

Mandatory Assignment 2 - MGA

AI and IOT Student

by

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1 Introduction

In this assignment given by the university we are tasked to colour a graph with two colours, black and white. This task, similar to the one shown in class, is to find the optimal pattern such that each colour is different from its connected vertices. In this graph we are meant to use 16 vertices and to choose the edges between the different vertices ourselves. These vertices are then coloured based on what is called the genetic algorithm, with a population of 4 individuals.

The given steps introduced to us by the assignment is first to find a random reduction method that reduces the problem from 16 vertices to 8 vertices and finally to 4 vertices. The second step that is introduced is to use the genetic algorithm for the problem with 4 vertices, and further explain the results of using two generations, as an example. This is done with a two-point crossover, and since it is a genetic algorithm we have decided to use mutation in our implementation. The third step introduced is to use the solution with the 4 vertices to solve the initial solution for the problem with 8 vertices. The fourth and last step was to use the solution from 8 vertices to solve the initial problem for 16 vertices. This then shows that the reduction of a problem could be utilized to simplify a optimization or problem.

The last part of this rapport will contain a short discussion on how we could implement our genetic algorithm differently and some difficulties we encountered during our implementation.

2 Theoretical background

2.1 Genetic algorithm

According to the paper "Genetic Algorithm [1]" by Tom V. Mathew, the Genetic Algorithms (GAs) are computational models inspired by natural evolution, leveraging mechanisms such as selection, crossover, and mutation to solve optimization problems. They operate on a population of potential solutions, encoded as chromosomes, to evolve increasingly fit solutions over generations. The process involves evaluating the fitness of each solution, selecting the fittest individuals for reproduction, and applying genetic operators to introduce variation. This population-based approach allows GAs to efficiently explore and exploit complex search spaces, making them versatile for a wide range of applications, from numerical optimization to machine learning and beyond. The success of GAs lies in their ability to balance exploration of the search space with the exploitation of high-fitness solutions, adapting to various problem domains without the need for gradient information or specific domain knowledge.

2.2 The colouring problem

According to the paper "Genetic algorithm for black and white colouring problem on graphs [2]" the colouring problem involves assigning colours to the vertices of a graph such that no two adjacent vertices share the same colour. In their study on the Black and White Colouring problem (BWC) within graph theory. The authors explore the effectiveness of genetic algorithms compared to the traditional Tabú Search method. They focus on a specialized case of the Graph Anti-Colouring Problem (GAC), aiming to maximize the number of vertices that do not neighbor black vertices. By employing genetic algorithms with parameters fine-tuned through the irace tool, they demonstrate that these algorithms can outperform or match the state-of-the-art solutions in most tested instances. This finding underscores the potential of genetic algorithms as a powerful and flexible tool for solving complex optimization problems in graph theory, offering a simpler implementation and comparable, if not superior, performance to existing methods.

3 Implementation

The following chapter explains our implementation of the assignment and how we have approached some of its issues.

3.1 Principal

The principle implementations we followed was to first initiate a set of 16 vertices and its corresponding edges. We choose a circular pattern as our static test, while also testing some random patterns produced by one of our functions. For demonstration purposes we will focus on the circular pattern of vertices and edges. After initialisation of the vertices we reduced the problem from 16 to 8 vertices by randomly making a set of vertices that where connected to each other. This was done ones more to reduce the problem domain down to 4 vertices as described in our assignment.

After reduction we evaluated fitness of the possible parents and then used a two-point crossover with mutation for a set amount of generations, in the case of our assignment it was 2 generations. After the crossover we check the fitness of both the parents and the children to find the current most optimal solution. Note this might not be a global maxima, but a local. With this we now have a solution for our 4 vertices problem which we use to initiate back to our 8 vertices problem. There are multiple ways of mapping the reduced 4 vertices solution to the full 8 vertices solution, however we decided to fill the unmapped vertices with Black ('B'). Initially filling the full solution with black ('B') serves the purpose of ensuring that vertices not included in the reduced solution (those that were not part of the optimization process) have a default value. This filled solution is then introduced to the next genetic algorithm with 8 vertices and this happens ones more for the 16 vertices problem.

