Blind (Uninformed) Search

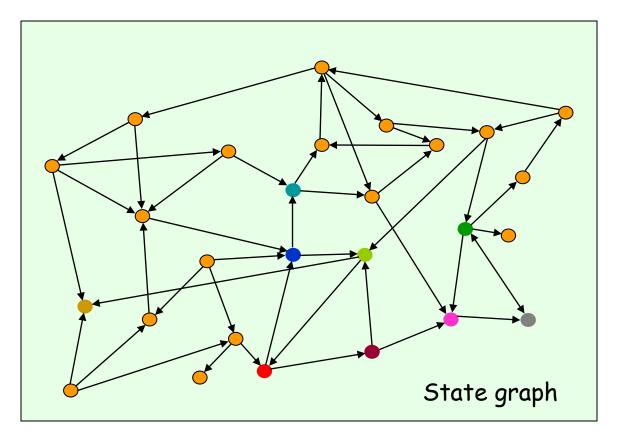
(Where we systematically explore alternatives)

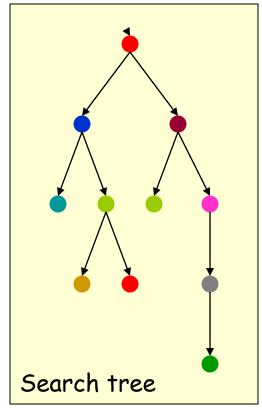
R&N: Chap. 3, Sect. 3.3-5

Simple Problem-Solving-Agent Agent Algorithm

- 1. $s_0 \leftarrow \text{sense/read initial state}$
- 2. GOAL? ← select/read goal test
- 3. Succ ← read successor function
- 4. solution \leftarrow search(s_0 , GOAL?, Succ)
- 5. perform(solution)

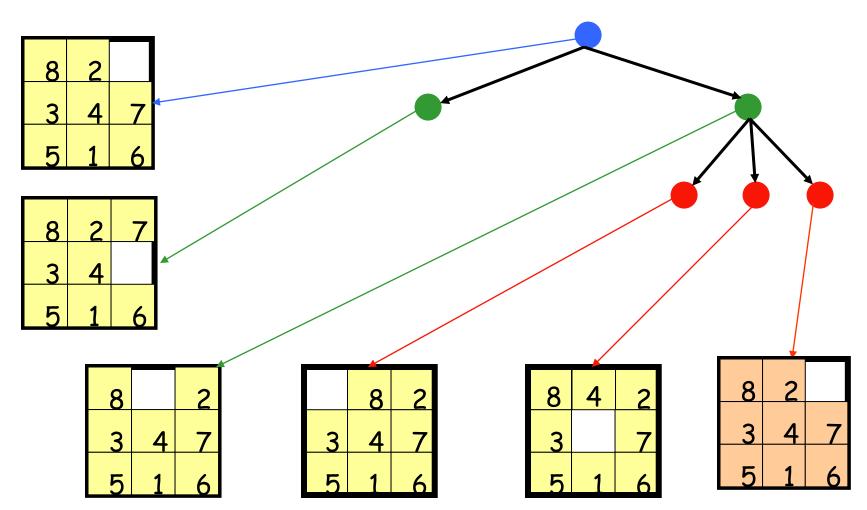
Search Tree



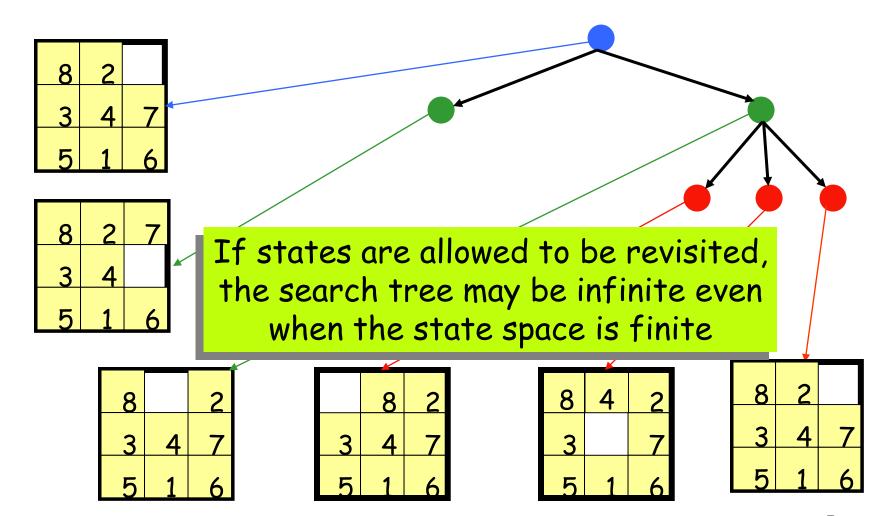


Note that some states may be visited multiple times

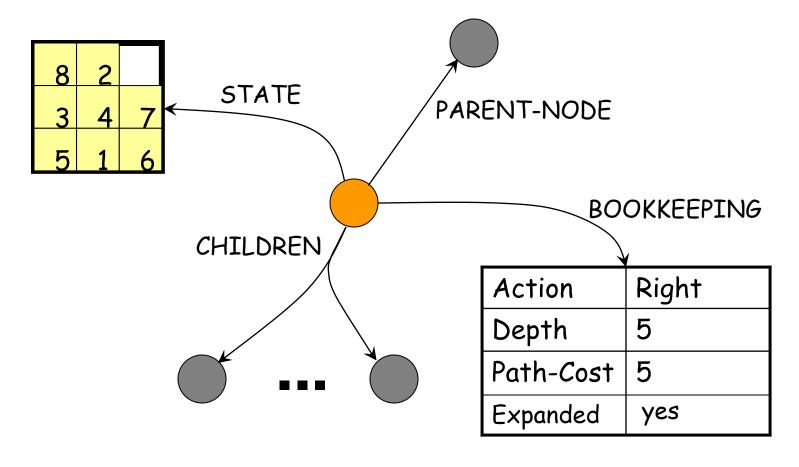
Search Nodes and States



Search Nodes and States



Data Structure of a Node



Depth of a node N = length of path from root to N

(depth of the root = 0)

Node expansion

The expansion of a node N of the search tree consists of:

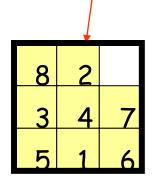
- Evaluating the successor function on STATE(N)
- 2) Generating a child of N for each state returned by the function

node generation = node expansion

	8	2
3	4	7
5	1	6

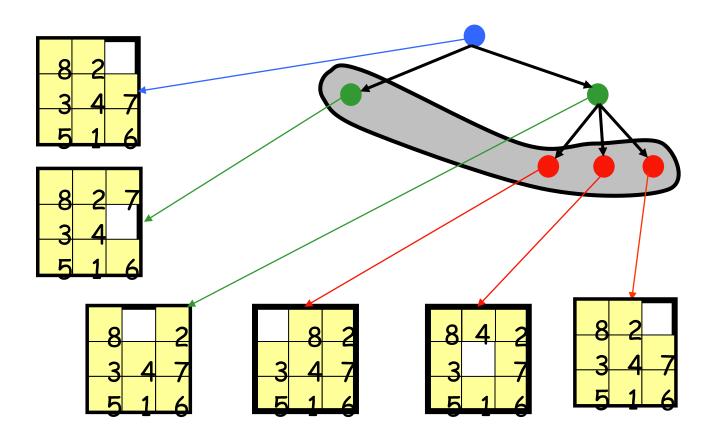
8	4	2	
3		7	
5	1	6	

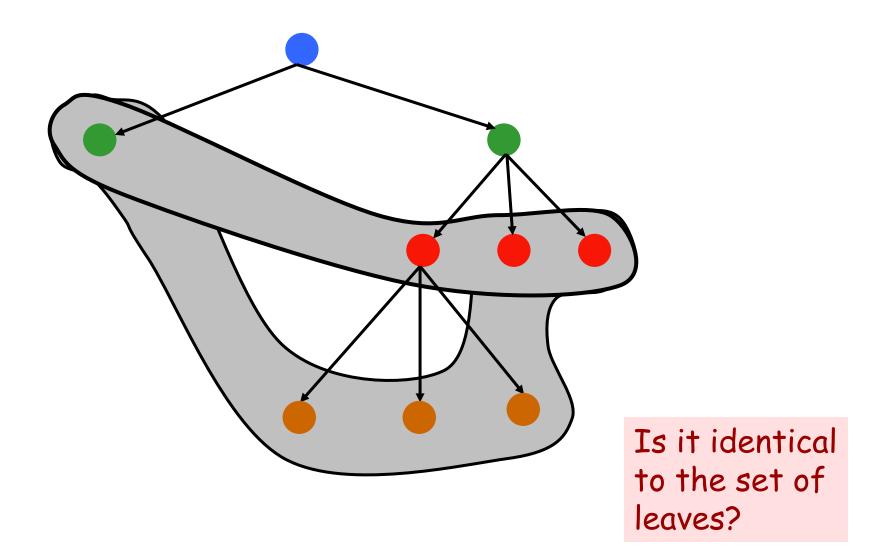
8		2
3	4	7
5	1	6



Fringe (Frontier) of Search Tree

 The fringe (Frontire) is the set of all search nodes that haven't been expanded yet





Search Strategy

- The fringe is the set of all search nodes that haven't been expanded yet
- The fringe is implemented as a priority queue FRINGE
 - INSERT(node,FRINGE)
 - REMOVE(FRINGE)
- The ordering of the nodes in FRINGE defines the search strategy

Search Algorithm #1

SEARCH#1

- 1. If GOAL?(initial-state) then return initial-state
- 2. INSERT(initial-node,FRINGE)
- 3. Repeat:
 - a. If empty(FRINGE) then return failure
 - b. $N \leftarrow REMOVE(FRINGE)$

Expansion of N

- c. $s \leftarrow STATE(N)$
- d. For every state s' in SUCCESSORS(s)
 - Create a new node N' as a child of N
 - ii. If GOAL?(s') then return path or goal state
 - iii. INSERT(N',FRINGE)

Performance Measures

Completeness

A search algorithm is complete if it finds a solution whenever one exists

[What about the case when no solution exists?]

Optimality

A search algorithm is optimal if it returns a minimum-cost path whenever a solution exists

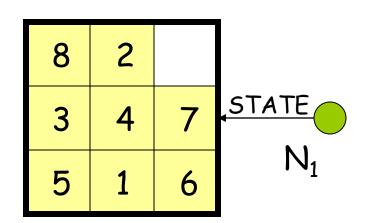
Complexity

It measures the time and amount of memory required by the algorithm

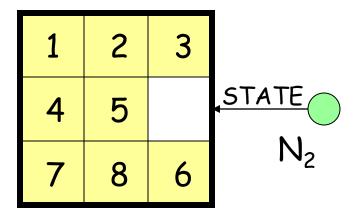
Blind vs. Heuristic Strategies

- Blind (or un-informed) strategies do not exploit state descriptions to order FRINGE. They only exploit the positions of the nodes in the search tree
- Heuristic (or informed) strategies exploit state descriptions to order FRINGE (the most "promising" nodes are placed at the beginning of FRINGE)

Example



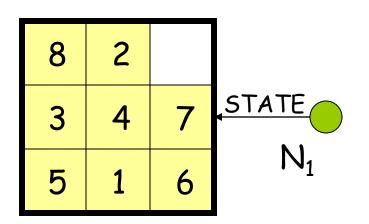
For a blind strategy, N_1 and N_2 are just two nodes (at some position in the search tree)



1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

Goal state

Example



For a heuristic strategy counting the number of misplaced tiles, N_2 is more promising than N_1

1	2	3	
4	5		STATE
7	8	6	N_2

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

Goal state

Remark

- Some search problems, such as the (n²-1)puzzle, are NP-hard
- One can't expect to solve all instances of such problems in less than exponential time (in n)
- One may still strive to solve each instance as efficiently as possible
 - → This is the purpose of the search strategy

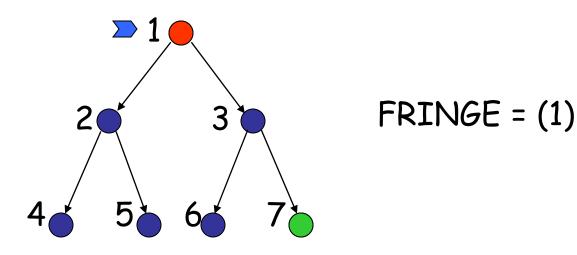
Blind Strategies

- Breadth-first
 - Bidirectional
- Depth-first
 - · Depth-limited
 - Iterative deepening

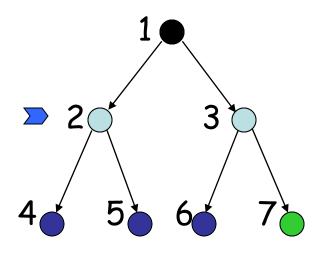
• Uniform-Cost (variant of breadth-first) $= c(action) \ge \epsilon > 0$

Arc cost = 1

New nodes are inserted at the end of FRINGE

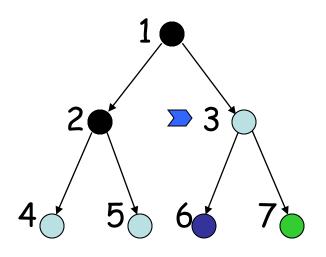


New nodes are inserted at the end of FRINGE



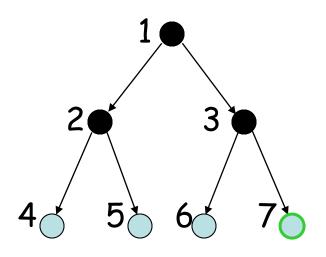
FRINGE = (2,3)

New nodes are inserted at the end of FRINGE



FRINGE = (3, 4, 5)

New nodes are inserted at the end of FRINGE



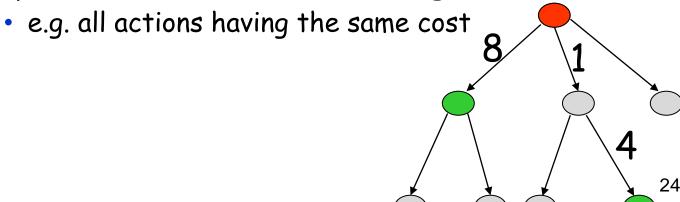
FRINGE = (4, 5, 6, 7)

Important Parameters

- 1) Maximum number of successors of any state
 - > branching factor b of the search tree
- 2) Minimal length (≠ cost) of a path between the initial and a goal state
 - → depth d of the shallowest goal node in the search tree

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- Breadth-first search is:
 - Complete? Not complete?
 - Optimal? Not optimal?

