Maintenance

Explanation of modular structure of code + file structure + proof read

# System overview

The system created allows a user to see how the behaviour of ants is effected by their characteristics.

## Simulation

The simulation is a simulation of ants. There are three types of ants in the simulation

* Worker ants – These ants find and collect food to feed their nest
* Soldier ants – These ants guard their nests as well as the worker ants and food sources. They are also responsible for attacking other species of ants.
* Queen ants – These are responsible creating new nests

All ants in the simulation inherit from the Ant class. Every ant in the simulation belongs to a species. An ant’s species determines its characteristics such as how fast the ant can move or how far the ant can see. Multiple ants can have the same species, ants with the same species will not fight each other. A species has a chance of being mutated when a queen is born. This means that all ants born from the nest which the queen creates will inherit the new mutated species. A mutation is the change of a single characteristics value of a particular species. Every species has its own unique colour so that species can be easily distinguished in the simulation. An ant nest is created by a queen ant in the simulation. Every nest belongs to a single species, multiple nests can belong to the same spices. Nests are responsible for reproducing new ants, to do this the nest must have a certain amount of health. Each ant costs a particular amount of health, this amount is a characteristic of the species. Ants with more health will be able to survive for longer than ants with less health. The amount of health an ant reduces each tick by a fixed amount (Ant.healthRate or Nest.healthRate). Health can be replenished by eating food, when ants are hungry they will find food and eat it. However the nest cannot collect food and requires worker ants to bring it back food that they find. Food in the simulation is randomly placed around the map, in randomly sized clusters. Food comes in different densities/concentrations i.e. a single cell of food could have three pieces of food within it, the density of food is represented by the opacity of the food on the map. A darker colour means the food is denser while a lighter colour means the food is less dense.

Pheromones + Map

The simulation is drawn onto a HTML canvas element (introduced in the HTML5 specification). The canvas context API is used to draw ants, food and pheromones onto the map. All drawing is done is done in \*.draw functions or through functions defined in the canvas module. The API is used in no other places within the simulation. (Note: this is so that if the specification changes / requires updating code is very modular and therefore easy to change).

## Interface

The interface is split into three components:

* The simulation panel – Contains the simulation itself as well as controls for the simulation
* The data panel – Contains information about the different species in the simulation such as how many ants the species currently has
* The configuration panel – This contains inputs which allow the user to change the values of characteristics for the currently selected species.

# Classes

Need a description of what each class does an what it inherits

Why are ants and nests so similar (A: split for semantic reasons)

What is this.sleep is it the ant sleeping?

Note: paramters of the function are appended with **[param]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Type | Description |
| integer | A whole number |
| number | A real number |
| string | A list of characters |
| Boolean | A true/1 or false/0 |
| \* object | An object |

## Ant

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ant | this.size | width : integer, height : integer | The size of the ant in pixels (default: CELL\_SIZE) |
| this.coord | x : number, y : number | The coordinate of the ant |
| this.id | integer | The unique ant id |
| this.species | Species object | The ants species which determines its characteristics |
| this.type | integer | The type of ant, use the ANT\_TYPE object when setting. e.g. ANT\_TYPE.worker |
| this.nest | Nest object | The ants home nest where it was born |
| this.colour | string | The hexadecimal colour of the ant e.g. ‘#FF0000’ (default: ‘#1C1C1C’) |
| this.health | number | The health of the ant, if <= 0 the ant is dead |
| this.hungerThreshold | number | The value of health bellow which the ant is determined to be hungry (default: 100) |
| this.healthRate | number | The rate at which the ants health decreases per tick (default: 0.1) |
| this.alive | boolean | Represents the ants living state (default: true) |
| this.goal | integer | The current goal which the ant is trying to accomplish, use the GOAL object when setting e.g. GOAL.findFood (default: GOAL.none) |
| this.target | x : number, y : number | The coordinate of a target the ant has chosen, the type of target depends on the ant i.e. a worker ant targets food while soldier ants target enemy ants (default: void(0)) |
| this.itemsInView | ants: [Ant object], food : [Food object] | Holds arrays of all ants and food within view (default: ants: [], food: []) |
| this.pheromonesInRange | [Pheromone object] | An array of all the pheromones in the ants antenna range (default: []) |
| this.sleep | integer | The number of ticks the ant needs to sleep for. Used for tasks which require actions which take multiple ticks to complete (default: 0) |
| this.followingPheromone | boolean | Used to tell if an ant is following a pheromone (default: false) |
| this.direction | number | The angle which the ant is facing in radians from the vertical axis clockwise (default: \*random direction\*) |
| this.prioritizeDirection | number | The direction the ant will tend to move in, used to achieve straighter more realistic paths (default: \*random direction\*) |
| Ant.addToMap | N/A |  | Adds the current position of the ant on the map |
| Ant.removeFromMap | N/A |  | Removes the current position of the ant from the map |
| Ant.isHungry | N/A |  | Determines whether the ant is hungry or not.  **Return** boolean - true if the ant is hungry else false |
| Ant.updateSleep | N/A |  | Updates this.sleep variable to simulate time passing during sleep |
| Ant.isFood | **[param]** food | Food object | Determines whether a piece of food exists or not  **Return** boolean - true if piece of food exists else false |
| Ant.takeFood | **[param]** food | Food.object | Takes a single piece of food  **Return** boolean - true if there is still food left, else false |
| Ant.atNest | N/A |  | Determines whether the ant is currently at its own nest i.e. standing on top of a NestPiece  **Return** boolean - true if the ant is standing on its nest, else false |
| Ant.seeNest | N/A |  | Determines whether the ant can see its own nest  **Return** boolean - true if ant can see its nest, else false |
| Ant.findFoodTarget | N/A |  | Choose the target piece of food the ant should go for |
| Ant.getFood | N/A |  | Walk towards food until on top of it and then pick it up one piece at a time |
| Ant.useFood | N/A |  | Determines the best use of food i.e. either eating the food if hungry or carrying it |
| Ant.scan | N/A |  | Looks at all blocks in front of the ant within eyesight, places all items of interest into this.itemsInView |
| Ant.smell | N/A |  | Similar to this.scan - Looks at all blocks in front of the ant within antenna size, places all pheromones into this.pheromoensInRange |
| Ant.secrete | N/A |  | Secrete pheromones |
| Ant.wonder | N/A |  | Wonder around the map, following pheromones of own species otherwise picking random directions |
| Ant.move | N/A |  | Updates the ants coordinates |
| Ant.die | N/A |  | Removes the ant from the simulation |

