

Homework 3

ID2209

Distributed Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Agents

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Problem Statement

Implement the following using the JAVA Agent Development Framework (JADE) [1]

Task #1 M.A.S for solving the N-Queens problem where agents coordinate with each other to choose the right positions.

Task #2 M.A.S with mobile agents that can perform dutch auction in different places. Mobility in jade means in this context that agents have the possibility to move between containers.

N-Queens

Agent Design

The M.A.S for task #1 consists of only one agent-type, the **QueenAgent**. The **QueenAgent** is designed to be reactive and receiving messages from other agents, upon receipt of a message from another queen, the agent will compute a “safe” position on the board according to the following algorithm (randomness is used to be able to find different solutions to the same puzzle):

Algorithm 1 QueenAgent algorithm for selecting a slot on the board

Require:

B ▷ Board
 id ▷ Id of the agent
 T ▷ Safe positions on the current board that have already been tried

Ensure:

p is the selected safe position which have not previously been tried. If no safe position is found, $p = -1$.

procedure SELECT_SAFES_SLOT(B, id, T)

```
     $R \leftarrow \text{Shuffle}(B[id])$  ▷ random shuffle the row of possible positions
     $p \leftarrow -1$ 
    for  $r \in R$  do
         $i \leftarrow \text{indexOf}(r)$ 
        if  $\text{safeDiagonally}(i) \wedge \text{safeVertically}(i) \wedge \neg i \in T$  then
             $p \leftarrow i$ 
            break
        end if
    end for
end procedure
```

Society Design

Each **QueenAgent** will communicate with three agents:

- After selecting a slot on the board it will forward the board to the **QueenAgent** on the “next row” on the board. Also the agent can receive messages from the agent on the next row that indicates that it could not find a safe slot on the board and asks if this agent could change its position.
- If the agent cannot find a safe slot on the board it will send a message to the agent on the previous row on the board and ask it to change its position.
- The agent will interact with the **DirectoryFacilitator** to find the other **QueenAgents** participating in the puzzle

Mobile Agents

Agent Design

The **CuratorAgent** and **ArtistManagerAgent** in this scenario use the same behaviours as for Homework2 with few modifications:

- Both agents run a cyclic behaviour **ReceiveCommands** for receiving commands from a controller agent to do one of the following: (i) Move to a container (ii) clone itself (iii) kill itself
- Both agents use GUIs for interacting with the user and start/stopping auctions rather than the command-line as used in Homework2.
- The **ArtistManagerAgent** will run a cyclic behaviour **ClonesServer** for receiving auction results from clones. Consequently, after finishing an auction, if the **ArtistManagerAgent** is a clone and has a “parent”-agent, it will send the result to the parent.
- Auctions are run locally on containers, not globally on the platform.

The **ControllerAgent** and **ControllerGUI** is used more or less as-is from the example code at the tutorial [2] that the homework is based upon.

Society Design

The dutch auction interactions from Homework2 have been extended for intra-platform mobility where auctions are performed locally on containers instead of globally on platforms. Furthermore the results of auctions are forwarded by clones to parent-agents which will synthesize the results and present the best price from its point of view. The interactions between bidders and auctioneers in the actual auction is identical to the interactions presented in Homework2.

Conclusions

Extending simple agents to be intra-platform mobile allows for designing agents with further capabilities for acting autonomously. The agents for this homework were limited to mobility

within a single platform but the same design principles could be applied for inter-platform mobility if the underlying agent-architecture allows for it.

Attachments

Documented source code can be found in the attached zipfile. See README.MD in the root directory for instruction on how to execute and build the program.

References

- [1] Telecom Italia. Java agent development framework. <http://jade.tilab.com/>, 2016. [Online; accessed 11-Nov-2016].
- [2] Jean Vaucher and Ambroise Ncho. Jade tutorial and primer. <http://www.iro.umontreal.ca/~vaucher/Agents/Jade/JadePrimer.html>, 2003. [Online; accessed 26-Nov-2016].