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CULTURAL ALGORITHMS: A TUTORIAL

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OUTLINE

- I. Ideational Theories of Cultural Evolution
- II. Cultural Algorithms: A Computational Framework
- III. General Features
- IV. Suitable Problems
- V. Designing Cultural Algorithms
- Embedding a weak method into the Cultural Algorithm Framework: A Genetic Algorithm Example
- IV. Example Applications
- V. Future Directions

Ideational Approaches to Cultural Evolution

- Edward B. Tylor was the first to introduce the term “Culture” in his two volume book on *Primitive Culture* in 1881.
- He described culture as “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society”.
- Early approaches to studying culture focused on classification of cultures worldwide into groups based upon “adhesions” between cultural elements.
- George Murdoch (1957) produced a “catalog” of 565 cultures based upon 30 sample characteristics.
- Research in Cybernetics and Systems Theory in 1960’s spawned new views of culture as a system that interacted with its environment. It provided regulatory mechanisms that provide positive and negative feedback that can respectively amplify and counteract behavioral deviations of individuals within a cultural group. Flannery 1968.

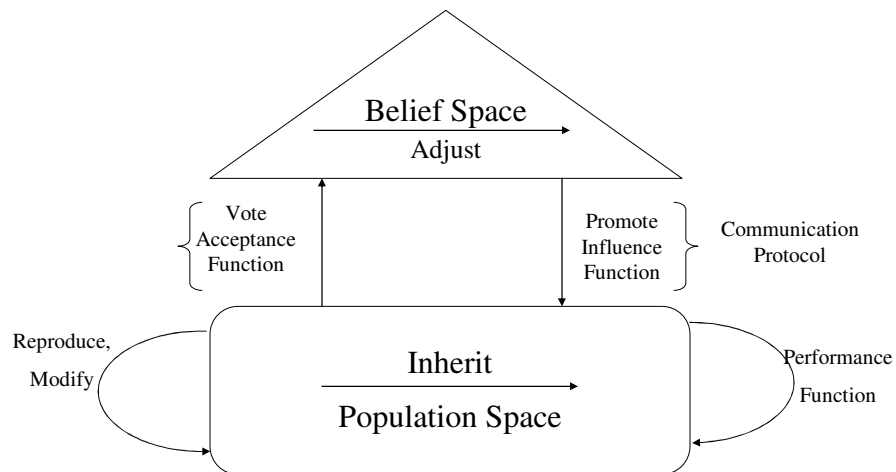
Ideational Approaches Continued

- In the 1960’s Cultural Ecology emerged as a discipline concerned with the nature of the interactions between the cultural system and its environment.
- In the 1970’s saw a new emphasis on how culture shaped the flow of information in a system, a generalization of the cultural ecology perspective.
- Geertz (1973) “Culture is the fabric of meaning in terms of which human beings interpret their experience and guide their actions.
- Durham(1990) “Culture is shared ideational phenomena (values, ideas, beliefs, and the like)”. Less purposeful.

CULTURAL ALGORITHMS ARE COMPUTATIONAL MODELS OF CULTURAL EVOLUTION

BASIC PSEUDOCODE FOR CULTURAL ALGORITHMS IS AS FOLLOWS:

```
Begin  
  t = 0;  
  Initialize Population POP(t);  
  Initialize Belief Space BLF(t);  
  repeat  
    Evaluate Population POP(t);  
    Adjust(BLF(t), Accept(POP(t)));  
    Adjust(BLF(t));  
    Variation(POP(t) from POP(t-1));  
  until termination condition achieved  
End
```



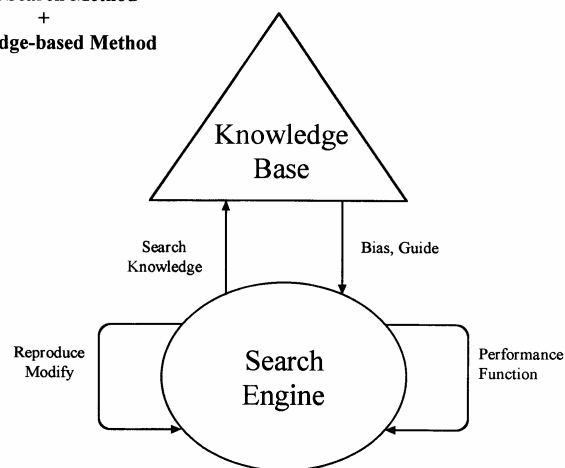
The cultural algorithm components consists of a belief space and a population space. The components interacts through a communication protocol

General Features

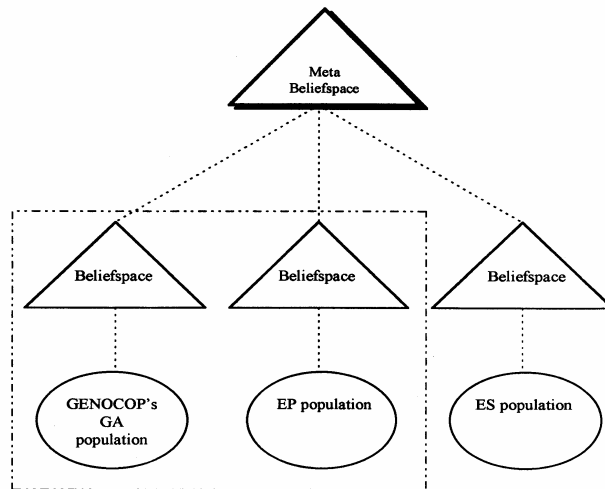
- Dual Inheritance (at population and knowledge levels)
- Knowledge are “beacons” that guide evolution of the population
- Supports hierarchical structuring of population and belief spaces.
- Domain knowledge separated from individuals(e.g. ontologies)
- Supports self adaptation at various levels
- Evolution can take place at different rates at different levels (“Culture evolves 10 times faster than the biological component”).
- Supports hybrid approaches to problem solving.
- A computational framework within which many all of the different models of cultural change can be expressed.

