



CS 540 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Search II: Informed Search

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring 2023

Announcements

Homeworks:

- Homework 8 released today; due Tuesday April 18

Class roadmap:

Tuesday, April 11	Informed Search
Thursday, April 13	Advanced Search
Tuesday, April 18	Games I
Thursday, April 20	Games II
Tuesday, April 25	Reinforcement Learning I

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Practice questions on search and neural networks on Canvas.

Today's Goals

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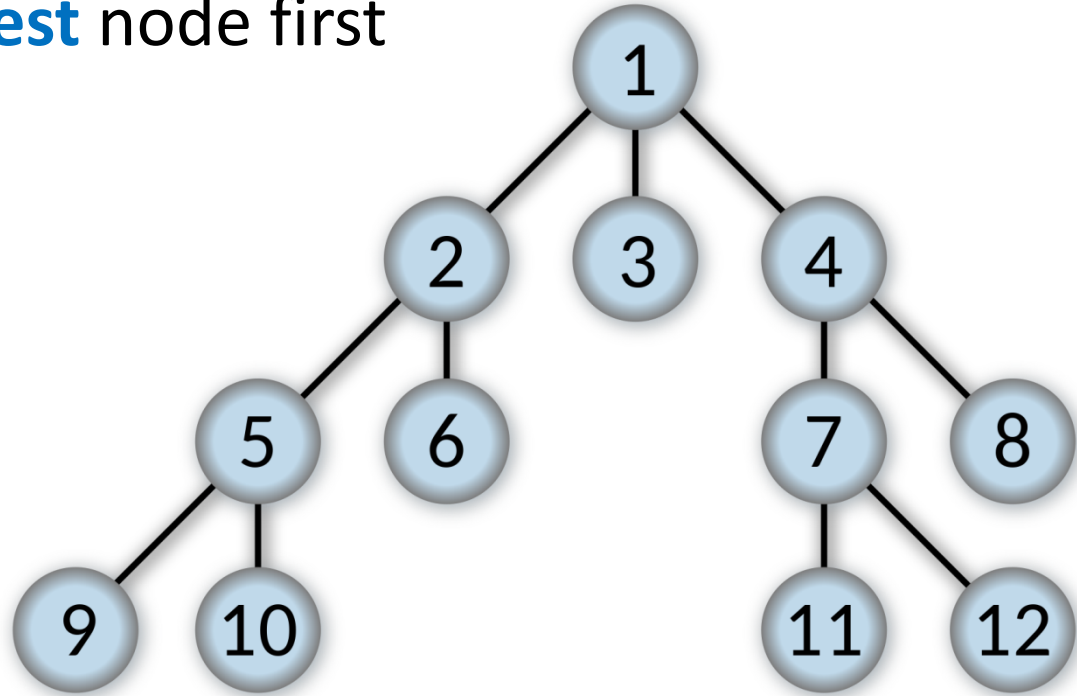
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- Understand the difference between uninformed and informed search.
- Introduce A* Search
 - Heuristic properties, stopping rules, analysis
- Extensions: Beyond A*
 - Iterative deepening, beam search

Breadth-First Search

Recall: expand **shallowest** node first

Breadth-First Search

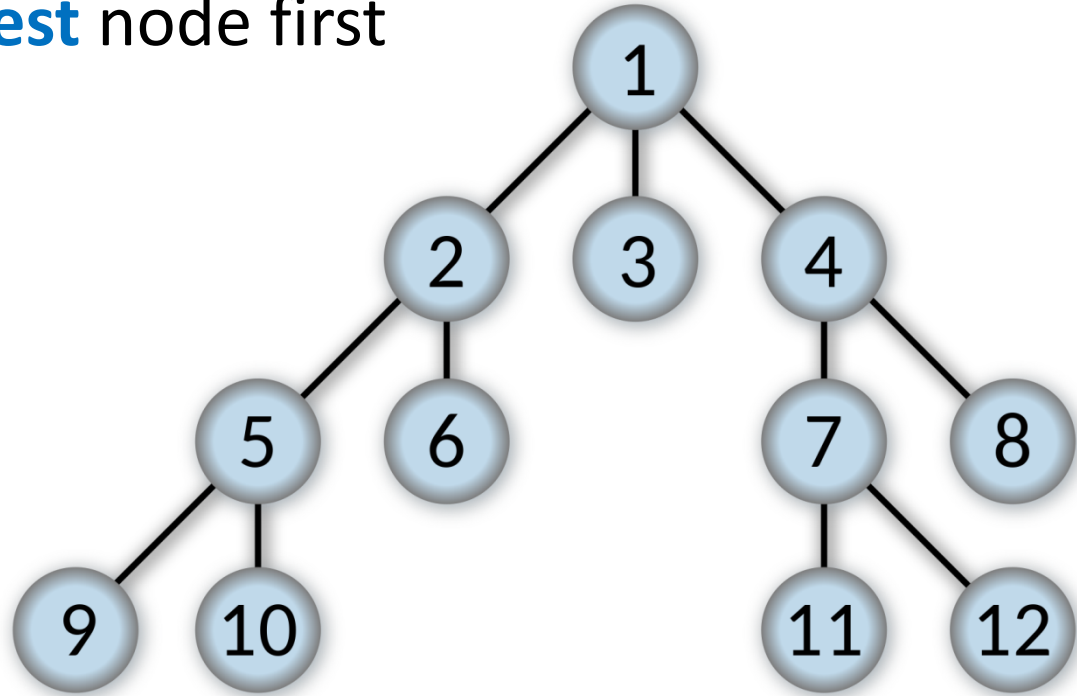
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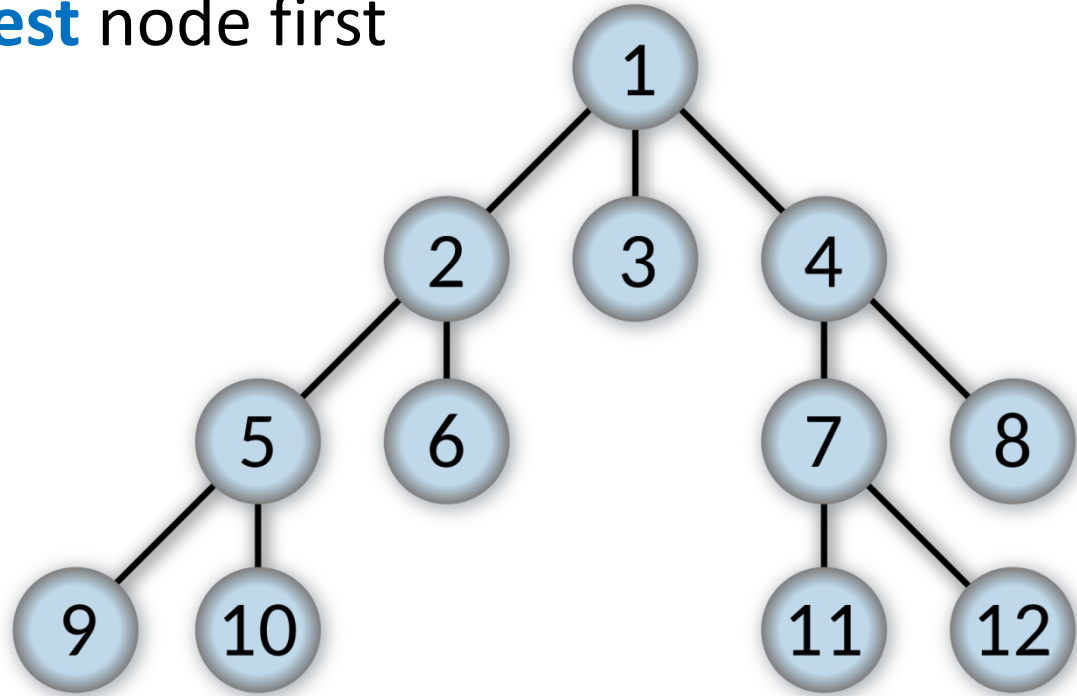
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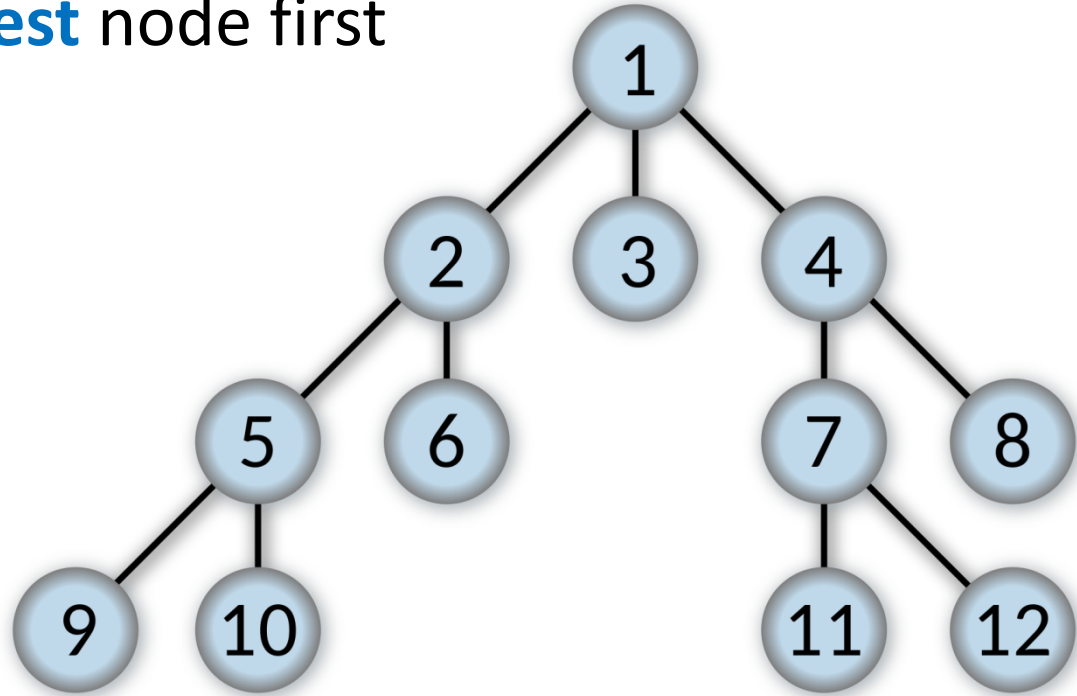
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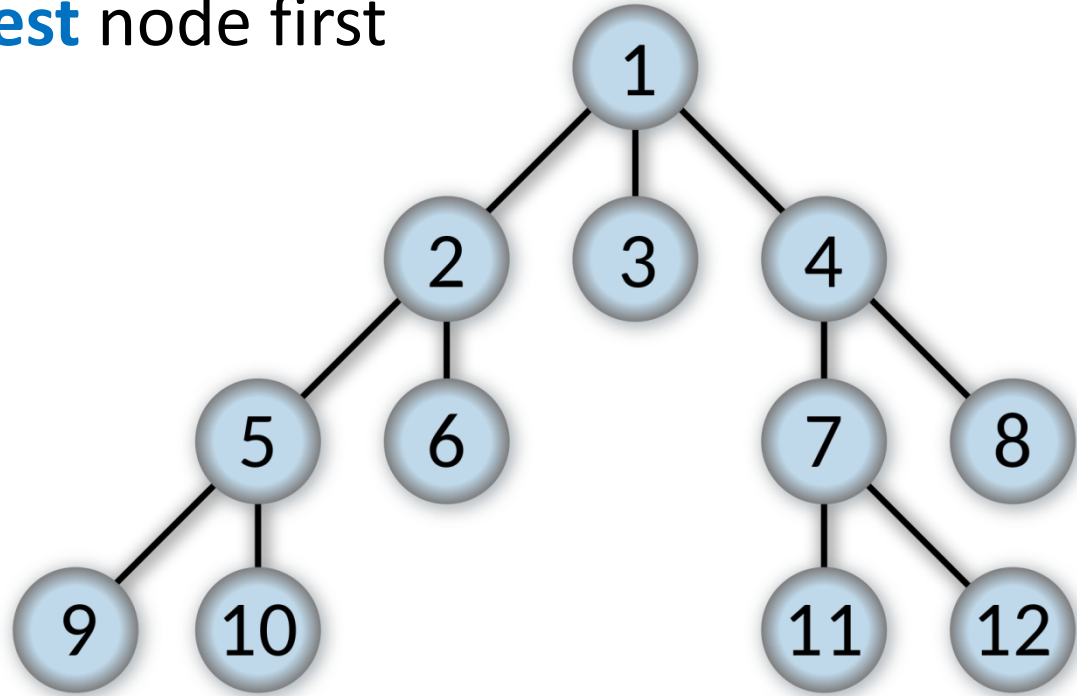
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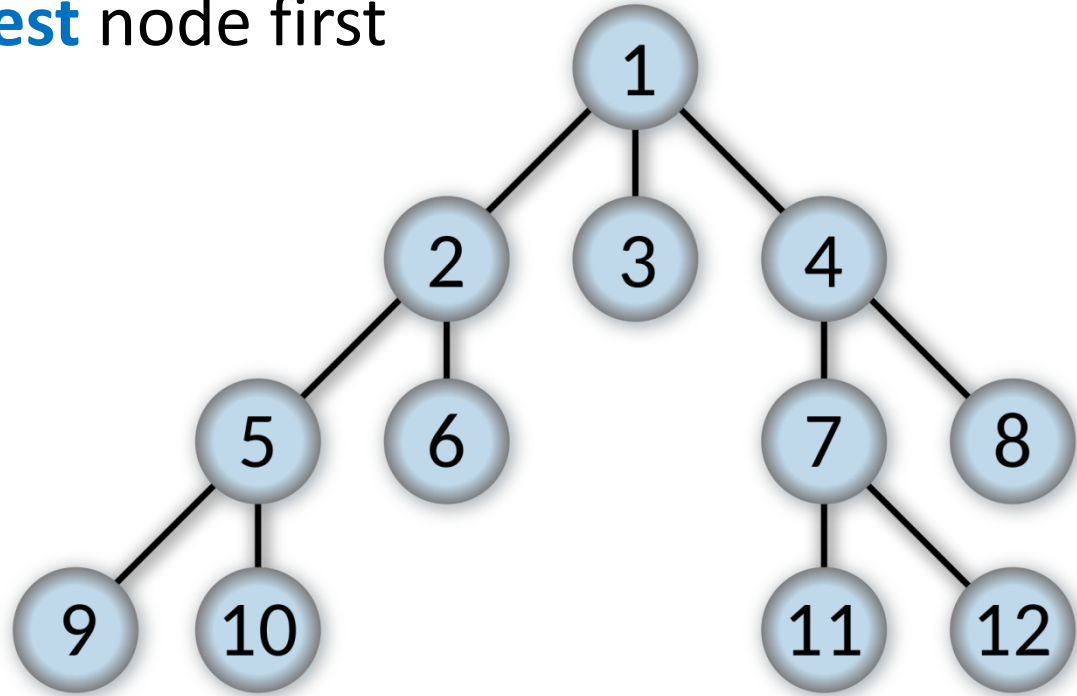
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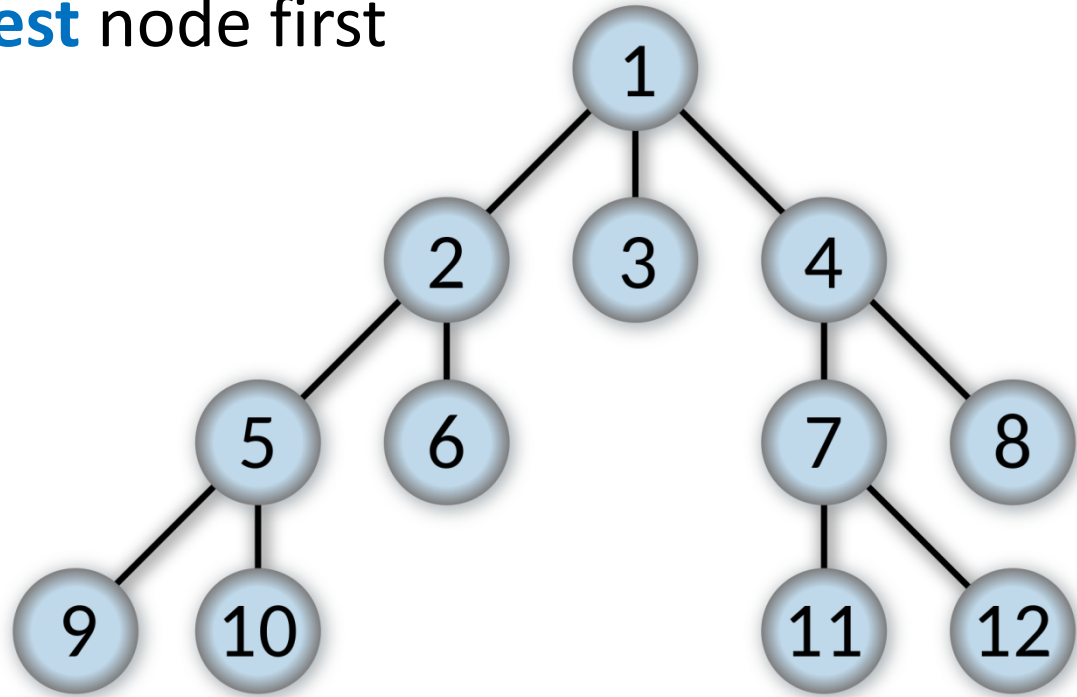
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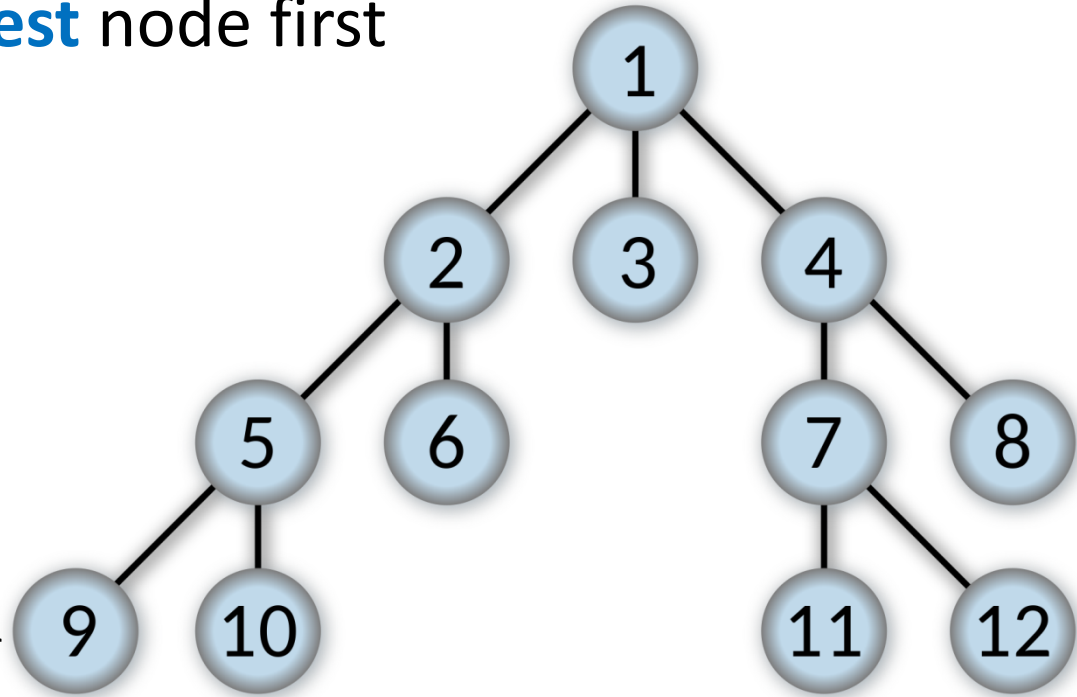
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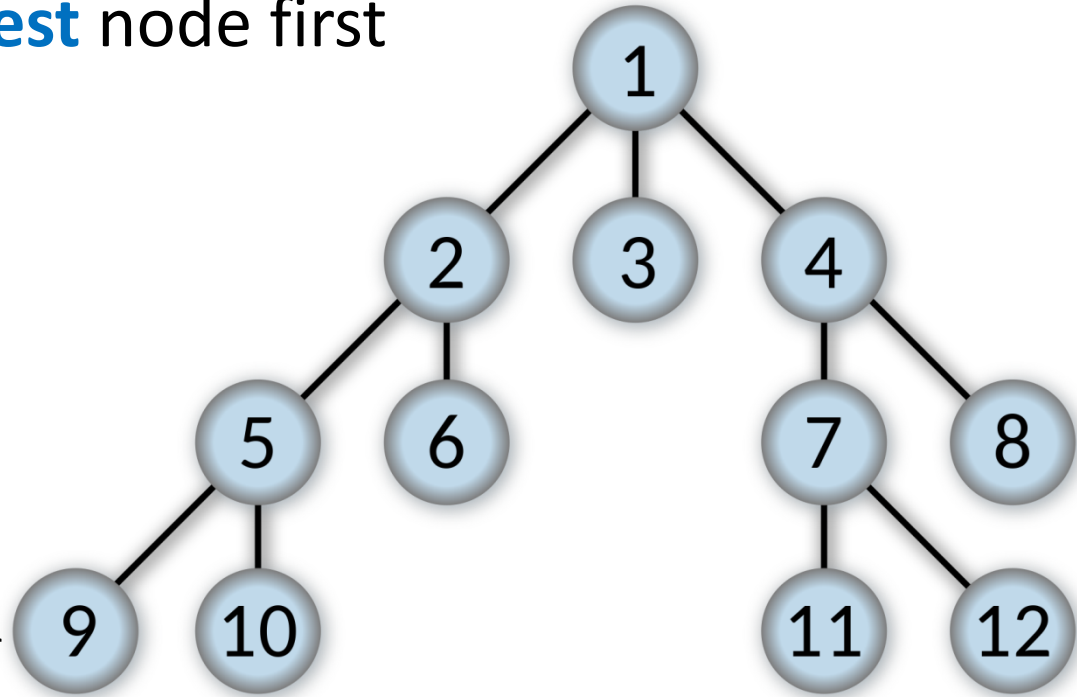
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Like BFS, but keeps track of cost

