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Q1 . Dijkstra's Explained

- In Dijkstra's I have initialised the cost map as the size of the grid and the obstacles as 1000 and the other paths as 1. Also, initialise the distance matrix with infinity as the distance value.
- Start Dijkstra's traversal from the first cell, i.e. given to us as a start, by setting the distance value at that point as 0.

```
1 new_grid=np.array(grid).copy()
2 #Make the obstacels with higher values 10000
3 new_grid*=10000
4 # Make every other node as one
5 new_grid=new_grid+np.ones((len(grid),len(grid[0])))
6 # The distance map
7 dist=np.ones((len(grid),len(grid[0])))*np.Inf
```

- Initialize a boolean matrix to mark the visited cells of the matrix. Mark the cell as visited while traversing through the path. Initial a parent grid of the same size as the map in order to keep track of the path.

```
1 parent=np.negative(np.ones((len(grid),len(grid[0])),dtype=object))
2 visited=np.zeros((len(grid),len(grid[0])))
```

- Iterate in the while loop.
 - In the for loop check for the validity of the current position and explore the node as per the given sequence if the position is not visited then calculate the distance.
 - Update the distance if it is greater than the current calculated distance.

```
1 # direction priority for exploration
2 r=[[0, 1], [1, 0], [0, -1], [-1, 0]]
3 next_x=x+i[0]
4 next_y=y+i[1]
5 if (if_valid(next_x,next_y,len(grid),len(grid[0])) and grid[next_x][next_y]==0):
6     if(visited[next_x][next_y]==0):
7         distance=dist[x][y]+new_grid[next_x][next_y] # if not visited calculate the distance
8         if distance < dist[next_x][next_y]:
9             dist[next_x][next_y]=distance
10            if (parent[next_x][next_y]==-1):
11                parent[next_x][next_y]=(x,y)
12            visited[x][y]=1
```

- For every next node to be selected you need to find the minimum distance value and pick that node accordingly.

```
1 def get_next_node(a,visited,n):
2     d=a.copy()
3     d[np.where(visited)]=np.Inf
4     ind=np.argmin(d)
5     x=ind // n
6     y=ind % n
7     return x,y
```

- If you find the goal then backtrack the path using the parent matrix.

```
1 def path_finder(start,goal,parent):
2     path=[]
3     x=goal[0]
4     y=goal[1]
5     path.append(goal)
6     # print("goal pose",goal)
7     while parent[x][y]!=(start[0],start[1]):
8         # print("values appending in path", [parent[x][y][0],parent[x][y][1]])
9         path.append([parent[x][y][0],parent[x][y][1]])
10        # print(parent)
11        x1=parent[x][y][0]
12        y=parent[x][y][1]
13        x=x1
14
15    path.append(start)
16    path.reverse()
17    return path
```

2 . A star Explained

- In A star I have initialised the cost map as the size of the grid and the obstacles as 1000 and the other paths as 1. Also, initialise the f matrix with infinity and the g values as zeros of the size of the grid.
- Start A-star traversal from the first cell, i.e. given to us as a start, by setting the g and f value at that point as 0.

```
1 new_grid=np.array(grid).copy()
2 #Make the obstacels with higher values 10000
3 new_grid*=10000
4 # Make every other node as one
5 new_grid=new_grid+np.ones((len(grid),len(grid[0])))
6 # Initialising the g and the f map values
7 g=np.ones((len(grid),len(grid[0])))*0
8 f=np.ones((len(grid),len(grid[0])))*np.Inf
```

- Initialize a boolean matrix to mark the visited cells of the matrix. Mark the cell as visited while traversing through the path. Initial a parent grid of the same size as the map in order to keep track of the path.

```
1 parent=np.negative(np.ones((len(grid),len(grid[0])),dtype=object))
2 visited=np.zeros((len(grid),len(grid[0])))
```

- Iterate in the while loop.
 - Within the for loop check for validity condition of traversal and obstacles-free nodes and visited nodes.
 - In the loop check for the validity of the current position and explore the node as per the given sequence if the position is not visited then calculate the f and g values.
 - Update the f_val if it is greater than the current calculated f_val.
 - The h_value manhattan distance between the current node and the goal node.

```
1 # direction priority for exploration
2 r=[[0, 1], [1, 0], [0, -1], [-1, 0]]
3 next_x=x+i[0]
4 next_y=y+i[1]
5 if (if_valid(next_x,next_y,len(grid),len(grid[0])) and grid[next_x][next_y]==0):
6     if(visited[next_x][next_y]==0 ):
7         g_val=g[x][y]+new_grid[next_x][next_y] # if not visited calculate the distance
8         h_val=abs(next_x-goal[0])+abs(next_y-goal[1])
9         f_val=g_val+h_val # calculate the f value
10        g[next_x][next_y]=g_val # update the g value
11        if f_val < f[next_x][next_y]:
12            f[next_x][next_y]=g_val+h_val # update the f value
13            if (parent[next_x][next_y]==-1):
14                parent[next_x][next_y]=(x,y) # adding the parent node
15        visited[x][y]=1
```

- For every next node to be selected you need to find the minimum f_value and pick that node accordingly.

```
1 def get_next_node(a,visited,n):
2     d=a.copy()
3     d[np.where(visited)]=np.Inf
4     ind=np.argmin(d)
5     x=ind // n
6     y=ind % n
7     return x,y
```

- If you find the goal then backtrack the path using the parent matrix.

```
1 def path_finder(start,goal,parent):
2     path=[]
3     x=goal[0]
4     y=goal[1]
5     path.append(goal)
6     # print("goal pose",goal)
7     while parent[x][y]!=(start[0],start[1]):
8         # print("values appending in path", [parent[x][y][0],parent[x][y][1]])
9         path.append([parent[x][y][0],parent[x][y][1]])
10        # print(parent)
11        x1=parent[x][y][0]
12        y=parent[x][y][1]
13        x=x1
14
15    path.append(start)
16    path.reverse()
17    return path
```

Difference and Similarities between A star and Dijkstra's.

