

# Progressive Learning Chess Engine Reference Manual

Shyamal Suhana Chandra

Version 1.0  
November 17, 2025

## **Contents**

## 1 Introduction

This reference manual provides comprehensive documentation for the Progressive Learning Chess Engine API. The engine implements a hybrid Bayesian-LSTM neural network architecture with curriculum learning, spaced repetition, and Pavlovian conditioning.

## 2 Architecture Overview

The system consists of the following major components:

- Neural Network (Hybrid Bayesian + LSTM)
- Curriculum Learning System
- Spaced Repetition System
- Pavlovian Learning System
- Chess Representation
- Training Engine
- Inference Engine
- Multi-Agent Game Framework

## 3 Neural Network API

### 3.1 Network Creation

```
1 NeuralNetwork* nn_create_hybrid(  
2     size_t input_size,    // Input vector dimension  
3     size_t hidden_size,   // Hidden layer dimension  
4     size_t output_size    // Output vector dimension  
5 );
```

Creates a hybrid neural network with one Bayesian layer and one LSTM layer.

**Example:**

```
1 NeuralNetwork* nn = nn_create_hybrid(768, 512, 4096);  
2 // 768 = 8 812 chess board representation  
3 // 512 = hidden layer size  
4 // 4096 = possible moves (64 64 )
```

### 3.2 Forward Pass

```
1 void nn_forward(  
2     NeuralNetwork* nn,  
3     const double* input, // Input vector  
4     double* output       // Output vector (pre-allocated)  
5 );
```

Performs forward propagation through the network.

### 3.3 Backward Pass

```
1 void nn_backward(  
2     NeuralNetwork* nn,  
3     const double* target, // Target output vector  
4     double* loss          // Computed loss (output)  
5 );
```

Performs backpropagation and computes mean squared error loss.

### 3.4 Network Destruction

```
1 void nn_destroy(NeuralNetwork* nn);
```

Frees all memory associated with the network.

## 4 Optimizer API

### 4.1 Optimizer Types

```
1 typedef enum {  
2     OPTIMIZER_SGD,      // Stochastic Gradient Descent  
3     OPTIMIZER_ADAM,    // Adaptive Moment Estimation  
4     OPTIMIZER_ADAGRAD, // Adaptive Gradient  
5     OPTIMIZER_RMSPROP  // Root Mean Square Propagation  
6 } OptimizerType;
```

### 4.2 Optimizer Creation

```
1 Optimizer* optimizer_create(  
2     OptimizerType type,  
3     double learning_rate  
4 );
```

### 4.3 Weight Update

```
1 void optimizer_update(  
2     Optimizer* opt,  
3     NeuralNetwork* nn  
4 );
```

Updates network weights using the specified optimizer algorithm.

## 5 Curriculum Learning API

### 5.1 Curriculum Creation

```
1 Curriculum* curriculum_create(size_t num_levels);
```

Creates a curriculum with the specified number of difficulty levels (typically 10).

## 5.2 Difficulty Levels

```

1 typedef enum {
2     LEVEL_PRESCHOOL = 0,
3     LEVEL_KINDERGARTEN,
4     LEVEL_ELEMENTARY,
5     LEVEL_MIDDLE_SCHOOL,
6     LEVEL_HIGH_SCHOOL,
7     LEVEL_UNDERGRAD,
8     LEVEL_GRADUATE,
9     LEVEL_MASTER,
10    LEVEL_GRANDMASTER,
11    LEVEL_INFINITE
12 } DifficultyLevelEnum;

```

## 5.3 Adding Examples

```

1 void curriculum_add_example(
2     Curriculum* curriculum,
3     TrainingExample* example,
4     DifficultyLevelEnum level
5 );

```

Adds a training example to the specified difficulty level.