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- Breadth-first search is:
 - Complete (for finite b and d)
 - Optimal
 - if path cost is a non-decreasing function of d



- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- Breadth-first search is:
 - Complete (for finite b and d)
 - Optimal
 - if path cost is a non-decreasing function of d
 - e.g. all actions having the same cost
- Number of nodes generated:

???

- b: branching factor
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- Breadth-first search is:
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 - if path cost is a non-decreasing function of d
 - e.g. all actions having the same cost
- Number of nodes generated:

$$1 + b + b^2 + ... + b^d = ???$$

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- Breadth-first search is:
 - Complete (for finite b and d)
 - Optimal
 - if path cost is a non-decreasing function of d
 - e.g. all actions having the same cost
- Number of nodes generated:

$$1 + b + b^2 + ... + b^d = (b^{d+1}-1)/(b-1) = O(b^d)$$

 \rightarrow Time and space complexity is $O(b^d)$

Big O Notation

g(n) = O(f(n)) if there exist two positive constants a and N such that:

for all
$$n > N$$
: $g(n) \le a \times f(n)$

Time and Memory Requirements

d	# Nodes	Time	Memory
2	111	.01 msec	11 Kbytes
4	11,111	1 msec	1 Mbyte
6	~106	1 sec	100 Mb
8	~108	100 sec	10 Gbytes
10	~1010	2.8 hours	1 Tbyte
12	~1012	11.6 days	100 Tbytes
14	~1014	3.2 years	10,000 Tbytes

Assumptions: b = 10; 1,000,000 nodes/sec; 100bytes/node

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Time and Memory Requirements

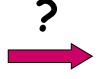
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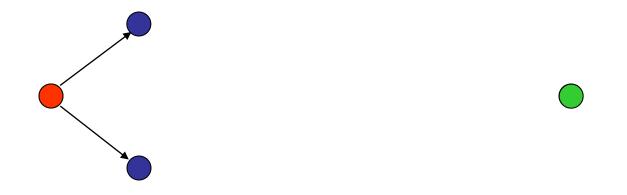
Remark

If a problem has no solution, breadth-first may run for ever (if the state space is infinite or states can be revisited arbitrary many times)

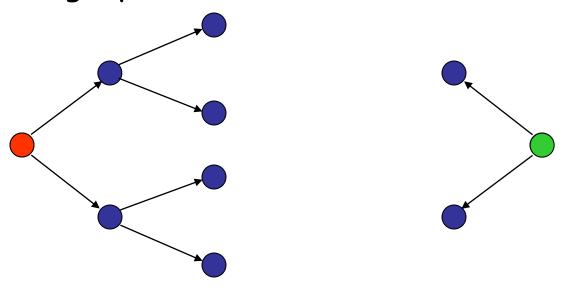
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	

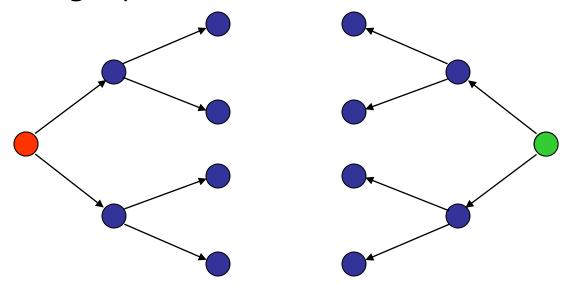


1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	15	14	

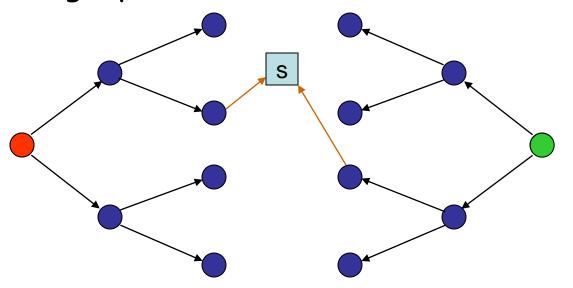




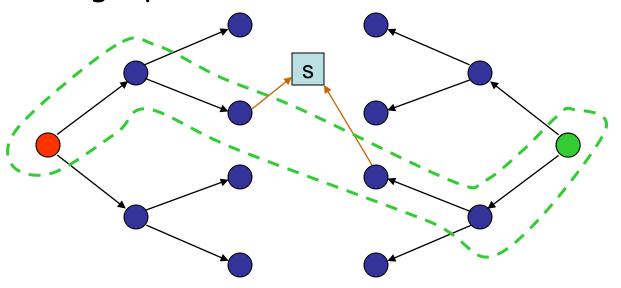




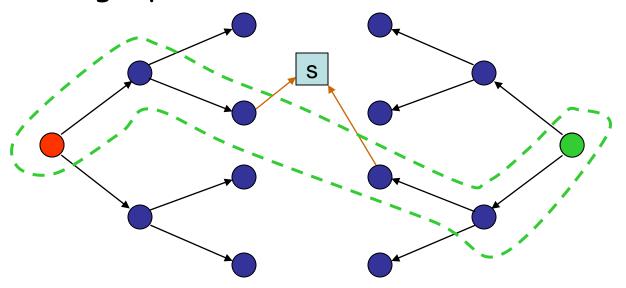
2 fringe queues: FRINGE1 and FRINGE2



2 fringe queues: FRINGE1 and FRINGE2



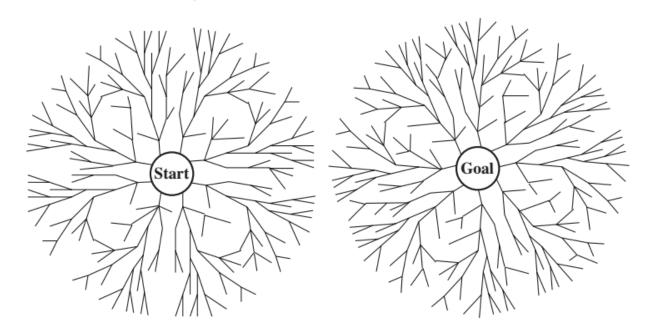
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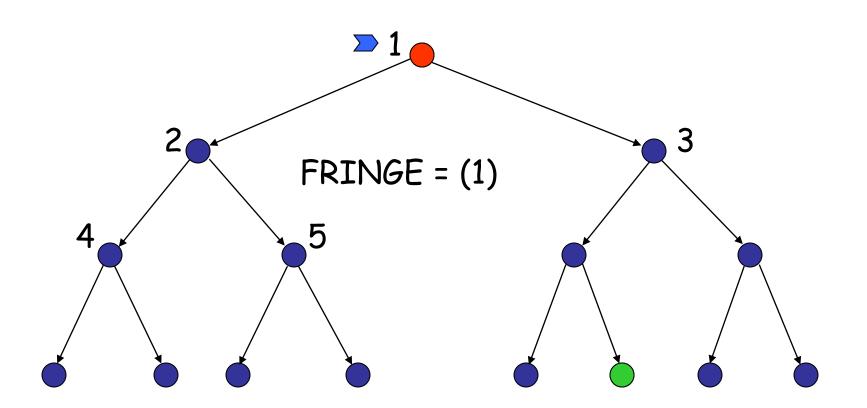


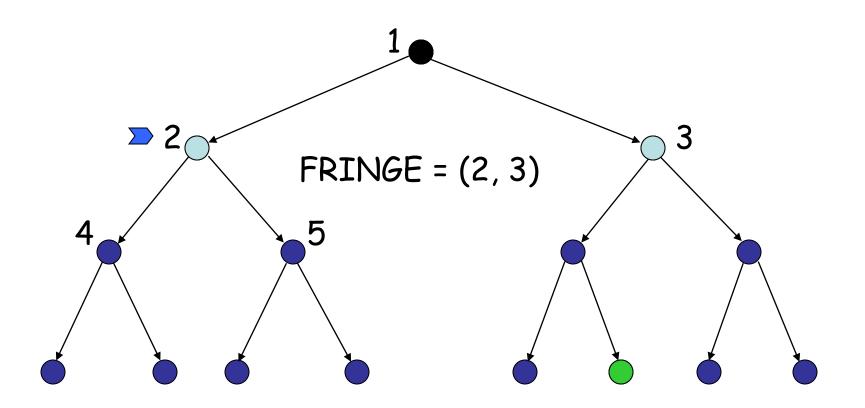
Time and space complexity is $O(b^{d/2}) \ll O(b^d)$ if both trees have the same branching factor b

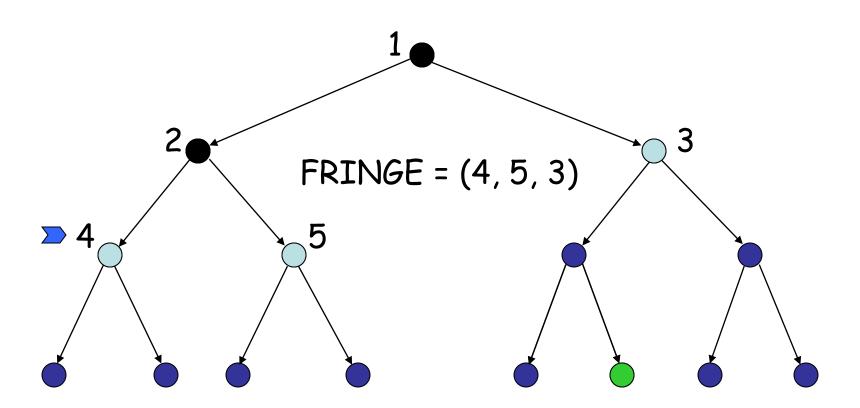
Question: What happens if the branching factor is different in each direction?

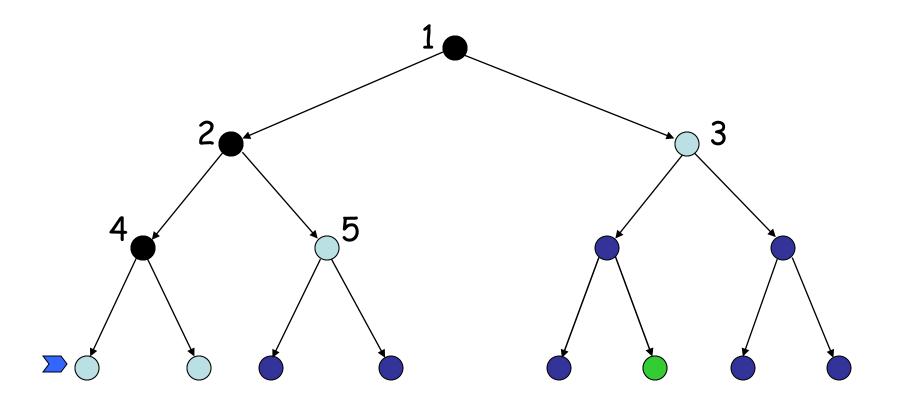
- Implementation
 - Hash table for one of the fringe lists
 - Computing predecessors?
 - May be difficult
 - List of goals? a new dummy goal
 - Abstract goal (checkmate)?!

