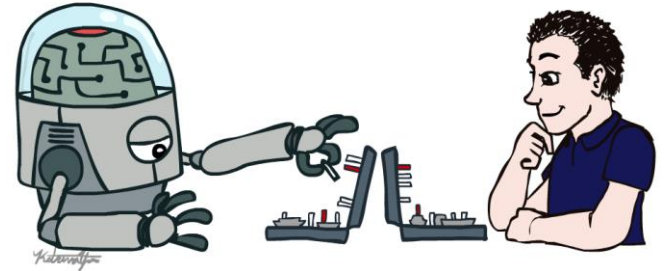


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# CSE 573: Artificial Intelligence Agents & Search

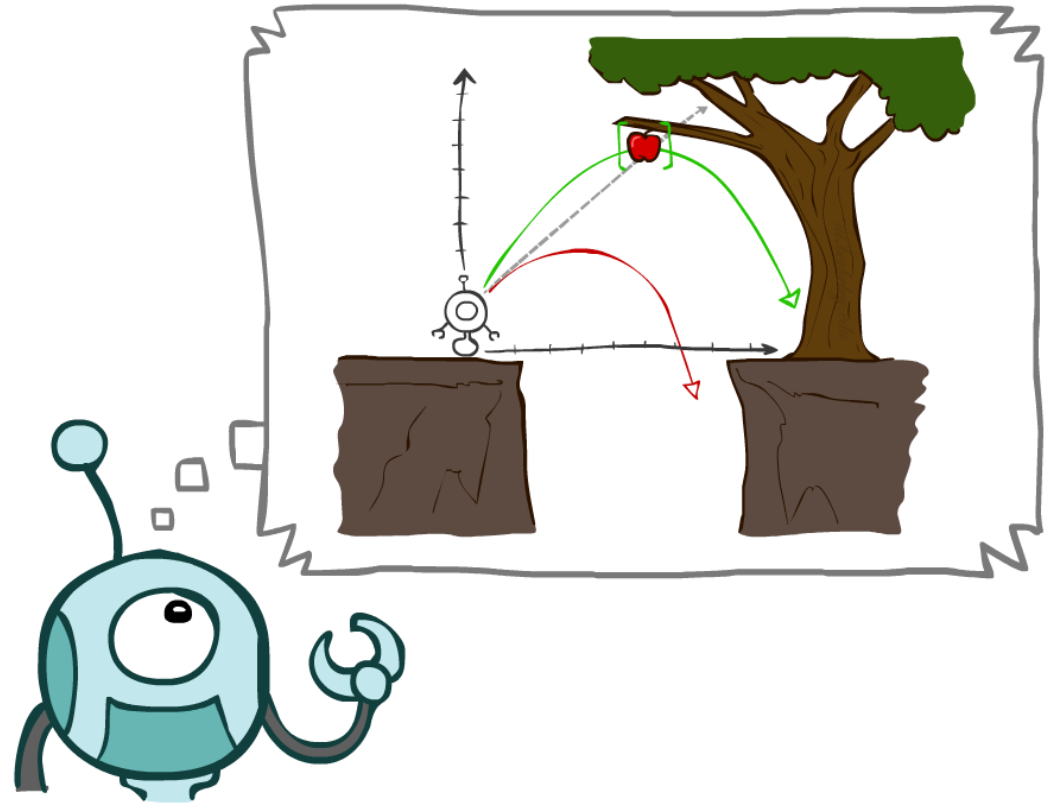
Hanna Hajishirzi

slides adapted from  
Dan Klein, Pieter Abbeel [ai.berkeley.edu](http://ai.berkeley.edu)  
And Dan Weld, Luke Zettlemoyer



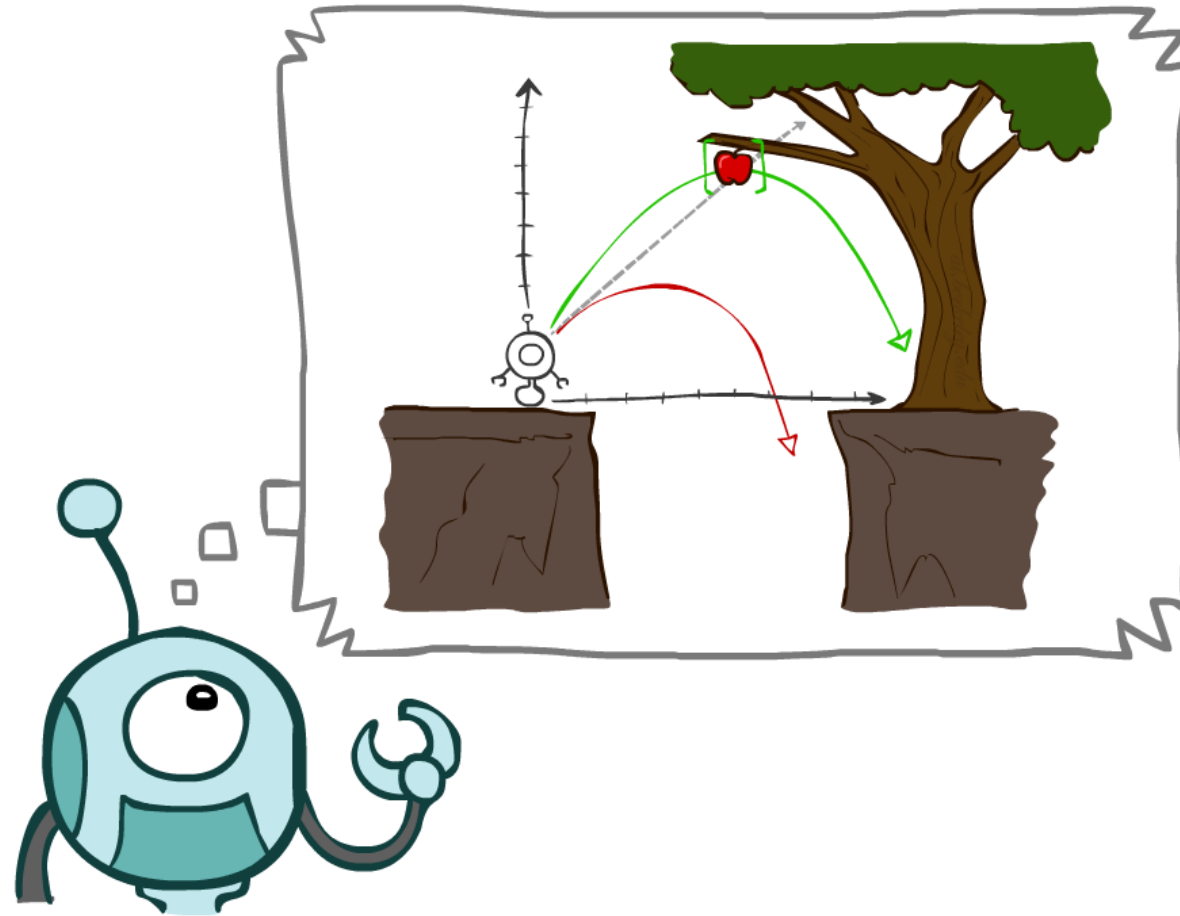
# Agents & Search

- Agents that Plan Ahead
- Search Problems
- Uninformed Search Methods
  - Depth-First Search
  - Breadth-First Search
  - Uniform-Cost Search



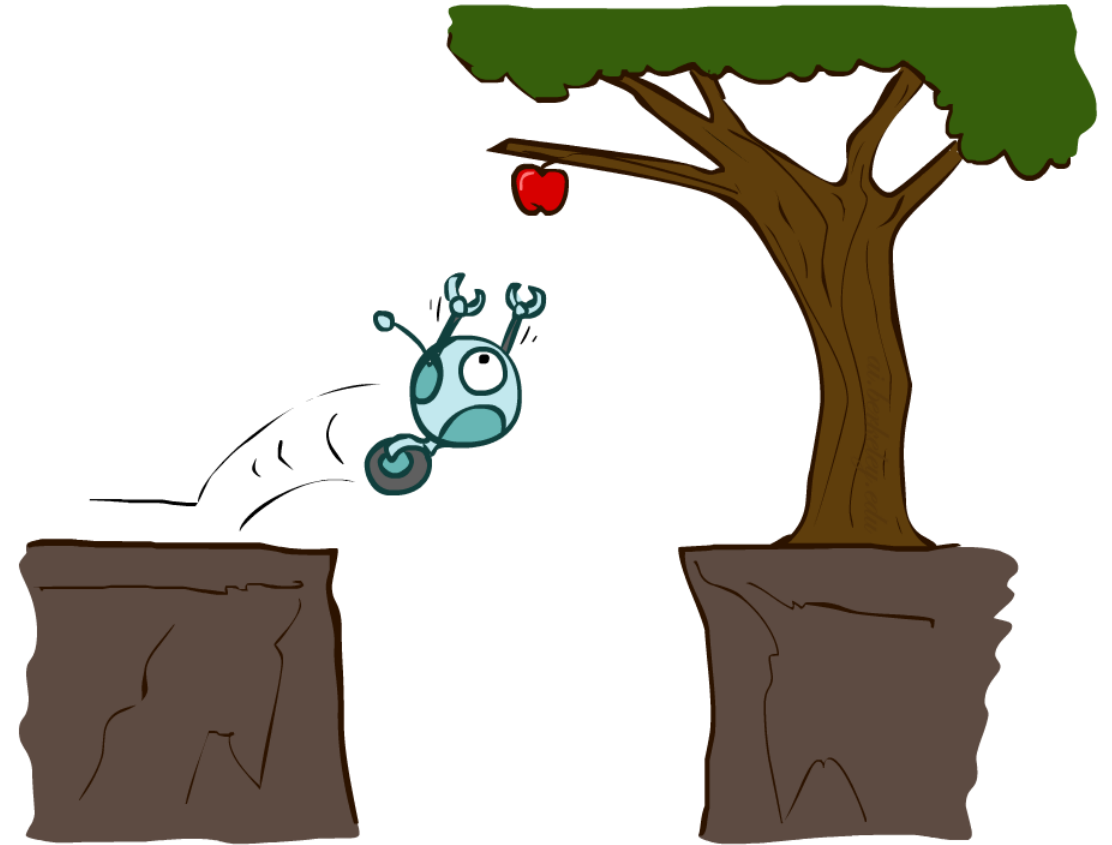
# Agents that Plan

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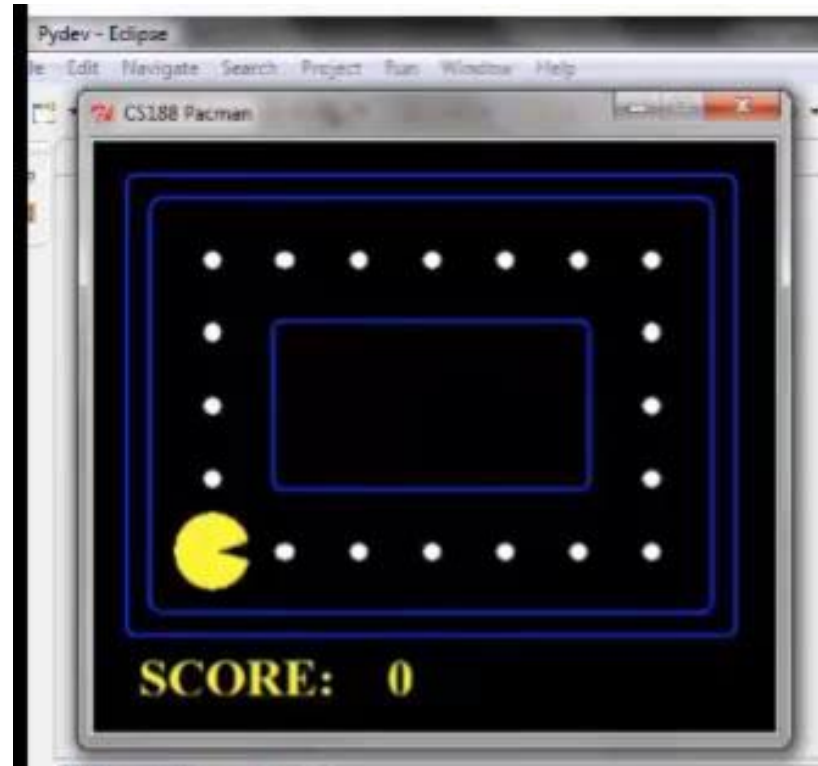
# Reflex Agents

- 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?*



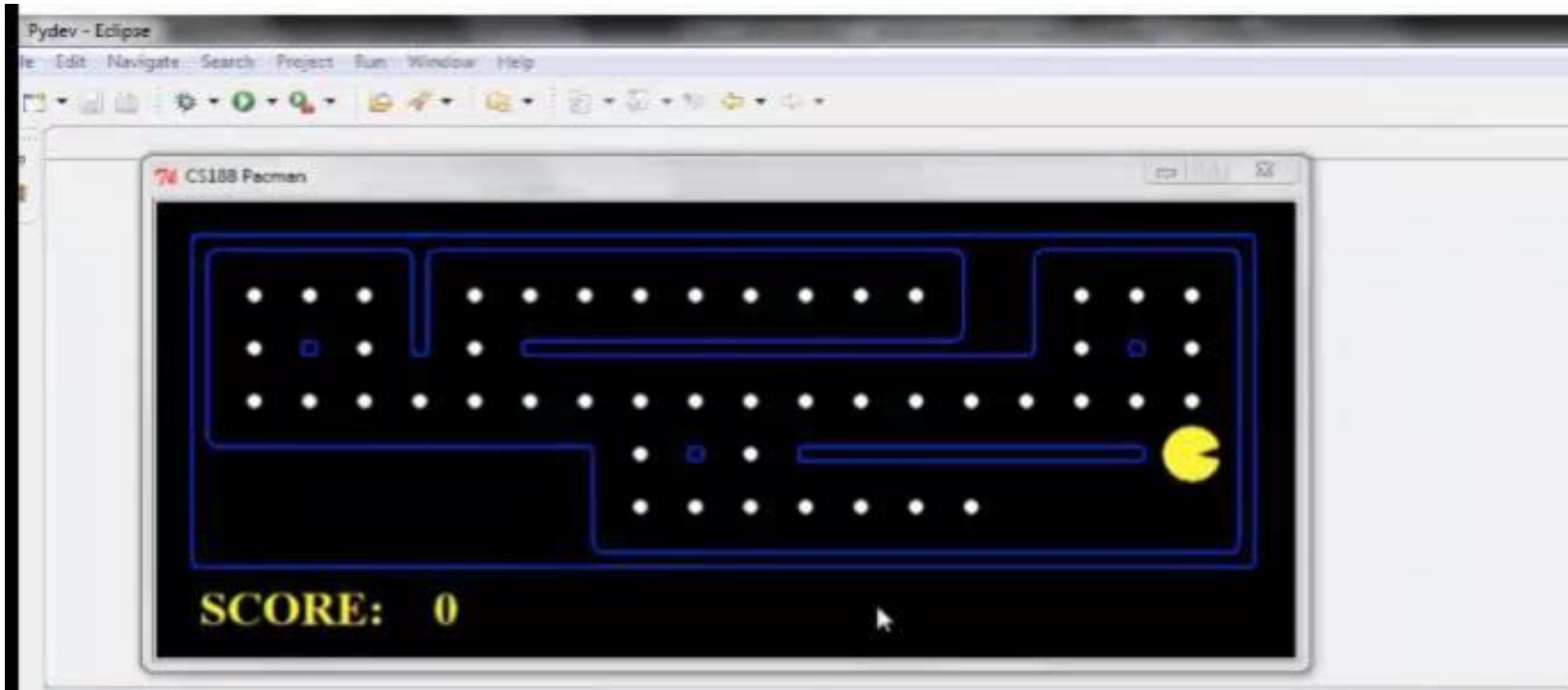
# Video of Demo Reflex Optimal

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# Video of Demo Reflex Odd

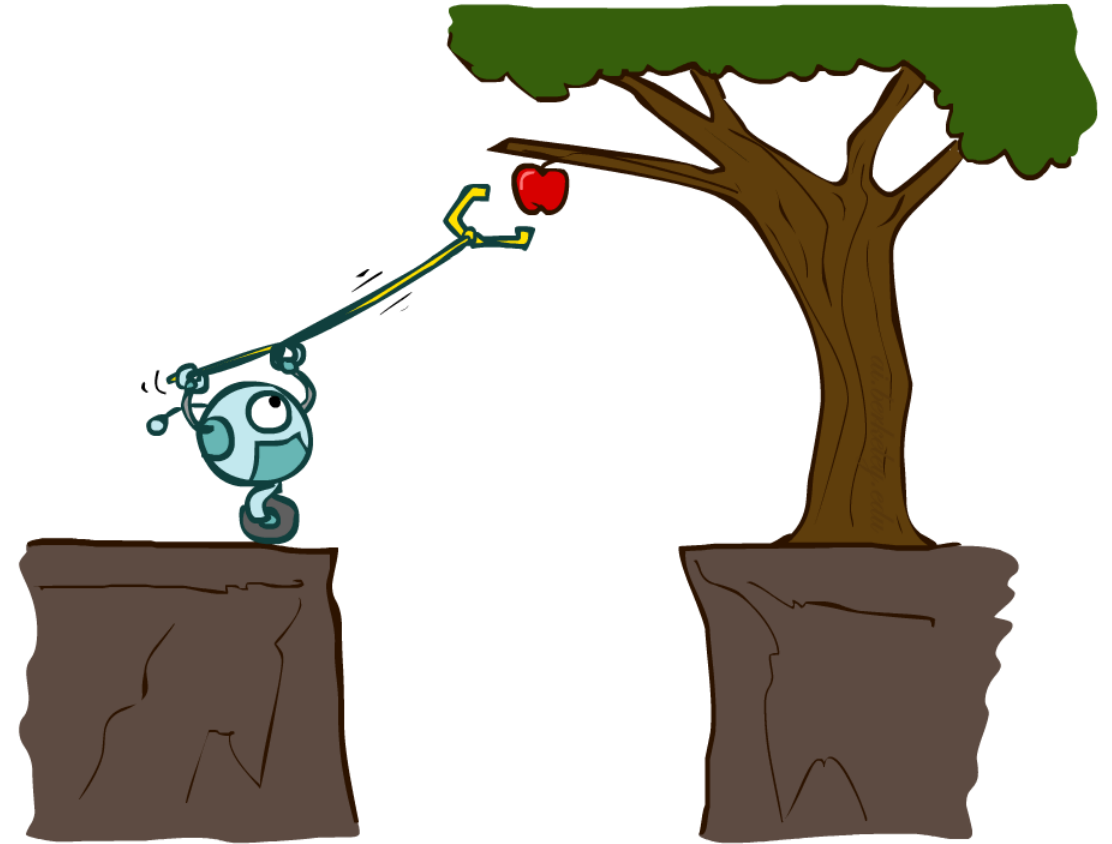
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# Planning Agents

