



# Graph Traversals

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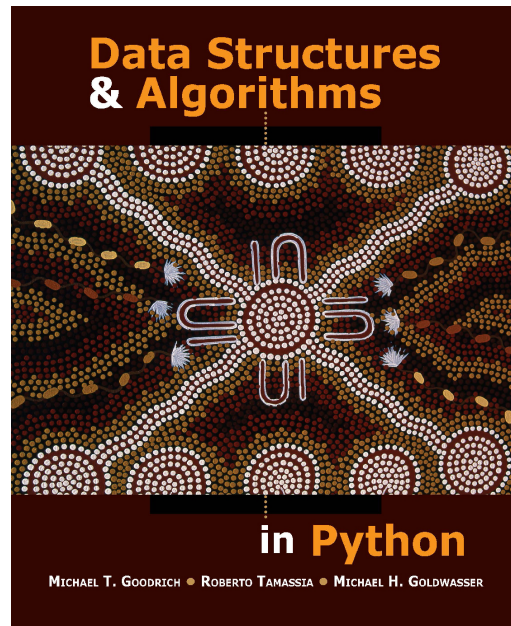
**Data Structures and Algorithms for CL III, WS 2019-2020**

**Corina Dima**

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# Data Structures & Algorithms in Python

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ROBERTO TAMASSIA  
MICHAEL GOLDWASSER



## 14.3 Graph Traversals

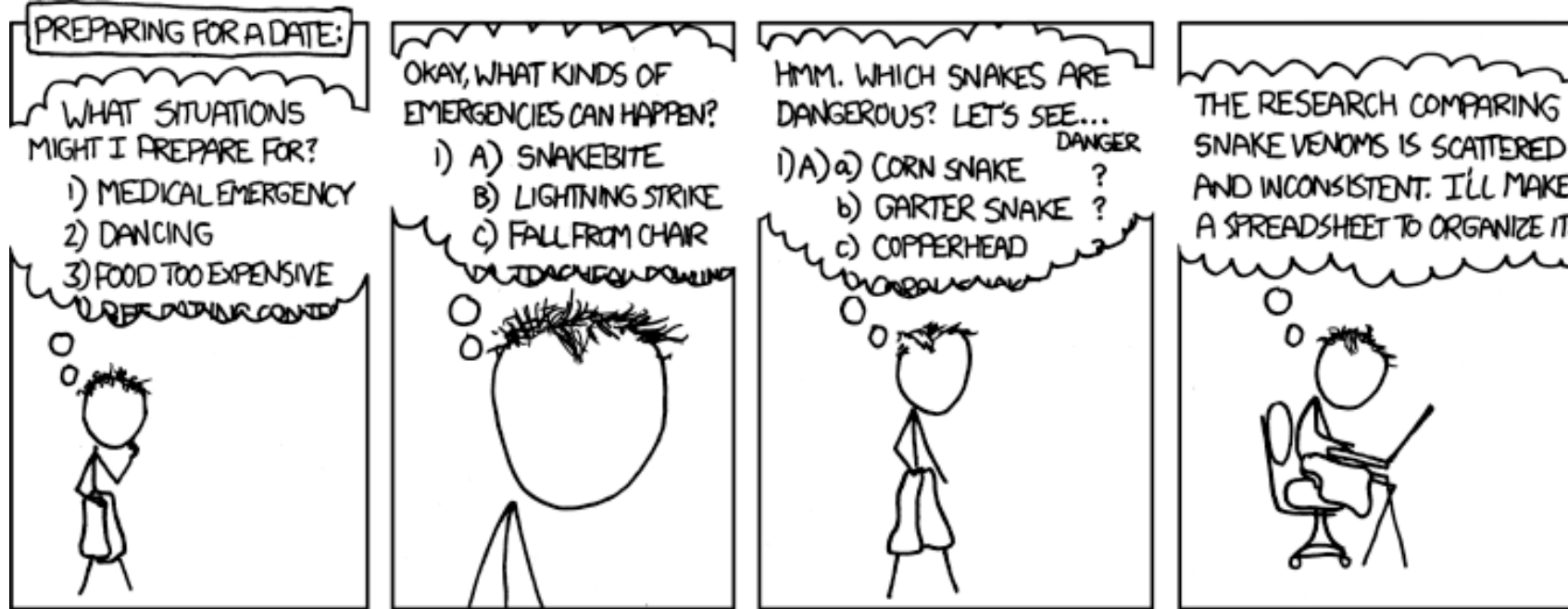
- ❖ Depth-First Search
- ❖ DFS Implementation and Extensions
- ❖ Breadth-First Search



# Graph Traversals

- Formally, a **traversal** is a systematic procedure for exploring a graph by examining all of its vertices and edges
- A traversal is **efficient** if it visits all the vertices and edges in time proportional to their number – i.e. in linear time
- Graph traversal algorithms can answer many questions involving **reachability** in an undirected graph  $G$ :
  - Compute a **path from a vertex  $u$  to a vertex  $v$** , or report that such a path does not exist
  - Given a start vertex  $s$  from  $G$ , compute, for every vertex  $v$  of  $G$ , a **path with minimum number of edges** between  $s$  and  $v$ , or report that no such path exists
  - Test whether  $G$  is a **connected graph**
  - Compute a **spanning tree of  $G$** , if  $G$  is connected
  - Compute the **connected components** of  $G$
  - Compute a **cycle** in  $G$ , or report that  $G$  has no cycles

# Depth-First Search



<https://xkcd.com/761/>

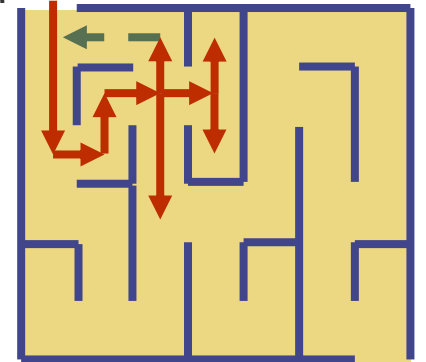
[https://www.explainxkcd.com/wiki/index.php/761:\\_DFS](https://www.explainxkcd.com/wiki/index.php/761:_DFS)



I REALLY NEED TO STOP USING DEPTH-FIRST SEARCHES.

# Depth-First Search: Intuition

- Imagine wandering through a labyrinth with a string and a can of paint without getting lost; each intersection is a vertex
- We begin with a specific **starting vertex  $s$  of  $G$** , and initialize it by tying the string and painting  $s$  as *visited* –  $s$  is now our current vertex, call it  $u$
- Traverse  $G$  by considering an arbitrary edge  $(u, v)$  incident to the current vertex  $u$ 
  - If  $(u, v)$  leads to a *visited* vertex  $v$  ( $v$  is painted), then ignore edge
  - If  $(u, v)$  leads to an unvisited vertex  $v$ , then unroll the string, go to  $v$ , paint  $v$  as visited, make it the current vertex, and continue the process with the edges incident to  $v$
- Will eventually hit a dead end: a current vertex  $v$  where all the incident edges lead to visited vertices; then roll string back up, **backtrack to the edge that brought us to  $v$**  – go back to  $u$ , and continue with visiting  $u$
- Finish when backtracking leads back to  $s$  and there are no more edges of  $s$  to explore



## Depth-First Search - Edges

- The DFS traversal identifies the **depth-first search tree rooted at the starting vertex  $s$**
- Whenever an edge  $e = (u, v)$  is used to discover a new vertex during the execution of DFS, the edge is known as a **discovery edge** or a **tree edge**
- All other edges from the DFS traversal are called **nontree edges**, which lead to already visited vertices
- In an undirected graph *explored nontree edges* connect the current vertex to one of its ancestors in the DFS tree – they are called **back edges**.

# Depth-First Search - Algorithm

**Algorithm** DFS( $G, u$ ):        { We assume  $u$  has already been marked as visited }

**Input:** A graph  $G$  and a vertex  $u$  of  $G$

**Output:** A collection of vertices reachable from  $u$ , with their discovery edges

**for** each outgoing edge  $e = (u, v)$  of  $u$  **do**

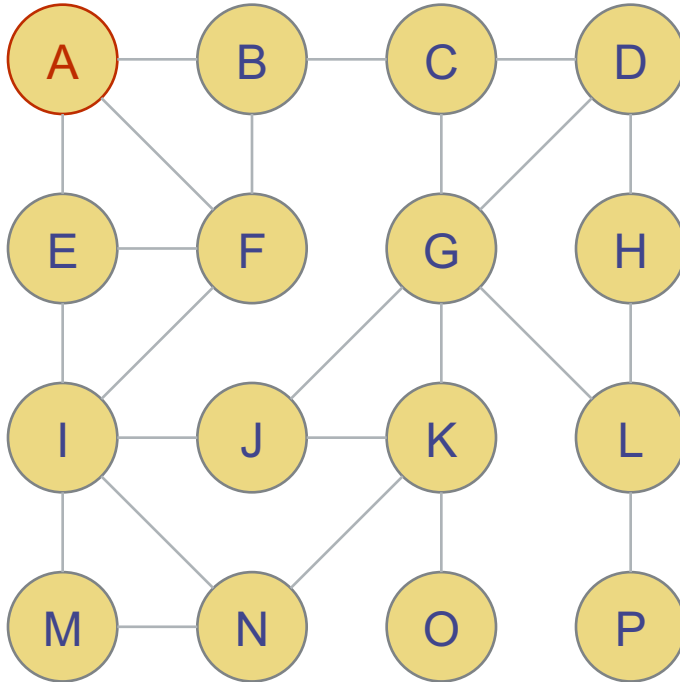
**if** vertex  $v$  has not been visited **then**

        Mark vertex  $v$  as visited (via edge  $e$ ).

        Recursively call DFS( $G, v$ ).



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None

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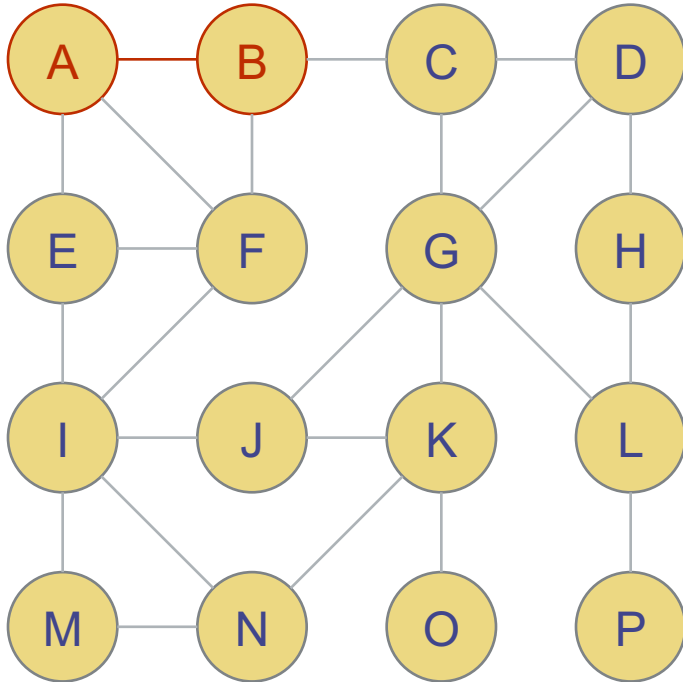
Current vertex: A

Edges to consider: to B, E, F

- Start from vertex A, which is marked as visited (red)
- Assume that the edges adjacent to a vertex are considered in alphabetical order – e.g. for A: B, E, F



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



- Consider the edge that leads to B
- B is not visited – mark B as visited
- Mark (A,B) as a discovery edge
- Make B the current vertex

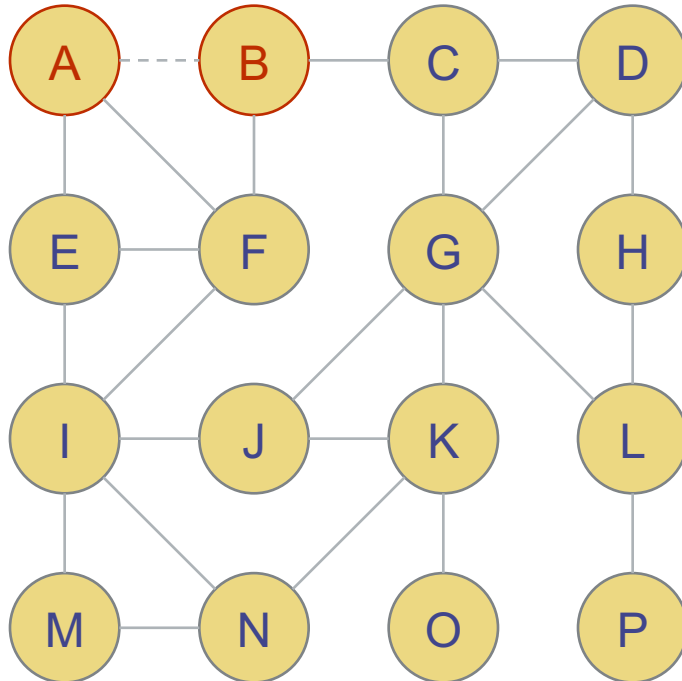
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)

Current vertex: A

Edges to consider: to E, F



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



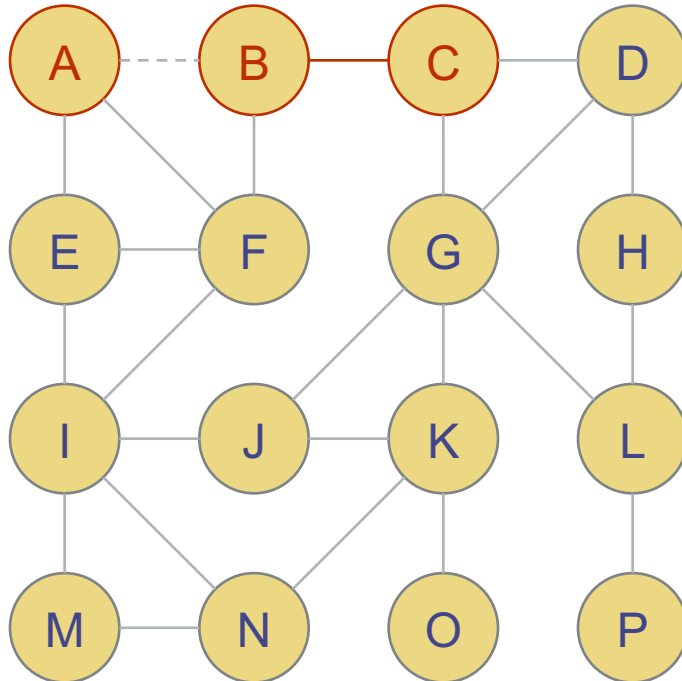
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)

Current vertex: B

Edges to consider: to A, C, F



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



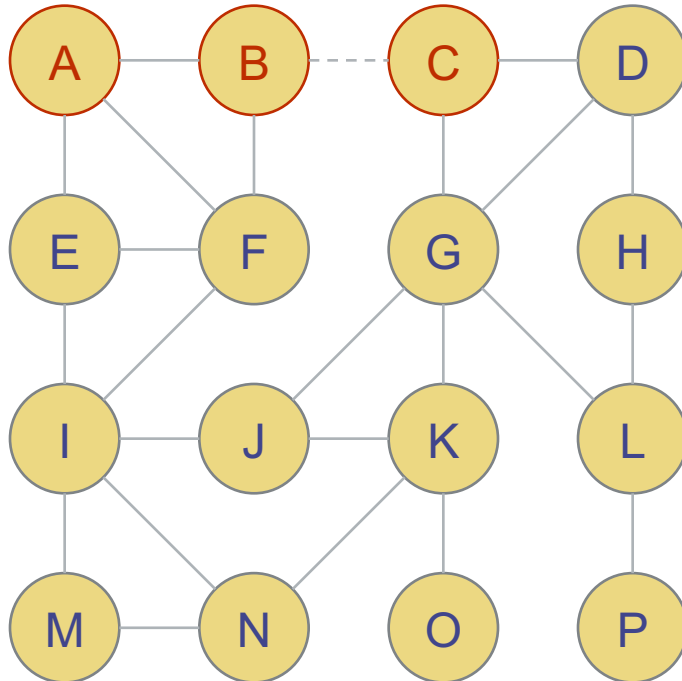
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)

Current vertex: B

Edges to consider: to C, F



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



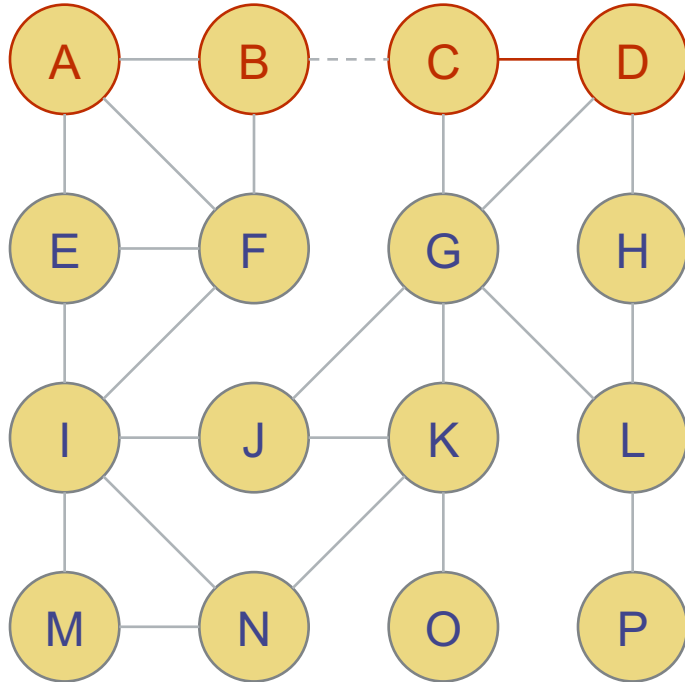
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)

Current vertex: C

Edges to consider: to B, D, G



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



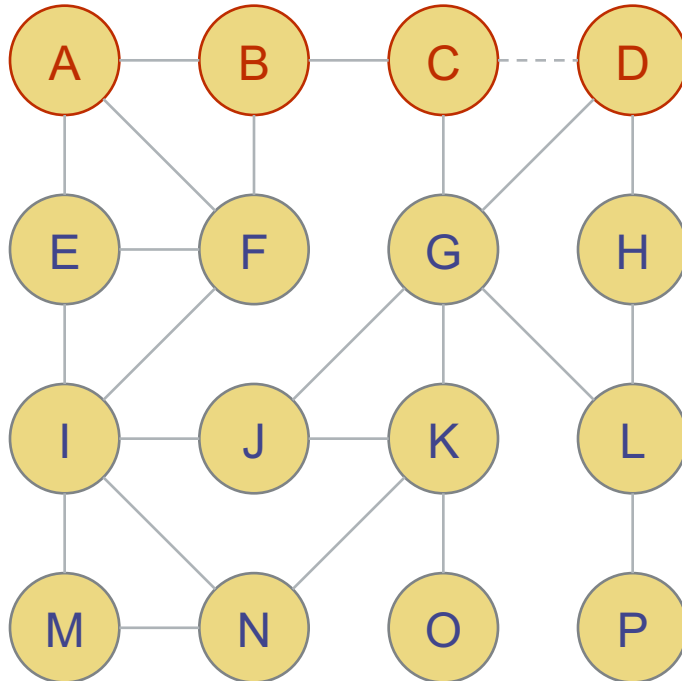
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)

