420-500: Programming Assignment 2

Read every page very carefully before you begin.

1. Implement seven search algorithms to solve 8-puzzle: dfs, bfs, dls, ids, greedy, a-star, ida-star.

2. Test and compare time and space complexity for all cases.

3. Test and compare the effect of different heuristic functions (for the informed search algorithms).

This project is inspired by: http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/novak/asg-8p.html.

Program 2: 8-Puzzle with Search

- Input: a board configuration
  ‘(1 3 4 8 6 2 7 0 5)

- Output: sequence of moves
  ‘(UP RIGHT UP LEFT DOWN)

- Search methods to be implemented (use the exact function interface):
  dfs, bfs, dls, ids, greedy, a-star, ida-star.

- Use $h_1$ (number of tiles out-of-place), and $h_2$ (sum of manhattan distance) for those requiring heuristics (make the functions to take the function as an argument).

- This is an individual project.

Program 2: Required Material

Use the exact filename as shown below (in bold).

- Program code (eight.lsp): put it in a single text file.
  – Ample indentation and documentation is required.

- Documentation (README): user manual plus results/analysis.

- Inputs and outputs (include in README; truncate output for search sessions that produce too much output):
  – Easy: ‘(1 3 4 8 6 2 7 0 5)
  – Medium: ‘(2 8 1 0 4 3 7 6 5)
  – Hard: ‘(5 6 7 4 0 8 3 2 1)

Program 2: Required Material (Cont’d)

Continued from the previous page

- For each run, report the time taken, the number of nodes visited. Except for IDA*, report the maximum length of the node list (or recursion depth) during the execution of the search.

- Compare the time and space complexity (from above) of various search methods using the Easy, Medium, and Hard case examples.

- For each method, comment on the strengths and weaknesses.

- Some search methods may fail to produce an answer. Analyze why it failed and report your findings.
Program 2: Function interface

- See http://courses.cs.tamu.edu/choe/07fall/420/src/eight-interface.lsp
- Exactly follow the interfaces and function names.

Program 2 Tips (1)

Timing execution: use `(time (your-function-to-run))` to get the execution time.

* `(time (car '(x x)))`
  real time : 0.000 secs
  run time : 0.000 secs
  X

Program 2 Tips (2)

Checking for duplicate states

```lisp
(defun dupe (state node-list)
  (dolist (node node-list nil)
    (if (equal state (first node))
      (return-from dupe T)))))
```

(You may use a state-list to save space, rather than a node-list, or better yet, use somekind of hash function.)

Program 2: State Representation

A node in the search tree has the following structure:

```
'((1 3 4 8 6 2 7 0 5); blank is stored as 0
  h ; heuristic function value
  depth ; depth from the root
  path)); list of moves from
  ; the start
```
Program 2: Sorting

'((1 3 4 8 6 2 7 0 5); blank is stored as 0
h ; heuristic function value
depth ; depth from the root
path)) ; list of moves from
; the start

Sorting a node list, e.g. according to the heuristic:

(sort <node-list>
#'(lambda (x y) (< (second x) (second y)) )
)

lambda : read define-anonymous function
#’something = (function something)
cf. ’something = (quote something)

Lambda Expression

lambda expression can basically replace any occurrences of function names, i.e. it works like an anonymous function:

(defun mysqr (x) (* x x))
(mysqr ’11)

; the above is the same as
((lambda (x) (* x x)) ’11)

; some more examples
(defun myop (x op)
  (eval (list op (first x) (second x))))

(myop ’(2 3) ’*)

(myop ’(2 3) ’(lambda (x y) (* x y)))

Sorting: Alternatives

(defun sort-node-list (node-list)
(sort node-list
#'(lambda (x y) (< (second x) (second y)) ))
)

; the above is equivalent to:
(defun sort-node-list (node-list)
(sort node-list
(function (lambda (x y) (< (second x) (second y)) )))
)

; the above is equivalent to:
(defun compare-h ( x y )
  (< (second x) (second y)))

(defun sort-node-list (node-list)
(sort node-list #'compare-h))

Sorting: Example

(setq test-node-list
'((list1 10 0 0) (list2 87 0 0)
(list 100 0 0) (list 5 1 0 0))
)

(defun sort-node-list (node-list)
(sort node-list
#'(lambda (x y) (< (second x) (second y)) ))
)

(sort-node-list test-node-list)

* You can use any combination of values to sort, and do ascending or descending sorts by changing the lambda function.
Program 2: Utility Routines

Source is available on the course web page:
http://courses.cs.tamu.edu/choe/07fall/420/src/eight-util.lsp

- (apply-op <operator> <node>): return new node after applying operator on current node
- (print-tile <state>): prints out the board
- (print-answer <state> <path>): prints boards after each move in the path, starting from the state.
- (while <cond> <expr1> <expr2> ...): while loop macro.

See http://courses.cs.tamu.edu/choe/07fall/420/src/eight-util.txt for example runs.

Program 2: DFS working code

See http://courses.cs.tamu.edu/choe/07fall/420/src/dfs.lsp for a functioning DFS code.

Program 2: Other tips

For this assignment, it is highly recommended that you compile and run your program. See ROB, "Lisp: compiling".

Program 2: Grading Criteria

- analysis, program comments, readability: 15%
- dfs, bfs, dls, and ids: 10% each
- greety, a-star, and ida-star: 15% each

Program 2: Submission

- Turnin using CSNET turnin page.
- See the course web page for details.
- No late submission will be allowed.
- Only send plain ASCII text files. Do not send MS-Word documents or other formatted text.