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Compare the results of A* and BFS (Best First Search) Algorithm

1. Obviously, A* is better than the Best First Search Algorithm.
2. Best First Search algorithm does not always give optimal solution as it is greedy algorithm but A* algorithm always gives optimal solution.
3. Both Best First Search and A* algorithm guarantees to find the solution when the solution exists.
4. Time Complexity: In worst case, time complexity of both algorithms are $O(b^d)$ where b =branching factor, d = depth of the solution (here $b=2.67$) . In the solution, we found heuristic h_2 finds answer in less time than heuristic h_1
5. Space Complexity: : In worst case, space complexity of both algorithms are $O(b^d)$ where b =branching factor, d = depth of the solution (here $b=2.67$) . using a good heuristic helps to reduce memory requirements.

Let's take an example:

Start state

T8 T3 T5
T4 T1 T6
T2 T7 B

Goal State

T1 T2 T3
T8 B T4
T7 T6 T5

From the above example:

Time taken for BFS with h_1 = 1.551266 seconds

Total no. of states explored BFS, h_1 =18146

Time taken for BFS with h_2 = 2.979443 seconds

Optimal path cost for BFS with $h_1 = 80$
Optimal path cost for BFS with $h_2 = 16$
Total no. of states explored BFS, $h_2 = 181440$

Time taken for A* with $h_1 = 0.813$ seconds
Total no. of states explored A*, $h_1 = 87293$
Time taken for A* with $h_2 = 0.002263$ seconds
Total no. of states explored A*, $h_2 = 16$
Optimal path cost for A* with $h_1 = 14$
Optimal path cost for A* with $h_2 = 14$