

CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

FFR135 - Artificial Neural Networks

Examples sheet 2

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Problem 1(a)

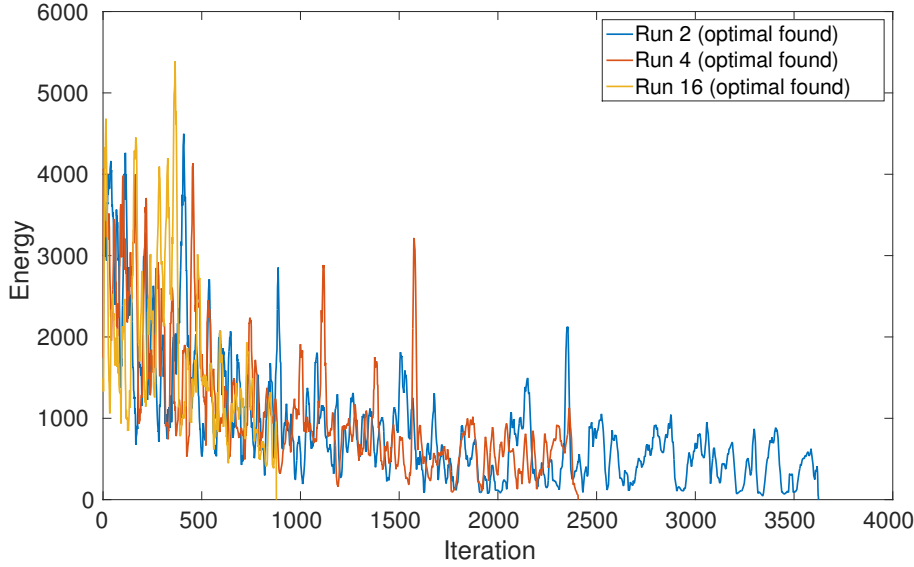


Figure 1: Evolution of energy over time for 3 runs randomly picked out of 100 runs with noise decrease rate $\alpha = 1 \cdot 10^{-6}$. Maximum allowed iterations $t_{\max} = 5 \cdot 10^4$. A moving average with a span of 20 points is displayed for clarity.

α	Optimal	$\langle t_{\text{conv}} \rangle$
$3 \cdot 10^{-4}$	32%	346
$1 \cdot 10^{-4}$	45%	415
$3 \cdot 10^{-5}$	46%	552
$1 \cdot 10^{-5}$	71%	985
$3 \cdot 10^{-6}$	90%	1914
$1 \cdot 10^{-6}$	97%	2810
$3 \cdot 10^{-7}$	93%	3818
$1 \cdot 10^{-7}$	76%	3983
$3 \cdot 10^{-8}$	71%	4002
$1 \cdot 10^{-8}$	67%	4129

Table 1: Fraction of optimal solutions and average convergence time as a function of noise decrease rate α . Values were obtained by performing 100 runs for each value of α . Maximum allowed iterations $t_{\max} = 5 \cdot 10^4$.

A MATLAB implementation of the simulated-annealing algorithm was applied to `data_1`, with parameter β increasing linearly over time $\beta = \alpha \cdot t$ and candidate configuration being sampled in the neighbourhood of current configuration, as defined in Goldstein and Waterman (1987).

The energy evolution over time, plotted in Fig. 1 for three randomly chosen runs, reflects the expected behaviour for the SA algorithm. In the beginning, when the noise level is high, energy exhibits large fluctuations, which are then damped over time as the system is “cooled down”. The average value of the energy decreases over time, since configurations (σ, μ) which causes the energy to decrease are more likely to be accepted.

The percentage of runs in which an optimal solution was found (i.e. the energy reaches zero) was observed to depend critically on α , and the same applies for the average number of iterations needed to reach zero energy, based on the runs in which an optimal solution was found (see Table 1).

