

# Problem Solving Agents



School of Electronic and Computer Engineering  
Peking University

Wang Wenmin



# Contents

- ❑ 3.1.1 Problem Solving in AI
- ❑ 3.1.2 Algorithm of Simple Problem Solving Agents
- ❑ 3.1.3 Related Terms
- ❑ 3.1.4 Five Items to Formulate a Problem

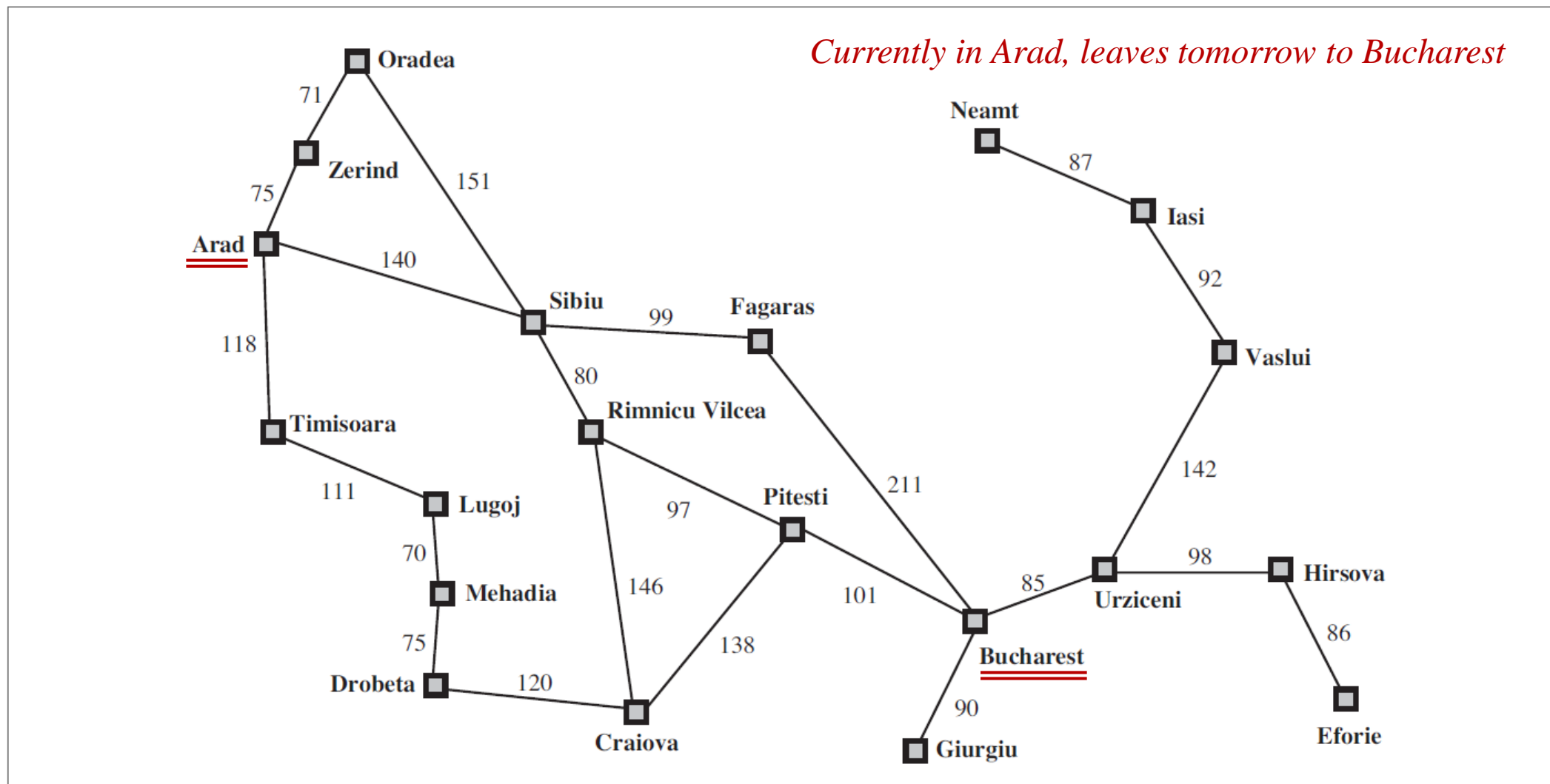
## Problem solving in AI 人工智能中的问题求解

- The solution 解  
is a **sequence of actions** to reach the **goal**.  
是一个达到目标的动作序列。
- The process 过程  
look for the sequence of actions, which is called **search**.  
寻找该动作序列，称其为搜索。
- Problem formulation 问题形式化  
given a goal, decide what actions and states to consider.  
给定一个目标，决定要考虑的动作与状态。
- Why search 为何搜索  
Some NP-complete or NP-hard problems, can be solved only by search.  
对于某些NP完或者NP难问题，只能通过搜索来解决。
- Problem-solving agent 问题求解智能体  
is a kind of **goal-based agent** to solve problems through search.  
是一种基于目标的智能体，通过搜索来解决问题。