After the last genetic algorithm of the 16 vertices problem we have a optimized solution, to ensure a global maxima we would like to do more generations, and have a early stop when the fitness is fulfilled.

3.2 Explanation of code

In our code we uses three primary classes, which is a graph class, a visualize graph class and lastly a genetic algorithm class. The graph class is used to represent the graph information in this assignment such as the vertices and its edges. The visualize graph class is used as a way to represent our graph and solution visually.

Lastly is our genetic algorithm class which contain the functions generate_initial_population, fitness, select, two_point_crossover, mutate, run, reduce_graph, and expand_solution.

Generate_initial_population function generates an initial population for the genetic algorithm by creating a list of random 'B' (black) and 'W' (white) colour assignments for each vertex in the graph, doing so for a specified number of individuals (population size) as shown in figure 1.

```
1 usage
def generate_initial_population(self):
    return [[random.choice(['B', 'W']) for _ in range(self.graph.num_vertices)] for _ in range(self.population_size)]
```

Figur 1: Generate_initial_population

The fitness function calculates the fitness of an individual solution by counting the number of edges in the graph that connect vertices of different colours, as shown in figure 2

```
2 usages
def fitness(self, individual):
    return sum(1 for u, v in self.graph.get_edges() if individual[u] != individual[v])
```

Figur 2: fitness function

The select function selects the top two fittest individuals from the population by sorting all individuals in descending order based on their fitness (calculated via the fitness method) and then picking the first two from this sorted list, as shown in figure 3.

```
1 usage
def select(self):
    return sorted(self.population, key=self.fitness, reverse=True)[:2]
```

Figur 3: select function

The two_point_crossover function performs a two-point crossover between two parent solutions by randomly selecting two points within the solutions and swapping the segments between these points to create two new child solutions as shown in figure 4.

Figur 4: two-point crossover

The mutate function mutates an individual solution by randomly flipping each gene (color) from 'B' to 'W' or vice versa with a specified probability (mutation_rate), as shown in figure 5.

```
2 usages
def mutate(self, individual, mutation_rate=0.1):
    return [gene if random.random() > mutation_rate else 'B' if gene == 'W' else 'W' for gene in individual]
```

Figur 5: mutate function

The run function executes the genetic algorithm over a specified number of generations, potentially starting with an initial population. It ensures the initial population fits the graph size, then iteratively selects the fittest individuals, generates offspring through crossover and mutation, and updates the population with these offspring, aiming to improve overall fitness. Finally, it returns the best solution found after all generations have been processed, as shown in figure 6.

```
def run(self, generations=10, initial_population=None):
    if initial_population is not None:
        # Ensuring that the initial_population matches the graph size
        self.population[0] = initial_population[:self.graph.num_vertices]
    for in range(1, self.population[size):
        self.population[1] = self.population[i][:self.graph.num_vertices]

for generation in range(generations):
    print(f"Generation {generation + 1}:")
    # Show the current population's solutions and their fitness scores
    for i, individual in enumerate(self.population):
        print(f" Solution {i + 1}: {individual}, Fitness: {self.fitness(individual)}")

# Selection
    selected = self.select()
    print(f" Selected parents for crossover:", selected)

# Generate offspring
    offspring = []
    for _ in range(self.population_size // 2):
        child1, child2 = self.two_point_crossover(*selected)
        print(f" Children of generation + 1}: {child1}: {child2}: ")

# Nutation
        child1 = self.mutate(child1, inutation_rate 0.01)[:self.graph.num_vertices]
        child2 = self.mutate(child2, inutation_rate 0.01)[:self.graph.num_vertices]
        child2 = self.mutate(child2)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child3)
        offspring.append(child2)
        offspring.append(child3)
        offspring.append(child3)
```

Figur 6: genetic algorithm function

The reduce_graph function reduces a larger graph to a smaller graph with a specified number of vertices by randomly selecting a subset of vertices and then remapping and retaining the connected edges that exist between these selected vertices, effectively creating a simplified version of the original graph, as shown in figure 7.

Figur 7: reduce graph function

The expand_solution function expands a solution from a reduced graph back to the original graph's size by initializing a solution array with a default colour ('B') for all vertices, and then updates this array with the colours from the reduced solution, mapping these colours to their corresponding vertices in the original graph based on previously selected indices.

