

Evolutionary Computation

December 2020



Ice Breaker

- Go to [OnlineClicker.org](https://www.onlineclicker.org)
Live online polls: free-of-charge, anonymous, ad-free, easy-to-use

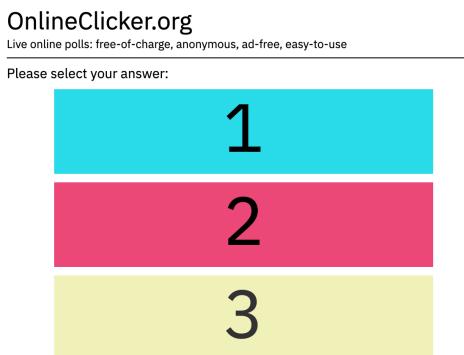
For Audience Members

Poll number:

8888

Vote

- Vote for a superpower:
1. flight
 2. invisibility
 3. evolutionary computation



Evolutionary Computation

But first a few words on the lecturer
Dr Markus Wagner and on his group...

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Harl
9100

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Optimisation and Logistics Group

University of Adelaide, Australia

Prof. Frank Neumann
E/Prof. Zbigniew Michalewicz



10-15 PhD students.

<http://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~optlog>

Our research agenda:

- Develop algorithms for problems of high significance
- Build up a theory that explains how heuristic methods work

Academic Staff



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Search Based Geoscience Modelling, Genetic Programming for Agent Control, Search Based Software Engineering, Optimisation of Pipe Networks, Computer Science Education



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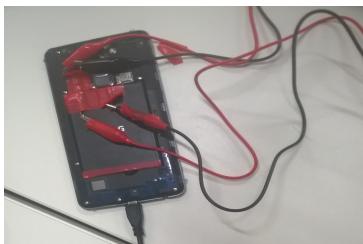
4.52 36196 mojgan.pourhassan@adelaide.edu.au

Real-World Optimisation: some of Dr Markus' work



Premier's Research and Industry Fund: \$14.6m Research Consortium "Unlocking Complex Resources through Lean Processing" 2017 [plus another \$12.5m granted in 2019]

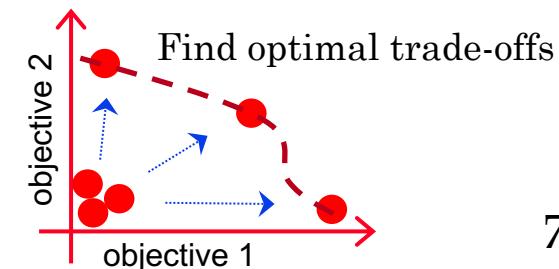
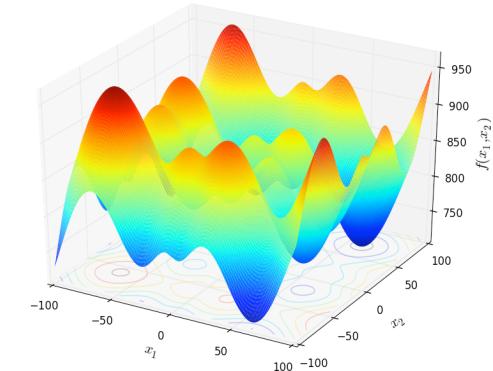
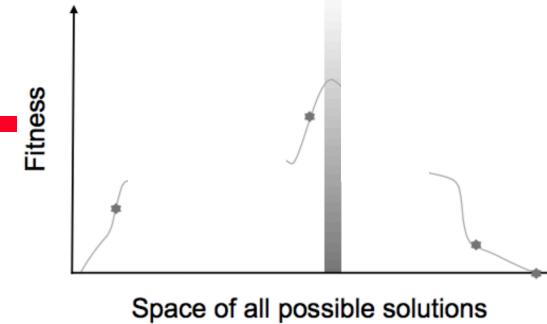
Partners: BHP, OZ Minerals, AMIRA International, Australian Information Industries Association (AIIA) IoT Cluster for Mining and Energy Resources, Australian Semiconductor Technology Company, Boreb Longyear, Consilium Technology, CRC Optimising Resource Extraction, Datonet, Data to Decisions CRC, Eka Innovyz, Magotteaux, Manta Controls, Maptek, METS Ignited Industry Growth Centre, Mine Vision Systems, Rockwell Automation, SACOME, SAGE Automation, Sandvik, Scantech, South Australian Mining Industry Participation Office (SA MIPO), SRA IT and Thermo Fisher Scientific Australia (Processing Instruments & Equipment), with the University of South Australia as a key research partner.



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

My DE16: Dynamic adaptive software configurations

→ Everybody is after decision support!
(to be faster, decrease wear, deliver on time, ...)



Fundamental Research on Optimisation



Supply Chain Management (ARC funded)

- Large scale industrial optimisation problems with many interacting components.

Dynamic Constraints (ARC funded)

- Algorithms for problems with dynamically changing constraints.

Dynamic Adaptive Software Configurations (ARC funded)

- Self-adapt system configurations to changing conditions.

And other grants, and...

- Other knowledge: system modelling + speed-up of simulations (algorithmically or using machine learning), mathematical modelling + optimisation, cybersecurity, ...
- High international visibility, about 20-40 papers each year

Introductory Example

Computer-Automated Evolution of an X-Band Antenna for NASA's Space Technology 5 Mission

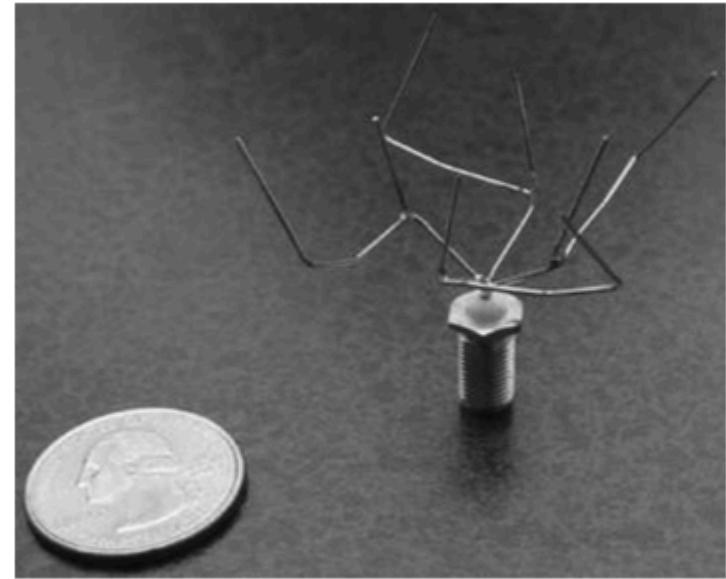
This evolved antenna design is the first computer-evolved antenna to be deployed for any application and is the first computer-evolved hardware in space.

PDF:

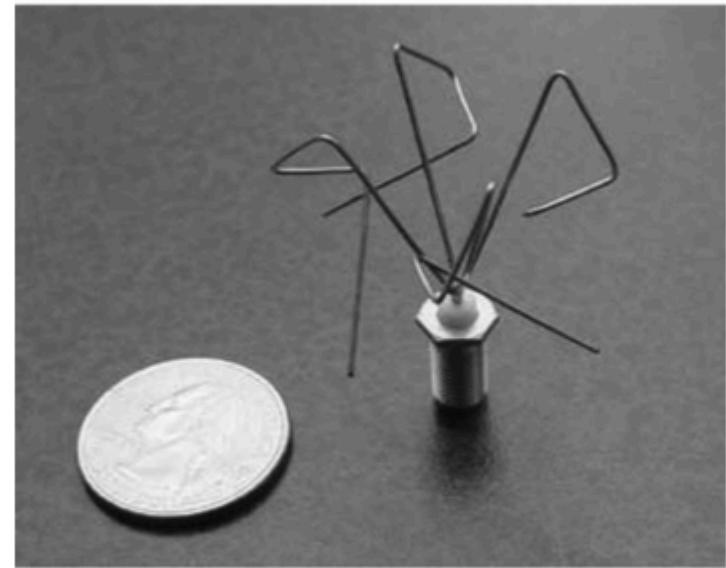
http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/EVCO_a_00005

Youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAjozNpBiL4&t=1261s>



(a)



(b)

Figure 5: Photographs of prototype evolved antennas: (a) ST5-3-10; (b) ST5-4W-03.

