DSC 40B

Lecture 18 : BFS

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Graph Search Strategies

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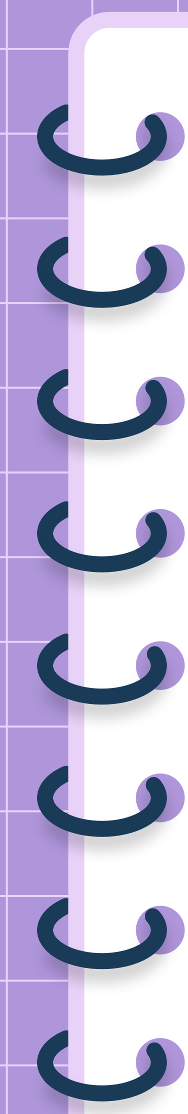

How do we:

- determine if there is a path between two nodes?
- check if graph is connected?
- count connected components?

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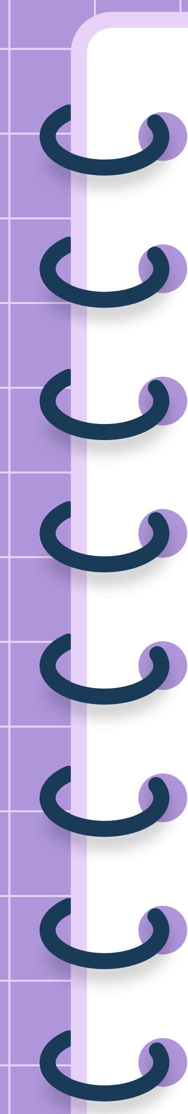

Search Strategies

- A **search strategy** is a procedure for *exploring* a graph.
- Different strategies are useful in different situations.

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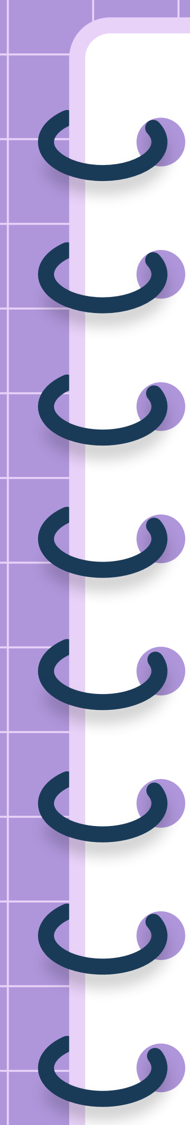

Node Statuses

- At any point during a search, a node is in exactly one of three states:
  - **visited**
  - **pending** (discovered, but not *yet* visited)
  - **undiscovered**

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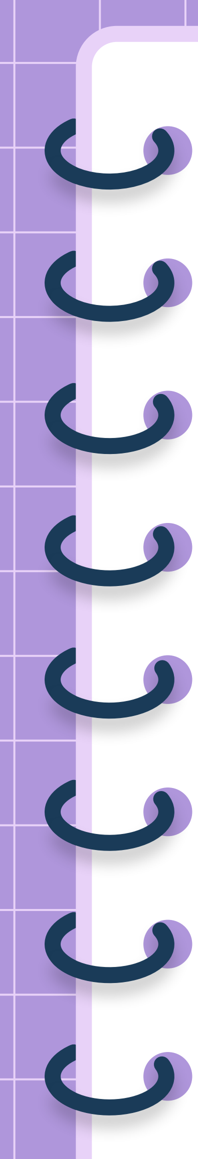

Rules

- At every step, next **visited** node chosen from among **pending** nodes.
- When a node is marked as **visited**, all of its neighbors have been marked as **pending**.

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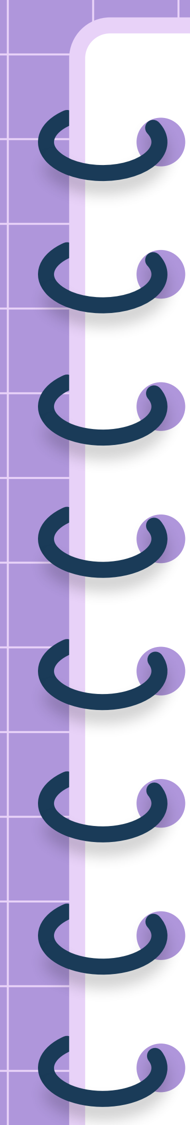

Choosing the next Node

- How to choose among **pending** nodes?
  - **Idea 1**: Visit *newest* pending (**depth-first search**).
  - **Idea 2**: Visit *oldest* pending (**breadth-first search**).

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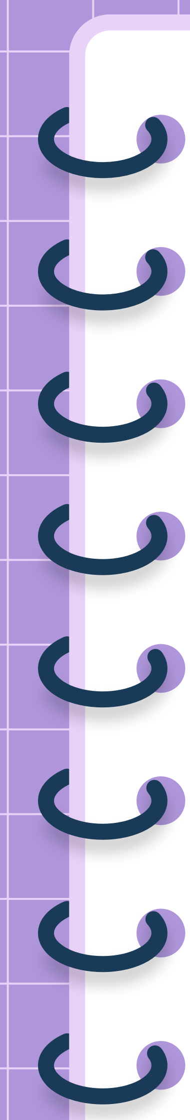

Main Idea

- **Depth-first search** (DFS) and **breadth-first search** (BFS) each discover *different* properties of the graph.
- For example, we'll see that BFS is useful for finding **shortest paths** (DFS in general is not).

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Breadth-First Search

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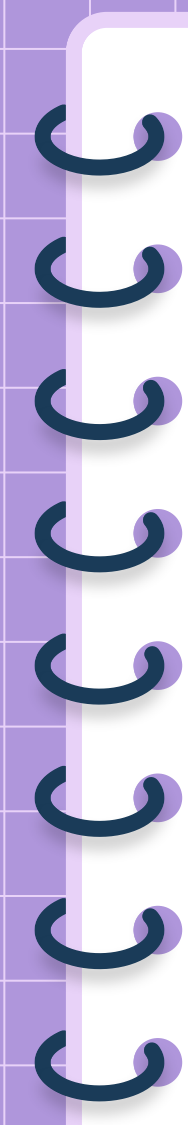

Breadth-First Search

- At every step:
    - Visit **oldest** **pending** node.
    - Mark its **undiscovered** neighbors as **pending**.
- **Convention**: in this class, neighbors produced in ***sorted*** order.
    - In general, the order in which a node's neighbors produced is arbitrary.

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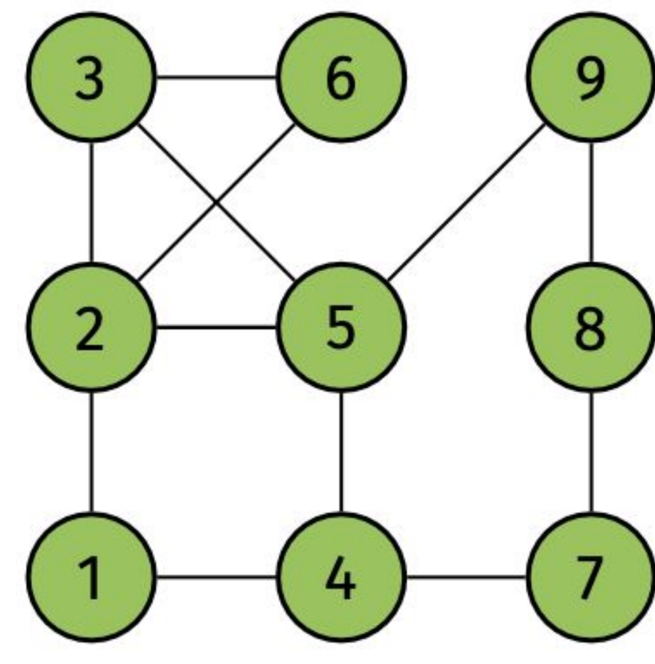
Example



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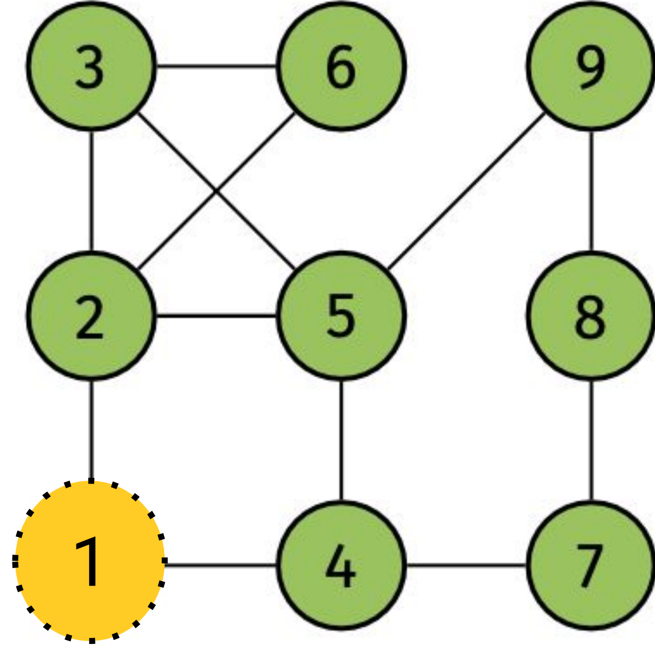
Example



pending = [1]

Before iterating.

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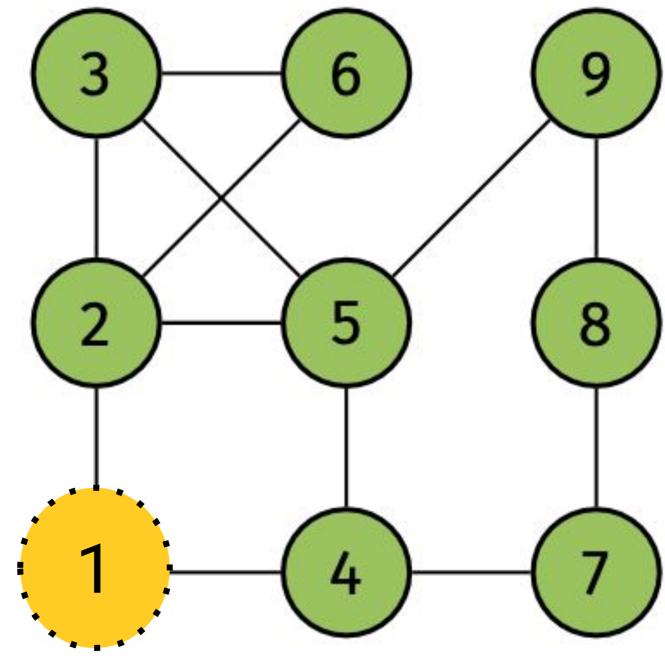
Example



pending = [1, 2, 4]

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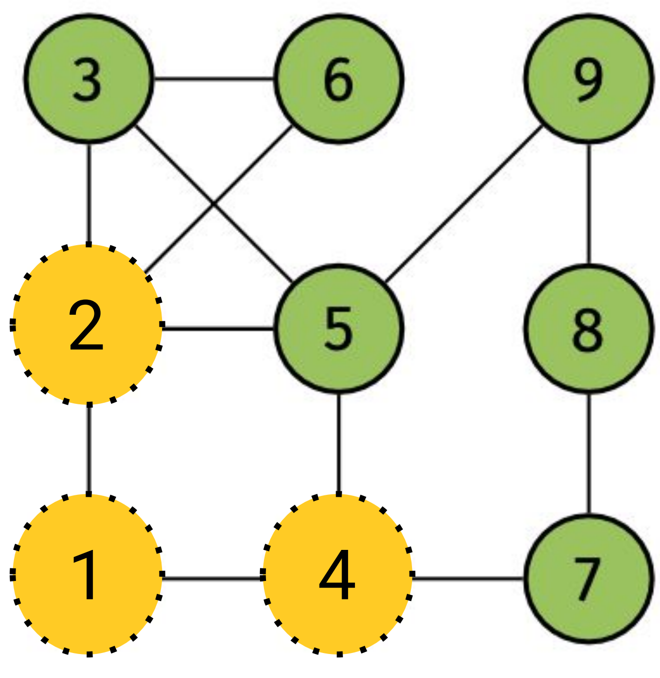
Example



pending = [1, 2, 4]