Current vertex: C

Edges to consider: to D, G



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



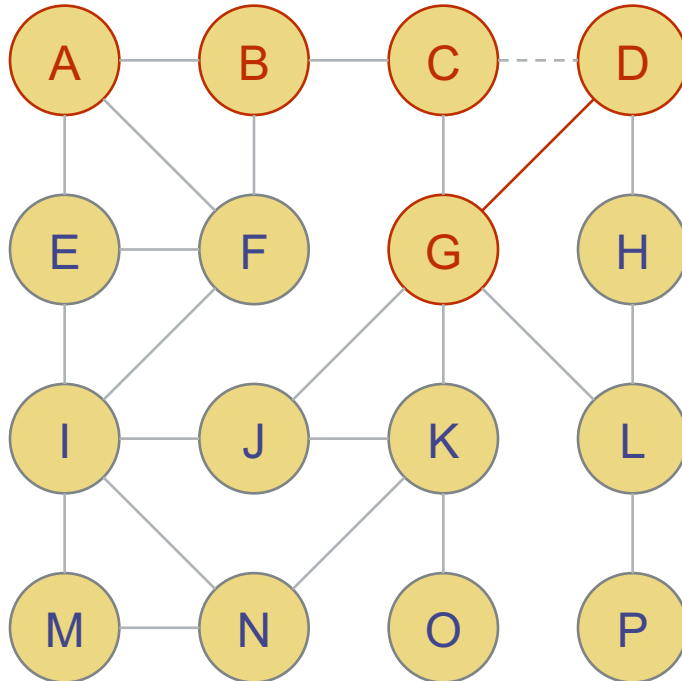
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)

Current vertex: D

Edges to consider: to C, G, H



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)

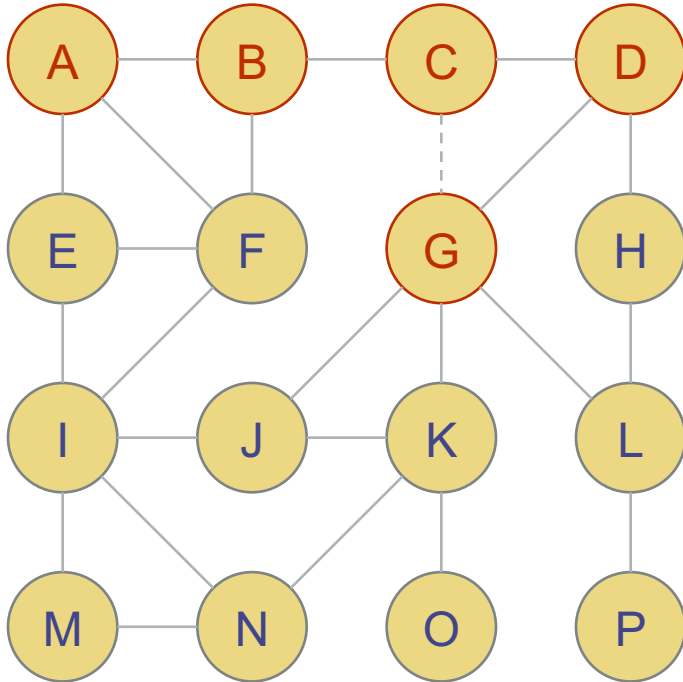
Current vertex: D

Edges to consider: to G, H





# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



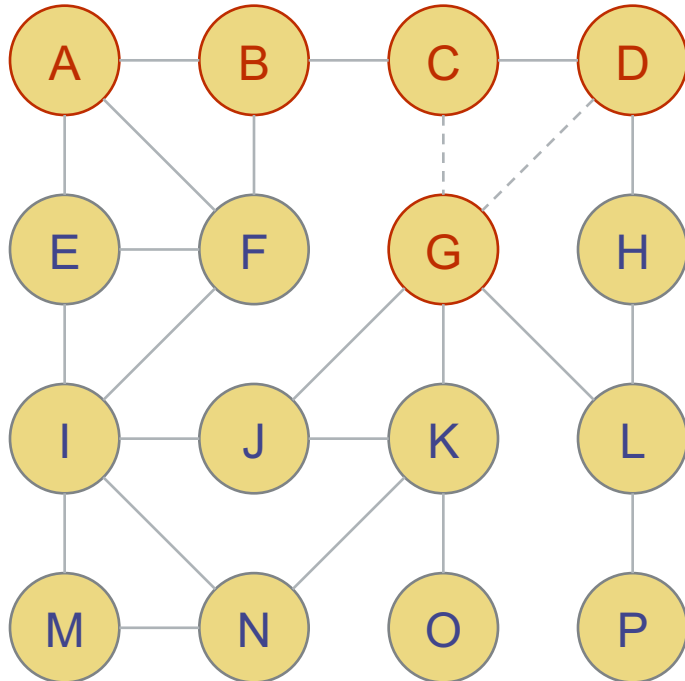
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)

Current vertex: G

Edges to consider: to C, D, J, K, L



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



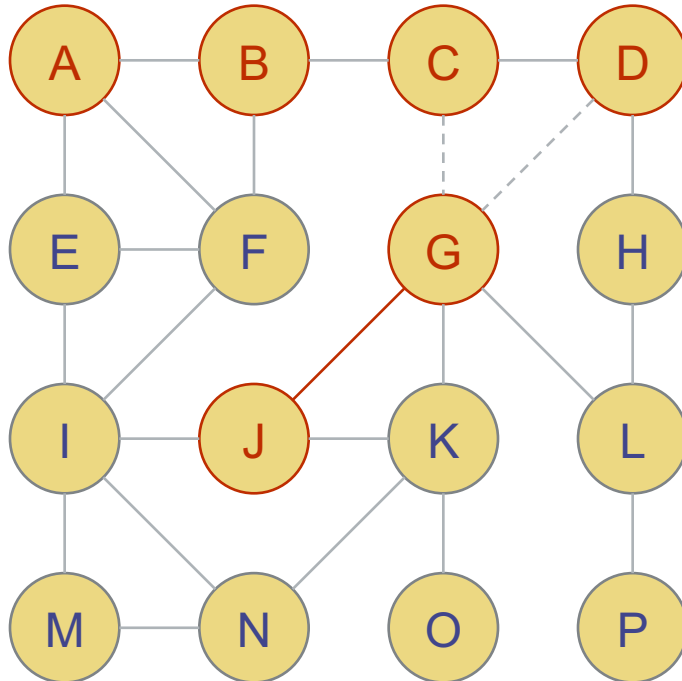
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)

Current vertex: G

Edges to consider: to D, J, K, L



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



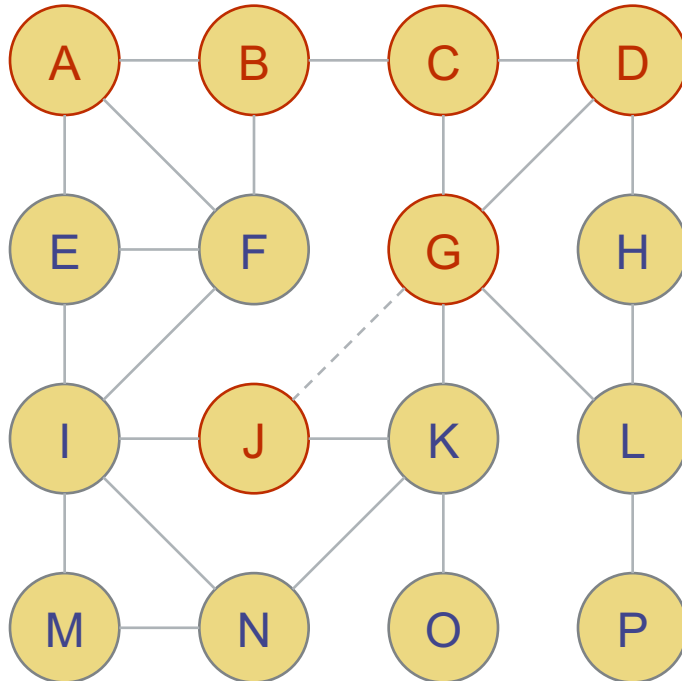
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)

Current vertex: G

Edges to consider: to J, K, L



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



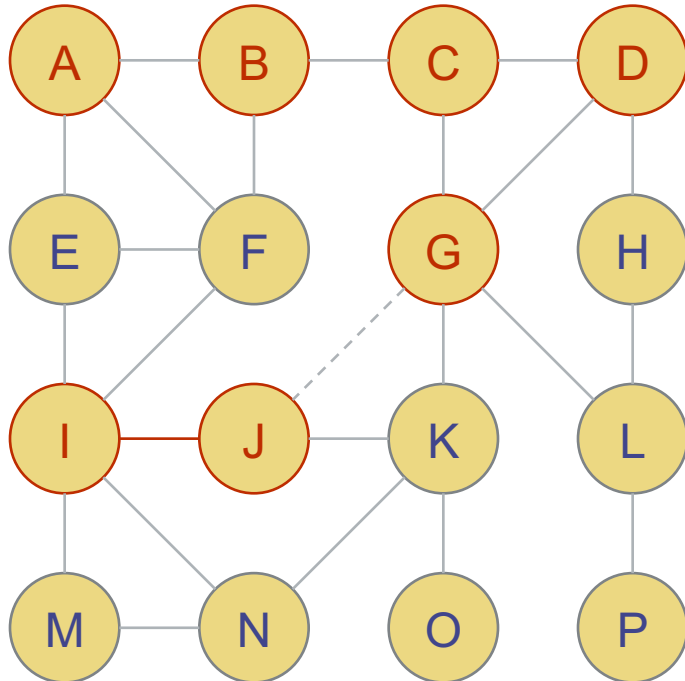
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)

Current vertex: J

Edges to consider: to G, I, K



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



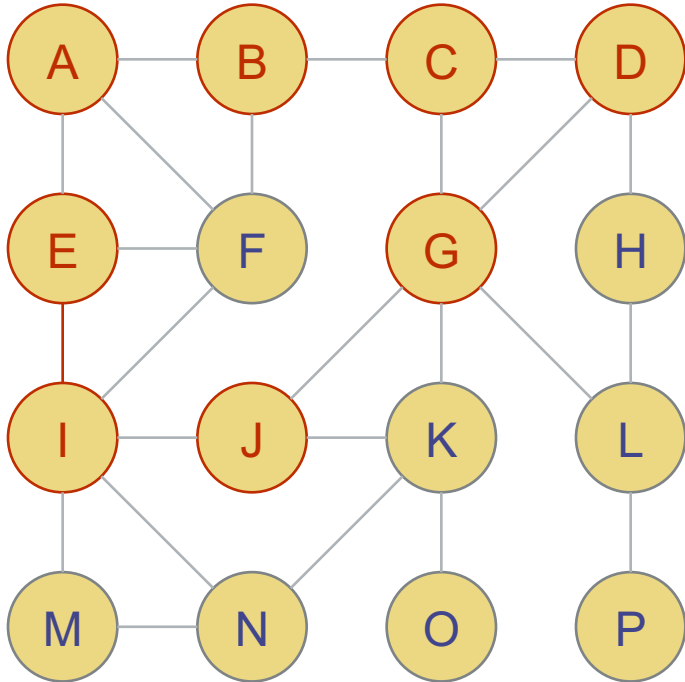
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)

Current vertex: J

Edges to consider: to I, K



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



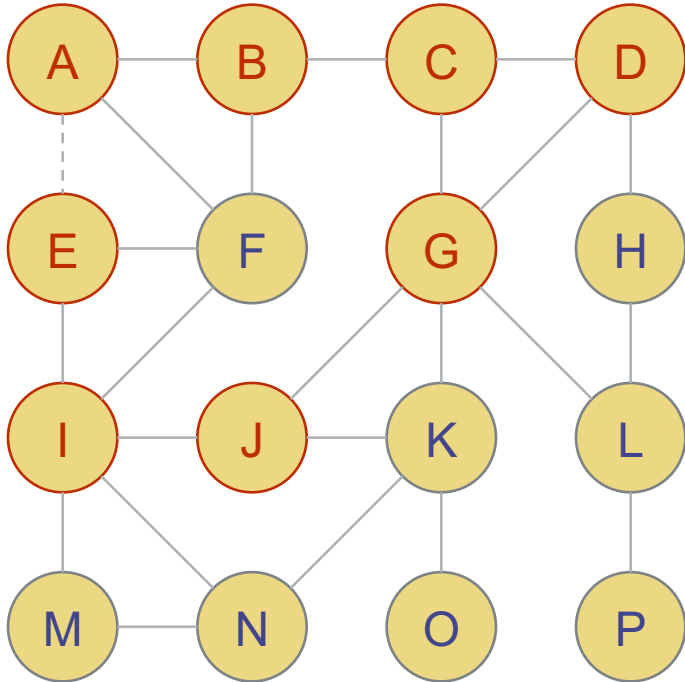
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)

Current vertex: I

Edges to consider: to E,F,J,M,N



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



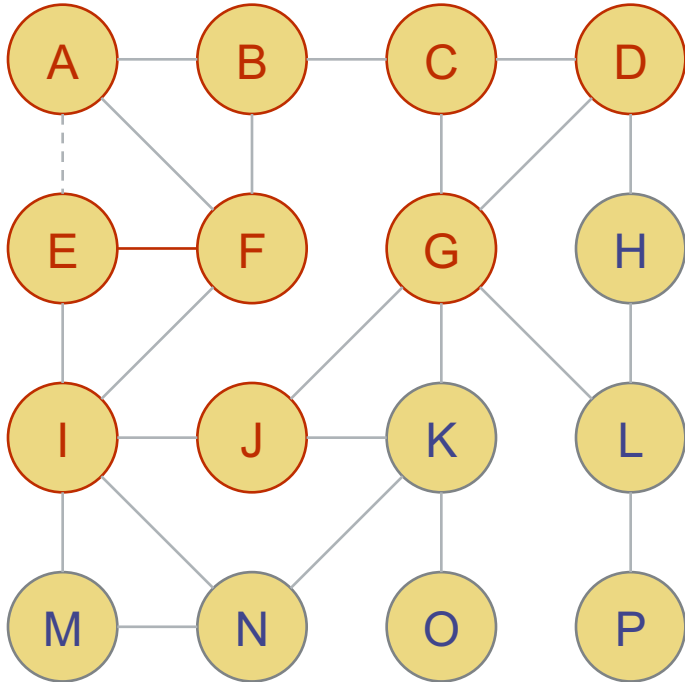
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)

Current vertex: E

Edges to consider: to A, F, I



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

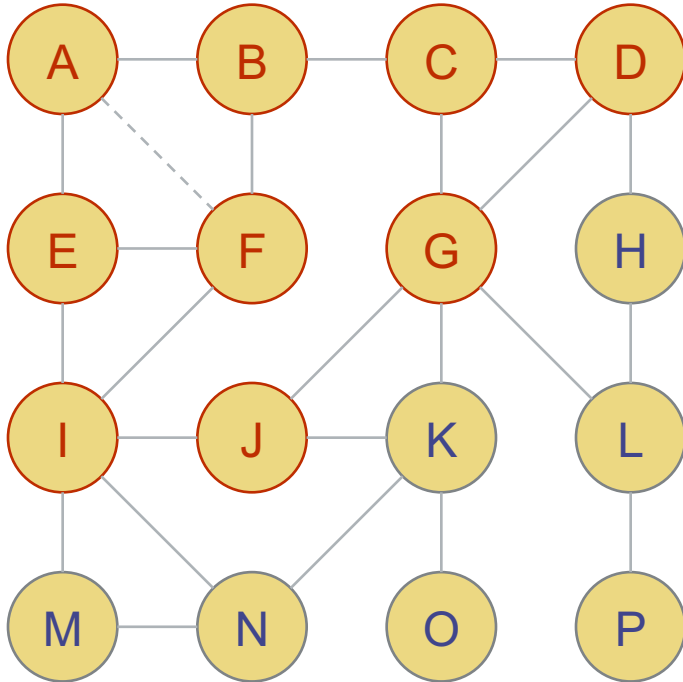
Current vertex: E

Edges to consider: to F, I





# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



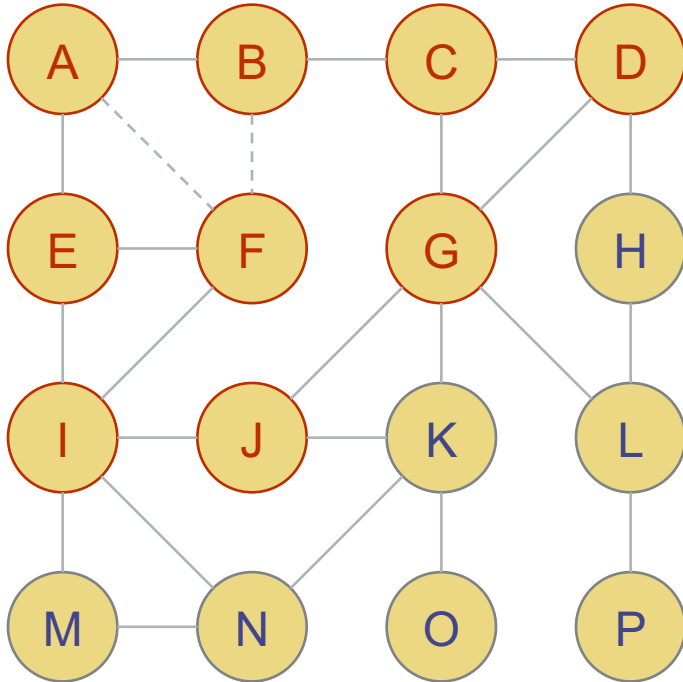
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