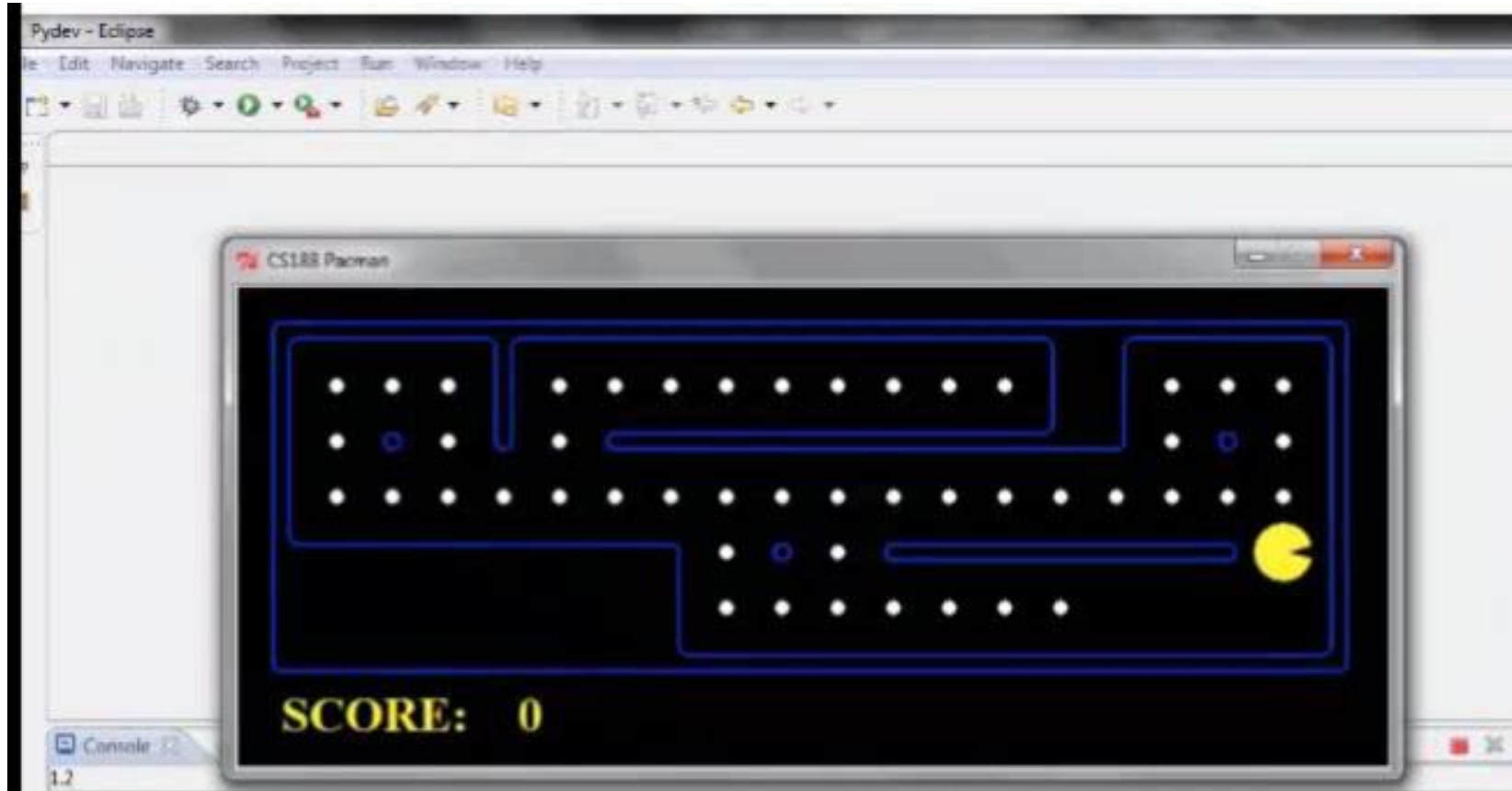
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- Planning agents:
  - Ask “what if”
  - Decisions based on (hypothesized) consequences of actions
  - Must have a model of how the world evolves in response to actions
  - Must formulate a goal (test)
  - **Consider how the world WOULD BE**
- Optimal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



# Video of Demo Replanning

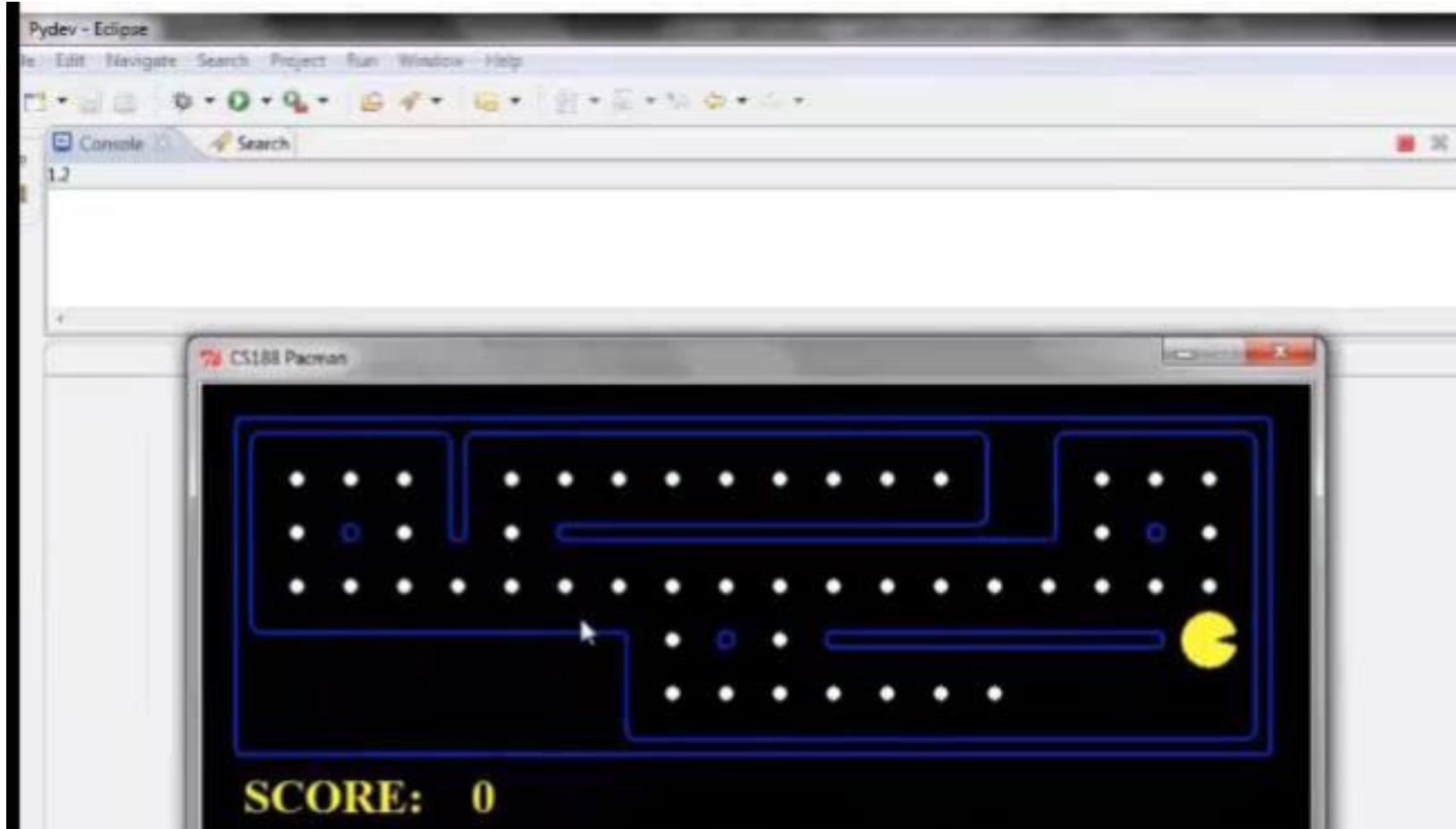
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# Video of Demo Mastermind

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# Search Problems

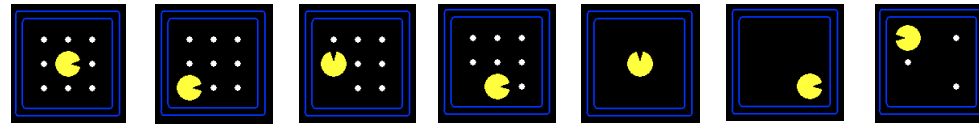
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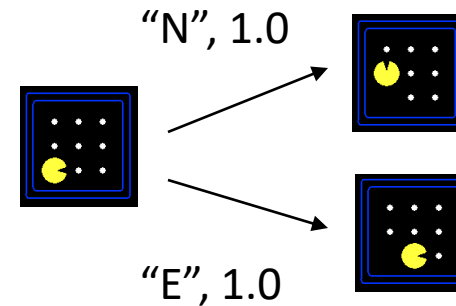
# Search Problems

- A **search problem** consists of:

- A state space



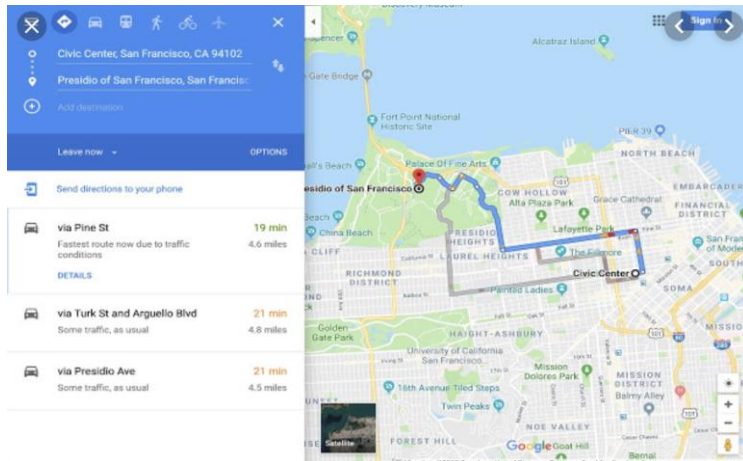
- A successor function  
(with actions, costs)



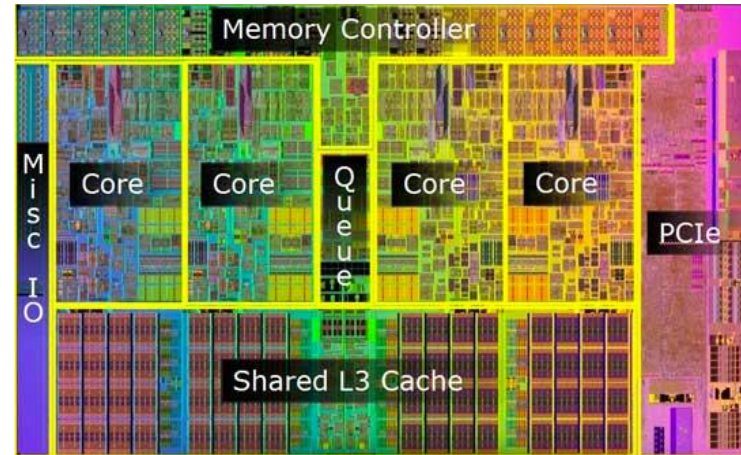
- A start state and a goal test
- A **solution** is a sequence of actions (a plan) which transforms the start state to a goal state

# Search: it is not just for agents

## Route Planning



## Hardware verification



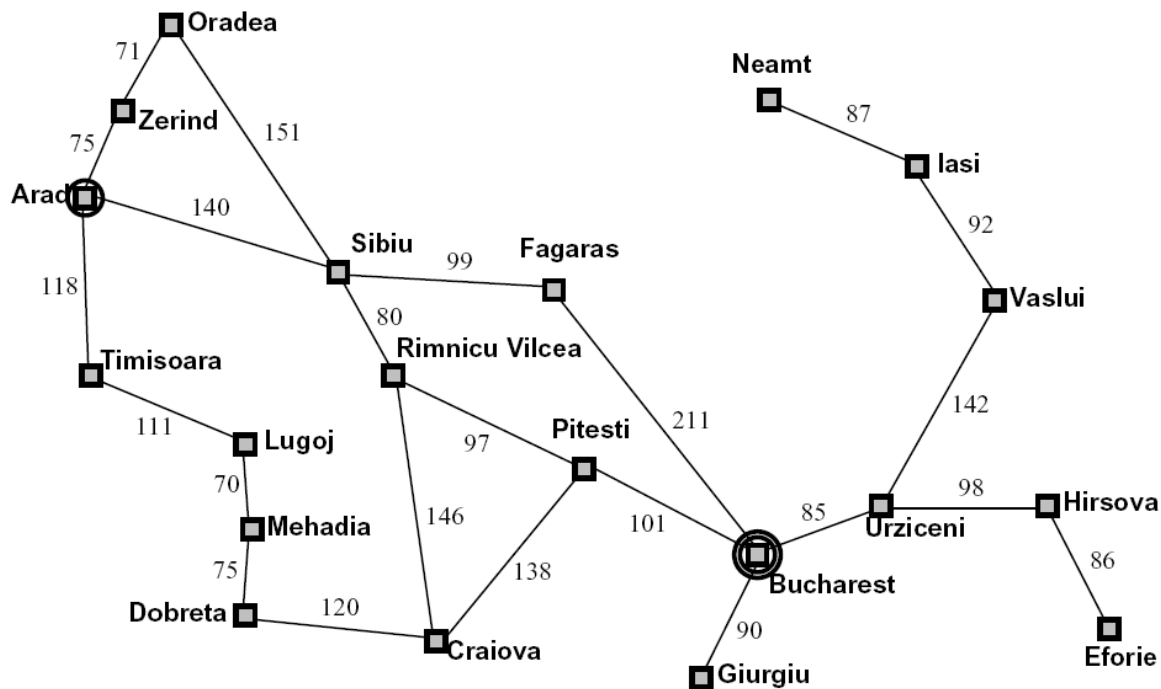
## Planning optimal repair sequences



- Search:  
Modeling the world



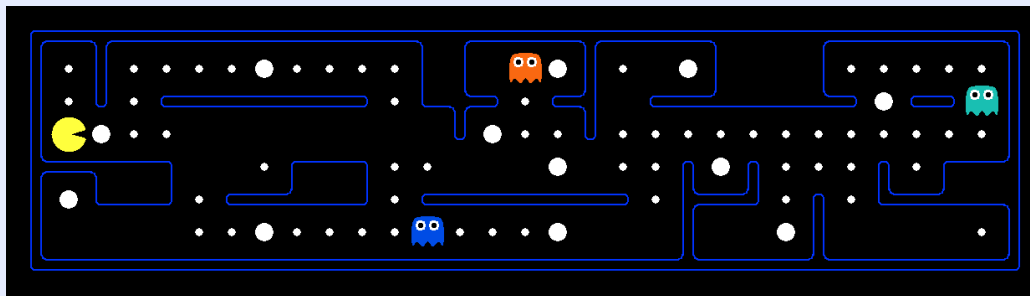
# Example: Traveling in Romania



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

# What's in a State Space?

The **world state** includes every last detail of the environment



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

- Problem: Pathing
  - States:  $(x,y)$  location
  - Actions: NSEW
  - Successor: update location only
  - Goal test: is  $(x,y) = \text{END}$
- Problem: Eat-All-Dots
  - States:  $\{(x,y), \text{dot booleans}\}$
  - Actions: NSEW
  - Successor: update location and possibly a dot boolean
  - Goal test: dots all false