The observed trends can be explained as follows: if α is too large, the system is cooled down too quickly and a large fraction of Markov Chains get stuck in a local minimum, but those chains which do converge to zero do so very quickly (e.g. $\langle t_{\text{conv}} \rangle = 552$ when $\alpha = 3 \cdot 10^{-5}$). On the other hand, if α is too low, the simulated annealing method has little advantage over a purely random search, and as α is decreased $\langle t_{\text{conv}} \rangle$ increases, and a larger and larger fraction of MC do not converge within the specified maximum number of iterations $t_{\max} = 5 \cdot 10^4$, even though they would probably converge if this value was larger.

With this value of t_{\max} , a noise decrease rate $\alpha = 1 \cdot 10^{-6}$ (in bold in Table 1) yields the largest percentage of optimal solutions and the lower runtime of the implemented program (as almost all chains converge to $H(S^{(k)}) = 0$ in a few thousands steps, well before t_{\max} is reached).

Reference code

See MATLAB script `Main.m` and custom functions called in the script itself.

Problem 1(b)

Solution ID	Permutation σ	Permutation μ	Resulting permutation of \mathbf{c}	Energy
(1)	$(a_1 \ a_6 \ a_4 \ a_2 \ a_3 \ a_5)$	$(b_1 \ b_2 \ b_6 \ b_3 \ b_5 \ b_4)$	$(c_1 \ c_{11} \ c_3 \ c_7 \ c_2 \ c_6 \ c_9 \ c_4 \ c_8 \ c_5 \ c_{10})$	0
(2)	$(a_1 \ a_6 \ a_4 \ a_2 \ a_3 \ a_5)$	$(b_1 \ b_2 \ b_5 \ b_3 \ b_6 \ b_4)$	$(c_1 \ c_{11} \ c_3 \ c_7 \ c_2 \ c_6 \ c_8 \ c_4 \ c_9 \ c_5 \ c_{10})$	0
(3)	$(a_5 \ a_3 \ a_2 \ a_4 \ a_6 \ a_1)$	$(b_4 \ b_5 \ b_3 \ b_6 \ b_2 \ b_1)$	$(c_{10} \ c_5 \ c_8 \ c_4 \ c_9 \ c_6 \ c_2 \ c_7 \ c_3 \ c_{11} \ c_1)$	0

Table 2: Three optimal solutions found for `data_1`. The solution ID has no particular meaning and was just introduced for convenience. They were not chosen randomly, though, but in order to illustrate a point.

In general, the double-digest problem (DDP) has multiple optimal solutions. Three of the optimal solutions found by the implemented SA algorithm are shown in Table 2, but many more were found.

It was observed that solutions (2) and (3) in Table 2, in particular, can be reconstructed from solution (1). Permutation $\sigma^{(2)}$, in fact, is exactly the same as permutation $\sigma^{(1)}$, whereas permutation $\mu^{(2)}$ can be obtained from permutation $\mu^{(1)}$ by swapping elements b_5 and b_6 . Why does such a swap lead to a different optimal solution? Because in solution (1) the sub-portion $(b_6 \ b_3 \ b_5)$ is completely “contained” in element a_3 (as illustrated in yellow in Fig. 2), therefore swapping any couple of these elements results in a zero-energy solution.

8479	142	2646	4868	3696				169
11968			5026	184	1081	691	1050	

Figure 2: Graphical representation of solution (1) in Table 2. The drawing is not to scale.

We can indeed calculate the number of optimal solutions that can be constructed starting from solution (1) by *swapping* fragments in $\sigma^{(1)}$ contained in some $b_i \in \mu^{(1)}$ and viceversa. As made clear by Fig. 2, three fragments in $\sigma^{(1)}$, namely $a_1 = 8479$, $a_6 = 142$ and $a_4 = 2646$, are completely contained in $b_1 = 11968$ (see red box), and three fragments in $\mu^{(1)}$, namely $b_6 = 184$, $b_3 = 1081$ and $b_5 = 691$, are completely contained in $a_3 = 3696$ (see yellow box). Any couple of fragments within these triples can be swapped and the result will also be an optimal solution. The number of such allowed swaps is $3! \cdot 3! = 36$, thus there are at least 36 optimal solutions.

