

CS470 Assignment 5

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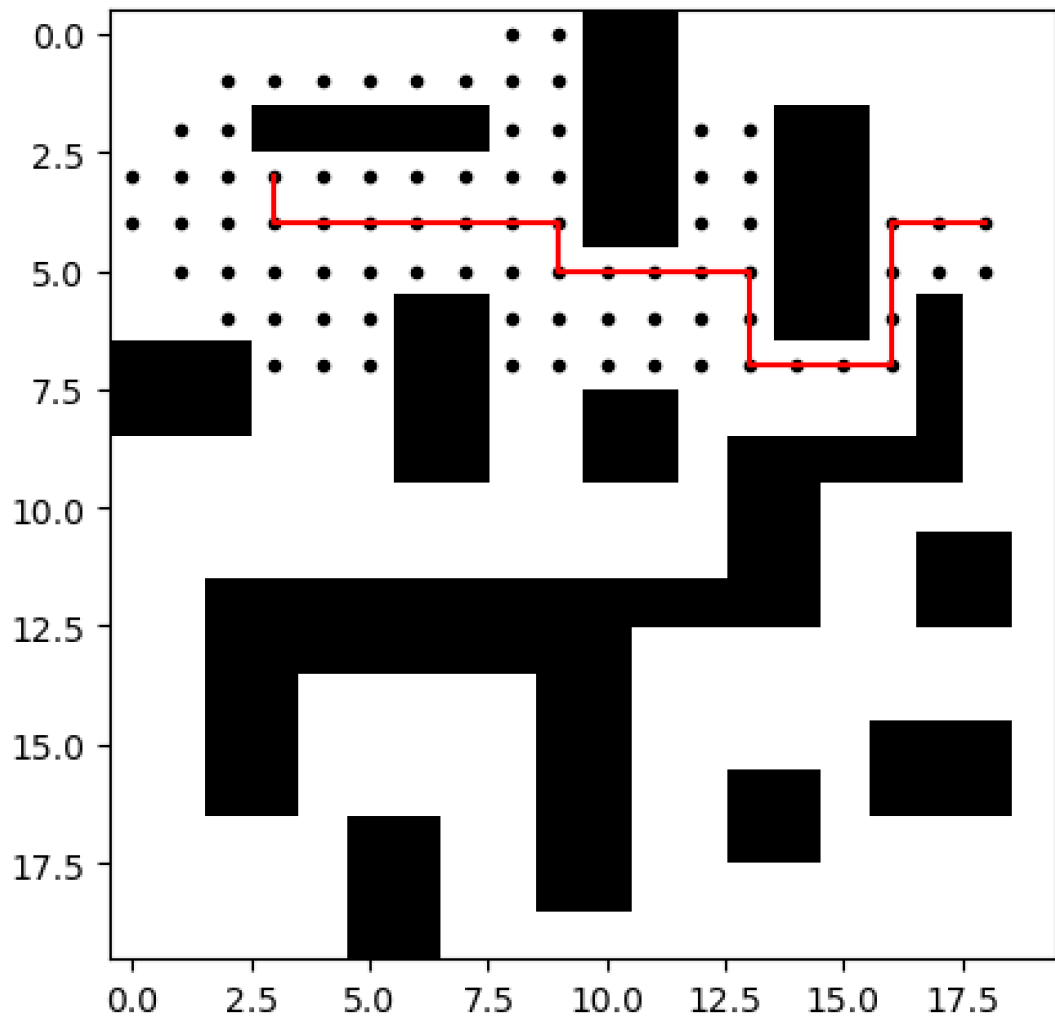
1. A* algorithm [65 pts]

