CSE 473: Intro to Artificial Intelligence

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Today

• Agents that Plan Ahead

Search Problems

Uninformed Search Methods
 Depth-First Search
 Breadth-First Search
 Uniform-Cost Search



Agents that Plan



Reflex Agents

• Reflex agents:

- Choose action based on current percept (and maybe memory)
- May have memory or a model of the world's current state
- Do not consider the future consequences of their actions
- Consider how the world IS

• Can a reflex agent be rational?





Video of Demo Reflex Optimal



Video of Demo Reflex Odd



Planning Agents

• Planning agents:

- o Ask "what if"
- Decisions based on (hypothesized) consequences of actions
- Must have a model of how the world evolves in response to actions
- Must formulate a goal (test)
- Consider how the world WOULD BE
- Optimal vs. complete planning
- Planning vs. replanning



Video of Demo Replanning



Video of Demo Mastermind



Search Problems



Search Problems

• A search problem consists of:

o A state space



• A successor function (with actions, costs)



o A start state and a goal test

• A solution is a sequence of actions (a plan) which transforms the start state to a goal state

Search: it is not just for agents







Example: Traveling in Romania



- State space:
 - o Cities
- Successor function:
 - Roads: Go to adjacent city with cost = distance
- Start state:
 - o Arad
- Goal test:
 - Is state == Bucharest?

• Solution?

What's in a State Space?



A search state keeps only the details needed for planning (abstraction)

- Problem: Pathing
 - States: (x,y) location
 - o Actions: NSEW
 - Successor: update location only
 - Goal test: is (x,y)=END

- Problem: Eat-All-Dots
 - States: {(x,y), dot booleans}
 - o Actions: NSEW
 - Successor: update location and possibly a dot boolean
 - o Goal test: dots all false



- Input:
 - Set of states
 - Operations



- Start state
- Goal state (test)
- Output:

State Space Sizes?

• World state:

- o Agent positions: 120
- o Food count: 30
- Ghost positions: 12
- o Agent facing: NSEW
- How many
 - World states?
 - $120x(2^{30})x(12^2)x4$
 - States for pathing?120
 - States for eat-all-dots?
 120x(2³⁰)



State Representation

• Real-world applications:

- o Requires approximations and heuristics
- o Need to design state representation so that search is feasible
 - o Only focus on important aspects of the state
 - o E.g., Use features to represent world states

Safe Passage



Problem: eat all dots while keeping the ghosts perma-scared
What does the state space have to specify?

o (agent position, dot booleans, power pellet booleans, remaining scared time)



State Space Graphs

- State space graph: A mathematical representation of a search problem
 - Nodes are (abstracted) world configurations
 - Arcs represent successors (action results)
 - The goal test is a set of goal nodes (maybe only one)
- In a state space graph, each state occurs only once!
- We can rarely build this full graph in memory (it's too big), but it's a useful idea



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Tiny search graph for a tiny search problem

Search Trees



• A search tree:

- The start state is the root node
- Children correspond to successors
- Nodes show states, but correspond to PLANS that achieve those states
- For most problems, we can never actually build the whole tree



Each NODE in in the search tree is an entire PATH in the state space graph.

We construct both on demand – and we construct as little as possible.



- Nodes in state space graphs are problem states
 - o Represent an abstracted state of the world
 - Have successors, can be goal / non-goal, have multiple predecessors
- Nodes in search trees are plans
 - Represent a plan (sequence of actions) which results in the node's state
 - Have a problem state and one parent, a path length, a depth & a cost
 - The same problem state may be achieved by multiple search tree nodes



Consider this 4-state graph:

How big is its search tree (from S)?





Consider this 4-state graph:

How big is its search tree (from S)?



Important: Lots of repeated structure in the search tree!

Tree Search



Search Example: Romania



Searching with a Search Tree



• Search:

o Expand out potential plans (tree nodes)

- Maintain a fringe of partial plans under consideration
- o Try to expand as few tree nodes as possible

General Tree Search

function TREE-SEARCH(problem, strategy) returns a solution, or failure
initialize the search tree using the initial state of problem
loop do
if there are no candidates for expansion then return failure

choose a leaf node for expansion according to *strategy* if the node contains a goal state then return the corresponding solution else expand the node and add the resulting nodes to the search tree end

• Important ideas:

- o Fringe
- o Expansion
- o Exploration strategy

• Main question: which fringe nodes to explore?