## Algorithm of Simple Problem Solving Agents 简单的问题求解智能体算法

```
function SIMPLE-PROBLEM-SOLVING-AGENT(percept) returns an action
  persistent: seq, an action sequence, initially empty
               state, some description of the current world state
               goal, a goal, initially null
               problem, a problem formulation
               action, the most recent action, initially none
  state  $\leftarrow$  UPDATE-STATE(state, percept)
  if seq is empty then
    goal  $\leftarrow$  FORMULATE-GOAL(state)
    problem  $\leftarrow$  FORMULATE-PROBLEM(state, goal)
    seq  $\leftarrow$  SEARCH(problem)
    if seq = failure then return a null action
  action  $\leftarrow$  FIRST(seq)
  seq  $\leftarrow$  REST(seq)
  return action
```

## Example: A road map of part of Romania 罗马尼亚部分公路图



## Related Terms 相关术语

### □ State space 状态空间

The state space of the problem is formally defined by: Initial state, actions and transition model.

问题的状态空间可以形式化地定义为：初始状态、动作和转换模型。

### □ Graph 图

State space forms a graph, in which nodes are states, and links are actions.

状态空间形成一个图，其中节点表示状态、链接表示动作。

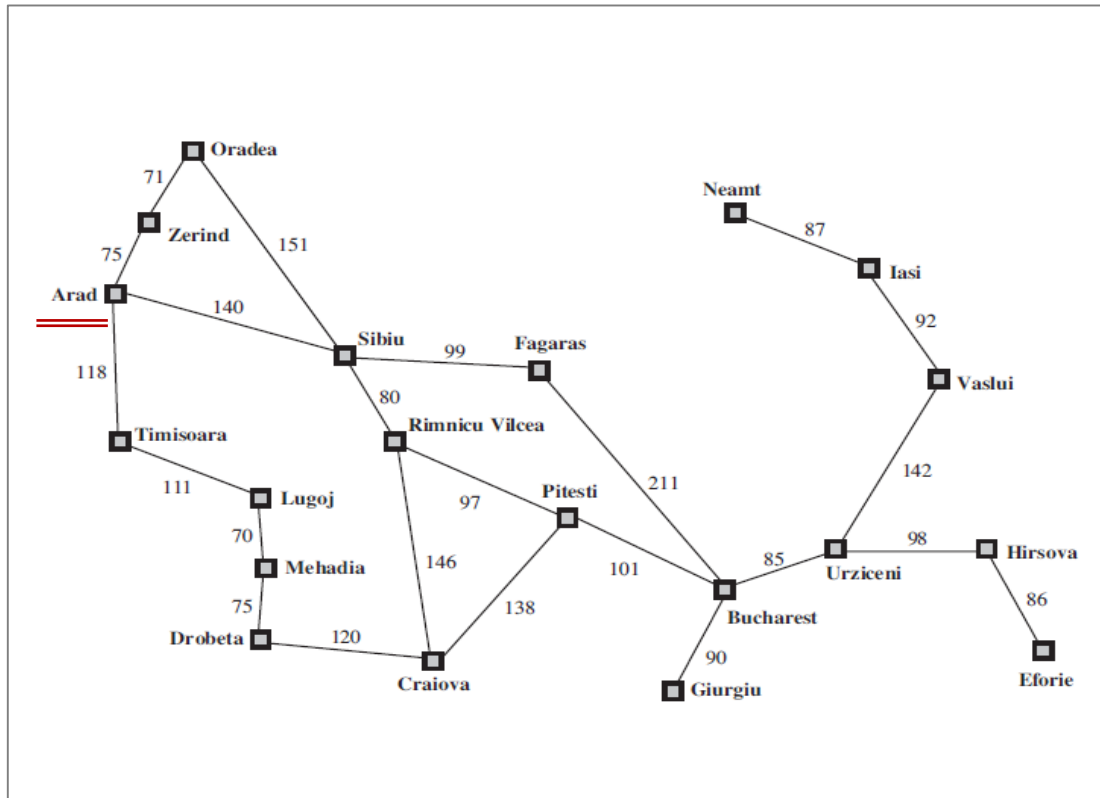
### □ Path 路径

A path in the state space is a sequence of states connected by a sequence of actions.