1.1 A* algorithm implementation [50 pts]

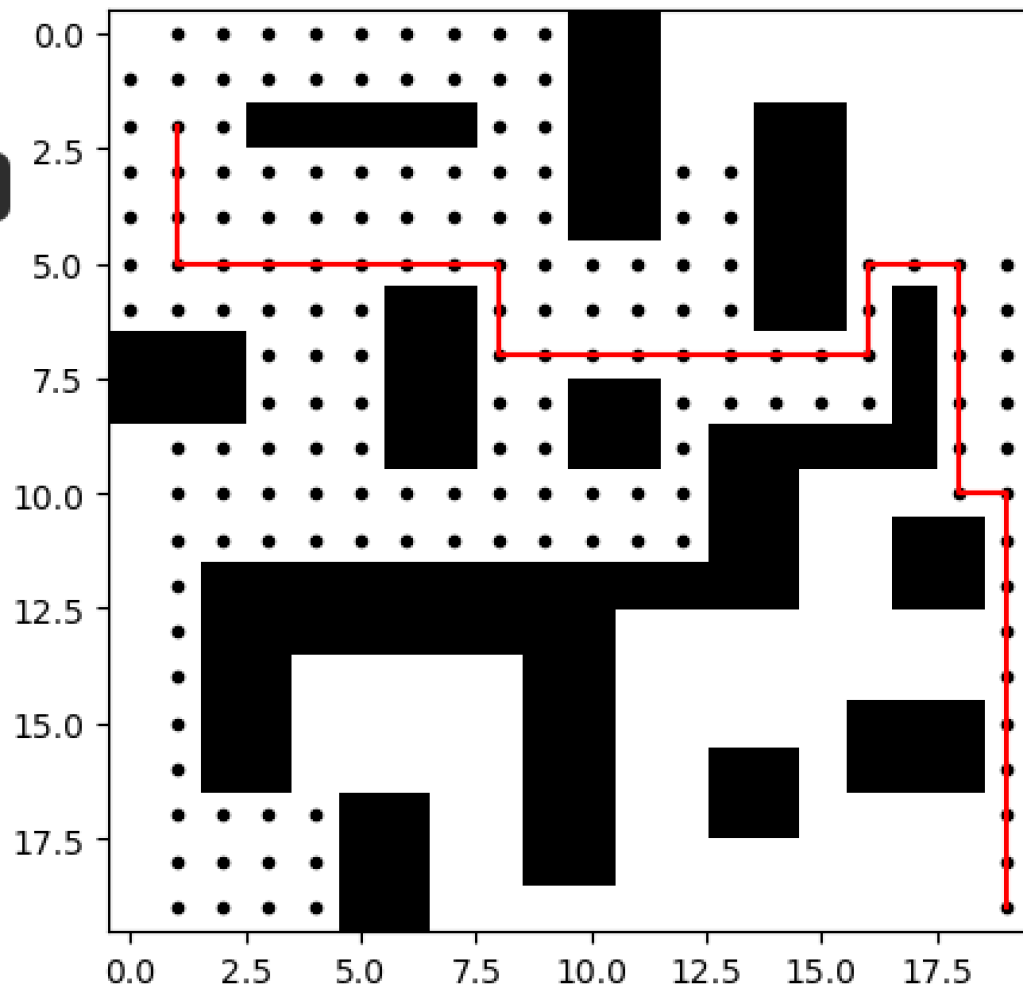
- describe (justify within 100 words) your selected heuristics function for this grid-based search problem,

I have selected the Manhattan distance between the position and the goal as the heuristic function for this grid-based search problem. Although there are many metrics for measuring the distance between two points, such as Euclidean distance, Manhattan distance is the most suitable for grid-based situations because the movement of the robot is constrained to the grid.

