







## Search problems

Where to start

Where to finish (goal)

What the "world" (in this case a maze) looks like $\square$ We'll define the world as a collection of discrete states
$\square$ States are connected if we can get from one state to another by taking a particular action
$\square$ This is called the "state space"

State space example





## Search algorithm

Keep track of a list of states that we could visit, we'll call it "to_visit"

## General idea:

$\square$ take a state off the to_visit list
$\square$ if it's the goal state

- we're done!
$\square$ if it's not the goal state
- Add all of the successive states to the to_visit list
- repeat







| Search algorithms |
| :---: |
| add the start state to to_visit |
| Repeat |
| $\square$ take a state off the to_visit list |
| $\square$ if it's the goal state |
| if it's not the goal state <br> - Add all of the successive states to the to _visit list |
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## N -queens problem

Place N queens on an N by N chess board such that none of the N queens are attacking any other queen.


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How do we solve this with search:

What is a state?

What is the start state?

What is the goal?

How do we transition from one state to the next?

## Search algorithm

add the start state to to_visit

## Repeat

- take a state off the to_visit list
- if it's the goal state is this a goal state? ■ we're done!
- if it's not the goal state What states can I get to from the current state? - Add all of the successive states to the to _visit list

Any problem that we can define these three things can be plugged into the search algorithm!


