# ITCS 6150 – Intelligent Systems Project Report

Title: N-Queens Solution using Hill Climbing Variants

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#### **Purpose**:

The purpose of this project is to solve the N-Queens problem using 3 different variants of Hill Climbing Search. In order to explore the hill climbing approach, three techniques are discussed:

- a. Hill Climbing using Steepest Ascent Approach
- b. Hill Climbing using Steepest Ascent (using sideways move) Approach
- c. Random Restart Hill Climbing Approach
- d. Random Restart Hill Climbing (using sideways move) Approach

#### **Project Details:**

#### **Application Usage Overview:**

The application is designed to work as follows:

- a. User is asked to enter the number of queens that they would like to test the local search techniques on. NOTE: To prevent the possibility of errors, validation has been added to ensure that the number of queens is more than 2 and the input should be a multiple of two.
- b. User is then asked to input the hill climbing variant that they would like to test. The following options are given:
  - a. Hill Climbing Steepest Ascent: In this approach, the application will calculate the best possible move based on a heuristic that checks the minimum number of times the queens can be attacked.
  - b. Hill Climbing using Steepest Ascent (using sideways move): In this approach, the application will use the same logic as steepest ascent but this time if the heuristic gives the same result for the succeeding move, it will move sideways to solve the problem from a new state with the same heuristic cost. It will continue to do for a predetermined amount of time, in case of this project it is set to 100 to get the best results.
  - c. Random Restart Hill Climbing: In this approach, the application will use steepest hill climbing approach but every time it is not able to find a better heuristic in the succeeding move, the algorithm will start the approach again but this time form a completely random board with a new heuristic.
  - d. Random Restart Hill Climbing (using sideways move): In this approach, the application will use steepest hill climbing approach but every time it finds an equal cost move it will attempt a sideways move i.e. attempt from a new board state with the same cost as the preceding move in the succeeding move. It will continue to do for a pre-determined amount of time, in case of this project it is set to 100 to get the best results.
- c. User is then asked to enter the number of iterations they would like to try the approach for. User is given 8 choices from 300 to 1000 in increments of 100.
- d. All these inputs are validated and the appropriate algorithm is called.
- e. To make the output readable to the user, certain metrics are calculated which are as follows:
  - a. Success Count: The total number of times the algorithm succeeded in getting a result based on the parameters it was given.
  - b. Failure Count: The total number of times the algorithm failed in getting a result based on the parameters it was given.
  - c. Initial State: Based on the problem statement, 4 random configurations are generated to test the algorithms on. The 4 initial random boards are shown.
  - d. Final State: For every random state generated, of the algorithm succeeds in finding a solution, a final chess board is shown which is the solution for that initial random configuration using the algorithm defined by the user.

#### **Application Technical Details:**

Programming Language: Python

#### **Classes Used:**

1. nqueensapp.py:

#### Description:

- Is the starting point of execution for the program.
- Controls the flow of user input to their respective algorithms.
- Collects user input to define the type of algorithm needed to be implemented.
- Performs user input validation

**Functions Used:** 

a. main():

#### Description:

- Is the main function of the entire application
- Collects the following user input:
  - Number of Queens: The number of queens to be placed on the board. To ensure there are no initial errors, validation is put in place for the input to be greater than two.
  - Type of Hill Climbing Algorithm: The user is asked to input their choice of algorithm which can be either Steepest Hill Climb with or without sideways movement.
  - Number of iterations: User is asked to input the number of iterations they want to attempt the algorithm where the choices range from 300 to 1000 in increments of 100.
- Contains the code for validating user input such as ensuring the number of queens is greater than 2 and valid choices are input by the user.
- 1. hillclimbingvariants.py:

#### Description:

- Contains the function calls for all the hill climbing variants implemented.
- Take the output and formats it to make it readable to the user.
- Calculates the metrics for success and failure.

Functions Used:

a. useSteepHillClimbingApproach():

Parameters Used:

- choiceofIteration: The number of times user has input for running the algorithm
- noofQueensOnBoard: The number of queens input by the user that are to be placed on the board.

