

# Mazewrold

Mauricio Esquivel Rogel

September 29, 2016

## 1 Introduction

This particular solution of Mazeworld provides full functionality for two situations of a single-robot maze:

1. A non-blind robot
2. A blind robot

This includes mazes of all sizes as long as their width `mazeWidth` and height `mazeHeight` are both more than or equal to 4 for the reasons covered in section 4. However, the model does provide the instance variables and functions necessary to implement multiple robots and PAC-MAN physics, all that's missing is time. The extension that took most of my time was implementing the most efficient way to do an **A\* search** with a Fibonacci Heap, so I had to neglect some other extensions of the project. I also focused on creating a graphical representation of the maze that's more aesthetically pleasing than simple ASCII code (see Figure ?? for an example of a 20x20 maze without solutions). Furthermore, this solution provides flexibility with selecting initial positions and goals, as illustrated in section 4 as well.

This program implements **Breadth-First** and **A\*** search algorithms and finds optimal solutions, even with blind robots. In this solution, the only difference between a blind robot scenario vs a non-blind robot scenario is that in the former, the robot does not know its initial position. In this case, states actually become belief states, and a belief state  $b_i$  takes the form  $b_1 = [s_1, s_2, \dots, s_i]$  where  $i$  represents the number of states it contains and  $s_k$  a particular physical state of the robot agent. Since these mazes are two-dimensional, a physical state  $s_r$  is defined to be  $s_r = (x, y, d, r)$  where  $x$  and  $y$  are the coordinates of  $s_r$  in the maze's Cartesian plane,  $d$  is  $s_r$ 's depth from the initial position, and  $r$  is the id of the robot. This solution doesn't use robot ids because it can only handle one robot at a time, but it's there for further development. When the robot is not blind, belief states become a single physical state of the same form.

An upper bound  $B_u$  for the total number of physical states for a maze with a single non-blind robot would be

$$B_n = \text{mazeWidth} * \text{mazeHeight},$$

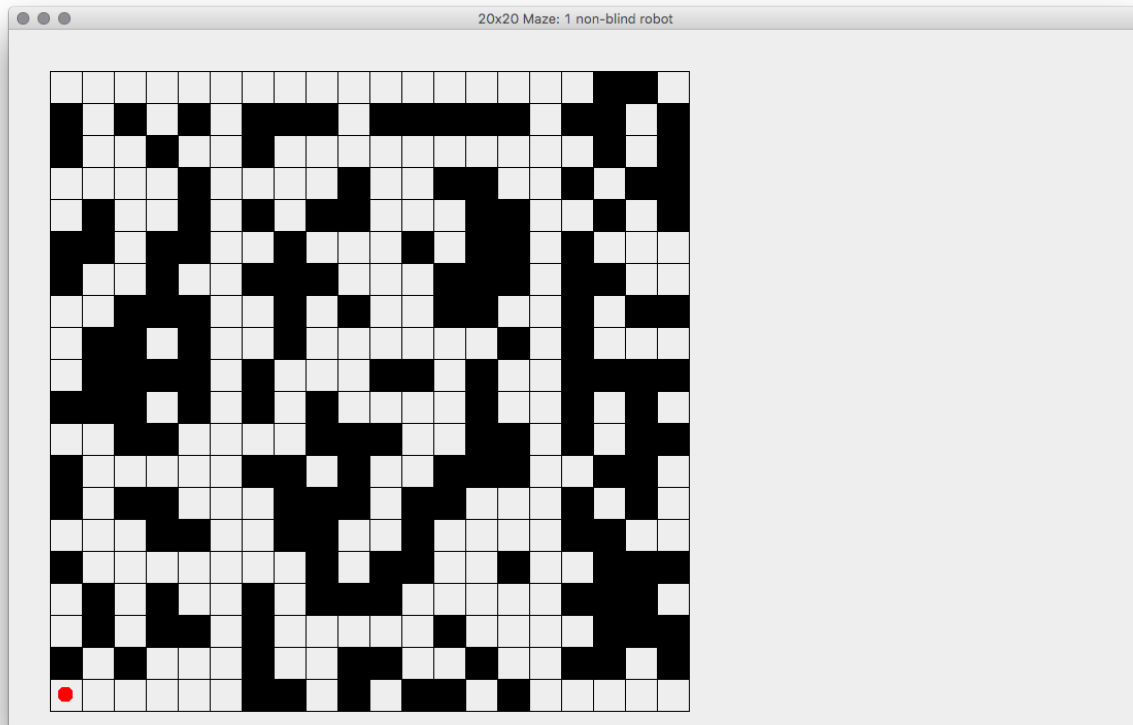
disregarding the legality of states, where  $n$  stands for non-blind. Therefore, by the space complexity analysis of belief states given in page of *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach*, an upper bound  $B_b$  for the total number of physical states for a maze with a single non-blind robot would be

$$B_b = 2^{B_n},$$

disregarding the legality of states, where  $b$  stands for blind this time.