**TrainingExample structure:**

```

1 typedef struct {
2     double* input;           // Input vector
3     double* target;         // Target output vector
4     double difficulty;       // Difficulty score (0.0-1.0)
5     size_t input_size;
6     size_t target_size;
7     bool is_correct;         // For spaced repetition
8     size_t attempts;
9     size_t correct_streak;
10    double last_reviewed;
11    double next_review;
12 } TrainingExample;

```

## 5.4 Level Advancement

```

1 bool curriculum_should_advance(
2     Curriculum* curriculum,
3     double accuracy // Current accuracy (0.0-1.0)
4 );

```

Returns true if accuracy meets the mastery threshold (default 0.85).

```

1 void curriculum_advance_level(Curriculum* curriculum);

```

Advances to the next difficulty level.

```

1 DifficultyLevelEnum curriculum_get_current_level(
2     Curriculum* curriculum
3 );

```

Returns the current difficulty level.

## 6 Spaced Repetition API

### 6.1 System Creation

```

1 SpacedRepetition* spaced_repetition_create(
2     size_t capacity,          // Maximum number of examples
3     double ltm_threshold     // Correct streak for LTM (default 5.0)
4 );

```

### 6.2 Adding Examples

```

1 void spaced_repetition_add_example(
2     SpacedRepetition* sr,
3     TrainingExample* example
4 );

```

### 6.3 Getting Next Review

```

1 TrainingExample* spaced_repetition_get_next_review(
2     SpacedRepetition* sr
3 );

```

Returns the example that is due for review ( $\text{next\_review} \leq \text{current time}$ ).

### 6.4 Updating After Review

```

1 void spaced_repetition_update_example(
2     SpacedRepetition* sr,
3     size_t index,          // Example index
4     bool is_correct        // Review result
5 );

```

Updates the example based on review result and calculates next review interval using exponential spacing.

### 6.5 Long-Term Memory Check

```

1 bool spaced_repetition_is_in_ltm(
2     SpacedRepetition* sr,
3     size_t index
4 );

```

Returns true if the example has reached long-term memory ( $\text{correct\_streak} \geq \text{ltm\_threshold}$ ).

## 7 Pavlovian Learning API

### 7.1 Learner Creation

```

1 typedef enum {
2     PAVLOVIAN_CLASSICAL_CONDITIONING,
3     PAVLOVIAN_REWARD_BASED,
4     PAVLOVIAN_INSTRUMENTAL,
5     PAVLOVIAN_HYBRID
6 } PavlovianType;
7
8 PavlovianLearner* pavlovian_learner_create(

```

```

9     PavlovianType type,
10     double learning_rate
11 );

```

## 7.2 Stimulus Structures

```

1 typedef struct {
2     double* stimulus_vector;
3     size_t stimulus_size;
4     double intensity;
5     double timestamp;
6     size_t occurrence_count;
7 } ConditionedStimulus;
8
9 typedef struct {
10    double* stimulus_vector;
11    size_t stimulus_size;
12    double reward_value; // Positive or negative
13    double intensity;
14    double timestamp;
15 } UnconditionedStimulus;

```

## 7.3 Pairing Stimuli

```

1 void pavlovian_pair_stimuli(
2     PavlovianLearner* learner,
3     const ConditionedStimulus* cs,
4     const UnconditionedStimulus* us
5 );

```

Pairs a conditioned stimulus (e.g., chess position) with an unconditioned stimulus (e.g., reward/punishment) using the Rescorla-Wagner model.

## 7.4 Getting Expected Reward

```

1 double pavlovian_get_expected_reward(
2     PavlovianLearner* learner,
3     const ConditionedStimulus* cs
4 );

```

Returns the expected reward value for a given conditioned stimulus based on learned associations.

## 7.5 Extinction

```

1 void pavlovian_extinction(
2     PavlovianLearner* learner,
3     const ConditionedStimulus* cs
4 );

```

Performs extinction by presenting CS without US, causing association strength to decay.

# 8 Chess Representation API

## 8.1 Position Creation

```

1 ChessPosition* chess_position_create(void);

```

Creates a new chess position initialized to the starting position.

```
1 ChessPosition* chess_position_from_fen(const char* fen);
```

Creates a chess position from a FEN string.

