technische universität
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Computational Intelligence

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Contents

● Ant algorithms	(combinatorial optimization)
● Particle swarm algorithms	(optimization in $\mathbb{R}^n$)

metaphor

swarms of bird or fish

seeking for food

↓

concepts:

- evaluation of own current situation
- comparison with other conspecific
- imitation of behavior of successful conspecifics

⇒ audio-visual communication

ants or termites

seeking for food

↓

concepts:

- communication / coordination by means of „stigmergy“
- reinforcement learning → positive feedback

⇒ olfactoric communication

ant algorithms (ACO: Ant Colony Optimization)

paradigm for design of metaheuristics for combinatorial optimization

stigmergy = indirect communication through modification of environment

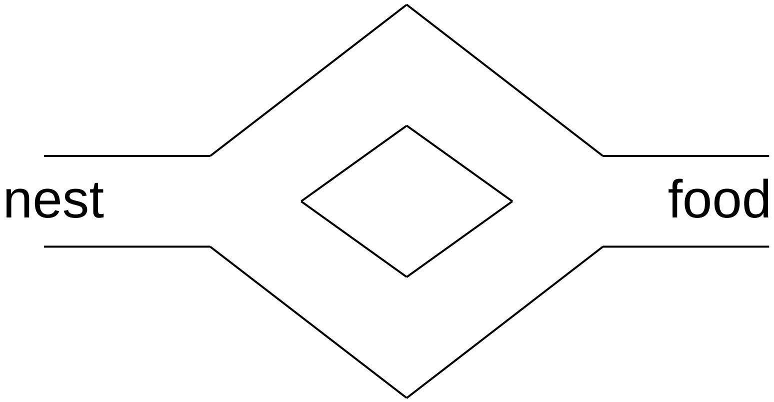
$\sim$ 1991 Colorni / Dorigo / Maniezzo: Ant System (also: 1. ECAL, Paris 1991)
Dorigo (1992): collective behavor of social insects (PhD)

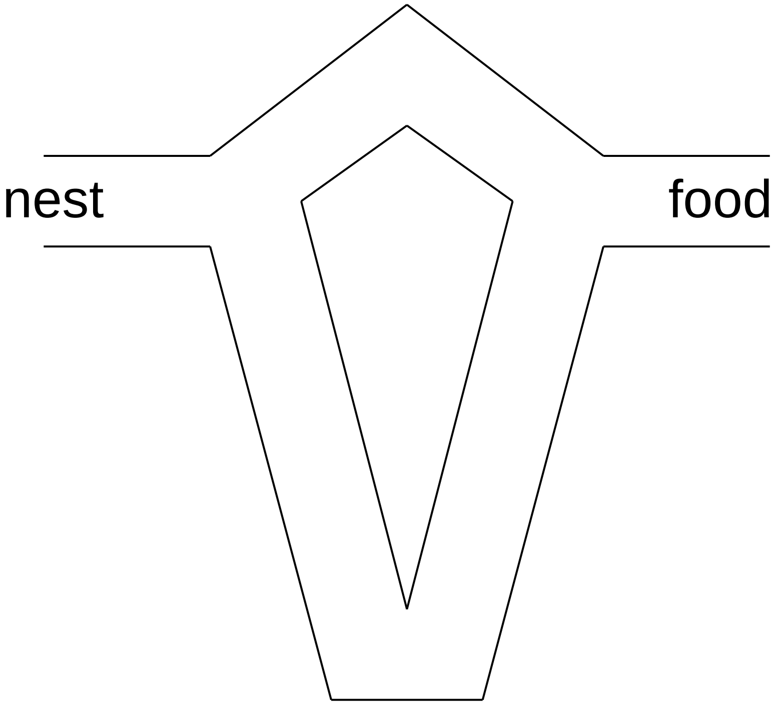
some facts:

- about 2% of all insects are social
- about 50% of all social insects are ants
- total weight of all ants = total weight of all humans
- ants populate earth since 100 millions years
- humans populate earth since 50.000 years

Swarm Intelligence

double bridge experiment (Deneubourg et al. 1990, Goss et al. 1989)





initially:
both bridges used equally often

finally:
all ants run over single bridge only!

finally:
all ants use the shorter bridge!

