

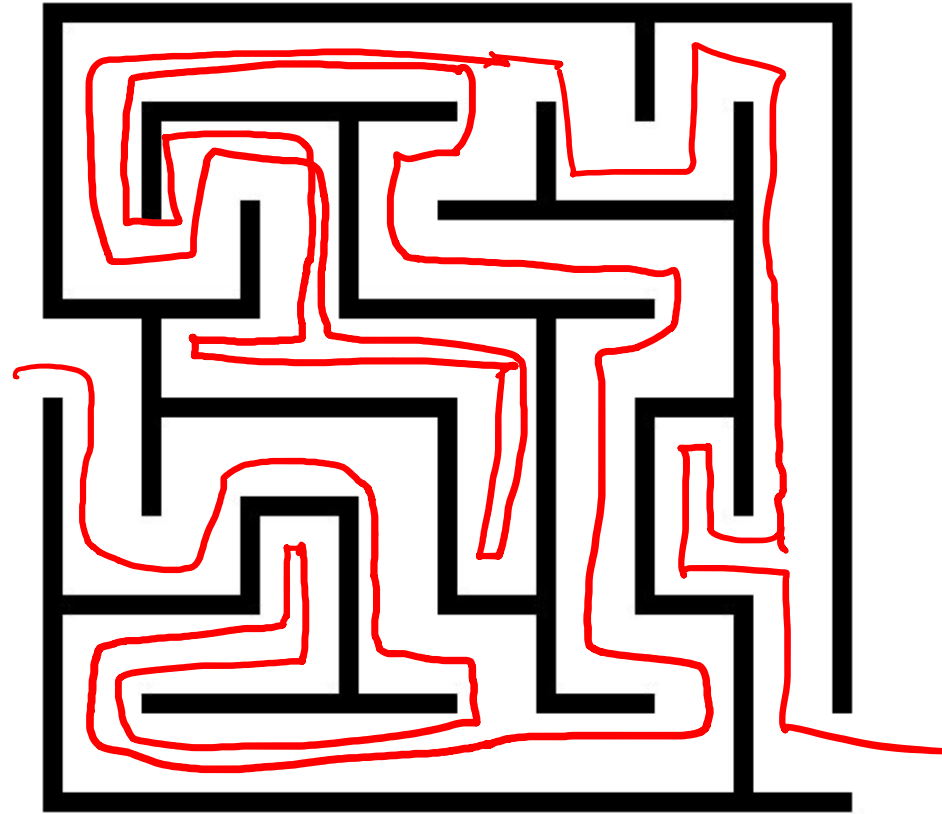
# **CSE 421**

## **DFS / Topological Ordering**

Shayan Oveis Gharan

# Depth First Search

Follow the first path you find as far as you can go; back up to last unexplored edge when you reach a dead end, then go as far you can



Naturally implemented using recursive calls or a stack

# DFS(s) – Recursive version

**Global Initialization:** mark all vertices undiscovered

DFS(v)

Mark v **discovered**

for each edge {v,x}

if (x is undiscovered)

Mark x **discovered**

DFS(x)

Mark v **full-discovered**

# DFS(A)

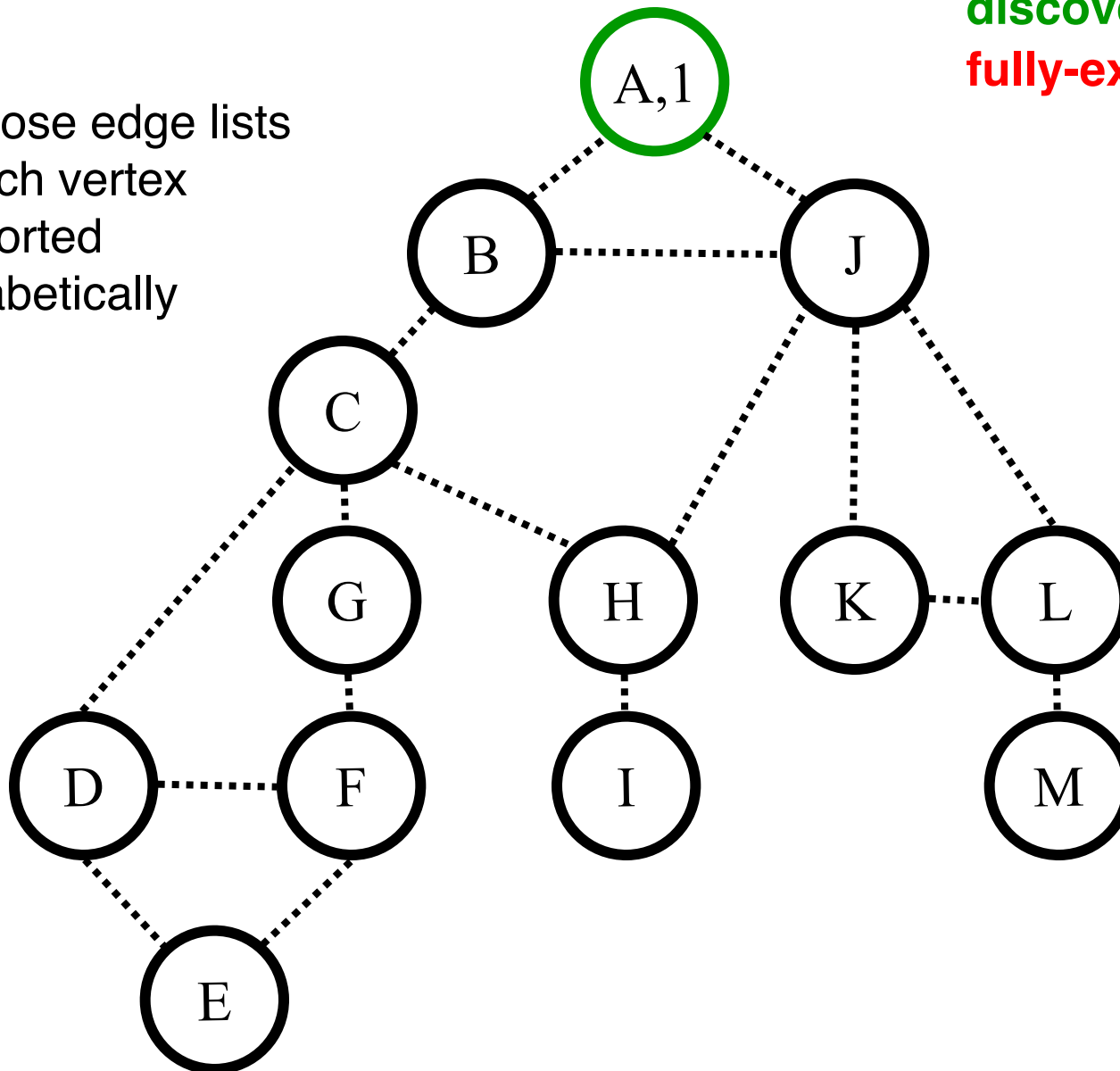
Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**

Suppose edge lists  
at each vertex  
are sorted  
alphabetically



Call Stack  
(Edge list):

A (B,J)

st[] =  
{1}

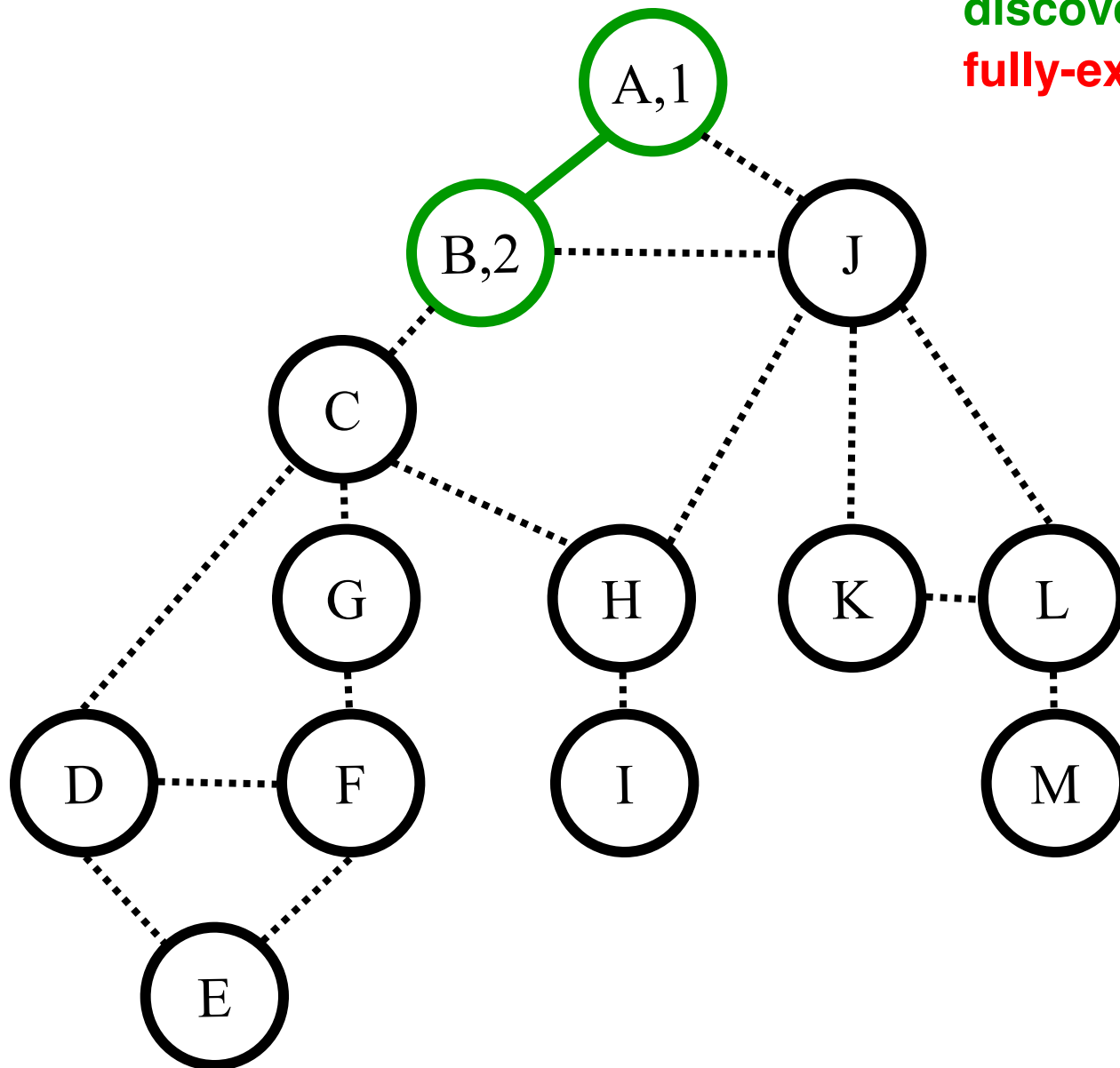
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (A,C,J)

