LAB ASSIGNMENT 2: GAMES

1. DOCUMENTATION OF MINIMAX + ALPHA-BETA PRUNING.

a. Implementation details:

i. Which tests have been designed and applied to determine whether the implementation is correct?

In order to determine that the implementation is correct we have first tested our algorithm using the tictactoe game. When we achieved that our code worked, we made sure that we obtained the same results than using the simple MinMax strategy, but possibly faster. Then, we temporarily changed the verbose attribute in tournament.py to 1 or 2 so that we can see when pruning was carried out, as we added a message information about pruning when the verbose attribute in the MinimaxAlphaBetaStrategy class is bigger than 0. This, together with the achievements in time we will see later confirmed that our AlphaBeta strategy was working.

ii. Design: Data structures selected, functional decomposition, etc.

The implementation of the MinimaxAlphaBeta algorithm was carried out exactly in the same way as the simple Minimax algorithm. We created a class called MinimaxAlphaBetaStrategy with the same structure as the MinimaxStrategy. This class can be initialized in the same way as the MinimaxStrategy class, with an heuristic, the maximum depth of the search and a verbose attribute in order to activate information messages. The important method is next_move which selects the next movement to be carried out by the player using an instantiation of this class. This method uses the auxiliary methods min value and max value to achieve the said purpose.

iii. Implementation.

The implementation of the MinimaxAlphaBetaStrategy class was exactly the same as the MinimaxStrategy, changing some details in the next move, min value and max value methods.

The main difference is that both _min_value and _max_value methods now receive alpha and beta values in order to prune the tree when necessary. Following the pseudocode given to us, we initialize alpha to -infinity and beta to infinity in the next_move function in the next_move method. Then we start applying _min_value to every successor state and choose the maximum, as the player that starts is always max. In the _min_value function now we have to update the beta value correctly and prune when the minimax value is smaller or equal than alpha. The same changes must be applied to the _max_function, but the rest of the implementation is the same as the MinimaxStrategy class.

iv. Other relevant information.

Code of the MinimaxAlphaBetaStrategy class can be found in the strategy.py document, as we decided not to include the code in order not to fill lots of pages, which would make the final report less readable.

b. Efficiency of alpha-beta pruning.

i. Complete description of the evaluation protocol.

In order to evaluate the efficiency of the alpha-beta pruning we have added some code in order to perform the corresponding measurements. In order to switch between simple minimax and alpha-beta pruning, tournament.py had to be changed constantly.

In order to perform the time measurements we used the time python library, printing the difference between the start and end of the tournament run (tour.run(...) instruction).

In order to measure the improvement in a computer-independent manner, we thought it was a good idea to count the total recursive calls that are done through the execution of the whole program to choose the next state. In order to do that, we created a class variable in both classes MinimaxAlphaBetaStrategy and MinimaxStrategy. Everytime there is a call to the min or max functions, this class variable is incremented by 1. This way we were able to see how many method calls were carried out for each strategy.

After executing many tournaments varying the different heuristics, strategies and maximum depth of the search we obtained the results that follow.

ii. Tables in which times with and without pruning are reported.

Game : Depth : Heuristics used	Execution time of the tournament with only one repetition.		Performance
	Minimax Strategy (seconds)	Minimax AlphaBeta Strategy (seconds)	enhancement due to pruning
Tictactoe : 3 : Dummy	2.008574009	0.6345052719	3.165574973
Tictactoe : 4 : Dummy	8.553754568	1.198735237	7.135649561
Tictactoe : 5 : Dummy	27.1386869	2.078977585	13.05386219
Reversi : 2 : Dummy	10.57495642	9.154441595	1.155172198
Reversi : 3 : Dummy	60.372962	24.06869864	2.508360044

Reversi : 4 : Dummy	419.4633372	71.62647128	5.856261375
Reversi : 2 : PonderationMax	42.93464303	29.80803609	1.440371412
Reversi : 3 : PonderationMax	9588.59343	3797.49496	2.52497858
Reversi : 2 : HeuristicParityMobilityCornersTop2	70.41214538	51.10343504	1.37783586
Reversi : 3 : HeuristicParityMobilityCornersTop2	983.055546	361.7843299	2.717241917

iii. Computer independent measures of improvement.

