

# Introduction

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# Outline

Introduction

**T. Mihoc**

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

Overview and Historical Perspective

State space search

- ▶ Raj Ramesh, *What is Artificial Intelligence?*
- ▶ Vellino, Andre. (1986). Artificial intelligence: The very idea: J. Haugeland, (MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1985); 287 pp.. Artificial Intelligence. 29. 349353.
- ▶ Russell, Stuart J., and Peter Norvig. Artificial intelligence: a modern approach. Malaysia; Pearson Education Limited,, 2016.

# What is AI?

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

## Definition (according to Encyclopedia Britannica)

**Artificial intelligence (AI)** is the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The term is frequently applied to the project of developing systems endowed with the intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experience.

# What is Intelligence?

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

- ▶ All but the simplest human behaviour is ascribed to intelligence!

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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**WHY?**

# What is Intelligence?

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

*Human intelligence* is characterized not by just one trait but by the combination of many diverse abilities:

- ▶ Learning



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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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- ▶ Learning
- ▶ Reasoning
- ▶ Problem Solving

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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- ▶ Reasoning
- ▶ Problem Solving
- ▶ Perception

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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- ▶ Learning
- ▶ Reasoning
- ▶ Problem Solving
- ▶ Perception
- ▶ Language

Example:

a simple method by trial and error based on rote learning

- ▶ advantages: really easy to implement;
- ▶ disadvantages: it may lack generalization;

# Learning

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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## Generalization

involves applying past experience to *analogous* new situations

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Example:

- ▶ a program that learns the past tense of regular English verbs by rote will not be able to produce the past tense of a word such as jump unless it previously had been presented with jumped
- ▶ a program that is able to generalize can learn the *add ed* rule and so forms the past tense of jump based on experience with similar verbs



# Reasoning

Ability to draw **inferences** appropriate to the situation!

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

Ability to draw **inferences** appropriate to the situation!

► deductive:

*Fred must be in either the museum or the café. He is not in the café; therefore he is in the museum.*

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*Previous accidents of this sort were caused by instrument failure; therefore this accident was caused by instrument failure.*

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- ▶ inductive:

*Previous accidents of this sort were caused by instrument failure; therefore this accident was caused by instrument failure.*

- ▶ common in science, where data are collected and tentative models are developed to describe and predict future behaviour – until the appearance of anomalous data forces the model to be revised

# Problem solving

In AI is a **systematic search** through a range of possible actions in order to reach some predefined goal or solution.

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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- ▶ **special purpose** – tailor-made for a particular problem and often exploits very specific features of the situation in which the problem is embedded

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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- ▶ for a robot the program selects actions from a list {PICKUP, PUTDOWN, MOVEFORWARD, MOVEBACK, MOVELEFT, MOVERIGHT} until the goal is reached

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Examples of problems solved: finding the sequence of moves in a board game, devising mathematical proofs, and manipulating "virtual objects" in a computer-generated world, ...

# Perception

The environment is scanned and the scene is decomposed into separate objects in various spatial relationships.

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

The environment is scanned and the scene is decomposed into separate objects in various spatial relationships.

Analysis is complicated because an object may appear different depending on:

- ▶ the angle from which it is viewed
- ▶ the direction and intensity of illumination in the scene
- ▶ how much the object contrasts with the surrounding field

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*Present:* able to identify individuals, autonomous vehicles to drive at moderate speeds on the open road, and robots to roam through buildings collecting empty soda cans.

*FREDDY (1966–73) - a stationary robot able to recognize a variety of objects and could be instructed to assemble simple artifacts, such as a toy car, from a random heap of components*

A system of signs having meaning by convention!

An important characteristic of full - fledged human languages – in contrast to others – is their productivity.

A productive language can formulate an unlimited variety of sentences.

A system of signs having meaning by convention!

Not necessary a full language, or s spoken one

- ▶ traffic signs
- ▶ bird calls

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a very simple classification:

Two distinct methods:

- ▶ symbolic ("top-down") approach – seeks to replicate intelligence by analyzing cognition independent of the biological structure of the brain, in terms of the processing of symbols;
- ▶ connectionist ("bottom-up") approach – involves creating artificial neural networks in imitation of the brains structure;

# Comparison with humans

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

- ▶ humans see  $\rightarrow$  computer vision

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

- ▶ humans see → computer vision
- ▶ humans hear → speech recognition

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

- ▶ humans see → computer vision
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- ▶ humans execute tasks, move, ... → robotics

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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- ▶ humans hear and understand language → NLP
- ...

