CS 235: Artificial Intelligence

Week 2

Blind (Uninformed) Search

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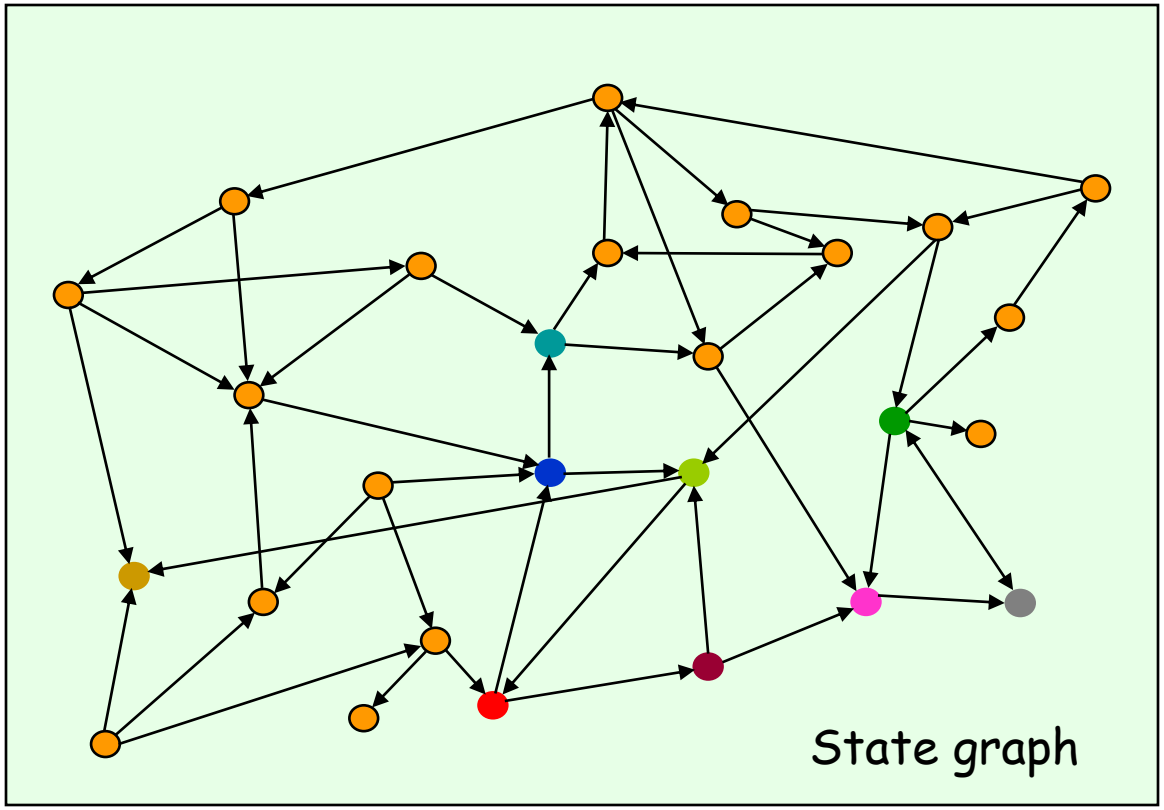
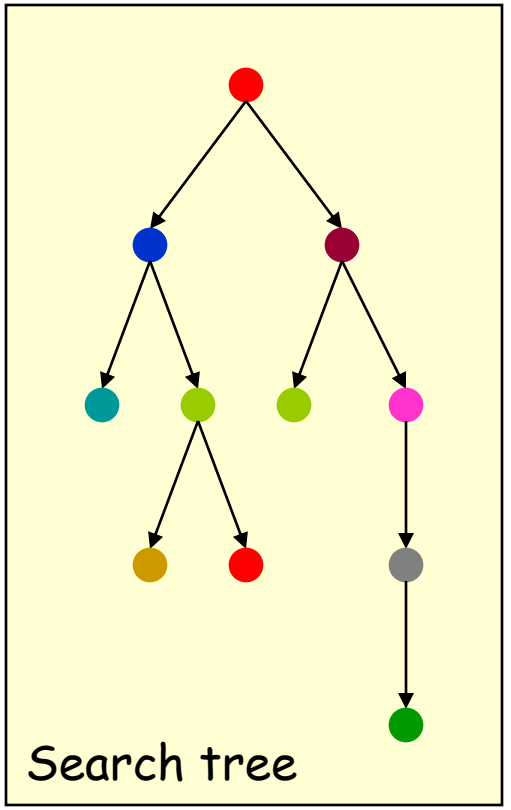
Reference: http://ai.stanford.edu/~latombe/cs121/2011/schedule.htm

Simple Problem-Solving-Agent Agent Algorithm

1. $s_0 \leftarrow$ sense/read initial state
2. GOAL? $\leftarrow$ select/read goal test
3. Succ $\leftarrow$ read successor function
4. solution $\leftarrow$ **search**(s_0, GOAL?, Succ)
5. perform(solution)

