

Joe Steele Harry Turtledove

The Mammoth Book of Best New SF 17 The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-First Annual Collection The Business of Science Fiction The Year's Best Science Fiction: Ninth Annual Collection The Year's Best Science Fiction Stark's War Stars The Best Alternate History Stories of the 20th Century The Rowan Kris Longknife: Redoubtable Short Story Index Forever Peace Analog Science Fiction & Fact Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine What Do I Read Next? 1995 The Lost Fleet: Courageous The Year's Best Science Fiction: Eleventh Annual Collection Isaac's Universe The Year's Best Science Fiction: Nineteenth Annual Collection Analog Science Fiction/science Fact The Accidental Time Machine Kris Longknife: Undaunted Science Fact and Science Fiction Jennifer Scales and the Ancient Furnace The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-Second Annual Collection MythOS The Dark Reaches The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twentieth Annual Collection The Year's Best Science Fiction: Thirteenth Annual Collection The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twelfth Annual Collection Inhuman Resources Plague Year Chapterhouse: Dune Kris Longknife: Training Daze The Cold Minds The Year's Best Science Fiction: Thirty-Second Annual Collection The Mammoth Book of Best New SF 18 The Many Faces of Van Helsing Water Beings Kris Longknife: Intrepid Gardner Dozois Gardner Dozois Mike Resnick Gardner Dozois John G. Hemry Janis Ian Harry Turtledove Anne McCaffrey Mike Shepherd Joe Haldeman Barron Jack Campbell Gardner Dozois Martin Harry Greenberg Gardner Dozois Joe Haldeman Mike Shepherd Brian Stableford MaryJanice Davidson Gardner Dozois Kelly McCullough Kristin Landon Gardner Dozois Gardner Dozois Gardner Dozois Jes Battis Jeff Carlson Frank Herbert Mike Shepherd Kristin Landon Gardner Dozois Gardner Dozois Jeanne Cavelos Veronica Strang Mike Shepherd

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widely regarded as the essential book for every science fiction fan the mammoth book of best new sf 17 continues to uphold its standard of excellence with more than two dozen stories from the previous year this year s volume includes not just a host of established masters but also many bright young talents of science fiction it embraces every aspect of the genre soft hard cyberpunk cyber noir anthropological military and adventure plus the usual thorough summations of the year and a recommended reading list

the stories in this collection imaginatively take readers far across the universe into the very core of their beings to the realm of the gods and to the moment just after now included are the works of masters of the form and the bright new talents of tomorrow this book is a valuable resource in addition to serving as the single best place in the universe to find stories that stir the imagination and the heart

two prolific and award winning science fiction writers mike resnick and barry n malzberg have been publishing a dialogue in every issue of the sfwa bulletin official publication of the science fiction writers of america for more than a decade these collected columns explore every aspect of the literary genre from writing to marketing to publishing combining wit and insight with decades of experience

in the year s best science fiction ninth annual collection gardner dozois produces another volume in the series that locus calls the field s real anthology of record with a unique combination of foresight and perspective dozois continues to collect outstanding work by newcomers and established authors alike reflecting the present state of the genre while suggesting its future directions with the editor s annual summary of the year in the field and his appendix of recommended reading this book is indispensable for anyone interested in contemporary science fiction

the americans were the first to set foot on the moon they intend to be the last the united states of america reigns over earth as the last surviving superpower to build a society free of american influence foreign countries have inhabited the moon taking advantage of the natural resources to earn their own riches now the u s military has been ordered to wrest control of earth s satellite from america s rivals sergeant ethan stark must train his squadron to fight against a desperate enemy in an airless atmosphere at one sixth normal gravity ensuring his team s survival means choosing which orders to obey and which to ignore

an anthology inspired by a meeting at the 2001 worldcon of songwriter janis ian with science fiction writers affected by her music collects thirty stories each based on one of her songs

explore fascinating often chilling what if accounts of the world that could have existed and still might yet science fiction s most illustrious and visionary authors hold forth the ultimate alternate history collection here you ll experience mind bending tales that challenge your views of the past present and future including the lucky strike when the lucky strike is chosen over the enola gay to