Hybrid System:

Weak Search Method
+
Knowledge-based Method



Can support the emergence of hierarchical structures in both the belief and population spaces



Suitable Problems

- Significant amount of domain knowledge (e.g. constrained optimization problems).
- Complex Systems where adaptation can take place at various levels at various rates in the population and belief space.
- Knowledge is in different forms and needs to be reasoned about in different ways.
- Hybrid systems that require a combination of search and knowledge based frameworks.
- Problem solution requires multiple populations and multiple belief spaces and their interaction.
- Hierarchically structured problem environments where hierarchically structured population and knowledge elements can emerge.

II. Designing Cultural Algorithms

- 1. Design of the knowledge component
 - A. Ontological knowledge (shared common concepts for a domain) representation
 - B. Constraint knowledge representation
 - C. Solution representation
 - D. Which will be modified? Update function for each modifiable component.
 - E. Knowledge Maintenance
- 2. Design of the Population Component
 - A. State variables that determine solution behavior
 - B. How those variables are used to produce a problem solving strategy or behavior.
 - C. How such behavior is evaluated?

Designing Cultural Algorithms: Embedding a Weak Method

- Use Genetic Algorithms as an example population model. Show how it can be embedded in the Cultural Framework for a sequence of increasingly complex problems.
- Whether you begin with the belief level or the population level depends on the problem. That is, which of the two is more constrained by the problem?
- Classification Problems Vs. Construction Problems. With former often start with the belief space, with the latter the population space. In real world situations may have both, select the most constrained of the two.
- In either case, iterate between the two adding detail as you go.

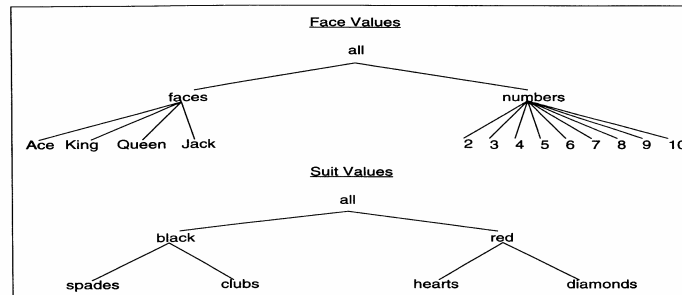
The Genetic Algorithm(Davis,1991)

- 1. Initialize a population of chromosomes
- 2. Evaluate each chromosome in the population
- 3. Create new chromosomes by mating current chromosomes: apply mutation and crossover as the parent chromosomes mate.
- 4. Delete members of the population to make room for the new chromosomes.
- 5. Evaluate the new chromosomes and insert them into the population.
- 6. If time is up, stop and return the best chromosome; if not go to 3.

A Classification Problem

- Mastermind problem.
- Guess the set of objects that the oracle has in mind.
- Can only get information about whether a specific object is included or not.
- Card Problem.

Cards are divided into two independent categories: suit and face.



Based upon this a possible population is

[Suit | Face]

Generate examples at random

Accept all examples

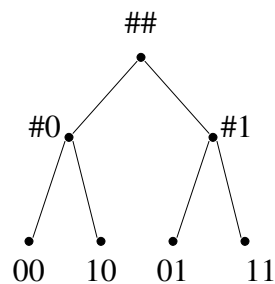
No influence (scorecard) until termination

Update using Mitchells Candidate Elimination Alg.

Focus on Suit {all=##, b=#0, r=#1, s=00, c=10, h=01, d=11}

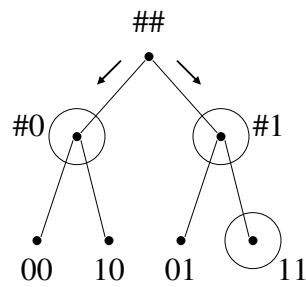
Static Version Spaces

- Use Mitchells candidate elimination search procedure

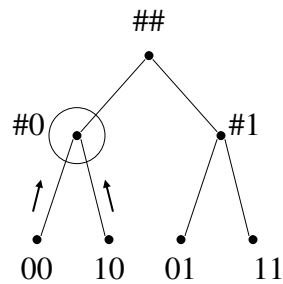


G set = { ## }

S set = { }

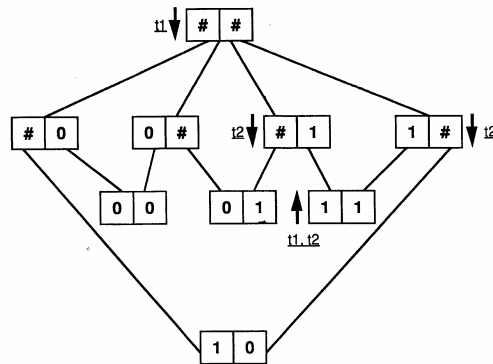


Negative examples
pushes down G set
G set = { #0, #1 }



Positive examples
push up
S set = { 00, 10 }
G set = { #0, #1 }
S set = { #0 }

If an individual observes another individual,
information is recorded in the graph.



