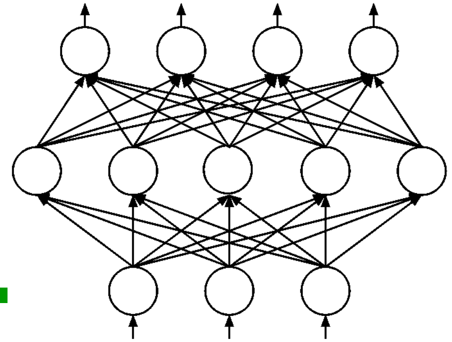
- σ sigmoidal activation function
- K $\subseteq \mathbb{R}$ compact
- f: K $\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ continuous
- $\varepsilon > 0$

Then there exists a three-layer feedforward network with activation function σ and I/O-function F, so that

$$\max_{x \in \mathsf{K}} \{d(\mathsf{f}(x), \mathsf{F}(x))\} < \varepsilon.$$

Here $\boldsymbol{d}$ is a metric which induces the natural topology on $\mathbb{R}$.

I.e. continuous functions can be *uniformly approximated* by such networks with arbitrary accuracy.



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Continuity of T_P – I

- Hitzler, Hölldobler, Seda 2004

Let $\mathcal{B}_A$ be the set of all body atoms in ground instantiated clauses of P with head A.

$T_P: I_P \rightarrow I_P$ is called *locally finite*, if
for all atoms A and all $I \in I_P$
there exists a finite $S \subseteq \mathcal{B}_A$,
such that $T_P(J)(A)=T_P(I)(A)$
for all $J \in I_P$ which coincide with I on S.

$p(s(x)) \leftarrow p(x).$
$p(0)$
$p(x) \leftarrow p(s(x)).$

e.g. $\mathcal{B}_{p(s(0))} = \{p(0),p(s(s(0)))\}$

Continuity of T_P – II

T_P: $I_P \to I_P$ is locally finite

iff

T_P is continuous in Cantor space.

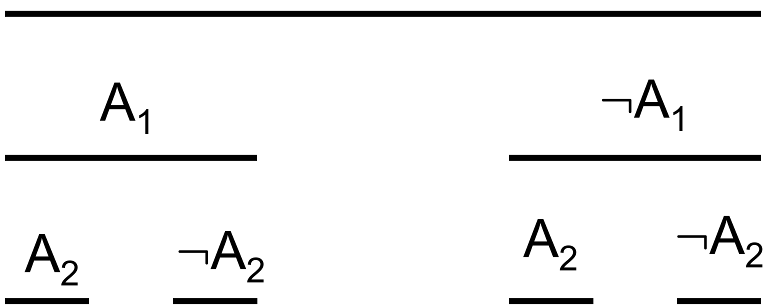
- Cantor-continuity is continuity wrt. the Cantor topology on the Cantor set.
- The Cantor topology is homeomorphic to the prefix-distance on (infinite) binary trees.
- The Cantor topology is homeomorphic to the subspace topology which is induced on a subset of $\mathbb{R}$ which is compact, totally disconnected and dense in itself.

Continuity of T_P – III

- There are (uncontably) many homeomorphisms which map I_P with the Cantor topology into suitable subsets of $\mathbb{R}$.
- Locally finiteness is a logical (topology-free) characterisation of logic programs which can be represented in a a connectionist way in the sense of Funahashi.
- Problem: this argumentation is not constructive!

A_1, A_2, ... enumeration of
Herbrand base

Elements of Cantor Set
identifiable with
interpretations



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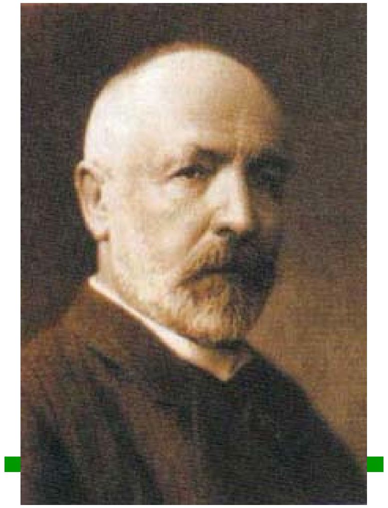
Relationship of I_P to Cantor Space

