

Hybrid A* algorithm

Main idea behind hybrid A* algorithm is to use more than a path planning algorithm (as Dijkstra algorithm and A* algorithm) and combine them to get a result of the shortest path.

It discovers paths that contain curves not just straight lines which is more suitable for autonomous vehicles. It's also more suitable in real-world environments while A* is suitable in grid-based applications of games and maze-solving robots.



Maze game algorithm

```
1  import random
2  from collections import deque
3  import networkx as nx
4  from colorama import Fore
5
6
7  > def genaret_random_grid(rows_num: int, cols_num: int, start: tuple, end: tuple):...
26
27
28  > def print_grid(grid: list):...
42
43
44  > def grid_is_solvable(grid: list):...
78
79
80  > def find_path(grid: list):...
111
112
113  > def draw_path(grid: list, path: list):...
120
121
122  rows = 8
123  cols = 8
124  start = (5, 4)
125  end = (2, 7)
126
127  grid = genaret_random_grid(rows, cols, start, end)
128  while not grid_is_solvable(grid):
129      grid = genaret_random_grid(rows, cols, start, end)
130
131  draw_path(grid, find_path(grid))
```

the algorithm implementation consists of 4 main steps:

1. Generating random grid
2. Ensuring grid is solvable
3. Figuring out the path
4. Printing the grid with the path

Step 1: used random library of python to generate a grid with the specified dimensions and put obstacles in random positions, referring to empty spaces with dots(.) and obstacles with letter (o). this step is implemented in generate_random_grid() function. It takes the grid's width & height and the starting & ending positions as parameters.

Step 2: applying DFS algorithm to ensure that the grid is solvable. Using a deque to store all available indices and a list to store all visited indices. This step is implemented in `grid_is_solvable()` function. . It takes the grid's width & height as parameters.

Step 3: networkX library was a perfect choice to help me implement the A-star algorithm. But its A-star function takes the grid to search in as a graph. So, it was required to turn the grid into a graph. It is implemented in the first part of `find_path()` function which takes the grid as a parameter.

The second part of this function is to use the library's A-star function which takes grid in graph form, starting index and end index.

In this step we get a list of indices that represents the path found by A-star function. This list is used in the next step.

Step 4: in this step the grid with the solution is printed using the list of indices from previous step and colorama library to highlight the path with different color.

Sample runs:

