# Term Project: N-Queens

CP 468 Artificial Intelligence

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Group 18

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Github Link: https://github.com/mpa-mxiang/n-queens.git (minconflict.py)

**Discussion - Data Structures and Functions** 

**Creating the Board:** 

We had two functions that could be used to create the chess board: createInitialdomain()

and createRandomdomain(), createInitialdomain() is what the program generally uses, since it

can create a board that is initially already "closer" to the solution. In createInitialdomain(), we

first create an ordered set that stores the indices of all rows (rowsRemaining). We then iterate

through each column in the board and pop the first value out of the rowsRemaining set to get a

square to place the queen on. Using this column and row value, we find the number of conflicts

(number of queens that are in the same row, left diagonal, or right diagonal as the square). If

there are no conflicts, then we append this row index to the board and call updateConflicts(). If

there are conflicts, then we place the row index back into rowsRemaining and repeat the process

again with the next row. We decided to repeat this process twice because then the program

wouldn't have to spend too much time generating a board, but could still generate a fairly good

initial board. If both column and row pairs have conflicts, then we append the column to a list

called colsRemaining, which we'll fill in at the end with whatever rows are left in

rowRemaining, without checking for number of conflicts.

createRandomdomain() is only called when the global variable infiniteLoop is set to true.

This happens when the program detects that on the last attempt to reach a solution, a queen

would repeatedly be moved back and forth between the same 2 rows. To break out of this

infiniteLoop, on the next attempt, a random board is generated by randomly shuffling

rowsRemaining. While createInitialdomain() always gives us the same initial board,

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createRandomdomain() will give us different initial boards, so it won't always get stuck in a loop between 2 rows.

### **Min-Conflicts Algorithm and Updating Conflicting Queens:**

We designed the minimum-conflict algorithm to handle the actual meat of the program. this case being solving the n-queen problem. It's a search algorithm that is used to solve constraint-satisfaction problems, where the constraints in the problem of n-queens would be the number of possible attacking queens. The minimum conflicts algorithm we designed searches each column on the board, and locates the queen with the highest number of conflicts using an auxiliary function called maxCol(). Once the queen with the highest number of conflicts is returned, a search for each row in that column is done to look for the least amount of conflicts. This is accomplished with the function minConflict() which returns the row with the fewest number of attacking queens, and moves the queen to that row. Afterwards, the arrays storing conflicts in each row (numRow), right diagonally (numRightDiag), and left diagonally (numLeftDiag) are updated using the function updateConflicts(), and this process is repeated until there is a solution. In the minConflict() function itself, first the minimum number of conflicts(minimum conflict) is set equal to the total number of queens(numQueens), which is n. An empty list(minRows) is created to store rows that have a minimum number of attacking queens, and each row in every column is iterated through. A calculation is done to determine the total number of attacking queens, and if it's less than minimum conflict, then minimum conflict is updated. Afterwards, minRows is set to the index of the current row, and if the number of conflicting queens is equal to minimum conflict, then minRows is updated. This entire process

builds minRow to have a list containing the rows with least number of conflicts from attacking queens, and returns minRow when called for.

#### **Maximum Conflicts Column Heuristic:**

The maxCol() function is a heuristic used to decide which queen on the board to reposition next. The function returns the index of the column that contains the most conflicting queens. The function iterates through each column on the board and calculates the number of conflicting queens by adding the number of queens in the same row, left diagonal, and right diagonal. This is done using the row list, left diagonal list, and right diagonal list (numRow, numRightDiag, and numLeftDiag). The column with the largest number of conflicting queens is then returned, with ties being stored in the conflictColsList list and broken at random using random.choice().

#### **Input and Output Format:**

For Input, we ask for N in the console. Then, for output, it would be stored in both the console and another text file called "output.txt". In the console, the output would display the diagram for the solution. However, in the output text file, it displays a list which indexes the location for each queen. The values in the list represent the row number in that column where the queen would be placed.

#### Solve():

The solve() function is used to run the program for a number of iterations that doesn't exceed the maximum number of iterations. For the maximum number of iterations, we decided to keep the number at 60% of the total number of queens (0.6 \* numQueens), because this number allowed the program to generate a solution without running for an excessively long time. For

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smaller boards where n < 100, we increased the number to equal to the number of queens, since this proved to be enough iterations for the program to find a solution. During each iteration, a column is selected using the maxCol() heuristic. If the number of conflicting queens in the column is 3, then we have arrived at a solution, since there would only be a maximum of 1 queen in each row, left diagonal, and right diagonal. Otherwise, the program calls minConflict() to decide which row to put the queen in, and then calls updateConflicts() to remove and add conflicting queens (-1 and +1) in each of the 3 conflict arrays for the given column and row. solve() returns true if a solution was found; otherwise, it returns false and the program will continue to call solve() until a solution is found.