Interpretations with Cantor topology

Homeomorphism

Cantor space as compact subspace of $\mathbb{R}$

$$
\begin{tikzcd}
(I_P,Q) \arrow[r, "T_P"] \arrow[d, "\iota"'] & (I_P,Q) \arrow[d, "\iota"] \\
\text{Cantor} \arrow[r, "\iota(T_P)"] & \text{Cantor}
\end{tikzcd}
$$



Georg Cantor

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The Cantor topology as a paradigm bridge

- Connectionist side:
  - Cantor topology is a subtopology of the usual topology on the real numbers
- Logic Programming side:
  - Cantor topology captures useful notions of convergence of semantic operators, e.g. If $T_P^n \to I$ (for $n \to \infty$), then I is a model of P.

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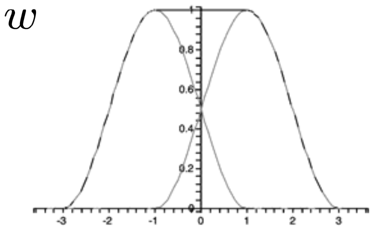
Realising the cycle: Representation of symbolic knowledge

- Bader, Hitzler, Hölldobler, Witzel – IJCAI-07
  - Algorithm for the approximate construction of neural networks from logic programs.
  - Realised for
    - RBS nets with triangular activation function
    - RBF nets with raised cosine activation function

$$\tau_{w,h,m}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{h}{2} \cdot \left(1 + \cos\left(\frac{\pi(x-m)}{w}\right)\right) & \text{if } |x-m| < w \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



