

Shapeshifting Coloring Problems

In this assignment, you are given a `PyGame` environment (in the `gridgame.py` file) that renders a randomly initialized $n \times n$ grid, with some cells pre-filled with one of four colors. Your goal is to build an AI agent that solves a coloring problem over this grid (see next page for constraints), such that no two cells that share an edge have the same color.

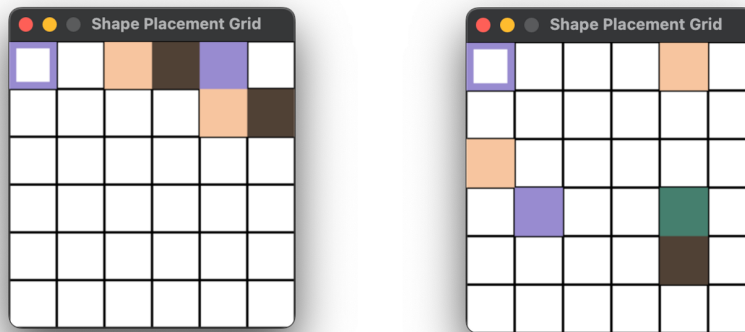
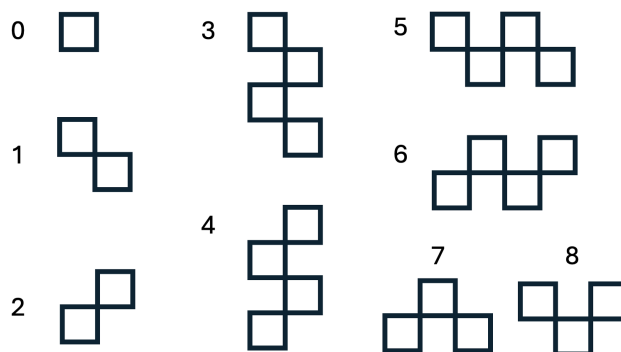


Figure 1: Examples of Initial Configurations

Your agent will attempt to fill the environment by moving a virtual ‘brush’ over this grid and placing colored shapes, where the shape of the brush can be cyclced through the following choices (numbered 0-8):



Additionally, each brush can be cyclced through one of four colors¹ (numbered 0-3).



¹If, despite our best efforts, the color choices here pose accessibility concerns, they may be edited in the `gridgame.py` file. Alternatively, please reach out to the instructors/TAs, and we will be happy to implement a different palette for you.

Your agent **must** interact with the environment using the `execute()` function called from within the `hw1.py` file, with the following argument options (passed as strings):

- `export`: returns the current state of the grid, a list of shapes with positions and colors currently placed on the grid, and a Boolean indicating whether the coloring constraints have been satisfied.
- `up/down/left/right`: move the brush in the specified direction by one cell. The brush starts in the top left corner of the grid when the program is executed.
- `place`: place a shape on the grid, i.e. color the cells covered by the brush in the currently selected brush color.
- `switchshape`: cycle to the next brush shape option.
- `switchcolor`: cycle to the next brush color option.
- `undo`: undo the last placed shape.

Running the `execute` function with any argument returns six items:

```
(shapePos, currentShapeIndex, currentColorIndex, grid, placedShapes, done)
```

i.e., the current location of the brush, the index of the current shape, the index of the current color, the updated state of the grid, a list of placed shapes, and a Boolean value indicating whether coloring constraints have been satisfied.

Your Task

Your goal is to build an AI agent that colors this grid using as few colors as possible, such that no two adjacent cells share the same color. Further, your goal is to achieve this coloring using as few shapes as possible - a larger brush may cover multiple cells, but counts as one shape. You may use any of the concepts we have discussed in class so far to implement your agent, but we highly recommend using a local search approach such as hill climbing, simulated annealing or genetic algorithms to get the most out of this assignment. Refer to `hw1.py` for implementation-specific instructions.

Recall that a local search may not always converge to the 'optimal' coloring; so this assignment is graded on correctness, rather than optimality. Any implementation which, on average, leads to a valid coloring of the grid within the autograder's time limits will receive full points. However, to incentivize optimized implementations, the student with the most optimal approach (in both runtime and number of brushes/colors used) will receive a small prize.

Environment Rules: Adjacent cells are defined as cells that share an edge between them (i.e., diagonally neighboring cells may share the same color, since they only share a vertex). If a brush partially or fully overlaps with an area of the grid that is already colored, the `execute` function with the `place` argument will fail, i.e. the colors in those cells will not be overwritten.

Assignment Rules: Any hardcoded solutions, or attempts to leverage the autograder's design to maximize points scored will result in an automatic zero on the assignment. Your agent **must** only use the `execute()` function to interact with the environment using its different arguments, and use its returned values to implement your objective function, or any validity check you may wish to use. Do not directly manipulate the `gridgame` variables - doing so will result in an automatic zero. Treating the environment as a black box (even when you know its internals) is a very important concept, and will serve you well in future assignments, as well as in your AI careers. Implementations must be optimized for good runtime - Gradescope has an autograder timeout of 10 minutes. Any submissions that do not finish executing in 10 minutes will be treated as incomplete, and will be evaluated for partial credit based on correctness.

Submission: Submit a zip file containing your completed `hw1.py` file, the provided `gridgame.py` file, and the `grid.txt`, `shapes.txt` and `time.txt` files produced in your working directory upon executing the homework script. Upload this zip file to Gradescope, and ensure the autograder runs as intended.