8 Puzzle

Documentation Part 2

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Table of contents

1.	Algorithm	1
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2.	References	1
Ar	ppendix A: Source Code	2

1. Algorithm

The algorithm start every move by generating all possible moves that's not already made to arrive at the current state, this avoids loops. The algorithm then filter the child nodes or all possible moves generated to only the ones that is determined by the heuristic to be a "good move". The heuristic determines this by calculating the amount of tiles out of place, except for the blank space and adding that value to the distance from the current state to the start state, the node(s) or move(s) with the lowest value are considered good moves. This is repeated until a solution is found, if there are no more possible moves to be made that was not made before the solution is reached, the puzzle is then considered to be unsolvable.

This algorithm generates a tree of nodes or possible moves where the root of the tree denotes the start state and the children nodes, all the possible moves considered as good moves. If it happens that more than one move is considered as a good move, the nodes representing these moves are kept on the tree while their children is being evaluated, this is repeated until any children nodes are found which is not considered to be a good move, if this happens, those nodes and their predecessors are removed from the tree and only the children and their predecessors are kept on the tree if those children are considered to be good moves. A breadth first algorithm is used to traverse the tree, making it possible to evaluate all child nodes on the same level.

If it happens that one of the nodes considered as a good move was evaluated by the algorithm at an earlier state, then the algorithm choose that node that was found at an earlier state to be the best move among the other good moves being evaluated. All the moves happened between the current state and the previous state where this state was found is then removed to shorten the path or amount of moves to be made.

2. References

Luger, G. F. 2009. Artificial Intelligence: Structures and Strategies for Complex Problem Solving. 6th ed. Mexico City, NM: Pearson Addison Wesley.

Appendix A: Source Code

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