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C^* is optimal path cost to goal.

ϵ is cost of edge with smallest cost.



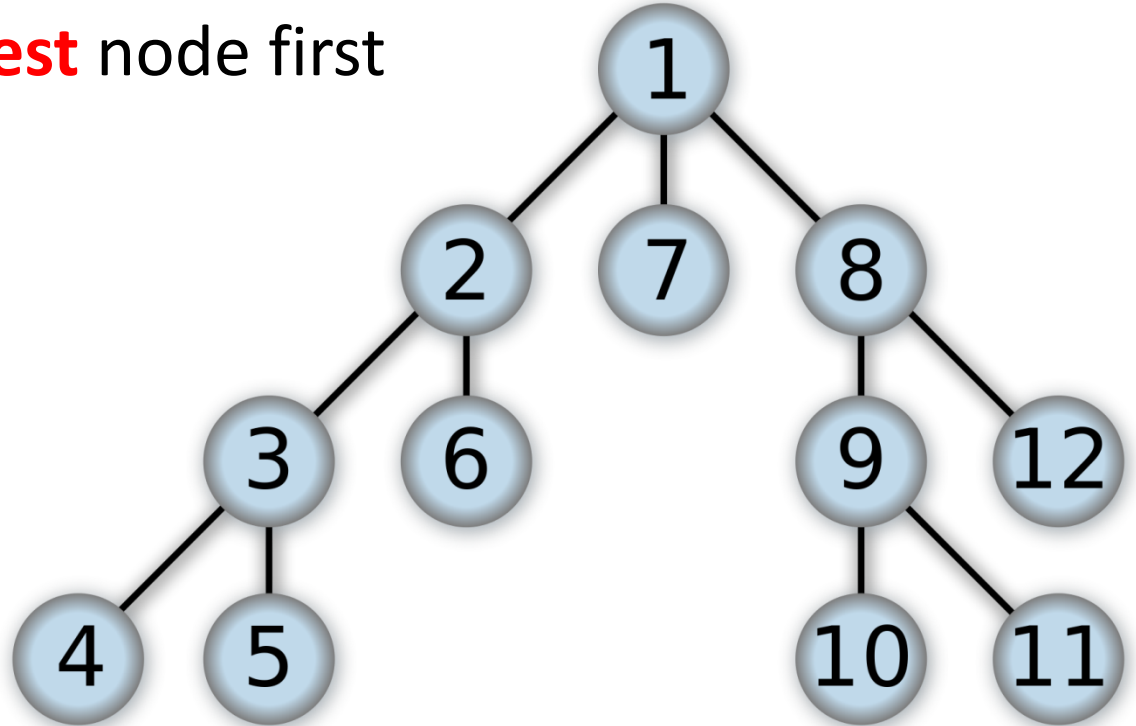
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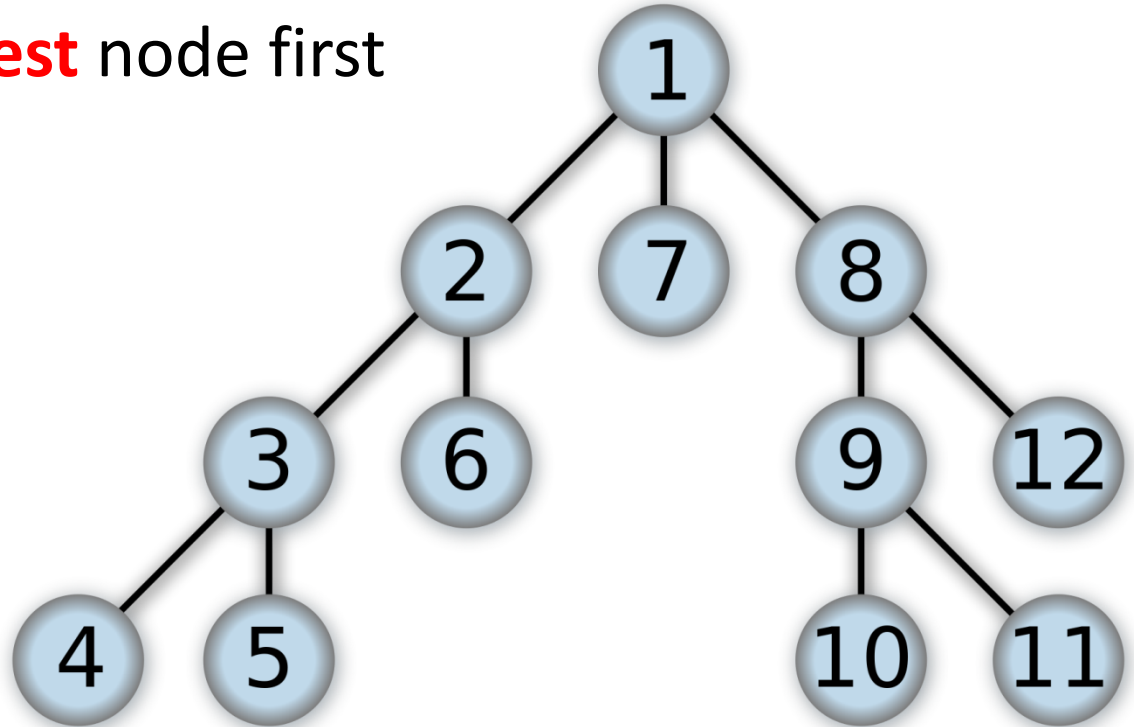
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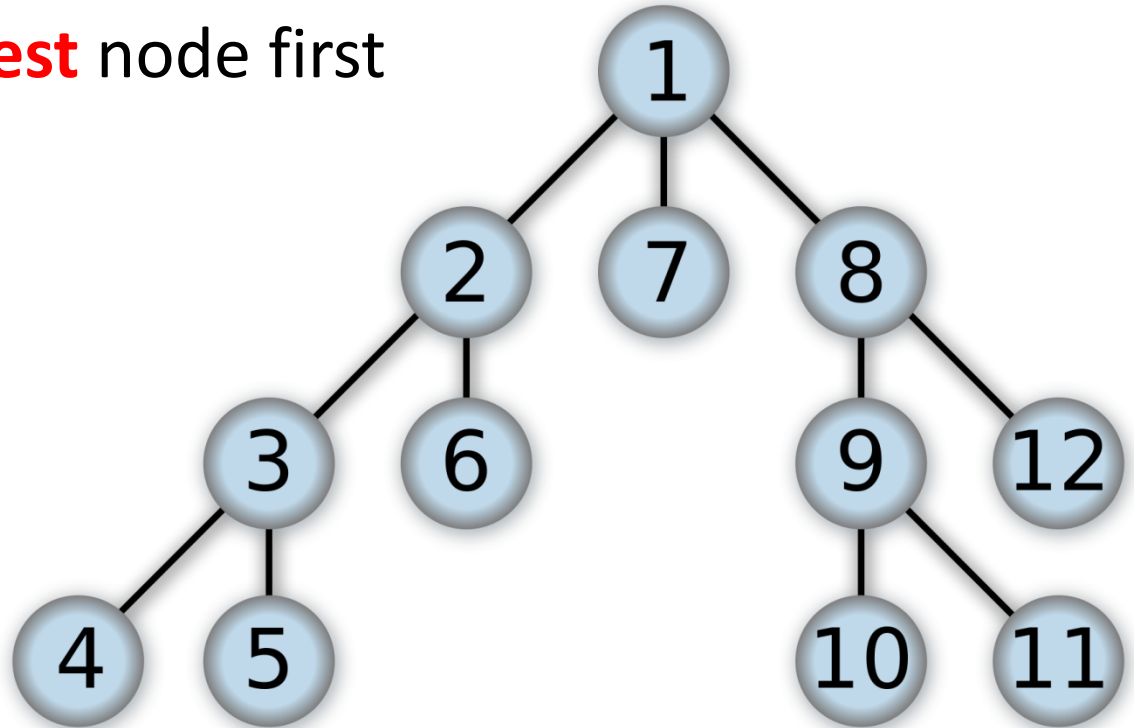
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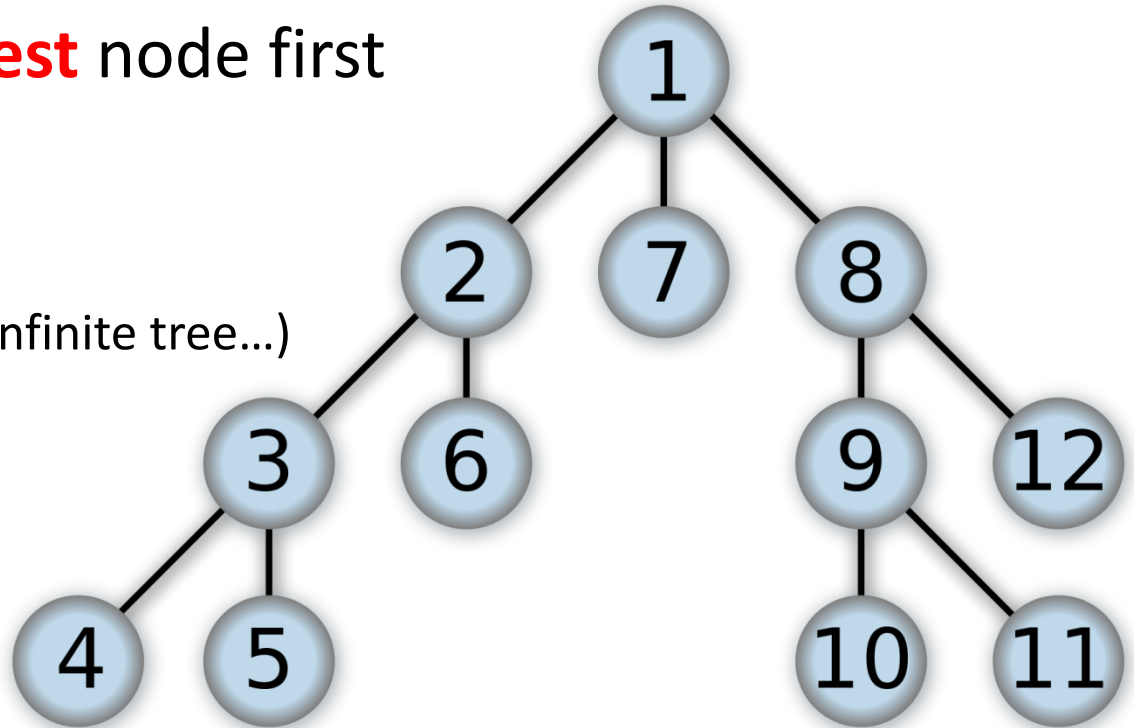
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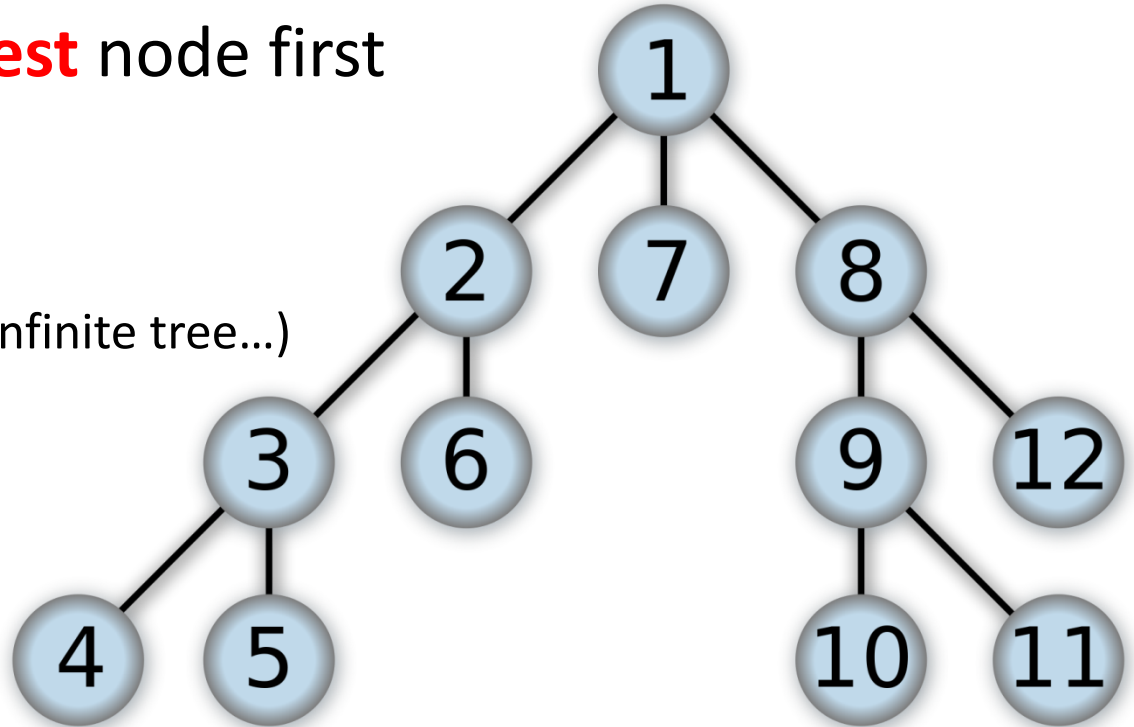
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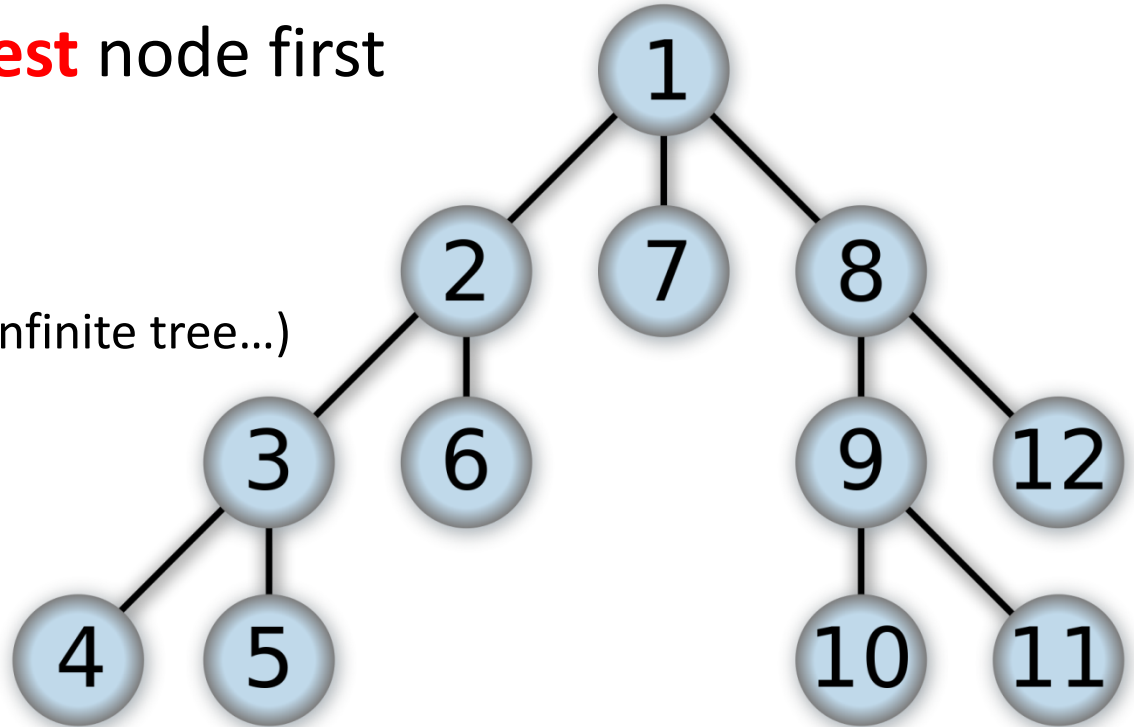
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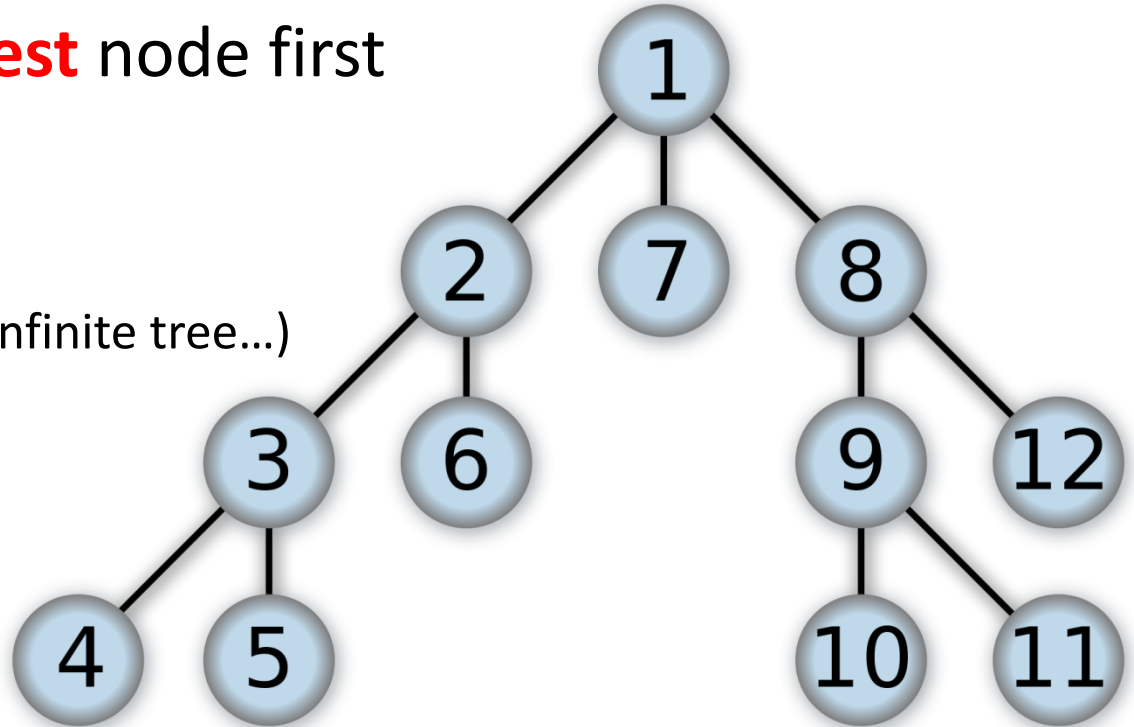


