Final Year Project

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Contents

Chapter 1

Literature Review

1.1 Background

The Prisoners Dilemma a large area of repeated games in Game Theory and has applications in the real world. This is due to the game being a good example of strategies that give a cooperative benefit to repeated games. It has been used to describe actions of people and governments in situations stretching from warfare [TC88, AH92], finance [CS97] and politics [Sni85] to sex and relationships [Low15]. Because of its applicability to real world scenarios there is a strong desire to understand how strategies are beaten to either exploit flaws or counter opponents in real world scenarios.

The Prisoners dilemma became a large research area in the combination of mathematics and computer science after Robert Axelrod published his work named "Effective Choice In The Prisoners Dilemma" [Axe80]. In it he makes an introduction to how tournaments are run and the properties of successful results. His method of experimenting became the standard for handling the IDP problem. After the tournament is complete he describes what successful strategies had in common; It turns out the majority of strategies have properties of niceness and forgiveness. This allowed them to thrive in the tournament and have overall scores that rose above strategies without niceness or forgiveness.

Since Axelrods' original tournament there have been many research papers on what makes a successful strategy for a specific objective. For example [PD12] looks at how to remove an opponents moves to reach a high score and [MD09] looks at a range of different objectives at once. These specific objectives are really the core part of applying Game Theory and The Prisoners Dilemma in the really word. Objectives are the wrapper for which we can work with real world scenarios, for example in a the cold war it was not the goal to get as many missiles as possible to pass an oppositions defence but to not allow any missiles through your own defence; i.e.minimising your opponents score. In a football tournament where winning is the number or goals your team scores it doesn't really matter how many goals you get in so long as you score the most overall. There are also some very useful applications such as rent splitting or work assignments [GP15], all of which were programmed and deployed to a web server for general use online[1]

1.2 Strategy Structures

Strategies can be defined in multiple ways [HKJ+17]. Each method of representing a strategies has its benefits and drawbacks, though there is no method (or strategy in that case) that is best in all cases. There are methods of creating strategies that remove the way opponents play in order to create overall scores that desired. Subsection 1.3.7 discusses this in more detail. Ways of structuring a strategy are shown below:

- LookerUpper, find examples
- Gambler

[1] http://www.spliddit.org

- Neural Networks
- Finite State Machines
- Hidden Markov Models
- Explicit Move List
- Mixtures

1.2.1 Equivalent strategies

When performing analysis of an opponent using a GA it can sometimes be useful to brute force the starting positions of our feature selection to create rare[2] starting points. Looking at certain opponents there are occasions some strategies that look indistinguishable from others; for example Alternator and Random (0.5) can very often create the same output. One of the ways we are able to identify strategies is the process of fingerprinting [AKK04, AK08].

Another way is to look up their structure definitions in the same model (for example...)

1.3 Strategies Of Interest

1.3.1 TitForTat

Tit For Tat was the

1.3.2 Alternator

See Subsection 1.3.4.

1.3.3 Grudger

See Subsection 1.3.4.

1.3.4 Random

For all the strategies () given above we are able to logically deduce that the best counter is a totality of Ds, no matter what their definition structure is. This leads us to consider what the common theme is between the strategies as to be beaten in the same way.

1.3.5 EvolvedFSM16

1.3.6 CollectiveStrategy

1.3.7 ZDExtortion

This is the paper [PD12]

[2]For example of a random sequence that is a totality of Cs is incredibly rare, with around 6.2^{-61} chance of occurring

1.3.8 Cycler

1.4 Genetic Algorithms

This work will focus on Genetic Algorithms (GAs) which are a specific form of Machine Learning (ML). Advanced techniques of machine learning can be combined and used together[3] in many situations, lots of these techniques combine genetic algorithms or some sort of fitness testing within a larger scope. The field of mathematics research is one which has plenty of examples of GAs in action; for example the same techniques as we will using is used in [CB97] to solve the Generalised Assignment Problem. Another example, [BLM95], used neural networks when approaching the state regulation problem.