# Parsing Natural Language

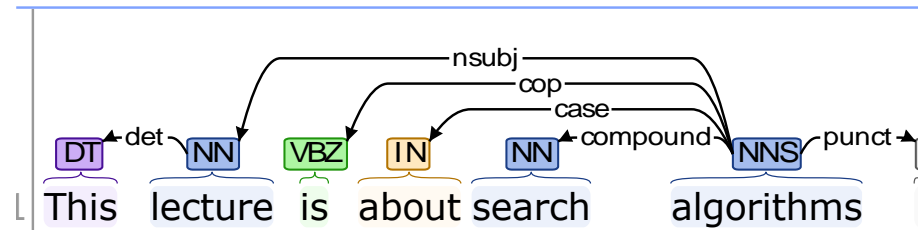
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- Input:

- Set of states
- Operations
- Start state
- Goal state (test)

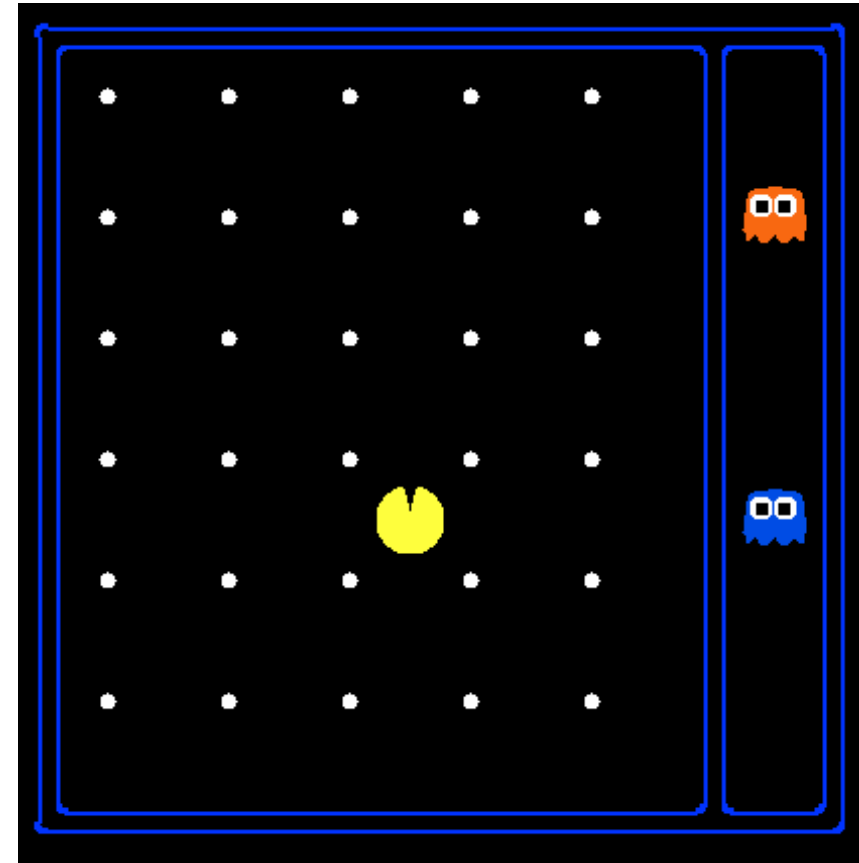
- Output:

This lecture is about search algorithms.



# State Space Sizes?

- World state:
  - Agent positions: 120
  - Food count: 30
  - Ghost positions: 12
  - Agent facing: NSEW
- How many
  - World states?  
 $120 \times (2^{30}) \times (12^2) \times 4$
  - States for pathing?  
120
  - States for eat-all-dots?  
 $120 \times (2^{30})$



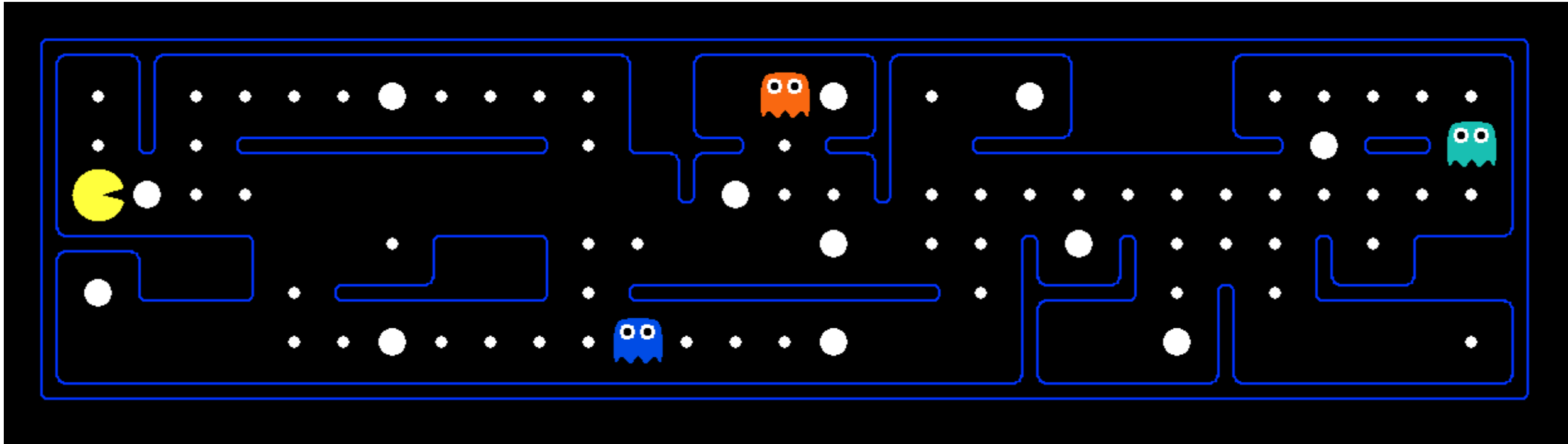


# State Representation

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

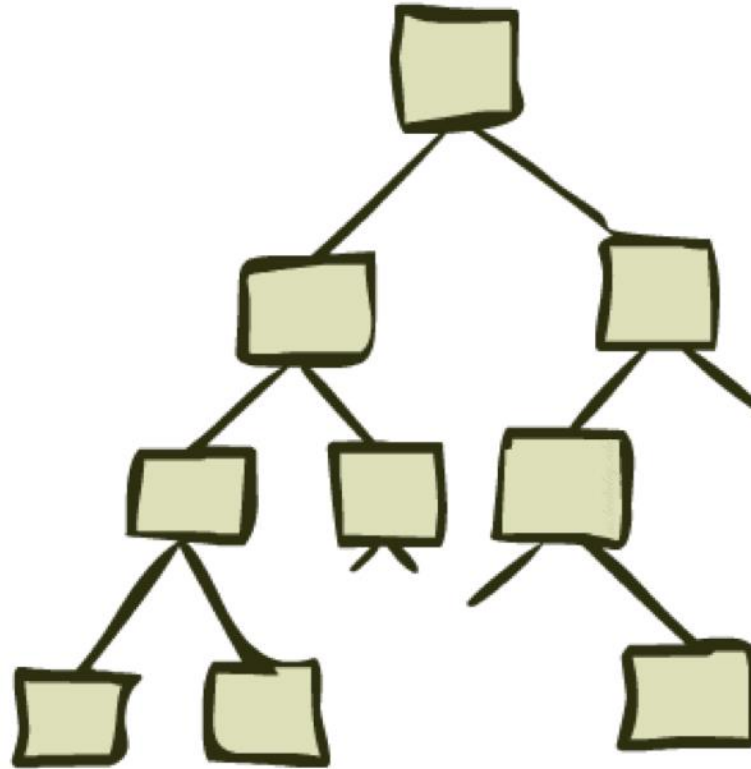
# Safe Passage



- Problem: eat all dots while keeping the ghosts perma-scared
- What does the state space have to specify?
  - (agent position, dot booleans, power pellet booleans, remaining scared time)

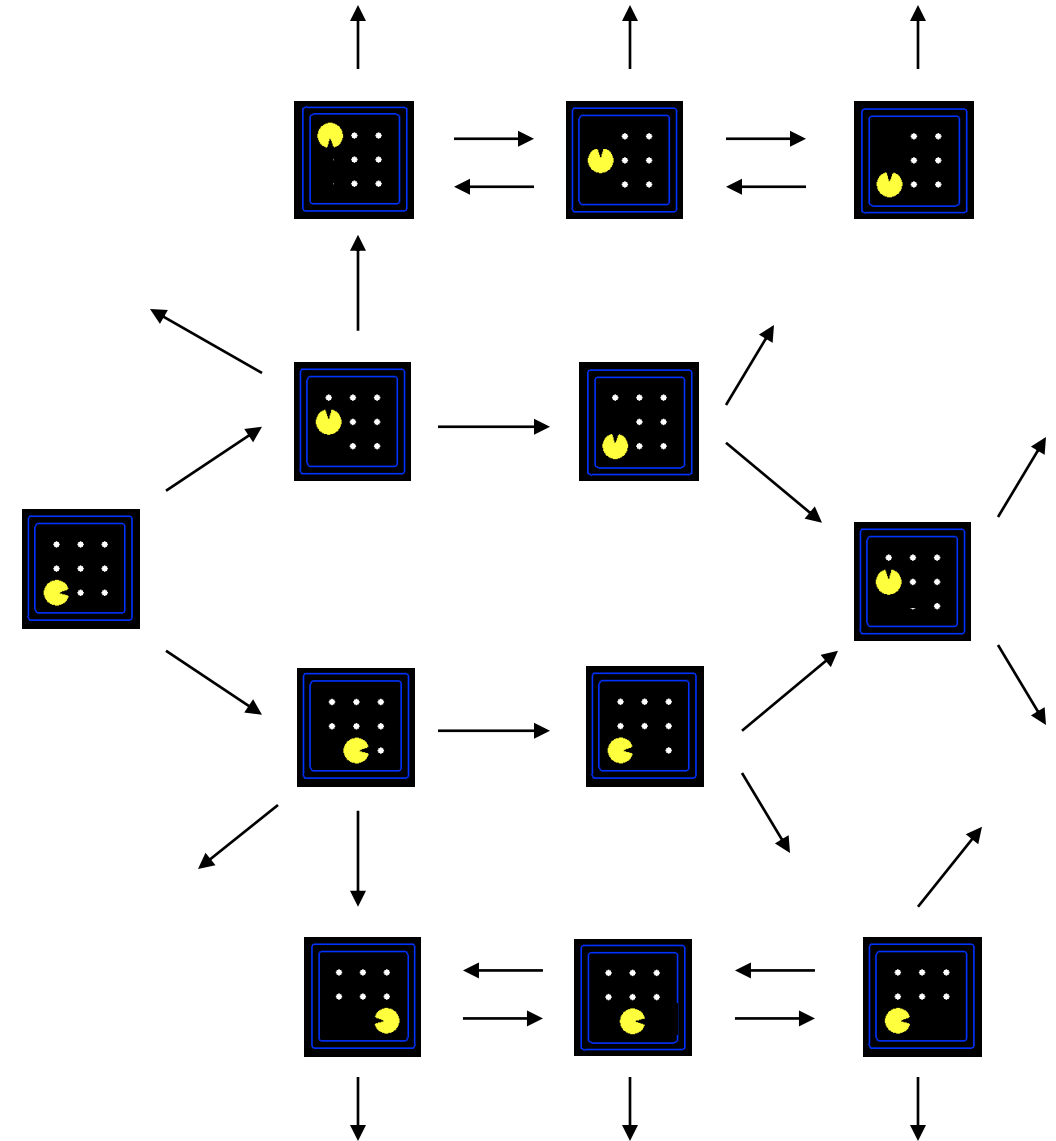
# State Space Graphs and Search Trees

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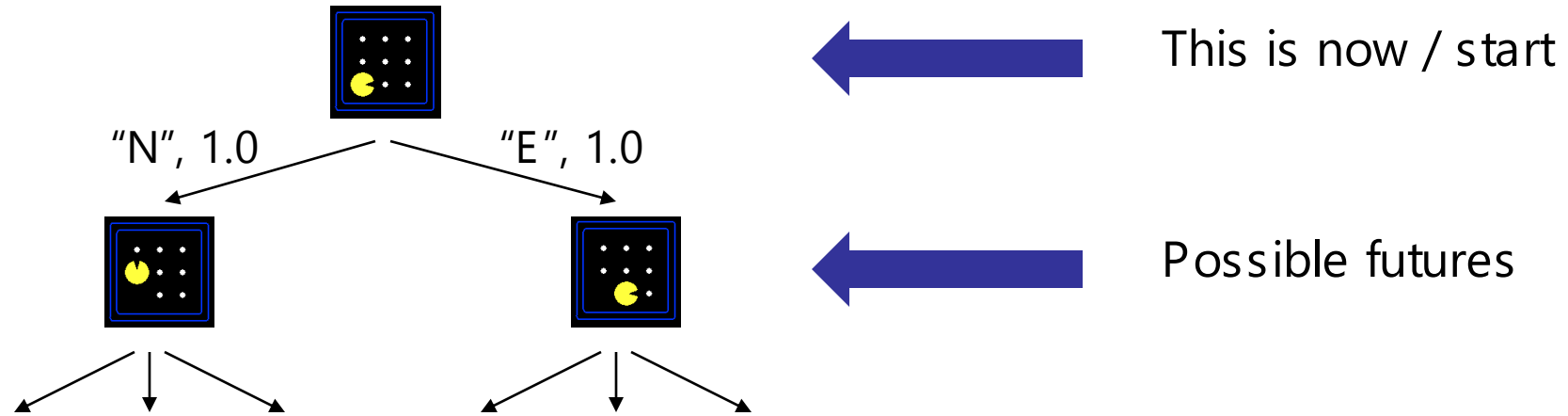


# State Space Graphs

- 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



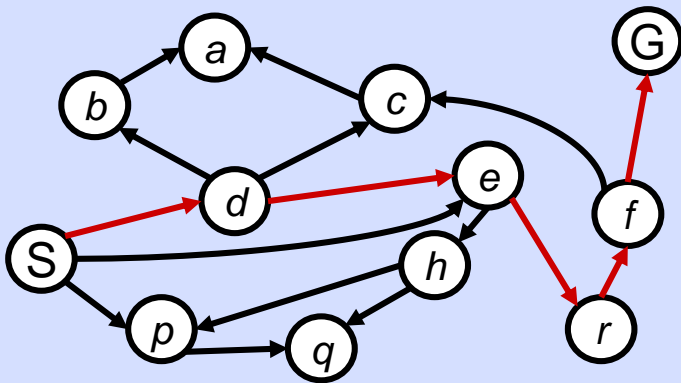
# Search Trees



- 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

# State Space Graphs vs. Search Trees

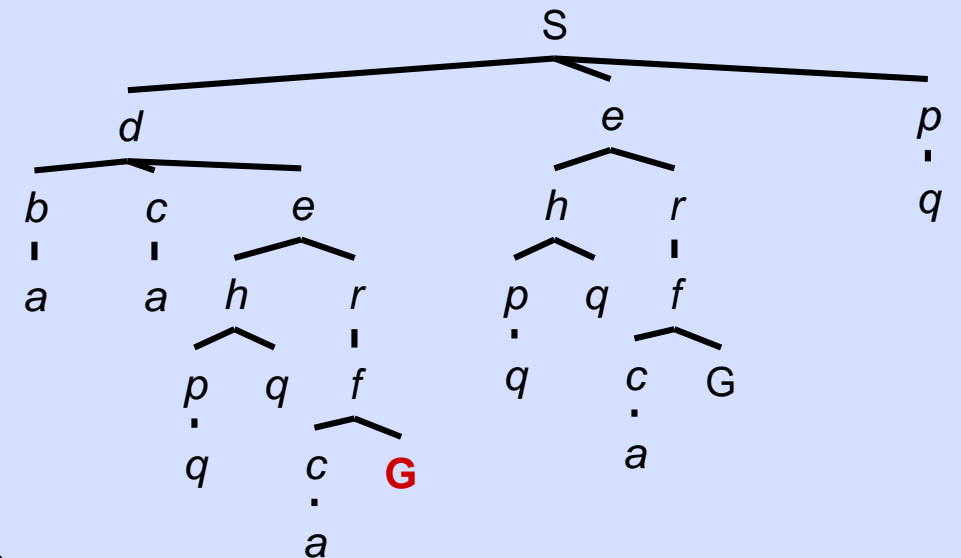
## State Space Graph



*Each NODE 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.*

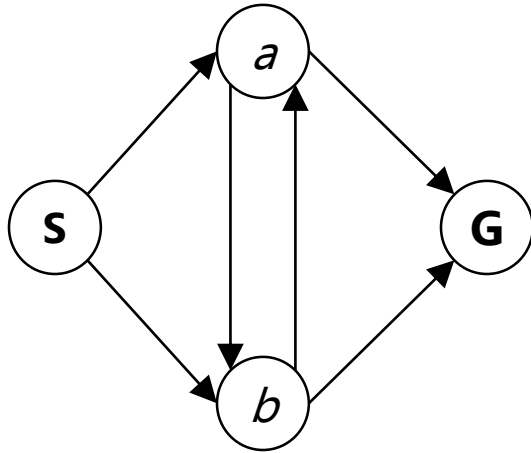
## Search Tree



# State Space Graphs vs. Search Trees

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Consider this 4-state graph:

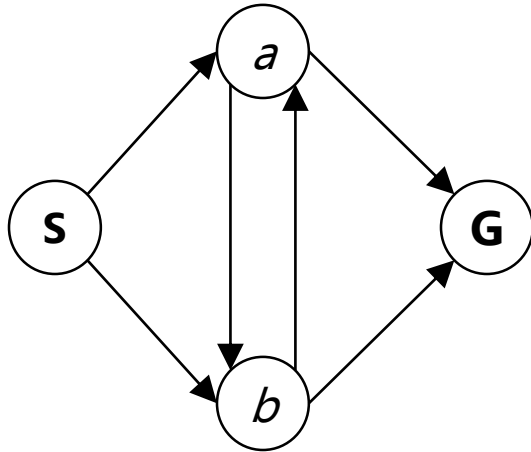


How big is its search tree (from S)?

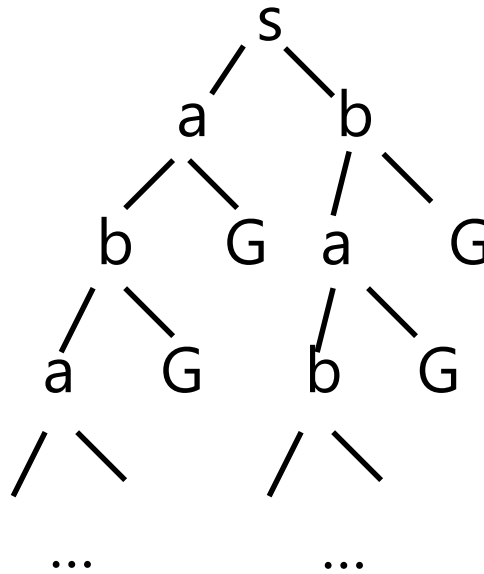


# State Space Graphs vs. Search Trees

Consider this 4-state graph:

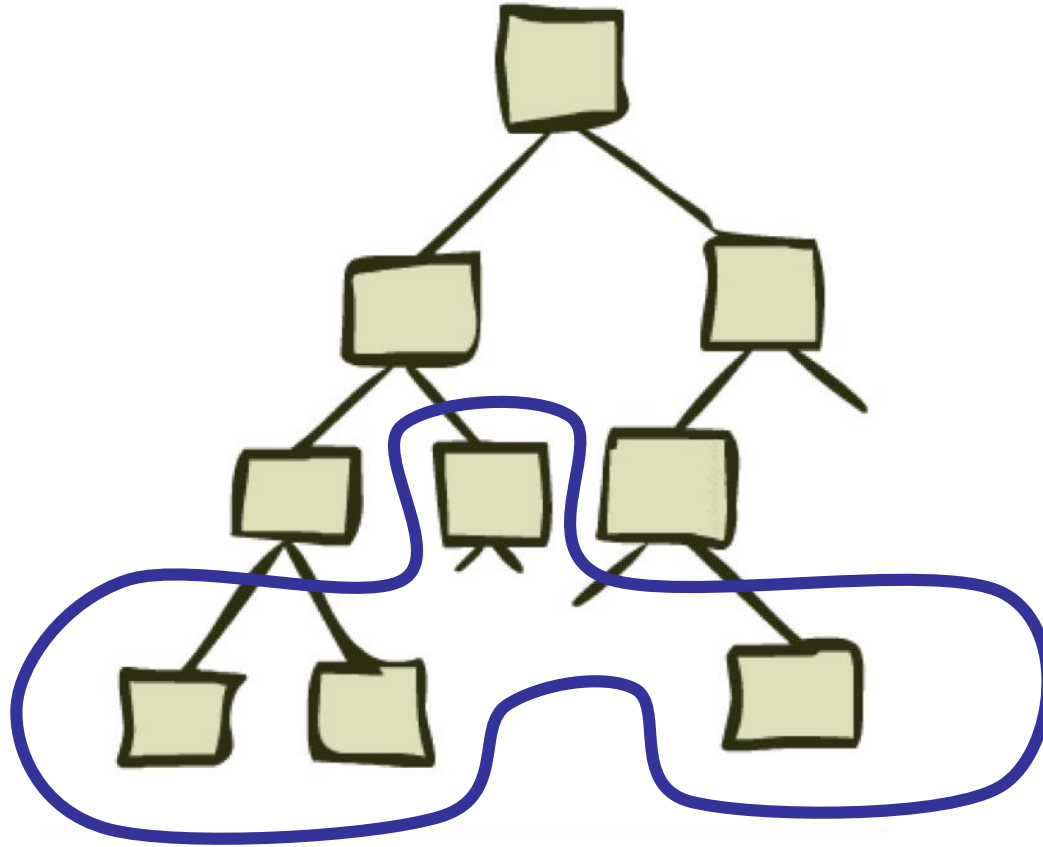


How big is its search tree (from S)?

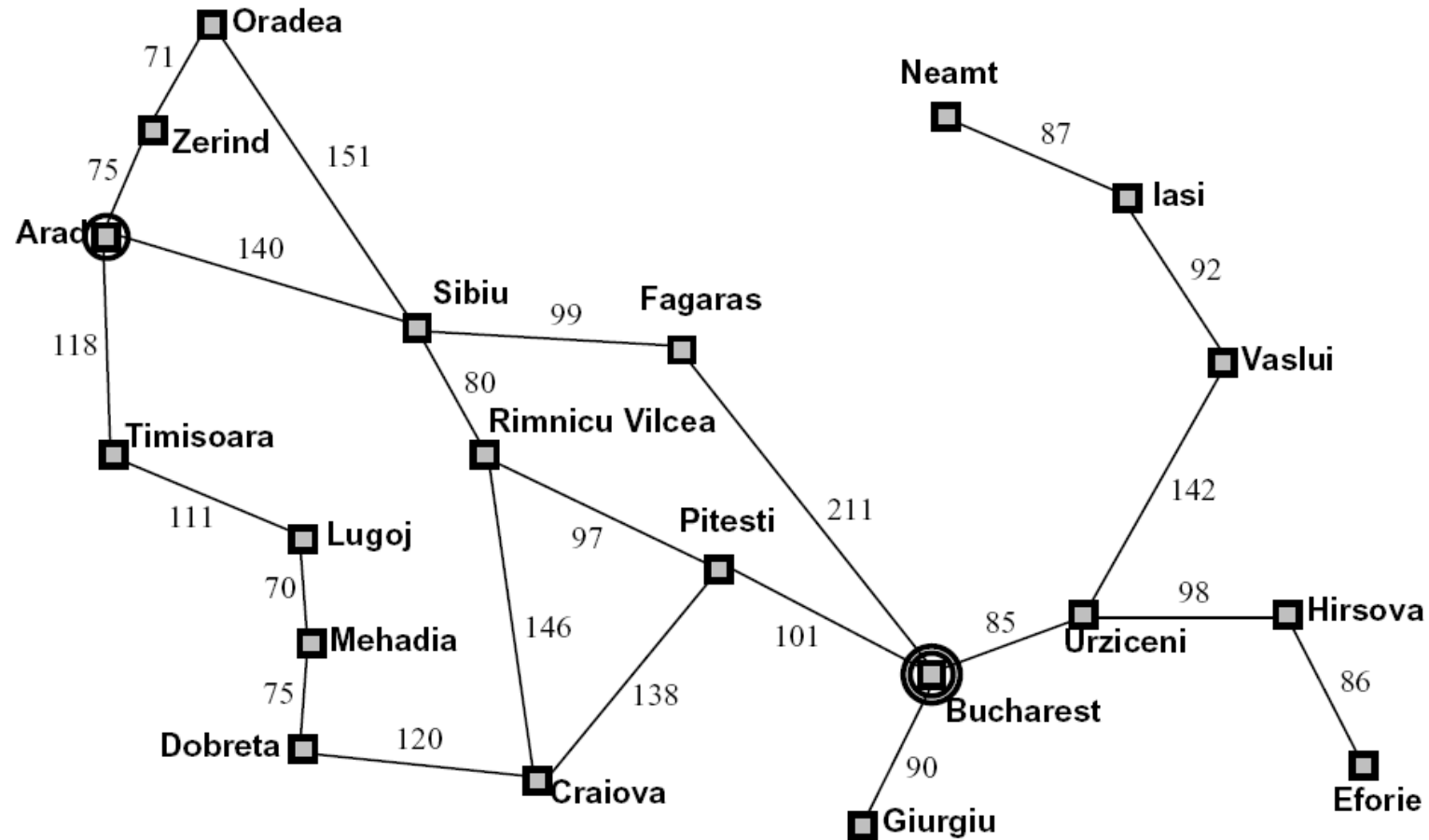


Important: Lots of repeated structure in the search tree!



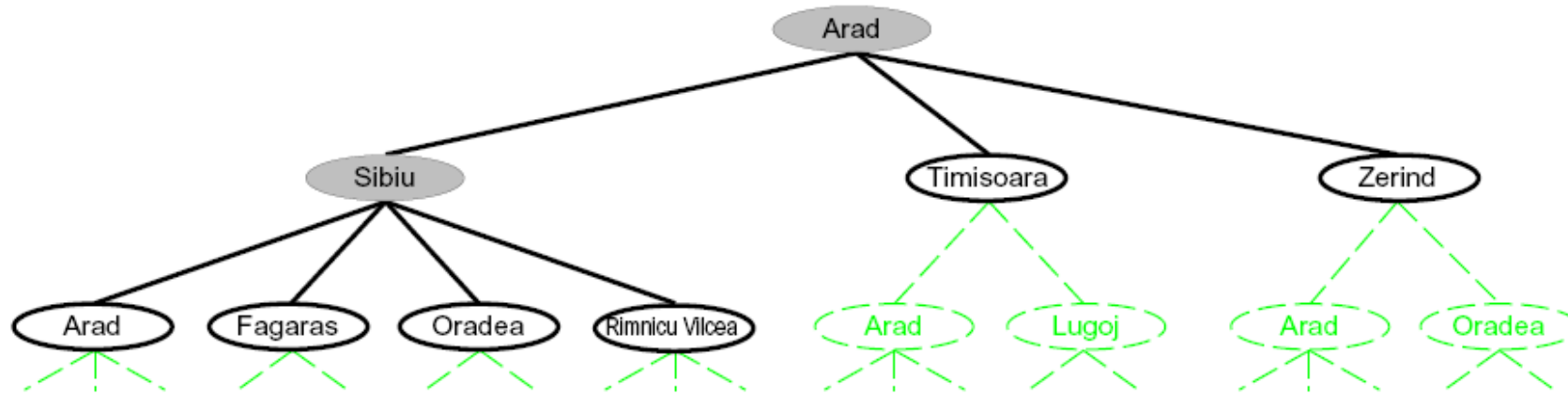


# Search Example: Romania



# Searching with a Search Tree

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- Search:

- Expand out potential plans (tree nodes)
- Maintain a **fringe** of partial plans under consideration
- Try to expand as few tree nodes as possible

# General Tree Search

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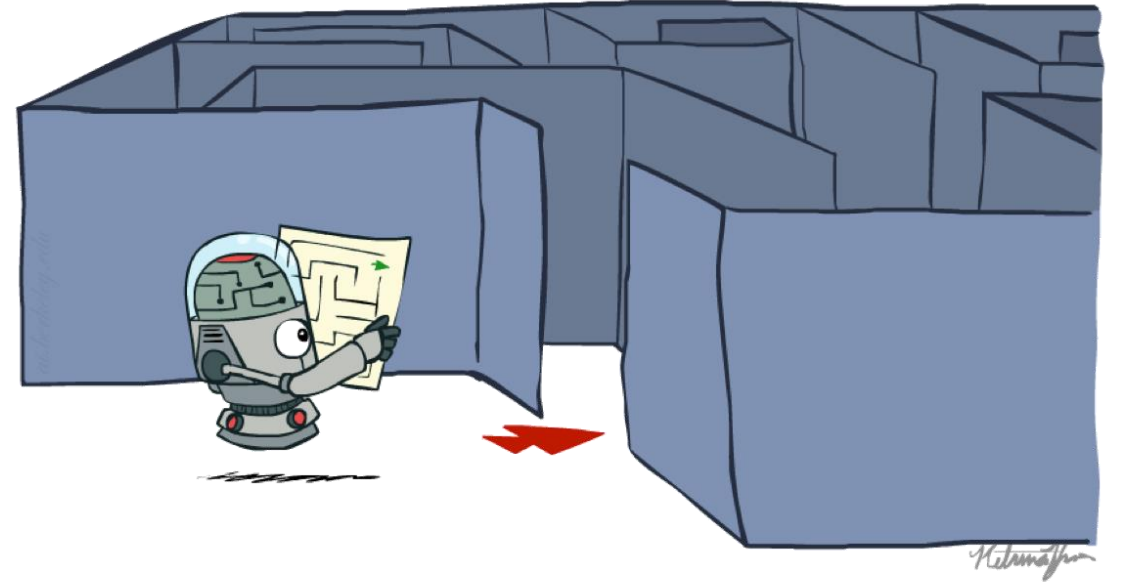
```
function TREE-SEARCH(problem, strategy) returns a solution, or failure
  initialize the search tree using the initial state of problem
  loop do
    if there are no candidates for expansion then return failure
    choose a leaf node for expansion according to strategy
    if the node contains a goal state then return the corresponding solution
    else expand the node and add the resulting nodes to the search tree
  end
```

- Important ideas:
  - Fringe
  - Expansion
  - Exploration strategy
- Main question: which fringe nodes to explore?