st[] =  
{1,2}

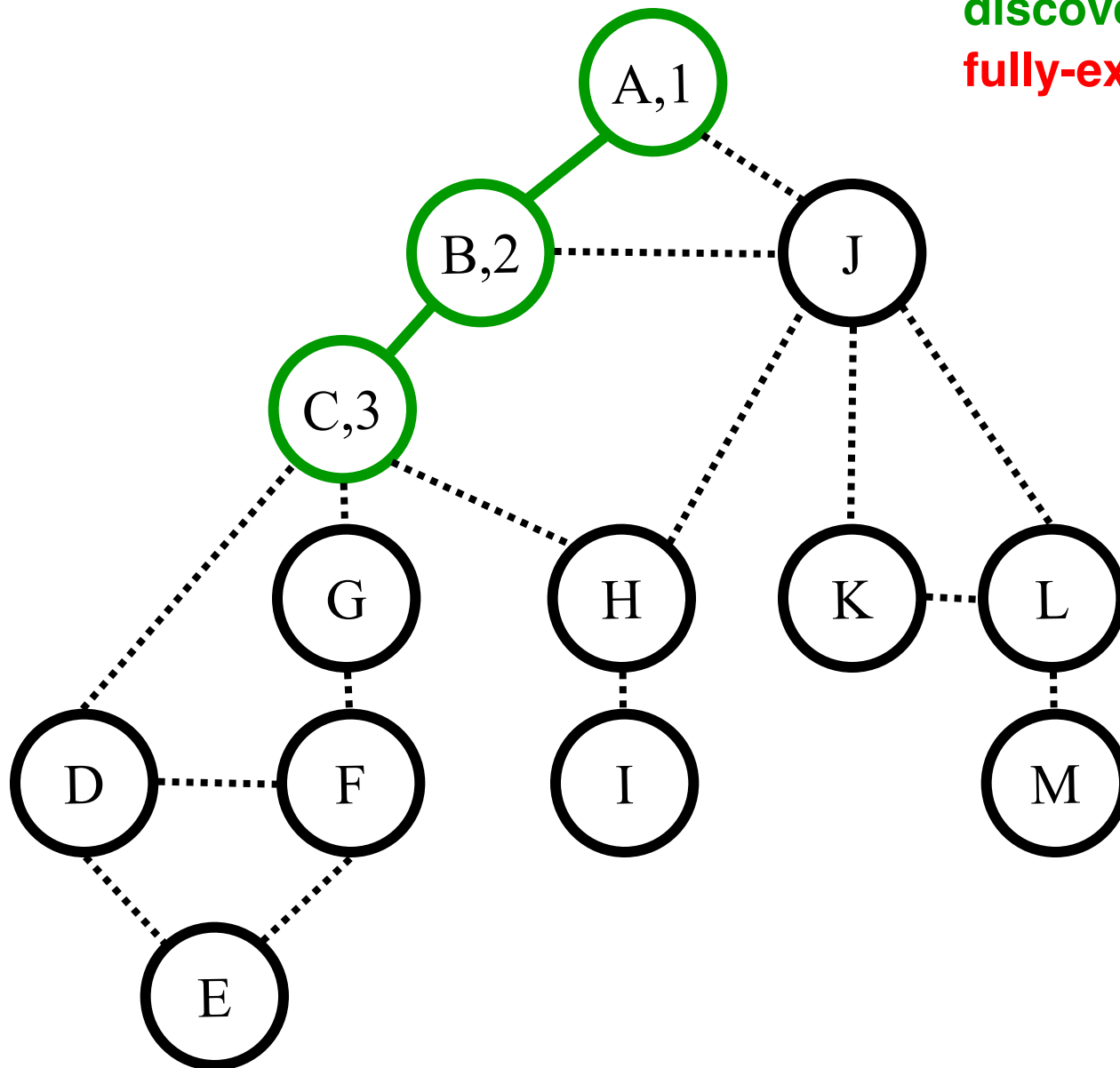
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (B,D,G,H)

st[] =  
{1,2,3}

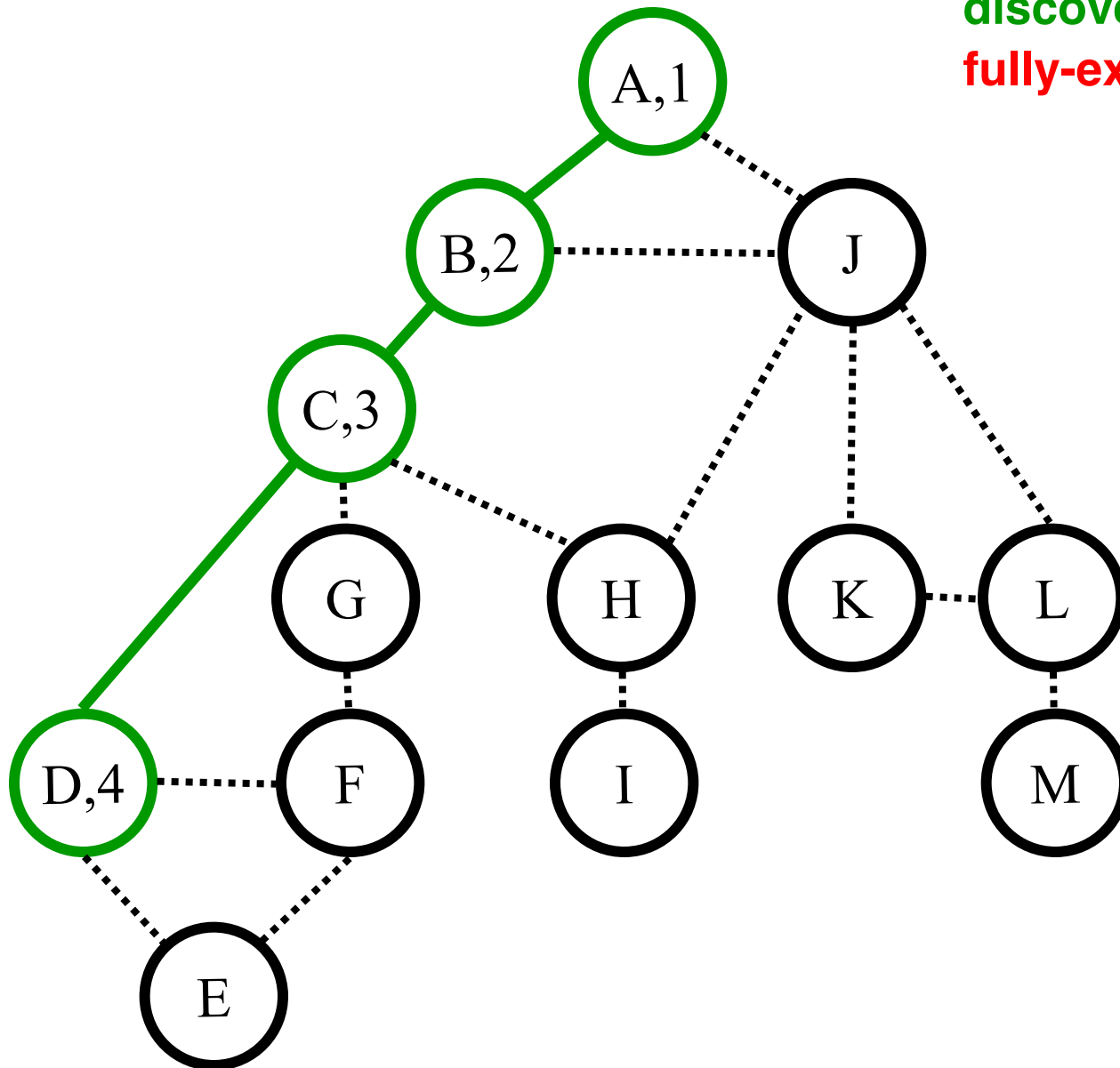
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,G,H)  
D (C,E,F)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,4}

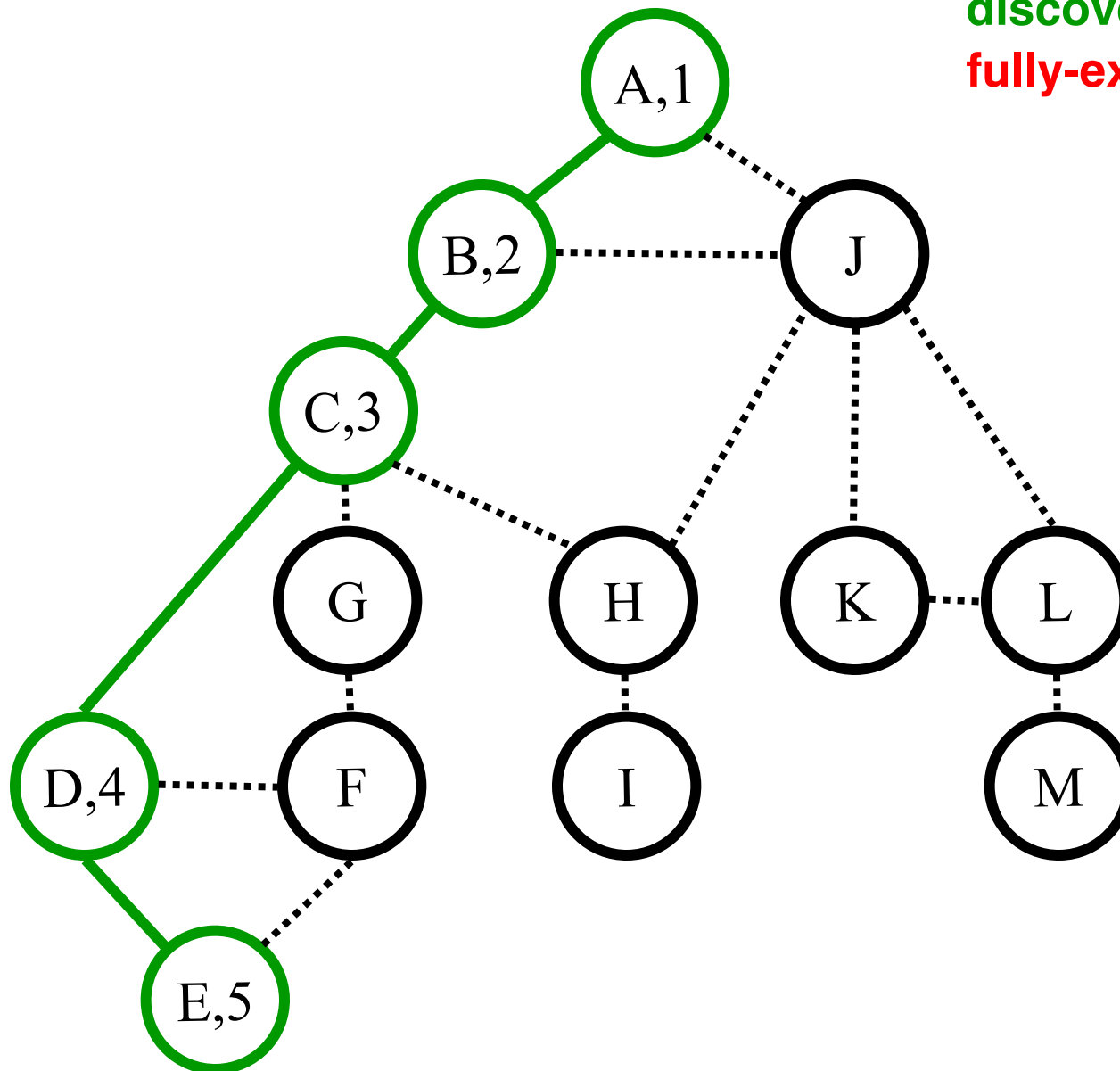
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,G,H)  
D (~~C~~,~~E~~,F)  
E (D,F)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,4,5}



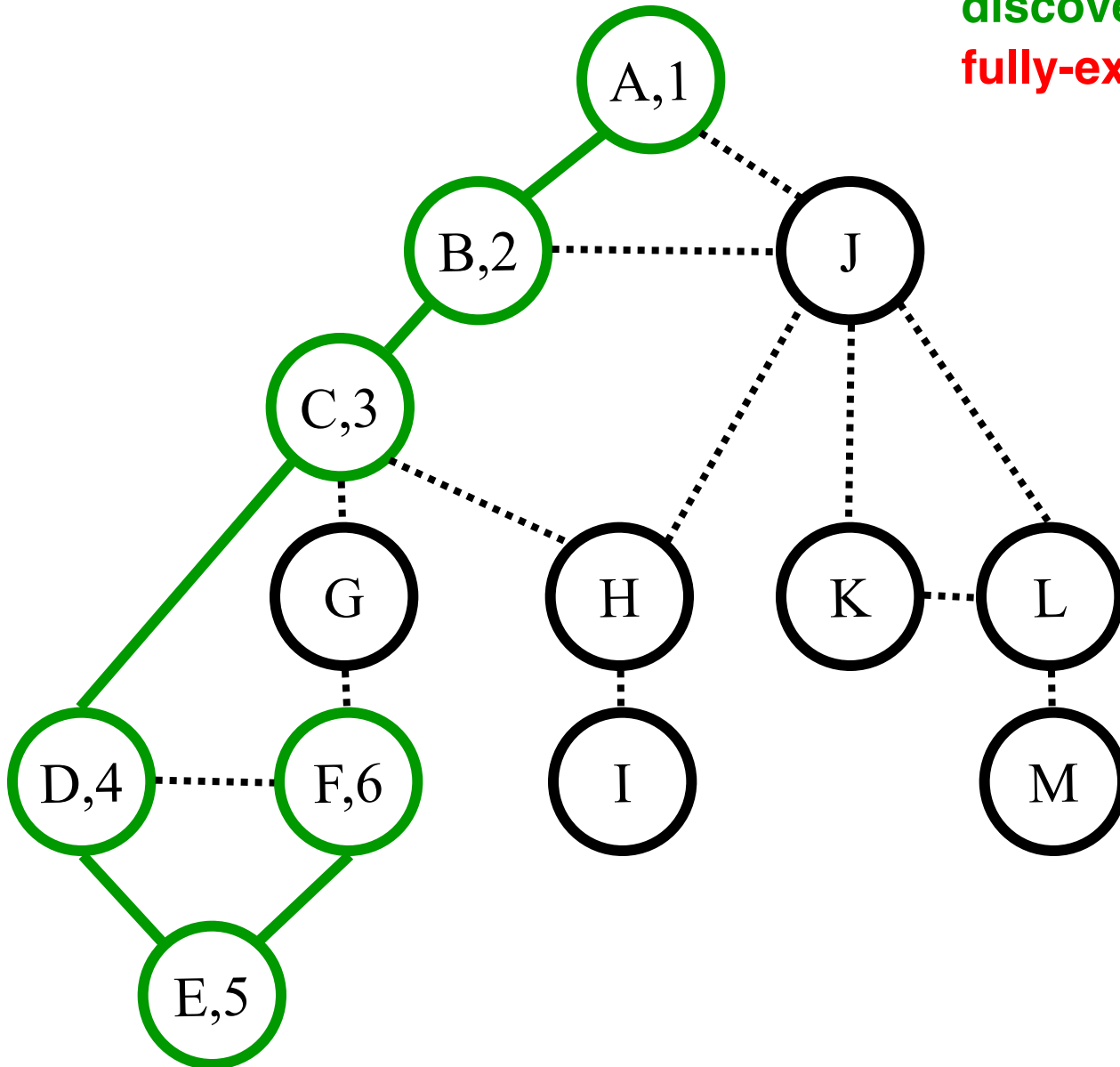
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