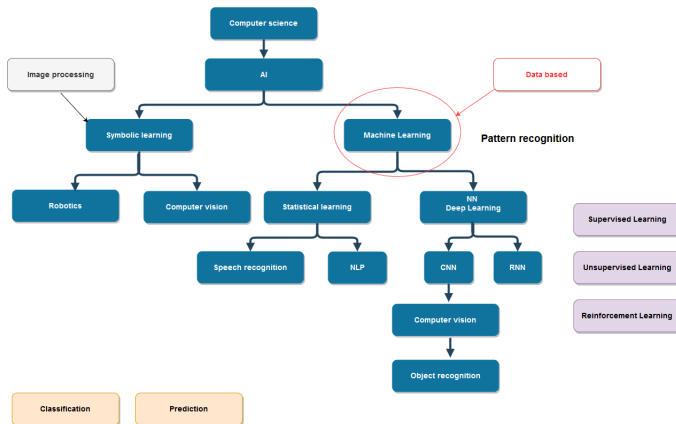
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Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search





algorithms that mimic natural phenomena

- ▶ birds (/fish) behaviour → Particles Swarm Optimisation
- ▶ life evolution → Evolutionary Computation
- ▶ ants behaviour → Ant Colony Optimisation
- ▶ annealing → Simulated Annealing

...

- ▶ Birth of AI → 1943 – 1956
- ▶ "Golden Age" → 1956 – 1974
- ▶ First Winter → 1974 – 1980
- ▶ Boom → 1980 – 1987
- ▶ Second Winter → 1987 – 1993
- ▶ Meta-modern AI → after 1993

# Solving a problem

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

## Identifying a solution

- ▶ in mathematics  $\rightarrow$  optimisation process
- ▶ in computer science (AI)  $\rightarrow$  search process

# Optimisation problems

collection of mathematical principles and methods used for solving quantitative problems in many disciplines

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

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collection of mathematical principles and methods used for solving quantitative problems in many disciplines

- ▶ a single numerical quantity, or objective function, that is to be maximized or minimized

*Example:* the expected return on a stock portfolio, a company's production costs or profits, the time of arrival of a vehicle at a specified destination, or the vote share of a political candidate

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- ▶ a collection of variables, which are quantities whose values can be manipulated in order to optimize the objective

*Example:* the quantities of stock to be bought or sold, the amounts of various resources to be allocated to different production activities, the route to be followed by a vehicle through a traffic network, or the policies to be advocated by a candidate

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*Example:* the quantities of stock to be bought or sold, the amounts of various resources to be allocated to different production activities, the route to be followed by a vehicle through a traffic network, or the policies to be advocated by a candidate

- ▶ a set of constraints, which are restrictions on the values that the variables can take

*Example:* a manufacturing process cannot require more resources than are available, nor can it employ less than zero resources

- ▶ a single numerical quantity, or objective function
- ▶ actions that accomplish the objectives
  - ▶ each action changes a state of the problem
- ▶ more actions that map the initial state of problem into a final state



- ▶ search space
  - ▶ all possible states
  - ▶ representation:
    - ▶ explicit - construction of all possible states
    - ▶ default - by using some data structures and some functions (operators)
- ▶ one or more initial state
- ▶ one or more final states
- ▶ one or more paths
  - ▶ more successive states
- ▶ a set of rules (actions)
  - ▶ successor functions (operators) - next state after a given one
  - ▶ cost functions that evaluate:
    - ▶ how a state is mapped into another state
    - ▶ an entire path
  - ▶ objective functions that check if a state is final or not

# solving the problems by search

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

Aspects to consider:

- ▶ Computational complexity (temporal and spatial)
- ▶ Completeness → the algorithms always ends and finds a solution (if it exists)
- ▶ Optimallity → the algorithms finds the optimal solution (the optimal cost of the path from the initial state to the final state)

- ▶ Search space organises similar with an abstract data type (ADT)
  - ▶ ADT list → linear structure
  - ▶ ADT tree → hierarchic structure
  - ▶ ADT graph → graph-based structure
- ▶ aspects to consider:
  - ▶ representation
  - ▶ domain and operations
- ▶ types:
  - ▶ informed search strategies (ISS)
  - ▶ uninformed search strategies (USS)

