

# MTRN4110 Robot Design

## Week 4 – Planning I

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**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

# Today's agenda

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- Introduction to planning
- Graph construction
- Graph search

# Introduction to Planning

# What is **planning**?

- The process that the robot determines a **plan** to get from **A** to **B** based on the information about the **environment** and the **robot** itself



How am I getting to the target?

# Two types of planning

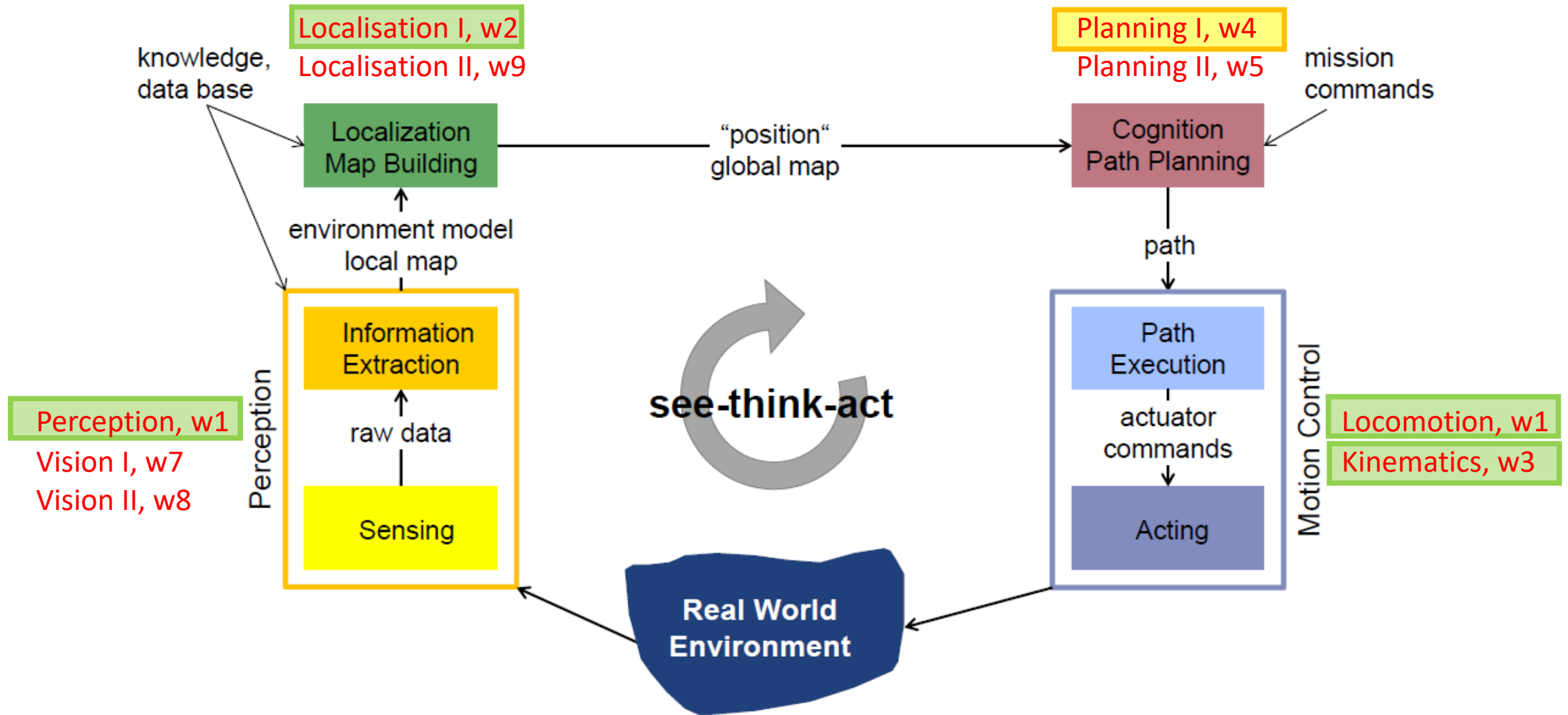
## Path Planning



## Trajectory Planning

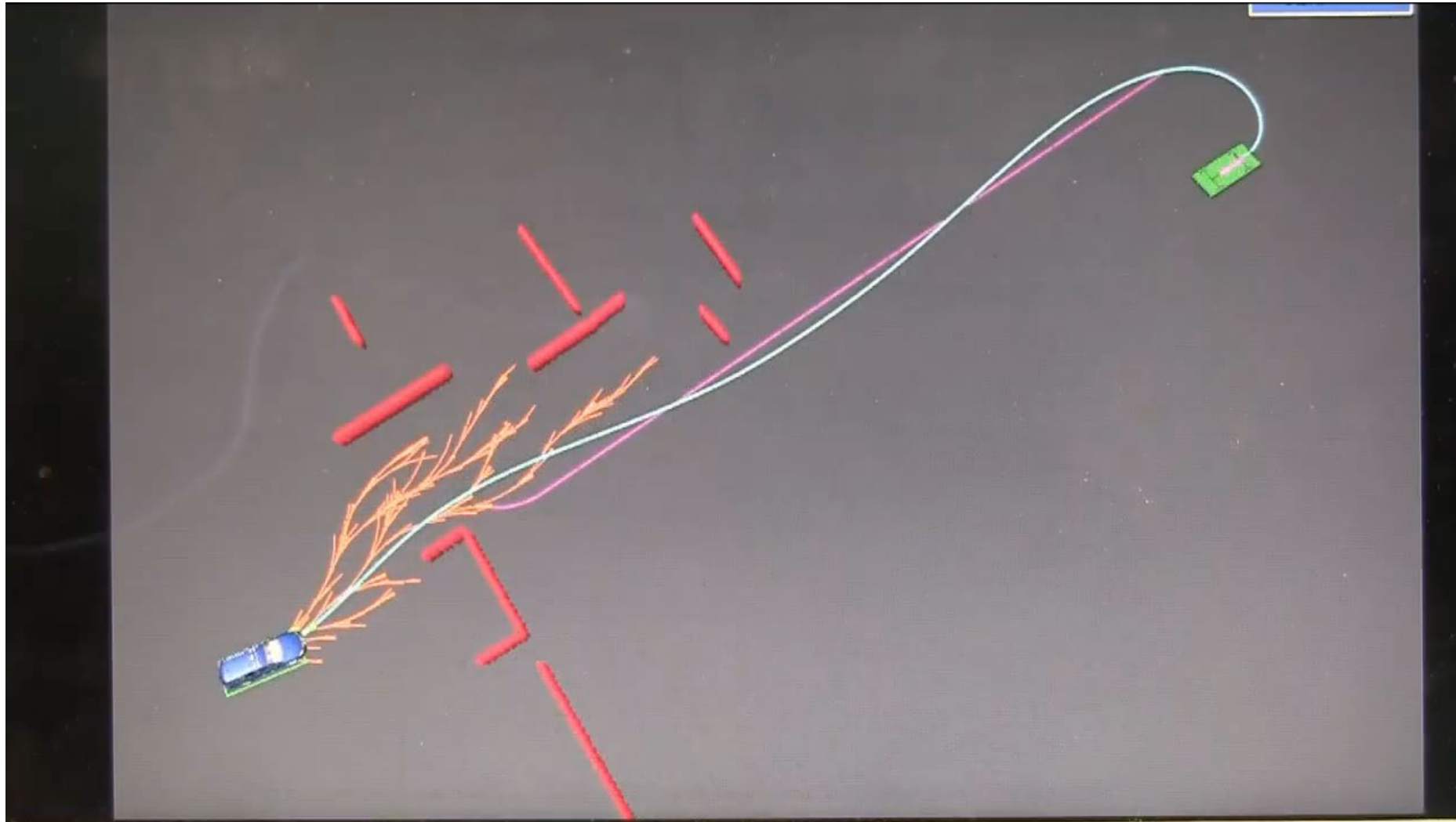


# The See-Think-Act cycle





# Planning - Example



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zS3st\\_7og3A&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zS3st_7og3A&feature=youtu.be)

Dolgov et al, Practical Search Techniques in Path Planning for Autonomous Driving, 2008

## Search Run

- Exploration
- Mapping

## Speed Run

- Planning
- Execution

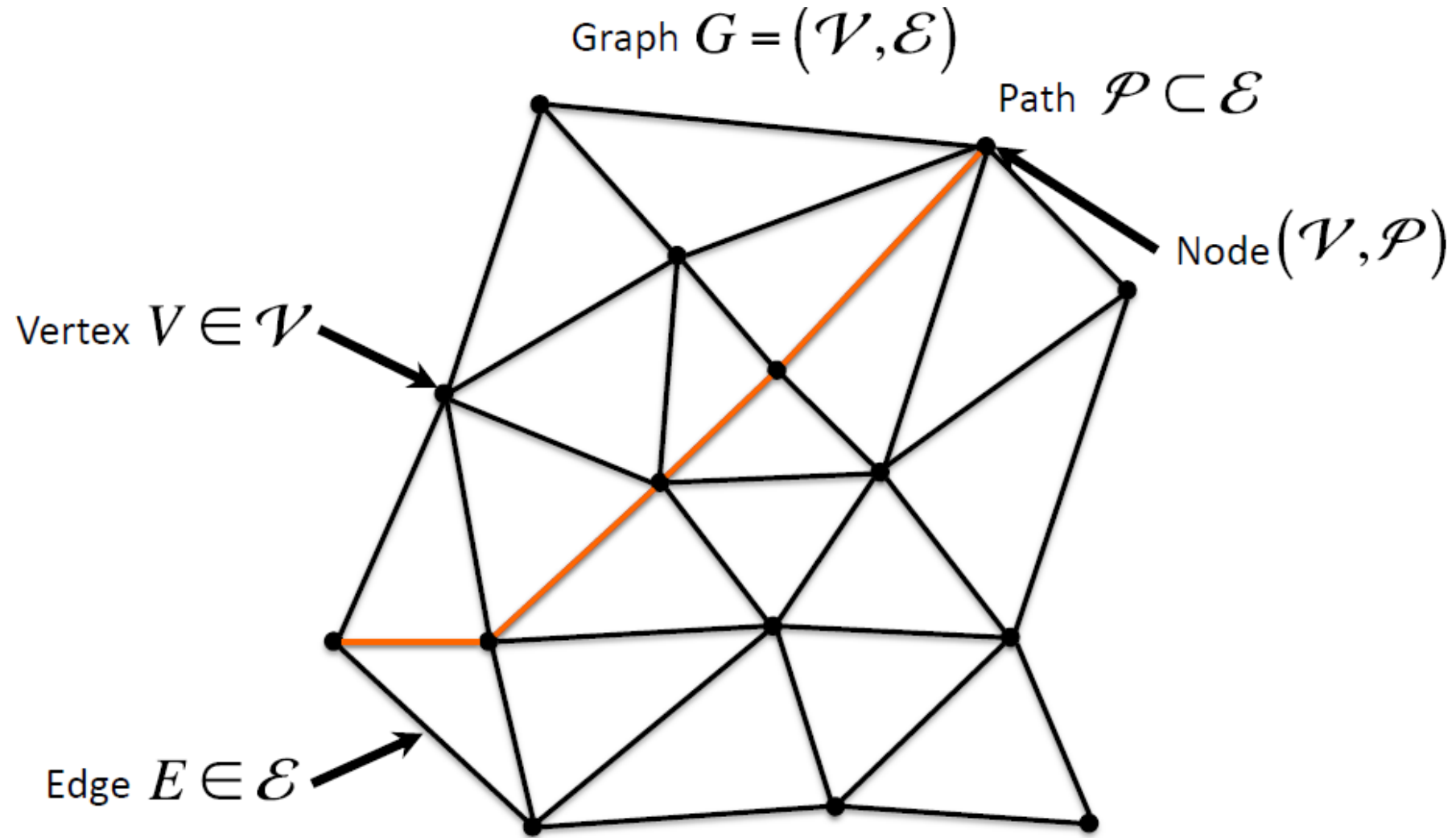


# Search Run



# Graph Construction

# What is a **graph**?



# Graph construction – Construct graphs that can be searched

- Continuous map
  - Visibility graph
  - Voronoi diagram
- Cell decomposition
  - Exact cell decomposition
  - Fixed cell decomposition
  - Adaptive cell decomposition
- Topological representation

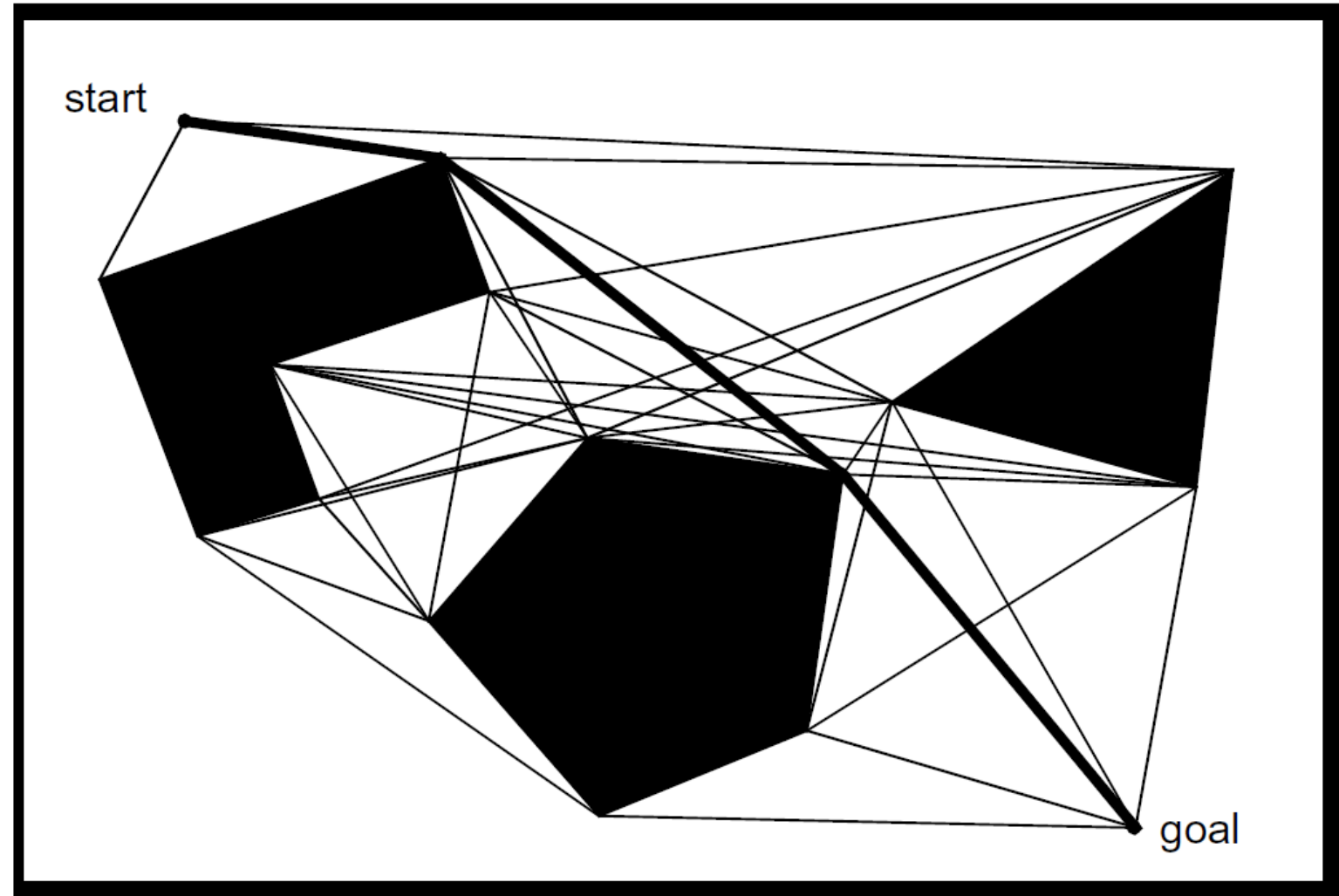
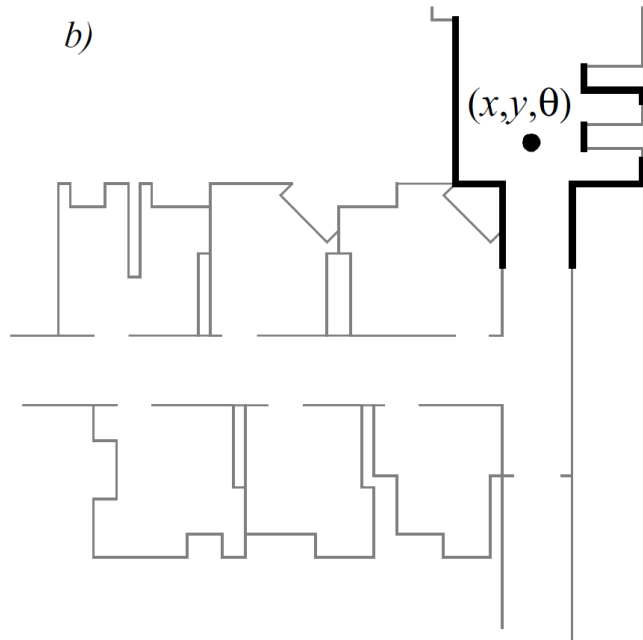
# Graph construction – Construct **graphs** that can be **searched**

- **Continuous map**
  - **Visibility graph**
  - **Voronoi diagram**
- Cell decomposition
  - Exact cell decomposition
  - Fixed cell decomposition
  - Adaptive cell decomposition
- Topological representation

# Visibility graph – Connect all the vertices **visible** to each other

Short but **not safe**

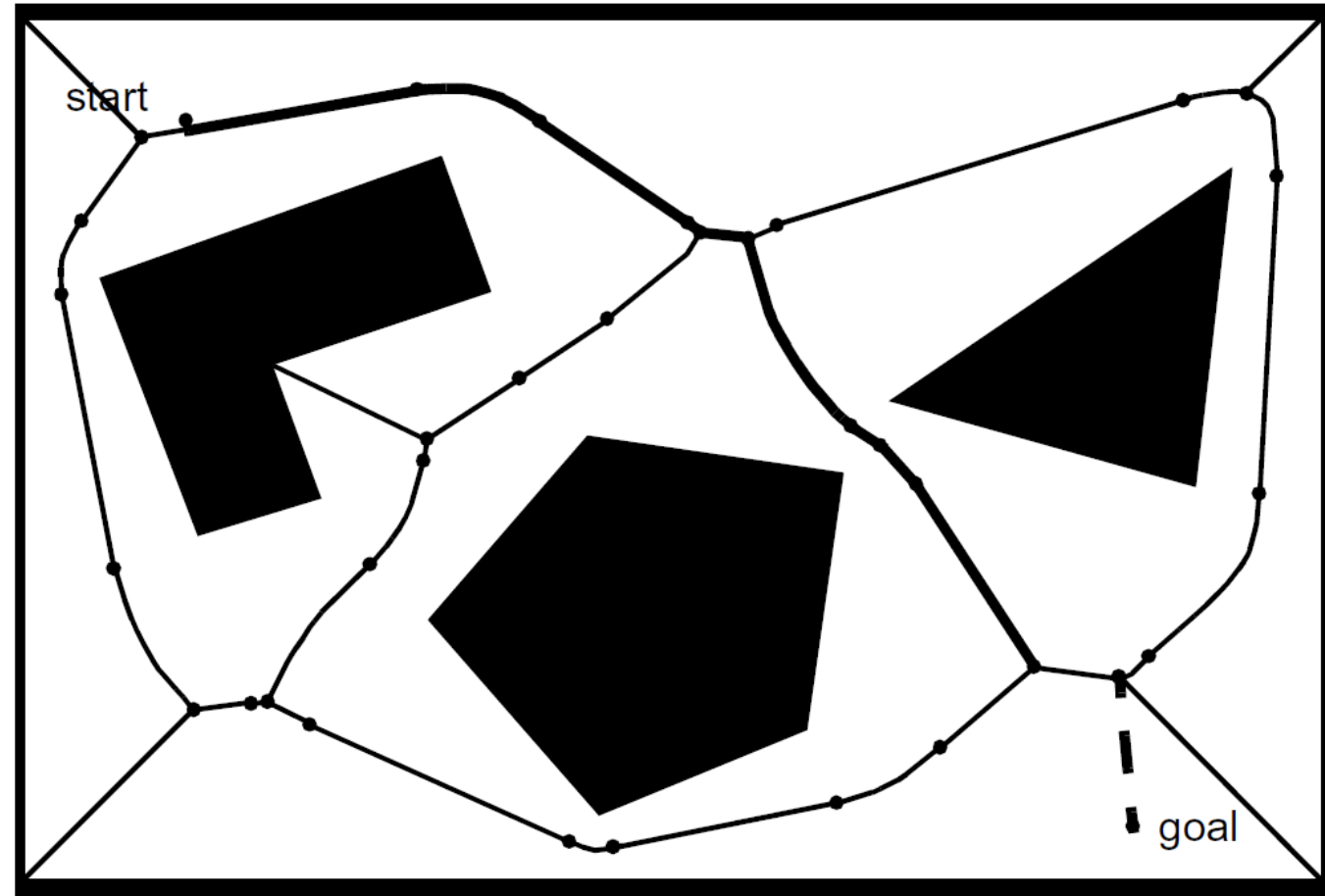
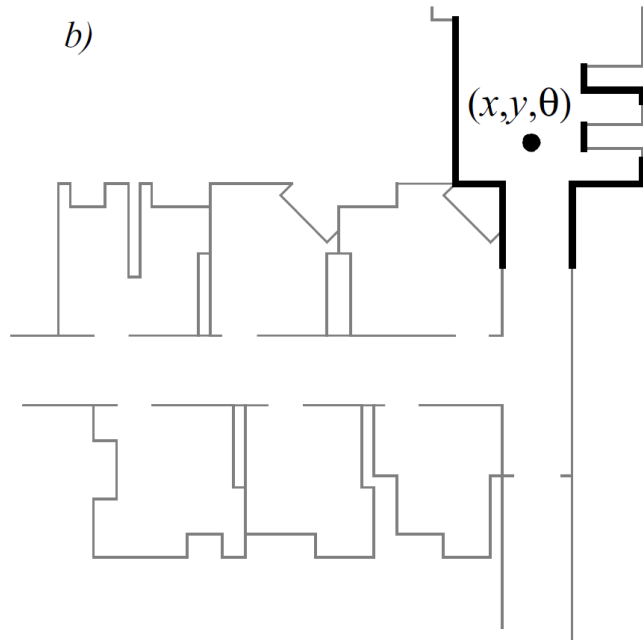
Continuous Map



# Voronoi diagram – Points with **equal** distance to **nearest** edges

Safe but **not short**

Continuous Map



Georgy Voronoy  
1868-1908



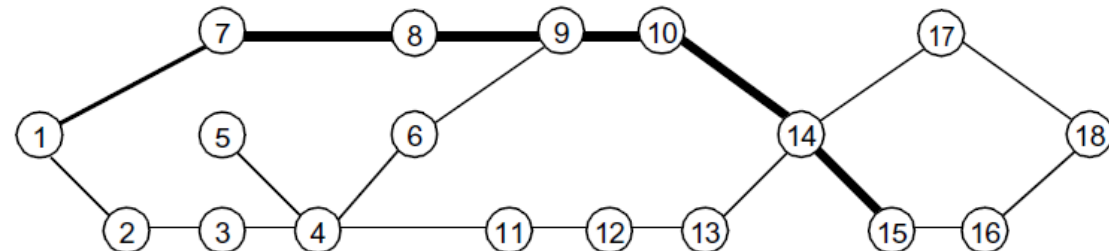
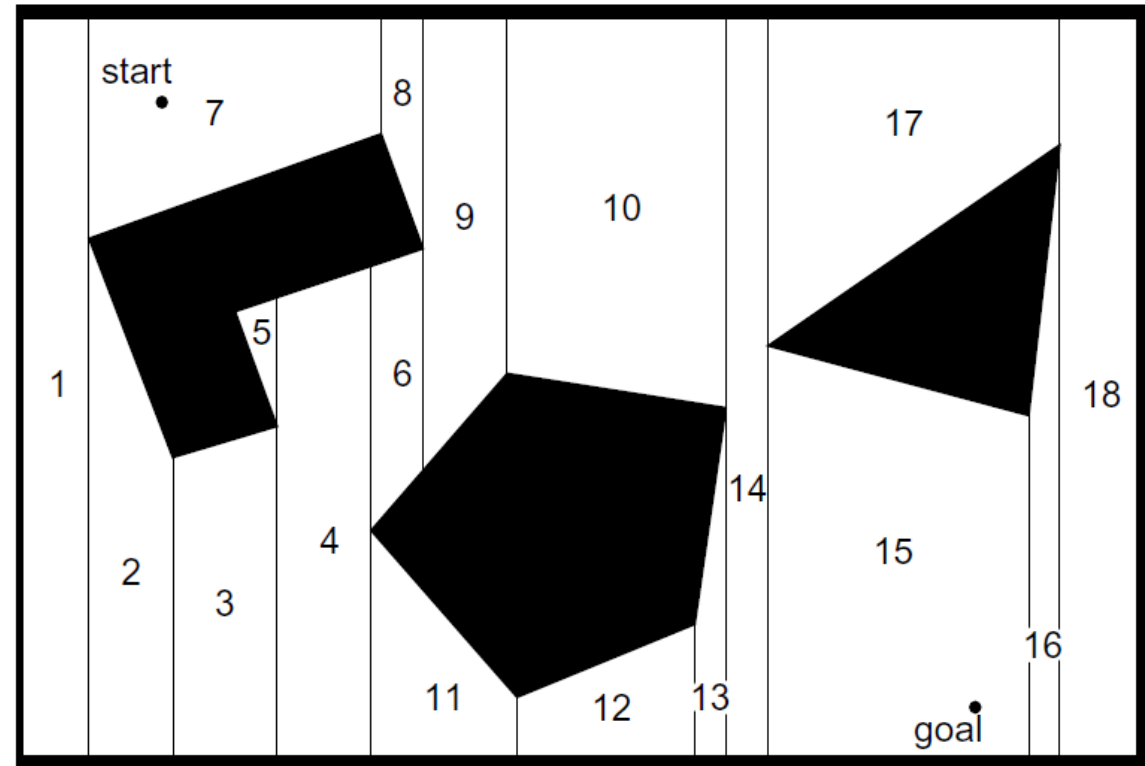
# Graph construction – Construct **graphs** that can be **searched**

- Continuous map
  - Visibility graph
  - Voronoi diagram
- **Cell decomposition**
  - **Exact cell decomposition**
  - **Fixed cell decomposition**
  - **Adaptive cell decomposition**
- Topological representation

# Exact cell decomposition

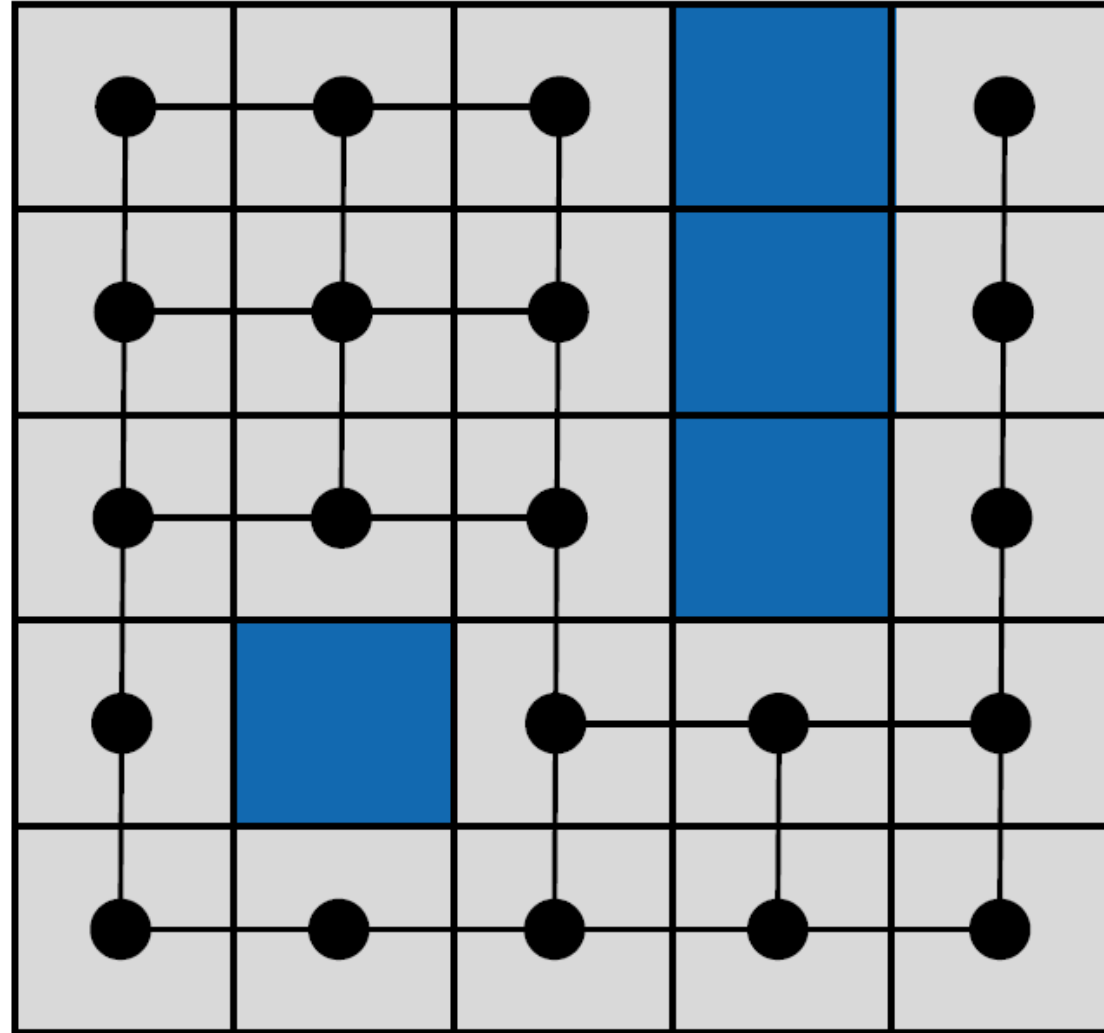
Efficient for large,  
sparse environment

