

# COMP3211 Tutorial 3: Search

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Department of CSE  
HKUST

# Outline

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Search

Before Formulations

Formulation

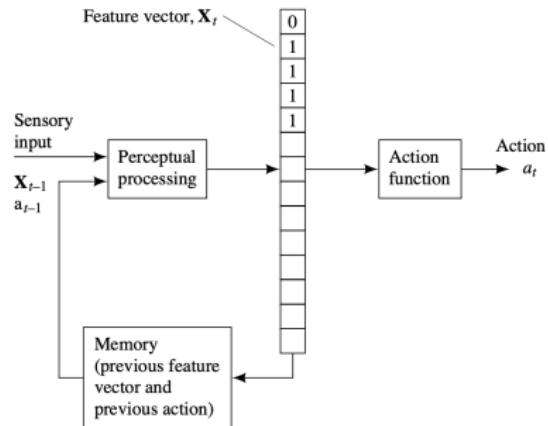
Search Diagram

Exercise

# Search

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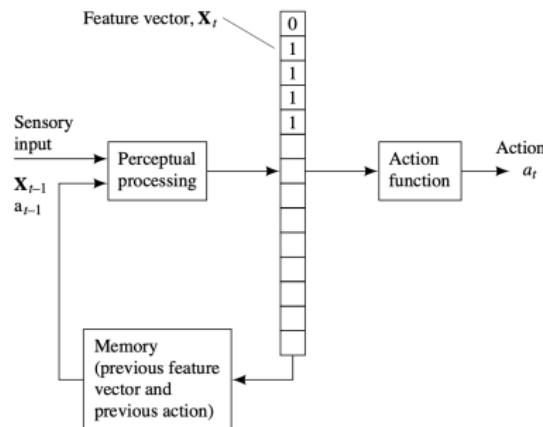
# Simple Agents



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**Figure 1:** Simple agents

# Simple Agents



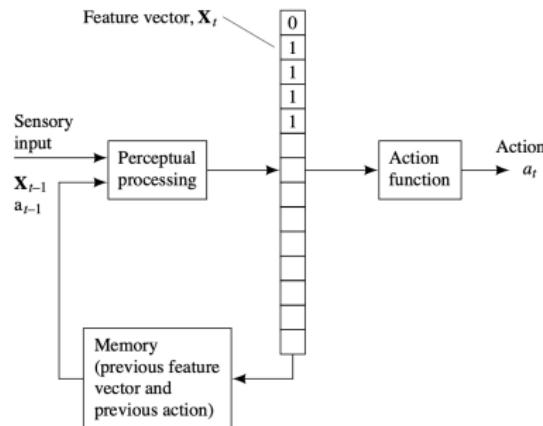
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## Key points:

- Respond to the environment,

**Figure 1:** Simple agents

# Simple Agents



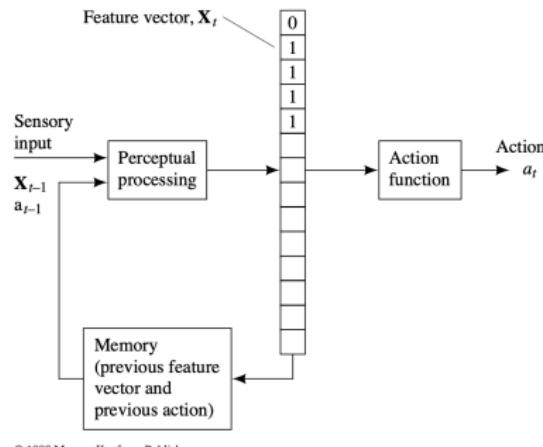
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## Key points:

- Respond to the environment,
- Consider how the world IS, or HAVE BEEN,

**Figure 1:** Simple agents

# Simple Agents



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**Figure 1:** Simple agents

## Key points:

- Respond to the environment,
- Consider how the world IS, or HAVE BEEN,
- Cannot imagine how the world WOULD BE.