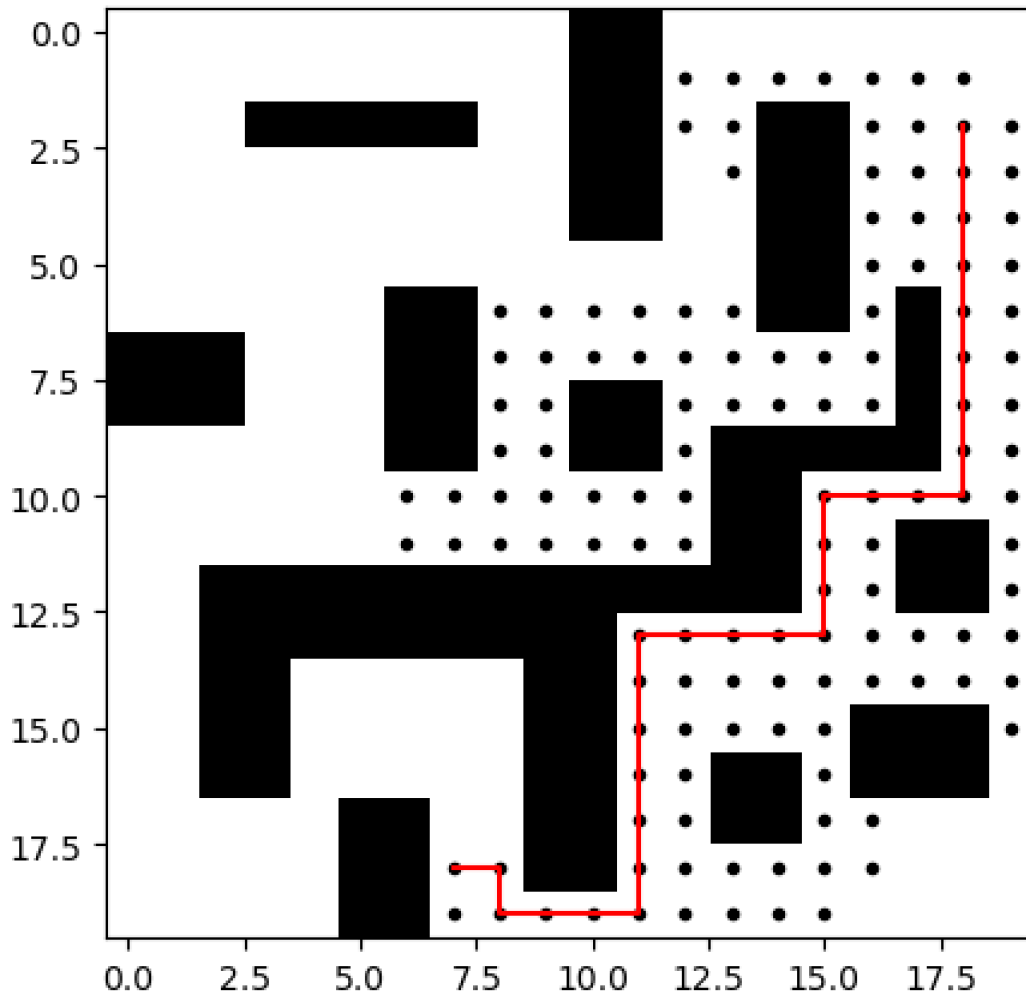
- count the explored nodes at the end of the search (start=[3,3] and goal=[4,18]),
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- plot the explored nodes at the end of the search (same as above), and



- plot the obtained paths from a start to a goal. You have to show the results of two scenarios:
 (i) start=[2, 1], goal=[19, 19]