## Worker

Inherits Ant

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Worker | this.coord | x : number, y : number | The coordinate of the ant |
| this.id | integer | The unique ant id |
| this.type | integer | The type of ant, use the ANT\_TYPE object when setting. e.g. ANT\_TYPE.worker (default: ANT\_TYPE.worker) |
| this.direction | number | The angle which the ant is facing in radians from the vertical axis clockwise (default: \*random direction\*) |
| this.prioritizeDirection | number | The direction the ant will tend to move in, used to achieve straighter more realistic paths (default: \*random direction\*) |
| this.carrying | integer | The amount of food the ant is carrying (default: 0) |
| this.carryingThreshold | integer | If an ant is carrying more food then this value and cannot see any food near it, ant will return to the nest to deposit the food (default: 4) |
| Worker.canCarry | N/A |  | Determines if an ant can carry food or not  **Return** boolean - true if ant can carry food else false |
| Worker.depositeFood | N/A |  | Navigate towards the nest and deposit food at the nest |
| Worker.dropFood | N/A |  | Drop a single piece of food at the nest  **Return** boolean - True if there is no more food to drop off, else false |
| Worker.useFood | N/A |  | Determines the best use of food i.e. eating it if hungry or carrying it |
|  | index - The MAP index of the ant | integer |
|  | food - The food object which is being used | Food object |
| Worker.doTask | N/A |  | Performs the actions required to complete a task |
| Worker.updateGoal | N/A |  | Determines if a goal has been completed or not and updates the next goal for the ant |
| Worker.updateHealth | N/A |  | Updates the ants this.health variable. Differs from ant.updateHealth as allows ants to eat food they are carrying if hungry |
| Worker.draw | **[param]** ctx | Canvas context object | Draws the ant onto the canvas context |
|  | scaledCoord - The coordinate of the map scaled to pixels | integer |
| Worker.update | N/A |  | Update the ant each tick |

## Queen

Inherits Ant

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Queen | this.coord | x : number, y : number | The coordinate of the ant |
| this.id | integer | The unique ant id |
| this.type | integer | The type of ant, use the ANT\_TYPE object when setting. e.g. ANT\_TYPE.worker (default: ANT\_TYPE.queen) |
| this.steps | integer | The number of steps the queen will take until reaching the nest site |
| Queen.doTask | N/A |  | Decide what actions need to be done to accomplish a task |
| Queen.updateGoal | N/A |  | Checks to see if the goal is accomplished and updates it if necessary |
| Queen.pickDirection | N/A |  | Used to pick a direction in which the Queen will walk a specific number of steps in (this.steps) and then create a nest |
| Queen.createNest | N/A |  | Creates a nest object |
|  | nest - The MAP index of the ant | Nest object |
|  | index - The index of the queen ant in this.species.ants used to determine which ant to remove from the list | integer |
| Queen.draw | **[param]** ctx – The canvas context | Canvas context object | Draw the queen onto the canvas context |
|  | scaledCoord - The scaled MAP coordinate to pixels | integer |
| Queen.update | N/A |  | Update the queen each tick |

## Soldier

Inherits Ant

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Soldier | this.coord | x : number, y : number | The coordinate of the ant |
| this.id | integer | The unique ant id |
| this.type | integer | The type of ant, use the ANT\_TYPE object when setting. e.g. ANT\_TYPE.worker (default: ANT\_TYPE.soldier) |
| this.direction | number | The direction in radians from the vertical axis clockwise (default \*random direction\*) |
| this.prioritizeDirection | number | The direction the ant will tend to move in, used to achieve straighter more realistic paths (default: \*random direction\*) |
| this.targetAnt | Ant object | The enemy ant which the soldier is targeting to attack (default: void(0)) |
| this.moving | boolean | Used for determining when an ant is in a static position e.g. guarding the nest (default: false) |
| this.steps | integer | Used for moving an ant a certain number of steps away from an object. |
| this.nearNest | boolean | Determine if an ant is close to the nest (even if it is not in view) (default: false) |
| this.nearFood | boolean | Determine if an ant is close to food (even if it is not in view) (default: false) |
| Soldier.soldiersInView | N/A |  | Determines if there are other friendly soldiers in view  **Return** boolean – true if there are soldiers in view else false |
| Soldier.seeFood | N/A |  | Determines if an ant can see food  **Return** boolean – true if the ant can see food else false |
| Soldier.pickTarget | N/A |  | Chooses which ant the soldier should target |
| Soldier.follow | N/A |  | Sets the ants direction to intercept the path of the targeted ant so that it can attack. |
| Soldier.attack | N/A |  | Attack a the targeted ant if in range |
|  | dist - The distance between the ant and its target | number |
| Soldier.updateHealth | N/A |  | Updates the soldier ants health differs from Ant.updateHealth as will change soldiers goal if hungry |
| Soldier.updateSteps | N/A |  | Updates the this.steps variable |
| Soldier.guardNest | N/A |  | Controls soldiers logic if assigned goal of guarding the nest |
| Soldier.guardPheromone | N/A |  | Controls soldiers logic if assigned goal of guarding pheromone trials |
| Soldier.guardFood | N/A |  | Controls soldiers logic if assigned goal of guarding food |
| Soldier.findFood | N/A |  | Controls soldiers logic if assigned goal of finding food e.g. if the ant is hungry |
| Soldier.doTask | N/A |  | Performs the actions required to complete a task |
| Soldier.updateGoal | N/A |  | Determines if a goal has been completed or not and updates the next goal for the ant |
| Soldier.draw | **[param]** ctx – The canvas context | Canvas context object | Draw the ant onto the canvas context |
| scaledCoord - The scaled MAP coordinate to pixels | integer |
| Soldier.update | N/A |  | Update the ant each tick |

## Species

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species | this.id | integer | The unique ant id |
| this.ants | [Ant object] | Array of all ants which belong to the species (default: []) |
| this.nests | [Nest object] | Array of all nests which belong to the species (default: []) |
| this.chars.speed | number | The speed the ant moves, 1 = 1 cell per tick (default: 0.25) |
| this.chars.antennaSize | integer | The range the ant can smell pheromones (default: 5) |
| this.chars.jawStrength | integer | The strength of the ants jaw (determines how much food the ant can carry) (default: 10) |
| this.chars.jawSize | integer | The amount of damage a soldier ant does when attacking (default: 1) |
| this.chars.stingSize | integer | The range which the solider ant can attack (default: 1) |
| this.chars.eyeSight | integer | The range the ant can see items In front of it (in number of cells) (default: 5) |
| this.chars.eyeAngle | number | The angle of the sector the ant can see in front of it (default: π/2) |
| this.chars.antennaAngle | number | the angle of the sector the can can smell pheromones in front of it (default: π/2) |
| this.chars.pheromoneConcentration | number | The concentration of pheromones secreted (default: 0.4) |
| this.chars.nestCoordMemory | number | A measure of how well the ant knows where the nest is, used when navigating to the nest, represents memory of familiar landmarks near the nest (default: 0.1) |
| this.chars.explorativeInfluence | number | The likelihood of an ant changing direction rather than continuing going the direction its facing (default: 0.05) |
| this.chars.pheromoneInfluence | number | How likely it is that an ant will follow a pheromone (default: 0.9) |
| this.chars.queenStepsMin, this.chars.queenStepsMax | number | The range of steps the queen will take when navigating to a new nest site i.e. lower values mean closer nests (default: min: 200, max: 800) |
| this.chars.reproduceWorkerProb, this.chars.reproduceQueenProb, this.chars.reproduceSoldierProb | number | The probability a particular type of ant will be born compared with others (default: worker: 0.5, queen: 0.05, soldier: 0.1) Note: gets normalized so does not need to add to one. |
| this.chars.reproduceWorkerFoodCost, this.chars.reproduceQueenFoodCost, this.chars.reproduceSoldierFoodCost | number | The amount of food required to create this type of ant (This is the amount of food the ant will start with when born) (default: worker: 5, queen: 25, solider: 8) |
| this.chars.reprodcutionRate | number | The chance each tick of creating a new ant (default: 0.05) |
| this.colour.worker, this.colour.soldier, this.colour.queen, this.colour.nest, this.colour.pheromone | string | The hexadecimal colours given to each type of ant/nest/pheromone. Note: often all values are the same, (default: ‘#1C1C1C’ for all) |
| this.murationRate | number | The chance that a characteristic will be mutated |
| Species.mutateChar | **[param]** characteristic | string | Mutate a specific characteristic  **Return** number – The mutated value of the characteristic |
| Species.mutate | N/A |  | Mutate a single characteristic in the species  **Return** Species object – The new mutated species |
| altChars - The current characteristics of the species | object literal |
| altCharacterisitc - The random characteristic which will be mutated | string |
| altValue - The new value of the altCharacterisitc | variable depending on characteristic being mutated |
| species - The species new species | Species object |
| Species.createSpecies | **[param]** chars | object literal | The characteristic set of the new species  **return** Species object – The new species |
| species - The new species | Species object |
| colour - The colour of the new species | string |