Description:

• Calls the function to place the noofQueensOnBoard number of queens on the chessboard and perform the algorithm.

- Runs the algorithm for the specified choiceOfIteration and for a fixed four random initial configuration
- Calculates the success and failure metrics and presents it to the user alongside the initial random configuration and the final solution that has been achieved using steepest hill climb.
- b. useSteepHillClimbingApporachWithSidewaysMove():

Parameters Used:

- choiceofIteration: The number of times user has input for running the algorithm
- noofQueensOnBoard: The number of queens input by the user that are to be placed on the board.

Description:

- Calls the function to place the noofQueensOnBoard number of queens on the chessboard and perform the algorithm.
- Runs the algorithm for the specified choiceOfIteration and for a fixed four random initial configuration
- Calculates the success and failure metrics and presents it to the user alongside the initial random configuration and the final solution that has been achieved using steepest hill climb with sideways move.
- c. useRandomRestartHillClimbingApporach():

Parameters Used:

- choiceofIteration: The number of times user has input for running the algorithm
- noofQueensOnBoard: The number of queens input by the user that are to be placed on the board.

Description:

- Calls the function to place the noofQueensOnBoard number of queens on the chessboard and perform the algorithm.
- Runs the algorithm for the specified choiceOfIteration and for a fixed four random initial configuration
- Calculates the success and failure metrics and presents it to the user alongside the initial random configuration and the final solution that has been achieved using random restart hill climbing.
- d. printFinalResult():

Parameters Used:

- localSearchAlgoUsed: String that tells which algorithm is used
- sample\_sequences: The list containing the start and end states of the chessboard with the movement of the queens
- choiceofTries: Total number of times the algorithm will run as per the user
- total: The total number of times the algorithm will return a result

#### Description:

- Prints the metrics of the algorithm search in terms of the number of times it succeeded and failed
- Prints the initial random state and final solution state of the puzzle.
- 3. hillclimbingalgos.py:

Description:

- Contains the core logic for each of the hill climbing variants
- Calculates the heuristic of the current state of the board to determine the next best move.

**Functions:** 

a. Steepest ascent():

Parameters Used:

- problem: The object containing the current state of the board and its corresponding heuristic cost among other parameters.
- allow\_sideways: boolean value that determines if steepest hill climb must be attempted with or without sideways movement.
- max\_sideways: numerical value that determines the maximum number of sideways movements allowed if sideways movement is enabled as per the user.

Description:

- Contains the core logic for using steepest ascent without sideways movement.
- Take the current state of the board and calculates the current heuristic and best possible move.
- If for every movement of the board there is a board with a better heuristic than the former then it will take use that option and place the queen on that board.
- Function returns a dictionary containing the solution of the random state it was processing as well as the path it took to calculate it.
- If allow\_sideways is set to true then for every iteration where the succeeding move is equal to the preceding move in terms of heuristic values then the algorithm will perform a sideways movement I.e. try the steepest\_ascent algorithm again but this time with a new board of the same heuristic.
- To avoid this happening for an indeterminate amount of time, a limit has been set in the max\_sideways parameter. In case of this application to achieve the best result the algorithm limits the sideways moves to 100.
- b. random\_restart():

Parameters Used:

- random\_board: Object containing a random state of the board with all the queens in random locations
- noofQueensOnBoard: The numbers of queens defined by the user that have been placed on the board.

• allow\_sideways: Boolean value that determines if sideways movement is allowed or not if same cost heuristic is encountered.

Description:

- Random restart internally uses the same logic as steepest ascent algorithm with one difference.
- For every state in which the steepest ascent algorithm is unable to produce a result random restart will generate a new board and try again till it finds a result
- To limit the number of times it can do this a fixed limit of 100 has been added to get the best results.
- c. get next best move():

Parameters Used:

- node: The board at its initial state
- problem: The object containing the current state of the board

Description:

- Calculated the next best move based on the current state of the board.
- Best move is determined based on the lowest cost of the succeeding possible combinations based on the number of attacks possible by other queens.
- Functions returns the minimum of those values as the final result.
- 4. board\_wrapper.py

Description:

- Creates the current state of the board when invoked.
- The board is created based on the number of queens input by the user.
- Determine the cost in terms of how many queens can be attacked in the board's current state.
- Determines if the goal has been reached if the overall cost of the board returns zero.