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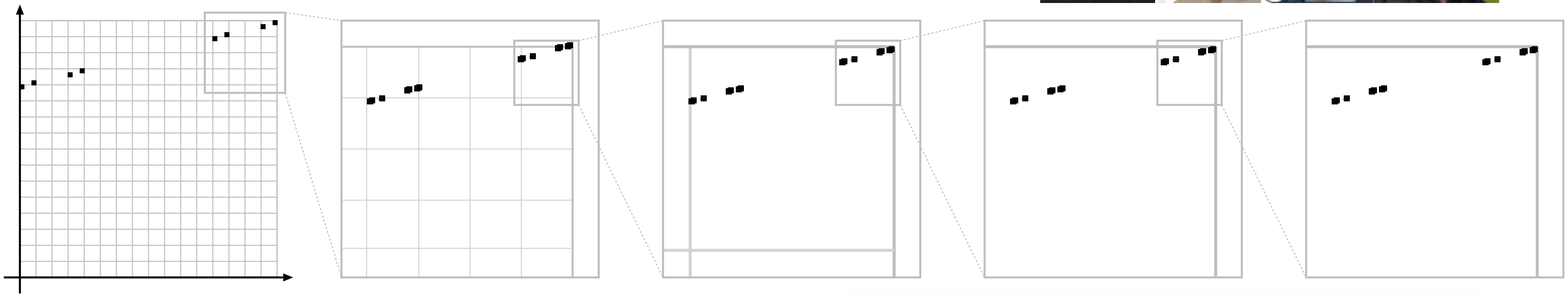
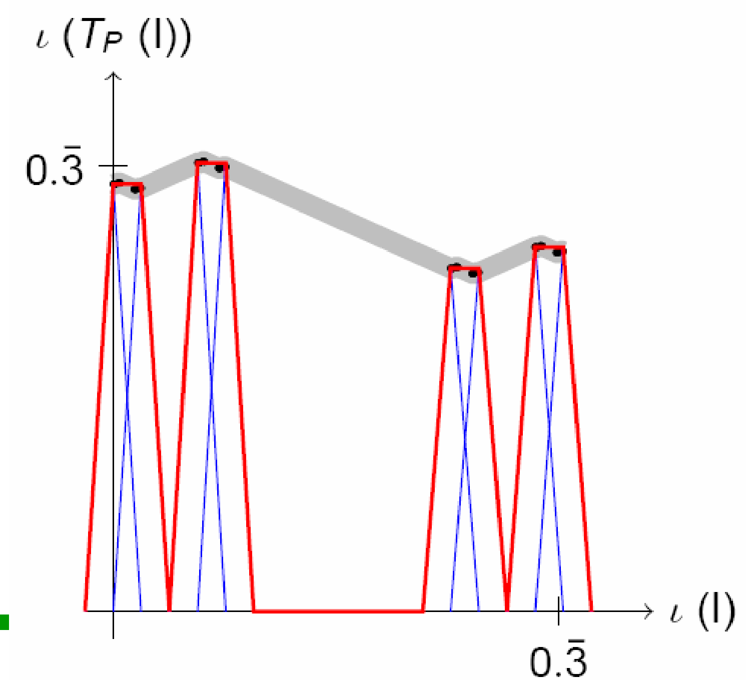
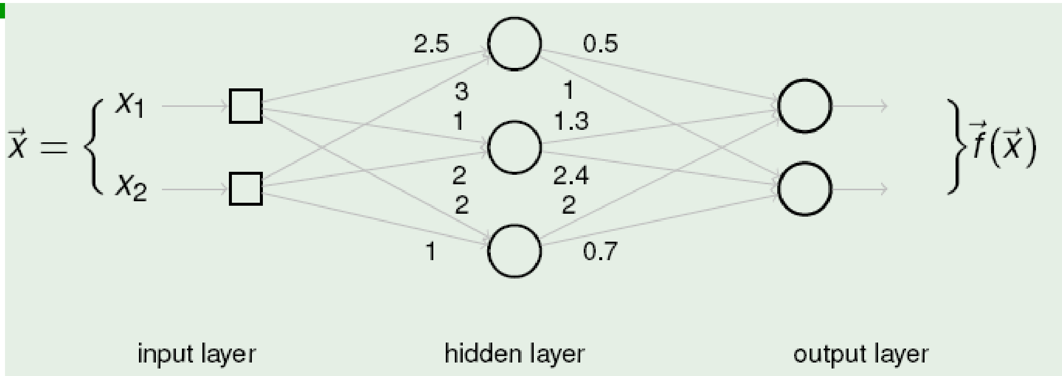
Realising the cycle (first-order representation)



- Graph of T_P is a fractal.
- Approximation up to arbitrary precision possible.
- Requires quite some calculation to get correct parameters in higher dimensions ...





