

Neuroevolution of Augmenting Topologies

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I. INTRODUCTION

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II. NEUROEVOLUTION AND EVOLUTIONARY ALGORITHMS

A. Evolutionary Algorithms

B. Neuroevolution

C. Landmark Research in Neuroevolution

III. NEUROEVOLUTION OF AUGMENTING TOPOLOGIES (NEAT)

Section Introduction

Neuroevolution of Augmenting Topologies (short form: NEAT) was first introduced in the paper "Evolving Neural Networks through Augmenting Topologies" by Kenneth O. Stanley and Risto Miikkulainen in the year 2002. [cite] It was finalized and shown to be superior to any preceding neuroevolution algorithm in Stanley's PhD thesis "Efficient Evolution of Neural Networks through Complexification" in 2004. [cite]

At time of envisioning of NEAT was Neuroevolution most promising learning approach. Still is powerful today (see rea17/19) "NE is a promising approach to learning behavioral policies and finds solutions faster than leading RL methods on many benchmark tasks (Gomez 2003; Moriarty and Miikkulainen 1997)" [5]

"In highly complex domains the heuristics for determining the appropriate size are not very useful, and it becomes increasingly difficult to solve such domains with fixed-length encodings." [5]

[See all notes write down about stanleys PhD thesis]

A. Key Aspects of NEAT and Differences to Preceding Neuroevolution

B. Performance of NEAT

C. Variants and Advancements of NEAT

1) Variant 1

2) Variant 2

3) Variant 3

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF NEAT

A. Application 1

B. Application 2

C. Application 3

V. CONCLUSION

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