## **Engineered Biomimicry Chapter 17: Evolutionary Computation And Genetic**

Engineered biomimicry is a fascinating field that draws inspiration from nature's design and applies it to solve complex problems. In this chapter, we delve into the concept of evolutionary computation and genetic algorithms, two powerful tools that have revolutionized the way we approach engineering challenges.

#### **Understanding Evolutionary Computation**

Evolutionary computation is a problem-solving technique that draws heavily from the principles of biological evolution. Inspired by the process of natural selection, it involves creating a population of potential solutions to a problem and iteratively refining them through adaptive mechanisms.

This iterative process consists of evaluating the fitness of each solution, selecting the most fit individuals, applying genetic operators such as crossover and mutation, and producing a new generation of individuals. Over time, these generations converge towards an optimal solution, much like the process of evolution in nature.



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by Jonathan Pinnock (Kindle Edition)

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Language	;	English
File size	:	488 KB
Text-to-Speech	:	Enabled
Screen Reader	:	Supported
Enhanced typesetting	:	Enabled
Word Wise	:	Enabled
Print length	:	47 pages



One of the key advantages of evolutionary computation is its ability to explore a large search space and identify solutions that may not be obvious through traditional engineering approaches. By allowing for the generation and evaluation of a diverse range of solutions, it enhances the chances of finding novel and optimal designs.

#### The Role of Genetic Algorithms

Genetic algorithms are a specific type of evolutionary computation technique that relies on the principles of genetics and natural selection. They embody the concept of survival of the fittest and mimic the process of genetic recombination.

A genetic algorithm works by representing solutions as chromosomes, which consist of genes encoding different design variables. These chromosomes undergo selection, crossover, and mutation operations to produce new offspring that inherit traits from their parents. The offspring are then evaluated for their fitness and can potentially contribute to the next generation.

Through this iterative process, genetic algorithms optimize the design variables based on defined fitness criteria, gradually improving the overall solution quality. They excel in tackling complex, multi-objective optimization problems where traditional algorithms struggle due to the nonlinear and high-dimensional nature of the search space.

#### **Applications of Evolutionary Computation and Genetic Algorithms**

The applications of evolutionary computation and genetic algorithms in engineered biomimicry are vast and diverse. These techniques have been

successfully employed in a wide range of fields, contributing to advancements in various domains such as robotics, mechanical engineering, and materials science.

In robotics, evolutionary computation has proven invaluable for the design of locomotion systems and control strategies. Through iterative optimization, robots can mimic the behavior of living organisms and achieve efficient and adaptive locomotion in complex environments.

Mechanical engineering has also greatly benefited from the application of genetic algorithms. By leveraging the principles of evolution, engineers can optimize the design of complex structures, reduce material usage, and improve overall performance. Genetic algorithms have been particularly successful in the field of aerodynamics, where they have helped create streamlined and energy-efficient designs.

Materials science has witnessed significant advancements through the use of evolutionary computation. By mimicking the process of natural selection, researchers have successfully designed new materials with enhanced properties, such as improved strength, durability, and flexibility.

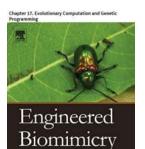
#### The Future of Engineered Biomimicry

As we continue to explore the potential of engineered biomimicry, the integration of evolutionary computation and genetic algorithms will undoubtedly play a crucial role in innovation and problem-solving. The ability to leverage nature's design principles and adapt them to engineering challenges opens up exciting avenues for breakthroughs in various fields.

Researchers are actively pushing the boundaries of biomimetic design, seeking inspiration from diverse organisms, ecosystems, and biological processes. By

combining evolutionary computation with other computational tools such as machine learning and artificial intelligence, they aim to develop even more powerful algorithms for solving complex engineering problems.

In , engineered biomimicry, particularly through the utilization of evolutionary computation and genetic algorithms, holds immense potential for revolutionizing the way we approach engineering challenges. By mimicking nature's design processes, we can unlock innovative solutions that may have otherwise eluded us. As we continue to unravel the mysteries of nature, we will undoubtedly witness further advancements and remarkable discoveries that will shape our future.



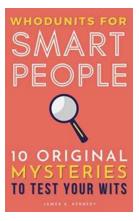
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This chapter focuses on evolutionary computation, in particular genetic programming, as examples of drawing inspiration from biological systems. We set the choice of evolution as a source for inspiration in context and discuss the history of evolutionary computation and its variants before looking more closely at genetic programming. After a discussion of methods and the state of the art, we review application areas of genetic programming and its strength in providing human-competitive solutions.



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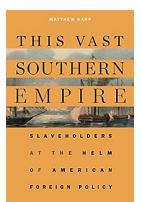
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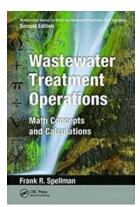
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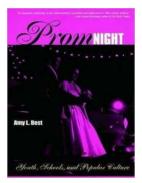
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