Anytime Heuristic Search: Frameworks and Algorithms

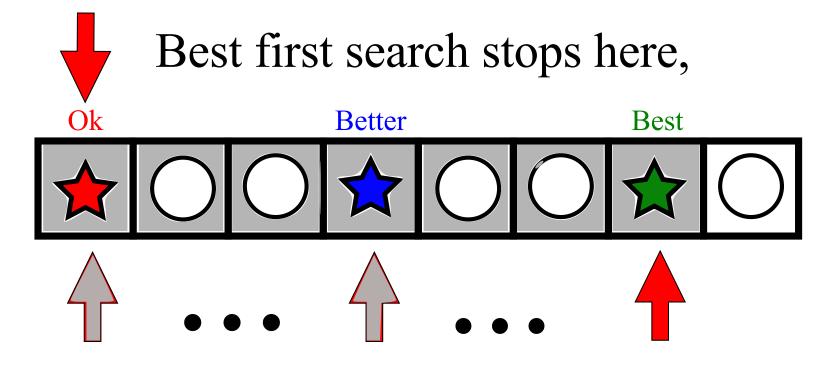


Jordan Thayer and Wheeler Ruml

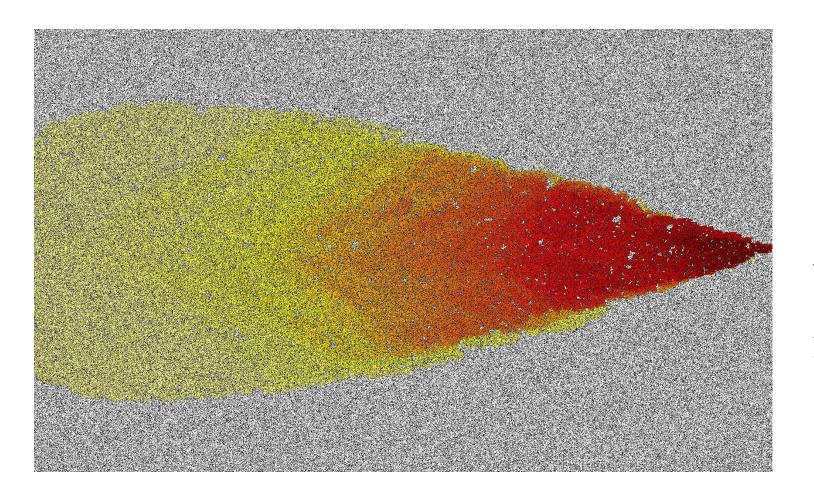
Which bounded suboptimal search performs best when converted to an anytime search?

Previously Proposed Frameworks

Continued Search
Hansen & Zhou 2007



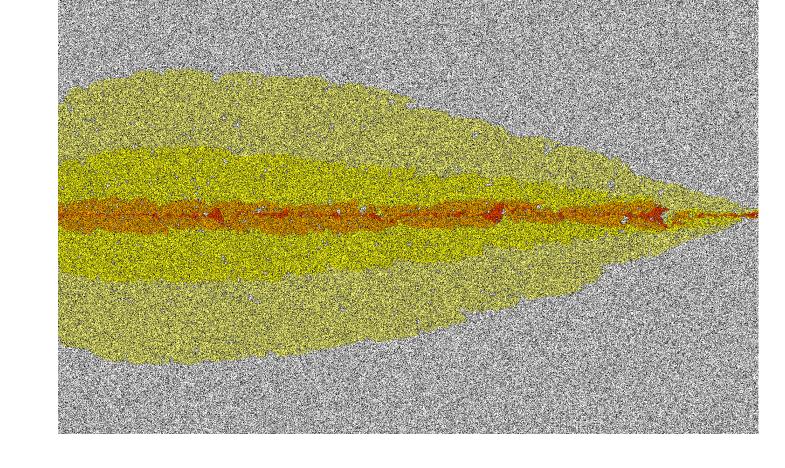
but continued search keeps going!



