CS301 FS2007 Exam 3

This is a closed-book, closed-notes exam. The only items you are allowed to use are writing implements. Mark each sheet of paper you use with your name and the string “cs301fs2007 exam3”. If you are caught cheating, you will receive a zero grade for this exam. The max number of points per question is indicated in square brackets after each question. The sum of the max points for all the questions is 33, but note that the max exam score will be capped at 30 (i.e., there are 3 bonus points but you can’t score more than 100%). While this exam has been designed to be doable in 60 minutes, you have up to 75 minutes to complete this exam. Keep your answers clear and concise while complete. Good luck!

Multiple Choice Questions - Circle the letter indicating your choice

1. The scope of change in parameter control can be at the level of the: [1]
   (a) gene
   (b) individual
   (c) population
   (d) all of the above

2. A Coevolutionary Algorithm (CoEA) is an EA: [1]
   (a) where the fitness of each individual depends on one or more other individuals
   (b) with exactly two populations
   (c) where the fitness of each individual depends on individuals from a second population
   (d) with multiple populations

3. Disengagement in a CoEA occurs when: [1]
   (a) the individuals in one population stop competing with the individuals in another population
   (b) population A outevolves population B to the point where every individual in A utterly defeats all individuals in B
   (c) individuals who are selected to mate with each other (virtually engaged so to speak) determine they are not a good match and select alternative mates
   (d) none of the above

4. In multi-objective problems a solution $x$ is said to dominate a solution $y$ when: [1]
   (a) solution $x$ is no worse than $y$ in all objectives
   (b) solution $x$ is strictly better than $y$ in no more than one objective
   (c) both answer A and answer B are true
   (d) none of the above

Regular Questions

5. List three technical drawbacks to parameter tuning. [3]

6. Explain the difference between (1) deterministic parameter control, (2) adaptive parameter control, and (3) self-adaptive parameter control. [3]

7. Describe briefly the difference between a cooperative CoEA and a competitive CoEA. [2]

8. Explain the phenomenon of cycling in CoEAs. [4]

9. Explain the phenomenon of deterioration in MOEAs. [4]
10. List two metrics for assessing the performance of a MOEA and explain each metric very briefly. [2]


12. Given the following bit strings $v_1$ through $v_5$ and schema $S$

   $v_1 = (011011101001)$ $fitness(v_1) = 0.8$
   $v_2 = (10110010011001)$ $fitness(v_2) = 0.1$
   $v_3 = (00001010011010)$ $fitness(v_3) = 1.0$
   $v_4 = (01001110111001)$ $fitness(v_4) = 1.2$
   $v_5 = (01001011100011)$ $fitness(v_5) = 1.9$
   $S = (01 \ast 11101 \ast 100\ast)$

   (a) Compute the order of $S$. [1]
   (b) Compute the defining length of $S$. [1]
   (c) Compute the fitness of $S$. [1]
   (d) Do you expect the number of strings matching $S$ to increase or decrease in subsequent generations? Explain your answer! [3]

13. Select an EA strategy parameter/operator of your choice and explain a reasonable approach to unburdening the user from having to select it for the problem at hand. Simply fixing a parameter without regard for the problem at hand is NOT a reasonable approach. A truly ingenious approach may be rewarded with an extra point. [3]