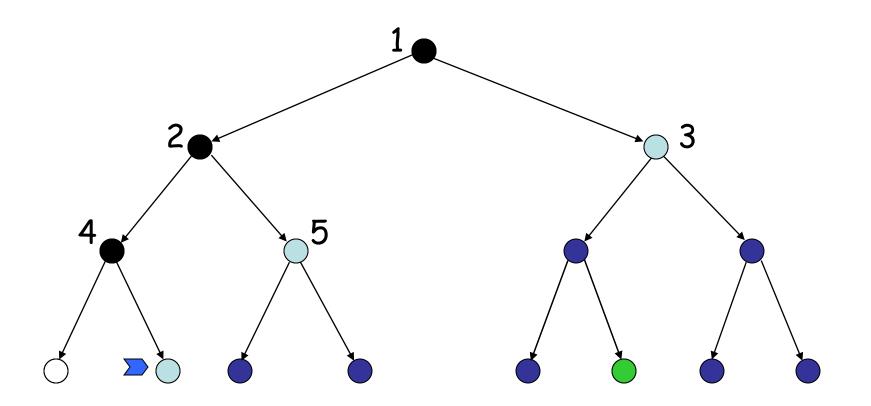


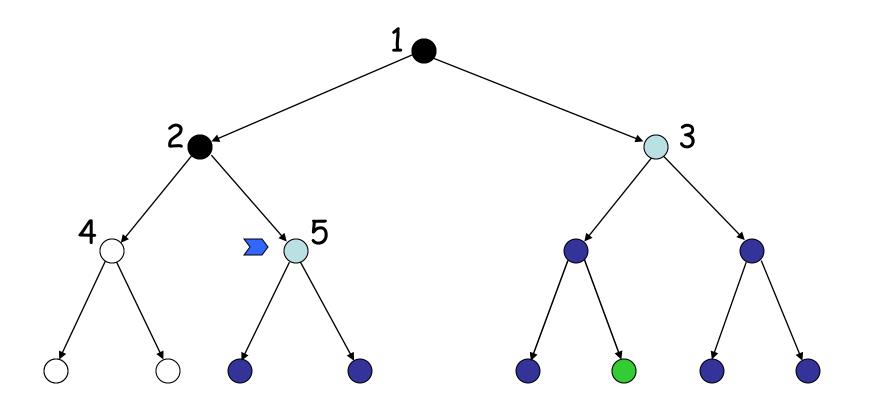


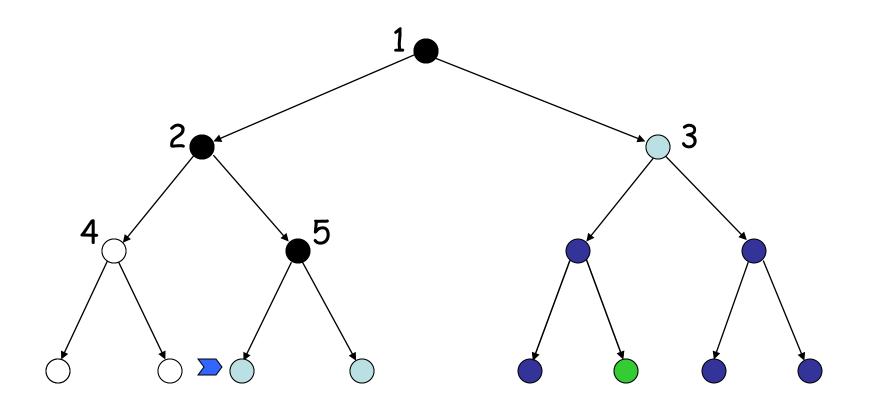


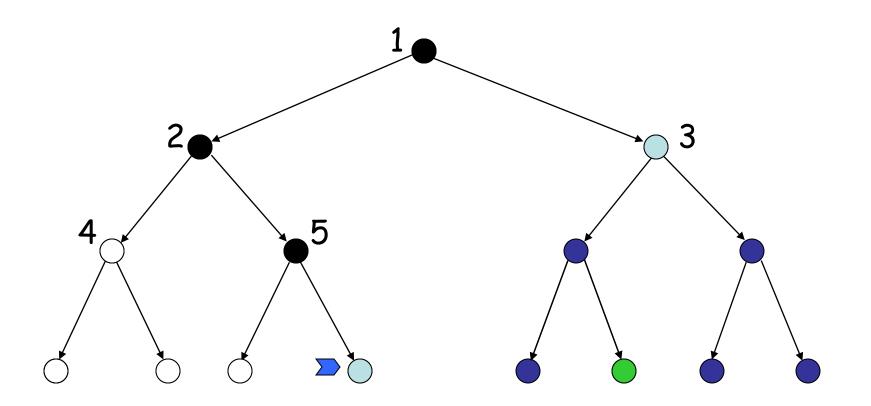


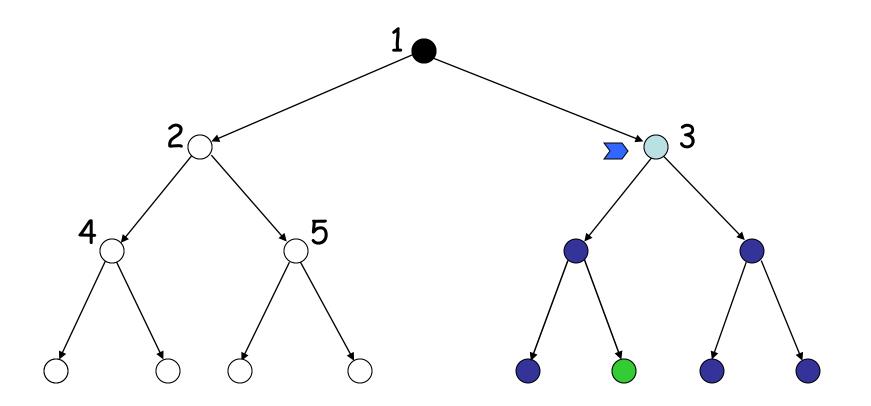


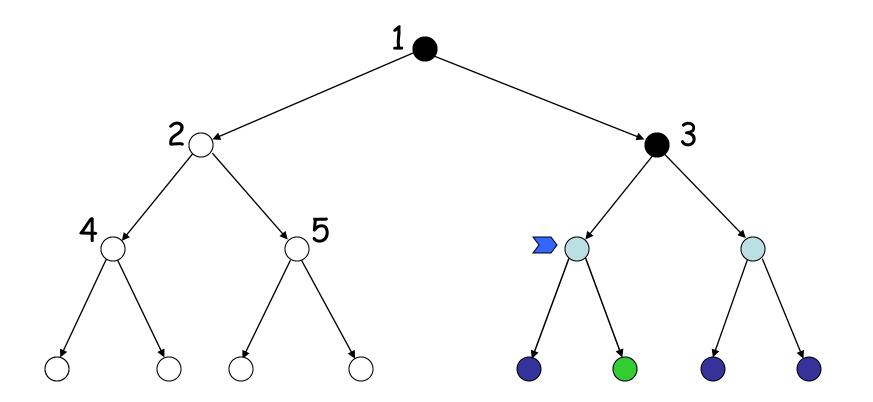


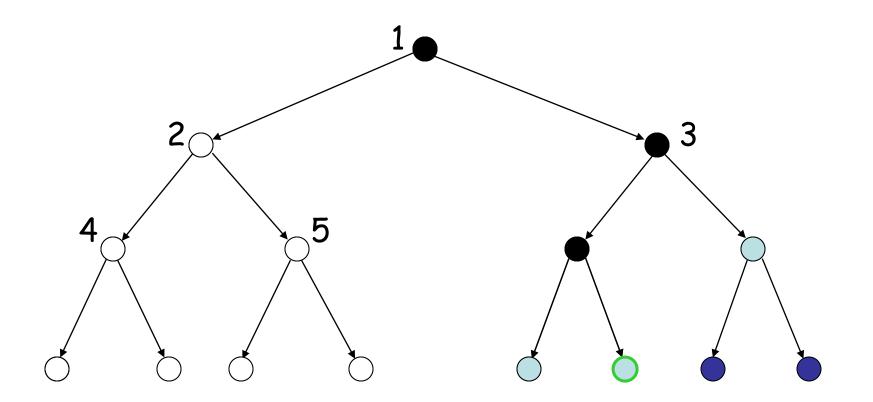










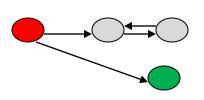


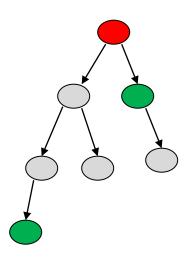
Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- m: maximal depth of a leaf node
- Depth-first search is:
 - Complete?
 - Optimal?

Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
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- Depth-first search is:
 - Complete only for finite search tree (if we can avoid infinite loops)
 - Not optimal





Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- m: maximal depth of a leaf node
- Depth-first search is:
 - Complete only for finite search tree (if we can avoid infinite loops)
 - Not optimal
- Number of nodes generated (worst case): $1 + b + b^2 + ... + b^m = O(b^m)$
- Time complexity is O(b^m)
- Space complexity is O(bm) [or O(m)]

[Reminder: Breadth-first requires O(bd) time and space]

Depth-Limited Search

- Depth-first with depth cutoff k (depth at which nodes are not expanded)
 - Solves the infinite-path problem
- Three possible outcomes:
 - Solution
 - Failure (no solution)
 - Cutoff (no solution within cutoff)

Depth-Limited Search

- Complete? If k > d, it is complete
- Time? O(b^k)
- Space? O(bk)
- Optimal? No

Depth-Limited Search

function DEPTH-LIMITED-SEARCH(problem, limit) returns a solution, or failure/cutoff return RECURSIVE-DLS(MAKE-NODE(problem.INITIAL-STATE), problem, limit)

```
function RECURSIVE-DLS(node, problem, limit) returns a solution, or failure/cutoff
if problem.GOAL-TEST(node.STATE) then return SOLUTION(node)
else if limit = 0 then return cutoff
else

cutoff _occurred?←false
for each action in problem.ACTIONS(node.STATE) do

child ←CHILD-NODE(problem, node, action)

result ←RECURSIVE-DLS(child, problem, limit - 1)

if result = cutoff then cutoff_occurred?←true
else if result ≠ failure then return result
if cutoff_occurred? then return cutoff else return failure
```

Iterative Deepening Search

Provides the best of both breadth-first and depth-first search

Main idea: Totally horrifying!

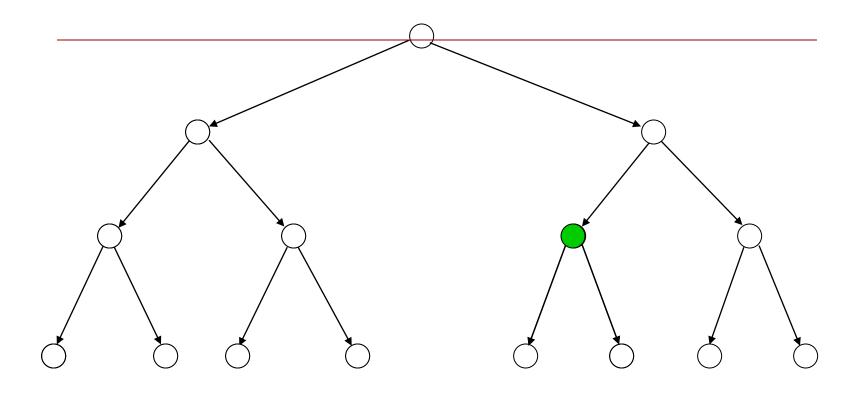
Iterative Deepening Search

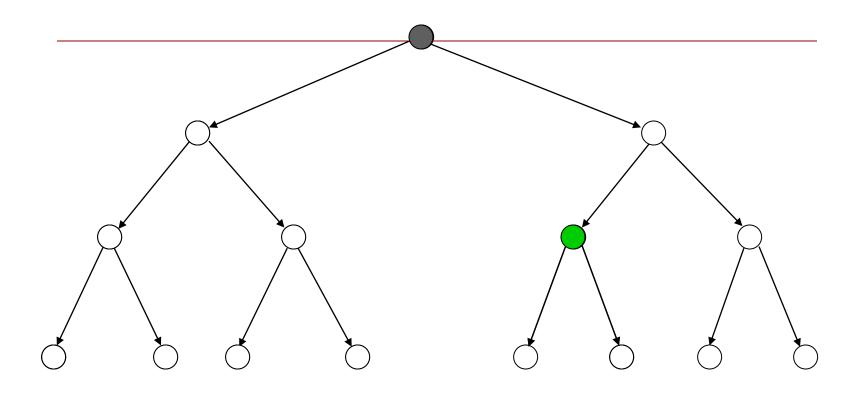
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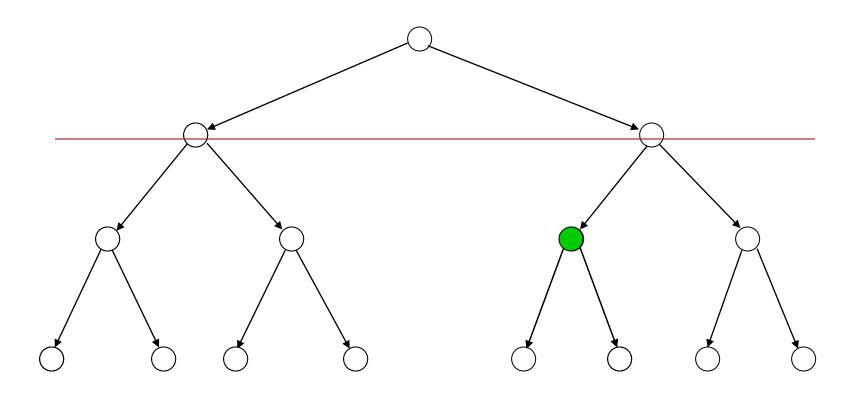
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```

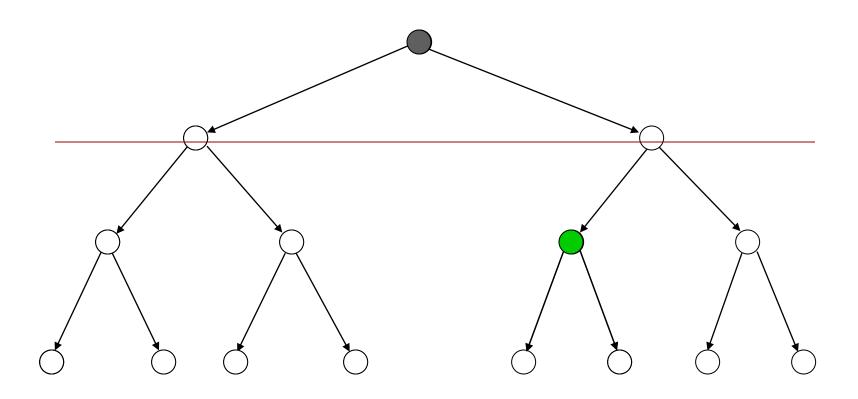
```
IDS
For k = 0, 1, 2, ... do:
Perform depth-first search with depth cutoff k
```

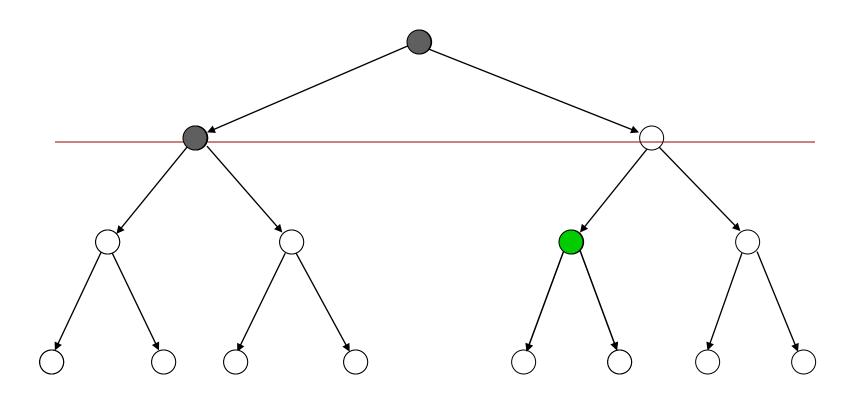
(i.e., only generate nodes with depth $\leq k$)