## Nest

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nest** | this.nestSize | x: integer, y: integer | The number of pieces the nest extends in both the x and the y directions (default: NEST\_SIZE) |
| this.coord | x: number, y: number | The coordinate of the nest |
| this.id | integer | A unique identifier |
| this.species | Species object | The species which the nest belongs to |
| this.pieces | [NestPiece object] | An array of the NestPiece objects belonging to the nest (default: []) |
| this.health | number | The health the nest has (default: 10000) |
| this.hungerThreshold | number | The threshold below which the nest is hungry and tries to preserve food (default: 1000) |
| this.healthRate | number | The rate at which the nests health reduces each tick (default: 0.1) |
| this.alive | boolean | If nest is alive or not, needed if nest dies mid execution so does not keep acting as if it is alive for the rest of the tick (default: true) |
| **Nest.addNestPiece** | [param] coord | x: number, y: number | Create a single nest piece |
| **Nest.createNest** | N/A |  | Creates all the nest pieces |
| **Nest.die** | N/A |  | Kills the nest so that it is no longer updated and is removed from the map |
| **Nest.getCost** | [param] type – The ant type | integer – use the ANT\_TYPE object when defining | Returns the cost in the amount of health needed to create a specific type of ant  Return number – the health required |
| **Nest.calcSpeciesCost** | N/A |  | Calculates the cost of the characteristics due the spices  Return number – the health cost |
| **Nest.viable** | [param] type – The ant type | integer – use the ANT\_TYPE object when defining | Determine whether or not it is viable to create a specific type of ant  Return boolean – true if it is viable else false |
| **Nest.createAnt** | [param] type – the ant type | integer – use the ANT\_TYPE object when defining | Create a new ant |
| cost - The health cost of creating the type of ant | number |
| **Nest.reproduce** | N/A |  | Determines what type of ant to create |
| prob - A random number which will be used to determine what type of ant is created | number |
| chars - The characteristics of the species | number |
| sum - The sum of ant probabilities | number |
| queenProb, soldierProb, workerProb - The respective normalized probabilities of each type of ant | number |
| ordered - The ordered normalized probabilities of each type of ant being created | [{prob : number, type: integer}] |
| **Nest.updateHealth** | N/A |  | Update the nests health |
| **Nest.update** | N/A |  | Updates the nest each tick |

## NestPiece

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NestPiece** | this.size | width: number, height: number | The size the piece will be in pixels (default: CELL\_SIZE) |
| this.coord | x: number, y: number | The coordinate of the piece |
| this.nest | Nest object | The nest object which controls the piece |
| this.id | integer | A unique identifier |
| this.type | integer – use the ANT\_TYPE object when defining | The type of object the piece is, as the nest piece is essentially treated as a static ant and is stored under ant in MAP, the type is needed so ants can identify the piece (default: ANT\_TYPE.nest) |
| this.heatlh | number | The health the piece has |
| **NestPiece.addToMap** | N/A |  | Adds the piece to the map |
| **Nest.removeFromMap** | N/A |  | Removes the piece from the map |
| **Nest.die** | N/A |  | Kills the nest piece stopping it from being updated and removes it from the map |
| **Nest.draw** | [param] ctx | Canvas context object | Draws the nest piece onto the canvas context |

## Pheromone

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **Pheromone** | this.concentration | number | The concentration of the pheromone |
| this.coord | x: number, y: number | The coordinate of the pheromone |
| this.size | x: integer, y: integer | the size of the pheromone in pixels (default: CELL\_SIZE) |
| this.species | Species object | The species which the pheromone belongs to |
| **Pheromone.addToMap** | N/A |  | Adds the pheromone to the map |
| **Pheromone.removeFromMap** | N/A |  | Removes the pheromone from the map |
| **Pheromone.draw** | [param] ctx – The canvas context | Canvas context object | Draw the pheromone onto the canvas context |
| **Pheromone.update** | N/A |  | Updates the pheromones concentration each tick |

## FoodSystem

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FoodSystem** | this.variation | min: integer, max: integer | The minimum and maximum amounts of food a single piece can contain |
|  | this.colour | string | The hexadecimal colour of the piece of food (default: FOOD\_COLOUR). Note: opacity depends on food amount |
| **FoodSystem.addFoodBlob** | [param] coord – The coordinate of the food | x: number, y: number | Creates a circle of food with reducing amounts around a coordinate. |
|  | [param] radius – The radius of the food | integer |
|  | affectedCells – The cells which lie in the food blob | [{x: integer, y: integer}] |
|  | distanceFromCenter – The distance between the cell and the coord | number |
|  | amount – The food amount | integer |
| **FoodSystem.addFood** | N/A |  | Adds random sized food blobs at random positions in the map |

## Food

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **Food** | this.foodSystem | FoodSystem object | The food system which controls the food pieces |
|  | this.size | width: number, height: number | The size of the food in pixels (default: CELL\_SIZE) |
|  | this.amount | integer | The concentration of food the piece has |
|  | this.coord | x: number, y: number | The coordinate of the piece of food |
| **Food.addToMap** | N/A |  | Adds the piece of food to the map |
| **Food.removeFromMap** | N/A |  | Removes the piece of food from the map |
| **Food.draw** | [param] ctx – The canvas context | Canvas context object | Draws the piece of food onto the canvas context |

# Modules

## Map

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **drawGrid** | [param] ctx | Canvas context object | Draws a grid onto the canvas context |
| **drawBackground** | [param] ctx | Canvas context object | Draws a rectangle over the entire canvas effectively wiping it to a single colour |
| **zoom** | [param] level – The zoom level (positive : zoom in, negative : zoom out) | number | Change the simulation zoom level |
| **createMap** | N/A |  | Create an empty map and populate it with default values |

