

# Lecture 5: Search 4

## Bandits and MCTS

# Previously...

Path-based search

Uninformed search

Depth-first, breadth first, uniform-cost search

Informed search

Best-first, **A\* search**

Adversarial search

Alpha-Beta search

# Beyond classical search

Bandit search

Tree search: Monte-Carlo Tree Search

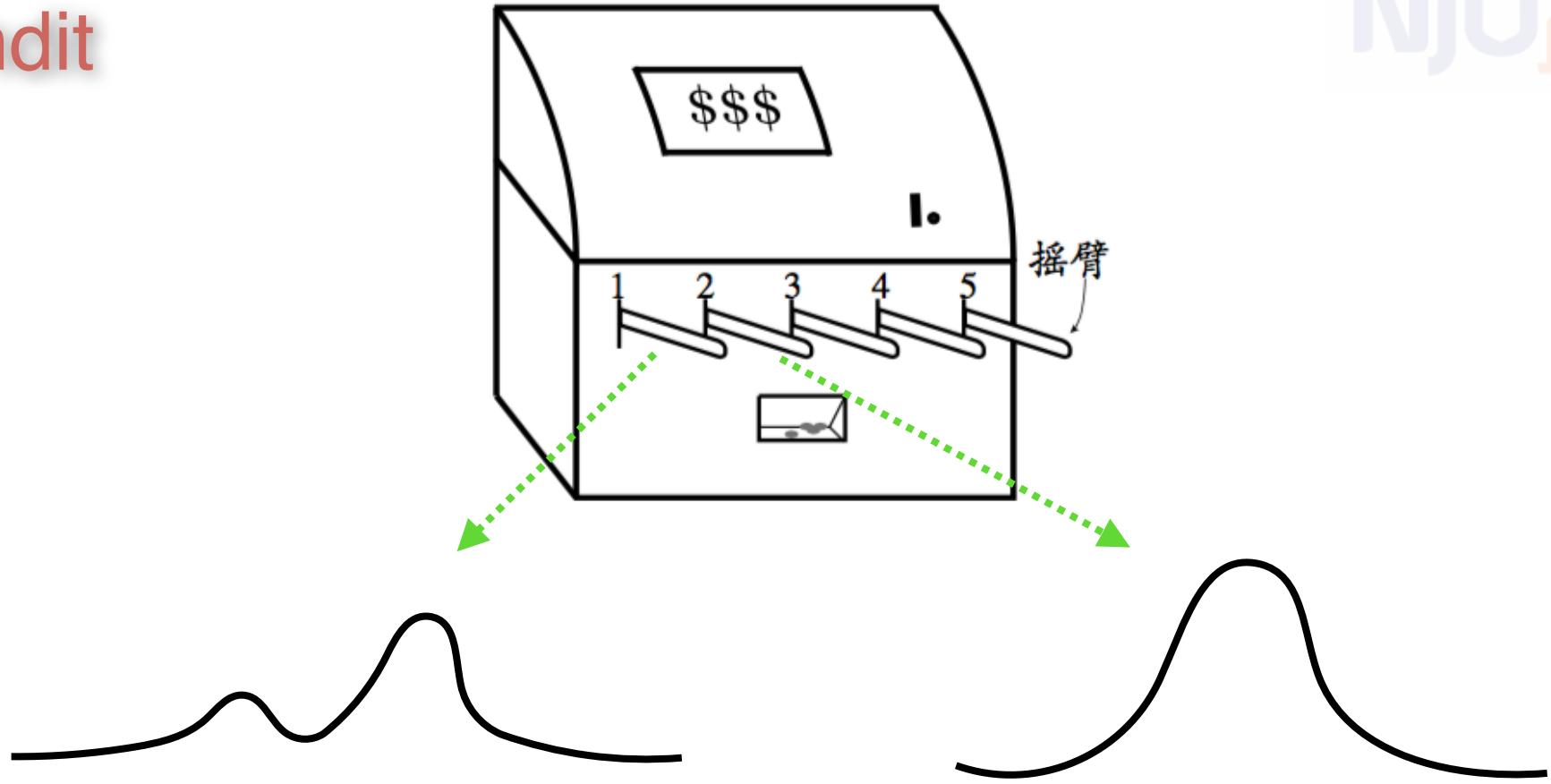
# Functions for pseudo-random numbers

in C++

```
#include <stdlib.h>
srand(seed);
int r = rand();           0~RAND_MAX
```

in JAVA

```
import java.util.Random;
Random rnd = new Random(seed);
int r = rnd.nextInt(upper);    0~upper-1
```



Multiple arms

Each arm has an expected reward,  
but **unknown**, with an **unknown distribution**

Maximize your award in fixed trials

# Simplest strategies

Two simplest strategies

Exploration-only:

for  $T$  trials and  $K$  arms, try each arm  $T/K$  times

problem?

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Exploitation-only:

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for  $T$  trials and  $K$  arms, try each arm  $T/K$  times

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Exploitation-only:

1. try each arm once
2. try the observed best arm  $T-K$  times

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problem? waste on suboptimal arms

Exploitation-only:

1. try each arm once
2. try the observed best arm  $T-K$  times

problem? risk of wrong best arm

Balance the exploration and exploitation:

with  $\epsilon$  probability, try a random arm  
with  $1-\epsilon$  probability, try the best arm

$\epsilon$  controls the balance

---

输入: 摆臂数  $K$ ;  
奖赏函数  $R$ ;  
尝试次数  $T$ ;  
探索概率  $\epsilon$ .

过程:

```
1:  $r = 0$ ;  
2:  $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, K : Q(i) = 0, \text{count}(i) = 0$ ;  
3: for  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$  do  
4:   if  $\text{rand}() < \epsilon$  then  
5:      $k =$  从  $1, 2, \dots, K$  中以均匀分布随机选取  
6:   else  
7:      $k = \arg \max_i Q(i)$   
8:   end if  
9:    $v = R(k)$ ;  
10:   $r = r + v$ ;  
11:   $Q(k) = \frac{Q(k) \times \text{count}(k) + v}{\text{count}(k) + 1}$ ;  
12:   $\text{count}(k) = \text{count}(k) + 1$ ;  
13: end for
```

输出: 累积奖赏  $r$

---

Balance the exploration and exploitation:

Choose arm with probability

$$P(k) = \frac{e^{\frac{Q(k)}{\tau}}}{\sum_{i=1}^K e^{\frac{Q(i)}{\tau}}}, \quad (16.4)$$

$\tau$  controls the balance

---

输入: 摆臂数  $K$ ;  
奖赏函数  $R$ ;  
尝试次数  $T$ ;  
温度参数  $\tau$ .