Swarm Intelligence

How does it work?

- ants place pheromons on their way
- routing depends on concentration of pheromons

more detailed:

ants that use shorter bridge return faster

→ pheromone concentration higher on shorter bridge

→ ants choose shorter bridge more frequently than longer bridge

→ pheromon concentration on shorter bridge even higher

→ even more ants choose shorter bridge

→ a.s.f.

positive feedback loop

Ant System (AS) 1991

combinatorial problem:

- components $C = \{ c_1, c_2, ..., c_n \}$
- feasible set $F \subseteq 2^C$
- objective function $f: 2^C \to \mathbb{R}$

ants = set of concurrent (or parallel) asynchronous agents
move through state of problems

↓

partial solutions of problems

→ caused by movement of ants the final solution is compiled incrementally

movement: stochastic local decision

(2 parameters)

‘trails‘ ‘attractiveness‘

paths excitement, stimulus

while constructing the solution (if possible), otherwise at the end:

1. evaluation of solutions
2. modification of ‘trail value‘ of components on the path

feedback

ant k in state i

- determine all possible continuations of current state i
- choice of continuation according to probability distribution p_{ij}

p_{ij} = q(attractivity, amount of pheromone)

heuristic is based on *a priori* desirability of the move

a posteriori desirability of the move
„how rewarding was the move in the past?“

- update of pheromone amount on the paths:
  as soon as all ants have compiled their solutions

  good solution ↑ increase amount of pheromone, otherwise decrease ↓

Combinatorial Problems (Example TSP)

TSP:

- ant starts in arbitrary city i
- pheromone on edges (i, j): τ_{ij}
- probability to move from i to j: $p_{ij}^{(t)} = \dfrac{\tau_{ij}^{\alpha}\,\eta_{ij}^{\beta}}{\sum\limits_{k \in \mathcal{N}_i(t)} \tau_{ik}^{\alpha}\,\eta_{ik}^{\beta}}$ for $j \in \mathcal{N}_i(t)$
- $\eta_{ij} = 1/d_{ij}$; d_{ij} = distance between city i and j
- $\alpha = 1$ and $\beta \in [2, 5]$ (empirical), $\rho \in (0,1)$ “evaporation rate“
- $\mathcal{N}_i(t)$ = neighborhood of i at time step t (without cities already visited)
- update of pheromone after μ journeys of ants: $\tau_{ij} := \rho\,\tau_{ij} + \sum\limits_{k=1}^{\mu} \Delta\tau_{ij}(k)$
- $\Delta\tau_{ij}(k)$ = 1 / (tour length of ant k), if (i,j) belongs to tour

two additional mechanisms:

1. *trail evaporation*
2. *demon actions* (for centralized actions; not executable in general)

Ant System (AS) is prototype

tested on TSP-Benchmark → not competitive

→ but: works in principle!

subsequent: 2 targets

1. increase efficiency (→ competitiveness with *state-of-the-art* method)
2. better explanation of behavior

1995 ANT-Q (Gambardella & Dorigo), simplified: 1996 ACS *ant colony system*

Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)

↓

abstraction from fish / bird / bee swarm

paradigm for design of metaheuristics for <u>continuous</u> optimization

developed by Russel Eberhard & James Kennedy (~1995)

