MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
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# Search Me Quickly

Prof. Robert C. Berwick

**Agenda**

1. **Administrivia**
2. **Intelligence = "Knowledge Based System" (KBS) = Knowledge + Search**
3. **How to search optimally: B&B, A***

## 1. Administrivia

## 2. What is intelligence? Ans: Good, *optimal* searching

Search is composed of 5 main features:

- DATA STRUCTURE (aka a Problem Representation) – mapping from problem into a **graph,** from graph into **search tree**
    1. The START state.
    2. The GOAL state (or states)
    3. Given an arbitrary state, the SUCCESSORS of that state (or a successor function that computes this
    4. A **queue** to keep track of how we are searching through the graph
- CONTROL STRUCTURE
    5. Search STRATEGY that determines ORDER in which we search the queue.

Search arises in many AI contexts, both as finding a goal, and in the more obvious one of finding a path (through a problem space or a real space). Let's look at some examples of the goal-finding sort first. These are perhaps the most 'natural' to visualize (as in the online demo), but actually the least frequently used in AI.

To talk about moving through a space, it is natural to introduce the notions of **graphs** and **trees.** A **directed graph** is like a set of one-way streets – a finite set of vertices (nodes) and links (edges) connecting the nodes. An **undirected graph -** two-way streets. A **cycle (loop)** in a graph is a sequence of edges that starts and ends at the same node. A **tree** is a directed graph without cycles. We can turn **graph search problems into tree search problems** by (1) replacing each undirected links by 2 directed links (going in opposite directions) and (2) avoiding cycles on any path.

## 3. Representing problems as search problems

The **key** lesson for this recitation: searching is **not just about maps!** It applies whenever we can abstract a problem as a choice amongst alternatives, a set of states of the problem (the **problem or state space**), a special **start** state, a **goal** state, and a way to get from one state to another (the **next/valid or legal moves**) Let's do a few examples so you can see how this conversion works.

1. **Farmer, goose, grain** (**Startup firms and Oligopolies).**

A farmer wants to move a fox, a goose, grain, and the farmer across a river. The boat is so tiny that it can hold only one of the possessions across on any trip. Also, an unattended fox will eat a goose, and an unattended goose will eat the grain. What should the farmer do?

- **How do we represent the States? (one state) –** tells us how to represent the state space
- **How do we represent the start state?**
- **How do we represent the goal state?**
- **How do we represent legal moves (transitions) from state to state?**

Next we want to turn this **graph** into a **tree.** Then we want to try out our 'blind' search methods on this tree. Example: Oligopolies and Startups

**4. Search me – the framework**

A **partial path N** is a path from the start node to some node X, e.g., (*S A B X*). The **head** of a partial path is the most recent node of the path, e.g. *X*.

- Let *Q* be a list of partial paths, e.g. ((*S A B* X) (*S A B C*) …).
- Let *S* be the start node and *G* the Goal node.

**<u>Search framework pseudocode</u>**

1.Initialize *Q* with partial path (*S*) as only entry; set *Visited* = *S* *Note change from slide pseudocode*
2.If *Q* is empty, fail. Else, pick some partial path *N* from Q
3.If *head*(*N*) = *G*(oal), return *N* (we've reached the goal); *N* is the successful path from *S* to *G*.
4. Else Remove *N* from *Q*
5.Find all the descendants of *head*(*N*) not in *Visited* and create all the one-step extensions of *N* to each descendant.
6.Add to *Q* all the extended paths; add descendants *of head*(*N*) to *Visited*
7.Go to step 2.

*Note 1:* There are two choices remaining:

- Where to pick elements *N* from *Q* in step 2.
- Where to add the new path extensions to *Q* in step 6.

*Note 2:* The Winston book does not use a *Visited* list
*Note 3:* We could stop at step 6 if the extended paths at that point reach the goal, but this won't work for optimal searches, so we use the more general test in Step 3.

**<u>Implementing Depth-First Search</u>**

Our control choices: (1) Pick *N* from the *first* element of the *Q*; (2) Add new path extensions to the *front* of *Q*.

Let's try this out on our example. Here are the first 3 iterations:

1. Initial step: partial path *N* = (1), Visited set= 1
2. *Q* is not empty, so pick FIRST of partial paths; this is 1
3. Not at goal, so
4. Remove 1 from *Q*.
5. Find all descendants of *head(N)*¸ = 1 *not* in *Visited* = 2; & create all 1-step extensions, (2, 1);
6. Add this path to *Q*; add *head* of this path to *Visited.* So *Visited*= 2, 1 and *Q*=(2, 1)
7. Go to Step 2.

2. *Q* is not empty, so pick FIRST of the partials, i.e., (2, 1).
3. Not at goal, so
4. Remove (2, 1) from *Q*
5. Find all descendants of (2,1) *not* in visited list =3 & create all 1-step extensions, (3, 2, 1)
6. Add this path to *Q*; add *head* of this path to *Visited.* So *Visited*= 3,2, 1 and *Q*=(3, 2, 1)
7. Go to step 2.

2. *Q* is not empty, so pick FIRST of the partials, i.e., (3, 2, 1).
3. Not at goal, so
4. Remove (3, 2, 1) from *Q*
5. Find all descendants of (3, 2,1) *not* in visited list =4, 5, 6 & create all 1-step extensions, (4, 3, 2, 1); (5, 3, 2, 1) and (8, 3, 2, 1)
6. Add these paths to *Q*; add *heads* of these paths to *Visited.* So *Visited*= 8,5,4,3,2, 1 and *Q*=(4 3, 2, 1), (5, 3, 2,1) and (8, 3, 2, 1)
7. Go to step 2

**Implementing Breadth-first search**

Our control choices: (1) Pick *N* from the *first* element of the *Q*; (2) Add new path extensions to the *end* of *Q*.

Now, you try this one on your own- follow the slides