COMP3702 Tutorial 3

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Breadth First Search

- In BFS, the successors of a node get added to a First-In, First Out (FIFO) queue
- This can be implemented in Python using container.append(next_node) and container.pop()

```
function BREADTH-FIRST-SEARCH(problem) returns a solution, or failure

node ← a node with STATE = problem.INITIAL-STATE, PATH-COST = 0

if problem.GOAL-TEST(node.STATE) then return SOLUTION(node)

frontier ← a FIFO queue with node as the only element

explored ← an empty set

loop do

if EMPTY?(frontier) then return failure

node ← POP(frontier) /* chooses the shallowest node in frontier */

add node.STATE to explored

for each action in problem.ACTIONS(node.STATE) do

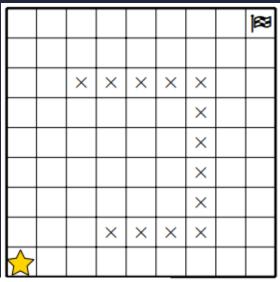
child ← CHILD-NODE(problem, node, action)

if child.STATE is not in explored or frontier then

if problem.GOAL-TEST(child.STATE) then return SOLUTION(child)

frontier ← INSERT(child, frontier)
```

Figure 3.11 Breadth-first search on a graph.



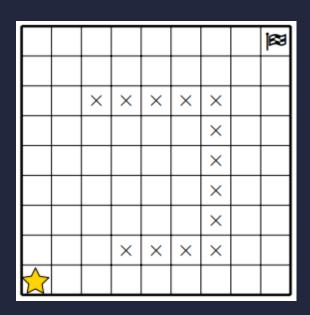
Exercise 3.1

Exercise 3.1. Consider the path planning problem on a 9×9 grid world in the figure below. The goal is to move from the star to the flag in as few steps as possible. Crosses indicate obstacles, and attempting to traverse either an obstacle or a boundary wall is an invalid move, and does not move your agent (it should have no cost or effect).

- a) Develop a state graph representation for this search problem, and develop a step() method for finding the next legal steps this problem, i.e. for generating successor nodes (vertices).
- b) Implement BFS for this problem (using a FIFO queue) using your step() function.
- c) Implement iterative-deepening DFS (IDDFS) for this problem using a length-limited LIFO queue, and reusing step().
- d) Compare the performance of BFS and IDDFS in terms of (i) the number of nodes generated, (ii) the number of nodes on the fringe when the search terminates (iii) the number of nodes on the explored set (if there is one) when the search terminates, and (iv) the run time of the algorithm (e.g. in units such as mins:secs). Discuss your findings.



Exercise 3.1



Template code https://gist.github.com/MattPChoy/763da403f3dcf31c9c2d8f18a19d8a83

- 1. Create a class that represents the current state of the GridWorld
- 2. Implement Breadth-First Search (you may take inspiration from last week's tutorial solutions)
- 3. Make modifications to a Depth-First Search implementation to implement Iteration-Deepening Depth First Search (ID DFS)
- 4. Compare the performance difference of BFS and ID DFS

Exercise 3.1 - Solution

State Graph Representation

```
class GridWorld():
   ACTIONS = ['U', 'D', 'L', 'R']
    def init (self):
        self.n rows = 9
       self.n cols = 9
       # (row, column) where indexing is top to bottom,
        # left to right (like a matrix)
        start = (8, 0) #bottom, left
        goal = (0, 8)
        self.obstacles = [[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
                          [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
                          [0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0],
                          [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0],
                          [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0],
                          [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0],
                          [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0],
                          [0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0],
                          [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
```

State Graph Representation – Step Method

• Given a current state (here, represented by a 2-tuple – (row, col) and an action (L, R, U, D) how do we determine whether an action is valid or not?

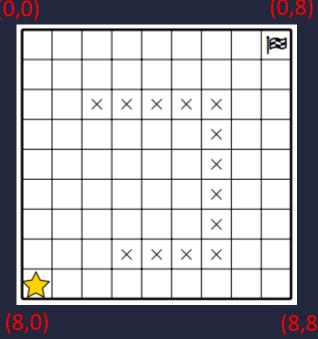
• We need to come up with a function that tells us whether this is valid

or not – this is the purpose of the step() function.