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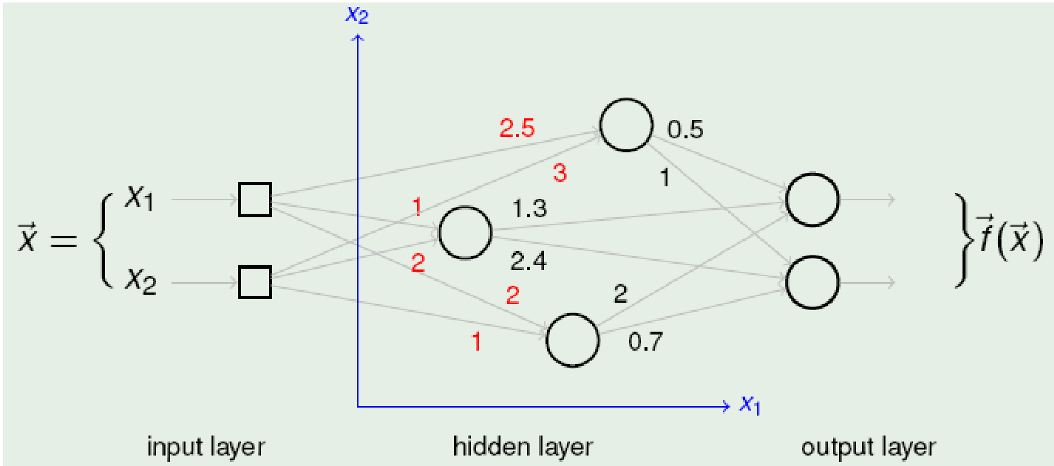
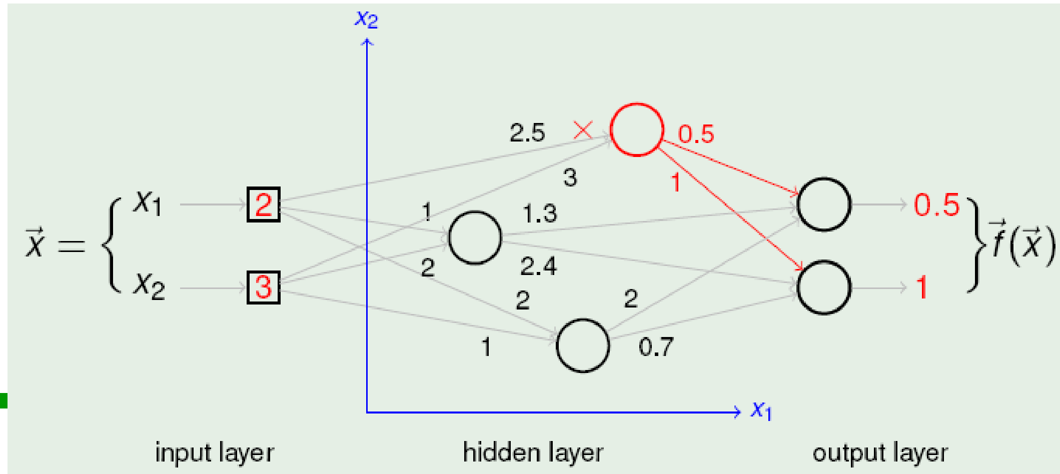
Local representation

and

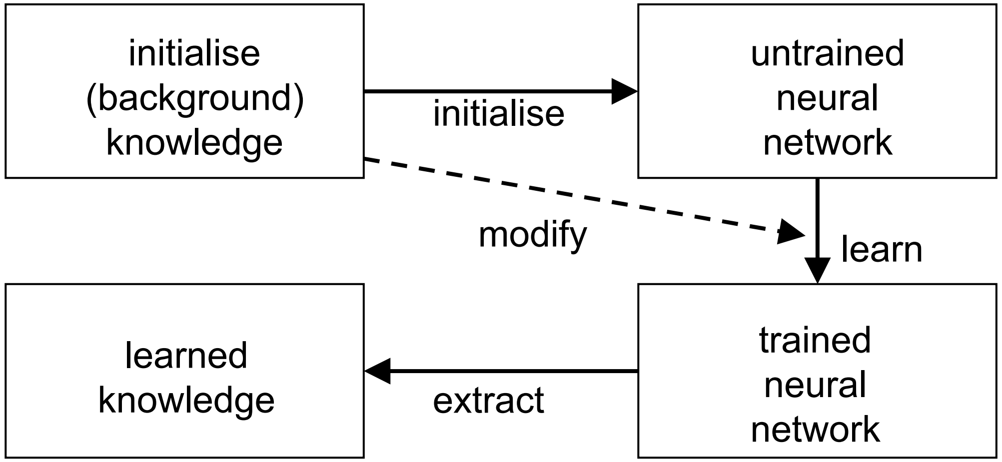
domination of output by one unit





Realising the cycle: learning

- Reuse of standard network architecture allows to use known and powerful learning methods.
  - Backpropagation
  - We merged in techniques from Supervised Growing Neural Gas (SGNG) [Fritzke 1998].



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Realising the cycle: Implementation

- Bader & Witzel, first prototype
- JDK 1.5 unter Eclipse.
- Merging of techniques above and SGNG.
  Fine Blend system.
- Radial basis function network approximating T_P.
- Very robust with respect to noise and damage.
- Trainable using a version of backpropagation together with techniques from SGNG (Supervised Growing Neural Gas).

