## Lecture 13 Intro to Connect Four AI



## hw07: Connect Four!

- Two players, each with one type of checker
- $6 \times 7$ board that stands vertically
- Players take turns dropping a checker
 into one of the board's columns.

- Win == four adjacent checkers in any direction:
horizontal

vertical

up diagonal down diagonal



## Board Class for Connect Four

class Board: def __init__(self, height, width):
def __repr__(self):
def add_checker(self, checker, col):


## Player Class

class Player:

```
def __init__(self, checker):
def __repr__(self):
def opponent_checker(self):
```



```
def next_move(self, board):
    self.num_moves += 1
    while True:
        col = int(input('Enter a column: '))
        # if valid column index, return that integer
        # else, print 'Try again!' and keep looping
```


## The APIs of Our Board and Player Classes

```
class Board:
    __init__
        (self,col)
        (provided)
        __repr__(self)
    add_checker(self,checker,col)
    clear(self)
    add_checkers(self,colnums)
    can_add_to(self,col)
    is_full(self)
    remove_checker(self,col)
    is_win_for(self,checker)
class Player: (for you to implement)
    __init__(self,col)
    __repr__(self)
    opponent_checker(self)
    next_move(self,board)
```

Make sure to take full advantage of these methods in your work on hw06!

```
class Player:
(for you to implement)
__init__(self,col)
__repr__(self)
opponent_checker(self)
next_move(self,board)
```

def process_move(player, board):
'''Applies a player object's next move to a board object. Returns true if the player wins or a tie occurs, False otherwise'', pass
def connect_four(player1, player2) \# provided in stencil '''Plays a connect four game between player1 and player2, Returns the final board configuration
while True: \% Play until a win or tie occurs. if process_move(player1, board): return board
if process_move(player2, board):
return board

## What are the appropriate method calls?

class Board:
__init__(self,col)
add_checker(self,checker,col) clear(self)
add_checkers(self,colnums)
can_add_to(self,col)
is_full(self)
remove_checker(self,col)
is_win_for(self,checker)
class Player:
__init__(self,col)
__repr__(self)
opponent_checker(self)
next_move(self,board)

## \# client code

def process_move(player,board):
\# get move from player $\mathrm{col}=$ $\qquad$
\# apply the move
-••

## What are the appropriate method calls?

class Board:
_init__(self,col)
add_checker(self,checker,col)
clear(self)
add_checkers(self,colnums)
can_add_to(self,col)
is_full(self)
remove_checker(self,col)
is_win_for(self,checker)

```
# client code
def process_move(player,board):
# get move from player
col = player.next_move(board)
# apply the move
board.add_checker(..., col)
```

class Player:
__init__(self,col)
__repr__(self)
opponent_checker(self)
next_move(self,board)

## Inheritance in Connect Four

- Player - the superclass
- includes fields and methods needed by all Connect 4 players
- in particular, a next_move method
- use this class for human players


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- no new fields
- overrides next_move with a version that chooses at random from the non-full columns


## Inheritance in Connect Four

- Player - the superclass
- includes fields and methods needed by all C4 players
- in particular, a next_move method
- use this class for human players
- RandomPlayer - a subclass for an unintelligent computer player
- no new fields
- overrides next_move with a version that chooses at random from the non-full columns
- AIPlayer - a subclass for an "intelligent" computer player
- uses AI techniques
- new fields for details of its strategy
- overrides next_move with a version that tries to determine the best move!


## Using the Player Classes

- Example 1: two human players

```
>>> connect_four(Player('X'), Player('0'))
```

- Example 2: human player vs. AI computer player:

```
>>> connect_four(Player('X'), AIPlayer('0', 'LEFT', 3))
```

- connect_four() repeatedly calls process_move():

```
def connect_four(player1, player2):
print('Welcome to Connect Four!')
print()
board = Board(6, 7)
print(board)
```

while True:
if process_move(player1, board):
return board
if process_move(player2, board):
return board

## 00P == Object-Oriented Power!

def process_move(player, board):
col = player.next_move(board)

- Which version of next_move gets called?


## 00P == Object-Oriented Power!

def process_move(player, board):
col = player.next_move(board)

- Which version of next_move gets called?
- It depends!
- if player is a Player object, call next_move from that class
- if player is a RandomPlayer, call that version of next_move
- if player is an AIPlayer, call that version of next_move
- The appropriate version is automatically called, depending on which object player was defined as!


## RandomPlayer, AIPlayer Class

class Player:

???

## Why AI Is Challenging

Make no mistake about it: computers process numbers - not symbols.

