

Incremental Path Planning

Continuous Planning and Dynamic A*

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Outline

- Optimal Path Planning in Partially Known Environments.
- Continuous Optimal Path Planning
 - Dynamic A*
 - Incremental A* (LRTA*) [Appendix]

[Zellinsky, 92]

1. Generate global path plan from initial map.
2. Repeat until goal reached or failure:
 - Execute next step in current global path plan
 - Update map based on sensors.
 - If map changed generate new global path from map.

Compute Optimal Path

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| J | M | N | O |
| E | I | L | G |
| B | D | H | K |
| S | A | C | F |

Begin Executing Optimal Path

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| h=4 | h=3 | h=2 | h=1 |
| J | M | N | O |
| h=3 | h=2 | h=1 | h=0 |
| E | I | L | G |
| h=4 | h=3 | h=2 | h=1 |
| B | D | H | K |
| h=5 | h=4 | h=3 | h=2 |
| S | A | C | F |

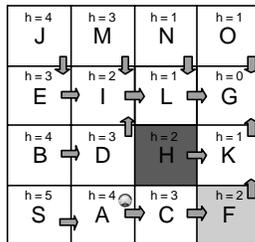
- Robot moves along backpointers towards goal.
- Uses sensors to detect discrepancies along way.

Obstacle Encountered!

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| h=4 | h=3 | h=1 | h=1 |
| J | M | N | O |
| h=3 | h=2 | h=1 | h=0 |
| E | I | L | G |
| h=4 | h=3 | h=2 | h=1 |
| B | D | H | K |
| h=5 | h=4 | h=3 | h=2 |
| S | A | C | F |

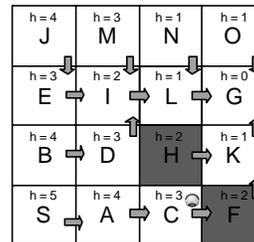
- At state A, robot discovers edge from D to H is blocked (cost 5,000 units).
- Update map and reinvok planner.

Continue Path Execution



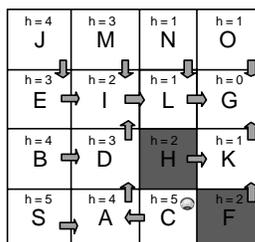
- A's previous path is still optimal.
- Continue moving robot along back pointers.

Second Obstacle, Replan!



- At C robot discovers blocked edges from C to F and H (cost 5,000 units).
- Update map and reinvoked planner.

Path Execution Achieves Goal



- Follow back pointers to goal.
- No further discrepancies detected; goal achieved!

Outline

- Optimal Path Planning in Partially Known Environments.
- Continuous Optimal Path Planning
 - Dynamic A*
 - Incremental A* (LRTA*) [Appendix]

What is Continuous Optimal Path Planning?

- Supports search as a repetitive online process.
- Exploits similarities between a series of searches to solve much faster than solving each search starting from scratch.
- Reuses the identical parts of the previous search tree, while updating differences.
- Solutions guaranteed to be optimal.
- On the first search, behaves like traditional algorithms.
 - D* behaves exactly like Dijkstra's.
 - Incremental A* behaves exactly like A*.

Dynamic A* (aka D*) [Stenz, 94]

1. Generate global path plan from initial map.
 2. Repeat until Goal reached, or failure.
 - Execute next step of current global path plan.
 - Update map based on sensor information.
 - Incrementally update global path plan from map changes.
- 1 to 3 orders of magnitude speedup relative to a non-incremental path planner.

Map and Path Concepts

- $c(X, Y)$:
 - Cost to move from Y to X.
 - $c(X, Y)$ is undefined if move disallowed.
- $Neighbors(X)$:
 - Any Y such that $c(X, Y)$ or $c(Y, X)$ is defined.
- $o(G, X)$:
 - True optimal path cost to Goal from X.
- $h(G, X)$:
 - Estimate of optimal path cost to goal from X.
- $b(X) = Y$: *backpointer* from X to Y.
 - Y is the first state on path from X to G.

