# **Heuristic Analysis - Air Cargo Search**

# Air Cargo Problem 1

Uninformed Algorithm	Plan Length	Expansions	Goal Tests	New Nodes	Time (seconds)
BFS	6	43	56	180	0.0147
BFTS	6	1458	1459	5960	0.452
DFGS	20	21	22	84	0.0068
DLS	50	101	271	414	0.044
ucs	6	55	57	224	0.0187
Heuristic Algorithm					
RBFS w/ h1	6	4229	4230	17023	1.346
GBFGS w/ h1	6	7	9	28	0.0026
A* w/ h1	6	55	57	224	0.0184
A* w/ h_ig_prec	6	41	43	170	0.0188
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	6	11	13	50	0.5620

# Air Cargo Problem 2

Uninformed Algorithm	Plan Length	Expansions	Goal Tests	New Nodes	Time (seconds)
BFS	9	3343	4609	30509	6.6892
BFTS	DNR				
DFGS	619	624	625	5602	1.676
DLS	50	222719	2053741	2054119	436.4
ucs	9	4853	4855	44041	5.615
Heuristic Algorithm					
RBFS w/ h1	DNR				
GBFGS w/ h1	15	998	1000	8982	1.156
A* w/ h1	9	4853	4855	44041	5.699
A* w/ h_ig_prec	9	1450	1452	13303	2.141
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	9	86	88	841	87.65

# Air Cargo Problem 3

Uninformed Algorithm	Plan Length	Expansions	Goal Tests	New Nodes	Time (seconds)
BFS	12	14663	18098	129631	50.3
BFTS	DNR				
DFGS	392	408	409	3364	0.8633
DLS	DNR				
ucs	12	18223	18225	159618	29.45
Heuristic Algorithm					
RBFS w/ h1	DNR				
GBFGS w/ h1	22	5578	5580	49150	9.212
A* w/ h1	12	18223	18225	159618	24.61
A* w/ h_ig_prec	12	5040	5042	44944	8.002
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	12	325	327	3002	548.8

#### **Result Analysis**

For the definition of an optimal solution, we will use the definition from AI: A Modern Approach by Norvig and Russel(1, pg 68).

"A solution to a problem is an action sequence that leads from the initial state to a goal state. Solution quality is measured by the OPTIMAL SOLUTION path cost function, and an optimal solution has the **lowest path cost among all solutions**."

As a secondary metric, we will measure the efficiency of the solution by its runtime, as this is fundamentally the measurable cost of running a planning algorithm on processing hardware.

1) Provide an optimal plan for problems 1, 2, and 3.

Problem 1, being significantly easier to solve than the others, converges to a somewhat misleading optimal solution of **greedy best first tree search** using heuristic h1 as this happened in this case to find an optimal (minimal length) solution to the problem in the least runtime with minimal nodes expanded. The breadth first search uninformed algorithm also managed to outperform the A\* searches in this problem due to it's simplicity, but by a lesser margin. With that being said, our knowledge of the increased optimality of A\* search gives some insight into why the A\* search algorithms which converged on the optimal path slightly slower will be much more sustainable as the search becomes more difficult.

Optimal: Algorithm 7 - greedy best first tree search w/ heuristic 1

Problem 2, which demands a much more extensive search, exposed the speedy GBFTS for it's lack of optimality, as it converged on a non-optimal solution of length 15, while the optimal search methods were able to find the length 9 solution. In this problem, **A\* search using the relaxed heuristic ignoring preconditions** was the optimal solution in that it found the shortest possible plan length of 9 in the shortest time.

Optimal: Algorithm 9 - A\* w/ h ignore preconditions

Problem 3, the most complex of our planning problems, further shows that **A\* search using the relaxed heuristic** is our optimal planning algorithm for the problem, as it was able to find the optimal solution in the least amount of time.

Optimal: Algorithm 9 - A\* w/ h\_ignore\_preconditions

2) Compare and contrast non-heuristic search result metrics (optimality, time elapsed, number of node expansions) for Problems 1,2, and 3. Include breadth-first, depth-first, and at least one other uninformed non-heuristic search in your comparison; Your third choice of non-heuristic search may be skipped for Problem 3 if it takes longer than 10 minutes to run, but a note in this case should be included.