## Computers can only help us to the extent that we can arithmetize an activity.

- paraphrasing Alan Perlis


## "Arithmetizing" Connect Four

- Our AIPlayer assigns a score to each possible move
- i.e., to each column
- It looks ahead some number of moves into the future to determine the score.
- lookahead = \# of future moves that the player considers


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- Scoring columns:
-1: an already full column
0: if we choose this column, it will result in a loss at some point during the player's lookahead
100: if we choose this column, it will result in a win at some point during the player's lookahead
50: if we choose this column, it will result in neither a win nor a loss during the player's lookahead


## A Lookahead of 0

- A lookahead-0 player only assesses the current board (O moves!).



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LA-0 scores for $\bigcirc$

| -1 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



## A Lookahead of 1

- A lookahead-1 player assesses the outcome of only the considered move.



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## LA-1 scores for

| -1 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 100 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



A lookahead-1 player will "see" an impending victory.

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- A lookahead-1 player assesses the outcome of only the considered move.


## LA-1 scores for $\bigcirc$

A lookahead-1 player will "see" an impending victory.

next_move<br>will return 4 for

AIPlayer!

## A Lookahead of 1

- A lookahead-1 player assesses the outcome of only the considered move


## How do these scores change if it is 's turn instead of $\bigcirc$ 's?

Let's look at the lookahead-2 scores for the player.

## A Lookahead of 2

- A lookahead-2 player looks 2 moves ahead.
- what if I ( make this move, and then my opponent ( ) makes its best move?
- note: we assume the opponent looks ahead $2-1=1$ move



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## AI for Connect Four (cont.)

based in part on notes from the CS-for-All curriculum developed at Harvey Mudd College

## Recall: "Arithmetizing" Connect Four

- Our AIPlayer assigns a score to each possible move
- i.e., to each column
- It looks ahead some number of moves into the future to determine the score.
- lookahead = \# of future moves that the player considers
- Scoring columns:
-1: an already full column
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## Example 2: LA-0

- A lookahead-0 player only assesses the current board (O moves!).



## Example 2: LA-1

- A lookahead-1 player assesses the outcome of only the considered move.



## Example 2: LA-1

- A lookahead-1 player assesses the outcome of only the considered move.



## Example 2: LA-2

- A lookahead-2 player looks 2 moves ahead.
- what if I make this move, and then my opponent makes its best move?
- note: we assume the opponent looks ahead $2-1=1$ move



## Example 2: LA-2

- A lookahead-2 player looks 2 moves ahead.
- what if I make this move, and then my opponent makes its best move?
- note: we assume the opponent looks ahead $2-1=1$ move



## LA-3!

- A lookahead-3 player looks 3 moves ahead.
- what if I make this move, and then my opponent makes its best move, and then I make my best subsequent move?
- note: we assume the opponent looks ahead 3-1 = 2 moves



## LA-3!

- A lookahead-3 player looks 3 moves ahead.
- what if I make this move, and then my opponent makes its best move, and then I make my best subsequent move?
- note: we assume the opponent looks ahead 3-1 = 2 moves

| 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



## Example 2: LA-0

- A lookahead-0 player only assesses the current board (O moves!).



## Example 2: LA-1

- A lookahead-1 player assesses the outcome of only the considered move.



## What Are the LA-2 Scores for $\bigcirc$ ?

- Look 2 moves ahead. Assume the opponent looks 1 move ahead.

$\leftarrow$ LA-1 scores
$\leftarrow$ no change?


## Example 2: LA-2

- A lookahead-2 player looks 2 moves ahead.
- what if I make this move, and then my opponent makes its best move?
- note: we assume the opponent looks ahead $2-1=1$ move



## Example 2: LA-3

- A lookahead-3 player looks 3 moves ahead.
- what if I make this move, and then my opponent makes its best move, and then I make my best subsequent move?
- note: we assume the opponent looks ahead 3-1 = 2 moves



## LA-3!

- A lookahead-3 player looks 3 moves ahead.
- what if I make this move, and then my opponent makes its best move, and then I make my best subsequent move?
- note: we now assume the opponent looks ahead 2 moves



## LA-4!

- A lookahead-4 player looks 4 moves ahead.
- assumes the opponent looks ahead 4-1 = 3 moves



## LA-4!

- A lookahead-4 player looks 4 moves ahead.
- assumes the opponent looks ahead 4-1 = 3 moves

Consider column 0 :

1. 'O' moves there.
2. 'X' moves to 2.
3. 'O' moves to 4 to block a diagonal win.
4. 'X' still wins horizontally!

Same thing holds for the other col's with new 0s.

| 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



## Try It!

LA-0 scores for ' $\mathbf{O}$ ':

Looks 0 moves into the future

LA-1 scores for ' $\mathbf{O}$ ':
Looks 1 move into the future
LA-2 scores for 'O':
Looks 2 moves into the future

LA-3 scores for ' $\mathbf{O}$ ':


## Solutions

 you-self-is playing ' 0 '
'X' LA-0 scores for ' $\mathbf{O}$ ':

Looks 0 moves into the future

LA-1 scores for ' $\mathbf{O}$ ':
Looks 1 move into the future

| col 0 | col 1 | col 2 | col 3 | col 4 | col 5 | col 6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -1 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |


| col 0 | col 1 | col 2 | col 3 | col 4 | col | col |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -1 | 50 | 50 | 100 | 50 | 50 | 50 |

LA-2 scores for ' $\mathbf{O}$ ':
Looks 2 moves into the future


## scores_for - the Al in AIPlayer!

def scores_for(self, board):
""" MUST return a list of scores - one for each column!!
II II II
scores = [50] * board.width
for col in range(board.width):
???