Moreover, any sequence obtained by *reflecting* an optimal solution is also an optimal solution. For instance, solution (3) in Table 2 is nothing but the reflection of solution (1). Therefore, we can conclude that the total number of optimal solutions for `data_1` is

$$N_{\text{opt}} = 2 \cdot 3! \cdot 3! = 72 .$$

Since the configuration space for this problem is relatively small ($6! \cdot 6! = 518400$ configurations), a complete search was performed, verifying that indeed the number of optimal solution is 72.

Reference code

See MATLAB script `Main.m` and custom functions called in the script itself, in particular `CountSolutions.m` and `CompleteSearch.m`.

Problem 1(c)

A double-digest problem is completely specified by giving sequences

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} &= \{a_1, \dots, a_n\} & \text{with } a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \dots a_n, \\ \mathbf{b} &= \{b_1, \dots, b_m\} & \text{with } b_1 \geq b_2 \geq \dots b_m, \\ \mathbf{c} &= \{c_1, \dots, c_l\} & \text{with } c_1 \geq c_2 \geq \dots c_l. \end{aligned}$$

There are $n!/q!$ possible permutations of sequence \mathbf{a} , where q is the number of repeated elements in \mathbf{a} , and $m!/r!$ possible permutations of sequence \mathbf{b} , where r is the number of repeated elements in \mathbf{b} . The size of the configuration space for such a problem is therefore given by

$$N = \frac{n! m!}{q! r!}.$$

The probability of sampling the correct solution it out of N possible configuration if picking randomly is

$$p = \frac{1}{N} = \frac{q! r!}{n! m!}, \quad (1)$$

thus the probability of sampling the correct configuration after t unsuccessful samples is

$$P(\text{"success after } t \text{ trials"}) = (1 - p)^t p = p e^{t \log(1-p)} \simeq p e^{-pt}, \quad (2)$$

where the last approximation comes from the Taylor expansion

$$\log(1 - x) = -x + o(x) \quad \text{for } x \rightarrow 0.$$

In our case (**data_1**) we have $n = m = 6$ and $q = r = 0$, therefore $p = 1/518400 \simeq 1.929 \cdot 10^{-6}$ and the approximation can be considered sufficiently good.

Equation (2) allows us to approximate the average number of iterations needed to find the correct sequence under a random search as the expected value of a random variable $T_{\text{correct}} \sim \text{Exp}(p)$, i.e. exponentially distributed with parameter p :

$$\mathbb{E}(T_{\text{correct}}) \simeq {}^1 \int_0^\infty t p e^{-p t} dt = \left[-t e^{-p t} \right]_0^\infty - \int_0^\infty e^{-p t} dt = \frac{1}{p} = \frac{n! m!}{q! r!}. \quad (3)$$

The expected number of iterations needed for a random search to find the correct solution is therefore equal to the size of the configuration space, i.e. for **data_1** we have

$$\mathbb{E}(T_{\text{correct}}) \simeq 518400.$$

In comparison, the average number of iterations needed by the SA algorithm to find *an* optimal solution is 2 to 3 orders of magnitude lower (see Table 1). And even if the *optimal* solution found by the SA method might not be the *correct* one, once an optimal solution has been found, the set of other optimal solutions can be reconstructed by applying appropriate transformations.

¹Here we are neglecting a correction factor of $e^p \sim 1.000001929$

Problem 2(a)