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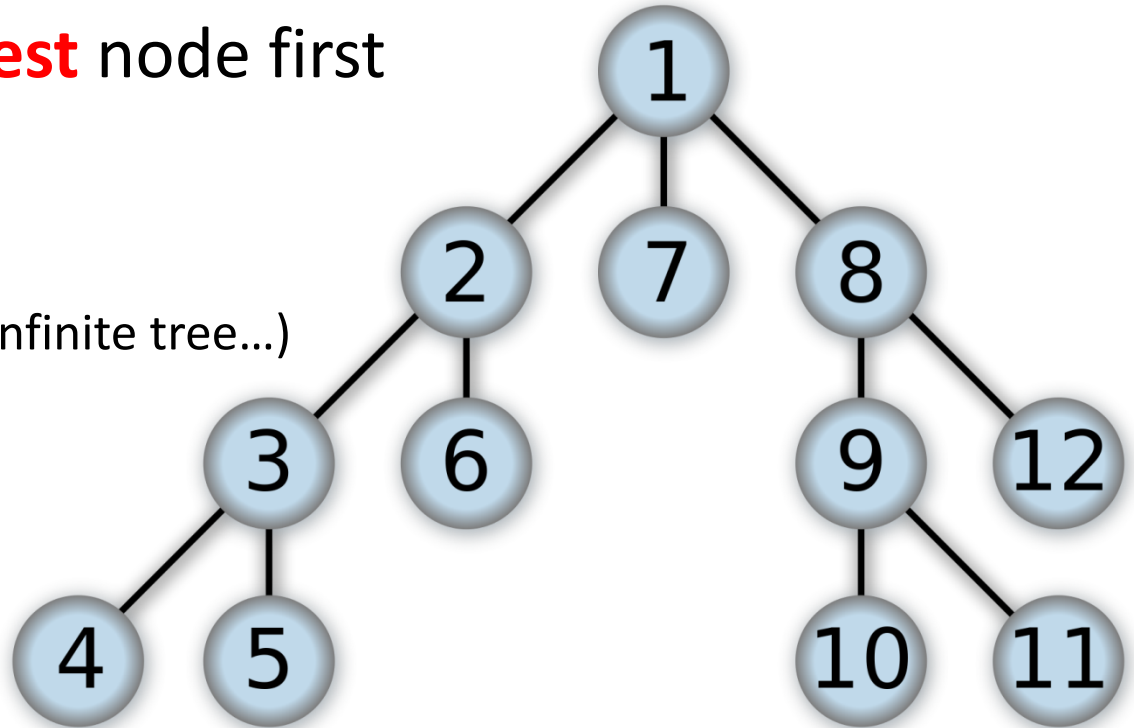


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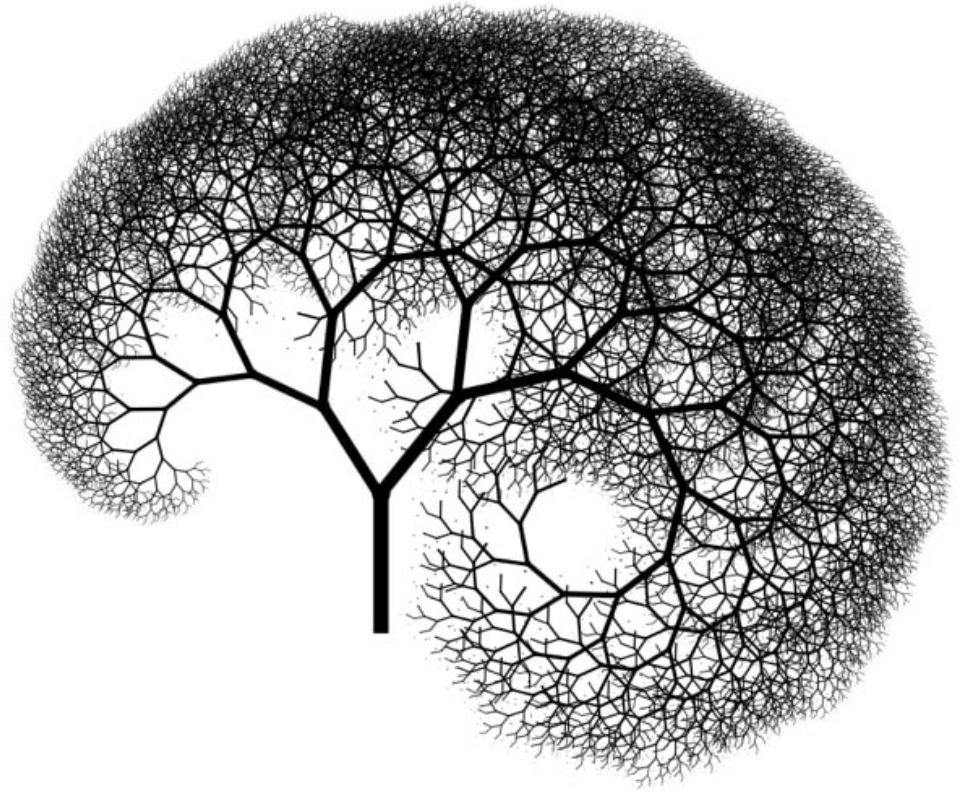


