

CS4618 Artificial Intelligence I

Today: Introduction to Heuristic Search
Randomised Search Heuristics

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October 17th

Plans for Today

① Randomised Search Heuristics

Motivation and Overview

Concrete Randomised Search Heuristics

② Evolutionary Algorithms

Randomised Search Heuristics

Evolutionary Algorithms

③ Summary

Summary & Take Home Message

Plans for the Next Weeks

so far blind search

knows initial state, transition-model, actions, costs, goal-test

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knows in addition evaluation function f
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also path to solution

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Now only 'optimal goal' interesting



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- **always** S finite

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Solution precise specification
 \rightsquigarrow different **variants** of **local search**

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Observation '5. Until decide to stop' not sufficiently precise
 precise definitions later

Local Search Variants

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Consider all $y \in N(x_t)$ in **fixed** order
and stop at first y with $f(y) > f(x_t)$.

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Consider all $y \in N(x_t)$ (in arbitrary order)
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Random Local Search

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Possible Stopping Criteria

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- large $T \rightsquigarrow$ easy escape $\hat{=}$ willing to take large risks

About T in the Metropolis Algorithm

Parameter $T \in \mathbb{R}^+$ (temperature)

Metropolis Algorithm

1. $t := 1$; Choose $x_t \in S$ uniformly at random.
2. Repeat
3. Select $y \in N(x_t)$ uniformly at random.
4. $t := t + 1$
 With probability $\min\{1, e^{(f(y)-f(x_{t-1}))/T}\}$ set $x_t := y$
 else $x_t := x_{t-1}$.
5. Until 'decide to stop'
6. Output x_t .

Observation

- Metropolis can **escape** from local optima
- large $T \rightsquigarrow$ easy escape $\hat{=}$ willing to take large risks
- small $T \rightsquigarrow$ difficult escape $\hat{=}$ unwilling to take large risks

Simulated Annealing

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Remark Metropolis $\hat{=}$ simulated annealing with fixed temperature
most often cooling schedule non-increasing

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Common additional assumption

- neighbourhood $N: S \rightarrow 2^S$ known

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7. Until 'decide to stop'
8. Output x_i with $f(x_i) = \max\{f(x_j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq \mu\}$.

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