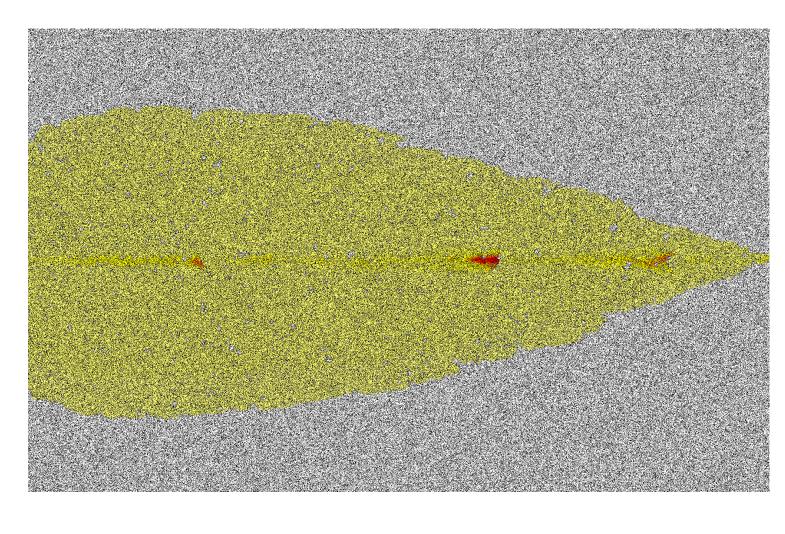
Continued search is biased towards nodes near the goal.

Repairing Search Likhachev, Gordon, & Thrun 2003 We change the algorithm parameters between goals and resort.

Repairing reduces the bias to a great extent.



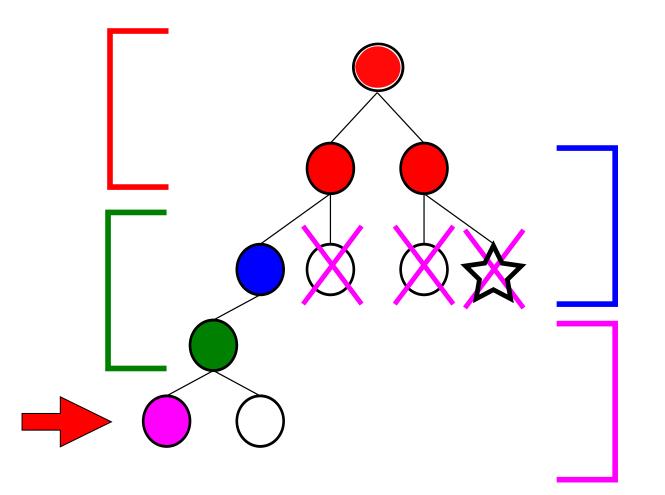
Restarting Search Richter, Thayer, & Ruml 2010 Run a series of bounded suboptimal searches ending with an optimal search.



Restarting removes the bias entirely.

Contribution: Improved Anytime WindowA*

Window A* expands nodes within a fixed distance of the deepest node expanded. It assumes nodes at similar depths are the same distance from the goal and similarly informed.