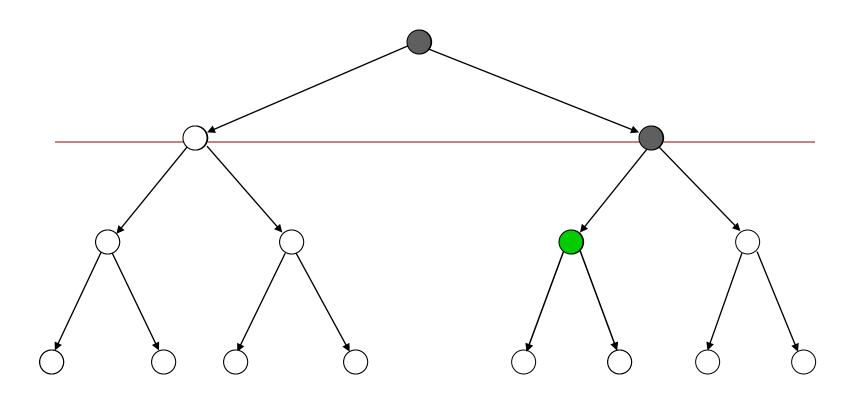


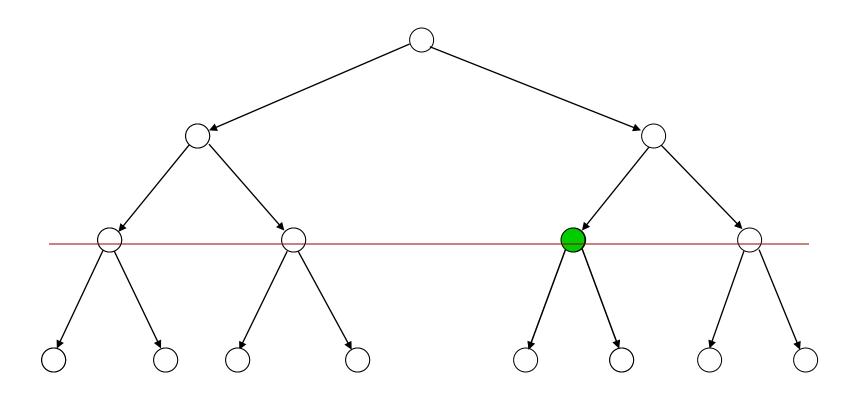


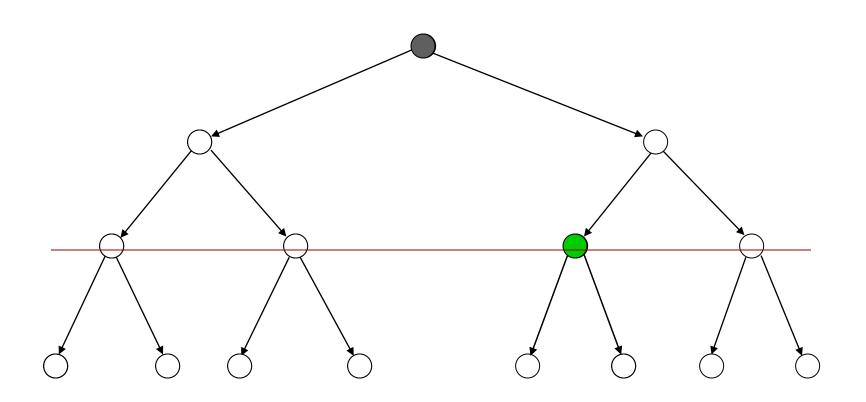


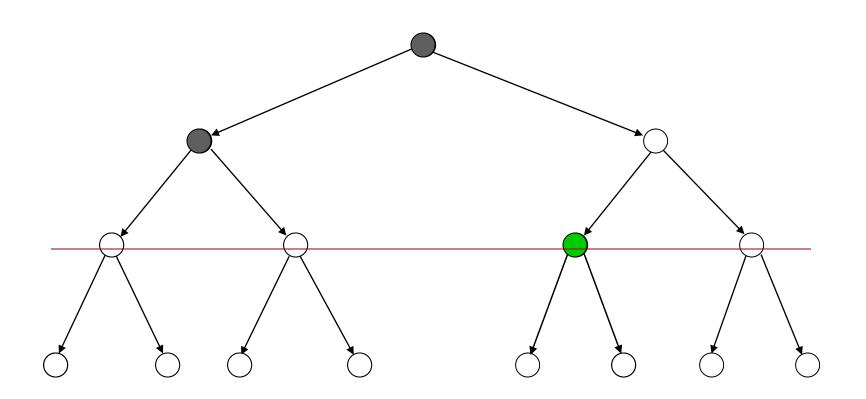


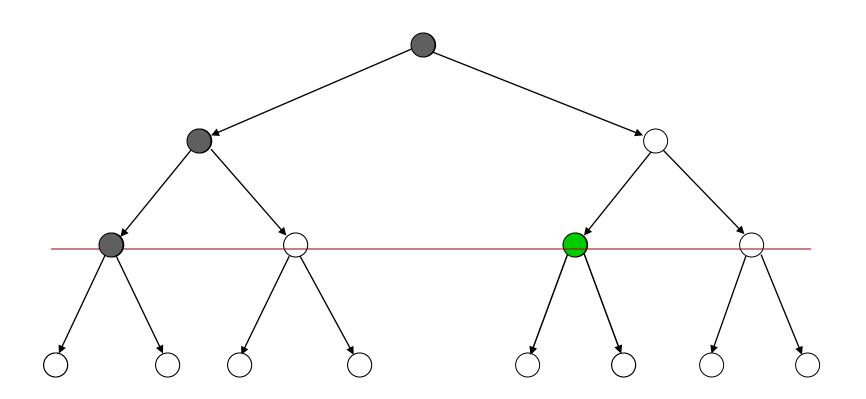


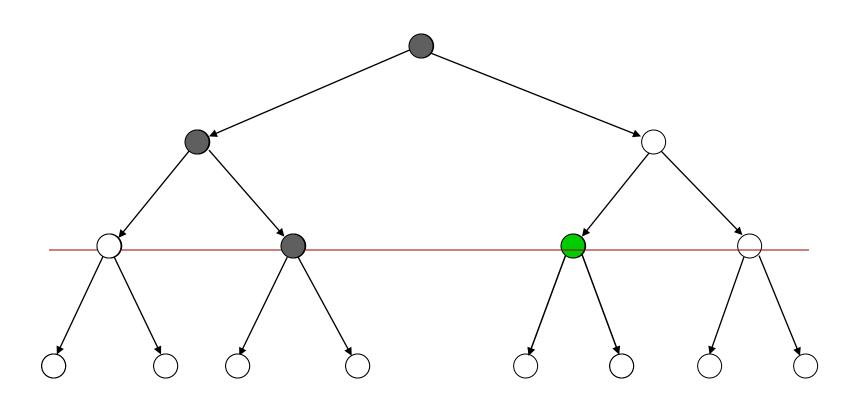


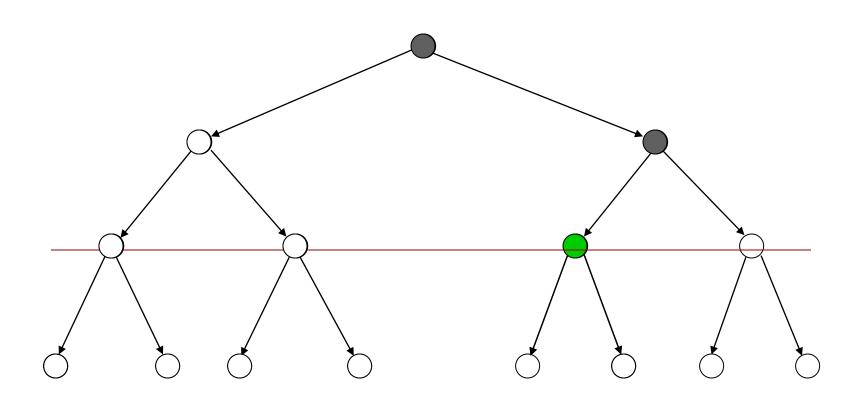


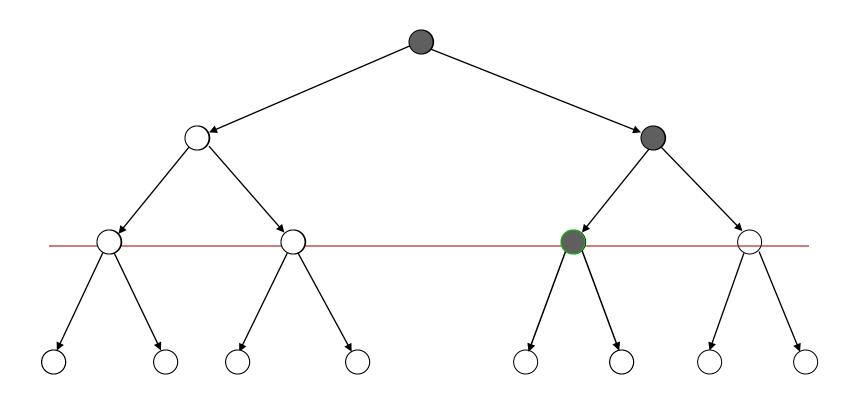












Performance

- Iterative deepening search is:
 - Complete (for finite b and d)
 - Optimal
 - if path cost is a non-decreasing function of the node depth. For example if step cost =1
- Time complexity is:

$$db + (d-1)b^2 + ... + (1) b^d = O(b^d)$$

Space complexity is: O(bd) or O(d)

IDS is the preferred method when search space is large and the depth of solution is unknown

Number of Generated Nodes (Breadth-First & Iterative Deepening)

$$d = 5$$
 and $b = 2$

BF	ID
1	$1 \times 6 = 6$
2	2 × 5 = 10
4	4 × 4 = 16
8	8 × 3 = 24
16	16 × 2 = 32
32	32 × 1 = 32
63	120

120/63 ~ 2

Number of Generated Nodes (Breadth-First & Iterative Deepening)

d = 5 and b = 10

BF	ID
1	6
10	50
100	400
1,000	3,000
10,000	20,000
100,000	100,000
111,111	123,456

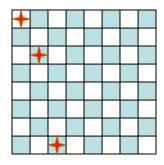
123,456/111,111 ~ 1.111

Comparison of Strategies

- Breadth-first is complete and optimal, but has high space complexity
- Depth-first is space efficient, but is neither complete, nor optimal
- Iterative deepening is complete and optimal, with the same space complexity as depth-first and almost the same time complexity as breadth-first

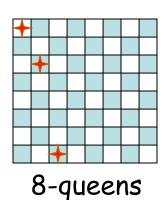
Quiz: Would IDS + bi-directional search be a good combination?

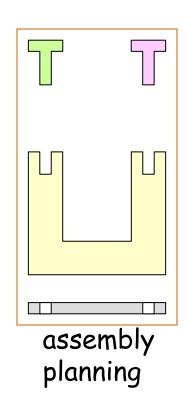
No

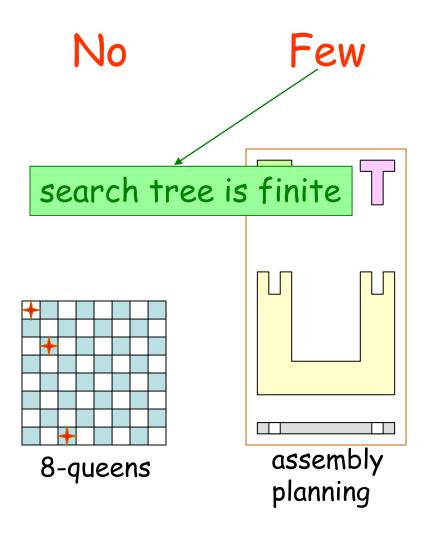


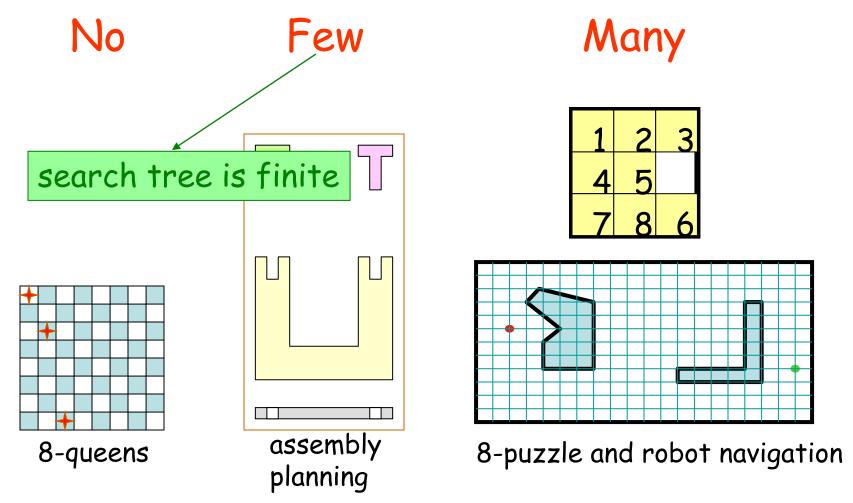
8-queens

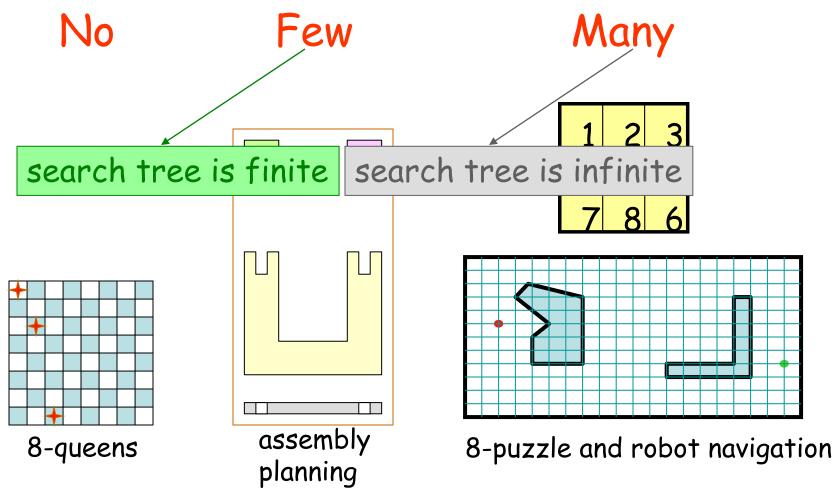
No Few











- Requires comparing state descriptions
- Breadth-first search:
 - Store all states associated with generated nodes in VISITED
 - If the state of a new node is in VISITED, then discard the node

- Requires comparing state descriptions
- Breadth-first search:
 - Store all states associated with generated nodes in VISITED
 - If the state of a new node is in VISITED, then discard the node

Implemented as hash-table or as explicit data structure with flags

Depth-first search:

Solution 1:

- Store all states associated with nodes in current path in VISITED
- If the state of a new node is in VISITED, then discard the node

→ ??

Depth-first search:

Solution 1:

- Store all states associated with nodes in current path in VISITED
- If the state of a new node is in VISITED, then discard the node
- → Only avoids loops

Solution 2:

- Store all generated states in VISITED
- If the state of a new node is in VISITED, then discard the node
- → Same space complexity as breadth-first!

