

# Working with Graph Algorithms in Python

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## INTRODUCING THE GRAPH DATA STRUCTURE



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[www.loonycorn.com](http://www.loonycorn.com)

# What You Need in Your Toolkit

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# Prerequisites

**Familiarity with the command line on a Mac, Linux or Windows machine**

**A basic understanding of algorithms and time complexity**

**Comfortable with writing programs in Python**

# Install and Setup



A Mac, Linux or Windows machine on which you code and run programs

A working version of Python 2.7.x or 3.x



# Course Overview

**Introduction** to the graph data structure and its representation and traversal

**Ordering** of dependent nodes using topological sort

**Shortest path** algorithms in weighted and unweighted graphs

**Spanning tree** algorithms to connect all nodes in a graph

# Overview

**Graphs are excellent tools for modeling complex relationships**

**An adjacency matrix is the most common way of representing a graph**

**Adjacency lists and adjacency sets are alternative data representations**

**The two fundamental ways of traversing a graph are**

- Depth-first**
- Breadth-first**

# Graphs for Modeling Relationships

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# Two Big Trends

## Bigger data

More and more data being collected  
and aggregated

## Smaller world

More and more interconnections  
between actions and events

**Modeling **interconnections** is increasingly  
important**



# Interconnections



**Jim**



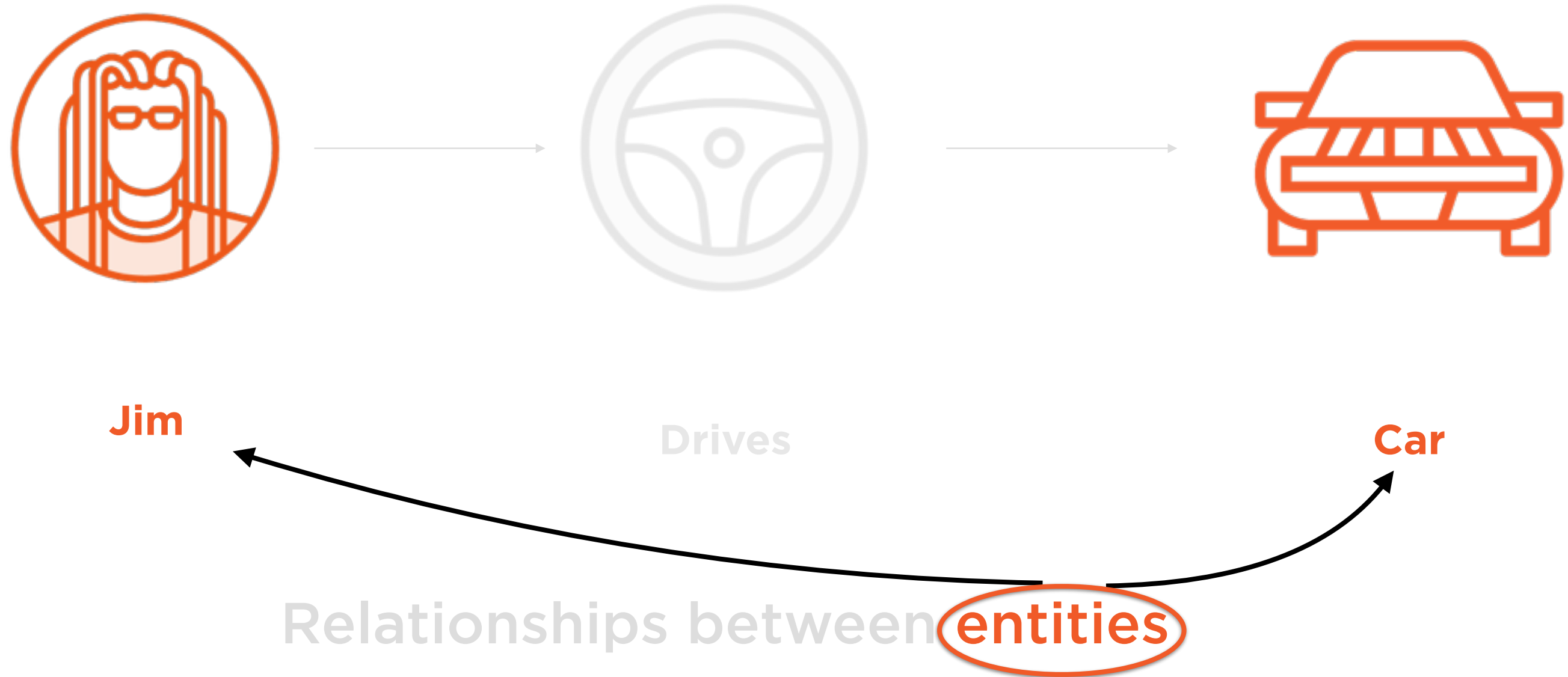
**Drives**



**Car**

**Relationships between entities**

# Interconnections



# Interconnections



Jim

**Drives**

Car

**Relationships** between entities

# Graphs



**Jim**

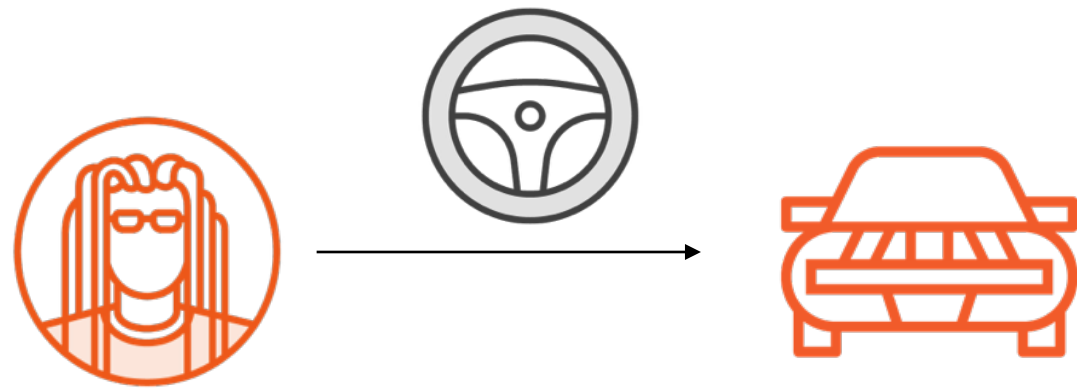


**Drives**



**Car**

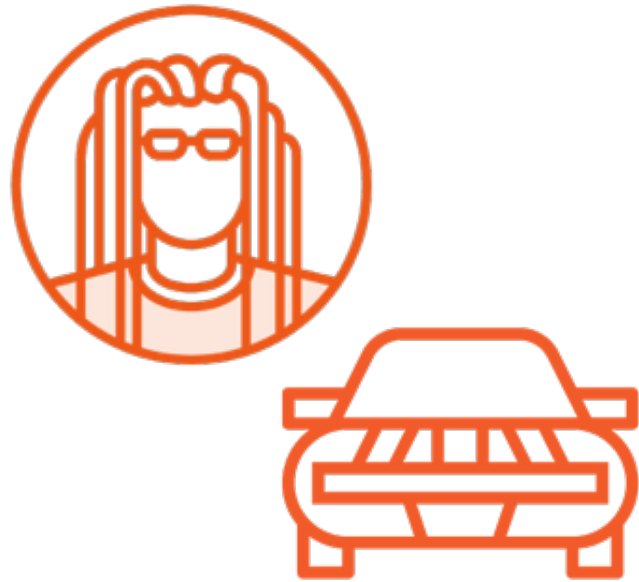
**Graphs represent relationships between entities**



## Graphs consist of

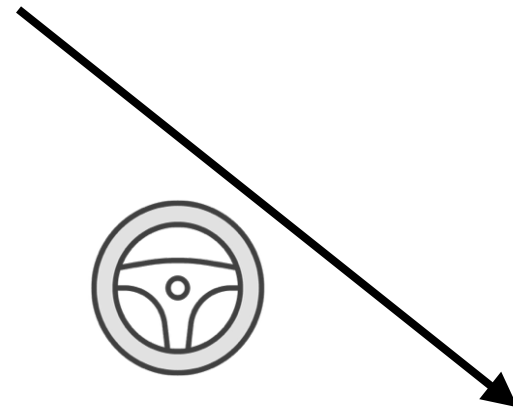
- Vertices (entities)
- Edges (relationships)

# Modeling the Real World



**Vertex**

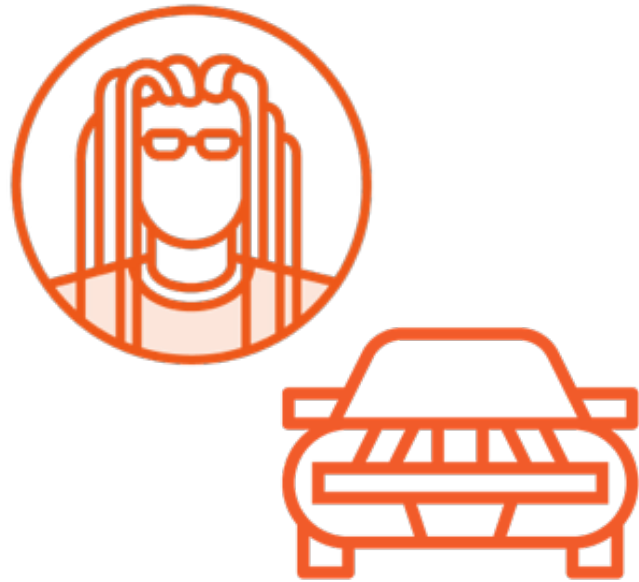
**People**



**Edge**

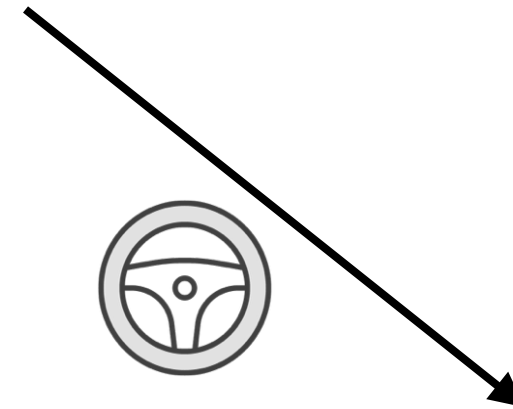
**Social or professional  
relationships**

# Modeling the Real World



**Vertex**

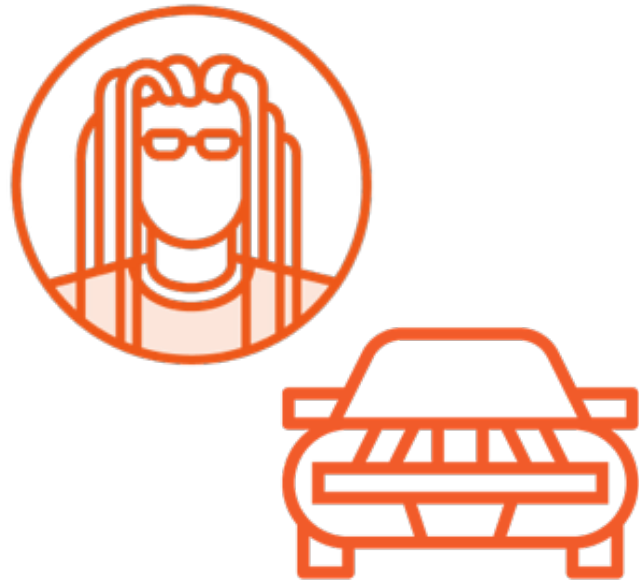
**Locations**



**Edge**

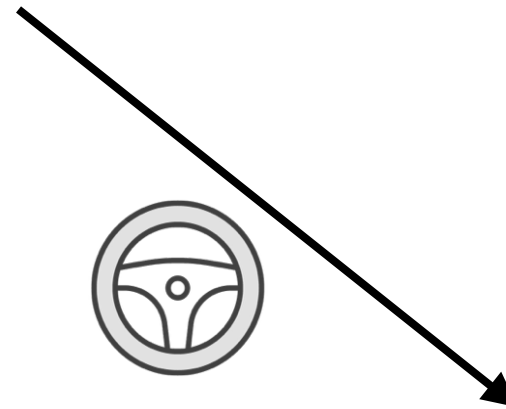
**Means of transportation  
i.e. road, rail air**

# Modeling the Real World



**Vertex**

**Phones - landlines**

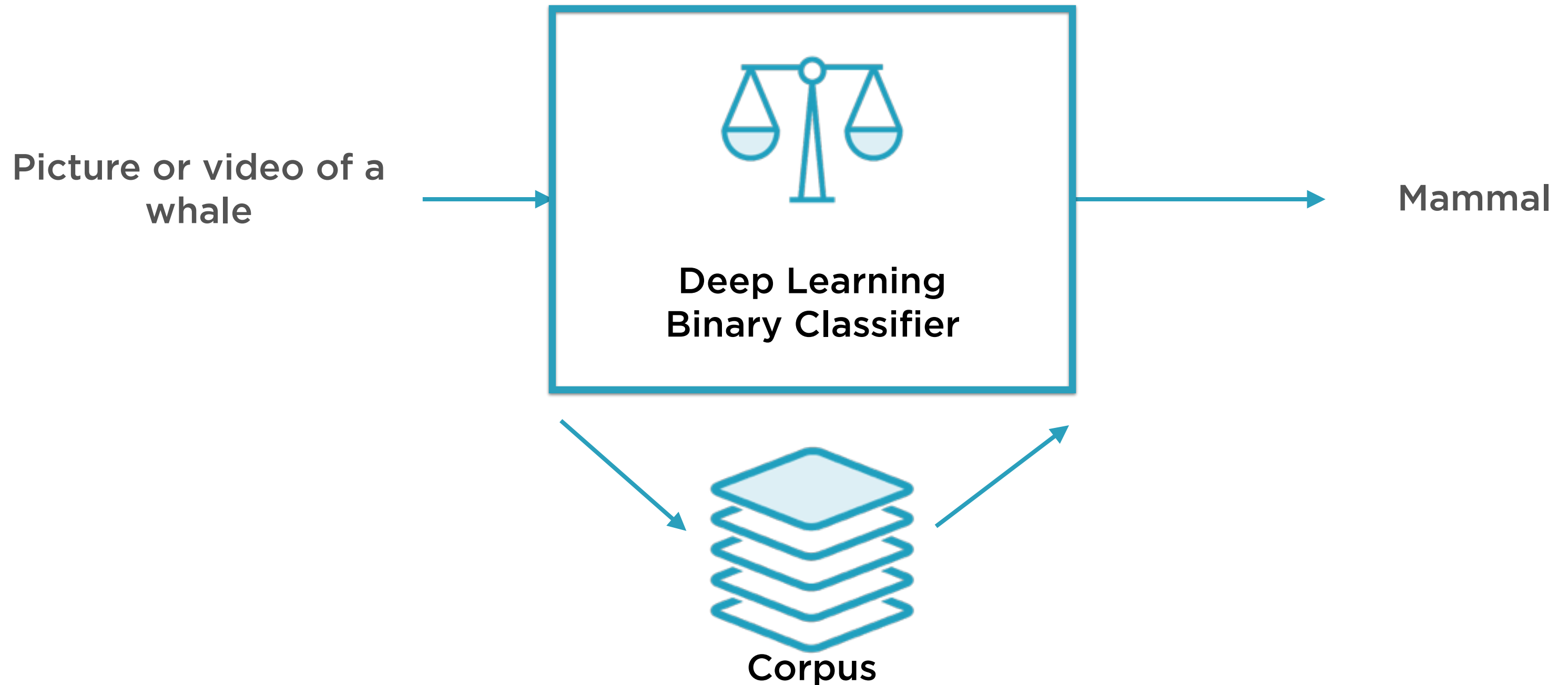


**Edge**

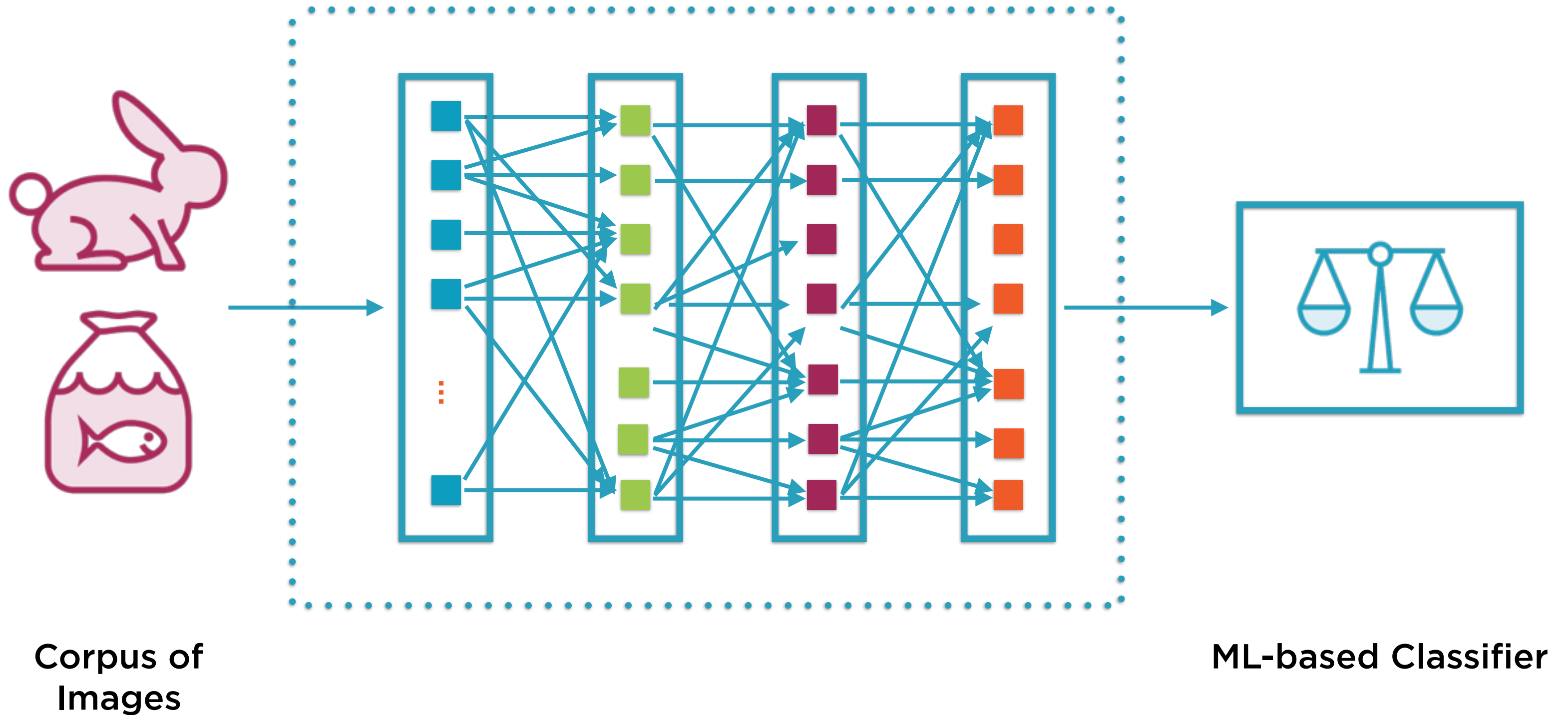
**Phone network to  
carry voice calls**



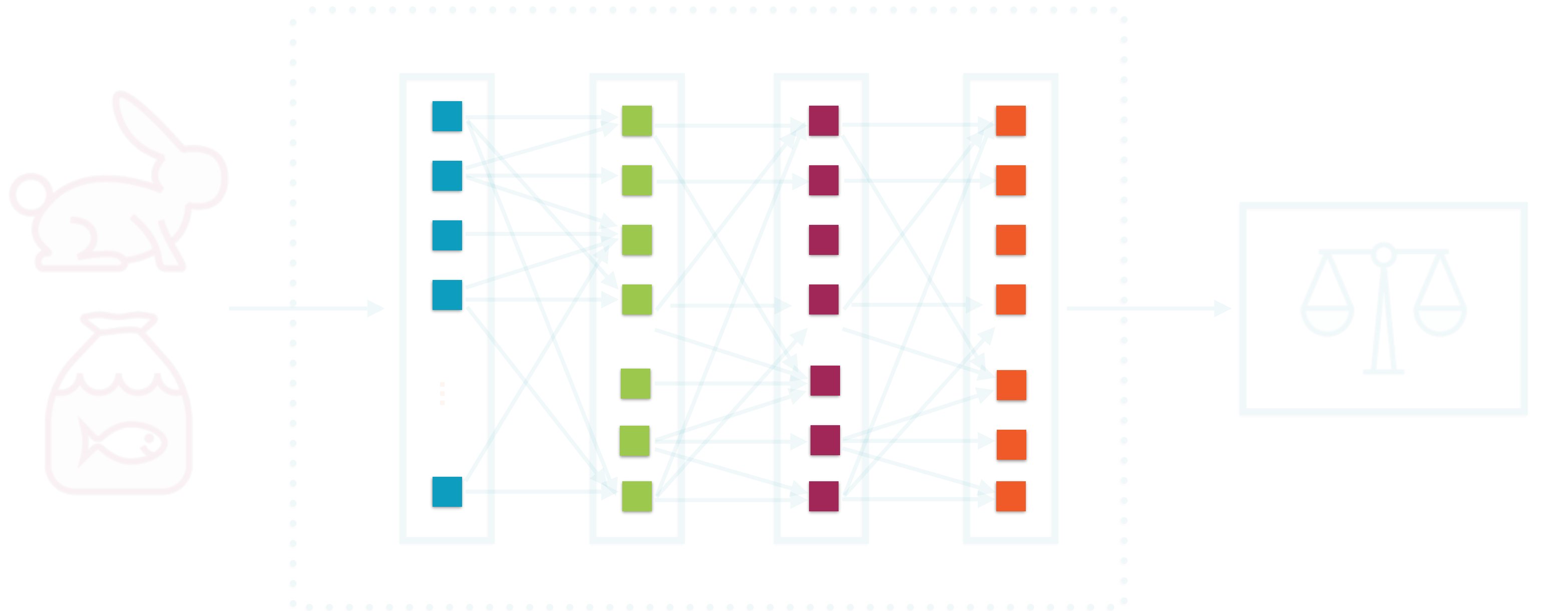
# “Deep Learning” Binary Classifier



# Neural Network Computation Graph



# Neural Network Computation Graph

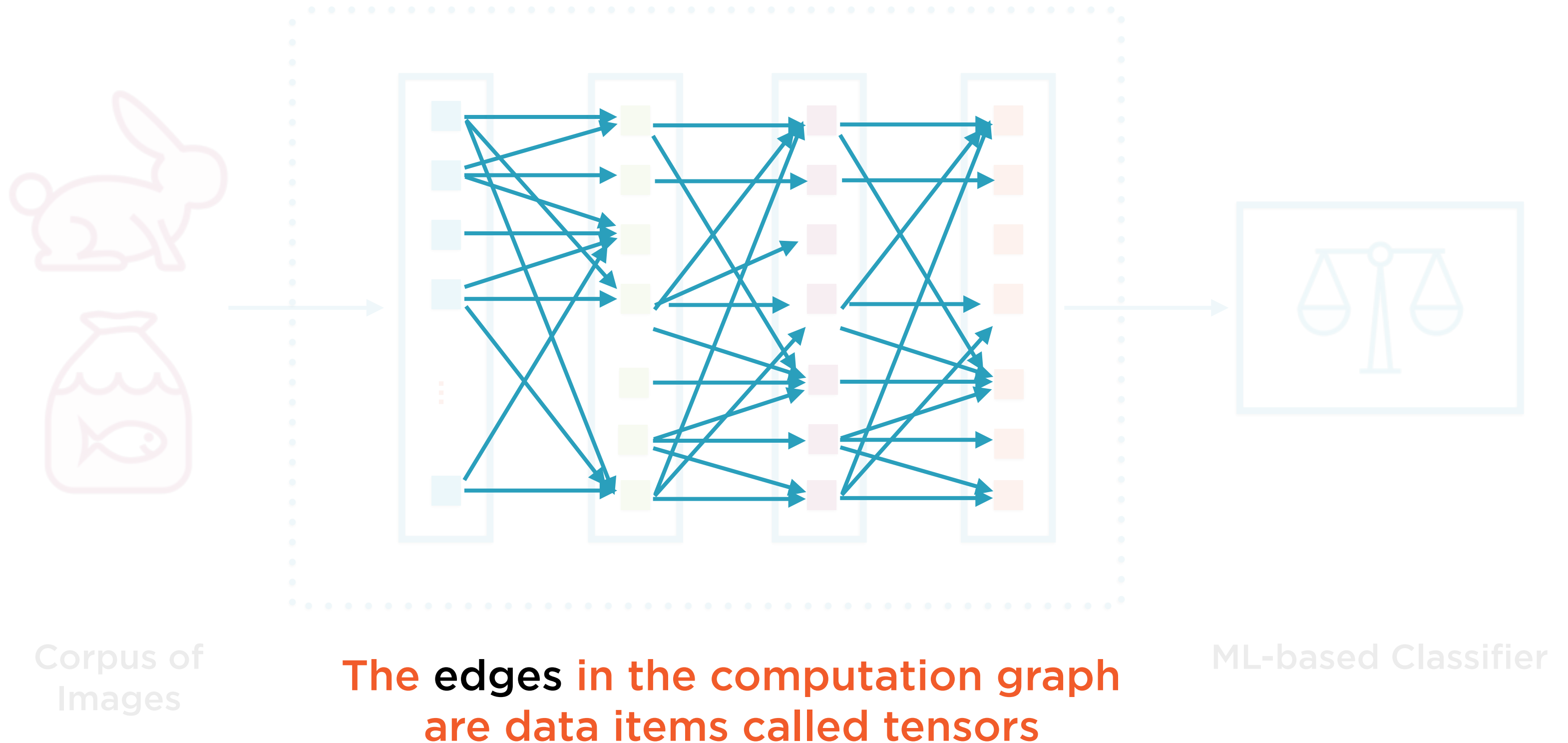


Corpus of  
Images

**The vertices in the computation graph  
are neurons (simple building blocks)**

ML-based Classifier

# Neural Network Computation Graph



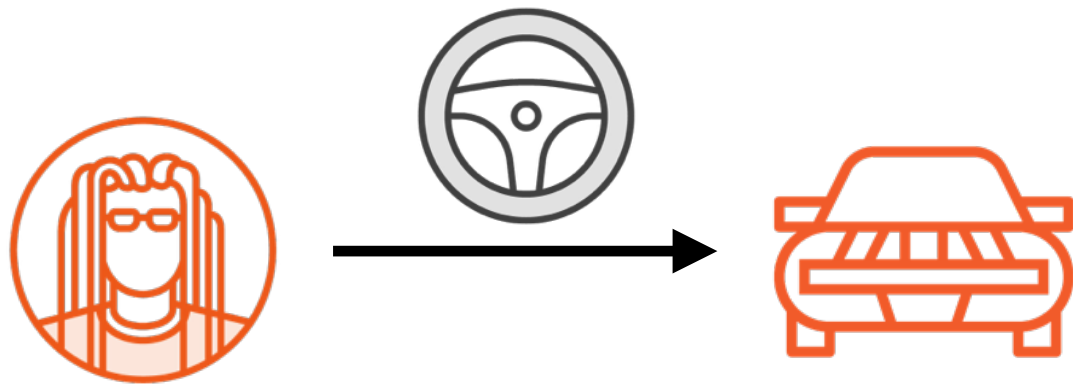
# Structure of a Graph

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# Graph (V,E)

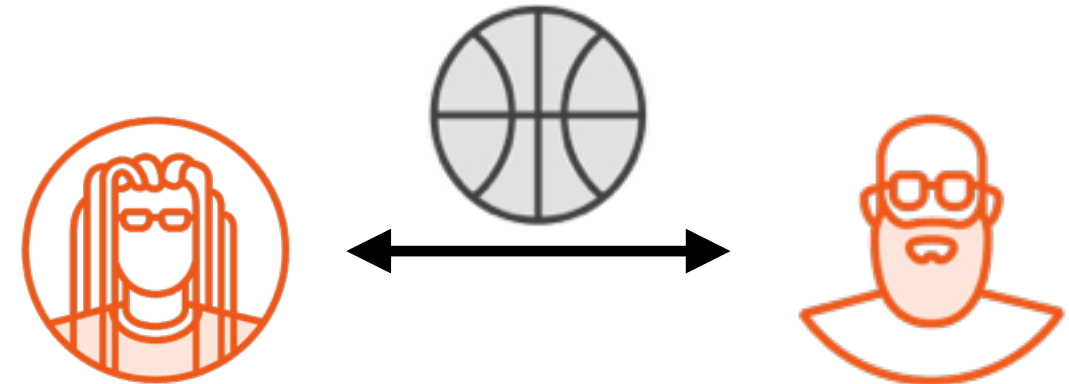
A set of vertices (V) and edges (E)

# Directed and Undirected Graphs



**“Jim drives his car”**

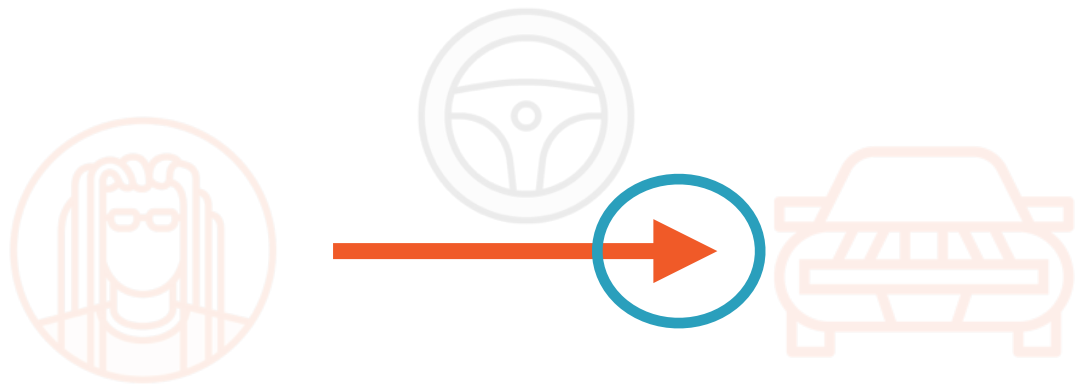
Relationship goes one way only



**“Jim and Joe play ball”**

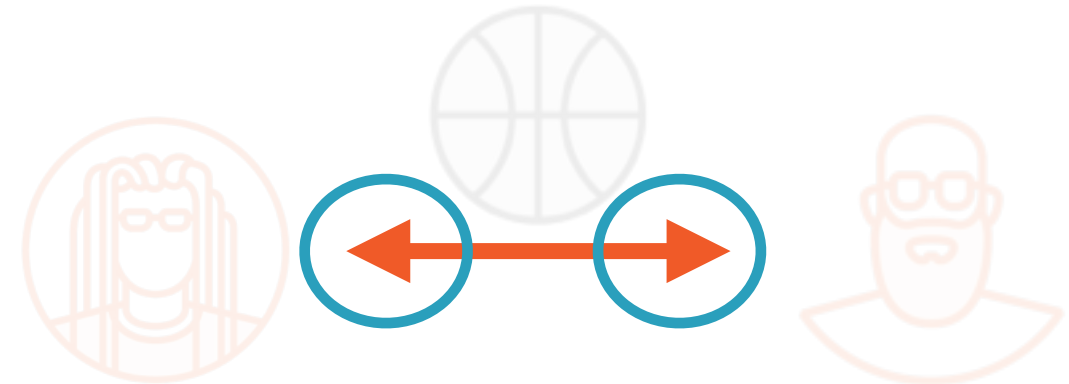
Relationship goes both ways

# Directed and Undirected Graphs



**“Jim drives his car”**

Relationship goes one way only



**“Jim and Joe play ball”**

Relationship goes both ways

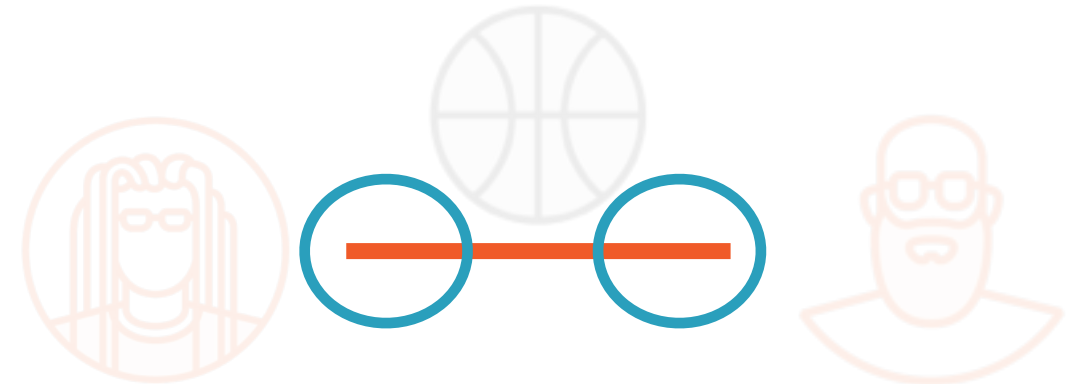


# Directed and Undirected Graphs



**“Jim drives his car”**

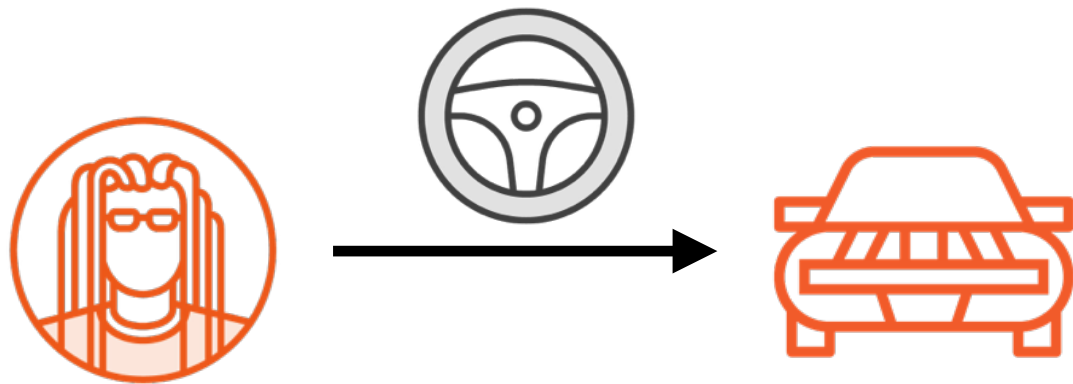
Relationship goes one way only



**“Jim and Joe play ball”**

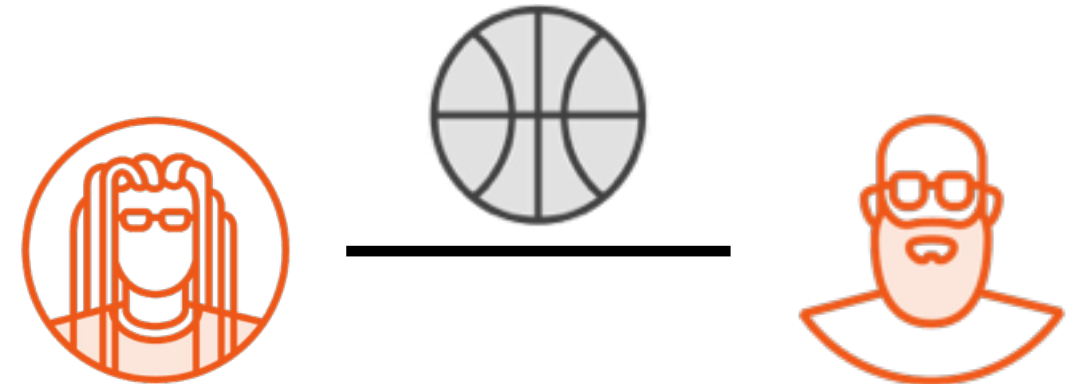
Relationship goes both ways

# Directed and Undirected Graphs



**“Jim drives his car”**

Relationship goes one way only



**“Jim and Joe play ball”**

Relationship goes both ways

# Directed and Undirected Graphs



**Directed Graph**

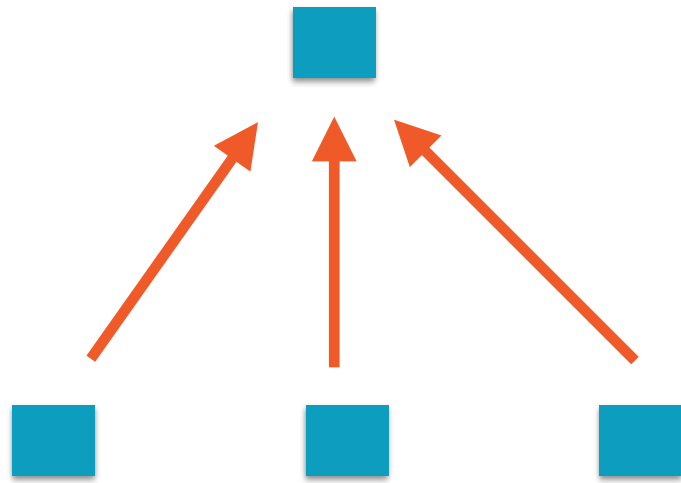
Relationship goes one way only



**Undirected Graph**

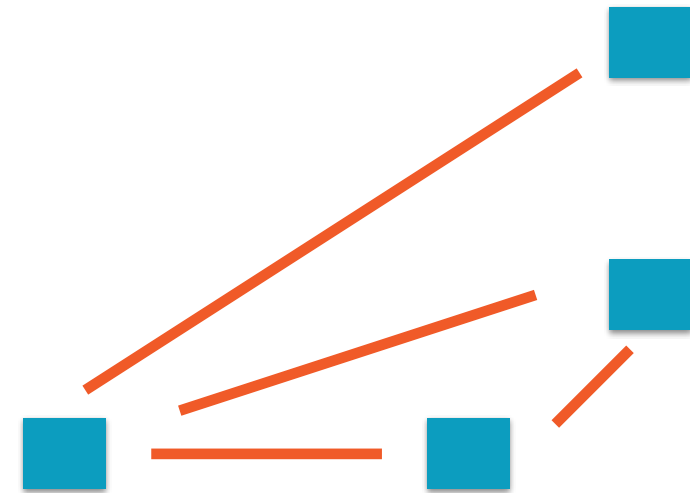
Relationship goes both ways

# Directed and Undirected Graphs



**Twitter Followers**

Relationship goes one way only



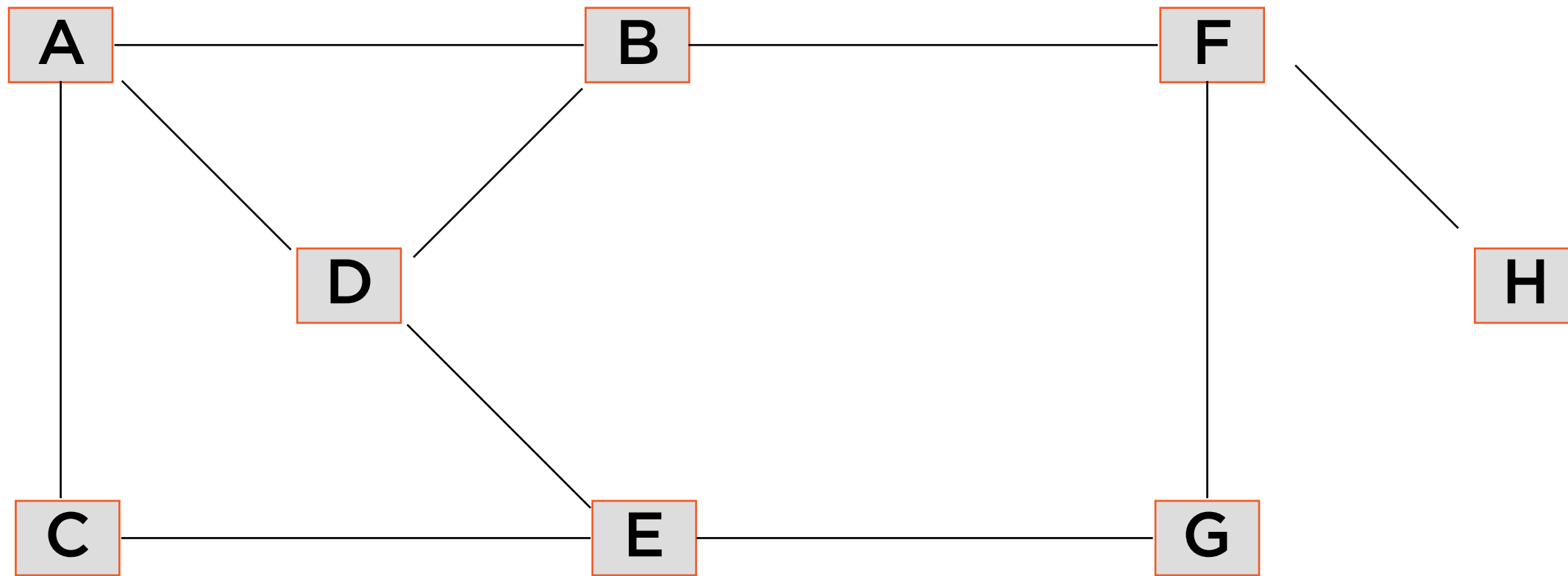
**Facebook Friends**

Relationship goes both ways

# Undirected Graphs

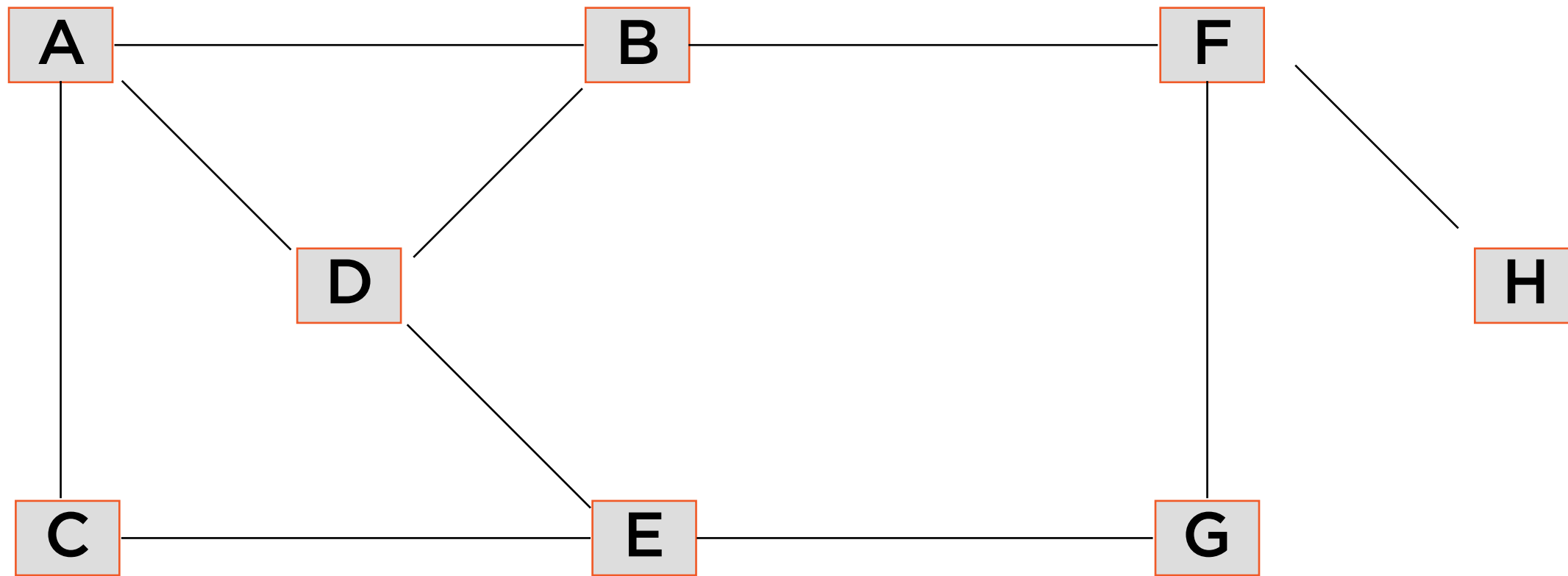
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# An Undirected Graph