drop the first atomic bomb fate takes an unexpected turn in kim stanley robinson s gripping tale bring the jubilee ward moore s novella masterpiece offers a rebel victory at gettysburg which changes the course of the civil war and all of american history through road no wither after hitler s victory in world war ii two nazi officers confront their destiny in greg bear s apocalyptic vision of the future all the myriad ways murder or suicide ambrose harmon s death leads the police down an infinite number of pathways in larry niven s brilliant and defining tale of alternatives and consequences mozart in mirrorshades bruce sterling and lewis shiner explore a terrifying era as the future crashes into the past with disastrous results as well as the winterberry by nicholas a dichario islands in the sea by harry turtledove suppose they gave a peace by susan shwartz manassas again by gregory benford dance band on the titanic by jack l chalker eutopia by poul anderson the undiscovered by william sanders the death of captain future by allen steele and moon of ice by brad linaweaver the definitive collection fourteen seminal alternate history tales drawing readers into a universe of dramatic possibility and endless wonder

the captivating first novel in the classic science fiction series the tower and the hive an extraordinary woman with unparalleled telepathic abilities is destined to face a lonely life of servitude until she receives a telepathic plea from across the stars as a young girl the rowan is discovered because her incredible gift telepathic abilities that are more powerful than anyone has ever seen as she grows older she uses her talents to benefit society as a prime responsible for communicating and moving ships through space but a life as a prime is a lonely one leaving her longing to find personal connection and meaning when a distress call from a distant planet reaches her the rowan is drawn into a rescue mission that will put her powers to the test and everything changes when she meets jeff raven another telepath who just might have that crucial spark of connection she s been searching for

lieutenant commander kris longknife has precise orders seek out engage and destroy pirates slavers and drug lords operating beyond the rim of human space without interfering in peterwald family affairs but when slavers kidnap a twelve year old girl kris s mission becomes personal and if destroying the pirate compound flattens some peterwald interests well to hell with politics

2043 a d the ngumi war rages a burned out soldier and his scientist lover discover a secret that could put the universe back to square one and it is not terrifying it is tempting

this annual selection guide covers new novels in the mystery fiction science fiction fantasy horror western fiction and romance genres it is intended to help readers to choose titles of interest published during 1995 by identifying similarities in various books it seeks to help readers to independently choose titles of interest published during 1995 entries are arranged by author within six genre sections and provide publisher and publication date series name and number description of characters time geographical setting review citation genre and setting notations and related books

the lost fleet continues its perilous journey home badly damaged and low on supplies the alliance fleet is raiding syndic mines for raw materials and captain black jack geary hopes they can continue to remain one step ahead of their enemies but the syndics are the least of geary s worries when he learns of the existence of aliens with the power to annihilate the human race

the dozens of delightful stories in this anthology dazzle the mind with visions of tomorrow and yesterday of here and now on display is the work of many of today s greatest writers and tomorrow s including brian w aldiss stephen baxter neal barrett jr pat cadigan jack cady greg egan joe haldeman david b kisor nancy kress ian r macleod maureen f mchugh g david nordley rebecca ore robert reed mike resnick mark rich charles sheffield dan simmons william browning spencer bruce sterling steven utley don webb walter jon williams connie willis a long list of honorable mentions and an insightful roundup of the year in science fiction make the book indispensable for every fan of fantastic fiction intriguing characters creative settings and a certain amount of consciousness raising are evident in many selections readers have a useful jumping off point should they wish to continue their explorations of an expanding literary universe publishers weekly

the twenty first century has so far proven to be exciting and wondrous and filled with challenges

