General Game Playing

Incomplete Search

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Small Games

Large Games
Complete Game Graph Search
Incomplete Search
Evaluation of Non-Terminal States

How do we evaluate non-terminal states?
Choice of Depth

To what depth should we search?
Variable Depth Search

Should we search different branches to different depths?
Can we preserve results across moves?
Evaluation Functions

*How do we evaluate non-terminal states?*
Chess examples:
  Piece count
  Board control

Comments
  Not necessarily successful
  Game-specific but this is general game playing
Mobility is a measure of the number of things a player can do. Focus is a measure of the narrowness of the search space. It is the opposite of mobility.

Basis - number of actions in a state or number of states reachable from that state. Horizon - current state or $n$ moves away.

Sometimes it is good to focus to cut down on search space. Often better to restrict opponents’ moves while keeping one’s own options open.
Mobility is a measure of the number of things a player can do. Focus is a measure of the narrowness of the search space. It is the opposite of mobility.

Basis - number of actions in a state or number of states reachable from that state. Horizon - current state or $n$ moves away.

Sometimes it is good to focus to cut down on search space. Often better to restrict opponents’ moves while keeping one’s own options open.
function mobility (state)
    {var actions = findlegals(state,library);
    var feasibles = findactions(library);
    return (actions.length/feasibles.length * 100)}

function focus (state)
    {var actions = findlegals(state,library);
    var feasibles = findactions(library);
    return (100 - actions.length/feasibles.length * 100)}
Assume value of 0 for non-terminal states.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{value}(\text{state}) &= \text{goal}([\text{role}, \text{state}]) \quad \text{if terminal}(\text{state}) \\
\text{value}(\text{state}) &= 0 \quad \text{otherwise}
\end{align*}
\]
Grey - estimates of rewards in non-terminal states - here 0.
Black - rewards in terminal states.
Heuristic #3 - Intermediate Values

Assume reward for non-terminal states.

\[ \text{value}(\text{state}) = \text{goal}(\text{role, state}) \]

Good on monotonic games (where utility accumulates as the game progresses), e.g. alquerque.

Not so good on nonmonotonic games. Susceptible to "false summits".
Example

Blue - rewards in non-terminal states.
Black - rewards in terminal states.
Weighted Linear Combinations

Definition

\[ f(s) = w_1 \times f_1(s) + \ldots + w_n \times f_n(s) \]

Examples:
- Final State Value when known
- Mobility / Focus
- Intermediate State Values
- Other

Some players estimate weights by experimentation during the start clock. More on this in a few weeks.
Weighted Linear Combinations

Definition

\[ f(s) = w_1 \times f_1(s) + \ldots + w_n \times f_n(s) \]

Examples:
  - Mobility / Focus
  - Intermediate State Values
  - Other

Some players estimate weights by experimentation during the start clock. *More on this in a few weeks.*
Depth-Limited Search

To what depth should we search?
Depth-Limited Search
Minimax:

```javascript
function minimax (state)
    {if (findterminalp(state,library))
        {return findreward(role,state,library)*1};
    var active = findcontrol(state,library);
    if (active===role) {return maximize(state)};
    return minimize(state)}
```

Depth-Limited Minimax

```javascript
function minimaxdepth (state,depth)
    {if (findterminalp(state,library))
        {return findreward(role,state,library)*1};
    if (depth<=0) {return evalfun(state,library)};
    var active = findcontrol(state,library);
    if (active===role) {return maxscore(state,depth-1)};
    return minscore(state,depth-1)}
```
function maxscore (state, depth)
    {var actions = findlegals(state, library);
        if (actions.length === 0) {return 0};
        var score = 0;
        for (var i=0; i<actions.length; i++)
            {var newstate = simulate(actions[i], state, library);
                var newscore = minimaxdepth(newstate, depth);
                if (newscore === 100) {return 100};
                if (newscore > score) {score = newscore};
            }
        return score}

function minscore (state, depth)
    {var actions = findlegals(state, library);
        if (actions.length === 0) {return 0};
        var score = 100;
        for (var i=0; i<actions.length; i++)
            {var newstate = simulate(actions[i], state, library);
                var newscore = minimaxdepth(role, newstate, depth);
                if (newscore === 0) {return 0};
                if (newscore < score) {score = newscore};
            }
        return score}
Legal and random players are degenerate depth-limited search with depth 0.

Onestep and Twostep are degenerate depth-limited search with depths 1 and 2.