# Formulation

## Notations:

- A set of states  $\mathcal{S}$
  - An initial state  $I \in \mathcal{S}$
  - A goal state  $G \in \mathcal{S}$  (sometimes a goal test)
  - A set of actions  $\mathcal{A}$
  - Deterministic transitions  $T : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$
  - Cost function  $c : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
  - A solution (path) is a sequence of actions from  $I$  to  $G$ .
- function*  
*graph*

## Follow-up Questions

**Question #1:**

Can reactive agents or state machines do search?

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- Neither, should be agents that can plan ahead (transitions matter).

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### Question #2:

For agent 1, who can compute a feasible plan (path), if you extract her plan and deploy to agent 2 under the same setting, who has no sensing ability and no computing power, can she successfully reach the goal?

## Follow-up Questions

### Question #1:

Can reactive agents or state machines do search?

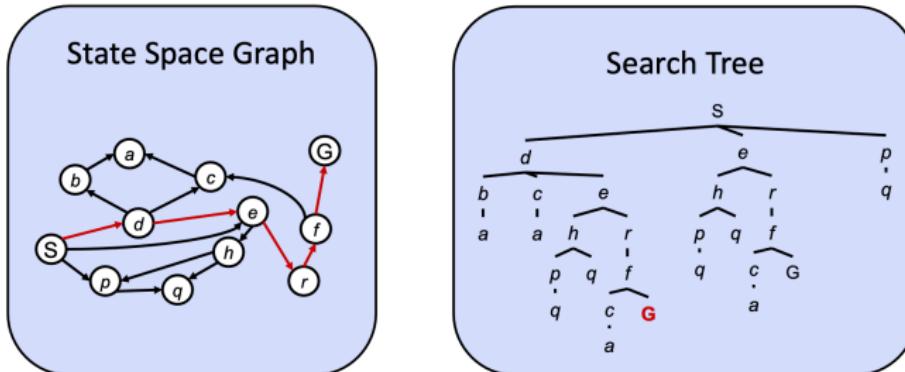
- Neither, should be agents that can plan ahead (transitions matter).

### Question #2:

For agent 1, who can compute a feasible plan (path), if you extract her plan and deploy to agent 2 under the same setting, who has no sensing ability and no computing power, can she successfully reach the goal?

- Yes, once computed, just blindly execute it.

# General Idea: Graph/Tree Search



A node can only be expanded once, while it may be visited multiple times!

Key concepts:

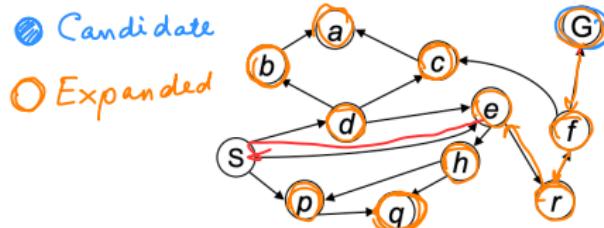
- Fringe (frontier)
- Expansion
- Exploration strategy



# Breadth-First Search

Strategy: expand a shallowest node first

Implementation: Fringe is a FIFO queue



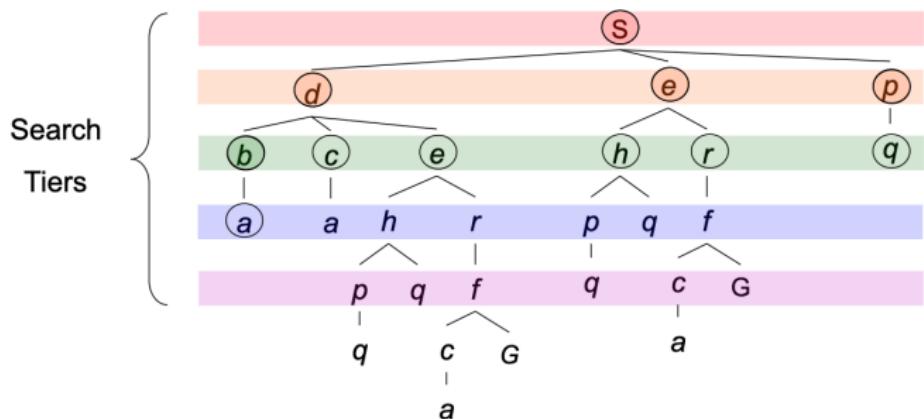
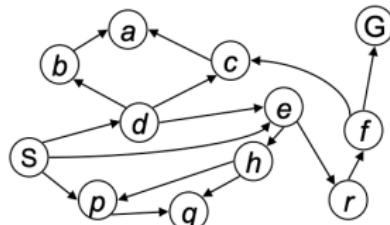
- 1 dep
- 2 e p b c e d
- 3 p b c e h r d e
- 4 b c e h r g d e p
- 5 c e h r g a d e p b
- 6 e h r g a a d e p b c
- 7 x h r g a a d e p b c
- 8 r g a a g d e p b c h
- 9 g a a g f d e p b c h r

