

POLITECNICO DI TORINO

01URRSM

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# Computational Intelligence Final Report

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# 1 Introduction

Though I'm an Erasmus student, I had a great time taking this course and have learnt a lot about problem solving algorithms, game theory and reinforcement learning. Above all, I not only learnt from professors, but also from peers that are a lot older than me, and peer reviews really helped.

This report details my activities throughout the semester, and is a testament to my time in Turin.

## 2 Lab 1

### 2.1 Solution

Lab 1 concerned the combinatorial optimisation of the set cover problem, which is NP-hard. The problem is to find a minimum set of subsets of a given set of subsets such that all elements of the given set are covered. Since a solution cannot be found in polynomial time, any implemented solution is guaranteed to be suboptimal. For this lab, the problem is tackled through a collection of search algorithms:

1. Naive Greedy
2. Greedy with a better cost function
3. A\* Traversal Using a Priority Queue
4. A\* Traversal Using a Fully Connected Graph

#### 2.1.1 Naive Greedy

```
1 def naive_greedy(N):
2     goal = set(range(N))
3     covered = set()
4     solution = list()
5     all_lists = sorted(problem(N, seed=42), key=lambda l: len(l))
6     while goal != covered:
7         x = all_lists.pop(0)
8         if not set(x) < covered:
9             solution.append(x)
10            covered |= set(x)
11
12    print(
13        f"Naive greedy solution for N={N}: w={sum(len(_) for _ in solution)}
14        ↪ (bloat={(sum(len(_) for _ in solution)-N)/N*100:.0f}%)"
15    )
```

The greedy algorithm essentially traverses through a sorted list of subsets and keeps adding the subset to the solution set if it covers any new elements. The algorithm is very naive as it does not take into account the number of new elements.

#### 2.1.2 Greedy with basic heuristic approximation

This version of the greedy algorithm takes the subset with the lowest heuristic  $f$  where  $S_e$  is the expected solution (containing all the unique elements) and  $n_i$  is

the current subset:

$$f_i = 1/|n_i - S_e|$$

In real-life scenarios, the cost depends on the relative price of visiting a node/-choosing an option. Since we consider all options to be arbitrarily priced, we use a constant cost of 1.

```

1 def set_covering_problem_greedy(N, subsets, costs):
2     cost = 0
3     visited_nodes = 0
4     already_discovered = set()
5     final_solution = []
6     expected_solution = set(list(itertools.chain(*subsets)))
7     covered = set()
8     while covered != expected_solution:
9         subset = min(subsets, key=lambda s: costs[subsets.index(s)] /
10                     ↪ (len(set(s)-covered) + 1))
11         final_solution.append(subset)
12         cost += costs[subsets.index(subset)]
13         visited_nodes = visited_nodes+1
14         covered |= set(subset)
15     print("NUMBER OF VISITED NODES: ", visited_nodes)
16     print("w: ", sum(len(_) for _ in final_solution))
17     print(
18         f"Naive greedy solution for N={N}: w={sum(len(_) for _ in final_solution)}
19         ↪ (bloat={(sum(len(_) for _ in final_solution)-N)/N*100:.0f}%)"
20     )
21     print(
22         f"My solution for N={N}: w={sum(len(_) for _ in final_solution)}
23         ↪ (bloat={(sum(len(_) for _ in final_solution)-N)/N*100:.0f}%)"
24     )
25     return final_solution, cost
26
27 for n in [5, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000]:
28     subsets = problem(n, seed=SEED)
29     set_covering_problem_greedy(n, subsets, [1]*len(subsets))

```

### 2.1.3 A\* Search Using a Priority Queue

The A\* algorithm requires a monotonic heuristic function that symbolises the remaining distance between the current state and the goal state. In the case of the set cover problem, the heuristic function is the number of elements that are not covered by the current solution set, such that finding all unique elements symbolises reaching the goal state. The algorithm is implemented using a priority queue.

The implemented algorithm can be surmised as pseudocode below:

1. Add the start node to the priority queue
2. While the state is not None, cycle through the subsets and compute the cost of adding this subset to the final list.
3. If the cost has not been stored yet and the the new state is not in the queue, update the parent of each state. If travelling in this route produces a cheaper cost, update the cost of the node and its parent.
4. Finally, compute the path we travelled through.

```

1  from typing import Callable
2  from helpers import State, PriorityQueue
3  import numpy as np
4
5  class AStarSearch:
6      def __init__(self, N, seed=42):
7          # N is the number of elements to expect
8          self.N = N
9          self.seed = seed
10
11     def add_to_state(self, st, subset):
12         '''
13         Unnecessary function to add a subset to a state because we are using
14 ↳ the State class instead of a normal np.array
15         '''
16         state_list = st.copy_data().tolist()
17         state_list.append(subset)
18         return State(np.asarray(state_list, dtype=object))
19
20     def are_we_done(self, state):
21         '''
22         Check if we have reached the goal state (such that all elements are
23 ↳ covered in range(N))
24         '''
25         flattened_list = self.flatten_list(state.copy_data().tolist())
26         for i in range(self.N):
27             if i not in flattened_list:
28                 return False
29             # print("We are done")
30         return True
31
32     def flatten_list(self, l):
33         '''
34         Utility function to flatten a list of lists using itertools
35         '''
36         return list(itertools.chain.from_iterable(l))
37
38     def h(self, state):

```

```

37     '''
38     Heuristic Function h(n) = number of undiscovered elements
39     '''
40     num_undiscovered_elements = len(set(range(self.N)) -
41     ↪ set(self.flatten_list(state.copy_data().tolist())))
42     return num_undiscovered_elements
43
44 def astar_search(
45     self,
46     initial_state: State,
47     subsets: list,
48     parents: dict,
49     cost_of_each_state: dict,
50     priority_function: Callable,
51     unit_cost: Callable,
52 ):
53     frontier = PriorityQueue()
54     parents.clear()
55     cost_of_each_state.clear()
56
57     visited_nodes = 1
58     state = initial_state
59     parents[state] = None
60     cost_of_each_state[state] = 0
61     # to find length at the end without needed to flatten the state
62     discovered_elements = []
63
64     while state is not None and not self.are_we_done(state):
65         for subset in subsets:
66             # if this list has already been collected, skip
67             if subset in state.copy_data():
68                 # print("Already in")
69                 continue
70             new_state = self.add_to_state(state, subset)
71             state_cost = unit_cost(subset)
72             # if new_state not in cost_of_each_state or
73             ↪ cost_of_each_state[new_state] > cost_of_each_state[state] +
74             ↪ state_cost:
75             if new_state not in cost_of_each_state and new_state not in
76             ↪ frontier:
77                 parents[new_state] = state
78                 cost_of_each_state[new_state] = cost_of_each_state[state] +
79                 ↪ state_cost
80                 frontier.push(new_state, p=priority_function(new_state))
81             elif new_state in frontier and cost_of_each_state[new_state] >
82             ↪ cost_of_each_state[state] + state_cost:
83                 parents[new_state] = state
84                 cost_of_each_state[new_state] = cost_of_each_state[state] +
85                 ↪ state_cost
86             if frontier:

```



```

80         state = frontier.pop()
81         visited_nodes += 1
82     else:
83         state = None
84
85     path = list()
86     s = state
87
88     while s:
89         path.append(s.copy_data())
90         s = parents[s]
91
92     print(f"Length of final list: {len(self.flatten_list(path[0]))}")
93     print(f"Found a solution in {len(path):,} steps; visited
94     ↪ {len(cost_of_each_state):,} states")
95     print(f"Visited {visited_nodes} nodes")
96     print(
97         f"My solution for N={self.N}: w={sum(len(_) for _ in path[0])}
98         ↪ (bloat={(sum(len(_) for _ in
99         ↪ path[0]) - self.N) / self.N * 100:.0f}%)")
100     )
101     return list(reversed(path))
102
103 def search(self, constant_cost=False):
104     GOAL = State(np.array(range(self.N)))
105     subsets = problem(self.N, seed=self.seed)
106     initial_state = State(np.array([subsets[0]]))
107
108     parents = dict()
109     cost_of_each_state = dict()
110
111     self.astar_search(
112         initial_state = initial_state,
113         subsets = subsets,
114         parents = parents,
115         cost_of_each_state = cost_of_each_state,
116         priority_function = lambda state: cost_of_each_state[state] +
117         ↪ self.h(state),
118         unit_cost = lambda subset: 1 if constant_cost else len(subset)
119     )

```

The unit cost during search can either be set to a constant of 1 or the length of chosen subsets. The latter is employed as it helps the algorithm focus on finding all the elements with minimal overhead (redundant elements).

#### 2.1.4 A\* Search with Fully Connected Graph (Failed Idea)

An initial idea I had was to build a fully connected graph where each subset is in it's own node, and run an A\* star search to traverse it and find a shortest path.

For several logical and overhead reasons, this idea produced poor results and large bloats for big  $N$ s.

Given  $A = [2, 4, 5]$ ,  $B = [2, 3, 1]$  and  $C = [1, 2]$ ,

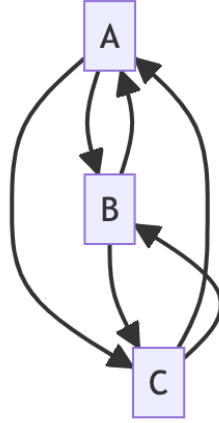


Figure 1: Fully connected graph

The heuristic function is slightly different:

$$h_i = \text{len}(s_i) - \text{len}(s_i \cap S_e)$$

where  $s_i$  is the current subset and  $S_e$  is the expected solution. It takes into account both the length of the new subset (to minimise final weight) and the number of undiscovered elements that it can contribute.

We can also immediately return a very large heuristic value such as 100 in the case of duplicating elements in the subset or in any situation where we want a certain node to be immediately skipped.

```

1  class AStarSearchFullyConnectedGraph:
2      def __init__(self, adjacency_list, list_values, N):
3          self.adjacency_list = adjacency_list
4          self.list_values = list_values
5          H = {}
6          for key in list_values:
7              # heuristic value is length of list
8              H[key] = len(list_values[key])
9          self.H = H
10         # holds the lists of each visited node
11         self.final_list = []
12         # N is the count of elements that should be in the final list
13         self.N = N
14         self.discovered_elements = set()
15

```

```

16 def flatten_list(self, _list):
17     return list(itertools.chain.from_iterable(_list))
18
19 def get_neighbors(self, v):
20     return self.adjacency_list[v]
21
22 def get_number_of_elements_not_in_second_list(self, list1, list2):
23     count = 0
24     # flattened_list = self.flatten_list(list2)
25     for i in set(list1):
26         # print("i: ", i)
27         if i not in list2:
28             count += 1
29     # if count > 1:
30     #     print("count: ", count)
31     return len(set(list1) - set(list2))
32
33     #  $f(n) = h(n) + g(n)$ 
34
35 def h(self, n):
36     num_new_elements =
37         ↪ self.get_number_of_elements_not_in_second_list(self.list_values[n],
38         ↪ self.discovered_elements)
39     # if self.list_values[n] in self.final_list:
40     #     return 1000
41     return num_new_elements
42     # return self.H[n] / (num_new_elements + 1)
43
44 def get_node_with_least_h(self):
45     min_h = float("inf")
46     min_node = None
47     for node in self.adjacency_list:
48         if self.h(node) < min_h:
49             min_h = self.h(node)
50             min_node = node
51     return min_node
52
53 def get_node_with_least_h_and_not_in_final_list(self):
54     min_h = float("inf")
55     min_node = None
56     for node in self.adjacency_list:
57         if self.h(node) < min_h and node not in self.final_list:
58             min_h = self.h(node)
59             min_node = node
60     return min_node
61
62 # visited_node = [1, 2, 3]
63 # final_list = [[4, 5], [1]]
64 def are_we_done(self):
65     # flattened_list = list(itertools.chain.from_iterable(self.final_list))

```

```

64         for i in range(self.N):
65             if i not in self.discovered_elements:
66                 return False
67         print("We are done")
68         return True
69
70     def insert_unique_element_into_list(self, _list, element):
71         if element not in _list:
72             _list.append(element)
73         return _list
74
75     def a_star_algorithm(self):
76         # start_node is node with lowest cost
77         start_node = self.get_node_with_least_h()
78
79         open_list = [start_node]
80         closed_list = []
81
82         g = {}
83
84         g[start_node] = 0
85
86         parents = {}
87         parents[start_node] = start_node
88
89         while len(open_list) > 0:
90             n = None
91
92             # find a node with the highest value of f() - evaluation function
93             for v in open_list:
94                 if n == None or g[v] + self.h(v) > g[n] + self.h(n):
95                     n = v;
96
97             if n == None:
98                 print('Path does not exist!')
99                 return None
100
101             print(f"Visiting node: {n}")
102             self.final_list.append(self.list_values[n])
103             # self.discovered_elements.union(self.list_values[n])
104             # add list_values[n] to discovered_elements
105             for i in self.list_values[n]:
106                 self.discovered_elements.add(i)
107             print(len(self.discovered_elements))
108
109             # if the current node is the stop_node
110             # then we begin reconstructin the path from it to the start_node
111             if self.are_we_done():
112                 reconst_path = []
113

```

```

114         while parents[n] != n:
115             reconst_path.append(n)
116             n = parents[n]
117
118         reconst_path.append(start_node)
119
120         reconst_path.reverse()
121
122         print(f"Number of elements in final list:
123         ↪ {len(self.flatten_list(self.final_list))}")
124         print('Path found: {}'.format(reconst_path))
125         print(
126             f"My solution for N={N}: w={sum(len(_) for _ in
127             ↪ self.final_list)} (bloat={(sum(len(_) for _ in
128             ↪ self.final_list)-N)/N*100:.0f}%)"
129         )
130         return reconst_path
131
132     # for all neighbors of the current node do
133     for (m, weight) in self.get_neighbors(n):
134         values = self.list_values[m]
135         if m not in open_list and m not in closed_list:
136             # open_list.add(m)
137             open_list = self.insert_unique_element_into_list(open_list,
138             ↪ m)
139             # sort open_list by self.h
140             open_list = sorted(open_list, key=self.h)
141             parents[m] = n
142             g[m] = g[n] + weight
143
144         else:
145             if g[m] + self.h(m) > g[n] + self.h(n) + weight:
146                 g[m] = g[n] + weight
147                 parents[m] = n
148
149             # if m in closed_list:
150             #     closed_list.remove(m)
151             #     # open_list.add(m)
152             #     open_list =
153             ↪ self.insert_unique_element_into_list(open_list, m)
154             #     open_list = sorted(open_list, key=self.h)
155
156         open_list.remove(n)
157         open_list = sorted(open_list, key=self.h)
158         closed_list = self.insert_unique_element_into_list(closed_list, n)
159
160     print('Path does not exist!')
161     return None

```

## 2.2 Results

## 2.3 Received Reviews

Diego Mangasco

REVIEW BY DIEGO GASCO (DIEGOMANGASCO) SET COVERING (GREEDY): I appreciated a lot the comparison between the professor's Naive greedy approach and your greedy approach! The idea to implement a sort of priority function to choose the best set to add to the solution is nice (a kind of cherry picking). I think you decided to take the set with lowest "f" because you want to keep low the total weight as you can. What if you merge this idea with the number of new elements that the new set can bring to your solution? You can try to find a sort of trade-off between having a new small set and having a new useful one!

SET COVERING (A\* TRAVERSAL USING PRIORITY QUEUE): In my implementation I basically used the same approach in developing my A\* algorithm! Like you, I decided to implement my heuristics as the number of undiscovered elements, and I took as cost, the length of the new set added in the solution. I also noticed that, with cost sets as unit and not as the length of the new set, the process is much faster, but the solution that we reached is not optimal, so I decided to keep the length as cost.

The only small difference with my implementation is the use of the data structures. To don't have to deal with list manipulation, I preferred to focused my structures in a more set-oriented way. But never mind, these are just personal preferences!

SET COVERING (A\* TRAVERSAL USING A FULLY CONNECTED GRAPH) Unfortunately I couldn't try this implementation of A\*, because I didn't understand the data structure "adjacency list" and there isn't a block that starts this piece of code like for the previous solutions Reading your explanation about the algorithm idea, I can say that this approach can be useful with a solution space that is not huge, but can become computationally expansive with large N (due to the connections you might have to manage). But anyway with small/medium N it can be helpful in reducing the time of the classical A\*.

Ramin

The code is written in a clear way and it's easy to understand. The code style is clear and the code is well organized in classes. The fact that you tried to implement a sort of priority function to choose the best set to add to the solution is nice and smart. Also you decided to implement your heuristics as the number of elements that have not been found yet, which is also a great idea. My only question is that , what is the best way to estimate the weight, considering the new items?

Arman

Hi Sid,  
here is my review:

The algorithm you tried as an augmented greedy solution is finding good solutions for small  $N$ s, e.g. 29 for  $N=20$  which is close to the exact solution. (you forgot to put  $N=20$  in the solutions as well, it's good to add it as you are using this as your baseline). The function which it uses for cost is actually a kind of heuristic used in a greedy context. It is an interesting use case. for large  $N$ s, It does not improve the solution, although meaningfully reduces the number of visited nodes. It's a kind of behaviour we observe when using heuristics in other search algorithms as well.

for A\* search, your code is pretty clean and organised specially implementing in a class which makes it reusable. the heuristic is reasonable and simple. comparing length as cost and unit cost is useful to see the difference. My experience was that not using cost and not keeping parents did not made much difference in this specific problem and it makes code much smaller and faster.

The fact that you used the itertools methods has made your code cleaner and more elegant. It is better to implement loops, e.g. in `are_we_done()` using comprehension, using inner loops in separate line will affect the speed significantly.

Using a fully connected graph is interesting experiment, I will follow.

Bests

## 2.4 Given Reviews

### 2.4.1 Shayan

Shayan's code

```
1 import random
2 import logging
3 logging.getLogger().setLevel(logging.INFO)
4
5 def custom_search(N, seed):
6     goal = set(range(N))
7     covered = set()
8     solution = list()
9     all_lists = problem(N, seed=42)
10    random.seed(seed)
11    random.shuffle(all_lists) #shuffle list to pop random
12    while goal != covered: #while set of covered nums is not equal to goal
13        x = all_lists.pop(0) #pick a list from all_lists
14        if not set(x) < covered: #if set of picked list is not a subset of
15            → covered
16            solution.append(x) #append it to the solution
17            covered |= set(x) #covered gets updated and becomes a union of
18            → covered plus picked set
19
20    logging.info(
21        f"custom search solution for N={N}: w={sum(len(_) for _ in solution)}
22        → (bloat={(sum(len(_) for _ in solution)-N)/N*100:.0f}%)"
23    )
24    logging.getLogger().setLevel(logging.DEBUG)
25    for N in [5, 10, 20, 100, 500, 1000]:
26        custom_search(N, 99)
```

Hi Shayan,

I had a look at your code and had a few thoughts:

1. You seem to be using a completely random approach to solving the problem, making a random, uninformed choice at each iteration of the loop. When running the algorithm with different random seeds, a different bloat factor and  $w$  are produced. The gist is that picking subsets randomly neither guarantees a heuristically optimal solution nor is the runtime optimised.

2. One suggestion to make informed decisions when choosing subsets is to sort the list by undiscovered elements / length of the list / other factors that affect the efficiency of the solution. This would still be a greedy, heuristically approximate solution that could improve both performance and runtime. Furthermore, you could consider traversing the list through more powerful search algorithms such as Dijkstra or A-Star.



2. (Miscellaneous) While the results are in the notebook, perhaps you can add them to the markdown file to compare it with other algorithms in the future.

Thank you! If there are any other details I can add, please do let me know.

### 2.4.2 Arman

Arman's code

```
1  import enum
2  from itertools import count
3  import logging
4  import random
5  from gx_utils import *
6  from heapq import heappush
7  from typing import Callable
8  import statistics
9  # import queues
10
11  logging.basicConfig(format="%(message)s", level=logging.INFO)
12
13  N = 1000
14  NUMBERS = {x for x in range(N)}
15
16
17  def problem(N, seed=None):
18      random.seed(seed)
19      return [
20          list(set(random.randint(0, N - 1) for n in range(random.randint(N //
21          ↪ 5, N // 2))))
22          for n in range(random.randint(N, N * 5))
23      ]
24
25  class State:
26      def __init__(self, list_numbers:set):
27          self.lists_ = list_numbers.copy()
28      def add(self,item):
29          self.lists_.add(item)
30          return self
31      def __hash__(self):
32          #return hash(bytes(self.lists_))
33          return hash(str(self.lists_))
34      def __eq__(self, other):
35          #return bytes(self.lists_) == bytes(other.lists_)
36          return str(self.lists_) == str(other.lists_)
37      def __lt__(self, other):
38          #return bytes(self.lists_) < bytes(other.lists_)
39          return str(self.lists_) < str(other.lists_)
40      def __str__(self):
41          return str(self.lists_)
```

```

41     def __repr__(self):
42         return repr(self.lists_)
43     def copy_data(self):
44         return self.lists_.copy()
45     def get_weight(self,ref_lists):
46         return len([x for n in self.lists_ for x in ref_lists[n]])
47     def get_items(self,ref_lists):
48         return set([x for n in self.lists_ for x in ref_lists[n]])
49
50
51     def goal_test(current_state:State,ref_lists):
52         """get all the members of the lists in the current_state and check if it
53         ↪ covers N"""
54
55         current_numbers = {x for n in current_state.lists_ for x in ref_lists[n]}
56         return current_numbers == NUMBERS
57
58     def valid_actions(current_state:State,ref_lists):
59         """returns set of indexes not currently added to this state"""
60         return {indx for indx,_ in enumerate(ref_lists) if indx not in
61         ↪ current_state.lists_}
62
63     def result(current_state,action):
64         next_state=State(current_state.copy_data()).add(action)
65         return next_state
66
67     def search(initial_state:State, ref_lists,priority_function:Callable):
68         frontier = PriorityQueue()
69         state = initial_state
70         state_count = 0
71         while state is not None and not goal_test(state,ref_lists):
72             for a in valid_actions(state,ref_lists):
73                 new_state = result(state,a)
74                 if new_state not in frontier:
75                     frontier.push(new_state,p=priority_function(new_state))
76                 elif new_state in frontier:
77                     pass
78             if frontier:
79                 state = frontier.pop()
80                 state_count+=1
81             else:
82                 state = None
83
84         logging.info(f"Found a solution with cost: {state.get_weight(ref_lists)}
85         ↪ and {state_count} number of visited states, last state: {state}")
86
87     def heuristic(state:State,ref_lists,N):
88         remained = NUMBERS - state.get_items(ref_lists)
89         return len(remained) + random.randint(0,len(remained)//2)

```

```

88
89     if __name__ == "__main__":
90         ref_lists = problem(N,seed=42)
91         #print(ref_lists)
92         initial_state = State(set())
93
94         # #Breath_first
95         # search(initial_state, ref_lists,priority_function=lambda state:
96         ↪ state.get_weight(ref_lists))
97
98         # #Depth_first
99         # search(initial_state, ref_lists,priority_function=lambda state:
100         ↪ -state.get_weight(ref_lists))
101
102         # #Heuristic
103         search(initial_state, ref_lists,priority_function=lambda state:
104         ↪ heuristic(state,ref_lists, N))

```

Hi Arman,

Here are my observations with regard to your solution for Lab 1:

1. The priority queue is a suitable choice to store and select subsets in each iteration of your loop. All 4 traversal algorithms are compared by editing the priority function, and similar to mine, A-star performed best.
2. Your heuristic function is particularly interesting because it combines the "potential new elements" with a random number.

```

1 def heuristic(state:State,ref_lists,N):
2     remained = NUMBERS - state.get_items(ref_lists)
3     return len(remained) + random.randint(0,len(remained)//2)

```

There also wasn't an explanation in the Readme, so I'm very curious as to the reason behind this heuristic. I ran your code with and without this random component and found that using it improves performance for larger values of  $N$  such as  $N = 100$  or  $N = 500$ , but not so for smaller values like  $N = 20$ . If you could add an explanation to your Readme about the heuristic, I would be very interested to read it.

3. Your algorithm does not hit a bottleneck for values of  $N > 50$ , in which case most people's code "exploded". Therefore, any solution, though not necessarily optimal, is reached.

4. One suggestion I have is to experiment with other heuristic functions, such as those that consider both the number of attainable new elements and the length of the incoming subset.

## 3 Lab 2

### 3.1 Solution

In this lab, we will take a GA approach to solving the set-covering problem. As a background, let's assume we have 500 potential lists that should form a complete subset.

The final product should be a list of 0s and 1s that indicate which lists should be included in the final set. We use a genetic approach to obtain this list via:

1. Mutation: randomly change a 0 to a 1 or vice versa
2. Crossover: randomly select a point in the list and swap the values after that point

#### 3.1.1 Representing the problem

We will represent the problem as a list of 0s and 1s. The length of the list will be the number of lists we have. The 0s and 1s will indicate whether or not the list should be included in the final set.

The objective of the algorithm is to find an optimal (or at least as optimal as possible) set of 0s and 1s that will cover all the elements in the list.

#### 3.1.2 Assessing Fitness

Based on knowledge obtained in previous labs, the heuristic function evolved and these were the factors I considered:

1. Potential duplicates
2. Undiscovered elements
3. Length of subset

The following equations were formulated for fitness assessment:

$$\text{len}(\text{distinct\_elements}) \tag{1}$$

$$\text{len}(\text{distinct\_elements})/(\text{num\_duplicates} + 1) \tag{2}$$

$$\text{len}(\text{distinct\_elements})/(\text{num\_duplicates}+1)-\text{num\_undiscovered\_elements} \tag{3}$$

N	W
5	.
10	10
20	24
50	100
100	197
500	1639
1000	3624

Table 1: Results of the algorithm

$$\text{len}(\text{distinct\_elements})/(\text{num\_undiscovered\_elements} + 1) \quad (4)$$

After multiple trials, the best fitness function is the simplest, which is simply the number of distinct elements.

## 3.2 Results

The following are the results of the algorithm after 1000 generations (only the best results are reported):

With larger values of  $N$ , a smaller population and offspring size is sufficient. Early stopping is used to detect the plateau, so the algorithm doesn't run endlessly. However, the minima is often reached in less than 100 generations.