In Game Theory GAs are used in a couple of areas, most prominently in the study of the iterated prisoners dilemma.

[3]Techniques for teaching and versioning static algorithms such as building a 'clever' game AIs, where the core concept of the AI is fine tuned using GA in an development environment but isn't implemented into the game [BSVdH09].

Chapter 2

Developing The Codebase

2.1 Research Environments

A mix of Jupyter Notebooks and integrated development environments[1] were used to write and execute code. The main analysis was run using a factory class pattern, called `AnalysisRun` in the `full_analysis` module, show in Figure A.1 in Appendix Chapter A. This class was used to wrap a query to the Axelrod-Dojo functionality and subsequently to the Axelrod Library in such a way that was easy to control batch executions.

The analysis itself was done using native multi-threading on a Linux OS to improve individual opponent analysis run times and the overall scalability of the project. This will be discussed further in Subsection 2.1.

This section will go into detail on the set up and reasoning behind using specific development environments.This tutorial will also assume you're working with a local development station; analysis on remote cloud instances of Jupyter Notebooks is possible but the set up is different.

Installing Basic Libraries Your first step should be to download and install the Anaconda distribution for your OS here: https://www.anaconda.com/download/. This will allow you to use the integrated c++ libraries python has to offer without needing to mess about too much. Anaconda also has them majority of Functional Libraries above and Jupyter Notebooks pre installed to make setting up much easier. From here, follow the instructions the install wizard has to add any environment variables to allow CMD/Bash access to binaries.

Installing the Axelrod and Axelrod-Dojo libraries uses the pip tool that already comes with Anaconda and should be ready to execute after the last step.Running 'pip install axelrod' then 'pip install axelrod-dojo' will install these.

Once this is installed the `full\_analysis.py` file has to be downloaded from github[2], it can be found in the code directory.This can just be copied and pasted if needed all were interested in is the class to generate a sequence for an opponent.

Running a Test Figure 2.1 is some sample code that will run an analysis with the following settings:

- Override the default mutation frequency of 0.1 to 0.3.
- Set the prefix for all the files to be 'example-'.
- Analysing 3 opponents.(Random will have multiple instances for different seeds.)

[1] Pycharm Professional Edition and Microsoft VS Code.
[2] https://github.com/GitToby/FinalYearProject

```
from full_analysis import NewAnalysisRun
import axelrod as axl

run = NewAnalysisRun(mutation_frequency=0.33)
run.save_file_prefix = "example-"

run.add_opponent(axl.TitForTat())
run.add_opponent(axl.Random())
run.add_opponent(axl.Grudger())

run.start()
```

Figure 2.1: Code to create a sequence result to optimise best score for 3 opponents

After it has run the generated data output should be stored in the './output' directory. If the code fails to run there may be issues with this directory being created. There should be multiple output files, each with one opponents evolution stages through the generations.

Cloud Notebook Setup If you want to use a Cloud service, such as Azure Notebooks or AWS Sagemaker, the set up is similar to the above just executed differently. Installing Anaconda is not needed, the environment has the required installs. Using pip to install the Axelrod libraries and download the full analysis script can be done in an integrated web terminal or directly in a notebook. Figure 2.2 shows and example in azure, copy these in your top few cells of your jupyter notebook and it will work as required.

```
# -------- CELL 1 --------
# The ! means 'run this as a bash script'
! pip install axelrod
! pip install git+https://github.com/Axelrod-Python/axelrod-dojo.git
! wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/GitToby/FinalYearProject/master/code/full_analysis.py

# -------- CELL 2 --------
import axelrod as axl
import full_analysis as fa

run = fa.NewAnalysisRun(population_size=40)

run.add_opponent(axl.TitForTat())
run.add_opponent(axl.Random())
run.add_opponent(axl.Grudger())

run.start()
```

Figure 2.2: Cells for creating the jupyter instance of a research environment

2.2 Codebase Contributions

Throughout the project I had split time between writing my own code and expanding the Axelrod Dojo codebase. In modern software development there is a commitment in the developer community to track and reuse as much code as possible, typically using a version control system such as Git or Subversion. The majority of open source community development is conducted on github[Tor] using Git, the Axelrod libraries, along with most other libraries I used, are hosted here.