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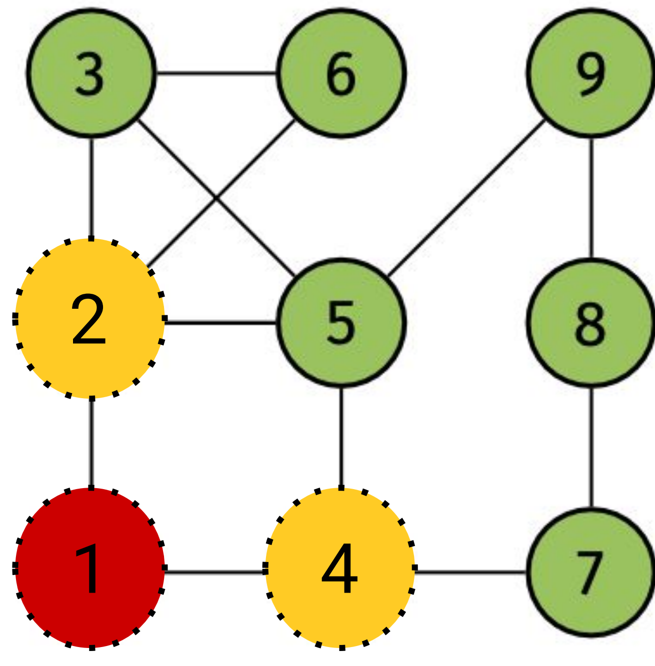
Example



After 1st iteration.

pending = [2, 4]

states:

- visited
- pending (discovered, but not *yet* visited)
- undiscovered

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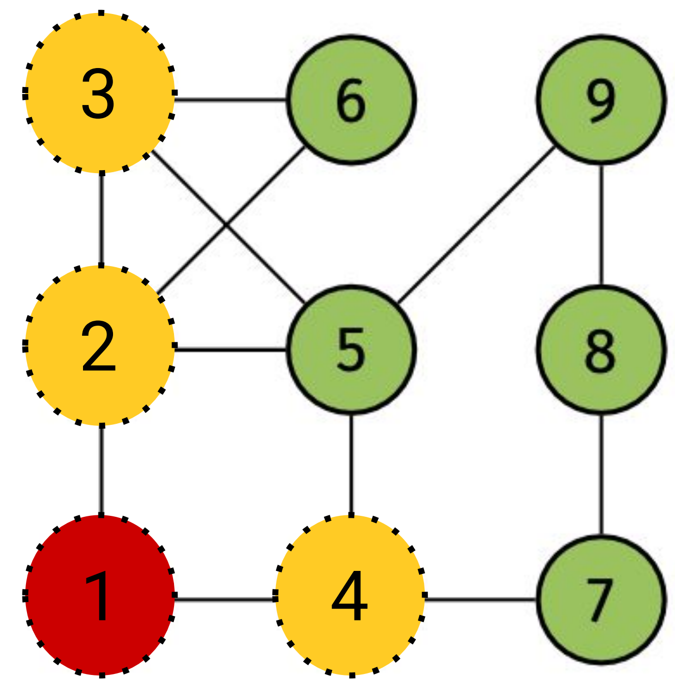
Example



pending = [2, 4, 3]

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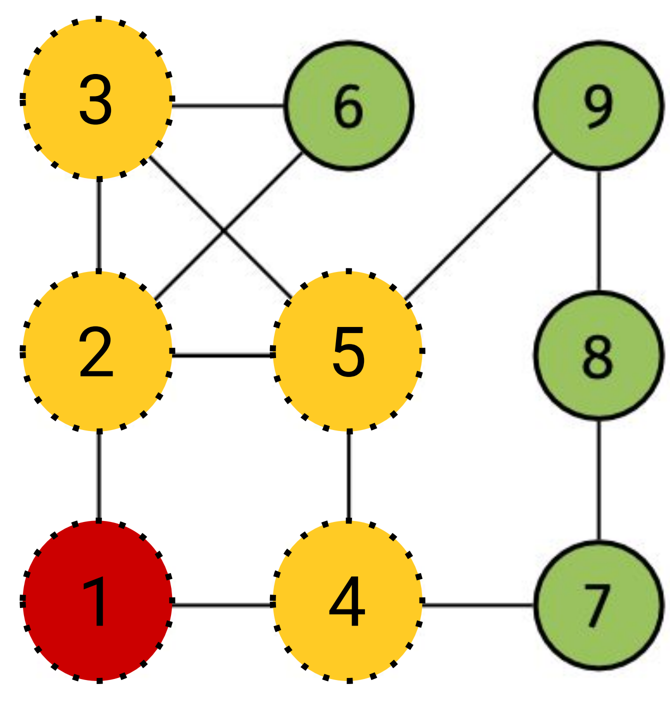
Example



pending = [2, 4, 3, 5]

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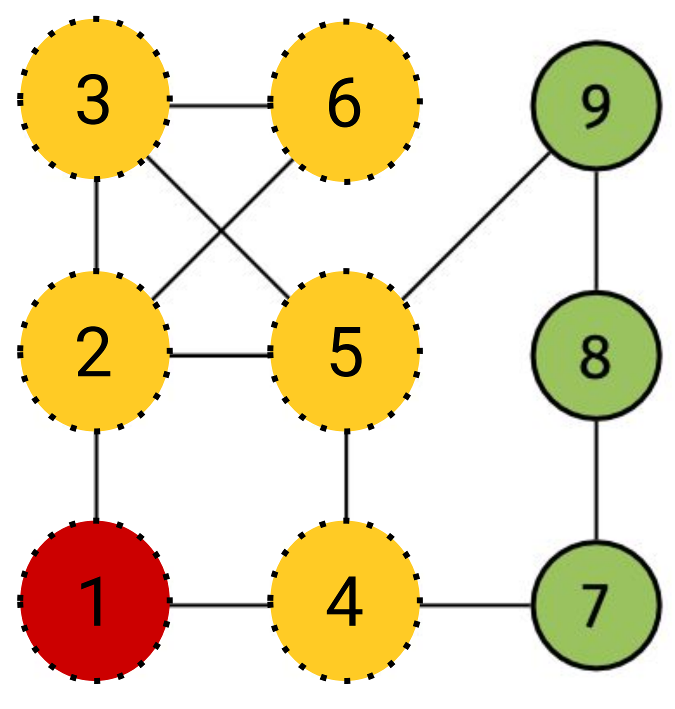
Example



pending = [2, 4, 3, 5, 6]

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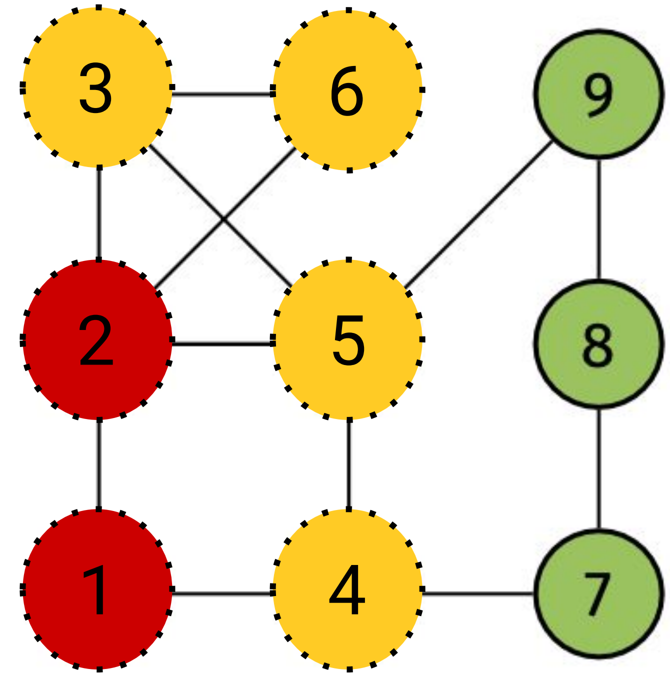
Example



pending = [4, 3, 5, 6]

After 2nd iteration.

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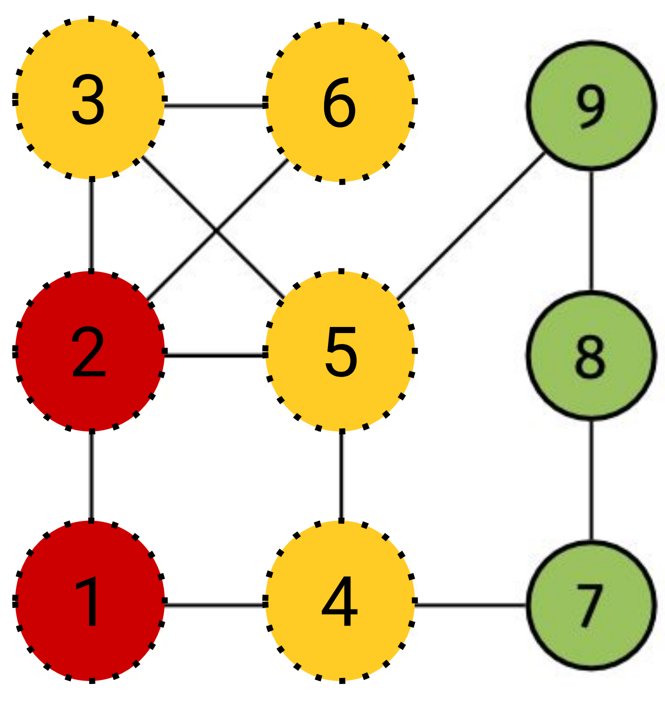
Example




```
pending = [ 4, 3, 5, 6, ? ]
```

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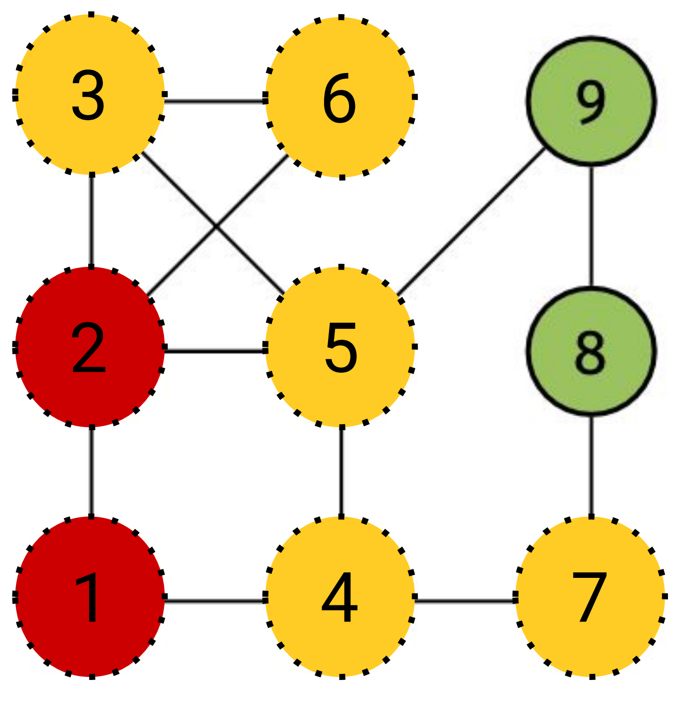
Example



pending = [4, 3, 5, 6, 7]

