Final Project: Materials To Turn In
CS321: Artificial Intelligence, Winter 2015
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You’ll be turning in the code for your final project as well as a report telling me about what you did, how it worked out, and how it relates to AI. The goal of this report is both to help me understand your project and also give you practice communicating your work to others. Generally, people don’t want to just read your code - instead, they want to know what the big idea was, how you approached it, and what worked.

Your final project report should start with an introduction section. This section should set up what the problem you faced was - e.g., building an agent that can play Cribbage - and the way you approached that problem - e.g., treating Cribbage as a zero-sum, adversarial game. The introduction should also give me a sense of what made your problem challenging and how you tackled that challenge. For example, Cribbage might be challenging because the opponent’s hand can’t be observed, or because you have to balance points in your hand versus points in the crib. I might handle the latter challenge by trying several different evaluation functions and comparing the results.

The middle section(s) of your report will give me more details about what you did and your results. Here, you’ll describe your strategy more specifically. For a search problem, for instance, you’d give a description of the state space and how you searched through it. You might also provide some empirical results: How good are the results from your project (and how did you measure performance)? How quickly does your algorithm run? If you explored a couple options (e.g., two different evaluation functions), how well did each function perform?

The final section of your report should be a discussion/conclusion that sums up what you did and points to some future directions: how would you improve on what you did? What ideas do you have for alternative approaches for this problem, or what other problems could use the same approach as you took?

Finally, either as an appendix to your final project report or as a separate file named ReadMe.txt, you should give me instructions on how to run your code. Specifically, how do I invoke it from the command line, and are there any command line options I should know how to use? This documentation may be brief, but should enable me to interact with your program and see the project that you’ve described in your report.

Your final project report should be no more than five pages, excluding the appendix documenting how to run your code. Your report may include figures or tables to communicate your approach and results. Your report may be shorter than five pages - the important thing is that it clearly communicates your work and how that work fits in to AI strategies for solving problems. Both the report and the code you submit will contribute to your grade.

How your partnership went: After you submit your report, please send me a short email telling me how things went with your partner(s): did you each contribute to the design of the project? to the code? to the paper? What were your major contributions? This helps me get a sense of how the teams worked and to make sure I am fair given individual circumstances.

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1This document is substantially the same as the “What to turn in” section in the proposal, although it adds in a short email to send me at the end.