Complex in  
implementation



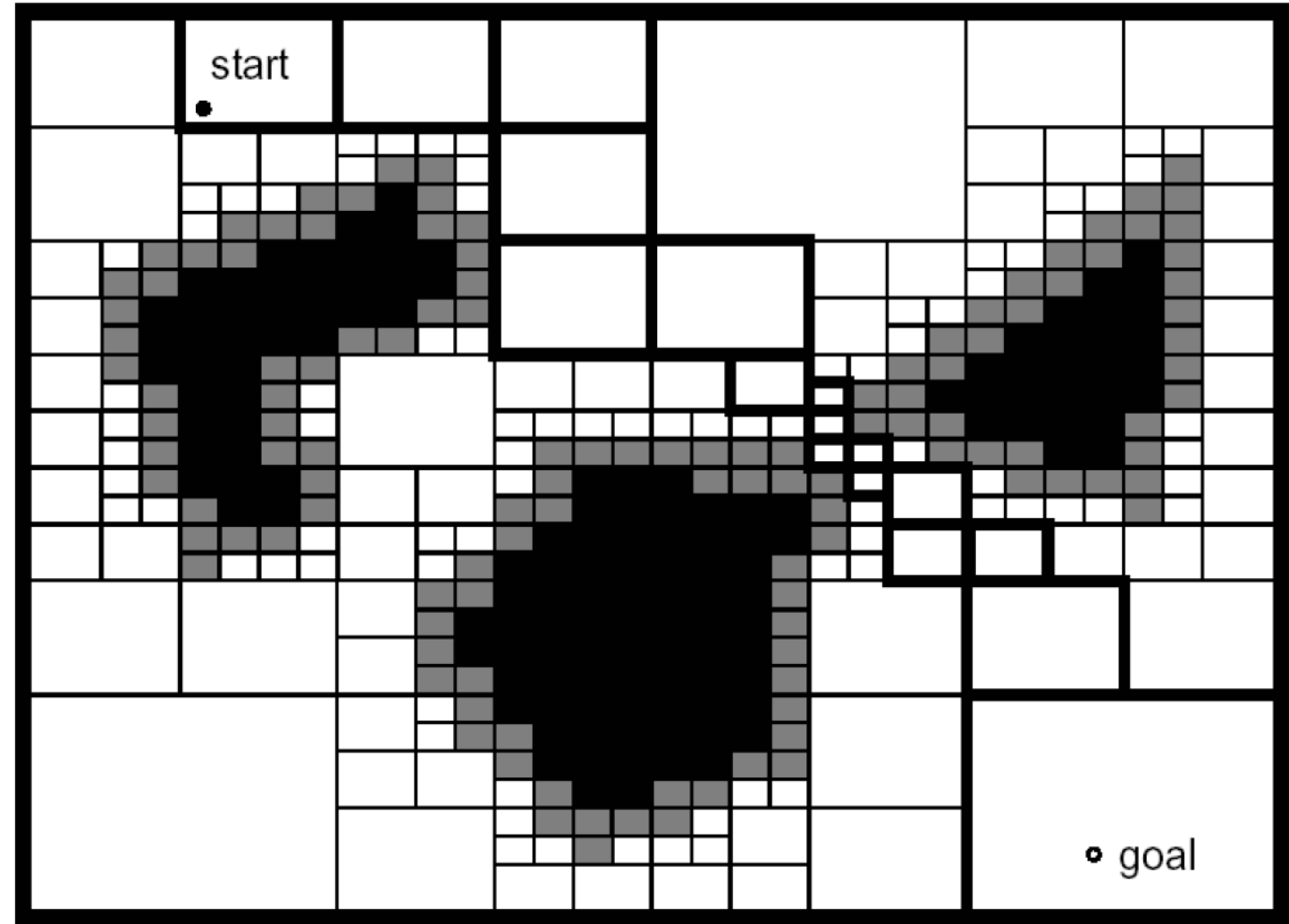
# Fixed cell decomposition – Occupancy grid

Very popular  
Easy in implementation  
High need in memory



# Adaptive cell decomposition

Similar to occupancy grid  
Fewer nodes for large areas  
Complex in implementation

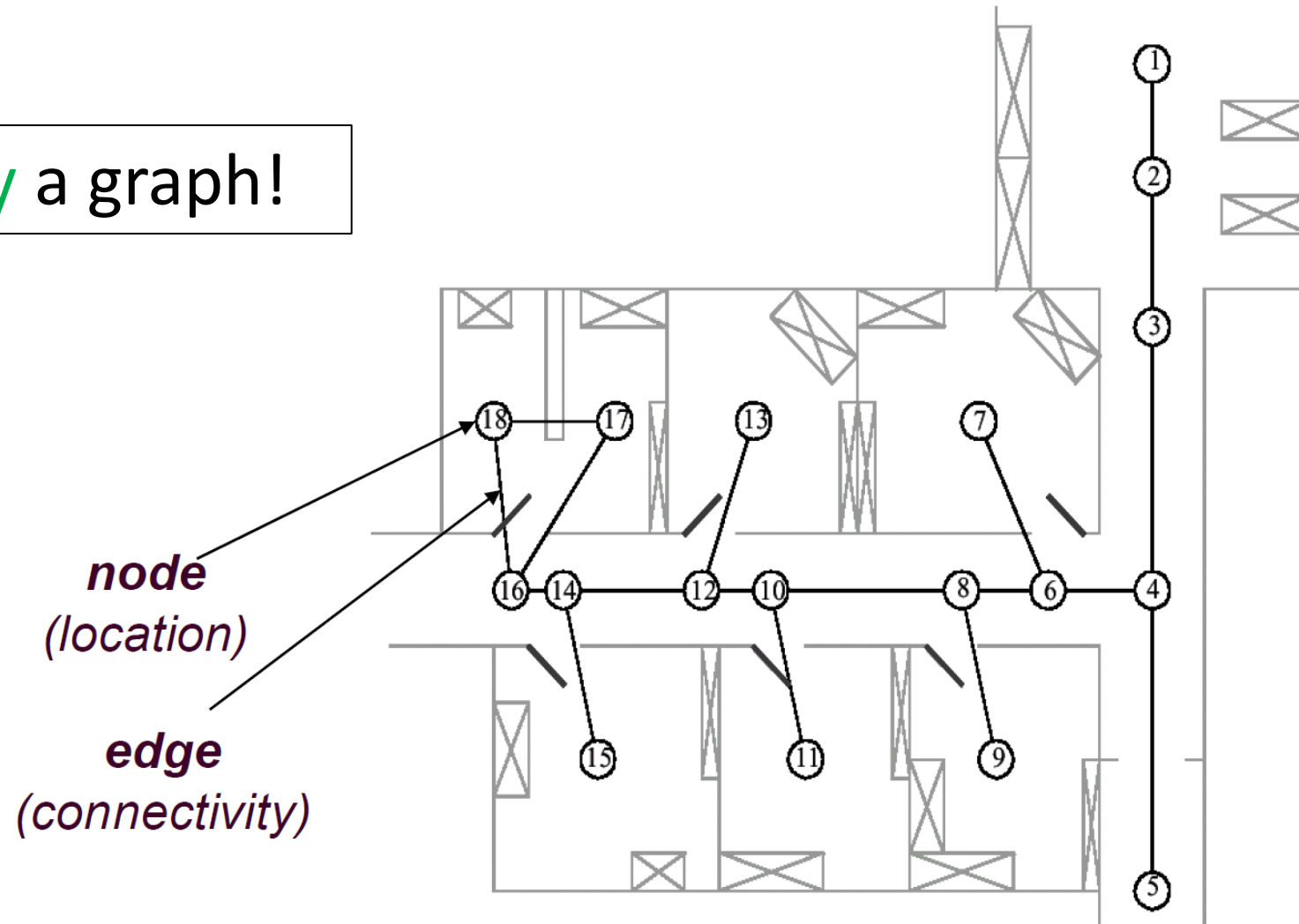


# Graph construction – Construct **graphs** that can be **searched**

- Continuous map
  - Visibility graph
  - Voronoi diagram
- Cell decomposition
  - Exact cell decomposition
  - Fixed cell decomposition
  - Adaptive cell decomposition
- **Topological representation**

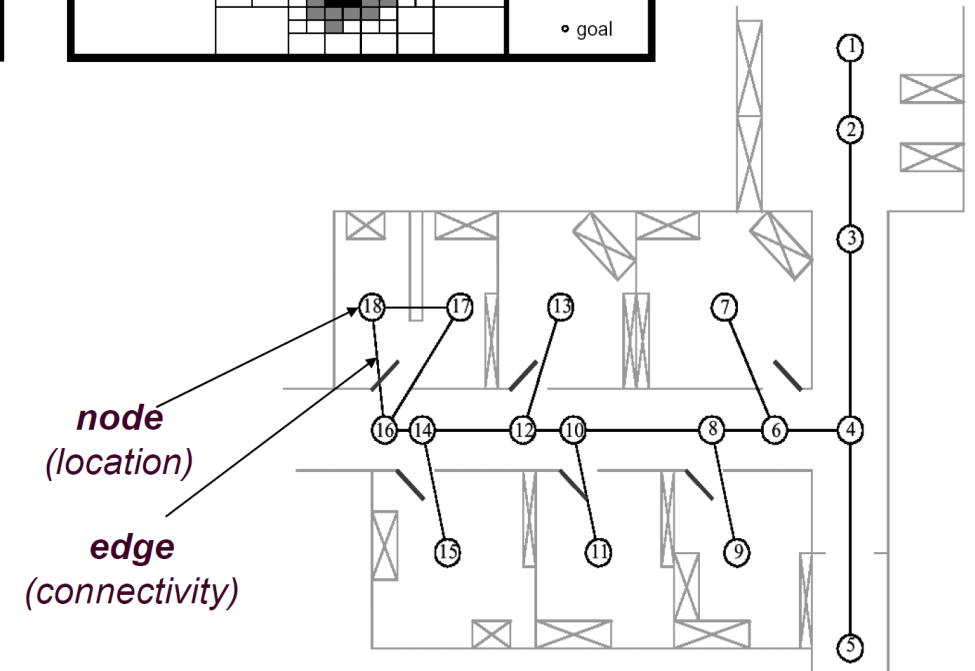
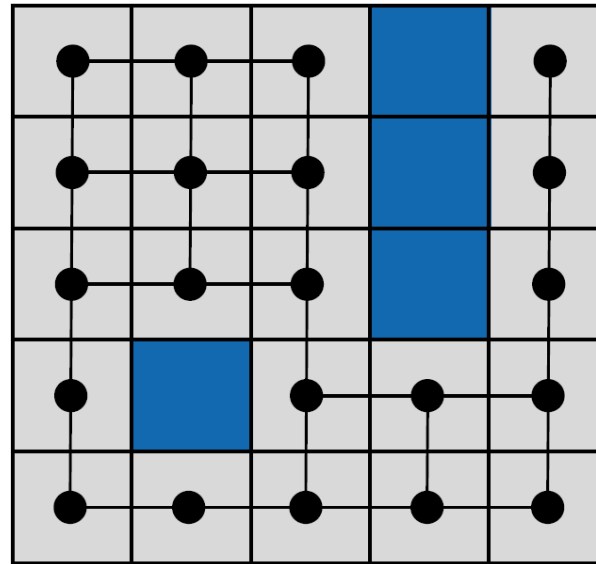
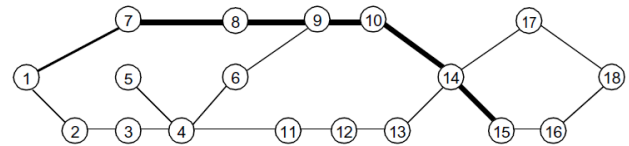
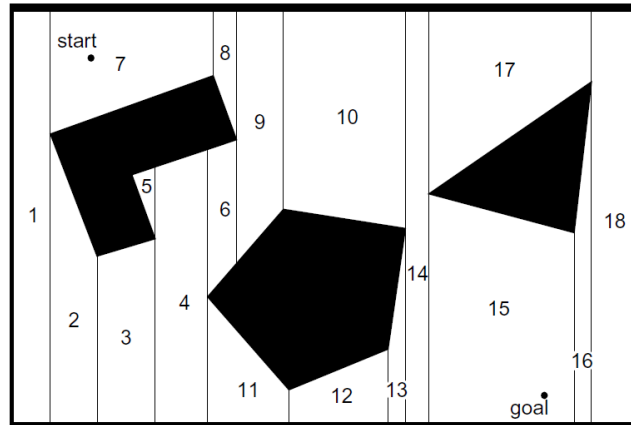
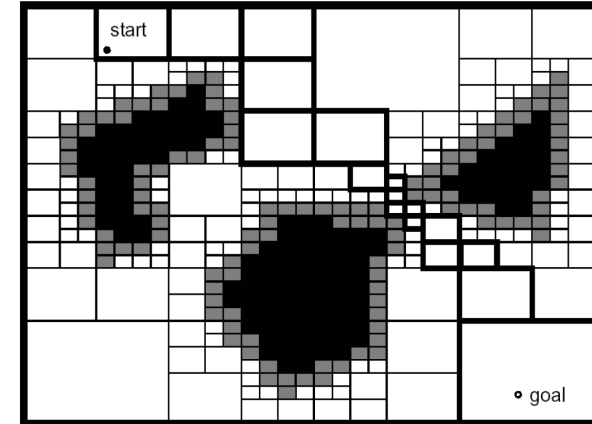
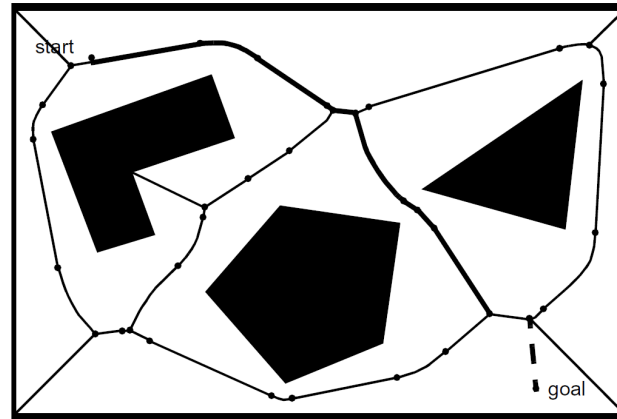
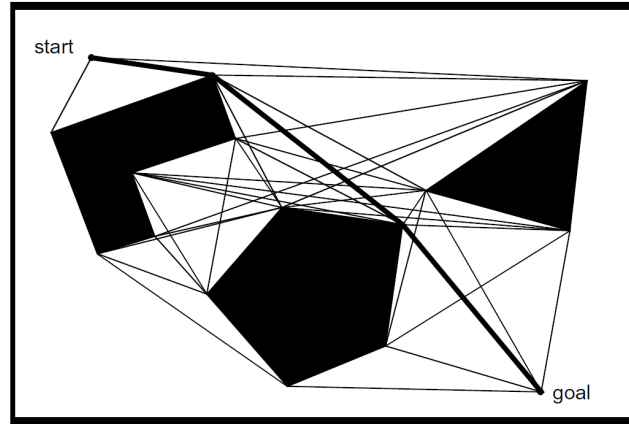
# Topological representation

It's **already** a graph!





# From Map to Graph



# Why constructing **graphs** for **path planning**?

- Because **graph search** has been **well studied**!



# Graph Search

# Graph search

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- Breadth-first search (BFS)
- Depth-first search (DFS)
- Dijkstra's algorithm
- A\* algorithm
- Bellman-Ford algorithm
  - Flood Fill algorithm

# Graph search - Terminology

- Current state

$x \in X$

- Next state

$x' \in X$

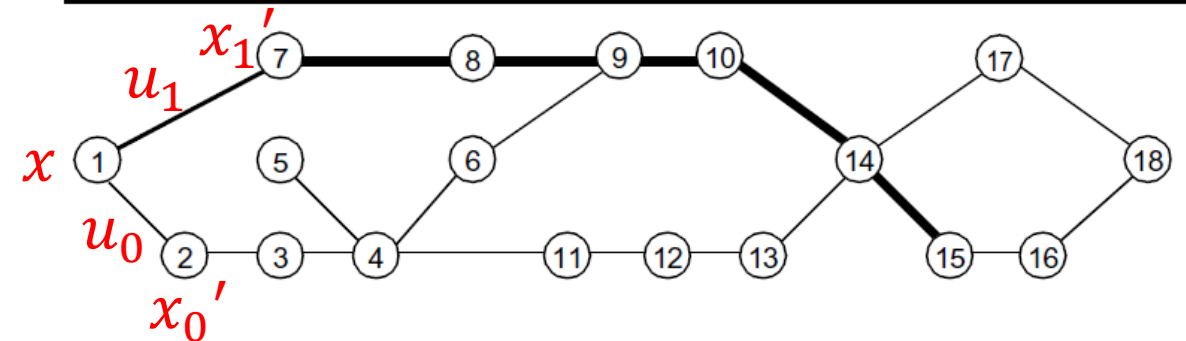
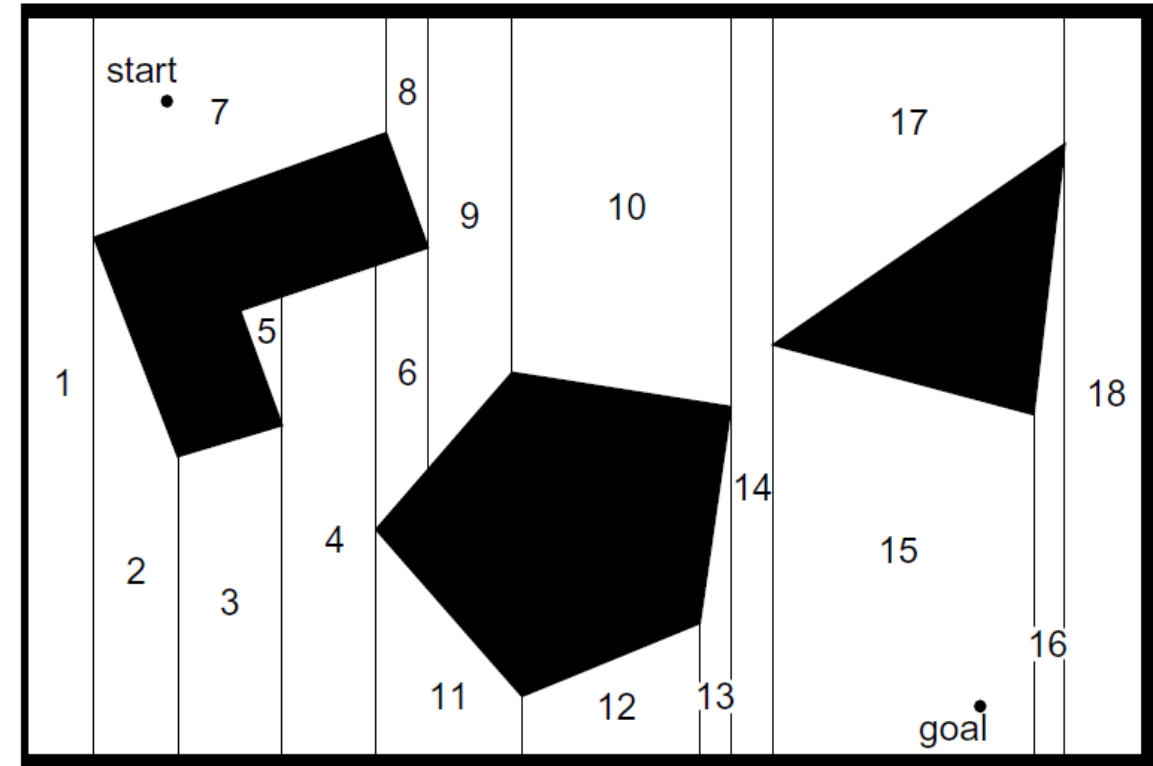
- Actions

- Feasible transitions between states

$$U(x) = \{u_0, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$$

- Transition function

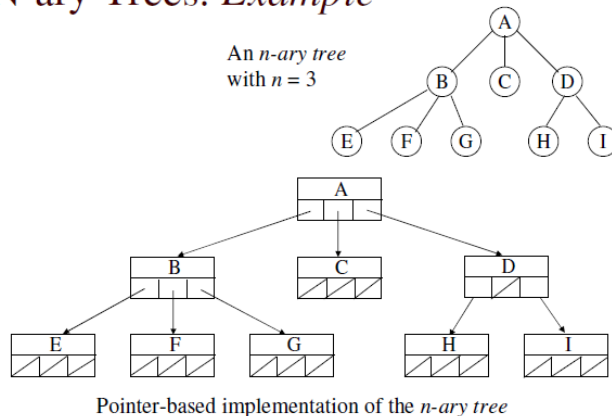
$$f(x, u) = x'$$



# Graph search - Terminology

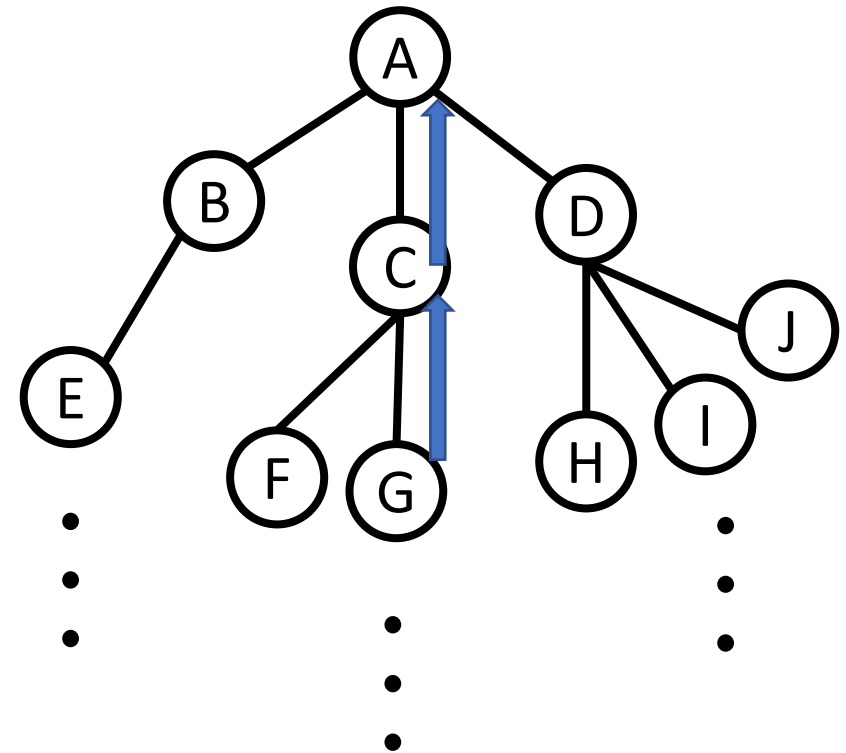
- **Tree:**
  - **Start state** at the **root node**
  - **Children** correspond to **successors**
  - **Different** implementations  
(refer to the references)

*N-ary Trees: Example*



- A **node** corresponds to a unique **plan** from start to that state (follow up tree from node)

We can store information in a tree and easily retrieve the path from start to a node





# Graph search - A **general** template

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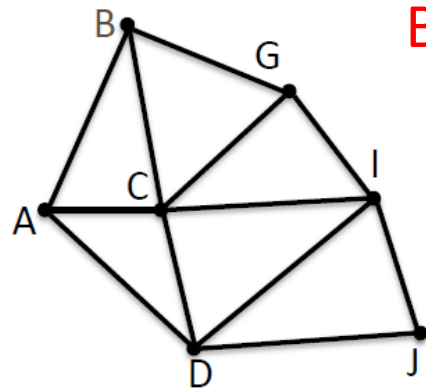
## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```
1   $Q.Insert(x_I)$  and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while  $Q$  not empty do
3       $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4      if  $x \in X_G$ 
5          return SUCCESS
6      forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
7           $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8          if  $x'$  not visited
9              Mark  $x'$  as visited
10              $Q.Insert(x')$ 
11          else
12              Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

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- Breadth-first search
- Depth-first search
- Dijkstra's algorithm
- A\* algorithm

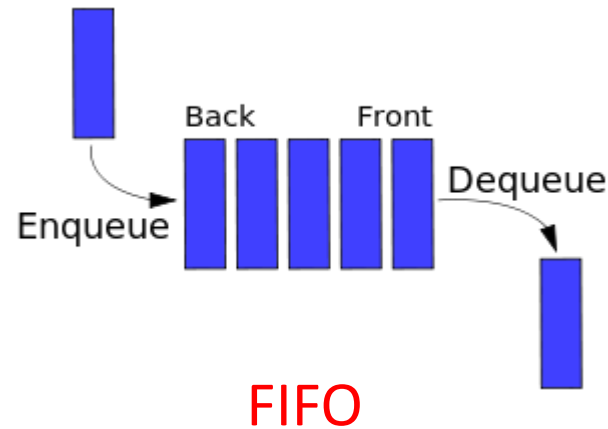
# Breadth-first search (BFS)



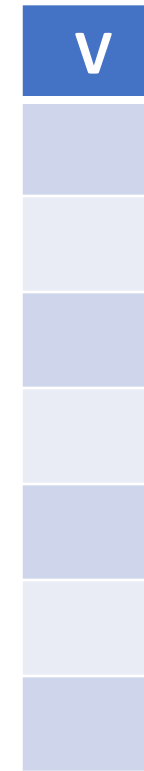
B → J ?

## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```



Visited



Q



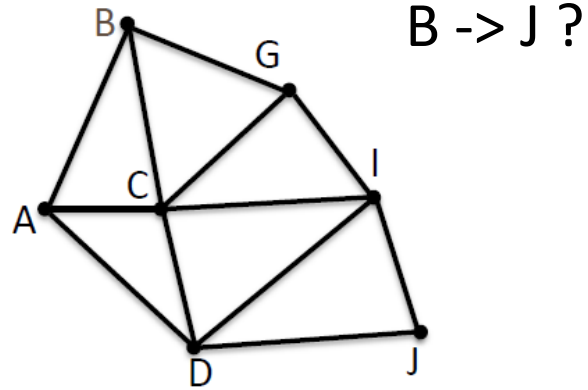
For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO** (First In First Out)

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFO\\_\(computing\\_and\\_electronics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFO_(computing_and_electronics))

# Breadth-first search (BFS)

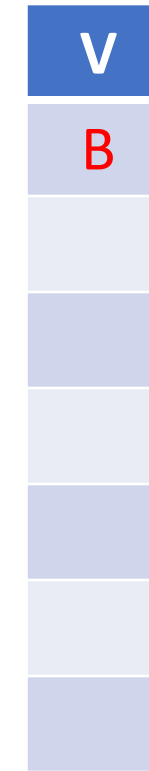
Green – Open node



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
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6    forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
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10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
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Visited



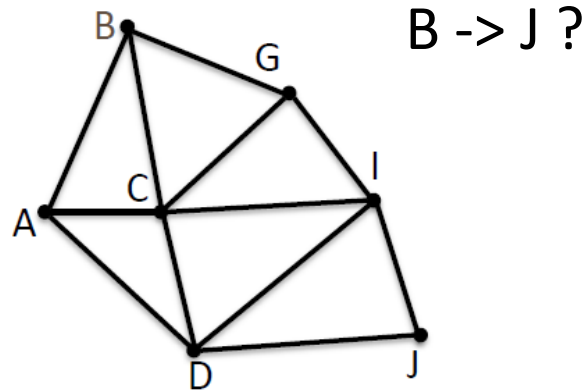
Q



For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Breadth-first search (BFS)



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

1  $Q.Insert(x_I)$  and mark  $x_I$  as visited

2 **while**  $Q$  not empty **do**

3  $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$

$x = B$

4 **if**  $x \in X_G$

5 **return** SUCCESS

6 **forall**  $u \in U(x)$

7  $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$

8 **if**  $x'$  not visited

9 Mark  $x'$  as visited

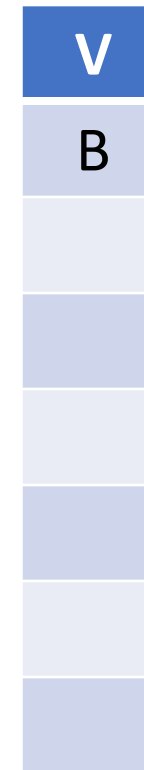
10  $Q.Insert(x')$

11 **else**

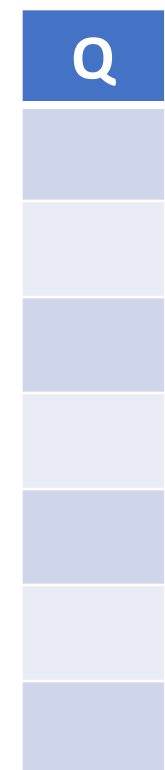
12 Resolve duplicate  $x'$

13 **return** FAILURE

Visited



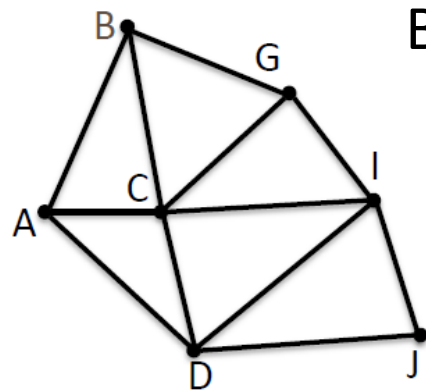
Q



For **BFS**,  $Q$  is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push ( $Q.Insert$ ) onto the **back**
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# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



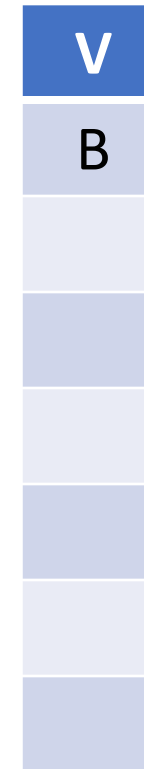
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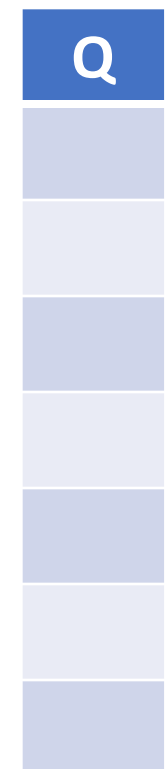
$x = B$

$X_G = J$

Visited



Q

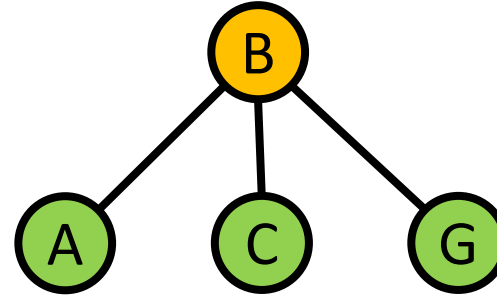
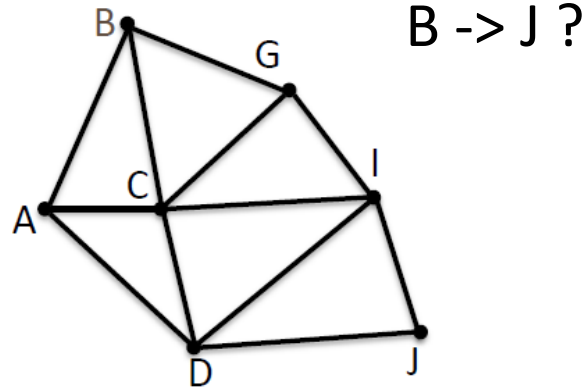


For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Breadth-first search (BFS)

Yellow – Being explored



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

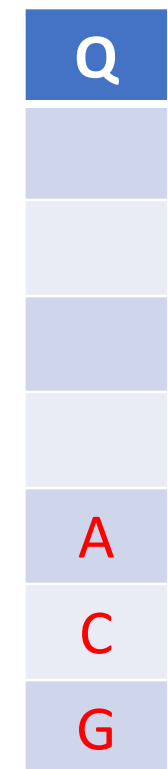
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12       Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
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```

$x = B$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



Q



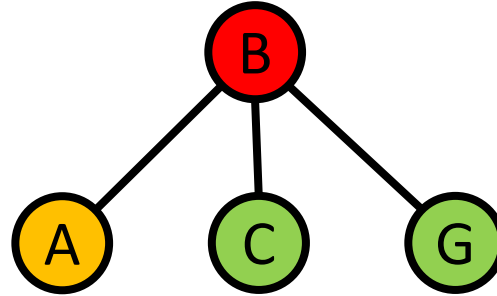
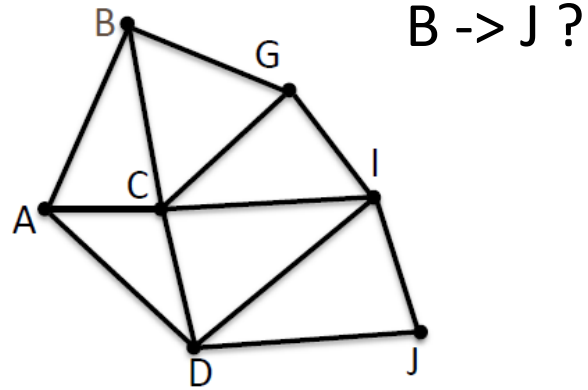
For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

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# Breadth-first search (BFS)

Red – Closed node



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

1  $Q.Insert(x_I)$  and mark  $x_I$  as visited

2 **while**  $Q$  not empty **do**

3    $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$

4   **if**  $x \in X_G$

5     **return** SUCCESS

6   **forall**  $u \in U(x)$

7      $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$

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10       $Q.Insert(x')$

11    **else**

12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$

13 **return** FAILURE

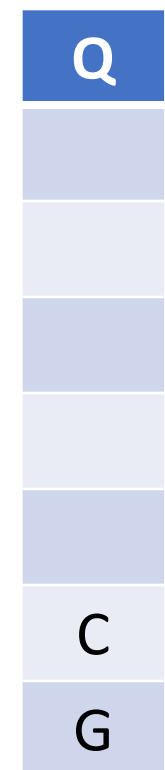
$x = A$

$X_G = J$

Visited



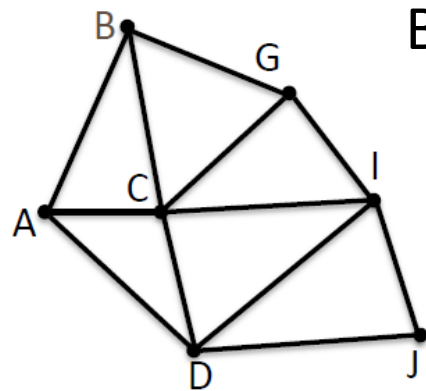
Q



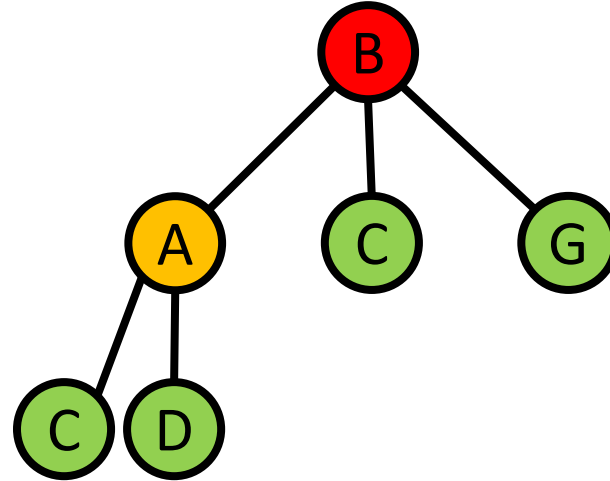
For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

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# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

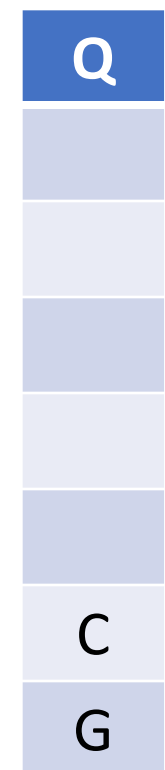
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13  return FAILURE
```

$x = A$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



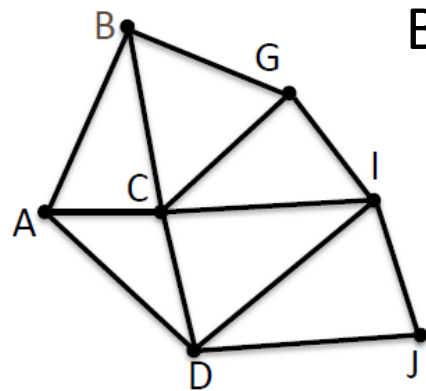
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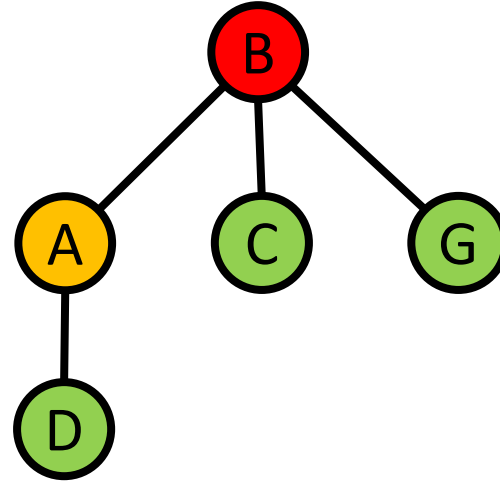
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# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

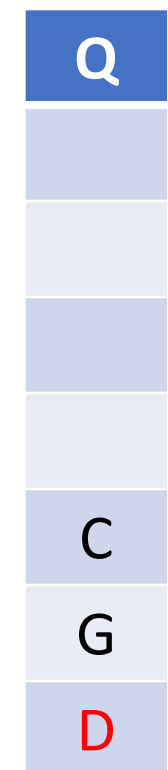
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```

$x = A$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



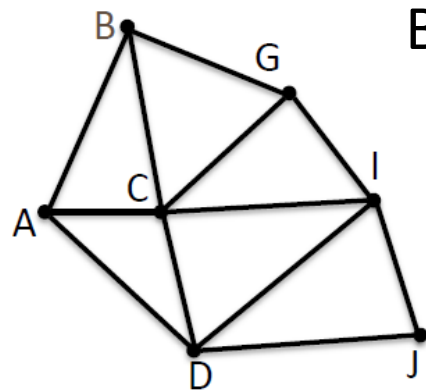
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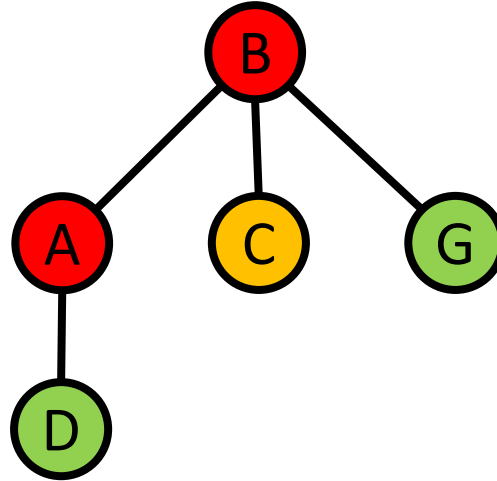
For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
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# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

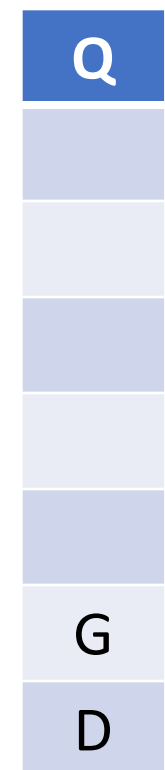
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8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

$x = C$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



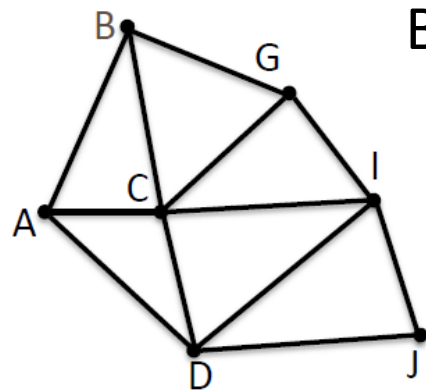
Q



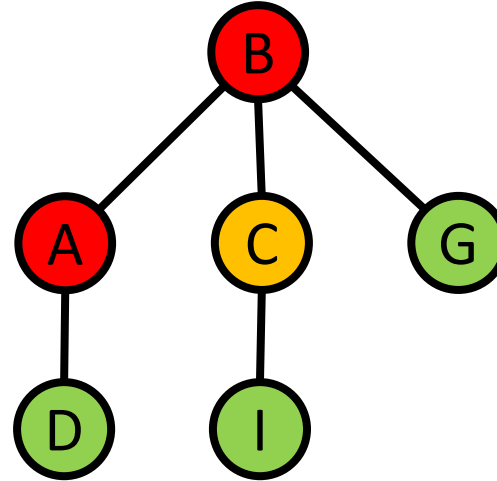
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# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

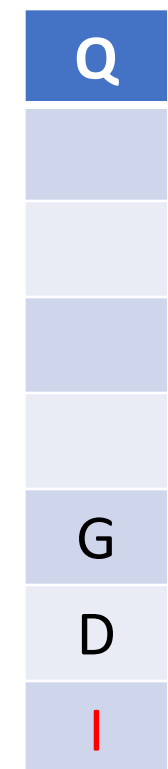
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4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
5      return SUCCESS
6    forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
7       $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

$x = C$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



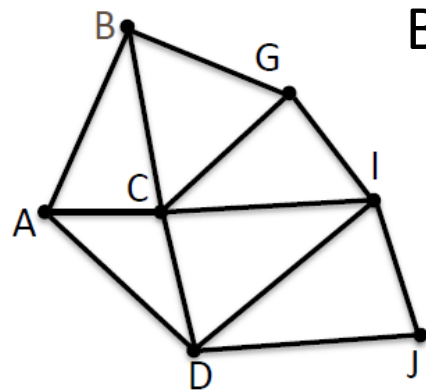
Q



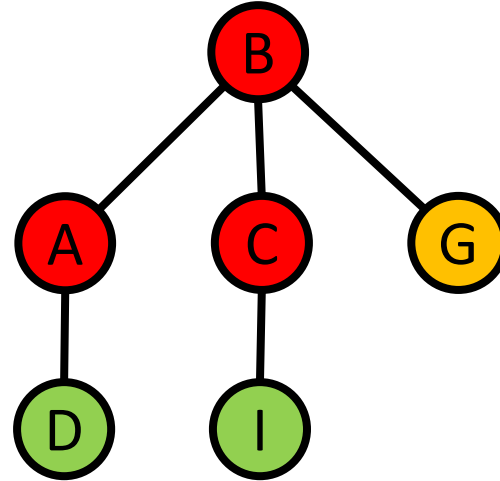
For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

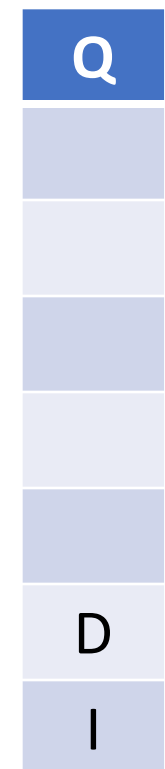
```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
5      return SUCCESS
6    forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
7       $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

$x = G$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



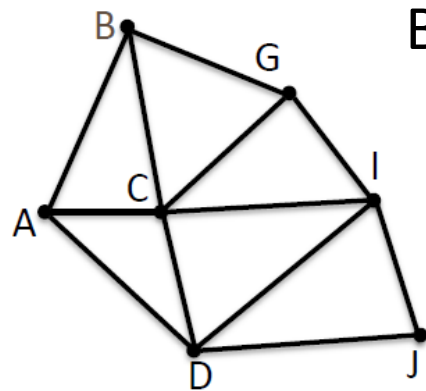
Q



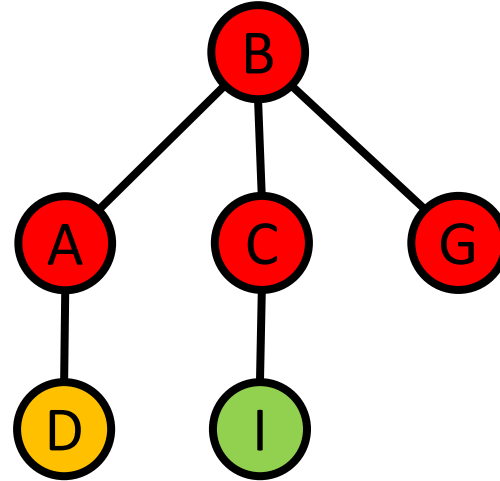
For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
5      return SUCCESS
6    forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
7       $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

$x = D$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



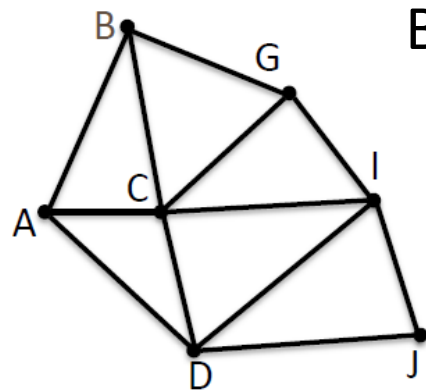
Q



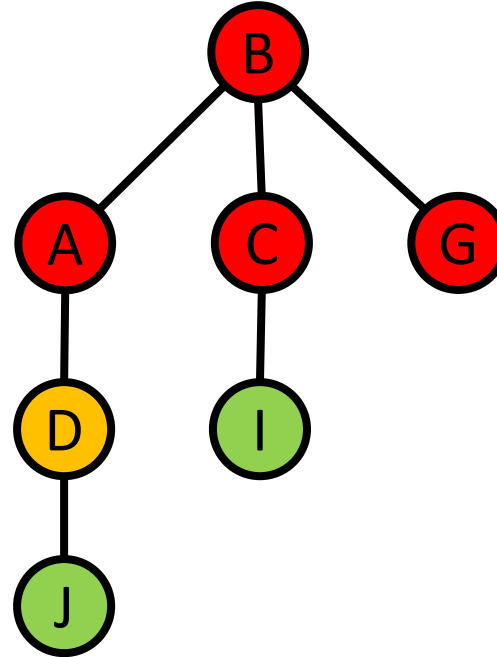
For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

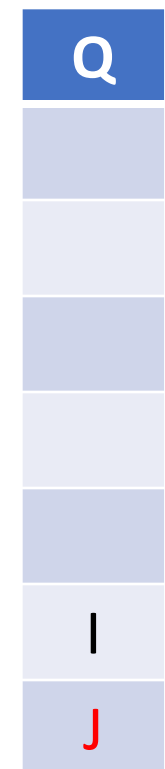
```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
5      return SUCCESS
6    forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
7       $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

$x = D$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



Q

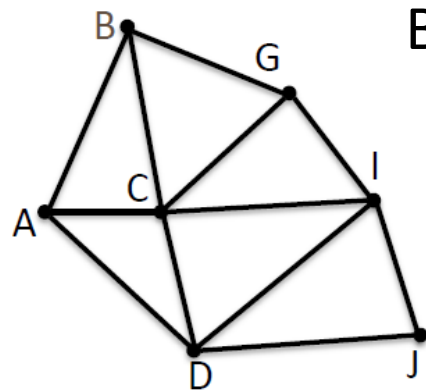


For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

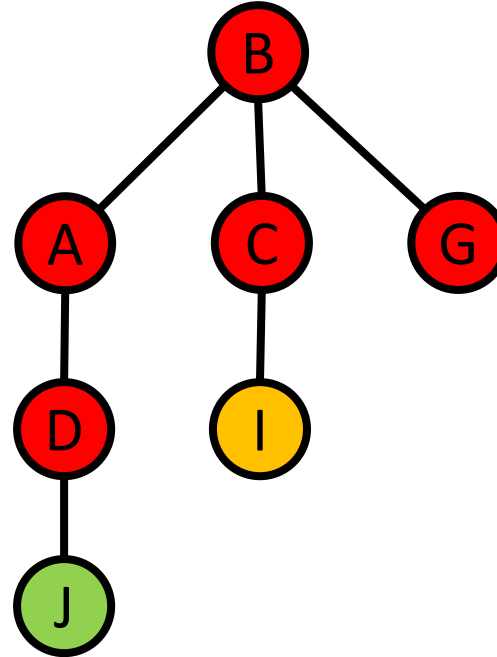
- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**



# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

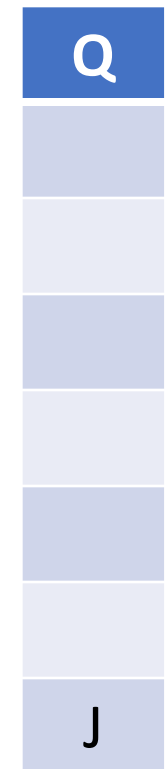
```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
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7       $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

$x = I$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



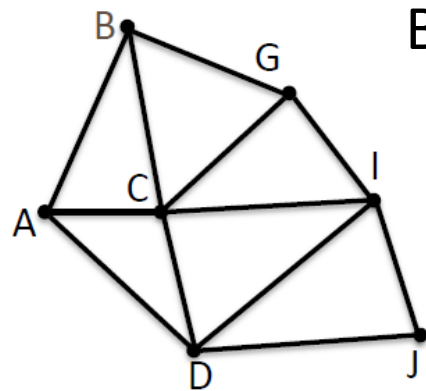
Q



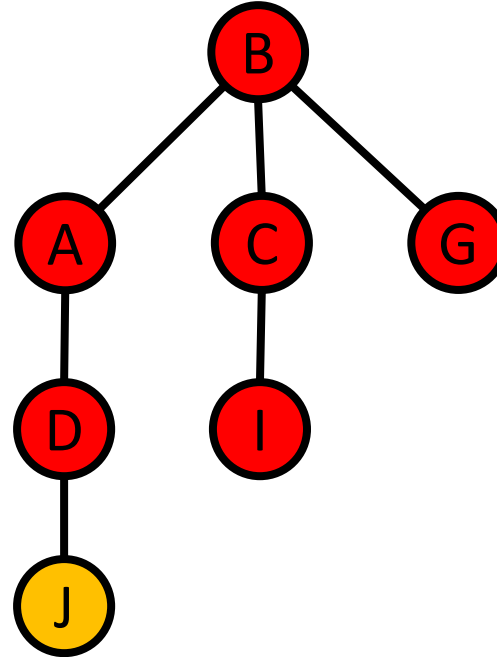
For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Breadth-first search (BFS)



B → J ?



FORWARD\_SEARCH

```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
5      return SUCCESS
6    forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
7       $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

$x = J$   
 $X_G = J$

Visited



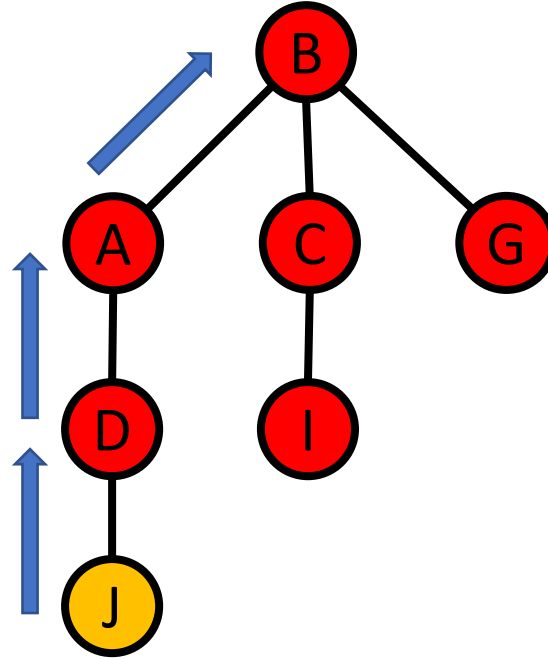
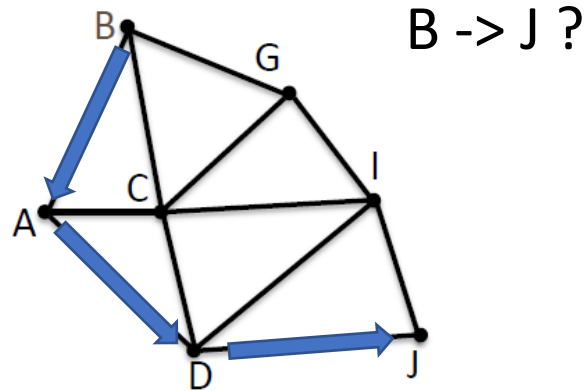
Q



For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Breadth-first search (BFS)



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
5      return SUCCESS
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8    if  $x'$  not visited
9      Mark  $x'$  as visited
10     Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11  else
12    Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

Visited



Q



For **BFS**, Q is **FIFO (First In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **back**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

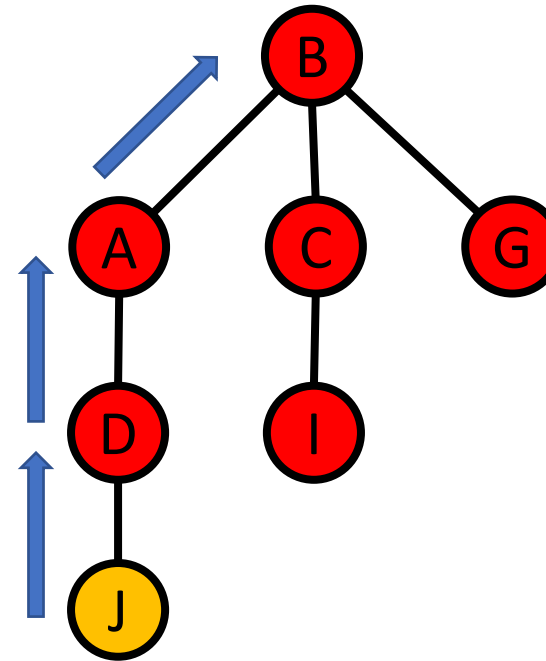
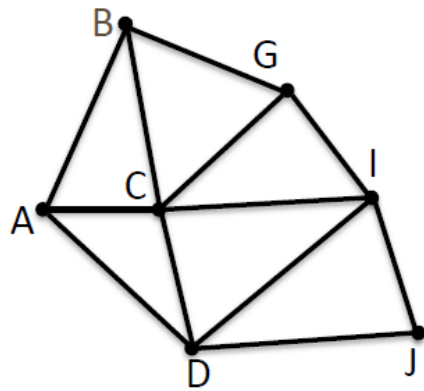
## Two important concepts for graph search algorithms

---

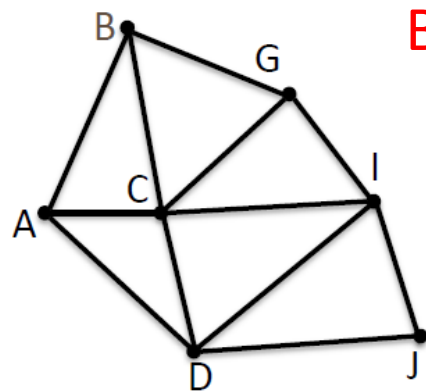
- **Complete**: Always find a **valid** path if there exists one
- **Optimal**: When a path is found, it is always the **shortest**

# Breadth-first search (BFS)

- **Complete** (will find a **valid** path if it exists)
- **Optimal** (guarantee the path found to be the **shortest**)
  - First solution found is the **optimal** path



# Depth-first search (DFS)

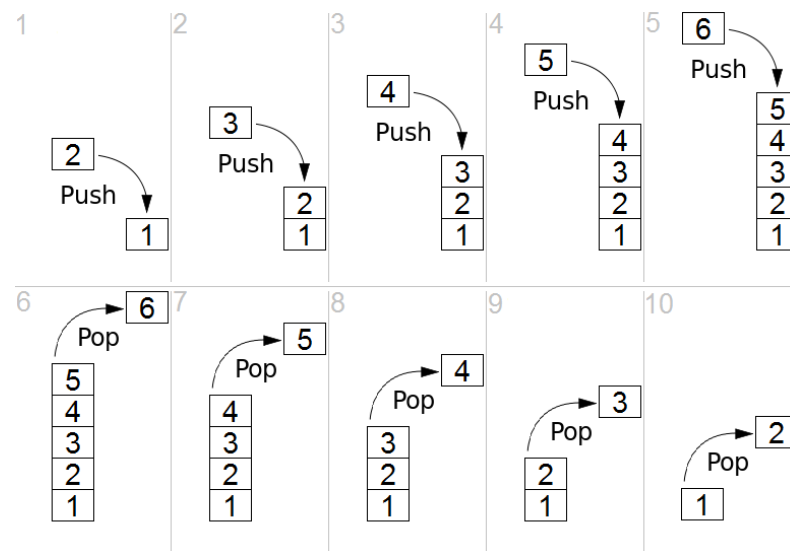


B → J ?

## FORWARD\_SEARCH

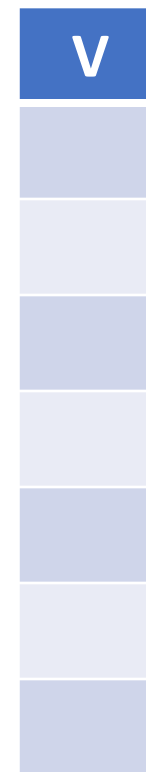
```

1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3       $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4      if  $x \in X_G$ 
5          return SUCCESS
6      forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
7           $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
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9              Mark  $x'$  as visited
10             Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11      else
12          Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
    
