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N-Queens problem formulation

The N-Queens problem is a NP-Complete problem. The problem is to find the arrangement of N queens on an NxN chess board, such that no queen can attack any other queens on the board. The chess queens can attack in any direction as horizontal, vertical, horizontal and diagonal way. The attacks can also be direct or indirect.

```
{ 0, 圈, 0, 0}
{ 0, 0, 0, 圈}
{ 圈, 0, 0, 0}
{ 0, 0, 圈, 0}
```

The above board represents a 4x4 board such that no queens attack each other. In our project, we have tried to use the column-wise movement, sideways movement method and also the Random restart methodologies to achieve the solution.

The Program structure

The programs for defining and generating the NxN chess board and also the other files which include the hill-climbing algorithms and the test cases are listed as below. All the functions are called inside of the main.py file which runs once the test cases are generated. The logic for hillclimbing is defined in the hill_climbing.py and the generated state is once again evaluated by the evaluate.py file. The subfolder test_files contains all the respective test cases that run before the User inputs the values for generating the N-Queens board.

hill-climbing-search

Hill climbing search is an optimization technique which belongs to category of Informed Search strategy. It is an iterative algorithm that starts with an arbitrary solution to a problem, then attempts to find a better solution by making incremental changes to the solution. If the increment produces a better solution, it proceeds with the incrementing until the best solution is found.

The steps involved in a Hill Climbing Search is as follows: - Evaluate the initial state, if it is goal state then return success and Stop - Loop Until a solution is found or there is no new operator left to apply - Select and apply an operator to the current state - Check new state: - - If it is goal state, then return success and quit - - If it is better than the current state then assign new state as a current state - - If not better than the current state, then proceed to the next loop or iteration until solution is found

Global Variables

In this project, we define few Global Variables that require input from the USER. We first ask the USER, if he wants to run a Evaluation on the 8-QUEENS puzzle or if he wants to run a *Hill Climibing Search* on a single matrix of values. We also let the USER input his own size for which the search has to be performed. In the Evaluation, we have a fixed amount of runs, i.e **100** and the number of **sideways_move** as mentioned in the lecture to be limited to **100**. The board size is also fixed to be a 8x8 board with **8 Queens**.

```
def run_evaluation():
    amount = 100
    sideways_amount = 25
    restarts = 25
    board_size = 8
    print("Running evaluation for 8-queens problem at,", amount,"unique cases")
    run_hill_climbing(amount, board_size)
    run_hill_climbing_sideways(amount, sideways_amount, board_size)
    run_hill_climbing_random_restart(amount, restarts, board_size)
    run_hill_climbing_random_restart_sideways(amount, restarts, board_size)
```

The Single run function is as defined below with several parameters that is required as input. We get the **size** of the board from USER and also the **number of restarts** that are required to find the solution:

```
def get_size_input():
    size = int(input("What is the size you want to test?:"))
    amount = int(input("How many restarts do you want to have?:"))
    run_hill_climbing_random_restart(1, amount, size)
```

Hill Climbing Implementation and Procedures

The Implementations of our Algorithms are divided as follows: We have the <code>generate_nxn.py</code> file which is used for generating the initial state of the board. We use the random library in the python modules and use it to generate the NxN board by placing queens in a random fashion, but making sure there is only one queen per column/per row. We later use the <code>generate_successors</code> method to generate the succesor states of the initial generated matrix.

Later we evaluate the same generated matrix with the methods that can be found in the evaluate.py file. The evaluation is done by counting the number of attacks that a Queen is vulnerable to in a row-wise, column-wise, diagonally as well as in the reverse diagonal manner. Based on this evaluation we do a Hill Climbing Search to get the next state and repeat the same until a state is acheived where no queens attack each other. We also define another method to generate_sideways_successors board in order to increase the rate of success. We also have the Random Restart method in the hill_climbing.py file. This file contains our main algorithm for performing the hill climbing search. We define a class create a Node and which additionally creates the additional nodes/states. The Random-restart hill climbing as defined in the method climb_random_restart takes in the number of restarts and the state of the board as the arguments. It is used for conducting a series of hill-climbing searches from randomly generated initial states with the number of restarts limit. If it reaches a limit then it means the solution could not be achieved. The random restart is again improvised with the climb_random_restart_sideways move available too.

