Solving the n-Queens Problem using Local Search

Instructions

Total Points: undergrad 10, graduate students 11

Complete this notebook and submit it. The notebook needs to be a complete project report with

- your implementation (you can use libraries like math, numpy, scipy, but not libraries that implement inteligent agents or search algorithms),
- documentation including a short discussion of how your implementation works and your design choices, and
- experimental results (e.g., tables and charts with simulation results) with a short discussion of what they mean.

Use the provided notebook cells and insert additional code and markdown cells as needed.

The n-Queens Problem

- **Goal:** Find an arrangement of n queens on a $n \times n$ chess board so that no queen is on the same row, column or diagonal as any other queen.
- **State space:** An arrangement of the queens on the board. We restrict the state space to arrangements where there is only a single queen per column. We represent a state as an integer vector $\mathbf{q} = \{q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_n\}$, each number representing the row positions of the queens from left to right. We will call a state a "board."
- **Objective function:** The number of pairwise conflicts (i.e., two queens in the same row/column/diagonal). The optimization problem is to find the optimal arrangement $\mathbf{q}^*$ of n queens on the board can be written as:

  > minimize: $\mathrm{conflicts}(\mathbf{q})$
  >
  > subject to: $\mathbf{q}$ contains only one queen per column

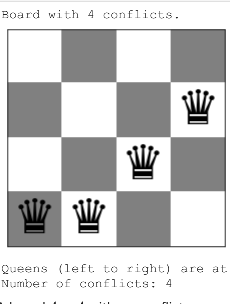
  Note: the constraint (subject to) is enforced by the definition of the state space.
- **Local improvement move:** Move one queen to a different row in its column.
- **Termination:** For this problem there is always an arrangement $\mathbf{q}^*$ with $\mathrm{conflicts}(\mathbf{q}^*) = 0$, however, the local improvement moves might end up in a local minimum.

Helper functions

In [2]:
```python
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from matplotlib import colors

np.random.seed(1234)


def random_board(n):
    """Creates a random board of size n x n. Note that only a single queen is placed in each column!"""

    return(np.random.randint(0,n, size = n))

def comb2(n): return n*(n-1)//2 # this is n choose 2 equivalent to math.comb(n, 2); // is int division

def conflicts(board):
    """Caclulate the number of conflicts, i.e., the objective function."""

    n = len(board)

    horizontal_cnt = [0] * n
    diagonal1_cnt = [0] * 2 * n
    diagonal2_cnt = [0] * 2 * n

    for i in range(n):
        horizontal_cnt[board[i]] += 1
        diagonal1_cnt[i + board[i]] += 1
        diagonal2_cnt[i - board[i] + n] += 1

    return sum(map(comb2, horizontal_cnt + diagonal1_cnt + diagonal2_cnt))


def show_board(board, cols = ['white', 'gray'], fontsize = 48):
    """display the board"""

    n = len(board)

    # create chess board display
    display = np.zeros([n,n])
    for i in range(n):
        for j in range(n):
            if (((i+j) % 2) != 0):
                display[i,j] = 1

    cmap = colors.ListedColormap(cols)
    fig, ax = plt.subplots()
    ax.imshow(display, cmap = cmap,
              norm = colors.BoundaryNorm(range(len(cols)+1), cmap.N))
    ax.set_xticks([])
    ax.set_yticks([])

    # place queens. Note: Unicode u265B is a black queen
    for j in range(n):
        plt.text(j, board[j], u"\u265B", fontsize = fontsize,
                 horizontalalignment = 'center',
                 verticalalignment = 'center')

    print(f"Board with {conflicts(board)} conflicts.")
    plt.show()
```

Create a board

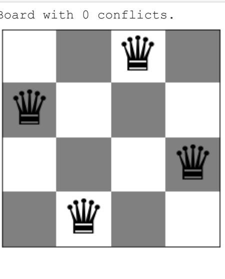
In [3]:
```python
board = random_board(4)

show_board(board)
print(f"Queens (left to right) are at rows: {board}")
print(f"Number of conflicts: {conflicts(board)}")
```
```
Board with 4 conflicts.
```



```
Queens (left to right) are at rows: [3 3 2 1]
Number of conflicts: 4
```

A board 4×4 with no conflicts:

In [4]:
```python
board = [1,3,0,2]
show_board(board)
```
```
Board with 0 conflicts.
```



Steepest-ascend Hill Climbing Search [3 Points]

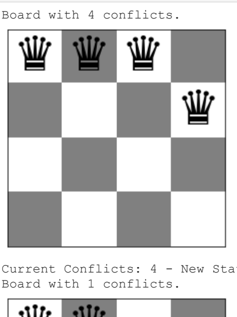
Calculate the objective function for all local moves (move each queen within its column) and always choose the best among all local moves. If there are no local moves that improve the objective, then you have reached a local optimum.