# Uninformed Search strategies

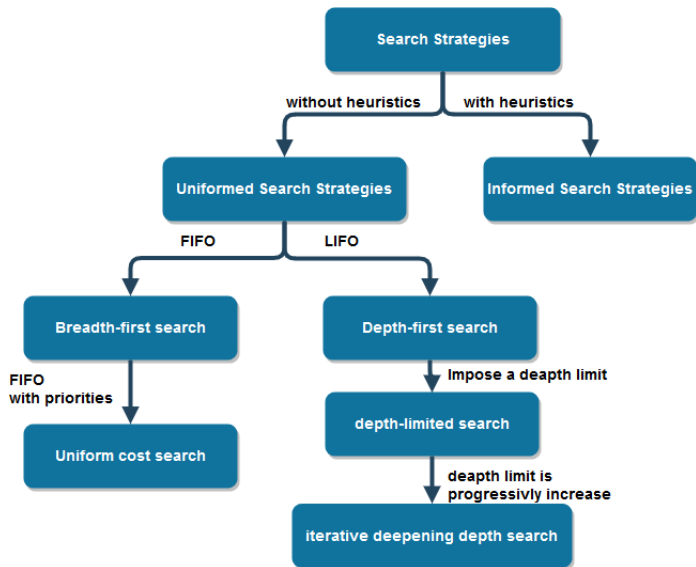
## Characteristics:

- ▶ are NOT based on problem specific information
- ▶ are general
- ▶ brute force methods

## Topology (based on node exploration):

- ▶ USS in linear structures
  - ▶ linear search
  - ▶ binary search
- ▶ USS in non-linear structures
  - ▶ Breadth-first search
    - ▶ Uniform cost search (branch and bound)
  - ▶ Depth first search
    - ▶ Limited depth first search
    - ▶ Iterative deepening depth-first search
  - ▶ Bidirectional search

# Search strategies



## for uninformed Search Strategies

SS	Time complexity	Space Complexity	Completeness	Optimality
BFS	$O(b^d)$	$O(b^d)$	YES	YES
UCS	$O(b^d)$	$O(b^d)$	YES	YES
DFS	$O(b^{d_{max}})$	$O(b^{d_{max}})$	NO	NO
DLS	$O(b^{d_{lim}})$	$O(b^{d_{lim}})$	YES if $d_{lim} > d$	NO
IDS	$O(b^d)$	$O(b^{d_{lim}})$	YES	YES
BDS	$O(b^{d/2})$	$O(b^{d/2})$	YES	YES

## classification based on topology

- ▶ Global search strategies
  - ▶ Best first search
    - ▶ Greedy best-first search
    - ▶  $A^*$  + versions of  $A^*$
- ▶ Local Search strategies
  - ▶ Hill Climbing
  - ▶ Simulated Annealing
  - ▶ Tabu search

# Informed search strategies (ISS)

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

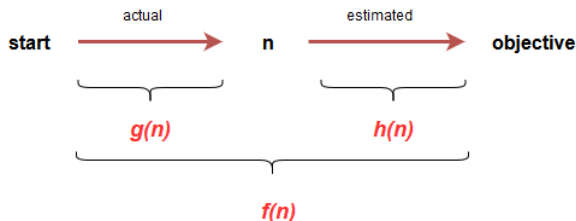
- ▶ Characteristics
  - ▶ Based on specific information about the problem (trying to choose 'intelligent' the nodes to be explored)
  - ▶ An evaluation (heuristic) function sorts the nodes
  - ▶ Specific to the problem



# SS in tree-based structures

Basic elements:

- ▶  $f(n)$  – evaluation function for estimating the cost of a solution through node (state)  $n$
- ▶  $h(n)$  – evaluation function for estimating the cost of a solution path from node (state)  $n$  to the final node (state)
- ▶  $g(n)$  – evaluation function for estimating the cost of a solution path from the initial node (state) to node (state)  $n$
- ▶  $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$



- ▶ Etymology: heuriskein (gr)
  - ▶ *to find, to discover*
  - ▶ *study of methods and rules of discovering and invention*
- ▶ Utility
  - ▶ Evaluation of the state potential (in the search space)
  - ▶ Estimation of paths cost from the current state to the final state
- ▶ Characteristics
  - ▶ Depends on the problem to be solved
  - ▶ New functions for new problems
  - ▶ A specific state is evaluated (instead of operators that map a state into another one)
  - ▶ Positive functions for each node  $n$ 
    - ▶  $h(n) \geq 0$  for all states  $n$
    - ▶  $h(n) = 0$  for final state
    - ▶  $h(n) = \infty$  for a state that is dead end