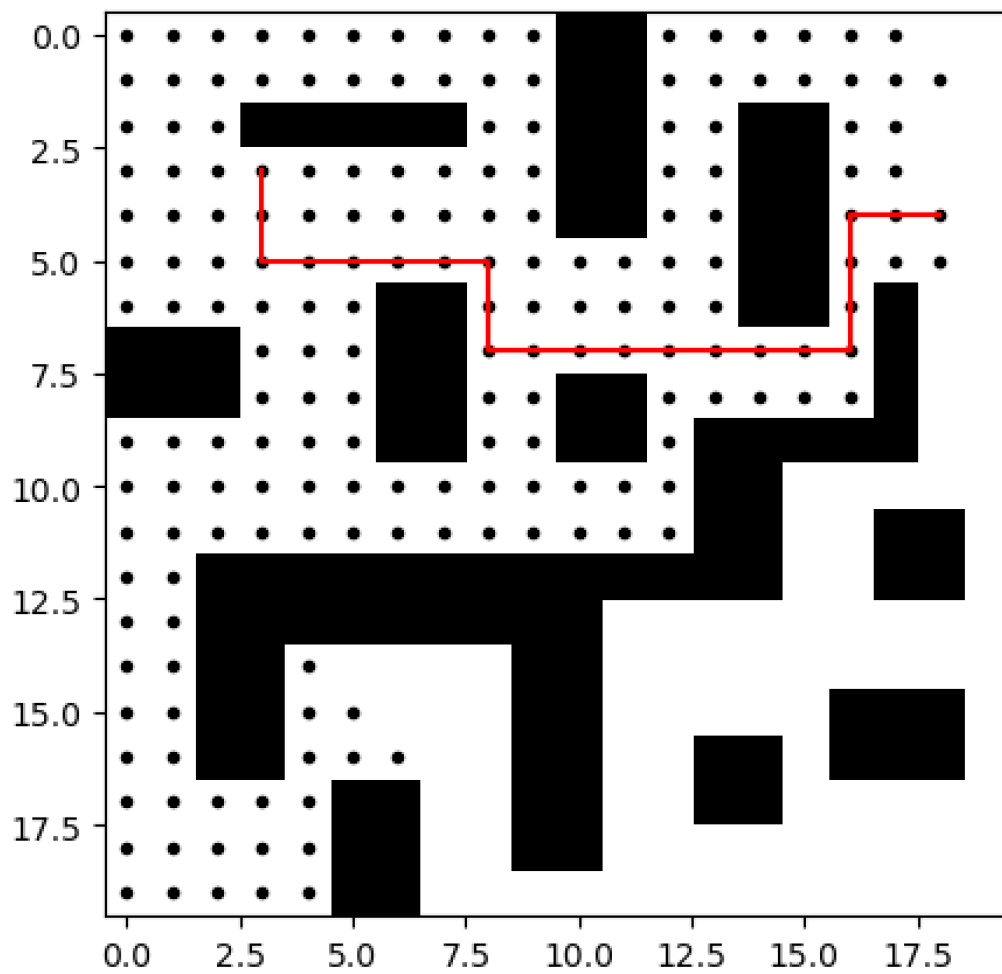


(ii) start=[2, 18], goal=[18, 7]

