

Searching for solutions

How do we solve above kinds of problems?

We will use problem to create a search tree. Root of tree is initial state. (vertices of tree called search nodes)

General strategy at a search node – apply goal test to see if node satisfies goal. If yes done. If no, apply successor function to get all nodes reachable from current node in one step (expanding a node). Add these nodes to a list of nodes we need to consider. Pick some node from this list and repeat.

Strategies for picking which node to expand next.

- Depth First Search (always expand left most node that still can be expanded)
- Breadth first search (Expand root, then expand all children of root until reach goal.)

Uninformed Search Strategies

(don't have any way of telling if getting close to a solution)

Time Complexity of Breadth First Search

Suppose each node expands into b children

Then to search for a goal of depth d takes time proportional to

$$1 + b + b^2 + \dots + b^d = b^{d+1} - 1 = O(b^d)$$

Space complexity is also $O(b^d)$

Depth First Search – Always expand the deepest node that can be expanded (if tie choose left most node)

Time complexity of DFS

If tree has a solution of depth m and this bounds length of any path, let's say branching factor b . Then time takes is $O(b^m)$

Only need to remember path to use algorithm so space complexity is $O(b \cdot m)$

Problem can get stuck on infinite branches and never find a solution.

Depth limited search upto L search

- does depth first search to some fixed depth L
(i.e. not allowed to expand node to depth $\geq L$)

Problem might never find solution because solution has depth $> L$

Iterative deepening search

Do DLS(0)

DLS(1)

DLS(2)

...

Until find a solution

Space Complexity $O(bm)$

Time Complexity $O(b^m)$