we had never dreamed new possibilities previously unimagined appear almost daily and science fiction stories continue to explore those possibilities with delightful results collected in this anthology are such compelling stories as on k2 with kanakaredes by dan simmons a relentlessly paced and absorbing tale set in the near future about three mountain climbers who must scale the face of k2 with some very odd company the human front by ken macleod in this compassionate coming of age tale the details of life are just a bit off from things as we know them and nothing is as it appears to be glacial by alastair reynolds a fascinating discovery on a distant planet leads to mass death and a wrenching mystery as spellbinding as anything in recent short fiction the twenty six stories in this collection imaginatively takes us far across the universe into the very core of our beings to the realm of the gods and the moment just after now included here are the works of masters of the form and of bright new talents including eleanor arnason chris beckett michael blumlein michael cassutt brenda w clough paul di filippo andy duncan carolyn ives gilman jim grimsley simon ings james patrick kelly leigh kennedy nancy kress ian r macleod ken macleod paul j mcauley maureen f mchugh robert reed alastair reynolds geoff ryman william sanders dan simmons allen m steele charles stross michael swanwick howard waldrop supplementing the stories are the editor s insightful summation of the year s events and a lengthy list of honorable mentions making this book a valuable resource in addition to serving as the single best place in the universe to find stories that stir the imagination and the heart

now in paperback from the author of marsbound grad school dropout matt fuller is toiling as a lowly research assistant at mit when he inadvertently creates a time machine with a dead end job and a girlfriend who left him for another man matt has nothing to lose in taking a time machine trip himself or so he thinks

kris longknife encounters some peaceful aliens who have come to warn humanity of an unidentifiable force that is roaming the galaxy obliterating everything in its path a path now leading directly toward the human worlds

science fiction is a literary genre based on scientific speculation works of science fiction use the

ideas and the vocabulary of all sciences to create valid narratives that explore the future effects of science on events and human beings science fact and science fiction examines in one volume how science has propelled science fiction and to a lesser extent how science fiction has influenced the sciences although coverage will discuss the science behind the fiction from the classical age to the present focus is naturally on the 19th century to the present when the industrial revolution and spectacular progress in science and technology triggered an influx of science fiction works speculating on the future as scientific developments alter expectations for the future the literature absorbs uses and adapts such contextual visions the goal of the encyclopedia is not to present a catalog of sciences and their application in literary fiction but rather to study the ongoing flow and counterflow of influences including how fictional representations of science affect how we view its practice and disciplines although the main focus is on literature other forms of science fiction including film and video games are explored and because science is an international matter works from non english speaking countries are discussed as needed

she knew that growing up would mean changing but jennifer wasn t prepared for the blue scales or the claws since no one had told her that she came from a bloodline of weredragons her greatest challenge protecting herself from her family s ancient enemies and preparing herself for fierce battles and that s a lot to expect of a girl just coming into her own

widely regarded as the one essential book for every science fiction fan the year s best science fiction winner of the 2004 locus award for best anthology continues to uphold its standard of excellence with more than two dozen stories representing the previous year s best sf writing the stories in this collection imaginatively take readers far across the universe into the very core of their beings to the realm of the gods and to the moment just after now included are the works of masters of the form and the bright new talents of tomorrow this book is a valuable resource in addition to serving as the single best place in the universe to find stories that stir the imagination and the heart

computer savvy sorcerer ravirn learns that not every world is user friendly in this webmage novel from kelly mccullough in the 21st century magic has advanced with the times and gone digital ravirn umpteenth great grandson of one of the three fates is a talented sorcerer a computer hacker extraordinaire and in the process of becoming a minor demi god his best friend and familiar is both a goblin and a laptop changing shape from one to the other as needed while repairing necessity the badly broken sentient computer that runs the multiverse ravirn is thrown into a very different place a parallel world where the greek gods are only myths this strange realm is ruled by the norse pantheon of gods odin thor and other fun loving brutes and their magic uses a completely different operating system a system that ravirn will have to hack if he ever wants to get out of asgard alive

after the earth was destroyed by ruthless machine intelligences known as the cold minds the remnants of the human race sought refuge among the hidden worlds now after six centuries word comes that humans may have survived in the most dangerous hiding place of all earth s solar system the cold minds have returned and humanity s very existence is at risk the fight is not going well for the hidden worlds but now renegade pilot linnea kiaho has discovered that free humans still survive in earth s solar system the center and fortress of the cold minds with her fellow pilot iain sen paolo linnea embarks on a dangerous journey to earth s system risking their lives in hope of discovering how humans have survived there but what she finds is a secret so shocking a truth so dangerous that it may save the hidden worlds or shatter them forever