# Examples of heuristic functions

- ▶ Missionary and cannibal problem
  - \*  $h(n)$  - no of persons from initial river side
- ▶ 8-puzzle
  - \*  $h(n)$  - no of pieces that are in wrong places
  - \*  $h(n)$  - sum of Manhattan distance (of each piece relative to the final position)
- ▶ Travelling salesman problem
  - \*  $h(n)$  - nearest neighbour ! ! !
- ▶ Pay a sum by using a minimal number of coins
  - \*  $h(n)$  choose the coin of best (large) value smaller than the sum to be paid

# Best First Search (BFS)

## Basic Elements

- ▶ Best first search = first, the best element is processed
- ▶ Each state is evaluated by a function  $f$
- ▶ The best evaluated state is explored
- ▶ Example of a SS that depends on evaluation function:
  - ▶ Uniform cost search (from USS)
    - ▶  $f = \text{pathcost}$
  - ▶ ISSs use heuristic functions
- ▶ 2 possible BFS strategies
  - ▶ Expand the closest node to the objective state
  - ▶ Expand the best evaluated (best cost) node

# Best First Search (BFS)

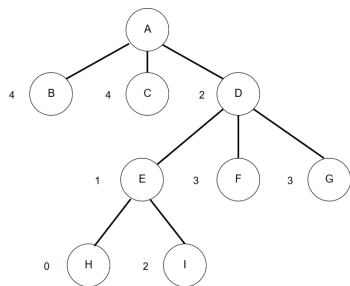
```
function BESTFS(elem,list)
  found = false
  visited =  $\emptyset$ 
  toVisit = {start}      ▷ FIFO sorted list (priority queue)
  while ((toVisit! =  $\emptyset$ )&&(!found)) do
    if (toVisit ==  $\emptyset$ ) then return false
    end if
    node = pop(toVisit)
    visited = visited  $\cup$  {node}
    if (node == elem) then found = true
    else aux =  $\emptyset$ 
    end if
    for all unvisited children of node do
      aux = aux  $\cup$  {child}
    end for
    toVisit = toVisit  $\cup$  aux    ▷ adding best ones in the front
  end while
  return found
end function
```

# Best First Search (BFS)

- ▶ Complexity analyse
  - ▶ Time complexity
    - ▶  $b$  - ramification factor
    - ▶  $d$  - maximal length (depth) of solution
    - ▶  $T(n) = 1 + b^2 + \dots + b^d \geq O(b^d)$
  - ▶ Space complexity
    - ▶  $S(n) = T(n)$
  - ▶ Completeness
    - ▶ No - infinite paths if the heuristic evaluates each node of the path as being the best selection
  - ▶ Optimality
    - ▶ Possible - depends on heuristic
- ▶ Advantages
  - ▶ Specific information helps the search
  - ▶ Good speed to find the final state
- ▶ Disadvantages
  - ▶ State evaluation  $\rightarrow$  effort (computational, physic, etc)
  - ▶ Some 'bad' paths could seem to be good
- ▶ Applications Web crawler (automatic indexer); games

Evaluation function  $f(n) = h(n)$

- ▶ cost path estimation from the current state to the final one -  $h(n)$
- ▶ cost minimization for the path that must be followed