Game : Depth : Heuristics used against itself	Sum of the total number of recursive calls to compute the next_state in all the tournament. Tournament with only one repetition.		
	Minimax Strategy	Minimax AlphaBeta Strategy	Performance enhancement due to pruning
Tictactoe : 3 : Dummy	14832	3594	4.12687813
Tictactoe : 4 : Dummy	62536	6436	9.716594158
Tictactoe : 5 : Dummy	211144	12006	17.58654006
Reversi : 2 : Dummy	19480	9132	2.133158125
Reversi : 3 : Dummy	111166	26806	4.147056629
Reversi : 4 : Dummy	785378	69076	11.36976663
Reversi : 2 : PonderationMax	14370	10222	1.40579143
Reversi : 3 : PonderationMax	401183	215892	1.858257833
Reversi : 2 : HeuristicParityMobilityCornersTop2	90452	42926	2.107161161
Reversi : 3 : HeuristicParityMobilityCornersTop2	1338998	344422	3.887666874

iv. Correct, clear, and complete analysis of the results.

Both tables show huge enhancements in the performance of the players when alpha-beta pruning is used. This difference in performance clearly increases exponentially on the depth. This is the result we expected, as the bigger the depths we explore, the bigger the parts of the tree are pruned, resulting in less calls to min and max methods which has an obvious correlation with execution time.

We also know that the efficiency of pruning depends on the order in the search, it is better if good movements are explored first. In the worst case there is no improvement and, in the best case, using perfect order we would reduce temporal complexity from $O(b^{-d})$, in the simple minimax algorithm, to $O(b^{-d/2})$, being 'b' the branching factor and 'd' the depth of the tree which we have varied in the

tables. However in our case the temporal complexity should be $O(b^{-3d/4})$ as our heuristics follow a random order of exploration.

So, in conclusion, alpha-beta pruning is always a good approach when trying to minimize the execution time of your player. It also gives the same complete (as the search tree is finite) and optimal results as the ordinary minimax algorithm, supposing, as it is the case that the opponent is also optimal.

v. Other relevant information.

All the code used for this section can be found in strategy.py, demo_tournament_updated.py (the code for measuring time was only implemented for the normal tournament (test = 0)) and demo tournament tictactoe.py.

2. DOCUMENTATION OF THE DESIGN OF THE HEURISTIC.

a. Review of previous work on Reversi strategies, including references in APA format.

In order to optimize our heuristics, we mainly used three sources of information:

- Parekh, P., Bhatia, U. S., Sukthankar, K., (n.d.). Othello/Reversi using Game Theory techniques. http://play-othello.appspot.com/files/Othello.pdf
- Cherry, K. A. (2011). An intelligent Othello player combining machine learning and game specific heuristics.
- Sannidhanam, V., & Annamalai, M. (2015). An Analysis of Heuristics in Othello.

The ideas in these documents clearly inspired and guided us through the creation of our final heuristics.

b. Description of the design process:

i. How was the design process planned and realized?

In order to implement the different heuristics, each one programmed their own heuristics and then we made them compete with each other so that we could select the best ones for the tournaments. However, some of the functions such as end_game and combined_based_function were used by the two of us. Most of our tests have been carried out in the demo_tounament_updated.py file, where our heuristic classes are defined, and different ways of testing them in different tournament modalities have been implemented.

Our first approach to design the heuristics was an intuitive approach, we designed functions which counted the difference in the number of pieces of each player, the number of movements that could be done in a given state and another to prioritize the corners. Before researching on the internet we knew that a good heuristic must be a combination of those functions and possibly some others, less intuitive.

When we started getting good results, against the given test heuristics, random, dummy, complex, etc, we started researching on the internet till we found the 3 pdfs cited on section a. We tried to implement the described functions and we tested them against our old heuristics.

After the first tournaments, we had a clear idea of which evaluation functions were good, so we just needed to find out the best weightings for these evaluation functions. In order to do that we tried to automate the process. For that, we created the one_heuristic_against_others function with which we can easily test how good is a given heuristic that we are testing, against a list of other reference heuristics. Then, using this function a lot of times, we could find using nested loops the best ponderations for our heuristics.

ii. Did you have a systematic procedure to evaluate the heuristics designed?

As explained in the previous section, one_heuristic_against_others helped us to automate the process of testing how good a given heuristic is, testing it against a list of reference heuristics. This list of reference heuristics varied throughout the development of the heuristics, usually using the best heuristics we had designed before programming this new heuristic as reference.

iii. Did you take advantage of strategies developed by others? If these are publicly available, provide references in APA format; otherwise, include the name of the person who provided the information and give proper credit for the contribution as "private communication".