Iterative Deepening DFS

Repeated limited DFS

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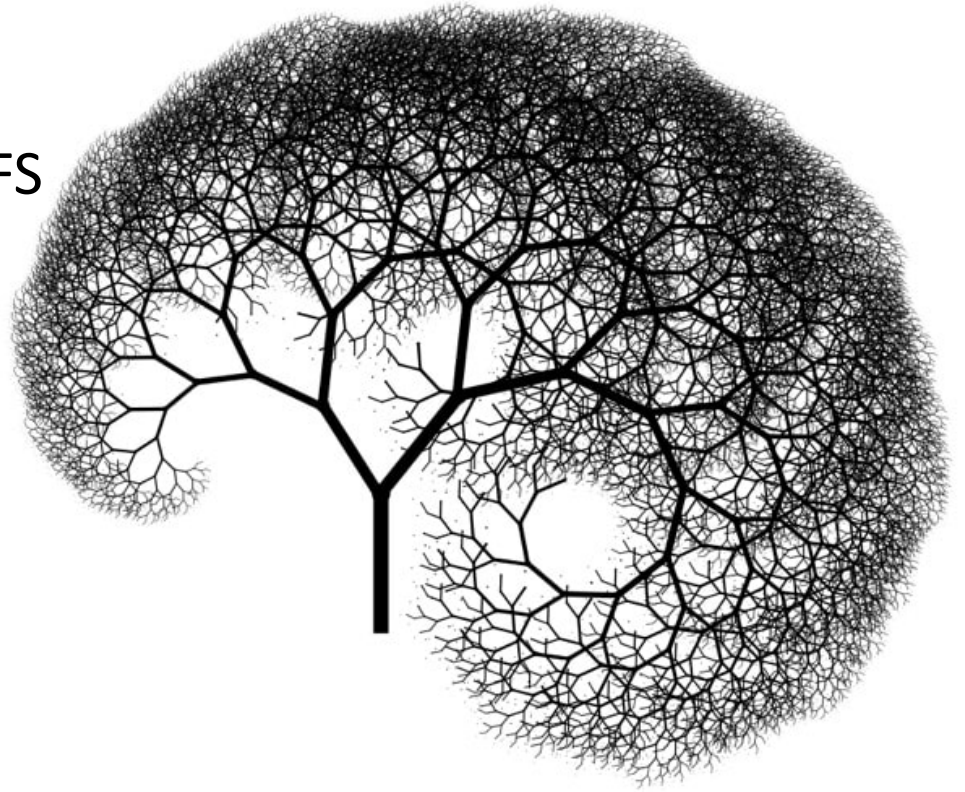
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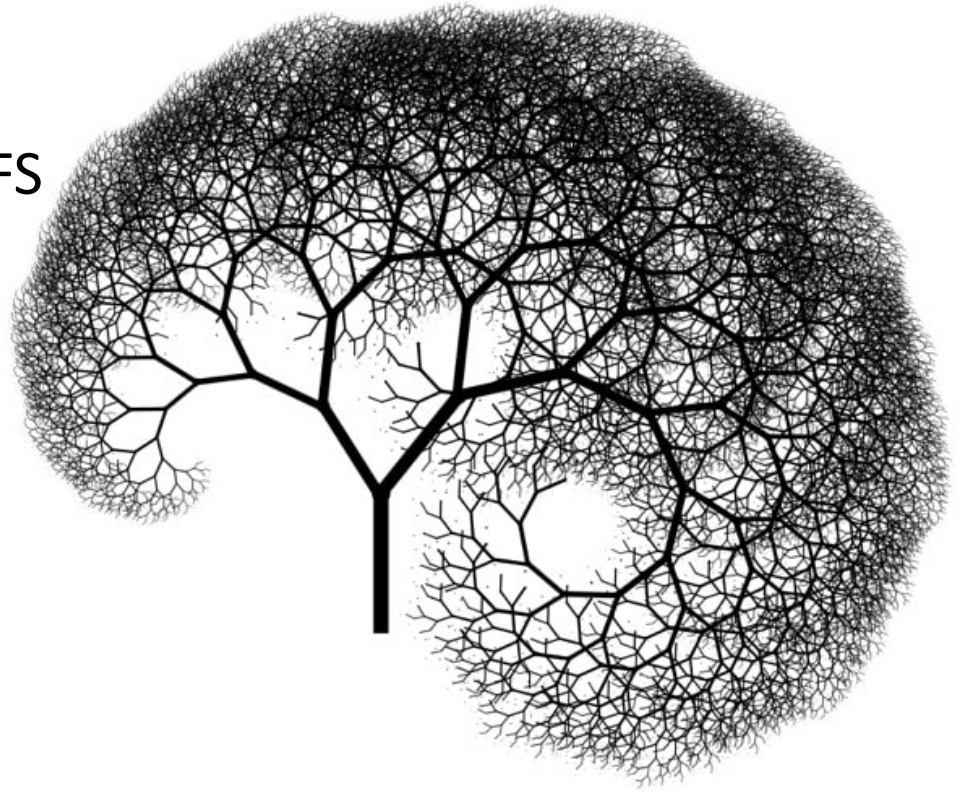
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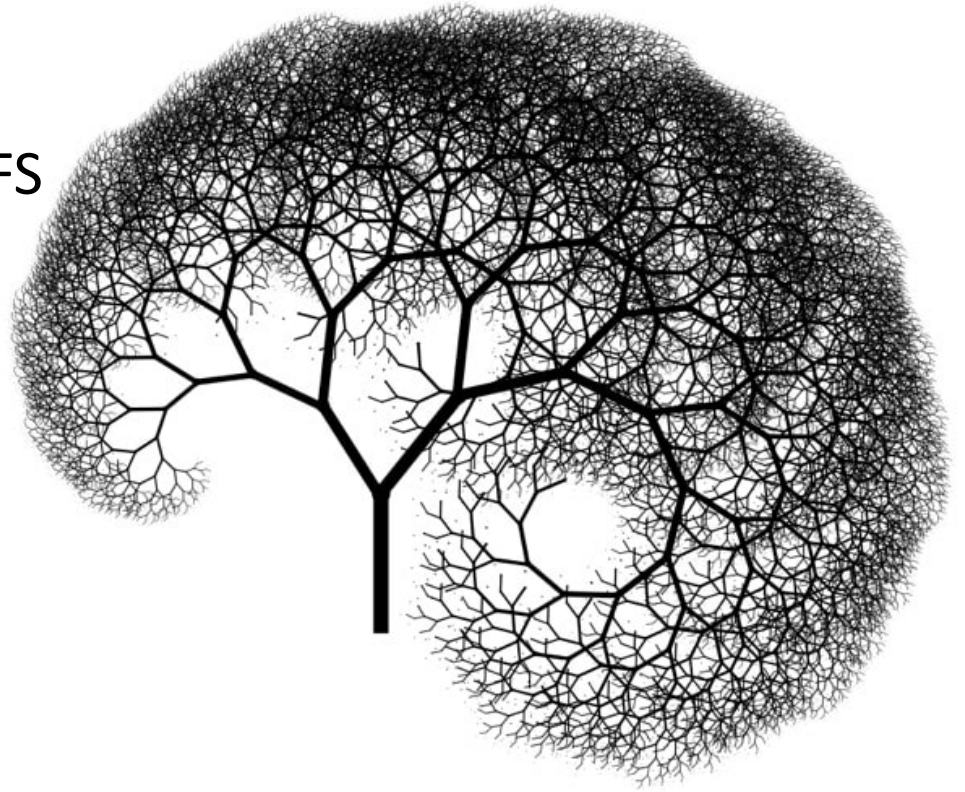
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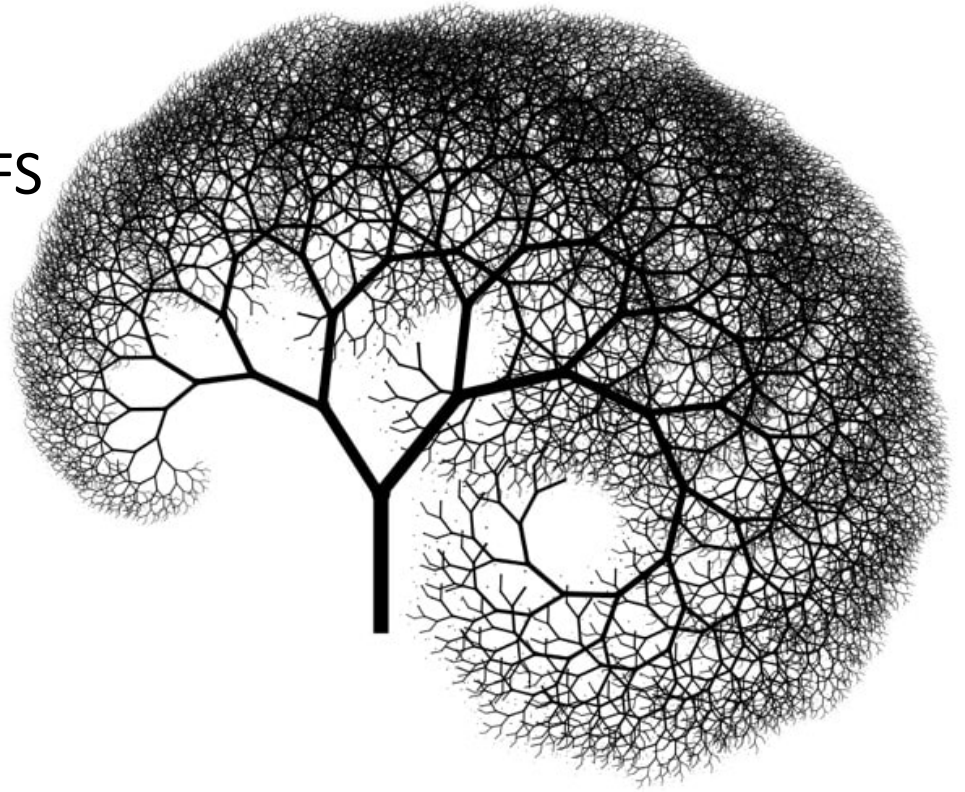
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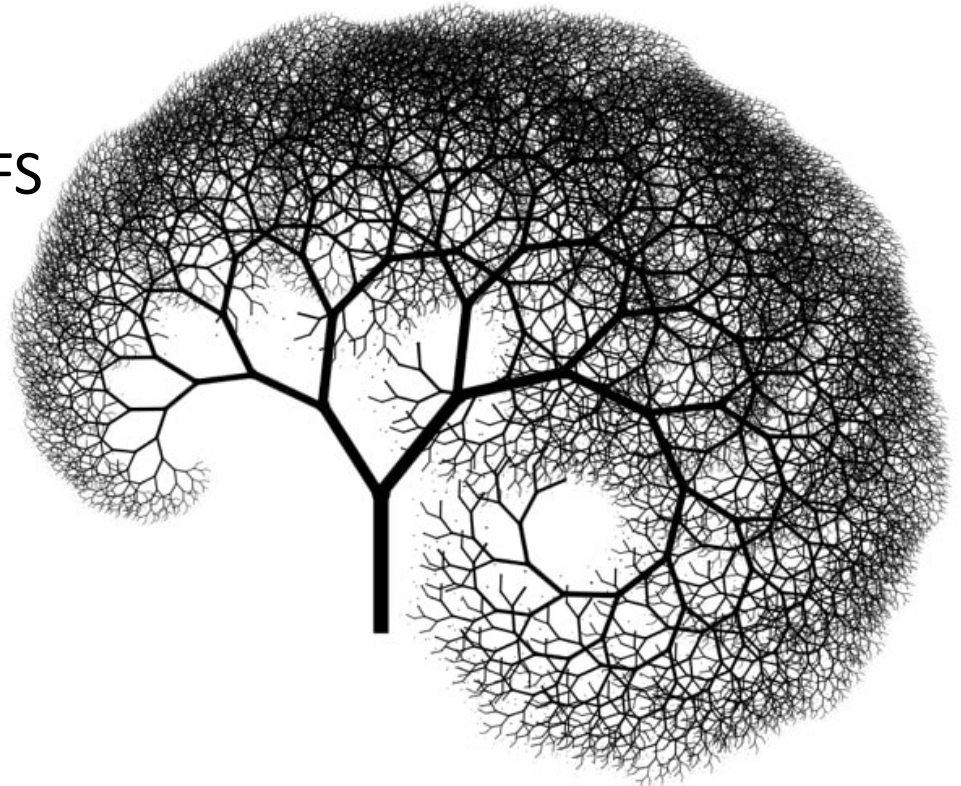
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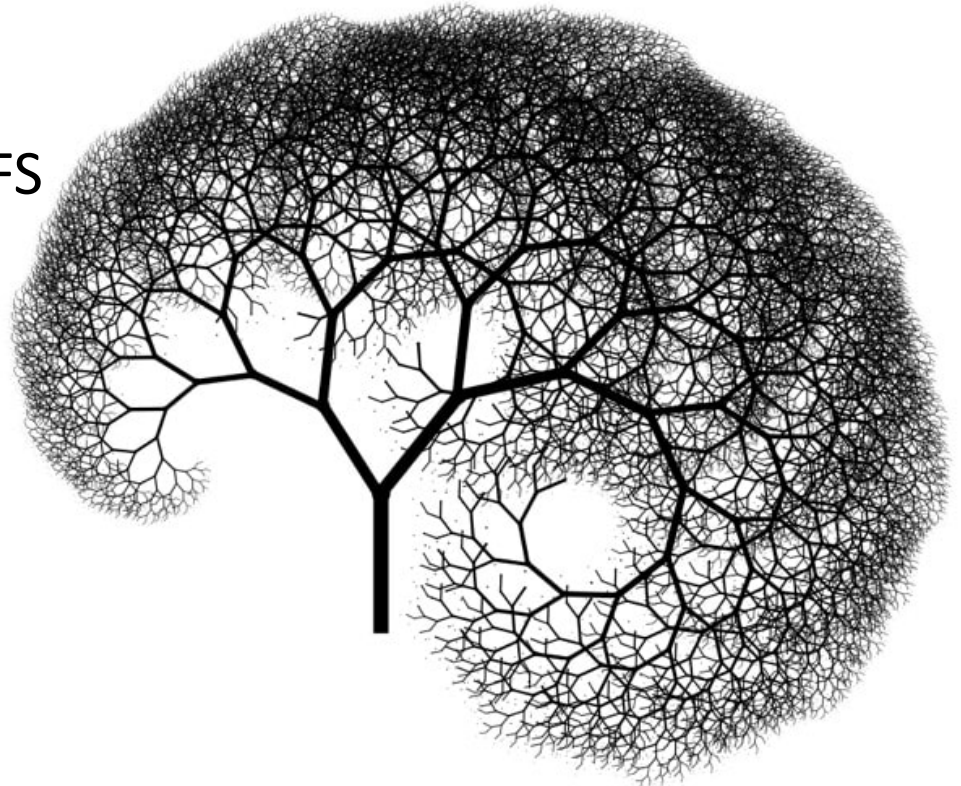
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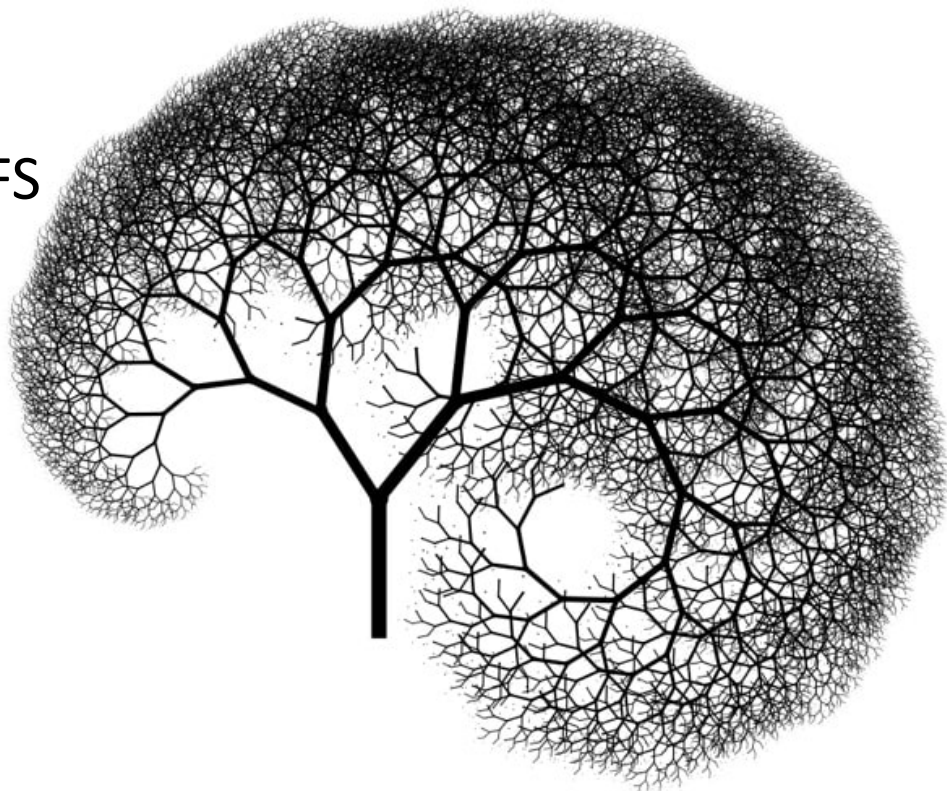


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A good option!



Uninformed vs Informed Search

Uninformed search (all of what we saw). Know:

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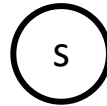
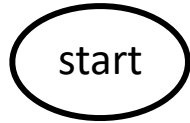
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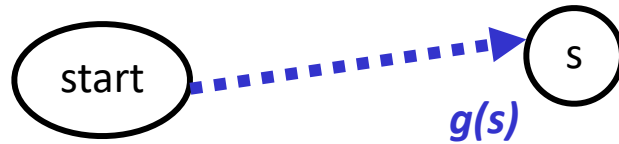
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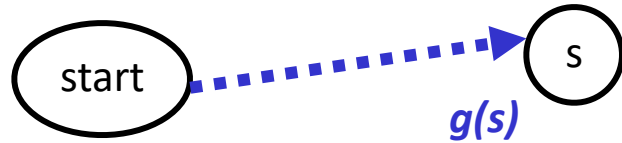
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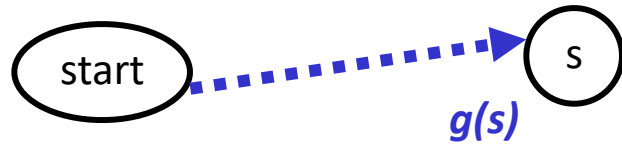
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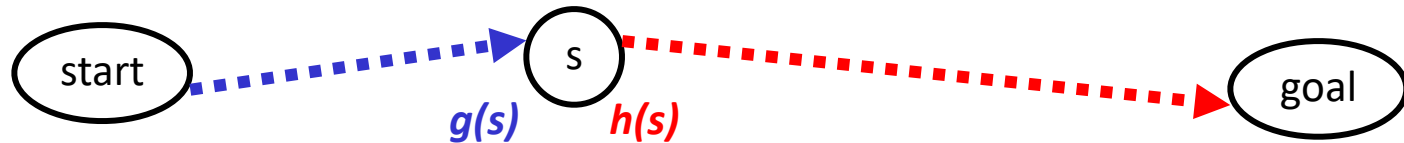
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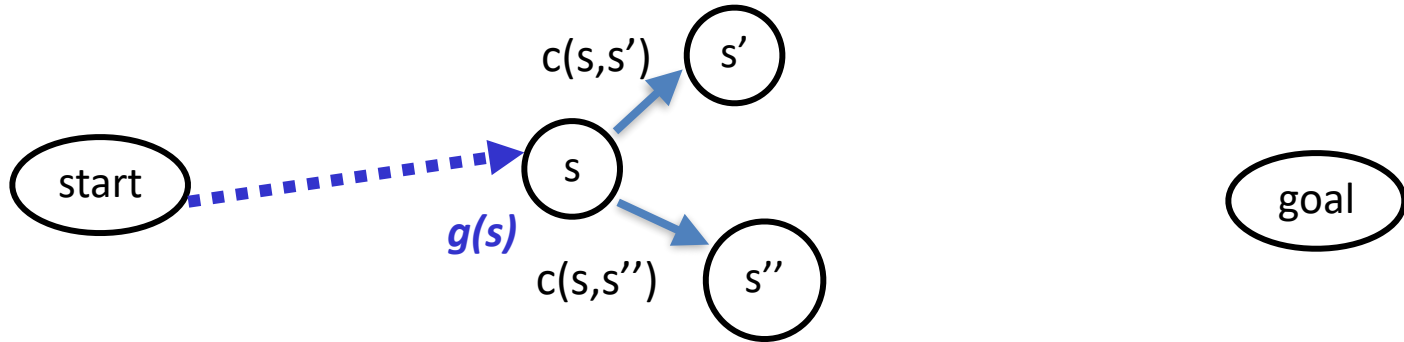
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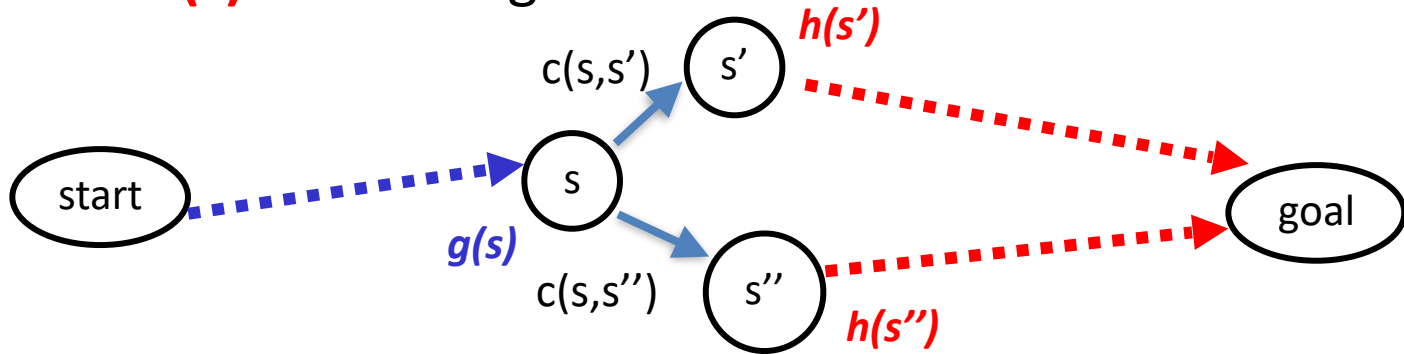
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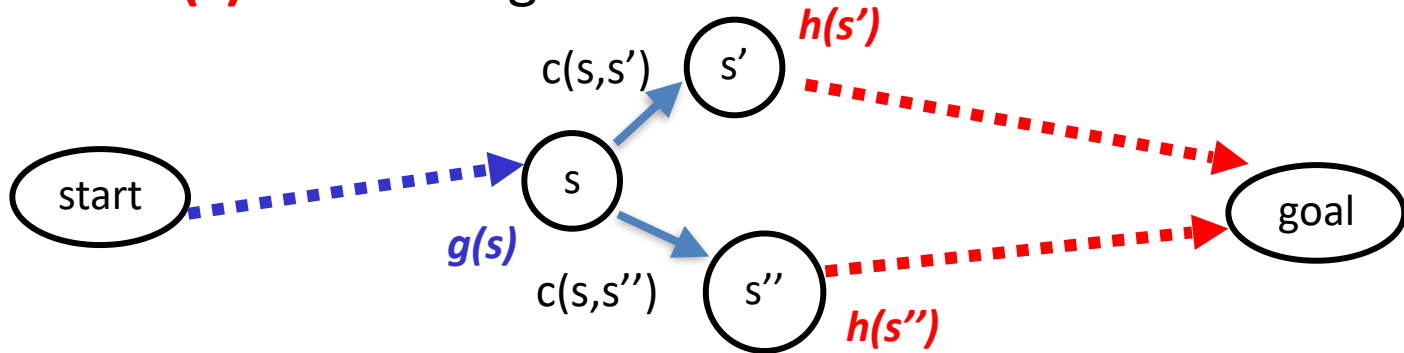
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- Goal: **speed up search.**

Using the Heuristic

Recall uniform-cost search

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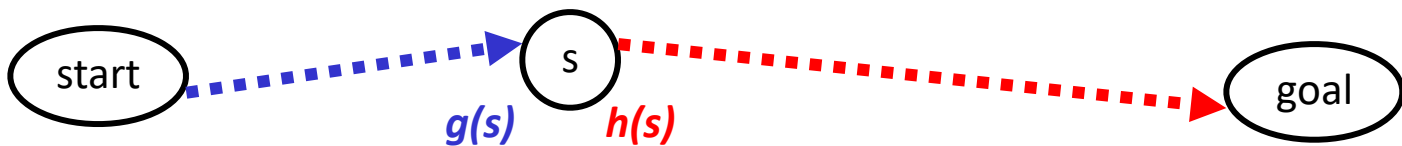
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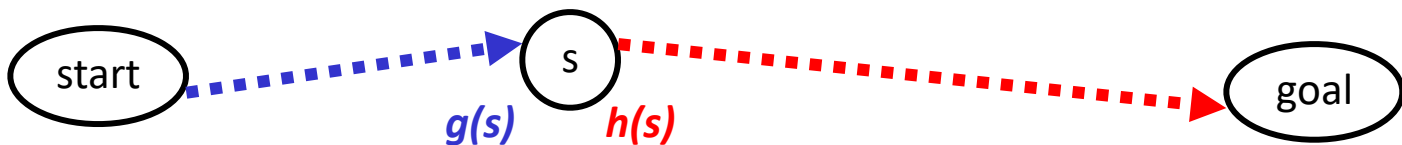
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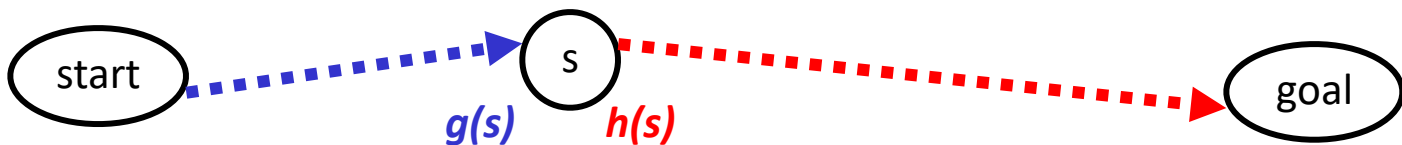


