Nick Kreiner

CSC 101

Understanding Jeopardy's questions was difficult for Watson because the questions have jokes and puns making them difficult for it to understand. There are also many double meanings to words and phrases making it difficult for Watson to understand the context of the question. The common sense that people develop over time is very complex to program, so the questions we think are easy could be difficult for Watson.

Rules based algorithms does not work for programming artificial intelligence because there are millions and millions of rules that would have to be programmed. Just because there are more rules written, does not mean basic principles are there. Frankly, there are just not enough rules for every word or phrase to program into artificial intelligence.

Machine learning was used to improve rule-based algorithms in Watson. Thousands of previous Jeopardy questions were programmed into Watson. Doing this allowed Watson to search for patterns between the question, answer and the evidence supporting the answer. If Watson was 75% sure it was the answer after searching, he would answer.

The final piece that Watson needed to fully understand the question categories was that he could "hear" the other answers given in each category by the opponent. This means that each time an answer was given, it was sent to Watson via a text message. Using machine learning, he would search the possibilities of the answer to a question

after he learned the right answer of the previous question in the same category. This worked out the problem of Watson not knowing what the category was asking.

Watson technology is being used today in smart phones. It is used in things such as a language translator in the phone. When you speak into it, it will translate into another language and will write out the words and speak it in the language. Also, it is used in the GPS in phones. When you speak your destination it gives you directions there. In the future Watson technology could be used as a sort of doctor for diagnosing illnesses. This technology has much more memory than the human brain and will remember every illness discovered by programming and machine learning.

There could be many possibilities for this technology in the future and it is somewhat scary to think of what could be done with this technology.