

Depth First Search (DFS)

• **Idea:** Explore a graph by exploring as far as possible along each branch before backtracking

• **How it works:**

① Initialize:

- Stack of nodes *stk*
- Marked set *marked* (represents set of visited nodes)
- Add first node to *stk* and *marked*

② Pop off topmost node *V* from *stk*

If *V* not in *marked*:

- Add *V* in preorder sequence
- Add *V* to *marked*
- for all adjacent nodes *n* of *V* not *marked*:
add *n* to *stk*

Else: continue

③ End: Repeat ② until *stk* empty

• **Example:** Assume if we have 2+ neighbors, we want to visit each by numerical order:
add neighbors to stack in reverse numerical order)

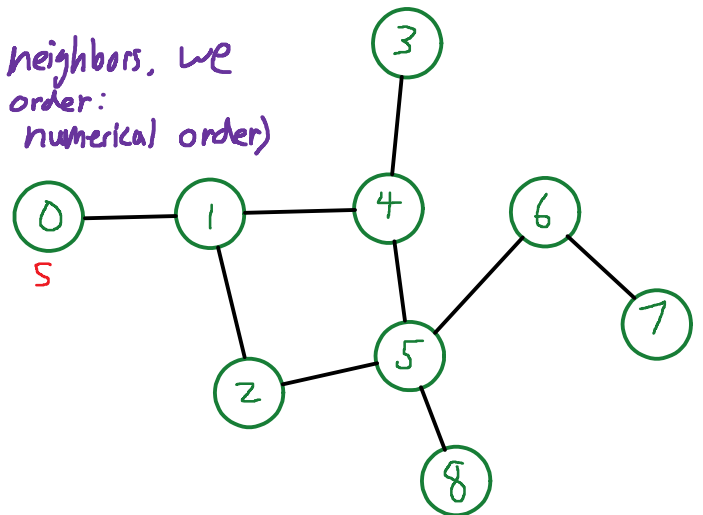
stk:

[]

marked:

{ }

Preorder:



stk:

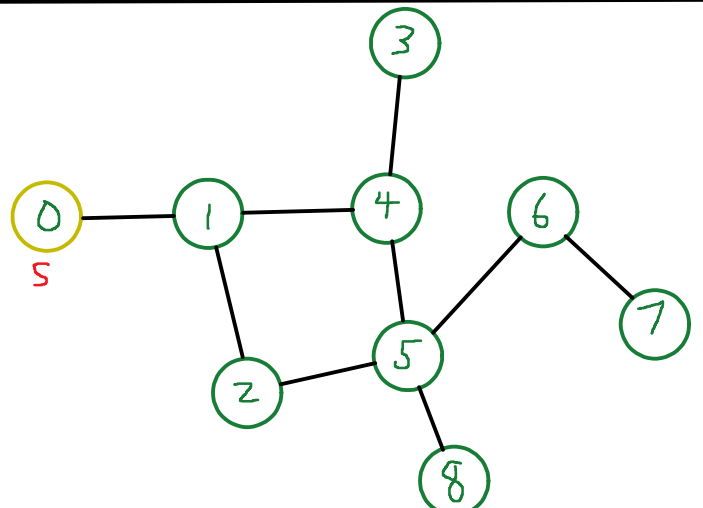
[0]

marked:

{ 0 }

Preorder:

0



Pop off 0, add neighbors to stk

Stk:

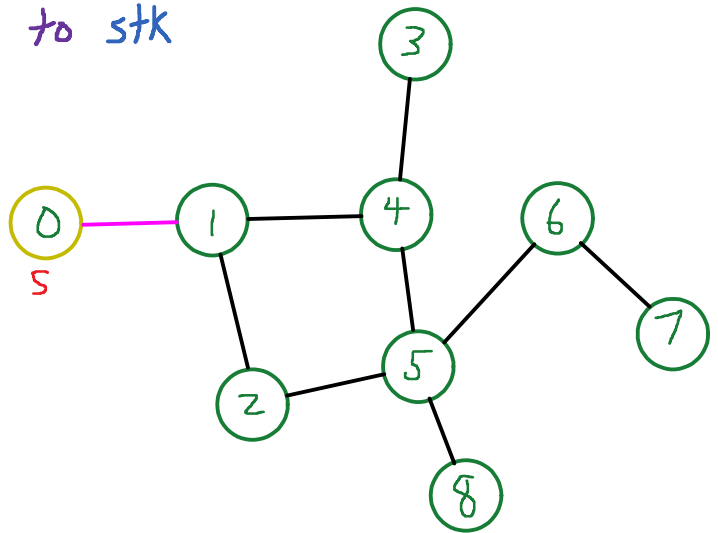
[1]

marked:

{0}

PreOrder:

0



Pop off 1, add neighbors to stk

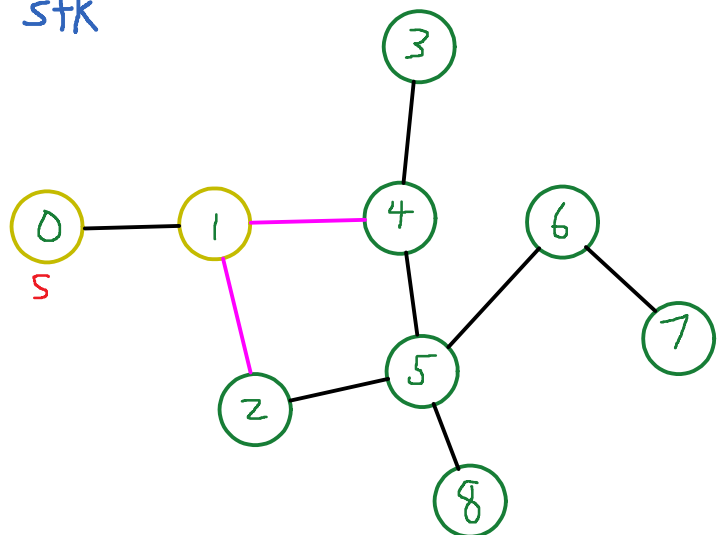
Stk: ← top of stack
[4 2]

marked:

{0 1}

PreOrder:

0 1



Pop off 2, add neighbors to stk

Stk

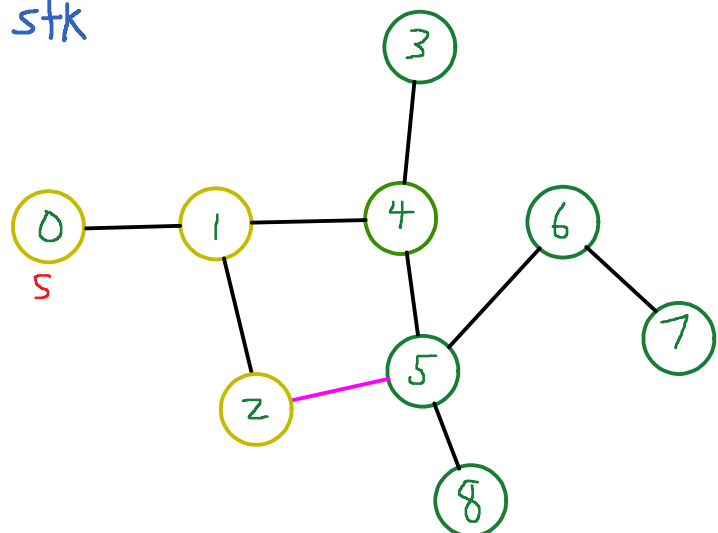
[4 5]

marked:

{0 1 2}

PreOrder:

0 1 2



Pop off 5, add neighbors to stk

Stk:

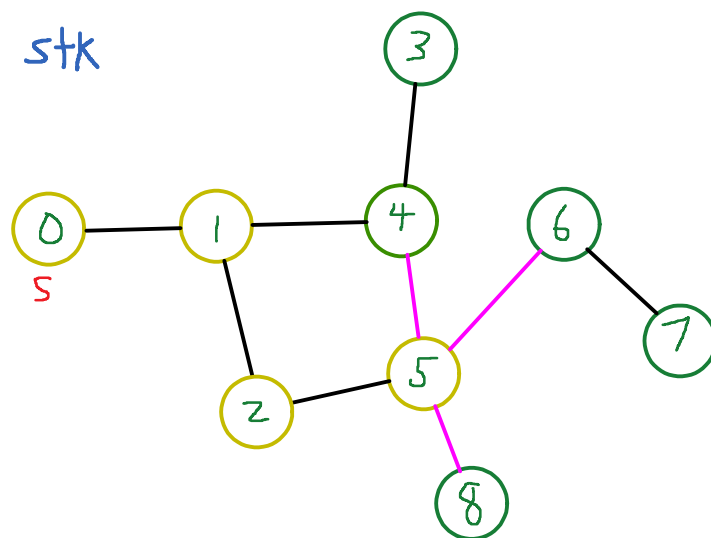
[4 8 6 4]

marked:

{0 1 2 5}

PreOrder:

0 1 2 5



Pop off 4, add neighbors to stk

Stk:

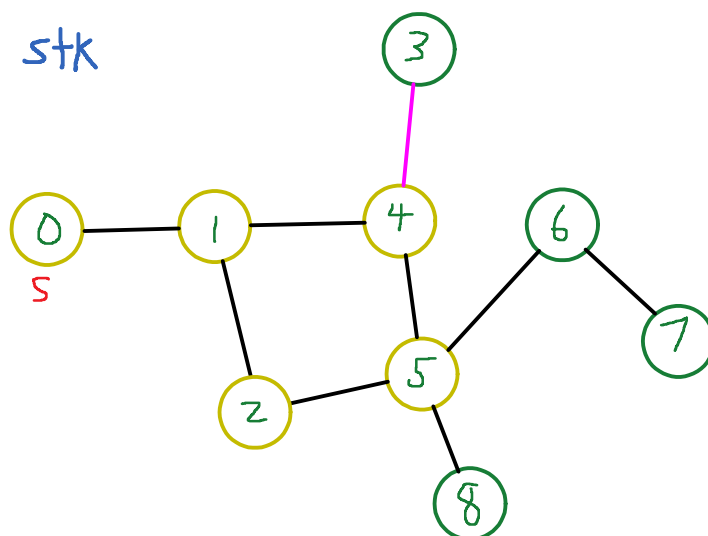
[4 8 6 3]

marked:

{0 1 2 5 4}

PreOrder:

0 1 2 5 4



Pop off 3, add neighbors to stk (none)

Stk:

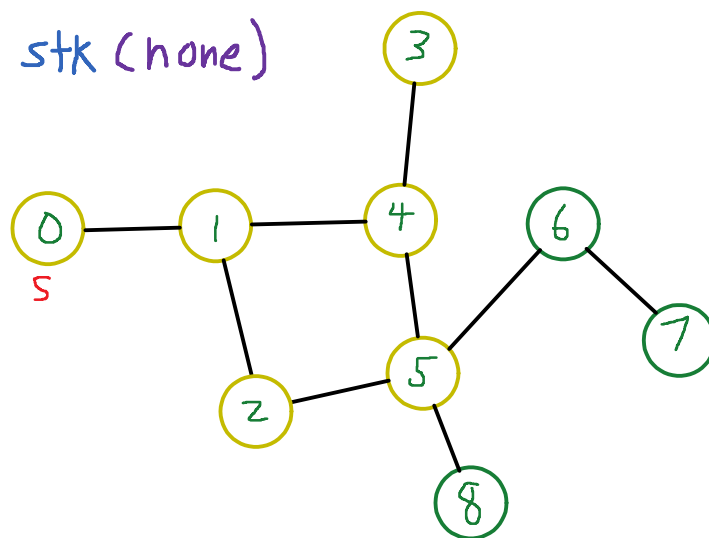
[4 8 6]

marked:

{0 1 2 5 4 3}

PreOrder:

0 1 2 5 4 3



Pop off 6, add neighbors to stk

Stk:

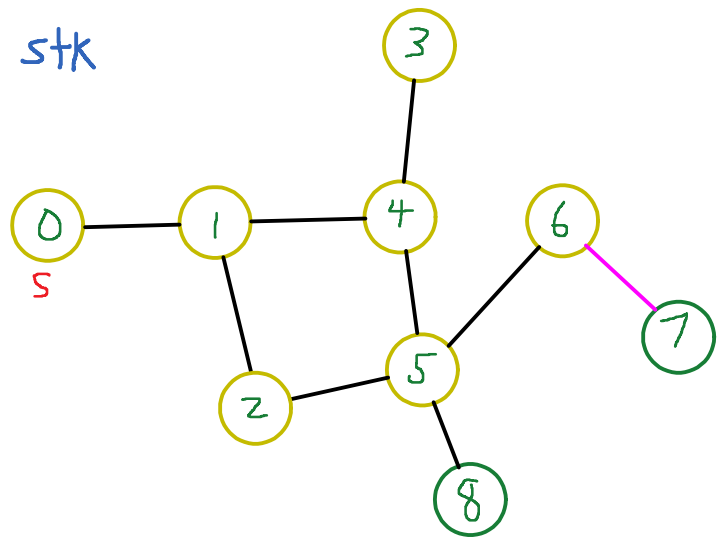
[4 8 7]

marked:

{0 1 2 5 4 3 6}

PreOrder:

0 1 2 5 4 3 6



Pop off 6, add neighbors to stk

Stk:

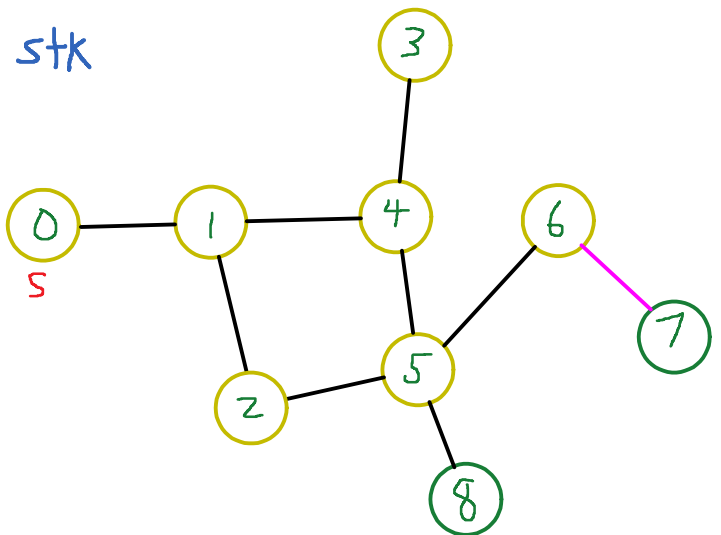
[4 8 7]

marked:

{0 1 2 5 4 3 6}

PreOrder:

0 1 2 5 4 3 6



Pop off 7, add neighbors to stk (none)

Stk:

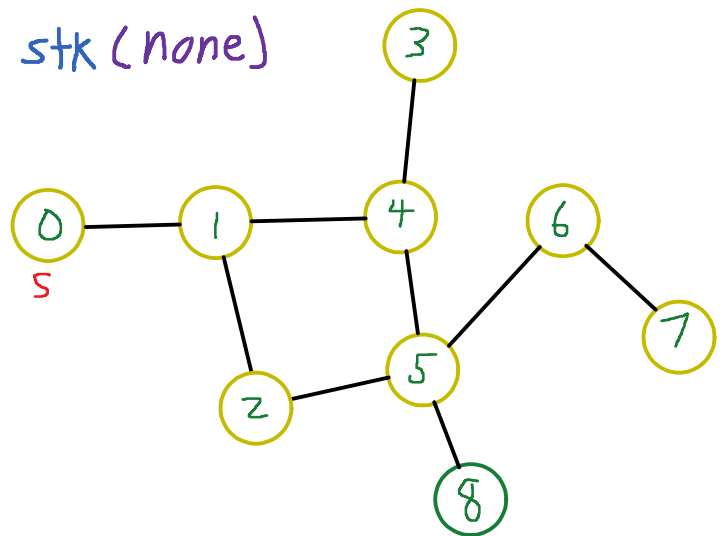
[4 8]

marked:

{0 1 2 5 4 3 6 7}

PreOrder:

0 1 2 5 4 3 6 7



Pop off 8, add neighbors to stk (none)

Stk:

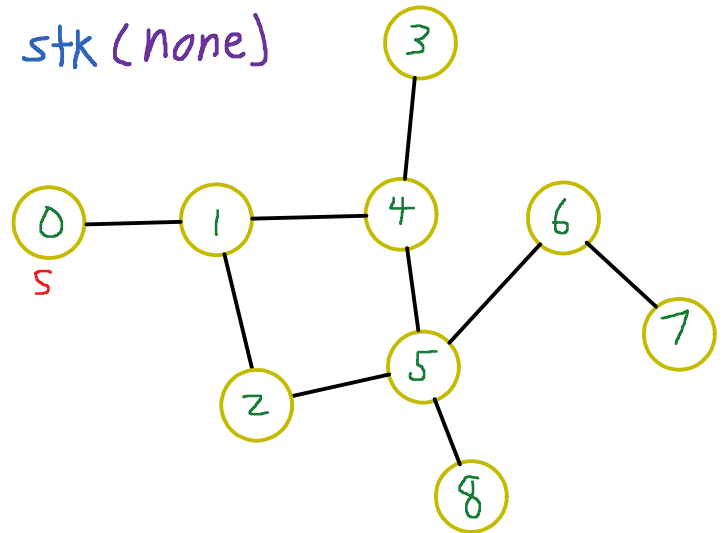
[4]

marked:

{0 1 2 5 4 3 6 7 8}

PreOrder:

0 1 2 5 4 3 6 7 8



Pop off 4, in marked so continue

Stk:

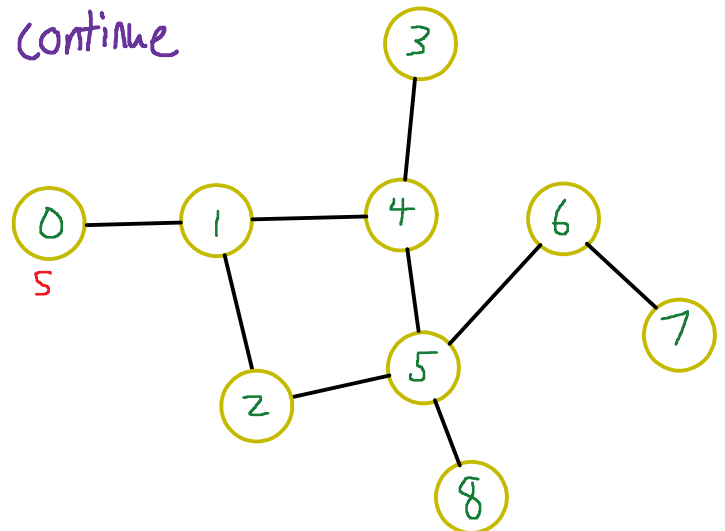
[]

marked:

{0 1 2 5 4 3 6 7 8}

PreOrder:

0 1 2 5 4 3 6 7 8



Stk empty, so done