

#### **Introduction to Artificial Intelligence** COSC 4550 / COSC 5550

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### Search



### Hugely important over many varied domains







# systematic way of looking for <del>things</del> optimal solutions

### a series of decisions (actions) to reach a desired goal (reward)

[based on available information (state)]

### **Graph Representation**





#### COMPLETE MAP OF OPTIMAL TIC-TAC-TOE MOVES

YOUR MOVE IS GIVEN BY THE POSITION OF THE LARGEST RED SYMBOL ON THE GRID. WHEN YOUR OPPONENT PICKS A MOVE, ZOOM IN ON THE REGION OF THE GRID WHERE THEY WENT. REPEAT.

MAP FOR X:





### Example: The 8-puzzle

7	2	4
5		6
8	3	1

Start State

1	2	8
4	5	6
7	8	

**Goal State** 





#### Example: vacuum world state space graph



### Example: robotic assembly



### efficient search

we could always do exhaustive search and be guaranteed to find out goal

the challenge is finding the goal as efficiently as possible (i.e. looking the fewest places)

(and we may need to consider the costs associated with traveling to that state)

#### Romania with step costs in km



*start state*: you're in Arad *goal state*: you want to get to Bucharest

## Find a (any) path from Arad to Bucharest



**function** TREE-SEARCH(*problem*) **returns** a solution, or failure initialize the frontier using the initial state of *problem* **loop do** 

if the frontier is empty then return failurechoose a leaf node and remove it from the frontierif the node contains a goal state then return the corresponding solutionexpand the chosen node, adding the resulting nodes to the frontier

function GRAPH-SEARCH(problem) returns a solution, or failure
initialize the frontier using the initial state of problem
initialize the explored set to be empty

loop do

if the frontier is empty then return failure

choose a leaf node and remove it from the frontier

if the node contains a goal state then return the corresponding solution *add the node to the explored set* 

expand the chosen node, adding the resulting nodes to the frontier only if not in the frontier or explored set



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"search strategy"

#### we choose FIFO before (but why???)

all search algorithms are basically the same (look 'til you've found it!) ... but they differ in search strategies (where should I look next)

So really... what search strategy is best?

We evaluate them on:

1) Completeness (*does it solve the problem?*)

2) Optimality (is the solution the lowest cost?)

3) Time Complexity (how many places did you look?)

4) Space Complexity (how much info did you have to store?)

#### evaluation metrics for graphs/trees:

Time Complexity: *#* of nodes visited during search Space Complexity: *#* of nodes stored in memory

(these are both worst case measures... usually)

for graphs/trees these are measured via:

## branching factor (b) (max # of successors/node)

#### depth (d) (shallowest goal node)

max path length (m) (from start state to a terminal state)

### search strategies... finally!

### breadth-first search

(FIFO)



frontier: A frontier: B, C frontier: C, D, E frontier: D, E, F, G