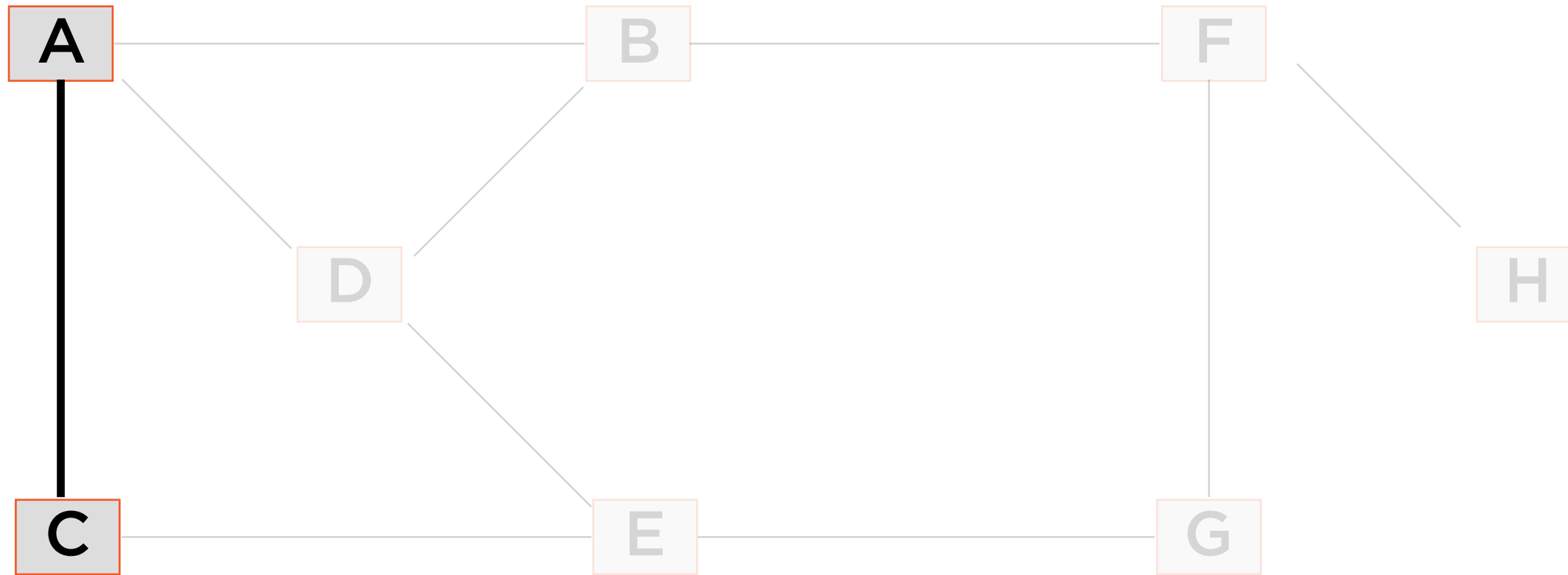
$V = \{A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H\}$

# An Undirected Graph



$$V = \{A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H\}$$

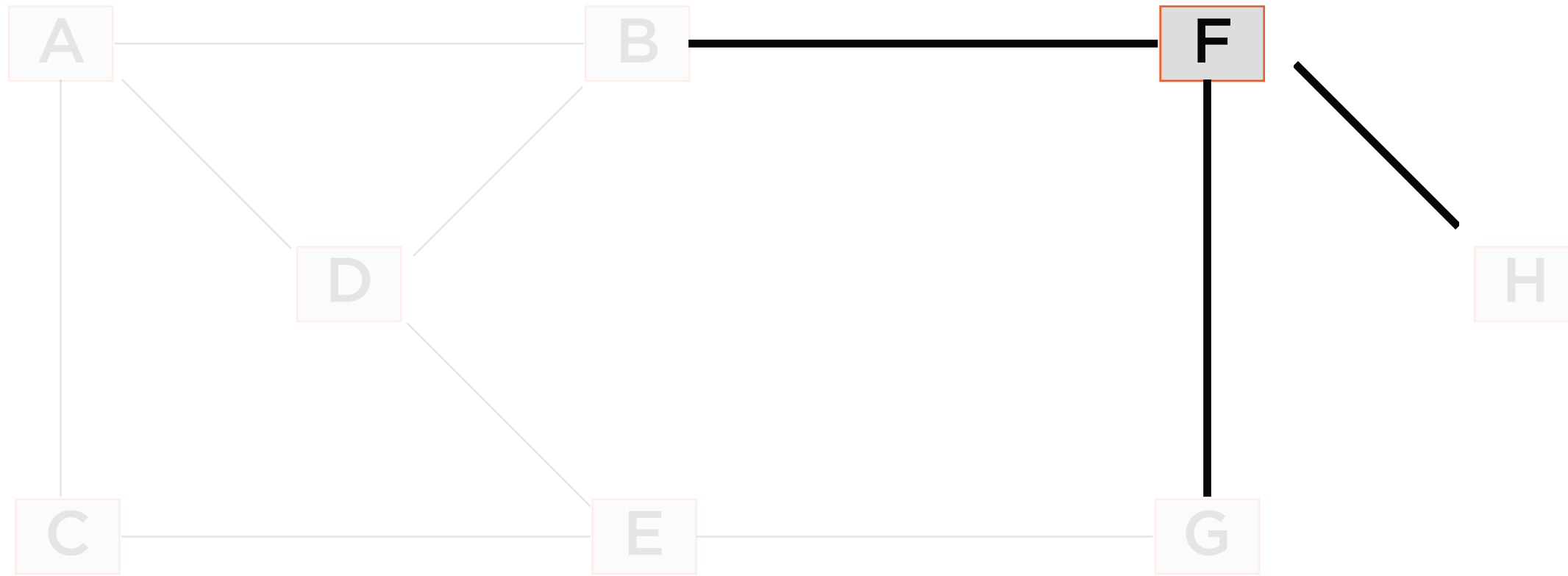
# Adjacent Nodes



A and C are **adjacent nodes** - a single edge connects them

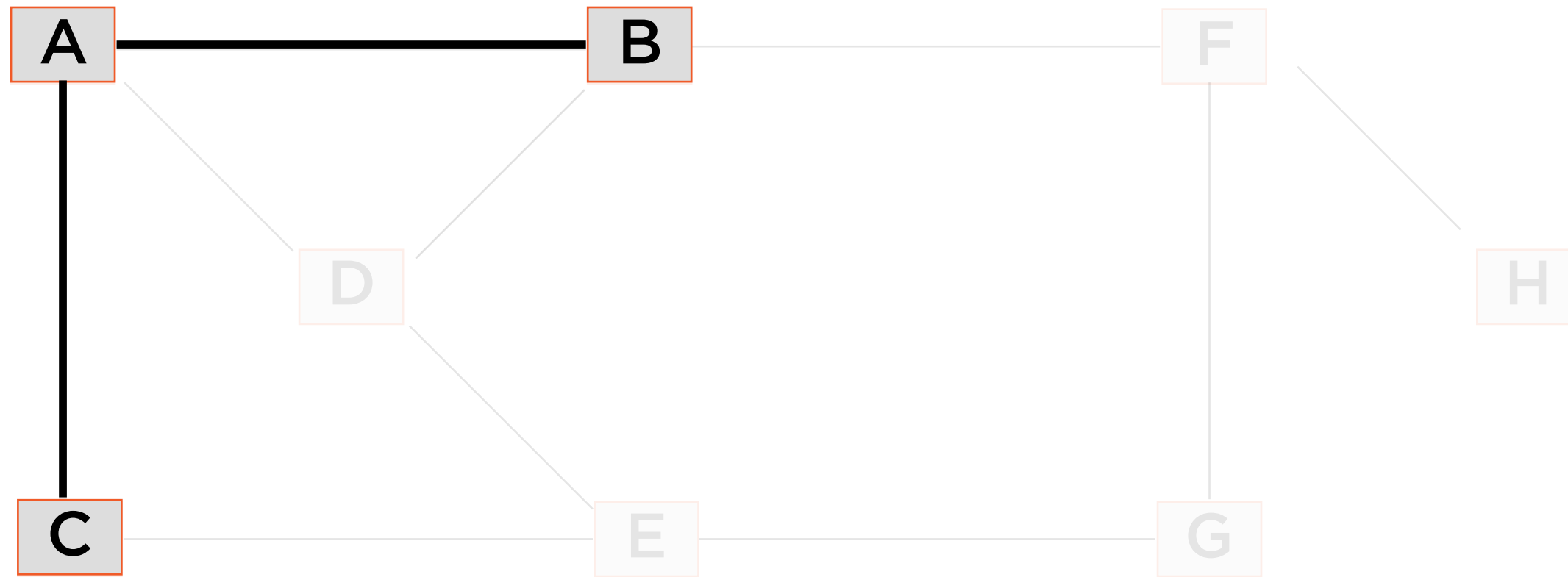


# Degree of a Node



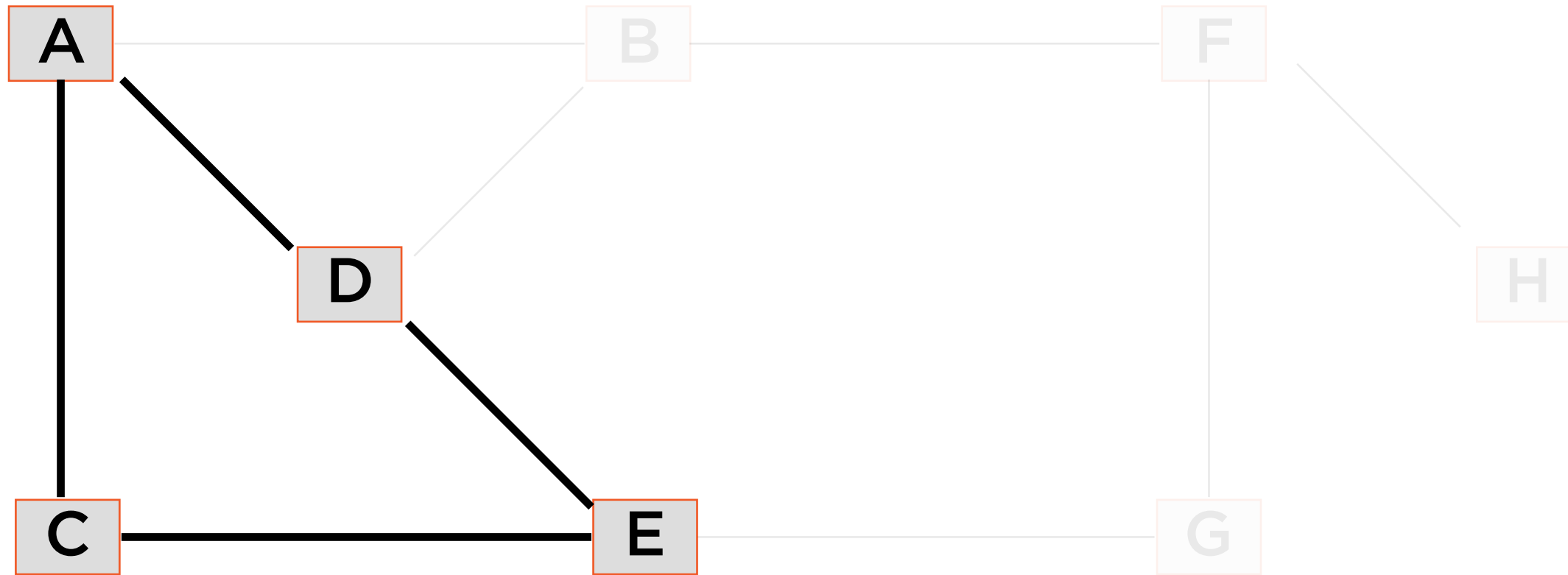
The **degree** of F is 3, since 3 edges are incident on F

# Paths in a Graph



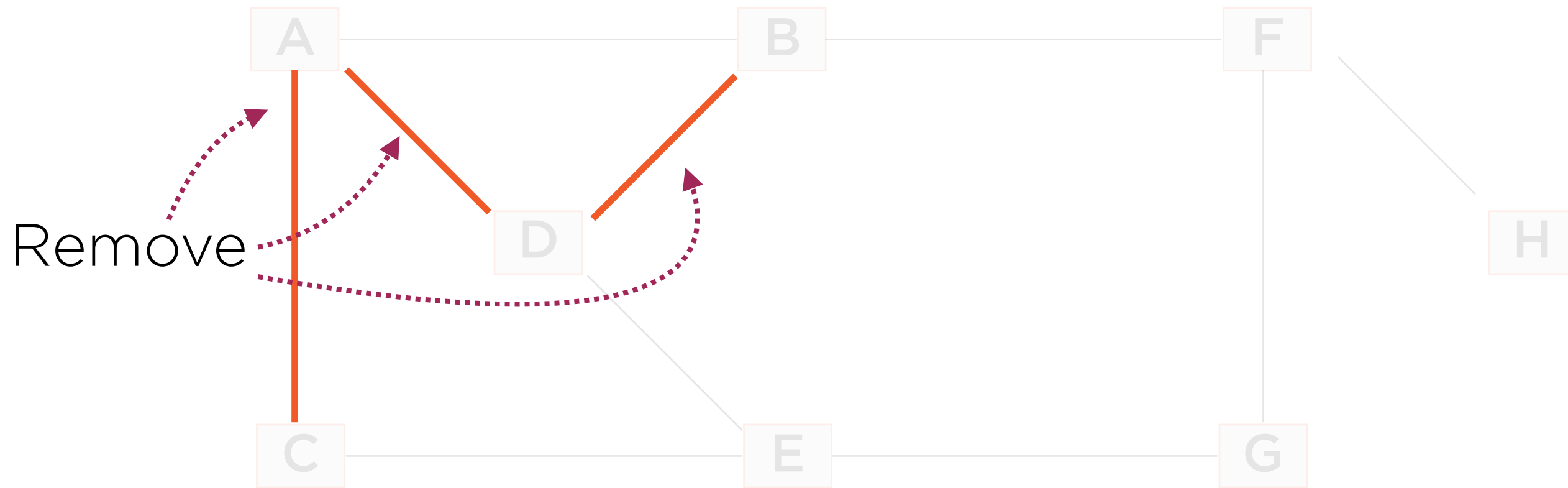
**A series of edges links node C to node B - this is called a **path****

# Undirected Cyclic Graph



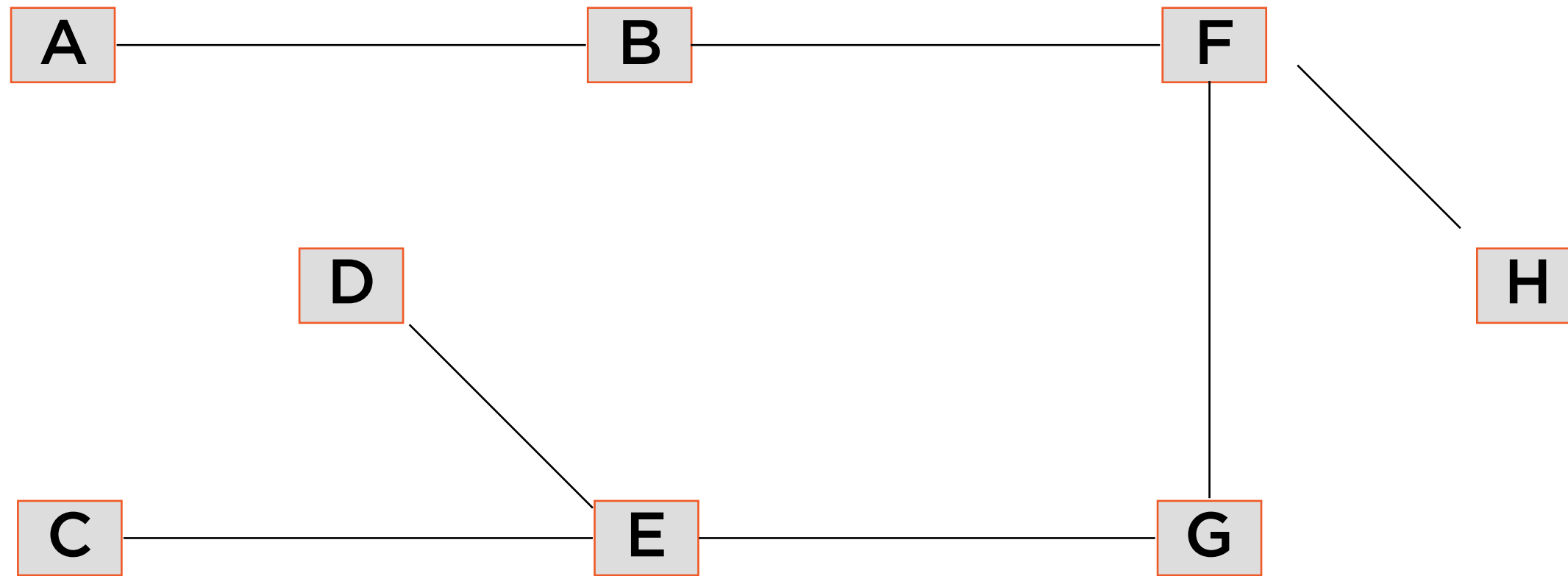
The nodes A, D, E, C and A form a **cycle**

# Undirected Acyclic Graphs



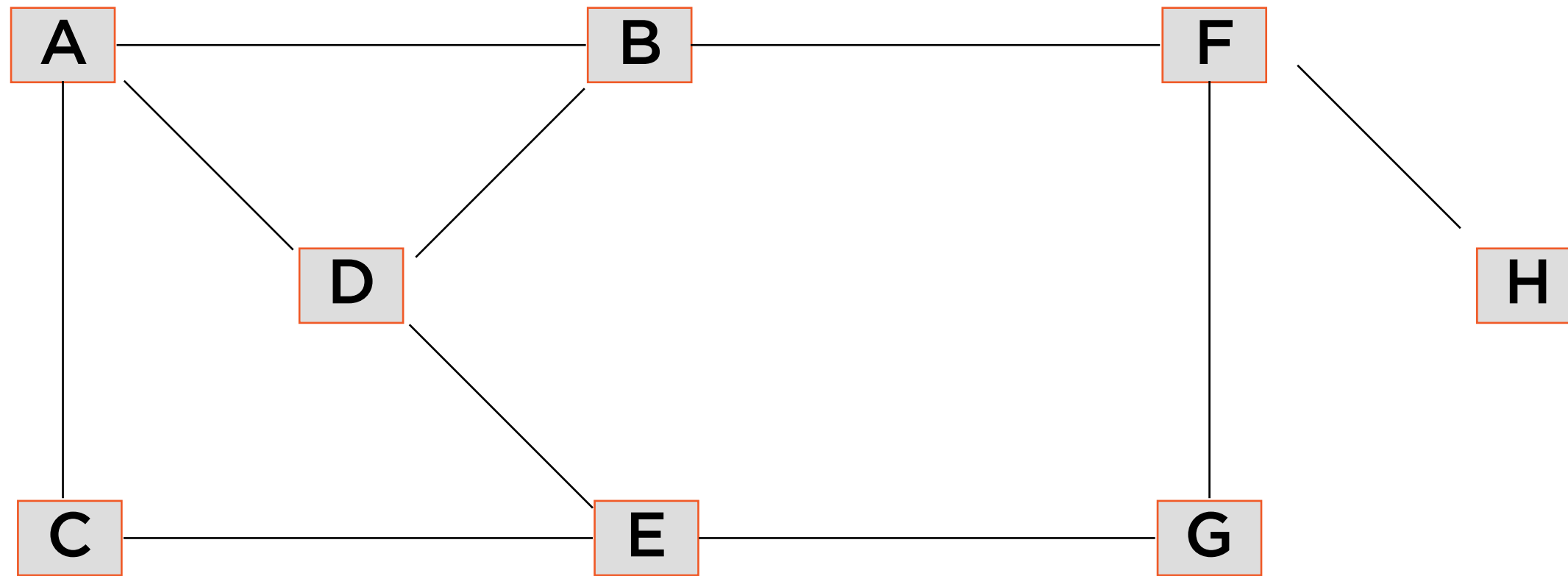
**Removing edges A - C, A - D and B - D eliminates the cycles in this graph**

# Undirected Acyclic Graphs



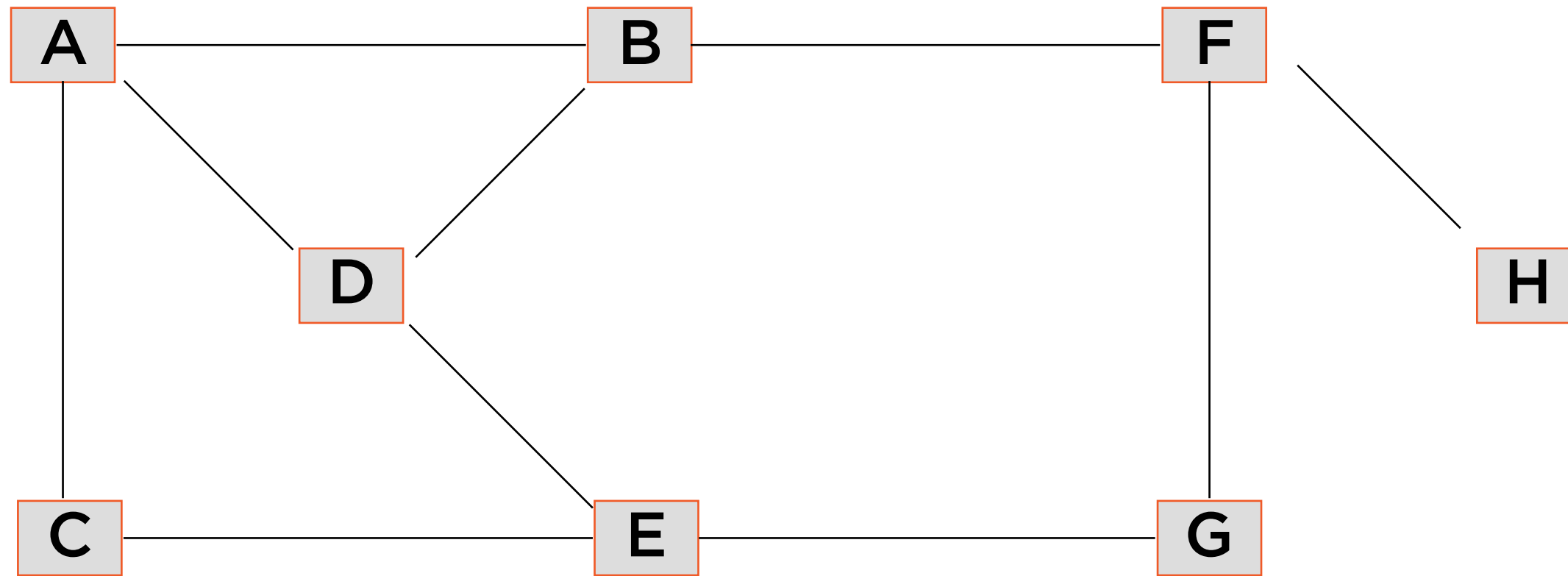
The graph is now an **undirected acyclic** graph

# Connected Graph



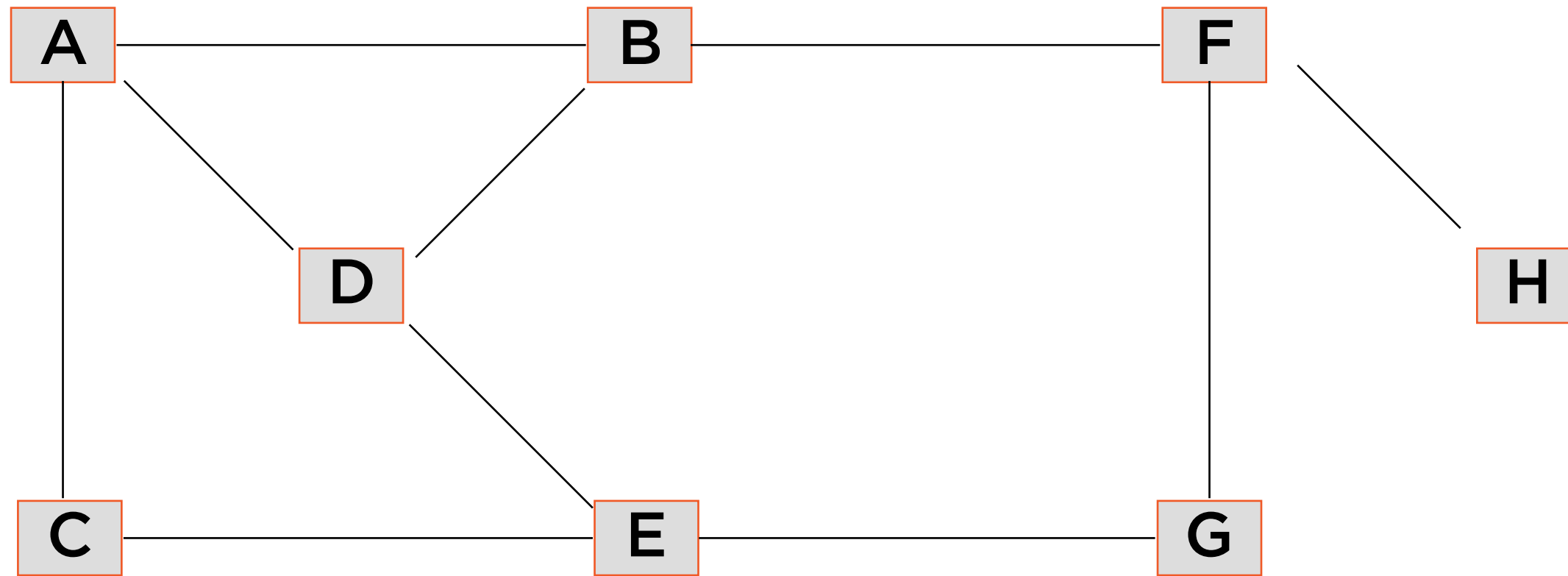
Every node is **connected** to every other node via a series of edges

# Connected Graph



Equivalently, there is a **path** from every node to every other node

# Disconnected Graph



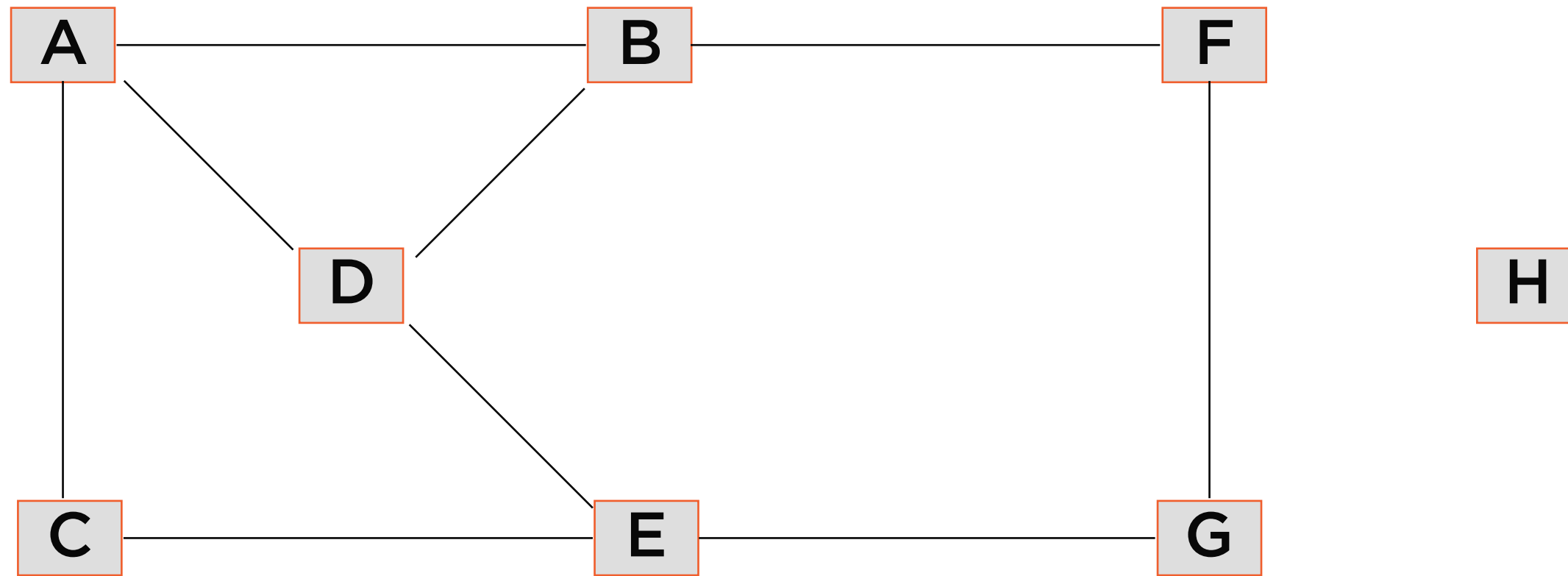


# Disconnected Graph



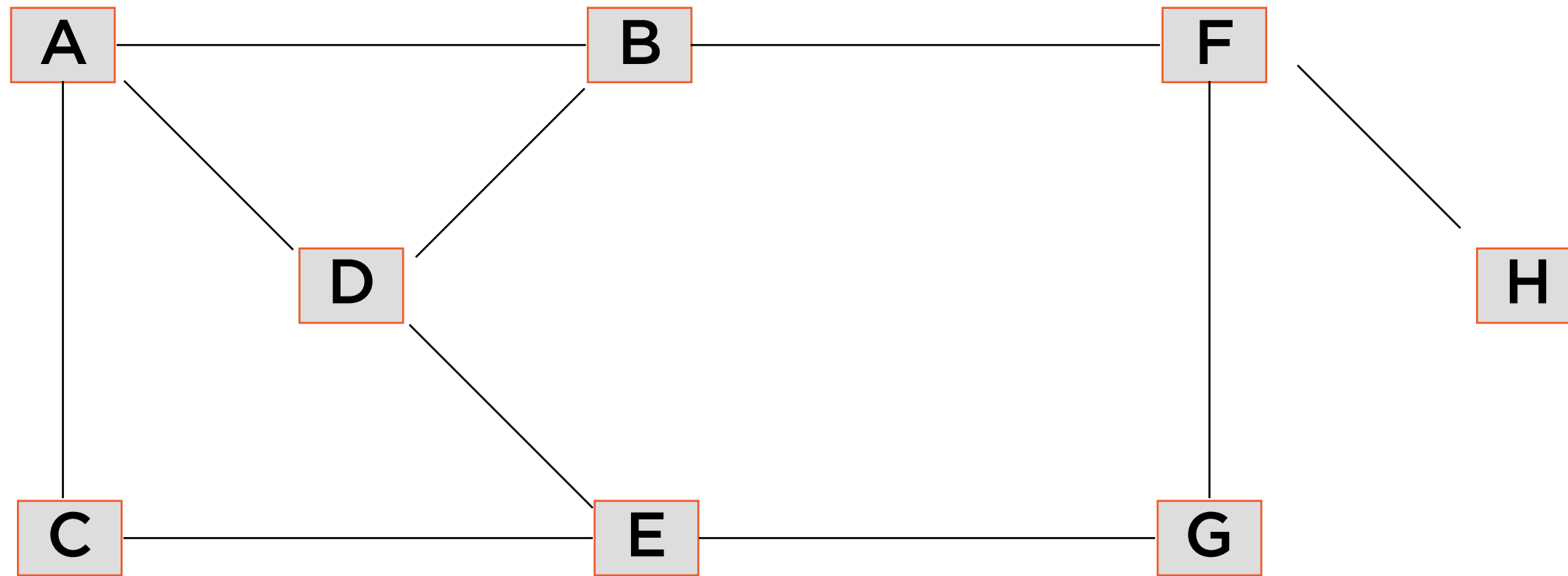
**Removing the F - H edge leaves H without a path to the other nodes in the graph**