### 3.2.1 The Case of Mutations

**Plateau Detection and Dynamic Change of Mutation Rate** Based on the rate of change of the fitness, the mutation rate (number of elements in genome to mutate) is adjusted.

```

1 def choose_mutation_rate(fitness_log):
2     # choose mutation rate based on change in fitness_log
3     if len(fitness_log) == 0:
4         return 0.2
5     if len(fitness_log) < 3:
6         considered_elements = len(fitness_log)
7     else:
8         considered_elements = 3
9     growth_rate = np.mean(np.diff(fitness_log[-considered_elements:]))
10    if growth_rate <= 0:
11        return 0.4
12    elif growth_rate < 0.5:
13        return 0.3
14    elif growth_rate < 1:
15        return 0.01

```

```

16     else:
17         return 0.1
18
19 def plateau_detection(num_generations, fitness_log):
20     '''
21     Checks if the fitness has plateaued for the last num_generations.
22     '''
23     # this function is not used
24     return all(fitness_log[-num_generations] == fitness_log[-i] for i in range(1,
    ↪ num_generations))

```

## 3.3 Mutation Functions

### 3.3.1 Flip Mutation

```

1 def flip_mutation(genome, mutate_only_one_element=False):
2     '''
3     Flips random bit(s) in the genome.
4     Parameters:
5     mutate_only_one_element: If True, only one bit is flipped.
6     '''
7     modified_genome = genome.copy()
8     if mutate_only_one_element:
9         # flip a random bit
10        index = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
11        modified_genome[index] = 1 - modified_genome[index]
12    else:
13        # flip a random number of bits
14        num_to_flip = choose_mutation_rate(fitness_log) * len(modified_genome)
15        to_flip = random.sample(range(len(modified_genome)), int(num_to_flip))
16        # to_flip = random.sample(range(len(modified_genome)), random.randint(0,
    ↪ len(modified_genome)))
17        modified_genome = [1 - modified_genome[i] if i in to_flip else
    ↪ modified_genome[i] for i in range(len(modified_genome))]
18
19    # mutate only if it brings some benefit to the weight
20    # if calculate_weight(modified_genome) < calculate_weight(genome):
21    #     return modified_genome
22
23    return return_best_genome(modified_genome, genome)

```

### 3.3.2 Scramble Mutation

```
1 def scramble_mutation(genome):
2     '''
3     Randomly scrambles the genome.
4     '''
5     # select start and end indices to scramble
6     modified_genome = genome.copy()
7     start = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
8     end = random.randint(start, len(modified_genome) - 1)
9     # scramble the elements
10    modified_genome[start:end] = random.sample(modified_genome[start:end],
11        ↪ len(modified_genome[start:end]))
12    return return_best_genome(modified_genome, genome)
```

### 3.3.3 Swap Mutation

```
1 def swap_mutation(genome):
2     '''
3     Randomly swaps two elements in the genome.
4     '''
5     modified_genome = genome.copy()
6     index1 = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
7     index2 = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
8     modified_genome[index1], modified_genome[index2] = modified_genome[index2],
9     ↪ modified_genome[index1]
10    return return_best_genome(modified_genome, genome)
```

### 3.3.4 Inversion Mutation

```
1 def inversion_mutation(genome):
2     '''
3     Randomly inverts the genome.
4     '''
5     modified_genome = genome.copy()
6     # select start and end indices to invert
7     start = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
8     end = random.randint(start, len(modified_genome) - 1)
9     # invert the elements
10    modified_genome = modified_genome[:start] + modified_genome[start:end][::-1] +
11    ↪ modified_genome[end:]
12    return return_best_genome(modified_genome, genome)
```

### 3.4 Full Code

```
1 import numpy as np
2 import itertools
3
4 def calculate_fitness(genome):
5     '''
6     Calculates the fitness of the given genome.
7     The fitness is the number of unique elements
8     The weight is the total number of elements in the genome
9     '''
10    # fitness is number of distinct elements in genome
11    all_elements = []
12    distinct_elements = set()
13    weight = 0
14    for subset, gene in zip(prob, genome):
15        # if the particular element should be taken
16        if gene == 1:
17            distinct_elements.update(subset)
18            weight += len(subset)
19            all_elements += subset
20    num_duplicates = len(all_elements) - len(set(all_elements))
21    num_undiscovered_elements = len(set(range(N)) - distinct_elements)
22    # print(set(range(N)) - distinct_elements)
23    # print("num_undiscovered_elements", num_undiscovered_elements)
24    # return num_undiscovered_elements, -weight
25    # return len(distinct_elements), -weight
26    # return num_undiscovered_elements / (len(distinct_elements) + 1), -weight
27    return len(distinct_elements) / (num_undiscovered_elements + 1), -weight
28    # other potential fitness functions:
29    # return len(distinct_elements) / (num_duplicates + 1)
30    # return len(distinct_elements) / (num_duplicates + 1) -
31    ↪ num_undiscovered_elements, -weight
32    # return len(distinct_elements) / (num_undiscovered_elements + 1), -weight
33
34 def generate_element():
35     '''
36     Randomly generates offspring made up of 0s and 1s.
37     1 means the element is taken, 0 means it is not.
38     '''
39    genome = [random.randint(0, 1) for _ in range(N)]
40    fitness = calculate_fitness(genome)
41    # genome = np.random.choice([True, False], size=PROBLEM_SIZE)
42    return Individual(genome, fitness)
43
44 initial_population = [generate_element() for _ in range(POPULATION_SIZE)]
45
46 len(initial_population)
```



```

47 fitness_log = []
48
49 def calculate_weight(genome):
50     '''
51     Weight Function
52     Weight is the sum of the lengths of the subsets that are taken
53     '''
54     # select the subsets from prob based on the best individual
55     final = [prob[i] for i, gene in enumerate(genome) if gene == 1]
56     weight = len(list(itertools.chain.from_iterable(final)))
57     return weight
58
59 def choose_mutation_rate(fitness_log):
60     # choose mutation rate based on change in fitness_log
61     if len(fitness_log) == 0:
62         return 0.2
63     if len(fitness_log) < 3:
64         considered_elements = len(fitness_log)
65     else:
66         considered_elements = 3
67     growth_rate = np.mean(np.diff(fitness_log[-considered_elements:]))
68     if growth_rate <= 0:
69         return 0.4
70     elif growth_rate < 0.5:
71         return 0.3
72     elif growth_rate < 1:
73         return 0.01
74     else:
75         return 0.1
76
77 def plateau_detection(num_generations, fitness_log):
78     '''
79     Checks if the fitness has plateaued for the last num_generations.
80     '''
81     if len(fitness_log) < num_generations:
82         return False
83     return all(fitness_log[-num_generations] == fitness_log[-i] for i in range(1,
84         ↪ num_generations))
85
86 def flip_mutation(genome, mutate_only_one_element=False):
87     '''
88     Flips random bit(s) in the genome.
89     Parameters:
90     mutate_only_one_element: If True, only one bit is flipped.
91     '''
92     modified_genome = genome.copy()
93     if mutate_only_one_element:
94         # flip a random bit
95         index = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
96         modified_genome[index] = 1 - modified_genome[index]

```

```

96     else:
97         # flip a random number of bits
98         num_to_flip = choose_mutation_rate(fitness_log) * len(modified_genome)
99         to_flip = random.sample(range(len(modified_genome)), int(num_to_flip))
100         # to_flip = random.sample(range(len(modified_genome)), random.randint(0,
101             ↪ len(modified_genome)))
102         modified_genome = [1 - modified_genome[i] if i in to_flip else
103             ↪ modified_genome[i] for i in range(len(modified_genome))]
104
105     return modified_genome
106     # mutate only if it brings some benefit to the weight
107     # if calculate_weight(modified_genome) < calculate_weight(genome):
108     #     return modified_genome
109
110 def return_best_genome(genome1, genome2):
111     return genome1
112     # if calculate_fitness(genome1) > calculate_fitness(genome2):
113     #     return genome1
114     # else:
115     #     return genome2
116
117 def mutation(genome):
118     '''
119     Runs a randomly chosen mutation on the genome. Mutations are:
120     1. Bit Flip Mutation
121     2. Scramble Mutation
122     3. Swap Mutation
123     4. Inversion Mutation
124     Refer to README for more details.
125     '''
126     # check type of genome (debugging)
127     # if type(genome) == tuple:
128     #     print("genome is tuple")
129     #     print(genome)
130
131     possible_mutations = [flip_mutation, scramble_mutation, swap_mutation,
132         ↪ inversion_mutation]
133     chosen_mutation = random.choice(possible_mutations)
134     return chosen_mutation(genome)
135
136     # if random.random() < 0.1:
137     #     for _ in range(num_elements_to_mutate):
138     #         index = random.randint(0, len(genome) - 1)
139     #         genome[index] = 1 - genome[index]
140     # mutate a random number of elements
141     # to_flip = random.randint(0, len(genome))
142     # # flip the bits
143     # return [1 - genome[i] if i < to_flip else genome[i] for i in
144         ↪ range(len(genome))]

```

```

142
143 def scramble_mutation(genome):
144     '''
145     Randomly scrambles the genome.
146     '''
147     # select start and end indices to scramble
148     modified_genome = genome.copy()
149     start = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
150     end = random.randint(start, len(modified_genome) - 1)
151     # scramble the elements
152     modified_genome[start:end] = random.sample(modified_genome[start:end],
153     ↪ len(modified_genome[start:end]))
153     return return_best_genome(modified_genome, genome)
154
155 def swap_mutation(genome):
156     '''
157     Randomly swaps two elements in the genome.
158     '''
159     modified_genome = genome.copy()
160     index1 = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
161     index2 = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
162     modified_genome[index1], modified_genome[index2] = modified_genome[index2],
163     ↪ modified_genome[index1]
163     return return_best_genome(modified_genome, genome)
164
165 def inversion_mutation(genome):
166     '''
167     Randomly inverts the genome.
168     '''
169     modified_genome = genome.copy()
170     # select start and end indices to invert
171     start = random.randint(0, len(modified_genome) - 1)
172     end = random.randint(start, len(modified_genome) - 1)
173     # invert the elements
174     modified_genome = modified_genome[:start] + modified_genome[start:end][::-1]
175     ↪ + modified_genome[end:]
175     return return_best_genome(modified_genome, genome)
176
177 def crossover(genome1, genome2):
178     '''
179     Crossover the two genomes by randomly selecting a point
180     '''
181     # crossover at a random point
182     crossover_point = random.randint(0, len(genome1))
183     modified_genome = genome1[:crossover_point] + genome2[crossover_point:]
184     return modified_genome
185
186 def roulette_wheel_selection(population):
187     '''
188     Selects an individual from the population based on the fitness.

```

```

189     '''
190     # calculate the total fitness of the population
191     total_fitness = sum([individual.fitness[0] for individual in population])
192     # select a random number between 0 and the total fitness
193     random_number = random.uniform(0, total_fitness)
194     # select the individual based on the random number
195     current_fitness = 0
196     for individual in population:
197         current_fitness += individual.fitness[0]
198         if current_fitness > random_number:
199             return individual
200
201 def stochastic_universal_sampling(population):
202     '''
203     Select using Stochastic Universal Sampling.
204     '''
205     point_1 = random.uniform(0, 1)
206     point_2 = point_1 + 1
207     # In Progress
208
209 def rank_selection(population):
210     '''
211     Select using Rank Selection. Read more here:
212     ↪ https://www.tutorialspoint.com/genetic\_algorithms/genetic\_algorithms\_parent\_selection.h
213     '''
214     # sort the population based on the fitness
215     population.sort(key=lambda x: x.fitness[0], reverse=True)
216     # calculate the total rank
217     total_rank = sum([i for i in range(len(population))])
218     # select a random number between 0 and the total rank
219     random_number = random.uniform(0, total_rank)
220     # select the individual based on the random number
221     current_rank = 0
222     for i, individual in enumerate(population):
223         current_rank += i
224         if current_rank > random_number:
225             return individual
226
227
228 def tournament(population, selection_method='tournament'):
229     '''
230     Selects the best individual from a random sample of the population.
231     '''
232     if selection_method == 'roulette':
233         participant = roulette_wheel_selection(population)
234         participant = Individual(participant.genome, participant.fitness)
235     elif selection_method == 'rank':
236         participant = rank_selection(population)
237         participant = Individual(participant.genome, participant.fitness)

```

```

238     else:
239         participant = max(random.sample(population, k=2), key=lambda x:
            ↪ x.fitness)
240         participant = Individual(participant.genome, participant.fitness)
241     return participant
242
243 def generate(population, generation):
244     '''
245     Create offspring from the population using either:
246     1. Cross Over + Mutation
247     2. Mutation
248     '''
249     # can either cross over between two parents or mutate a single parent
250     if random.random() < 0.2:
251         parent = tournament(population)
252         # if random.random() <= 0.3:
253         #     genome = mutation(parent.genome)
254         genome = mutation(parent.genome)
255         child = Individual(parent, calculate_fitness(parent))
256     else:
257         # crossover
258         parent1 = tournament(population)
259         parent2 = tournament(population)
260         genome = crossover(parent1.genome, parent2.genome)
261         # if random.random() <= 0.3:
262         #     genome = mutation(genome)
263         genome = mutation(genome)
264         child = Individual(genome, calculate_fitness(genome))
265
266     fitness_log.append((generation + 1, child.fitness[0]))
267
268     return child
269
270     best = max(initial_population, key=lambda x: x.fitness)
271
272     best_individual = max(initial_population, key=lambda x: x.fitness)
273     for i in range(NUM_GENERATIONS):
274         # create offspring
275         offspring = [generate(initial_population, i) for i in
            ↪ range(OFFSPRING_SIZE)]
276         # calculate fitness
277         # offspring = [Individual(child.genome, calculate_fitness(child.genome))
            ↪ for child in offspring]
278
279         initial_population = initial_population + offspring
280         initial_population = sorted(initial_population, key=lambda x: x.fitness,
            ↪ reverse=True)[:POPULATION_SIZE]
281
282         fittest_offspring = max(initial_population, key=lambda x: x.fitness)
283

```

```
284         if fittest_offspring.fitness > best_individual.fitness:
285             best_individual = fittest_offspring
286
287         # get the best individual
288         print(calculate_weight(best_individual.genome))
```

### 3.5 Received Reviews

s295103

Your commitment to this lab can be seen from all the approaches you implemented and tested. My only issue is with the plateau detection function that is bound to always return False in that implementation. Also a suggestion: try to enforce the constraint that all individuals' genome must be a solution with full set cover; in this way you'll vastly reduce the search space.

s295103

Design considerations - Overall good solution, nice work trying multiple parent selection functions, different fitness functions, and using multiple mutation functions

Implementation considerations - After calling the `problem()` function it is necessary to reset the seed to a random value using `'random.seed()'` otherwise all runs will always use 42 as seed value, so they won't be truly random

```
1 def flip_mutation(genome, mutate_only_one_element=False): is never
  ↳ called with mutate_only_one_element=True
2 genome = mutation(parent.genome)
3 child = Individual(parent, calculate_fitness(parent))
4
```

should substituted by

```
1 genome = mutation(parent.genome)
2 child = Individual(genome, calculate_fitness(genome))
3
```

for the mutation to have effect, since in every mutation you do

```
1 def *_mutation(genome):
2     modified_genome = genome.copy()
3     ...
4     return modified_genome
```

```
1 initial_population = sorted(initial_population, key=lambda x:
  ↳ x.fitness, reverse=True)[:POPULATION_SIZE]
2 fittest_offspring = max(initial_population, key=lambda x: x.fitness)
```

can become

```
1 initial_population = sorted(initial_population, key=lambda x: x.fitness,
  ↳ reverse=True)[:POPULATION_SIZE]
2 fittest_offspring = initial_population[0]
```

so that you don't need to search for the max in the list you just sorted

- The README and the important parts of the code are very clean and structured, but there are some comments, unused functions, an unfinished function, and other parts of the file that can be cleaned up a little

Ricardo Nicida Kazama

In the README, I was wondering if the function `return_best_genome(modified_genome, genome)` might disturb the exploration of your algorithm since a worse solution that could go towards the global optimum might be chosen instead of the current better solution that is going to a local optimum. Analyzing your code, I notice that the part where you would compare the genomes to pick the best is commented. Therefore, maybe you experienced what I previously mentioned. In the following part of the code, the use of the iterator "i" is a bit confusing since the one being taken into account for the function `generate(initial_population, i)` is the one in `range(OFFSPRING_SIZE)`. However, from what I understood, the second input should be the generation number.

```
1 for i in range(NUM_GENERATIONS):
2     # create offspring
3     offspring = [generate(initial_population, i) for i in
4                  range(OFFSPRING_SIZE)]
```

Highlights/overall: The solution includes many different mutations which show an extra effort to improve the results with a broad approach. The change in the mutation rate based on the *fitness\_log* is an interesting idea and seems to be effective. The code and results are very good!

## 3.6 Given Reviews

### 3.6.1 Erik

Erik's code

```
1 # Should be used to init solution space, return a list of list
2 def select_rand_solution(full_input):
3     population = []
4     random.seed(None)
5     for i in range(POPULATION_SIZE):
6         population.append(random.sample(full_input, random.randint(1,
7                               len(full_input))))
8     return population
9
10 # check if one solution is valid
11 def goal_check(curr):
12     curr = [item for sublist in curr for item in sublist]
13     return set(curr) == set(range(N))
```



```

14
15
16 def fitness_function(entry, goal_set):
17     duplicates = len(entry) - len(set(tuple(entry)))
18     miss = len(goal_set.difference(set(entry)))
19     return (-1000 * miss) - duplicates
20
21
22 def calculate_fitness(individual):
23     flat_individual = [item for sublist in individual for item in sublist]
24     fitness_val = fitness_function(flat_individual, set(range(N)))
25     return fitness_val
26
27
28 def select_parents(population):
29     nr_of_boxes = int(POPULATION_SIZE * (POPULATION_SIZE + 1) / 2)
30     random.seed(None)
31     random_wheel_nr = random.randint(1, nr_of_boxes)
32     parent_number = POPULATION_SIZE
33     increment = POPULATION_SIZE - 1
34     curr_parent = 0
35     while random_wheel_nr > parent_number:
36         curr_parent += 1
37         parent_number += increment
38         increment -= 1
39     return population[curr_parent]
40
41
42 # randomize an index and merge 0-index from parent 1 and index-len of parent two,
43 ↪ mutate with 5% chance
44 def crossover(first_parent, second_parent):
45     slice_index_one = random.randint(0, min(len(first_parent[0]) - 1,
46     ↪ len(second_parent[0]) - 1))
47     child = first_parent[0][:slice_index_one] +
48     ↪ second_parent[0][slice_index_one:]
49     return child
50
51
52 # mutate child and return
53 def mutate_child(individual, problem_space):
54     index = random.randint(0, len(individual) - 1)
55     random_list = problem_space[random.randint(0, len(problem_space) - 1)]
56     random_gene = random_list[random.randint(0, len(random_list) - 1)]
57     individual = individual[:index] + individual[index+1:] + [random_gene]
58     return individual
59
60
61 def update_population(population, new_children):
62     new_population = population + new_children
63     sorted_population = sorted(new_population, key=lambda i: i[1], reverse=True)

```

```

61     return sorted_population[:POPULATION_SIZE]
62
63
64 def main():
65     logging.basicConfig(level=logging.DEBUG)
66     problem_space = problem(N, seed=42)
67     population = select_rand_solution(problem_space)
68
69     # should hold current population with the calculated fitness
70     current_individuals = []
71
72     # setup data structure, list of tuples containing ([entries], fitness) and
73     ↪ sort
74     for individual in population:
75         current_individuals.append((individual, calculate_fitness(individual)))
76
77     current_individuals = sorted(current_individuals, key=lambda l: l[1],
78     ↪ reverse=True)
79
80     counter = 0
81     while counter < NR_OF_GENERATIONS:
82         # a) Select individuals with a good fitness score for reproduction.
83         cross_over_list = []
84         for i in range(OFFSPRING_SIZE):
85             parent_one = select_parents(current_individuals)
86             parent_two = select_parents(current_individuals)
87
88             # b) Let them produce offspring. Mutate with 5% chance
89             tmp_child = crossover(parent_one, parent_two)
90             if random.random() > 0.95:
91                 tmp_child = mutate_child(tmp_child, population)
92
93             cross_over_list.append((tmp_child, calculate_fitness(tmp_child)))
94
95     current_individuals = update_population(current_individuals,
96     ↪ cross_over_list)
97     counter += 1
98
99     for solution in current_individuals:
100         if goal_check(solution[0]):
101             logging.info(f'Best solution for N={N} was
102             ↪ {current_individuals[0][0]} \nWith a weight of {sum(len(_) for _
103             ↪ in current_individuals[0][0])}')
104             break

```

Hi Eric,

Here's my review concerning your approach to lab 2.

There are a few high-level, cosmetic attributes you did well: 1. Each function is well-documented and well-labelled, so I could easily understand the purpose of each one. One way to improve could be to leverage Python docstrings, where you

can also explain input parameters and output values. To do this, add:

```
1 def mutation(genome):  
2     '''  
3     Function mutates genome using .... strategy, etc.  
4     args:  
5     genome: str - Input genome  
6     '''
```

3. Using a Python script made it easy for me to run code iteratively for many different values of N/Offspring sizes/etc. without having to run all the cells. I was able to reproduce your best results after a few tries.

Let's break down the solution itself:

1. I noticed that you leveraged a completely random roulette-wheel-based selection, which leverages completely on random chance, compared to a fitness-based tournament selection which performed better (at least from my experience with this lab). Perhaps, you could try experimenting with different parent selection methods instead of just one.

2. Your fitness function is particularly interesting, standing out from most others I've seen. It takes into account duplicates in the subset:

```
1 def fitness_function(entry, goal_set):  
2     duplicates = len(entry) - len(set(tuple(entry)))  
3     miss = len(goal_set.difference(set(entry)))  
4     return (-1000 * miss) - duplicates
```

I understand that the infinitesimal blowup by \*1000 may theoretically help punish the algorithm if it is far from the goal. I modified your code with 2 different fitness functions:

```
1 return miss-duplicates
```

```
1 return (-1000 * miss)-duplicates
```

and the results were the same, so I look forward to reading about your motivation for this in the README.

Since you're only subtracting the two values (one is much larger than the other), you can do 1 of 2 things to improve convergence: divide the values, or return them as a tuple (like we did for the first lab). You could also try different mathematical equations for the fitness function, that takes into account duplicates, undiscovered

elements, length, etc., kind of like the heuristic functions we used early for graph algorithms.

3. Only one type of mutation is used (randomly flipping a bit). You could try other mutation methods and randomly choose between them to increase exploration power.

4. The probability to decide whether to mutate is quite high. In the Telegram chat, most people reported that mutations were detrimental to reaching minima, so I understand why you might have limited your mutations, but perhaps you could vary this number based on the changing fitness. Perhaps, mutate more often/more extensively to explore and reduce the vigour to exploit. You can also experiment with permutations of evolution like recombination + mutation, recombination only, mutation only, etc. All these contribute to the exploration power of your approach.

5. There is definitely a scaling problem for large values of  $N$ , such as  $N = 1000$ . One thing to note is that minima is often reached within a fraction of 1000 generations (I logged your generational results out).

5. Representing the problem space as 0s and 1s could result in cleaner code and faster computation, but this is more of a personal preference and does not really affect the solution.

All in all, good job! I just want to read more about your exciting fitness function. Let's discuss below!

### 3.6.2 Karl

Karl's code

```
1  # helping functions
2
3  def lists_to_set(genome):
4      """
5          convert genome to set
6          :param genome: the sub-lists with random integers between 0 and N-1
7          :return: set of contained elements in the genome
8          """
9      list_elems = [single_elem for l in genome for single_elem in l]
10     s = set(list_elems)
11     return s
12
13 # find out how many duplicates there are in the population
14 def count_duplicates(genome):
15     """
16         Count how many duplicates there are in the genome
17         :param genome: the sub-lists with random integers between 0 and N-1
```

```

18     :return: the count
19     """
20     list_elems = [single_elem for l in genome for single_elem in l]
21     duplicates = sum([len(list(group))-1 for key, group in
22         ↪ groupby(sorted(list_elems))])
23     return duplicates
24 # to initialize the population
25 def create_population(STATE_SPACE, GOAL):
26     """
27     Initialize the population.
28     :param STATE_SPACE: List of lists generated from problem-function
29     :param GOAL: set of integers from 0 to N-1
30     :return: a list of tuples: (genome,fitness), for each individual in the
31     ↪ population.
32     """
33     population = []
34     for _ in range(POPULATION_SIZE):
35         individual = []
36         for _ in range(random.randint(1,len(STATE_SPACE))):
37             l = random.choice(STATE_SPACE)
38             if l not in individual: #check duplicates here
39                 individual.append(l)
40             #individual =
41             ↪ random.choices(STATE_SPACE,k=random.randint(1,len(STATE_SPACE)))
42             fitness = compute_fitness(individual, GOAL)
43             population.append((individual,fitness))
44     return population
45
46 def compute_fitness(genome, GOAL):
47     """
48     fitness is a tuple of (-#of_elems_missing,-#duplicates) which should be
49     ↪ maximized
50     :param genome: the sub-lists with random integers between 0 and N-1
51     :param GOAL: set of integers from 0 to N-1
52     :return: the fitness
53     """
54     # violated constraints, i.e. how many elements are missing
55     vc = GOAL.difference(lists_to_set(genome))
56     duplicates = count_duplicates(genome)
57     # it is worse to lack elements than having duplicates
58     fitness = (-len(vc), -duplicates)
59     return fitness
60
61 def goal_check(genome, GOAL):
62     """
63     Check if all required elements are in the genome
64     :param genome: the sub-lists with random integers between 0 and N-1
65     :param GOAL: set of integers from 0 to N-1
66     :return: boolean value if goal reached or not
67     """

```

```

64     return GOAL==lists_to_set(genome)
65
66 def parent_selection(population):
67     """
68     parent selection using ranking system
69     P(choose fittest parent) = POPULATION_SIZE/n_slots
70     P(choose second fittest parent) = (POPULATION_SIZE-1)/n_slots
71     ...
72     P(choose least fit parent) = 1/n_slots
73     :param population: list of individuals
74     :return: parent to generate offspring
75     """
76     ranked_population = sorted(population, key=lambda t : t[1], reverse=True)
77     # number of slots in spinning wheel = POPULATION_SIZE(POPULATION_SIZE+1)/2
78     ↪ (arithmetic sum)
79     n_slots = POPULATION_SIZE*(POPULATION_SIZE+1)/2
80     wheel_number = random.randint(1,n_slots)
81     curr_parent = 0
82     parent_number = POPULATION_SIZE
83     increment = POPULATION_SIZE-1
84     while wheel_number > parent_number:
85         curr_parent +=1
86         parent_number +=increment
87         increment -= 1
88     return ranked_population[curr_parent]
89
90 # make one child from each cross-over, and mutate with low prob
91 def cross_over(parent1, parent2, STATE_SPACE, mutation_prob = 0.1):
92     """
93     Compute cross-over between two selected parents. Mutate child with
94     ↪ mutation_prob.
95     :param parent1: individual
96     :param parent2: individual
97     :param STATE_SPACE: List of lists generated from problem-function
98     :param mutation_prob: the probability to perform mutation
99     :return: the child created
100     """
101     cut1 = random.randint(0,len(parent1[0]))
102     cut2 = random.randint(0,len(parent2[0]))
103     child = parent1[0][:cut1]+parent2[0][cut2:]
104     if random.random() < mutation_prob:
105         mutate(child, STATE_SPACE)
106     return child
107
108 def mutate(child, STATE_SPACE):
109     """
110     Replace one list in the child with a random one from the state space.
111     :param child:
112     :param STATE_SPACE:

```

```

112     :return: the mutated child
113     """
114     idx = random.randint(0, len(child))
115     #child = child[:idx] + child[idx+1:] +
    ↪ STATE_SPACE[random.randint(0, len(STATE_SPACE)-1)]
116     i = 0
117     while i < 10:
118         i += 1
119         if STATE_SPACE[random.randint(0, len(STATE_SPACE)-1)] not in child:
120             child = child[:idx] + child[idx+1:] +
    ↪ STATE_SPACE[random.randint(0, len(STATE_SPACE)-1)]
121             break
122     return child
123
124 def update_population_plus(population, offspring):
125     """
126     Using the plus strategy to update population to next generation.
127     :param population:
128     :param offspring:
129     :return: the best individuals in union(population, offspring)
130     """
131     tot = population + offspring
132     ranked_population = sorted(tot, key=lambda t : t[1], reverse=True)
133     return ranked_population[:POPULATION_SIZE]
134
135 def update_population_comma(offspring):
136     """
137     Using the plus strategy to update population to next generation.
138     :param offspring:
139     :return: the best individuals in from offspring
140     """
141     ranked_pop = sorted(offspring, key=lambda t : t[1], reverse=True)
142     return ranked_pop[:POPULATION_SIZE]
143
144 def update_mutation_prob(best_solution, best_this_iter, mutation_param, it):
145     """
146     Update the mutation probability according to how the performance evolves. If
    ↪ no improvement, mutation probability increases (favour exploration). If
    ↪ improvement, mutation probability decreases (favour exploitation).
147     :param best_solution: The best solution so far
148     :param best_this_iter: The best solution of this generation
149     :param mutation_param:
150     :param it: iteration number
151     :return: the new mutation probability
152     """
153     if best_solution[1] >= best_this_iter[1]:
154         mutation_param += 1
155     elif best_solution[1] >= best_this_iter[1] and mutation_param > 0:
156         mutation_param -= 1
157     return mutation_param / (1 + it), mutation_param

```

```

158 def solve_problem(N):
159     STATE_SPACE = problem(N,seed=42)
160     GOAL = set(range(N))
161     population = create_population(STATE_SPACE, GOAL)
162     best_sol = population[0] #to be updated after each iter
163     found_in_iter = 0 #to be updated
164     mutation_param = 1 #increase if solution doesn't improve
165     mutation_prob = 0.1 #init value
166     for i in range(ITERES):
167         offspring = []
168         for __ in range(OFFSPRING_SIZE):
169             parent1, parent2 = parent_selection(population),
170                 ↪ parent_selection(population)
171             child = cross_over(parent1,parent2, STATE_SPACE, mutation_prob)
172             child_fitness = compute_fitness(child, GOAL)
173             offspring.append((child,child_fitness))
174             population = update_population_plus(population, offspring)
175             #population = update_population_comma(offspring)
176             best_curr = sorted(population, key=lambda l:l[1], reverse=True)[0]
177             mutation_prob, mutation_param = update_mutation_prob(best_sol, best_curr,
178                 ↪ mutation_param, i)
179             if goal_check(best_curr[0],GOAL) and best_curr[1] > best_sol[1]:
180                 best_sol = best_curr
181                 found_in_iter = i
182             logging.info(f'Best solution found in {found_in_iter} iters and has weight
183                 ↪ {-best_sol[1][1]}')
184         return best_sol
185
186 # main
187
188 # settings
189 POPULATION_SIZE = 50
190 OFFSPRING_SIZE = 30
191 ITERES = 100
192
193 for N in [5,10,20,50,100,1000,2000]:
194     best_sol = solve_problem(N)
195     print(f'N = {N}')
196     logging.info(f'The best weight for N = {N}: {-best_sol[1][1]+N}')

```

Hi Karl,

Here's my review about your approach to lab 2. The key positives (cosmetic and logical):

1. The notebook is well-documented and cells are used appropriately. I also like that you described the steps of the algorithm before implementing it.
2. You were the only other person who compared both the (parent, offspring) and (parent + offspring) method for the algorithm. As evident in the results, parent + offspring produced more optimal weights for smaller values of  $N$ .
3. Parent selection also accounts for the second and third-best genomes, which



could add more diversity to the selection algorithm. I don't fully understand how your wheel selection works and would love to read more about this either through comments/README.

Potential Improvements:

1. Your fitness function also includes duplicates, which can be detrimental to the optimality of any solution, and using a tuple is a good idea. You could also try different mathematical heuristic-like combinations of these various factors, like subtracting/dividing.

```
1      # it is worse to lack elements than having duplicates
2      fitness = (-len(vc), -duplicates)
3      return fitness
```

2. Only one type of mutation is used, so you could try multiple different mutation methods and randomly choose between them. Specific methods are more aggressive than others, so the choice between methods could also be based on fitness improvement.

4. The mutation probability is constant, and could potentially be dynamic, with the same intuition behind (2) above. In cases where the fitness is worsening, you could mutate more aggressively, and when it's time to exploit, it could be reduced as a solution is nearing.

```
1  def cross_over(parent1, parent2, STATE_SPACE):
2      cut1 = random.randint(0, len(parent1[0]))
3      cut2 = random.randint(0, len(parent2[0]))
4      child = parent1[0][:cut1] + parent2[0][cut2:]
5      # dynamic_threshold = do some computation here to derive probability from the
6      ↪ change in fitness
7      # if random.random() < dynamic_threshold
7          mutate(child, STATE_SPACE)
8      return child
```

6. You could experiment with different combinations of crossover and mutation, based on different probabilities instead of simply crossover followed by mutation. Certain evolution methods are more aggressive than others, so this could mix it up a bit.

All in all, good job!