10 a a g f d e p b c h r g  
11 a g f d e p b c h r g a  
12 x g f d e p b c h r g a  
13 x f d e p b c h r g a  
✓ 14 G d e p b c h r g a f  
15 → d e p b c h r g a f G  
S → e → r → f → G

# Breadth-First Search

*Strategy: expand a shallowest node first*

*Implementation: Fringe is a FIFO queue*



**Figure 2:** Breadth-First Search

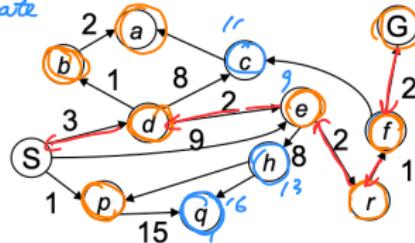
# Uniform Cost Search WEIGHTED - BFS

Strategy: expand a cheapest node first:

Fringe is a priority queue  
(priority: cumulative cost)

○ Candidate

○ Expand



1	p	d <sup>3</sup>	e <sup>9</sup>					
2	d <sup>3</sup>	e <sup>9</sup>	g <sup>16</sup>	p				
3	b <sup>4</sup>	e <sup>5</sup>	e <sup>9</sup>	c <sup>10</sup>	q <sup>16</sup>	p d		
7	e <sup>5</sup>	a <sup>6</sup>	e <sup>9</sup>	c <sup>10</sup>	g <sup>16</sup>	p d b		
5	a <sup>6</sup>	r <sup>9</sup>	e <sup>9</sup>	c <sup>10</sup>	h <sup>13</sup>	g <sup>16</sup>	p d b e	
6	r <sup>9</sup>	e <sup>9</sup>	c <sup>10</sup>	h <sup>13</sup>	g <sup>16</sup>	p d b e a		
7	f <sup>8</sup>	e <sup>9</sup>	c <sup>10</sup>	h <sup>13</sup>	g <sup>16</sup>	p d b e a r		

①

✓ ②

8 e<sup>9</sup> G<sup>10</sup> c<sup>10</sup> h<sup>13</sup> g<sup>16</sup> p d b e a r f  
 9 x G<sup>10</sup> c<sup>10</sup> h<sup>13</sup> g<sup>16</sup> p d b e a r f  
 c<sup>10</sup> h<sup>13</sup> g<sup>16</sup> p d b e a r f G

S → d → e → r → f → G

# Uniform Cost Search

Strategy: expand a cheapest node first:

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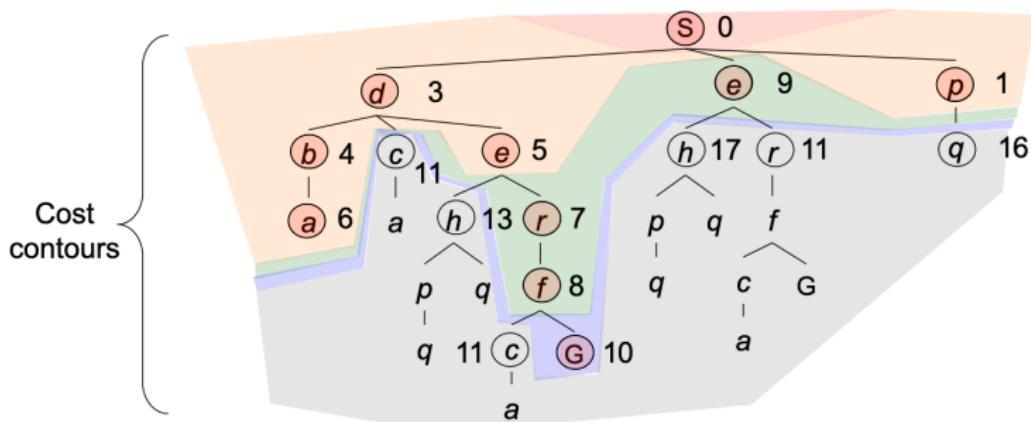
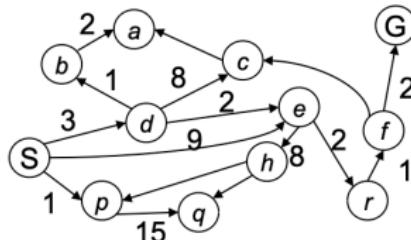


