Tree Searching Strategy

Outlines

- The Breadth-First Search
- Depth-First Search
- Hill Climbing
- Best-First Search Strategy
- The Branch-and-Bound Strategy
- A Personnel Assignment Problem Solved by the Branch-and-Bound Strategy
- The Traveling Salesperson Optimization Problem Solved by the Branch-and-Bound Strategy
- The 0/1 Knapsack Problem Solved by the Branchand-Bound Strategy

學習目標

- Tree Searching 策略設計的概念
- Tree Searching 策略設計的應用範例
- Tree Searching 策略分類
 - Breadth-First Search (BFS)
 - Depth-First Search (DFS)
 - Hill-Climbing Search
 - Best-First Search

Introduction

• In this chapter, we shall show that the solutions of many problems may be represented by trees and therefore the solving of these problems becomes a tree searching problem.

Boolean basics Literals, clauses, CNFs, implicates

- Boolean function on n variables is a mapping $\{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$
- Literal = variable or its negation (eg. \mathbf{p} or $\neg \mathbf{p}$)
- Clause = disjunction of literals (no complementary pair)
 - $(\mathbf{p} \vee \mathbf{q}), (\mathbf{p} \vee \mathbf{q} \vee \mathbf{r}), (\mathbf{p} \vee \neg \mathbf{r}), \dots$
- Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF) = conjunction of clauses (Fact: Every Boolean function has a CNF representation)
 - $C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge C_3$
- Every Boolean formula can be transformed into the CNF.
- A formula G is a logical consequence of a formula F if and only if whenever F is true, G is true

SAT problem Definition

Input: A CNF *formula* on n Boolean variables $x_1, ..., x_n$.

Question: Does there exist a truth assignment to $x_1, ..., x_n$ which satisfies *formula*?

■ Satisfiability problem:

Given a set of **clauses**, one method of determining whether this set of clauses are *satisfiable* is to examine all possible assignments.

That is, if then are n variables x_1 , x_2 , ..., x_n , then we simply examine all 2^n possible assignment. In each assignment, x_i is assigned either T or F.

The satisfiability problem

- The <u>satisfiability</u> problem (first NP-complete problem)
 - The logical formula:

$$x_1 \lor x_2 \lor x_3$$
 & $\neg x_1$ & $\neg x_2$ the **assignment**: $x_1 \leftarrow F$, $x_2 \leftarrow F$, $x_3 \leftarrow T$

will make the above formula true.

$$(\neg x_1, \neg x_2, x_3)$$
 represents $x_1 \leftarrow F$, $x_2 \leftarrow F$, $x_3 \leftarrow T$

- If an assignment makes a formula true, we shall say that this assignment satisfies the formula; otherwise, it falsifies the formula.
- If there is <u>at least one</u> assignment which satisfies a formula, then we say that this formula is <u>satisfiable</u>; otherwise, it is <u>unsatisfiable</u>.
- An unsatisfiable formula :

$$x_{1} \lor x_{2}$$
& $x_{1} \lor \neg x_{2}$
& $\neg x_{1} \lor x_{2}$
& $\neg x_{1} \lor x_{2}$

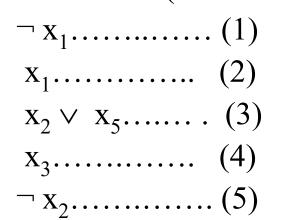
$$x_1$$
 & $\neg x_1$

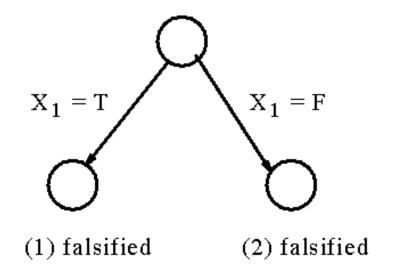
SAT problem

- SAT is one of the most basic and most studied problems in computer science
- It has many practical applications in VLSI design, network design (and in many other fields where Boolean variables naturally describe the studied problem)
- A procedure which generates resolution closure is enough to solve SAT (but it is exponential).
- How hard it is to solve SAT, i.e. what is the complexity of this problem?

Given (1)
$$\land$$
 (2) \land (3) \land (4) \land (5) = T, x_i =?

An instance (a set of clauses):

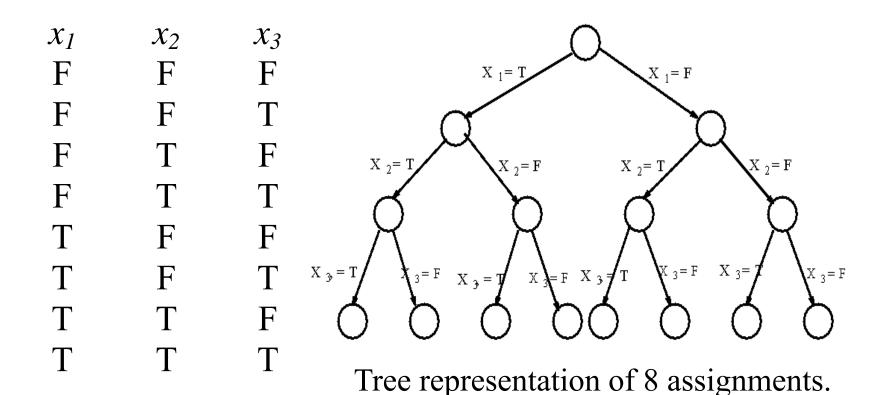




A partial tree to determine the satisfiability problem.

We may not need to examine all possible assignments.

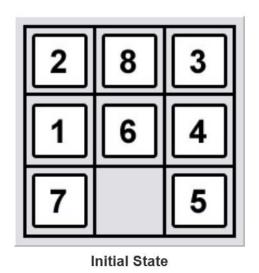
Satisfiability (SAT) problem

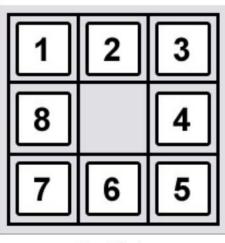


If there are n variables $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$, then there are 2^n possible assignments.

8-Puzzle Problem

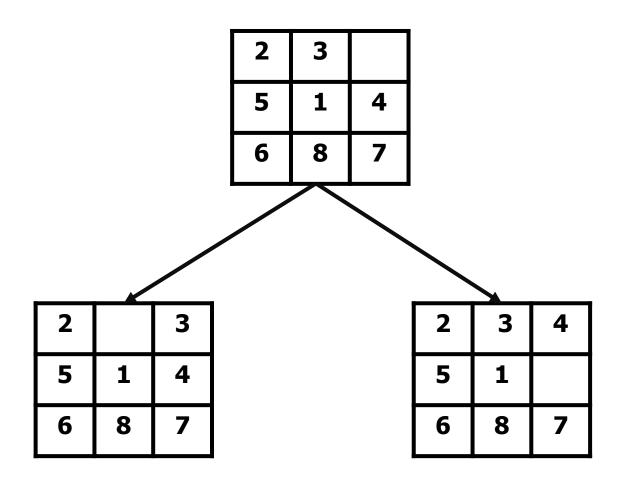
- We show a square frame which can hold 9 items. However, only 8 items exist and therefore there is an empty spot (initial state).
- Our problem is to move these numbered tiles around so that the *final (or goal) state* is reached.
- The numbered tiles can be moved only horizontally or vertically to the empty spot.



