

# n\_queens\_\_LOWSLEY

November 3, 2020

## 1 Solving the n-Queens Problem using Local Search

Points: 10

### 1.1 The n-Queens Problem

**Goal:** Find an arrangement of  $n$  queens on a  $n \times n$  chess board so that no queen is on the same row, column or diagonal as any other queen.

**State space:** An arrangement of the queens on the board. We restrict the state space to arrangements where there is only a single queen per column. We represent a state as an integer vector of length  $n$ , each number representing for one column (from left to right) the row the queen is located in. We will call a state a “board.”

**Objective function:** The number of pairwise conflicts (i.e., two queens in the same row/column/diagonal).

The optimization problem is to find the optimal arrangement  $a^*$  of  $n$  queens on the board:

$$a^* = \operatorname{argmin}_a [\text{conflicts}(a)]$$

s.t.  $a$  contains only one queen per column

Note that for this problem there is always an arrangement  $a^*$  with  $\text{conflicts}(a) = 0$ .

**Local move:** Move one queen to a different position in its column.

### 1.2 Helper functions

```
[228]: import numpy as np
      %matplotlib inline
      import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
      from matplotlib import colors
      import math
      from operator import itemgetter
      import random
      import pandas as pd
      import time
```

```

def random_board(n):
    """Creates a random board of size n x n. Note that only a single queen is
    →placed in each column!"""

    return(np.random.randint(0,n,size = n))

def conflicts(board):
    """Caclulate the number of conflicts, i.e., the objective function."""

    board = np.array(board)

    n = len(board)
    conflicts = 0

    # check horizontal (we do not check vertical since the state space is
    →restricted to one queen per col)
    for i in range(n): conflicts += math.comb(np.sum(board == i), 2)
    #print(f"Horizontal conflicts: {conflicts}")

    # check for each queen diagonally up and down (only to the right side of
    →the queen)
    for j in range(n):
        q_up = board[j]
        q_down = board[j]

        for jj in range(j+1, n):
            q_up -= 1
            q_down += 1
            if board[jj] == q_up: conflicts += 1
            if board[jj] == q_down: conflicts += 1
        #print(f"Conflicts after queen {j}: {conflicts}")

    return(conflicts)

def show_board(board, cols = ['white', 'gray']):
    """display the board"""

    n = len(board)

    # create chess board display
    display = np.zeros([n,n])
    for i in range(n):
        for j in range(n):
            if ((i+j) % 2) != 0):

```

```

        display[i,j] = 1

cmap = colors.ListedColormap(cols)
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.imshow(display, cmap = cmap,
          norm = colors.BoundaryNorm(range(len(cols)+1), cmap.N))
ax.set_xticks([])
ax.set_yticks([])

# place queens. Note: i and j are switched. Unicode u265B is a black queen
for j in range(n):
    plt.text(j, board[j], u"\u265B", fontsize = 48,
             horizontalalignment = 'center',
             verticalalignment = 'center')

print(f"Board with {conflicts(board)} conflicts.")
plt.show()

```

### 1.3 Create a board

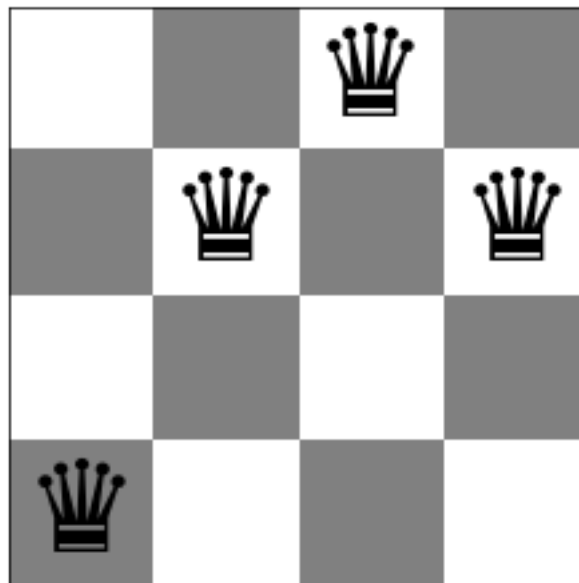
```

[101]: board = random_board(4)

show_board(board)
print(f"Queens (left to right) are at rows: {board}")
print(f"Number of conflicts: {conflicts(board)}")

```

Board with 3 conflicts.



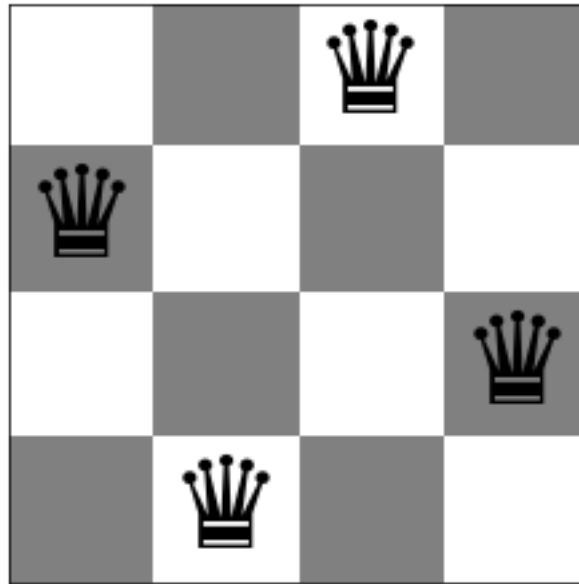
Queens (left to right) are at rows: [3 1 0 1]

Number of conflicts: 3

A board  $4 \times 4$  with no conflicts:

```
[102]: board = [1,3,0,2]
       show_board(board)
```

Board with 0 conflicts.



#### 1.4 Steepest-ascent Hill Climbing Search [3 Points]

Calculate the objective function for all local moves (move each queen within its column) and always choose the best among all local moves.

```
[103]: def steepest_ascent_get_neighbors(board):
       # define list of neighbors to populate
       neighbors = []
       # loop through each column
       for col in range(len(board)):
           # for each column, store a list of possible alternative moves
           states = []
           # loop through each row of a column
           for pos in range(len(board)):
               # if pos is current queen position then skip since we are already
               ↪ there
```

```

        if(board[col] == pos): continue
        # if not, copy over board values and move queen to new state
        new_state = board.copy()
        new_state[col] = pos
        # calculate the conflict score of this state
        new_state_score = conflicts(new_state)
        # add it to our list of states
        states.append((new_state_score,new_state.copy()))
        # taking the best state for a given column and save it off
        min_state_score = min(states, key = itemgetter(0))
        # add it to our list of neighbors
        neighbors.append((min_state_score[0],min_state_score[1].copy()))
    return(neighbors)

# Code goes here
def steepest_ascent_hill(board = None, size = 4, debug = False,
    ↪max_steps=10000):
    # if board not specified, generate one
    if(board == None):
        current = random_board(size)
    else:
        current = board
    # obtain score of current board
    current_score = conflicts(current)
    # debug
    if(debug):
        print("Starting board...")
        show_board(current)
    # run algo until solution is found or max_steps/stop_after is reached
    for step in range(max_steps):
        # obtain neighbors
        neighbors = steepest_ascent_get_neighbors(current)
        # obtain best neighbor
        min_neighbor_score = min(neighbors, key = itemgetter(0))
        # if best neighbor is better than current score, update it
        if(min_neighbor_score[0] < current_score):
            # debug
            if(debug):
                print("# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE - ")
                print("NEW -> ",min_neighbor_score[0], " for ",
    ↪min_neighbor_score[1])
                print("OLD -> ",current_score, " for ", current)
                show_board(min_neighbor_score[1])
            # assign new values
            current_score = min_neighbor_score[0]
            current = min_neighbor_score[1]
        # if next best found neighbor is not better

```

```

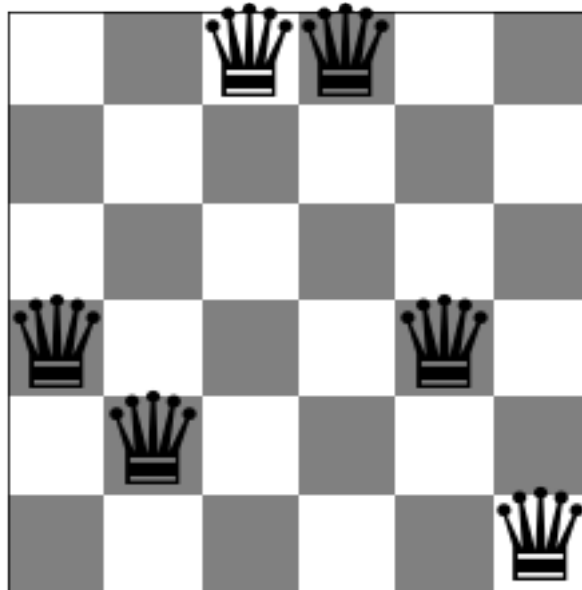
else:
    # stop and return current
    if(debug): print("Ending board...")
    return((current_score,current))

result = steepest_ascent_hill(size = 6, debug = True)
show_board(result[1])

```

Starting board...

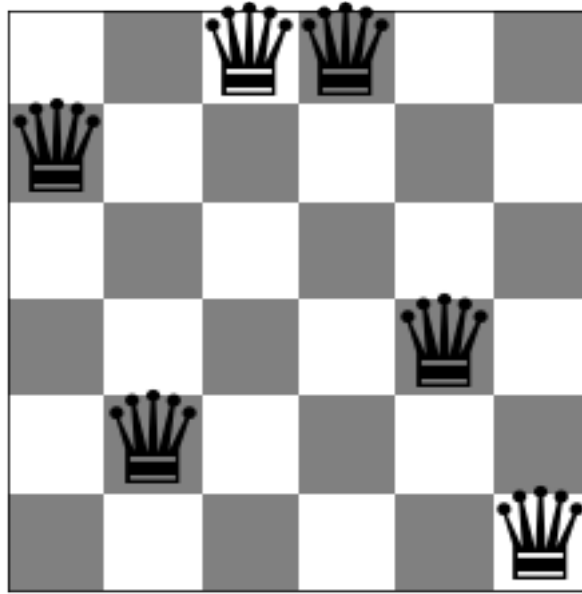
Board with 4 conflicts.