In [14]:
```python
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from matplotlib import colors
import math
def random_board(n):
    #Creates a random board of size n x n
    return(np.random.randint(0,n, size = n))
```

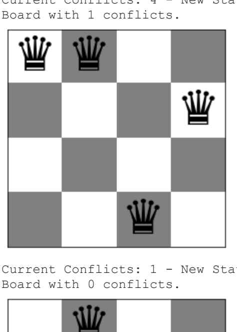
In [15]:
```python
def value(board):
    #Caclulate the number of conflicts
    board = np.array(board)
    n = len(board)
    val = 0
    for i in range(n):
        val += math.comb(np.sum(board == i), 2)
    # Check for each queen diagonally up and down
    for j in range(n):
        q_up = board[j]
        q_down = board[j]
        for jj in range(j+1, n):
            q_up -= 1
            q_down += 1
            if board[jj] == q_up: val += 1
            if board[jj] == q_down: val += 1
    return(val)
```

In [7]:
```python
# Code and description go here
board = random_board(4)
def Steepest_Ascend_Hill_Cimbing(board, verbose = False):
    if verbose: show_board(board)
    n = len(board)
    best_val = value(board) # Current Conflict
    vals = np.full([n,n], -1, dtype = int)
    Number_of_steps = 0

    while True:

        for j in range(n):
            old_q = board[j]
            for i in range(n):
                board[j] = i
                vals[i,j] = value(board)
            board[j] = old_q
        new_min = np.min(vals)

        Number_of_steps = Number_of_steps +1

        #if verbose: print(vals)
        if verbose:
            print(f"Current Conflicts: {best_val} - New State Conflicts: {new_min}")
        if(best_val > new_min):
            w = np.where(vals == new_min)
            best = [a for a in zip(w[0], w[1])]
            best = best[np.random.randint(0, len(best))]
            board[best[1]] = best[0]
            best_val = new_min
            if verbose: show_board(board)
        else: return(board)
    print(Number_of_steps, "Number_of_steps")
```

In [8]:
```python
b = Steepest_Ascend_Hill_Cimbing(board, verbose = True)
show_board(b)
value(b)
```
```
Board with 4 conflicts.
```

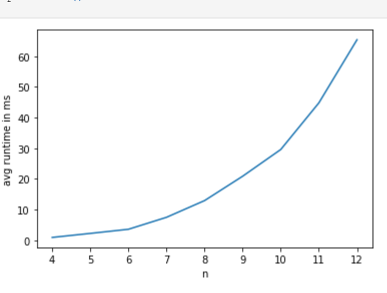


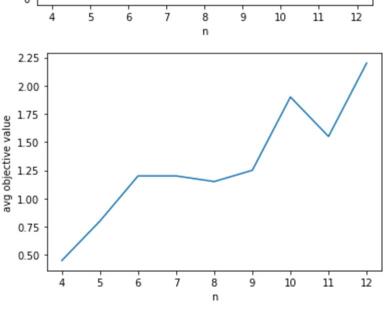
```
Current Conflicts: 4 - New State Conflicts: 1
Board with 1 conflicts.
```



```python
    print(f"n = {n}: \tmean(time) = {round(mean_t[i]*1e3, 2)} ms\tmean(objective) = mean {mean_val[i]}" )
```
```
n = 12:         mean(time) = 65.36 ms   mean(objective) = mean 2.2
```

In [28]:
```python
plt.plot(ns, mean_t*1e3)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("avg runtime in ms")
plt.show()
plt.plot(ns, mean_val)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("avg objective value")
plt.show()
```