## fully-explored



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,G,H)  
D (~~C~~,~~E~~,F)  
E (~~D~~,~~F~~)  
F (D,E,G)

```
st[] =
    {1,2,3,4,5,
     6}
```

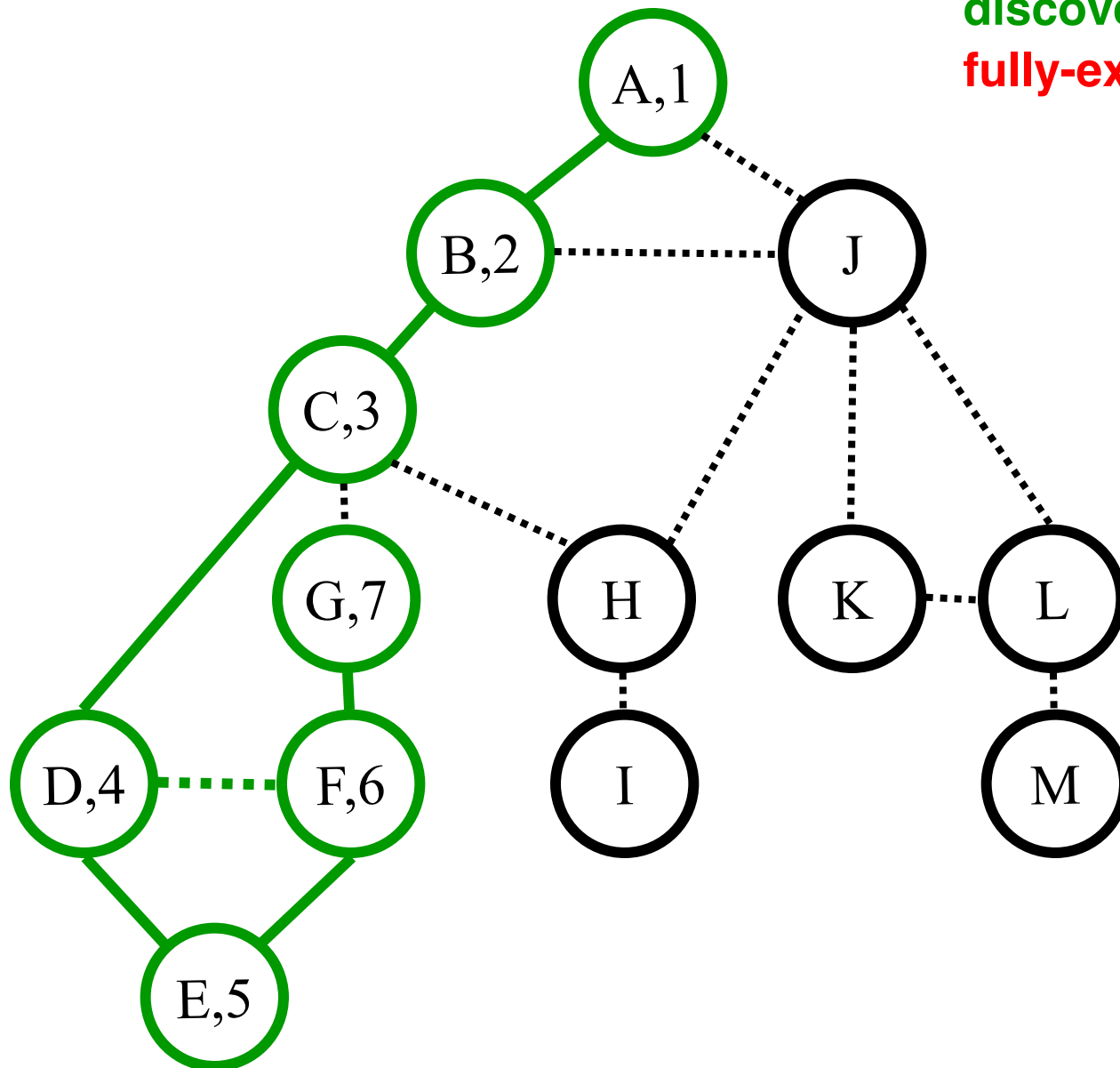
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,G,H)  
D (~~C~~,~~E~~,F)  
E (~~D~~,~~F~~)  
F (~~D~~,~~E~~,~~G~~)  
G (C,F)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,4,5,  
6,7}

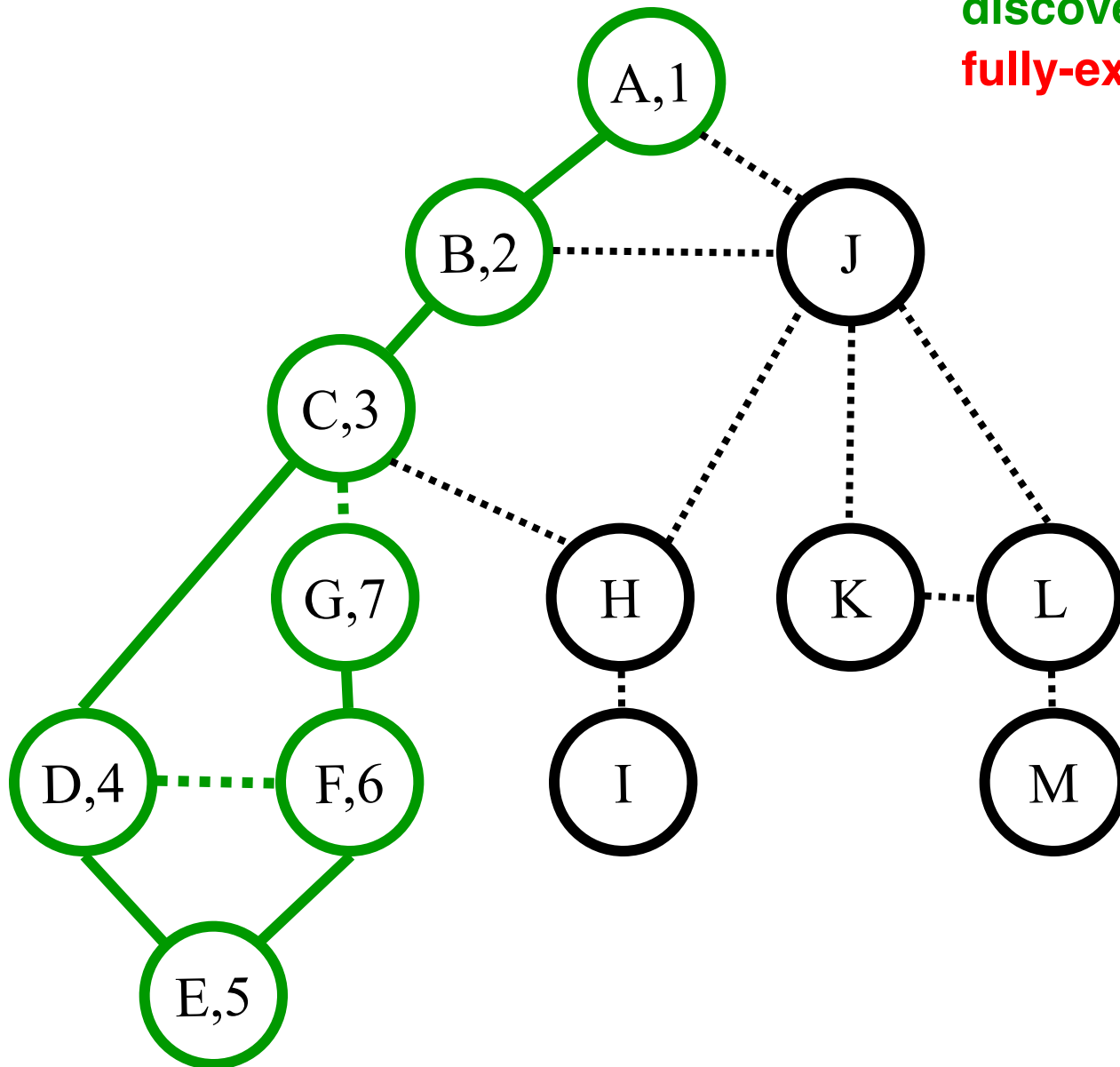
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

## fully-explored



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,G,H)  
D (~~C~~,~~E~~,F)  
E (~~D~~,~~F~~)  
F (~~D~~,~~E~~,~~G~~)  
G (~~C~~,~~F~~)

```
st[] =
    {1,2,3,4,5,
     6,7}
```

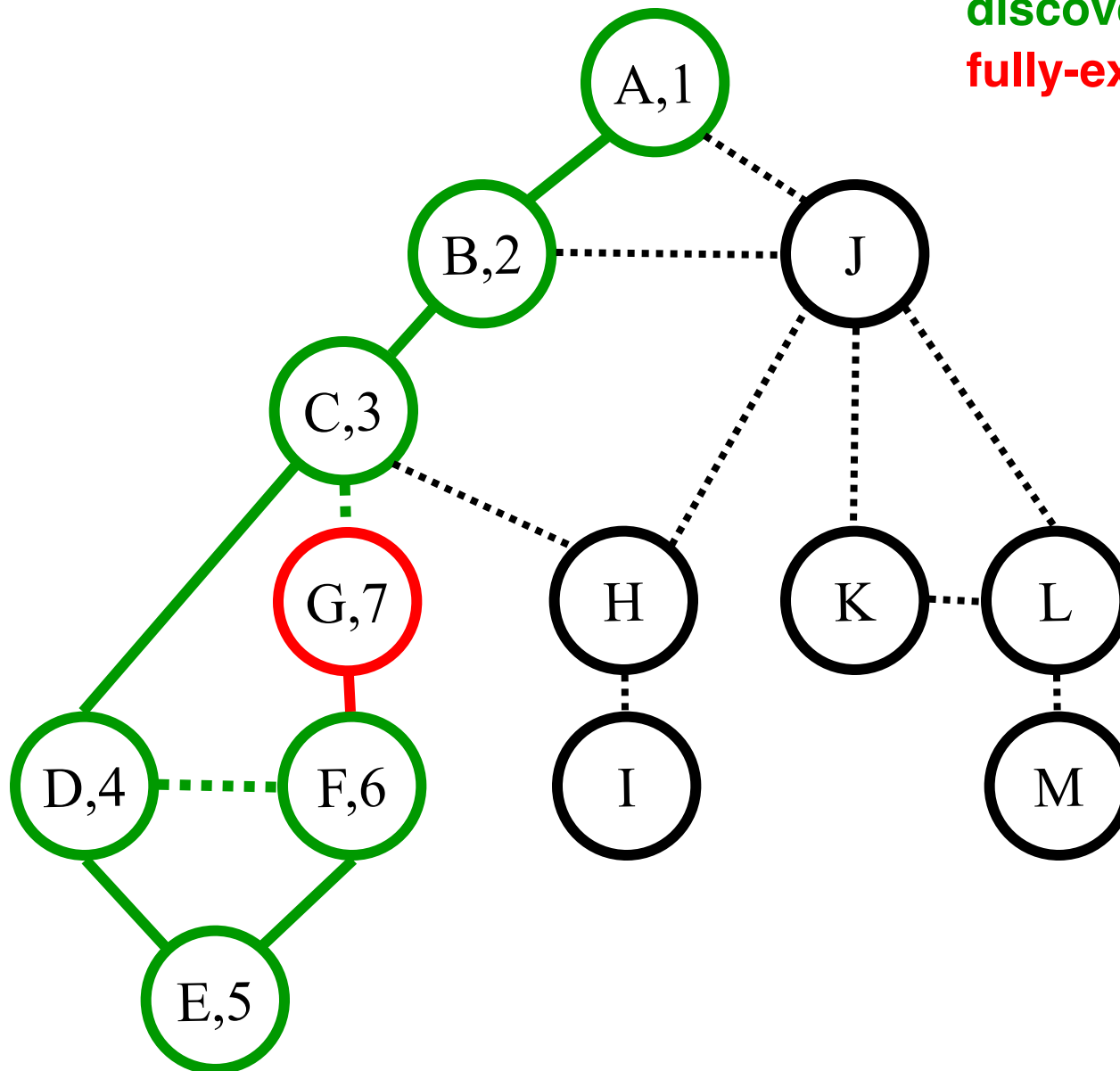
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,G,H)  
D (~~C~~,~~E~~,F)  
E (~~D~~,~~F~~)  
F (~~D~~,~~E~~,~~G~~)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,4,5,  
6}