Evolutionary Computation

Teaching Arrangements

- Lecturer
Dr Markus Wagner (course coordinator)
<http://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus>
>150 papers, >150 co-authors, >\$9m in research funding
- Consulting and practical help will be available
Hangyan & Zhibo
- Ask questions, e.g. in the Zoom chat window or on the course page or in the QQ group, or ...
Your English is better than Markus' Chinese!



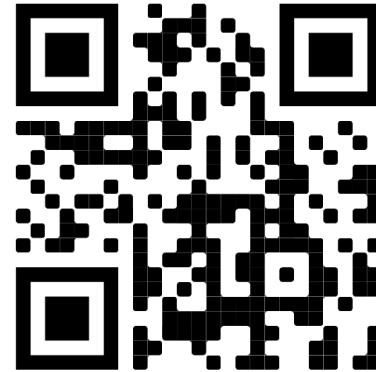
Teaching Arrangements



Course Website:

<http://linoit.com/users/markuswagnerlinoit/canvases/HIT%20Evolutionary%20Comp.%20Dec%202020>

Slides, additional details, questions
& answers, homework, ...



Quizzes: we are sorting out
technical issues (yuketang?)

Text Books

- A. E. Eiben, J. E. Smith: Introduction to Evolutionary Computing, Springer, 2003. 1st Edition. [strongly recommended]
- Z. Michalewicz, D. B. Fogel: How to Solve It: Modern Heuristics, Springer, 2004.
- F. Neumann, C. Witt: Bioinspired Computation in Combinatorial Optimization – Algorithms and Their Computational Complexity, Springer, 2010.
- F. Rothlauf: Design of Modern Heuristics - Principles and Applications, Springer, 2011. [strongly recommended]
(slides online: <https://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb03-wi-isym/files/2020/01/design-of-modern-heuristics-slides.pdf>)

Assessment

There will be **2 assignments**:

- 1 group project: implementation + video report [due 18 December]
- Several online quizzes (these are not online yet → if we use yuketang, please use your real name and your student ID)
- Details and deadlines are published on the course's web site

Academic Honesty

- We do not give you assignment work just to keep you busy, we do it to develop your understanding and ability to apply important techniques.
- In general: if you do not do the work yourself, you will not be able to do it in the work force.
- The best way to avoid the need to plagiarise is to start preparing your assignments early. Do not let your work get on top of you!
- You must not copy code from another student or give another student your code to copy from unless specifically authorised to do so by a staff member.
- You may not copy code from anywhere else, without permission.
- If caught, you may receive zero for the assignment, zero for the course or be expelled.
- If you get stuck, seek help from us rather than copying from someone else.

Lecture Times



ONLINE

1. December 1, 13:45-15:30: Introduction
2. December 2, 13:45-15:30: Genetic Algorithms
3. December 3, 13:45-15:30: Evolution Strategies and Genetic Programming
4. December 4, 13:45-15:30: Niching and Multi-Objective Optimisation

5. December 8, 13:45-15:30: Parameter Control and Working with EAs
6. December 9, 13:45-15:30: Ant Colony Optimisation and Particle Swarm Optimisation
7. December 10, 13:45-15:30: Search-Based Software Engineering and Genetic Improvement of Software
8. December 11, 13:45-15:30: More on Genetic Improvement of Software

<http://linoit.com/users/markuswagnerlinoit/canvases/HIT%20Evolutionary%20Comp.%20Dec%202020>



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE
AUSTRALIA

Welcome to Evolutionary Computation@HIT, December 2020
This is the lecturer: Dr Markus Wagner <https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/>

Assessment

(1) online quizzes:

If possible using the HIT system yuketang (for individual marks).
If not possible: using onlineclicker.org (the entire class then gets the same mark)
==> Deadline: the NEXT day at midnight (11:55pm)

(2) group assignment "implementation + video report":

- i) the TAs will mark the code
 - ii) Markus will mark the video report
- ==> Deadline: 18 December (Friday, 11:55pm) [this is 1 week after the last lecture]

Final mark:

- group work (implementation + video): 80% (68% for implementation + 32% video)
- quizzes: 20%

Schedule

ONLINE (VooV or Zoom, all times are in 'Harbin time')

NOTE: SLIDES ARE SUBJECT TO SMALL CHANGES --> download them on the next day to ensure you have the most current version

1. December 1, 13:45–15:30: Introduction

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/01-Intro.pdf>

2. December 2, 13:45–15:30: Genetic Algorithms

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/02-Genetic-Algorithms.pdf>

3. December 3, 13:45–15:30: Evolution Strategies and Genetic Programming

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/03-Evolution-Strategies-Genetic-Programming.pdf>

4. December 4, 13:45–15:30: Niching and Multi-Objective Optimisation

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/04-EMO.pdf>

5. December 8, 13:45–15:30: Parameter Control and Working with EAs

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/06-workingWithAlgorithms.pdf>

6. December 9, 13:45–15:30: Ant Colony Optimisation and Particle Swarm Optimisation

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/07-ACO.pdf>

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/07-PSO.pdf>

7. December 10, 13:45–15:30: Search-Based Software Engineering and Genetic Improvement of Software

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/08-01-sbse.pdf>

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/08-02-qj.pdf>

8. December 11, 13:45–15:30: More on Genetic Improvement of Software

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/08-03-gin.pdf>

voluntary reading material:

Theory of Evolutionary Algorithms: <https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/20hitec/05-Complexity.pdf>

Study in Adelaide, Australia?

Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC), UoA brochure: <https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/2019CSCbrochure.pdf> (unrise if the CSC still supports this)

CSC in Wind/Wave Energy (joint degree with Shanghai Jiao Tong University): <https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/2019CSCscholarshipforPhDstudywithintheAustralia-ChinaJointResearchCentreforOffshoreWindandWaveEnergyHarnessing.pdf> (while closed, we sometimes have money for scholarships)

University of Adelaide videos:

<https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~markus/teaching/ECMSpromotionalvideos.xlsx>

Adelaide is regularly one of the world's most liveable cities: <https://www.australiasbestcity.com.au/adelaide-is-australias-most-liveable-city/>

Uni Adelaide rankings:

- QS World University Rankings: 106
- Times Higher Education World University Rankings: 118
- Shanghai ranking: School of Computer Science ranked 40 in the world (2nd in Australia)

More information:

Optimisation and Logistics Group: <https://cs.adelaide.edu.au/~optlog/>

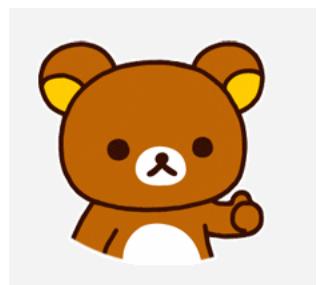
School of Computer Science: <https://ecms.adelaide.edu.au/computer-science/>

University of Adelaide: <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/>



POST QUESTIONS BELOW

[this is a test](#)



Today's Contents

- Positioning of EC and the basic EC metaphor
- Historical perspective
- Biological inspiration:
 - Darwinian evolution theory (simplified!)
- Motivation for EC
- Example of an evolutionary algorithm

Positioning of EC

- EC is part of computer science
- EC is not part of life sciences/biology
- Biology delivered inspiration and terminology
- EC can be applied in biological research

The Main Evolutionary Computing Metaphor



EVOLUTION

Environment



PROBLEM SOLVING

Problem

Individual



Fitness



Fitness → chance for survival and reproduction

Quality → chance for seeding new solutions

Brief History 1: the ancestors

- 1948, Turing:
proposes “genetical or evolutionary search”
- 1962, Bremermann
optimization through evolution and recombination
- 1964, Rechenberg
introduces evolution strategies
- 1965, L. Fogel, Owens and Walsh
introduce evolutionary programming
- 1975, Holland
introduces genetic algorithms
- 1992, Koza
introduces genetic programming
- 1992, Dorigo
introduces ant-colony optimisation
- 1995, Kennedy, Eberhardt and Shi
introduce particle swarm optimisation

Brief History 2: The rise of EC

1985: first international conference (ICGA)

1990: first international conference in Europe (PPSN)

1993: first scientific EC journal (MIT Press)



EC in the early 21st Century

- 3 major EC conferences (GECCO, PPSN, CEC), about 10 small related ones
- 2 scientific core EC journals (MIT Evolutionary Computation, IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation) and many others
- uncountable (meaning: many) applications
- uncountable (meaning: ?) consultancy and R&D firms

Em/Prof Zbigniew Michalewicz:

NuTech (now part of IBM)

SolveIT (now part of Schneider Electric)

Darwinian Evolution 1: Survival of the fittest



- All environments have finite resources
 - (i.e., can only support a limited number of individuals)
- Life forms have basic instincts/lifecycles geared towards reproduction
- Therefore some kind of selection is inevitable
- Those individuals that compete for the resources most effectively have an increased chance of reproduction
- Note: fitness in natural evolution is a derived, secondary measure, i.e., we (humans) assign a high fitness to individuals with many offspring (?)