## 2 Running the program

The driver `MazeworldDriver.java` can run tests and then proceed with the finding the solution, or simply skips the first step. This is determined by the `TESTING` constant on top of the file:



**Figure 1:** An example of an unsolved 20x20 maze with one robot at (0,0). The black squares represent obstacles and white squares represent available paths.

```

1 // TESTING TOGGLE
2 public static final boolean TESTING = true; // ACTIVATE
3 // public static final boolean TESTING = false; // DEACTIVATE

```

Clearly, this configuration tells the driver to run all tests as specified in section 3. Then the driver generates a random 50x50 maze with a non-blind robot and solves it first with **Breadth-First Search** and then with **A\* Search**. Once it has concluded, it goes on to create another random 50x50 maze this time with a blind robot and solves it with **A\* Search**. This is the default set-up, but it is in no way unique. I have tested the maze with values up to `mazeWidth = mazeHeight = 400` with successful results, but there's nothing to suggest that 400 is the actual upper bound. These are the console results from that run:

```

1 Breadth-First Search
2 Path length: 1198 [(0,0), (1,0), (2,0), (3,0), (4,0), ... ]
3 Nodes explored during last search: 2141069
4 Maximum memory usage during last search 2144737
5 Running time: 29.776s
6 -----
7 A* Search
8 Path length: 1198 [(0,0), (1,0), (2,0), (3,0), (4,0), ... ]
9 Nodes explored during last search: 629391

```

```
10 Maximum memory usage during last search 633669
11 Running time: 13.807s
12 _____
```

To be safe, choose widths and heights according to these bounds:

$$3 < \text{mazeWidth}, \text{ and}$$

$$3 < \text{mazeHeight},$$

section 4 explains where these bounds come from. Also, you have to fix  $y$  and  $gy$  to 0 and select values for  $x$  and  $gx$  according to these bounds to ensure an optimal solution:

$$0 \leq x < \lfloor \text{mazeWidth}/4 \rfloor, \text{ and}$$

$$3 * \lfloor \text{mazeWidth}/4 \rfloor \leq gx < \text{mazeWidth},$$

also covered in section 4.

### 3 Testing

The `MazeworldTest.java` creates various instances of `PriorityFibonacciHeap` and checks the output to make sure that it works. These are the tests:

```
1 private boolean IntegerTest1() {
2     PriorityFibonacciHeap<IntegerKey> fibHeap =
3         new PriorityFibonacciHeap<IntegerKey>(new IntegersComparator());
4     for (int i = 0; i < 50; i++) {
5         fibHeap.insert(new
6             FibonacciHeapNode<IntegerKey>(new IntegerKey(49 - i)));
7     }
8
9     for (int i = 0; i < 50; i++) {
10        if (fibHeap.poll().getValue().intValue() != i) {
11            failedTests++;
12            return false;
13        }
14    }
15
16    if (!fibHeap.isEmpty()) {
17        failedTests++;
18        return false;
19    }
20
21    return true;
22 }
23
24 private boolean IntegerTest2() {
25     PriorityFibonacciHeap<IntegerKey> fibHeap =
26         new PriorityFibonacciHeap<IntegerKey>(new IntegersComparator());
27     int expectedInt = 0;
28
29     for (int i = 0; i < 50; i++) {
30         fibHeap.insert(new
```

```

31         FibonacciHeapNode<IntegerKey>(new IntegerKey(i));
32
33     if (i % 5 == 0) {
34         if (fibHeap.poll().getValue().intValue() != expectedInt) {
35             failedTests++;
36             return false;
37         }
38
39         expectedInt++;
40     }
41 }
42
43 while (!fibHeap.isEmpty()) {
44     if (fibHeap.poll().getValue().intValue() != expectedInt) {
45         failedTests++;
46         return false;
47     }
48
49     expectedInt++;
50 }
51
52 return true;
53 }

```

This is the sample output of all tests passing:

```

1 Test 1: Check if after inserting integers 0 to 49
2 in reverse order to the heap, all of them can be extracted
3 until the heap is empty
4 PASSED
5
6 Test 2: Check if after inserting integers 0 to 49
7 in order to the heap, all of them can be extracted
8 at different times until the heap is empty
9 PASSED
10
11 ALL TESTS PASSED