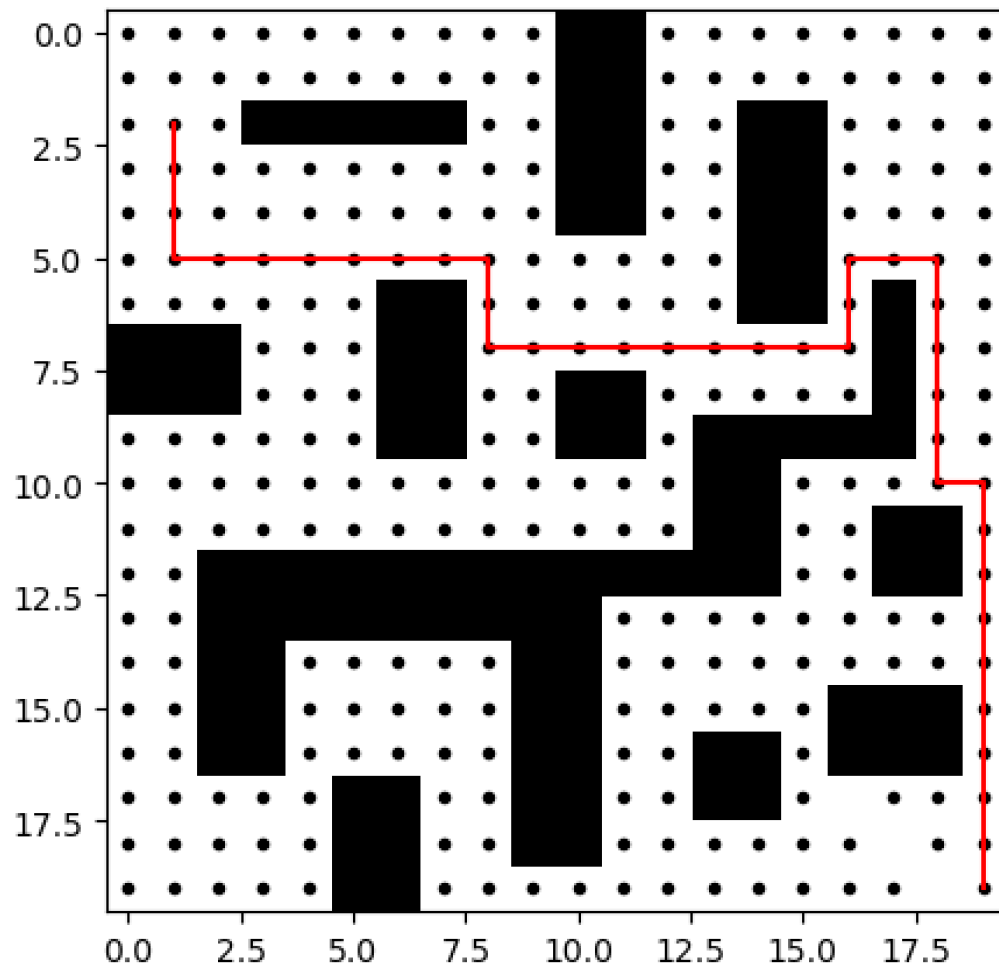


1.2 Comparison of A-star vs. Dijkstra algorithms [15 pts]

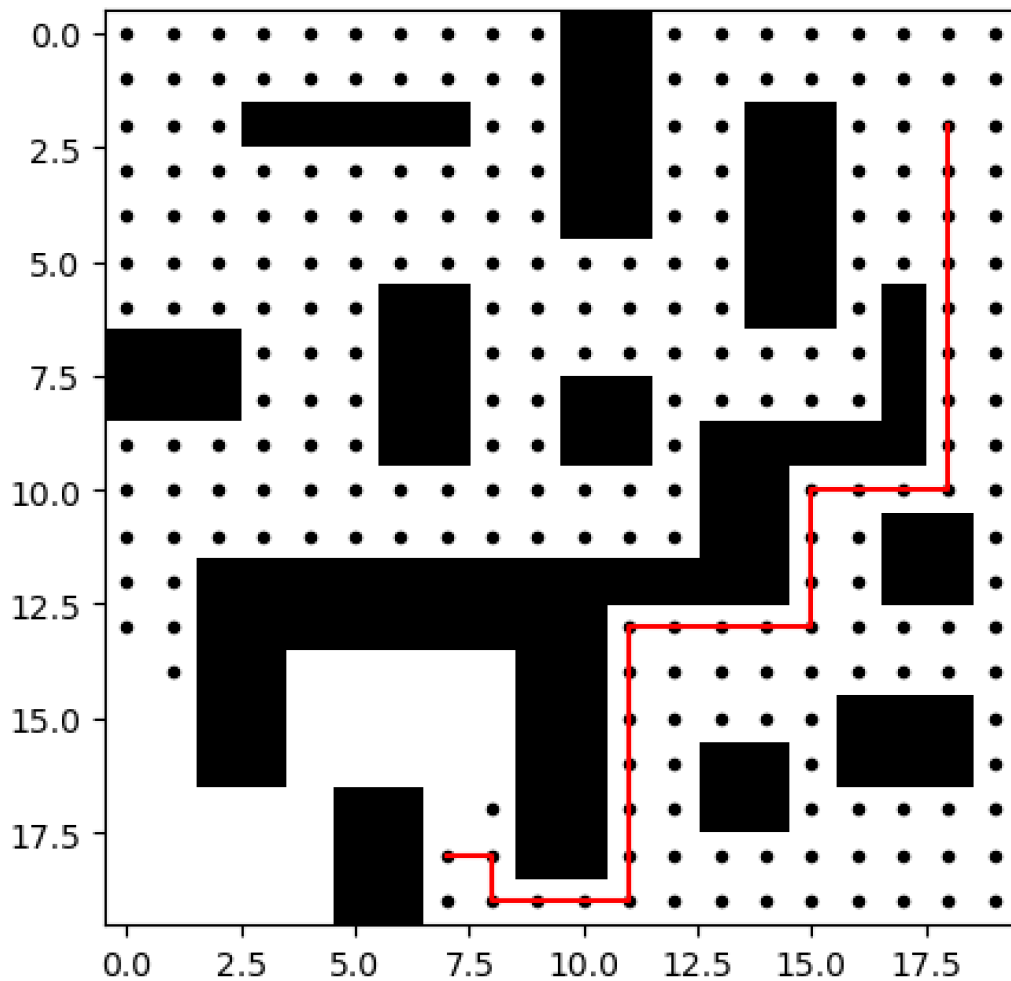
- count the explored nodes at the end of the search (same as Problem 1.1), 189 (start=[3,3] and goal=[4,18])
- plot the explored nodes at the end of the search (same as Problem 1.1), (start=[3,3] and goal=[4,18])



- plot the obtained path from a start to a goal. You have to consider the same scenarios given in Problem 1.1 above, and
 (i) start=[2, 1], goal=[19, 19]



(ii) start=[2, 18], goal=[18, 7]