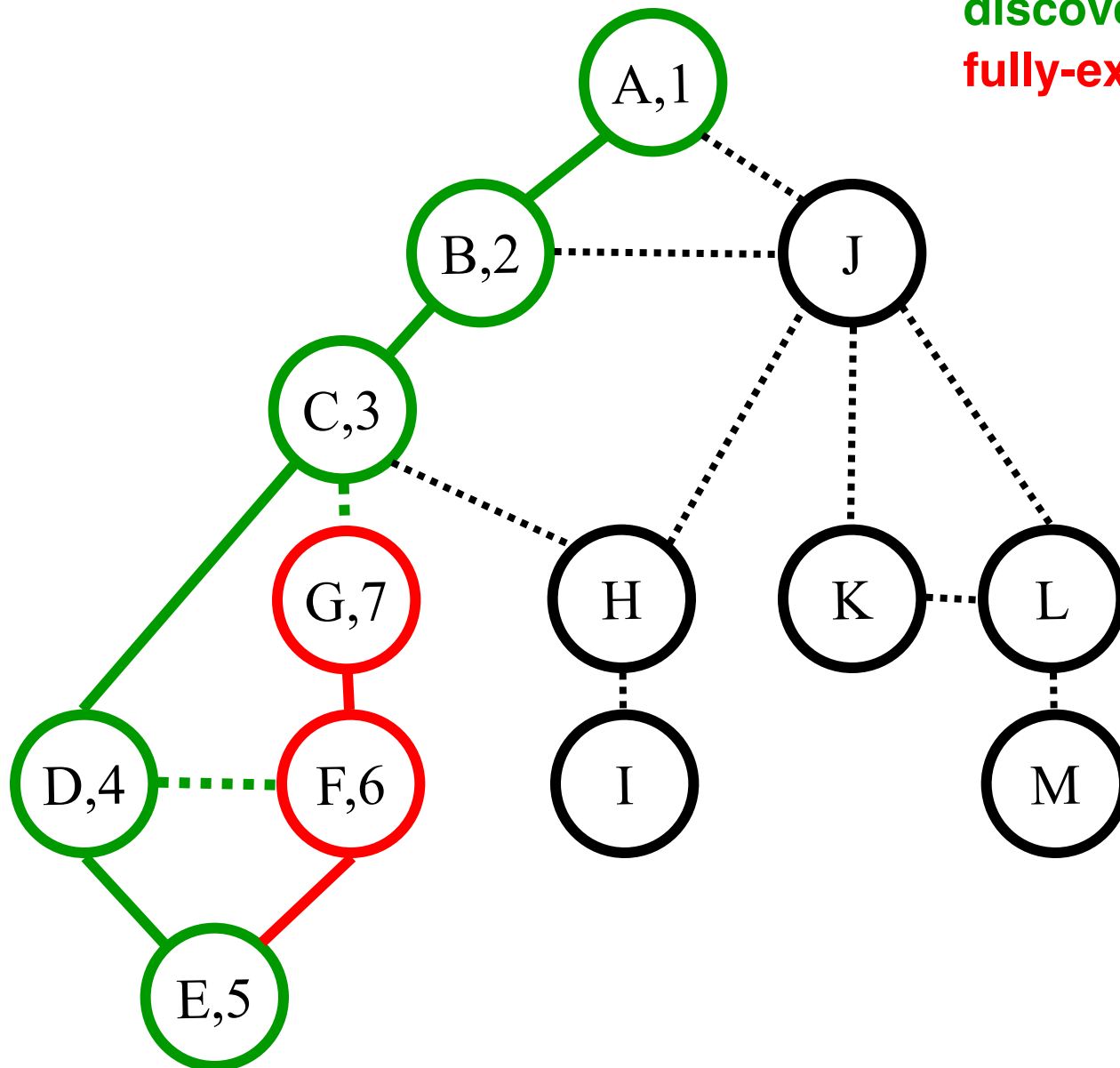
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,G,H)  
D (~~C~~,~~E~~,F)  
E (~~D~~,~~F~~)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,4,5}

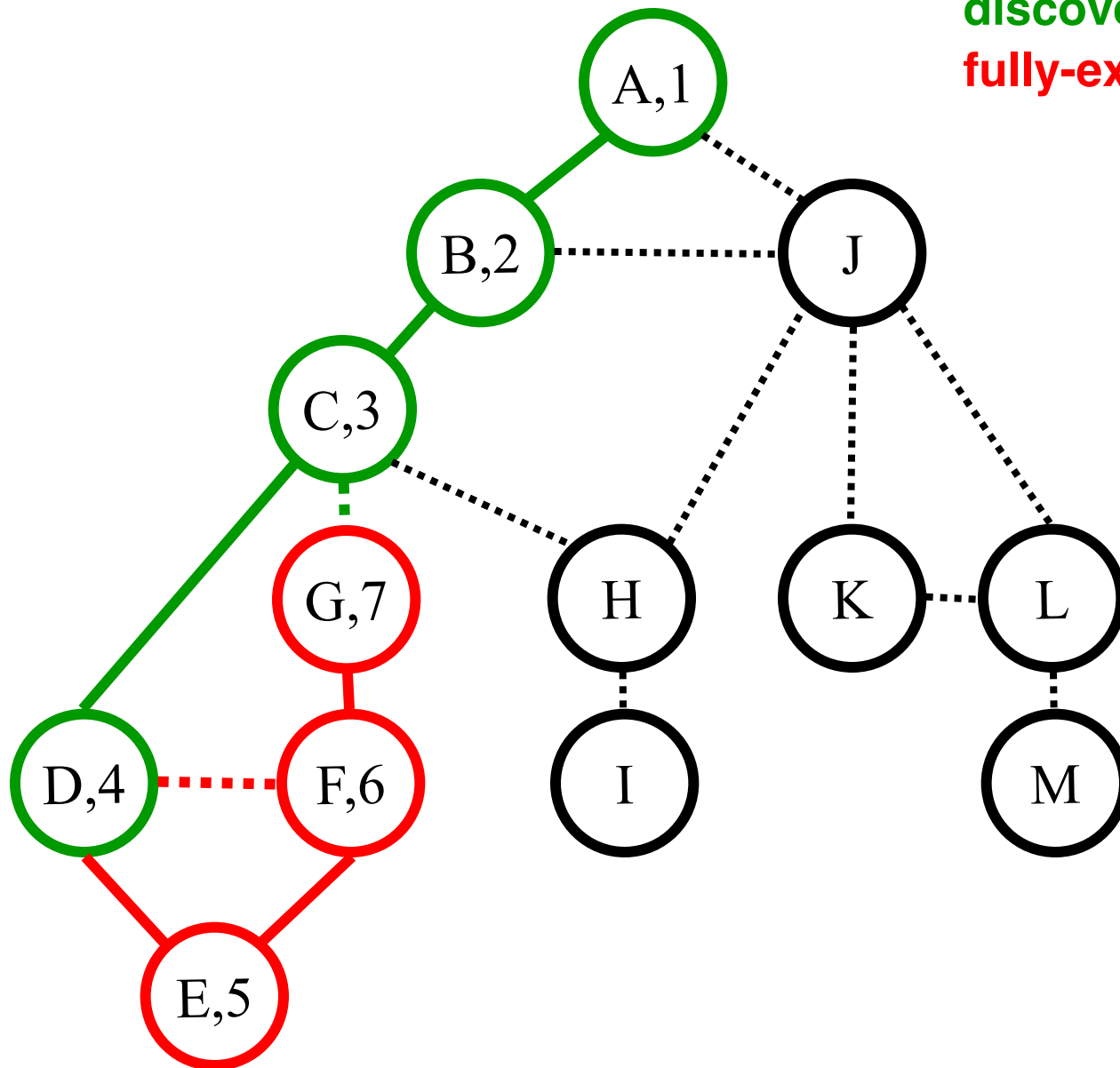
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,G,H)  
D (~~C~~,~~E~~,~~F~~)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,4}

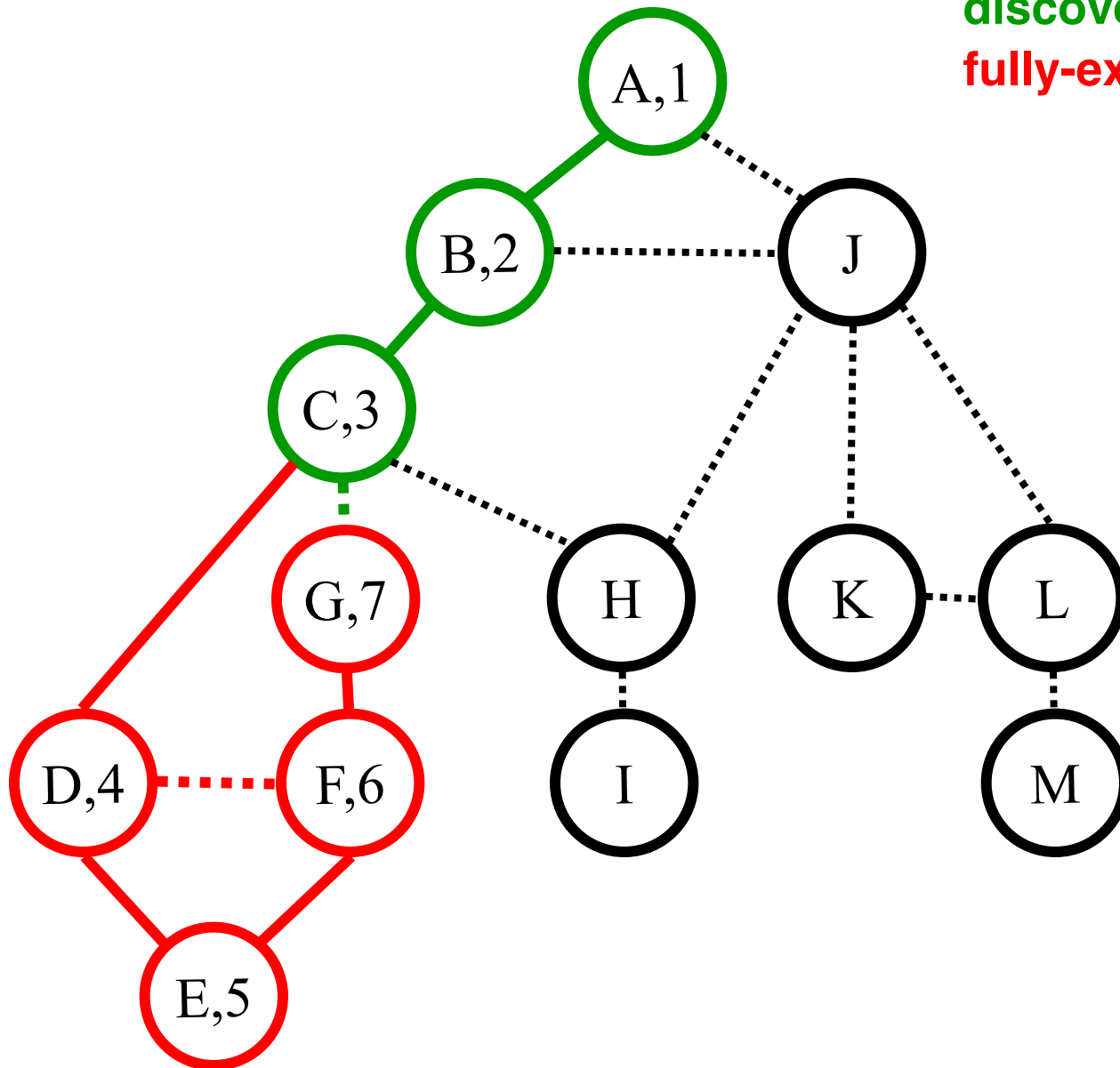
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



