

# MAS 962: Computational Semantics

## Assignment 1

Due: Monday, September 23 at Noon

E-mail submissions to [dkroy@media.mit.edu](mailto:dkroy@media.mit.edu) with "MAS962 Assignment 1" in header

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## Readings

Quillian, M. (1968) *Semantic Memory*. In M. Minsky, ed, *Semantic Information Processing*, 216-270. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Harnad, S. (1990) The Symbol Grounding Problem. *Physica D* 42: 335-346.

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## Questions

1. Summarize each paper's main ideas (one page maximum for each summary)
  2. Consider a machine that represents word meanings in terms of a Quillian network. What sort of linguistic processing tasks would be inherently easy for such a machine? What tasks would be difficult?
  3. Are semantic networks compatible with Harnad's notion of symbol grounding? If so, how? If not, why not?
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