How to Install, Compile, and Execute the Code: - Arshdeep write this one.

To install, compile and Execute the N-queens problem we can follow the steps outlined below:

To install:

To download the code source files you can head over to

https://github.com/mpa-mxiang/n-queens

To download you can:

- 1. Use the <u>Github Desktop app</u> if you have.
- 2. Download the zip file and extract files.
- 3. Use Git Bash and clone the repository.

To run the code:

#### **System requirements:**

- Have the latest version of python installed.
- Install the matplotlib library:

# > pip install matplotlib

- Install the seaborn library.

# > pip install seaborn

**Note:** For the input, enter the size of board configuration in the input.txt file. Input any number 10, 100, 1000, 10000, 100000, 1000000 and then add the input.txt file as parameter when executing the minconflicts.py file.

- Make sure you have the most up to date version of the code and everything is saved/compiled.
- 2. You can either run the program traditionally by hitting the run button depending on the IDE and changing the parameters in the input.txt file that you would like to use for input, OR you can use the terminal command to execute:

# > python3 minconflict.py input.txt

3. To see the results/output you can check the output.txt file which is automatically generated when the program is executed.

#### **Source Code(minconflict.py):**

```
from math import trunc
import random
import time
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.patches as patches
import seaborn
from typing import Generator, List
# creates an initial domain
def createInitialdomain():
   global numRow
   global numRightDiag
   global numLeftDiag
right diagonal
domain
   numRow = [0] * numQueens
    numRightDiag = [0] * ((2 * numQueens) - 1)
   numLeftDiag = [0] * ((2 * numQueens) - 1)
    rowsRemaining = set(range(0, numQueens))
    colsRemaining = []
```

```
for col in range(0, numQueens):
       tryRow = rowsRemaining.pop()
and tryRow
       conflicts = numRow[tryRow] + numRightDiag[col +
                                                  tryRow] +
numLeftDiag[col + (numQueens - tryRow - 1)]
queen at that position
       if conflicts == 0:
positioning
           domain.append(tryRow)
conflicts need to be added
           updateConflicts(col, tryRow, 1)
           rowsRemaining.add(tryRow)
            tryRow = rowsRemaining.pop()
            conflicts = numRow[tryRow] + numRightDiag[col +
                                                      tryRow] +
numLeftDiag[col + (numQueens - tryRow - 1)]
location and append the row index to the domain, update conflicts
            if conflicts == 0:
```

```
domain.append(tryRow)
                updateConflicts(col, tryRow, 1)
               rowsRemaining.add(tryRow)
yet been filled
               domain.append(None)
come back to that column later
                colsRemaining.append(col)
the list of all columns that have not yet been placed
   for col in colsRemaining:
       domain[col] = rowsRemaining.pop()
conflicts need to be added
       updateConflicts(col, domain[col], 1)
def createRandomdomain():
   global numRow
   global numRightDiag
   global numLeftDiag
   domain = []
```

```
# initialize the lists for # of queens in each row, left diagonal, and
right diagonal
   numRow = [0] * numQueens
   numRightDiag = [0] * ((2 * numQueens) - 1)
   numLeftDiag = [0] * ((2 * numQueens) - 1)
   rowsRemaining = list(range(0, numQueens))
   random.shuffle(rowsRemaining)
   for col in range(0, numQueens):
        tryRow = rowsRemaining.pop()
       domain.append(tryRow)
       updateConflicts(col, tryRow, 1)
to the row, left diagonal, and
the lists.
def updateConflicts(col, row, add):
queen is moved from/to by either adding or subtracting 1
```

```
numRow[row] += add
   numRightDiag[col + row] += add
   numLeftDiag[col + (numQueens - row - 1)] += add
def minConflict(c):
   minimum conflict = numQueens
   minRows = []
   for r in range(numQueens):
        conflicts = numRow[r] + numRightDiag[c + r] + \
            numLeftDiag[c + (numQueens - r - 1)]
minimum conflict and set the minRows list as containing only the index of
        if conflicts < minimum conflict:</pre>
           minRows = [r]
           minimum conflict = conflicts
row index to the list
           minRows.append(r)
queens
   minRow = random.choice(minRows)
   return minRow
```

```
def maxCol():
   maximum conflicts = 0
   conflictColsList = []
   for c in range(0, numQueens):
       con = numRow[r] + numRightDiag[c + r] + \
           numLeftDiag[c + (numQueens - r - 1)]
       if (con > maximum conflicts):
           conflictColsList = [c]
           maximum conflicts = con
       elif con == maximum conflicts:
           conflictColsList.append(c)
   maxCol = random.choice(conflictColsList)
   return maxCol, maximum conflicts
returns true if a solution is found
def solve():
   global infiniteLoop
```

```
if (infiniteLoop == True):
        createRandomdomain()
       createInitialdomain()
   iteration = 0
   positions = []
attempt to find a solution
   if numQueens < 100:
       totalIterations = numQueens
        totalIterations = 0.6 * numQueens
   while (iteration < totalIterations):</pre>
       col, numConflicts = maxCol()
        if (numConflicts > 3):
```

```
position = minConflict(col)
positions list
           positions.append(position)
            if (position != domain[col]):
rows, left diagonal, and right diagonal lists
                updateConflicts(col, domain[col], -1)
index to show the queen's new position
               domain[col] = position
left diagonal, and right diagonal lists of the queen's new position
               updateConflicts(col, domain[col], 1)
       elif numConflicts == 3:
       iteration += 1
   if (len(set(positions)) == 2):
       infiniteLoop = True
def readInput():
   numQueensList = []
   with open('input.txt', 'r') as file:
```

```
# create a list to store all of the values of n that we need to
find a solution for
       for line in file:
            numQueensList.append(int(line.rstrip('\n')))
   file.close()
   open('output.txt', 'w').close()
   return numQueensList
def writeOutput():
readability
   for i in range(len(domain)):
       domain[i] += 1
   with open('output.txt', 'a', 64) as file:
       file.write(solution + "\n\n")
   file.close()
def printDomain(domain, numQueens):
   row = [['-'] for x in range(0, numQueens)] for y in range(0,
numQueens)]
   for i in range(numQueens):
       row[i][num] = 'Q'
       print(*i)
```

```
return (row)
def plot solution(num queens):
   fig = plt.figure()
   ax = fig.add subplot(111, aspect='equal')
   ax.set_xlim((0, num queens))
   ax.set ylim((0, num queens))
   count = 0
   for queen in solution:
       ax.add patch(patches.Rectangle((queen, count), 1, 1))
       count += 1
   fig.savefig(''.join(num queens) +
                '.png', dpi=150, bbox inches='tight')
   plt.close(fig)
def main():
   global numQueens
   global numRow
   global numRightDiag
   global numLeftDiag
#s of queens (n)
   numQueensList = readInput()
```

```
# iterate through the list of #s of queens and return a solution for
   for num in numQueensList:
       numQueens = num
       infiniteLoop = False
       startTime = time.time()
       solved = False
       print("# of Queens (n): " + str(num))
       while (solved == False):
           solved = solve()
       writeOutput()
in the console
       endTime = time.time()
       totalTime = endTime - startTime
       timeStr = str(trunc(totalTime * 100) / 100)
       print("Solution found in " + timeStr + " seconds\n")
       printDomain(domain, numQueens)
if name == ' main ':
   main()
```