Optimal configurations (zero energy) found for data_2	
(1)	$\sigma^{(1)} = (a_8 \ a_6 \ a_4 \ a_{10} \ a_9 \ a_1 \ a_2 \ a_5 \ a_3 \ a_7)$ $\mu^{(1)} = (b_8 \ b_6 \ b_7 \ b_2 \ b_1 \ b_4 \ b_{11} \ b_3 \ b_9 \ b_5 \ b_{10})$ Resulting c sequence = $(c_{10} \ c_{16} \ c_8 \ c_{18} \ c_{11} \ c_6 \ c_{15} \ c_{14} \ c_4 \ c_2 \ c_5 \ c_3 \ c_7 \ c_{20} \ c_{12} \ c_1 \ c_{17} \ c_{13} \ c_9 \ c_{19})$ Iterations for convergence = 481441
(2)	$\sigma^{(2)} = (a_7 \ a_3 \ a_5 \ a_2 \ a_1 \ a_{10} \ a_9 \ a_4 \ a_6 \ a_8)$ $\mu^{(2)} = (b_{10} \ b_5 \ b_9 \ b_3 \ b_{11} \ b_4 \ b_1 \ b_2 \ b_7 \ b_6 \ b_8)$ Resulting c sequence = $(c_{19} \ c_9 \ c_{13} \ c_{17} \ c_1 \ c_{12} \ c_{20} \ c_7 \ c_3 \ c_5 \ c_2 \ c_4 \ c_{15} \ c_{14} \ c_6 \ c_{11} \ c_{18} \ c_8 \ c_{16} \ c_{10})$ Iterations for convergence = 563669

Table 3: Optimal solutions found for **data_2** by the implemented SA algorithm with $\alpha = 10^{-7}$.

The simulated-annealing algorithm was successfully applied to solve the DDP specified in **data_2**, finding two optimal solutions (zero energy) displayed in Table 3.

In order to obtain these solutions, the algorithm was tested for several values of α , performing up to 10^6 iterations per run. The optimal solutions displayed above were then found by setting $\alpha = 10^{-7}$ and completing 50 runs, each with a maximum allowed number of iterations $t_{\max} = 7.5 \cdot 10^5$. Under these conditions, the percentage of successful runs was 4% and the average number of iterations needed for convergence to optimum was $\langle t_{\text{conv}} \rangle = 522555$.

As expected, the optimal solution is not unique. Again, we can notice that solution (2) can be constructed from solution (1), by reflecting it and then swapping fragments a_{10} and a_9 . Two more optimal solutions can therefore be obtained by transforming solution (1): one by reflecting it without swapping fragments a_{10} and a_9 , and another one by swapping fragments a_{10} and a_9 without reflection. This leads us to claim that there are 4 optimal solutions for this double-digest problem.

In comparison with **data_1**, this DDP seems to have fewer solutions, even though the number of fragments is larger. This is possible, albeit counterintuitive at first, because a larger number of fragments in sequence **c** means a larger number of constraints to satisfy in order for a solution to be optimal.

The difficulties in finding an optimal solution were expected, as the configuration space for this problem is much larger than the one in **data_1** (see **Problem 2b**).

Reference code

See MATLAB script **Main.m** and custom functions called in the script itself.

Problem 2(b)

In order to estimate the expected number of iterations needed to find the *correct* solution under a purely random search for DDP in **data_2**, we can use the approximation derived in part **1c** (Equation (3)). Since here $n \equiv |\mathbf{a}| = 10$, $m \equiv |\mathbf{b}| = 11$, and $q = r = 0$, we have

$$\mathbb{E}(T_{\text{correct}}) \simeq \frac{n! m!}{q! r!} = \frac{10! 11!}{1} = 144850083840000 \simeq 1.45 \cdot 10^{14}.$$

Clearly, the expected number of iterations needed to find the *correct* solution scales extremely quickly with the number of elements in sequences **a** and **b**. While in **Problem 1** it was even possible to perform a *complete* search over the entire configuration space, now this is unthinkable (on my laptop, at least).

The simulated-annealing algorithm, instead, did find a solution (even if it might not be the *correct* one) in about $5 \cdot 10^5$ iterations. This corresponds to a performance increase of 9 orders of magnitude, making the SA method a much better choice when dealing with this kind of combinatorial problems, even more so as the problem size increases.

