Massachusetts Institute of Technology

6.038 Artificial Intelligence in Practice

Assignment 1: Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Our objective for this term is a very general one – construct a human/computer interface for the houses and offices of the future. One model could be the computer in Star Trek (or HAL in 2001). Let's call such a system *Harvey*.

Part A: Due Thursday, February 6

Pick some activity that you feel Harvey should support and construct a (one page) scenario of the system in operation. Be specific and detailed about WHAT Harvey does. At this point, we are not worrying about HOW Harvey would do it. Nevertheless, you should stick to activities that you feel, given your previous exposure to AI, should be possible to implement.

Part B: Due Tuesday, February 11

Write a short paper (no more than 5 pages) that describes the functionaliy that you think Harvey (as a whole) should have. Be as specific as possible, that is, give concrete examples of what should happen and roughly how. For example, "A person walks in the room, infrared sensors near the door detect him and the lights come on." Or, "The person can ask the computer (verbally) to tape Star Trek tonight by saying: Computer, ..."

Try to be as creative as possible but also keep in mind that we want to actually build some of this in the near future. In particular, don't go overboard hypothesizing specialized hardware; try to limit yourself to readily available hardware: computers, cameras, microphones, etc.

This paper should incorporate (and extend) your work on Part A.