## Canvas

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **resizeElement** | [param] element – The element to be resized | HTML element | Resizes a HTML element to a size |
| [param] size – The new size of the element | width: number, height: number |
| **drawRect** | [param] ctx – The canvas context | Canvas context object | Draws a rectangle onto a canvas context |
| [param] coord – The coordinate of the top left corner | x: number, y: number |
| [param] size – The size of the rectable | width: number, height: number |
| [param] fillColour – The colour of the rectangle | string |
| [param] strokeColour – The colour of the rectangles boarder (default: ‘#000000’) | string |
| [param] lineWidth – The width of the border (default: 0) | number |
| **drawLine** | [param] ctx – The context which the line will be drawn onto | Canvas context object | Draws a line onto a canvas context |
| [param] coord1 – The coordinate of the starting point | x: number, y: number |
| [param] coord2 – The coordinate of the end point | x: number, y: number |
| [param] strokeColour – The stroke colour of the line | string |
| [param] lineWidth – The width of the stroke | number |
| **drawArc** | [param] ctx – The canvas context which the arc will be drawn onto | Canvas context object | Draws an arc onto a canvas context |
| [param] coord – The coordinate of the centre of the arc | x: number, y: number |
| [param] radius – The radius of the arc | number |
| [param] startAngle – The angle from the horizontal to start the arc at (clockwise) | number |
| [param] endAngle – The angle from the horizontal to stop the arc at (clockwise) | number |
| [param] strokeColour – The stroke colour of the arc | string |
| [param] lineWidth – The width of the stroke | number |
| [param] fillColour – The colour of the arc | string |
| **drawCircle** | [param] ctx – The canvas context which the circle will be drawn onto | Canvas context object | Draws a circle onto a canvas context |
| [param] coord – The coordinate of the centre of the circle | x: number, y: number |  |
| [param] radius – The radius of the circle | number |  |
| [param] fillColour – The colour of the circle | string |  |
| **clearCanvas** | [param] ctx – The canvas context | Canvas context object | Draws a rectangle over the entire canvas effectively wiping it to a single colour (OUT\_OF\_BOUNDS\_COLOUR) |

## Utilities

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **randInt** | [param] range – The range inclusive | min: integer, max: integer | Returns a random integer within a specific range  Return integer – The random number |
| **randFloat** | [param] range – The range inclusive | min: number, max: number | Returns a random float within a specific range  Return number – The random float |
| **randDir** | N/A |  | Returns a random angle between 0 and 2π radians  Return number – The random direction |
| **randColour** | N/A |  | Returns a random hexadecimal colour  Return string – The random colour |
| **validateDirection** | [param] dir – The direction | number | Returns an angle in the range 0 to 2π e.g. if dir = 4π returns 2π  Return number – The new angle |
| **randProperty** | [param] obj – The object literal | object | Picks a random property of an object literal  Return object – The random property from the object |
| **distance** | [param] coord1, coord2 – The coordinates to find the distance between | x: number, y: number | Returns the shortest distance between two coordinates  Return number – The distance |
| x – The distance in the x axis | number |
| y – The distance in the y axis | number |
| **scaleCoord** | [param] coord – The coordinate to scale | x: number, y: number | Scale a coordinate to its location in pixels  Return {x: number, y: number} – The scaled coordinate |
| **coordToIndex** | [param] coord – The coordinate which will be converted | x: number, y: number | Converts a coordinate to a map index, it can be used with coordinates which don’t map exactly to a single index and will work out which cell the coordinate lies in mostly  Return integer – The map index which the coordinate converts to |
| **indexToCoord** | [param] index – The map index | integer | Converts a map index to a coordinate  Return {x: number, y: number} – The coordinate which the index converts to |
| x – The x coordinate of the index | number |
| y – The y coordinate of the index | number |
| **getCellCoord** | [param] coord – The coordinate | x: number, y: number | Similar to coordToIndex however returns the \*neat\* coordinate i.e. a coordinate which maps exactly to a single map index by finding the cell which the coordinate lies in mostly  Return {x: number, y: number} – The coordinate which maps exactly to a single map index |
| **boundary** | [param] coord – The coordinate to test | x: number, y: number | Returns the \*wrapped\* coordinate of a coordinate if it exceeds the map boundary. As the map wraps around if an ant foes off one side it will appear on the other  Return {x: number, y: number} – The wrapped coordinate |
| [param] bounds – The boundary which is tested against | x: {min: number, max: number}, y: {min: number, max: number} |
| **getBlock** | [param] coord – The coordinate to get the block around | x: number, y: number | Returns an array of cells which lie a certain distance around a specific point  Return {x: number, y: number} – An array of coordinate which lie around the coordinate |
| [param] size – The size of the block i.e. if width = 2, takes 2 blocks to the left and two blocks on the right of the coordinate | width: integer, height: integer |
| **getSector** | [param] coord – The coordinate to get the block around | x: number, y: number | Returns an array of cells which lie in the sector of a circle of a particular radius around a specific point  Return [{x: number, y: number}] – An array of coordinates which lie in the sector |
| [param] radius – The radius of the sector | number |
| [param] direction – The direction the ant is facing | number |
| [param] angle – The angle of the sector | number |
| searchCoord – The coordinate of the cell currently being checked to see if it lies in the sector | x: number, y: number |
| **turnAround** | angle – The angle in radians | number | Returns the reverse direction  Return number – The reversed direction |
| **angleTo** | [param] coord, target – The coordinates to find the angle between | x: number, y: number | Returns the direction/angle of shortest path to get from the coord to the target  Return number – the angle from the vertical axis clockwise in radians |
| **createAnt** | [param] species – The species of the new ant | Species object | Creates a new ant |
| [param] coord – The coordinate of the new ant | x: number, y: number |
| [param] nest – The new ants home nest | Nest object |
| [param] startingHealth – The new ants health | number |
| [param] type – The type of ant to create e.g. ANT\_TYPE.worker | integer |
| **genID** | N/A |  | Generates a unique id. Requires CURRENT\_ID variable to keep track of current id  Return integer – A unique ID |
| **clone** | [param] obj – The object which will be cloned | object | Clones an object (needed as JavaScript passes everything by reference)  Return object – A copy of object |
| temp – A copy of the object | object |
| **getElement** | [param] id – The HTML id | string | Returns the HTML element on ID responds to  Return HTML element object – The HTML element |
| **setValue** | [param] id – The HTML id | string | Sets the value of a HTML element |
| [param] value – The value which the HTML element is being set to | string |