```

## 4 Implementation of the model

The model is implemented in `MazeworldProblem.java`. All problems have the same constructor:

```

1 public MazeworldProblem(int nrobots, int w, int h, int gx,
2     int gy, boolean b, boolean pP) {
3     totalRobots = nrobots;
4     mazeWidth = w;
5     mazeHeight = h;
6     goalx = gx;
7     goaly = gy;
8     blindRobots = b;

```

```

9    pacmanPhysics = pP;
10   robots = new RobotNode[totalRobots];
11   startNode = new ArrayList<UUSearchNode>();
12
13   if (this.blindRobots)
14       beliefStates = new ArrayList<ArrayList<UUSearchNode>>();
15
16   mazeWalls = loadMaze();
17   mazePanel = new JPanel();
18
19   if (mazeFrame == null) {
20       mazeFrame = new JFrame();
21       mazeFrame.setBackground(Color.WHITE);
22   }
23
24   if (mazePanel == null) {
25       mazePanel = new JPanel();
26       mazePanel.setBackground(Color.WHITE);
27   }
28
29   mazeFrame.setTitle(w + "x" + h + (this.pacmanPhysics ?
30       "_Pacman-Physics" : "") + "_Maze:" + nrobots + "_" +
31       (this.blindRobots ? "blind" : "non-blind") + "_robot" +
32       (nrobots == 1 ? "" : "s"));
33
34   for (int i = 0; i < totalRobots; i++) {
35       this.robots[i] = new RobotNode(0, i, 0, i);
36
37       if (blindRobots) { beliefStates.add(predict(INIT_MOVE, i)); }
38
39       this.startNode.add(this.robots[i]);
40   }
41
42   startMaze();
43 }

```

`blindRobots` specifies whether the only robot is blind and `pacmanPhysics` would be the variable responsible of implementing the PAC-MAN world. Given any problem, the first function that gets called is `loadMaze`:

```

1 private int [][] loadMaze() {
2     int [][] maze = new int[this.mazeWidth][this.mazeHeight];
3     Random random = new Random();
4
5     int midpointWidth = Math.floorDiv(this.mazeWidth, 2);
6     int lowerQuartileWidth = Math.floorDiv(midpointWidth, 2);
7     int upperQuartileWidth = midpointWidth + lowerQuartileWidth;
8
9     for (int h = 0; h < this.mazeHeight; h++) {
10        for (int w = 0; w < this.mazeWidth; w++) {
11            if (h == 0) {
12                if (w <= lowerQuartileWidth || w >= upperQuartileWidth)

```

```

13         maze[w][h] = 1;
14     } else if (h < this.mazeHeight - 1) {
15         if (w == lowerQuartileWidth || w == upperQuartileWidth)
16             maze[w][h] = 1;
17     } else {
18         if (w <= upperQuartileWidth)
19             maze[w][h] = 1;
20     }
21 }
22 }
23
24 for (int w = 0; w < this.mazeWidth; w++) {
25     for (int h = 0; h < this.mazeHeight; h++) {
26         if (maze[w][h] != 1) {
27             maze[w][h] = (random.nextBoolean()) ? 1 : -1;
28         }
29     }
30 }
31
32 return maze;
33 }

```

This function randomly creates a maze with only one constraint: create an open path (a solution) from  $(0,0)$  to  $(\lfloor \text{mazeWidth}/4 \rfloor, 0)$  to  $(\lfloor \text{mazeWidth}/4 \rfloor, \text{mazeHeight})$  to to  $(3 * (\lfloor \text{mazeWidth}/4 \rfloor), \text{mazeHeight} - 1)$  to  $(3 * (\lfloor \text{mazeWidth}/4 \rfloor), 0)$  and finally to  $(\text{mazeWidth} - 1, 0)$ . This ensures that the bounds mentioned in section 2 guarantee a solution.

## 5 Priority Fibonacci Heap

Given this `minHeap` version's impressive running time, I decided it would be best to implement **A\* Search** with it. According to Professor Cormen's *Algorithms* book, three of the operations that concern **A\* Search** (creation, `insert()`, and `decreaseKey()`) run in constant time, and only `poll()` runs in logarithmic time. Priority Fibonacci Heap implements directly the pseudocode in Professor Cormen's *Algorithms* book for Fibonacci Heap. This is the code for the public methods in `PriorityFibonacciHeap.java`,

```

1  //----- insert() -----//
2  /*
3   * Adds a new node to the heap.
4   * @param newNode - node to be added
5   */
6  public void insert(FibonacciHeapNode<E> newNode) {
7      // if heap is empty, make this new node be the only element in a new
8      // root list
9      if (this.min == null) { this.min = newNode; }
10
11     // otherwise, splice it into the root list and update min if necessary
12     else {
13         this.min.spliceRight(newNode);
14
15         if (this.comparator.compare(newNode.getValue(),
16                                     this.min.getValue()) == -1) {

