

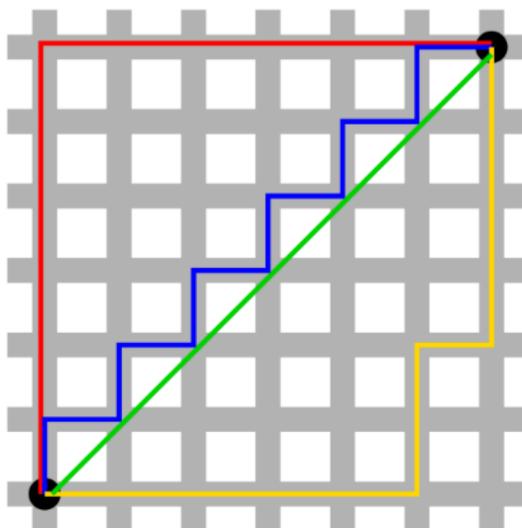
# Greedy First Search and A<sup>\*</sup>:

## Heuristic (h) :

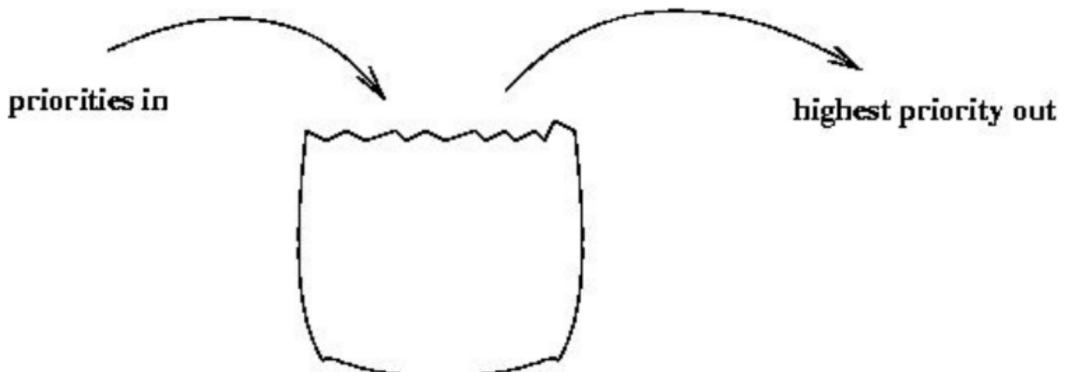
Using heuristic as manhattan distance :

- $\text{manhattan}(x,y)=\text{abs}(x-x_{\text{goal}})+\text{abs}(y-y_{\text{goal}})$  : for movement in (left,right,up, down)
- $\text{eculidian}(x,y)= \sqrt{(x-x_{\text{goal}})^2 + (y-y_{\text{goal}})^2}$  : used for any direction

The best heuristic for our pac man is manhattan



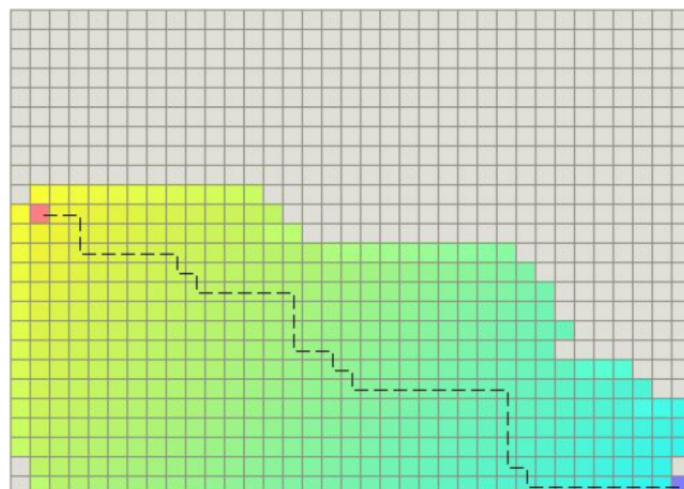
- Total Distance (g): total distance from start node to current goal
- Evaluation function (f):
  - $f(n)=g(n) \times \text{Algorithm\_type} + h(n)$
  - **Algorithm\_type=0 for greedy**
  - **Algorithm\_type=1 for A\***
- The node with lowest f is chosen to visit by using priority queue : Think of a priority queue as a kind of bag that holds priorities. You can put one in, and you can take out the current **highest** priority. (Priorities can be any **Comparable** values; in our examples, we'll just use numbers.) A priority queue is different from a "normal" queue, because instead of being a "first-in-first-out" it is "highest priority out "



- Steps:
  - Start point inserted to priority queue
  - Set visited flag for all points to false
  - expanded=0
  - Every point's path is initialized to start
  - Every point's distance is defaulted to 0
  - While queue has elements:
    - Current node = pop(priority queue)
    - If current node is visited
      - Search for the next available node
    - If current node is goal :
      - Return path[goal], distance[goal], expanded
    - Else :
      - Expanded++
      - visited[child]=true
    - Else
      - Mark this node as visited (set visited flag to true)
      - Search for children of current node
      - For each child :
        - Store distance<sub>child</sub>  $g(n) = \text{distance}_{\text{parent}} + \text{path cost}$  (1)
        - $f(n)=g(n)+h(n)$
        - Insert (priority queue, child)
        - Path of child=path of parent .append(child location)

## Breaking ties in heuristics

In some grid maps there are many paths with the same length. For example, in flat areas without variation in terrain, using a grid will lead to many equal-length paths. A\* might explore all the paths with the same f value, instead of only one.[1]



The quick way to work around this problem is to either adjust the g or h values. The tie breaker needs to be deterministic with respect to the vertex (i.e., it shouldn't be a random number), and it needs to make the f values differ. Since A\* sorts by f value,

making them different means only one of the “equivalent” f values will be explored. One way to break ties is to nudge the scale of h slightly. If we scale it downwards, then f will increase as we move towards the goal. Unfortunately, this means that A\* will prefer to expand vertices close to the starting point instead of vertices close to the goal. We can instead scale h upwards slightly (even by 0.1%). A\* will prefer to expand vertices close to the goal.

$$\text{heuristic } * = (1.0 + p)$$

$$p < (\text{minimum cost of taking one step}) / (\text{expected maximum path length})$$



A different way to break ties is to prefer paths that are along the straight line from the starting point to the goal:

$$p = \text{cross-product-of}(\text{vector-of-goal-to-start}, \text{vector-of-goal-to-current-point}) * 1/10^2$$

### Heuristic for many goals:

With many goals :  $\text{goal}_1, \text{goal}_2, \text{goal}_3, \text{goal}_4, \dots$ . there will be  $n!$  possible end states and  $(n)!$  start possible states and choosing which will be NP hard problem to find shortest road .with heuristic information we can rearrange goals order according to h.