# Disconnected Graph

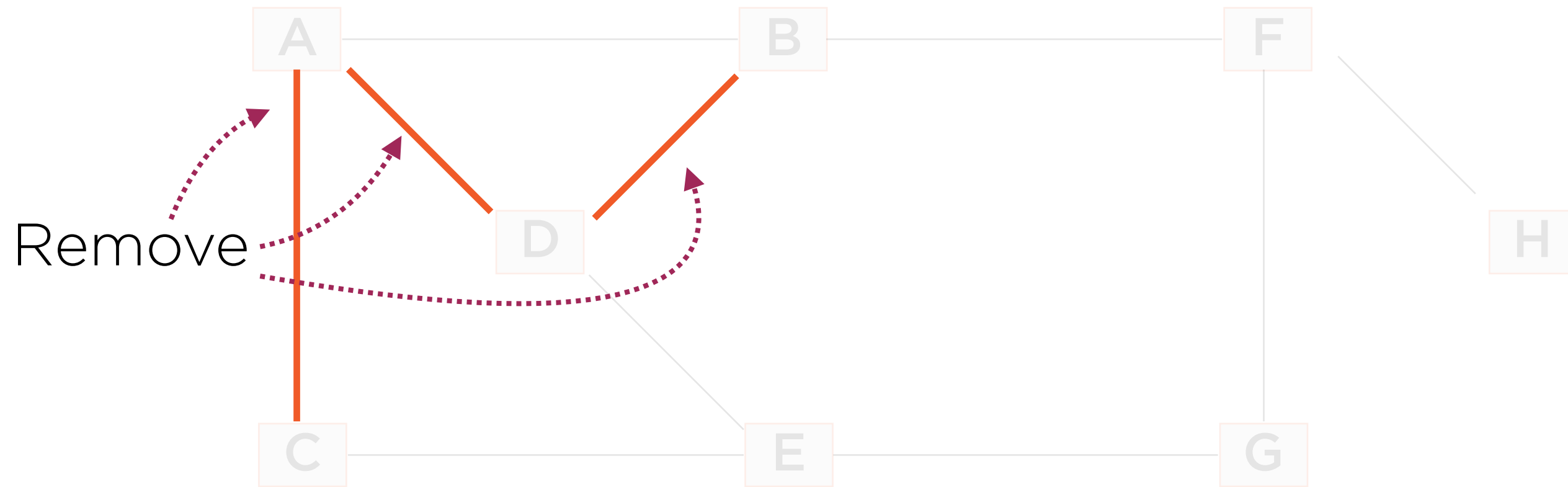


**Disconnected**

# Connected Graph with Cycle

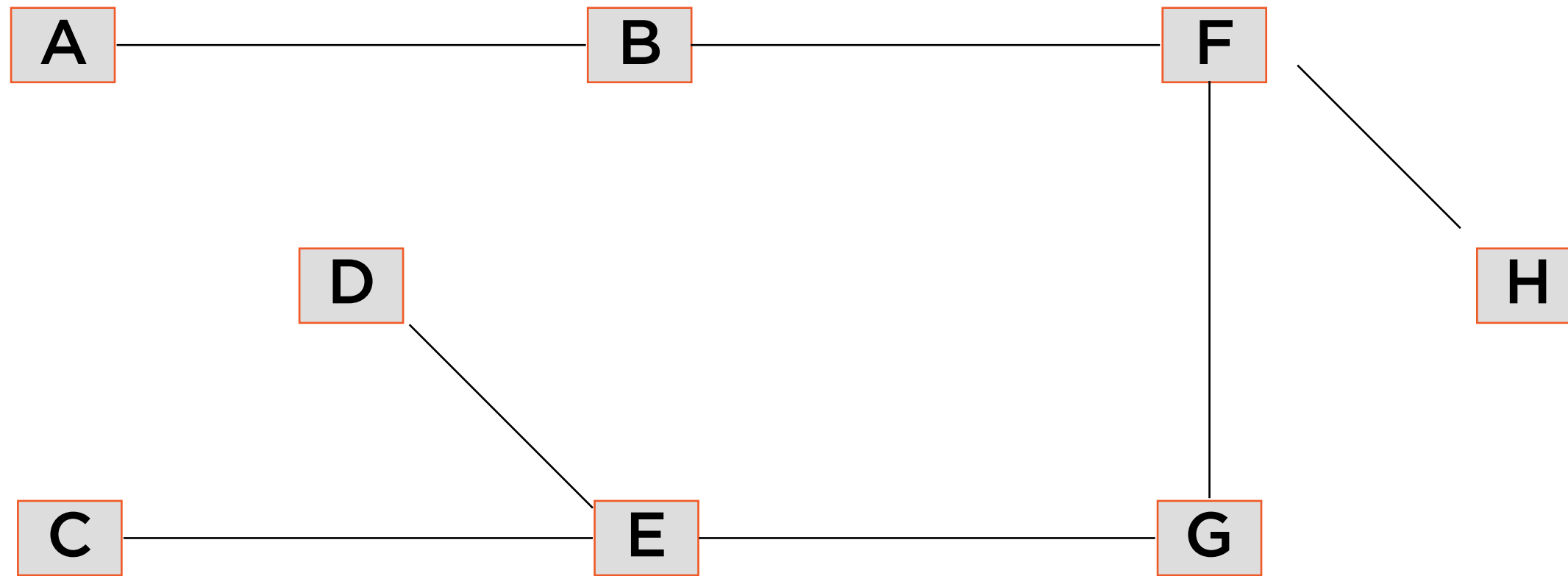


# Connected Graph with no Cycle



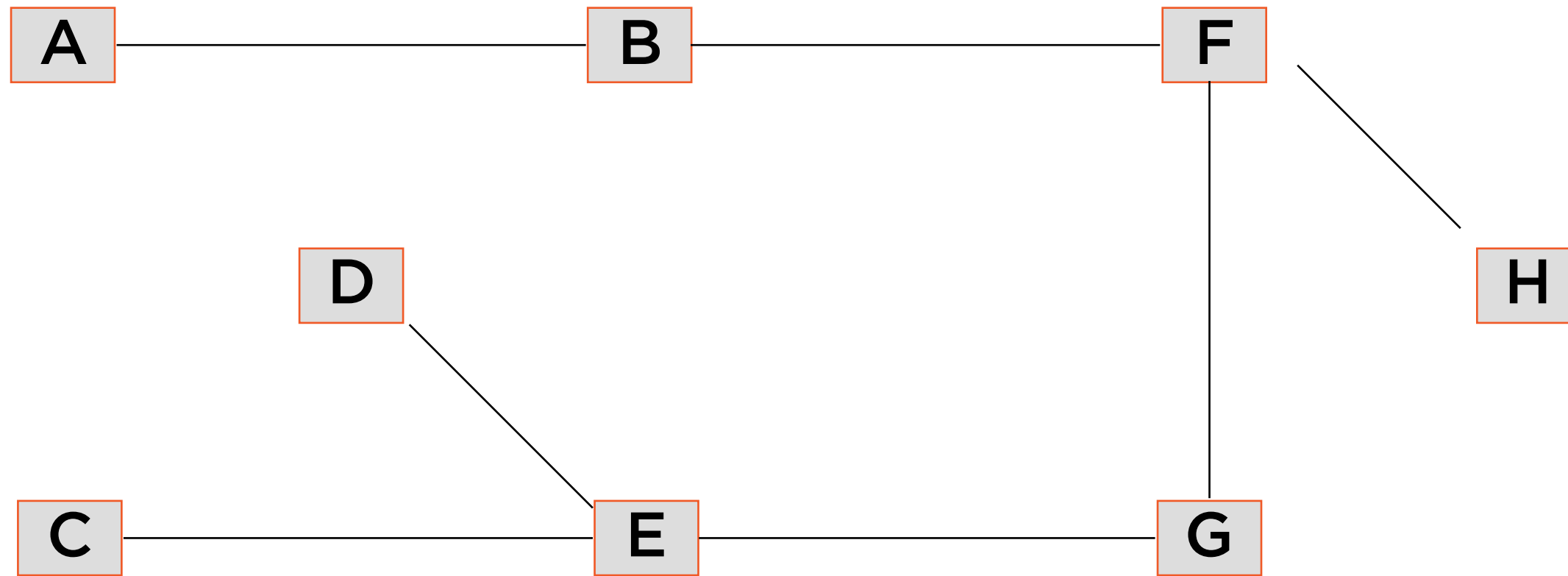
**Removing edges A - C, A - D and B - D eliminates the cycles in this graph**

# Connected Graph with no Cycle



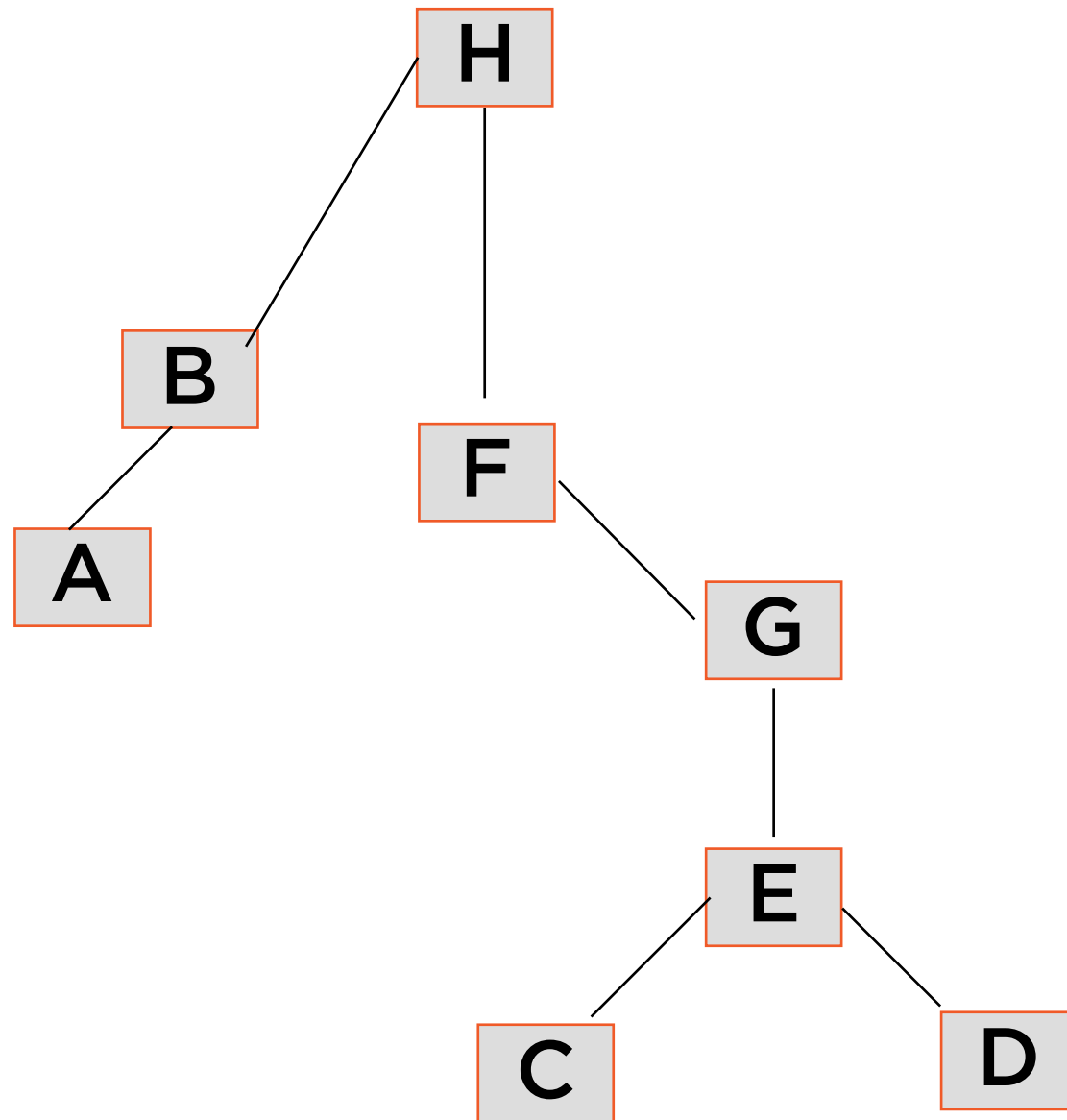
Such a graph is called a **tree**

# Connected Graph with no Cycle



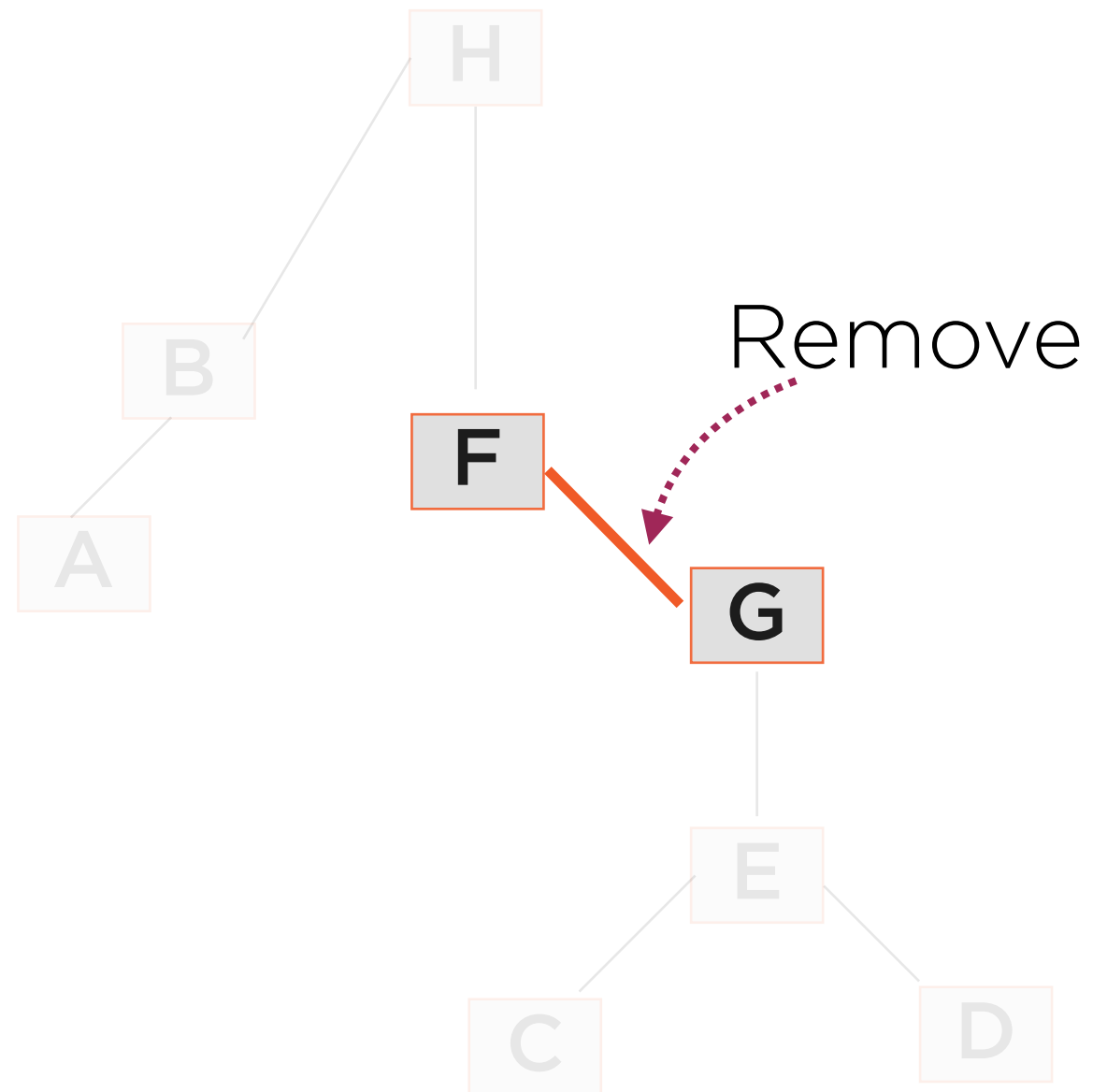
**Trees are great for depicting  
hierarchical relationships**

# Forest: Set of Disjoint Trees



Trees are great for depicting  
**hierarchical relationships**

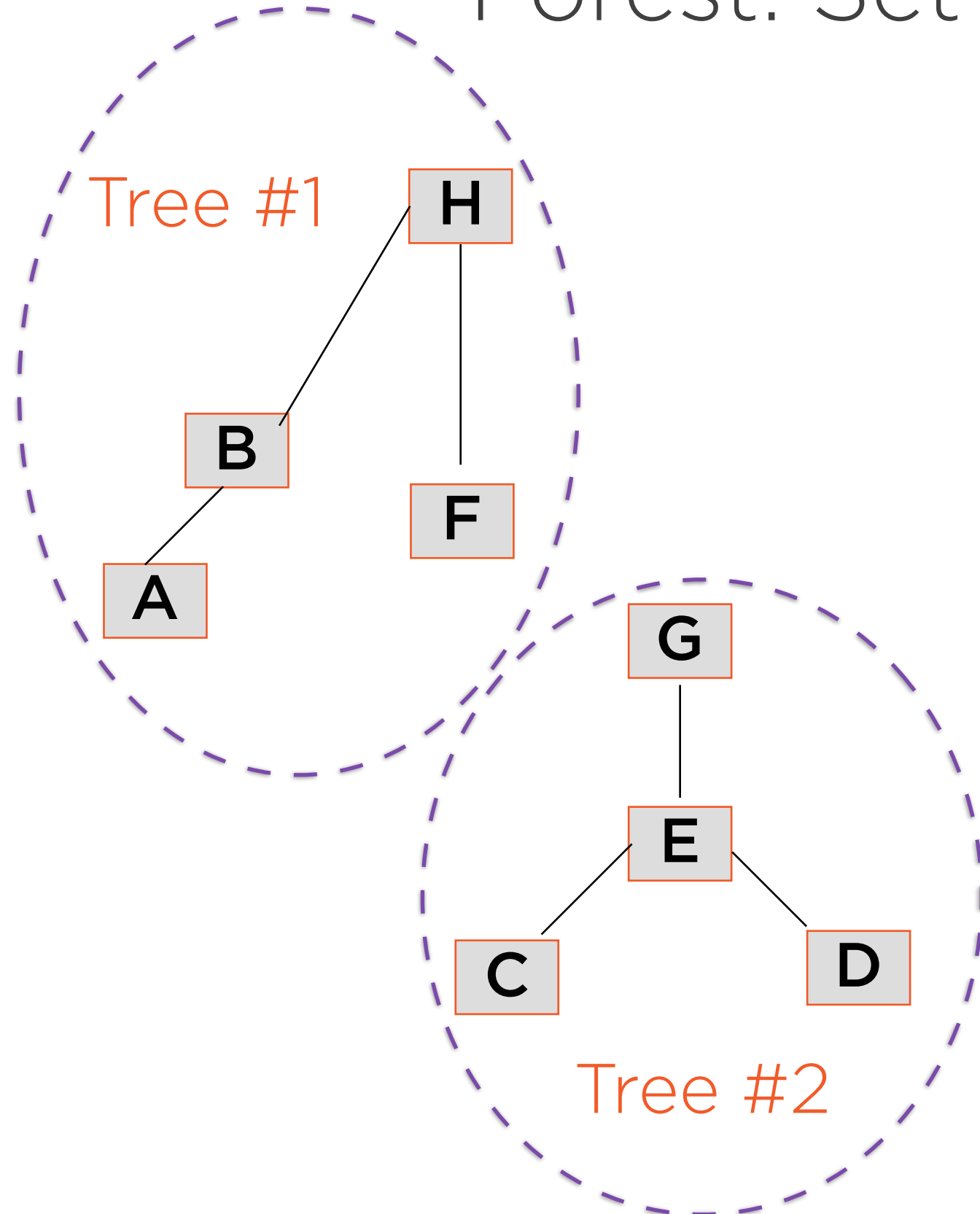
# Forest: Set of Disjoint Trees



**Removing F - G divides the original graph into two **disjoint** graphs**



# Forest: Set of Disjoint Trees

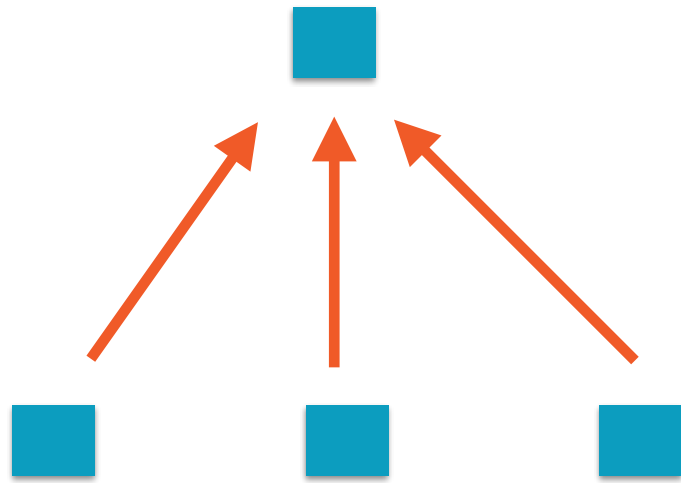


Such a set of disjoint trees is called a **forest**

# Directed Graphs

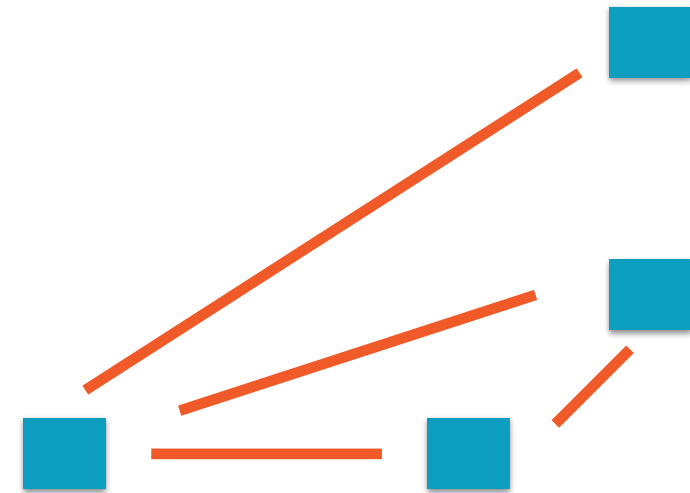
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# Directed and Undirected Graphs



**Twitter Followers**

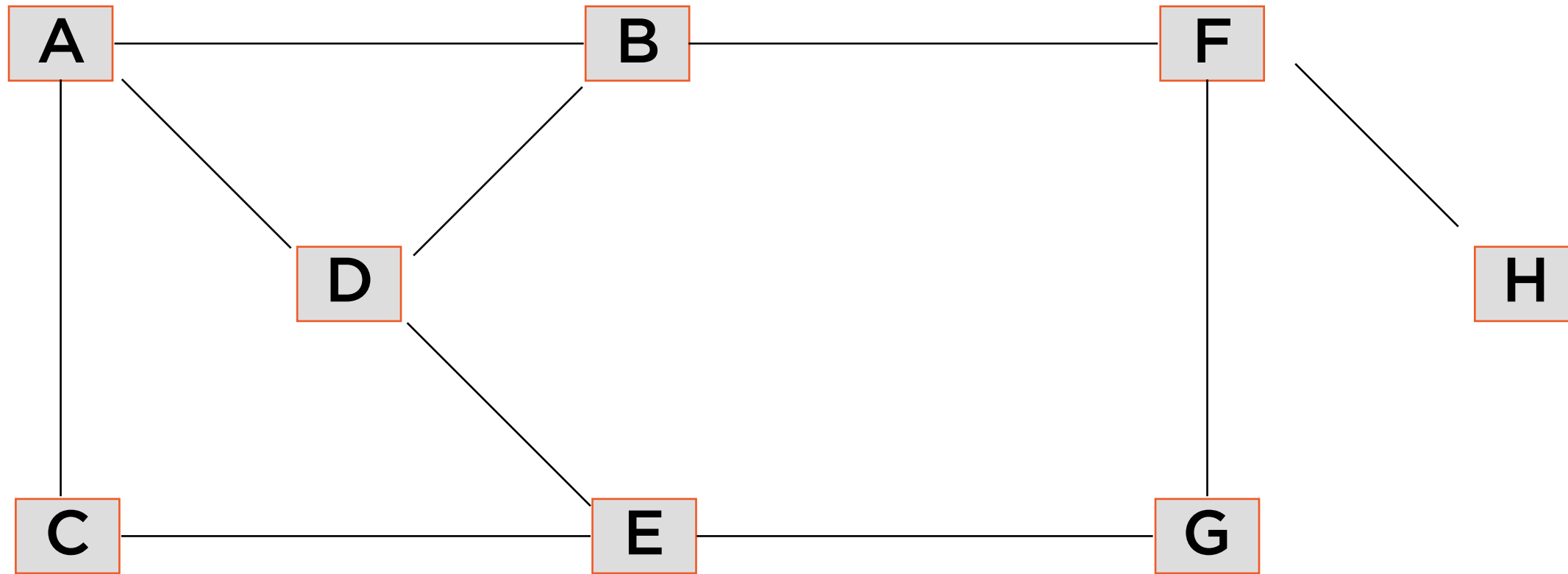
Relationship goes one way only



**Facebook Friends**

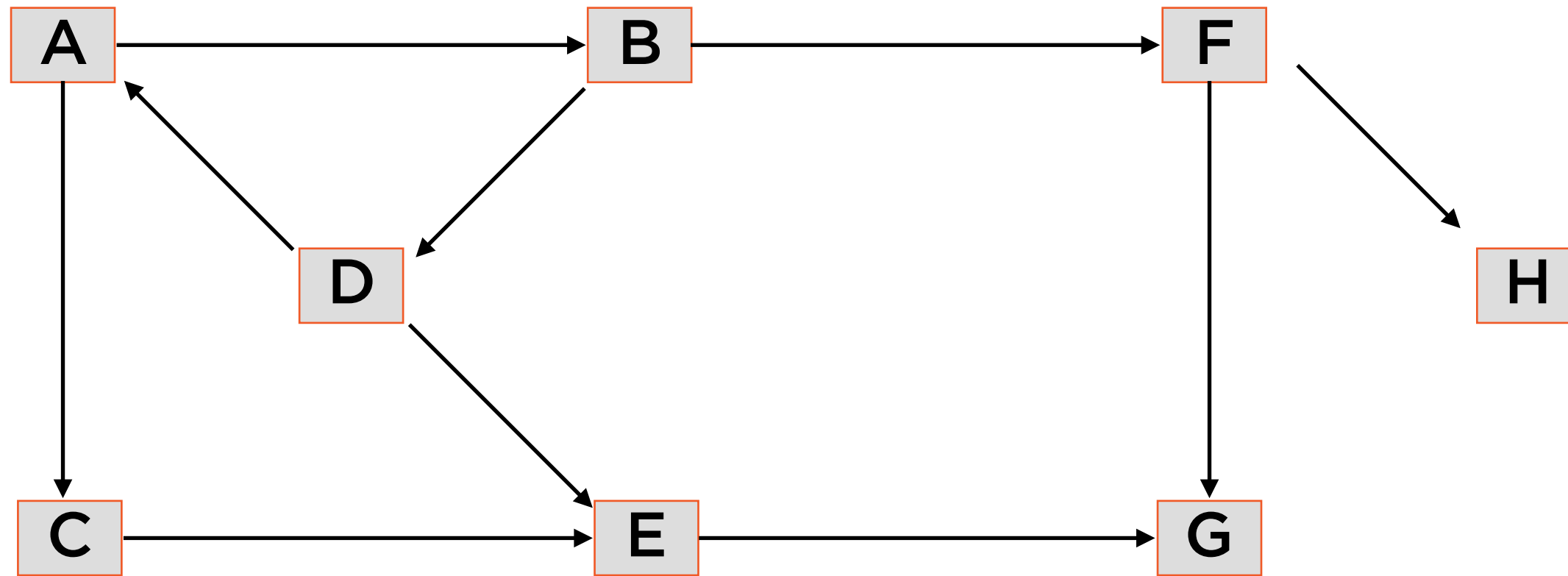
Relationship goes both ways

# An Undirected Graph



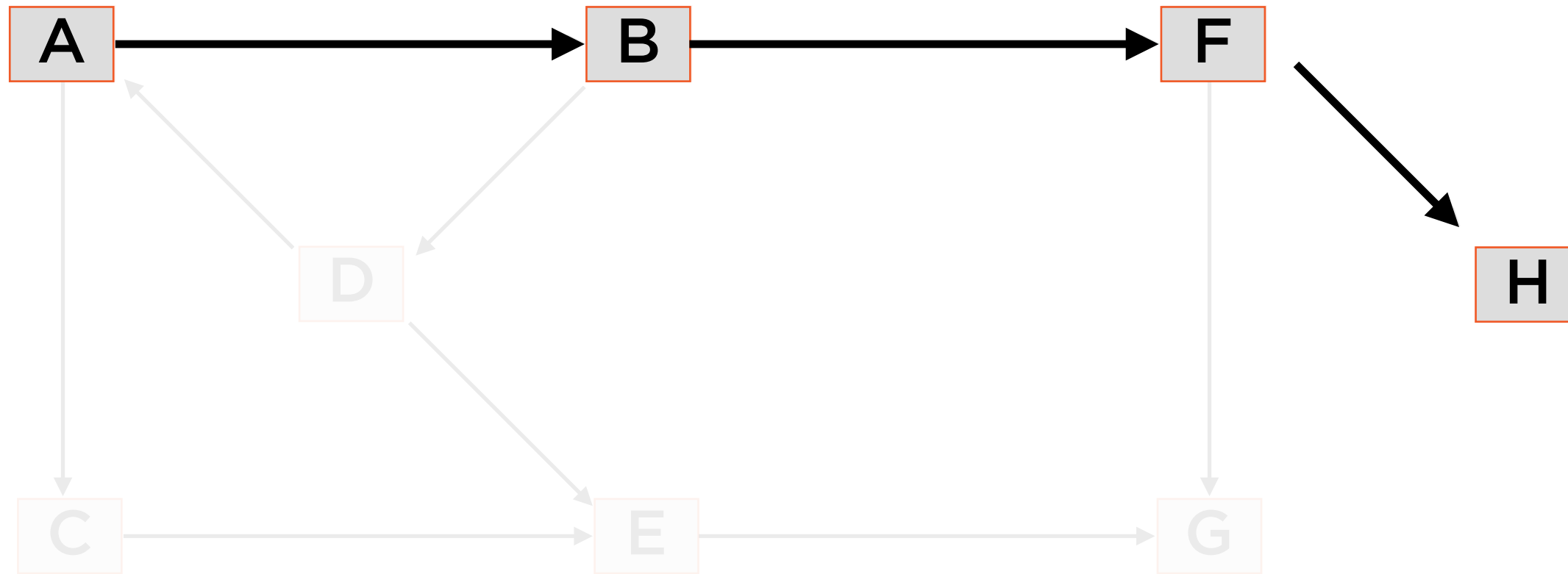
$V = \{A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H\}$

# A Directed Graph



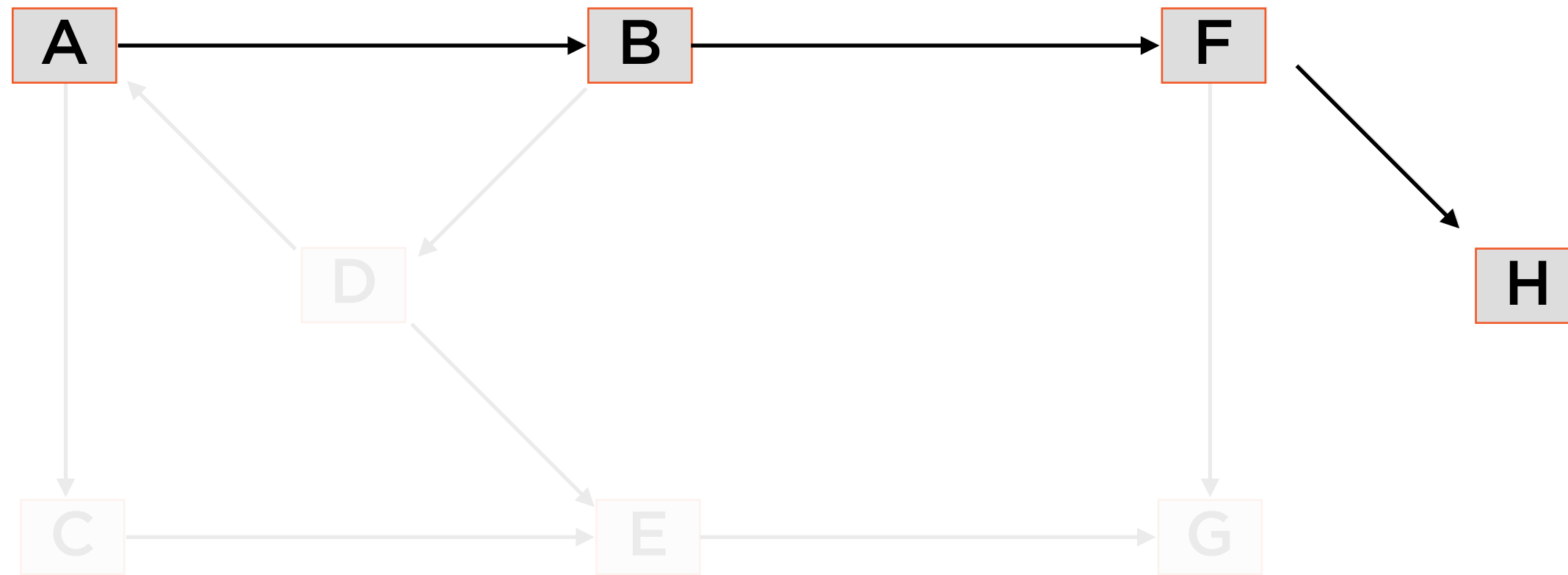
$V = \{A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H\}$

# Paths in a Graph



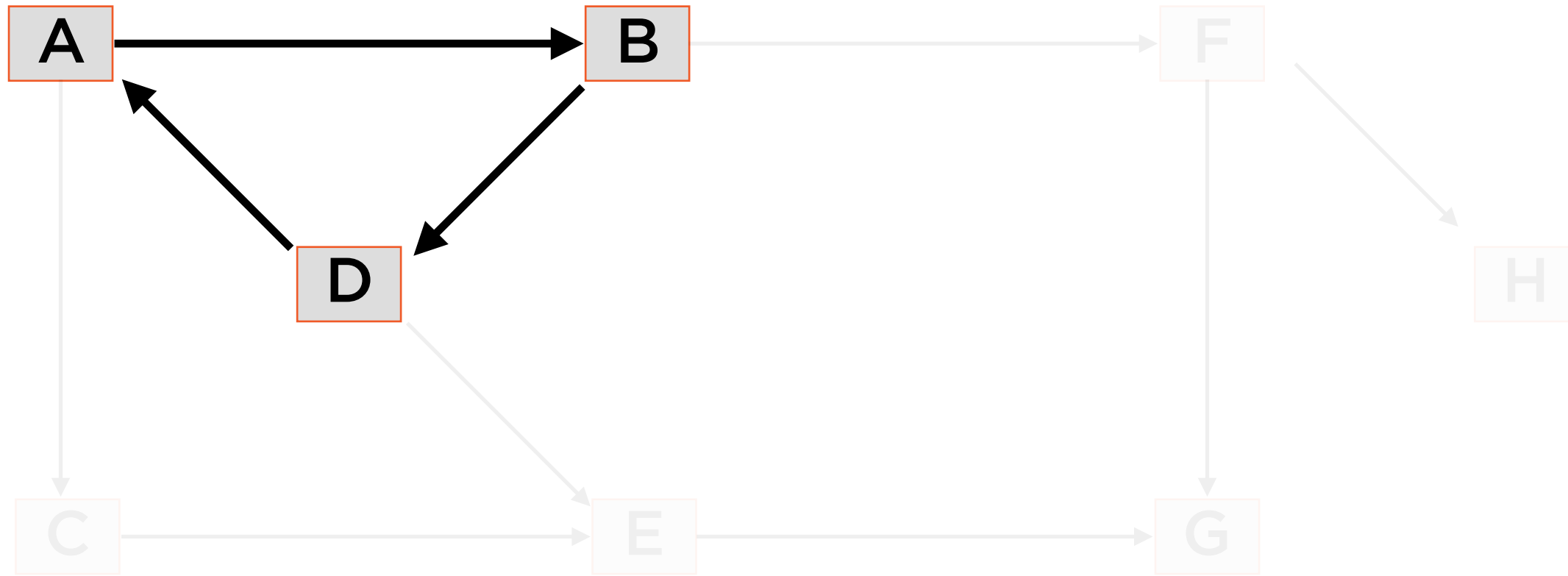
A series of edges links node A to node H - this is called a **path**

# Paths in a Graph



In a directed graph, the path must **follow the direction** of the arrows

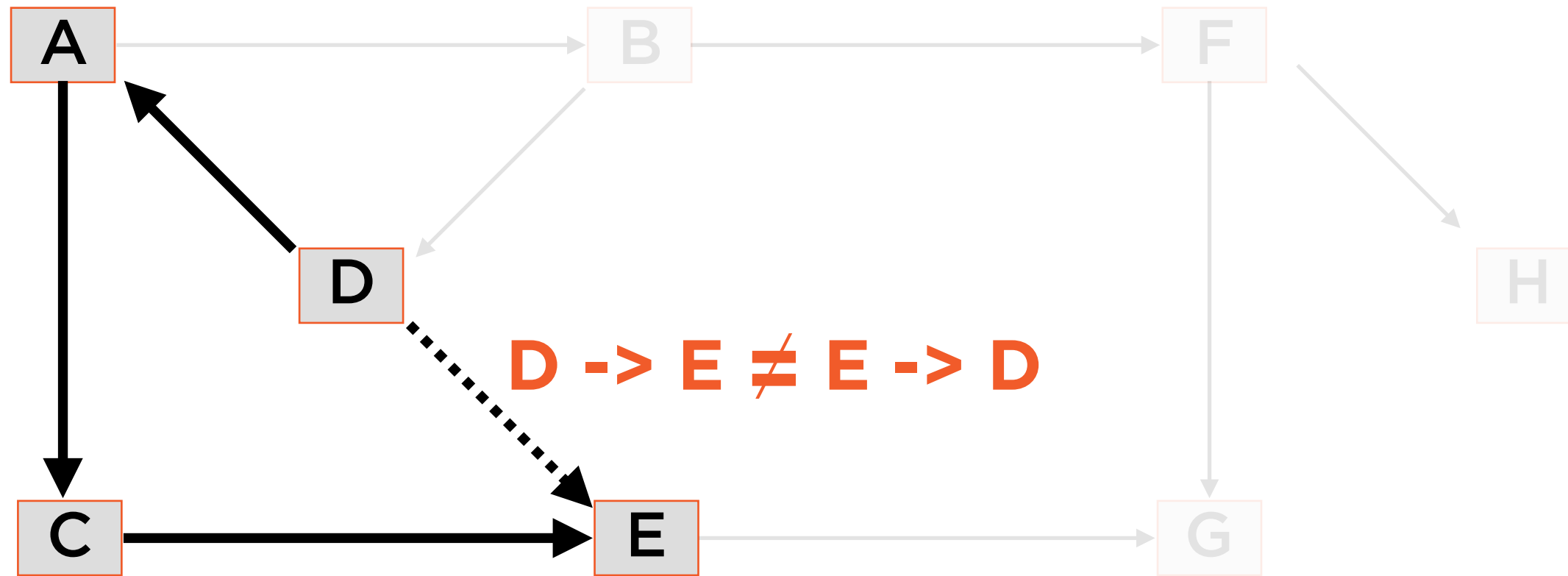
# Directed Cyclic Graph



The nodes A,B, D and A form a **cycle**

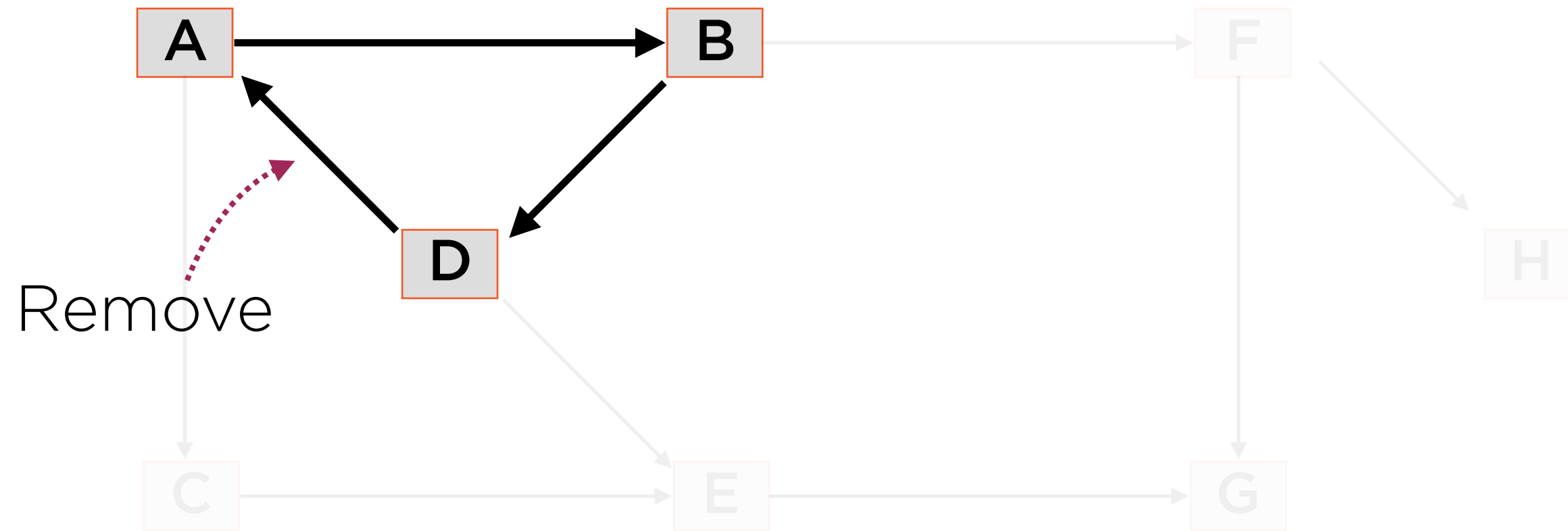


# Directed Cyclic Graph



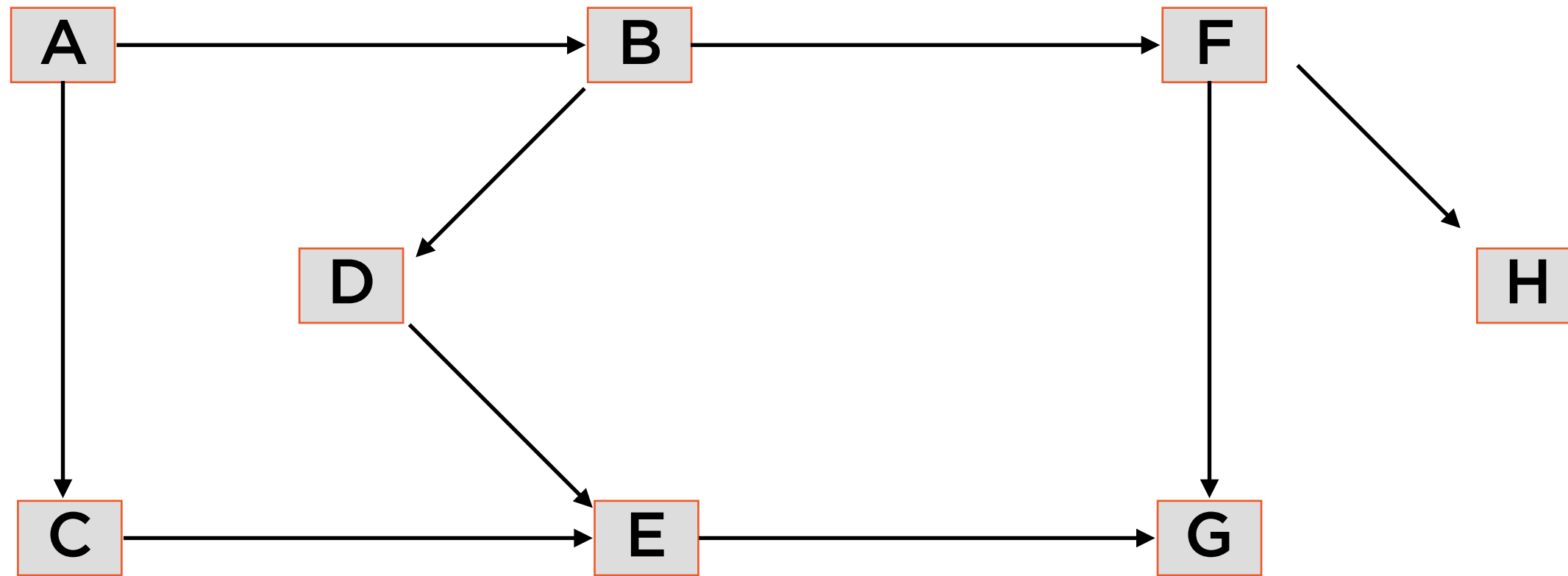
The nodes A, C, E, D and A **do not form a cycle**