widely regarded as the one essential book for every science fiction fan the year s best science fiction winner of the 2002 locus award for best anthology continues to uphold its standard of excellence with more than two dozen stories representing the previous year s best sf writing this year s volume includes ian r macleod nancy kress greg egan maureen f mchugh robert reed paul mcauley michael swanwick robert silverberg charles stross john kessel gregory benford and many other talented authors of sf as well as thorough summations of the year and a recommended reading list

the marvels of tomorrows past and tomorrows yet to come abound in this delightful volume with two dozen imaginative and moving tales this collection included the work of the finest writers in the field among them poul anderson terry bisson pat cadigan greg egan michael f flynn joe haldeman james patrick kelly john kessel nancy kress ursula k le guin ian r macleod david marusek paul j mcauley maureen f mchugh robert reed mary rosenblum geoff ryman william sanders dan simmons brian stableford allen steele michael swanwick a helpful list of honorable mentions and gardner dozois s insightful summation of the year in science fiction round out the volume making it indispensable for anyone interested in science fiction today once again dozois serves up a pleasurable mix of established luminaries as well as the newer stars of the sf realm all of the 24 short stories or novellas are rewarding which is really the most outstanding feature of this collection publishers weekly

to read is to journey and to read science fiction is to venture into a myriad of imaginative and delightful worlds such as robert reed s fabulous galaxy circling starship and its fascinating inhabitants the remoras the planet mercury where there is more than meets the eye in stephen baxter s cilia of gold two very different hainish worlds with very different customs in two knockout novellas by ursula k le guin a junkyard in brooklyn that won t stay put in the hole in the hole by terry bisson in all this volume presents twenty three of the finest works of speculative fiction published in the past year including stories by such diverse and fantastic talents as michael bishop pat cadigan greg egan eliot fintushel michael f flynn lisa goldstein joe haldeman katharine kerr nancy kress maureen f mchugh mike resnick mary rosenblum geoff ryman william sanders brian stableford george turner howard waldrop walter jon williams rounded out with gardner dozois s insightful overview of the year in science fiction and a long list of recommended reading this volume is the starting point for dozens of delightful ventures into the marvels of human imagination dozois s intelligently and ably put together anthology does its stated job as well as any one book or editor could even with competition it would still be the best of the best publishers weekly

when a powerful necromancer is killed occult special investigator tess corday must handle the

heavy politics in the occult community as carefully as she handles the scant evidence but with her sometime lover lucian agrado representing the necromancers in the grisly matter things are about to get out of control fast

read jeff carlson s blogs and other content on the penguin community view our feature on jeff carlson s plague year the nanotechnology was designed to fight cancer instead it evolved into the machine plague killing nearly five billion people and changing life on earth forever the nanotech has one weakness it self destructs at altitudes above ten thousand feet those few who ve managed to escape the plague struggle to stay alive on the highest mountains but time is running out there is famine and war and the environment is crashing worldwide humanity s last hope lies with a top nanotech researcher aboard the international space station and with a small group of survivors in california who risk a daring journey below the death line

frank herbert s final novel in the magnificent dune chronicles the bestselling science fiction adventure of all time the desert planet arrakis called dune has been destroyed the remnants of the old empire have been consumed by the violent matriarchal cult known as the honored matres only one faction remains a viable threat to their total conquest the bene gesserit heirs to dune s power under the leadership of mother superior darwi odrade the bene gesserit have colonized a green world on the planet chapterhouse and are turning it into a desert mile by scorched mile and once they ve mastered breeding sandworms the sisterhood will control the production of the greatest commodity in the known galaxy the spice melange but their true weapon remains a man who has lived countless lifetimes a man who served under the god emperor paul muad dib

an original novella in the fast paced exciting kris longknife series from new york times bestselling author mike shepherd proving herself a capable if unorthodox officer lieutenant kris longknife has been assigned to train inexperienced crews in piloting the newest fastest and deadliest attack ships in the fleet but kris s training tour has not gone unnoticed by her enemies and their hired assassins includes a teaser chapter from the kris longknife novel daring and a letter from the author nebula award winning author elizabeth moon

