

# 1. TITLE : Robot Pathfinder Using AI Search Algorithms (BFS, DFS, A\*)

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Course: Build Your Own Project

Institute: Vellore Institute Of Technology, Bhopal.

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## 2. Introduction:

This project demonstrates an interactive pathfinding robot that navigates a grid-based maze using user inputs. The robot can move manually using keyboard controls, and the system provides AI-powered hints using three classical search algorithms: **Breadth-First Search (BFS)**, **Depth-First Search (DFS)**, and **A\* Search**. These algorithms help the user understand how AI finds optimal or exploratory paths in grid environments.

The project combines **game-like interaction** with **AI logic**, making it both educational and engaging.

## 3, PROBLEM STATEMENT:

To implement an interactive robot navigation system that illustrates how classical AI search techniques are translated into a grid based world for effective decision-making.

## 4. OBJECTIVES:

To create a robot navigation simulation which is interactive

To implement BFS, DFS, and A\* algorithms in the pathfinder  
To allow the individuals to navigate manually while getting AI suggestions based on the algorithms  
To understand the objective of the algorithms in a practical approach.  
To understand how AI makes pathfinding work in robotics and games easier.

## 5. TOOLS & TECHNOLOGIES USED:

**Programming Language:** Python

**Environment:** VS Code

**Libraries:**

- `collections.deque` (for BFS)
- `heapq` (for A\*)
- `os` and `time` (for screen refresh and delays)

**Visualization:** Emojis for robot, walls, paths, and goal so that it looks good and easy to understand the elements.

## 6. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Python 3.8 or above

A terminal/command prompt that supports Unicode emojis

Any standard code editor

## 7. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The robot is in a 5X5 grid where :

- **Walls** (█)
- **Free cells** (░)
- **Goal** (🎯)
- **Robot** (🤖)

The user can move the robot manually using:

- **W** → Up
- **S** → Down
- **A** → Left
- **D** → Right

Also, the AI gives hints alongside:

**B** → BFS hint

**F** → DFS hint

**H** → A\* hint

Each algorithm tells the next suggested move, based on its own logic.