# Directed Acyclic Graph



**Removing the edge D -> A eliminates the only cycle in this directed graph**

# Directed Acyclic Graph



**Removing the edge D -> A eliminates the only cycle in this directed graph**

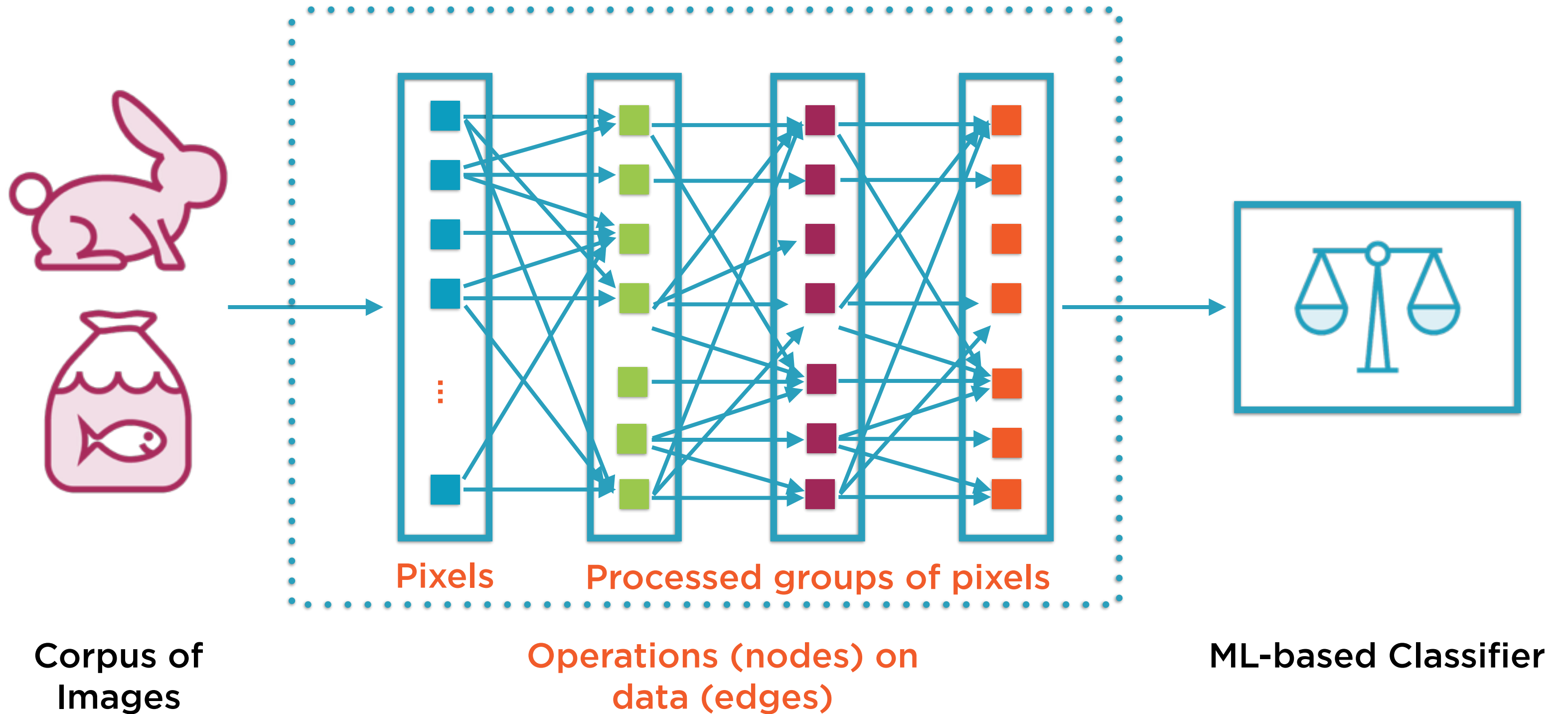
# Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs)

**Especially important type of graph**

**Common applications**

- Scheduling tasks
- Evaluating expressions

# Neural Network Computation Graph

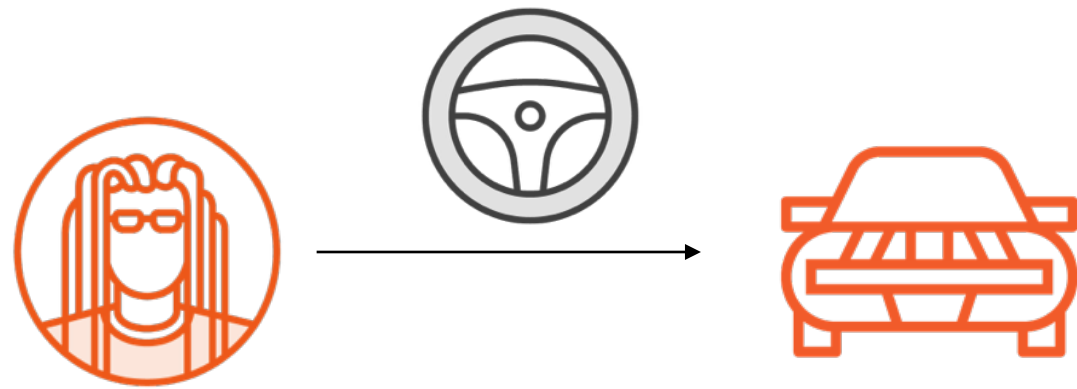


# Adjacency Matrices

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# Graph (V,E)

A set of vertices (V) and edges (E)



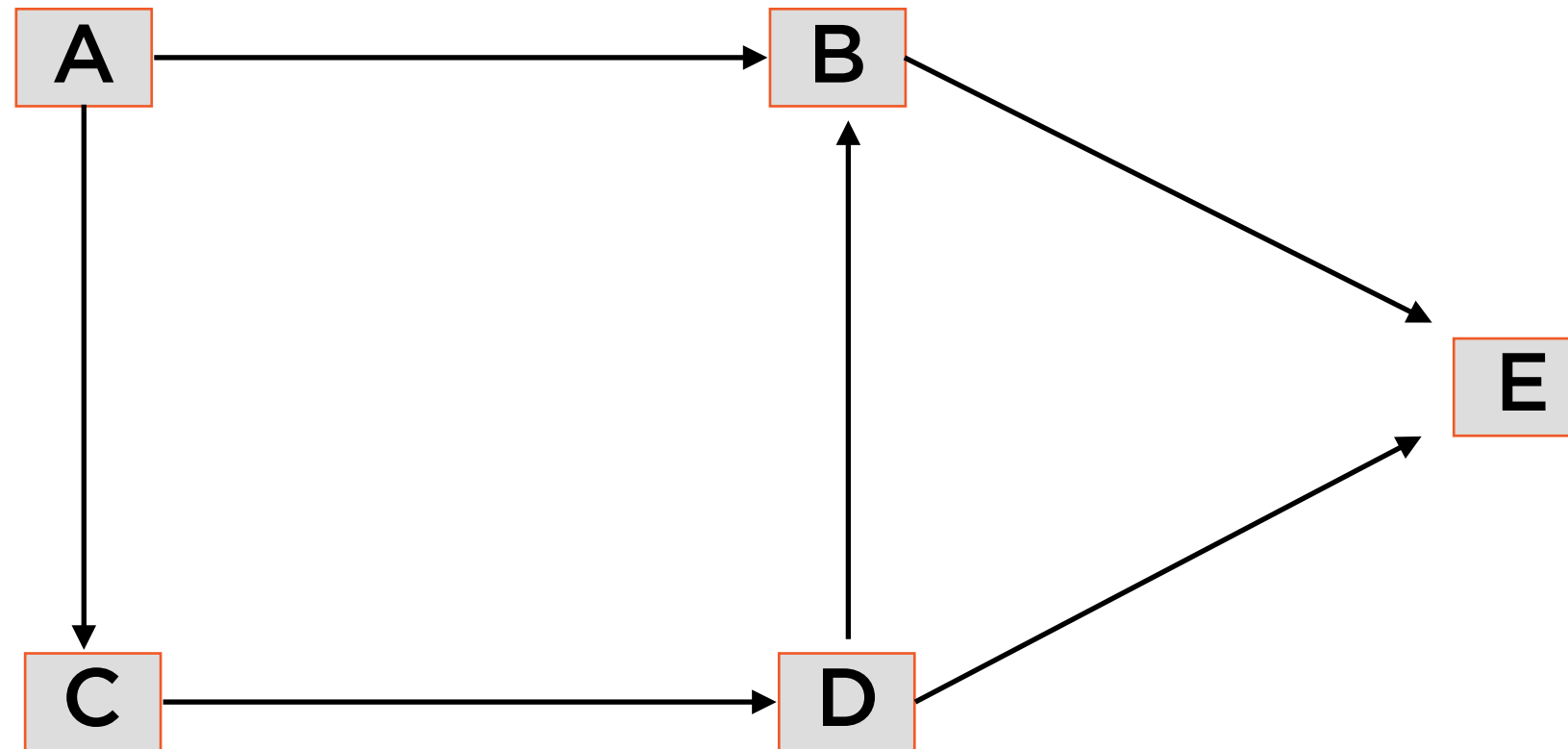
## Three ways to represent graphs in code

- Adjacency matrices
- Adjacency lists
- Adjacency sets

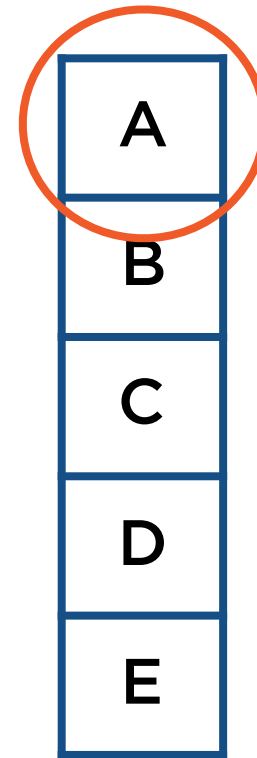
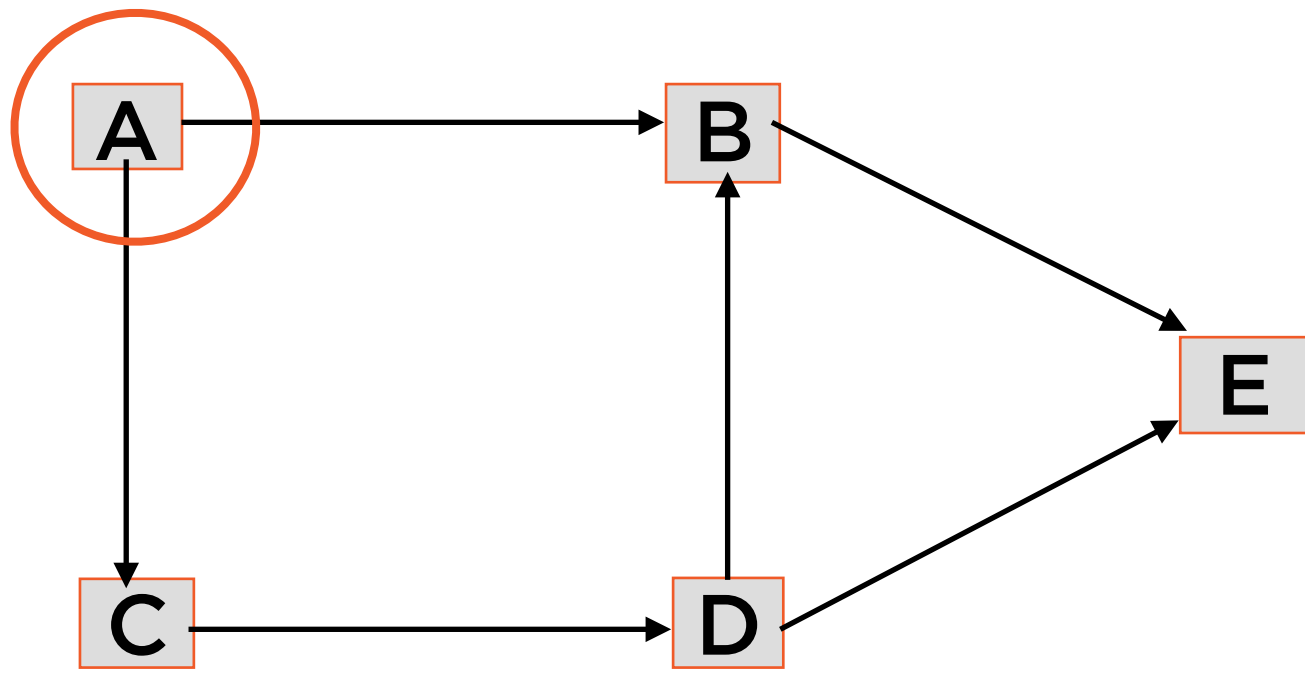


The adjacency matrix of a graph with  $N$  nodes is an  $N \times N$  matrix

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph



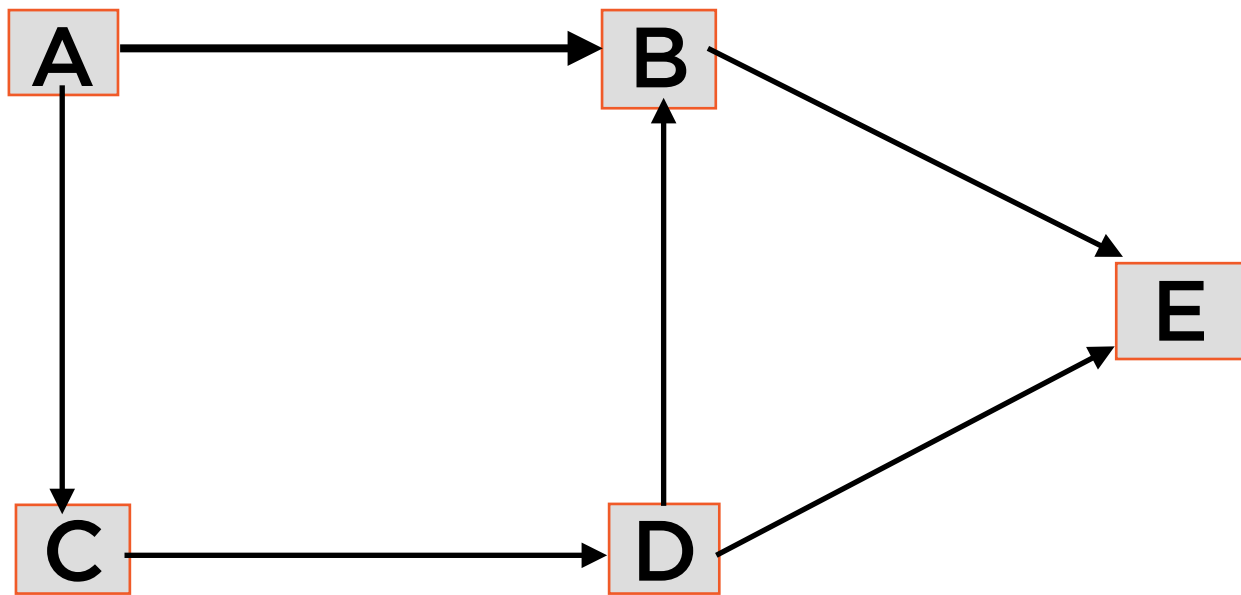
# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph



A	B	C	D	E

**Each node has a corresponding row and column**

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph

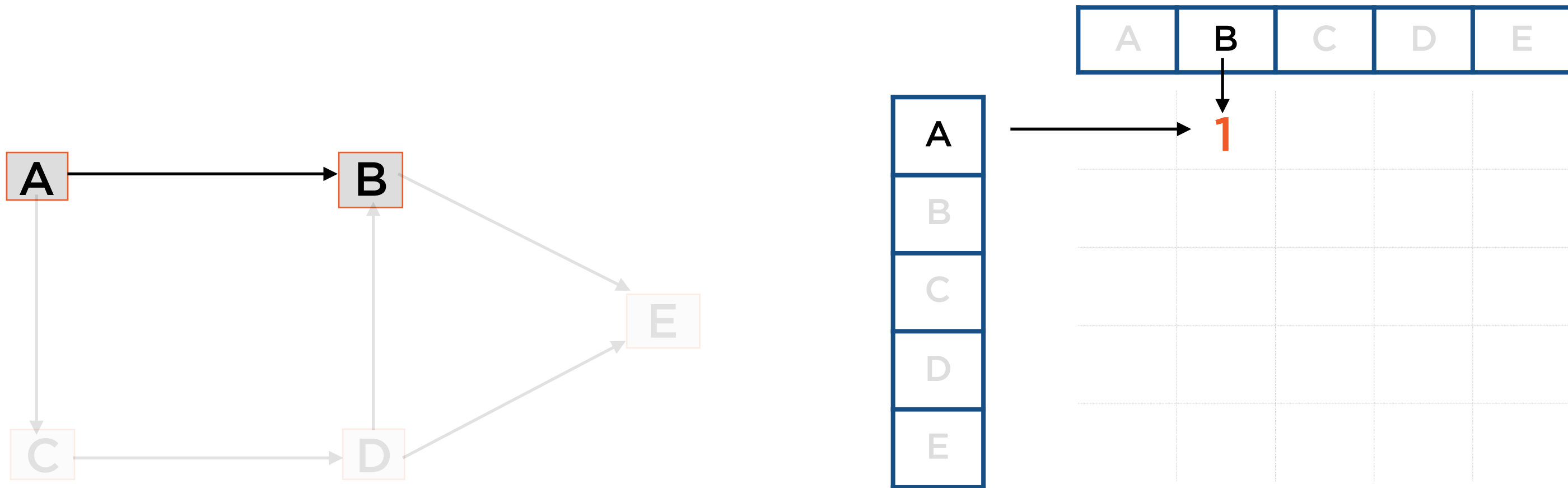


A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E

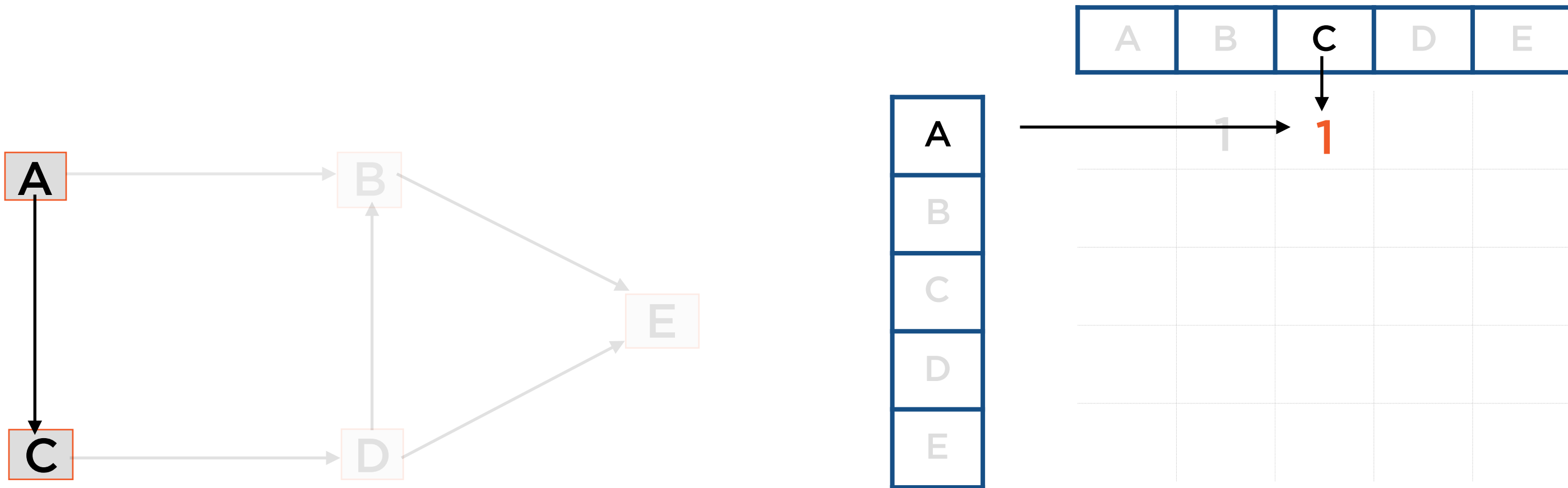
Value of 1 in (Row A, Column B) indicates an edge from A to B

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph



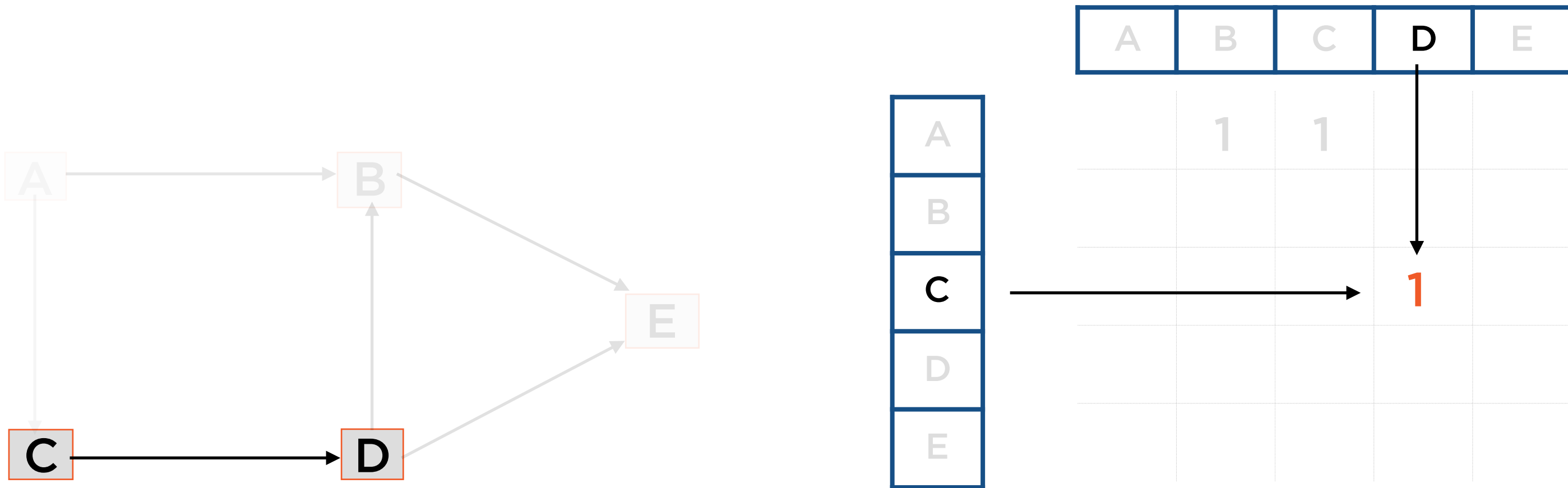
Value of 1 in (Row A, Column B) indicates an edge from A to B

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph



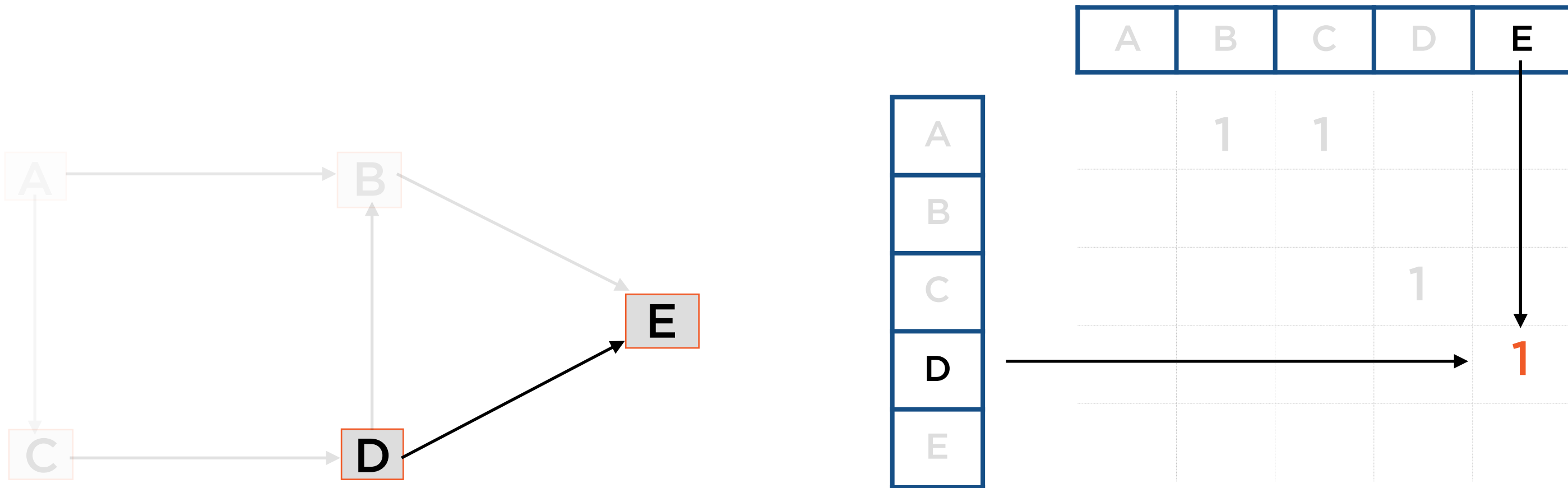
Edge A to C (Row A, Column C)

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph



Edge C to D (Row C, Column D)

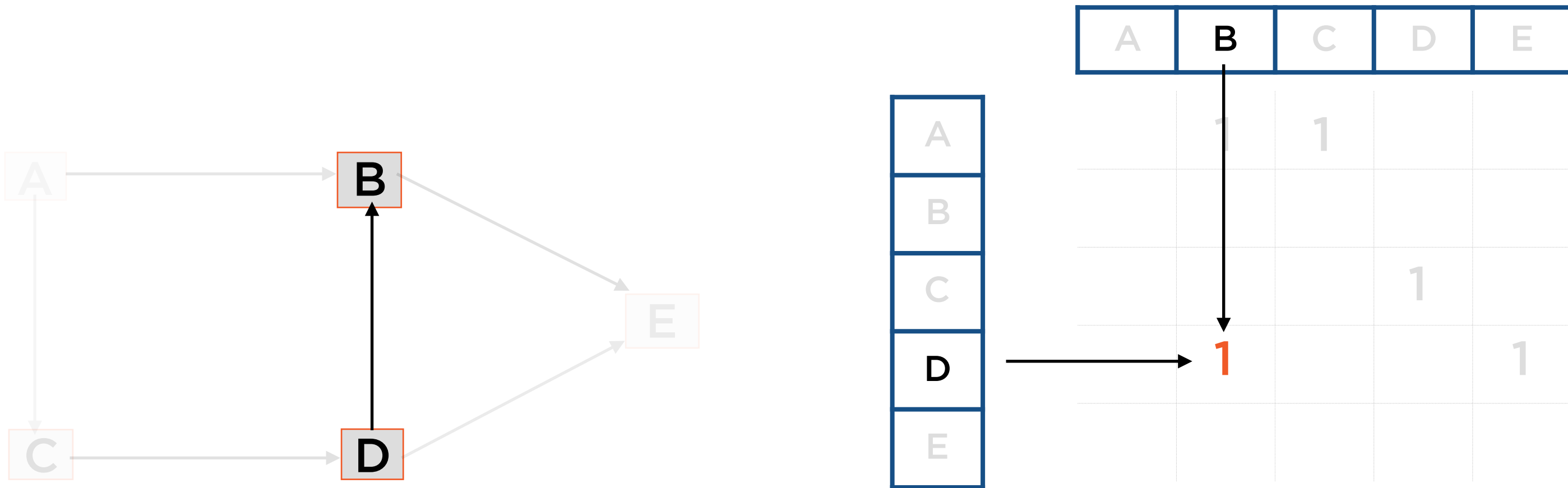
# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph



Edge D to E (Row D, Column E)

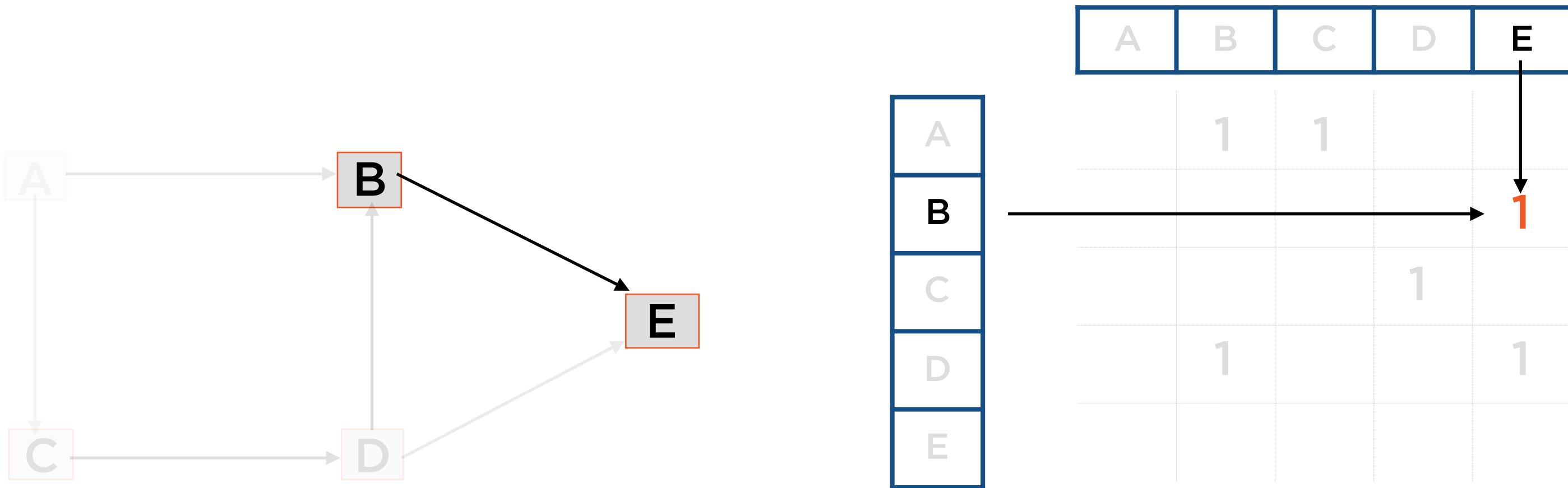


# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph



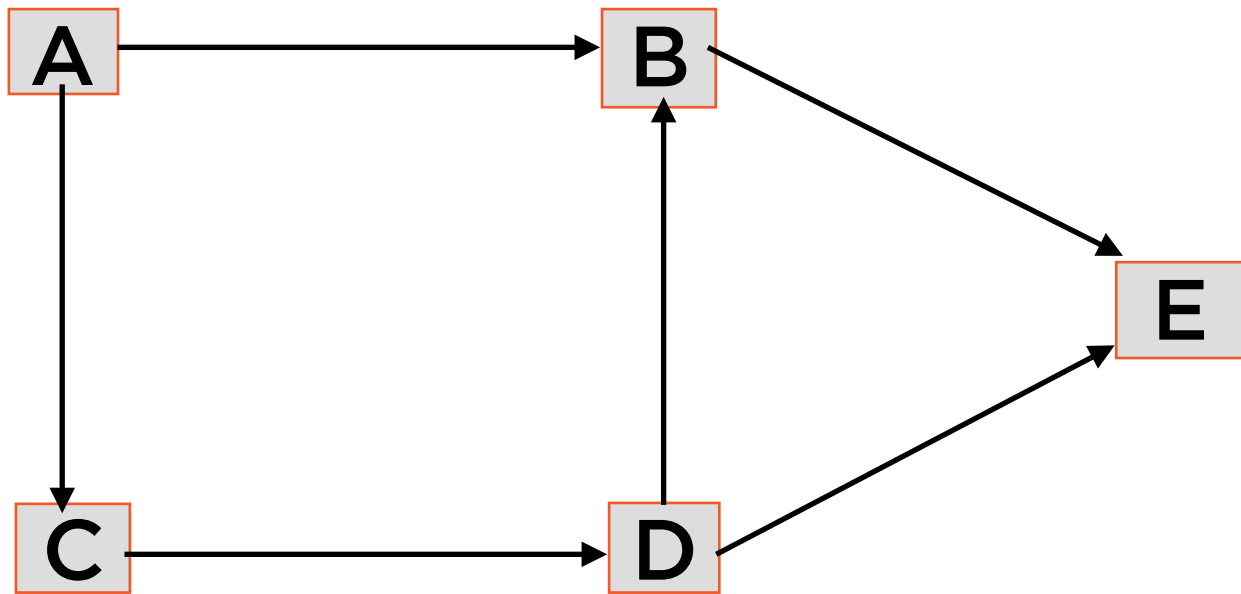
Edge D to B (Row D, Column B)

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph



Edge B to E (Row B, Column E)