after the earth was destroyed by ruthless machine intelligences known as the cold minds the remnants of the human race sought refuge on the hidden worlds now after six centuries of safety the horrors of the past have returned to finish the extermination renegade jump pilot iain sen paolo and linnea kiahoo know that the cold minds have found humanity again to fight back they need to recruit jump pilots but the secretive pilot masters guard their secrets and their ships jealously they refuse to admit that the cold minds have returned or that anyone not of their number could possess the ability to fly a jump ship now linnea must prove the pilot masters wrong on the run and desperately searching for allies to oppose the cold minds linnea and iain face near impossible odds but they know that somehow somehow they must succeed or humanity itself will become extinct

in the new millennium what secrets lay beyond the far reaches of the universe what mysteries belie the truths we once held to be self evident the world of science fiction has long been a porthole into the realities of tomorrow blurring the line between life and art now in the year's best science fiction thirty second annual collection the very best sf authors explore ideas of a new world this venerable collection brings together award winning authors and masters of the field such as robert reed alastair reynolds damien broderick elizabeth bear paul mcauley and john barnes and with an extensive recommended reading guide and a summation of the year in science fiction this annual compilation has become the definitive must read anthology for all science fiction fans and readers interested in breaking into the genre

the one unmissable sf collection widely regarded as the essential book for every science fiction fan the mammoth book of best new sf 18 continues to uphold its standard of excellence with more than two dozen stories from the previous year this year's volume includes not just a host of established masters but also many bright young talents of science fiction it embrace every aspect of the genre soft hard cyberpunk cyber noir anthropological military and adventure plus the usual thorough summations of the year and a recommended reading list

first introduced in bram stoker's dracula van helsing was the ultimate adversary for the vampire

as complex as the fiend he relentlessly pursued in this anthology masters of horror and fantasy give van helsing his due as they reimagine the history and adventures of the original vampire hunter the greatest foe of the most evil icon in literary history featuring c dean anderson kim antieau william d carl adam troy castro a m dellamonica kris dikeman christopher golden joe hill brian hodge nina kiriki hoffman sarah kelderman kathe koja j a konrath tanith lee thomas e monteleone rita oakes chris roberson kristine kathryn rusch steve resnic tem melanie tem thomas tessier lois tilton

looking to the vast human history of water worship a crucial study of our broken relationship with all things aquatic and how we might mend it early human relationships with water were expressed through beliefs in serpentine aquatic deities rainbow colored feathered or horned serpents giant anacondas and dragons representing the powers of water these beings were bringers of life and sustenance world creators ancestors guardian spirits and lawmakers worshipped and appeased they embodied people s respect for water and its vital role in sustaining all living things yet today though we still recognize that water is life fresh and saltwater ecosystems have been critically compromised by human activities this major study of water beings and what has happened to them in different cultural and historical contexts demonstrates how and why some but not all societies have moved from worshipping water to wreaking havoc upon it and asks what we can do to turn the tide

kris longknife has been assigned to the wasp the best warship beyond the rim of human space but while hunting for pirates kris stumbles upon something it s a plan to kill one of the members of the aristocratic peterwald family and the would be killers are setting her up as the assassin

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Ant Colony Optimization in Python: A Simple Explanation

Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) is a fascinating metaheuristic algorithm inspired by the foraging behavior of real ants. These tiny creatures, despite their individual simplicity, collectively solve complex problems like finding the shortest path to a food source. ACO mimics this process to find optimal solutions for various optimization problems, including the Traveling Salesperson Problem (TSP), vehicle routing, and network routing. This article will demystify ACO and show you how to implement it in Python.

1. The Inspiration: Ants and Pheromone Trails

Real ants don't possess a central brain coordinating their actions. Instead, they communicate indirectly through pheromones – chemical substances they deposit on the ground while traversing a path. Shorter paths accumulate more pheromone over time because more ants use them. Future ants are more likely to choose paths with stronger pheromone concentrations, leading to a positive feedback loop that eventually converges on the optimal (shortest) path.