Functions:

a. init ():

Description:

- Role is to initialize the State object with the number of queens determined by the user.
- If the start state is not present then a new start state is generated for the board.
- b. is\_goal():

Description:

• Determines if the goal node has been reached by checking if the number of queens that can be attacked is zero.

c. cost\_function(): Description: Determines the cost function of the node by calculating the number of queens that can be attacked. 5. board.py Description: Contains the bean of the current state of the board. Ensures a random board is generated for every new instantiation. Check is in place to ensure no duplicates are present in the board configurations. **Functions:** \_\_init\_\_(): Description: Initialises the class with the number of queens as the parameter Calculates the cost of the movement of the queens which is then used to determine the heuristic. b. random queen position(): Description: Randomly generates a board and places queens on it. Takes the number of queens input by the user as a parameter. c. get children(): Description: For every position the queen is placed on the board, generate all possible combinations of the Returns the object containing a new random state of the board. d. is attack possible (): Description: Use the mathematical function to determine if the queens can attack each other based on straight and diagonal movements. Returns True or False based on the above fact.

e. calculate possible attacks():

#### Description:

- Based on the random queen positions generated, check each one against the is\_attacking method and determine the pair of queens that attack each other.
- Returns the total length of the queen pairs that attack each other.
- a. useRandomRestartHillClimbingApporachUsingSidewaysMove():

#### Parameters Used:

- · choiceofIteration: The number of times user has input for running the algorithm
- · noofQueensOnBoard: The number of queens input by the user that are to be placed on the board.

#### Description:

- · Calls the function to place the noofQueensOnBoard number of queens on the chessboard and perform the algorithm with a sideways move
- · Runs the algorithm for the specified choiceOfIteration and for a fixed four random initial configuration
- · Calculates the success and failure metrics and presents it to the user alongside the initial random configuration and the final solution that has been achieved using random restart hill climbing.

### **Sample Output**

NOTE: Average Time for running the algorithm is between 30-60 seconds depending on the input combination given by the user.

1. Steepest Ascent Hill Climbing without Sideways Move

/Users/amitshetty/.pyenv/versions/3.7.2/bin/python /Users/amitshetty/PycharmProjects/NQueensShort/nqueensapp.py

Enter the number of Queens to be placed on the board

8

Enter the choice of the algorithm to solve 8-queens problem

- 1. Steepest Hill Climb Algorithm
- 2. Steepest Hill Climb Using Sideways Move Algorithm
- 3. Random Restart Hill Climbing Algorithm

Enter number of times for the local search technique to be applied on the problem
1.300
2.400
3.500
4.600
5.700
6.800
7.900
8.1000
1
Steepest Ascent Hill Climbing Results:
Success Count: 28
Failure: 272
Random Initial Configuration #1.
Initial State:
Q
Q
QQ
_Q
Q_
Q_Q
Final State:
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q
_Q
Q_

\_\_Q\_\_\_\_

Random Initial Configuration #2.	
Initial State :	
QQQ_	
Q_Q	
QQ	
_Q	
Final State:	
Q	
Q	
Q	
Q	
Q	
Q	
_Q	
Q_	
Random Initial Configuration #3.	
Initial State :	
_QQ	
Q_	
QQQ	
Q	
Q	
Final State :	
Q	
Q	
×	

Q_
Q
Q
_Q
Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #4.
Initial State :
QQ
Q
QQ
QQ_
Q
Final State :
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q_
_Q
Q

Process finished with exit code 0

## 2. Steepest Ascent Hill Climbing with Sideways Move

/Users/amitshetty/.pyenv/versions/3.7.2/bin/python /Users/amitshetty/PycharmProjects/NQueensShort/nqueensapp.py