Appendix: MATLAB code

Main.m

```

1 %MAIN
2 clear
3
4 % ===== %
5 % Parameters
6 % ===== %
7
8 % Use either data from data_1.rtf or data_2.rtf
9 a=[9979, 9348, 8022, 4020, 2693, 1892, 1714, 1371, 510, 451];
10 b=[9492, 8453, 7749, 7365, 2292, 2180, 1023, 959, 278, 124, 85];
11 c=[7042, 5608, 5464, 4371, 3884, 3121, 1901, 1768, 1590, 959, 899, 707,
    702, 510, 451, 412, 278, 124, 124, 85];
12
13 nRuns = 50;
14 maxTime = 750000; % use 50000 for data1, 750000 for data2
15 alpha = 1e-7; % 1e-6 for data1, 1e-7 for data2
16
17 % ===== %
18
19 % Initialize output cell array
20 solutions = repmat(struct('a',a,'b',b,'c',c,'energy',1:maxTime,...
21     'isOptimal',false,'runTime',nan), nRuns, 1 );
22
23 %% Main (parallel) loop
24 p = TimedProgressBar( nRuns, 30, ...
25     'Computing... Estimated time left: ', ' Completed: ', 'Completed
    in ' );
26 parfor run = 1:nRuns
27     solutions(run) = DoubleDigestSimulatedAnnealing( a, b, c, maxTime,
        alpha);
28     p.progress;
29 end
30 p.stop;
31 [ differentSolutions, nSolutions] = CountSolutions( solutions );
32
33 % Print some output to console
34 fprintf('\nFraction of optimal solutions: %f\n', ...
35     mean(cell2mat(extractfield(solutions,'isOptimal'))));
36 fprintf('Average number of iterates for convergence to optimal: %i\n',
    ...
37     int32(nanmean(extractfield(solutions,'runTime'))));
38 fprintf('Number of different optimal solutions found: %i\n', nSolutions)
    ;
39

```

```

40
41 %[f1, f2, f3, which] = PlotEnergy(solutions);
42
43 delete('timedProgressbar_Transient(deleteThis)_*.txt');

```

DoubleDigestSimulatedAnnealing.m

```

1 function solution = DoubleDigestSimulatedAnnealing(seqA, seqB, trueC,
    maxTime, alpha)
2 %DOUBLEDIGESTSIMULATEDANNEALING
3 % solution = DoubleDigestSimulatedAnnealing(seqA, seqB, trueC, maxTime,
    alpha)
4 %
5 % This function performs a simulated annealing search of an optimal
6 % sequence solving the double digest problem.
7 %
8 % INPUTS:
9 % - sequence a (digested by A)
10 % - sequence b (digested by B)
11 % - sequence c (digested by both A and B)
12 % - max allowed number of iterations
13 % - increase rate for beta (it's also starting value for beta at t=1)
14 %
15 % OUTPUT variable is a structure with the following fields:
16 % - solution.a : best a-sequence found
17 % - solution.b : best b-sequence found
18 % - solution.c : best c-sequence found
19 % - solution.energy : evolution of energy over time
20 % - solution.isOptimal : logical value, true if the found sequence is
    optimal
21 % - solution.runTime : number of iterations needed to find optimal (
    this value is NaN if optimal solution was not found)
22
23 %% Preliminary operations and initializations
24 nA = numel(seqA);
25 nB = numel(seqB);
26 energy = zeros(1,maxTime);
27 beta = alpha;
28 time = 1;
29 isOptimal = false;
30 runTime = nan;
31
32 % Initial guesses (random permutations)
33 guessA = seqA(randperm(nA));
34 guessB = seqB(randperm(nB));
35

```



```
36 % Initialize random logical 1d array (which to update between sigma and
    mu)
37 whichToUpdate = rand(maxTime+1,1) > 0.5;
38
39 % Corresponding c and initial energy
40 cTilde = DigestAB(guessA, guessB);
41 energy(time) = ComputeEnergy( trueC, cTilde);
42
43 %% Main loop
44 while time < maxTime
45
46     time = time + 1;
47
48     % Make new guesses for sequences a and b and corresponding sequence
        c
49     if whichToUpdate(time) % update sigma
50         newGuessA = SampleNeighbourPermutation(guessA);
51         newGuessB = guessB;
52     else % update mu
53         newGuessA = guessA;
54         newGuessB = SampleNeighbourPermutation(guessB);
55     end
56     cTilde = DigestAB(newGuessA, newGuessB);
57
58     % Compute newEnergy and decide whether to accept new permutations
59     newEnergy = ComputeEnergy( trueC, cTilde);
60
61     if AcceptUpdate( beta, newEnergy, energy(time-1));
62         guessA = newGuessA;
63         guessB = newGuessB;
64         energy(time) = newEnergy;
65     else
66         energy(time) = energy(time-1);
67     end
68
69     % Check whether an optimal configuration was found
70     if newEnergy == 0
71         isOptimal = true;
72         runTime = time;
73         energy(time+1:end) = [];
74         break
75     end
76
77     % Update beta
78     beta = alpha*time;
79 end
80
81 solution.a = guessA;
82 solution.b = guessB;
```

```
83 solution.c = cTilde;
84 solution.energy = energy;
85 solution.isOptimal = isOptimal;
86 solution.runTime = runTime;
87
88 end
```

