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Search Write-Up

For my custom heuristic I chose the number of sides each tile had that connected to the correct tiles. For example, if tile one had four below it and two to the right then I would give a score of two. Achieving the maximum score of 24, that is to have all sides correct was then the goal. I thought this would give the algorithm more information to work with and therefore garner a more correct solution. However, applying it my heuristic proved to be slightly slower and expand more nodes than the Manhattan distance. This is because my algorithm would search out more dead-end states than the Manhattan heuristic. Dead-end states which would lead to more sides correct, but not necessarily closer to the final goal. It seems more information is not always better information.