

Uninformed Search

Vincent A. Cicirello, Ph.D.

Professor of Computer Science

cicirelv@stockton.edu

<https://www.cicirello.org/>



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Lesson 1

SEARCH PROBLEMS



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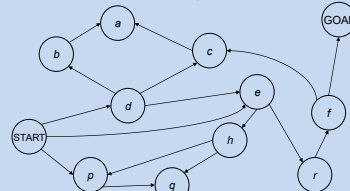
Overview

- Deterministic, single-agent, search problems
- Breadth First Search
- Optimality, Completeness, Time and Space complexity
- Search Trees
- Depth First Search
- Bidirectional Search
- Iterative Deepening



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A search problem



How do we get from S to G? And what's the smallest possible number of transitions?



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Formalizing a search problem

A search problem has five components:

- $Q, S, G, \text{succs}, \text{cost}$
- Q is a finite set of states.
- $S \subseteq Q$ is a non-empty set of start states.
- $G \subseteq Q$ is a non-empty set of goal states.
- $\text{succs} : Q \rightarrow P(Q)$ is a function which takes a state as input and returns a set of states as output. $\text{succs}(s)$ means "the set of states you can reach from s in one step".
- $\text{cost} : Q \times Q \rightarrow \text{Positive Number}$ is a function which takes two states, s and s' , as input. It returns the one-step cost of traveling from s to s' . The cost function is only defined when s' is a successor state of s .



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Our Search Problem

$Q = \{\text{START}, a, b, c, d, e, f, h, p, q, r, \text{GOAL}\}$

$S = \{\text{START}\}$

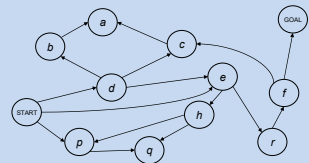
$G = \{\text{GOAL}\}$

$\text{succs}(b) = \{a\}$

$\text{succs}(e) = \{h, r\}$

$\text{succs}(a) = \text{NULL} \dots \text{etc.}$

$\text{cost}(s, s') = 1$ for all transitions



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Our Search Problem

$Q = \{\text{START}, a, b, c, d, e, f, h, p, q\}$
 $S = \{\text{START}\}$
 $G = \{\text{GOAL}\}$
 $\text{succs}(b) = \{a\}$
 $\text{succs}(e) = \{h, r\}$
 $\text{succs}(a) = \text{NULL} \dots \text{etc.}$
 $\text{cost}(s, s') = 1$ for all transitions

Why do we care? What problems are like this?

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Search Problems

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Search Problems

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Search Problems

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Our definition excludes...

Game against adversary
 Chance
 Hidden State
 Continuum (infinite number) of states
 All of the above, plus distributed team control

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Lesson 2

BREADTH FIRST SEARCH (BFS)

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Breadth First Search

- Label all states that are reachable from S in 1 step but aren't reachable in less than 1 step.
- Then label all states that are reachable from S in 2 steps but aren't reachable in less than 2 steps.
- Then label all states that are reachable from S in 3 steps but aren't reachable in less than 3 steps.
- Etc... until Goal state reached.

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Breadth-first Search

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Breadth-first Search

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Breadth-first Search

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Breadth-first Search

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Breadth-first Search

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Remember the path!

Also, when you label a state, record the predecessor state. This record is called a **backpointer**. The history of predecessors is used to generate the solution path, once you've found the goal:

"I've got to the goal. I see I was at *f* before this. And I was at *r* before I was at *f*. And I was..."

..... so solution path is $S \rightarrow e \rightarrow r \rightarrow f \rightarrow G$ "

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Backpointers

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Backpointers

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Starting Breadth First Search

- For any state *s* that we've labeled, we'll remember:
 - previous(s)* as the previous state on a shortest path from START state to *s*.
- On the *k*th iteration of the algorithm we'll begin with V_k defined as the set of those states for which the shortest path from the start costs exactly *k* steps
- Then, during that iteration, we'll compute V_{k+1} , defined as the set of those states for which the shortest path from the start costs exactly *k*+1 steps
- We begin with $k = 0$, $V_0 = \{\text{START}\}$ and we'll define, *previous*(START) = NULL
- Then we'll add in things one step from the START into V_1 . And we'll keep going.

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BFS

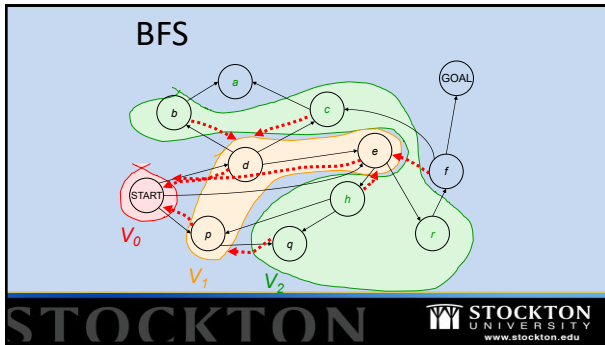
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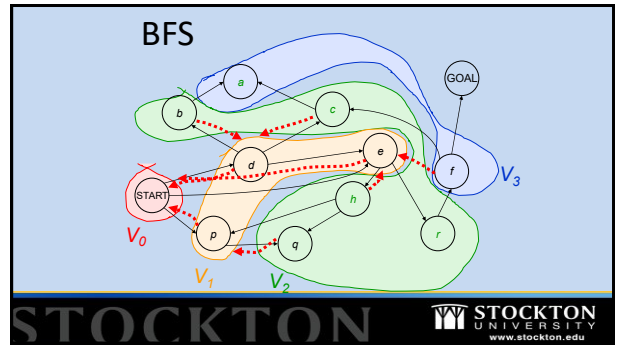
BFS

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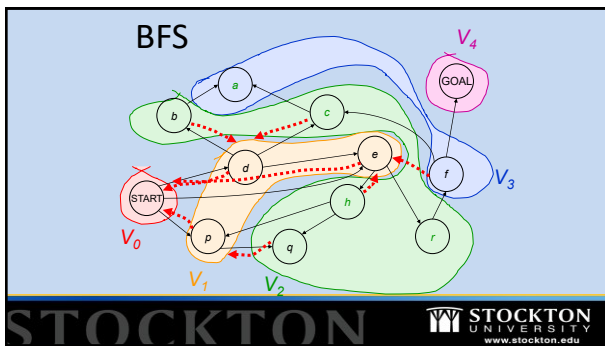
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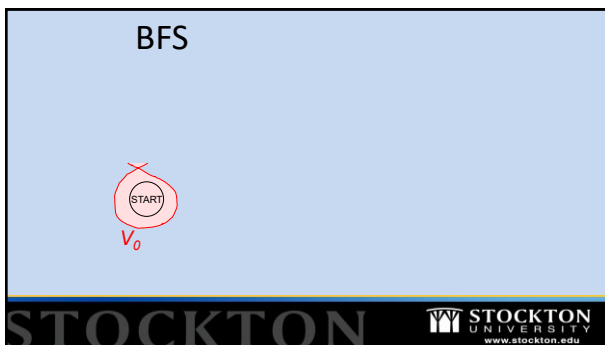
Breadth First Search

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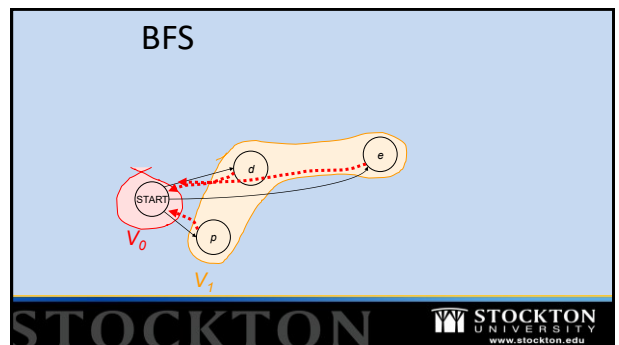
 $V_0 := S$  (the set of start states)
 $previous(START) := NIL$ 
 $k := 0$ 
while (no goal state is in  $V_k$  and  $V_k$  is not empty) do
     $V_{k+1} :=$  empty set
    For each state  $s$  in  $V_k$ 
        For each state  $s'$  in  $successors(s)$ 
            If  $s'$  has not already been labeled
                Set  $previous(s') := s$ 
                Add  $s'$  into  $V_{k+1}$ 
     $k := k+1$ 
If  $V_k$  is empty signal FAILURE
Else build the solution path thus: Let  $S_k$  be the  $k$ th state in the shortest path. Define  $S_k =$ 
    GOAL, and for all  $i < k$ , define  $S_{i+1} = previous(S_i)$ .
    
```

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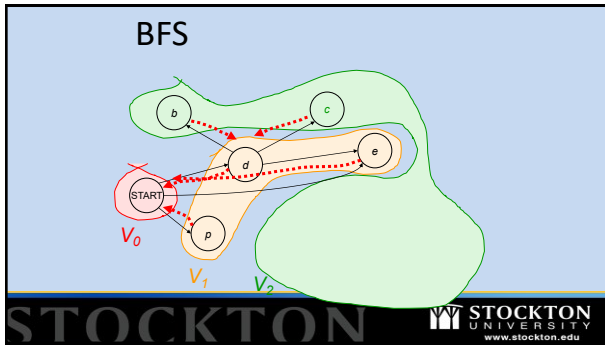
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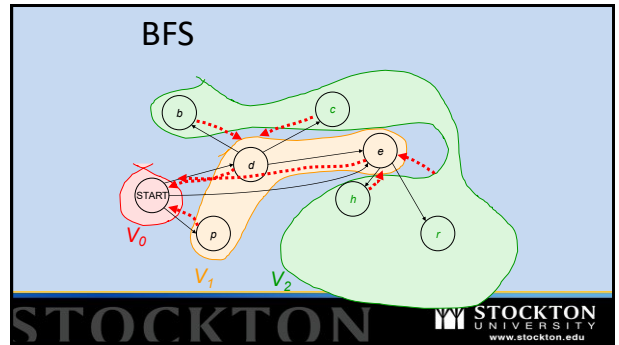
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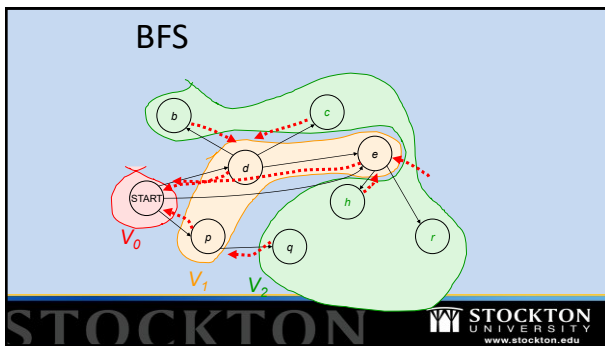
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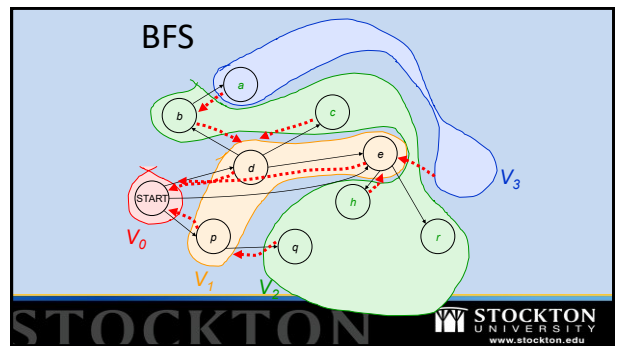
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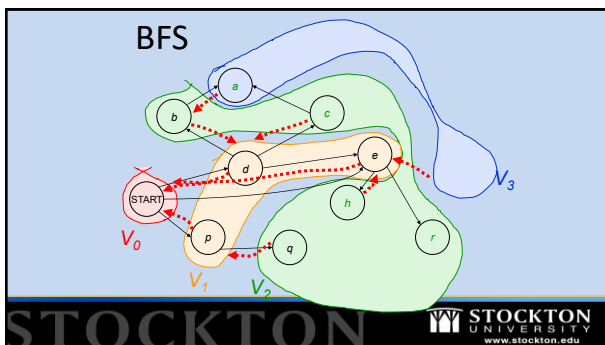
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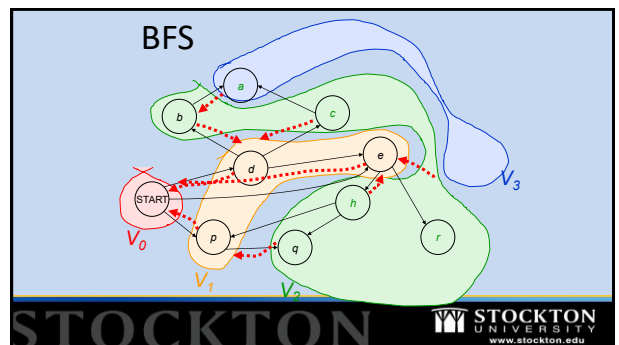
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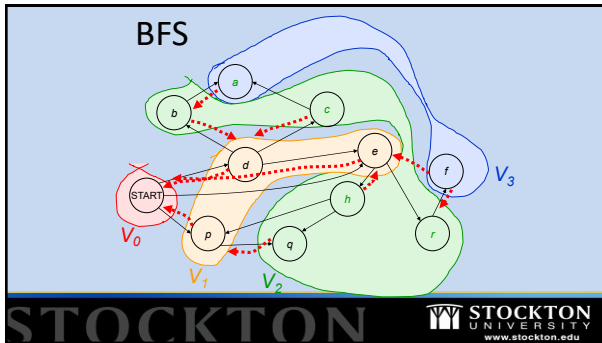
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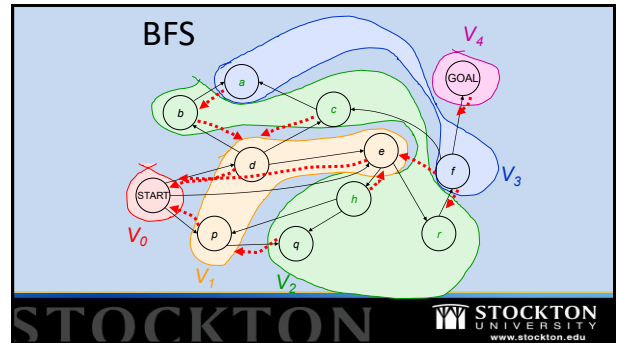
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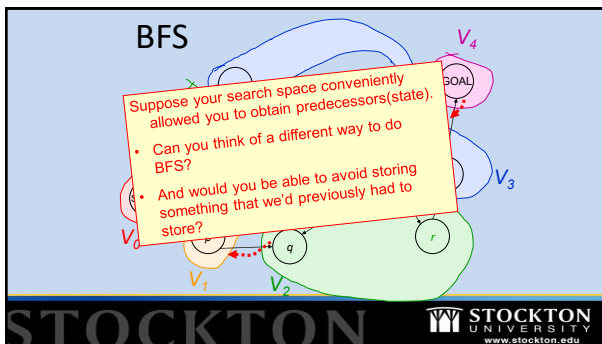
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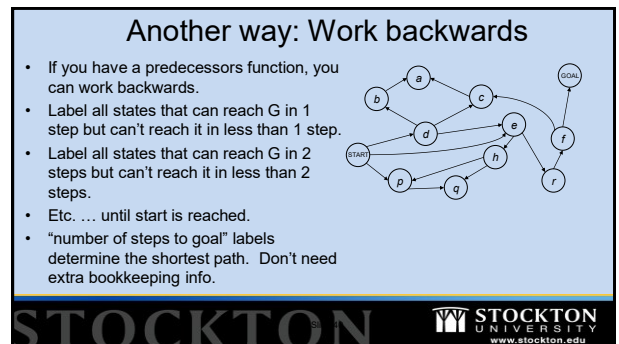
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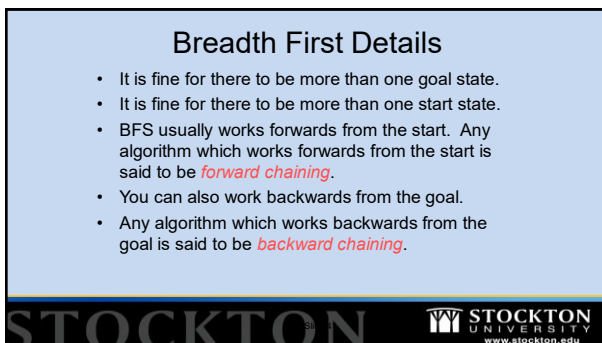
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Expanding

- Previously, one of the operations that we saw in BFS involved iterating over the successors of a state.
- That operation is referred to as **expanding** the state.
- Search algorithm term that is not limited to BFS.

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The Frontier

- The **frontier** is the set of states that the search has generated, but have not yet expanded.
- We know the frontier states are there, but we don't yet know what is beyond the frontier.

The frontier at this point in our BFS example consists of the states: {b, c, e, p}.

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BFS and the Frontier

- We previously saw BFS, including pseudocode.
- There is another way to specify BFS that involves using a queue to explicitly keep track of the frontier.
 - Initialize the frontier to a queue containing the start state
 - Each iteration, poll the queue, and expand the state at its head, inserting its successors (if they aren't already labeled) into the tail of the queue.
 - Keep track of backpointers, and V labels as before.

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Lesson 4

LEAST COST BFS AND UNIFORM COST SEARCH (UCS)

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Costs on transitions

- Notice that BFS finds the shortest path in terms of number of transitions. It does not find the least-cost path.
- We will quickly examine an algorithm which does find the least-cost path.
- On the k th iteration, for any state S , write $g(s)$ as the least-cost path to S in k or fewer steps.

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Least Cost Breadth First

V_k = the set of states which can be reached in exactly k steps, and for which the least-cost k -step path is less cost than any path of length less than k . In other words, V_k = the set of states whose values changed on the previous iteration.

$V_0 := S$ (the set of start states)

$previous(START) := NIL$

$g(START) = 0$

$k := 0$

while (V_k is not empty) **do**

$V_{k+1} :=$ empty set

 For each state s in V_k

 For each state s' in $successors(s)$

 If s' has not already been labeled

 OR if $g(s) + Cost(s, s') < g(s')$

 Set $previous(s') := s$

 Set $g(s') := g(s) + Cost(s, s')$

 Add s' into V_{k+1}

$k := k + 1$

If GOAL not labeled, exit signaling FAILURE

Else build the solution path thus: Let S_k be the k th state in the shortest path. Define $S_0 = GOAL$, and for all $i < k$, define $S_{i+1} = previous(S_i)$.

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Uniform-Cost Search

- A conceptually simple BFS-like approach when there are costs on transitions
- It uses priority queues

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Priority Queue Refresher

A priority queue is a data structure in which you can insert and retrieve (thing, value) pairs with the following operations:

Init-PriQueue(PQ)	initializes the PQ to be empty.
Insert-PriQueue(PQ, thing, value)	inserts (thing, value) into the queue.
Pop-least(PQ)	returns the (thing, value) pair with the lowest value, and removes it from the queue.

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Priority Queue Refresher

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Insert-PriQueue(PQ, thing, value)	inserts (thing, value) into the queue.
Pop-least(PQ)	returns the (thing, value) pair with the lowest value, and removes it from the queue.

Priority Queues can be implemented (with a binary minheap) in such a way that the cost of the insert and pop operations are:

$O(\log(\text{number of things in priority queue}))$

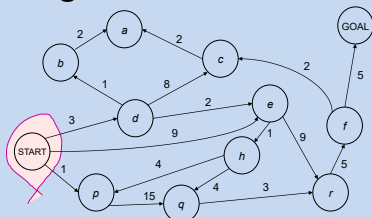
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Uniform-Cost Search

- A conceptually simple BFS approach when there are costs on transitions
- It uses a priority queue
 - PQ = Set of states that have been expanded or are awaiting expansion, i.e., the frontier
 - Priority of state $s = g(s)$ = cost of getting to s using path implied by backpointers.
- This is essentially Dijkstra's algorithm
 - Difference is that Dijkstra's algorithm assumes entire graph is in memory, whereas UCS does not make that assumption.

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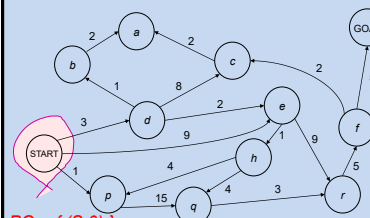
Starting UCS



$PQ = \{(S, 0)\}$

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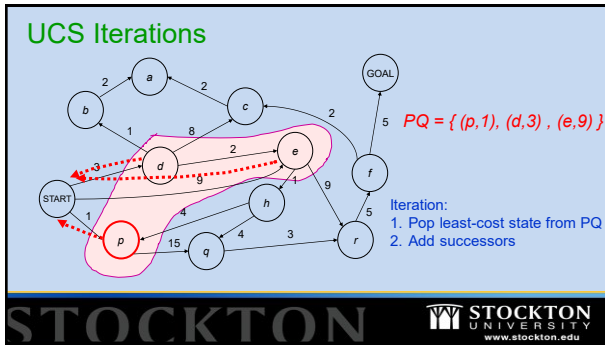
UCS Iterations



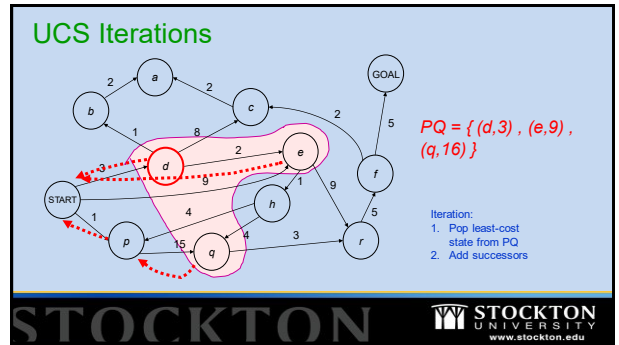
$PQ = \{(S, 0)\}$

- Iteration:
1. Pop least-cost state from PQ
 2. Add successors

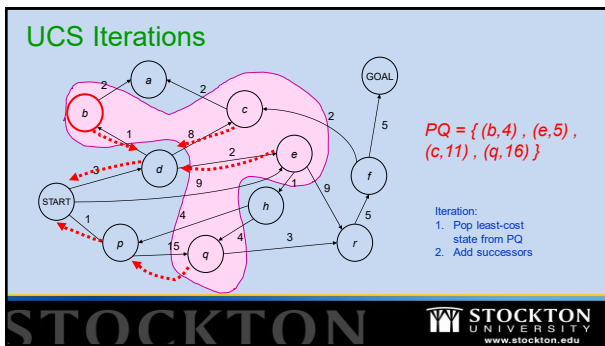
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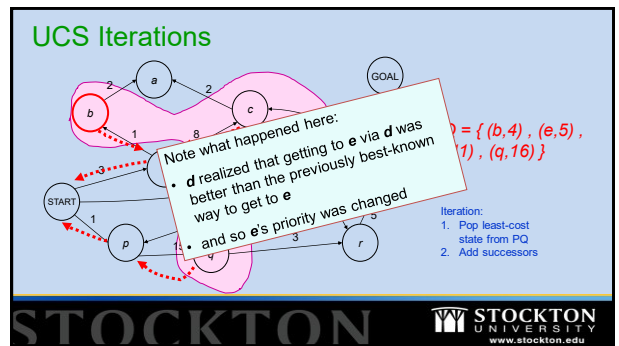
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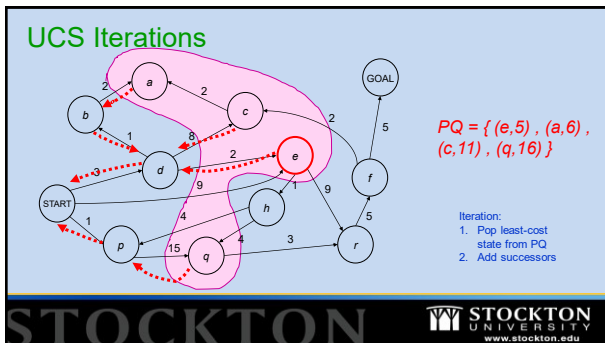
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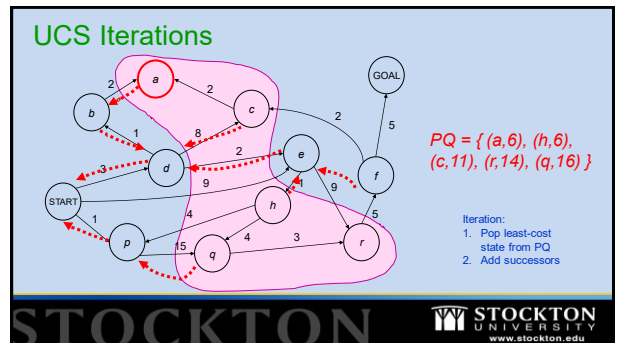
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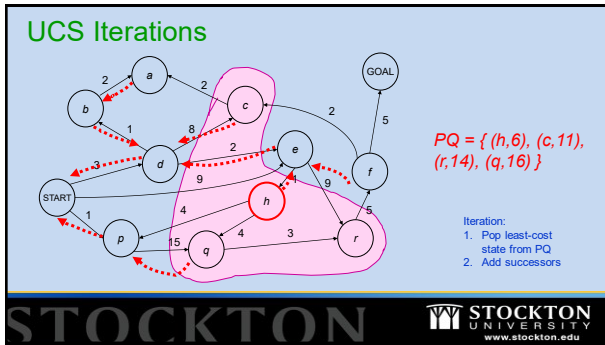
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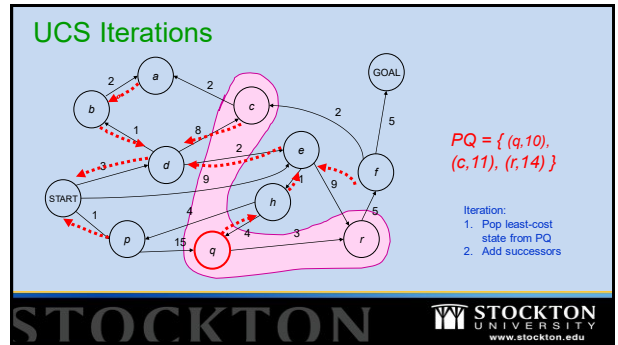
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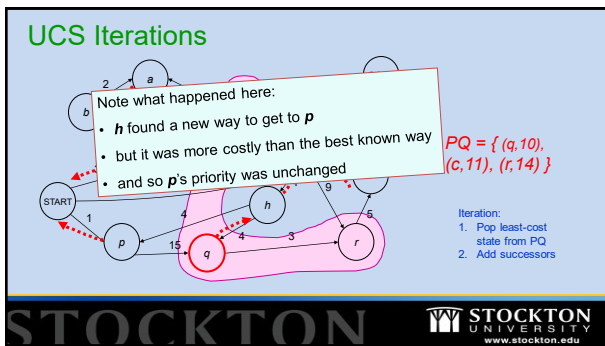
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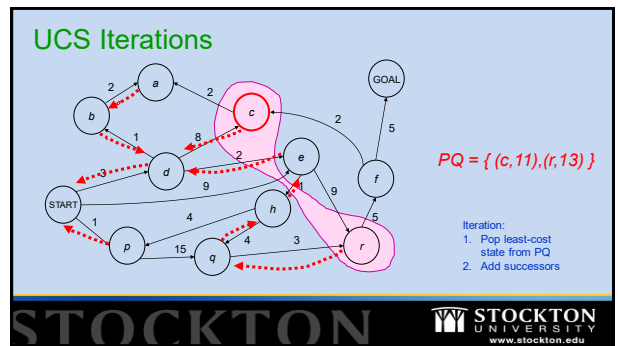
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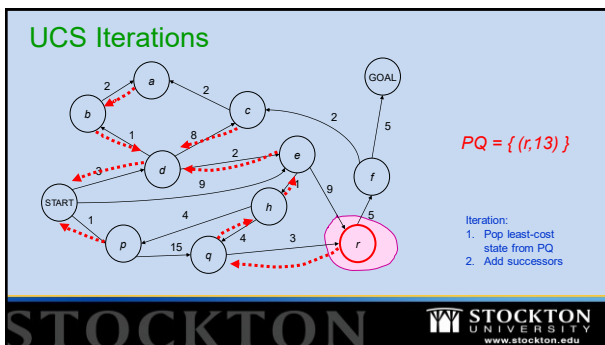
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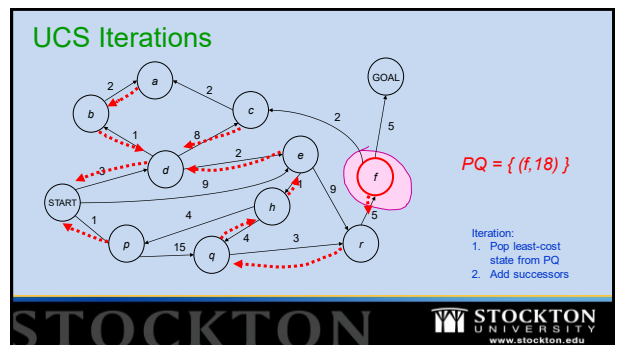
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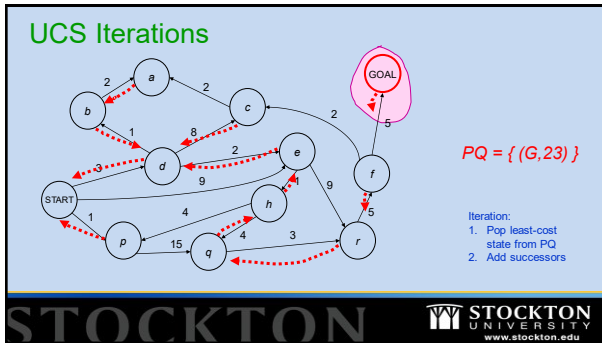
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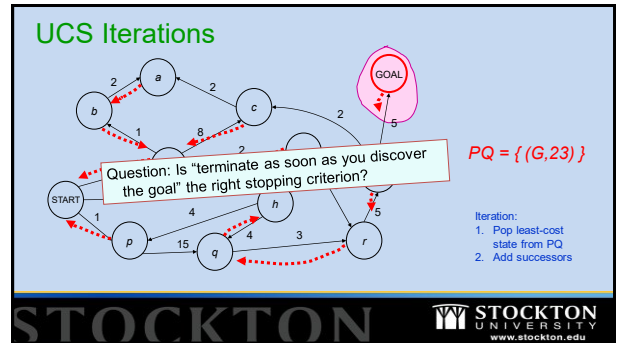
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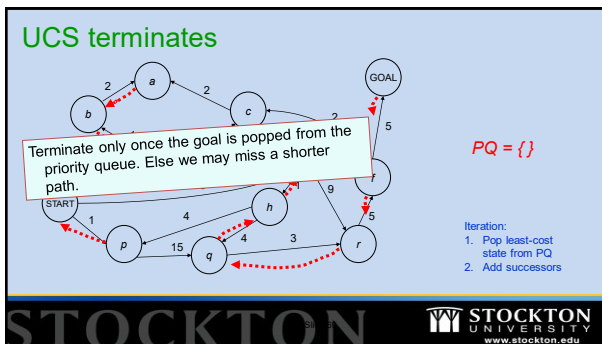
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Lesson 5

JUDGING A SEARCH ALGORITHM

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Judging a search algorithm

- Completeness:** is the algorithm guaranteed to find a solution if a solution exists?
- Guaranteed to find **optimal**? (will it find the least cost path?)
- Algorithmic **time complexity**
- Space complexity** (memory use)

Variables:

N	number of states in the problem
B	the average branching factor (the average number of successors) ($B > 1$)
L	the length of the path from start to goal with the shortest number of steps

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Judging a search algorithm

N	number of states in the problem			
B	the average branching factor (the average number of successors) ($B > 1$)			
L	the length of the path from start to goal with the shortest number of steps			
Q	the average size of the priority queue			

Algorithm	Complete	Optimal	Time	Space
BFS Breadth First Search	Y			
LCBFS Least Cost BFS				
UCS Uniform Cost Search				

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Judging a search algorithm

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Algorithm		Complete	Optimal	Time	Space
BFS	Breadth First Search	Y	if all transitions same cost		
LCBFS	Least Cost BFS				
UCS	Uniform Cost Search				

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Judging a search algorithm

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Algorithm		Complete	Optimal	Time	Space
BFS	Breadth First Search	Y	if all transitions same cost	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
LCBFS	Least Cost BFS				
UCS	Uniform Cost Search				

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UCS	Uniform Cost Search				

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LCBFS	Least Cost BFS	Y	Y		
UCS	Uniform Cost Search				

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UCS	Uniform Cost Search				

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LCBFS	Least Cost BFS	Y	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
UCS	Uniform Cost Search	Y			

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LCBFS Least Cost BFS	Y	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
UCS Uniform Cost Search	Y	Y		

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Judging a search algorithm

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Algorithm	Complete	Optimal	Time	Space
BFS Breadth First Search	Y	if all transitions same cost	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
LCBFS Least Cost BFS	Y	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
UCS Uniform Cost Search	Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$

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Lesson 6

DEPTH FIRST SEARCH (DFS)

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Search Tree Representation

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Depth First Search

An alternative to BFS. Always expand from the most-recently-expanded node, if it has any untried successors. Else backup to the previous node on the current path.

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DFS in action

START
START d
START db
START dba
START dc
START dca
START de
START der
START derf
START derfc
START derfca
START derf GOAL

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DFS Search tree traversal

Can you draw in the order in which the search-tree nodes are visited?

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DFS Algorithm

We use a data structure we'll call a Path to represent the path from the START to the current state.

E.G. Path $P = \langle \text{START}, d, e, r \rangle$

Along with each node on the path, we must remember which successors we still have available to expand. E.G. at the following point, we'll have

$P = \langle \text{START} (\text{expand} = e, p), d (\text{expand} = \text{NULL}), e (\text{expand} = h), r (\text{expand} = f) \rangle$

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DFS Algorithm

Let $P = \langle \text{START} (\text{expand} = \text{succs}(\text{START})) \rangle$
 While (P not empty and $\text{top}(P)$ not a goal)
 if $\text{expand}(\text{top}(P))$ is empty
 then
 remove $\text{top}(P)$ ("pop the stack")
 else
 let s be a member of $\text{expand}(\text{top}(P))$
 remove s from $\text{expand}(\text{top}(P))$
 make a new item on the top of path P :
 $s (\text{expand} = \text{succs}(s))$
 If P is empty
 return FAILURE
 Else
 return the path consisting of states in P

The path object P is essentially a stack.
 Also serves as the frontier (or at least the "expand" fields in the elements of this stack do).

This algorithm can be written neatly with recursion, i.e. using the program stack to implement P .

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Judging a search algorithm

N	number of states in the problem
B	the average branching factor (the average number of successors) ($B-1$)
L	the length of the path from start to goal with the shortest number of steps
Q	the average size of the priority queue

Algorithm	Complete	Optimal	Time	Space
BFS	Breadth First Search	Y	if all transitions same cost $O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
LCBFS	Least Cost BFS	Y	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$
UCS	Uniform Cost Search	Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$
DFS	Depth First Search	N		

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DFS	Depth First Search	N		

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UCS	Uniform Cost Search	Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$
DFS	Depth First Search	N	N/A	N/A

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Judging a search algorithm

N	number of states in the problem
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L	the length of the path from start to goal with the shortest number of steps
LMAX	Length of longest path from start to anywhere
Q	the average size of the priority queue

Algorithm	Complete	Optimal	Time	Space
BFS	Breadth First Search Y	if all transitions same cost Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
LCBFS	Least Cost BFS Y	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
UCS	Uniform Cost Search Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
DFS**	Depth First Search Y	N	$O(B^{LMAX})$	$O(LMAX)$

Assuming Acyclic Search Space

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Judging a search algorithm

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DFS**	Depth First Search Y	N	$O(B^{LMAX})$	$O(LMAX)$

Assuming Acyclic Search Space

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DFS**	Depth First Search Y	N	$O(B^{LMAX})$	$O(LMAX)$

Assuming Acyclic Search Space

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Lesson 7

A FEW NOTES ON RUNTIMES OF BFS AND DFS

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Why are the runtimes exponential?

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LCBFS	Least Cost BFS Y	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
UCS	Uniform Cost Search Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
DFS**	Depth First Search Y	N	$O(B^{LMAX})$	$O(LMAX)$

Assuming Acyclic Search Space

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Why are the runtimes exponential?

- Wait a minute! I thought the runtimes of BFS and DFS were linear!!!
- You are correct, the runtimes are linear in the size of the graph.
- But our search problem is defined by a graph whose size is exponential in the branching factor B.

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Why are the runtimes exponential?

N	number of states in the problem
B	the average branching factor (the average number of successors) ($B \geq 1$)
L	the length of the path from start to goal with the shortest number of steps
LMAX	Length of longest path from start to anywhere
Q	the average size of the priority queue

- Runtime of BFS: $O(V + E)$ where V is number of vertices and E number of edges.
 - Each problem state is a vertex in graph, so $V = N$.
 - There are $E = BN$ edges.
 - $O(V + E) = O(N + BN) = O(BN)$
- But that still doesn't look exponential!!!!
 - Each node expansion generates B successors, each of which are expanded in turn until we reach the goal, for a cost of $B * B * B * \dots [L \text{ of these}] = B^L$
- What is that $O(\min(BN, B^L))$ all about?
 - BFS remembers states it's seen before and doesn't reexpand any.

What about DFS?

- Isn't the runtime of DFS $O(V + E)$ as well, so shouldn't that same analysis for BFS lead to $O(\min(BN, B^L))$?
- Why is it $O(B^{LMAX})$? Where did the min go?
- The exponent is LMAX (length of longest acyclic path to anywhere) instead of L because DFS might go down a longer path.
- The min involving BN isn't there because our DFS doesn't remember all states it has seen before.
 - If you use a version that does, then it would be $O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$
- When we use DFS in AI, we'll typically do so to avoid exponential memory, which means we won't be able to keep track of all states that we visit, so runtime will be $O(B^{LMAX})$.

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Lesson 8

VARIATIONS OF DFS

Questions to ponder

- Removing our assumption of acyclic search space....
- How would you prevent DFS from looping?
- How could you force it to give an optimal solution?

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Questions to ponder

- Removing our assumption of acyclic search space....
- How would you prevent DFS from looping?
- How could you force it to give an optimal solution?

Answer 1:

PC-DFS (Path Checking DFS):

Answer 2:

MEMDFS (Memoizing DFS):

Questions to ponder

- Removing our assumption of acyclic search space....
- How would you prevent DFS from looping?
- How could you force it to give an optimal solution?

Answer 1:

PC-DFS (Path Checking DFS):
Don't recurse on a state if that state is already in the current path

Answer 2:

MEMDFS (Memoizing DFS):
Remember all states expanded so far. Never expand anything twice.

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Judging a search algorithm

N	number of states in the problem			
B	the average branching factor (the average number of successors) ($B > 1$)			
L	the length of the path from start to goal with the shortest number of steps			
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LCBFS Least Cost BFS	Y	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
UCS Uniform Cost Search	Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
PCDFS Path Check DFS	Y			
MEMDFS Memoizing DFS	Y			

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Judging a search algorithm

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UCS Uniform Cost Search	Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
PCDFS Path Check DFS	Y	N		
MEMDFS Memoizing DFS	Y	N		

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Judging a search algorithm

N	number of states in the problem			
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UCS Uniform Cost Search	Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
PCDFS Path Check DFS	Y	N	$O(B^{LMAX})$	
MEMDFS Memoizing DFS	Y	N	$O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$	

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Judging a search algorithm

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PCDFS Path Check DFS	Y	N	$O(B^{LMAX})$	$O(LMAX)$
MEMDFS Memoizing DFS	Y	N	$O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$	$O(\min(N, B^{LMAX}))$

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Lesson 9

ANIMATIONS OF BFS AND DFS

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Maze example

Imagine states are cells in a maze, you can move N, E, S, W. What would **plain DFS** do, assuming it always expanded the E successor first, then N, then W, then S?

Expansion order E, N, W, S

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Maze example (BFS)

Imagine states are cells in a maze, you can move N, E, S, W. What would **plain BFS** do, assuming it always expanded the E successor first, then N, then W, then S?

Expansion order E, N, W, S

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Another DFS examples

Order: N, E, S, W
with loops prevented

Expansion order E, N, W, S

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Lesson 10

BIDIRECTIONAL BFS

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Invent An Algorithm Time!

- Here's a way to dramatically decrease costs sometimes. Bidirectional Search. Can you guess what this algorithm is, and why it can be a huge cost-saver?
- Run two BFS, one forward chaining from start, and the other backward chaining from the goal.
- Interleave their execution so that forward search does goes one full level away from start and then backward search does one full level backwards.
- Terminate when searches meet in middle.

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LCBFS	Least Cost BFS	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
UCS	Uniform Cost Search	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
PCDFS	Path Check DFS	Y	$O(B^{LMAX})$	$O(LMAX)$
MEMDFS	Memoizing DFS	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$	$O(\min(N, B^{LMAX}))$
BIBFS	Bidirection BF Search	Y		

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MEMDFS	Memoizing DFS	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$	$O(\min(N, B^{LMAX}))$
BIBFS	Bidirection BF Search	Y		

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LCBFS	Least Cost BFS	Y	Y	$O(\min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
UCS	Uniform Cost Search	Y	Y	$O(\log(Q) * \min(BN, B^L))$	$O(\min(N, B^L))$
PCDFS	Path Check DFS	Y	N	$O(B^{LMAX})$	$O(LMAX)$
MEMtoFS	Memorizing DFS	Y	N	$O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$	$O(\min(N, B^{LMAX}))$
BIBFS	Bidirection BF Search	Y	All trans same cost	$O(\min(BN, 2B^{L/2}))$	$O(\min(N, 2B^{L/2}))$

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BIBFS	Bidirectional BF Search	Y	All trans same cost	$O(\min(BN, B^{L/2}))$	$O(\min(N, B^{L/2}))$

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Lesson 11

ITERATIVE DEEPENING

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Depth-limited DFS

- Depth-limited DFS is like DFS, but it limits the search to go no deeper than k steps from start.
- It is not complete (since if shortest path to goal is longer than k steps, you'll miss it).
- Just like DFS, it is also not optimal.
- We'll use it as a subroutine in an algorithm called Iterative Deepening.

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Iterative Deepening

Iterative deepening is a simple algorithm which uses DFS as a subroutine:

1. Do a DFS which only searches for paths of length 1 or less. (DFS gives up any path of length 2)
2. If "1" failed, do a DFS which only searches paths of length 2 or less.
3. If "2" failed, do a DFS which only searches paths of length 3 or less.
....and so on until success

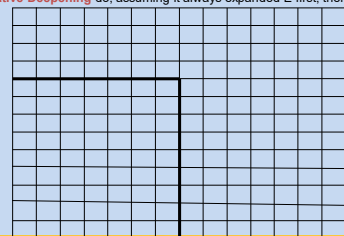
Cost is

$$O(b^1 + b^2 + b^3 + b^4 \dots + b^L) = O(b^L)$$

Can be much better than regular DFS. But cost can be much greater than the number of states.

Maze example

Imagine states are cells in a maze, you can move N, E, S, W. What would **Iterative Deepening** do, assuming it always expanded E first, then N, W, S?



Expansion order
E, N, W, S

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SKIPPING AHEAD A BIT ...

Imagine states are cells in a maze, you can move N, E, S, W. What would **Iterative Deepening** do, assuming it always expanded E first, then N, W, S?

Expansion order
E, N, W, S

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PCDFS	Path Check DFS	Y	N	$O(B^{LMAX})$
MEMDFS	Memorizing DFS	Y	N	$O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$
BIBFS	Bidirection BF Search	Y	All trans same cost	$O(\min(BN, B^{L/2}))$
ID	Iterative Deepening	Y		

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MEMDFS	Memorizing DFS	Y	N	$O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$
BIBFS	Bidirection BF Search	Y	All trans same cost	$O(\min(BN, B^{L/2}))$
ID	Iterative Deepening	Y	if all transitions same cost	

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MEMDFS	Memorizing DFS	Y	N	$O(\min(BN, B^{LMAX}))$
BIBFS	Bidirection BF Search	Y	All trans same cost	$O(\min(BN, B^{L/2}))$
ID	Iterative Deepening	Y	if all transitions same cost	$O(B^L)$

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