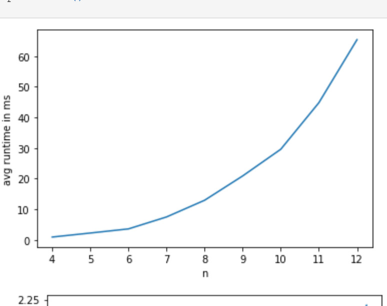


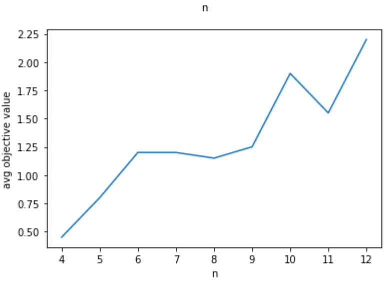


Stochastic Hill Climbing

In [18]:
```python
mean_val = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
mean_t = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
for i,n in enumerate(ns):
    val = np.empty(N, dtype = int)
    t = np.empty(N, dtype = float)
    for j in range(N):
        t0 = time.time()
        board = random_board(n)
        sol = First_Choice_Hill_Climbing(board)
        t1 = time.time()
        val[j] = value(sol)
        t[j] = t1 - t0
    mean_val[i] = np.average(val)
    mean_t[i] = np.average(t)
    print(f"n = {n}: \tmean(time) = {round(mean_t[i]*1e3, 2)} ms \tmean(objective) = mean {mean_val[i]}" )
```
```
n = 4:  mean(time) = 105.1 ms   mean(objective) = mean 1.05
n = 5:  mean(time) = 124.13 ms  mean(objective) = mean 0.45
n = 6:  mean(time) = 624.49 ms  mean(objective) = mean 0.95
n = 7:  mean(time) = 1359.49 ms         mean(objective) = mean 1.5
n = 8:  mean(time) = 2525.28 ms         mean(objective) = mean 1.3
n = 9:  mean(time) = 3395.98 ms         mean(objective) = mean 1.2
n = 10:         mean(time) = 7822.66 ms         mean(objective) = mean 1.45
n = 11:         mean(time) = 12678.52 ms        mean(objective) = mean 1.85
n = 12:         mean(time) = 16045.73 ms        mean(objective) = mean 1.25
```

In [29]:
```python
plt.plot(ns, mean_t*1e3)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("avg runtime in ms")
plt.show()
plt.plot(ns, mean_val)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("avg objective value")
plt.show()
```



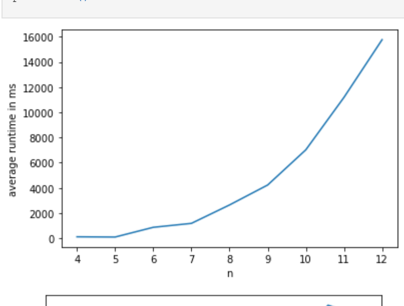


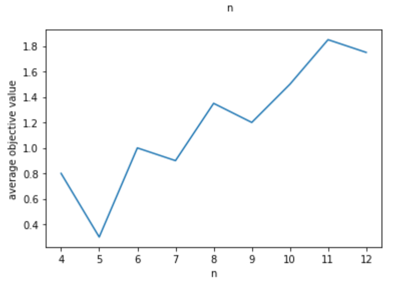
First Choice Hill Climbing

In [33]:
```python
mean_val = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
mean_t = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
for i,n in enumerate(ns):
    val = np.empty(N, dtype = int)
    t = np.empty(N, dtype = float)
    for j in range(N):
        t0 = time.time()
        board = random_board(n)
        sol = First_Choice_Hill_Climbing(board)
        t1 = time.time()
        val[j] = value(sol)
        t[j] = t1 - t0
    mean_val[i] = np.average(val)
    mean_t[i] = np.average(t)
    print(f"n = {n}: \tmean(time) = {round(mean_t[i]*1e3, 2)} ms \tmean(objective) = mean {mean_val[i]}" )
```

```
n = 4:  mean(time) = 119.67 ms  mean(objective) = mean 0.8
n = 5:  mean(time) = 99.1 ms    mean(objective) = mean 0.3
n = 6:  mean(time) = 871.05 ms  mean(objective) = mean 1.0
n = 7:  mean(time) = 1184.02 ms        mean(objective) = mean 0.9
n = 8:  mean(time) = 2646.46 ms        mean(objective) = mean 1.35
n = 9:  mean(time) = 4230.2 ms  mean(objective) = mean 1.2
n = 10:         mean(time) = 7022.27 ms        mean(objective) = mean 1.5
n = 11:         mean(time) = 11183.79 ms       mean(objective) = mean 1.85
n = 12:         mean(time) = 15766.16 ms       mean(objective) = mean 1.75
```

In [34]:
```python
plt.plot(ns, mean_t*1e3)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average runtime in ms")
plt.show()
plt.plot(ns, mean_val)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average objective value")
plt.show()
```