## 8. FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

**Manual Movement Module** – Move robot using w/a/s/d.

**AI Hint Module** – BFS, DFS, and A\* suggest next move.

**Grid Rendering & Collision Module** – Displays grid and prevents illegal moves.

## 9. NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

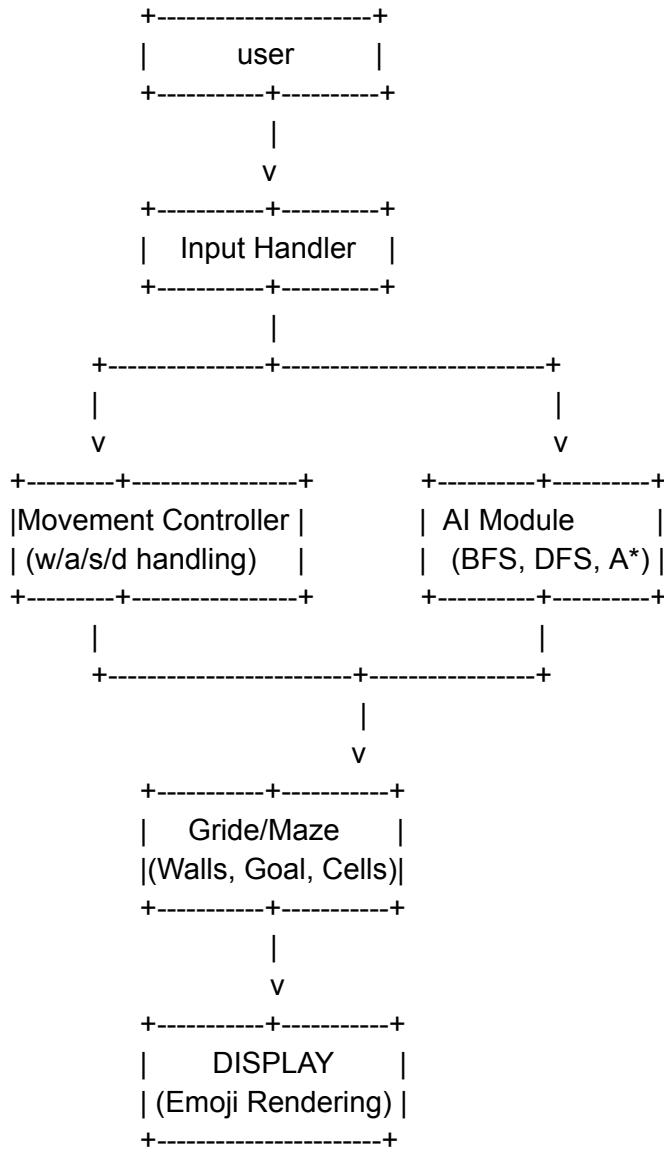
Usability

Performance

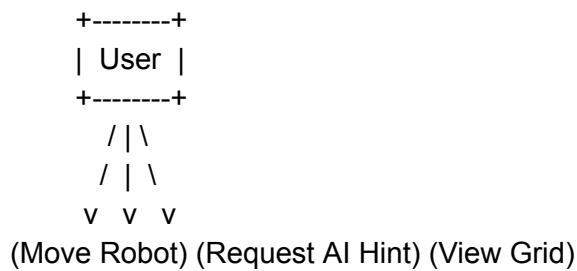
Reliability

Maintainability

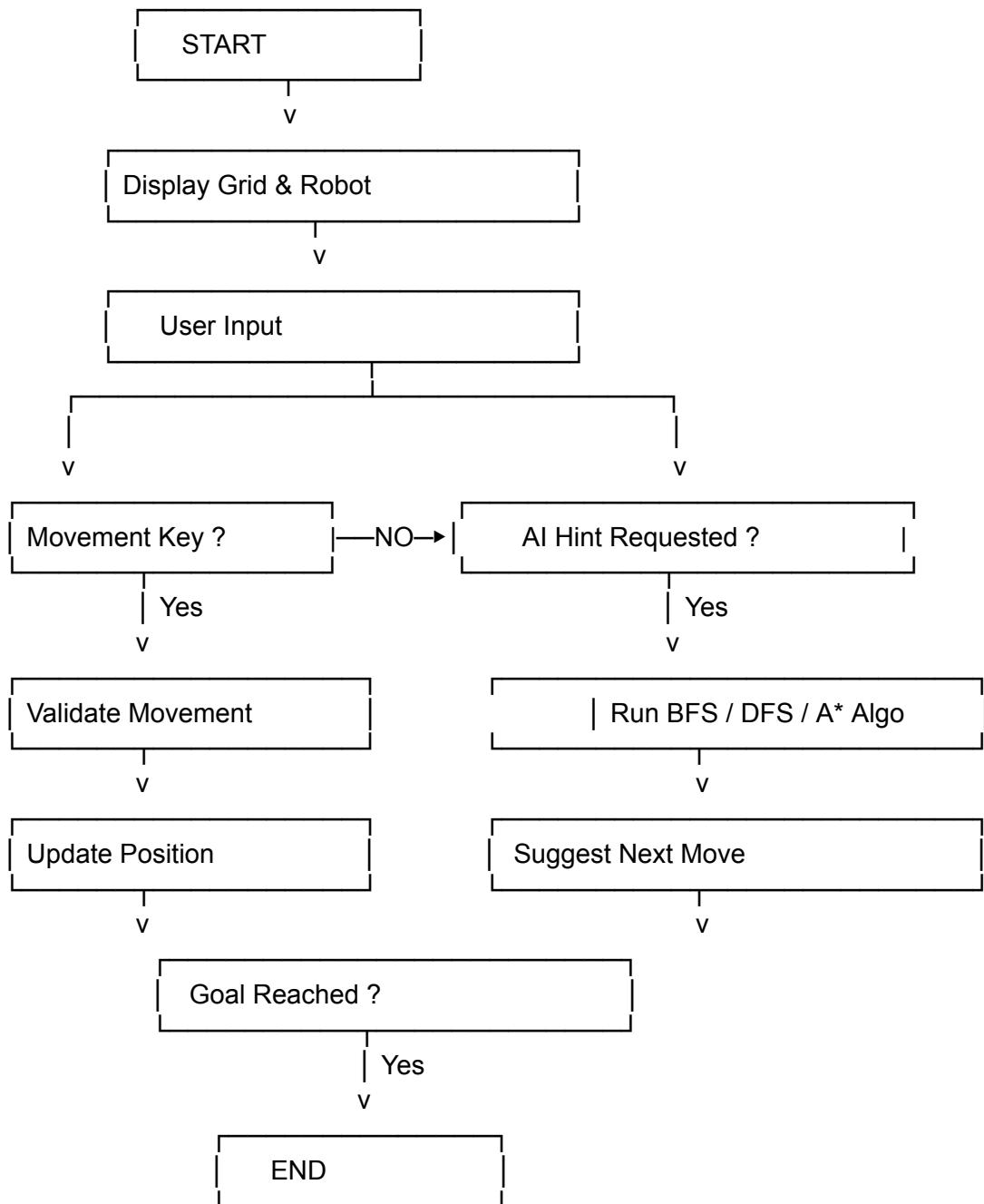
## 10. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