In general, we would like to allow greater depths.
Problem

To what depth should we search?
Problem - Insufficient Depth
Problem - Excessive Depth
Iterative Deepening

To what depth should we search?
Iterative Deepening

Use depth-limited search to explore entire tree to level 1
Use depth-limited search to explore entire tree to level 2
Use depth-limited search to explore entire tree to level 3
And so forth

Continue till time runs out
Choose action that gives maximal value
Level 2
Level 3
function playminimaxid ()
{
var best = findlegalx(state,library);
for (var depth=1; depth<10; depth++)
{
var action = minimaxdepth(state,depth);
best = action;
}
return best;

At what depth do we stop?
function playminimaxid ()
{
var deadline = Date.now()+(playclock-1)*1000;
var best = findlegalx(state,library);
for (var depth=1; depth<10; depth++)
{
var action = playminimaxidinner(state,depth,deadline);
if (action===false) {return best};
best = action;
}
return best}
function playminimaxidinner (state, depth, deadline)
    {var actions = shuffle(findlegals(state, library));
        var best = actions[0];
        var score = 0;
        for (var i=0; i<actions.length; i++)
            {var newstate = simulate(actions[i], state, library);
                var newscore = minimaxid(newstate, depth, deadline);
                if (newscore===false) {return false};
                if (newscore===100) {return actions[i]};
                if (newscore>score) {best = actions[i]; score=newscore}];
        return best}
function minimaxid (state, depth, deadline)
  {if (findterminalp(state, library))
      {return findreward(role, state, library)*1};
  if (depth<=0) {return evalfun(state, library)*1};
  if (Date.now()>deadline) {return false};
  if (findcontrol(state, library)===role)
      {return maxscoreid(state, depth, deadline)};
  return minscoreid(state, depth, deadline)}

Implementation
function maxscore (state, depth, deadline)
    {var actions = findlegals(state, library);
     if (actions.length===0) {return 0};
     var score = 0;
     for (var i=0; i<actions.length; i++)
        {var newstate = simulate(actions[i], state, library);
         var newscore = minimaxid(newstate, depth, deadline);
         if (newscore===false) {return false};
         if (newscore===100) {return 100};
         if (newscore>score) {score = newscore}};
    return score}

function minscore (state, depth, deadline)
    {var actions = findlegals(state, library);
     if (actions.length===0) {return 0};
     var score = 100;
     for (var i=0; i<actions.length; i++)
        {var newstate = simulate(actions[i], state, library);
         var newscore = minimaxid(newstate, depth, deadline);
         if (newscore===false) {return false};
         if (newscore===0) {return 0};
         if (newscore<score) {score = newscore}};
    return score}
Advantages

requires storage linear in depth
still finds shortest path to an optimal solution

Disadvantages (?)

Repeated work

*but*

Cost only a constant factor more than depth-first search

Why? *Tree is growing exponentially, so fringe of tree and size of tree above fringe are approximately same*
Monte Carlo Search
Sample a few branches of the game tree and use results to estimate values.

(1) Optionally explore game graph to some level.

(2) Beyond this, explore to end of game from fringe nodes, making random choices for moves of all players.

(3) Assign expected utilities to fringe states by summing utilities and dividing by number of trials.
Example
Example
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function mcs (state, level)
    {if (findterminalp(state,library))
        {return findreward(role,state,library)*1};
    if (level>levels) {return montecarlo(state)};
    var active = findcontrol(state,library);
    if (active===role) {return maxscore(state, level+1)};
    return minscore(state, level+1)}
function maxscore (state,level)
    {var actions = findlegals(state,library);
     if (actions.length===0) {return 0};
     var score = 0;
     for (var i=0; i<actions.length; i++)
         {var newstate = simulate(actions[i],state,library);
          var newscore = mcs(newstate,level);
          if (newscore===100) {return 100};
          if (newscore>score) {score = newscore}};
     return score}

function minscore (state,level)
    {var actions = findlegals(state,library);
     if (actions.length===0) {return 0};
     var score = 100;
     for (var i=0; i<actions.length; i++)
         {var newstate = simulate(actions[i],state,library);
          var newscore = mcs(role,newstate,level);
          if (newscore===0) {return 0};
          if (newscore<score) {score = newscore}};
     return score}
function montecarlo (state)
    {var total = 0;
        for (var i=0; i<count; i++)
            {total = total + depthcharge(state)};
        return total/count}

function depthcharge (state)
    {if (findterminalp(state,ruleset))
        {return findreward(role,state,ruleset)}*1;
        var actions = findlegals(state,library);
        if (actions.length===0) {return 0};
        var best = randomindex(actions.length);
        var newstate = simulate(actions[best],state,library);
        return depthcharge(newstate)}
Problems

Optimistic - opponent might not respect probabilities
Does not utilize game structure in any useful way
Problems

  Optimistic - opponent might not respect probabilities
  Does not utilize game structure in any useful way

Benefits

  Fast because no branching in depth charges
  Small space because nothing stored in probes
  Provides guidance when other heuristics fail
Issues
Incomplete Search
Evaluation of Non-Terminal States

How do we evaluate non-terminal states?
Choice of Depth

To what depth should we search?
Can we search different branches to different depths?
Can we preserve tree across moves or phases of ID?