When writing code in a professional environment there is a predetermined scope that all parties agree upon before the work commences. This, however, is not the case for research development which is more organic; final products that are created when conducting research for papers are highly personalised and typically cannot be used in other areas. This leads to more flexible products that operate more as platforms or tools for further research, this is why the Axelrod, Axelrod Dojo and other libraries mentioned in table 2.1 exist. My final code will only be used for researching the IPD in my projects specific direction, this meant extending the platforms to handle what I needed them to do, subsection 2.2.1 looks into how this was completed in my project.

2.2.1 Version Control

During the project I created a 'fork' of the axelrod dojo in order to add content to the open source community. This resulted in using Git to create a new 'branch' on which to write my code before asking the owners of the repository to pull my work back into the core product using a 'pull request'(PR). The PR opened for my code[3] resulted in changes to 457 lines of code and 14 files, adding classes and fixing bug that had been previously flagged. Figure 2.3 shows the initial scope of the PR and Figure 2.4 shows a section of the commits made before merging the branch.

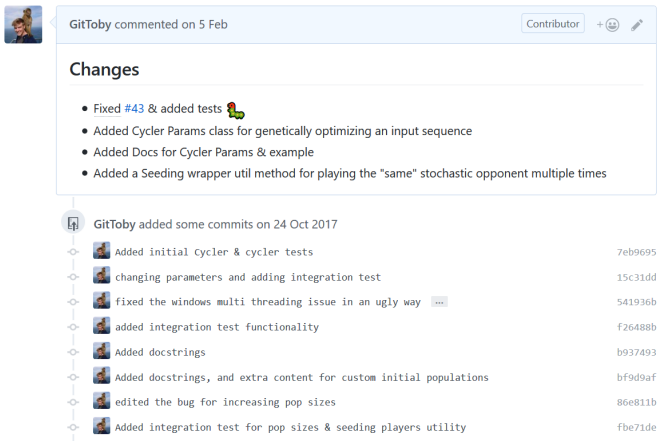

Figure 2.3: Description and commits for PR on Github

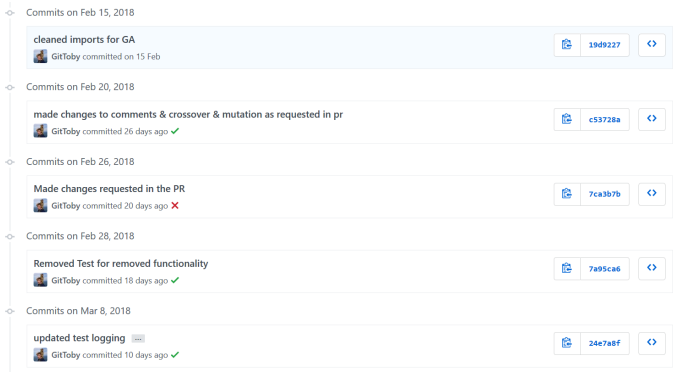

Figure 2.4: Tail of code commit log as shown on Github

After a request is opened there is a period of reviews by the owners, this is to ensure code quality and scope coverage. As my work progressed I continued to add to the PR which lead to more and more requests being added for features that fell outside the scope of the PR. Eventually we decided to create another fork of the PR that contained specialist code for my project that wouldn't benefit the codebase as a whole. Figures 2.5 $ 2.6 show examples of requests and discussions around features and code quality. Because of this review process the overall quality of the codebase can be kept high and the owners can decide on how their platforms are developed.

2.2.2 Testing

Code testing and version control go hand in hand. When new releases of code are made it is important to ensure that the new changes dont break previous functionality. This is kept in check by the presence of continues integrations (CI) and test environments. As of this project the CI for the Axelrod Dojo keeps the libraries tests running on a linux environment and the output fed to the Github page. During my development I had to implement tests for any functionality I wrote to ensure the library still worked as intended. Following the mixed practice of test driven design (TDD) and behaviour driven design (BDD) the code written to extend the Axelrod Dojo had tests to cover examples of what happens in a production environment. Snippet 2.7 shows an example of a test.

