
CS 232:
Artificial Intelligence

Spring 2024

Prof. Carolyn Anderson
Wellesley College

ASK ME ANYTHING



TUES JAN 30 | 3:30-4:30 | HCI LAB
with CS department co-chairs Orit and Sohie

ask a question here...

Fruit and dessert will be provided, so come ask Orit
and Sohie your burning questions.
ALL students are welcome!!

Reminders

- ◆ Homework 2 will be released today
- ◆ Lepei has help hours Wednesday 12-2pm (Zoom)
- ◆ I have help hours Friday from 3:30-4:30pm
- ◆ Reading for next Tuesday: YLLATAILY Chapter 3-4

YLLATAILY Chapters 1-2

YLLATAILY Chapters 1-2

Signs of AI Doom

- * Learning from Flawed Data
- * The Problem is Too Hard
- * Sneaky Shortcuts
- * The Problem is Not What We Thought

Example Tasks

- ◆ Self-driving cars
 - bias in person detection
 - flawed data
 - problem is too hard
- ◆ Recipe generation
 - flawed data
 - taking shortcuts
 - Num to evaluate
- ◆ Résumé screening
 - problem is too hard
- ◆ Cockroach farming
- ◆ Tic-tac-toe
 - sneaky shortcuts
- ◆ Image recognition
 - agent versus environment
 - sneaky shortcuts & flawed data
- ◆ Joke generation
 - problem is too hard
- ◆ Super Mario
- ◆ Writing news articles

Big Ideas

Rule-based programming

- ◆ Pro: we understand the rules the program is using
- ◆ Con: we have to write the rules

Supervised learning

- ◆ Pro: AI generates its own rules
- ◆ Con: hard to understand *why* it's doing what it's doing

Big Ideas

AI Weaknesses

- ◆ Remembering things
- ◆ Planning ahead
- ◆ Data- and computation-intensive

Recap

Agent Complexity

Problem-solving agent: capable of considering a sequence of actions that form a path to a goal state (planning ahead).



if I wail, the human
might refill my bowl.
then I can eat more.

Formal Definition

1. **States:** a set S

2. An **initial state** $s_i \in S$

3. **Actions:** a set A

$\forall s$ **Actions**(s) = the set of actions that can be executed in s , that are **applicable** in s .

4. **Transition Model:** $\forall s \forall a \in \text{Actions}(s) \text{Result}(s, a) \rightarrow s_r$

s_r is called a **successor** of s

$\{s_i\} \cup \text{Successors}(s_i)^* = \text{state space}$

5. **Path cost** (Performance Measure): Must be additive, e.g. sum of distances, number of actions executed, ...

$c(x, a, y)$ is the step cost, assumed ≥ 0

- (where action a goes from state x to state y)

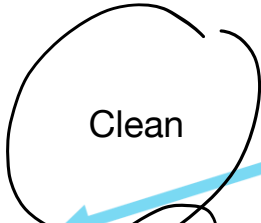
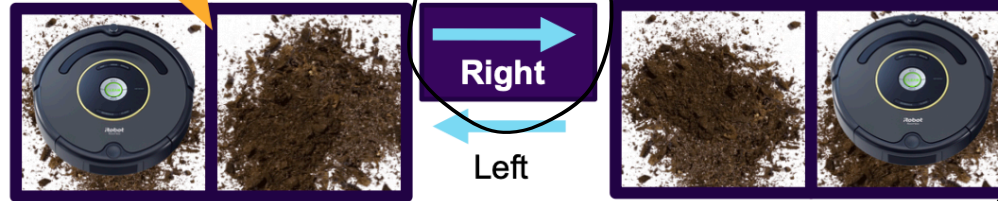
6. **Goal test:** $\text{Goal}(s)$

Can be implicit, e.g. **checkmate**(s)

s is a **goal state** if $\text{Goal}(s)$ is true

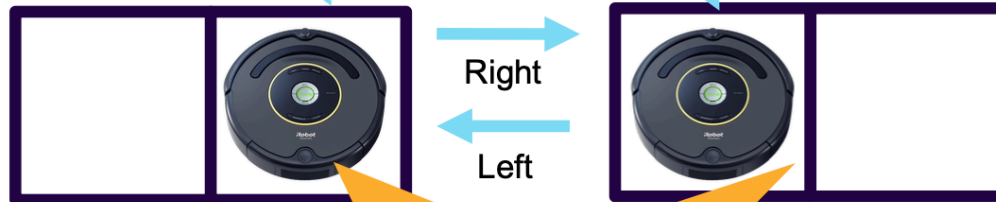
Vacuum World

Initial state



Solution:

A path from the initial state to a goal state



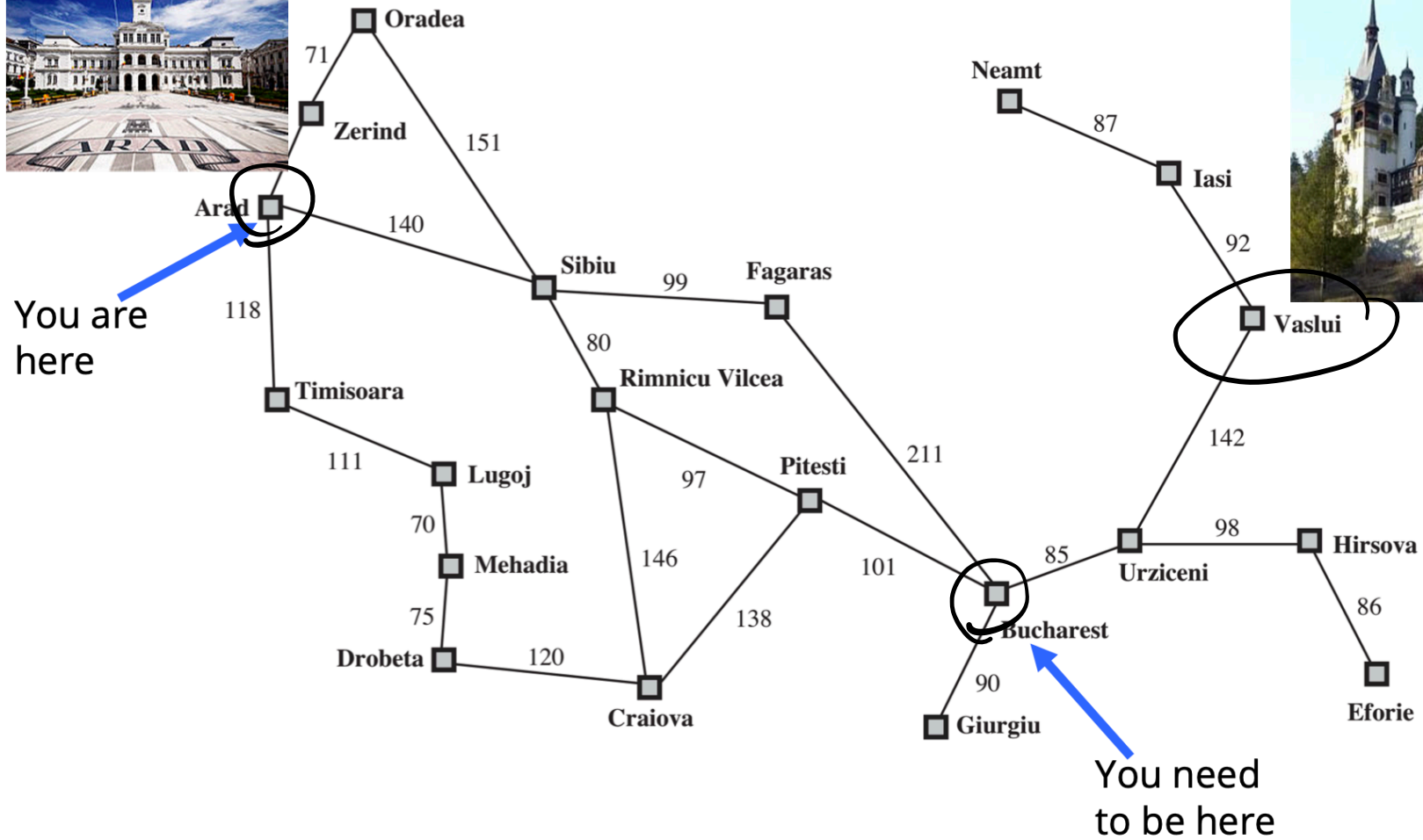
Goal states

Evaluating Solvers

- ♦ **Completeness:** Is the algorithm guaranteed to find a solution when there is one?
- ♦ **Optimality:** Does the strategy find the optimal solution?
- ♦ **Time complexity:** How long does it take to find a solution?
- ♦ **Space complexity:** How much memory is needed to perform the search?

Search

Example search problem: Holiday in Romania



Holiday in Romania

On holiday in Romania; currently in Arad

- Flight leaves tomorrow from Bucharest

Formulate *goal*

- Reach Bucharest

Formulate *search problem*

- States : different cities
- Actions : moving between cities
- Performance / cost : minimize distance
measure

Find *solution*

- Sequence of cities starting in Arad & ending in Bucharest

Example search problem: 8-puzzle

Formulate *goal*

- Arrange the tiles as shown in goal state

7	2	4
5		6
8	3	1

Start State

	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

Goal State

Formulate *search problem*

- States : an arrangement of the board
- Actions : left, up, right, down for a given tile
- Cost : # of moves

Find *solution*

List of different moves to take from start to goal
3 up, 8 right, ...

