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Tutorial 2 : To understand State Space problem formulation.

Aim

: To understand State Space based problem formulatⁿ of AI problems so that problem solving Agent can be applied.

Theory

: First we understand the problem solving agent - Agent first formulates goal and problem, then determines or rather searches an actⁿ sequence, after which it returns the next actⁿ to be executed in a sequential manner.

Defining the problem is referred to as problem formulatⁿ. It involves defining following five things :

- Initial state - It is the starting state that the problem is in.
- Actions - It defines all possible actⁿ available to the agent, given it is in some states currently. It is a function Action(s) that returns list of all possible actions.
- Transition Model - also known as successor functⁿ which define which state/s the system

function SIMPLE - PROBLEM - SOLVING - AGENT (percept)
returns an action

static : seq, an action sequence, initially empty

state, some description of the current world

goal, a goal, initially null

problem, a problem formulation

state \leftarrow UPDATE - STATE (state, percept)

if seq is empty then do

goal \leftarrow FORMULATE - GOAL (state)

problem \leftarrow FORMULATE - PROBLEM (state, goal)

seq \leftarrow SEARCH (problem)

action \leftarrow First (seq)

seq \leftarrow REST (seq)

return action

Problem Solving Agent Architecture

tend to move to when a particular action is executed by the agent. Successive application of transition model gives rise to what is known as state space.

- Goal Test - This act as a stopping condition when the state passed to this function is goal state it will return true and searching would stop.
- Path cost - It is accumulated cost of performing certain sequence of actions. This can help in determining whether the action sequence under consideration is optimal.

Thus a problem can formally be specified by identifying initial state, action (operator), transition model (successor function), goal test and path cost. In turn of problem solving agent solution is the path from initial state to a goal state, optimal solution is the lowest path cost of all solutions. Process of finding a solution is called search.

Working :

Based on understanding of problem formulation students need to formulate following problem. They will clearly show state space up to depth level 3 or till goal node which ever is shallowest.

1. Navigate to KGCE Workshop from HOB I7 taken with minimum no of moves , moves can be climbing or alighting stairs, turning left , right , walking through a corridor .
2. 8 puzzle problem .
3. The missionaries and cannibals problem . There are three missionaries and three cannibals who must cross a river using a boat which can carry at most two people , under the constraint that , for both banks , if there are missionaries present on the bank , they cannot be outnumbered by cannibals if they were , the cannibals they would eat the missionaries . The boat cannot cross the river by itself no people on board .
4. N Queen's problem , arrange N queens on a N cross N chess board where no two queens attack each other .
5. Two room vacuum cleaner world .
6. Water Jug problem .