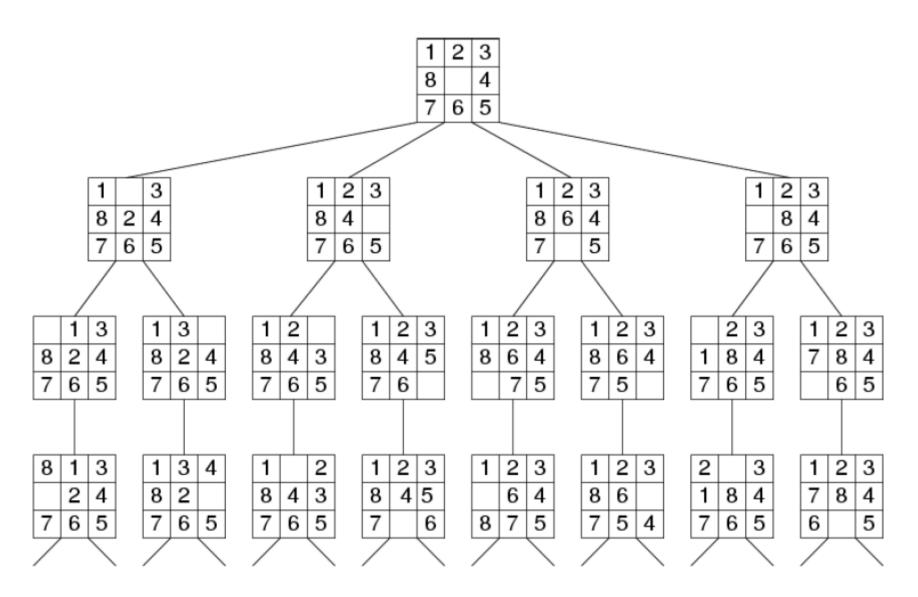


Goal State

Possible Moves

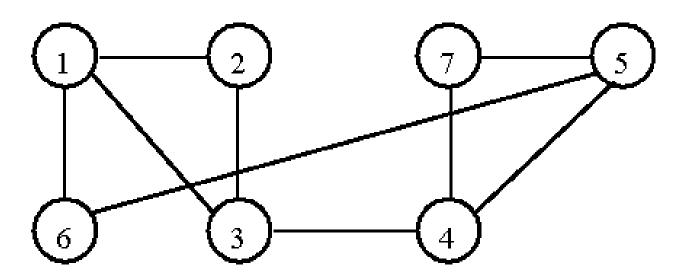


Search Tree for 8-Puzzle



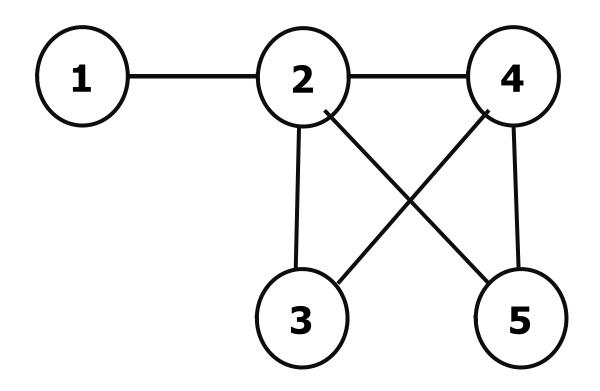
Hamiltonian circuit problem

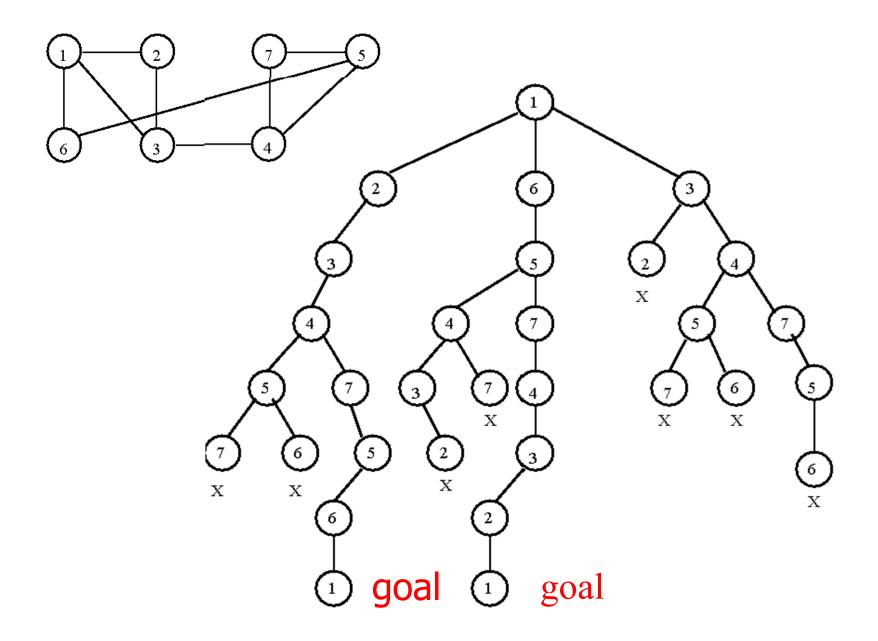
• Given a graph G=(V,E) which is a connected graph with n vertices, a *Hamiltonian circuit* is a round trip path along n edges of G which visits every vertex once and returns to its starting position.



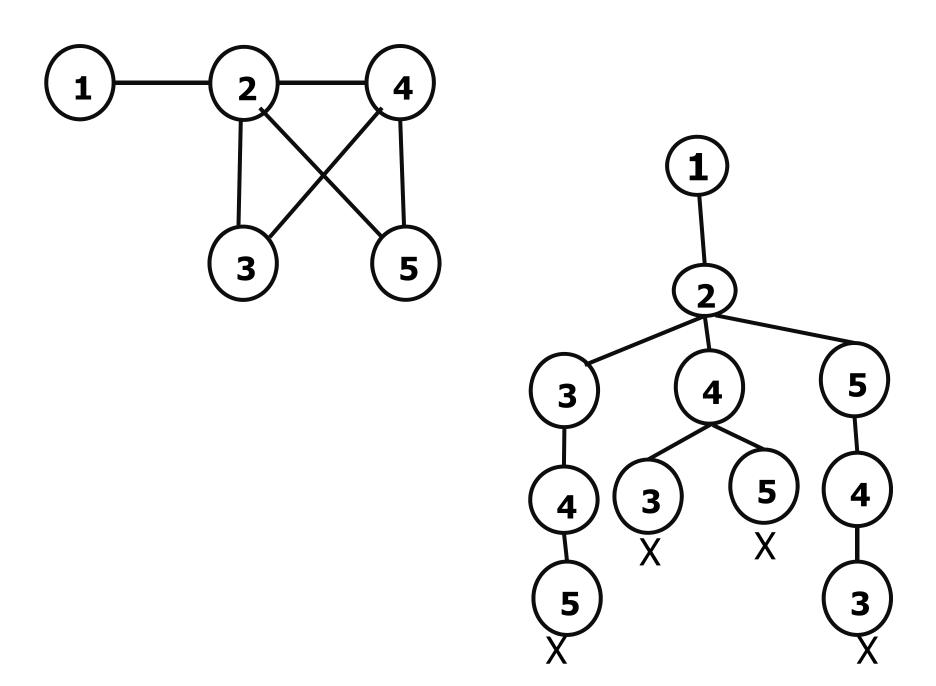
Example

• Find HC



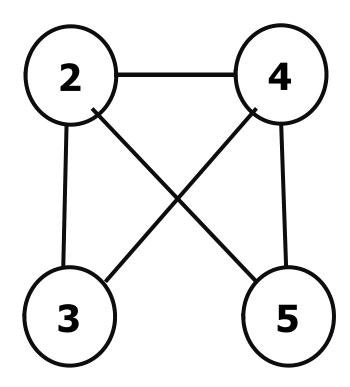


The tree representation of whether there exists a Hamiltonian circuit.



Question:

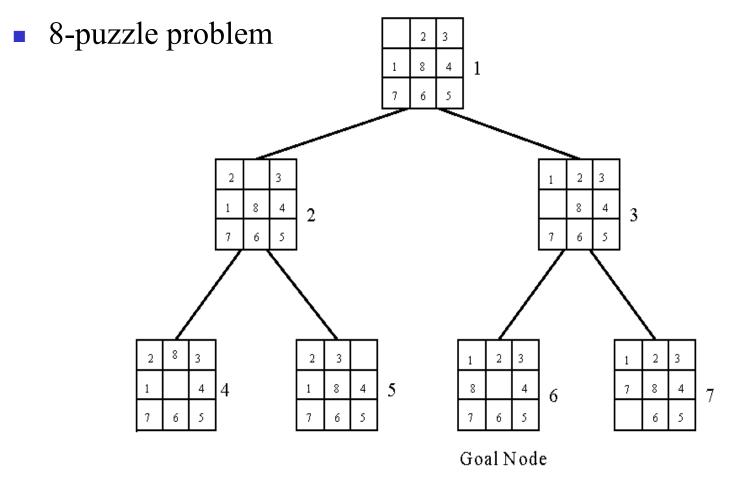
- Is there any *Hamiltonian circuit* in the given graph?
- (1) yes
- (2) no



Ans. 1

Breadth-First Search

Breadth-first search (BFS)



• The breadth-first search uses a <u>queue</u> to holds all expanded nodes.

