

Introduction

1

1.1. Introduction	1	
1.1. 1. North-Bengal Districts of India	5	
1.2. The Rise of Medical Informatics	8	
1.3. Usage and benefits	12	
1.3. 1. Levels of usage of a technical artifact	13	
1.3. 2. Usage of expert systems	14	
1.3. 3. Benefits	16	
1.4. Aim of the work	18	
1.5. Summary of the work	19	
References	20	

The paediatric domain

23

2.1. Introduction	23	
2.2. Statistical Importance	23	
2.3. Children in developing countries	25	
2.4. Age related health problems in India	26	
2.5. Burden of diseases in India	26	
2.6. Indicators and denominators in India	29	
2.7. Low birth weight (LBW)	33	
2.7.1. Incidence of low birth weight	35	
2.7.2. Importance of reducing low birth weight rates	37	
2.8. Socio-cultural and economical problems in India	37	
2.9. Status of rural health centres in India	38	
References	40	

Artificial intelligence, expert systems and the domain

42

3.1. Introduction	42	
3.2. Expert systems technology	43	
3.2.1. Categories and application areas of expert systems		43
3.2.2. Trends of using expert systems	57	
3.2.3. Component of an expert system	60	
3.2.4. Typical features of an expert system	62	
3.2.5. Major stages of an expert system development		63
3.2.6. Classifications of expert systems	65	
3.2.6.1. Based on reasoning	65	
3.2.6.2. Based on other technical issues	67	
3.3. Why it is an expert system domain	71	
3.4. What requirements the domain lays on an expert system		72
3.5. Discussions	75	
References	76	

Knowledge acquisition and representation

81

4.1. Introduction	81	
4.2. Levels of knowledge	82	
4.3. Knowledge categories	82	
4.3.1. Declarative knowledge	82	
4.3.2. Procedural knowledge	82	
4.3.3. Semantic knowledge	82	
4.3.4. Episodic knowledge	83	
4.3.5. Meta-knowledge	83	
4.4. Sources of knowledge	83	
4.4.1. Classical sources	83	
4.4.2. Web-based knowledge acquisition	83	
4.4.2.1. Internet and WWW	84	
4.5. Methods of knowledge acquisition	84	
4.5.1. Manual methods	84	
4.5.1.1. Interviewing	84	
4.5.1.1.1. Structured interview		84
4.5.1.1.2. Unstructured interview		85
4.5.1.1.3. Semi-structured interview		85
4.5.1.2. Tracking the reasoning process		86
4.5.1.3. Observations	86	
4.5.2. Semi-automatic methods	86	
4.5.3. Automatic methods	86	

4.6.	Problems in knowledge acquisition	86	
4.6.1.	Problems with knowledge acquisition in general	86	
4.6.2.	Problems with Web-based acquisition	87	
4.7.	Representative sources used in this work	88	
4.8.	Some knowledge representation (KR) schemes	89	
4.8.1.	Knowledge representation using logic	89	
4.8.2.	Knowledge representation using semantic nets	90	
4.8.3.	Knowledge representation using rules	91	
4.8.4.	Knowledge representation using frame	97	
4.8.5.	Knowledge representation using scripts	98	
4.8.6.	Object - attribute - value triplets as KR scheme	99	
4.8.7.	Object -Oriented approach	99	
4.8.7.1.	Classes	100	
4.8.7.2.	Instance objects	100	
4.8.7.3.	Attributes and methods / operations	100	
4.8.7.4.	Inheritance	100	
4.8.7.5.	AI, expert systems and O-O technology	102	
4.9.	Analysing relative suitability	104	
4.10.	Representative expert systems and ES-development tools		106
4.11.	Paediatric problem domain	109	
4.12.	Discussions	111	
	References	112	

Foetal growth performance using sonographic approach

115

5.1.	Introduction	115	
5.2.	Study design and Sample size	116	
5.3.	Smoothing of data	116	
5.4.	Results and Discussions	117	
5.4.1.	Importance of growth chart	117	
5.4.2.	Femur length (FL)	118	
5.4.3.	Biparietal diameter (BPD)	122	
5.4.4.	Abdominal circumference (AC)	125	
5.4.5.	Head circumference (HC)	129	
5.4.6.	Prediction of gestational age	132	
5.4.7.	Conclusions	139	
	References	139	