```

```

17         this.min = newNode;
18     }
19 }
20
21     this.numberOfNodes++;
22 }
23
24 //----- peek() -----//
25 /*
26  * Returns the min element without removing it from the heap.
27  * @return min element
28  */
29 public FibonacciHeapNode<E> peek() {
30     return this.min;
31 }
32 //----- poll() -----//
33 /*
34  * Returns and removes the heap's min element while "consolidating" the heap
35  * i.e. rearranging the heap to satisfy the constraint.
36  * @return min element
37  */
38 public FibonacciHeapNode<E> poll() {
39     FibonacciHeapNode<E> min = this.min, child = null, temp = null;
40
41     // if the heap is not empty, extract the min element from the heap,
42     // add any of its children to the root list, and consolidate if
43     // necessary
44     if (min != null) {
45         child = min.childrenList;
46
47         // splice min element's children into the root list
48         while (min.degree > 0) {
49             temp = child.right;
50
51             child.spliceOut();
52             this.min.spliceRight(child);
53
54             child.parent = null;
55
56             min.decreaseDegree();
57             child = temp;
58         }
59
60         // extract min element
61         min.spliceOut();
62
63         // if min element was the only element, then there is no new min
64         if (min == min.right) { this.min = null; }
65
66         // otherwise consolidate heap starting with the element to the right
67         // of the min element as the new min element

```

```

68     else {
69         this.min = min.right;
70         consolidate();
71     }
72
73     this.numberOfNodes--;
74 }
75
76 return min;
77 }
78
79 //----- decreaseKey() -----//
80 /*
81  * Returns and removes the heap's min element while "consolidating" the heap
82  * i.e. rearranging the heap to satisfy the constraint.
83  * @param currNode - node already in heap whose key will be decreased
84  * @param newKey - currNode's new key
85  */
86 public void decreaseKey(FibonacciHeapNode<E> currNode, double newKey) {
87     FibonacciHeapNode<E> y = null;
88
89     // if the newKey is bigger than the old one, so decreasing is
90     // impossible
91     if (newKey > currNode.getKey()) { return; }
92
93     // update old key to new key
94     currNode.setKey(newKey);
95
96     // get the node's parent and check if there are changes to be made
97     y = currNode.parent;
98
99     // if changes are in order, rearrange the heap back into structure
100    if (y != null &&
101        this.comparator.compare(currNode.getValue(),
102                                y.getValue()) == -1) {
103        cut(currNode, y);
104        cascadingCut(y);
105    }
106
107    // update min if necessary
108    if (this.comparator.compare(currNode.getValue(),
109                                this.min.getValue()) == -1) {
110        this.min = currNode;
111    }
112 }
113
114 //----- delete() -----//
115 /*
116  * Forces an element to be polled out of the heap.
117  * @param node - node to be deleted
118  */

```



```

119 public void delete(FibonacciHeapNode<E> node) {
120     // make node new min and extract it as usual
121     decreaseKey(node, Double.NEGATIVE_INFINITY);
122     poll();
123 }
124
125 //----- size() -----//
126 public int size() {
127     return this.numberOfNodes;
128 }
129
130 //----- isEmpty() -----//
131 public boolean isEmpty() {
132     return this.min == null;
133 }
134
135 //----- clear() -----//
136 public void clear() {
137     this.min = null;
138     this.numberOfNodes = 0;
139 }

```

and this is the code for the private methods,

```

1 //----- consolidate() -----//
2 /*
3  * Rearranges the heap back into structure after a node has been extracted,
4  * satisfying the Fibonacci heap constraints
5  */
6 private void consolidate() {
7     // Create an auxiliary array with enough capacity to hold the maximum
8     // number of root nodes possible i.e. the Fibonacci determined upper
9     // bound
10    int upperBound = getUpperBound(), currentDegree = 0,
11        numberOfRootNodes = 0;
12    FibonacciHeapNode<E> currentNode = null, otherNode = null, temp = null,
13        tempRight = null;
14    ArrayList<FibonacciHeapNode<E>> auxiliaryArray =
15        new ArrayList<FibonacciHeapNode<E>>(upperBound);
16
17    // temporarily initialize array to null values to hold the root nodes
18    for (int i = 0; i < upperBound; i++) { auxiliaryArray.add(i, null); }
19
20    // count the current number of root nodes
21    if ((currentNode = this.min) != null) {
22        numberOfRootNodes++;
23        currentNode = currentNode.right;
24
25        while (currentNode != this.min) {
26            numberOfRootNodes++;
27            currentNode = currentNode.right;

