

Q1

What is the difference between  $A^*$  and  $AO^*$  algorithm?

$A^*$  :-  $A^*$  algorithm is an informed search algorithm leverages both the known cost to reach a point and a heuristic on estimate of the remaining distance to the goal.

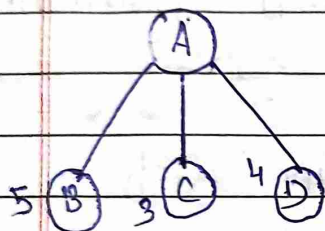
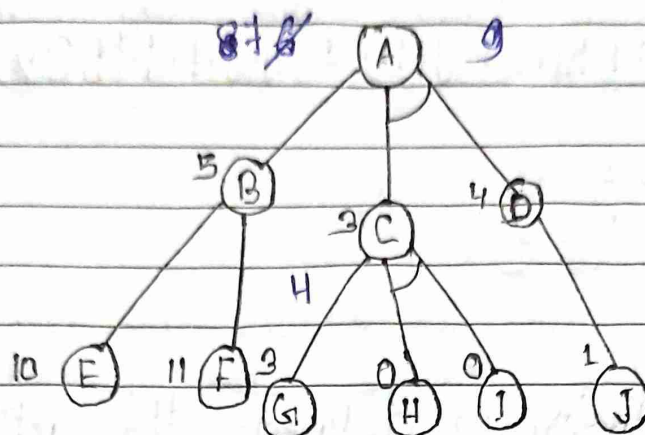
$AO^*$  :- The  $AO^*$  algorithm is a variant of the  $A^*$  algorithm designed to be more adaptive and flexible, particularly in dynamic environments.

~ Some key difference between  $A^*$  and  $AO^*$  algo..

$A^*$ Algorithm	$AO^*$ Algorithm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not designed for handling changes in the environment</li> <li>Uses the AND operation focusing on one path at a time.</li> <li>Generally more resource efficient, explores fewer nodes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specifically designed to adapt to changes without initiating a new search.</li> <li>Uses both OR and AND operations, exploring multiple paths simultaneously.</li> <li>May explore more nodes due to adaptability, potentially requiring more computational resources.</li> </ul>

Q2

Apply AO\* algorithm on the graph

Step-1

Starting from node A, we first calculate the best path

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(B) &= g(B) + h(B) \\
 &= 1 + 5 = 6 \\
 f(C-D) &= g(C) + h(C) + g(D) + h(D) \\
 &= 1 + 3 + 1 + 4 = 9
 \end{aligned}$$

Step-2

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(B-E) &= 1 + 10 = 11 \\
 f(B-F) &= 1 + 11 = 12 \\
 f(A-B) &= g(B) + \text{updated } h(B) \\
 &= 1 + 6 = 7
 \end{aligned}$$

Step-3

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(C-G) &= 1 + 3 = 4 \\
 f(C-H-I) &= 1 + 0 + 1 + 0 = 2
 \end{aligned}$$



- And finally the  $f(A-C-D)$  needs to be updated

$$f(A-C-D) = g(c) + h(c) + g(D) + \text{updated } (h(D)).$$

$$= 1 + 2 + 1 + 1 = 5.$$

Q3

Write the difference between the depth-first search and breadth-first search algorithm.

DFS (Depth-First Search) :-

Explores as far as possible along each branch before backtracking.

BFS (Breadth-First Search) :-

Explores all neighbours of the present depth level before moving to the next level.

DFS

BFS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used a stack LIFO</li> <li>Goes deep into a branch first</li> <li>Requires less memory</li> <li>May not find the shortest path in an unweighted graph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses a queue FIFO</li> <li>Visits nodes level by level</li> <li>Requires more memory</li> <li>Always finds the shortest path in an unweighted graph</li> </ul>
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|---|--|
| • May not visit all nodes in infinite or very deep graphs | Guaranteed to find a solution if one exists                        |
| • exm: Topological sorting, maze solving, cycle detection | Shortest path in unweighted graphs, level order traversal in tree. |

Q4 What is the role of the heuristic function in  $A^*$  search?

The heuristic function ( $h(n)$ ) plays a crucial role in the  $A^*$  search algorithm by helping it find the optimal and most efficient path.

Role of the heuristic function in  $A^*$  search

1) Estimates the cost to the Goal:

- $h(n)$  provides an estimate of the cost from the current node  $n$  to the goal node.
- It does not need to be exact - Just an informed guess.

2) Guides the search Efficiently:

- $A^*$  uses  $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$
- $g(n)$  = Cost from the start to node  $n$ .
- $h(n)$  = estimated cost from  $n$  to the goal.



3) Reduces search Time :-

- A good heuristic prunes unnecessary paths, making the search faster.

4) Determines Optimality :-

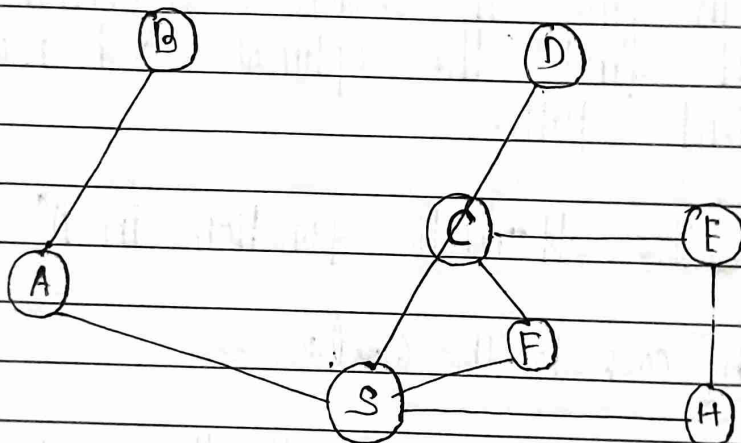
- If the heuristic is :

Admissible (never overestimates the true cost)

Consistent / monotonic (satisfies the triangle inequality)

Q5

Apply BFS and DFS on the following graph



1. BFS Traversal (Level order using Queue)

Start from S

Steps:

1. Start : S

2. Visit neighbours : A, C, F, H

3. From A → B

4. From C → D, E

5. From F  $\rightarrow$  no new nodes
6. From H  $\rightarrow$  (F already visited)
7. All nodes visited.

BFS order:

$S \rightarrow A \rightarrow C \rightarrow F \rightarrow H \rightarrow B \rightarrow D \rightarrow E$

## 2. DFS Traversal (Depth-Wise using stack)

Start from S.

steps

1. Start : S
2. Choose neighbor : A
3. From A  $\rightarrow$  B
4. Backtrack  $\rightarrow A \rightarrow S \rightarrow$  next  $\rightarrow C$
5. From C  $\rightarrow D \rightarrow$  backtrack  $\rightarrow E$
6. Backtrack  $\rightarrow C \rightarrow S \rightarrow$  next F
7. Backtrack  $\rightarrow S \rightarrow$

DFS order:

$S \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D \rightarrow E \rightarrow F \rightarrow H$

- BFS : S, A, C, F, H, B, D, E
- DFS : S, A, B, C, D, E, F, H