1. Informed Search

1. Traveling Salesman Problem

The state can be represented by cities. Each state can be described as by the following parameter:

Visited, a Boolean variable, indicates if the city has been visited by salesman.

Actions, a list indicate what cities the salesman can visit from this city. (with a cost)

The initial state: salesman is at Waterloo (waterloo is unvisited at beginning of the travel), and other cities are unvisited.

The goal state: salesman is at Waterloo (waterloo will be visited at the end of the travel), and all other cities have been visited.

The neighbour rule:

If there is a route between two cities, these two cities can have the other city in their neighbour list. The cost will be the length of the route between these two cities.

For example, at the beginning, we have these states:

* Barrie:
  + visited: False
  + Neighbours: Guelph (155), Hamilton (149), Toronto (112), Waterloo (173)
* Guelph:
  + visited: False
  + Neighbours: Barrie (155), Hamilton (46), Toronto (95), Waterloo (32)
* Hamilton:
  + visited: False
  + Neighbours: Barrie (149), Guelph (46), Toronto (69), Waterloo (71)
* Toronto:
  + visited: False
  + Neighbours: Barrie (112), Guelph (95), Hamilton (69), Waterloo (113)
* Waterloo:
  + visited: False
  + Neighbours: Barrie (173), Guelph (32), Hamilton (71), Toronto (113)
* Note: The number inside the parentheses is the cost.
* Note: Waterloo is unvisited at the beginning, it will be visited at last.

(B)

Cost function:

Cost function will be represented as the distance travelled. When the salesman travels to next city, the cost will increase by the cost for travelling to next city (distance between cities).

For example, if the salesman travels from waterloo to Guelph, the total cost will increase from 0 to 32. If the salesman travels to Hamilton next, the total cost will increase from 32 to 78.

(C)

Heuristic function:

* Starting at Waterloo, iteratively select the nearest unvisited city, and return to waterloo when all other cities are visited.
* At the beginning, the salesman is at waterloo and he will travel to Guelph as it is waterloo’s nearest unvisited city.
* Then the salesman will visit Hamilton because it is the nearest city to Guelph among Toronto, Hamilton and Barrie.



The total cost will be 32+46+69+112+173 = 432 km

Q2. 8-Puzzle

1. The manhattan distance heuristic performs better than misplaced tiles heuristic. The misplaced tile heuristic only takes the number of misplaced tiles into consideration. As a result, no matter how far a misplaced

The manhattan distance heuristic also includes how far the tiles are away from their correct positions.

The manhattan distance heuristic provides more specific information.

2 3 1 2 3

4 5 6 4 5 6

7 8 1 7 8

(1) (2)

In example 1, tile 1 is misplaced and in example 2, tile 8 is misplaced. Both statuses will be treated equally by misplaced tiles heuristic.

In example 1, the misplaced tile 1 is 4 steps from its correct position and in example 2, the misplaced tile 8 is one step from its correction position. The manhattan distance heuristic will evaluate them differently and indicates example 2 is closer to goal configuration.

1. They are monotone.  
   \* use letter n to indicate after n movement(nth node)  
   For the misplaced tile huristic, there are 3 cases:
   1. Move a tile from a non-goal position to non-goal another position, which means the tile is not at the correct position both before and after movement.  
      The value of heuristic function is not changed, but the cost is 1.   
      h(n+1) = h(n), which proves that h(n) - h(n+1) = 0 <= cost(n, n+1)
   2. Move a tile from a non-goal position to a goal position, which means the one more tile was moved to its correct position.  
      The value of heuristic function is decreased by 1, but the cost is 1.   
      h(n+1 ) = h(n) -1, which proves that h(n) - h(n+1) = 1 <= cost(n, n+1)
   3. Move a tile from a goal position to a non-goal position, which means there is one more misplace tile after movement. Thus, h(n+1) = h(n) + 1, and the cost is 1. We can have h(n)-h(n+1) = -1 >= cost (n, n+1)

So that we proved that h(n) -h(n+1) >= cost (n, n+1) for any node n. So that we can have h(n) – h(m) >= cost(m,n)

For the manhattan distance, move a tile can have two consequences: it is one step closer to its goal position, or one more step away from its target. That is, after a movement the difference of heuristic function’s value is,   
h(n) – h(n+1) = 1 or h(n)- h(n+1) = -1. The cost of a movement is 1.   
Therefore, we proved that h(n) -h(n+1) <= cost(n, n+1) = 1  
Finally, for any two statuses(nodes) n and m, we have h(m) – h(n) < cost(m,n)

2.Constraint Satisfaction.

1. N queens problems