

# **A4B36ZUI** - Introduction to **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

<https://cw.fel.cvut.cz/wiki/courses/a4b33zui/start>




















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**OI** OTEVŘENÁ  
INFORMATIKA

In parts based on [cs121.stanford.edu](https://cs121.stanford.edu) & S. Russell and P. Norvig, Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach. 3rd edition, Prentice Hall, 2010

## Přednášky z předmětu A4B33ZUI / Lectures for A4B33ZUI

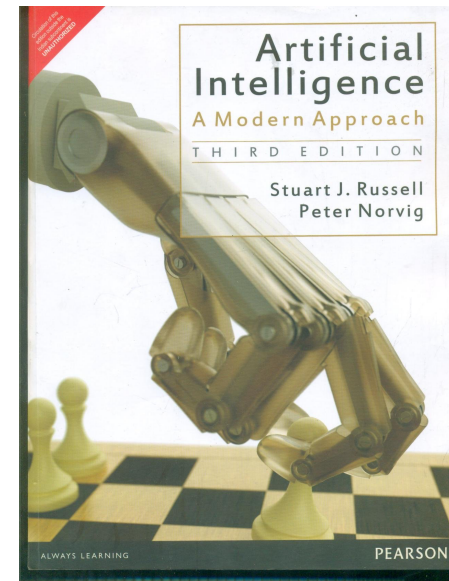
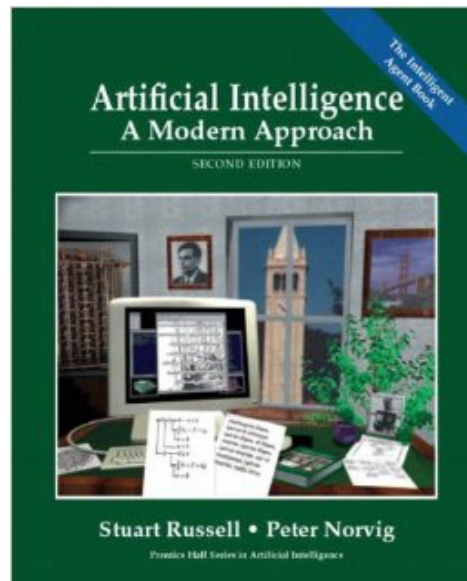
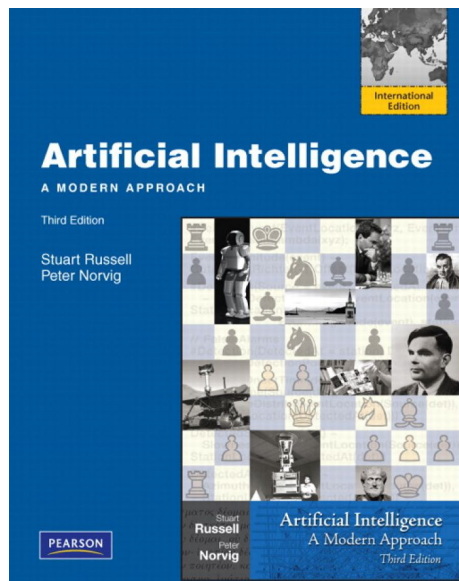
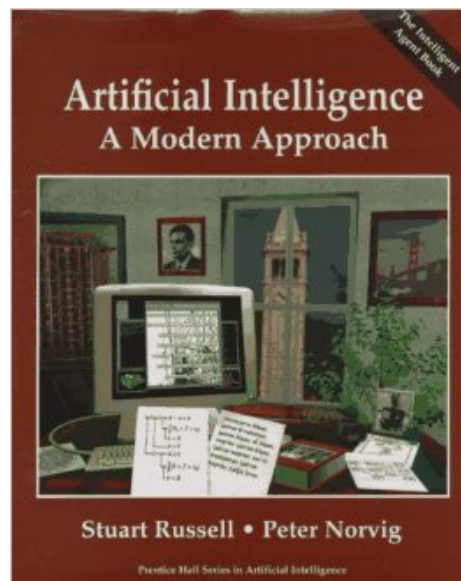
No.	Téma přednášky / Topic	Datum / Date	Čas / Time	Místnost / Room	Slidy / Slides	Staré slidy / Old Slides	Přednášející / Lecturer
1	Introduction, search problems, Uninformed search algorithms	21.2.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 1  2	Michal Pechoucek
2	Informed search algorithms, A*	28.2.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 3  3	Michal Pechoucek
3	Advanced A*	7.3.2017	14:30	KN:E-107			Michal Pechoucek
4	Two-player Games	14.3.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 PDF	Branislav Bosansky
5	Constraint Satisfaction Programming	21.3.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 4  EN  BIN  LS	Michal Pechoucek
6	Two-player Games II	28.3.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 5  2014_slides	Branislav Bosansky
7	Knowledge representation - introduction	4.4.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 7	Jiri Klema
8	Knowledge representation in FOL	11.4.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 8	Jiri Klema
9	Rational decisions under uncertainty	18.4.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 9	Jiri Klema
10	Sequential decisions under uncertainty	25.4.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 10	Jiri Klema
11	---	2.5.2017	—	—	Tuesday's Schedule		
12	Knowledge in Multiagent Systems	9.5.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 11	Olga Stepankova
13	Formal system for MOL, Temporal Logic for Real-life Problems	17.5.2017	14:30	KN:E-107		 12  13a  13b-LTL	Olga Stepankova
14	AI an Applications	23.5.2017	14:30	KN:E-107			Michal Pechoucek

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14	AI an Applications	23.5.2017	14:30	KN:E-107	



<http://aima.cs.berkeley.edu>



# Introduction to AI

## Uninformed Search

R&N: Chap. 3, Sect. 3.1-3.6

# Why Search Matters in AI?

AI Today?

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AI Today?

## 1. Machine Learning

(Computational Statistics, Mathematical Optimisation)  
perception, understanding, prediction, classification

## 2. Automated Reasoning

(Symbolic AI, Search based AI)  
problem solving, decision making, planning

# Why Search Matters in AI?

AI Today?

## 1. Machine Learning

(Computational Statistics, Mathematical Optimisation)  
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## 2. Automated Reasoning

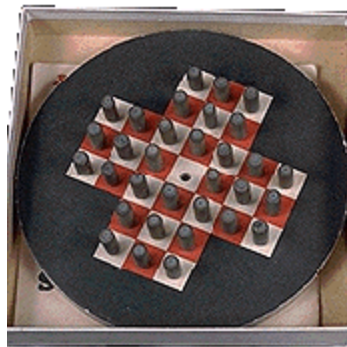
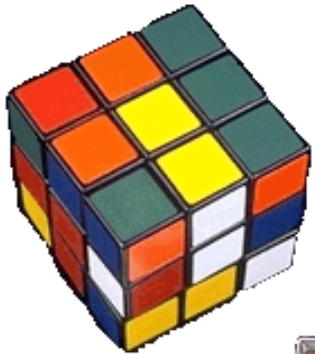
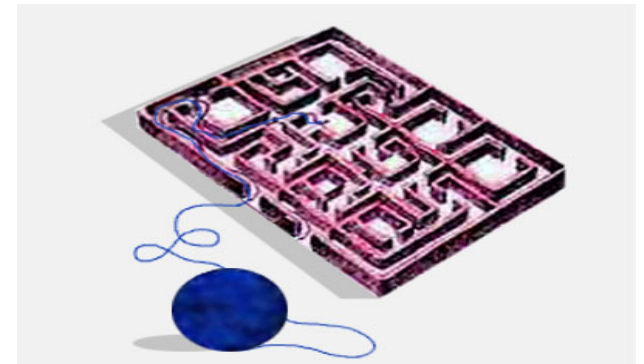
(Symbolic AI, Search based AI)  
problem solving, decision making, planning

## 3. Machine Learning + Automated Reasoning





M	A	S	H	S	O	M	A	T	I	C	M	A	P	S										
P	I	X	I	E	W	A	Y	S	I	D	E	E	S	A	U									
O	D	E	L	L	A	R	T	I	C	L	E	L	I	T										
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R	O	M	E	O				K	I	N	E	S	I	S		H	A	L	T					



# Example: 8-Puzzle

8	2	
3	4	7
5	1	6

Initial state

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

Goal state

**State:** Any arrangement of 8 numbered tiles and an empty tile on a 3x3 board

# 8-Puzzle: Successor Function

8	2	7
3	4	
5	1	6

$SUCC(state) \rightarrow$  subset of states

The **successor function** is knowledge about the 8-puzzle game, but it does not tell us which outcome to use, nor to which state of the board to apply it.

8	2	
3	4	7
5	1	6

8	2	7
3	4	6
5	1	

8	2	7
3		4
5	1	6

Search is about the exploration of alternatives

# $(n^2 - 1)$ -puzzle

8	2	
3	4	7
5	1	6

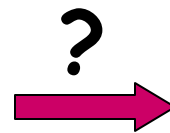
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	

■ ■ ■ ■

# 15-Puzzle

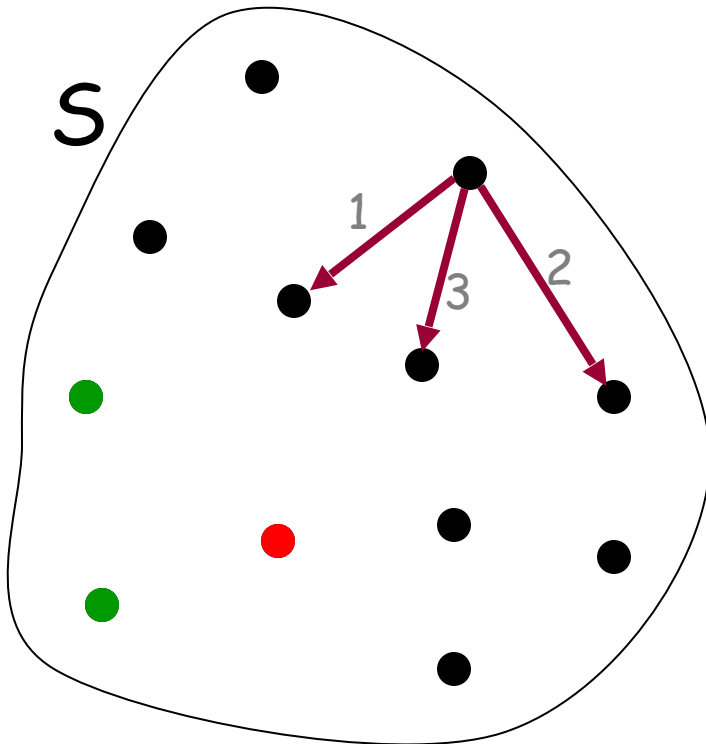
Sam Loyd offered **\$1,000** of his own money to the first person who would solve the following problem:

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	

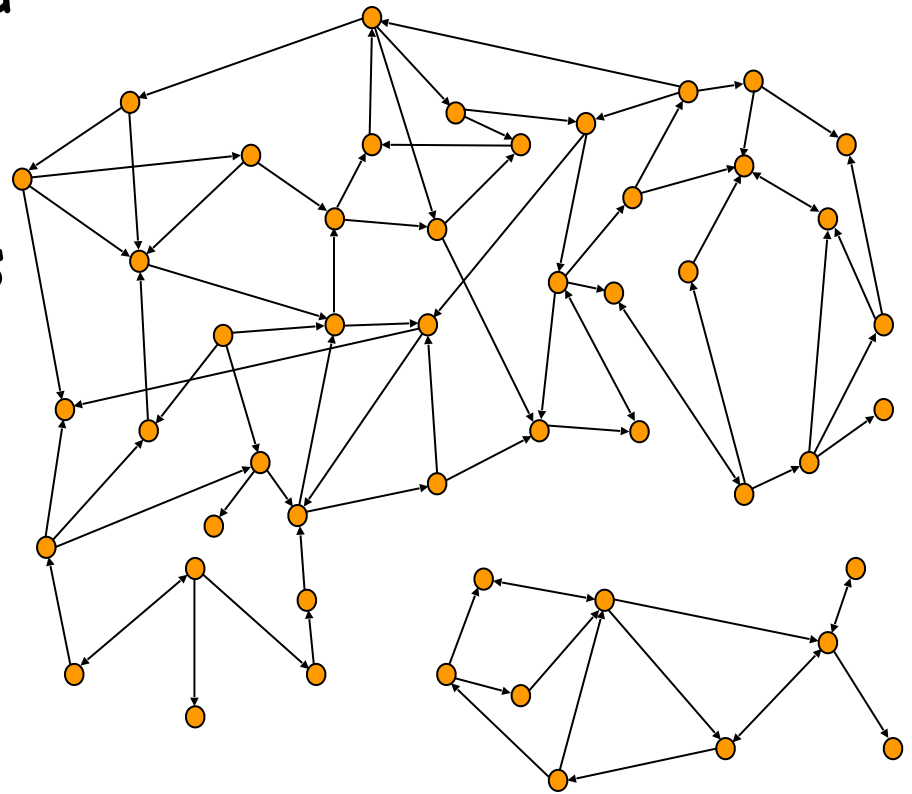
# Stating a Problem as a Search Problem



- State space  $S$
- Successor function:  
 $x \in S \rightarrow \text{SUCCESSORS}(x) \in 2^S$
- Initial state  $s_0$
- Goal test:  
 $x \in S \rightarrow \text{GOAL?}(x) = T \text{ or } F$
- Arc cost

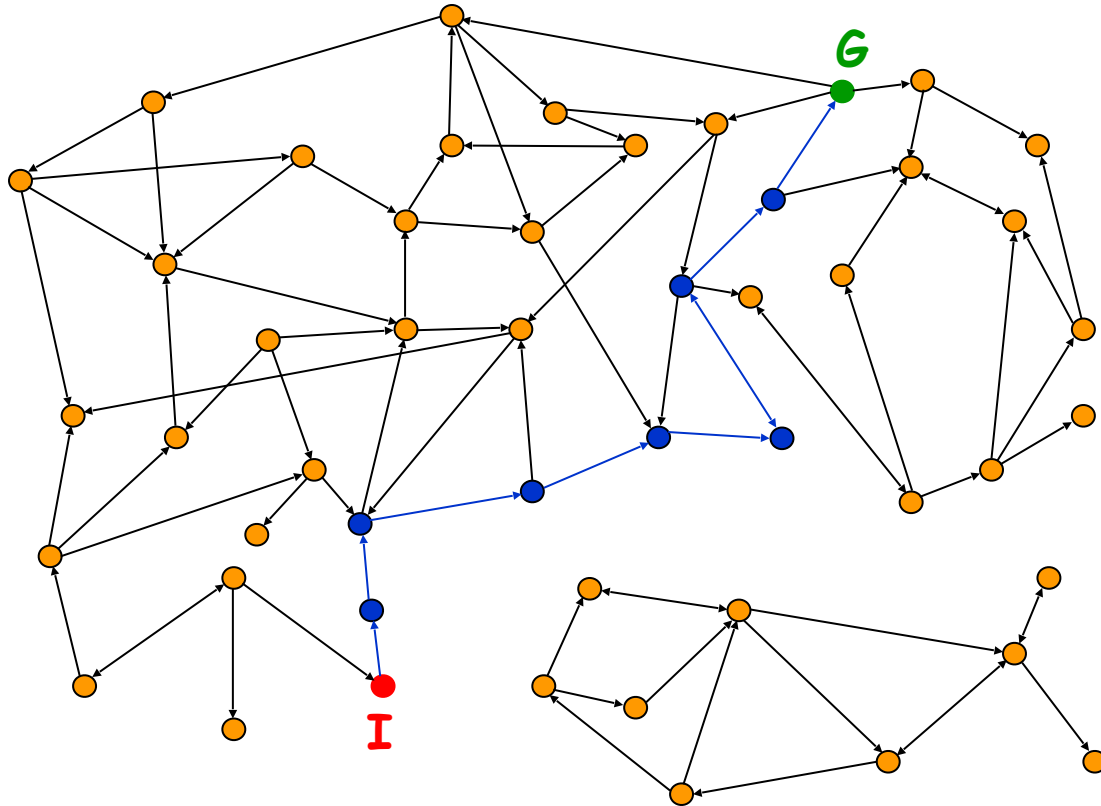
# State Graph

- Each state is represented by a distinct node
- An arc (or edge) connects a node  $s$  to a node  $s'$  if  $s' \in \text{SUCCESSORS}(s)$
- The state graph may contain more than one connected component



# Solution to the Search Problem

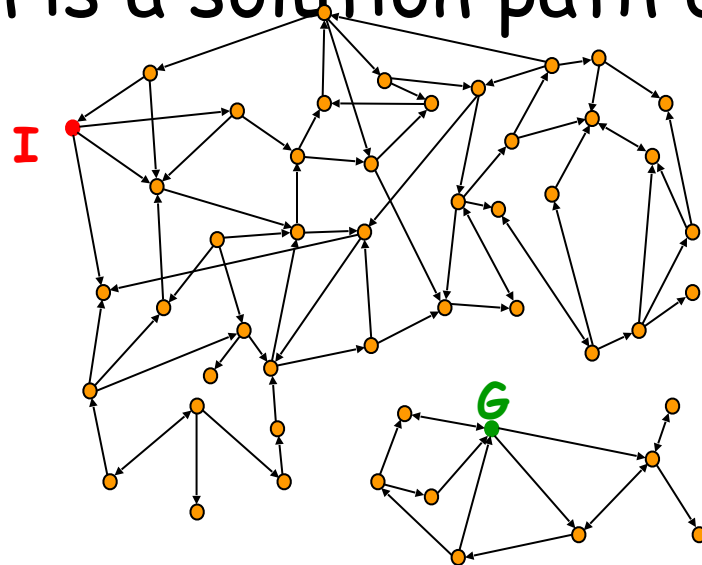
- A **solution** is a path connecting the initial node to a goal node (any one)





# Solution to the Search Problem

- A **solution** is a path connecting the initial node to a goal node (any one)
- The **cost** of a path is the sum of the arc costs along this path
- An **optimal** solution is a solution path of minimum cost
- There might be no solution !



# How big is the state space of the $(n^2 - 1)$ -puzzle?

- 8-puzzle  $\rightarrow 9! = 362,880$  states
- 15-puzzle  $\rightarrow 16! \sim 2.09 \times 10^{13}$  states
- 24-puzzle  $\rightarrow 25! \sim 10^{25}$  states

But only half of these states are reachable from any given state

(but you may not know that in advance)