Individual observed:

0	0
---	---

 Negative

$(\begin{bmatrix} \# & \# \end{bmatrix}) = \downarrow \text{ at } t1$ $(\begin{bmatrix} \# & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \# \end{bmatrix}) = \downarrow \text{ at } t2$ $(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}) = \uparrow \text{ at } t2 = \uparrow \text{ at } t1$

Classification Example

- Generalize on positive examples and specialize with negative examples. When the arrows overlap then a maximally specific concept is identified. The most general concept or set description that is consistent with the negative examples.
- Here factored the space into two independent subspaces. Information about guesses is used to update each space independently.
- Then select a population representation to generate the guesses.
- Suit|Card Suit = {club,spades, hearts, diamonds} Card = {2,...J,Q,K,A}
- Performance function = oracle {right, or wrong}
- Acceptance function all guesses made this generation.
- Influence Function, generate only guesses consistent with the current S and G sets.
- Reproduction and modification, mutate each parent to values within within the intersection of the S and G sets.

A Construction Problem

- In a construction problems the state variables are often not independent.
- This means that the lattice may not be easily factored into sub-lattices and updated in parallel. Theoretically all parameter values can be used to organize the set.
- The fan-out at a given level can be an exponential function of the problem size in the worst case.
- Can also be multiple solutions.
- Add operations in the belief space to compensate.
- E.G. Merge , and stable classes. Can prove properties about the operators (e.g. merge does not lose information Sverdlik)

Boole Problem:

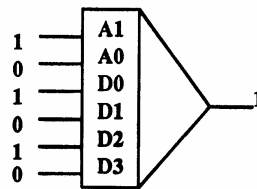
Infer the characteristic function for a
unknown boolean multiplexer.

Example:

Characteristic function:

$$F6 = A'0A'1D0 + A0A'1D1 + A'0A1D2 + A0A1D3.$$

For F6 (2 address lines, 4 data lines).

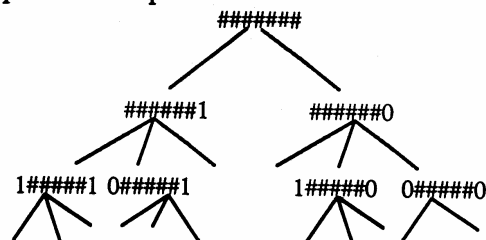


Problem Representation

Chromosome Description

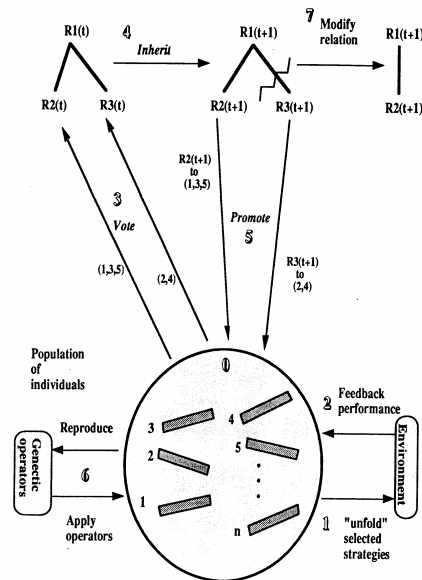
A1	A0	D0	D1	D2	D3	F6
1	0	1	0	1	0	1

Version Space Description

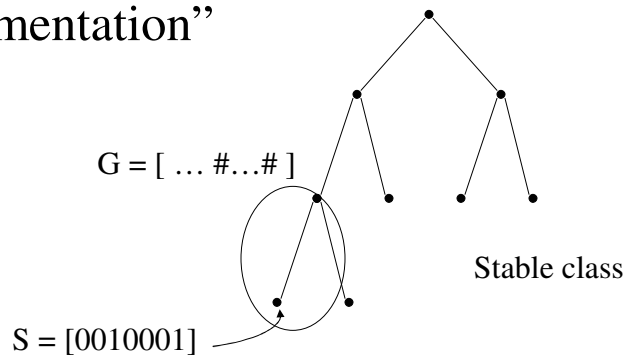


Schematic Description of Cultural Algorithm

- VIP Protocol interconnects the biological and cultural components

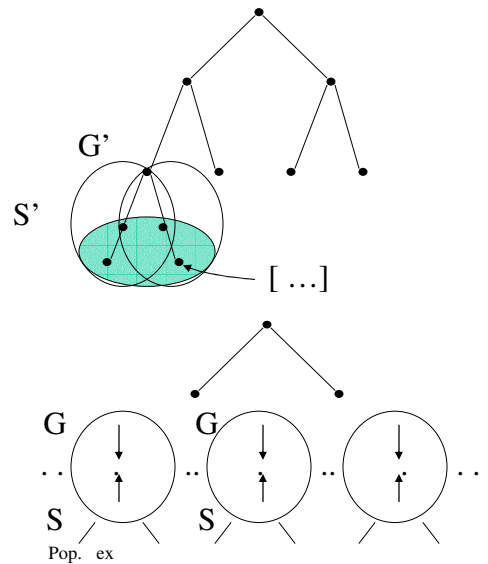


“Segmentation”



- Generating a homogeneous region with respect to the acceptance function.