d-Fenestration

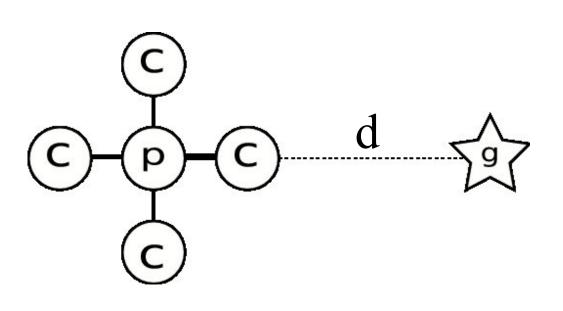
Life Four-way Grids 35% Obstacles

0.9

A-Fenestration window A*

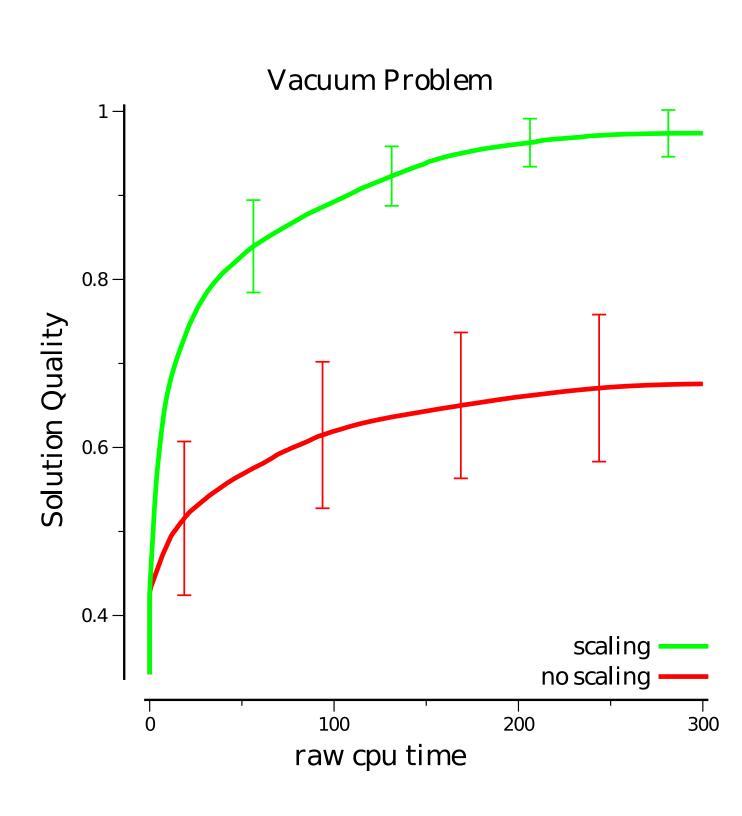
0 raw cpu time

Not all nodes progress towards the goal at the same rate. We can estimate their distance using d.



Basing the windows on d rather than depth leads to large speedups!

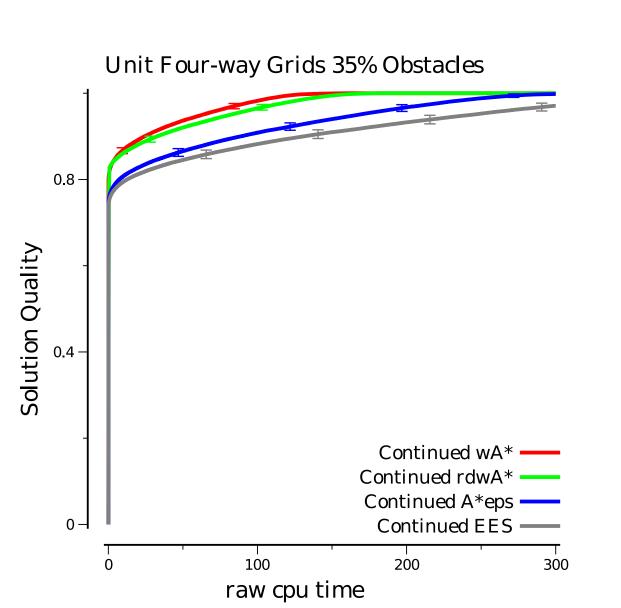
scaling window size

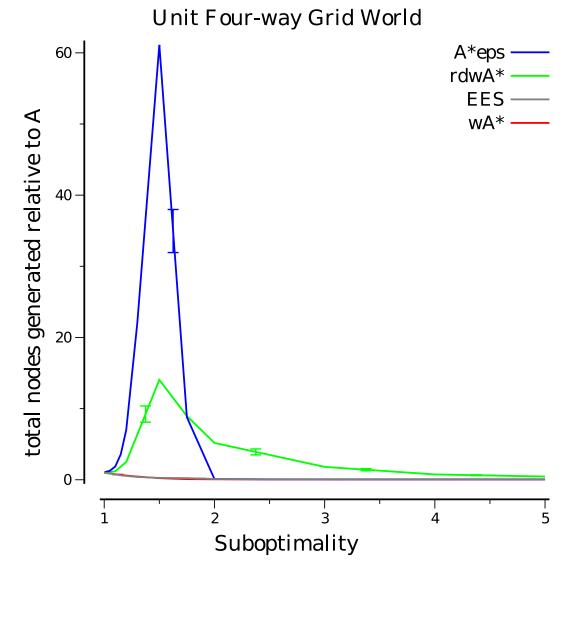


The window size of an iteration of anytime window A* greatly impacts performance. We grow the window quickly when no solution is found, and slowly otherwise.