```

```

28         }
29     }
30
31     // navigate through the current root list , merging nodes to satisfy
32     // the constraint
33     while (numberOfRootNodes > 0) {
34         currentDegree = currentNode.degree;
35         tempRight = currentNode.right;
36
37         // fix all conflicting degrees by making the node with the bigger
38         // key a child of the node with the smaller key
39         while ((otherNode = auxiliaryArray.get(currentDegree)) != null) {
40             // if the node to the left is bigger than the node to the right ,
41             // swap the nodes with each other
42             if (this.comparator.compare(currentNode.getValue(),
43                 otherNode.getValue()) == 1) {
44                 temp = otherNode;
45                 otherNode = currentNode;
46                 currentNode = temp;
47             }
48
49             // splice the node with the bigger key into the children list of
50             // the node with the smaller key
51             link(otherNode, currentNode);
52
53             auxiliaryArray.set(currentDegree, null);
54             currentDegree++;
55         }
56
57         // occupy the unique position of the current degree with the latest
58         // node
59         auxiliaryArray.set(currentDegree, currentNode);
60         currentNode = tempRight;
61         numberOfRootNodes--;
62     }
63
64     // reset min
65     this.min = null;
66
67     // go through the auxiliary array to build the new root list and
68     // determine the new min
69     for (int i = 0; i < upperBound; i++) {
70         if ((currentNode = auxiliaryArray.get(i)) == null) { continue; }
71
72         // if root list is still empty, make this node its first element
73         if (this.min == null) { this.min = currentNode; }
74
75         // otherwise splice it into the list and update the min if necessary
76         else {
77             currentNode.spliceOut();
78             this.min.spliceRight(currentNode);

```

```

79
80         if (this.comparator.compare(currentNode.getValue(),
81             this.min.getValue()) == -1) {
82             this.min = currentNode;
83         }
84     }
85 }
86 }
87
88 //----- link() -----//
89 /*
90  * Makes one node the child of another.
91  * @param y - node to be added as a child
92  * @param x - future parent of y
93  */
94 private void link(FibonacciHeapNode<E> y, FibonacciHeapNode<E> x) {
95     // extract the node and connect it to its parent
96     y.spliceOut();
97     y.parent = x;
98
99     // if the new parent has no previous children, make this node its only
100    // only child as its own doubly-linked list
101    if (x.childrenList == null) {
102        x.childrenList = y;
103        y.right = y;
104        y.left = y;
105    }
106
107    // otherwise splice the node into the parent's children list
108    else { x.childrenList.spliceRight(y); }
109
110    // update parent's degree and indicate that the node hasn't
111    // lost any children since it was last made child to another node
112    x.increaseDegree();
113    y.unmark();
114 }
115
116 //----- cut() -----//
117 /*
118  * Destroys the link between a node and its parent, make the child node
119  * a new root node
120  * @param node - node that will be extracted from parent and inserted
121  *               into root list
122  * @param parent - node's parent
123  */
124 private void cut(FibonacciHeapNode<E> node, FibonacciHeapNode<E> parent) {
125     // extract node and update parent's degree
126     node.spliceOut();
127     parent.decreaseDegree();
128
129     // if node was the reference used by its parent as the link to the

```

```

130 // children list, update reference with some other child in that list
131 if (parent.childrenList == node) { parent.childrenList = node.right; }
132
133 // if the parent has no children left, empty children list
134 if (parent.degree == 0) { parent.childrenList = null; }
135
136 // add node to root list
137 this.min.spliceRight(node);
138
139 // update node's parent reference and indicate that the node hasn't
140 // lost any children since it was last made child to another node (in
141 // this case, to null)
142 node.parent = null;
143 node.unmark();
144 }
145
146 //----- cascadingCut() -----//
147 /*
148  * Goes down through a node tree, marking, unmarking, and breaking links
149  * between nodes and parents
150  * @param node - the child to begin the ascent through the graph from
151  */
152 private void cascadingCut(FibonacciHeapNode<E> node) {
153     // if root node, then done
154     if (node.parent == null) { return; }
155
156     // otherwise, if the node hasn't lost a child after last being added to
157     // its parent node, indicate that it will. if it has already lost one,
158     // extract it and recursively move up
159     if (!node.isMarked()) { node.mark(); }
160     else {
161         cut(node, node.parent);
162         cascadingCut(node.parent);
163     }
164 }
165
166 //----- getUpperBound() -----//
167 /*
168  * Calculates the max number of possible root nodes after progressively
169  * restructuring root list
170  * @return Fibonacci determined upper-bound to the number of root nodes
171  */
172 private int getUpperBound() {
173     double PHLFACTOR = 1.0 / Math.log((1.0 + Math.sqrt(5.0)) / 2.0);
174
175     return ((int) Math.floor(Math.log(this.numberOfNodes) *
176         PHLFACTOR)) + 1;
177 }