```

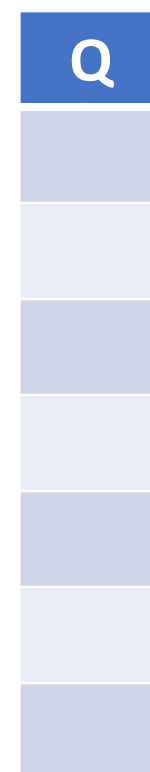


LIFO

Visited



Q

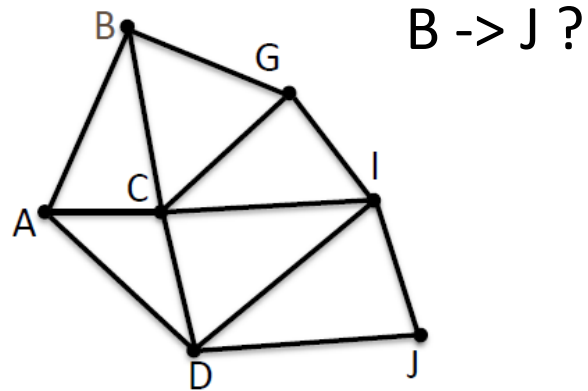


For DFS, Q is LIFO (Last In First Out)

- push (Q.Insert) onto the front
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the front

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack\\_\(abstract\\_data\\_type\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack_(abstract_data_type))

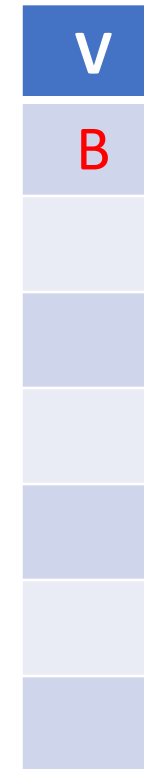
# Depth-first search (DFS)



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
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9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
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11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

Visited



Q

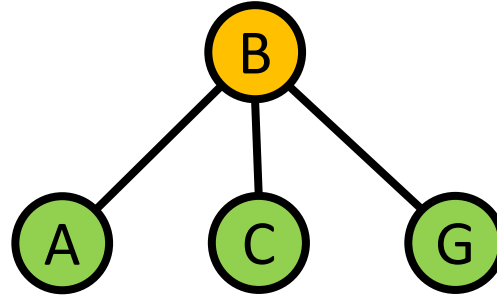
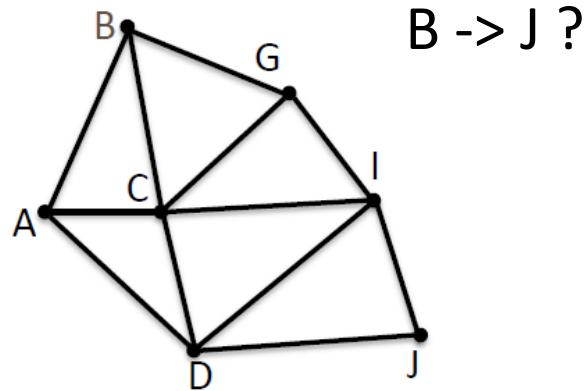


For **DFS**, *Q* is **LIFO** (Last In First Out)

- push (*Q.Insert*) onto the **front**
- pop (*Q.GetFirst*) from the **front**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack\\_\(abstract\\_data\\_type\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack_(abstract_data_type))

# Depth-first search (DFS)



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
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8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

Visited



Q

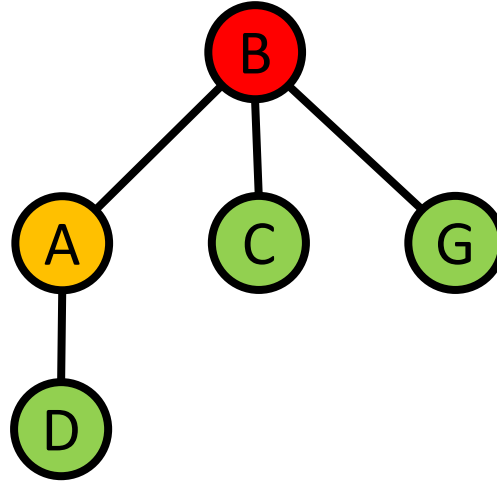
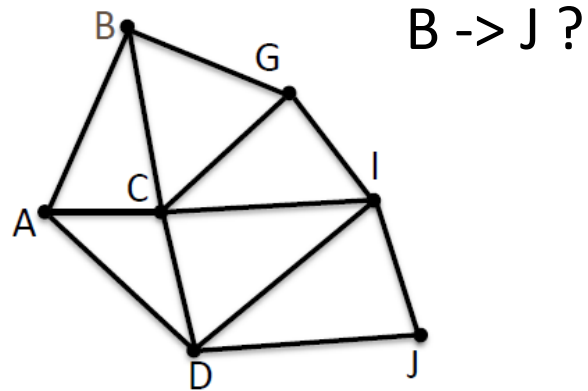


For **DFS**, Q is **LIFO (Last In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **front**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**



# Depth-first search (DFS)



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```
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9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
```

Visited



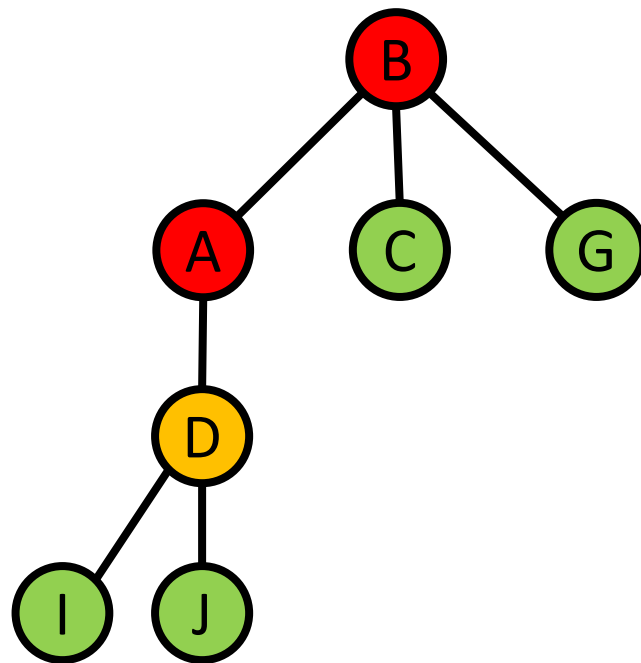
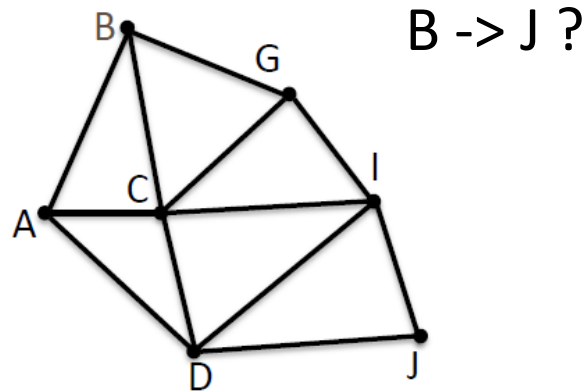
Q



For **DFS**, Q is **LIFO (Last In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **front**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Depth-first search (DFS)



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```

1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
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3       $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
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8          if  $x'$  not visited
9              Mark  $x'$  as visited
10             Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11         else
12             Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
  
```

Visited

V
B
A
C
G
D
I
J

Q

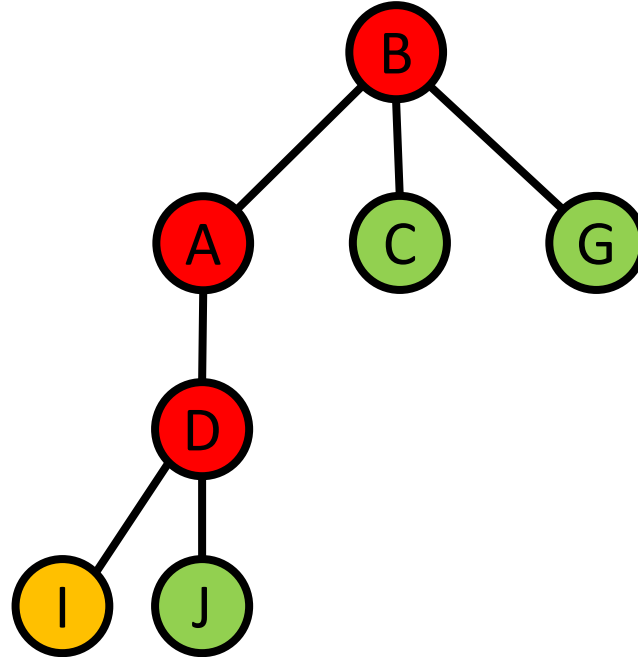
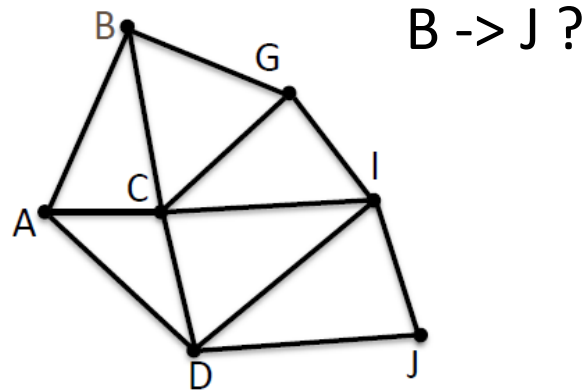
Q
I
J
C
G



For **DFS**, Q is **LIFO (Last In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **front**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Depth-first search (DFS)



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```
1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while Q not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
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9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
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```

Visited

V
B
A
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G
D
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J

Q

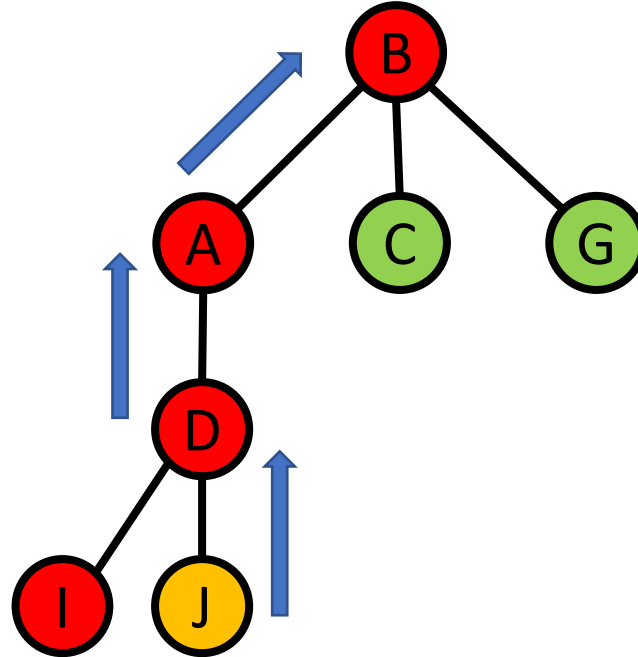
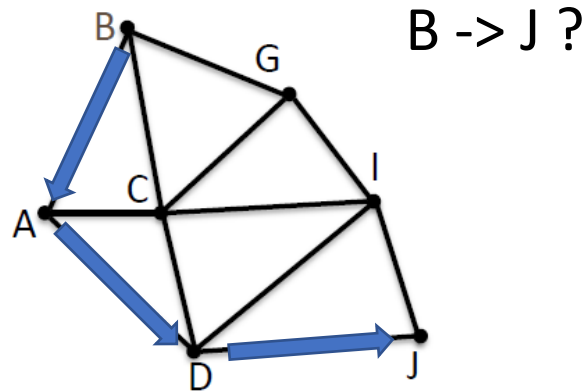
Q
J
C
G



For **DFS**, Q is **LIFO (Last In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **front**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# Depth-first search (DFS)



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```

1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
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3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
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6  forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
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8    if  $x'$  not visited
9      Mark  $x'$  as visited
10     Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11  else
12    Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
  
```

Visited

V
B
A
C
G
D
I
J

Q

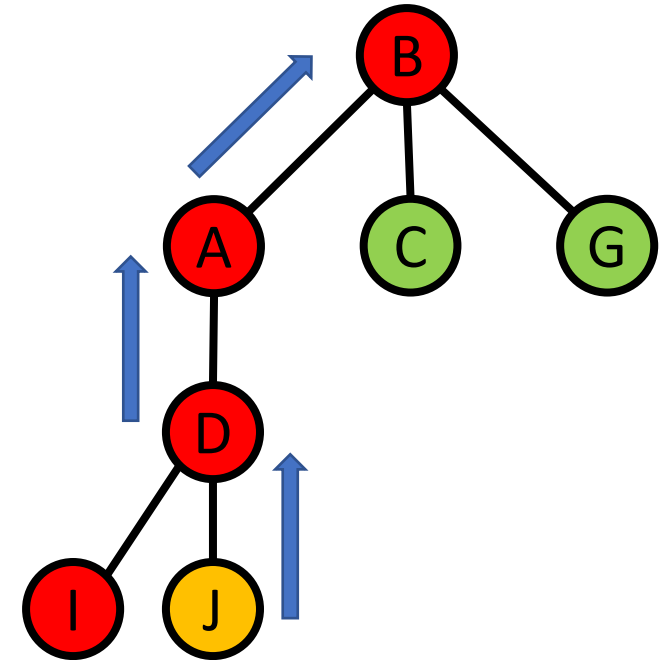
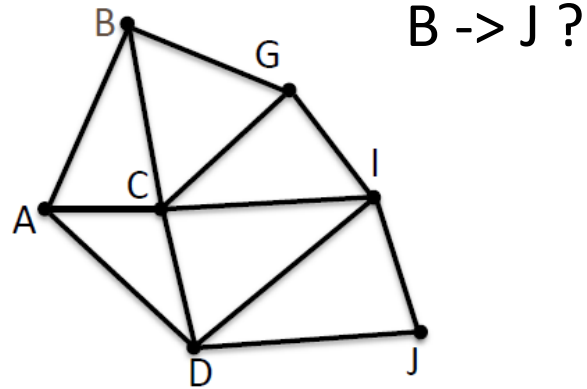
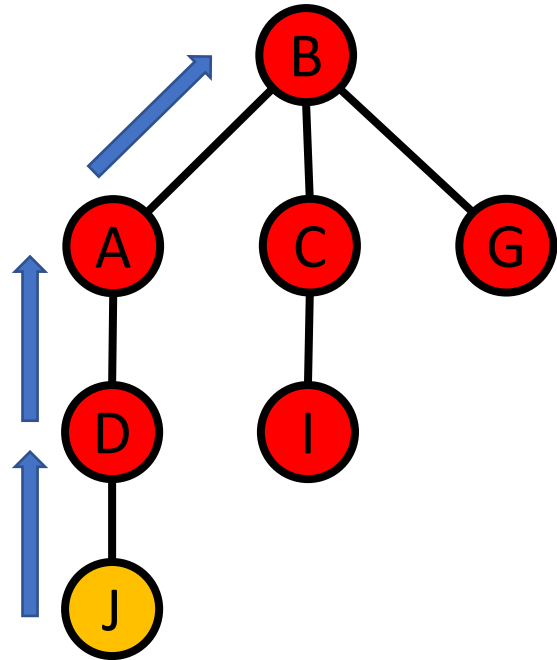
Q



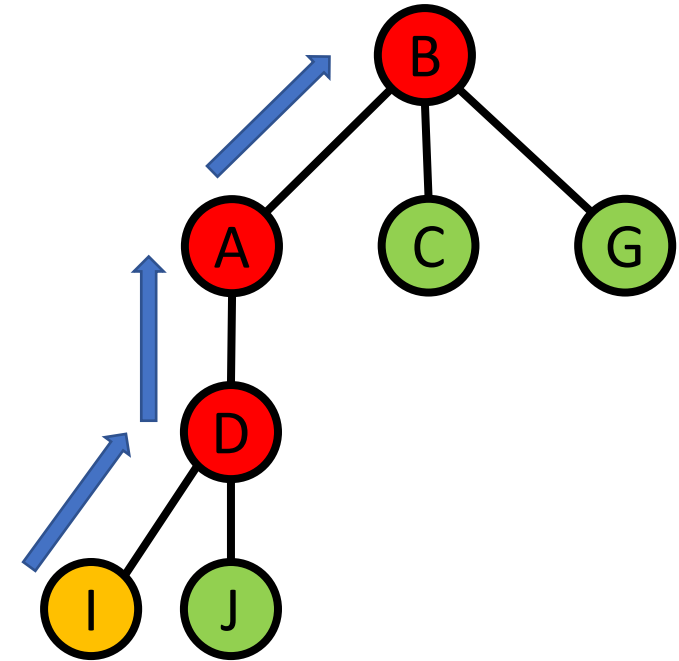
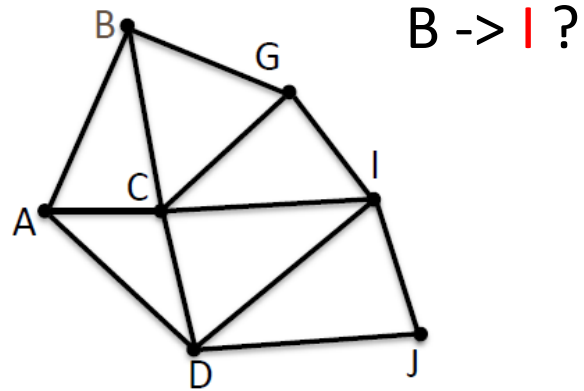
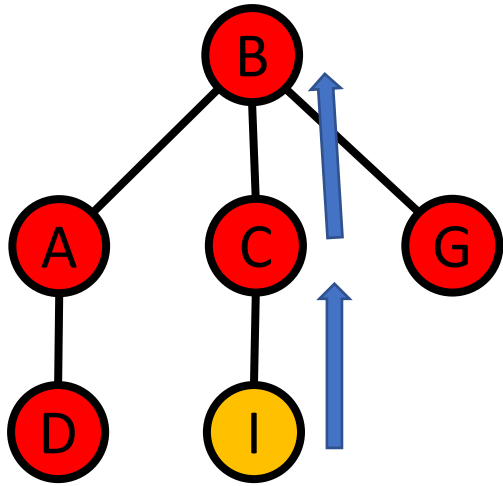
For **DFS**, Q is **LIFO (Last In First Out)**

- push (Q.Insert) onto the **front**
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# BFS vs DFS



# BFS vs DFS

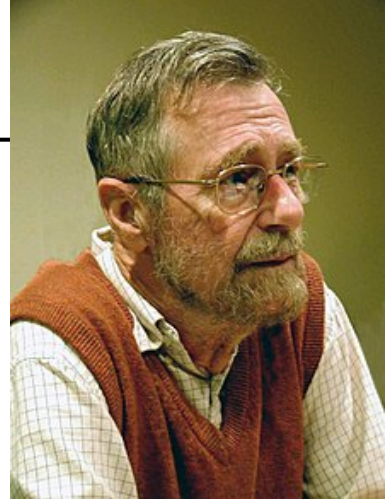
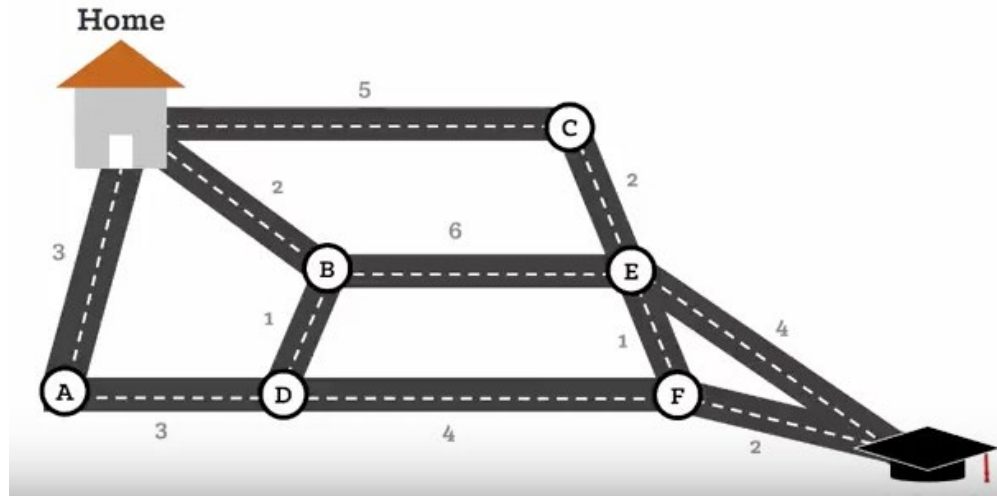


# Depth-first search (DFS)

- **Not complete** for infinite trees (may explore an incorrect branch infinitely deep, never come back up)
- **Not optimal** (**cannot** guarantee path found is the **shortest**)
- **Lower** memory footprint than BFS with high-branching
- Both BFS and DFS are **simple to implement**, but might be inefficient. More complex algorithms are faster, but generally more difficult to implement

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

- What if edges have **non-uniform** weights (costs)?

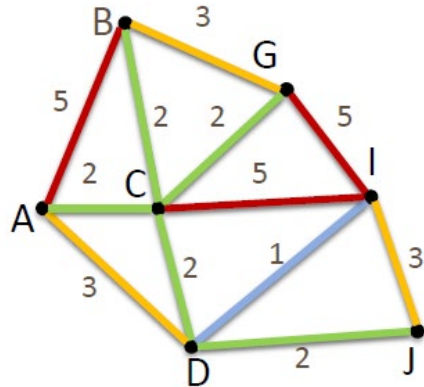


Edsger W Dijkstra  
1930-2002

- Essentially, **BFS** considering **edge costs**
- One of the **most commonly used** routing algorithms in graph traversal problems



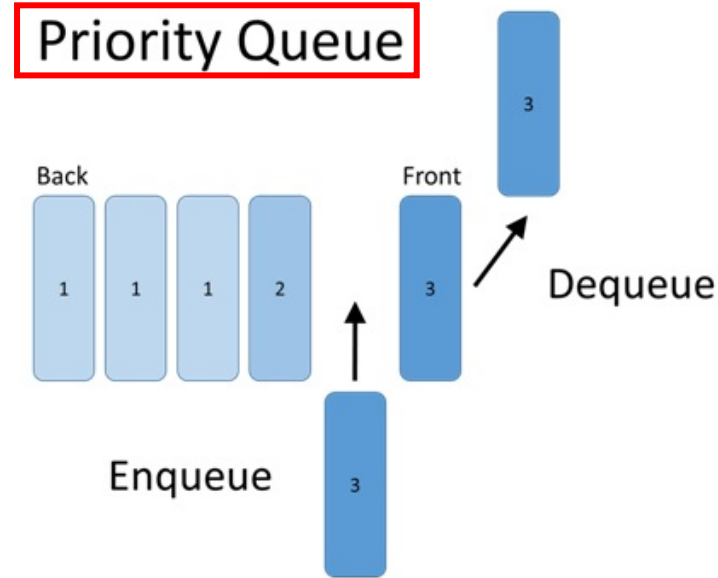
# Dijkstra's Algorithm



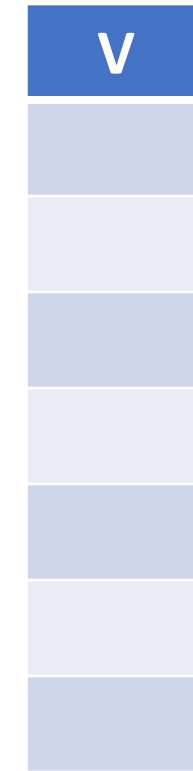
## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```

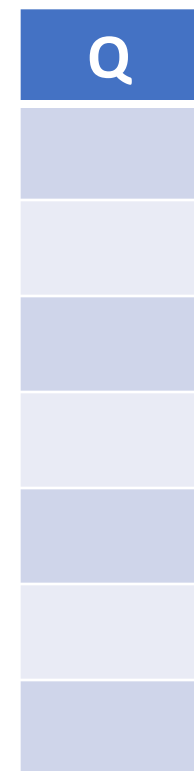
1   $Q.Insert(x_I)$  and mark  $x_I$  as visited
2  while  $Q$  not empty do
3     $x \leftarrow Q.GetFirst()$ 
4    if  $x \in X_G$ 
5      return SUCCESS
6    forall  $u \in U(x)$ 
7       $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10        $Q.Insert(x')$ 
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
  
```



Visited



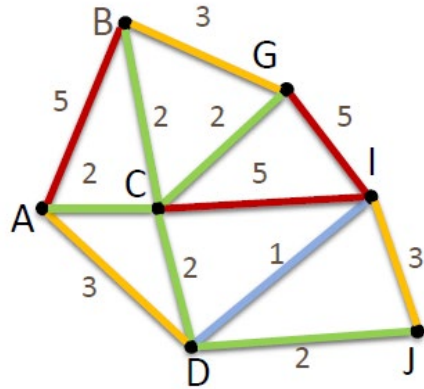
Q



For DA, Q is Priority Queue

- push ( $Q.Insert$ ) by arrive cost
- pop ( $Q.GetFirst$ ) from the front

# Dijkstra's Algorithm



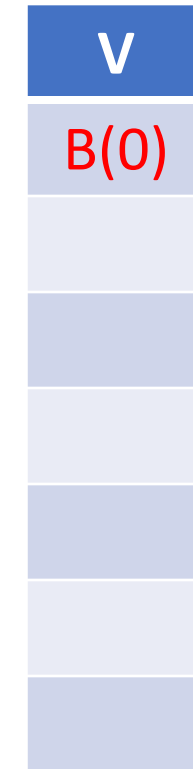
B(0)

## FORWARD\_SEARCH

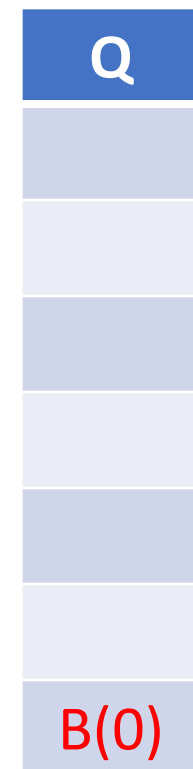
```

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7       $x' \leftarrow f(x, u)$ 
8      if  $x'$  not visited
9        Mark  $x'$  as visited
10       Q.Insert( $x'$ )
11    else
12      Resolve duplicate  $x'$ 
13  return FAILURE
  
```

Visited



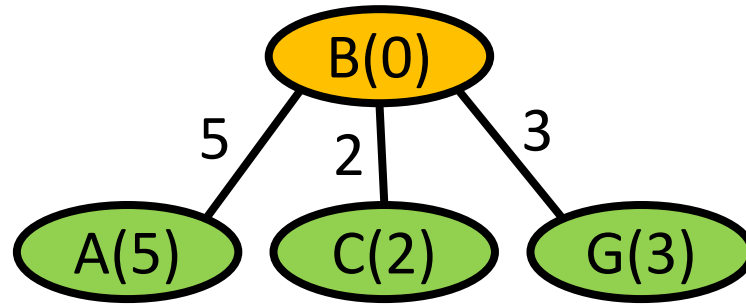
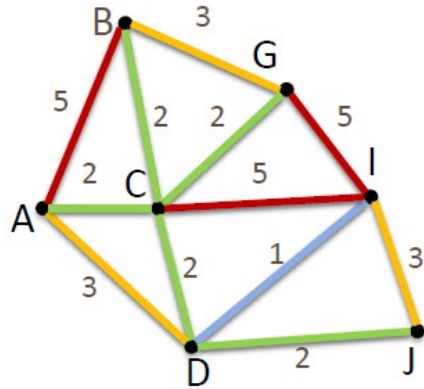
Q



For DA, Q is Priority Queue

- push (*Q.Insert*) by arrive cost
- pop (*Q.GetFirst*) from the front

# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```

1  Q.Insert( $x_I$ ) and mark  $x_I$  as visited
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```

Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(5)

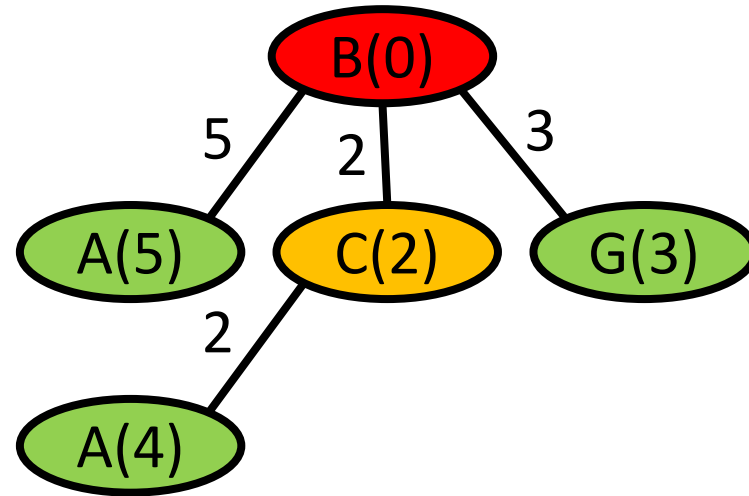
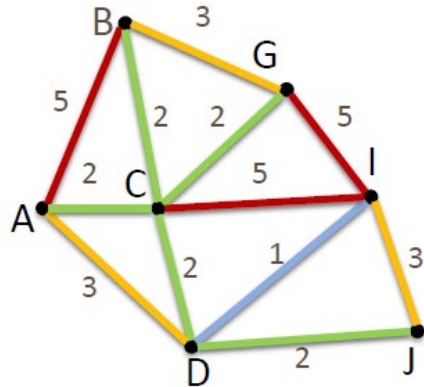
Q

Q
C(2)
G(3)
A(5)

For DA, Q is Priority Queue

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# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

```

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```

Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)