D* Search Concepts

- *State tag* $t(X)$:
 - *NEW* : has no estimate h.
 - *OPEN* : estimate needs to be propagated.
 - *CLOSED* : estimate propagated.
- *OPEN list* :
 - States with estimates to be propagated to other states.
 - States on list tagged *OPEN*
 - Sorted by key function k (defined below).

D* Fundamental Search Concepts

- $k(G, X)$: key function
 - Minimum of
 - $h(G, X)$ before modification, and
 - all values assumed by $h(G, X)$ since X was placed on the *OPEN* list.
- *Lowered state* : $k(G, X) = \text{current } h(G, X)$,
 - Propagate decrease to descendants and other nodes.
- *Raised state* : $k(G, X) < \text{current } h(G, X)$,
 - Propagate increase to descendants and other nodes.
 - Try to find alternate shorter paths.

Running D* First Time on Graph

Initially

- Mark G Open and Queue it
- Mark all other states New
- Run *Process_States* on queue until path found or empty.

When edge cost $c(X, Y)$ changes

- If X is marked *Closed*, then
 - Update $h(X)$
 - Mark X open and queue with key $h(X)$.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| J NEW | M NEW | N NEW | O NEW |
| E NEW | I NEW | L NEW | G NEW |
| B NEW | D NEW | H NEW | K NEW |
| S NEW | A NEW | C NEW | F NEW |

States initially tagged NEW (no cost determined yet).

Use D* to Compute Initial Path

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| J NEW | M NEW | N NEW | O NEW |
| E NEW | I NEW | L NEW | G OPEN |
| B NEW | D NEW | H NEW | K NEW |
| S NEW | A NEW | C NEW | F NEW |

| OPEN List | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1 | (0, G) |
| | |

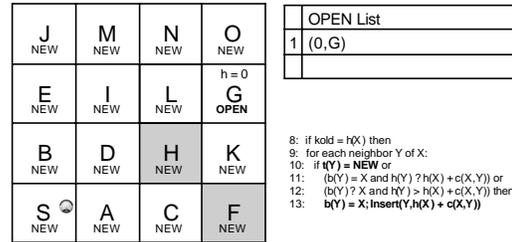
8: if $h(X) = h(Y)$ then
 9: for each neighbor Y of X:
 10: if $t(Y) = \text{NEW}$ or
 11: $(b(Y) = X \text{ and } h(Y) > h(X) + c(X, Y))$ or
 12: $(b(Y) \neq X \text{ and } h(Y) > h(X) + c(X, Y))$ then
 13: $b(Y) = X; \text{Insert}(Y, h(X) + c(X, Y))$

- Add Goal node to the *OPEN* list.
- Process *OPEN* list until the robot's current state is *CLOSED*.

Process_State: New or Lowered State

- Remove from Open list, state X with lowest k
- If X is a new/lowered state, its path cost is optimal! Then propagate to each neighbor Y
 - If Y is New, give it an initial path cost and propagate.
 - If Y is a descendant of X, propagate any change.
 - Else, if X can lower Y's path cost, Then do so and propagate.

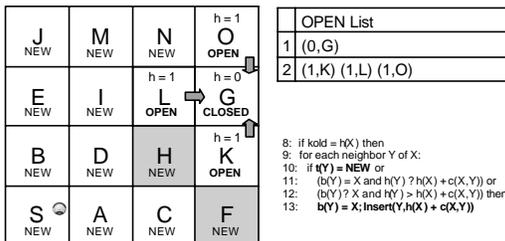
Use D* to Compute Initial Path



- if kold = h(X) then
- for each neighbor Y of X:
 - if (Y) = NEW or
 - (b(Y) = X and h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X, Y)) or
 - (b(Y) ? X and h(Y) > h(X) + c(X, Y)) then
 - b(Y) = X; Insert(Y, h(X) + c(X, Y))

- Add new neighbors of G onto the OPEN list
- Create backpointers to G.