Current vertex: F

Edges to consider: to A, B, E, I



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



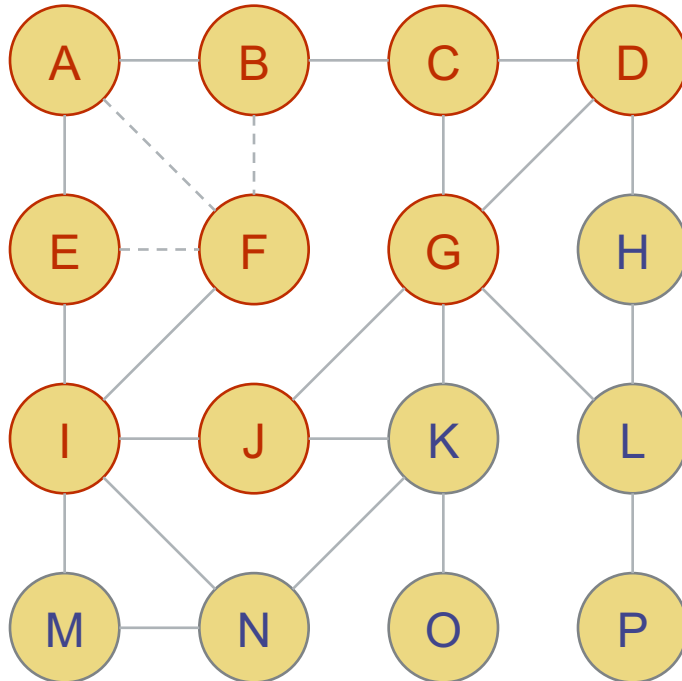
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

Current vertex: F

Edges to consider: to B, E, I



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



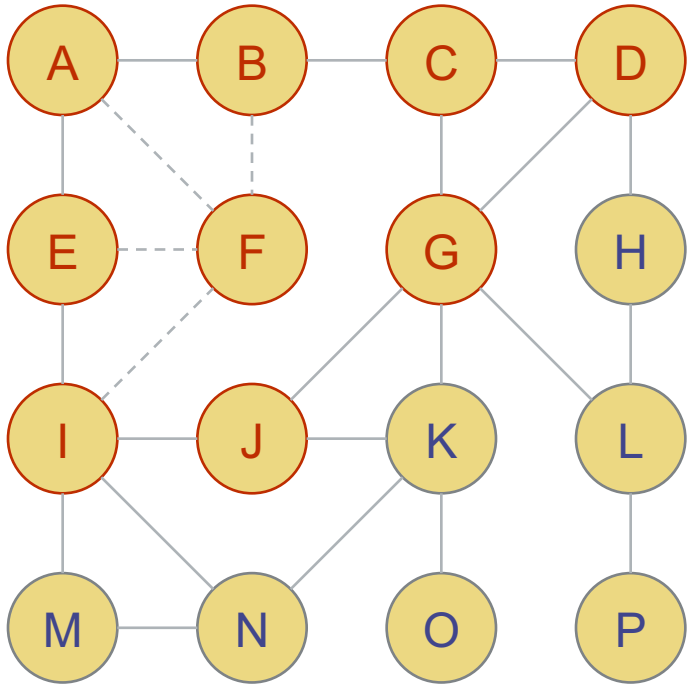
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

Current vertex: F

Edges to consider: to E, I



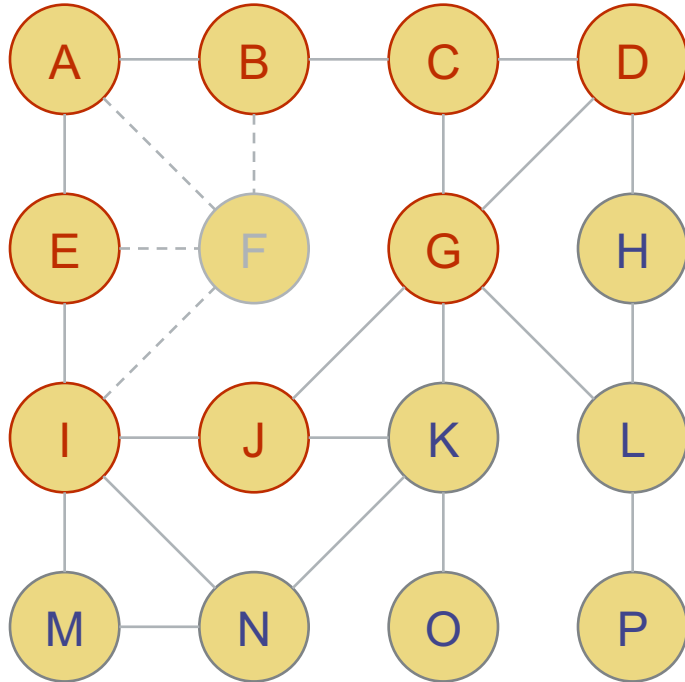
# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

Current vertex: F  
Edges to consider: to I

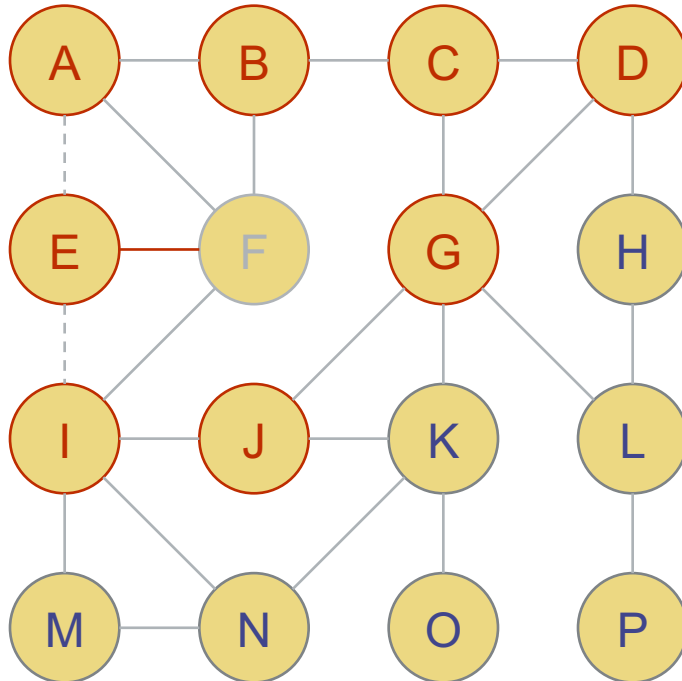
# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

Finished F (gray), backtracking to E

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



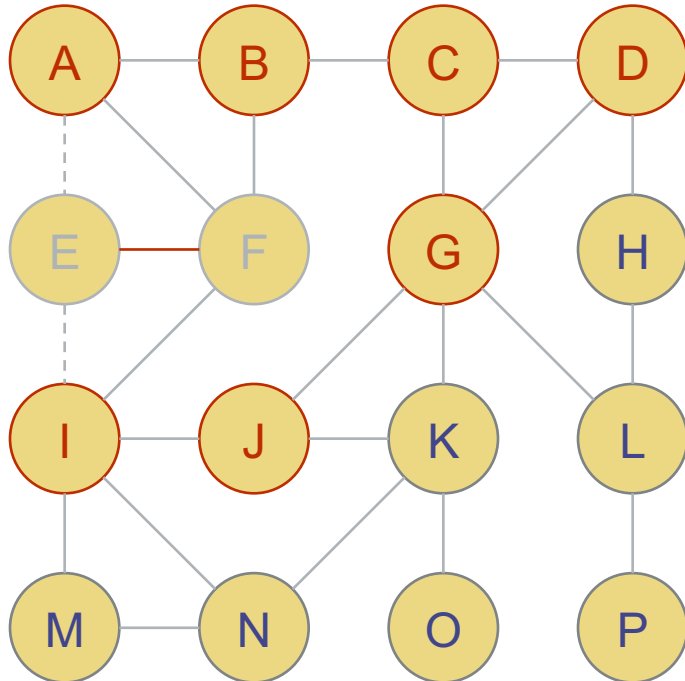
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

Current vertex: E

Edges to consider: to I



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

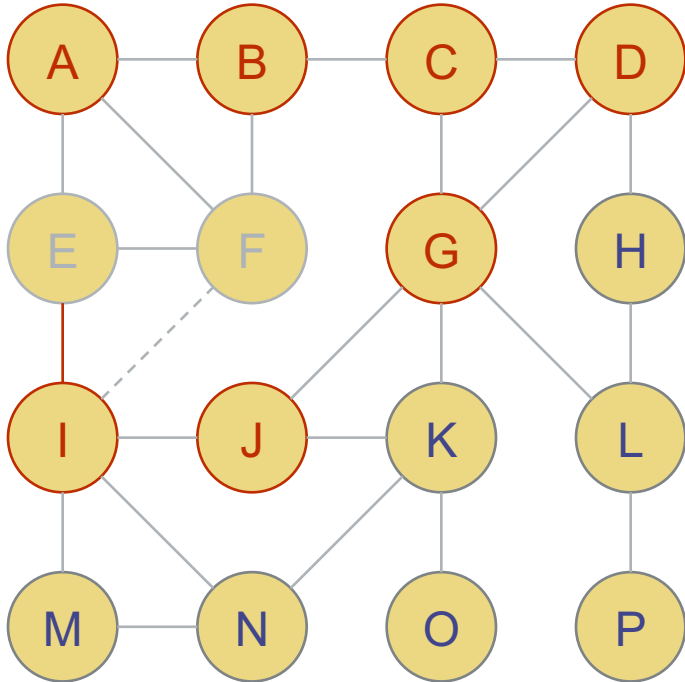


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

Finished E, backtracking to I



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

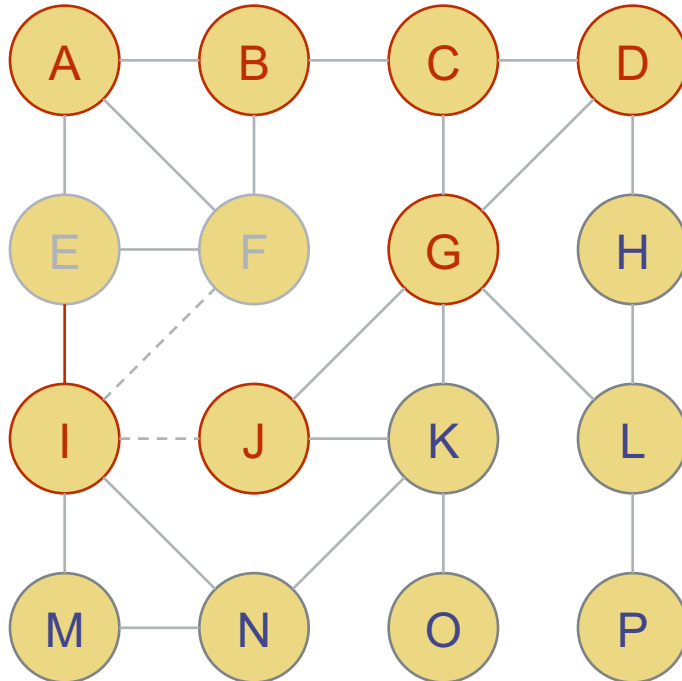
Current vertex: I

Edges to consider: to F,J,M,N





# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



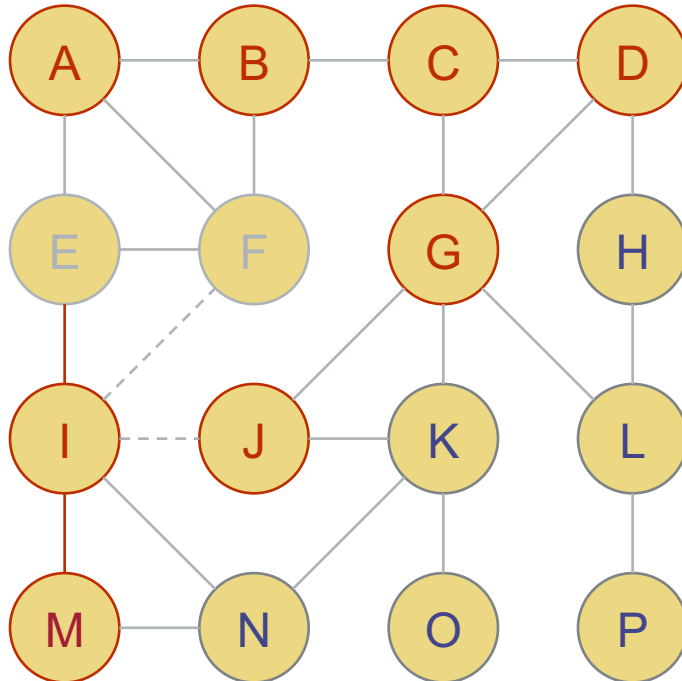
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)

Current vertex: I

Edges to consider: to J,M,N



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



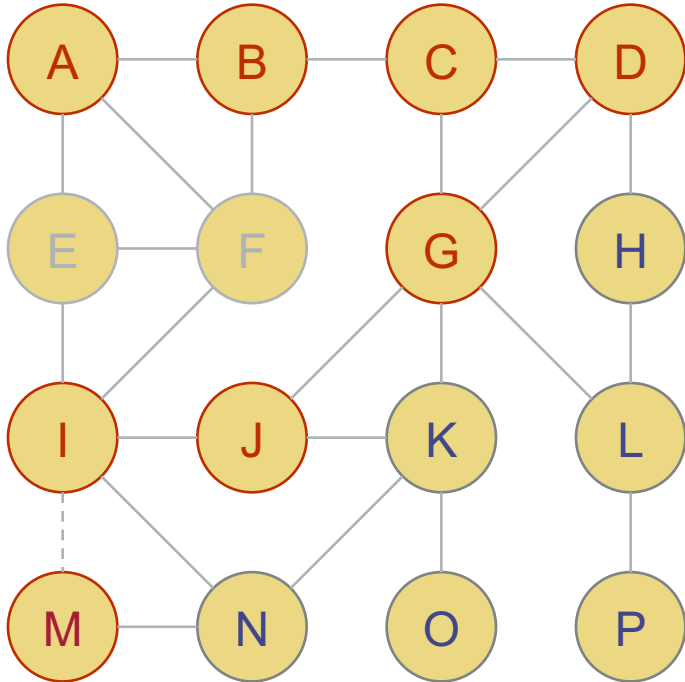
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)

Current vertex: I

Edges to consider: to M,N



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



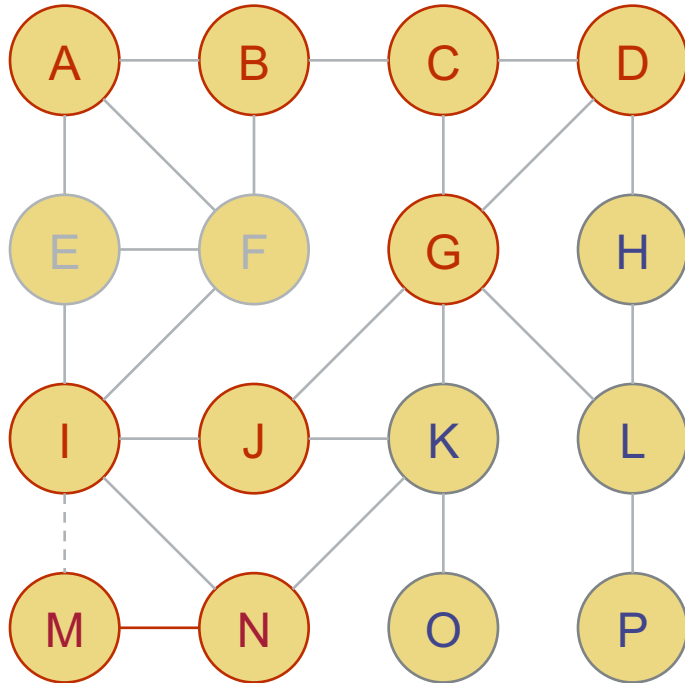
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)

Current vertex: M

Edges to consider: to I, N



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

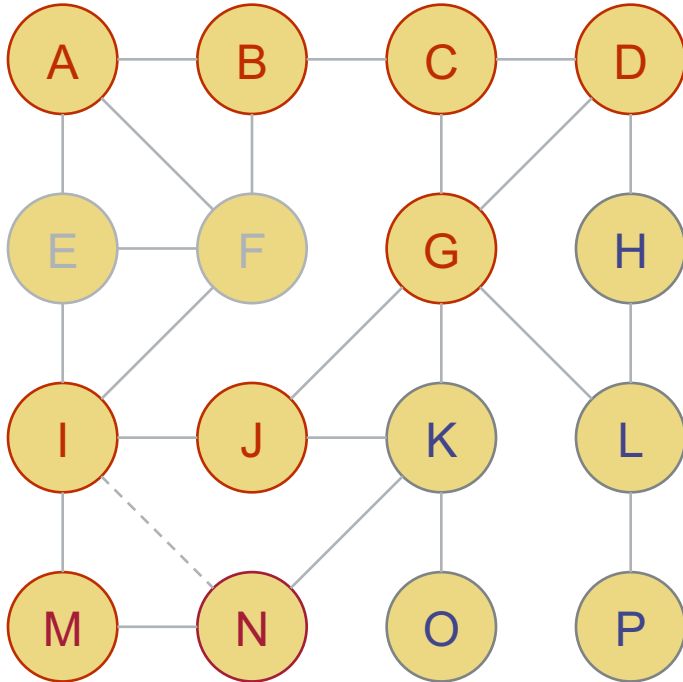


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)

Current vertex: M

Edges to consider: to N

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

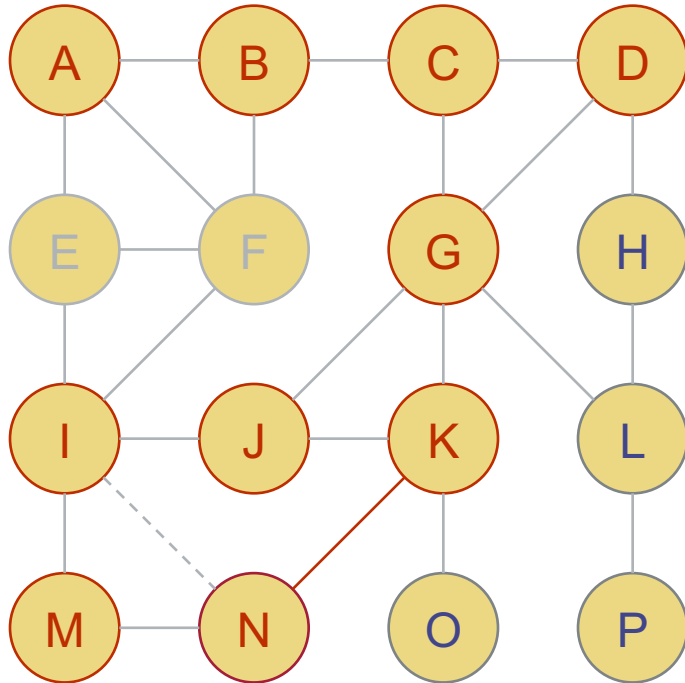


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)