visited	to visit
$\emptyset$	A
A	D, B, C
A, D	E, F, G, B, C
A, D, E	H, I, F, B, C
A, D, E, H	$\emptyset$

```
function GREEDY(elem,list)  
    found = false  
    visited =  $\emptyset$   
    toVisit = {start} ▷ FIFO sorted list (priority queue)  
    while ((toVisit! =  $\emptyset$ ) && (!found)) do  
        if (toVisit ==  $\emptyset$ ) then return false  
        end if  
        node = pop(toVisit)  
        visited = visited  $\cup$  {node}  
        if (node == elem) then found = true  
        else  
            aux =  $\emptyset$   
            end if  
            for first unvisited child of node do  
                aux = aux  $\cup$  {child}  
            end for  
            toVisit = aux  $\cup$  toVisit ▷ adding best one in the front  
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        return found  
end function
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according to  $h(n)$



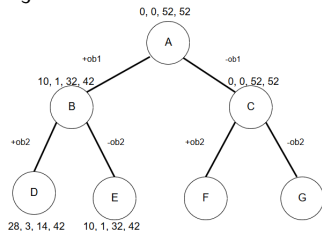
- ▶ Combination of positive aspects from:
  - ▶ Uniform cost search
    - ▶ Optimality and completeness
    - ▶ sorted queues
  - ▶ Greedy Search
    - ▶ Speed
    - ▶ Sorted based on evaluation
- ▶ Evaluation function  $f(n)$ 
  - ▶ Cost estimation of the path that passes through node  $n$   
 $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$
  - ▶  $g(n)$  - cost function from the initial state to the current state  $n$
  - ▶  $h(n)$  - cost heuristic function from the current state to the final state
- ▶ Minimisation of the total cost for a path

## Example – Knapsack problem

capacity  $W$ ,  $n$  objects  
 $(o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n)$  each of them  
 having a profit  $p_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

	$o_1$	$o_2$	$o_3$	$o_4$
$p_i$	10	18	32	14
$W_i$	1	2	4	3

Solution: for  $W = 5 \rightarrow o_1$  and  $o_3$



- ▶  $g(n) = \sum p_i$ , for selected objects  $o_i$

- ▶  $h(n) = \sum p_j$ , for not selected objects and  $\sum w_j \leq W - \sum w_i$

Fetch node is a tuple  $(p, w, p^*, f)$  where:

- ▶  $p$  - profit of selected objects (function  $g(n)$ )
- ▶  $w$  - weight of selected objects
- ▶  $p^*$  - maximal profit that can be obtained starting from the current state and tacking into account the available space in the knapsack (function  $h(n)$ )

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    toVisit = toVisit  $\cup$  aux ▷ adding a node based on its
    evaluation  $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$  (best one in the front of list)
  end while
  return found
end function
```

- ▶ Complexity analyse
  - ▶ Time complexity
    - ▶  $b$  - ramification factor
    - ▶  $d_{max}$  - maximal length (depth) of an explored tree
    - ▶  $T(n) = 1 + b + b^2 + \dots + b^{d_{max}} \Rightarrow O(b^{d_{max}})$
  - ▶ Space complexity
    - ▶  $d$  - length (depth) of solution
    - ▶  $T(n) = 1 + b + b^2 + \dots + b^d \Rightarrow O(b^d)$
  - ▶ Completeness: yes
  - ▶ Optimality: yes
- ▶ Advantages
  - ▶ Expands the fewest nodes of the tree
- ▶ Disadvantages
  - ▶ Large amount of memory
- ▶ Applications:
  - ▶ Planning problems
  - ▶ Problems of partial sums
  - ▶ Puzzles
  - ▶ Optimal paths in graphs

## ► Versions

- iterative deepening A\* (IDA\*)
- memory-bounded A\* (MA\*)
- simplified memory bounded A\* (SMA\*)
- recursive best-first search (RBFS)
- dynamic A\* (DA\*)
- real time A\*
- hierarchical A\*

## ► Bibliography

- 02/*A<sub>I</sub>DA.pdf*
- 02/*A<sub>I</sub>DA<sub>2</sub>.pdf*
- 02/*SMA<sub>R</sub>TA.pdf*
- 02/*RecursiveBest – FirstSearch.ppt*
- 02/*IDS.pdf*
- 02/*IDA<sub>M</sub>A.pdf*
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IDA\\*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IDA*)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMA\\*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMA*)

# Topology of search strategies

- ▶ Solution **generation**
  - ▶ **Constructive** search: Solution is identified step by step
  - ▶ **Perturbative** search: A possible solution is modified in order to obtain another possible solution
- ▶ Search space **navigation**
  - ▶ **Systematic** search: The entire search space is visited
    - ▶ Solution identification (if it exists) → complete algorithms
  - ▶ **Local** search
    - ▶ Moving from a point of the search space into a neighbour point → incomplete algorithm
    - ▶ A state can be visited more times
- ▶ **Certain** items of the search
  - ▶ **Deterministic** search: identify exactly the solution
  - ▶ **Stochastic** search: approximate the solution
- ▶ Search space **exploration**
  - ▶ **Sequential** search
  - ▶ **Parallel** search

