



# **CS 540 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Search II: Informed Search**

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Spring 2023**

# Announcements

## Homeworks:

- Homework 8 released today; due Tuesday April 18

## Class roadmap:

Tuesday, April 11	Informed Search
Thursday, April 13	Advanced Search
Tuesday, April 18	Games I
Thursday, April 20	Games II
Tuesday, April 25	Reinforcement Learning I

# Announcements

## Homeworks:

- Homework 8 released today; due Tuesday April 18

## Class roadmap:

Tuesday, April 11	Informed Search
Thursday, April 13	Advanced Search
Tuesday, April 18	Games I
Thursday, April 20	Games II
Tuesday, April 25	Reinforcement Learning I

Practice questions on search and neural networks on Canvas.

# **Today's Goals**

# **Today's Goals**

- Finish and review of uninformed search strategies.

# **Today's Goals**

- Finish and review of uninformed search strategies.
- Understand the difference between uninformed and informed search.

# Today's Goals

- Finish and review of uninformed search strategies.
- Understand the difference between uninformed and informed search.
- Introduce A\* Search
  - Heuristic properties, stopping rules, analysis

# Today's Goals

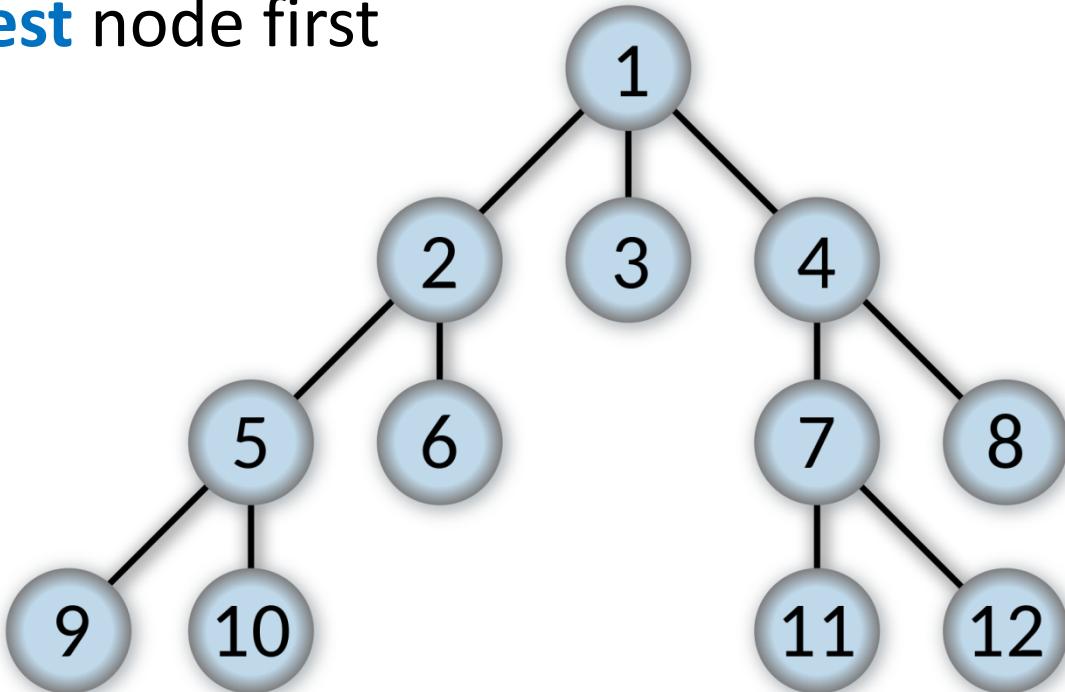
- Finish and review of uninformed search strategies.
- Understand the difference between uninformed and informed search.
- Introduce A\* Search
  - Heuristic properties, stopping rules, analysis
- Extensions: Beyond A\*
  - Iterative deepening, beam search

# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

# Breadth-First Search

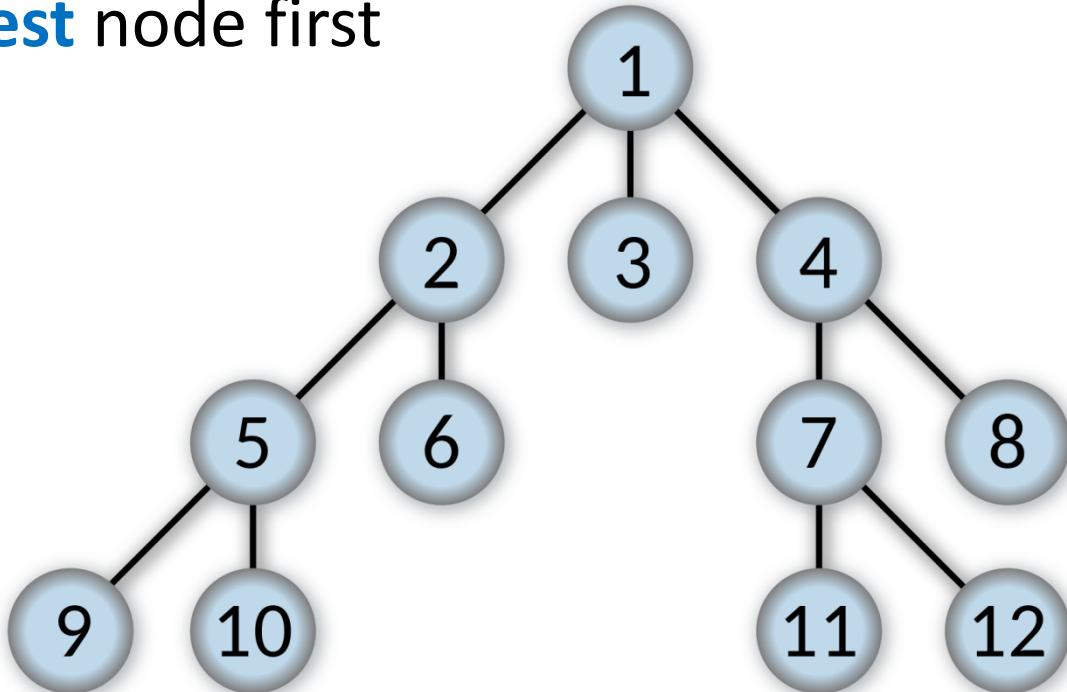
Recall: expand **shallowest** node first



# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

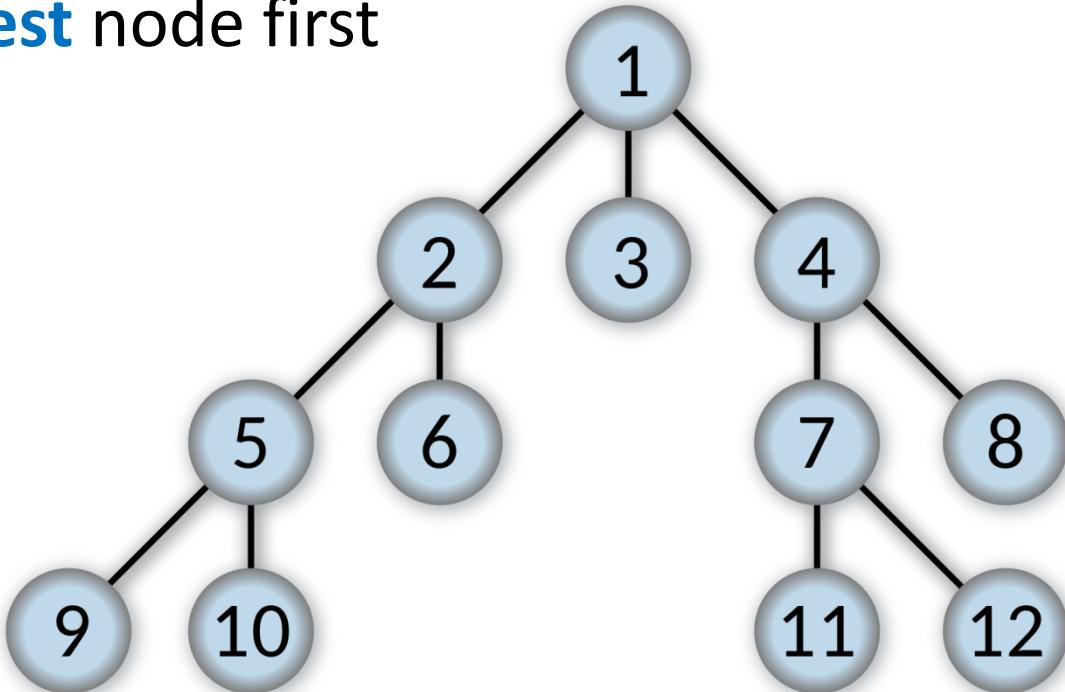
- Data structure: queue



# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

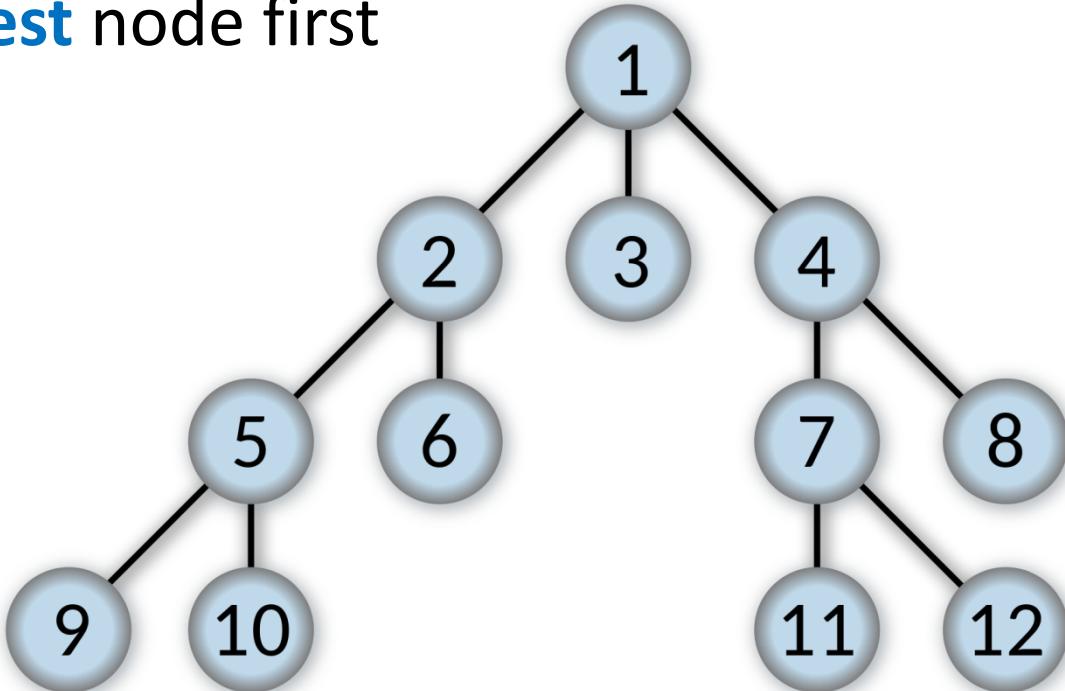
- Data structure: queue
- **Properties:**



# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

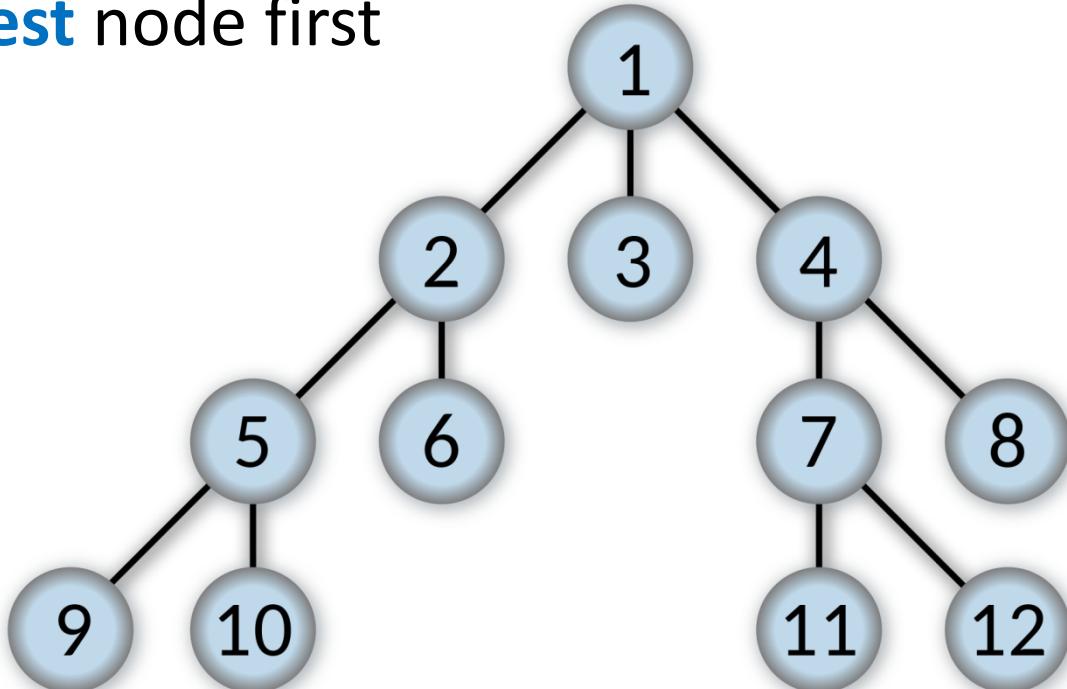
- Data structure: queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete



# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

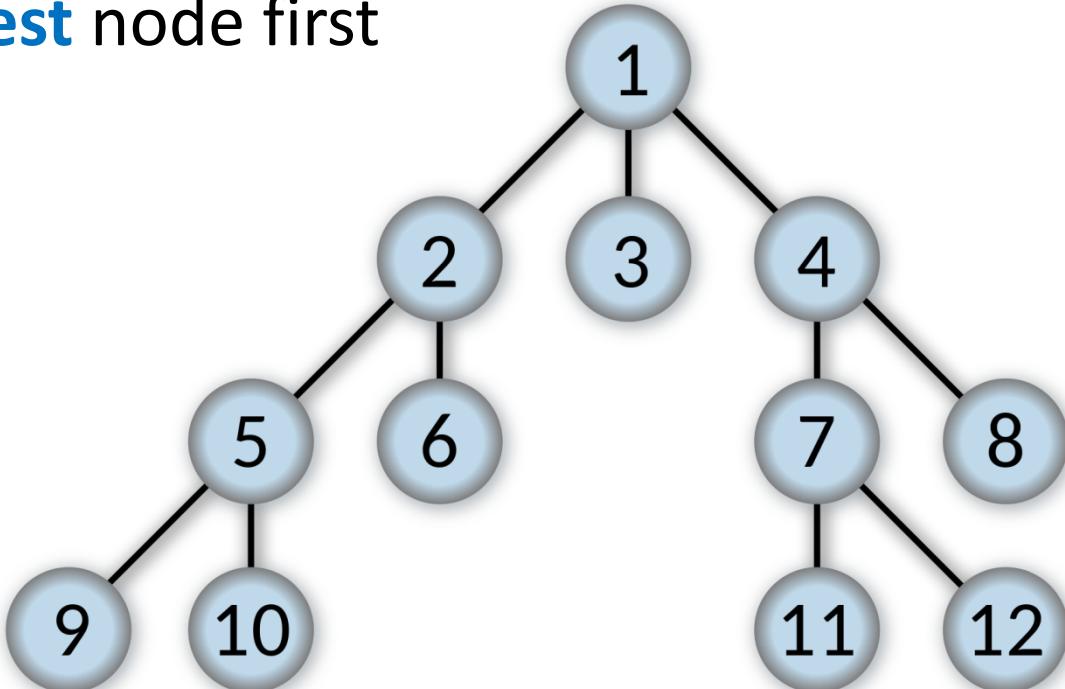
- Data structure: queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if edge cost 1)



# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

- Data structure: queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if edge cost 1)
  - Time  $O(b^d)$

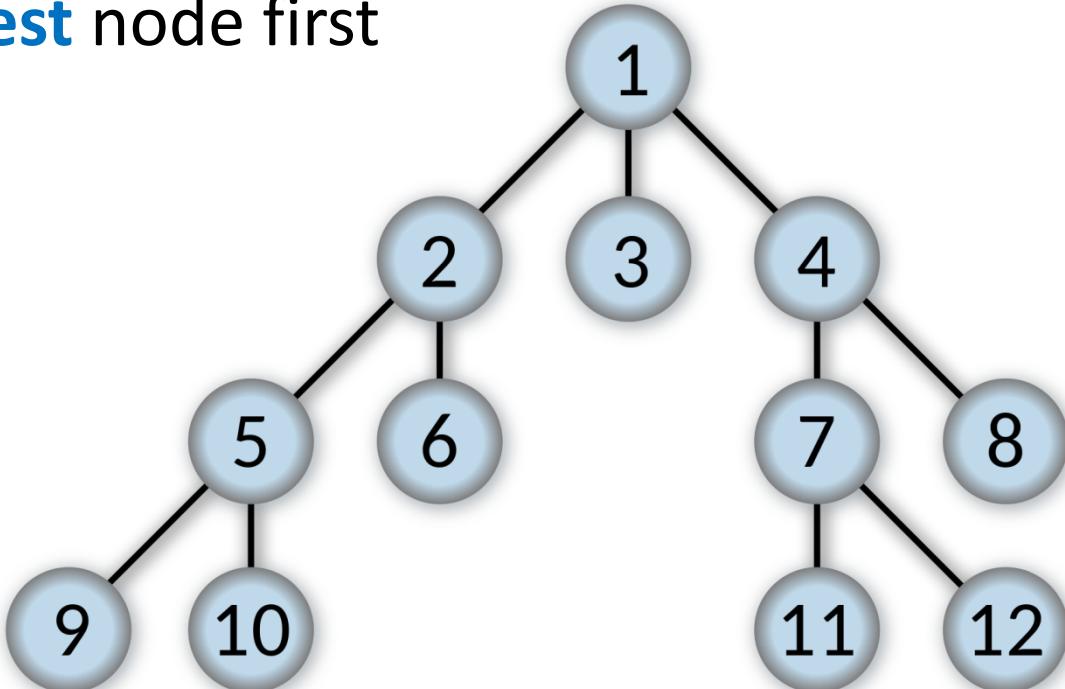


# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

- Data structure: queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if edge cost 1)
  - Time  $O(b^d)$

Depth



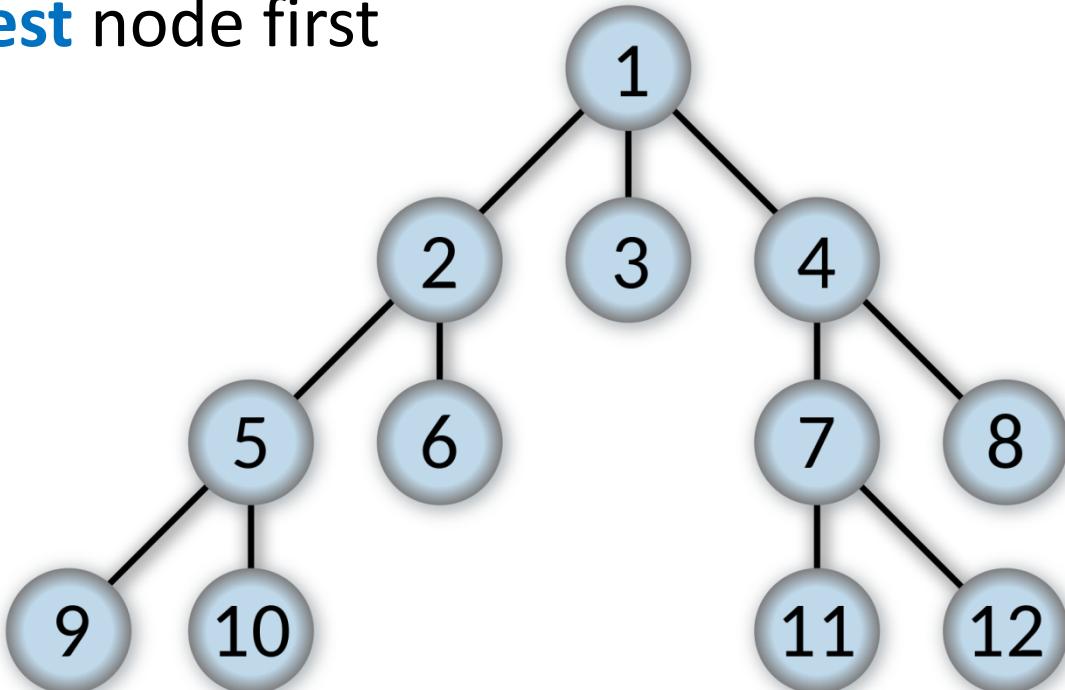
# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

- Data structure: queue
- **Properties:**

- Complete
- Optimal (if edge cost 1)
- Time  $O(b^d)$

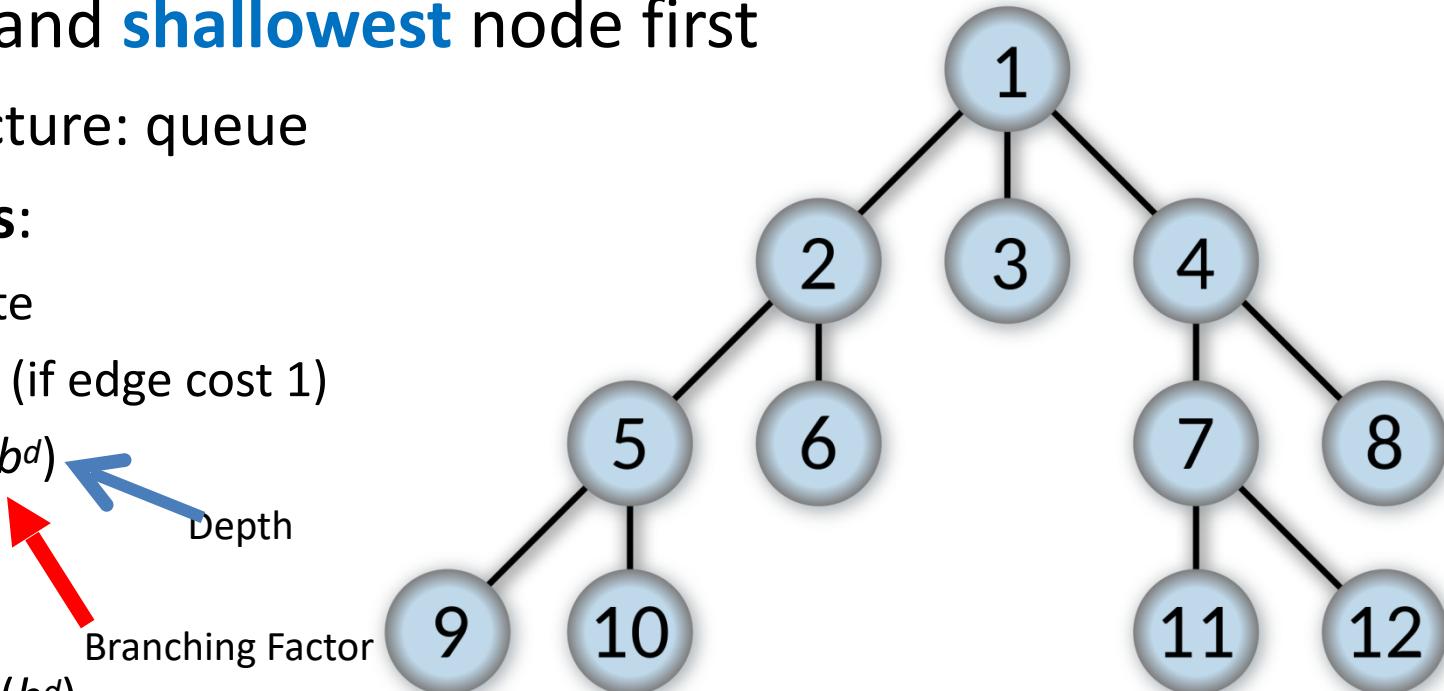
Depth  
Branching Factor



# Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

- Data structure: queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if edge cost 1)
  - Time  $O(b^d)$
  - Space  $O(b^d)$



# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node



Credit: DecorumBY

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node
- Data structure: priority queue



Credit: DecorumBY

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node
- Data structure: priority queue
- **Properties:**



Credit: DecorumBY

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node
- Data structure: priority queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete



Credit: DecorumBY

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node
- Data structure: priority queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if weight lower bounded by  $\varepsilon$ )



Credit: DecorumBY

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node
- Data structure: priority queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if weight lower bounded by  $\varepsilon$ )
  - Time  $O(b^{C^*/\varepsilon})$



Credit: DecorumBY

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node
- Data structure: priority queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if weight lower bounded by  $\varepsilon$ )
  - Time  $O(b^{C^*/\varepsilon})$
  - Space  $O(b^{C^*/\varepsilon})$



Credit: DecorumBY

# Uniform Cost Search

Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

- Expand least cost node
- Data structure: priority queue
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if weight lower bounded by  $\epsilon$ )
  - Time  $O(b^{C^*/\epsilon})$
  - Space  $O(b^{C^*/\epsilon})$

$C^*$  is optimal path cost to goal.

$\epsilon$  is cost of edge with smallest cost.



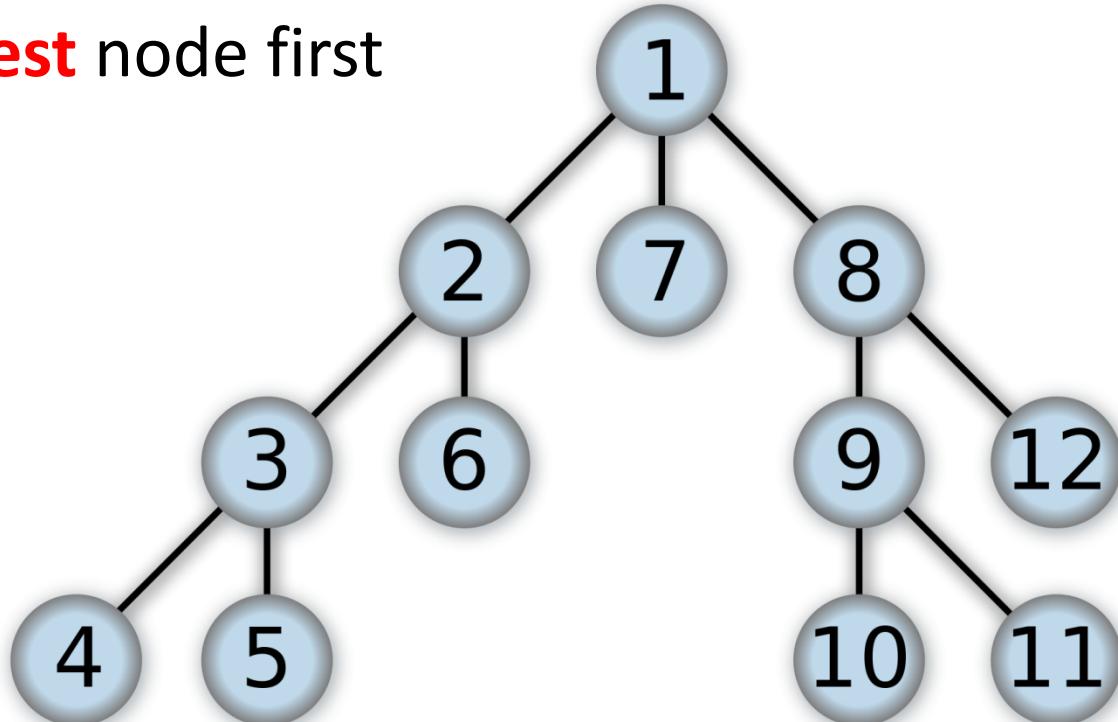
Credit: DecorumBY

# Depth-First Search

Recall: expand **deepest** node first

# Depth-First Search

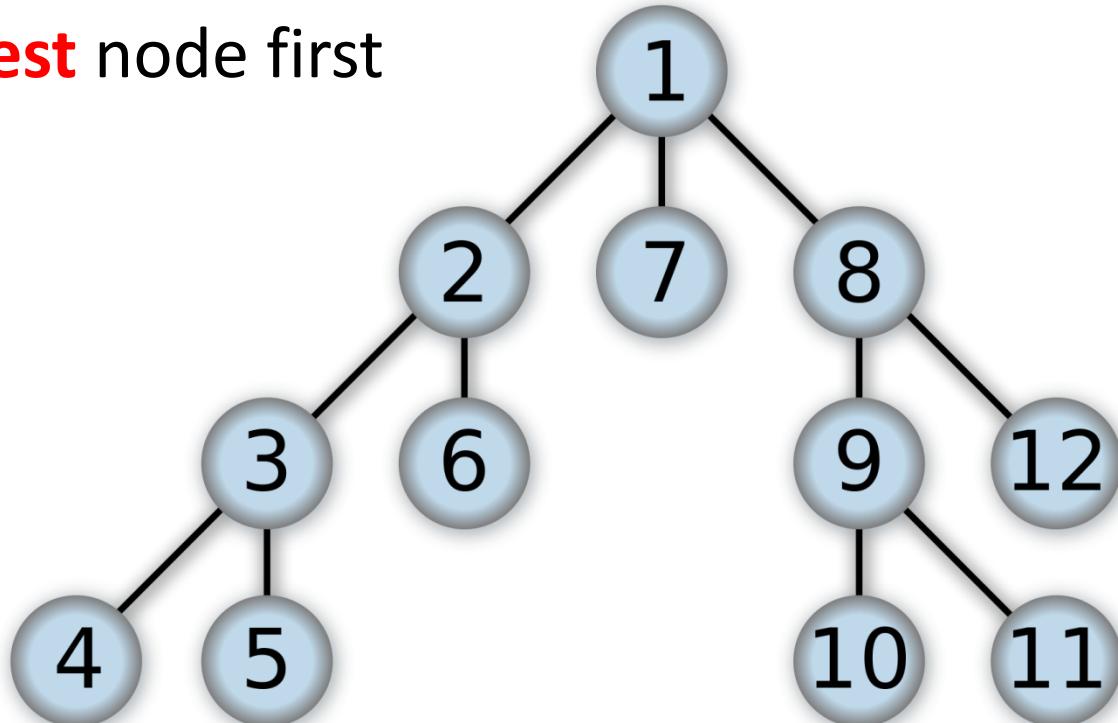
Recall: expand **deepest** node first



# Depth-First Search

Recall: expand **deepest** node first

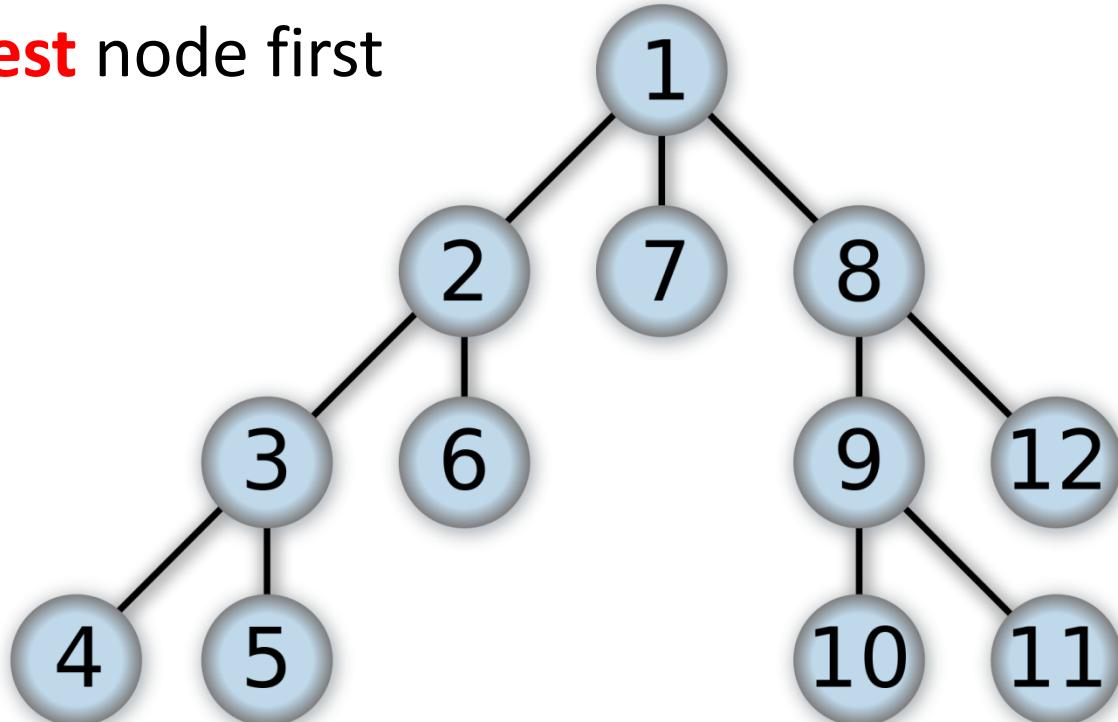
- Data structure: stack



# Depth-First Search

Recall: expand **deepest** node first

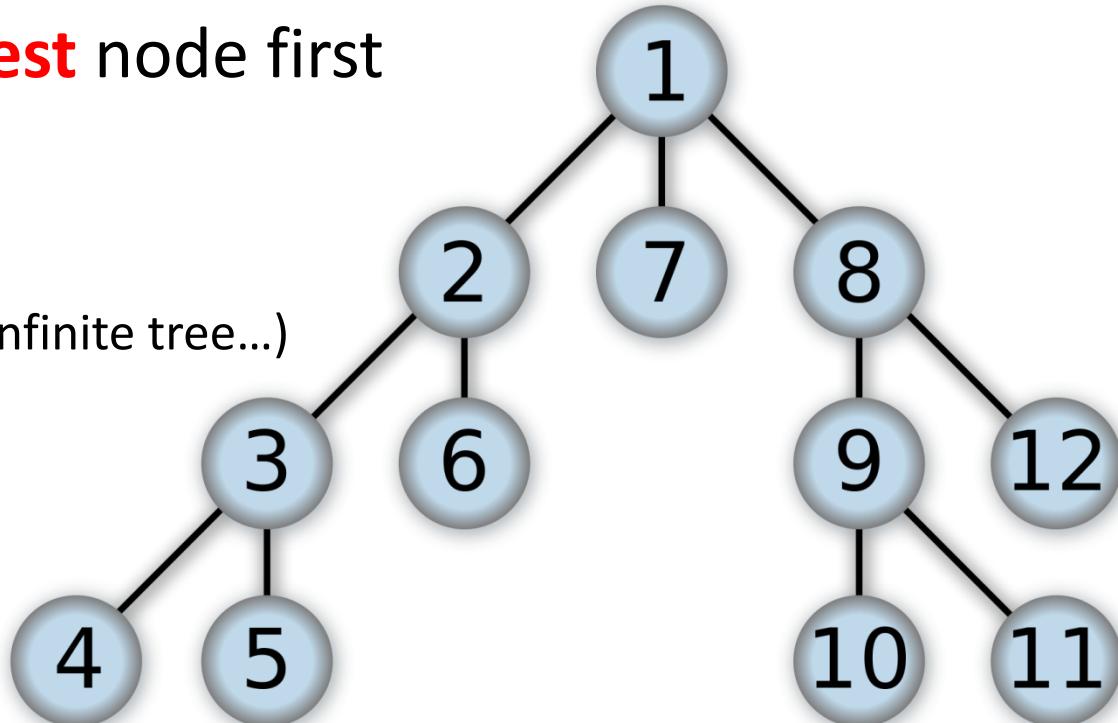
- Data structure: stack
- Properties:



# Depth-First Search

Recall: expand **deepest** node first

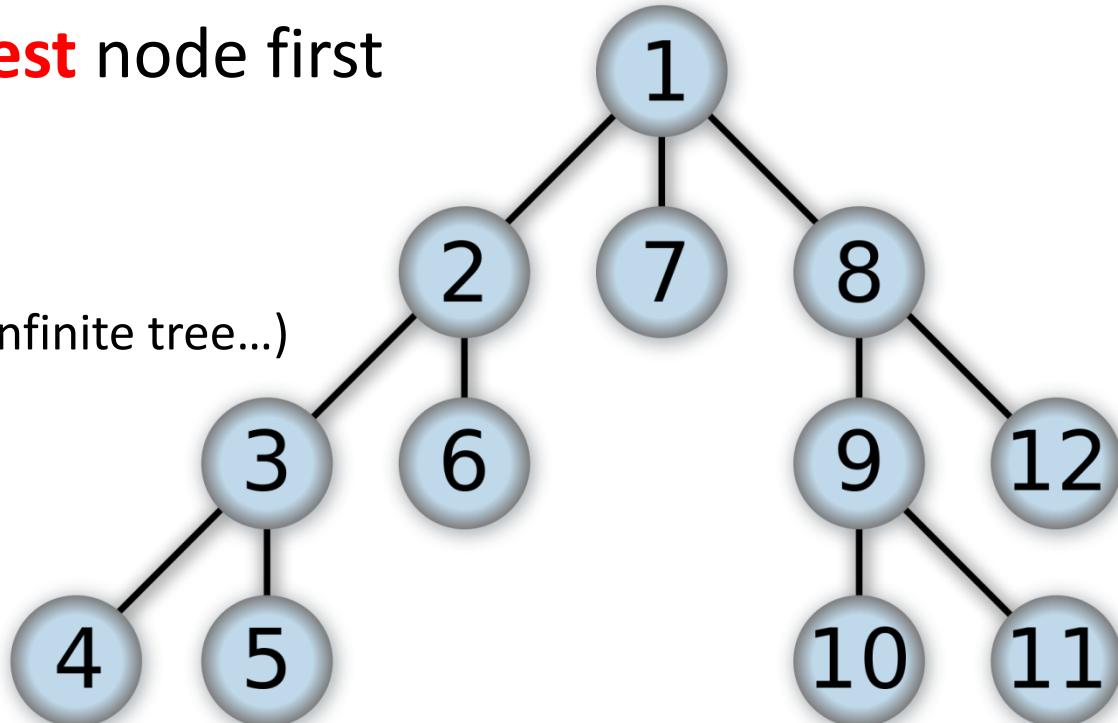
- Data structure: stack
- **Properties:**
  - Incomplete (stuck in infinite tree...)



# Depth-First Search

Recall: expand **deepest** node first

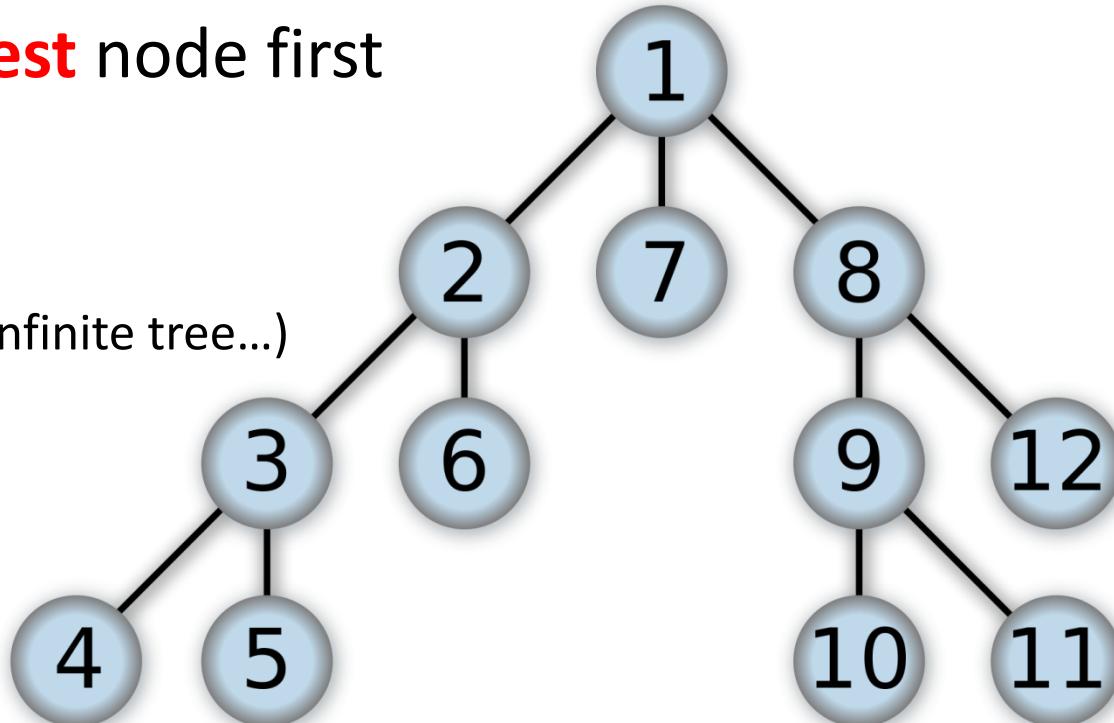
- Data structure: stack
- **Properties:**
  - Incomplete (stuck in infinite tree...)
  - Suboptimal



# Depth-First Search

Recall: expand **deepest** node first

- Data structure: stack
- **Properties:**
  - Incomplete (stuck in infinite tree...)
  - Suboptimal
  - Time  $O(b^m)$



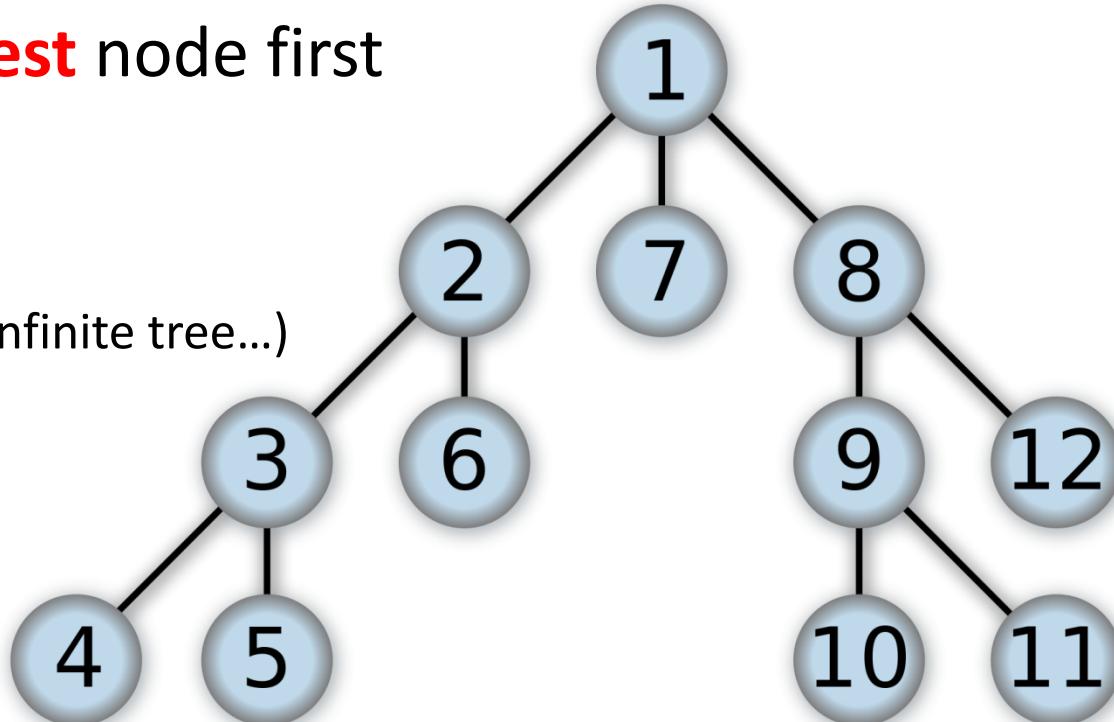
# Depth-First Search

Recall: expand **deepest** node first

- Data structure: stack
- **Properties:**

- Incomplete (stuck in infinite tree...)
- Suboptimal
- Time  $O(b^m)$

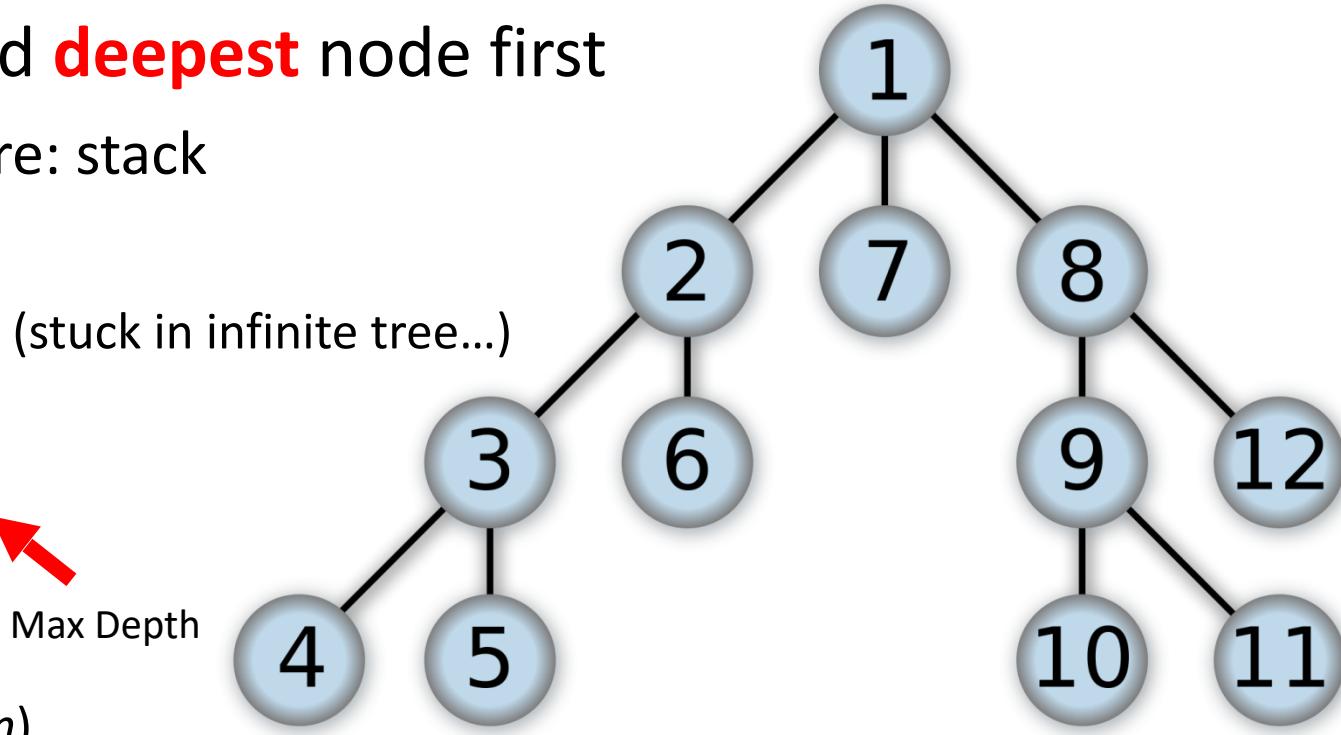
Max Depth



# Depth-First Search

Recall: expand **deepest** node first

- Data structure: stack
- **Properties:**
  - Incomplete (stuck in infinite tree...)
  - Suboptimal
  - Time  $O(b^m)$
  - Space  $O(bm)$

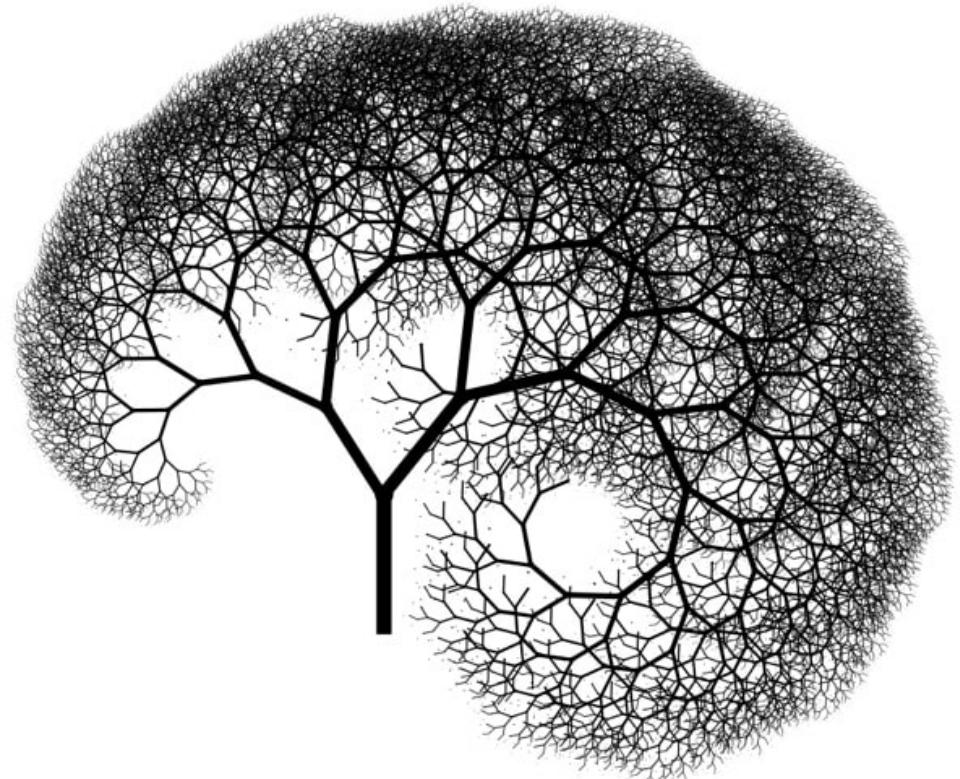


# Iterative Deepening DFS

Repeated limited DFS

# Iterative Deepening DFS

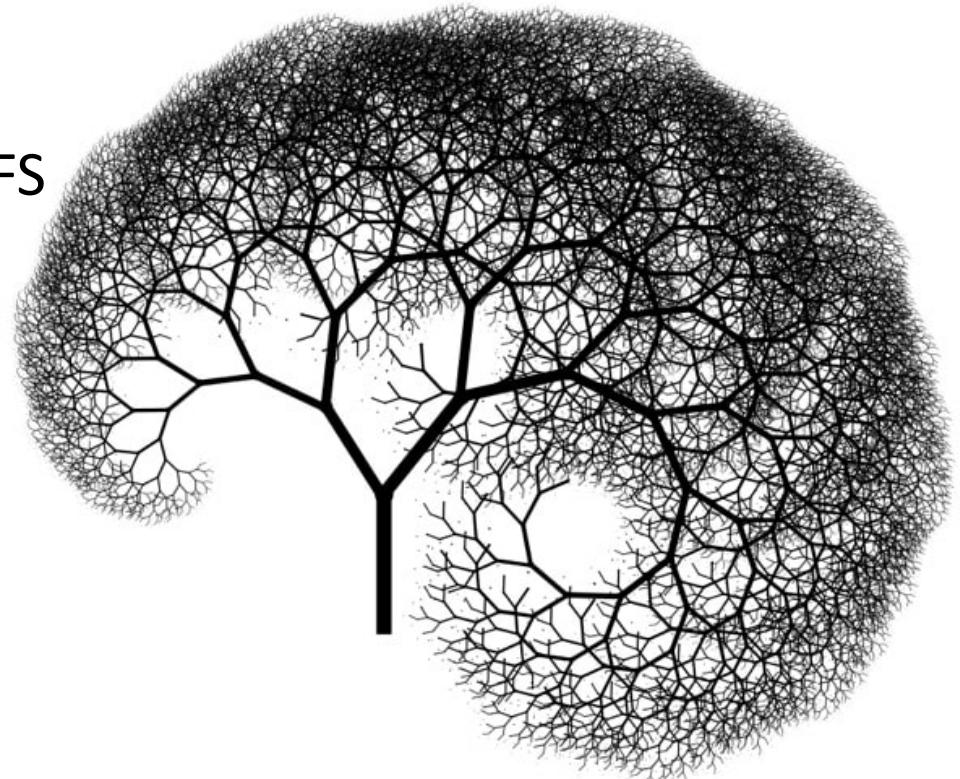
Repeated limited DFS



# Iterative Deepening DFS

Repeated limited DFS

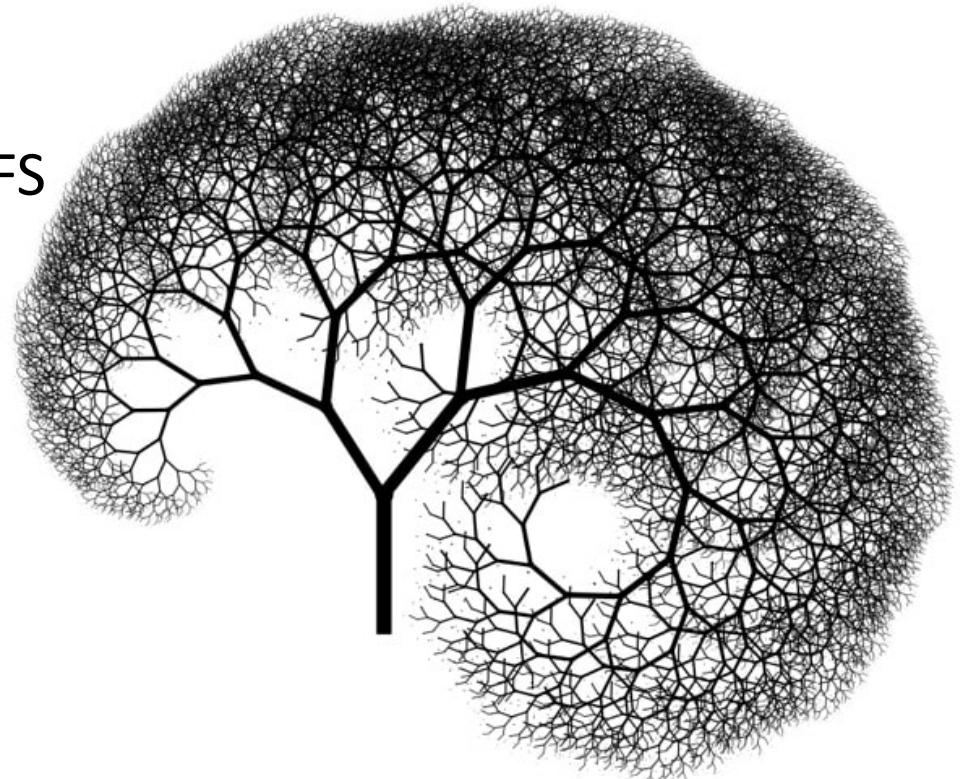
- Search like BFS, fringe like DFS



# Iterative Deepening DFS

Repeated limited DFS

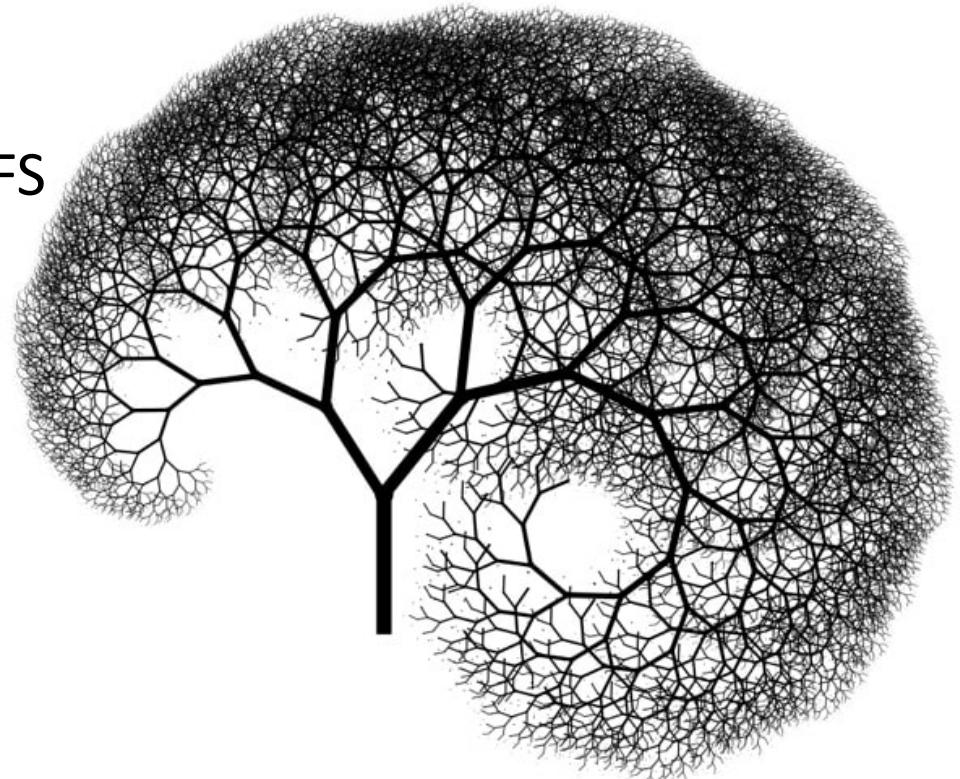
- Search like BFS, fringe like DFS
- **Properties:**



# Iterative Deepening DFS

Repeated limited DFS

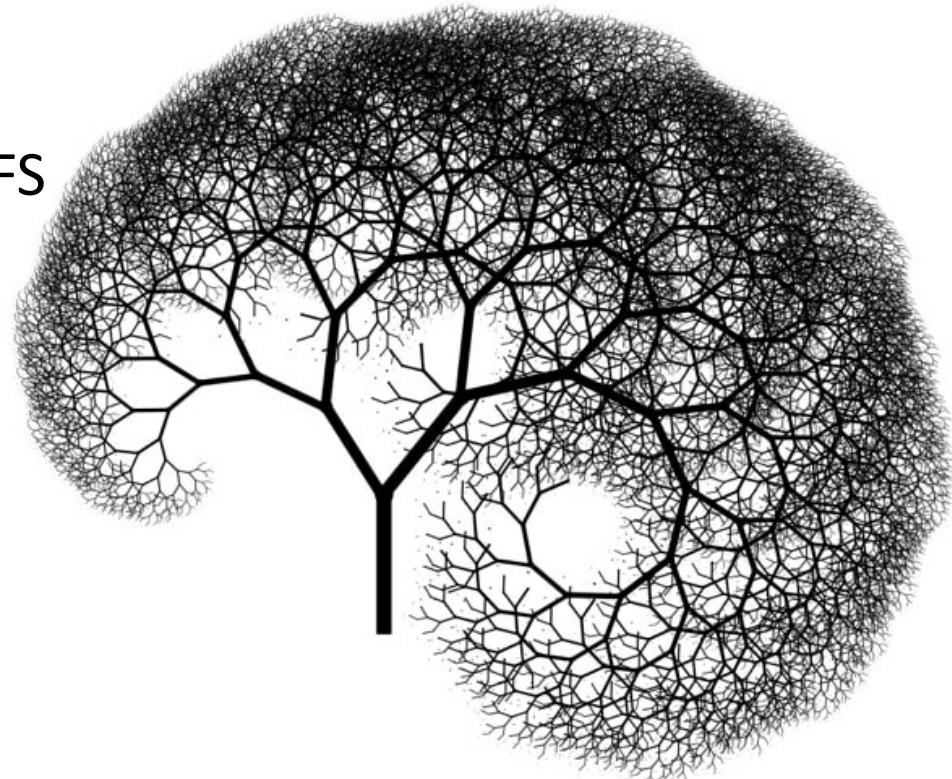
- Search like BFS, fringe like DFS
- **Properties:**
  - Complete



# Iterative Deepening DFS

## Repeated limited DFS

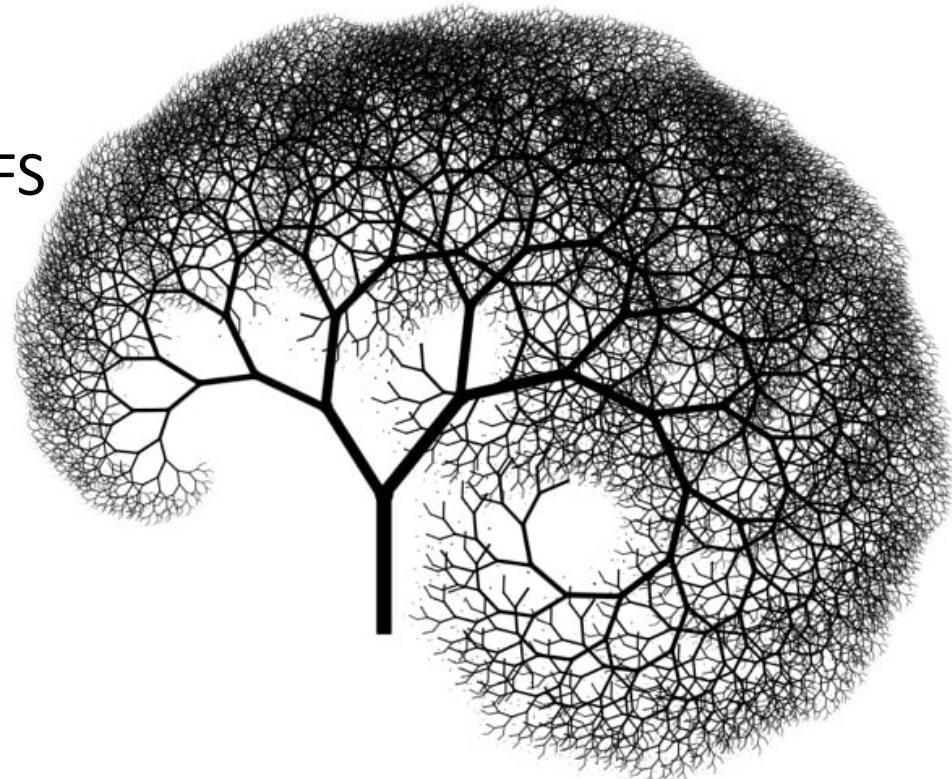
- Search like BFS, fringe like DFS
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if edge cost 1)



# Iterative Deepening DFS

## Repeated limited DFS

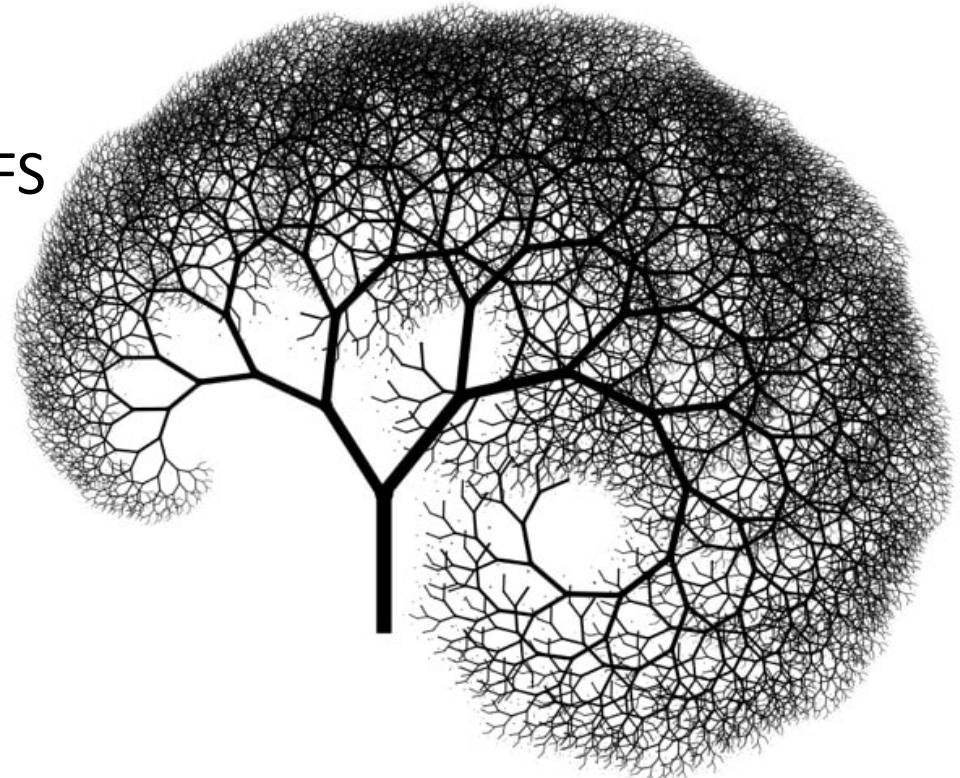
- Search like BFS, fringe like DFS
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if edge cost 1)
  - Time  $O(b^d)$



# Iterative Deepening DFS

## Repeated limited DFS

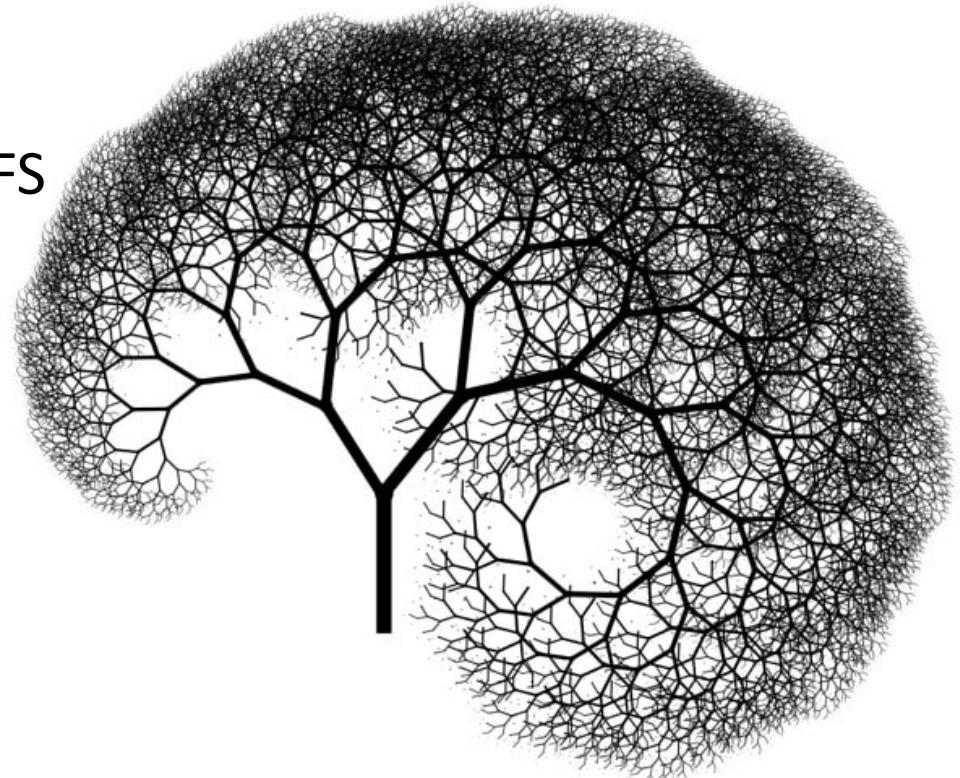
- Search like BFS, fringe like DFS
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if edge cost 1)
  - Time  $O(b^d)$
  - Space  $O(bd)$



# Iterative Deepening DFS

## Repeated limited DFS

- Search like BFS, fringe like DFS
- **Properties:**
  - Complete
  - Optimal (if edge cost 1)
  - Time  $O(b^d)$
  - Space  $O(bd)$



A good option!

# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .

# Uninformed vs Informed Search

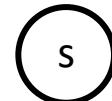
Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .
- Successors.

# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

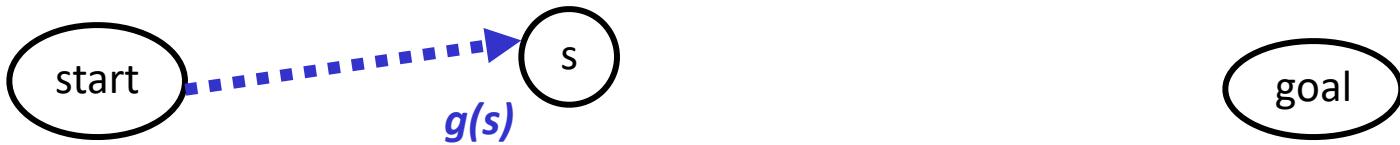
- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .
- Successors.



# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .
- Successors.



# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .
- Successors.



Informed search. Know:

# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .
- Successors.



Informed search. Know:

- All uninformed search properties, plus

# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .
- Successors.



Informed search. Know:

- All uninformed search properties, plus
- Heuristic  $h(s)$  from  $s$  to goal.

# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .
- Successors.



Informed search. Know:

- All uninformed search properties, plus
- Heuristic  $h(s)$  from  $s$  to goal.



# Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

- Path cost  $g(s)$  from start to state  $s$ .
- Successors.



Informed search. Know:

- All uninformed search properties, plus
- Heuristic  $h(s)$  from  $s$  to goal.



# Informed Search

Informed search. Know:

# Informed Search

Informed search. Know:

- All uninformed search properties, plus

# Informed Search

Informed search. Know:

- All uninformed search properties, plus
- Heuristic  $h(s)$  from  $s$  to goal.

# Informed Search

Informed search. Know:

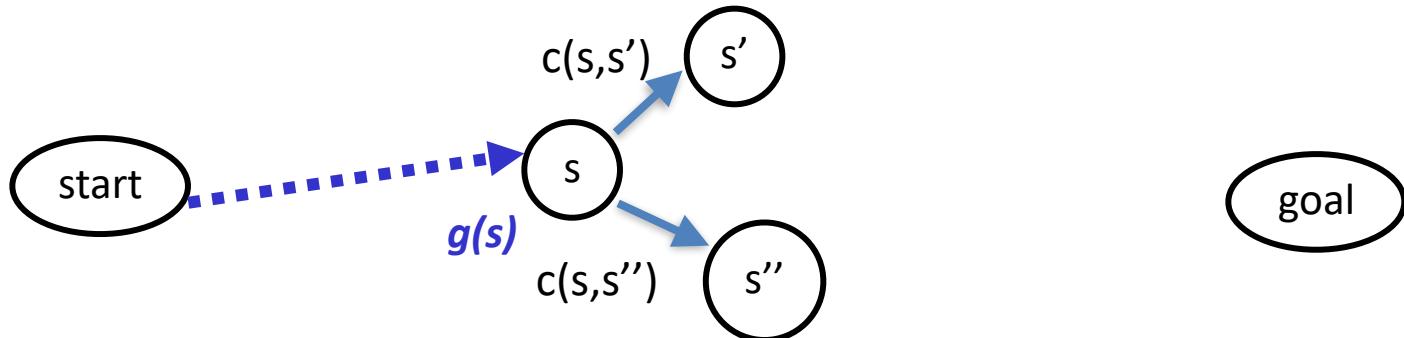
- All uninformed search properties, plus
- Heuristic  $h(s)$  from  $s$  to goal.



# Informed Search

Informed search. Know:

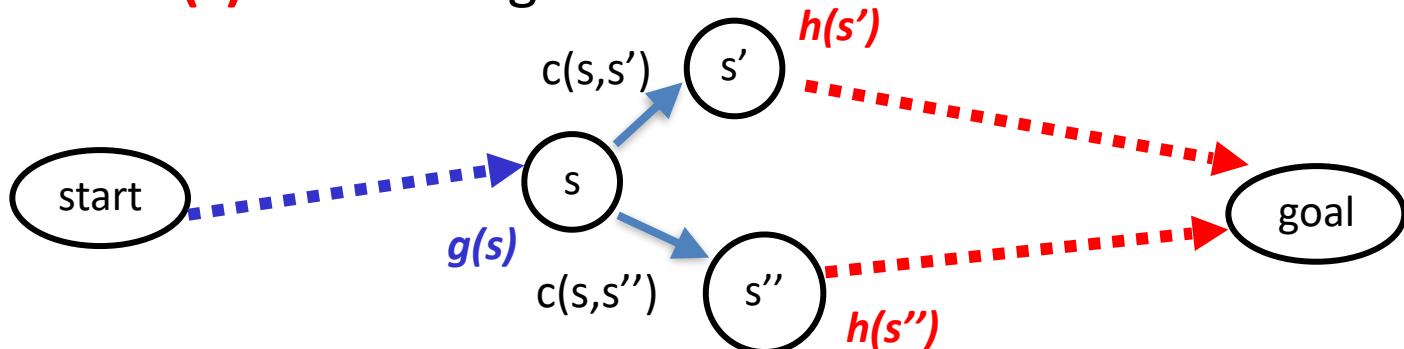
- All uninformed search properties, plus
- Heuristic  $h(s)$  from  $s$  to goal.



# Informed Search

Informed search. Know:

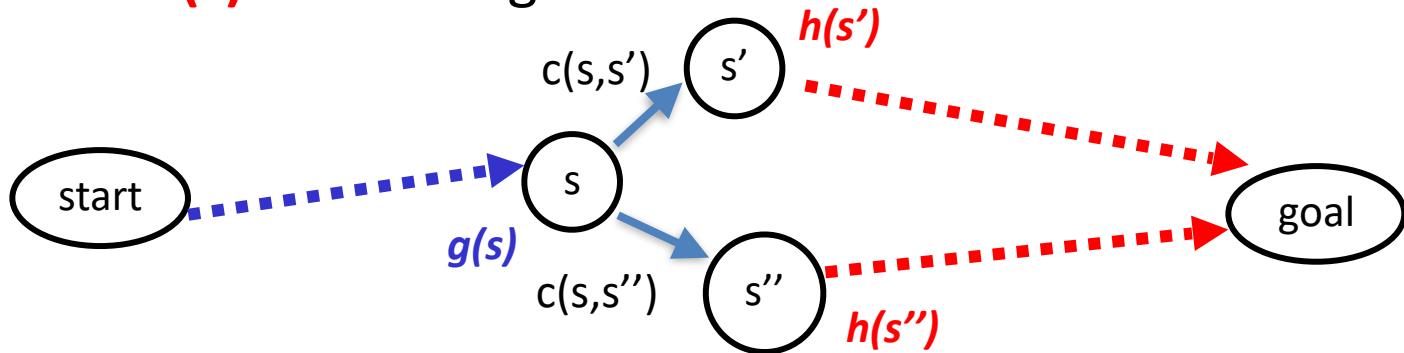
- All uninformed search properties, plus
- Heuristic  $h(s)$  from  $s$  to goal.



# Informed Search

Informed search. Know:

- All uninformed search properties, plus
- Heuristic  $h(s)$  from  $s$  to goal.



- Goal: **speed up search.**

# Using the Heuristic

Recall uniform-cost search

# Using the Heuristic

Recall uniform-cost search

- We store potential next states with a priority queue

# Using the Heuristic

Recall uniform-cost search

- We store potential next states with a priority queue
- Expand the state with the smallest  $g(s)$

# Using the Heuristic

Recall uniform-cost search

- We store potential next states with a priority queue
- Expand the state with the smallest  $g(s)$ 
  - $g(s)$  “first-half-cost”

# Using the Heuristic

Recall uniform-cost search

- We store potential next states with a priority queue
- Expand the state with the smallest  $g(s)$ 
  - $g(s)$  “first-half-cost”



# Using the Heuristic

Recall uniform-cost search

- We store potential next states with a priority queue
- Expand the state with the smallest  $g(s)$ 
  - $g(s)$  “first-half-cost”



- Now let's use the heuristic (“second-half-cost”)

# Using the Heuristic

Recall uniform-cost search

- We store potential next states with a priority queue
- Expand the state with the smallest  $g(s)$ 
  - $g(s)$  “first-half-cost”



- Now let's use the heuristic (“second-half-cost”)
  - Several possible approaches: let's see what works

# Attempt 1: Best-First Greedy

One approach: just use  $h(s)$  alone

# Attempt 1: Best-First Greedy

One approach: just use  $h(s)$  alone

- Specifically, expand the state with smallest  $h(s)$

# Attempt 1: Best-First Greedy

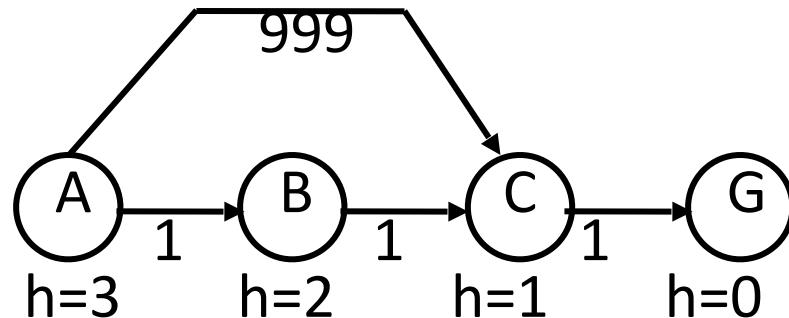
One approach: just use  $h(s)$  alone

- Specifically, expand the state with smallest  $h(s)$
- This isn't a good idea. Why?

# Attempt 1: Best-First Greedy

One approach: just use  $h(s)$  alone

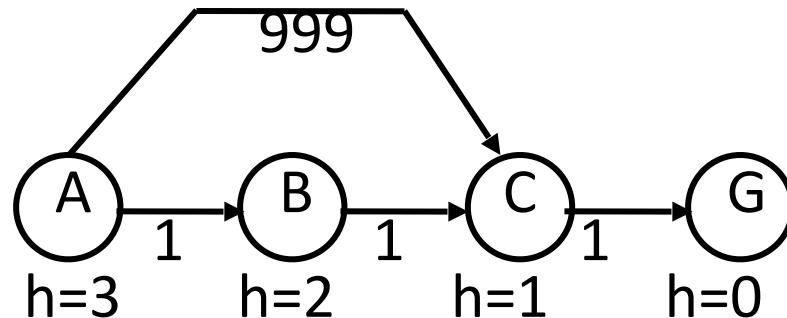
- Specifically, expand the state with smallest  $h(s)$
- This isn't a good idea. Why?



# Attempt 1: Best-First Greedy

One approach: just use  $h(s)$  alone

- Specifically, expand the state with smallest  $h(s)$
- This isn't a good idea. Why?



- Not optimal! **Get**  $A \rightarrow C \rightarrow G$ . **Want:**  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow G$

# Attempt 2: A Search

Next approach: use both  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$

# Attempt 2: A Search

Next approach: use both  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$

- Specifically, expand state with smallest  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$

# Attempt 2: A Search

Next approach: use both  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$

- Specifically, expand state with smallest  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$
- Again, use a priority queue

# Attempt 2: A Search

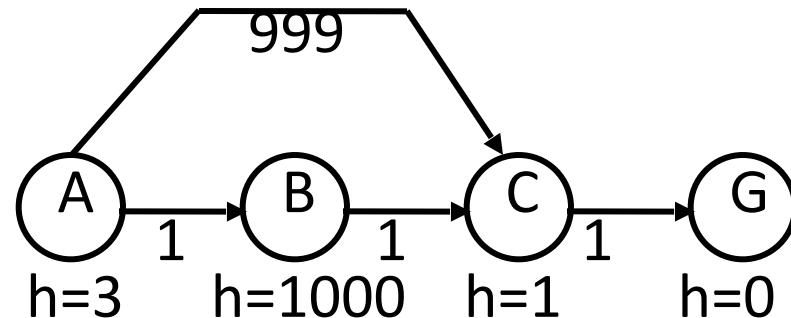
Next approach: use both  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$

- Specifically, expand state with smallest  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$
- Again, use a priority queue
- Called “A” search

# Attempt 2: A Search

Next approach: use both  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$

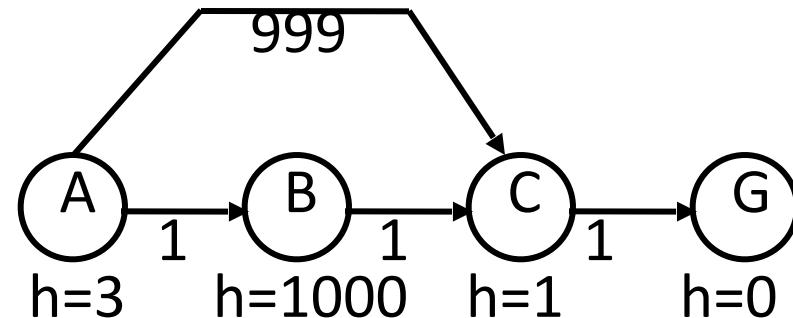
- Specifically, expand state with smallest  $g(s) + h(s)$
- Again, use a priority queue
- Called “A” search



# Attempt 2: A Search

Next approach: use both  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$

- Specifically, expand state with smallest  $g(s) + h(s)$
- Again, use a priority queue
- Called “A” search



- Still not optimal! (Does work for former example).

## Attempt 3: A\* Search

Same idea, use  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$ , with one requirement

## Attempt 3: A\* Search

Same idea, use  $g(s) + h(s)$ , with one  
**requirement**

- Demand that  $h(s) \leq h^*(s)$  where  $h^*(s)$  is true cost from s to goal.

## Attempt 3: A\* Search

Same idea, use  $g(s) + h(s)$ , with one requirement

- Demand that  $h(s) \leq h^*(s)$  where  $h^*(s)$  is true cost from s to goal.
- If heuristic has this property, it is called “admissible”

## Attempt 3: A\* Search

Same idea, use  $g(s) + h(s)$ , with one requirement

- Demand that  $h(s) \leq h^*(s)$  where  $h^*(s)$  is true cost from s to goal.
- If heuristic has this property, it is called “admissible”
  - Optimistic! Never over-estimates

## Attempt 3: A\* Search

Same idea, use  $g(s) + h(s)$ , with one requirement

- Demand that  $h(s) \leq h^*(s)$  where  $h^*(s)$  is true cost from s to goal.
- If heuristic has this property, it is called “admissible”
  - Optimistic! Never over-estimates
- Still need  $h(s) \geq 0$

# Attempt 3: A\* Search

Same idea, use  $g(s) + h(s)$ , with one requirement

- Demand that  $h(s) \leq h^*(s)$  where  $h^*(s)$  is true cost from s to goal.
- If heuristic has this property, it is called “admissible”
  - Optimistic! Never over-estimates
- Still need  $h(s) \geq 0$ 
  - Negative heuristics can lead to strange behavior

# Attempt 3: A\* Search

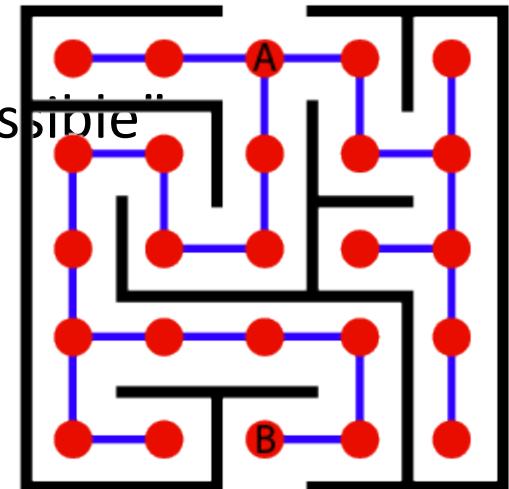
Same idea, use  $g(s) + h(s)$ , with one requirement

- Demand that  $h(s) \leq h^*(s)$  where  $h^*(s)$  is true cost from s to goal.
- If heuristic has this property, it is called “admissible”
  - Optimistic! Never over-estimates
- Still need  $h(s) \geq 0$ 
  - Negative heuristics can lead to strange behavior
- This is A\* search

# Attempt 3: A\* Search

Same idea, use  $g(s)$  +  $h(s)$ , with one requirement

- Demand that  $h(s) \leq h^*(s)$  where  $h^*(s)$  is true cost from  $s$  to goal.
- If heuristic has this property, it is called “admissible”
  - Optimistic! Never over-estimates
- Still need  $h(s) \geq 0$ 
  - Negative heuristics can lead to strange behavior
- This is A\* search



# Attempt 3: A\* Search

**Origins:** robots and planning

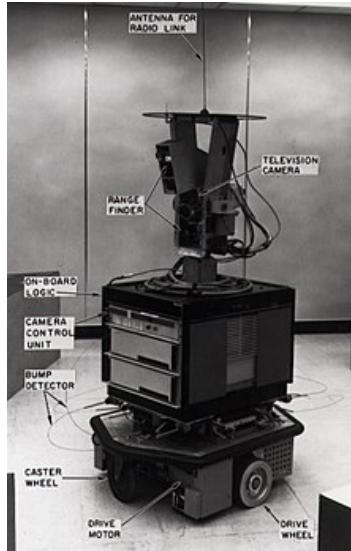


**Animation:** finding a path  
around obstacle

Credit: Wiki

# Attempt 3: A\* Search

## Origins: robots and planning



Shakey the Robot,  
1960's

Credit: Wiki

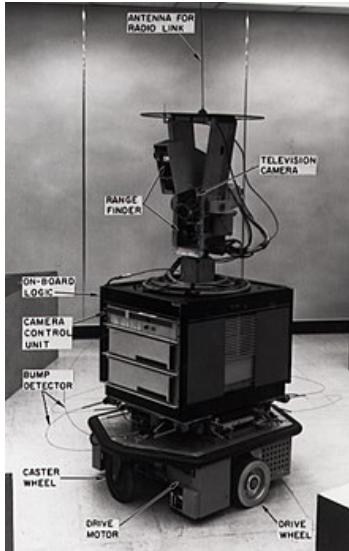


**Animation:** finding a path  
around obstacle

Credit: Wiki

# Attempt 3: A\* Search

## Origins: robots and planning



Shakey the Robot,  
1960's

Credit: Wiki



**Animation:** finding a path  
around obstacle

Credit: Wiki

# Admissible Heuristic Functions

Have to be careful to ensure admissibility (**optimism!**)

# Admissible Heuristic Functions

Have to be careful to ensure admissibility (**optimism!**)

- Example: 8 Game

# Admissible Heuristic Functions

Have to be careful to ensure admissibility (**optimism!**)

- Example: 8 Game

Example  
State

1		5
2	6	3
7	4	8

# Admissible Heuristic Functions

Have to be careful to ensure admissibility (**optimism!**)

- Example: 8 Game

Example State

1		5
2	6	3
7	4	8

Goal State

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

# Admissible Heuristic Functions

Have to be careful to ensure admissibility (**optimism!**)

- Example: 8 Game

Example State

1		5
2	6	3
7	4	8

Goal State

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

- One useful approach: **relax constraints**

# Admissible Heuristic Functions

Have to be careful to ensure admissibility (**optimism!**)

- Example: 8 Game

Example State

1		5
2	6	3
7	4	8

Goal State

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

- One useful approach: **relax constraints**
  - $h(s)$  = number of tiles in wrong position

# Admissible Heuristic Functions

Have to be careful to ensure admissibility (**optimism!**)

- Example: 8 Game

Example State

1		5
2	6	3
7	4	8

Goal State

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

- One useful approach: **relax constraints**
  - $h(s)$  = number of tiles in wrong position
    - allows tiles to fly to destination in a single step

# Break & Quiz

**Q 1.1:** Consider finding the fastest driving route from one US city to another. Measure cost as the number of hours driven when driving at the speed limit. Let  $h(s)$  be the number of hours needed to ride a bike from city  $s$  to your destination.  $h(s)$  is

- A. An admissible heuristic
- B. Not an admissible heuristic

# Break & Quiz

**Q 1.1:** Consider finding the fastest driving route from one US city to another. Measure cost as the number of hours driven when driving at the speed limit. Let  $h(s)$  be the number of hours needed to ride a bike from city  $s$  to your destination.  $h(s)$  is

- A. An admissible heuristic
- **B. Not an admissible heuristic**

# Break & Quiz

**Q 1.1:** Consider finding the fastest driving route from one US city to another. Measure cost as the number of hours driven when driving at the speed limit. Let  $h(s)$  be the number of hours needed to ride a bike from city  $s$  to your destination.  $h(s)$  is

- A. An admissible heuristic No: riding your bike takes longer.
- **B. Not an admissible heuristic**

# Break & Quiz

**Q 1.2:** Which of the following are admissible heuristics?

- (i)  $h(s) = h^*(s)$
  - (ii)  $h(s) = \max(2, h^*(s))$
  - (iii)  $h(s) = \min(2, h^*(s))$
  - (iv)  $h(s) = h^*(s)-2$
  - (v)  $h(s) = \sqrt{h^*(s)}$
- A. All of the above
  - B. (i), (iii), (iv)
  - C. (i), (iii)
  - D. (i), (iii), (v)

# Break & Quiz

**Q 1.2:** Which of the following are admissible heuristics?

- (i)  $h(s) = h^*(s)$
  - (ii)  $h(s) = \max(2, h^*(s))$
  - (iii)  $h(s) = \min(2, h^*(s))$
  - (iv)  $h(s) = h^*(s)-2$
  - (v)  $h(s) = \sqrt{h^*(s)}$
- A. All of the above
  - B. (i), (iii), (iv)
  - C. (i), (iii)
  - D. (i), (iii), (v)

# Break & Quiz

**Q 1.2:** Which of the following are admissible heuristics?

- (i)  $h(s) = h^*(s)$
  - (ii)  $h(s) = \max(2, h^*(s))$  No:  $h(s)$  might be too big
  - (iii)  $h(s) = \min(2, h^*(s))$
  - (iv)  $h(s) = h^*(s)-2$  No:  $h(s)$  might be negative
  - (v)  $h(s) = \sqrt{h^*(s)}$  No: if  $h^*(s) < 1$  then  $h(s)$  is bigger
- A. All of the above
  - B. (i), (iii), (iv)
  - C. (i), (iii)
  - D. (i), (iii), (v)

# Heuristic Function Tradeoffs

# Heuristic Function Tradeoffs

Dominance:  $h_2$  dominates  $h_1$  if for all states  $s$ ,

# Heuristic Function Tradeoffs

Dominance:  $h_2$  dominates  $h_1$  if for all states  $s$ ,

$$h_1(s) \leq h_2(s) \leq h^*(s)$$

# Heuristic Function Tradeoffs

Dominance:  $h_2$  dominates  $h_1$  if for all states  $s$ ,

$$h_1(s) \leq h_2(s) \leq h^*(s)$$

- **Idea:** we want to be as close to  $h^*$  as possible
  - But not over! Must under-estimate true cost.

# Heuristic Function Tradeoffs

Dominance:  $h_2$  dominates  $h_1$  if for all states  $s$ ,

$$h_1(s) \leq h_2(s) \leq h^*(s)$$

- **Idea:** we want to be as close to  $h^*$  as possible
  - But not over! Must under-estimate true cost.
- **Tradeoff:** being very close might require a very complex heuristic, expensive computation
  - Might be better off with cheaper heuristic & expand more nodes.

# A\* Termination

When should A\* stop?

# A\* Termination

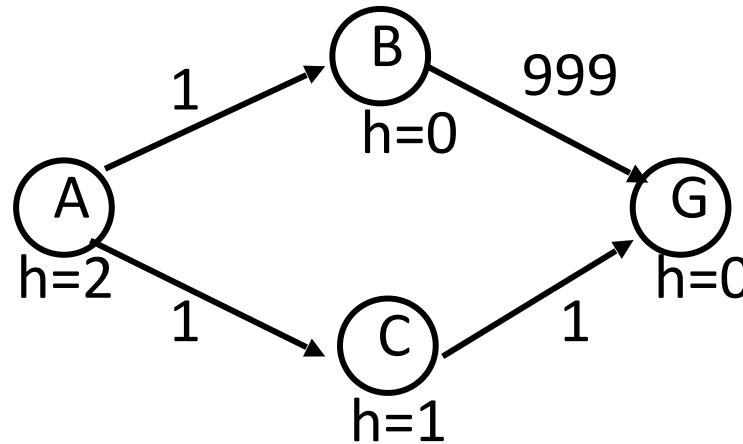
When should A\* **stop**?

- One idea: as soon as we reach goal state?

# A\* Termination

When should A\* stop?

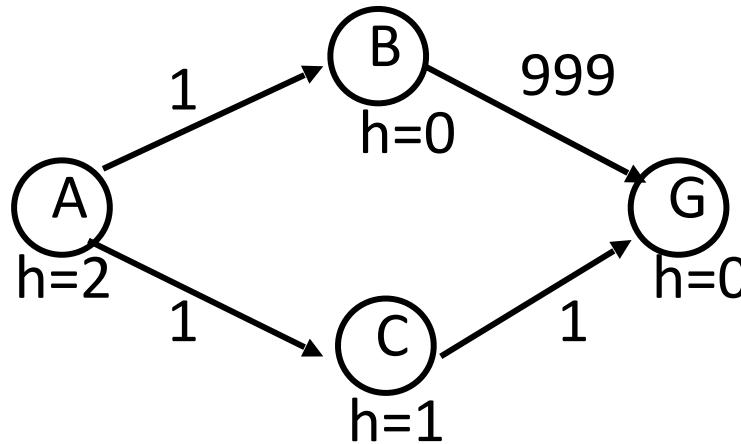
- One idea: as soon as we reach goal state?



# A\* Termination

When should A\* stop?

- One idea: as soon as we reach goal state?



- ***h*** is admissible, but note that we get A → B → G (**cost 1000**)!

# A\* Termination

When should A\* **stop**?

# A\* Termination

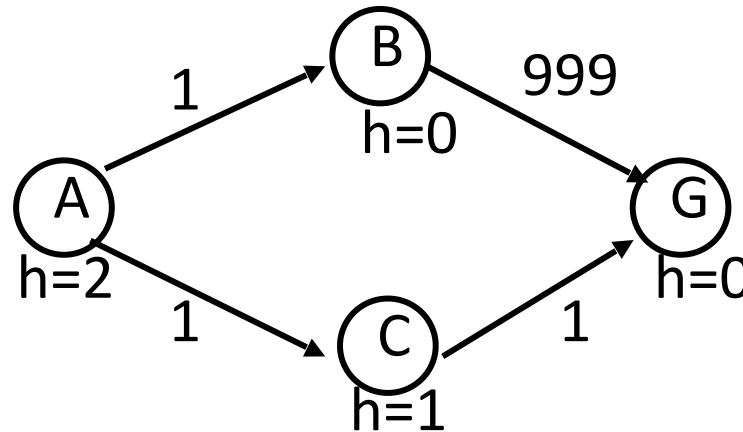
When should A\* stop?

- Rule: terminate **when a goal is popped** from queue.

# A\* Termination

When should A\* stop?

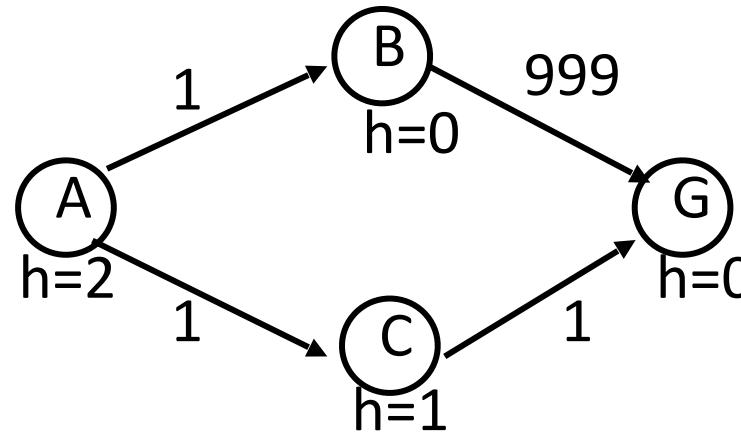
- Rule: terminate **when a goal is popped** from queue.



# A\* Termination

When should A\* stop?

- Rule: terminate **when a goal is popped** from queue.



- Note: taking  $h = 0$  reduces to uniform cost search rule.

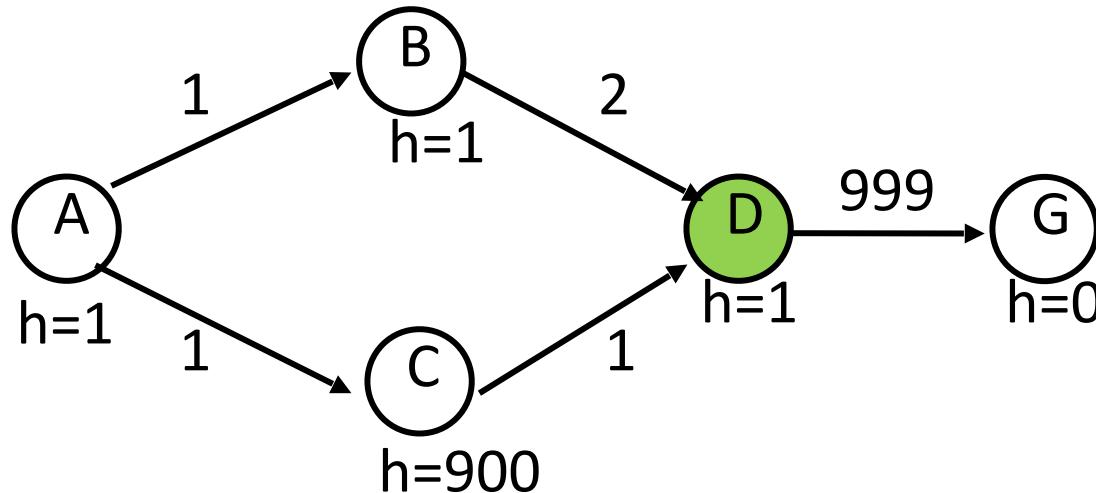
# A\* Revisiting Expanded States

# A\* Revisiting Expanded States

Possible to revisit an expanded state, get a shorter path:

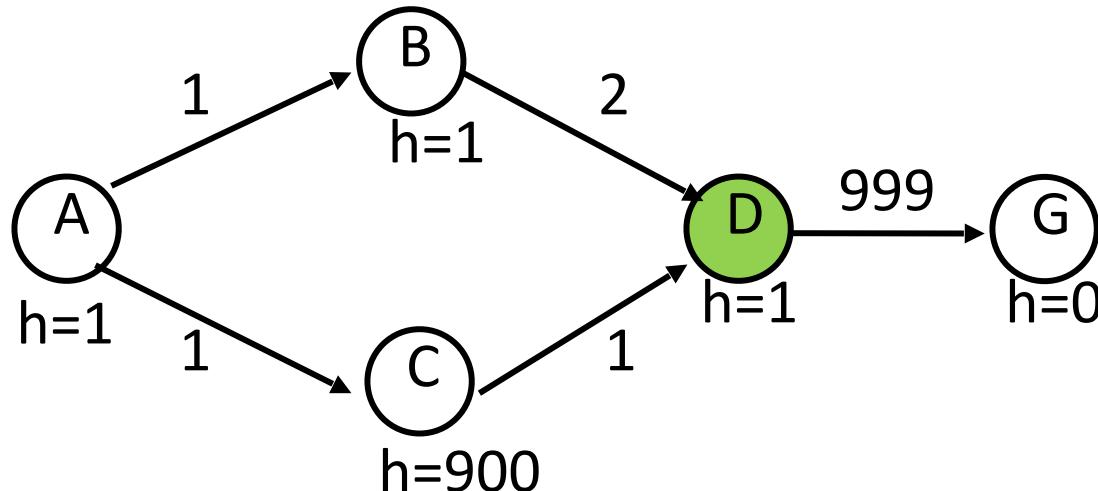
# A\* Revisiting Expanded States

Possible to revisit an expanded state, get a shorter path:



# A\* Revisiting Expanded States

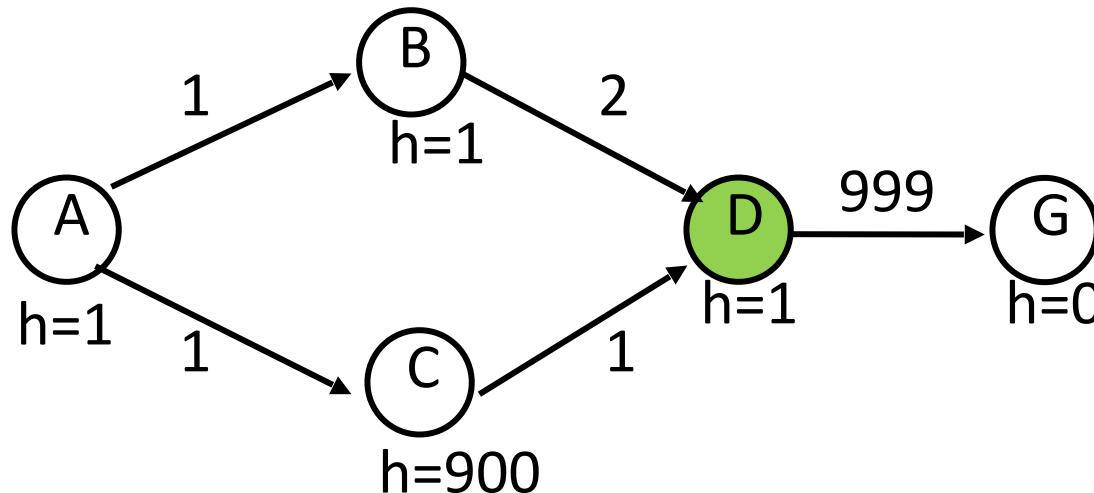
Possible to revisit an expanded state, get a shorter path:



- Put D back into priority queue, smaller  $\text{g} + \text{h}$ .

# A\* Revisiting Expanded States

Possible to revisit an expanded state, get a shorter path:



- Put D back into priority queue, smaller  $\mathbf{g+h}$ .
- **Note:** uninformed search methods will not revisit expanded states.

# A\* Full Algorithm

1. Put the start state  $S$  on the priority queue. We call the priority queue  $OPEN$
2. If  $OPEN$  is empty, exit with failure
3. Remove from  $OPEN$  and place on  $CLOSED$  a node  $n$  for which  $f(n)$  is minimum (note that  $f(n)=g(n)+h(n)$ )
4. If  $n$  is a goal node, exit (recover path by tracing back pointers from  $n$  to  $S$ )
5. Expand  $n$ , generating all successors and attach to pointers back to  $n$ . For each successor  $n'$  of  $n$ 
  1. If  $n'$  is not already on  $OPEN$  or  $CLOSED$  compute  $h(n')$ ,  $g(n')=g(n)+c(n,n')$ ,  $f(n')=g(n')+h(n')$ , and place it on  $OPEN$ .
  2. If  $n'$  is already on  $OPEN$  or  $CLOSED$ , then check if  $g(n')$  is lower for the new version of  $n'$ . If so, then:
    1. Redirect pointers backward from  $n'$  along path yielding lower  $g(n')$ .
    2. Put  $n'$  on  $OPEN$ .
    3. If  $g(n')$  is not lower for the new version, do nothing.
6. Goto 2.

# A\* Full Algorithm

1. Put the start state  $S$  on the priority queue. We call the priority queue  $OPEN$
2. If  $OPEN$  is empty, exit with failure
3. Remove from  $OPEN$  and place on  $CLOSED$  a node  $n$  for which  $f(n)$  is minimum (note that  $f(n)=g(n)+h(n)$ )
  - States we have already expanded
4. If  $n$  is a goal node, exit (recover path by tracing back pointers from  $n$  to  $S$ )
5. Expand  $n$ , generating all successors and attach to pointers back to  $n$ . For each successor  $n'$  of  $n$ 
  1. If  $n'$  is not already on  $OPEN$  or  $CLOSED$  compute  $h(n')$ ,  $g(n')=g(n)+c(n,n')$ ,  $f(n')=g(n')+h(n')$ , and place it on  $OPEN$ .
  2. If  $n'$  is already on  $OPEN$  or  $CLOSED$ , then check if  $g(n')$  is lower for the new version of  $n'$ . If so, then:
    1. Redirect pointers backward from  $n'$  along path yielding lower  $g(n')$ .
    2. Put  $n'$  on  $OPEN$ .
    3. If  $g(n')$  is not lower for the new version, do nothing.
6. Goto 2.

# A\* Analysis

Some properties:

# A\* Analysis

Some properties:

- Terminates!

# A\* Analysis

Some properties:

- Terminates!
- A\* can use **lots of memory**:

# A\* Analysis

Some properties:

- Terminates!
- A\* can use **lots of memory**:
  - $O(\# \text{ states})$ .

# A\* Analysis

## Some properties:

- Terminates!
  - A\* can use **lots of memory**:
    - $O(\# \text{ states})$ .
  - Will run out on large problems.



# A\* Analysis

Some properties:

- Terminates!
- A\* can use **lots of memory**:
  - $O(\# \text{ states})$ .
- Will run out on large problems.
- Next, we will consider some alternatives to deal with this.



# Break & Quiz

**Q 2.1:** Consider two heuristics for the 8 puzzle problem.  $h_1$  is the number of tiles in wrong position.  $h_2$  is the  $l_1$ /Manhattan distance between the tiles and the goal location. How do  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  relate?

- A.  $h_2$  dominates  $h_1$
- B.  $h_1$  dominates  $h_2$
- C. Neither dominates the other

# Break & Quiz

**Q 2.1:** Consider two heuristics for the 8 puzzle problem.  $h_1$  is the number of tiles in wrong position.  $h_2$  is the  $\ell_1$ /Manhattan distance between the tiles and the goal location. How do  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  relate?

- A.  $h_2$  dominates  $h_1$
- B.  $h_1$  dominates  $h_2$
- C. Neither dominates the other

# Break & Quiz

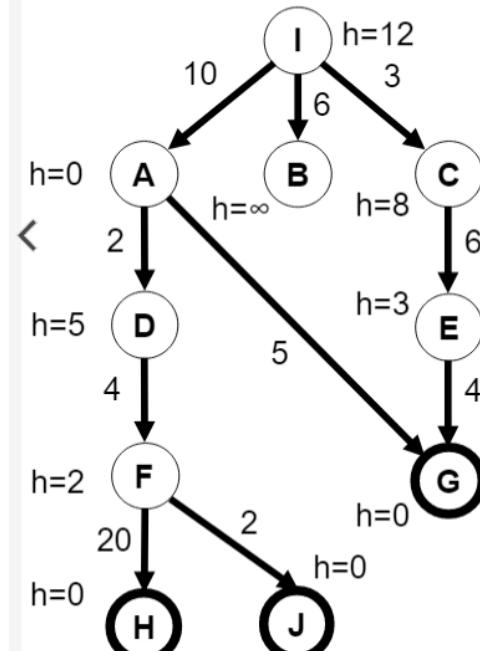
**Q 2.1:** Consider two heuristics for the 8 puzzle problem.  $h_1$  is the number of tiles in wrong position.  $h_2$  is the  $\ell_1$ /Manhattan distance between the tiles and the goal location. How do  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  relate?

- A.  $h_2$  dominates  $h_1$
- B.  $h_1$  dominates  $h_2$  (No:  $h_1$  is a distance where each entry is at most 1,  $h_2$  can be greater)
- C. Neither dominates the other

# Break & Quiz

**Q 2.2:** Consider the state space graph below. Goal states have bold borders.  $h(s)$  is shown next to each node. What node will be expanded by A\* after the initial state I?

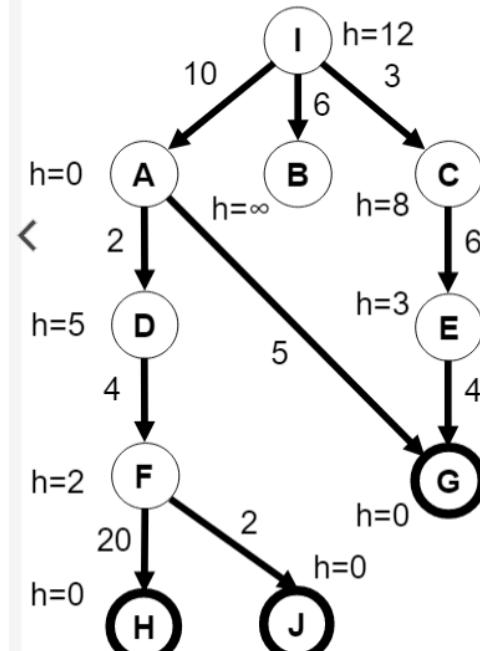
- A. A
- B. B
- C. C



# Break & Quiz

**Q 2.2:** Consider the state space graph below. Goal states have bold borders.  $h(s)$  is shown next to each node. What node will be expanded by A\* after the initial state I?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C



# IDA\*: Iterative Deepening A\*

Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

# IDA\*: Iterative Deepening A\*

Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

- Bound the memory in search.

# IDA\*: Iterative Deepening A\*

Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

- Bound the memory in search.
- At each phase, don't expand any node with  $g(s) + h(s) > k$ ,

# IDA\*: Iterative Deepening A\*

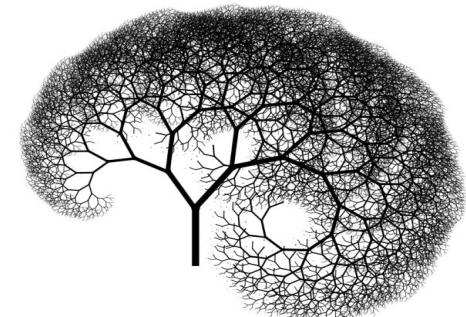
Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

- Bound the memory in search.
- At each phase, don't expand any node with  $g(s) + h(s) > k$ ,
  - Assuming integer costs, do this for  $k=0$ , then  $k=1$ , then  $k=2$ , and so on

# IDA\*: Iterative Deepening A\*

Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

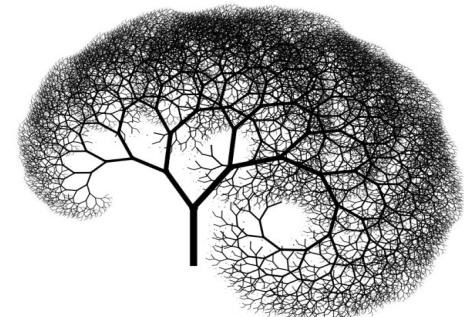
- Bound the memory in search.
- At each phase, don't expand any node with  $g(s) + h(s) > k$ ,
  - Assuming integer costs, do this for  $k=0$ , then  $k=1$ , then  $k=2$ , and so on



# IDA\*: Iterative Deepening A\*

Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

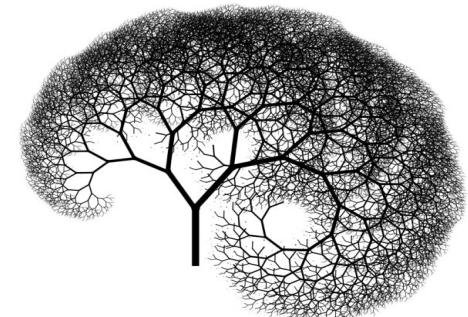
- Bound the memory in search.
- At each phase, don't expand any node with  $g(s) + h(s) > k$ ,
  - Assuming integer costs, do this for  $k=0$ , then  $k=1$ , then  $k=2$ , and so on
- Complete + optimal, might be costly time-wise



# IDA\*: Iterative Deepening A\*

Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

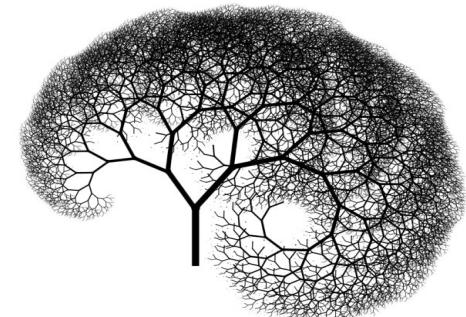
- Bound the memory in search.
- At each phase, don't expand any node with  $g(s) + h(s) > k$ ,
  - Assuming integer costs, do this for  $k=0$ , then  $k=1$ , then  $k=2$ , and so on
- Complete + optimal, might be costly time-wise
  - Revisit many nodes



# IDA\*: Iterative Deepening A\*

Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

- Bound the memory in search.
- At each phase, don't expand any node with  $g(s) + h(s) > k$ ,
  - Assuming integer costs, do this for  $k=0$ , then  $k=1$ , then  $k=2$ , and so on
- Complete + optimal, might be costly time-wise
  - Revisit many nodes
- Lower memory use than A\*



# IDA\*: Properties

How many restarts do we expect?

# IDA\*: Properties

How many restarts do we expect?

- With integer costs, optimal solution  $C^*$ , at most  $C^*$

# IDA\*: Properties

How many restarts do we expect?

- With integer costs, optimal solution  $C^*$ , at most  $C^*$

What about non-integer costs?

# IDA\*: Properties

How many restarts do we expect?

- With integer costs, optimal solution  $C^*$ , at most  $C^*$

What about non-integer costs?

- Initial threshold  $k$ . Use the same rule for non-expansion

# IDA\*: Properties

How many restarts do we expect?

- With integer costs, optimal solution  $C^*$ , at most  $C^*$

What about non-integer costs?

- Initial threshold  $k$ . Use the same rule for non-expansion
- Set new  $k$  to be the min  $\textcolor{blue}{g(s)} + \textcolor{red}{h(s)}$  for non-expanded nodes

# IDA\*: Properties

How many restarts do we expect?

- With integer costs, optimal solution  $C^*$ , at most  $C^*$

What about non-integer costs?

- Initial threshold  $k$ . Use the same rule for non-expansion
- Set new  $k$  to be the min  $\textcolor{blue}{g(s)} + \textcolor{red}{h(s)}$  for non-expanded nodes
- Worst case: restarted for each state

# Beam Search

General approach (beyond A\* too)

# Beam Search

General approach (beyond A\* too)

- Priority queue with fixed size  $k$ ; beyond  $k$  nodes,  
**discard!**

# Beam Search

General approach (beyond A\* too)

- Priority queue with fixed size  $k$ ; beyond  $k$  nodes,  
**discard!**



# Beam Search

General approach (beyond A\* too)

- Priority queue with fixed size  $k$ ; beyond  $k$  nodes, **discard!**
- **Upside:** good memory efficiency



# Beam Search

General approach (beyond A\* too)

- Priority queue with fixed size  $k$ ; beyond  $k$  nodes, **discard!**
- **Upside:** good memory efficiency
- **Downside:** not complete or optimal



# Beam Search

General approach (beyond A\* too)

- Priority queue with fixed size  $k$ ; beyond  $k$  nodes, **discard!**
- **Upside:** good memory efficiency
- **Downside:** not complete or optimal

Variation:



# Beam Search

General approach (beyond A\* too)

- Priority queue with fixed size  $k$ ; beyond  $k$  nodes, **discard!**
- **Upside:** good memory efficiency
- **Downside:** not complete or optimal

Variation:

- Priority queue with nodes that **are at most  $\epsilon$  worse** than best node.



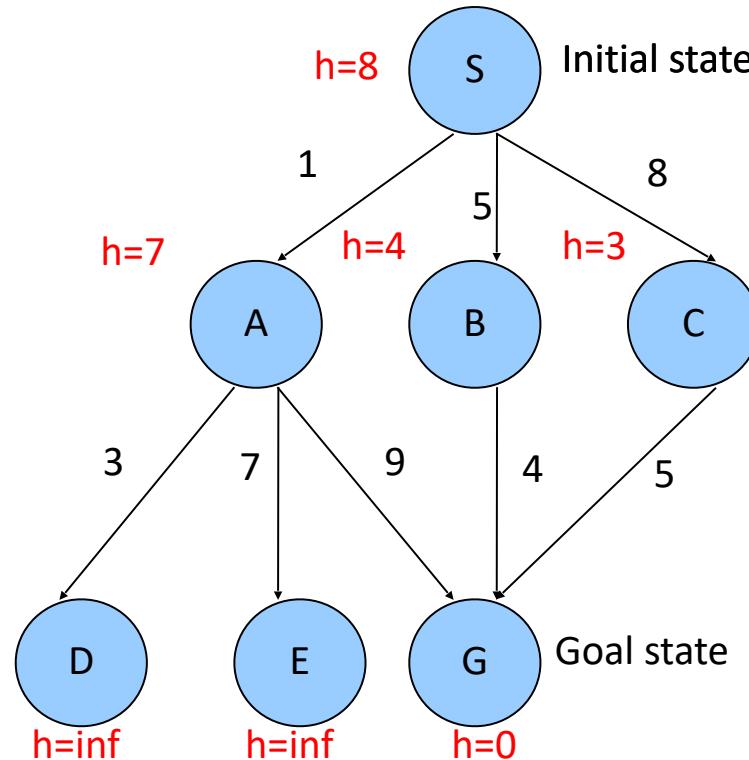
# Recap and Examples

# Recap and Examples

**Example for A\*:**

# Recap and Examples

Example for A\*:



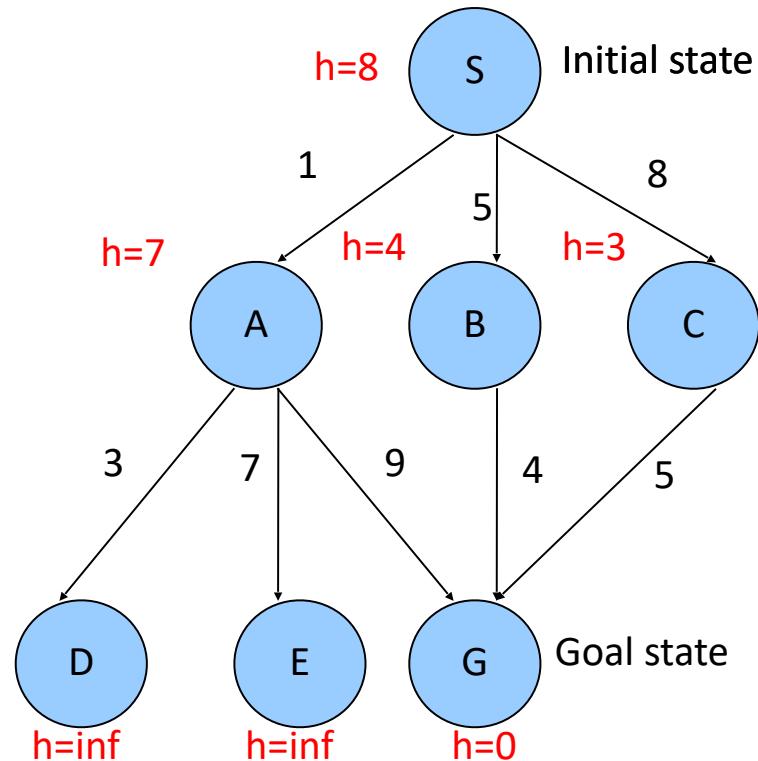
# Recap and Examples

# Recap and Examples

**Example for A\*:**

# Recap and Examples

Example for A\*:



# Recap and Examples

## Example for A\*:

OPEN

S(0+8)

A(1+7) B(5+4) C(8+3)

B(5+4) C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf) G(10+0)

C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf) G(9+0)

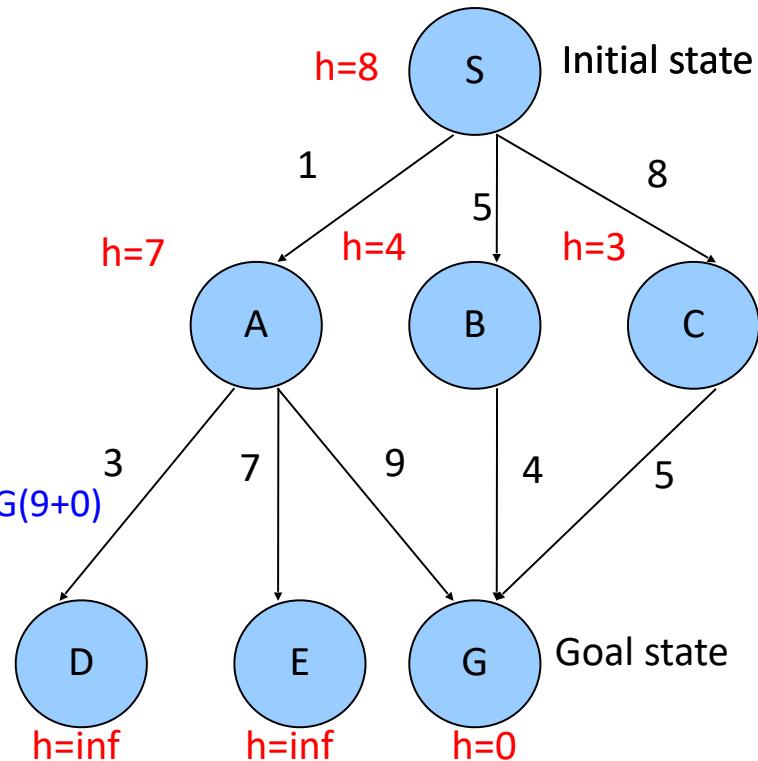
C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf)

CLOSED

-

S(0+8)

S(0+8) A(1+7) B(5+4)  
S(0+8) A(1+7) B(5+4) G(9+0)



# Recap and Examples

## Example for A\*:

OPEN

S(0+8)

A(1+7) B(5+4) C(8+3)

B(5+4) C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf) G(10+0)

C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf) G(9+0)

C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf)

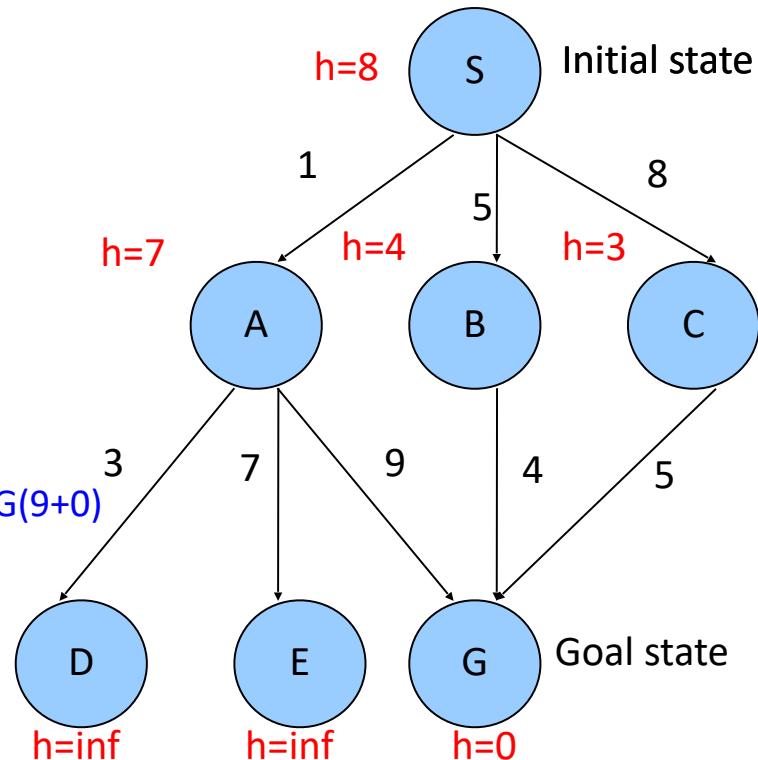
CLOSED

-

S(0+8)

S(0+8) A(1+7) B(5+4)  
S(0+8) A(1+7) B(5+4) G(9+0)

G → B → S



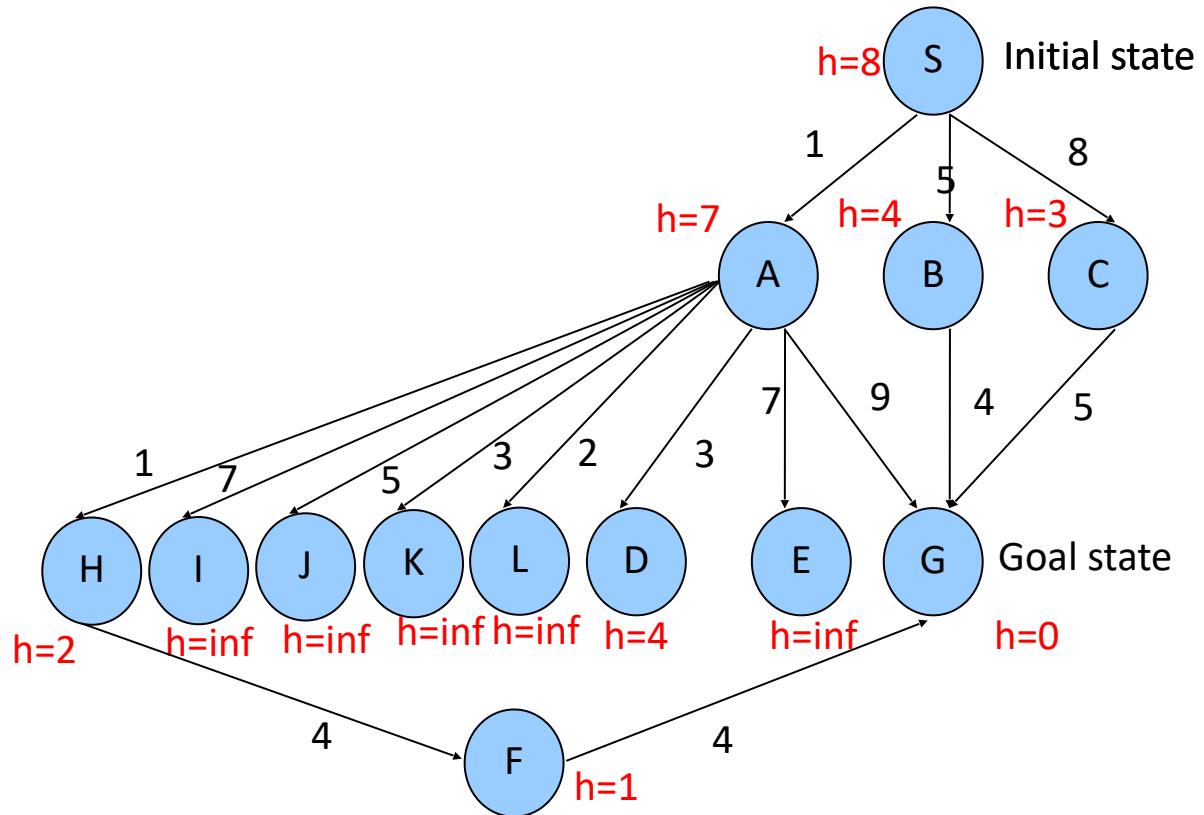
# Recap and Examples

# Recap and Examples

**Example for IDA\*:**

# Recap and Examples

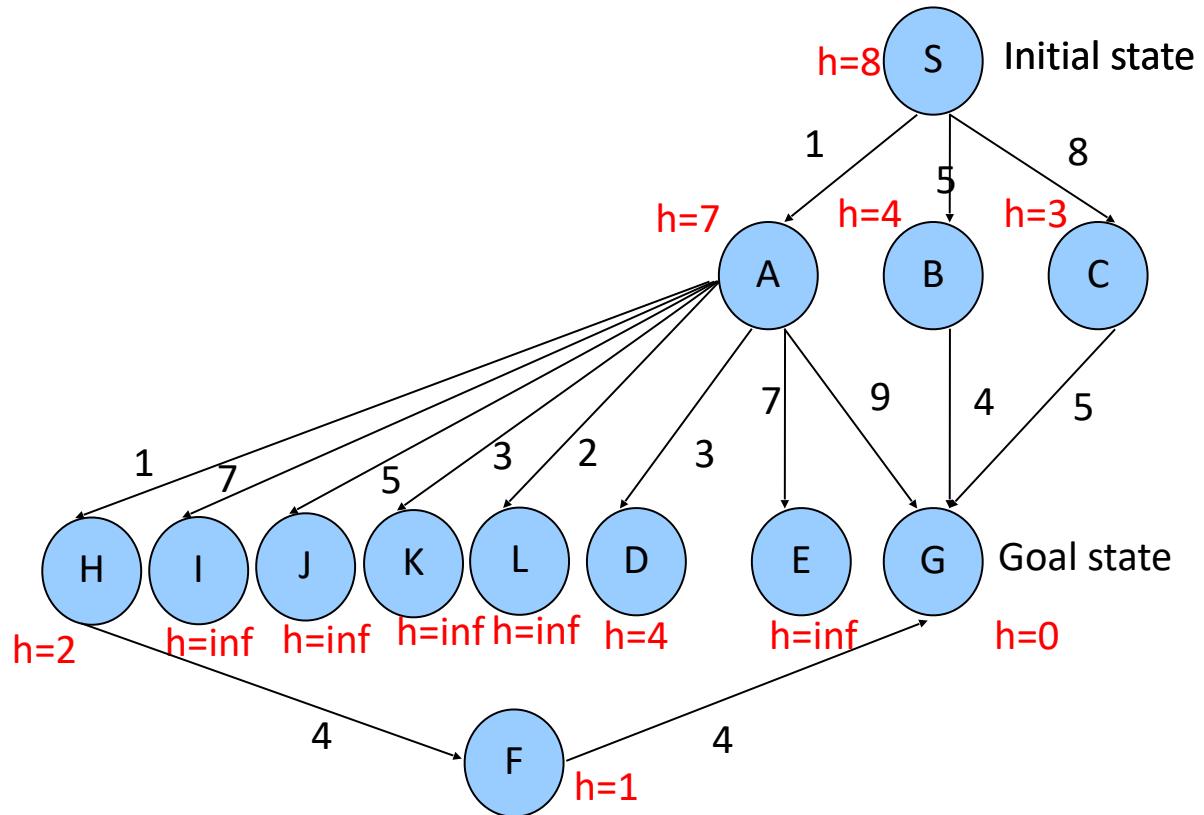
Example for IDA\*:



# Recap and Examples

**Example for IDA\***:

**Threshold = 8**



# Recap and Examples

**Example for IDA\***:

**Threshold = 8**

PATH PREFIX

-

S

SA

SAH

SAHF

SAD

OPEN

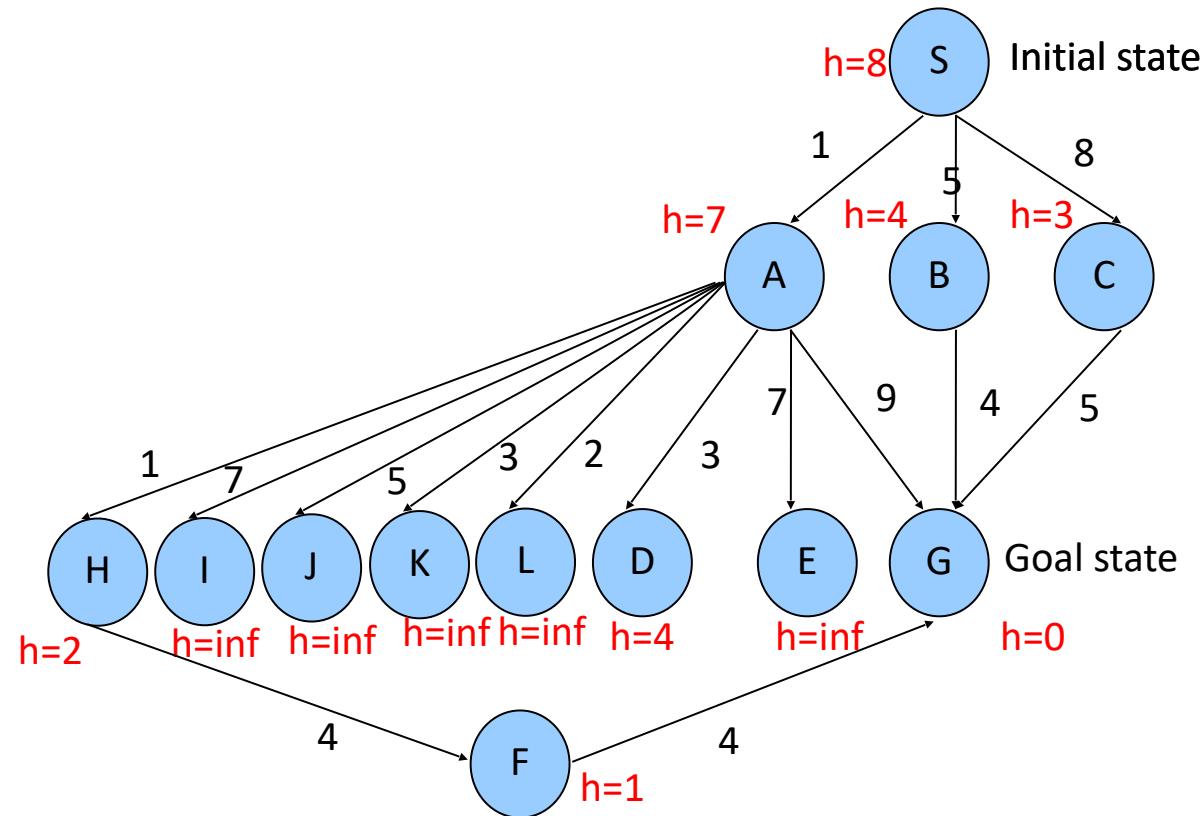
S(0+8)

A(1+7)

H(2+2) D(4+4)

D(4+4) F(6+1)

D(4+4)



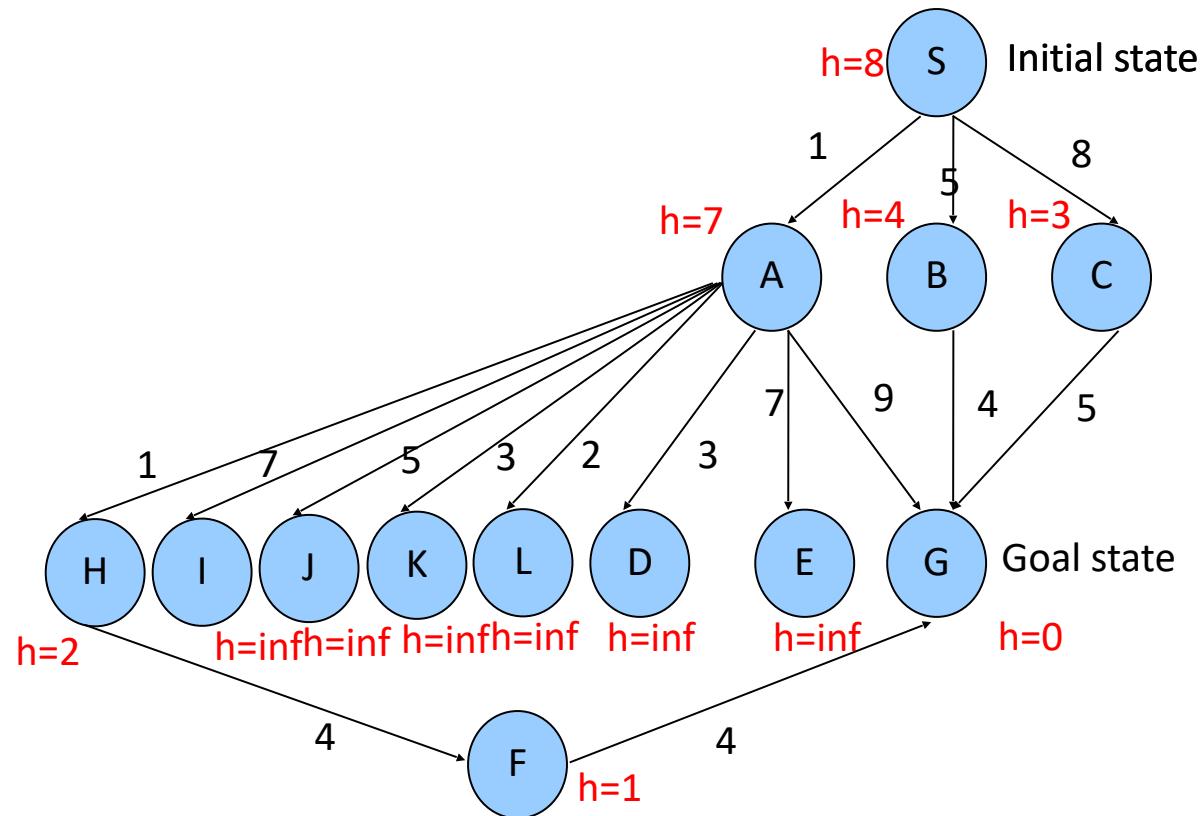
# Recap and Examples

# Recap and Examples

**Example for IDA\*:**

# Recap and Examples

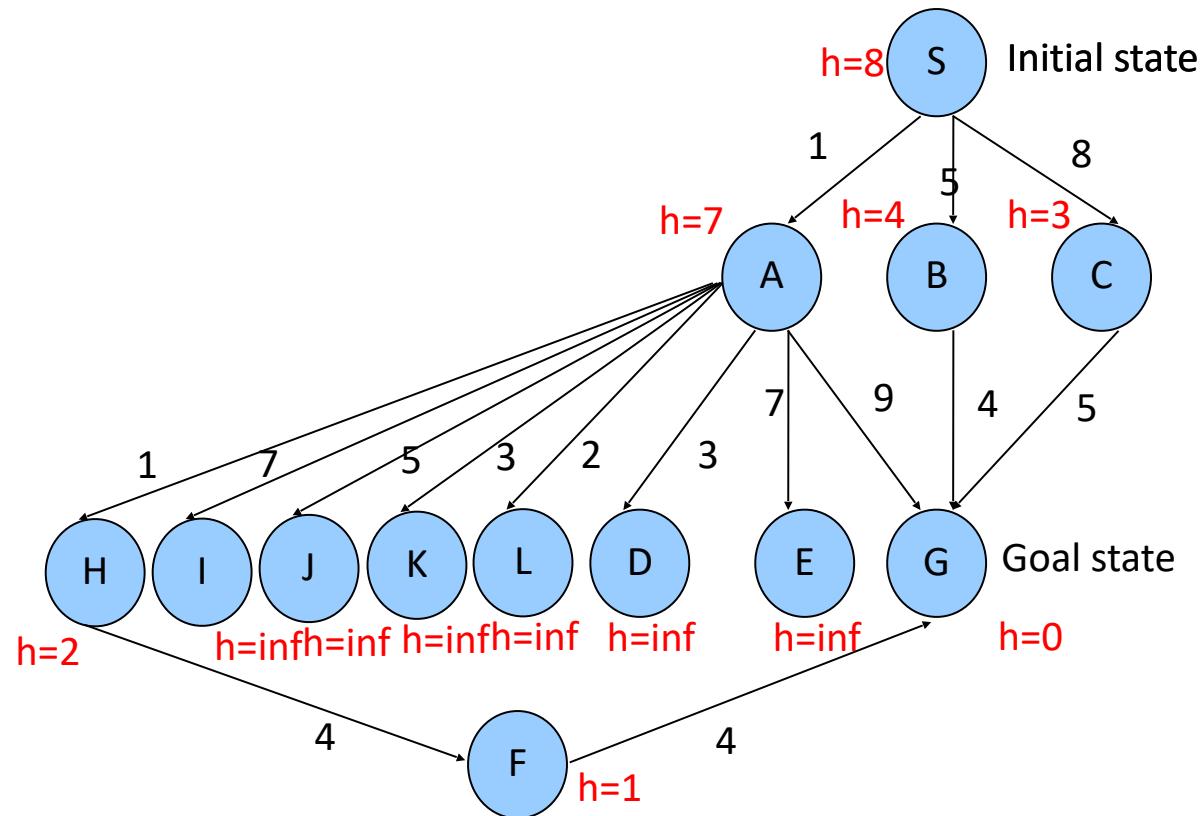
Example for IDA\*:



# Recap and Examples

**Example for IDA\***:

**Threshold = 9**

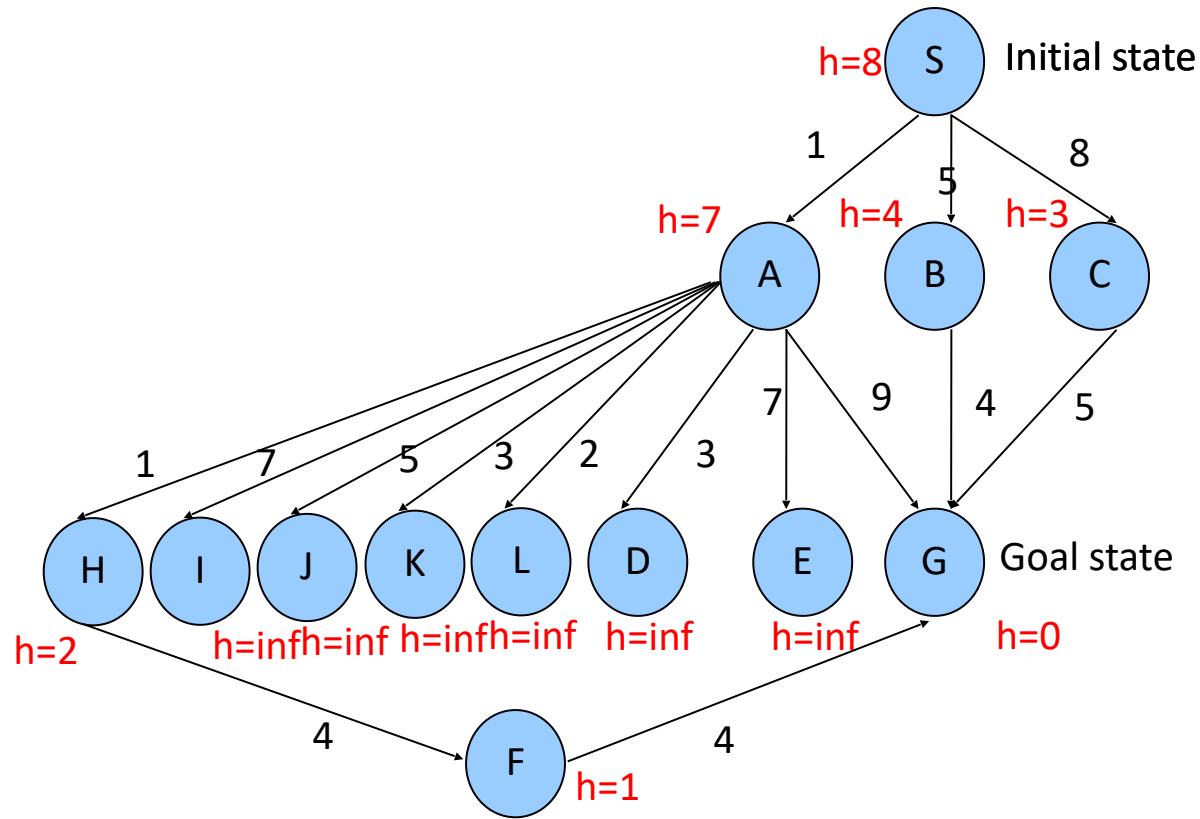


# Recap and Examples

**Example for IDA\***:

**Threshold = 9**

PREFIX	OPEN
-	S(0+8)
S	A(1+7) B(5+4)
S A	B(5+4) H(2+2) D(4+4)
S A H	B(5+4) D(4+4) F(6+1)
S A H F	B(5+4) D(4+4)
S A D	B(5+4)
S B	G(9+0)
S B G	



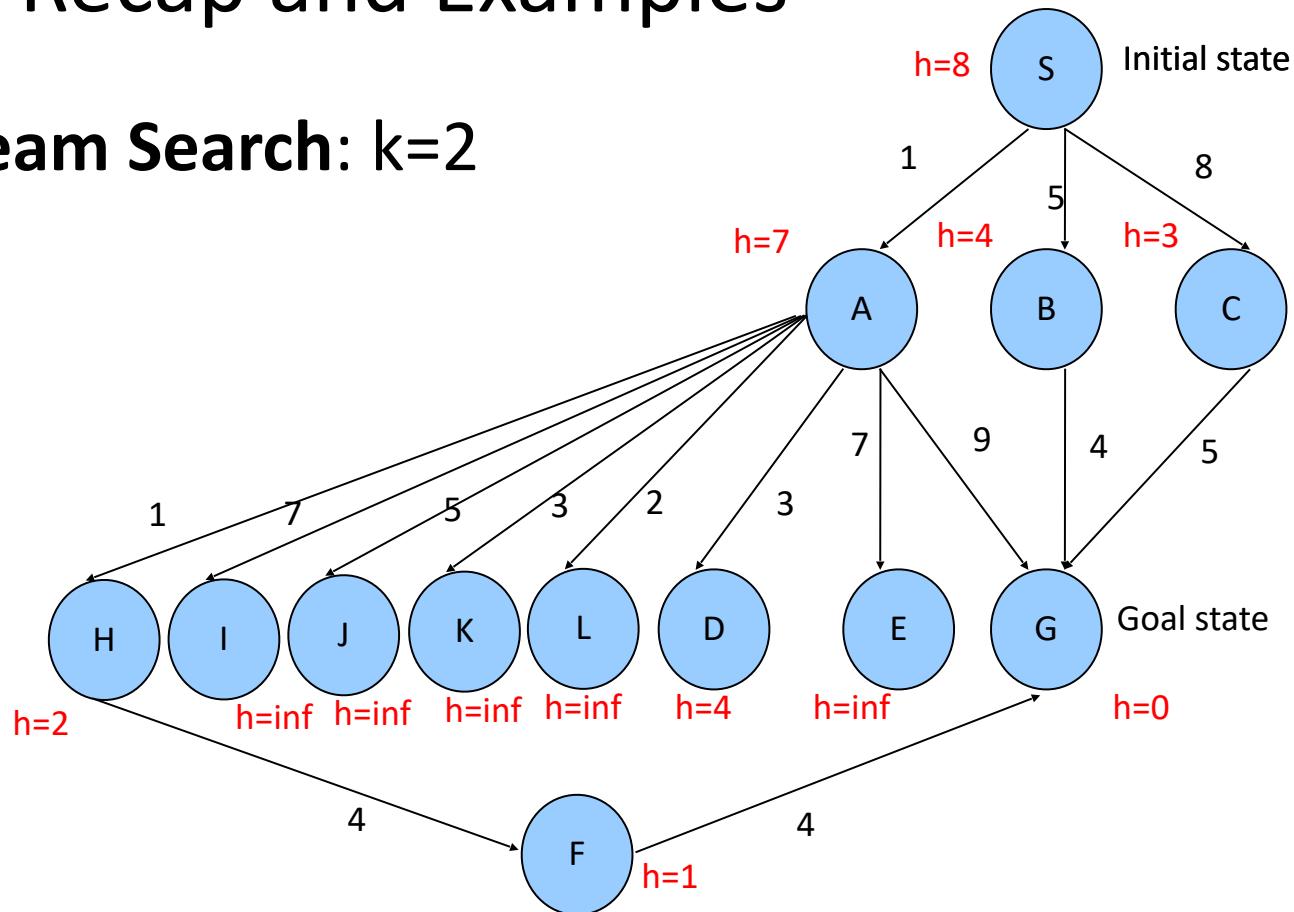
# Recap and Examples

# Recap and Examples

**Example for Beam Search: k=2**

# Recap and Examples

Example for Beam Search:  $k=2$



# Recap and Examples

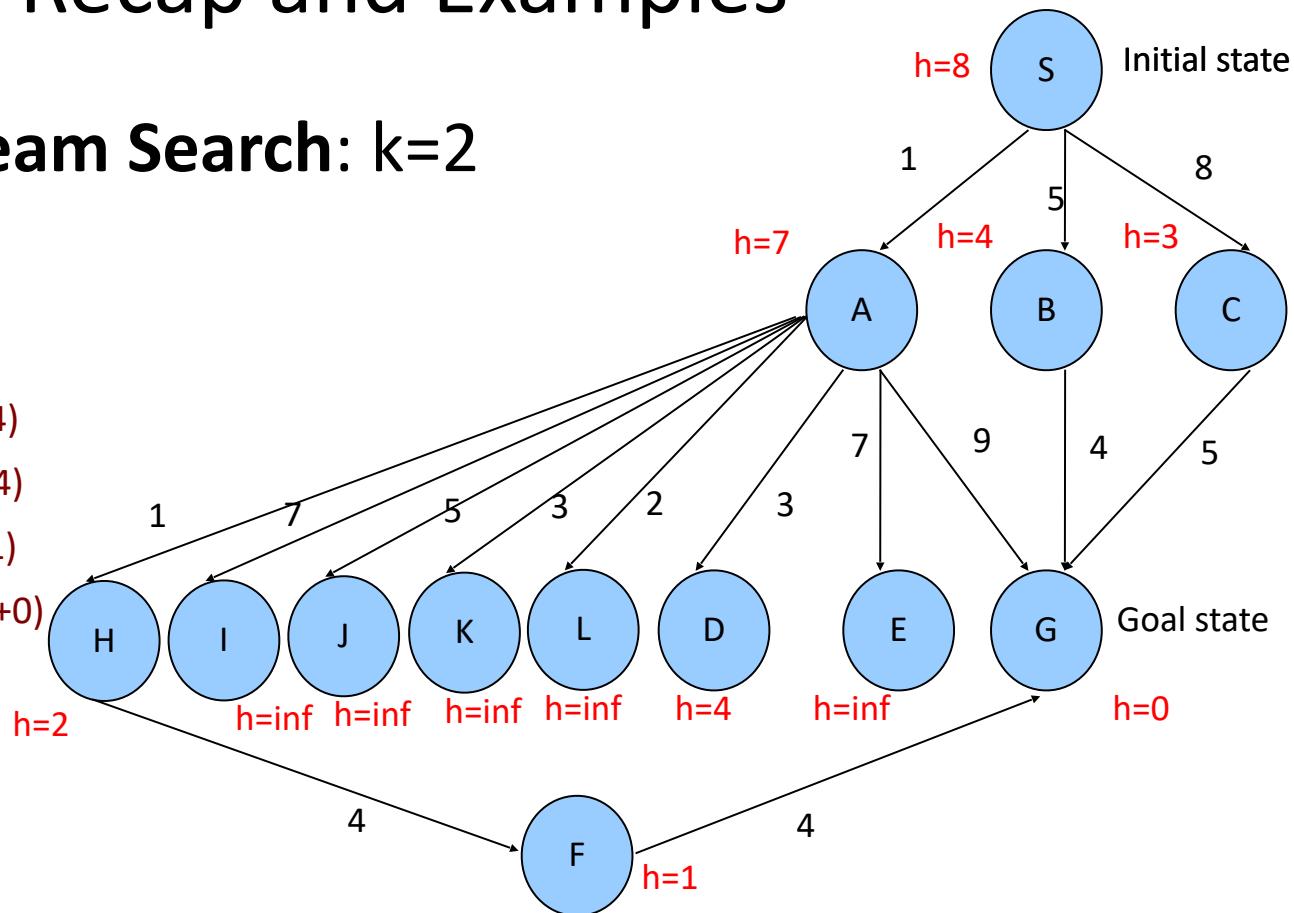
## Example for Beam Search: k=2

CURRENT

-  
S  
A  
H  
F  
D  
G

OPEN

S(0+8)  
A(1+7) B(5+4)  
H(2+2) D(4+4)  
D(4+4) F(6+1)  
D(4+4) G(10+0)  
G(10+0)



# Recap and Examples

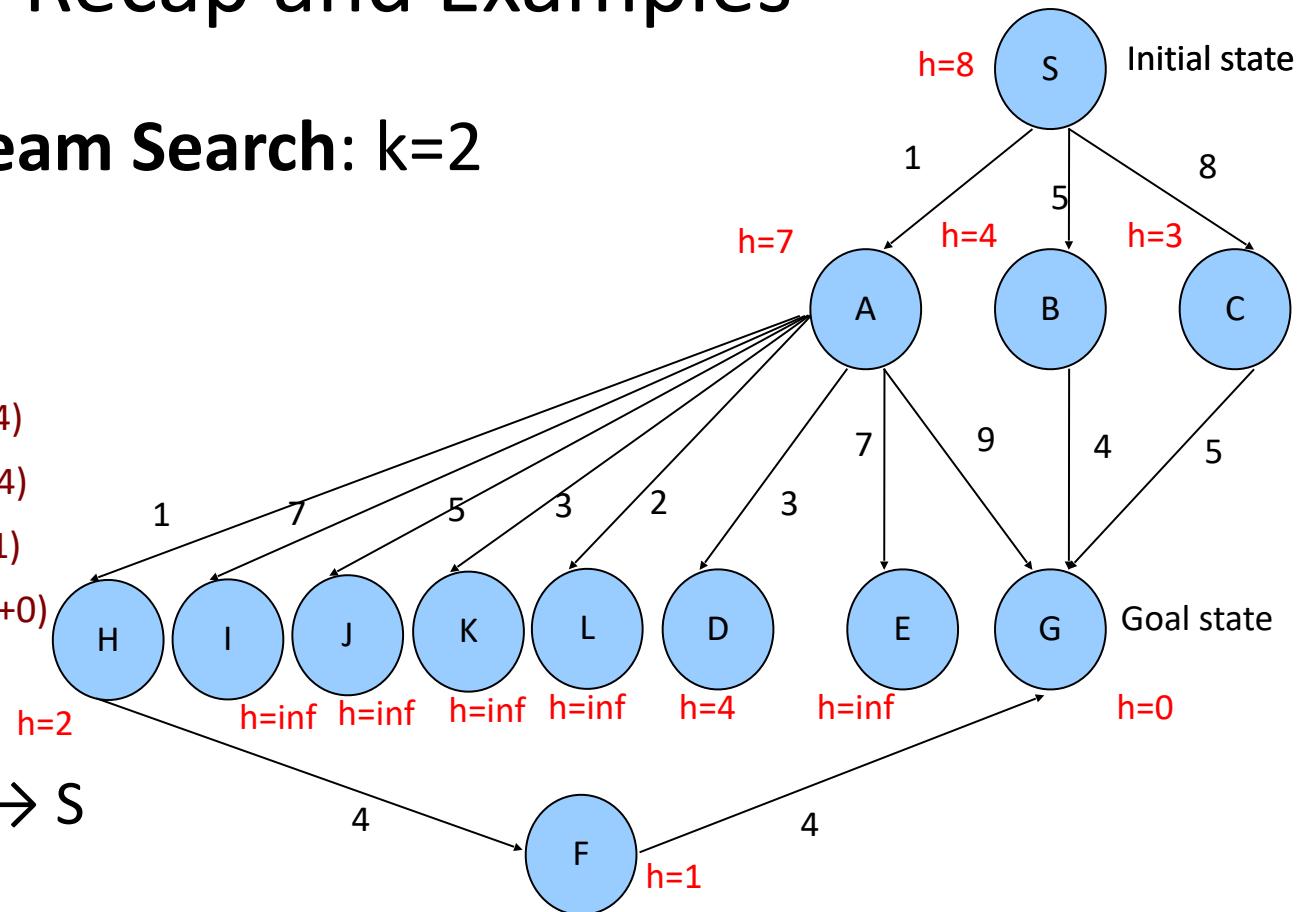
## Example for Beam Search: k=2

CURRENT

-  
S  
A  
H  
F  
D  
G

OPEN

S(0+8)  
A(1+7) B(5+4)  
H(2+2) D(4+4)  
D(4+4) F(6+1)  
D(4+4) G(10+0)  
G(10+0)



$G \rightarrow F \rightarrow H \rightarrow A \rightarrow S$   
Not optimal!

# Summary

- Informed search: introduce heuristics
  - Not all approaches work: best-first greedy is bad
- A\* algorithm
  - Properties of A\*, idea of admissible heuristics
- Beyond A\*
  - IDA\*, beam search. Ways to deal with space requirements.



**Acknowledgements:** Adapted from materials by Jerry Zhu  
(University of Wisconsin).