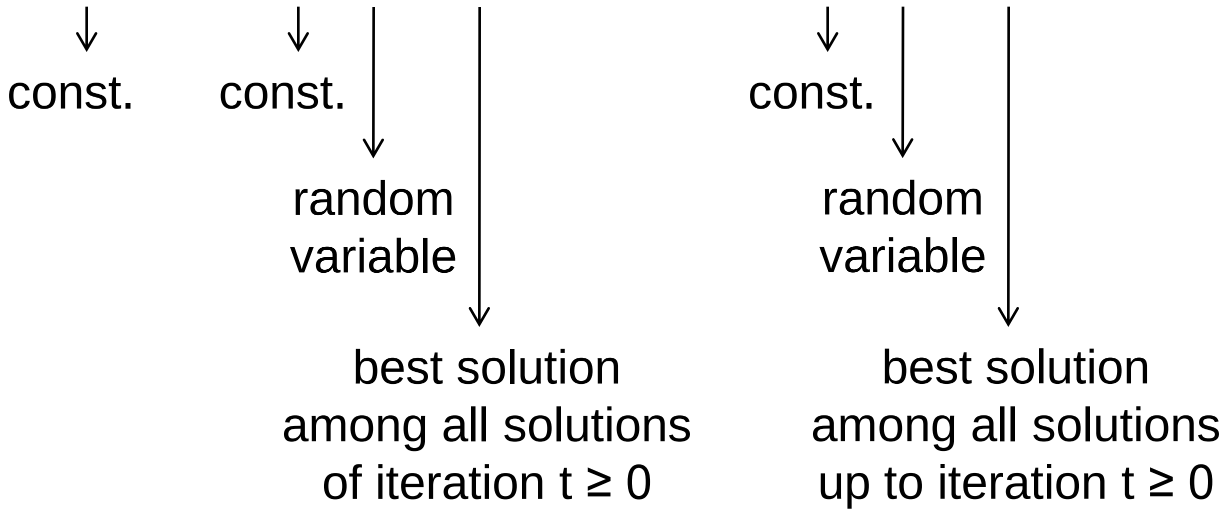
concepts:

- particle (x, v) consists of position x $\in \mathbb{R}^n$ and "velocity" (i.e. direction) v $\in \mathbb{R}^n$
- PSO maintains multiple potential solutions at one time
- during each iteration, each solution/position is evaluated by an objective function
- particles "fly" or "swarm" through the search space
  to find position of an extremal value returned by the objective function

PSO update of particle (x_i, v_i) at iteration t

<u>1st step:</u>

$$v_i(t+1) = \omega\, v_i(t) + \gamma_1\, R_1\, (x_b^*(t) - x_i(t)) + \gamma_2\, R_2\, (x^*(t) - x_i(t))$$



const.

const.

random variable

best solution among all solutions of iteration t ≥ 0

const.

random variable

best solution among all solutions up to iteration t ≥ 0

$$x_b^*(t) = \underset{i=1,\ldots,\mu}{\operatorname{argmin}}\{f(x_i(t))\} \quad x^*(t) = \underset{\tau=0,\ldots,t}{\operatorname{argmin}}\{f(x_b^*(\tau))\}$$

PSO update of particle (x_i, v_i) at iteration t

1st step:

$$\underbrace{v_i(t+1)}_{\text{new direction}} = \omega\, \underbrace{v_i(t)}_{\text{old direction}} + \gamma_1\, R_1\, \underbrace{(x_b^*(t) - x_i(t))}_{\text{direction from } x_i(t) \text{ to } x_b^*(t)} + \gamma_2\, R_2\, \underbrace{(x^*(t) - x_i(t))}_{\text{direction from } x_i(t) \text{ to } x^*(t)}$$

ω : inertia factor, often $\in [0.8, 1.2]$

γ_1 : cognitive factor, often $\in [1.7, 2.0]$

γ_2 : social factor, often $\in [1.7, 2.0]$

R_1 : positive r.v., often $r_1 \sim U[0,1]$

R_2 : positive r.v., often $r_2 \sim U[0,1]$

PSO update of particle (x_i, v_i) at iteration t

2nd step:

$$\underbrace{x_i(t+1)}_{\text{new position}} = \underbrace{x_i(t)}_{\text{old position}} + \underbrace{v_i(t+1)}_{\text{new direction}}$$

Note the similarity to the concept of mutative step size control in EAs:
first change the step size (direction),
then use changed step size (direction) for changing position.

More swarm algorithms:

- Artificial Bee Colony
- Krill Herd Algorithm
- Firefly Algorithm
- Glowworm Swarm
- ...

But be watchful:

Is there a new algorithmic idea inspired from the biological system?

Take a look at the code / formulas: Discover similarities & differences!

Often: “Old wine in new skins.“