Breadth-First Search

- **Step 1.** Form a one-element queue consisting of the root node.
- Step 2. Test to see if the first element in the queue is a goal node. If it is, stop. Otherwise, go to Step 3.
- Step 3. Remove the first element from the queue. Add the first element's descendants, if any, to the end of the queue.
- **Step** 4. If the queue is empty. then failure. Otherwise, go to Step 2.

Depth-first search (DFS)

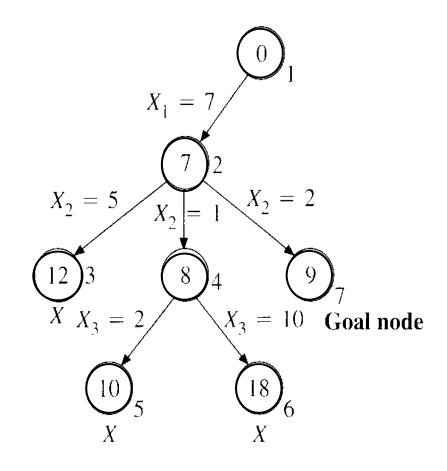
Depth-first search (DFS)

e.g. sum of subset problem

$$S=\{7, 5, 1, 2, 10\}$$

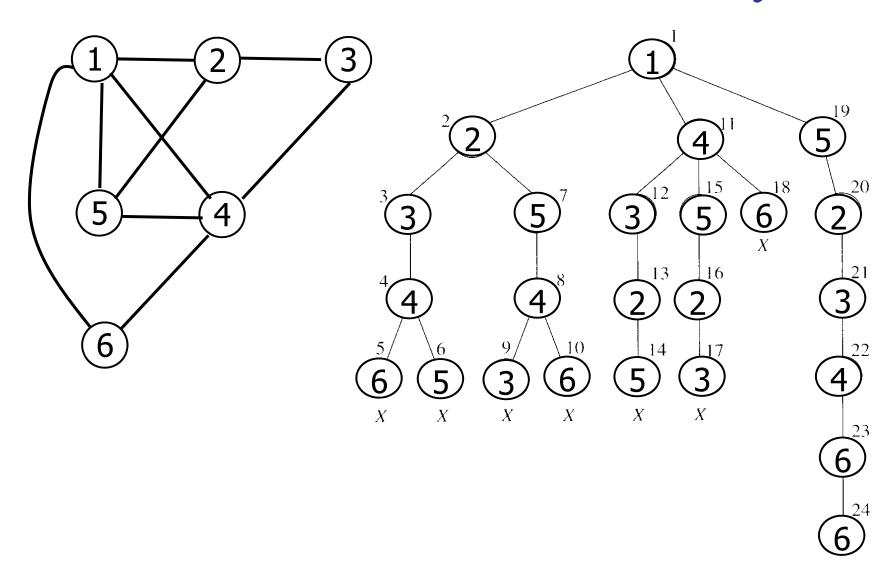
 $\exists S' \subseteq S \ni \text{ sum of } S' = 9 ?$

• A stack can be used to guide the depth-first search.



A sum or subset problem solved by depth-first search.

DFS-tree for Hamiltonian cycle



DFS (Depth-First Search)

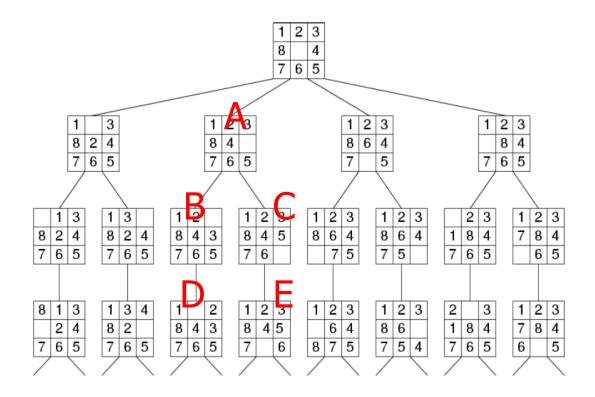
- Step 1. Form a one-element stack consisting of the root node.
- Step 2. Test to see if the top element in the stack is a goal node. If it is, then stop: otherwise, go to Step 3.
- Step 3. Remove the top element from the stack and add the first elements descendants, if any, to the top of the stack.
- Step 4. If the stack is empty, then failure. Otherwise, go to Step 2.

Question:

• Which is next state by using the BFS, if you are at the state A?

- (1) B,
- (2) C,
- (3) D,
- (4) E

Search Tree for 8-Puzzle



Ans. 1

Hill climbing

Hill climbing

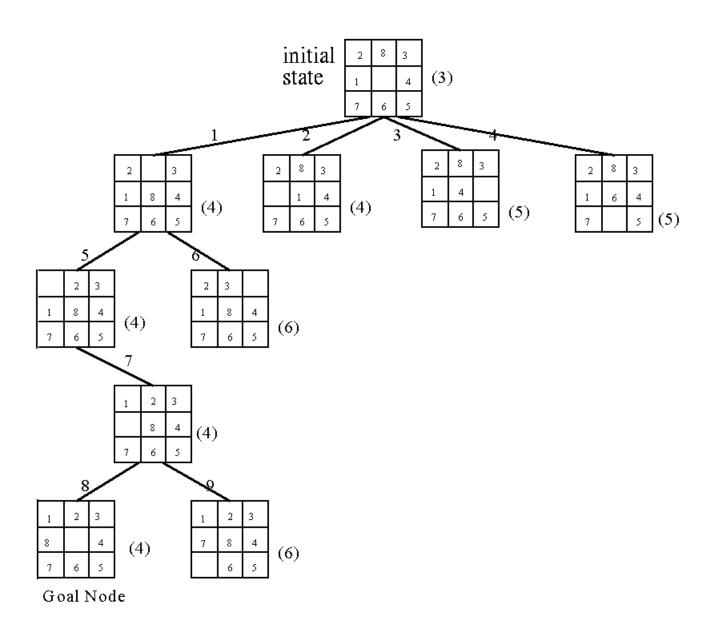
- Among all the descendants, which node should be selected by us to expand?
- Hill climbing is a variant of depth-first search in which some greedy method is used to help us decide which direction to move in the search space.
- Usually, the greedy method uses some <u>heuristics measure</u> to order the choices. And, the better the heuristics, the better the hill climbing is.

Hill Climbing

- A variant of <u>depth-first search</u>
 The method selects the locally optimal node to expand.
- e.g. 8-puzzle problem
 evaluation function f(n) = d(n) + w(n)
 where d(n) is the depth of node n
 w(n) is # of misplaced tiles in node n.

Scheme of Hill Climbing

- **Step 1.** Form a one-element stack consisting of the root node.
- Step 2. Test to see if the top element in the stack is a goal node. If it is. Stop: otherwise, go to Step 3.
- Step 3. Remove the top element from the stack and expand the element. Add the descendants of the element into the stack ordered by the evaluation function.
- **Step** 4. If the list is empty. failure. Otherwise, go to Step 2.



An 8-puzzle problem solved by a hill climbing method.