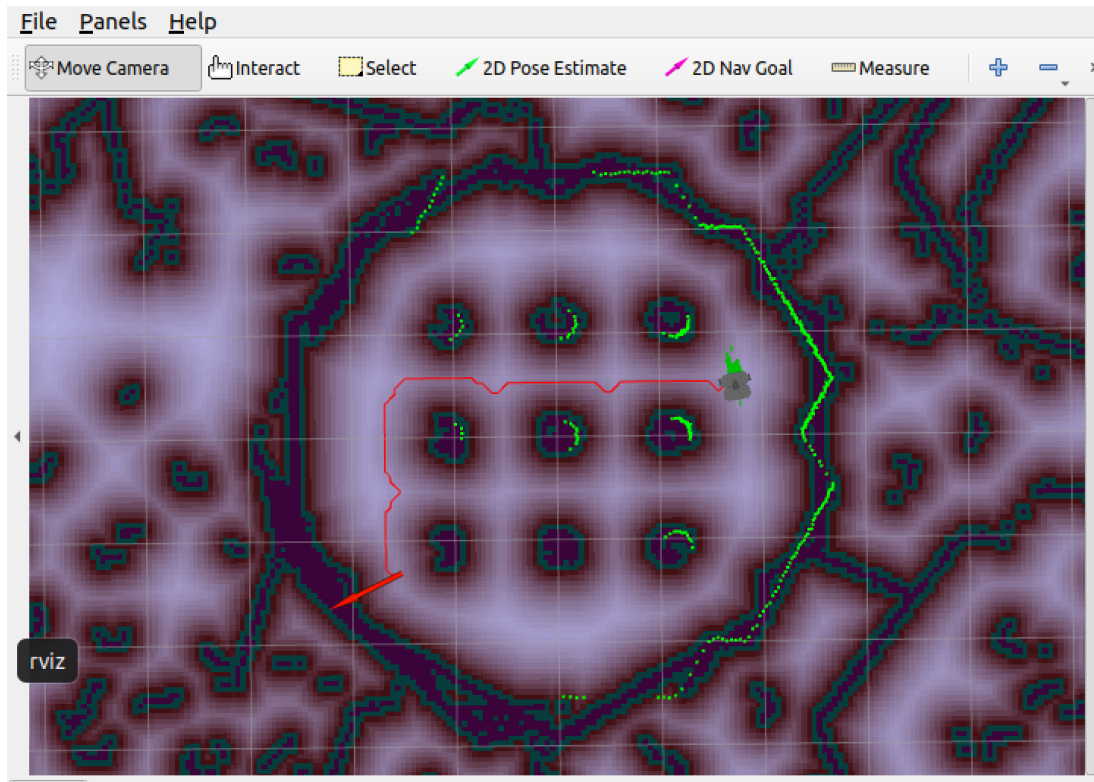
- describe the difference between Dijkstra and A-star methods based on the results.

When comparing the Dijkstra and A-star algorithms, there is no significant difference in the length of the resulting path and its cost. However, we can observe a disparity in the number of explored nodes, represented by black dots (i.e., nodes in the CLOSED_SET), between the two methods. This observation suggests that the A-star algorithm is more computationally efficient than the Dijkstra algorithm in finding the shortest path. Additionally, the A-star algorithm requires storing fewer nodes in both the OPEN_SET and CLOSED_SET compared to Dijkstra. Thus, the A-star algorithm outperforms Dijkstra in terms of spatial efficiency.

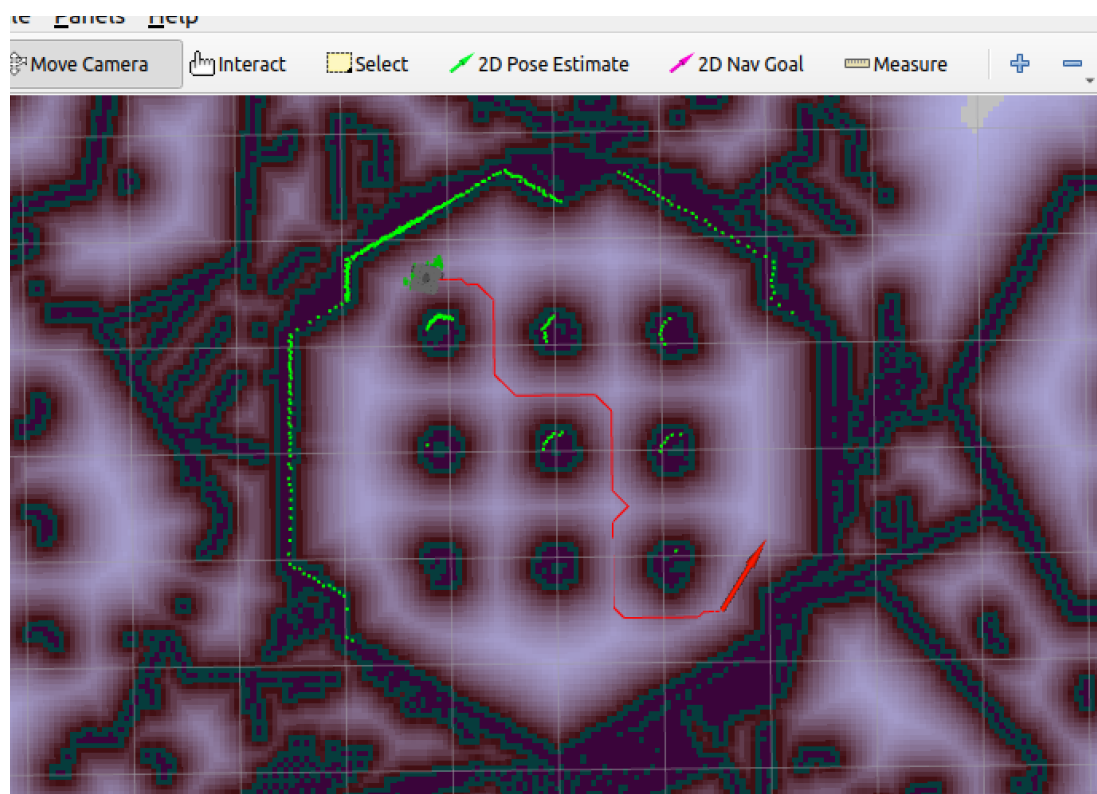
This is why the A-star algorithm is utilized when dealing with a large number of states, such as in the case of a 15-puzzle problem (4 by 4) that has approximately 20 trillion states.