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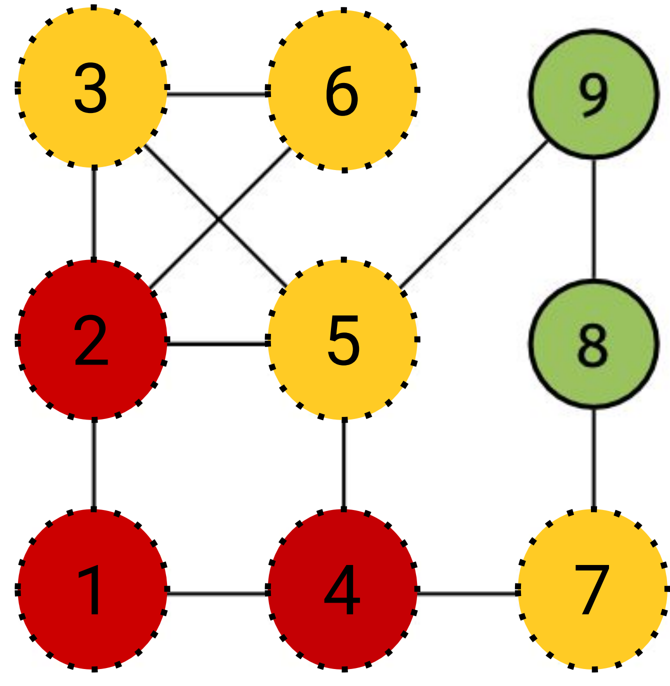
Example



pending = [3, 5, 6, 7]

After 3rd iteration

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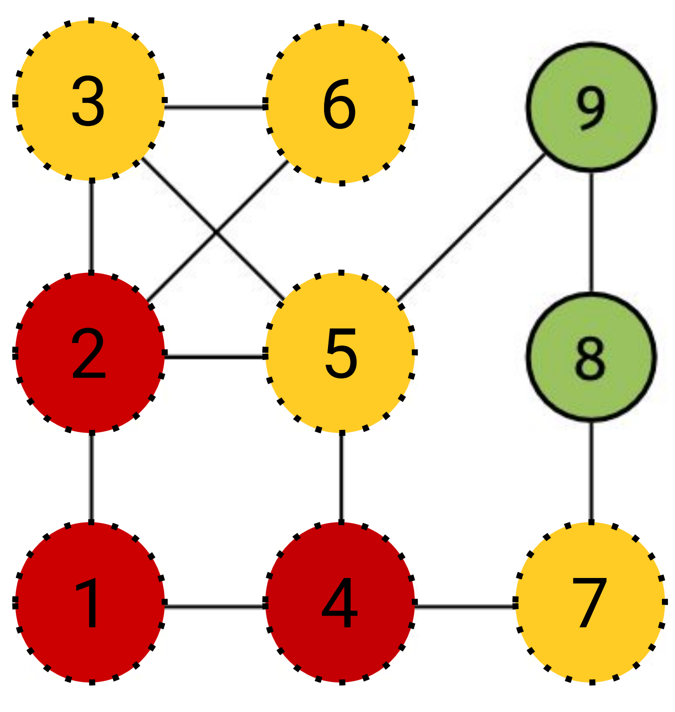
Example



pending = [3, 5, 6, 7, ?]

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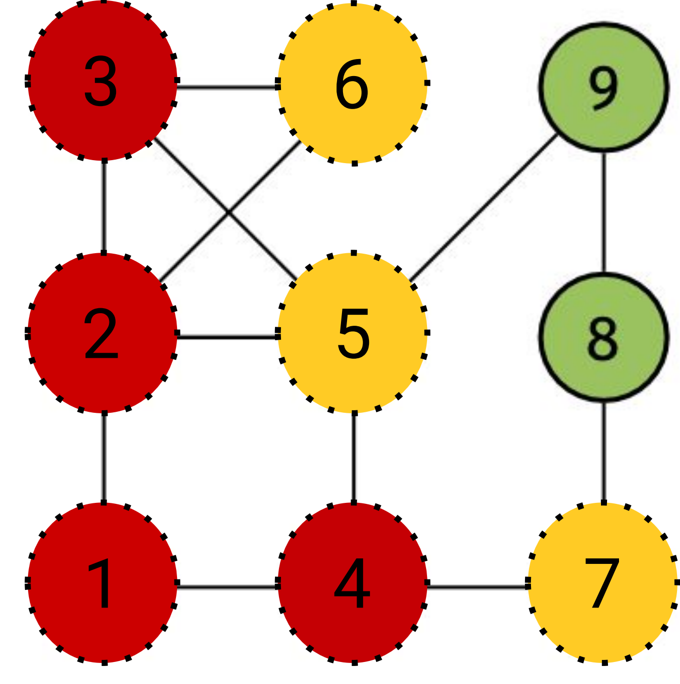
Example



pending = [5, 6, 7]

After 4th iteration

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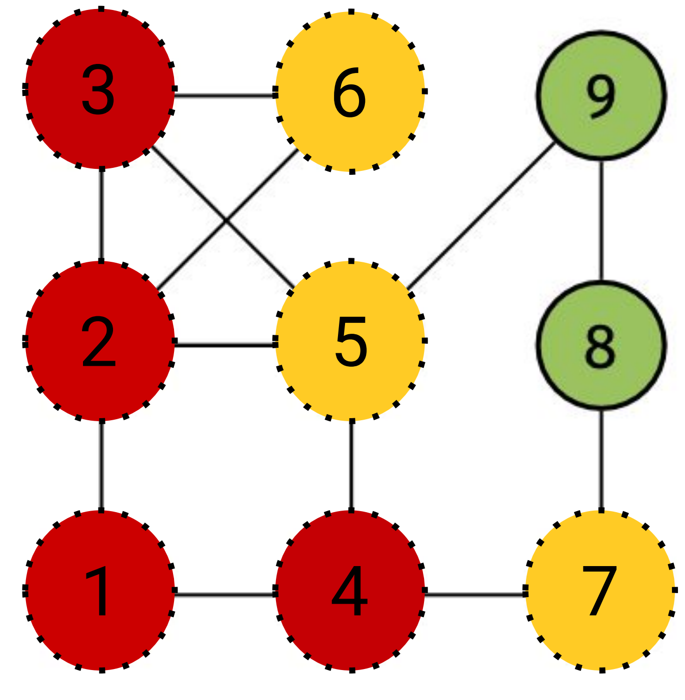
Example




```
pending = [ 5, 6, 7, ?]
```

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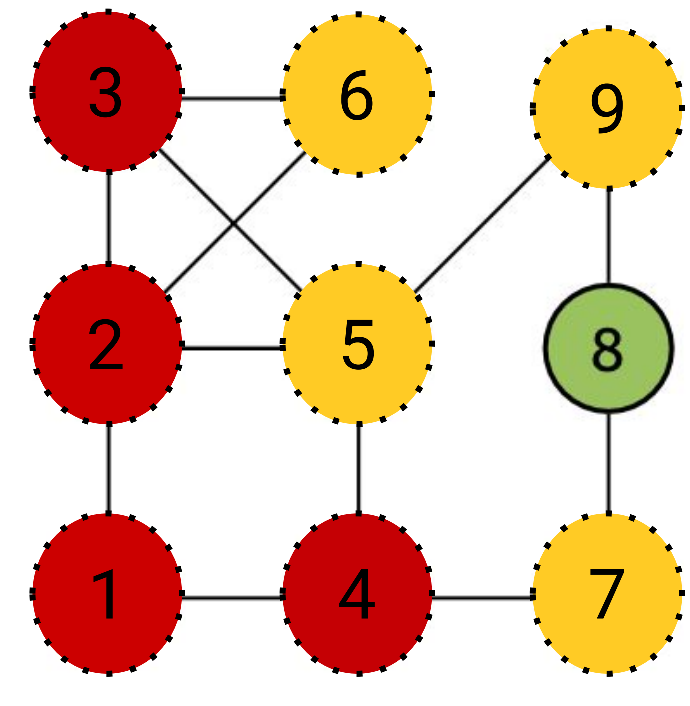
Example



pending = [5, 6, 7, 9]

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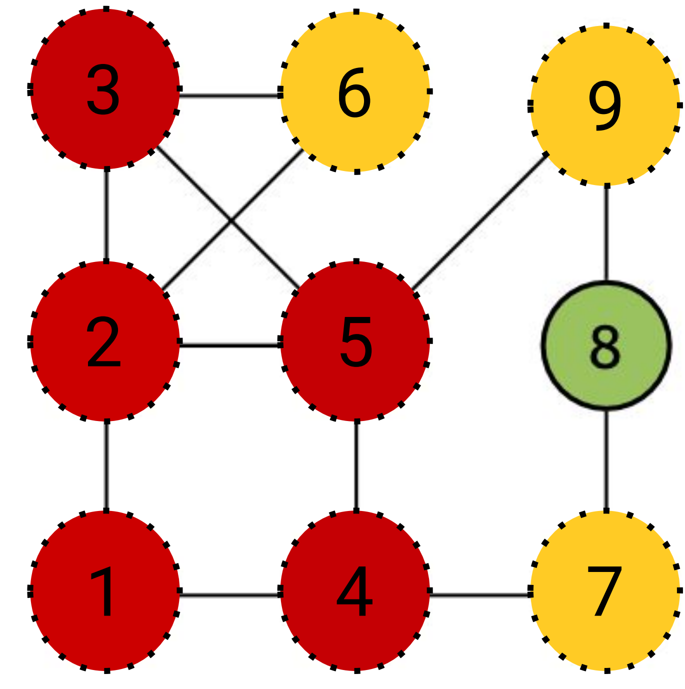
Example



pending = [6, 7, 9]

After 5th iteration

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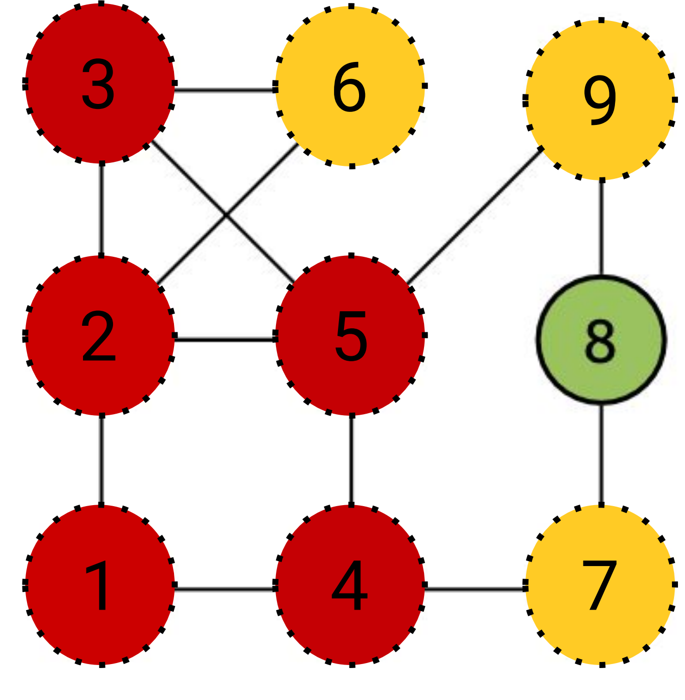
Example



pending = [6, 7, 9, ?]