# Recap: Search

---

- Search problem:
  - States (configurations of the world)
  - Actions and costs
  - Successor function (world dynamics)
  - 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)



# Search Algorithms

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- Uninformed Search Methods
  - Depth-First Search
  - Breadth-First Search
  - Uniform-Cost Search
- Heuristic Search Methods
  - Best First / Greedy Search
  - $A^*$

# Depth-First Search

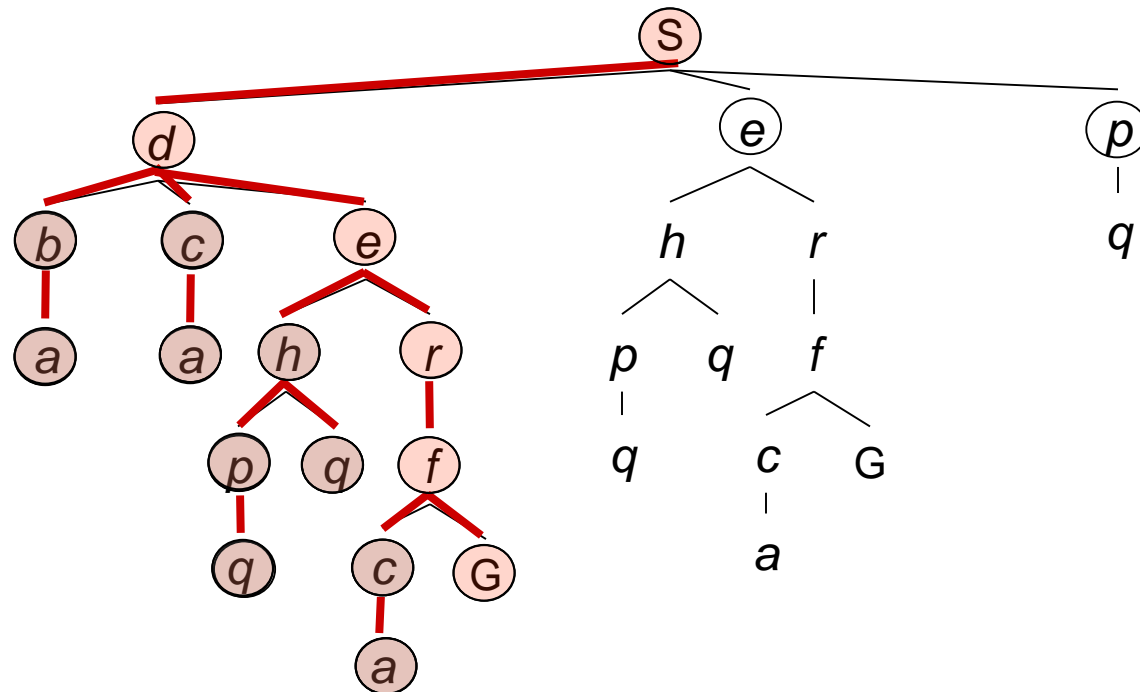
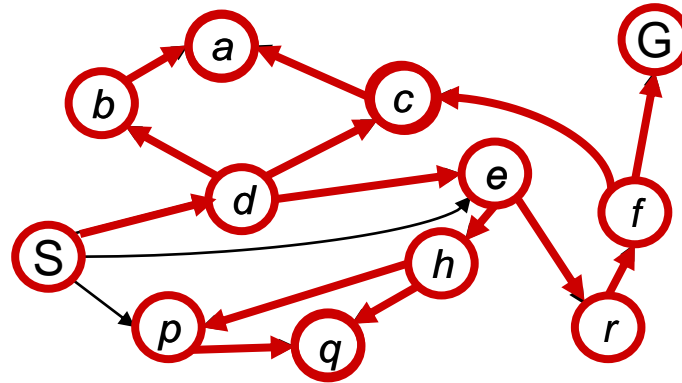
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# Depth-First Search

*Strategy: expand a  
deepest node first*

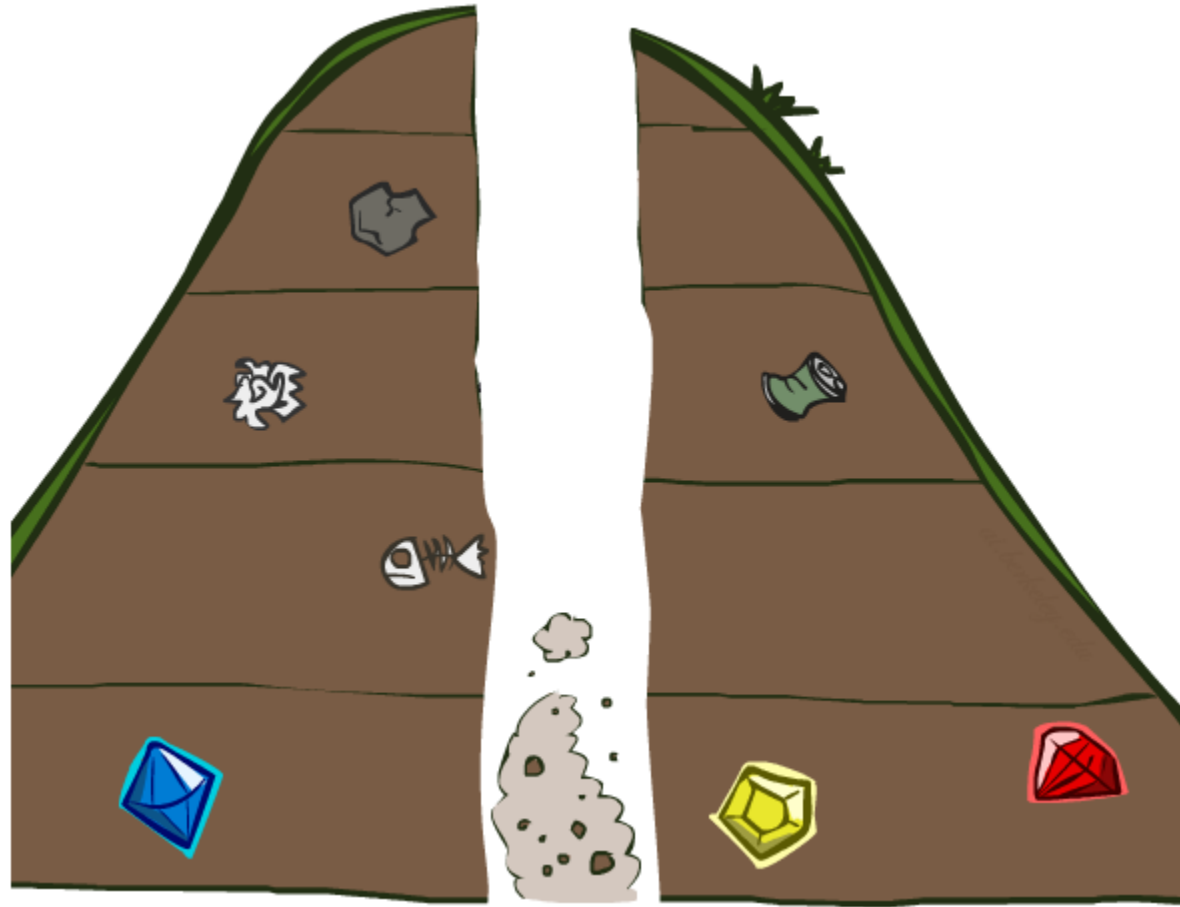
*Implementation:  
Fringe is a LIFO stack*





# Search Algorithm Properties

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# Search Algorithm Properties

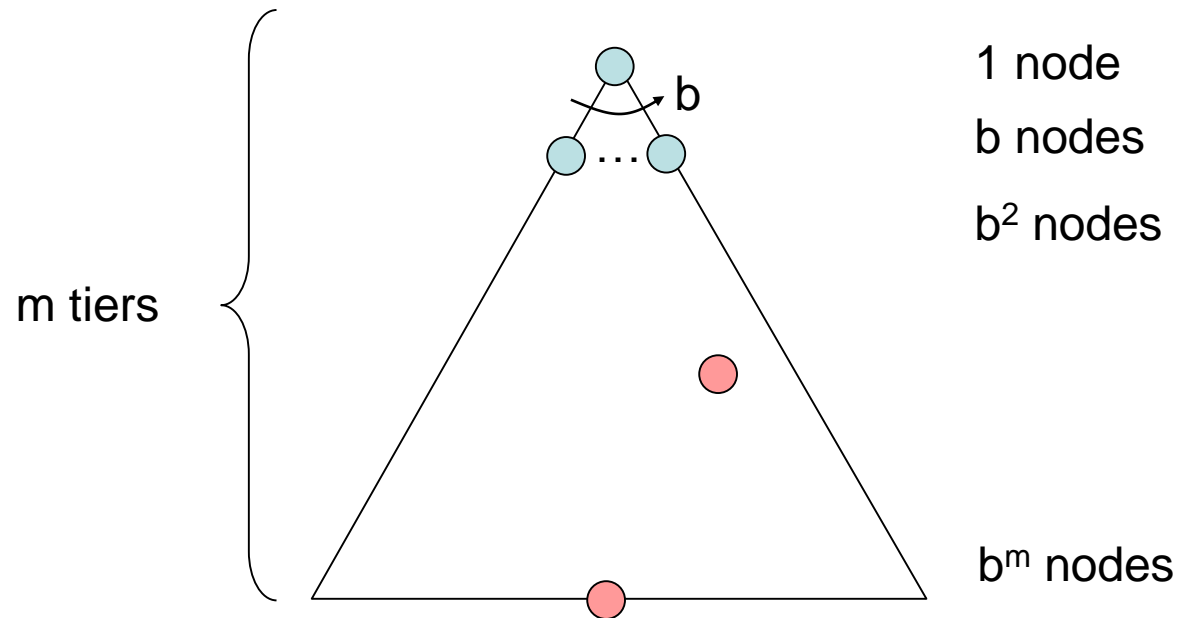
- Complete: Guaranteed to find a solution if one exists?
- Optimal: Guaranteed to find the least cost path?
- Time complexity?
- Space complexity?

- Cartoon of search tree:

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

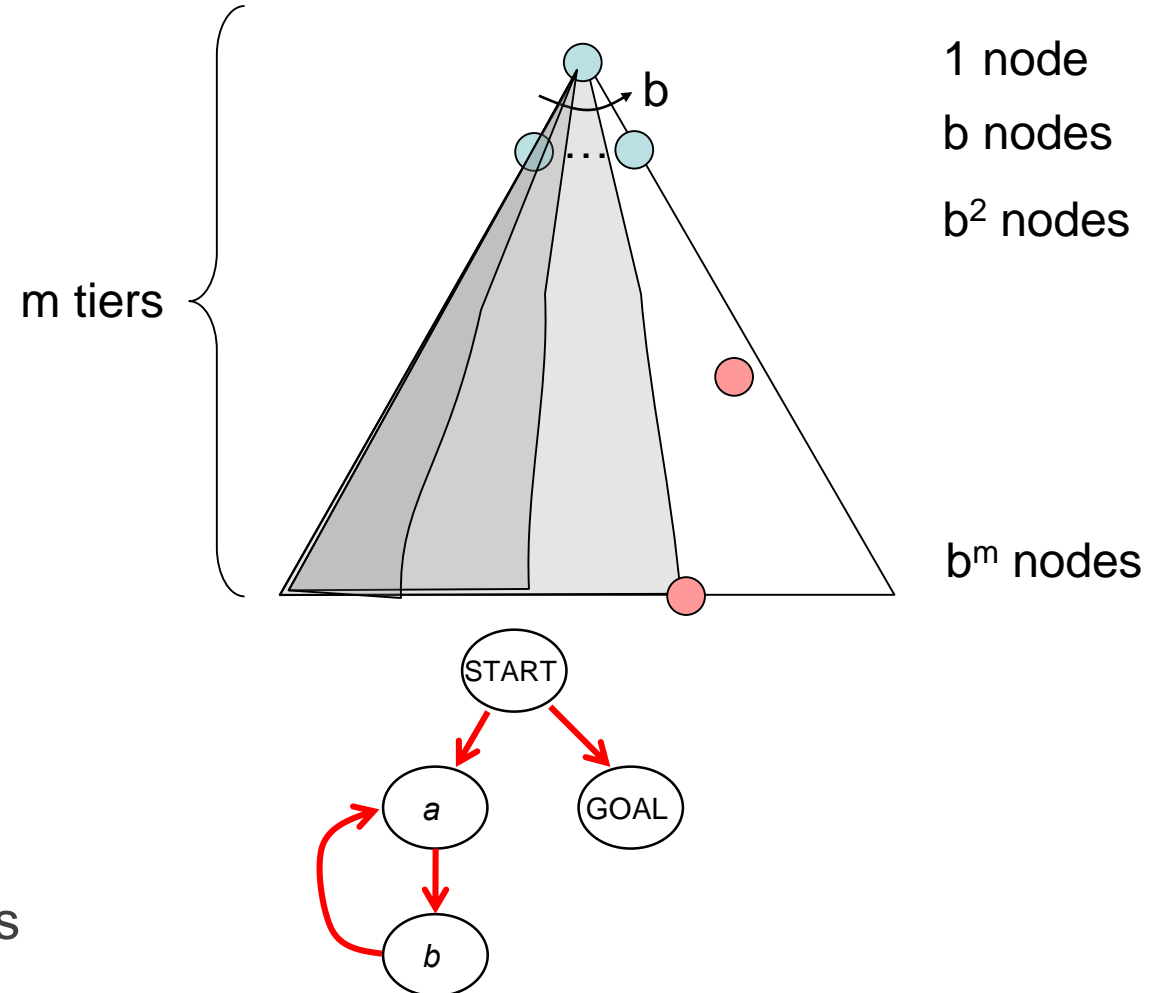
- Number of nodes in entire tree?

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



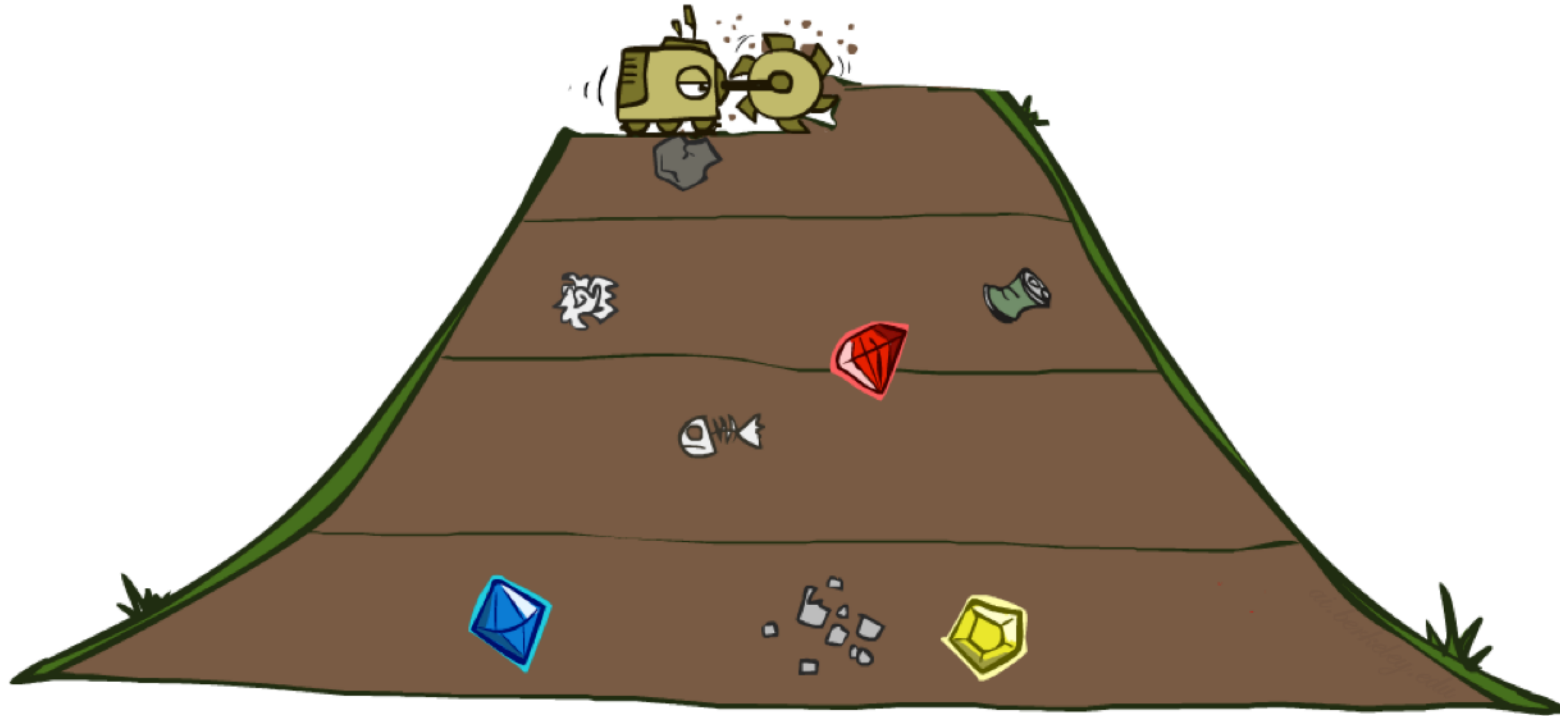
# Depth-First Search (DFS) Properties

- What nodes DFS expand?
  - Some left prefix of the tree.
  - Could process the whole tree!
  - 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