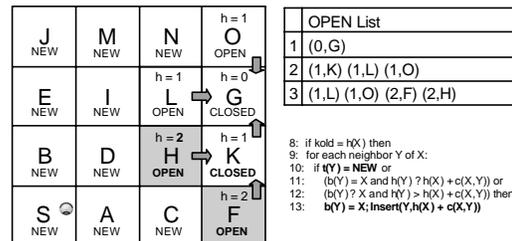
Use D* to Compute Initial Path



- if kold = h(X) then
- for each neighbor Y of X:
 - if (Y) = NEW or
 - (b(Y) = X and h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X, Y)) or
 - (b(Y) ? X and h(Y) > h(X) + c(X, Y)) then
 - b(Y) = X; Insert(Y, h(X) + c(X, Y))

- Add new neighbors of G onto the OPEN list
- Create backpointers to G.

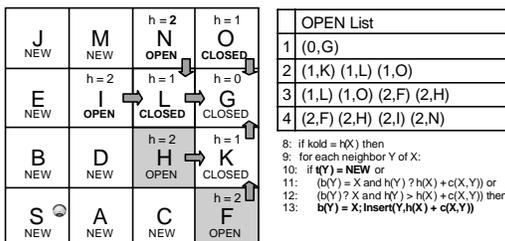
Use D* to Compute Initial Path



- if kold = h(X) then
- for each neighbor Y of X:
 - if (Y) = NEW or
 - (b(Y) = X and h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X, Y)) or
 - (b(Y) ? X and h(Y) > h(X) + c(X, Y)) then
 - b(Y) = X; Insert(Y, h(X) + c(X, Y))

- Add new neighbors of K onto the OPEN list
- Create backpointers.

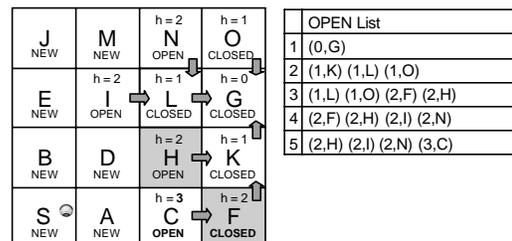
Use D* to Compute Initial Path



- if kold = h(X) then
- for each neighbor Y of X:
 - if (Y) = NEW or
 - (b(Y) = X and h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X, Y)) or
 - (b(Y) ? X and h(Y) > h(X) + c(X, Y)) then
 - b(Y) = X; Insert(Y, h(X) + c(X, Y))

- Add new neighbors of L, then O onto the OPEN list
- Create backpointers.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path



- Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| J NEW | M NEW | N OPEN | O CLOSED |
| E NEW | I OPEN | L CLOSED | G CLOSED |
| B NEW | D OPEN | H CLOSED | K CLOSED |
| S NEW | A NEW | C OPEN | F CLOSED |

| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1 | (0,G) |
| 2 | (1,K) (1,L) (1,O) |
| 3 | (1,L) (1,O) (2,F) (2,H) |
| 4 | (2,F) (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) |
| 5 | (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) |
| 6 | (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) |

Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| J NEW | M OPEN | N OPEN | O CLOSED |
| E OPEN | I CLOSED | L CLOSED | G CLOSED |
| B NEW | D OPEN | H CLOSED | K CLOSED |
| S NEW | A NEW | C OPEN | F CLOSED |

| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | (0,G) |
| 2 | (1,K) (1,L) (1,O) |
| 3 | (1,L) (1,O) (2,F) (2,H) |
| 4 | (2,F) (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) |
| 5 | (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) |
| 6 | (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) |
| 7 | (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) |

Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| J NEW | M OPEN | N CLOSED | O CLOSED |
| E OPEN | I CLOSED | L CLOSED | G CLOSED |
| B NEW | D OPEN | H CLOSED | K CLOSED |
| S NEW | A NEW | C OPEN | F CLOSED |

| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | (0,G) |
| 2 | (1,K) (1,L) (1,O) |
| 3 | (1,L) (1,O) (2,F) (2,H) |
| 4 | (2,F) (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) |
| 5 | (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) |
| 6 | (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) |
| 7 | (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) |
| 8 | (3,C) (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) |

Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| J NEW | M OPEN | N CLOSED | O CLOSED |
| E OPEN | I CLOSED | L CLOSED | G CLOSED |
| B NEW | D OPEN | H CLOSED | K CLOSED |
| S NEW | A OPEN | C CLOSED | F CLOSED |

| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | (0,G) |
| 2 | (1,K) (1,L) (1,O) |
| 3 | (1,L) (1,O) (2,F) (2,H) |
| 4 | (2,F) (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) |
| 5 | (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) |
| 6 | (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) |
| 7 | (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) |
| 8 | (3,C) (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) |
| 9 | (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) (4,A) |

Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| J NEW | M OPEN | N CLOSED | O CLOSED |
| E OPEN | I CLOSED | L CLOSED | G CLOSED |
| B OPEN | D CLOSED | H CLOSED | K CLOSED |
| S NEW | A OPEN | C CLOSED | F CLOSED |

| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | (0,G) |
| 2 | (1,K) (1,L) (1,O) |
| 3 | (1,L) (1,O) (2,F) (2,H) |
| 4 | (2,F) (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) |
| 5 | (2,H) (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) |
| 6 | (2,I) (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) |
| 7 | (2,N) (3,C) (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) |
| 8 | (3,C) (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) |
| 9 | (3,D) (3,E) (3,M) (4,A) |
| 10 | (3,E) (3,M) (4,A) (4,B) |

Continue until current state S is closed.

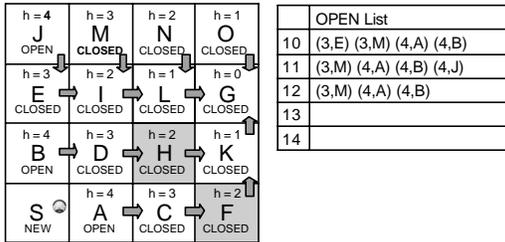
Use D* to Compute Initial Path

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| J OPEN | M OPEN | N CLOSED | O CLOSED |
| E CLOSED | I CLOSED | L CLOSED | G CLOSED |
| B OPEN | D CLOSED | H CLOSED | K CLOSED |
| S NEW | A OPEN | C CLOSED | F CLOSED |

| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 10 | (3,E) (3,M) (4,A) (4,B) |
| 11 | (3,M) (4,A) (4,B) (4,J) |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | |

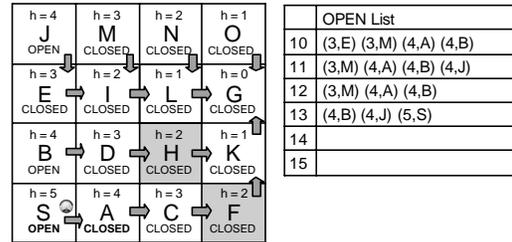
Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path



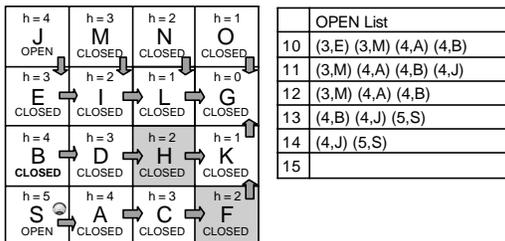
- Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path



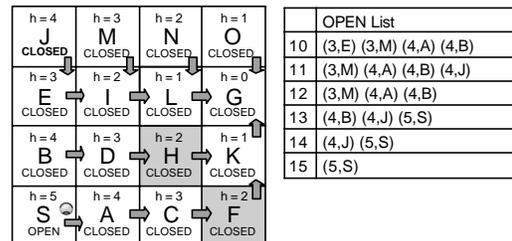
- Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path



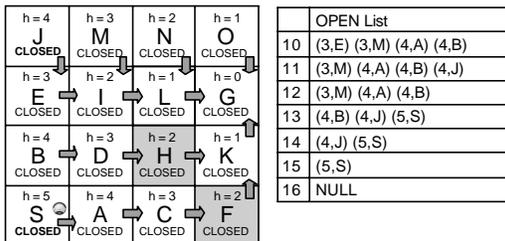
- Continue until current state S is closed.

