# **Abstract**

# **Chapter 2: Machine Learning**

## 2.1 Introduction

Machine learning (ML), a subfield of artificial intelligence (AI), is concerned with the construction of computer programs that automatically improve with experience (Mitchell, 1997). It is about making computer modify or adapt their actions so that these actions get more accurate. The aims of machine learning is to establish procedures, known as learning algorithm, that allow a machine to learn from examples presented to it and to ultimately let machines teach themselves (Bengio, 2016). The idea of a computer machine and intelligence began in the 1950 when Alan Turing questioned “Can machine think?” (Turing, 1950). Machine learning has led to the development of machines that can learn intelligent behaviour directly from data rather than being explicitly programmed to display such behaviour (Schölkopf, 2015).

Machine learning methods are sometimes called subsymbolic because no symbols or symbolic manipulation are involved (Marsland, 2015).

## 2.2 Types of Machine Learning

### **2.2.1 Supervised Learning**

Supervised learning is the most widely used technique in machine learning. In machine learning, systems are trained to infer pattern from observational data. A particularly simple type of pattern, a mapping between input and output can be learned through supervised learning. It involves given training data which consists of example inputs and the corresponding outputs and comes up with a model to explain those data (Schölkopf, 2015). Decision tree learning is a type of supervised learning algorithm.

### **2.2.2 Unsupervised Learning**

The goal of unsupervised learning is to identify and explore regularities and dependencies in data. Like supervised learning, unsupervised learning proceeds from a finite sample of training data, meaning that the learned concepts are stochastic variables depending on the particular training set (Hansen & Larsen, 1996).

### **2.2.3 Reinforcement Learning**

Reinforcement learning is another type of machine learning technique. The training information provided to the learning system by the environment is in the form of scalar reinforcement signals that measure how well the system operates. The learner is not told which actions to take but and must discover which actions to be the best by trying each action in turn (Maglogiannis, et al., 2007).

## 2.3 Machine Learning methods

### **2.3.1 Decision tree learning**

Decision tree learning is a logic-based type of supervised learning algorithm. It is a tree that classify instances by sorting them based on feature values. Each node in a tree represents a feature in an instance to be classified, and each branch represents a value that a node can assume. Instances are classified starting at the root node and sorted based on their feature values (Maglogiannis, et al., 2007).

### **2.3.2 Artificial neural networks (ANN)**

Artificial neural networks (ANN) is a perception-based type of supervised learning algorithm from biology, designed to simulate the way in which the human brain processes information. ANNs gather their knowledge by detecting the patterns and relationships in data (Agatonovic-Kustrin & Beresford, 2000). The basic unit of ANN is neuron. An artificial neuron corresponds to a nonlinear threshold apparatus with multiples inputs and a single output (Wang & Li, 2008).



Fig 2.1: Structure of an Artificial neural networks (ANN) (Agatonovic-Kustrin & Beresford, 2000)

### **2.3.3 Deep Learning (DL)**

Deep learning is a form of machine learning that allows computers to learn from experience. It refers to the simulation of networks of neurons that gradually learn to recognised images, understand speech or even make decisions on their own (Bengio, 2016).

### **2.3.4 Genetic Algorithms (GA)**

Genetic algorithm is a global optimization algorithm that introduces the idea of biology genetics, enhancing the adaptability of each individual by the genetic operation mechanism such as selection, crossover, thus simulating the evolution process of natural selection (Wang & Li, 2008). The aim of Genetic algorithm is to obtain the approximate optimal solution from all feasible solutions under genetic operators (Li , et al., 2016).

### **2.3.5 Temporal Difference (TD)**

Temporal difference method introduces the idea that learning is based on difference between temporally successive predictions. The goal of learning in temporal difference method is to make the learner’s current prediction for the current input pattern more closely match the next prediction at the next time step (Tesauro, 1995).

## 2.4 Machine learning examples in everyday life

Siri: A voice recognition system uses machine learning to help answer questions and make recommendations.

Facebook: A social media service that uses image recognition algorithm to recognised people in photo.

AVG: An antivirus software that uses machine learning to detect malicious software on computer device.

Google: A search engine that uses machine learning algorithm to improve search results and search suggestions.

PayPal: An online payment platform that uses machine learning algorithm to detect fraud.