- The main difference between the two algorithms is that A-star uses the addition heuristic value as the manhattan distance, whereas Dijkstra's just relies on the distance cost value.
- If we set the heuristic as $h=0$ then essentially the A stars turn into Dijkstra's algorithm.
- The major advantage of A star is that it takes less steps to find the optimal path than Dijkstra's.

Results

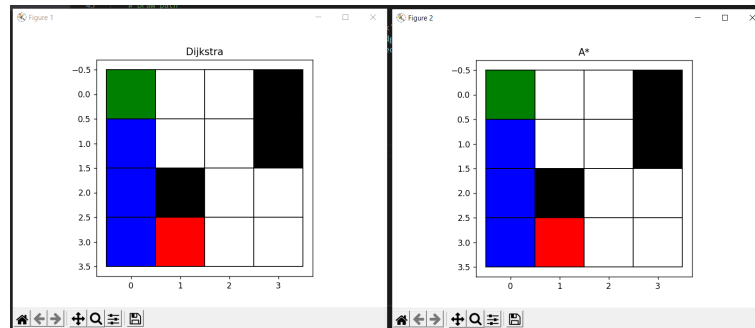


Figure 1: Images of A star takes 7 steps and Dijkstra's takes 10 steps on the given testmap csv file.

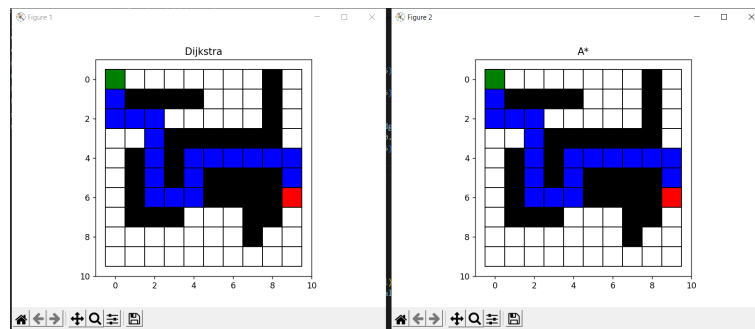


Figure 2: Images of A star takes 44 steps and Dijkstra's takes 64 steps on the given map csv file.

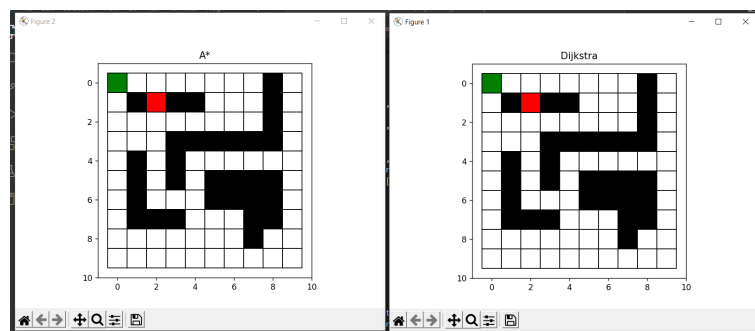


Figure 3: Images of A star and Dijkstra's on the given map when the obstacle is the goal.

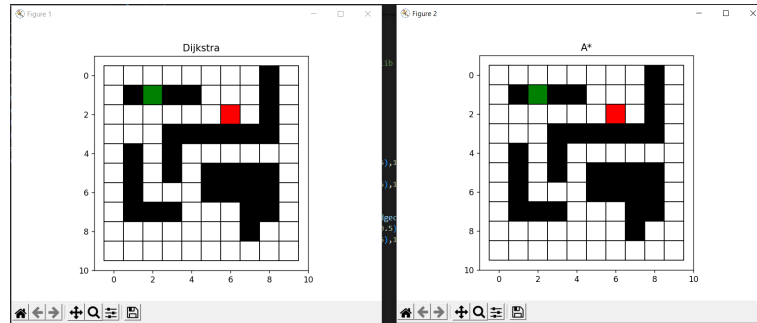


Figure 4: Images of A star and Dijkstra's on the given map when the obstacle is the start.

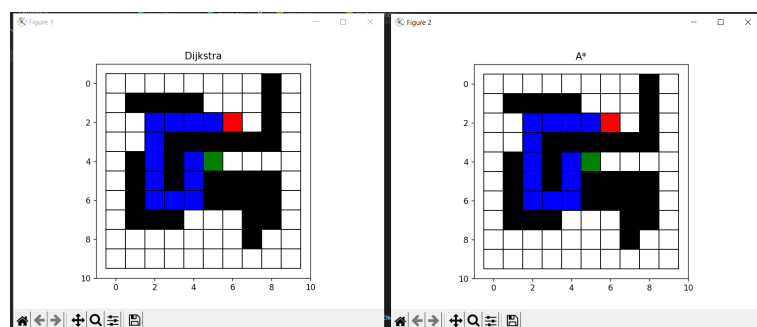


Figure 5: Images of A star takes 26 steps and Dijkstra's 58 steps on the given map with different start and goal point.

References

1. <https://lunalux.io/dijkstras-algorithm-for-grids-in-python/>
2. <https://medium.com/@nicholas.w.swift/easy-a-star-pathfinding-7e6689c7f7b2>