#### Problem 1

BFS	6	43	56	180	0.0147
DFGS	20	21	22	84	0.0068
ucs	6	55	57	224	0.0187

#### Problem 2

BFS	9	3343	4609	30509	6.6892
DFGS	619	624	625	5602	1.676
ucs	9	4853	4855	44041	5.615

#### Problem 3

BFS	12	14663	18098	129631	50.3
DFGS	392	408	409	3364	0.8633
ucs	12	18223	18225	159618	29.45

Breadth-first search in the air cargo domain proved to be a feasible solution to our problem space, however in the real world as the problem space becomes exponentially more complex, the exponential increase in runtime looks to be a significant red flag if this were to be considered as a valuable method. While it is by nature optimal in that it will always find the solution of the shortest length and least cost, it must be noted that this necessity for excessive node expansion and processing power will lead this to be an infeasible solution compared to heuristic search as the problems become more complex. When compared to depth-first search, it will inevitably be slower, yet the fact that DFS will rarely stumble upon the optimal solution makes it impractical for situations in which finding the least-cost solution is necessary. While DFS is non-optimal but quite efficient, and BFS is optimal but significantly less efficient, uniform-cost search was in fact our best performer using our definition of optimality. UCS was slower for the simpler problem, but as the problem complexity increased its runtime increased much less than BFS, making it the best uninformed search algorithm in that it found the optimal plan in the least amount of time.

BFS: Optimal, somewhat efficient

DFS: Non-Optimal, extremely efficient

UCS: Optimal, more efficient than BFS at scale

3) Compare and contrast heuristic search result metrics using A\* with the "ignore preconditions" and "level-sum" heuristics for Problems 1, 2, and 3.

#### Problem 1

A* w/ h_ig_prec	6	41	43	170	0.0188	
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	6	11	13	50	0.5620	
Problem 2						
A* w/ h_ig_prec	9	1450	1452	13303	2.141	
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	9	86	88	841	87.65	
Problem 3						
A* w/ h_ig_prec	12	5040	5042	44944	8.002	
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	12	325	327	3002	548.8	

The comparison here can potentially be misleading, as if one were to approach the efficiency of their solution to merely be based on the number of nodes being expanded and traversed, they would be led to believe that the level sum heuristic is more efficient. However the obvious difference is the amount of processing power required to calculate the heuristic value for the level sum, which at scale becomes incredibly memory intensive and thus each node expanded will take significantly longer to evaluate. The ignoring preconditions heuristic on the other hand is meant to be less intensive than a standard heuristic for the problem and it succeeds in doing so, outperforming both h1 and level sum in terms of processing speed. It is important to note that it does so while maintaining the optimality of A\* search, meaning that with this heuristic we will still manage to find the absolute least-cost solution

4) What was the best heuristic used in these problems? Was it better than non-heuristic search planning methods for all problems? Why or why not?

Problem 1	Pr	ъb	ler	n 1
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A* w/ h1	6	55	57	224	0.0184		
A* w/ h_ig_prec	6	41	43	170	0.0188		
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	6	11	13	50	0.5620		
Problem 2							
A* w/ h1	9	4853	4855	44041	5.699		
A* w/ h_ig_prec	9	1450	1452	13303	2.141		
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	9	86	88	841	87.65		
Problem 3							
A* w/ h1	12	18223	18225	159618	24.61		
A* w/ h_ig_prec	12	5040	5042	44944	8.002		
A* w/ h_pg_levsum	12	325	327	3002	548.8		

While h1 is admissible but not really a true estimation of the distance to the goal and more of a placeholder, it has been included for the sake of comparison. For the reasons described in the previous response, our **heuristic ignoring preconditions** is in fact our best heuristic for this problem in that it will always find the optimal solution, and it will tend to find it in less time than any other heuristic we evaluated. The one exception in this case is in problem 1 where our placeholder heuristic was insignificantly faster than h\_ignore\_preconditions due to the fact that it requires no processing, however it gets exposed by the exponential growth of the number of nodes expanding while the problem becomes more complex. This same misleading result in problem 1 can lead one to believe that some of the uninformed searches (BFS,DFGS, and UCS) slightly edge out our best heuristic search in terms of efficiency, however it quickly becomes obvious that the rising complexity of the problem makes those searches impractical through lack of optimality and/or efficiency. For that reason, the ignoring preconditions heuristic will always outperform uninformed search methods as well as our level sum heuristic in a realistic (at least somewhat complex) problem space.