- Each arc has some cost $c \ge \varepsilon > 0$
- The cost of the path to each node N is

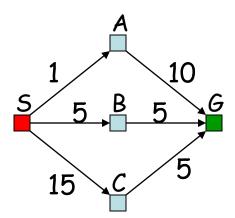
$$g(N) = \Sigma$$
 costs of arcs

- The goal is to generate a solution path of minimal cost
- The nodes N in the queue FRINGE are sorted in increasing g(N)

- Each arc has some cost $c \ge \varepsilon > 0$
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$$g(N) = \Sigma$$
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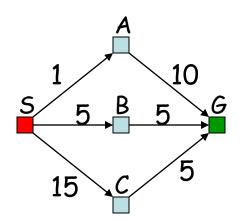
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$$g(N) = \Sigma$$
 costs of arcs

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- The nodes N in the queue FRINGE are sorted in increasing g(N)

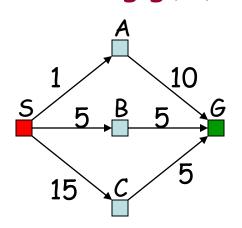


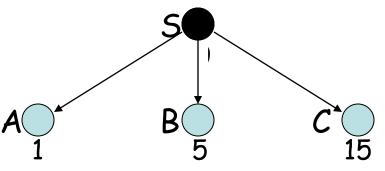


- Each arc has some cost $c \ge \varepsilon > 0$
- The cost of the path to each node N is

$$g(N) = \Sigma$$
 costs of arcs

- The goal is to generate a solution path of minimal cost
- The nodes N in the queue FRINGE are sorted in increasing g(N)

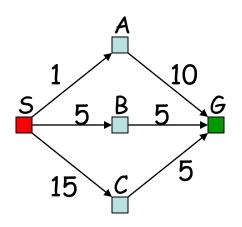


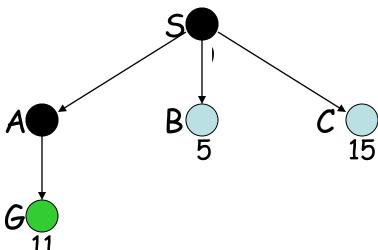


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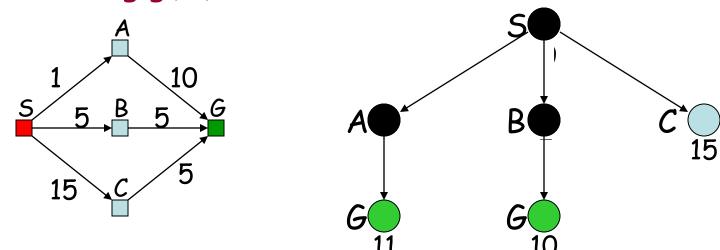




- Each arc has some cost $c \ge \varepsilon > 0$
- The cost of the path to each node N is

$$g(N) = \Sigma$$
 costs of arcs

- The goal is to generate a solution path of minimal cost
- The nodes N in the queue FRINGE are sorted in increasing g(N)



Need to modify search algorithm

Search Algorithm #2

SEARCH#2

- 1. INSERT(initial-node,FRINGE)
- 2. Repeat:
 - a. If empty(FRINGE) then return failure
 - b. $N \leftarrow REMOVE(FRINGE)$
 - c. $s \leftarrow STATE(N)$
- b d. If GOAL?(s) then return path or goal state
 - e. For every state s' in SUCCESSORS(s)
 - i. Create a node N' as a successor of N
 - ii. INSERT(N',FRINGE)

The goal test is applied

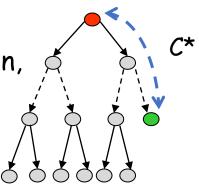
expanded, not when it is

generated.

to a node when this node is

Properties of UCS

- Complete? Yes, if step-cost ≥ E > 0
 - to avoid infinit sequence of zero-cost actions
- Time?
 - Number of nodes with g ≤ cost of optimal solution,
 - ${f O}(b^{1+[C^*/\ {f \mathcal E}]})$ where C^* is the optimal solution cost
 - ■O(bd+1) where all step costs are equal
- Space
 - •Number of nodes with $g \le \cos t$ of optimal solution
 - $O(b^{1+[C^*/\varepsilon]})$ where C^* is the optimal solution cost
- Optimal?
 - Yes nodes expanded in increasing order of g(n)
- Difficulty: many long paths may exist with cost ≤ C*



UCS (proof of optimality)

Lemma:

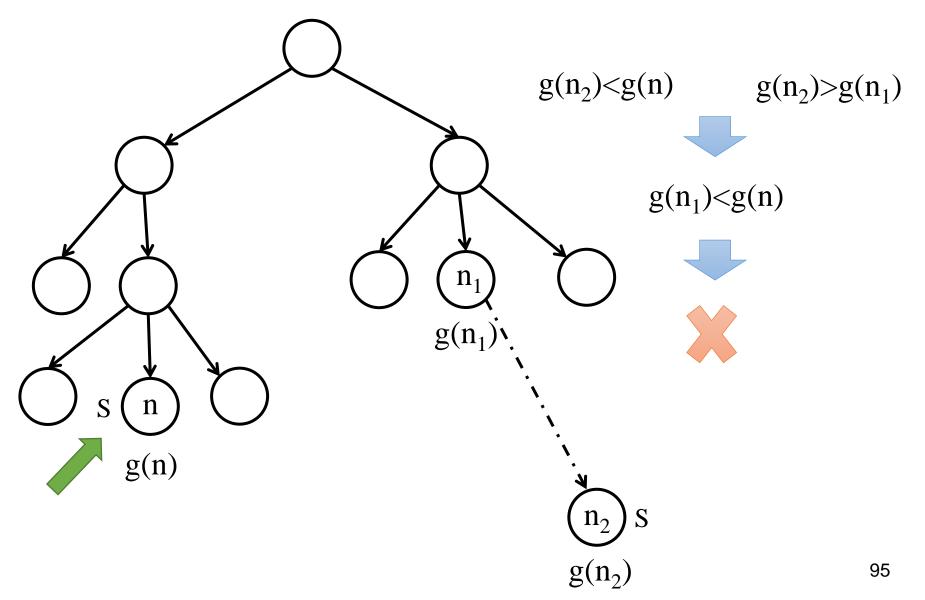
 If UCS selects a node n for expansion, the optimal solution to that node has been found.

Proof

Proof by contradiction: Another fringe (frontier) node n' must exist on the optimal path from initial node to n (using graph separation property). Moreover, based on definition of path cost (due to non-negative step costs, paths never get shorter as nodes are added), we have g(n') ≤ g(n) and thus n' would have been selected first.

Nodes are expanded in order of their optimal path cost

UCS (proof of optimality)



Avoiding Revisited States in Uniform-Cost Search

 For any state 5, when the first node N such that STATE(N) = 5 is expanded, the path to N is the best path from the initial state to 5

So:

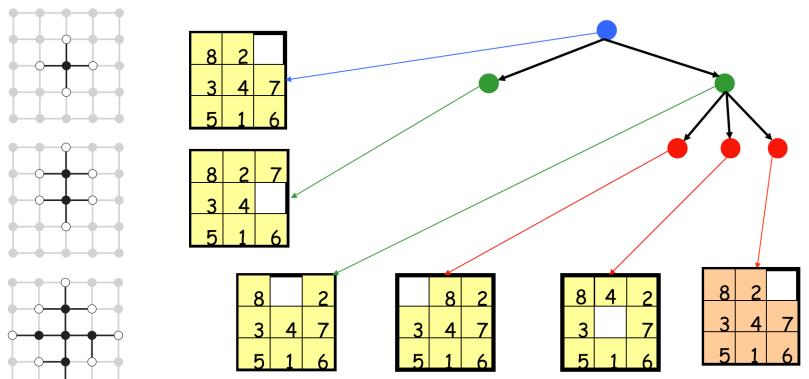
- When a node is expanded, store its state into CLOSED (Explored)
- When a new node N is generated:
 - If STATE(N) is in CLOSED (Explored), discard N
 - If there exits a node N' in the fringe such that STATE(N') = STATE(N), discard the node N or N' with the highest-cost path

Tree search

```
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 failure
       choose a leaf node and remove it from the frontier
       if the node contains a goal state then return the
          corresponding solution
       expand the chosen node, adding the resulting nodes
          to the frontier
```

Graph search

 Redundant paths in tree search: more than one way to get from one state to another

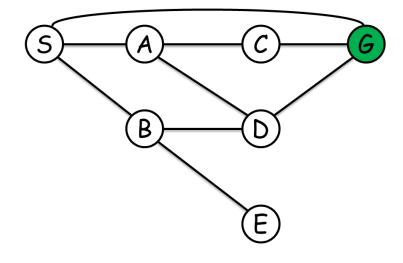


Graph search

```
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
```

- Graph search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order



Frontier	Explored

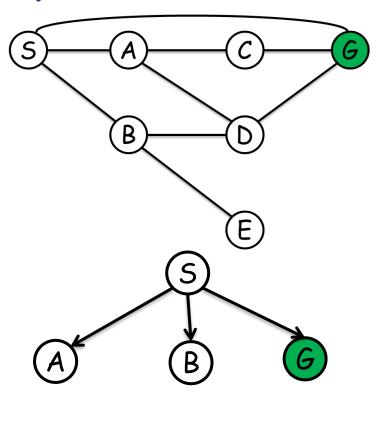
- · Graph search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order

(S)	-A-	<u> </u>	G
	B		
		E	
		5)	

Frontier	Explored
5	

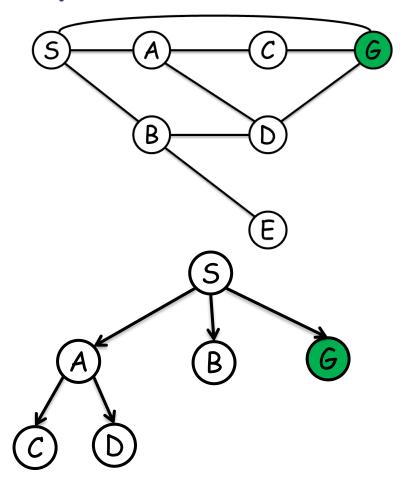
- Graph search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- Alphabetical order

Frontier	Explored
S A, B, G	S
Λ, υ, υ	



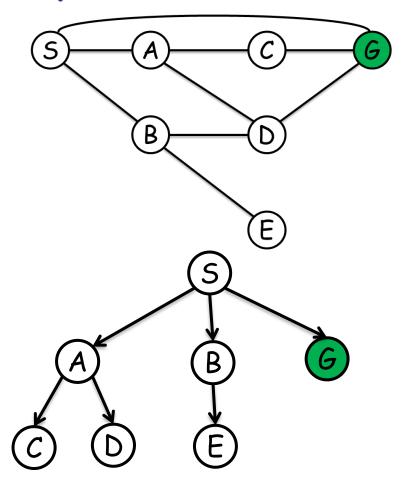
- Graph search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- Alphabetical order

Frontier	Explored
5 A, B, G	S
B, G, C, D	S, A

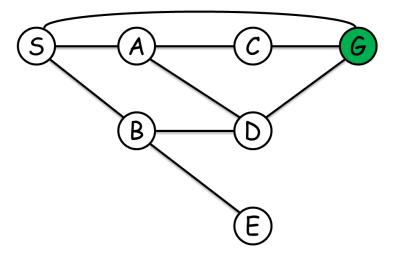


- Graph search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- Alphabetical order

Frontier	Explored
5	
A, B, G	S
B, G, C, D	S, A
G, C, D, E	S, A, B



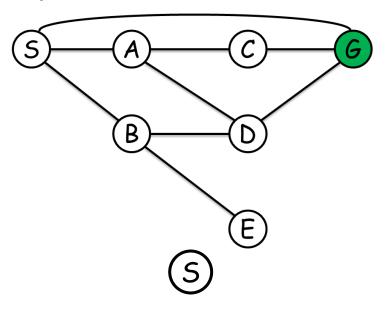
- Tree search
- · Goal test when expanding a node
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Frontier

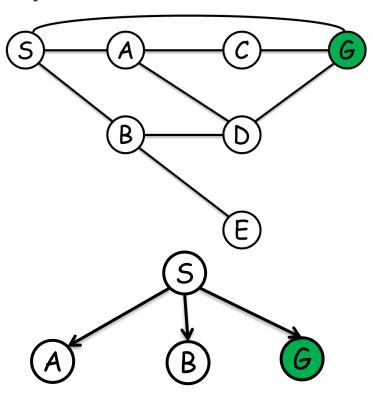
- Tree search
- · Goal test when expanding a node
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Frontier S



- Tree search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- Alphabetical order

Frontier S A, B, G



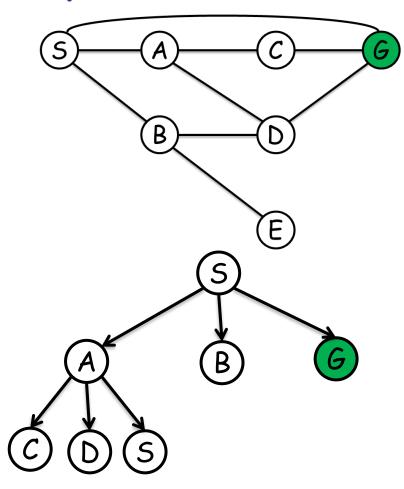
- Tree search
- · Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order

Frontier

S

A, B, G

B, G, C, D, S



- Tree search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order

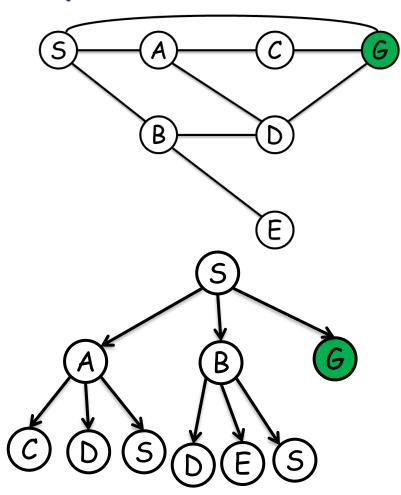
Frontier

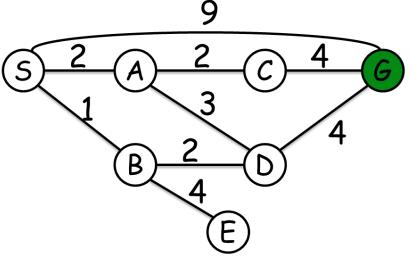
S

A, B, G

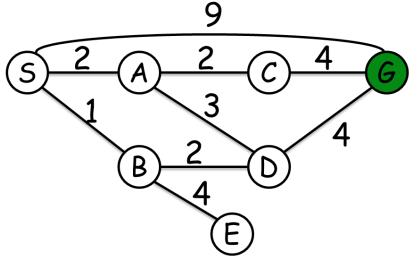
B, G, C, D, S

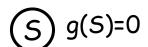
G, C, D, S, D, E, S



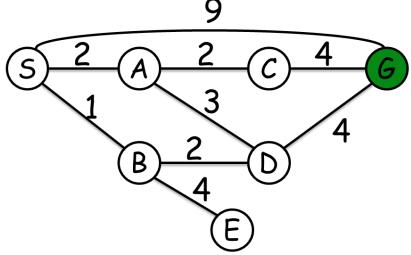


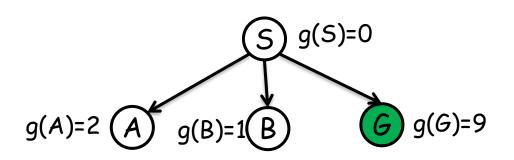
Frontier	Explored



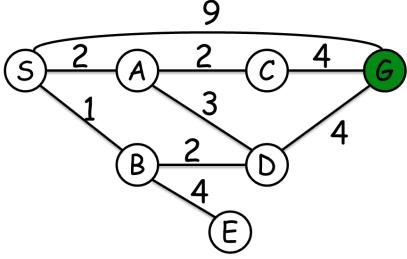


Frontier	Explored
5(0)	

