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:

   $$1324421 \text{ and } 2751421$$

   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

Katrin Zwirglmaier

Genetic Algorithm Questions And Answers:

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World ,1995 Global electro optic technology and markets   **Complex Systems** ,1990   **Artificial Intelligence** George F. Luger,William A. Stubblefield,1998 This text is a treatment of the foundations of Artificial Intelligence combining theoretical material required for intelligent problem solving with the data structures and algorithms needed for implementation

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