The main source of information for creating our heuristics were the references in section a.

c. Description of the final heuristic submitted.

Our final submission consists of three heuristics, 2 of which are the same with different weights of the functions involved, so we have essentially 2 different heuristics. Both of them are weighted combinations of simpler evaluation functions. To find out the best weights for these functions, long executions of the demo_tournament_updated.py have been carried out using the option test = 2 which automatically tries different weights of a given set of evaluation functions and prints the results of confronting each of them with a set of reference evaluation functions.

Our first heuristic is called HeuristicPonderationMax. It is an efficient ponderation of 4 evaluation functions, as two of them go over the successors of the current state we made them into a single loop. The weight given to each evaluation function is the one determined by the previously explained process. The 4 used evaluation functions are:

- result_end_game: calculates the difference between the scores of the 2 players in the actual state.
- maximize_possibly_captured_pieces: calculates the number of pieces the player could eat if it had unlimited moves in the actual state.
- maximize captured piece: finds out the maximum number of eaten pieces in that state.
- corners based function: returns a percentage of the number of corners the player has.

The other two heuristics are HeuristicParityMobilityCorners1 and HeuristicParityMobilityCorners2. Their underlying philosophy is the same as the HeuristicPonderationMax but using different evaluation functions. The process to obtain the weights of these evaluation functions was the same as the one described before. The 3 used evaluation functions are:

- corners based function: returns a percentage of the number of corners the player has.
- parity_function: measures how well is the player doing in respect to the actual score, therefore it is similar to result end game.
- best_mobility_function: returns the percentage of the player valid moves over all the valid moves that both players could do in the current state.

These last three evaluation functions were developed following the principles analyzed in the third article referenced in section a. It reinforced even more some ideas that we had in mind at the beginning of our analysis. Ideas such as the importance of capturing the corners during the game or the relevance of each player's valid moves, and the advantage that these would provide the player.

d. Other relevant information.

In order to test the heuristics before uploading them to the different tournaments organized by the teachers, we created our final document 2351_p2_09_ramirez_urbina.py inside the tournament folder. We run it with the file demo_tounament.py in the same way (we suppose) as it is done by the teachers in charge of the tournament. 2351_p2_09_ramirez_urbina.py contains the only code necessary for our 3 best heuristics to work and demo_tounament.py has been edited to create a tournament between the heuristics in the tournament folder, containing 2351_p2_09_ramirez_urbina.py.

We will now include some of the modifications we did in order to program and find out our best heuristics, but a better visualization of the code can be achieved opening the modified files. Changes made to heuristic.py and demo_tournament_updated.py, the file we used to execute all our tests, are now included. However, other edited files such as 2351_p2_09_ramirez_urbina.py and demo_tournament.py, despite they have been changed or completely created, have not been included as they only contain redundant information in order to test our final submitted files to the different tournaments.

