2) BFS (Breadth First Search)

BFS traversal of a graph produces a **spanning tree** as final result. **Spanning Tree** is a graph without loops. We use **Queue data structure** with maximum size of total number of vertices in the graph to implement BFS traversal. We use the following steps to implement BFS traversal...

Step 1 - Define a Queue of size total number of vertices in the graph.

Step 2 - Select any vertex as **starting point** for traversal. Visit that vertex and insert it into the Queue.

Step 3 - Visit all the non-visited **adjacent** vertices of the vertex which is at front of the Queue and insert them into the Queue.

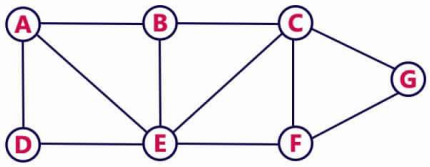
Step 4 - When there is no new vertex to be visited from the vertex which is at front of the Queue then delete that vertex.

Step 5 - Repeat steps 3 and 4 until queue becomes empty.

Step 6 - When queue becomes empty, then produce final spanning tree by removing unused edges from the graph

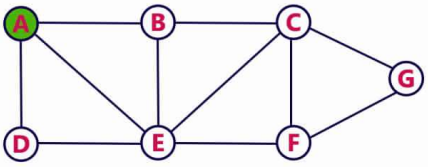
Example

Consider the following example graph to perform BFS traversal



Step 1:

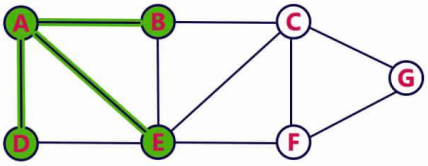
- Select the vertex **A** as starting point (visit **A**).
- Insert **A** into the Queue.



Queue

Step 2:

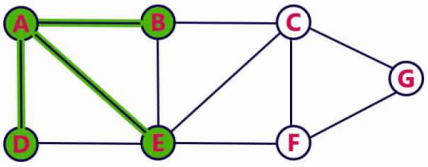
- Visit all adjacent vertices of **A** which are not visited (**D**, **E**, **B**).
- Insert newly visited vertices into the Queue and delete A from the Queue..



Queue

Step 3:

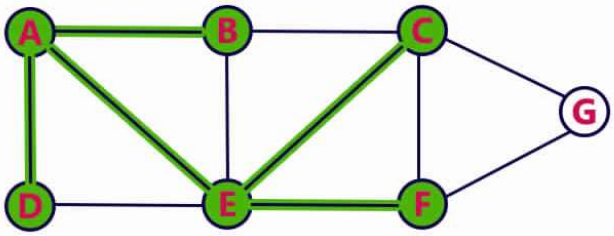
- Visit all adjacent vertices of **D** which are not visited (there is no vertex).
- Delete D from the Queue.



Queue

Step 4:

- Visit all adjacent vertices of **E** which are not visited (**C**, **F**).
- Insert newly visited vertices into the Queue and delete E from the Queue.

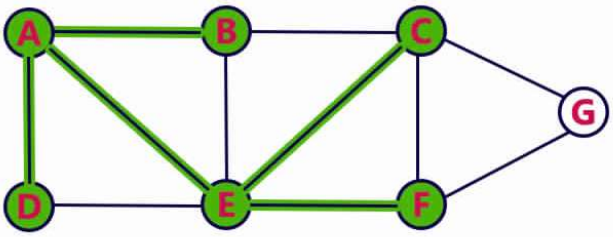


Queue

			B	C	F	

Step 5:

- Visit all adjacent vertices of **B** which are not visited (**there is no vertex**).
- Delete **B** from the Queue.

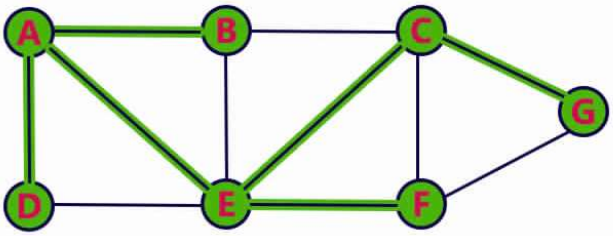


Queue

				C	F	

Step 6:

- Visit all adjacent vertices of **C** which are not visited (**G**).
- Insert newly visited vertex into the Queue and delete **C** from the Queue.

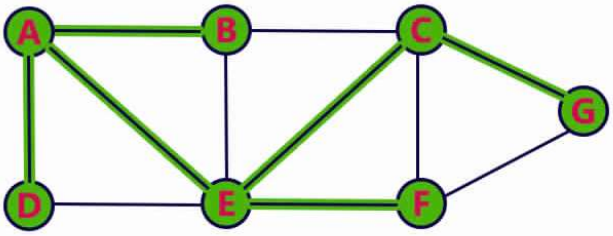


Queue

					F	G

Step 7:

- Visit all adjacent vertices of **F** which are not visited (**there is no vertex**).
- Delete **F** from the Queue.

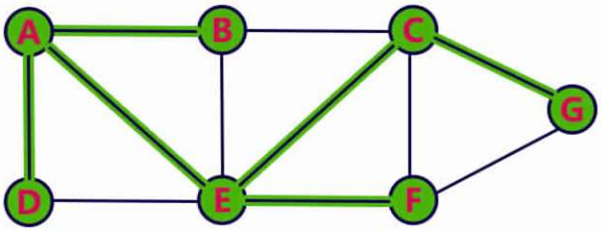


Queue

						G

Step 8:

- Visit all adjacent vertices of **G** which are not visited (**there is no vertex**).
- Delete **G** from the Queue.



Queue

- Queue became Empty. So, stop the BFS process.
- Final result of BFS is a Spanning Tree as shown below...