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State Graph Representation – Step Method

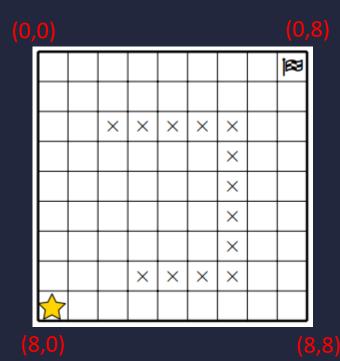
```
def step(self, state, action):
    :param state: (row, col) tuple
    :param action: 'U', 'D', 'L' or 'R'
    :return: (success [True/False], new state, action cost)
    r, c = state
    if action == 'U':
        new r = r - 1
        new c = c
    elif action == 'D':
        new r = r + 1
        new c = c
    elif action == 'L':
        new r = r
        new c = c - 1
    elif action == 'R':
        new r = r
        new c = c + 1
    else:
        assert False, '!!! invalid action !!!'
    if (not (0 \le \text{new r} < 9)) or (not (0 \le \text{new c} < 9)) or self.obstacles[new r][new c] == 1:
        # collision occurs
        return False, (r, c), self.costs[r][c]
    else:
        return True, (new r, new c), self.costs[new r][new c]
```



State Graph Representation – Helper Functions

```
def is_goal(self, state):
    """
    :param state: (row, col) tuple
    :return: True/False
    """
    return state == self.goal_state

def get_state_cost(self, state):
    r, c = state
    return self.costs[r][c]
```



Exercise 3.1b - BFS

BFS - Search Node

```
class StateNode:
    def init (self, env, state, actions, path cost):
        self.env = env
       self.state = state
       self.actions = actions
        self.path cost = path cost
   def get_successors(self):
        successors = []
       for a in GridWorldEnv.ACTIONS:
            success, new_state, a_cost = self.env.step(self.state, a)
            if success:
                successors.append(StateNode(self.env,
                                            new state,
                                            self.actions + [a],
                                            self.path_cost + self.env.get_state_cost(new_state)))
        return successors
```

BFS - Algorithm

```
def bfs(env, verbose=True):
    container = [StateNode(env, env.init state, [], 0)]
   visited = set()
   n expanded = 0
   while len(container) > 0:
        # expand node
        node = container.pop(0)
        # test for goal
        if env.is goal(node.state):
            if verbose:
                print(f'Visited Nodes: {len(visited)},\t\tExpanded Nodes: {n_expanded},\t\t'
                      f'Nodes in Container: {len(container)}')
                print(f'Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): {node.path_cost}')
            return node.actions
        # add successors
        successors = node.get successors()
        for s in successors:
            if s.state not in visited:
                container.append(s)
                visited.add(s.state)
        n_expanded += 1
```

Exercise 3.1c - IDDFS

IDDFS Concept

- DFS traverses nodes going through successors of roots
 - O(d) space (where d is the depth of the tree)
- BFS traverses level by level
 - O(n) space (where n is the number of nodes in the tree)
- IDDFS combines DFS's space efficiency with BFS's time efficiency.
 - Calls DFS for increasing maximum depths
 - Basically call a depth-limited DFS search is a breadth-first search style fashion

DFS - Algorithm

```
def depth limited dfs(env, max depth, verbose=True):
   container = [StateNode(env, env.init state, [], 0)]
   # revisiting should be allowed if cost (depth) is lower than previous visit (needed for optimality)
               # dict mapping states to path cost (here equal to depth)
   n expanded = 0
   while len(container) > 0:
       # expand node
       node = container.pop(-1)
       if env.is goal(node.state): # test for goal
           if verbose:
              print(f'Visited Nodes: {len(visited.keys())},\t\tExpanded Nodes: {n expanded},\t\t'
                    f'Nodes in Container: {len(container)}')
              print(f'Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): {node.path cost}')
           return node.actions
       for s in successors:
           if (s.state not in visited or len(s.actions) < visited[s.state]) and len(s.actions) < max depth:
              container.append(s)
              visited[s.state] = len(s.actions)
       n expanded += 1
```

IDDFS - Algorithm

```
def iddfs(env, verbose=True):
    depth_limit = 1
    while depth_limit < 1000:
        actions = depth_limited_dfs(env, depth_limit, verbose)
        if actions is not None:
            return actions
        depth_limit += 1
    return None</pre>
```

Exercise 3.1d - Performance

Performance

BFS:

Visited Nodes: 68, Expanded Nodes: 68, Nodes in Container: 0

Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): 32

Time: 0.00031942367553710937

IDDFS:

Visited Nodes: 27, Expanded Nodes: 25, Nodes in Container: 5

Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): 16

Time: 0.005034787654876709

Exercise 3.2

1	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	 ≊
1	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	1
1	1	10	10	10	10	10	1	1
1	1	1	10	10	10	10	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	10	10	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	10	10	1	1
1	1	1	1	10	10	10	1	1
1	1	1	10	10	10	10	1	1
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Omega}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Exercise 3.2. Now consider the path planning problem with costly moves on a 9×9 grid world in the figure below, where costs of arriving at a state are indicated on the board and the goal is to move from the star to the flag:

- a) Run BFS for this problem, reusing your answer from Exercise 3.1 (nb. it should not use the costs on the grid).
- b) Implement UCS for this problem using a priority queue.
- c) Compare the performance of BFS and UCS in terms of (i) the number of nodes generated, (ii) the number of nodes on the fringe when the search terminates (iii) the cost of the solution path. Discuss how and why these results differ from those for Exercise 3.1.
- d) Now derive an admissible heuristic for this path planning problem.
- e) Using your heuristic, implement A* search for solving this path planning problem.
- f) Compare the performance of UCS and A* search in terms of (i) the number of nodes generated, (ii) the number of nodes on the fringe when the search terminates (iii) the cost of the solution path. Explain these results.

Costly Paths

- We are now considering paths with a cost the "shortest" path now may not be a straight line from A to B (avoiding obstacles)
- We need to use search algorithms that take this into account such as UCS and A*.
- It is interesting to note that when the costs are all the same, UCS returns the same result as BFS.

Exercise 3.2 - Solution

1	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	p≋
1	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	1
1	1	10	10	10	10	10	1	1
1	1	1	10	10	10	10	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	10	10	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	10	10	1	1
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$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Omega}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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Exercise 3.2a — BFS

BFS:

Visited Nodes: 68, Expanded Nodes: 68, Nodes in Container: 0

Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): 32

Time: 0.00031942367553710937

Exercise 3.2b – UCS

UCS

- We are now considering paths with a cost the "shortest" path now may not be a straight line from A to B (avoiding obstacles)
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- It is interesting to note that when the costs are all the same, UCS returns the same result as BFS.

UCS

- Sometimes there are costs associated with edges
- The cost of a path is the sum of the costs of its edges

$$cost(n_0, \dots, n_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k cost(n_{i-1}, n_i)$$

- At each stage, uniform-cost search selects a path on the frontier with the lowest cost.
 - The first path to a goal is a least-cost path to a goal node
- UCS treats the frontier as a priority queue, ordered by path cost.
 - It always selects the node of the highest priority added to the frontier.
- If the list of paths on the frontier (PQ) is $[p_1, p_2, \cdots]$ then:
 - p_1 is selected to be expanded
 - Its successors are added into the PQ
 - The highest-priority vertex is selected (and it might be a newly-expanded vertex).

```
import queue
q = queue.PriorityQueue()
```

- We can use the inbuilt priority queue so we don't have to implement one ourselves!
- UCS generates the optimal solution (guarantees that it can find a path of lowest cost) if all of the edges have positive cost
- UCS has both time and space complexity of $O(b^{1+\lfloor \frac{c^*}{c} \rfloor})$
 - b: Branching Factor
 - C* Cost of optimal solution
 - c: cost
 - ϵ : Minimum cost of step (smallest cost for a single step)

Exercise 3.2c – BFS vs UCS

Exercise 3.2c – BFS vs UCS

BFS:

Visited Nodes: 68, Expanded Nodes: 68, Nodes in Container: 0

Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): 32

Time: 0.00031915187835693357

UCS:

Visited Nodes: 65, Expanded Nodes: 56, Nodes in Container: 9

Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): 16

Exercise 3.2d – Admissible Heuristic

Heuristics

- Heuristics are a way for us to guide our search algorithms so that they can work more efficiently
- Order in which uniform-cost looks at nodes. A and B are same distance from start, so will be looked at before any longer paths. No "bias" towards goal.

 B goal

 Order of examination using dist. from start + estimate of dist. to goal. Note "bias" toward the goal; points away from goal look worse.
- A way of providing the search algorithm more information to work with.
- h(n) is an estimate of the cost of the shortest path from some node `n` to the goal node.
- Whilst h(n) doesn't need to be a perfect heuristic, it must be quick to compute!
 - Otherwise, we might not save any time with respect to uninformed search algorithms, if the heuristic is inefficient to compute
- h(n) is an underestimate if there is no path from n to the goal node with a cost less than h(n) (i.e. it underestimates the cost of the path to the goal).
- An admissible heuristic is non-negative (>=0) heuristic function that does not overestimate the actual cost of a path to the goal.

