

The Search for a Universal Turing Machine

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March 26, 2009

Overview

1 Team Members and Roles

2 Overall Objectives

3 Progress Report

- Schedule
- Progress
- Risk Assessment

Team Members and Roles

- **Steve Dee:** Database managment, fitness evaluation algorithm
- **Justin Gray:** Genetic Algorithm implementation
- **Josh Lee:** Turing Machine modeling
- **Neil Sandburg:** Web visualization

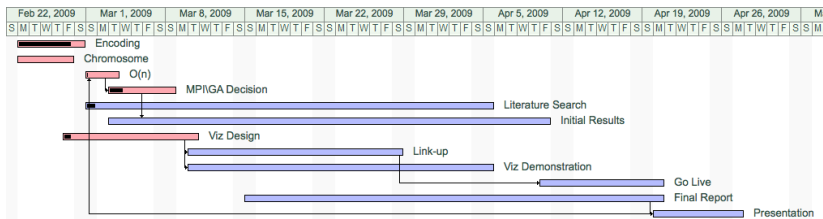
Overall Objectives

Can we use the discovery of Universal Turing Machines as an analogy for the evolution of complex organisms?

- Test the possibility of discovering a set of Universal Turing Machines via a Genetic Algorithm optimization
 - Short optimization with a limited run time
 - Long optimization with a much longer run time
- Create a web application to publish the results of the optimization
 - Real-time link to database being populated by optimization results
 - Allow user submission of turing machine to test if it exists in the current population



Schedule



- **Encoding**: Definition of the encoding method for Turing Machines completed
- **Chromosome**: Implementation of the chromosome class for the AI4R Genetic Algorithm package completed.
- **Initial Results**: Initial Turing Machine Optimization run completed. Data analyzed to ensure the viability of optimization scheme
- **Go Live**: Ruby on Rails visualization application goes live with link to genetic algorithm running perpetually.

Progress

Genetic Algorithm Optimization:

- Turing Machine implementation
- Genetic Encoding: a set of 5 tuples, representing the state transition table of a turing machine
- Selection of a Genetic Algorithm: AI4R (<http://ai4r.rubyforge.org/>)
- Chromosomal implementation begun
 - initialization function complete
 - fitness scoring algorithm established: score based on adaptability

Web Visualization App:

- Population database created
- Conceptual design begun

Risk Assessment

- Nothing interesting happens: No interesting TM's result from any of the optimizations. We don't have time to develop a new fitness scoring algorithm and test it.
- Something interesting happens, but we don't recognize it: Our literature search turns up UTM's, but none of them show up in optimization. TM's that do turn up appear to be very "adaptable", so they might be UTM's.
- Time constraints: may not have enough time to implement the web visualization tool.