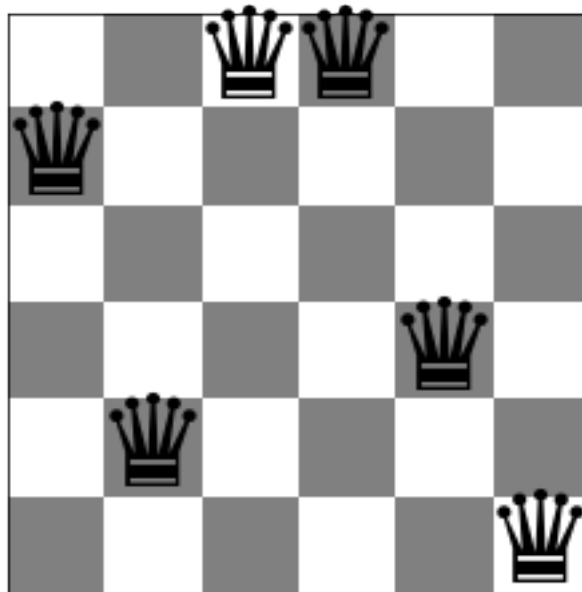
```

# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE -
NEW -> 1 for [1 4 0 0 3 5]
OLD -> 4 for [3 4 0 0 3 5]
Board with 1 conflicts.

```



Ending board..  
Board with 1 conflicts.



## 1.5 Steepest-ascent Hill Climbing Search with Random Restarts [1 Point]

Steepest-ascent hill climbing will often end up in local optima. Restart the algorithm up to 100 times with a random board to find a better (hopefully optimal) solution.

```
[104]: def steepest_ascent_hill_random(board = None, size = 4, debug = False,
    ↪max_steps=10000, restarts=100):
    # create board if not supplied
    if(board == None):
        board = random_board(size)
    # set up initial best values
    best_score = conflicts(board)
    best_solution = board
    # run through number of random restarts
    for i in range(restarts):
        if(debug): print("STARTING RESTART ", i)
        # run steepest ascent with random board each time
        result = steepest_ascent_hill(size=size, debug = False,
    ↪max_steps=max_steps)
        # if the score of the result is better, replace it
        if(result[0] < best_score):
            # debug
            if(debug):
                print("# RANDOM RESTART - NEW HIGH SCORE - ")
                print("NEW -> ", result[0], " for ", result[1])
                print("OLD -> ", best_score, " for ", best_solution)
            # assign new values
            best_score = result[0]
            best_solution = result[1]
        # if solution has zero conflicts, return
        if(best_score == 0):
            return((best_score, best_solution))
        # if no optimal solution found, return best found
        return((best_score, best_solution))

result = steepest_ascent_hill_random(size = 8, debug = True, restarts=50)
show_board(result[1])
```

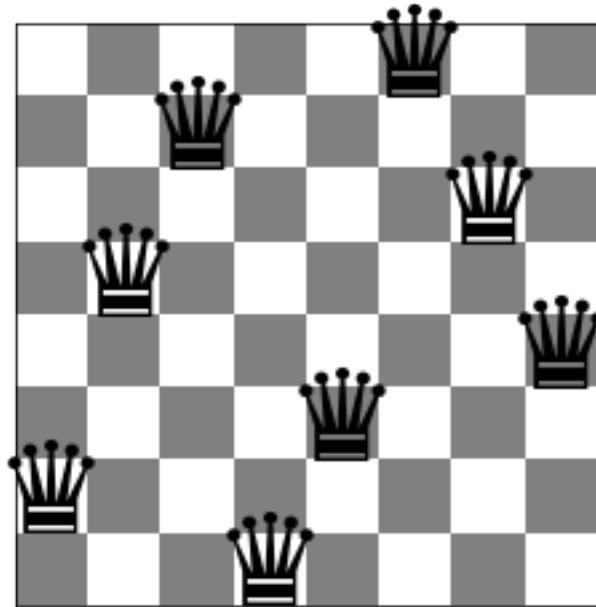
```
STARTING RESTART 0
# RANDOM RESTART - NEW HIGH SCORE -
NEW -> 2 for [3 6 7 2 0 5 4 1]
OLD -> 8 for [1 6 5 1 3 4 6 1]
STARTING RESTART 1
# RANDOM RESTART - NEW HIGH SCORE -
NEW -> 1 for [4 0 5 7 1 3 6 2]
OLD -> 2 for [3 6 7 2 0 5 4 1]
STARTING RESTART 2
STARTING RESTART 3
```



```

STARTING RESTART  4
STARTING RESTART  5
STARTING RESTART  6
# RANDOM RESTART - NEW HIGH SCORE -
NEW ->  0  for  [6 3 1 7 5 0 2 4]
OLD ->  1  for  [4 0 5 7 1 3 6 2]
Board with 0 conflicts.

```



## 1.6 Stochastic Hill Climbing [1 Point]

Chooses randomly from among all uphill moves.

```

[105]: def stochastic_get_neighbors(board, score):
        # define list of neighbors to populate
        neighbors = []
        # loop through each column
        for col in range(len(board)):
            # loop through each row of a column
            for pos in range(len(board)):
                # if pos is current queen position then skip since we are already
                ↪ there
                if(board[col] == pos): continue
                # if not, copy over board values and move queen to new state
                new_state = board.copy()
                new_state[col] = pos
                # calculate the conflict score of this state

```

```

        new_state_score = conflicts(new_state)
        # if we have a state with better score, add to neighbors list
        if(new_state_score < score):
            neighbors.append((new_state_score,new_state.copy()))
    return(neighbors)

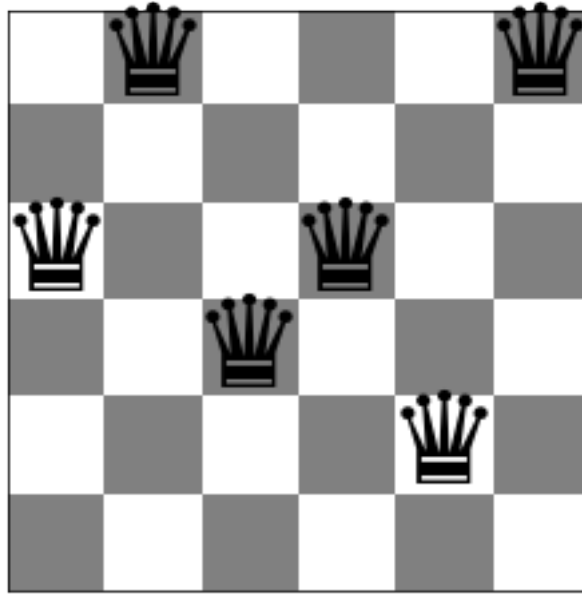
def stochastic_hill(board = None, size = 4, debug = False, max_steps=10000):
    # if board not specified, generate one
    if(board == None):
        current = random_board(size)
    else:
        current = board
    # obtain score of current board
    current_score = conflicts(current)
    # debug
    if(debug):
        print("Starting board...")
        show_board(current)
    # run algo until solution is found or max_steps/stop_after is reached
    for step in range(max_steps):
        # obtain neighbors with better score than current
        neighbors = stochastic_get_neighbors(current, current_score)
        # if at least one better neighbor found
        if(len(neighbors) != 0):
            # obtain random neighbor from list and assign to current
            new_neighbor = random.choice(neighbors)
            # debug
            if(debug):
                print("# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE - ")
                print("NEW -> ",new_neighbor[0], " for ", new_neighbor[1])
                print("OLD -> ",current_score, " for ", current)
                show_board(new_neighbor[1])
            # assign new values
            current_score = new_neighbor[0]
            current = new_neighbor[1]
        # if no better neighbor found at all
        else:
            # stop and return current
            if(debug): print("Ending board...")
            return((current_score,current))

result = stochastic_hill(size = 6, debug = True)
show_board(result[1])

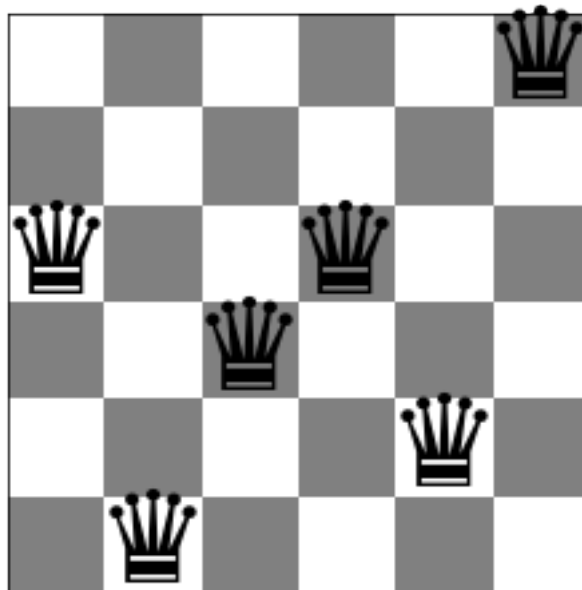
```

Starting board...

