

# Consistency and Admissibility Proof for Total Manhattan Distance Heuristic for Cube problem

Wang Xiyu

Simple Manhattan distance heuristic where only horizontal and vertical moves are allowed is trivial;  
 each move costs 1, and each horizontal move will change the horizontal index by 1, so do vertical moves  
 1 2 3 4 4 1 2 3 2 3 4 1  
 the largest possible manhattan distance between a pair is  $\lceil \frac{r}{2} \rceil + \lceil \frac{c}{2} \rceil$ , therefore optimistically the max  
 cost of one swap will be  $\lceil \frac{r}{2} \rceil + \lceil \frac{c}{2} \rceil$ . A generous upper bound to the total manhattan distance from the goal  
 state will be  $\frac{r \times c}{2} (\lceil \frac{r}{2} \rceil + \lceil \frac{c}{2} \rceil)$