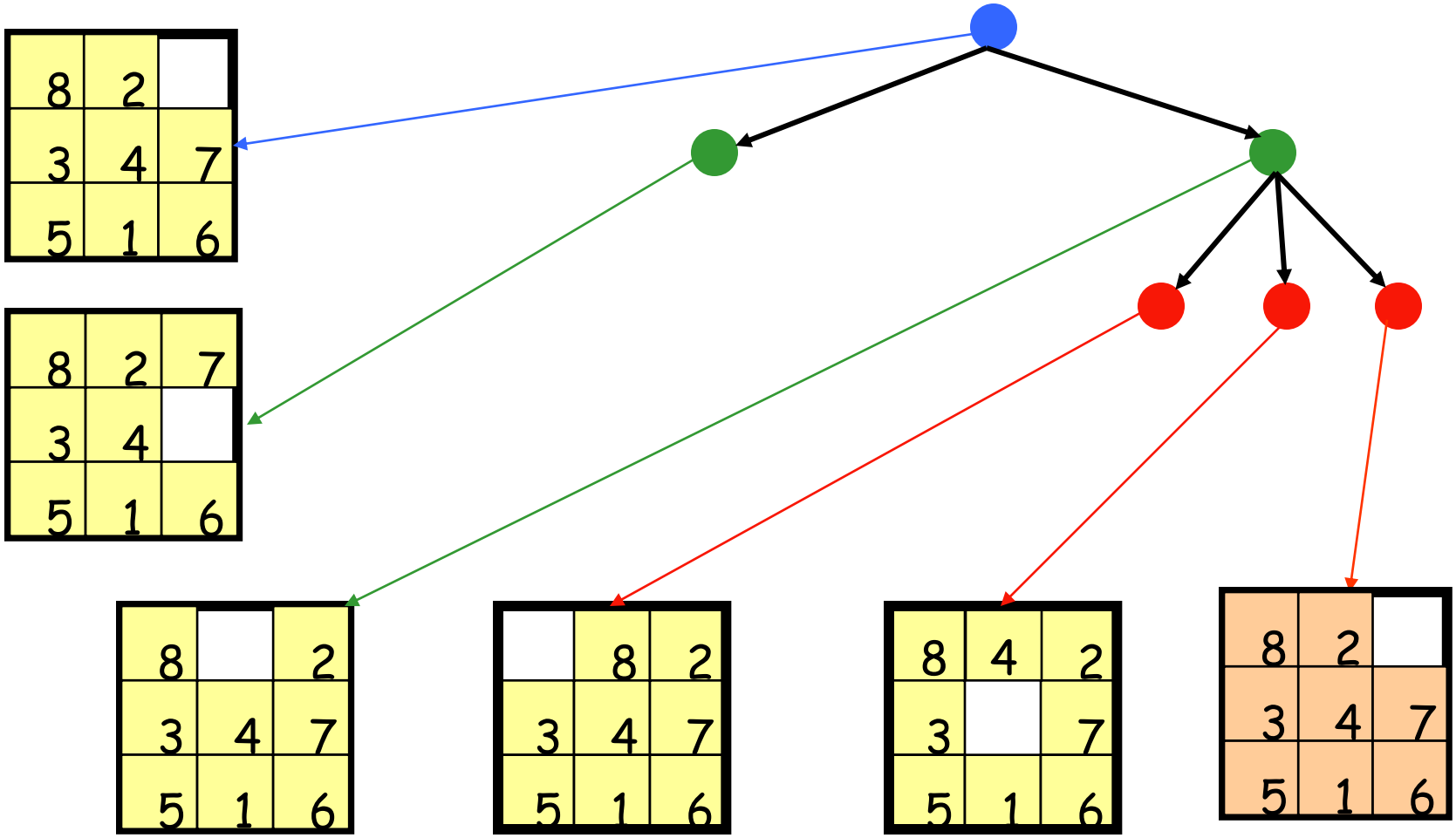
Search Tree



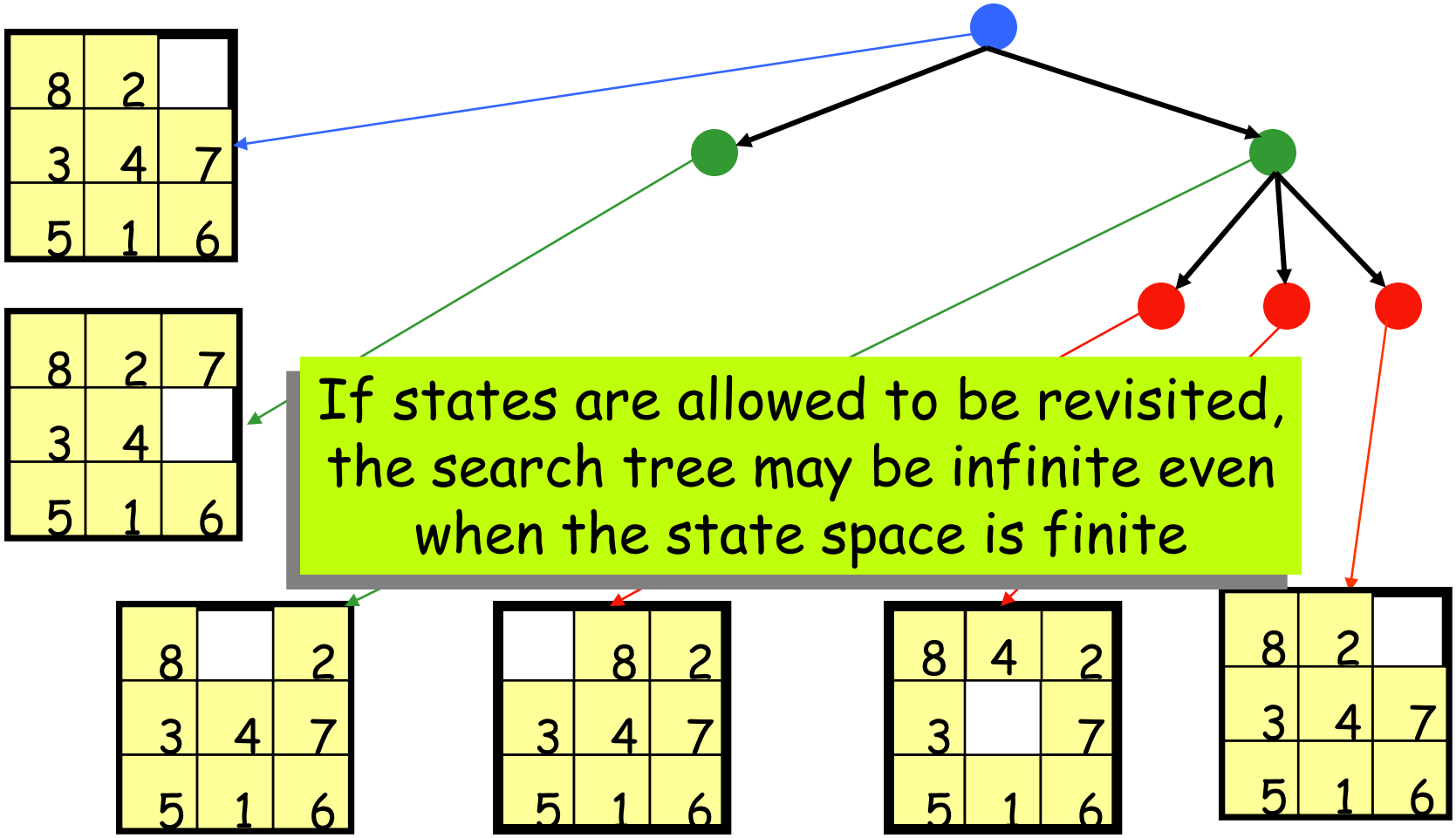


Note that some states may be visited multiple times

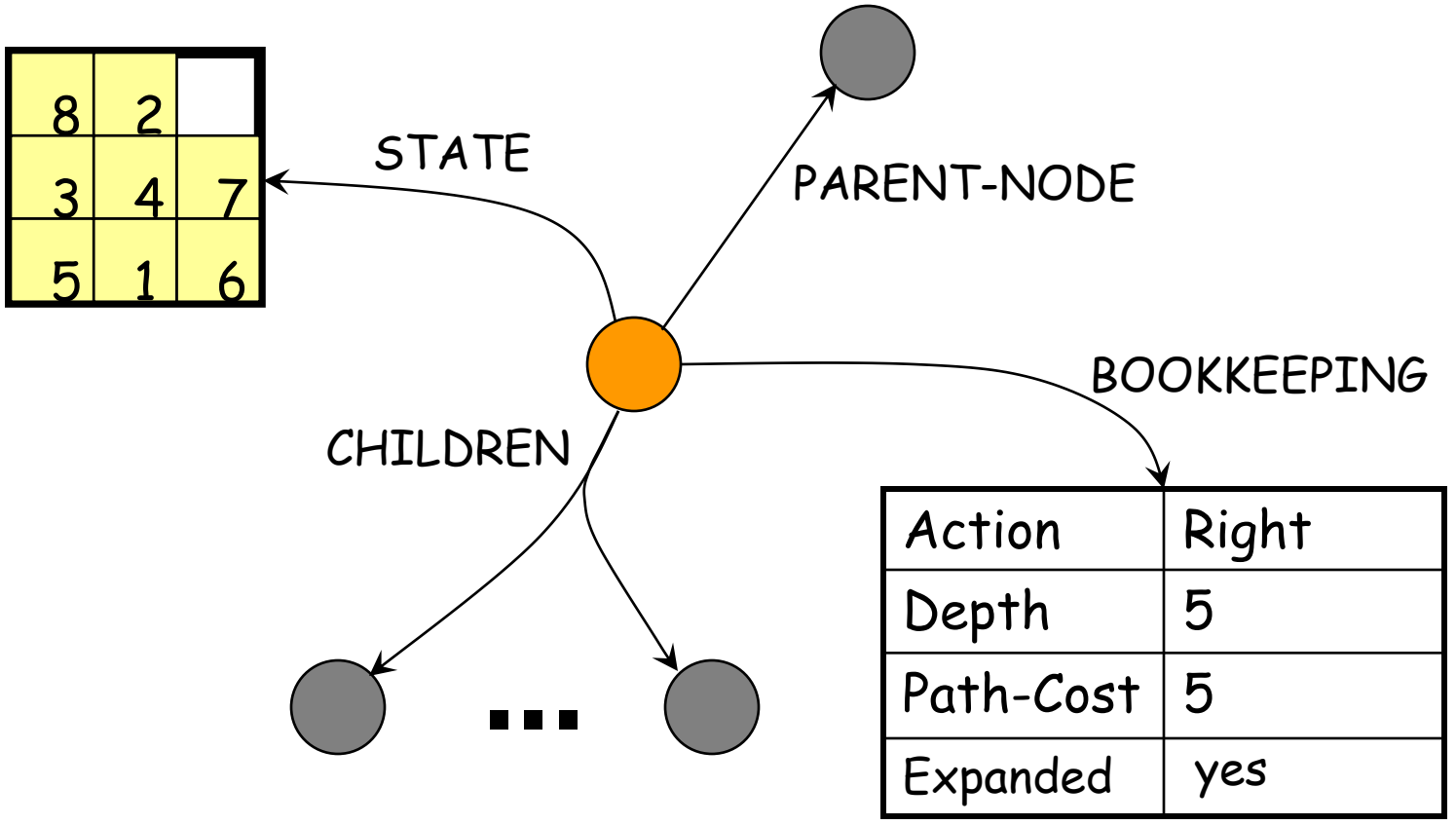
Search Nodes and States



Search Nodes and States



Data Structure of a Node



Action	Right
Depth	5
Path-Cost	5
Expanded	yes

Depth of a node N
= length of path from root to N

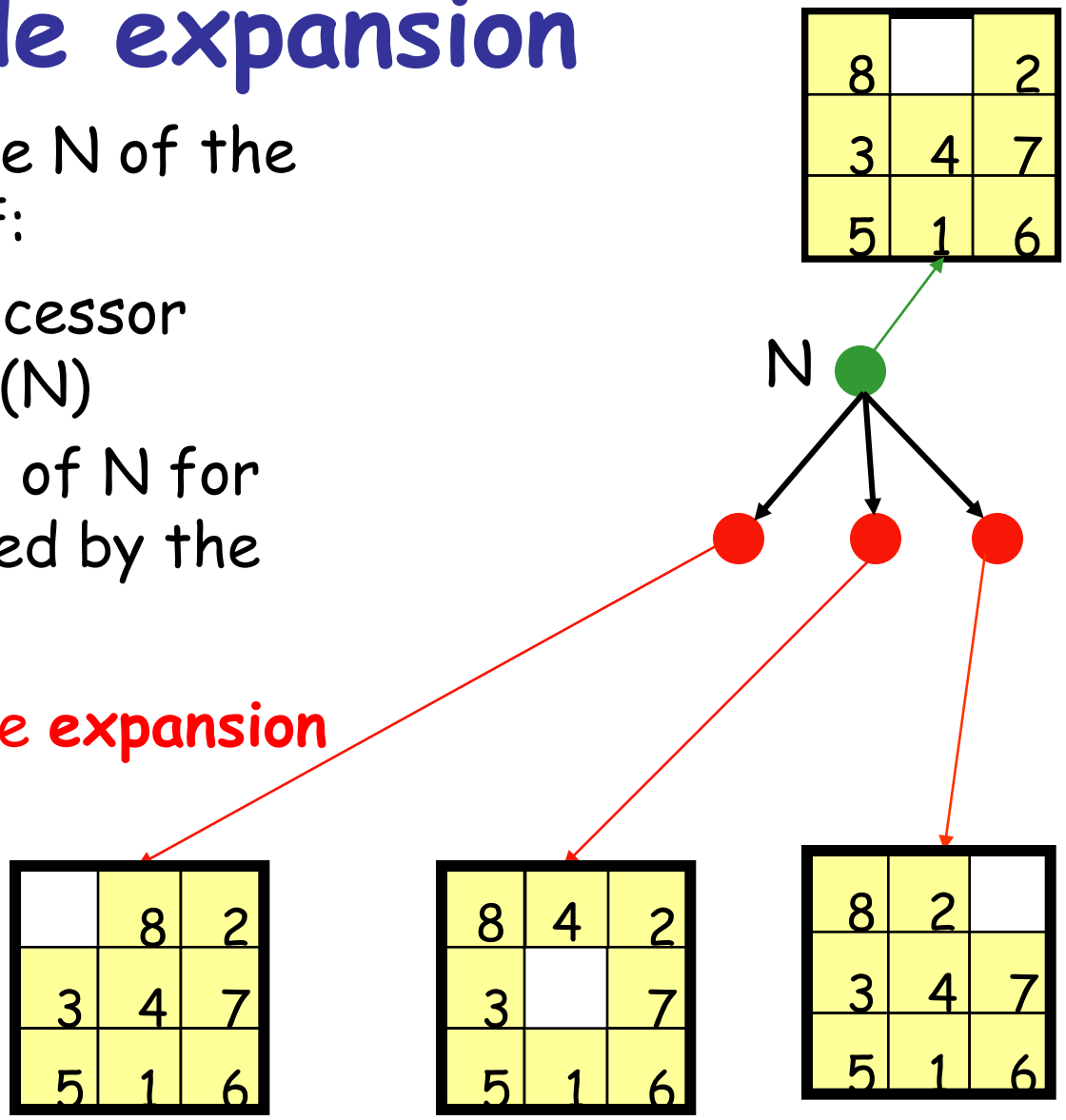
(depth of the root = 0)

Node expansion

The expansion of a node N of the search tree consists of:

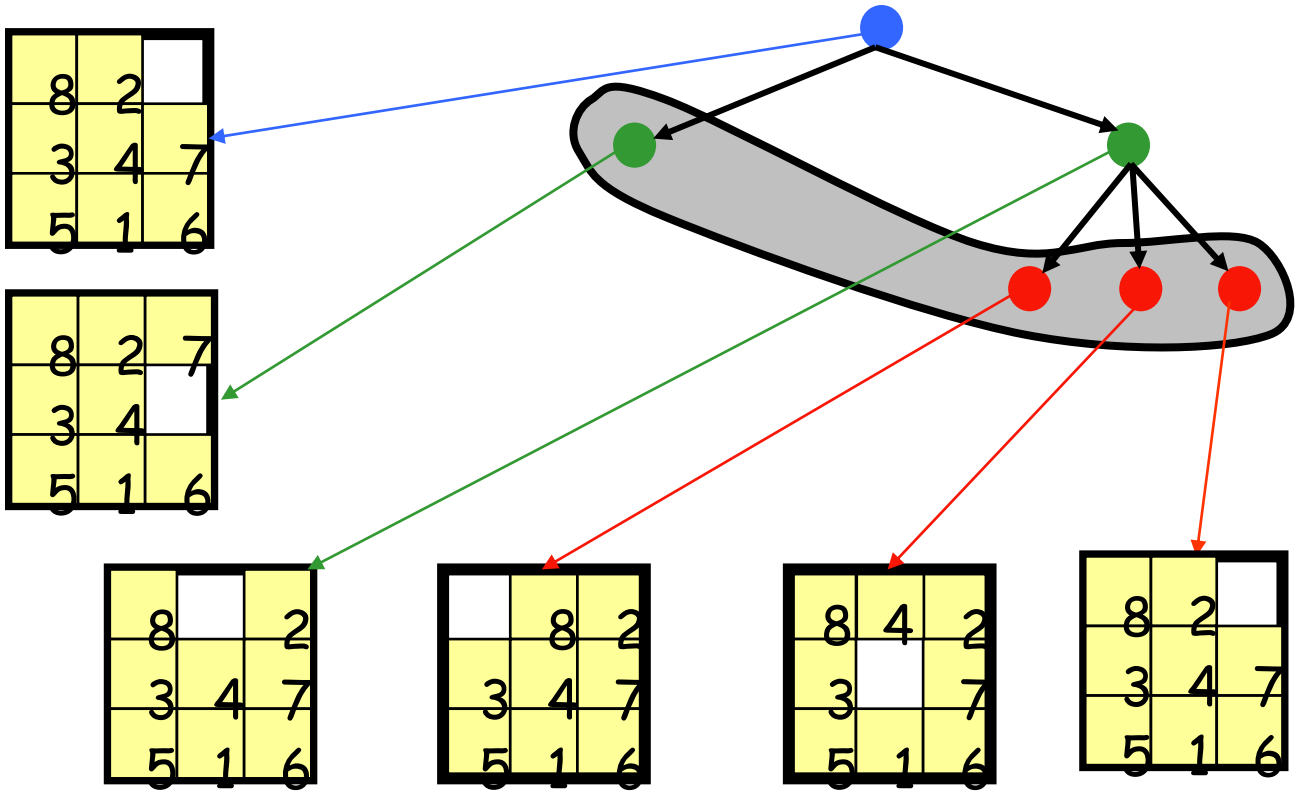
1) Evaluating the successor function on STATE(N)
2) Generating a child of N for each state returned by the function

node **generation** ≠ node **expansion**



Fringe of Search Tree

- The fringe is the set of all search nodes that haven't been expanded yet



Search Strategy

- The fringe is the set of all search nodes that haven't been expanded yet
- The fringe is implemented as a priority queue FRINGE
  - INSERT(node,FRINGE)
  - REMOVE(FRINGE)
- The ordering of the nodes in FRINGE defines the search strategy