Darwinian Evolution 2: Diversity drives change



- Phenotypic traits:
 - Behaviour / physical differences that affect response to environment
 - Partly determined by inheritance, partly by factors during development
 - Unique to each individual, partly as a result of random changes
- “Suitable” phenotypic traits:
 - Lead to higher chances of reproduction
 - Can be inherited

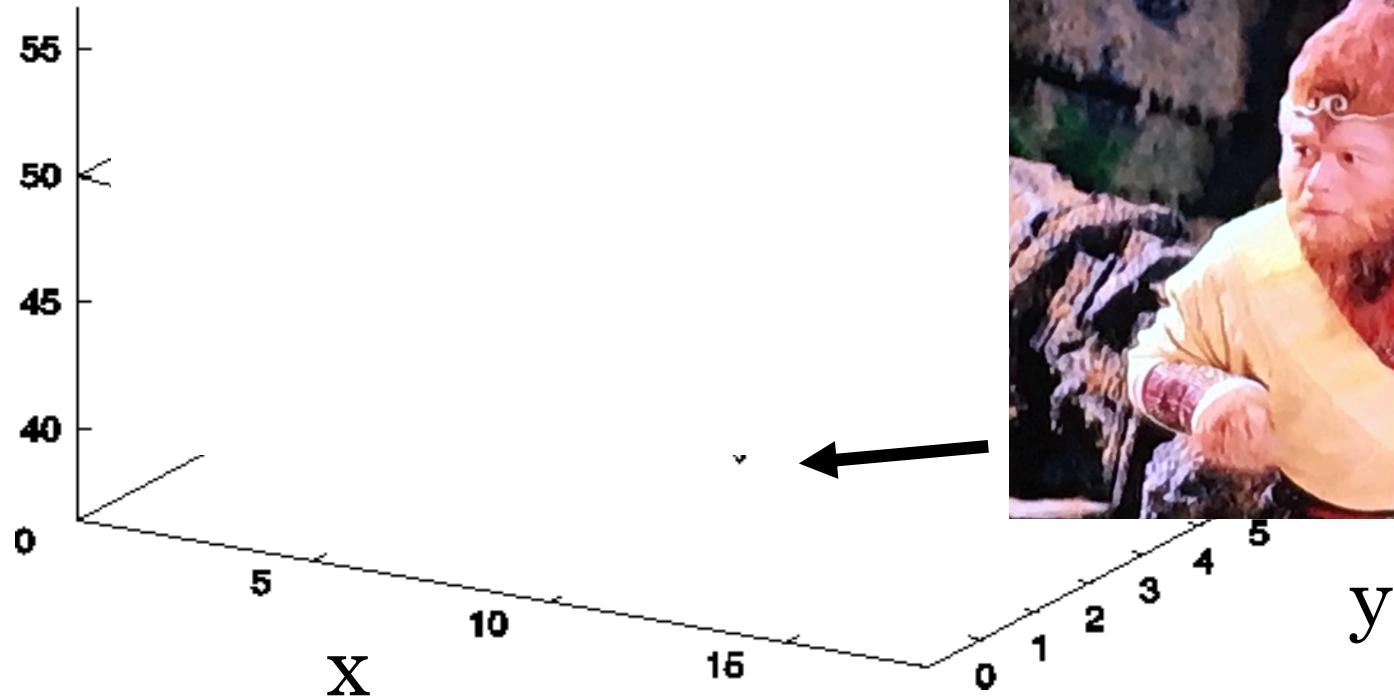
then they will tend to increase in subsequent generations,
- leading to new combinations of traits ...

Darwinian Evolution: Summary

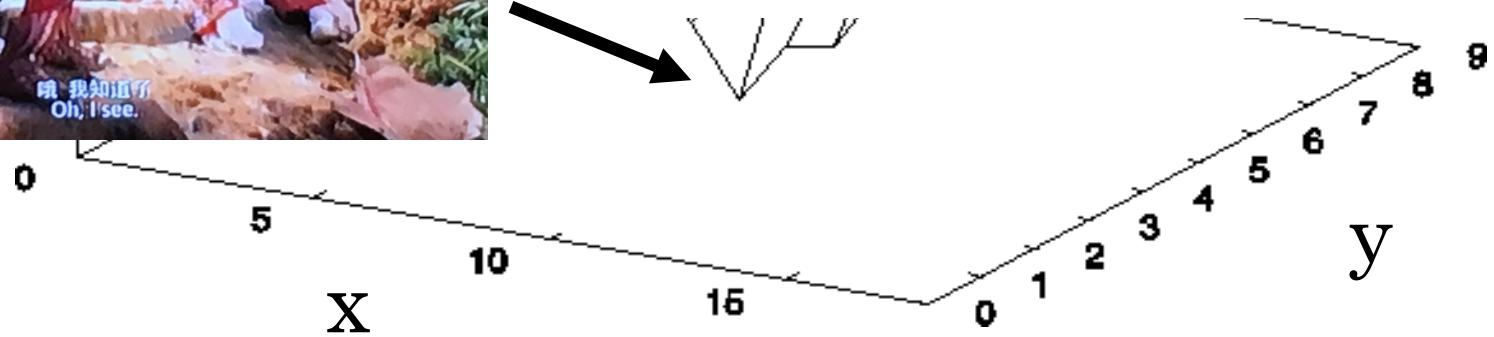


- Population consists of a diverse set of individuals
- Combinations of traits that are better adapted tend to increase representation in population
 - Individuals are “units of selection”
- Variations occur through random changes yielding constant source of diversity, coupled with selection means that:
 - Population is the “unit of evolution”
- Note the absence of a “guiding force”

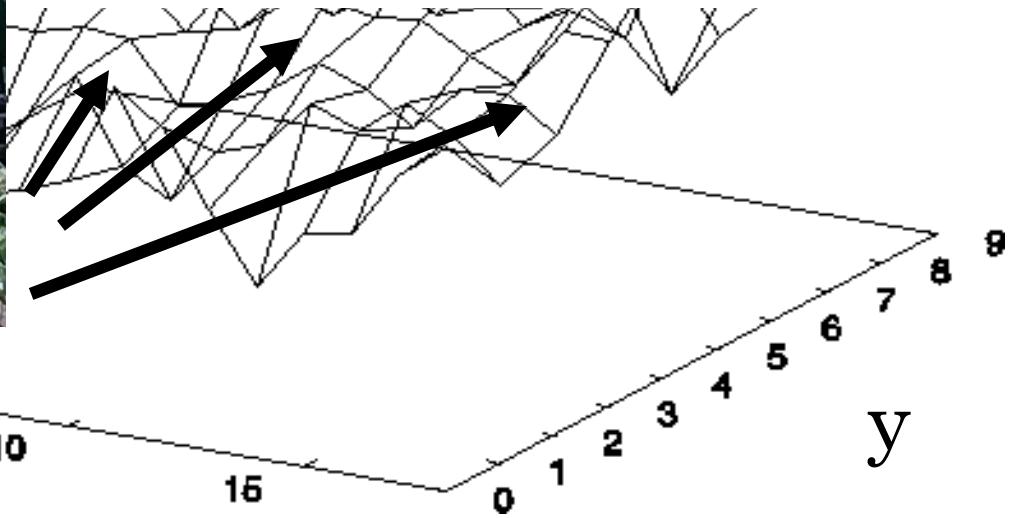
Monkey King: find the treasure on the highest mountain