# 8-, 15-, 24-Puzzles

8-puzzle  $\rightarrow$  362,880 states

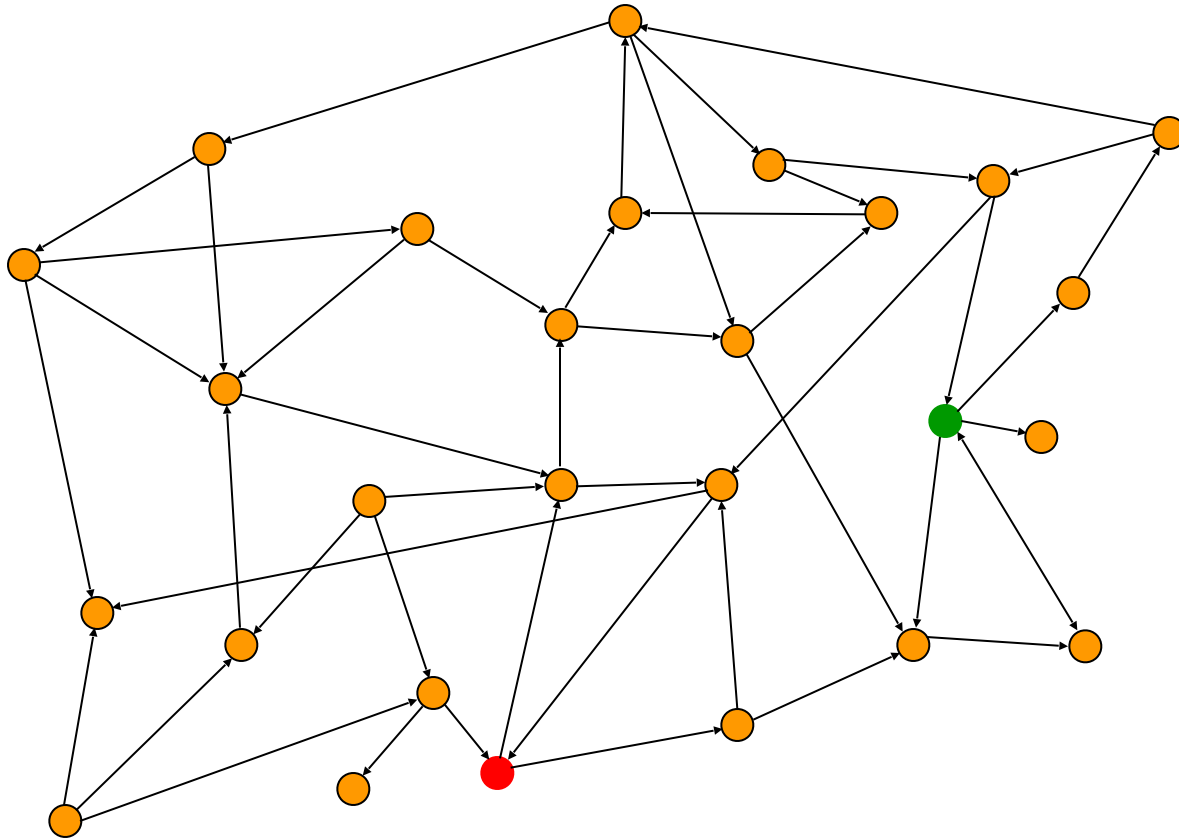
0.036 sec

15-puzzle  $\rightarrow$   $2.09 \times 10^{13}$  states  
 $\sim$  55 hours

24-puzzle  $\rightarrow$   $10^{25}$  states  
 $> 10^9$  years

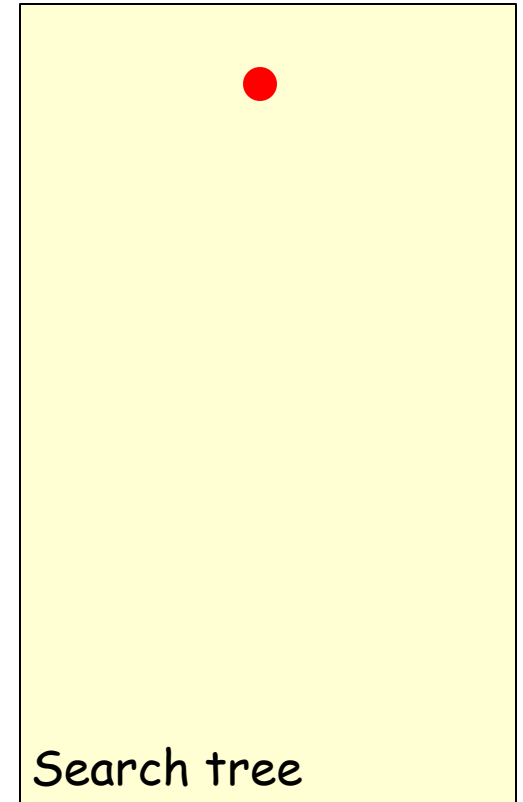
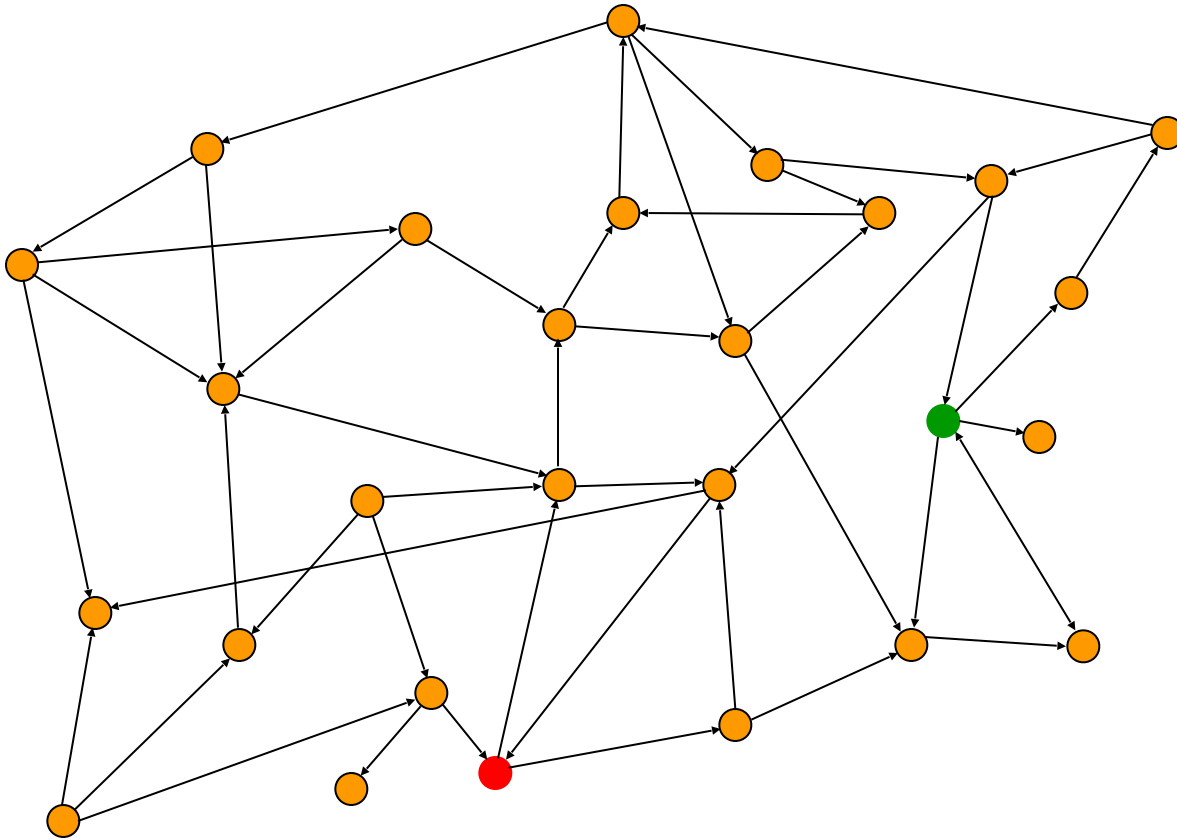
100 millions states/sec

# Searching the State Space

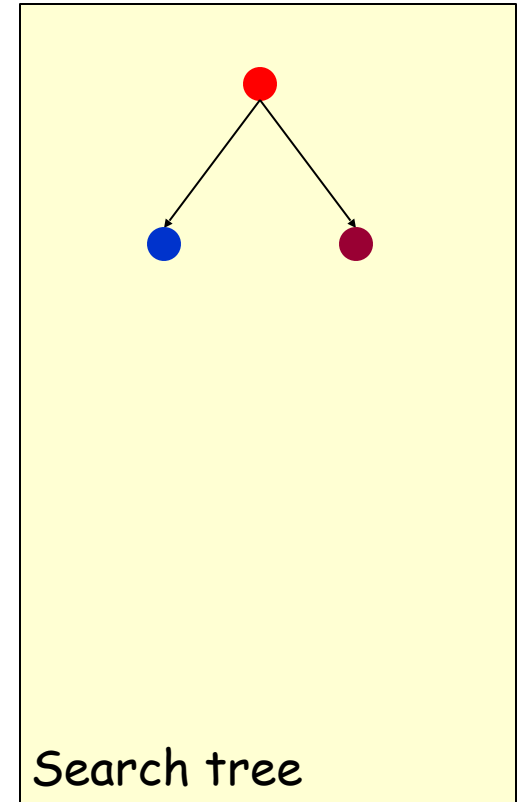
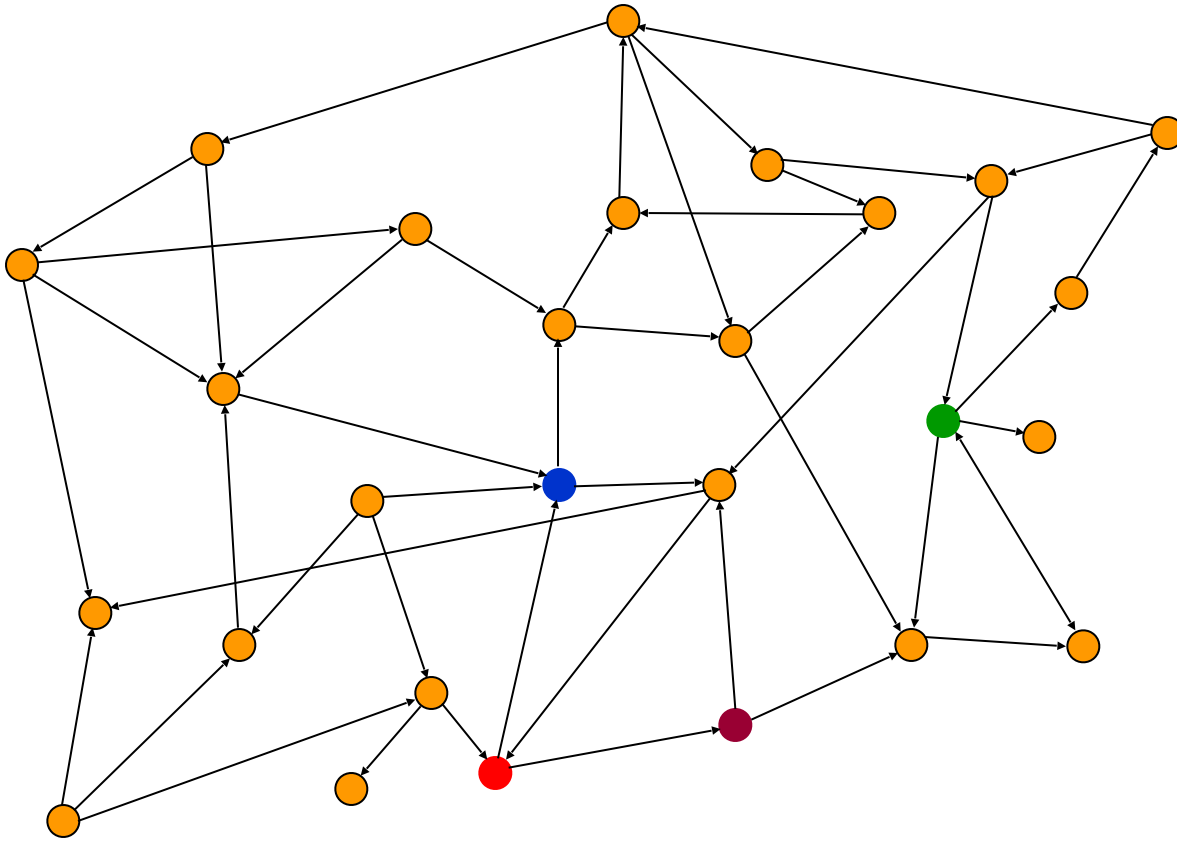


- Often it is not feasible (or too expensive) to build a complete representation of the state graph
- A problem solver must construct a solution by exploring a small portion of the graph

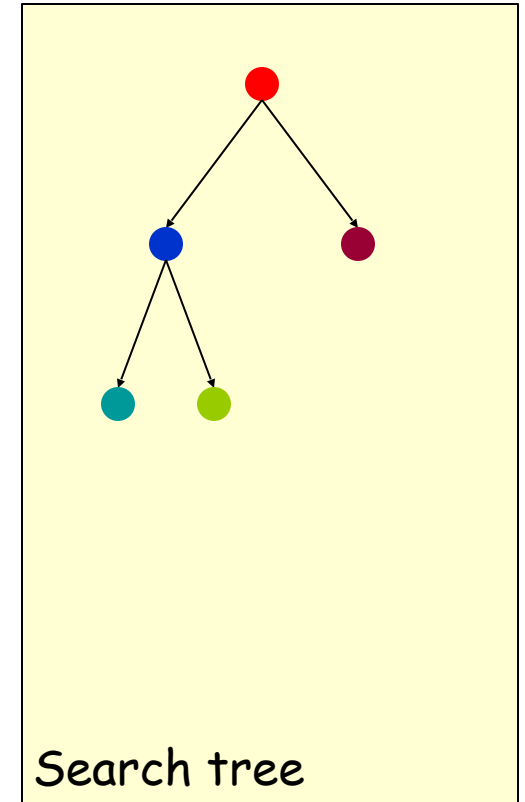
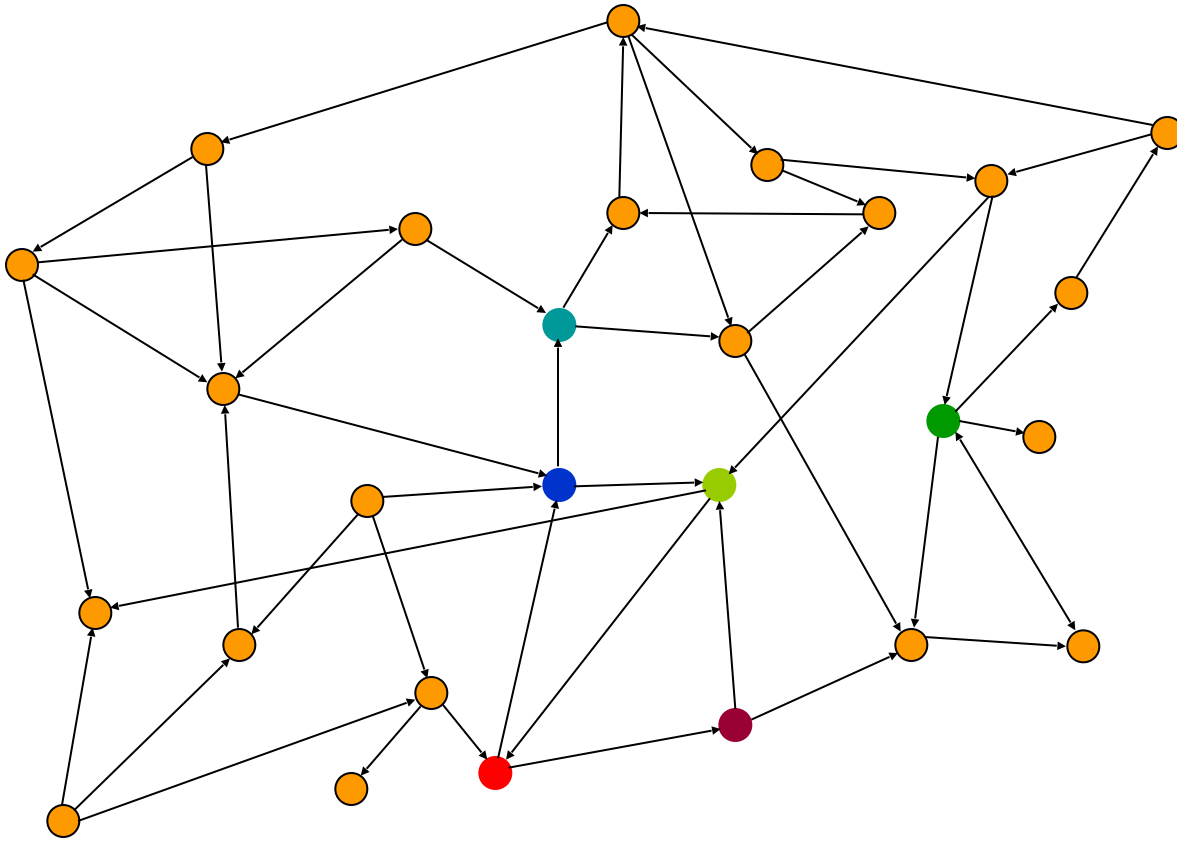
# Searching the State Space



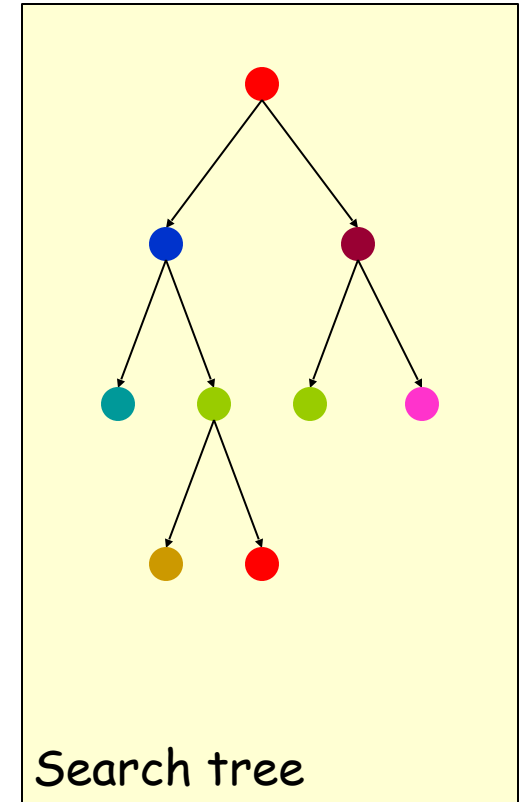
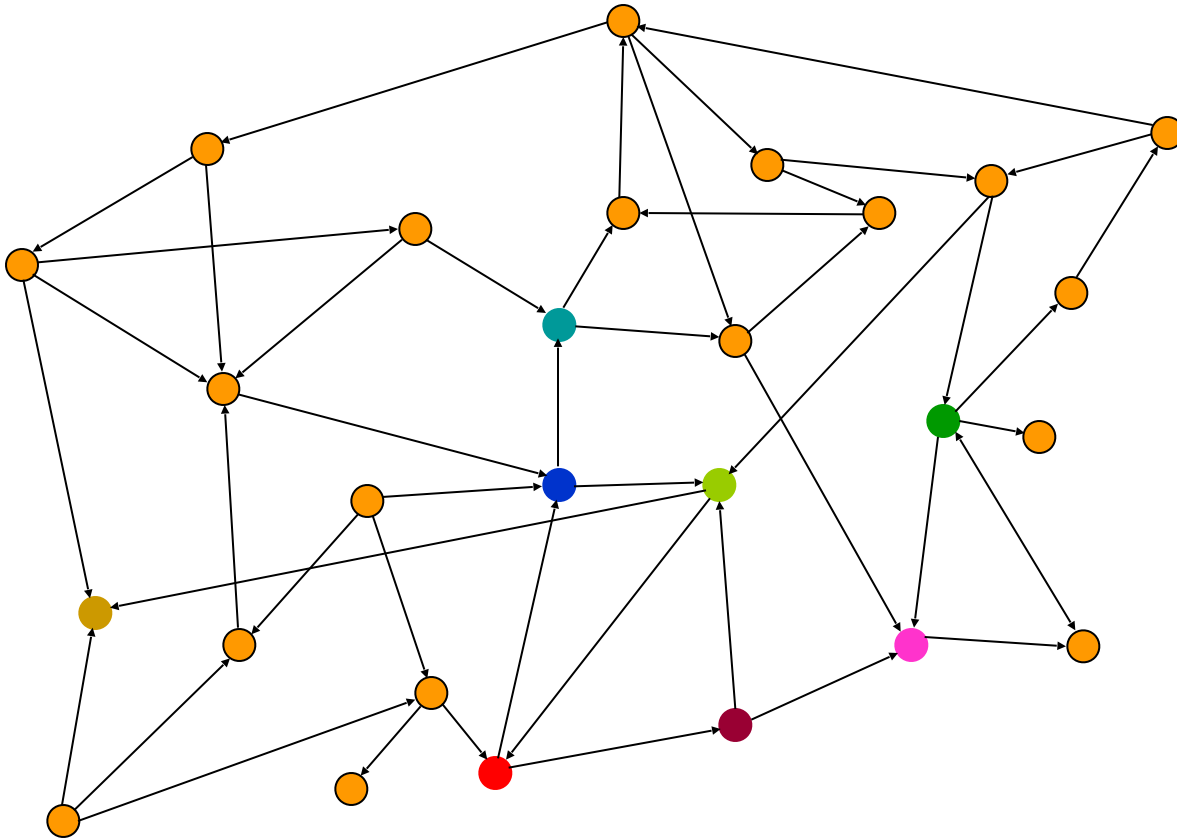
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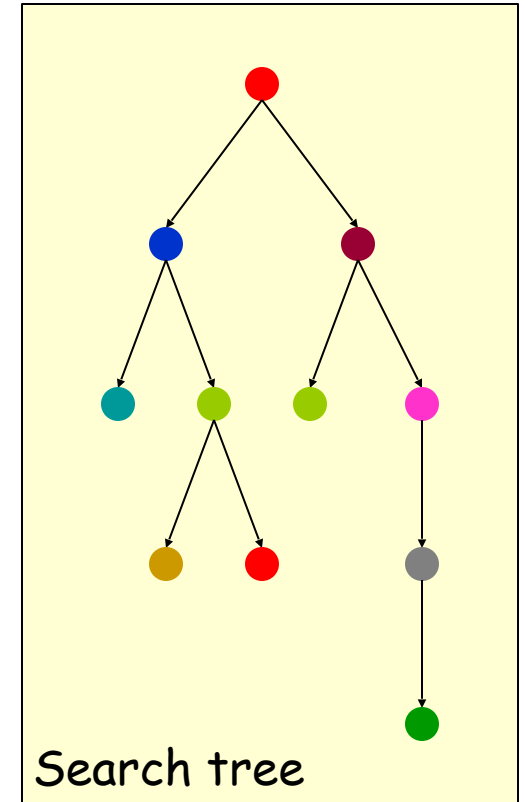
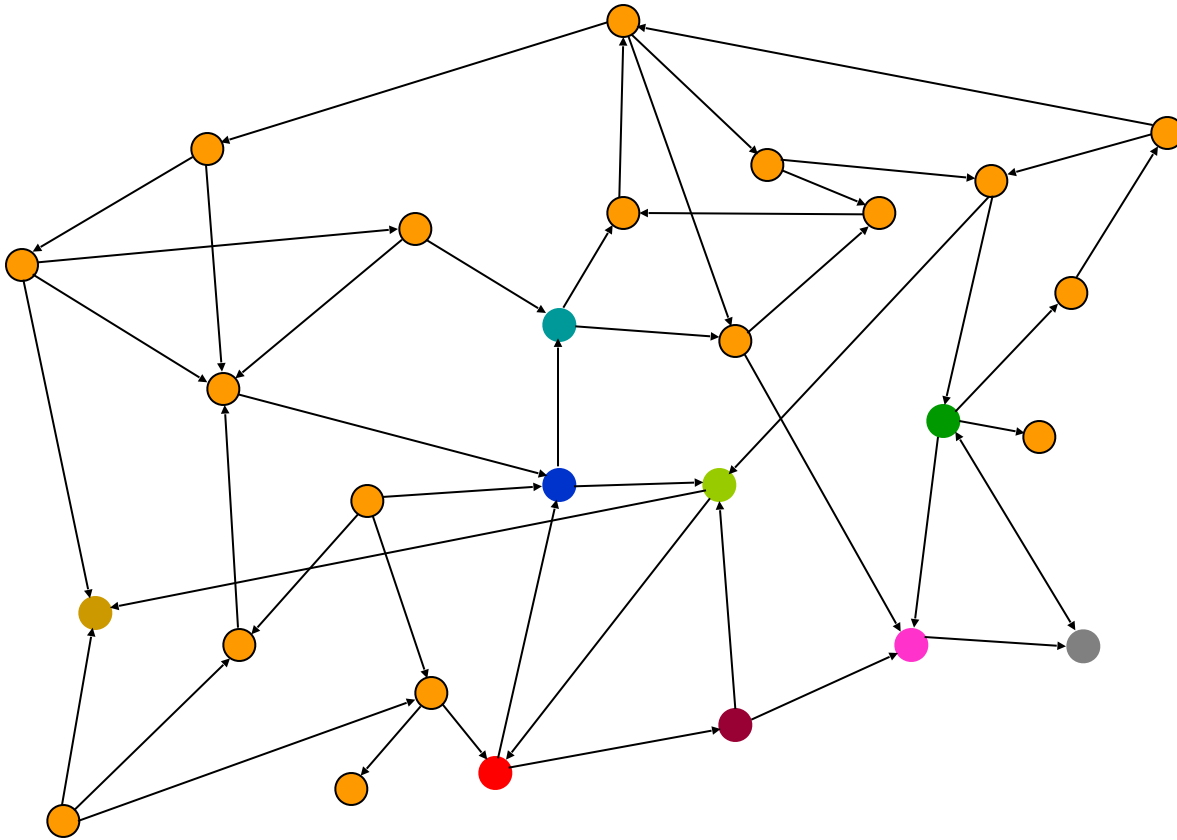