Current vertex: N

Edges to consider: to I, K, M

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

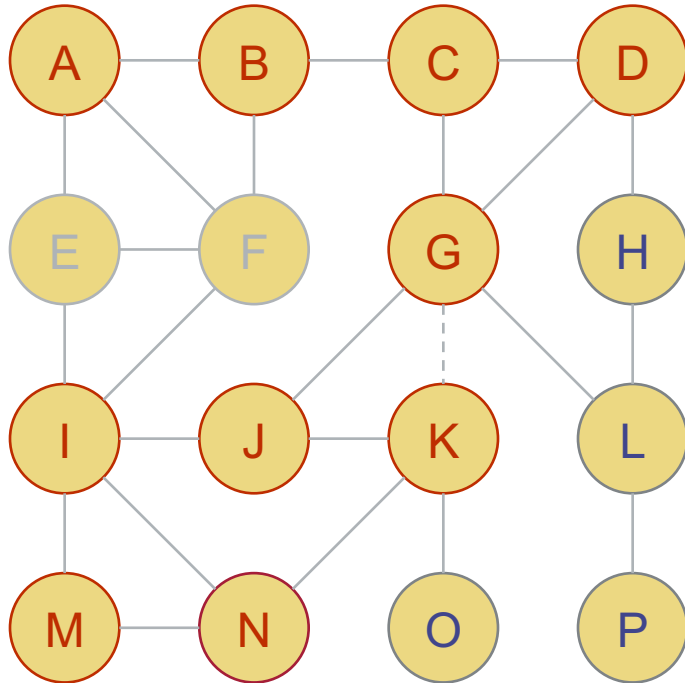


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)

Current vertex: N

Edges to consider: to K, M

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

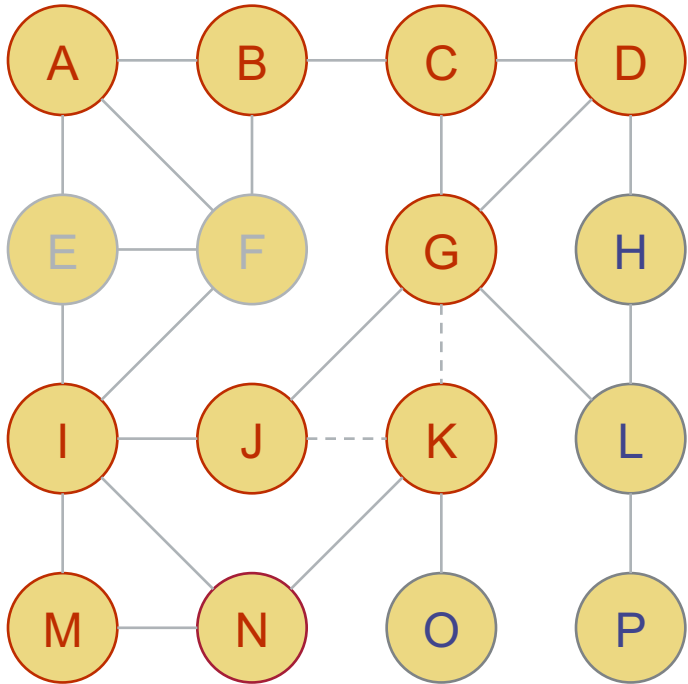


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)

Current vertex: K

Edges to consider: to G, J, N, O

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



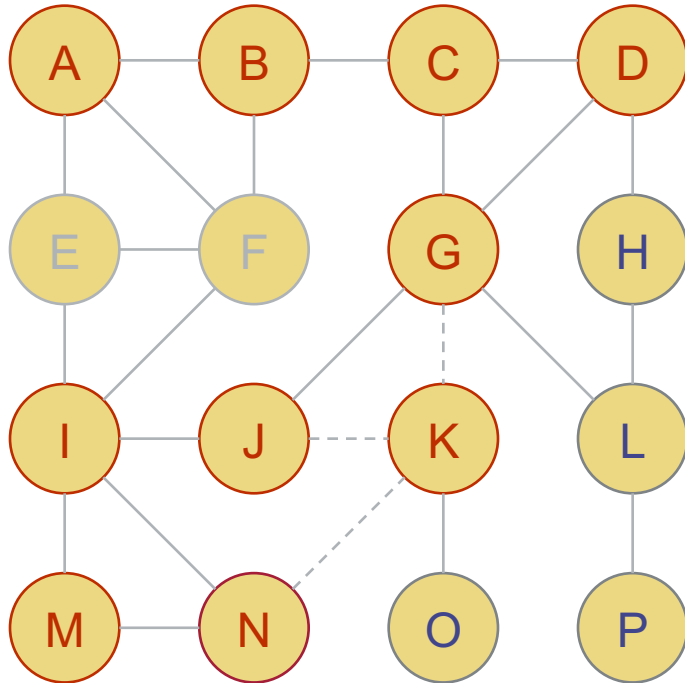
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)

Current vertex: K

Edges to consider: to J, N, O



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

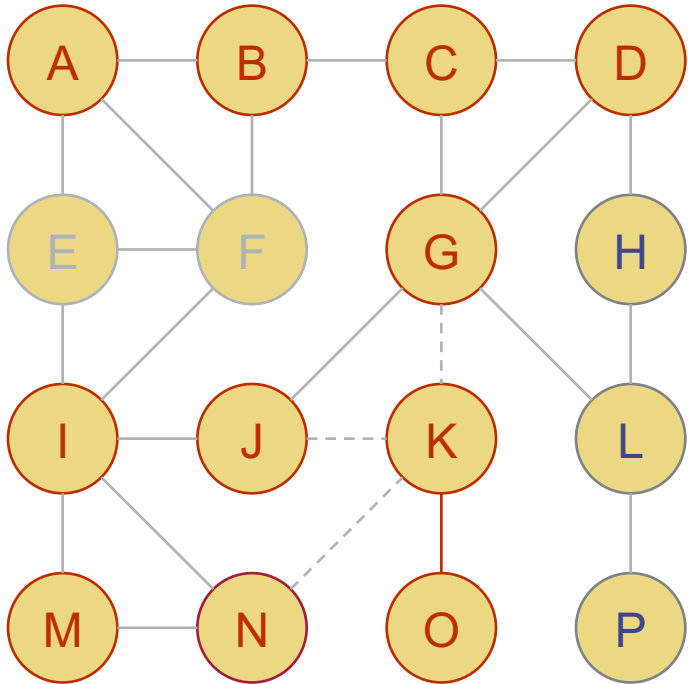


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)

Current vertex: K

Edges to consider: to N, O

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

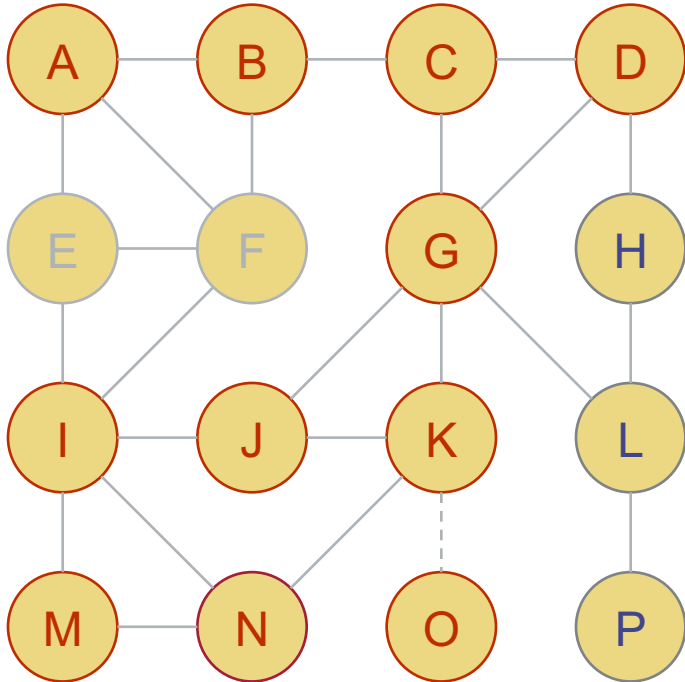


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: K

Edges to consider: to O

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

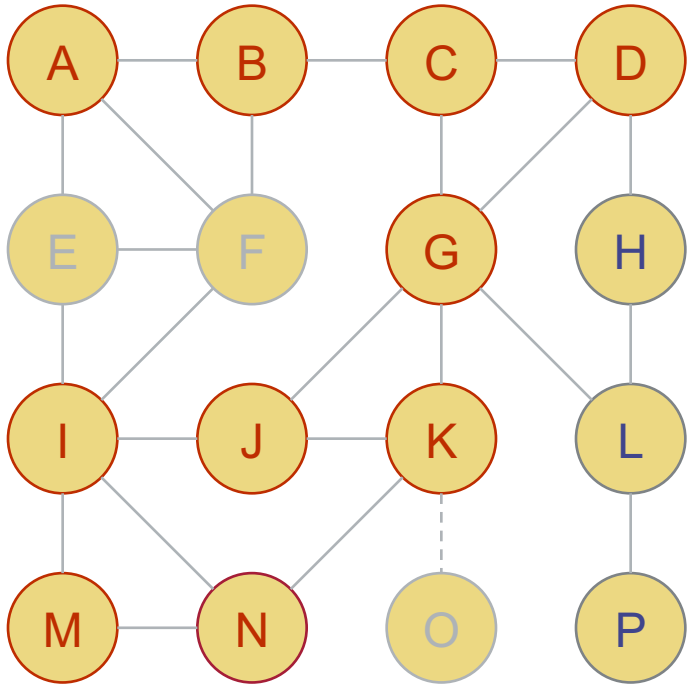


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: O

Edges to consider: to K

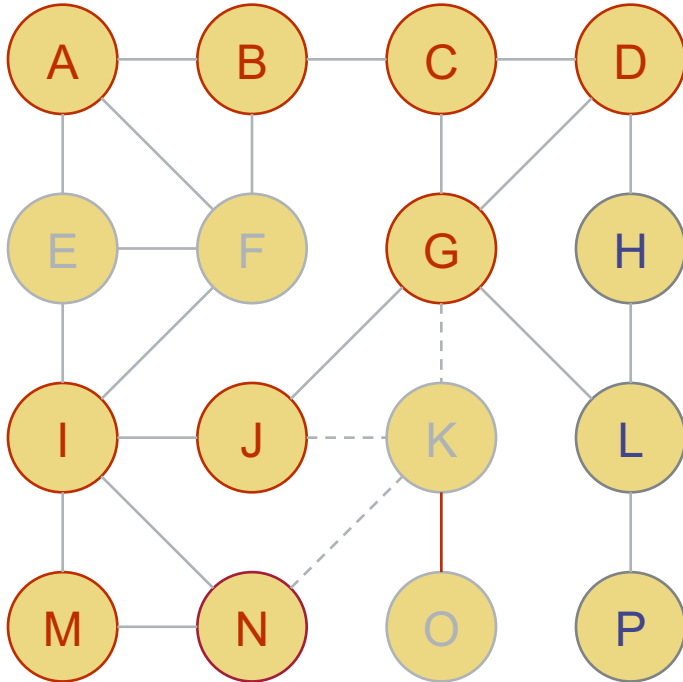
# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Finished O, backtracking to K

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



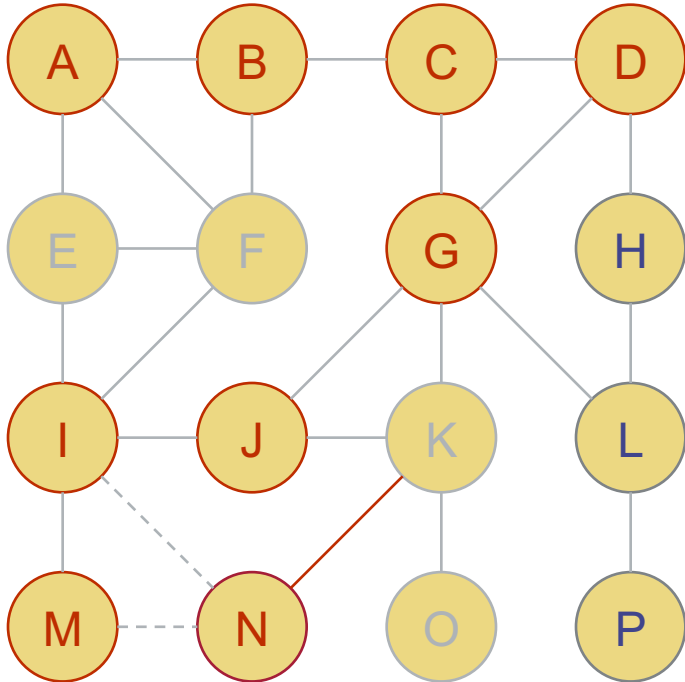
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: K

Edges to consider: -

Finished K, backtracking to N

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

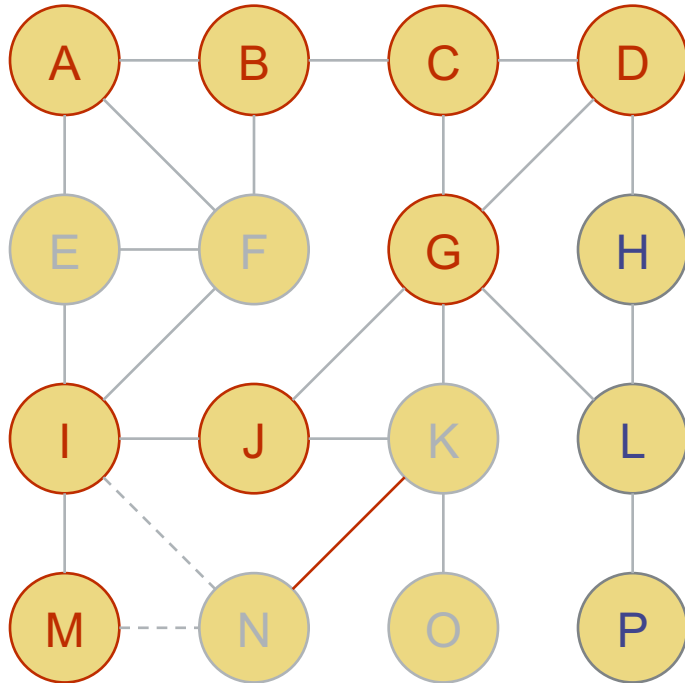


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: N

Edges to consider: M

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



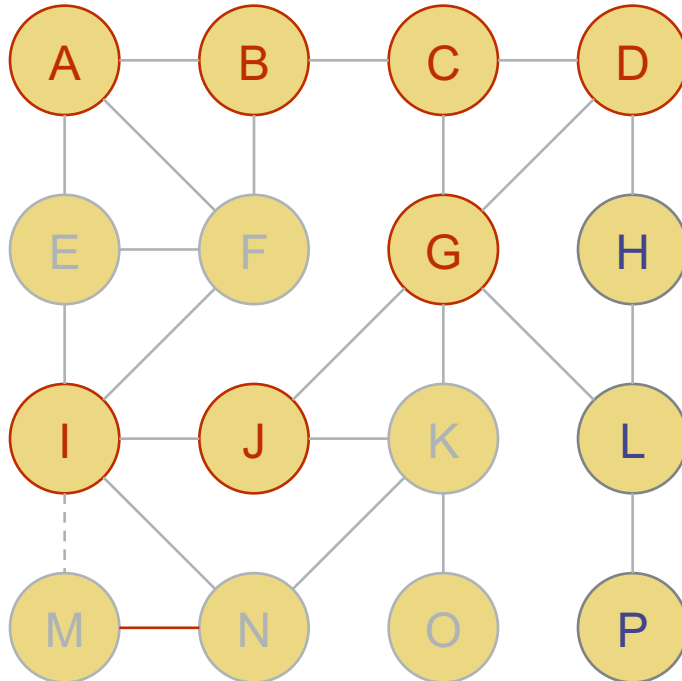
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: N

Edges to consider: -

Finished N, backtracking to M

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

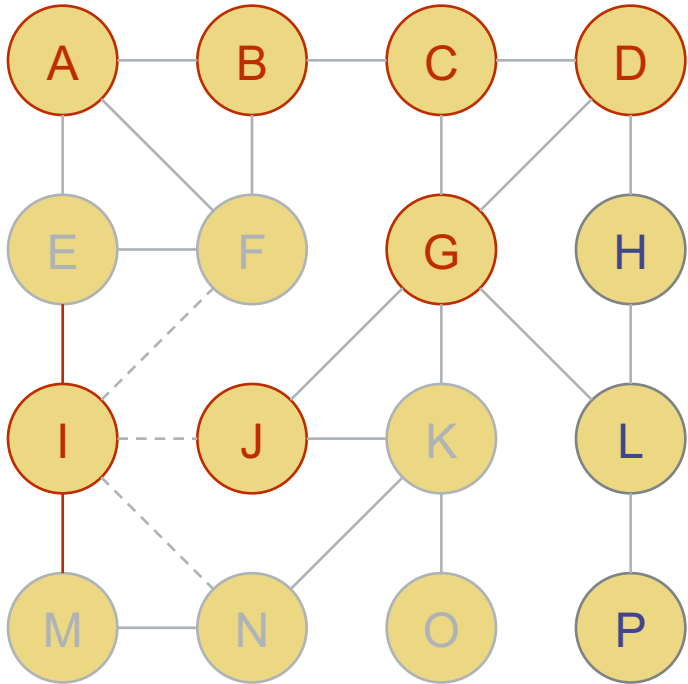
Current vertex: M

Edges to consider: -

Finished M, backtracking to I



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

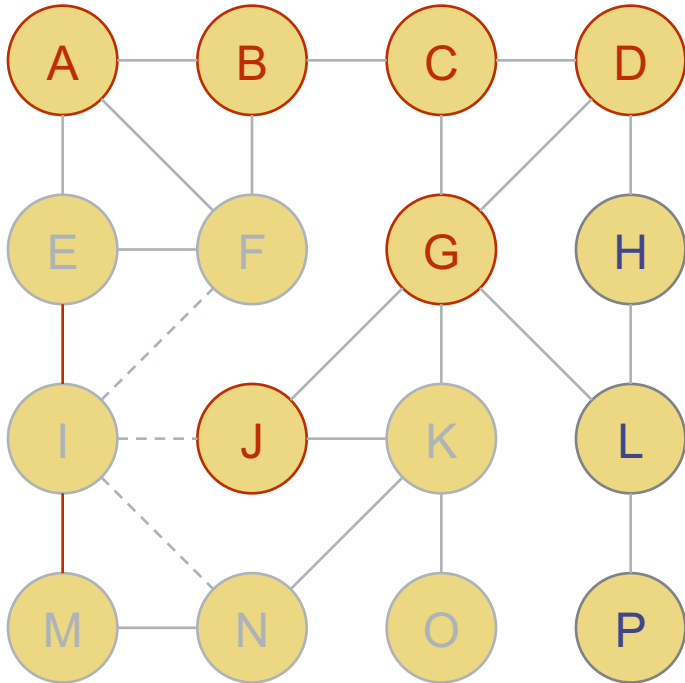


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: I

Edges to consider: N

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



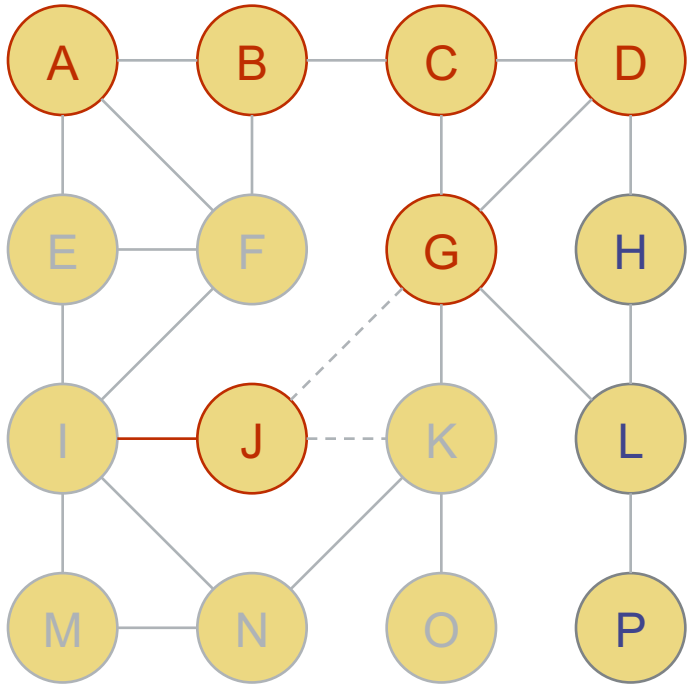
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: I