The actual rate of success without sideways move is around 14%. Whereas with sideways included, the rate of success increases to 94%

Analysis:

Running evaluation for 8-queens problem at, 100 unique cases Running 100 case(s) for hill climbing Rate of success: 0.11 Rate of failure: 0.89 Average steps for success: 5.0 Average steps for failure: 4.033707865168539 Running 100 case(s) for sideways move with 25 steps Rate of success: 0.9 Rate of failure: 0.1 Average steps for success: 23.6 Average steps for failure: 65.9 Average steps for success sideways: 6.411111111111111 Running 100 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0 Average steps for success: 30.43 Average steps for failure: Unknown Average steps for success restarts: 5.13 Running 100 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts and sideways moves Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0 Average steps for success: 33.6 Average steps for failure: Unknown Average steps for success sideways: 6.08

Average steps for success restarts: 0.44

Running evaluation for 8-queens problem at, 200 unique cases

Running 200 case(s) for hill climbing

Rate of success: 0.19
Rate of failure: 0.81

Average steps for success: 5.157894736842105 Average steps for failure: 3.8950617283950617 Running 200 case(s) for sideways move with 25 steps

Rate of success: 0.9
Rate of failure: 0.1

Average steps for success: 25.05555555555557

Average steps for failure: 66.45

Average steps for success sideways: 7.0777777777775

Running 200 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts

Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0

Average steps for success: 32.33 Average steps for failure: Unknown

Average steps for success restarts: 5.61

Running 200 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts and sideways moves

Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0

Average steps for success: 35.735 Average steps for failure: Unknown

Average steps for success sideways: 6.915 Average steps for success restarts: 0.535 Running evaluation for 8-queens problem at, 300 unique cases

Running 300 case(s) for sideways move with 25 steps

Average steps for success: 23.72142857142857

Average steps for failure: 65.25

Average steps for success sideways: 6.560714285714286

Running 300 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts

Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0

Average steps for success: 34.27
Average steps for failure: Unknown

Average steps for success restarts: 6.08666666666667

Running 300 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts and sideways moves

Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0

Average steps for success: 36.163333333333334

Average steps for failure: Unknown

Average steps for success sideways: 6.89 Average steps for success restarts: 0.57

Running evaluation for 8-queens problem at, 400 unique cases

Running 400 case(s) for hill climbing

Rate of success: 0.1125 Rate of failure: 0.8875

Running 400 case(s) for sideways move with 25 steps

Rate of success: 0.9225 Rate of failure: 0.0775

Average steps for success: 24.905149051490515 Average steps for failure: 65.6774193548387

Average steps for success sideways: 6.91869918699187

Running 400 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts

Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0

Average steps for success: 31.6175 Average steps for failure: Unknown

Average steps for success restarts: 5.49

Running 400 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts and sideways moves

Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0

Average steps for success: 36.99 Average steps for failure: Unknown

Average steps for success sideways: 7.155 Average steps for success restarts: 0.58 Running evaluation for 8-queens problem at, 500 unique cases Running 500 case(s) for hill climbing Rate of success: 0.132 Rate of failure: 0.868 Average steps for success: 5.16666666666667 Average steps for failure: 4.0368663594470044 Running 500 case(s) for sideways move with 25 steps Rate of success: 0.928 Rate of failure: 0.072 Average steps for success: 24.29310344827586 Average steps for failure: 66.0555555555556 Average steps for success sideways: 6.762931034482759 Running 500 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0 Average steps for success: 32.468 Average steps for failure: Unknown Average steps for success restarts: 5.63 Running 500 case(s) for random restart move with 100 restarts and sideways moves Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0 Average steps for success: 36.072 Average steps for failure: Unknown Average steps for success sideways: 6.824 Average steps for success restarts: 0.554

Below is the results that were obtained with the hill climbing algorithm:

Hill Climbing Results

Running 100 cases for hill climbing
Rate of success: 0.15
Rate of failure: 0.85
Average steps for success: 5.0
Average steps for failure: 3.988235294117647

Sideways Move Results

```
Running 100 cases for sideways move with 25 steps
Rate of success: 0.88(This varies with every run, since it is at random)
Rate of failure: 0.12
Average steps for success: 22.5795454545453
Average steps for failure: 65.41666666666667
```

Random Restart Results

```
Running 100 cases for random restart move with 25 restarts
```

Rate of success: 0.99
Rate of failure: 0.01

Average steps for success: 30.363636363636363

Average steps for failure: 108.0

Results:

The number of steps taken for a hill climibing search for 25-Queens and the rate of success is given below:

