

# Searching algorithms

- Uninformed Search : you don't know end state
- informed heuristic search:
- local search

# propositional predicate logic

Book 7.1-7.6 8.1-8.3

Breadth-First search — Exponential memory  
Queue

# Depth-First Search

## Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Depth-Limited Search — why we limited the DFS

## Bidirectional Search -

You know where the goal is  
parallel Iterative Deeping Searches

terminate

## Uninformed Search

Fast network search penetrate system

## Informed Search

baseline

hints + brute force search

hint is heuristic function  $h(n)$

Eudidean distance

## Greedy best search

shortest path not guaranteed

fewest edges not guaranteed.

## A\* Algorithm

heuristic

$F = G + H$  cost of node

↑

cost required to reach the goal

$O_n$  — Manhattan distance  
 Euclidean

Mark all source as unvisited

if tie go with heuristic

min heap priority queue

## \* Heuristics

Not all heuristics

could combining heuristics into meta h's

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

number of tiles

— never overestimate

↳ we never know that is the best solution

also be consistance

Each estimate must be less than or equal to true cost neighbor

Effective branching factor

$$\text{Solve for } b^* N+1 = 1 + b^* + (b^*)^2 + \dots + (b^*)^d \\ = 1.92$$

Generating Heuristics

try to create relaxed problem  
fewer constraints

A complex problem into  
many smaller less constraint problem.

Composite Heuristics

aggregate  $h(n) := \max \{h_1(n), h_2(n), \dots, h_k(n)\}$

possible downside is the time it takes on each heuristic

if the graph each pair of vertices



group them as landmark

$O(|V|^2)$  space

$O(|E|^3)$  time to compute

feasible for 10,000 vertices, not feasible for 10 million

choose a subset of vertices label them as landmarks  
This is not admissible



this means it is not accurate..

not guaranteed find actual shortest path

time saved calculation likely offsets the real time

## Project 1

write program that takes JSON graph  
each object is a vertex with name  
and collection of adjacent vertices path  
cost.

Your program has 60 seconds  
to precompute an internal representation  
of the graph

Find landmarks, calculate shortest  
path.

Some of this time may be spent

analyzing the graph structure  
you can customise how detailed  
this process is

The user will enter a relative path  
to a file containing a number  
of source, destination  
length of path taken  
the time it took calculate  
the path  
max size 1GB

# Overview

These notes cover various search algorithms, their characteristics, heuristics, and implementation strategies in graph and path-finding problems.

## Types of Search Algorithms

### 1. Uninformed Search

- No knowledge of end state
- Explores search space without specific guidance
- Examples:
  - Breadth-First Search (BFS)
    - Exponential memory usage
  - Depth-First Search (DFS)
  - Depth-Limited Search

### 2. Informed Search

- Uses heuristics to guide search
- Knows goal state or has additional information

## Search Strategies

### Breadth-First Search

- Explores all neighboring nodes before moving to next level
- High memory requirements

### Depth-First Search

- Explores as far as possible along each branch before backtracking

### Bidirectional Search

- Searches from both start and goal states simultaneously

### Dijkstra's Algorithm

- Finds shortest path in weighted graphs

## Heuristic Search Techniques

### Greedy Best Search

- Selects path with lowest estimated cost
- Not guaranteed to find optimal solution

### A\* Algorithm

- Uses cost function:  $F = G + H$ 
  - G: Cost to reach current node
  - H: Estimated cost to goal
- Uses heuristics like:
  - Euclidean distance
  - Manhattan distance

## Heuristic Properties



## Characteristics of Good Heuristics

- Never overestimate actual cost
- Consistent and admissible
- Each estimate must be  $\leq$  true cost of neighbor

## Generating Heuristics

- Create relaxed problems with fewer constraints
- Composite Heuristics:  $\max\{h_1(n), h_2(n), \dots, h_p(n)\}$

## Landmark Heuristics

- Choose subset of vertices as landmarks
- Pros:
  - Time saved in calculations
- Cons:
  - Not always admissible
  - Less accurate
  - Increased computational complexity

## Project Guidelines

1. Parse JSON graph
2. Precompute graph representation
3. Find landmarks
4. Calculate shortest paths
  - Time Constraint: 60 seconds for preprocessing

## Additional Considerations

- Effective heuristics balance:
  - Computational efficiency
  - Solution accuracy
- Not all heuristics are equally effective
- Combining heuristics can create meta-heuristics