Edges to consider: -

Finished I, backtracking to J

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

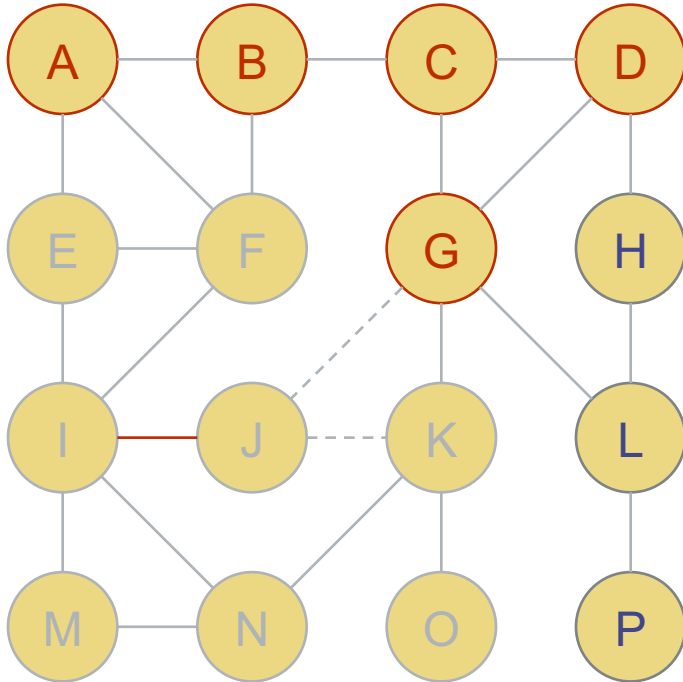


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: J

Edges to consider: to K

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



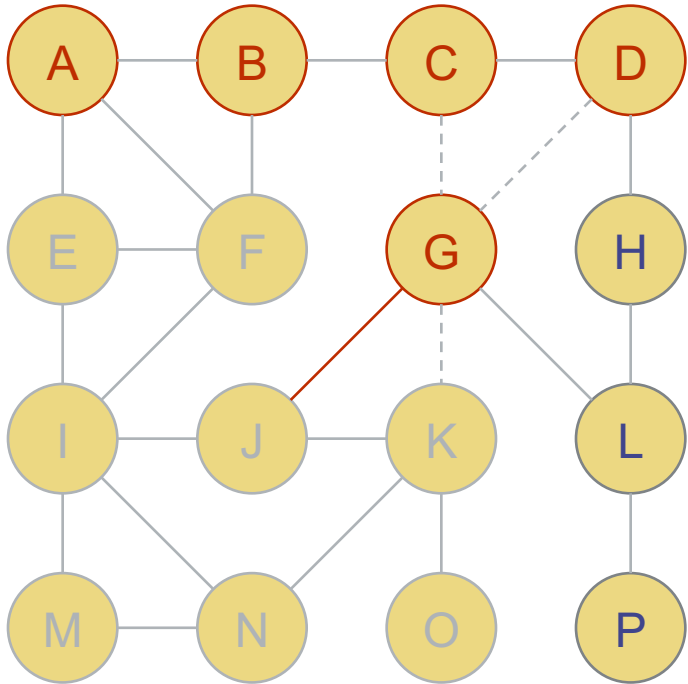
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: J

Edges to consider: -

Finished J, backtracking to G

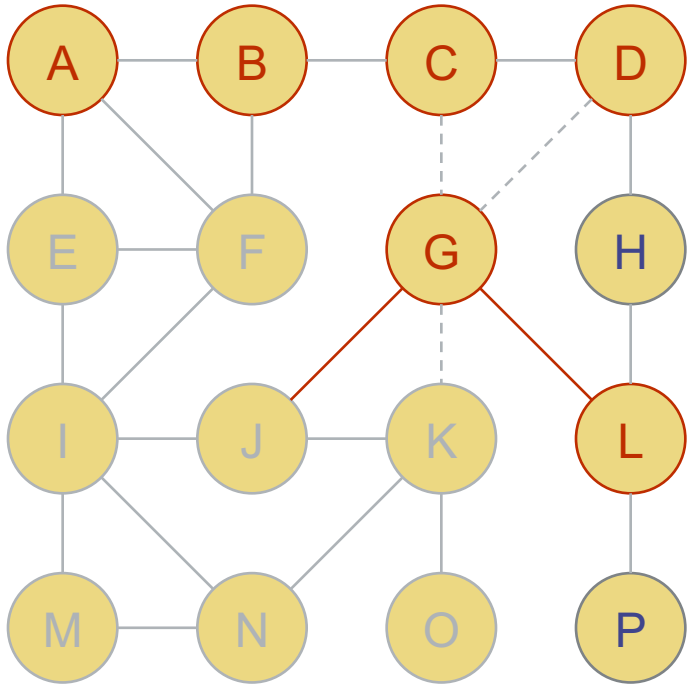
# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)

Current vertex: G  
 Edges to consider: to K, L

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

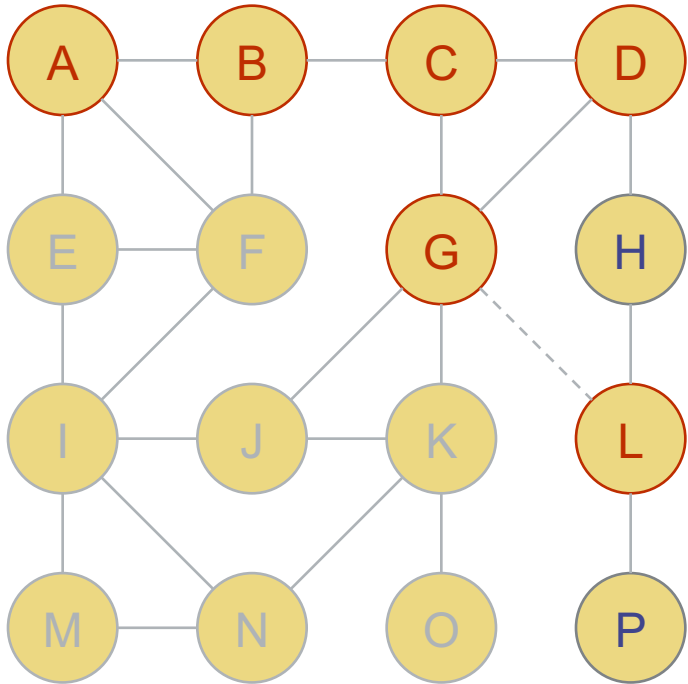


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)

Current vertex: G

Edges to consider: to L

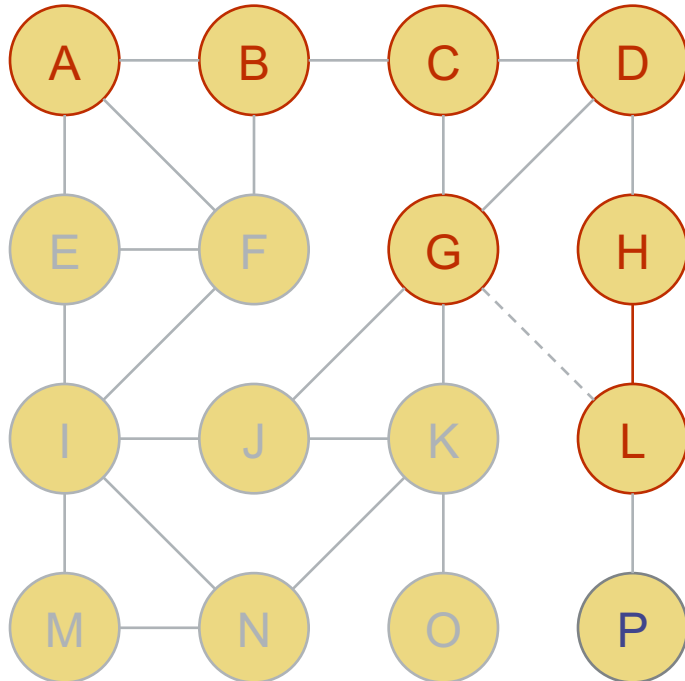
# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)

Current vertex: L  
 Edges to consider: to G,H,P

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

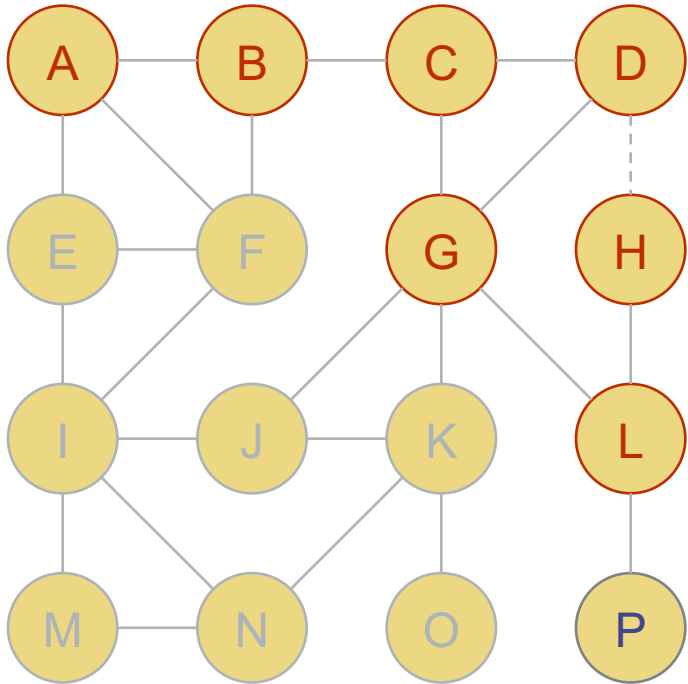


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)

Current vertex: L  
 Edges to consider: to H,P



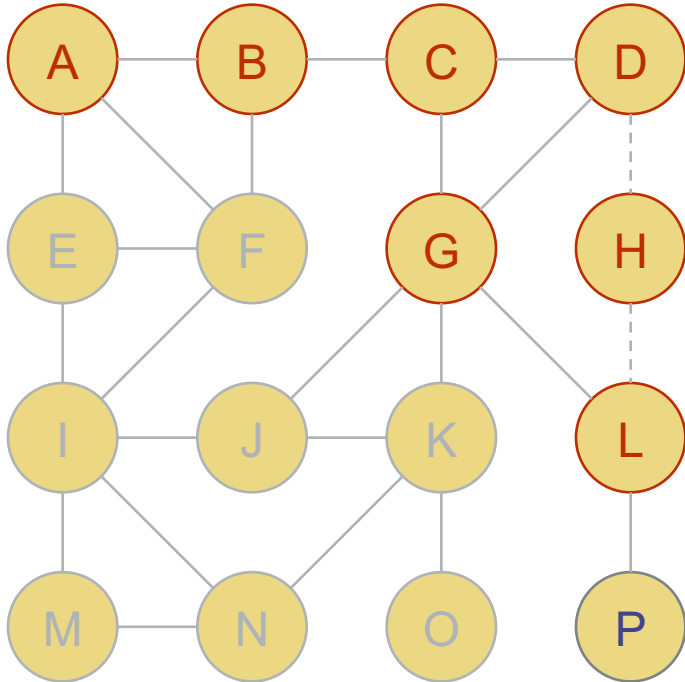
# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)

Current vertex: H  
 Edges to consider: to D,L

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

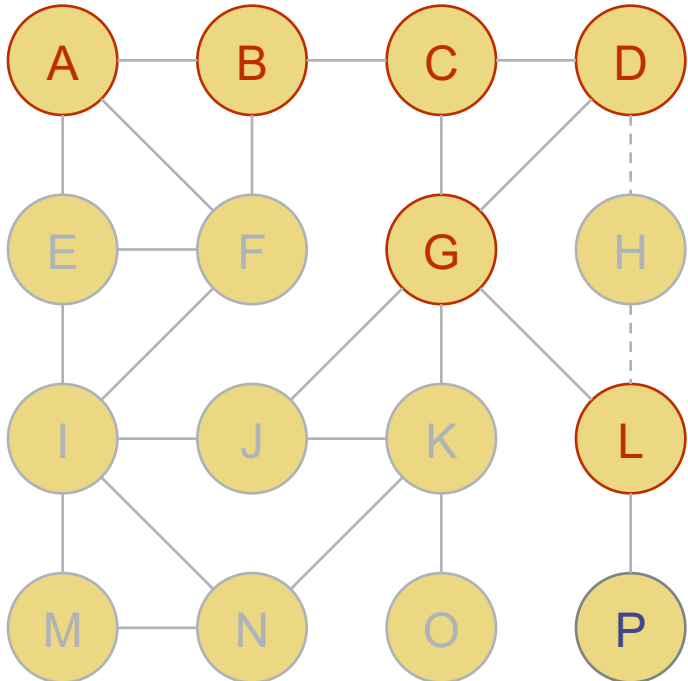


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)

Current vertex: H  
 Edges to consider: to L



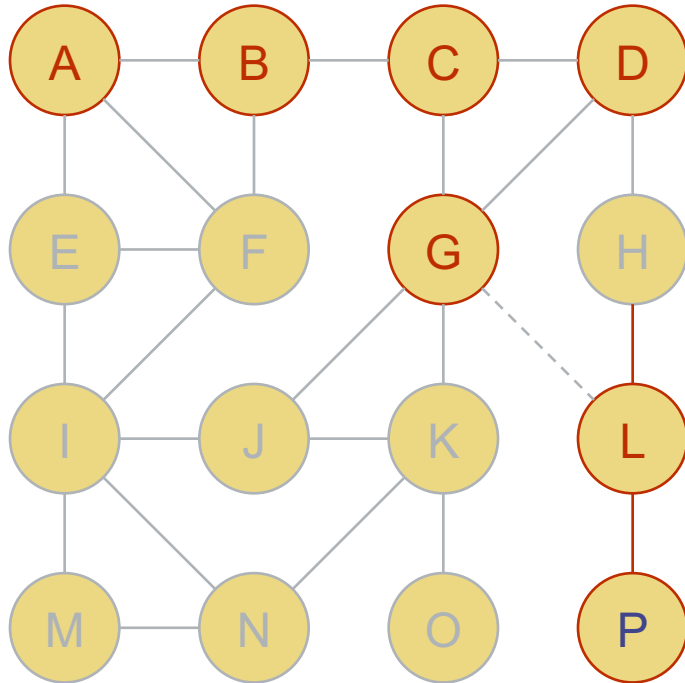
# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)

Finished H, backtrack to L

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

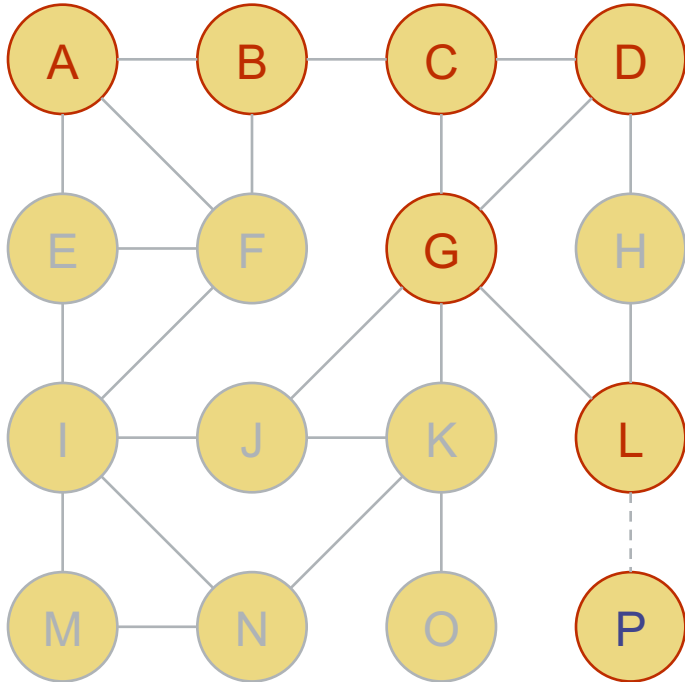


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: L

Edges to consider: to P

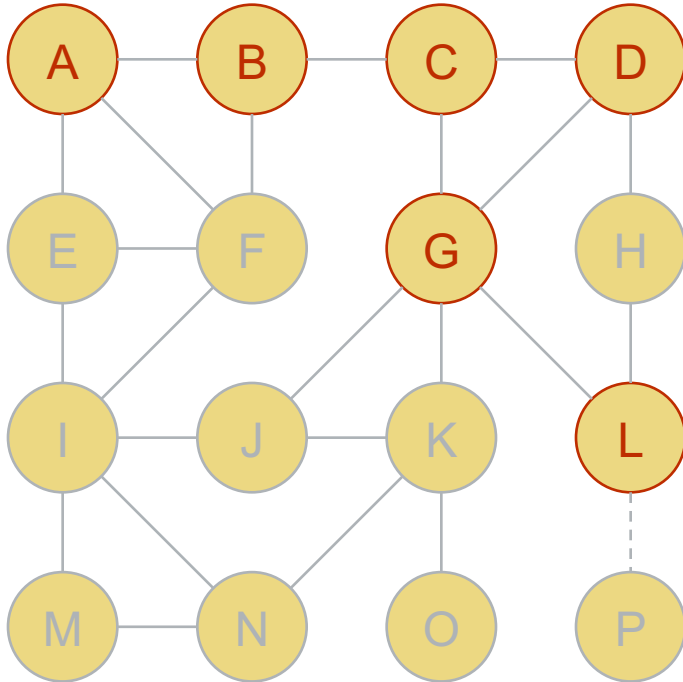
# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: P  
 Edges to consider: to L