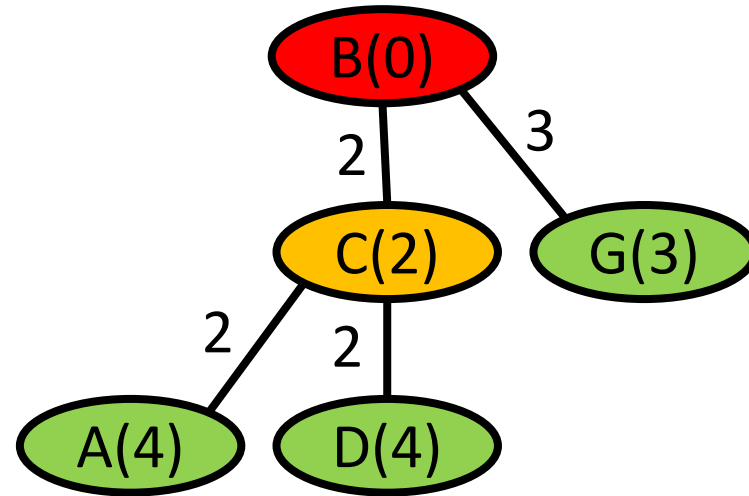
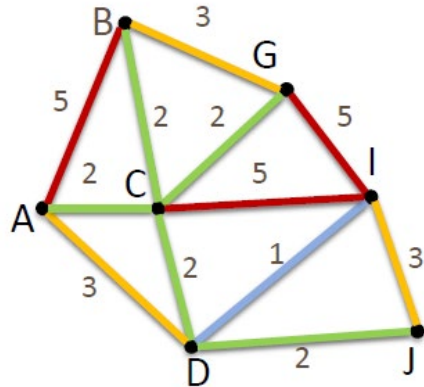
Q

Q
G(3)
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# Dijkstra's Algorithm



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```

Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)

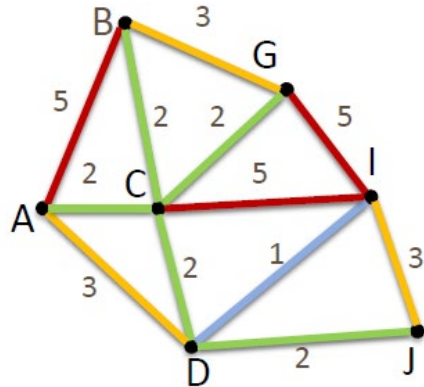
Q

Q
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)

For DA, Q is Priority Queue

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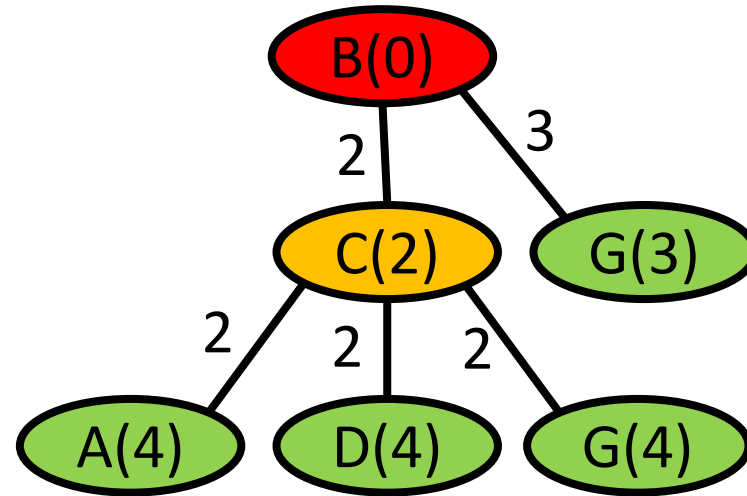
# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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```



Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)

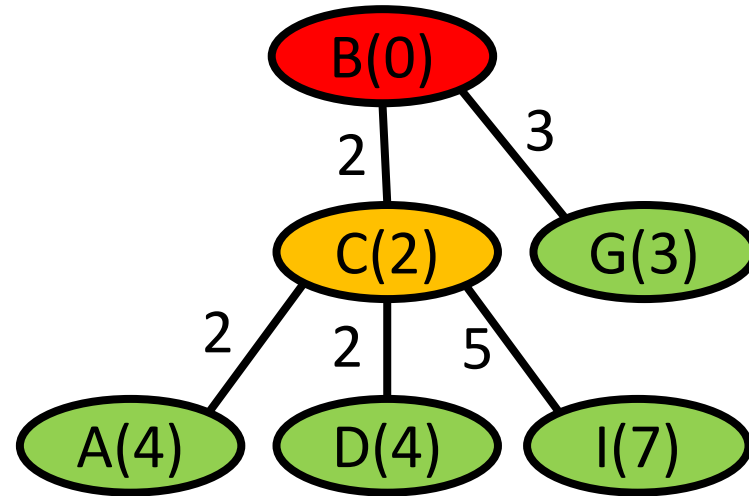
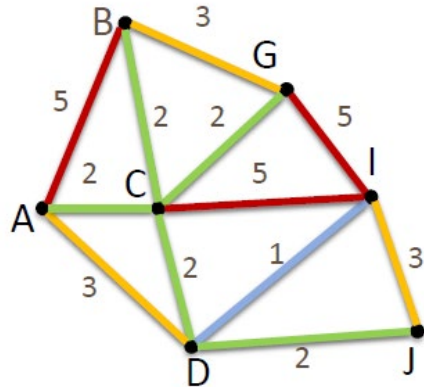
Q

Q
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)

For DA, Q is **Priority Queue**

- push ( $Q.Insert$ ) by **arrive cost**
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# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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```

Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(7)

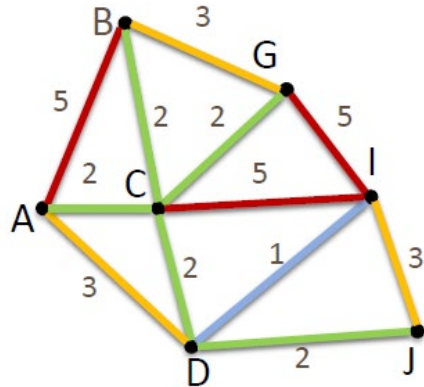
Q

Q
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(7)

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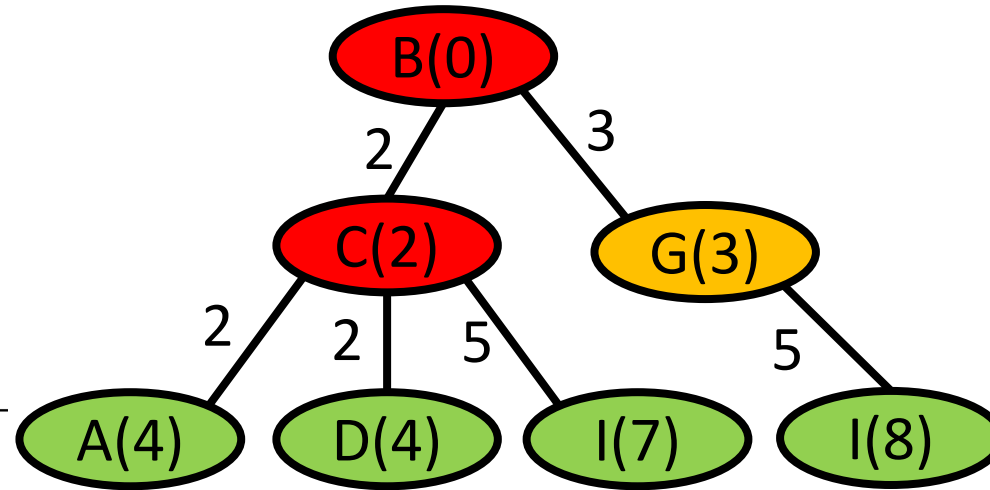
# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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Visited

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B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(7)

Q

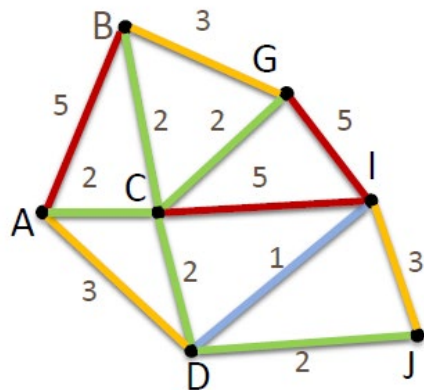
Q
A(4)
D(4)
I(7)

For DA, Q is **Priority Queue**

- push ( $Q.Insert$ ) by **arrive cost**
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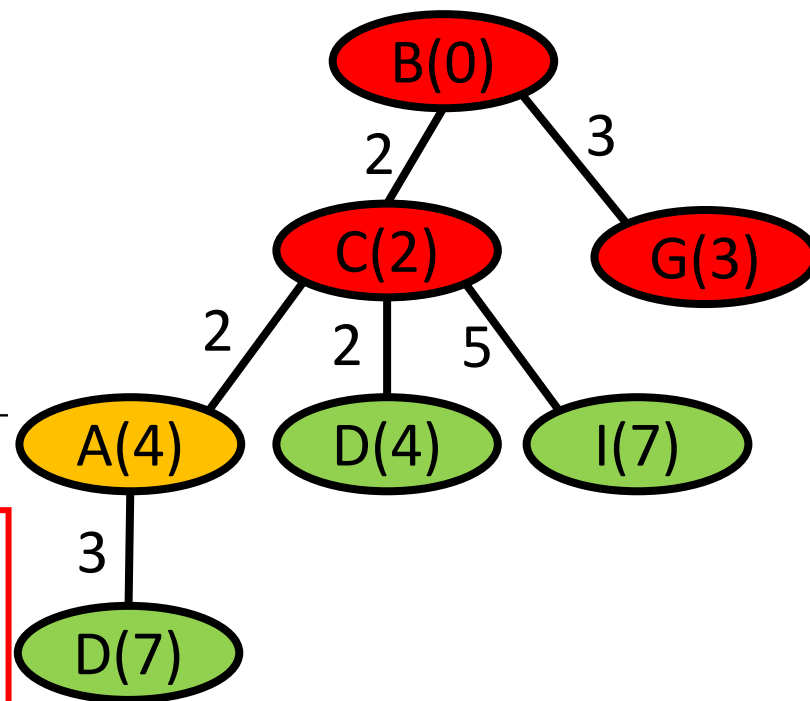
# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(7)

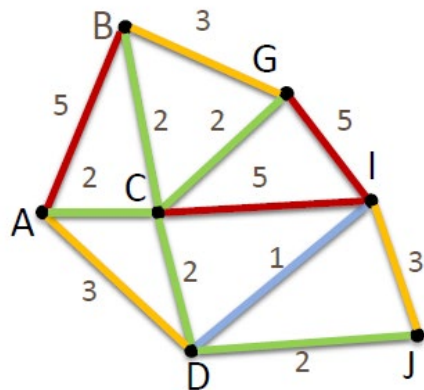
Q

Q
D(4)
I(7)

For DA, Q is Priority Queue

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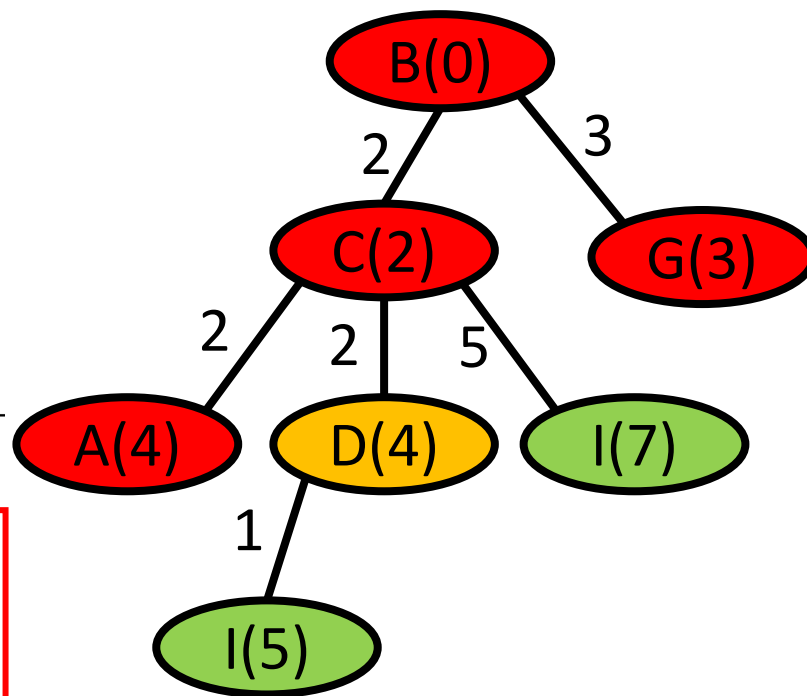
# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(5)

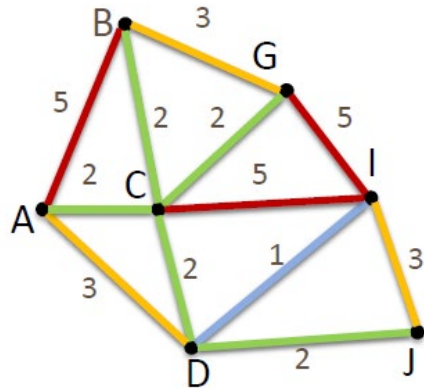
Q

Q
I(5)

For DA, Q is **Priority Queue**

- push (Q.Insert) by **arrive cost**
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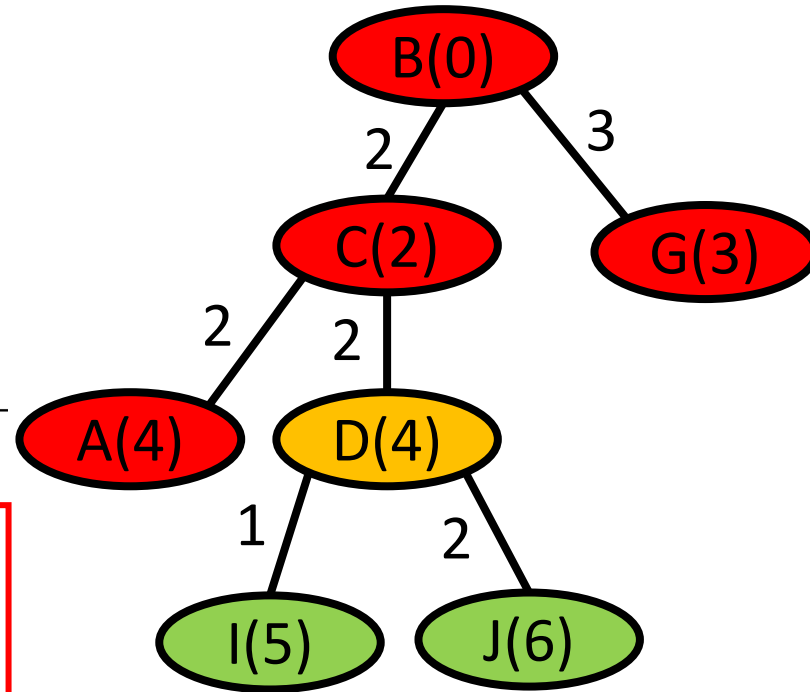
# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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```



Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(5)
J(6)

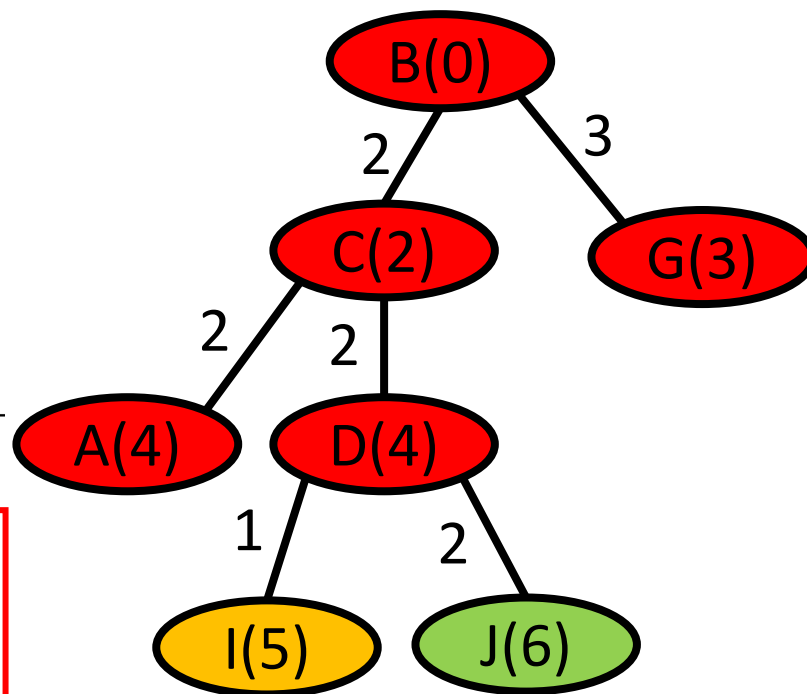
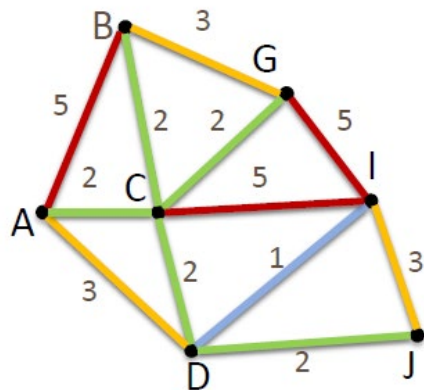
Q

Q
I(5)
J(6)

For DA, Q is Priority Queue

- push ( $Q.Insert$ ) by arrive cost
- pop ( $Q.GetFirst$ ) from the front

# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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Visited

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B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(5)
J(6)

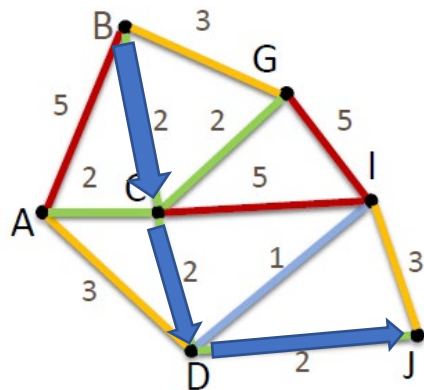
Q

Q
J(6)

For DA, Q is **Priority Queue**

- push ( $Q.Insert$ ) by **arrive cost**
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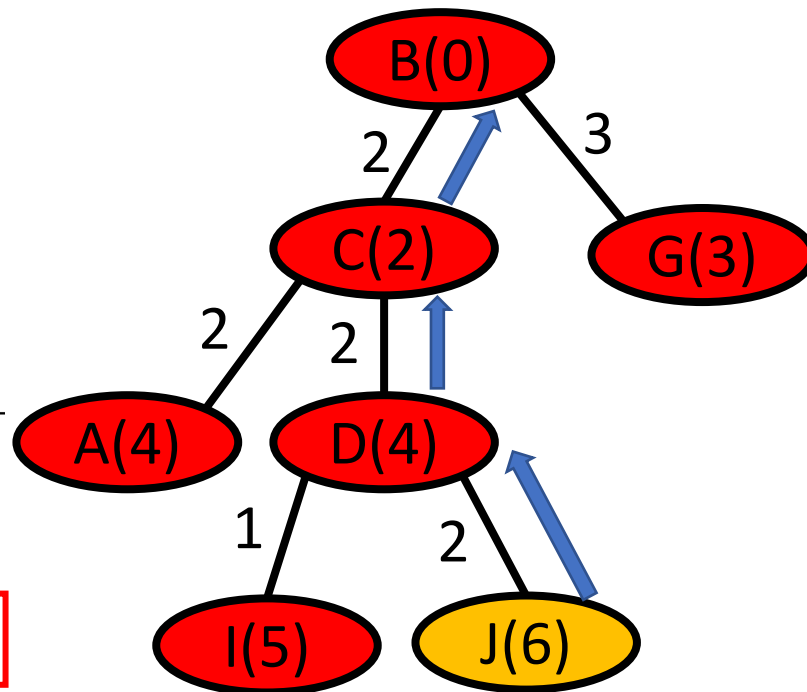
# Dijkstra's Algorithm



## FORWARD\_SEARCH

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```



Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(5)
J(6)

Q

Q

For DA, Q is **Priority Queue**

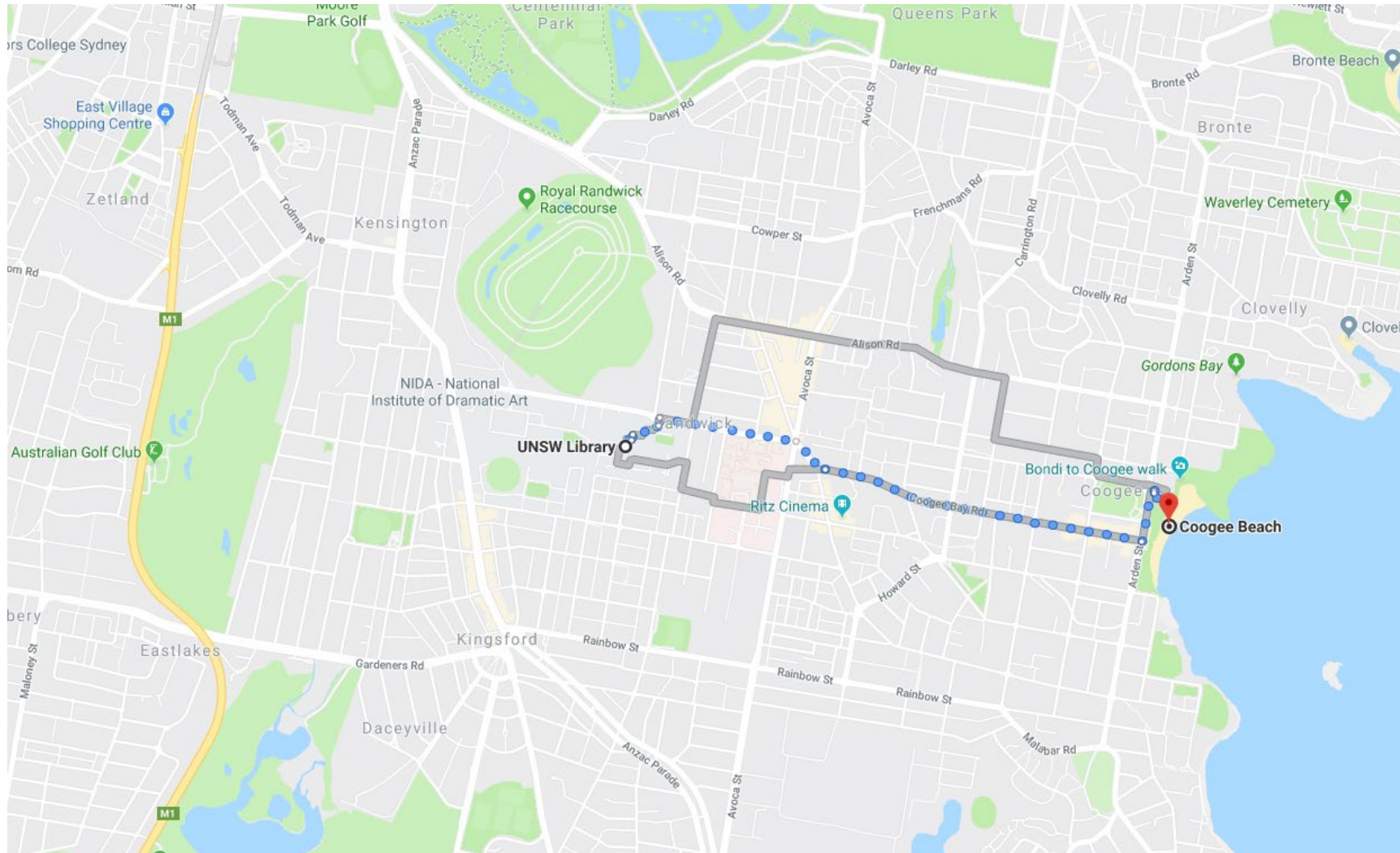
- push ( $Q.Insert$ ) by **arrive cost**
- pop ( $Q.GetFirst$ ) from the **front**

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

- At the end, we can recover the **lowest-cost** route from the start to any node (or any node with cost < goal if we terminate at a goal)
- Not difficult to implement, but requires a little bit of careful management with the **priority queue**
- Doesn't really know the goal exists until it **reaches** it
  - Can we **guide** the search to expand nodes that are **closer** to the goal earlier?
  - Can we do it **without** breaking the condition that a node is only accepted with its lowest cost of arrival?

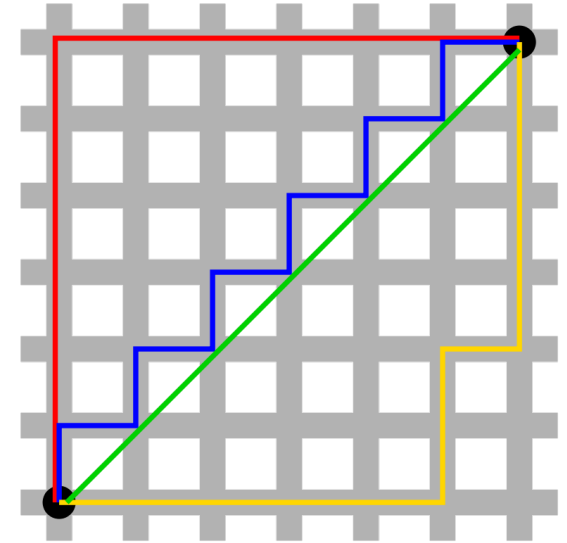


# Dijkstra's Algorithm -> A\* Algorithm



# A\* Heuristic Search

- A\* is an **extension** of Dijkstra's algorithm, and achieves **faster** performance by using **heuristics**
- Heuristics:
  - Any **optimistic estimate** of how close a state is to a goal
  - Designed for a **particular** search problem
  - Example: **Euclidean** distance, **Manhattan** distance, etc.