Rate of success: 1.0 Rate of failure: 0.0 Average steps for success: 411.0

Hill Climbing search without Sideways moves for a 8-Queen puzzle

Running evaluation for 8-queens problem at, 100 unique cases Running 100 case(s) for hill climbing Moves for initial state: - - - Q - - - -Q - - - - - -- - - - - - - -- Q - - - - Q - - - - - - -- - - - Q - Q -- - - - Q - -- - Q - - - -Move: 1 - - - Q - - - -Q - - - - - -- - - Q - - -- Q - - - - Q - - - - - - -- - - - Q -- - - - Q - -- - Q - - - -Move: 2 - - - Q - - - -Q - - - - -- - - Q - - -- - - - - Q - Q - - - - -- - - - Q -- - - - Q - -- - Q - - - -Move: 3 - - - Q - - - -Q - - - - - -- - - Q - - -- - - - - Q - Q - - - - -- - - - Q -- - Q - - Q - -Move: 4 - - - Q - - - -Q - - - - - -- - - Q - - -

- - - - - Q

```
Moves for initial state:
- Q - - - - -
- - - - - Q
- - - - - - -
- - - - Q - Q -
- - - - - - -
- - - - - - -
Q - Q Q - Q - -
Move: 1
- Q - - - - -
- - - - - Q
- - - - - - - -
Q - - - - - -
- - - - Q - Q -
- - - - - - -
- - Q Q - Q - -
Move: 2
- Q - - - - -
- - - - - Q
- - - Q - - - -
Q - - - - - -
- - - Q - Q -
- - - - - - -
- - Q - - Q - -
Move: 3
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- - - - - Q
- - - Q - - - -
Q - - - - - -
- - - - Q - Q -
- Q - - - - -
- - - - - - -
- - Q - - Q - -
Move: 4
- - - Q - - -
- - - - - Q
- - - Q - - - -
Q - - - - - -
- - - - Q -
```

- Q - - - - -

| Moves for initial state: | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Q Q Q | | |
| Move: 2 Q Q Q | | |
| Move: 3 Q Q Q | | |

Moves for initial state: Q - - Q - - - -- Q - - - - -- - - - Q -- - Q - - - -- - - Q Q - -- - - - - - -- - - - - Q Move: 1 - - - Q - - - -- Q - - - - -- - - - Q -Q - - - - - -- - Q - - - -- - - Q Q - -- - - - - - -- - - - - Q Move: 2 - - - Q - - - -- - - - - - -- - - - Q -Q - - - - - -- - Q - - - -- - - Q Q - -- Q - - - - -- - - - - Q Move: 3 - - - Q - - - -- - - - - Q -Q - - - - - -- - Q - - - -- - - Q Q - -- Q - - - - -- - - - - Q Move: 4 - - - - Q - -- - - Q - - - -- - - - Q -Q - - - - - -- - Q - - - -

- - - Q - - -

- Q - - - - - - Q

Hill Climbing Search with Sideways Moves for a 8-Queen puzzle

Running 100 case(s) for sideways move with 25 steps Moves for initial state: - Q - - - Q - -- - - - - - -Q - - - Q - - -- - - - - - -- - - - Q -- - Q - - - -- - - Q - - - Q Move: 1 - - - - Q - -- - - - - - -Q - - - Q - - -- - - - - - -- - - - Q -- - Q - - - -- - - Q - - - Q - Q - - - - -Move: 2 - - - - Q - -Q - - - - - -- - - Q - - -- - - - - - -- - - - Q -- - Q - - - -- - - Q - - - Q - Q - - - - -Move: 3 - - Q - Q - -Q - - - - - -- - - Q - - -- - - - - - -- - - - Q -- - Q - - - -- - - - - Q - Q - - - - -Move: 4 - - - Q Q - - -Q - - - - -- - - - Q - -

- - - - - Q -

| | Q - ! - | - - - | - | - | - | - Q - |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mov | e: | į | 5 | | | |
| Q Q | - - - Q - | - - Q - - | Q - - - - | - Q - - | - - - Q - | - - - - Q |
| Mov | e: | (| 5 | | | |
| Q Q | Q | - - Q - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - | - - - Q - | - - - - Q |
| Mov | e: | - | 7 | | | |
| Q Q | - Q - | - - Q - - | Q - - - - | - Q - - - | - - Q - - | - - - - Q |
| Mov | e: | 8 | 3 | | | |
| Q | | - - Q - - | Q - - - - | - Q - - - | - - Q - | - - - - Q |
| Mov | e: | 9 | 9 | | | |