SampleNeighbourPermutation.m

```
1 function newPermutation = SampleNeighbourPermutation( permutation )
2 %SAMPLENEIGHBOURPERMUTATION
3 % newPermutation = SampleNeighbourPermutation( permutation ) returns an
4 % output vector containing the same elements as the input vector, in
5 % the
6 % same order except for 2 elements, which are swapped.
7
8 newPermutation = permutation;
9
10 toSwap = randperm(numel(permutation),2);
11
12 newPermutation(toSwap) = permutation(fliplr(toSwap));
13
14 end
```

DigestAB.m

```
1 function [ sortedC ] = DigestAB( sequenceA, sequenceB)
2 %DIGESTAB
3 % [ sortedC ] = DigestAB( sequenceA, sequenceB, L ) returns the sorted
4 % sequence c that would result from double digestion if sequenceA and
5 % sequenceB were the correct fragment sequences. L is the sum of the
6 % fragments' lengths.
7
8 % Compute vectors of cumulative sums
9 cumulatedA = cumsum(sequenceA);
10 cumulatedB = cumsum(sequenceB);
11
12 % Concatenate cumsums and sort the resulting vector
13 sortedCumulatedC = union(cumulatedA, cumulatedB);
14
15 % Compute difference between adjacent elements
16 sequenceC = diff(sortedCumulatedC);
17
18 % Append first element of cumulative sum
19 sequenceC = [sortedCumulatedC(1) sequenceC];
20
```

```
21 % Sort resulting vector in descending order
22 sortedC = sort(sequenceC, 'descend');
23
24 end
```

ComputeEnergy.m

```
1 function [ H ] = ComputeEnergy( c, cTilde )
2 %COMPUTEENERGY
3 % H = ComputeEnergy( c, cTilde ) returns the energy function H(S^(k))
4 % evaluated at the sequences c, cTilde
5
6 maxIndex = min(numel(c),numel(cTilde));
7 c = c(1:maxIndex);
8 cTilde = cTilde(1:maxIndex);
9
10 H = sum(((c-cTilde).^2)./c);
11
12 end
```

AcceptUpdate.m

```
1 function [ acceptUpdate ] = AcceptUpdate( beta, newH, oldH )
2 %ACCEPTUPDATE
3 % acceptUpdate = AcceptUpdate( beta, newH, oldH ) returns the logical
4 % value 1 (true) if the proposed update with energy newH is accepted, 0
5 % (false) otherwise.
6
7 deltaH = newH - oldH;
8
9 % Compute acceptance probability
10 if deltaH > 0
11     acceptanceProbability = exp(-beta*deltaH);
12 else
13     acceptanceProbability = 1;
14 end
15
16 % Check whether the update is accepted or not
17 if rand < acceptanceProbability
18     acceptUpdate = true;
19 else
20     acceptUpdate = false;
21 end
22
23 end
```

