

OTHELLO DEVELOPMENT

PRATICAL ASSIGMENT

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PRESENTATION

PROJECT:

The goal of this project is to develop a game and implement an intelligent bot that allows the user to play alone.

CONSTRAINTS:

There are several constraints. The aim of these is to directly apply the course to the project and not to take the wrong direction. Moreover, the game developed is intended to be used by all types of users and must therefore be made up of a good UX/UI.

In first, the software must provide the following possibilities for the user:

- To choose who starts the game: human or computer.
- To start a new game after the completion of the previous game.

Moreover, the student must implement the following in the software:

- Generation of a state space graph of the game.
- Heuristic evaluation function (because we will deal with a partly available state space graph of the game at each turn)
- A game algorithm considered in the course (*Minimax in our case*).

OTHELLO:

The game I chose is called **Othello**. It is a **two-person zero-sum game** very famous in France. This game isn't so easy to program because it needs a process that can find and flip the necessary coins.



SOLUTION

ARCHITECTURE:

The solution is developed in Python. The project is made of several files for each different class allowing the game to work (buttons, grid...). The main data structure used is a list representing the matrix of the game (in other words the grid with the colored pieces).

The different methods and functions of each class are explained in the comments of the program (code below).

For the Othello game class, different structures are used.

To register the players, we use a dictionary (keeping several tuples according to the following convention (key, color, AI). This convention allows us to know the identification key of the piece on the game grid, the color of this one and the control of this piece by the AI or not). This dictionary allows to reduce the number of attributes of the class by merging the different players in the same attribute.

The game states allows to give dynamic information about the current state of the game at any time. Moreover, when used with the "update_background()" method, this attribute allows to directly change the background with the file corresponding to the game state.

As for the players and for the same reasons of optimization, the buttons of the graphical interface of the game are kept in a dictionary. These buttons are built according to the initialization convention of the Button class.

Finally, the game board is built thanks to the Board class, which defines the architecture and the backend of the grid that will be graphically displayed on the game window.

HEURISTIC EVALUATION:

The heuristic evaluation is based on several pieces of information that I found on the internet and in books.

First, the most important thing is the number of pieces flipped by the move. In fact, for each move a player makes, at least one piece must be flipped. This way, each flipped piece represents one more point in the player's score and one less in the opponents. This value represents the most important weight of the movement chosen by the AI.

Moreover, we calculate the potential of each move thanks to a weighted matrix of the positions on the grid. This matrix is defined thanks to data found on the internet, in several projects of construction of heuristic function of evaluation in the context of the game of Othello. This weighted matrix is constant and can be found on the board.py file.

MINIMAX ALGORITHM:

The minimax algorithm used in my project is simple. The goal is to find the maximin value, that is "the highest value that the player can be sure to get without knowing the actions of the other players; equivalently, it is the lowest value the other players can force the player to receive when they know the player's action." (Wikipedia, Minimax). That algorithm has been learnt in course. Consequently, I am not going to present it in this report. Its operation is quite classic and does not require further explanation.

In our case, to be able to calculate all the possible move in a good time, we will not go through more than 3 levels in the constructed tree. For the easy level of the AI, we will work with just 1 level, for the medium 2 and for the hard level 3 levels.

INTERFACE:

The game interface has been built on python with the help of the Pygame module. This module is a library for the creation of video games. It works in a similar way to Tkinter, but this library is more focused on drawing and updating frames to simulate the movement and evolution of the game.

In this way, the program displays a background matching the state of the game and updates at each time step the logical grid state managed by the board object of the Board class defined in the board.py file. This display evolves by linking the identification keys of the players (filling the matrix) to a dynamic circle of their color on the board.

Finally, many buttons and displays work in a way that allows the player a more pleasant and dynamic game experience, improving the gameplay and usability of the game developed.