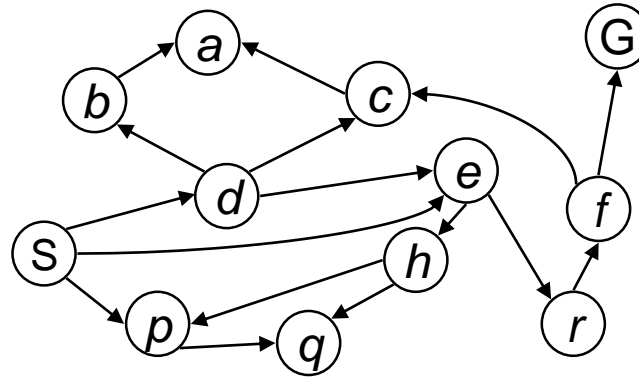
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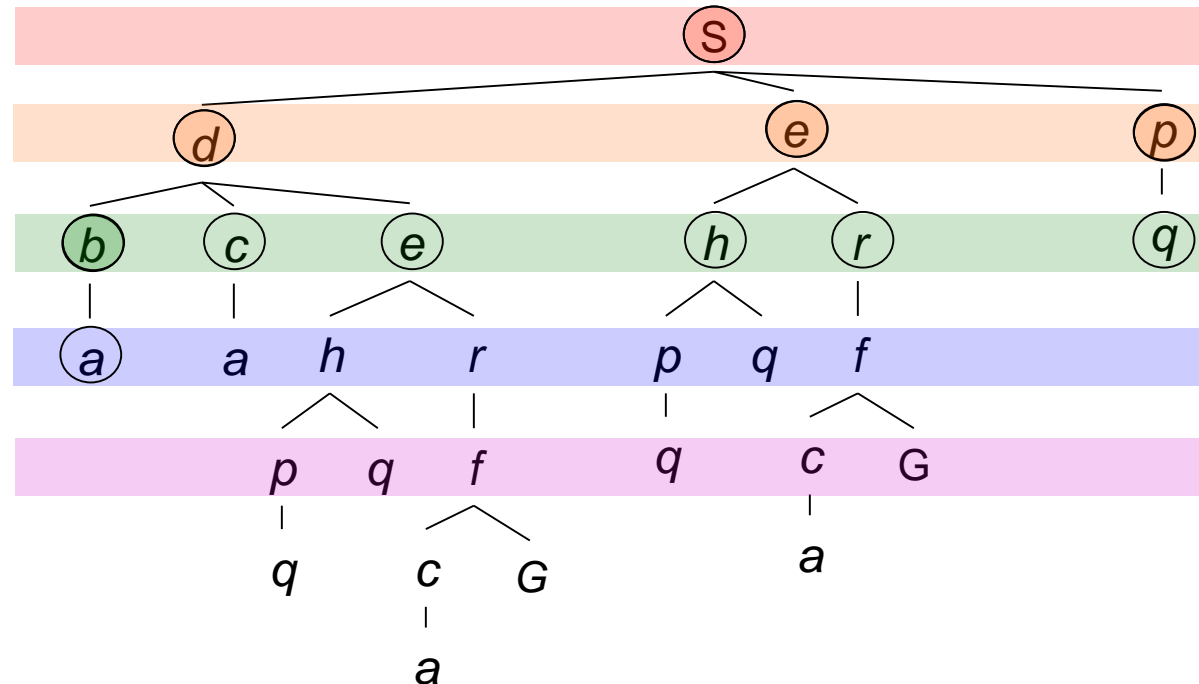
# Breadth-First Search

*Strategy: expand a shallowest node first*

*Implementation: Fringe is a FIFO queue*



Search  
Tiers



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) Properties

- What nodes does BFS expand?

- Processes all nodes above shallowest solution
- Let depth of shallowest solution be  $s$
- Search takes time  $O(b^s)$

- How much space does the fringe take?

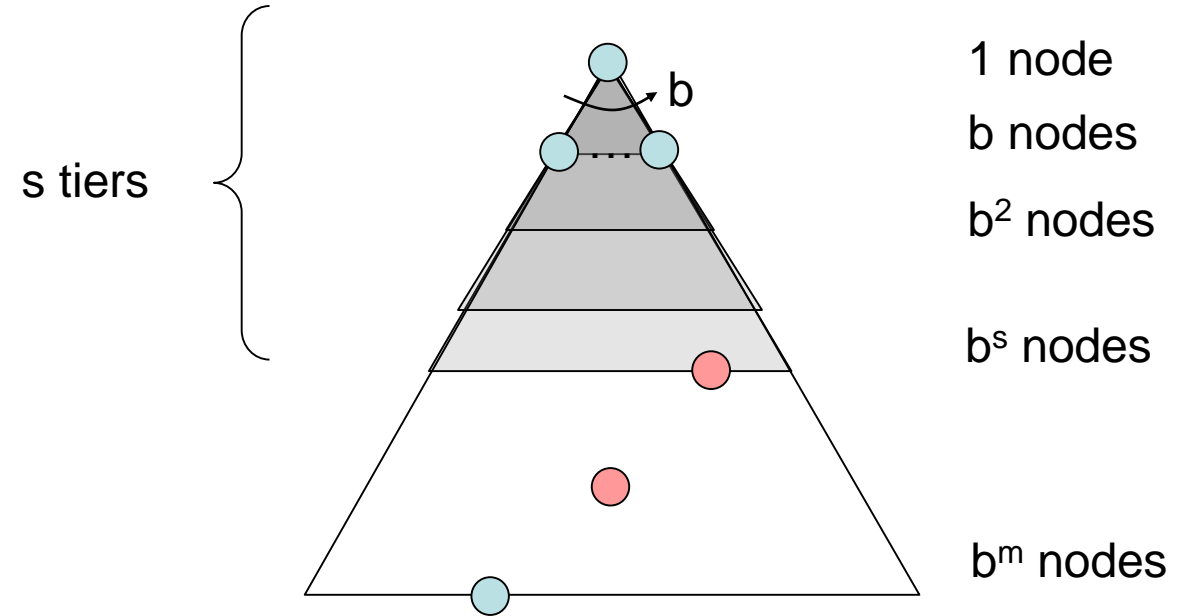
- Has roughly the last tier, so  $O(b^s)$

- Is it complete?

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

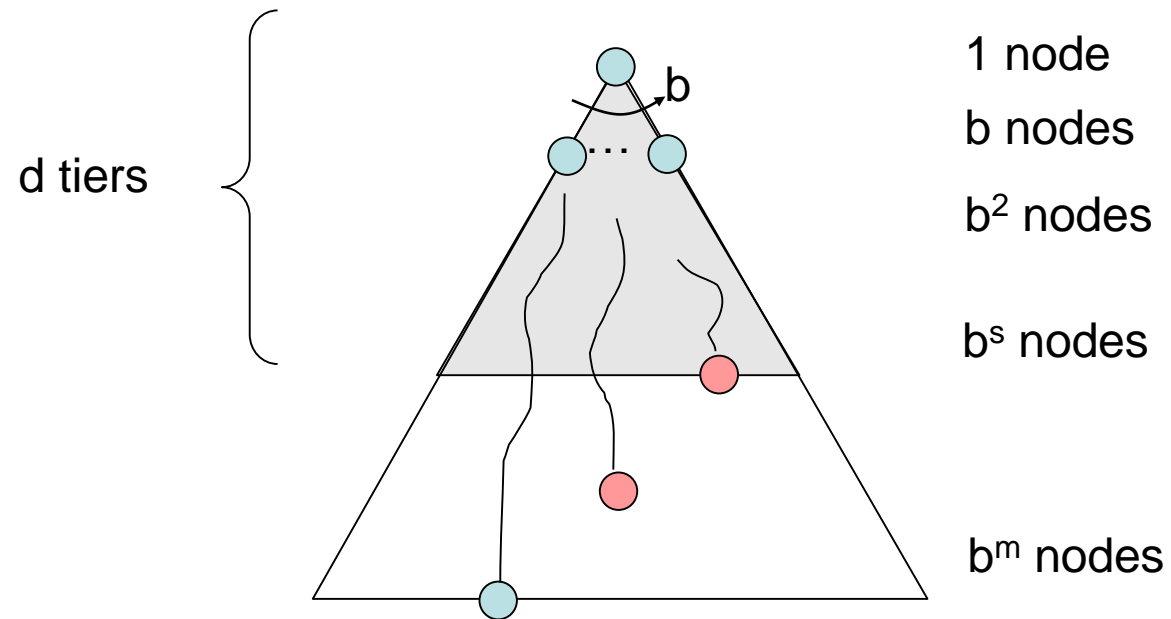
- Is it optimal?

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



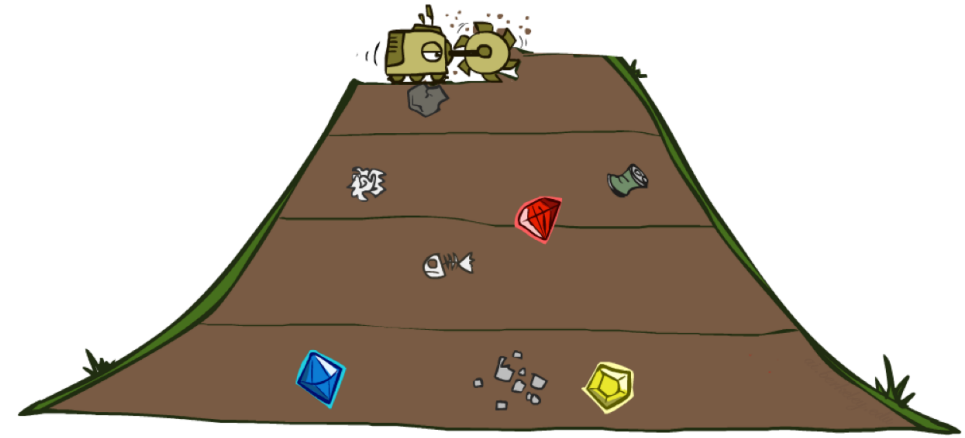
# BFS

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



# Quiz: DFS vs BFS

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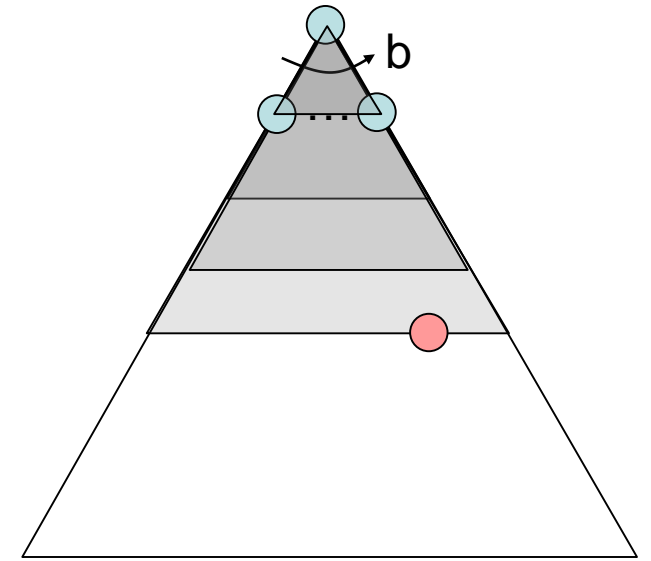


- When will BFS outperform DFS?
- When will DFS outperform BFS?

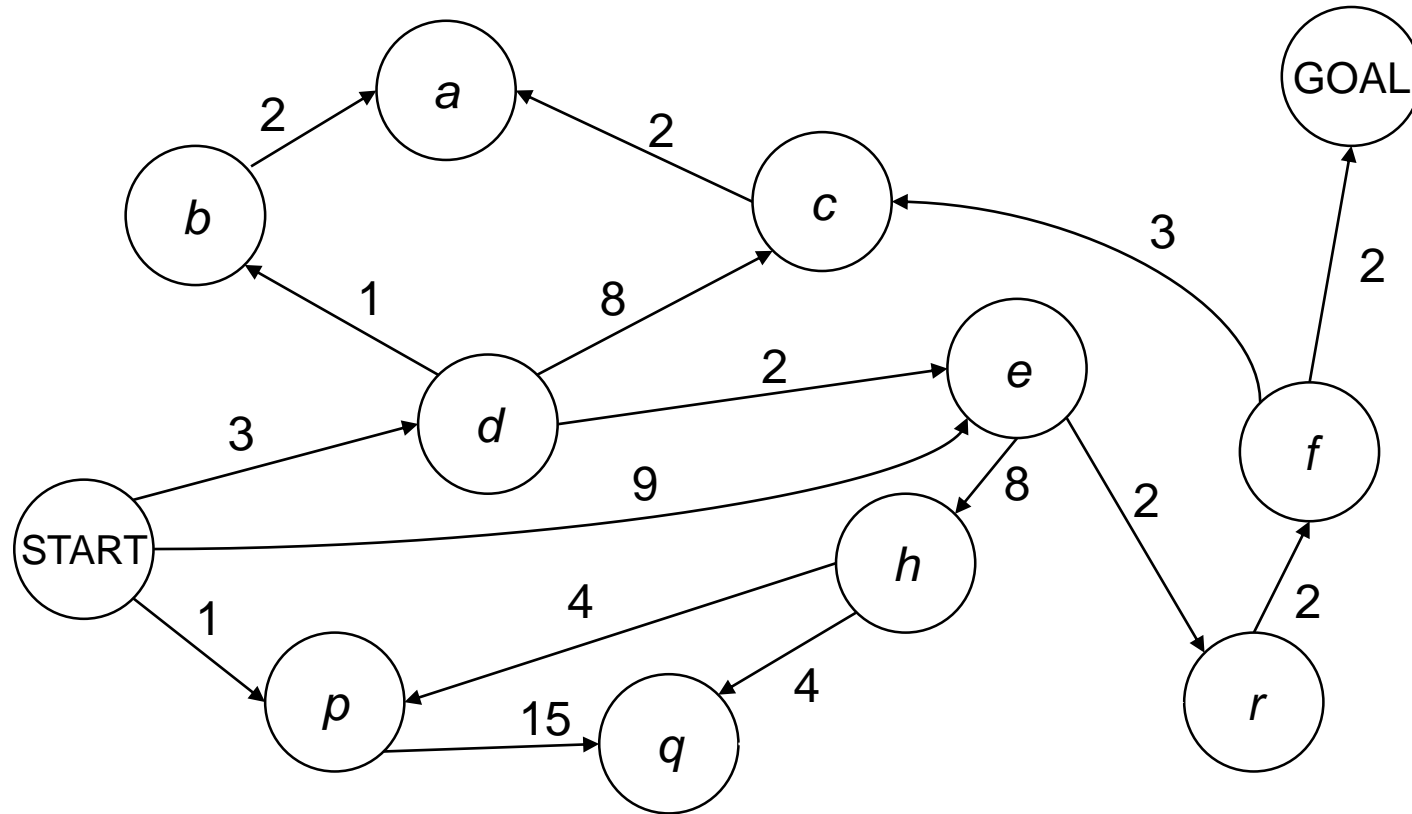


# Iterative Deepening

- 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...
  - 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

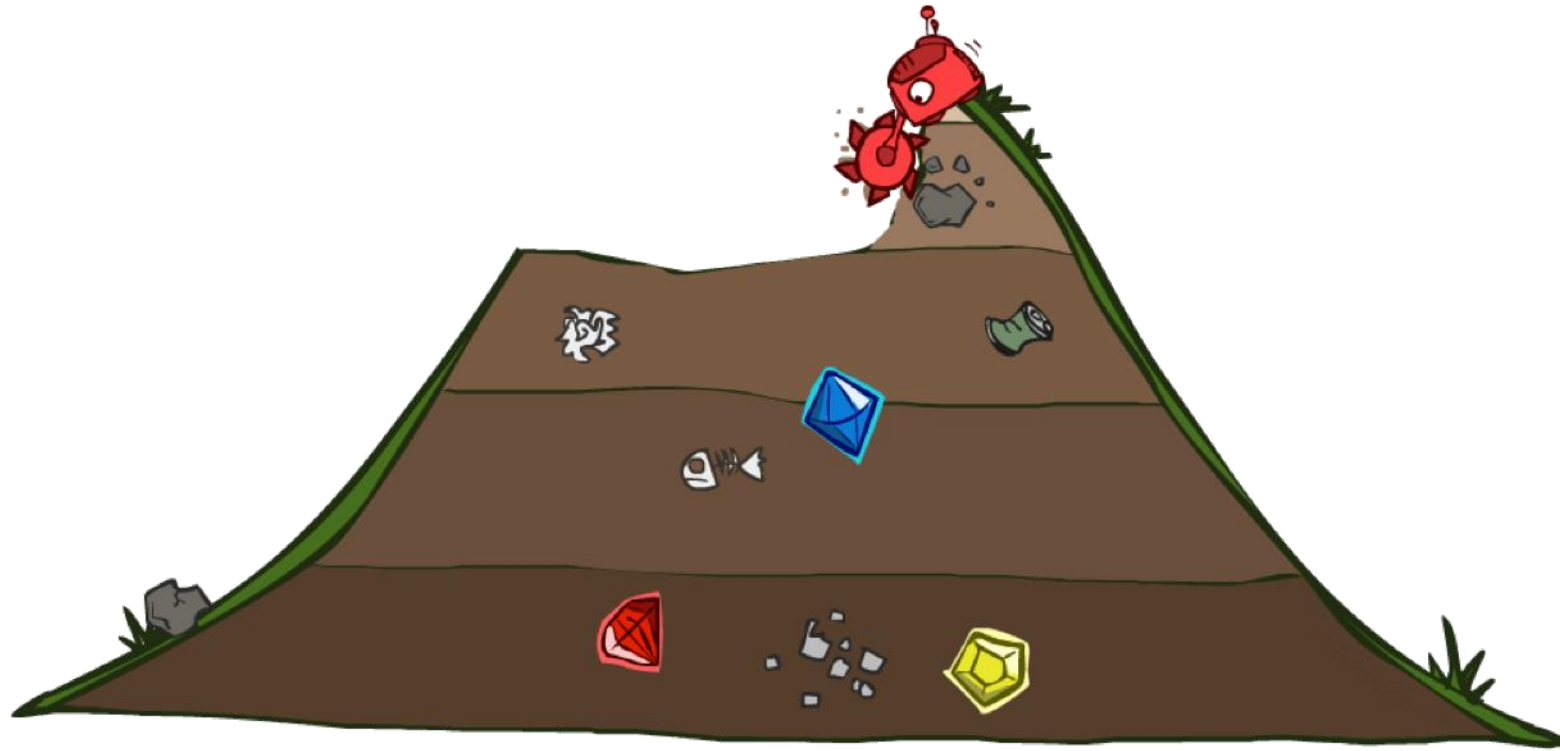


BFS finds the shortest path in terms of number of actions.  
It does not find the least-cost path. We will now cover  
a similar algorithm which does find the least-cost path.