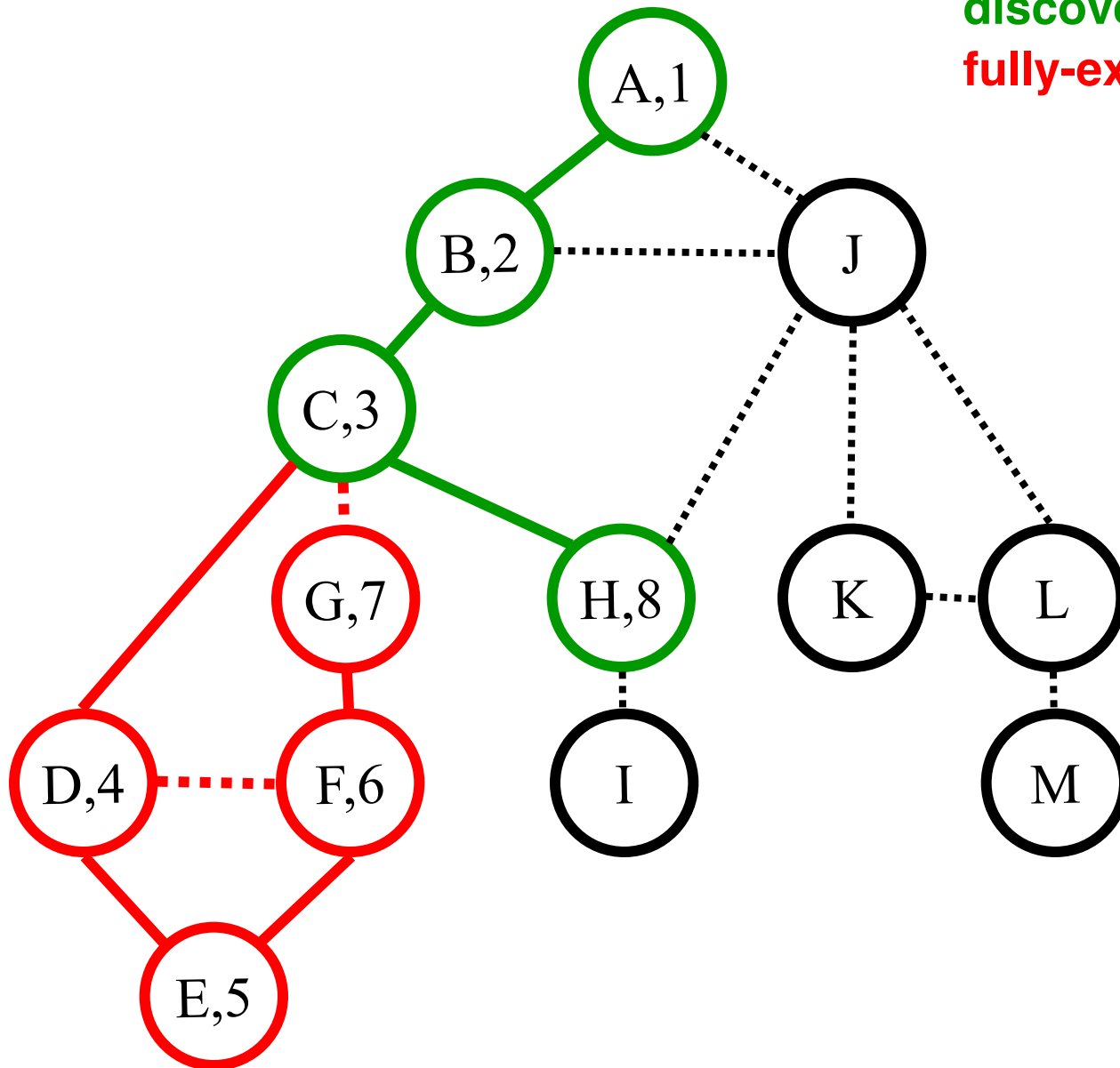
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (C,I,J)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8}



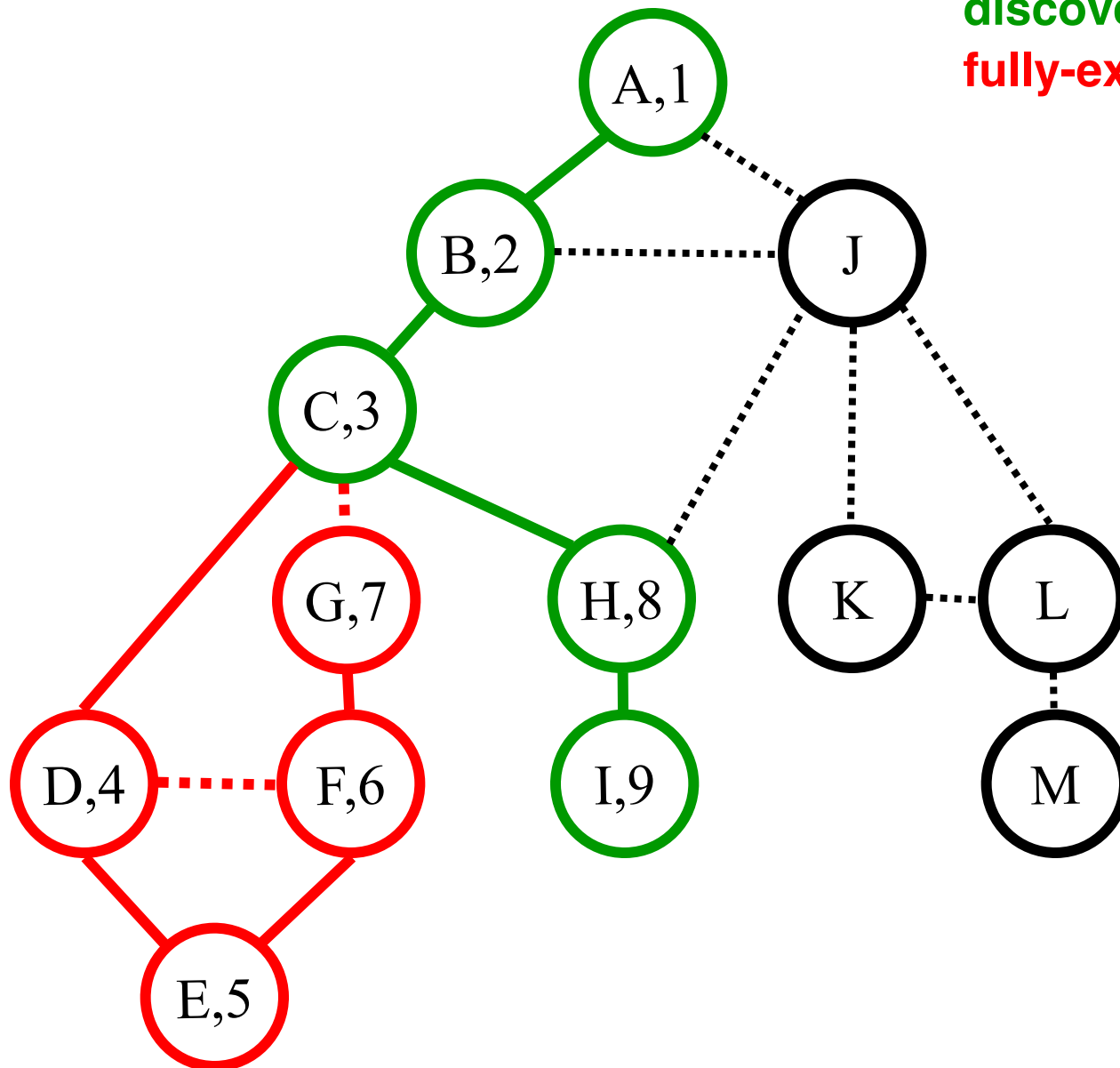
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)  
I (H)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8,9}

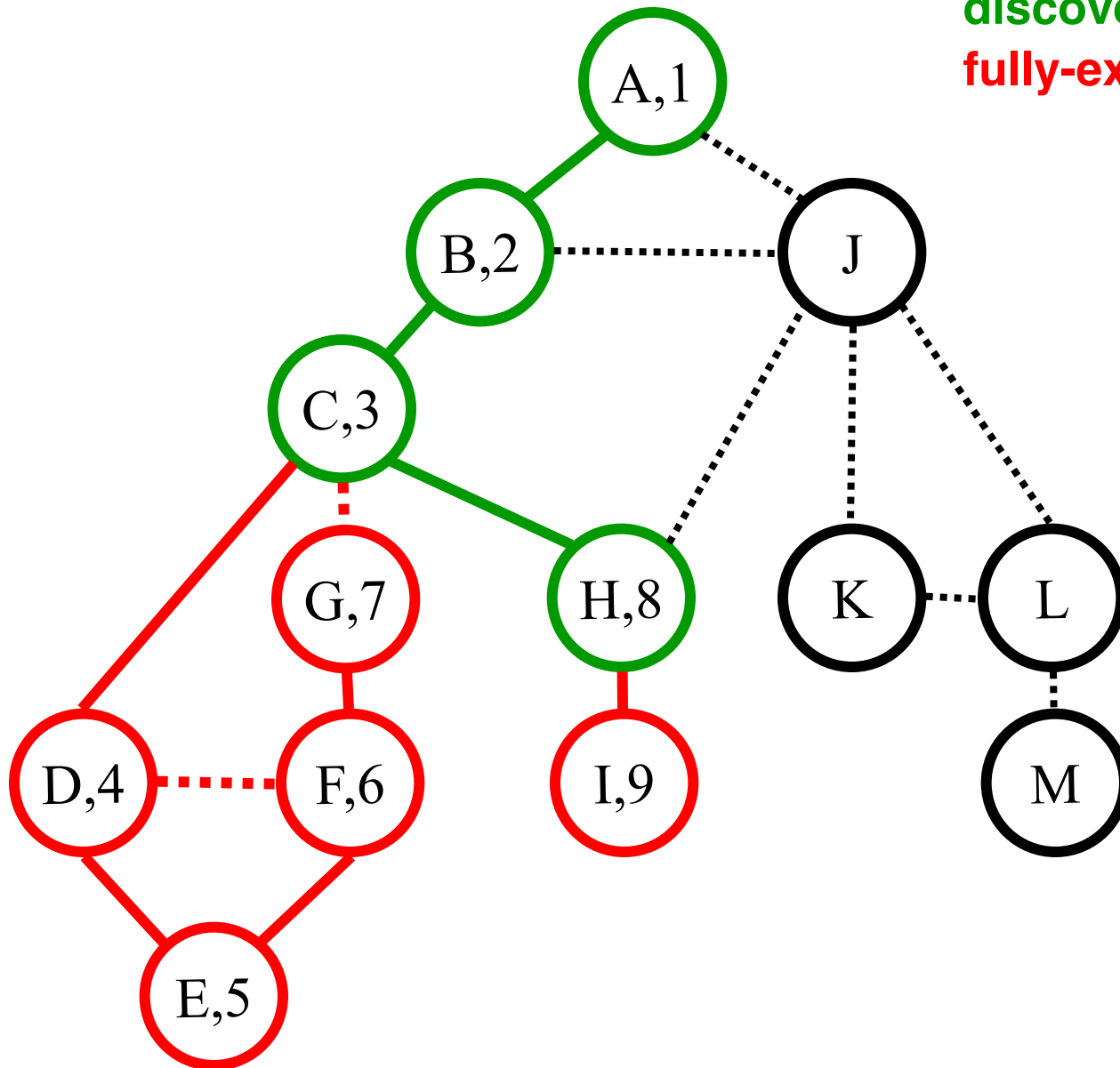
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8}