“Merging”

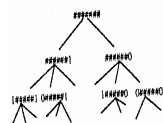


- Maximally Specific Generalization

TRAIT POPULATION SPACE

A1	A2	D1	D2	D3	E1
1	0	1	0	1	0

BELIEF SPACE



F6

Positive Instances
 (a) 111111
 (b) 111110
 (c) 111010
 (d) 111011

Stable Schema
 ##1###
 ##1###
 #11###
 #11###

A Stable Class is comprised of:
 1. G set
 2. S set
 3. Population

Initially form stable classes from individual stable schema

- The G set of an instance is the stable class
- The S set of an instance is the instance
- The population of an instance is the instance

EXAMPLE: For the instance (a)
 Sa.Gset = ##1###
 Sa.Sset = 111111
 Sa.Pop = {111111}

Stable classes are combined in 2 steps:

1. Stable classes S_x and S_y are combined IFF
 $S_x.Gset = S_y.Gset$
 If S_z is the resultant stable class, then:
 $S_z.Gset = S_x.Gset = S_y.Gset$
 $S_z.Sset = Generalize(S_x.Sset, S_y.Sset)$
 $S_z.Pop = S_x.Pop \cup S_y.Pop$

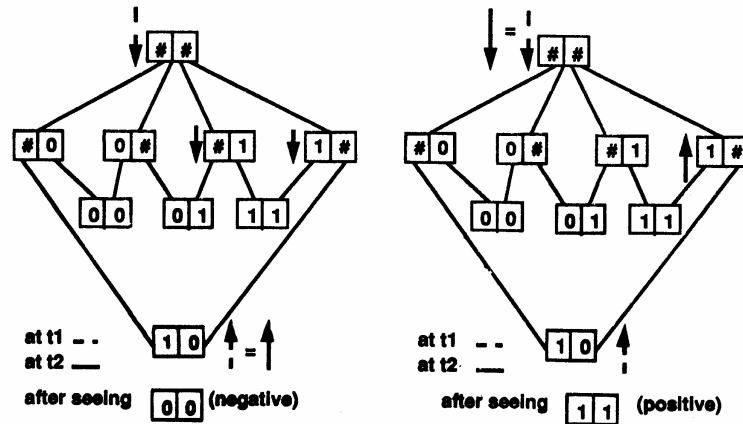
From previous example

Sa and Sb may be combined, as well as Sc and Sd.

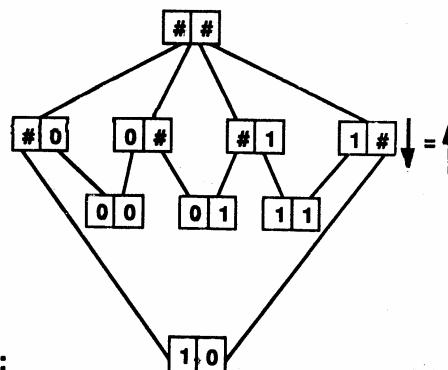
Sab.Gset = ##1###
 Sab.Sset = 11111#
 Sab.Pop = {111111, 111110}

Scd.Gset = #11###
 Scd.Sset = 11101#
 Scd.Pop = {111010, 111011}

Schema can be merged to share experiences. This can produce group schema.



merge produces:



- **By making the relations between schemata explicit one can exploit nested collections of high performance**
- **E.G. Clustering of successful cases in circuit design problem [Louis et al., FLAIRS 92]**

Figure 3: A closer look at the clustered cases reveals nested schemata.

VGA Symbiosis

Schema Theorem:

- The presence of the version space allows the GA system to retain experience outside of its own knowledge base and explore the space at a high rate, even in localized search.
- In addition, the population size needed can be reduced markedly.
- Interpretation of the results can be done at "high level", relative to accepted hypotheses in the version space.

Hyperschema Theorem:

$$\begin{aligned}
 m(H,t+1 \mid HS \in \text{PATHS}(H,t+1)) &\geq \\
 m(H,t \mid HS \in \text{PATHS}(H,t)) &\times \\
 \frac{\text{avg}(f'(H,t) \mid HS \in \text{PATHS}(H,t))}{\bar{f}'} &\times \\
 \frac{\text{avg}(f(H,t) \mid HS \in \text{PATHS}(H,t))}{\bar{f}} &\times \\
 [1 - [p_m \times \text{avg}(o(H) \mid HS \in \text{PATHS}(H,t)) - \\
 [p_c \times \frac{\text{avg}(\text{dlen}(H) \mid HS \in \text{PATHS}(H,t))}{\text{len} - 1}]] &]
 \end{aligned}$$

Comparison of VGA on Boole with other systems.

Wilson's Boole Classifier System (1988).

Learning Task	Number of Instances Seen		Accuracy of Test Results	
	Boole	SVGA	Boole	SVGA
F_A	15,000	1500	97.3%	100 %
F_{11}	30,000	3920	97.5%	100 %

Quinlan's C4 System (1988).

Learning Tasks	Training Set (C_i)	Initial Population (SVGA)	Accuracy of Test Results C_i SVGA	
F_A	50	48	85.1%	90.91%
F_{11}	200	220	98.3%	100%

Performance as a function of Genetic Operator Probability.

Mutation.

Probability of Mutation	Average Number of Reproductions	Marginal Accuracy of the Test Result
0.1	16.8	96.4%
0.2	14.8	100.0%
0.3	13.2	98.7%

Crossover.

Probability of Crossover	Average Number of Reproductions	Marginal Accuracy of The Test Result
0.2	16	91.95%
0.5	16.8	96.38%
0.8	15.2	90.24%

Experimental Results for F_6 as a function of population size.