How?

# Uniform Cost Search

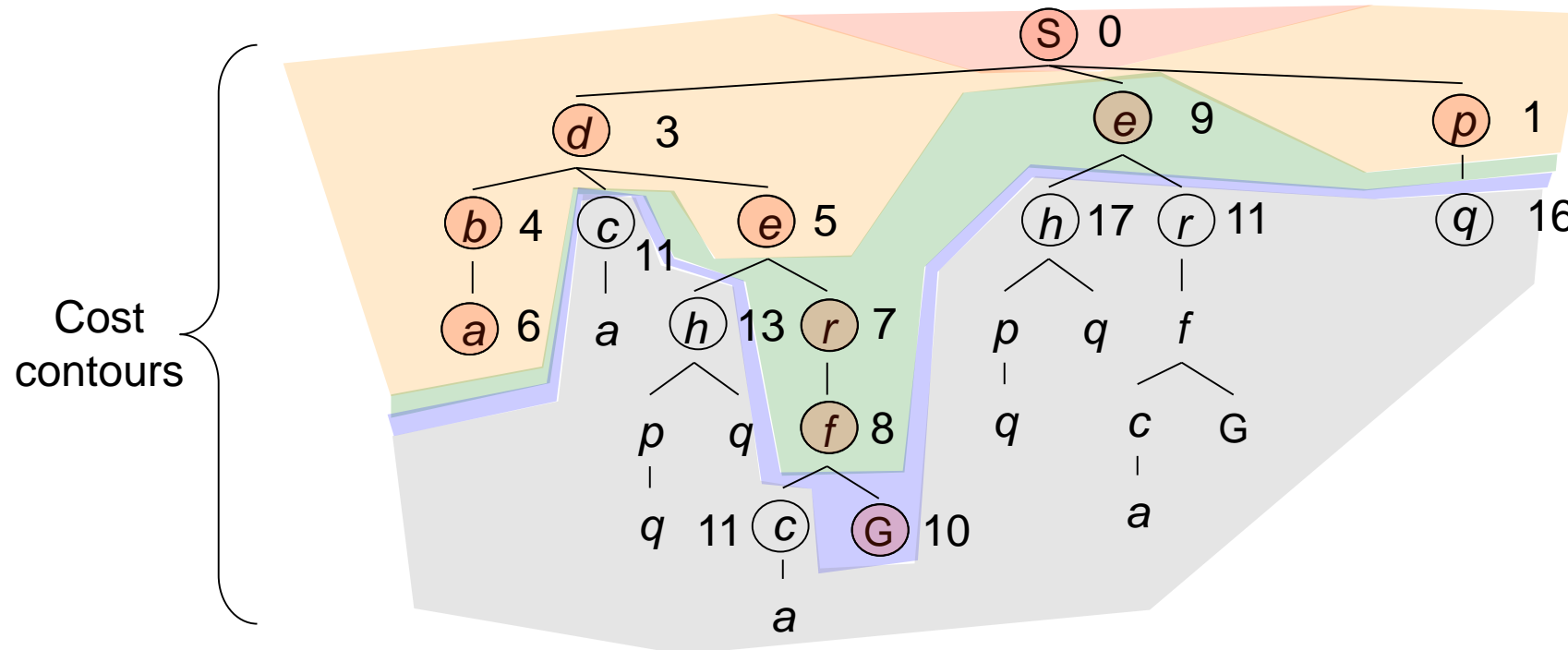
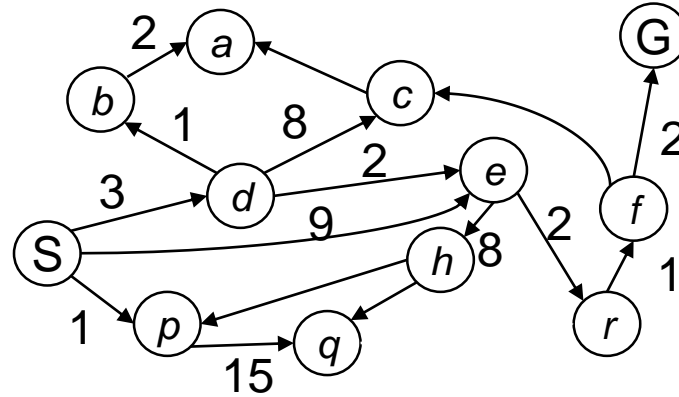
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# Uniform Cost Search

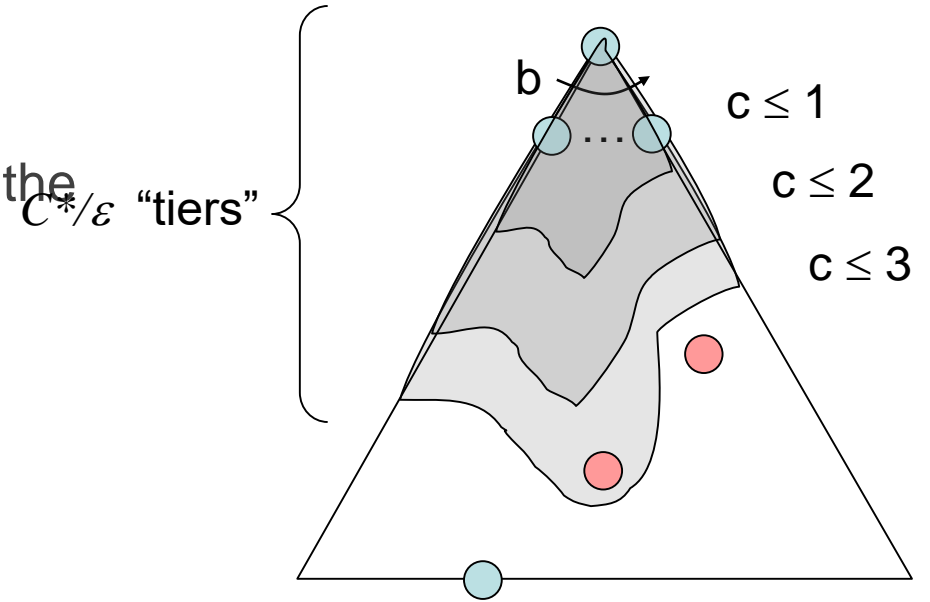
Strategy: expand a  
cheapest node first:

Fringe is a priority queue  
(priority: cumulative cost)



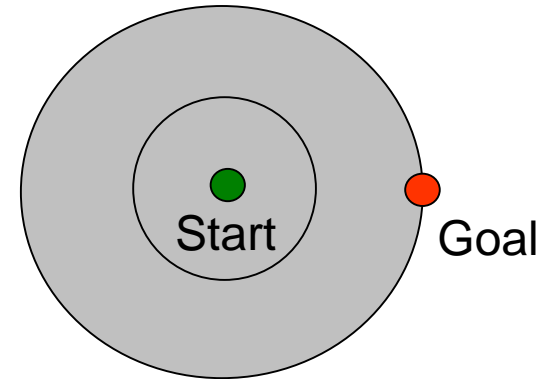
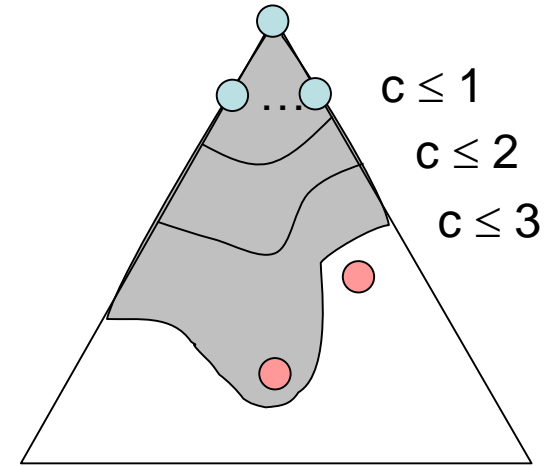
# Uniform Cost Search (UCS) Properties

- What nodes does UCS expand?
  - Processes all nodes with cost less than cheapest solution!
  - If that solution costs  $C^*$  and arcs cost at least  $\varepsilon$ , then the “effective depth” is roughly  $C^*/\varepsilon$
  - Takes time  $O(b^{C^*/\varepsilon})$  (exponential in effective depth)
- How much space does the fringe take?
  - Has roughly the last tier, so  $O(b^{C^*/\varepsilon})$
- Is it complete?
  - Assuming best solution has a finite cost and minimum arc cost is positive, yes!
- Is it optimal?
  - Yes!

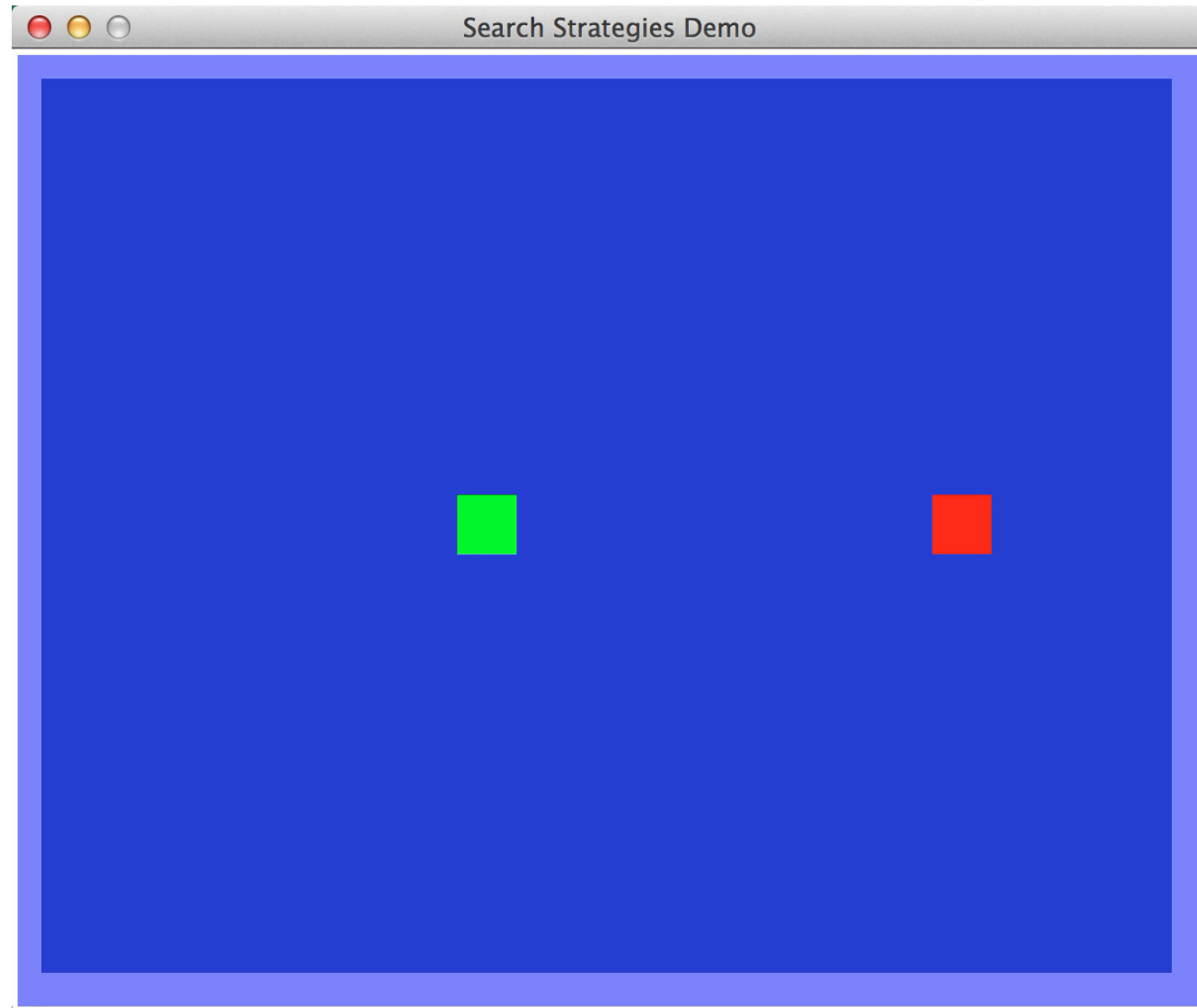


# Uniform Cost Issues

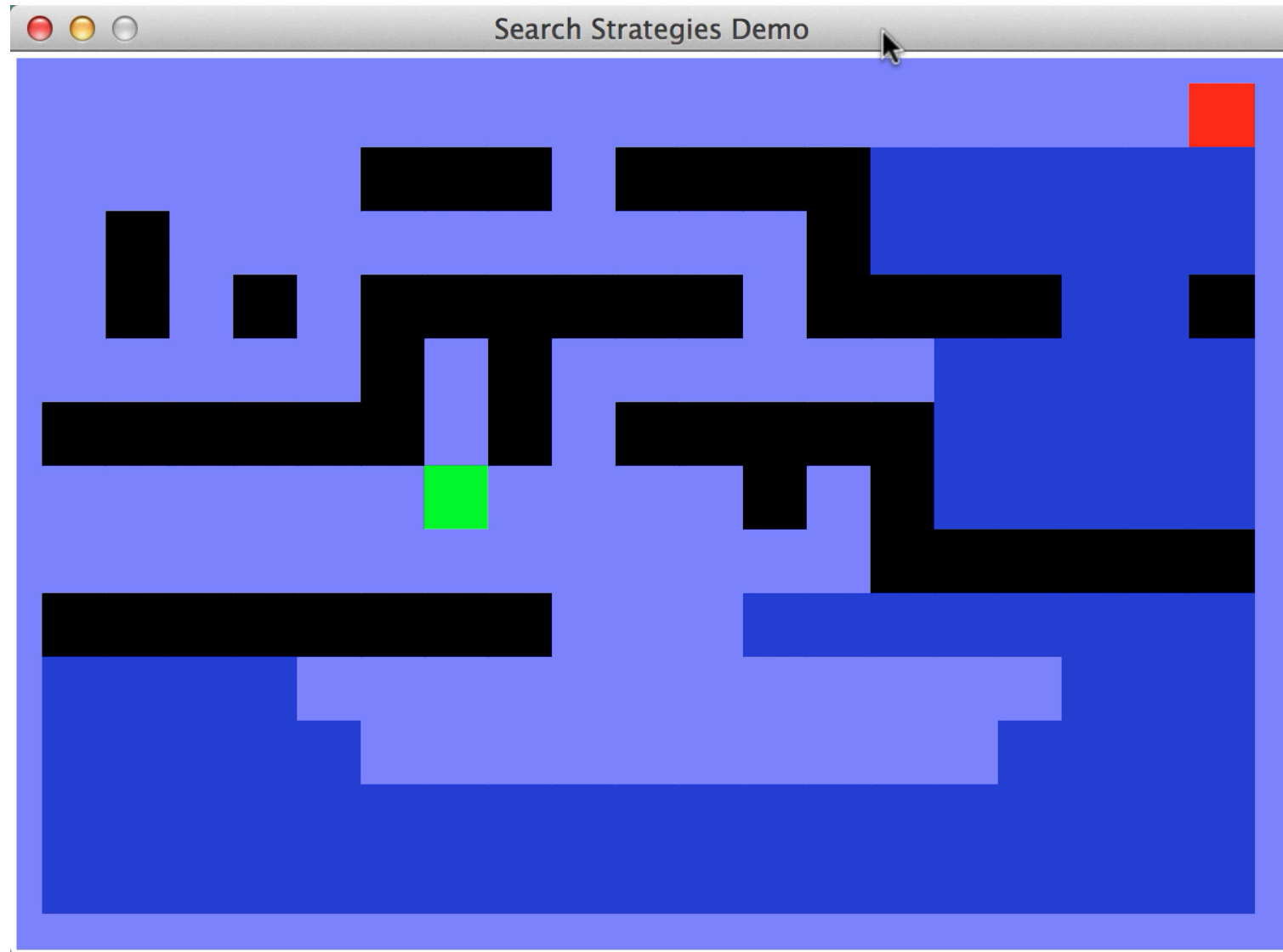
- Remember: UCS explores increasing cost contours
- The good: UCS is complete and optimal!
- The bad:
  - Explores options in every “direction”
  - No information about goal location
- We'll fix that soon!