Enter the number of Queens to be placed on the board
8
Enter the choice of the algorithm to solve 8-queens problem
1. Steepest Hill Climb Algorithm
2. Steepest Hill Climb Using Sideways Move Algorithm
3. Random Restart Hill Climbing Algorithm
2
Enter number of times for the local search technique to be applied on the problem
1.300
2.400
3.500
4.600
5.700
6.800
7.900
8.1000
4
Steepest Ascent Hill Climbing with Sideway Move Results :
Success Count: 569
Failure: 31
Random Initial Configuration #1.
Initial State :
Q
Q
QQQ
_Q
$Q_{}Q_{-}$
Final State :
Q

Q
_Q
Q
Q
Q
Q_
Q
Random Initial Configuration #2
Initial State:
Q
Q_Q
_Q
Q
QQ Q
Final State:
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q_
_Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #3
Initial State:
Q
$Q_{}Q_{-}$
_Q_Q

QQ
Q
Final State:
Q
Q
Q_
Q
Q
Q
_Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #4.
Initial State :
Q_Q
Q
Q_
Q Q Q
Q
Final State:
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q_
Q

## 3. Random Restart Hill Climbing

/Users/amitshetty/.pyenv/versions/3.7.2/bin/python /Users/amitshetty/PycharmProjects/NQueensShort/nqueensapp.py
Enter the number of Queens to be placed on the board
8
Enter the choice of the algorithm to solve 8-queens problem
1. Steepest Hill Climb Algorithm
2. Steepest Hill Climb Using Sideways Move Algorithm
3. Random Restart Hill Climbing Algorithm
3
Enter number of times for the local search technique to be applied on the problem
1.300
2.400
3.500
4.600
5.700
6.800
7.900
8.1000
1
Steepest Ascent with Random Restart Hill Climbing Results:
Success Count: 300
Failure: 0
Random Initial Configuration #1.
Initial State:
_QQ

$Q_{}Q_{}$
Q
Q_Q_
Q
Final State :
Q_
Q
_Q
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #2.
Initial State :
Initial State : Q
Q  Q_
Q  Q_ Q_Q
Q  Q_
Q  Q_ Q_Q
Q  Q_ Q_Q
Q Q_ Q_QQ _Q_QQ
QQ
QQQQQ_QQ Final State:Q
Q Q QQ QQQ 
Q
QQ
Q

Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #3.
Initial State :
_Q_Q
QQ
Q
Q
Q_
Q
Final State:
Q
Q
Q
Q
_Q
Q_
Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #4.
Initial State :
Q
_Q
Q_
Q
Q
$Q_{-}Q_{-}Q$

Final State:

Q
Q
Q
Q
Q_
_Q
Q
Q
Process finished with exit code 0
4. Random Restart Hill Climbing with Sideways Move
/Users/amitshetty/.pyenv/versions/3.7.2/bin/python /Users/amitshetty/PycharmProjects/NQueensShort/nqueensapp.py
Enter the number of Queens to be placed on the board
8
Enter the choice of the algorithm to solve 8-queens problem
1. Steepest Hill Climb Algorithm
2. Steepest Hill Climb Using Sideways Move Algorithm
3. Random Restart Hill Climbing Algorithm
4. Random Restart Hill Climbing Algorithm using sideways motion
4
Enter number of times for the local search technique to be applied on the problem
1.300
2.400
3.500
4.600
5.700
6.800
7.900
8.1000
4

Steepest Ascent with Random Restart Hill Climbing with Sideways Move Results :
Success Count: 600
Failure: 0
Random Initial Configuration #1.
Initial State:
Q
$Q_{}Q_{}$
_Q
QQ
Q
Q_
Final State:
Q
_Q
Q
Q
Q
Q_
Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #2.
Initial State:
Q
_Q
QQQ
Q Q
Q

Final State :
Q
Q
Q_
_Q
Q
Q
Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #3.
Initial State :
Q
Q Q
Q
_Q
Q
$Q_{}Q_{}$
Final State :
Q
Q
Q
_Q
Q_
Q
Q
Q
Random Initial Configuration #4.
Initial State :
_QQ

