

Caia Tutorial for Dvonn

Linux, OSX and Cygwin Distribution

In the Linux, OSX and Cygwin distributions you can find software to help you to develop the CodeCup 2011 game Dvonn. The software is called Caia and it includes two computer players for testing purposes. You can also create your own players and use Caia to coordinate the games between various players.

For the latest information and updates, please see: www.codecup.nl

Installation

Copy the tarball to some place in your home directory and start there a shell window. In this window type the following commands:

```
tar -xzf caia_dvonn_<distro>.tar.gz
caia_install_dvonn/install_game.sh dvonn
```

This command will install Caia, as well as all the precompiled components of Dvonn into your home directory. The installation installs the following files:

- In the folder *caia/dvonn/bin/*: *manager.txt*, *caiaio*, *manager*, *competition*, *referee*, *player1*, *player2*, *player3*, *javawrapper*, *jarwrapper*, *dvonn.jar* (the executables in Cygwin have an *.exe* suffix).
- In the folder *caia/dvonn/src/manager/*: *manager.cc*, *Makefile*.
- In the folder *caia/dvonn/src/competition/*: *competition.cc*, *Makefile*.
- And three empty folders: *caia/dvonn/refereelogs*, *caia/dvonn/playerlogs* and *caia/dvonn/competitionlogs/*.

The software is now ready to use.

Playing a game

To play a game between *player1* and *player2*, just execute from the command line in the *caia/dvonn/bin/* folder:

```
./caiaio
```

Once the game is finished you can find log files of the referee and players in the directories *caia/dvonn/refereelogs/* and *caia/dvonn/playerlogs/*. The referee produces an html file so that you can watch the game. Note that the playerlog file only contains information written by the player to its stderr. (The two example players only write an ID to their stderr).

It is also possible to see exactly what is happening between the manager, *caiaio*, the referee and the client players. To see this, start *caiaio* in debug mode:

```
./caiaio -d
```

This option is useful if you let your own player print evaluation or runtime data about each move to its stderr so that you can debug more easily your player in case of failure.

The referee produces an html file that has a link to the jar file: `../bin/dvonn.jar`. You can change this default link with another path. The only thing you have to do is to make a `referee.txt` in which you refer to the jar file with the new path:

```
jarpath=../newpath/dvonn.jar
```

The manager

The source code of the manager and the makefile are included in the distribution. You can change `manager.cc` according to your own wishes. For more information we refer you to the Caia documentation.

The information on what games will be played is stored in `caia/dvonn/bin/manager.txt`. To play two games, player1 against player2 and player2 against player1, you can change it to:

```
2
player1 player1.log player2 player2.log
player2 player2.log player1 player1.log
```

The competition manager

Now a competition manager is written for organizing your own competitions in a very simple way. The software is part of Caia and is using the `caiaio` in a similar way as the manager does in the distros. Now it is possible to test your own players easily and find out which one of them is strongest.

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Running a competition

To run a competition between several players just copy the players in the `bin/` folder. Make sure that there are no other files in the folder than necessary to run Caia. Each unknown file will be regarded as a client player! Only the files with the names `caiaio(.exe)`, `manager(.exe)`, `referee(.exe)`, `competition(.exe)`, `javawrapper(.exe)`, `jarwrapper(.exe)`, `cygwin1.dll`, `*.txt`, `*.class` and `*.jar` will be discarded as such. Then execute from the command line in the `bin/` folder:

```
./caiaio -m competition
```

Once the competition is finished you can find log files of the referee, the players and the competition in the directories `caia/dvonn/refereelogs/`, `caia/dvonn/playerlogs/` and `caia/dvonn/competitionlogs/`. The referee produces an html file so that you can watch the game. Note that the playerlog file only contains information written by the player to its stderr. The information about the played games for future competitions is stored in the `competitionlogs/` folder.

It is also possible to generate a log file with all game results in the `competitionlogs/` folder. The place and the name of the log file can be chosen freely. Example:

```
./caiaio -m competition -f ../competitionlogs/logfile.txt
```

Running a new competition with a new player

All you have to do is to add a new player to the `bin/` folder and rerun the competition. Games that were played earlier will not be replayed. Mind that each time an existing player is modified, the games of this player will be replayed!

This is how our competition manager works

In general you can have different type of players: players that always do the same and the so-called random players. To get a good estimate of the strength of such a random player it is better to play 50 games and then to output the mean score by calculating the sum of the 50 scores divided by 50.

If you wish to let the competition manager work in another way, just change the source code in *caia/dvonn/src/competition/competition.cc* and recompile.

Running competitions using competition.txt

For those of you who prefer to have more control over their competitions can make use of a text file. All you have to do is to put a text file *competition.txt* in the *bin/* folder with the following content:

```
3
david2
marcell1
laurent3
```

In the example a full competition will be run among the client players *david2*, *marcell1* and *laurent3*. Other players in the *bin/* folder will not participate.