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

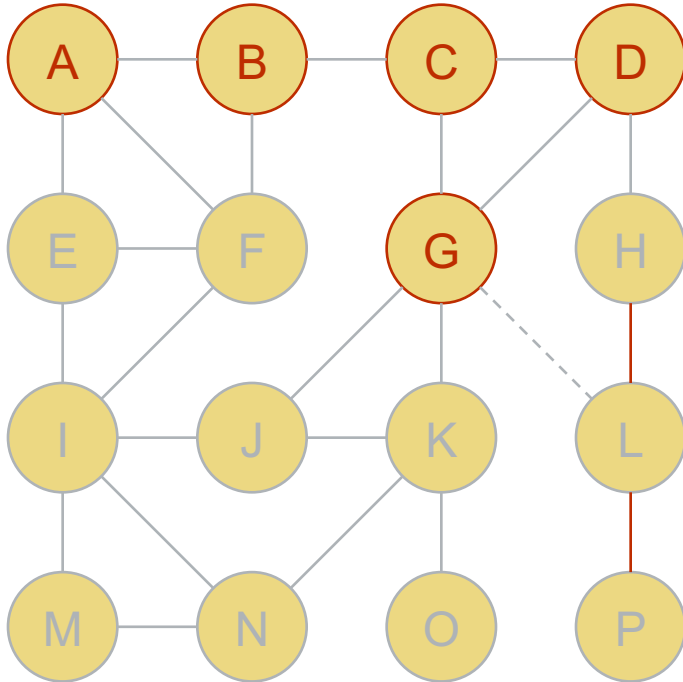


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Finished P, backtracking to L



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



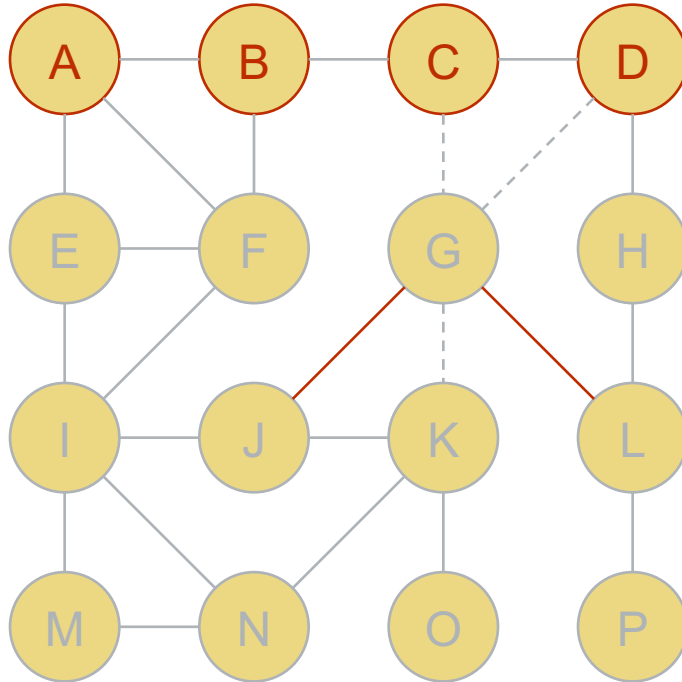
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: L

Edges to consider: -

Finished L, backtr. to G

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

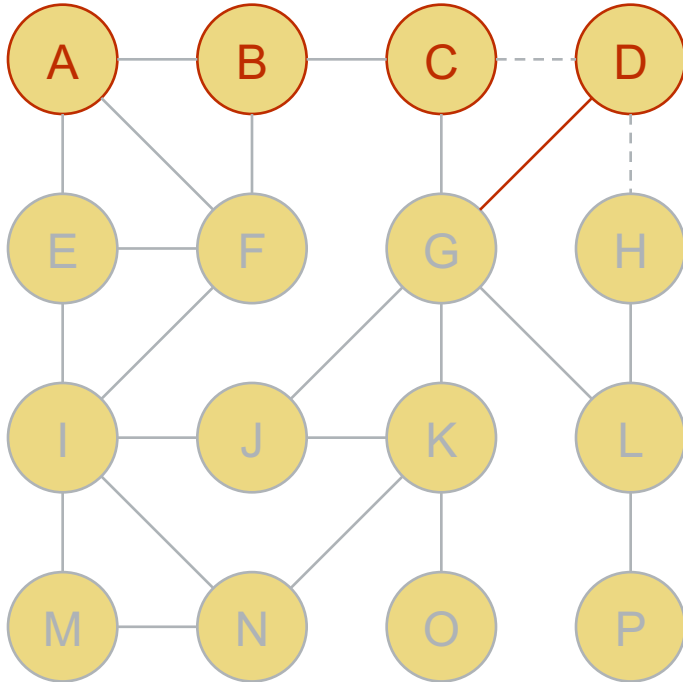
Current vertex: G

Edges to consider: -

Finished G, backtr. to D Graph Traversals | 64



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

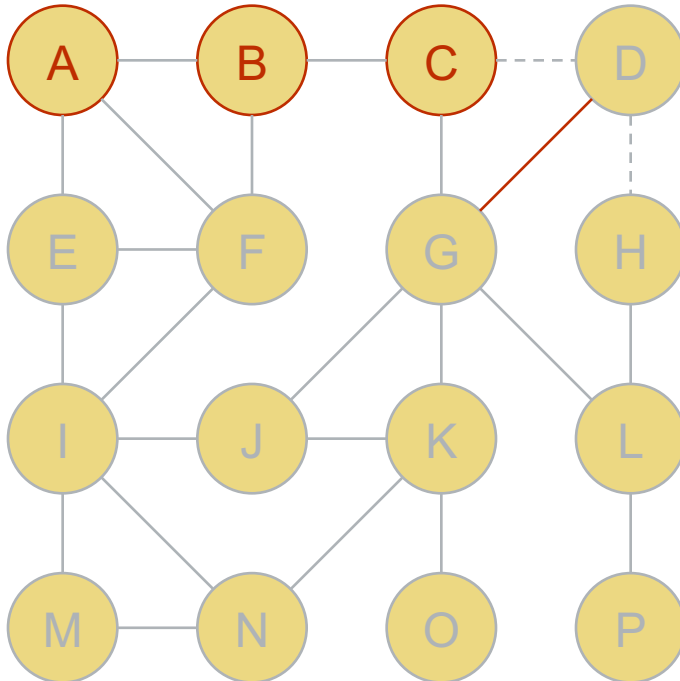


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: D

Edges to consider: H

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



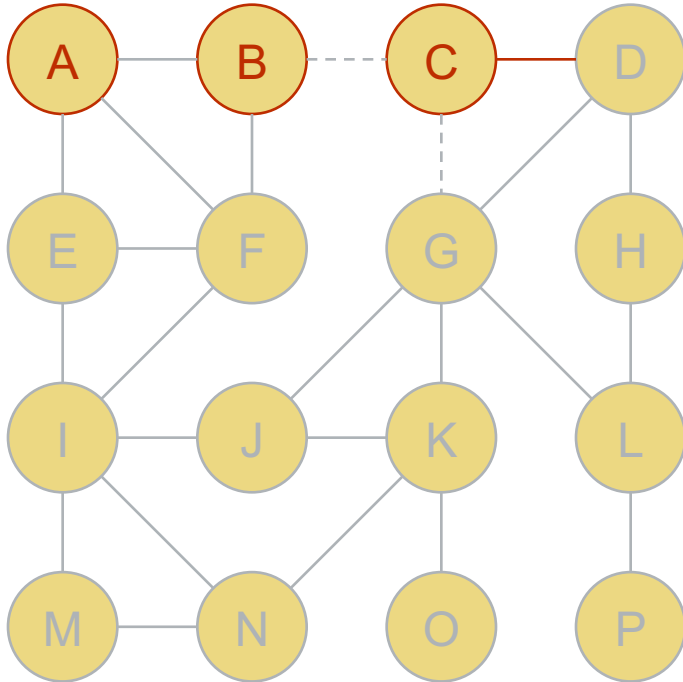
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: D

Edges to consider: -

Finished D, backtr. to C

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

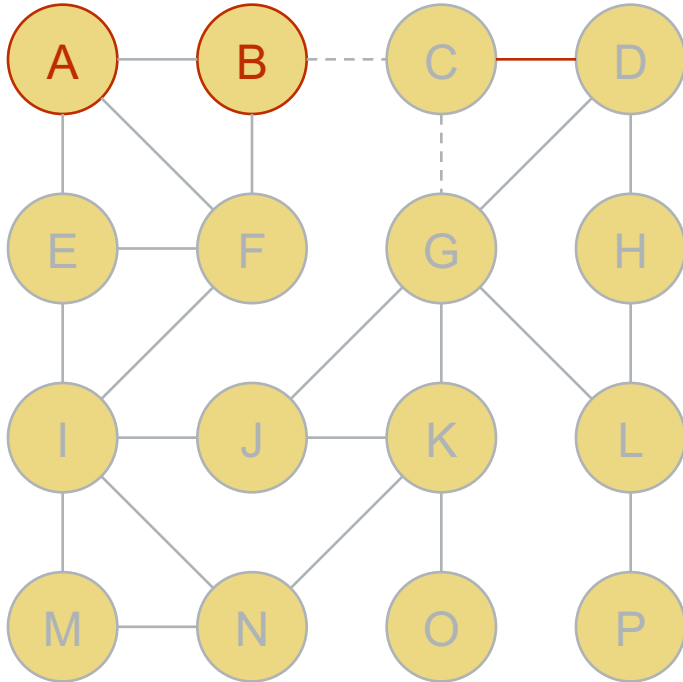


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: C

Edges to consider: G

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



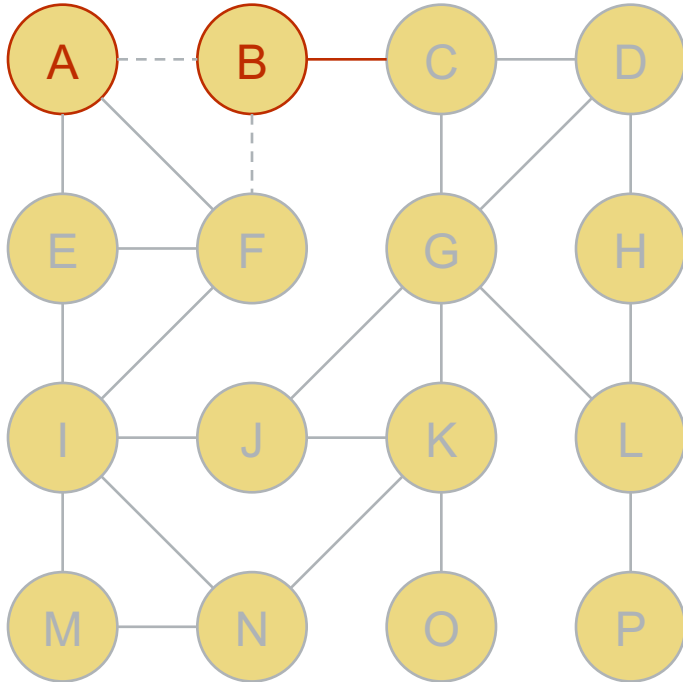
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: C

Edges to consider: -

Finished C, backtr. to B

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

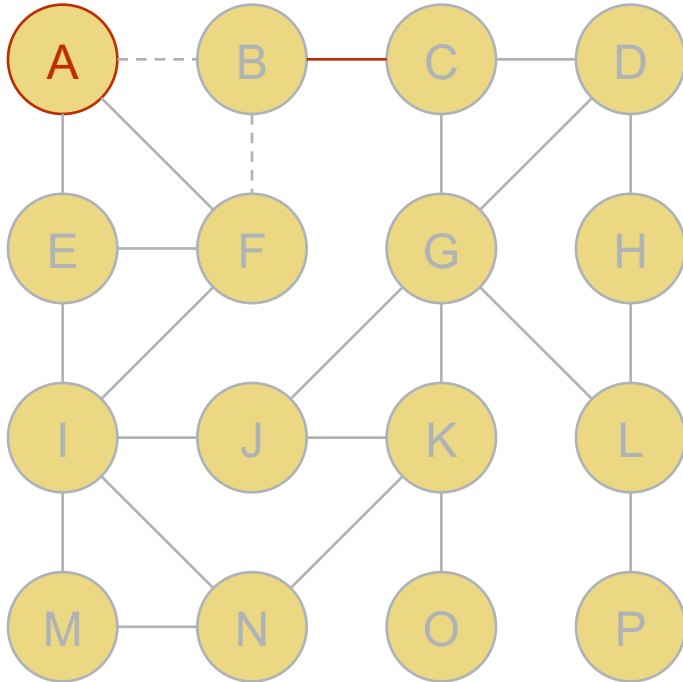


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: B

Edges to consider: F

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



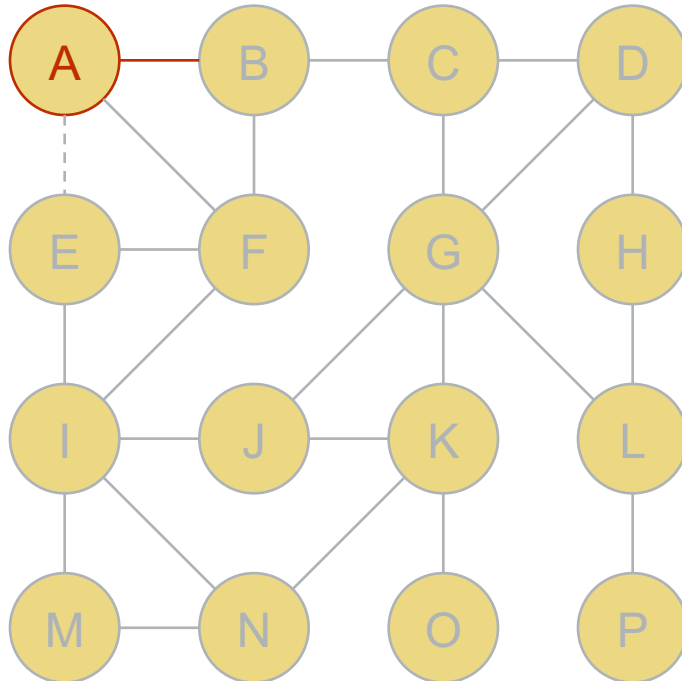
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: B

Edges to consider: -

Finished B, backtr. to A

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example

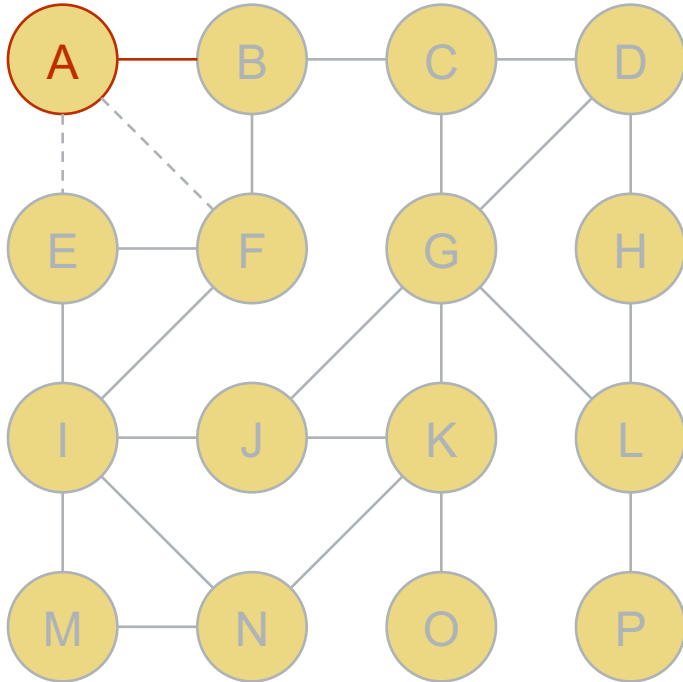


visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: A

Edges to consider: E, F

# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



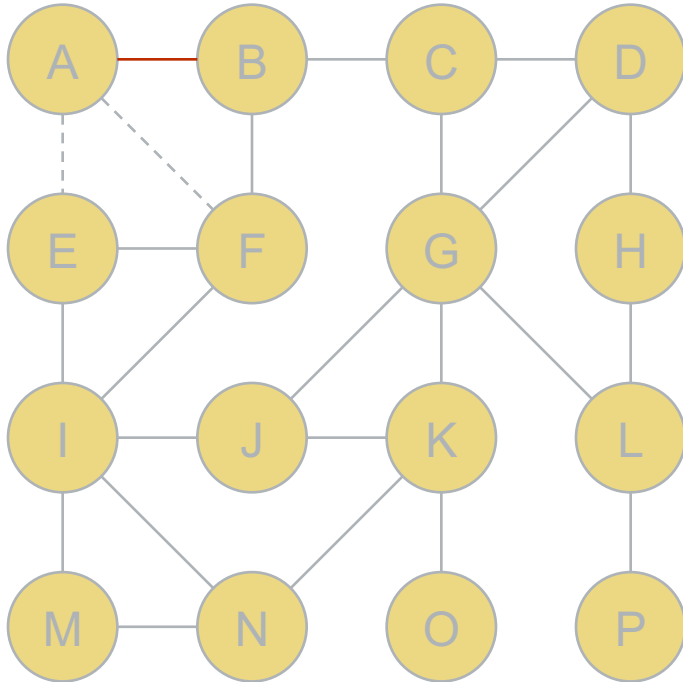
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: A

Edges to consider: F



# DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



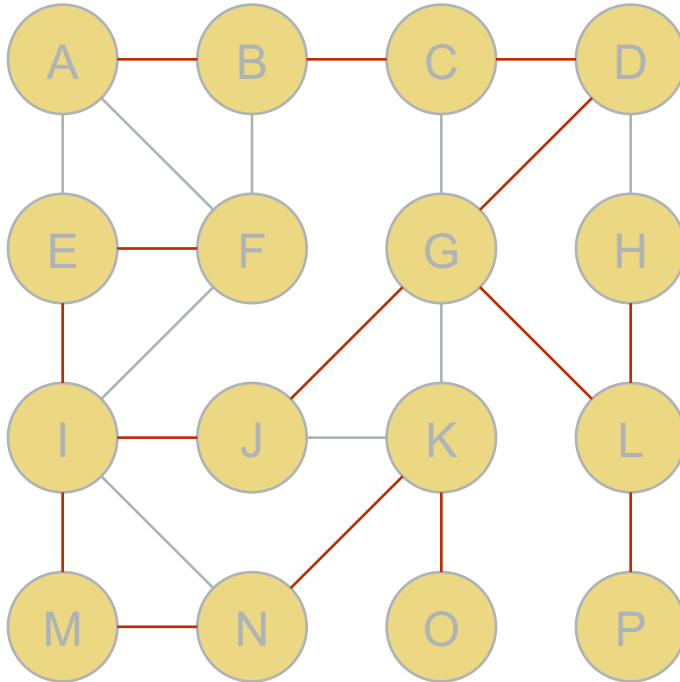
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

Current vertex: A

Edges to consider: -

Finished A, stop.