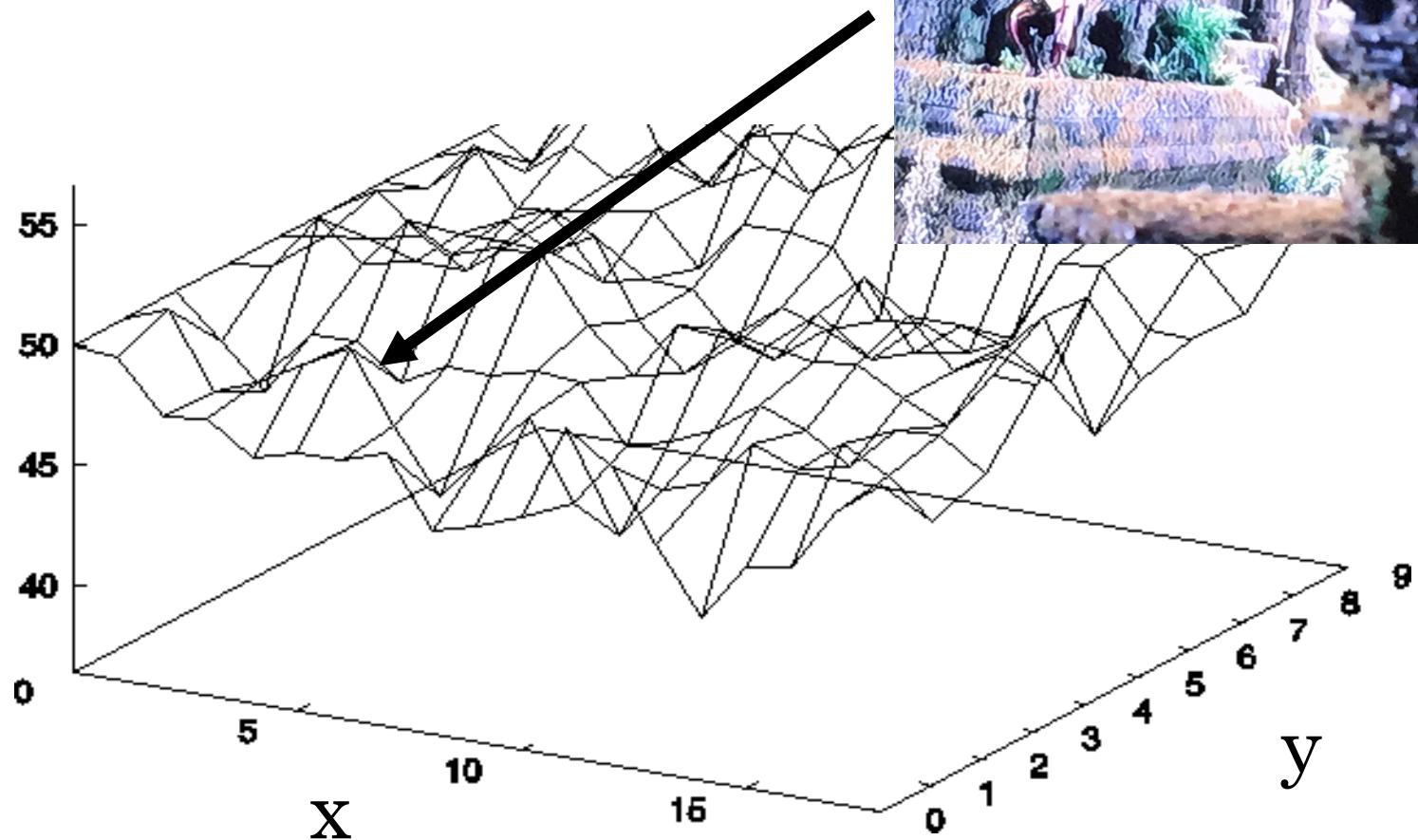
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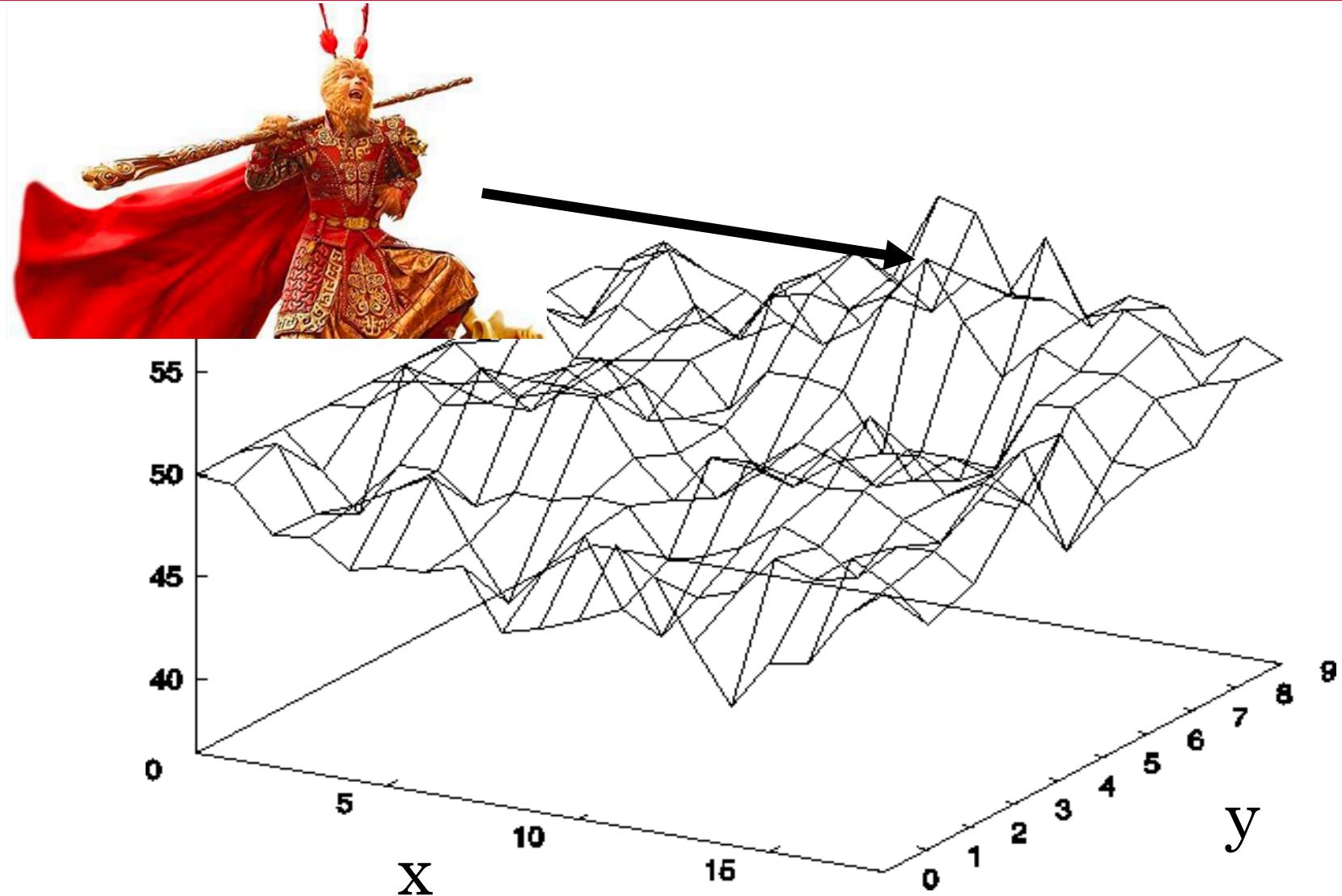
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