Maastricht University

Essays in learning, optimization and game theory

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Propositions
to accompany the dissertation
of
Benoit Duvocelle

1. To minimize your regret, you may need to take into account everything you learn. (Chapter 2)
2. To minimize traffic flow, you might have to take a detour. (Chapter 3)
3. Search problems with sequential moves are surprisingly difficult to solve. (Chapter 4)
4. To find a moving object is easy. To find it faster than others is harder. (Chapter 4)
5. A good solution concept takes into account previous mistakes.
6. A solution concept should be robust to variations of the model, such as introduction of noise, change in the discount factor or variations in the time horizon.
7. Algorithms are ubiquitous in real life. For example, route planners, using the GPS system, for finding optimal routes.
8. Optimization is used in Game Theory. Game Theory is used in Operations Research. Operations Research is used in Optimization.
9. Something is intuitive when one can draw it.
10. A mathematician is a machine for turning coffee into theorems. (Alfréd Rényi)