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- Now let's use the heuristic (“second-half-cost”)
 - Several possible approaches: let's see what works

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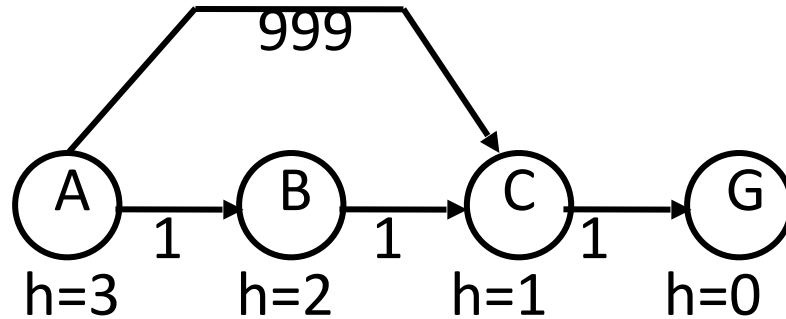
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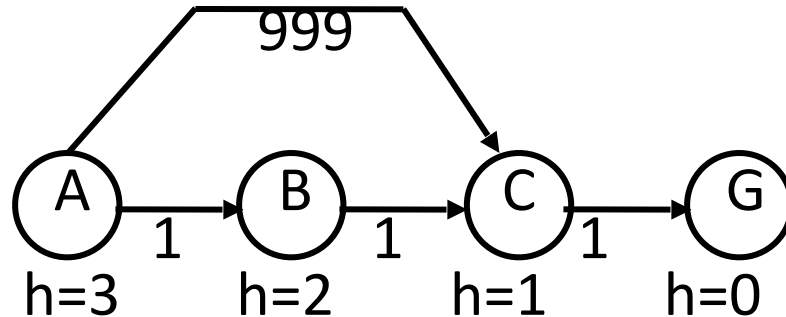
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- Not optimal! **Get** $A \rightarrow C \rightarrow G$. **Want:** $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow G$

Attempt 2: A Search

Next approach: use both $g(s)$ + $h(s)$

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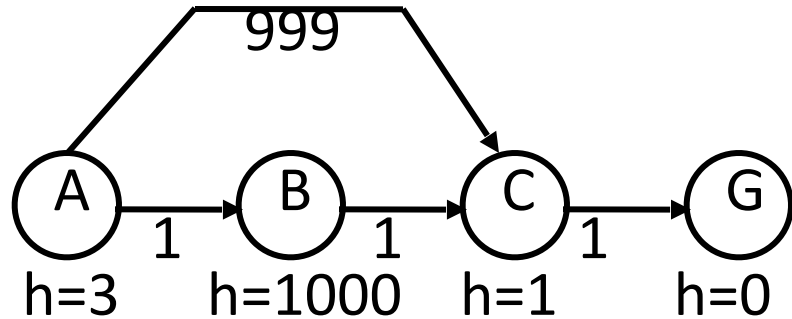
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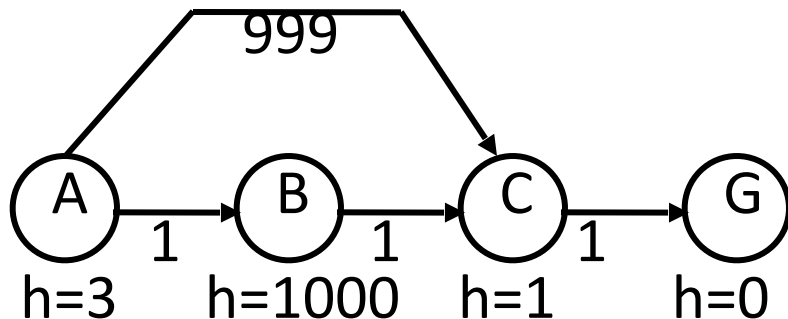
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- **Still not optimal!** (Does work for former example).

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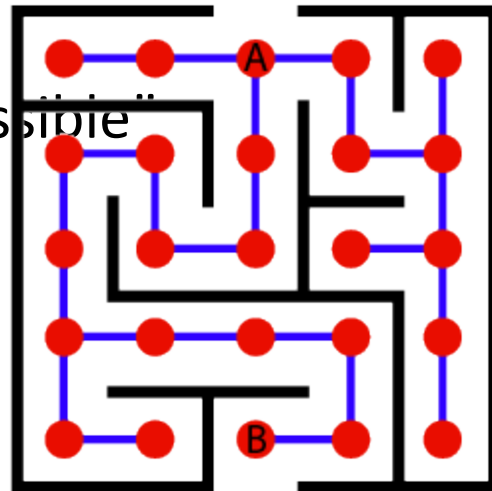
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- This is **A* search**

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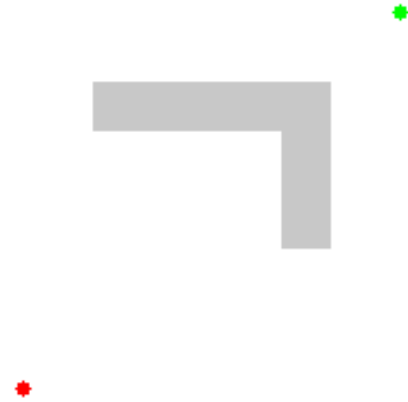
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- This is **A*** search



Attempt 3: A* Search

Origins: robots and planning

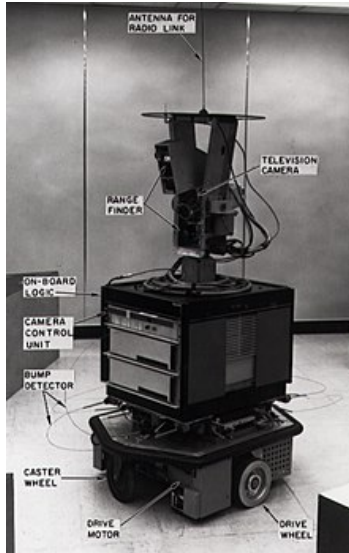


Animation: finding a path around obstacle

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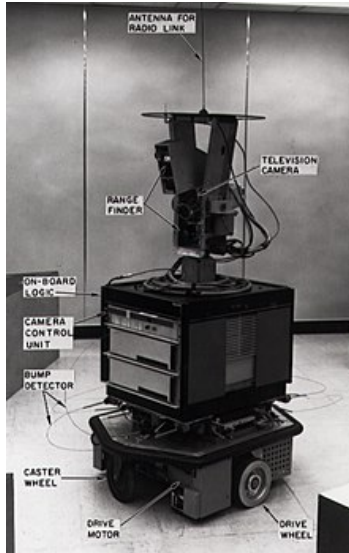


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Admissible Heuristic Functions

Have to be careful to ensure admissibility (**optimism!**)

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- Example: **8 Game**

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Goal State

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- One useful approach: **relax constraints**
 - $h(s)$ = number of tiles in wrong position
 - allows tiles to fly to destination in a single step

Break & Quiz

Q 1.1: Consider finding the fastest driving route from one US city to another. Measure cost as the number of hours driven when driving at the speed limit. Let $h(s)$ be the number of hours needed to ride a bike from city s to your destination. $h(s)$ is

- A. An admissible heuristic
- B. Not an admissible heuristic

Break & Quiz

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- A. An admissible heuristic **No: riding your bike takes longer.**
- **B. Not an admissible heuristic**

Break & Quiz

Q 1.2: Which of the following are admissible heuristics?

(i) $h(s) = h^*(s)$

(ii) $h(s) = \max(2, h^*(s))$

(iii) $h(s) = \min(2, h^*(s))$

(iv) $h(s) = h^*(s) - 2$

(v) $h(s) = \text{sqrt}(h^*(s))$

- A. All of the above
- B. (i), (iii), (iv)
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Break & Quiz

Q 1.2: Which of the following are admissible heuristics?

(i) $h(s) = h^*(s)$

(ii) $h(s) = \max(2, h^*(s))$ No: $h(s)$ might be too big

(iii) $h(s) = \min(2, h^*(s))$

(iv) $h(s) = h^*(s) - 2$ No: $h(s)$ might be negative

(v) $h(s) = \text{sqrt}(h^*(s))$ No: if $h^*(s) < 1$ then $h(s)$ is bigger

- A. All of the above
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Heuristic Function Tradeoffs

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Dominance: h_2 dominates h_1 if for all states s ,

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Heuristic Function Tradeoffs

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- **Idea:** we want to be as close to h^* as possible
 - But not over! **Must under-estimate true cost.**
- **Tradeoff:** being very close might require a very complex heuristic, expensive computation
 - Might be better off with cheaper heuristic & expand more nodes.

A* Termination

When should A* **stop**?

A* Termination

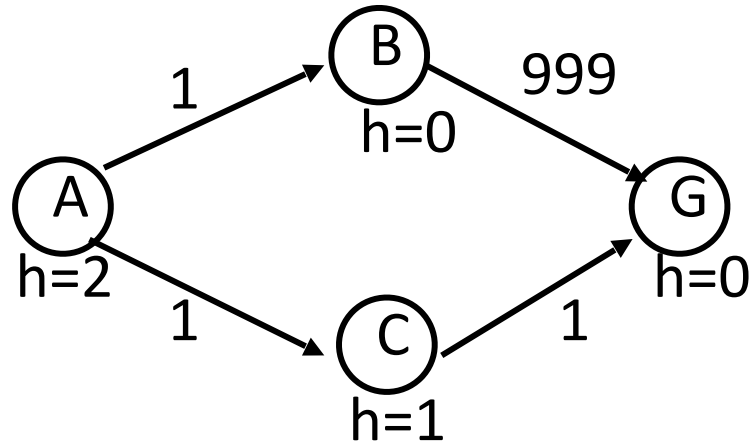
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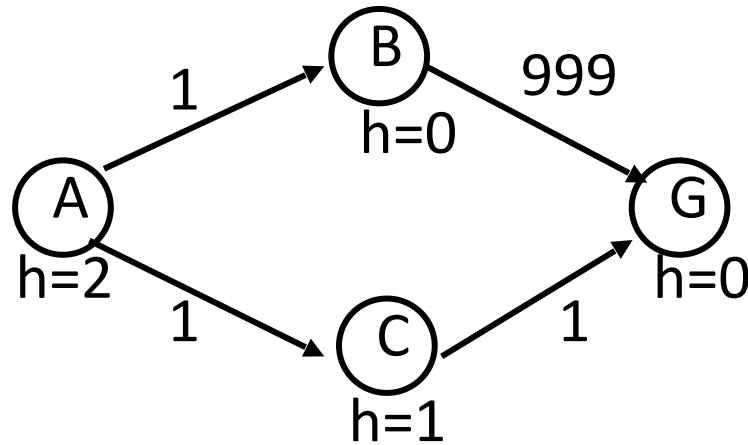
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A* Termination

When should A* **stop**?

- One idea: as soon as we reach goal state?



- ***h*** is admissible, but note that we get $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow G$ (**cost 1000**)!

A* Termination

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A* Termination

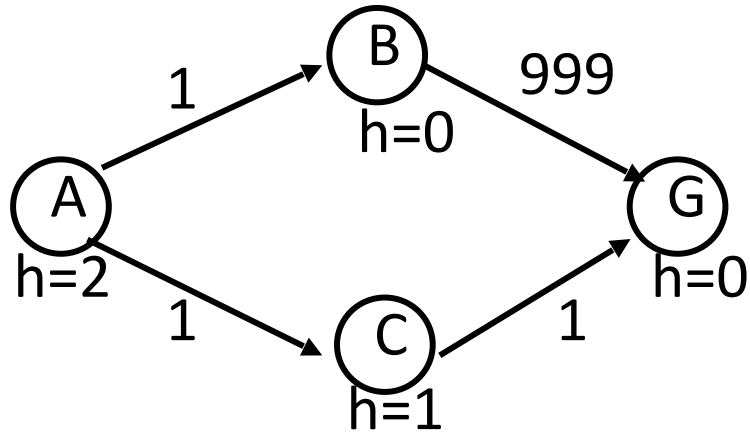
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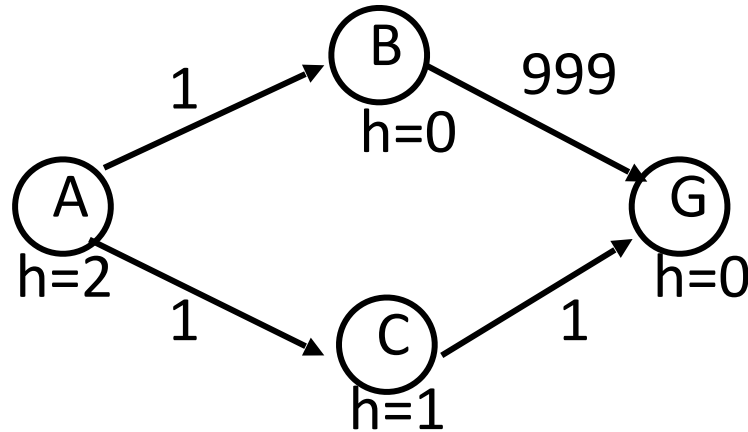
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A* Termination

When should A* **stop**?

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- Note: taking $h = 0$ reduces to uniform cost search rule.

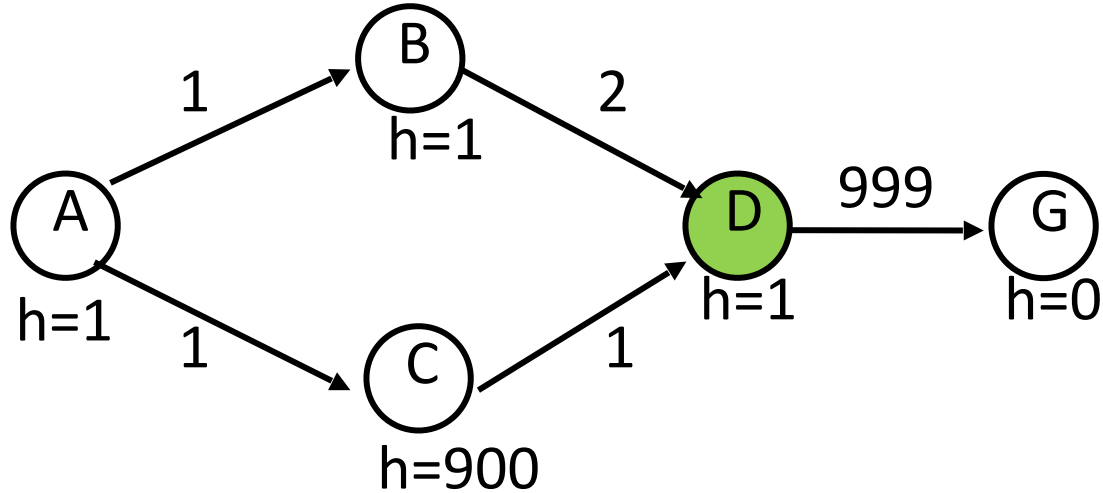
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Possible to revisit an expanded state, get a shorter path:

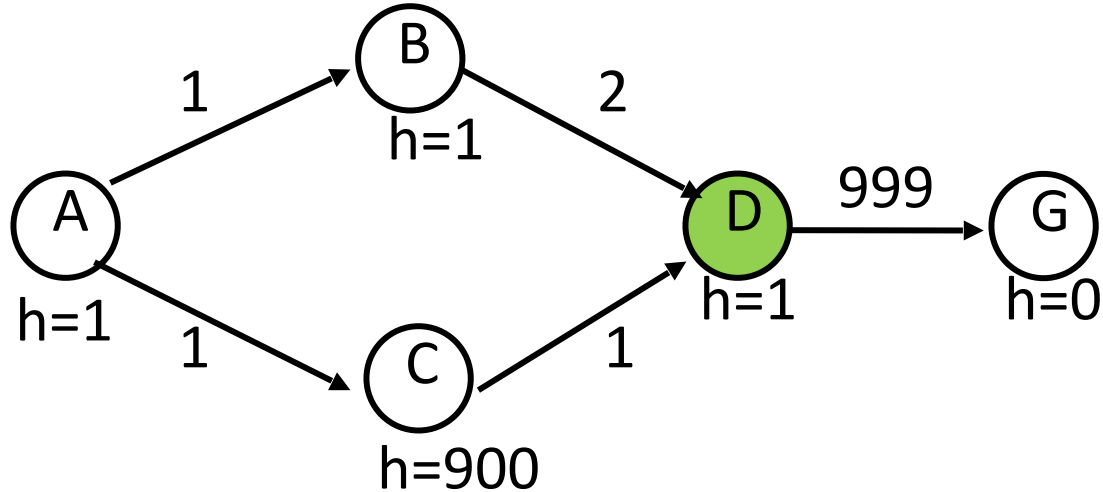
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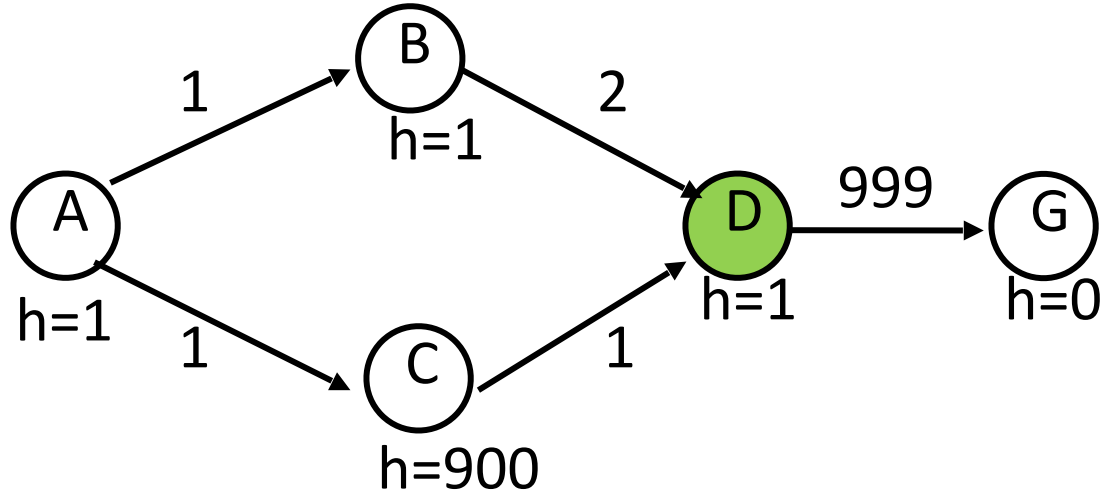
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A* Revisiting Expanded States

Possible to revisit an expanded state, get a shorter path:




- Put D back into priority queue, smaller $g+h$.
- **Note:** uninformed search methods will not revisit expanded states.