Before initialization of the population we create the patterns that connects the vertices, by either adding in a random edge pattern or a general circular pattern, as shown in the figure 8

Figur 8: create edge patterns

These functions together is then used to optimize the coloring problem.

3.3 Result of optimization

The results of our optimization was promising, to demonstrate as said in the assignment we will be using an example of two generations to explain the process. The first part of our results was the first generation from the 4 vertices problem which resulted in the output shown in figure 9. The best solution gave us a fitness of 2 which indicates a degree of 2 different edges in our subset. Which just means that we had two correct edges of the black and white colouring.

```
[['W', 'W', 'B', 'B'], ['W', 'B', 'B', 'W'], ['B', 'B', 'W', 'B'], ['B', 'B', 'B', 'W']]
Generation 1:
   Solution 1: ['W', 'W', 'B', 'B'], Fitness: 1
   Solution 2: ['W', 'B', 'B', 'W'], Fitness: 2
   Solution 3: ['B', 'B', 'W', 'B'], Fitness: 2
   Solution 4: ['B', 'B', 'B', 'W'], Fitness: 1
   Selected parents for crossover: [['W', 'B', 'B', 'W'], ['B', 'B', 'W', 'B']]
  Children of gen 1: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'W']: ['B', 'B', 'B', 'B']
  Children of Generation 1: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'W'], Fitness: 2
```

Figur 9: 4 vertices problem first generation

Following this we introduced the new child as a possible parent and started our second generation which resulted in the following result shown in figure 10. The result shows a fitness of two as well, much like our first generation.

```
Generation 2:

Solution 1: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'W'], Fitness: 2

Solution 2: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'W'], Fitness: 2

Solution 3: ['B', 'B', 'B', 'B'], Fitness: 0

Solution 4: ['B', 'B', 'B', 'B'], Fitness: 0

Selected parents for crossover: [['W', 'B', 'W', 'W'], ['W', 'B', 'W', 'W']]

Children of gen 2: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'W']: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'W']

Best Solution of Generation 2: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'W'], Fitness: 2
```

Figur 10: 4 vertices problem second generation

After finding a solution to the 4 vertices problem with two generations the process moves further on to the 8 vertices problem, where it introduces a expanded solution from the 4

vertices problem as a possible parent to the first generation. The result of the first generation is shown below in figure 11. As we can see in the figure, the past 4 vertices solution was not chosen as a parent for this generation, but the fitness from the child seemed promising as it is shown to be 7.

Figur 11: 8 vertices problem first generation

Further on in the algorithm the child with fitness 7 is introduced as a possible parent to the next generation, and we can see that it has been selected as a parent in our second generation shown in figure 12. However it did not yield any better result than its parents and the child from the first generation is chosen as the solution for the 8 vertices problem.

```
Generation 2:

Solution 1: ['B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W'], Fitness: 7

Solution 2: ['W', 'B', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W'], Fitness: 6

Solution 3: ['B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'W', 'W', 'W'], Fitness: 3

Solution 4: ['W', 'B', 'B', 'W', 'W', 'W', 'W', 'W'], Fitness: 2

Selected parents for crossover: [['B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W'], ['W', 'B', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W']]

Children of gen 2: ['B', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W']: ['W', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W']

Best Solution of Generation 2: ['B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W'], Fitness: 7
```

Figur 12: 8 vertices problem second generation

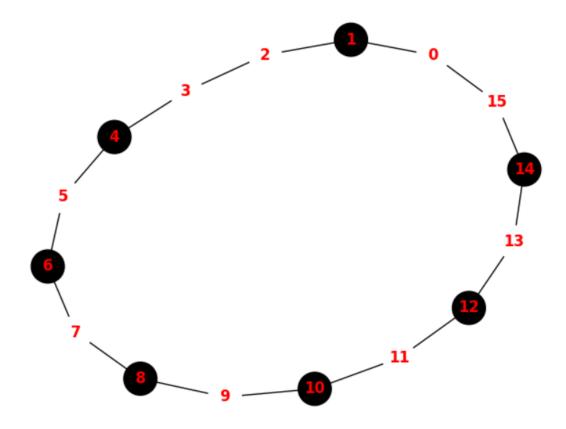
The expanded solution from the 8 vertices problem is now finally introduced into the original 16 vertices problem as a potential parent. Following this introduction the process is still the same as the previous genetic algorithms and the result from our first generation is shown in figure 13. We can here see that the previous solution is chosen as a parent together with a high fitness individual that have 12 in fitness. They together make a child that results in 14 total fitness.

