Lab 4 TDDC17

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1 Part 1: Comparing heuristics, problem 03

Here we run the Fast Downward search visualizer twice, using either an FF-heuristic or a Goal Count heuristic. After stepping both visualizations 40 steps we see a big difference in choice of expanded nodes. In the left of figure 1 we clearly see that the fast forward heuristic prioritize further expansion. Since we are using a Fast Downward search we can look at the left search tree in fig 1 as following the slope down in one direction until we hit a local (or global) minima. The right figure is when using the Goal count heuristic. This heuristic makes the search more evenly spread out which gives it a greater chance to find a better solution but will in most cases need more expansions to find one.

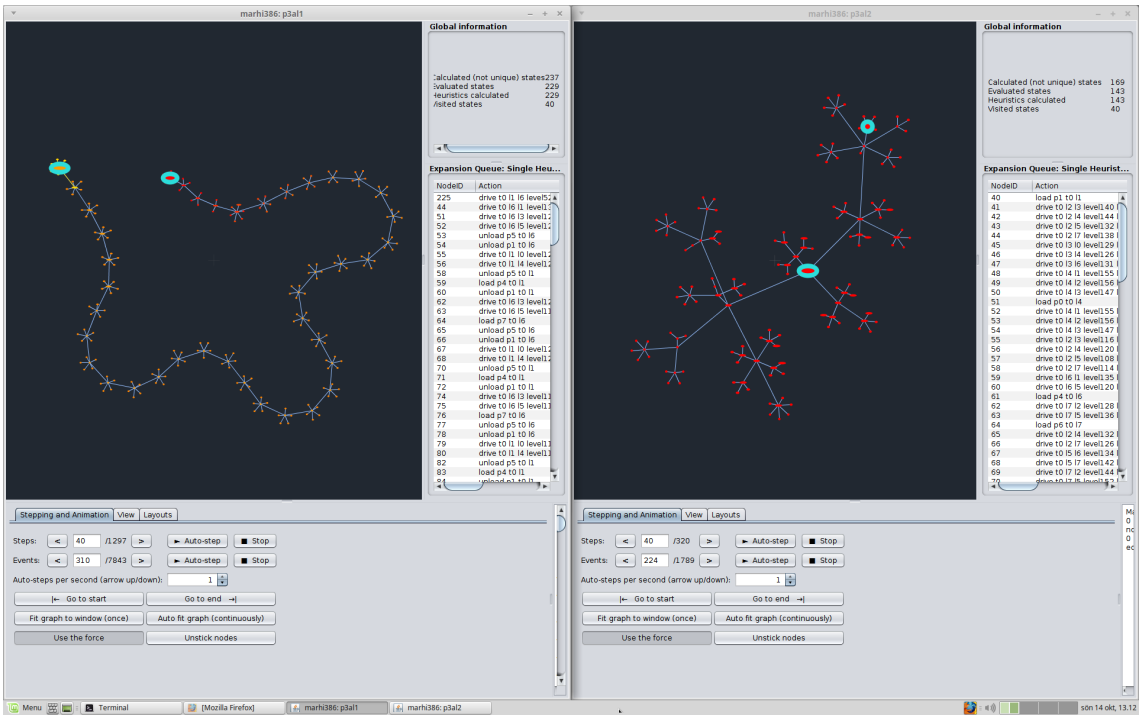

Figure 1: Problem 03 after 40 steps

We can see that the configuration use different actions. The GC-heuristic configuration tends to for example try out all `drive` actions and then do a `load` while the FF-heuristic has a more random pattern.

In figure 2 the FF visualization has been stepped to the end using auto-stepping. In our case the visualization uses 11 steps of the initial path in the final plan.