**Example:**

```
1 const char* start_fen =
2   "rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1";
3 ChessPosition* pos = chess_position_from_fen(start_fen);
```

## 8.2 FEN Conversion

```
1 void chess_position_to_fen(
2   ChessPosition* pos,
3   FENString* fen // Output FEN string
4 );
```

## 8.3 Matrix Conversion

```
1 void chess_position_to_matrix(
2   ChessPosition* pos,
3   double* matrix // 8 812 output matrix
4 );
```

Converts position to a 3D matrix where each 8×8 plane represents one piece type and color combination.

## 8.4 Move Operations

```
1 void chess_position_generate_moves(
2   ChessPosition* pos,
3   Color color,           // WHITE or BLACK
4   ChessMove* moves,      // Output array
5   size_t* num_moves      // Number of moves generated
6 );
```

```
1 bool chess_position_is_legal_move(
2   ChessPosition* pos,
3   const ChessMove* move
4 );
```

```
1 void chess_position_make_move(
2   ChessPosition* pos,
3   const ChessMove* move
4 );
```

```
1 void chess_position_unmake_move(ChessPosition* pos);
```

# 9 Training Engine API

## 9.1 Configuration

```
1 typedef struct {
2   OptimizerType optimizer_type;
3   double learning_rate;
4   double momentum;
5   double weight_decay;
```

```
6     size_t batch_size;
7     size_t max_epochs;
8     double early_stopping_threshold;
9     bool use_curriculum;
10    bool use_pavlovian;
11    bool use_spaced_repetition;
12    double mastery_threshold;
13    size_t patience;
14 } TrainingConfig;
```

## 9.2 Engine Creation

```
1 TrainingEngine* training_engine_create(
2     NeuralNetwork* nn,
3     TrainingConfig* config
4 );
```

## 9.3 Training

```
1 void training_engine_train_with_curriculum(
2     TrainingEngine* engine
3 );
```

Trains the network using curriculum learning, Pavlovian conditioning, and spaced repetition as configured.

## 9.4 Statistics

```
1 typedef struct {
2     double current_loss;
3     double average_loss;
4     double accuracy;
5     size_t epoch;
6     size_t examples_seen;
7     DifficultyLevelEnum current_level;
8     double training_time;
9     double validation_accuracy;
10 } TrainingStats;
11
12 TrainingStats* training_engine_get_stats(
13     TrainingEngine* engine
14 );
```

# 10 Inference Engine API

## 10.1 Engine Creation

```
1 InferenceEngine* inference_engine_create(NeuralNetwork* nn);
```

## 10.2 Position Evaluation

```
1 double inference_engine_evaluate_position(
2     InferenceEngine* engine,
3     const ChessPosition* pos
4 );
```

Returns an evaluation score for the position (positive favors white, negative favors black).

## 10.3 Move Prediction

```
1 ChessMove* inference_engine_predict_move(  
2     InferenceEngine* engine,  
3     const ChessPosition* pos  
4 );
```

Predicts the best move for the current position.

## 10.4 Search

```
1 ChessMove* inference_engine_search_move(  
2     InferenceEngine* engine,  
3     const ChessPosition* pos,  
4     size_t depth    // Search depth  
5 );
```

Performs minimax search to specified depth.

# 11 Multi-Agent Game API

## 11.1 Game Types

```
1 typedef enum {  
2     GAME_CHESS,  
3     GAME_FOOTBALL,  
4     GAME_BASKETBALL,  
5     GAME_BASEBALL,  
6     GAME_HOCKEY,  
7     GAME_SOCCER,  
8     GAME_TENNIS,  
9     GAME_GENERIC  
10 } GameType;
```

## 11.2 Game Creation

```
1 MultiAgentGame* multi_agent_game_create(  
2     GameType game_type,  
3     size_t num_agents  
4 );
```

## 11.3 Agent Management

```
1 Agent* agent_create(  
2     size_t agent_id,  
3     AgentType type,  
4     size_t action_space_size  
5 );
```

## 11.4 Chess as Multi-Agent

```
1 MultiAgentGame* chess_as_multi_agent_create(void);
```

Creates a chess game where white and black are separate agents.