Search Algorithm #1

SEARCH#1

1. If GOAL?(initial-state) then return initial-state
2. INSERT(initial-node,FRINGE)
3. Repeat:
   a. If empty(FRINGE) then return failure
   b. N ← REMOVE(FRINGE)
   c. s ← STATE(N)
   d. For every state s' in SUCCESSORS(s)
      i. Create a new node N' as a child of N
      ii. If GOAL?(s') then return path or goal state
      iii. INSERT(N',FRINGE)

Expansion of N

Performance Measures

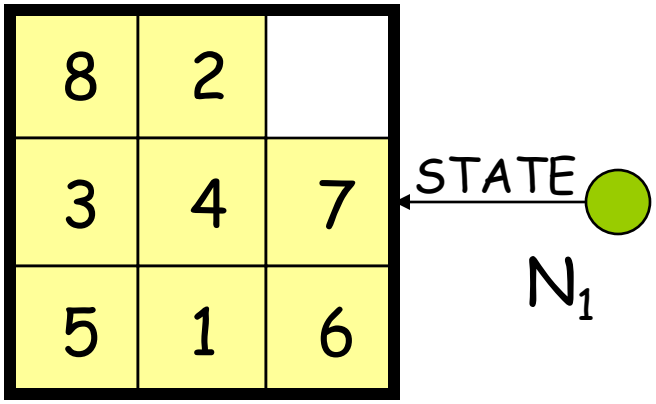
- **Completeness**
  A search algorithm is complete if it finds a solution whenever one exists
  [What about the case when no solution exists?]
- **Optimality**
  A search algorithm is optimal if it returns a minimum-cost path whenever a solution exists
- **Complexity**
  It measures the time and amount of memory required by the algorithm

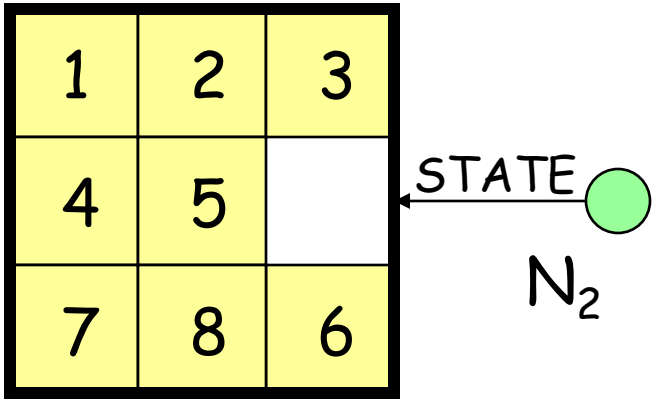
Blind vs. Heuristic Strategies

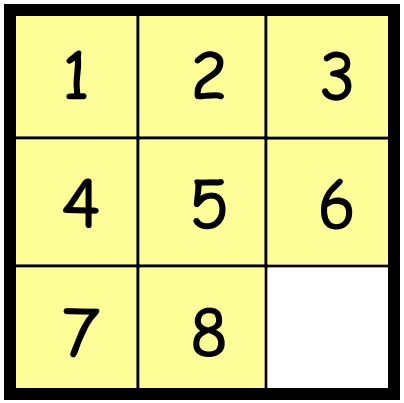
- Blind (or un-informed) strategies do not exploit state descriptions to order FRINGE. They only exploit the positions of the nodes in the search tree
- Heuristic (or informed) strategies exploit state descriptions to order FRINGE (the most "promising" nodes are placed at the beginning of FRINGE)

Example

For a blind strategy, N_1 and N_2 are just two nodes (at some position in the search tree)



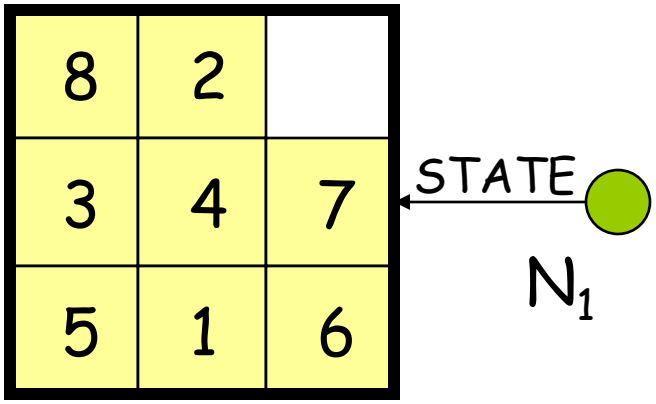


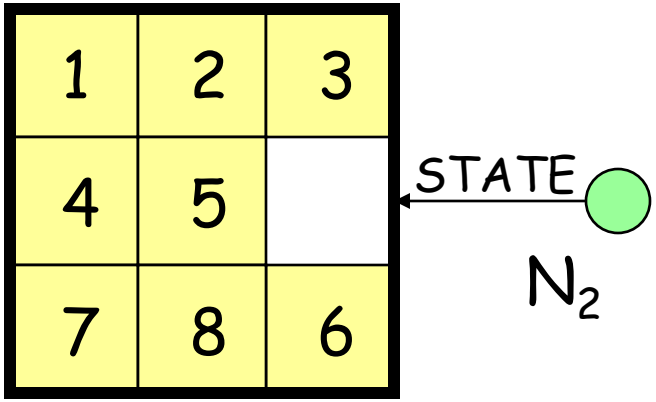


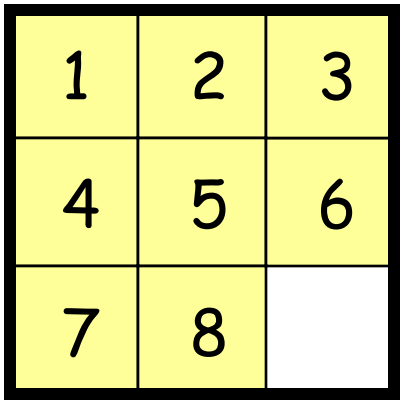
Goal state

Example

For a heuristic strategy counting the number of misplaced tiles, N_2 is more promising than N_1







Goal state

Blind Strategies

- Breadth-first
  - Bidirectional
- Depth-first
  - Depth-limited
  - Iterative deepening

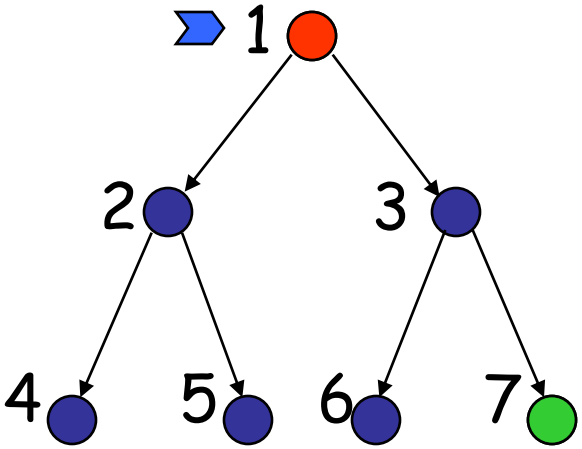
} Arc cost = 1

- Uniform-Cost
  (variant of breadth-first)

} Arc cost
= c(action) $\geq \varepsilon > 0$

Breadth-First Strategy

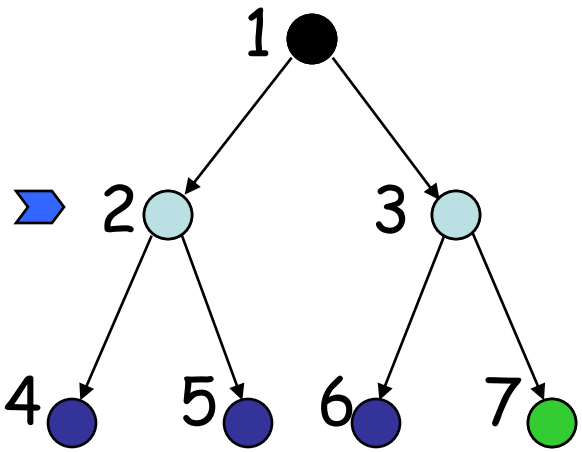
New nodes are inserted at the end of FRINGE



FRINGE = (1)

Breadth-First Strategy

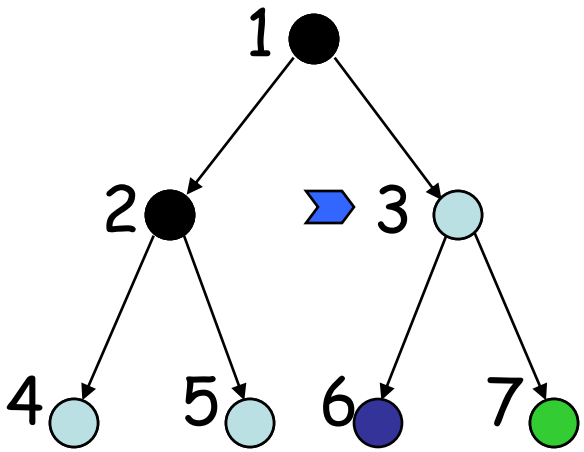
New nodes are inserted at the end of FRINGE



FRINGE = (2, 3)

Breadth-First Strategy

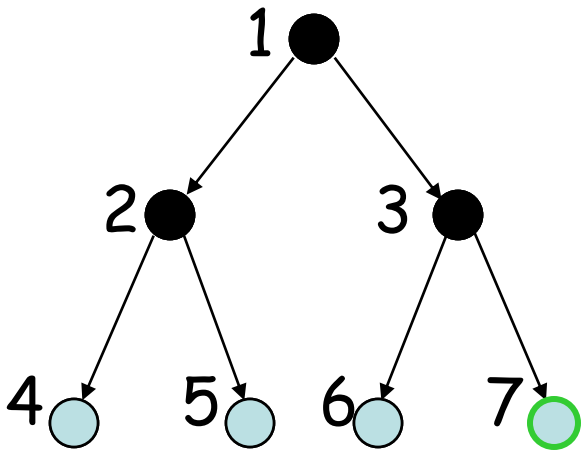
New nodes are inserted at the end of FRINGE



FRINGE = (3, 4, 5)

Breadth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted at the end of FRINGE



FRINGE = (4, 5, 6, 7)

Important Parameters

1) Maximum number of successors of any state

   → branching factor b of the search tree

2) Minimal length (≠ cost) of a path between the initial and a goal state

   → depth d of the shallowest goal node in the search tree

Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- Breadth-first search is:
  - Complete? Not complete?
  - Optimal? Not optimal?

Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- Breadth-first search is:
  - Complete
  - Optimal if step cost is 1
- Number of nodes generated:
  ???

Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- Breadth-first search is:
  - Complete
  - Optimal if step cost is 1
- Number of nodes generated:
  $1 + b + b^2 + \ldots + b^d$ = ???

Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- Breadth-first search is:
- Complete
  - Optimal if step cost is 1
- Number of nodes generated:
  $1 + b + b^2 + \ldots + b^d = (b^{d+1}-1)/(b-1) = O(b^d)$
- → Time and space complexity is $O(b^d)$
- When we can apply goal test? Node generation/Node expansion?

Big O Notation

$g(n) = O(f(n))$ if there exist two positive constants a and N such that:

for all $n > N$: $g(n) \leq a \times f(n)$

Time and Memory Requirements

d	# Nodes	Time	Memory
2	111	.01 msec	11 Kbytes
4	11,111	1 msec	1 Mbyte
6	~10^6	1 sec	100 Mb
8	~10^8	100 sec	10 Gbytes
10	~10^{10}	2.8 hours	1 Tbyte
12	~10^{12}	11.6 days	100 Tbytes
14	~10^{14}	3.2 years	10,000 Tbytes

Assumptions: b = 10; 1,000,000 nodes/sec; 100bytes/node

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Assumptions: b = 10; 1,000,000 nodes/sec; 100bytes/node

Remark

If a problem has no solution, breadth-first may run for ever (if the state space is infinite or states can be revisited arbitrary many times)

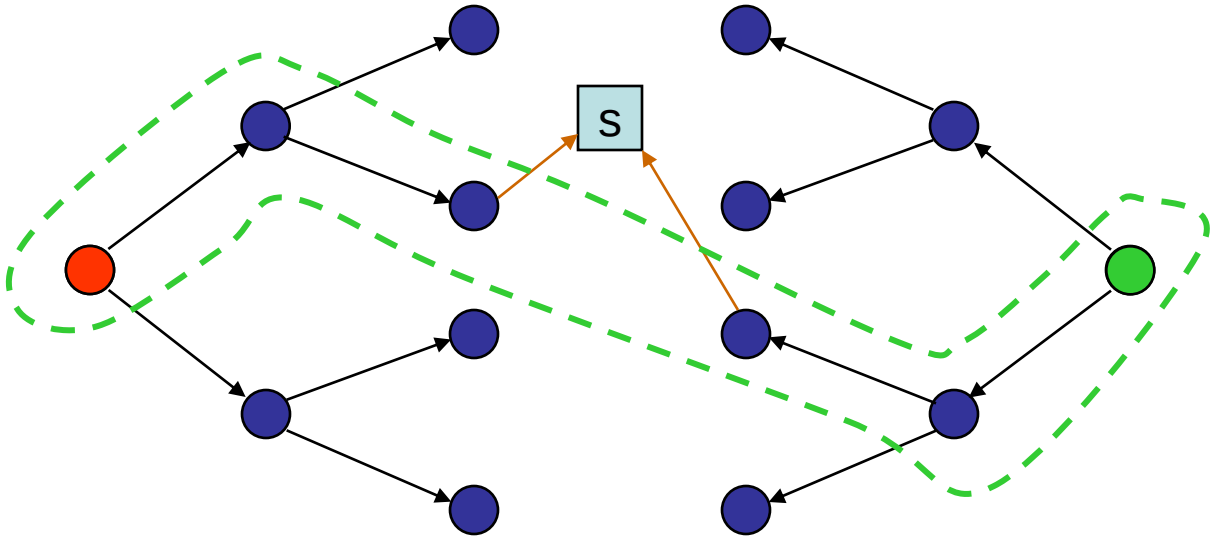
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	

?

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	15	14	

Bidirectional Strategy

2 fringe queues: FRINGE1 and FRINGE2

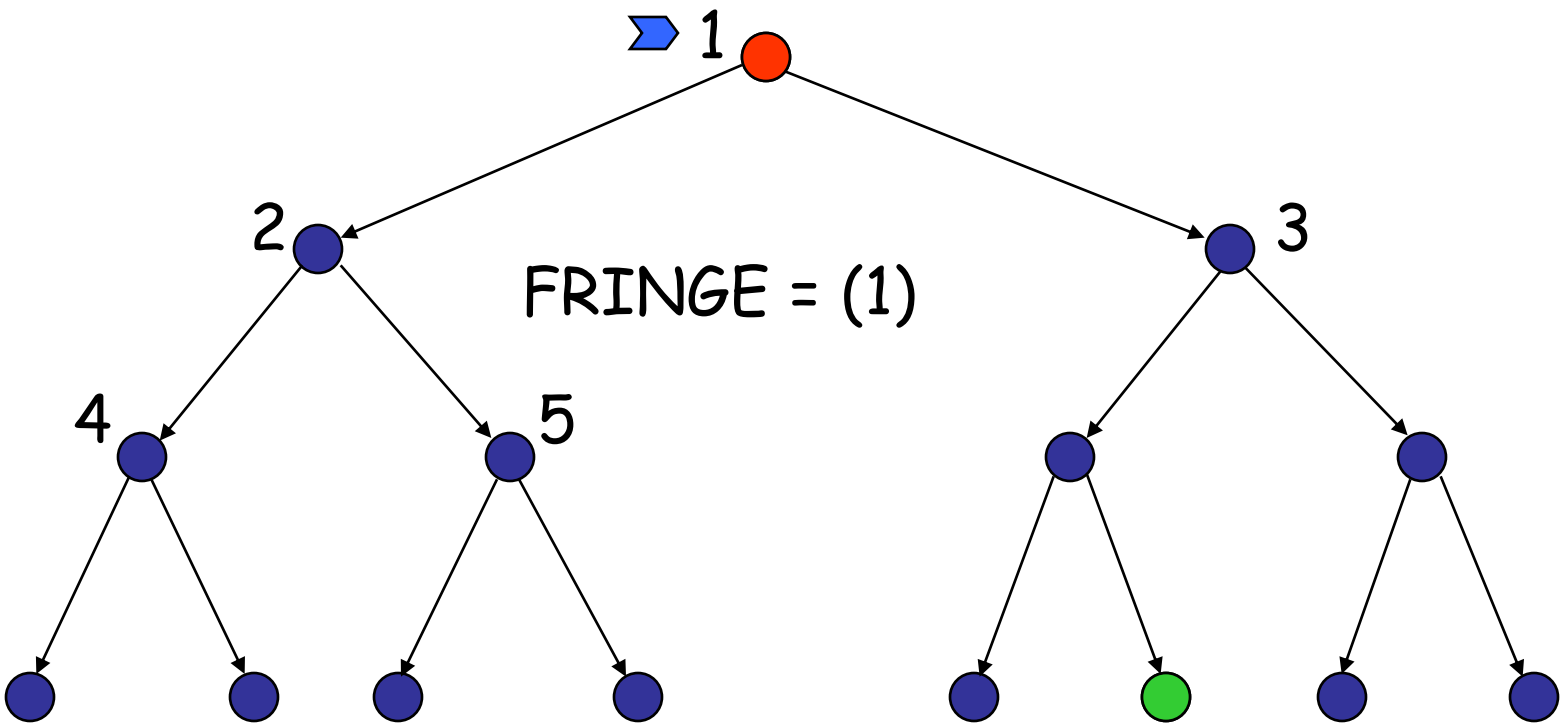


Time and space complexity is $O(b^{d/2}) << O(b^d)$
if both trees have the same branching factor b

Question: What happens if the branching factor is different in each direction?

Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted at the front of FRINGE



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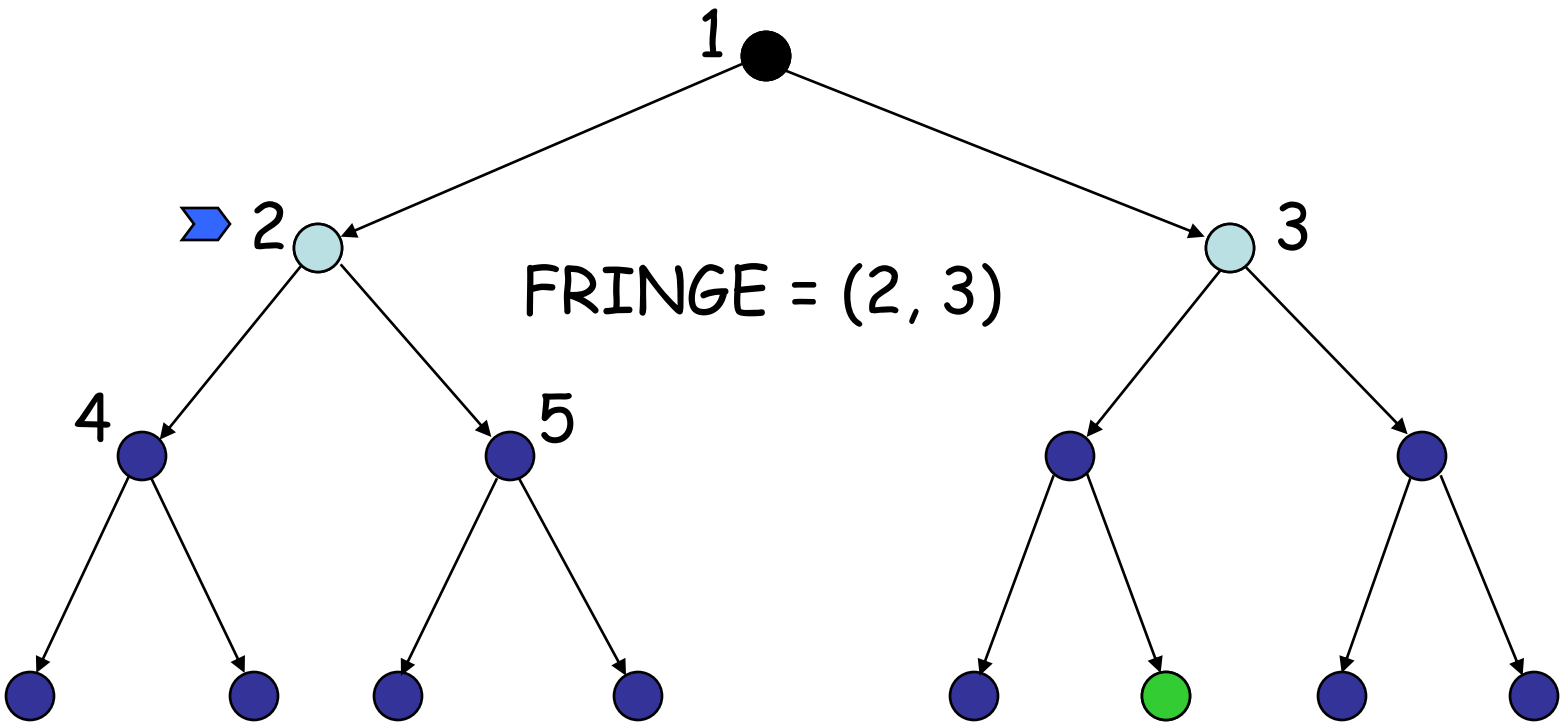

