Intelligent Systems	
Project 1	
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8-puzzle Formulation

The 8-puzzle problem is a puzzle played on a 3-by-3 grid with 8 square blocks labelled 1 - 8 and a blank square. The goal is to rearrange the blocks in the initial state so that they are in the order specified by goal state. The blocks are permitted to slide horizontally or vertically into the blank square.

A* algorithm is a state space search algorithm which integrates characteristics of uniform-cost search and heuristic-based search to proficiently find the optimally efficient path.

The A* algorithm aims at using the heuristic as well as the distance travelled so far, combined to select the nodes from the fringe. For 8 puzzle problem, it uses two types of heuristic to find the shortest path to goal state i.e.

- Number of misplaced tiles: The count of tiles that are not present in its desired positions.
- Manhattan distance: It is the linear distance the tile must cover from the initial position to reach the goal position.

The below code aims at implementing A* algorithm using the above-defined heuristic functions to find the optimal path from user provided initial state to user provided goal state.

Program Structure

```
🗎 *Puzzle8.java 🔀 📝 TestHashMethod.java
                                         public class Puzzle8 {
         private List<Integer> a;
         private Integer heuristicValue;
private Integer depth;
 10
 11
         private Puzzle8 parentPuzzle;
 12
         public Puzzle8(List<Integer> a) {[]
 19⊕
         public Puzzle8(List<Integer> a, Integer depth) {[]
 24
         // Operations up, down, left, right
* Move the blank space or 0 up, if possible...
 25
 27⊕
 31⊖
         public Puzzle8 moveUp() {
             Puzzle8 p = null;
int index = a.indexOf(0);
if(index > 2) {
 32
 33
 34
 35
                  List<Integer> b = new ArrayList<>(a);
 36
37
                 Collections.swap(b, index, index - 3);
p = new Puzzle8(b);
                 p.setParentPuzzle(this);
 39
 40
             return p:
 41
 42
 44⊕
          * Move the blank space or 0 down, if possible...
 48®
         public Puzzle8 moveDown() {
 59
 61⊕
          * Move the blank space or 0 to the right, if possible.
 65⊕
         public Puzzle8 moveRight() {[]
 78®
           Move the blank space or 0 to the left, if possible.
 82⊕
         public Puzzle8 moveLeft() {[]
 93
                     ..... display the puzzle .....//
 94
 95⊕
         public String display() {[]
114
         // Getters and Setters
          * The puzzle array stored as a 1D - array
118
          * @return List<Integer>
119
120
121⊕
         public List<Integer> getA() {[]
124
125⊕
         public void setA(List<Integer> a) {[]
128
130⊕
          * The Heuristic value as per the applied heuristic function.
134⊕
         public Integer getHeuristicValue() {[]
137
138⊕
         public void setHeuristicValue(Integer heuristicValue) {[.]
141
          * The distance travelled to get to this puzzle/node, g()[
147®
         public Integer getDepth() {[]
150
151⊕
         public void setDepth(Integer depth) {[]
154
          * Parent puzzle will help to determine the path...
160⊕
         public Puzzle8 getParentPuzzle() {[]
164⊕
         public void setParentPuzzle(Puzzle8 parentPuzzle) {[]
167
168⊖
169
          * The total heuristic value
170
          * @return Integer g() + f(), total heuristic value
         public Integer getTotalHeuristicValue() {
173⊕
176
         // Equals and hashCode
179
         public int hashCode() {
180
             String str =
             for(int i=0; i<a.size(); i++) {
182
                  str += a.get(i);
184
             return new Integer(str);
         public boolean equals(Object obj) {[]
192 }
193
```

