

```

import heapq
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np

# Define the directions for movement (up, down, left, right)
DIRECTIONS = [(0, 1), (1, 0), (0, -1), (-1, 0)]

class Node:
    """Class to represent a node in the maze."""
    def __init__(self, position, parent=None):
        self.position = position
        self.parent = parent
        self.g = 0 # Cost from start to current node
        self.h = 0 # Heuristic cost to the goal
        self.f = 0 # Total cost (f = g + h)

    def __lt__(self, other):
        return self.f < other.f

def heuristic(a, b):
    """Calculate Manhattan distance as the heuristic."""
    return abs(a[0] - b[0]) + abs(a[1] - b[1])

def a_star(maze, start, end):
    """A* algorithm to find the shortest path in a maze."""
    open_list = []
    closed_set = set()

    start_node = Node(start)
    end_node = Node(end)

```

```
heapq.heappush(open_list, start_node)
```

```
while open_list:
```

```
    current_node = heapq.heappop(open_list)
```

```
    closed_set.add(current_node.position)
```

```
    # Check if we reached the goal
```

```
    if current_node.position == end_node.position:
```

```
        path = []
```

```
        while current_node:
```

```
            path.append(current_node.position)
```

```
            current_node = current_node.parent
```

```
        return path[::-1] # Return reversed path
```

```
    # Explore neighbors
```

```
    for direction in DIRECTIONS:
```

```
        neighbor_pos = (current_node.position[0] + direction[0],
```

```
                        current_node.position[1] + direction[1])
```

```
    # Check if the neighbor is within bounds and not a wall
```

```
    if (0 <= neighbor_pos[0] < maze.shape[0] and
```

```
        0 <= neighbor_pos[1] < maze.shape[1] and
```

```
        maze[neighbor_pos] == 0 and
```

```
        neighbor_pos not in closed_set):
```

```
        neighbor_node = Node(neighbor_pos, current_node)
```

```
        neighbor_node.g = current_node.g + 1
```

```
        neighbor_node.h = heuristic(neighbor_pos, end_node.position)
```

```
        neighbor_node.f = neighbor_node.g + neighbor_node.h
```

```
    # Check if this path to the neighbor is better
```

```
        if not any(open_node.position == neighbor_pos and open_node.f <= neighbor_node.f for
open_node in open_list):
```

```
            heapq.heappush(open_list, neighbor_node)
```

```
    return None # No path found
```

```
def plot_maze(maze, path=None):
```

```
    """Visualize the maze and the path."""
```

```
    plt.figure(figsize=(8, 8))
```

```
    plt.imshow(maze, cmap="binary")
```

```
    if path:
```

```
        path_x, path_y = zip(*path)
```

```
        plt.plot(path_y, path_x, color="red", linewidth=2) # Path in red
```

```
    plt.title("Maze Navigation")
```

```
    plt.show()
```

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
```

```
    # Define a simple maze (0 = free space, 1 = wall)
```

```
    maze = np.array([
```

```
        [0, 1, 0, 0, 0],
```

```
        [0, 1, 0, 1, 0],
```

```
        [0, 0, 0, 1, 0],
```

```
        [0, 1, 1, 1, 0],
```

```
        [0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
```

```
    ])
```

```
    start = (0, 0) # Starting position
```

```
    end = (4, 4) # Goal position
```

```
    # Find the shortest path using A* algorithm
```

```
    path = a_star(maze, start, end)
```

```
if path:
    print("Path found:", path)
    plot_maze(maze, path)
else:
    print("No path found!")
    plot_maze(maze)
```