Figur 13: 16 vertices problem first generation

This child with the fitness 14 is then introduced as a parent to the second generation, and the result is shown below in figure 14. The child did not introduce a better fitness result so the final solution to the 16 vertices problem with two generations become a fitness of 14.

Figur 14: 16 vertices problem second generation

The visualisation of the final result from the 16 vertices is shown in figure 15



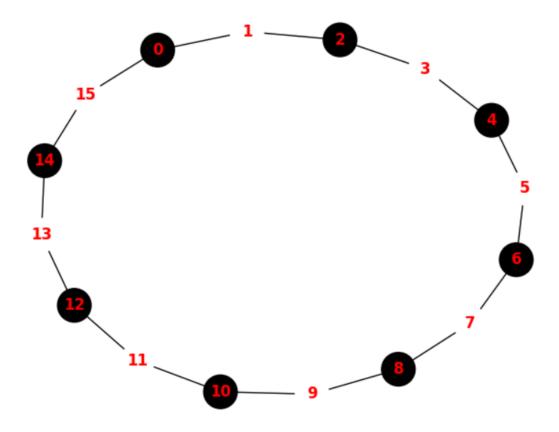
Figur 15: illustration of 16 vertices with 14 fitness

3.3.1 Addition of generations

Further to test our genetic algorithm we decided to add up to 100 generations in each run, giving us the most optimal solution to our problem which is shown in figure 16, and illustrated in figure 17.

```
8-vertex solution: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B']
16-vertex solution: ['W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B', 'W', 'B']
```

Figur 16: 16 vertices with 100 generations



Figur 17: illustration of 16 vertices with 100 generations

This also shows that the usage of 2 generation was too little in our case to find the global maxima, but we found it with a 100 generations.

4 Discussion

4.1 Filling of the unmapped vertices

In our project we decided to expand our solution by appending the optimal solution from the previous vertices problem with all black vertices. This decision was done to demonstrate more of the algorithm it self rather than other strategies, however there is other strategies we could have used to improve our results. Examples of some strategies we could have used would be copy solution, two-way solution, random filling with proportional distribution, and nearest neighbor pattern.

The copy solution strategy would be to add the the solution to itself ones more, this would be if we expected a repeating pattern to occur as our solutions. The two-way solution would be to take the two with most fitness among the solutions to be added together, this would in our case make a better solution instead of our black filling's it would shorten the amount of generations needed to optimise. A random filling with proportional distribution would be to introduce a random filling of the unmapped vertices with a set distribution. This could be based on the distributions of black and white in the solution to be filled or some other distribution. The last strategy we considered was the nearest neighbor pattern, which would be to look at a end set of the solution to be expanded and then copy its patterns. This method could also be used if you expect there to be a repetitive based pattern as an optimised solution. However despite this possible strategies we chose to take the simplest one which was filling with a uniform color, black.

4.2 Estimated amount of generations needed

In our implementation chapter we demonstrated the result with two generation, this showed to be a good optimisation, but not a global maxima such as our 100 generation result, which had the maximum amount of fitness it could have. This raises the question how many generations would you need to reach a global maxima and there is no definitive answer, but we observed that the more generations that was added the better result we got. Following this we also observed that it would often be optimised with 50 generations, but with fewer it would often struggle to reach the maximum fitness for the model.

5 Conclusion

As a conclusion we have created a program that uses genetic algorithms to find an effective way to colour graphs, making it easier to solve big graph problems. Our program starts with a bunch of random solutions, picks the best ones, and mixes them, using two-point crossover, to get better solutions over generations. We improved it by breaking down big graphs into smaller pieces, solving the smaller problem first, and then applying that solution to the big graph again. This way, we don't have to work as hard on the big problem all at once. We also thought about different ways to decide on the colours for expanding our solution to the initial problem domain. Overall, our program is a good optimisation algorithm for tackling the tricky task of graph colouring, showing how genetic algorithms can be used to get optimised answers to semi tough problems.