$Q_{}Q_{-}$
Q
Q
Q_Q
Final State:
Q_
Q
Q
Q
Q
Q
_Q
Q
Process finished with exit code 0
Source Code:
Nqueensapp.py:
import sys import hillelimbingvariants
<pre>def main():     # Default condition     noofQueensOnBoard = int(input('Enter the number of Queens to be placed on the board\n') or '4')     # Logical check     if noofQueensOnBoard &lt;= 2 or noofQueensOnBoard % 2 != 0 :</pre>
<pre>print('Invalid Input. Please enter a value greater than and a multiple of 2') sys.exit(1) # User input for choice of algorithm</pre>
<pre>print('Enter the choice of the algorithm to solve {}-queens problem'.format(noofQueensOnBoard))</pre>
choiceOfAlgorithm = int(input('1. Steepest Hill Climb Algorithm\n2. Steepest Hill Climb Using
Sideways Move Algorithm\n3. Random Restart Hill Climbing Algorithm\n4. Random Restart Hill Climbing Algorithm using sideways motion\n') or '1')
print('Enter number of times for the local search technique to be applied on the problem')
choiceOfTries = int(input('1.300\n2.400\n3.500\n4.600\n5.700\n6.800\n7.900\n8.1000\n') or '1') if choiceOfTries == 1:
numOfIteration = 300

```
elif choiceOfTries == 2:
    numOfIteration = 400
  elif choiceOfTries == 3:
    numOfIteration = 500
  elif choiceOfTries == 4:
    numOfIteration = 600
  elif choiceOfTries == 5:
    numOfIteration = 700
  elif choiceOfTries == 6:
    numOfIteration = 800
  elif choiceOfTries == 7:
    numOfIteration = 900
  elif choiceOfTries == 8:
    numOfIteration = 1000
    print('Invalid Choice for number of tries. Please try again')
    sys.exit(1)
  if choiceOfAlgorithm == 1:
    hillclimbingvariants.useSteepHillClimbingApproach(numOfIteration,noofQueensOnBoard)
  elif choiceOfAlgorithm == 2:
hillclimbingvariants.useSteepHillClimbingApporachWithSidewaysMove(numOfIteration,noofQueens
OnBoard)
  elif choiceOfAlgorithm == 3:
hillclimbingvariants.useRandomRestartHillClimbingApporach(numOfIteration,noofQueensOnBoard)
  elif choiceOfAlgorithm == 4:
hillclimbingvariants.useRandomRestartHillClimbingApporachWithSidewaysMove(numOfIteration,n
oofQueensOnBoard)
  else:
    print('Invalid Entry for Algorithm Choice. Try again')
    sys.exit(1)
if __name__ == '__main__':
  main()
hillclimbingvariants.py
import hillclimbingalgos
import boardwrapper
# Steepest Ascent without sideway move method
def useSteepHillClimbingApproach(choiceOfIteration,noofQueensOnBoard):
  total = 0
  fail steps = 0
  solution path = []
```

```
generated boards = []
  for in range(choiceOfIteration):
    final state =
hillclimbingalgos.steepest ascent(boardwrapper.BoardWrapper(noofQueensOnBoard))
    total += final state['is final state']
    fail steps += len(final state['solution'])
    if final state['is final state']:
       if (final state['problem'] not in generated boards) and (len(generated boards) < 4):
         generated boards.append(final state['problem'])
         solution path.append(final state['solution'])
  printFinalResult('Steepest Ascent Hill Climbing', solution path, choiceOfIteration, total)
# Steepest Ascent with Sideway move up to 100 moves
def useSteepHillClimbingApporachWithSidewaysMove(choiceOfIteration,noofQueensOnBoard):
  total = 0
  fail steps = 0
  solution path = []
  generated boards = []
  for in range(choiceOfIteration):
    final state =
hillclimbingalgos.steepest ascent(boardwrapper.BoardWrapper(noofQueensOnBoard),
allow sideways=True)
    total += final state['is final state']
    fail steps += len(final state['solution'])
    if final state['is final state']:
       if (final state['problem'] not in generated boards) and (len(generated boards) < 4):
         generated boards.append(final state['problem'])
         solution path.append(final state['solution'])
  printFinalResult('Steepest Ascent Hill Climbing with Sideway Move', solution path,
choiceOfIteration, total)
# Steepest Ascent with Random Restart (no sideway movement)
def useRandomRestartHillClimbingApporach(choiceOfIteration,noofQueensOnBoard):
  total = 0
  fail steps = 0
  solution path = []
  generated boards = []
  for in range(choiceOfIteration):
    final state =
hillclimbingalgos.random restart(boardwrapper.BoardWrapper(noofQueensOnBoard). class ,
noofQueensOnBoard, allow sideways=False)
    total += final state['is final state']
    fail steps += len(final state['solution'])
    if final state['is final state']:
       if (final state['problem'] not in generated boards) and (len(generated boards) < 4):
         generated boards.append(final state['problem'])
         solution path.append(final state['solution'])
  printFinalResult('Steepest Ascent with Random Restart Hill Climbing', solution path,
choiceOfIteration, total)
# Steepest Ascent with Random Restart (no sideway movement)
```

```
def
use Random Restart Hill Climbing Apporach With Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no of Queens On Boar Apporach With Sideways Move) and the Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no off Queens On Boar March With Sideways Move). The Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no off Queens On Boar March With Sideways Move) and the Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no off Queens On Boar March With Sideways Move). The Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no off Queens On Boar March With Sideways Move) and the Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no off Queens On Boar March With Sideways Move). The Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no off Queens On Boar March With Sideways Move) and the Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no off Queens On Boar March With Sideways Move). The Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration, no off Queens On Boar March With Sideways Move) and the Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration). The Sideways Move (choice Off Iteration) and the Sideway Move (choi
     total = 0
     fail steps = 0
    solution path = []
     generated boards = []
    for in range(choiceOfIteration):
          final state =
hillclimbingalgos.random restart(boardwrapper.BoardWrapper(noofQueensOnBoard). class ,
noofQueensOnBoard, allow sideways=True)
          total += final state['is final state']
          fail steps += len(final state['solution'])
          if final state['is final state']:
               if (final state['problem'] not in generated boards) and (len(generated boards) < 4):
                    generated boards.append(final state['problem'])
                    solution path.append(final state['solution'])
     printFinalResult('Steepest Ascent with Random Restart Hill Climbing with Sideways Move',
solution path, choiceOfIteration, total)
def printFinalResult(localSearchAlgoUsed, sample sequences, choiceOfTries, total):
     print('{} Results:\nSuccess Count: {}\nFailure: {}'.format(localSearchAlgoUsed, total,
choiceOfTries - total))
     for i, currentState in enumerate(sample sequences):
          print('Random Initial Configuration #{}.'.format(i + 1))
          print('Initial State :\n{}'.format(currentState[0]))
          print('Final State :\n{}'.format(currentState[-1]))
hillclimbingalgos.py:
import random
# Steepest ascent with and without sideways
def steepest ascent(board wrapper, allow sideways=False, max sideways=100):
     node = board wrapper.start state
    node cost = board wrapper.cost function(node)
    path = []
    sideways moves = 0
     while True:
          path.append(node)
          best move = get next best move(node, board wrapper)
          best move cost = board wrapper.cost function(best move)
          if best move cost > node cost:
               break
          elif best move cost == node cost:
               if not allow sideways or sideways moves == max sideways:
                    break
               else:
```

```
sideways moves += 1
    else:
       sideways moves = 0
    node = best move
    node cost = best move cost
  return {'is_final_state': 1 if board wrapper.is goal(node) else 0, 'solution': path, 'problem':
board wrapper}
# Random restart using steepest ascent with and without sideways
def random restart(random board, noofQueensOnBoard, allow_sideways):
  num restarts = 100
  path = []
  for in range(num restarts):
    result = steepest ascent(random board(noofQueensOnBoard), allow sideways)
    path += result['solution']
    if result['is final state'] == 1:
       break
  result['solution'] = path
  return result
# Calculate the cost of getting the nest best move based on the queen attack heuristic
def get next best move(node, problem):
  best moves = node.get children()
  moves cost = [problem.cost function(child) for child in best moves]
  min cost = min(moves cost)
  best move = random.choice([move for move index, move in enumerate(best moves) if
