CS4618: Artificial Intelligence I

Genetic Algorithms

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Initialization

In [1]:
```
%reload_ext autoreload
%autoreload 2
%matplotlib inline
```

In [2]:
```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

Evolving Table-Driven Agents

- Previously, we programmed the agent: by filling in the table
- Today, we will **evolve** the agent
- To make the problem harder
  - ...we will now allow all 8 sensors

  - ...and 4 actions
    - MOVE
    - TURN(RIGHT, 2)
    - TURN(RIGHT, 4)
    - TURN(LEFT, 2)

Evolution by Natural Selection

- **Inheritance:** Individuals inherit characteristics from their parents
- **Variation:** But individuals vary
  - By combining and mutating inherited characteristics
- **Fitness:** Lower fitness characteristics are selectively eliminated (*'survival of the fittest'*)

Genetic Algorithms (GAs)

- GAs emulate evolution
- They iteratively update a **population** of **individuals**
- Each new generation of the population is obtained by probabilistically selecting fitter individuals from the current generation
  - Some of these individuals are **copied** to the next generation unchanged
  - Some are subject to **crossover** to create new offspring
  - Some of the new generation undergo **mutation**
- GAs differ from real-world evolution, e.g. each generation is the same size as the previous one

A genetic algorithm

- n is the number of individuals in the population
- χ is the proportion of the population to be replaced by crossover, e.g. 0.8
- μ is the mutation rate, e.g. 0.01

GA(n, χ, μ)
• // Initialise generation 0: $k = 0$; $P_k =$ a population of n randomly-generated individuals; • // Evaluate P_k: Compute $fitness(i)$ for each $i \in P_k$; • do { ■ // Create generation $k+1$: // 1. Copy: Select $(1-\chi) \times n$ members of P_k and insert into P_{k+1}; // 2. Crossover: Select $\chi \times n$ members of P_k; pair them up; produce offspring; insert the offspring into P_{k+1}; // 3. Mutate: Select $\mu \times n$ members of P_{k+1}; invert a randomly-selected bit in each; ■ // Evaluate P_{k+1}: Compute $fitness(i)$ for each $i \in P_{k+1}$; ■ // Increment: $k = k + 1$; } while fitness of fittest individual in P_k is not high enough; • return the fittest individual from P_k;

Representation of individuals

- Individuals are represented by *bit strings*
- This requires a way of **encoding** and **decoding**

Encoding/decoding

- Suppose this is the agent's table:

Percept	Action
00000000	MOVE
00000001	TURN(LEFT, 2)
00000010	TURN(RIGHT, 4)
⋮	⋮

- We can assign unique codes to the actions:

Action	Bt string
MOVE	00
TURN(RIGHT, 2)	01
TURN(RIGHT, 4)	10
TURN(LEFT, 2)	11

- We can concatenate all entries in the table to form one long bit string:

  0000000000 0000000111 0000001010 …
- Class exercise: How long will this bit string be?
- In fact, we don't need to include the percepts:

  00 11 10 …
- Class exercise: How long will this bit string be now?
- Class exercise: How many different bit strings (or tables or agents) are there?

Fitness

- The GA needs a (task-specific) **fitness function**
- E.g. place an individual into a room then, of all the cells that it visits, calculate the proportion that are adjacent to walls
- Typically, *average* performance over *several tasks* is computed

Copy

- How do we select the $(1 - \chi) \times n$ individuals who will be copied over?
- Obviously, influenced by their fitness, but we don't simply take the *fittest*
- Instead, it is probabilistic, e.g.:
  - **Roulette wheel selection**:
    - Probability of selection is equal to relative fitness:

$$Prob(choice = i) = \frac{fitness(i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} fitness(j)}$$

  - **Rank selection**:
    - Probability of selection is inversely proportional to position in the population after sorting by fitness
  - **Tournament selection**:
    - Repeatedly, select a random subset of the population and chose the fittest in this subset
- Selection is usually done *with replacement*: an individual can be picked more than once

Crossover

- In crossover:
  - Select $\chi \times n$ individuals
    - How? By roulette wheel, rank or tournament selection
  - Pair them up, giving $(\chi \times n)/2$ pairs
  - Swap a random portion of the father with a random portion of the mother, giving two new offspring
- The offspring may or may not be fitter than their parents:
  - We hope roulette wheel/rank/tournament seletion has chosen reasonably fit parents, and the offspring might have some fitness advantage by incorporating parts of these parents
  - On the other hand, no guarantees!
- **Single-point crossover**: choose a random position and swap
- (There are other froms of crossover, e.g. two-point crossover, uniform crossover — not covered in CS4618)

Single-point crossover

11101001000 11101010101

00001010101 00001001000

Efficient single-point crossover

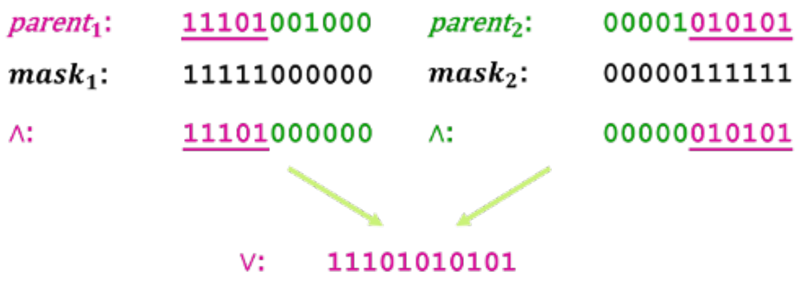
- Generate two masks, e.g.:

$$\begin{aligned} mask_1 &: 11111100000 \\ mask_2 &: 00000011111 \end{aligned}$$

- Then

$$\begin{aligned} offspring_1 &= (parent_1 \wedge mask_1) \vee (parent_2 \wedge mask_2) \\ offspring_2 &= (parent_1 \wedge mask_2) \vee (parent_2 \wedge mask_1) \end{aligned}$$

Example of efficient single-point crossover



Mutate

- Select $\mu \times n$ individuals from the *new* generation
  - How? Random with *uniform* probability, not by fitness

- For each selected individual, a bit is chosen at random and this bit is inverted
- E.g.

Efficient mutation

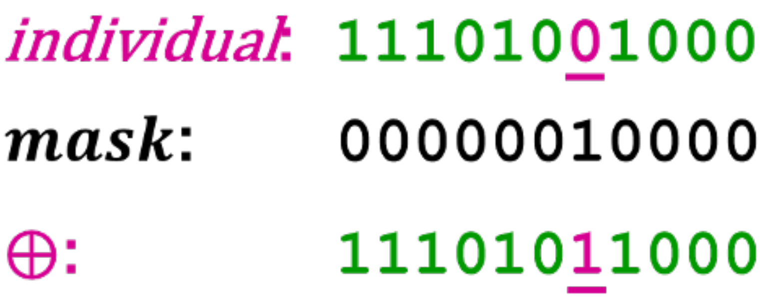
- Generate a mask, e.g.:

$$mask : 00000010000$$

- Then

$$newindividual = individual \oplus mask$$

  where $\oplus$ is exclusive-or
- E.g.



Discussion

- There's a risk of **crowding**:
  - This is where a fit individual reproduces a lot and it (or minor variants of it) dominate the population
  - It results in a lack of diversity and possible stagnation
- How to overcome crowding
  - Mutation
  - Rank selection or tournament selection
  - …

Applications

- GAs have been used to evolve:
  - Digital circuits
  - Factory schedules
  - University timetables
  - Neural network architectures
  - Similarity measures
  - …
- Lecture discussion: How would we do university timetabling using a GA? Are there difficulties?

In [ ]:

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