[3] https://github.com/Axelrod-Python/axelrod-dojo/pull/45

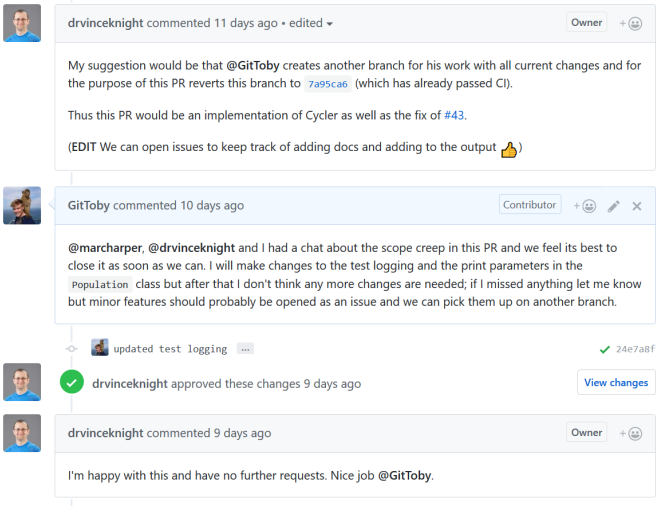

Figure 2.5: Feature discussions in PR on Github

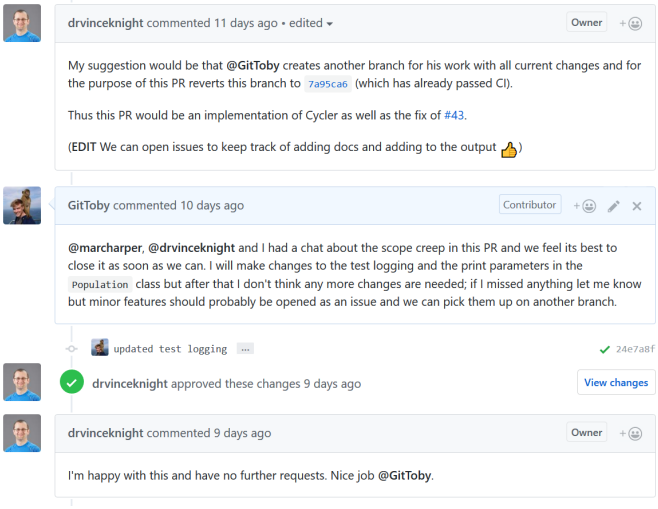

Figure 2.6: Scope Discussion in PR on Github

```python
def test_creation_seqLen(self):
    axl.seed(0)
    test_length = 10
    self.instance = CyclerParams(sequence_length=test_length)
    self.assertEqual(self.instance.sequence, [D, C, C, D, C, C, C, C, C, C])
    self.assertEqual(self.instance.sequence_length, test_length)
    self.assertEqual(len(self.instance.sequence), test_length)
```

Figure 2.7: An Example of a test in the Axelrod Dojo

2.3 Libraries And External Modules

Main Research Libraries

- **Axelrod** — Used for the core of the prisoners dilemma and iterated prisoners dilemma functionality code.[pd17]
- **Axelrod-Dojo** — Applied machine learning techniques that revolve around generating solutions to questions relating to the Axelrod library.

Functional libraries Table 2.1 shows the external functional libraries used, while Table 2.2 shows the internal python built in modules that where leveraged during development. These are libraries which are not involved in the core functionality of the IPD.

Library	Reason
matplotlib pyplot	For plotting graphs and images with data
pandas	For data manipulation.
numpy	For reducing complexity of numerical calculations.

Table 2.1: Functional Python libraries for analysis

Library	Reason
os	For operating system functionality.
time	For time calculations.
itertools	For easier iterations over data structures.

