Artificial Intelligence – Spring 2017

Homework 2

Issued: March 14th, 2017 Due: March 28th, 2017

Problem 1:

3.9 The **missionaries and cannibals** problem is usually stated as follows. Three missionaries and three cannibals are on one side of a river, along with a boat that can hold one or two people. Find a way to get everyone to the other side without ever leaving a group of missionaries in one place outnumbered by the cannibals in that place. This problem is famous in AI because it was the subject of the first paper that approached problem formulation from an analytical viewpoint (Amarel, 1968).

a. Formulate the problem precisely, making only those distinctions necessary to ensure a valid solution. Draw a diagram of the complete state space.

Problem 2:

3.21 Prove each of the following statements, or give a counterexample:

a. Breadth-first search is a special case of uniform-cost search.

b. Depth-first search is a special case of best-first tree search.

c. Uniform-cost search is a special case of A* search.

Problem 3: (Figure 3.9 in the textbook)

3.26 Consider the unbounded version of the regular 2D grid shown in Figure 3.9. The start state is at the origin, (0,0), and the goal state is at (x, y).

a. What is the branching factor b in this state space?

b. How many distinct states are there at depth k (for $k > 0$)?

c. What is the maximum number of nodes expanded by breadth-first tree search?

d. What is the maximum number of nodes expanded by breadth-first graph search?

e. Is $h = |u - x| + |v - y|$ an admissible heuristic for a state at (u, v)? Explain.

f. How many nodes are expanded by A* graph search using h?

g. Does h remain admissible if some links are removed?

h. Does h remain admissible if some links are added between nonadjacent states?

Problem 4:

5.8 Consider the two-player game described in Figure 5.17.

a. Draw the complete game tree, using the following conventions:

- Write each state as (s_A, s_B), where s_A and s_B denote the token locations.
- Put each terminal state in a square box and write its game value in a circle.
- Put *loop states* (states that already appear on the path to the root) in double square boxes. Since their value is unclear, annotate each with a "?" in a circle.

b. Now mark each node with its backed-up minimax value (also in a circle). Explain how you handled the "?" values and why.

c. Explain why the standard minimax algorithm would fail on this game tree and briefly sketch how you might fix it, drawing on your answer to (b). Does your modified algorithm give optimal decisions for all games with loops?

d. This 4-square game can be generalized to n squares for any $n > 2$. Prove that A wins if n is even and loses if n is odd.

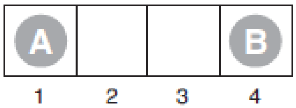

Figure 5.17 The starting position of a simple game. Player A moves first. The two players take turns moving, and each player must move his token to an open adjacent space in either direction. If the opponent occupies an adjacent space, then a player may jump over the opponent to the next open space if any. (For example, if A is on 3 and B is on 2, then A may move back to 1.) The game ends when one player reaches the opposite end of the board. If player A reaches space 4 first, then the value of the game to A is $+1$; if player B reaches space 1 first, then the value of the game to A is -1.

Problem 5:

5.16 This question considers pruning in games with chance nodes. Figure 5.19 shows the complete game tree for a trivial game. Assume that the leaf nodes are to be evaluated in left-to-right order, and that before a leaf node is evaluated, we know nothing about its value—the range of possible values is $-\infty$ to ∞.

a. Copy the figure, mark the value of all the internal nodes, and indicate the best move at the root with an arrow.

b. Given the values of the first six leaves, do we need to evaluate the seventh and eighth leaves? Given the values of the first seven leaves, do we need to evaluate the eighth leaf? Explain your answers.

c. Suppose the leaf node values are known to lie between –2 and 2 inclusive. After the first two leaves are evaluated, what is the value range for the left-hand chance node?

d. Circle all the leaves that need not be evaluated under the assumption in (c).

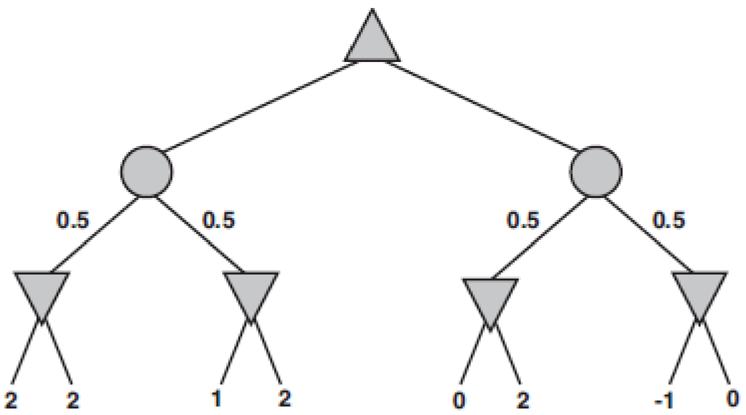

Figure 5.19 The complete game tree for a trivial game with chance nodes.