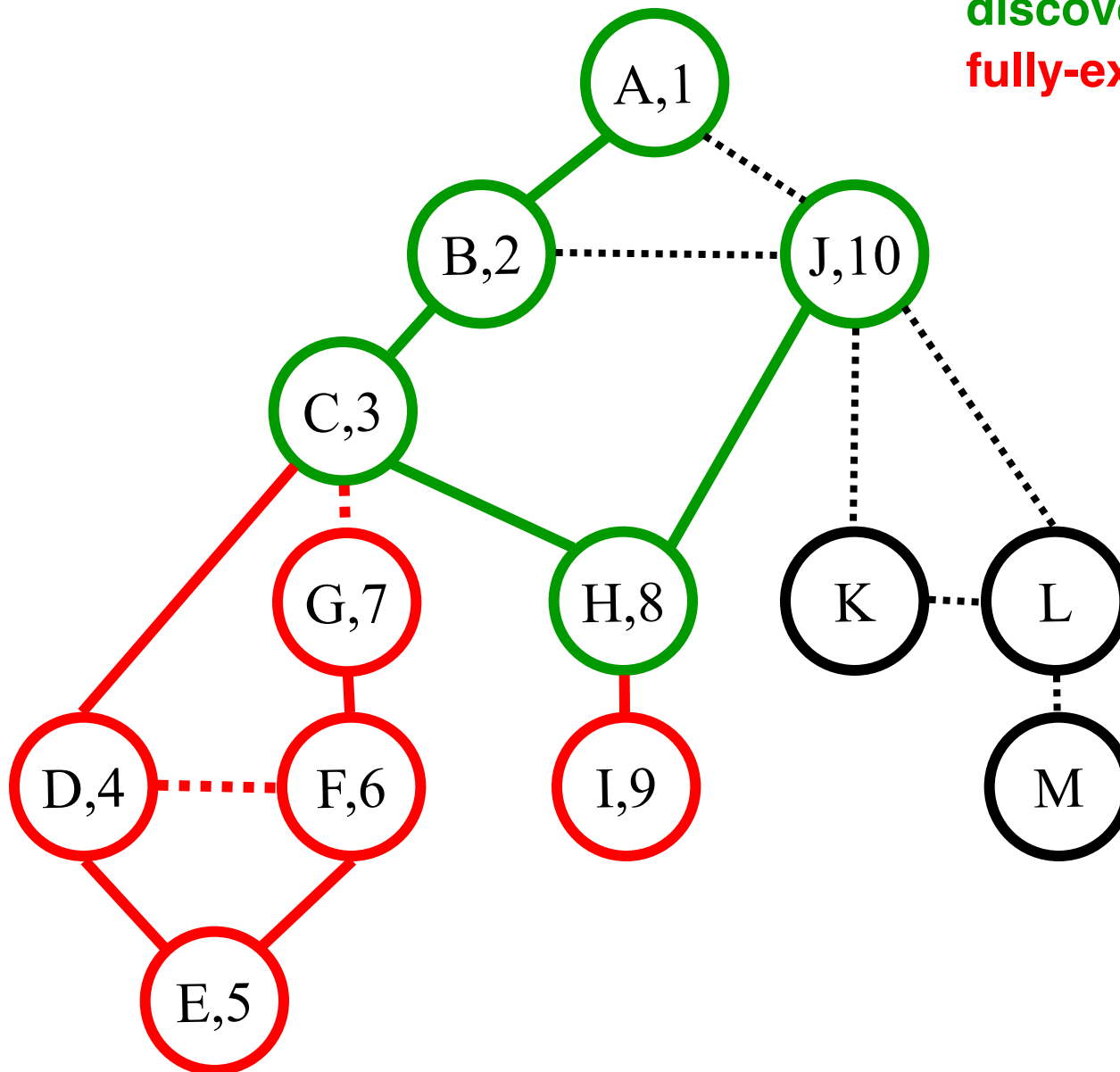
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)  
J (A,B,H,K,L)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8,  
10}

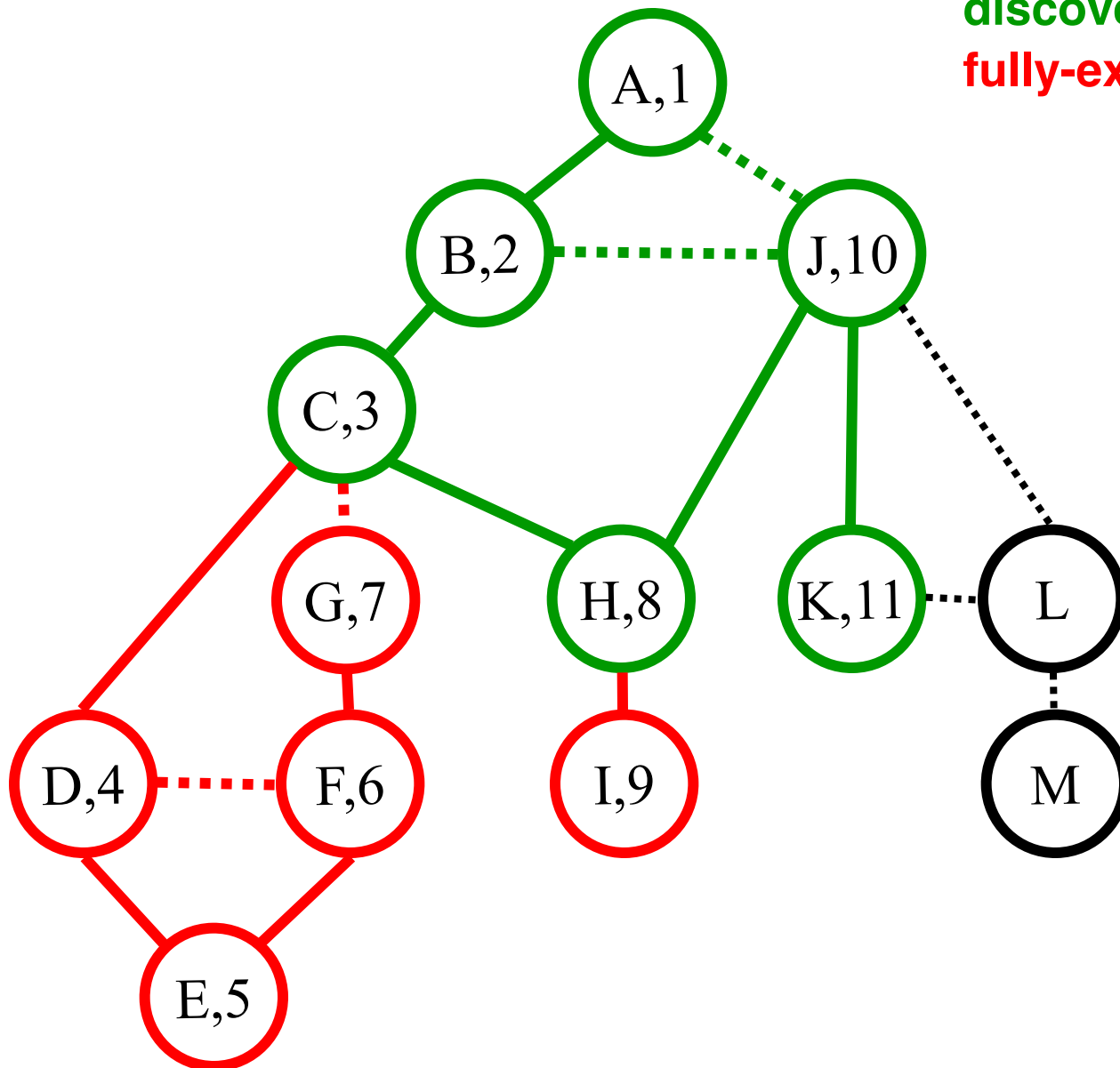
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



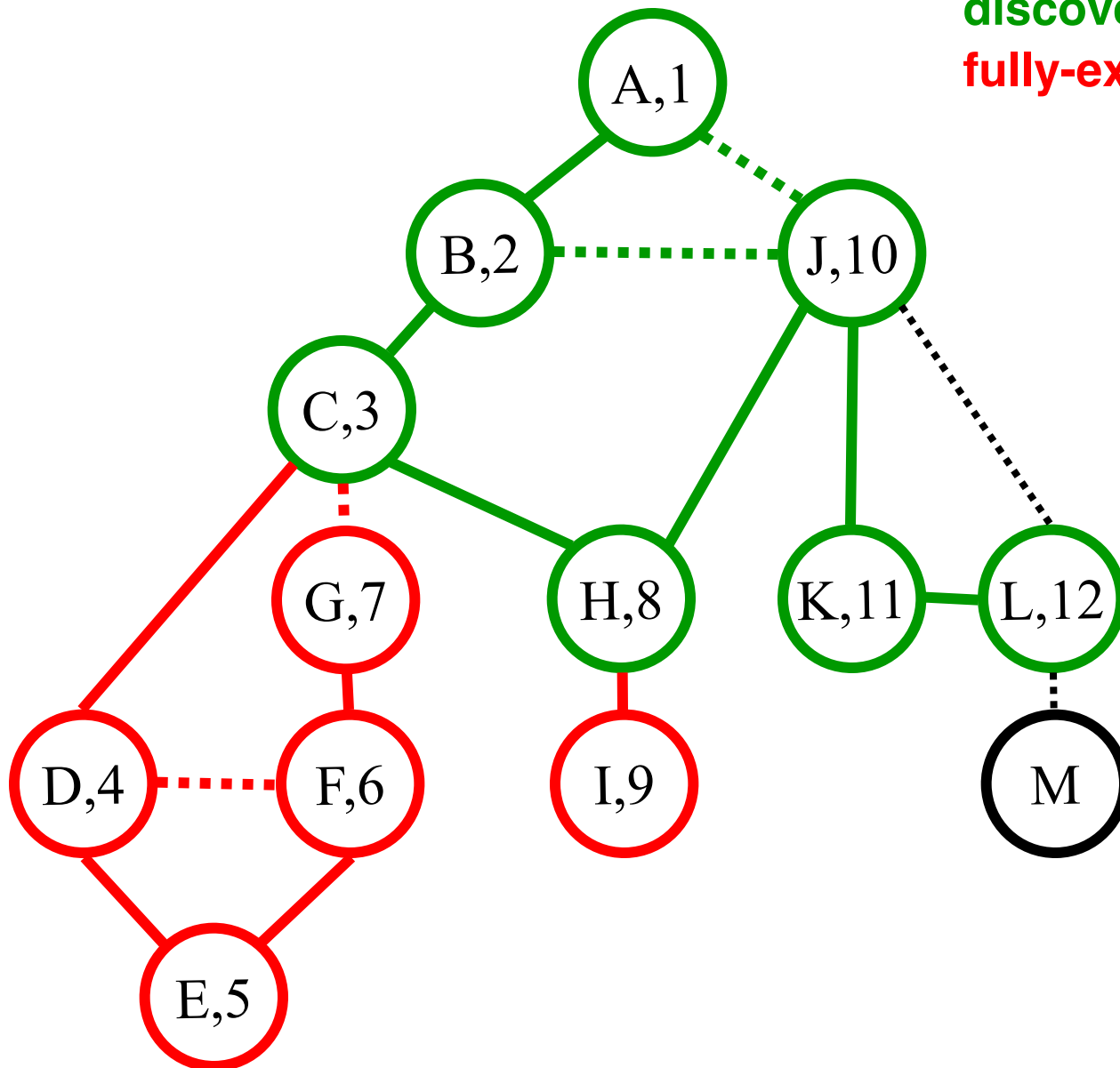
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)  
J (~~A~~,~~B~~,~~H~~,~~K~~,L)  
K (~~J~~,~~L~~)  
L (J,K,M)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8,10  
,11,12}

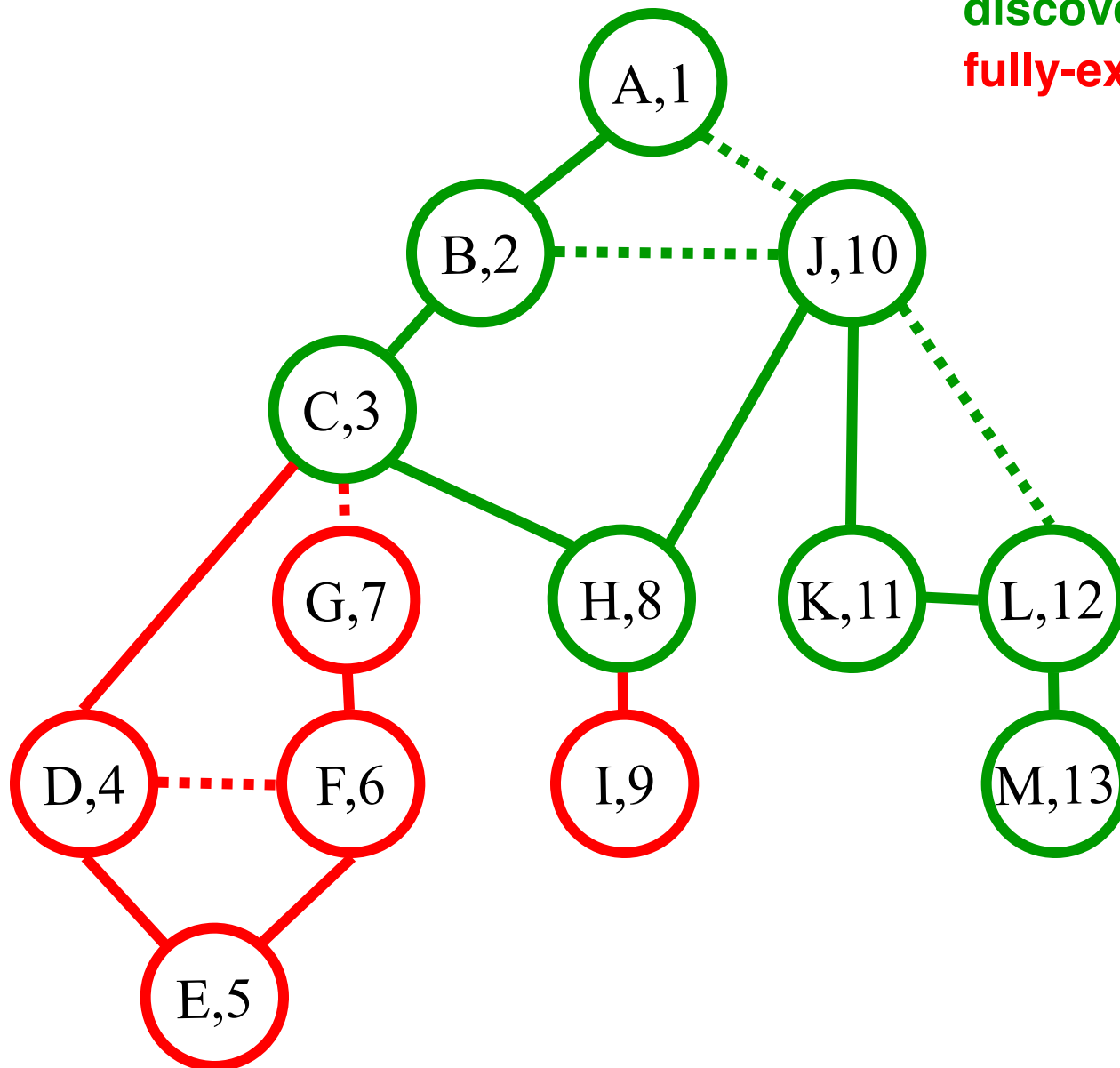
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)  
J (~~A~~,~~B~~,~~H~~,~~K~~,L)  
K (~~J~~,L)  
L (~~J~~,~~K~~,M)  
M(L)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8,10  
,11,12,13}