Referanser

- [1] Tom V Mathew. «Genetic algorithm». I: Report submitted at IIT Bombay 53 (2012).
- [2] Luis Eduardo Urbán Rivero, Javier Ramírez Rodríguez og Rafael López Bracho. «Genetic algorithm for black and white coloring problem on graphs». I: *Programación matemática y software* 10.1 (2018), s. 17–23.

6 Code used:

Listing 1: Python code for GA

```
import multiprocessing
  import random
  import itertools
  from multiprocessing import Pool
  from collections import deque
  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
  import networkx as nx
10
  def visualize_graph(graph, solution):
14
      G = nx.Graph()
15
      G.add_edges_from(graph.get_edges())
16
      # Add nodes explicitly based on the solution list
      G.add_nodes_from(range(1, len(solution) + 1))
20
      # Check if there's an extra node and remove it
      if len(G.nodes()) > len(solution):
          # Identify the extra node. Assuming it's the highest-
              numbered node
          extra_node = max(G.nodes())
24
          # Remove the extra node
          G.remove_node(extra_node)
26
      # Adjust color_map creation to account for the solution list
      color_map = ['black' if solution[node - 1] == 'B' else '
          white' for node in G.nodes()]
30
      # Draw the graph
31
      nx.draw(G, with_labels=True, node_color=color_map, node_size
32
          =700, font_weight='bold', font_color='red')
      plt.show()
34
```

```
class Graph:
36
      def __init__(self, num_vertices):
           self.num_vertices = num_vertices
38
           self.edges = {i: set() for i in range(num_vertices)}
      def add_edge(self, u, v):
41
           if u != v and u < self.num_vertices and v < self.</pre>
              num_vertices:
               self.edges[u].add(v)
43
               self.edges[v].add(u)
      def get_edges(self):
           return [(u, v) for u in range(self.num_vertices) for v
              in self.edges[u] if u < v]</pre>
48
51
  class GeneticAlgorithm:
52
      def __init__(self, graph, population_size=4):
53
           self.graph = graph
           self.population_size = population_size
           self.population = self.generate_initial_population()
      def generate_initial_population(self):
58
           return [[random.choice(['B', 'W']) for _ in range(self.
              graph.num_vertices)] for _ in range(self.
              population_size)]
      def fitness(self, individual):
61
           return sum(1 for u, v in self.graph.get_edges() if
63
              individual[u] != individual[v])
      def select(self):
           return sorted(self.population, key=self.fitness, reverse
              =True)[:2]
67
      def two_point_crossover(self, parent1, parent2):
68
           point1, point2 = sorted(random.sample(range(self.graph.
              num_vertices), 2))
```

```
child1 = parent1[:point1] + parent2[point1:point2] +
70
              parent1[point2:]
          child2 = parent2[:point1] + parent1[point1:point2] +
              parent2[point2:]
          return child1, child2
      def mutate(self, individual, mutation_rate=0.1):
          return [gene if random.random() > mutation_rate else 'B'
               if gene == 'W' else 'W' for gene in individual]
      def run(self, generations=10, initial_population=None):
           if initial_population is not None:
               # Ensuring that the initial population matches the
80
                  graph size
               self.population[0] = initial_population[:self.graph.
81
                  num_vertices]
               for i in range(1, self.population_size):
82
                   self.population[i] = self.population[i][:self.
                      graph.num_vertices]
84
          for generation in range(generations):
               #print(f"Generation {generation + 1}:")
               # Show the current population's solutions and their
                  fitness scores
               #for i, individual in enumerate(self.population):
88
                    print(f" Solution {i + 1}: {individual},
                  Fitness: {self.fitness(individual)}")
               # Selection
               selected = self.select()
91
               #print(" Selected parents for crossover:", selected
92
               # Generate offspring
93
               offspring = []
               for _ in range(self.population_size // 2):
95
                   child1, child2 = self.two_point_crossover(*
                      selected)
                   #print(f" Children of gen {generation + 1}: {
97
                      child1}: {child2} ")
                   # Mutation
```

```
child1 = self.mutate(child1, 0.01)[:self.graph.