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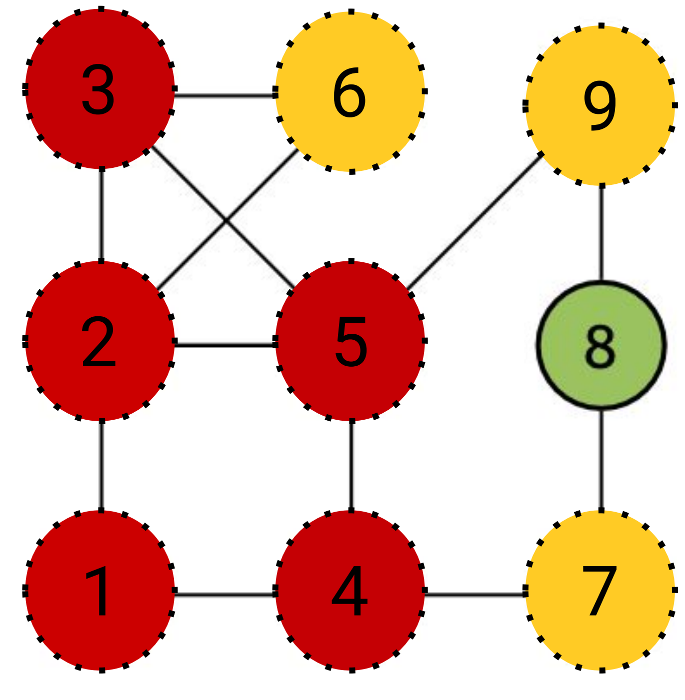
Example



pending = [6, 7, 9]

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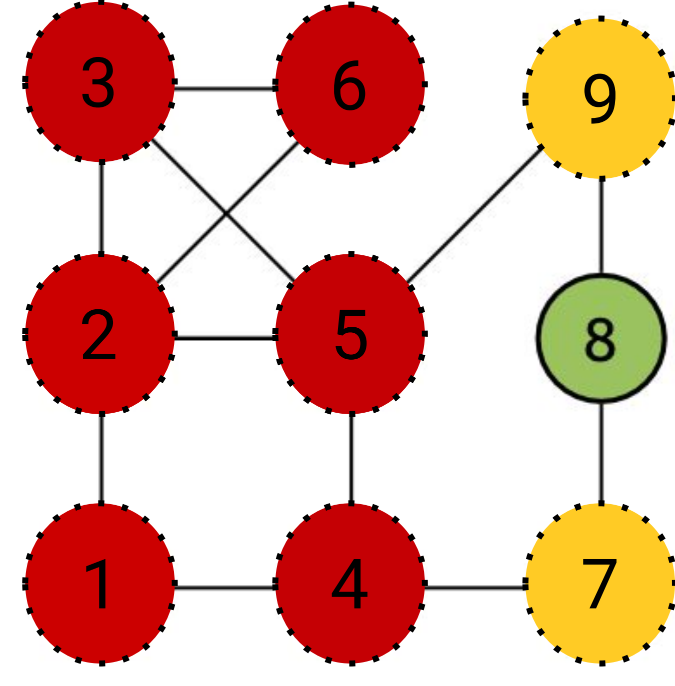
Example



pending = [7, 9]

After 6th iteration

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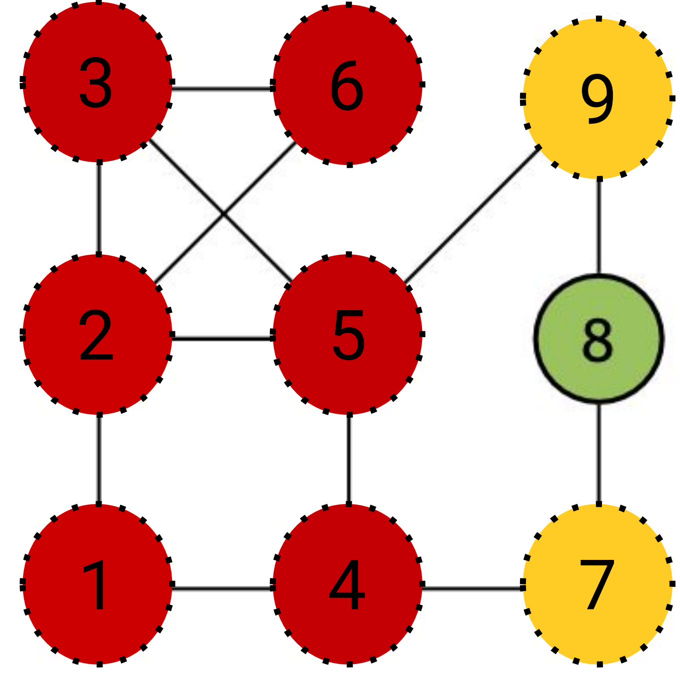
Example



pending = [7, 9, ?]

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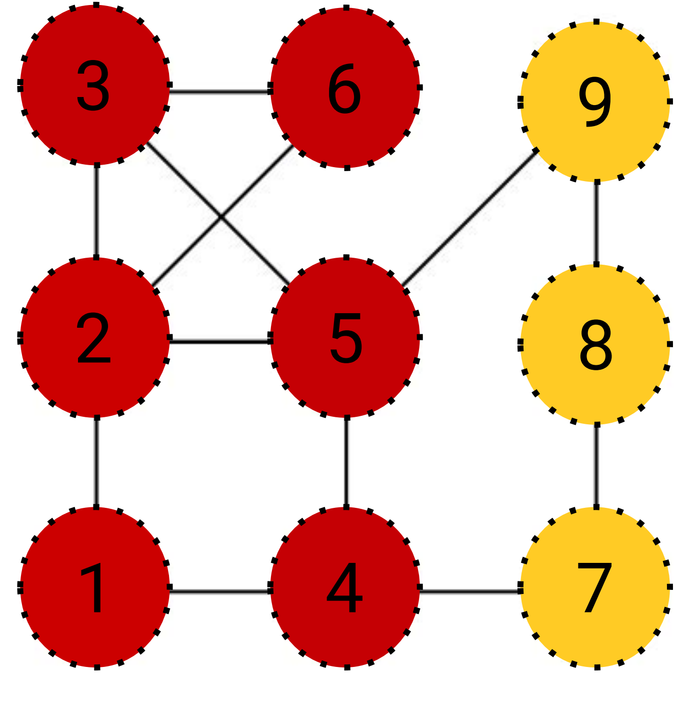
Example



pending = [7, 9, 8]

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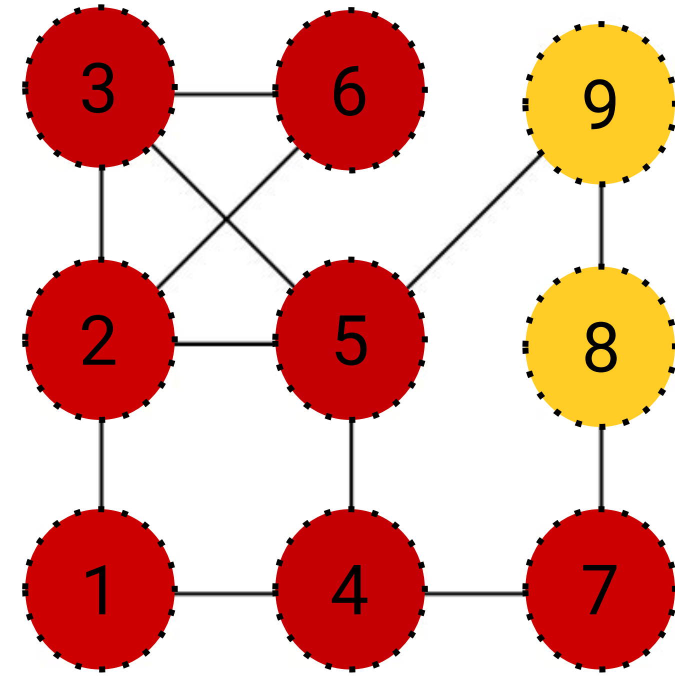
Example



pending = [9, 8]

After 7th iteration

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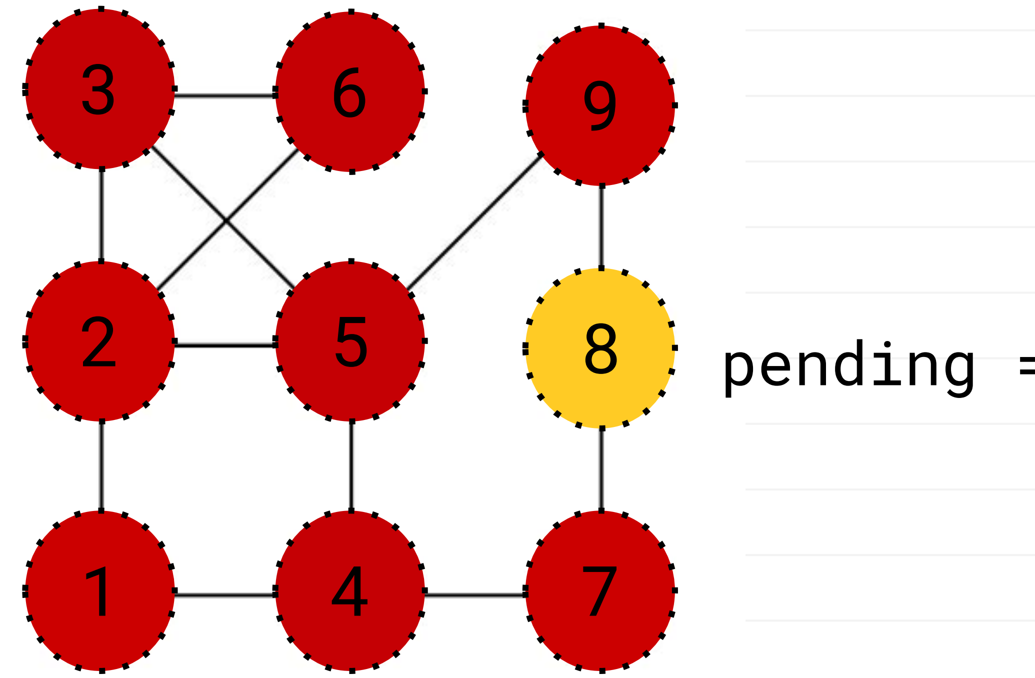
Example



pending = [8]