```

As you can see, the heap requires a special type of node defined in `FibonacciHeapNode.java`. It uses an Interface called `KeyableObject.java` so that only objects who's key can be calculated at any time are acceptable for this type of node. Here is the code for the nodes:

```

1 public class FibonacciHeapNode<T extends KeyableObject> {
2  /****** CONSTANTS *****/
3  //
4
5  /****** INSTANCE VARIABLES *****/
6  // See PriorityFibonacciHeap to see what each variable is for
7
8  // PUBLIC
9  public FibonacciHeapNode<T> childrenList, left, parent, right;
10 public int degree;
11
12 // PRIVATE
13 private T value;
14 private boolean mark;
15 private double key;
16
17 /****** INNER CLASSES *****/
18 /**
19  * If any structure needs to have access to both a FibonacciHeapNode and
20  * its predecessor/parent e.g. in the visited hash map of an aSearch, which
21  * needs to track both the solution path and each visited node to
22  * decrease costs in existing nodes in the frontier
23  *
24  * @author Mauricio Esquivel Rogel
25  * @date Fall Term 2016
26  */
27 public class FibonacciHeapNodeReferenceHandler {
28  //-----INSTANCE VARIABLES-----//
29  // PUBLIC
30  public FibonacciHeapNode<T> predecessor;
31  public FibonacciHeapNode<T> originalElement;
32
33  // PRIVATE
34  //
35
36  //-----CONSTRUCTOR-----//
37  public FibonacciHeapNodeReferenceHandler(FibonacciHeapNode<T> p,
38  FibonacciHeapNode<T> o) {
39  predecessor = p;
40  originalElement = o;
41  }
42 }
43
44 /****** CONSTRUCTOR *****/
45 public FibonacciHeapNode(T v) {
46  right = left = this;
47  value = v;
48  key = v.calculateKey();
49  childrenList = null;
50  parent = null;

```

```

51     }
52
53  ***** PUBLIC METHODS *****
54  //----- spliceRight() -----//
55  /*
56   * Inserts a node to the right of this node in the doubly-linked list
57   * @param node - node to be inserted
58   */
59  public void spliceRight(FibonacciHeapNode<T> node) {
60      node.left = this;
61      node.right = this.right;
62
63      this.right = node;
64      node.right.left = node;
65  }
66
67  //----- spliceOut() -----//
68  /*
69   * Extracts this node from the doubly-linked list it belongs to.
70   */
71  public void spliceOut() {
72      this.left.right = this.right;
73      this.right.left = this.left;
74  }
75
76  //----- getKey() -----//
77  public final double getKey() {
78      return this.key;
79  }
80
81  //----- setKey() -----//
82  public void setKey(double k) {
83      this.key = k;
84  }
85
86  //----- getValue() -----//
87  public final T getValue() {
88      return this.value;
89  }
90
91  //----- setValue() -----//
92  public void setValue(T v) {
93      this.value = v;
94  }
95
96  //----- decreaseDegree() -----//
97  public void decreaseDegree() {
98      if (this.degree > 0) { this.degree--; }
99  }
100
101 //----- increaseDegree() -----//