Search Algorithms

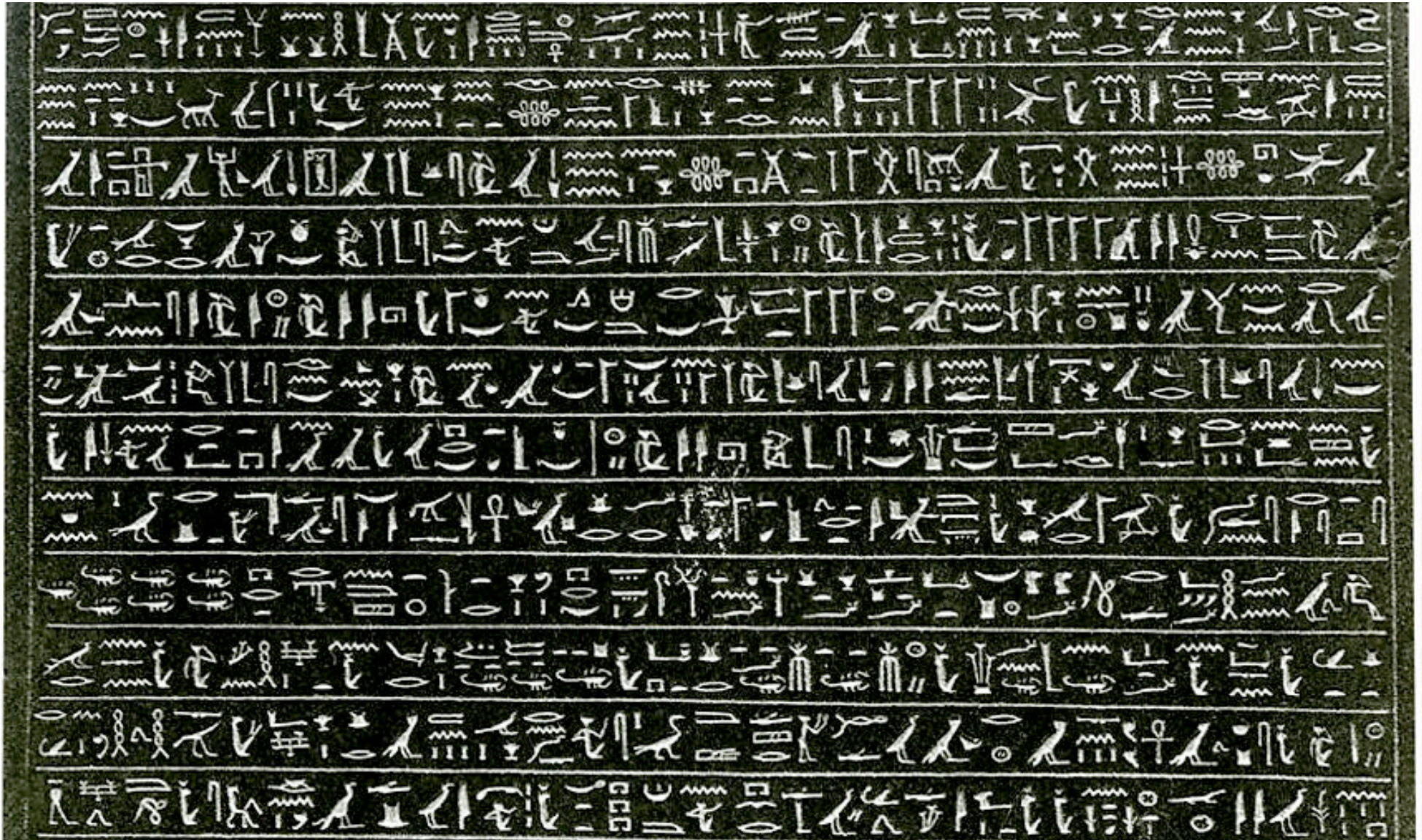
Backtracking Search

One of the simplest search strategies for puzzle-solving is **backtracking search**.

In backtracking search, we make a guess to eliminate possibilities (narrow the search space).

If we run into a logical inconsistency, we **backtrack** (undo our guess) and try out a different guess.

Backtracking Search Application



Magical Stela (Cippus of Horus), Metropolitan Museum of Art

Backtracking Search Application

EARTH AND SATURN SPIN