Main Contribution: Framework Is Key

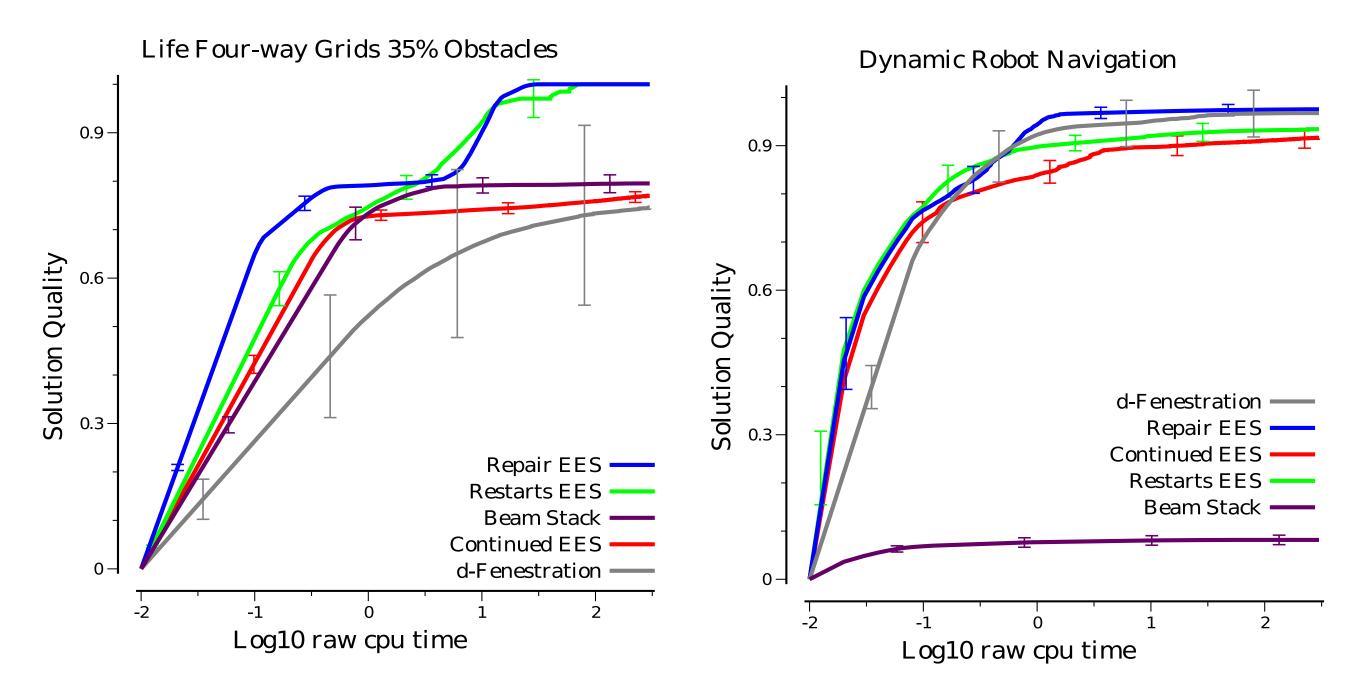
There are enormous differences between the performance of bounded suboptimal search algorithms.





There is litte difference when placed within anytime search frameworks.

Of all the tested algorithms, repairing and restarting anytime search consitently perform well. Other approaches have domains where they perform quite poorly.



Framework has a larger impact on performance than underlying algorithm.

Repairing search is frequently better than restarting search, and these techniques consistently outperform other approaches.