## 12 Usage Examples

### 12.1 Basic Training Example

```

1 // Create network
2 NeuralNetwork* nn = nn_create_hybrid(768, 512, 4096);
3
4 // Configure training
5 TrainingConfig config;
6 config.optimizer_type = OPTIMIZER_ADAM;
7 config.learning_rate = 0.001;
8 config.use_curriculum = true;
9 config.use_pavlovian = true;
10 config.use_spaced_repetition = true;
11 config.max_epochs = 100;
12
13 // Create training engine
14 TrainingEngine* engine = training_engine_create(nn, &config);
15
16 // Train
17 training_engine_train_with_curriculum(engine);
18
19 // Get statistics
20 TrainingStats* stats = training_engine_get_stats(engine);
21 printf("Accuracy: %.2f%%, Level: %d\n",
22        stats->accuracy * 100, stats->current_level);
23
24 // Cleanup
25 training_engine_destroy(engine);

```

### 12.2 Position Evaluation Example

```

1 // Create inference engine
2 NeuralNetwork* nn = nn_create_hybrid(768, 512, 4096);
3 InferenceEngine* engine = inference_engine_create(nn);
4
5 // Load position
6 ChessPosition* pos = chess_position_from_fen(
7     "rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1"
8 );
9
10 // Evaluate
11 double eval = inference_engine_evaluate_position(engine, pos);
12 printf("Position evaluation: %.4f\n", eval);
13
14 // Predict move
15 ChessMove* move = inference_engine_predict_move(engine, pos);
16 printf("Best move: %d -> %d\n", move->from, move->to);
17
18 // Cleanup
19 chess_position_destroy(pos);
20 inference_engine_destroy(engine);

```

### 12.3 Curriculum Learning Example

```

1 // Create curriculum
2 Curriculum* curriculum = curriculum_create(10);
3
4 // Add examples at different levels

```

```

5 TrainingExample example;
6 example.input_size = 768;
7 example.target_size = 4096;
8 example.input = new double[768];
9 example.target = new double[4096];
10 // ... populate example ...
11
12 curriculum_add_example(curriculum, &example, LEVEL_PRECHOOL);
13
14 // Train and check advancement
15 double accuracy = 0.90;
16 if (curriculum_should_advance(curriculum, accuracy)) {
17     curriculum_advance_level(curriculum);
18     DifficultyLevelEnum level = curriculum_get_current_level(curriculum);
19     printf("Advanced to level %d\n", level);
20 }
21
22 curriculum_destroy(curriculum);

```

## 13 Error Handling

All functions that return pointers return NULL on failure. Functions that modify state should be checked for success. Memory management follows standard C++ patterns: objects created with `create` functions must be destroyed with corresponding `destroy` functions.

## 14 Thread Safety

The current implementation is not thread-safe. Concurrent access to the same network, curriculum, or training engine from multiple threads requires external synchronization.

## 15 Performance Considerations

- Network forward/backward passes are  $O(n \times m)$  where  $n$  is input size and  $m$  is hidden size
- Curriculum level advancement is  $O(1)$
- Spaced repetition review selection is  $O(k)$  where  $k$  is number of examples
- Position evaluation is  $O(1)$  after network forward pass
- Move search is  $O(b^d)$  where  $b$  is branching factor and  $d$  is depth

## 16 Memory Management

All dynamically allocated memory is managed by the library. Users should:

- Always call `destroy` functions for created objects
- Not free memory returned by the library
- Copy data if persistence beyond object lifetime is needed

## 17 Version History

- **Version 1.0** (Current): Initial release with full API

## 18 License

Copyright (C) 2025, Shyamal Suhana Chandra. All rights reserved.