Final Year Project Report

**Interim Submission – Final Report**

Genetic Algorithm

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A report submitted in part fulfilment of the degree of

**MSci (Hons) in Computer Science**

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**Declaration**

This report has been prepared on the basis of my own work. Where other published and unpublished source materials have been used, these have been acknowledged.

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Abstract

This document serves as a layout and formatting template for your project report. It does not tell you how to write it, or what it should contain. It explains how it should be formatted and typeset. Please refer to your project booklet for information about report sizes, contents and rules.

***NOTE: in your report, you should replace this with an appropriate Abstract for your project report.***

Project Specification

Aims: To implement a GA (or, preferably, a range of variations of the GA) and to apply it to various optimisation problems (e.g. constraint satisfaction). The program should follow a model-view-controller design pattern. It should be possible to design, implement, and evaluate a (range of) genetic algorithms.

Background: A genetic algorithm (GA) is a simulated model of evolution: techniques of this type are widely used to solve optimization problems. "Solve" is perhaps the wrong word here: 'try to improve a solution' might be better, for although these algorithms are models of evolution, they often don't work very well. GAs are so widely used because they are straightforward to program, and in optimisation problems, the only harm an ineffective algorithm can do is to waste computer time.

Early Deliverables

1. Proof of concept programs: First implementation of GA for constraint satisfaction/function optimisation.
2. Report on Design Patterns.
3. Report on Genetic Algorithms.
4. Report on encoding various problems for GAs.
5. Report on the Theory of coalescence and genetic drift.

Summaries

Chapter 1: Introduction

## Aims and objectives

The Genetic algorithm based on Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection, the mechanism that propels biological evolution, is a technique used for solving constrained and unconstrained optimization problems. In more simplistic terms it uses a series of evolutionary processes to solve either with or without given parameters set i.e., constraints. Genetic algorithms contribute to help find solutions to difficult problems and the application of real-world problems.

The aim of the project is to use develop an understanding of genetic algorithms and explore how they can be used to solve real world problems. In particular this project will be focusing on the use of genetic algorithms with constraint optimisation. For the first term I will be working specifically on one problem in this case being the Travelling Salesman Problem (TSP). The TSP is a problem is an example of a constraint satisfaction problem used for finding the shortest and most efficient route for a person to take within a given list of destinations. This problem is an example of how constraint optimisation has real world applications. Real world applications of this include the optimization of travel, vehicle routing and astronomy to help determine the movement of a telescope for the shortest distance between different stars.

So, the idea I will be working on in my project is ‘*The use and application of genetic algorithms in constraint optimization problems’*. The project will involve deep knowledge of genetic algorithms, their use in constrained problems, and their practical applications. I chose my project to be in GAs because of their application to real-world problems.

Real world problems can vary based on complexity and the exhaustiveness of recourses. An example of this is the

## Genetic Algorithms

Charles Darwin's idea of natural evolution served as the foundation for the search heuristic known as the genetic algorithm.

The genetic algorithm is a method that utilises natural selection, the mechanism that propels biological evolution, for resolving both constrained and unconstrained optimization problems. A population of unique solutions is repeatedly modified by the genetic algorithm. The genetic algorithm chooses members of the present population to serve as parents at each stage and utilises them to produce the offspring that will make up the following generation. The population "evolves" toward the best option over the course of subsequent generations. The genetic algorithm can be used to tackle several optimization problems, including those where the objective function is discontinuous, nondifferentiable, stochastic, or highly nonlinear and are not well suited for typical optimization algorithms. When some components must only have integer values, mixed integer programming problems can be solved using the evolutionary algorithm.

A genetic algorithm uses three main rules when creating the next generation from the current population, which are selection, crossover, and mutation.

* Selection rules choose the parents, who will contribute to the population of the following generation.
* Crossover rules combine two parents to create the next generation's offspring.
* Mutation rules subject each parent to random modifications.

Genetic algorithms are good at taking large search spaces and navigating through them looking for the most optimal combinations. Ordinarily these problems are very difficult to solve and can be very exhaustive.