# Local search strategies (LSS)

- ▶ Simple local search - a single neighbour state is retained
  - ▶ Hill Climbing → chooses the best neighbour
  - ▶ Simulated Annealing → probabilistic-ally chooses the best neighbour
  - ▶ Tabu search → retains the recent visited solutions
- ▶ Beam local search - more states (population) are retained
  - ▶ Evolutionary Algorithms
  - ▶ Particle swarm optimisation
  - ▶ Ant colony optimisation

# Hill climbing (HC)

## Basic elements

- ▶ Climbing a foggy mountain by an amnesiac hiker
- ▶ Continuous moving to better values (larger  $\rightarrow$  mountain climbing)
- ▶ Search advances to improved states until an optimal one is identified
- ▶ How a possible solution is accepted
  - ▶ Best neighbour of the current solution better than the current solution
- ▶ Improvement by:
  - ▶ Maximisation of states quality  $\rightarrow$  steepest ascent HC
  - ▶ Minimisation of states quality  $\rightarrow$  gradient descent HC
- ▶ HC  $\neq$  steepest ascent/gradient descent (SA/GD)
  - ▶ HC optimises  $f(x)$  with  $x \in R^n$  by changing an element of  $x$
  - ▶ SA/GD optimises  $f(x)$  with  $x \in R^n$  by changing all the elements of  $x$

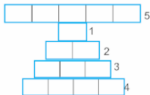




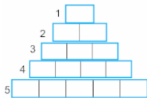
# Hill climbing (HC) II

Example - Construct towers from different geometrical shapes

- ▶ initial state - vector of initial tower



- ▶ final state - vector of the final tower



## ▶ State evaluation

- ▶  $f_1 = \text{no. of correctly located pieces} \rightarrow \text{maximisation}$
- ▶  $f_2 = \text{no. of wrongly located pieces} \rightarrow \text{minimisation}$
- ▶  $f = f_1 f_2 \rightarrow \text{maximization}$

## ▶ Neighbourhood

- ▶ Possible moves – Move a piece  $i$  from stack  $j_1$  on stack  $j_2$

- ▶ How a possible solution is accepted: Best neighbour of the current solution better than the current solution

# Hill climbing (HC)

## Algorithm

```
function HC( $S$ )  
   $x = s_1$   
   $x^* = x$   
   $k = 0$   
  while (not termination criteria) do  
     $k = k + 1$   
     $N$  = all neighbours of  $x$   
     $s$  = best solution from  $N$   
    if ( $f(s)$  is better than  $f(x)$ ) then  
       $x = s$   
    else  
      State  
    end if  
  end while  
   $x^* = x$   
  return  $x^*$   
end function
```

# Hill climbing (HC)

- ▶ Search analyse: convergence to local optima
- ▶ Advantages
  - ▶ Simple implementation → solution approximation (when the real solution is difficult or impossible to find) (TSP with many towns)
  - ▶ Does not require memory (does not come back into the previous state)
- ▶ Disadvantages
  - ▶ Evaluation function is difficult to be approximated
  - ▶ If a large number of moves are executed, the algorithm is inefficient
  - ▶ If a large number of moves are executed, the algorithm can block
    - ▶ in a local optimum
    - ▶ On a plateau - evaluation is constant
    - ▶ On a peak - a skip of more steps can help the search
- ▶ Applications: Cannibal's problem, 8-puzzle, 15-puzzle, TSP, Queens problem, ...

# Hill climbing (HC)

## Versions

Introduction

T. Mihoc

Overview and  
Historical  
Perspective

State space search

- ▶ Stochastic HC
  - ▶ The next state is randomly selected
- ▶ First-choice HC
  - ▶ Randomly generation of successors until a new one is identified
- ▶ Random-restart HC → beam local search
  - ▶ Restart the search from a randomly initial state when the search does not advance

# Simulated Annealing

## Basic elements

- ▶ Inspired by physical process modelling
  - ▶ Metropolis et al. 1953, Kirkpatrick et al. 1982
- ▶ Successors of the current state are randomly selected
  - ▶ if a successor is better than the current state
    - ▶ it becomes the new current state
    - ▶ otherwise is retained with a given probability
- ▶ Weak moves are allowed with a given probability  $p$ 
  - ▶ escape from local optima
- ▶ Probability  $p = e^{\Delta E/T}$ 
  - ▶ Depends on difference (energy)  $\Delta E$
  - ▶ Is modelled by a temperature parameter  $T$
- ▶ The frequency of weak moves and their size gradually decrease when  $T$  is decreasing
  - ▶  $T = 0 \rightarrow$  hill climbing
  - ▶  $T \rightarrow \infty \rightarrow$  weak moves are frequently performed
- ▶ Optimal solution is identified only if the temperature slowly decreases
- ▶ How a new possible solution is accepted