Board with 6 conflicts.



```
# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE -
NEW -> 4 for [2 5 3 2 4 0]
OLD -> 6 for [2 0 3 2 4 0]
Board with 4 conflicts.
```

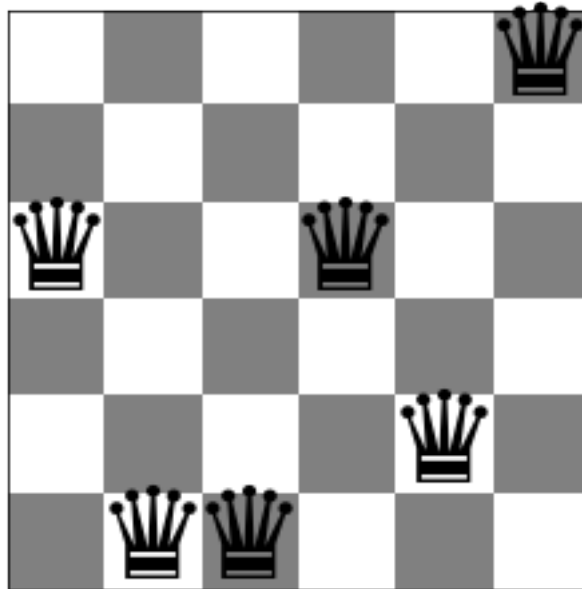


```
# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE -
```

```

NEW -> 3 for [2 5 5 2 4 0]
OLD -> 4 for [2 5 3 2 4 0]
Board with 3 conflicts.

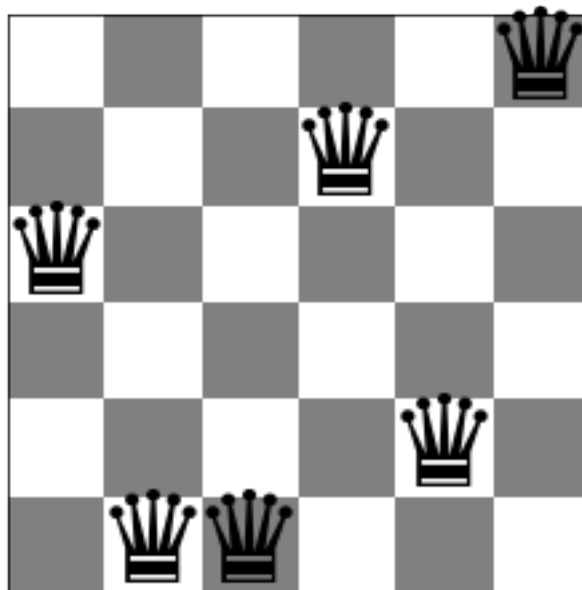
```



```

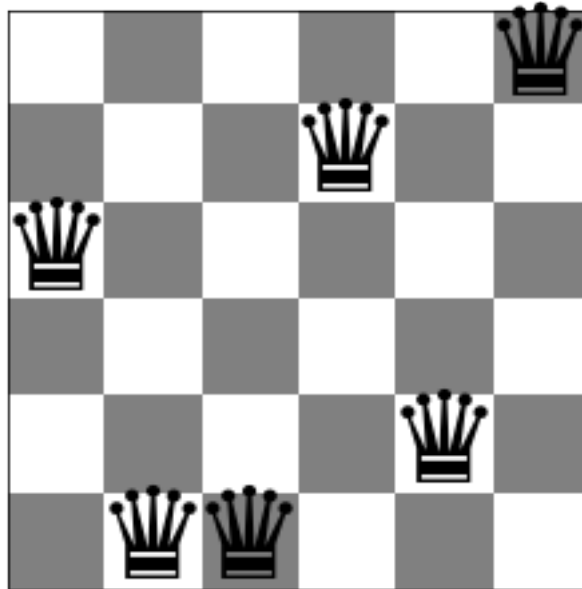
# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE -
NEW -> 1 for [2 5 5 1 4 0]
OLD -> 3 for [2 5 5 2 4 0]
Board with 1 conflicts.

```



Ending board...

Board with 1 conflicts.



## 1.7 First-choice Hill Climbing [1 Point]

First-choice hill climbing is a type of stochastic hill climbing that generates one random local neighbor at a time and accept it if it has a better objective function value than the current state.

```
[106]: def first_choice_get_neighbor(board,size):  
    # copy board for altering  
    new_neighbor = board.copy()  
    # obtain random queen to move  
    col = random.randint(0, size-1)  
    # obtain random position to move to  
    pos = random.randint(0, size-1)  
    # ensure it is not same location, if it is keep generating new locations  
    while(new_neighbor[col] == pos):  
        pos = random.randint(0, size-1)  
    # assign queen to new location  
    new_neighbor[col] = pos  
    # obtain score  
    new_score = conflicts(new_neighbor)  
    # return new neighbor  
    return((new_score,new_neighbor))
```

```

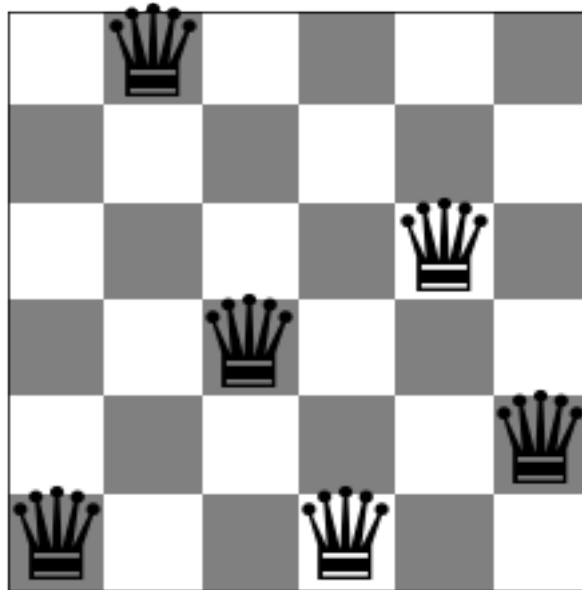
def first_choice_hill(board = None, size = 4, debug = False, max_steps=10000,
↳stop_after=1000):
    # if board not specified, generate one
    if(board == None):
        current = random_board(size)
    else:
        current = board
        size = len(current)
    # obtain score of current board
    current_score = conflicts(current)
    # debug
    if(debug):
        print("Starting board...")
        show_board(current)
    # value to keep track of number of steps that have occurred since the last
↳best found solution
    steps_since_best = 0
    # run algo until solution is found or max_steps/stop_after is reached
    for step in range(max_steps):
        # return current if no better solution is found after stop_after steps
        if(steps_since_best >= stop_after):
            if(debug): print("No better solution found after {} steps.".
↳format(stop_after))
            return((current_score,current))
        if(current_score == 0):
            return((current_score,current))
        # obtain neighbors with better score than current
        neighbor = first_choice_get_neighbor(current, size)
        # if at least one better neighbor found
        if(neighbor[0] < current_score):
            # debug
            if(debug):
                print("# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE - ")
                print("NEW -> ",neighbor[0], " for ", neighbor[1])
                print("OLD -> ",current_score, " for ", current)
                show_board(neighbor[1])
            # assign new values
            current_score = neighbor[0]
            current = neighbor[1]
            # reset our steps since best found solution
            steps_since_best = 0
        # if no better neighbor found, increment our steps since best solution
↳found
        steps_since_best = steps_since_best + 1
    if(debug): print("Ending board...")
    return((current_score,current))

```

```
result = first_choice_hill(size = 6, debug = True)
show_board(result[1])
```

Starting board...

Board with 3 conflicts.

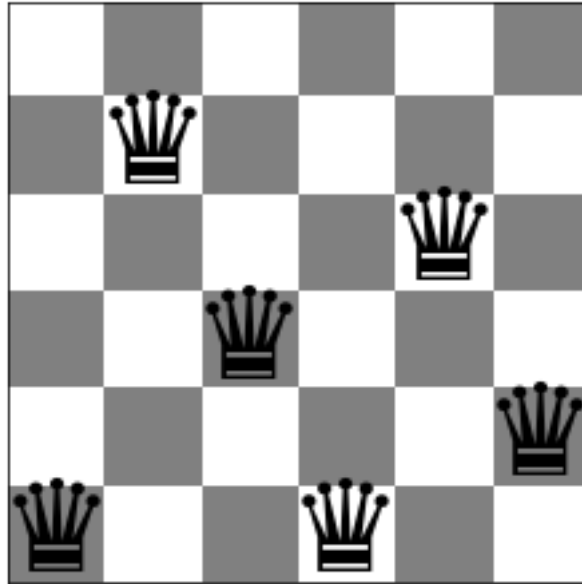


# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE -

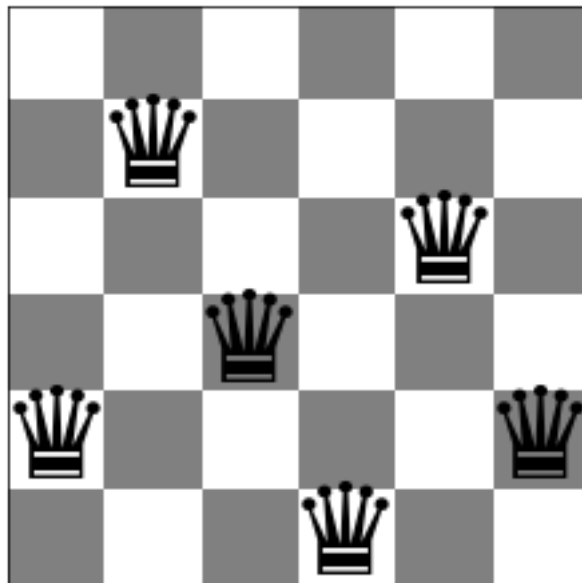
NEW -> 2 for [5 1 3 5 2 4]

OLD -> 3 for [5 0 3 5 2 4]

Board with 2 conflicts.



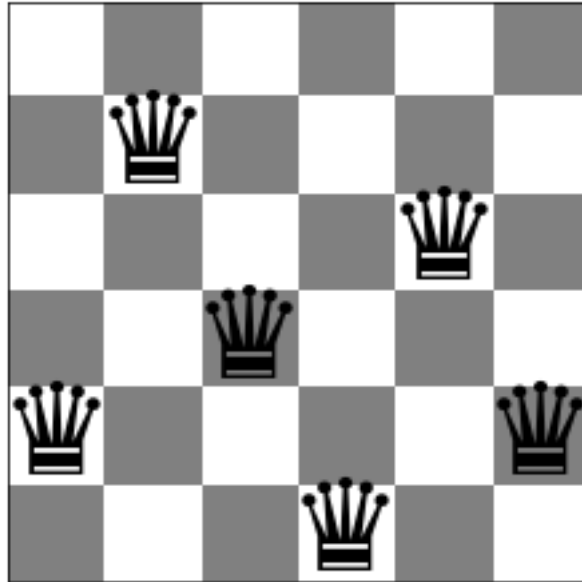
```
# STEEPEST ASCENT - NEW HIGH SCORE -
NEW -> 1 for [4 1 3 5 2 4]
OLD -> 2 for [5 1 3 5 2 4]
Board with 1 conflicts.
```



No better solution found after 1000 steps.