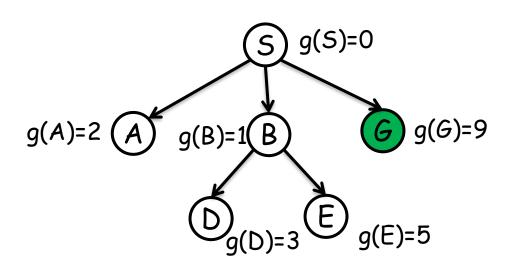


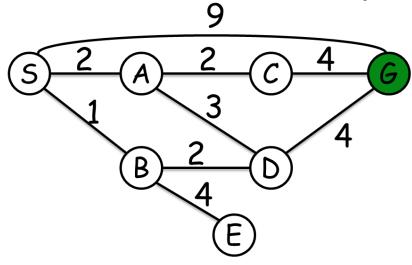


Frontier	Explored
5(0)	
B(1), A(2), G(9)	S

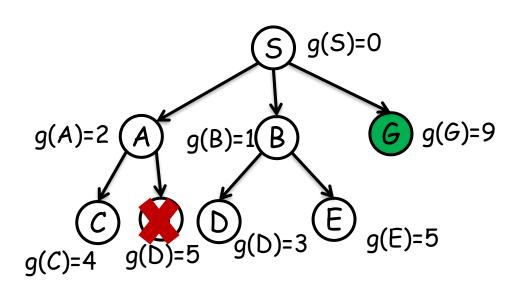


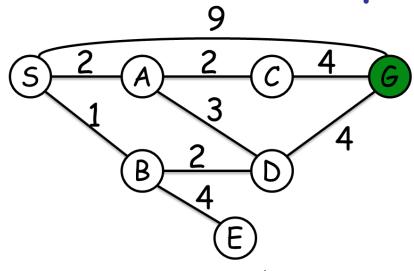
Frontier	Explored
5(0)	
B(1), A(2), G(9)	S
A(2), D(3), E(5), G(9)	S, B
	·



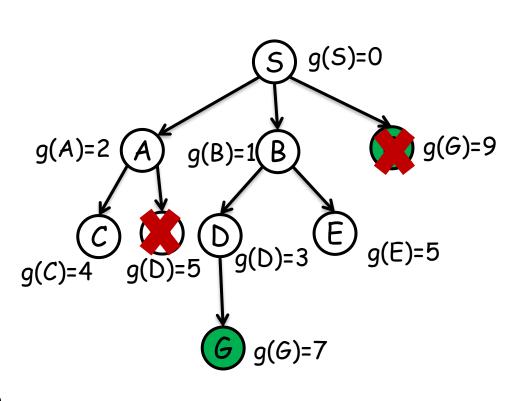


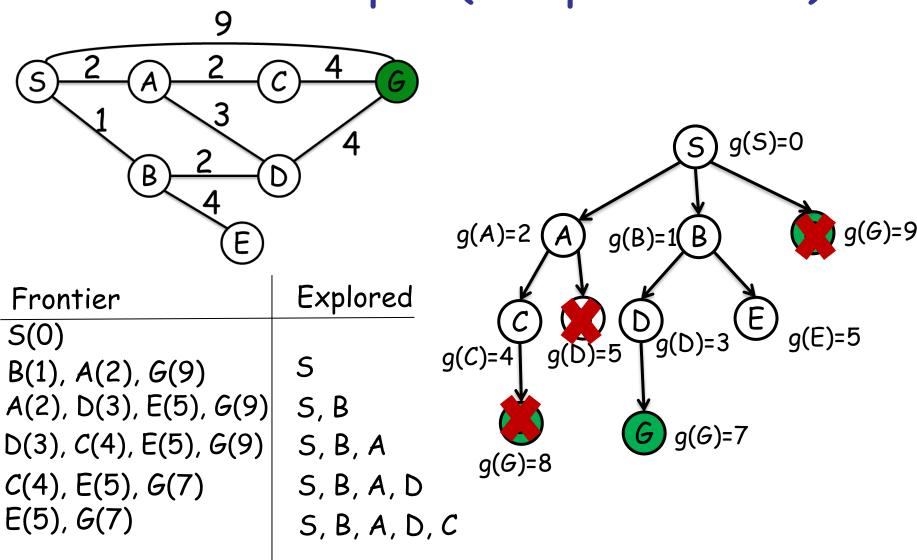
Frontier	Explored
5(0)	
B(1), A(2), G(9)	5
A(2), D(3), E(5), G(9)	S, B
D(3), C(4), E(5), G(9)	S, B, A

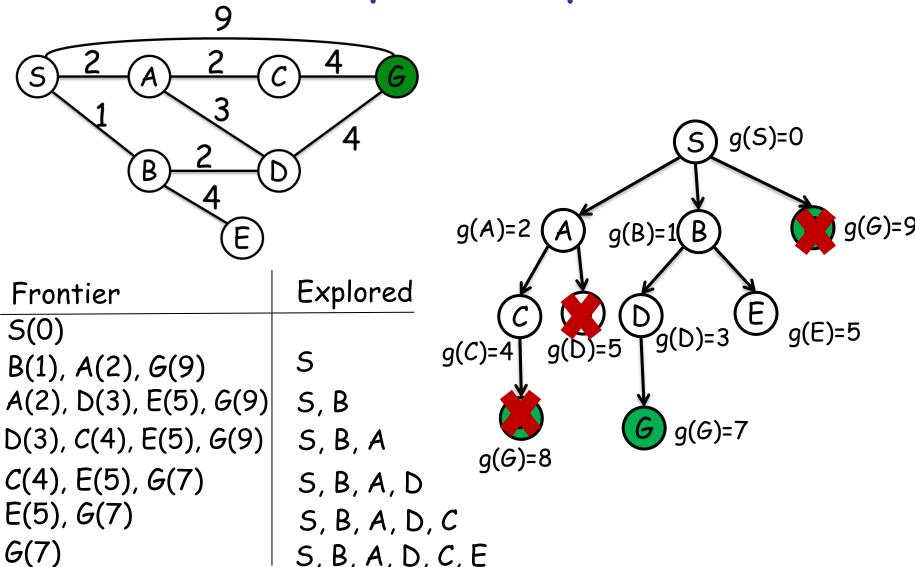




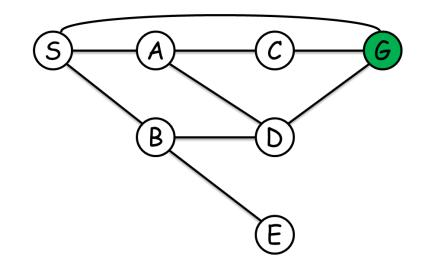
Frontier	Explored
5(0)	
B(1), A(2), G(9)	S
A(2), D(3), E(5), G(9)	S, B
D(3), C(4), E(5), G(9)	S, B, A
C(4), E(5), G(7)	S, B, A, D





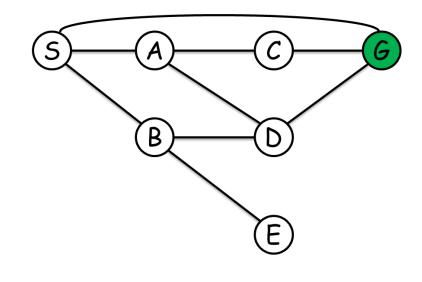


- · Graph search
- · Goal test when expanding a nodeAlphabetical order



Frontier	Explored

- · Graph search
- · Goal test when expanding a nodeAlphabetical order

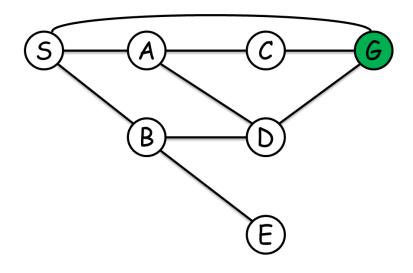


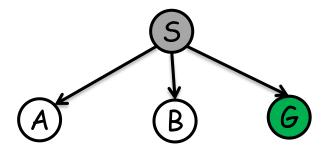


Frontier	Explored
S	

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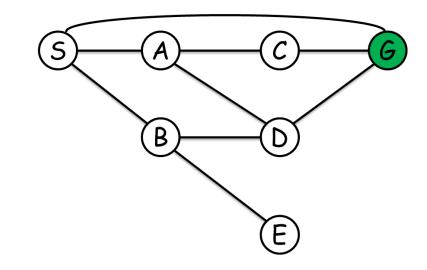
Frontier	Explored
5 A, B, G	S

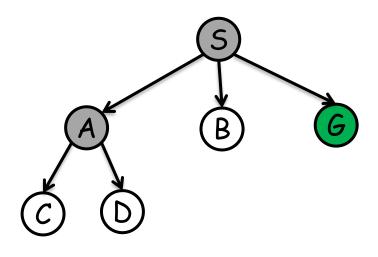




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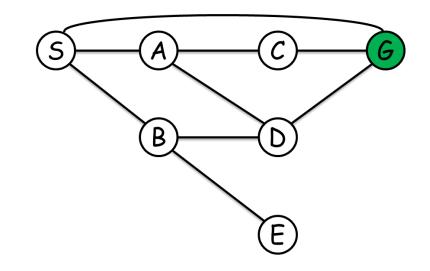
Frontier	Explored
S A, B, G C, D, B, G	S S, A

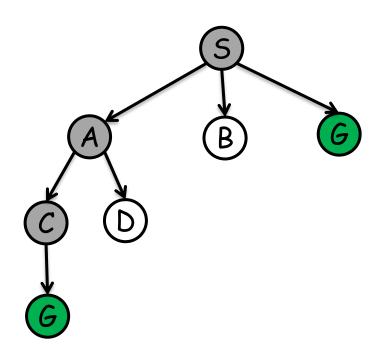




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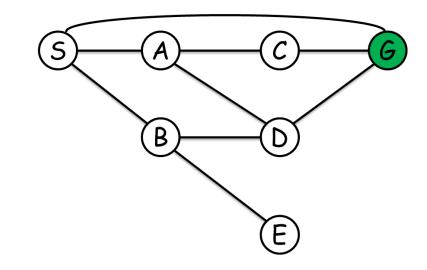
Frontier	Explored
5	
A, B, G	S
C, D, B, G	S, A
<i>G</i> , D, B	S, A, C

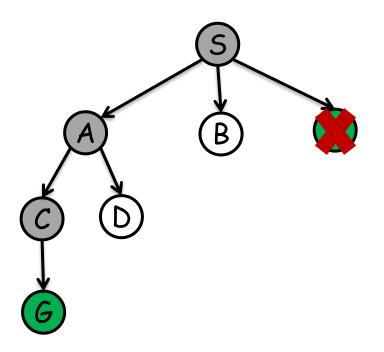




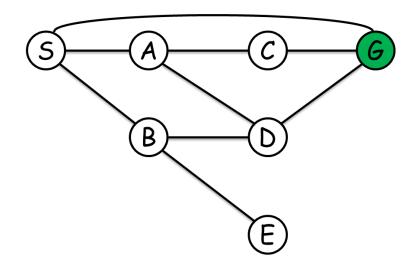
- · Graph search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- Alphabetical order

Frontier	Explored
5	
A, B, G	S
C, D, B, G	S, A
G, D, B	S, A, C



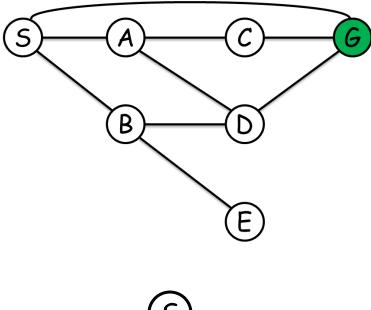


- Tree search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order



Frontier

- Tree search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- Alphabetical order

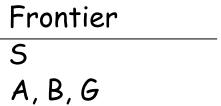


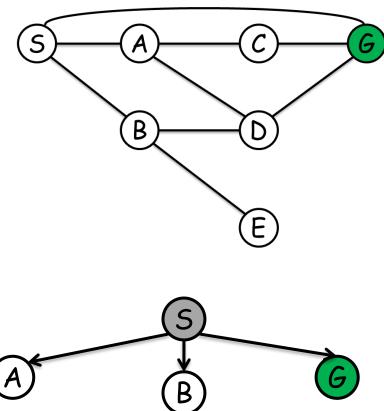
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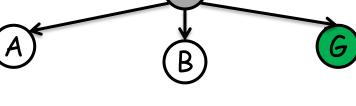
Frontier

5

- Tree search
- · Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order







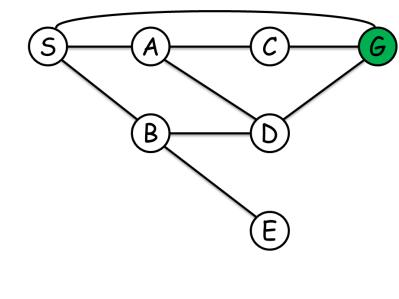
- Tree search
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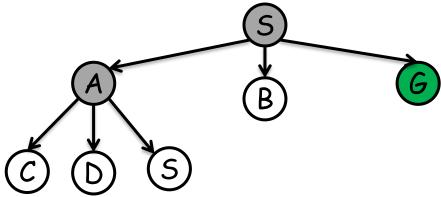
Frontier

