

Heuristic analysis

I implemented 3 custom scores as a part of the game playing agent

1. Custom_score - make your player play aggressively against the opponent right from the get go. Award the human player for a positive result and award the computer player for a negative result.

```
if game.is_loser(player):
    return float("-inf")

if game.is_winner(player):
    return float("inf")

#return float(len(game.get_legal_moves(player)))
own_moves = len(game.get_legal_moves(player))
#print(len(own_moves))
opponent_moves = len(game.get_legal_moves(game.get_opponent(player)))
#print(len(opponent_moves))
return float(own_moves - (2*opponent_moves))
```

2. Customer_Score2 - While playing with an opponent with pen and paper, i found a pattern where if either the opponent or the human player corners themselves into the corner location of the board, then the chances of losing are more. Reward the players for not making bad moves.

```
bad_moves = [(0,0),(0,7),(7,0),(7,7)]
player1_score = 0
player2_score = 0
game_location_1 = game.get_player_location(player)
if(game_location_1 in bad_moves):
    player1_score = player1_score-1
game_location_2 = game.get_player_location(game.get_opponent(player))
if(game_location_2 in bad_moves):
    player2_score = player2_score-1

return float(player1_score - player2_score)
```

3. Customer_Score3 - play more aggressively if the number of blank spaces are above 35 and less aggressively towards the end of the game as the blank spaces are lesser

```

blank_spaces = game.get_blank_spaces()
#return float(len(game.get_legal_moves(player)))
own_moves = len(game.get_legal_moves(player))
#print(len(own_moves))
opponent_moves = len(game.get_legal_moves(game.get_opponent(player)))
if len(blank_spaces) >= 35:
    return float(own_moves - 3*opponent_moves)
else:
    return float(3*own_moves - opponent_moves)

```

Here are the best of 3 games using these heuristics.

Round 1

Playing Matches									

Match #	Opponent	AB_Improved		AB_Custom		AB_Custom_2		AB_Custom_3	
		Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Won	Lost
1	Random	7	3	7	3	7	3	8	2
2	MM_Open	4	6	7	3	6	4	7	3
3	MM_Center	5	5	5	5	8	2	7	3
4	MM_Improved	7	3	8	2	5	5	5	5
5	AB_Open	4	6	3	7	4	6	3	7
6	AB_Center	4	6	4	6	4	6	5	5
7	AB_Improved	3	7	6	4	7	3	5	5

Win Rate:		48.6%		57.1%		58.6%		57.1%	

Round 2

Playing Matches									

Match #	Opponent	AB_Improved		AB_Custom		AB_Custom_2		AB_Custom_3	
		Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Won	Lost
1	Random	7	3	8	2	8	2	8	2
2	MM_Open	7	3	5	5	5	5	5	5
3	MM_Center	3	7	9	1	7	3	7	3
4	MM_Improved	8	2	6	4	6	4	6	4
5	AB_Open	6	4	5	5	5	5	8	2
6	AB_Center	6	4	6	4	5	5	2	8
7	AB_Improved	4	6	5	5	6	4	4	6

Win Rate:		58.6%		62.9%		60.0%		57.1%	

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Round 3

Playing Matches										

Match #	Opponent	AB_Improved		AB_Custom		AB_Custom_2		AB_Custom_3		
		Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Won	Lost	
1	Random	7	3	8	2	9	1	6	4	
2	MM_Open	5	5	9	1	7	3	8	2	
3	MM_Center	4	6	7	3	2	8	4	6	
4	MM_Improved	4	6	8	2	7	3	8	2	
5	AB_Open	6	4	4	6	2	8	5	5	
6	AB_Center	5	5	4	6	7	3	4	6	
7	AB_Improved	6	4	5	5	6	4	5	5	

Win Rate:		52.9%		64.3%		57.1%		57.1%		

Conclusion:Based the 3 games shown below Custom_Score has consistently beaten AB_Improved and has a overall a higher winning % than the other custom_scores and AB_improved. Moreover, it enables the human player to play aggressively trying to chase the opponent. Custom_score being quiet straightforward it would probably be more efficient with larger depths and will not degrade performance.