99
                       num_vertices1
                    child2 = self.mutate(child2, 0.01)[:self.graph.
100
                       num_vertices]
                    offspring.append(child1)
                    offspring.append(child2)
102
               # Updating the population with offspring
103
               self.population = sorted(offspring, key=self.fitness
104
                   , reverse=True)
               best_solution = self.population[0]
105
               #print(f" Best Solution of Generation {generation +
                    1}: {best_solution}, Fitness: {self.fitness(
                   best_solution) \ \ n")
           return self.population[0]
107
108
109
   def reduce_graph(graph, target_vertices):
111
       new_graph = Graph(target_vertices)
       # Randomly choose a starting vertex
       start_vertex = random.choice(list(range(graph.num_vertices))
114
       visited = set([start_vertex]) # Initialize visited with the
115
           start vertex
       queue = deque([start_vertex])
116
       # BFS to collect connected vertices up to target_vertices
       while queue and len(visited) < target_vertices:</pre>
119
           current_vertex = queue.popleft()
           neighbors = list(graph.edges[current_vertex])
              neighbors, adjust based on your Graph class
               implementation
           random.shuffle(neighbors) # Shuffle neighbors to ensure
122
               randomness in selection
           for neighbor in neighbors:
124
               if neighbor not in visited: # Check if the neighbor
125
                    has not been visited
                    visited.add(neighbor) # Mark the neighbor as
126
                       visited
                    queue.append(neighbor) # Add to queue for BFS
```

```
if len(visited) == target_vertices: # Stop if
128
                        we reach the desired number of vertices
                        break
129
130
       # Build the new reduced graph
       old_vertex_indices = list(visited)
132
       old_to_new_indices = {old_index: i for i, old_index in
          enumerate(old_vertex_indices)}
134
       for u in old_vertex_indices:
135
            for v in graph.edges[u]:
136
                if v in old_vertex_indices: # Ensure both vertices
                   are in the selected subset
                    new_u = old_to_new_indices[u]
138
                    new_v = old_to_new_indices[v]
139
                    new_graph.add_edge(new_u, new_v) # Add edge to
140
                       the new graph
141
       return new_graph, old_vertex_indices
142
143
144
   def expand_solution(reduced_solution, old_vertex_indices,
      num_vertices):
       full_solution = ['B'] * num_vertices
147
       for new_index, color in enumerate(reduced_solution):
148
           old_index = old_vertex_indices[new_index]
149
            full_solution[old_index] = color
150
       return full_solution
151
152
   def main():
       circle = True
154
       # Create the initial 16-vertex graph and add edges
155
       graph_16 = Graph(16)
157
158
       if not circle:
159
           # Add edges -
160
           for i in range(16):
161
                for j in range(i+1, 16):
```

```
if random.random() < 0.3: # Randomly create</pre>
163
                       edges with 30% probability
                        graph_16.add_edge(i, j)
164
165
       if circle:
            graph_16 = Graph(16)
167
168
           for i in range(16):
169
                graph_16.add_edge(i, (i + 1) % 16)
170
       # Reduce graph from 16 to 8 vertices
       graph_8, indices_16_to_8 = reduce_graph(graph_16, 8)
174
       print(graph_8.edges)
176
       # Further reduce graph from 8 to 4 vertices
177
       graph_4, indices_8_to_4 = reduce_graph(graph_8, 4)
       print(graph_4.edges)
179
180
       # Apply GA to 4-vertex graph
181
       ga_4 = GeneticAlgorithm(graph_4)
182
       print(ga_4.population)
       solution_4 = ga_4.run(generations=100)
       print("4-vertex solution:", solution_4)
186
187
       # Expand solution from 4 to 8 vertices
188
       solution_8_initial = expand_solution(solution_4,
189
          indices_8_to_4, 8)
190
       # Apply GA to 8-vertex graph with initial solution
191
       ga_8 = GeneticAlgorithm(graph_8)
192
       solution_8 = ga_8.run(generations=100, initial_population=
193
           solution_8_initial)
       print("8-vertex solution:", solution_8)
194
       # Expand solution from 8 to 16 vertices
196
       solution_16_initial = expand_solution(solution_8,
197
          indices_16_to_8, 16)
       # Apply GA to 16-vertex graph with initial solution
```