## 11. USE CASE DIAGRAM:



## 12. FLOWCHART:



## 13. SEQUENCE DIAGRAM:

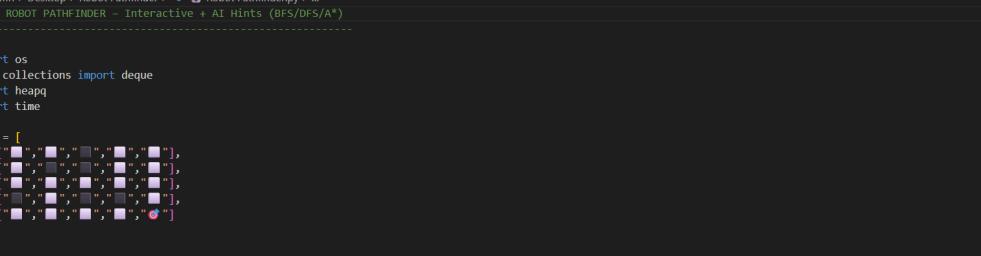
## User → System: Input

System → Algorithm: Run BFS/DFS/A\*

### Algorithm → System: Suggest Move

#### System → User: Display Suggestion

## 14. RESULTS:



File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help ← → Search

Welcome diabetes detector.ipynb README.md RobotPathfinder.py C:\...\Downloads Robot Pathfinder.py C:\...\Robot Pathfinder puzzle.py

```
C:\> Users > samri > Desktop > Robot Pathfinder > Robot Pathfinder.py ...  
1 # ROBOT PATHFINDER - Interactive + AI Hints (BFS/DFS/A*)  
2 #  
3  
4 import os  
5 from collections import deque  
6 import heapq  
7 import time  
8  
9 grid = [  
10     [" ", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
11     [" ", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
12     [" ", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
13     [" ", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
14     [" ", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
15 ]  
16  
17 ROWS, COLS = 5, 5  
18
```

TERMINAL

PROBLEMS 1 OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

Controls: w/a/s/d = move | b = BFS hint | f = DFS hint | h = A\* hint | q = quit

Your move: |

grid representation:


File Explorer:

- powershell
- powershell
- Python

Bottom status bar: Ln 1, Col 1 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF {} Python 3.12.10

System tray: 22°C Mostly clear ENG IN 2024 24-11-2024

## INITIAL GRID.

```
C:\> Users > samri > Desktop > Robot Pathfinder > Robot Pathfinder.py C:\...\Downloads
C: > ROBOT PATHFINDER - Interactive + AI Hints (BFS/DFS/A*)
1 # ROBOT PATHFINDER - Interactive + AI Hints (BFS/DFS/A*)
2 #
3
4 import os
5 from collections import deque
6 import heapq
7 import time
8
9 grid = [
10     ["-", "-", " ", " ", " "],
11     ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],
12     ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],
13     ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],
14     ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "]
15 ]
16
17 ROWS, COLS = 5, 5
18
```

Controls: w/a/s/d = move | b = BFS hint | f = DFS hint | h = A\* hint | q = quit

Your move: b  
BFS Suggestion: Down

Your move:

Ln 1, Col 1 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF () Python 3.12.10 2024 24-11-2025

