

### Lab 3: A star search

The task in this lab is to create a search algorithm to help a robot find its way to a destination using A star search and the manhattan distance heuristic. The robot exists in a grid world named “map” of size MAP\_WIDTH by MAP\_HEIGHT, and it can move in all 4 directions (diagonals not allowed) through empty space cells only by steps of exactly 1 cell distance. The starting location of the robot is marked in map with a number “2” and the goal with a number “3”. The other two values you can find in the map are “1” for walls and “0” for empty space.

Sample map of size MAP\_WIDTH 5 and MAP\_HEIGHT 5

1	1	1	1	0
0	2	0	0	0
0	1	1	1	1
0	1	1	3	1
0	0	0	0	0

Robot starting location in map[1][1]

Goal in map[3][3]

You are to complete the code for the function: **astar\_search**(map)

The A star search should use the manhattan distance for its heuristic. The function should return a boolean value “true” if the destination was reached and “false” otherwise. An additional condition is to mark the map with a number “4” in all explored cells and with a number “5” in the cells that are part of path found.

To make sure everybody arrives to the same results (very important for the automated grader) when a tie (two nodes in the frontier have the same  $f(n)$  value) is found, first expand the node with the lowest x value, if there is still a tie, then expand the node with the lowest y value.

Considerations:

- We provided several maps to let you test your solution, but the grading will use a different set.
- Remember to use the provided constants for the map boundaries and do not hardcode any values because during grading the dimensions of the map can be different.
- The running time of your algorithm cannot be longer than 5 seconds for a 15x15 maps or smaller, otherwise it will fail the grading tests.
- All maps will have a maximum of 1 possible path between the starting location and the destination (to make it easier).
- Unreachable goals are possible.
- There will be no loops in the maps (to make it easier).