Use D* to Compute Initial Path



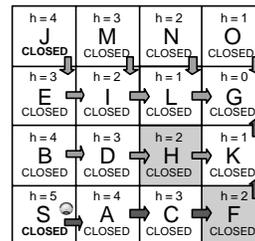
- Continue until current state S is closed.

D* Completed Initial Path



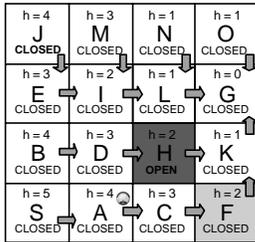
- Done: Current state S is closed, and Open list is empty.

Begin Executing Optimal Path



- Robot moves along backpointers towards goal
- Uses sensors to detect discrepancies along way.

Obstacle Encountered!



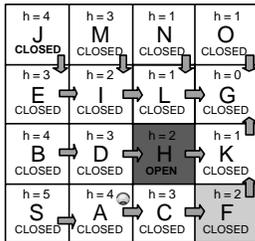
- At state A, robot discovers edge D to H is blocked off (cost 5,000 units).
- Update map and reinvoked D*

Running D* After Edge Cost Change

When edge cost $c(X,Y)$ changes

- If X is marked Closed, then
 - Update $h(X)$
 - Mark X open and queue, key is new $h(X)$.
- Run `Process_State` on queue
 - until path to current state is shown optimal,
 - or queue Open List is empty.

D* Update From First Obstacle

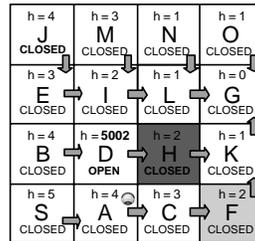


| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1 | (2,H) |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

Function: `Modify-Cost(X,Y,eval)`
 1: $c(X,Y) = eval$
 2: if $h(X) = CLOSED$ then $insert(X,h(X))$
 3: return `Get-Kmin()`

- Assign cost of 5,000 for D to H
- Propagate changes starting at H

D* Update From First Obstacle



| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1 | (2,H) |
| 2 | (3,D) |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

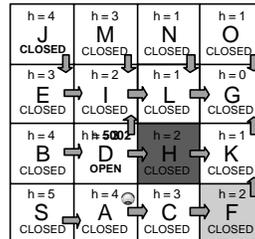
8: if $kold = h(X)$ then
 9: for each neighbor Y of X:
 10: if $h(Y) = NEW$ or
 11: $(b(Y) = X \text{ and } h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X,Y))$ or
 12: $(b(Y) ? X \text{ and } h(Y) > h(X) + c(X,Y))$ then
 13: $b(Y) = X; insert(Y, h(X) + c(X,Y))$

- Raise cost of H's descendant D, and propagate.

Process_State: Raised State

- If X is a raise state its cost might be suboptimal.
 - Try reducing cost of X using an *optimal neighbor* Y.
 - $h(Y) = [h(X)$ before it was raised]
 - Propagate X's cost to each neighbor Y
 - If Y is New, Then give it an initial path cost and propagate.
 - If Y is a descendant of X, Then propagate ANY change.
 - If X can lower Y's path cost,
 - Postpone: Queue X to propagate when optimal (reach current $h(X)$)
 - If Y can lower X's path cost, and Y is suboptimal,
 - Postpone: Queue Y to propagate when optimal (reach current $h(Y)$).
- Postponement avoids creating cycles.

D* Update From First Obstacle

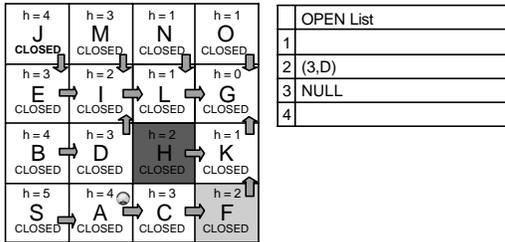


| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1 | (2,H) |
| 2 | (3,D) |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

4: if $kold < h(X)$ then
 5: for each neighbor Y of X:
 6: if $h(Y) = kold$ and $h(X) > h(Y) + c(Y,X)$ then
 7: $b(X) = Y; h(X) = h(Y) + c(Y,X)$

- D may not be optimal, check neighbors for better path.
- Transitioning to I is better, and I's path is optimal, so update D.