Figure 3: Uniform Cost Search

# Greedy Search

- Strategy: expand a node that you think is closest to a goal state.
- Best case: every time you make a perfect guess.
- Worst case: turn around until you get into a dead end.

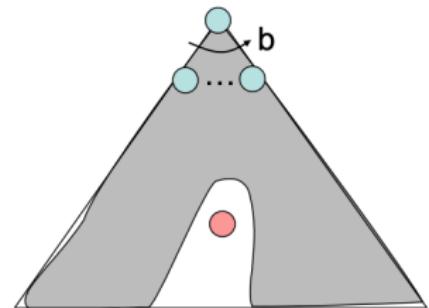
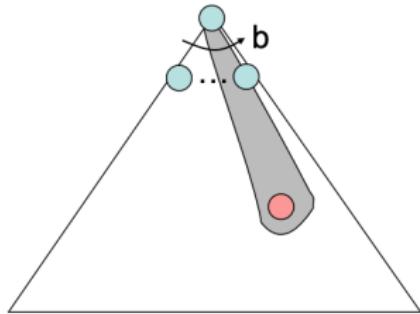


Figure 4: Uniform Cost Search

## $A^*$ Search

- Uniform-cost orders by path cost, or backward cost  $g(n)$
- Greedy orders by goal proximity, or forward cost  $h(n)$

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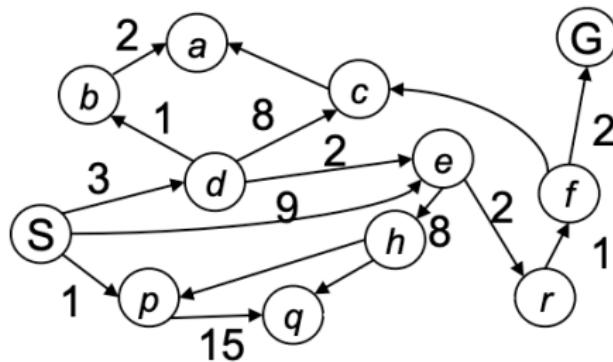
- Uniform-cost orders by path cost, or backward cost  $g(n)$
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- Implementation: priority queue,  $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$ .

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- Admissible heuristic:  $h(n) \leq cost(n, G)$ .

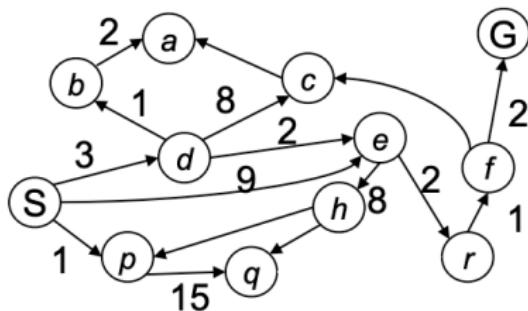
# A\* Search

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**Figure 5:**  $h(n) = \text{shortest\_path\_length}(n, G)$