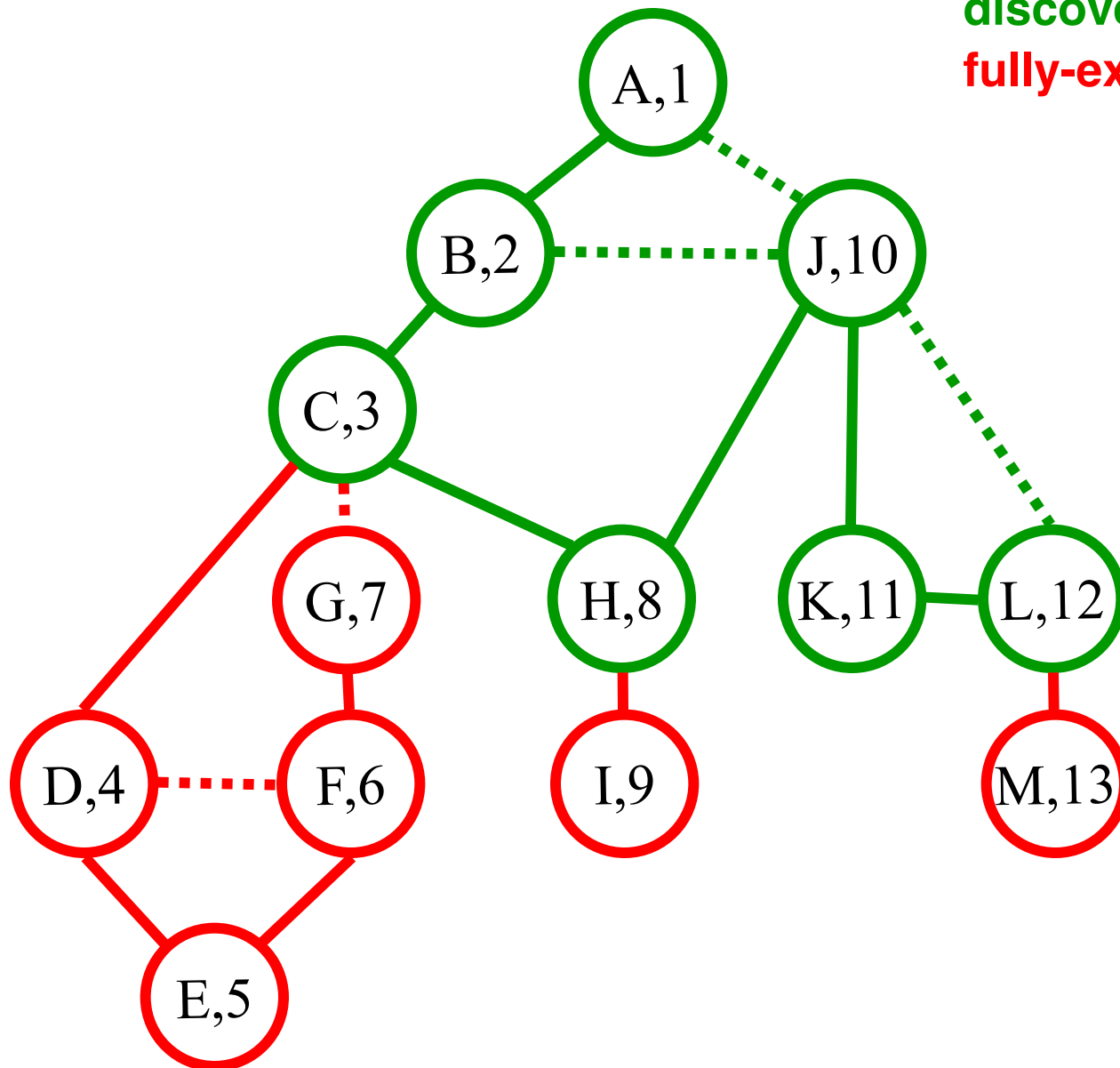
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)  
J (~~A~~,~~B~~,~~H~~,~~K~~,L)  
K (~~J~~,L)  
L (~~J~~,~~K~~,M)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8,10  
,11,12}

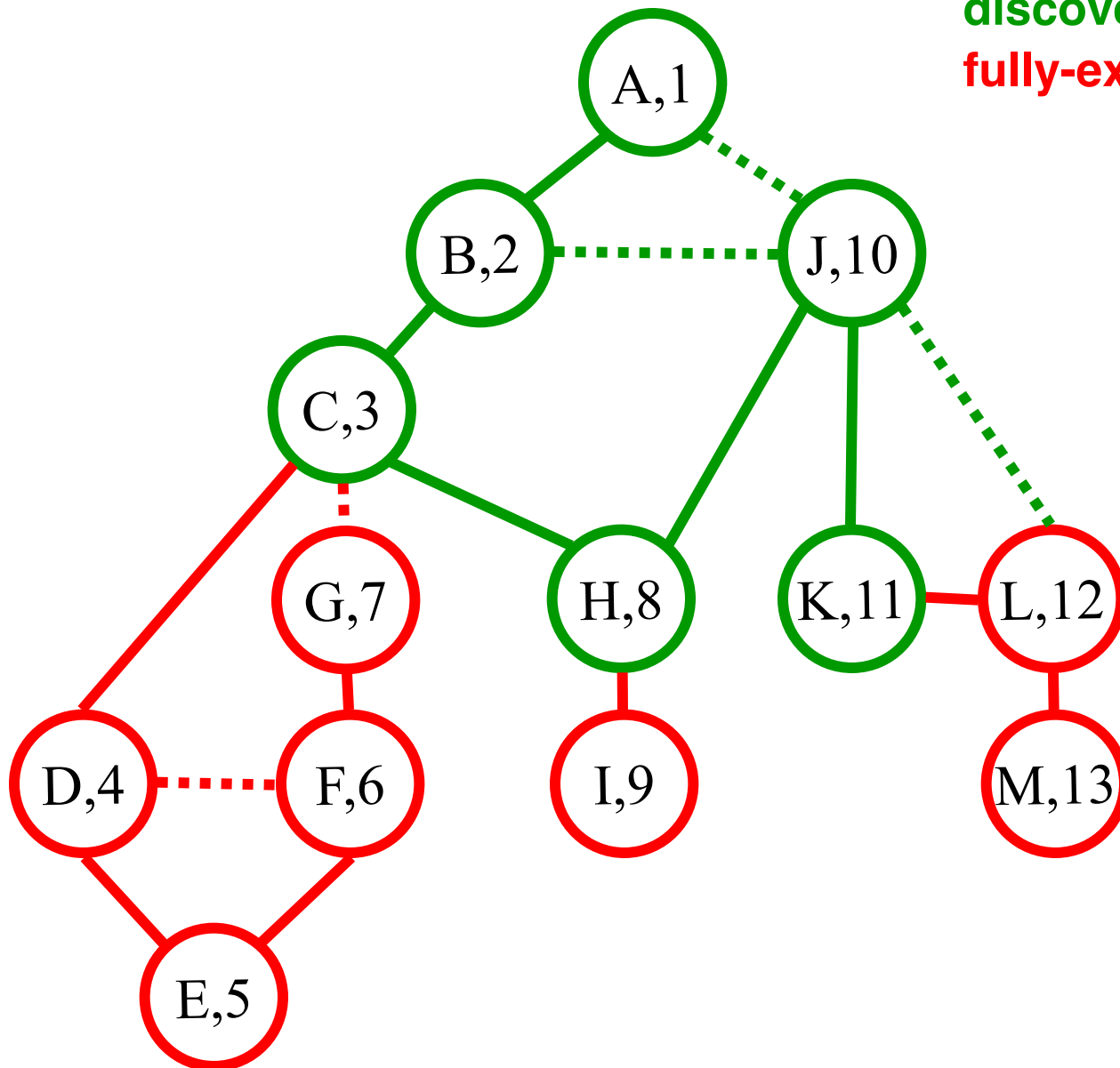
# DFS(A)

Color code:

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**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)  
J (~~A~~,~~B~~,~~H~~,~~K~~,L)  
K (~~J~~,~~L~~)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8,10  
,11}



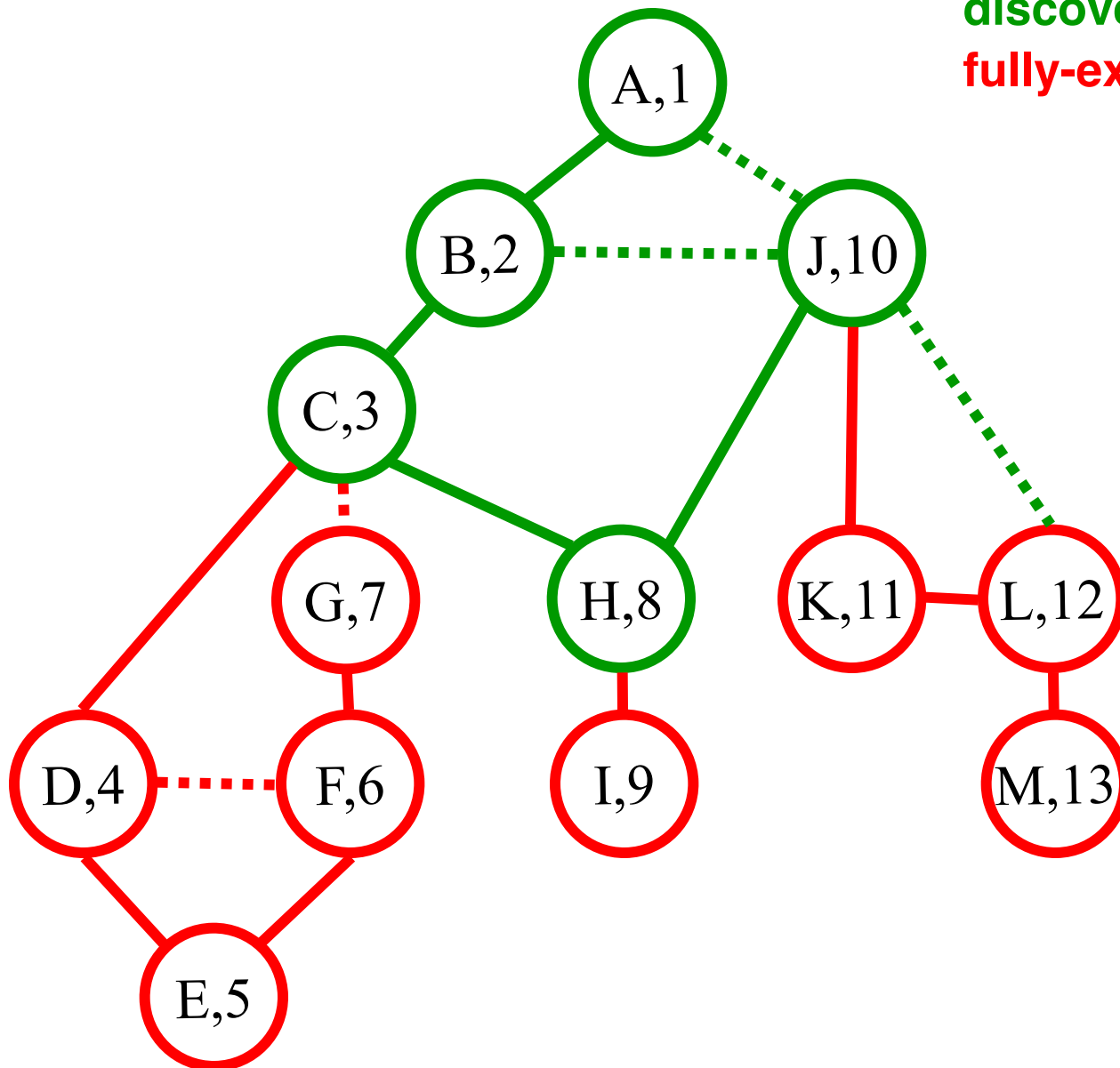
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~, J)  
B (~~A~~, ~~C~~, J)  
C (~~B~~, ~~D~~, ~~G~~, H)  
H (~~C~~, ~~I~~, J)  
J (~~A~~, ~~B~~, H, ~~K~~, ~~L~~)