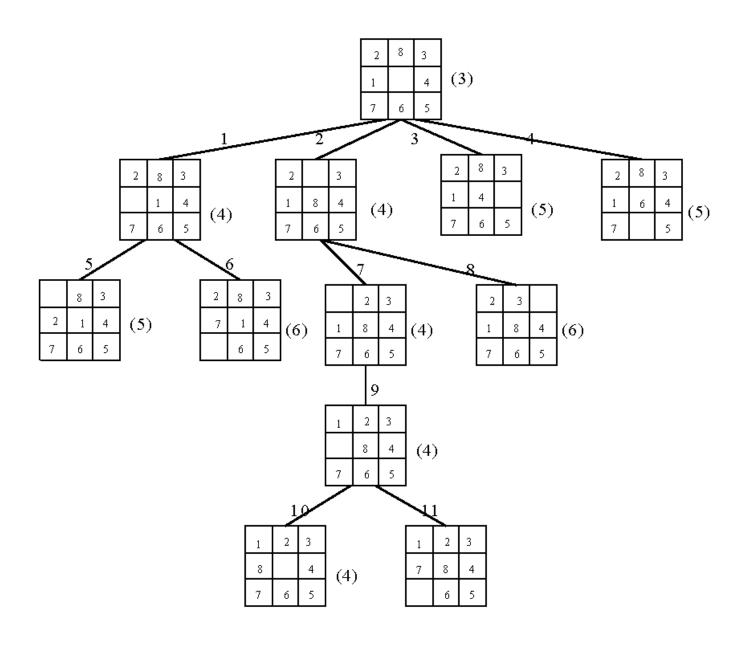
Best-first search strategy

Best-first search strategy

- Combing depth-first search and breadth-first search.
- Selecting the node with the best estimated cost among all nodes.
- This method has a global view.

Best-First Search Scheme

- Step1: Construct a heap by using the evaluation function. First, form a 1-element heap consisting of the root node.
- Step2: Test to see if the root element in the heap is a goal node. If it is, stop; otherwise, go to Step 3.
- Step3: Remove the root element from the heap and expand the element. Add the descendants of the element into the heap.
- Step4: If the heap is empty, then failure. Otherwise, go to Step 2.



An 8-puzzle problem solved by a best-first search scheme.

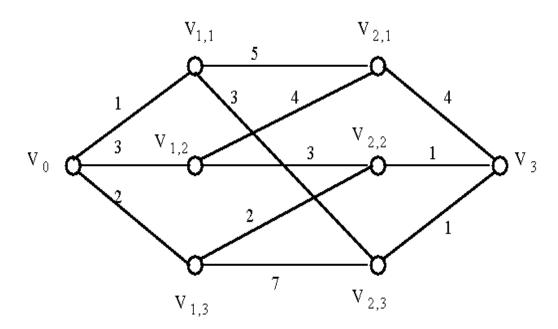
Branch-and-bound strategy

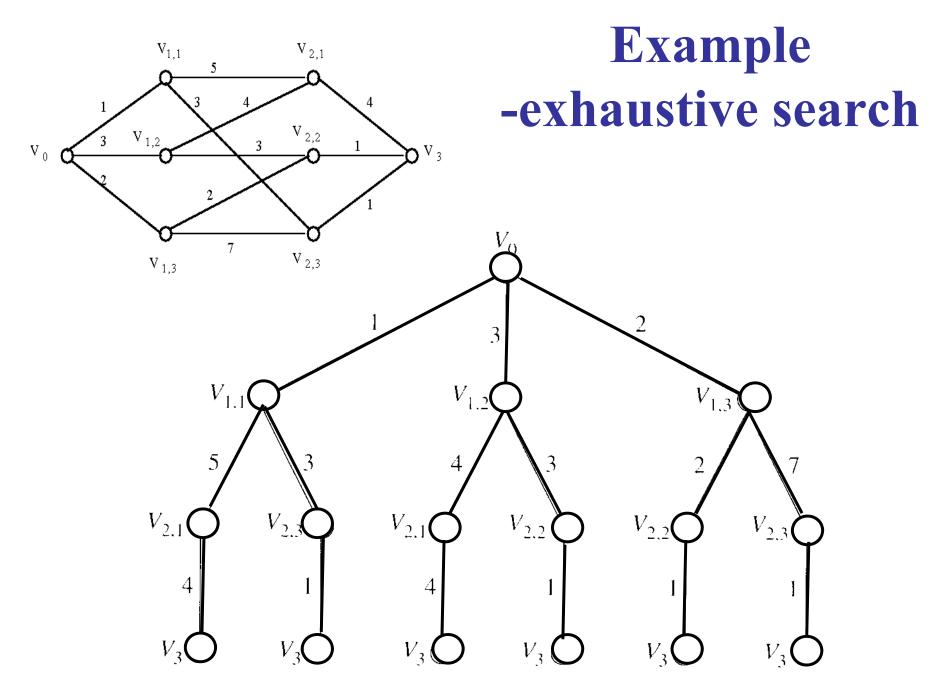
學習目標

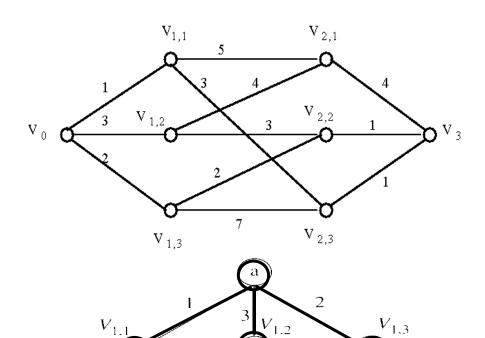
- Branch-and-bound strategy設計的概念
- Branch-and-bound strategy設計的應用範例

Branch-and-bound strategy

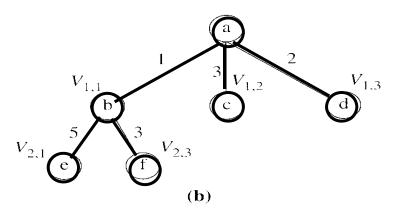
- This strategy can be used to efficiently solve optimization problems.
- One of the most efficient strategies to solve a large combinatorial problem.
- Basically, it suggests that a problem may have feasible solutions. However, one should try to <u>cut down the</u> <u>solution space</u> by finding out that many feasible solutions can not be optimal solutions.

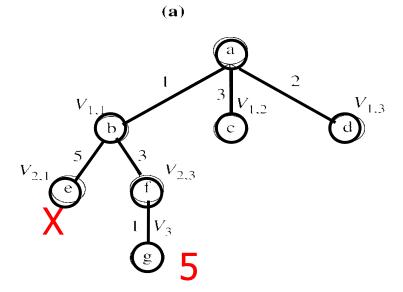




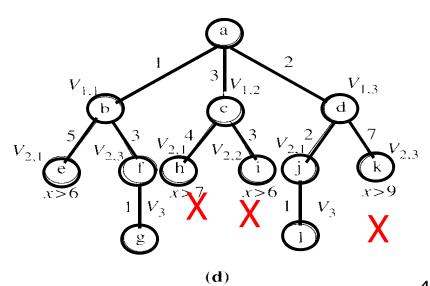


Hill climbing

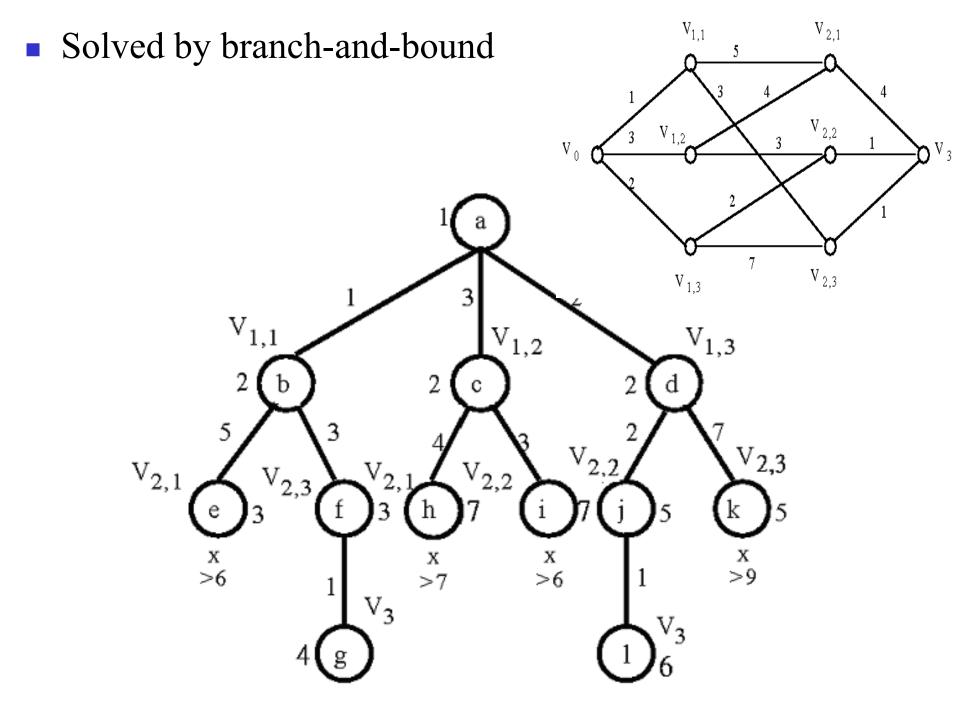




(c)



