### **Search Agents**



Your AI Journey Starts Here



# **Search Agents**

- Agents that work towards a goal
- Agents consider the impact of actions on future states
- Agent's job is to identify the action or series of actions that lead to the goal
- Formalized as a **search** through possible **solutions**



# Three types of search...



8		9	5		1	7	3	6
2		7		6	3			
1	6							
				9		4		7
	9		3		7		2	
7		6		8				
							6	3
			9	3		5		2
5	3	2	6		4	8		9



Simple Search Search with Constraints Adversarial Search

#### Three types of search...

# **Simple Search**



Eight puzzle



#### Start state

**Goal state** 



- States: location of each of the 8 tiles in the 3x3 grid
- Initial state: any state
- Actions: move left, right, up or down
- Transition model: given a state and an action, returns resulting state
- Goal test: state matches the goal state?
- Path cost: total moves, each move costs one





- States: In(city) where city ∈ {Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver,...}
- Initial state: In(Boston)
- Actions: Go(New York), etc.
- Transition model:

Results (In(Boston), Go(New York)) = In(New York)

- Goal test: In(Denver)
- Path cost: path length in kilometers

# **Real-World Examples**

• Route finding problem: typically our example of map search, where we need to go from location to location using links or transitions; examples of applications include tools for driving directions in websites, in-car systems, etc.



# **Real-World Examples**

• VLSI layout: position millions of components and connections on a chip to minimize area, shorten delays; aim: put circuit components on a chip, so they don't overlap and leave space to wiring, which is a complex problem



# **Real-World Examples**

 Robot navigation: special case of route finding for robots with no specific routes or connections; the robot navigates in 2D or 3D space where the state space and action space are potentially infinite.





Let's show the first steps in growing the search tree to find a route from San Francisco to another city.







#### Three types of search...

# **Search with Constraints**

#### • Search problems

- Find the **sequence of actions** that leads to the goal.
- Sequence of actions means a **path** in the search space.
- Paths come with different costs.
- Constraint satisfaction problems
  - A search problem too!
  - We need to incorporate constraints.
  - We care about the **goal itself**.



Variables:  $X = \{WA, NT, Q, NSW, V, SA, T\}$ 



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**Domains:**  $D_i = \{\text{red}, \text{green}, \text{blue}\}$ 

**Constraints:** adjacent regions must have different colors;

e.g.,  $WA \neq NT$  or  $(WA, NT) \in \{(red, green), (red, blue)\}, etc.$ 





#### **Example:**

 $\{WA = red, NT = green, Q = red, NSW = green, V = red, SA = blue, T = green\}$ 









#### Three types of search...

# **Adversarial Search**

- Adversarial search problems known as games
- They occur in multiagent competitive environments
- There is an **opponent** we can't control planning against us!
- Game vs. search: optimal solution is not a sequence of actions but a **strategy** (policy); if opponent does *a*, agent does *b*, else if opponent does *c*, agent does *d*, etc.
- Tedious and fragile if hard-coded (i.e., implemented with rules)
- Good news: games are modeled as search problems and use heuristic evaluation functions

# **Games: Hard Topic**

- Games are a big deal in AI
- Games are interesting to AI because they are too hard to solve
- Chess has a branching factor of 35, with  $35^{100}$  nodes  $\approx 10^{154}$
- Need to make some decision, even when the optimal decision is infeasible

#### Checkers

- Chinook ended 40-year reign of human world champion Marion Tinsley in 1994.
- Chinook used an endgame database defining perfect play for all positions involving eight or fewer pieces on the board, a total of 443,748,401,247 positions.



#### Chess

- In his 1949 paper, "Programming a Computer for Playing Chess," Claude E. Shannon suggested *chess* as an AI problem for the community.
- Deep Blue defeated human world champion Gary Kasparov in a six-game match in 1997.
- In 2006, Vladmir Kramnik, the undisputed world champion, was defeated 4–2 by Deep Fritz.



**Go:** b > 300! Google DeepMind Project AlphaGo. In 2016, AlphaGo beat both Fan Hui, the European Go champion, and Lee Sedol, the world's best player.

**Othello:** Several computer othello exist and human champions refuse to compete against computers that are too good.



By Donarreiskoffer



By Paul\_012

via Wikimedia Commons

# **Adversarial Search: Minimax**

- Two players: Max and Min
- Players alternate turns
- Max moves first
- Max maximizes results
- Min minimizes the result
- Compute each node's minimax value's best achievable utility against an optimal adversary
- Minimax value gives best achievable payoff against best play

# Minimax Example