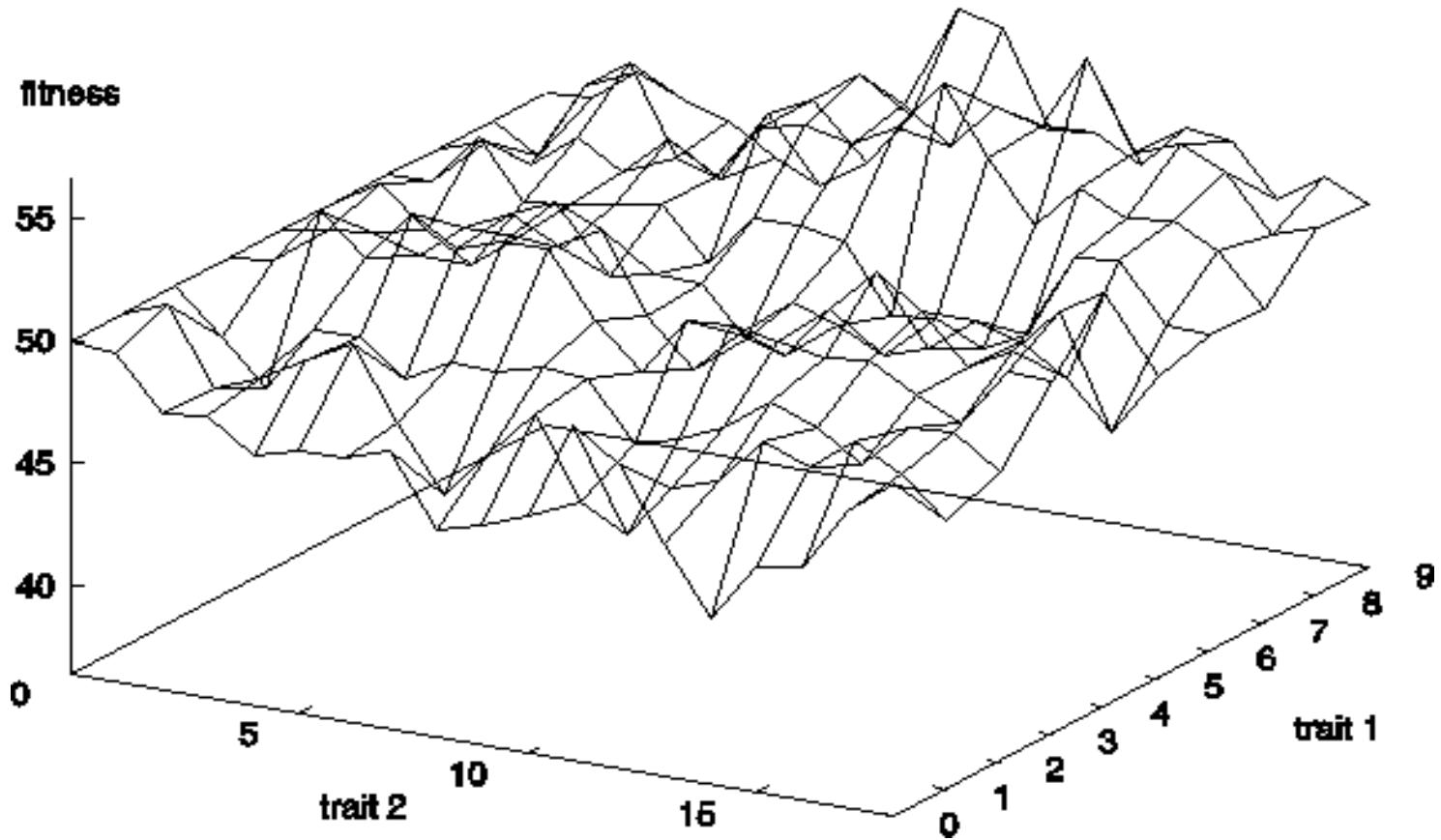
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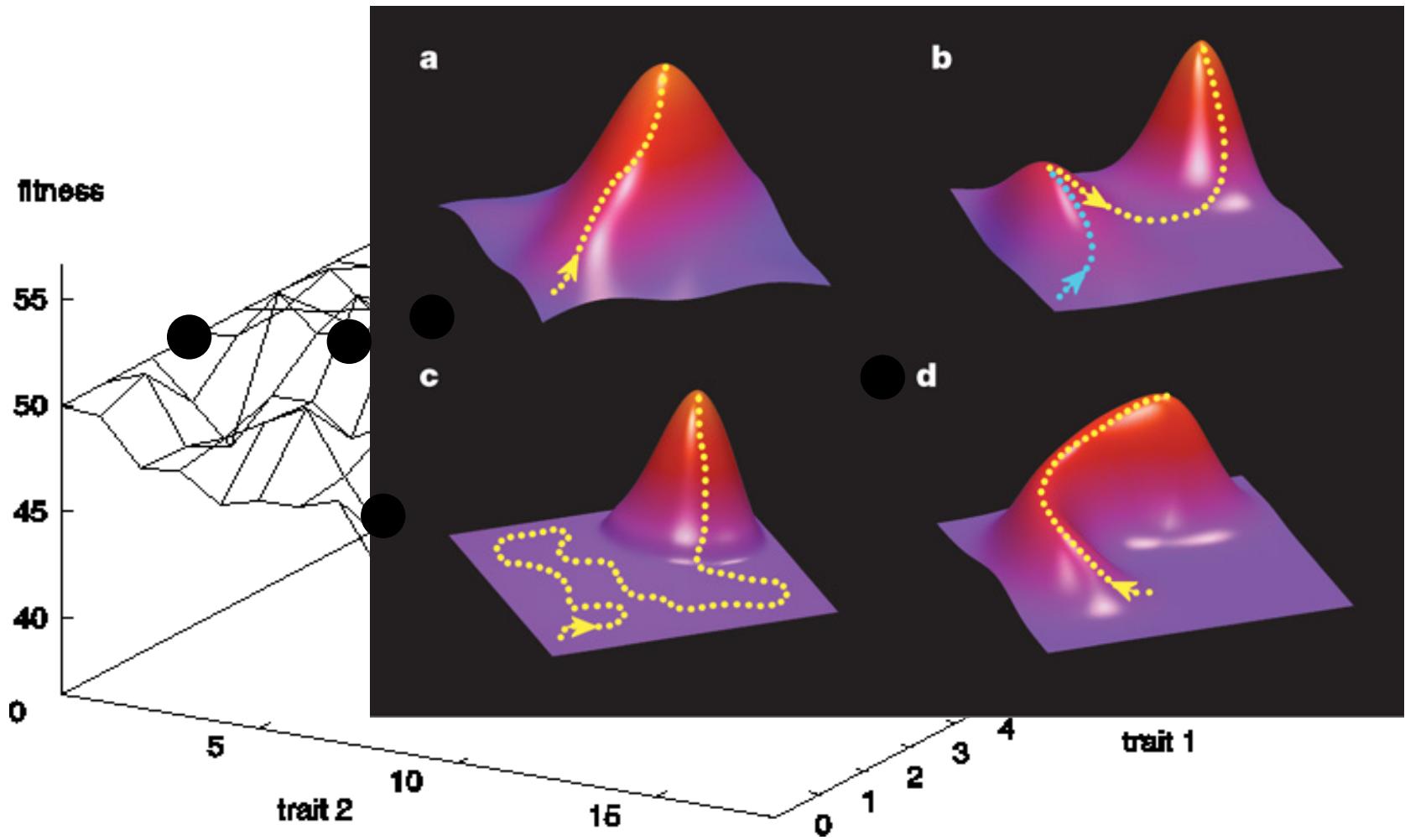
Monkey King: find the treasure on the highest mountain