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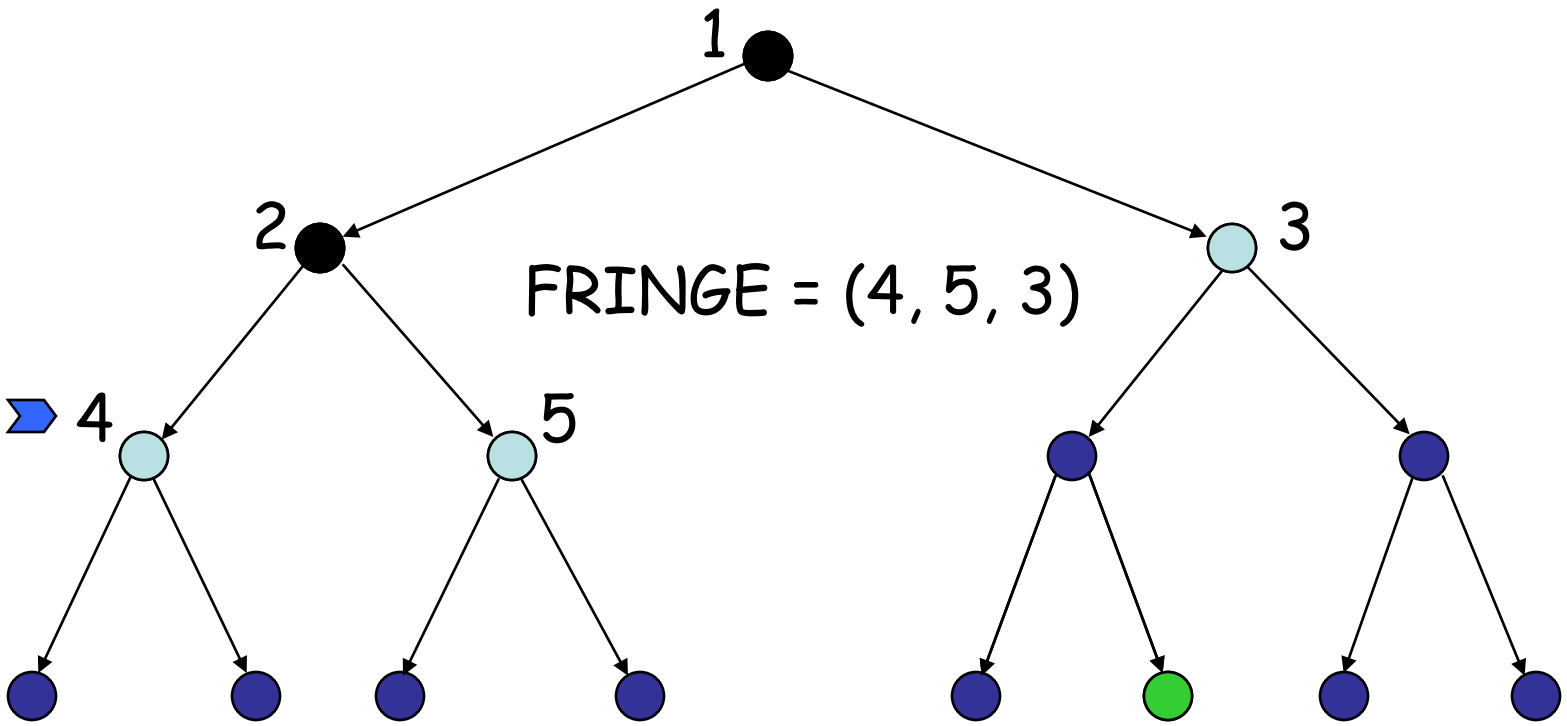

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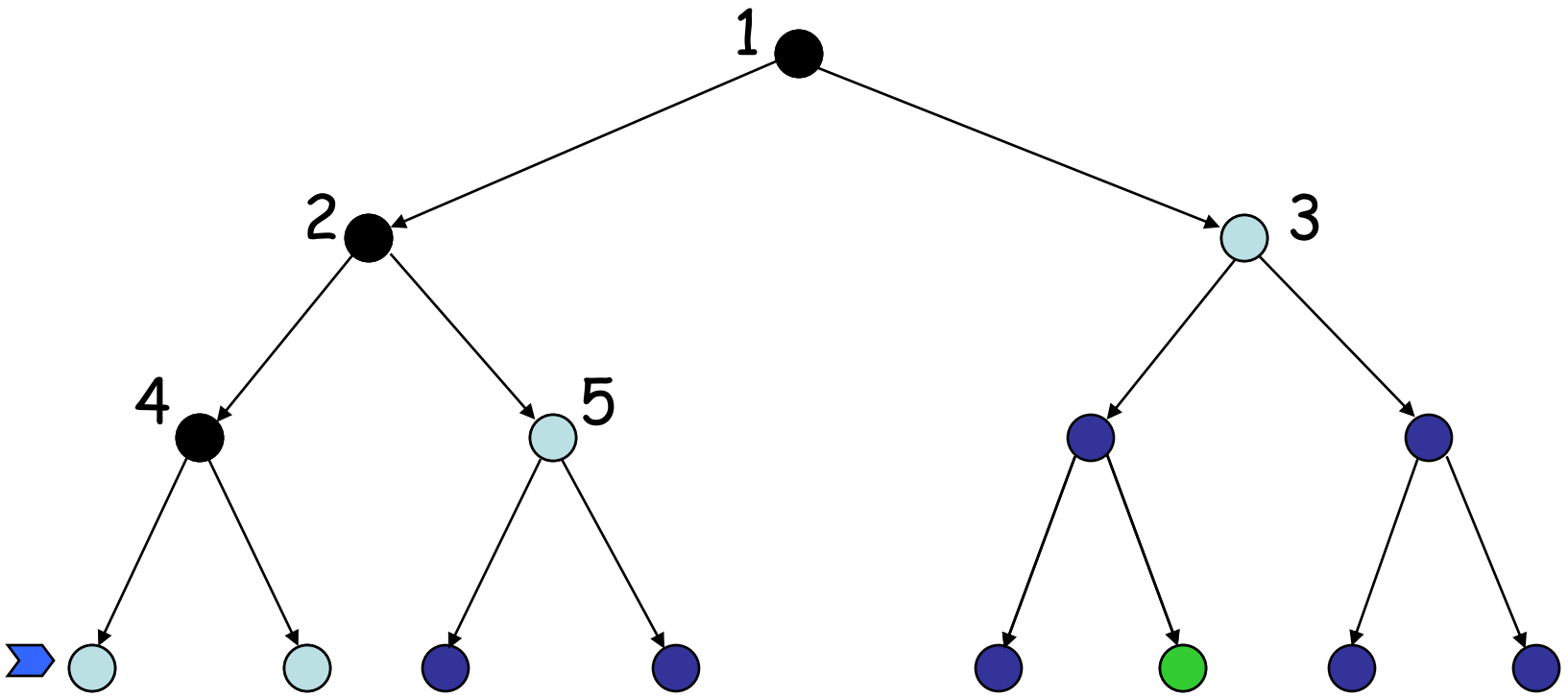

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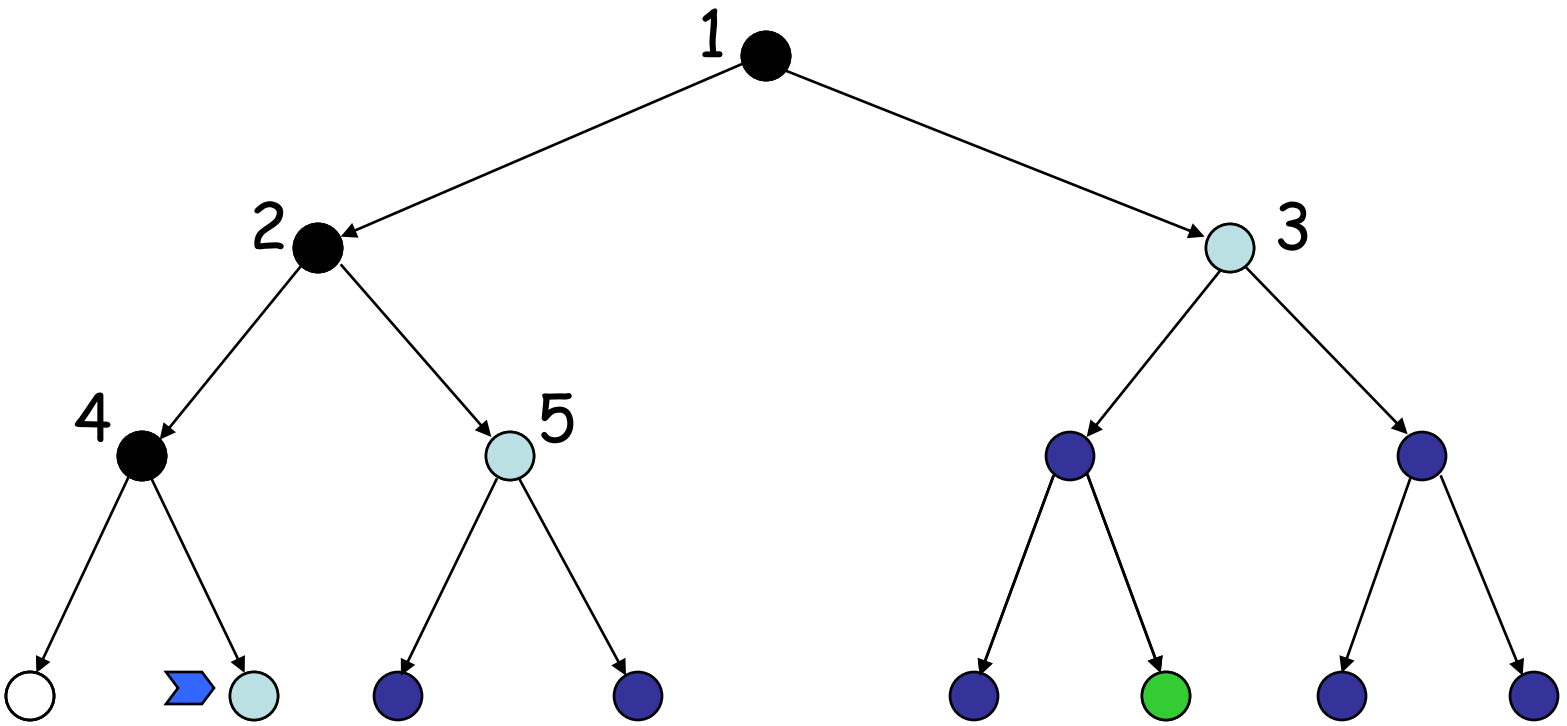