### 3.6.3 Ricardo

Ricardo's code

```

1  from itertools import compress
2  from collections import namedtuple
3  N = 5
4  POPULATION_SIZE = 10
5  OFFSPRING_SIZE = 2
6  GENERATIONS = 5
7  PROB = 0.5 # probability to choose 1 for each one of the locus in the
   ↪ population
8  Individual = namedtuple('Individual', ('genome', 'fitness', 'goal_reached',
   ↪ 'w'))
9  # this function evaluates the fitness and if the goal was reached
10 def fitness_goal_eval(list_of_lists, genome, goal):
11     current_goal = goal
12     solution = list(compress(list_of_lists, genome))
13     # fitness = 0
14     new_elements = 0
15     repeated_elements = 0
16     w = 0
17     goal_reached = False
18
19     if len(solution) == 0:
20         return 0, False, 0
21
22     for list_ in solution:
23         list_length = len(list_)
24         list_ = set(list_)
25         cg_length = len(current_goal)
26         current_goal = current_goal - list_
27         cg_new_length = len(current_goal)
28
29         # fitness += cg_length - cg_new_length # new elements (positive)
30         # fitness += (cg_length - cg_new_length) - list_length # repeated
   ↪ elements (negative)
31         new_elements += cg_length - cg_new_length # new elements
32         repeated_elements += list_length - (cg_length - cg_new_length) #
   ↪ repeated elements
33
34         w += list_length
35
36     if cg_new_length == 0:
37         goal_reached = True
38
39     fitness = new_elements - repeated_elements
40
41     return fitness, goal_reached, w
42
43
44 def generate_population(list_of_lists, goal):
45     population = list()
46

```

```

47     genomes = [tuple(random.choices([1, 0], weights=(PROB,1-PROB),
48         ↪ k=len(list_of_lists))) for _ in range(POPULATION_SIZE)]
49
50     for genome in genomes:
51         fitness, goal_reached, w = fitness_goal_eval(list_of_lists, genome,
52             ↪ goal)
53         population.append(Individual(genome, fitness, goal_reached, w))
54     return population
55
56 def select_parent(population, tournament_size=2):
57     subset = random.choices(population, k=tournament_size)
58     return max(subset, key=lambda i: i.fitness)
59
60 def cross_over(p1, p2, genome_size, list_of_lists, goal):
61     g1, f1 = p1.genome, p1.fitness
62     g2, f2 = p2.genome, p2.fitness
63     cut = int((f1+1e-6)/(f1+f2+1e-6)*genome_size) # the cut is proportional
64     ↪ to the fitness of the genome
65     ng1 = g1[:cut] + g2[cut:]
66     return ng1
67
68 def mutation(g, genome_size, k=1): # for larger N try to eliminate some of the
69     ↪ 1 in the genome because the bloat was getting to high
70     for _ in range(k):
71         cut = random.randint(1, genome_size)
72         if N < 20:
73             ng = g[:cut-1] + (1-g[cut-1],) + g[cut:]
74         elif N < 500:
75             cut_size = int(genome_size*0.2)
76             new_genome_cut = tuple(random.choices([1, 0], weights=(1, 39),
77                 ↪ k=2*cut_size))
78             ng = g[:cut-1-cut_size] + new_genome_cut + g[cut+cut_size:]
79         else:
80             cut_size = int(genome_size*0.2)
81             new_genome_cut = tuple(random.choices([1, 0], weights=(1, 99),
82                 ↪ k=2*cut_size))
83             ng = g[:cut-1-cut_size] + new_genome_cut + g[cut+cut_size:]
84     return ng
85
86 def genetic_algorithm():
87     # create problem
88     list_of_lists = problem(N, seed=42)
89     genome_size = len(list_of_lists)
90     goal = set(range(N))
91
92     # create the population
93     population = generate_population(list_of_lists, goal)

```

```

91     for g in range(GENERATIONS):
92         population = sorted(population, key=lambda i: i.fitness,
93                               ↪ reverse=True)[:POPULATION_SIZE-OFFSPRING_SIZE]
94
95         for i in range(OFFSPRING_SIZE):
96             p1 = select_parent(population,
97                               ↪ tournament_size=int(0.2*genome_size))
98             p2 = select_parent(population,
99                               ↪ tournament_size=int(0.2*genome_size))
100             o = cross_over(p1, p2, genome_size, list_of_lists, goal)
101             fitness, goal_reached, w = fitness_goal_eval(list_of_lists, o,
102                                                           ↪ goal)
103             o = mutation(o, genome_size, k=2)
104
105             population.append(Individual(o, fitness, goal_reached, w))
106
107     for i in population:
108         if i.goal_reached:
109             return i, population
110
111     print(f"No solution for current population (N={N})")
112     return None, population
113
114 N = 500
115 POPULATION_SIZE = 100
116 OFFSPRING_SIZE = 20
117 GENERATIONS = 200
118 PROB = 0.5
119
120 logging.getLogger().setLevel(logging.INFO)
121
122 solution, population = genetic_algorithm()
123 if solution != None:
124     logging.info(
125         f" Genetic algorithm solution for N={N:,}: "
126         + f"fitness={solution.fitness:,} "
127         + f"w={solution.w:,} "
128         + f"(bloat={solution.w/N*100:.0f}%) "
129     )
130     INFO:root: Genetic algorithm solution for N=500: fitness=-1,980 w=2,980
131     ↪ (bloat=596%)
132     POPULATION_SIZE = 50
133     OFFSPRING_SIZE = 20
134     GENERATIONS = 200
135     PROB = 0.5
136
137     logging.getLogger().setLevel(logging.INFO)
138
139     for N in [5, 10, 20, 100, 500, 1000]:

```

```

136     solution, population = genetic_algorithm()
137     if solution != None:
138         logging.info(
139             f" Genetic algorithm solution for N={N:,}: "
140             + f"fitness={solution.fitness:,} "
141             + f"w={solution.w:,} "
142             + f"(bloat={solution.w/N*100:.0f}%) "
143         )

```

Hi Ricardo,

Here is my review pertaining to your approach to Lab 2.

Positives (both cosmetic and logical):

1. Your dynamic mutation method where you changed the strategy for different values of  $N$  is quite interesting. Larger  $N$  values will have 1s removed more aggressively, which is quite intuitive. Though this is not completely "dynamic", it is a good start. Just like your crossover is proportional to fitness, the same could be done for the "aggression" of the mutation.

```

1     if N < 20:
2         ng = g[:cut-1] + (1-g[cut-1],) + g[cut:]
3     elif N< 500:
4         cut_size = int(genome_size*0.2)
5         new_genome_cut = tuple(random.choices([1, 0], weights=(1, 39),
6             ↪ k=2*cut_size))
7         ng = g[:cut-1-cut_size] + new_genome_cut + g[cut+cut_size:]
8     else:
9         cut_size = int(genome_size*0.2)
10        new_genome_cut = tuple(random.choices([1, 0], weights=(1, 99),
11            ↪ k=2*cut_size))
12        ng = g[:cut-1-cut_size] + new_genome_cut + g[cut+cut_size:]

```

> A quick tip: both the 'elif' and 'else' have the same code block, so it could just be an 'if' an 'else'.

2. The tournament size dynamically changes based on the genome size. Yuri et al. (2018) advocated against the indiscriminate tournament size of  $k = 2$ .

3. The fitness function seems to be heuristic-like, considering both the number of new and repeated elements.

4. You used a list of 0s and 1s as binary indicators of whether to take a list in the subset. I feel that this is an efficient and intuitive representation.

5. You added an extra attribute 'goal\_reached' to each element of the population, so when you loop through to find the final solution at the end, you not only get a working solution, but the one which produces the highest fitness.

Things to look at:

1. A mutation of some form is *\*always\** applied in each generation after

crossover. To balance between exploitation and exploration, you could choose to mutate based on a random probability/change of the fitness function. I personally found that aggressive mutations worked well in early generations, but as minima is nearing, continually mutating did not improve the solution. One option is to choose between (i) crossover only, (ii) crossover then mutate, (iii) mutate only, etc. in each generation.

```
1 if random.random() < threshold or some_fitness_based_condition:
2     # crossover
3 elif random.random() < threshold:
4     # crossover + mutate
5 elif ....:
6     # mutate
```

2. MINOR- Reporting results in a table in the README makes it easier to compare.

All in all, good job!

### 3.6.4 Francesco

Francesco's code

```
1 import random
2 import logging
3 import numpy as np
4 from collections import namedtuple
5 def problem(N, seed=None):
6     random.seed(seed)
7     return [
8         list(set(random.randint(0, N - 1) for n in range(random.randint(N // 5,
9             ↪ N // 2))))
10        for n in range(random.randint(N, N * 5))
11    ]
12 def tournament(population, tournament_size=2):
13     return max(random.choices(population, k=tournament_size), key=lambda i:
14         ↪ i.fitness)
15
16 def w(genome):
17     return sum(len(_) for _ in genome)
18
19 def covering(genome):
20     s = set()
21     for _ in genome:
22         s = s.union(set(_))
23     return len(s)
24
25 def intersection(lst1, lst2):
```

```

24     lst3 = [value for value in lst1 if value in lst2]
25     return lst3
26
27 def shuffle(g1,g2,g3):
28     a = [l for l in g1 if l not in g3]
29     b = [l for l in g2 if l not in g3]
30     gnew = g3.copy()
31
32     if a:
33         c = 1
34     else:
35         c = 0
36     for i in range(max(len(a),len(b))):
37         if c :
38             if a and i < len(a):
39                 gnew.append(a[i])
40             if b:
41                 c = 0
42
43         else:
44             if b and i < len(b):
45                 gnew.append(b[i])
46             if a:
47                 c = 1
48
49     return gnew
50
51 def cross_over(g1, g2):
52     g3 = intersection(g1,g2)
53     g3 = shuffle(g1,g2,g3)
54     return g3
55
56
57 def mutation(genome):
58
59     mutation = random.choice(all_lists)
60     if mutation in genome:
61         genome.remove(mutation)
62     else:
63         genome.append(mutation)
64
65     return genome
66
67 def create_population(mu):
68     population = []
69     for i in range(mu):
70         g = []
71         while covering(g) != N:
72             if len(g) < N*2:
73                 r = random.choice(all_lists)

```

```

74         if r not in g:
75             g.append(r)
76         else:
77             g = []
78         population.append(g)
79     return [Individual(g, tuple((covering(g), -w(g)))) for g in population]
80 N = 1000
81 all_lists = problem(N, seed=42)
82 Individual = namedtuple("Individual", ["genome", "fitness"])
83 mu = 2000
84 GENERATIONS = 100
85 OFFSPRINGS_SIZE = 1100
86 population = create_population(mu)
87
88 for g in range(GENERATIONS):
89     new_population = []
90     for _ in range(OFFSPRINGS_SIZE):
91         o = []
92         if random.random() < 0.001:
93             p = tournament(population)
94             o = mutation(p.genome)
95         else:
96             p1 = tournament(population)
97             p2 = tournament(population)
98             o = cross_over(p1.genome, p2.genome)
99         new_population.append(Individual(o, tuple((covering(o), -w(o)))))
100     population += new_population
101     population = sorted(population, key= lambda i : i.fitness,
102                        ↪ reverse=True)[:mu]
103
104 print(f'w={w(population[0].genome)}, cov={covering(population[0].genome)}')

```

Hi Francesco,

Here is my quick review pertaining to your approach to Lab 2.

Positives (both cosmetic and logical):

1. The README was well-documented and I was able to come close to your best results when running the notebook locally with the specified hyperparameters.

2. The shuffling after the intersection seems to add a sort of random diversity to the evolved set, so that is great. I'll take inspiration from this. However, I don't fully understand the mechanism of the shuffle function. It would be great if I could read some comments or if the variables  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  could be renamed.

3. The hyperparameters like offspring size were varied for different sizes of  $N$ , which was the same thing I did. I was wondering if there was an intuition for choosing certain values. This could be explained in the README.

Some things to look at:



1. Mutations are rarely applied in each generation (at an extremely low probability of 0.001). I recall there was a discussion on the Telegram group about the detrimental effect mutating had on the final solution, so I understand why you might have done this. However, I found that mutating in early generations helps improve exploration power.

2. A constant ‘tournament\_size’ of 2 is used for all values of  $N$ . Although early papers suggested the use of a constant, indiscriminate tournament size, recent papers like Yuri et al. advocated for adapting this parameter. I also used a constant size in my work, but this is something we can look at.

3. In the instances where mutation is done, only one type of mutation is used. You could try a diverse mix of mutation strategies like flipping, inversion, scrambling, etc. Since mutations haven’t worked too well for you so far, the choice of strategy and aggression could be something to explore.

4. Runtime is rather slow for large values of  $N$ , which was the same case for me. This could also be because of the large number of generations (2000) the solution has to iterate through.

All in all, good job.

## 4 Lab 3

Nim is a simple game where two players take turns removing objects from a pile. The player who removes the last object wins. The game is described in detail here. There is a mathematical strategy to win Nim, by ensuring you always leave the opponent with a nim-sum number of objects (groups of 1, 2 and 4).

In this notebook, we will play nim-sum using the following agents:

1. An agent using fixed rules based on nim-sum
2. An agent using evolved rules
3. An agent using minmax
4. An agent using reinforcement learning (both temporal difference learning and monte carlo learning)

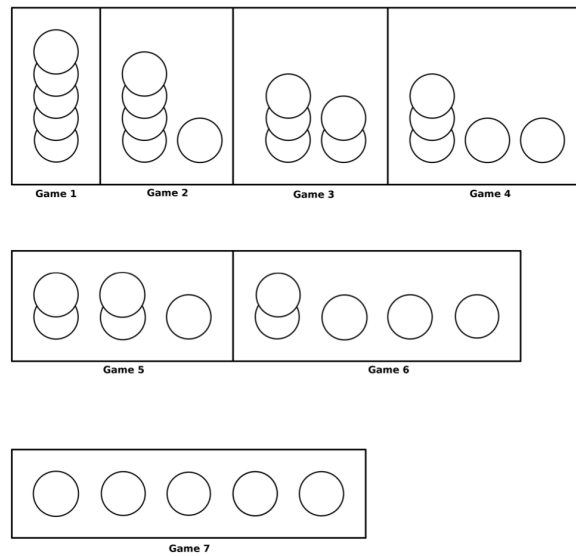
### 4.1 Solution

#### 4.1.1 Fixed Rules

I came up with multiple rules, through discussion with friends and through research papers that define fixed rules for playing Nim. There are currently 4 rules implemented. The rules are as follows:

1. If one pile, take x number of sticks from the pile.
2. If two piles, take x number of sticks from the larger pile.
3. If two piles: a. If 1 pile has 1 stick, take x sticks b. If 2 piles have multiple sticks, take x sticks from the larger pile
4. If three piles and two piles have the same size, remove all sticks from the smallest pile
5. If n piles and n-1 piles have the same size, remove x sticks from the smallest pile until it is the same size as the other piles

**Approach 1: A Lot of If-Elses** The above rules are applied directly. An if-else sequence decides which strategy to employ based on the current layout and statistics on the nim board.



Player 1 has a winning strategy for all of these games! In game 1, the first player can just take all of the stones immediately. In games 2, 3, 4, and 5, the first player should use his first move to leave his opponent with two piles of the same size, and then mirror the opponents moves for the rest of the game (this will be explained in more detail in exercise 4). In games 6 and 7, the first player should use his first move to leave his opponent with four piles with one stone each; since they each can only take one stone for each of the next four turns, player 1 will win.  $\square$

Figure 2: Fixed Rules

```

1  from collections import Counter
2  from copy import deepcopy
3  from itertools import accumulate
4  import logging
5  from operator import xor
6  import random
7  from typing import Callable
8
9  from lib import Genome, Nim, Nimply
10
11
12  class FixedRuleNim:
13      def __init__(self):
14          self.num_moves = 0
15          self.OFFSPRING_SIZE = 30
16          self.POPULATION_SIZE = 100
17          self.GENERATIONS = 100
18          self.nim_size = 5
19
20      def nim_sum(self, nim: Nim):
21          '''
22          Returns the nim sum of the current game board
23          by taking an XOR of all the rows.
24          Ideally, agent should try to leave nim sum of 0 at the end of turn
25          '''
26          *__, result = accumulate(nim.rows, xor)
27          return result

```

```

28
29     def init_population(self, population_size, nim: Nim):
30         '''
31         Initialize population of genomes,
32         key is rule, value is number of sticks to take
33         The rules currently are:
34         1. If one pile, take  $x$  number of sticks from the pile.
35         2. If two piles:
36             a. If 1 pile has 1 stick, wipe out the pile
37             b. If 2 piles have multiple sticks, take  $x$  sticks from any pile
38         3. If three piles and two piles have the same size, remove all sticks
39         ↪ from the smallest pile
40         4. If  $n$  piles and  $n-1$  piles have the same size, remove  $x$  sticks from
41         ↪ the smallest pile until it is the same size as the other piles
42         '''
43         population = []
44         for i in range(population_size):
45             # rules 3 and 4 are fixed (apply for 3 or more piles)
46             # different strategies for different rules (situations on the
47             ↪ board)
48             individual = {
49                 'rule_1': [0, random.randint(0, (nim.num_rows - 1) * 2)],
50                 'rule_2a': [random.randint(0, 1), random.randint(0,
51                 ↪ (nim.num_rows - 1) * 2)],
52                 'rule_2b': [random.randint(0, 1), random.randint(0,
53                 ↪ (nim.num_rows - 1) * 2)],
54                 'rule_3': [nim.rows.index(min(nim.rows)), min(nim.rows)],
55                 'rule_4': [nim.rows.index(max(nim.rows)), max(nim.rows) -
56                 ↪ min(nim.rows)]
57             }
58             genome = Genome(individual)
59             population.append(genome)
60         return population
61
62     def statistics(self, nim: Nim):
63         '''
64         Similar to Squillero's cooked function to get possible moves
65         and statistics on Nim board
66         '''
67         # logging.info('In statistics')
68         # logging.info(nim.rows)
69         stats = {
70             'possible_moves': [(r, o) for r, c in enumerate(nim.rows) for o
71             ↪ in range(1, c + 1) if nim.k is None or o <= nim.k],
72             # 'possible_moves': [(row, num_objects) for row in
73             ↪ range(nim.num_rows) for num_objects in range(1,
74             ↪ nim.rows[row]+1)],
75             'num_active_rows': sum(o > 0 for o in nim.rows),
76             'shortest_row': min((x for x in enumerate(nim.rows) if x[1] > 0),
77             ↪ key=lambda y: y[1])[0],

```

```

68         'longest_row': max((x for x in enumerate(nim.rows)), key=lambda
        ↪ y: y[1])[0],
69         # only 1-stick row and not all rows having only 1 stick
70         '1_stick_row': any([1 for x in nim.rows if x == 1]) and not
        ↪ all([1 for x in nim.rows if x == 1]),
71         'nim_sum': self.nim_sum(nim)
72     }
73
74     brute_force = []
75     for move in stats['possible_moves']:
76         tmp = deepcopy(nim)
77         tmp.nimming_remove(*move)
78         brute_force.append((move, self.nim_sum(tmp)))
79     stats['brute_force'] = brute_force
80
81     return stats
82
83     def strategy(self):
84         '''
85         Returns the best move to make based on the statistics
86         '''
87     def engine(nim: Nim):
88         stats = self.statistics(nim)
89         if stats['num_active_rows'] == 1:
90             # logging.info('m1')
91             return Nimply(stats['shortest_row'], random.randint(1,
92             ↪ stats['possible_moves'][0][1]))
93         elif stats["num_active_rows"] % 2 == 0:
94             # logging.info('m2')
95             if max(nim.rows) == 1:
96                 return Nimply(stats['longest_row'], 1)
97             else:
98                 pile = random.choice([i for i, x in enumerate(nim.rows)
99                 ↪ if x > 1])
100                 return Nimply(pile, nim.rows[pile] - 1)
101         elif stats['num_active_rows'] == 3:
102             # logging.info('m3')
103             unique_elements = set(nim.rows)
104             # check if 2 rows have the same number of sticks
105             two_rows_with_same_elements = False
106             for element in unique_elements:
107                 if nim.rows.count(element) == 2:
108                     two_rows_with_same_elements = True
109                     break
110
111             if len(nim.rows) == 3 and two_rows_with_same_elements:
112                 # remove 1 stick from the longest row
113                 logging.info(nim.rows)
114                 return Nimply(stats['longest_row'], max(max(nim.rows) -
115                 ↪ nim.rows[stats['shortest_row']], 1))

```

```

113         else:
114             # do something random
115             return Nimply(*random.choice(stats['possible_moves']))
116     elif stats['num_active_rows'] >= 4:
117         # logging.info('m4')
118         counter = Counter()
119         for element in nim.rows:
120             counter[element] += 1
121         if len(counter) == 2:
122             if counter.most_common()[0][1] == 1:
123                 # remove x sticks from the smallest pile until it is
124                 # → the same size as the other piles
125                 return Nimply(stats['shortest_row'],
126                               # → max(nim.rows[stats['shortest_row']] -
127                               # → counter.most_common()[1][0], 1))
128                 return random.choice(stats['possible_moves'])
129         else:
130             # logging.info('m5')
131             return random.choice(stats['possible_moves'])
132     return engine
133
134 def random_agent(self, nim: Nim):
135     """
136     Random agent that takes a random move
137     """
138     stats = self.statistics(nim)
139     return random.choice(stats['possible_moves'])
140
141 def battle(self, opponent, num_games=1000):
142     """
143     Battle this agent against another agent
144     """
145     wins = 0
146     for _ in range(num_games):
147         nim = Nim()
148         while not nim.goal():
149             nim.nimming_remove(*self.play(nim))
150             if sum(nim.rows) == 0:
151                 break
152             nim.nimming_remove(*opponent.play(nim))
153             if sum(nim.rows) == 0:
154                 wins += 1
155     return wins
156
157 if __name__ == '__main__':
158     rounds = 20
159     evolved_agent_wins = 0
160     for i in range(rounds):
161         nim = Nim(5)
162         orig = nim.rows

```

```

160         fixedrule = FixedRuleNim()
161         engine = fixedrule.strategy()
162
163         # play against random
164         player = 0
165         while not nim.goal():
166             if player == 0:
167                 move = engine(nim)
168                 logging.info('move of player 1: ', move)
169                 nim.nimming_remove(*move)
170                 player = 1
171                 logging.info("After Player 1 made move: ", nim.rows)
172             else:
173                 move = fixedrule.random_agent(nim)
174                 logging.info('move of player 2: ', move)
175                 nim.nimming_remove(*move)
176                 player = 0
177                 logging.info("After Player 2 made move: ", nim.rows)
178         winner = 1 - player
179         if winner == 0:
180             evolved_agent_wins += 1
181         logging.info(f'Fixed rule agent won {evolved_agent_wins} out of {rounds}
    ↪ games')

```

## Approach 2: Nim-Sum Will always win

```

1  from copy import deepcopy
2  from itertools import accumulate
3  from operator import xor
4  import random
5  import logging
6  from lib import Nim
7
8  # 3.1: Agent Using Fixed Rules
9  class ExpertNimSumAgent:
10     '''
11     Play the game of Nim using a fixed rule
12     (always leave nim-sum at the end of turn)
13     '''
14     def __init__(self):
15         self.num_moves = 0
16
17     def nim_sum(self, nim: Nim):
18         '''
19         Returns the nim sum of the current game board
20         by taking an XOR of all the rows.
21         Ideally, agent should try to leave nim sum of 0 at the end of turn
22         '''
23         *__, result = accumulate(nim.rows, xor)

```

```

24         return result
25         # return sum([i~r for i, r in enumerate(nim._rows)])
26
27     def play(self, nim: Nim):
28         # remove objects from row to make nim-sum 0
29         nim_sum = self.nim_sum(nim)
30         all_possible_moves = [(r, o) for r, c in enumerate(nim.rows) for o in
31                               ↪ range(1, c+1)]
32         move_found = False
33         for move in all_possible_moves:
34             replicated_nim = deepcopy(nim)
35             replicated_nim.nimming_remove(*move)
36             if self.nim_sum(replicated_nim) == 0:
37                 nim.nimming_remove(*move)
38                 move_found = True
39                 break
40         # if a valid move not found, return random move
41         if not move_found:
42             move = random.choice(all_possible_moves)
43             nim.nimming_remove(*move)
44
45         # logging.info(f"Move {self.num_moves}: Removed {move[1]} objects from
46         ↪ row {move[0]}")
47         self.num_moves += 1

```

#### 4.1.2 Evolved Agent Approach 1

The rules are evolved using a genetic algorithm. A dictionary of strategies is evolved. The key is the rule (scenario/antecedent). The value is the maximum number of sticks to leave on the board in this scenario.

For instance, for rule 1, the value tuned is the in "If one pile, leave a max of x sticks in the pile".

```

rule_strategy = {
    "one_pile": 2,
    "two_piles": 3,
    "three_piles": 3,
    "n_piles": 4
}

# after mutation / crossover
rule_strategy = {
    "one_pile": 3,
    "two_piles": 2,
    "three_piles": 3,

```



Opponent 1	Opponent 2	Win Rate
Evolved	Random	70%

```

    "n_piles": 4
}

```

Mutation essentially swaps the values in the dictionaries. Crossover takes two parents and randomly chooses strategies for different rules. Intuitively, the machine tries to learn the best strategy for each scenario on the board.

```

1      '''
2      In this file, I will try to implement Nim where there is an evolved set of
3      ↪ rules/strategies.
4      For each scenario, I will have a set of rules that will be used to determine the
5      ↪ best move.
6      They are obtained from discussion with friends and from the paper "The Game of
7      ↪ Nim" by Ryan Julian
8      The rules currently are:
9      1. If one pile, take  $x$  number of sticks from the pile.
10     2. If two piles:
11         a. If 1 pile has 1 stick, take  $x$  sticks
12         b. If 2 piles have multiple sticks, take  $x$  sticks from the larger pile
13     3. If three piles and two piles have the same size, remove all sticks from the
14     ↪ smallest pile
15     4. If  $n$  piles and  $n-1$  piles have the same size, remove  $x$  sticks from the smallest
16     ↪ pile until it is the same size as the other piles
17     '''
18
19     from collections import Counter, namedtuple
20     from copy import deepcopy
21     from itertools import accumulate
22     import logging
23     from operator import xor
24     import random
25     from typing import Callable
26
27     from lib import Genome, Nim, Nimply
28
29     class BrilliantEvolvedAgent:
30         def __init__(self):
31             self.num_moves = 0
32             self.OFFSPRING_SIZE = 200
33             self.POPULATION_SIZE = 50
34             self.GENERATIONS = 100
35             self.nim_size = 5
36
37         def nim_sum(self, nim: Nim):
38             '''
39             Returns the nim sum of the current game board

```

```

35         by taking an XOR of all the rows.
36         Ideally, agent should try to leave nim sum of 0 at the end of turn
37         '''
38         *_ , result = accumulate(nim.rows, xor)
39         return result
40
41     def init_population(self, population_size, nim: Nim):
42         '''
43         Initialize population of genomes,
44         key is rule, value is number of sticks to take
45         The rules currently are:
46         1. If one pile, take  $x$  number of sticks from the pile.
47         2. If two piles:
48             a. If 1 pile has 1 stick, wipe out the pile
49             b. If 2 piles have multiple sticks, take  $x$  sticks from any pile
50         3. If three piles and two piles have the same size, remove all sticks
51         ↪ from the smallest pile
52         4. If  $n$  piles and  $n-1$  piles have the same size, remove  $x$  sticks from the
53         ↪ smallest pile until it is the same size as the other piles
54         5. If none of the above rules apply, just pick a random pile and take a
55         ↪ random number of sticks
56         '''
57         population = []
58         for i in range(population_size):
59             # rules 3 and 4 are fixed (apply for 3 or more piles)
60             # different strategies for different rules (situations on the board)
61             individual = {
62                 'rule_1': [0, random.randint(0, (self.nim_size - 1) * 2)],
63                 'rule_2a': [random.randint(0, 1), random.randint(0,
64                 ↪ (self.nim_size - 1) * 2)],
65                 'rule_2b': [random.randint(0, 1), random.randint(0,
66                 ↪ (self.nim_size - 1) * 2)],
67                 'rule_3': [nim.rows.index(min(nim.rows)), min(nim.rows)],
68                 'rule_4': [nim.rows.index(max(nim.rows)), max(nim.rows) -
69                 ↪ min(nim.rows)]
70             }
71             genome = Genome(individual)
72             population.append(genome)
73         return population
74
75     def crossover(self, parent1, parent2, crossover_rate):
76         '''
77         Crossover function to combine two parents into a child
78         '''
79         child = {}
80         for rule in parent1.rules:
81             if random.random() < crossover_rate:
82                 child[rule] = parent1.rules[rule]
83             else:
84                 child[rule] = parent2.rules[rule]

```

```

79         return Genome(child)
80
81     def tournament_selection(self, population, tournament_size):
82         '''
83         Tournament selection to select the best genomes
84         '''
85         tournament = random.sample(population, tournament_size)
86         tournament.sort(key=lambda x: x.fitness, reverse=True)
87         return tournament[0]
88
89     def mutate(self, genome: Genome, mutation_rate=0.5):
90         '''
91         Mutate the genome by switching one of the rules (can end up in something
↪ stupid like removing more sticks than there are, but this is checked in the
↪ strategy function)
92         '''
93         rule = random.choice(list(genome.rules.keys()))
94         # swap some keys
95         if rule == 'rule_1':
96             genome.rules[rule] = [0, random.randint(0, (self.nim_size - 1) * 2)]
97         elif rule == 'rule_2a':
98             genome.rules[rule] = [random.randint(0, 1), random.randint(0,
↪ (self.nim_size - 1) * 2)]
99         elif rule == 'rule_2b':
100             genome.rules[rule] = [random.randint(0, 1), random.randint(0,
↪ (self.nim_size - 1) * 2)]
101         elif rule == 'rule_3':
102             genome.rules[rule] = [random.randint(0, self.nim_size - 1),
↪ random.randint(0, (self.nim_size - 1) * 2)]
103         elif rule == 'rule_4':
104             genome.rules[rule] = [random.randint(0, self.nim_size - 1),
↪ random.randint(0, (self.nim_size - 1) * 2)]
105         return genome
106         # rule = random.choice(list(genome.rules.keys()))
107         # if random.random() < mutation_rate:
108         #     genome.rules[rule] = [random.randint(0, 1), random.randint(0,
↪ self.nim_size * 2)]
109         # return genome
110         # rule = random.choice(list(genome.keys()))
111         # genome[rule] = random.randint(1, 10)
112
113     def statistics(self, nim: Nim):
114         '''
115         Similar to Squillero's cooked function to get possible moves
116         and statistics on Nim board
117         '''
118         stats = {
119             'possible_moves': [(r, o) for r, c in enumerate(nim.rows) for o in
↪ range(1, c + 1) if nim.k is None or o <= nim.k],