Example with two traits



Example with two traits



Adaptive landscape metaphor (cont'd)

- Selection “pushes” population up the landscape
- Genetic drift:
 - random variations in feature distribution (+ or -) arising from sampling error
 - can cause the population to “melt down” hills, thus crossing valleys and leaving local optima

Motivations for EC: 1

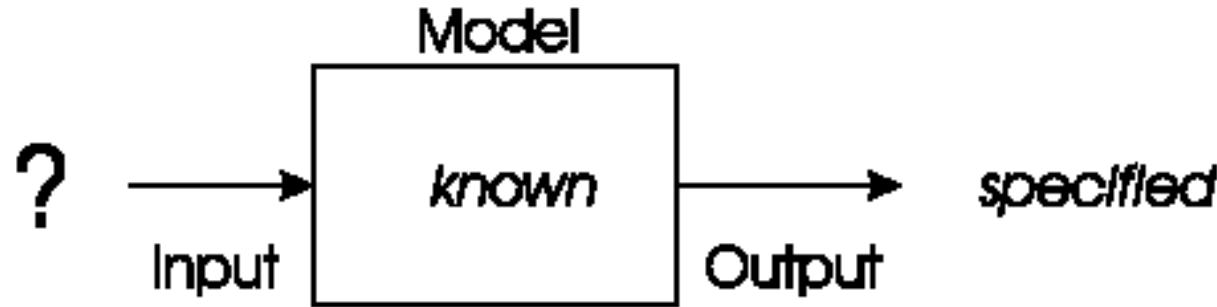
- Nature has always served as a source of inspiration for engineers and scientists
- The best problem solver known in nature is:
 - **the (human) brain** that created “the wheel, New York, wars and so on” (after Douglas Adams’ Hitch-Hikers Guide)
 - **the evolution mechanism** that created the human brain (after Darwin’s Origin of Species)
- Answer 1 → neurocomputing
- Answer 2 → evolutionary computing

Motivations for EC: 2

- Developing, analysing, applying **problem solving** methods a.k.a. algorithms **is a central theme** in mathematics and computer science
- **Time** for thorough problem analysis **decreases**
- **Complexity** of problems to be solved **increases**
- Consequence:
Robust problem solving technology needed

Problem type 1: Optimisation

We have a model of our system and seek inputs that give us a specified goal

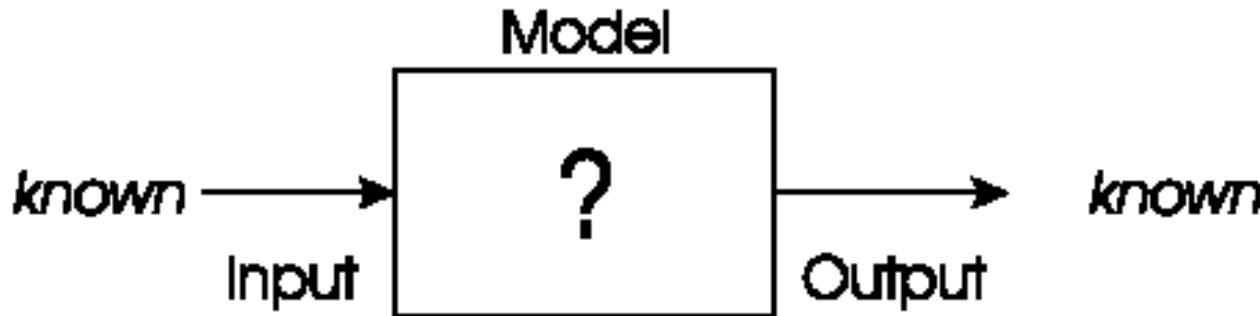


For example

- time tables for university, call centre, or hospital
- design specifications, etc.

Problem type 2: Modelling

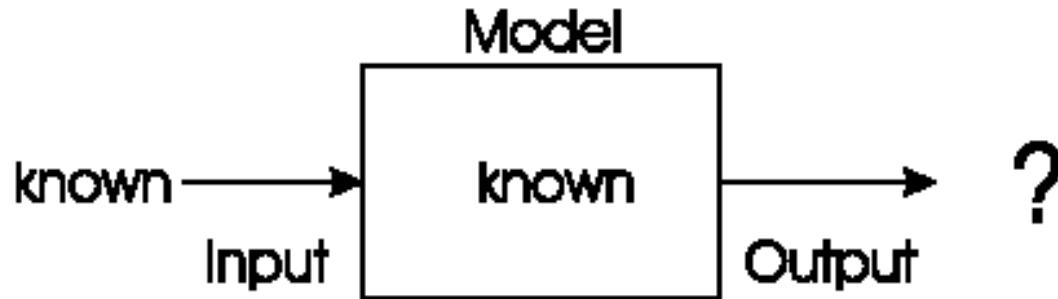
We have corresponding sets of inputs & outputs and seek model that delivers correct output for every known input



For example: evolutionary machine learning

Problem type 3: Simulation

We have a given model and wish to know the outputs that arise under different input conditions



Often used to answer “what-if” environments, e.g. Evolutionary

AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL LIFE AND COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (ACALCI 2017)

31 January-2 February 2017, Melbourne, Australia

Home	Conference Information	Program Registration	Special Sessions	Invited Speakers
Call For Paper	Submission		Conference Organisers	



Evolutionary Algorithms: Overview



- Recap of Evolutionary Metaphor
- Basic scheme of an EA
- Basic Components:
 - Representation / Evaluation / Population / Parent Selection / Recombination / Mutation / Survivor Selection / Termination
- Example: eight queens

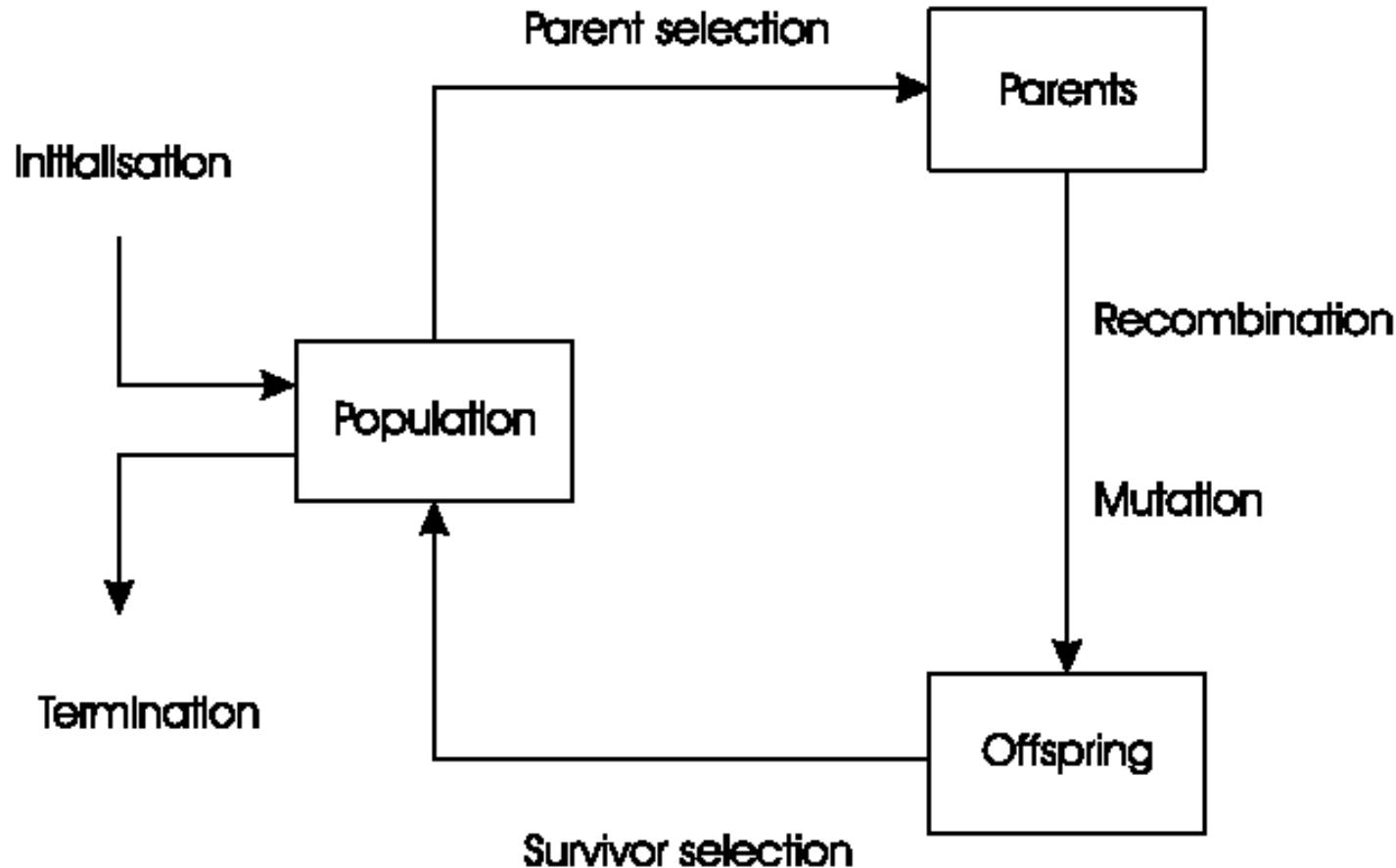
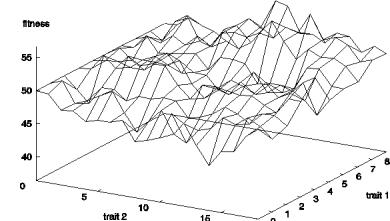
Recap of EC metaphor