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Branch & Bound

- This strategy consists of two important mechanisms:
 - A mechanism to generate branchings and
 - a mechanism to generate a bound so that many branchings can be terminated.
- Although the branch-and-bound strategy is usually very efficient.
 in worst cases, a very large tree may still be generated.
- Thus, we must realize that the branch-and-bound strategy is efficient in the sense of average cases.

Personnel assignment problem

學習目標

- Personnel assignment problem 問題定義
- Topological sorting 定義
- Branch-and-bound strategy 演算法設計

Personnel assignment problem

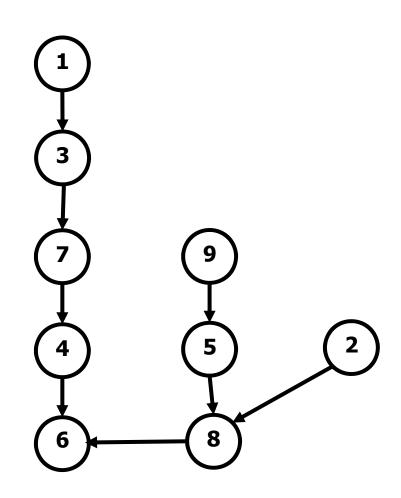
- A linearly ordered set of persons $P=\{P_1, P_2, ..., P_n\}$ where $P_1 < P_2 < ... < P_n$
- A partially ordered set of jobs $J=\{J_1, J_2, ..., J_n\}$
- Suppose that P_i and P_j are assigned to jobs $f(P_i)$ and $f(P_j)$ respectively.
- Constraint:
 - If $f(P_i) \le f(P_j)$, then $P_i \le P_j$. If $P_i \ne P_j$, then $f(P_i) \ne f(P_j)$.
- Cost C_{ij} is the cost of assigning P_i to J_i .
- We want to find a feasible assignment with the minimum cost. i.e.

$$X_{ij} = 1$$
 if P_i is assigned to J_j
 $X_{ij} = 0$ otherwise.

Goal: Minimize $\sum_{\forall i,j} C_{ij} X_{ij}$

Topological sorting (拓樸排序)

For a n partial ordering set S, a linear sequence S_1 , S_2 , ..., S_n , is topologically sorted respect to S if $S_i < S_j$ in the partial ordering implies that S_i is located before S_j in the sequence.

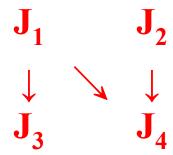


One possible topologically sorted sequence is 1, 3, 7, 4, 9, 2, 5, 8, 6.

A feasible assignment

- Let $P_1 \rightarrow J_{k1}, P_2 \rightarrow J_{k2}, ..., P_n \rightarrow J_{kn}$, be a feasible assignment.
- According to our problem definition, the jobs are partially ordered and persons are linearly ordered.
- Therefore, J_{k1} , J_{k2} , ..., J_{kn} must be a topologically sorted sequence with respect to the partial ordering of jobs.
- Let us illustrate our idea by an example. Consider $J = \{J_1, J_2, J_3, J_4\}$ and $P = \{P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4\}$.

• e.g. A partial ordering of jobs



• After topological sorting, one of the following topologically sorted sequences will be generated:

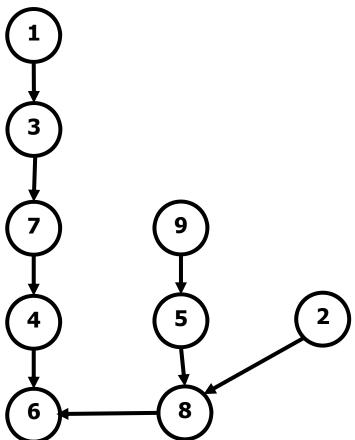
$$J_1, \quad J_2, \quad J_3, \quad J_4$$
 $J_1, \quad J_2, \quad J_4, \quad J_3$
 $J_1, \quad J_3, \quad J_2, \quad J_4$
 $J_2, \quad J_1, \quad J_3, \quad J_4$
 $J_2, \quad J_1, \quad J_3, \quad J_4$

• One of feasible assignments:

$$P_1 \rightarrow J_1, P_2 \rightarrow J_2, P_3 \rightarrow J_3, P_4 \rightarrow J_4$$

Question:

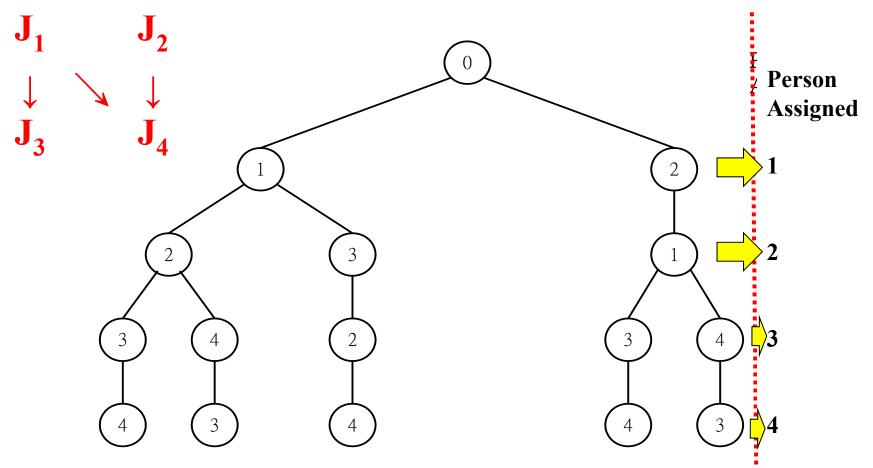
• Which one is a feasible topological sorting sequence of the given graph?



Ans. 3

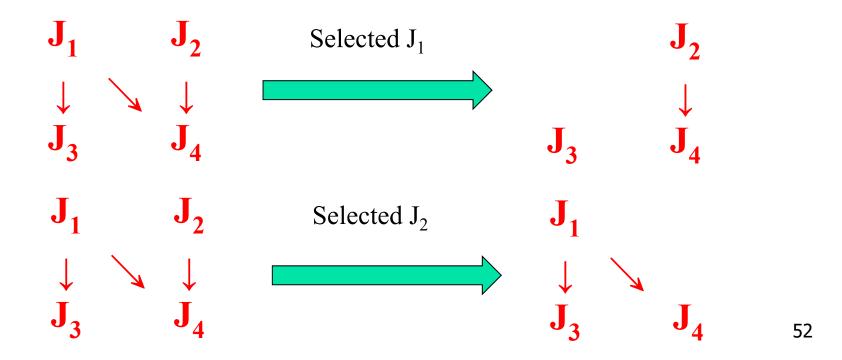
A solution tree

• All possible solutions can be represented by a solution tree.



Tree generated Steps (topology sorted order)

- Take an element which is not preceded by any other element in the partial ordering.
- Select this element as an element in a topologically sorted sequence.
- Remove this element just selected from the partial ordering set. The resulting set is still partially ordered.