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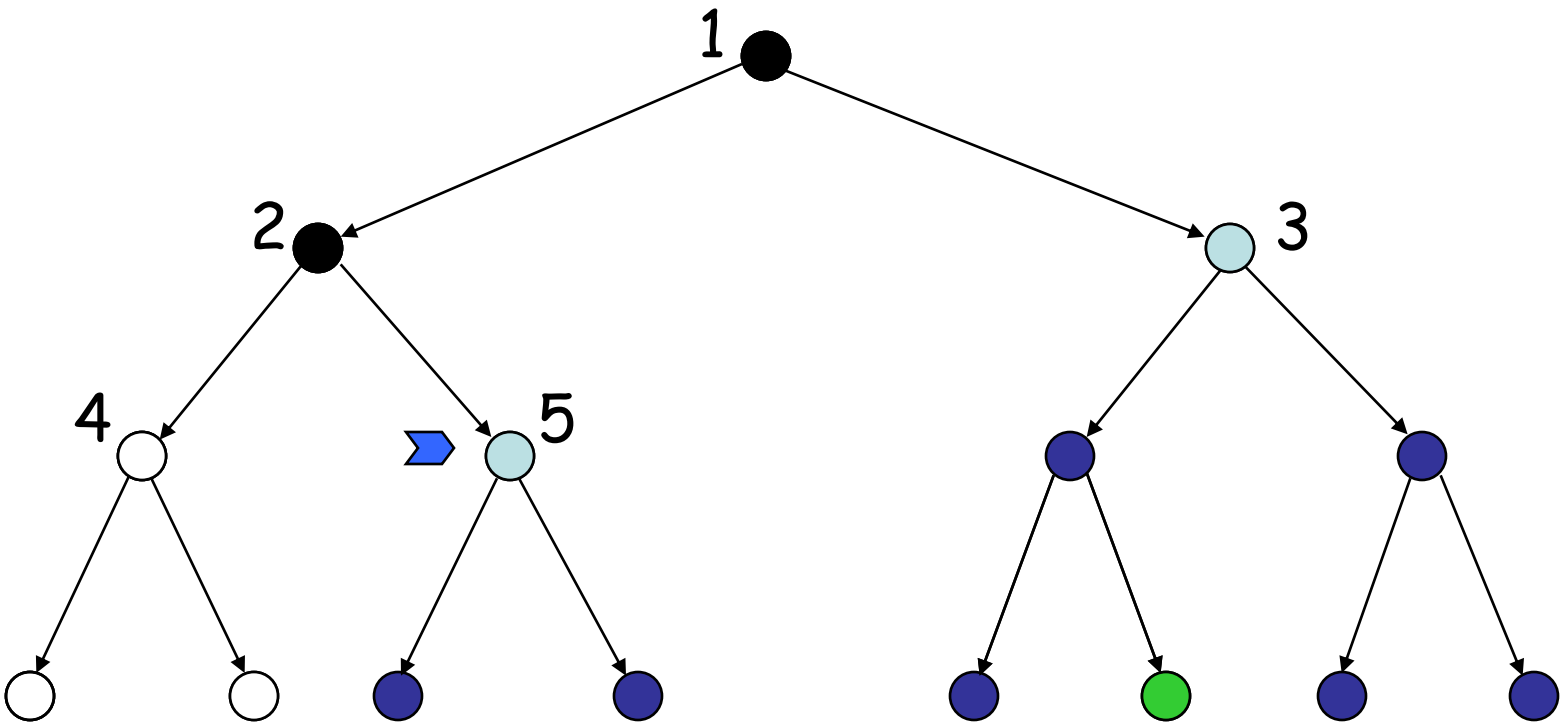

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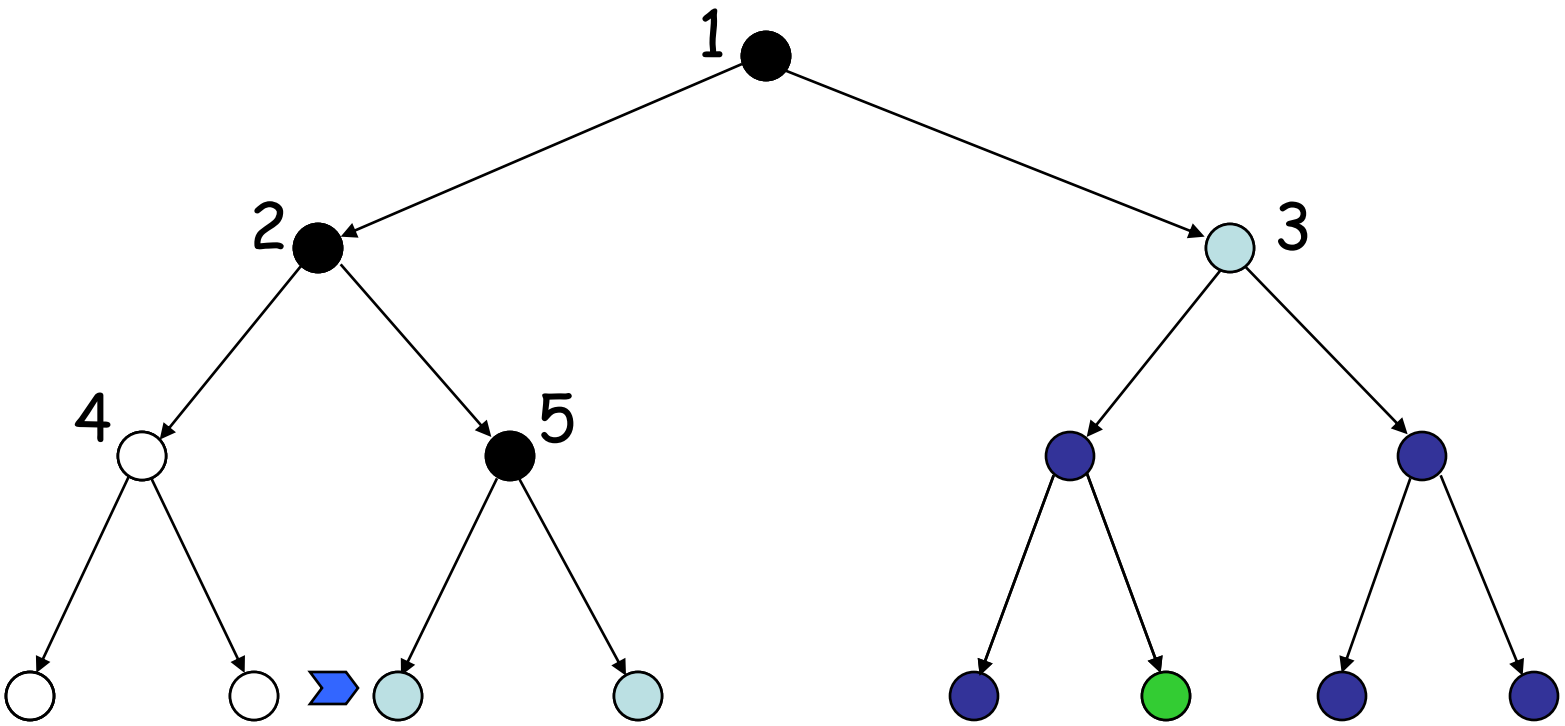

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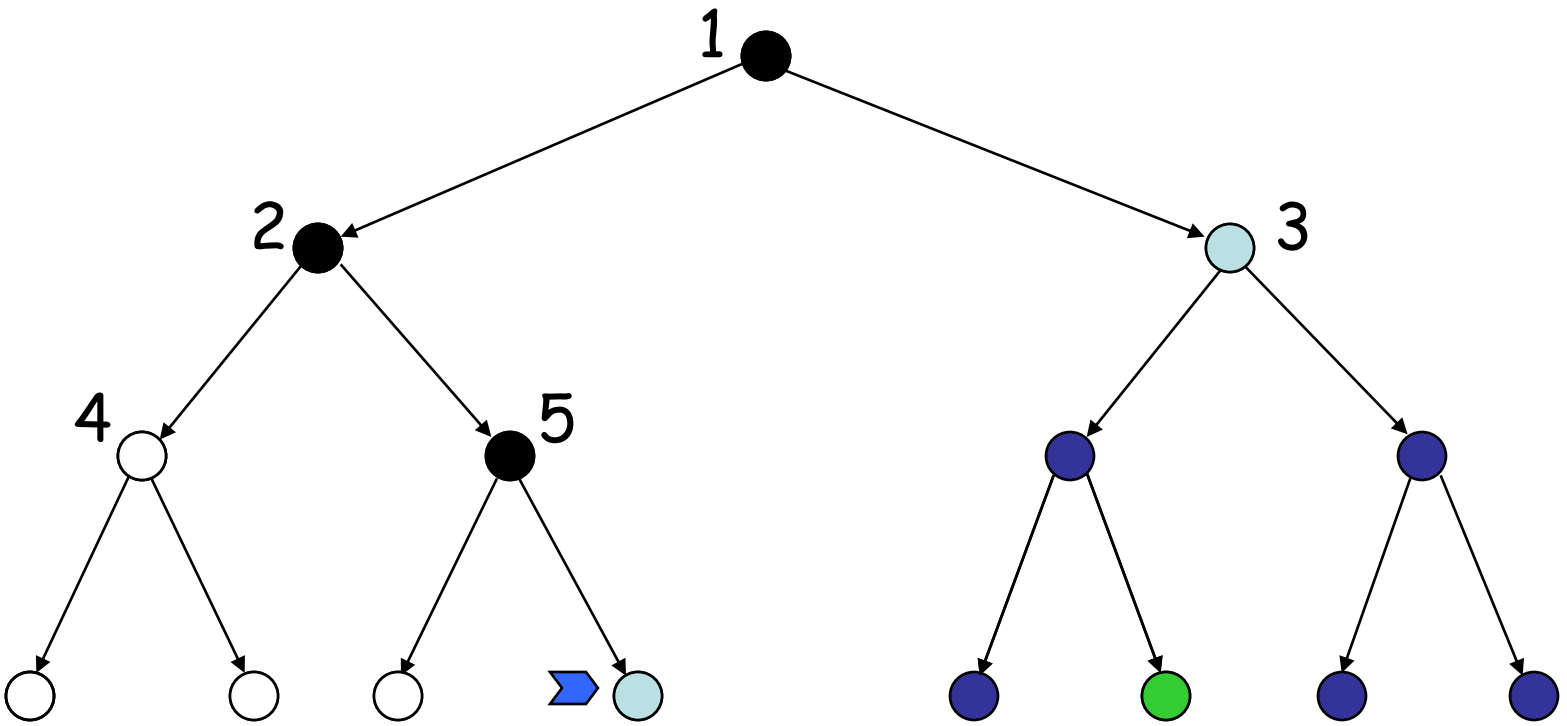

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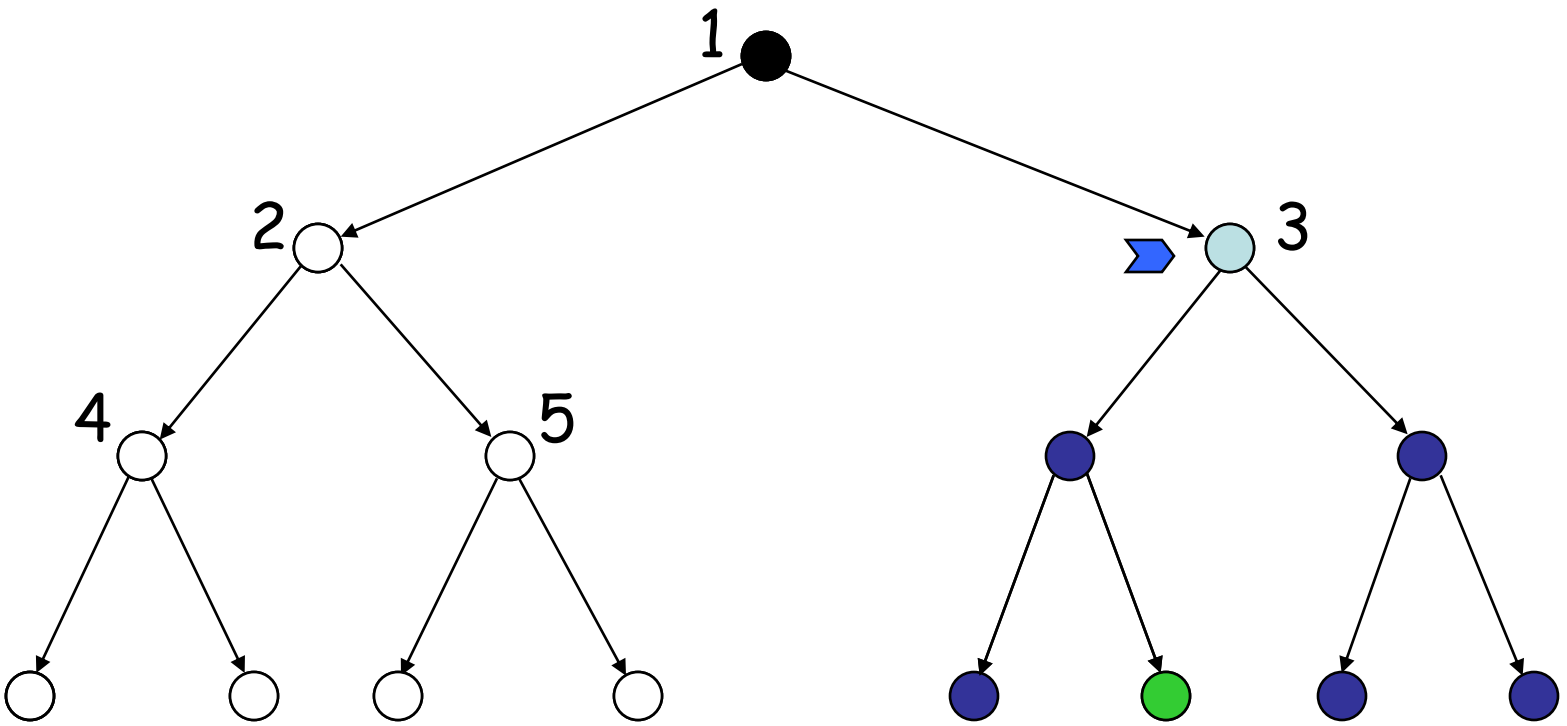