过程:

- 1:  $r = 0$ ;
- 2:  $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, K : Q(i) = 0, \text{count}(i) = 0$ ;
- 3: **for**  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$  **do**
- 4:    $k =$  从  $1, 2, \dots, K$  中根据式(16.4)随机选取
- 5:    $v = R(k)$ ;
- 6:    $r = r + v$ ;
- 7:    $Q(k) = \frac{Q(k) \times \text{count}(k) + v}{\text{count}(k) + 1}$ ;
- 8:    $\text{count}(k) = \text{count}(k) + 1$ ;
- 9: **end for**

输出: 累积奖赏  $r$

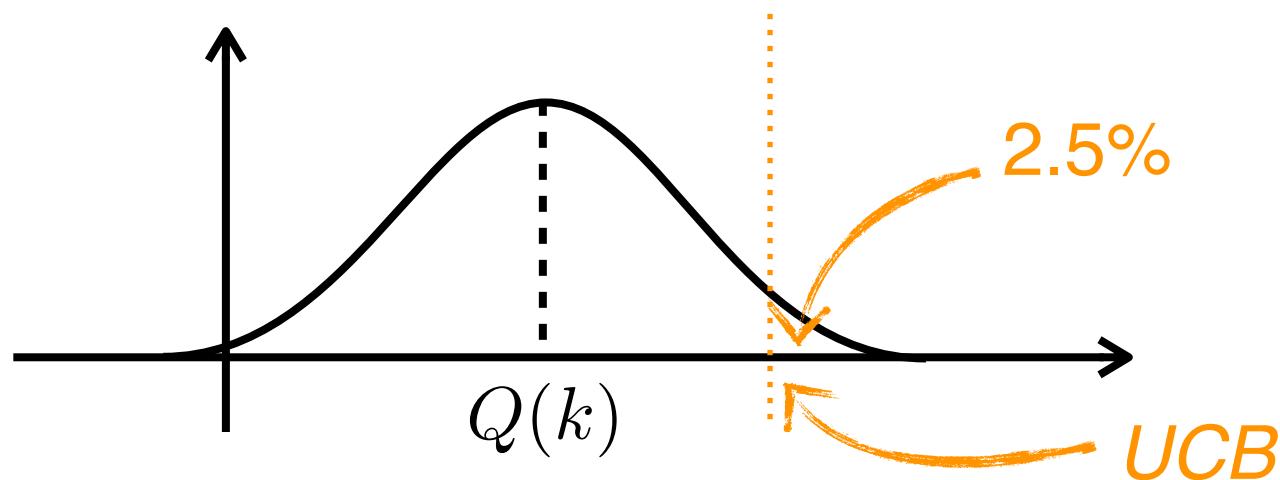
# Upper-confidence bound

Balance the exploration and exploitation:

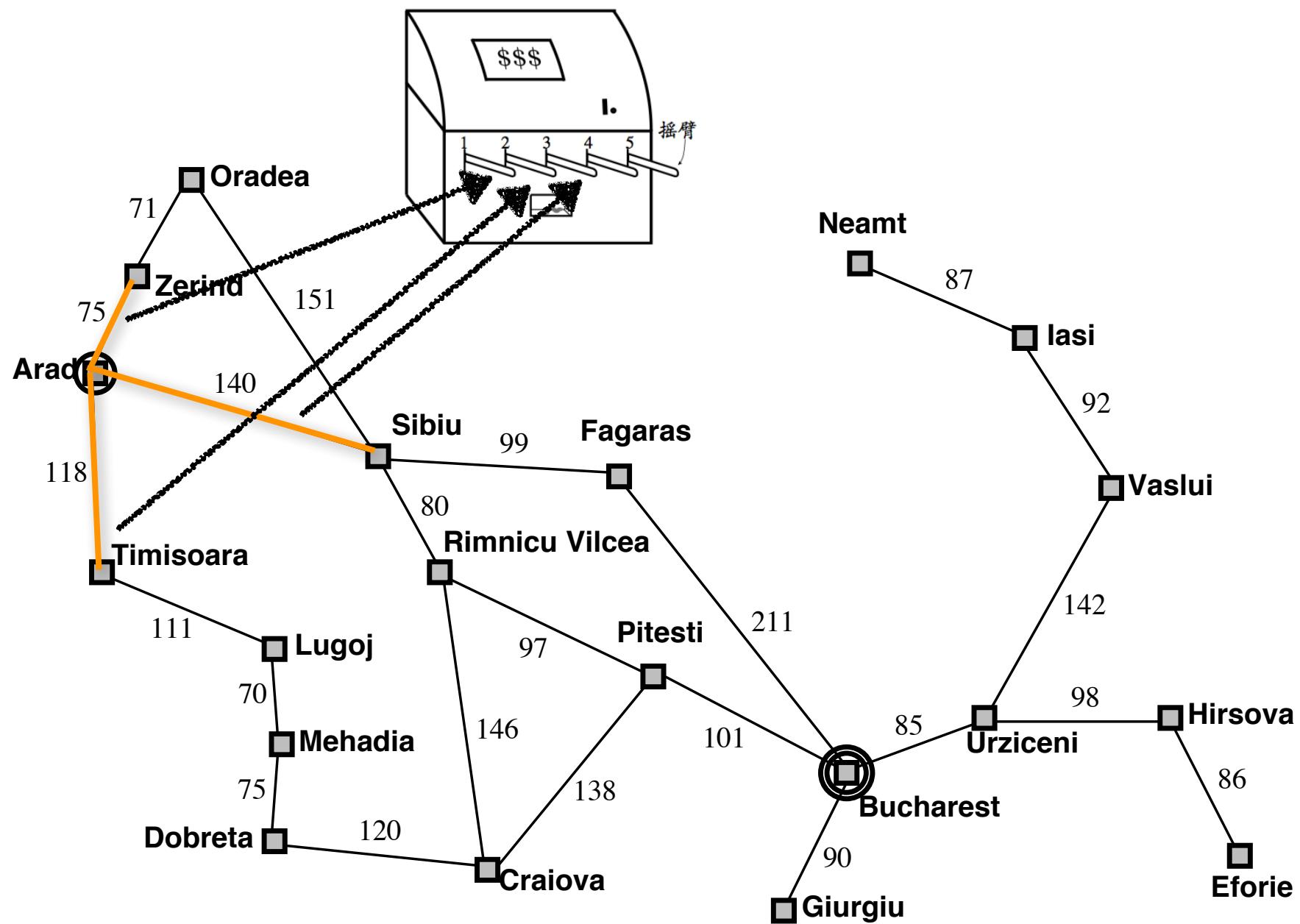
Choose arm with the largest value of

average reward + upper confidence bound

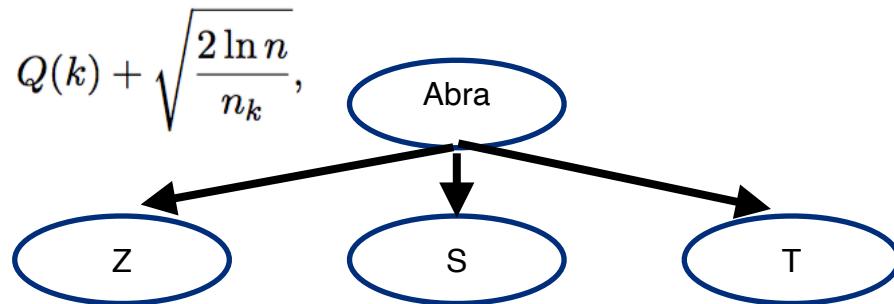
$$Q(k) + \sqrt{\frac{2 \ln n}{n_k}},$$



# Use bandit to search

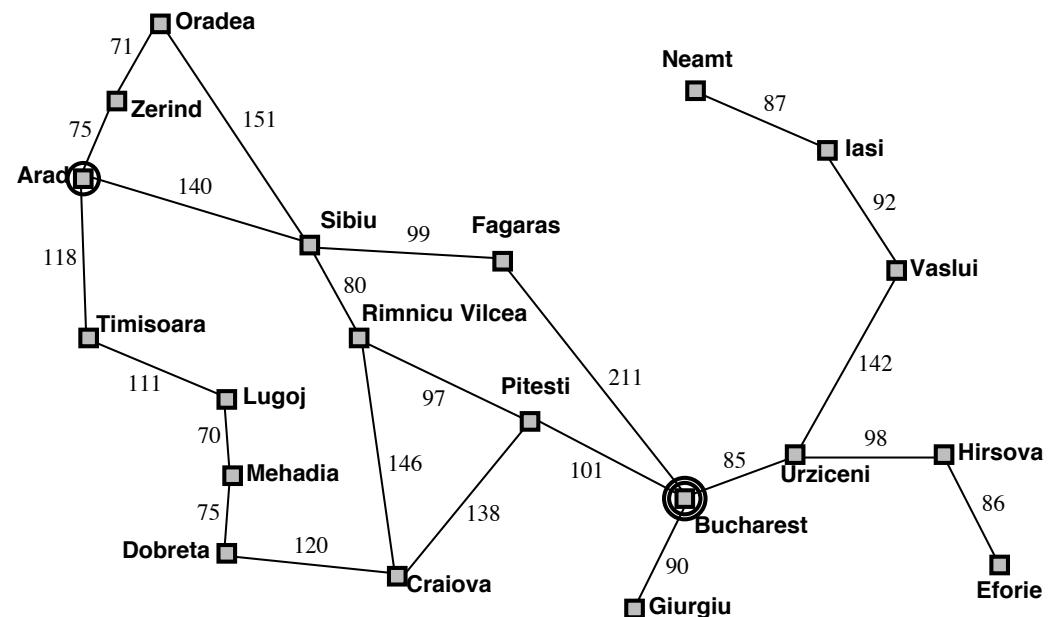