### Constraint Satisfaction Problems:

Problem definition

A CSP consists of:

* A set if variables X = {X1,…,Xn};
* For each variable xi, a finite set Di of possible values (domain)
* Set of constraints restricting values that the variables can take

The following form can be used to define a constraint satisfaction problem (CSP) in a (finite domain). Find values for the variables that satisfy each constraint given a collection of variables, a finite set of possible values for each variable, and a list of constraints. An example of this occurs in production scheduling. To ensure that each work is finished by the specified deadline, jobs must be processed on machines that can only handle one job at a time. Additional examples follow from the notion that an optimization problem can be stated as a series of CSPs. The solution to a CSP includes consistent and complete assignment. Where a consistent assignment dictates that an assignment does not violate any constraints and a complete assignment is where every variable is assigned.

## Encoding

Encoding is frequently the most difficult component of using genetic algorithms to solve a problem. The typical approach to express a solution in genetic algorithms is as a string of zeros and ones; this is the most frequent encoding method, as the initial genetic algorithm research employed this style of encoding.

## Theory of coalescence and Genetic Drift

The coalescence theory states that all alleles of a gene must have descended from a single allele. In a population of constant size with random mating, the idea often applies to neutral or relatively neutral genes. The generation period and population size affect the coalescence time, which is the distance from the most recent common ancestor.

Chapter 2: Genetics Overview

## Theory of coalescence and Genetic Drift

Genetic drift is the random variation in the frequency of an existing gene variant in a population.

There are two major types that can occur which are: the founder effect and bottlenecks. The founder effect occurs when a small subset of a larger population establishes a new population. A population bottleneck arises when the size of a population is drastically reduced, causing a shift in the distribution of alleles.

# Design patterns

## MVC Design Pattern

# Technical Aspect

## Technical Decisions

## Planning

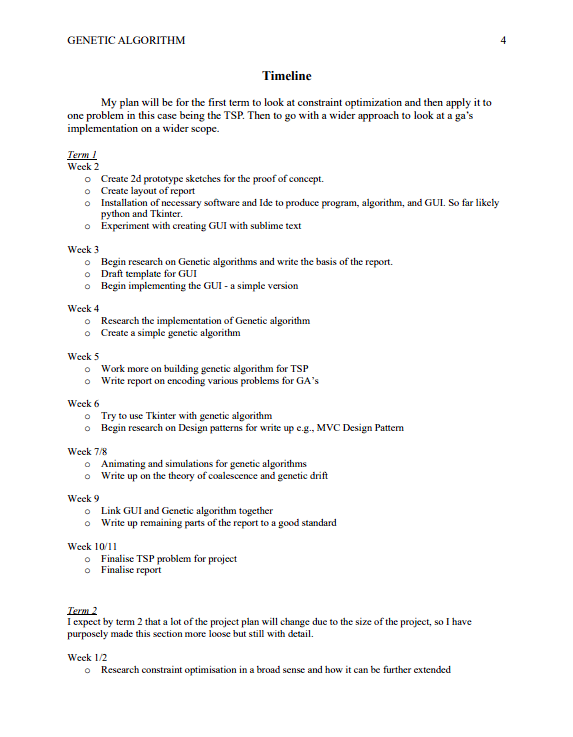
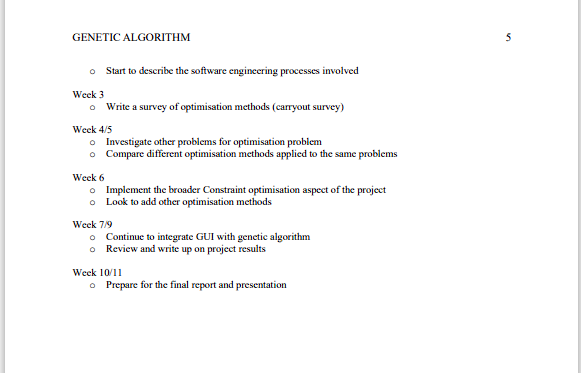
## Software development

## Software Engineering

## Proof of concept

## Next term aims

# Project Plan

# Summary of project diary

Bibliography

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