

# Sample questions for COMP-424 final exam

Doina Precup

These are examples of questions from past exams. They are provided without solutions. However, Doina and the TAs would be happy to answer questions about the solutions, if you try them. Note that the exam also has questions similar to those on the homeworks.

## 1. Search algorithms

- (a) Suppose you have an admissible heuristic  $h$ . Is  $h^2$  admissible? Is  $\sqrt{h}$  admissible? Would using any of these alternatives be better or worse than using  $h$  in the  $A^*$  algorithm?

**Answer:**  $h^2$  may not be admissible, because  $h^2 \geq h$  when  $h \geq 1$ , so it may exceed the optimal distance to goal.  $\sqrt{h} \leq h$  for  $h \geq 1$ , so it is admissible (assuming integer values for the heuristic, which is typical). It will likely work worse than  $h$ , though, because its estimate is farther from the optimal value (so it is a worse estimate of the cost-to-go).

- (b) Suppose you were using a genetic algorithm and you have the following two individual, represented as strings of integers:

1324421 and 2751421

Show the result of performing crossover between the 3rd and 4th digit.

**Answer:** 1321421 and 2754421

- (c) Which of the following statements, contrasting genetic algorithms and simulated annealing, are true?

- i. Genetic algorithms are used for minimization problems while simulated annealing is used for maximization problems

**Answer:** False

- ii. Genetic algorithms maintain several possible solutions, whereas simulated annealing works with one solution.

**Answer:** True

- iii. Genetic algorithms maintain one solution, whereas simulated annealing maintains several possible solutions.

**Answer:** False

- iv. Simulated annealing is guaranteed to produce the best solution, while genetic algorithms do not have such a guarantee.

**Answer:** True

# Genetic Algorithm Questions And Answers

**G Psacharopoulos**



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