## Controls

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **start** | N/A |  | Starts the simulation |
| **pause** | N/A |  | Stops the simulation |
| **toggleRunning** | N/A |  | Toggles between running and paused |
| **step** | N/A |  | Steps through a single tick of the simulation |
| **runPauseButton** | N/A |  | Toggles running and updates the pause/run button |
| **updateValue** | [param] element – An element of an input in the settings panel | HTML element object | Updates the value of a characteristic i.e. when a user slides a slider, the characteristics value is updated |
| [param] value – The new value of the characteristic | string |
| characteristic – The characteristic being updated | object literal |
| speciesCost – The cost of the species with the updated value | number |
| workerFoodCost, queenFoodCost, soldierFoodCost – The costs of each type of ant | number |
| queenStepsMax, queenStepsMin – The number of queen steps (used to determine if the min is > then the max) | number |
| **updateDefaultValues** | N/A |  | Updates the value of all characteristics of the selected species to their default values |
| characteristic – The characteristic being changed | object literal |
| **updateRandomValues** | N/A |  | Updates the value of all characteristics of the selected species to random values |
| characteristic – The characteristic being changed | object literal |
| value the new value of the characteritic | number |
| **newElement** | [param] tag – A HTML tag name e.g. ‘div’ | string | Creates a new HTML element  Return HTML element – The new element |
| [param] attribute – An array of attributes to add tot the new element | [{type: string, value: \*}] |
| element – The new HTML element |  |
| **createInputType** | [param] characteristic – A single characteristic from CHARS | object literal | Creates an input element e.g. a range input or a button input. |
| [param] prop – The property of CHARS which the characteristic refers to | string |
| input – the input element | HTML element |
| **createInput** | [param] characteristic – A single characteristic from CHARS | object literal | Creates a row containing a label, input and value elements used for creating dynamic inputs for characteristics  Return HTML element – The row containing the label, input and value |
| [param] prop – The property of CHARS which the characteristic refers to | string |
| row – The row in the table which will contain the characteristic | HTML element |
| label – The table item containing the characteristics label | HTML element |
| inputContainer – The container which will hold the input. Needed to scale the input correctly with css | HTML element |
| input – The input element | HTML element |
| value – The table item containing the current value of the input | HTML element |
| **createCharacterisitcInputs** | N/A |  | Creates inputs for all characteristics used for creating dynamic inputs for characteristics. These are all appended to a table in the configuration panel |
| configPanel – The div which holds all elements in the configuration panel | HTML element |
| table – The table holding all the characteristic | HTML element |
| inputRow – The row returned by createInput | HTML element |
| **updateUserSpecies** | N/A |  | Updates the selected species with the new values selected in the configuration panel i.e. what happens when the update button is pressed |
| speciesCost – The total cost of the species in health | number |
| characteristic – The current characteristic being updated | object literal |
| **createDataRow** | [param] className – The name of the class for the species | string | Creates a row containing a label and data elements used for displaying information about species  Return HTML element – The data row |
| [param] id – The ID which will be used to access and update the species | string |
| [param] labelValue – The text which will be used as a label for the data | string |
| [param] dataValue – The data which will be displayed | string |
| row – The HTML row element which will contain the label and data | HTML element |
| label – The table item which contains the labelValue text | HTML element |
| data – The table item which contains the dataValue text | HTML element |
| **createSpeciesData** | [param] species – The species whose data you want to create a data display for | Species object | Create all elements to display information about a species |
| id – The species ID | string |
| className – The name of the class which responds to all items within a species data | string |
| table – The table which will contain all of the data | HTML element |
| titleRow - the HTML row which contains the title | HTML element |
| title – The title showing which species the table refers to | HTML element |
| toggleVisibility – The button which is used to show and hide the species datat | HTML element |
| colourRow – The row containing information about the species colour | HTML element |
| antNumRow – The row containing information about the number of ants in the species | HTML element |
| nestNumRow – The row containing information about the number of nests in the species | HTML element |
| foodAmount – The amount of food all the nests in the species have combined | number |
| foodAmountRow – The row containg information about the amount of food the species has i.e. all of the nests combined | HTML element |
| button – Used to toggle the visibility of the data (this must be done once the table has been appended to the data panel) | HTML element |
| **updateSpeciesData** | N/A |  | Updates data for all of the species currently in the simulation i.e. so that the information in the data panel reflects the current state of the species in the simulation |
| species – The species being updated | Species object |
| id – The ID of that species | string |
| colourDataElement – The element which contains information about the species colour | HTML element |
| antNumDataElement - The element which contains information about the species number of ants | HTML element |
| nestNumDataElement - The element which contains information about the species number of nests | HTML element |
| foodAmountDataElement - The element which contains information about the species amount of food in all nests | HTML element |
| foodAmount – The amount of food contained in each nest in the species combined | number |
| **removeSpeciesData** | [param] id – The id of the species to remove | string | Removes a species data i.e. when it has died out |
| **nextVisibility** | [param] button – A reference to the toggle visibility button | HTML element | Checks whether the species data id currently maximised or minimised and returns whether or not the species data should be hidden or not assuming the button has been clicked  Return string – The value of the displaying styling |
| **toggleVisibilityButton** | [param] button – A reference to the toggle visibility button | HTML element | Toggles the text in the visibility button |
| **toggleClassVisibility** | [param] button – A reference to the toggle visibility button | HTML element | Maximises and Minimises the data for a particular species |
| id – The id of the species the toggle visibility button corresponds to | string |
| listOfClassElements – All elements of the same class i.e. all elements in the species data to be hidden | [HTML element] |
| **select** | [param] title – A reference to the title element of the species data | HTML element | Selects a new species allowing the user to alter that species characteristics |
| id – The id of the species | string |
| species – The species being selected | Species object |
| characteristic – The characteristic being updated | HTML element |

Main

| **Function name** | **Variables** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **tick** | N/A |  | Performs actions required each tick |
| **drawMap** | [param] ctx – The canvas context | Canvas context object | Draws all objects onto the canvas and also updates all objects |
| ant – The ant to draw | Ant object |
| pheromone – The pheromone to draw | Pheromone object |
| food – The piece of food to draw | Food object |
| **createEnviroment** | N/A |  | Setups the environment when starting or restarting the simulation |
| simulationFoodSystem – The food system which controls the placement of food in the map | FoodSystem object |
| x – The random x-coordinate of the starting queen | integer |
|  | y – The random y-coordinate of the starting queen | integer |  |
| **window.onload (Anonymous function)** | N/A |  | Performs actions once the page is loaded i.e. all scripts are loaded and the canvas is loaded |
| start – The coordinate of the start of the drag | x: number, y: number |
| end – The coordinate of the end of the drag | x: number, y: number |
| **window.onkeydown (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | A call back function for when a key down press event happens. Controls what each key does e.g. arrow keys pan |
| charCode – The character code the event maps to | string |
| **canvasDOM.addEventListener(‘mousewheel’) (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | Controls scrolling in the map when the mouse wheel is used (Chrome and IE only) |
| delta – The amount scrolled | number |
| **canvasDOM.addEventListener(‘DOMMouseScroll’) (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | Controls scrolling in the map when the mouse wheel is used (Firefox only) |
| delta – The amount scrolled | number |
| **canvasDOM.onmousedown (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | Controls panning behaviour for when the mouse is down |
| **canvasDOM.touchstart (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | Controls panning behaviour when the canvas is touched |
| **canvasDOM.onmousemove (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | Controls panning behaviour when the mouse is being moved |
| **canvasDOM.touchMove (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | Controls panning behaviour when a finger is moved across the simulation |
| **canvasDOM.mouseup (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | Stops panning the simulation |
| **canvasDOM.touchend (Anonymous function)** | [param] e – The event | Event object | Stops panning the simulation |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Global variable** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **canvasDOM** | HTML element | The canvas HTML element |
| **canvasCTX** | Canvas context object | The canvas elements context (used for drawing to) |
| **lastLoop** | number | The time taken for the last tick to complete in milliseconds |
| **BUTTONS** | object literal | Holds the actions that buttons do e.g. when the reset button is pressed (must have id = ‘reset’) call the updateDefaultValues function would be BUTTONS = {reset: updateDefaultValues} |
| **draging** | boolean | Holds the current state of the simulations pan i.e. if the simulation is currently being dragged by a mouse or finger. (default: false) |