Selecting an appropriate expert system tool

141

6.1. Introduction	141	
6.2. Potential inconveniences	141	
6.2.1. No general purpose tool	141	
6.2.2. Single or multiple tools	142	
6.2.3. In search of a bird after constructing a cage		143
6.2.4. Exaggerated claims from vendors / agents		143
6.2.5. Non-standard terminologies	143	
6.2.6. Miscellaneous issues : Price, training and documentation support		144
6.2.7. Language, shell or toolkit	144	
6.2.7.1. Applicability	144	
6.2.7.2. Abstraction	145	
6.2.7.3. Facilities	145	
6.2.7.4. Costs	145	
6.2.8. Left no stone unturned - Is it practically feasible ?		147
6.2.9. Potentially active research field	147	
6.2.10. Any unique framework ?	147	
6.3. ES-building tools' capabilities	148	
6.3.1. Level5 Object	149	
6.3.1.1. What is Level5 Object ?	149	
6.3.1.2. What kind of problems are best solved with Level5 Object ?		150
6.3.1.3. Capabilities of Level5 Object		151
6.3.2. Turbo prolog	155	
6.3.2.1. Features and capabilities	156	
6.3.3. Requirements vs. Capabilities	166	
6.4. Conclusions and discussion	168	
References	168	

Uncertainty management

170

7.1. Introduction	170	
7.2. Sources and nature of Inexact Information		170
7.3. Tools for managing inexact information		174
7.3.1. Bayesian probability theory		174
7.3.2. Dempster / Shafer theory of evidence		175
7.3.3. Stanford certainty factor model	177	
7.3.4. Fuzzy set theory	178	
7.3.5. Non-monotonic reasoning	179	
7.4. Suitability Analysis	179	
7.4.1. Bayesian probability theory	180	
7.4.2. Dempster / Shafer theory of evidence		180
7.4.3. Stanford certainty factor model	181	
7.4.4. Fuzzy set theory	181	
7.4.5. Non-monotonic reasoning	182	
7.5. Conclusions and discussion	182	
References	183	

Prototype development : A software engineering issue

186

8.1. Introduction	186	
8.2. Prototyping and prototyping cycle		187
8.3. Phase refinement vs. prototyping		188
8.4. Stages of expert system evolution		189
8.5. Prototype 1.0	190	
8.5.1. General description	190	
8.5.2. Knowledge Base	191	
8.5.3. Inference engine	191	
8.5.4. Review management	192	
8.5.5. Implementation	192	
8.5.6. Analysing process	193	
8.5.7. Consulting the system	193	
8.6. Conclusions and discussion	196	
References	197	

Fuzzy concepts and paediatrics

198

9.1. Introduction	198	
9.2. Basics of fuzzy logic and fuzzy set theory		199
9.3. Fuzzy concepts in 'Neonates' problem domain		205
9.4. Prototype 2.0	207	
9.4.1. A typical consultation session	208	
9.5. Neonatal resuscitation management : an application (Prototype 3.0)		210
9.5.1. System analysis	210	
9.5.2. Fuzzification of system state input variable		211
9.5.3. Fuzzification of system state output variable		213
9.5.4. Inferencing process	214	
9.5.5. Performance evaluation	215	
9.6. Conclusions	216	
References	217	

KID : An integrated system(Prototype 4.0) 219

10.1. Introduction	219	
10.2. Analysis and design	219	
10.3. Graphical user interface(GUI)	222	
10.4. Implementation	224	
10.5. A consultation session : an excerpt		225
10.6. Performance evaluation	228	
10.7. Conclusions and discussion	229	
References	229	

A case based approach (Prototype 5.0) 230

11.1. Introduction	230	
11.2. Neonatal resuscitation management : A case study		231
11.3. CBR's validity	232	
11.3.1. AI perspective	232	
11.3.2. Domain perspective	233	
11.4. The system	234	
11.5. Performance evaluation	239	
11.6. Discussions	239	
References	239	



Child Activities



Typical Classes and Objects



KID



List of Publications