Exercises: Swarm Intelligence

1. (PSO) [2 points] Consider an illustrative example of a PSO system composed of three particles. Consider the update rule for each particle i:

$$v_i = \omega v_i + \alpha_1 r_1(x_i^* - x_i) + \alpha_1 r_2(x^* - x_i).$$

where $x_i^*(d)$ denotes the personal best and $x^*(d)$ the social (global) best. To facilitate calculation, for this exercise we will ignore the fact that r_1 and r_2 are random numbers and fix them to 0.5 and $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 1$. Suppose the space of solutions is a two dimensional real valued space, and the current state of the swarm is as follows

   - Position of particles: $x_1 = (5, 5)$; $x_2 = (8, 3)$; $x_3 = (6, 7)$;
   - Individual best positions: $x_1^* = (5, 5)$; $x_2^* = (7, 3)$; $x_3^* = (5, 6)$;
   - Social best position: $x^* = (5, 5)$;
   - Velocities: $v_1 = (2, 2)$; $v_2 = (3, 3)$; $v_3 = (4, 4)$.

   (a) What would be the next position of each particle after one iteration of the PSO algorithm with $\omega = 2$?
   (b) And using $\omega = 0.1$?
   (c) Explain what is the effect of the parameter ω.
   (d) Give an advantage and a disadvantage of a high value of ω.

2. (PSO) [2 points] Consider a particle swarm consisting of a single member. How would it perform in a trivial task such as the minimization of $f(x) = x^2$ when $\omega < 1$?

3. (PSO) [2 points] Implement the PSO algorithm for clustering described in "Van der Merwe, D. W., and Andries Petrus Engelbrecht. "Data clustering using particle swarm optimization." Evolutionary Computation, 2003. CEC'03. The 2003 Congress on. Vol. 1. IEEE, 2003." (see also swarm intelligence slides). Implement the k-means clustering.

   Apply and compare the performance of the two algorithms in terms of quantization error on Artificial dataset 1 and on the Iris dataset (the latter available at UCI ML repository, see https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/iris). *In both algorithms, use the true number of clusters as value of the parameter for setting the number of clusters.*

4. (ACO) [2 points] Read the paper: Blum, Christian, and Marco Dorigo. "Search bias in ant colony optimization: On the role of competition-balanced systems." IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation 9.2 (2005): 159-174. Figure 1 shows a (toy) problem instance for the 2-cardinality tree problem. The 2-cardinality tree problem amounts to finding a subtree T of a given undirected graph G with exactly 2 edges and the minimum possible weight.

(a) Is ACO for this problem a Competition-Balanced System (CBS)? Justify your answer. (A definition of CBS also given in the slides.)

(b) If a combination of an ACO algorithm and a problem instance is not a CBS, is the induced bias always harmful? Justify your answer.
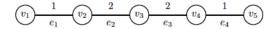

Figure 1: 2-cardinality problem instance

5. (ACO) [2 point] The figure below shows an example of an instance of a source-destination problem from the ACO book by Dorigo and Stuetzle. The goal is to reach the destination node from the source one using a shortest path through the given graph. What results do you expect for an ant colony algorithm that does not use tabu lists (except for inhibition of immediate return to the previous node)?