Config

| **Global variable** | **Type** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **VALUE\_TYPE** | object literal (constant) | Used to signify if a variable is an integer or a float i.e. needed as some characteristics require integer values while others require floats and so to generate random values for these characteristics must know what type they need. |
| **TICK** | number (constant) | The time between ticks (default: 10) |
| **CURRENT\_ID** | number | Used to keep track of the latest unique ID (default: 0) |
| **ANTS\_LIST** | [Ant object] | Holds all ant objects, used to update all ants (default: []) |
| **SPECIES\_LIST** | [Species object] | Holds all species objects, use to update all species (default: []) |
| **RUNNING** | boolean | Determines whether the simulation is running or not (default: false) |
| **GRID\_COLOUR** | string (constant) | The colour of the maps grid lines (default: ‘#000000’) |
| **GRID\_LINE\_WIDTH** | number (constant) | The width of the grid lines (default: 0.2) |
| **BACKGROUND\_COLOUR** | string (constant) | The canvas background colour (default: ‘#C2ABBA’) |
| **OUT\_OF\_BOUNDS\_COLOUR** | string (constant) | The colour of any area off map in the simulation (default: ‘#FFFFFF’) |
| **CELL\_SIZE** | width: integer, height: integer | Size in pixels of a single cell on the map (default: width: 6, height: 6) |
| **CANVAS** | name: string, width: integer,  height: integer | Defines characteristics about the simulations canvas (default: name: ‘simulation’, width: 500, height: 500) |
| **AVERAGE\_FOOD\_SAMPLE\_RATE** | integer (constant) | The number of ticks to wait between sampling for averages of food (default: 10) |
| **NUMBER\_OF\_FIXED\_PLACES** | integer (constant) | The number of numbers after the decimal place to display when displaying values on the interface (default: 2) |
| **SELECTED\_SPECIES** | Species object | Holds the species whose characteristics can be changed in the characteristics panel |
| **SELECTED\_COLOUR** | string (constant) | The colour of the selected species in the data panel (default: ‘#A5C7D9’) |
| **UNSELECTED\_COLOUR** | string (constant) | The default colour for unselected species in the data panel (default: ‘#FFFFFF’) |
| **BUTTON\_UPDATE\_COLOUR** | string (constant) | The colour of the update button when the characteristics of the selected species have been changed by the user (‘#FF0000’) |
| **BUTTON\_NO\_UPDATE\_COLOUR** | string (constant) | The normal colour of a button when no settings have been altered (default: ‘#000000’) |
| **LEFT\_ARROW\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the left arrow key (default: 37) |
| **RIGHT\_ARROW\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the right arrow key (default: 39) |
| **UP\_ARROW\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the up arrow key (default: 38) |
| **DOWN\_ARROW\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the down arrow key (default: 40) |
| **PLUS\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the plus key (default: 107) |
| **MINUS\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the minus/dash key (default: 109) |
| **SPACE\_BAR\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the space bar key (default: 32) |
| **R\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the ‘r’ key (default: 82) |
| **S\_KEY** | integer (constant) | The char code of the ‘s’ key (default: 83) |
| **MIN\_ZOOM** | number (constant) | The minimum zoom amount (default: 1) |
| **MAX\_ZOOM** | number (constant) | The maximum zoom amount (default: 14) |
| **PAN\_AMOUNT** | integer (constant) | The number of pixels to pan by for each key press of an arrow key (default: 15) |
| **ZOOM\_AMOUNT** | number (constant) | The amount to zoom for each key press of the plus or minus key (direction depends on key press i.e. plus is zoom in while minus is zoom out) (default: 0.5) |
| **CANVAS\_OFFSET** | x: integer, y: integer | The amount of pixels the simulation on the canvas is offset by from the top left corner of the simulation (default: x: 0, y: 0) |
| **INPUT\_TYPE** | object literal (constant) | Used for creating custom inputs i.e. sliders or buttons |
| **MAP** | [objects] | Holds all objects displayed on the map (default: []) |
| **GRID\_SIZE** | width: integer, height: integer | Size in number of cells of the map (default: width: 250, height: 250) |
| **MAP\_BOUNDARY** | x: {min: integer, max: integer}, y: {min: integer, max: integer} | Used to define the edge of the map i.e. when to wrap the coordinate of the ant e.g. if ant exceeds x.max place the ant on the other side of the map as if the map was a torus |
| **NUM\_OF\_CELLS** | integer | The total number of cells in the map |
| **FOOD\_COLOUR** | string (constant) | The colour of food in the simulation (default: ‘#00FF00’) |
| **FOOD\_HEALTH\_RATIO** | number (constant) | food : health i.e. if = 50 then 1 piece of food is worth 50 health (default: 50) |
| **FOOD\_CHANCE** | number (constant) | The probability of a food source in a cell (default: 0.0004) |
| **STARTING\_QUEEN\_ANT\_NUMBER** | integer | The number of queen ants at the start of the simulation (default: 1) |
| **ANT\_FOOD\_DROP\_SPEED** | integer (constant) | The number of ticks it takes for an ant to drop a piece of food (default: 15) |
| **ANT\_FOOD\_TAKE\_SPEED** | integer (constant) | The number of ticks it takes for an ant to pick up a single piece of food (default: 30) |
| **DAMAGE\_MULTIPLIER** | number (constant) | The amount of health a soldier ant takes does to ants its attacking i.e. if = 100 then 100 \* jawStrength of soldier is the amount of health the ant being attacked would lose each tick it is attacked (default: 100) |
| **NEST\_GUARD\_RADIUS** | integer (constant) | The number of steps ants take once seeing the nest i.e. the sentry radius of solider ants about the nest (default: 100) |
| **SOLDIER\_ANT\_MAX\_TARGET\_DISTANCE** | integer (constant) | The maximum distance between an ant and its target before losing interest (default: 25) |
| **TURN\_RATE** | number (constant) | The rate at which ants turn when guarding i.e. 0.02 means the ant turns 0.02 radians each tick (default: 0.02) |
| **GOAL** | object literal (constant) | Ants goals used to determine what actions the ants need to perform |
| **NEST\_SIZE** | width: integer, height: integer (constant) | The extra size of a nest in cells e.g. {width: 1, height: 1} means go 1 extra cell in both sides and 1 extra cell both up and down (default: width: 1, height: 1) |
| **ANT\_TYPE** | object literal (constant) | Used to show the type of ant |
| **PHEROMONE\_EVAPERATION\_RATE** | number (constant) | The rate at which pheromones in the simulate lose concentration per tick (default: 0.005) |
| **MAX\_PHEROMONE\_CONVENTRATION** | number (constant) | The maximum concentration a pheromone can have (default: 1) |
| **USER\_SPECIES** | Species object | The species used on the first run of the simulation i.e .the first species |
| **CHARS** | Object literal | Holds properties of all characteristics species:   * min – number – The minimum value a characteristic can be * max – number – The maximum value a characteristic can be * type – integer – The type of value a characteristic is i.e. float or integer (use VALUE\_TYPE to define e.g. VALUE\_TYPE.floatValue) * id – string – The HTML ID property of the characteristic * neatName – string – The name used in a label in the HTML * desc – string – The description of what the characteristic does * step – number – The minimum change in the characteristics value * healthModifier – number – The cost of the characteristic (= healthModifier \* value) * defaultValue – number – The default value of the characteristic * value – number – The actual value of the HTML input (differs from the value stored in species as this is formatted for displaying i.e. to a certain number of decimal places) * editable – boolean – Determines if a characteristic can be edited (true if it can be edited else false) * inputType – integer – The type of input required e.g. button (Use INPUT\_TYPE to define e.g. INPUT\_TYPE.slider) |

# Difficult to understand code

Link to design section + algorithms + diagrams

This section contains code snippets which may not be clear at first look

## The addToMap function

The addToMap function is used in multiple classes for example in Ant:

Ant.prototype.addToMap **=** **function**() {

**if** (**this**.alive) MAP[getCellIndex(**this**.coord)].ant.push(**this**);

};

It adds an ant object to the MAP at the index which the ants coordinate maps to if the ant is still alive. Objects can be added to either MAP[index].ant, MAP[index].food or MAP[index.pheromone] depending on the type of object being added.