After 8th iteration

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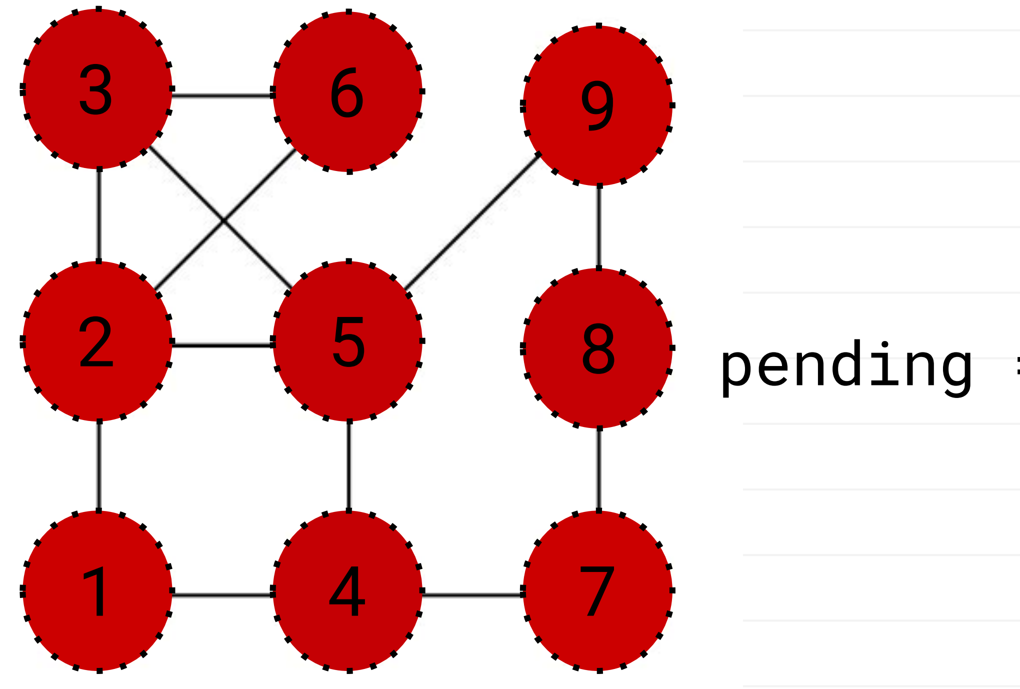
Example



pending = []

After 9th iteration

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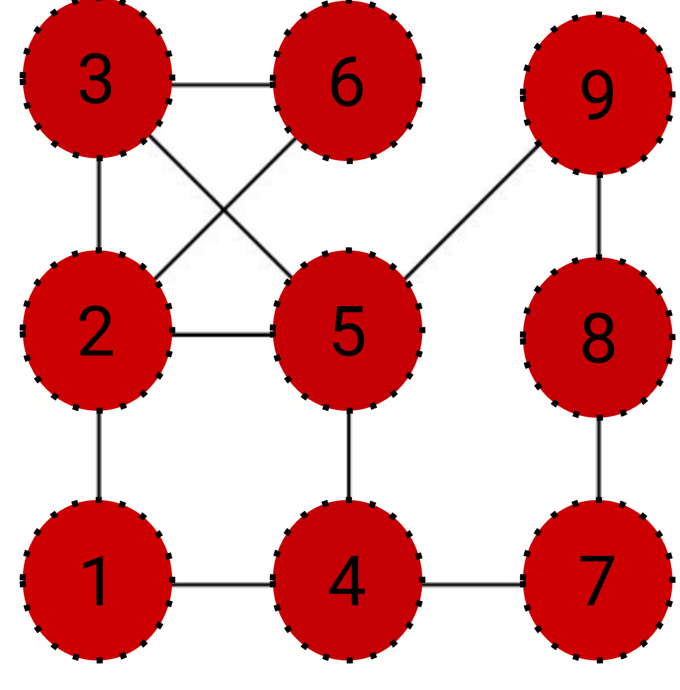
Example



After 9th iteration

`pending = []`

Did you recognize the data structure?

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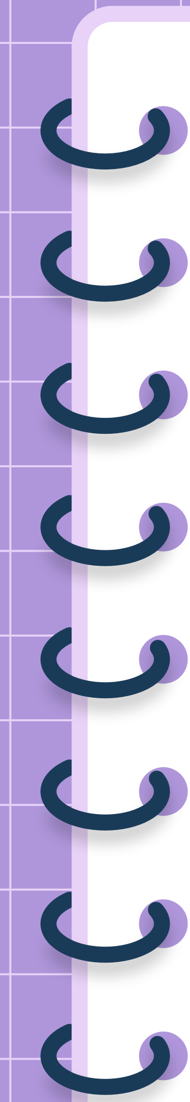

Implementation

- To store **pending** nodes, use a FIFO **queue**.
  - FIFO = “First in, first out”.
- While queue is not empty:
  - Pop a node, u. (remove from the front)
  - Add **undiscovered** neighbors to queue. (to the back)

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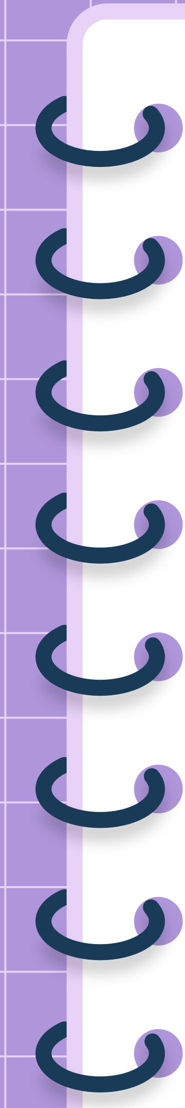

Queues in Python

- Want Θ(1) time pops/appends on either side.
- `from collections import deque` (“deck”).
  - .popleft() and.pop()
  - `list` doesn’t have right time complexity!
  - `import queue` **isn’t** what you want!
- Keep track of node status attribute using dictionary.

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```python
from collections import deque

def bfs(graph, source):
    """Start a BFS at `source`."""
    status = {node: 'undiscovered' for node in graph.nodes}

    status[source] = 'pending'
    pending = deque([source])

    # while there are still pending nodes
    while pending:
        # EXERCISE: fill this in...
```

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At every step:

- Visit **oldest** **pending** node.
- Mark its **undiscovered** neighbors as **pending**.

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    while pending:
        u = pending.popleft() #remove the first elem
```

At every step:

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    while pending:
        u = pending.popleft() #remove the first elem
        for v in graph.neighbors(u):
```

At every step:

- Visit **oldest** **pending** node.
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    # while there are still pending nodes
    while pending:
        u = pending.popleft() #remove the first elem
        for v in graph.neighbors(u):
            if status[v] == 'undiscovered':
```

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```

At every step:

- Visit **oldest** **pending** node.
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    # while there are still pending nodes
    while pending:
       u = pending.popleft() #remove the first elem
      for v in graph.neighbors(u):
           if status[v] == 'undiscovered':
               status[v] = 'pending'
               pending.append(v)
```

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      for v in graph.neighbors(u):
           if status[v] == 'undiscovered':
               status[v] = 'pending'
               pending.append(v)
      status[u] == 'visited'
```

At every step:

- Visit **oldest** **pending** node.
- Mark its **undiscovered** neighbors as **pending**.

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BFS

```
from collections import deque

def bfs(graph, source):
    """Start a BFS at `source`."""
    status = {node: 'undiscovered' for node in graph.nodes}

    status[source] = 'pending'
    pending = deque([source])

    # while there are still pending nodes
    while pending:
        u = pending.popleft()
        for v in graph.neighbors(u):
            # explore edge (u,v)
            if status[v] == 'undiscovered':
                status[v] = 'pending'
                # append to right
                pending.append(v)
        status[u] = 'visited'
```

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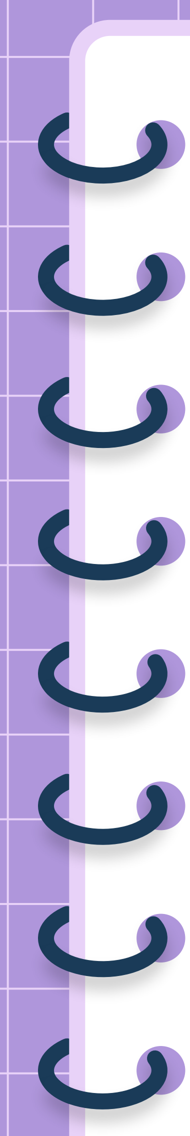

Notes

- What does this code actually return?
- Nothing, yet. It is a **foundation**.
- BFS works just as well for directed graphs.

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Analysis of BFS

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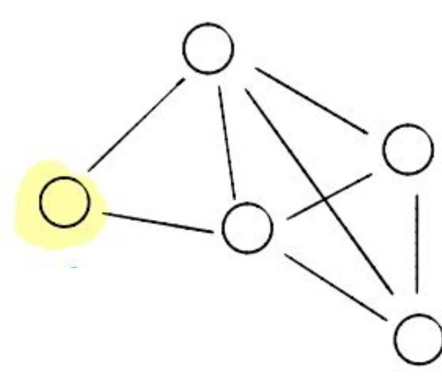
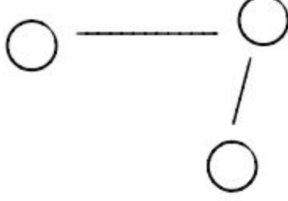
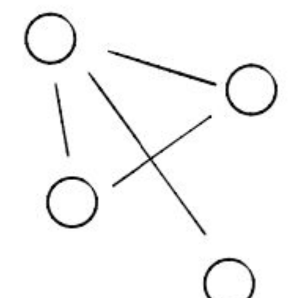
Exercise: What will bfs do when run on a disconnected graph?







A: Discover all nodes

B: Inf. loop

C: Discover only some nodes.

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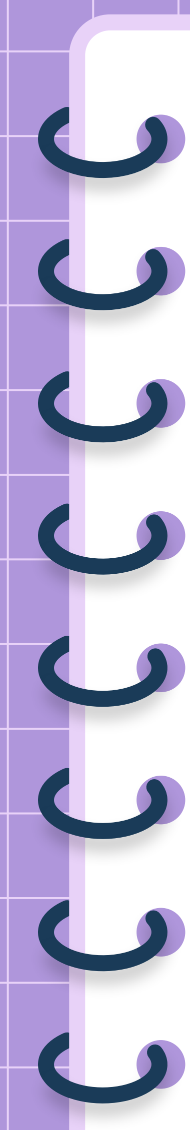

Claim

- `bfs` with source u will visit all nodes **reachable** from u (*and only those nodes*).
- **Useful!**
  - Is there a path between u and v?
  - Is graph connected?

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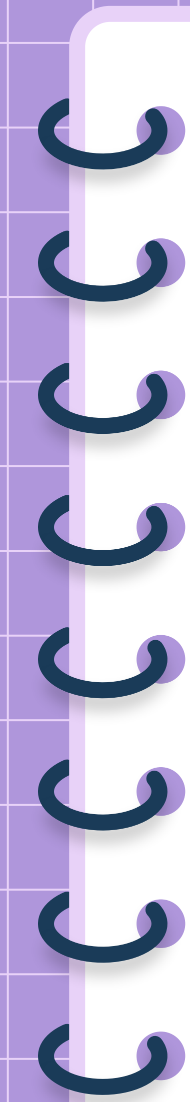

Exploring with BFS

- BFS will visit all nodes **reachable** from source.
- If **disconnected**, BFS will **not visit** all nodes.
- We can do so with a **full BFS**.
    - **Idea**: “re-start” BFS on undiscovered node.
    - Must pass *statuses* between calls.

