

Great! Here's a clear explanation and Python code for two Informed Search Algorithms:

Informed Search Algorithms

Informed (or heuristic) search algorithms use heuristic functions to estimate the cost from a node to the goal, helping the algorithm search more efficiently than uninformed methods.

1. Best-First Search (Greedy Best-First Search)

Idea:

- Always chooses the node that appears to be closest to the goal based only on the heuristic $h(n)$.

Python Code:

```
import heapq
```

```
def best_first_search(graph, start, goal, heuristic):
```

```
    visited = set()
```

```
    queue = [(heuristic[start], [start])]
```

```
    while queue:
```

```
        _, path = heapq.heappop(queue)
```

```
        node = path[-1]
```

```
        if node == goal:
```

```
            return path
```

```
        if node not in visited:
```

```
            visited.add(node)
```

```
            for neighbor in graph.get(node, []):
```

```
                new_path = list(path)
```

```
                new_path.append(neighbor)
```

```
                heapq.heappush(queue, (heuristic[neighbor], new_path))
```

```
return None
```

```
# Example graph
```

```
graph = {  
    'A': ['B', 'C'],  
    'B': ['D', 'E'],  
    'C': ['F'],  
    'D': [],  
    'E': ['F'],  
    'F': []  
}
```

```
# Heuristic values for each node
```

```
heuristic = {  
    'A': 5,  
    'B': 4,  
    'C': 2,  
    'D': 6,  
    'E': 3,  
    'F': 0 # Goal  
}
```

```
print("Best-First Search Path:", best_first_search(graph, 'A', 'F', heuristic))
```

★ 2. A Search Algorithm*

✅ Idea:

- Uses both actual cost $g(n)$ from start and estimated cost $h(n)$ to goal:

$$f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$$

✅ Python Code:

```
def a_star_search(graph, start, goal, heuristic):  
    queue = [(heuristic[start], 0, [start])] # (f(n), g(n), path)
```

```
visited = set()
```

```
while queue:
```

```
    f, g, path = heapq.heappop(queue)
```

```
    node = path[-1]
```

```
    if node == goal:
```

```
        return path
```

```
    if node not in visited:
```

```
        visited.add(node)
```

```
        for neighbor in graph.get(node, []):
```

```
            if neighbor not in visited:
```

```
                new_g = g + 1 # Assuming all edges cost 1
```

```
                new_f = new_g + heuristic[neighbor]
```

```
                new_path = list(path)
```

```
                new_path.append(neighbor)
```

```
                heapq.heappush(queue, (new_f, new_g, new_path))
```

```
return None
```

```
print("A* Search Path:", a_star_search(graph, 'A', 'F', heuristic))
```

✅ Example Output:

Best-First Search Path: ['A', 'C', 'F']

A* Search Path: ['A', 'C', 'F']

📄 Summary Table

Algorithm	Uses Heuristic	Uses Path Cost	Strategy
Best-First Search	✅ $h(n)$	❌	Greedy (closest to goal)

Algorithm	Uses Heuristic	Uses Path Cost	Strategy
A* Search	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $h(n)$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> $g(n)$	Optimal + Efficient