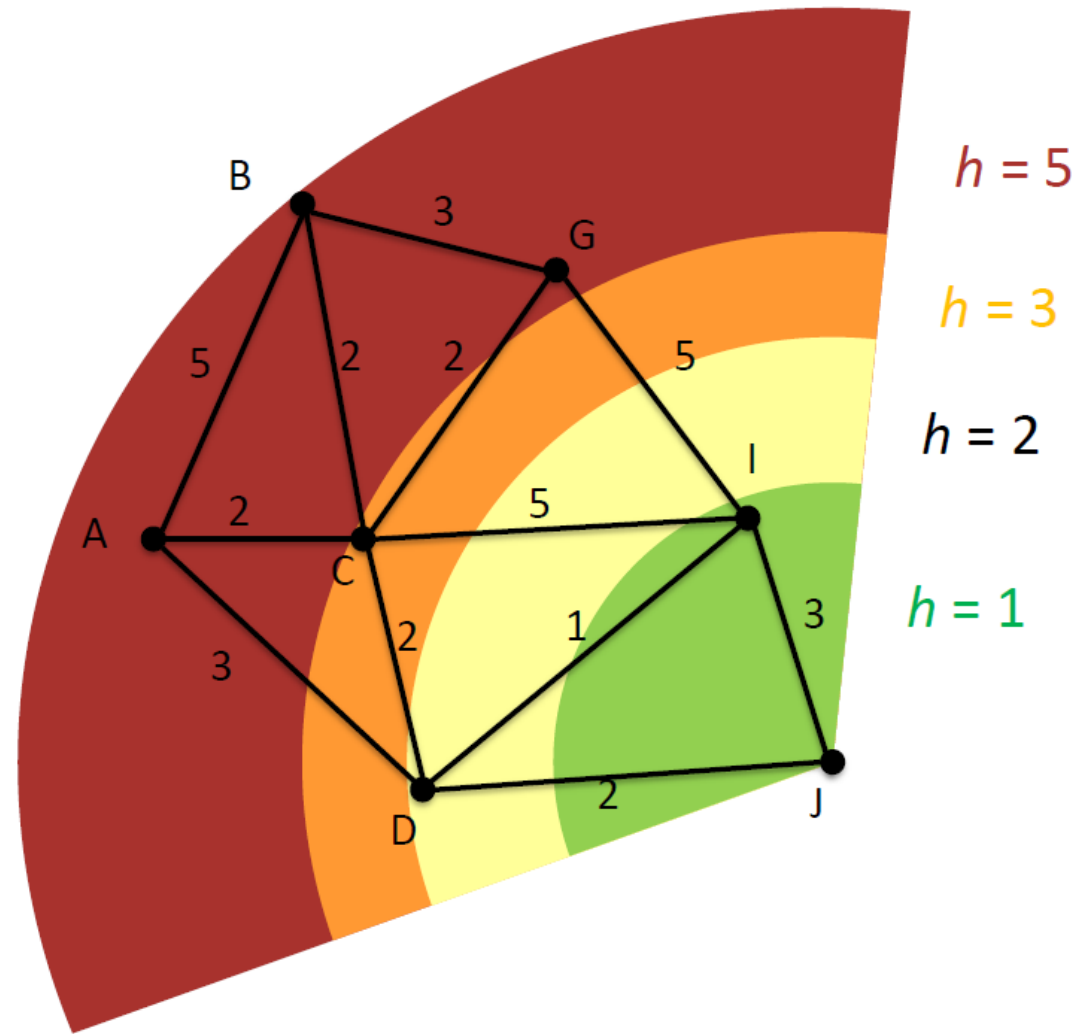


Green: Euclidean distance  
Red/Yellow/Blue: Manhattan distance

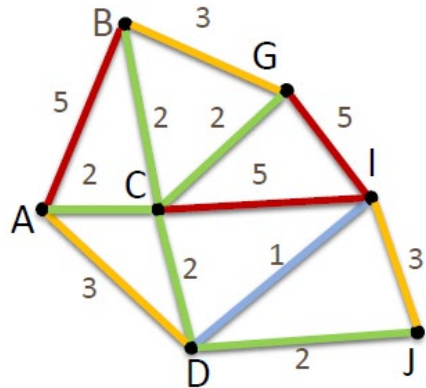
- A\* **Priority:**  $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$ 
  - Cost to arrive (points to  $g(n)$ )
  - Heuristic cost to goal (points to  $h(n)$ )



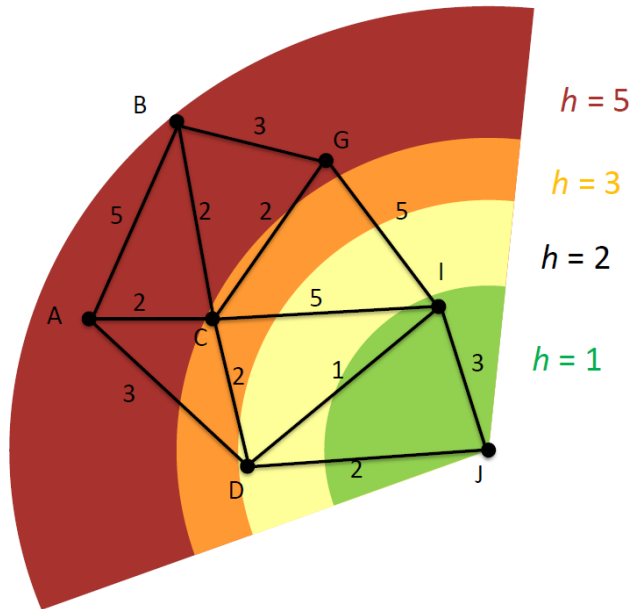
# A\* Heuristic - Example



# A\* Algorithm



B(0)



Visited

V
B(0)

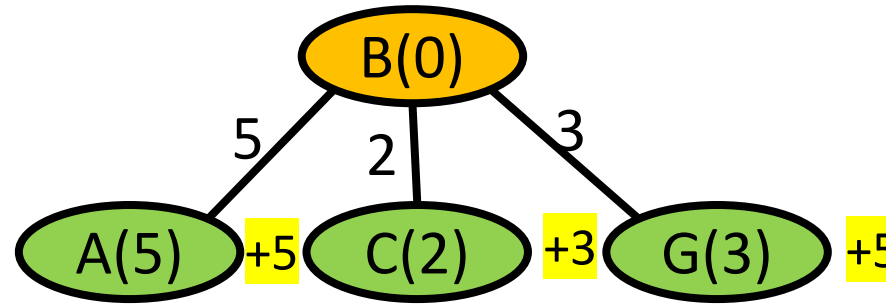
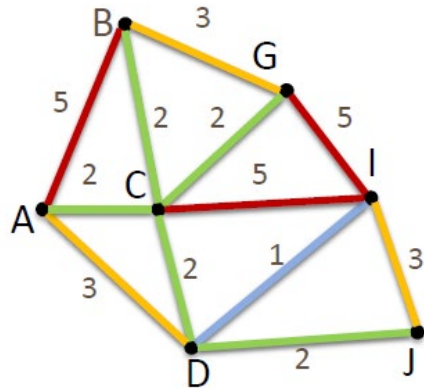
Q

Q
B(0)

For A\*, Q is **Priority Queue**

- push (Q.Insert) by  $f(n)$ , arrive + heuristic cost
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# A\* Algorithm

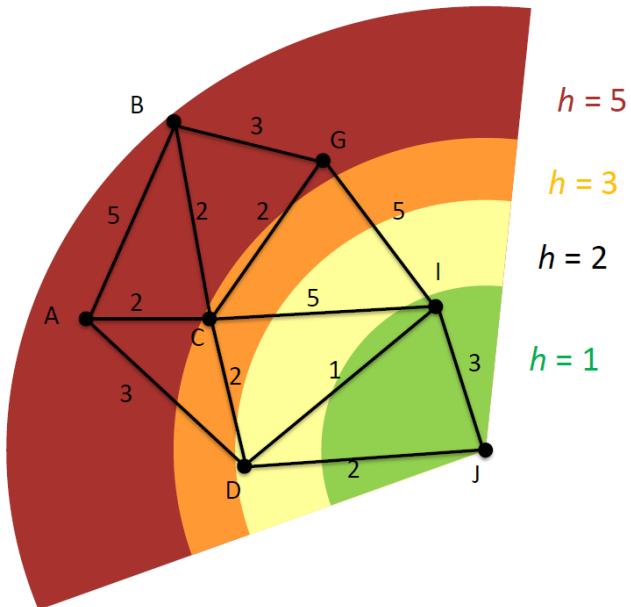


Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(5)

Q

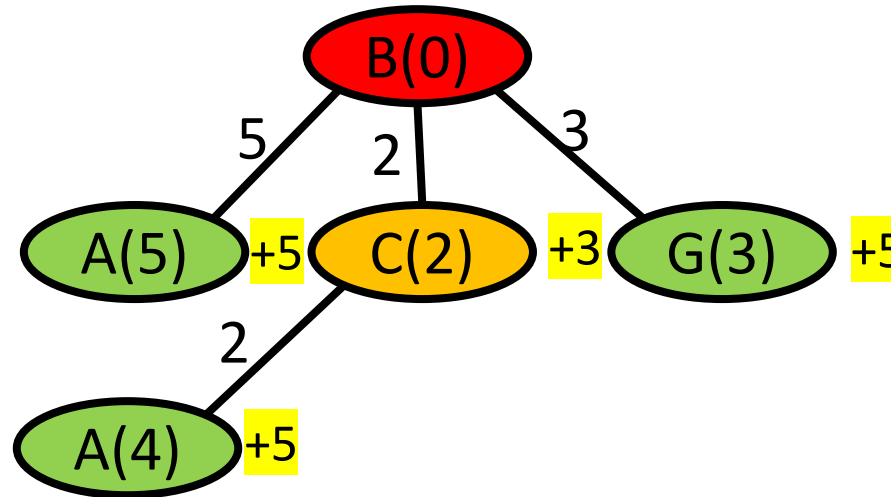
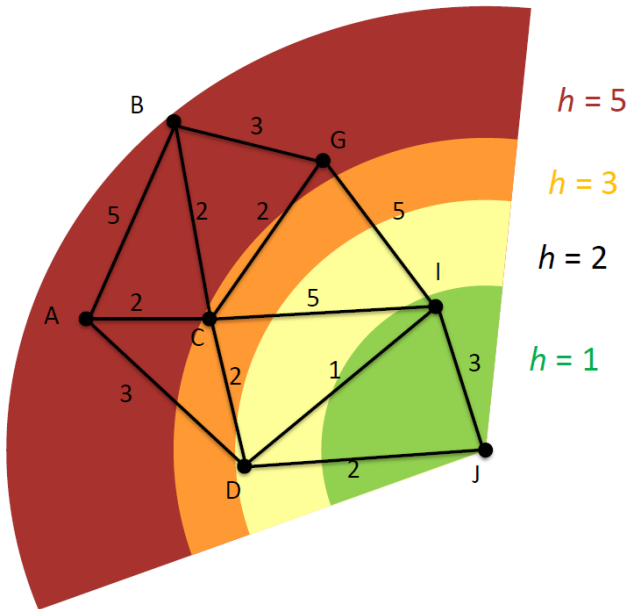
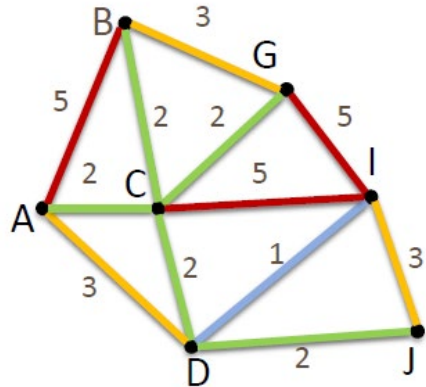
Q
C(2+3)
G(3+5)
A(5+5)



For A\*, Q is **Priority Queue**

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# A\* Algorithm



Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)

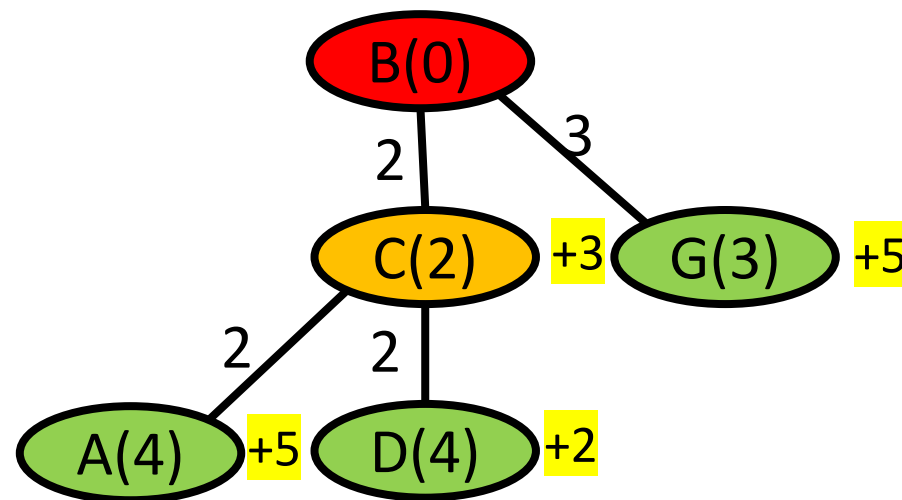
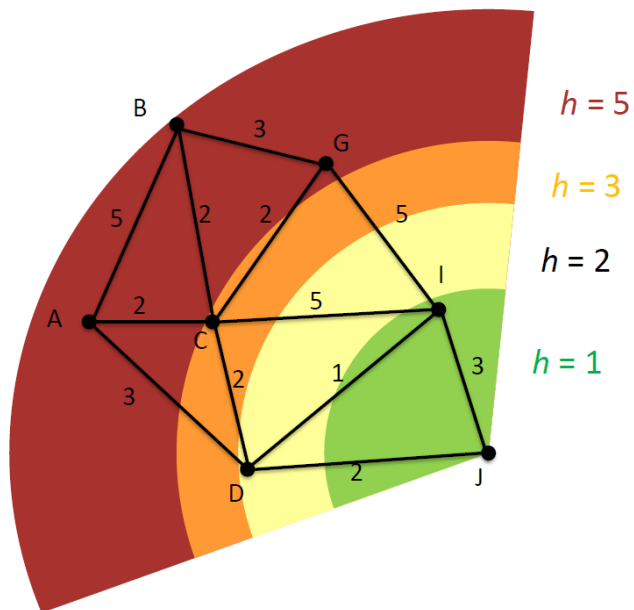
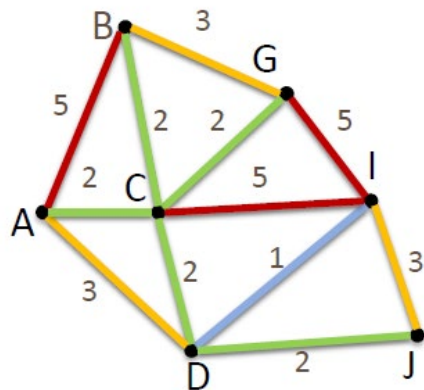
Q

Q
G(3+5)
A(4+5)

For A\*, Q is **Priority Queue**

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# A\* Algorithm



Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)

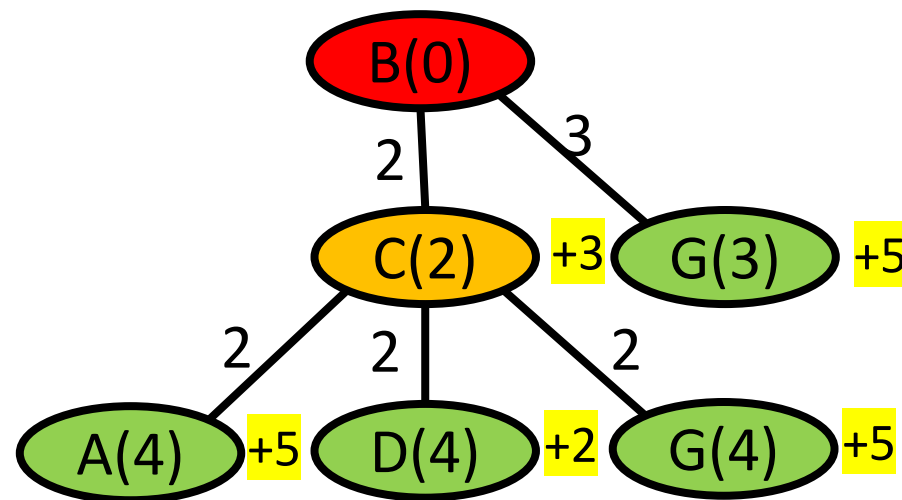
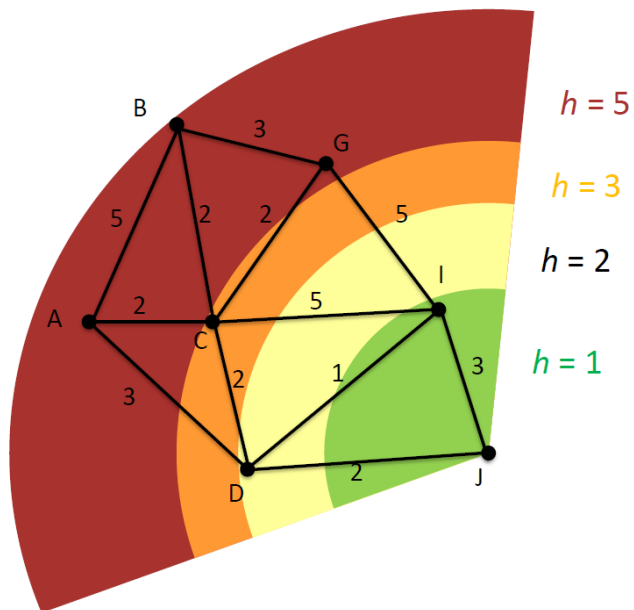
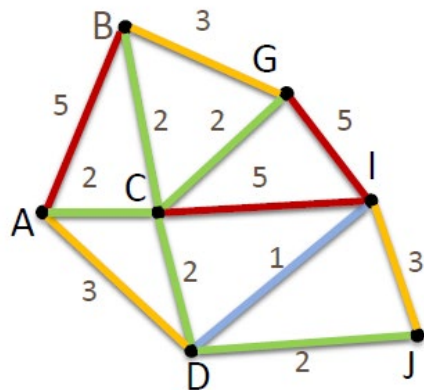
Q

Q
D(4+2)
G(3+5)
A(4+5)

For A\*, Q is **Priority Queue**

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# A\* Algorithm



Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)

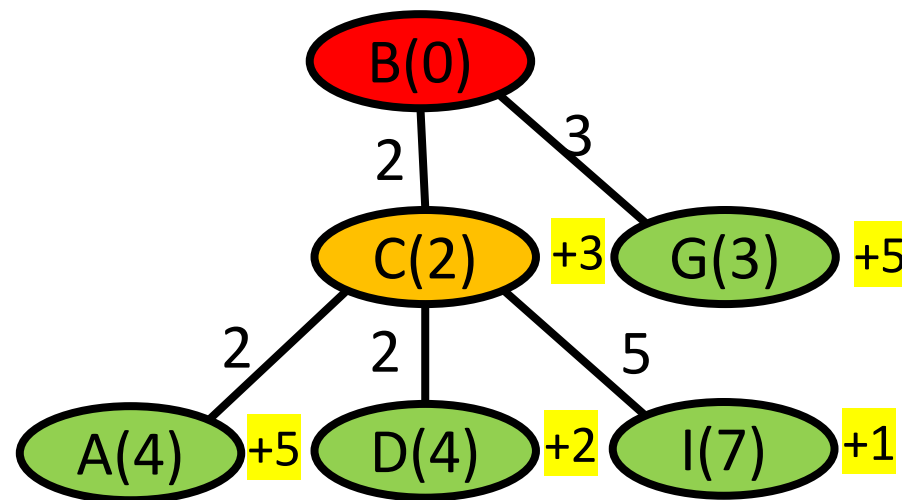
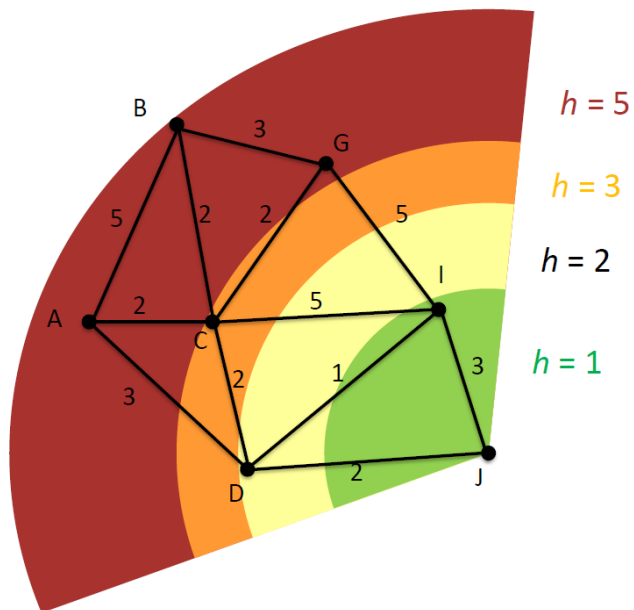
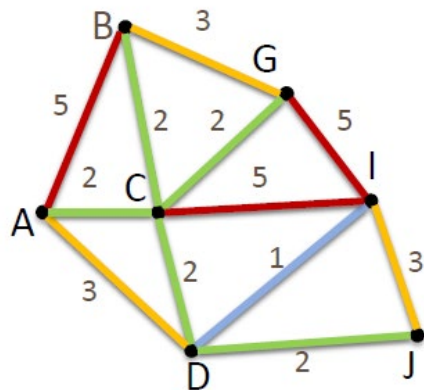
Q

Q
D(4+2)
G(3+5)
A(4+5)

For A\*, Q is **Priority Queue**

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# A\* Algorithm



Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(7)

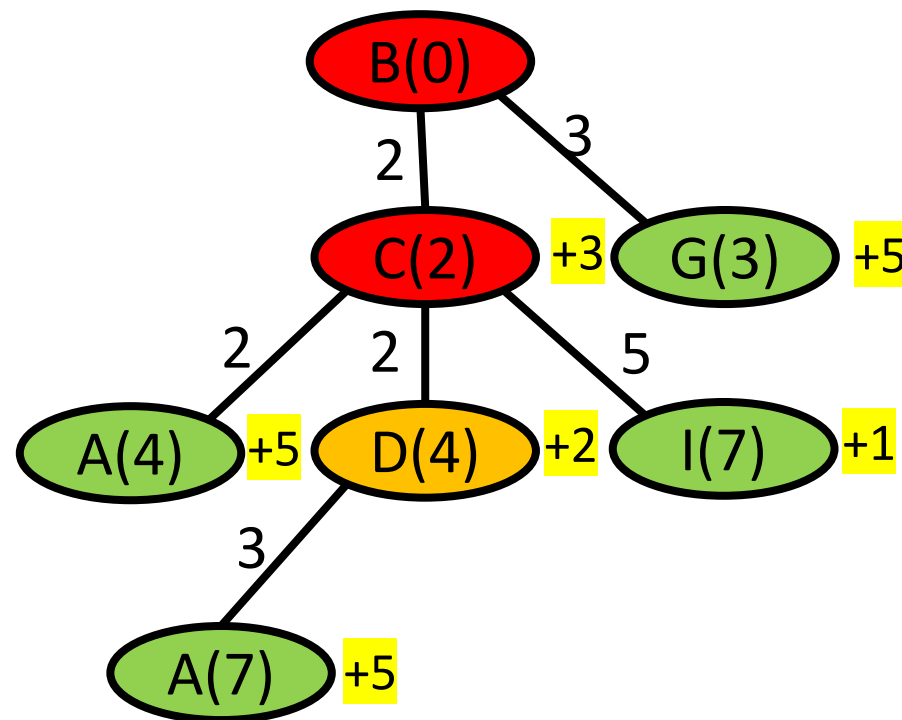
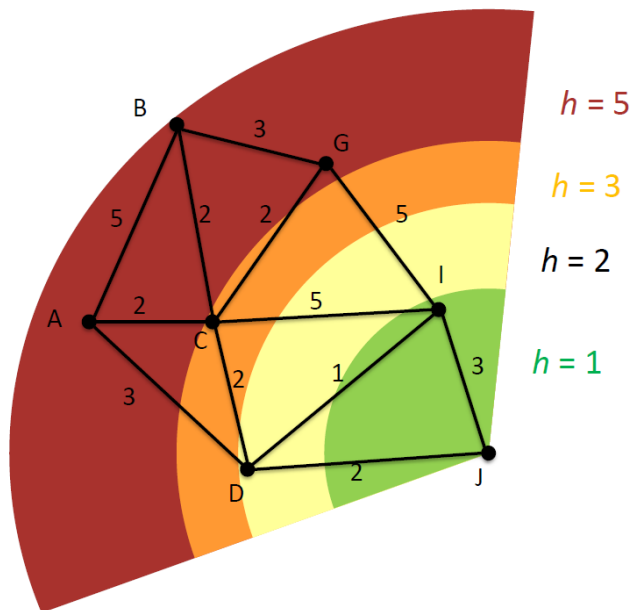
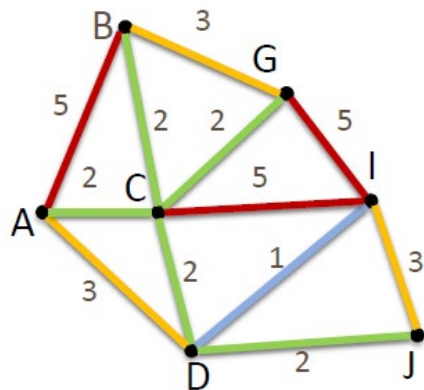
Q

Q
D(4+2)
G(3+5)
I(7+1)
A(4+5)

For A\*, Q is **Priority Queue**

- push (Q.Insert) by  $f(n)$ , arrive + heuristic cost
- pop (Q.GetFirst) from the **front**

# A\* Algorithm



Visited

V
B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(7)

Q

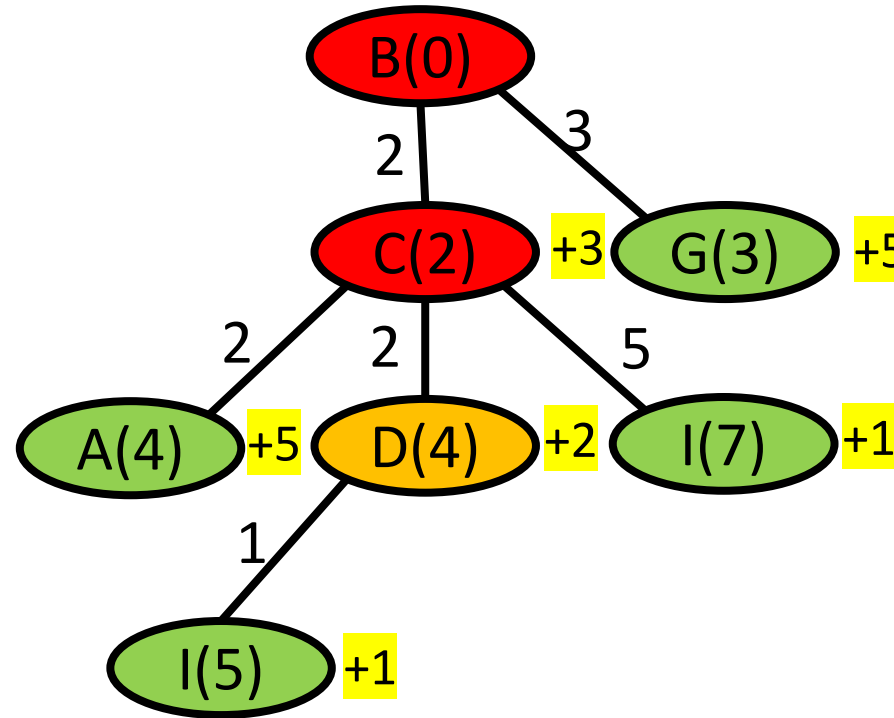
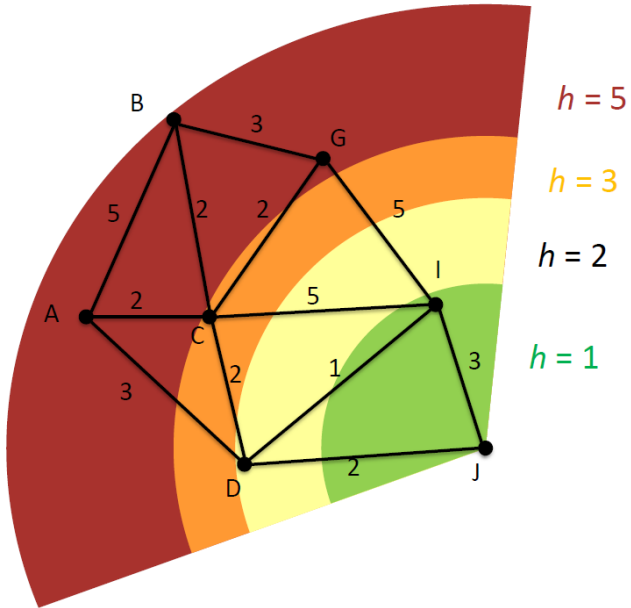
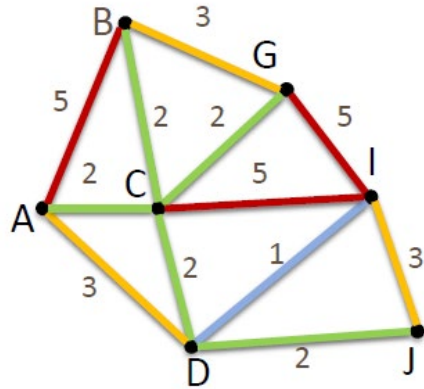
Q
G(3+5)
I(7+1)
A(4+5)

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- push (Q.Insert) by **f(n)**, arrive + heuristic cost
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# A\* Algorithm



Visited

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B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(5)

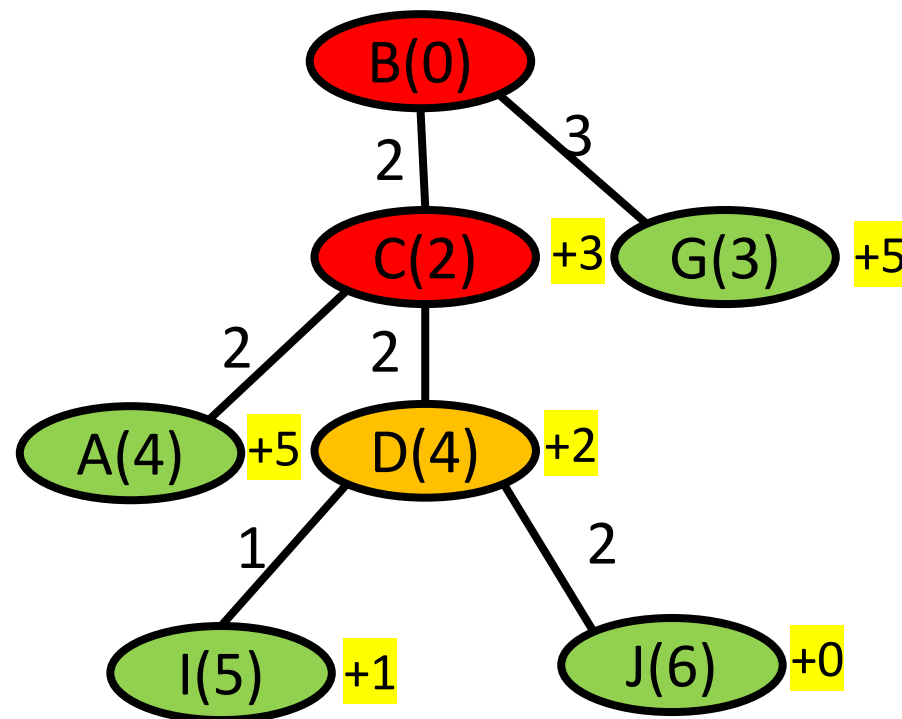
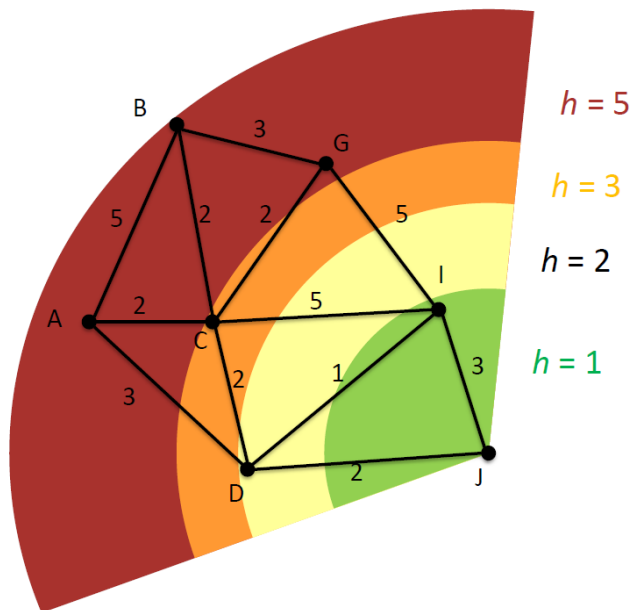
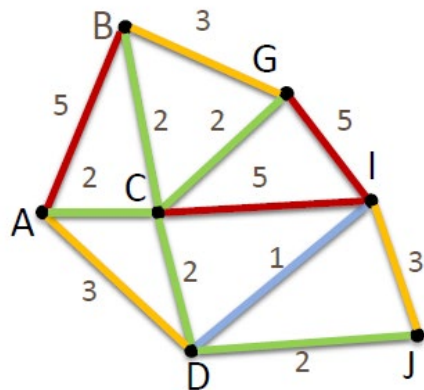
Q