状态空间的一条路径是由一系列动作连接的一个状态序列。

## Five Items to Formulate a Problem 问题形式化的五个要素

### □ 1) Initial state 初始状态

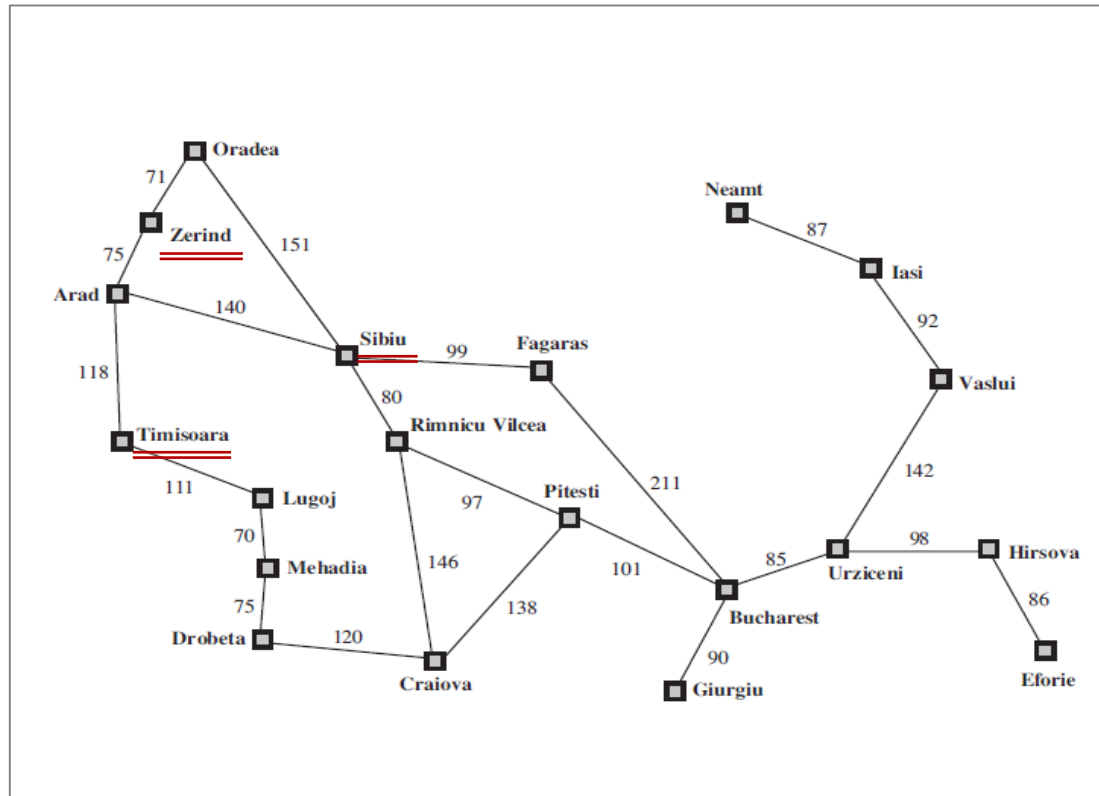


- The agent starts in.  
即智能体出发时的状态。
- E.g., the initial state for the agent in Arad may be described as:  
例如，该智能体位于Arad的初始状态可以记作：

*In(Arad).*

## Five Items to Formulate a Problem:

### □ 2) Actions 动作



- A description of the possible actions available to the agent.