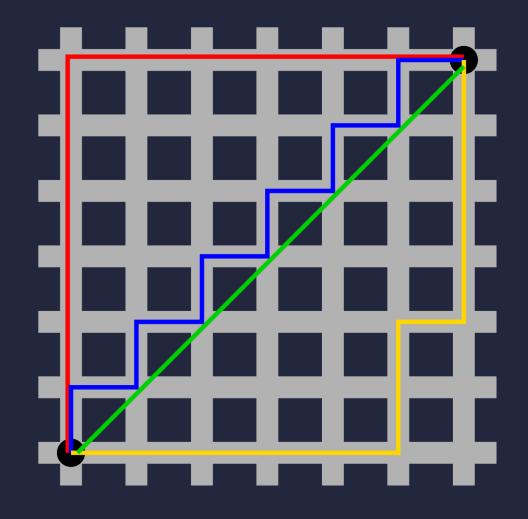
Exercise 3.2d – Solution

3.2d – Admissible Heuristics

- Simplest Grid-World Heuristic
- Given points (x1, y1) and (x2, y2) the distance is computed using the following formula:

$$dist((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2))$$

= $|x_2 - x_1| + |y_2 - y_1|$

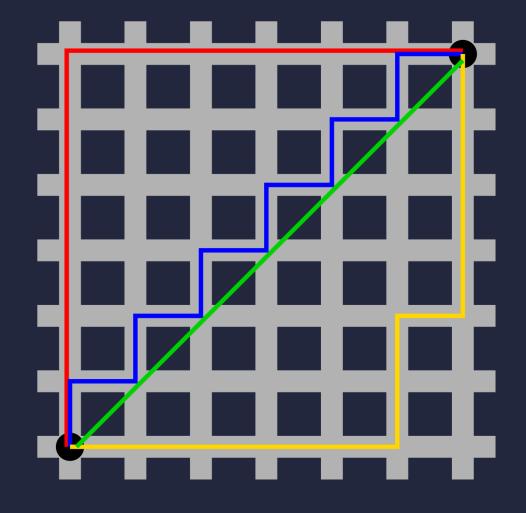


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= $|x_2 - x_1| + |y_2 - y_1|$



```
def manhattan_dist_heuristic(env, state):
    return abs(env.goal_state[0] - state[0]) + abs(env.goal_state[1] - state[1])
```

Exercise 3.2e – A* Algorithm

A* Search Algorithm

- $\underbrace{start \xrightarrow{\text{path } p} n \xrightarrow{\text{estimate}} goal}_{g(p)} h(p)$ f(p)
- We now want to use 'smarter' search algorithms.
- Often, there is extra knowledge that can be used to guide our search algorithm – these are called 'heuristics', denoted h(n)
- A* search uses both path cost and heuristic values
- It is as mix of uniform-cost and best-first search
- Given that g(p) is the cost of path p from initial state to a node, and h(p)
 estimates the cost from the end of the path p to a goal node
- A* uses the formula f(p) = g(p) + h(p) note that this is still an estimate.
- The search algorithm treats the frontier as a priority queue, ordered by f(p), with the highest priority node with the lowest f(p) value (lowest estimated distance)

Heuristics

- Heuristics are a way for us to guide our search algorithms so that they can work more efficiently
- Order in which uniform-cost looks at nodes. A and B are same distance from start, so will be looked at before any longer paths. No "bias" towards goal.

 Order of examination using dist. from start + estimate of dist. to goal. Note "bias" toward the goal; points away from goal look worse.
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- An admissible heuristic is non-negative (>=0) heuristic function that does not overestimate the actual cost of a path to the goal.