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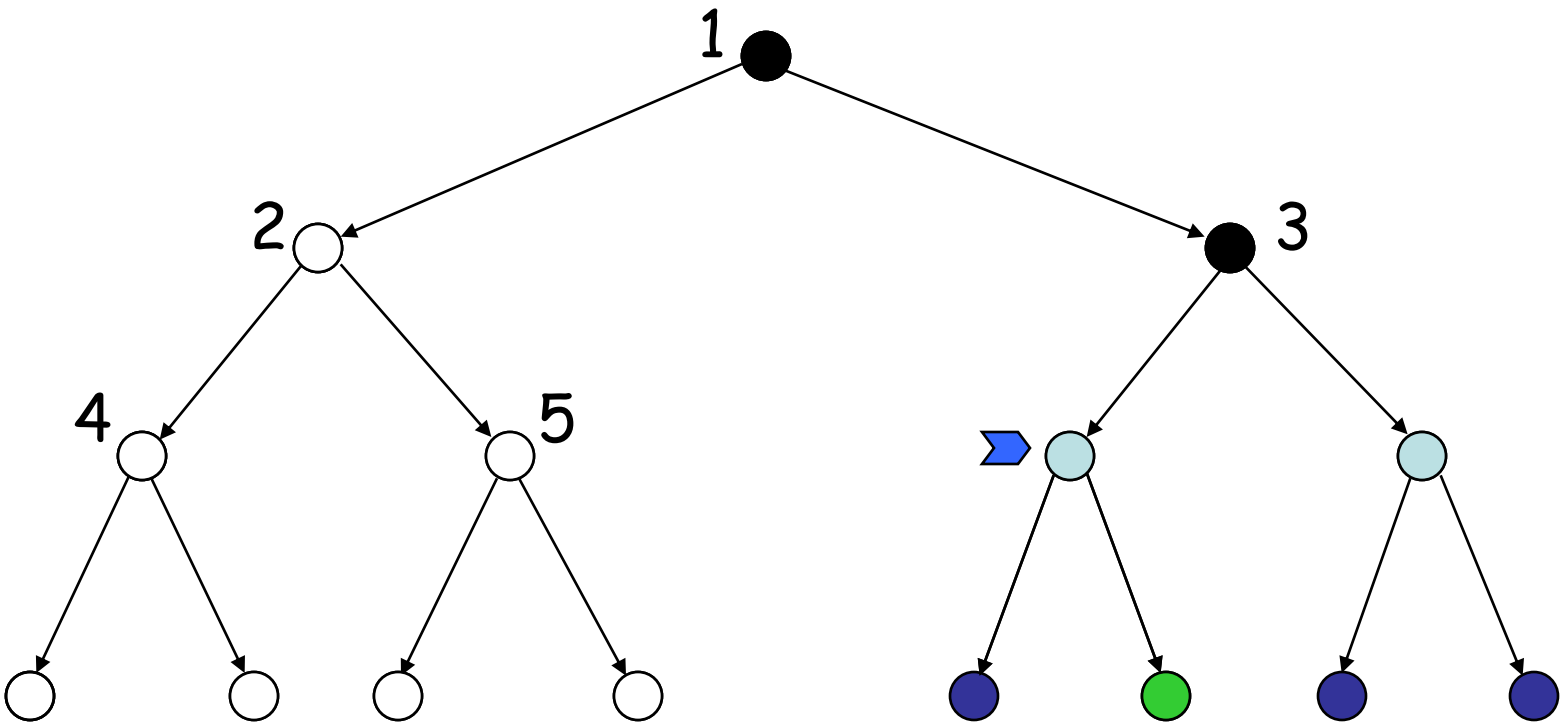

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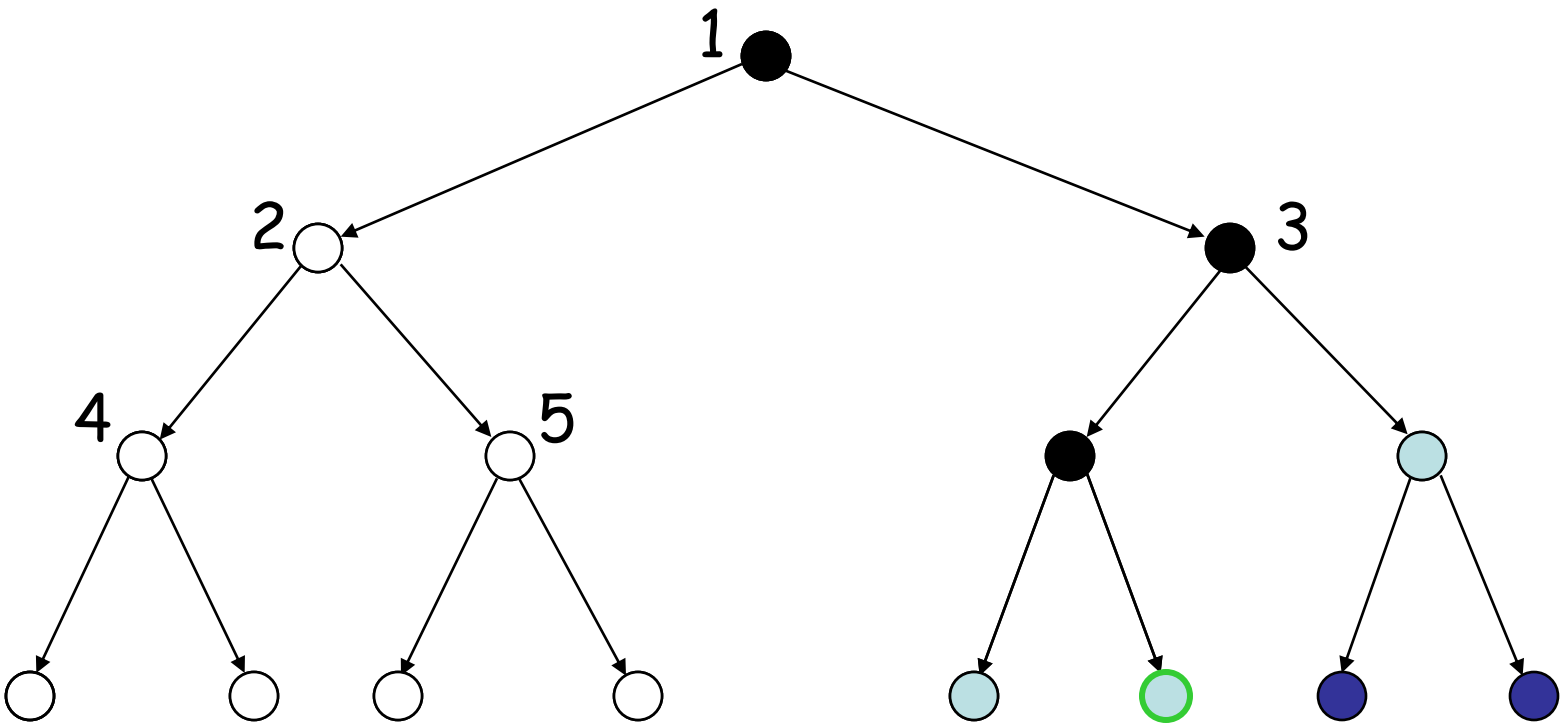


Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- m: maximal depth of a leaf node
- Depth-first search is:
  - Complete?
  - Optimal?

Evaluation

- b: branching factor
- d: depth of shallowest goal node
- m: maximal depth of a leaf node
- Depth-first search is:
  - Complete only for finite search tree
  - Not optimal
- Number of nodes generated (worst case):
  $1 + b + b^2 + \ldots + b^m = O(b^m)$
- Time complexity is $O(b^m)$
- Space complexity is $O(bm)$ [or $O(m)$]

[Reminder: Breadth-first requires $O(b^d)$ time and space]

Depth-Limited Search

- Depth-first with depth cutoff k (depth at which nodes are not expanded)

- Three possible outcomes:
  - Solution
  - Failure (no solution)
  - Cutoff (no solution within cutoff)

Iterative Deepening Search

Provides the best of both breadth-first and depth-first search

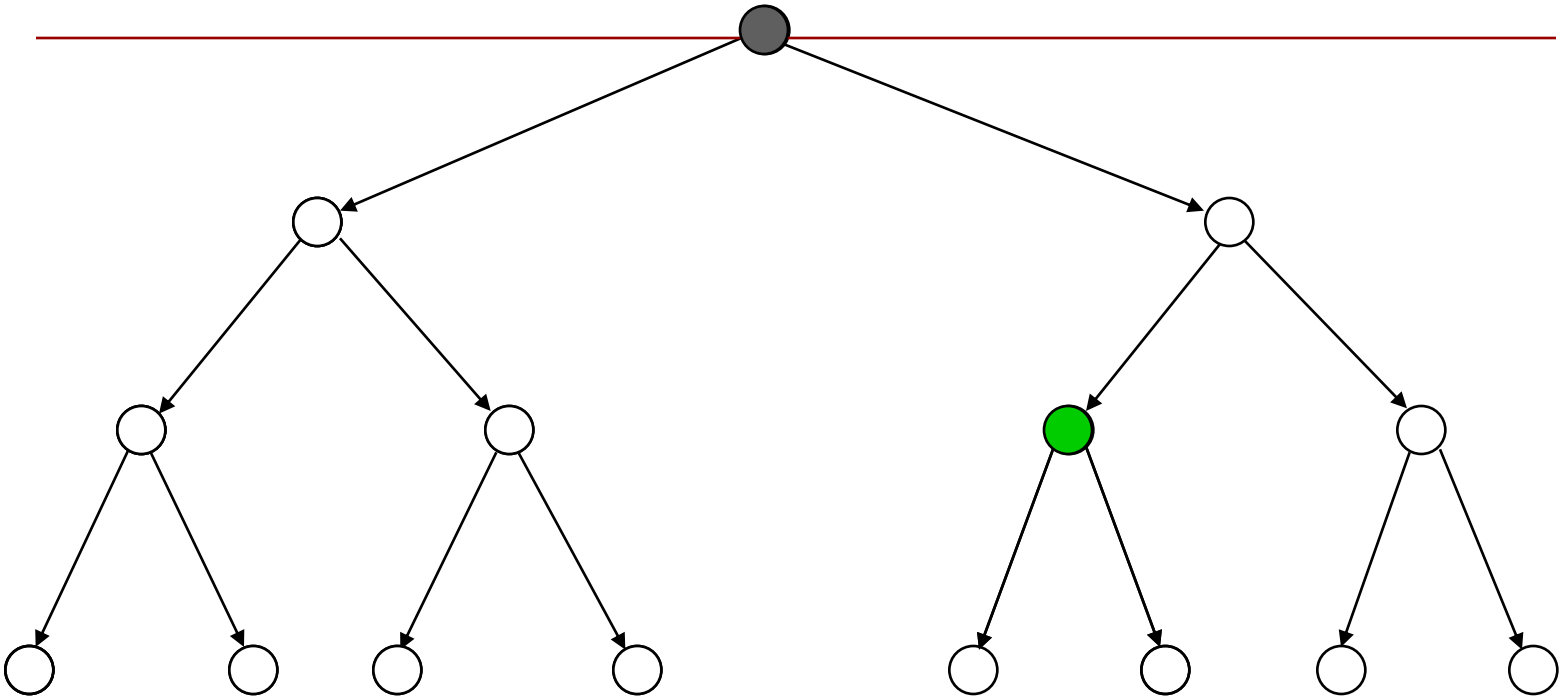
IDS

For k = 0, 1, 2, … do:

Perform depth-first search with depth cutoff k

(i.e., only generate nodes with depth $\leq$ k)

Iterative Deepening



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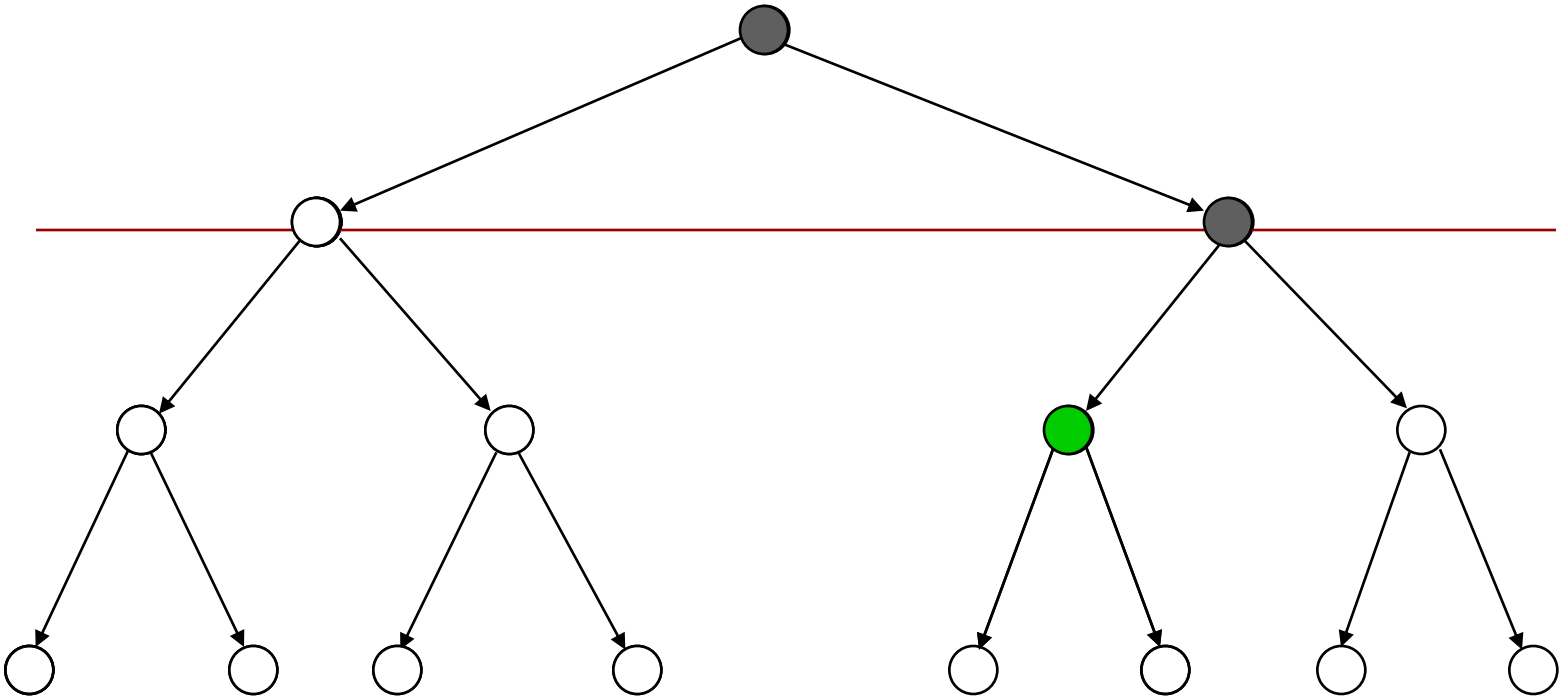
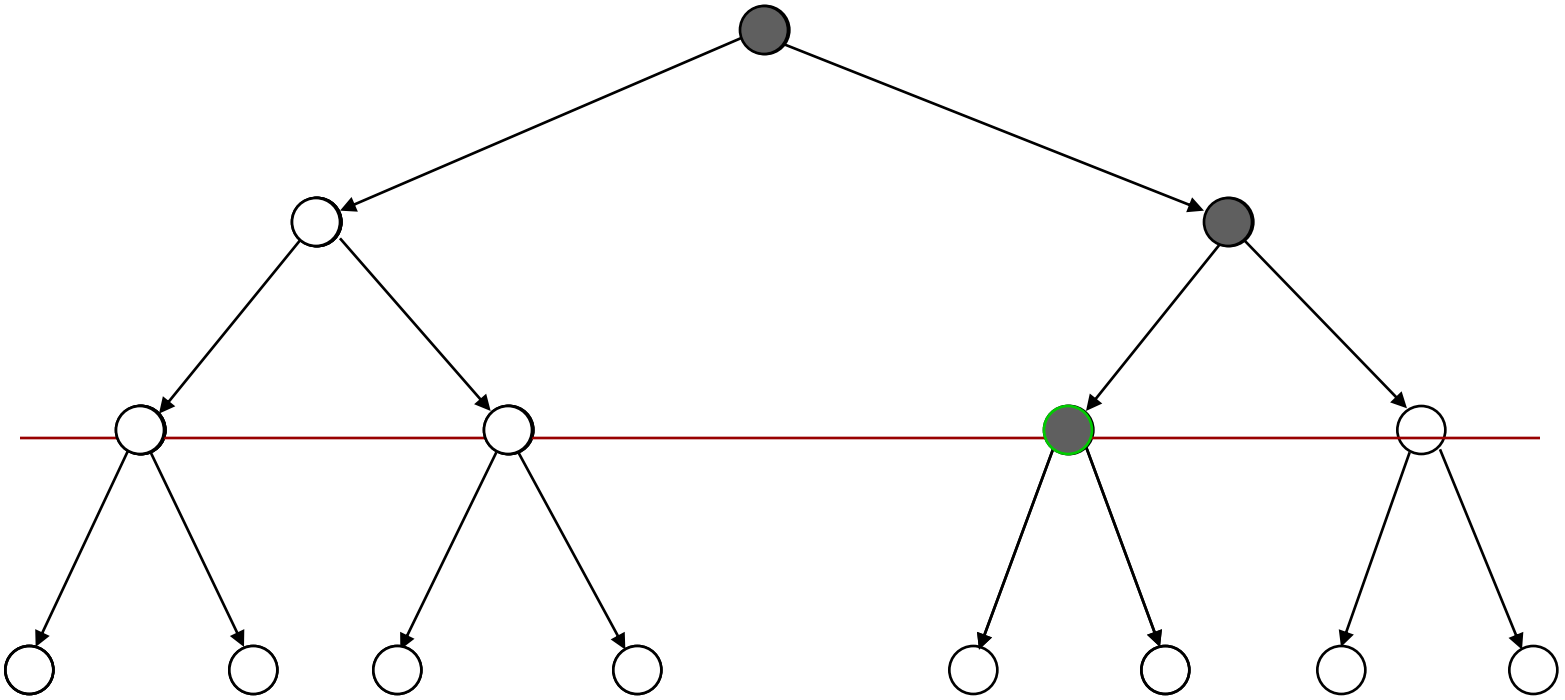


Iterative Deepening



Performance

- Iterative deepening search is:
  - Complete
  - Optimal if step cost =1
- Time complexity is:
  $(d+1)(1) + db + (d-1)b^2 + \ldots + (1)\, b^d = O(b^d)$
- Space complexity is: $O(bd)$ or $O(d)$

Number of Generated Nodes (Breadth-First & Iterative Deepening)

d = 5 and b = 2

BF	ID
1	1 x 6 = 6
2	2 x 5 = 10
4	4 x 4 = 16
8	8 x 3 = 24
16	16 x 2 = 32
32	32 x 1 = 32
63	120

120/63 ~ 2

Number of Generated Nodes (Breadth-First & Iterative Deepening)

d = 5 and b = 10

BF	ID
1	6
10	50
100	400
1,000	3,000
10,000	20,000
100,000	100,000
111,111	123,456

123,456/111,111 ~ 1.111

Comparison of Strategies

- Breadth-first is complete and optimal, but has high space complexity
- Depth-first is space efficient, but is neither complete, nor optimal
- Iterative deepening is complete and optimal, with the same space complexity as depth-first and almost the same time complexity as breadth-first

Revisited States

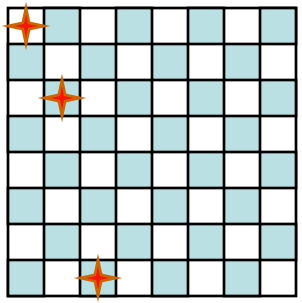
No

Few

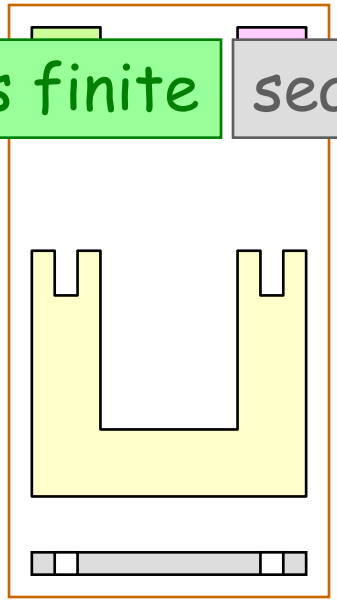
Many

search tree is finite

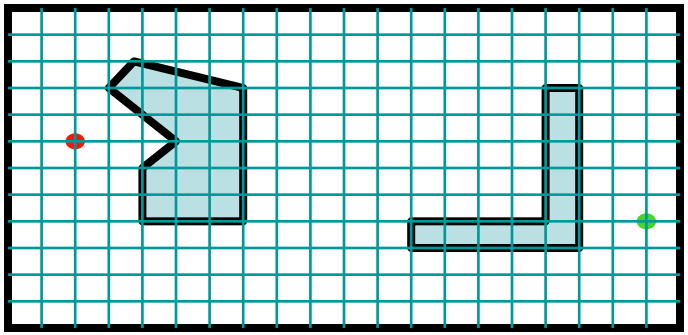
search tree is infinite



8-queens



assembly planning



8-puzzle and robot navigation