## The Ant.wonder function

The Ant.wonder function is used by ants when the ant is moving around the map with no specific target e.g. if the ant is searching for something such as when workers are looking for food.

Ant.prototype.wonder **=** **function**() {

**var** M **=** 0;

**var** Mxy **=** {

        x**:** 0,

        y**:** 0

    };

**var** CoM **=** {

        x**:** 0,

        y**:** 0

    };

**var** pheromones **=** **false**;

**for** (**var** i **=** 0; i **<** **this**.pheromonesInRange.length; i**++**) {

**if** (**this**.pheromonesInRange[i].species **===** **this**.species) {

            M **+=** **this**.pheromonesInRange[i].concentration;

            Mxy.y **+=** **this**.pheromonesInRange[i].coord.y **\*** **this**.pheromonesInRange[i].concentration;

            Mxy.x **+=** **this**.pheromonesInRange[i].coord.x **\*** **this**.pheromonesInRange[i].concentration;

            pheromones **=** **true**;

        }

    }

    CoM **=** {x**:** Mxy.x **/** M, y**:** Mxy.y **/** M};

**if** (Math.random() **<** **this**.species.chars.explorativeInfluence)

**this**.prioritizeDirection **=** randDir();

**if** (pheromones **&&** Math.random() **<** **this**.species.chars.pheromoneInfluence) {

**var** angle **=** angleTo(**this**.coord, CoM);

angle **=** validateDirection(angle);

**if** (angle **>** **this**.direction **-** Math.PI **/** 3 **&&** angle **<** **this**.direction **+** Math.PI **/** 3) {

**this**.direction **=** angle;

**this**.prioritizeDirection **=** **this**.direction;

**this**.followingPheromone **=** **true**;

        } **else** {

**this**.direction **=** **this**.prioritizeDirection;

**this**.followingPheromone **=** **false**;

        }

    } **else** {

**this**.direction **=** **this**.prioritizeDirection;

**this**.followingPheromone **=** **false**;

    }

};

The functions purpose is to determine which direction an ant should move, ants are more likely to move towards pheromones. First, the mean direction of all the pheromones in range is calculated weighted by the pheromones concentration CoM (e.g. closer pheromones with a large concentration will have a large effect on the direction then further away pheromones with a lower concentration).

After CoM is calculated there is a chance that the ant will change their prioritizedDirection to a random value. The prioritizeDirection is the direction the ant wants to move in, it is needed so that when an ant is not being influenced by an direction that the ant will move in straight lines rather than just completely randomly.

The ant will have a chance of following the mean pheromone direction, however only if the mean direction is not more than PI/3 radians from the current direction, this stops ants turning 120 or more degrees around and following a pheromone from the direction they just came. Finally if none of these conditions are true, the ant will follow the prioritizeDirection.

## The die function

The die function is used in a very similar way in multiple classes throughout the simulation, here is how it is implemented in the Ant class:

Ant.prototype.die = **function**() {

**var** index = ANTS\_LIST.indexOf(**this**);

ANTS\_LIST.splice(index, 1);

**var** index = **this**.species.ants.indexOf(**this**);

**this**.species.ants.splice(index, 1);

**this**.alive = **false**;

};

The point of the function is to stop the simulation displaying an object and also remove all references to an object so that garbage collections will destroy the object. To stop an object from being displayed it must not be added to the map, this is the purpose of this.alive = false; and if (!this.alive) return void(0); which will stop the object being re added to the map after removal.

To stop the object updating its references must be removes, all ants are stored in ANTS\_LIST (Note: both food and pheromones are stored directly on the map), ants must also be removed from this.species.ants so that the species has an accurate number of alive ants.

## Food vs. Health

Food on the map contains different amounts of food, when a worker ant collects food it takes a certain amount of food from a food piece and adds it to this.carrying. A single amount of food is worth a certain amount of health, this amount is determined by FOOD\_HEALTH\_RATIO. So if a worker eats one piece of food its health will increase by FOOD\_HEALTH\_RATIO.

## Nest reproducing health

Species have a specific health cost depending on how favourable a species characteristics are. Ants also required a specific amount of health to be created (this is a characteristic of their species). When a nest creates an ant, the ant will be born with an amount of starting health, this value is the amount of health needed to create the ant - the cost the species.

## The reproduce function

The reproduce function is implemented in the species class. It determines which type of ant to create.

Nest.prototype.reproduce **=** **function**() {

**var** prob **=** Math.random();

**var** chars **=** **this**.species.chars;

*// Normalize probabilities and then sort into ascending order*

**var** sum **=** chars.reproductionQueenProb **+** chars.reproductionSoldierProb **+**

chars.reproductionWorkerProb;

**var** queenProb **=** chars.reproductionQueenProb **/** sum;

**var** soldierProb **=** chars.reproductionSoldierProb **/** sum;

**var** workerProb **=** chars.reproductionWorkerProb **/** sum;

**var** ordered **=** [{

prob**:** queenProb,

type**:** ANT\_TYPE.queen

}, {

prob**:** soldierProb,

type**:** ANT\_TYPE.soldier

}, {

prob**:** workerProb,

type**:** ANT\_TYPE.worker

}].sort(**function**(a, b) {

**return** a.prob **-** b.prob;

}); *// sort min to max*

*// Determine which outcome occurred*

**if** (prob **<** ordered[0].prob **&&** **this**.viable(ordered[0].type))

**this**.createAnt(ordered[0].type);

**else** **if** ((prob **<** ordered[1].prob **+** ordered[0].prob) **&&** *// cumulative probability*

**this**.viable(ordered[1].type))

**this**.createAnt(ordered[1].type);

**else** **if** (prob **<** ordered[2].prob **+** ordered[1].prob **+** ordered[0].prob **&&**

**this**.viable(ordered[2].type))

**this**.createAnt(ordered[2].type);

};

This function is called to decide which type of ant to create, at first the ants probability of each type of ant (worker, queen and soldier) are normalized to a sum of one. The normalized values are then ordered into ascending order. A random number is then compared with the normalized values, to determine which probability the random number lies in (Note: the probabilities are cumulative as they are normalized thus are added). Ant each comparison the viability of the ant type is determined, this determines if the nest can afford to create that type of ant i.e. the nest may not have enough health to create a queen which requires 2500 health to be born. Once the probability which the random number falls into is found and the ant type is viable, the ant which the probability maps to is created.

## Difference between Nest and NestPiece classes

The Nest is an object which represents an ant’s nest, it contains the amount of food the workers bring back. A NestPiece is an object used to represent part of a nest on the MAP. Individual nest pieces can be destroyed by soldier ants however the Nest object will continue to exist until there are no NestPieces left.

## Goals

Ants actions are decided by the goal they have been assigned, goals are results which want to be achieved, they often require multiple tasks to be completed. For example a worker may have the goal getFood, this requires the ant to move towards the food, and over a series of ticks pick up individual pieces of food until it cannot carry any more.