Exercise 3.2e — Solution

3.2e - A* Solution

```
def a_star(env, heuristic, verbose=True):
    container = [(0 + heuristic(env, env.init state), StateNode(env, env.init state, [], 0))]
    heapq.heapify(container) # dict: state --> path_cost
    visited = {env.init state: 0}
    n expanded = 0
    while len(container) > 0:
        n expanded += 1
       _, node = heapq.heappop(container)
        if env.is_goal(node.state): # check if this state is the goal
           if verbose:
                print(f'Visited Nodes: {len(visited.keys())},\t\tExpanded Nodes: {n_expanded},\t\t'
                     f'Nodes in Container: {len(container)}')
                print(f'Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): {node.path cost}')
            return node.actions
        # add unvisited (or visited at higher path cost) successors to container
        successors = node.get successors()
        for s in successors:
            if s.state not in visited.keys() or s.path cost < visited[s.state]:
                visited[s.state] = s.path cost
                heapq.heappush(container, (s.path cost + heuristic(env, s.state), s))
    return None
```

Exercise 3.2f – UCS vs A*

Exercise 3.2f – UCS vs A*

BFS:

Visited Nodes: 68, Expanded Nodes: 68, Nodes in Container: 0

Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): 32

Time: 0.00031915187835693357

UCS:

Visited Nodes: 65, Expanded Nodes: 56, Nodes in Container: 9

Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): 16

Time: 0.0003191423416137695

A*:

Visited Nodes: 27, Expanded Nodes: 17, Nodes in Container: 10

Cost of Path (with Costly Moves): 16

Exercise 3.4 – Admissible Heuristics

Exercise 3.4. Let h_1 be an *admissible* heuristic, where the lowest value is 0.1 and the highest value is 2.0. Suppose that for any state s:

- $h_2(s) = h_1(s) + 5$,
- $h_3(s) = 2h_1(s)$,
- $h_4(s) = cos(h_1(s) * \pi)$, and
- h₅(s) = h₁(s) * |cos(h₁(s) * π)|.

Answer the following questions, and provide convincing arguments to support your answers:

- a) Can you guarantee that h_2 be admissible? How about h_3 , h_4 and h_5 ?
- b) Can we guarantee that A* with heuristic h_2 will generate an optimal path? How about A* with heuristic h_3 , h_4 or h_5 ?

Heuristics

- h(n) is an underestimate if there is no path from n to the goal node with a cost less than h(n) (i.e. it underestimates the cost of the path to the goal).
- An admissible heuristic is non-negative (>=0) heuristic function that does not overestimate the actual cost of a path to the goal.

• We have that a heuristic h_1 is admissible for the range $0.1 \le h_1 \le 2.0$ a) $h_2(s) = h_1(s) + 5$

- We have that a heuristic h_1 is admissible for the range $0.1 \le h_1 \le 2.0$
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 - a) $h_2(s) = h_1(s) + 5$ We cannot guarantee that this heuristic is admissible, as $h_2 > h_1$. Because of this, we cannot say for sure whether or not $h_2(s)$ overestimates the true cost to the goal, and therefore it is not admissible.
 - b) $h_3(s) = 2 h_1(s)$

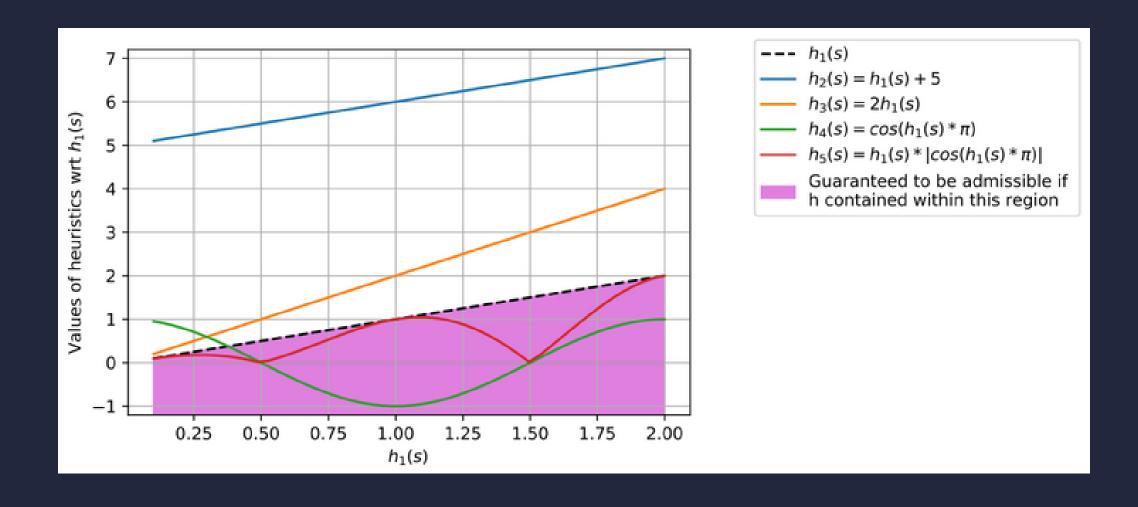
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 - b) $h_3(s) = 2 h_1(s)$ This heuristic will always be larger than or equal to $h_1(s)$ and therefore, we cannot guarantee its admissible (as above)