Example: Tree Search



Example: Tree Search



Today

O Uninformed Search Methods O Depth-First Search O Breadth-First Search O Uniform-Cost Search

Informed Search Methods



Recap: Search

• Search problem:

- States (configurations of the world)
- o Actions and costs
- o Successor function (world dynamics)
- o Start state and goal test

• Search tree:

Nodes: represent plans for reaching states

• Search algorithm:

- Systematically builds a search tree
- Chooses an ordering of the fringe (unexplored nodes)



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Search Algorithms

- o Uninformed Search Methods
 - o Depth-First Searcho Breadth-First Searcho Uniform-Cost Search
- Heuristic Search Methods
 Best First / Greedy Search
 A*

Depth-First Search



Depth-First Search

Strategy: expand a deepest node first

Implementation: Fringe is a LIFO stack





Search Algorithm Properties



Search Algorithm Properties

- Complete: Guaranteed to find a solution if one exists?
- Optimal: Guaranteed to find the least cost path?
- Time complexity?
- Space complexity?
- Cartoon of search tree:

b is the branching factor
m is the maximum depth
solutions at various depths

• Number of nodes in entire tree?





Depth-First Search (DFS) Properties

• What nodes DFS expand?

- Some left prefix of the tree.
- Could process the whole tree!
- o If m is finite, takes time O(b^m)

• How much space does the fringe take?

• Only has siblings on path to root, so O(bm)

• Is it complete?

 m could be infinite, so only if we prevent cycles (more later)

• Is it optimal?

 No, it finds the "leftmost" solution, regardless of depth or cost



Breadth-First Search



Breadth-First Search

Strategy: expand a shallowest node first

Implementation: Fringe is a FIFO queue





Breadth-First Search (BFS) Properties

• What nodes does BFS expand?

- Processes all nodes above shallowest solution
- Let depth of shallowest solution be s
- o Search takes time O(b^s)
- How much space does the fringe take?
 - Has roughly the last tier, so O(b^s)

• Is it complete?

o s must be finite if a solution exists, so yes!

• Is it optimal?

• Only if costs are all 1 (more on costs later)



BFS

Algorithm		Complete	Optimal	Time	Space
DFS	w/ Path Checking	Y	Ν	$O(b^m)$	O(bm)
BFS		Y	Y*	O(b ^s)	O(b ^s)



Quiz: DFS vs BFS





Video of Demo Maze Water DFS/BFS (part 1)



Video of Demo Maze Water DFS/BFS (part 2)



DFS vs BFS

• When will BFS outperform DFS?

• When will DFS outperform BFS?

Iterative Deepening

- Idea: get DFS's space advantage with BFS's time / shallow-solution advantages
 - Run a DFS with depth limit 1. If no solution...
 - Run a DFS with depth limit 2. If no solution...
 - o Run a DFS with depth limit 3.

• Isn't that wastefully redundant?

 Generally most work happens in the lowest level searched, so not so bad!



Cost-Sensitive Search



BFS finds the shortest path in terms of number of actions. It does not find the least-cost path. We will now cover a similar algorithm which does find the least-cost path.

How?

Uniform Cost Search



Uniform Cost Search

Strategy: expand a cheapest node first:

Fringe is a priority queue (priority: cumulative cost)





Uniform Cost Search (UCS) Properties

• What nodes does UCS expand?

- Processes all nodes with cost less than cheapest solution!
- If that solution costs C^* and arcs cost at least ε , then the "effective depth" is roughly C^*/ε
- Takes time $O(b^{C^*/\varepsilon})$ (exponential in effective depth)
- How much space does the fringe take?
 - Has roughly the last tier, so $O(b^{C^{*/\epsilon}})$

• Is it complete?

- Assuming best solution has a finite cost and minimum arc cost is positive, yes!
- Is it optimal?
 - Yes! (Proof next lecture via A*)



Uniform Cost Issues

• Remember: UCS explores increasing cost contours

• The good: UCS is complete and optimal!

• The bad:

o Explores options in every "direction"o No information about goal location

• We'll fix that soon!





Video of Demo Empty UCS



Video of Demo Maze with Deep/Shallow Water --- DFS, BFS, or UCS? (part 1)



Video of Demo Maze with Deep/Shallow Water --- DFS, BFS, or UCS? (part 2)



Video of Demo Maze with Deep/Shallow Water --- DFS, BFS, or UCS? (part 3)



The One Queue

- All these search algorithms are the same except for fringe strategies
 - Conceptually, all fringes are priority queues (i.e. collections of nodes with attached priorities)
 - Practically, for DFS and BFS, you can avoid the log(n) overhead from an actual priority queue, by using stacks and queues
 - Can even code one implementation that takes a variable queuing object



Search Gone Wrong?



Estimated Total Time: 47 hours, 31 minutes

Search and Models

- Search operates over models of the world
 - The agent doesn't actually try all the plans out in the real world!
 - Planning is all "in simulation"
 - Your search is only as good as your models...



To Do:

• Try python practice (PS0) o Won't be graded • PS1 on the website o Start ASAP o Submission: Canvas • Website: o Do readings for search algorithms o Try this search visualization tool o http://qiao.github.io/PathFinding.js/visual/