Conclusion

This was a humongous waste of time. The program to do the analysis is about 700 lines of code, and went though about 3 iterations. I am most disappointed by the lack of benefit offered by a more efficient layout; even when considering a purely optimized layout you only get 21% savings over Qwerty.

Despite the waste of time, I am happy that I did the analysis. This issue has plagued my imagination for a few years now, and quantifying the (meager) gains that can be achieved helps me put this issue to rest.

There is still the possibility I could vary the cost function, but I see no glaring error in it's logic. It is my feeling that small changes to the cost function will still result in the same conclusion: Rearraging a keyboard for efficiency will not get you enough to justify switching.