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 - b) $h_3(s) = 2 h_1(s)$ This heuristic will always be larger than or equal to $h_1(s)$ and therefore, we cannot guarantee its admissible (as above)
 - c) $h_4(s) = \cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)$

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 - b) $h_3(s) = 2 h_1(s)$ This heuristic will always be larger than or equal to $h_1(s)$ and therefore, we cannot guarantee its admissible (as above)
 - c) $h_4(s) = \cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)$ We know that $-1 \le \cos(x) \le 1$ and $0.1 \le h_1(s) \le 2.0$. This means that there may be some state s such that $\cos(h_1(s) \times \pi) \ge h_1(s)$. For example, when $h_1(s) = 0.1$, $h_{4(s)} = \cos(0.1 \times \pi) = 0.99998 > 0.1$. Therefore for this reason we cannot guarantee the admissibility of $h_{4(s)}$

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 - d) $h_5(s) = h_1(s) |\cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)|$

- We have that a heuristic h_1 is admissible for the range $0.1 \le h_1 \le 2.0$
 - a) $h_2(s) = h_1(s) + 5$ We cannot guarantee that this heuristic is admissible, as $h_2 > h_1$. Because of this, we cannot say for sure whether or not $h_2(s)$ overestimates the true cost to the goal, and therefore it is not admissible.
 - b) $h_3(s) = 2 h_1(s)$ This heuristic will always be larger than or equal to $h_1(s)$ and therefore, we cannot guarantee its admissible (as above)
 - c) $h_4(s) = \cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)$ We know that $-1 \le \cos(x) \le 1$ and $0.1 \le h_1(s) \le 2.0$. This means that there may be some state s such that $\cos(h_1(s) \times \pi) \ge h_1(s)$. For example, when $h_1(s) = 0.1$, $h_{4(s)} = \cos(0.1 \times \pi) = 0.99998 > 0.1$. Therefore for this reason we cannot guarantee the admissibility of $h_{4(s)}$
 - d) $h_5(s) = h_1(s) |\cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)|$ This heuristic is equivalent to $h_1(s) |h_4(s)|$. Since $h_1(s)$ is being scaled by the absolute value of the output of $h_4(s)$, in which $0 \le h_4(s) \le 1$ we can guarantee that $h_5(s) \le h_1(s) \forall s$. Thus, since $h_1(s)$ is admissible, $h_5(s)$ is also admissible.



- In the context of A* search, is a heuristic guaranteed to generate an optimal path?
 - When choosing between two possible nodes to expand in the A* search algorithm, the priority queue is ordered using the quantity f(s) = g(s) + h(s) in which nodes with lower f(s) values are chosen first.

a)
$$h_2(s) = h_1(s) + 5$$

a) $h_2(s) = h_1(s) + 5$ If $h_1(s)$ is an admissible heuristic, replacing it with $h_2(s) = h_1(s) + 5$ will not change the ordering the queued nodes – this just shifts the f(s) value of all of the nodes by a constant amount.

b.
$$h_3(s) = 2h_1(s)$$

- b. $h_3(s) = 2h_1(s)$ is not admissible and it is not guaranteed to generate an optimal path the shift here is not constant.
 - This can create cases where the h term in f=g+h becomes too prominent and changes which node will be chosen

$$c. h_4(s) = \cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)$$

c. $h_4(s) = \cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)$ this can change the priority order of the queue, compared to the order determined by h_1

- Consider $h_1(s_1) = \frac{1}{4}$, $h_1(s_2) = \frac{1}{2}$ and $h_1(s_3) = \frac{3}{4}$
- In this case, $h_4(s_1) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$, $h_4(s_2) = 0$ and $h_4(s_3) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$
- This means that the order in which the nodes are expanded from the frontier of the PQ can differ between A* search using heuristic h_1 or h_4
- Therefore, h_4 is not guaranteed to be an admissible heuristic, so we cannot guarantee that using $h_4(s)$ will generate an optimal path

d.
$$h_5(s) = h_1(s) \times |\cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)|$$

d. $h_5(s) = h_1(s) \times |\cos(h_1(s) \times \pi)|$ is always equal to or less than the admissible heuristic h_1 . This means it is also an admissible heuristic, and will generate an optimal solution