

HEURISTIC Analysis

It is important to return a legal move in case there is a timeout and not forfeiting (not returning -1,-1).

My heuristics:

1. AB_Custom = custom_score(): (my_moves - opponent_moves) - the same as AB_Improved heuristic function (improved_score)
2. AB_Custom_2 = custom_score_2(): my_moves
3. AB_Custom_3 = custom_score_3(): (my_moves - opponent_moves x 2)

After playing 20 different matches:

| ***** Playing Matches ***** | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------|-----------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| Match # | Opponent | AB_Improved | | AB_Custom | | AB_Custom_2 | | AB_Custom_3 | |
| | | Won | Lost | Won | Lost | Won | Lost | Won | Lost |
| 1 | Random | 29 | 11 | 32 | 8 | 31 | 9 | 32 | 8 |
| 2 | MM_Open | 32 | 8 | 33 | 7 | 29 | 11 | 34 | 6 |
| 3 | MM_Center | 36 | 4 | 34 | 6 | 33 | 7 | 32 | 8 |
| 4 | MM_Improved | 27 | 13 | 28 | 12 | 29 | 11 | 26 | 14 |
| 5 | AB_Open | 18 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 18 |
| 6 | AB_Center | 23 | 17 | 23 | 17 | 22 | 18 | 23 | 17 |
| 7 | AB_Improved | 18 | 22 | 20 | 20 | 14 | 26 | 21 | 19 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | |
| Win Rate: | | 65.4% | | 68.2% | | 63.6% | | 67.9% | |

There were 48.0 timeouts during the tournament.

In overall, the best result is for the AB_Custom function that returns the difference in moves between me and my opponent, giving the best result when I have more moves than my opponent and the least result when my opponent has more moves than me. This is followed by AB_Custom_3. This heuristic gives

more weight (exactly x2) to the opponent number of moves. This two metrics improve the result of AB_Improved. The second heuristic (AB_Custom_2) is good but doesn't improve the baseline because it doesn't take into account the opponent moves to penalize.

I have tried another heuristics based in the location of the moves (scoring better the moves near the center). In the next figure is shown the result of comparing the heuristic based on moves near the center, AB_Custom_2, versus AB_Improved and AB_Custom (moves between me and my opponent).

| ***** Playing Matches ***** | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------|-----------|------|-------------|------|--|
| Match # | Opponent | AB_Improved | | AB_Custom | | AB_Custom_2 | | |
| | | Won | Lost | Won | Lost | Won | Lost | |
| 1 | Random | 9 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | |
| 2 | MM_Open | 6 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 1 | |
| 3 | MM_Center | 9 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 1 | |
| 4 | MM_Improved | 7 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 3 | |
| 5 | AB_Open | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | |
| 6 | AB_Center | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | |
| 7 | AB_Improved | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | |
| Win Rate: | | 71.4% | | 72.9% | | 68.6% | | |

But they require more time to calculate and they aren't better compared to the final heuristic metrics. Some of the metrics explained in the course are not better because of the new restriction of the players' movement as knights.