

Heuristic Function-1:

The function checks the area currently flooded by the color at the top left position of the matrix. Since g value is the same for states in the same level of the state tree the priority of the states are determined by the heuristic function. So the state which has flooded a larger region is given higher priority. This function does not always give the optimal solution.

Heuristic Function-2:

This function utilizes function-1 and adds another constraint. The function not only considers the area flooded but also takes into consideration the number of colors remaining on the matrix. Function-2 first takes the h value of function-1. Then it checks the number of colors present on the board. Next it calculates the value of h the following way.

$$h2 = h1 - (\text{countOfColors}^2)$$

Comparision:

Both the functions perform almost the same. Function-2 might give better performance for boards having more than 3 colors.