# Searching the State Space

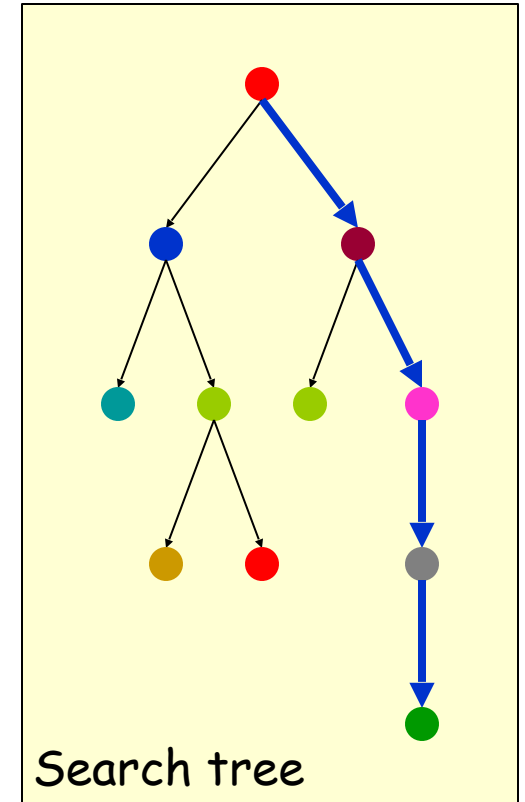
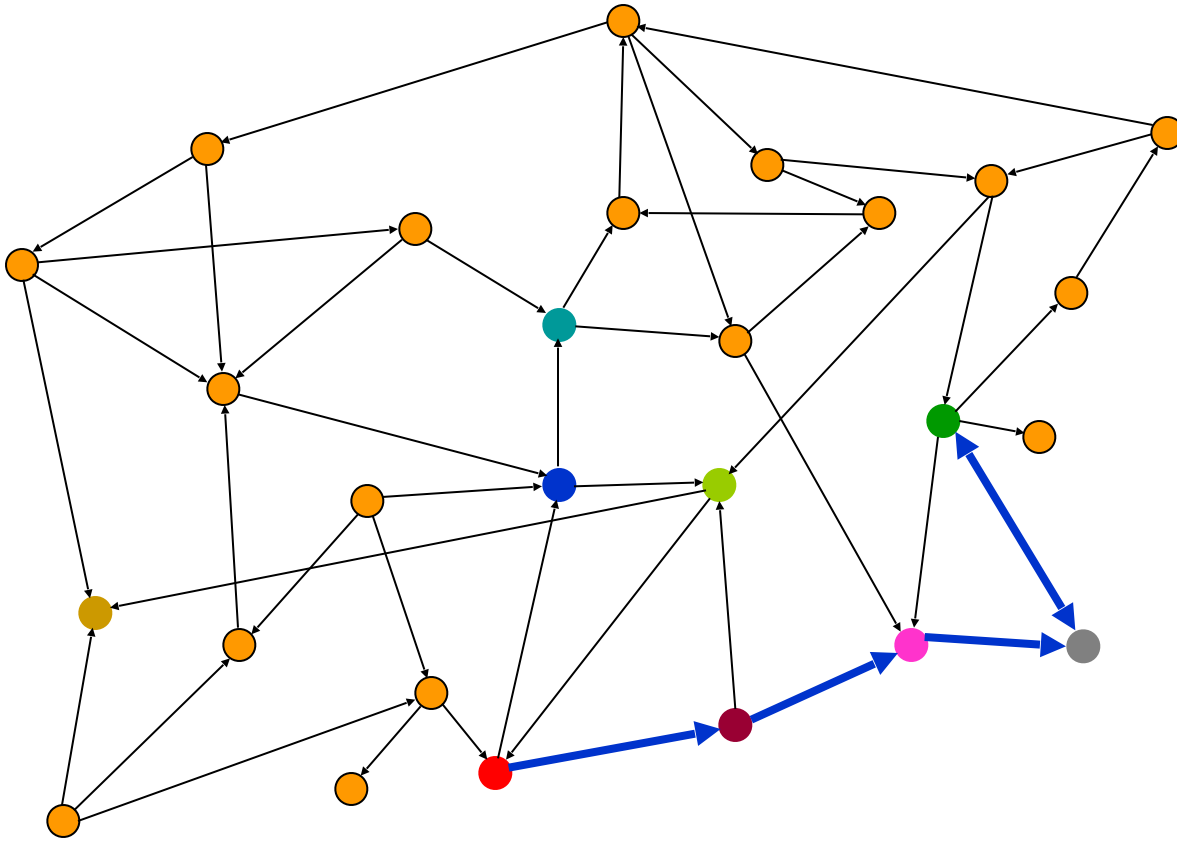




# Searching the State Space



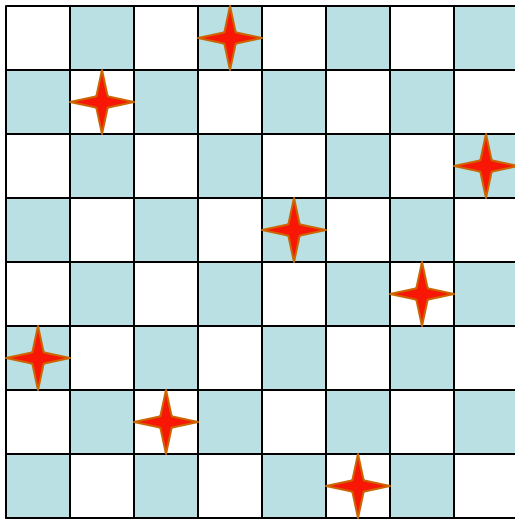
# Searching the State Space



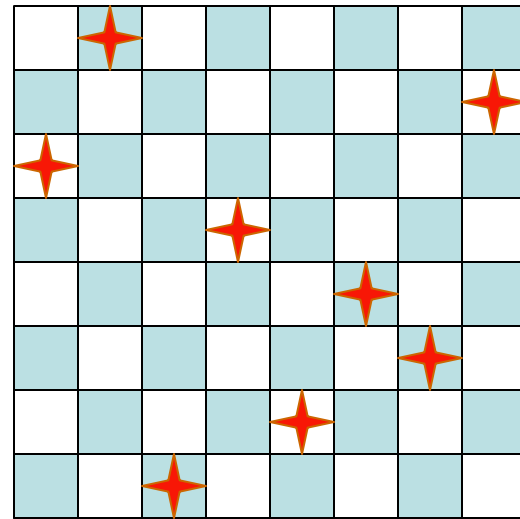
# Other examples

# 8-Queens Problem

Place 8 queens in a chessboard so that no two queens are in the same row, column, or diagonal.

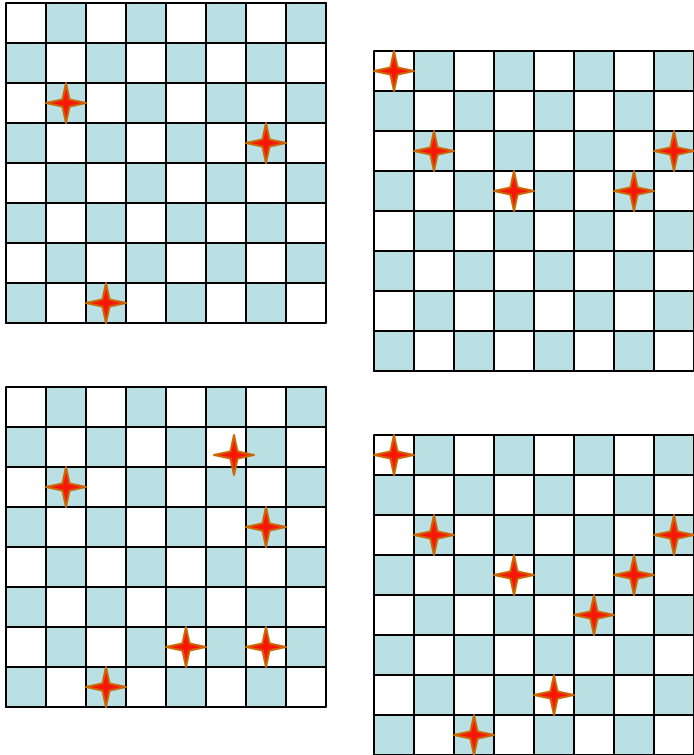


A solution



Not a solution

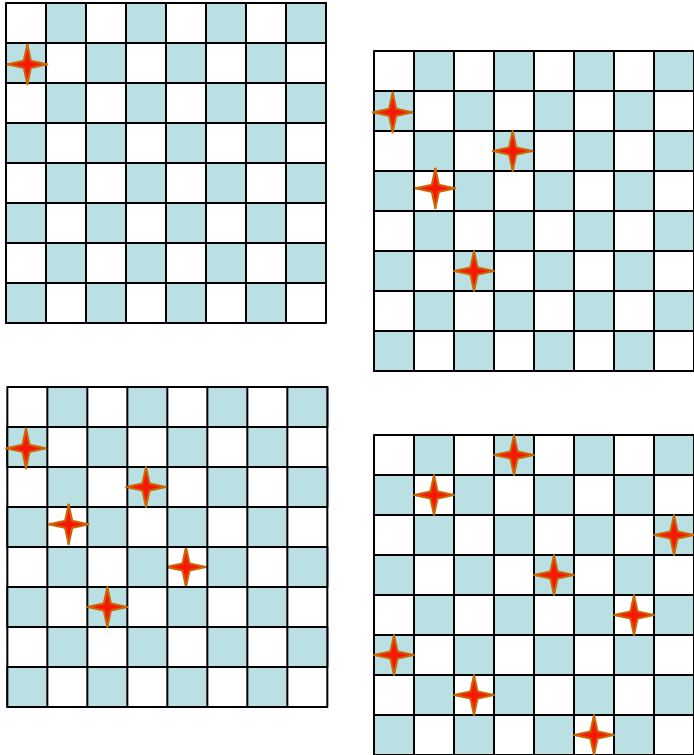
# Formulation #1



- **States:** all arrangements of 0, 1, 2, ..., 8 queens on the board
- **Initial state:** 0 queens on the board
- **Successor function:** each of the successors is obtained by adding one queen in an empty square
- **Arc cost:** irrelevant
- **Goal test:** 8 queens are on the board, with no queens attacking each other

→  $\sim 64 \times 63 \times \dots \times 57 \sim 3 \times 10^{14}$  states

# Formulation #2



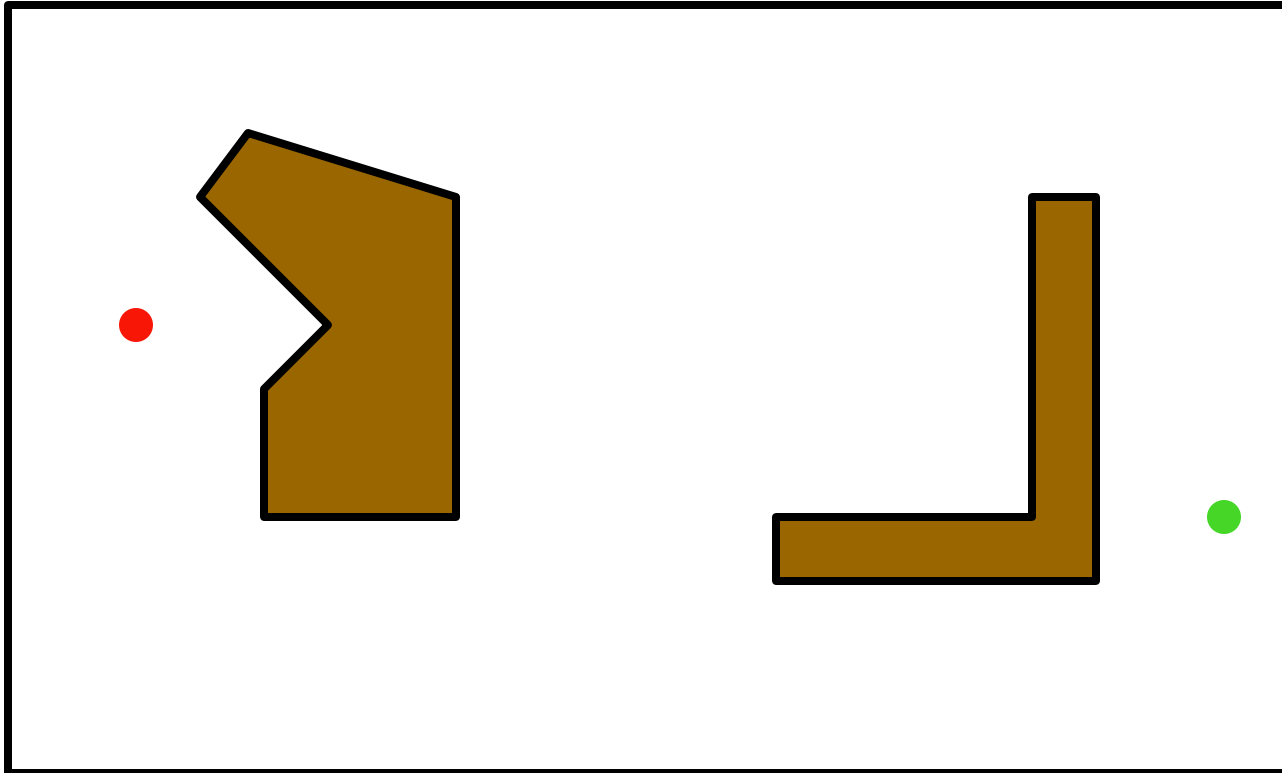
- **States:** all arrangements of  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 8$  queens in the  $k$  leftmost columns with no two queens attacking each other
- **Initial state:** 0 queens on the board
- **Successor function:** each successor is obtained by adding one queen in any square that is not attacked by any queen already in the board, in the leftmost empty column
- **Arc cost:** irrelevant
- **Goal test:** 8 queens are on the board

→ 2,057 states

# n-Queens Problem

- A solution is a **goal node**, not a path to this node (typical of design problem)
- Number of states in state space:
  - 8-queens  $\rightarrow$  2,057
  - **100-queens  $\rightarrow$   $10^{52}$**
- But techniques exist to solve n-queens problems efficiently for large values of n  
They exploit the fact that there are many solutions well distributed in the state space

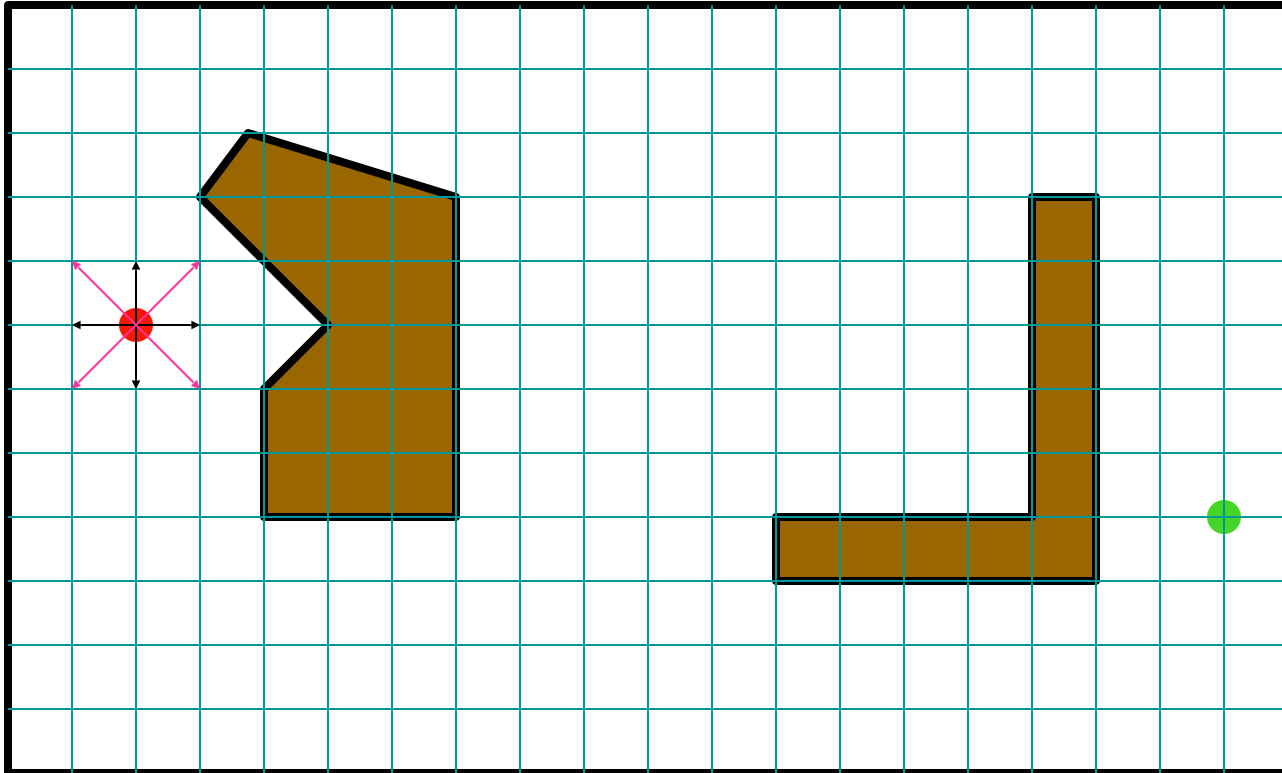
# Path Planning



What is the state space?