- A population of individuals exists in an environment with limited resources
- *Competition* for those resources causes selection of those *fitter* individuals that are better adapted to the environment
- These individuals act as seeds for the generation of new individuals through recombination and mutation
- The new individuals have their fitness evaluated and compete (possibly also with parents) for survival.
- Over time *Natural selection* causes a rise in the fitness of the population

Recap 2:

- EAs fall into the category of “generate and test” algorithms
- They are stochastic, population-based algorithms
- Variation operators (recombination and mutation) create the necessary diversity and thereby facilitate novelty
- Selection reduces diversity and acts as a force pushing quality

General Scheme of EAs



Pseudo-code for typical EA

```
BEGIN
    INITIALISE population with random candidate solutions;
    EVALUATE each candidate;
    REPEAT UNTIL ( TERMINATION CONDITION is satisfied ) DO
        1 SELECT parents;
        2 RECOMBINE pairs of parents;
        3 MUTATE the resulting offspring;
        4 EVALUATE new candidates;
        5 SELECT individuals for the next generation;
    OD
END
```

What are the different types of EAs

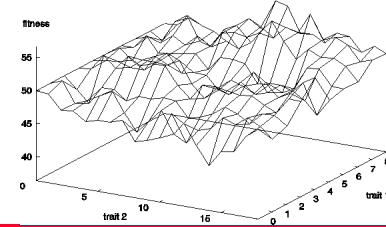
- Historically different flavours of EAs have been associated with different representations
 - Binary strings: Genetic Algorithms
 - Real-valued vectors: Evolution Strategies
 - Finite state Machines: Evolutionary Programming
 - LISP trees: Genetic Programming
- These differences are largely irrelevant, best strategy
 - choose representation to suit problem
 - choose variation operators to suit representation
- Selection operators only use fitness and so are independent of representation

Representations

- Candidate solutions (**individuals**) exist in *phenotype* space
- They are encoded in **chromosomes**, which exist in *genotype* space
 - Encoding : phenotype => genotype (not necessarily one to one)
 - Decoding : genotype => phenotype (must be one to one)
- Chromosomes contain **genes**, which are in (usually fixed) positions called **loci** (sing. locus) and have a value (**allele**)

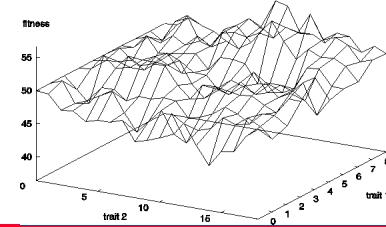
In order to find the global optimum, every feasible solution must be represented in genotype space

Evaluation (Fitness) Function



- Represents the requirements that the population should adapt to
- a.k.a. *quality* function or *objective* function
- Assigns a single real-valued fitness to each phenotype which forms the basis for selection
 - So the more discrimination (different values) the better
- Typically we talk about fitness being maximised
 - Some problems may be best posed as minimisation problems, but conversion is trivial

Population



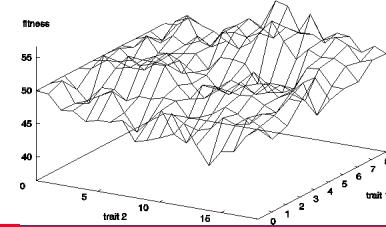
- Holds (representations of) possible solutions
- Usually has a fixed size and is a *multiset* of genotypes
- Some sophisticated EAs also assert a spatial structure on the population, e.g., a grid.
- Selection operators usually take whole population into account i.e., reproductive probabilities are *relative* to *current* generation
- **Diversity** of a population refers to the number of different fitnesses / phenotypes / genotypes present (note not the same thing)

Onlineclicker.org: 8889

What is best:

1. "Small" populations? (e.g. 10 individuals)
2. "Large" populations? (e.g. 10 000 individuals)

Parent Selection Mechanism



- Assigns variable probabilities of individuals acting as parents depending on their fitnesses
- Usually probabilistic
 - high quality solutions more likely to become parents than low quality
 - but not guaranteed
 - even worst in current population usually has non-zero probability of becoming a parent
- This *stochastic* nature can aid escape from local optima

Variation Operators

- Role is to generate new candidate solutions
- Usually divided into two types according to their **arity** (number of inputs):
 - Arity 1 : mutation operators
 - Arity >1 : Recombination operators
 - Arity = 2 typically called **crossover**
- There has been much debate about relative importance of recombination and mutation
 - Nowadays most EAs use both
 - Choice of particular variation operators is representation dependant

Mutation

- Acts on one genotype and delivers another
- Element of randomness is essential and differentiates it from other unary heuristic operators
- Importance ascribed depends on representation and dialect:
 - Binary GAs – background operator responsible for preserving and introducing diversity
 - EP for FSM's/continuous variables – only search operator
 - GP – hardly used
- May guarantee connectedness of search space and hence convergence proofs

parent

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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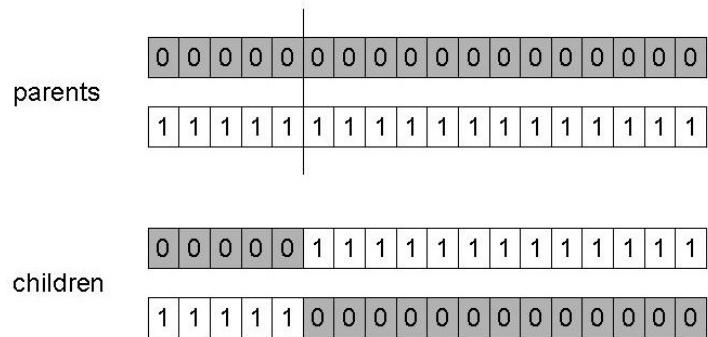
child

0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
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Question
How about TSP tours?
(Travelling Salesperson Problem)

Recombination

- Merges information from parents into offspring
- Choice of what information to merge is stochastic
- Most offspring may be worse, or the same as the parents
- Hope is that some are better by combining elements of genotypes that lead to good traits
- Principle has been used for millennia by breeders of plants and livestock



Question
How about TSP tours?
(Travelling Salesperson Problem)

Survivor Selection

- a.k.a. *replacement*
- Most EAs use fixed population size so need a way of going from (parents + offspring) to next generation
- Often deterministic
 - Fitness based : e.g., rank parents+offspring and take best
 - Age based: make as many offspring as parents and delete all parents
- Sometimes do combination (elitism)

Quick Question
Why is Survivor Selection needed?

