C. Characteristics Common to All Ant Types

~~1. Each ant should be identified by a unique integer ID. The queen ant should have an ID value of 0. Other ants should be numbered in ascending order as they are hatched.~~

~~2. All ant types (except for the queen) have a maximum life span of 1 year.~~

~~3. Dead ants should be removed from the simulation.~~

~~4. All ants are limited to one action per turn, with some exceptions that will be discussed later.~~

5. All ants except Bala ants may only move in squares that have been revealed by scout ants; Bala ants may also move into squares that have not been revealed by scout ants.

~~6. When moving, all ant types should move no more than 1 square per turn.~~

D. The Queen Ant The queen ant is responsible for hatching new ants. The specific requirements for the queen ant are:

~~1. The queen never moves from her square (i.e., she remains in the same square for the entire simulation).~~

~~2. The queen's maximum lifespan is 20 years.~~

~~3. The queen hatches new ants at a constant rate of 1 ant/day (i.e., 1 ant every 10 turns~~).

~~4. New ants should always be hatched on the first turn of each day.~~

~~5. The type of ant that is hatched should be determined randomly according to the initial frequencies listed below. You may change these frequencies as you see fit — these are simply suggestions for a starting point.~~

~~a. Forager - 50%~~

~~b. Scout - 25%~~

~~c. Soldier - 25%~~

~~6. The queen should consume 1 unit of the food in her chamber on each turn, including the turn in which she hatches a new ant.~~

~~7. If the food level in the queen's square is zero when the queen tries to eat, the queen dies of starvation.~~

~~8. If the queen dies, either by starvation or by a Bala attack, the simulation should end immediately.~~

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| **E. Foragers** |
| Foragers are responsible for bringing food to the queen. They have two primary modes of behavior: *forage mode* and *return-to-nest mode*. The specific requirements for the forager ant are:   1. ~~Forage Mode~~    1. ~~Foragers are in forage mode whenever they are not carrying food.~~    2. ~~In Forage Mode, foragers should always move to the adjacent square containing the highest level of pheromone, except:~~       1. ~~If more than one adjacent square has the same level of pheromone they should randomly pick one of those squares.~~       2. ~~When following a pheromone trail a forager should never move into the square it just came from unless it has no other choice.~~       3. ~~Depending on how you implement your movement algorithm, it is possible for a forager to get stuck in a loop, traveling round and round the same squares without getting anywhere. Try to detect when this happens, and prevent the endless looping.~~    3. ~~Foragers should maintain a history of their movement, to be used when they need to return to the nest.~~    4. ~~When a forager enters a square containing food, it should pick up 1 unit of food, unless it is already carrying food.~~    5. ~~When a forager picks up a unit of food, it enters~~*~~return-to-nest mode~~*~~.~~    6. ~~Foragers should~~*~~never~~*~~pick up food from the square containing the queen.~~    7. ~~After a forager has picked up 1 unit of food, it should not move again until the next turn.~~ 2. Return-to-nest Mode 3. ~~When a forager is carrying food, it should retrace its steps exactly back to the colony entrance; i.e., it should backtrack whatever path it took to get to the food.~~ 4. ~~Foragers should ignore pheromone in this mode; i.e., they should~~*~~not~~*~~move to the adjacent square containing the highest level of pheromone.~~ 5. ~~Foragers should not move randomly in this mode.~~ 6. ~~Foragers should deposit 10 units of pheromone in each square along the way back to the colony entrance,~~*~~including~~*~~the square in which the food was found, but~~*~~excluding~~*~~the colony entrance (the queen's square).~~ 7. ~~Foragers should only deposit pheromone in a given square if the current pheromone total in the square is < 1000.~~ 8. ~~A forager may deposit pheromone in one square, and move to a new square in the same turn.~~ 9. ~~When a forager reaches the colony entrance, it should add the food it is carrying to the food supply in that square, in the same turn in which it entered the colony entrance.~~ 10. ~~Foragers should not move out of the colony entrance on the same turn they deliver food there.~~ 11. ~~If a forager dies while carrying food, the food it was carrying should remain in the square in which the forager died.~~ 12. ~~When a forager has deposited food at the nest, the forager re-enters forage mode, and its movement history should be reset.~~  |  | | --- | | **F. Scouts** | | Scouts are responsible for enlarging the foraging area available to the foragers. The specific requirements for the scout ant are:   1. Scouts should always randomly pick one of the eight possible directions of movement when it is their turn to do something.    1. If the chosen square is open, the scout should simply move into that square.    2. If the chosen square is closed, the scout should move into that square and the contents of that square should be revealed. 2. Whenever a closed square is revealed, there is a chance of there being food in the square, according to the following frequency:    1. There is a 25% chance that the square will contain a random amount of food between 500 and 1000 units.    2. The other 75% of the time the square is empty.    3. You can predetermine the contents of all the squares at the beginning of the simulation, or you can dynamically determine the contents of each square as it is opened. | |