描述该智能体可执行的动作。

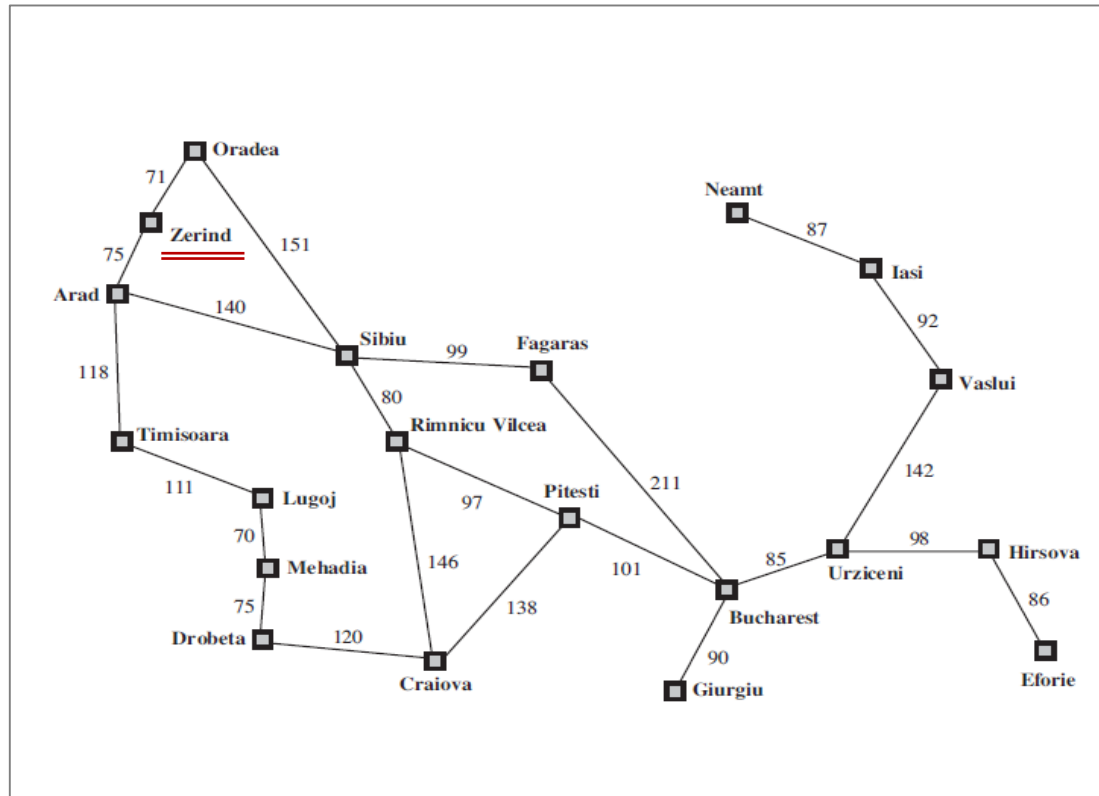
- ACTION( $s$ ) returns the actions that can be executed in  $s$ . E.g., ACTION( $s$ ) 返回  $s$  状态下可执行的动作序列。例如：