## BFS SUGGESTION

```
C:\> Users > samri > Desktop > Robot Pathfinder > Robot Pathfinder.py C:\...\Downloads
C: > ROBOT PATHFINDER - Interactive + AI Hints (BFS/DFS/A*)
1 # ROBOT PATHFINDER - Interactive + AI Hints (BFS/DFS/A*)
2 #
3
4 import os
5 from collections import deque
6 import heapq
7 import time
8
9 grid = [
10     ["-", "-", " ", " ", " "],
11     ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],
12     ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],
13     ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],
14     ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "]
15 ]
16
17 ROWS, COLS = 5, 5
18
```

Controls: w/a/s/d = move | b = BFS hint | f = DFS hint | h = A\* hint | q = quit

Your move: b  
BFS Suggestion: Down

Your move: h  
A\* Suggestion: Down

Your move:

Ln 1, Col 1 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF () Python 3.12.10 2024 24-11-2025

## A\* SUGGESTION

```
C:\> Users > samri > Desktop > Robot Pathfinder > Robot Pathfinder.py ...  
1 # ROBOT PATHFINDER - Interactive + AI Hints (BFS/DFS/A*)  
2 # -----  
3  
4 import os  
5 from collections import deque  
6 import heapq  
7 import time  
8  
9 grid = [  
10    ["-", "-", " ", " ", " "],  
11    ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
12    ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
13    ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
14    ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
15 ]  
16  
17 ROWS, COLS = 5, 5  
18
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

Controls: w/a/s/d = move | b = BFS hint | f = DFS hint | h = A\* hint | q = quit

Your move: b  
BFS Suggestion: Down  
Your move: h  
A\* Suggestion: Down  
Your move: f  
DFS Suggestion: Down  
Your move:

Ln 1, Col 1 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF () Python 3.12.10 2024 24-11-2025

## DFS SUGGESTION

```
C:\> Users > samri > Desktop > Robot Pathfinder > Robot Pathfinder.py ...  
1 # ROBOT PATHFINDER - Interactive + AI Hints (BFS/DFS/A*)  
2 # -----  
3  
4 import os  
5 from collections import deque  
6 import heapq  
7 import time  
8  
9 grid = [  
10    ["-", "-", " ", " ", " "],  
11    ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
12    ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
13    ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
14    ["-", " ", " ", " ", " "],  
15 ]  
16  
17 ROWS, COLS = 5, 5  
18
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

Controls: w/a/s/d = move | b = BFS hint | f = DFS hint | h = A\* hint | q = quit

YOU REACHED THE GOAL!  
PS C:\Users\samri>

Ln 1, Col 1 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF () Python 3.12.10 2024 24-11-2025

## GOAL NODE REACHED

## 12. TESTING APPROACH:

Checking if it shows correct output if you collide in the wall or the boundary.  
Checking whether all the algorithms give the correct results when asked for hints.

## 13. CHALLENGES FACED:

Ensuring the grid and the walls and the blockages are visualised properly to avoid confusion.  
Debugging the algorithm and the code at times as it is long and complex.  
Making sure the interactive flow remains smooth without errors.

## 14. LEARNINGS AND TAKEAWAYS:

Understood the AI search algorithms in a better way after seeing and implementing them in a practical way.  
Learned more coding which was complex, long but equally interesting merged with the AI elements.  
Improved my debugging and structuring skills.

## 15. CONCLUSION:

The Robot Pathfinder effectively demonstrates the utility of classical AI search algorithms in an interactive, real-time robot navigation experience of a grid plane. From user manually directing the robot to AI hints generated from **BFS**, **DFS**, and **A\***, this system is both engaging and transparent about how the search algorithms function. Furthermore, it successfully illustrates the efficiency of each algorithm: BFS for predetermined pathways, DFS for touching every square available, and A\* for best prospective pathway determined in real time.

As for the development of said project, I learned various tangential skills relating to algorithm development, modular code usage, grid management, and user expectation creation. Furthermore, utilizing emojis to represent the robot and control options was a more interactive and personal experience, as well as the AI hints truly functioning as a capacity for suggestion. Thus, this project achieves its goals and is a great starting point for future development down the road, whether with enemy robots, randomly generated mazes, or a more extensive GUI.