S

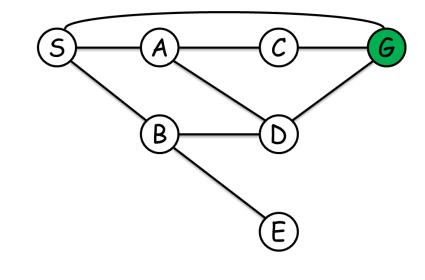
A, B, G

C, D, S, B, G





- Tree search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order



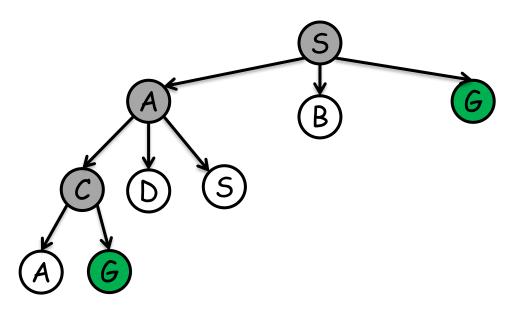
Frontier

S

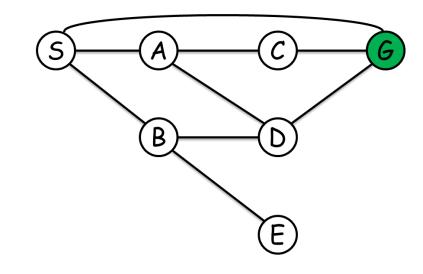
A, B, G

C, D, S, B, G

A, G, D, S, B, G



- Tree search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- Alphabetical order



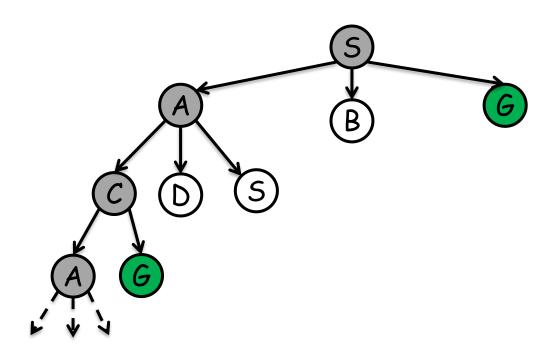
Frontier

S

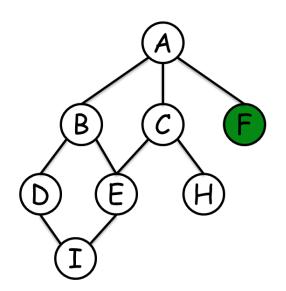
A, B, G

C, D, S, B, G

A, G, D, S, B, G

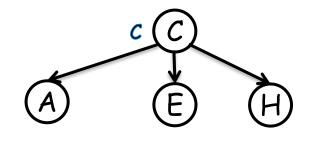


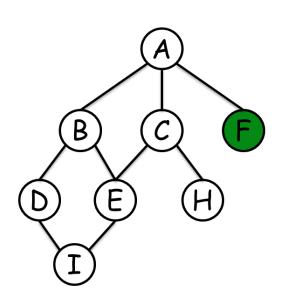
- Improved Tree search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order





- Improved Tree search
- Goal test when expanding a node
- · Alphabetical order

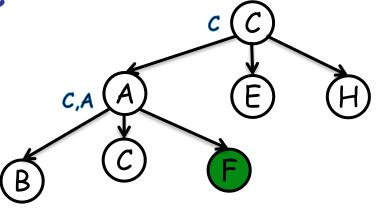


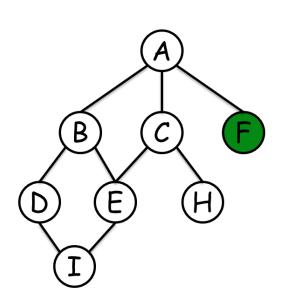


Improved Tree search

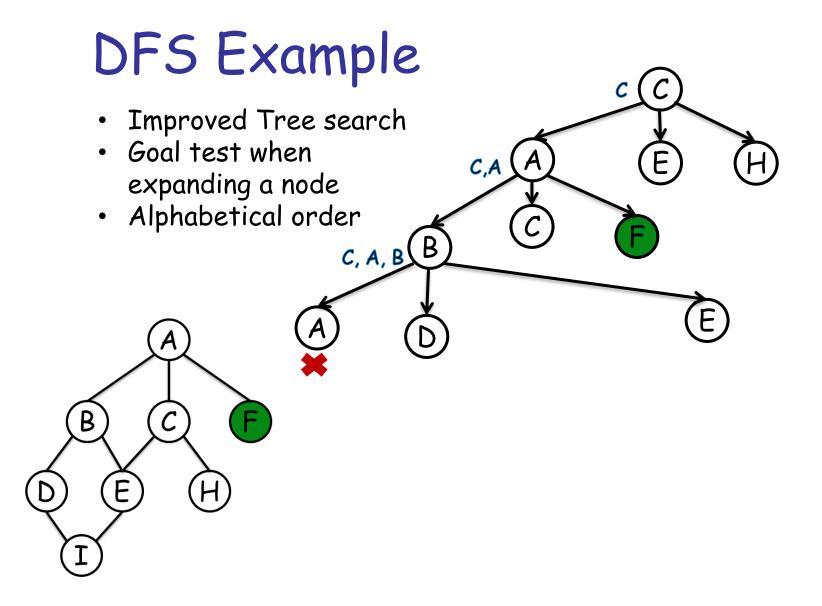
 Goal test when expanding a node

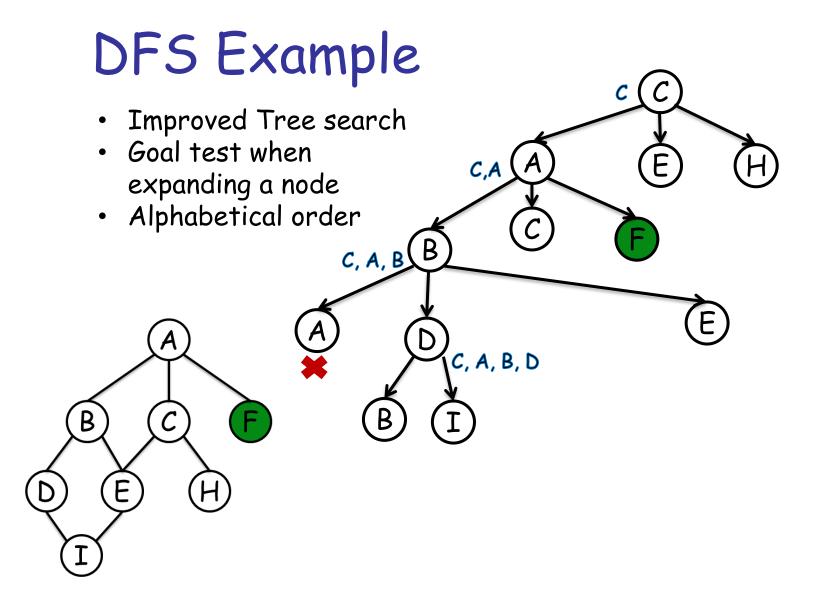
· Alphabetical order

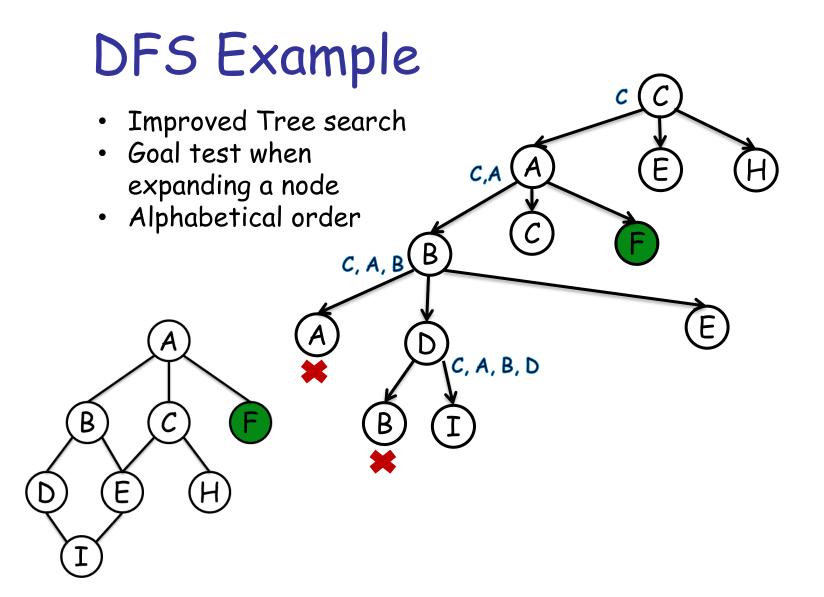


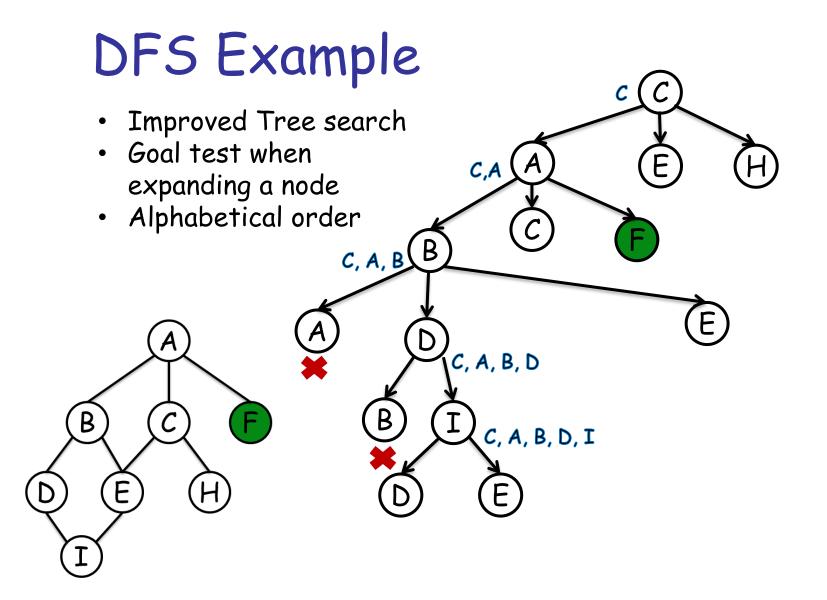


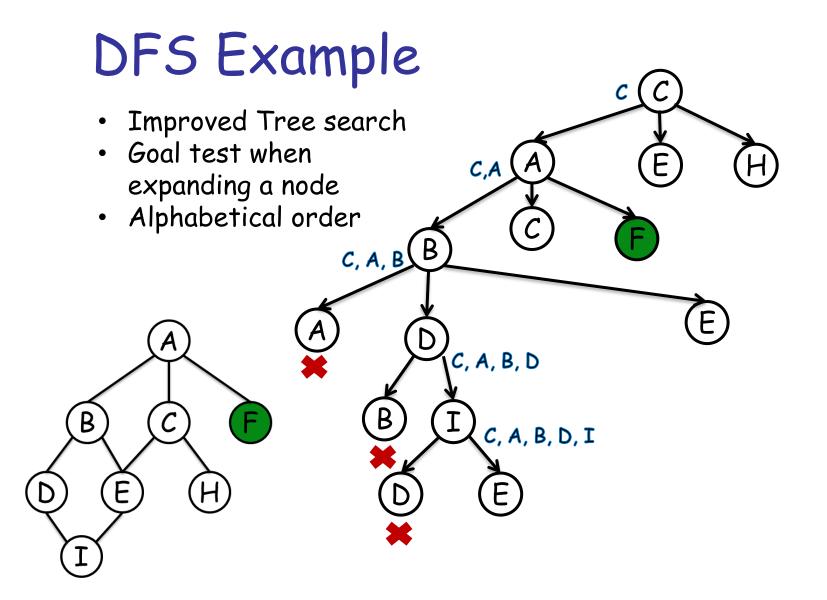
DFS Example Improved Tree search · Goal test when expanding a node · Alphabetical order C, A, B (B)

