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**letter\_sorting.pro**

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/* Demonstration of using search through state space to
   generate an executable plan for getting from A to B.

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   SAMPLE USAGE:

?- soln_DFSid([[e,c],[f,a,d,g],[b]],Plan).

[[e,c],[f,a,d,g],[b]]
[[b,e,c],[f,a,d,g],[ ]]
[[b,e,c],[a,d,g],[f]]
[[b,e,c],[d,g],[a,f]]
[[e,c],[d,g],[b,a,f]]
[[c],[e,d,g],[b,a,f]]
[[],[e,d,g],[c,b,a,f]]
[[e],[d,g],[c,b,a,f]]
[[d,e],[g],[c,b,a,f]]
[[c,d,e],[g],[b,a,f]]
[[b,c,d,e],[g],[a,f]]
[[a,b,c,d,e],[g],[f]]

Plan = [[a,b,c,d,e],[g],[f]], [[b,c,d,e],[g],[a,f]], [[c,d,e],[g],
[ ],[b,a,f]], [[d,e],[g],[c,b|...]], [[e],[d,g],[c|...]], [[],[e|...],
[...|...]], [[c],[...|...]|...], [[...|...]|...], [...|...]|...].
*/

% main user interface, uses a depth-first/ breadth-first
% hybrid searching approach
soln_per_depth_first_search_with_iterative_deepening(Init,Plan) :-
    goal(Goal),
    path(Init,Goal,Plan),
    reverse(Plan,Plan1),
    display(Plan1).

% create alias for full predicate name
soln_DFSid(Init,Plan) :-
    soln_per_depth_first_search_with_iterative_deepening(Init,Plan).

% We have three slots with unique letters randomly
% distributed into each as a starting point.
% The goal is to place chars [a-e] in sorted order in
% the first slot, and we're indifferent about placement
% of residual chars in the last two.
goal(State) :-
    State = [[a,b,c,d,e]|_].

% returns a legal path from initial node to goal node
path(N,N,[N]).

path(Init,Goal,[Goal|Path]) :-
    path(Init,Penultimate,Path),
    succ(Penultimate,Goal),
    \+ member(Goal,Path).

% Define what constitutes a viable successor in the state space.
% That is, these are the rules governing "node expansion."
succ([S1,S2,S3],[SS1,[Top1|S2],S3]) :- S1 = [Top1|SS1].
succ([S1,S2,S3],[SS1,S2,[Top1|S3]]) :- S1 = [Top1|SS1].
succ([S1,S2,S3],[[Top2|S1],SS2,S3]) :- S2 = [Top2|SS2].
succ([S1,S2,S3],[S1,SS2,[Top2|S3]]) :- S2 = [Top2|SS2].
succ([S1,S2,S3],[[Top3|S1],S2,SS3]) :- S3 = [Top3|SS3].
succ([S1,S2,S3],[S1,[Top3|S2],SS3]) :- S3 = [Top3|SS3].

% pretty printing routine for the plans generated
display([]) :-
    nl, nl.

display([Move|Rest]) :-

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nl,
tab(2),
write(Move),
display(Rest).

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