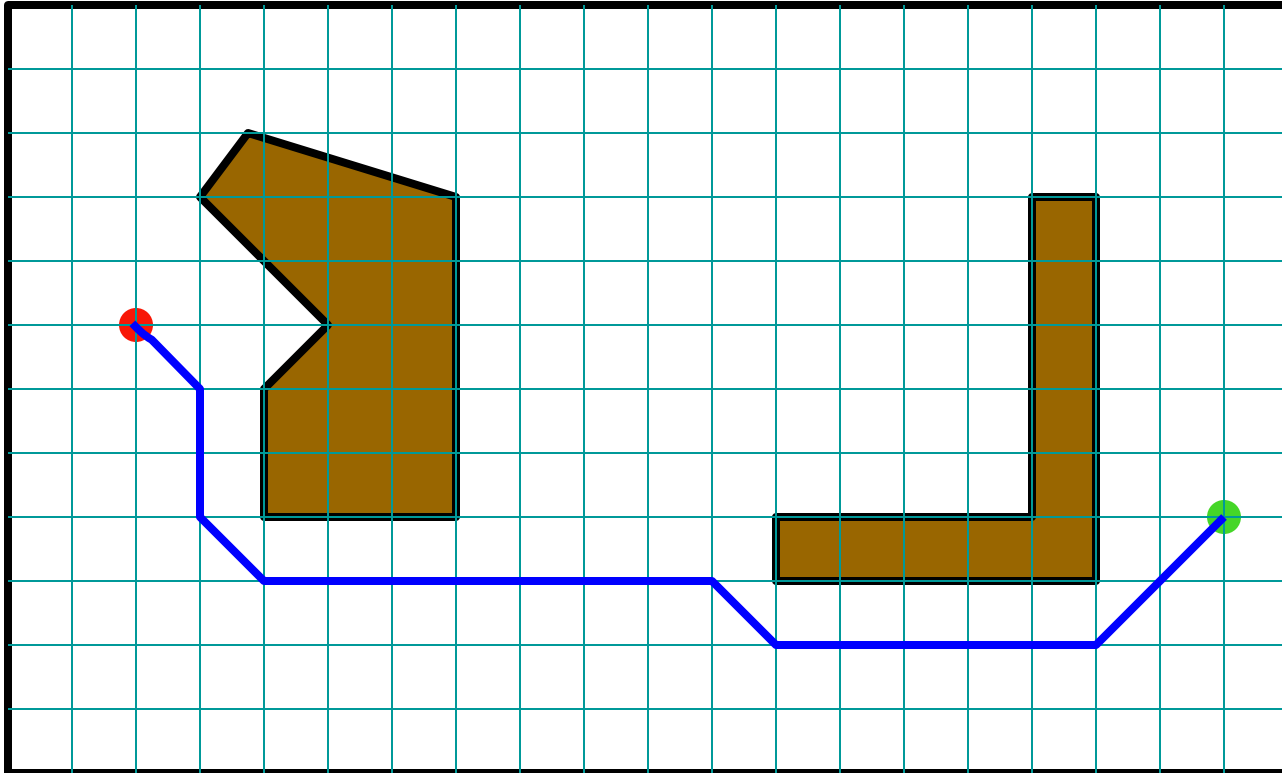
# Formulation #1



Cost of one horizontal/vertical step = 1

Cost of one diagonal step =  $\sqrt{2}$

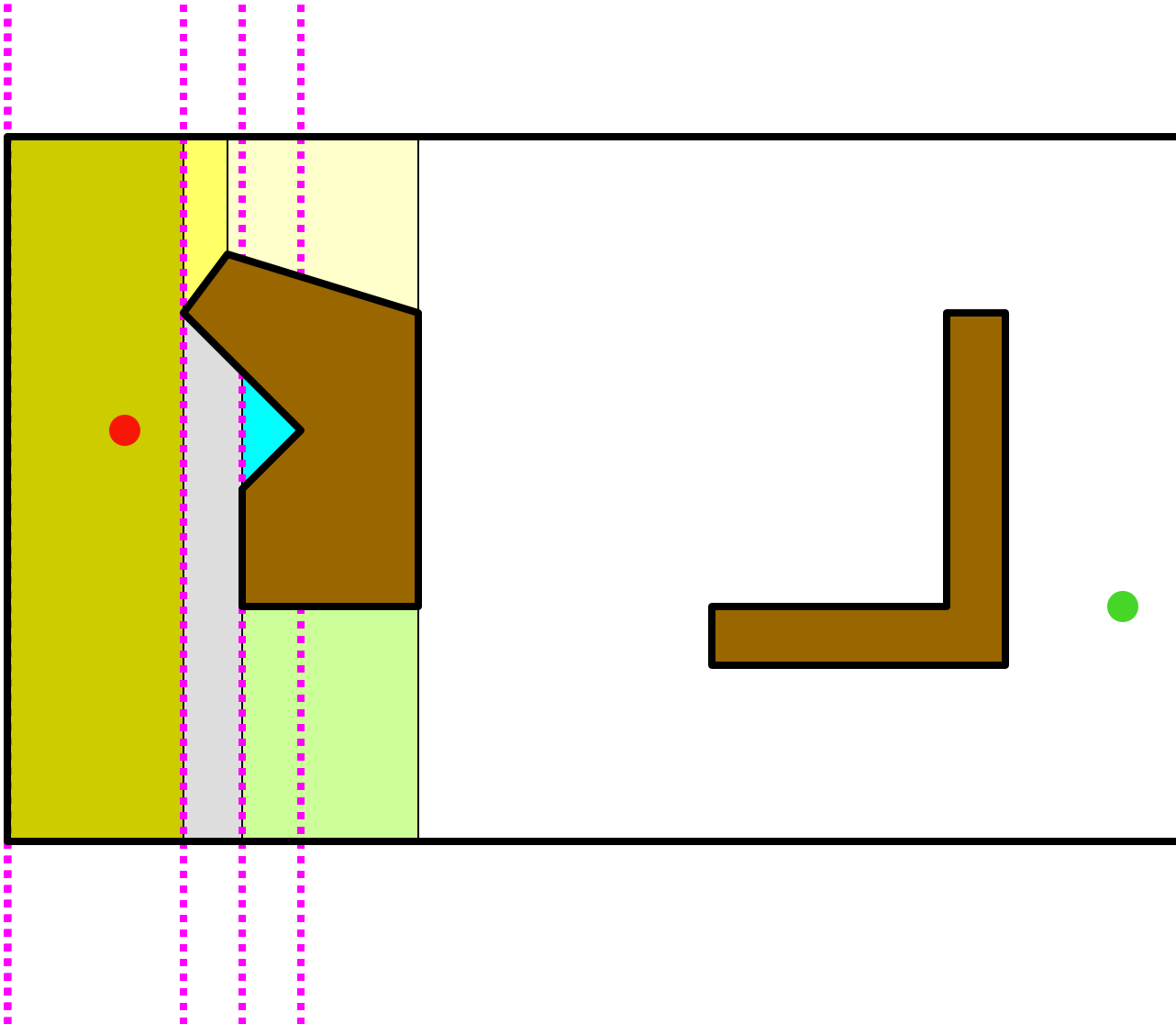
# Optimal Solution



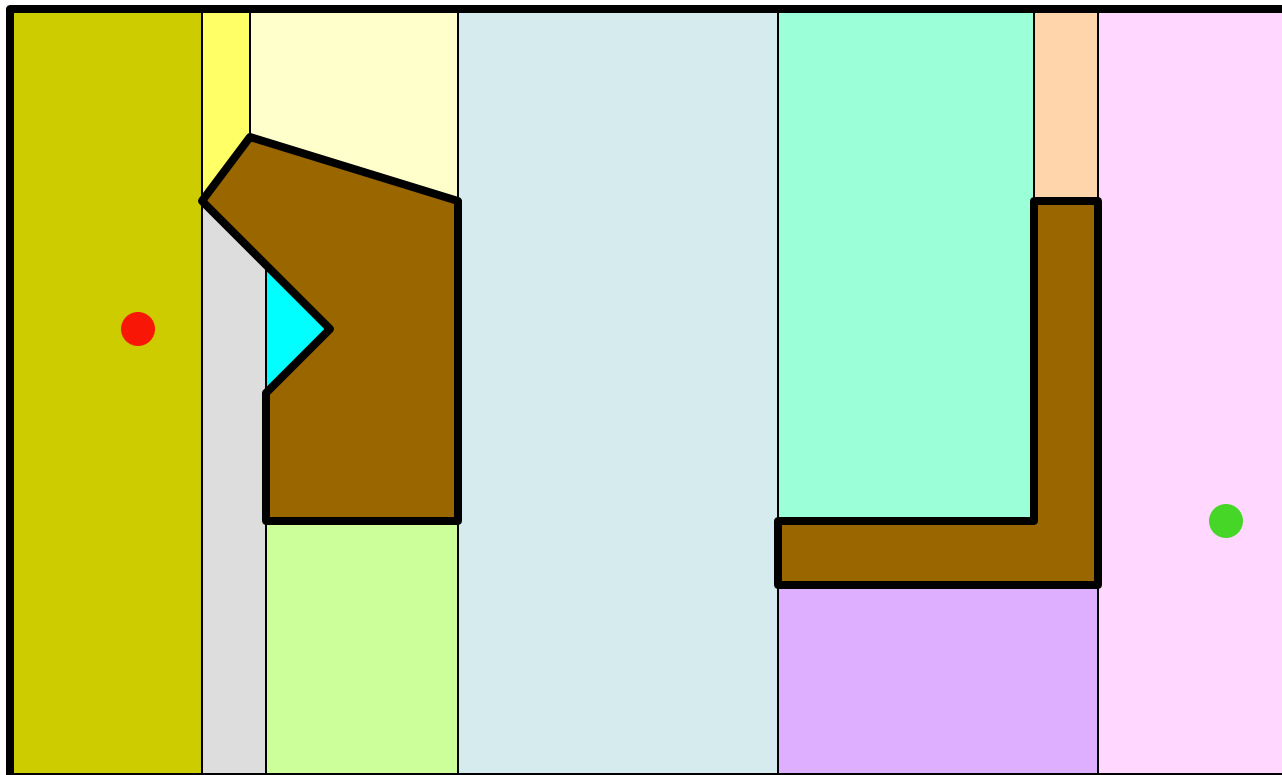
This path is the shortest in the discretized state space, but not in the original continuous space

# Formulation #2

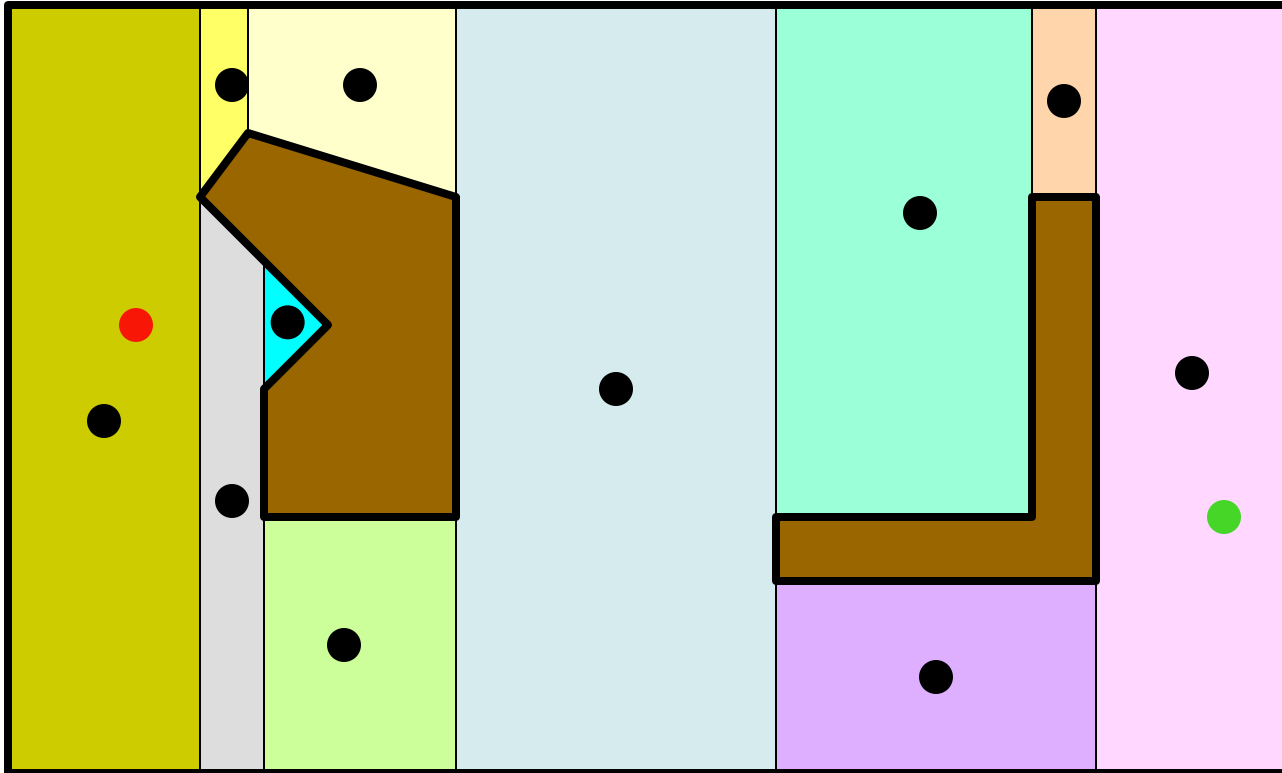
sweep-line



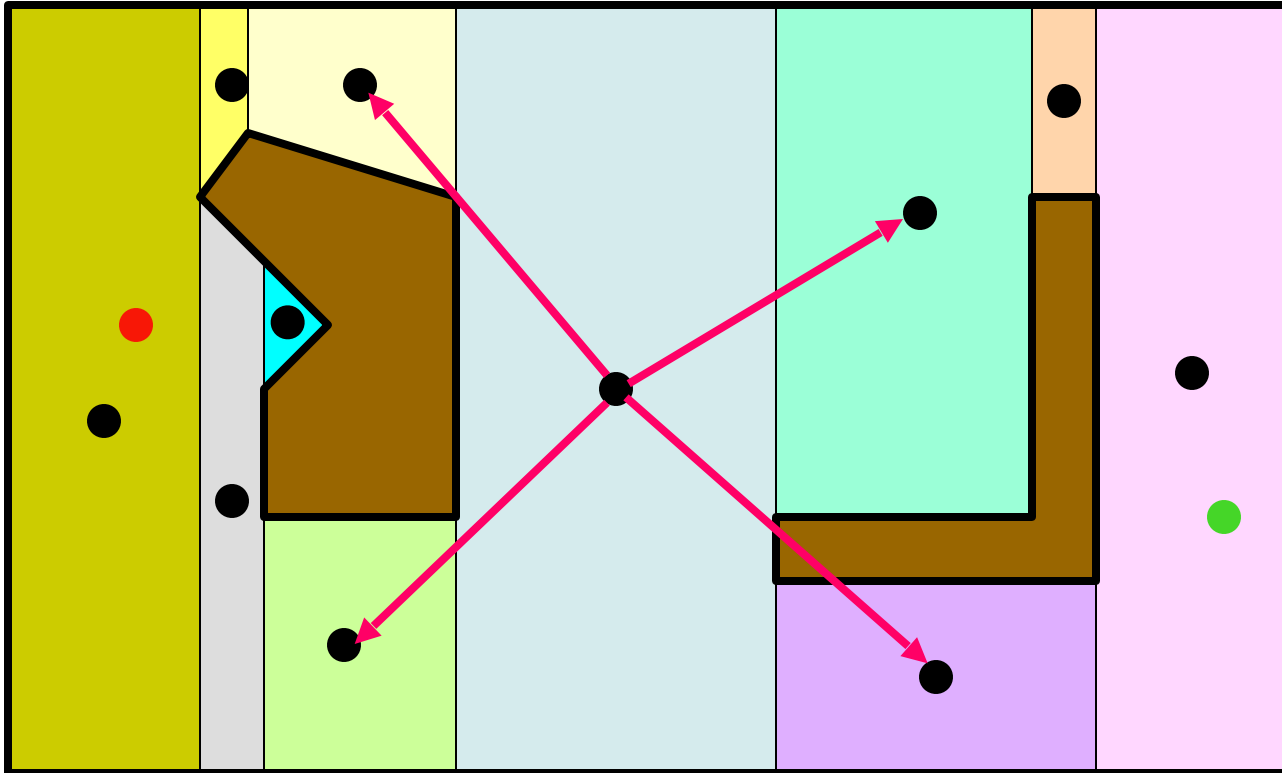
# Formulation #2



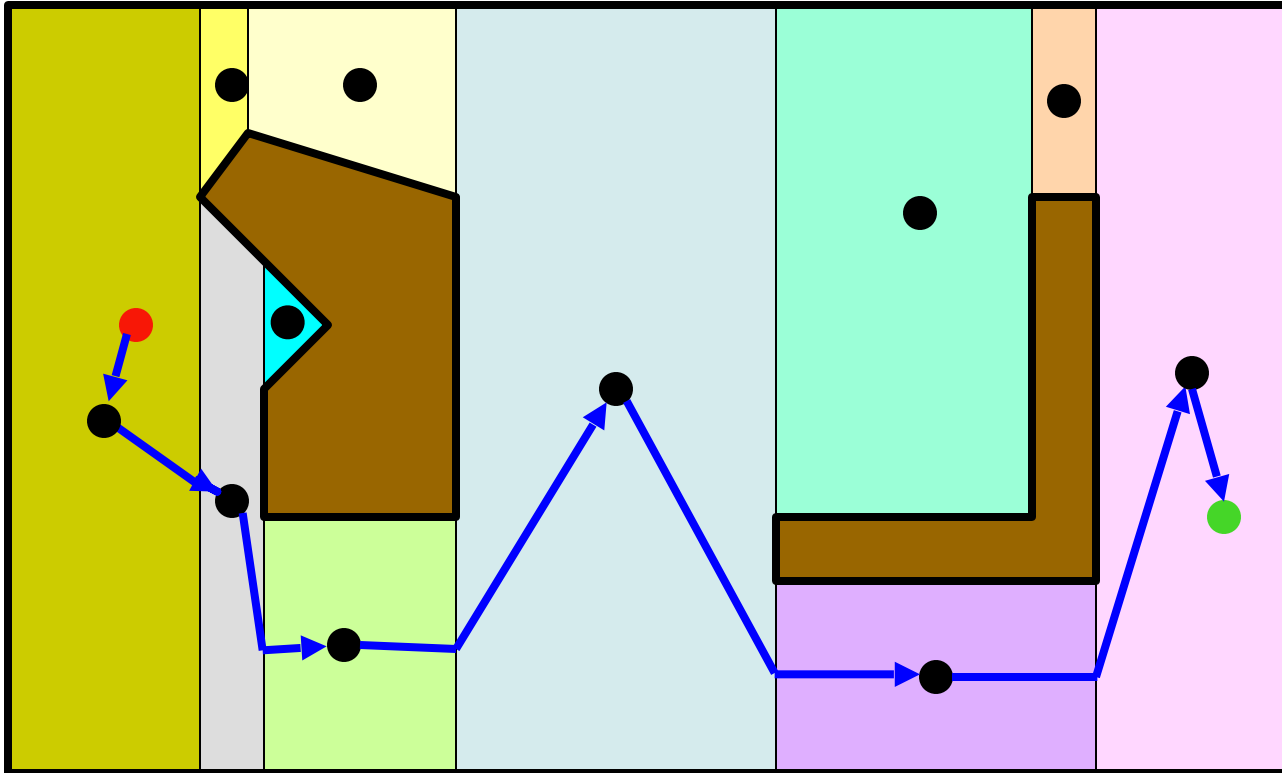
# States



# Successor Function

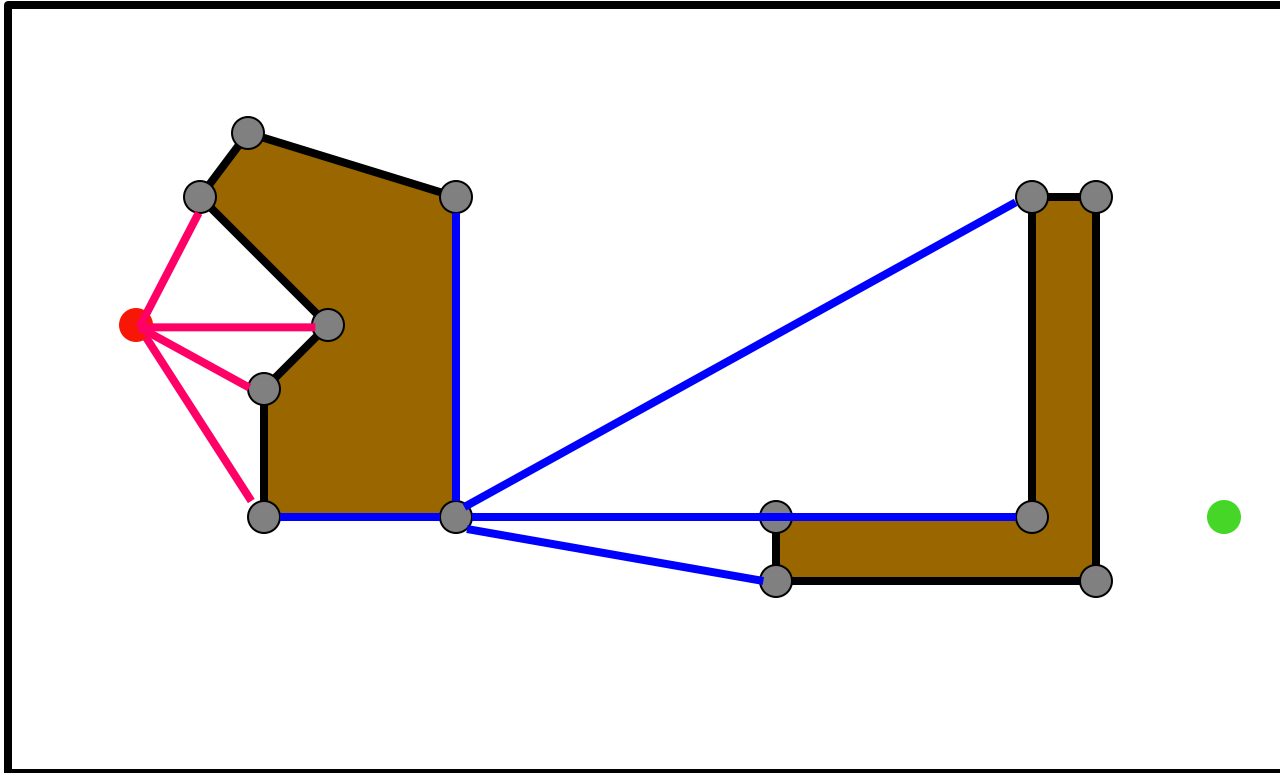


# Solution Path



A path-smoothing post-processing step is usually needed to shorten the path further