A* Full Algorithm

1. Put the start state S on the priority queue. We call the priority queue $OPEN$
2. If $OPEN$ is empty, exit with failure
3. Remove from $OPEN$ and place on $CLOSED$ a node n for which $f(n)$ is minimum (note that $f(n)=g(n)+h(n)$)
4. If n is a goal node, exit (recover path by tracing back pointers from n to S)
5. Expand n , generating all successors and attach to pointers back to n . For each successor n' of n
 1. If n' is not already on $OPEN$ or $CLOSED$ compute $h(n')$, $g(n')=g(n)+c(n,n')$, $f(n')=g(n')+h(n')$, and place it on $OPEN$.
 2. If n' is already on $OPEN$ or $CLOSED$, then check if $g(n')$ is lower for the new version of n' . If so, then:
 1. Redirect pointers backward from n' along path yielding lower $g(n')$.
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 3. If $g(n')$ is not lower for the new version, do nothing.
6. Goto 2.

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A* Analysis

Some properties:

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- Will run out on large problems.

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-46-218: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
1 [|||||] 93.5% 25 [|||||] 83.6% 49 [|||||] 100.0% 73 [|||||] 100.0%  
2 [|||||] 89.6% 26 [|||||] 77.7% 50 [|||||] 100.0% 74 [|||||] 100.0%  
3 [|||||] 66.4% 27 [|||||] 89.5% 51 [|||||] 49.0% 75 [|||||] 100.0%  
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Mem [|||||] 177G/370G Tasks: 332, 49 thr, 749 kthr; 89 running  
Swp [|||||] 0K/0K Load average: 157.55 143.11 124.84  
Uptime: 13:52:44  
PID USER PRI NI VIRT RES SHR S CPU% MEM% INTR# Command  
3231 ubuntu 20 0 2384M 1925M 5820 R 102.0 0.5 10h48:36 /usr/lib/R/bin/exec/R  
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A* Analysis

Some properties:

- Terminates!
 - A* can use **lots of memory**:
 - $O(\# \text{ states})$.
 - Will run out on large problems.
-
- Next, we will consider some alternatives to deal with this.

The terminal window shows the progress of an A* search algorithm. The top part displays a grid of progress bars for various nodes, with columns representing different metrics like percentage completed and time. The bottom part shows system resource usage, including memory (Mem) and swap (Swp) space, and a table of running processes.

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Break & Quiz

Q 2.1: Consider two heuristics for the 8 puzzle problem. h_1 is the number of tiles in wrong position. h_2 is the l_1 /Manhattan distance between the tiles and the goal location. How do h_1 and h_2 relate?

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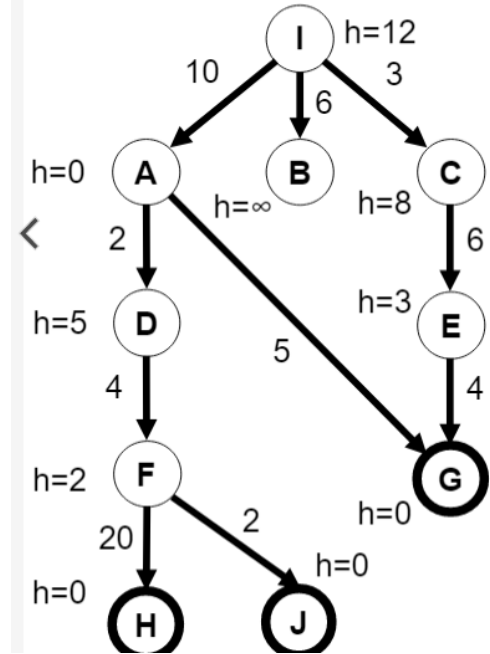
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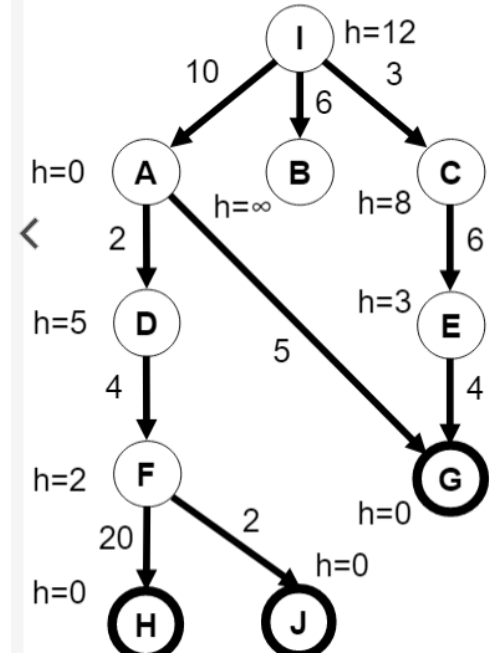
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Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

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- Bound the memory in search.
- At each phase, don't expand any node with $g(s) + h(s) > k$,

IDA*: Iterative Deepening A*

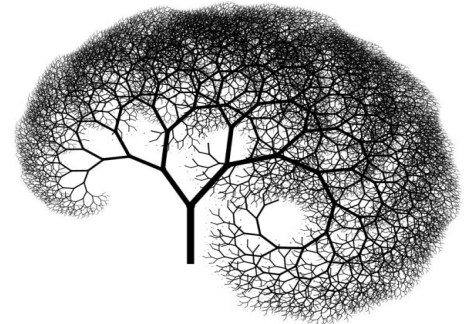
Similar idea to our earlier iterative deepening.

- Bound the memory in search.
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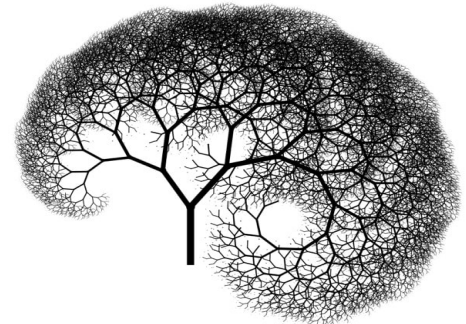
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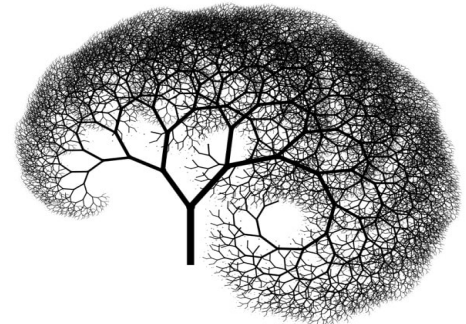
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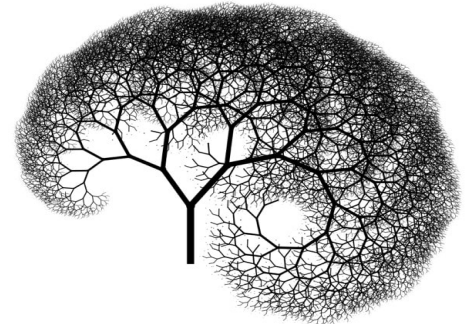
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- Complete + optimal, might be costly time-wise
 - Revisit many nodes
- Lower memory use than A*



IDA*: Properties

How many restarts do we expect?

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- Worst case: restarted for each state

Beam Search

General approach (beyond A* too)

Beam Search

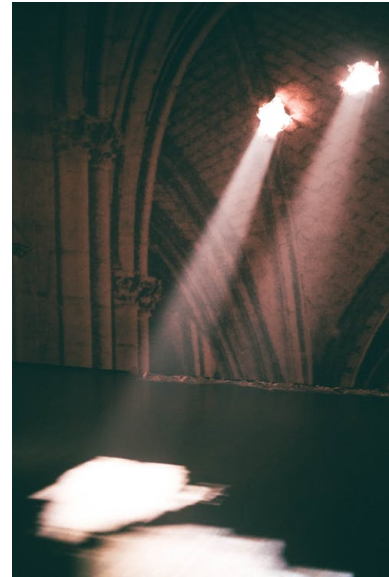
General approach (beyond A* too)

- Priority queue with fixed size k ; beyond k nodes, **discard!**

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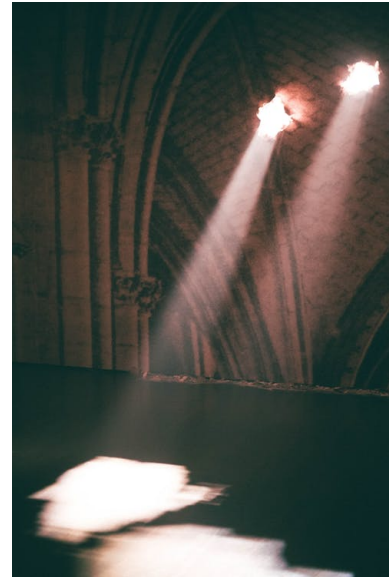
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Beam Search

General approach (beyond A* too)

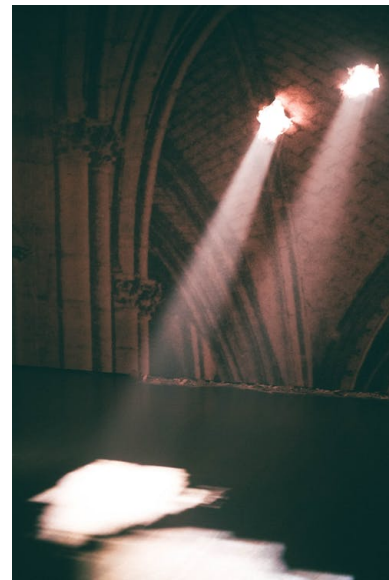
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Beam Search

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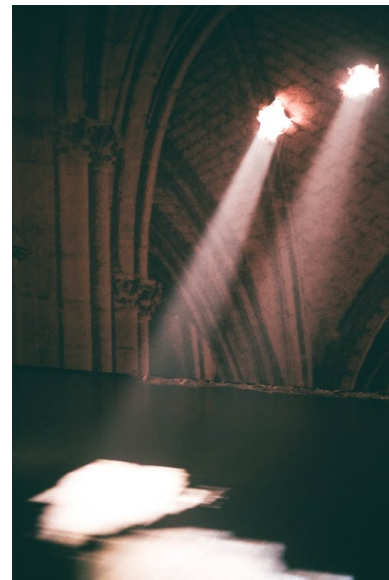


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Variation:



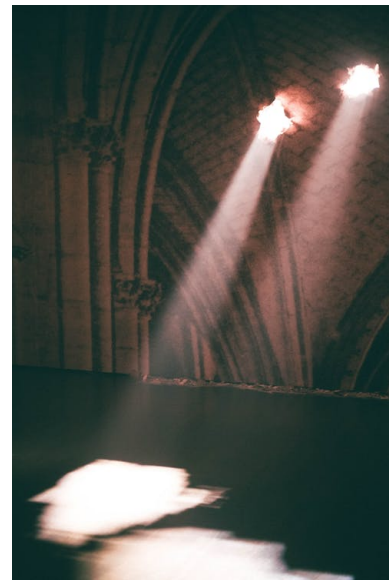
Beam Search

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Variation:

- Priority queue with nodes that **are at most ϵ worse** than best node.



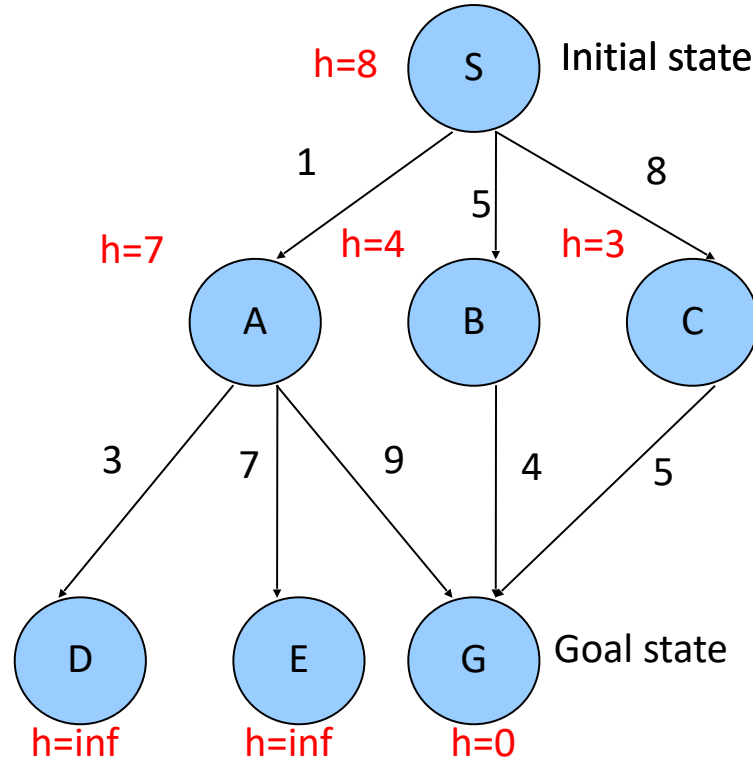
Recap and Examples

Recap and Examples

Example for A^* :

Recap and Examples

Example for A*:



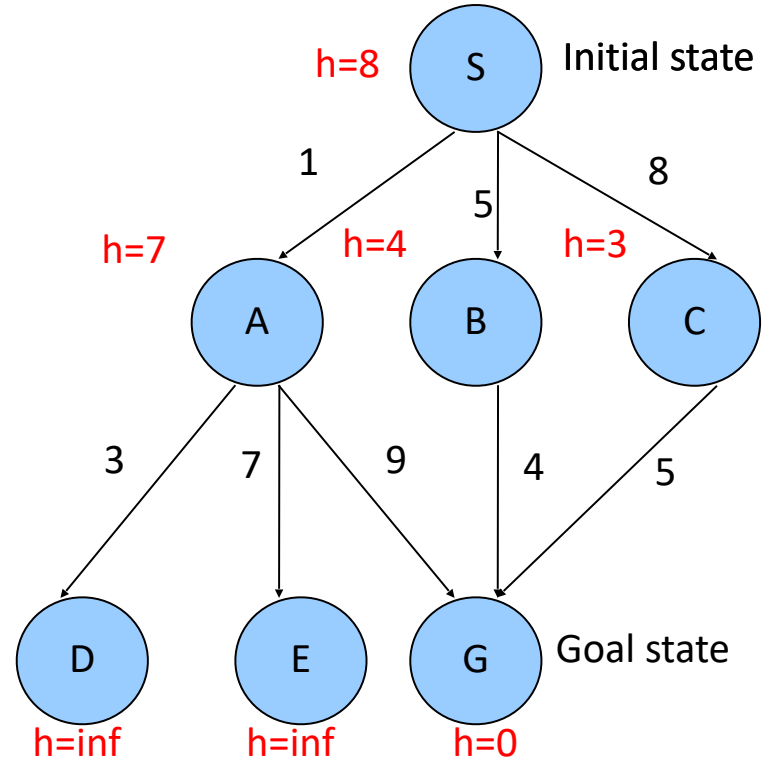
Recap and Examples

Recap and Examples

Example for A^* :

Recap and Examples

Example for A*:



Recap and Examples

Example for A*:

OPEN

S(0+8)

A(1+7) B(5+4) C(8+3)

B(5+4) C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf) G(10+0)

C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf) G(9+0)

C(8+3) D(4+inf) E(8+inf)