Table 2.2: Internal built in python modules used

Chapter 3

Results and Discussion

3.1 Background

loading, cleaning data, description data

3.2 Solution Groups

3.3 Scoring Groups

3.4 Solution Distance matrix

The first avenue of analysis, after constructing descriptive data, was to look at the relationship strategies have with each other. A distance matrix shows how much an opponent differs from every other, if 2 sequences are similar with respect to the distance function then they will score lower than 2 sequences that are more distinct. Certain distance functions have been selected because of their connotations.

Hamming Distance

Cosine Distance

$$d(O_i, O_j) = cos(\theta) = \frac{\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}}{||\mathbf{A}||\ ||\mathbf{B}||}$$

The cosine of two vectors constructed by using the dot product formula as shown above. Figure 3.1 shows an interpretation of this in 2 dimensions, in our interpretation each dimension represents a sequence element so we are working in $\mathbb{R}^{200}$ with every value taking a 1(C) or a 0(D). Figure 3.3 shows the distance matrix generated from the data files using code

3.5 Clustering Analysis

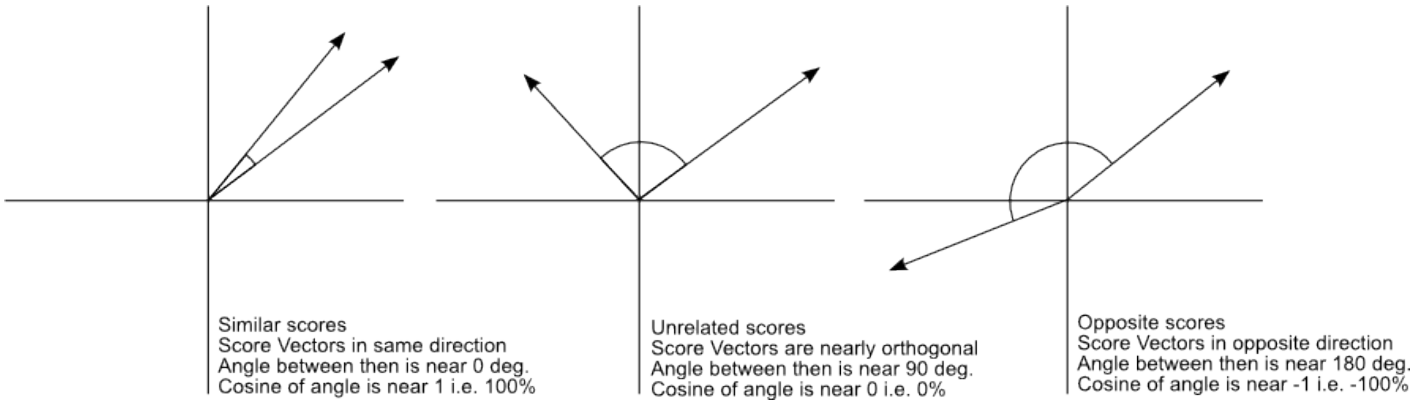

Figure 3.1: An Example of 2d cosine similarity [Per13]

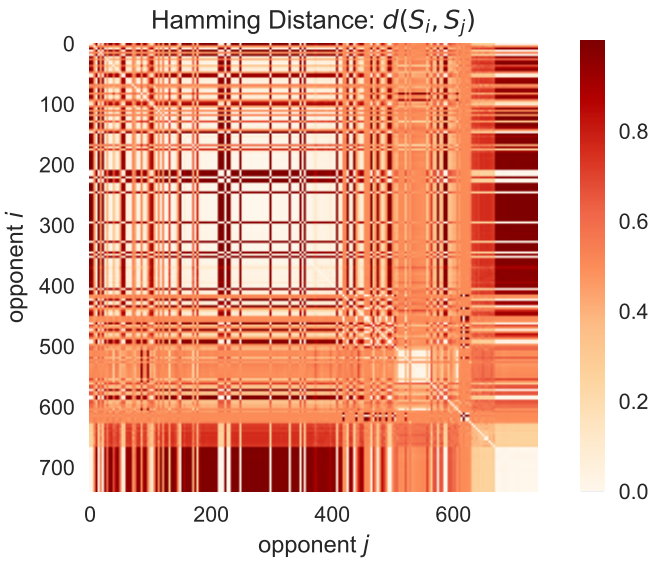

Figure 3.2:

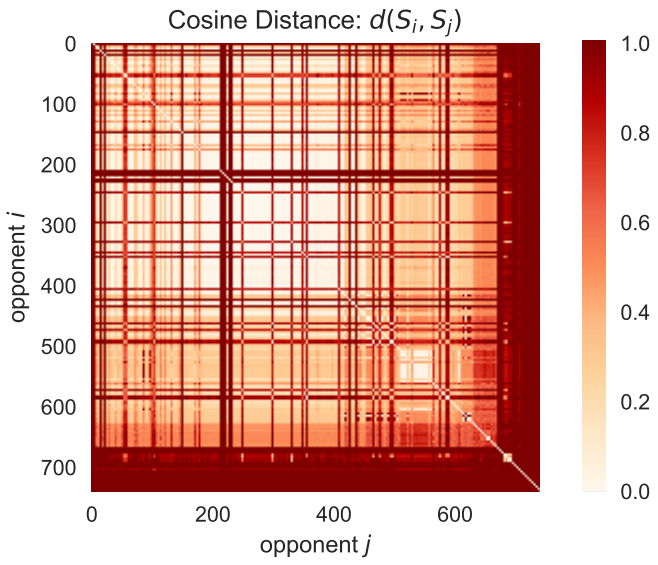

Figure 3.3:

Appendix A

Code Appendix

```
class NewAnalysisRun:
    # default options
    opponent_list = []
    output_files = {}
    save_directory = "output/"
    save_file_prefix = ""
    save_file_suffix = ""
    global_seed = 0
    overwrite_files = True
    stochastic_seeds = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]

    def __init__(self, sequence_length=20,
                 population_size=25,
                 generation_length=20,
                 mutation_frequency=0.1,
                 mutation_potency=1):
        self.sequence_length = sequence_length
        self.population_size = population_size
        self.generation_length = generation_length
        self.mutation_frequency = mutation_frequency
        self.mutation_potency = mutation_potency

    def get_pre_made_pop(self, pop_size: int):
        pop = []

        # Totalities & Handshakes
        handshake_leng = 5
        for start in itertools.product("CD", repeat=handshake_leng):
            pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams(
                list(start) + [C] * (200 - handshake_leng)))
            pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams(
                list(start) + [D] * (200 - handshake_leng)))

        # 50-50
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([C] * 100 + [D] * 100))
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([D] * 100 + [C] * 100))

        # Single Change
        for i in range(1, 11):
            pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([C] * i + [D] * (200 - i)))
            pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([D] * i + [C] * (200 - i)))

        for i in range(1, 11):
            pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([C] * (200 - i) + [D] * i))
            pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([D] * (200 - i) + [C] * i))

        # Matching Tails
        for i in range(1, 6):
            for j in range(1, 6):
                pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams(
                    [C] * i + [D] * (200 - (i + j)) + [C] * j))
                pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams(
                    [D] * i + [C] * (200 - (i + j)) + [D] * j))

        # Alternating
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([C, D] * 100))
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([D, C] * 100))
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([C, C, D, D] * 50))
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([D, D, C, C] * 50))
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([C, C, C, C, D, D, D, D] * 25))
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([D, D, D, D, C, C, C, C] * 25))
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([C, C, C, C, C, D, D, D, D, D] * 20))
        pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams([D, D, D, D, D, C, C, C, C, C] * 20))

        # Random Filler
        while len(pop) < pop_size:
            random_moves = list(map(axl.Action, np.random.randint(
                0, 1 + 1, (self.sequence_length, 1))))
            pop.append(axl_dojo.CyclerParams(random_moves))
```

Appendix B

List of Axelrod Opponents

List of Figures

List of Tables

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