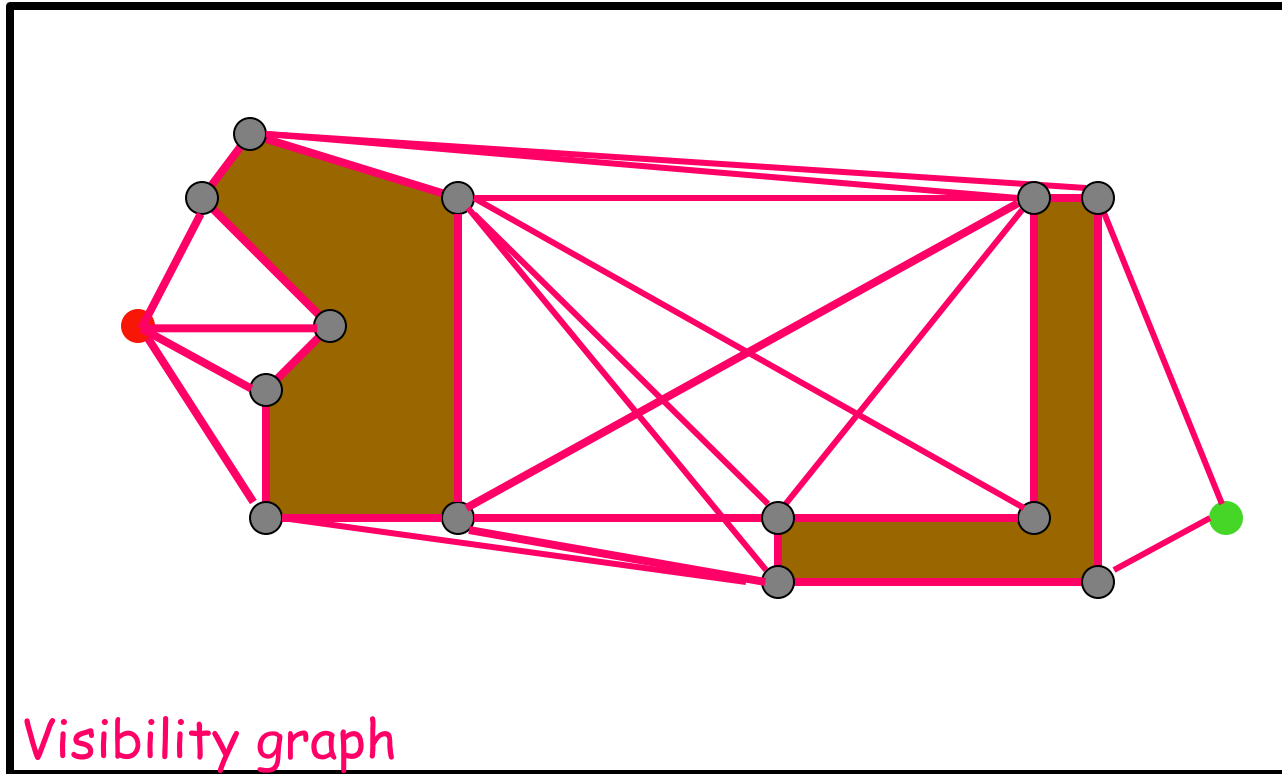
# Formulation #3



Cost of one step: length of segment

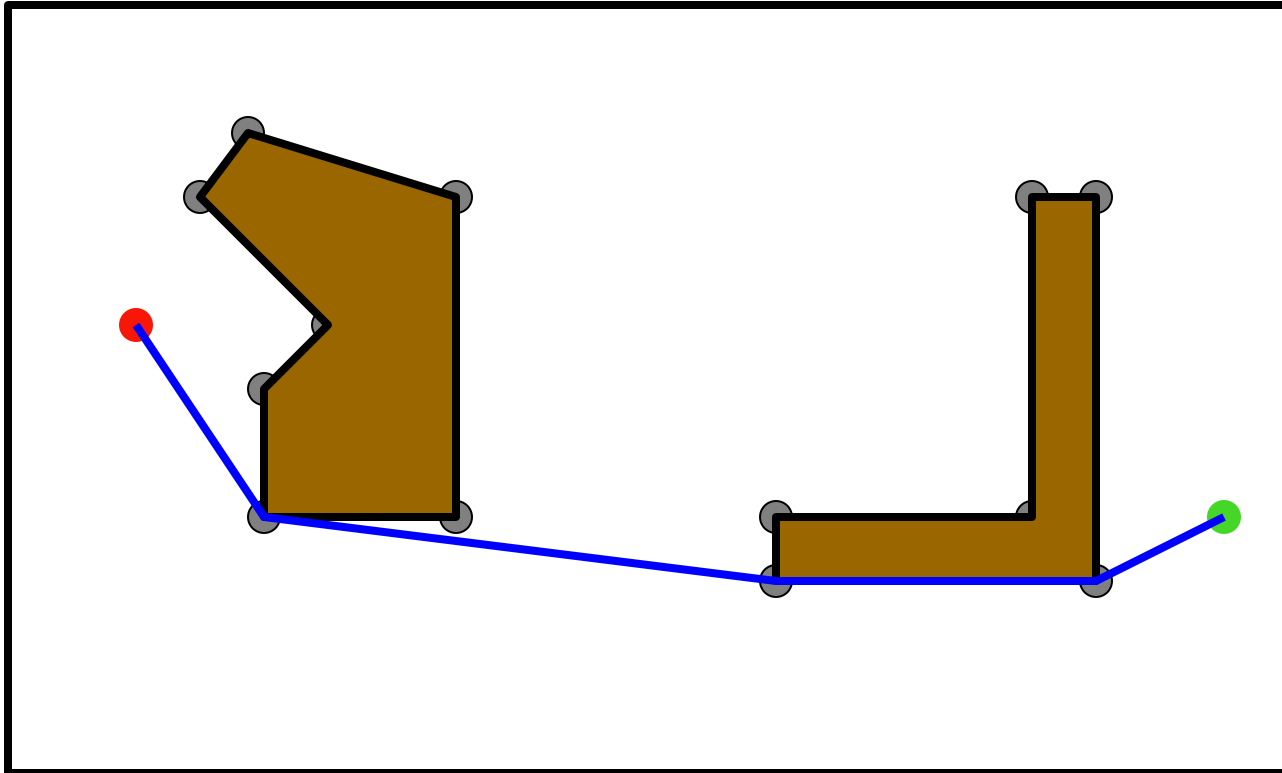


# Formulation #3



Cost of one step: length of segment

# Solution Path

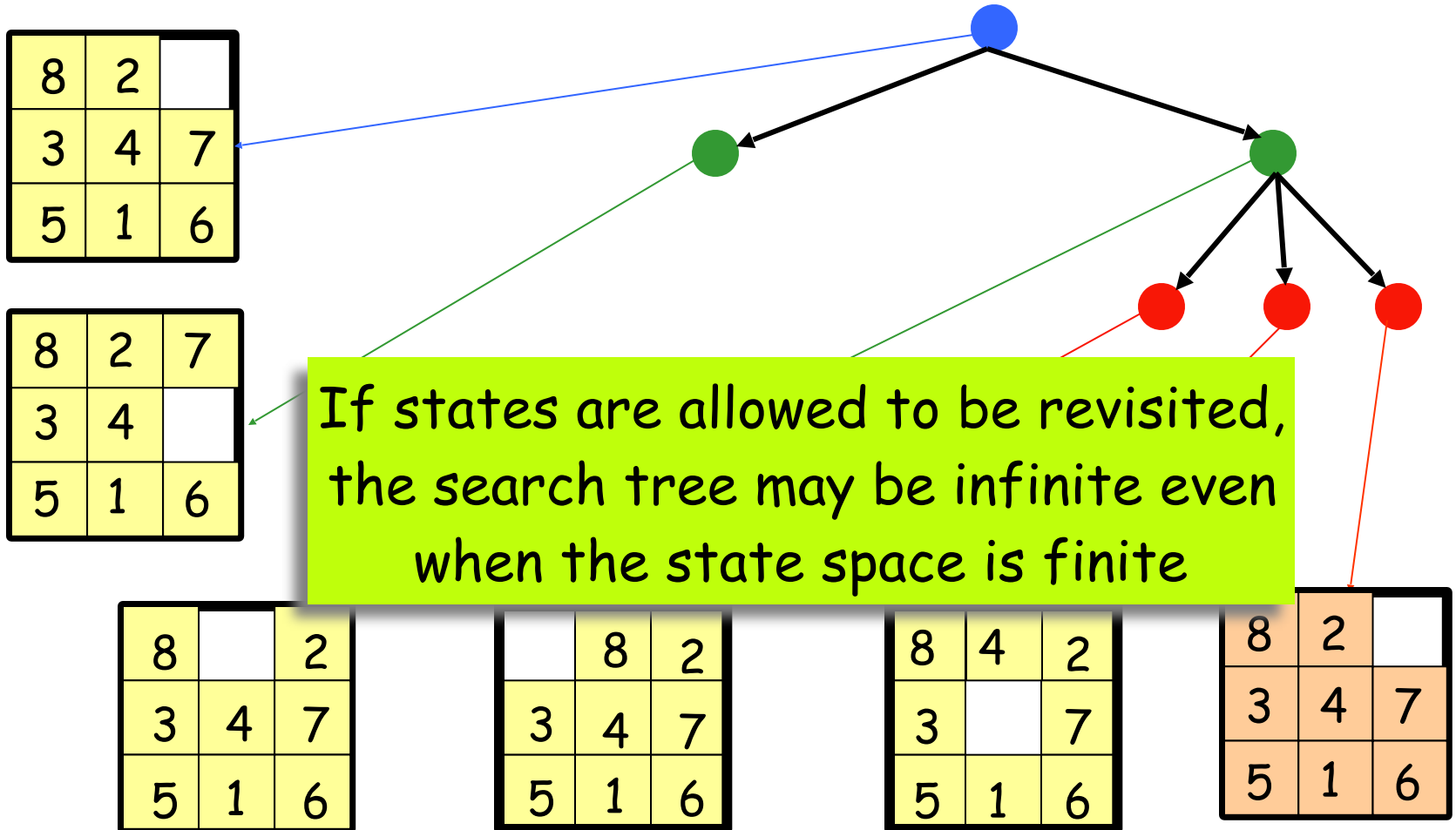


The shortest path in this state space is also the shortest in the original continuous space

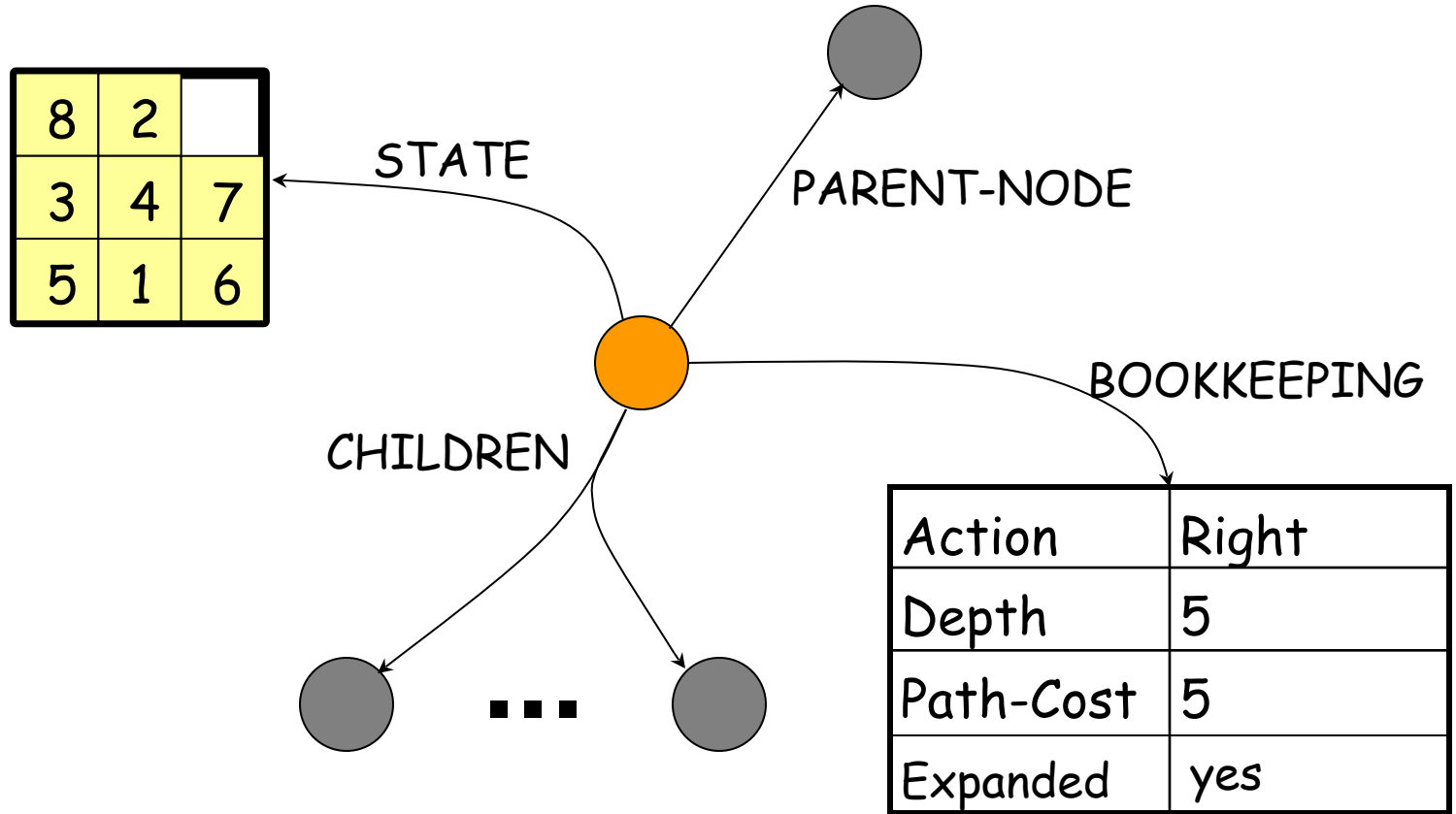
# Simple Problem-Solving-Agent

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 Nodes and States



# Data Structure of a Node



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

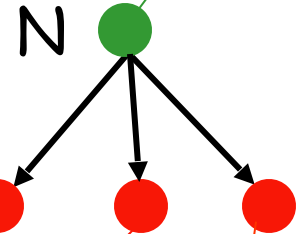
**node generation  $\neq$  node expansion**

	8	2
3	4	7
5	1	6

8	4	2
3		7
5	1	6

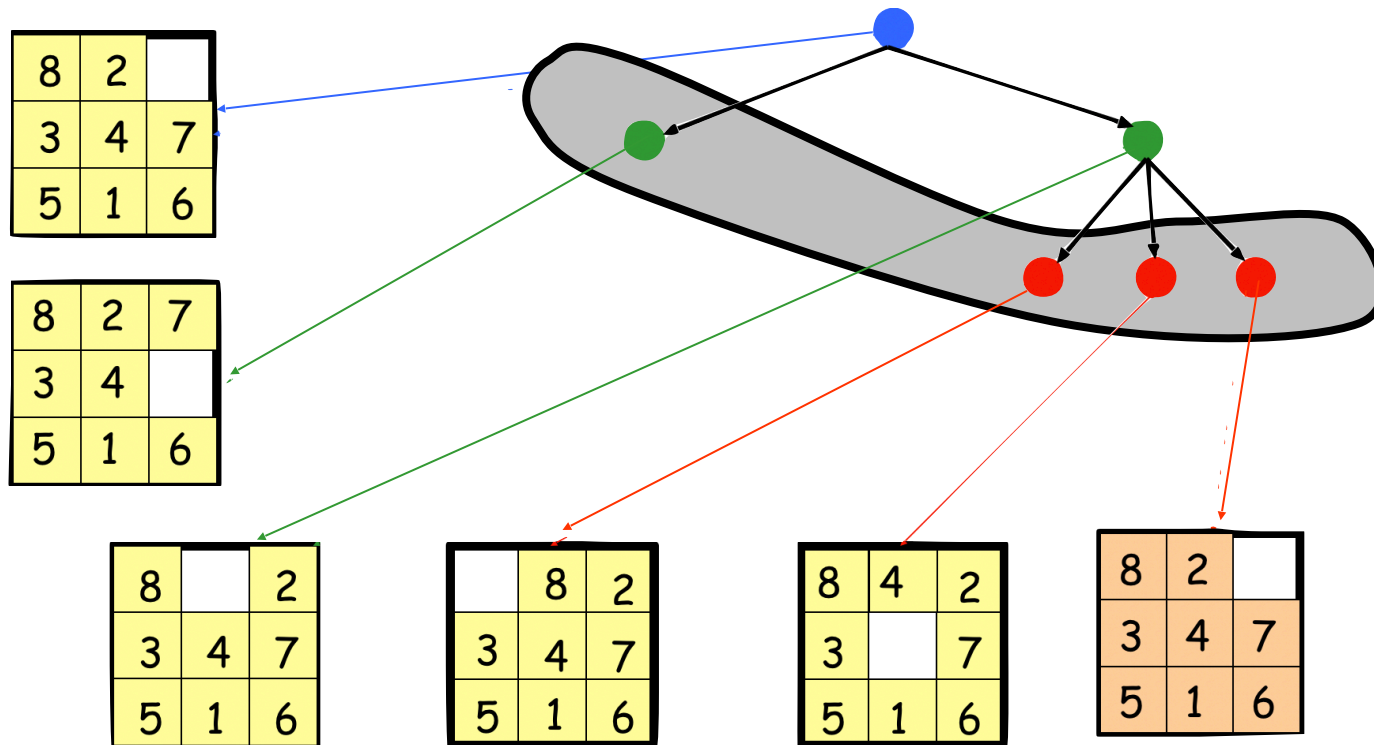
8	2	
3	4	7
5	1	6

8		2
3	4	7
5	1	6



# Open-List of Search Tree

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



# Search Strategy

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



# Search Algorithm #1

## SEARCH#1

1. If  $GOAL?(initial-state)$  then return initial-state
2.  $INSERT(initial-node, Open-List)$
3. Repeat:
  - a. If  $empty(Open-List)$  then return **failure**
  - b.  $N \leftarrow REMOVE(Open-List)$   
Expansion of  $N$
  - c.  $s \leftarrow STATE(N)$
  - 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.  $INSERT(N', Open-List)$

# 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**

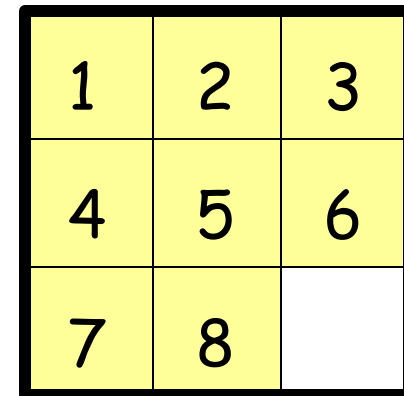
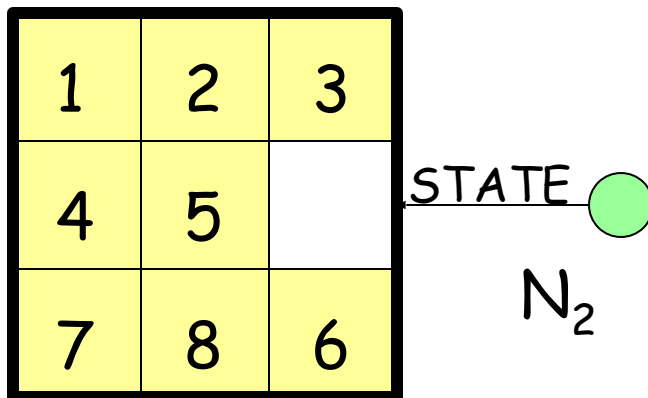
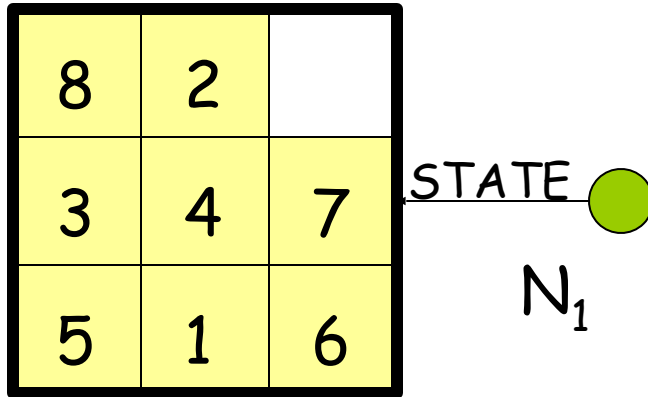
It measures the time and amount of memory required by the algorithm

# Blind vs. Heuristic Strategies

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

# Example

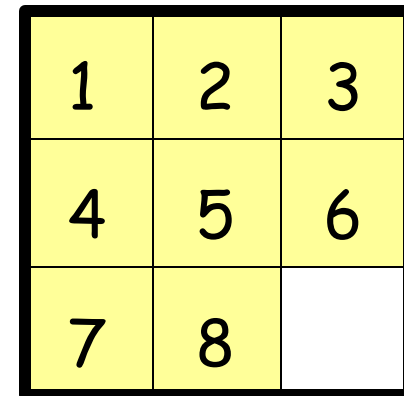
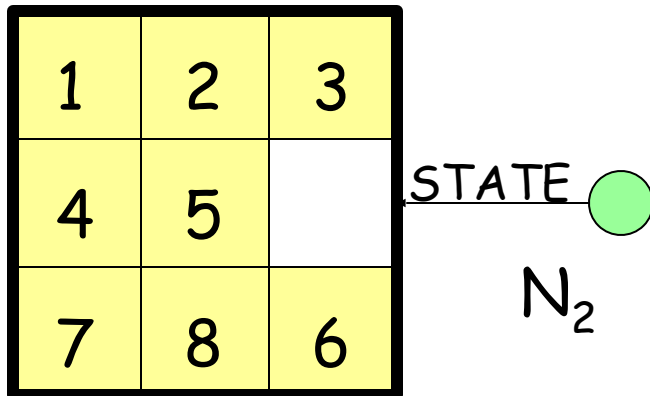
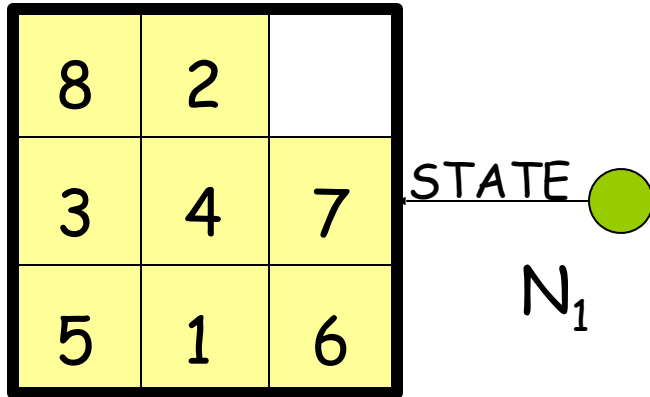
For a **blind strategy**,  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are just two nodes (at some position in the search tree)



Goal state

# Example

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



Goal state

# Remark

- Some search problems, such as the  $(n^2-1)$ -puzzle, are NP-hard
  - One can't expect to solve all instances of such problems in less than exponential time (in  $n$ )
  - One may still strive to solve each instance as efficiently as possible
- This is the purpose of the search strategy

# Blind Strategies

- Breadth-first
  - Bidirectional

- Depth-first
  - Depth-limited
  - Iterative deepening

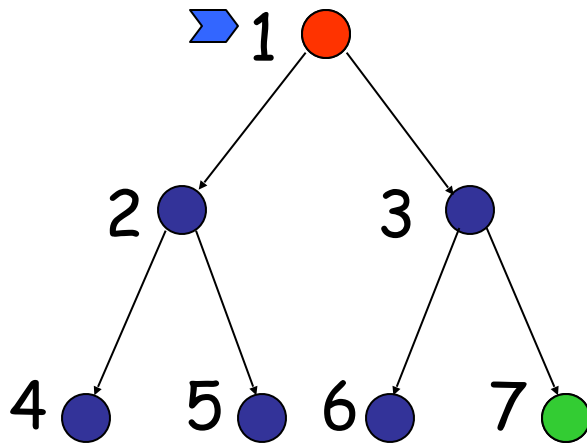
Arc cost = 1

- Uniform-Cost  
(variant of breadth-first)