```

```

102     public void increaseDegree() {
103         this.degree++;
104     }
105
106 //----- unmark() -----//
107     public void unmark() {
108         this.mark = false;
109     }
110
111 //----- isMarked() -----//
112     public boolean isMarked() {
113         return this.mark;
114     }
115
116 //----- mark() -----//
117     public void mark() {
118         this.mark = true;
119     }
120
121 /***** OVERRIDES *****/
122 //----- toString() -----//
123     @Override
124     public String toString() {
125         return "└" + this.value;
126     }
127
128 //----- equals() -----//
129     @SuppressWarnings("unchecked")
130     @Override
131     public boolean equals(Object other) {
132         if (other instanceof FibonacciHeapNode) {
133             return ((FibonacciHeapNode<T>) other).getValue()
134                 .equals(this.getValue());
135         }
136
137         return other.equals(this.value);
138     }
139
140 //----- hashCode() -----//
141     @Override
142     public int hashCode() {
143         return this.value.hashCode();
144     }
145 /***** PRIVATE METHODS *****/
146 //
147 }

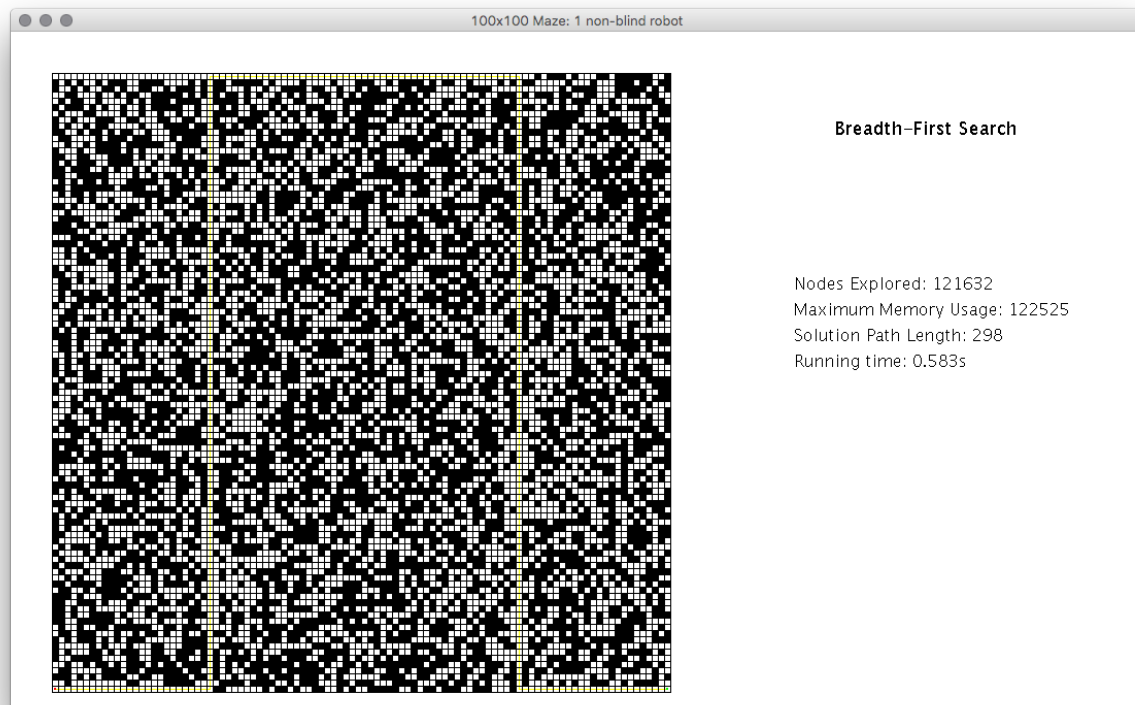
```

## 6 A\* Search

A\* Search implements directly the pseudocode in *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach* for A\* Search. Other than the Fibonacci Heap, there's nothing particular about it, except a check for `beliefStates`:

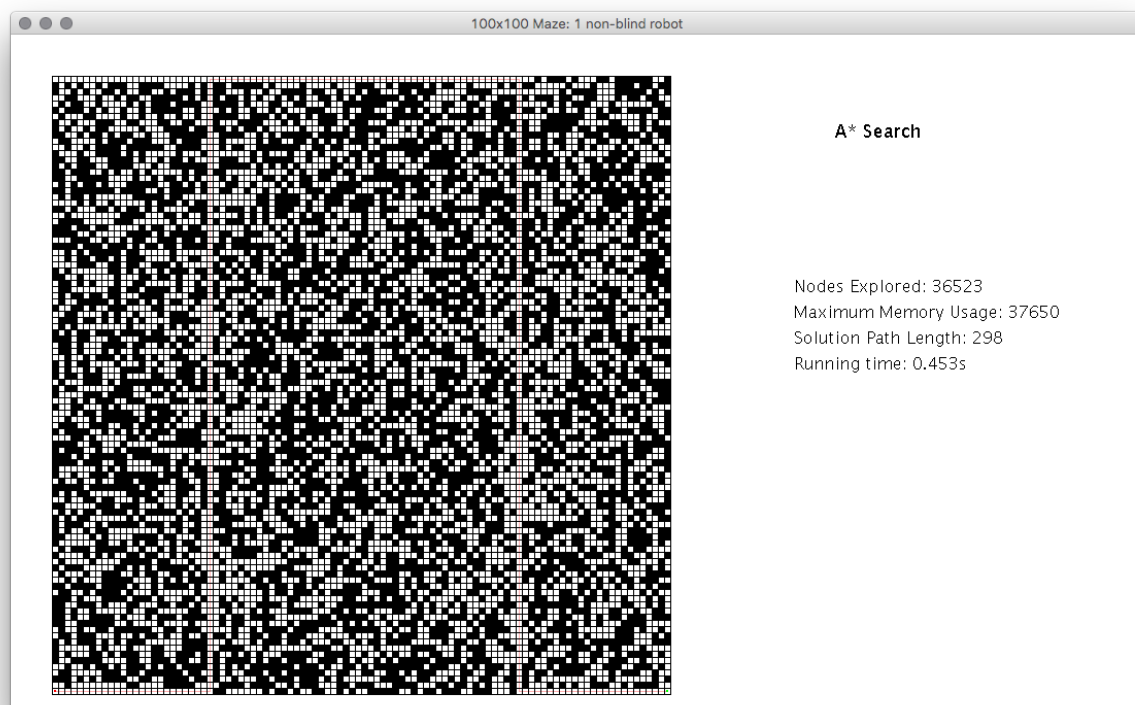
```
1 if (this.beliefStates != null && !deriveStartNodes()) { return null; }
```