# **Output**

# n = 10:

# of Queens (n): 10

Solution found in 0.01 seconds

[6, 4, 2, 7, 9, 3, 1, 8, 10, 5]

---- Q ----

---Q----

- Q - - - - -

---- Q - - -

----Q-

-- Q -----

Q - - - - - -

----Q--

-----Q

---- Q -----

# n = 100:

# of Queens (n): 100

Solution found in 0.01 seconds

| [98, 100, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 82, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 97, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20 |   |
|---|---|
| 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 2, 99, 3, 6, 8,                                       | , |
| 1, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 5, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60,   |   |
| 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 27, 84, 86, 88, 90, 51, 94, 96, 10, 42, 92]   |   |
| Q   |   |
| QQ  |   |
| Q   |   |
| Q   |   |
| Q   |   |
| QQ  |   |
| Q   |   |
| Q   |   |
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| Q   |   |
| QQ  |   |
| QQ  |   |
| QQ  |   |

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|         | QQ |
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| QQ      |    |
| QQ      |    |
| QQ      |    |
| QQ      |    |
| ·····QQ |    |
|         |    |
| QQ      |    |
| QQ      |    |
| QQ      |    |
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|         | Q  |
|         | Q  |

19

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|    |    |
|    |    |
|    | QQ |
|    | QQ |
|    | Q  |
|    |    |
|    |    |
|    | QQ |
| QQ |    |
|    | 0  |
|    |    |
|    |    |
|    | QQ |
|    | QQ |
| QQ |    |
|    |    |
|    |    |
|    | Q  |
| QQ |    |
|    |    |
| QQ |    |
|    | Q  |