Initial Population Size	Average Number of Reproductions	Average Number of Patterns in Following Sets			CPU Time in Seconds	Marginal Accuracy of the Test Results
		Solution	Overlapping	Incorrect		
12	35.4	8	8	20.4	1.9	44.0%
24	25.0	8	8	5.8	1.8	73.4%
36	22.2	8	8	2.6	2.2	86.0%
48	18.6	8	8	1.6	2.5	90.9%
60	19.0	8	8	0.4	2.9	97.6%
72	17.2	8	8	0.4	3.1	97.6%
84	14.8	8	8	0.4	4.0	97.6%
96	13.0	8	8	0.4	4.2	97.6%
108	13.4	8	8	0.4	4.3	97.6%
120	12.6	8	8	0.0	5.3	100%

Experimental Results of F_{11} as a function of population size.

Initial Population Size	Average Number of Reproductions	Average Number of Patterns in the following sets			CPU Time in Seconds	Marginal Accuracy of the Test Results
		Solution	Overlapping	Incorrect		
22	80	16	24	9.4	2385.7	80.9%
44	48.6	15.8	24	9.6	1172.2	80.6%
66	37.0	15.8	23.8	12.6	785.3	75.9%
88	31.6	16	24	1.2	727.9	97.1%
110	26.0	16	24	0.0	725.5	100%
132	23.8	16	24	1.0	769.8	97.6%
154	22.2	16	24	0.2	695.5	99.5%
176	20.2	16	23.8	0.2	757.2	99.5%
198	19.8	16	24	0.0	791.1	100%
220	19.0	16	24	0.0	805.2	100%

Comparison:

- The VGA performs as well as C4 but does not need to generate the 200 examples by hand.
- The VGA requires an order of magnitude fewer trials to solve the problem relative to the Classifier approach.
- The VGA is much less sensitive to genetic operator probabilities which corresponds with behavior predicted by the Hyperschema Theorem.
- Therefore the attention paid to possible symbiotic relationships among components in a hybrid learning system may result in a system capable of outperforming that of its components.

Population Component

- Genetic Algorithms
- Often population model has an inherent knowledge structure associated with it.
- Genetic Algorithms exploit schemata. The VGA model described earlier is nothing more than the explicit use of binary schemata to guide the generation of examples by the Genetic Algorithm population.
- Exploits building blocks. In hierarchical problems building blocks at one level can be exploited and combined at the next level.
- Need to allow our representation scheme to emerge based upon the level of complexity achieved in the mined building blocks.

ROYAL ROAD PROBLEM

• ROYAL ROAD FUNCTION

```
function rr
var
  i;           { number of target schemata }
  j;           { number of levels in hierarchy }
  nj;         { number of target schemata found at level j }
  mi;         { number of correct bits in a target schema }
  b;           { number of bits in a target schema }
  u, u*, v, m*; { parameters }
  parti;      { points for number of correct bits }
  bonusj;    { points for correct target schemata }
  score;       { parti + bonusj }
```

```
begin
  for each target schema i at level 1
  begin
    if ( mi < m* + 1 ) then
      parti = ( mi )v;
    else if ( m* < mi < b ) then
      parti = -( mi - m* )v;
    else
      parti = 0;
    end
  end

  for each level j in hierarchy
  begin
    if ( nj > 0 ) then
      bonusj = u* + ( nj - 1 )u;
    else
      bonusj = 0;
    end
  end

  score=0;
  for each target schema i at level 1
    score = score + parti;
  for each level j in hierarchy
    score = score + bonusj;
  return(score);
end;
```

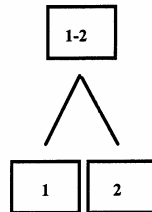
ROYAL ROAD PROBLEM

- A SIMPLE EXAMPLE

Parameters: $i = 2, j = 2, u = .3, u^* = 1, v = .02, m^* = 4, b = 8$

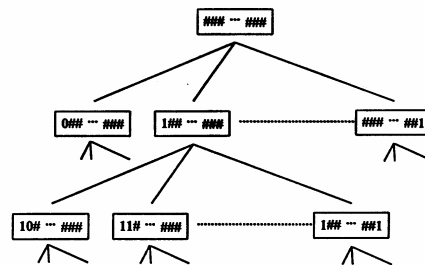
Goal: 00000000bb00000000

Individual ₁ :	000011110011111111	score = .08
Individual ₂ :	000001110011111111	score = -.02
Individual ₃ :	000000001100000000	score = 2.3



PATHEFINDER

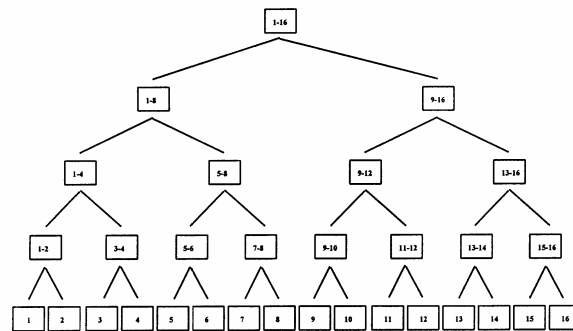
- LOWEST LEVEL OF BELIEF SPACE



Once we acquire building blocks at one level we can
Re-size the version space to exploit them

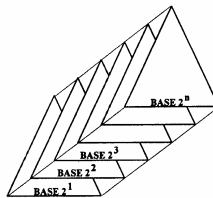
EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS

- **HIERARCHY USING HOLLAND'S SUGGESTED PARAMETERS**



PATHFINDER

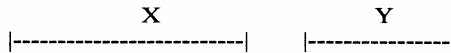
- **MULTILEVEL BELIEF SPACE**
 - **IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONVERT A NUMBER FROM ONE BASE TO A DIFFERENT BASE.**
 - **THE REPRESENTATION SPACE IS HIERARCHICAL, AND CONSTRUCTED DYNAMICALLY.**



Can move up and down the hierarchy of bases depending
Upon how well two adjacent bases do.

