

What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

"It is a branch of computer science by which we can create intelligent machines which can behave like a human, think like humans, and able to make decisions."

Artificial Intelligence is composed of two words **Artificial** and **Intelligence**, where Artificial defines "*man-made*," and intelligence defines "*thinking power*", hence AI means "*a man-made thinking power*."

Artificial Intelligence exists when a machine can have human based skills such as learning, reasoning, and solving problems. With Artificial Intelligence you do not need to preprogram a machine to do some work, despite that you can create a machine with programmed algorithms which can work with own intelligence, and that is the awesomeness of AI.

It is believed that AI is not a new technology, and some people says that as per Greek myth, there were Mechanical men in early days which can work and behave like humans.

Why Artificial Intelligence?

Before Learning about Artificial Intelligence, we should know that what is the importance of AI and why should we learn it. Following are some main reasons to learn about AI:

- With the help of AI, you can create such software or devices which can solve real-world problems very easily and with accuracy such as health issues, marketing, traffic issues, etc.
- With the help of AI, you can create your personal virtual Assistant, such as Cortana, Google Assistant, Siri, etc.
- With the help of AI, you can build such Robots which can work in an environment where survival of humans can be at risk.
- AI opens a path for other new technologies, new devices, and new Opportunities.

Goals of Artificial Intelligence

Following are the main goals of Artificial Intelligence:

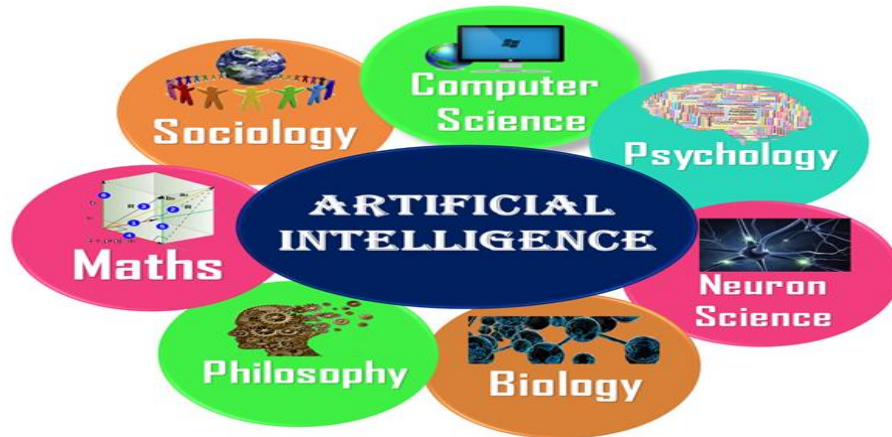
1. Replicate human intelligence
2. Solve Knowledge-intensive tasks
3. An intelligent connection of perception and action
4. Building a machine which can perform tasks that requires human intelligence such as:
 - Proving a theorem
 - Playing chess
 - Plan some surgical operation
 - Driving a car in traffic
5. Creating some system which can exhibit intelligent behavior, learn new things by itself, demonstrate, explain, and can advise to its user.

What Comprises to Artificial Intelligence?

To create the AI first we should know that how intelligence is composed, so the Intelligence is an intangible part of our brain which is a combination of **Reasoning, learning, problem-solving perception, language understanding, etc.**

To achieve the above factors for a machine or software Artificial Intelligence requires the following discipline:

- Mathematics
- Biology
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Computer Science
- Neurons Study
- Statistics



Advantages of Artificial Intelligence

- **High Accuracy with less errors:** AI machines or systems are prone to less errors and high accuracy as it takes decisions as per pre-experience or information.
- **High-Speed:** AI systems can be of very high-speed and fast-decision making, because of that AI systems can beat a chess champion in the Chess game.
- **High reliability:** AI machines are highly reliable and can perform the same action multiple times with high accuracy.
- **Useful for risky areas:** AI machines can be helpful in situations such as defusing a bomb, exploring the ocean floor, where to employ a human can be risky.
- **Digital Assistant:** AI can be very useful to provide digital assistant to the users such as AI technology is currently used by various E-commerce websites to show the products as per customer requirement.
- **Useful as a public utility:** AI can be very useful for public utilities such as a self-driving car which can make our journey safer and hassle-free, facial recognition for security purpose, Natural language processing to communicate with the human in human-language, etc.

Disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence

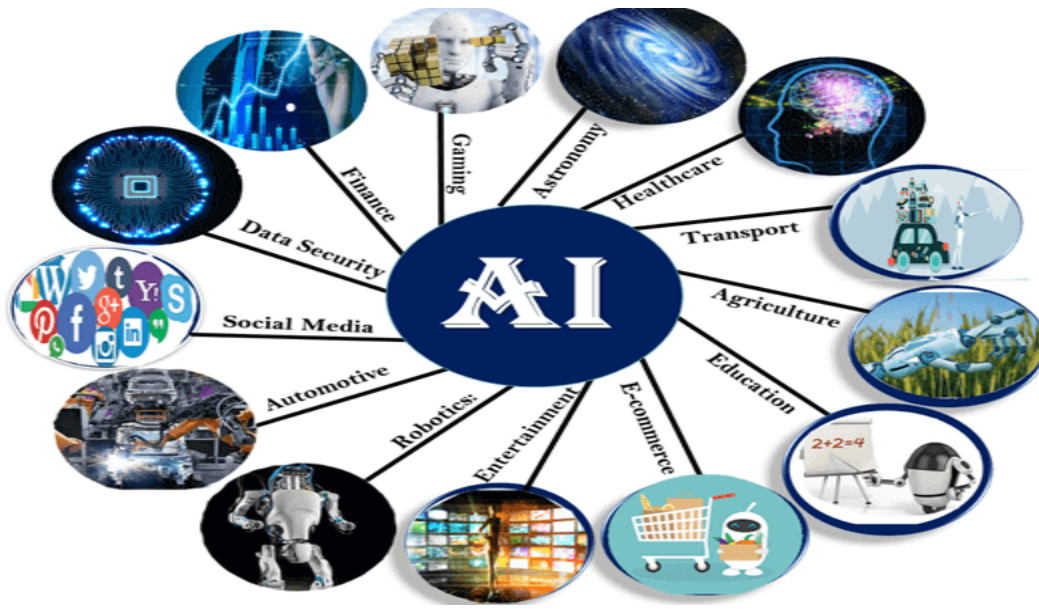
Every technology has some disadvantages, and the same goes for Artificial intelligence.

- **High Cost:** The hardware and software requirement of AI is very costly as it requires lots of maintenance to meet current world requirements.
- **Can't think out of the box:** Even we are making smarter machines with AI, but still they cannot work out of the box, as the robot will only do that work for which they are trained, or programmed.
- **No feelings and emotions:** AI machines can be an outstanding performer, but still it does not have the feeling so it cannot make any kind of emotional attachment with human, and may sometime be harmful for users if the proper care is not taken.
- **Increase dependency on machines:** With the increment of technology, people are getting more dependent on devices and hence they are losing their mental capabilities.
- **No Original Creativity:** As humans are so creative and can imagine some new ideas but still AI machines cannot beat this power of human intelligence and cannot be creative and imaginative.

Application of AI

Artificial Intelligence has various applications in today's society. It is becoming essential for today's time because it can solve complex problems with an efficient way in multiple industries, such as Healthcare, entertainment, finance, education, etc. AI is making our daily life more comfortable and fast.

Following are some sectors which have the application of Artificial Intelligence:



➤ **AI in Astronomy**

- Artificial Intelligence can be very useful to solve complex universe problems. AI technology can be helpful for understanding the universe such as how it works, origin, etc.

➤ **AI in Healthcare**

- In the last, five to ten years, AI becoming more advantageous for the healthcare industry and going to have a significant impact on this industry.
- Healthcare Industries are applying AI to make a better and faster diagnosis than humans. AI can help doctors with diagnoses and can inform when patients are worsening so that medical help can reach to the patient before hospitalization.

➤ **AI in Gaming**

- AI can be used for gaming purpose. The AI machines can play strategic games like chess, where the machine needs to think of a large number of possible places.

➤ **AI in Finance**

- AI and finance industries are the best matches for each other. The finance industry is implementing automation, chatbot, adaptive intelligence, algorithm trading, and machine learning into financial processes.

➤ **AI in Data Security**

- The security of data is crucial for every company and cyber-attacks are growing very rapidly in the digital world. AI can be used to make your data more safe and secure. Some examples such as AEG bot, AI2 Platform, are used to determine software bug and cyber-attacks in a better way.

➤ **AI in Social Media**

- Social Media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat contain billions of user profiles, which need to be stored and managed in a very efficient way. AI can organize and manage massive amounts of data. AI can analyze lots of data to identify the latest trends, hashtag, and requirement of different users.

➤ **AI in Travel & Transport**

- AI is becoming highly demanding for travel industries. AI is capable of doing various travel related works such as from making travel arrangement to suggesting the hotels, flights, and best routes to the customers. Travel industries are using AI-powered chatbots which can make human-like interaction with customers for better and fast response.

➤ **AI in Automotive Industry**

- Some Automotive industries are using AI to provide virtual assistant to their user for better performance. Such as Tesla has introduced TeslaBot, an intelligent virtual assistant.
- Various Industries are currently working for developing self-driven cars which can make your journey more safe and secure.

➤ **AI in Robotics**

- Artificial Intelligence has a remarkable role in Robotics. Usually, general robots are programmed such that they can perform some repetitive task, but with the help of AI, we can create intelligent robots which can perform tasks with their own experiences without pre-programmed.
- Humanoid Robots are best examples for AI in robotics, recently the intelligent Humanoid robot named as Erica and Sophia has been developed which can talk and behave like humans.

➤ **AI in Entertainment**

- We are currently using some AI based applications in our daily life with some entertainment services such as Netflix or Amazon. With the help of ML/AI algorithms, these services show the recommendations for programs or shows.

➤ **AI in Agriculture**

- Agriculture is an area which requires various resources, labor, money, and time for best result. Now a day's agriculture is becoming digital, and AI is emerging in this field. Agriculture is applying AI as agriculture robotics, soil and crop monitoring, predictive analysis. AI in agriculture can be very helpful for farmers.

➤ **AI in E-commerce**

- AI is providing a competitive edge to the e-commerce industry, and it is becoming more demanding in the e-commerce business. AI is helping shoppers to discover associated products with recommended size, color, or even brand.

➤ **AI in education:**

- AI can automate grading so that the tutor can have more time to teach. AI chatbot can communicate with students as a teaching assistant.
- AI in the future can be work as a personal virtual tutor for students, which will be accessible easily at any time and any place.
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The Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

In this section, we provide a brief history of the disciplines that contributed ideas, viewpoints, and techniques to AI.

➤ **Philosophy**

- Can formal rules be used to draw valid conclusions?

- How does the mind arise from a physical brain?
- Where does knowledge come from?
- How does knowledge lead to action?

➤ **Mathematics**

- What are the formal rules to draw valid conclusions?
- What can be computed?
- How do we reason with uncertain information?

➤ **Economics**

- How should we make decisions in accordance with our preferences?
- How should we do this when others may not go along?
- How should we do this when the payoff may be far in the future?

➤ **Neuroscience**

- How do brains process information?

➤ **Psychology**

- How do humans and animals think and act?

➤ **Computer engineering**

- How can we build an efficient computer?

➤ **Control theory and cybernetics**

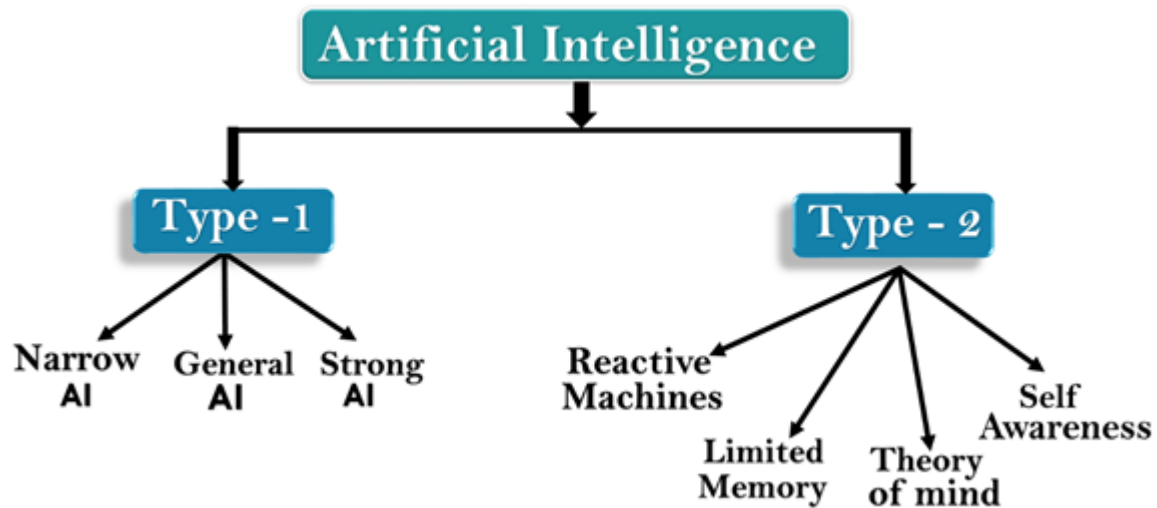
- How can artifacts operate under their own control?

➤ **Linguistics**

- How does language relate to thought?

Types of Artificial Intelligence:

Artificial Intelligence can be divided in various types, there are mainly two types of main categorization which are based on capabilities and based on functionally of AI. Following is flow diagram which explain the types of AI.



AI type-1: Based on Capabilities

1. Weak AI or Narrow AI:

- Narrow AI is a type of AI which is able to perform a dedicated task with intelligence. The most common and currently available AI is Narrow AI in the world of Artificial Intelligence.
- Narrow AI cannot perform beyond its field or limitations, as it is only trained for one specific task. Hence it is also termed as weak AI. Narrow AI can fail in unpredictable ways if it goes beyond its limits.
- Apple Siri is a good example of Narrow AI, but it operates with a limited pre-defined range of functions.
- IBM's Watson supercomputer also comes under Narrow AI, as it uses an Expert system approach combined with Machine learning and natural language processing.
- Some Examples of Narrow AI are playing chess, purchasing suggestions on e-commerce site, self-driving cars, speech recognition, and image recognition.

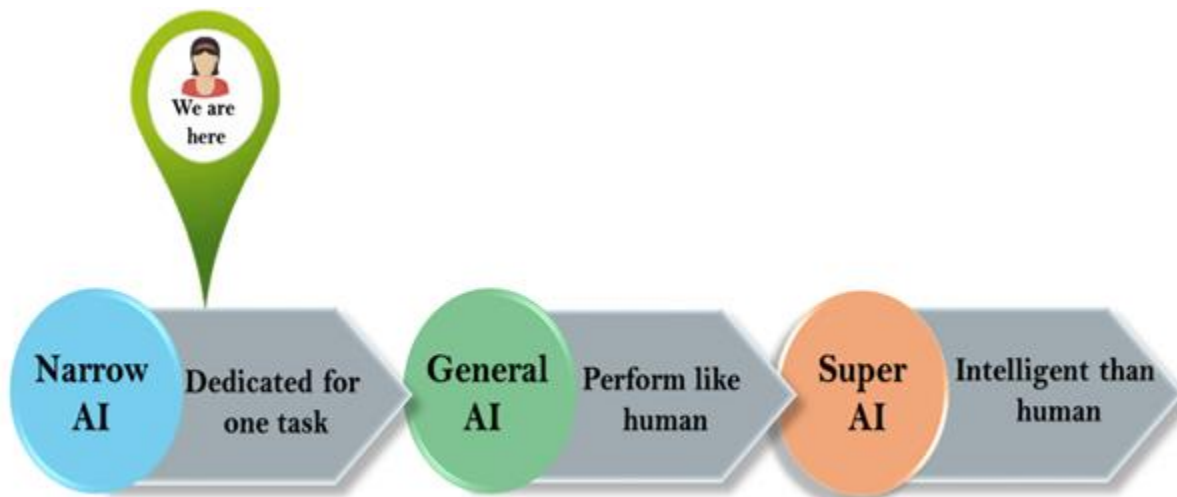
2. General AI:

- General AI is a type of intelligence which could perform any intellectual task with efficiency like a human.

- The idea behind the general AI to make such a system which could be smarter and think like a human by its own.
- Currently, there is no such system exist which could come under general AI and can perform any task as perfect as a human.
- The worldwide researchers are now focused on developing machines with General AI.
- As systems with general AI are still under research, and it will take lots of efforts and time to develop such systems.

3. Super AI:

- Super AI is a level of Intelligence of Systems at which machines could surpass human intelligence, and can perform any task better than human with cognitive properties. It is an outcome of general AI.
- Some key characteristics of strong AI include capability include the ability to think, to reason, solve the puzzle, make judgments, plan, learn, and communicate by its own.
- Super AI is still a hypothetical concept of Artificial Intelligence. Development of such systems in real is still world changing task.



Artificial Intelligence type-2: Based on functionality

1. Reactive Machines

- Purely reactive machines are the most basic types of Artificial Intelligence.

- Such AI systems do not store memories or past experiences for future actions.
- These machines only focus on current scenarios and react on it as per possible best action.
- IBM's Deep Blue system is an example of reactive machines.
- Google's AlphaGo is also an example of reactive machines.

2. Limited Memory

- Limited memory machines can store past experiences or some data for a short period of time.
- These machines can use stored data for a limited time period only.
- Self-driving cars are one of the best examples of Limited Memory systems. These cars can store recent speed of nearby cars, the distance of other cars, speed limit, and other information to navigate the road.

3. Theory of Mind

- Theory of Mind AI should understand the human emotions, people, beliefs, and be able to interact socially like humans.
- This type of AI machines are still not developed, but researchers are making lots of efforts and improvement for developing such AI machines.

4. Self-Awareness

- Self-awareness AI is the future of Artificial Intelligence. These machines will be super intelligent, and will have their own consciousness, sentiments, and self-awareness.
- These machines will be smarter than human mind.
- Self-Awareness AI does not exist in reality still and it is a hypothetical concept.

Agents in Artificial Intelligence

An AI system can be defined as the study of the rational agent and its environment. The agents sense the environment through sensors and act on their environment through actuators. An AI agent can have mental properties such as knowledge, belief, intention, etc.

What is an Agent?

An agent can be anything that perceives its environment through sensors and act upon that environment through actuators. An Agent runs in the cycle of **perceiving**, **thinking**, and **acting**.

An agent can be:

- **Human-Agent:** A human agent has eyes, ears, and other organs which work for sensors and hand, legs, vocal tract work for actuators.
- **Robotic Agent:** A robotic agent can have cameras, infrared range finder, NLP for sensors and various motors for actuators.
- **Software Agent:** Software agent can have keystrokes, file contents as sensory input and act on those inputs and display output on the screen.

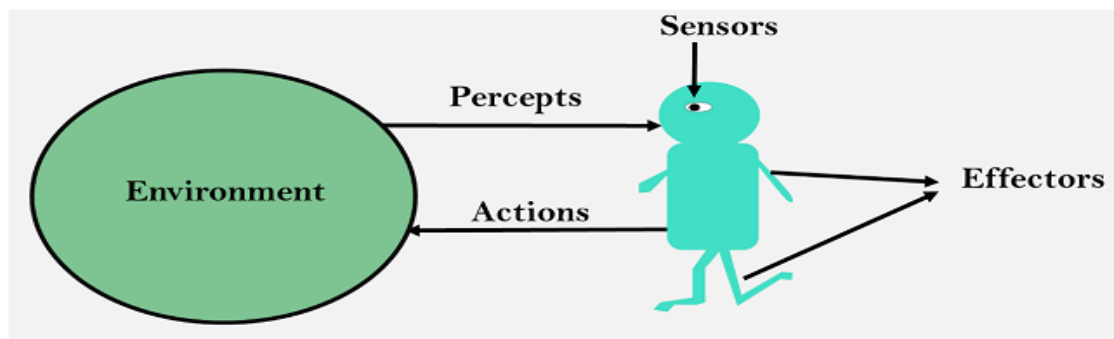
Hence the world around us is full of agents such as thermostat, cellphone, camera, and even we are also agents.

Before moving forward, we should first know about sensors, effectors, and actuators.

Sensor: Sensor is a device which detects the change in the environment and sends the information to other electronic devices. An agent observes its environment through sensors.

Actuators: Actuators are the component of machines that converts energy into motion. The actuators are only responsible for moving and controlling a system. An actuator can be an electric motor, gears, rails, etc.

Effectors: Effectors are the devices which affect the environment. Effectors can be legs, wheels, arms, fingers, wings, fins, and display screen.



Intelligent Agents:

An intelligent agent is an autonomous entity which act upon an environment using sensors and actuators for achieving goals. An intelligent agent may learn from the environment to achieve their goals. A thermostat is an example of an intelligent agent.

Following are the main four rules for an AI agent:

- **Rule 1:** An AI agent must have the ability to perceive the environment.
- **Rule 2:** The observation must be used to make decisions.
- **Rule 3:** Decision should result in an action.
- **Rule 4:** The action taken by an AI agent must be a rational action.

Rational Agent:

A rational agent is an agent which has clear preference, models uncertainty, and acts in a way to maximize its performance measure with all possible actions.

A rational agent is said to perform the right things. AI is about creating rational agents to use for game theory and decision theory for various real-world scenarios.

For an AI agent, the rational action is most important because in AI reinforcement learning algorithm, for each best possible action, agent gets the positive reward and for each wrong action, an agent gets a negative reward.

Note: Rational agents in AI are very similar to intelligent agents.

Rationality:

The rationality of an agent is measured by its performance measure. Rationality can be judged on the basis of following points:

- Performance measure which defines the success criterion.
- Agent prior knowledge of its environment.
- Best possible actions that an agent can perform.
- The sequence of percepts.

Note: Rationality differs from Omniscience because an Omniscient agent knows the actual outcome of its action and act accordingly, which is not possible in reality.

Structure of an AI Agent

The task of AI is to design an agent program which implements the agent function. The structure of an intelligent agent is a combination of architecture and agent program. It can be viewed as:

1. **Agent = Architecture + Agent program**

Following are the main three terms involved in the structure of an AI agent:

Architecture: Architecture is machinery that an AI agent executes on.

Agent Function: Agent function is used to map a percept to an action.

1. **$f:P^* \rightarrow A$**

Agent program: Agent program is an implementation of agent function. An agent program executes on the physical architecture to produce function f .

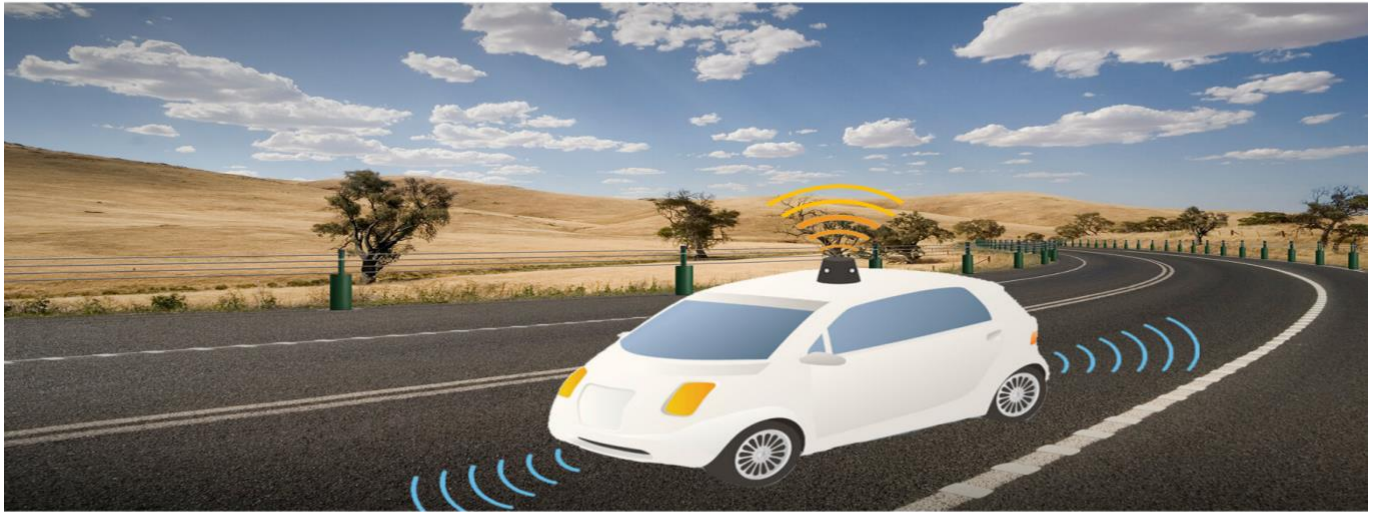
PEAS Representation

PEAS is a type of model on which an AI agent works upon. When we define an AI agent or rational agent, then we can group its properties under PEAS representation model. It is made up of four words:

- **P:** Performance measure
- **E:** Environment
- **A:** Actuators
- **S:** Sensors

Here performance measure is the objective for the success of an agent's behavior.

PEAS for self-driving cars:



Let's suppose a self-driving car then PEAS representation will be:

Performance: Safety, time, legal drive, comfort

Environment: Roads, other vehicles, road signs, pedestrian

Actuators: Steering, accelerator, brake, signal, horn

Sensors: Camera, GPS, speedometer, odometer, accelerometer, sonar.

Example of Agents with their PEAS representation

Agent	Performance measure	Environment	Actuators	Sensors
1. Medical Diagnose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Healthy patient➤ Minimized cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Patient➤ Hospital➤ Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Tests➤ Treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Keyboard (Entry of symptoms)

2. Vacuum Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cleanness ➤ Efficiency ➤ Battery life ➤ Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Room ➤ Table ➤ Wood floor ➤ Carpet ➤ Various obstacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wheels ➤ Brushes ➤ Vacuum Extractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Camera ➤ Dirt detection sensor ➤ Cliff sensor ➤ Bump Sensor ➤ Infrared Wall Sensor
3. Part - picking Robot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Percentage of parts in correct bins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conveyor belt with parts, ➤ Bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jointed Arms ➤ Hand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Camera ➤ Joint angle sensors.

Types of AI Agents

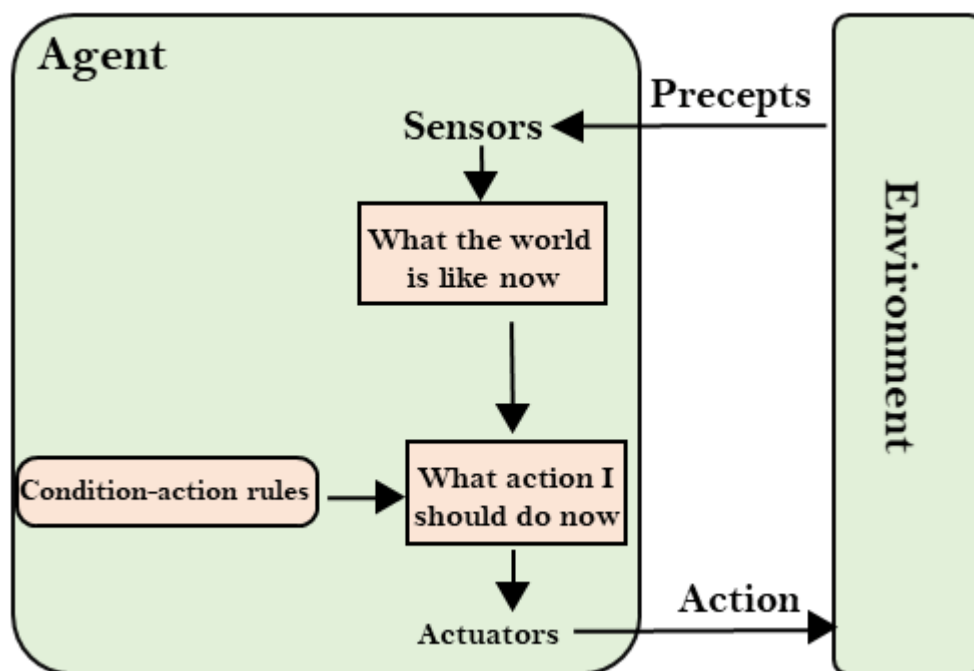
Agents can be grouped into five classes based on their degree of perceived intelligence and capability. All these agents can improve their performance and generate better action over the time.

- Simple Reflex Agent
- Model-based reflex agent
- Goal-based agents
- Utility-based agent
- Learning agent

1. Simple Reflex agent:

- The Simple reflex agents are the simplest agents. These agents take decisions on the basis of the current percepts and ignore the rest of the percept history.

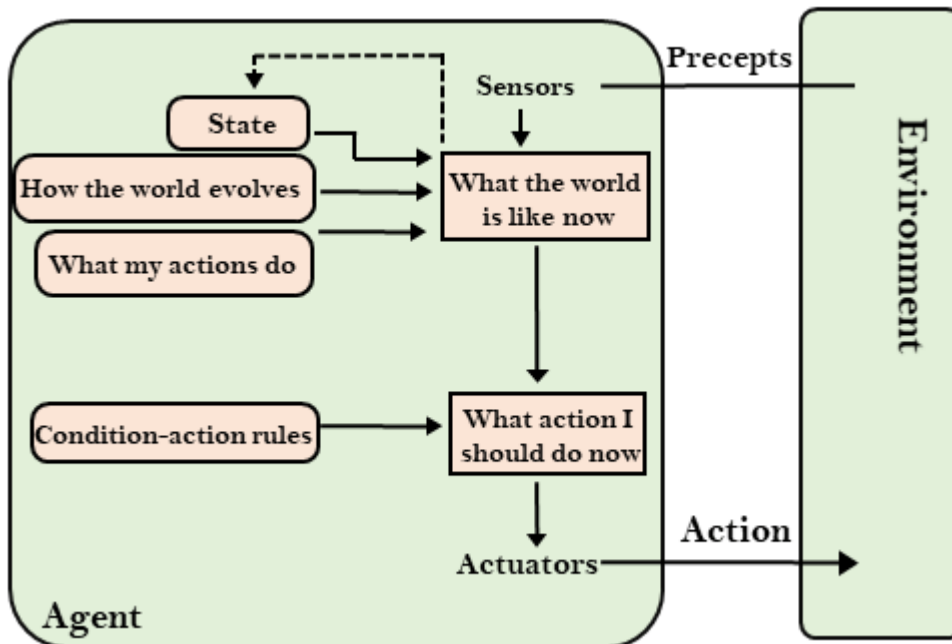
- These agents only succeed in the fully observable environment.
- The Simple reflex agent does not consider any part of percepts history during their decision and action process.
- The Simple reflex agent works on Condition-action rule, which means it maps the current state to action. Such as a Room Cleaner agent, it works only if there is dirt in the room.
- Problems for the simple reflex agent design approach:
 - They have very limited intelligence
 - They do not have knowledge of non-perceptual parts of the current state
 - Mostly too big to generate and to store.
 - Not adaptive to changes in the environment.



2. Model-based reflex agent

- The Model-based agent can work in a partially observable environment, and track the situation.
- A model-based agent has two important factors:

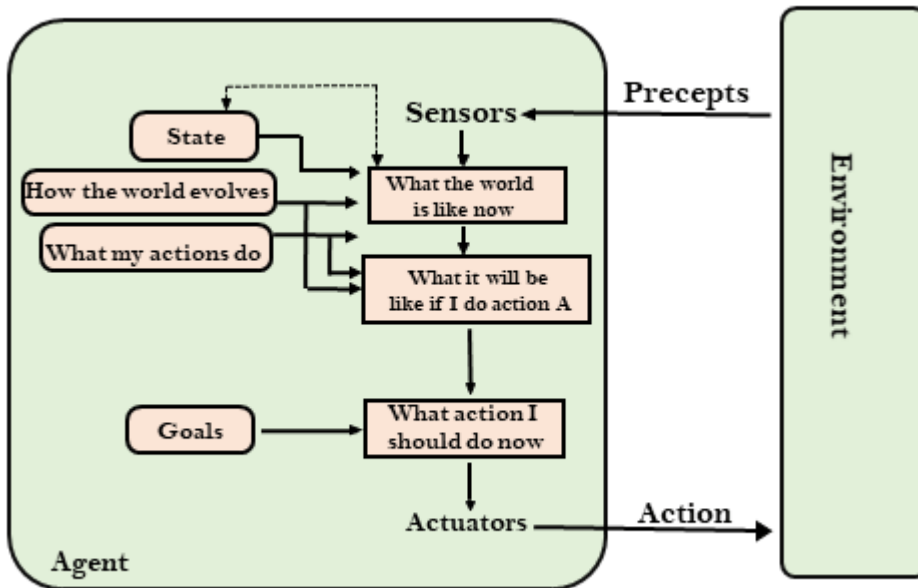
- **Model:** It is knowledge about "how things happen in the world," so it is called a Model-based agent.
- **Internal State:** It is a representation of the current state based on percept history.
- These agents have the model, "which is knowledge of the world" and based on the model they perform actions.
- Updating the agent state requires information about:
 - a. How the world evolves
 - b. How the agent's action affects the world.



3. Goal-based agents

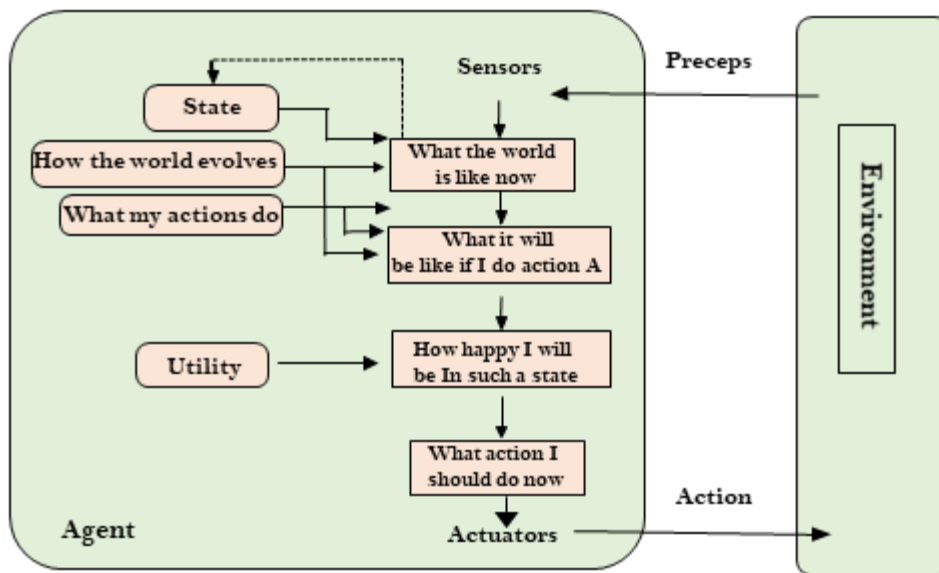
- The knowledge of the current state environment is not always sufficient to decide for an agent to what to do.
- The agent needs to know its goal which describes desirable situations.
- Goal-based agents expand the capabilities of the model-based agent by having the "goal" information.
- They choose an action, so that they can achieve the goal.

- These agents may have to consider a long sequence of possible actions before deciding whether the goal is achieved or not. Such considerations of different scenario are called searching and planning, which makes an agent proactive.



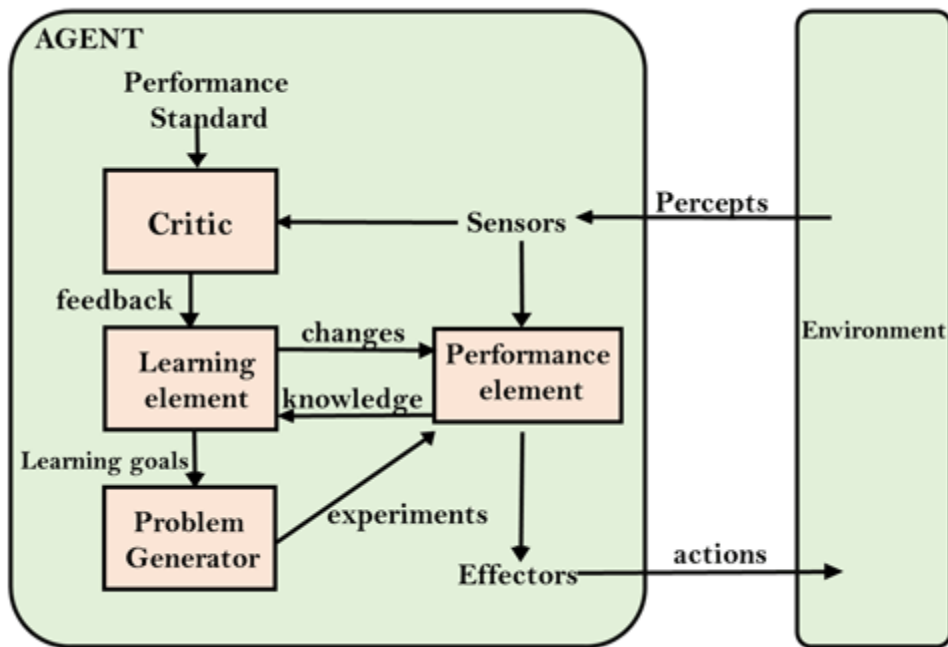
4. Utility-based agents

- These agents are similar to the goal-based agent but provide an extra component of utility measurement which makes them different by providing a measure of success at a given state.
- Utility-based agent act based not only goals but also the best way to achieve the goal.
- The Utility-based agent is useful when there are multiple possible alternatives, and an agent has to choose in order to perform the best action.
- The utility function maps each state to a real number to check how efficiently each action achieves the goals.



5. Learning Agents

- A learning agent in AI is the type of agent which can learn from its past experiences, or it has learning capabilities.
- It starts to act with basic knowledge and then able to act and adapt automatically through learning.
- A learning agent has mainly four conceptual components, which are:
 - a. **Learning element:** It is responsible for making improvements by learning from environment
 - b. **Critic:** Learning element takes feedback from critic which describes that how well the agent is doing with respect to a fixed performance standard.
 - c. **Performance element:** It is responsible for selecting external action
 - d. **Problem generator:** This component is responsible for suggesting actions that will lead to new and informative experiences.
- Hence, learning agents are able to learn, analyze performance, and look for new ways to improve the performance.



Agent Environment in AI

An environment is everything in the world which surrounds the agent, but it is not a part of an agent itself. An environment can be described as a situation in which an agent is present.

The environment is where agent lives, operate and provide the agent with something to sense and act upon it. An environment is mostly said to be non-feministic.

Features of Environment

As per Russell and Norvig, an environment can have various features from the point of view of an agent:

1. Fully observable vs Partially Observable
2. Static vs Dynamic
3. Discrete vs Continuous
4. Deterministic vs Stochastic
5. Single-agent vs Multi-agent
6. Episodic vs sequential

7. Known vs Unknown

8. Accessible vs Inaccessible

1. Fully observable vs Partially Observable:

- If an agent sensor can sense or access the complete state of an environment at each point of time then it is a **fully observable** environment, else it is **partially observable**.
- A fully observable environment is easy as there is no need to maintain the internal state to keep track history of the world.
- An agent with no sensors in all environments then such an environment is called as **unobservable**.

2. Deterministic vs Stochastic:

- If an agent's current state and selected action can completely determine the next state of the environment, then such environment is called a deterministic environment.
- A stochastic environment is random in nature and cannot be determined completely by an agent.
- In a deterministic, fully observable environment, agent does not need to worry about uncertainty.

3. Episodic vs Sequential:

- In an episodic environment, there is a series of one-shot actions, and only the current percept is required for the action.
- However, in Sequential environment, an agent requires memory of past actions to determine the next best actions.

4. Single-agent vs Multi-agent

- If only one agent is involved in an environment, and operating by itself then such an environment is called single agent environment.
- However, if multiple agents are operating in an environment, then such an environment is called a multi-agent environment.
- The agent design problems in the multi-agent environment are different from single agent environment.

5. Static vs Dynamic:

- If the environment can change itself while an agent is deliberating then such environment is called a dynamic environment else it is called a static environment.
- Static environments are easy to deal because an agent does not need to continue looking at the world while deciding for an action.
- However for dynamic environment, agents need to keep looking at the world at each action.
- Taxi driving is an example of a dynamic environment whereas Crossword puzzles are an example of a static environment.

6. Discrete vs Continuous:

- If in an environment there are a finite number of percepts and actions that can be performed within it, then such an environment is called a discrete environment else it is called continuous environment.
- A chess game comes under discrete environment as there is a finite number of moves that can be performed.
- A self-driving car is an example of a continuous environment.

7. Known vs Unknown

- Known and unknown are not actually a feature of an environment, but it is an agent's state of knowledge to perform an action.

- In a known environment, the results for all actions are known to the agent. While in unknown environment, agent needs to learn how it works in order to perform an action.
- It is quite possible that a known environment to be partially observable and an Unknown environment to be fully observable.

8. Accessible vs Inaccessible

- If an agent can obtain complete and accurate information about the state's environment, then such an environment is called an Accessible environment else it is called inaccessible.
- An empty room whose state can be defined by its temperature is an example of an accessible environment.
- Information about an event on earth is an example of Inaccessible environment.

Good Behavior: The Concept of Rationality

An agent should act as a Rational Agent. A rational agent is one that does the right thing that is the right actions will cause the agent to be most successful in the environment.

Performance measures

A performance measures embodies the criterion for success of an agent's behavior. As a general rule, it is better to design performance measures according to what one actually wants in the environment, rather than according to how one thinks the agent should behave.

Rationality

What is rational at any given time depends on four things:

- The performance measure that defines the criterion of success.
The agent's prior knowledge of the environment.
The actions that the agent can perform.
The agent's percept sequence to date.

This leads to a **definition of a rational agent** (ideal rational agent)

“For each possible percept sequence, a rational agent should select an action that is expected to maximize its performance measure, given the evidence provided by the percept sequence and whatever built-in knowledge the agent has, that is the task of rational agent is to improve the performance measure depends on percept sequence”

Omniscience, learning, and autonomy

An **omniscient agent** knows the actual outcome of its actions and can act accordingly; but omniscience is impossible in reality.

A rational agent not only to gather information, but also to learn as much as possible from what it perceives. The agent's initial configuration could reflect some prior knowledge of the environment, but as the agent gains experience this may be modified and augmented.

Summary

- An **agent** is something that perceives and acts in an environment. The **agent function** for an agent specifies the action taken by the agent in response to any percept sequence.
- The **performance measure** evaluates the behavior of the agent in an environment. A **rational agent** acts so as to maximize the expected value of the performance measure, given the percept sequence it has seen so far.
- A **task environment** specification includes the performance measure, the external environment, the actuators, and the sensors. In designing an agent, the first step must always be to specify the task environment as fully as possible.
- Task environments vary along several significant dimensions. They can be fully or partially observable, single-agent or multiagent, deterministic or nondeterministic, episodic or sequential, static or dynamic, discrete or continuous, and known or unknown.
- In cases where the performance measure is unknown or hard to specify correctly, there is a significant risk of the agent optimizing the wrong objective. In such cases the agent design should reflect uncertainty about the true objective.
- The **agent program** implements the agent function. There exists a variety of basic agent program designs reflecting the kind of information made explicit and used in the decision process. The designs vary in efficiency, compactness, and flexibility. The appropriate design of the agent program depends on the nature of the environment.
- **Simple reflex agents** respond directly to percepts, whereas **model-based reflex agents** maintain internal state to track aspects of the world that are not evident in the current percept. **Goal-based agents** act to achieve their goals, and **utility-based agents** try to maximize their own expected “happiness.”
- All agents can improve their performance through **learning**.

Search Algorithms in Artificial Intelligence

Search algorithms are one of the most important areas of Artificial Intelligence. This topic will explain all about the search algorithms in AI.

Problem-solving agents:

In Artificial Intelligence, Search techniques are universal problem-solving methods. **Rational agents** or **Problem-solving agents** in AI mostly used these search strategies or algorithms to solve a specific problem and provide the best result. Problem-solving agents are the goal-based agents and use atomic representation. In this topic, we will learn various problem-solving search algorithms.

Search Algorithm Terminologies:

- **Search:** Searching is a step by step procedure to solve a search-problem in a given search space. A search problem can have three main factors:
 - a. **Search Space:** Search space represents a set of possible solutions, which a system may have.
 - b. **Start State:** It is a state from where agent begins **the search**.
 - c. **Goal test:** It is a function which observe the current state and returns whether the goal state is achieved or not.
- **Search tree:** A tree representation of search problem is called Search tree. The root of the search tree is the root node which is corresponding to the initial state.
- **Actions:** It gives the description of all the available actions to the agent.
- **Transition model:** A description of what each action do, can be represented as a transition model.
- **Path Cost:** It is a function which assigns a numeric cost to each path.

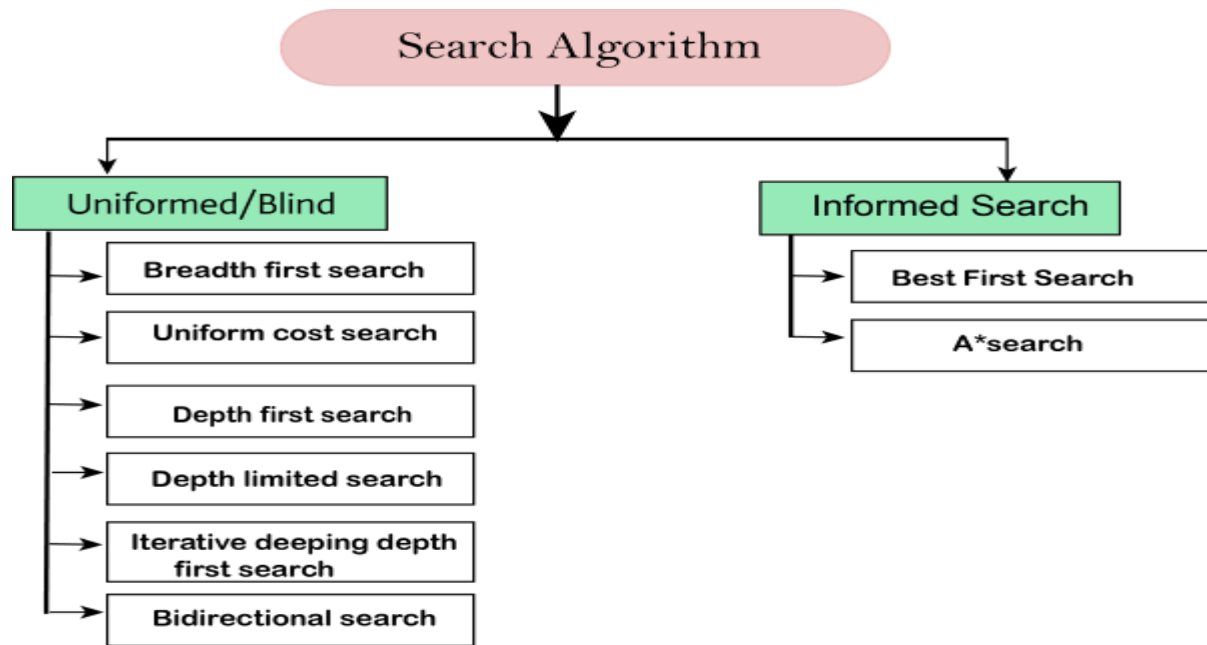
- **Solution:** It is an action sequence which leads from the start node to the goal node.
- **Optimal Solution:** If a solution has the lowest cost among all solutions.

Properties of Search Algorithms:

- Following are the four essential properties of search algorithms to compare the efficiency of these algorithms:
- **Completeness:** A search algorithm is said to be complete if it guarantees to return a solution if at least any solution exists for any random input.
- **Optimality:** If a solution found for an algorithm is guaranteed to be the best solution (lowest path cost) among all other solutions, then such a solution for is said to be an optimal solution.
- **Time Complexity:** Time complexity is a measure of time for an algorithm to complete its task.
- **Space Complexity:** It is the maximum storage space required at any point during the search, as the complexity of the problem.

Types of search algorithms

Based on the search problems we can classify the search algorithms into uninformed (Blind search) search and informed search (Heuristic search) algorithms.



Uninformed/Blind Search:

The uninformed search does not contain any domain knowledge such as closeness, the location of the goal. It operates in a brute-force way as it only includes information about how to traverse the tree and how to identify leaf and goal nodes. Uninformed search applies a way in which search tree is searched without any information about the search space like initial state operators and test for the goal, so it is also called blind search. It examines each node of the tree until it achieves the goal node.

It can be divided into five main types:

- Breadth-first search
- Uniform cost search
- Depth-first search
- Iterative deepening depth-first search
- Bidirectional Search

Informed Search

Informed search algorithms use domain knowledge. In an informed search, problem information is available which can guide the search. Informed search strategies can find a solution more efficiently than an uninformed search strategy. Informed search is also called a Heuristic search.

A heuristic is a way which might not always be guaranteed for best solutions but guaranteed to find a good solution in reasonable time.

Informed search can solve much complex problem which could not be solved in another way.

An example of informed search algorithms is a traveling salesman problem.

1. Greedy Search
2. A* Search

Uninformed Search Algorithms

Uninformed search is a class of general-purpose search algorithms which operates in brute force-way. Uninformed search algorithms do not have additional information about state or search space other than how to traverse the tree, so it is also called blind search.

Following are the various types of uninformed search algorithms:

1. Breadth-first Search
2. Depth-first Search
3. Depth-limited Search
4. **Iterative deepening depth-first search**

5. Uniform cost search

6. Bidirectional Search

1. Breadth-first Search:

- Breadth-first search is the most common search strategy for traversing a tree or graph. This algorithm searches breadthwise in a tree or graph, so it is called breadth-first search.
- BFS algorithm starts searching from the root node of the tree and expands all successor node at the current level before moving to nodes of next level.
- The breadth-first search algorithm is an example of a general-graph search algorithm.
- Breadth-first search implemented using FIFO queue data structure.

Advantages:

- BFS will provide a solution if any solution exists.
- If there are more than one solutions for a given problem, then BFS will provide the minimal solution which requires the least number of steps.

Disadvantages:

- It requires lots of memory since each level of the tree must be saved into memory to expand the next level.
- BFS needs lots of time if the solution is far away from the root node.

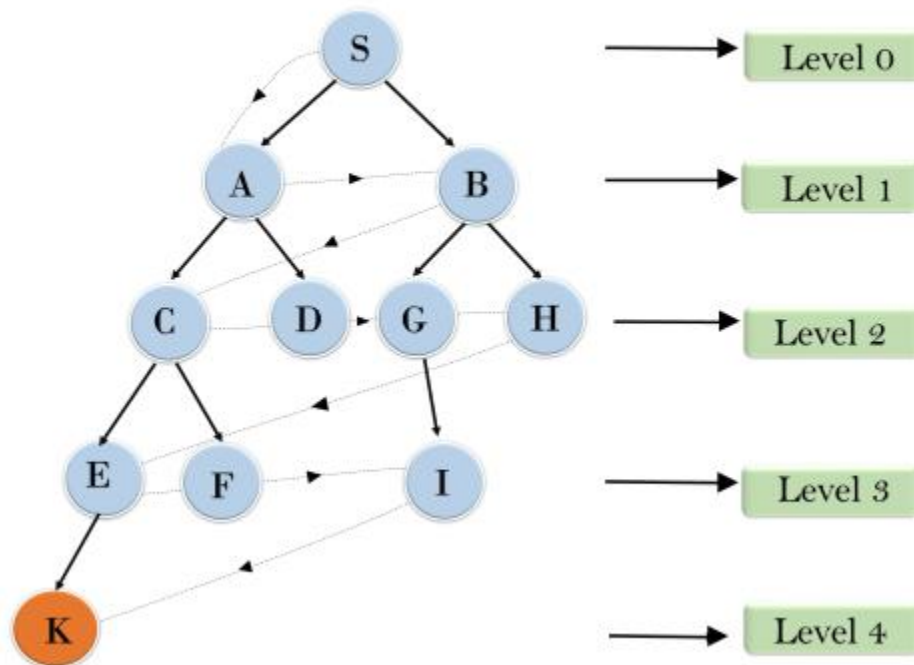
Example:

In the below tree structure, we have shown the traversing of the tree using BFS algorithm from the root node S to goal node K. BFS search algorithm traverse in layers,

so it will follow the path which is shown by the dotted arrow, and the traversed path will be:

1. S---> A--->B---->C--->D--->G--->H--->E--->F---->I---->K

Breadth First Search



Time Complexity: Time Complexity of BFS algorithm can be obtained by the number of nodes traversed in BFS until the shallowest Node. Where the d = depth of shallowest solution and b is a node at every state.

$$T(b) = 1 + b^1 + b^2 + \dots + b^d = O(b^d)$$

Space Complexity: Space complexity of BFS algorithm is given by the Memory size of frontier which is $O(b^d)$.

Completeness: BFS is complete, which means if the shallowest goal node is at some finite depth, then BFS will find a solution.

Optimality: BFS is optimal if path cost is a non-decreasing function of the depth of the node.

2. Depth-first Search

- Depth-first search is a recursive algorithm for traversing a tree or graph data structure.
- It is called the depth-first search because it starts from the root node and follows each path to its greatest depth node before moving to the next path.
- DFS uses a stack data structure for its implementation.
- The process of the DFS algorithm is similar to the BFS algorithm.

Note: Backtracking is an algorithm technique for finding all possible solutions using recursion.

Advantage:

- DFS requires very less memory as it only needs to store a stack of the nodes on the path from root node to the current node.
- It takes less time to reach to the goal node than BFS algorithm (if it traverses in the right path).

Disadvantage:

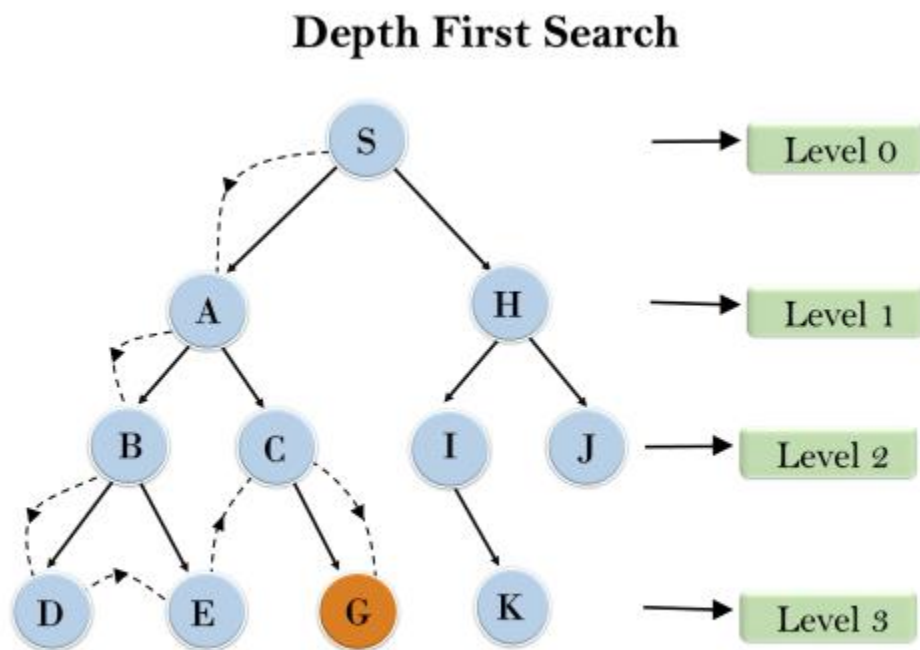
- There is the possibility that many states keep re-occurring, and there is no guarantee of finding the solution.
- DFS algorithm goes for deep down searching and sometime it may go to the infinite loop.

Example:

In the below search tree, we have shown the flow of depth-first search, and it will follow the order as:

Root node--->Left node ----> right node.

It will start searching from root node S, and traverse A, then B, then D and E, after traversing E, it will backtrack the tree as E has no other successor and still goal node is not found. After backtracking it will traverse node C and then G, and here it will terminate as it found goal node.



Completeness: DFS search algorithm is complete within finite state space as it will expand every node within a limited search tree.

Time Complexity: Time complexity of DFS will be equivalent to the node traversed by the algorithm. It is given by:

$$T(n) = 1 + n^2 + n^3 + \dots + n^m = O(n^m)$$

Where, m= maximum depth of any node and this can be much larger than d (Shallowest solution depth)

Space Complexity: DFS algorithm needs to store only single path from the root node, hence space complexity of DFS is equivalent to the size of the fringe set, which is **O(bm)**.

Optimal: DFS search algorithm is non-optimal, as it may generate a large number of steps or high cost to reach to the goal node.

3. Depth-Limited Search Algorithm:

A depth-limited search algorithm is similar to depth-first search with a predetermined limit. Depth-limited search can solve the drawback of the infinite path in the Depth-first search. In this algorithm, the node at the depth limit will treat as it has no successor nodes further.

Depth-limited search can be terminated with two Conditions of failure:

- Standard failure value: It indicates that problem does not have any solution.
- Cutoff failure value: It defines no solution for the problem within a given depth limit.

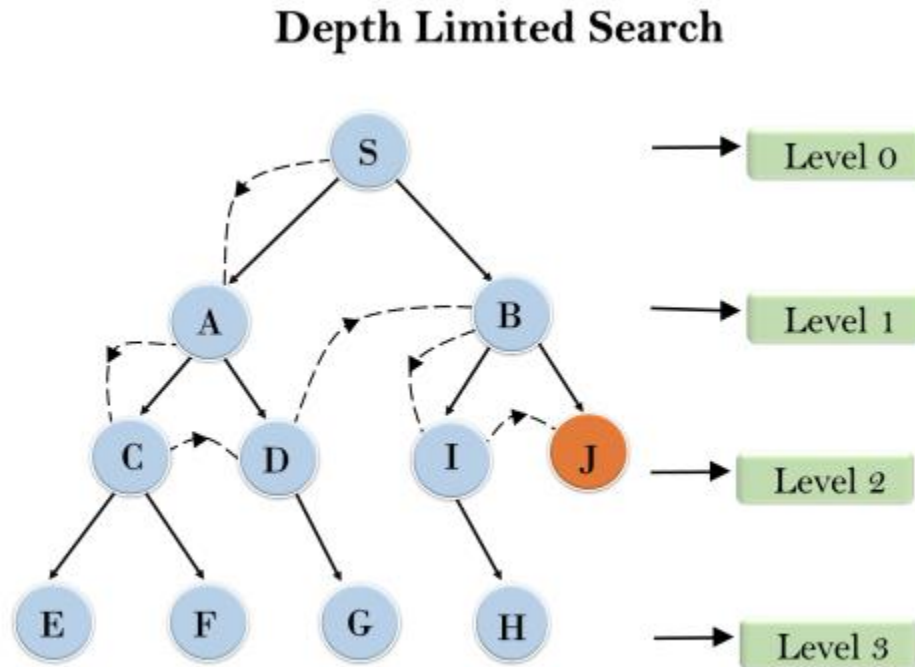
Advantages:

Depth-limited search is Memory efficient.

Disadvantages:

- Depth-limited search also has a disadvantage of incompleteness.
- It may not be optimal if the problem has more than one solution.

Example:



Completeness: DLS search algorithm is complete if the solution is above the depth-limit.

Time Complexity: Time complexity of DLS algorithm is $O(b^l)$.

Space Complexity: Space complexity of DLS algorithm is $O(b \times l)$.

Optimal: Depth-limited search can be viewed as a special case of DFS, and it is also not optimal even if $l > d$.

4. Uniform-cost Search Algorithm:

Uniform-cost search is a searching algorithm used for traversing a weighted tree or graph. This algorithm comes into play when a different cost is available for each edge. The primary goal of the uniform-cost search is to find a path to the goal node which has the lowest cumulative cost. Uniform-cost search expands nodes according to their path costs from the root node. It can be used to solve any graph/tree where the optimal cost is in demand. A uniform-cost search algorithm is implemented by the priority queue. It gives maximum priority to the lowest cumulative cost. Uniform cost search is equivalent to BFS algorithm if the path cost of all edges is the same.

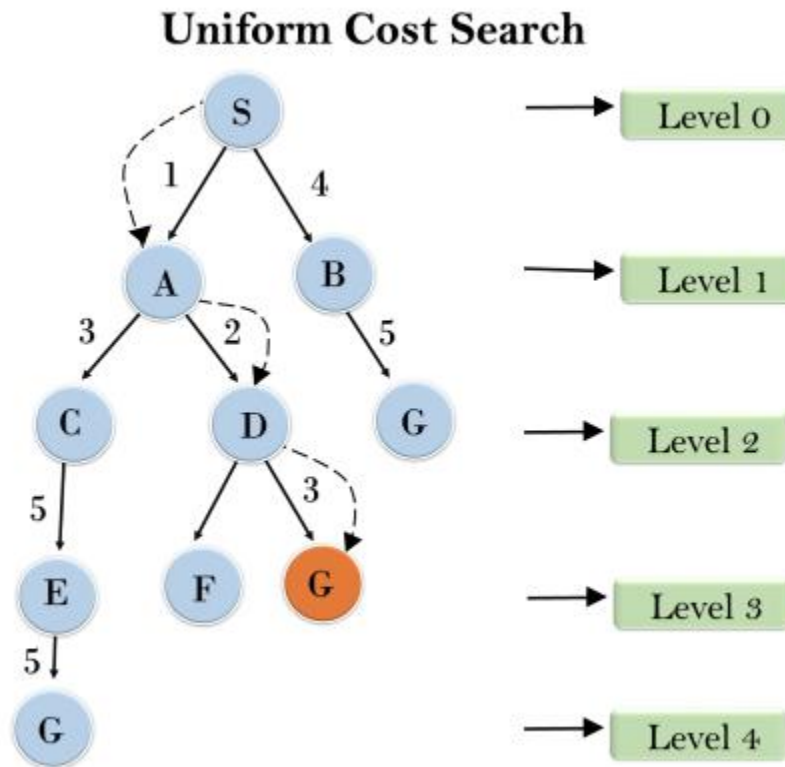
Advantages:

- Uniform cost search is optimal because at every state the path with the least cost is chosen.

Disadvantages:

- It does not care about the number of steps involve in searching and only concerned about path cost. Due to which this algorithm may be stuck in an infinite loop.

Example:



Completeness:

Uniform-cost search is complete, such as if there is a solution, UCS will find it.

Time Complexity:

Let C^* is **Cost of the optimal solution**, and ϵ is each step to get closer to the goal node. Then the number of steps is $= C^*/\epsilon + 1$. Here we have taken +1, as we start from state 0 and end to C^*/ϵ .

Hence, the worst-case time complexity of Uniform-cost search is $O(b^{1 + \lceil C^*/\epsilon \rceil})$.

Space Complexity:

The same logic is for space complexity so, the worst-case space complexity of Uniform-cost search is $O(b^{1 + \lceil C^*/\epsilon \rceil})$.

Optimal:

Uniform-cost search is always optimal as it only selects a path with the lowest path cost.

5. Iterative deepening depth-first Search:

The iterative deepening algorithm is a combination of DFS and BFS algorithms. This search algorithm finds out the best depth limit and does it by gradually increasing the limit until a goal is found.

This algorithm performs depth-first search up to a certain "depth limit", and it keeps increasing the depth limit after each iteration until the goal node is found.

This Search algorithm combines the benefits of Breadth-first search's fast search and depth-first search's memory efficiency.

The iterative search algorithm is useful uninformed search when search space is large, and depth of goal node is unknown.

Advantages:

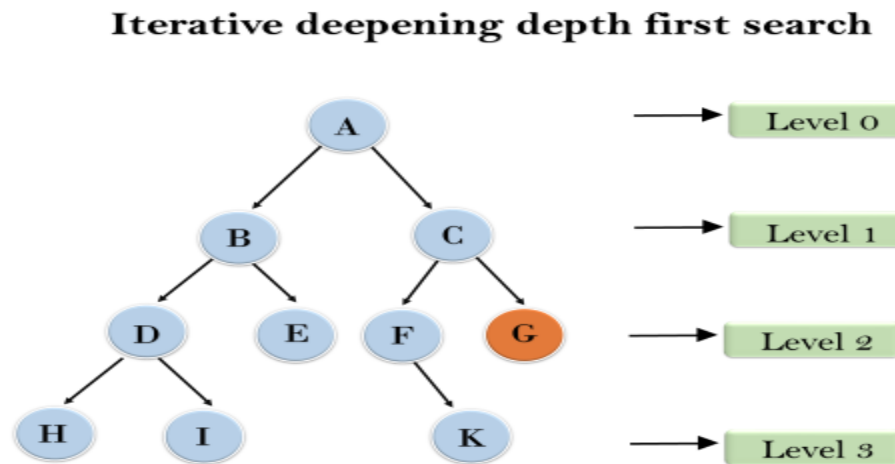
- It combines the benefits of BFS and DFS search algorithm in terms of fast search and memory efficiency.

Disadvantages:

- The main drawback of IDDFS is that it repeats all the work of the previous phase.

Example:

Following tree structure is showing the iterative deepening depth-first search. IDDFS algorithm performs various iterations until it does not find the goal node. The iteration performed by the algorithm is given as:



1'st	Iteration----->	A
2'nd	Iteration----->	A, B, C
3'rd	Iteration----->	A, B, D, E, C, F, G
4'th	Iteration----->	A, B, D, H, I, E, C, F, K, G

In the fourth iteration, the algorithm will find the goal node.

Completeness:

This algorithm is complete if the branching factor is finite.

Time Complexity:

Let's suppose b is the branching factor and depth is d then the worst-case time complexity is $O(b^d)$.

Space Complexity:

The space complexity of IDDFS will be $O(bd)$.

Optimal:

IDDFS algorithm is optimal if path cost is a non- decreasing function of the depth of the node.

6. Bidirectional Search Algorithm:

Bidirectional search algorithm runs two simultaneous searches, one from initial state called as forward-search and other from goal node called as backward-search, to find the goal node. Bidirectional search replaces one single search graph with two small subgraphs in which one starts the search from an initial vertex and other starts from goal vertex. The search stops when these two graphs intersect each other.

Bidirectional search can use search techniques such as BFS, DFS, DLS, etc.

Advantages:

- Bidirectional search is fast.
- Bidirectional search requires less memory

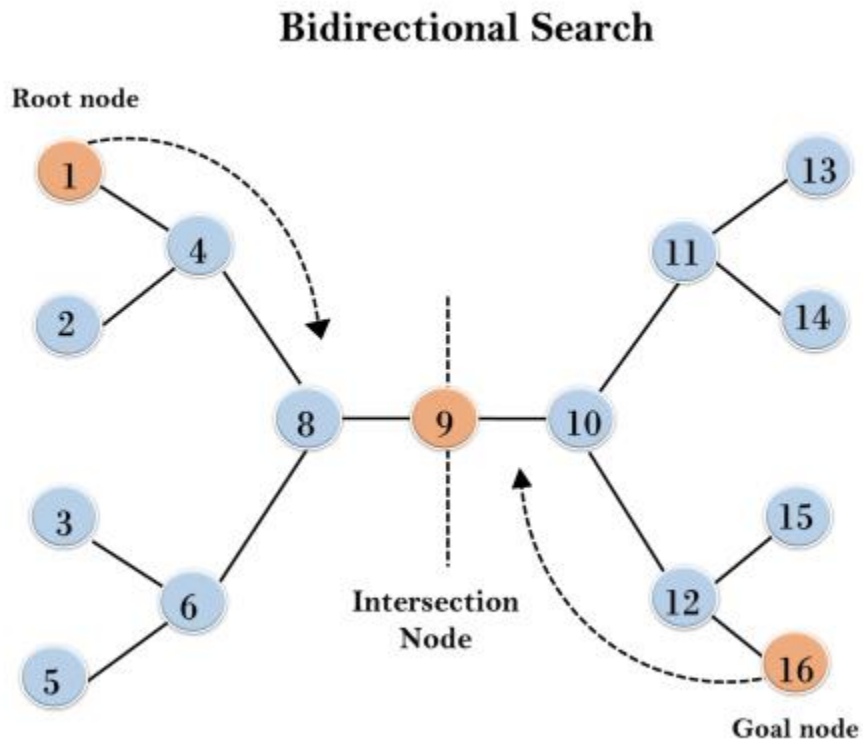
Disadvantages:

- Implementation of the bidirectional search tree is difficult.
- **In bidirectional search, one should know the goal state in advance.**

Example:

In the below search tree, bidirectional search algorithm is applied. This algorithm divides one graph/tree into two sub-graphs. It starts traversing from node 1 in the forward direction and starts from goal node 16 in the backward direction.

The algorithm terminates at node 9 where two searches meet.



Completeness: Bidirectional Search is complete if we use BFS in both searches.

Time Complexity: Time complexity of bidirectional search using BFS is $O(b^d)$.

Space Complexity: Space complexity of bidirectional search is $O(b^d)$.

Optimal: Bidirectional search is Optimal.

The informed search algorithm is more useful for large search space. Informed search algorithm uses the idea of heuristic, so it is also called Heuristic search.

Heuristics function: Heuristic is a function which is used in Informed Search, and it finds the most promising path. It takes the current state of the agent as its input and produces the estimation of how close agent is from the goal. The heuristic method, however, might not always give the best solution, but it guaranteed to find a good solution in reasonable time. Heuristic function estimates how close a state is to the goal. It is represented by $h(n)$, and it calculates the cost of an optimal path between the pair of states. The value of the heuristic function is always positive.

Admissibility of the heuristic function is given as:

1. $h(n) \leq h^*(n)$

Here $h(n)$ is heuristic cost, and $h^*(n)$ is the estimated cost. Hence heuristic cost should be less than or equal to the estimated cost.

Pure Heuristic Search:

Pure heuristic search is the simplest form of heuristic search algorithms. It expands nodes based on their heuristic value $h(n)$. It maintains two lists, OPEN and CLOSED list. In the CLOSED list, it places those nodes which have already expanded and in the OPEN list, it places nodes which have yet not been expanded.

On each iteration, each node n with the lowest heuristic value is expanded and generates all its successors and n is placed to the closed list. The algorithm continues until a goal state is found.

In the informed search we will discuss two main algorithms which are given below:

- **Best First Search Algorithm(Greedy search)**
- **A* Search Algorithm**

1.) Best-first Search Algorithm (Greedy Search):

Greedy best-first search algorithm always selects the path which appears best at that moment. It is the combination of depth-first search and breadth-first search algorithms. It uses the heuristic function and search. Best-first search allows us to take the advantages of both algorithms. With the help of best-first search, at each step, we can choose the most promising node. In the best first search algorithm, we expand the node which is closest to the goal node and the closest cost is estimated by heuristic function, i.e.

$$f(n) = g(n) + h(n).$$

Where, $h(n)$ = estimated cost from node n to the goal.

The greedy best first algorithm is implemented by the priority queue.

Best first search algorithm:

- **Step 1:** Place the starting node into the OPEN list.
- **Step 2:** If the OPEN list is empty, Stop and return failure.
- **Step 3:** Remove the node n , from the OPEN list which has the lowest value of $h(n)$, and places it in the CLOSED list.
- **Step 4:** Expand the node n , and generate the successors of node n .
- **Step 5:** Check each successor of node n , and find whether any node is a goal node or not. If any successor node is goal node, then return success and terminate the search, else proceed to Step 6.
- **Step 6:** For each successor node, algorithm checks for evaluation function $f(n)$, and then check if the node has been in either OPEN or CLOSED list. If the node has not been in both list, then add it to the OPEN list.

- **Step 7:** Return to Step 2.

Advantages:

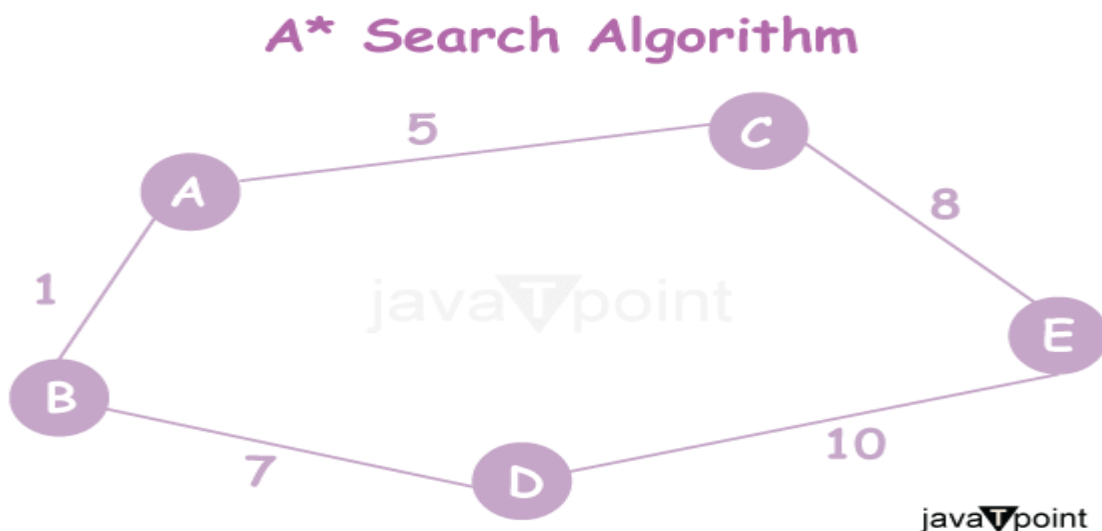
- Best first search can switch between BFS and DFS by gaining the advantages of both the algorithms.
- This algorithm is more efficient than BFS and DFS algorithms.

Disadvantages:

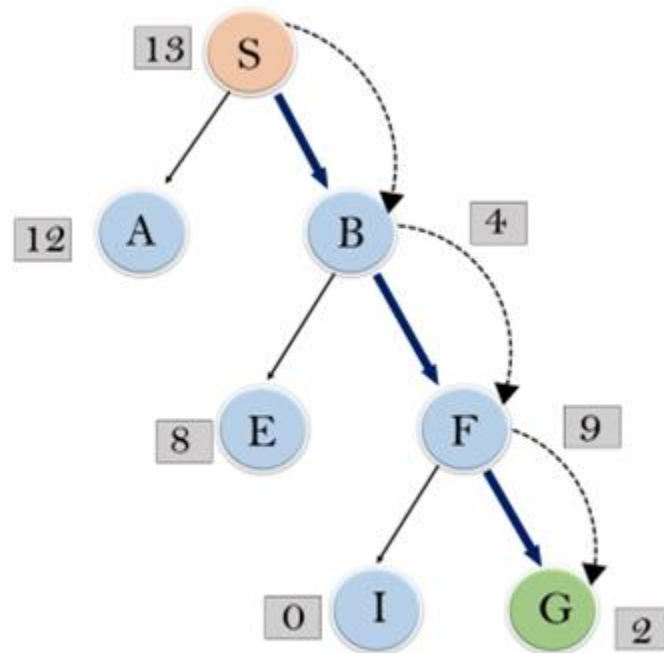
- It can behave as an unguided depth-first search in the worst case scenario.
- It can get stuck in a loop as DFS.
- This algorithm is not optimal.

Example:

Consider the below search problem, and we will traverse it using greedy best-first search. At each iteration, each node is expanded using evaluation function $f(n)=h(n)$, which is given in the below table.



In this search example, we are using two lists which are **OPEN** and **CLOSED** Lists. Following are the iteration for traversing the above example.



Expand the nodes of S and put in the CLOSED list

Initialization: Open [A, B], Closed [S]

Iteration 1: Open [A], Closed [S, B]

Iteration 2: Open [E, F, A], Closed [S, B]
: Open [E, A], Closed [S, B, F]

Iteration 3: Open [I, G, E, A], Closed [S, B, F]
: Open [I, E, A], Closed [S, B, F, G]

Hence the final solution path will be: **S----> B----->F----> G**

Time Complexity: The worst case time complexity of Greedy best first search is $O(b^m)$.

Space Complexity: The worst case space complexity of Greedy best first search is $O(b^m)$. Where, m is the maximum depth of the search space.

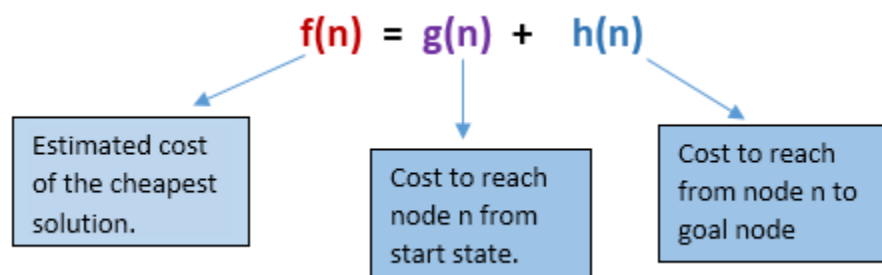
Complete: Greedy best-first search is also incomplete, even if the given state space is finite.

Optimal: Greedy best first search algorithm is not optimal.

2.) A* Search Algorithm:

A* search is the most commonly known form of best-first search. It uses heuristic function $h(n)$, and cost to reach the node n from the start state $g(n)$. It has combined features of UCS and greedy best-first search, by which it solve the problem efficiently. A* search algorithm finds the shortest path through the search space using the heuristic function. This search algorithm expands less search tree and provides optimal result faster. A* algorithm is similar to UCS except that it uses $g(n)+h(n)$ instead of $g(n)$.

In A* search algorithm, we use search heuristic as well as the cost to reach the node. Hence we can combine both costs as following, and this sum is called as a **fitness number**.



At each point in the search space, only those node is expanded which have the lowest value of $f(n)$, and the algorithm terminates when the goal node is found.

Algorithm of A* search:

Step1: Place the starting node in the OPEN list.

Step 2: Check if the OPEN list is empty or not, if the list is empty then return failure and stops.

Step 3: Select the node from the OPEN list which has the smallest value of evaluation function ($g+h$), if node n is goal node then return success and stop, otherwise

Step 4: Expand node n and generate all of its successors, and put n into the closed list. For each successor n' , check whether n' is already in the OPEN or CLOSED list, if not then compute evaluation function for n' and place into Open list.

Step 5: Else if node n' is already in OPEN and CLOSED, then it should be attached to the back pointer which reflects the lowest $g(n')$ value.

Step 6: Return to **Step 2**.

Advantages:

- A* search algorithm is the best algorithm than other search algorithms.
- A* search algorithm is optimal and complete.
- This algorithm can solve very complex problems.

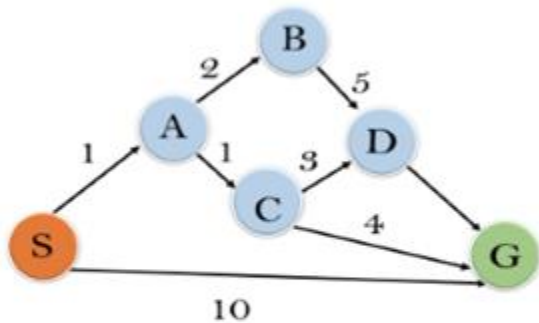
Disadvantages:

- It does not always produce the shortest path as it mostly based on heuristics and approximation.
- A* search algorithm has some complexity issues.
- The main drawback of A* is memory requirement as it keeps all generated nodes in the memory, so it is not practical for various large-scale problems.

Example:

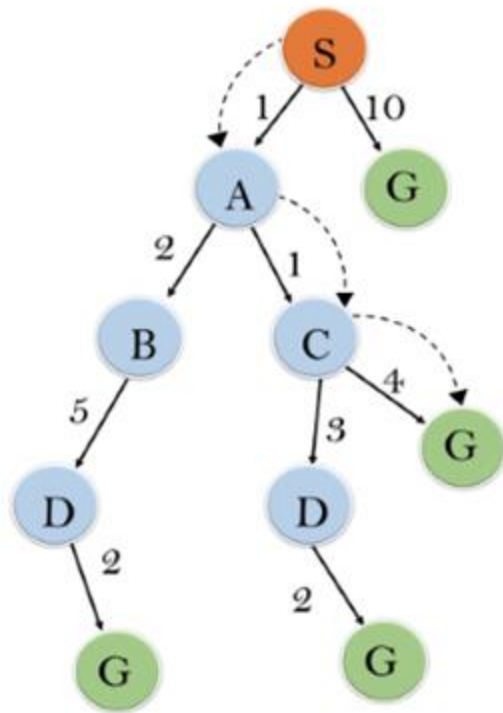
In this example, we will traverse the given graph using the A* algorithm. The heuristic value of all states is given in the below table so we will calculate the $f(n)$ of each state using the formula $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$, where $g(n)$ is the cost to reach any node from start state.

Here we will use OPEN and CLOSED list.



State	$h(n)$
S	5
A	3
B	4
C	2
D	6
G	0

Solution:



Initialization: $\{(S, 5)\}$

Iteration1: $\{(S \rightarrow A, 4), (S \rightarrow G, 10)\}$

Iteration2: $\{(S \rightarrow A \rightarrow C, 4), (S \rightarrow A \rightarrow B, 7), (S \rightarrow G, 10)\}$

Iteration3: $\{(S \rightarrow A \rightarrow C \rightarrow G, 6), (S \rightarrow A \rightarrow C \rightarrow D, 11), (S \rightarrow A \rightarrow B, 7), (S \rightarrow G, 10)\}$

Iteration 4 will give the final result, as $S \rightarrow A \rightarrow C \rightarrow G$ it provides the optimal path with cost 6.

Points to remember:

- A* algorithm returns the path which occurred first, and it does not search for all remaining paths.
- The efficiency of A* algorithm depends on the quality of heuristic.

- A* algorithm expands all nodes which satisfy the condition $f(n) \leq l_i$

Complete: A* algorithm is complete as long as:

- Branching factor is finite.
- Cost at every action is fixed.

Optimal: A* search algorithm is optimal if it follows below two conditions:

- **Admissible:** the first condition requires for optimality is that $h(n)$ should be an admissible heuristic for A* tree search. An admissible heuristic is optimistic in nature.
- **Consistency:** Second required condition is consistency for only A* graph-search.

If the heuristic function is admissible, then A* tree search will always find the least cost path.

Time Complexity: The time complexity of A* search algorithm depends on heuristic function, and the number of nodes expanded is exponential to the depth of solution d . So the time complexity is $O(b^d)$, where b is the branching factor.

Space Complexity: The space complexity of A* search algorithm is $O(b^d)$