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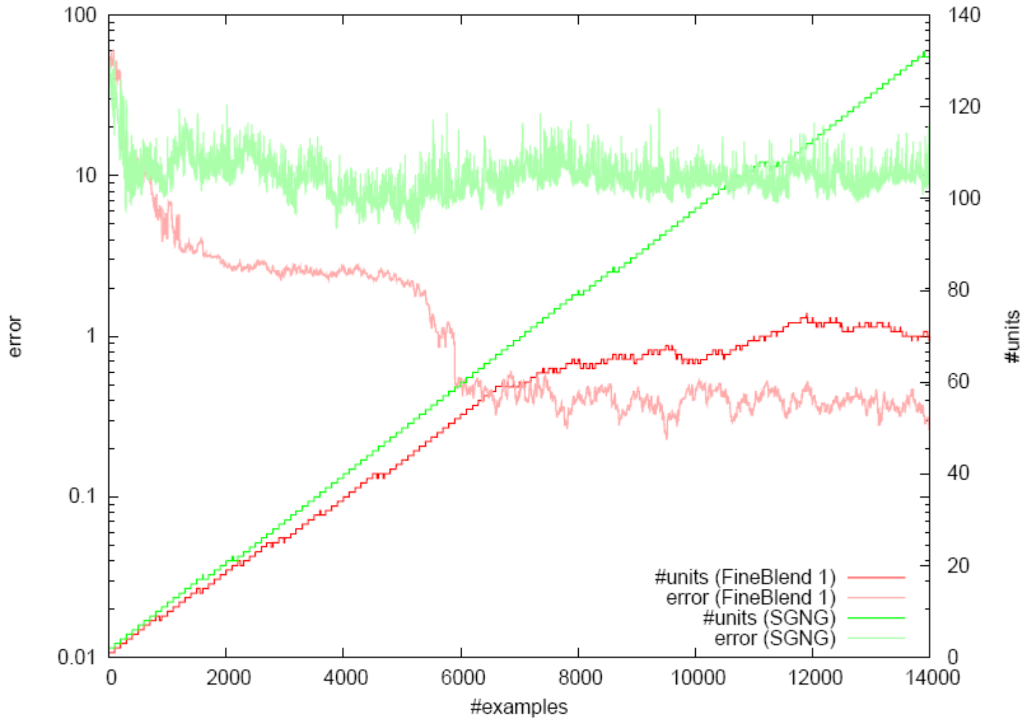
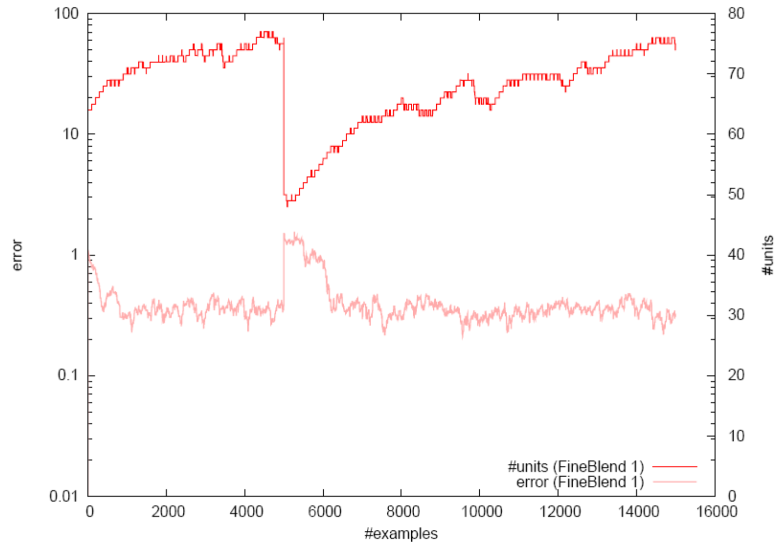
Fine blend vs. SGNG



