## 1. Breadth-First Search (BFS)

### Behavior:

Explores the graph level by level from the start node. It guarantees finding the shortest path in unweighted graphs.

# • Computational Complexity:

Time: O(V + E)(V = number of vertices, E = number of edges)

Space: O(V) for the queue and visited set.

## Suitability:

- Best for unweighted graphs where the shortest path (fewest edges) is needed.
- o Performs well on sparse and moderately dense graphs.
- o Can be slow or memory-heavy on large graphs due to broad exploration.

# 2. Depth-First Search (DFS)

#### Behavior:

Explores as far as possible along each branch before backtracking. Does **not** guarantee the shortest path.

# • Computational Complexity:

Time: O(V + E)

o **Space**: O(V) for the recursion stack or explicit stack.

# Suitability:

- o Good for searching through all possible paths or detecting cycles.
- o Not recommended when you strictly need the shortest path.
- May perform better in deep, narrow graphs but worse in wide graphs.

### 3. Bidirectional Search

#### Behavior:

Runs two simultaneous searches — one forward from the start and one backward from the goal — meeting in the middle.

# • Computational Complexity:

- o **Time**:  $O(b^(d/2))$  where b = branching factor, d = depth of solution.
- Space: O(b^(d/2)) for the two frontiers.

### Suitability:

- Excellent for large, undirected, and unweighted graphs where start and goal are far apart.
- o Dramatically reduces the search space compared to BFS.
- More complex to implement and not useful if the goal node is unknown or the graph is directed.

# **Documentation Summary**

## **Project Description**

This project visualizes three pathfinding algorithms (BFS, DFS, Bidirectional Search) on unweighted graphs, providing insights into their runtime behavior, path length, and nodes visited.

# **Code Highlights**

# • BFSVisualizer, DFSVisualizer, BidirectionalVisualizer:

Classes responsible for running and visualizing each algorithm.

### GraphGenerator:

Creates random graphs or grid graphs for testing using Matplotlib

# • Performance Measurement:

Tracks nodes visited, execution time, and path length.

#### Visualization:

Uses Matplotlib to animate search progress.