- 1. An **instance** of class 'Puzzle8' stores a particular **state**, along with its heuristic value (h), the distance/depth travelled (g) to get to that state and the parent 'Puzzle8'.
- 2. The array 'a' defines the number arrangement as a 1D array. e.g. $a = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 0\}$ implies $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & \end{bmatrix}$
- 3. 'hashCode' method returns 'hash' of every state, which would be unique for each state of all 9! i.e. 362880 combinations possible (Checked using TestHashMethod.java). This value will be used to store states that were already visited in the A-star algorithm, rather than storing the whole 'Puzzle8' object or the array
- 4. 'equals' method uses 'hashCode' rather than comparing for every array element
- 5. **Operations** include moving blank space **up**, **down**, **right** or **left**. The operation will return a new instance of 'Puzzle8', which would have the parent as the current instance
- Correct logic is applied for each of the operations while dealing with a 1D representation
- E.g. Up operation swaps the 'blank' at (position) with the element at (position – 3)
- 8. If the operation is not possible, null is returned

```
☑ TestHashMethod.java ☑ AStar.java ☒
Puzzle8.java
  package project;
3⊕ import java.util.ArrayList;[.]
  public class AStar {
       List<Integer> initial;
       List<Integer> goal;
       private List<Puzzle8> fringe;
      private Set<Integer> visited;
       public AStar(List<Integer> initial, List<Integer> goal) {
18
          super();
           this.initial = initial;
           this.goal = goal;
           Puzzle8 puzzle = new Puzzle8(initial);
           this.fringe = new ArrayList<>();
           this.visited = new HashSet<>();
           insertPuzzleNode(puzzle, 0);
       }
```

- 1. 'Astar' class instance will take the **initial** and the **goal** state
- A 'fringe' of puzzles will be created, that will include the initial state already present
- Again, the states are 1D arrays, represented for the 8-puzzle problem, to improve performance by keeping minimal references

4. User input will be taken as initial and goal state

- 5. **'insertPuzzleNode**' inserts every expanded node/state to the fringe
- 6. 'Insertion sort' technique is used to determine the right position to insert the new puzzle based on 'totalHeuristic=(q)+(h)'
- 7. Two heuristic functions are defined, that is called in 'insertPuzzleNode'
- 8. 'runHeuristic1' is Manhattan distance
 "Formula for 1D array =
 abs|index%3 correctIndex%3| +
 abs|index/3 correctIndex/3|"
- 'runHeuristic2' is Misplaced tiles
 The formula for 1D array
 =(counter++) for every mismatched index

```
* Run the A-star algorithm and display the path
public void runAlgorithm() {
     int totalExpandedNodes = 0;
int totalVisitedNodes = 0;
Puzzle8 puzzle = null;
     while(true) {
           puzzle = fringe.remove(0);
puzzle.display();
           if(puzzle.getHeuristicValue().intValue() == 0) {
           visited.add(puzzle.hashCode());
           totalVisitedNodes++:
           Puzzle8 puzzleUp = puzzle.moveUp();
           Puzzle8 puzzleOwn = puzzle.moveDown();
Puzzle8 puzzleRight = puzzle.moveRight();
Puzzle8 puzzleLeft = puzzle.moveLeft();
           if(puzzleUp != null && !visited.contains(puzzleUp.hashCode())) {
                 totalExpandedNodes++:
                 insertPuzzleNode(puzzleUp, puzzle.getDepth() + 1);
           if(puzzleDown != null && !visited.contains(puzzleDown.hashCode())) {
                 totalExpandedNodes++;
insertPuzzleNode(puzzleDown, puzzle.getDepth() + 1);
           if(puzzleRight != null && !visited.contains(puzzleRight.hashCode())) {
                 totalExpandedNodes++:
                 insertPuzzleNode(puzzleRight, puzzle.getDepth() + 1);
           if(puzzleLeft != null && !visited.contains(puzzleLeft.hashCode())) {
                 totalExpandedNodes++;
insertPuzzleNode(puzzleLeft, puzzle.getDepth() + 1);
     System.out.println("Total Expanded nodes: " + totalExpandedNodes);
System.out.println("Total Visited nodes: " + totalVisitedNodes);
     StringBuilder builder = new StringBuilder();
while(puzzle != null) {
  builder.insert(0, puzzle.display());
  puzzle = puzzle.getParentPuzzle();
     System.out.println();
System.out.print("Path: -");
System.out.println(builder.toString());
```