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

# Breadth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the end** of Open-List

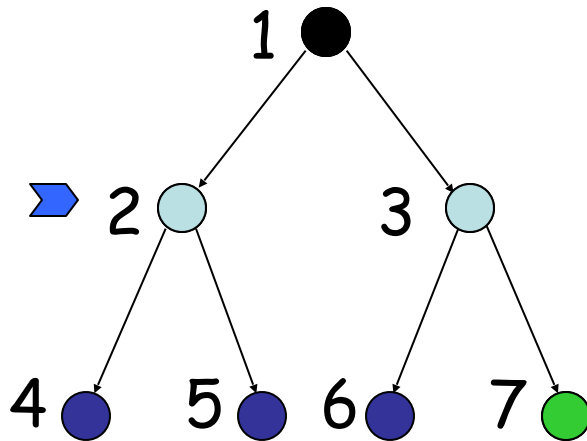


Open-List = (1)



# Breadth-First Strategy

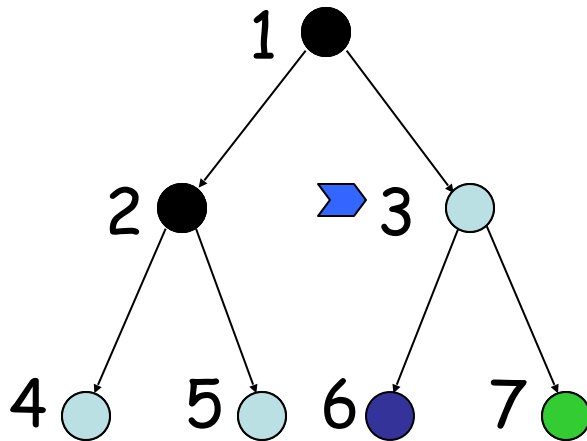
New nodes are inserted **at the end** of Open-List



Open-List = (2, 3)

# Breadth-First Strategy

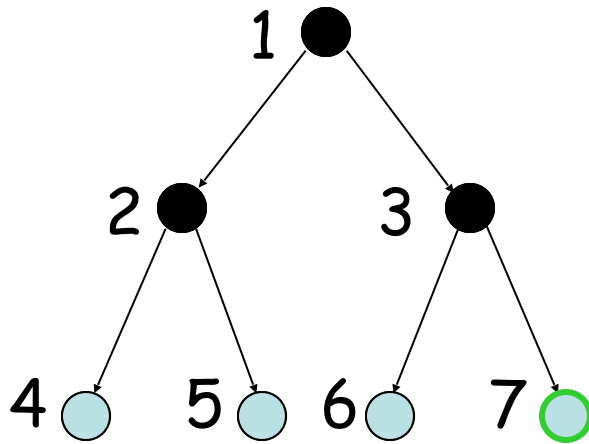
New nodes are inserted **at the end** of Open-List



Open-List = (3, 4, 5)

# Breadth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the end** of Open-List



Open-List = (4, 5, 6, 7)

# Important Parameters

- 1) Maximum number of successors of any state  
→ branching factor  $b$  of the search tree
- 2) Minimal length ( $\neq$  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:  
 $1 + b + b^2 + \dots + b^d = ???$

# 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:  
$$1 + b + b^2 + \dots + b^d = (b^{d+1}-1)/(b-1) = O(b^d)$$
- → Time and space complexity is  **$O(b^d)$**



# 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	$\sim 10^6$	1 sec	100 Mb
8	$\sim 10^8$	100 sec	10 Gbytes
10	$\sim 10^{10}$	2.8 hours	1 Tbyte
12	$\sim 10^{12}$	11.6 days	100 Tbytes
14	$\sim 10^{14}$	3.2 years	10,000 Tbytes

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

# Time and Memory Requirements

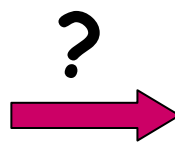
d	# Nodes	Time	Memory
2	111	.01 msec	11 Kbytes
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6	$\sim 10^6$	1 sec	100 Mb
8	$\sim 10^8$	100 sec	10 Gbytes
10	$\sim 10^{10}$	2.8 hours	1 Tbyte
12	$\sim 10^{12}$	11.6 days	100 Tbytes
14	$\sim 10^{14}$	3.2 years	10,000 Tbytes

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)

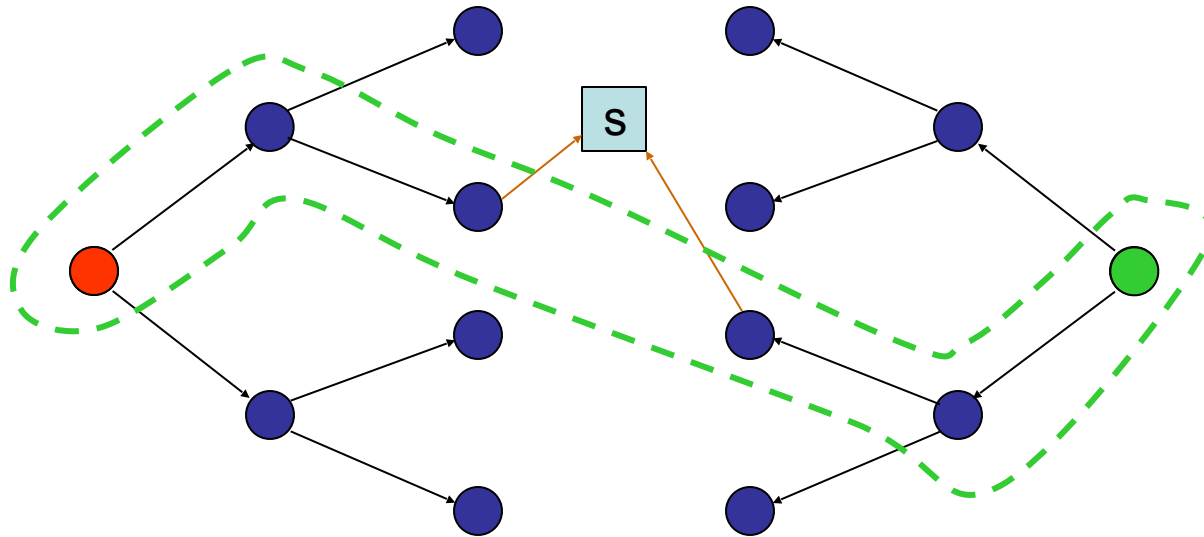
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	



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

# Bidirectional Strategy

2 Open-List queues: Open-List1 and Open-List2

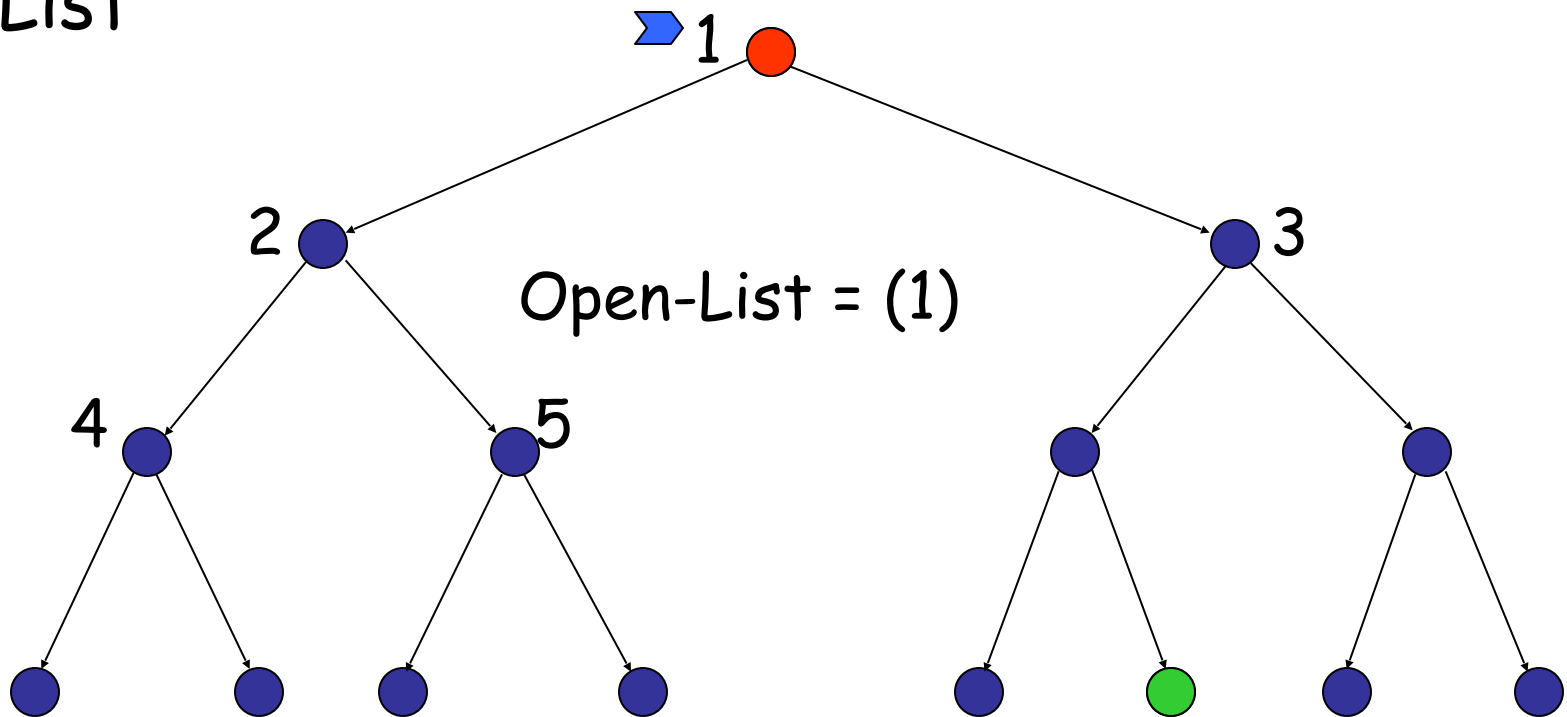


Time and space complexity is  $O(b^{d/2}) \ll O(b^d)$   
if both trees have the same branching factor  $b$

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

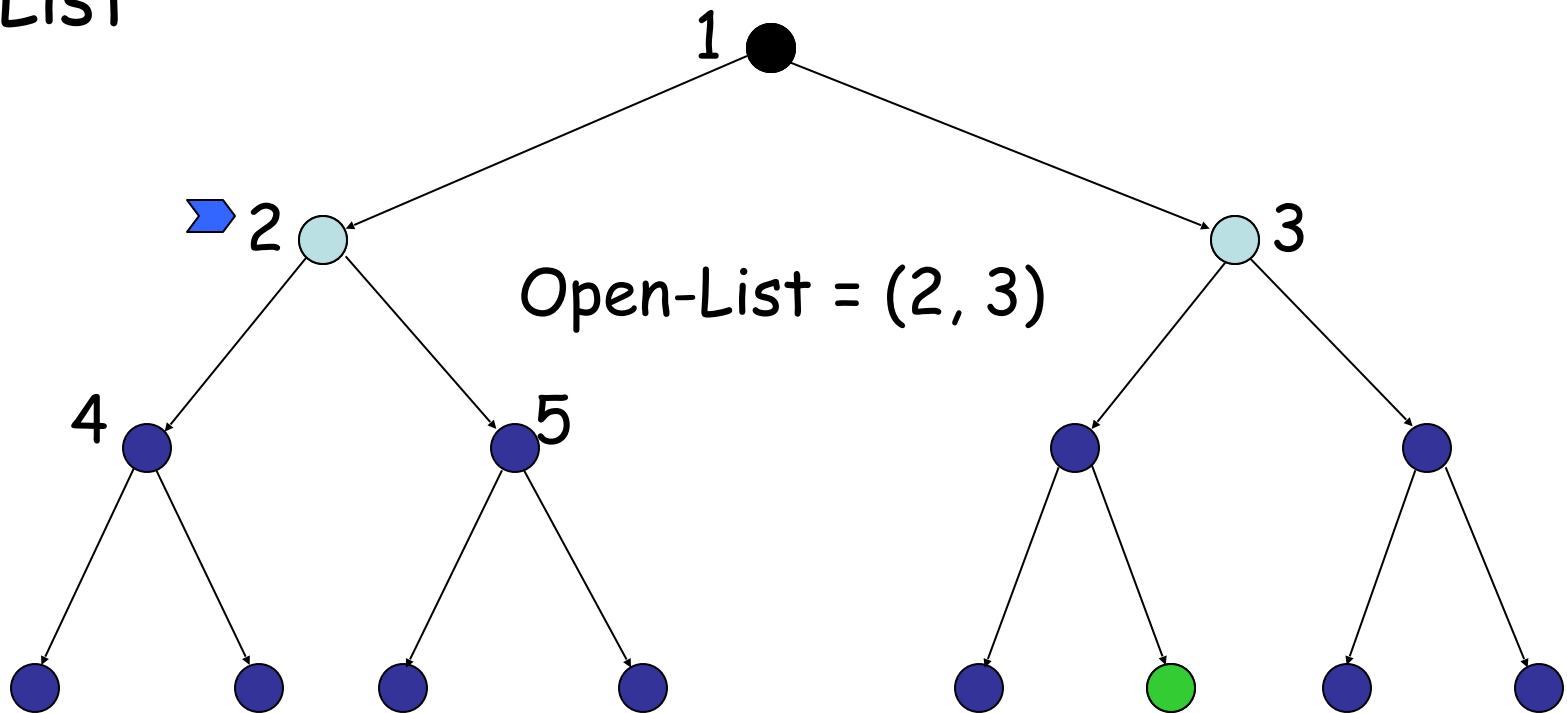
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



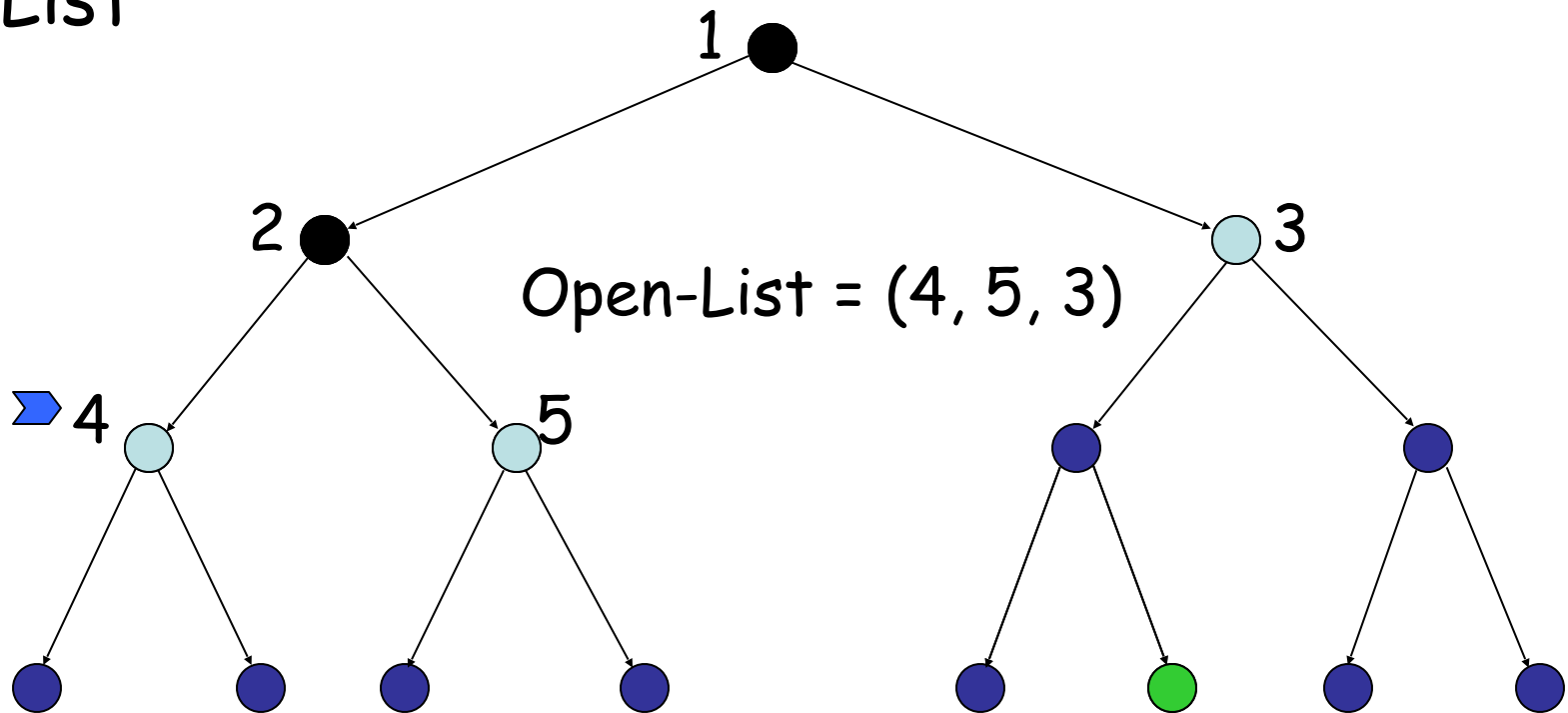
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



# Depth-First Strategy

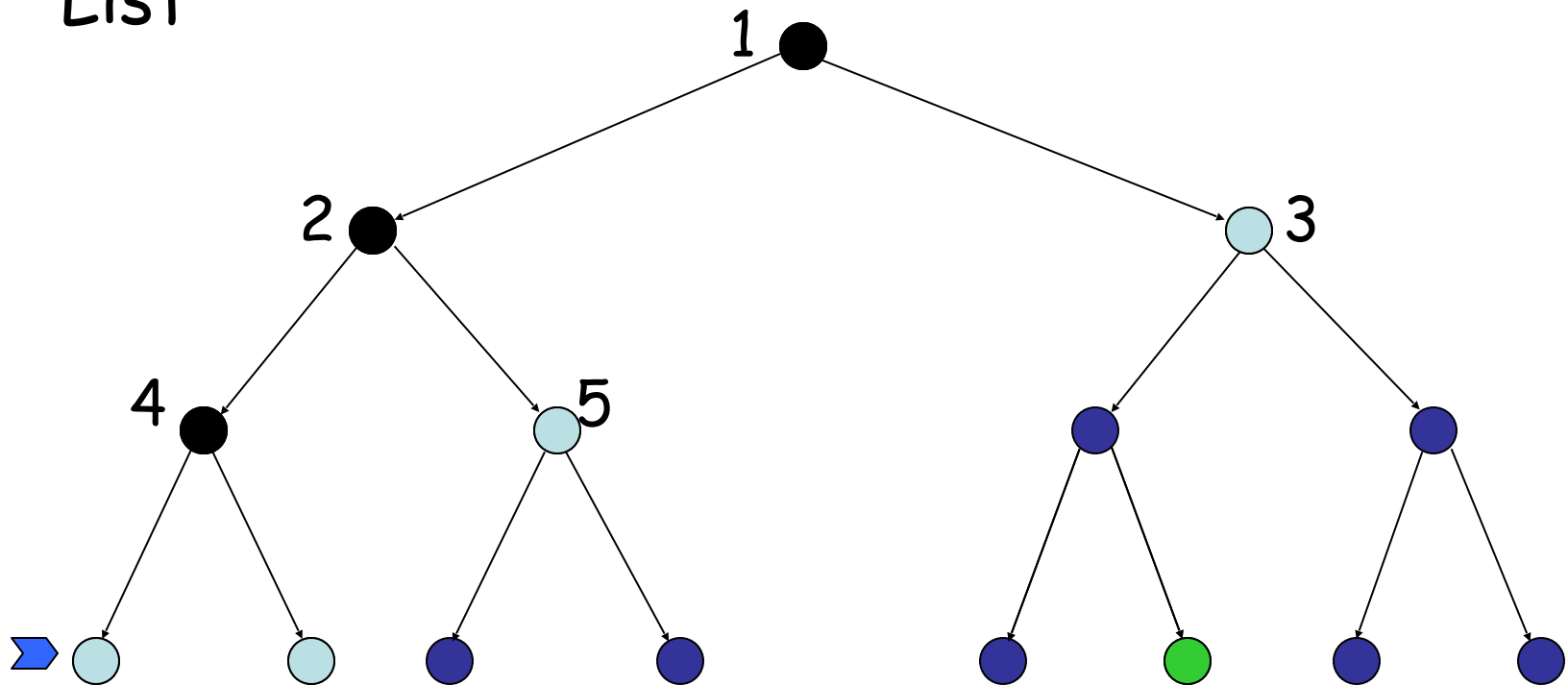
New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List