Initialisation / Termination

Initialisation usually done at random

- Need to ensure even spread and mixture of possible allele values
- Can include existing solutions, or use problem-specific heuristics, to “seed” the population

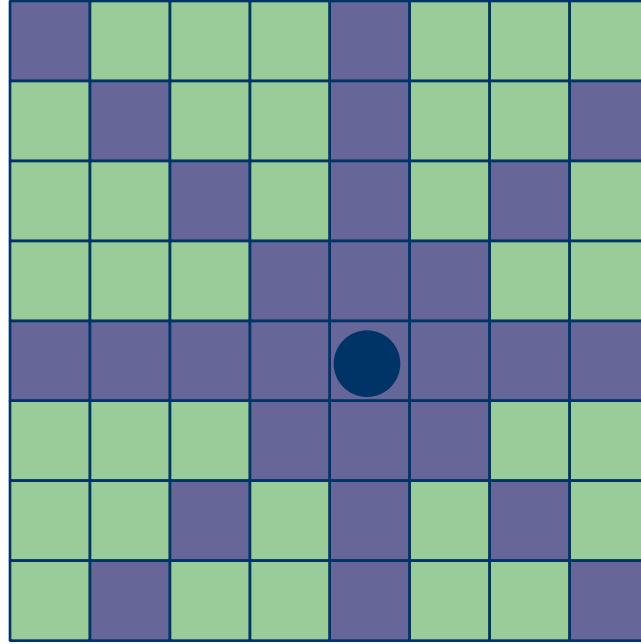
Quick Question

Seeding: what are disadvantages?

Termination condition checked every generation

- Reaching some (known/hoped for) fitness
- Reaching some maximum allowed number of generations
- Reaching some minimum level of diversity
- Reaching some specified number of generations without fitness improvement

Example: the 8 queens problem



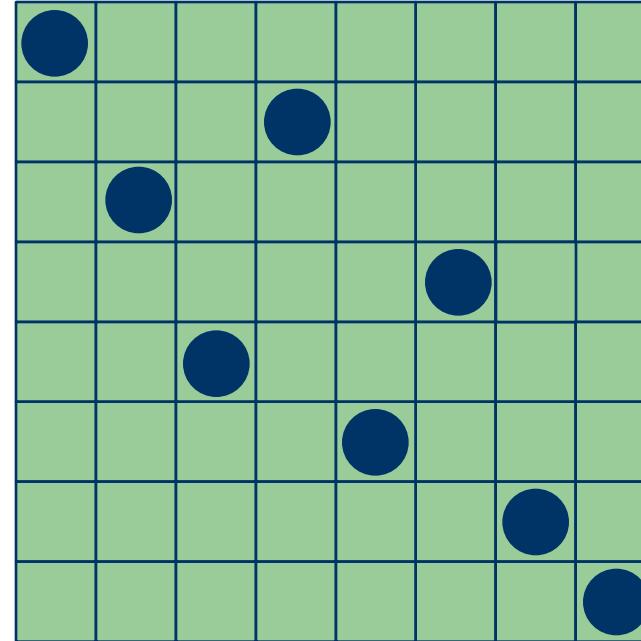
Place 8 queens on an 8x8 chessboard in such a way that they cannot check each other

The 8 queens problem: representation

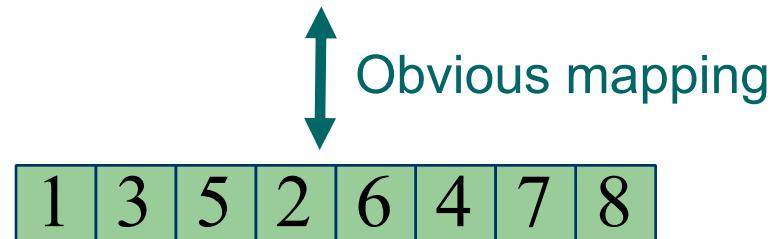


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Phenotype:
a board configuration



Genotype:
a permutation of
the numbers 1 - 8



The 8 queens problem: fitness evaluation



- Penalty of one queen:
the number of queens she can check.
- Penalty of a configuration:
the sum of the penalties of all queens.
- Note: penalty is to be minimized
- Fitness of a configuration:
inverse penalty to be maximized

The 8 queens problem: mutation



Small variation in one permutation, e.g.:

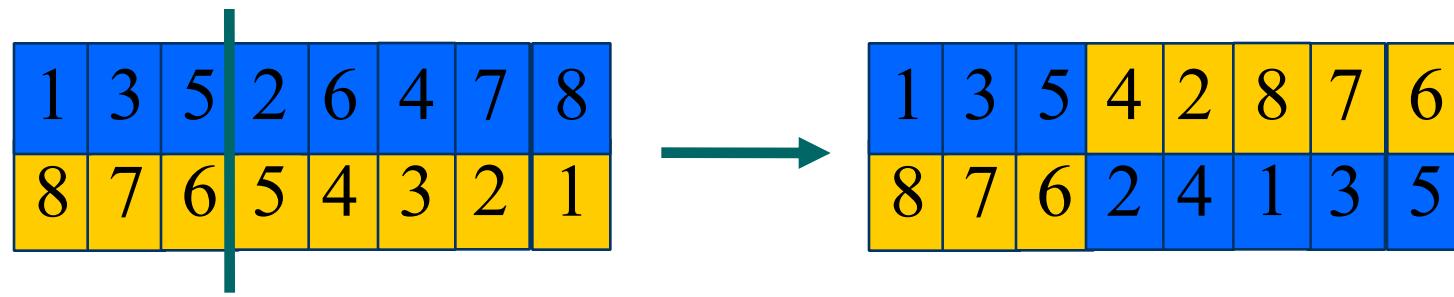
- swapping values of two randomly chosen positions,



The 8 queens problem: recombination

Combining two permutations into two new permutations:

- choose random crossover point
- copy first parts into children
- create second part by inserting values from other parent:
 - in the order they appear there
 - beginning after crossover point
 - skipping values already in child



The 8 queens problem: selection



Parent selection

- Pick 5 parents and take best two to undergo crossover

Survivor selection (replacement)

- When inserting a new child into the population, choose an existing member to replace by:
- sorting the whole population by decreasing fitness
- enumerating this list from high to low
- replacing the worst individual in the population

The 8 queens problem: summary



Representation	Permutations
Recombination	“Cut-and-crossfill” crossover
Recombination probability	100%
Mutation	Swap
Mutation probability	80%
Parent selection	Best 2 out of random 5
Survival selection	Replace worst
Population size	100
Number of Offspring	2
Initialisation	Random
Termination condition	Solution or 10,000 fitness evaluation

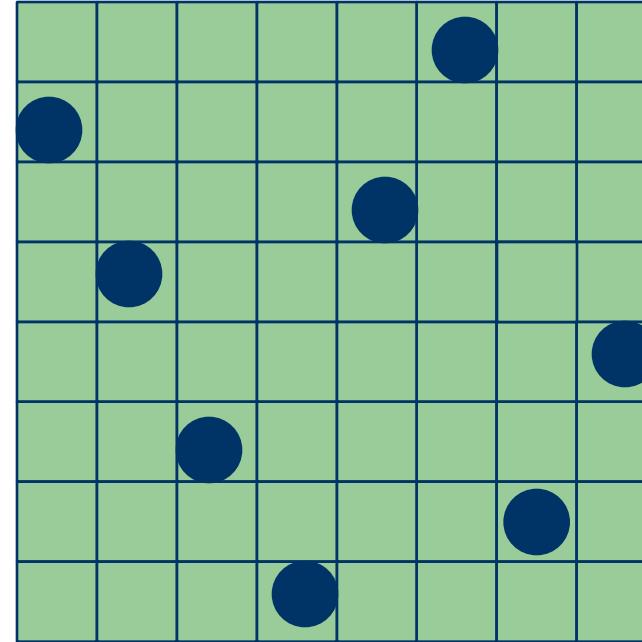
Note: this is ***only one possible***
set of choices of operators and parameters

The 8 queens problem: example solution



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Phenotype:
a board configuration



Genotype:
a permutation of
the numbers 1 - 8

2	4	6	8	3	1	7	5
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Obvious mapping

Evolutionary Computation

December 2020



Course page

<http://linoit.com/users/markuswagnerlinoit/canvases/HIT%20Evolutionary%20Comp.%20Dec%202020>