```

```

120     # 'possible_moves': [(row, num_objects) for row in
    ↪ range(nim.num_rows) for num_objects in range(1,
    ↪ nim.rows[row]+1)],
121     'num_active_rows': sum(o > 0 for o in nim.rows),
122     'shortest_row': min((x for x in enumerate(nim.rows) if x[1] > 0),
    ↪ key=lambda y: y[1])[0],
123     'longest_row': max((x for x in enumerate(nim.rows)), key=lambda y:
    ↪ y[1])[0],
124     # only 1-stick row and not all rows having only 1 stick
125     '1_stick_row': any([1 for x in nim.rows if x == 1]) and not all([1
    ↪ for x in nim.rows if x == 1]),
126     'nim_sum': self.nim_sum(nim)
127 }
128
129 brute_force = []
130 for move in stats['possible_moves']:
131     tmp = deepcopy(nim)
132     tmp.nimming_remove(*move)
133     brute_force.append((move, self.nim_sum(tmp)))
134 stats['brute_force'] = brute_force
135
136 return stats
137
138 def strategy(self, genome: dict):
139     '''
140     Returns the best move to make based on the statistics
141     '''
142     def evolution(nim: Nim):
143         stats = self.statistics(nim)
144         if stats['num_active_rows'] == 1:
145             num_to_leave = genome.rules['rule_1'][1]
146             # see which move will leave the most sticks
147             most_destructive_move = max(stats['possible_moves'], key=lambda
    ↪ x: x[1])
148             if num_to_leave >= most_destructive_move[1]:
149                 # remove only 1 stick
150                 return Nimply(most_destructive_move[0], 1)
151             else:
152                 # make the move that leaves the desired number of sticks
153                 move = [(row, num_objects) for row, num_objects in
    ↪ stats['possible_moves'] if nim.rows[row] - num_objects ==
    ↪ num_to_leave]
154                 if len(move) > 0:
155                     return Nimply(*move[0])
156                 else:
157                     # make random move
158                     return Nimply(*random.choice(stats['possible_moves']))
159
160         elif stats['num_active_rows'] == 2:
161             # rule 2a

```

```

162     if stats['1_stick_row']:
163         # if there is a 1-stick row, have to choose between wiping it
164         ↪ out or taking from the other row
165     if genome.rules['rule_2a'][0] == 0:
166         # wipe out the 1-stick row
167         logging.info('wiping out 1-stick row')
168         pile = [row for row in range(nim.num_rows) if
169         ↪ nim.rows[row] == 1][0]
170         return Nimply(pile, 1)
171     else:
172         # take out the desired number of sticks from the other
173         ↪ row
174         pile = random.choice([index for index, x in
175         ↪ enumerate(nim.rows) if x > 1])
176         num_objects_to_remove = max(1, nim.rows[pile] -
177         ↪ genome.rules['rule_2a'][1])
178         # move = [(row, num_objects) for row, num_objects in
179         ↪ stats['possible_moves'] if nim.rows[row] -
180         ↪ num_objects == genome.rules['rule_2a'][1]]
181         return Nimply(pile, num_objects_to_remove)
182 # rule 2b
183 # both piles have many elements, take from either the smallest or
184 ↪ the largest pile
185 else:
186     if genome.rules['rule_2b'][0] == 0:
187         # take from the smallest pile
188         pile = stats['shortest_row']
189         num_objects_to_remove = max(1, nim.rows[pile] -
190         ↪ genome.rules['rule_2b'][1])
191         return Nimply(pile, num_objects_to_remove)
192     else:
193         # take from the largest pile
194         pile = stats['longest_row']
195         num_objects_to_remove = max(1, nim.rows[pile] -
196         ↪ genome.rules['rule_2b'][1])
197         return Nimply(pile, num_objects_to_remove)
198
199 elif stats['num_active_rows'] == 3:
200     unique_elements = set(nim.rows)
201     # check if 2 rows have the same number of sticks
202     two_rows_with_same_elements = False
203     for element in unique_elements:
204         if nim.rows.count(element) == 2:
205             two_rows_with_same_elements = True
206             break
207
208     if len(nim.rows) == 3 and two_rows_with_same_elements:
209         # remove 1 stick from the longest row
210         return Nimply(stats['longest_row'], max(max(nim.rows) -
211         ↪ nim.rows[stats['shortest_row']], 1))

```

```

201         else:
202             # do something random
203             return Nimply(*random.choice(stats['possible_moves']))
204
205     counter = Counter()
206     for element in nim.rows:
207         counter[element] += 1
208     if len(counter) == 2:
209         if counter.most_common()[0][1] == 1:
210             # remove x sticks from the smallest pile until it is the same
211             ↪ size as the other piles
212             return Nimply(stats['shortest_row'],
213                 ↪ max(nim.rows[stats['shortest_row']] -
214                 ↪ counter.most_common()[1][0], 1))
215         # else:
216         #     return random.choice(stats['possible_moves'])
217
218     # for large number of piles, general rule to remove all but 1 stick
219     ↪ from a random pile
220     if stats["num_active_rows"] % 2 == 0:
221         if nim.rows[stats['longest_row']] == 1:
222             return Nimply(stats['longest_row'], 1)
223         else:
224             pile = random.choice([i for i, x in enumerate(nim.rows) if x
225                 ↪ > 1])
226             return Nimply(pile, nim.rows[pile] - 1)
227
228     else:
229         # this is a fixed rule, does not have random component
230         # rule from the paper Ryan Julian: The Game of Nim
231         # If n piles and n-1 piles have the same size, remove x sticks
232         ↪ from the smallest pile until it is the same size as the other
233         ↪ piles
234         # check if only 1 pile has a different number of sticks
235         # just make a random move if all else fails
236         return random.choice(stats['possible_moves'])
237     return evolution
238
239 def random_agent(self, nim: Nim):
240     """
241     Random agent that takes a random move
242     """
243     stats = self.statistics(nim)
244     return random.choice(stats['possible_moves'])
245
246 def dumb_agent(self, nim: Nim):
247     """
248     Agent that takes one element from the longest row
249     """
250     stats = self.statistics(nim)

```

```

244         return (stats['longest_row'], 1)
245
246     def aggressive_agent(self, nim: Nim):
247         '''
248         Agent that takes the largest possible move
249         '''
250         stats = self.statistics(nim)
251         if stats['num_active_rows'] % 2 == 0:
252             return random.choice(stats['possible_moves'])
253         else:
254             row = stats['longest_row']
255             return (row, nim.rows[row])
256
257         # stats = self.statistics(nim)
258         # return max(stats['possible_moves'], key=lambda x: x[1])
259
260     def calculate_fitness(self, genome):
261         '''
262         Calculate fitness by playing the genome's strategy against a random
263         ↪ agent
264         (cannot use nim sum agent as it is too good)
265         '''
266         wins = 0
267         for i in range(5):
268             nim = Nim(5)
269             player = 0
270             engine = self.strategy(genome)
271             while not nim.goal():
272                 if player == 0:
273                     move = engine(nim)
274                     nim.nimming_remove(*move)
275                     player = 1
276                 else:
277                     nim.nimming_remove(*self.random_agent(nim))
278                     player = 0
279             winner = 1 - player
280             if winner == 0:
281                 wins += 1
282         return wins / 5
283
284     def select_survivors(self, population: list, num_survivors: int):
285         '''
286         Select the best genomes from the population
287         '''
288         return sorted(population, key=lambda x: x.fitness,
289             ↪ reverse=True)[:num_survivors]
290
291     def learn(self, population_size=100, mutation_rate=0.1, crossover_rate=0.7,
292         ↪ nim: Nim = None):
293         initial_population = self.init_population(population_size, nim)

```

```

291     for genome in initial_population:
292         genome.fitness = self.calculate_fitness(genome)
293     for i in range(self.GENERATIONS):
294         # logging.info(f'Generation {i}')
295         new_offspring = []
296         for j in range(self.OFFSPRING_SIZE):
297             parent1 = random.choice(initial_population)
298             parent2 = random.choice(initial_population)
299             child = self.crossover(parent1, parent2, crossover_rate)
300             child = self.mutate(child)
301             new_offspring.append(child)
302         initial_population += new_offspring
303         initial_population = self.select_survivors(initial_population,
304             ↪ population_size)
304     best_strategy = initial_population[0]
305     return best_strategy
306
307     def battle(self, opponent, num_games=1000):
308         '''
309         Battle this agent against another agent
310         '''
311         wins = 0
312         for _ in range(num_games):
313             nim = Nim()
314             while not nim.goal():
315                 nim.nimming_remove(*self.play(nim))
316                 if sum(nim.rows) == 0:
317                     break
318                 nim.nimming_remove(*opponent.play(nim))
319                 if sum(nim.rows) == 0:
320                     wins += 1
321         return wins
322
323     if __name__ == '__main__':
324         rounds = 20
325         evolved_agent_wins = 0
326         for i in range(rounds):
327             nim = Nim(5)
328             orig = nim.rows
329             brilliantagent = BrilliantEvolvedAgent()
330             best_strategy = brilliantagent.learn(nim=nim)
331             engine = brilliantagent.strategy(best_strategy)
332
333             # play against random
334             player = 0
335             while not nim.goal():
336                 if player == 0:
337                     move = engine(nim)
338                     logging.info('move of player 1: ', move)
339                     nim.nimming_remove(*move)

```



```

340         player = 1
341         logging.info("After Player 1 made move: ", nim.rows)
342     else:
343         move = brilliantagent.random_agent(nim)
344         logging.info('move of player 2: ', move)
345         nim.nimming_remove(*move)
346         player = 0
347         logging.info("After Player 2 made move: ", nim.rows)
348     winner = 1 - player
349     if winner == 0:
350         evolved_agent_wins += 1
351     logging.info(f'Evolved agent won {evolved_agent_wins} out of {rounds} games')

```

#### 4.1.3 Evolved Agent Approach 2 (Probability Thresholds)

Strategies were originally chosen based on probability thresholds and a random number. The list of probabilities (thresholds) are evolved using a genetic algorithm. *Intuitively, the machine tries to learn the best probability of choosing each strategy, regardless of the rule.*

```

1     thresholds = [p1, p2, p3]
2     if random.random() < p1:
3         # strategy 1...
4     elif random.random() < p2:
5         # strategy 2...
6     else:
7         # strategy 3...
8
9     class GA:
10         ...
11
12     GA.evolve(thresholds)

```

I discussed this approach with both Prof. Squillero and Calabrese. They both agreed that this was worth exploring. However, upon implementing, I realised that tuning probability thresholds produces poor, near-random performance, *as the system is making decisions without any knowledge of the current situation on the board, or any knowledge of the rules.*

```

1     # 3.2: Agent Using Evolved Rules (Randomly Chooses Between Strategies Based
2     ↪ on Probabilities)
3     from itertools import accumulate
4     from operator import xor
5     import random
6     import numpy as np

```

```

7     from lib import Nim
8
9     class EvolvedAgent1:
10         '''
11         Plays Nim using a set of rules that are evolved
12         '''
13         def __init__(self):
14             self.num_moves = 0
15
16         def nim_sum(self, nim: Nim):
17             '''
18             Returns the nim sum of the current game board
19             by taking an XOR of all the rows.
20             Ideally, agent should try to leave nim sum of 0 at the end of turn
21             '''
22             *_ , result = accumulate(nim.rows, xor)
23             return result
24
25         def play_nim(self, nim: Nim, prob_list: list):
26             '''
27             GA can choose between the following strategies:
28             1. Randomly pick any row and any number of elements from that row
29             2. Pick the shortest row
30             3. Pick the longest row
31             4. Pick based on the nim-sum of the current game board
32             '''
33             all_possible_moves = [(r, o) for r, c in enumerate(nim.rows) for o in
34                                   ↪ range(1, c+1)]
35             strategies = {
36                 'nim_sum': random.choice([move for move in all_possible_moves if
37                                           ↪ self.nim_sum(deepcopy(nim).nimming_remove(*move)) == 0]),
38                 'random': random.choice(all_possible_moves),
39                 'all_elements_shortest_row': (nim.rows.index(min(nim.rows)),
40                                               ↪ min(nim.rows)),
41                 '1_element_shortest_row': (nim.rows.index(min(nim.rows)), 1),
42                 'random_element_shortest_row': (nim.rows.index(min(nim.rows)),
43                                                 ↪ random.randint(1, min(nim.rows))),
44                 'all_elements_longest_row': (nim.rows.index(max(nim.rows)),
45                                              ↪ max(nim.rows)),
46                 '1_element_longest_row': (nim.rows.index(max(nim.rows)), 1),
47                 'random_element_longest_row': (nim.rows.index(max(nim.rows)),
48                                                ↪ random.randint(1, max(nim.rows))),
49             }
50
51             p = random.random()
52             strategy = None
53             if p < prob_list[0]:
54                 strategy = strategies['random']
55             elif p >= prob_list[0] and p < prob_list[1]:

```

```

50         strategy =
51             ↪ random.choice([strategies['all_elements_shortest_row'],
52                             ↪ strategies['1_element_shortest_row'],
53                             ↪ strategies['random_element_shortest_row']])
54     elif p >= prob_list[1] and p < prob_list[2]:
55         strategy = random.choice([strategies['all_elements_longest_row'],
56                                 ↪ strategies['1_element_longest_row'],
57                                 ↪ strategies['random_element_longest_row']])
58     else:
59         strategy = strategies['nim_sum']
60
61     nim.nimming_remove(*strategy)
62     self.num_moves += 1
63     return sum(nim.rows)
64
65 def play(self, nim: Nim):
66     '''
67     Play the game of Nim using the evolved rules
68     '''
69     prob_list = [0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1]
70     prob_list = self.evolve_probabilities(nim, prob_list, 20, 5)
71     self.play_nim(nim, prob_list)
72
73 def crossover(self, p1, p2):
74     '''
75     Crossover between two parents
76     '''
77     return np.random.choice(p1 + p2, size=4, replace=True)
78
79 def evolve_probabilities(self, nim: Nim, prob_list: list,
80 ↪ num_generations: int, num_children: int):
81     '''
82     Evolve the probabilities of the strategies
83     '''
84     # create initial population
85     population = [prob_list for _ in range(num_children)]
86     # create initial fitness scores
87     fitness_scores = [self.play(nim, p) for p in population]
88     # create initial parents
89     parents = [population[i] for i in np.argsort(fitness_scores)[:2]]
90     # create new population
91     new_population = []
92     for _ in range(num_generations):
93         # create children
94         for _ in range(num_children):
95             p1 = random.choice(parents)
96             p2 = random.choice(parents)
97             child = self.crossover(p1, p2)
98             # child = []
99             # for i in range(len(parents[0])):

```

```

94         # crossover between parents
95
96         # child.append(random.choice(parents)[i])
97         new_population.append(child)
98     # create fitness scores
99     fitness_scores = [self.play_nim(nim, p) for p in new_population]
100    # create new parents
101    parents = [new_population[i] for i in
102               ↪ np.argsort(fitness_scores)[:2]]
103    # create new population
104    new_population = []
105    return parents[0]

```

#### 4.1.4 Minmax

In ‘minmax.py’, the minimax algorithm is implemented. It recursively traverses the game tree to maximise potential returns. As a result, it is a near-optimal strategy that reported ‘100%’ win rate against random opponents.

Since the recursive algorithm is slow:

1. The tree is pruned momentarily, stopping the algorithm from exploring parts of the tree that will not materialise on the game board.
2. A maximum depth is set, so that the recursive loop is stopped when a particular depth is reached.

Although not significant, an ‘@lru\_cache’ decorator is applied on the minmax operation after ensuring that the Nim state (row composition) is serializable.

```

1  from copy import deepcopy
2  from functools import lru_cache
3  from itertools import accumulate
4  import math
5  from operator import xor
6  from evolved_nim import BrilliantEvolvedAgent
7  import logging
8  from lib import Nim
9
10 logging.basicConfig(level=logging.INFO)
11
12 class MinMaxAgent:
13     def __init__(self):
14         self.num_moves = 0
15
16     def nim_sum(self, nim: Nim):
17         '''
18         Returns the nim sum of the current game board
19         by taking an XOR of all the rows.

```

```

20         Ideally, agent should try to leave nim sum of 0 at the end of turn
21         '''
22         *_, result = accumulate(nim.rows, xor)
23         return result
24
25     def evaluate(self, nim: Nim, is_maximizing: bool):
26         '''
27         Returns the evaluation of the current game board
28         '''
29         if all(row == 0 for row in nim.rows):
30             return -1 if is_maximizing else 1
31         else:
32             return -1
33
34     @lru_cache(maxsize=1000)
35     def minmax(self, nim: Nim, depth: int, maximizing_player: bool, alpha: int =
36         ↪ -1, beta: int = 1, max_depth: int = 7):
37         '''
38         Depth-limited Minimax algorithm to find the best move with alpha-beta
39         ↪ pruning and depth limit
40         '''
41         logging.info("Depth ", depth)
42         if depth == 0 or nim.goal() or depth == max_depth:
43             # logging.info("Depth ", depth)
44             # logging.info("Nim goal ", nim.goal())
45             return self.evaluate(nim, maximizing_player)
46
47         if maximizing_player:
48             value = -math.inf
49             for r, c in enumerate(nim.rows):
50                 for o in range(1, c+1):
51                     # make copy of nim object before running a nimming operation
52                     replicated_nim = deepcopy(nim)
53                     replicated_nim.nimming_remove(r, o)
54                     value = max(value, self.minmax(replicated_nim, depth-1,
55                     ↪ False, alpha, beta))
56                     alpha = max(alpha, value)
57                     if beta <= alpha:
58                         logging.info("Pruned")
59                         break
60             return value
61         else:
62             value = math.inf
63             for r, c in enumerate(nim.rows):
64                 for o in range(1, c+1):
65                     # make copy of nim object before running a nimming operation
66                     replicated_nim = deepcopy(nim)
67                     replicated_nim.nimming_remove(r, o)
68                     value = min(value, self.minmax(replicated_nim, depth-1, True,
69                     ↪ alpha, beta))

```

```

66         beta = min(beta, value)
67         if beta <= alpha:
68             logging.info("Pruned")
69             break
70         return value
71
72 def play(self, nim: Nim):
73     """
74     Agent returns the best move based on minimax algorithm
75     """
76     possible_moves = []
77     for r, c in enumerate(nim.rows):
78         for o in range(1, c+1):
79             # make copy of nim object before running a nimming operation
80             replicated_nim = deepcopy(nim)
81             replicated_nim.nimming_remove(r, o)
82             possible_moves.append((r, o, self.minmax(replicated_nim, 10,
83                 ↪ False)))
84             # sort possible moves by the value returned by minimax
85             possible_moves.sort(key=lambda x: x[2], reverse=True)
86             # return the best move
87             return possible_moves[0][0], possible_moves[0][1]
88
89 def battle(self, opponent, num_games=1000):
90     """
91     Battle this agent against another agent
92     """
93     wins = 0
94     for _ in range(num_games):
95         nim = Nim()
96         while not nim.goal():
97             nim.nimming_remove(*self.play(nim))
98             if sum(nim.rows) == 0:
99                 break
100             nim.nimming_remove(*opponent.play(nim))
101             if sum(nim.rows) == 0:
102                 wins += 1
103         return wins
104
105 if __name__ == "__main__":
106     rounds = 10
107
108     minmax_wins = 0
109     for i in range(rounds):
110         nim = Nim(num_rows=5)
111         agent = MinMaxAgent()
112         random_agent = BrilliantEvolvedAgent()
113         player = 0
114         while not nim.goal():

```

```

115         if player == 0:
116             move = agent.play(nim)
117             logging.info(f"Minmax move {agent.num_moves}: Removed {move[1]}
↪ objects from row {move[0]}")
118             logging.info(nim.rows)
119             nim.nimming_remove(*move)
120         else:
121             move = random_agent.random_agent(nim)
122             logging.info(f"Random move {random_agent.num_moves}: Removed
↪ {move[1]} objects from row {move[0]}")
123             logging.info(nim.rows)
124             nim.nimming_remove(*move)
125         player = 1 - player
126
127     winner = 1 - player
128     if winner == 0:
129         minmax_wins += 1
130         # player that made the last move wins
131         logging.info(f"Player {winner} wins in round {i+1}!")
132
133     logging.info(f"Minmax wins {minmax_wins} out of {rounds} rounds")

```

#### 4.1.5 Reinforcement Learning

Both temporal difference learning (TDL) and monte carlo learning (MCL) are implemented. In TDL, the Q values are updated after each move. In MCL, the learning is episodic so a goal dictionary is traversed backwards.

**State Hashing** The state for TDL consists of a key-value dictionary. The representation is: (the rows in nim, action tuple): Q. The rows are hashed into a string, with each value separated by a hyphen. In TDL, Q values are updated after each move.

#### Temporal Difference Learning (TDL)

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha \left( r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s', a') - Q(s, a) \right)$$

TDL exploits the Markov property of the game, where the next state is only dependent on the current state and the action taken. Performance was initially poor, but improved after tuning the hyperparameters (alpha, gamma, epsilon).

The best reported win rate is 80% against a random opponent after 5000 rounds of training at a 0.4 epsilon (exploration rate) and 1000 iterations of testing at 0 epsilon (max exploitation). Learning rate is decayed accordingly.

```

1 class NimRLTemporalDifferenceAgent:
2     """
3     An agent that learns to play Nim through temporal difference learning.
4     """
5     def __init__(self, num_rows: int, epsilon: float = 0.4, alpha: float = 0.3,
6         ↪ gamma: float = 0.9):
7         """Initialize agent."""
8         self.num_rows = num_rows
9         self.epsilon = epsilon
10        self.alpha = alpha
11        self.gamma = gamma
12        self.current_state = None
13        self.previous_state = None
14        self.previous_action = None
15        self.Q = dict()
16
17    def init_reward(self, state: Nim):
18        '''Initialize reward for every state and every action with a random value'''
19        for i in range(1, state.num_rows):
20            nim = Nim(num_rows=i)
21            for r, c in enumerate(nim.rows):
22                for o in range(1, c+1):
23                    self.set_Q(hash_list(nim.rows), (r, o),
24                        ↪ np.random.uniform(0, 0.01))
25
26    def get_Q(self, state: Nim, action: tuple):
27        """Return Q-value for state and action."""
28        if (hash_list(state.rows), action) in self.Q:
29            logging.info("Getting Q for state: {} and action:
30                ↪ {}".format(hash_list(state.rows), action))
31            logging.info("Q-value: {}".format(self.Q[(hash_list(state.rows),
32                ↪ action)]))
33            return self.Q[(hash_list(state.rows), action)]
34        else:
35            # initialize Q-value for state and action
36            self.set_Q(hash_list(state.rows), action, np.random.uniform(0, 0.01))
37            return self.Q[(hash_list(state.rows), action)]
38
39    def set_Q(self, state: str, action: tuple, value: float):
40        """Set Q-value for state and action."""
41        # logging.info("Setting Q for state: {} and action: {} to value:
42            ↪ {}".format(state, action, value))
43        self.Q[(state, action)] = value
44
45    def get_max_Q(self, state: Nim):
46        """Return maximum Q-value for state."""
47        max_Q = -math.inf
48        # logging.info(state.rows)
49        for r, c in enumerate(state.rows):
50            for o in range(1, c+1):

```



```

47         # logging.info("Just Q: {}".format(self.get_Q(state, (r, o))))
48         max_Q = max(max_Q, self.get_Q(state, (r, o)))
49         # logging.info("Max Q: {}".format(max_Q))
50         return max_Q
51
52     def get_average_Q(self, state: Nim):
53         """Return average Q-value for state."""
54         total_Q = 0
55         for r, c in enumerate(state.rows):
56             for o in range(1, c+1):
57                 total_Q += self.get_Q(state, (r, o))
58         return total_Q / len(state.rows)
59
60     def get_possible_actions(self, state: Nim):
61         """Return all possible actions for state."""
62         possible_actions = []
63         for r, c in enumerate(state.rows):
64             for o in range(1, c+1):
65                 possible_actions.append((r, o))
66         return possible_actions
67
68     def get_action(self, state: Nim):
69         """Return action based on epsilon-greedy policy."""
70         if random.random() < self.epsilon:
71             return random.choice(self.get_possible_actions(state))
72         else:
73             logging.info("Getting best action")
74             max_Q = -math.inf
75             best_action = None
76             for r, c in enumerate(state.rows):
77                 for o in range(1, c+1):
78                     Q = self.get_Q(state, (r, o))
79                     if Q > max_Q:
80                         max_Q = Q
81                         best_action = (r, o)
82             return best_action
83
84     def register_state(self, state: Nim):
85         # for each possible move in state, initialize random Q value
86         for r, c in enumerate(state.rows):
87             for o in range(1, c+1):
88                 if (hash_list(state.rows), (r, o)) not in self.Q:
89                     val = np.random.uniform(0, 0.01)
90                     # logging.info("Registering state: {} and action: {} to
91                     # ↪ {}".format(state.rows, (r, o), val))
92                     self.set_Q(hash_list(state.rows), (r, o), val)
93                 else:
94                     logging.info("State already registered: {} and action:
95                     ↪ {}".format(state.rows, (r, o)))

```

```

95 def update_Q(self, reward: int, game_over: bool):
96     """Update Q-value for previous state and action."""
97
98     if game_over:
99         # self.set_Q(hash_list(self.previous_state.rows), self.previous_action,
100             ↪ reward)
101         self.set_Q(hash_list(self.previous_state.rows), self.previous_action,
102             ↪ self.get_Q(self.previous_state, self.previous_action) + self.alpha *
103             ↪ (reward - self.get_Q(self.previous_state, self.previous_action)))
104
105     else:
106         # if reward != -1:
107         self.register_state(self.current_state)
108         if self.previous_action is not None:
109             self.set_Q(hash_list(self.previous_state.rows), self.previous_action,
110                 ↪ self.get_Q(self.previous_state, self.previous_action) +
111                 ↪ self.alpha * (reward + self.gamma) *
112                 ↪ (self.get_max_Q(self.current_state) -
113                 ↪ self.get_Q(self.previous_state,
114                 ↪ self.previous_action)))
115
116         # else:
117         #     self.set_Q(hash_list(self.previous_state.rows), self.previous_action,
118             ↪ self.get_Q(self.previous_state, self.previous_action) + self.alpha *
119             ↪ (reward - self.get_Q(self.previous_state, self.previous_action)))
120
121 def print_best_action_for_each_state(self):
122     for state in self.Q:
123         logging.info("State: {}".format(state[0]))
124         nim = Nim(5)
125         nim.rows = unhash_list(state[0])
126         logging.info("Best action: {}".format(self.choose_action(nim)))
127
128 def test_against_random(self, round, random_agent):
129     wins = 0
130     for i in range(rounds):
131         nim = Nim(num_rows=5)
132         player = 0
133         while not nim.goal():
134             if player == 0:
135                 move = self.choose_action(nim)
136                 # logging.info(f"Reinforcement move: Removed {move[1]} objects
137                 ↪ from row {move[0]}")
138                 nim.nimming_remove(*move)
139             else:
140                 move = random_agent(nim)
141                 # logging.info(f"Random move {random_agent.num_moves}: Removed
142                 ↪ {move[1]} objects from row {move[0]}")
143                 nim.nimming_remove(*move)
144             player = 1 - player

```

```

134     winner = 1 - player
135     if winner == 0:
136         wins += 1
137
138     logging.info(f"Win Rate in round {round}: {wins / rounds}")
139
140 def battle(self, agent, rounds=1000, training=True, momentary_testing=False):
141     """Train agent by playing against other agents."""
142     agent_wins = 0
143     winners = []
144     for episode in range(rounds):
145         # logging.info(f"Episode {episode}")
146         nim = Nim(num_rows=5)
147         self.current_state = nim
148         self.previous_state = None
149         self.previous_action = None
150         player = 0
151         while True:
152             reward = 0
153             if player == 0:
154                 self.previous_state = deepcopy(self.current_state)
155                 self.previous_action = self.get_action(self.current_state)
156                 self.current_state.nimming_remove(
157                     *self.previous_action)
158                 player = 1
159             else:
160                 move = agent(self.current_state)
161                 # logging.info("Random agent move: {}".format(move))
162                 self.current_state.nimming_remove(*move)
163                 player = 0
164
165         # learning by calculating reward for the current state
166         if self.current_state.goal():
167             winner = 1 - player
168             if winner == 0:
169                 logging.info("Agent won")
170                 agent_wins += 1
171                 reward = 1
172             else:
173                 logging.info("Random won")
174                 reward = -1
175             winners.append(winner)
176             self.update_Q(reward, self.current_state.goal())
177             break
178         else:
179             self.update_Q(reward, self.current_state.goal())
180
181         # decay epsilon after each episode
182         self.epsilon = self.epsilon - 0.1 if self.epsilon > 0.1 else 0.1
183         self.alpha *= -0.0005

```

```

184         if self.alpha < 0.1:
185             self.alpha = 0.1
186
187         if training and momentary_testing:
188             if episode % 100 == 0:
189                 logging.info(f"Episode {episode} finished, sampling")
190                 random_agent = BrilliantEvolvedAgent()
191                 self.test_against_random(
192                     episode, random_agent.random_agent)
193
194         if not training:
195             logging.info("Reinforcement agent won {} out of {} games".format(
196                 agent_wins, rounds))
197             # self.print_best_action_for_each_state()
198         return winners
199
200     def choose_action(self, state: Nim):
201         """Return action based on greedy policy."""
202         max_Q = -math.inf
203         best_action = None
204         for r, c in enumerate(state.rows):
205             for o in range(1, c+1):
206                 Q = self.get_Q(state, (r, o))
207                 if Q > max_Q:
208                     max_Q = Q
209                     best_action = (r, o)
210         if best_action is None:
211             return random.choice(self.get_possible_actions(state))
212         else:
213             return best_action
214
215     if __name__ == "__main__":
216         rounds = 10000
217         minmax_wins = 0
218
219         nim = Nim(num_rows=5)
220         agent_tda = NimRLTemporalDifferenceAgent(num_rows=5)
221         random_agent = RandomAgent()
222
223         # agentG = NimRLMonteCarloAgent(num_rows=7)
224         agent_tda.battle(random_agent.play, rounds=10000)
225         agent_tda.epsilon = 0.1
226
227         # TESTING
228         logging.info("Testing against random agent")
229         agent_tda.battle(random_agent.random_agent, training=False, rounds=1000)