# Simulated Annealing

## Example: 8-queens problem

### Iteration 1 ( $k = 1$ )

- ▶ Current state  $x$  = initial state

$$s_1 = (8, 5, 3, 1, 6, 7, 2, 4)$$

- $f(s_1) = 1 + 1 = 2$

- ▶  $x^* = x$

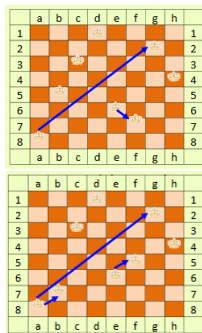
- ▶  $T = 100/1 = 100$

- ▶ A neighbour of current state  $x \rightarrow$  queen of line 5 is swapped with queen of line 7  $\rightarrow$

$$s_2 = (8, 7, 3, 1, 6, 5, 2, 4)$$

- $f(s_2) = 1 + 1 + 1 = 3$

- $\Delta E = f(s_2) - f(s_1) = 1$
- $P(\Delta E) = e^{-1/100}$
- $r = \text{rdom}(0, 1)$
- if  $r < P(\Delta E) \rightarrow x = s_2$



# Simulated Annealing

## Algorithm

**function** SA(S)

$x = s_1$

▷ initial state

$x^* = x$

▷ best solution found until a given moment

$k = 0$

▷ iteration number

**while** (not termination criteria) **do**

$k = k + 1$

generate a neighbour  $s$  of  $x$

**if**  $f(s)$  is better than  $f(x)$  **then**

$x = s$

**else**

pick a random number  $r \in (0, 1)$

**if**  $r < P(\Delta E)$  **then**

$x = s$

**end if**

**end if**

**end while**

$x^* = x$  **return**  $x^*$ ;

**end function**



## ► Search analyse

- Convergence (complete, optimal) through global optima is slowly

## ► Advantages

- Statistic-based algorithm → it is able to identified the optimal solution, but it requires many iterations
- Easy to implement
- Generally, if find a good (global) solution
- Can solve complex problems (with noise and many constraints)

## ► Disadvantages

- Slowly algorithm convergence to solution takes a long time
  - Trade-off between the solutions quality and the time required to find it
- Depends on some parameters (temperature)
- The provided optimal solution could be local or global
- The solutions quality depends on the precision of variables involved in the algorithm

## ► Applications

- Combinatorial optimisation problems → knapsack problem
- Design problems → digital circuits design
- Planning problems → production planning, tennis game planning

# Tabu Search

## Basic elements

- ▶ Tabu → things that cannot be touched because they are sacred
- ▶ Proposed in 1970 by F. Glover
- ▶ Main idea
  - ▶ starts with a state that violates some constraints and
  - ▶ Performs changes for eliminating them (the search moves into the best neighbour solution of the current solution) in order to identify the optimal solution
  - ▶ Retains:
    - ▶ Current state
    - ▶ Visited states and performed moves (limited list of states that must be avoided)
  - ▶ How a possible solution is accepted
    - ▶ Best neighbour of the current solution better than the current solution and un-visited until that moment
- ▶ 2 important elements
  - ▶ Tabu moves (T) determined by a non-Markov process that uses information obtained during last generations of search process
  - ▶ Tabu conditions linear inequalities or logical links that depend on current solution
    - ▶ Influence the selection of tabu moves

# Tabu Search

## Algorithm

**function** TS( $S$ )

    Select  $x \in S$

$x^* = x$

$k = 0$

$T = \emptyset$

**while** (not termination criteria) **do**

$k = k + 1$

        generate a subset of solutions in the neighbourhood  $N - T$  of

$x$

        choose the best solution  $s$  from  $N - T$  and set  $x = s$

**if**  $f(x) < f(x^*)$  **then**

$x^* = x$

**end if**

        update  $T$  with moves of generating  $x$

**end while**

**return**  $x^*$

**end function**

▷  $S$  search space

▷ best solution until a moment

▷ iteration number

▷ list of tabu moves

- ▶ Stop conditions
  - ▶ Fix number of iterations
  - ▶ A given number of iterations without improvements
  - ▶ Sufficient proximity to the solution (if it is known)
  - ▶ Depletion un-visited elements of a neighbourhood
- ▶ Search analyse
  - ▶ Quickly convergence to global optima
- ▶ Advantages
  - ▶ The algorithm is general and can be easy implemented
  - ▶ Quickly algorithm (can find in a short time the optimal solution)
- ▶ Disadvantages
  - ▶ Identify the neighbours in continuous search spaces
  - ▶ Large number of iterations
  - ▶ Global optima identification is not guaranteed

# Tabu Search

## Example

- ▶ Statement: pay a sum  $S$  by using  $n$  coins of values  $v_i$ , as many as possible (each coin has  $b_i$  copies)
- ▶ Solution representation:
  - ▶ State  $x$  - vector of  $n$  integers  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  with  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, b_i\}$
  - ▶ Initial state randomly
- ▶ State evaluation:
  - ▶  $f_1 = S$  - total value of selected coins  $\rightarrow$  minimisation
    - ▶ If the total value of coins  $> S \rightarrow$  penalisation (eg. 500 units)
  - ▶  $f_2 =$  number of selected coins  $\rightarrow$  maximisation
  - ▶  $f = f_1 f_2 \rightarrow$  minimisation
- ▶ neighbourhood
  - ▶ Possible moves
    - ▶ Including in the sum of  $j$  copies of coin  $i$  (plus)
    - ▶ Eliminating from the sum of  $j$  copies of coin  $i$  (minus)
- ▶ Tabu list retains performed moves of an iteration
  - ▶ - move = the added/eliminated coin

# Tabu Search

## Example

$S = 500$ ,  $penalisation = 500$ ,  $n = 7$

$S = 500$	$m_1$	$m_2$	$m_3$	$m_4$	$m_5$	$m_6$	$m_7$
$v_j$	10	50	15	20	100	35	5
$b_j$	5	2	6	5	5	3	10

Current State	Val. f	tabu list	Neighborhood	Moves	Val. f
2 0 1 0 0 2 1	384	$\emptyset$	2 0 1 3 0 2 1	<i>plus</i> <sub>4,3</sub>	321
			2 0 1 0 0 3 1	<i>plus</i> <sub>6,1</sub>	348
			0 0 1 0 0 2 1	<i>minus</i> <sub>1,2</sub>	406
2 0 1 3 0 2 1	321	<i>plus</i> <sub>4,3</sub>	2 0 1 3 5 2 1	<i>plus</i> <sub>5,5</sub>	316
			2 0 1 1 0 2 1	<i>minus</i> <sub>4,2</sub>	363
			2 1 1 3 0 2 1	<i>plus</i> <sub>2,1</sub>	270
2 1 1 3 0 2 1	270	<i>plus</i> <sub>4,3</sub> <i>plus</i> <sub>2,1</sub>	...		

# Tabu Search

## Example

$S = 500$ ,  $penalisation = 500$ ,  $n = 7$

$S = 50$	$m_1$	$m_2$	$m_3$	$m_4$	$m_5$	$m_6$	$m_7$
$v_i$	10	50	15	20	100	35	5
$b_i$	5	2	6	5	4	3	10

Current State	Val. f	tabu list	Neighborhood	Moves	Val. f
2 0 1 0 0 2 1	384	$\emptyset$	1 0 1 4 0 2 1	$minus_{1,1}, plus_{4,4}$	311
			2 0 4 0 1 2 1	$plus_{3,3}, minus_{5,1}$	235
			2 0 1 0 4 2 6	$plus_{5,4}, plus_{7,5}$	450
2 0 4 0 1 2 1	235	$plus_{3,3}, minus_{5,1}$	2 0 5 0 5 2 1	$plus_{3,1}, plus_{5,4}$	315
			5 0 4 0 5 2 1	$plus_{1,3}, plus_{5,3}$	399
			2 2 4 0 5 2 1	$plus_{2,2}, plus_{5,4}$	739
2 0 4 0 1 2 1	235	$plus_{3,3}, minus_{5,1}$	...		

Final solution: 4 1 5 4 1 3 10 ( $f = -28$ )

## ► Applications

- Determination of three-dimensional structure of proteins in amino acid sequences
- Traffic optimisation in communication networks
- Planning in production systems
- Network design in optical telecommunication
- Automatic routing of vehicles
- Graph problems (partitioning)
- Planning in audit systems