Added code in heuristic.py (evaluation functions):

```
def result_end_game(state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
    """Return game result as if game ended in this state."""
    state_value = 0
    scores = state.scores

assert isinstance(scores, (Sequence, np.ndarray))
    score_difference = scores[0] - scores[1]

if state.is_player_max(state.player1):
    state_value = score_difference

elif state.is_player_max(state.player2):
```

```
state_value = - score_difference

else:
    raise ValueError('Player MAX not defined')

return state_value
```

```
def maximize_possibly_captured_pieces(state: TwoPlayerGameState)
float:
had unlimited moves."""
  state value = 0
  actual score = result end game(state)
  if state.end of game:
      state value = actual score
  else:
      successors = state.game.generate successors(state)
       if state.is player max(state.player1):
          for successor in successors:
                              state value += ((successor.scores[0]
successor.scores[1]) - actual score)
      elif state.is player max(state.player2):
           for successor in successors:
                              state value += ((successor.scores[1]
successor.scores[0]) - actual_score)
          raise ValueError('Player MAX not defined')
```

```
def maximize_captured_piece(state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
    """Returns the maximum number of pieces that can be captured in the
current state."""
    state_value = 0
    actual_score = result_end_game(state)

if state.end_of_game:
    state_value = actual_score
```

```
ponderation maximize(state: TwoPlayerGameState, p actual,
p max captured, p sum captured, p corners) -> float:
                                     an efficient ponderation of
result end game, maximize captured piece,
  state value = 0
  actual score = result end game(state)
  if state.end of game:
      state value = actual score
      successors = state.game.generate successors(state)
      corners score = corners based function(state)
      score_maximum_captured = 0
      score possibly captured = 0
      if state.is player max(state.player1):
           for successor in successors:
                   score maximum captured = max(score maximum captured,
(successor.scores[0] - successor.scores[1]) - actual score)
                    score possibly captured += ((successor.scores[0] -
successor.scores[1]) - actual score)
      elif state.is player max(state.player2):
```

```
for successor in successors:
                   score maximum captured = max(score maximum captured,
(successor.scores[1] - successor.scores[0])- actual score)
                    score possibly captured += ((successor.scores[1] -
successor.scores[0]) - actual score)
          raise ValueError('Player MAX not defined')
       state value = actual score * p actual + score maximum captured *
p max captured + score possibly captured * p sum captured
corners score * p corners
def parity function(state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
   """Measures how well the player is doing in respect to the actual
score."""
  state value = 0
  if state.end of game:
      state value = result end game(state)
      player1 score = state.scores[0]
      player2 score = state.scores[1]
        score = 100 * (player1_score - player2_score)/(player1_score +
player2 score)
       if state.is player max(state.player1):
          state value = score
       elif state.is player max(state.player2):
          state value = -score
  return state value
def corners based function(state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
```

```
if state.end of game:
       state value = result end game(state)
      height = state.game.height
      width = state.game.width
       corners = [state.board.get((1, 1)), state.board.get((1, width)),
state.board.get((height, 1)), state.board.get((height, width))]
       label player1 = state.game.player1.label
       label player2 = state.game.player2.label
       score = 0
      corners count player1 = corners.count(label player1)
      corners count player2 = corners.count(label player2)
       if (corners count player1 + corners count player2) != 0:
                         score = 100 * (corners count player1
corners count player2)/(corners count player1 + corners count player2)
       if state.is player max(state.player1):
       elif state.is player max(state.player2):
           state value = -score
  return state value
```

```
def best_mobility_function(state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
    """Returns the percentage of the player valid moves over all the
valid moves that both
    players could do."""

    if state.end_of_game:
        state_value = result_end_game(state)

    else:
        label_player1 = state.game.player1.label
        label_player2 = state.game.player2.label

        player1_valid_moves = state.game._get_valid_moves(state.board,
label_player1)
```

```
def combined_based_function(state: TwoPlayerGameState, functions,
weights) -> float:
    """Auxiliary function used to give a ponderation of the input
evaluation functions."""
    state_value = 0

    if len(functions) != len(weights):
        return state_value

elif state.end_of_game:
        state_value = result_end_game(state)

else:
    state_values = []
    for function in functions:
        state_values.append(function(state))

    for (weight, state_value_aux) in zip(weights, state_values):
        state_value = state_value + weight * state_value_aux

return state_value
```

Code added to demo_tournament_updated.py: Heuristic classes:

```
class HeuristicDummy(StudentHeuristic):
  def get name(self) -> str:
  def evaluation function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
       return self.dummy(123)
  def dummy(self, n: int) -> int:
  def get name(self) -> str:
  def evaluation function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
       return float(np.random.rand())
  def get name(self) -> str:
  def evaluation function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
       return simple evaluation function(state)
class HeuristicEndGame(StudentHeuristic):
  def get name(self) -> str:
       return "HeuristicEndGame"
  def evaluation function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
       return result end game(state)
```

```
def get name(self) -> str:
  def evaluation_function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
       return maximize possibly captured pieces(state)
class HeuristicBestCapture(StudentHeuristic):
  def get name(self) -> str:
  def evaluation function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
       return maximize captured piece(state)
class HeuristicCorners(StudentHeuristic):
  def get name(self) -> str:
      return "HeuristicCorners"
  def evaluation function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
       return corners based function(state)
          Combines HeuristicEndGame, HeuristicMaxCapturablePieces,
HeuristicBestCapture
  def get_name(self) -> str:
       return "HeuristicPonderationMax"
  def evaluation function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
      p max captured = 0.1
      p sum captured = 0.3
          return ponderation maximize(state, p actual, p max captured,
p sum captured, p corners)
```

```
best mobility function
  def get_name(self) -> str:
  def evaluation_function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
               functions = [corners based function, parity function,
best_mobility_function]
      weights = [0.3, 0.3, 0.4]
       return combined based function(state, functions, weights)
class HeuristicParityMobilityCorners2(StudentHeuristic):
best mobility function
  def get name(self) -> str:
       return "HeuristicParityMobilityCorners2"
  def evaluation function(self, state: TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
               functions = [corners_based_function, parity_function,
best mobility function]
      weights = [0.7, 0.1, 0.2]
      return combined based function(state, functions, weights)
```