```

## Monte Carlo Learning

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha (G - Q(s, a))$$

In MCL, the learning is episodic so a goal dictionary is traversed backwards. MCL takes a more holistic approach to learning, where rewards are based on every past move.

```
1 logging.basicConfig(level=logging.INFO)
2
3 def hash_list(l):
4     '''
5     Hashes a list of integers into a string
6     '''
7     return "-".join([str(i) for i in l])
8
9
10 def unhash_list(l):
11     '''
12     Unhashes a string of integers into a list
13     '''
14     return [int(i) for i in l.split("-")]
15
16
17 def decay(value, decay_rate):
18     return value * decay_rate
19
20
21 class NimRLMonteCarloAgent:
22     def __init__(self, num_rows: int, epsilon: float = 0.3, alpha: float = 0.5,
23         ↪ gamma: float = 0.9):
24         """Initialize agent."""
25         self.num_rows = num_rows
26         self.epsilon = epsilon
27         self.alpha = alpha
28         self.gamma = gamma
29         self.current_state = None
30         self.previous_state = None
31         self.previous_action = None
32         self.G = dict()
33         self.state_history = []
34
35     def get_action(self, state: Nim):
36         """Return action based on epsilon-greedy policy."""
37         if random.random() < self.epsilon:
38             action = random.choice(self.get_possible_actions(state))
39             if (hash_list(state.rows), action) not in self.G:
40                 self.G[(hash_list(state.rows), action)] = random.uniform(1.0,
41                     ↪ 0.01)
42             return action
43         else:
44             max_G = -math.inf
45             best_action = None
```

```

44         for r, c in enumerate(state.rows):
45             for o in range(1, c+1):
46                 if (hash_list(state.rows), (r, o)) not in self.G:
47                     self.G[(hash_list(state.rows), (r, o))] =
48                         ↪ random.uniform(1.0, 0.01)
49                     G = self.G[(hash_list(state.rows), (r, o))]
50                 else:
51                     G = self.G[(hash_list(state.rows), (r, o))]
52                 if G > max_G:
53                     max_G = G
54                     best_action = (r, o)
55             return best_action
56
57 def update_state(self, state, reward):
58     self.state_history.append((state, reward))
59
60 def learn(self):
61     target = 0
62
63     for state, reward in reversed(self.state_history):
64         self.G[state] = self.G.get(state, 0) + self.alpha * (target -
65             ↪ self.G.get(state, 0))
66         target += reward
67
68     self.state_history = []
69     self.epsilon -= 10e-5
70
71 def compute_reward(self, state: Nim):
72     return 0 if state.goal() else -1
73
74 def get_possible_actions(self, state: Nim):
75     actions = []
76     for r, c in enumerate(state.rows):
77         for o in range(1, c+1):
78             actions.append((r, o))
79     return actions
80
81 def get_G(self, state: Nim, action: tuple):
82     return self.G.get((hash_list(state.rows), action), 0)
83
84 def battle(self, opponent, training=True):
85     player = 0
86     agent_wins = 0
87     for episode in range(rounds):
88         self.current_state = Nim(num_rows=self.num_rows)
89         while True:
90             if player == 0:
91                 action = self.get_action(self.current_state)
92                 self.current_state.nimming_remove(*action)
93                 reward = self.compute_reward(self.current_state)

```

```

92         self.update_state(hash_list(self.current_state.rows), reward)
93         player = 1
94     else:
95         action = opponent(self.current_state)
96         self.current_state.nimming_remove(*action)
97         player = 0
98
99     if self.current_state.goal():
100         logging.info("Player {} wins!".format(1 - player))
101         break
102
103     winner = 1 - player
104     if winner == 0:
105         agent_wins += 1
106     # episodic learning
107     self.learn()
108
109     if episode % 1000 == 0:
110         logging.info("Win rate: {}".format(agent_wins / (episode + 1)))
111 if not training:
112     logging.info("Win rate: {}".format(agent_wins / rounds))

```

## 4.2 Acknowledgements

I have discussed with Karl Wennerstrom and Diego Gasco.

My reinforcement agent initially performed very poorly until I realised that there was a bug in `update_Q`, where I forgot to hash the nim state before checking the presence of the compound key in the Q dictionary. Hence, it was reinitialised every time, effectively rendering random performance and wasting a big chunk of my time.

## 4.3 Received Reviews

Xiusss

Hi! Your code is really clean. There are a lot of useful and really detailed comments. Monte Carlo method is a good choice, well done! Despite it didn't give you the outcome you expected, I found the approach referred to as "approach 2" of task 3.2 really interesting.  
NIce!

Design considerations:

- The rule based agent works correctly
- The first evolution approach is very interesting since it evolves taking into consideration the current state of the board.
- The second evolution approach is similar to what I've done so good job coming up with both - In the fitness function maybe you could also make it compete with different strategies and not only with pure\_random, so that it can improve more. You could also consider different Nim games with different size, to face a bigger variety of situations - With the minmax agent some strategies can be implemented to improve performances with bigger Nim games (for example considering as equal different Nim games like 1,2,3,4 and 1,2,4,3) - Very good job with the reinforcement learning agent

Implementation considerations:

- Executing the code as it is does not produce any output for me, I managed to see some output by replacing logging.info invocations with print. The reason, for example in fixed\_rules\_nim.py is that the line logging.basicConfig(level=logging.INFO) is missing, and sometimes you use the "print syntax" for the parameters, which is not accepted by the logging library (('move of player 1: ', move)). My suggestion is to always use f-strings, since they are accepted by both print and logging.info and are very powerful and easy to use.
- There are some "copy-paste" oversights, like the init\_population which is not used in the fixed\_rule\_nim.py or some variable names.
- There is no way to see the ExpertNimSumAgent in action.
- For the ExpertNimSumAgent there is a way to compute the best move (the one that brings the nim sum=0) without bruteforcing it, which will improve performance. You can find it in my repository.
- `*_, result = accumulate(state.rows, xor)` can be replaced by `result = reduce(state.rows, xor)`
- In the evaluate function of the MinMaxAgent you could use the goal function that you defined for the Nim class for consistency.
- Hardcoding lru cache size of 1000 would probably not contain many possible states when working with big games.
- You use 7 as max hardcoded depth, but actually you start with depth = 10 and remove 1 depth at every iteration. This effectively means that you only go 3 layers deep, which only allow you to solve very small Nim games.
- Well written readme



## 4.4 Given Reviews

### 4.4.1 Karl

Karl's code (irrelevant parts/utility functions removed):

```
1      """
2      Agents based on different strategies playing Nim (description here:
↪      https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nim)
3          1. Agent based on rules
4          2. Agent based on evolved rules
5          3. Agent using minmax
6          4. Agent using reinforcement learning
7
8      @Author: Karl Wennerström in collaboration with Erik Bengtsson (s306792)
9      """
10
11     # ...
12
13     # %% Q.2 Create own strategy based on cooked information
14
15     # strategy maker: play by the rules
16     def make_strategy(agent: Evolvable_agent) -> Callable:
17         def evolvable(state: Nim) -> Nimply:
18             data = cook_status(state)
19
20             # rule 1
21             if data['active_rows_number'] == 1:
22                 row, elem = agent.rule1(data)
23                 ply = Nimply(row, elem)
24
25             elif data['one_multiple_elem_row']: # all rows but one have a single
↪             elem
26
27             # rule2
28             if data['active_rows_number'] % 2 == 0: # even rows
29                 row, elem = agent.rule2(data)
30                 ply = Nimply(row, elem)
31
32             # rule 3
33             else: # odd rows
34                 row, elem = agent.rule3(data)
35                 ply = Nimply(row, elem)
36
37             elif not data['one_multiple_elem_row']: # multiple rows are with
↪             multiple elems (or also only ones)
38
39             # rule 4
40             if data['active_rows_number'] % 2 == 0:
41                 row, elem = agent.rule4(data)
```

```

42         ply = Nimply(row, elem)
43
44         # rule 5
45         else:
46             row, elem = agent.rule5(data)
47             ply = Nimply(row, elem)
48
49
50     else:
51         # rule 6 (will we ever get here?)
52         logging.info(f'RULE 6!!! Board = {state.rows}')
53         row, elem = agent.rule6(data)
54         ply = Nimply(row, elem)
55
56     return ply
57
58     return evolvable
59
60
61 # human strategy, make moves through input
62 def my_strategy(state: Nim) -> Nimply:
63     print(f'Current state: {state.rows}')
64     data = cook_status(state)
65     pm = data['possible_moves']
66     index = input(f'Choose a play: {[ (i, m) for i, m in enumerate(pm) ]}')
67     while True:
68         try:
69             assert int(index) in range(len(pm))
70         except Exception:
71             print('Invalid input, try again')
72             index = input(f'Choose a play: {[ (i, m) for i, m in
73                 ↪ enumerate(pm) ]}')
74         else:
75             row = pm[int(index)][0]
76             elems = pm[int(index)][1]
77             break
78     return Nimply(row, elems)
79
80 # dumb strategy (to evaluate my agent)
81 def dumb_agent(state: Nim) -> Nimply:
82     """
83     Make stupid move. Always remove 1 from shortest row
84     """
85     data = cook_status(state)
86     row = data['shortest_row']
87     return Nimply(row, 1)
88
89
90 # random strategy (to evaluate my agent)

```

```

91 def pure_random(state: Nim) -> Nimply:
92     """Agent playing completely random"""
93     row = random.choice([r for r, c in enumerate(state.rows) if c > 0])
94     num_objects = random.randint(1, state.rows[row])
95     return Nimply(row, num_objects)
96
97
98 def semi_smart(state: Nim) -> Nimply:
99     """ Make use of rule 1-3, else random"""
100     data = cook_status(state)
101
102     if data['active_rows_number'] == 1:
103         row = data['active_rows_index'][0]
104         elems = state.rows[row]
105         ply = Nimply(row, elems)
106
107     elif data['one_multiple_elem_row']: # all rows but one have a single
108         ↪ elem
109         if data['active_rows_number'] % 2 == 0:
110             move = [(r, e) for (r, e) in data["possible_moves"] if
111                 ↪ state.rows[r] - e == 1][0]
112             ply = Nimply(move[0], move[1])
113         else:
114             move = [(r, e) for (r, e) in data["possible_moves"] if
115                 ↪ state.rows[r] - e == 0 and r not in
116                 ↪ data['single_elem_rows_index']][0]
117             ply = Nimply(move[0], move[1])
118         else:
119             row = random.choice([r for r, c in enumerate(state.rows) if c > 0])
120             num_objects = random.randint(1, state.rows[row])
121             ply = Nimply(row, num_objects)
122     return ply
123
124 # %% EVOLUTION STRATEGY DESCRIBED
125
126 """
127 (mu, lambda)-strategy
128 1. Create population with the same set of rules but different parameters
129 ↪ for each rule
130 2. k individuals competes in a tournament where the winner becomes a
131 ↪ parent
132 3. Perform cross_over between two parents and mutate (aggregate random
133 ↪ rule, e.g. mean(both parents' rule)) with certain prob
134 4. Generate offspring where OFFSPRING_SIZE >> POPULATION_SIZE
135 5. Fitness for offsprings corresponds to how many games are won against
136 ↪ their 'siblings'
137 6. Slice new population from fittest offspring
138 7. Repeat step 2-6 GENERATION times
139 """
140
141 # %% Evolution strategy-functions

```

```

134 def init_population():
135     """Initialize population"""
136     pop = []
137     for i in range(POPULATION_SIZE):
138         pop.append(Evolvable_agent(NIM_SIZE))
139     return pop
140
141
142 def calc_fitness(individuals: list) -> None:
143     """Calculate fitness for each individual as a proportion of won games
144     ↪ against different opponents"""
145     for ind in individuals:
146         fitness = []
147         for idx, strat in enumerate(OPPONENTS):
148             wins = 0
149             for match in range(NUM_MATCHES):
150                 wins += head2head(ind, strat)
151             fitness.append(wins / NUM_MATCHES)
152             ind.fitness = tuple(fitness)
153
154     # compute fitness by head2head-games
155 def head2head(agent: Evolvable_agent, opponent: Callable):
156     """One game between evolvable agent and opponent"""
157     players = (make_strategy(agent), opponent)
158
159     nim = Nim(NIM_SIZE)
160     player = 0
161     while nim:
162         ply = players[player](nim)
163         nim.nimming(ply)
164         player = 1 - player
165     winner = 1 - player
166     if winner == 0:
167         return 1
168     else:
169         return 0
170
171 def fittest_individuals(pop: list) -> list:
172     """Return the most fit individuals to use in offspring generation"""
173     return sorted(pop, key=lambda l: l.fitness,
174                 ↪ reverse=True)[:POPULATION_SIZE]
175
176     # tournament to decide parents
177 def tournament(population: list, k: int) -> dict:
178     """Select best individual out of k competing in a tournament"""
179     contestors = random.sample(population, k=k)
180     best_contestor = sorted(contestors, key=lambda l: l.fitness,
181                     ↪ reverse=True)[0]

```

```

181     return best_contestor
182
183
184 def cross_over(parent1: Evolvable_agent, parent2: Evolvable_agent,
185 ↪ mutation_prob: float) -> Evolvable_agent:
186     """Generate new individual by cross-over of parents' rules"""
187     rules = [rule for rule in parent1.rules.keys()]
188     new_rules = {}
189     child = Evolvable_agent(NIM_SIZE)
190     for k in rules:
191         which_parent = random.randint(1, 2)
192         new_rules[k] = parent1.rules[k] if which_parent == 1 else
193 ↪ parent2.rules[k]
194     if random.random() < mutation_prob:
195         rule = random.choice(rules)
196         if rule == 'rule_1':
197             new_rules[rule] = random.randint(0, (NIM_SIZE - 1) * 2)
198         else:
199             new_rules[rule] = [random.randint(0, 1), random.randint(0,
200 ↪ (NIM_SIZE - 1) * 2)]
201     child.rules = new_rules
202     return child
203
204
205 def create_offspring(population: list, k: int, mutation_prob: float) -> list:
206     """Create new offspring"""
207     offspring = []
208     for _ in range(OFFSPRING_SIZE):
209         p1 = tournament(population=population, k=k)
210         p2 = tournament(population=population, k=k)
211         child = cross_over(parent1=p1, parent2=p2,
212 ↪ mutation_prob=mutation_prob)
213         offspring.append(child)
214     return offspring
215
216
217 def get_next_generation(offspring: list) -> list:
218     """Find the best individuals in the new generation"""
219     calc_fitness(offspring)
220     return fittest_individuals(offspring)
221
222
223 # %% PLAYING FUNCTIONS
224 def evaluate(strategy1: Callable, strategy2: Callable) -> float:
225     """Play two strategies against each other and evaluate their performance
226     ↪ """
227     players = (strategy1, strategy2)
228     won = 0
229
230     for m in range(EVAL_MATCHES):

```

```

226         nim = Nim(NIM_SIZE)
227         player = 0
228         while nim:
229             ply = players[player](nim)
230             nim.nimming(ply)
231             player = 1 - player
232         if player == 1:
233             won += 1
234     print(f'{strategy1.__name__} wins {won*100/EVAL_MATCHES} % of the games
    ↪ against {strategy2.__name__}')
235     return won / EVAL_MATCHES
236
237
238 def play_nim(strategy1, strategy2):
239     """A visualized match between two strategies"""
240     strategy = (strategy1, strategy2)
241     nim = Nim(NIM_SIZE)
242     logging.debug(f"status: Initial board -> {nim}")
243     player = 0
244     while nim:
245         ply = strategy[player](nim)
246         nim.nimming(ply)
247         logging.debug(f"status: After player {player} -> {nim}")
248         player = 1 - player
249     winner = 1 - player
250     logging.info(f"status: Player {winner} won!")
251 # %% Q3 - MINMAX AGENT
252
253     """
254     Build a minmax agent that always minimizes the opponents maximum win
255     Play against optimal strategy, should be able to win if start
256     Build as class or function?
257     Need:
258     keep value for each state (exhaustive)
259     condition: return 1 if win -1 else
260     condition: return 0 if not decided
261     play until determined and traverse back to that state
262     """
263     # %% MINMAX fcn
264     def minmax(state: Nim, my_turn: bool, alpha=-1, beta=1):
265         if not state: # empty board then I lose
266             return -1 if my_turn else 1
267
268         data = cook_status(state)
269         possible_new_states = []
270         for ply in data['possible_moves']:
271             tmp_state = deepcopy(state)
272             tmp_state.nimming(ply)
273             possible_new_states.append(tmp_state)
274         if my_turn:

```

```

275         bestVal = -np.inf
276         for new_state in possible_new_states:
277             value = minmax(new_state, False, alpha, beta)
278             bestVal = max(bestVal, value)
279             alpha = max(alpha, bestVal)
280             if beta <= alpha:
281                 logging.info(f'Pruned')
282                 break
283         return bestVal
284     else:
285         bestVal = np.inf
286         new_state = deepcopy(state)
287         ply = optimal_strategy(new_state)
288         new_state.nimming(ply)
289         value = minmax(new_state, True, alpha, beta)
290         bestVal = min(bestVal, value)
291         return bestVal
292
293 def best_move(state: Nim):
294     data = cook_status(state)
295     for ply in data['possible_moves']:
296         tmp_state = deepcopy(state)
297         tmp_state.nimming(ply)
298         score = minmax(tmp_state, my_turn=False)
299         if score > 0:
300             break
301     return ply
302
303 # %% Q4 - RL
304
305 """
306 Reinforcement learning agent to play Nim
307
308 Idea:
309     Play using Upper Confidence Trees (UCT), a Monte Carlo Tree Search (MCTS)
310 → algorithm, popular when trade-off between
311     finding best-so-far and finding a better one
312
313 Need:
314     * All possible states (TODO: sort state so that e.g. 1 1 0 == 1 0 1)
315     * Init with value 0 and visits 0
316     * Actions for each state (based on data)
317     * Simulate function
318     * Reward function
319
320 Outline:
321     1. Selection (select an unvisited node) with highest UCT
322     2. Expand to that node
323     3. Simulate from that node until termination
324     4. Backpropagate and update node with statistics

```

```

324         *  $N(v)$  - number of visits for node  $v$ 
325         *  $Q(v)$  - value/reward playing from that node
326
327     UCT:
328          $uct(v_i, v) = Q(v_i)/N(v_i) + c\sqrt{\log(N(v))/N(v_i)}$ , which prefers
↪ child nodes with small  $N(v_i)$ 
329         choose action according to highest uct value (init with  $np.inf$  to explore
↪ every move)
330         """
331
332     # Imports
333     import itertools
334
335
336     # Class
337
338     class RLAgent:
339
340         # INITIALIZATION
341         ↪ -----
342         def __init__(self, nim_size: int, random_factor=0.2,
343                     exploration_factor=np.sqrt(2)): # explore with 20%, exploit
344             ↪ with 80%
345             self.nim_size = nim_size
346             self.current_state = None
347             self.previous_state = None
348             self.__init_states(nim_size)
349             self.random_factor = random_factor
350             self.c = exploration_factor
351
352         def __init_states(self, nim_size: int):
353             """find all possible board positions"""
354             states = {}
355             rows = [i * 2 + 1 for i in range(nim_size)]
356             elem_ranges = list(itertools.combinations([range(n + 1) for n in
357             ↪ rows], r=nim_size))
358             all_states = list(itertools.product(*elem_ranges[0]))
359
360             for state in all_states:
361                 states[state] = {}
362                 states[state]['visits'] = 0
363                 states[state]['value'] = 0
364                 states[state]['child_states'] = self.__init_child_states(state)
365             self.states = states
366             # last state is the initial board
367             self.current_state = all_states[-1]
368             self.states[self.current_state]['visits'] = 1
369
370         def __init_child_states(self, state):
371             """Find all states accessible from state"""

```



```

369     nim = Nim(self.nim_size)
370     nim._rows = list(state)
371     if nim:
372         data = cook_status(nim)
373         children = []
374         for ply in data['possible_moves']:
375             tmp_nim = deepcopy(nim)
376             tmp_nim.nimming(ply)
377             children.append(tmp_nim.rows)
378         return children
379
380     # MCTS -----
381     def selection(self):
382         """Select next move according to highest uct score"""
383         next_state = self.__state_with_highest_uct()
384         return next_state
385
386     def __state_with_highest_uct(self):
387         """Move to child node with highest UCT score (depending on parent and
388         ↪ child nodes) """
389         visits_parent = self.states[self.current_state]['visits']
390         best_state = None
391         best_uct = -np.inf
392         for child_state in self.states[self.current_state]['child_states']:
393             visits_child = self.states[child_state]['visits']
394             wins_child = self.states[child_state]['value']
395             uct = wins_child / (visits_child + 1) + self.c *
396                 ↪ (np.log(visits_parent) / (visits_child + 1)) ** (1 / 2)
397             if uct > best_uct:
398                 best_uct = uct
399                 best_state = child_state
400         return best_state
401
402     def random_selection(self):
403         """Explore and move to random state"""
404         next_state =
405         ↪ random.choice(tuple(self.states[self.current_state]['child_states']))
406         return next_state
407
408     def expand(self, next_state):
409         """Expand to the found next state. Return the ply that takes agent
410         ↪ there"""
411         self.previous_state = self.current_state
412         self.current_state = next_state
413         ply = self.__next_ply()
414         return ply
415
416     def __next_ply(self):
417         """ Find ply that takes agent from previous state to current
418         ↪ state"""

```

```

414         # manipulate nim
415         nim = Nim(self.nim_size)
416         nim._rows = list(self.previous_state)
417         data = cook_status(nim)
418         ply = [ply for ply in data['possible_moves'] if data['rows'][ply[0]]
419                 ↪ - ply[1] == self.current_state[ply[0]][0]
420         return ply
421
422     def simulate(self, opponent: Callable, n_matches: int):
423         """Simulate game of nim vs opponent by letting RL agent play randomly
424         ↪ from current state"""
425         players = (opponent, pure_random) # rl agent is second since played
426         ↪ move to get here
427         nim = Nim(self.nim_size)
428         won = 0
429         for match in range(n_matches):
430             # forbidden stuff
431             nim._rows = list(self.current_state) # play from current state
432
433             player = 0
434             while nim:
435                 ply = players[player](nim)
436                 nim.nimming(ply)
437                 player = 1 - player
438             if player == 0:
439                 won += 1
440
441             # update results
442             self.backpropagate(n_matches, won)
443
444     def backpropagate(self, visits: int, reward: int):
445         """Update results after simulating `visits` times game from current
446         ↪ state"""
447         self.states[self.current_state]['visits'] += visits
448         self.states[self.current_state]['value'] += reward
449
450     # TRAINING
451     ↪ -----
452     def learn_to_play(self, opponents: list, n_sims: int, n_matches: int):
453         """Simulate the game from original state. For each move, simulate the
454         ↪ outcome n_matches times.
455         Keep moving until board is empty, then repeat n_sims times."""
456         for opponent in opponents:
457             for n in tqdm(range(n_sims), desc="Iterations, %s"
458                             ↪ %opponent.__name__):
459                 # always start from initial state in a new simulation
460                 nim = Nim(self.nim_size)
461                 self.current_state = nim.rows
462
463                 while nim:

```

```

457         if random.random() < self.random_factor:
458             # choose random state
459             ns = self.random_selection()
460         else:
461             ns = self.selection()
462         ply = self.expand(next_state=ns)
463         nim.nimming(ply)
464
465         self.simulate(opponent, n_matches)
466
467     def get_statistics(self):
468         """Print overview of number of visits and wins for a visited
469         ↪ state"""
469         info = [(k, v['value'], v['visits']) for k, v in self.states.items()]
470         for state in info:
471             if state[2] > 0: # at least 1 visit
472                 print(f'State {state[0]}: \tvisits {state[2]} \twins
473                 ↪ {state[1]}')
474
475     def policy(self, state: Nim) -> Nimply:
476         """The policy, i.e. the next move for the current state"""
477         self.current_state = state.rows
478         ns = self.selection()
479         ply = self.expand(next_state=ns)
480         return ply
481
482     # %% MAIN
483     import argparse
484
485     if __name__ == '__main__':
486
487         # VARIABLES
488         NIM_SIZE = 3
489         NUM_MATCHES = 100
490         EVAL_MATCHES = 100
491
492         # INPUT
493         parser = argparse.ArgumentParser()
494         parser.add_argument("-t", "--task", dest="task", default=1,
495                             help="Which task should run? Choose from 1, 2, 3 or
496                             ↪ 4.", type=int)
497
498         args = parser.parse_args()
499         print(f"Task: {args.task}")
500
501         # -----TASK 1 - PLAYING THE OPTIMAL STRATEGY
502         ↪ -----
503         if args.task == 1:
504             play_nim(optimal_strategy, optimal_strategy)
505             # play the nim-sum strategy

```

```

503     starting_wins = evaluate(optimal_strategy, optimal_strategy)
504     print(f'Optimal strategy wins {starting_wins * 100: .0f}% when
↳ starting and {(1 - starting_wins) * 100: .0f}% when not
↳ starting.')
505
506     # -----TASK 2 - EVOLVE AN AGENT
↳ -----
507     elif args.task == 2:
508         # set params
509         POPULATION_SIZE = 50
510         OFFSPRING_SIZE = 200
511         GENERATIONS = 10
512         OPPONENTS = [dumb_agent, pure_random, semi_smart, optimal_strategy]
513
514         tournament_size = 10
515         mutation_prob = 0.3
516
517         pop = init_population()
518
519         for gen in tqdm(range(GENERATIONS), desc='Generations'):
520             calc_fitness(pop)
521             offspring = create_offspring(pop, tournament_size, mutation_prob)
522             pop = get_next_generation(offspring)
523
524     # ----- TASK 3 - MINMAX FUNCTION
↳ -----
525     elif args.task == 3:
526         import time
527         start = time.time()
528         play_nim(best_move, optimal_strategy)
529         elapsed = time.time() - start
530         print(f'It take {elapsed :.2f} seconds to play a game of Nim with
↳ size {NIM_SIZE}')
531
532     # ----- TASK 4 - REINFORCEMENT LEARNING
↳ -----
533     elif args.task == 4:
534         ITERS = 1000
535
536         # must have run with -t 2 to have a pop
537         if 'pop' in locals():
538             opponents = [pure_random, semi_smart, make_strategy(pop[0]),
↳ optimal_strategy]
539         else:
540             opponents = [pure_random, semi_smart, optimal_strategy]
541
542         for opponent in opponents:
543             rl_agent = RLAgent(NIM_SIZE)
544             rl_agent.learn_to_play([opponent], n_sims=ITERS,
↳ n_matches=NUM_MATCHES)

```

```
545         evaluate(rl_agent.policy, opponent)
546
547
548     else:
549         print(f'Have not finished task {args.task}')
```

Hi Karl,

Here's my review of your lab 3. I have nothing to say about the nim-sum agent, so I'll focus on the rest.

1. There is a single file with the solutions for all labs. To improve readability, consider modularising by having a shared library file and a class for each task.
2. I like that you have the option to play your agents against a human. I wish I also did this, as it's interesting to run.
3. The README is very well written and the code is well documented with comments in the right places. I had no issues understand your rules for the evolvable agent, especially since the rules were both explained and linked to individual lines of code.

### Evolutionary Algorithm

1. The rules are neat in the sense that rules 4, 5 and 6 are very generalised and will apply to any setup on the board that does not match rules 1, 2 and 3. Hence, the agent always has something to fall back on, without resorting to a completely random move. However, the rules you implemented are a small subset of a much larger collection in the literature. A few extra rules can be added to cater to very specific scenarios like "one row left with 2 elements", or a compound rule like: "if one row has x elements" and "another row has 1 elements", then "remove 1 element from the last row". I understand that there are an infinite number of possibilities, but hardcoding a few more for a small nim size is harmless.
2. I like that you modularised your agent with different methods for each rule. It really cleans up the 'if-else' series code block. This is something I didn't do and I will take inspiration from keeping the agent as a separate class.
3. Your mutation strategy to average two genome dictionary values instead of simply swapping them is interesting and may result in fewer cases where the mutated value is unusually small/large for a particular rule. I'll definitely take inspiration from this.

## Minimax

1. Your minimax implementation is quite standard and works to near-optimal performance. Apart from alpha-beta pruning, you could also consider limiting the depth to speed up computation for large nim sizes.

## Reinforcement Learning

1. I just learnt about Upper Confidence Trees after reading your code, where it seems to resemble some form of tree search. The best children are identified with RL by running the game from that particular state during learning. All in all, this is very well implemented.
2. My only suggestion is to decay/adjust the `random_factor` during each match. I found that adjusting the exploration epsilon rendered better performance when decayed, favouring exploration at the start and exploitation towards the end. This is just an idea, am not sure how it will work for UCTs.

Overall, good job!

Best, Sidharrth

## 5 Final Project

The purpose of the final project is to implement an efficient agent that can play and win Quarto. Quarto is a multi-player game where 2 players take turns placing pieces on a 4x4 board. The first player to place a piece that satisfies a winning condition wins the game. In my version of Quarto, I consider it to be a two-player game where my agent plays against a random opponent.

### 5.1 Acknowledgements

Throughout this project, I have discussed with Diego Gasco (s296762). We started the project by discussing ideas for strategies.