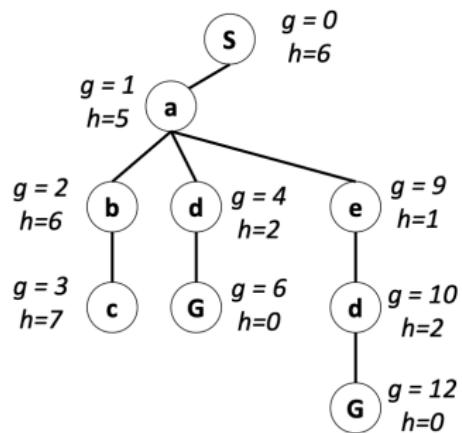
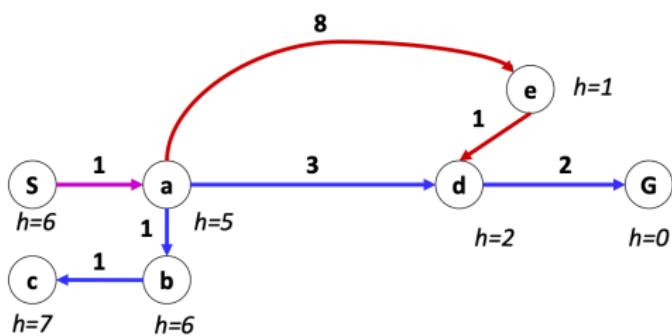
# $A^*$ Search



**Figure 6:**

$$h(n) = \text{shortest\_path\_length}(n, G)$$

## $A^*$ Search – another example



## $A^*$ Search – demo

- Uniform-cost orders by path cost, or backward cost  $g(n)$
- Greedy orders by goal proximity, or forward cost  $h(n)$
- Strategy: expand a node that is best so far.
- Implementation: priority queue,  $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$ .
- Admissible heuristic:  $h(n) \leq cost(n, G)$ .
- Live demo: <https://www.movingai.com/SAS/index.html>

# Exercise

## *A\** search:

- An offline process – when the map changes: need to replan the whole solution.

## Exercise

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- Can we reuse any historical data to be more efficient?

## Exercise

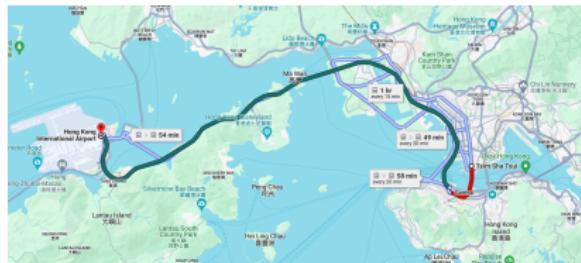
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# Exercise

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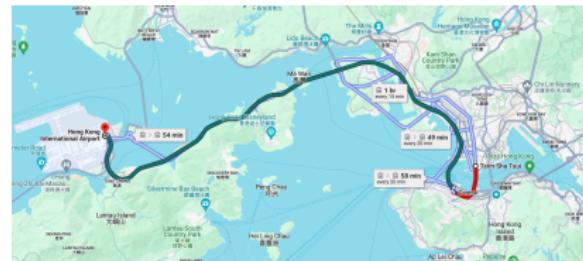
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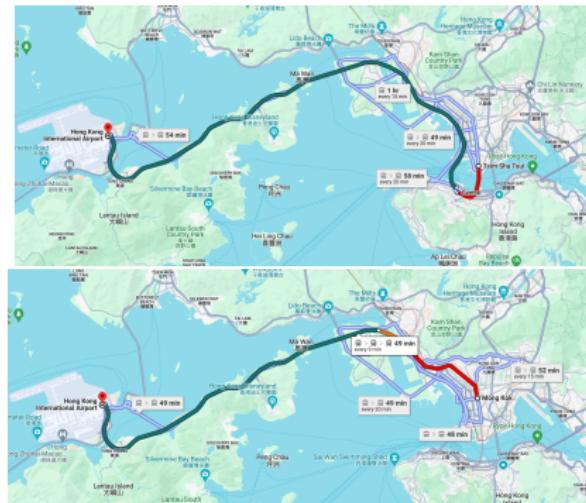
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# Exercise

## *A\** search:

- An offline process – when the map changes: need to replan the whole solution.
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**Figure 7:** Plan backwards from the goal to the start: *D\** Lite

*Thanks!*