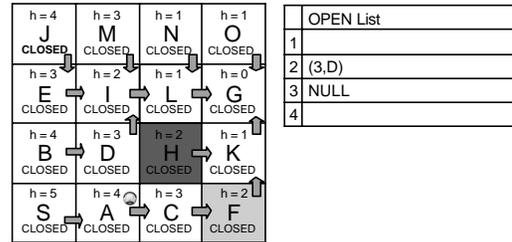
D* Update From First Obstacle



| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1 | |
| 2 | (3,D) |
| 3 | NULL |
| 4 | |

- All neighbors of D have consistent hvalues.
- No further propagation needed.

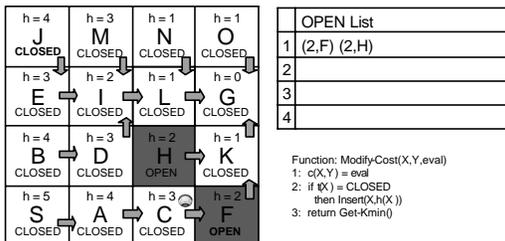
Continue Path Execution



| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1 | |
| 2 | (3,D) |
| 3 | NULL |
| 4 | |

- A's path optimal.
- Continue moving robot along backpointers.

Second Obstacle!

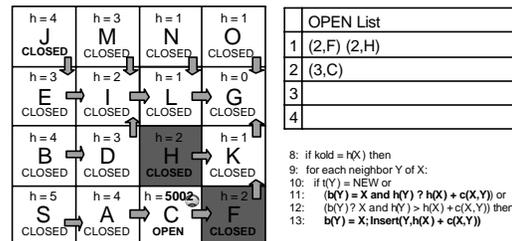


| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | (2,F) (2,H) |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

Function: Modify-Cost(X,Y,eval)
 1: $c(X,Y) = eval$
 2: if $(X) = CLOSED$ then $Insert(X,h(X))$
 3: return $Get-Kmin()$

- At C robot discovers blocked edges C to F and H (cost 5,000 units).
- Update map and reinvoke D* until H(current position optimal).

D* Update From Second Obstacle

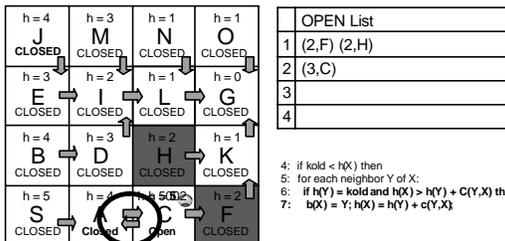


| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | (2,F) (2,H) |
| 2 | (3,C) |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

8: if $kold = h(X)$ then
 9: for each neighbor Y of X:
 10: if $t(Y) = NEW$ or
 11: $(b(Y) = X \text{ and } h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X,Y))$ or
 12: $(b(Y) ? X \text{ and } h(Y) > h(X) + c(X,Y))$ then
 13: $b(Y) = X; Insert(Y,h(X) + c(X,Y))$

- Processing F raises descendant C's cost, and propagates.
- Processing H does nothing.

D* Update From Second Obstacle

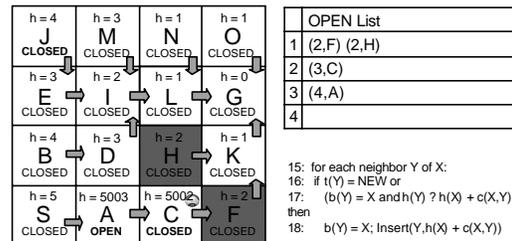


| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | (2,F) (2,H) |
| 2 | (3,C) |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

4: if $kold < h(X)$ then
 5: for each neighbor Y of X:
 6: if $h(Y) = kold \text{ and } h(X) > h(Y) + c(Y,X)$ then
 7: $h(X) = Y; h(X) = h(Y) + c(Y,X)$

- C may be suboptimal, check neighbors; → Better path through A!
- However, A may be suboptimal, and updating would create a loop!