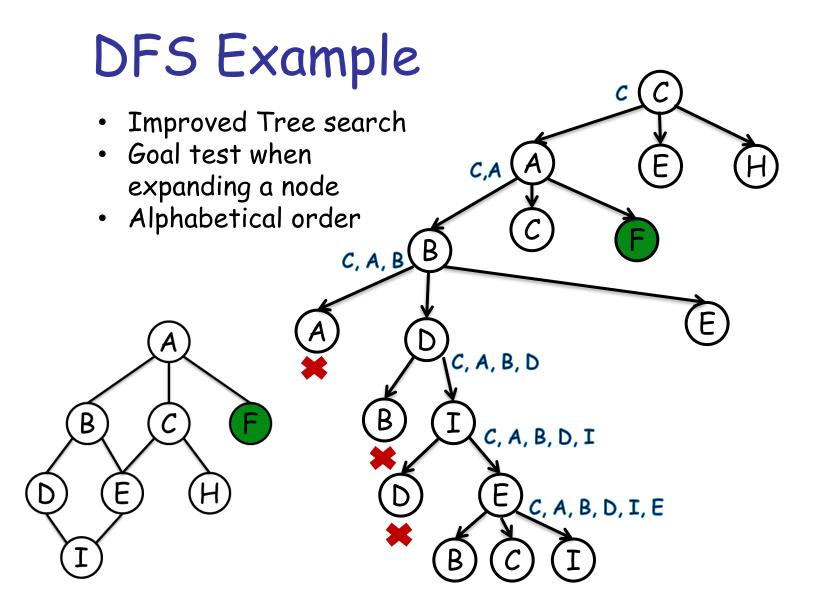


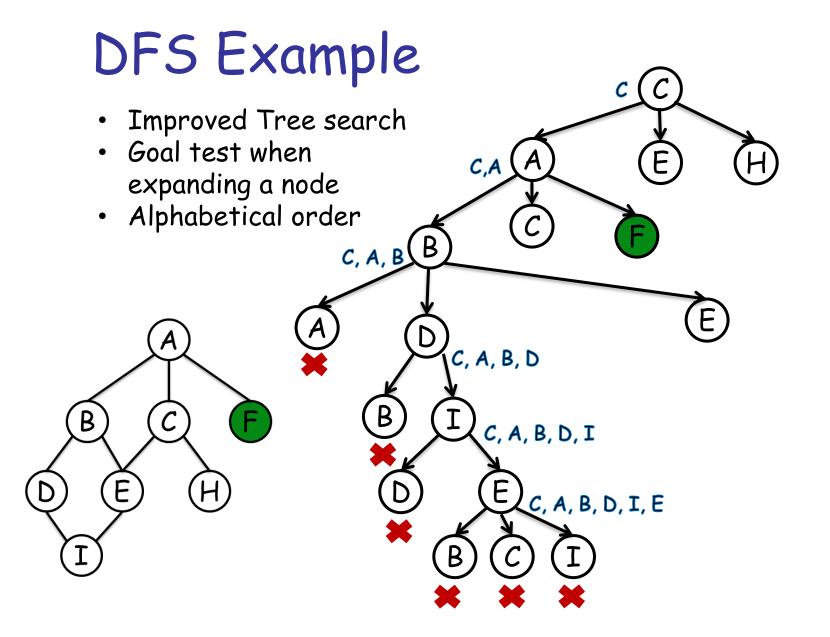


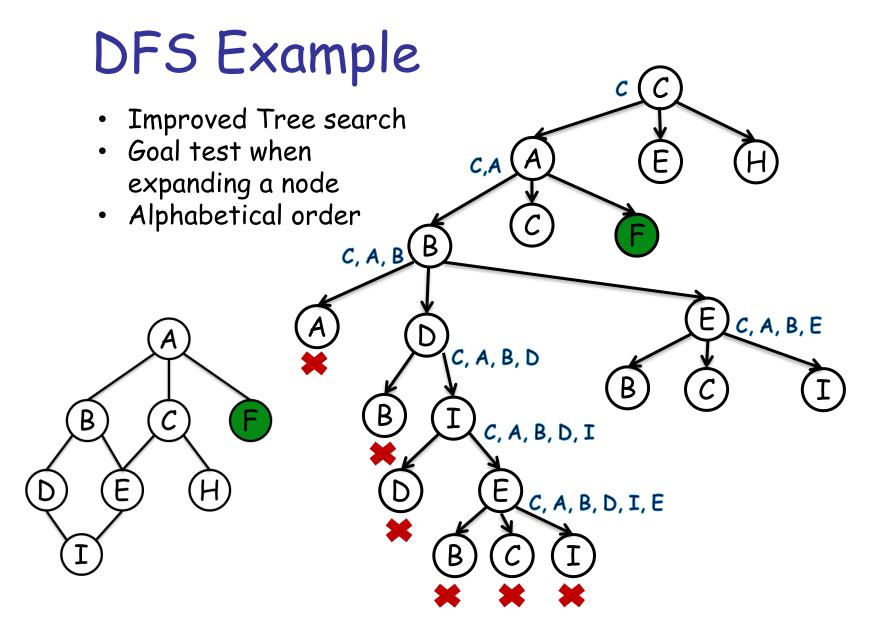


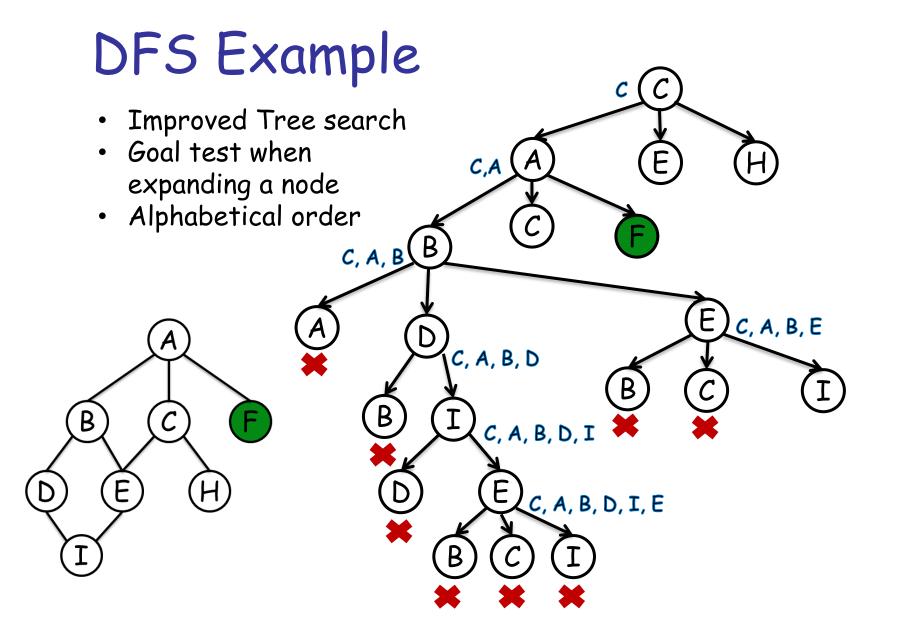


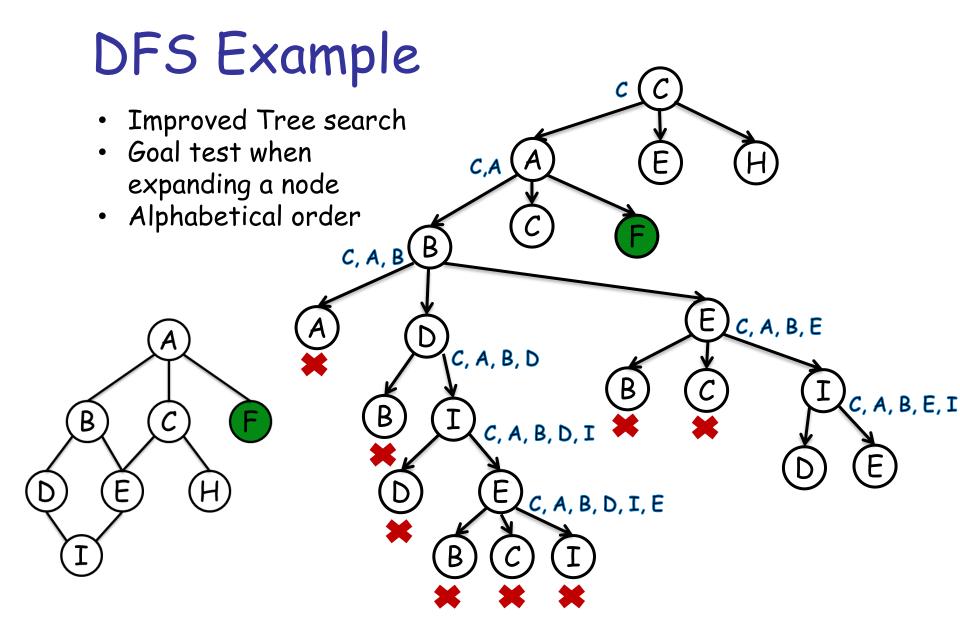


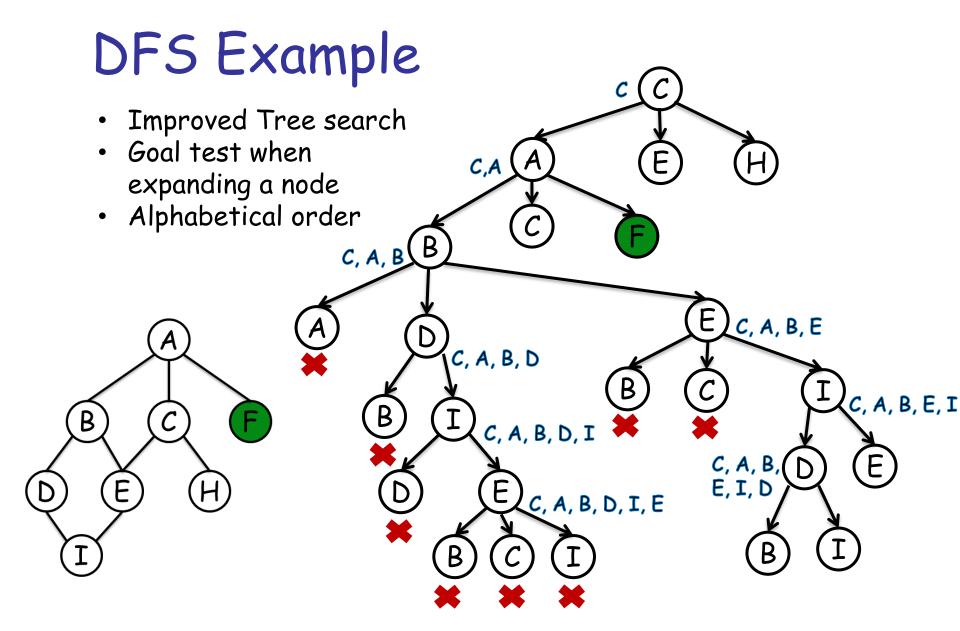


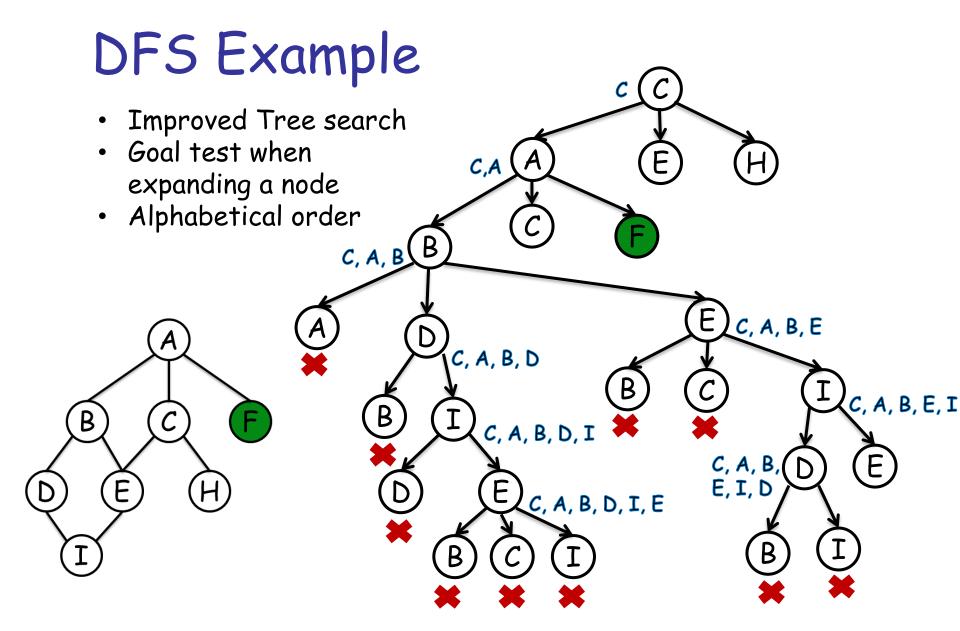


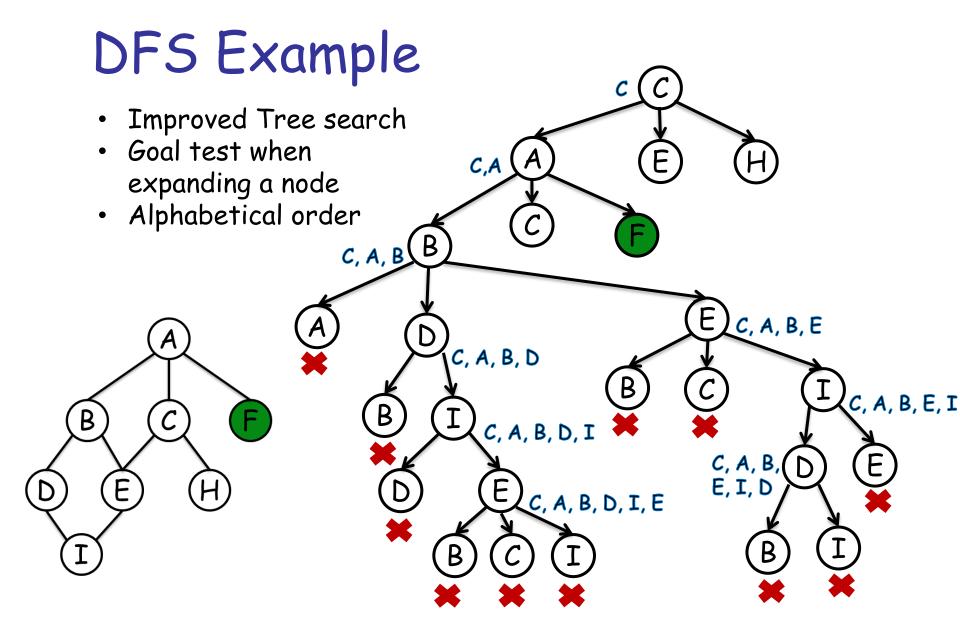


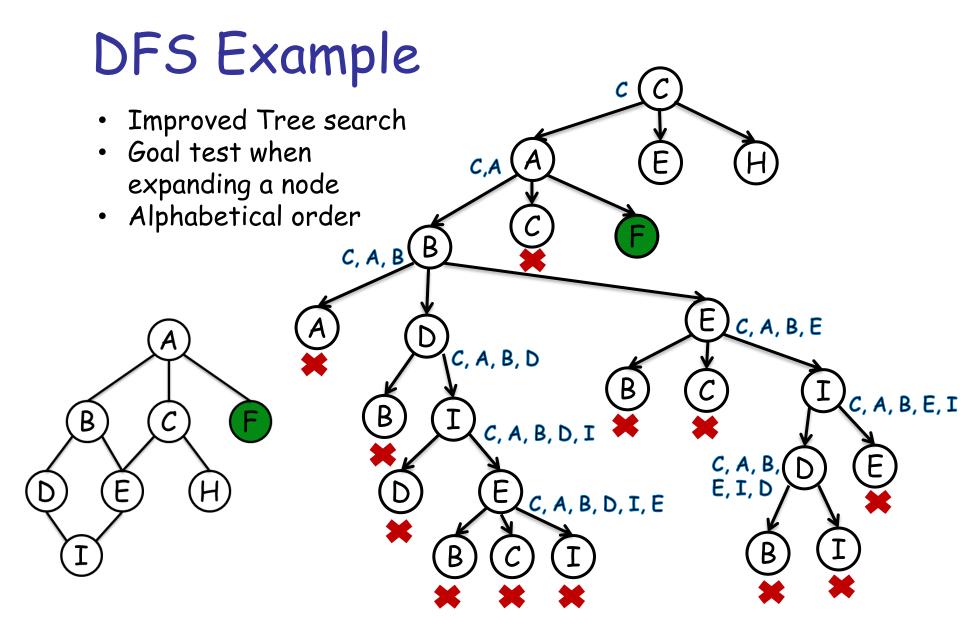












Summary of algorithms

Criterion	Breadth- First	Uniform-Cost	Depth-Frist	Depth-Limited	Iterative- Deepening	Bidirectional (If applicable)
Complete?	Yesa	Yes ^{a,b}	No	No	Yesa	Yes ^{a,d}
Time	$O(b^d)$	$O(b^{1+C^*/\varepsilon})$	$O(b^m)$	$O(b^l)$	$O(b^d)$	$O(b^{d/2})$
Space	$O(b^d)$	$O(b^{1+C^*/\varepsilon})$	O(bm)	O(bl)	0(bd)	$O(b^{d/2})$
Optimal?	Yesc	Yes	No	No	Yesc	Yes ^{c,d}

Superscript caveats are as follows:

- a complete if b is finite
- b complete if step costs ≥ ε for positive ε
- c optimal if step costs are all identical
- d if both directions use breadth-first search