Here, `deriveStartNodes()` runs an algorithm to reduce the number of belief states until only one physical state is left, then this state becomes the new start node. The algorithm works by following along the walls/obstacles of the maze until there is enough information to extrapolate the initial position. If the initial position cannot be determined, `deriveStartNodes()` would ideally return `false`, but it currently stays on an infinite loop. This only happens when there are two or more paths in the maze that are the same from any direction. It works by attempting moves and if the robot hits a wall, say after 5 east moves, then it removes all physical states from the belief state that don't have a wall 5 moves to the east. At one point, there is only one state left that satisfies this condition for all moves. Here are the three solutions of a sample run of the program with 100x100 mazes, initial position at (0,0) and goal at (99,0). One can clearly see how superior A\* Search is compared to Breadth-First Search, even if blind robots are involved:

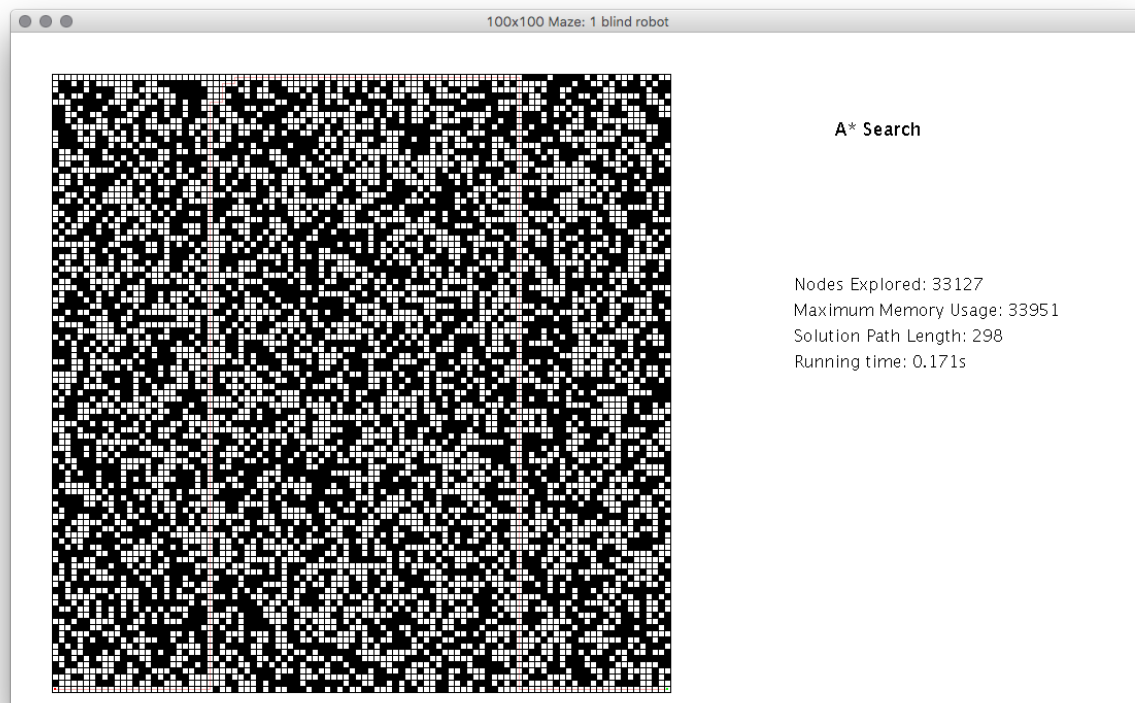


**Figure 2:** An example of BFS solving a 100x100 maze with a non-blind robot with initial position at (0,0) and goal at (99,0). The yellow path represents the solution path.





**Figure 3:** An example of A\*S solving a 100x100 maze with a non-blind robot with initial position at  $(0,0)$  and goal at  $(99,0)$ . The pink path represents the solution path.



**Figure 4:** An example of A\*S solving a 100x100 maze with a blind robot with initial position at (0,0) and goal at (99,0). The pink path represents the solution path.