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BCA Honours | Semester III | Calicut University

Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

Course Code: BCA3CJ204 • Module 2 Notes

MODULE II: PROBLEM SOLVING AND SEARCH STRATEGIES

1. State Space Search and the A* Algorithm

A^* search explores the state space using the evaluation function $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$, achieving optimal completeness when heuristic $h(n)$ is admissible.

2. Illustrative Computational Working: Step-by-Step Numerical Example

Worked Example: A* Search Step-by-Step Pathfinding Trace

Problem Statement:

Find the shortest path from Start node S to Goal node G with heuristics: $h(S) = 7, h(A) = 6, h(B) = 2, h(G) = 0$. Edge costs: $(S, A) = 1, (S, B) = 4, (A, B) = 2, (B, G) = 3$.

Solution & Step-by-Step Working:

1. Initialize: Open list $= S(f = 0 + 7 = 7)$.
2. Expand S: Generate $A(g = 1, f = 1 + 6 = 7)$ and $B(g = 4, f = 4 + 2 = 6)$. Open list $= B(6), A(7)$.
3. Expand B (lowest f): From B, reach $G(g = 4 + 3 = 7, f = 7 + 0 = 7)$. Open list $= A(7), G(7)$.
4. Expand A: From A, reach B with $g = 1 + 2 = 3 < 4$ (better path!). Recompute G via $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow G$: $g = 3 + 3 = 6, f = 6 + 0 = 6$.
5. Expand G: Optimal goal reached with total cost $\mathbf{g = 6}$. Path: $\mathbf{S \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow G}$.

Advanced Architectural Extensions & Industrial Systems Synthesis

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1. Contemporary Engineering Dilemmas and Architectural Solutions

Engineering teams designing systems centered around Foundations of Artificial Intelligence must systematically navigate fundamental computational trade-offs:

- **Time Complexity Optimization versus Space Consumption:** In high-throughput algorithmic pipelines related to Heuristic Search and Problem Solving, pre-computing intermediate lookup tables (memoization, spatial indices, hash tables) achieves near-instantaneous $O(1)$ query latency, but inflates physical memory footprints. Conversely, in-place algorithms minimize RAM utilization at the expense of higher cycle counts. Modern architectures dynamically calibrate memory allocations using memory-mapped I/O and cache-aware data layouts.
- **Concurrency Scalability versus Thread Contention:** While multi-core architectures allow massive horizontal execution, concurrent modifications to shared state structures create severe lock contention, thread synchronization bottlenecks, and cache line invalidation storms. High-performance frameworks

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deploy lock-free algorithms, optimistic concurrency control, and atomic compare-and-swap (CAS) primitives.

- **Algorithmic Determinism versus Real-World Heuristic Scalability:** Exact mathematical algorithms frequently encounter NP-hard combinatorial explosions as problem dimensions scale. Contemporary industrial systems bridge this gap by deploying bounded approximation algorithms and meta-heuristics that produce near-optimal solutions within guaranteed execution time windows.

2. Empirical Comparative Framework

A structured comparative assessment clarifies operational distinctions across conventional and modern paradigms in Foundations of Artificial Intelligence:

Evaluation Dimension	Conventional Traditional Approach	Contemporary Integrated Paradigm	Strategic Impact Metric
Architecture Paradigm	Monolithic single-threaded architectures with tightly coupled state.	Distributed microservices with asynchronous event queues and thread-safe data structures.	Linear scalability and resilient fault isolation under peak transactional loads.
Data Processing Pipeline	Synchronous batch processing characterized by high latency and scheduled processing windows.	Real-time streaming pipelines (Apache Kafka, Flink) with sub-second event ingestion and processing.	Zero-latency decision intelligence and immediate anomaly response.
Resilience & Failover	Manual failover mechanisms requiring operator intervention and scheduled downtime.	Automated self-healing clusters with dynamic health checking and zero-downtime rolling deployments.	Continuous availability meeting strict 99.999% Service Level Agreements (SLAs).
System Telemetry & Auditing	Static text logging with periodic post-incident analysis.	Distributed tracing (OpenTelemetry), structured JSON metrics, and automated root-cause diagnostics.	Mean Time to Detection (MTTD) and Recovery (MTTR) reduced from hours to seconds.

3. Step-by-Step Implementation and Operational Governance Roadmap

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- **Phase I: Architectural Assessment & Baseline Telemetry:** Conducting diagnostic audits of baseline throughput, memory access patterns, and I/O bottlenecks to establish empirical performance benchmarks.
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Industrial Risk Governance, Statutory Compliance & Failure Mode Analysis

Mission-critical systems must withstand rigorous scrutiny across operational, legal, and cyber-security dimensions. System architects deploy structured risk evaluation matrices to eliminate vulnerabilities across critical operational categories:

Risk Category	Primary Sources of Vulnerability	Diagnostic Warning Indicators	Mitigation Protocol & Internal Controls
Algorithmic & Logic Risk	Infinite recursion, stack overflows, unhandled edge cases, pointer corruption.	Core dumps, segmentation faults, abrupt memory footprint spikes, unresponsive threads.	Formal loop invariant assertions, strict boundary validation, automated fuzz testing, static code analysis.
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Statutory & Regulatory Risk	Non-compliance with national data protection regulations (DPDP Act, GDPR), audit trail gaps.	Unencrypted sensitive user data at rest, unlogged administrative data modifications.	Automated encryption (AES-256), immutable cryptographic audit logs, periodic external compliance audits.

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