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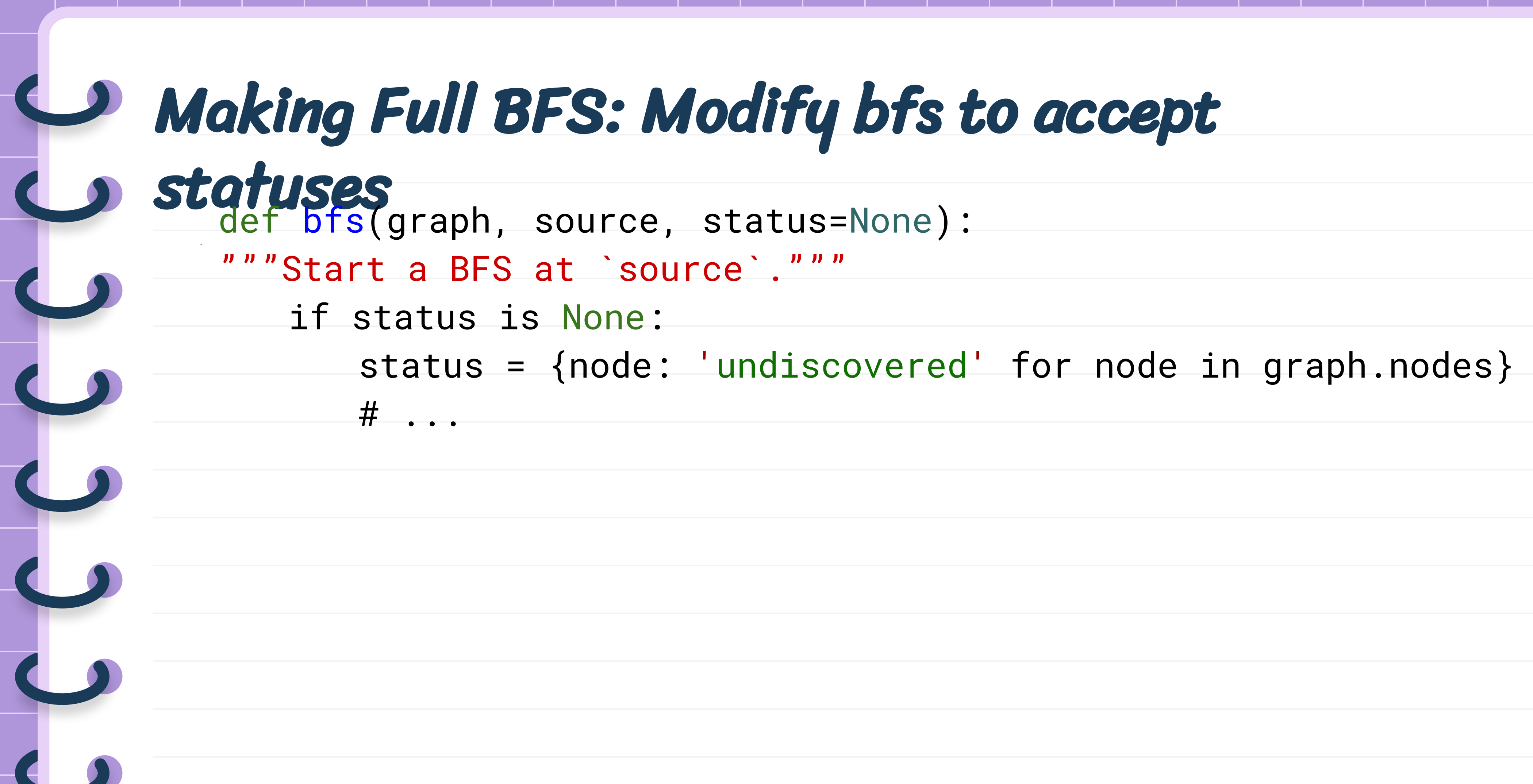

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Making Full BFS: Call bfs multiple times

```
def full_bfs(graph):
    status = {node: 'undiscovered' for node in graph.nodes}
    for node in graph.nodes:
        if status[node] == 'undiscovered':
            bfs(graph, node, status)
```

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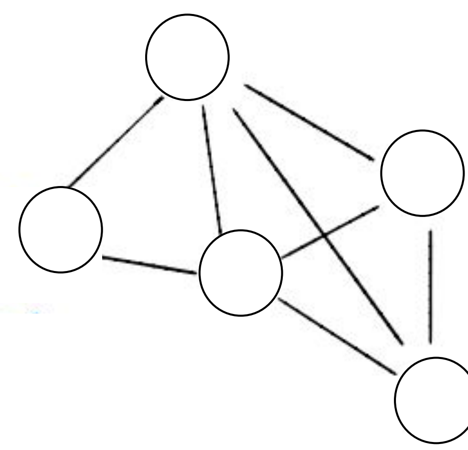
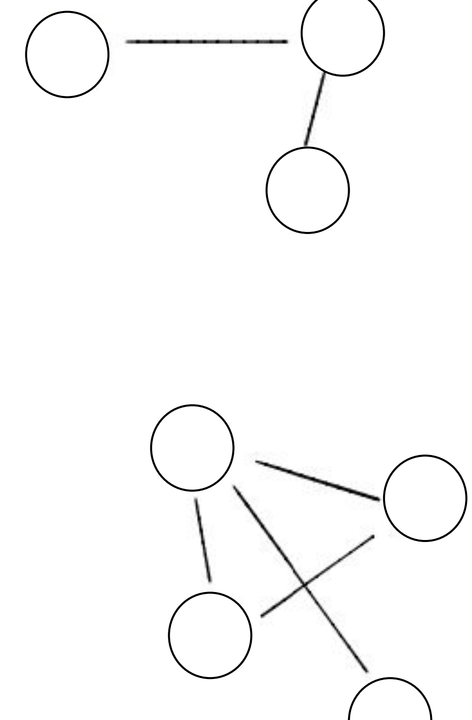
Example





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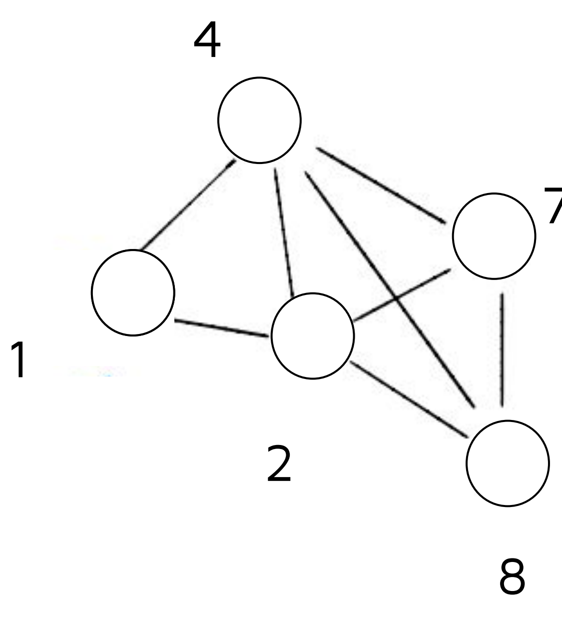
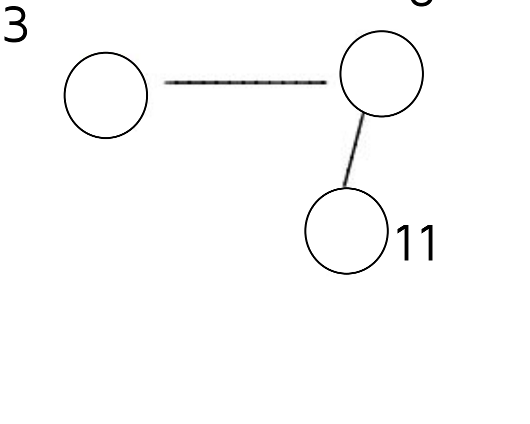
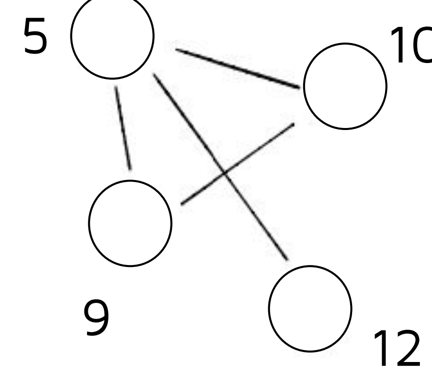
Example







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Example

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```
def full_bfs(graph):
    status = {node: 'undiscovered' for node in graph.nodes}
    for node in graph.nodes:
        if status[node] == 'undiscovered'
```


First call to BFS

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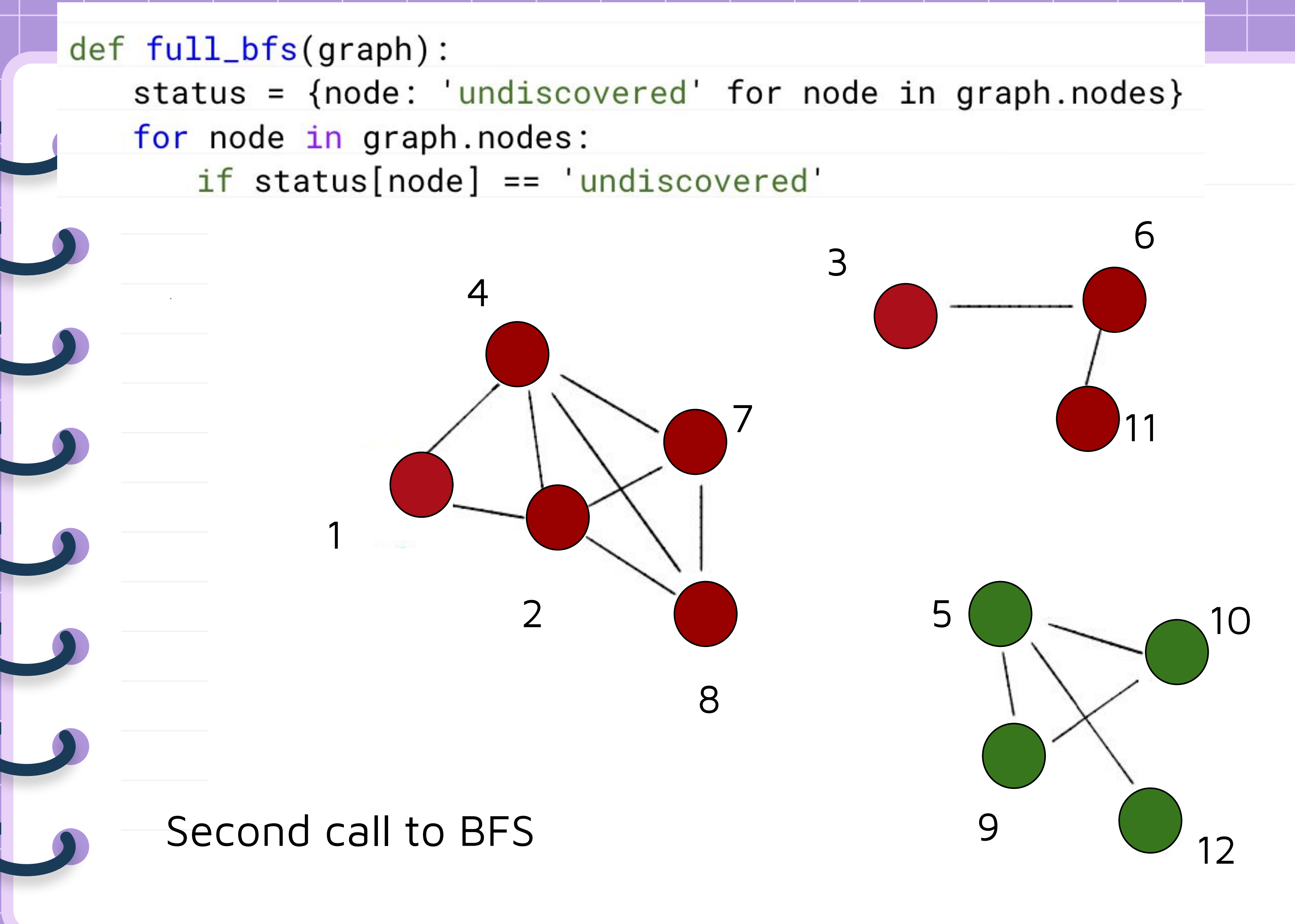

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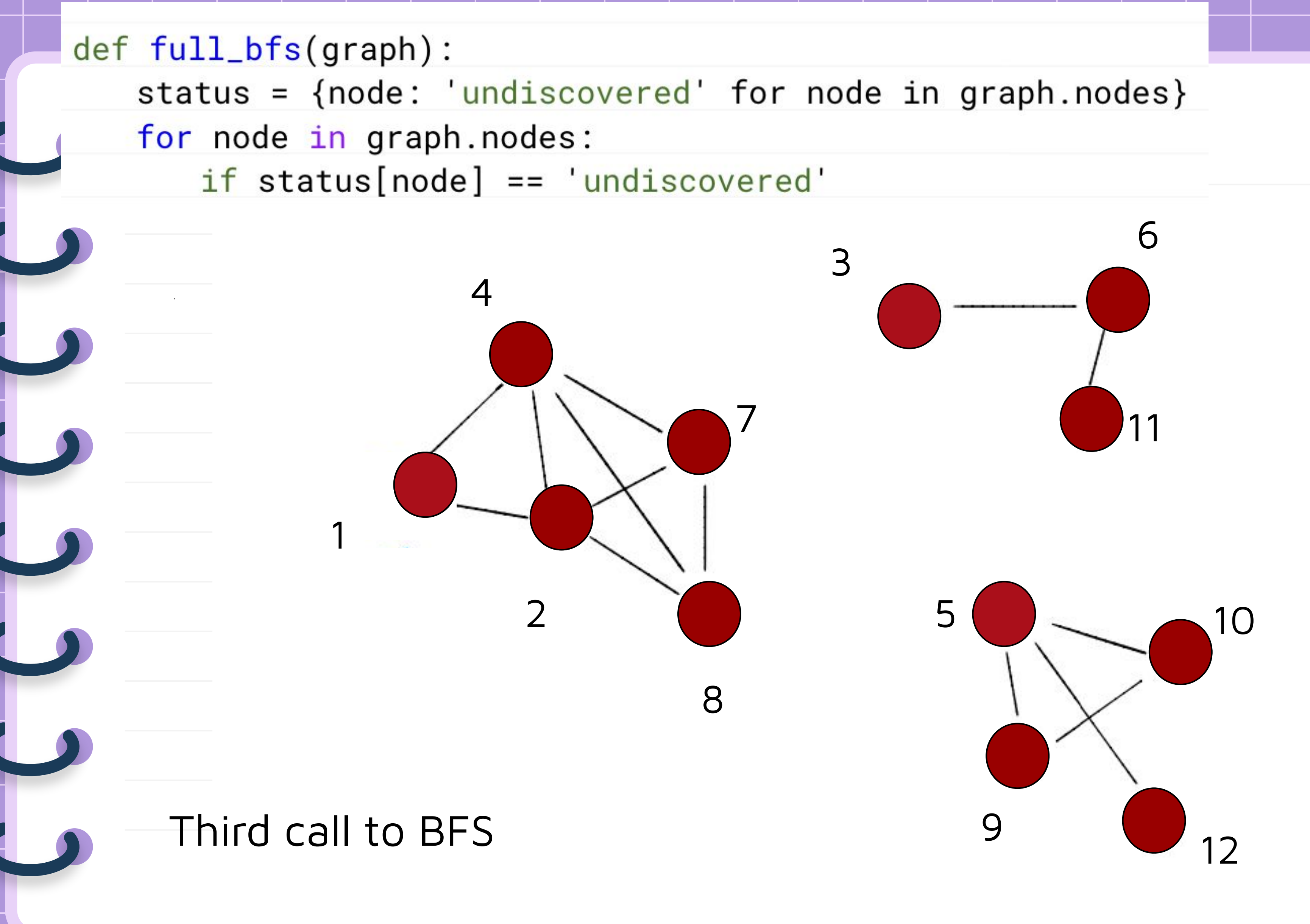

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Observation

If there are k connected components, bfs in line 5 is called exactly k times

