Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Homework 3: Multi-Agent Search

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Part 1: Minimax Search (25%)

- 1. In line 107, the function 'getAction' is used to begin the code and return the final value after Minimax search. Also, in line 140, the function 'minimax' is defined as the process of Minimax search.
- 2. In line 141 and 142, when all of the agents are counted, or the game states is in a terminal state(either winning state or losing state), the function will return the final value called 'evaluationFunction(gameState)'.
- 3. From line 145 to 152, it is the main process of Minimax search. First, 'maxv' and 'minv' are defined as two best values($-\infty$ and $+\infty$). Then, if the agent is a Pacman(agentIndex=0), it means that he wants to find the largest value of the children(steps) of him(Since the Pacman desires to win, he wants the most point). After finding all children(steps), he returns the largest value which he have found. On the contrary, if the agent is a ghost(agentIndex>=1), it means that he wants to find the smallest value of the children(steps) of him(Since the ghost desires Pacman not to win, he wants Pacman having the least point). After finding all children(steps), he returns the smallest value which he have found.
- 4. Back to line 134, Pacman moves first, so the first 'minimax' job is for Pacman to do.

Part 2: Alpha-Beta Pruning (30%)

- 1. In line 160, the function 'getAction' is used to begin the code and return the final value after AlphaBeta search. Also, in line 177, the function 'alphabeta' is defined as the process of AlphaBeta search.
- 2. In line 178 and 179, when all of the agents are counted, or the game states is in a terminal state(either winning state or losing state), the function will return the final value called 'evaluationFunction(gameState)'.
- 3. From line 180 to 193, it is the main process of AlphaBeta search. First, 'maxv' and 'minv' are defined as two best values($-\infty$ and $+\infty$). Then, if the agent is a Pacman(agentIndex=0), it means that he wants to find the largest value of the children(steps) of him(Since the Pacman desires to win, he wants the most point). However, the process would not be the same as Minimax Search. Actually, it is a revised version: α is the lower bound and β is the upper bound. In line 185, at the beginning of the loop, maxv will be the first searched child(step) value. Also, the value of α will be revised as maxv. Then, maxv will try to find a larger state value and also revise the value of α until this value exceed β (in line 186). Now, we notice that there is no overlap between α and β , so we can stop evaluating the children(steps) of the state. Finally, we can return the value of β of the state. If the agent is a ghost, we do the similary things, but change maxv to minv, α to β , and β to α .
 4. Back to line 170, Pacman moves first, so the first 'alphabeta' job is for Pacman to do.

Part 3: Expectimax Search (30%)

- 1. In line 201, the function 'getAction' is used to begin the code and return the final value after Expectimax search. Also, in line 211, the function 'expectimax' is defined as the process of AlphaBeta search.
- 2. In line 213 and 214, when all of the agents are counted, or the game states is in a terminal state(either winning state or losing state), the function will return the final value called 'evaluationFunction(gameState)'.
- 3. From line 216 to 227, it is the main process of Expectimax search. If the agent is a Pacman, it does the same thing as 'minimax search'. If the agent is a ghost, it needs to return the average of all the children(steps) which he has gone through.

Part 4: Evaluation Function (Bonus) (10%)

- 1. In line 240 and 241, the different distances from all the food to Pacman are recorded into a list called 'distance', and in line 242, the least distance is founded.
- 2. In line 244, return the value of 'currentGameState.getScore()' minus the least distance.

Result:

Problem I met: Although I have known the use and the difference of these search, I did not know how to start this code and how much function I should provide in each class. Then, I found out that I only need two function: one is for initializing and the other is for main searching. However, what parameters that the function needed was another problem. Fortunately, I could follow pseudocode and start the code. After ending up the minimax search, others are similary to the first one. In part four, I did not know the exact difference between 'currentGameState.getScore()' and the correct value. Then, I tried to add up any distance or score from 'currentGameState.getScore()'. Finally, when I used 'currentGameState.getScore()' to minus the least distance from the food to the Pacman, it worked.