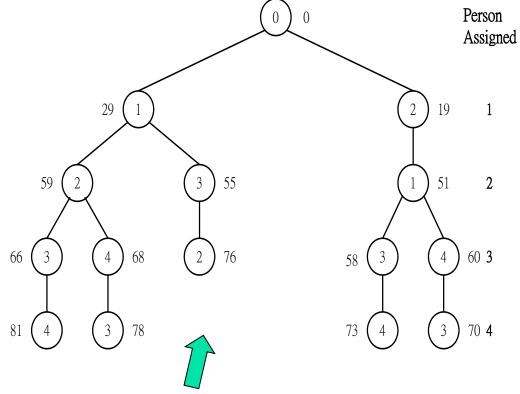
$\begin{array}{ccc} J_1 & J_2 \\ \downarrow & \downarrow \\ J_3 & J_4 \end{array}$

Cost matrix

Cost matrix

Apply the best-first search scheme:

Jobs Persons	1	2	3	4
1	29	19	17	12
2	32	30	26	28
3	3	21	7	9
4	18	13	10	15



Only one node is pruned away.

Reduced cost matrix to find lower bound (LB)

Cost matrix

Reduced cost matrix

Jobs	1	2	3	4						
Persons					Jobs	1	2	3	4	
					Persons					
1	29	19	17	12	1	17	4	5	0	(-12)
	2.2	2.0	2.6	20	2	6	1	0	2	(-26)
2	32	30	26	28	3	0	15	4	6	(-3)
3	3	21	7	9	4	8	0	0	5	$\left \begin{array}{c} (-10) \end{array}\right $
4	18	13	10	15			(-3)			•

- Lower bound: least cost we need to find the solution.
- No solution can have a cost lower than LB.
- A higher LB will lead to an earlier termination.

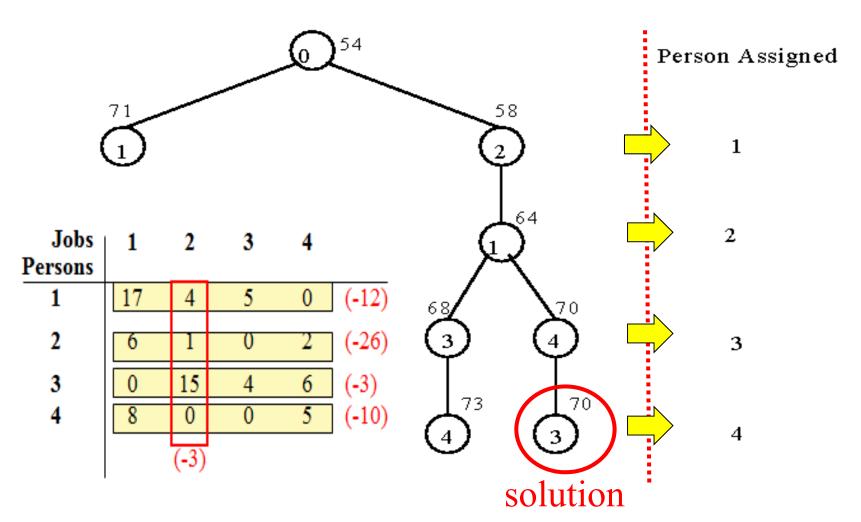
Reduced cost matrix to find LB

- A <u>reduced cost matrix</u> can be obtained:
 subtract a constant from each row and each column respectively such that each row and each column contains at least one zero.
- \blacksquare Total cost subtracted: 12+26+3+10+3=54
- This is a lower bound of our solution.

Jobs Persons	1	2	3	4	
1	17	4	5	0	(-12)
2	6	1	0	2	(-26)
3	0	15	4	6	(-3)
4	8	0	0	5	(-10)
		(-3)			

Branch-and-bound for the personnel assignment problem

Bounding of sub-solutions:



Question:

- What is the lower bound of the cost matrix for the personnel assignment problem?
- (1)51
- (2) 54
- (3)57
- (4) 41.

Jobs Persons	1	2	3	4
1	29	19	17	12
2	32	30	26	28
3	3	21	7	9
4	18	13	10	15

The traveling salesperson problem (TSP)

學習目標

- Traveling Salesperson Problem (TSP)問題定義
- Branch-and-bound strategy 演算法設計

The traveling salesperson problem

- The basic principle of using the branch-and-bound strategy to solve the traveling salesperson optimization problem (TSP) consists of two parts.
 - There is a way to **split the solution space**.
 - There is a way to predict a lower bound for a class of solutions.
 - There is also a way to find an upper bound of an optimal solution.
 - If the lower bound of a solution exceeds this upper bound, this solution cannot be optimal.
 - Thus, we should terminate the branching associated with this solution.

The traveling salesperson problem

- It is **NP-complete**.
- A cost matrix (non-symmetric)

. j	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1								
1	∞	3	93			9	57	
2	4	∞	77	42	21	16		
3	45	17	∞	36	16	28	25	
4	39	90	80	∞	56	7	91	
5	28	46	88	33	∞	25	57	
6	3	88	18	3346	92	∞	7	
7	44	26	33	27		39	∞	

B&B for TSP

- Our branch-and-bound strategy splits a solution into two groups:
 - one group including a particular arc and
 - the other excluding this arc.
- Each splitting **incurs a lower bound** and we shall traverse the searching tree with the "lower" lower bound.
- If a constant subtracted from any row or any column of the cost matrix, an optimal solution does not change.

LB by using reduced cost matrix

A reduced cost matrix

j i	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	∞	0	90	10	30	6	54	(-3)
2	0	∞	73	38	17	12	30	(-4)
3	29	1	∞	20	0	12	9	(-16)
4	32	83	73	∞	49	0	84	(-7)
5	3	21	63	8	∞	0	32	(-25)
6	0	85	15	43	89	∞	4	(-3)
7	18	0	7	1	58	13	∞	(-26)

Reduced: 84

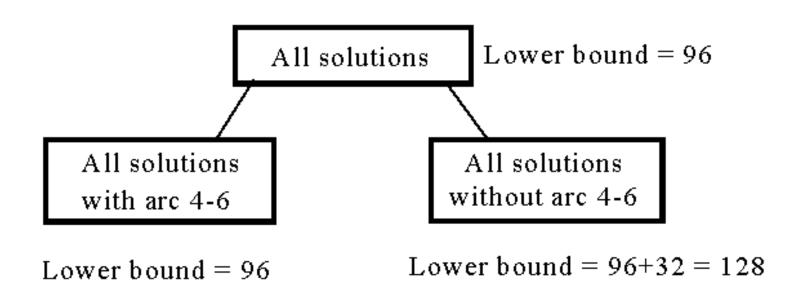
Another reduced matrix

	j	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	<u>1</u>								
	1	∞	0	83	9	30	6	50	6
	2	0	∞	66	37	17	12	26	12
	3	29	1)	∞	19	0	12	5	1
Minimal co	4 ost /	32	83	66	∞	49	0	80	32
not use 4-	•	3	21	56	7	∞	0	28	3
	6	0	85	8	42	89	∞	0	0
	7	18	0	0	0	58	13	∞	0
				(-7)	(-1)			(-4)	

- Total cost reduced: 84+7+1+4 = 96 (lower bound)
- Arc 4-6 will cause the largest increase of lower bound.
- The larger LB the searching will terminate easier

TREE for TSP

■ The highest level of a decision tree:



- Why use 4-6?
- LB for include 4-6? LB for exclude 4-6?
- If we use arc 3-5 to split, the difference on the lower bounds is 17+1=18.

• A reduced cost matrix if arc (4,6) is included in the solution.