- After I tried to get a working Deep Q-Network and realised that it wasn't converging in reasonable time, we discussed the possibility of using some tree search algorithm. It was Diego who suggested MCTS.
- When realising that MCTS can be quite slow towards the end of the game, I suggested building a hybrid QL-MCTS player that would use a base Q-table to remember the best moves so the quadratically complex tree wouldn't need to store so many nodes.
- We later built a hardcoded agent using different rules and realised that it performed very well, and was quick to make a move.
- We then decided to combine everything we did into a hybrid agent that would switch between strategies depending on the board score.
- Diego suggested a good scoring function. He also suggested that a genetic algorithm could be used for this.
- I suggested finding score thresholds to switch between strategies using a genetic algorithm.

While we follow the same hybrid strategy, our code is quite different, apart from a few shared utility functions.

The code for this project is available on [Github](#).

### 5.2 My Strategy For Solving the Problem

#### 5.2.1 Step 1: Implement and Tune Multiple Search Algorithms

The following algorithms are implemented and the **best performing ones are combined to create a final, hybrid agent that balances speed and efficiency**:

- **Random:** This agent randomly selects positions and pieces on the board. In the spirit of true randomness, it does not take into account the current state of the board.
- **Parameterized Hardcoded Play:** This agent has a set of fixed rules, where it attempts to build a line of like pieces. Where it cannot, it attempts
- **Deep Q-Learning:** This agent uses a deep neural network to approximate the Q-function. It uses a replay buffer to store the experience tuples and uses a target network to stabilize the training process. The agent uses an epsilon-greedy policy to balance exploration and exploitation. The input to the linear network is a flatten list of 1x16 pieces based on the current board composition, while the input to the convolutional neural network is a 4x4x4 board composition.
- **Q-Learning (Temporal Difference Learning):** This agent uses a Q-table to store the Q-values. It uses a replay buffer to store the experience tuples and uses a target network to stabilize the training process. The agent uses an epsilon-greedy policy to balance exploration and exploitation. A custom OpenAI Gym environment is created to make training easier.
- **Monte Carlo Tree Search:** This agent uses a Monte Carlo Tree Search algorithm to select the best move. It uses a UCB1 formula to select the best child node at each iteration.
- **QL-MCTS:** This algorithm uses a Q-table as it's base and uses a rolled out Monte Carlo Search Tree for a more efficient search. When a state cannot be found in the Q-table, the agent once again goes to the Monte Carlo Tree Search algorithm to find the best move.

The following algorithms failed, producing only a near-random win rate after several hours of training:

1. **Pure Q-Learning:** This agent stores moves made in a Q-table and could not perform feasibly in a test environment even after hours of training, growing it's Q-table and implementing board symmetries.
2. **Deep Q-Learning (Linear and Convolutional Neural Network):** In this approach, I train a 4-layer deep neural network to predict the Q-values of a given state. Despite several hours of training and hyperparameter tuning (changing the number of layers, optimiser, learning rate), the agent could only reach a 60% win rate in its best attempt. I also tried a convolutional



neural network to feed the entire board composition as a 4x4x4 input (third dimension is the piece attribute), but training was far too slow.

**Best Model Depth and Configuration:** 4-layer linear neural network of node sizes (24, 48, 96, 192), Huber Loss, Adam Optimiser, Learning Rate of 0.001

$$L_{\delta} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(y - \hat{y})^2 & \text{if } |(y - \hat{y})| < \delta \\ \delta((y - \hat{y}) - \frac{1}{2}\delta) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Best Results:** 55% win rate after 1000 episodes of training

Training time was too slow and convergence could not be reached in a reasonable time. I had already spent multiple weeks on this approach to no fruition. If I had more computational resources, I would train this model for much longer to see if true convergence can be reached.

### 5.2.2 Step 2: Analysing the Algorithms

The best performing algorithms were the hardcoded agent and Monte Carlo Tree Search, that produced high win rates (>80%). However, important observations for each strategy are:

- **Hardcoded Agent:** This agent is fast, but it is not efficient. It is only able to win the game if it is able to build a line of like pieces. If it cannot, it will return to a series of random moves that may/may not win the game.
- **Monte Carlo Tree Search:** MCTS rolls out and computes the reward from each board state but it is slow. It appears that it is not worth using at the start of the game, where a terminal state is quite distant from the current board position. Furthermore, a major problem with MCTS is the tree size, which grows exponentially with game progression. **This makes rolling out at each subsequent move slower than the previous rollout.**

Solution: Instead of keeping an extremely large tree, we record the result of each *state, action* pair in a Q-table, updated using Temporal Difference Learning and the Bellman equation. On the off chance that a past board state is encountered, the Q-table can be used to find the best corresponding action, instead of having to iterate through the entire tree. I call this the **QL-MCTS** algorithm, with inspiration from Wang et al. (2018) approach to Monte-Carlo Q-Learning. QL-MCTS works by:

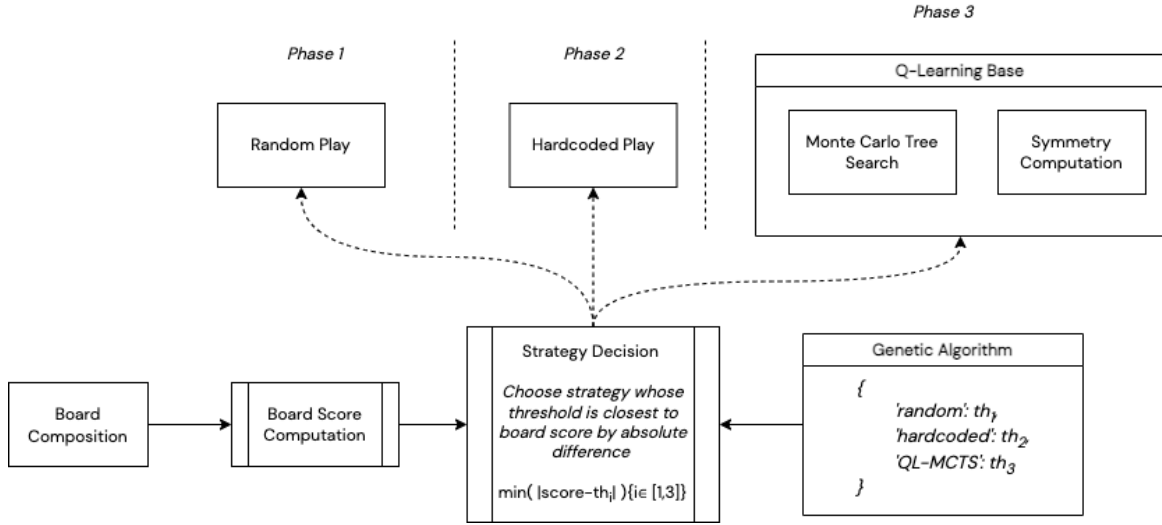


Figure 3: Hybrid Agent

- When training the Q-learning agent, use MCTS to find the best moves instead of using random in the epsilon-greedy policy.
- If the agent is called and a particular state-action combination is not present in the Q-table, go to MCTS to find the best move.

### 5.2.3 Step 3: Implementing the Hybrid Agent

Using the best performing algorithms, I created a hybrid agent that works in 3 phases. First, to get the game started, it will make random moves. After this, it will switch to a hardcoded strategy where it will attempt to computationally build lines of similar pieces. Finally, it will leverage the QL-MCTS algorithm to find the best moves and win the game. Since QL-MCTS is slow, it is kept as the final phase. This approach is shown in Figure 3, and is a balance between speed and efficiency.

The main question is when to switch between the algorithms. The intuition is that the switch depends on the change of the board composition. We represent this numerically through a board score, that is essentially a sum of couplets and triplets.

$$couples + 2 * triplets$$

The range of values for scores  $\in [0, 16]$ . We try to generate score thresholds to switch between the 3 strategies using a genetic algorithm. An example of a genome is shown in Figure 1.

We train the genetic algorithm for 1000 generations and a population size of 100, to find the best genome and submit these as the thresholds for the hybrid

---

**Listing 1** Genome Example

---

```
{  
  "random": 3,  
  "hardcoded" : 5,  
  "ql-mcts" : 8  
}
```

---

agent.

Once the final thresholds are found, we find the strategy whose threshold has the smallest absolute difference with the current board score. The minimisation formula is:

$$\text{strategy} = \min_{i=1}^3 |\text{threshold}_i - \text{board score}|$$

### 5.3 Results

After several iterations of the genetic algorithm, the best genome thresholds were found to be:

```
{  
  'random': 2.090773081612301,  
  'hardcoded': 3.790328881747581,  
  'ql-mcts': 7.251997327518943  
}
```

It is clear that the algorithm prefers to use the QL-MCTS (essentially MCTS) strategy extensively, as it almost always guarantees a win regardless of whether it is playing first or second. Random is entirely probabilistic and hardcoded has better chances only when it's the first player.

Tournament results are shown in Table 2, where each player is played against a random player for 10 tournaments of 10 games each (10 x 10 = 100 games).

Strategy	Win Rate	Comments
DQN	55%	Convergence not reached
QL-MCTS	84%	Slow, but can guarantee a win
Hardcoded	94%	Fast
Hybrid	78%	Heavily dependent on adjusting thresholds

Table 2: Results computed based on 10 tournaments of 10 games each (10 x 10 = 100 games) against a random player

## 5.4 Code of Hybrid Agent and Sub Players

This subsection covers the code of the final hybrid agent and the sub players it calls periodically.

### 5.4.1 Final Hybrid Player

The final hybrid player's driver code is below. It uses a genetic algorithm to find the best thresholds for switching between the 3 strategies. It uses crossover and conditional mutations to find the best genome from a limited population size.

Furthermore, to reduce the search space, we enforce the constraint that the threshold for random < hardcoded < MCTS, with the intuition that the slowest but most powerful algorithm should be used last.

```
1  '''
2  Genetic Algorithm for Quarto
3  '''
4  import sys
5  sys.path.insert(0, '..')
6
7  import tqdm
8  import random
9  import logging
10 import json
11 import itertools
12 from copy import deepcopy
13 from lib.players import Player, RandomPlayer
14 from quarto.objects import Quarto
15 from lib.scoring import score_board
16 from QLMCTS import QLearningPlayer
17 from Hardcoded.hardcoded import HardcodedPlayer
18
19 logging.basicConfig(level=logging.DEBUG)
20
21 class Genome:
22     def __init__(self, thresholds, fitness):
23         self.thresholds = thresholds
24         self.fitness = fitness
25
26     def set_fitness(self, fitness):
27         self.fitness = fitness
28
29     def set_thresholds(self, thresholds):
30         self.thresholds = thresholds
31
32     def toJSON(self):
33         return {
34             'thresholds': self.thresholds,
```

```

35         'fitness': self.fitness
36     }
37
38
39 class FinalPlayer(Player):
40     '''
41     Final player uses genetic algorithm to decide between:
42     1. Hardcoded Strategy
43     2. Random Strategy
44     3. QL-MCTS
45     '''
46
47     def __init__(self, quarto: Quarto = None):
48         if quarto is None:
49             quarto = Quarto()
50         super().__init__(quarto)
51         self.ql_mcts = QLearningPlayer(quarto)
52         self.hardcoded = HardcodedPlayer(quarto)
53         self.random_player = RandomPlayer(quarto)
54         self.BOARD_SIDE = 4
55         self.GENOME_VAL_UPPER_BOUND = 16
56         self.GENOME_VAL_LOWER_BOUND = 0
57         self.thresholds = {
58             'random': 1.090773081612301,
59             'hardcoded': 2.790328881747581,
60             'ql-mcts': 8.251997327518943
61         }
62
63     def generate_population(self, population_size):
64         population = []
65         for i in range(population_size):
66             threshold = {}
67
68             # make sure that value for random < hardcoded < ql-mcts
69             threshold['random'] = random.random() * self.GENOME_VAL_UPPER_BOUND
70             # find random number between random and 15
71             threshold['hardcoded'] = threshold['random'] + \
72                 random.random() * (self.GENOME_VAL_UPPER_BOUND -
73                                     threshold['random'])
74
75             # find random number between hardcoded and 15
76             threshold['ql-mcts'] = threshold['hardcoded'] + \
77                 random.random() * (self.GENOME_VAL_UPPER_BOUND -
78                                     threshold['hardcoded'])
79
80             assert threshold['random'] < threshold['hardcoded'] < \
81                 ⇨ threshold['ql-mcts']
82
83             population.append(Genome(threshold, 0))
84         return population

```

```

84
85 def ensure_correct_ordering(self, new_thresholds):
86     if new_thresholds['random'] > new_thresholds['hardcoded']:
87         new_thresholds['random'], new_thresholds['hardcoded'] =
88             ↪ new_thresholds['hardcoded'], new_thresholds['random']
89     if new_thresholds['hardcoded'] > new_thresholds['ql-mcts']:
90         new_thresholds['hardcoded'], new_thresholds['ql-mcts'] =
91             ↪ new_thresholds['ql-mcts'], new_thresholds['hardcoded']
92     if new_thresholds['random'] > new_thresholds['hardcoded']:
93         new_thresholds['random'], new_thresholds['hardcoded'] =
94             ↪ new_thresholds['hardcoded'], new_thresholds['random']
95     return new_thresholds
96
97 def crossover(self, genome1, genome2):
98     new_thresholds = {}
99     for key in genome1.thresholds:
100         new_thresholds[key] = random.choice(
101             [genome1.thresholds[key], genome2.thresholds[key]])
102
103     # make sure that value for random < hardcoded < ql-mcts
104     new_thresholds = self.ensure_correct_ordering(new_thresholds)
105     return Genome(new_thresholds, 0)
106
107 def mutate(self, genome):
108     new_thresholds = {}
109     genome_thresholds = genome.thresholds
110     if random.random() < 0.4:
111         new_thresholds['random'] = random.random() * \
112             self.GENOME_VAL_UPPER_BOUND
113         new_thresholds['hardcoded'] = random.choice(
114             [genome_thresholds['random'], genome_thresholds['random'] +
115              random.random() * (self.GENOME_VAL_UPPER_BOUND -
116              ↪ genome_thresholds['random'])])
117         new_thresholds['ql-mcts'] = random.choice(
118             [genome_thresholds['hardcoded'], genome_thresholds['hardcoded'] +
119              random.random() * (self.GENOME_VAL_UPPER_BOUND -
120              ↪ genome_thresholds['hardcoded'])])
121
122     new_thresholds = self.ensure_correct_ordering(new_thresholds)
123
124     assert new_thresholds['random'] < new_thresholds['hardcoded'] <
125         ↪ new_thresholds['ql-mcts']
126
127     return Genome(new_thresholds, 0)
128     return genome
129
130 def evolve(self, num_generations=50):
131     self.population_size = 50
132     self.offspring_size = 10
133     population = self.generate_population(self.population_size)

```

```

128
129 pbar = tqdm.tqdm(total=num_generations)
130 for gen in range(num_generations):
131     pbar.update(1)
132     logging.debug('Generation: {}'.format(gen))
133     offpsring = []
134     for i in range(self.offspring_size):
135         parent1 = random.choice(population)
136         parent2 = random.choice(population)
137         child = self.crossover(parent1, parent2)
138         child = self.mutate(child)
139         child.fitness = self.play_game(child.thresholds, num_games=5)
140         offpsring.append(child)
141     population += offpsring
142     population = sorted(
143         population, key=lambda x: x.fitness,
144         ↪ reverse=True)[:self.population_size]
145
146     if gen % 5 == 0:
147         logging.info('Saving population')
148         with open('/Volumes/USB/population3.json', 'w') as f:
149             json.dump([genome.toJSON() for genome in population], f)
150
151     # return the best genome's thresholds
152     return population[0].thresholds
153
154 def play_game(self, thresholds, num_games=10):
155     wins = 0
156     for game in range(num_games):
157         logging.debug('Game: {}'.format(game))
158         state = Quarto()
159         player = 0
160
161         # initialise with some random piece just to kickstart game
162         state.set_selected_piece(self.random_player.choose_piece(state, 0))
163         self.current_state = state
164
165         # python passes by reference
166         # agent will use the state, etc. to update the Q-table
167         # this function also wipes the MCTS tree
168         self.ql_mcts.clear_and_set_current_state(state)
169         self.hardcoded = HardcodedPlayer(state)
170
171         while True:
172             # board score is the number of couples and triplets on the board
173             # it is indicative of the change of the board state
174             board_score = score_board(self.current_state)
175
176             differences = [abs(board_score - thresholds[key])
177                             for key in thresholds]

```

```

177 min_diff = min(differences)
178 index = differences.index(min_diff)
179 key = list(thresholds.keys())[index]
180
181 if player == 0:
182     if key == 'random':
183         logging.debug('random')
184         # play randomly
185         action = self.random_player.place_piece()
186         next_piece = self.random_player.choose_piece()
187         while
188             ↪ self.current_state.check_if_move_valid(self.current_state.get_s
189             ↪ action[0], action[1], next_piece) is False:
190                 action = self.random_player.place_piece()
191                 next_piece = self.random_player.choose_piece()
192         self.current_state.select(
193             self.current_state.get_selected_piece())
194         self.current_state.place(action[0], action[1])
195         self.current_state.set_selected_piece(next_piece)
196         self.current_state.switch_player()
197         player = 1 - player
198
199 elif key == 'hardcoded':
200     # play using hardcoded strategy
201     self.previous_state = deepcopy(self.current_state)
202     winning_piece, position =
203         ↪ self.hardcoded.hardcoded_strategy_get_move()
204     next_piece =
205         ↪ self.hardcoded.hardcoded_strategy_get_piece()
206     while
207         ↪ self.current_state.check_if_move_valid(self.current_state.get_s
208         ↪ position[0], position[1], next_piece) is False:
209             winning_piece, position =
210                 ↪ self.hardcoded.hardcoded_strategy_get_move(
211                 self.current_state)
212             next_piece =
213                 ↪ self.hardcoded.hardcoded_strategy_get_piece(
214                 self.current_state)
215     self.current_state.select(state.get_selected_piece())
216     self.current_state.place(position[0], position[1])
217     self.current_state.set_selected_piece(next_piece)
218     self.current_state.switch_player()
219     player = 1 - player
220
221 else:
222     # play using QL-MCTS
223     logging.debug('ql-mcts')
224     self.ql_mcts.previous_state = deepcopy(
225         self.current_state)
226     action = self.ql_mcts.get_action(self.current_state)

```



```

219         self.ql_mcts.previous_action = action
220         self.ql_mcts.current_state.select(
221             self.current_state.get_selected_piece())
222         self.ql_mcts.current_state.place(action[0], action[1])
223         self.ql_mcts.current_state.set_selected_piece(
224             action[2])
225         self.ql_mcts.current_state.switch_player()
226         player = 1 - player
227
228     else:
229         # opponent is random
230         action = self.random_player.place_piece()
231         next_piece = self.random_player.choose_piece()
232         while
233             ↪ self.current_state.check_if_move_valid(self.current_state.get_selected_piece(),
234             ↪ action[0], action[1], next_piece) is False:
235                 action = self.random_player.place_piece()
236                 next_piece = self.random_player.choose_piece()
237                 # WARNING: very often stuck in this loop
238             self.current_state.select(
239                 self.current_state.get_selected_piece())
240             self.current_state.place(action[0], action[1])
241             self.current_state.set_selected_piece(next_piece)
242             self.current_state.switch_player()
243             player = 1 - player
244
245     if self.current_state.check_is_game_over():
246         if 1 - self.current_state.check_winner() == 0:
247             print("Agent wins")
248             wins += 1
249             # TODO: QL reward update
250         else:
251             print("Player 2 wins")
252             break
253
254     # fitness is the percentage of games won
255     logging.debug(f"Win rate: {wins/num_games}")
256     return wins/num_games
257
258 def choose_piece(self):
259     '''
260     Choose piece for next player to place
261     '''
262     thresholds = self.thresholds
263
264     # game is stored in parent
265     self.current_state = self.get_game()
266
267     board_score = score_board(self.current_state)

```

```

267     differences = [abs(board_score - thresholds[key])
268                    for key in thresholds]
269     min_diff = min(differences)
270     index = differences.index(min_diff)
271     key = list(thresholds.keys())[index]
272
273     # python passes by reference
274     # agent will use the state, etc. to update the Q-table
275     # this function also wipes the MCTS tree
276     self.ql_mcts.clear_and_set_current_state(self.current_state)
277     self.hardcoded = HardcodedPlayer(self.current_state)
278
279     if key == 'random':
280         logging.debug('random')
281         # play randomly
282         action = self.random_player.place_piece()
283         next_piece = self.random_player.choose_piece()
284         while
285             ↪ self.current_state.check_if_move_valid(self.current_state.get_selected_piec
286             ↪ action[0], action[1], next_piece) is False:
287                 action = self.random_player.place_piece()
288                 next_piece = self.random_player.choose_piece()
289         return next_piece
290
291     elif key == 'hardcoded':
292         # play using hardcoded strategy
293         logging.debug('hardcoded')
294         self.previous_state = deepcopy(self.current_state)
295         # winning_piece, position =
296         ↪ self.hardcoded.hardcoded_strategy_get_move()
297         next_piece = self.hardcoded.hardcoded_strategy_get_piece()
298         # while
299         ↪ self.current_state.check_if_move_valid(self.current_state.get_selected_piec
300         ↪ position[0], position[1], next_piece) is False:
301             # winning_piece, position = self.hardcoded_strategy_get_move()
302             # next_piece = self.hardcoded_strategy_get_piece()
303         return next_piece
304
305     else:
306         # play using QL-MCTS
307         logging.debug('ql-mcts')
308         self.ql_mcts.previous_state = deepcopy(
309             self.current_state)
310         action = self.ql_mcts.get_action(self.current_state)
311         self.ql_mcts.previous_action = action
312         self.ql_mcts.current_state.select(
313             self.current_state.get_selected_piece())
314         return action[2]
315
316 def place_piece(self):

```

```

312     # python passes by reference
313     # agent will use the state, etc. to update the Q-table
314     # this function also wipes the MCTS tree
315     self.current_state = self.get_game()
316     thresholds = self.thresholds
317
318     # python passes by reference
319     # agent will use the state, etc. to update the Q-table
320     # this function also wipes the MCTS tree
321     self.q1_mcts.clear_and_set_current_state(self.current_state)
322     self.hardcoded = HardcodedPlayer(self.current_state)
323
324     while True:
325         # board score is the number of couples and triplets on the board
326         # it is indicative of the change of the board state
327         board_score = score_board(self.current_state)
328
329         differences = [abs(board_score - thresholds[key])
330                        for key in thresholds]
331         min_diff = min(differences)
332         index = differences.index(min_diff)
333         key = list(thresholds.keys())[index]
334
335         if key == 'random':
336             logging.debug('random')
337             # play randomly
338             action = self.random_player.place_piece()
339             next_piece = self.random_player.choose_piece()
340             while
341                 ↪ self.current_state.check_if_move_valid(self.current_state.get_selected_
342                 ↪ action[0], action[1], next_piece) is False:
343                 action = self.random_player.place_piece()
344                 next_piece = self.random_player.choose_piece()
345             return action[0], action[1]
346
347         elif key == 'hardcoded':
348             # play using hardcoded strategy
349             logging.debug('hardcoded')
350             self.previous_state = deepcopy(self.current_state)
351             winning_piece, position = self.hardcoded_strategy_get_move()
352             # next_piece = self.hardcoded_strategy_get_piece()
353             # while
354                 ↪ self.current_state.check_if_move_valid(self.current_state.get_selected_
355                 ↪ position[0], position[1], next_piece) is False:
356                 # winning_piece, position =
357                 ↪ self.hardcoded_strategy_get_move()
358                 # next_piece = self.hardcoded_strategy_get_piece()
359             return position[0], position[1]
360
361         else:

```

```

357         # play using QL-MCTS
358         logging.debug('ql-mcts')
359         self.ql_mcts.previous_state = deepcopy(
360             self.current_state)
361         action = self.ql_mcts.get_action(self.current_state)
362         self.ql_mcts.previous_action = action
363         return action[0], action[1]
364
365     def test_thresholds(self):
366         thresholds = {'random': 10000,
367                       'hardcoded': 3, 'ql-mcts': 1000}
368         win_rate = self.play_game(thresholds, num_games=10)
369         return win_rate
370
371 if __name__ == "__main__":
372     final_player = FinalPlayer()
373     # best_thresholds = final_player.evolve()
374     # print(best_thresholds)
375
376     average_win_rate = 0
377     for i in range(10):
378         win_rate = final_player.test_thresholds()
379         average_win_rate += win_rate
380     print(f"Average win rate: {average_win_rate}")

```

#### 5.4.2 Code for Hardcoded Strategy

The strategy is outlined in this [paper](#). I implement it in Python below.

```

1  '''
2  Hardcoded player for Quarto
3  Follows risky strategy from paper:
4
5  "Developing Strategic and Mathematical Thinking via Game Play:
6  Programming to Investigate a Risky Strategy for Quarto"
7  by Peter Rowlett
8  '''
9  from copy import deepcopy
10 import itertools
11 import logging
12 import random
13
14 from lib.players import Player
15 from quarto.objects import Quarto
16
17 import sys
18 sys.path.insert(0, '..')
19
20 class HardcodedPlayer(Player):

```

```

21 def __init__(self, quarto: Quarto = None):
22     if quarto is None:
23         quarto = Quarto()
24     super().__init__(quarto)
25     self.BOARD_SIDE = 4
26
27 def check_if_winning_piece(self, state, piece):
28     '''
29     Simulate placing the piece on the board and check if the game is over
30     '''
31
32     for i in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
33         for j in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
34             if state.check_if_move_valid(piece, i, j, -100):
35                 cloned_state = deepcopy(state)
36                 cloned_state.select(piece)
37                 cloned_state.place(i, j)
38
39                 if cloned_state.check_is_game_over():
40                     return True, [i, j]
41     return False, None
42
43 def hardcoded_strategy_get_piece(self):
44     '''
45     Returns a piece to be placed on the board
46     '''
47     state = self.get_game()
48
49     possible_pieces = []
50     for i in range(16):
51         # check if the piece is a winning piece
52         winning_piece, _ = self.check_if_winning_piece(state, i)
53         if (not winning_piece) and (i not in
54             ↪ list(itertools.chain.from_iterable(state.state_as_array())) and
55             ↪ (i != state.get_selected_piece())):
56             possible_pieces.append(i)
57
58     # if no pieces can be placed on board anymore (board full/game over),
59     ↪ return -1
60
61     if len(possible_pieces) == 0:
62         # check if number of non-empty cells is 16
63         if len([i for i in
64             ↪ list(itertools.chain.from_iterable(state.state_as_array())) if i
65             ↪ != -1]) == 16:
66             return -1
67         else:
68             # there are possible pieces to be placed, but they are winning
69             ↪ pieces/already in board
70             on_board = list(itertools.chain.from_iterable(
71                 state.state_as_array()))

```

```

65         not_on_board = list(set(range(16)) - set(on_board))
66         return random.choice(not_on_board)
67     else:
68         return random.choice(possible_pieces)
69
70 def choose_piece(self):
71     '''
72     Returns a piece to be placed on the board
73     '''
74     return self.hardcoded_strategy_get_piece()
75
76 def hardcoded_strategy_get_move(self, return_winning_piece_boolean=True):
77     # 1. Play the piece handed over by the opponent:
78     # (a) play a winning position if handed a winning piece;
79     # (b) otherwise, play to build a line of like pieces if possible;
80     # (c) otherwise, play randomly.
81     # 2. Hand a piece to the opponent:
82     # (a) avoid handing over a winning piece for your opponent to play;
83     # (b) otherwise, choose randomly.
84
85     state = self.get_game()
86
87     board = state.state_as_array()
88     selected_piece = state.get_selected_piece()
89     # check if the selected piece is a winning piece
90     winning_piece, position = self.check_if_winning_piece(
91         state, selected_piece)
92     if winning_piece:
93         return selected_piece, position
94
95     # check if the selected piece can be used to build a line of like pieces
96
97     row_1 = [[0, 0], [0, 1], [0, 2], [0, 3]]
98     # pieces in row 2
99     row_2 = [[1, 0], [1, 1], [1, 2], [1, 3]]
100    # pieces in row 3
101    row_3 = [[2, 0], [2, 1], [2, 2], [2, 3]]
102    # pieces in row 4
103    row_4 = [[3, 0], [3, 1], [3, 2], [3, 3]]
104
105    # pieces in column 1
106    col_1 = [[0, 0], [1, 0], [2, 0], [3, 0]]
107    # pieces in column 2
108    col_2 = [[0, 1], [1, 1], [2, 1], [3, 1]]
109    # pieces in column 3
110    col_3 = [[0, 2], [1, 2], [2, 2], [3, 2]]
111    # pieces in column 4
112    col_4 = [[0, 3], [1, 3], [2, 3], [3, 3]]
113
114    # pieces in diagonal 1

```

```

115     diag_1 = [[0, 0], [1, 1], [2, 2], [3, 3]]
116     # pieces in diagonal 2
117     diag_2 = [[0, 3], [1, 2], [2, 1], [3, 0]]
118
119     for line in [row_1, row_2, row_3, row_4, col_1, col_2, col_3, col_4,
120     ↪ diag_1, diag_2]:
121         # check if the selected piece can be used to build a line of like
122         ↪ pieces
123         characteristics = []
124         empty_rows = []
125         for el in line:
126             x, y = el
127             if board[x, y] != -1:
128                 piece = board[x][y]
129                 piece_char = state.get_piece_characteristics(piece)
130                 characteristics.append(
131                     [piece_char.HIGH, piece_char.COLOURED, piece_char.SOLID,
132                     ↪ piece_char.SQUARE])
133             else:
134                 empty_rows.append(el)
135                 characteristics.append([-1, -1, -1, -1])
136
137     selected_piece_char = state.get_piece_characteristics(
138         selected_piece)
139     selected_piece_char = [selected_piece_char.HIGH,
140     ↪ selected_piece_char.COLOURED,
141     ↪ selected_piece_char.SOLID,
142     ↪ selected_piece_char.SQUARE]
143
144     # check if characteristics has an empty row
145     if [-1, -1, -1, -1] in characteristics:
146         # count how many [-1, -1, -1, -1] are in characteristics
147         empty_indexes = [i for i, x in enumerate(
148             characteristics) if x == [-1, -1, -1, -1]]
149
150     empty_rows_count = characteristics.count([-1, -1, -1, -1])
151     characteristics_copy = characteristics.copy()
152
153     # proceeding to check couplets and see if they can build
154     ↪ triplets
155     # since 2 empty rows may be present and either could create a
156     ↪ triplet, have to choose randomly later
157     potential_moves = []
158
159     for i, index in enumerate(empty_indexes):
160         position = empty_rows[i]
161         # insert the selected piece in the empty row
162         # empty_piece_index = characteristics.index(
163         #     [-1, -1, -1, -1])
164         characteristics = characteristics_copy.copy()