2. ACO Algorithm in a Nutshell

The ACO algorithm simulates this process using artificial "ants" that traverse a graph representing the problem space. Each ant builds a solution (e.g., a route) probabilistically, guided by two factors: Pheromone levels: Higher pheromone levels on an edge (connection between two nodes) increase the probability of an ant choosing that edge. Heuristics: A heuristic function provides information

about the desirability of an edge based on problem-specific knowledge (e.g., distance between cities in the TSP). The algorithm iteratively updates pheromone levels based on the quality of solutions found by the ants. High-quality solutions (e.g., short routes) lead to increased pheromone deposition on their edges. Over time, the pheromone distribution converges, leading to better and better solutions.

3. Implementing ACO in Python: A Simplified Example (Traveling Salesperson Problem)

Let's consider a simplified TSP with four cities. We represent the problem as a distance matrix: `distance_matrix = [[0, 10, 15, 20], [10, 0, 35, 25], [15, 35, 0, 30], [20, 25, 30, 0]]` A basic Python implementation (without optimization for brevity) might look like this: `python import random`

... (pheromone matrix initialization, heuristic function definition) ...

```
def ant_cycle(pheromone_matrix, heuristic_matrix):
    visited = [False] * len(distance_matrix)
    path = [random.randint(0, len(distance_matrix)-1)]
    visited[path[0]] = True
    total_distance = 0
    for i in range(len(distance_matrix)-1):
        #Probability calculation based on pheromones and heuristics # ...
        #Implementation details omitted for brevity
        next_city = chosen_city
        path.append(next_city)
        visited[next_city] = True
        total_distance += distance_matrix[path[-2]][path[-1]]
    return path, total_distance
```

... (pheromone update, main loop) ...

` This simplified example shows the core logic: ants build paths probabilistically, guided by pheromones and heuristics. A complete implementation requires additional details, including pheromone evaporation, update rules, and proper probability calculations.

4. Advantages and Disadvantages of ACO

Advantages: **Robustness:** ACO can handle various problem instances effectively, even with noisy or incomplete data. **Exploration vs. Exploitation:** The probabilistic nature of ACO ensures a good balance between exploring new solutions and exploiting promising ones. **Parallelism:** ACO is inherently parallel; multiple ants can explore the solution space concurrently. **Disadvantages:** **Parameter tuning:** The performance of ACO is sensitive to the choice of parameters (e.g., pheromone evaporation rate, number of ants). **Computational cost:** ACO can be computationally expensive for large-scale problems. **Convergence speed:** Depending on the problem and parameter settings, ACO may converge slowly.

5. Actionable Takeaways and Key Insights

ACO is a powerful tool for solving complex optimization problems. Understanding the underlying principles—pheromone trails, probabilistic decision-making, and iterative improvement—is crucial for effective implementation. Experimentation with different parameter settings is essential to achieve optimal performance. For large-scale problems, consider using parallel computing techniques to speed up the process. Start with a simplified problem (like the TSP) to gain familiarity before tackling more challenging optimization tasks.

FAQs

1. What are the key parameters in ACO, and how do they affect performance? Key parameters include the pheromone evaporation rate (controls exploration vs. exploitation), the number of ants, and the heuristic function's influence. Experimentation is crucial to finding the optimal balance. 2. How does ACO compare to other optimization algorithms (e.g., genetic algorithms)? ACO and genetic algorithms are both metaheuristics, but they differ in their mechanisms. ACO relies on pheromone trails and probabilistic transitions, while genetic algorithms use concepts like selection, crossover, and mutation. The best choice depends on the specific problem. 3. Can ACO be used for problems other than the TSP? Yes, ACO has been successfully applied to a wide range of problems, including vehicle routing, scheduling, and graph coloring. 4. What are some resources for learning more about ACO? Many academic papers and online tutorials cover ACO in detail. Search for "Ant Colony Optimization" on academic databases or online learning platforms. 5. Are there any Python libraries that simplify ACO implementation? While dedicated ACO libraries are not as common as those for other algorithms, you can build upon existing libraries for graph manipulation and numerical computation to implement your own ACO algorithm. Consider using `networkx` for graph representation.

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