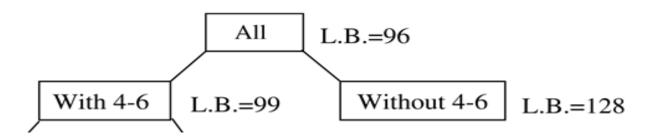
j	1	2	3	4	5	7	
i							
1	∞	0	83	9	30	50	
2	0	∞	66	37	17	26	
3	29	1	∞	19	0	5	
5	3	21	56	7	∞	28	No zero can
6	0	85	8	\otimes	89	0	be reduced
7	18	0	0	0	58	∞	

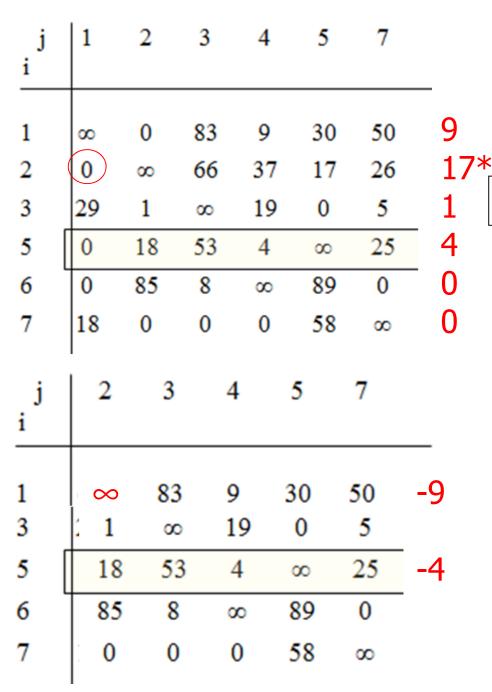
■ Arc (6,4) is changed to be infinity since it can not be included in the solution and set to ∞ .

■ The reduced cost matrix for all solutions with arc 4-6

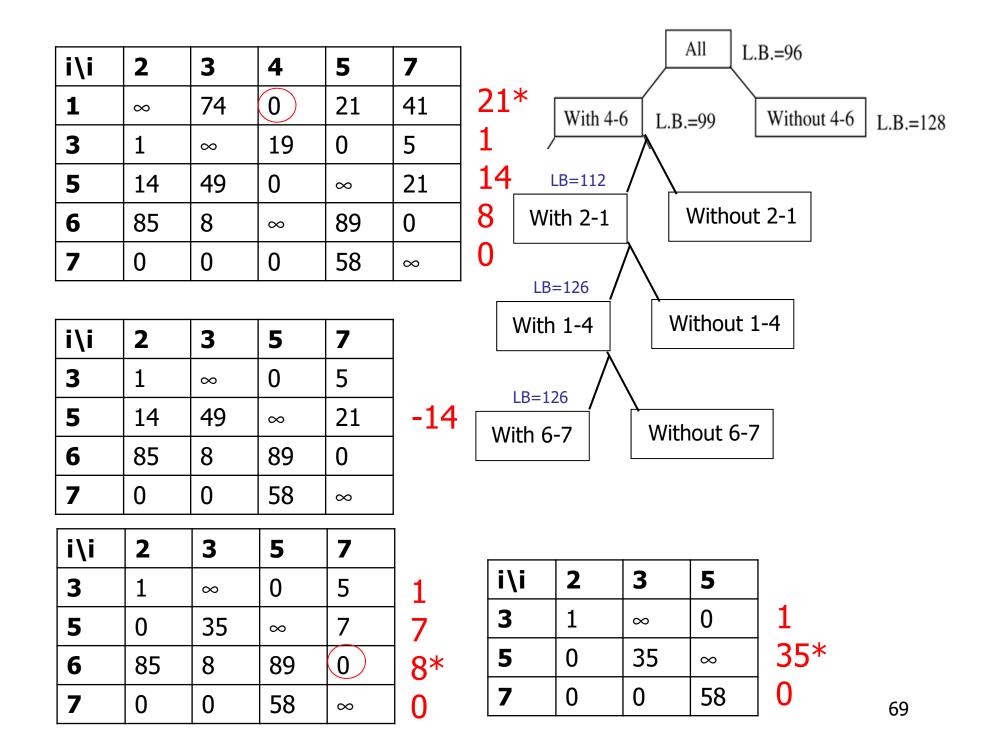
j	1	2	3	4	5	7	
i							
1	∞	0	83	9	30	50	
2	0	∞	66	37	17	26	
3	29	1	∞	19	0	5	
5	0	18	53	4	∞	25	(-3)
6	0	85	8	∞	89	0	
7	18	0	0	0	58	∞	

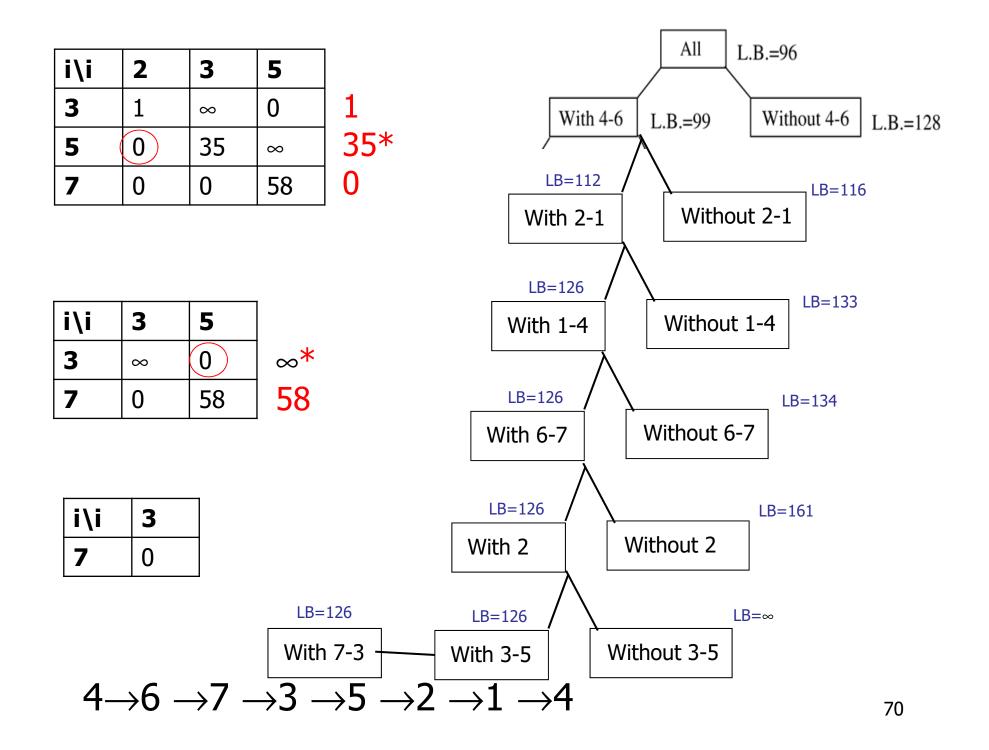
• Total cost reduced: 96+3 = 99 (new lower bound)

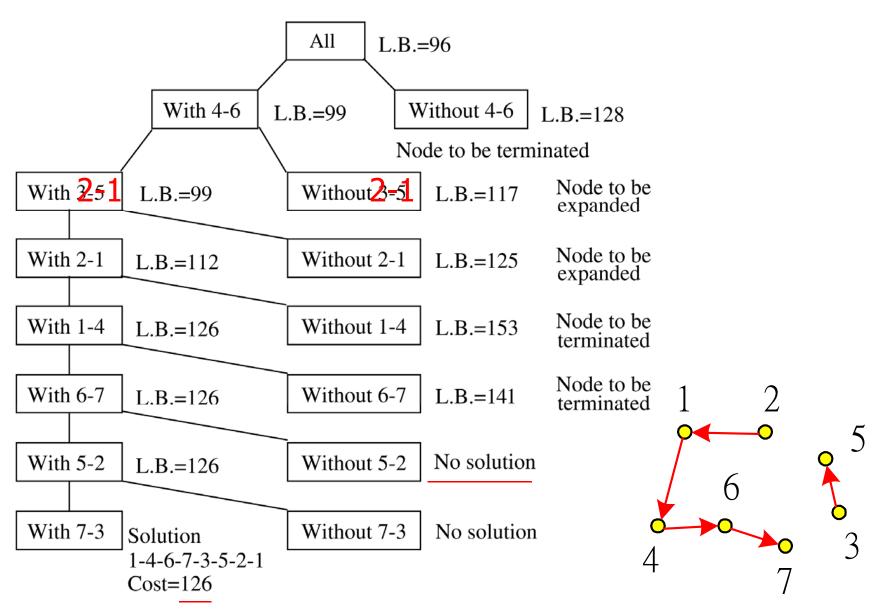




			All	L.B.=96	5		
	With	1 4-6 L	B.=99	With	nout 4-6	L.B.=12	8
k	<i></i>						
	With 2-	1	With	out 2-1			
	:\:	2	2	1	E	7	
	i\i	2	3	4	5	7	
	1	8	74	0	21	41	
	3	1	∞	19	0	5	
	5	14	49	0	8	21	
	6	85	8	~	89	0	
		5					







A branch-and-bound solution of a traveling salesperson problem.