CountSolutions

```
1 function [structDiffSolutions, nSolutions] = CountSolutions(outputData)
2 %COUNTSOLUTIONS
3
4 nRuns = length(outputData);
5 nA = numel(outputData(1).a);
6 nB = numel(outputData(1).b);
7
8 aSequences = extractfield(outputData, 'a');
9 aSequences = reshape(aSequences', [nA nRuns])';
10
11 bSequences = extractfield(outputData, 'b');
12 bSequences = reshape(bSequences', [nB nRuns])';
13
14 % Remove non-optimal solutions
15 isOptimal = cell2mat(extractfield(outputData, 'isOptimal'))';
16 aSequences(~isOptimal,:) = [];
17 bSequences(~isOptimal,:) = [];
18
19 solutionsMatrix = [aSequences, bSequences];
20
21 differentSolutions = unique(solutionsMatrix, 'rows');
22
23 nSolutions = size(differentSolutions, 1);
24
25 structDiffSolutions = repmat(struct('a', [], 'b', []), nSolutions, 1);
26
27 for k = 1:nSolutions
28     structDiffSolutions(k).a = differentSolutions(k, 1:nA);
29     structDiffSolutions(k).b = differentSolutions(k, nA+1:end);
30 end
31
32 end
```

PlotEnergy.m

```
1 function [f1, f2, f3, which] = PlotEnergy(solutions)
2 %PLOTENERGY
3
4 % randomly pick 3 chains
5 which = randi(length(solutions), [1 2]);
6 which = sort(which);
7
8 % if moving average
9 span = 5000;
10
```

```

11 smooth1 = smooth(solutions(which(1)).energy, span);
12 smooth2 = smooth(solutions(which(2)).energy, span);
13 smooth3 = smooth(solutions(which(3)).energy, span);
14
15 figure('units','normalized','outerposition',[0 0 1 1]);
16 f1 = plot(smooth1, 'LineWidth', 2);
17 hold on
18 f2 = plot(smooth2, 'LineWidth', 2);
19 f3 = plot(smooth3, 'LineWidth', 2);
20 hold off
21
22 % if all data points
23 % figure('units','normalized','outerposition',[0 0 1 1]);
24 % f1 = plot(solutions(which(1)).energy, 'LineWidth', 1.5);
25 % hold on
26 % f2 = plot(solutions(which(2)).energy, 'LineWidth', 1.5);
27 % f3 = plot(solutions(which(3)).energy, 'LineWidth', 1.5);
28 % hold off
29
30 set(gcf,'color','w');
31 set(gca,'fontsize', 28);
32
33 xlabel('Iteration');
34 ylabel('Energy');
35 pbaspect([1.618 1 1]);
36
37 for k = 1:3
38     if solutions(which(k)).isOptimal
39         converged{k} = ' (optimal found)';
40     else
41         converged{k} = ' (optimal not found)';
42     end
43 end
44
45 str1 = ['Run ', num2str(which(1)), converged{1}];
46 str2 = ['Run ', num2str(which(2)), converged{2}];
47 str3 = ['Run ', num2str(which(3)), converged{3}];
48
49 legend([f1, f2, f3], str1, str2, str3);
50
51 end

```

CompleteSearch.m

```

1 function [nOptimalSolutions] = CompleteSearch( a, b, c )
2 %COMPLETESEARCH
3 % Search all configuration space for optimal solutions of the DDP

```

```
4 % specified by sequences a, b, c in input.
5 % Returns number of optimal solutions.
6
7 % Save memory
8 if max([a, b]) < 65535
9     a = uint16(a);
10    b = uint16(b);
11 end
12
13 nOptimalSolutions = 0;
14
15 permA = perms(a);
16 permB = perms(b);
17
18 nA = size(permA,1);
19 nB = size(permB,1);
20
21 h = waitbar(0, 'Please wait...');
22 for aa = 1:nA
23
24     tic
25     currentA = permA(aa,:);
26
27     parfor bb = 1:nB
28         if isequal(c,DigestAB(currentA,permB(bb,:)));
29             nOptimalSolutions = nOptimalSolutions + 1;
30         end
31     end
32     waitbar(aa/nA, h);
33     toc
34 end
35 close(h);
36
37 toc
38
39 end
```

TimedProgressBar.m

This is a nice function to print a waitbar on console when using parallelised for-loops. I found it on MatlabCentral/FileExchange. Credits: Antonio Jose Cacho.

URL: <https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/46763-timedprogressbar>)
(Code is not reported here, see the above link.)