## Introduction to AI – Spring 2017 Assignment 2

It has long been the tradition in many introductory AI courses that the final project is an implementation of chess. However, given the large amount of methods for chess playing agents – lets took at a more interesting game. Quoridor, is a two player game (also there is a four player version, but we will assume for now only two), played on a 9x9 board. Each player has a pawn representing their location on the board, and starting position is the back row of their side in the middle, and 10 walls which measure 2 squares and are placed in one of the locations on the board between squares. Both players, first player chosen at random, take turns making one of two types of moves:

- 1. Move a pawn: up, down, left, right. If the move takes it onto the opposing pawn, then the pawn may "hop" over the opposing pawn in the same direction. If this hop is blocked by a wall segment, then it may hop to the left or right of the opposing pawn to an open square.
- 2. Place one of their remaining wall tiles, such that:
  - a. A Wall title does not intersect with another wall tile
  - b. A Wall title does not go beyond the edges of the board
  - c. That there exists a path from both pawns to the opposition's back row after the placement of the wall

A player without any remaining wall titles may only move.

The goal of the game is to move your pawn to the back row of the opponent – the first player to do so wins the game. See below for a copy of the rules in Russian to clear up any confusions.

Part 1: What is the PEAS for a Quorior playing agent and where does it fit in the task environment, justify your answer.

Part 2: Implement a min-max game tree agent which looks X plys (moves) in the game deep, X set by the user.

Part 3: Add to your above method an alpha-beta pruning step, which looks X plys (moves) in the game deep, X set by the user.

Part 4: Implement Monte Carlo Tree Search for the game – use the UCT choice method, allow the user to set the parameters.

Part 5: Play each of your methods against each other and itself, giving each of the methods roughly equal processing resources, form a matrix of 30+ games played between them. Which method is the best player – is there one which is best in all cases? Was playing it against itself likely to produce a tie? Explain your findings.

## Submission:

Source code and report to be emailed to Munir by no later than April 7, 2017 at 6pm. No late submissions accepted, there will be no grace period.