D* Update From Second Obstacle



| OPEN List | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | (2,F) (2,H) |
| 2 | (3,C) |
| 3 | (4,A) |
| 4 | |

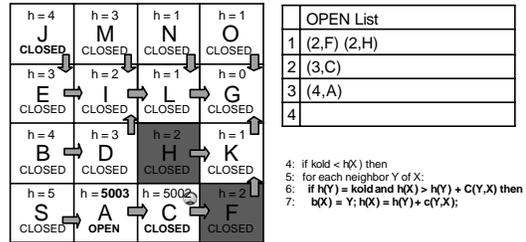
15: for each neighbor Y of X:
 16: if $t(Y) = NEW$ or
 17: $(b(Y) = X \text{ and } h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X,Y))$
 then
 18: $b(Y) = X; Insert(Y,h(X) + c(X,Y))$

- Don't change C's path to A (yet).
- Instead, propagate increase to A.

Process_State: Raised State

- If X is a raise state its cost might be suboptimal.
 - Try reducing cost of X using an *optimal neighbor Y*.
 - $h(Y) = \lceil h(X) \rceil$ before it was raised
 - propagate X's cost to each neighbor Y
 - If Y is New, Then give it an initial path cost and propagate.
 - If Y is a descendant of X, Then propagate ANY change.
 - If X can lower Y's path cost,
 - Postpone: Queue X to propagate when optimal (reach current $h(X)$)
 - If Y can lower X's path cost, and Y is suboptimal,
 - Postpone: Queue Y to propagate when optimal (reach current $h(Y)$).
- Postponement avoids creating cycles.

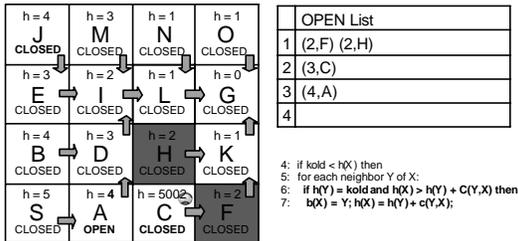
D* Update From Second Obstacle



- 4: if $kold < h(X)$ then
- 5: for each neighbor Y of X:
- 6: if $h(Y) = kold$ and $h(X) > h(Y) + c(Y,X)$ then
- 7: $b(X) = Y; h(X) = h(Y) + c(Y,X);$

- A may not be optimal, check neighbors for better path.
- Transitioning to D is better, and D's path is optimal, so update A

D* Update From Second Obstacle



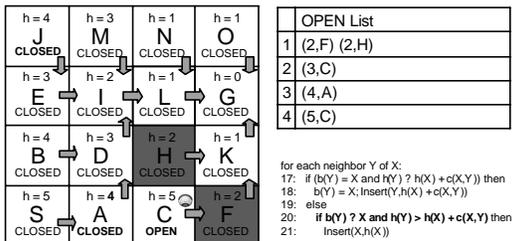
- 4: if $kold < h(X)$ then
- 5: for each neighbor Y of X:
- 6: if $h(Y) = kold$ and $h(X) > h(Y) + c(Y,X)$ then
- 7: $b(X) = Y; h(X) = h(Y) + c(Y,X);$

- A may not be optimal, check neighbors for better path.
- Transitioning to D is better, and D's path is optimal, so update A

Process_State: New or Lowered State

- Remove from Open list, state X with lowest k
- If X is a new/lowered state its path cost is optimal, Then propagate to each neighbor Y
 - If Y is New, give it an initial path cost and propagate.
 - If Y is a descendant of X, propagate any change.
 - Else, if X can lower Y's path cost, Then do so and propagate.