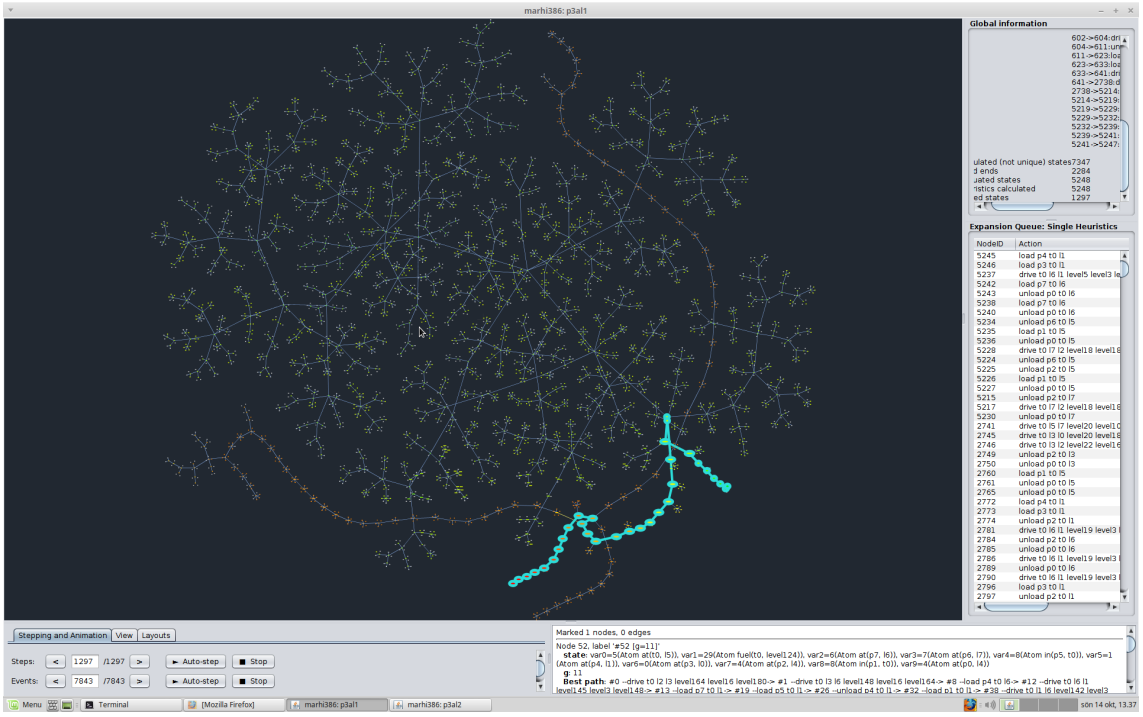

Figure 2: Problem 3 with FF when finished

2 Part 2: Comparing heuristics, problem 02

We now run problem 02 in the Fast Downward visualization. The configurations used now is FF-heuristic and GC-heuristics with preferred operators from FF.

When running the FF the planner first finds a new lower value for the heuristic function in time step 3. Here the value of the heuristic decrease from 17 to 16. When running GC with preffered operators the planner first finds a new lower value at time step 19. Her the value of the heuristic decrease from 7 to 6. We found that the easiest way to see this was by looking in the expansion queue on the right side of the simulator.

After stepping both visualizations 27 steps the FF configuration is finished while the GC configuration still have 6 goal facts to achieve.

When the GC configured simulation has finished we can see that the value of the goal count heuristic never increase between one state and the next.

3 Visualization of own domain

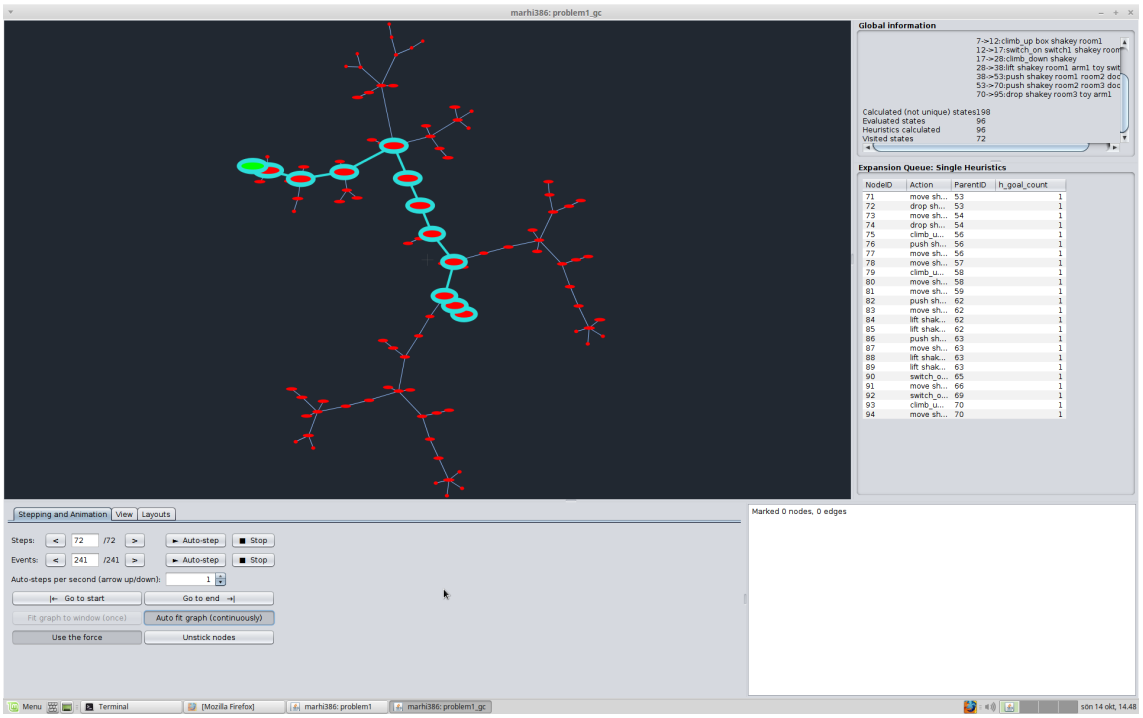

Figure 3: Visualization of Problem 1 in the shakey domain with GC heuristics

Figure 3 shows the visualization of Problem 1 on in the Shakey Domain. We can see similarities to the graph when running problem 03 with GC-heurisitcs. One big difference is that we have more branches where there are only one new possible action after every step and most of them end up in a dead end. One reason for this is that our domain is much smaller that the one in problem 3.

4 Conclusions

In table 1 we can see the cost of the solution for the different algorithms. In the case of problem 2 the goal count heuristic creates a slightly cheaper plan. This goal is also found faster than when using FF.

With problem 2, GC again creates a cheaper plan than FF. However it takes GC 1575 steps to find a plan while FF only needs 27. With problems like this it might be worth using the faster planner even though it creates a worse plan. This is called Satisficing Planning.

Problem	Algorithm	Cost	Iterations
3	FF	31	1297
3	GC	30	320
3	GC with FF help	30	249
2	FF	22	27
2	GC	20	12222
2	GC with FF help	20	1575

Table 1: Cost of problems using the different algorithms