Board with 1 conflicts.



## 1.8 Simulated Annealing [2 Points]

You have to experiment with the annealing schedule.

```
[234]: def simulated_annealing_get_neighbor(board, size):
    # copy board for altering
    new_neighbor = board.copy()
    # obtain random queen to move
    col = random.randint(0, size-1)
    # obtain random position to move to
    pos = random.randint(0, size-1)
    # ensure it is not same location, if it is keep generating new locations
    while(new_neighbor[col] == pos):
        pos = random.randint(0, size-1)
    # assign queen to new location
    new_neighbor[col] = pos
    # obtain score
    new_score = conflicts(new_neighbor)
    # return new neighbor
    return((new_score, new_neighbor))

def simulated_annealing(board = None, size = 4, T0 = None, alpha = 0.999,
    ↪epsilon = 1e-3, debug = False):
    # if board not specified, generate one
    if(board == None):
```

```

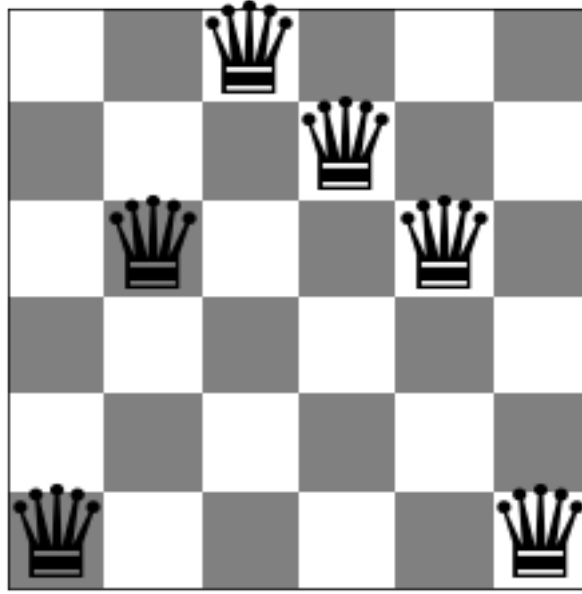
        current = random_board(size)
    else:
        current = board
        size = len(current)
    # obtain score of current board
    current_score = conflicts(current)
    # debug
    if(debug):
        print("Starting board...")
        show_board(current)
    # use the current board conflict score to set T0
    if T0 is None:
        T0 = (size^2) / 2
    # set T and t
    T = T0
    t = 0
    while T > epsilon:
        # calculate temperature from schedule
        T = T0 * alpha ** t
        # obtain neighbor
        neighbor = simulated_annealing_get_neighbor(current, size)
        # calculated delta E
        deltaE = neighbor[0] - current_score
        # check if the new solution is better
        if deltaE < 0 or np.random.rand() < math.exp(-deltaE/T):
            current = neighbor[1]
            current_score = neighbor[0]
            if debug:
                print(f"step: {t} \t temp: {T:5.3f} \t deltaE: {deltaE:+3.3f} \t
→ \t new conflict score: {current_score:3.3f}")
            if(current_score == 0):
                if(debug): print("Ending board...")
                return((current_score, current))
            t += 1
        if(debug): print("Ending board...")
        return((current_score, current))

result = simulated_annealing(size=6, debug=True)
show_board(result[1])

```

Starting board...

Board with 5 conflicts.



step: 0	temp: 2.000	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
6.000			
step: 1	temp: 1.998	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
4.000			
step: 3	temp: 1.994	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
3.000			
step: 6	temp: 1.988	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
3.000			
step: 10	temp: 1.980	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
3.000			
step: 15	temp: 1.970	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
5.000			
step: 16	temp: 1.968	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
4.000			
step: 18	temp: 1.964	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
4.000			
step: 21	temp: 1.958	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
6.000			
step: 22	temp: 1.956	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
6.000			
step: 23	temp: 1.955	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
5.000			
step: 24	temp: 1.953	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
6.000			
step: 25	temp: 1.951	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
5.000			

step: 26 5.000	temp: 1.949	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 27 5.000	temp: 1.947	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 28 4.000	temp: 1.945	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 29 3.000	temp: 1.943	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 30 3.000	temp: 1.941	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 31 3.000	temp: 1.939	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 33 2.000	temp: 1.935	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 36 2.000	temp: 1.929	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 38 3.000	temp: 1.925	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 44 2.000	temp: 1.914	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 47 1.000	temp: 1.908	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 48 2.000	temp: 1.906	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 53 3.000	temp: 1.897	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 54 1.000	temp: 1.895	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 55 3.000	temp: 1.893	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 58 4.000	temp: 1.887	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 59 3.000	temp: 1.885	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 62 3.000	temp: 1.880	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 63 4.000	temp: 1.878	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 66 5.000	temp: 1.872	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 68 3.000	temp: 1.868	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 69 2.000	temp: 1.867	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 76 2.000	temp: 1.854	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 80 2.000	temp: 1.846	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:

step: 84 2.000	temp: 1.839	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 85 2.000	temp: 1.837	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 87 4.000	temp: 1.833	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 89 4.000	temp: 1.830	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 90 7.000	temp: 1.828	deltaE: +3.000	new conflict score:
step: 91 5.000	temp: 1.826	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 92 5.000	temp: 1.824	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 93 3.000	temp: 1.822	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 95 4.000	temp: 1.819	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 96 5.000	temp: 1.817	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 97 4.000	temp: 1.815	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 100 3.000	temp: 1.810	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 101 3.000	temp: 1.808	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 106 2.000	temp: 1.799	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 111 3.000	temp: 1.790	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 112 4.000	temp: 1.788	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 113 6.000	temp: 1.786	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 114 4.000	temp: 1.784	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 115 4.000	temp: 1.783	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 117 4.000	temp: 1.779	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 118 6.000	temp: 1.777	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 120 6.000	temp: 1.774	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 121 6.000	temp: 1.772	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 122 4.000	temp: 1.770	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:

step: 123 4.000	temp: 1.768	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 124 3.000	temp: 1.767	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 126 4.000	temp: 1.763	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 128 5.000	temp: 1.760	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 129 3.000	temp: 1.758	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 137 2.000	temp: 1.744	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 138 3.000	temp: 1.742	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 139 5.000	temp: 1.740	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 140 4.000	temp: 1.739	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 141 5.000	temp: 1.737	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 142 5.000	temp: 1.735	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 143 5.000	temp: 1.733	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 145 5.000	temp: 1.730	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 146 5.000	temp: 1.728	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 147 5.000	temp: 1.726	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 149 5.000	temp: 1.723	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 150 5.000	temp: 1.721	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 151 6.000	temp: 1.720	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 152 6.000	temp: 1.718	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 153 6.000	temp: 1.716	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 155 6.000	temp: 1.713	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 156 6.000	temp: 1.711	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 157 7.000	temp: 1.709	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 158 7.000	temp: 1.708	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:

step: 159 5.000	temp: 1.706	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 160 6.000	temp: 1.704	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 161 5.000	temp: 1.702	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 162 7.000	temp: 1.701	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 163 6.000	temp: 1.699	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 165 7.000	temp: 1.696	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 166 6.000	temp: 1.694	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 167 7.000	temp: 1.692	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 168 4.000	temp: 1.691	deltaE: -3.000	new conflict score:
step: 169 3.000	temp: 1.689	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 170 4.000	temp: 1.687	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
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step: 174 5.000	temp: 1.680	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
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step: 180 4.000	temp: 1.670	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 181 5.000	temp: 1.669	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 183 6.000	temp: 1.665	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 184 5.000	temp: 1.664	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 186 3.000	temp: 1.660	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 187 4.000	temp: 1.659	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:

step: 188 1.000	temp: 1.657	deltaE: -3.000	new conflict score:
step: 192 2.000	temp: 1.650	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 194 2.000	temp: 1.647	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 198 2.000	temp: 1.641	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 200 6.000	temp: 1.637	deltaE: +4.000	new conflict score:
step: 201 6.000	temp: 1.636	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 202 7.000	temp: 1.634	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 203 5.000	temp: 1.632	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 204 4.000	temp: 1.631	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 205 4.000	temp: 1.629	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 206 5.000	temp: 1.627	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 207 4.000	temp: 1.626	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 208 4.000	temp: 1.624	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 210 4.000	temp: 1.621	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 212 4.000	temp: 1.618	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 216 4.000	temp: 1.611	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 217 2.000	temp: 1.610	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 218 3.000	temp: 1.608	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 222 4.000	temp: 1.602	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 223 5.000	temp: 1.600	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 224 4.000	temp: 1.598	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 226 5.000	temp: 1.595	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 227 4.000	temp: 1.594	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 228 3.000	temp: 1.592	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:



step: 229 5.000	temp: 1.590	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 231 4.000	temp: 1.587	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 236 4.000	temp: 1.579	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 237 3.000	temp: 1.578	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 239 3.000	temp: 1.575	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 243 4.000	temp: 1.568	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 247 4.000	temp: 1.562	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 248 5.000	temp: 1.561	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 249 6.000	temp: 1.559	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 250 4.000	temp: 1.557	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 251 4.000	temp: 1.556	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 252 3.000	temp: 1.554	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 254 3.000	temp: 1.551	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 255 4.000	temp: 1.550	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 256 5.000	temp: 1.548	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 259 5.000	temp: 1.543	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 260 4.000	temp: 1.542	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 261 4.000	temp: 1.540	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 264 3.000	temp: 1.536	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 265 3.000	temp: 1.534	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 267 3.000	temp: 1.531	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 268 3.000	temp: 1.530	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 269 3.000	temp: 1.528	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 271 2.000	temp: 1.525	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:

step: 273 3.000	temp: 1.522	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 274 3.000	temp: 1.520	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 275 4.000	temp: 1.519	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 276 3.000	temp: 1.517	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 277 5.000	temp: 1.516	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 278 4.000	temp: 1.514	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 279 4.000	temp: 1.513	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 281 3.000	temp: 1.510	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 282 2.000	temp: 1.508	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 285 1.000	temp: 1.504	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 287 1.000	temp: 1.501	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 289 2.000	temp: 1.498	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 292 4.000	temp: 1.493	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 293 2.000	temp: 1.492	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 295 3.000	temp: 1.489	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 296 4.000	temp: 1.487	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 297 5.000	temp: 1.486	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 299 6.000	temp: 1.483	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 300 6.000	temp: 1.481	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 301 6.000	temp: 1.480	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 302 5.000	temp: 1.478	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 303 5.000	temp: 1.477	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 305 4.000	temp: 1.474	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 307 4.000	temp: 1.471	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:

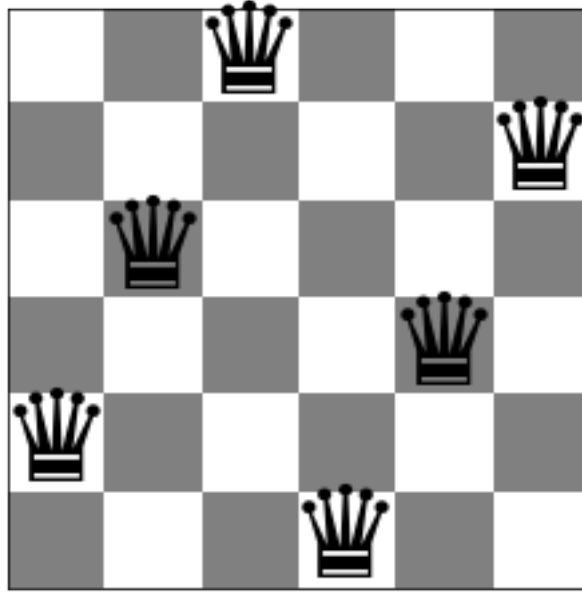
step: 308 4.000	temp: 1.470	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 309 4.000	temp: 1.468	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 310 4.000	temp: 1.467	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 313 5.000	temp: 1.462	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 315 5.000	temp: 1.459	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 316 4.000	temp: 1.458	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 318 4.000	temp: 1.455	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 319 3.000	temp: 1.454	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 322 3.000	temp: 1.449	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 323 5.000	temp: 1.448	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 324 6.000	temp: 1.446	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 326 6.000	temp: 1.443	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 327 5.000	temp: 1.442	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 328 4.000	temp: 1.440	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 329 2.000	temp: 1.439	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 330 2.000	temp: 1.438	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 332 3.000	temp: 1.435	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 335 3.000	temp: 1.430	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 336 5.000	temp: 1.429	deltaE: +2.000	new conflict score:
step: 337 6.000	temp: 1.428	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 339 6.000	temp: 1.425	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 340 6.000	temp: 1.423	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 341 4.000	temp: 1.422	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 342 5.000	temp: 1.420	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:

step: 343 4.000	temp: 1.419	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 344 4.000	temp: 1.418	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 345 4.000	temp: 1.416	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 346 5.000	temp: 1.415	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 347 6.000	temp: 1.413	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 348 5.000	temp: 1.412	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 349 5.000	temp: 1.411	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 350 5.000	temp: 1.409	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 351 5.000	temp: 1.408	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 352 5.000	temp: 1.406	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 354 6.000	temp: 1.404	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 355 3.000	temp: 1.402	deltaE: -3.000	new conflict score:
step: 356 4.000	temp: 1.401	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 357 4.000	temp: 1.399	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 358 4.000	temp: 1.398	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 360 5.000	temp: 1.395	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 362 5.000	temp: 1.392	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 363 5.000	temp: 1.391	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 365 6.000	temp: 1.388	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 366 6.000	temp: 1.387	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 368 6.000	temp: 1.384	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 369 5.000	temp: 1.383	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 371 3.000	temp: 1.380	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 373 2.000	temp: 1.377	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:

step: 375 3.000	temp: 1.374	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 376 4.000	temp: 1.373	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 378 4.000	temp: 1.370	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 380 5.000	temp: 1.367	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 381 3.000	temp: 1.366	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:
step: 383 3.000	temp: 1.363	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 385 3.000	temp: 1.361	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 386 3.000	temp: 1.359	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 389 3.000	temp: 1.355	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 392 3.000	temp: 1.351	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 393 2.000	temp: 1.350	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 396 2.000	temp: 1.346	deltaE: +0.000	new conflict score:
step: 397 1.000	temp: 1.344	deltaE: -1.000	new conflict score:
step: 403 2.000	temp: 1.336	deltaE: +1.000	new conflict score:
step: 404 0.000	temp: 1.335	deltaE: -2.000	new conflict score:

Ending board...

Board with 0 conflicts.



## 1.9 Compare Performance [2 Points]

Use runtime, scalability, and best objective function value to compare the algorithms on boards of different sizes.

For timing you can use the `time` package.

```
[236]: # board size we wish to test
board_size = [4,5,7,10,12]
# our algos
algos = {
    steepest_ascent_hill: "Steepest Ascent",
    steepest_ascent_hill_random: "Steepest Ascent Random Restarts",
    stochastic_hill: "Stochastic",
    first_choice_hill: "First Choice",
    simulated_annealing: "Simulated Annealing"
}
# dataframe to store all data
all_data = pd.DataFrame()
# loop through algos and try board sizes
for size in board_size:
    df1 = pd.DataFrame({'Board Size': [], 'Algorithm': [], 'Conflicts': [],
                        'Time': []})
    for algo in algos.items():
        time_list = []
        conflict_list = []
        # run for ten iterations
```

```

for i in range(10):
    t0 = time.time()
    result = algo[0](size=size)
    t1 = time.time()
    time_list.append((t1-t0) * 1e3)
    conflict_list.append(result[0])
# add to dataframe taking average
df1 = df1.append({
    'Board Size': size,
    'Algorithm': algo[1],
    'Conflicts': (sum(conflict_list) / len(conflict_list)),
    'Time': (sum(time_list) / len(time_list))
}, ignore_index=True)
print("Results for board size of {}".format(size))
display(df1)
all_data = all_data.append(df1)

```

Results for board size of 4.

	Board Size	Algorithm	Conflicts	Time
0	4.0	Steepest Ascent	0.6	3.851748
1	4.0	Steepest Ascent Random Restarts	0.0	3.669477
2	4.0	Stochastic	0.7	1.009274
3	4.0	First Choice	0.7	18.614650
4	4.0	Simulated Annealing	0.0	3.639936

Results for board size of 5.

	Board Size	Algorithm	Conflicts	Time
0	5.0	Steepest Ascent	0.4	2.863312
1	5.0	Steepest Ascent Random Restarts	0.0	3.422761
2	5.0	Stochastic	0.2	3.106308
3	5.0	First Choice	0.1	4.442501
4	5.0	Simulated Annealing	0.0	8.248329

Results for board size of 7.

	Board Size	Algorithm	Conflicts	Time
0	7.0	Steepest Ascent	1.0	15.247607
1	7.0	Steepest Ascent Random Restarts	0.0	25.354338
2	7.0	Stochastic	1.1	11.707926
3	7.0	First Choice	1.3	52.934623
4	7.0	Simulated Annealing	0.0	55.596018

Results for board size of 10.

	Board Size	Algorithm	Conflicts	Time
0	10.0	Steepest Ascent	1.6	46.338272

1	10.0	Steepest Ascent Random Restarts	0.0	328.262877
2	10.0	Stochastic	2.0	54.265022
3	10.0	First Choice	1.5	89.026880
4	10.0	Simulated Annealing	0.2	448.360467

Results for board size of 12.

	Board Size	Algorithm	Conflicts	Time
0	12.0	Steepest Ascent	1.9	89.126468
1	12.0	Steepest Ascent Random Restarts	0.0	2211.214828
2	12.0	Stochastic	2.0	129.262757
3	12.0	First Choice	1.8	141.669369
4	12.0	Simulated Annealing	0.0	553.148723

Taking a look at the above results of the algorithms, we can see that some perform much better on larger boards while others perform better on smaller boards.

For steepest ascent, we notice that the algorithm is relatively quick with smaller size boards however, it does not once end with 0 conflicts meaning it would get in a local optima quite often which is not ideal.

Moving on to steepest ascent with random restarts, we see that it actually always finds a solution however, the time it takes to find the solution often is quite large. This would make it un-ideal for larger sized boards. It is almost guaranteed to find the solution with enough restarts.

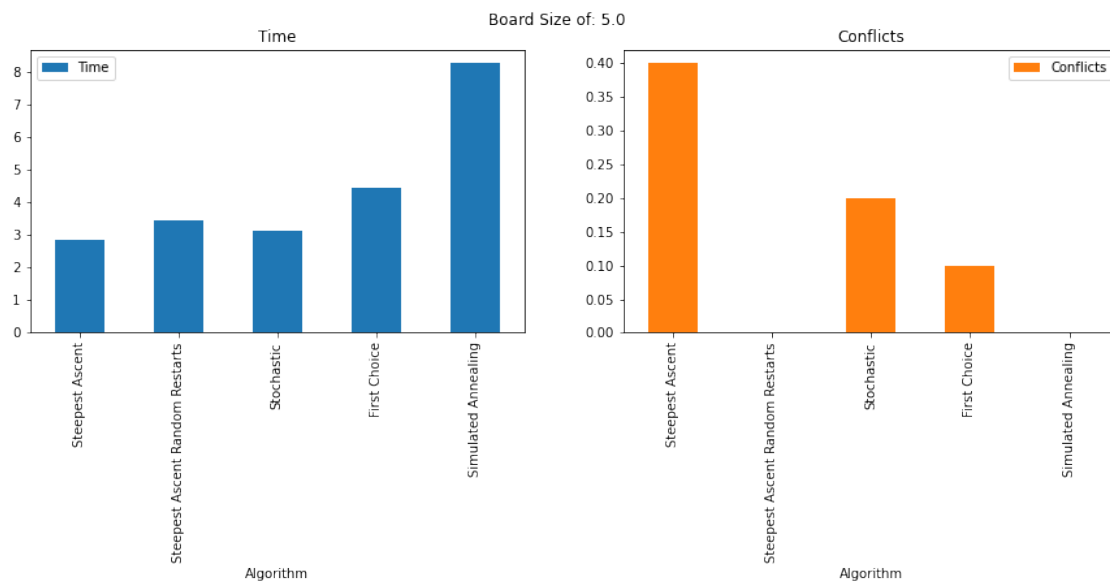
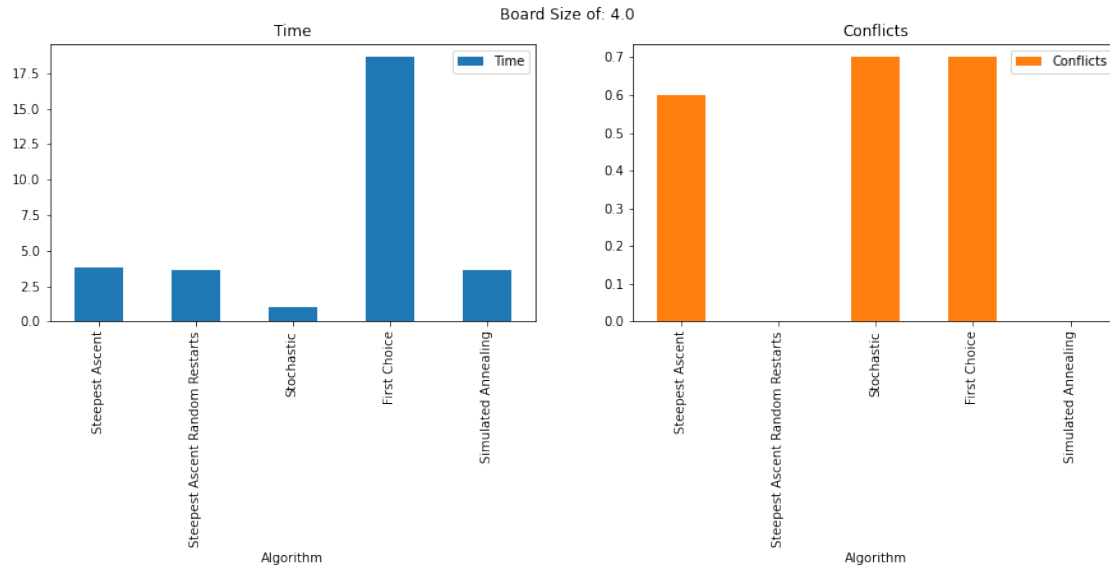
For stochastic hill climbing we see that it also does not find the optimal solution every time which implies that it also got stuck in a local optima. While its runtime was not that bad, it also tended to bump into the most conflicts out of all the algorithms.

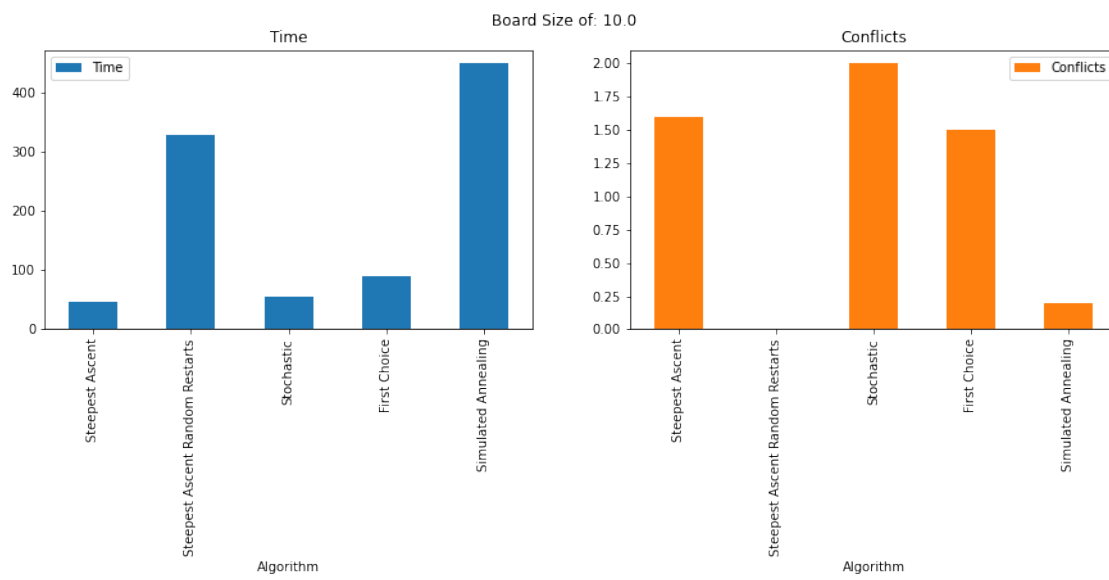
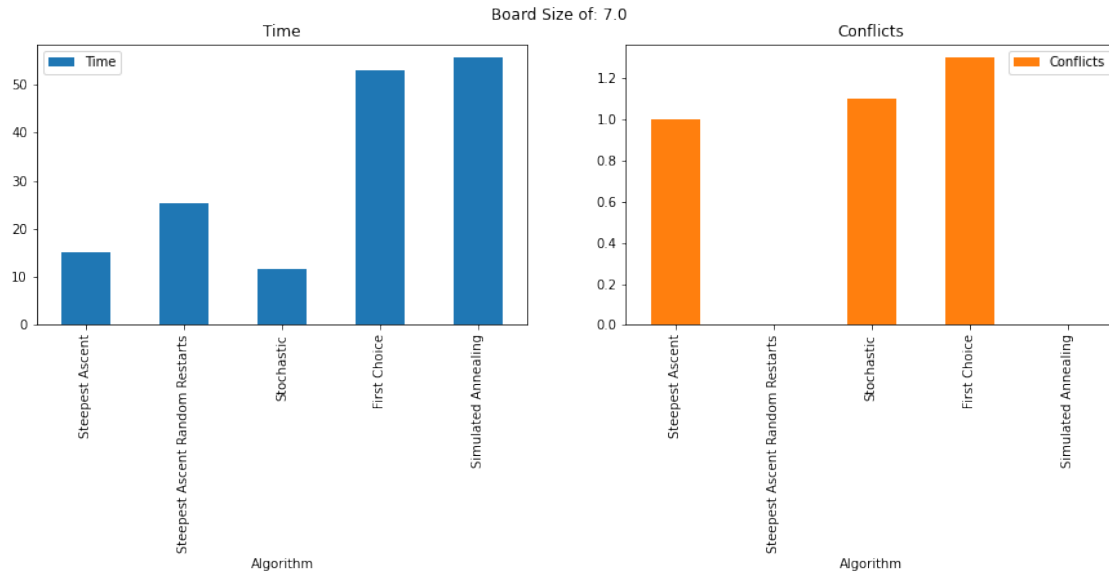
Taking a look at first choice, again we see that it typically would fall into local optima quite a bit with a high conflict score and it also wasn't the best in terms of runtime either. It was somewhat comparable to stochastic with less conflicts but a worse runtime.

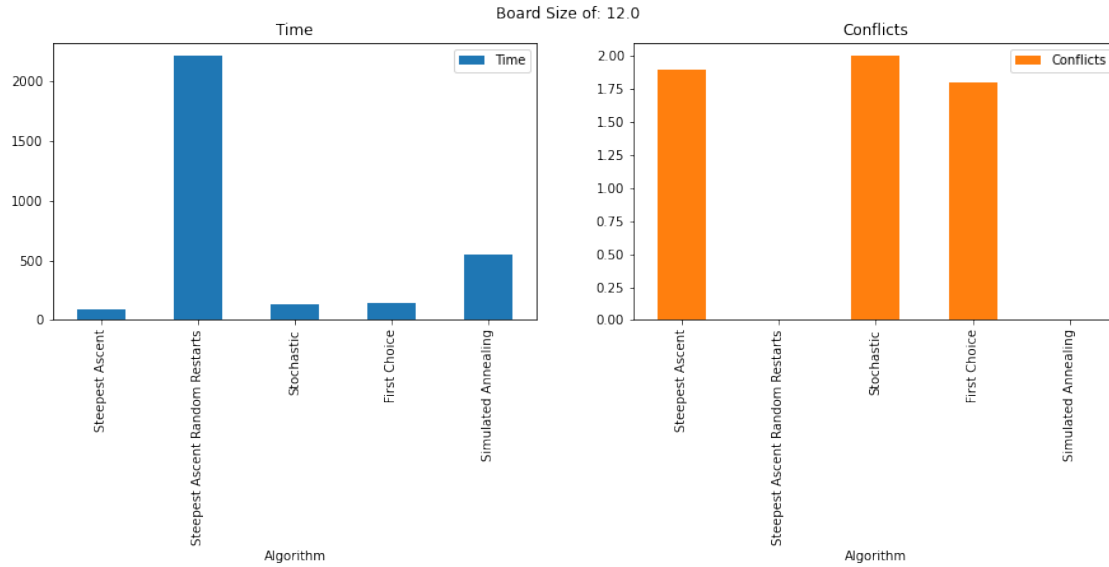
Lastly, looking at simulated annealing we see that it often would be able to find the optimal solution and also took not as long as some of the others but wasn't the best on smaller boards. When dealing with larger boards though, simulated annealing did a great job runtime and anything bigger than 10 it would probably be ideal to use it rather than the others.

```
[237]: # graphs of each board size comparing algorithm time and conflicts
group_by_size = all_data.groupby('Board Size')
for i, (name, graph) in enumerate(group_by_size):
    graph.plot.bar(x="Algorithm", y=['Time', 'Conflicts'], subplots = True,
    layout=(1,2),
    figsize=(15,4), title="Board Size of: {}".format(name))
```



