Preface

The present book is an introductory text book at the undergraduate level, covering the subject of intelligent systems for students of computing science and information science.

The central topics in this book are formalisms for the representation and manipulation of knowledge in the computer, in a few words: logic, production rules, semantic nets, frames, formalisms for inexact reasoning, and model-based reasoning. The choice for the formalisms discussed in the present book, has been motivated on the one hand by the requirement that at least the formalisms which nowadays are of fundamental importance to the area of intelligent systems must be covered, and on the other hand, that the formalisms which have been in use for considerable time and have laid the foundation of current research into more advanced methods should also be treated. We have in particular paid attention to those formalisms which have been shown to be of practical importance for building intelligent systems.

In addition to formalisms, attention is given to the modelling aspects of building intelligent systems, such as those being used in the construction of model-based systems.

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