moves cost[move index] == min cost])
  return best move
boardwrapper.py:
import board
# Wrapper class that holds the current state of the board object
class BoardWrapper:
  def init (self, noofQueensOnBoard, start state=None):
    if not start state:
       start state = board.Board(noofQueensOnBoard)
    self.start state = start state
  def is goal(self, state):
    # Check goal
    return state.calculate possible attacks() == 0
  def cost function(self, state):
    # Cost function as number of queen attacking
    return state.calculate possible attacks()
```

```
board.py:
import random
import copy
# Board object containing the number of queens on the board and their current positions.
# For every board object generated child states for each queen movement and their heurisite value is
calculated
class Board:
  count = 0
  def init (self, numberOfQueens, queen positions=None, parent=None, move cost=0):
    if queen positions is None:
       self.queen num = numberOfQueens
       self.queen_positions = frozenset(self.random queen position())
    else:
       self.queen positions = queen positions
       self.queen num = len(self.queen positions)
    self.f cost = move cost
    self.parent = parent
    self.id = Board.count
    Board.count += 1
  def str (self):
    # string function for printing
    return '\n'.join([' '.join([' 'if (col, row) not in self.queen positions else 'Q' for col in
range(self.queen num)]) for row in range(self.queen num)])
  def hash (self):
    # Hash function to remove duplicate
    return hash(self.queen positions)
  def eq (self, other):
    # Check if 2 nodes are same
    return self.queen positions == other.queen positions
  def lt (self, other):
    # Compare cost
    return self.f cost < other.f cost or (self.f cost == other.f cost and self.id > other.id)
  def random queen position(self):
    # Generate random queen position
    open columns = list(range(self.queen num))
    queen positions = [(open columns.pop(random.randrange(len(open columns))),
random.randrange(self.queen_num)) for _ in range(self.queen_num)]
    return queen positions
  def get children(self):
    # Get children from current state node
    children = []
    parent queen positions = list(self.queen positions)
```

```
for queen index, queen in enumerate(parent queen positions):
       new positions = [(queen[0], row) for row in range(self.queen num) if row != queen[1]]
       for new position in new positions:
         queen positions = copy.deepcopy(parent queen positions)
         queen positions[queen index] = new position
         children.append(Board(self.queen num, queen positions))
    return children
  def random child(self):
    # Random child
    queen positions = list(self.queen positions)
    random queen index = random.randrange(len(self.queen positions))
    queen positions[random queen index] = (queen positions[random queen index][0],
random.choice([row for row in range(self.queen num) if row !=
queen positions[random queen index][1]]))
    return Board(self.queen num, queen positions)
  def range between(self, a, b):
    # Return positions between a and b
    if a > b:
       return range(a-1, b, -1)
    elif a < b:
       return range(a+1, b)
       return [a]
  def consolidate attack moves(self, a, b):
    # Repeat
    if len(a) == 1:
       a *= len(b)
    elif len(b) == 1:
       b = len(a)
    return zip(a, b)
  # Repeat zipped positions between a and b
  def attack positions(self, a, b):
     return self.consolidate attack moves(list(self.range between(a[0], b[0])),
list(self.range between(a[1], b[1])))
  # Check if 2 positions have attacked each other
  def is attack possible(self, queens, a, b):
    if (a[0] == b[0]) or (a[1] == b[1]) or (abs(a[0]-b[0]) == abs(a[1]-b[1])):
       for between in self.attack positions(a, b):
         if between in queens:
            return False
       return True
    return False
  # Calculate number of queen pairs attacking each other
  def calculate possible attacks(self):
    attacking pairs = []
```

```
queen_positions = list(self.queen_positions)
left_to_check = copy.deepcopy(queen_positions)
while left_to_check:
    a = left_to_check.pop()
    for b in left_to_check:
        if self.is_attack_possible(queen_positions, a, b):
            attacking_pairs.append([a, b])
return len(attacking_pairs)
```