# Use bandit to search

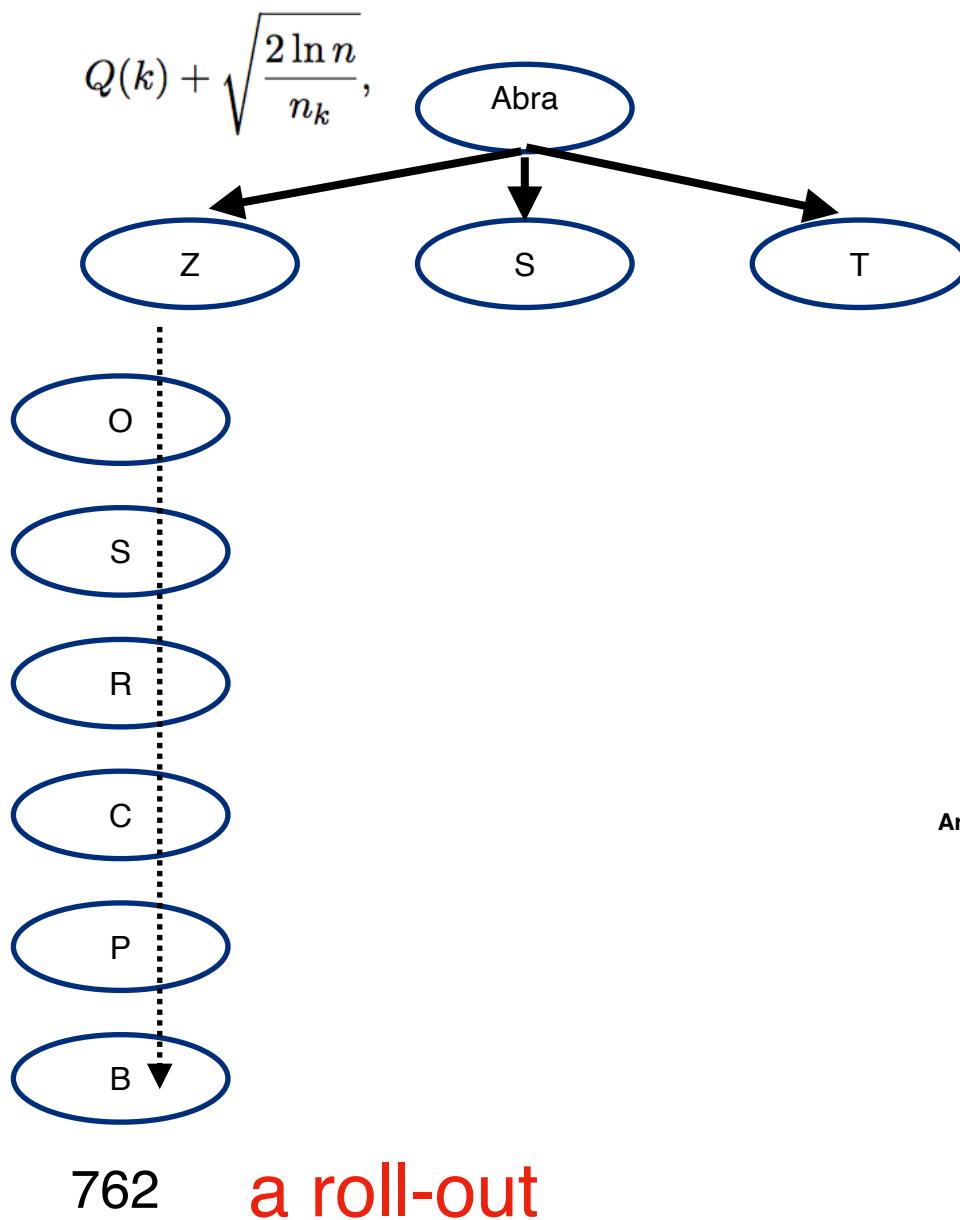


**use many roll-outs to estimate the average cost of each arm**

**arm selection: UCB**

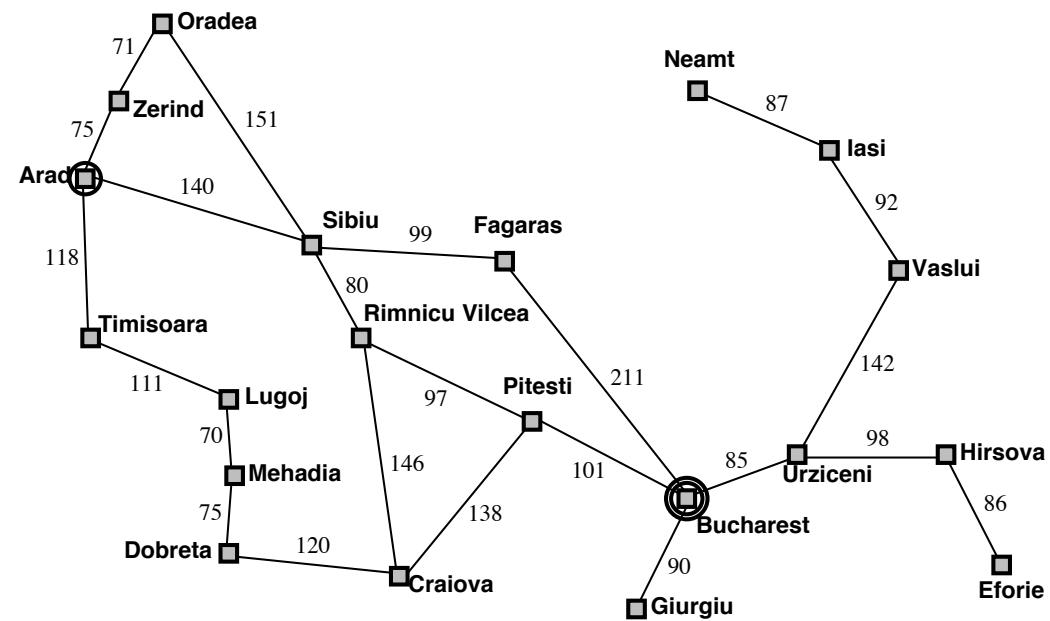


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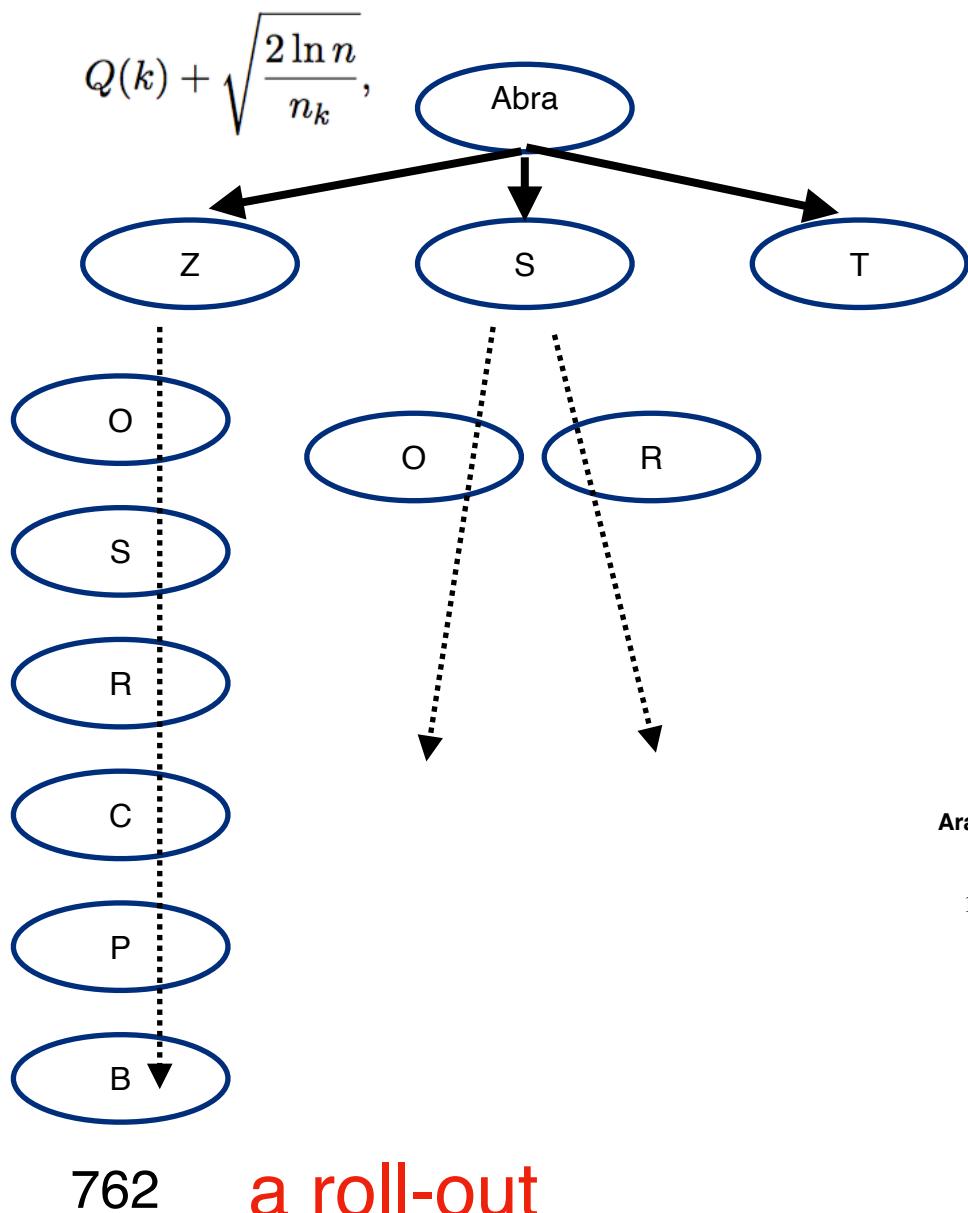