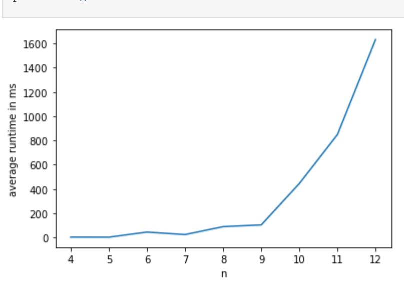


Steepest Ascend Hill Cimbing random restarts

In [36]:
```python
import time
N = 20
ns = [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]
RESTARTS = 100
mean_val = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
mean_t = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
for i,n in enumerate(ns):
    val = np.empty(N, dtype = int)
    t = np.empty(N, dtype = float)
    for j in range(N):
        t0 = time.time()
        sol = Steepest_Ascend_Hill_Cimbing_random_restarts(n, Steepest_Ascend_Hill_Cimbing, restarts = RESTARTS
        t1 = time.time()
        val[j] = value(sol)
        t[j] = t1 - t0
    mean_val[i] = np.average(val)
    mean_t[i] = np.average(t)
    print(f"n = {n}: \tmean(time) = {round(mean_t[i]*1e3, 2)} ms" )
```

```
n = 4:  mean(time) = 3.4 ms
n = 5:  mean(time) = 2.7 ms
n = 6:  mean(time) = 44.71 ms
n = 7:  mean(time) = 24.1 ms
n = 8:  mean(time) = 89.51 ms
n = 9:  mean(time) = 103.87 ms
n = 10:         mean(time) = 445.34 ms
n = 11:         mean(time) = 849.2 ms
n = 12:         mean(time) = 1632.69 ms
```

In [38]:
```python
plt.plot(ns, mean_t*1e3)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average runtime in ms")
plt.show()
```

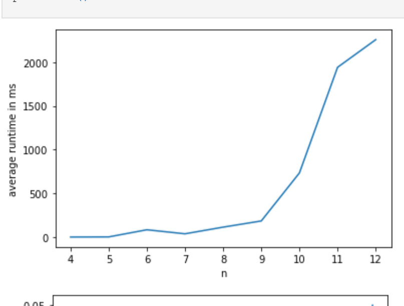


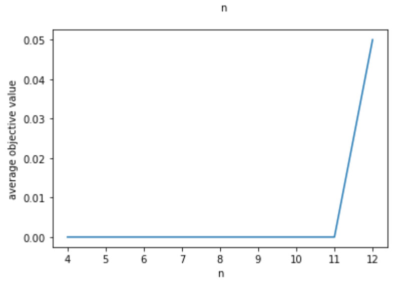
Stochastic Hill Cimbing random restarts

In [39]:
```python
RESTARTS = 100
mean_val = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
mean_t = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
for i,n in enumerate(ns):
    val = np.empty(N, dtype = int)
    t = np.empty(N, dtype = float)
    for j in range(N):
        t0 = time.time()
        sol = Stochastic_Hill_Cimbing_random_restarts(n,Stochastic_Hill_Climbing, restarts = RESTARTS, verbose
        t1 = time.time()
        val[j] = value(sol)
        t[j] = t1 - t0
    mean_val[i] = np.average(val)
    mean_t[i] = np.average(t)
    print(f"n = {n}: \tmean(time) = {round(mean_t[i]*1e3, 2)} ms\tmean(objective) = mean {mean_val[i]}" )
```

```
n = 4:  mean(time) = 3.41 ms    mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 5:  mean(time) = 4.99 ms    mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 6:  mean(time) = 86.41 ms   mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 7:  mean(time) = 40.38 ms   mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 8:  mean(time) = 116.39 ms  mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 9:  mean(time) = 186.95 ms  mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 10:         mean(time) = 734.88 ms  mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 11:         mean(time) = 1940.24 ms mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 12:         mean(time) = 2255.56 ms mean(objective) = mean 0.05
```

In [40]:
```python
plt.plot(ns, mean_t*1e3)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average runtime in ms")
plt.show()
plt.plot(ns, mean_val)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average objective value")
plt.show()
```



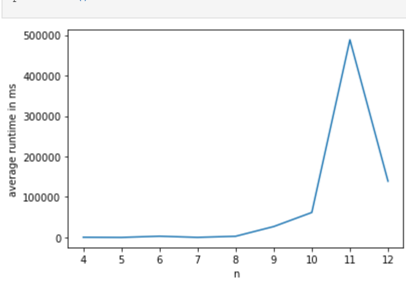


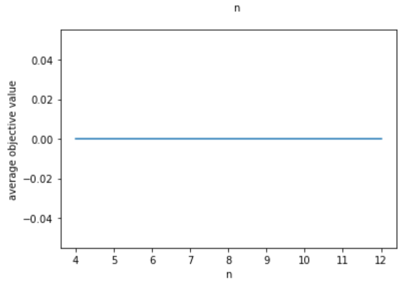
First Choice Hill Cimbing random restarts