#### n = 1000:

# of Queens (n): 1000

Solution found in 0.52 seconds

[1, 776, 5, 7, 742, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 984, 25, 27, 926, 31, 317, 35, 143, 39, 586, 879, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 693, 67, 69, 952, 978, 525, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 564, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 883, 788, 382, 972, 494, 868, 113, 115, 117, 114, 121, 785, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 23, 137, 139, 141, 850, 576, 968, 149, 151, 153, 855, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 828, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 976, 223, 225, 227, 962, 231, 233, 235, 237, 775, 241, 243, 245, 247, 244, 736, 119, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 892, 275, 277, 802, 281, 283, 179, 287, 975, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 772, 674, 321, 786, 325, 946, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 930, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 858, 359, 361, 363, 852, 367, 369, 371, 373, 664, 994, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 756, 403, 988, 407, 722, 734, 413, 415, 417, 419, 872, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 922, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 844, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 959, 475, 98, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 992, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 75, 511, 801, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 52, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537,

33, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 860, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 411, 914, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 832, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 998, 651, 36, 655, 71, 210, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 109, 673, 854, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 990, 37, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 896, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 954, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 111, 777, 779, 781, 783, 979, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 958, 799, 89, 904, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 953, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 428, 881, 96, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 155, 955, 957, 420, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 116, 977, 248, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999, 164, 323, 352, 10, 123, 14, 16, 18, 20, 274, 192, 73, 28, 30, 32, 34, 206, 38, 40, 42, 172, 46, 285, 50, 136, 84, 56, 58, 60, 456, 64, 66, 68, 166, 132, 196, 76, 78, 319, 82, 86, 22, 504, 180, 284, 342, 404, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 249, 142, 496, 308, 578, 124, 126, 128, 130, 740, 134, 956, 444, 434, 432, 306, 146, 148, 150, 436, 154, 156, 377, 438, 414, 902, 252, 174, 176, 178, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 366, 194, 442, 198, 200, 446, 204, 513, 208, 448, 26, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 450, 266, 8, 498, 960, 228, 797, 103, 362, 65, 454, 426, 330, 364, 354, 964, 365, 273, 375, 110, 768, 357, 410, 343, 221, 460, 54, 704, 386, 280, 462, 970, 846, 492, 838, 798, 516, 473, 48, 378, 888, 489, 105, 239, 974, 468, 440, 812, 572, 229, 409, 314, 374, 502, 320, 472, 324, 300, 236, 112, 474, 458, 289, 392, 653, 94, 279, 70, 1000, 986, 478, 12, 422, 898, 916, 506, 406, 224, 459, 370, 222, 482, 230, 336, 396, 92, 484, 862, 490, 606, 242, 118, 508, 246, 466, 604, 90, 488, 4, 470, 906, 510, 512, 514, 418, 518, 526, 528, 530, 254, 538, 540, 542, 592, 705, 88, 550, 554, 556, 558, 560, 430, 568, 570, 598, 600, 602, 608, 610, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 476, 636, 638, 640, 642, 534, 671, 646, 648, 650, 120, 327, 258, 268, 270, 262, 675, 627, 966, 562, 662, 41, 666, 251, 524, 672, 135, 676, 322, 272, 107, 544, 686, 980, 402, 692, 286, 276, 140, 710, 702, 920, 290, 716, 718, 720, 712, 714, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 452, 464, 388, 738, 982, 294, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 582, 758, 760, 762, 764, 3, 152, 398, 770, 44, 774, 160, 778, 780, 782, 408, 298, 480, 2, 29, 790, 792, 794, 796, 158, 43, 800, 566, 908, 804, 806, 808, 810, 170, 122, 304, 848, 318, 580, 6, 596, 144, 836, 421, 226, 62, 74, 202, 477, 416, 145, 312, 659, 24, 316, 500, 878, 594, 509, 741, 585, 880, 384, 334, 356, 234, 784, 238, 240, 288, 520, 346, 168, 256, 250, 884, 882, 360, 264, 870, 866, 260, 601, 886, 652, 80, 282, 552, 834, 826, 368, 691, 522, 900, 278, 766, 548, 292, 405, 296, 649, 890, 302, 680, 310, 830, 822, 147, 380, 326, 328, 332, 657, 9, 338, 340, 486, 344, 584, 708, 348, 350, 912, 910, 928, 412, 72, 932, 232, 894, 400, 162, 574, 856, 424, 996, 376, 372, 936, 940, 942, 590, 401, 390, 818, 874, 394, 539, 803, 358, 934, 588, 944, 864, 816, 603, 876, 443, 612, 938, 532, 634, 918, 840, 820, 644, 948, 814, 536, 654, 950, 658, 660, 138, 656, 824, 668, 670, 678, 253, 682, 684, 688, 690, 842, 694, 696, 698, 546, 924, 101, 706, 700]

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# n = 10,000:

https://github.com/mpa-mxiang/n-queens/blob/main/output2.txt

# n = 100,000:

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/mpa-mxiang/n-queens/main/output.txt