Tournament configuration (in demo tournament updated.py):

```
intermediate state large = (
initial board global = intermediate state small
repetitions = 1 # tournament repetitions
depth = 2 # search depth used by the search algorithms
\max sec per move = 5
# different tournament moddalities can be selected
test = 0 # normal tournament
#test = 1 # only one heuristic tested against others
(tested against heuristics)
#test = 2 # optimize one heuristic's ponderations
# here we choose the players (herusitic classes) which will play
against each other in case of normal tournament
        = {'End': [HeuristicPonderationMax], 'EndMaxBest':
[HeuristicParityMobilityCorners1]}
```

```
# this varibles are used in one_heuristic_against_others, when not
running a normal tournament
tested_heuristic = {'0': [HeuristicPonderationMax]}
tested_against_heuristics = {'1': [HeuristicParityMobilityCorners1]}#,
'2': [HeuristicParityMobilityCorners2]}
```

Tournament run (in demo tournament updated.py):

```
def one_heuristic_against_others(ponderations: bool):
tested heuristic
           dictionary
  scores backup = []
   for heuristic key in tested against heuristics.items():
       strats = tested heuristic.copy()
       strats.update([heuristic key])
       scores, totals, names = tour.run(
           student strategies=strats,
           increasing depth=False,
          n pairs=repetitions,
           allow selfmatch=False,
                                            tested heuristic wins
list(list(scores.values())[0].values())[0]
       tested_against_name = list(names.values())[1]
                             scores backup.append([tested against name,
  tested heuristic name = list(names.values())[0]
  print()
  print()
  print('FINAL RESULTS')
  print('Tested heuristic: ' + tested_heuristic_name)
  print('[won_games : against heuristic]')
   final won = 0
```

```
for result in scores backup:
       final won += result[1]
        print('[%d / %d : ' %(result[1], repetitions*2) + result[0] +
  if ponderations:
         print('You heurisitc with ponderations: %.2f, %.2f, %.2f has
won: %d' %(i,j,k,final_won))
      print('You heurisitc has won: %d' %final_won)
def create match(player1: Player, player2: Player) -> TwoPlayerMatch:
  initial_board = initial_board_global
      height, width = 8, 8
      height = len(initial board)
                                                     initial board
from array to dictionary board(initial board)
  game = Reversi(
      player1=player1,
      player2=player2,
      height=height,
  initial player = player1
  game state = TwoPlayerGameState(
      game=game,
      initial player=initial player,
```

```
return TwoPlayerMatch(game_state, max_sec_per_move=max_sec_per_move,
gui=False)
tour = Tournament(max depth=depth, init match=create match)
# print information about the tournaments that will be run
print()
print('Playing with depth %d. Initial Board:' %(depth))
print(*initial board global, sep = "\n")
print()
print(
    + '%d (%d x 2) times, alternating colors for each player' % (2 *
repetitions, repetitions),
print()
if test == 0 :
  print('NORMAL TOURNAMENT')
  start = time.time()
  scores, totals, names = tour.run(
       student strategies=strats,
       increasing depth=False,
      n pairs=repetitions,
       allow selfmatch=False,
  print('Execution time: %s' %(time.time() - start))
  print()
  print('\ttotal:', end='')
       print('\t%s' % (name1), end='')
  print()
   for name1 in names:
       print('%s\t%d:' % (name1, totals[name1]), end='')
```

```
for name2 in names:
           if name1 == name2:
              print('\t---', end='')
               print('\t%d' % (scores[name1][name2]), end='')
       print()
elif test == 1:
  print('TESTING A SINGLE HEURISTIC AGAINST OTHERS')
  one_heuristic_against_others(ponderations = False)
elif test == 2:
  print('TRYING DIFFERENT PONDERATIONS FOR A GIVEN HEURISTIC')
  ponderation list = [0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4]
  for i in ponderation list:
       for j in ponderation list:
we define a class
test it """
                   def get name(self) -> str:
TwoPlayerGameState) -> float:
parity function, best mobility function]
                       weights = [i, j, k]
```

```
return combined_based_function(state, functions, weights)

#return ponderation_maximize(state, i, j, k, z)

tested_heuristic = {'0': [HeuristicToMaximize]}

one_heuristic_against_others(ponderations = True)
```