unit failure



target: $e(0).$

$e(s(X)) \leftarrow o(X).$

$o(X) \leftarrow \neg e(X)$

initial: $e(s(X)) \leftarrow \neg o(X)$

$e(X) \leftarrow e(X)$

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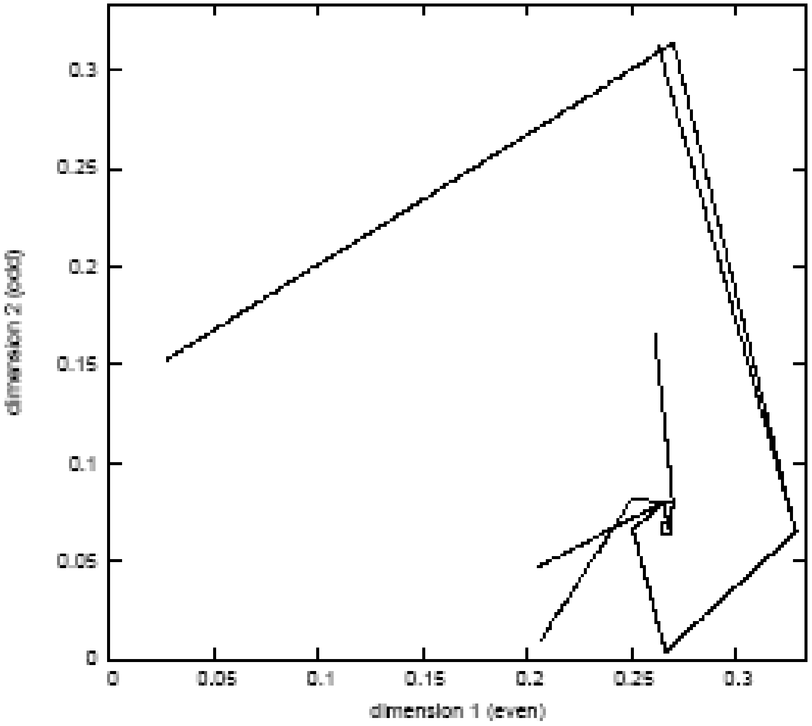
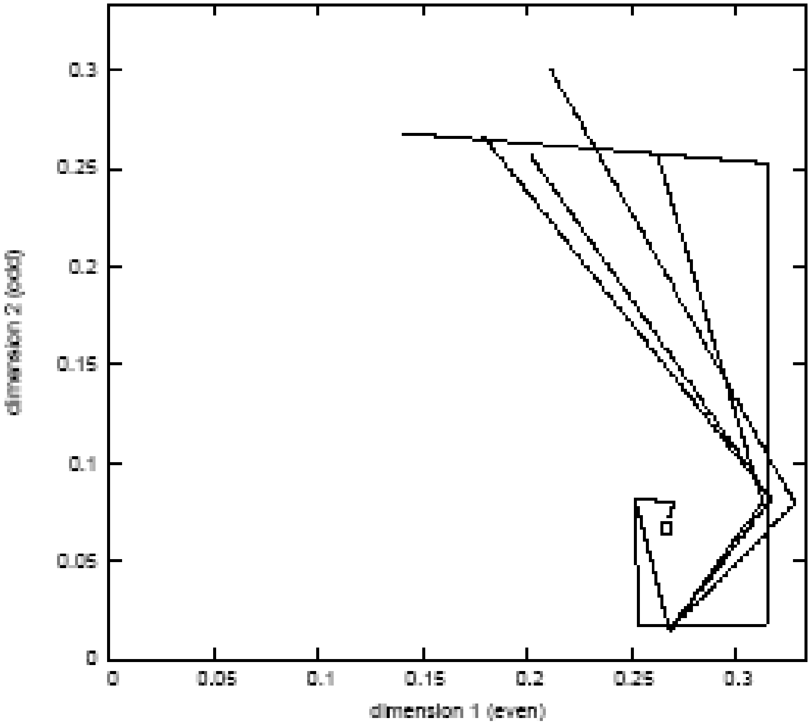
Iterating Random Inputs

We observe convergence to unique supported model of the program.