Best Algorithm: 9 - A\* search with h\_ignoring\_preconditions

#### Citations

1) SJ Russell, P Norvig, "Artificial intelligence: a modern approach (3rd edition)", 2007

# **Evaluation Log**

# >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 1

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using breadth\_first\_search...

```
Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 43 56 180
```

Plan length: 6 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.014682483959472014 Load(C1, P1, SFO) Load(C2, P2, JFK) Fly(P2, JFK, SFO) Unload(C2, P2, SFO) Fly(P1, SFO, JFK) Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

## >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 2

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using breadth\_first\_tree\_search...

```
Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes
1458 1459 5960
```

Plan length: 6 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.45196320940180174 Load(C1, P1, SFO) Load(C2, P2, JFK) Fly(P2, JFK, SFO) Unload(C2, P2, SFO) Fly(P1, SFO, JFK) Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

# >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 3

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using depth\_first\_graph\_search...

# Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

21 22 84

Plan length: 20 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.006809123117803365

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Load(C2, P1, JFK)

Fly(P1, JFK, SFO)

Fly(P2, SFO, JFK)

Unload(C2, P1, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, SFO)

Fly(P1, JFK, SFO)

Load(C1, P2, SFO)

Fly(P2, SFO, JFK)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Unload(C2, P2, JFK)

Unload(C1, P2, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Load(C2, P1, JFK)

Fly(P1, JFK, SFO)

Fly(P2, SFO, JFK)

Unload(C2, P1, SFO)

## >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 4

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using depth\_limited\_search...

## Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

101 271 414

Plan length: 50 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.04395752770636652

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using uniform\_cost\_search...

# Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

55 57 224

Plan length: 6 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.01867992395601547

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

# >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 6

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using recursive\_best\_first\_search with h\_1...

## Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

4229 4230 17023

Plan length: 6 Time elapsed in seconds: 1.346004720343926

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

## >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 7

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using greedy\_best\_first\_graph\_search with h\_1...

## Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

7 9 28

Plan length: 6 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.0025618937544557023

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

# >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 8

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using astar\_search with h\_1...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 55 57 224

Plan length: 6 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.018371805396530494

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

## >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 9

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using astar\_search with h\_ignore\_preconditions...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

41 43 170

Plan length: 6 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.018803063362785977

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

# >python run\_search.py -p 1 -s 10

Solving Air Cargo Problem 1 using astar\_search with h\_pg\_levelsum...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

11 13 50

Plan length: 6 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.5620195942880598

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK) Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

## >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 1

Solving Air Cargo Problem 2 using breadth\_first\_search...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 3343 4609 30509

Plan length: 9 Time elapsed in seconds: 6.688668474151526

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Load(C3, P3, ATL)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

Fly(P3, ATL, SFO)

Unload(C3, P3, SFO)

# >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 2

DNR

## >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 3

Solving Air Cargo Problem 2 using depth\_first\_graph\_search...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 624 625 5602

Plan length: 619 Time elapsed in seconds: 1.67638909892199

## >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 4

Solving Air Cargo Problem 2 using depth\_limited\_search...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 222719 2053741 2054119

Plan length: 50 Time elapsed in seconds: 436.4176054246149

Load(C1, P1, SFO) Load(C2, P2, JFK) Load(C3, P3, ATL)

Unload(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

```
Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)
Unload(C1, P1, JFK)
Fly(P1, JFK, SFO)
Fly(P3, ATL, SFO)
Unload(C3, P3, SFO)
```

# >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 5

Solving Air Cargo Problem 2 using uniform\_cost\_search...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 4853 4855 44041

Plan length: 9 Time elapsed in seconds: 5.615407278187042

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Load(C3, P3, ATL)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Fly(P3, ATL, SFO)

Unload(C3, P3, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

# >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 6

DNR

# >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 7

Solving Air Cargo Problem 2 using greedy\_best\_first\_graph\_search with h\_1...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 998 1000 8982

Plan length: 15 Time elapsed in seconds: 1.1563330380868024

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Load(C3, P3, ATL)

Fly(P1, SFO, ATL)

Fly(P2, JFK, ATL)

Fly(P3, ATL, SFO)

Fly(P2, ATL, SFO)

```
Load(C2, P3, SFO)
```

Fly(P2, SFO, ATL)

Fly(P1, ATL, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

Fly(P1, JFK, ATL)

Unload(C3, P3, SFO)

Unload(C2, P3, SFO)

## >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 8

Solving Air Cargo Problem 2 using astar\_search with h\_1...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 4853 4855 44041

Plan length: 9 Time elapsed in seconds: 5.698695154356327

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Load(C3, P3, ATL)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Fly(P3, ATL, SFO)