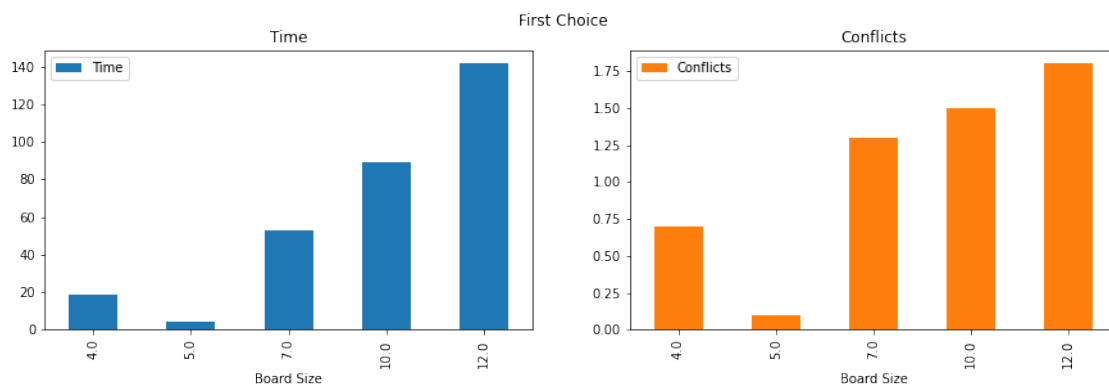


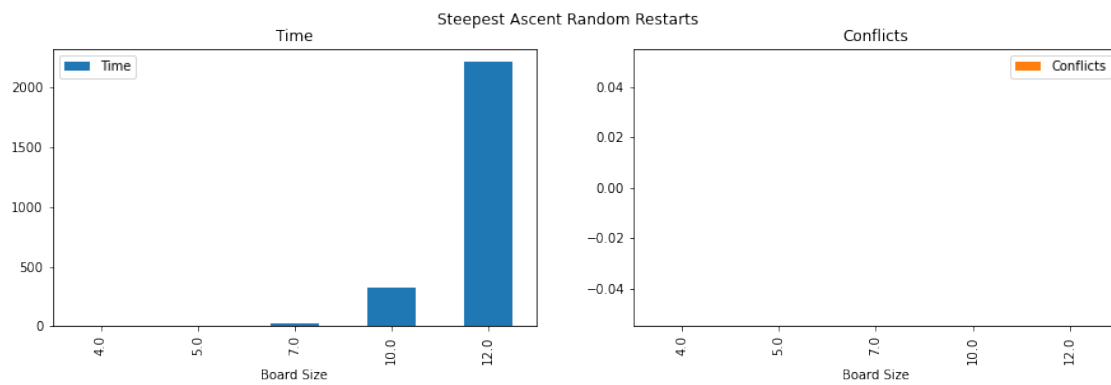
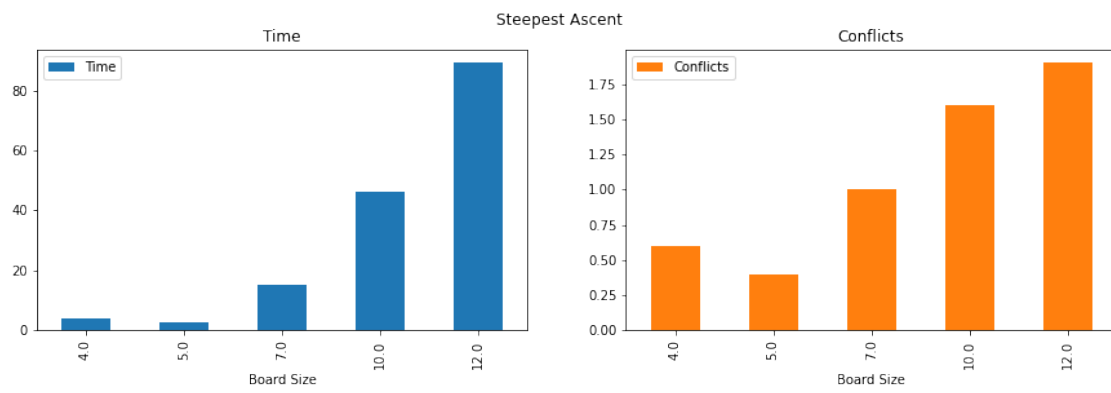
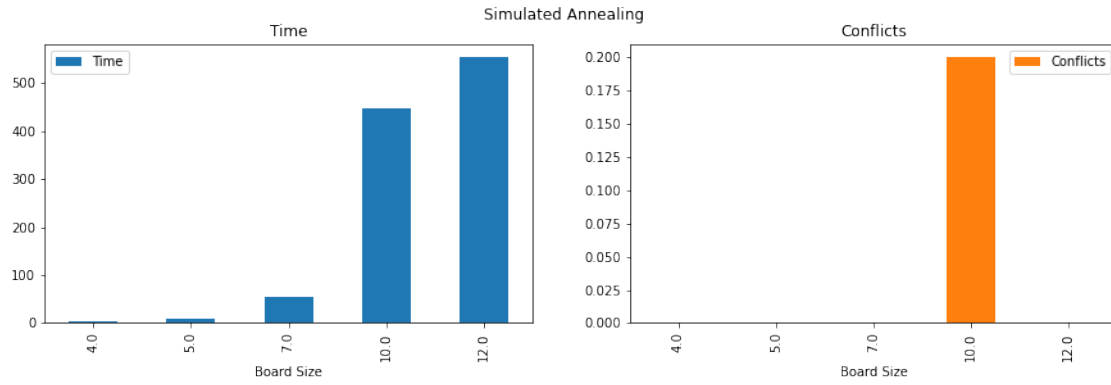


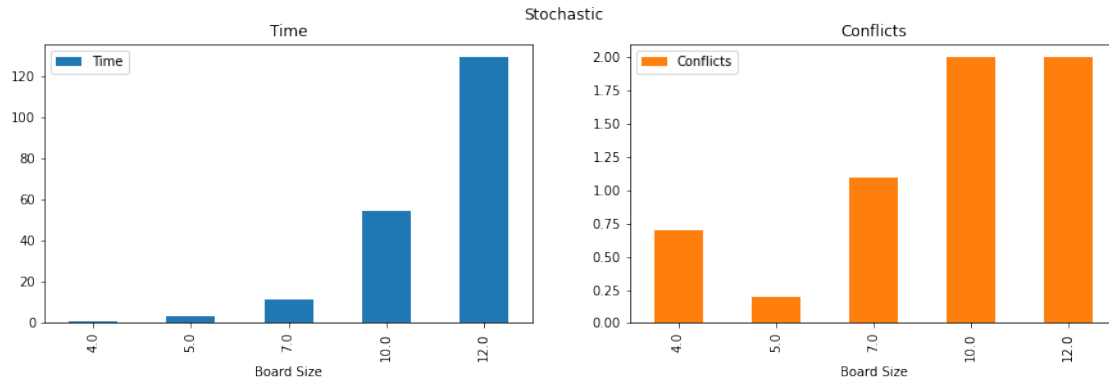


Above you can see some comparisons of the run time and conflict score of the algorithms for each board size.

```
[238]: # graphs of each algorithm comparing time and conflicts
group_by_algo = all_data.groupby('Algorithm')
for i, (name, graph) in enumerate(group_by_algo):
    graph.plot.bar(x="Board Size", y=['Time', 'Conflicts'], subplots = True,
        ↳ layout=(1,2),
        figsize=(15,4), title=name)
```



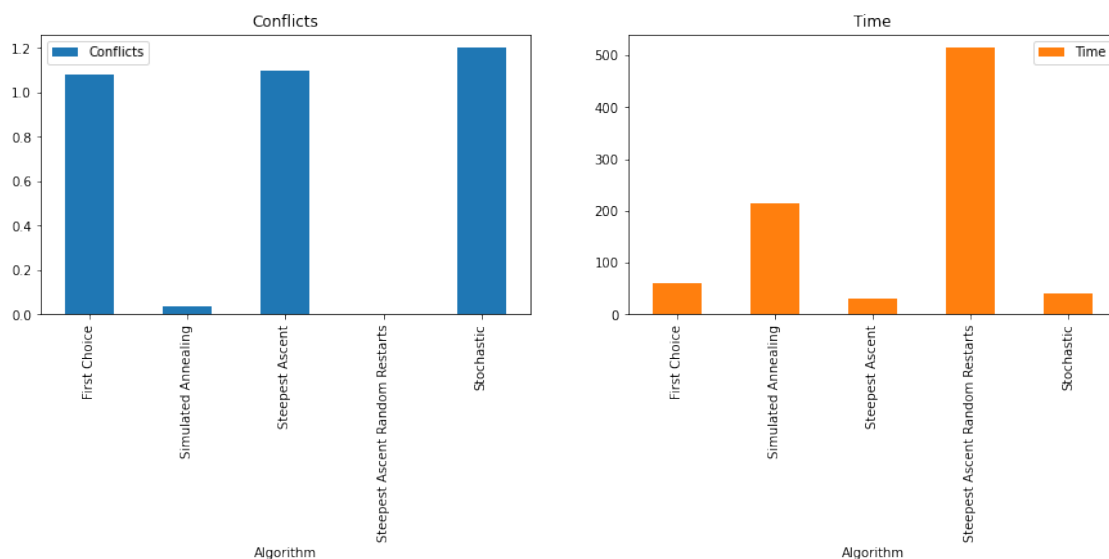




Above you can see some more comparison of the algorithms only this time comparing the time and conflicts for every board size of a given algorithm. We can see that simulated annealing had the most gradual shift as the board got larger while with others they seemed to not perform as well as the board grew, whether that be time of conflict score.

```
[239]: # average time & conflicts
avg = all_data.drop(["Board Size"], axis=1).groupby('Algorithm').mean()
display(avg)
avg_plt = avg.plot.bar(subplots = True, layout=(1,2),figsize=(15,4))
```

Algorithm	Conflicts	Time
First Choice	1.08	61.337605
Simulated Annealing	0.04	213.798695
Steepest Ascent	1.10	31.485481
Steepest Ascent Random Restarts	0.00	514.384856
Stochastic	1.20	39.870257



The above graph shows the average conflicts and run times of each algorithm across all the board sizes of 4, 5, 7, 10, and 12. When we observe the above we see that simulated annealing has the best balanced results of all the algorithms, with a low average conflict score and a slightly above average run time. You can also see although steepest ascent with random restarts always finds the optimal solution, it performs terribly in regards to runtime and especially on large boards as noted above. So don't be deceived by what you see in regards to conflict scores. As for the others, they are very comparable when it comes to average run time and conflict scores with near identical results.