## DFS in an Undirected Graph - Example



DFS has visited all the vertices of  $G$ .  
 The spanning tree of  $G$ , build only from discovery edges,  
 is marked in red. The remaining edges are back edges.

visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
C	(B,C)
D	(C, D)
G	(D,G)
J	(G,J)
I	(J,I)
E	(I, E)
F	(E, F)
M	(I,M)
N	(M,N)
K	(N,K)
O	(K, O)
L	(G,L)
H	(L, H)
P	(L, P)

# Properties of a DFS

- **Proposition.** Let  $G$  be an undirected graph for which a DFS traversal starting at vertex  $s$  has been performed. Then
  - the **traversal** visits **all vertices in the connected component of  $s$** , and
  - the **discovery edges** form a **spanning tree of the connected component of  $s$** .
- **Justification.** Suppose that the vertex  $w$  from  $s$ 's connected component is not visited. Let  $v$  be the first unvisited vertex on a path from  $s$  to  $w$  ( $v = w$  is also possible).
  - $v$  is the first unvisited vertex on the path  $\rightarrow$  it has a neighbor  $u$  which was visited
  - But when  $u$  was visited, edge  $(u, v)$  must have been considered
  - Hence  $v$  cannot be unvisited – contradiction.
  - A discovery edge is followed only when moving to an unvisited vertex  $\rightarrow$  no cycles are possible  $\rightarrow$  discovery edges form a tree (connected subgraph without cycles)
  - This is a spanning tree because DFS visits all the vertices from the connected component of  $s$

# Depth-First Search – Python Implementation

```
1 def DFS(g, u, discovered):
2     """ Perform DFS of the undiscovered portion of Graph g starting at Vertex u.
3
4     discovered is a dictionary mapping each vertex to the edge that was used to
5     discover it during the DFS. (u should be "discovered" prior to the call.)
6     Newly discovered vertices will be added to the dictionary as a result.
7     """
8     for e in g.incident_edges(u):           # for every outgoing edge from u
9         v = e.opposite(u)
10        if v not in discovered:            # v is an unvisited vertex
11            discovered[v] = e              # e is the tree edge that discovered v
12            DFS(g, v, discovered)         # recursively explore from v
```

```
result = {u : None}           # a new dictionary, with u trivially discovered
DFS(g, u, result)
```

# Running Time of DFS

- Depth-first search is an efficient method for traversing a tree
- DFS is called at most once for each vertex (because the vertex is marked as visited)
- For an undirected graph, each edge  $(u, v)$  is examined at most twice – once from  $u$  and once from  $v$
- If  $n_s \leq n$  is the number of vertices reachable from the start vertex  $s$  and  $m_s \leq m$  is the number of edges incident to those vertices then **DFS runs in  $O(n_s + m_s)$  time** if
  - The data structure used to represent the graph can iterate through the edges of a vertex,  $\text{incident\_edges}(v)$  in  $O(\text{deg}(v))$  time, and can find the opposite vertex,  $e.\text{opposite}(v)$  in  $O(1)$  time
  - There is a method to mark the vertex or edge as explored, and to test if a vertex or edge has been explored in  $O(1)$  time

# Problems Solved using a DFS traversal in an Undirected Graph

- a. Computing a **path between two given vertices of  $G$** , if one exists.
- b. Testing whether  $G$  is **connected**.
- c. Computing the **connected components** of  $G$ .
- d. Computing a **cycle** in  $G$ , or report that  $G$  has no cycles.

## a. Compute a Path from $u$ to $v$

- The DFS procedure was already performed for the graph  $G$
- To reconstruct the path from  $u$  to  $v$ , start at the end of the path
- Look in the discovered dictionary for the edge that was used to discover  $v$ , and retrieve its other endpoint  $w$
- Add the endpoint  $w$  to a list, look again in the dictionary for the edge used to discover  $w$  and obtain its other endpoint.
- Continue until  $u$  is reached, then reverse the list and return it

## a. Compute a Path from $u$ to $v$ – Python implementation

```
1  def construct_path(u, v, discovered):
2      path = [ ]                                     # empty path by default
3      if v in discovered:
4          # we build list from v to u and then reverse it at the end
5          path.append(v)
6          walk = v
7          while walk is not u:
8              e = discovered[walk]                   # find edge leading to walk
9              parent = e.opposite(walk)
10             path.append(parent)
11             walk = parent
12             path.reverse( )                         # reorient path from u to v
13     return path
```



## a. Compute a Path from $u$ to $v$ – Running Time

```
1  def construct_path(u, v, discovered):
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3      if v in discovered:
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13     return path
```

- Function runs in time proportional to the length of the path, therefore ?

## a. Compute a Path from $u$ to $v$ – Running Time

```
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13     return path
```

- Function runs in time proportional to the length of the path, therefore  $O(n)$  + the time needed to perform DFS (which gives us `discovered`)

## b. Test whether $G$ is connected

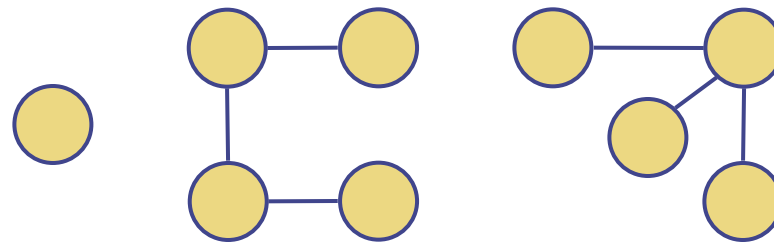
- The DFS procedure was already performed for the graph  $G$ , starting from an arbitrary vertex  $s$
- Test if the discovered dictionary contains  $n$  entries ( $n$  is the number of vertices in  $G$ )
  - If yes, then  $G$  is connected, and all its vertices have been visited
  - If not, then  $G$  is not connected, and there is at least a vertex  $v$  that cannot be reached from any of the vertices in the connected component of  $s$

## b. Test whether $G$ is connected - Runtime

- Runtime: only the time needed to perform the DFS -  $O(n + m)$ , since querying for the length of discovered is  $O(1)$

## c. Compute the connected components of $G$

- If an undirected graph is not connected, identify all of its the **connected components**
- If the initial DFS traversal has not reached all the vertices of a graph  $G$ 
  - Start another DFS traversal from one of the vertices that are still not visited
  - Visit all vertices that are reachable from the new start vertex
  - Continue performing new DFS searches until all the vertices of  $G$  have been visited



Forest

## c. Compute the connected components of $G$ – Python implementation

---

```
1 def DFS_complete(g):
2     """ Perform DFS for entire graph and return forest as a dictionary.
3
4     Result maps each vertex v to the edge that was used to discover it.
5     (Vertices that are roots of a DFS tree are mapped to None.)
6     """
7     forest = { }
8     for u in g.vertices():
9         if u not in forest:
10            forest[u] = None           # u will be the root of a tree
11            DFS(g, u, forest)
12     return forest
```

---

- The number of connected components of  $G$  can be obtained by counting the number of vertices with a None edge in forest - these are the root vertices of each of the connected components

## c. Compute the connected components of $G$ – Runtime

```
1 def DFS_complete(g):
2     """ Perform DFS for entire graph and return forest as a dictionary.
3
4     Result maps each vertex v to the edge that was used to discover it.
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9         if u not in forest:
10            forest[u] = None           # u will be the root of a tree
11            DFS(g, u, forest)
12     return forest
```

- Although there are multiple calls to DFS, the total running time of DFS complete is  $O(n + m)$ , because there are  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges in total in the graph  $G$ , which is not connected
  - Each connected component takes  $O(n_{s_1} + m_{s_1})$  time
  - Each DFS call from DFS\_complete explores a different component,  $O(n_{s_i} + m_{s_i})$
  - The sum is  $O(n + m)$

## d. Compute a cycle in $G$

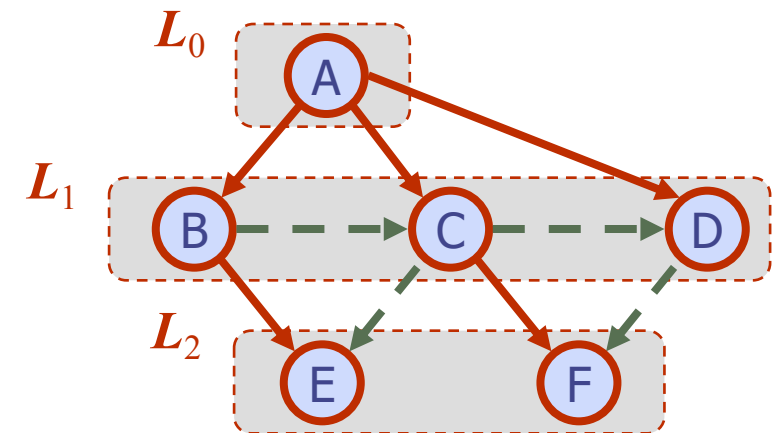
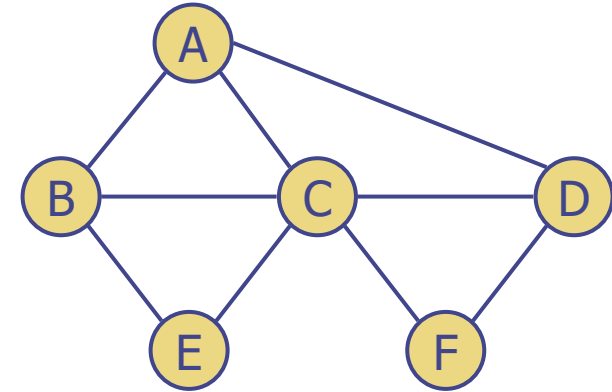
- The DFS procedure was already performed for the graph  $G$
- A **cycle** exists if and only if a back edge exists with respect to the DFS traversal of that graph
- To obtain the cycle, take the back edge from the descendant to the ancestor and then follow DFS tree edges back to the descendant



# Breadth-First Search

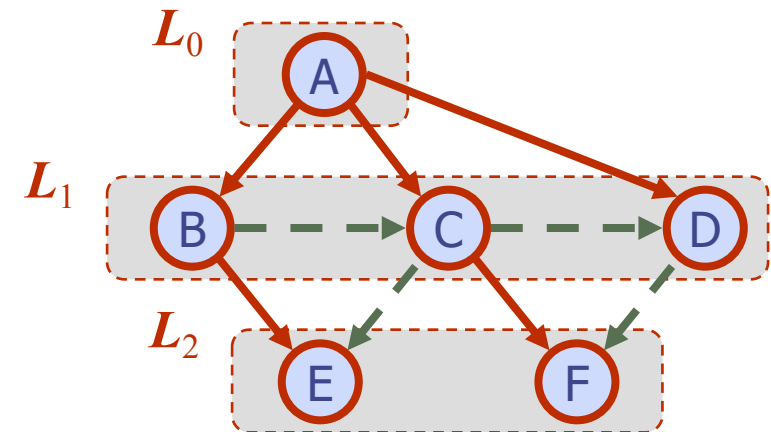
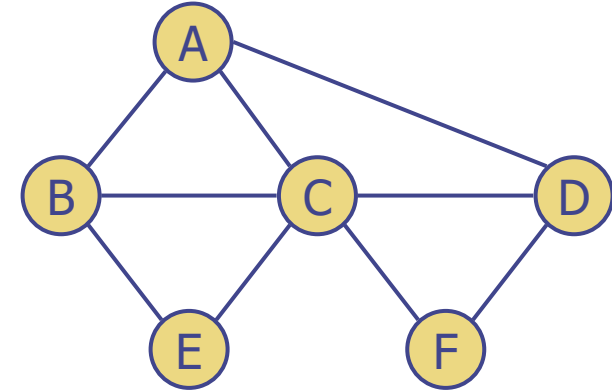
# Breadth-First Search (BFS) - Intuition

- Depth-first search – imagine a traversal done by a single person exploring a graph
- Breath-first search – imagine sending out, in all directions, many persons that traverse the graph in a collaborative way
- BFS works in **rounds** and subdivides the vertices into **levels**
- It starts at vertex  $s$ , which is at level 0



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) - Algorithm

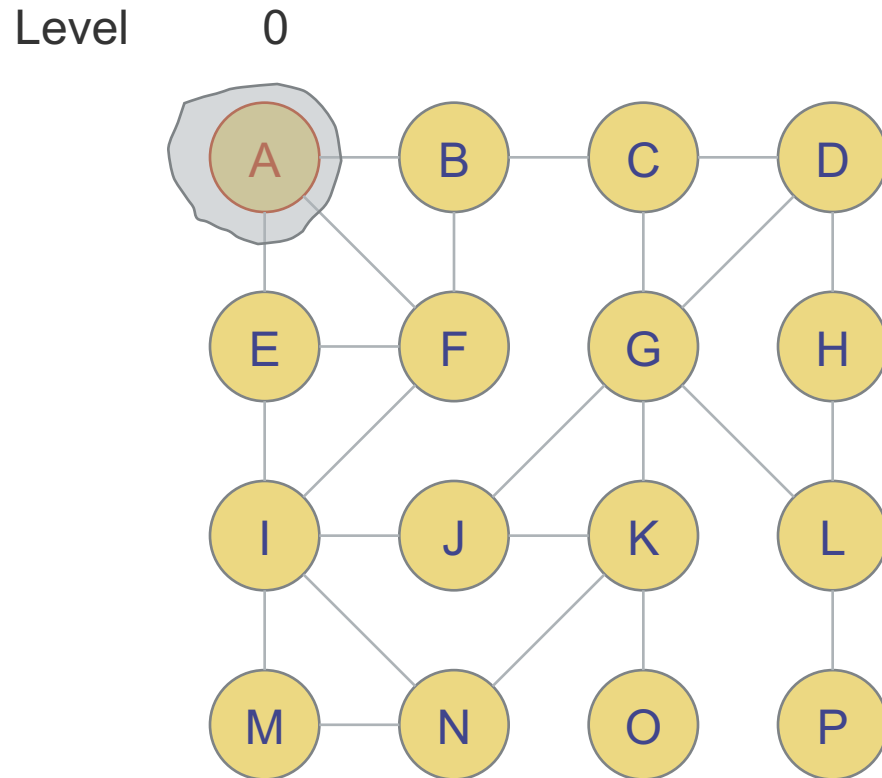
- Start at vertex  $s$ , which is at level 0;  $s$  is marked as visited
- In the first round all the vertices that are adjacent to  $s$  are marked as visited – these vertices, which are one step away from  $s$ , are placed on level 1
- In the second round all the vertices that are adjacent to any of the vertices on level 1 are marked as visited; these vertices are two steps away from  $s$  and are placed on level 2
- The process continues until no new vertices are found in a level



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Python implementation

```
1 def BFS(g, s, discovered):
2     """ Perform BFS of the undiscovered portion of Graph g starting at Vertex s.
3
4     discovered is a dictionary mapping each vertex to the edge that was used to
5     discover it during the BFS (s should be mapped to None prior to the call).
6     Newly discovered vertices will be added to the dictionary as a result.
7     """
8     level = [s] # first level includes only s
9     while len(level) > 0:
10        next_level = [] # prepare to gather newly found vertices
11        for u in level:
12            for e in g.incident_edges(u): # for every outgoing edge from u
13                v = e.opposite(u)
14                if v not in discovered: # v is an unvisited vertex
15                    discovered[v] = e # e is the tree edge that discovered v
16                    next_level.append(v) # v will be further considered in next pass
17        level = next_level # relabel 'next' level to become current
```

# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Example



visited	discovery edge
A	None

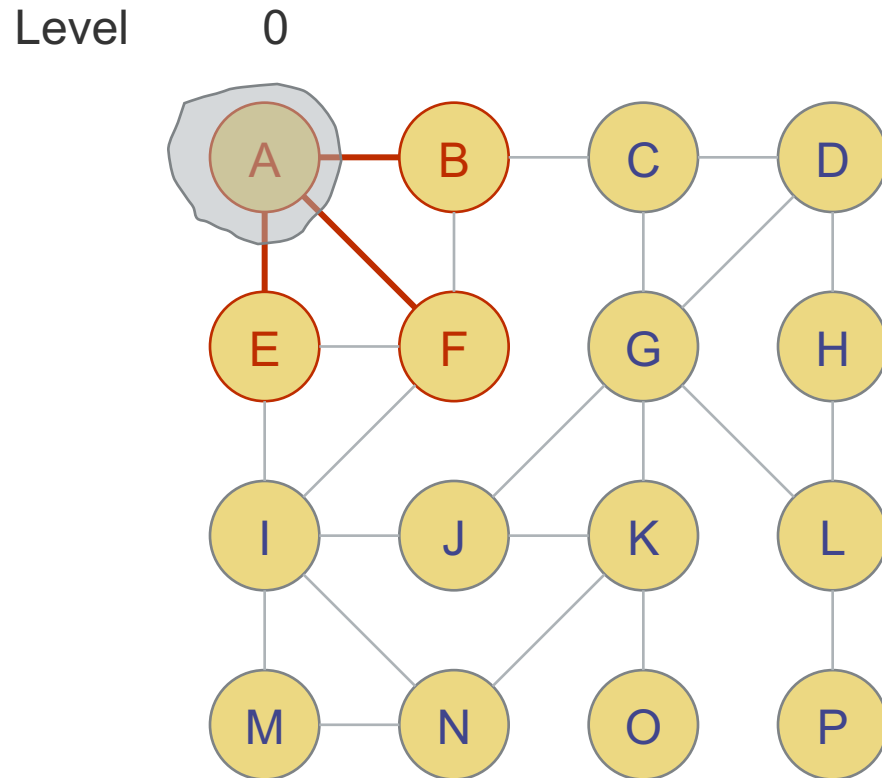
---

Current level: A  
Edges to consider: to B, E, F

- Start from vertex A, which is marked as visited (red)