2. Running A* on Turtlebot3 [35 pts]

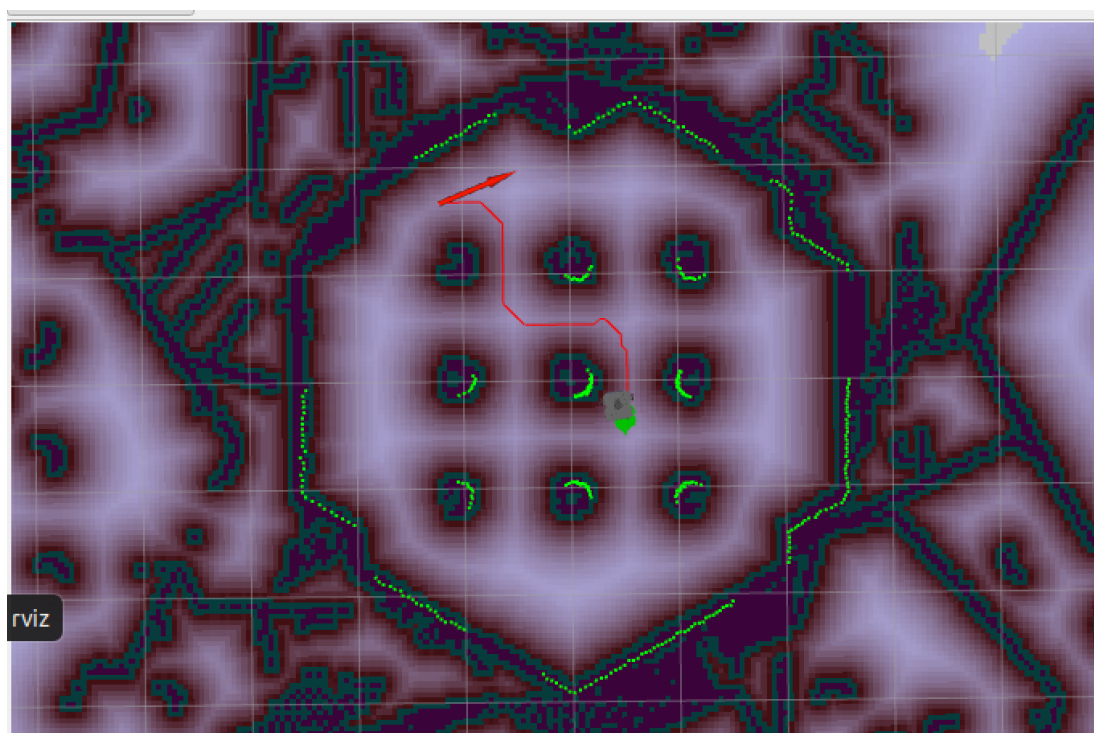
- attach three different obstacle-avoidance paths captured from RViz, and
 1. first



2. second



3. third



- attach a sequence of screen captures that show your robot is tracking a computed path