CLOSED

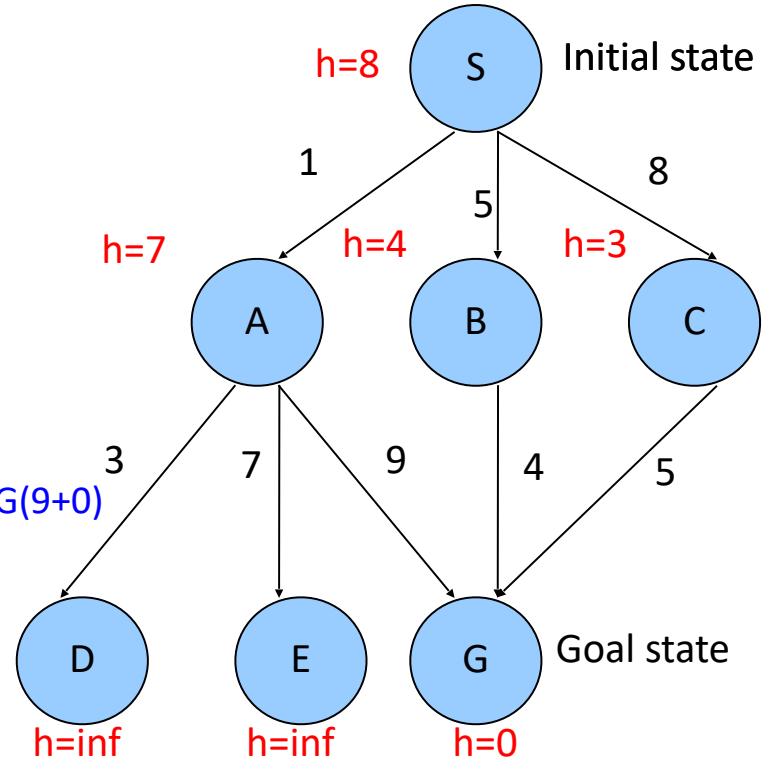
-

S(0+8)

S(0+8) A(1+7)

S(0+8) A(1+7) B(5+4)

S(0+8) A(1+7) B(5+4) G(9+0)



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CLOSED

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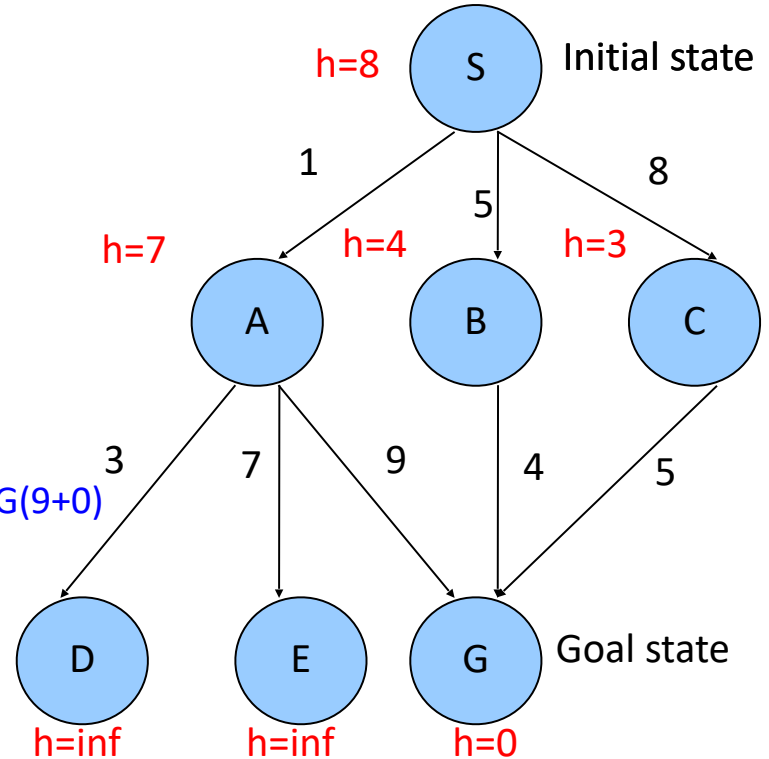
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S(0+8) A(1+7) B(5+4) G(9+0)

G → B → S



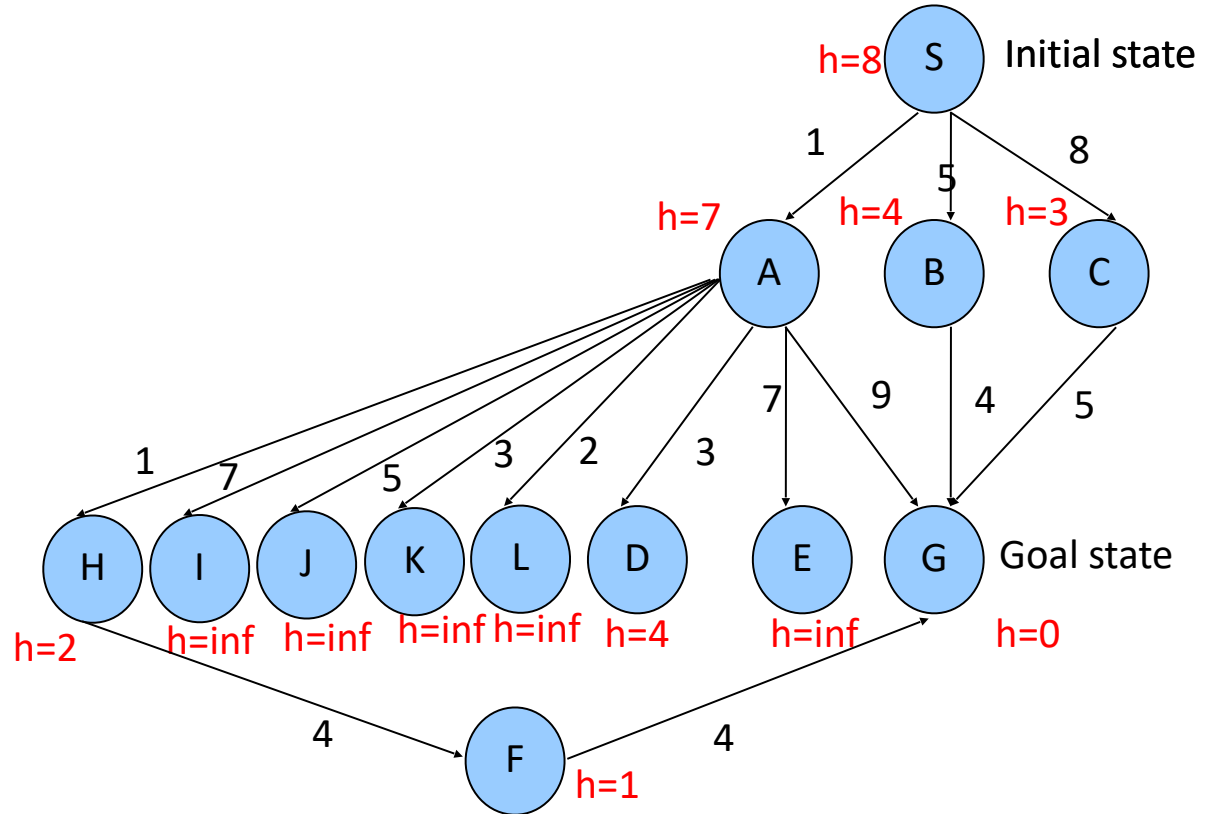
Recap and Examples

Recap and Examples

Example for IDA*:

Recap and Examples

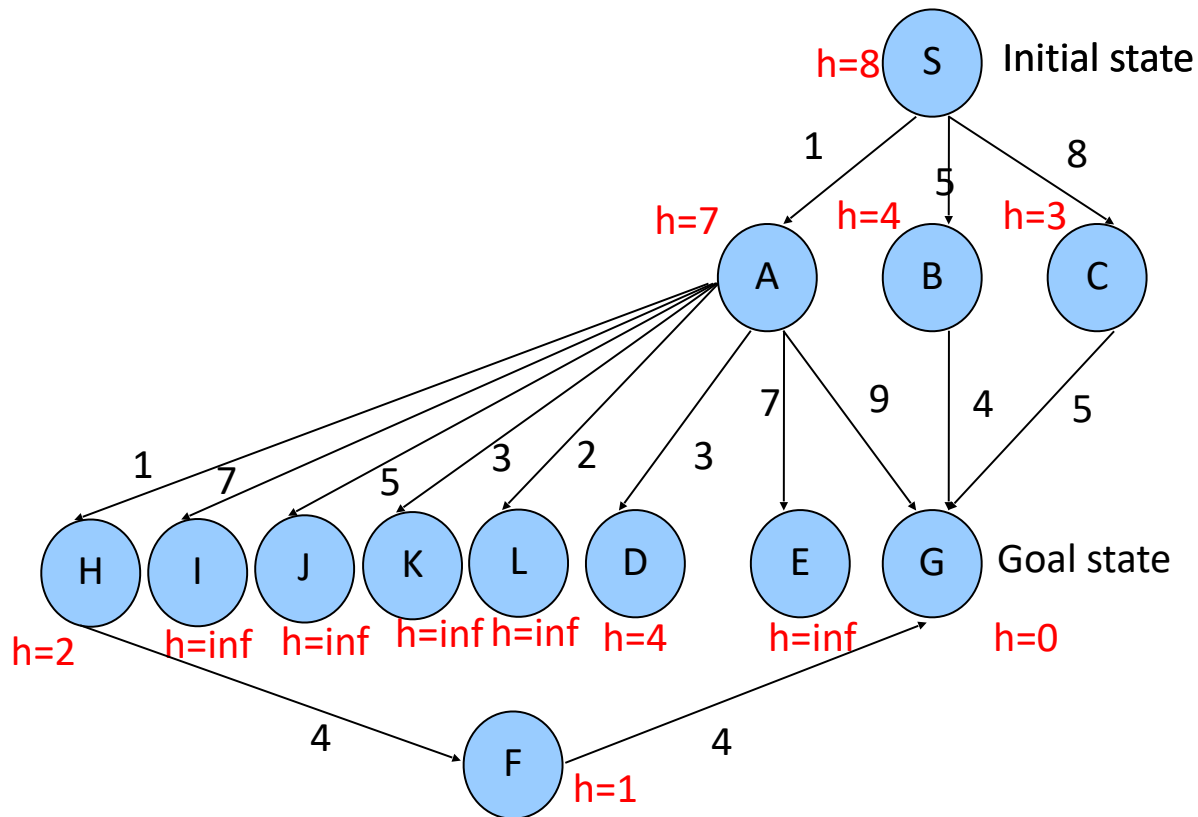
Example for IDA*:



Recap and Examples

Example for IDA*:

Threshold = 8



Recap and Examples

Example for IDA*:

Threshold = 8

PATH PREFIX

-

S

SA

SAH

SAHF

SAD

OPEN

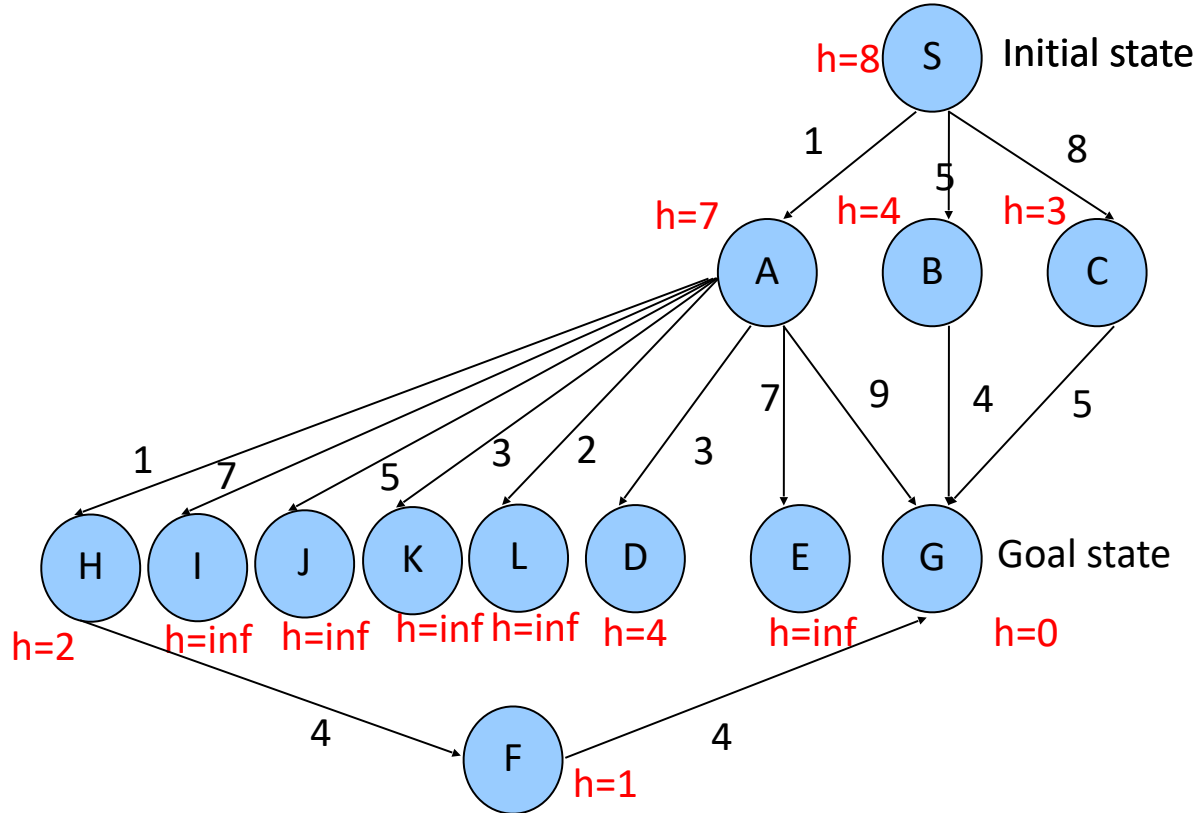
S(0+8)

A(1+7)

H(2+2) D(4+4)

D(4+4) F(6+1)

D(4+4)



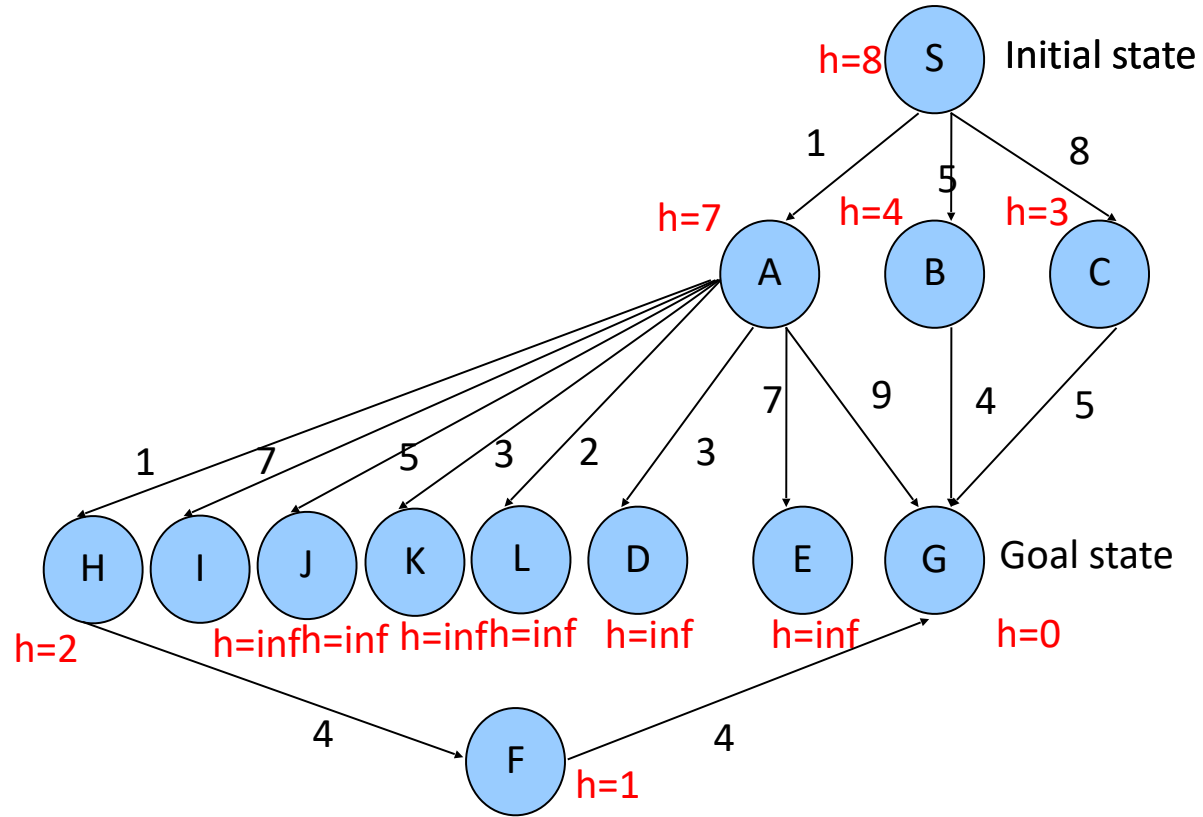
Recap and Examples

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Example for IDA*:

Recap and Examples

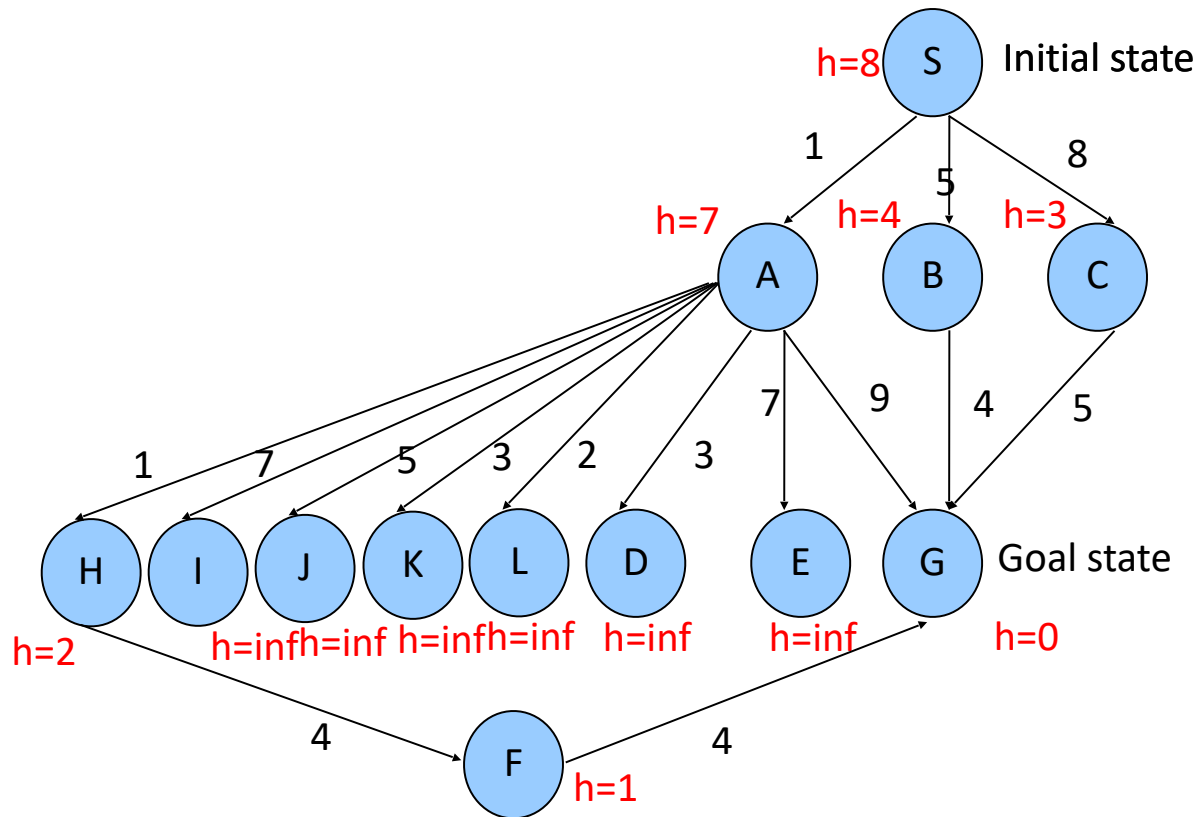
Example for IDA*:



Recap and Examples

Example for IDA*:

Threshold = 9

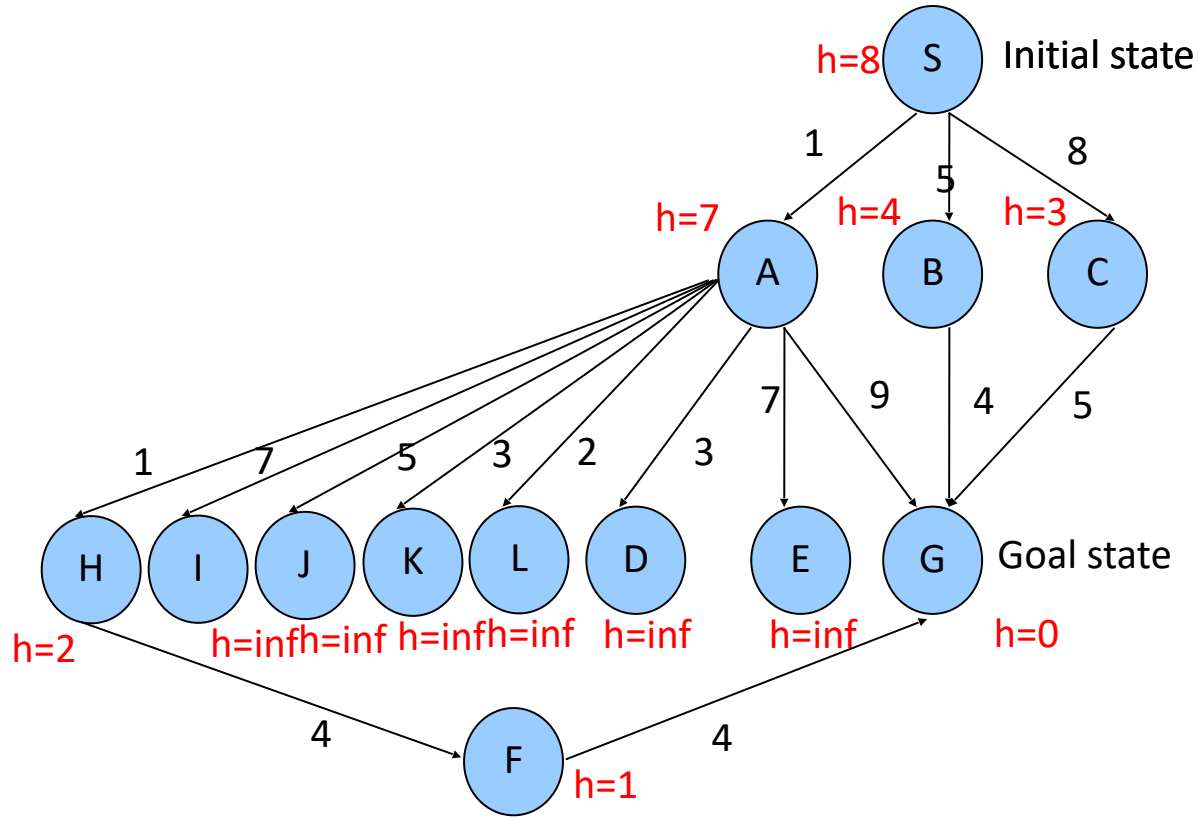


Recap and Examples

Example for IDA*:

Threshold = 9

PREFIX	OPEN
-	S(0+8)
S	A(1+7) B(5+4)
SA	B(5+4) H(2+2) D(4+4)
SAH	B(5+4) D(4+4) F(6+1)
SAHF	B(5+4) D(4+4)
SAD	B(5+4)
SB	G(9+0)
SBG	



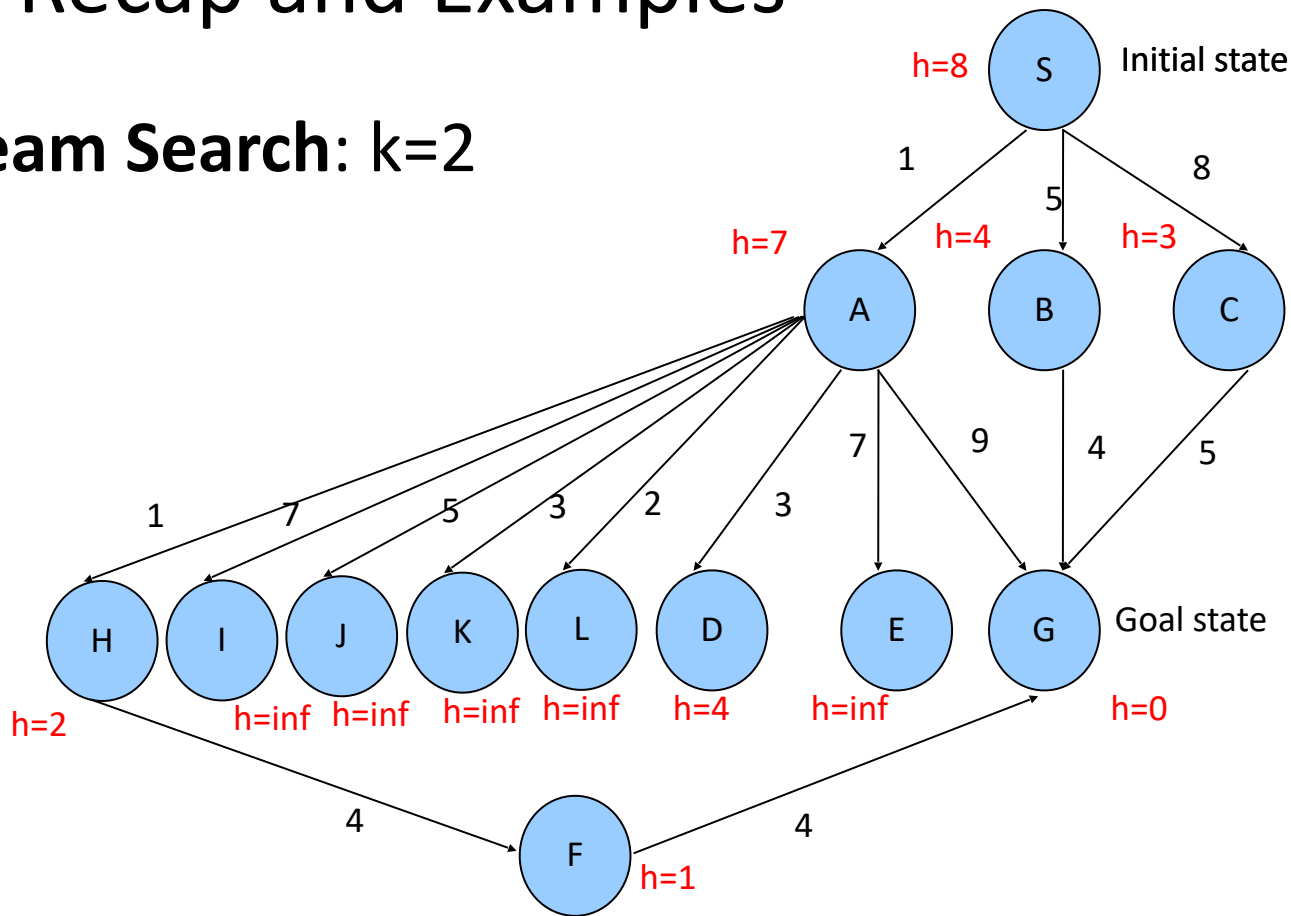
Recap and Examples

Recap and Examples

Example for Beam Search: $k=2$

Recap and Examples

Example for Beam Search: $k=2$



Recap and Examples

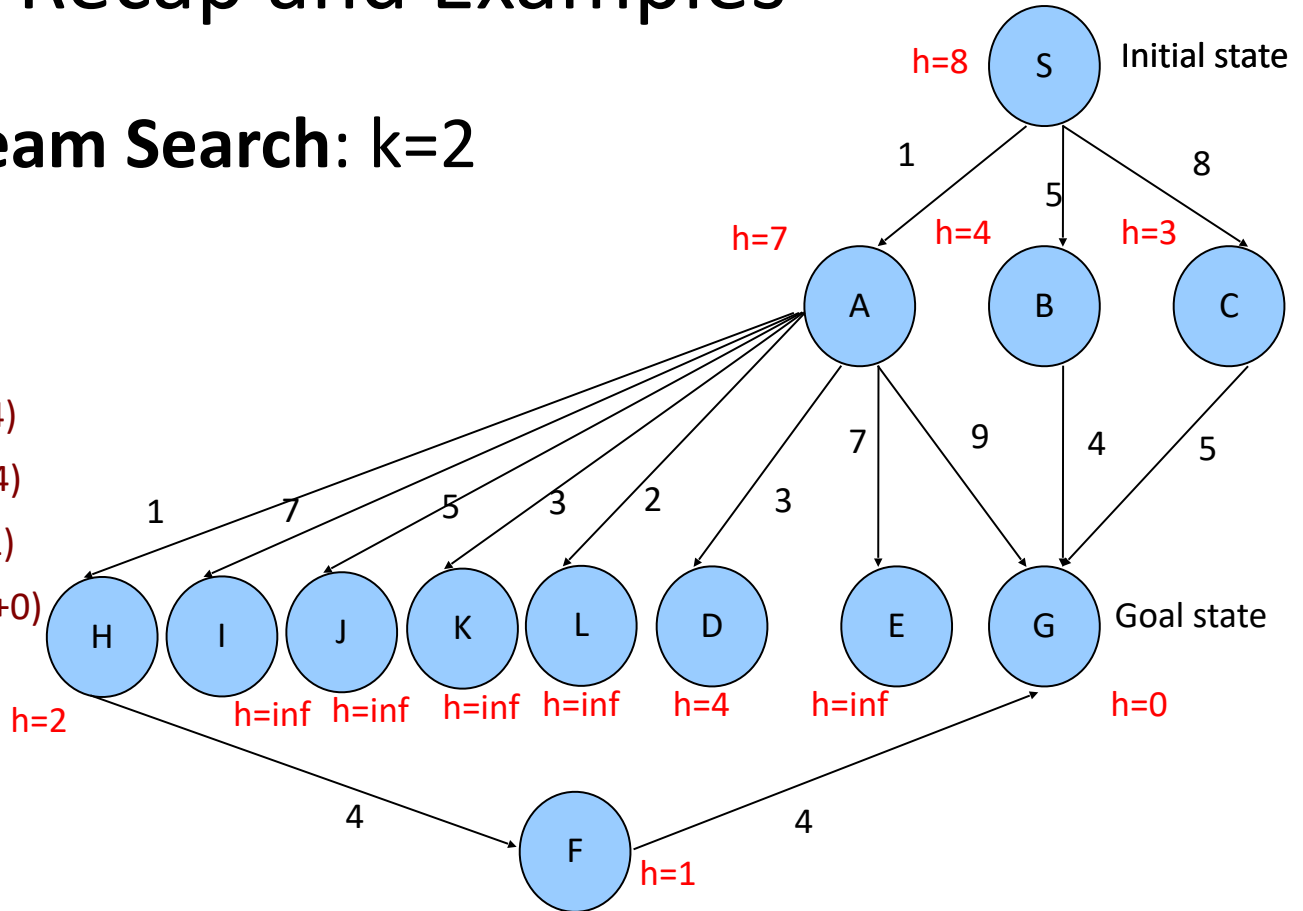
Example for Beam Search: $k=2$

CURRENT

-
S
A
H
F
D
G

OPEN

S(0+8)
A(1+7) B(5+4)
H(2+2) D(4+4)
D(4+4) F(6+1)
D(4+4) G(10+0)
G(10+0)



Recap and Examples

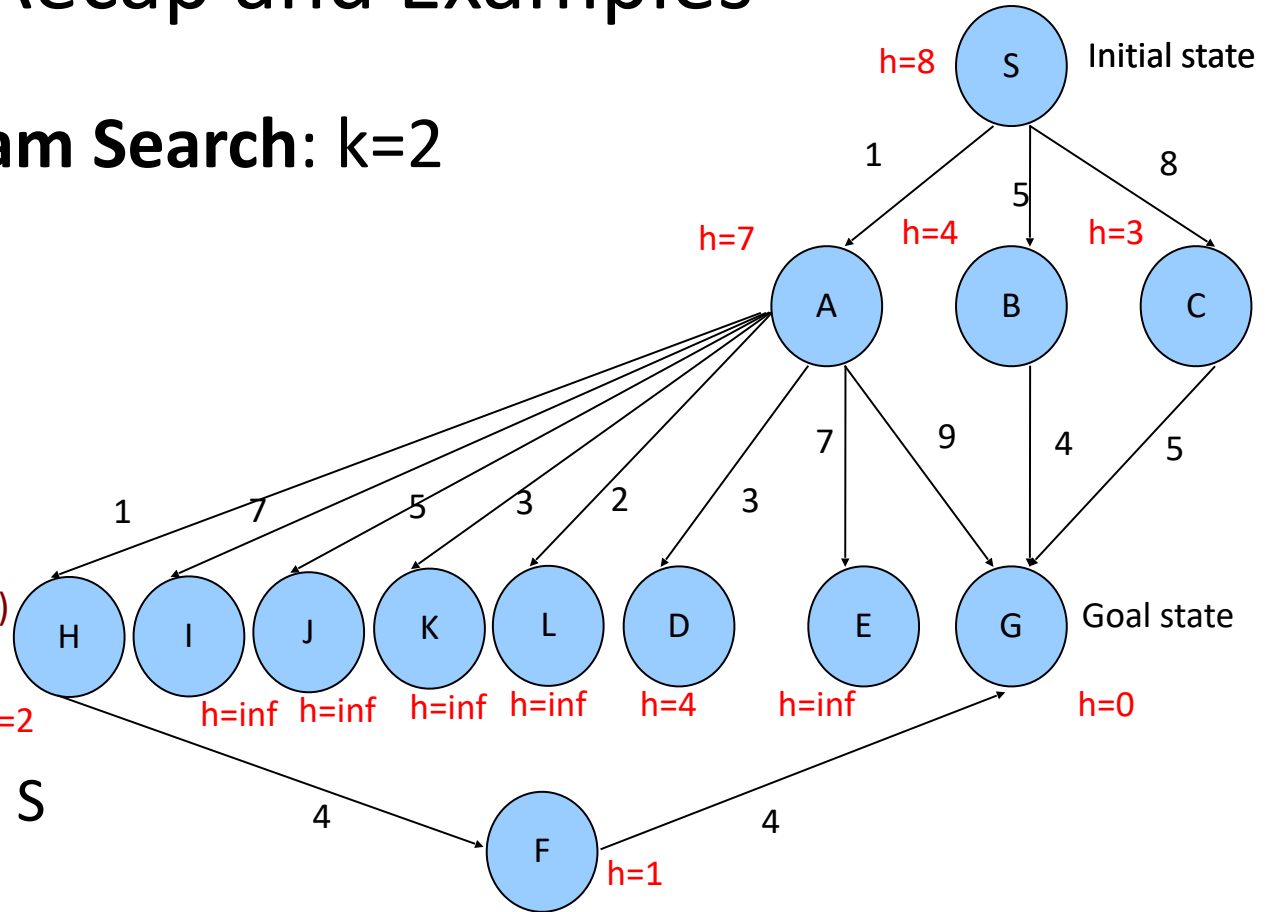
Example for Beam Search: $k=2$

CURRENT

-
S
A
H
F
D
G

OPEN

S(0+8)
A(1+7) B(5+4)
H(2+2) D(4+4)
D(4+4) F(6+1)
D(4+4) G(10+0)
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G → F → H → A → S
Not optimal!

Summary

- Informed search: introduce heuristics
 - Not all approaches work: best-first greedy is bad
- A* algorithm
 - Properties of A*, idea of admissible heuristics
- Beyond A*
 - IDA*, beam search. Ways to deal with space requirements.



Acknowledgements: Adapted from materials by Jerry Zhu
(University of Wisconsin).