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph

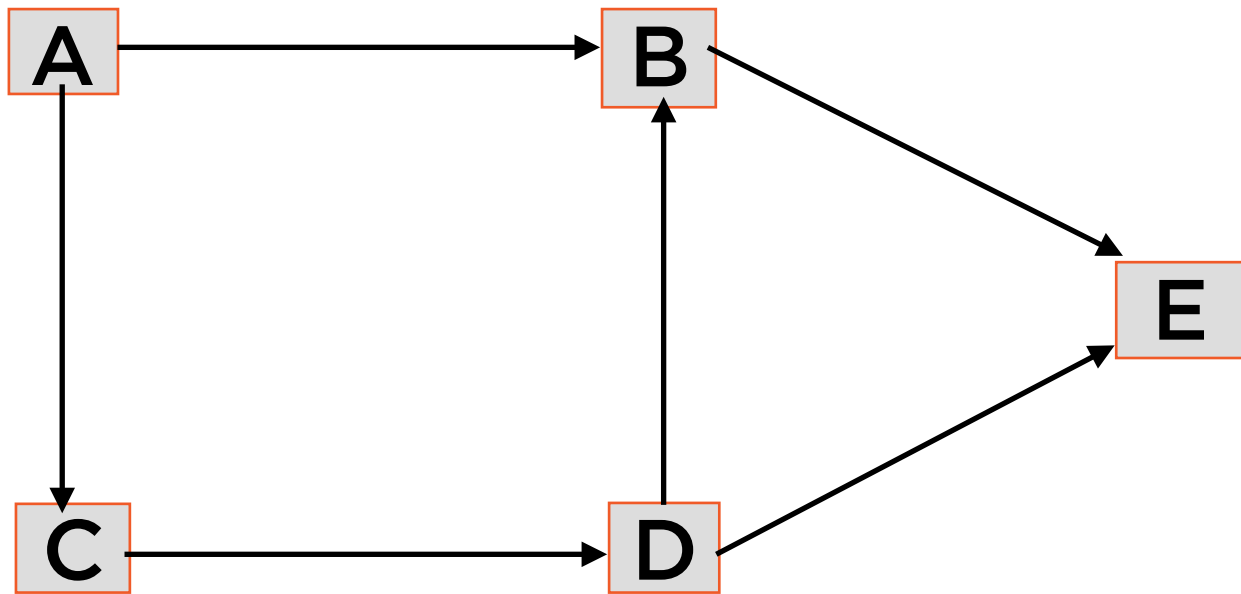


A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
	1	1		
				1
			1	
	1			1

**Six edges in graph => six 1s in adjacency matrix**

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph

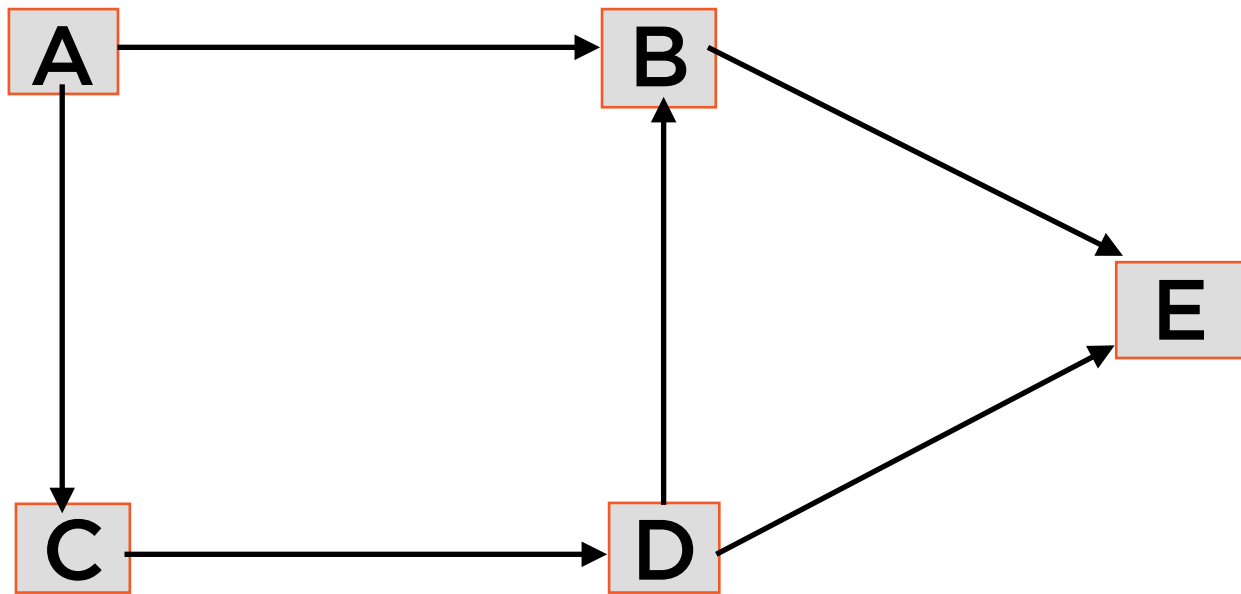


A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0

All other elements are zero

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph

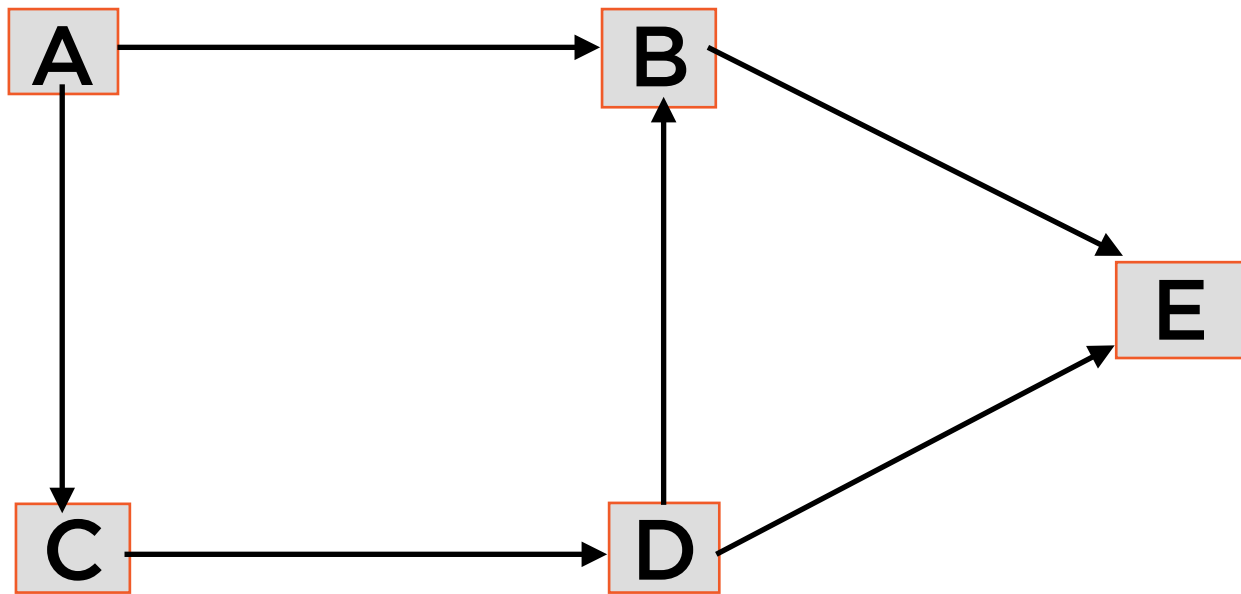


A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0

**All diagonal elements are zero (since nodes are not connected to themselves)**

# Adjacency Matrix for a Directed Graph

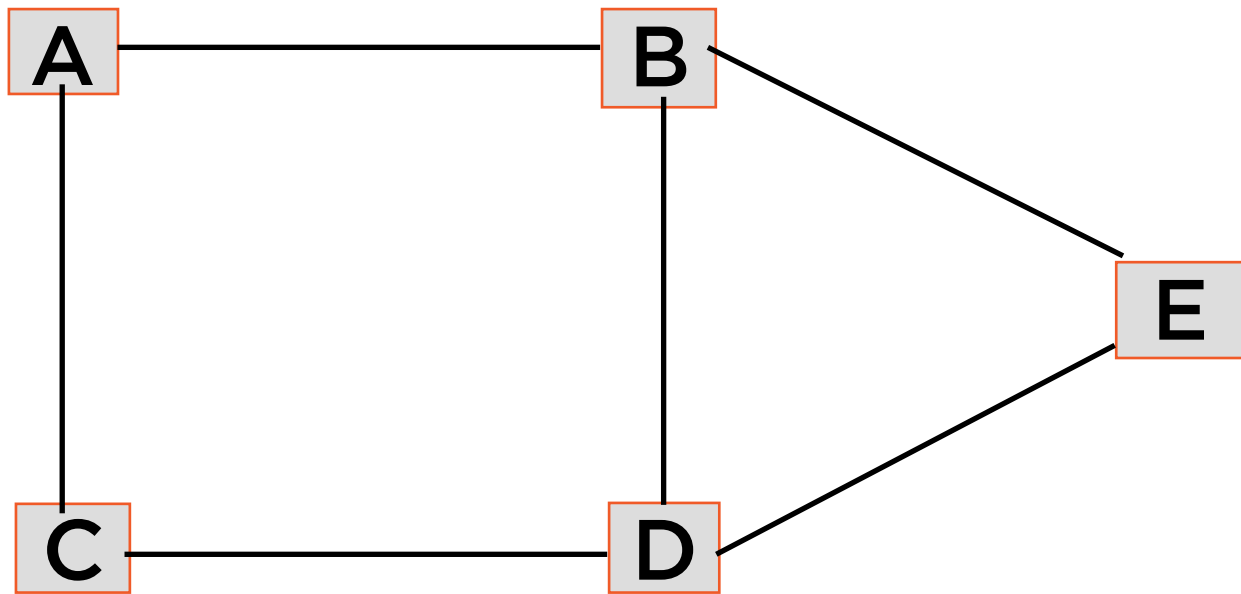


A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0

**The adjacency matrix of a Directed Graph is not symmetric**

# Adjacency Matrix for an Undirected Graph

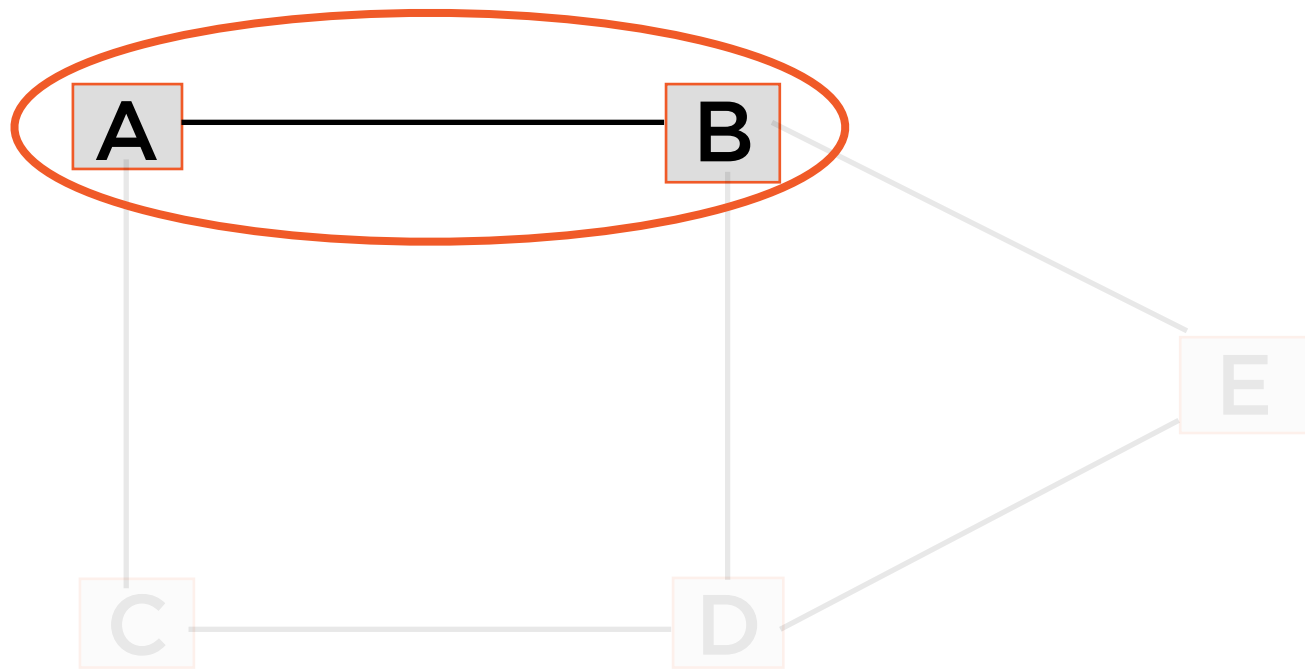


A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	0

**Value(Row i, Column j) == Value(Row j, column i)**

# Adjacency Matrix for an Undirected Graph



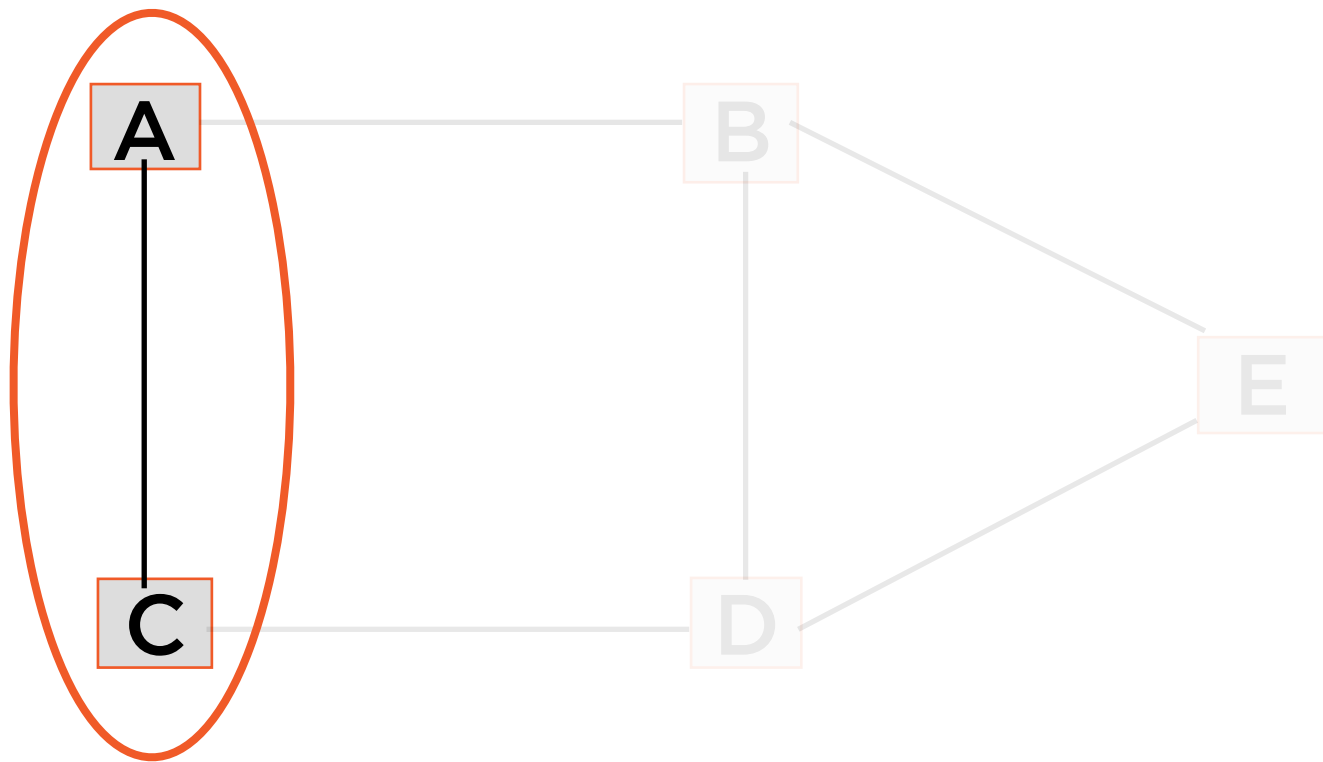
A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	0

**Value(Row i, Column j) == Value(Row j, column i)**



# Adjacency Matrix for an Undirected Graph

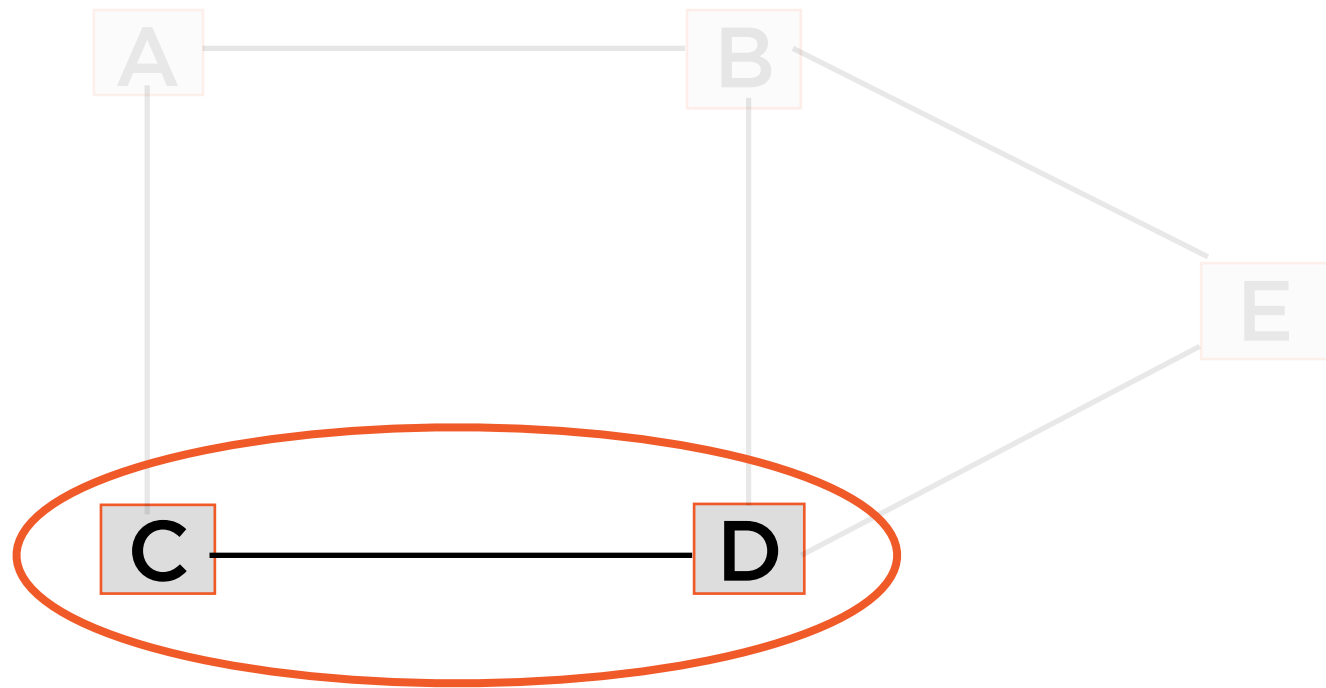


A  
B  
C  
D  
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	0

**Value(Row i, Column j) == Value(Row j, column i)**

# Adjacency Matrix for an Undirected Graph

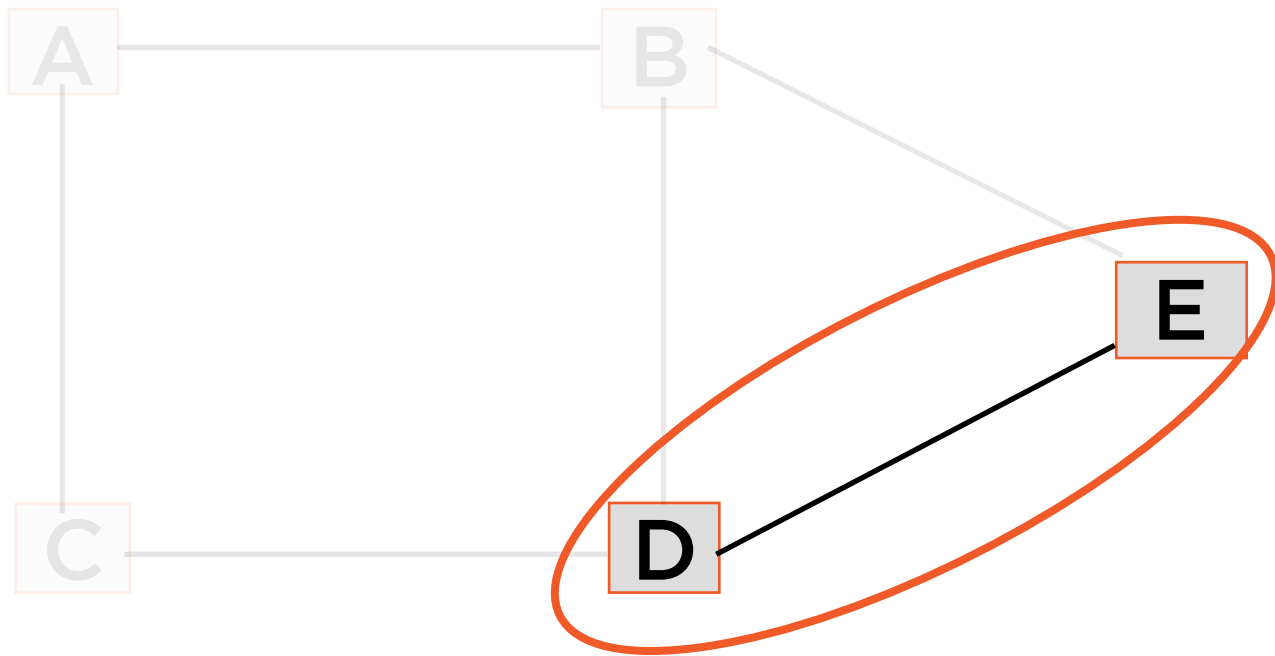


A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	0

**Value(Row i, Column j) == Value(Row j, column i)**

# Adjacency Matrix for an Undirected Graph

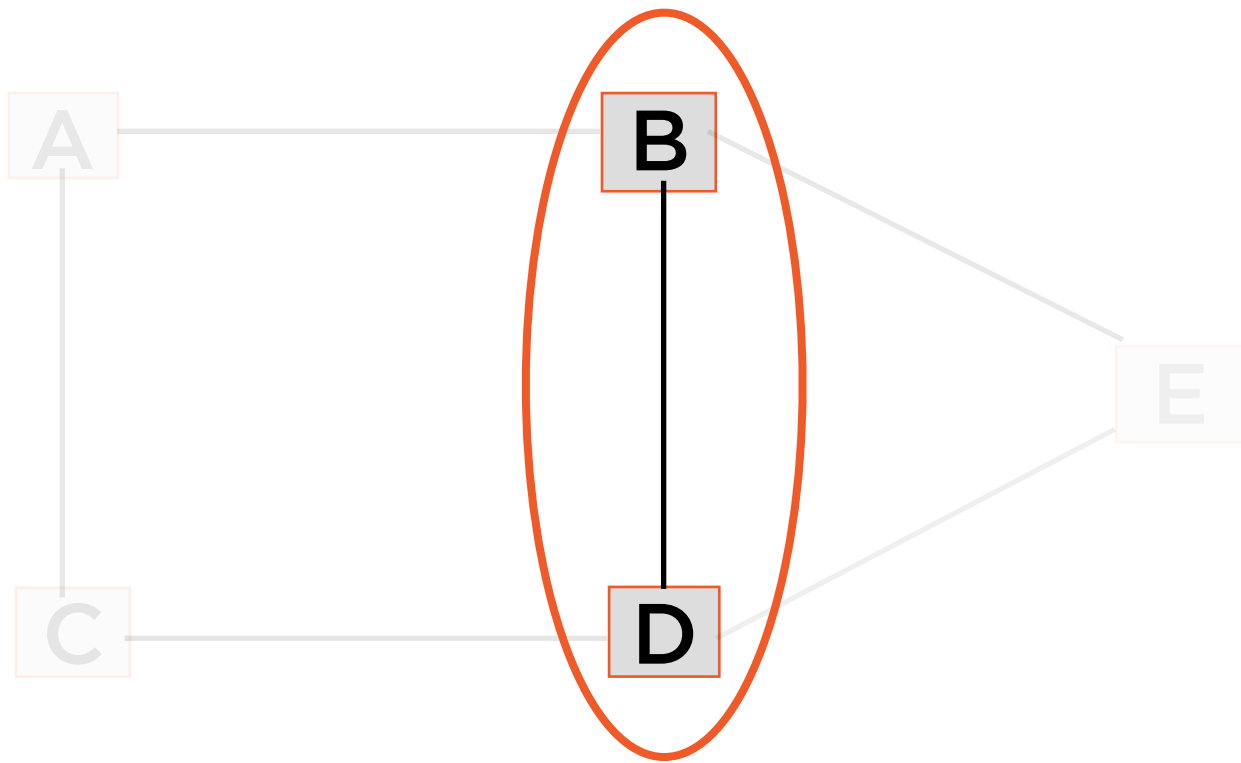


A  
B  
C  
D  
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	0

**Value(Row i, Column j) == Value(Row j, column i)**

# Adjacency Matrix for an Undirected Graph

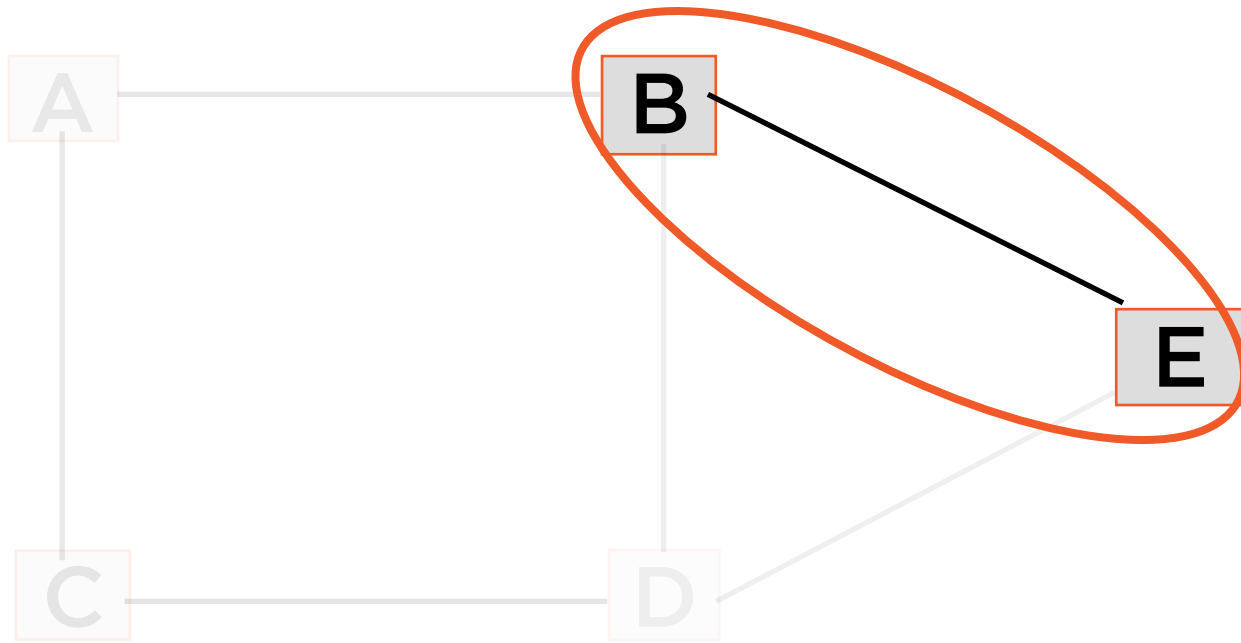


A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	0

**Value(Row i, Column j) == Value(Row j, column i)**

# Adjacency Matrix for an Undirected Graph



A
B
C
D
E

A	B	C	D	E
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	0

**Value(Row i, Column j) == Value(Row j, column i)**

The adjacency matrix of an **undirected** graph is **symmetric**

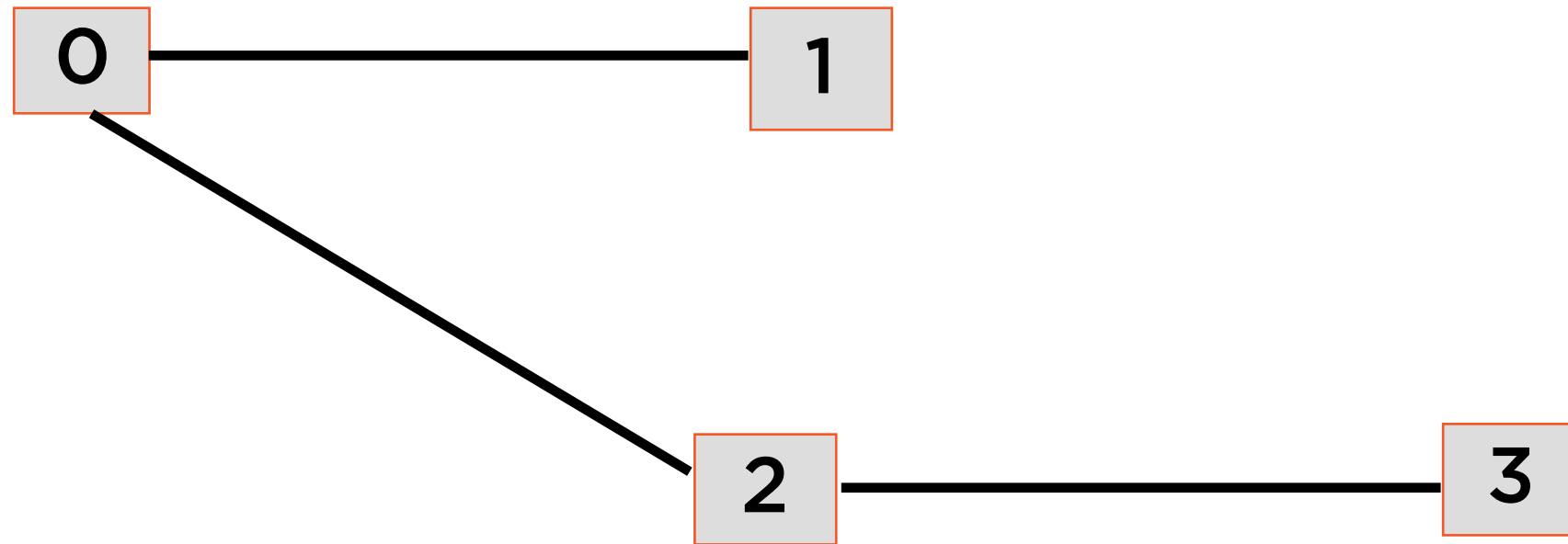
The adjacency matrix of a **directed** graph is **asymmetric**

# Demo

**Set up a abstract base class to represent a Graph**

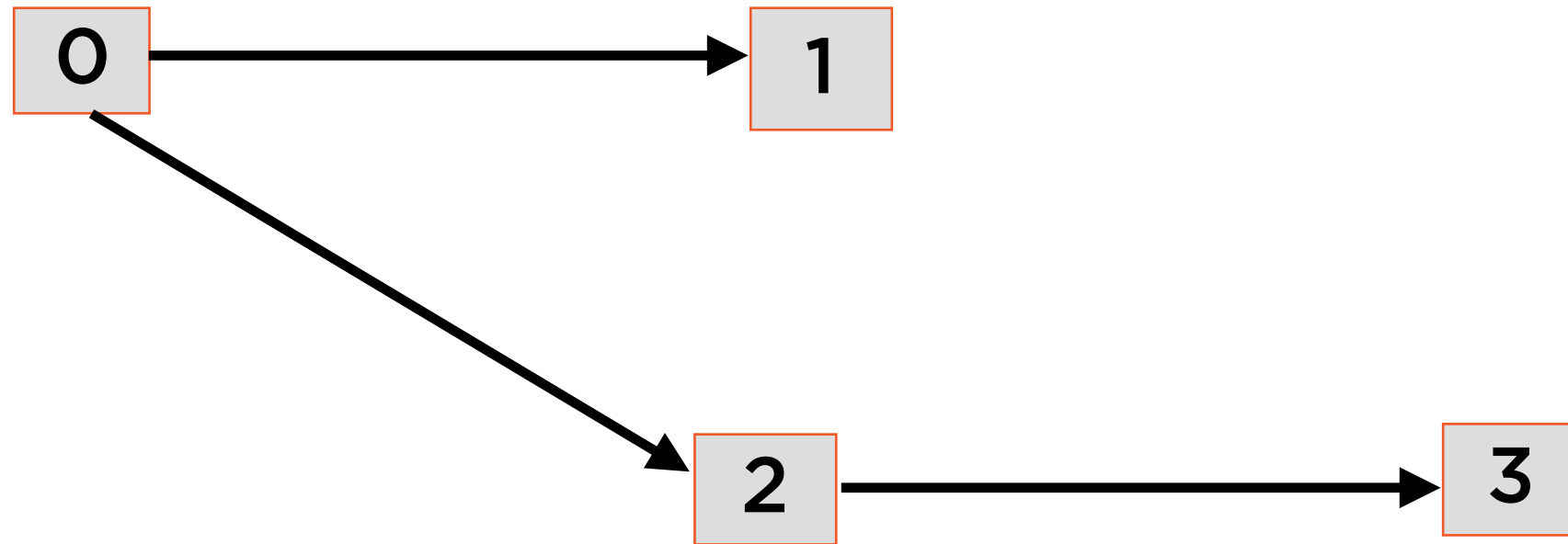
**Represent a Graph as an adjacency matrix**

# A Sample Undirected Graph





# A Sample Directed Graph



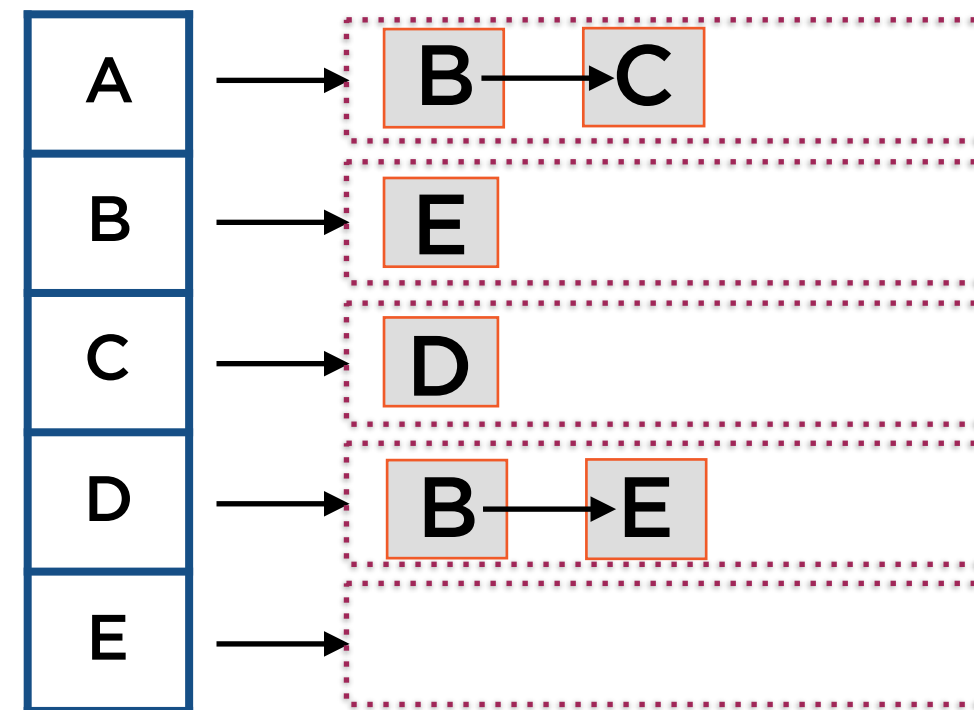
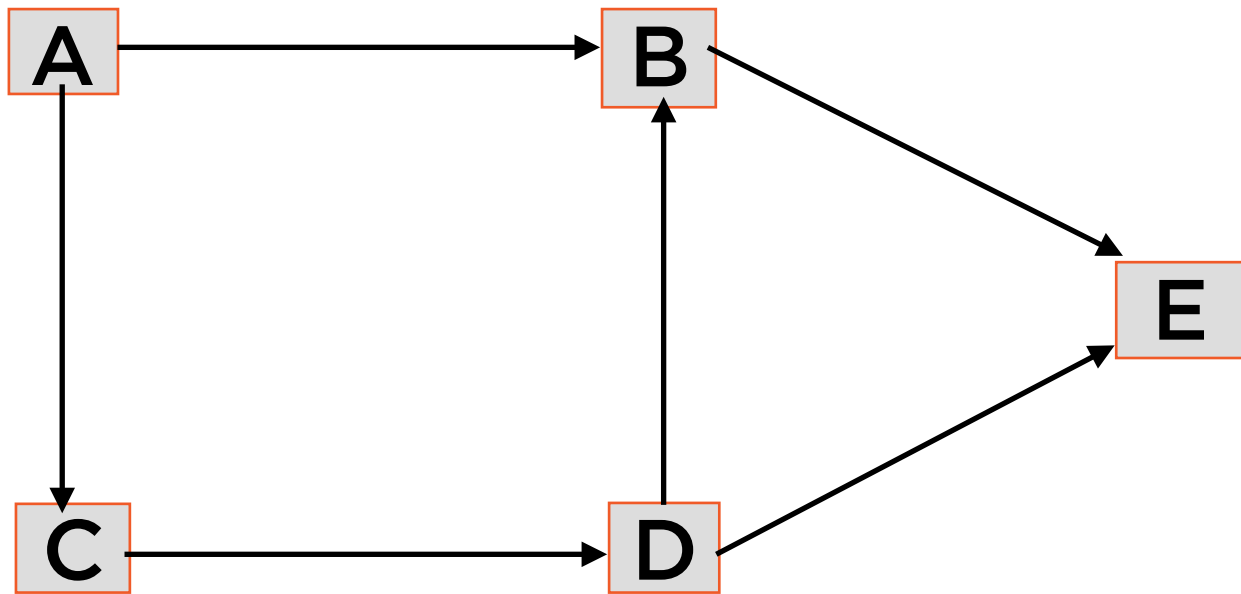
# Adjacency Lists and Adjacency Sets

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# Adjacency List Representation

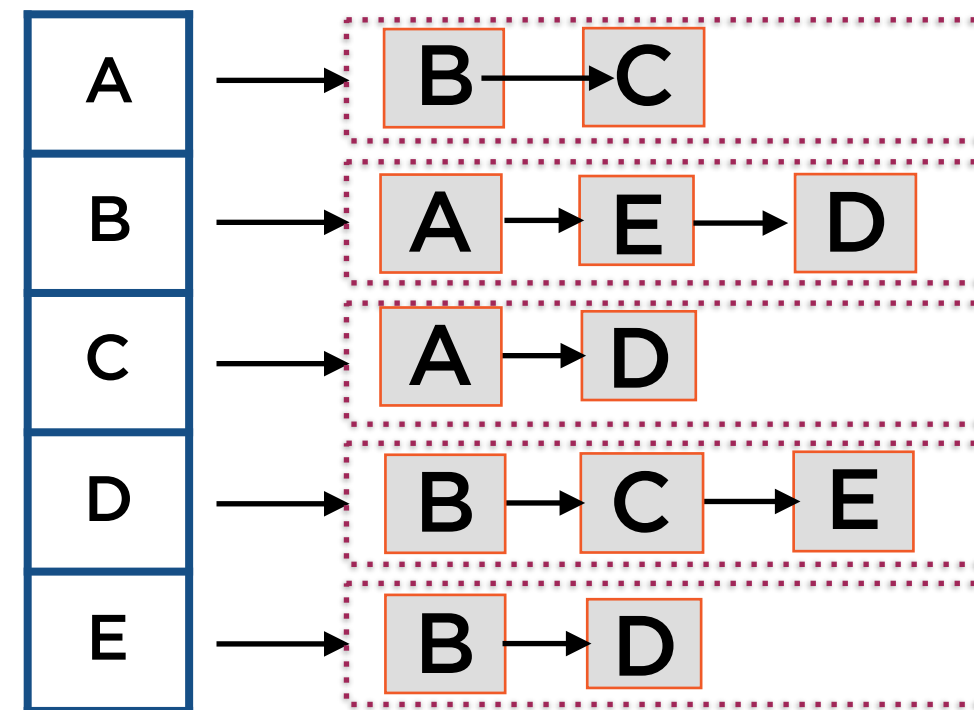
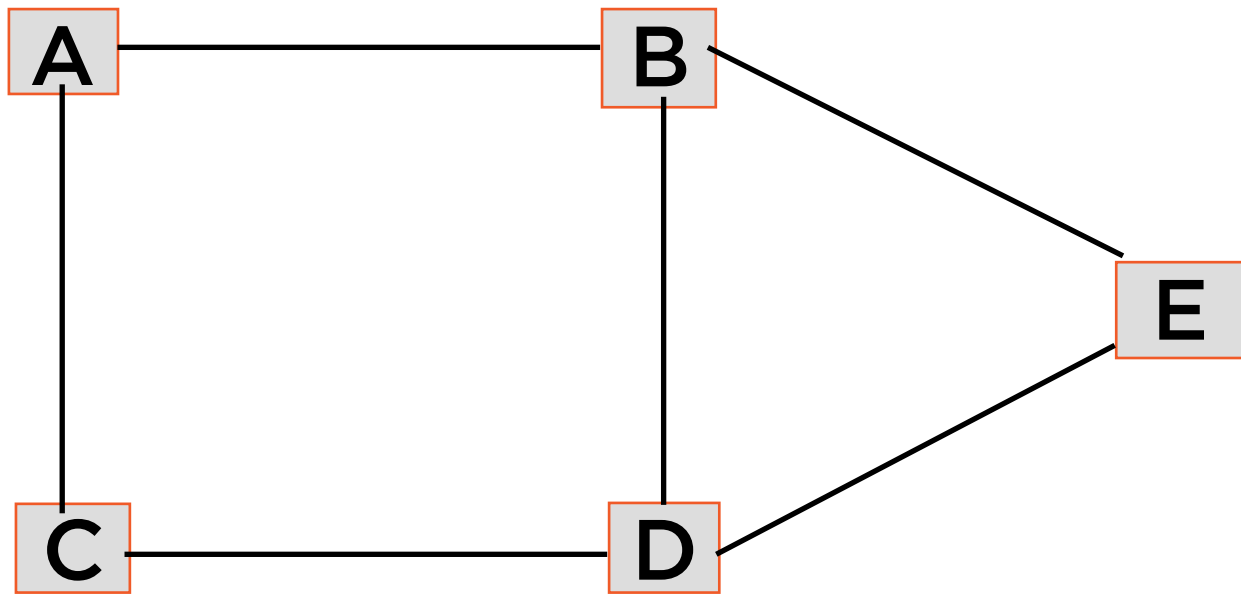
Each node maintains a linked list of its adjacent nodes

# Adjacency List for a Directed Graph



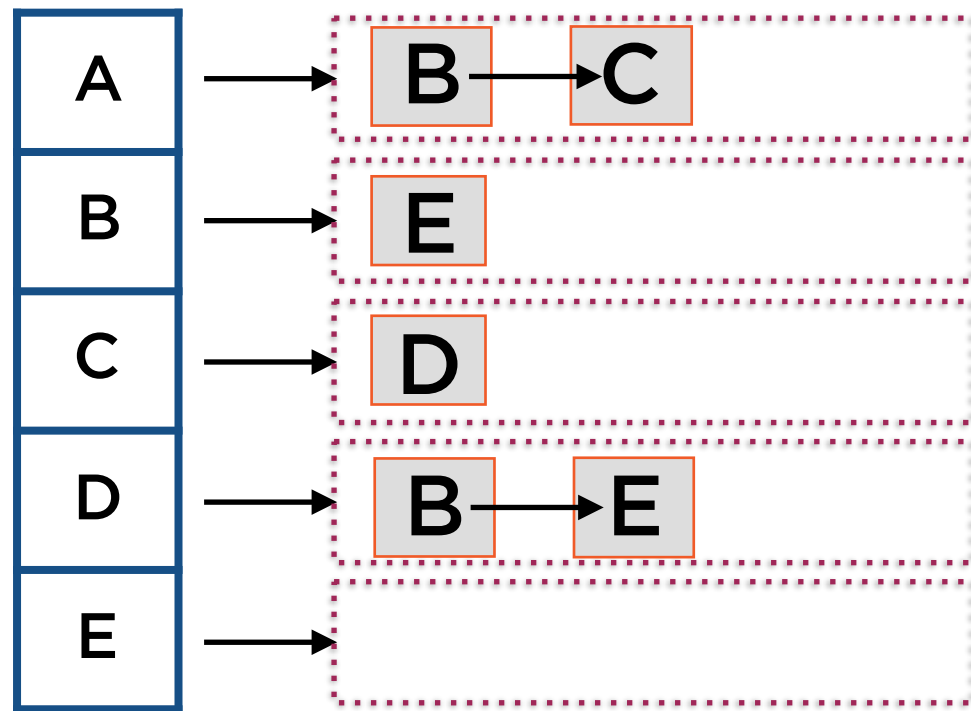
**Each node maintains a linked list of adjacent nodes**

