



Fast Shortest Path Algorithms for Large Road Networks



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Reference

- Faramroze Engineer
- Fast Shortest Path Algorithms for Large Road Networks
- ORSNZ Conference Twenty Naught One 30 November to 1 December, 2001 University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ



Outline

Introduction

Shortest Path Algorithms

Search Performance Analysis

Conclusion



Introduction

- Due to the nature of routing applications, we need flexible and efficient shortest path procedures, both from a processing time point of view and also in terms of the memory requirements.
- Since no "best" algorithm currently exists for every kind of transportation problem, research in this field has recently moved to the design and implementation of "heuristic" shortest path procedures.



Goal

- As it is impossible to cover all search implementations, we use Dijkstra's algorithms a building block to create an efficient search algorithm.
- It may not guarantee optimal results but gives significant savings in terms of memory requirements and processing speed.



Shortest Path Algorithms

- Dijkstra's Algorithm
- Symmetrical Dijkstra's Algorithm
- A* Search
- Radius Search



Dijkstra's Algorithm

It functions by constructing a shortest-path tree from the initial vertex to every other vertex in the graph .(Example)

Symmetrical Dijkstra's Algorithm

- The Symmetrical algorithm grows two search trees, one from the origin (L_F) , and the other from the destination (L_B) .
- We iteratively add one node to either L_F or L_B until there exists an arc crossing from L_F to L_B .



A* Search

- A* typically searches outward from the starting node until it reaches the goal node, always expanding the current fringe node that looks like it is along the best path from the start node to the goal node.
- The best node is the current fringe node with the minimum cost from the start node to the fringe node, plus the expected remaining cost (the heuristic cost) to get from the fringe node to the goal node.
- The heuristic used to estimate the remaining cost from any node to the goal plays a key role in A*.



The Difference between Dijkstra's and A*





Radius Search

- A Radius search is a hierarchical search with a continuous range of hierarchy levels.
- When looking for a shortest path from s to t, a node i is considered as a possible node to include in the search only if s or t lies inside a circle of radius r(i) centered at node i.
- If both distances are greater than the node radius, the node is simply ignored.

The Optimal Radius for a Node *i*

- Let $R = (R_{[1]}, R_{[2]}, \dots, R_{[|p|]})$ be an optimal path (sequence of nodes) from an origin node $R_{[1]}$ to a destination node $R_{[|p|]}$.
- Let $\mathbf{R} = (R_1, R_2, \dots, R_R)$ be the set of all optimal paths on G.
- Let R(i) be the set of all optimal paths that use node $i, R(i) = \{R \mid R: h? \{1, 2, ..., |R| \mid 1: R_{[h]} = i\}\}$

$$r(i) = \max_{R_{1}^{i} R(i)} \{ \min\{h_{E}(i, R_{1}), h_{E}(i, R_{R})\} \}$$



Radius Search-phase 1

Divide Network into grids of approximately 2000 nodes N_{SUB1} Î N Initial Radii of all nodesn î N to 0 while time permits Select a random node s î N Select random node t within the same grid as s Solve the shortest path R from s to t UpdateNodeRadii(R)

loop



```
UpdateNodeRadii(R) 
\begin{cases}
for all \ n \hat{1} \ R \\
r(n) = \max(r(n), \min(h_E(n, R_{[1]}), h_E(n, R_{[R]})) \\
next \ n
\end{cases}
```



Radius Search-phase 2

for all nodes do if r(n) = 0 and ClosedNode(n) = false then Define a sub-graph G_{SUB2} containing: 200 of the closest nodes N_{SUB2} to n All shortest paths R_{SUB2} defined on G_{SUB2} -фfor every shortest pathR \hat{I} R_{SUB2} do UpdateNodeRadii(R) next R end if next n



Radius Search-phase 3

Define extreme nodes $N_{EXTREME}$ for all shortest paths R from s $\hat{1}$ $N_{EXTREME}$ to t $\hat{1}$ $N_{EXTREME}$ UpdateNodeRadii(R) next R

Search Performance Analysis

- To test these algorithms we used parts of the London road network(22,500 km², has approximately 140,000 nodes and 298,000 directed arcs)
- 4 search algorithms:
 - Dijkstra's(Dijkstra's)
 - Dijkstra's Bi-directional (Symmetric)
 - A* algorithm (A*)
 - Dijkstra's Bi-directional algorithm with radius restriction (Radius)









Note: (PIR) Path Inaccuracy Rate



Conclusion

- By exploiting the physical structure of road networks, the A* algorithm is able to bias its search towards a goal and reduce the search space.
- By using the concept of radii as a measure of importance of nodes, we are able to incorporate pre-processing within our shortest path algorithm to further restrict the search space.
- This dramatically reduces the search complexity in terms of the run time performance while still maintaining an acceptable level of inaccuracy.