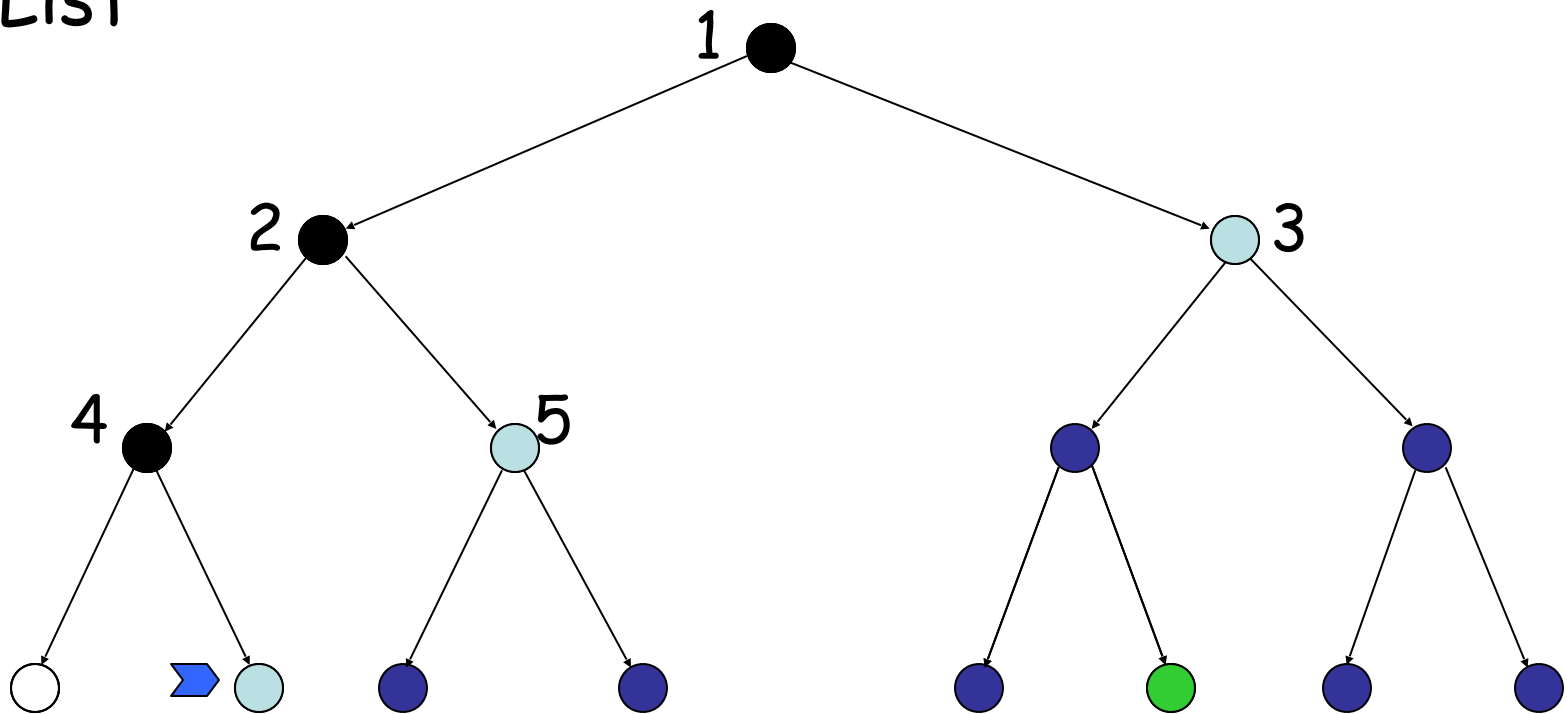
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



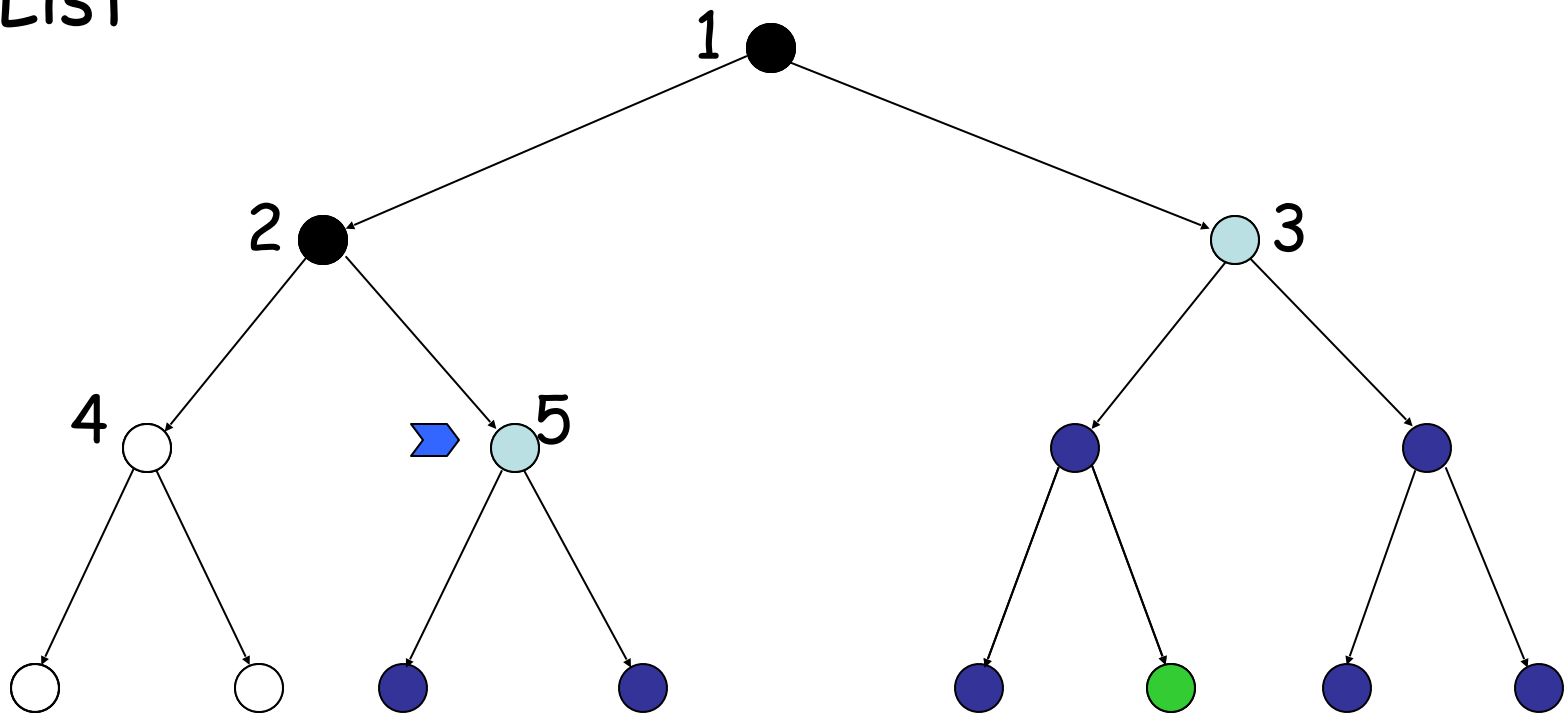
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



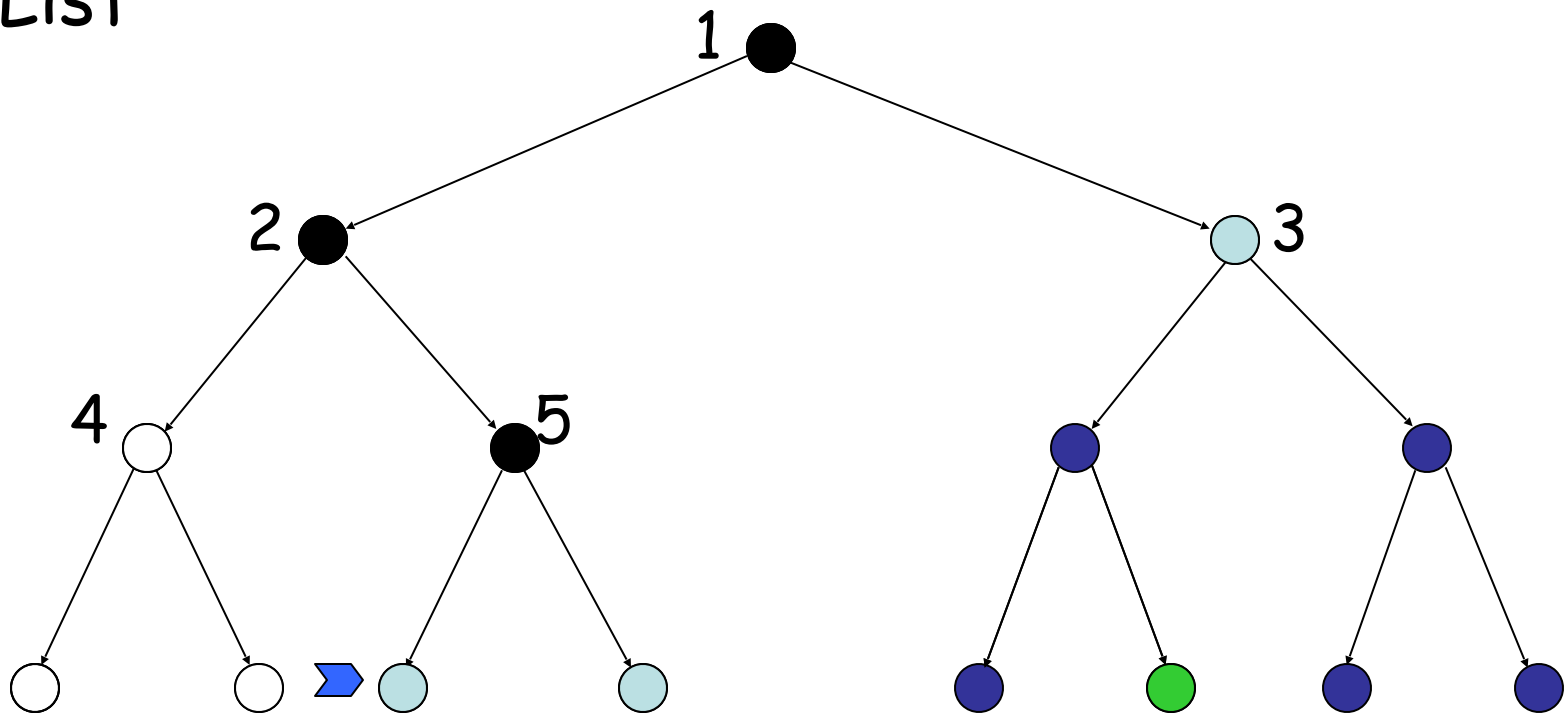
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



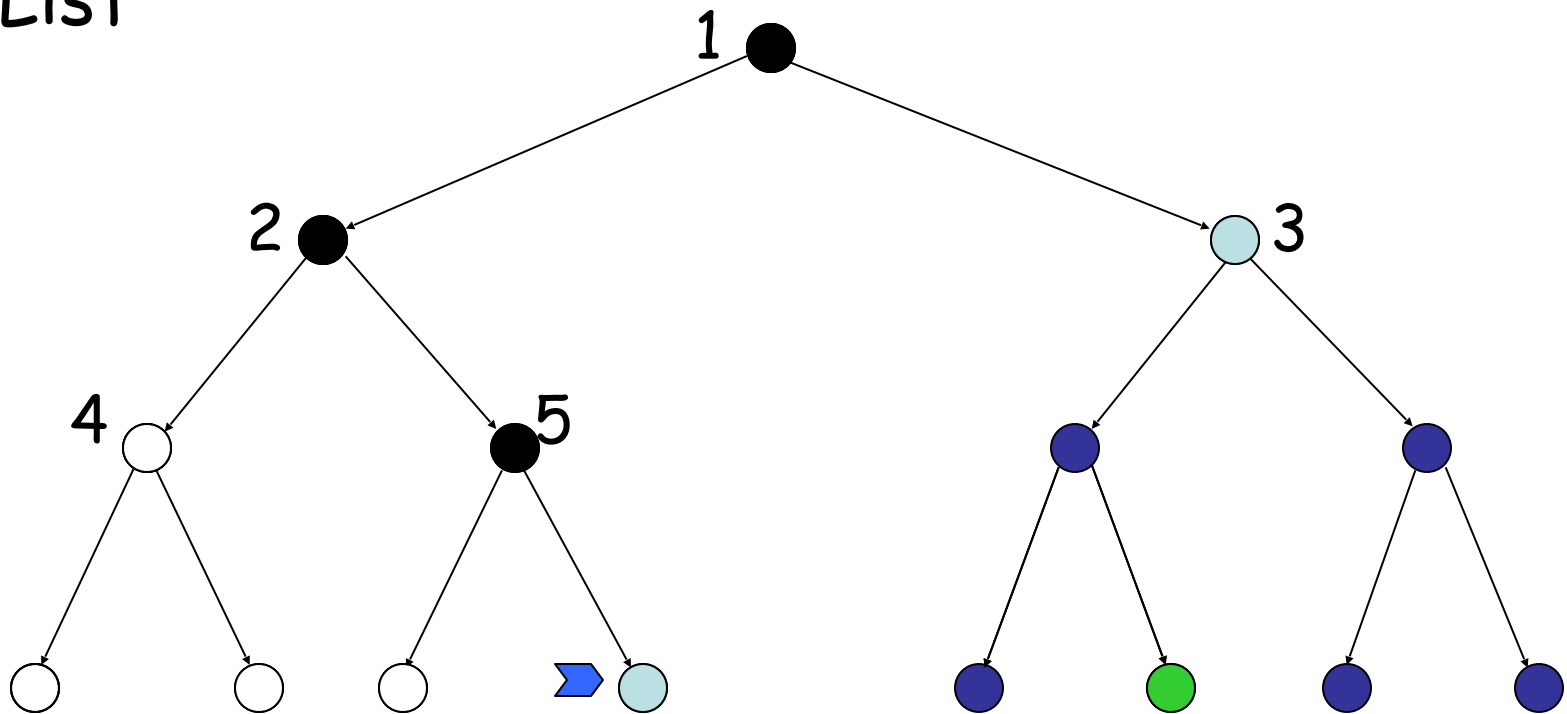
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



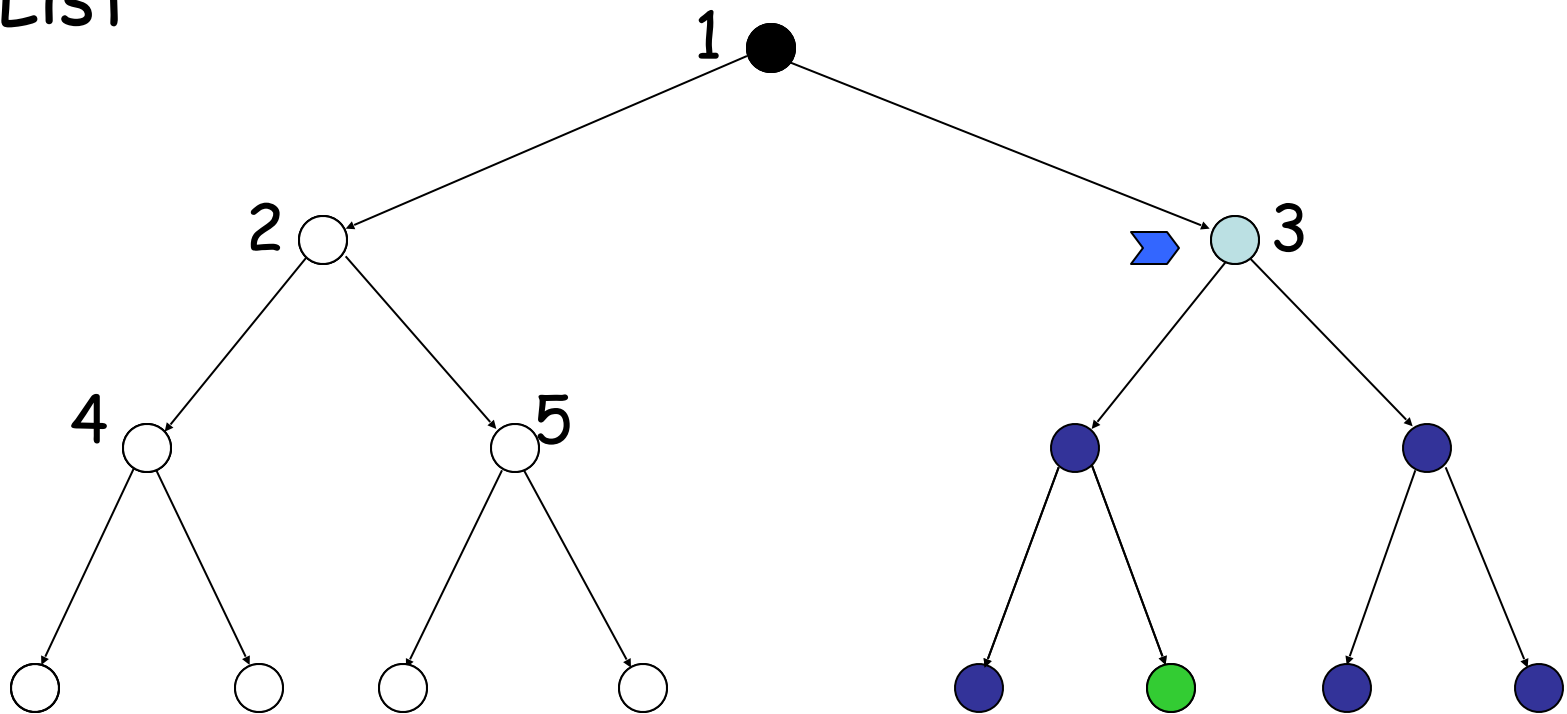
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



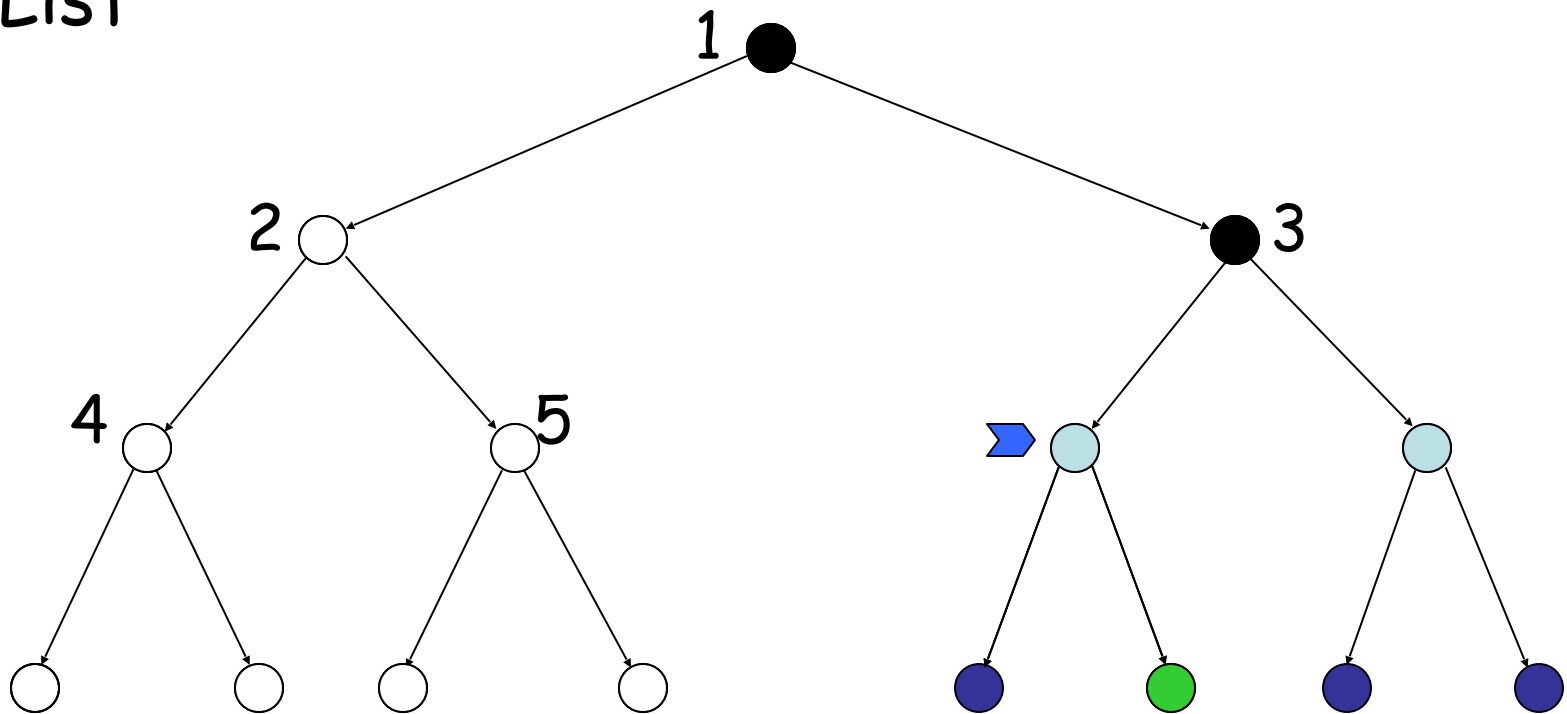
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