$\{Go(Zerind), Go(Sibiu), Go(Timisoara)\}.$



## Five Items to Formulate a Problem:

### □ 3) Transition model 转换模型

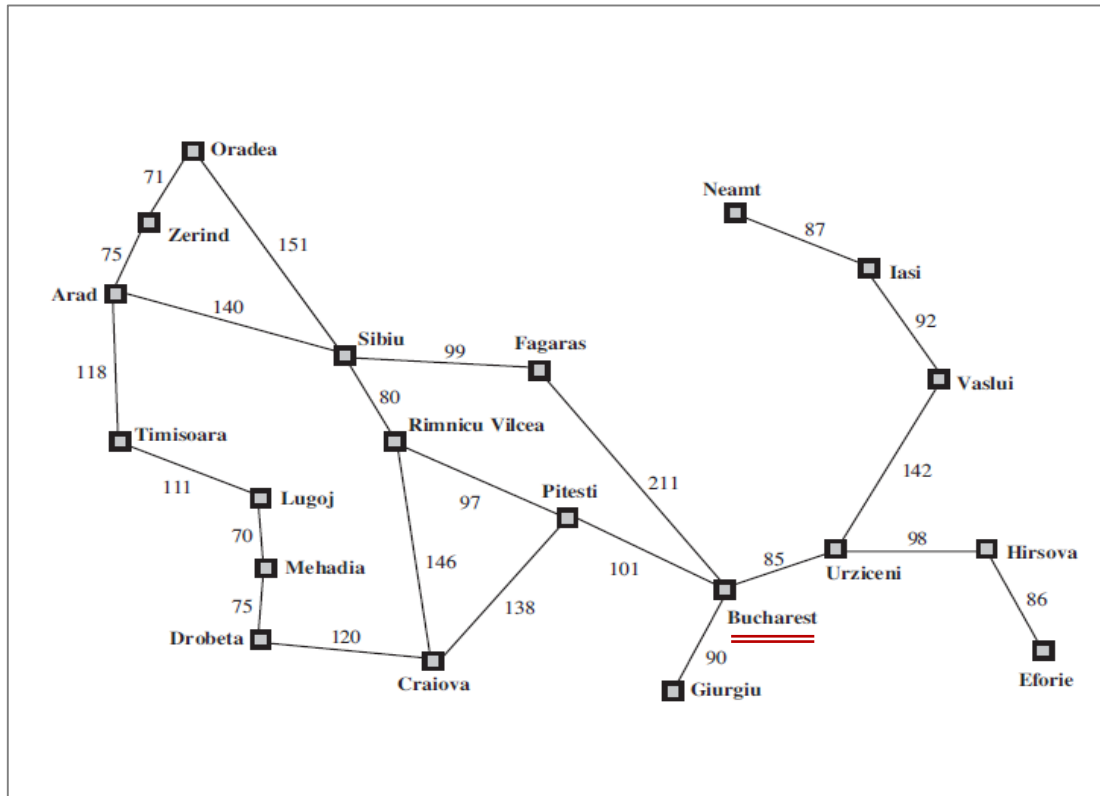


- A description of what each action does.  
描述每个动作做什么。
- $\text{RESULT}(s, a)$  returns the state from doing action  $a$  in  $s$ . E.g.,  
 $\text{RESULT}(s, a)$  返回在  $s$  下动作  $a$  之后的状态。例如：

$$\text{RESULT}(\text{In}(\text{Arad}), \text{Go}(\text{Zerind})) \\ = \text{In}(\text{Zerind})$$

## Five Items to Formulate a Problem:

### □ 4) Goal test 目标测试



- To determine whether a given state is a goal state.

确定一个给定的状态是否是目标状态。

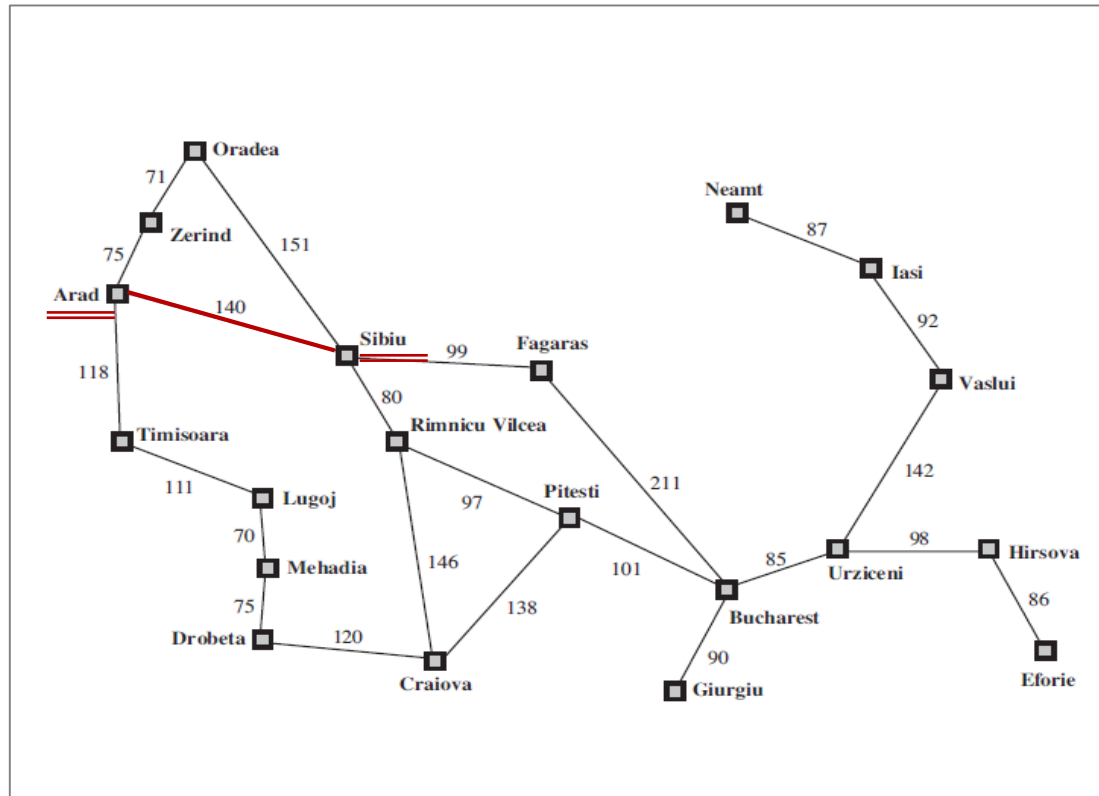
- E.g., the agent's goal in Bucharest is the singleton set:

例如：智能体在Bucharest的目标是单元素集合：

$\{In(Bucharest)\}$ .

## Five Items to Formulate a Problem:

### □ 5) Path cos 路径代价



- To assign a numeric cost to each path.

即每条路径所分配的一个数值代价。

- E.g., step cost of taking action  $a$  in state  $s$  to reach state  $s'$  is denoted by:

例如：状态 $s$ 下执行动作 $a$ 到达状态 $s'$  的步骤代价表示为：

$$c(s, a, s').$$

Thank you for your attention!