use many roll-outs to estimate the average cost of each arm

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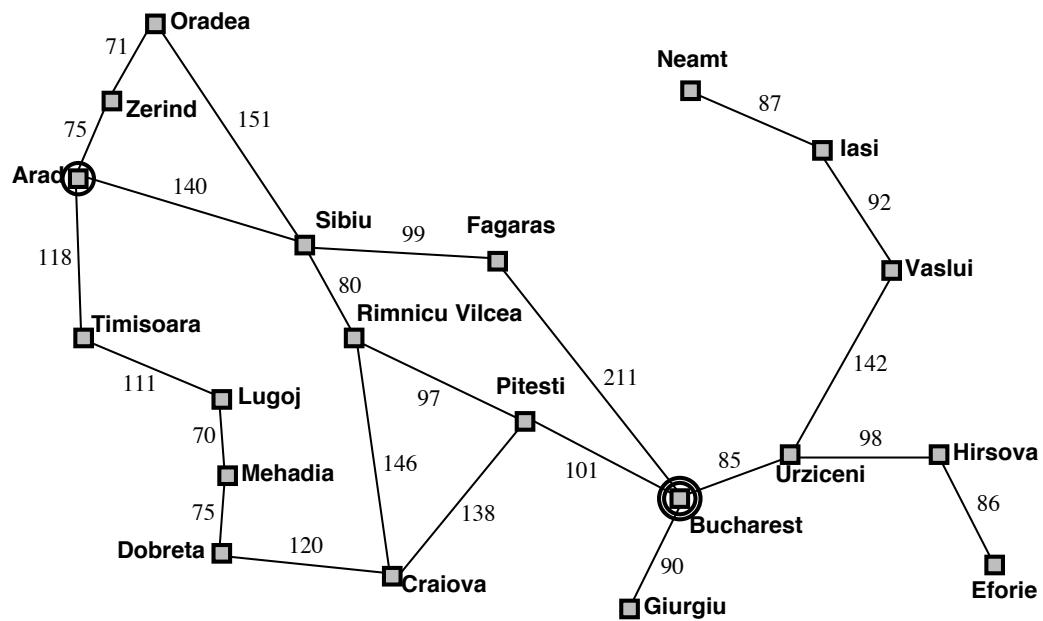


# Use bandit to search

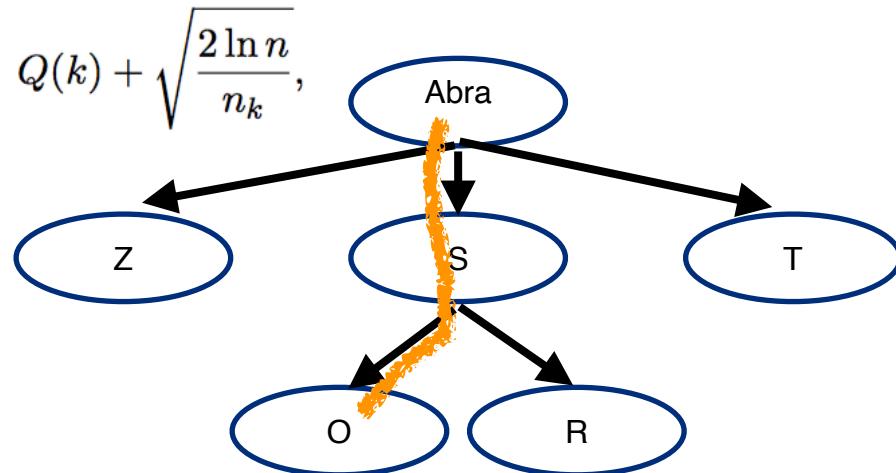


use many roll-outs to estimate the average cost of each arm

arm selection: UCB



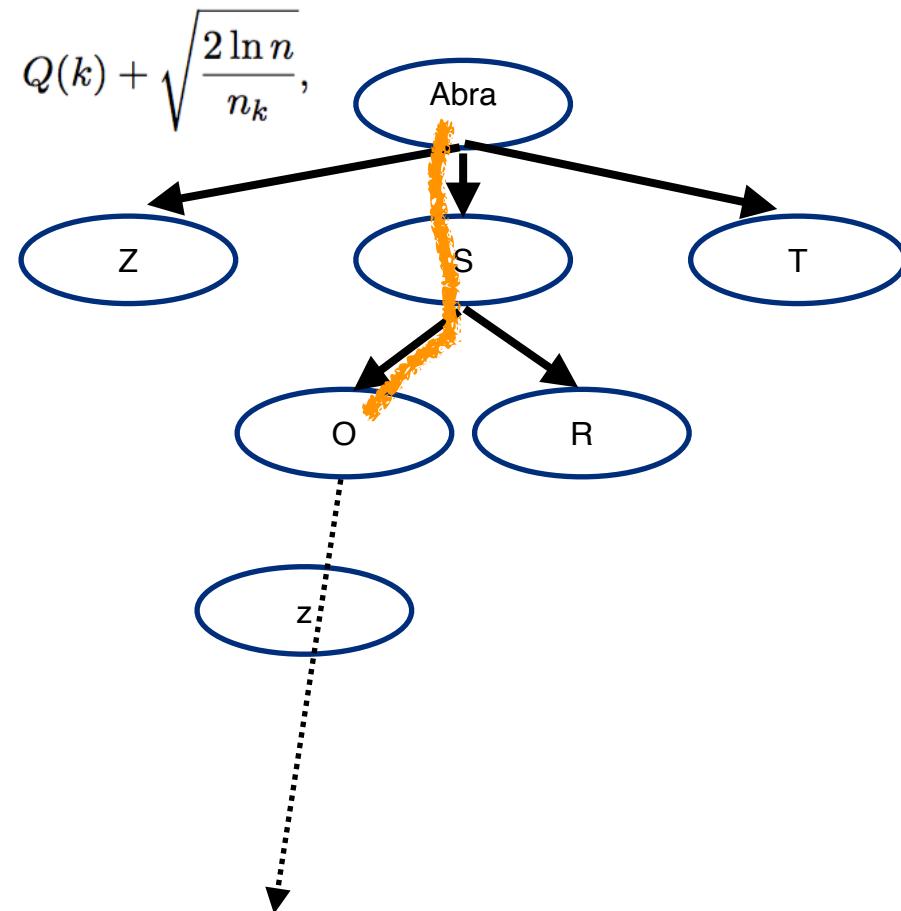
# From bandit to tree



**grow a tree**

**update the values along  
the path**

# From bandit to tree



**grow a tree**

**update the values along  
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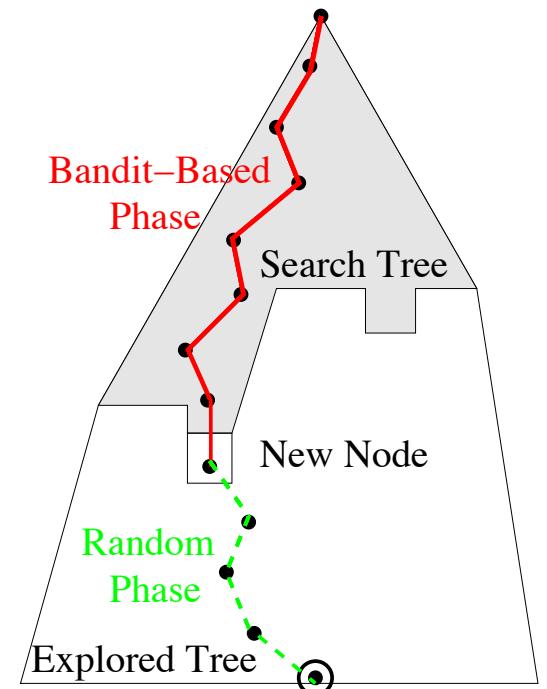
# Monte-Carlo Tree Search

also called Upper-Confidence Tree (UCT)

Kocsis Szepesvári, 06

Gradually grow the search tree:

- ▶ Iterate Tree-Walk
  - ▶ Building Blocks
    - ▶ Select next action
    - ▶ Add a node
      - Grow a leaf of the search tree**
    - ▶ Select next action bis
    - Random phase, roll-out**
    - ▶ Compute instant reward
    - Evaluate**
    - ▶ Update information in visited nodes
    - Propagate**
- ▶ Returned solution:
  - ▶ Path visited most often



# Monte-Carlo Tree Search

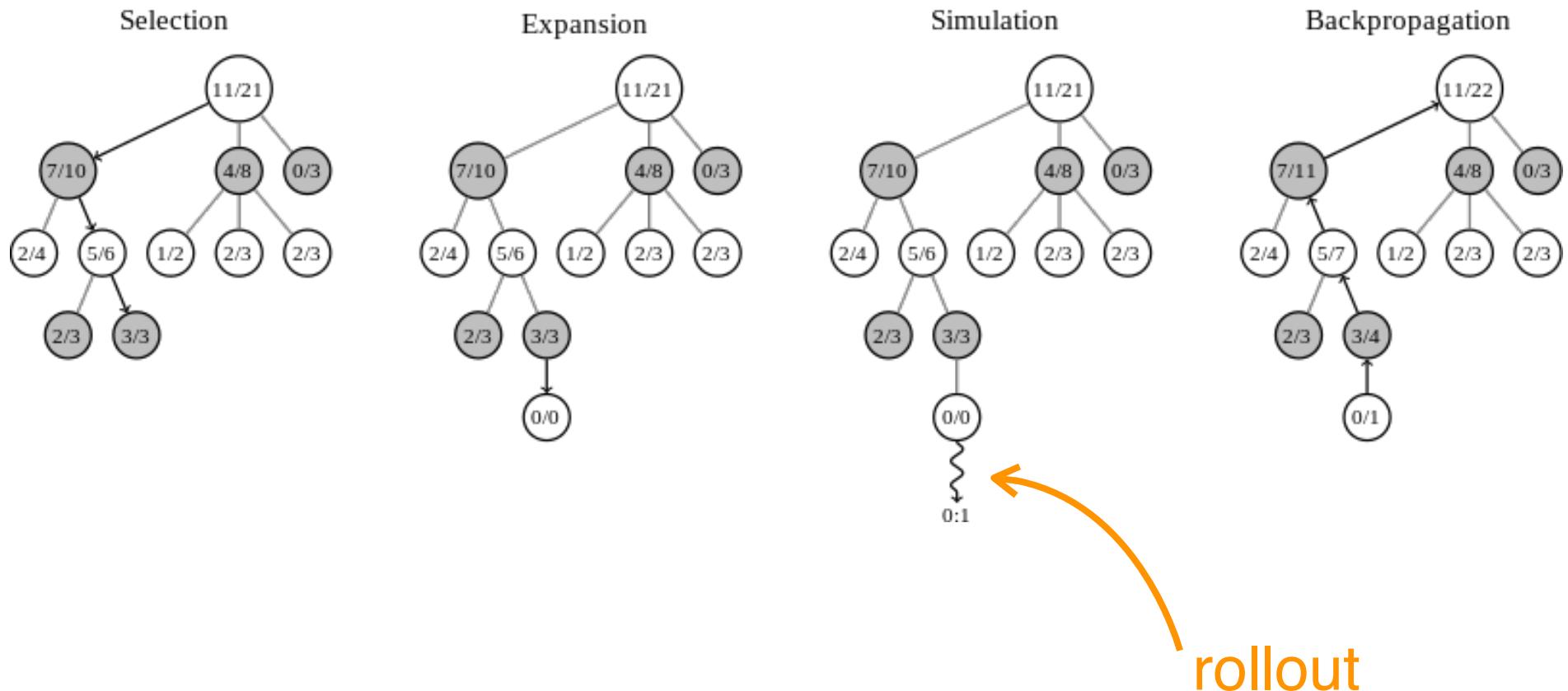
```
public class TreeNode {  
    static Random r = new Random();  
    static int nActions = 5;  
    static double epsilon = 1e-6;  
  
    TreeNode[] children;  
    double nVisits, totValue;  
  
    public void selectAction() {  
        List<TreeNode> visited = new LinkedList<TreeNode>();  
        TreeNode cur = this;  
        visited.add(this);  
        while (!cur.isLeaf()) {  
            cur = cur.select();  
            visited.add(cur);  
        }  
        cur.expand();  
        TreeNode newNode = cur.select();  
        visited.add(newNode);  
        double value = rollOut(newNode);  
        for (TreeNode node : visited) {  
            // would need extra logic for n-player game  
            node.updateStats(value);  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void expand() {  
        children = new TreeNode[nActions];  
        for (int i=0; i<nActions; i++) {  
            children[i] = new TreeNode();  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void updateStats(double value) {  
        nVisits++;  
        totValue += value;  
    }  
}
```

# Monte-Carlo Tree Search

```
private TreeNode select() {  
    TreeNode selected = null;  
    double bestValue = Double.MIN_VALUE;  
    for (TreeNode c : children) {  
        double uctValue = c.totValue / (c.nVisits + epsilon) +  
                         Math.sqrt(Math.log(nVisits+1) / (c.nVisits + epsilon)) +  
                         r.nextDouble() * epsilon;  
        // small random number to break ties randomly in unexpanded nodes  
        if (uctValue > bestValue) {  
            selected = c;  
            bestValue = uctValue;  
        }  
    }  
    return selected;  
}  
  
        cur = cur.select();          totValue += value;  
        visited.add(cur);  
    }  
    cur.expand();  
    TreeNode newNode = cur.select();  
    visited.add(newNode);  
    double value = rollOut(newNode);  
    for (TreeNode node : visited) {  
        // would need extra logic for n-player game  
        node.updateStats(value);  
    }  
}
```

# Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Example:



# Monte-Carlo Tree Search

optimal? Yes, after infinite tries

compare with alpha-beta pruning  
no need of heuristic function

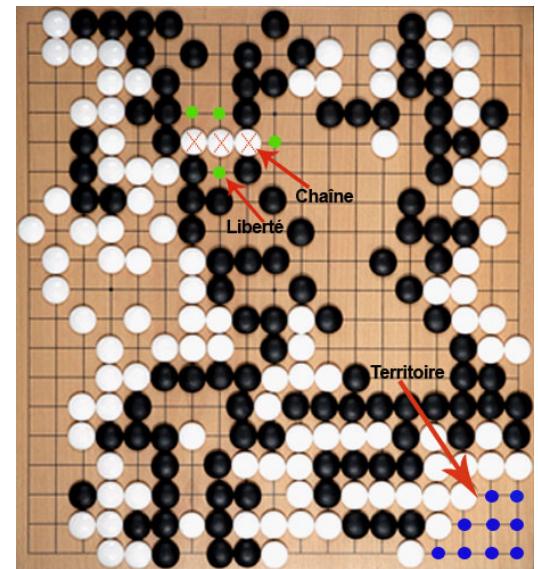
# Monte-Carlo Tree Search

## Improving random rollout

Monte-Carlo-based

Brügman 93

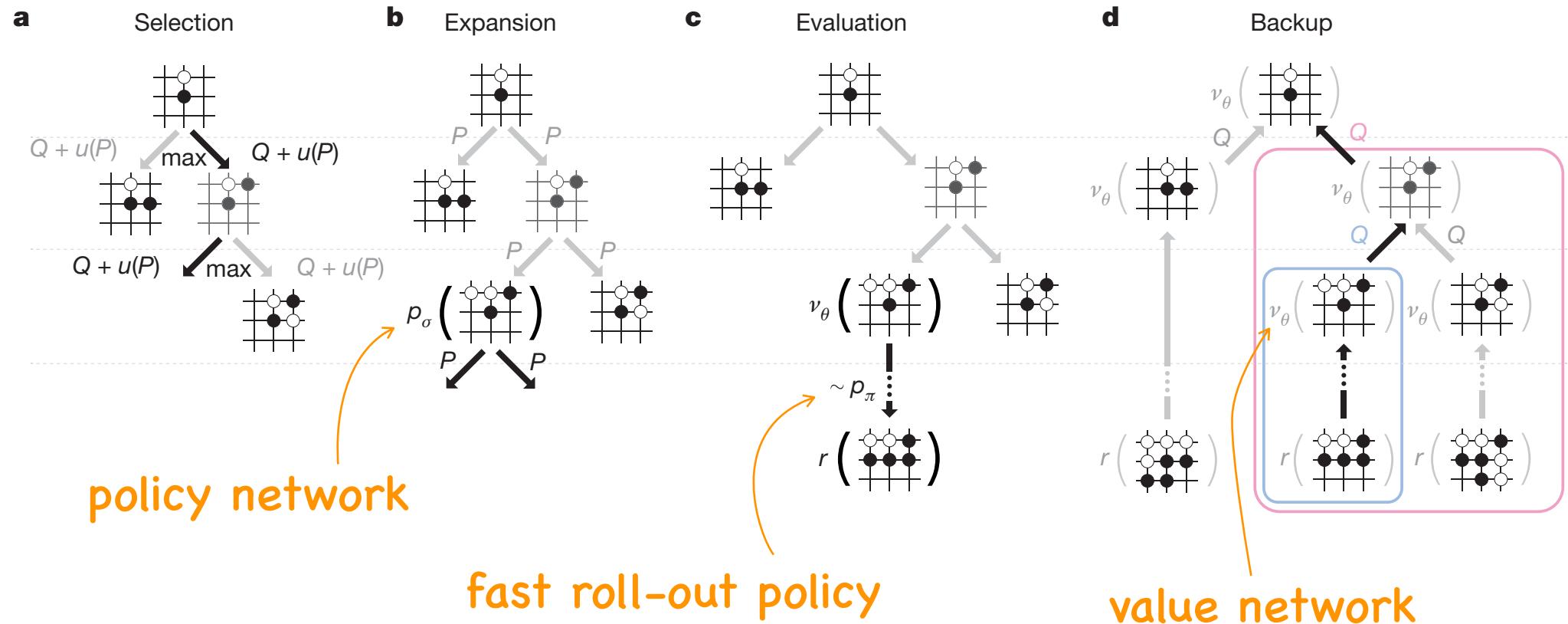
1. Until the goban is filled,  
add a stone (black or white in turn)  
at a uniformly selected empty position
2. Compute  $r = \text{Win}(\text{black})$
3. The outcome of the tree-walk is  $r$



Improvements ?

- ▶ Put stones randomly in the neighborhood of a previous stone
- ▶ Put stones matching patterns prior knowledge
- ▶ Put stones optimizing a value function Silver et al. 07

## A combination of tree search, deep neural networks and reinforcement learning

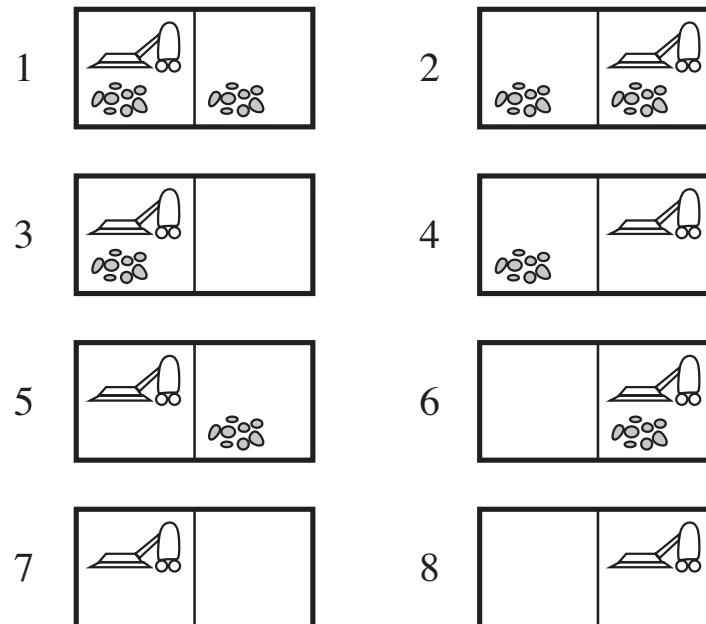


# Different Environment Properties

# Nondeterministic actions

In the **erratic vacuum world**, the *Suck* action works as follows:

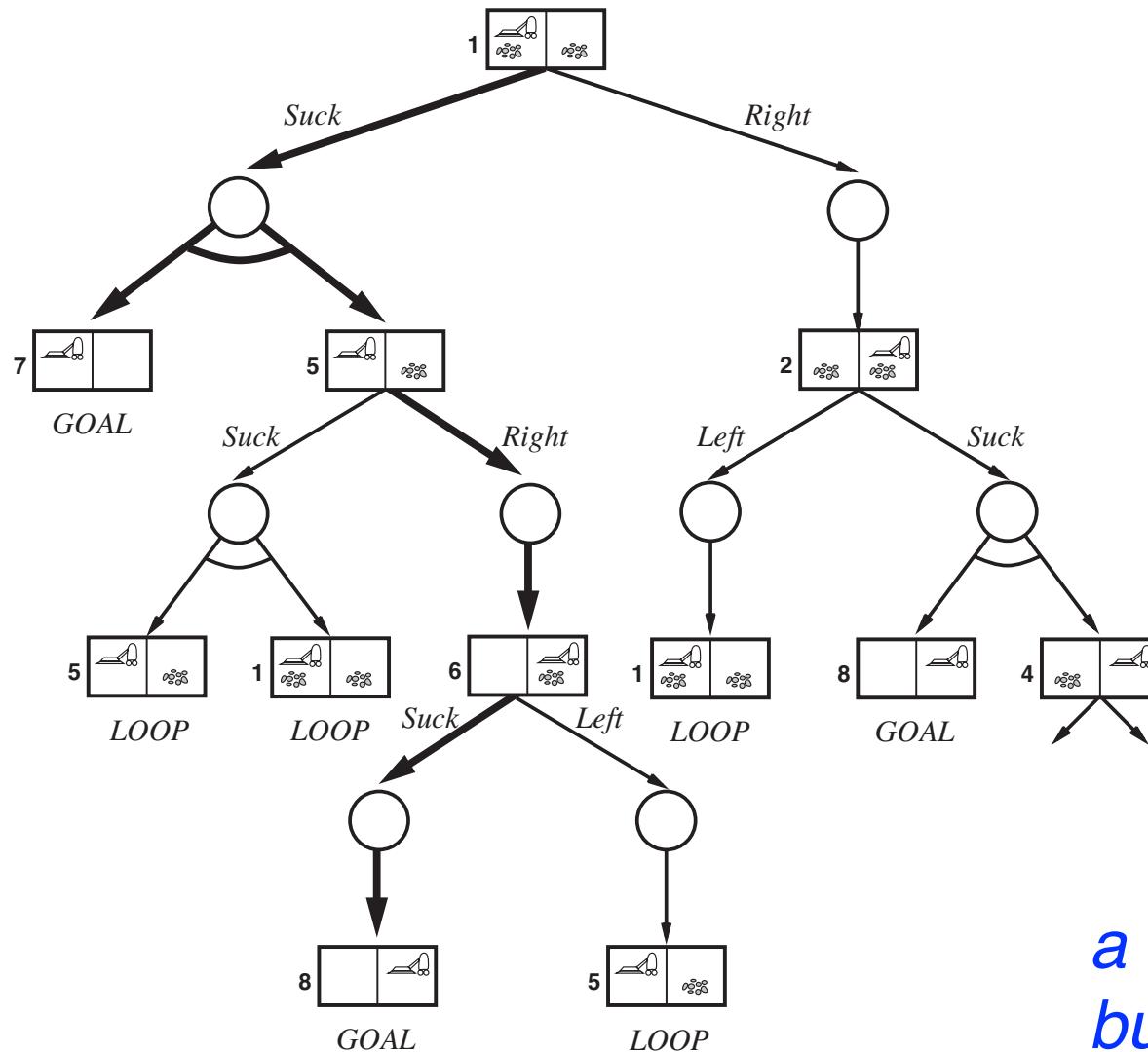
- When applied to a dirty square the action cleans the square and sometimes cleans up dirt in an adjacent square, too.
- When applied to a clean square the action sometimes deposits dirt on the carpet.



*almost all real-world problems are nondeterministic  
how do you solve this problem?*

# AND-OR tree search

OR node: different actions (as usual)  
 AND node: different transitions



*a solution is not a path  
 but a tree*

# Depth-first AND-OR tree search

```
function AND-OR-GRAFH-SEARCH(problem) returns a conditional plan, or failure  
    OR-SEARCH(problem.INITIAL-STATE, problem, [])
```

---

```
function OR-SEARCH(state, problem, path) returns a conditional plan, or failure  
    if problem.GOAL-TEST(state) then return the empty plan  
    if state is on path then return failure  
    for each action in problem.ACTIONS(state) do  
        plan  $\leftarrow$  AND-SEARCH(RESULTS(state, action), problem, [state | path])  
        if plan  $\neq$  failure then return [action | plan]  
    return failure
```

---

```
function AND-SEARCH(states, problem, path) returns a conditional plan, or failure  
    for each si in states do  
        plani  $\leftarrow$  OR-SEARCH(si, problem, path)  
        if plani = failure then return failure  
    return [if s1 then plan1 else if s2 then plan2 else ... if sn-1 then plann-1 else plann]
```

# Search with no observations

search in **belief (in agent's mind)**

