CS540 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
Lecture 17

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Learning vs Search

Motivation

- In reinforcement learning, the reward and state transition need to be learned by taking actions.
- In search problems, the reward and state transitions are given.
- The problem is to find a sequence of actions that lead to the goal with minimum cost.

Search Problem Applications

Motivation

- Puzzles and games.
- Navigation: route finding.
- Motion planning.
- Scheduling.

Wolf, Sheep, Cabbage Example

Motivation

Search Problem

Motivation

- State space S is the set of all valid configurations.
- Initial states I and goal states G are subsets of S.
- Successor function $s'(s)$ given the current state s is the set of states reachable in one step from s.
- There is a cost (or negative reward) associated with moving from s to $s'(s)$.
- The search problem is the problem of finding a solution path from a state in I to a state in G, usually with minimum total cost.

State Space

Motivation

- The states need to represent all necessary information about the game.
- The actions are discrete and deterministic and are determined by the successor function.
- Each possible action at state s is associated with a state in the set $s'(s)$.

8 Puzzle Example

Motivation

Sizes of State Space

Motivation

- Tic Tac Toe: 10^3
- Checkers: 10^{20}
- Chess: 10^{50}
- Go: 10^{170}

State Space Graph

Definition

- A state space can be represented by a weighted directed graph (V, E, c).
- V is the set of vertices (also called nodes).
- E is the set of edges (also called arcs). Each edge is directed from one vertex to another vertex and represents an action.
- c is the cost (also called weights) associated with each edge. The costs are positive.

Search Problem on Graph

Definition

- Search starts at an initial state and finishes if one of the goal states is reached.
- The solution is a path in the graph from an initial state to a goal state.
- The cost of a solution is the sum of edge costs on the solution path.
- The optimal solution is the solution with the lowest cost.

Expansion

Definition

- Vertices that are explored so far are stored in a tree called the state space search tree.
- Expanding a vertex means to generate all successor vertices and add them (and the associated edges) to the state space search tree.
- The leaves of the search tree are unexpanded and are called the frontier (sometimes called the fringe).
- The search strategies differ in the order in which the vertices are expanded.

Water Jugs Example

Definition

Performance

Definition

- A search strategy is complete if it finds at least one solution.
- A search strategy is optimal if it finds the optimal solution.
- For uninformed search, the costs are assumed to be 1 for all edges $c = 1$.

Complexity

Definition

- The time complexity of a search strategy is the worst case maximum number of vertices expanded.
- The space complexity of a search strategy is the worst case maximum number of states stored in the frontier at a single time.
- Notation: the goals are d edges away from the initial state. This means assuming a constant cost of 1, the optimal solution has cost d. The maximum depth of the graph is D.
- Notation: the branching factor is b, the maximum number of actions associated with a state.

$$b = \max_{s \in V} \left| s' \left(s \right) \right|$$

Search Tree Diagram

Definition

Breadth First Search

Description

- Use Queue (FIFO) for the frontier.
- Remove from the front, add to the back.

Maze BFS Example

Definition

BFS Simple Example

Quiz

Breadth First Search

Algorithm

- Input: a weighted digraph (V, E, c), initial states I and goal states G.
- Output: a path from I to G.
- EnQueue initial states.

$$Q = I$$

- While Q is not empty and goal is not deQueued, deQueue Q and enQueue its successors.

$$s = Q_0$$
$$Q = Q + s'(s)$$

Breadth First Search Performance

Discussion

- BFS is complete.
- BFS is optimal with $c = 1$.

Breadth First Search Complexity

Discussion

- Time complexity: the worst case occurs when the goal is the last vertex at depth d.

$$T = b + b^2 + ... + b^d$$

- Space complexity: the worst case is storing all vertices at depth d is in the frontier.

$$S = b^d$$

BiDirectional Search

Discussion

- BFS from the initial states and goal states at the same time.
- The search stops when the two frontiers meet (have non-empty intersection) in the middle.
- The time and space complexity is the same as BFS with depth $\frac{d}{2}$.

Depth First Search

Description

- Use Stack (LIFO) for the frontier.
- Remove from the front, add to the front.

Maze DFS Example

Definition

DFS Simple Example

Quiz

Depth First Search

Algorithm

- Input: a weighted digraph (V, E, c), initial states I and goal states G.
- Output: a path from I to G.
- Push initial states.

$$S = I$$

- While S is not empty and goal is not popped, pop S and push its successors.

$$s = S_0$$
$$S = s'(s) + S$$

Depth First Search Performance

Discussion

- DFS is incomplete if $D = \infty$.
- DFS is not optimal.

Depth First Search Complexity

Discussion

- Time complexity: the worst case occurs when the goal is the root of the last subtree expanded in the whole graph.

$$T = b^{D-d+1} \ldots + b^{D-1} + b^{D}$$

- Space complexity: the worst case is storing all vertices sharing the parents with vertices in the current path.

$$S = (b-1)\,D + 1$$

Iterative Deepening Search

Description

- DFS but stop if path length > 1
- repeat DFS but stop if path length > 2
- ...
- repeat DFS but stop if path length $> d$

Maze IDS Example

Definition

IDS Simple Example

Quiz

Iterative Deepening Search

Algorithm

- Input: a weighted digraph (V, E, c), initial states I and goal states G.
- Output: a path from I to G.
- Perform DFS on the digraph restricted to vertices with depth $\leqslant 1$ from the initial state.
- Perform DFS on the digraph restricted to vertices with depth $\leqslant 2$ from the initial state.
- Repeat until the goal is deQueued.

Iterative Deepening Search Performance

Discussion

- IDS is complete.
- IDS is optimal with $c = 1$.

Iterative Deepening Search Complexity

Discussion

- Time complexity: the worst case occurs when the goal is the last vertex at depth d.

$$T = db + (d-1)\,b^2 + \ldots + 3b^{d-2} + 2b^{d-1} + 1b^d$$

- Space complexity: it has the same space complexity as DFS.

$$S = (b-1)\,d$$

Non-Tree Search

Discussion

- If the state space is not a tree, search strategies need to remember the states that are already expanded.
- A vertex should be removed from the frontier if it is already expanded.

Configuration Space

Discussion

Uniformed vs Informed Search

Discussion

- Uninformed search means only the goal G and the successor function s' are given.
- Informed search means which non-goal states are better is also known.
- Usually, iterative deepening is used for uninformed search.