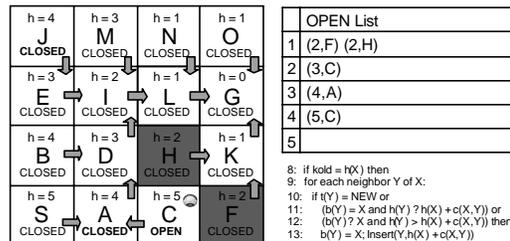
D* Update From Second Obstacle



- 17: if $(b(Y) = X \text{ and } h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X,Y))$ then
- 18: $b(Y) = X; \text{Insert}(Y, h(X) + c(X,Y))$
- 19: else
- 20: if $h(Y) ? X \text{ and } h(Y) > h(X) + c(X,Y)$ then
- 21: $\text{Insert}(X, h(X))$

- A can improve neighbor C, so queue C.

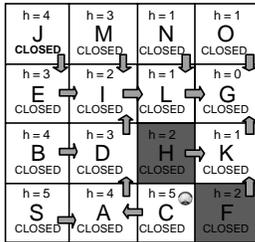
D* Update From Second Obstacle



- 8: if $kold = h(X)$ then
- 9: for each neighbor Y of X:
- 10: if $t(Y) = \text{NEW}$ or
- 11: $(b(Y) = X \text{ and } h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X,Y))$ or
- 12: $(b(Y) ? X \text{ and } h(Y) > h(X) + c(X,Y))$ then
- 13: $b(Y) = X; \text{Insert}(Y, h(X) + c(X,Y))$

- C lowered to optimal; no neighbors affected.
- Current state reached, so Process_State terminates.

Complete Path Execution



- Follow back pointers to Goal.
- No further discrepancies detected; goal achieved!

D* Pseudo Code

```

Function: Process-State()
1: X = Min-State()
2: if X=NULL then return -1
3: kold = Get-Kmin(); Delete(X)
4: if kold < h(X) then
5:   for each neighbor Y of X:
6:     if h(Y) = kold and h(X) > h(Y) + c(Y,X) then
7:       b(X) = Y; h(X) = h(Y) + c(Y,X)
8:   if kold = h(X) then
9:     for each neighbor Y of X:
10:      if t(Y) = NEW or
11:         (b(Y) = X and h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X,Y) or
12:          (b(Y) ? X and h(X) > h(X) + c(X,Y)) then
13:        b(Y) = X; Insert(Y,h(X) + c(X,Y))
14:      else
15:        for each neighbor Y of X:
16:          if t(Y) = NEW or
17:             (b(Y) = X and h(Y) ? h(X) + c(X,Y) then
18:            b(Y) = X; Insert(Y,h(X) + c(X,Y))
19:          else
20:            if b(Y) ? X and h(X) > h(Y) + c(X,Y) then
21:              Insert(X,h(X))
22:            else
23:              if b(Y) ? X and h(X) > h(Y) + c(Y,X) and
24:                 t(Y) = CLOSED and h(Y) > kold then
25:                Insert(Y,h(Y))
26: return Get-Kmin()

Function: Modify-Cost(X,Y,eval)
1: c(X,Y) = eval
2: if t(X) = CLOSED
   then Insert(X,h(X))
3: return Get-Kmin()

Function: Insert(X, h_max)
1: if t(X) = NEW
   then k(x) = h_max
2: else if t(X) = OPEN
   then k(X) = min(k(X), h_max)
3: else
   k(X) = min(h(X), h_max)
4: h(X) = h_max
5: t(X) = OPEN
    
```

Recap: Continuous Optimal Planning

- Generate global path plan from initial map.
 - Repeat until Goal reached, or failure.
 - Execute next step of current global path plan.
 - Update map based on sensor information.
 - Incrementally update global path plan from map changes.
- 1 to 3 orders of magnitude speedup relative to a non-incremental path planner.

Recap: Dynamic A*

- Supports search as a repetitive online process.
- Exploits similarities between a series of searches to solve much faster than from scratch.
- Reuses the identical parts of the previous search tree, while updating differences.
- Solutions guaranteed to be optimal.
- On the first search, behaves like traditional Dijkstra.