- - - Q - - -

| Q | | |
|----------|--|--|
| Q | | |
| Q | | |
| Q - | | |
| - Q | | |
| Q | | |
| Q | | |
| | | |
| Move: 10 | | |
| Q | | |
| | | |
| Q | | |
| Q | | |
| Q - | | |
| - Q - Q | | |
| Q | | |
| Q | | |
| | | |
| Move: 11 | | |
| Q | | |
| - Q | | |
| Q | | |
| Q | | |
| Q - | | |
| Q | | |
| Q | | |
| Q | | |
| | | |

| Moves for initial state: | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Q - Q Q - | |
| - Q Q Q | |
| | |
| | |
| Q | |
| | |
| Q | |
| | |
| Move: 1 | |
| | |
| Q - Q Q - | |
| Q Q | |
| | |
| - Q | |
| Q | |
| | |
| Q | |
| | |
| Maura 2 | |
| Move: 2 | |
| Q Q - | |
| Q Q | |
| | |
| - Q | |
| Q | |
| | |
| Q | |
| Q | |
| | |
| Move: 3 | |
| | |
| Q Q - | |
| Q | |
| | |
| - Q | |
| Q | |
| Q | |
| Q | |
| Q | |
| | |
| Move: 4 | |
| | |
| Q | |
| Q | |
| Q - | |
| - Q | |
| Q Q | |
| - - v | |

| - - | - Q | | - Q | - | - - | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Move: 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Q | Q - - Q | Q - | | - | - - - Q - | | | |
| Мо | ve: | 6 | | | | | | |
| Q | Q - - Q | | 5 - | Q - - - | - - - - Q - | | | |
| Мо | ve: | 7 | | | | | | |
| | Q - - Q | | | - - - | - - - - Q - | | | |
| Мо | ve: | 8 | | | | | | |
| - - - Q - - | Q Q | - (Q - |) - | - Q - | - - - - Q - | | | |
| Мо | ve: | 9 | | | | | | |
| - - | Q - | - (| 2 - | - | - | | | |

| Q | - Q Q - | - · | - Q Q - | - - Q - |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Move - Q Q - | | 10 - - | | - |
| Q - | Q | - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | - Q Q - | - - - Q - |
| Move | : í | 11 | | |
| Q Q Q | - Q Q - | - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | - Q Q - | - - - Q - |
| Move | :: 1 | 12 | | |
| Q Q | - Q Q - | - (Q | Q - - Q | - - - Q - |
| Move | :: : | 13 | | |
| Q Q | - Q Q - | - | Q - - Q | - Q - - - |

| Move | : 14 | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Q Q (| Q Q | Q - - - - | - - - Q - | Q - - - - |
| Move | : 15 | | | |
| Q Q (| Q Q - Q | Q - - - - - | - - - Q - | - - Q - - |
| Move | : 16 | | | |
| | Q Q - Q - | Q - - - - - | - - - Q - | - - Q - - |
| Move | : 17 | | | |
| | Q Q Q Q | - | - - - Q - | - - Q - - |
| Move | : 18 | | | |
| Q | Q - Q - | - | - - - - | - - - Q |

| Q - | - Q | - | - | - - | - | - | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Mov | /e: | 1 | L9 | | | | |
| - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Q - - Q | - - - Q - - | - Q - - | _ | - - - Q - | - - - | |
| Mov | /e: | 2 | 20 | | | | |
| - (- (Q | Q | - - - Q - | - Q - - - | - - - Q - | Q - - - - | - Q - - - | |
| Mov | /e: | 2 | 21 | | | | |
| - (| Q - | - - - Q - - | - Q - - - | - - - Q - | - | - Q - - - - | |
| Move: 22 | | | | | | | |
| | | - - - Q - - | - Q - - - | Q - - - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - - | |
| Mov | /e: | 2 | 23 | | | | |

- - - - Q - -

| Q Q - Q - | | | - - - - | - - - Q - | Q - - - - |
|------------------------|----|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Move | ≘: | 24 | | | |
| Q Q - | | Q | - Q - - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - - |
| Move | ≘: | 25 | | | |
| Q - - Q | | Q | - Q - - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - - |
| Move | 2: | 26 | | | |
| Q - - Q | | Q | - Q - - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - - |
| Move | 2: | 27 | | | |
| Q Q | | Q | - Q - - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - |

| Мс | ; | 28 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| - - Q - | Q Q | - - - - Q | Q - - - - | - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - | | |
| Move: 29 | | | | | | | | |
| Q - - - - | Q Q | - - - - Q | Q - - - - | - Q - - | - - - Q - | - Q | | |
| Мс | ove: | : | 30 | | | | | |
| Q - - - - - | Q Q | Q ! - | - | Q | - - - Q - | - Q | | |
| Мс | ve: | | 31 | | | | | |
| Q - - - - - | Q - | - - Q | - Q - - | - Q - - - | Q - | - Q | | |
| Мс | ove: | : | 32 | | | | | |
| Q - - | | - - - | - | - | - - - | - Q - | | |

| Mo | Q - - Q ve: | | 33 | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| | Q - Q ve: | | | - Q - - - | - - Q - - | - Q - - - - |
| | - Q Q - | | | - Q - - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - |
| Q | ve: Q Q | | | - Q - - | - - Q - - | - Q - - - |
| Mo | ve: | 3 | 36 | | | |
| Q | - Q | - - - - Q | Q - - - - | - Q - - | - - - - Q | - Q - - - |