```
1  def full_bfs(graph):
2      status = {node: 'undiscovered' for node in graph.nodes}
3      for node in graph.nodes:
4          if status[node] == 'undiscovered':
5              bfs(graph, node, status)
```

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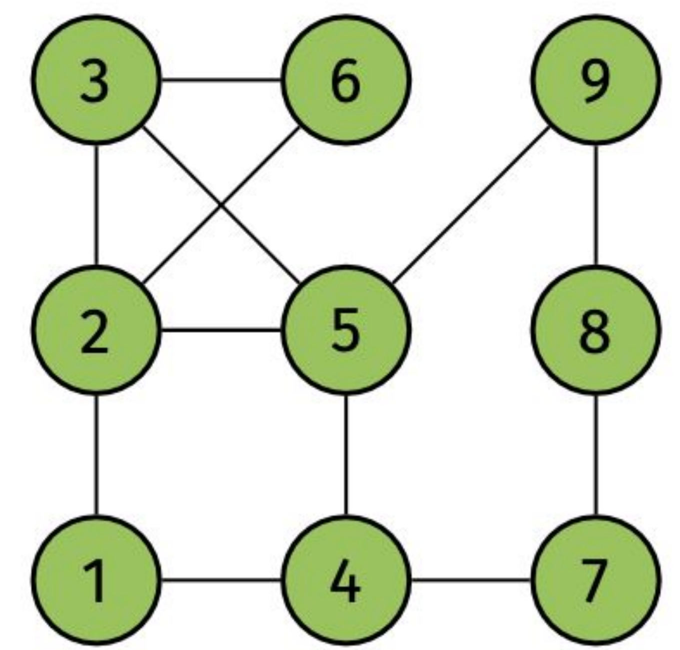
Exercise

How many times is each node added to the queue in a BFS of the graph below?



A: Once

B: Twice

C: E times

D: V times

E: V + E times

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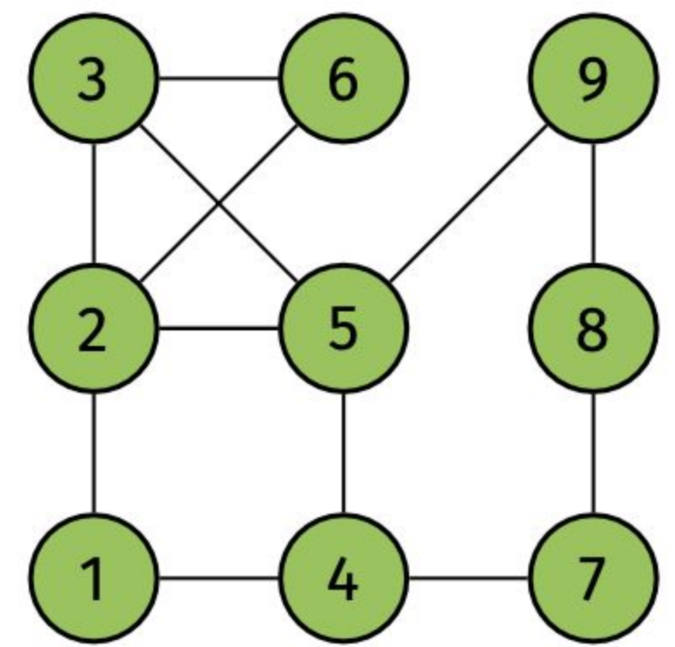
Exercise

How many times is each node added to the queue in a BFS of the graph below?



A: Once

B: Twice

C: E times

D: V times

E: V + E times

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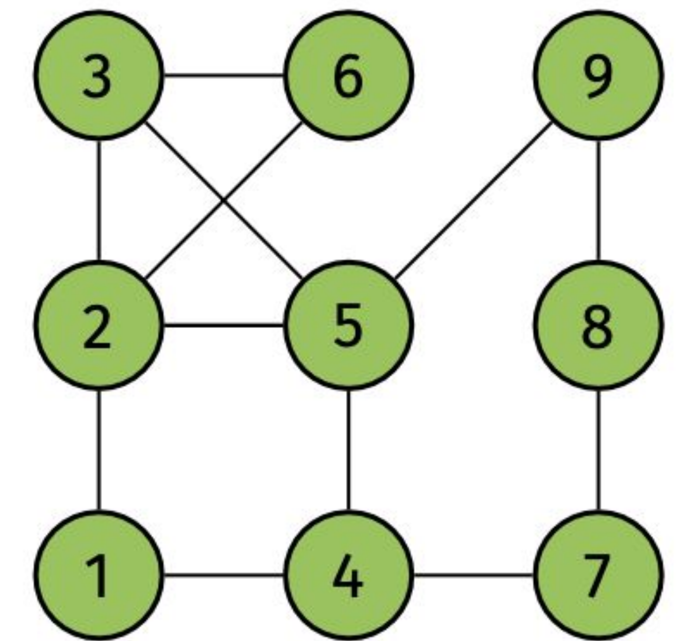
Exercise

How many times is each edge "explored" in a BFS of the graph below?



A: Once

B: Twice

C: E times

D: V times

E: V + E times

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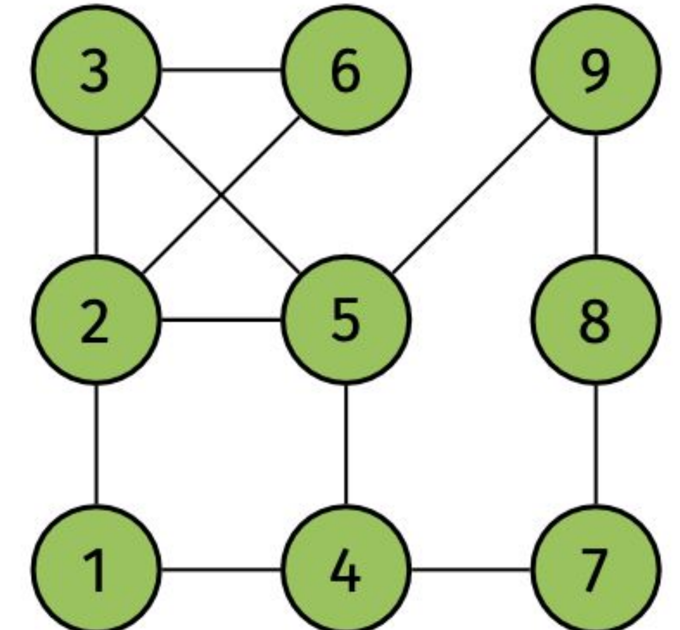
Exercise

How many times is each edge "explored" in a BFS of the graph below?



A: Once

B: Twice

C: E times

D: V times

E: V + E times

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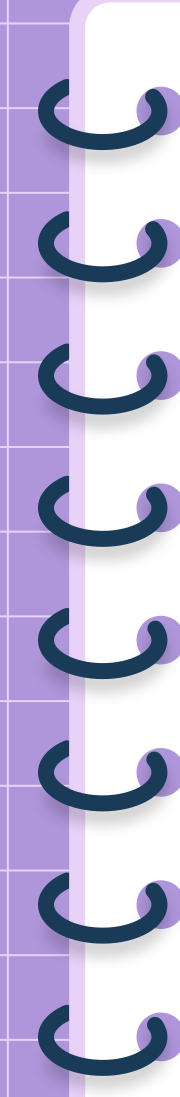
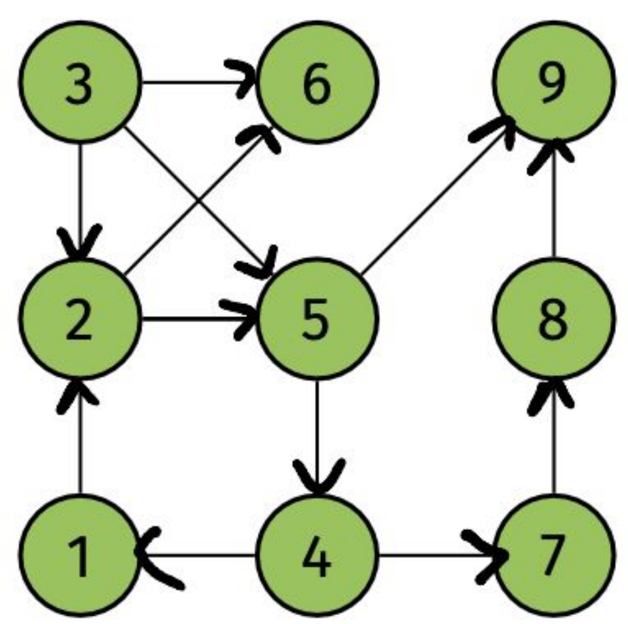


Exercise

How many times is each edge "explored" in a BFS of the **directed** graph below?



A: Once

B: Twice

C: E times

D: V times

E: V + E times

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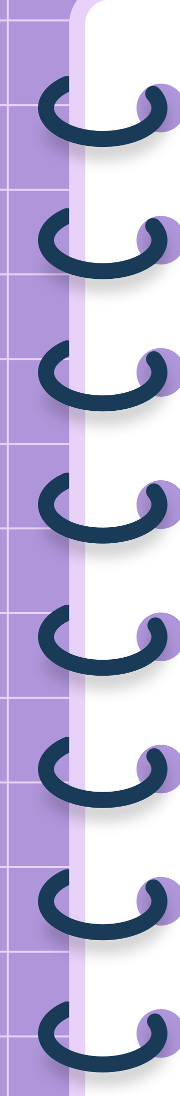
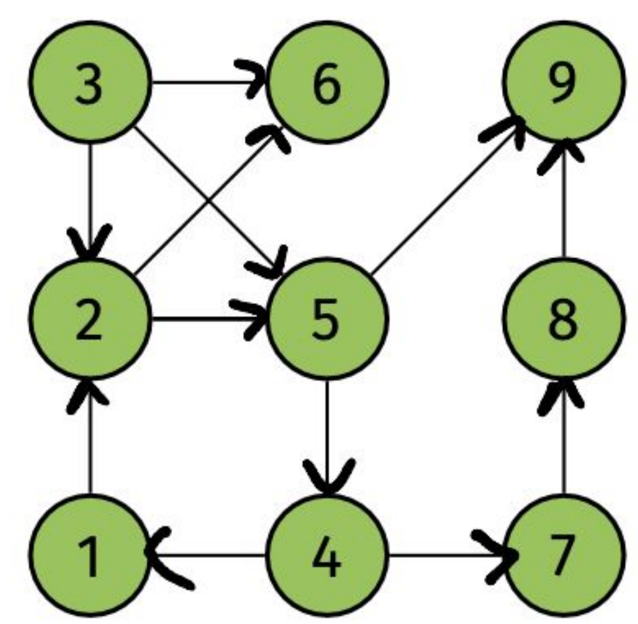


Exercise

How many times is each edge "explored" in a BFS of the **directed** graph below?



A: Once

B: Twice

C: E times

D: V times

E: V + E times

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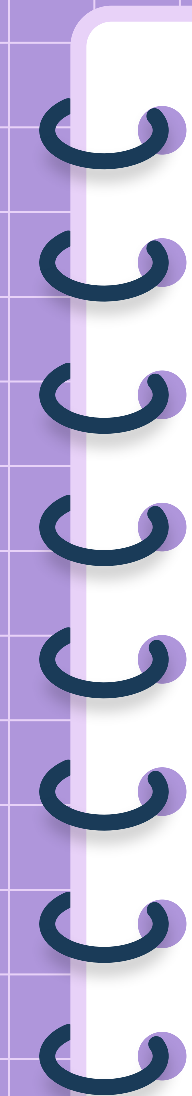

Key Properties of full_bfs

- Each node added to queue **exactly once.**
- Each edge is *explored* **exactly**:
    - **once** if graph is **directed**.
    - **twice** if graph is **undirected**.

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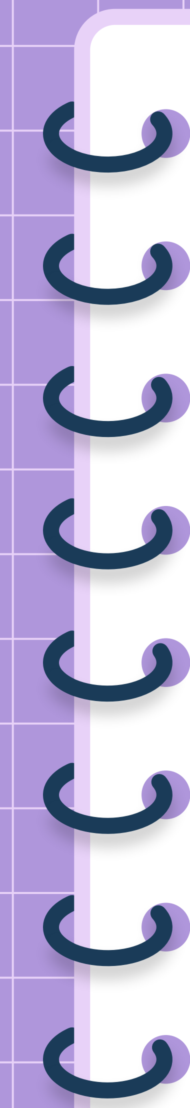

Time Complexity of full_bfs

- Analyzing `full_bfs` is easier than analyzing `bfs`.
  - `full_bfs` visits all nodes, no matter the graph.
- Result will be **upper bound** on time complexity of bfs.
- We'll use an **aggregate analysis**.

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```python
from collections import deque

def bfs(graph, source):
    """Start a BFS at `source`."""
    status = {node: 'undiscovered' for node in graph.nodes}

    status[source] = 'pending'
    pending = deque([source])

    # while there are still pending nodes
    while pending:
        u = pending.popleft()
        for v in graph.neighbors(u):
            # explore edge (u,v)
            if status[v] == 'undiscovered':
                status[v] = 'pending'
                # append to right
                pending.append(v)
        status[u] = 'visited'
```