Improvement

■ In general, if paths i_1 - i_2 -...- i_m and j_1 - j_2 -...- j_n have already been included and a path from i_m , to j_1 is to be added, then path from j_n to i_1 must be prevented.

The 0/1 knapsack problem

學習目標

- 0/1 Knapsack problem 問題定義
- Branch-and-bound strategy 演算法設計

The 0/1 knapsack problem

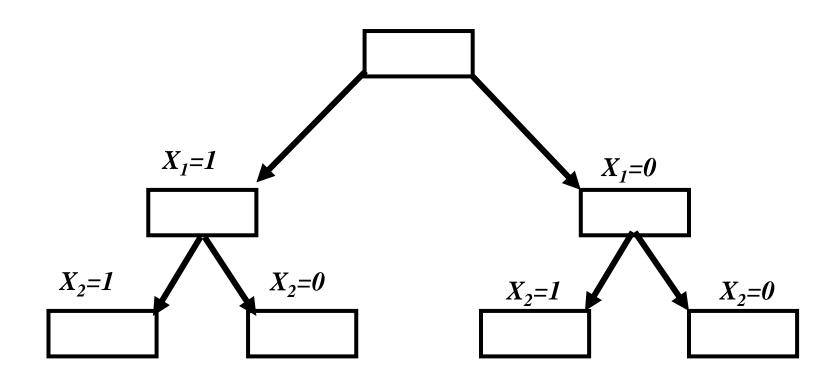
Positive integer P₁, P₂, ..., P_n (profit)
 W₁, W₂, ..., W_n (weight)
 M (capacity)

$$\label{eq:maximize} \begin{aligned} & \underset{i=1}{\overset{n}{\sum}} P_i X_i & & \text{Maximization problem} \\ & \text{subject to} & & \underset{i=1}{\overset{n}{\sum}} W_i X_i \leq M & X_i = 0 \text{ or } 1, i = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

The problem is modified:

minimize
$$-\sum_{i=1}^{n} P_i X_i$$
 Minimization problem

Branching mechanism for 0/1 knapsack problem



B&B process

- We split solutions into two groups. For each group, a lower bound is found.
- At the same time, we try to search for a feasible solution.
 Whenever a feasible solution is found, an upper bound is found.
- Our branch-and-bound strategy terminates the expansion of a node if and only if one of the following conditions is satisfied:
 - The node itself represents an infeasible solution. Then no further expansion makes any sense.
 - The lower bound of this node is **higher than or equal to the** presently found lowest upper bound.

Improvement for 0/1-Knapsack

- For each group, not only a lower bound is found, but also an upper hound is found by finding a feasible solution.
- As we expand a node, we hope to find a solution with lower cost. This means that we wish to find a lower upper bound as we expand a node.
- If we know that our upper bound cannot be lowered because it is already equal to its lower bound, then we should not expand this node any more.
- In general, we terminate the branching if and only if one of the following conditions is satisfied:
 - The node itself represents an infeasible solution.
 - The lower bound of this node is higher than or equal to the presently found lowest upper bound.
 - The lower bound of this node is equal to the upper bound of this node.

How to find an upper bound and a lower bound?

- Lower bound can be considered as the value of best solution you can achieve.
- A lower bound of this node therefore corresponds to highest possible profit associated with this partial constructed solution.
- Upper bound: the cost of a feasible solution corresponding to this partially constructed solution.

Find upper bound

• e.g. n = 6, M = 34

i	1	2	3	4	5	6	
P_{i}	6	10	4	5	6	4	
\mathbf{W}_{i}	10	19	8	10	12	8	

$$(P_i/W_i \ge P_{i+1}/W_{i+1} \text{ for } i=1, 2, ..., 6 \text{ sorting })$$

- A feasible solution can be found by staring from the smallest available *i*, scanning towards the larger i's until M is exceeded.
- A feasible solution: $X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0, X_4 = 0, X_5 = 0, X_6 = 0$ -(P₁+P₂) = -16 (upper bound)

Any solution higher than -16 can not be an optimal solution.

Find LB by relaxing the restriction

- \bullet X_i is restricted to 0 an 1.
- Relax our restriction from $X_i = 0$ or 1 to $0 \le X_i \le 1$ (knapsack problem)
- 0/1 knapsack problem -> knapsack problem (greedy method)
- **Defined as :**Positive integer P₁, P₂, ..., P_n (profit)

maximize
$$\sum_{i=1}^n P_i X_i$$
 subject to
$$\sum_{i=1}^n W_i X_i \leq M \quad 0 \leq X_i \quad \leq 1 \ , i=1, \dots, n.$$

The problem is modified:

minimize
$$-\sum_{i=1}^{n} P_i X_i$$

Relax the restriction to find lower bound

- \mathbf{X}_{i} is restricted to 0 an 1.
- Relax our restriction from $X_i = 0$ or 1 to $0 \le X_i \le 1$ (knapsack problem)

Let
$$-\sum_{i=1}^{n} P_i X_i$$
 be an optimal solution for $0/1$

knapsack problem and $-\sum_{i=1}^{n} P_i X_i'$ be an optimal

solution for knapsack problem. Let $Y = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} P_i X_i$,

$$Y' = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} P_i X_i'.$$

$$\Rightarrow Y' \leq Y$$

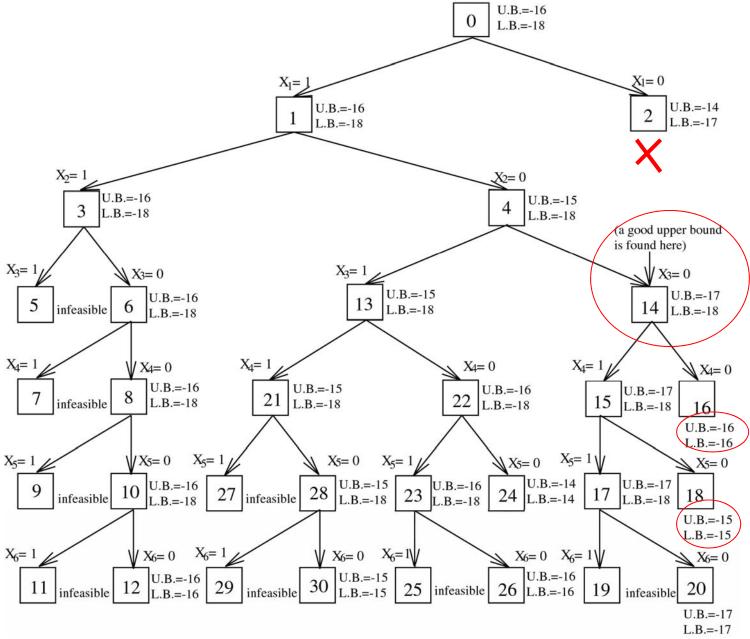
Upper bound and lower bound

We can use the greedy method to find an optimal solution for knapsack problem:

$$X_1 = 1$$
, $X_2 = 1$, $X_3 = 5/8$, $X_4 = 0$, $X_5 = 0$, $X_6 = 0$
- $(P_1 + P_2 + 5/8P_3) = -18.5$ (lower bound)
-18 is our lower bound. (only consider integers)

⇒ -18 ≤ optimal solution ≤ -16
optimal solution:
$$X_1 = 1$$
, $X_2 = 0$, $X_3 = 0$, $X_4 = 1$, $X_5 = 1$, $X_6 = 0$
-($P_1 + P_4 + P_5$) = -17

Expand the node with the best lower bound.



0/1 knapsack problem solved by branch-and-bound strategy.