Q
I(5+1)
G(3+5)
A(4+5)

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- push (Q.Insert) by  $f(n)$ , arrive + heuristic cost
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# A\* Algorithm



Visited

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B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(5)
J(6)

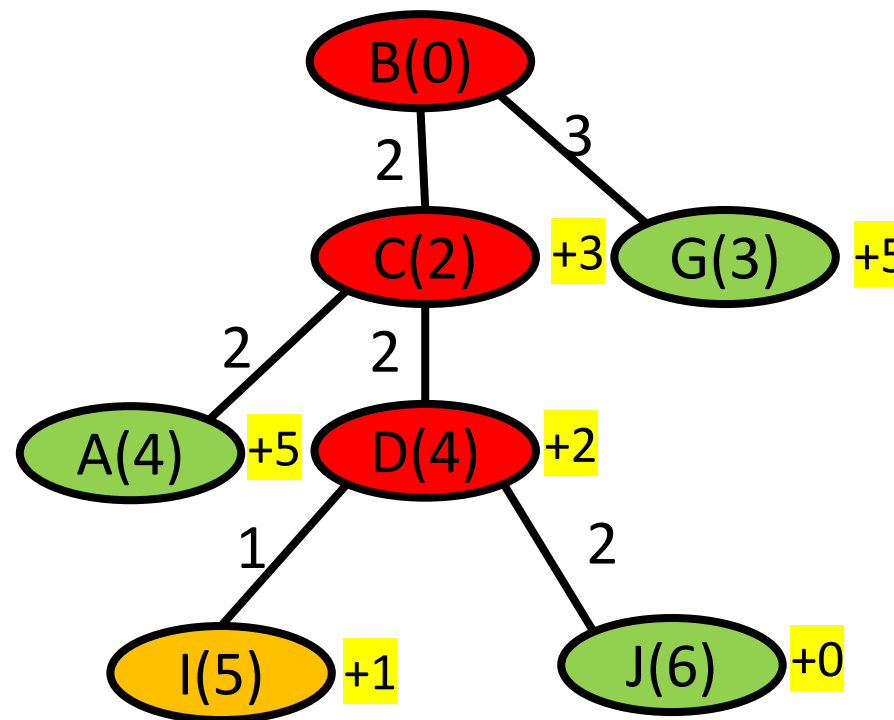
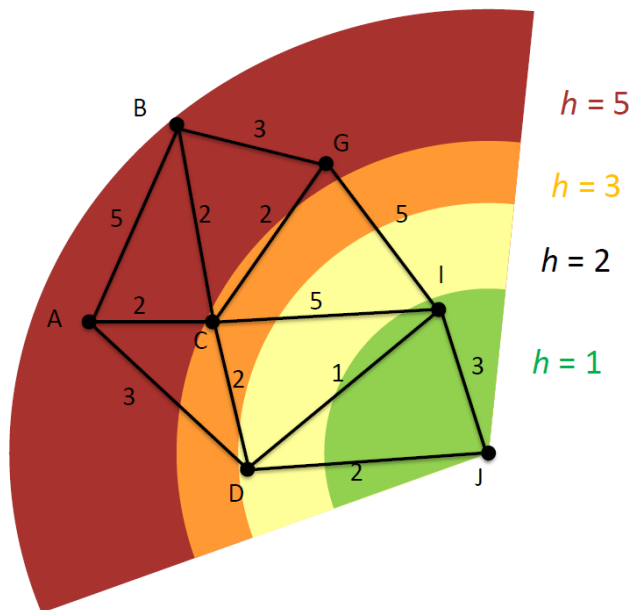
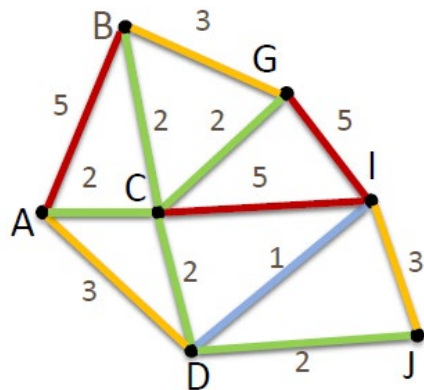
Q

Q
I(5+1)
J(6+0)
G(3+5)
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For A\*, Q is **Priority Queue**

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# A\* Algorithm



Visited

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B(0)
C(2)
G(3)
A(4)
D(4)
I(5)
J(6)

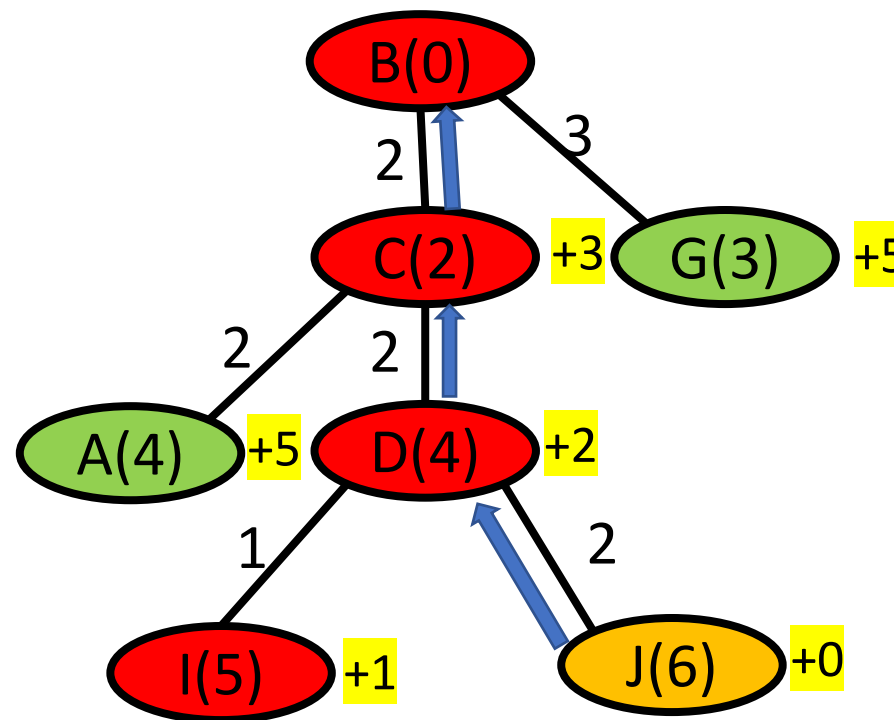
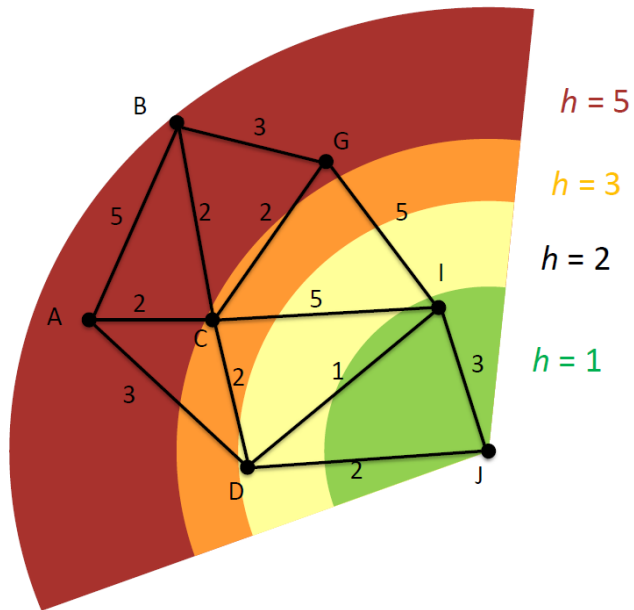
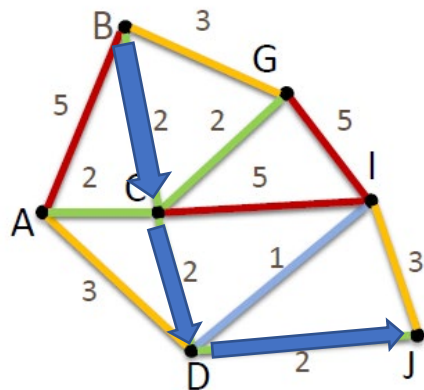
Q

Q
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# A\* Algorithm



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A(4)
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Q
G(3+5)
A(4+5)

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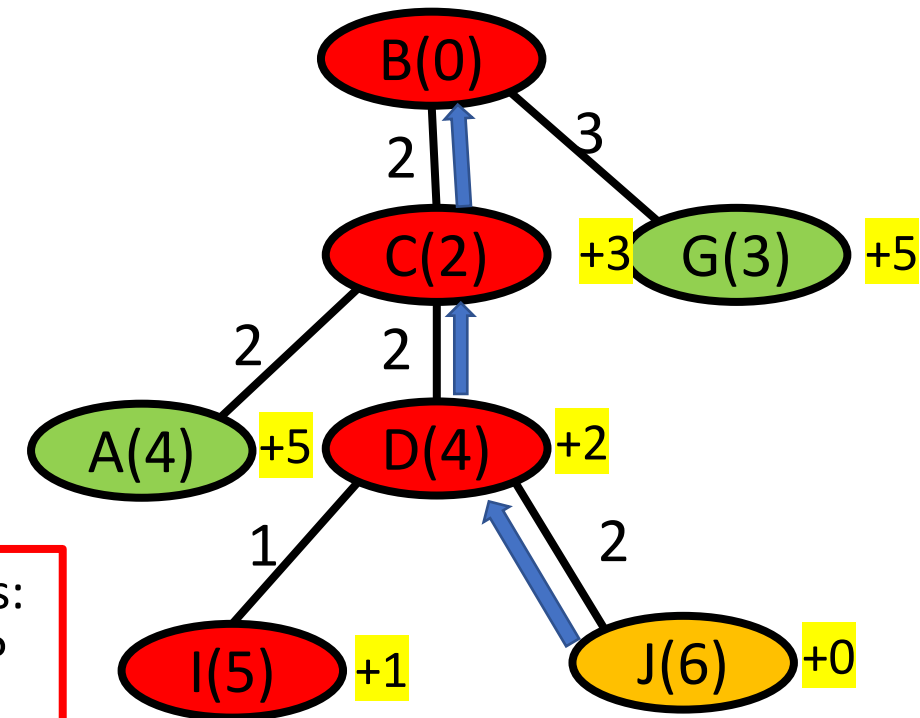
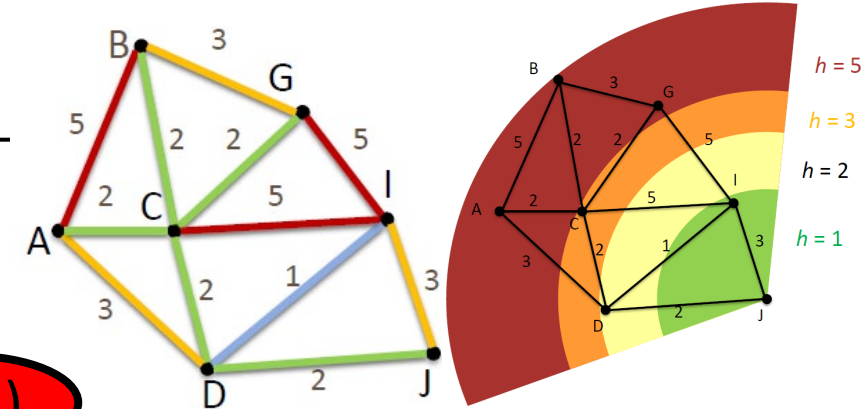
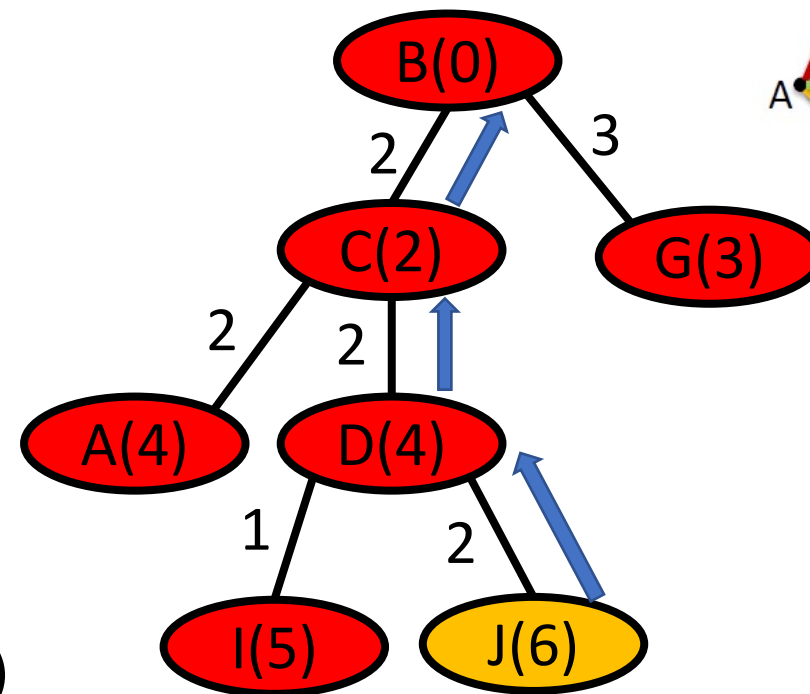
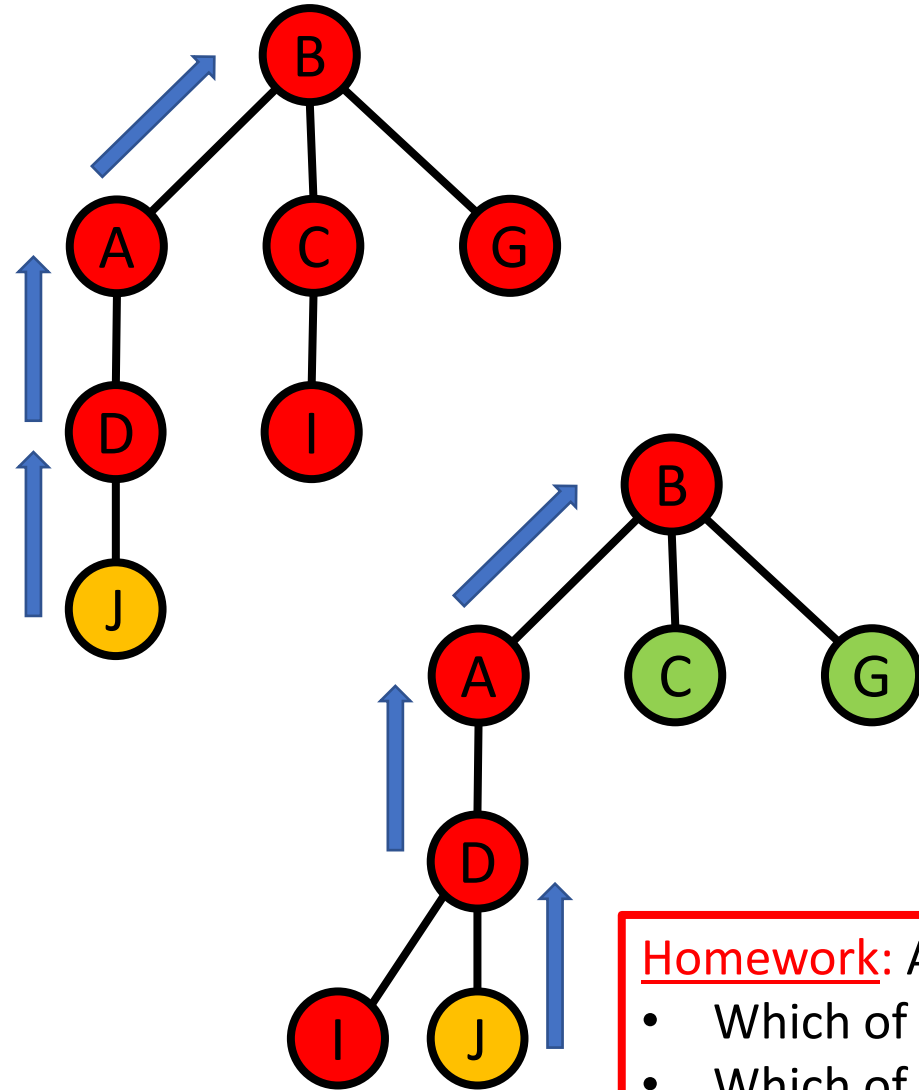
- push (Q.Insert) by  $f(n)$ , arrive + heuristic cost
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# A\* Algorithm

---

- A\* is **very commonly used** in robot planning, especially for low-dimensional state spaces
- Limitations:
  - Sometimes an **admissible** heuristic function is **difficult** to find (as hard as the problem)

# Four Planning Algorithms




Homework: Answer the following questions:

- Which of the four methods is **complete**?
- Which of the four methods is **optimal**?

**Complete:** Always find a **valid** path if there exists one  
**Optimal:** When a path is found, it is always the **shortest**

slido

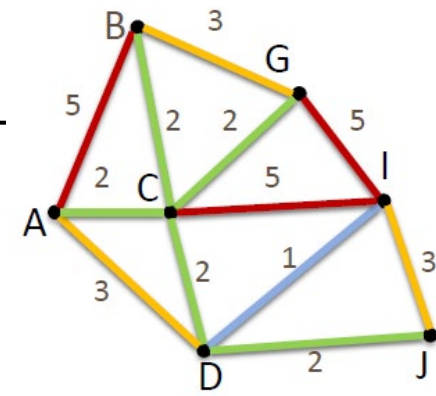
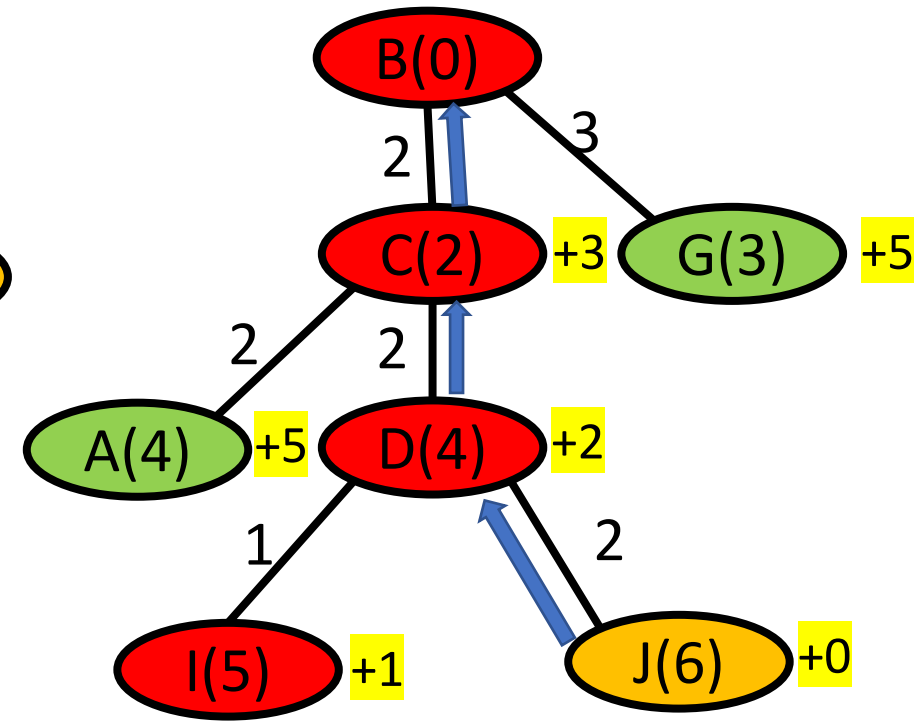
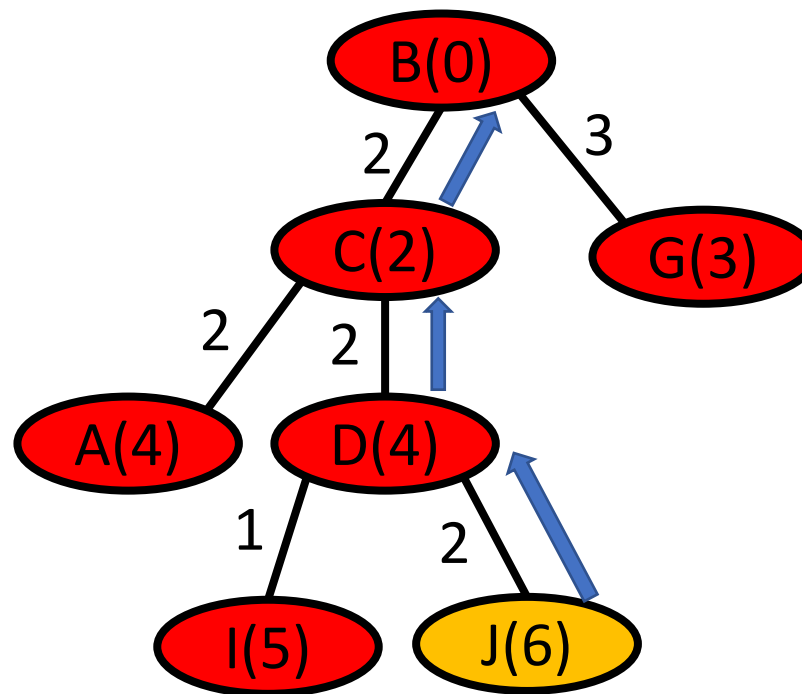
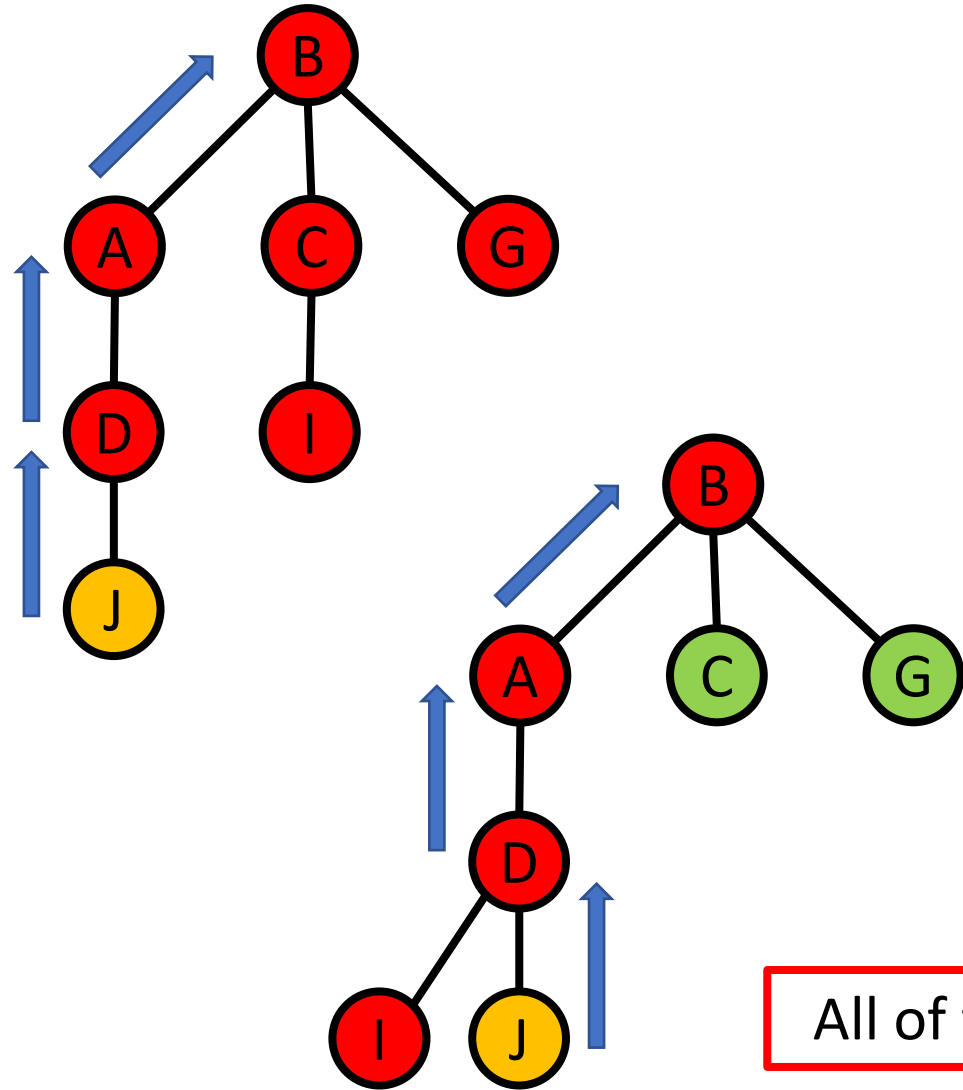
What planning algorithm would you use for the Micromouse competition?