Unload(C3, P3, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

## >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 9

Solving Air Cargo Problem 2 using astar\_search with h\_ignore\_preconditions...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 1450 1452 13303

Plan length: 9 Time elapsed in seconds: 2.141469895655553

Load(C3, P3, ATL)

Fly(P3, ATL, SFO)

Unload(C3, P3, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

# >python run\_search.py -p 2 -s 10

Solving Air Cargo Problem 2 using astar\_search with h\_pg\_levelsum...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 86 88 841

Plan length: 9 Time elapsed in seconds: 87.6517663483765

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, JFK)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, SFO)

Load(C3, P3, ATL)

Fly(P3, ATL, SFO)

Unload(C3, P3, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

## >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 1

Solving Air Cargo Problem 3 using breadth\_first\_search...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

14663 18098 129631

Plan length: 12 Time elapsed in seconds: 50.29766494199486

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, ORD)

Load(C4, P2, ORD)

Fly(P1, SFO, ATL)

Load(C3, P1, ATL)

Fly(P1, ATL, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

Unload(C3, P1, JFK)

Fly(P2, ORD, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Unload(C4, P2, SFO)

# >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 2

DNR

# >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 3

Solving Air Cargo Problem 3 using depth\_first\_graph\_search...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 408 409 3364

Plan length: 392 Time elapsed in seconds: 0.8633058069951824

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# >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 4

DNR

## >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 5

Solving Air Cargo Problem 3 using uniform\_cost\_search...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 18223 18225 159618

Plan length: 12 Time elapsed in seconds: 29.450151763917994

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P1, SFO, ATL)

Load(C3, P1, ATL)

Fly(P2, JFK, ORD)

Load(C4, P2, ORD)

Fly(P2, ORD, SFO)

Fly(P1, ATL, JFK)

Unload(C4, P2, SFO)

Unload(C3, P1, JFK)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

# >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 6

DNR

## >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 7

Solving Air Cargo Problem 3 using greedy\_best\_first\_graph\_search with h\_1...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 5578 5580 49150

Plan length: 22 Time elapsed in seconds: 9.212038767309728

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P1, SFO, ORD)

Load(C4, P1, ORD)

Fly(P2, JFK, ATL)

Load(C3, P2, ATL)

Fly(P2, ATL, ORD)

Fly(P1, ORD, ATL)

Unload(C4, P1, ATL)

Fly(P1, ATL, ORD)

Fly(P2, ORD, ATL)

Load(C4, P2, ATL)

Fly(P2, ATL, ORD)

Unload(C3, P2, ORD)

Load(C3, P1, ORD)

Fly(P1, ORD, JFK)

Unload(C3, P1, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

Fly(P1, JFK, ORD)

Fly(P2, ORD, SFO)

Unload(C4, P2, SFO)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

## >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 8

Solving Air Cargo Problem 3 using astar\_search with h\_1...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes

18223 18225 159618

Plan length: 12 Time elapsed in seconds: 24.607797208840115

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P1, SFO, ATL)

Load(C3, P1, ATL)

Fly(P2, JFK, ORD)

Load(C4, P2, ORD)

Fly(P2, ORD, SFO)

Fly(P1, ATL, JFK)

Unload(C4, P2, SFO)

Unload(C3, P1, JFK)

```
Unload(C2, P2, SFO)
Unload(C1, P1, JFK)
```

## >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 9

Solving Air Cargo Problem 3 using astar\_search with h\_ignore\_preconditions...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 5040 5042 44944

Plan length: 12 Time elapsed in seconds: 8.001732052971548

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, ORD)

Load(C4, P2, ORD)

Fly(P2, ORD, SFO)

Unload(C4, P2, SFO)

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, ATL)

Load(C3, P1, ATL)

Fly(P1, ATL, JFK)

Unload(C3, P1, JFK)

Unload(C2, P2, SFO)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)

## >python run\_search.py -p 3 -s 10

Solving Air Cargo Problem 3 using astar\_search with h\_pg\_levelsum...

Expansions Goal Tests New Nodes 325 327 3002

Plan length: 12 Time elapsed in seconds: 548.8512702801962

Load(C2, P2, JFK)

Fly(P2, JFK, ORD)

Load(C4, P2, ORD)

Fly(P2, ORD, SFO)

Load(C1, P1, SFO)

Fly(P1, SFO, ATL)

Load(C3, P1, ATL)

Fly(P1, ATL, JFK)

Unload(C4, P2, SFO)

Unload(C3, P1, JFK)

Unload(C1, P1, JFK)