# **Chapter 3: Artificial Intelligence**

## 3.1 Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI), also known as Machine Intelligence (MI), is the area of computer science dedicated to produce software capable of sophisticated, intelligent, computations similar to those that the human brain routinely performs (Agatonovic-Kustrin & Beresford, 2000). Computer games in particular has been an important branch of Artificial Intelligence. It has brought a lot of important theories and methods, which helped with the progress of scientific research greatly (Yang , et al., 2017).

## 3.2 Use of Artificial Intelligence in Games

### **3. Rule-Based Techniques**

Finite State Machine

3.3 Artificial Intelligence methods

## 3.3 Artificial Intelligence Accomplishments

### **3.3.1 IBM 701 Electronic Data Processing Machine – The First Checker-playing Program**

Built by Arthur Samuel, IBM 701 was also known as the first self-learning program. It implements an optimization to search trees called alpha-beta pruning. The program recorded reward for specific move, allowing the application to learn with each game played. Samuel also programmed it to play itself, increasing the rate the program learn and play (Jones, 2007).

### **3.3.2 Deep Blue - The First Chess Computer**

Deep Blue, developed by IBM, was the first chess-playing supercomputer that beat against world chess champion Garry Kasparov after a six game match in 1997 (Hsu, 1999). Deep Blue had an impact on computing in many different industries. It was programmed to solve the complex strategic game of chess, thus allowing researchers to explore and understand the limits of massively parallel processing. This research gave developers deeper understanding into ways they could design a computer to tackle complex problems in other fields, using deep knowledge to analyse a higher number of possible solutions (IBM , n.d.).

### **3.3.3 AlphaGo - The First Computer Go**

AlphaGo, developed by Google DeepMind, is the first Computer Go program to defeat a professional human Go player in 2016. This was considered to be a significant milestone in the quest of artificial intelligence (AI). AlphaGo uses combination of advanced search tree with deep neural networks. These neural networks record the description of the Go board as an input and process it through a number of different network layers containing millions of neuron-like connections. One neural network, the policy network, selects the next move to play while another neural network, the value network, predicts the winner of the game (DeepMind Technologies Limited, n.d.). These deep neural networks are trained by combination of supervised learning from human expert games, and reinforcement learning from games of self-play (Silver, et al., 2016).

# **Chapter 4 Chinese Chess**

## 4.1 Introduction

Chinese Chess also known as Xiang Qi (Xiang means elephant and Qi means chess) or The Elephant Game, is a popular two player strategy board game in China. Similar to Chess, the aim of the game is to capture the opponent’s General piece or putting the opponent’s General piece in checkmate to win. The Chinese chess is played on a 9x10 board (Fig 4.1), the board contains a river in the middle that divides the board between two sides. Each side also contains a 3x3 intersection at its centre with diagonal lines which represent the imperial palace. Chinese Chess is played with 32 pieces, each player has 16 pieces (one King, two Advisors, two Elephants, two Rooks, two Horses, two Cannons and five Pawns).

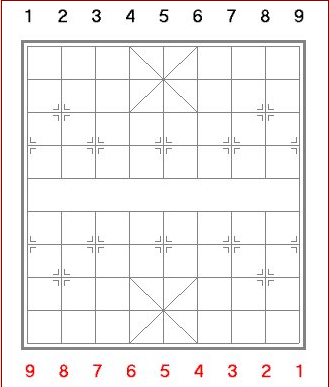


Fig 4.1 Chinese Chess Board (Donnelly, 2014)

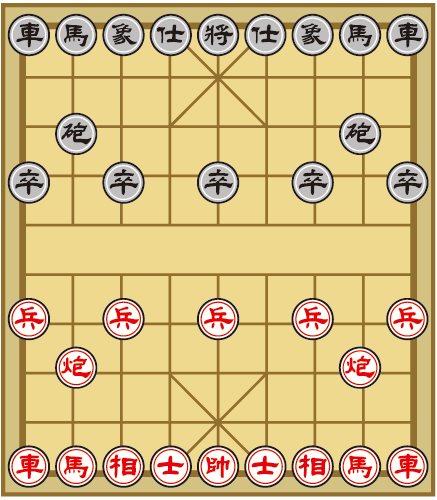


Fig 4.2 Chinese Chess Board with Pieces (Yellow Mountain Imports, n.d.)