All Goals are located in the GOAL constant set in the configuration file. Not all ants can be assigned all goals. Ants are required to have logic in the doTask function and updateGoal function in order to achieve goals.

## The steps variable

The steps variable is used both in queen ants as well as soldier ants. Steps is used to move an ant a certain amount of steps in a direction. Its value is often small so that an ant will stay in close to proximity to its original location, this is how it is used in the soldier class. When guarding a nest, if a soldier sees the nest, it will move NEST\_GUARD\_RADIUS steps away, which allows it to stay in proximity to the nest without being in direct line of sight of the nest.

Steps is used in the queen class to find a location for a new nest. A queen ant will move a certain number of steps in a specific direction and once it has moved the number of steps required it will create a nest.

## The guardNest function

This function is only used by soldier ants and contains the logic soldier ants use to guard the nest.

Soldier.prototype.guardNest **=** **function**() {

**if** (**this**.nearNest) { *// If the ant is close to the nest*

**if** (**this**.steps **<=** 0 **&&** **!this**.soldiersInView()) { *// and no soldiers in view*

**this**.moving **=** **false**;

**this**.direction **+=** 0.02; *// slowly turn i.e. observing surroundings*

} **else** **if** (**this**.soldiersInView()) { *// If soldiers in view, keep moving*

**this**.nearNest **=** **false**;

}

} **else** **if** (**this**.seeNest() **&&** **!this**.atNest()) { *// If near the nest, move a*

*// specific number of steps away*

**this**.nearNest **=** **true**;

**this**.steps **=** NEST\_GUARD\_RADIUS;

} **else** { *// Otherwise, keep looking for the nest*

**this**.wonder();

**this**.moving **=** **true**;

}

};

When an ant is guarding a nest, it will stop moving and slowly turn around so that it can scan its entire surroundings. To maximise spread of ants i.e. all sides of a nest covered, ants must spread out, so if an ant sees another soldier ant it will find a new position.

## The mutate function

Is implemented in the species class and used to mutate a species to represent random mutation of genes in mutation when genetic information is passed on.

Species.prototype.mutate = **function**() {

**if** (Math.random() <= **this**.mutationRate) {

**var** altChars = clone(**this**.chars);

**var** altCharacteristic = randProperty(altChars);

**var** altValue = **this**.mutateChar(altCharacteristic);

altChars[altCharacteristic] = altValue;

**var** species = **this**.createSpecies(altChars);

**return** species;

} **else** {

**return** **this**;

}

};

The function picks a single random characteristic to mutate, and will mutate that characteristic. The function will then create and return a new species which is the same as the current one however with a single mutation in one characteristic.

# Configuration

## Simulation

All aspects of the simulation can be easily configured by editing config.js.

### Colours

The following colours can be edited:

* Simulations background colour - BACKGROUND\_COLOUR
* The Grid colour - GRID\_COLOUR
* The out of bounds colour - OUT\_OF\_BOUNDS\_COLOUR
* Selected species colour - SELECTED\_COLOUR and UNSELECTED\_COLOUR
* The update button colours - BUTTON\_UPDATE\_COLOUR and BUTTON\_NO\_UPDATE\_COLOUR
* The colour of food - FOOD\_COLOUR

### Size

The size of the simulation can also be edited. Simply edit CANVAS.width and CANVAS.height variables to change the size of the simulation (Note: this may require some changes to style.css to make it look correct). Both the grid size and the size of individual cells can be changed by editing GRID\_SIZE.width, GRID\_SIZE.height and CELL\_SIZE.width, CELL\_SIZE.height respectfully.

### Controls

The simulation has a number of controls which can be changes. The tick rate is the time it takes for a single loop of the entire program, it can be changed by editing the TICK variable (the time in milliseconds of a single tick). Furthermore, zooming and panning can be updated with MIN\_ZOOM, MAX\_ZOOM, ZOOM\_AMOUNT and PAN\_AMOUNT.

### Environment

The simulations environment includes how much food is spawned into the environment and how pheromones change over time. The amount of food is controlled using FOOD\_CHANCE this is the probability of a food source in a cell, increase this for more food. What's more, if the maximum or minimum size of food needs to be changed it can be easily changed within core\main.js by editing the FoodSystem objects properties variation.min and variation.max. Pheromones within the system evaporate over time, the amount each pheromone evaporates is controlled by PHEROMONE\_EVAPERATION\_RATE. There is also a maximum limit on pheromones i.e. the maximum concentration a pheromone can be, it can be changed by changing MAX\_PHEROMONE\_CONCENTRATION. The simulation starts with a single queen ant of the default species however this can be changed by altering STARTING\_QUEEN\_ANT\_NUMBER, this is useful as it can speed up the development of species during the start of the simulation.

### Multipliers

There are two currencies within the simulation, health and food. The food can only be picked up by worker ants and is transported to the nest where it is converted into health. Health is a measure of how long an ant will live for, it slowly decrease over time until it reaches 0 and the ant dies. The rate of decrease is controlled independently for different ants (as some ants may be more efficient than others at conserving health) to edit the rate of decrease of health in a nest for example, edit the Nest object changing its healthRate property. The amount of health a single piece of food is worth is controlled by the FOOD\_HEALTH\_RATIO configuration variable. Another similar multiplier is the DAMAGE\_MULTIPLIER which sets how much health a single value in jawSize takes away from an ant being attacked i.e. the amount of health taken = DAMAGE\_MULTIPLIER \* jawSize.

### Global characteristics

These are characteristics of ants which are the same for all ants within the simulation.

* ANT\_FOOD\_TAKE\_SPEED - This is the number of ticks it takes for an ant to pick up a single piece of food. Useful to change if you want to be able to see ants spending a longer time collecting food.
* ANT\_FOOD\_DROP\_SPEED - Similar to ANT\_FOOD\_TAKE\_SPEED however this is the number of ticks it takes for an ant to drop a single piece of food off at the nest. This models how in ant nests there is a specific place where food is collected and it may take some time for an ant to navigate to it.
* NEST\_GUARD\_RADIUS - This is the number of steps a solider ant will take away from its nest when guarding it.
* SOLDIER\_ANT\_MAX\_TARGET\_DISTANCE - This is the maximum distance a target ant can be away from a solider ant chasing it before the solider ant gives up interest of chasing it, and picks a new target.
* NEST\_SIZE.width and NEST\_SIZE.height - The number of extra cells around the nest which the nest occupies.

### Species characteristics

The following is a list of the properties each characteristic has:

* min - The minimum values a characteristic can be.
* max - The maximum values a characteristic can be.
* type - The type of value a characteristic is i.e. a float or integer
* id - The HTML ID property of the characteristic. (Useful to edit if want custom styling for certain characteristics).
* neatName - The name used in a label in the HTML
* desc - Describe what the characteristic does (used in hover text)
* step - The minimum change in the characteristics value
* healthModifier - The cost of the characteristic ( = healthModifier \* value)
* defaultValue - The default value
* value - The actual value of the HTML input (differs from the value stored in species as this is formatted for displaying)
* editable - Determines if a characteristic can be edited by the user
* inputType - The type of input required i.e. button

## Interface

To configure the layout of the webpage, edit the index.html and style.css files. This will allow you to change the colour of the webpage or add custom styles. Note: core\controls.js can also be edited to change the layout of the configuration and data panels.