CODE:

Othello.py:

```
event.type == pygame.MOUSEBUTTONDOWN: # Click are used to start the game and choose his color
mouse_position = event.pos
if self.buttons["black button"].is_clicked(mouse_position): # User chooses black, he starts
    self.players["white player"]["AI"] = True
    self.players["black_player"]["AI"] = False
    if self.buttons["white button"].is_clicked(mouse_position): # User chooses white, AI starts
    self.players["white_player"]["AI"] = False
    self.players["white_player"]["AI"] = True
    self.ai_start = True
    self.players["black_player"]["AI"] = True
    self.game_state = GAME_STATES["PLAYING"]
                                                                                                                       prayers["black_player"]["AI"] = True
| state = GAME_STATES["PLAYEMO"]
```

```
.playing_othello(screen)
  eff.display_available_move(screen, self.players["white_player"]["key"])

f self.ai_start: # In case the user has chosen white, let's play with AI first

self.board.is_there_valid_move(self.players["black_player"]["key"], self.players["white_player"]["key"])
                  if event.type == pygame.QUIT: # Quit the game
    pygame.quit()
self.update Dackground(screen) # Updating to the good ending page depending on the result of the game
while True: # Ending game process, allowing the user to review or to reset the game
for event in pygame.event.get():
    if event.type == pygame.QUIT: # Quit the game
        pygame.quit()
```

```
best_move = [-1, -1]  # Default best move, allow us to know if the minimax algorithm doesn't work
max_point = float('-inf')  # Represent the points of the best found move
for move in self.board.available_moves:
    temp_board = self.board.copy_board(SCREEN_SIZE)  # We copy the board because we want to simulate moves
    temp_board.grid(move[0]] (move[1]) = self.current_player  # Simulation of one of the available move
    flipped_coin = temp_board.update_grid(move[0], move[1], self.current_player)  # How many coin did it
 for move in board.available_moves:

temp_board = board.copy_board(SCREEN_SIZE)  # We copy the board because we want to simulate moves
temp_board.grid[move[0]] [move[1]] = player  # Simulation of one of the available move
turned_coin = temp_board.update_grid(move[0], move[1], player)  # How many coin did it flipped
temp_board.is_there_valid_move(other_player, player)  # Updating of the new available moves
value = self.minimax(temp_board, other_player, True, turned_coin, depth - 1)  # Minimax process
best_value = min(best_value, value)  # Value of this node is the worth value that we found
return best_value  # We return the value for each possible move of the grid
      self.current_player = self.players["black_player"]["key"]  # White always starts
self.game_state = GAME_STATES["LAUNCHING"]
next_turn(self, screen: pygame.Surface):
if self.current_player == self.players["white_player"]["key"]:
    self.current_player = self.players["black_player"]["key"]
```

```
for row, col in self.board.available_moves:
    if self.board.grid[row][col] == 0:
        self.draw_circle(col, row, screen, self.board.color, self.board.radius)
    self.board.available_moves = [] # Then, we delete all the current available moves
```

```
# This method updates game's background using the global state of the game
def update_background(self, screen: pygame.Surface):
    fond = pygame.image.load(f'assets/{self.game_state}_background.png')
    fond = fond.convert()
    screen.blit(fond, (0, 0))
    pygame.display.flip()
    pygame.display.flip()
                           for col in range(board.column_count):
    if board.grid[row][col] == player:
        total += board.grid[row][col] * board.square_weight[row][col]
rn total + 1.5 * turned coin
```

board.py:

```
t numpy
```

button.py:

```
# This class represents the buttons available in the game
class Button:
    def __init__ (self, left_side, top_side, bottom_side, right_side):
        self.left_side = left side # Left border side of the button
        self.top_side = top_side # Top border side of the button
        self.bottom_side = bottom_side # Bottom border side of the button
        self.right_side = right_side # Right border side of the button

# This method just return a boolean value that indicates if the click is inside the button

def is_clicked(self, mouse_position):
    return self.left_side <= mouse_position[0] <= self.right_side and \
        self.top_side <= mouse_position[1] <= self.bottom_side</pre>
```

Main.py:

```
from othello import Othello # importing the Game Class from the file

ROW_COUNT = 8
COLUMN_COUNT = 8
othello = Othello(ROW COUNT, COLUMN COUNT)
```

USER MANUAL

RULES:

The rules of Othello are **simple**, here is a summary:

The object of the game is to have the majority of discs of your own color at the end of the game.