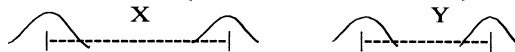
REAL-VALUED SCHEMA IN THE BELIEF SPACE

ESCHELMAN AND SCHAEFFER PROPOSED INTERVAL SCHEMATA FOR REAL-VALUED VARIABLES.



CAEP USED THIS AS BELIEF SPACE KNOWLEDGE TO GUIDE SEARCH USING AN EP POPULATION TO SOLVE UNCONSTRAINED REAL-VALUED FUNCTION OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS. (CHUNG AND REYNOLDS 1994)

FOR PROBLEMS WITH LARGE BASINS AND OR VALLEYS, LESS INFORMATION WAS GAINED FROM EACH INDIVIDUAL DURING A GENERATION. FUZZY SCHEMATA USED FUZZY INTERVALS TO DIRECT SEARCH IN THESE INSTANCES (ZHU AND REYNOLDS, 1998).



TWO BASIC TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE BELIEF SPACE:

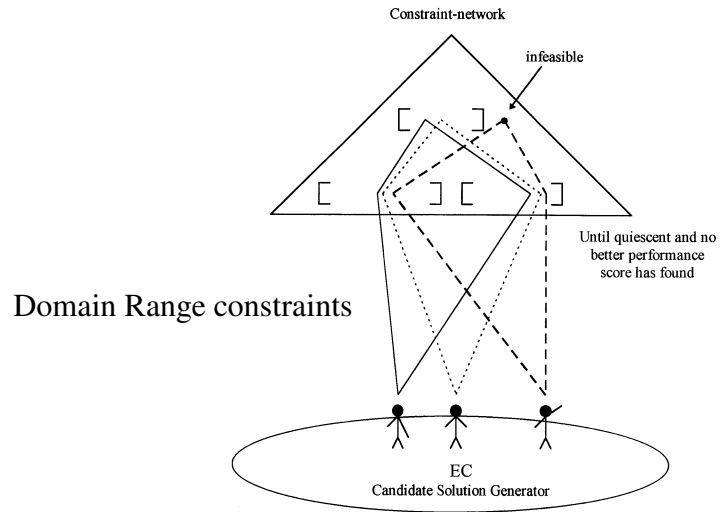
NORMATIVE KNOWLEDGE: STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

(E.G. $10 > x > 2$) ACCEPTABLE RANGE OF VALUES FOR PARAMETER X IN A PARAMETER OPTIMIZATION PROBLEM

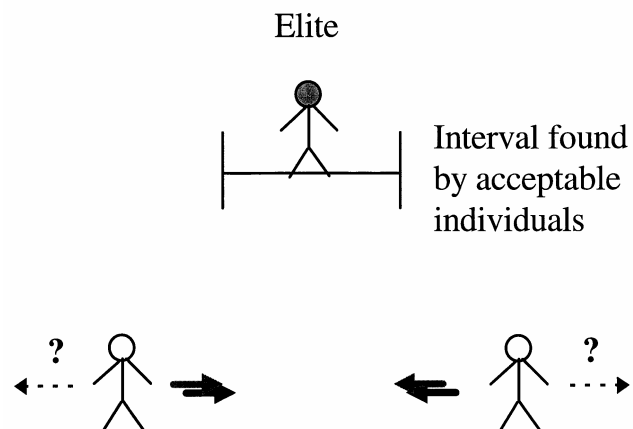
SITUATIONAL KNOWLEDGE: INDIVIDUAL EXAMPLES OF PROBLEM SOLVING SUCCESS AND OR FAILURE.

(E.G. $F(0,1,0)$ HAS THE BEST OBSERVED PERFORMANCE SO FAR.

Basic Idea of using Constraint-network



Cultural Influence



	1	2	$f(x_i)$	accept	updateE	updateN
1	0.01	0.01	0.0001	1	1	1
2	0.0	0.1	0.01	1	0	1
3	-0.1	0.2	0.05	0	0	0
4	-0.11	0.22	0.0605	0	0	0
5	-0.1	0.59	0.3581	0	0	0

Figure 3.8 Individuals in a population for updating Belief Space

Figure 3.9 shows a result of adjusting situational knowledge from the population in the figure 3.8. Since the best individual has better performance value (0.0001) than that of the current exemplar, the current exemplar is replaced with the current best, $\langle 0.01, 0.01 \rangle$, in the population space.

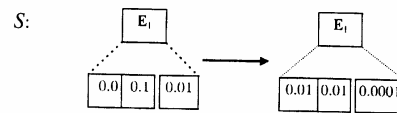


Figure 3.9 An example result of Adjusting Situational Knowledge

Figure 3.10 shows a result of adjusting normative knowledge according to the adjustment rules from the population in the figure 3.8. The top 2 individuals, $\langle 0.01, 0.01 \rangle$ with performance score 0.0001 and $\langle 0.0, 0.1 \rangle$ with performance score 0.01 are used to adjust the current normative knowledge from the population.

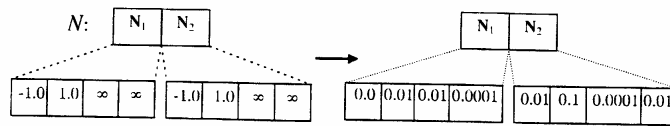


Figure 3.10 An example result of Adjusting Normative Knowledge

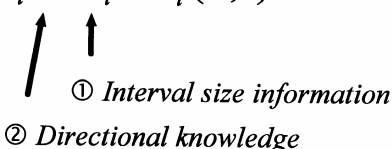
The individuals in figure 3.8 are then become the parents for the next generation of the CAEP system and the process begins anew.

Influence Function for Interval Schemata

**Use Cultural Algorithms
as a framework in which to perform
knowledge-based evolutionary learning**

**Replace σ_i with empirical generalizations
produced in the belief space.**

Mutation
$$x'_i = x_i + \sigma_i \cdot N_i(0,1)$$



① *Interval size information*
② *Directional knowledge*

How is this done?

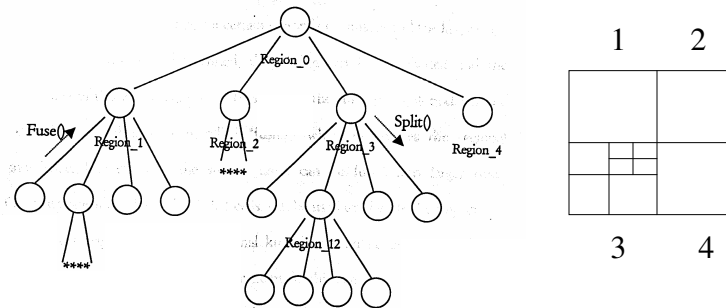
Adding Constraint Knowledge

- With the addition of constraint knowledge, n one dimensional interval schemata are combined to produce an n-dimensional region.
- Regional schemata result from imposing a grid system of a certain granularity on the space.
- Grid squares are sampled by scouts. They can be classified based upon the problem characteristics they exhibit: e.g. feasible, infeasible, partially feasible, etc.
- The influence function here cause individuals to migrate to or from cells as a function of their characteristics.
- New cells are broken down into subregions, explored and exploited.
- Knowledge base operations allow the fissioning and fusioning of cells.

Regional Schema: an n-dimensional region defined as a combination of intervals that circumscribe a portion of n-dimensional space

NOW WE EXTEND THIS BY ALLOWING

- 1. MULTIPLE M-DIMENSIONAL REGIONAL SCHEMATA**
- 2. THE ORGANIZATION OF THESE SCHEMATA INTO A HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE.**



ACCEPTANCE FUNCTION :

HERE, ALL INDIVIDUALS ARE USED TO UPDATE CONSTRAINT KNOWLEDGE. THE TOP 20% ARE USED TO UPDATE THE NORAMTIVE KNOWLEDGE.

THESE 20% ARE CALLED THE EMINENT INDIVIDUALS.

UPDATE:

USE INFERENCE RULES TO ADJUST THE CLASSIFICATION OF ACTIVE CELLS. E.G. FEASIBLE, INFEASIBLE, SEMI-FEASIBLE.

ADUST THE HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE BASED UPON THIS INFORMATION. E.G.

FISSION: SPLIT A SEMI-FEASIBLE CELL INTO SMALLER CELLS WHEN THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS BECOMES TOO HIGH.

FUSION: MERGE , RECOMBINE CHILDREN INTO THE ORIGINAL PARENT. THEN CAN DECOMPOSE THE PARENT IN A DIFFERENT WAY. E.G. CURRENT DECMPOSITION IS UNATTRACTIVE. E.G. INFEASIBLE CELL BECOMES SEMI-FEASIBLE.

INFLUENCE FUNCTION:

GUIDE THE MIGRATION OF INDIVIDUALS FROM LESS PRODUCTIVE CELLS, INFEASIBLE, TO ONES THAT ARE MORE PRODUCTIVE, SEMI-FEASIBLE AND FEASIBLE CELLS. SEMI-FEASIBLE AND FEASIBLE CELLS WITH EMINENT INDIVIDUALS ARE CALLED EMINENT. HIGHLIGHT THE MIGRATION TO EMINENT CELLS FROM ORDINARY ONES.

- 1. PERTURB INDIVIDUALS A LITTLE IN EMINENT CELLS.**
- 2. MOVE INDIVIDUALS IN INFEASIBLE CELLS TO FEASIBLE ONES.**
- 3. MOVE INDIVIDUALS FROM ORDINARY TO EMINENT CELLS.**

Implementation and test results

To access the approaches, we used a nonlinear constrained optimization problem [Floudas 1990], which is given below:

Problem Description

$$\text{Min } -12x-7y+y^2$$

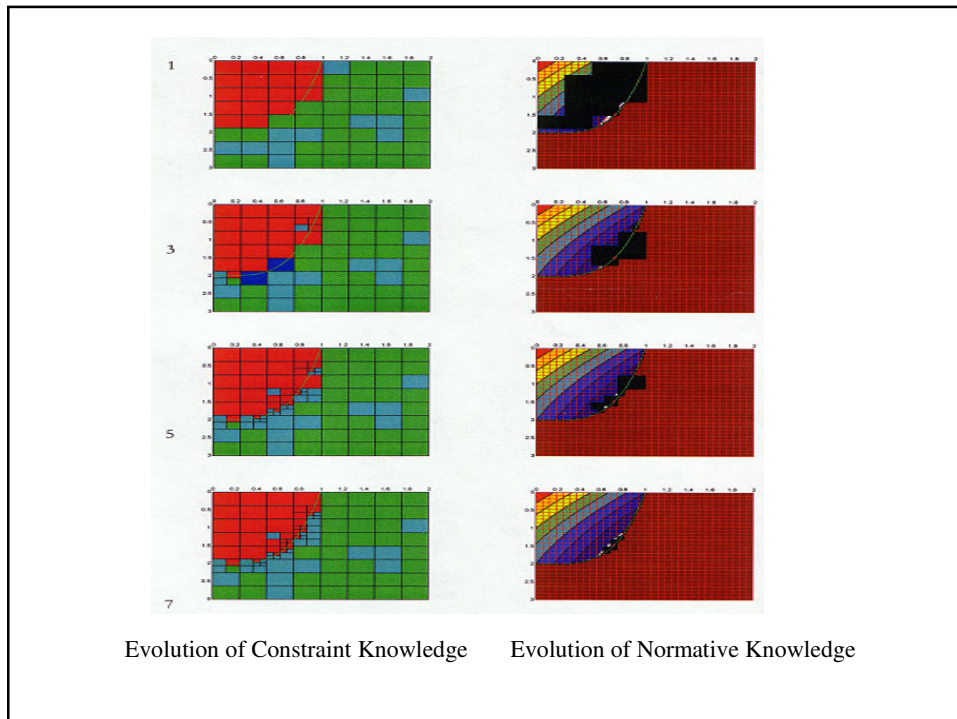
$$\text{Domain constraints: } 0 \leq x \leq 2, 0 \leq y \leq 3$$

$$\text{Problem constraints: } y \leq -2x^4+2$$

$$\text{Global best point: } x^*=0.71751, \\ y^*=1.470$$

$$\text{Global best value: } -16.73889$$

$$\text{Optimization goal: } < -16.70$$



Cultural Algorithm Configuration: Embedding Other Methods

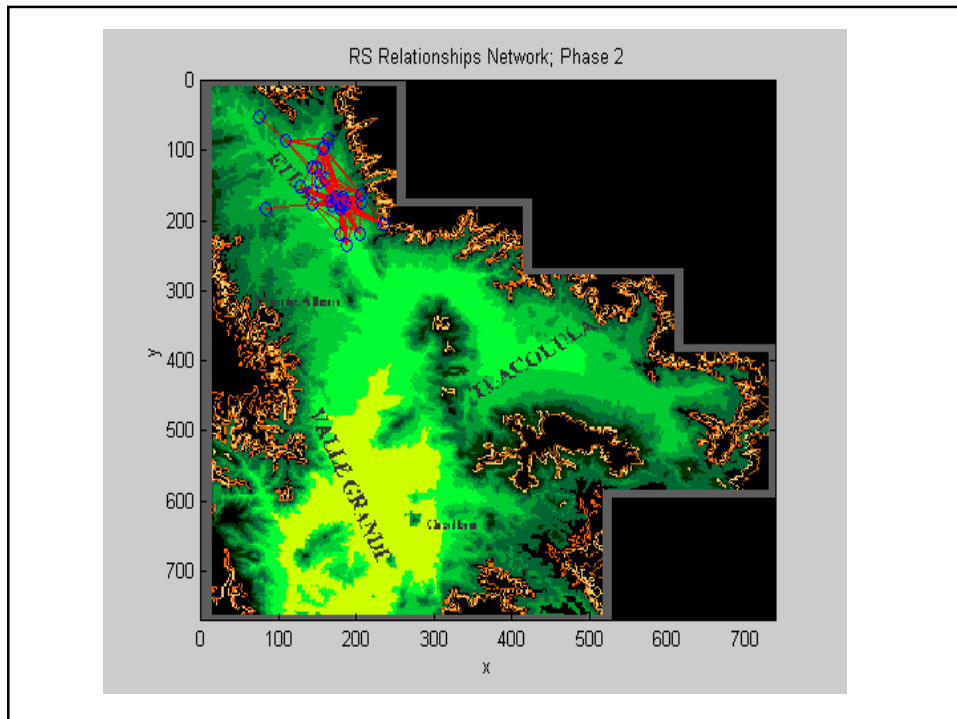
- Population models used
 - Genetic Algorithms (Concept learning, optimization)
 - Genetic Programming (Evolving agent strategies)
 - Evolutionary Programming (Real valued function optimization)
 - Evolution Strategies (Robot soccer plays)
 - Memetic models (Evolution of agriculture)
 - Agent based modeling (Evolution of the state, Environmental Impact)

Knowledge Models Used

- **Schemata**
 - Binary valued (Maletic:concept learning, Boole problem, data mining)
 - Real-valued interval schemata (Chang:unconstrained optimization)
 - Fuzzy Real-valued schemata
 - Regional Schemata ((Xidong Jin):constrained optimization)
- **Semantic Networks** (DLMS:Rychtycky)
- **Graphical Models** (GP:Zannoni, Ostrowski)
- **Logical and Rule Based models** (HYBAL(Sverdlik),
Fraud Detection (Sternberg), Lazar (Data mining))

Evolution of the State

- Evolution of Complex Social Systems
- Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico
- Implement Marcus and Flannery's Model of State Formation and Observe the Social Networks that form as a result.
- Compare to the Archaeological data for the Valley



Future Directions

- Integrating Multiple Representations and Population Models
- Parallelization
- Belief Space Evolution
- Designing Cultural Systems
- How does a Culture's structure and content reflect its problem solving environment (Saleem)

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