$\Theta(V)$

$\Theta(E)$

u → v

u — v

$\Theta(V + E)$

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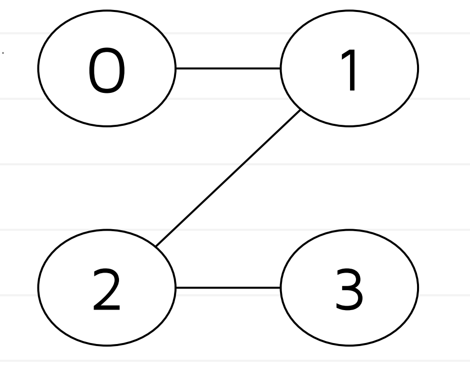
Exercise 4: Complexity




```
adj = [
    [1],
    [0, 2],
    [1, 3],
    [2]
]
```

```
for u in range(len(adj)):
    for v in adj[u]:
        print(f"({u}, {v})")
```

What is the time complexity in terms of $|V|$ and $|E|$?

A: **Θ (|E| + |V|)**

C: Θ (|E|)

B: Θ (|E| * |V|)

D: Θ (|V|)

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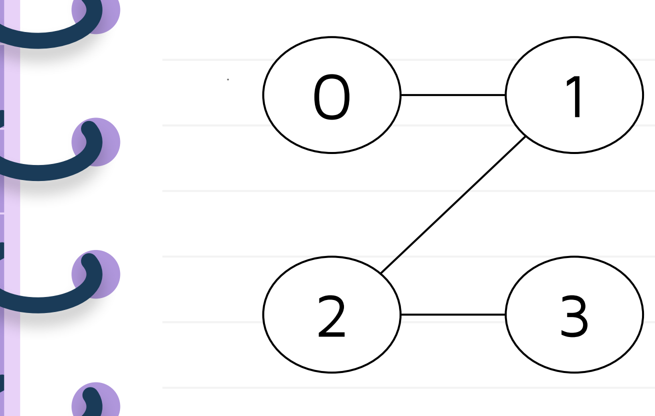
Exercise 4: Complexity




```
adj = [
      [1],
      [0, 2],
      [1, 3],
      [2]
]
```

```
for u in range(len(adj)):
    for v in adj[u]:
        print(f"({u}, {v})")
```

u is 0

v=1

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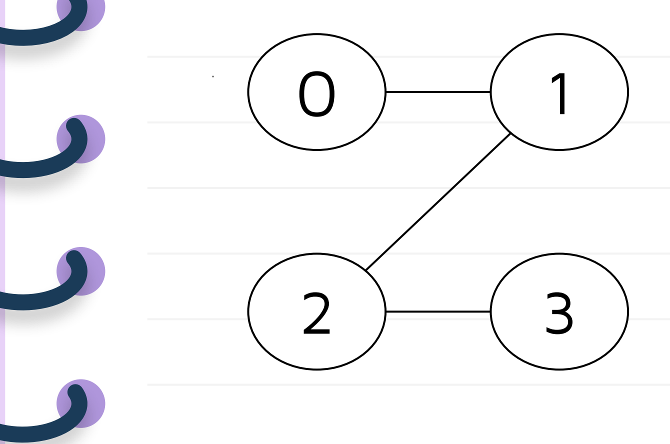
Exercise 4: Complexity




```
adj = [
    [1],
    [0, 2],
    [1, 3],
    [2]
]
```

```
for u in range(len(adj)):
    for v in adj[u]:
        print(f"({u}, {v})")
```

u is 0
v=1

u is 1
v=0, 2

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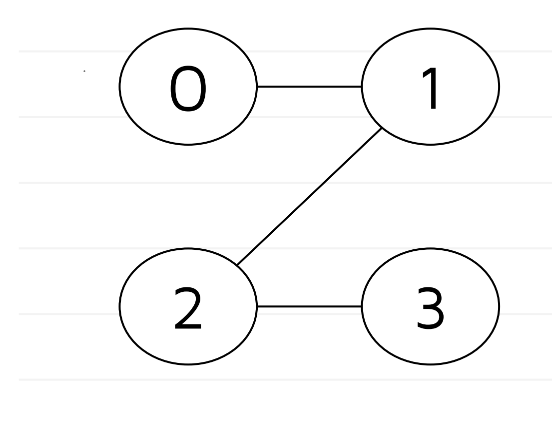
Exercise 4: Complexity




```
adj = [
    [1],
    [0, 2],
    [1, 3],
    [2]
]
```

```
for u in range(len(adj)):
    for v in adj[u]:
        print(f"({u}, {v})")
```

u is 0	u is 1	u is 2
v=1	v=0, 2	v=1, 3

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Exercise 4: Complexity


```
adj = [
    [1],
    [0, 2],
    [1, 3],
    [2]
]
```

```
for u in range(len(adj)):
    for v in adj[u]:
        print(f"({u}, {v})")
```

u is 0	u is 1	u is 2	u is 3
v=1	v=0, 2	v=1, 3	v = 2

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Exercise 4: Complexity

0 — 1
1 — 2
2 — 3

```
adj = [
    [1],
    [0, 2],
    [1, 3],
    [2]
]
```

```
for u in range(len(adj)):
    for v in adj[u]:
        print(f"({u}, {v})")
```

u is 0	u is 1	u is 2	u is 3	
v=1	v=0, 2	v=1, 3	v = 2	Total of 6 iterations

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Exercise 4: Complexity


```
adj = [
    [1],
    [0, 2],
    [1, 3],
    [2]
]
```

```
for u in range(len(adj)):
    for v in adj[u]:
        print(f"({u}, {v})")
```

u is 0	u is 1	u is 2	u is 3	
v=1	v=0, 2	v=1, 3	v = 2	Total of 6 iterations (E)

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Exercise 5:

```
adj = [
    [],
    [],
    [],
    []
]
```

```
for u in range(len(adj)):
    for v in adj[u]:
        print(f"({u}, {v})")
```

0 1

2 3

u is 0	u is 1	u is 2	u is 3	
1	1	1	1	Total of 4 iterations (V)

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Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

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