# Adjacency List for an Undirected Graph



**Each node maintains a linked list of adjacent nodes**

# Adjacency List Flaws

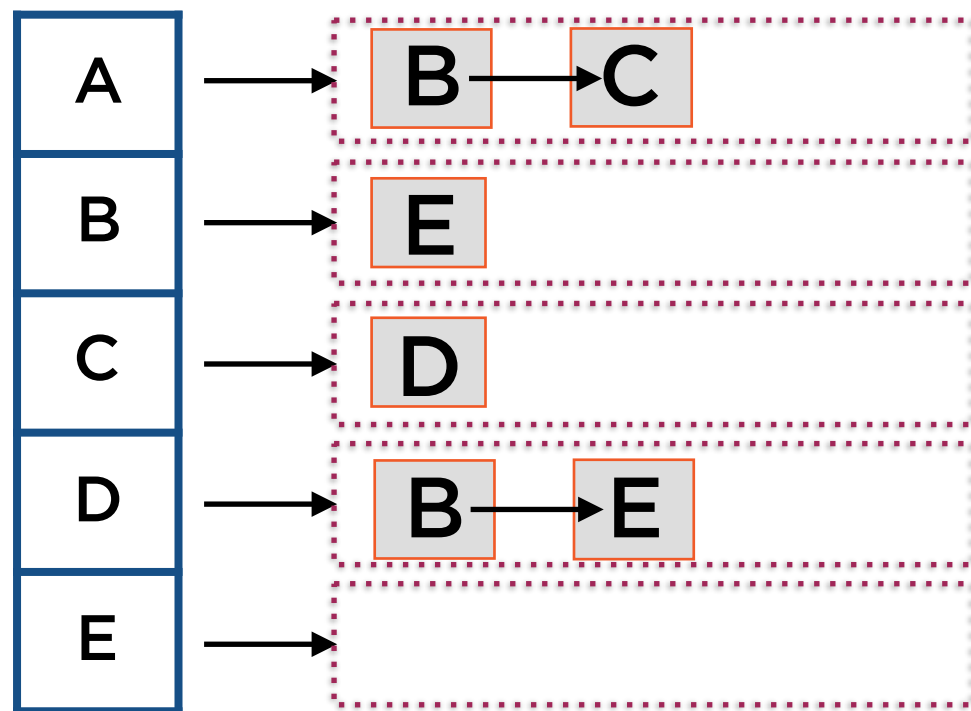


## In a list, order matters

Thus, the same graph can have multiple representations

## Deletion of a node is inefficient

Requires iterations through all adjacency lists



**Adjacency lists have some serious flaws**

**Adjacency sets help address them**

# Adjacency List Representation

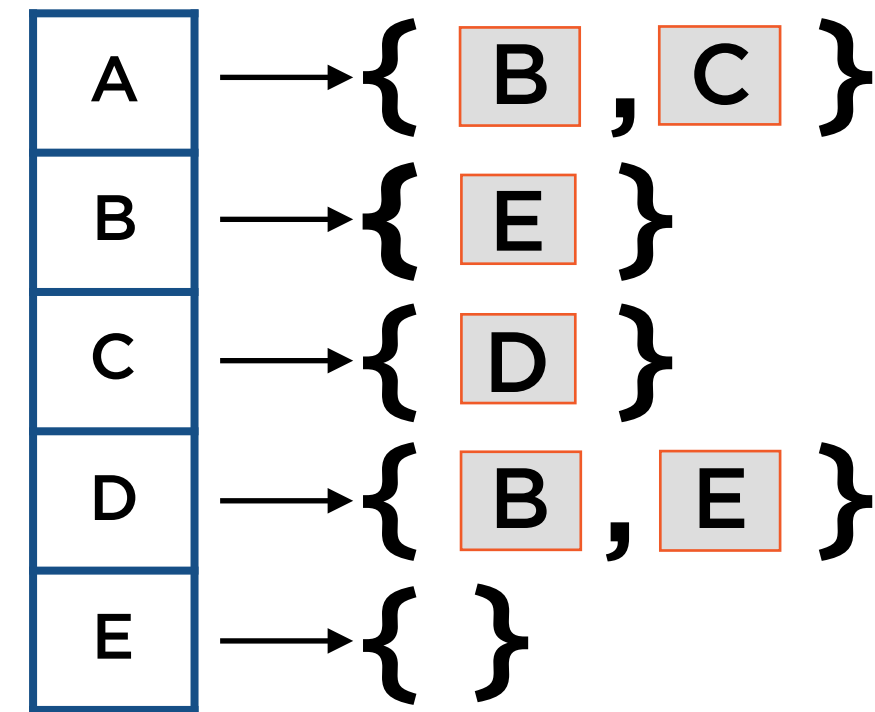
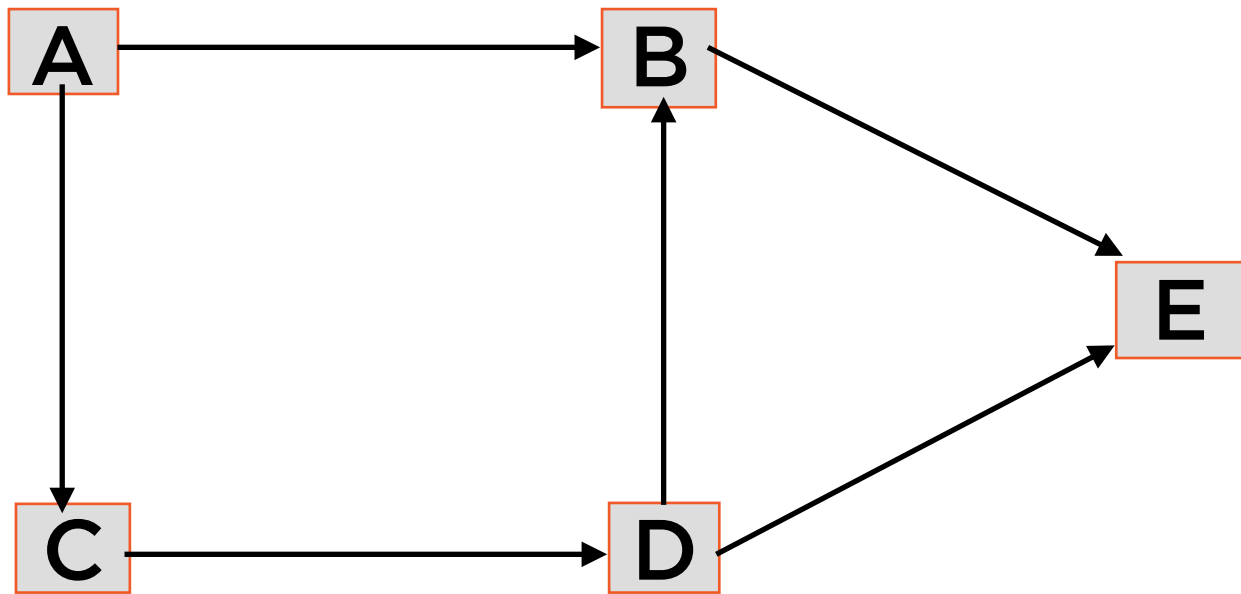
Each node maintains a linked list of its adjacent nodes



# Adjacency Set Representation

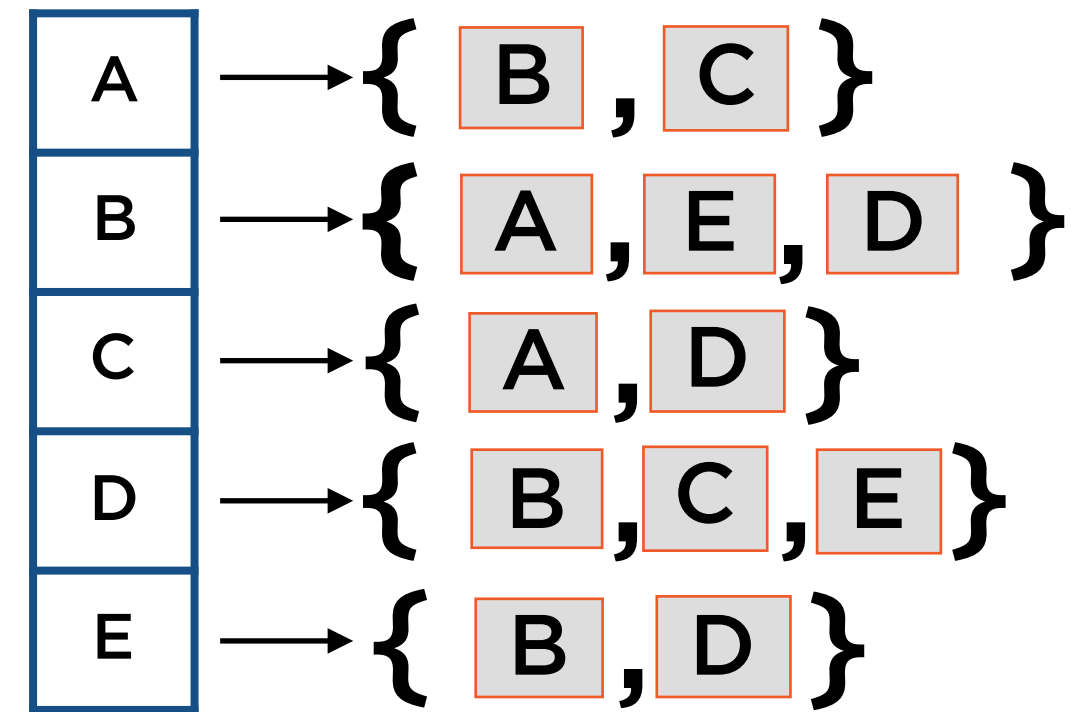
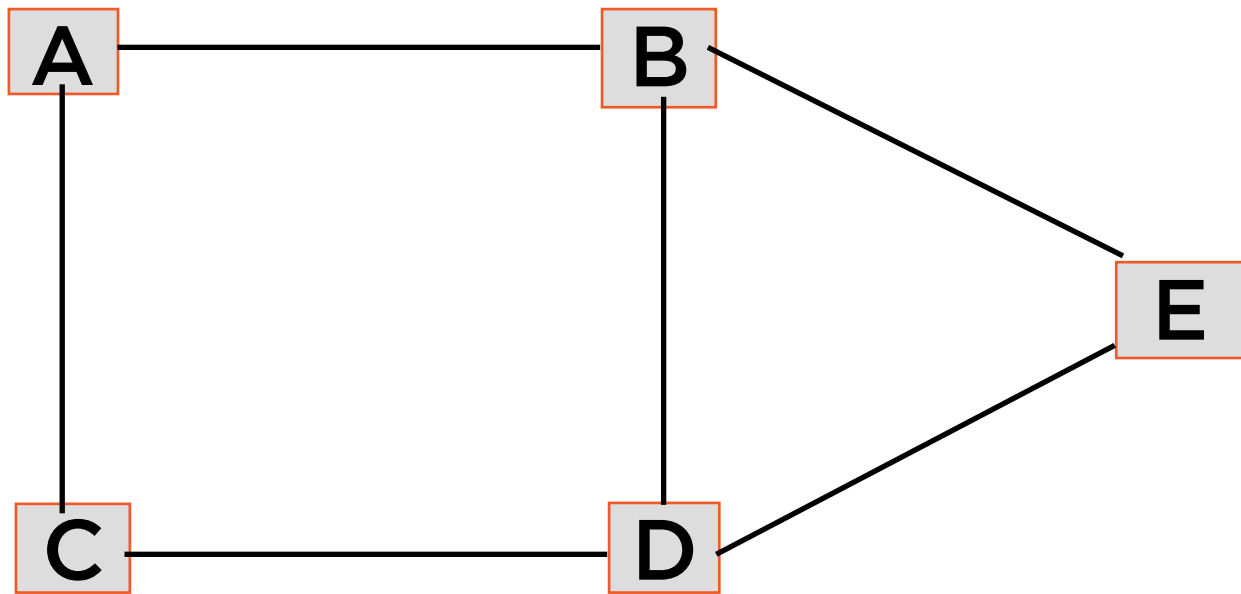
Each node maintains a **set** of its adjacent nodes

# Adjacency Set for a Directed Graph



**Each node maintains a set of adjacent nodes**

# Adjacency Set for a Undirected Graph

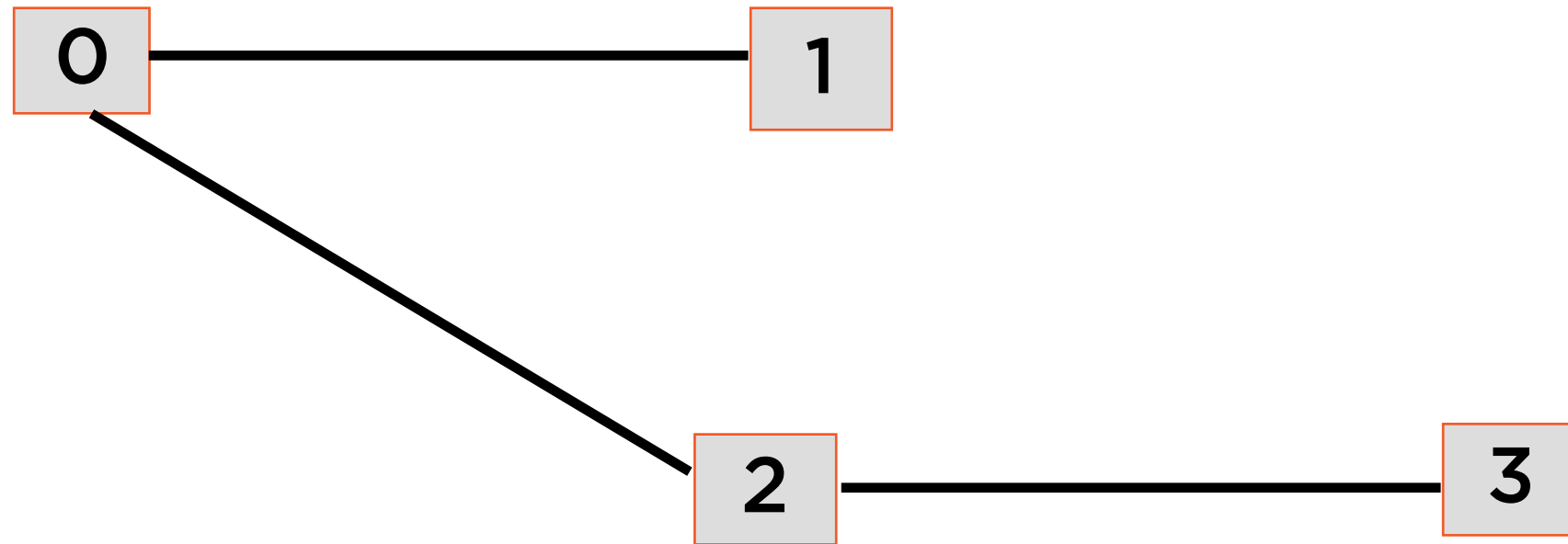


**Each node maintains a set of adjacent nodes**

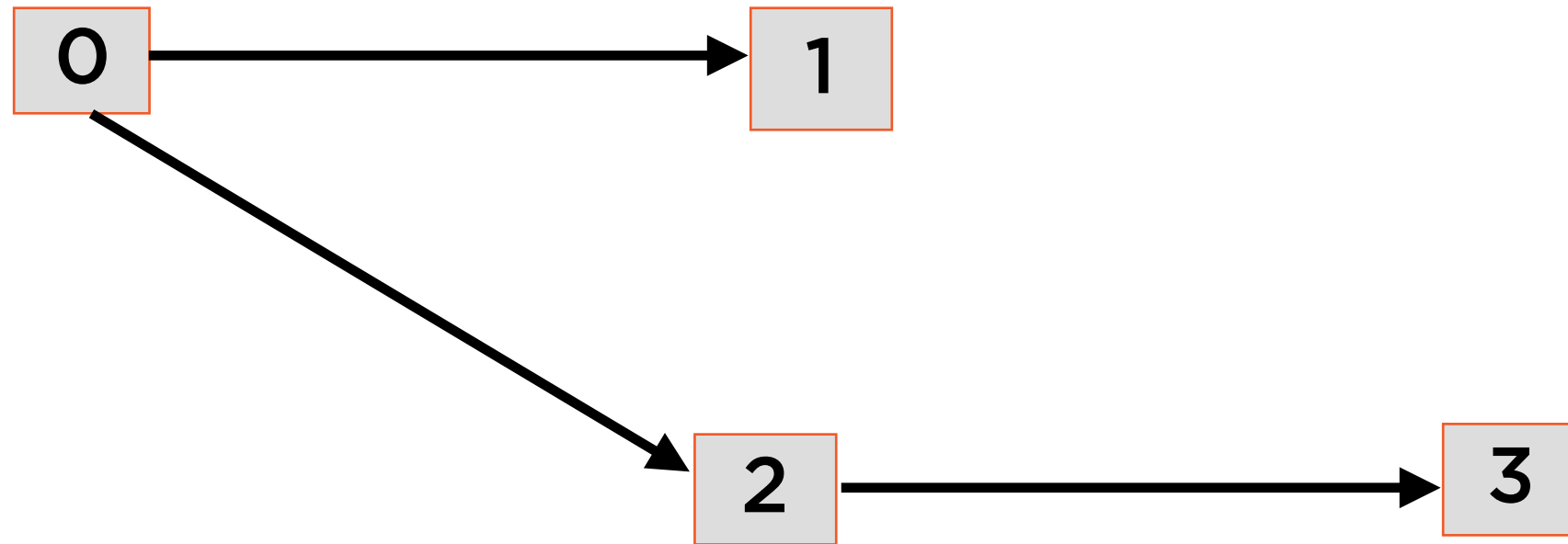
Demo

**Represent a Graph as an adjacency set**

# A Sample Undirected Graph



# A Sample Directed Graph



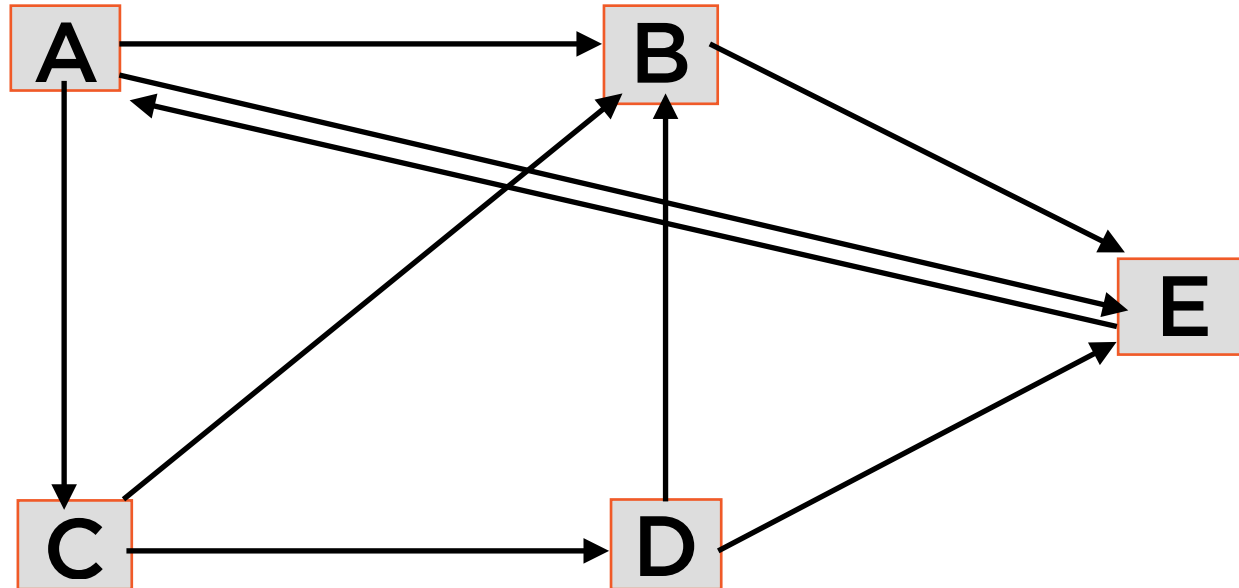
# Comparing Graph Representations

---

# Comparing Graph Representations

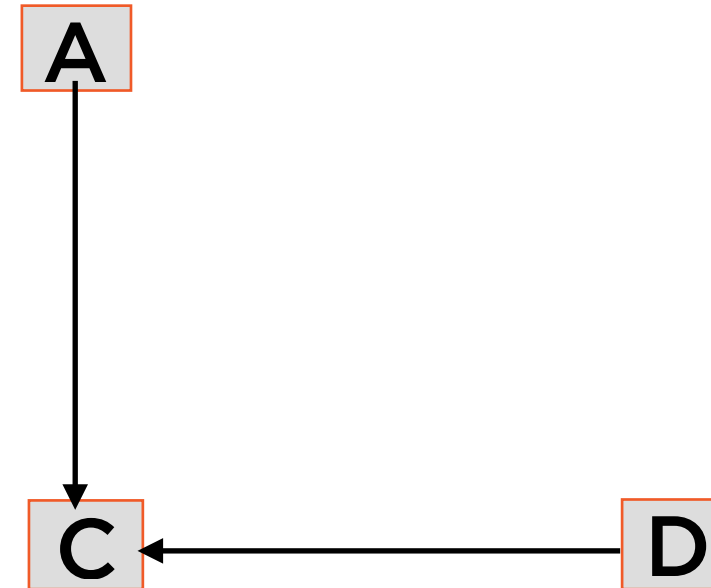
## Adjacency Matrix

Makes sense for small, densely connected graphs



## Adjacency List

Useful for large, sparsely connected graphs - saves on storage space





# Comparing Graph Representations

## Adjacency Matrix

## Adjacency List

Space required

$O(V^2)$

$O(E+V)$

Checking if edge is present

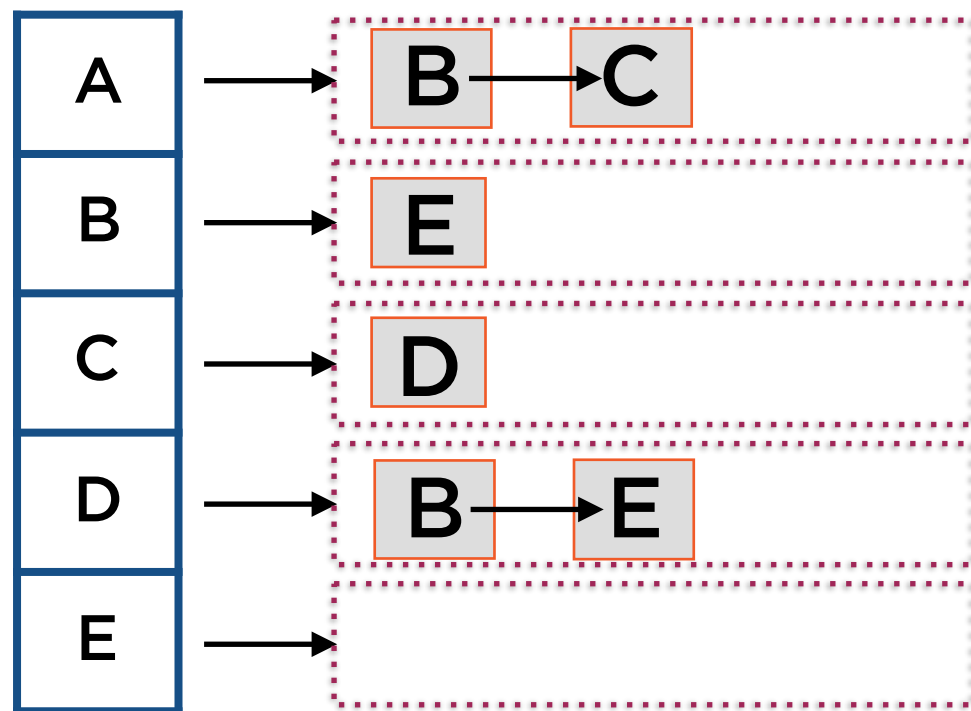
$O(1)$

$O(\text{degree } V)$

Iterating over edges

$O(V)$

$O(\text{degree } V)$



**Adjacency lists have some serious flaws**

**Adjacency sets help address them**

# Comparing Graph Representations

## Adjacency Matrix

## Adjacency Set

Space required

$O(V^2)$

$O(E+V)$

Checking if edge is present

$O(1)$

$O(\ln(\text{degree } V))$

Iterating over edges

$O(V)$

$O(\text{degree } V)$

# Depth-first and Breadth-first Graph Traversal

---

# Two Ways of Conveying Information

**“Answer first”**

Headlines in a newspaper

**“Drop the mic”**

Punchlines in comedy

# Two Ways of Traversing Graphs

## Breadth-first

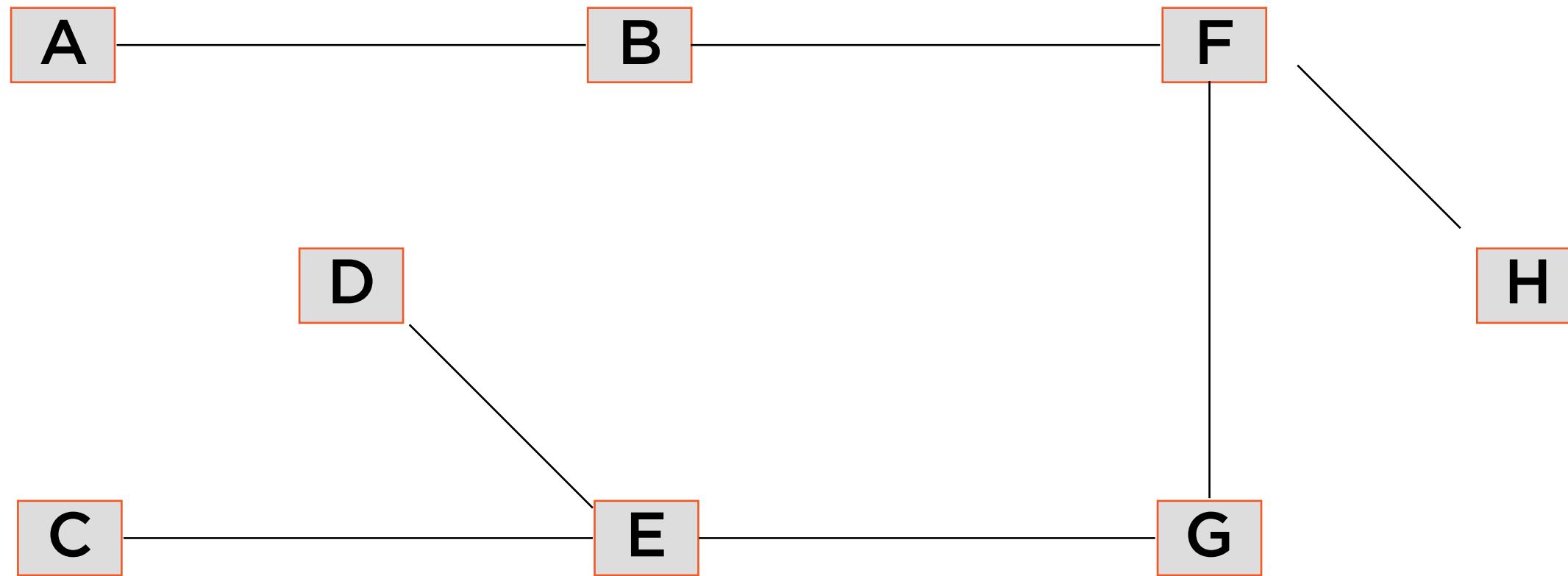
All nodes at same distance from  
origin visited together

## Depth-first

All nodes in certain direction from  
origin visited together

**Tree traversal is easier to understand than graph  
traversal - start there**

# Connected Graph with no Cycle



Such a graph is called a **tree**

# Two Ways of Traversing Graphs

## Breadth-first

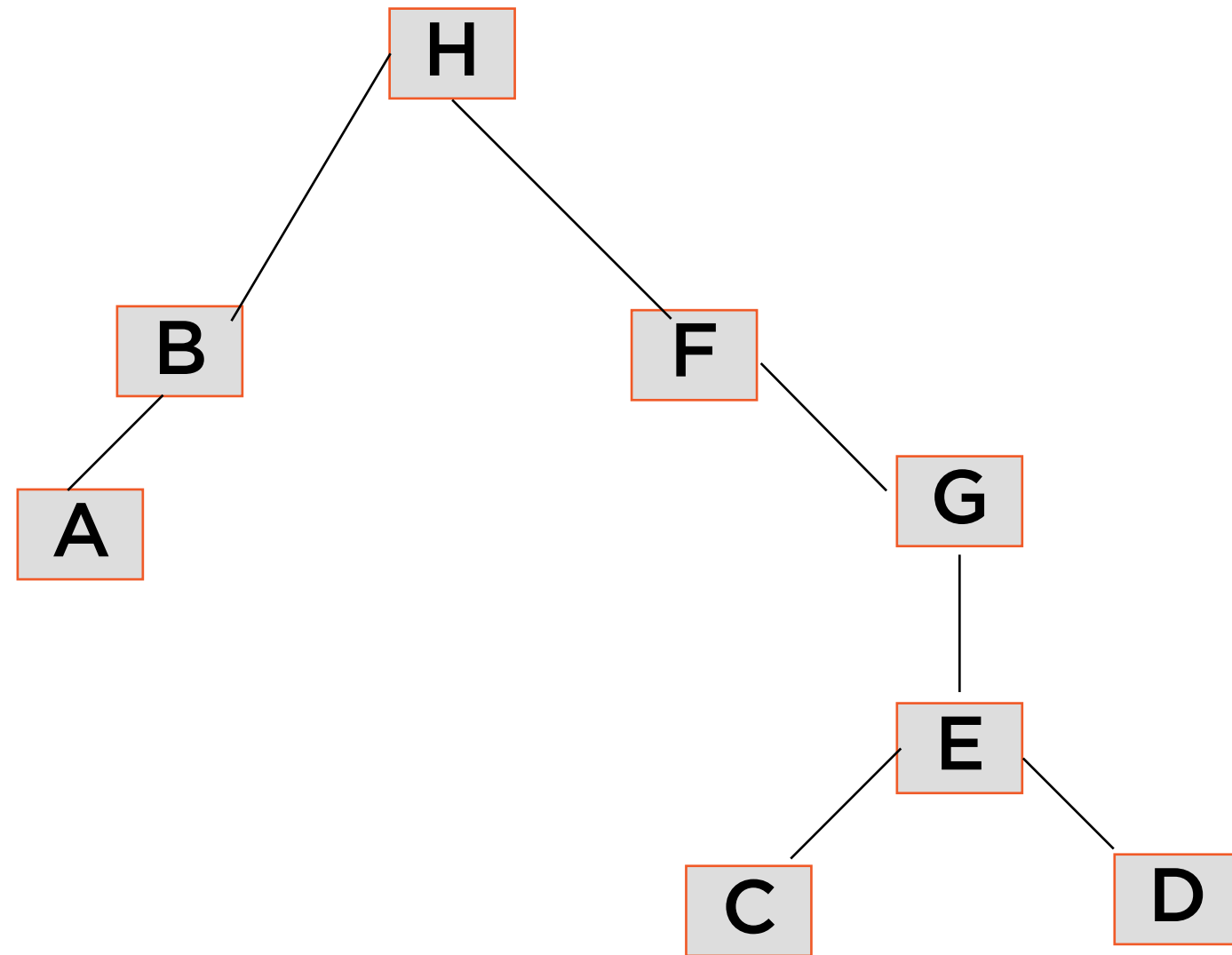
All nodes at same distance from origin visited together