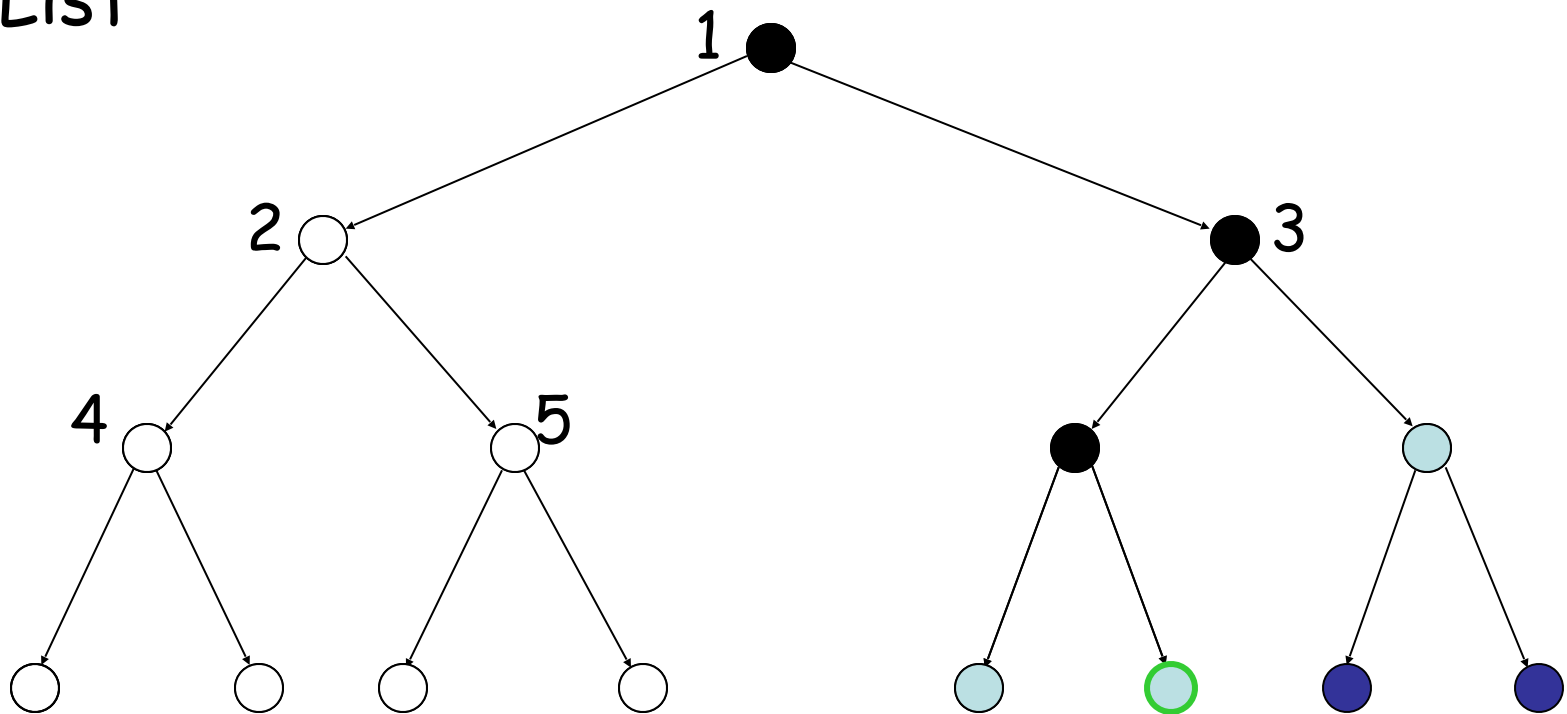
# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List



# Depth-First Strategy

New nodes are inserted **at the front** of Open-List





# 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):  
 $1 + b + b^2 + \dots + b^m = O(b^m)$
  - 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

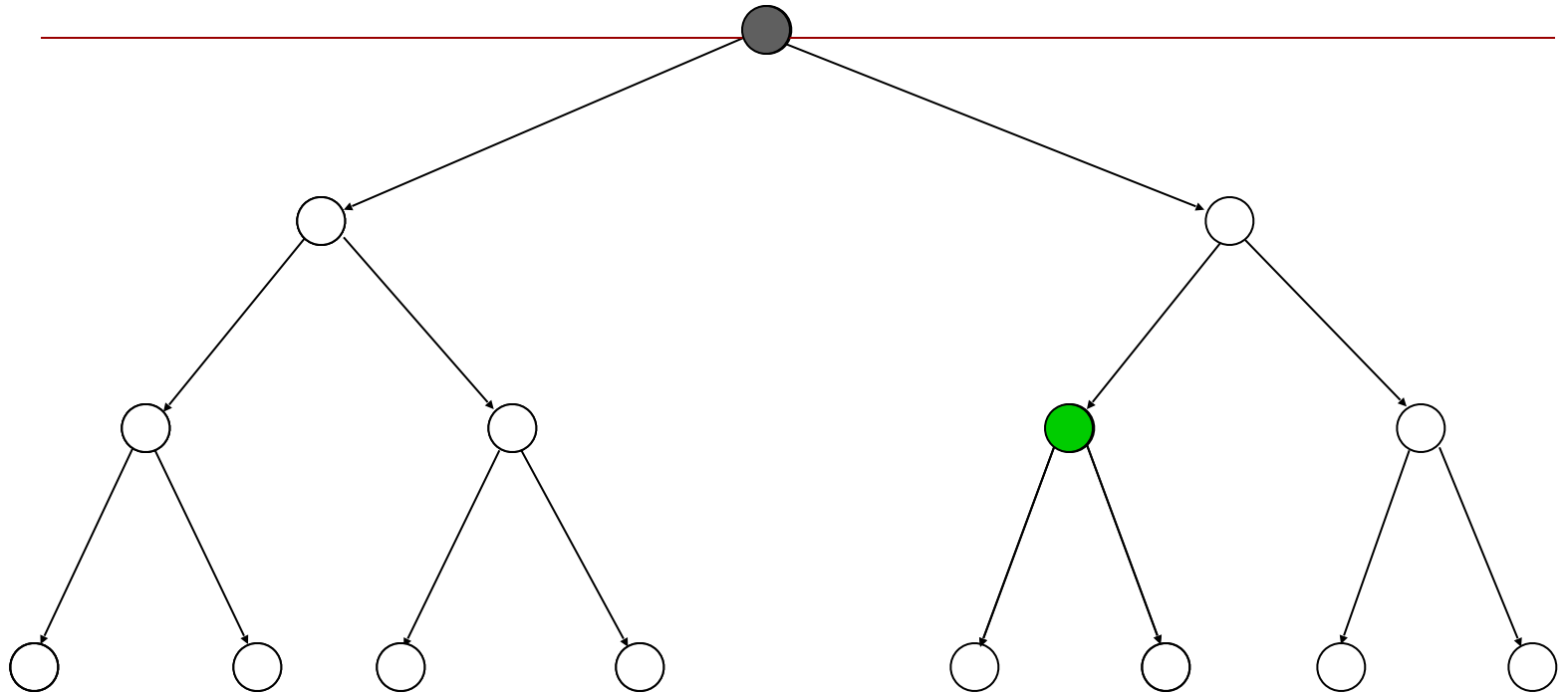
IDS:

For  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  do:

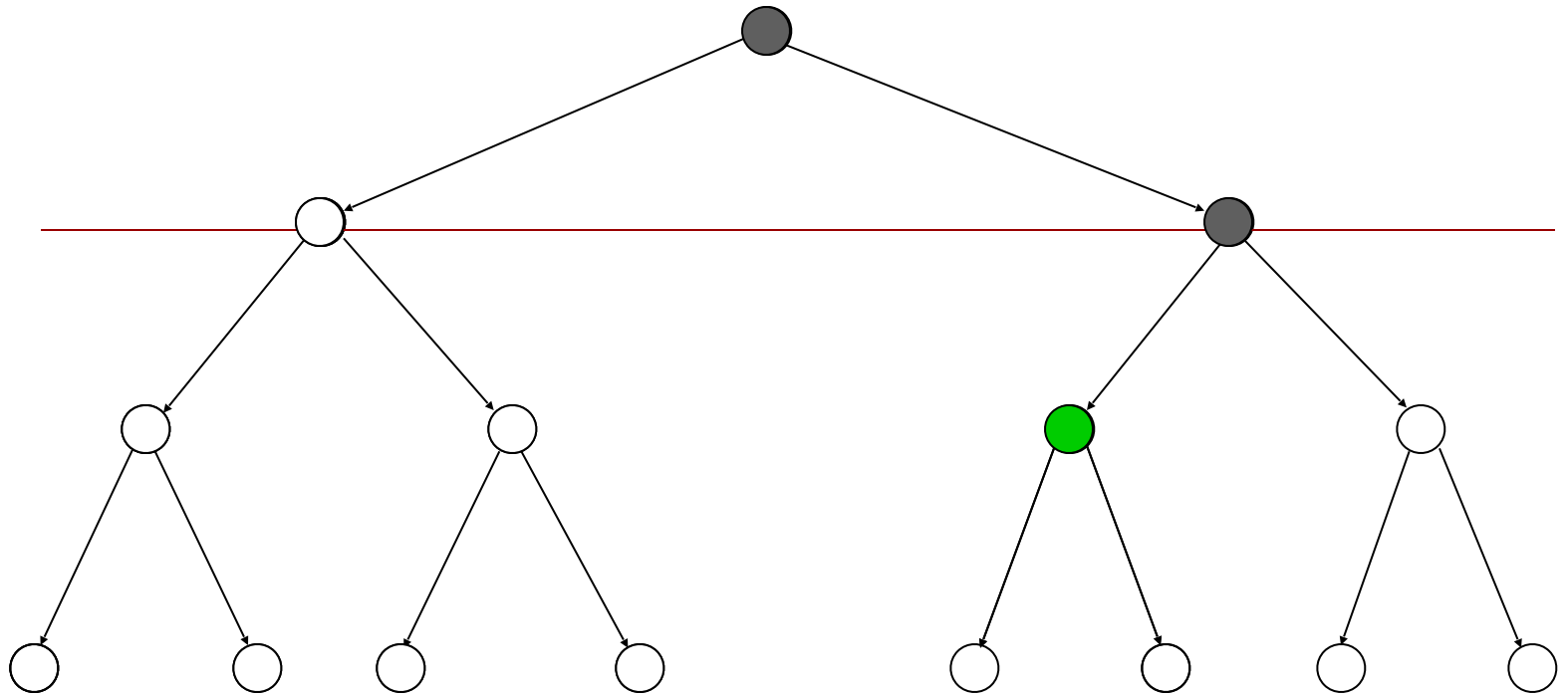
    Perform depth-first search with  
    depth cutoff  $k$

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

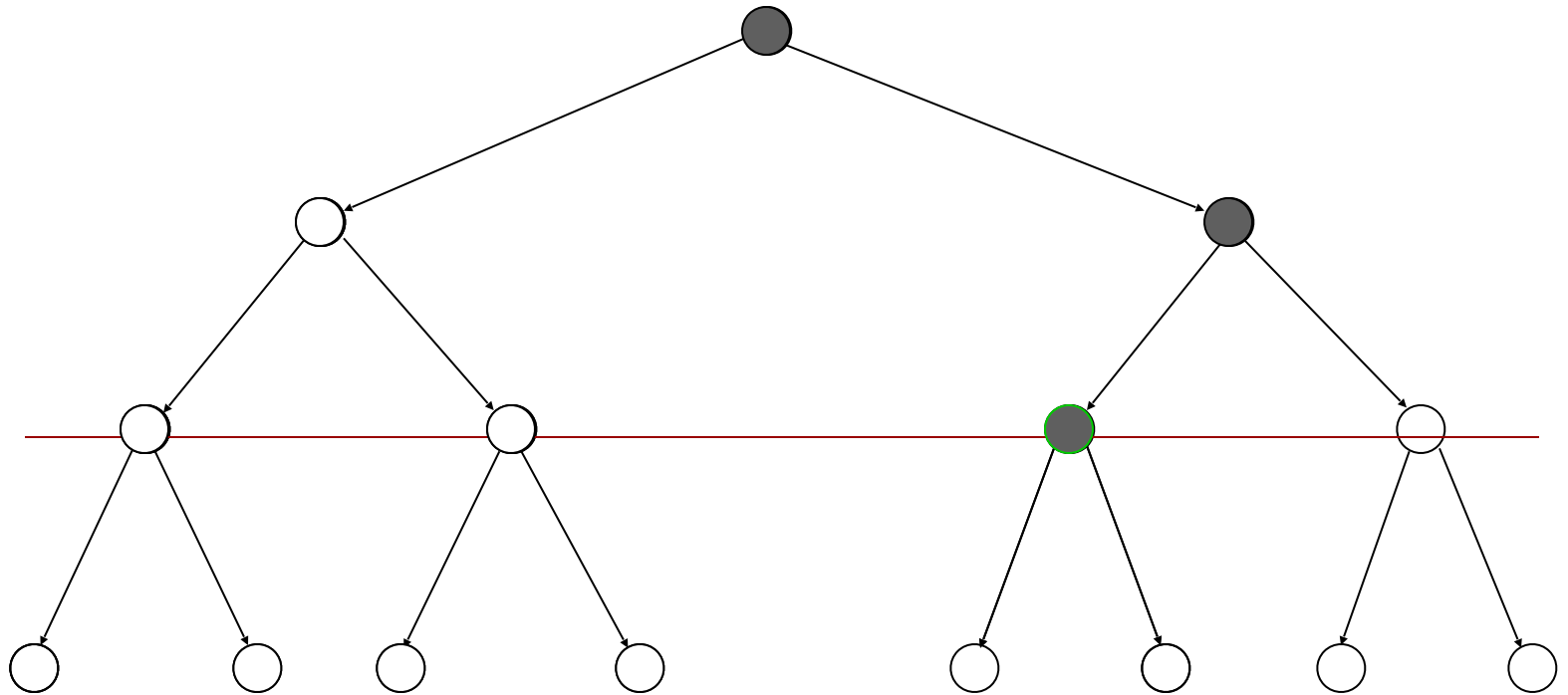
# Iterative Deepening



# Iterative Deepening



# Iterative Deepening



# Performance

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



# Calculation

$$\begin{aligned} & db + (d-1)b^2 + \dots + (1) b^d \\ &= b^d + 2b^{d-1} + 3b^{d-2} + \dots + db \\ &= (1 + 2b^{-1} + 3b^{-2} + \dots + db^{-d}) \times b^d \\ &\leq \left( \sum_{i=1, \dots, \infty} ib^{(1-i)} \right) \times b^d = b^d (b/(b-1))^2 \end{aligned}$$

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

BF	ID
1	$1 \times 6 = 6$
2	$2 \times 5 = 10$
4	$4 \times 4 = 16$
8	$8 \times 3 = 24$
16	$16 \times 2 = 32$
32	$32 \times 1 = 32$
<b>63</b>	<b>120</b>

$$d = 5 \text{ and } b = 2$$

$$120/63 \sim 2$$

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

BF	ID
1	6
10	50
100	400
1,000	3,000
10,000	20,000
100,000	100,000
<b>111,111</b>	<b>123,456</b>

$d = 5$  and  $b = 10$

$123,456 / 111,111 \sim 1.111$ <sub>91</sub>

# 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

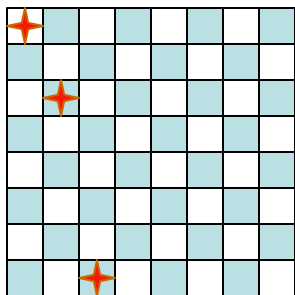
Few

Many

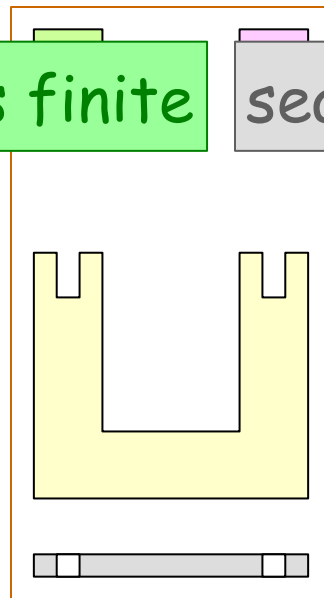
search tree is finite

search tree is infinite

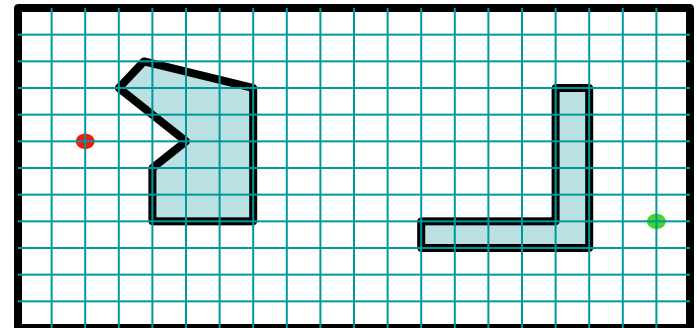
1	2	3
7	8	6



8-queens



assembly  
planning



8-puzzle and robot navigation

# Avoiding Revisited States

- Requires comparing state descriptions
- Breadth-first search:
  - Store all states associated with **generated** nodes in *Closed-List*
  - If the state of a new node is in *Closed-List*, then discard the node

# Avoiding Revisited States

- Requires comparing state descriptions
- Breadth-first search:
  - Store all states associated with **generated** nodes in *Closed-List*
  - If the state of a new node is in *Closed-List*, then discard the node

# Avoiding Revisited States

- Depth-first search:

Solution 1:

- Store all states associated with nodes in current path in Closed-List
- If the state of a new node is in Closed-List, then discard the node



# Avoiding Revisited States

- Depth-first search:

Solution 1:

- Store all states associated with nodes in current path in Closed-List
- If the state of a new node is in Closed-List, then discard the node

Only avoids loops

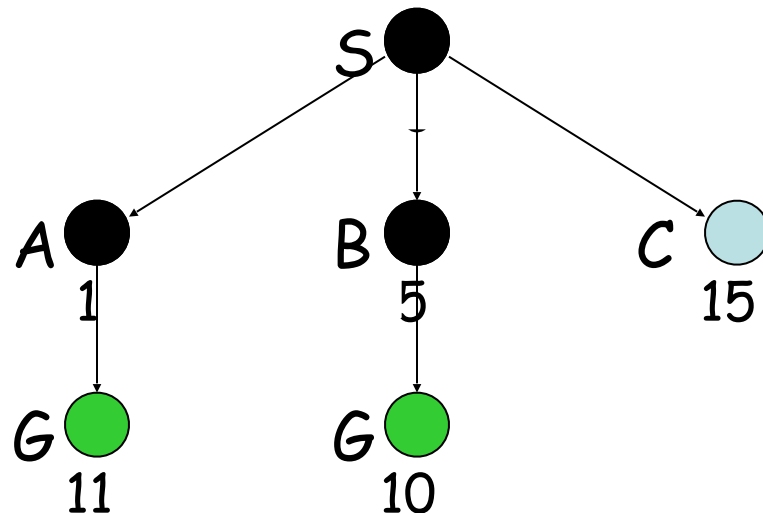
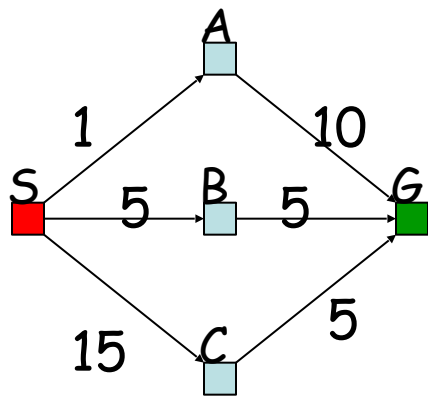
Solution 2:

- Store all generated states in Closed-List
- If the state of a new node is in Closed-List, then discard the node

Same space complexity as breadth-first !

# Uniform-Cost Search

- Each arc has some cost  $c \geq \epsilon > 0$
- The cost of the path to each node  $N$  is
$$g(N) = \sum \text{costs of arcs}$$
- The goal is to generate a solution path of minimal cost
- The nodes  $N$  in the queue Open-List are sorted in increasing  $g(N)$



- Need to modify search algorithm

# Search Algorithm #1

## SEARCH#1

1. If  $GOAL?(initial-state)$  then return initial-state
2.  $INSERT(initial-node, Open-List)$
3. Repeat:
  - a. If  $empty(Open-List)$  then return **failure**
  - b.  $N \leftarrow REMOVE(Open-List)$
  - c.  $s \leftarrow STATE(N)$
  - 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.  $INSERT(N', Open-List)$



# Search Algorithm #2

## SEARCH#2

1. INSERT(initial-node, Open-List)
2. Repeat:
  - a. If empty(Open-List) then return failure
  - b.  $N \leftarrow \text{REMOVE}(\text{Open-List})$
  - c.  $s \leftarrow \text{STATE}(N)$
  - d. If GOAL?( $s$ ) then return path or goal state
  - e. For every state  $s'$  in SUCCESSORS( $s$ )
    - i. Create a node  $N'$  as a successor of  $N$
    - ii. INSERT( $N'$ , Open-List)

# Avoiding Revisited States in Uniform-Cost Search

- For any state  $S$ , when the first node  $N$  such that  $STATE(N) = S$  is expanded, the path to  $N$  is the best path from the initial state to  $S$
- So:
  - When a node is **expanded**, store its state into `CLOSED`
  - When a new node  $N$  is generated:
    - If  $STATE(N)$  is in `CLOSED`, discard  $N$
    - If there exists a node  $N'$  in the Open-List such that  $STATE(N') = STATE(N)$ , discard the node ( $N$  or  $N'$ ) with the highest-cost path



# Homework

# Permutation Inversions

- A tile  $j$  **appears after** a tile  $i$  if either  $j$  appears on the same row as  $i$  to the right of  $i$ , or on another row below the row of  $i$ .
- For every  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 15$ , let  $n_i$  be the number of tiles  $j < i$  that appear after tile  $i$  (permutation inversions)
- $N = n_2 + n_3 + \dots + n_{15} + \text{row number of empty tile}$

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 n_2 &= 0 & n_3 &= 0 & n_4 &= 0 \\
 n_5 &= 0 & n_6 &= 0 & n_7 &= 1 \\
 n_8 &= 1 & n_9 &= 1 & n_{10} &= 4 \\
 n_{11} &= 0 & n_{12} &= 0 & n_{13} &= 0 \\
 n_{14} &= 0 & & & n_{15} &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\rightarrow N = 7 + 4$$



- Proposition:  $(N \bmod 2)$  is invariant under any legal move of the empty tile

- Proof:

- Any horizontal move of the empty tile leaves  $N$  unchanged
- A vertical move of the empty tile changes  $N$  by an even increment  $(\pm 1 \pm 1 \pm 1 \pm 1)$

$s =$

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

$s' =$

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

$$N(s') = N(s) + 3 + 1$$

- Proposition:  $(N \bmod 2)$  is invariant under any legal move of the empty tile
- $\rightarrow$  For a goal state  $g$  to be reachable from a state  $s$ , a necessary condition is that  $N(g)$  and  $N(s)$  have the same parity
- It can be shown that this is also a sufficient condition