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Example



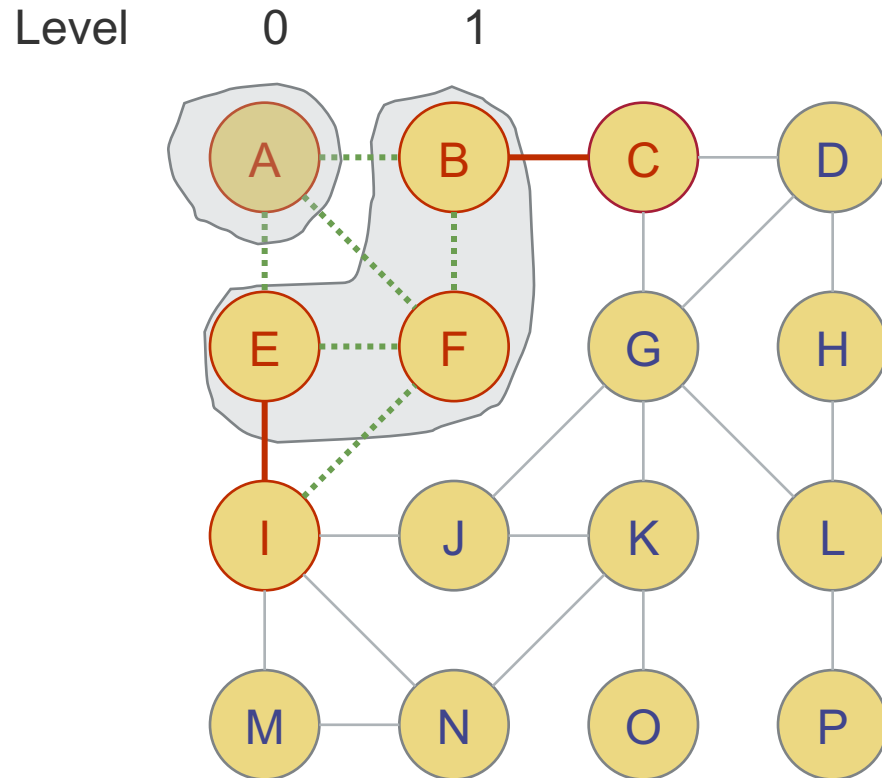
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
E	(A,E)
F	(A,F)

Current level: A  
Edges to consider: to B, E, F

- Mark edges to non-visited vertices with red



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Example



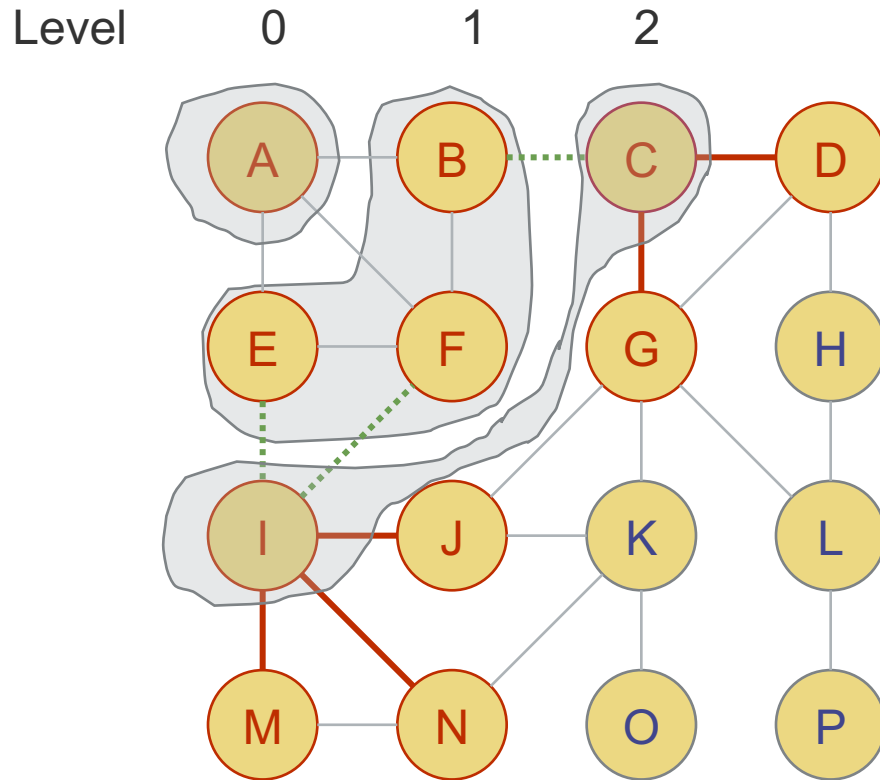
- Mark edges to non-visited vertices with red
- Mark edges to visited vertices with green (dotted)

visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
E	(A,E)
F	(A,F)
C	(B,C)
I	(E,I)

Current level: B, E, F  
 Edges to consider: (B,A), (B,C), (B,F), (E,A), (E,F), (E,I), (F,A), (F,B), (F,E), (F,I)



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Example



- Mark edges to non-visited vertices with red
- Mark edges to visited vertices with green (dotted)

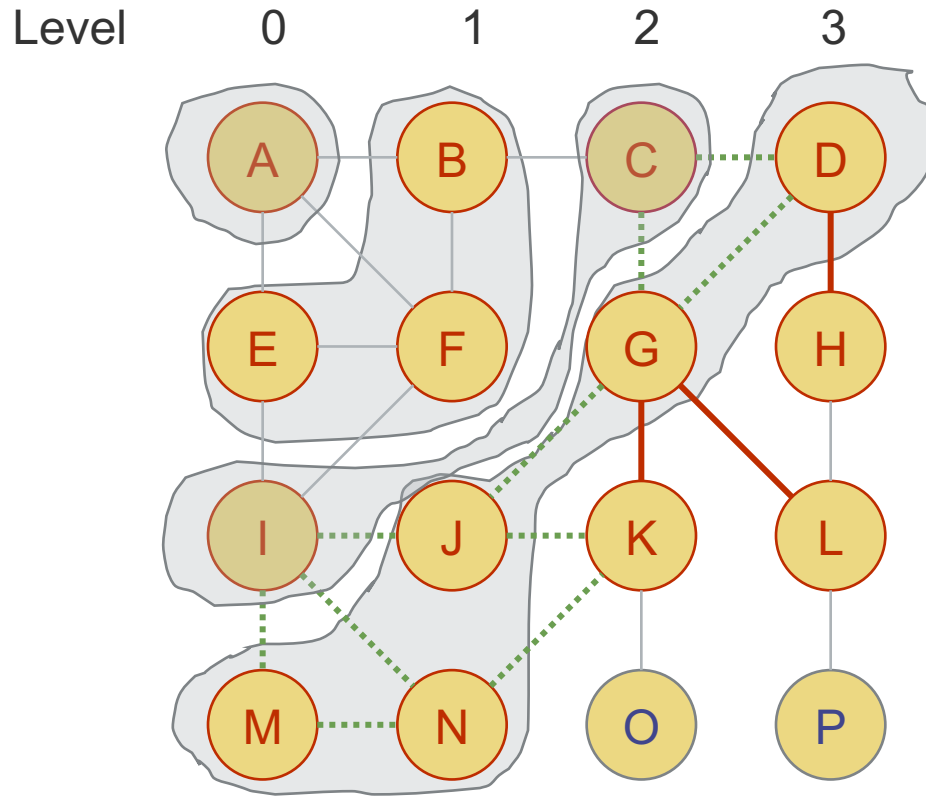
visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
E	(A,E)
F	(A,F)
C	(B,C)
I	(E,I)
D	(C,D)
G	(C,G)
J	(I,J)
M	(I,M)
N	(I,N)

Current level: C, I  
 Edges to consider: (C,B), (C,D), (C,G), (I,E), (I,F), (I,J), (I,M), (I,N)





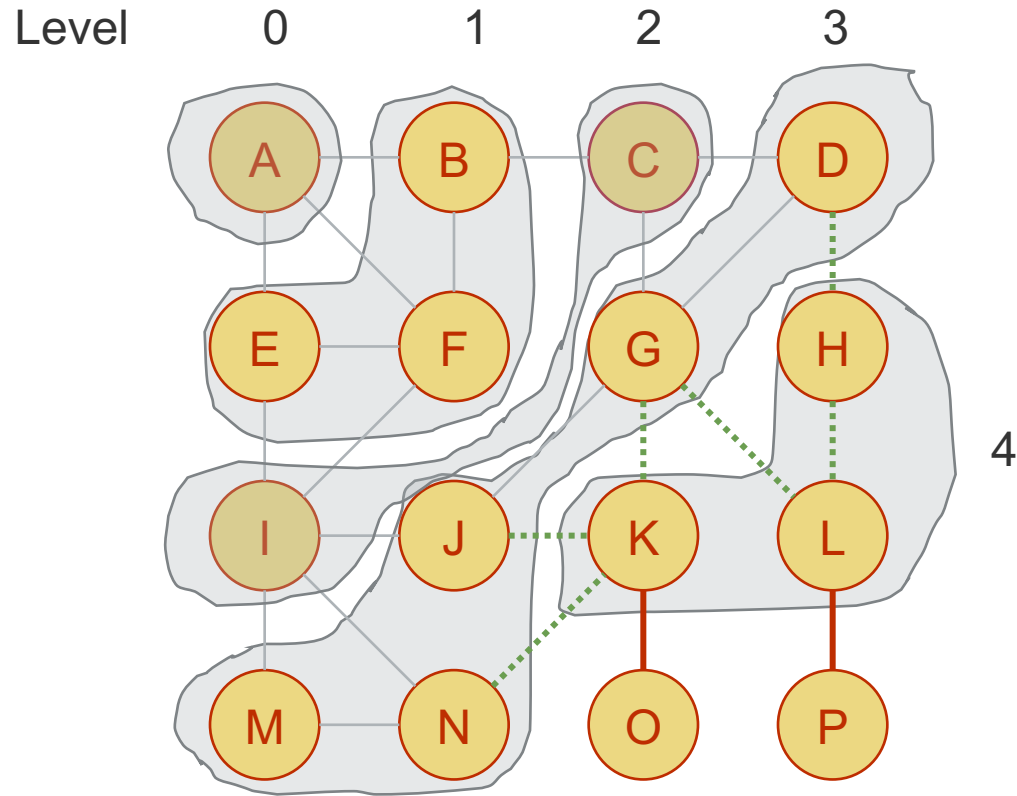
# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Example



Current level: D, G, J, M, N  
 Edges to consider: (D,C), (D,G), (D,H), (G, C), (G,D), (G,J), (G,K), (G,L), (J,G), (J,I), (J,K), (M,I), (M,N), (N,I), (N,K), (N,M)

visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
E	(A,E)
F	(A,F)
C	(B,C)
I	(E,I)
D	(C,D)
G	(C,G)
J	(I,J)
M	(I,M)
N	(I,N)
H	(D,H)
K	(G,K)
L	(G,L)

# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Example

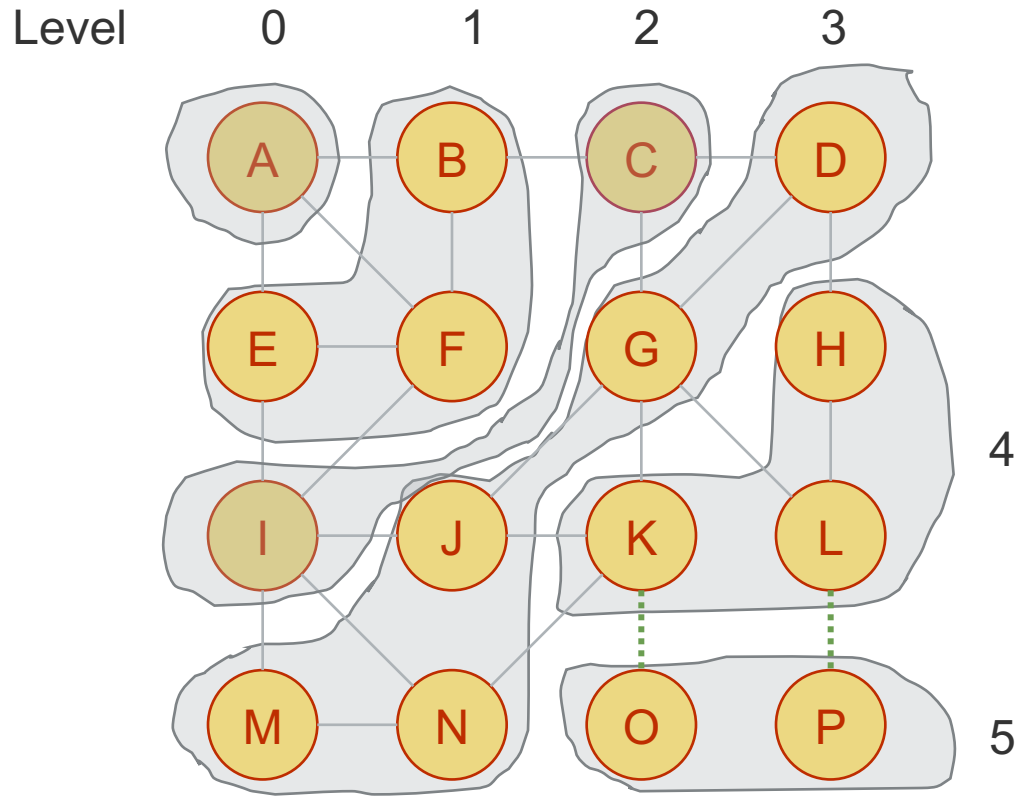


Current level: H, K, L  
 Edges to consider: (H,D), (H,L),  
 (K,G), (K,J), (K,N), (K,O), (L,G),  
 (L,H), (L,P)

visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
E	(A,E)
F	(A,F)
C	(B,C)
I	(E,I)
D	(C,D)
G	(C,G)
J	(I,J)
M	(I,M)
N	(I,N)
H	(D,H)
K	(G,K)
L	(G,L)
O	(K,O)
P	(L,P)



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Example

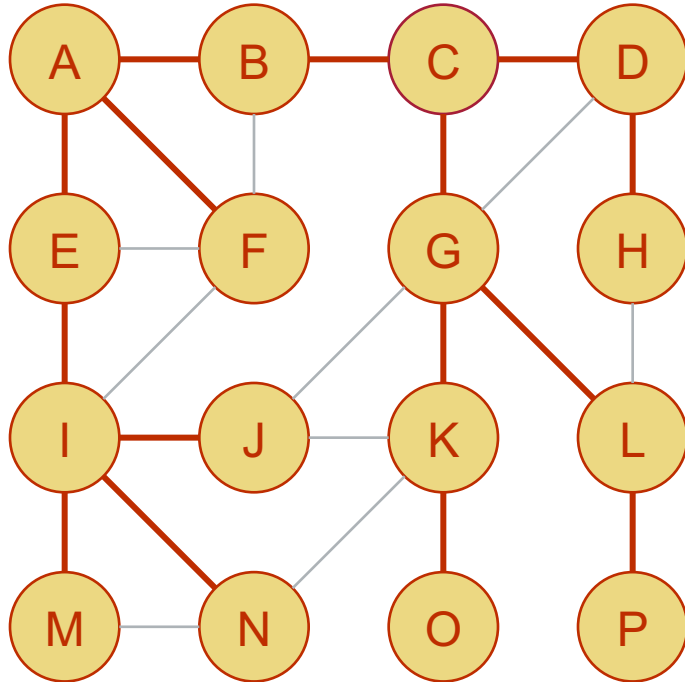


Current level: O, P  
 Edges to consider: (O, K), (P, L)  
**No new nodes, stop.**

visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
E	(A,E)
F	(A,F)
C	(B,C)
I	(E,I)
D	(C,D)
G	(C,G)
J	(I,J)
M	(I,M)
N	(I,N)
H	(D,H)
K	(G,K)
L	(G,L)
O	(K,O)
P	(L,P)



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Example



- Edges of BFS traversal tree (starting from A) marked in red (discovery edges)

visited	discovery edge
A	None
B	(A,B)
E	(A,E)
F	(A,F)
C	(B,C)
I	(E,I)
D	(C,D)
G	(C,G)
J	(I,J)
M	(I,M)
N	(I,N)
H	(D,H)
K	(G,K)
L	(G,L)
O	(K,O)
P	(L,P)



# Breadth-First Search (BFS) - Properties

- **Proposition.** A path  $p_1$  in a breadth-first search rooted at vertex  $s$  to any other vertex  $v$  is guaranteed to be the **shortest such path from  $s$  to  $v$  in terms of the number of edges.**
- **Justification.** Suppose that there was another path,  $p_2$  from  $s$  to  $v$  that was shorter than  $p_1$ 
  - This means that  $p_2$  is at least one edge shorter than  $p_1$
  - This means that  $v$  was already discovered on the previous level by  $p_2$
  - But  $p_1$  is also a path in the BFS tree – so  $v$  appears on two levels – contradiction, because the levels are made of disjoint nodes, marked as visited on their first visit

## Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Properties (cont'd)

- Consider  $G$ , an undirected graph on which a BFS traversal starting at vertex  $s$  has been performed. Then:
  - The traversal visits all vertices of  $G$  that are reachable from  $s$
  - For each vertex at level  $i$ , the path of the BFS tree between  $s$  and  $v$  has  $i$  edges, and any other path of  $G$  from  $s$  to  $v$  has at least  $i$  edges
  - If  $(u, v)$  is an edge that is not in the BFS tree then the level number of  $v$  can be at most 1 greater than the level number of  $u$
- Exercise: try to justify each of these properties using contradiction or induction.

## Breadth-First Search (BFS) – Running time

- For a graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  nodes represented using an adjacency list structure a BFS traversal takes  $O(n + m)$  time if the graph is connected if 1 and 2 are satisfied
- As in the DFS case, if  $n_s \leq n$  is the number of vertices reachable from  $s$ , and  $m_s \leq m$  is the number of edges incident to those vertices, then BFS runs in  $O(n_s + m_s)$  time if
  1. The data structure used to represent the graph can iterate through the edges of a vertex, `incident_edges(v)` in  $O(\deg(v))$  time, and can find the opposite vertex, `e.opposite(v)` in  $O(1)$  time
  2. There is a method to mark the vertex or edge as explored, and to test if a vertex or edge has been explored in  $O(1)$  time
- A procedure similar to the `DFS_complete()` function can be used to explore the entire graph in cases where the graph is made of multiple connected components

# BFS vs. DFS

Undirected Graph Applications	DFS	BFS
Find a set of vertices that are reachable from a given source, and determine paths to those vertices	√	√
Shortest paths		√
Test the connectivity of a graph	√	√
Identify connected components	√	√
Locate a cycle	√	√



Thank you.