## 4.2 Techniques used in modern Chinese Chess programs

### **4.2.1 Game Tree**

Computer chess games are usually represented using game trees. A game tree is an instance of a tree in which the root node represent possible states of the game or positions, and arcs in the tree represent moves. Leaf nodes in the tree represent final states, where the game has been won, lost or tied (Coppin, 2004).

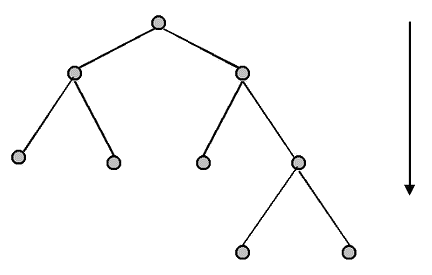


Fig 4.1 Example of a Game Tree (Ross, 2014)

### **4.2.1 Minimax Algorithm**

The minimax algorithm is the most widely used game tree search algorithm. The aim of the algorithm is to maximise the lowest possible score that can be achieved. When evaluating game trees, it is usual to assume that the computer is attempting to maximise some score that the opponent is trying to minimise. This score is usually the result of the evaluation function for a given position, so high positive score means a good position for the computer and a high negative score means a good position for the opponent (Coppin, 2004).

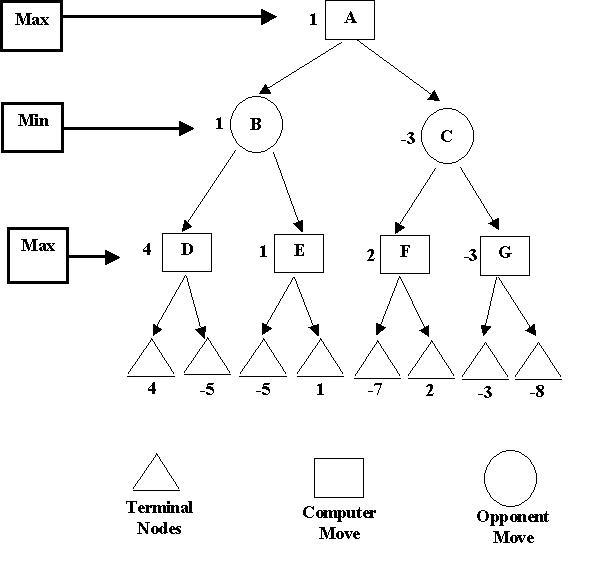


Fig 4.2 Example of Game Tree using Minimax Algorithm (Kendall, 2001)

### **4.2.2 Alpha-Beta Pruning (ABS)**

Alpha-Beta Pruning is an adversarial search algorithm which helps to decrease the complexity of nodes in the game tree thus allowing a deeper and efficient search to be performed.

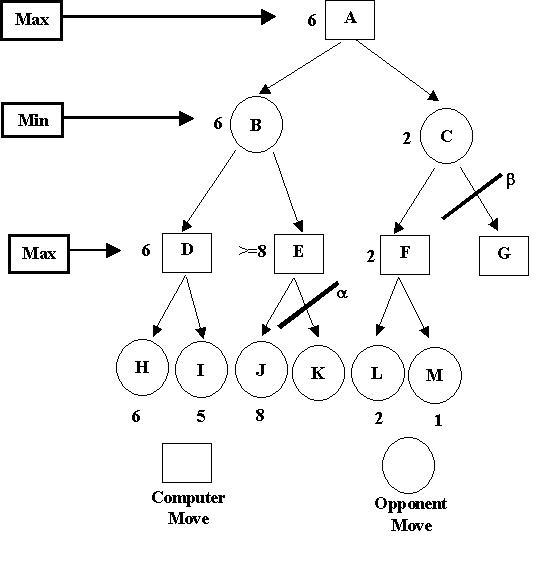


Fig 4.3 Example of Game Tree using Alpha-Beta Pruning (Kendall, 2001)

### **4.2.3 Evaluation Functions**

Evaluation Functions is used to examine a particular position of the board and estimate how well the computer is doing, or how likely it is to win from this position. Evaluation Functions is also known as Static Evaluators because they are used to evaluate a game from just one static position (Coppin, 2004).

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