Realised integration

- Neural
  - trainable by backpropagation
  - robust
- Symbolic
  - computes logical model

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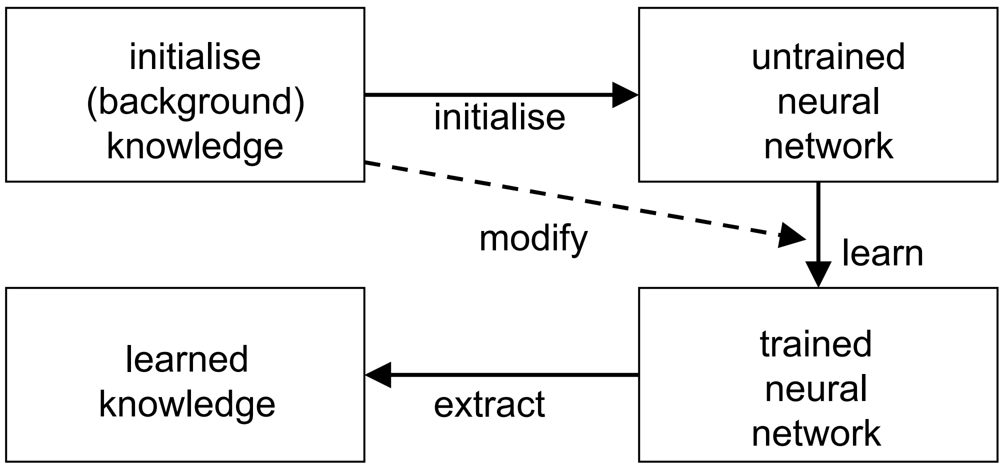
Realising the cycle: Extraction of symbolic knowledge

- Extraction of PL-knowledge from trained neural networks has never been attempted before.

- Idea: Represent programs and nets in $\mathbb{R}^n$ (with n = number of weights in net) and search for best approximators using suitable metrics on vectors.



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Outlook

Short term:

- Further experiments and evaluations.
- Develop and realise extraction method.
- Develop concrete application scenarios.
- Realise learning under background knowledge.

Medium and long term:

- Carry over to other KRR paradigms, e.g. DLs.
- Develop integrated connectionist learning and reasoning for cognitive systems applications.

AIFB

Related work I

- There is hardly any work on first-order neural-symbolic integration.
- M. Lane, A. Seda. Some Aspects of the Integration of Connectionist and Logic-Based Systems. Information, 9(4)(2006), 551-562.
  - Based on the propositional Core Method: Approximation of first-order programs by a finite number of ground instantiated clauses.
  - Purely theoretical.

AIFB

Related work II

- H. Gust, K.-U. Kühnberger, P. Geibel. Learning Models of Predicate Logical Theories with Neural Networks Based on Topos Theory. In P. Hitzler, B. Hammer (eds.). Perspectives of Neural-Symbolic Integration, Studies in Computational Intelligence 77, Springer, 2007, pp. 233-264.
  - variable-free representation using category theory
  - learns corresponding models
  - the authors are among the audience!

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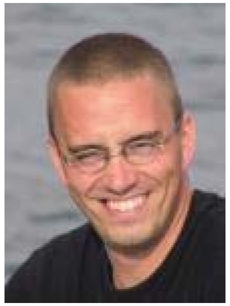
Critical Questions

- The brain doesn't use logic.
  - Well – yes. Logic is a (coarse) model. Like Newtonian physics is a coarse model.
  - We DO NEED more neuroscience input!
- The "infinity" discussion doesn't apply to the brain.
  - Well – yes. But give me something better.
- So where do you want to apply all this?
  - Good question. We currently have a hammer. We need to find some suitable nails.
  - But we DO HAVE one of the first two approaches to first-order neural-symbolic integration after 10 years of searching for it!!!!

Thank you for your attention



Collaborators

please visit
http://www.neural-symbolic.org

- Sebastian Bader
- Artur S. d’Avila Garcez
- Steffen Hölldobler
- Jens Lehmann
- Sebastian Rudolph
- Anthony K. Seda
- Andreas Witzel



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- S. Bader, P. Hitzler, and S. Hölldobler, The Integration of Connectionism and First-Order Knowledge Representation and Reasoning as a Challenge for Artificial Intelligence, Journal of Information 9 (1), 2006. Invited paper.
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