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm



# Four Planning Algorithms



All of them focus on **nodes**

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Instead of examining **nodes**, scanning **edges**

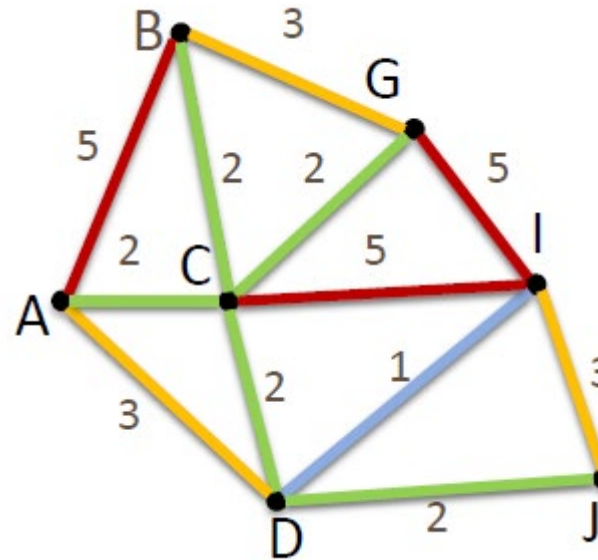
## 1. Initialise

- i. Set distance of start node as **0** and all the other nodes **infinity**

## 2. While (**true**)

- i. For all the **edges**
  - a) If the distance to the destination can be **shortened** by taking the edge, the distance is **updated** to the new lower value
- ii. If **no changes** made, break while

## 3. Connect nodes with **shortest** distance



Richard E. Bellman  
1920-1984



Lester R. Ford Jr.  
1927-2017

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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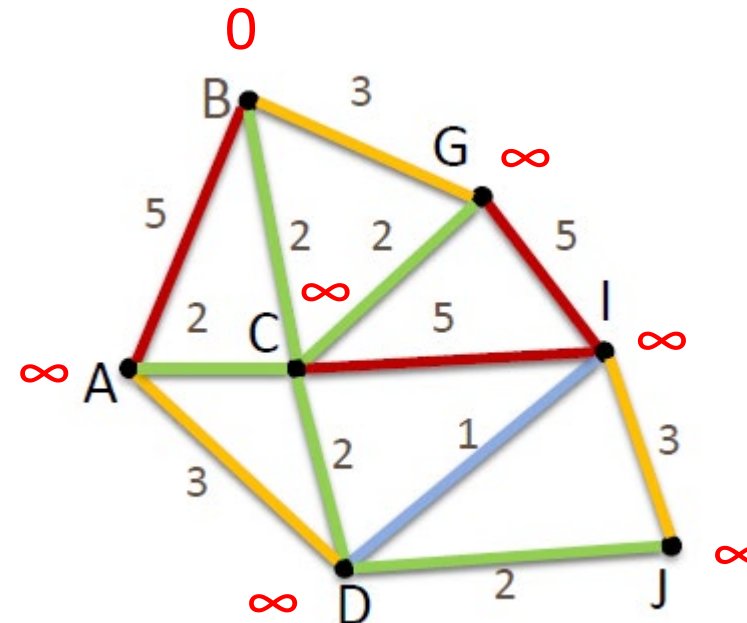
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### Edges:

(A,B),(A,C),(A,D),  
(B,C),(B,G),  
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(D,I),(D,J),  
(G,I),  
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# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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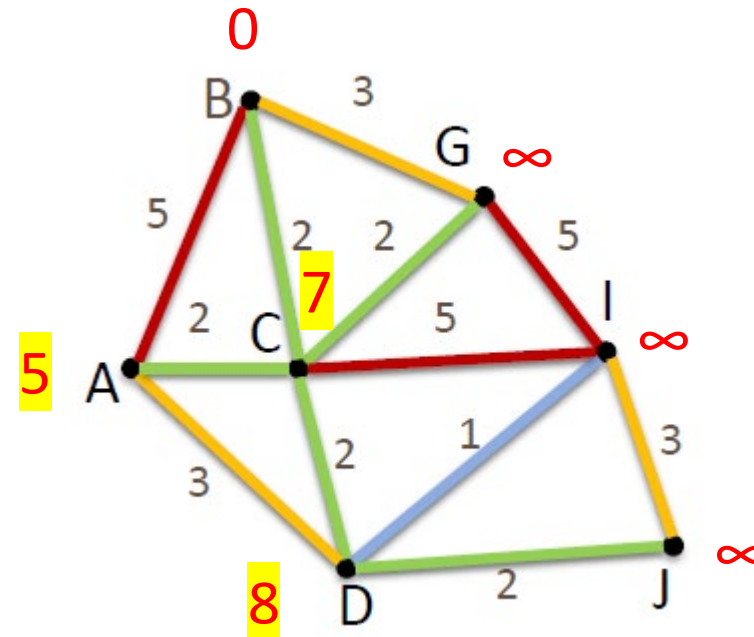
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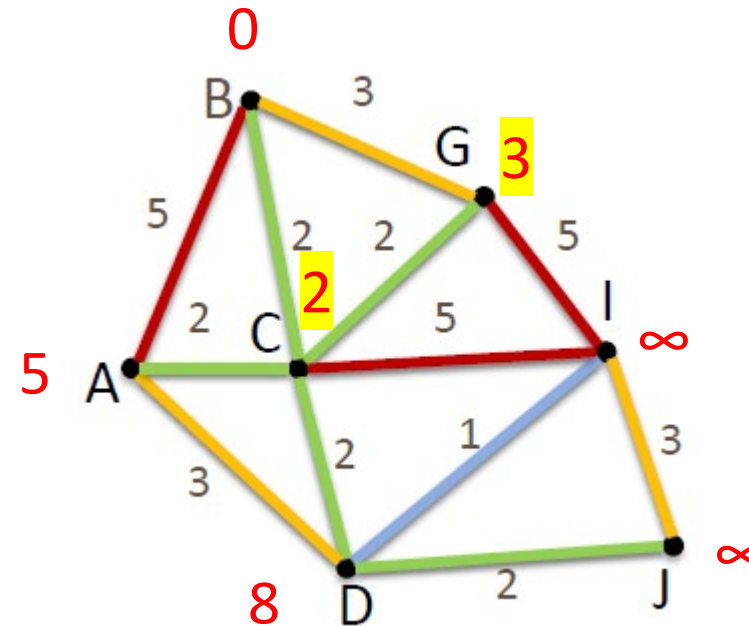
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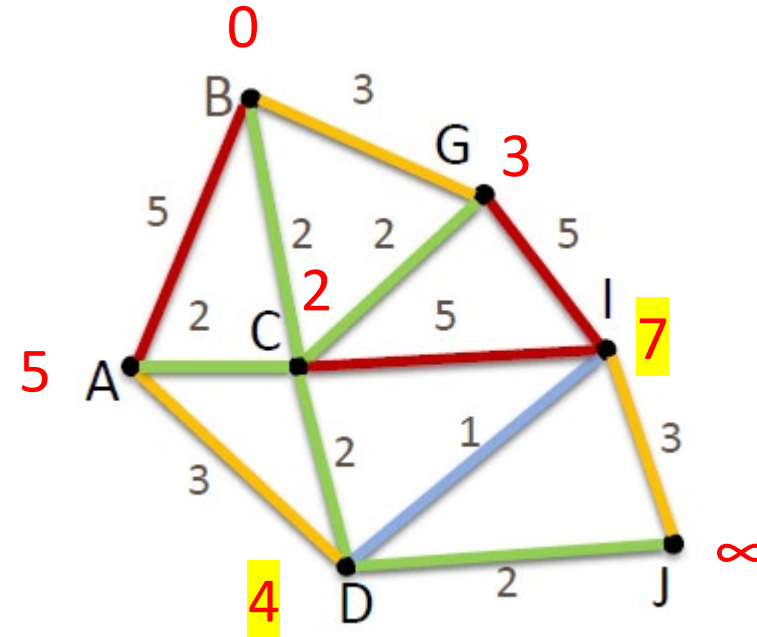
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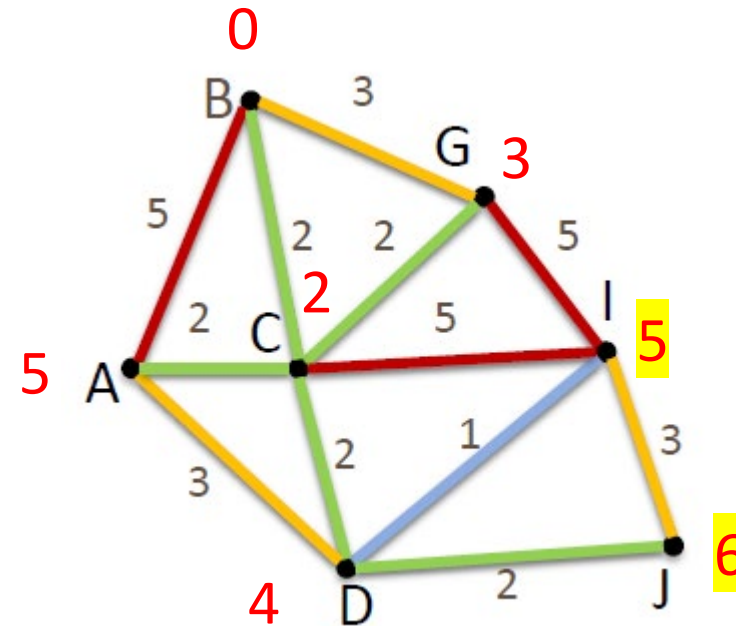
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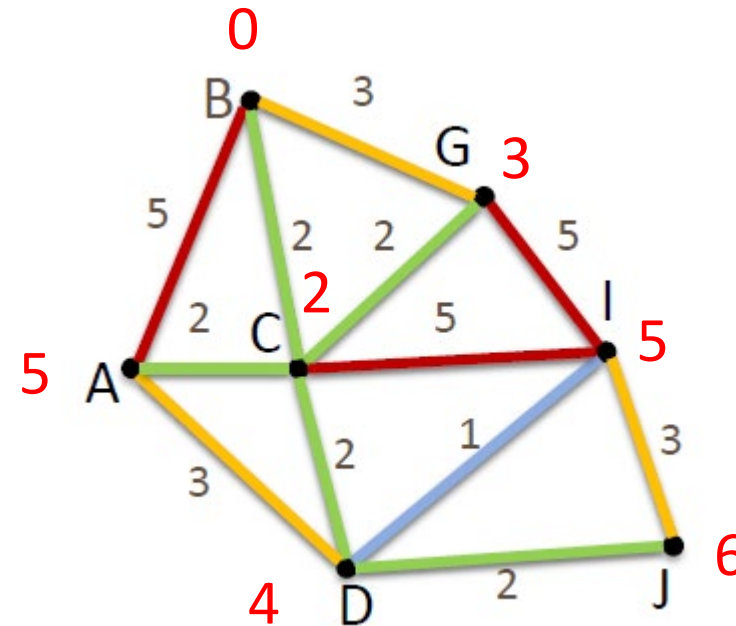
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# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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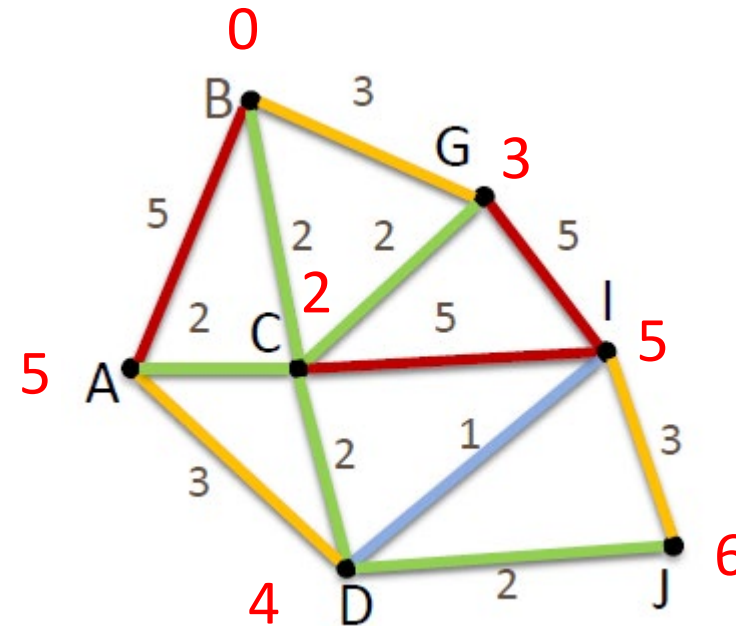
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# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Instead of examining **nodes**, scanning **edges**

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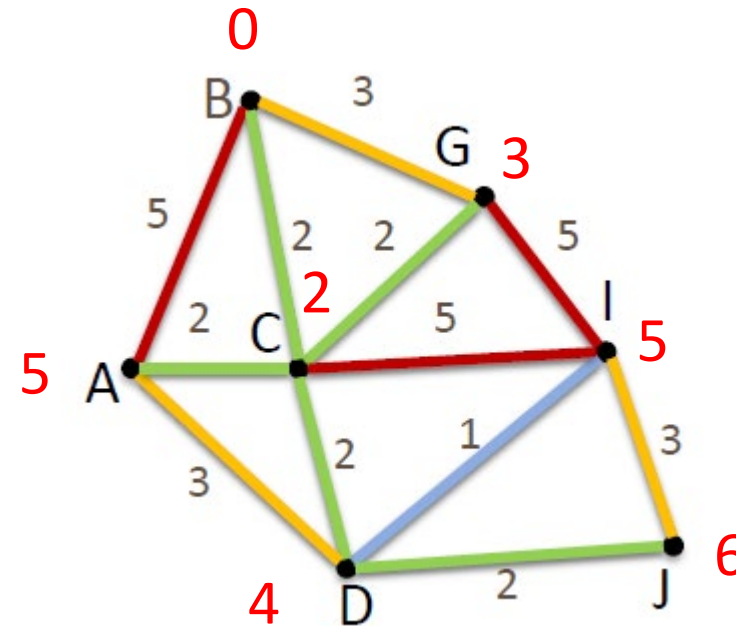
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## 3. Connect nodes with **shortest** distance

Scan all edges once again, we will luckily find no changes to the distance for each node.



## Edges:

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(B,C),(B,G),  
(C,D),(C,G),(C,I),  
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# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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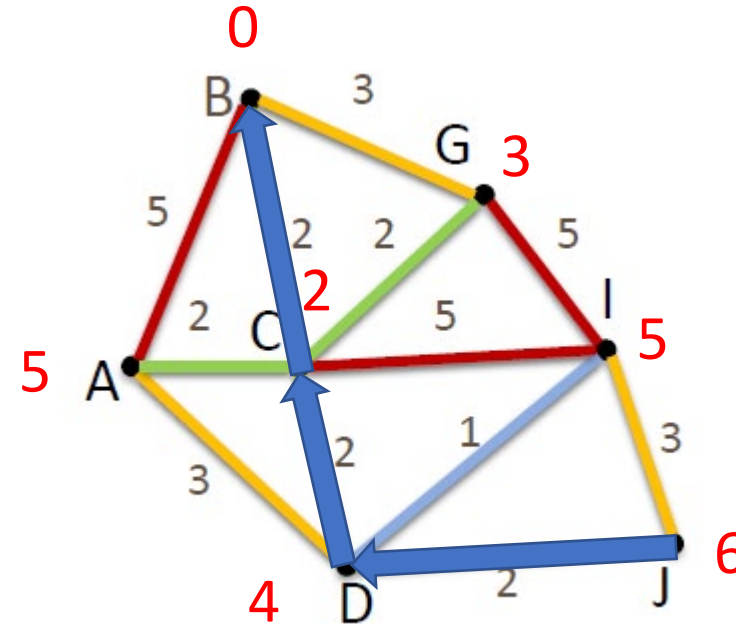
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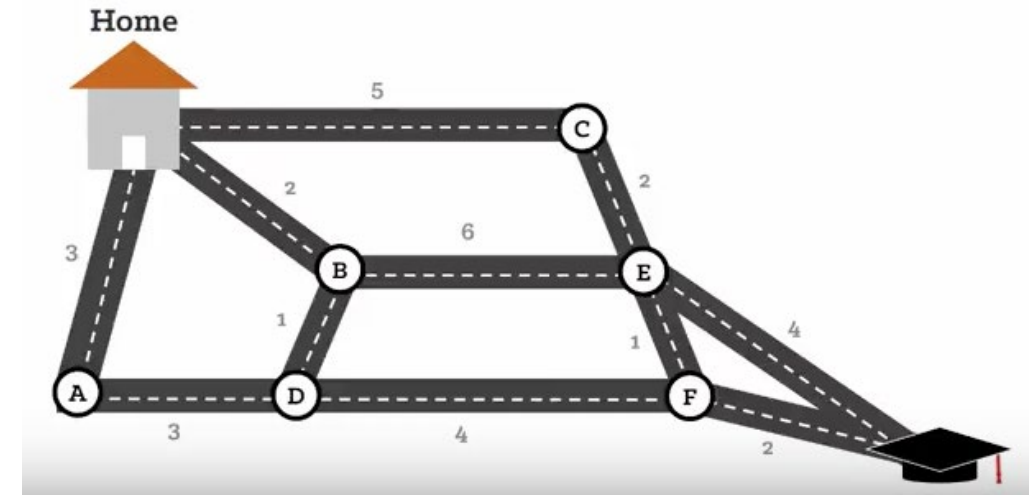
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# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

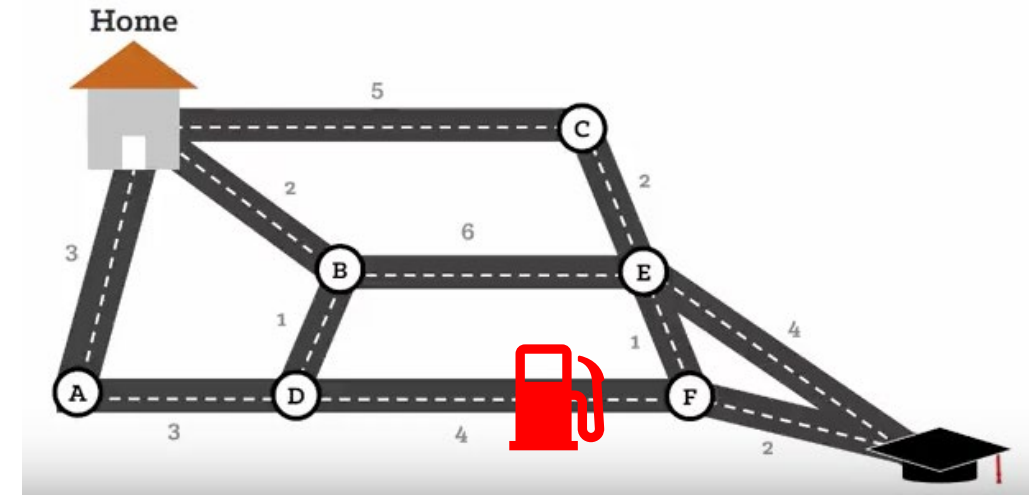
- Easy to implement!
- Work with negatively weighted edges



Cost: Distance

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

- Easy to implement!
- Work with negatively weighted edges
- Does not scale well (time complexity worse than Dijkstra's algorithm)

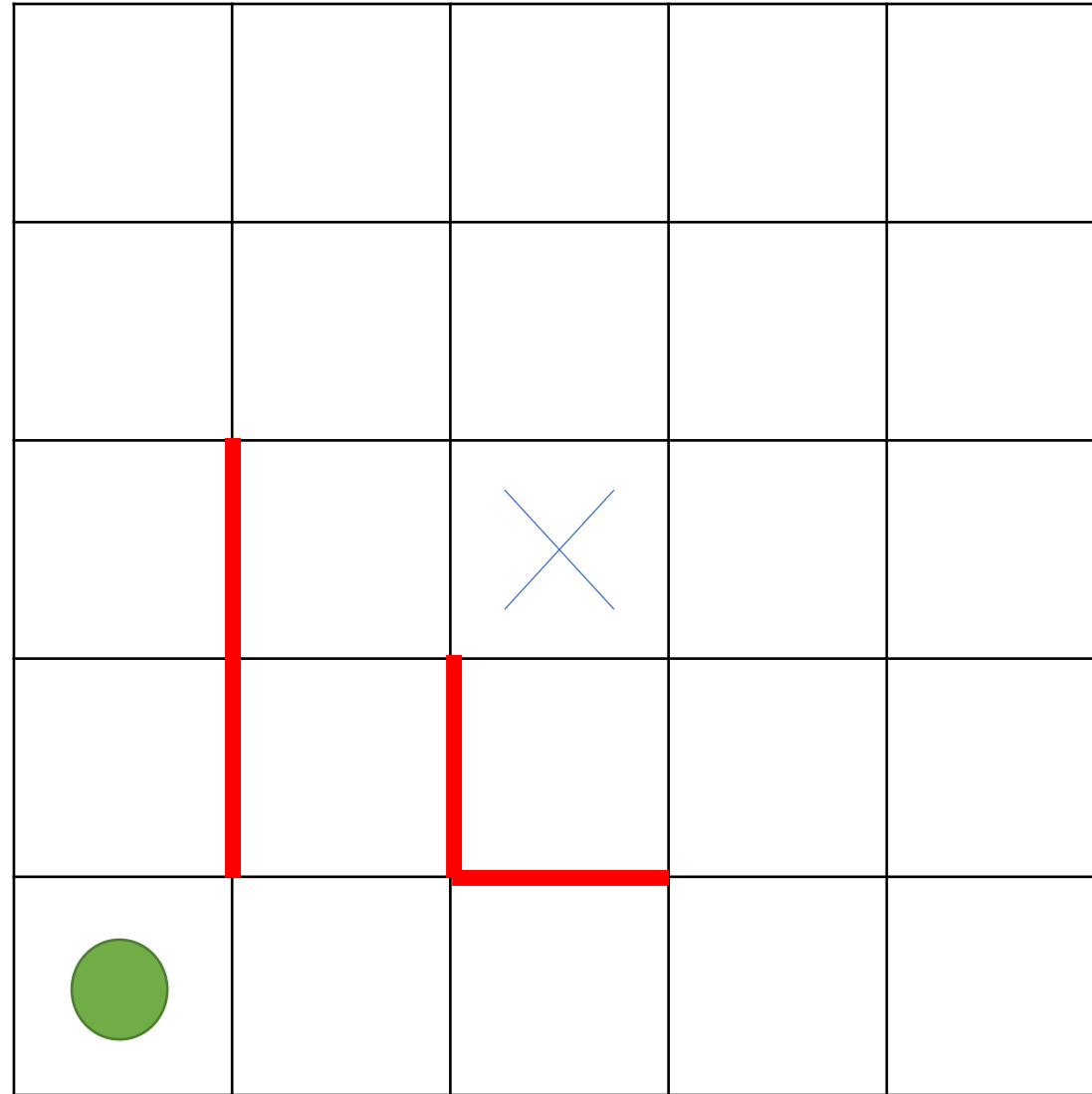


Cost: Distance

Cost: Petrol reduction

# Flood Fill Algorithm

# Flood-Fill Algorithm – A type of Bellman-Ford Algorithm



# Flood-Fill Algorithm – A type of Bellman-Ford Algorithm

$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	<del>0</del>	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$



# Flood-Fill Algorithm – A type of Bellman-Ford Algorithm

$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	1	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	1	<del>0</del>	1	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	1	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$

# Flood-Fill Algorithm – A type of Bellman-Ford Algorithm

$\infty$	$\infty$	2	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	2	1	2	$\infty$
$\infty$	1	<del>0</del>	1	2
$\infty$	2	1	2	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$

# Flood-Fill Algorithm – A type of Bellman-Ford Algorithm

$\infty$	3	2	3	$\infty$
3	2	1	2	3
$\infty$	1	<del>0</del>	1	2
$\infty$	2	1	2	3
$\infty$	3	$\infty$	3	$\infty$

# Flood-Fill Algorithm – A type of Bellman-Ford Algorithm

4	3	2	3	4
3	2	1	2	3
4	1	<del>0</del>	1	2
$\infty$	2	1	2	3
4	3	4	3	4

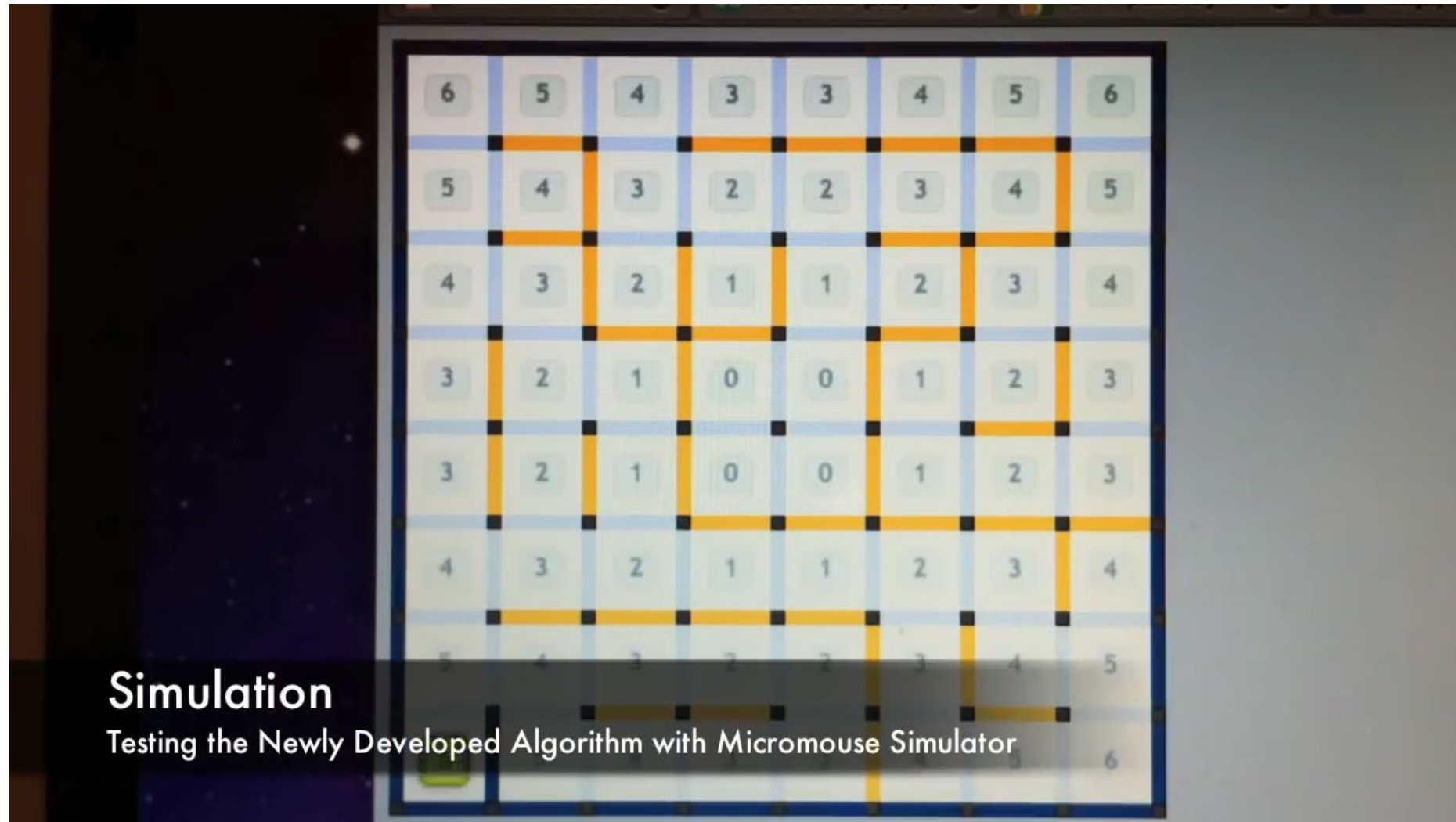
# Flood-Fill Algorithm – A type of Bellman-Ford Algorithm

4	3	2	3	4
3	2	1	2	3
4	1	<del>0</del>	1	2
5	2	1	2	3
4	3	4	3	4

# Flood-Fill Algorithm – A type of Bellman-Ford Algorithm

4	3	2	3	4
3	2	1	2	3
4	1	<del>0</del>	1	2
5	2	1	2	3
4	3	4	3	4

# Flood-Fill Algorithm – For exploration



# Flood-Fill Algorithm – Pseudocode (More details in tutorial)

## FloodFill

```
1  initialize
2  all CellValues  $\leftarrow N$  ( $N$ =A Big Number, e.g.  $N$ =Rows x Columns)
3  GoalCellValue  $\leftarrow 0$ 
4  CurrentExploredValue  $\leftarrow 0$ 
5  MazeValueChanged  $\leftarrow 1$ 
6  while MazeValueChanged  $\neq 0$ 
7    MazeValueChanged  $\leftarrow 0$ 
8    forall Rows
9      forall Columns
10       if CurrentCellValue==CurrentExploredValue
11         forall Directions (North, East, South, West)
12           if NeighbouringWall does not exist
13             if NeighbouringCellValue==N
14               NeighbouringCellValue  $\leftarrow$  CurrentCellValue+1
15               MazeValueChanged  $\leftarrow 1$ 
16       CurrentExploredValue = CurrentExploredValue +1
17  return
```

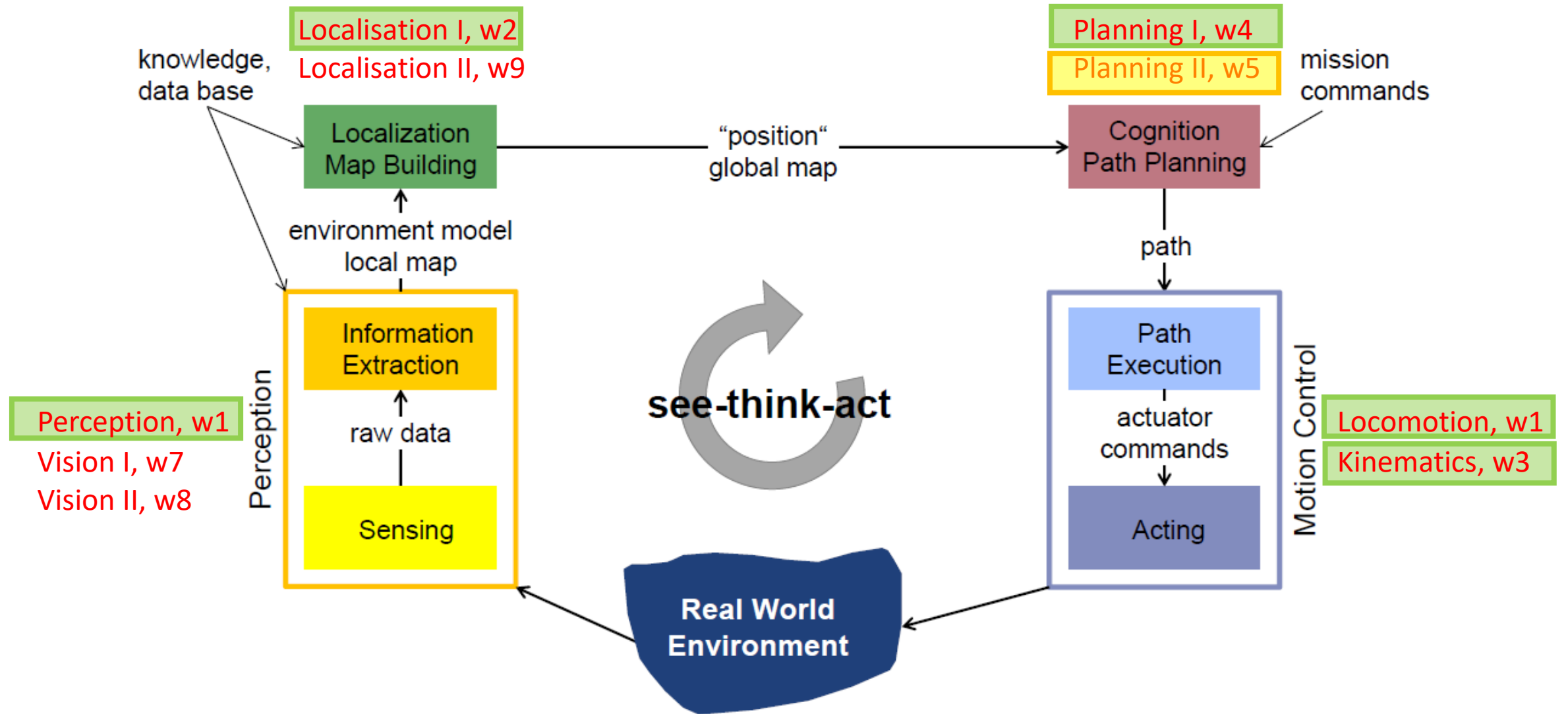


# What we have learnt today

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- Path planning vs trajectory planning
- Constructing graph from map representation
- Graph search algorithms can be used to find an optimal path
  - Breath first search
  - Depth first search
  - Dijkstra's algorithm
  - A\* algorithm
  - Bellman-Ford algorithm
    - Flood fill algorithm (tutorial)

# Next week: Planning II



# Acknowledgment

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- Many of the slides are adapted from Nick Lawrance
  - [https://www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/mavt/robotics-n-intelligent-systems/asl-dam/documents/lectures/autonomous\\_mobile\\_robots/spring-2019/Planning I 2019.pdf](https://www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/mavt/robotics-n-intelligent-systems/asl-dam/documents/lectures/autonomous_mobile_robots/spring-2019/Planning_I_2019.pdf)