A move consists of "outflanking" your opponent's disc(s), then flipping the outflanked disc(s)to your color. To outflank means to place a disc on the board so that your opponent's row (or rows) of disc(s) is bordered at each end by a disc of your color. (A "row" may be made up of one or more discs).

Here's one example:



White disc A was already in place on the board. The placement of white disc B outflanks the row of three black discs. White flips the outflanked discs and now the row looks like this:

Now, let's see the rules for playing Othello:

- 1. Black always moves first.
- 2. If on your turn you cannot outflank and flip at least one opposing disc, the game is ended. However, if a move is available to you, you may not forfeit your turn.
- 4. Players may not skip over their own color disc(s) to outflank an opposing disc. (Figure 4).

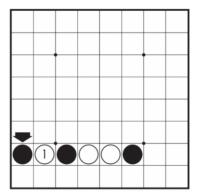
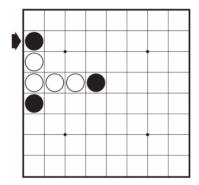


Figure 4: This disc outflanks and flips White disc 1 ONLY.

5. Disc(s) may only be outflanked as a direct result of a move and must fall in the direct line of the disc placed down. (See Figures 5 and 6).





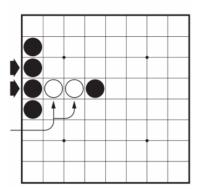
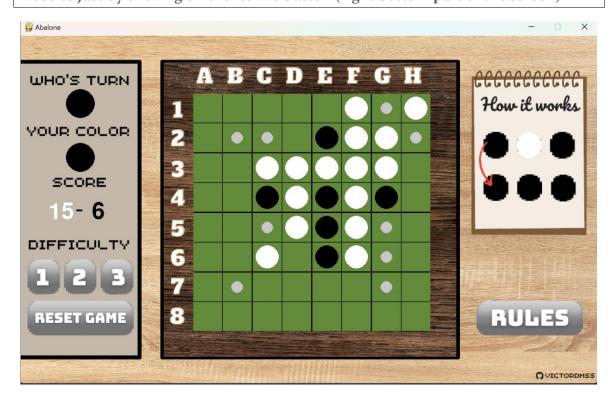


Figure 6: These 2 discs flipped. Discs 1 and 2 are not flipped (even though they appear to be outflanked).

- 6. All discs outflanked in any one move must be flipped, even if it is to the player's advantage not to flip them at all.
- 7. Once a disc is placed on a square, it can never be moved to another square later in the game.
- 8. When the game is over. Discs are counted and the player with the majority of their color showing is the winner.

If the user wants to check the rules during the game, he can directly go on the official website just by clicking on the RULES button (right bottom part of the screen)



LAUNCHING:

The user can choose his color for the whole game. The black color always starts. The other color will be played by an implemented AI (easy level by default).

To choose a color, the user just needs to click on one of the two little circles that are on the launch screen.

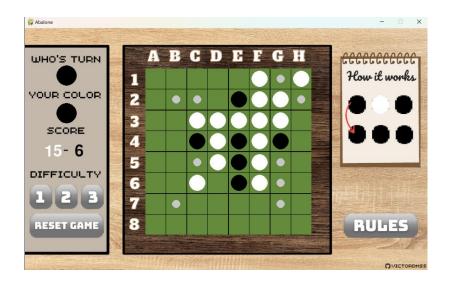


PLAYING:

The user can see all his available moves with the small grey circles. He just has to click on a valid position on the board to make a move. After that, the AI will play with a little delay and it will be his turn again.

→ On the left part of the screen, there is some information like the color of the user, the score or the possibility to change the difficulty and reset the game.

Regarding the difficulty, it can be changed at any time during the game. The modification will be made directly, and the AI will act according to this choice.



ENDING:

When the game ends, the screen changes to show who won the game. However, it remains possible for the user to review the game to understand or to check something. After that, the reset button allows you to play a new game.