```

```

158         characteristics[index] = selected_piece_char
159
160         # check if any column has the same characteristics
161         col1 = [characteristics[0][0], characteristics[1][0],
162                characteristics[2][0], characteristics[3][0]]
163         col2 = [characteristics[0][1], characteristics[1][1],
164                characteristics[2][1], characteristics[3][1]]
165         col3 = [characteristics[0][2], characteristics[1][2],
166                characteristics[2][2], characteristics[3][2]]
167         col4 = [characteristics[0][3], characteristics[1][3],
168                characteristics[2][3], characteristics[3][3]]
169
170         col1 = [int(i) for i in col1]
171         col2 = [int(i) for i in col2]
172         col3 = [int(i) for i in col3]
173         col4 = [int(i) for i in col4]
174
175         # print(col1, col2, col3, col4)
176         def check_if_form_triplet(line):
177             # earlier we checked if we can complete a line
178             # here we check if we can form a triplet (one step away
179             ↳ from completing a line)
180             return line.count(1) == 3 or line.count(0) == 3
181
182         # if len(set(col1)) == 1 or len(set(col2)) == 1 or
183         ↳ len(set(col3)) == 1 or len(set(col4)) == 1:
184         if check_if_form_triplet(col1) or check_if_form_triplet(col2)
185         ↳ or check_if_form_triplet(col3) or
186         ↳ check_if_form_triplet(col4):
187             # this piece can be used to build a line of like pieces
188             logging.debug('playing to build a line of like pieces')
189             potential_moves.append(list(reversed(position)))
190
191         if len(potential_moves) >= 1:
192             if return_winning_piece_boolean:
193                 # return True, list(reversed(empty_rows[-1]))
194                 return True, random.choice(potential_moves)
195             else:
196                 # move = list(reversed(empty_rows[-1]))
197                 # move = list(reversed(position))
198                 move = random.choice(potential_moves)
199                 return move[0], move[1]
200
201         # play randomly
202         possible_moves = []
203         for i in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
204             for j in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
205                 for next_piece in range(16):
206                     if state.check_if_move_valid(selected_piece, i, j,
207                     ↳ next_piece):

```



```

203         if return_winning_piece_boolean:
204             possible_moves.append([False, [i, j]])
205         else:
206             possible_moves.append([i, j])
207
208     random_move = random.choice(possible_moves)
209     return random_move[0], random_move[1]
210
211     logging.debug(f"Selected piece: {selected_piece}")
212     logging.debug(f"Board: {board}")
213     logging.debug('no move found')
214
215     def place_piece(self):
216         '''
217         Above function sometimes necessary to return additional information
218         In game, first return value is not necessary
219         '''
220         return
221         ↪ self.hardcoded_strategy_get_move(return_winning_piece_boolean=False)

```

### 5.4.3 Monte Carlo Tree Search

The implementation of MCTS and the rollout strategy is based on the minimal implementation [here](#).

```

1  from collections import defaultdict
2  import copy
3  import json
4  import logging
5  import math
6  import pickle
7  import random
8  from threading import Thread
9
10 import numpy as np
11 from lib.isomorphic import BoardTransforms
12 from lib.players import Player, RandomPlayer
13 from lib.utilities import Node, NodeDecoder, NodeEncoder
14
15 from quarto.objects import Quarto
16
17 logging.basicConfig(level=logging.INFO)
18
19
20 class MonteCarloTreeSearchEncoder(json.JSONEncoder):
21     def default(self, obj):
22         l = {
23             'Q': {k.hash_state(): v for k, v in obj.Q.items()},
24             'N': {k.hash_state(): v for k, v in obj.N.items()},

```

```

25
26     # children is a dictionary of nodes
27     'children': {k.hash_state(): [NodeEncoder().default(i) for i in v]
28         ↪ for k, v in obj.children.items()},
29
30     # 'children': [NodeEncoder().default(child) for child in
31     ↪ obj.children],
32     'epsilon': obj.epsilon,
33 }
34
35 return l
36
37 def encode(self, obj):
38     return super().encode(obj)
39
40 def load_json(self, filename):
41     with open(filename, 'r') as f:
42         return json.load(f, cls=MonteCarloTreeSearchDecoder)
43
44 class MonteCarloTreeSearchDecoder(json.JSONDecoder):
45     '''
46     Recreate MonteCarloTreeSearch object from JSON
47     '''
48
49     def __init__(self, *args, **kwargs):
50         json.JSONDecoder.__init__(
51             self, object_hook=self.object_hook, *args, **kwargs)
52
53     def object_hook(self, obj):
54         children = {}
55
56         for k, v in obj['children'].items():
57             children[Node(hash_state=k)] = [
58                 NodeDecoder().object_hook(node) for node in v]
59
60         if 'Q' in obj:
61             return MonteCarloTreeSearch(
62                 Q={Node(hash_state=k): v for k, v in obj['Q'].items()},
63                 N={Node(hash_state=k): v for k, v in obj['N'].items()},
64                 children=children,
65                 epsilon=obj['epsilon'],
66             )
67         return obj
68
69 def decode_tree(tree):
70     return MonteCarloTreeSearchDecoder().object_hook(tree)
71
72 class MonteCarloTreeSearch(Player):

```

```

73     '''
74     Solve using Monte Carlo Tree Search
75     '''
76
77     def __init__(self, board=Quarto(), epsilon=0.1, max_depth=1000, Q=None,
78 ↪ N=None, children=None):
79         self.epsilon = epsilon
80         self.max_depth = max_depth
81         if Q is None:
82             self.Q = defaultdict(int)
83         else:
84             self.Q = defaultdict(int, Q)
85         if N is None:
86             self.N = defaultdict(int)
87         else:
88             self.N = defaultdict(int, N)
89         if children is None:
90             self.children = dict()
91         else:
92             self.children = children
93         self.MAX_PIECES = 16
94         self.BOARD_SIDE = 4
95         self.board = board
96         self.random_factor = 0
97         self.decisions = 0
98         super().__init__(board)
99
100     def set_board(self, board):
101         self.board = board
102
103     def choose(self, node):
104         '''
105         Choose best successor of node (move)
106         Returns the board itself
107         '''
108         def score(n):
109             logging.debug(f"Before reading in choose {n}")
110             if self.N[n] == 0:
111                 return float('-inf')
112             return self.Q[n] / self.N[n]
113
114         # node is board Quarto
115         node = Node(node)
116         if node.is_terminal():
117             logging.debug(node.board.state_as_array())
118             raise RuntimeError("choose called on terminal node")
119
120         # number of moves made in game
121         self.decisions += 1

```

```

122     for key in self.children:
123         if key == node:
124             return max(self.children[key], key=score).board
125
126     self.random_factor += 1
127     if node not in self.children:
128         for key, value in self.children.items():
129             if BoardTransforms().compare_boards(node.board.state_as_array(),
130             ↪ key.board.state_as_array()):
131                 if key in self.children:
132                     print("found in symmetry")
133                     return max(self.children[key], key=score).board
134
135         # number of times have to resort to random
136         rand_child = node.find_random_child()
137         # add to children
138         self.children[node] = [rand_child]
139         return rand_child.board
140
141     print("found in board")
142     return max(self.children[node], key=score).board
143
144 def choose_piece(self):
145     """
146     Choose a piece to make the opponent place
147     """
148     node = Node(board=self.board,
149                 selected_piece_index=self.board.get_selected_piece())
150
151     if node.is_terminal():
152         logging.debug(node.board.state_as_array())
153         raise RuntimeError("choose called on terminal node")
154
155     if node not in self.children:
156         # index -1 of tuple is next piece from a board
157         print("Random child")
158         return node.find_random_child()[-1]
159
160     def score(n):
161         logging.debug(f"Before reading in choose {n}")
162         if self.N[n] == 0:
163             return float('-inf')
164         return self.Q[n] / self.N[n]
165
166     return max(self.children[node], key=score)[-1]
167
168 def place_piece(self):
169     """
170     Return position to place piece on board
171     """

```

```

171     node = Node(board=self.board,
172                 selected_piece_index=self.board.get_selected_piece())
173
174     if node.is_terminal():
175         logging.debug(node.board.state_as_array())
176         raise RuntimeError("choose called on terminal node")
177
178     # if node not in self.children:
179     #     piece, x, y, next_piece = node.find_random_child().move
180     #     # print("Random child")
181     #     # print(piece, x, y, next_piece)
182     #     return x, y, next_piece
183
184     if node not in self.children:
185         for key, value in self.children.items():
186             if BoardTransforms().compare_boards(node.board.state_as_array(),
187             ↪ key.board.state_as_array()):
188                 if key in self.children:
189                     print("found in symmetry")
190                     return max(self.children[key], key=score).board
191
192     # number of times have to resort to random
193     rand_child = node.find_random_child()
194     print("Random child")
195     # add to children
196     return rand_child.board.move
197
198     def score(n):
199         logging.debug(f"Before reading in choose {n}")
200         if self.N[n] == 0:
201             return float('-inf')
202         return self.Q[n] / self.N[n]
203
204     # print("In place piece")
205     # print(max(self.children[node], key=score).move)
206     return max(self.children[node], key=score).move[1:]
207
208     def do_rollout(self, board):
209         '''
210         Rollout from the node for one iteration
211         '''
212         logging.debug("Rollout")
213         # if root node, there is no move
214         node = Node(board, move=())
215         path = self.select(node)
216         leaf = path[-1]
217
218         # expand a leaf only when necessary, i.e., only if I arrive at it during
219         ↪ selection and if it has already been visited (self.N) but not yet
220         ↪ expanded (self.children)

```

```

218         if leaf in self.N and leaf not in self.children:
219             self.expand(leaf)
220
221         reward = self.simulate(leaf)
222         self.backpropagate(path, reward)
223
224     def select(self, node):
225         """
226         Select path to leaf node
227         """
228         path = []
229         while True:
230             path.append(node)
231             if node not in self.children or not self.children[node]:
232                 return path
233             unexplored = self.children[node] - self.children.keys()
234             if unexplored:
235                 n = unexplored.pop()
236                 path.append(n)
237                 return path
238             node = self.uct_select(node)
239
240     def expand(self, node):
241         # logging.debug('Expanding')
242         if node in self.children:
243             return
244         self.children[node] = node.find_children()
245         # logging.debug('Children: ', self.children[node])
246
247     def simulate(self, node):
248         """
249         Returns reward for random simulation
250         """
251         invert_reward = False
252         while True:
253             if node.is_terminal():
254                 reward = node.reward()
255
256                 return 1 - reward if invert_reward else reward
257             node = node.find_random_child()
258             # invert_reward = not invert_reward
259
260     def backpropagate(self, path, reward):
261         """
262         Backpropagate reward
263         """
264         logging.debug('Backpropagating')
265         for node in reversed(path):
266             self.N[node] += 1
267             self.Q[node] += reward

```

```

268         # TODO: check if this is correct
269         reward = 1 - reward
270
271     def uct_select(self, node):
272         '''
273         Select a child of node, balancing exploration & exploitation
274         '''
275         assert all(n in self.children for n in self.children[node])
276
277         log_N_vertex = math.log(self.N[node])
278
279         def uct(n):
280             return self.Q[n] / self.N[n] + self.epsilon * math.sqrt(log_N_vertex
281                 ↪ / self.N[n])
282
283         return max(self.children[node], key=uct)
284
285     def test_win_rate(self, num_trials=10, rollouts=20):
286         print("Testing win rate")
287         agent_wins = 0
288         opponent_wins = 0
289         draws = 0
290         for i in range(num_trials):
291             board = Quarto()
292             random_player = RandomPlayer(board)
293             self.board = board
294             board.set_selected_piece(random_player.choose_piece(board))
295             while True:
296                 # random player moves
297                 chosen_location = random_player.place_piece(
298                     board, board.get_selected_piece())
299                 chosen_piece = random_player.choose_piece(board)
300                 while not board.check_if_move_valid(board.get_selected_piece(),
301                     ↪ chosen_location[0], chosen_location[1], chosen_piece):
302                     chosen_location = random_player.place_piece(
303                         board, board.get_selected_piece())
304                     chosen_piece = random_player.choose_piece(board)
305                 board.select(board.get_selected_piece())
306                 board.place(chosen_location[0], chosen_location[1])
307                 # setting the piece for the next player
308                 board.set_selected_piece(chosen_piece)
309                 board.switch_player()
310
311             if board.check_is_game_over():
312                 if 1 - board.check_winner() == 0:
313                     opponent_wins += 1
314                 else:
315                     draws += 1
316                 break
317             # monte carlo tree search moves

```

```

316
317         # make move with monte carlo tree search
318         for _ in range(rollouts):
319             self.do_rollout(board)
320         board = self.choose(board)
321
322         if board.check_is_game_over():
323             # TODO: check if it's a draw
324             if 1 - board.check_winner() == 1:
325                 agent_wins += 1
326             else:
327                 draws += 1
328             break
329         # don't need to switch player because it's done in choose
330         # random_player needs to do it because it is not done
331         ↪ automatically
332
333         print(f"Agent wins: {agent_wins}/{i+1}")
334         print(f"Random factor ", self.random_factor / self.decisions)
335         self.random_factor = 0
336         self.decisions = 0
337
338     def train_engine(self, board, num_sims=200, save_format='json'):
339         """
340         Train the model
341         """
342         for i in range(num_sims):
343             board = Quarto()
344             random_player = RandomPlayer(board)
345             self.board = board
346             board.set_selected_piece(random_player.choose_piece(board))
347             logging.info(f"Iteration: {i} with tree size {len(self.children)}")
348             while True:
349                 # random player moves
350                 chosen_location = random_player.place_piece(
351                     board, board.get_selected_piece())
352                 chosen_piece = random_player.choose_piece(board)
353                 while not board.check_if_move_valid(board.get_selected_piece(),
354                     ↪ chosen_location[0], chosen_location[1], chosen_piece):
355                     chosen_location = random_player.place_piece(
356                         board, board.get_selected_piece())
357                     chosen_piece = random_player.choose_piece(board)
358                 board.select(board.get_selected_piece())
359                 board.place(chosen_location[0], chosen_location[1])
360                 # setting the piece for the next player
361                 board.set_selected_piece(chosen_piece)
362                 board.switch_player()
363
364             if board.check_is_game_over():
365                 if 1 - board.check_winner() == 0:

```



```

364         logging.info("Random player won")
365     else:
366         logging.info("Draw")
367     break
368     # monte carlo tree search moves
369
370     # make move with monte carlo tree search
371     for _ in range(20):
372         self.do_rollout(board)
373     board = self.choose(board)
374
375     if board.check_is_game_over():
376         # TODO: check if it's a draw
377         if 1 - board.check_winner() == 1:
378             logging.info("Agent won")
379         else:
380             logging.info("Draw")
381         break
382     # don't need to switch player because it's done in choose
383     # random_player needs to do it because it is not done
384     ↪ automatically
385
386     if i % 2 == 0:
387         # run a test to see if the agent is improving
388         self.test_win_rate()
389
390     # save progress every 10 iterations
391     if i % 100 == 0:
392         logging.debug("Saving progress")
393         if save_format == 'json':
394             self.save_progress_json('/Volumes/USB/progress3.json')
395         else:
396             self.save_progress_pickle('progress.pkl')
397
398     def train(self):
399         '''
400         Train without multithreading
401         '''
402         self.train_engine(Quarto(), 100, 'json')
403
404     def threaded_training(self, num_threads=1, save_format='json'):
405         '''
406         Train the model
407         '''
408         thread_pool = []
409
410         for i in range(num_threads):
411             t = Thread(target=self.train_engine, args=(Quarto(), 100, 'json'))
412             t.start()
413             thread_pool.append(t)

```

```

413
414     for t in thread_pool:
415         t.join()
416
417     # final save after training
418     if save_format == 'json':
419         self.save_progress_json('progress.json')
420     else:
421         self.save_progress_pickle('progress.pkl')
422
423 def generate_future_probabilities(self, root: Node, node: Node):
424     # 1 is the default value, but it can be changed to 0.5 or 0.1
425
426     self.tau = 0.5
427     if node not in self.children:
428         self.do_rollout(root.board)
429
430     probs = [self.N[child] / self.N[root]
431              for child in self.children[node]]
432
433     probs = [p ** (1 / self.tau) for p in probs]
434
435     probs = [p / sum(probs) for p in probs]
436
437     return probs
438
439 def save_progress_pickle(self, filename):
440     with open(filename, 'wb') as f:
441         pickle.dump(self, f)
442
443 def save_progress_json(self, filename):
444     with open(filename, 'w') as f:
445         json.dump(self, f, cls=MonteCarloTreeSearchEncoder)
446
447 def load_progress_json(self, filename):
448     with open(filename, 'r') as f:
449         return json.load(f, cls=MonteCarloTreeSearchDecoder)
450
451 def load_progress(self, filename):
452     with open(filename, 'rb') as f:
453         return pickle.load(f)
454
455
456 if __name__ == "__main__":
457     mcts = MonteCarloTreeSearch()
458     # with open('/Volumes/USB/progress3.json', 'r') as f:
459     #     mcts = decode_tree(json.load(f))
460     #     logging.info("Loaded progress")
461     logging.info("Starting training")
462     mcts.train()

```

#### 5.4.4 Q-Learning + MCTS

Here, I combine plain Q-Learning with an MCTS fallback, calling MCTS in the exploration phase and resorting to it in testing when a "state + action" pair cannot be found in the table.

```
1 from collections import defaultdict
2 from copy import deepcopy
3 import itertools
4 import json
5 import logging
6 import math
7 import os
8 import random
9 import time
10
11 from MCTS import MonteCarloTreeSearch
12 from MCTS.mcts import decode_tree
13 from quarto.objects import Quarto
14 from lib.players import Player, RandomPlayer
15 from lib.isomorphic import BoardTransforms
16
17 import tqdm
18 logging.basicConfig(level=logging.DEBUG)
19
20
21 class QLearningPlayer(Player):
22     def __init__(self, board: Quarto = Quarto(), epsilon=0.1, alpha=0.5,
23         ↪ gamma=0.9, tree: MonteCarloTreeSearch = None):
24         self.epsilon = epsilon
25         self.alpha = alpha
26         self.gamma = gamma
27         self.board = board
28         self.MAX_PIECES = 16
29         self.BOARD_SIDE = 4
30         self.Q = defaultdict(int)
31
32         if tree is not None:
33             # load the pre-initialised tree
34             self.tree = tree
35             self.tree.set_board(board)
36
37         else:
38             # load new tree
39             self.tree = MonteCarloTreeSearch(board=board)
40
41         super().__init__(board)
42
43     def clear_and_set_current_state(self, state: Quarto):
44         self.current_state = state
```

```

44     self.tree = MonteCarloTreeSearch(board=state)
45
46     def reduce_normal_form(self, state: Quarto):
47         '''
48         Reduce the Quarto board to normal form (i.e. the board is symmetric)
49         '''
50         # NOT IMPLEMENTED for now, just return the board
51         return state
52
53     def hash_state_action(self, state: Quarto, action):
54         # reduce to normal form before saving to Q table
55         return state.board_to_string() + '||' + str(state.get_selected_piece()) +
56             ↪ '||' + str(action)
57
58     def get_Q(self, state, action):
59         # check possible transforms first (really really slow)
60         for key, val in self.Q.items():
61             if BoardTransforms.compare_boards(state.state_as_array(),
62             ↪ state.string_to_board(key.split('||')[0])):
63                 return val
64
65         if self.hash_state_action(state, action) not in self.Q:
66             # used to determine if state exists in Q table
67             # if None, then go to MCTS
68             return None
69
70         return self.Q[self.hash_state_action(state, action)]
71
72     def get_Q_for_state(self, state):
73         if self.hash_state_action(state, None) not in self.Q:
74             return None
75         return [i for i in self.Q if i.startswith(str(state))]
76
77     def set_Q(self, state, action, value):
78         self.Q[self.hash_state_action(state, action)] = value
79
80     def get_possible_actions(self, state: Quarto):
81         actions = []
82         for i in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
83             for j in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
84                 for piece in range(self.MAX_PIECES):
85                     if state.check_if_move_valid(self.board.get_selected_piece(),
86                     ↪ i, j, piece):
87                         actions.append((i, j, piece))
88
89         return actions
90
91     def get_max_Q(self, state):
92         max_Q = -math.inf
93         for action in self.get_possible_actions(state):

```

```

91         if self.get_Q(state, action) is not None:
92             Q_val = self.get_Q(state, action)
93             max_Q = max(max_Q, self.get_Q(state, action))
94     return max_Q
95
96 def check_if_winning_piece(self, state, piece):
97     for i in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
98         for j in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
99             if state.check_if_move_valid(piece, i, j, piece):
100                 cloned_state = deepcopy(state)
101                 cloned_state.select(piece)
102                 cloned_state.place(i, j)
103
104                 if cloned_state.check_is_game_over():
105                     print('WINNING PIECE FOUND')
106                     return True, [i, j]
107     return False, None
108
109 def hardcoded_strategy_get_move(self, state):
110     # 1. Play the piece handed over by the opponent:
111     # (a) play a winning position if handed a winning piece;
112     # (b) otherwise, play to build a line of like pieces if possible;
113     # (c) otherwise, play randomly.
114     # 2. Hand a piece to the opponent:
115     # (a) avoid handing over a winning piece for your opponent to play;
116     # (b) otherwise, choose randomly.
117
118     board = state.state_as_array()
119     selected_piece = state.get_selected_piece()
120     # check if the selected piece is a winning piece
121     winning_piece, position = self.check_if_winning_piece(
122         state, selected_piece)
123     if winning_piece:
124         return selected_piece, position
125
126     # check if the selected piece can be used to build a line of like pieces
127
128     row_1 = [[0, 0], [0, 1], [0, 2], [0, 3]]
129     # pieces in row 2
130     row_2 = [[1, 0], [1, 1], [1, 2], [1, 3]]
131     # pieces in row 3
132     row_3 = [[2, 0], [2, 1], [2, 2], [2, 3]]
133     # pieces in row 4
134     row_4 = [[3, 0], [3, 1], [3, 2], [3, 3]]
135
136     # pieces in column 1
137     col_1 = [[0, 0], [1, 0], [2, 0], [3, 0]]
138     # pieces in column 2
139     col_2 = [[0, 1], [1, 1], [2, 1], [3, 1]]
140     # pieces in column 3

```

```

141 col_3 = [[0, 2], [1, 2], [2, 2], [3, 2]]
142 # pieces in column 4
143 col_4 = [[0, 3], [1, 3], [2, 3], [3, 3]]
144
145 # pieces in diagonal 1
146 diag_1 = [[0, 0], [1, 1], [2, 2], [3, 3]]
147 # pieces in diagonal 2
148 diag_2 = [[0, 3], [1, 2], [2, 1], [3, 0]]
149
150 for line in [row_1, row_2, row_3, row_4, col_1, col_2, col_3, col_4,
151 ↪ diag_1, diag_2]:
152     # check if the selected piece can be used to build a line of like
153     ↪ pieces
154     characteristics = []
155     empty_rows = []
156     for el in line:
157         x, y = el
158         if board[x, y] != -1:
159             piece = board[x][y]
160             piece_char = state.get_piece_characteristics(piece)
161             characteristics.append(
162                 [piece_char.HIGH, piece_char.COLOURED, piece_char.SOLID,
163                 ↪ piece_char.SQUARE])
164
165         else:
166             empty_rows.append(el)
167             characteristics.append([-1, -1, -1, -1])
168
169     selected_piece_char = state.get_piece_characteristics(
170         selected_piece)
171     selected_piece_char = [selected_piece_char.HIGH,
172     ↪ selected_piece_char.COLOURED,
173                             selected_piece_char.SOLID,
174     ↪ selected_piece_char.SQUARE]
175
176     # check if characteristics has an empty row
177     if [-1, -1, -1, -1] in characteristics:
178         # insert the selected piece in the empty row
179         empty_piece_index = characteristics.index(
180             [-1, -1, -1, -1])
181         characteristics[empty_piece_index] = selected_piece_char
182
183     # check if any column has the same characteristics
184     col1 = [characteristics[0][0], characteristics[1][0],
185             characteristics[2][0], characteristics[3][0]]
186     col2 = [characteristics[0][1], characteristics[1][1],
187             characteristics[2][1], characteristics[3][1]]
188     col3 = [characteristics[0][2], characteristics[1][2],
189             characteristics[2][2], characteristics[3][2]]
190     col4 = [characteristics[0][3], characteristics[1][3],
191             characteristics[2][3], characteristics[3][3]]

```

```

186
187         col1 = [int(i) for i in col1]
188         col2 = [int(i) for i in col2]
189         col3 = [int(i) for i in col3]
190         col4 = [int(i) for i in col4]
191
192         if len(set(col1)) == 1 or len(set(col2)) == 1 or len(set(col3))
↪      == 1 or len(set(col4)) == 1:
193             # this piece can be used to build a line of like pieces
194             logging.debug('playing to build a line of like pieces')
195             return True, list(reversed(empty_rows[-1]))
196
197     # play randomly
198     for i in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
199         for j in range(self.BOARD_SIDE):
200             for next_piece in range(16):
201                 if state.check_if_move_valid(selected_piece, i, j,
↪                 next_piece):
202                     return False, [i, j]
203
204     print('returning nothing')
205     print(state.state_as_array())
206     print(state.get_selected_piece())
207
208     def hardcoded_strategy_get_piece(self, state):
209         possible_pieces = []
210         for i in range(16):
211             # check if the piece is a winning piece
212             winning_piece, _ = self.check_if_winning_piece(state, i)
213             if (not winning_piece) and (i not in
↪             list(itertools.chain.from_iterable(state.state_as_array())) and
↪             (i != state.get_selected_piece())):
214                 possible_pieces.append(i)
215
216         return random.choice(possible_pieces)
217
218     def get_action(self, state, mode='training'):
219         '''
220         If state, action pair not in Q, go to Monte Carlo Tree Search to find
↪     best action
221         '''
222         if mode == 'training':
223             # exploration through epsilon greedy
224             # look for good moves through Monte Carlo Tree Search
225             if random.random() < self.epsilon:
226                 for i in range(20):
227                     self.tree.do_rollout(state)
228                     best_action = self.tree.place_piece()
229                     return best_action
230             else:

```

```

231         # look in the q table for the best action
232         expected_score = 0
233         best_action = None
234         for action in self.get_possible_actions(state):
235             if self.get_Q(state, action) is not None and expected_score <
                ↪ self.get_Q(state, action):
236                 print('found in Q table')
237                 expected_score = self.get_Q(state, action)
238                 best_action = action
239         # go to Monte Carlo Tree Search if no suitable action found in Q
                ↪ table
240         if best_action is None or expected_score == 0:
241             logging.debug(
242                 'No suitable action found in Q table, going to Monte
                    ↪ Carlo Tree Search')
243             for i in range(20):
244                 self.tree.do_rollout(state)
245             best_action = self.tree.place_piece()
246         else:
247             print('found in Q table')
248
249         return best_action
250     else:
251         # in test mode, use the Q table to find the best action
252         # only go to Monte Carlo Tree Search if no suitable action found in Q
                ↪ table
253         expected_score = 0
254         best_action = None
255         for action in self.get_possible_actions(state):
256             if self.get_Q(state, action) is not None and expected_score <
                ↪ self.get_Q(state, action):
257                 expected_score = self.get_Q(state, action)
258                 best_action = action
259         # go to Monte Carlo Tree Search if no suitable action found in Q
                ↪ table
260         if best_action is None or expected_score == 0:
261             logging.debug(
262                 'No suitable action found in Q table, going to Monte Carlo
                    ↪ Tree Search')
263             for i in range(50):
264                 self.tree.do_rollout(state)
265             best_action = self.tree.place_piece()
266         return best_action
267
268     def update_Q(self, state, action, reward, next_state):
269         Q_val = self.get_Q(state, action)
270         if Q_val is None:
271             Q_val = random.uniform(1.0, 0.01)
272         self.set_Q(state, action, Q_val + self.alpha *
273             (reward + self.gamma * self.get_max_Q(next_state) - Q_val))

```



```

274
275 def train(self, iterations=100):
276     # 1. Use the Q-function to initialize the value of each state-action
277     ↪ pair,  $Q(s, a) = 0$ .
278     # automatically done through defaultdict
279
280     # Choose an action using MCTS
281     wins = 0
282     tries = 0
283     agent_decision_times = []
284
285     progress_bar = tqdm.tqdm(total=iterations)
286     for i in range(iterations):
287         board = Quarto()
288         self.board = board
289         random_player = RandomPlayer(board)
290         self.tree.set_board(board)
291         self.current_state = board
292         self.previous_state = None
293         self.previous_action = None
294         player = 1
295         self.current_state.switch_player()
296         selected_piece = random_player.choose_piece()
297         self.current_state.set_selected_piece(selected_piece)
298         while True:
299             reward = 0
300             if player == 0:
301                 # QL-MCTS moves here
302                 self.previous_state = deepcopy(self.current_state)
303                 logging.debug("Piece to place: ",
304                             self.current_state.get_selected_piece())
305                 logging.debug("Board: ")
306                 logging.debug(self.current_state.state_as_array())
307                 time_start = time.time()
308                 action = self.get_action(self.current_state)
309                 self.previous_action = action
310                 time_end = time.time()
311                 agent_decision_times.append(time_end - time_start)
312                 self.current_state.select(selected_piece)
313                 self.current_state.place(action[0], action[1])
314                 self.current_state.set_selected_piece(action[2])
315                 self.current_state.switch_player()
316                 player = 1 - player
317             else:
318                 # Random moves here
319                 action = random_player.place_piece()
320                 next_piece = random_player.choose_piece()