# Video of Demo Empty UCS

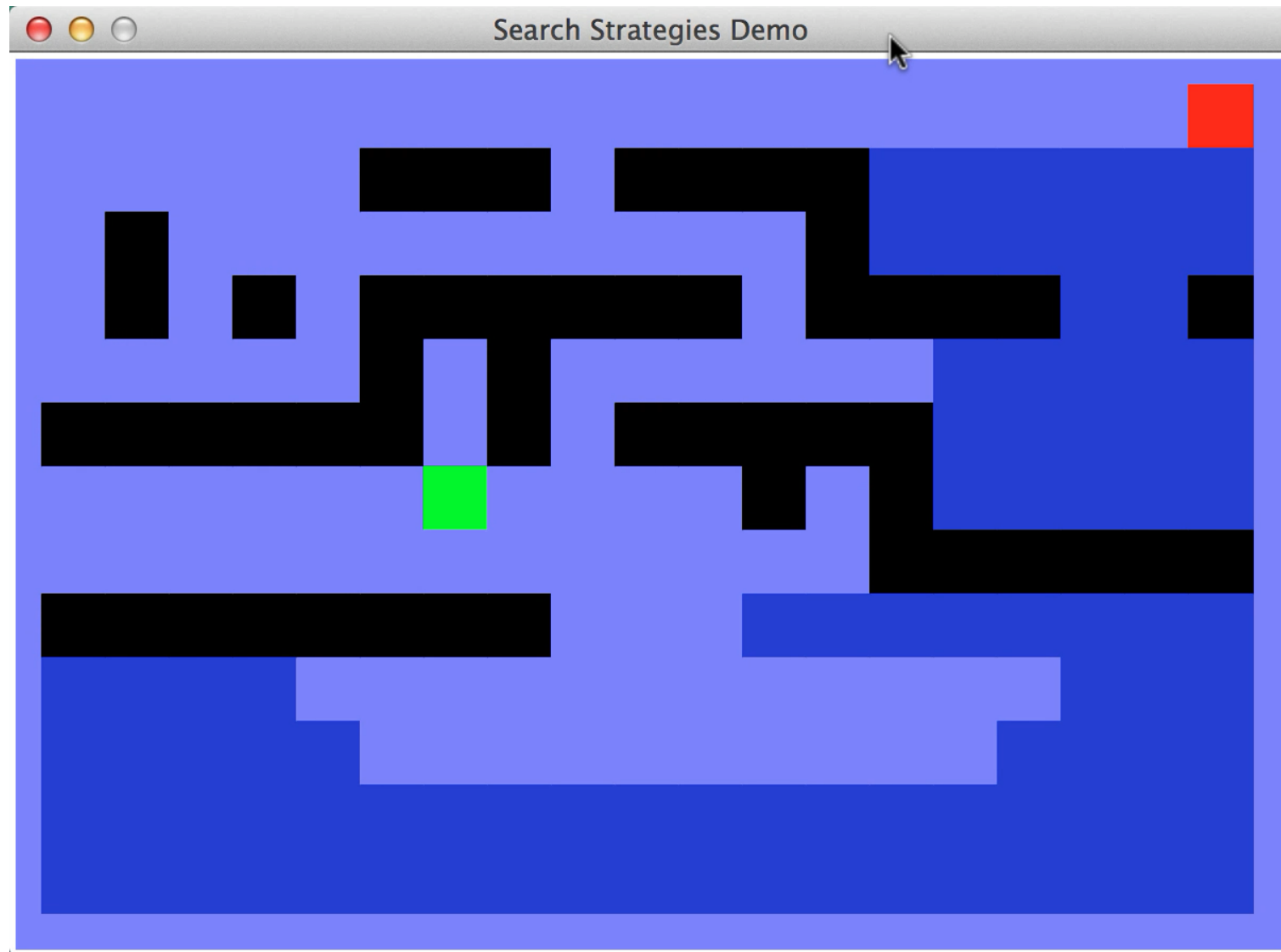


# Video of Demo Maze with Deep/Shallow Water --- DFS, BFS, or UCS? (part 1)

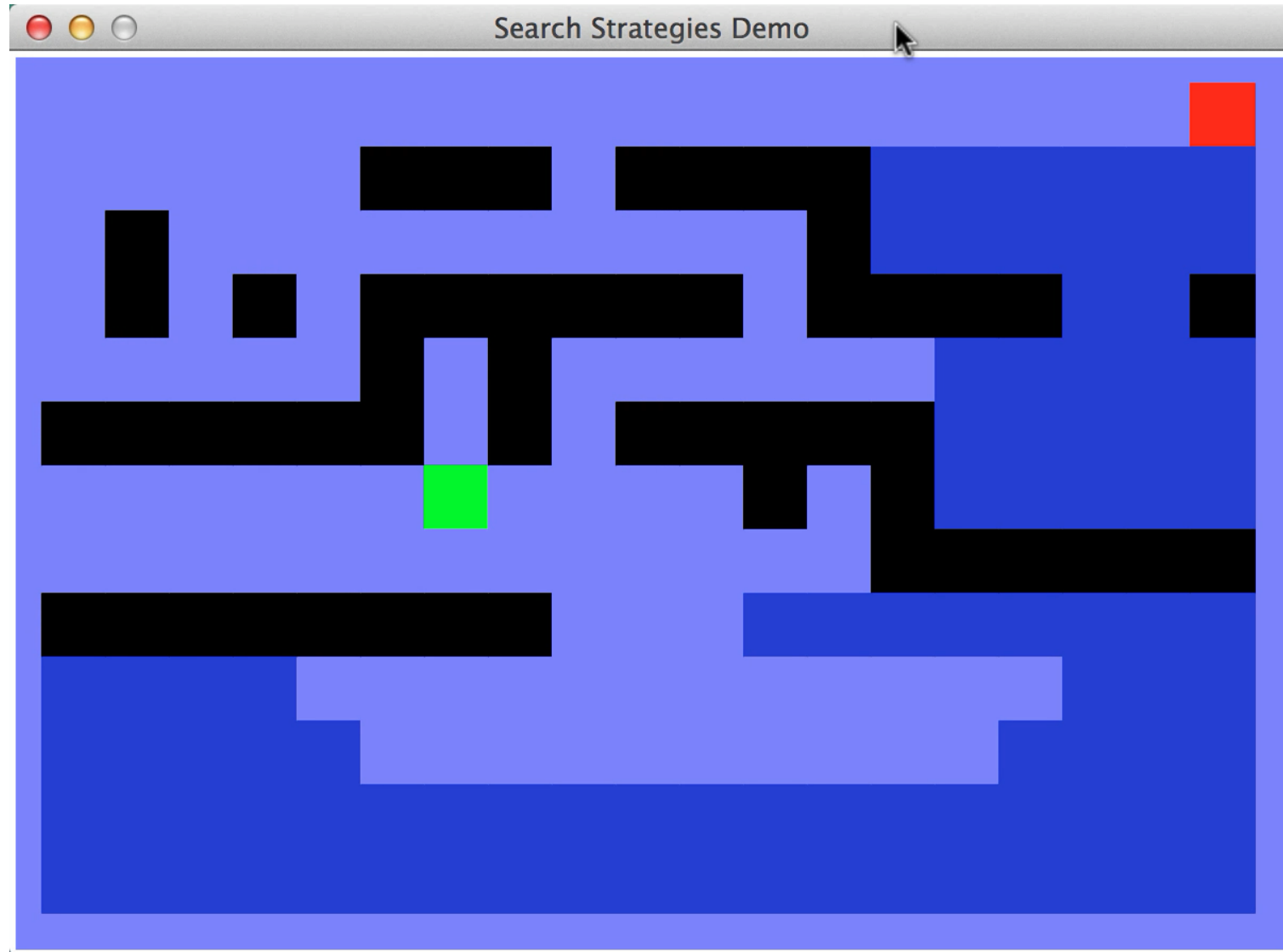




# Video of Demo Maze with Deep/Shallow Water --- DFS, BFS, or UCS? (part 2)

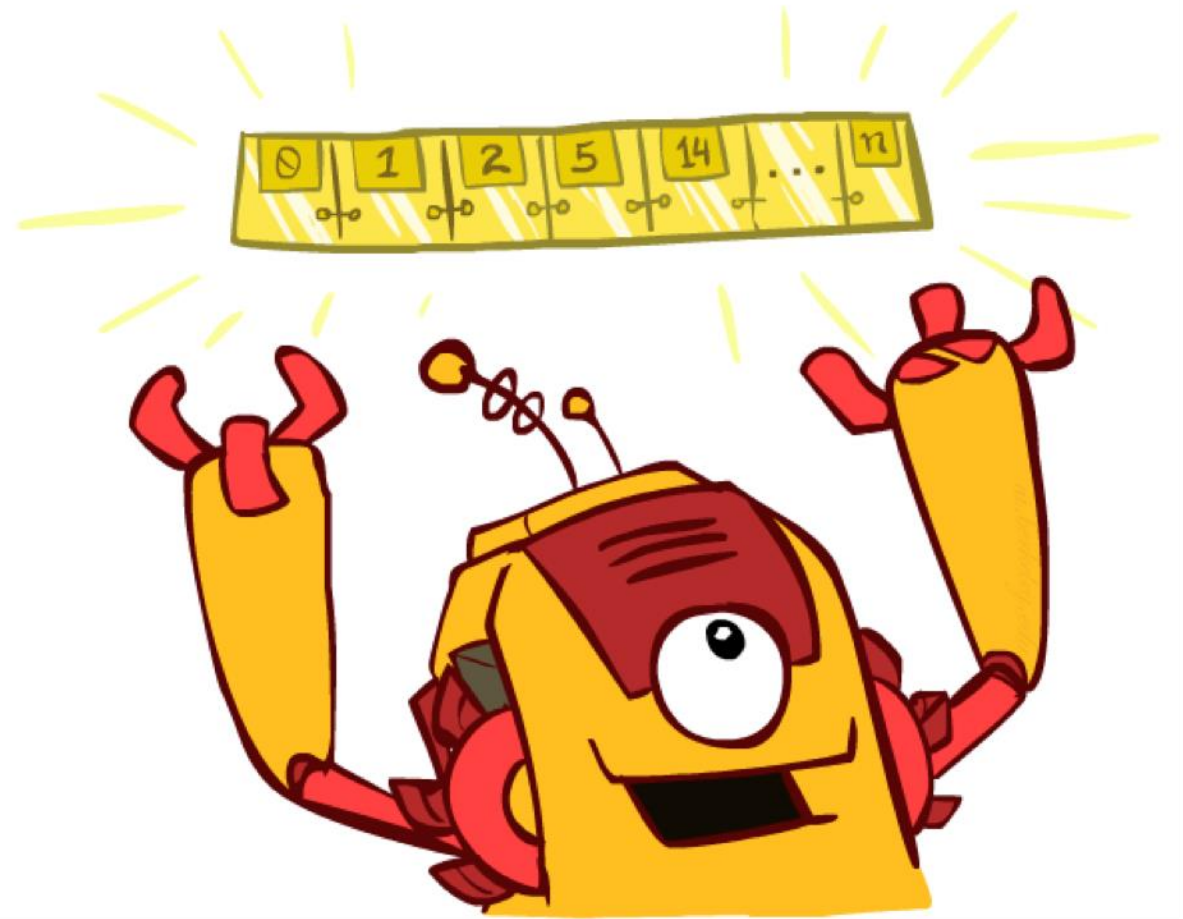


# Video of Demo Maze with Deep/Shallow Water --- DFS, BFS, or UCS? (part 3)



# The One Queue

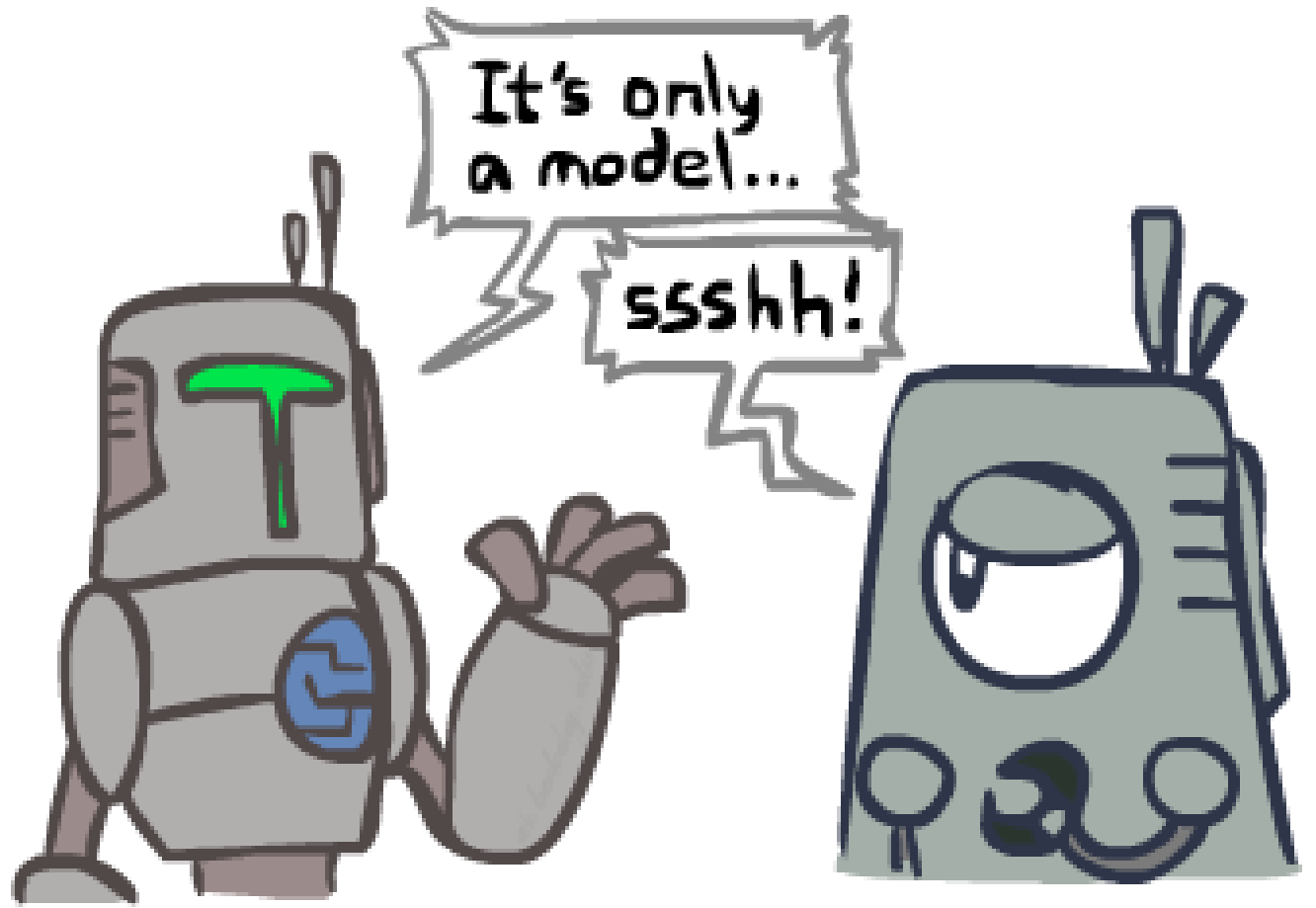
- All these search algorithms are the same except for fringe strategies
  - Conceptually, all fringes are priority queues (i.e. collections of nodes with attached priorities)
  - Practically, for DFS and BFS, you can avoid the  $\log(n)$  overhead from an actual priority queue, by using stacks and queues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



# Search 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)
  - Won't be graded
- PS1 on the website
  - Start ASAP
  - Submission: Canvas
- Website:
  - Do readings for search algorithms
  - Try this search visualization tool
    - <http://qiao.github.io/PathFinding.js/visual/>