Algorithm: -

- 1. The loop breaks when the **'heuristic value'** equals 0
- 2. The '**fringe**' is always sorted as the sorting is carried while inserting
- 3. Hence, the least heuristic node/puzzle is at the 0th index
- 4. Add its 'hashCode' to the '**visited**' list and increment 'totalVisited' counter
- 5. If it is not the goal, **expand** to generate more nodes by performing operations **up**, **down**, **right**, **left**, whichever is possible, and add the generated nodes/puzzles to the fringe by insert operation maintaining the sorting
- 6. Increment the 'totalExpanded' counter
- 7. When the loop breaks, the 'puzzle' object will contain the goal state
- 8. Trace the complete path by 'parentPuzzle' link

<u>Sample results for Misplaced Tile</u> <u>Heuristics</u>

Heuristics		123
	Process finished with exit code 0	784
Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	*****************************	6_5
013425786		123
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.		784
123456780		_65
Total Expanded nodes: 9		123
Total Visited nodes: 4		
Path: -	Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	_ 8 4 7 6 5
_13	123745680	123
4 2 5	Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL	8_4
786	puzzle state serially.	765
	123864750	
1_3	Total Expanded nodes: 43	123
4 2 5	Total Visited nodes: 23	8 6 4
7 8 6		7_5
	Path: -	
123	123	123
4_5	7 4 5	864
7 8 6	68_	75_
123	123	
45_	74_	Process finished with exit code 0
786	685	********
123	123	
456	7_4	
78_	685	
, -	000	

Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	321	_23
281346750	8_4	184
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL	756	765
puzzle state serially.	Process finished with exit code 0	
321804756	*******	123
Total Expanded nodes: 14	********	_84
Total Visited nodes: 7		765
Path: -		
281		123
3 4 6		8_4
75_	Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	765
281	283164705	Process finished with exit code 0
34_	Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL	*************************
756	puzzle state serially. 1 2 3 8 0 4 7 6 5	************
281	Total Expanded nodes: 13	
3_4	Total Visited nodes: 6	
756	- · · ·	
	Path: -	
2_1	283	
384	164	
756	7_5	
	283	
_21	1_4	
3 8 4	765	
756	. • •	
321	2_3	
_84	184	
756	765	
, 5 0		

Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	_13	123
813402765	8 2 5	4 5 6
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL	476	78_
puzzle state serially.		Process finished with exit code 0
123456780	1_3	***************
Total Expanded nodes: 555	8 2 5	********
Total Visited nodes: 338	476	
Path: -		
813	123	
4_2	8_5	
765	476	
813	123	
42_	_85	
765	476	
813	123	
425	485	
76_	_76	
813	123	
4 2 5	485	
7_6	7_6	
813	123	
4 2 5	4_5	
_76	786	
813	123	
25	45	
476	786	

Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	_ 2 4	2 4 3
724506831	753	1_5
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.	816	786
123456780	2_4	2_3
Total Expanded nodes: 6790	753	145
Total Visited nodes: 4286	816	786
Path: -		
7 2 4	24_	_23
5_6	753	145
831	816	786
7 2 4	2 4 3	123
5 3 6	75_	_ 45
8_1	816	786
7 2 4	2 4 3	123
5 3 6	7_5	4_5
81_	816	786
7 2 4	2 4 3	123
53_	715	45_
816	8_6	786
7 2 4	2 4 3	123
5_3	715	456
816	_86	78_
		Process finished with exit code 0
7 2 4	2 4 3	*******
_53	_15	*********
816	786	

Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.
120453786	123046758
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.	Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.
123456780	123456780
Total Expanded nodes: 4	Total Expanded nodes: 8
Total Visited nodes: 2	Total Visited nodes: 3
Path: -	Path: -
12_	123
453	_46
786	758
123	123
45_	4_6
786	758
123	123
456	456
78_	7_8
Process finished with exit code 0	123
*******	456
*******	78_
	Process finished with exit code 0

Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL		
puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	382	13_
382456170	145	428
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.	76_	765
123456780	382	1_3
Total Expanded nodes: 14780	14_	428
Total Visited nodes: 9385	765	765
Path: -		
382	38_	123
4 5 6	142	4_8
17_	765	765
3 8 2	3_8	123
45_	1 4 2	468
176	765	7_5
382	_38	123
4_5	142	468
176	765	75_
382	138	123
_45	_42	46_
176	765	758
382	138	123
145	4_2	4_6
_76	765	758
382	138	123
1 4 5	42_	456
7_6	7 6 5	7_8