```

```

321         while
322             ↪ self.board.check_if_move_valid(self.board.get_selected_piece(),
323             ↪ action[0], action[1], next_piece) is False:
324                 action = random_player.place_piece()
325                 next_piece = random_player.choose_piece()
326             self.current_state.select(
327                 self.current_state.get_selected_piece())
328             self.current_state.place(action[0], action[1])
329             self.current_state.set_selected_piece(next_piece)
330             self.current_state.switch_player()
331             player = 1 - player
332
333     if self.current_state.check_is_game_over():
334         if 1 - self.current_state.check_winner() == 1:
335             logging.info('QL-MCTS won')
336             reward = 1
337             wins += 1
338         else:
339             logging.info('Random won')
340             reward = -1
341         self.update_Q(self.previous_state, self.previous_action,
342                       reward, self.current_state)
343         break
344     else:
345         if self.previous_state is not None:
346             self.update_Q(
347                 self.previous_state, self.previous_action, reward,
348                 ↪ self.current_state)
349
350     tries += 1
351     if i % 10 == 0:
352         logging.info(f'Iteration {i}')
353         logging.info(f'Wins: {wins}')
354         logging.info(f'Tries: {tries}')
355         logging.info(f'Win rate: {wins/tries}')
356         wins = 0
357         tries = 0
358
359     # OPTION 1: clear the tree every time
360     self.tree = MonteCarloTreeSearch(board=self.board)
361
362     # OPTION 2: if average agent decision time is too long, clear the
363     ↪ MCTS tree
364     # if sum(agent_decision_times) / len(agent_decision_times) > 5:
365     #     self.tree = MonteCarloTreeSearch(board=self.board)
366     #     agent_decision_times = []
367
368     progress_bar.update(1)

```

```

367 if __name__ == '__main__':
368     # load tree with MonteCarloSearchDecoder
369     with open('progress.json', 'r') as f:
370         tree = decode_tree(json.load(f))
371     qplayer = QLearningPlayer()
372     qplayer.train(10)

```

## 5.5 Utility Functions

```

1 def score_board(state: Quarto):
2     positions = {
3         'couples': 0,
4         'triplets': 0,
5     }
6
7     board = state.state_as_array()
8
9     # Array for checking if a certain row already contains a triplet
10    row_done = [False, False, False, False]
11
12    # Check all the rows
13
14    for i in range(state.BOARD_SIDE):
15        if board[i, 0] != -1 and board[i, 1] != -1 and board[i, 2] != -1 and
16        ↪ board[i, 3] == -1:
17            piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 0])
18            piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 1])
19            piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 2])
20            if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
21            ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
22                positions['triplets'] += 1
23                row_done[i] = True
24            if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
25            ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
26                positions['triplets'] += 1
27                row_done[i] = True
28            if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE ==
29            ↪ piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
30                positions['triplets'] += 1
31                row_done[i] = True
32            if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID
33            ↪ and piece_1.SOLID == True:
34                positions['triplets'] += 1
35                row_done[i] = True
36        if board[i, 0] == -1 and board[i, 1] != -1 and board[i, 2] != -1 and
37        ↪ board[i, 3] != -1:
38            piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 1])
39            piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 2])

```

```

34     piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 3])
35     if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
    ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
36         positions['triplets'] += 1
37         row_done[i] = True
38     if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
    ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
39         positions['triplets'] += 1
40         row_done[i] = True
41     if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE ==
    ↪ piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
42         positions['triplets'] += 1
43         row_done[i] = True
44     if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID
    ↪ and piece_1.SOLID == True:
45         positions['triplets'] += 1
46         row_done[i] = True
47 if board[i, 0] != -1 and board[i, 1] != -1 and board[i, 2] == -1 and
    ↪ board[i, 3] != -1:
48     piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 0])
49     piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 1])
50     piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 3])
51     if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
    ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
52         positions['triplets'] += 1
53         row_done[i] = True
54     if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
    ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
55         positions['triplets'] += 1
56         row_done[i] = True
57     if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE ==
    ↪ piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
58         positions['triplets'] += 1
59         row_done[i] = True
60     if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID
    ↪ and piece_1.SOLID == True:
61         positions['triplets'] += 1
62         row_done[i] = True
63 if board[i, 0] != -1 and board[i, 1] == -1 and board[i, 2] != -1 and
    ↪ board[i, 3] != -1:
64     piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 0])
65     piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 2])
66     piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 3])
67     if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
    ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
68         positions['triplets'] += 1
69         row_done[i] = True
70     if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
    ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
71         positions['triplets'] += 1

```

```

72         row_done[i] = True
73     if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE ==
74         ↪ piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
75         positions['triplets'] += 1
76         row_done[i] = True
77     if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID
78         ↪ and piece_1.SOLID == True:
79         positions['triplets'] += 1
80         row_done[i] = True
81     # Before checking a row for couples, control the boolean flag
82     if not row_done[i] and board[i, 0] != -1 and board[i, 1] != -1 and
83         ↪ board[i, 2] == -1 and board[i, 3] == -1:
84         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 0])
85         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 1])
86         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
87             positions['couples'] += 1
88         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
89             positions['couples'] += 1
90         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
91             positions['couples'] += 1
92         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
93             positions['couples'] += 1
94     if not row_done[i] and board[i, 0] == -1 and board[i, 1] != -1 and
95         ↪ board[i, 2] != -1 and board[i, 3] == -1:
96         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 1])
97         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 2])
98         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
99             positions['couples'] += 1
100         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
101             positions['couples'] += 1
102         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
103             positions['couples'] += 1
104         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
105             positions['couples'] += 1
106     if not row_done[i] and board[i, 0] == -1 and board[i, 1] == -1 and
107         ↪ board[i, 2] != -1 and board[i, 3] != -1:
108         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 2])
109         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[i, 3])
110         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
111             positions['couples'] += 1
112         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
113             positions['couples'] += 1
114         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
115             positions['couples'] += 1
116         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
117             positions['couples'] += 1
118
119     # Array for checking if a certain column already contains a triplet
120     column_done = [False, False, False, False]

```

```

117     # Check all the columns
118
119     for i in range(state.BOARD_SIDE):
120         if board[0, i] != -1 and board[1, i] != -1 and board[2, i] != -1 and
121             ↪ board[3, i] == -1:
122             piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, i])
123             piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, i])
124             piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, i])
125             if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
126                 ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
127                 positions['triplets'] += 1
128                 column_done[i] = True
129             if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
130                 ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
131                 positions['triplets'] += 1
132                 column_done[i] = True
133             if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE ==
134                 ↪ piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
135                 positions['triplets'] += 1
136                 column_done[i] = True
137             if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID
138                 ↪ and piece_1.SOLID == True:
139                 positions['triplets'] += 1
140                 column_done[i] = True
141         if board[0, i] == -1 and board[1, i] != -1 and board[2, i] != -1 and
142             ↪ board[3, i] != -1:
143             piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, i])
144             piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, i])
145             piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, i])
146             if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
147                 ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
148                 positions['triplets'] += 1
149                 column_done[i] = True
150             if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
151                 ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
152                 positions['triplets'] += 1
153                 column_done[i] = True
154             if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE ==
155                 ↪ piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
156                 positions['triplets'] += 1
157                 column_done[i] = True
158             if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID
159                 ↪ and piece_1.SOLID == True:
160                 positions['triplets'] += 1
161                 column_done[i] = True
162         if board[0, i] != -1 and board[1, i] == -1 and board[2, i] != -1 and
163             ↪ board[3, i] != -1:
164             piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, i])
165             piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, i])
166             piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, i])

```

```

156     if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
157         ↳ piece_1.HIGH == True:
158         positions['triplets'] += 1
159         column_done[i] = True
160     if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
161         ↳ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
162         positions['triplets'] += 1
163         column_done[i] = True
164     if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE ==
165         ↳ piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
166         positions['triplets'] += 1
167         column_done[i] = True
168     if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID
169         ↳ and piece_1.SOLID == True:
170         positions['triplets'] += 1
171         column_done[i] = True
172     if board[0, i] != -1 and board[1, i] != -1 and board[2, i] == -1 and
173         ↳ board[3, i] != -1:
174         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, i])
175         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, i])
176         piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, i])
177         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
178             ↳ piece_1.HIGH == True:
179             positions['triplets'] += 1
180             column_done[i] = True
181         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
182             ↳ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
183             positions['triplets'] += 1
184             column_done[i] = True
185         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE ==
186             ↳ piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
187             positions['triplets'] += 1
188             column_done[i] = True
189         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID
190             ↳ and piece_1.SOLID == True:
191             positions['triplets'] += 1
192             column_done[i] = True
193     # Before checking a column for couples, control the boolean flag
194     if not column_done[i] and board[0, i] != -1 and board[1, i] != -1 and
195         ↳ board[2, i] == -1 and board[3, i] == -1:
196         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, i])
197         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, i])
198         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
199             positions['couples'] += 1
200         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
201             positions['couples'] += 1
202         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
203             positions['couples'] += 1
204         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
205             positions['couples'] += 1

```

```

196     if not column_done[i] and board[0, i] == -1 and board[1, i] != -1 and
    ↪ board[2, i] != -1 and board[3, i] == -1:
197         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, i])
198         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, i])
199         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
200             positions['couples'] += 1
201         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
202             positions['couples'] += 1
203         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
204             positions['couples'] += 1
205         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
206             positions['couples'] += 1
207     if not column_done[i] and board[0, i] == -1 and board[1, i] == -1 and
    ↪ board[2, i] != -1 and board[3, i] != -1:
208         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, i])
209         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, i])
210         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
211             positions['couples'] += 1
212         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
213             positions['couples'] += 1
214         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
215             positions['couples'] += 1
216         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
217             positions['couples'] += 1
218
219     # Array for checking if a certain diagonal already contains a triplet
220     diagonal_done = [False, False]
221
222     # Check first diagonal
223
224     if board[0, 0] != -1 and board[1, 1] != -1 and board[2, 2] != -1 and board[3,
    ↪ 3] == -1:
225         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, 0])
226         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 1])
227         piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 2])
228         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
    ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
229             positions['triplets'] += 1
230             diagonal_done[0] = True
231         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
    ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
232             positions['triplets'] += 1
233             diagonal_done[0] = True
234         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE
    ↪ and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
235             positions['triplets'] += 1
236             diagonal_done[0] = True
237         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and
    ↪ piece_1.SOLID == True:
238             positions['triplets'] += 1

```



```

239         diagonal_done[0] = True
240     if board[0, 0] == -1 and board[1, 1] != -1 and board[2, 2] != -1 and board[3,
    ↪ 3] != -1:
241         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 1])
242         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 2])
243         piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, 3])
244         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
    ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
245             positions['triplets'] += 1
246             diagonal_done[0] = True
247         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
    ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
248             positions['triplets'] += 1
249             diagonal_done[0] = True
250         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE
    ↪ and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
251             positions['triplets'] += 1
252             diagonal_done[0] = True
253         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and
    ↪ piece_1.SOLID == True:
254             positions['triplets'] += 1
255             diagonal_done[0] = True
256     if board[0, 0] != -1 and board[1, 1] == -1 and board[2, 2] != -1 and board[3,
    ↪ 3] != -1:
257         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, 0])
258         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 2])
259         piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, 3])
260         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
    ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
261             positions['triplets'] += 1
262             diagonal_done[0] = True
263         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
    ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
264             positions['triplets'] += 1
265             diagonal_done[0] = True
266         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE
    ↪ and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
267             positions['triplets'] += 1
268             diagonal_done[0] = True
269         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and
    ↪ piece_1.SOLID == True:
270             positions['triplets'] += 1
271             diagonal_done[0] = True
272     if board[0, 0] != -1 and board[1, 1] != -1 and board[2, 2] == -1 and board[3,
    ↪ 3] != -1:
273         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, 0])
274         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 1])
275         piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, 3])
276         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
    ↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:

```

```

277         positions['triplets'] += 1
278         diagonal_done[0] = True
279     if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
    ↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
280         positions['triplets'] += 1
281         diagonal_done[0] = True
282     if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE
    ↪ and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
283         positions['triplets'] += 1
284         diagonal_done[0] = True
285     if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and
    ↪ piece_1.SOLID == True:
286         positions['triplets'] += 1
287         diagonal_done[0] = True
288     # Before checking a diagonal for couples, control the boolean flag
289     if not diagonal_done[0] and board[0, 0] != -1 and board[1, 1] != -1 and
    ↪ board[2, 2] == -1 and board[3, 3] == -1:
290         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, 0])
291         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 1])
292         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
293             positions['couples'] += 1
294         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
295             positions['couples'] += 1
296         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
297             positions['couples'] += 1
298         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
299             positions['couples'] += 1
300     if not diagonal_done[0] and board[0, 0] == -1 and board[1, 1] != -1 and
    ↪ board[2, 2] != -1 and board[3, 3] == -1:
301         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 1])
302         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 2])
303         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
304             positions['couples'] += 1
305         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
306             positions['couples'] += 1
307         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
308             positions['couples'] += 1
309         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
310             positions['couples'] += 1
311     if not diagonal_done[0] and board[0, 0] == -1 and board[1, 1] == -1 and
    ↪ board[2, 2] != -1 and board[3, 3] != -1:
312         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 2])
313         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, 3])
314         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
315             positions['couples'] += 1
316         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
317             positions['couples'] += 1
318         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
319             positions['couples'] += 1
320         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:

```

```

321         positions['couples'] += 1
322
323     # Check second diagonal
324
325     if board[0, 3] != -1 and board[1, 2] != -1 and board[2, 1] != -1 and board[3,
↪ 0] == -1:
326         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, 3])
327         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 2])
328         piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 1])
329         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
330             positions['triplets'] += 1
331             diagonal_done[1] = True
332         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
333             positions['triplets'] += 1
334             diagonal_done[1] = True
335         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE
↪ and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
336             positions['triplets'] += 1
337             diagonal_done[1] = True
338         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and
↪ piece_1.SOLID == True:
339             positions['triplets'] += 1
340             diagonal_done[1] = True
341     if board[0, 3] == -1 and board[1, 2] != -1 and board[2, 1] != -1 and board[3,
↪ 0] != -1:
342         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 2])
343         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 1])
344         piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, 0])
345         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
↪ piece_1.HIGH == True:
346             positions['triplets'] += 1
347             diagonal_done[1] = True
348         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
↪ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
349             positions['triplets'] += 1
350             diagonal_done[1] = True
351         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE
↪ and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
352             positions['triplets'] += 1
353             diagonal_done[1] = True
354         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and
↪ piece_1.SOLID == True:
355             positions['triplets'] += 1
356             diagonal_done[1] = True
357     if board[0, 3] != -1 and board[1, 2] != -1 and board[2, 1] == -1 and board[3,
↪ 0] != -1:
358         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, 3])
359         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 2])

```

```

360 piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, 0])
361 if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
    ↳ piece_1.HIGH == True:
362     positions['triplets'] += 1
363     diagonal_done[1] = True
364 if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
    ↳ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
365     positions['triplets'] += 1
366     diagonal_done[1] = True
367 if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE
    ↳ and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
368     positions['triplets'] += 1
369     diagonal_done[1] = True
370 if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and
    ↳ piece_1.SOLID == True:
371     positions['triplets'] += 1
372     diagonal_done[1] = True
373 if board[0, 3] != -1 and board[1, 2] == -1 and board[2, 1] != -1 and board[3,
    ↳ 0] != -1:
374     piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, 3])
375     piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 1])
376     piece_3 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, 0])
377     if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_3.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and
        ↳ piece_1.HIGH == True:
378         positions['triplets'] += 1
379         diagonal_done[1] = True
380     if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_3.COLOURED ==
        ↳ piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
381         positions['triplets'] += 1
382         diagonal_done[1] = True
383     if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_3.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE
        ↳ and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
384         positions['triplets'] += 1
385         diagonal_done[1] = True
386     if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_3.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and
        ↳ piece_1.SOLID == True:
387         positions['triplets'] += 1
388         diagonal_done[1] = True
389     # Before checking a diagonal for couples, control the boolean flag
390     if not diagonal_done[1] and board[0, 3] != -1 and board[1, 2] != -1 and
        ↳ board[2, 1] == -1 and board[3, 0] == -1:
391         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[0, 3])
392         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 2])
393         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
394             positions['couples'] += 1
395         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
396             positions['couples'] += 1
397         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
398             positions['couples'] += 1
399         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:

```

```

400         positions['couples'] += 1
401     if not diagonal_done[1] and board[0, 3] == -1 and board[1, 2] != -1 and
402     ↪ board[2, 1] != -1 and board[3, 0] == -1:
403         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[1, 2])
404         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 1])
405         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
406             positions['couples'] += 1
407         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
408             positions['couples'] += 1
409         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
410             positions['couples'] += 1
411         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
412             positions['couples'] += 1
413     if not diagonal_done[1] and board[0, 0] == -1 and board[1, 2] == -1 and
414     ↪ board[2, 1] != -1 and board[3, 0] != -1:
415         piece_1 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[2, 1])
416         piece_2 = state.get_piece_characteristics(board[3, 0])
417         if piece_1.HIGH == piece_2.HIGH and piece_1.HIGH == True:
418             positions['couples'] += 1
419         if piece_1.COLOURED == piece_2.COLOURED and piece_1.COLOURED == True:
420             positions['couples'] += 1
421         if piece_1.SQUARE == piece_2.SQUARE and piece_1.SQUARE == True:
422             positions['couples'] += 1
423         if piece_1.SOLID == piece_2.SOLID and piece_1.SOLID == True:
424             positions['couples'] += 1
425
426     return positions['couples']+2*positions['triplets']

```

## 5.6 Code for Unsuccessful Players

### 5.6.1 Deep Q-Network

```

1  """
2  In this file, I build a Deep Q-Network to play Quarto.
3  """
4  import sys
5
6  sys.path.insert(0, '..')
7
8  from quarto.gym_environment import QuartoScape
9  from collections import deque
10 import logging
11 import os
12 import random
13 from typing import Any
14 import gym
15 import numpy as np
16 import tensorflow as tf

```

```

17 from lib.players import RandomPlayer
18 from tensorflow.keras.models import Sequential, load_model
19 from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense, Conv2D, MaxPooling2D, Flatten
20 from tensorflow.keras.optimizers import Adam
21 from tensorflow.keras.initializers import HeUniform
22
23 from quarto.objects import Quarto
24
25 env = QuartoScape()
26
27
28 def test(agent):
29     dq_wins = 0
30     for round in range(100):
31         game = Quarto()
32         agent.set_game(game)
33         game.set_players((RandomPlayer(game), agent))
34         winner = game.run()
35         if winner == 1:
36             dq_wins += 1
37         # logging.warning(f"main: Winner: player {winner}")
38     logging.warning(f"main: DQ wins: {dq_wins}")
39
40
41 class DQNAgent:
42     '''Play Quarto using a Deep Q-Network'''
43
44     def __init__(self, env=env, game=None):
45         self.env = env
46         # main model updated every x steps
47         self.model = self._build_model()
48         # target model updated every y steps
49         self.target_model = self._build_model()
50         self.gamma = 0.618
51         self.min_replay_size = 500
52         self.lr = 0.7
53         self.epsilon = 0.8
54         if game is not None:
55             self.env.game = game
56
57         if os.path.exists('model.h5'):
58             # print('Loading model')
59             self.model = tf.keras.models.load_model('model.h5')
60
61     def set_game(self, game):
62         self.env.game = game
63
64     def get_all_actions(self):
65         '''
66         Return tuples from (0, 0, 0) to (3, 3, 15)

```

```

67     Element 1 is position x
68     Element 2 is position y
69     Element 3 is piece chosen for next player
70     '''
71     tuples = []
72     for i in range(0, 4):
73         for j in range(0, 4):
74             for k in range(0, 16):
75                 tuples.append((i, j, k))
76     return tuples
77
78     def _build_model(self):
79         '''
80         Architecture of network:
81         Input nodes are the state of the board
82         Output nodes are the Q-values for each potential action (each output node
83         ↪ is an action)
84         An action is made up of (x, y, piece chosen for next player)
85         ↪ There are 16 * 16 * 16 possible actions and the mapping is found in
86         ↪ get_all_actions()
87         '''
88         model = Sequential()
89         initializer = HeUniform()
90         model.add(Dense(
91             12, input_dim=self.env.observation_space.shape[0], activation='relu',
92             ↪ kernel_initializer=initializer))
93         model.add(Dense(24, activation='relu', kernel_initializer=initializer))
94         model.add(Dense(48, activation='relu', kernel_initializer=initializer))
95         model.add(Dense(96, activation='relu', kernel_initializer=initializer))
96         model.add(Dense(192, activation='relu',
97             ↪ kernel_initializer=initializer))
98         model.add(Dense(4 * 4 * 16, activation='linear',
99             ↪ kernel_initializer=initializer))
100         model.compile(loss=tf.keras.losses.Huber(), metrics=[
101             ↪ 'mae', 'mse'], optimizer=Adam(learning_rate=0.001))
102         return model
103
104     def build_conv_model(self):
105         model = Sequential()
106         model.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), input_shape=(4, 4, 4), activation='relu'))
107         model.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2, 2)))
108         model.add(Flatten())
109         model.add(Dense(16, activation='relu'))
110         model.add(Dense(4 * 4 * 16, activation='linear'))
111         model.compile(loss='mse', metrics=[
112             ↪ 'accuracy'], optimizer=Adam(learning_rate=0.001))
113         return model
114
115     def get_position(self, element, list):
116         if element in list:

```

```

114         return list.index(element)
115     else:
116         return -1
117
118 def make_prediction(self, state, chosen_piece=None):
119     '''Make a prediction using the network'''
120     # prediction X is the position of the single 1 in the state
121     pred_X = [self.get_position(i, list(state.flatten()))
122               for i in range(0, 16)]
123     pred_X.append(chosen_piece)
124     return self.model.predict(np.array([pred_X]), verbose=0)[0]
125
126 def decay_lr(self, lr, decay_rate, decay_step):
127     return lr * (1 / (1 + decay_rate * decay_step))
128
129 def abbellire(self, state, chosen_piece):
130     '''
131     Beautify the state for network input
132     When in Italy, do as the Italians do
133     '''
134     X = [self.get_position(i, list(state.flatten())) for i in range(0, 16)]
135     X.append(chosen_piece)
136     return np.array([X])
137
138 def create_X(self, state, chosen_piece):
139     X = [self.get_position(i, list(state.flatten())) for i in range(0, 16)]
140     X.append(chosen_piece)
141     return np.array([X])
142
143 def train(self, replay_memory, batch_size):
144     '''Train the network'''
145     if len(replay_memory) < self.min_replay_size:
146         return
147
148     # print('TRAINING')
149     batch_size = 64 * 2
150     minibatch = random.sample(replay_memory, batch_size)
151     # state + chosen_piece for you -> action (contains chosen_piece for next
152     ↪ player)
153     current_states = np.array([self.abbellire(state, chosen_piece)
154                               for state, chosen_piece, action, reward,
155                               ↪ new_current_state, done in minibatch])
156     current_qs = self.model.predict(current_states.reshape(batch_size, 17))
157     # new current state + chosen_piece for next player -> action (contains
158     ↪ chosen_piece for next player)
159     new_current_states = np.array([self.abbellire(new_current_state,
160                                                  ↪ action[2])
161                                   for state, chosen_piece, action, reward,
162                                   ↪ new_current_state, done in
163                                   ↪ minibatch])

```



```

158     future_qs = self.target_model.predict(
159         new_current_states.reshape(batch_size, 17), verbose=0)
160     # exclude invalid moves from calculation
161     X = []
162     Y = []
163     for index, (current_state, chosen_piece, action, reward,
164         ↪ new_current_state, done) in enumerate(minibatch):
165         if not done:
166             # max_future_q = np.max(future_qs[index])
167             # new_q = reward + self.gamma * max_future_q
168             max_future_q = reward + self.gamma * np.max(future_qs[index])
169         else:
170             # max_future_q = reward
171             max_future_q = reward
172
173         # 0 2 5
174         # 0 + 2 * 4 + 5 * 16 = 85
175         current_qs[index][action[0] + action[1] * 4 + action[2] * 16] = (
176             1 - self.lr) * current_qs[index][action[0] + action[1] * 4 +
177             ↪ action[2] * 16] + self.lr * max_future_q
178
179         X.append(self.abbeille(current_state, chosen_piece))
180         Y.append(current_qs[index])
181
182     X = np.array(X).reshape(batch_size, 17)
183     Y = np.array(Y).reshape(batch_size, 4 * 4 * 16)
184     logging.debug(X)
185     logging.debug(Y)
186     self.model.fit(X, Y, batch_size=batch_size,
187         verbose=1, shuffle=True, epochs=1)
188
189 def choose_piece(self, state: Any, piece_chosen_for_you: int):
190     '''Choose piece for the next guy to play'''
191     self.env.game.set_board(state)
192     pred = self.make_prediction(state, piece_chosen_for_you)
193     pred = self.nan_out_invalid_actions(-100, pred)
194     best_action = np.nanargmax(pred)
195     best_action = self.get_all_actions()[best_action]
196     return best_action[2]
197
198 def place_piece(self, state: Any, piece_chosen_for_you: int):
199     '''Choose position to move piece to based on the current state'''
200     self.env.game.set_board(state)
201     pred = self.make_prediction(state, piece_chosen_for_you)
202     pred = self.nan_out_invalid_actions(piece_chosen_for_you, pred)
203     best_action = np.nanargmax(pred)
204     best_action = self.get_all_actions()[best_action]
205     # print(f'Best action for place piece: {best_action}')
206     return best_action[0], best_action[1]

```

```

206 def nan_out_invalid_actions(self, current_piece, prediction):
207     '''Zero out invalid moves'''
208     # zero out invalid moves
209     all_actions = self.get_all_actions()
210     for i in range(len(prediction)):
211         action = all_actions[i]
212         # print(action)
213         # print(current_piece)
214         if not self.env.game.check_if_move_valid(current_piece, action[0],
215             ↪ action[1], action[2]):
216             prediction[i] = np.nan
217
218     return prediction
219
220 def run(self):
221     '''Run training of agent for x episodes'''
222     # ensure both model and target model have same set of weights at the
223     ↪ start
224     self.target_model.set_weights(self.model.get_weights())
225
226     replay_memory = deque(maxlen=5000)
227     state = self.env.reset()
228     # number of episodes to train for
229     num_episodes = 2000
230
231     steps_to_update_target_model = 0
232
233     for episode in range(num_episodes):
234         if episode % 100 == 0:
235             self.model.save(f'/Volumes/USB/qn_weights.h5')
236
237         total_training_reward = 0
238         print(f'Episode: {episode}')
239         state = self.env.reset()
240         done = False
241         # initialise chosen piece with a random piece
242         # in reality, the opponent will choose a piece for you
243         chosen_piece = random.randint(0, 15)
244         while not done:
245             steps_to_update_target_model += 1
246
247             if random.random() < self.epsilon:
248                 action = self.env.action_space.sample()
249                 while not self.env.game.check_if_move_valid(chosen_piece,
250                     ↪ action[0], action[1], action[2]):
251                     action = self.env.action_space.sample()
252             else:
253                 prediction = self.make_prediction(state, chosen_piece)
254                 prediction = self.nan_out_invalid_actions(
255                     chosen_piece, prediction)

```

```

253         if np.all(np.isnan(prediction)):
254             action = self.env.action_space.sample()
255             while not self.env.game.check_if_move_valid(chosen_piece,
256                 ↪ action[0], action[1], action[2]):
257                 action = self.env.action_space.sample()
258             else:
259                 action = np.nanargmax(prediction)
260                 # get action at index of action
261                 action = self.get_all_actions()[action]
262
263         new_state, reward, done, _ = self.env.step(
264             action, chosen_piece)
265
266         replay_memory.append(
267             (state, chosen_piece, action, reward, new_state, done))
268
269         if done:
270             logging.debug('GAME OVER')
271
272         if steps_to_update_target_model % 4 == 0 or done:
273             self.train(replay_memory, 32)
274
275         state = new_state
276         total_training_reward += reward
277
278         if done:
279             total_training_reward += 1
280
281         if steps_to_update_target_model >= 100:
282             self.target_model.set_weights(self.model.get_weights())
283             steps_to_update_target_model = 0
284             break
285
286         chosen_piece = action[2]
287
288         if episode % 10 == 0:
289             logging.info(f'Testing win rate after {episode} episodes')
290             test(self)
291
292         self.lr = self.decay_lr(self.lr, 0.0001, episode)
293
294         self.env.close()
295         self.model.save('/Volumes/USB/qn_weights.h5')
296
297     def main():
298         dq_wins = 0
299         for round in range(100):
300             game = Quarto()
301             dqn_agent = DQNAgent(game=game)
302             dqn_agent.model = load_model('/Volumes/USB/qn_weights.h5')

```

```
302     game.set_players((RandomPlayer(game), DQNAgent(game=game)))
303     winner = game.run()
304     if winner == 1:
305         print('DQ wins')
306         dq_wins += 1
307     else:
308         print('Random wins')
309     print(f'DQ wins: {dq_wins/100}')
310
311 main()
```

## 6 Conclusion and Final Considerations

While working on the final project, I understood that complex algorithms do not necessarily outperform their simpler counterparts. I had spent a lot of time working on the Deep Q Network, and it didn't perform as well as expected. Despite hours of training, when the search space is too large, the algorithm takes an unreasonable amount of time to converge.

In spite of implementing several board symmetries based on the theory behind Quarto, I could not implement piece symmetries or board canonisation, which I'm sure would have reduced the search space.