Suppose you're playing with LA 2...
For each column:

## scores_for

1) add a checker to it
2) ask an opponent with LA 1 for its scores for the resulting board!
3) assume the opponent will makes its best move, and determine your score accordingly
4) remove checker!
col 0

opp_scores = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
max(opp_scores) = 0
scores[0] = ?
col 3

opp_scores $=[0,0,0,0,0,0,0]$ max(opp_scores) = 0 scores[3] = ?
opp_scores = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0] max(opp_scores) = 0
scores[2] = ?
```
opp_scores = [50,50,50,50,50,100,50]
max(opp_scores) = 100
scores[1] = ?
```

Suppose you're playing with LA 2...
For each column:

## scores_for

1) add a checker to it
2) ask an opponent with LA 1 for its scores for the resulting board!
3) assume the opponent will makes its best move, and determine your score accordingly
4) remove checker!
col 0

opp_scores = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
$\max \left(\mathrm{opp} \_\right.$scores) $=0$
scores[0] = 100
A loss for my opponent is a win for me! next move
col 3

opp_scores $=[0,0,0,0,0,0,0]$ max(opp_scores) = 0
```
scores[3] = 100
```

opp_scores = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0] max(opp_scores) $=0$
scores[2] = 100

```
opp_scores = [50,50,50,50,50,100,50]
max(opp_scores) = 100
scores[1] = 0
A win for my opponent is a loss for me!
```

Suppose you're playing with LA 2...

## scores_for

For each column:

1) add a checker to it
2) ask an opponent with LA 1 for its scores for the resulting board!
3) assume the opponent will makes its best move, and determine your score accordingly
4) remove checker!

opp_scores = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
max(opp_scores) = 0
scores[4] = 100

```
opp_scores = [50,50,50,50,50,50,50]
max(opp_scores) = 50
scores[5] = 50
A draw for my opponent is a draw for me!
```



## scores_for - the Al in AIPlayer!

def scores_for(self, board):

```
""" MUST return a list of scores - one for each column!!
```

II II II
scores = [50] * board.width
for col in range(board.width):
if col is full:
use -1 for scores[col]
elif already win/loss:
use appropriate score (100 or 0)
elif lookahead is 0 :
use 50
else:
try col - adding a checker to it
create an opponent with self.lookahead - 1
opp_scores = opponent.scores_for(...)
scores[col] = ???
remove checker
return scores

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use 50
else:
try col - adding a checker to it
create an opponent with self.lookahead - 1
opp_scores = opponent.scores_for(...)
scores[col] = ???
remove checker
return scores

Suppose you're playing with LA 2...

## scores_for

We've tried all columns!
scores $=[100,0,100,100,100,50,0]$

What should next_move return?

## scores_for - the Al in AIPlayer!

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opp_scores = opponent.scores_for(...)
scores[col] = ???
remove checker
return scores

## RandomPlayer, AIPlayer Class

class Player:

```
def __init__(self, checker):
def __repr__(self):
def opponent_checker(self):
def next_move(self, board):
self.num_moves += 1
scores = self.scores_for(board)
return ???
```



## Breaking Ties



- possible moves: ???


## Breaking Ties



- possible moves: [0, 2, 3, 4]
- self.tiebreak == 'LEFT': return 0
- self.tiebreak == 'RIGHT': return 4
- self.tiebreak == 'RANDOM': choose at random!


## Connect Four Complexity

## How Many Outcomes Are Considered?

- On average, Connect 4 players have seven choices per move.
- LA-0 player considers 1 outcome.
- the current board

- LA-1 player considers 7 outcomes.
- LA-2 player considers $7^{2}$ outcomes.
- each of its 7 moves, followed by each of its opponent's 7 moves
- LA-n player considers $7^{n}$ outcomes.
it's okay if your times are longer!
- As LA increases, time taken by next_move grows exponentially!

```
>>> AIPlayer('X','RANDOM',5).next_move(Board(6,7)) # 1.1 sec
>>> AIPlayer('X','RANDOM',6).next_move(Board(6,7)) # 7.1 sec
>>> AIPlayer('X','RANDOM',7).next_move(Board(6,7)) # 49.1 sec
>>> AIPlayer('X','RANDOM',8).next_move(Board(6,7)) # 341.8 sec
>>> AIPlayer('X','RANDOM',9).next_move(Board(6,7)) # ~40 min!!
```