## Depth-first

All nodes in certain direction from origin visited together

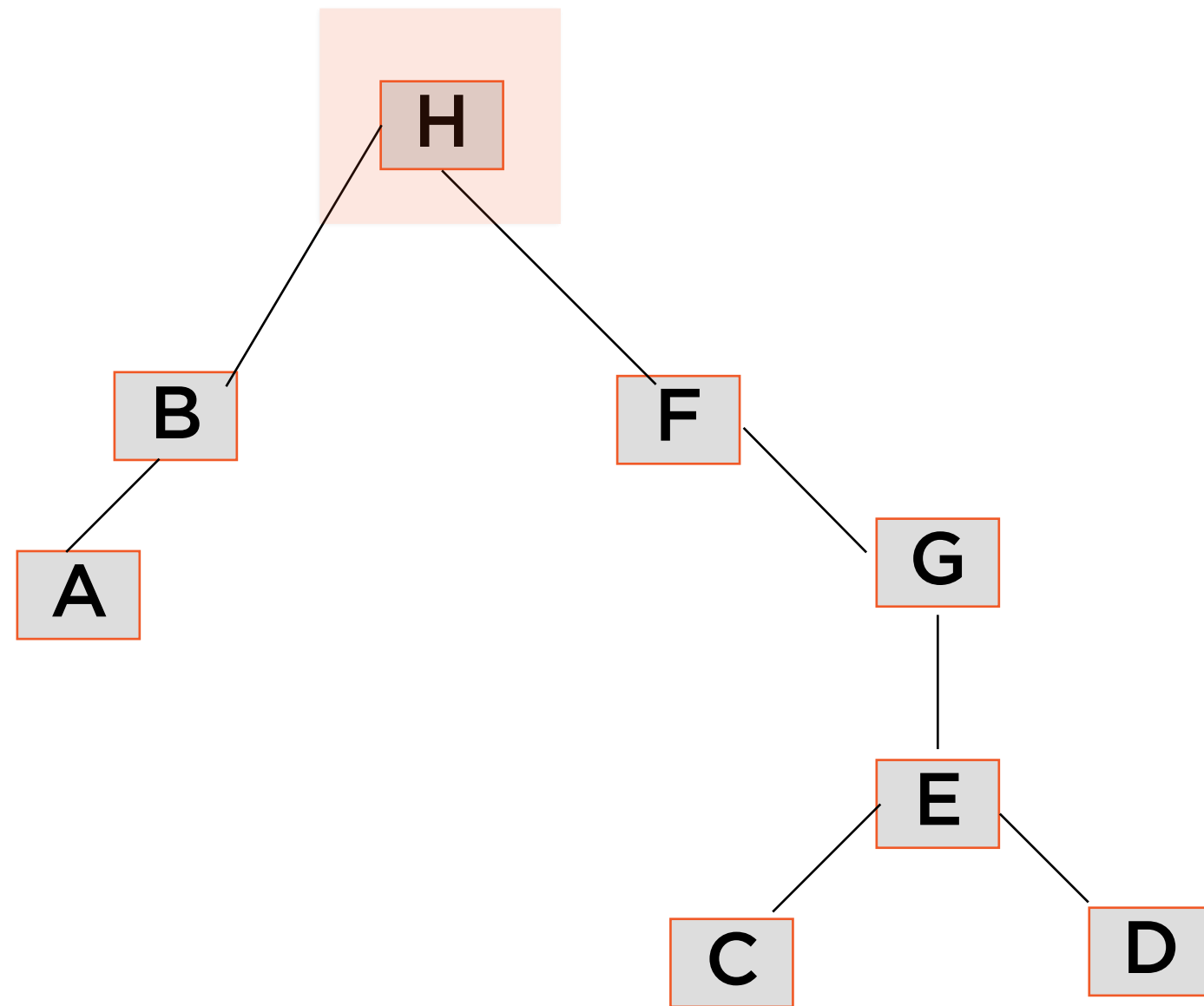


# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



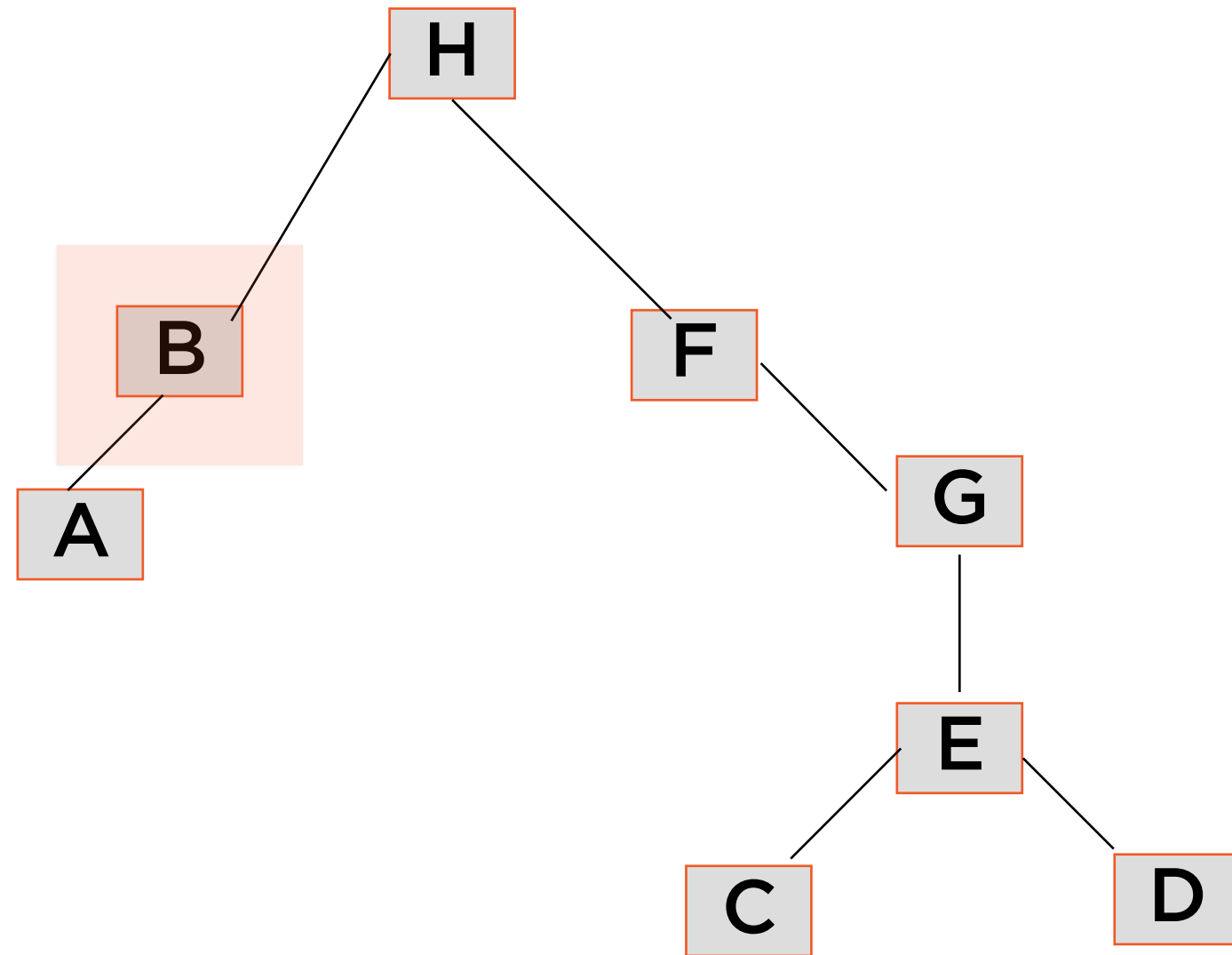
**Nodes are visited level-by-level**

# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



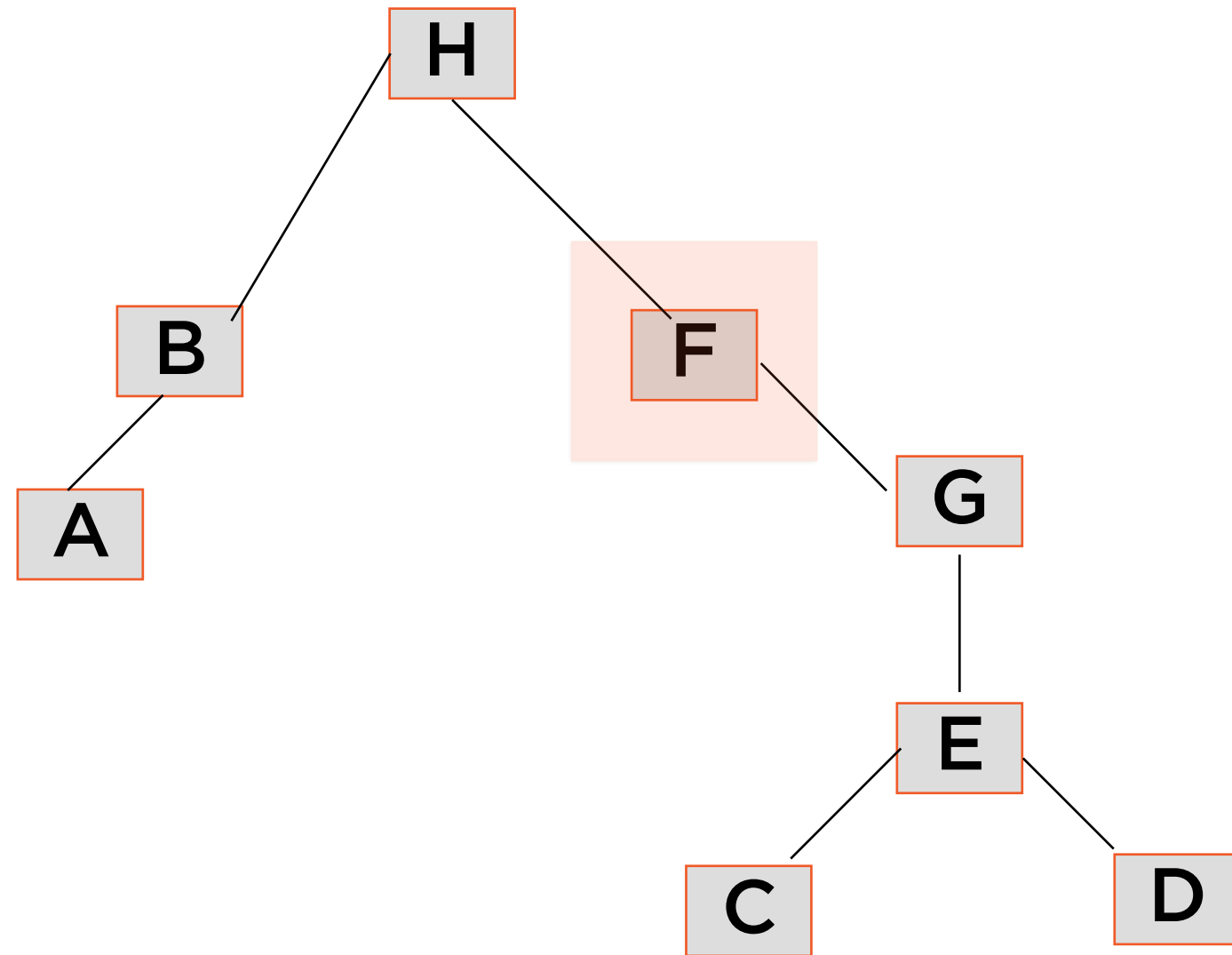
**Visited H**

# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



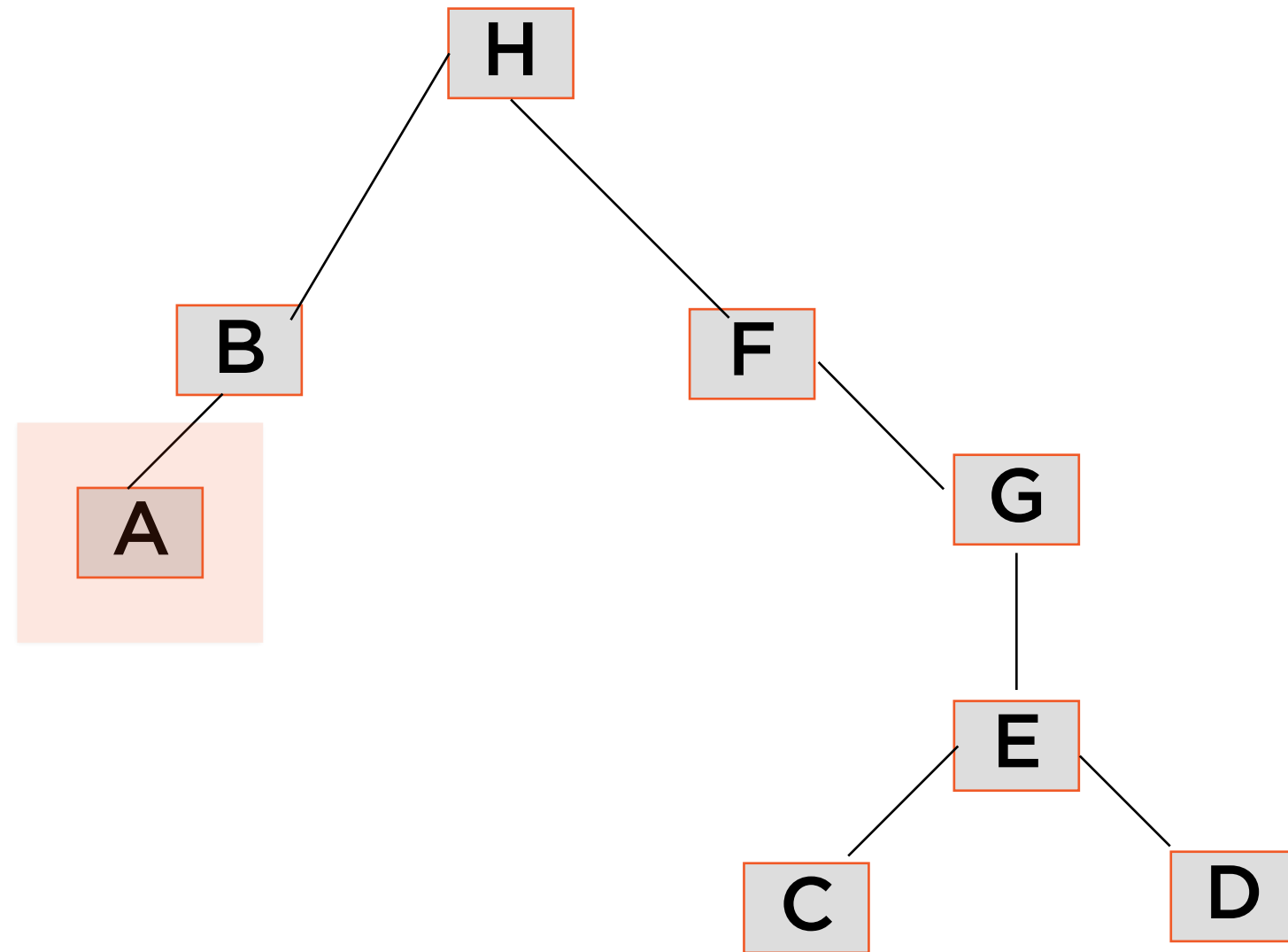
**Visited H - B**

# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



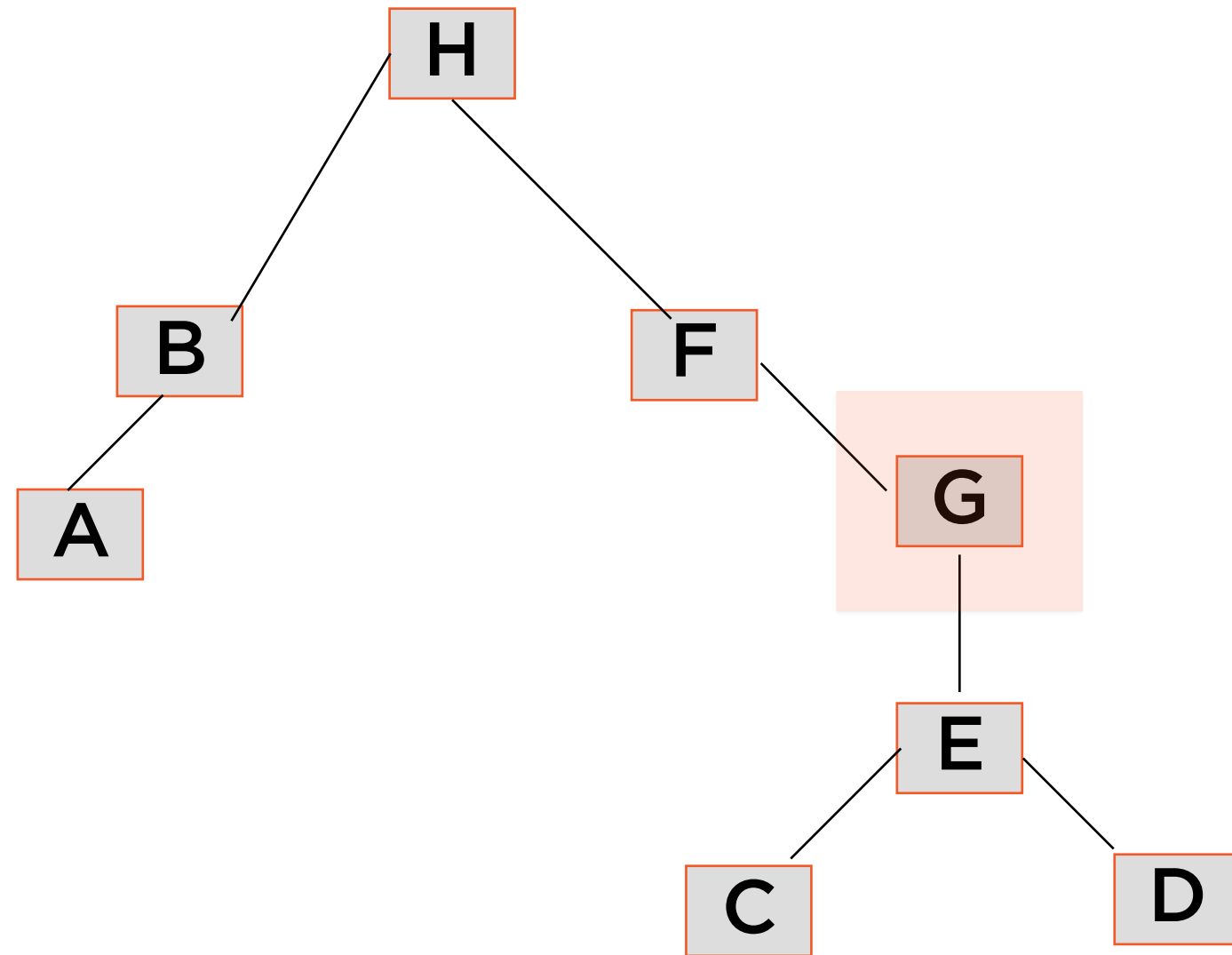
**Visited H - B - F**

# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



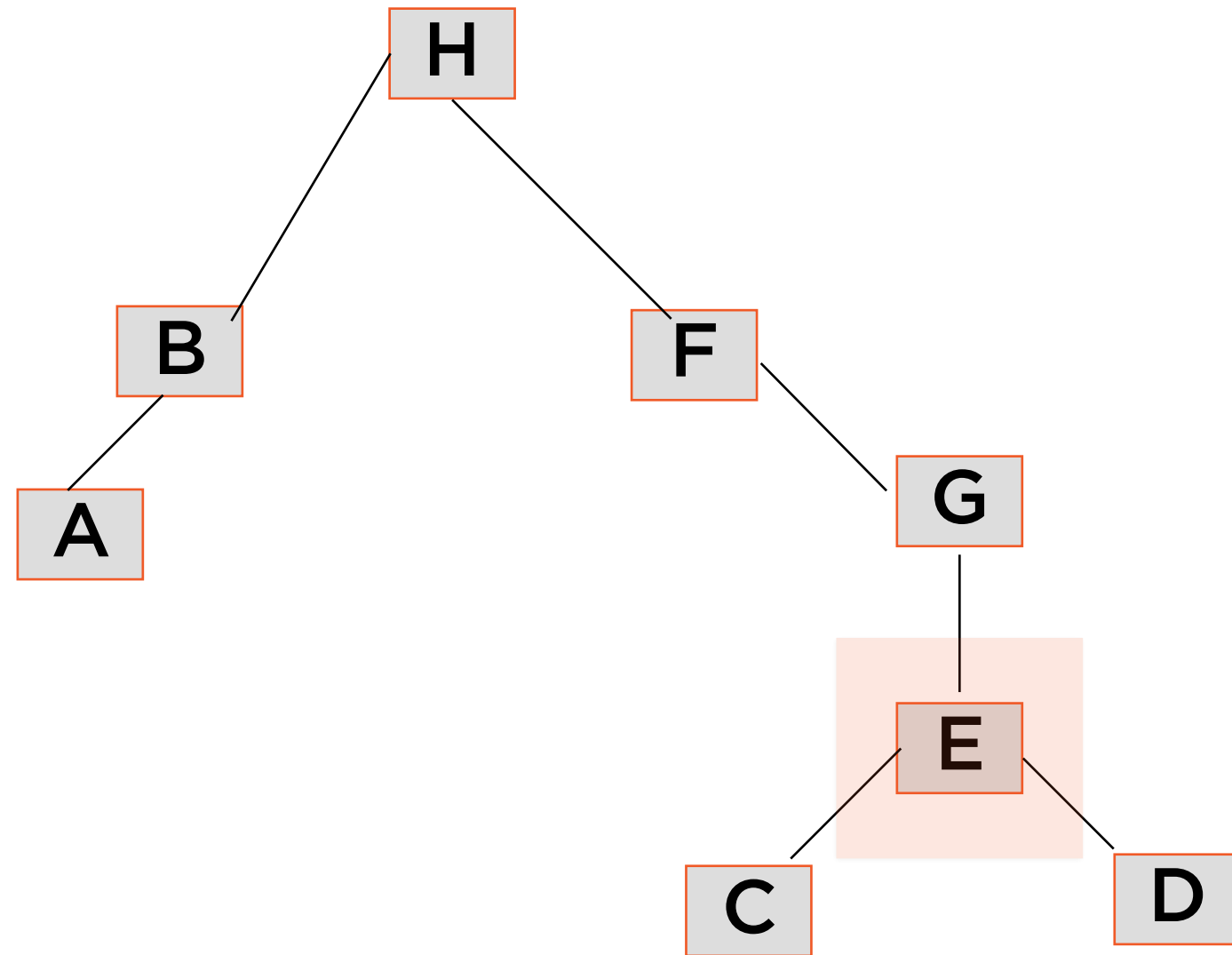
**Visited H - B - F - A**

# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



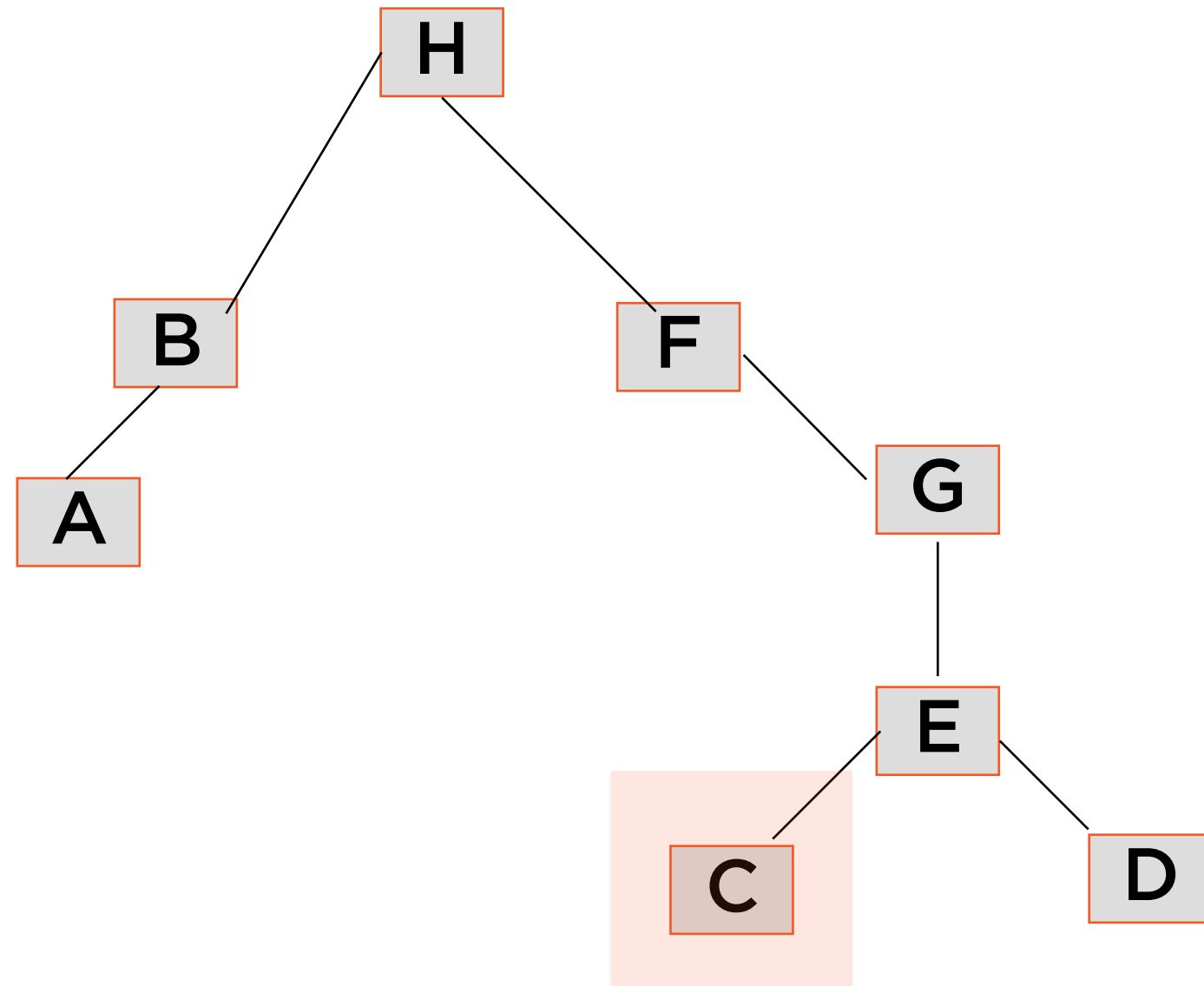
**Visited H - B - F - A - G**

# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



**Visited H - B - F - A - G - E**

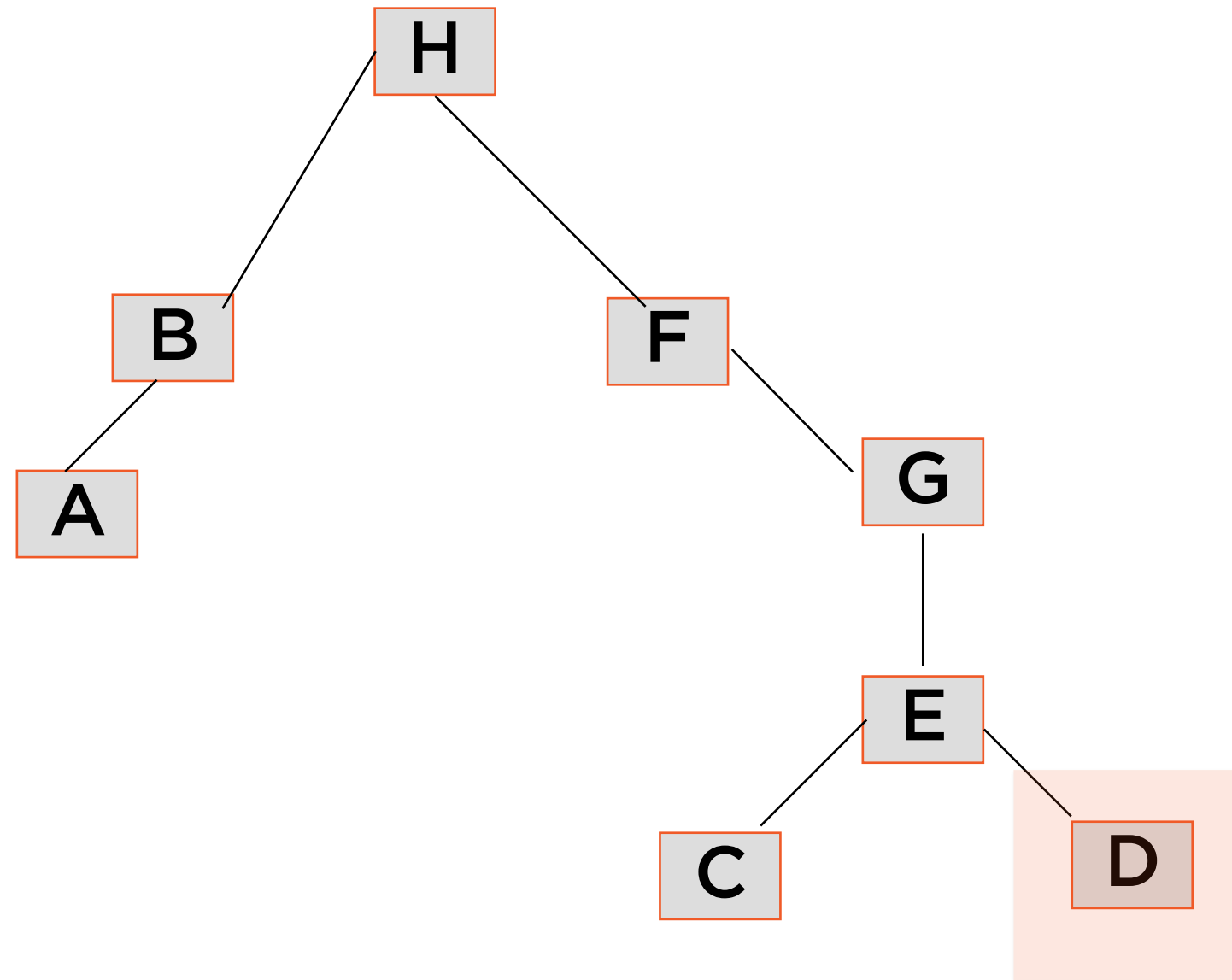
# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



**Visited H - B - F - A - G - E - C**



# “Breadth-first” Tree Traversal



**Visited H - B - F - A - G - E - C - D**

# Two Ways of Traversing Graphs

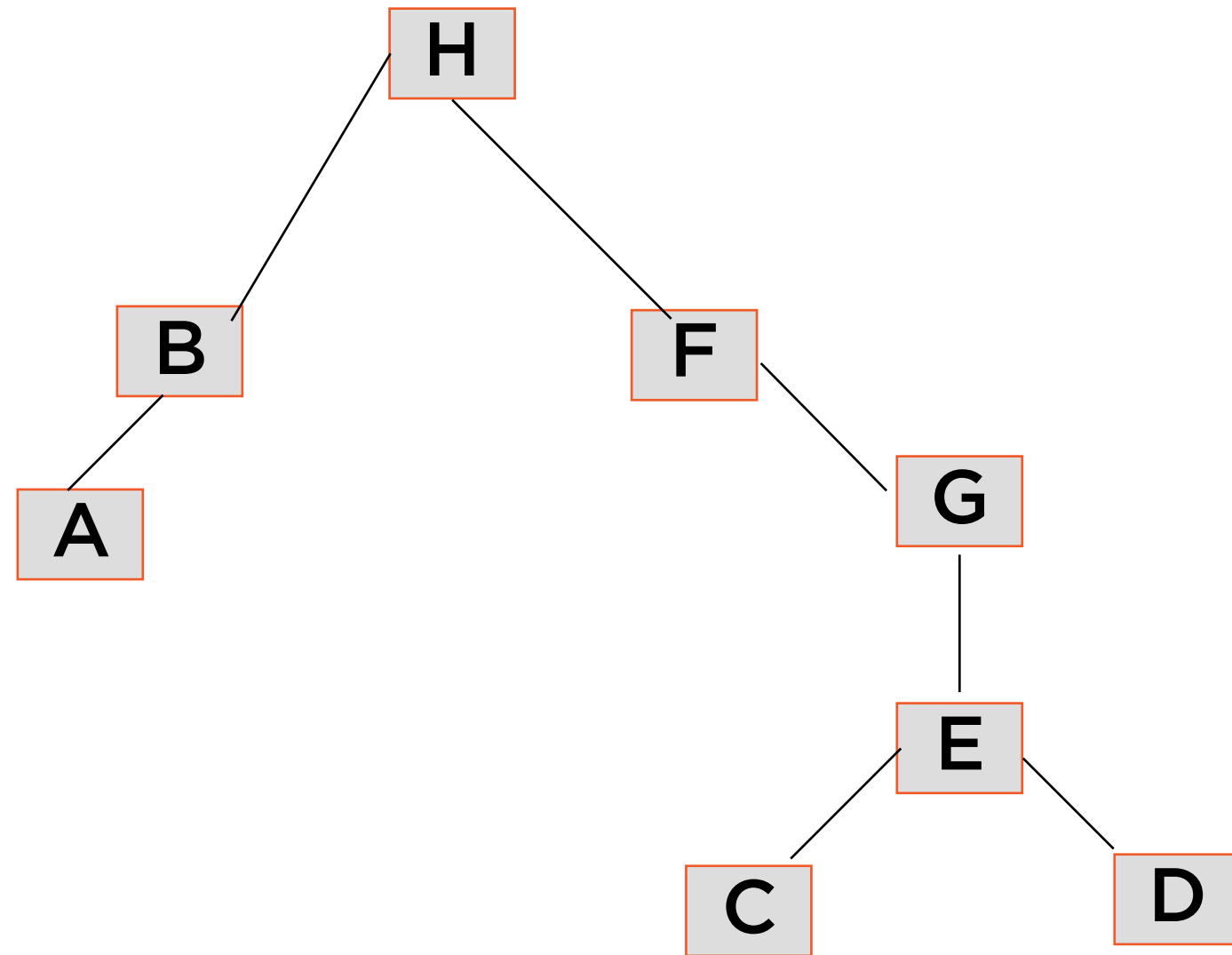
## Breadth-first

All nodes at same distance from  
origin visited together

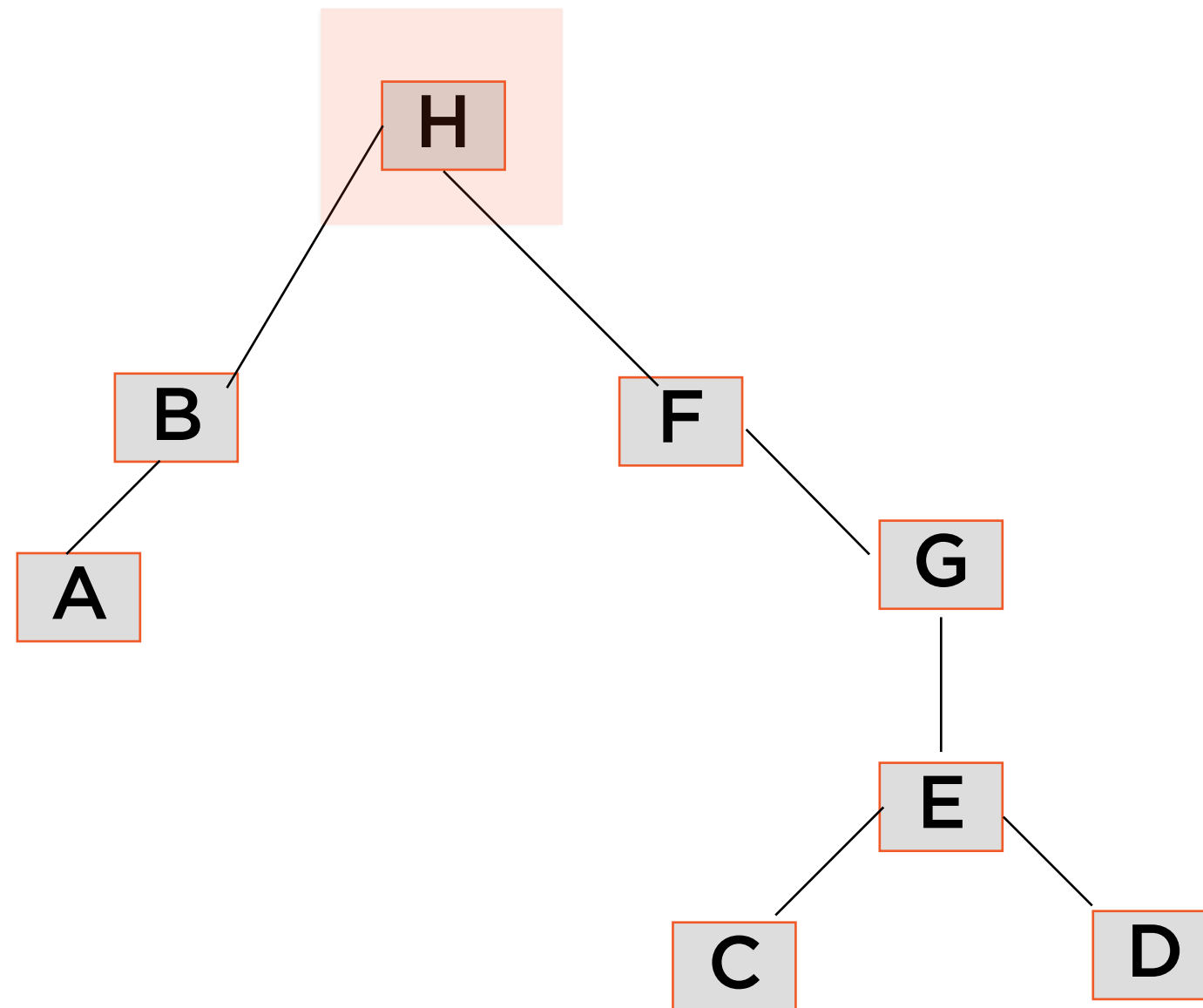
## Depth-first

All nodes in certain direction from  
origin visited together

# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal

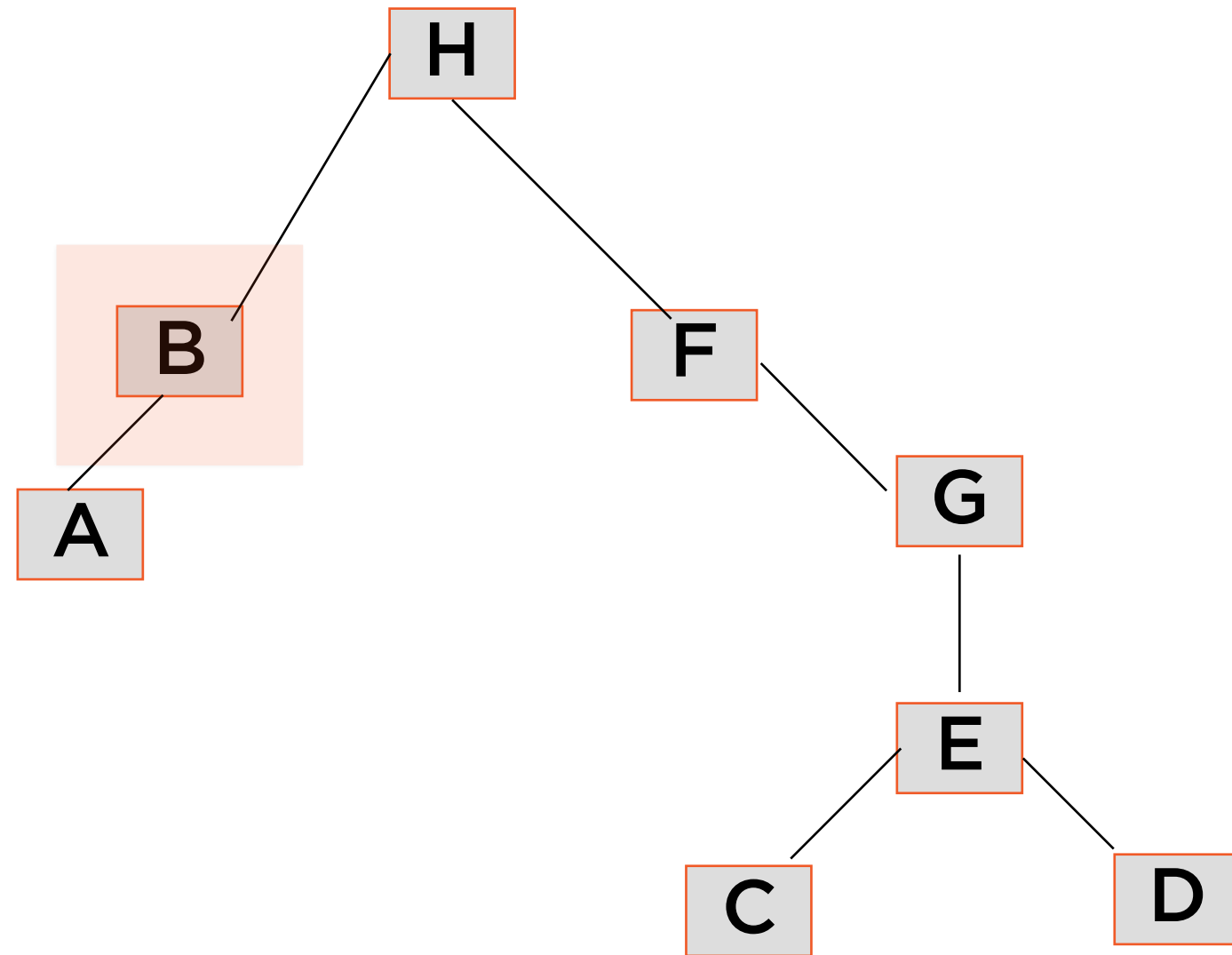


# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



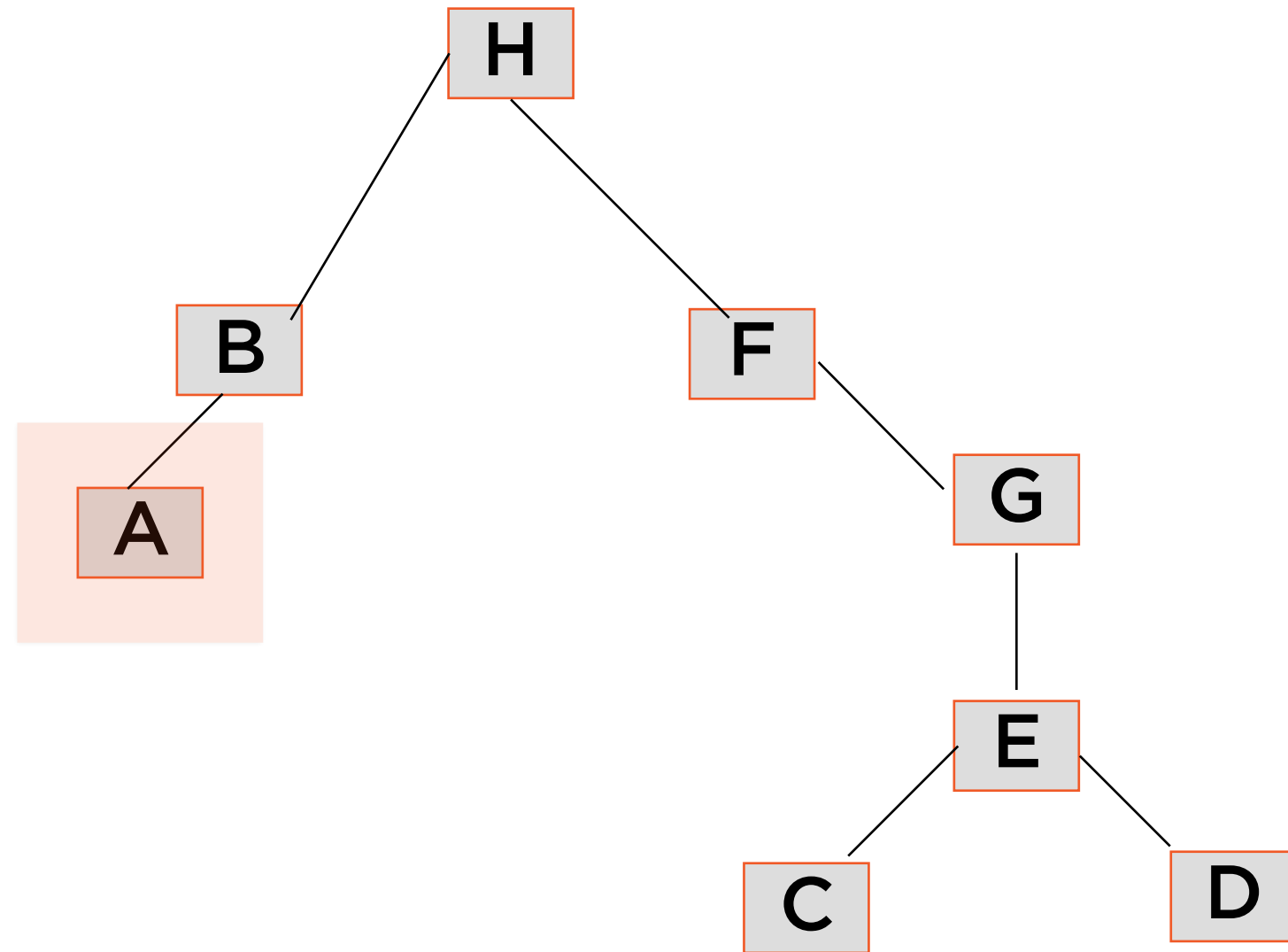
**Visited H**

# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



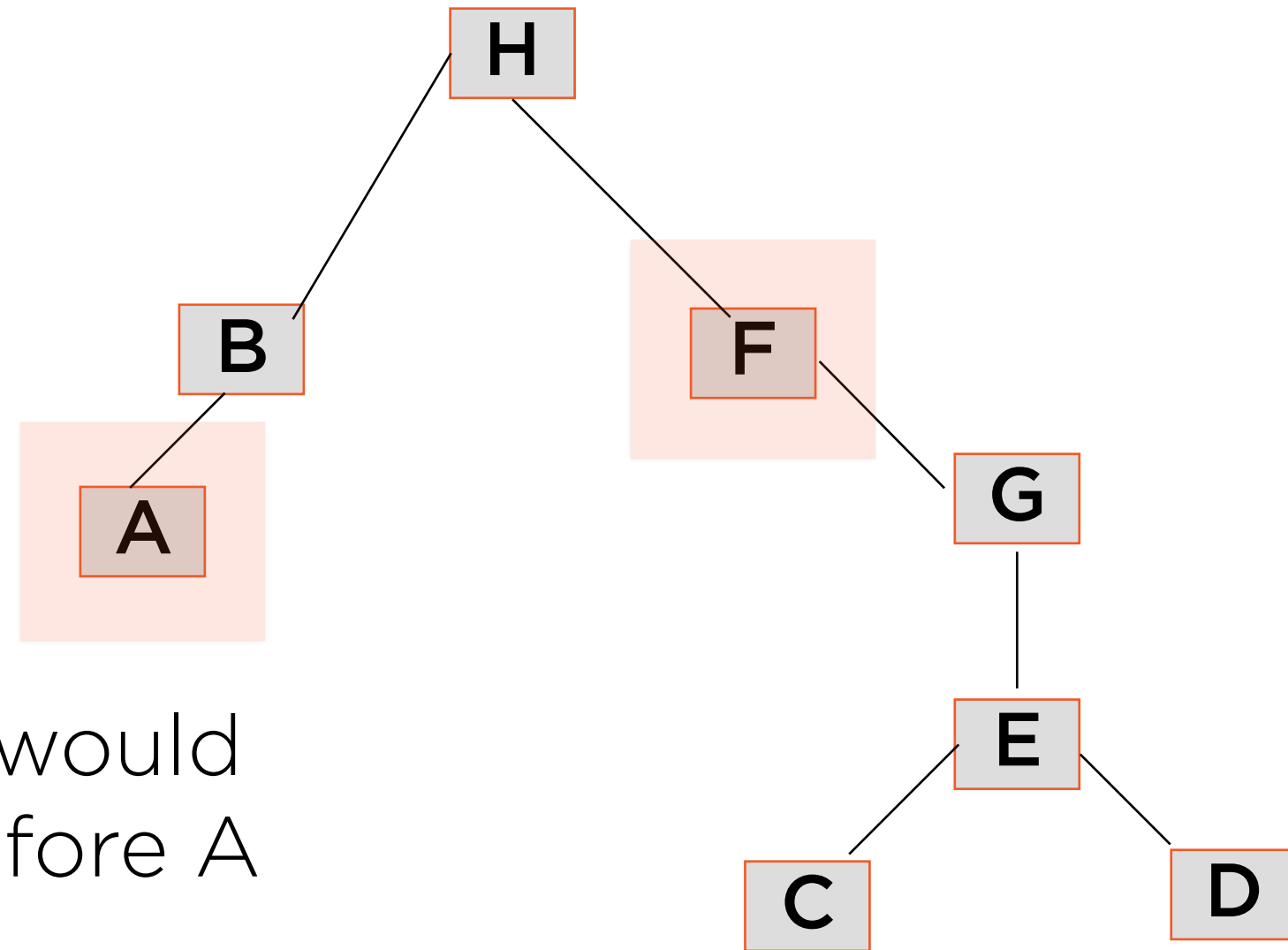
**Visited H - B**

# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



**Visited H - B - A**

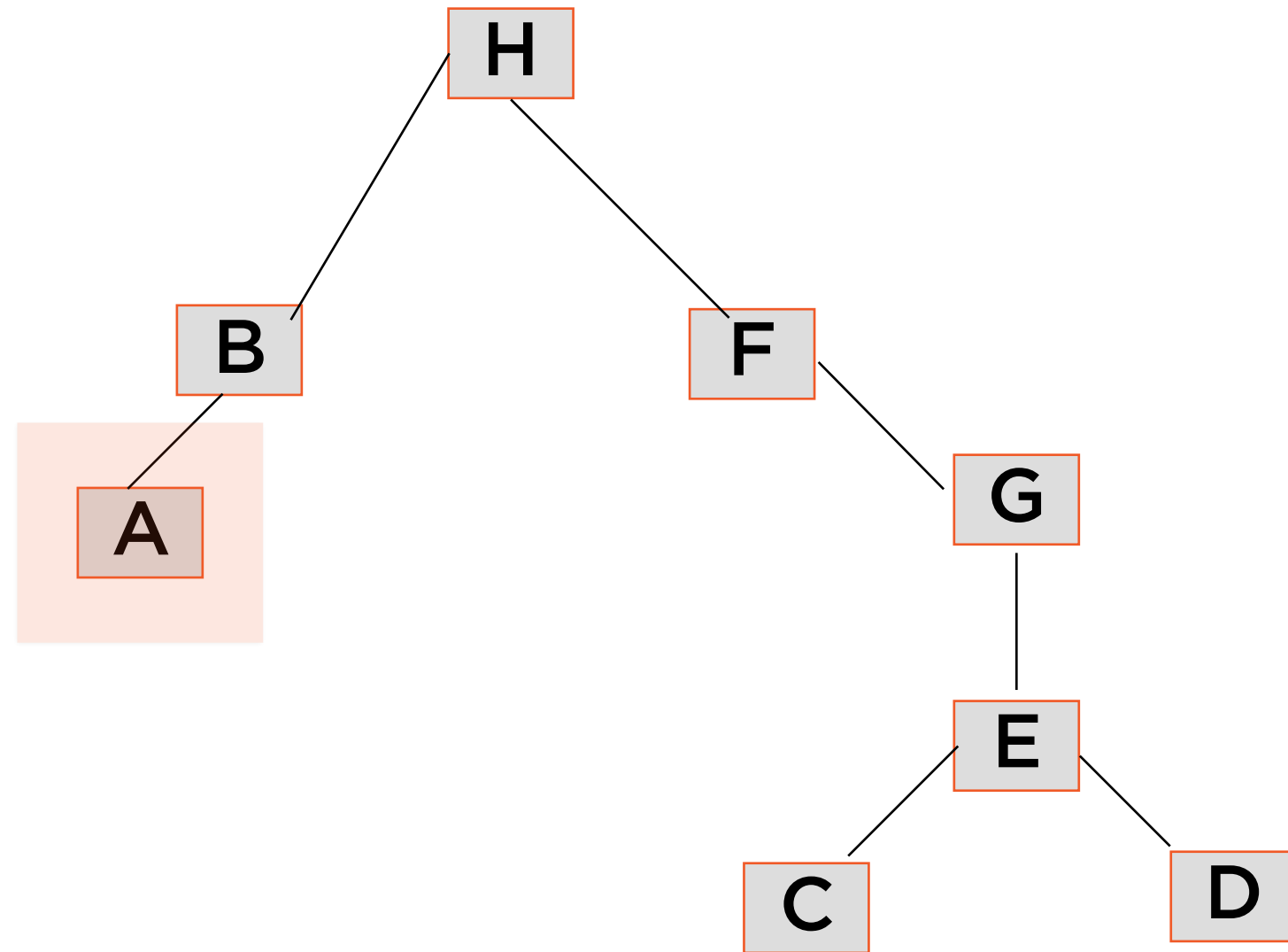
# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