Given the above analysis, if I were to use one of the algorithms to perform NP Hard search, I would most likely choose simulated annealing due to the fact that the others perform poorly or take a massive amount of time to complete.

### 1.10 Bonus: Genetic Algorithm [+1 Point]

```
[256]: def genetic_search(size, population_size=15, generations=1000, select_prob=.5,
                        mutation_prob = .2, debug=False):
    # first generate init population
    population = []
    for i in range(population_size):
        board = random_board(size)
        board_score = conflicts(board)
        population.append((board_score, board.copy()))

    best_solution = min(population, key = itemgetter(0))[1]
    best_score = min(population, key = itemgetter(0))[0]

    # sort population according to best values
    population.sort(key=lambda x:x[0])

    for generation in range(generations):
        # selection based on population
        selection_pop = selection(population, population_size, select_prob)
        # crossover
        crossover_pop = crossover(size, selection_pop)
        # add crossover population to selection population
        selection_pop.extend(crossover_pop)
        # mutation
        population = mutation(size, selection_pop, mutation_prob)
        # sort by score
        population.sort(key=lambda x:x[0])
        # update best solution
        if(population[0][0] < best_score):
            best_score = population[0][0]
            best_solution = population[0][1].copy()
```

```

        if debug:
            print("FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE {} - {}".
→format(best_score,best_solution))
            # if found global min, return as optimal solution
            if(best_score == 0):
                return((best_score, best_solution))

    return((best_score, best_solution))

def selection(population, population_size, prob):
    # how many of best in population choosing to take
    selected_num = population_size * prob
    # return top selected_num of solutions
    return(population[0:int(selected_num)].copy())

def crossover(size, selection_pop):
    selected = selection_pop.copy()
    crossover_pop = []
    # loop through half of solutions and perform crossover
    for i in range(int(len(selection_pop)/2)):
        # obtain two solutions to crossover and ensure we utilize as many of
→the unique
        # solutions as possible by removing them after crossing them
        p1 = selected.pop(random.randint(0, len(selected)-1))
        p2 = selected.pop(random.randint(0, len(selected)-1))
        # find crossover index that is not at the ends
        cross_index = random.randint(1, size-2)
        # obtain the crossover result
        c1 = np.concatenate(( p1[1][0:cross_index], p2[1][cross_index:size] ))
        c2 = np.concatenate(( p2[1][0:cross_index], p1[1][cross_index:size] ))
        # add the solutions to our crossover values
        crossover_pop.append((conflicts(c1), c1.copy()))
        crossover_pop.append((conflicts(c2), c2.copy()))

    return(crossover_pop)

def mutation(size, selection_pop, mutation_prob):
    # obtain number of mutations
    mutations = int(len(selection_pop) * mutation_prob)
    for i in range(mutations):
        # obtain element to mutate at random
        to_mutate_idx = random.randint(0, len(selection_pop)-1)
        to_mutate = selection_pop[to_mutate_idx][1]
        # obtain new random location for mutation
        col = random.randint(0, size-1)
        row = random.randint(0, size-1)
        # apply mutation

```

```

to_mutate[col] = row
# add back into population
selection_pop[to_mutate_idx] = (conflicts(to_mutate), to_mutate.copy())

return selection_pop.copy()

```

```

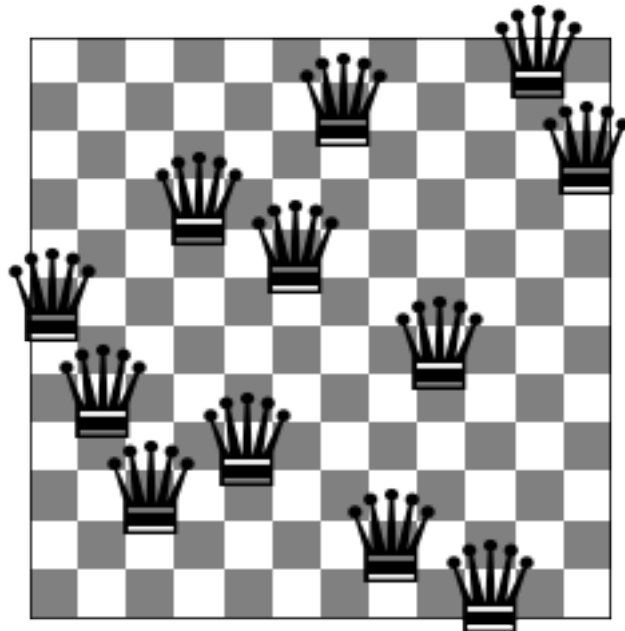
[260]: result = genetic_search(size=12, debug=True)
show_board(result[1])

```

```

FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 9 - [11  7  9  4  8  3 10  1  6  1  9  6]
FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 8 - [ 2  7 11  1  8  4 10  1 10 10  0 11]
FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 7 - [ 5  1  9  8  8  4 10  1  6 10  0 11]
FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 5 - [ 2  7  9  4  8  4 10  1  6 10  0 11]
FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 4 - [ 5  3  9  4  8  4 10  1  6  1  0 11]
FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 3 - [ 5  7  9  3  8  4  9  1  6 10  0 11]
FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 2 - [ 5  7  9  3  8  4  9  1  6 10  0  2]
FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 1 - [ 5  7  9  3  8  4  1 11  6 10  0  2]
FOUND BETTER SOLUTION SCORE 0 - [ 5  7  9  3  8  4  1 10  6 11  0  2]
Board with 0 conflicts.

```



```

[284]: # board size we wish to test
board_size = [4,5,7,10,12]
# dataframe to store all data
genetic_data = pd.DataFrame({'Board Size': [], 'Conflicts': [], 'Time': []})
# loop through algos and try board sizes

```



```

for size in board_size:
    print("Running Board Size {}".format(size))
    time_list = []
    conflict_list = []
    # run for ten iterations
    for i in range(10):
        t0 = time.time()
        result = genetic_search(size=size)
        t1 = time.time()
        time_list.append((t1-t0) * 1e3)
        conflict_list.append(result[0])
    # add to dataframe taking average
    genetic_data = genetic_data.append({
        'Board Size': size,
        'Conflicts': (sum(conflict_list) / len(conflict_list)),
        'Time': (sum(time_list) / len(time_list))
    }, ignore_index=True)

display(genetic_data)

```

```

Running Board Size 4
Running Board Size 5
Running Board Size 7
Running Board Size 10
Running Board Size 12

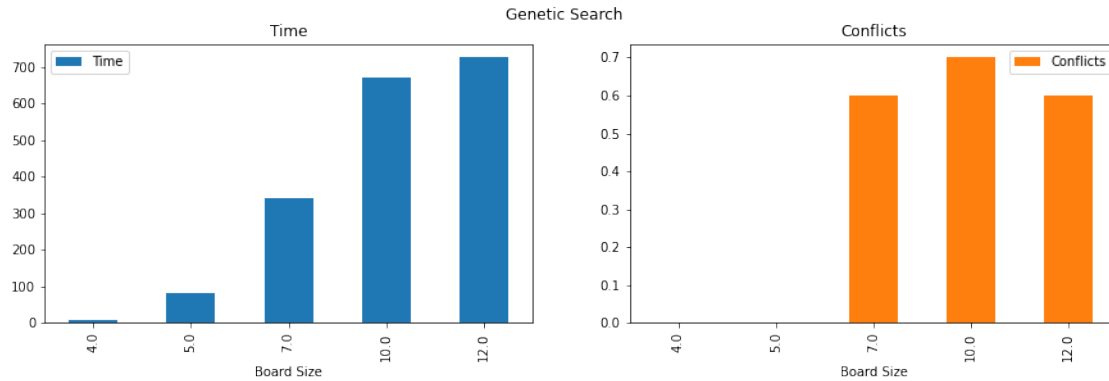
```

	Board Size	Conflicts	Time
0	4.0	0.0	9.393954
1	5.0	0.0	81.497431
2	7.0	0.6	341.537642
3	10.0	0.7	671.277905
4	12.0	0.6	726.582718

```

[286]: genetic_graph = genetic_data.plot.bar(x="Board Size", y=['Time', 'Conflicts'],
    ↪subplots = True,
    layout=(1,2), figsize=(15,4),
    ↪title="Genetic Search")

```



```
[285]: print("AVERAGE CONFLICT SCORE AND TIME: ")
genetic_avg = genetic_data.drop(["Board Size"], axis=1).mean()
display(genetic_avg)
```

AVERAGE CONFLICT SCORE AND TIME:

```
Conflicts      0.38000
Time          366.05793
dtype: float64
```

```
[287]: new_avg = avg
new_avg.loc['Genetic'] = [genetic_avg['Conflicts'], genetic_avg['Time']]
display(new_avg)
```

	Conflicts	Time
Algorithm		
First Choice	1.08	61.337605
Simulated Annealing	0.04	213.798695
Steepest Ascent	1.10	31.485481
Steepest Ascent Random Restarts	0.00	514.384856
Stochastic	1.20	39.870257
Genetic	0.38	366.057930

In the genetic algorithm we see right off the bat that it is somewhat comparable to simulated annealing. We would expect that genetic may out perform simulated annealing but again it may perform much better on much larger boards. Above we can see the averages of the algorithm and it seems to take longer than simulated annealing while also ending in a state not that is not as good. This could be due to my implementation and fine tuning the parameters of genetic may help obtain a better solution. Regardless, it still outperformed most of the other algorithms in time and conflict score. I used a selection probability of 50% and a mutation rate of 20%.

Ultimately, it seems that my simulated annealing algorithm performed the best by far and would be the best algorithm to choose when trying to find optimal solutions for this problem efficiently. If you have all the time in the world and don't care about long run times, then steepest ascent with

random restarts is pretty good but it is unlikely you would ever find yourself in the position. Thus in the end, I would recommend utilizing simulated annealing.

On a side note, in a class in the past I implemented a simulated annealing algorithm to solve TSP and it also was the best performing algorithm. It is interesting because it is truly one of the easier algorithms to implement and it performs so well!

[ ]: