



# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



# Limitations of uninformed search

7	2	4
5		6
8	3	1

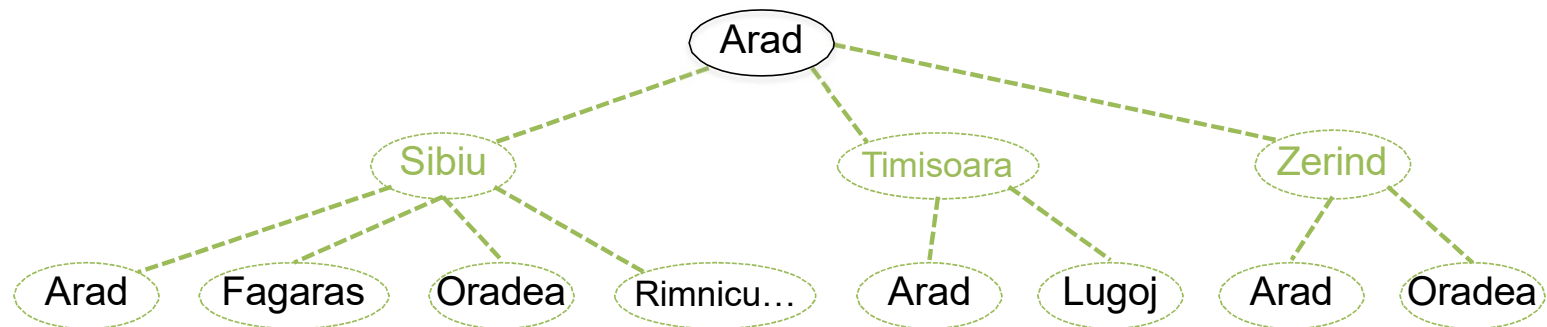
Start State

	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

Goal State

- Search space size makes search tedious
  - Combinatorial explosion
- Ex: 8-Puzzle
  - Average solution cost is  $\sim 22$  steps
  - Branching factor  $\sim 3$
  - Exhaustive search to depth 22:  $3.1 \times 10^{10}$  states
  - 24-Puzzle:  $10^{24}$  states (much worse!)

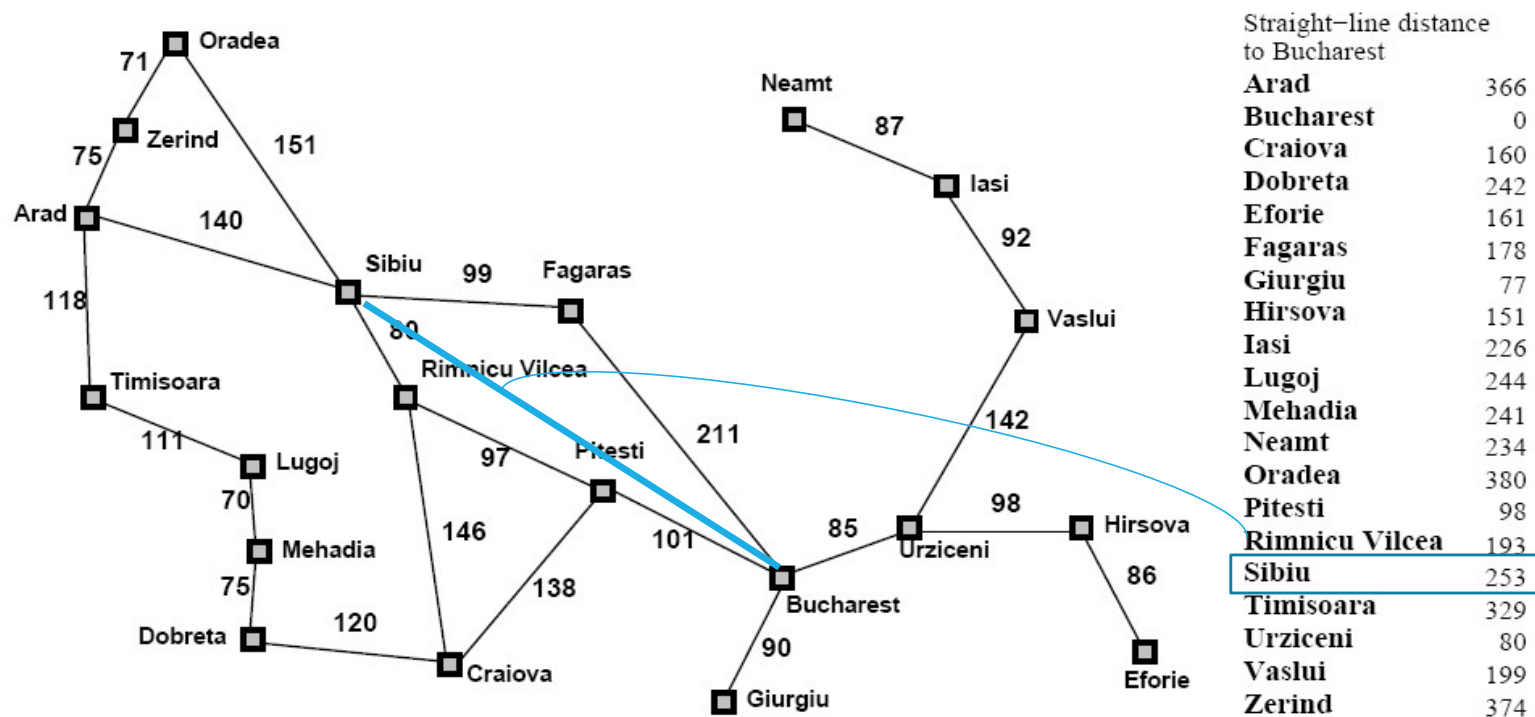
# Recall: tree search



TREE-SEARCH (*problem*, *strategy*) : returns a solution  
initialize the search tree using the initial state of *problem*  
while (true):  
    if no candidates for expansion: return failure  
    choose a leaf node for expansion according to *strategy*  
    if the node contains a goal state: return the corresponding solution  
    else: expand the node and add the resulting nodes to the search tree

# INFORMED (HEURISTIC) SEARCH

Informed Search - one that uses problem-specific knowledge beyond the definition of the problem itself.



# HEURISTIC FUNCTION

- Heuristic
  - Definition: a commonsense rule or rules intended to increase the probability of solving some problem
  - Using rules of thumb to find answers
- Heuristic function  $h(n)$ 
  - Estimate of (optimal) remaining cost from  $n$  to goal
  - Defined using only the *state* of node  $n$
  - $h(n) = 0$  if  $n$  is a goal node
  - Example: straight line distance from  $n$  to Bucharest
    - Not true state space distance, just estimate! Actual distance can be higher
- Provides problem-specific knowledge to the search algorithm

# HEURISTIC FUNCTION

- Idea: use a heuristic function  $h(n)$  for each node
  - $g(n)$  = known path cost so far to node  $n$
  - $h(n)$  = *estimate* of (optimal) cost to goal from node  $n$
  - $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$  = *estimate* of total cost to goal through  $n$
  - $f(n)$  provides an estimate for the total cost
- “Best first” search implementation
  - Order the nodes in frontier by an evaluation function
  - Greedy Best-First: order by  $h(n)$
  - A\* search: order by  $f(n)$
- Search efficiency depends on heuristic quality!
  - The better your heuristic, the faster your search!

# BEST FIRST SEARCH

Best-first search is an instance of the general TREE-SEARCH or GRAPH-SEARCH algorithm in which a node is selected for expansion based on an **evaluation function,  $f(n)$** .

The implementation of best-first graph search is identical to that for uniform-cost search except for the **use of  $f$  instead of  $g$**  to order the priority queue.

The choice of  **$f$**  determines the search strategy.

# RELATIONSHIP OF SEARCH ALGORITHMS

- Notation
  - $g(n)$  = known cost so far to reach  $n$
  - $h(n)$  = estimated (optimal) cost from  $n$  to goal
  - $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$  = estimated (optimal) total cost through  $n$
- Uniform cost search: sort frontier by  $g(n)$
- Greedy best-first search: sort frontier by  $h(n)$
- A\* search: sort frontier by  $f(n)$ 
  - Optimal for admissible / consistent heuristics
  - Generally the preferred heuristic search framework

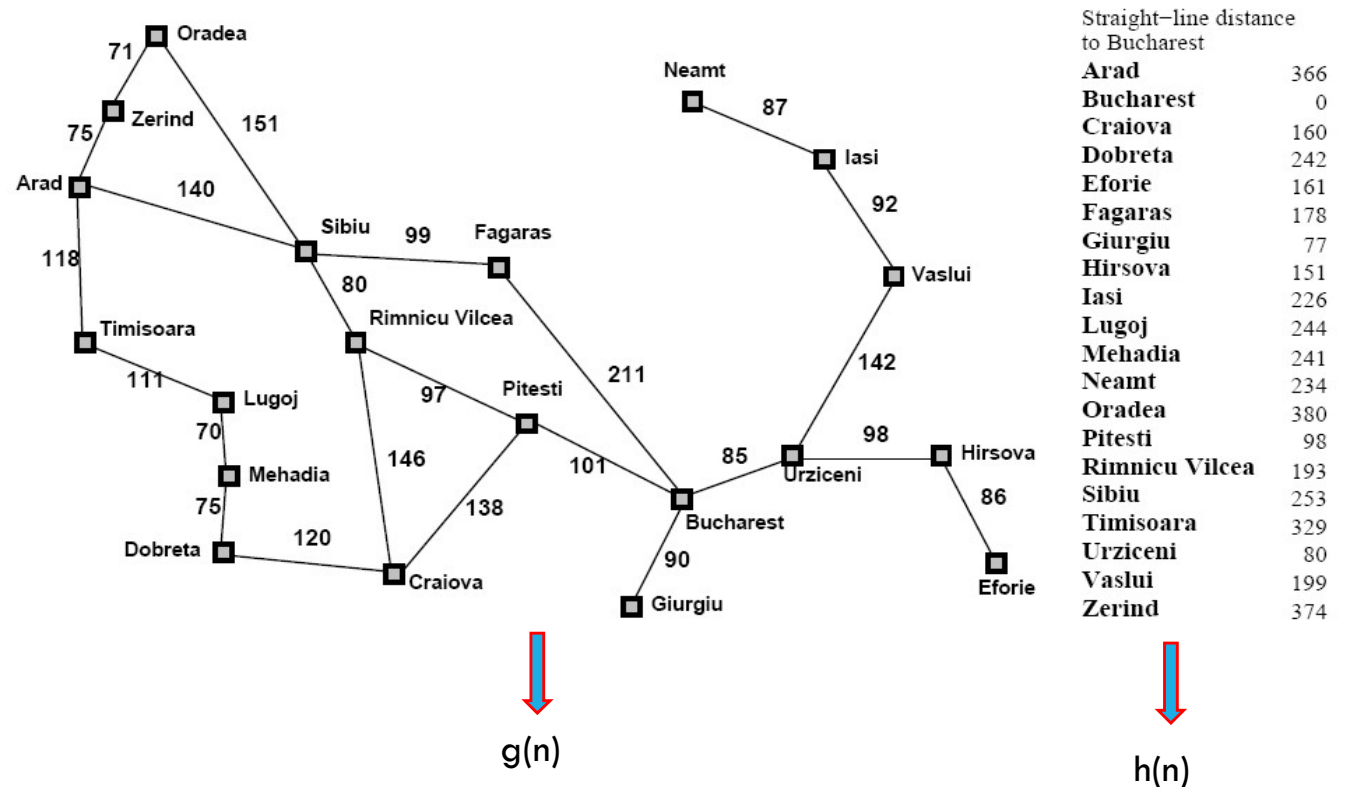


# STRATEGY 1: GREEDY BEST-FIRST SEARCH

$$f(n) = h(n)$$

$h(n)$  -> straight line distance of node  $n$  from goal (Bucharest) as mentioned in table

$g(n)$  -> path cost from starting node (Arad) until node  $n$  (implicitly determined from the problem itself)

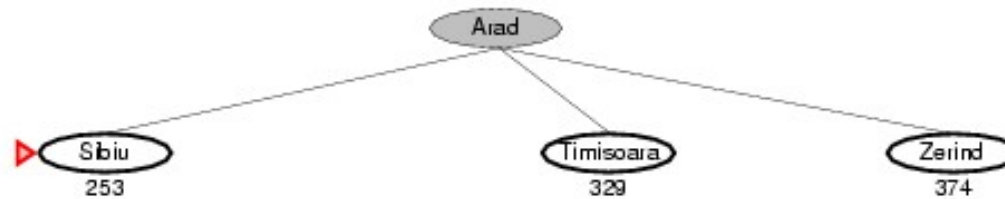


# GREEDY BEST-FIRST SEARCH EXAMPLE



Straight-line distance to Bucharest	
<b>Arad</b>	366
<b>Bucharest</b>	0
<b>Craiova</b>	160
<b>Dobreta</b>	242
<b>Eforie</b>	161
<b>Fagaras</b>	178
<b>Giurgiu</b>	77
<b>Hirsova</b>	151
<b>Iasi</b>	226
<b>Lugoj</b>	244
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<b>Pitesti</b>	98
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<b>Sibiu</b>	253
<b>Timisoara</b>	329
<b>Urziceni</b>	80
<b>Vaslui</b>	199
<b>Zerind</b>	374

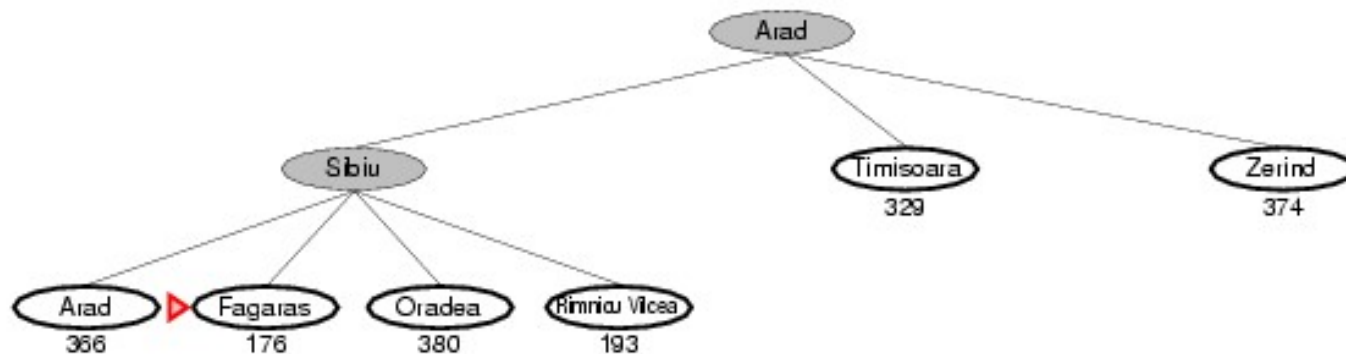
# GREEDY BEST-FIRST SEARCH EXAMPLE



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to Bucharest

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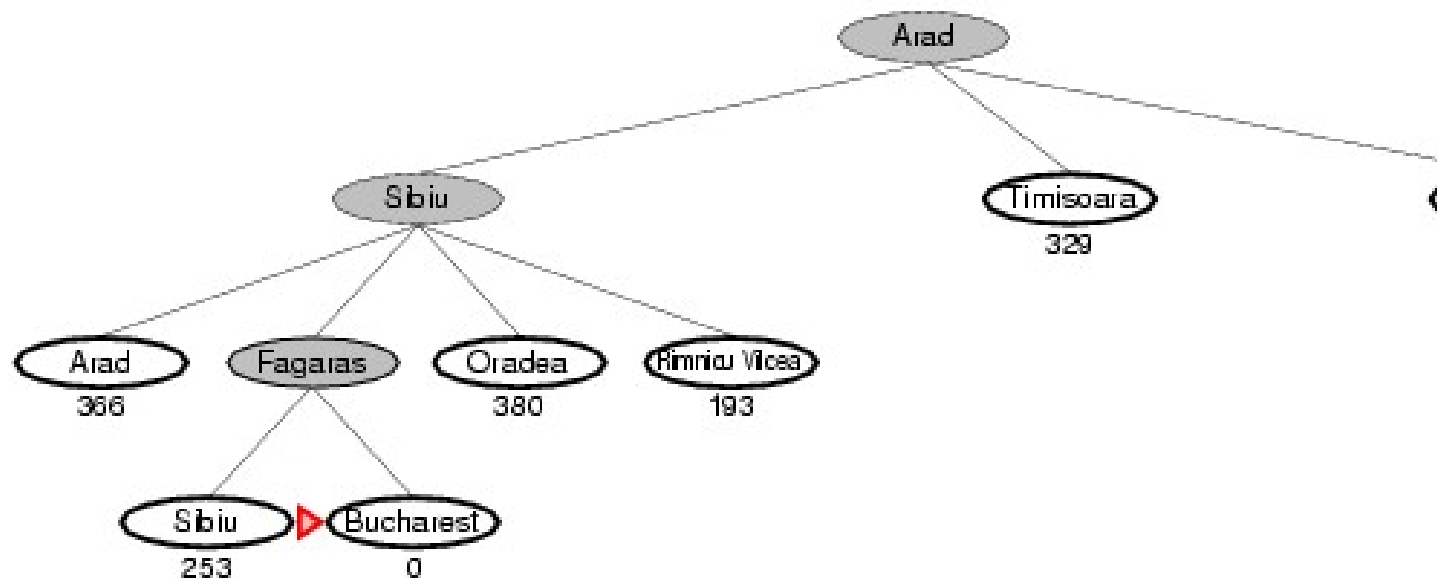
# GREEDY BEST-FIRST SEARCH EXAMPLE



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# GREEDY BEST-FIRST SEARCH EXAMPLE



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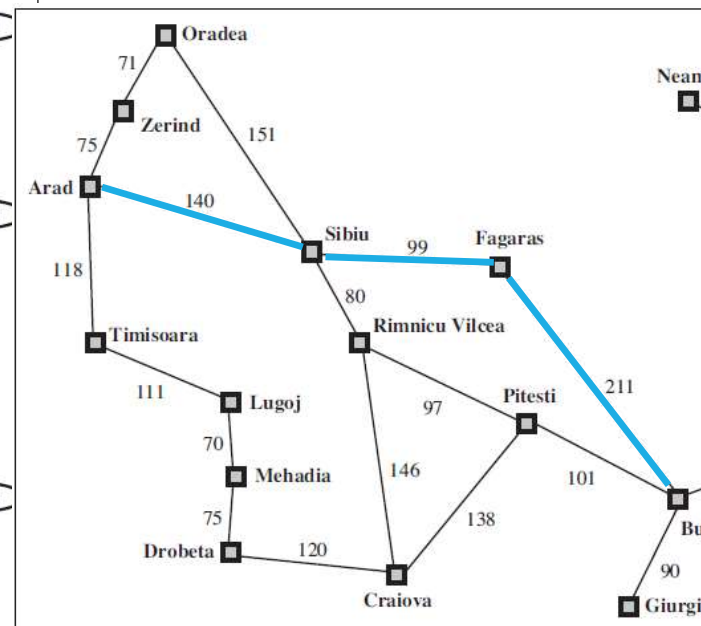
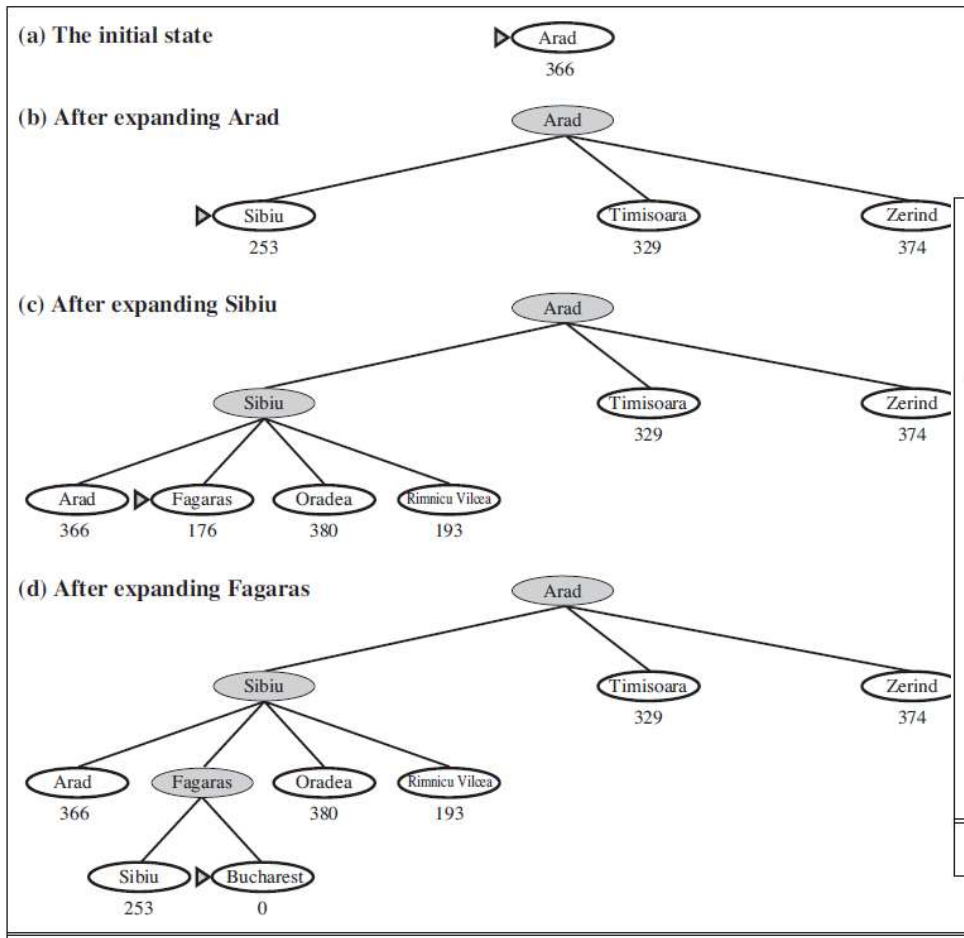


Figure 3.2 A simplified road map of part of Romania.

Straight-line distance  
to Bucharest

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# A\* SEARCH:

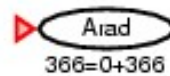
Minimizes the total estimated cost solution

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

Since  $g(n)$  gives the path cost from the start node to node  $n$ , and  $h(n)$  is the estimated cost of the cheapest path from  $n$  to the goal, we have

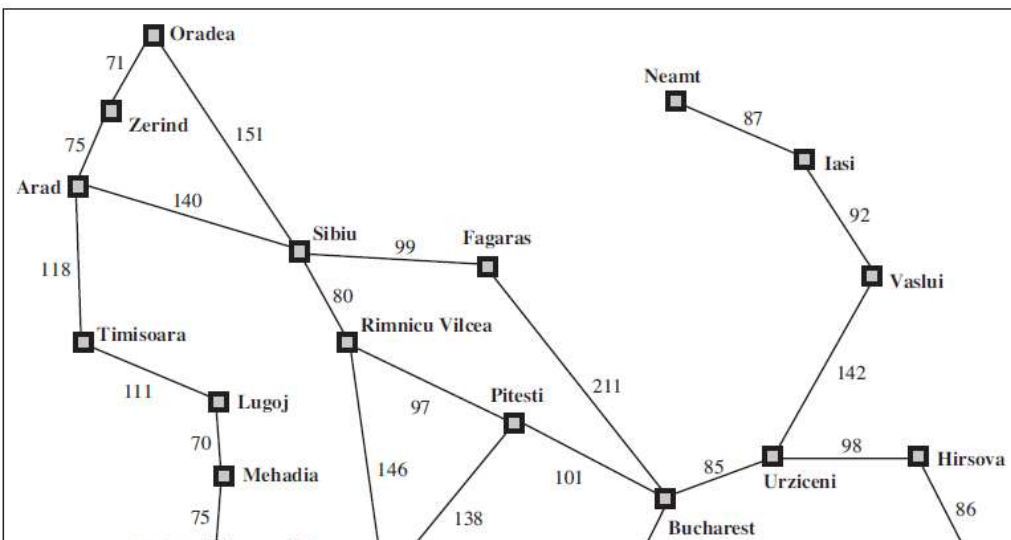
$$f(n) = \text{estimated cost of the cheapest solution through } n$$

# A\* SEARCH EXAMPLE



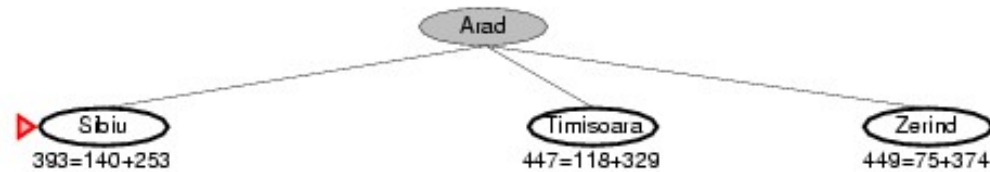
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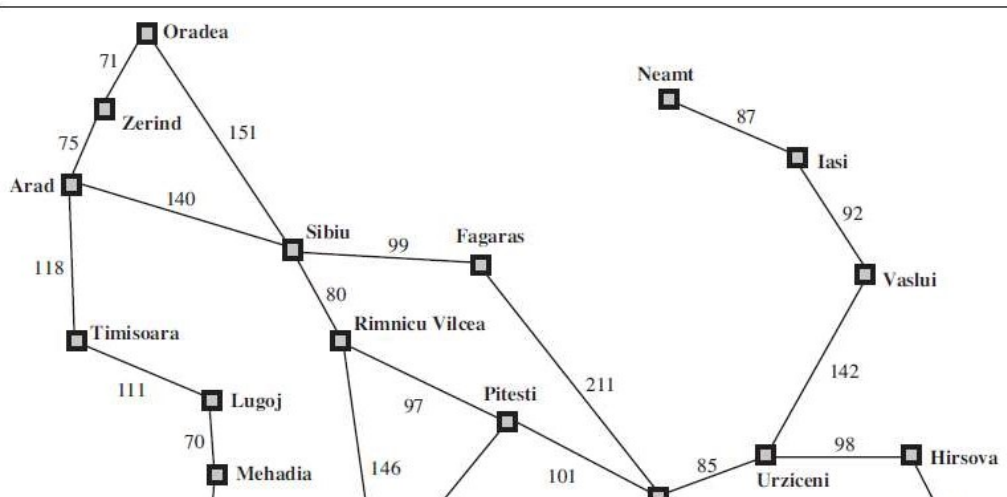


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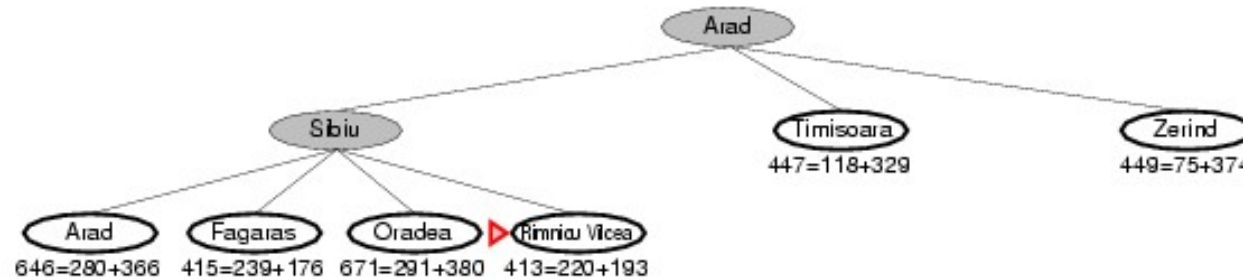


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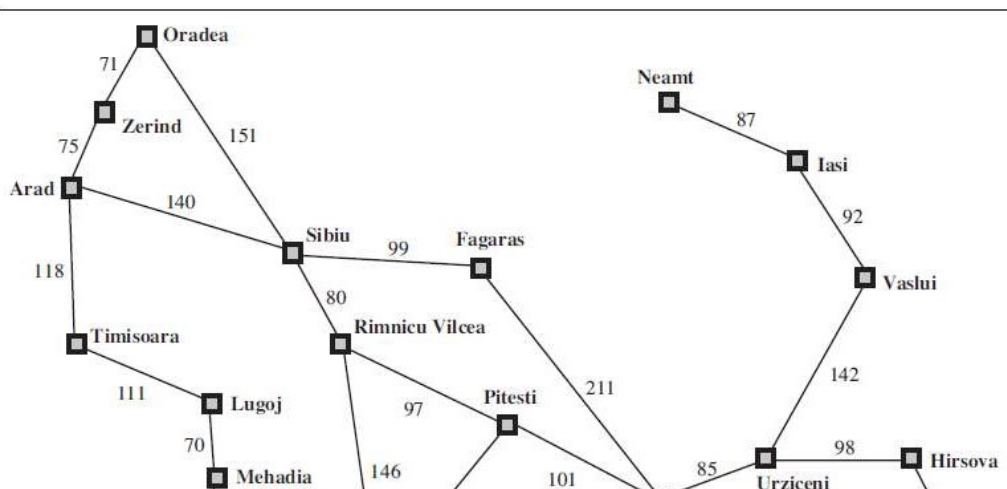


# A\* SEARCH EXAMPLE

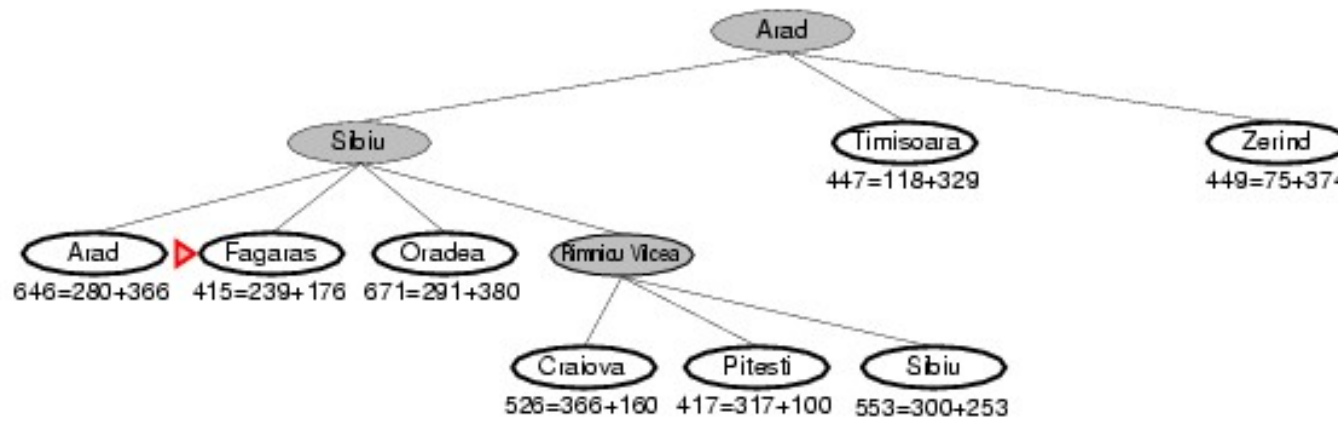


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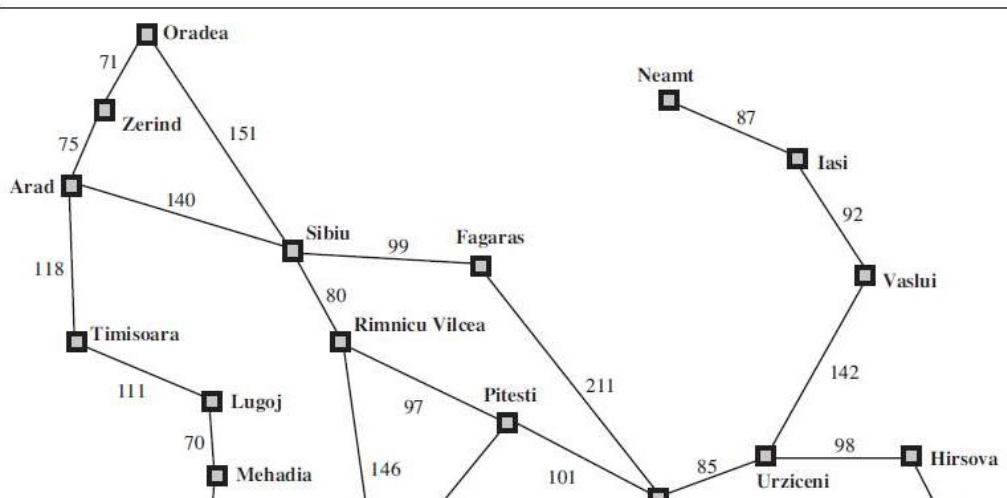


# A\* SEARCH EXAMPLE

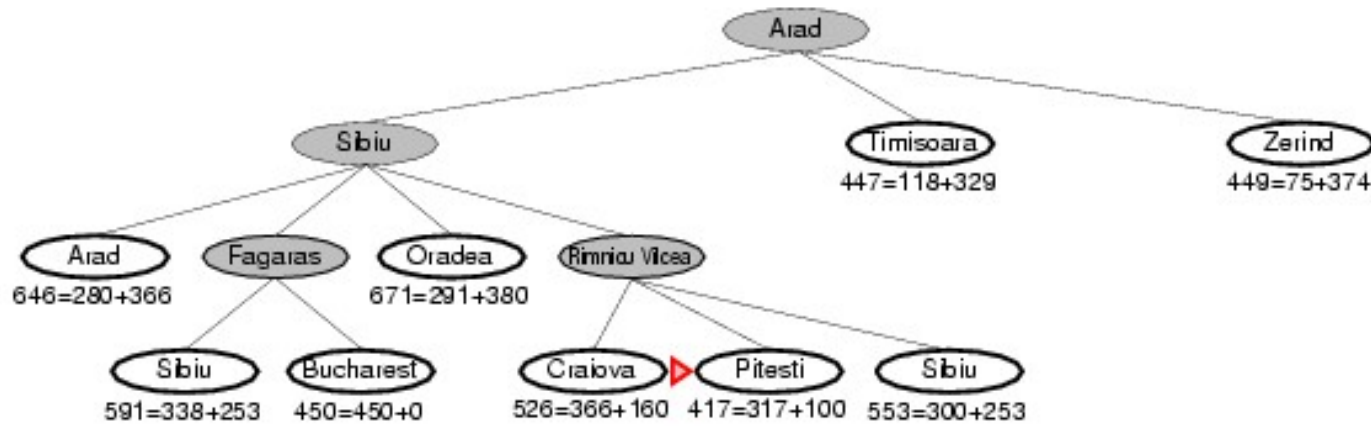


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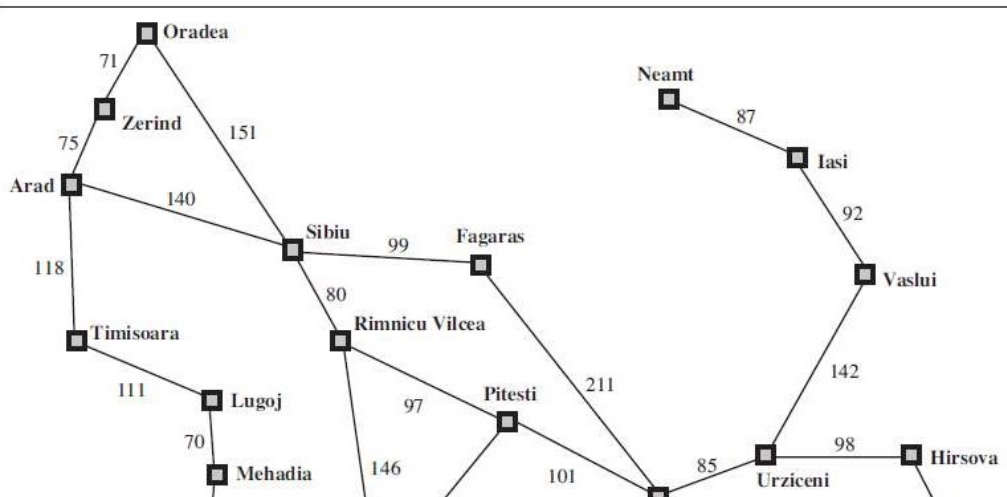


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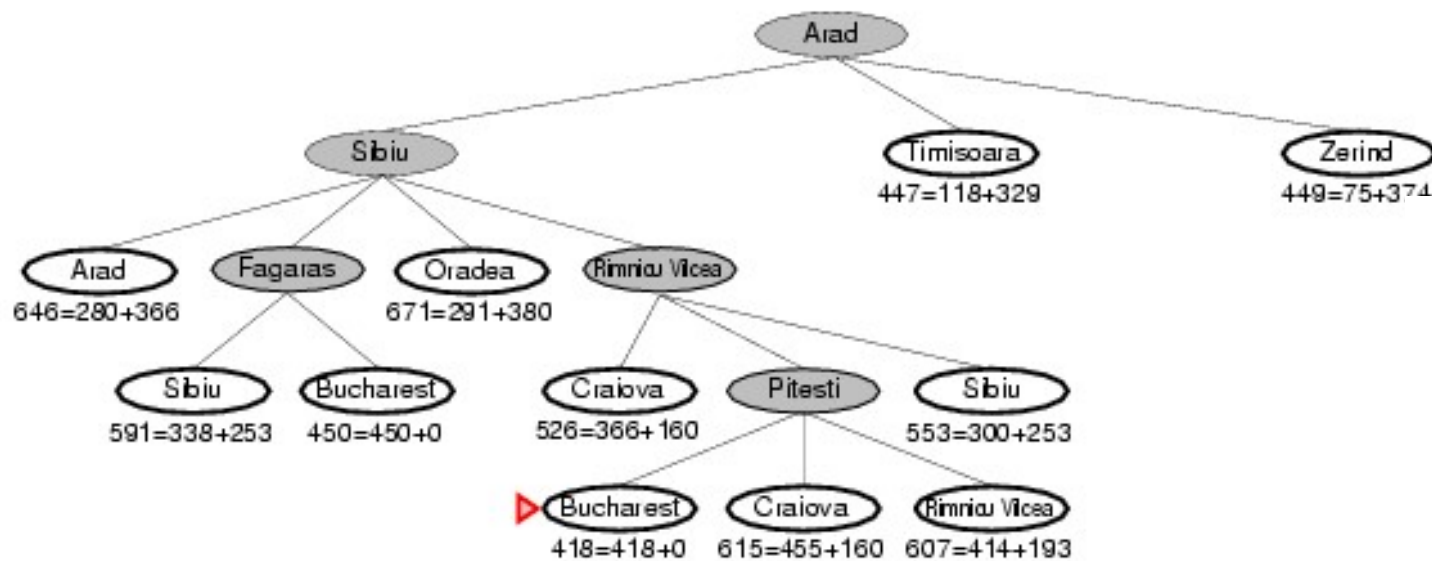


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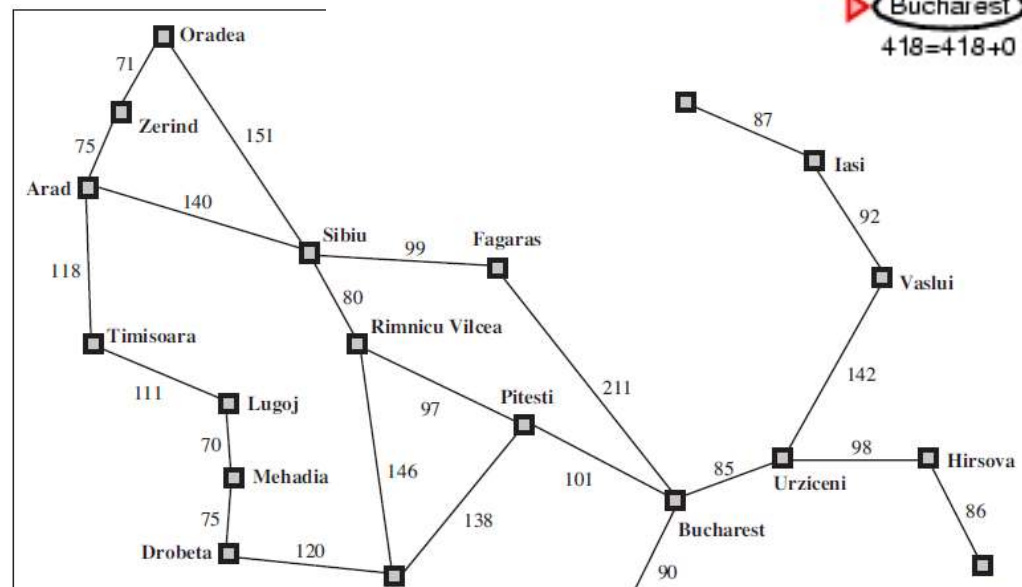


# A\* S



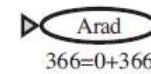
Straight-line distance to Bucharest

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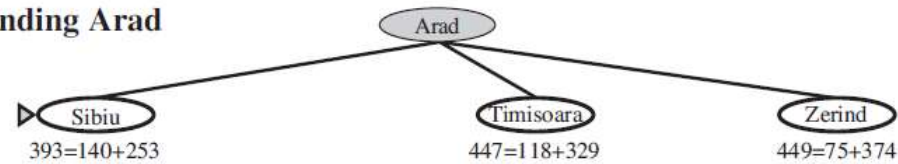


# A\* SEARCH:

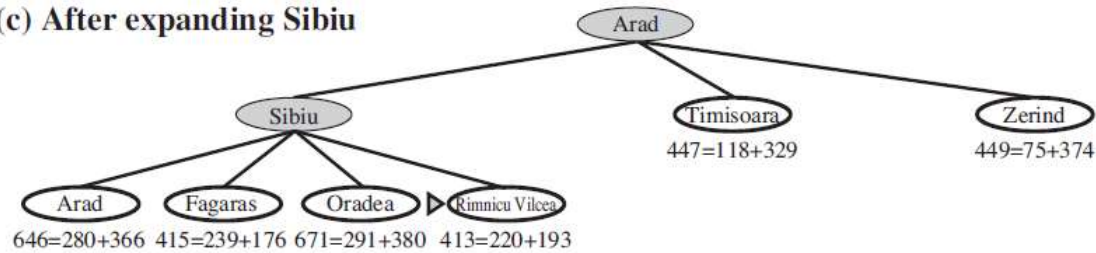
(a) The initial state



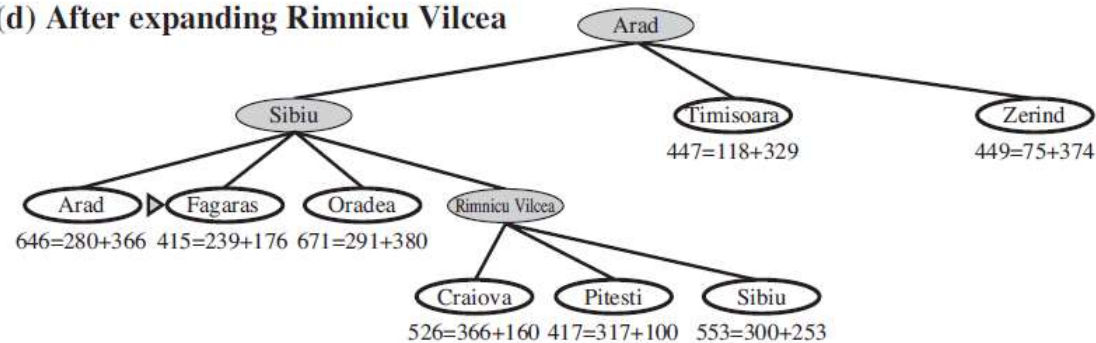
(b) After expanding Arad



(c) After expanding Sibiu

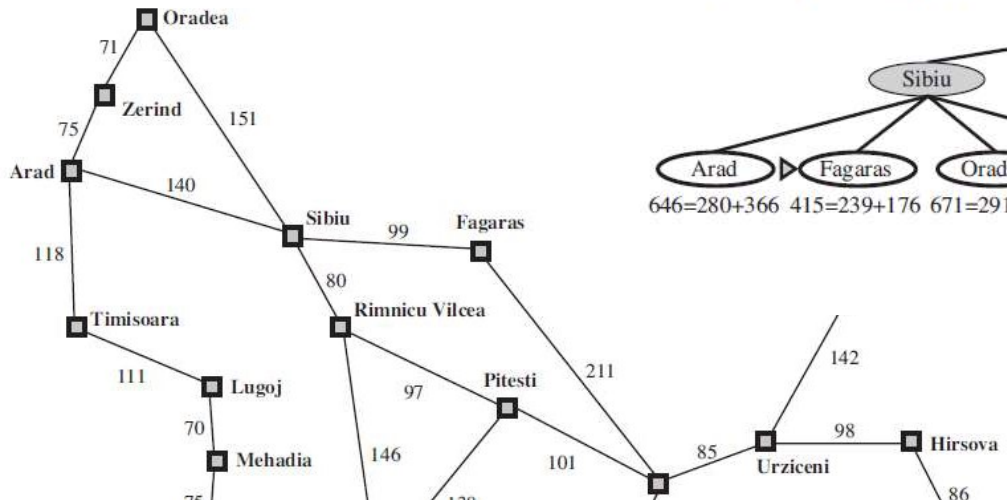


(d) After expanding Rimnicu Vilcea



Straight-line distance to Bucharest

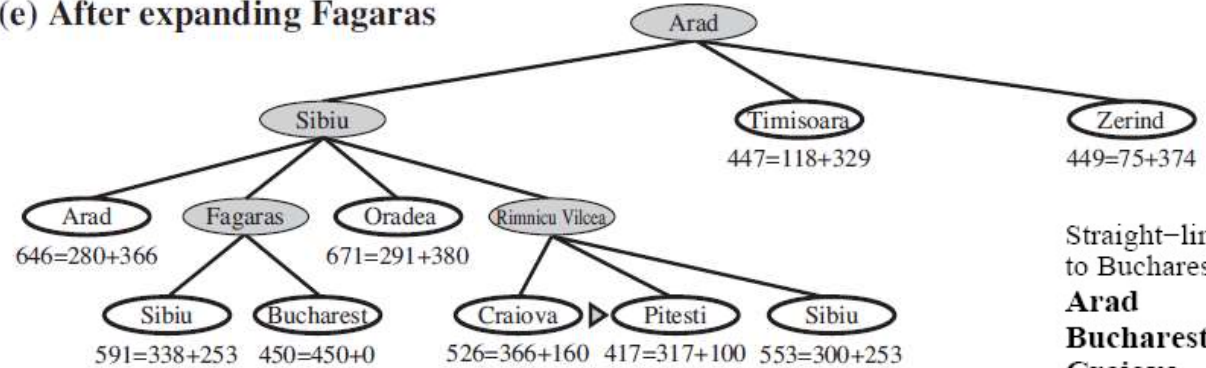
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# A\* SEARCH:

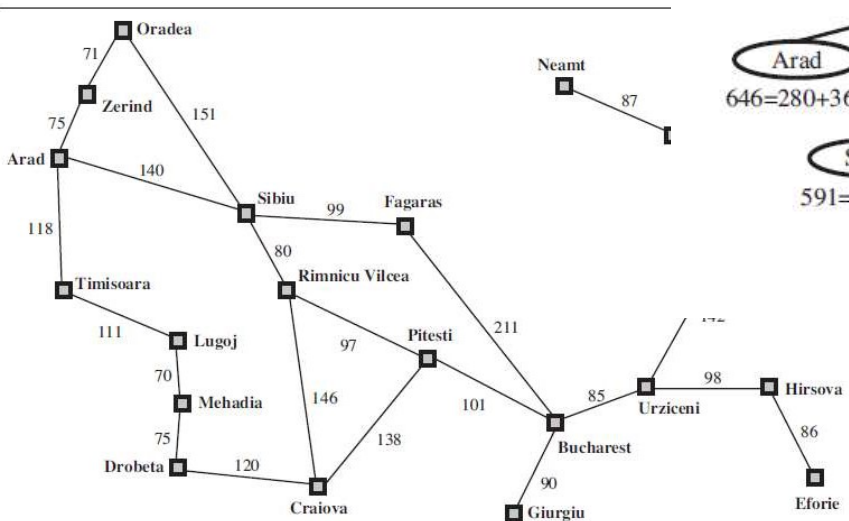
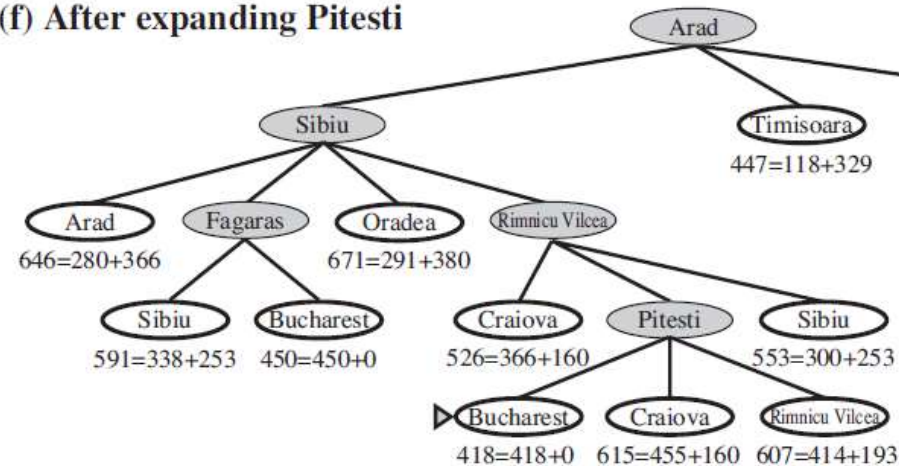
(e) After expanding Fagaras



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(f) After expanding Pitesti



# ADMISSIBLE HEURISTICS — A\* OPTIMILATY

- A heuristic  $h(n)$  is **admissible** if, for every node  $n$ ,  $h(n) \leq h^*(n)$   
 $h^*(n)$  = the true cost to reach the goal state from  $n$
- An admissible heuristic never overestimates the cost to reach the goal, i.e., it is never pessimistic
  - Ex: straight-line distance never overestimates road distance
- **Theorem:**  
if  $h(n)$  is admissible, A\* using Tree-Search is optimal



# SAMPLE HEURISTICS

$h1$  = the number of misplaced tiles

$$h1(\text{starting state}) = 8$$

7	2	4
5		6
8	3	1

Start State

	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

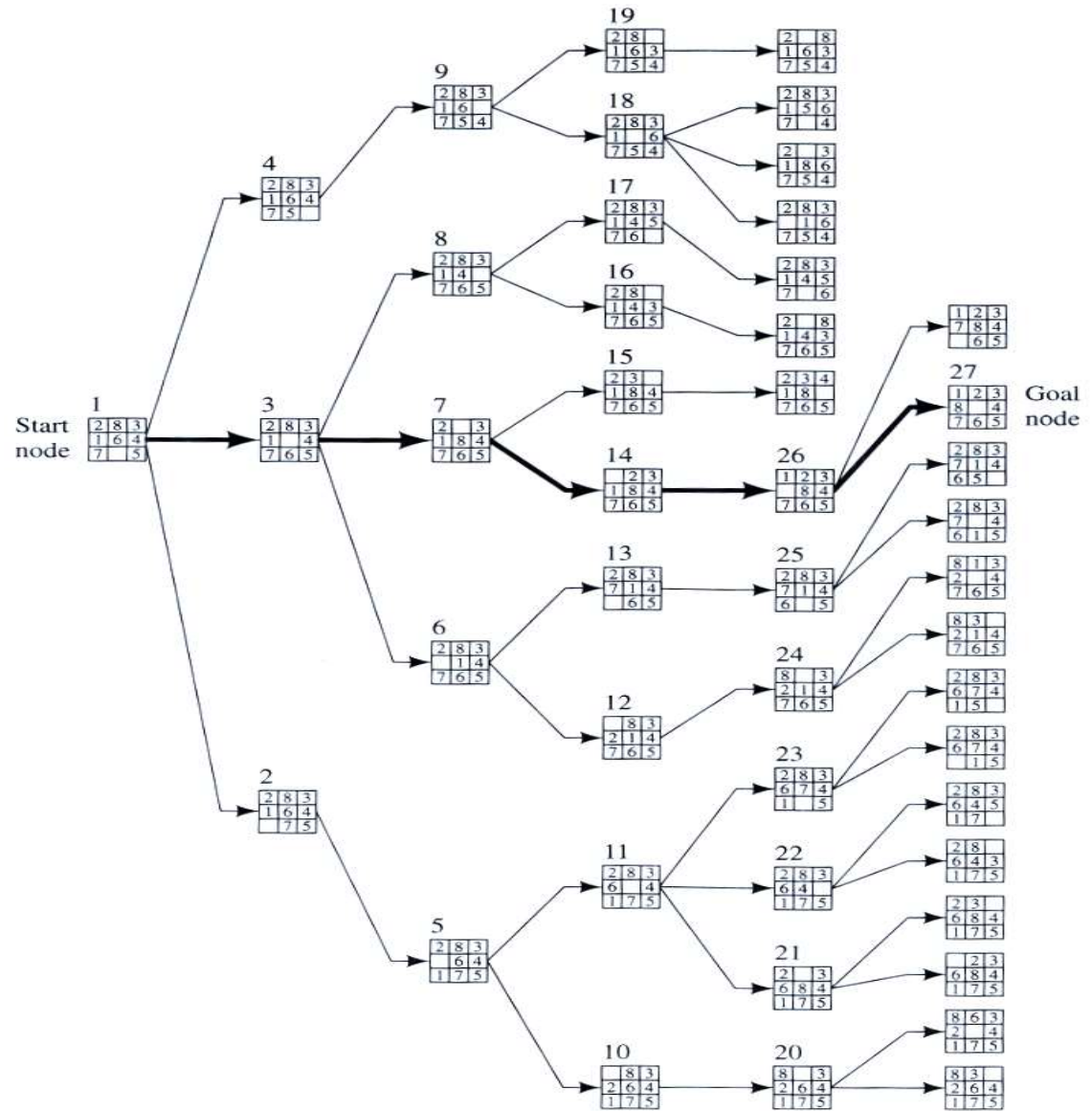
Goal State

$h2$  = the sum of the distances of the tiles from their goal positions.

Because tiles cannot move along diagonals, the distance we will count is the sum of the horizontal and vertical distances. This is sometimes called the **city block distance** or **Manhattan distance**.

$$h2(\text{starting state}) = 3 (\text{tile1}) + 1 (\text{tile2}) + 2 (\text{tile3}) + 2 (\text{tile4}) + 2 (\text{tile5}) + 3 (\text{tile6}) + 3 (\text{tile7}) + 2 (\text{tile8}) = 18$$

# BFS SEARCH:



## A\* EXAMPLE:

- ▶ Path cost,  $g = 1$  for every move

2	8	3
1	6	4
7		5

Initial state

1	2	3
8		4
7	6	5

goal state

- ▶  $h(n)$  = given a node  $n$ , the sum of the distances of the tiles from their goal positions.

Initial state

2	8	3
1	6	4
7		5

1	2	3
8		4
7	6	5

goal state

2	8	3
1		4
7	6	5

$$1 + (1+1+2) = 5$$

2	8	3
1	6	4
	7	5

$$1 + (1+1+1+1+2) = 7$$

2	8	3
1	6	4
7	5	

$$1 + (1+1+1+1+2) = 7$$

1	2	3
8		4
7	6	5

goal state

Initial state

2	8	3
1	6	4
7		5

2	8	3
1		4
7	6	5

$$1 + (1+1+2) = 5$$

2	8	3
1	6	4
	7	5

$$1 + (1+1+1+1+2) = 7$$

2	8	3
1	6	4
7	5	

$$1 + (1+1+1+1+2) = 7$$

2		3
1	8	4
7	6	5

$$2 + (1+1+1) = 5$$

2	8	3
	1	4
7	6	5

$$2 + (2+1+2) = 9$$

2	8	3
1	4	
7	6	5

$$2 + (1+1+1+1+2) = 7$$

1	2	3
8		4
7	6	5

goal state

Initial state

2	8	3
1	6	4
7		5

2	8	3
1		4
7	6	5

$$1 + (1+1+2) = 5$$

2	8	3
1	6	4
	7	5

$$1 + (1+1+1+1+2) = 7$$

2	8	3
1	6	4
7	5	

$$1 + (1+1+1+1+2) = 7$$

2		3
1	8	4
7	6	5

2	8	3
	1	4
7	6	5

$$2 + (2+1+2) = 9$$

2	8	3
1	4	
7	6	5

$$2 + (1+1+1+1+2) = 7$$

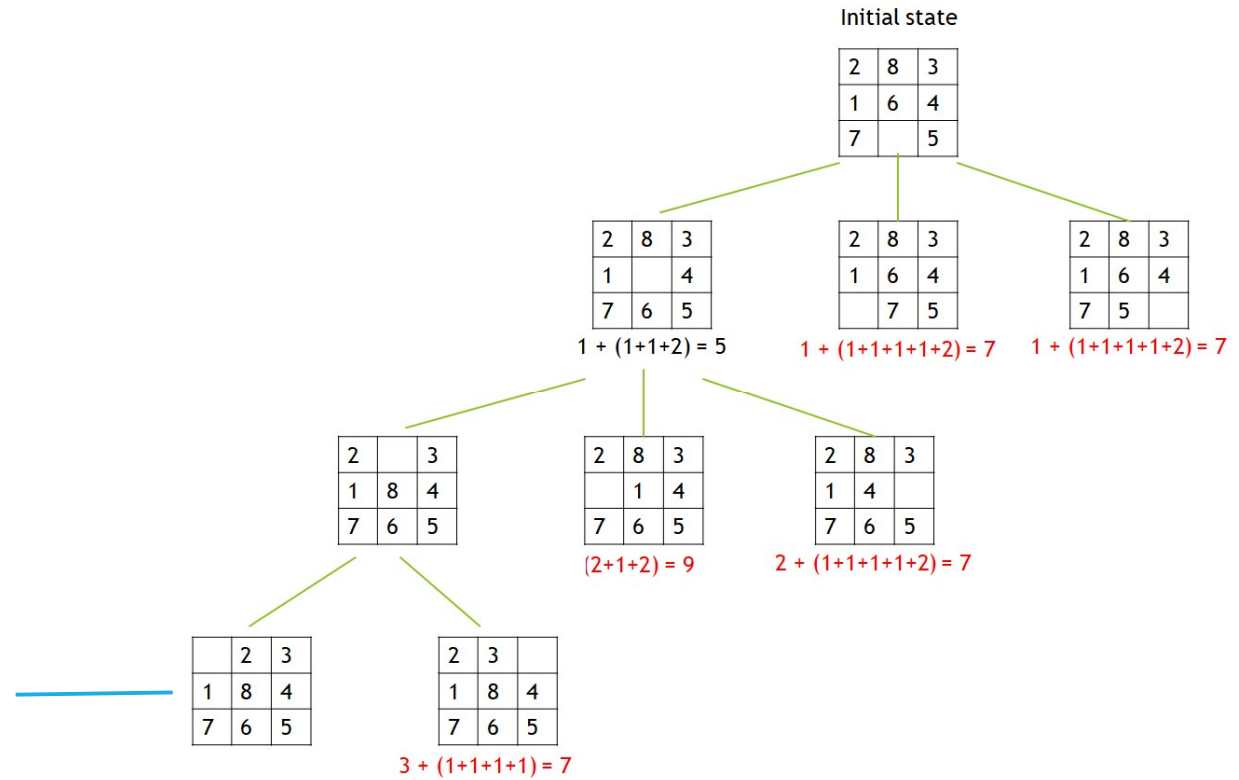
	2	3
1	8	4
7	6	5

$$3 + (1+1) = 5$$

2	3	
1	8	4
7	6	5

$$3 + (1+1+1+1) = 7$$

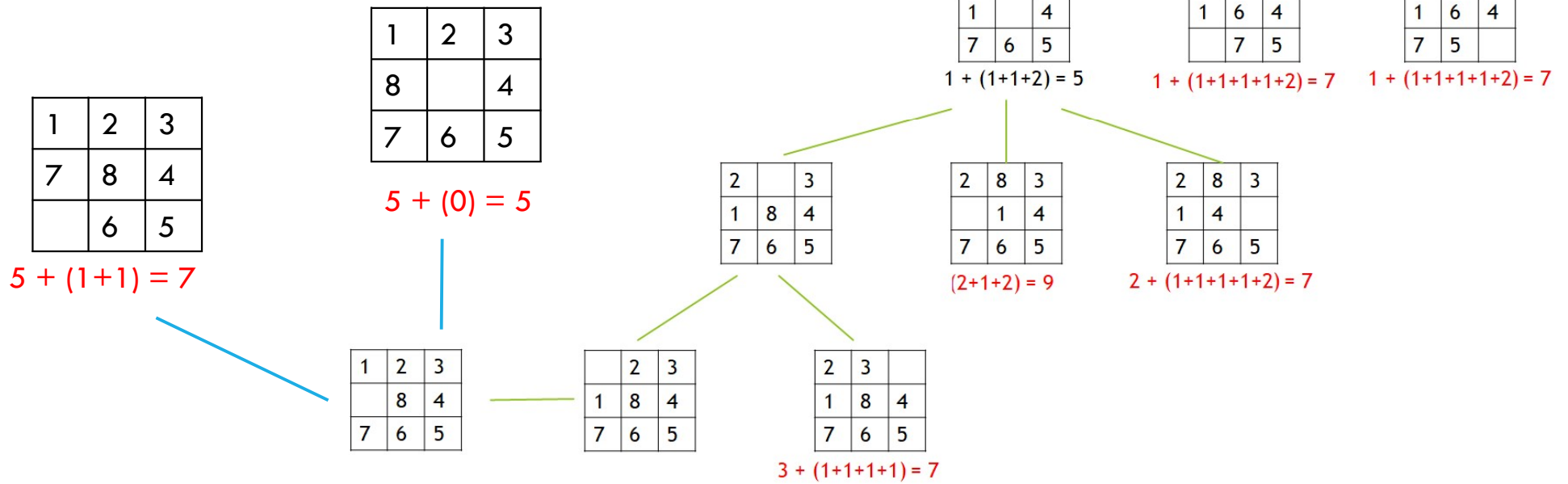
goal state

$$4 + (1) = 5$$


1	2	3
8		4
7	6	5

goal state

Time Complexity: 11 nodes visited





BFS Time Complexity: 26 nodes visited

How many to visit for DFS?

How about UCS?