Move: 37

| - - - - - Q | - - - | Q - Q - | Q | - Q - | Q | - Q - - - |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Мо | ove | : | 38 | | | |
| - - - - - - Q | - | Q - Q - | Q - - - - | - Q - - | - - Q - - | - Q - - - - |
| Мо | ove | : | 39 | | | |
| - - - - - Q | - | Q - - Q | Q | - Q - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - - |
| Move: 40 | | | | | | |
| - - - - - Q | - | - Q Q - | - | - Q - - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - - |
| Mo | ove | : | 41 | | | |
| - - - - | - - - - Q | - Q Q - | - - - - Q | - - - Q - | - - - Q - | - Q - - - |

```
Move: 42
- - - Q - - - -
- - - - - Q
- - - - - Q -
- - Q - - - -
- - - - Q - -
- Q - - - - -
- - - Q - - -
Q - - - - - -
Move: 43
- - - Q - - - -
- - - - - Q
- - Q - - - -
- - - - Q -
- - - - Q - -
- Q - - - - -
- - - Q - - -
Q - - - - - -
Move: 44
- - - Q - - - -
- - - - - Q
- - Q - - - -
- - - - - - -
- - - - Q - -
- Q - - - - -
- - - Q - - -
Q - - - - Q -
Move: 45
- - - - - Q -
- - - - - Q
- - Q - - - -
- - - - Q - -
- Q - - - - -
- - - Q - - -
Q - - Q - - - -
Move: 46
- - - Q - - Q -
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- - Q - - - -
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Q - - - - - -

| - Q - | | | | | | | | |
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| Move: 47 | | | | | | | | |
| | Q Q Q | | | | | | | |
| Move: | 48 | | | | | | | |
| Q - Q - | Q | | | | | | | |
| Move: | 49 | | | | | | | |
| | Q | | | | | | | |
| Move: | 50 | | | | | | | |
| Q - Q - Q - Q | Q Q | | | | | | | |

Move: 51

| - | - | - | Q | - | - | - | - |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Q |
| - | - | Q | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | Q | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | Q | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | Q | - | - | - |
| Q | - | - | - | - | Q | - | - |

Move: 52

Move: 53

Move: 54

Move: 55

| _ Q | | - | Q - | - - | - | - | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Mo | Move: 56 | | | | | | | | |
| - - - (| - Q Q - | - Q - - - | - - - - Q | - - - - Q | - - Q - - | - Q - - - - | | | |
| Mo | ve: | | | | | | | | |
| - - - - | - Q Q - | - - Q - - | - - - - Q | - - - - Q | - Q - - - | - Q - - - | | | |
| Mo | ve: | 5 | 8 | | | | | | |
| - | - Q Q - | - - Q - - | - - - - Q | - | - Q - - - | - Q - - - | | | |
| Mo | ve: | 5 | 59 | | | | | | |
| | - Q Q - | - - Q - - | - - - Q - - | - - - - Q | - Q - - - | - Q - - - | | | |
| Mo | ve: | 6 | 50 | | | | | | |
| <u>-</u> | - Q | | - Q | - | - | - Q | | | |

| - Q - Q | Q - Q Q - |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Move: | 61 |
| Q Q - Q - - Q - | Q - Q - Q |
| Move: | 62 |
| Q Q - Q - | Q - Q Q - Q |
| Move: | 63 |
| Q Q - Q - - Q - | Q - Q - Q |
| Move: | 64 |
| Q Q - Q - | Q Q Q Q Q Q |

| Move | : | 65 | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Q Q | Q - - Q | ! - | Q - - - - | - Q - - - | - Q |
| Move Q Q - | | 66 - - - Q - | Q - - - - | - Q - - | - Q - - - |
| Move Q Q Q | Q - - Q | | Q | - Q - - | - Q |
| Q Q Q | Q | - - - - Q | Q - - - - | - Q - - | - - - Q - - |
| Q - | Q - | - - - | Q - - | - - Q - | - - - |

Q

| - Q | |
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```

References and Citations:

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