In breadth-first, would have visited F before A

**Visited H - B - A**

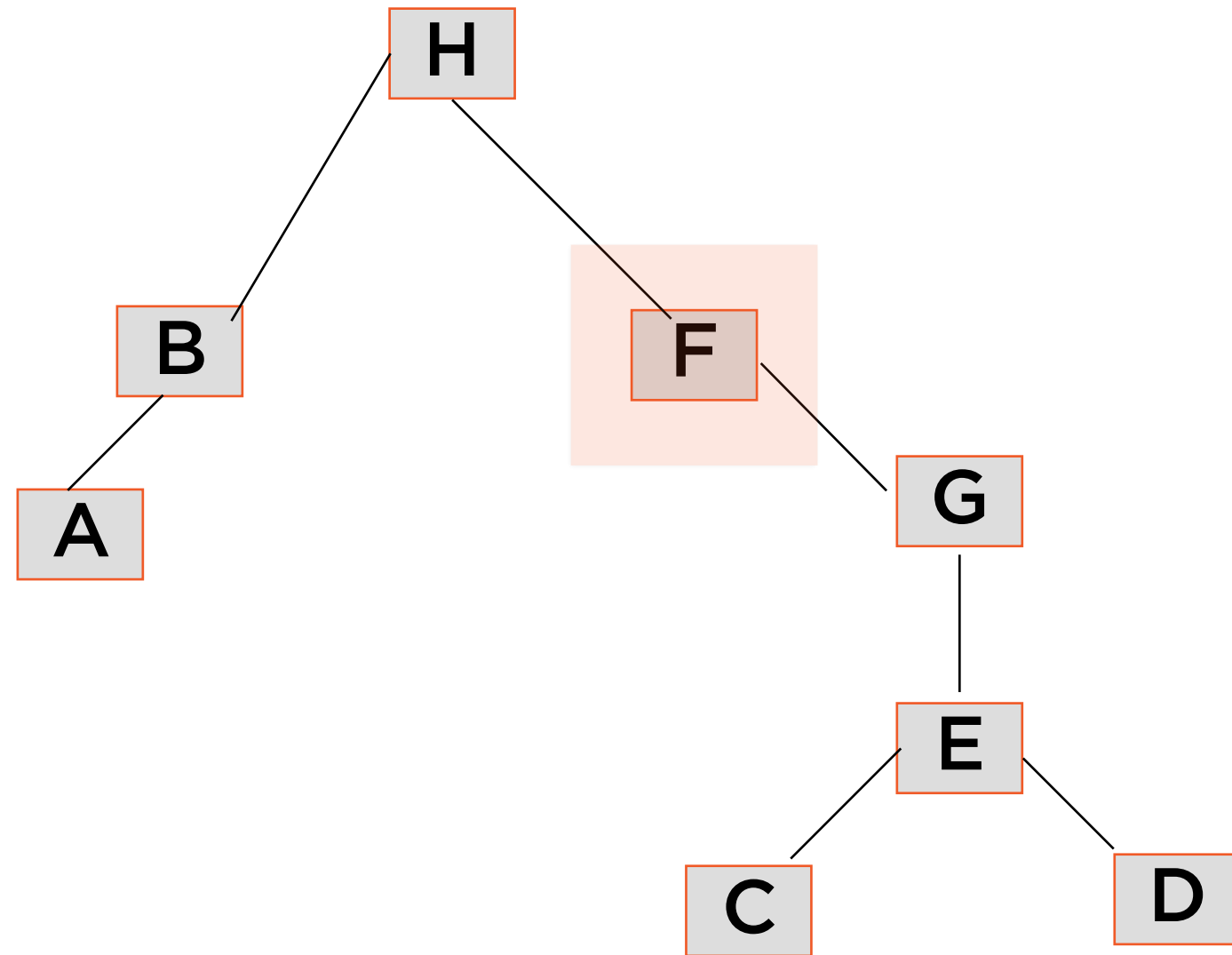
# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



**Visited H - B - A**

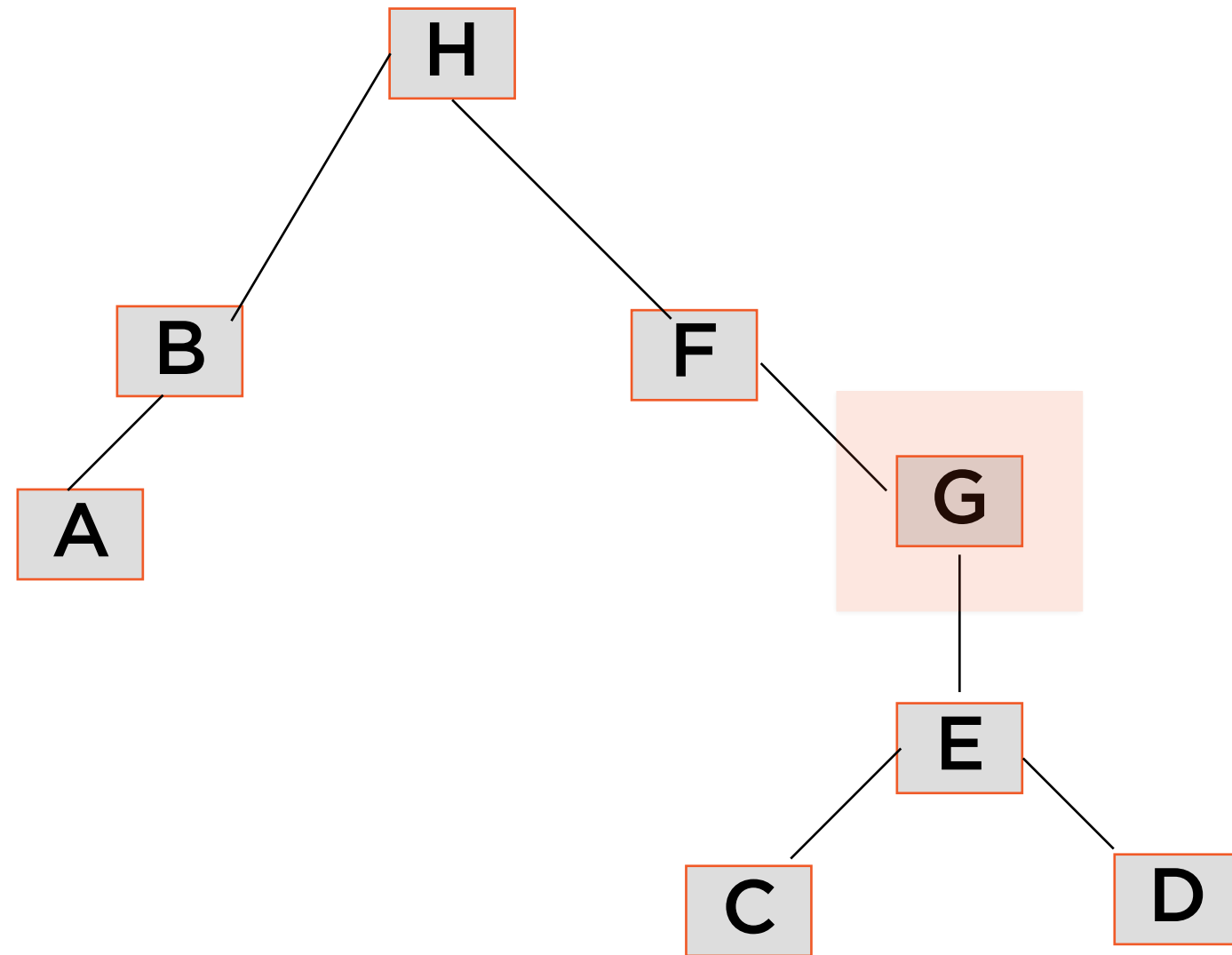


# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



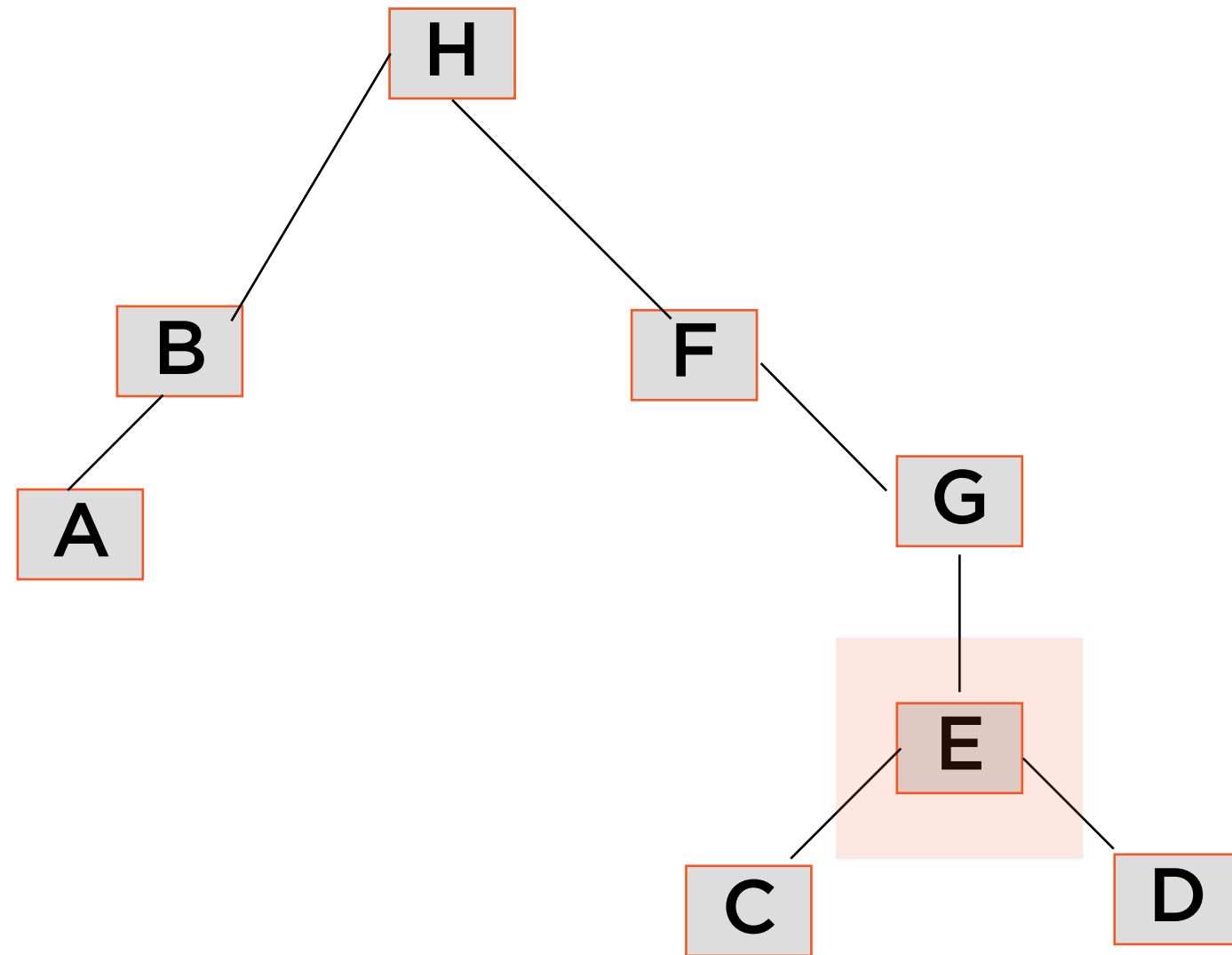
**Visited H - B - A - F**

# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



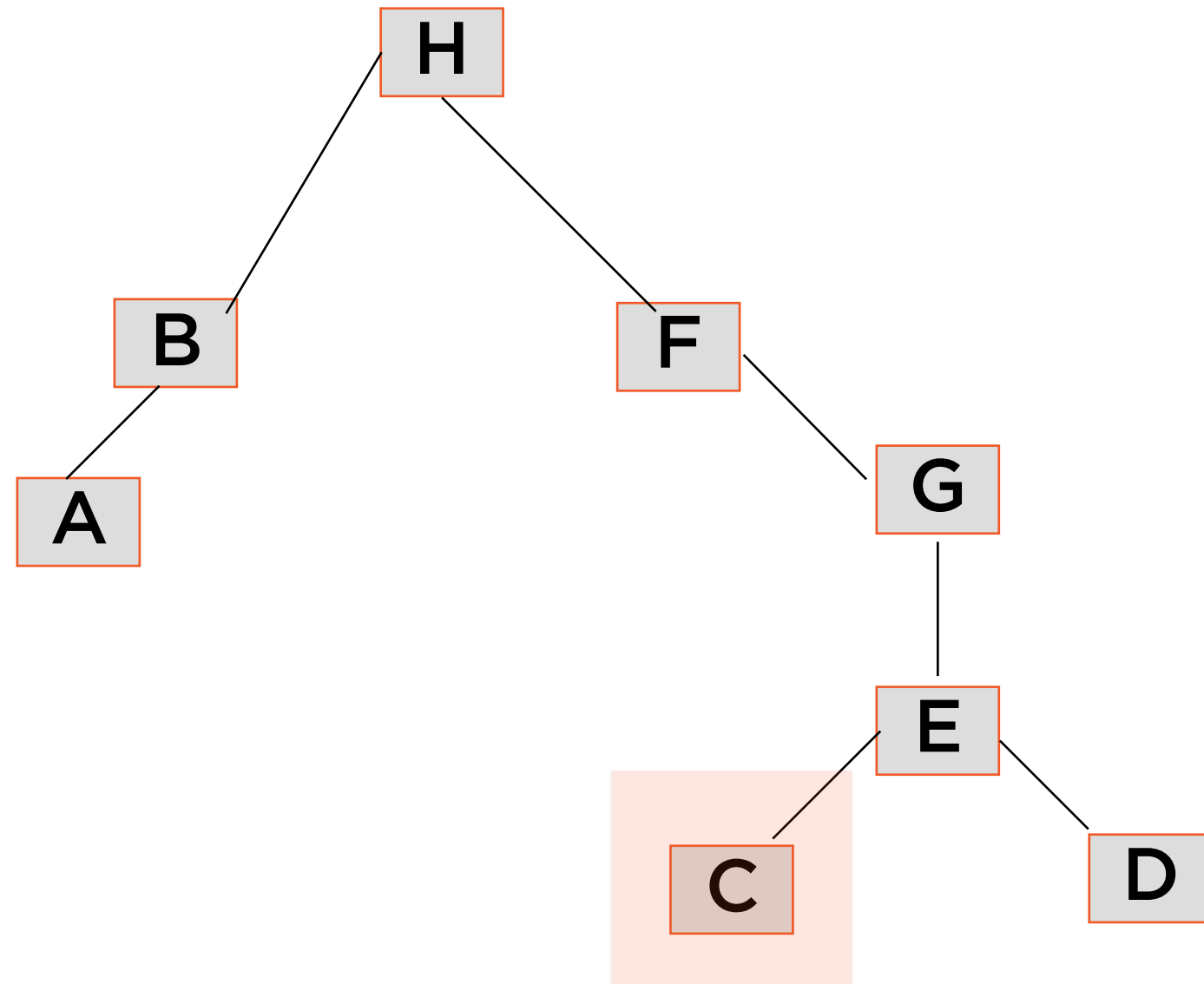
**Visited H - B - A - F - G**

# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



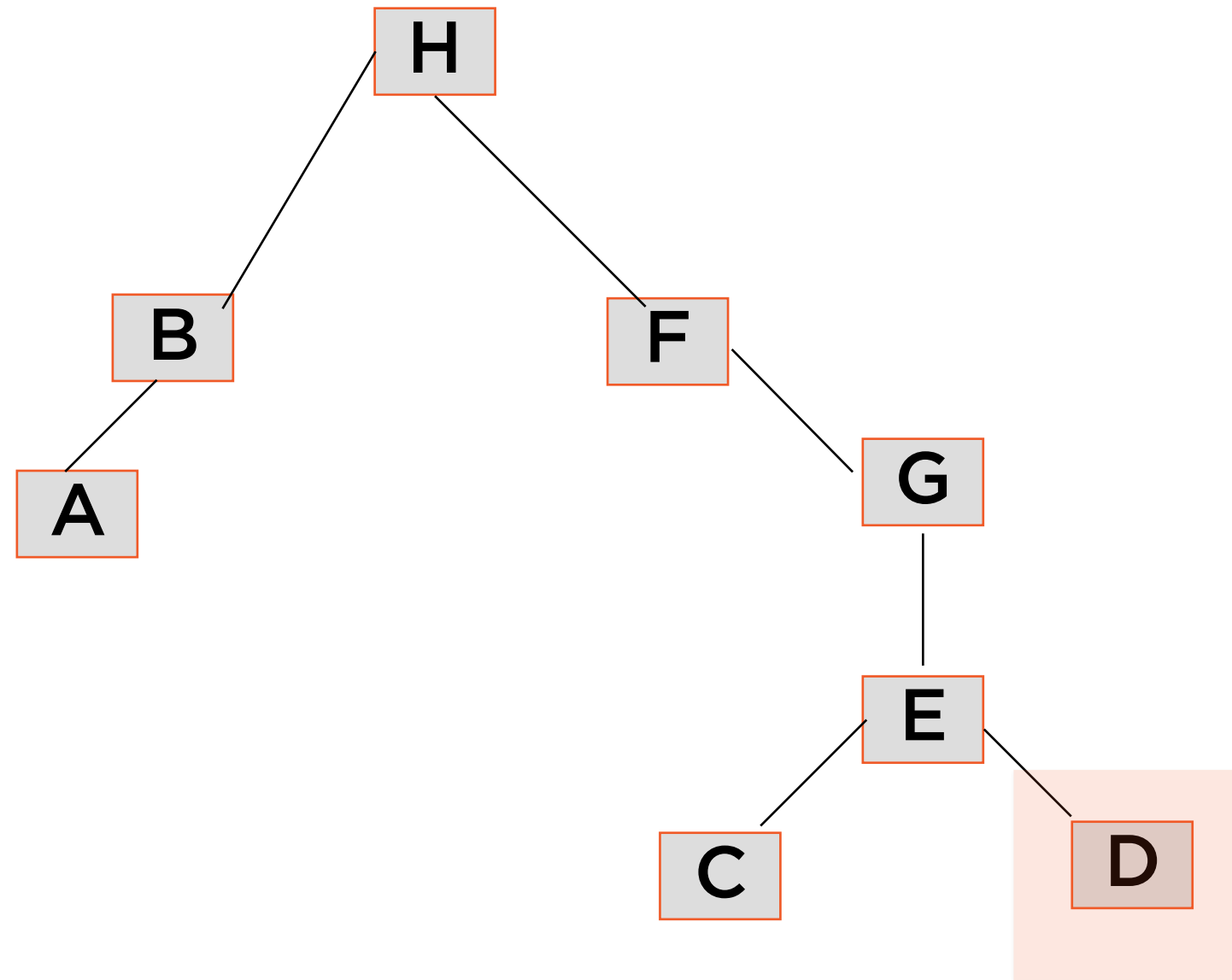
**Visited H - B - A - F - G - E**

# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



**Visited H - B - A - F - G - E - C**

# “Depth-first” Tree Traversal



**Visited H - B - A - F - G - E - C**

# Two Ways of Traversing Graphs

## Breadth-first

All nodes at same distance from  
origin visited together

## Depth-first

All nodes in certain direction from  
origin visited together

**Tree traversal is easier to understand than graph  
traversal - start there**

# Traversal Algorithms

## Traversing a Tree

**One node is designated root**

**Only one specific path from root  
to any node**

## Traversing a Graph

**No designated root**

**Multiple paths possible between any pair  
of nodes**

# Traversal Algorithms

## Traversing a Tree

**No cycles**

**Any node will be visited exactly once**

**No need to track which nodes already visited**

## Traversing a Graph

**Cycles possible**

**Nodes could be visited multiple times (could lead to infinite loop)**

**Essential to track which nodes already visited**



# Traversal Algorithms

## Traversing a Tree

No unconnected nodes possible

## Traversing a Graph

Unconnected nodes possible

# Traversal Algorithms

## Traversing a Tree

**No unconnected nodes possible**

**No need to track which nodes  
already visited**

## Traversing a Graph

**Unconnected nodes possible**

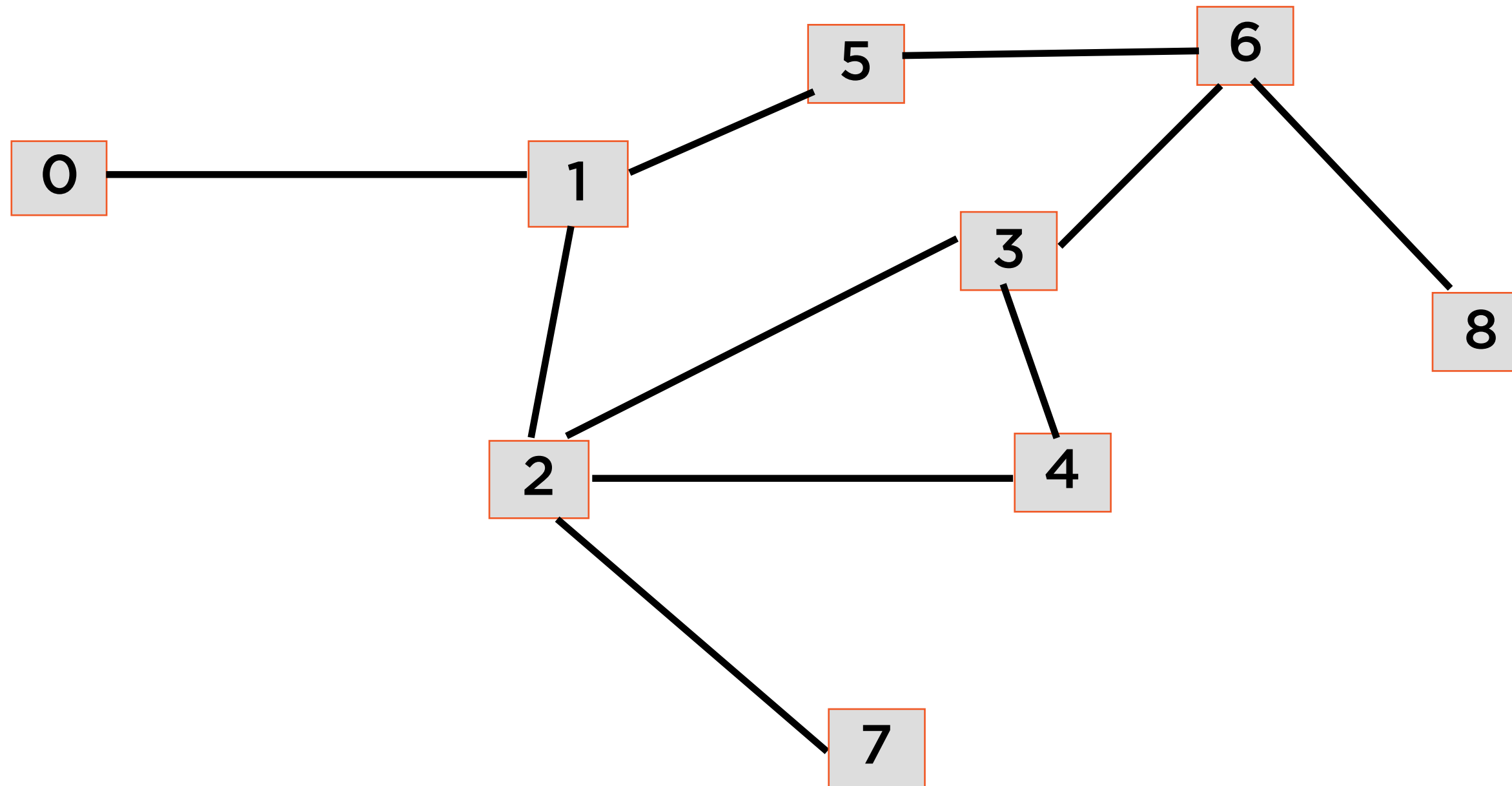
**Algorithm can not terminate until all  
nodes have been visited**

Graph traversal, unlike tree traversal,  
explicitly needs to ensure that each  
node is visited exactly once

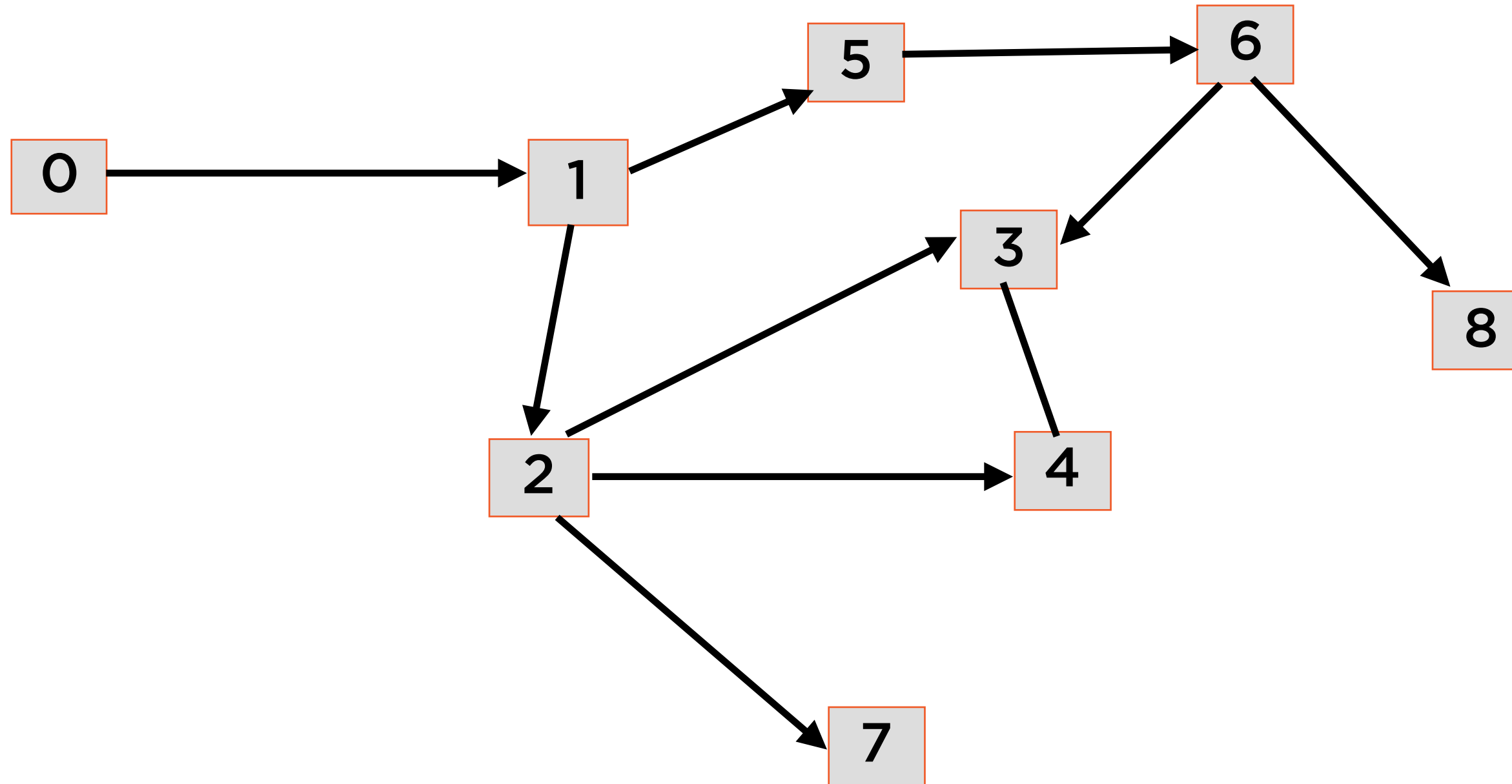
Demo

**Breadth-first traversal of a graph**

# A Sample Undirected Graph



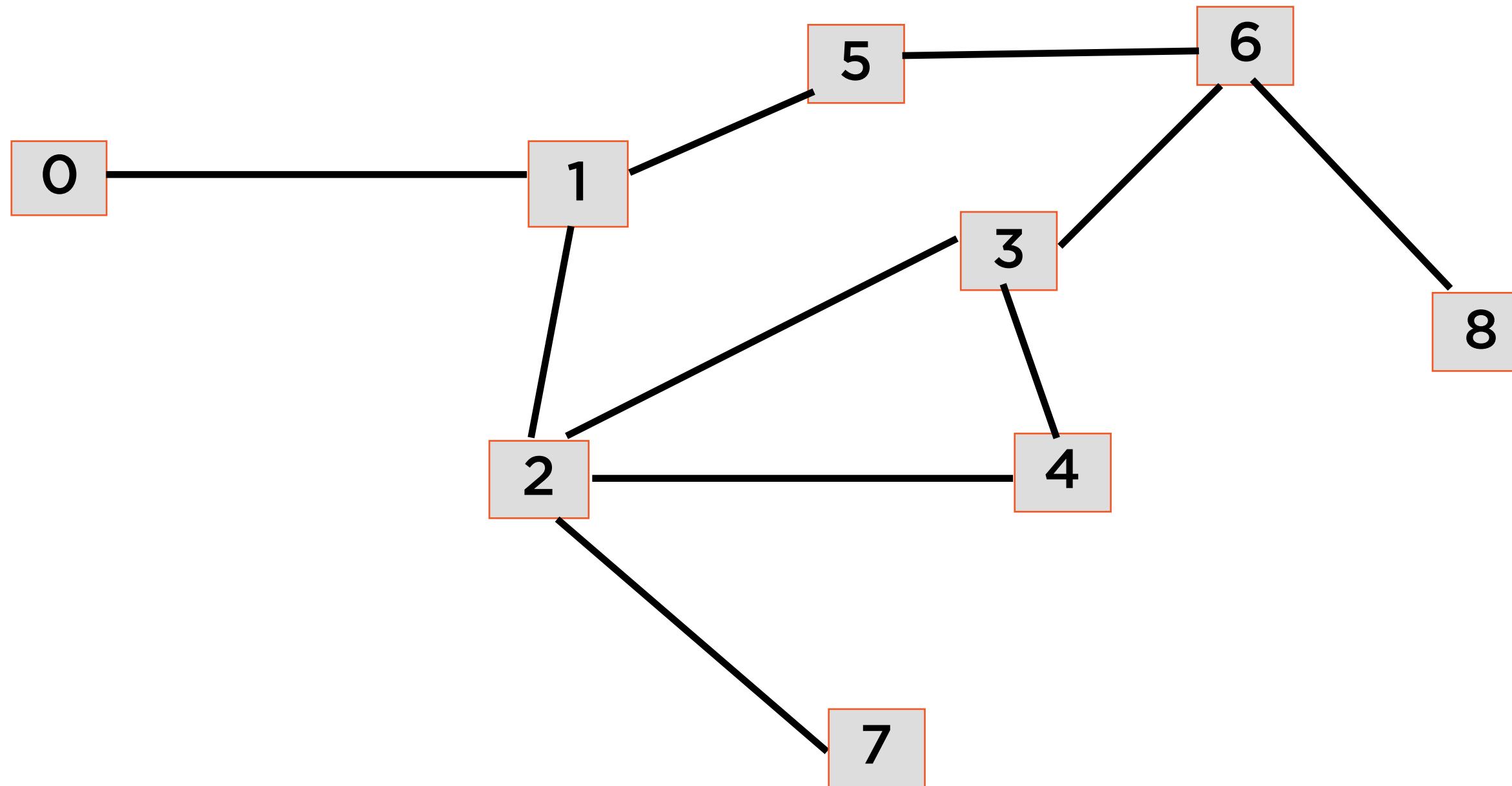
# A Sample Directed Graph



Demo

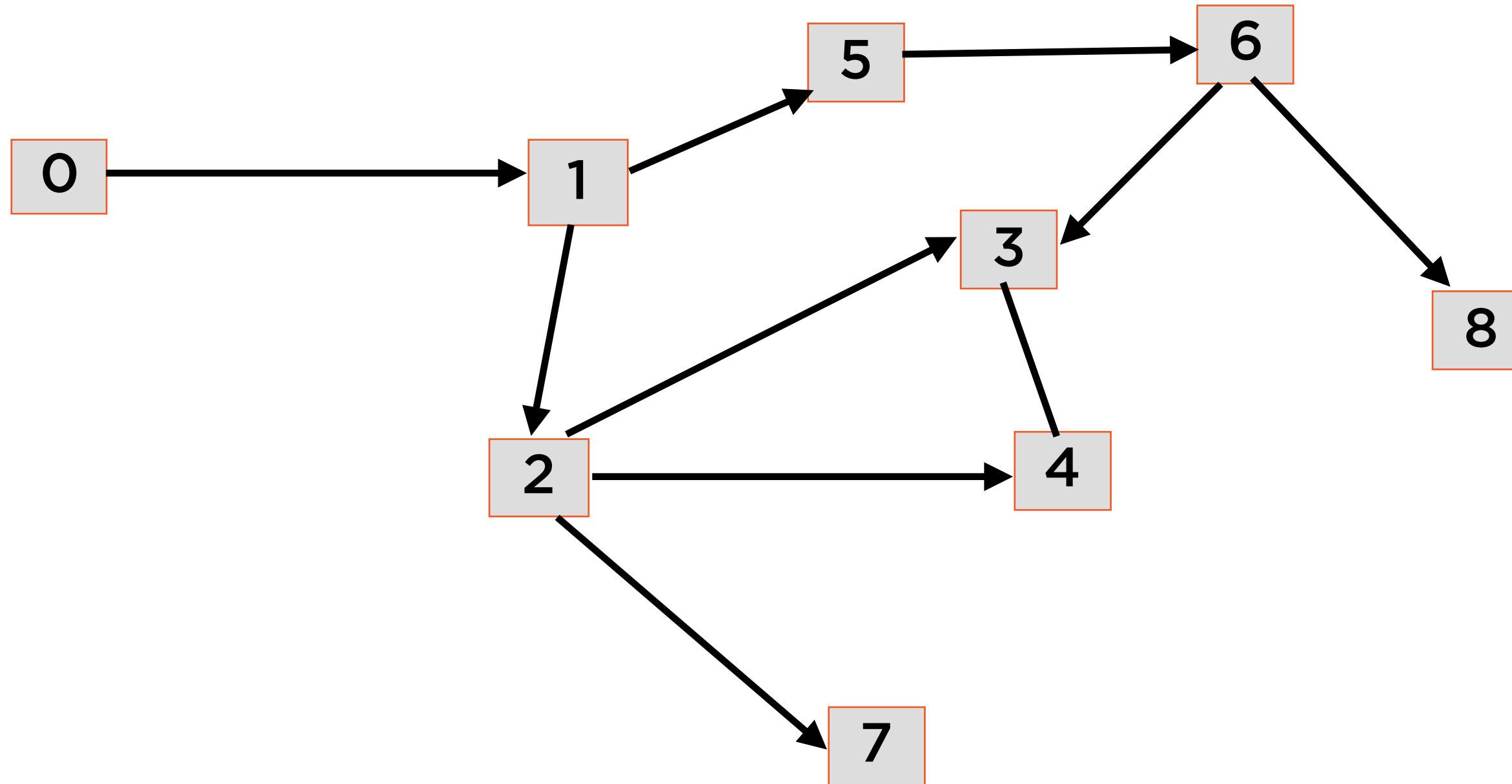
**Depth-first traversal of a graph**

# A Sample Undirected Graph





# A Sample Directed Graph



# Summary

**Graphs are excellent tools for modeling complex relationships**

**An adjacency matrix is the most common way of representing a graph**

**Adjacency lists and adjacency sets are alternative data representations**

**The two fundamental ways of traversing a graph are**

- Depth-first**
- Breadth-first**