

CSU33061 Artificial Intelligence

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This assignment asks you to apply the A* search algorithm to the processing of propositional Prolog knowledge bases such as

```
q:- a.
q:- b,c.
a:- d,e.
a:- c,e,f.
b:- c.
c:- e,f.
e.
f:- e.
```

which we can represent as the list

```
[[q,a],[q,b,c],[a,d,e],[a,c,e,f],[b,c],[c,e,f],[e],[f,e]]
```

and use as KB in the clauses

```
arc([H|T],Node,Cost,KB) :- member([H|B],KB), append(B,T,Node),
                             length(B,L), Cost is 1+ L/(L+1).
```

```
heuristic(Node,H) :- length(Node,H).
```

```
goal([]).
```

Your task is to define a predicate

```
astar(+Node,?Path,?Cost,+KB)
```

that implements A*, returning a path from Node to the goal node [] with minimal cost, given KB. Test your code with queries such as

```
?- astar([q],Path,Cost,
         [[q,a],[q,b,c],[a,d,e],[a,c,e,f],[b,c],[c,e,f],[e],[f,e]]).
Cost = 11.916666666666668,
Path = [[q], [a], [c, e, f], [e, f, e, f], [f, e, f], [e, e, f],
        [e, f], [f], [e], []] ;
Cost = 13.499999999999998,
Path = [[q], [b, c], [c, c], [e, f, c], [f, c], [e, c], [c],
        [e, f], [f], [e], []] ;
```

```
false
```

```
?- astar([q],Path,Cost,[[q,a],[q,b,c],[a],[b],[c]]).  
Cost = 2.5,  
Path = [[q], [a], []] ;  
Cost = 3.6666666666666665,  
Path = [[q], [b, c], [c], []] ;  
false
```

Hint Modify the skeletal search algorithm

```
search([Node|_]) :- goal(Node).  
search([Node|More]) :- findall(X,arc(Node,X),Children),  
                        add2frontier(Children,More,New),  
                        search(New).
```

so that the head of the list `New` obtained in `add2frontier` has f -value no larger than any in `New`'s tail, where

$$f(\text{node}) = \text{cost}(\text{node}) + h(\text{node}).$$

Let the frontier be a list of path-cost pairs (instead of just nodes), being careful to update path costs, and to bring in the heuristic function in forming the frontier `New`.

```
less-than([[Node1|_],Cost1],[Node2|_],Cost2) :-  
    heuristic(Node1,Hvalue1), heuristic(Node2,Hvalue2),  
    F1 is Cost1+Hvalue1, F2 is Cost2+Hvalue2,  
    F1 =< F2.
```