In [50]:
```python
RESTARTS = 100
mean_val = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
mean_t = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
for i,n in enumerate(ns):
    val = np.empty(N, dtype = int)
    t = np.empty(N, dtype = float)
    for j in range(N):
        t0 = time.time()
        sol = First_Choice_Hill_Climbing_random_restarts(n, First_Choice_Hill_Climbing, restarts = RESTARTS, ve
        t1 = time.time()
        val[j] = value(sol)
        t[j] = t1 - t0
    mean_val[i] = np.average(val)
    mean_t[i] = np.average(t)
    print(f"n = {n}: \tmean(time) = {round(mean_t[i]*1e3, 2)} ms \tmean(objective) = mean {mean_val[i]}" )
```

```
n = 4:  mean(time) = 457.4 ms   mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 5:  mean(time) = 11.0 ms    mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 6:  mean(time) = 3010.5 ms  mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 7:  mean(time) = 127.0 ms   mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 8:  mean(time) = 2865.51 ms        mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 9:  mean(time) = 26883.74 ms       mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 10:         mean(time) = 61649.84 ms       mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 11:         mean(time) = 488505.04 ms      mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 12:         mean(time) = 138855.93 ms      mean(objective) = mean 0.0
```

In [51]:
```python
plt.plot(ns, mean_t*1e3)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average runtime in ms")
plt.show()
plt.plot(ns, mean_val)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average objective value")
plt.show()
```





Graduate student advanced task: Simulated Annealing [1 Point]

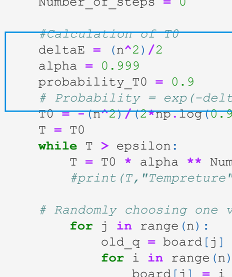
Undergraduate students: This is a bonus task you can attempt if you like [+1 Bonus point].

Simulated annealing is a form of stochastic hill climbing that avoids local optima by also allowing downhill moves with a probability proportional to a temperature. The temperature is decreased in every iteration following an annealing schedule. You have to experiment with the annealing schedule (Google to find guidance on this).

Implement simulated annealing for the n-Queens problem and compare its performance with the previous algorithms.

In [47]:
```python
[illegible]
show_board(b)
value(b)
```

Board with 0 conflicts.

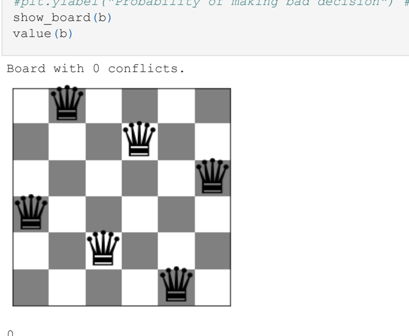


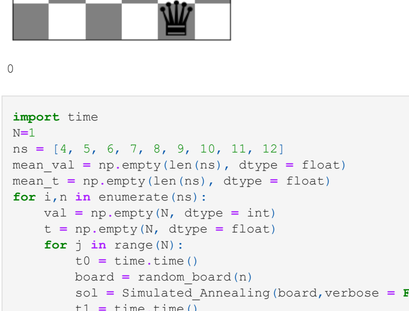
Out[47]: 0

In [48]:
```python
import time
N=1
ns = [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]
mean_val = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
mean_t = np.empty(len(ns), dtype = float)
for i,n in enumerate(ns):
    val = np.empty(N, dtype = int)
    t = np.empty(N, dtype = float)
    for j in range(N):
        t0 = time.time()
        board = random_board(n)
        sol = Simulated_Annealing(board,verbose = False,T0 = None, alpha = 0.999, epsilon = 1e-1)
        t1 = time.time()
        val[j] = value(sol)
        t[j] = t1 - t0
    mean_val[i] = np.average(val)
    mean_t[i] = np.average(t)
    print(f"n = {n}: \tmean(time) = {round(mean_t[i]*1e3, 2)}  ms\tmean(objective) = mean {mean_val[i]}" )
```

```
n = 4:  mean(time) = 22.13  ms  mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 5:  mean(time) = 132.99  ms mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 6:  mean(time) = 2397.58  ms        mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 7:  mean(time) = 7865.43  ms        mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 8:  mean(time) = 21655.8  ms        mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 9:  mean(time) = 28827.22  ms       mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 10:         mean(time) = 47030.29  ms       mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 11:         mean(time) = 86571.27  ms       mean(objective) = mean 0.0
n = 12:         mean(time) = 96663.22  ms       mean(objective) = mean 0.0
```

In [49]:
```python
plt.plot(ns, mean_t*1e3)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average runtime in ms")
plt.show()
plt.plot(ns, mean_val)
plt.xlabel("n")
plt.ylabel("average objective value")
plt.show()
```





More things to do

Implement a Genetic Algorithm for the n-Queens problem.

In [12]:
```python
# Code and description go here
```