123 456

78_

Process finished with exit code 0

Sample Solution for Manhattan	123	
distance heuristics	4 5 6	123
Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	78_	7 _ 4 6 8 5
013		
425	Process finished with exit code 0	123
786	******	784
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.	*********	6_5
123		123
456		
780		784
Total Expanded nodes: 9	Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL	_65
Total Visited nodes: 4	puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	123
	123	_ 8 4
Path: -	7 4 5	765
_13	680	
4 2 5	Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL	123
786	puzzle state serially.	8_4
	12386	765
1_3	4750	
4 2 5	Total Expanded nodes: 22	123
786	Total Visited nodes: 11	864
		7_5
123	Path: -	7_3
4_5	123	1 2 2
786	7 4 5	123
	68_	8 6 4
123		75_
45_	123	
786	74_	Process finished with exit code 0
	685	*********

Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	321	813
281346750	8_4	425
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL	756	_76
puzzle state serially.	Process finished with exit code 0	
321804756	********	813
Total Expanded nodes: 12	*********	_25
Total Visited nodes: 6	Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by	476
Path: -	SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	
281	813402765	_13
3 4 6	Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.	8 2 5
75_	123456780	476
281	Total Expanded nodes: 187	4 2
34_	Total Visited nodes: 110	1_3
756		825
750	Path: -	476
2.0.1	813	
2 8 1	4_2	123
3_4	765	8_5
7 5 6		476
2_1	813	1 2 2
384	42_	123
756	765	_85
730		476
_ 2 1	813	123
384	425	485
756	76_	
, 50		_76
3 2 1	813	123
_84	425	485
756	7_6	
, 50		7_6

123	Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.
4_5	283164705
786	Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.
123	123804765
45_	Total Expanded nodes: 11
786	Total Visited nodes: 5
	Path: -
123	283
456	164
78_	7_5
	283
Process finished with exit code 0	1_4
*******	765

	2_3
	184
	765
	_23
	184
	765
	123
	_84
	765
	123
	8_4

Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	_ 2 4	2 4 3
724506831	753	1_5
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.	816	7 8 6
123456780	2_4	2_3
Total Expanded nodes: 746	753	145
Total Visited nodes: 460	816	786
Path: -		
7 2 4	24_	_23
5_6	753	145
831	816	786
7 2 4	2 4 3	123
5 3 6	75_	_45
8_1	816	786
7 2 4	2 4 3	123
5 3 6	7_5	4_5
81_	816	786
7 2 4	2 4 3	123
53_	715	45_
816	8_6	786
7 2 4	2 4 3	123
5_3	715	4 5 6
816	_86	78_
		Process finished with exit code 0
7 2 4	2 4 3	*******
_53	_15	*********
816	786	

Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.	Add numbers from 0-9 to INITIAL puzzle state serially, separated by SPACE and/or NEW LINE.
120453786	123046758	382456170
Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.	Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.	Add numbers from 0-9 to GOAL puzzle state serially.
123456780	123456780	123456780
Total Expanded nodes: 4	Total Expanded nodes: 8	Total Expanded nodes: 2881
Total Visited nodes: 2	Total Visited nodes: 3	Total Visited nodes: 1789
		Path: -
Path: -	Path: -	382
12_	123	4 5 6
453	_46	17_
786	758	
		382
123	123	45_
45_	4_6	176
786	758	
		382
123	123	4_5
456	456	176
78_	7_8	
		382
	123	_45
Process finished with exit code 0	4 5 6	176
***********************************	78_	
********		382
		145
	Process finished with exit code 0	_76

	ጥጥጥጥጥጥጥጥጥጥጥጥ ተለተለተለተለተለተለተለተለተ	382
		145
		7_6

382	13_	123
145	428	4 5 6
76_	765	78_
382	1_3	
14_	428	Process finished with exit code 0
765	765	
38_	123	
142	4_8	
765	765	
3_8	123	
142	468	
765	7_5	
_38	123	
142	468	
765	75_	
138	123	
42	46	
765	7 5 8	
138	123	
4_2	4_6	
765	7 5 8	
138	123	
42_	4 5 6	
765	7_8	