st[] =  
{1, 2, 3, 8,  
10}

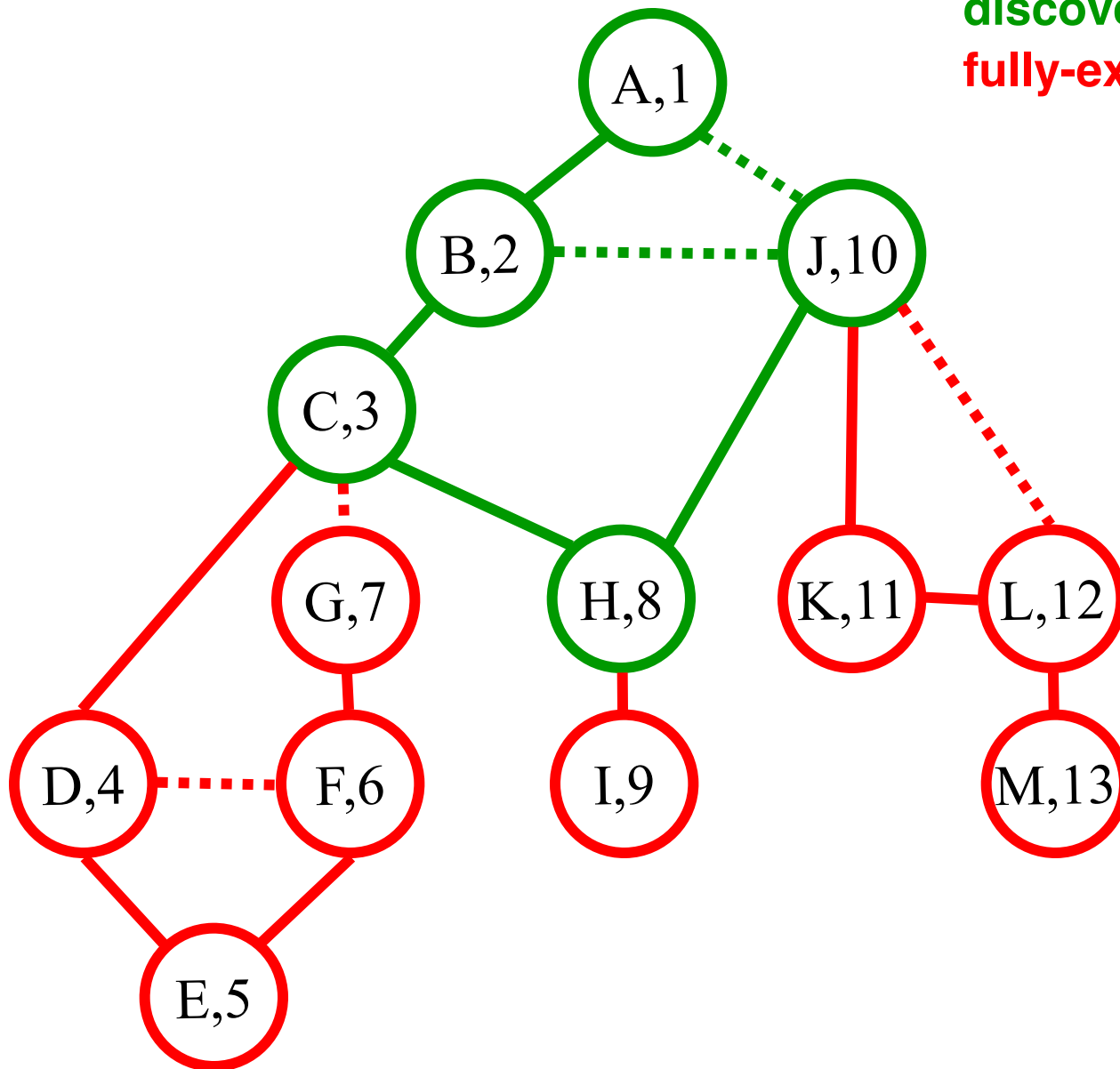
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)  
J (~~A~~,~~B~~,~~H~~,~~K~~,~~L~~)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8,  
10}

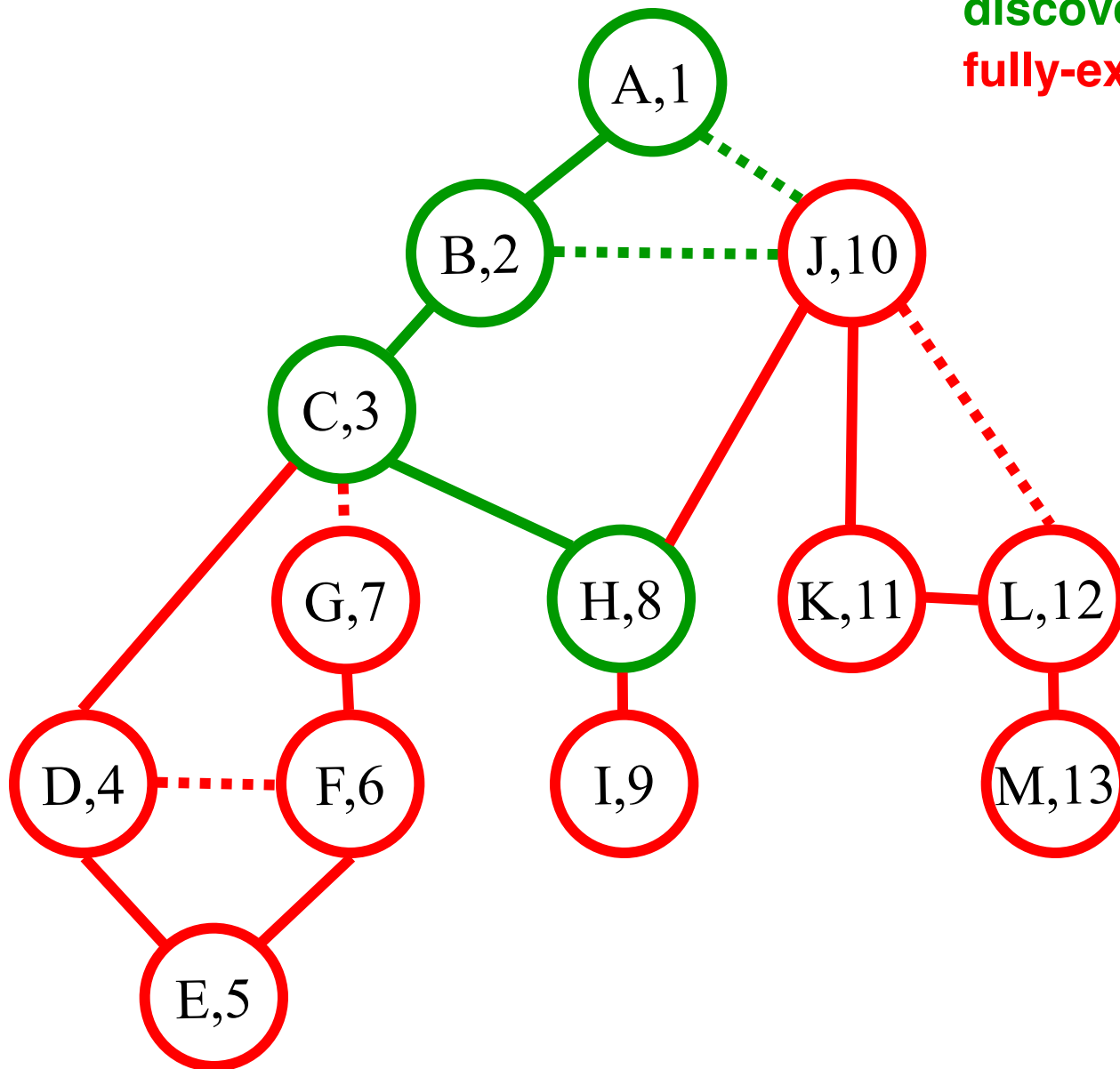
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)  
H (~~C~~,~~I~~,J)

st[] =  
{1,2,3,8}

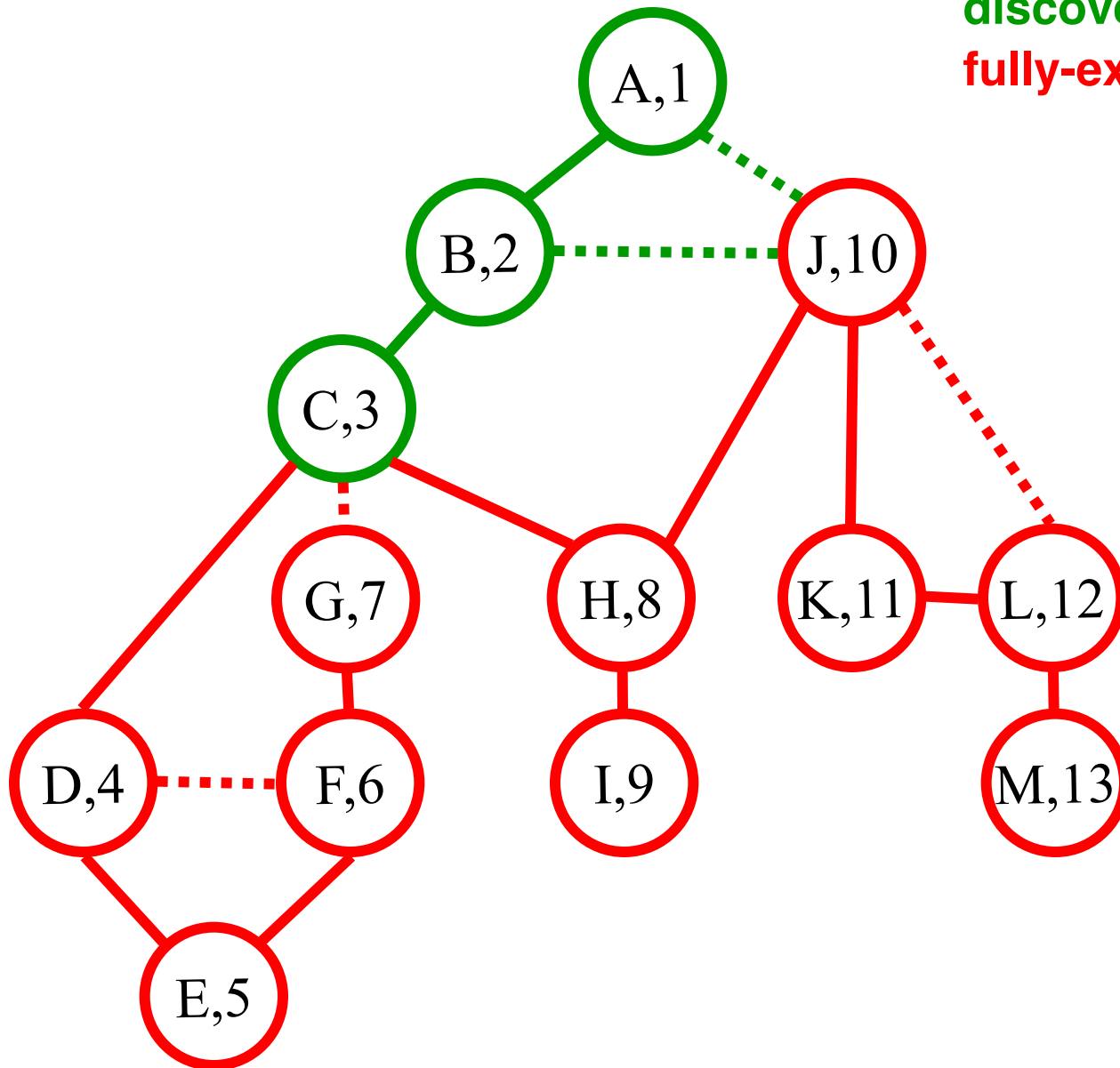
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)  
C (~~B~~,~~D~~,~~G~~,H)

st[] =  
{1,2,3}

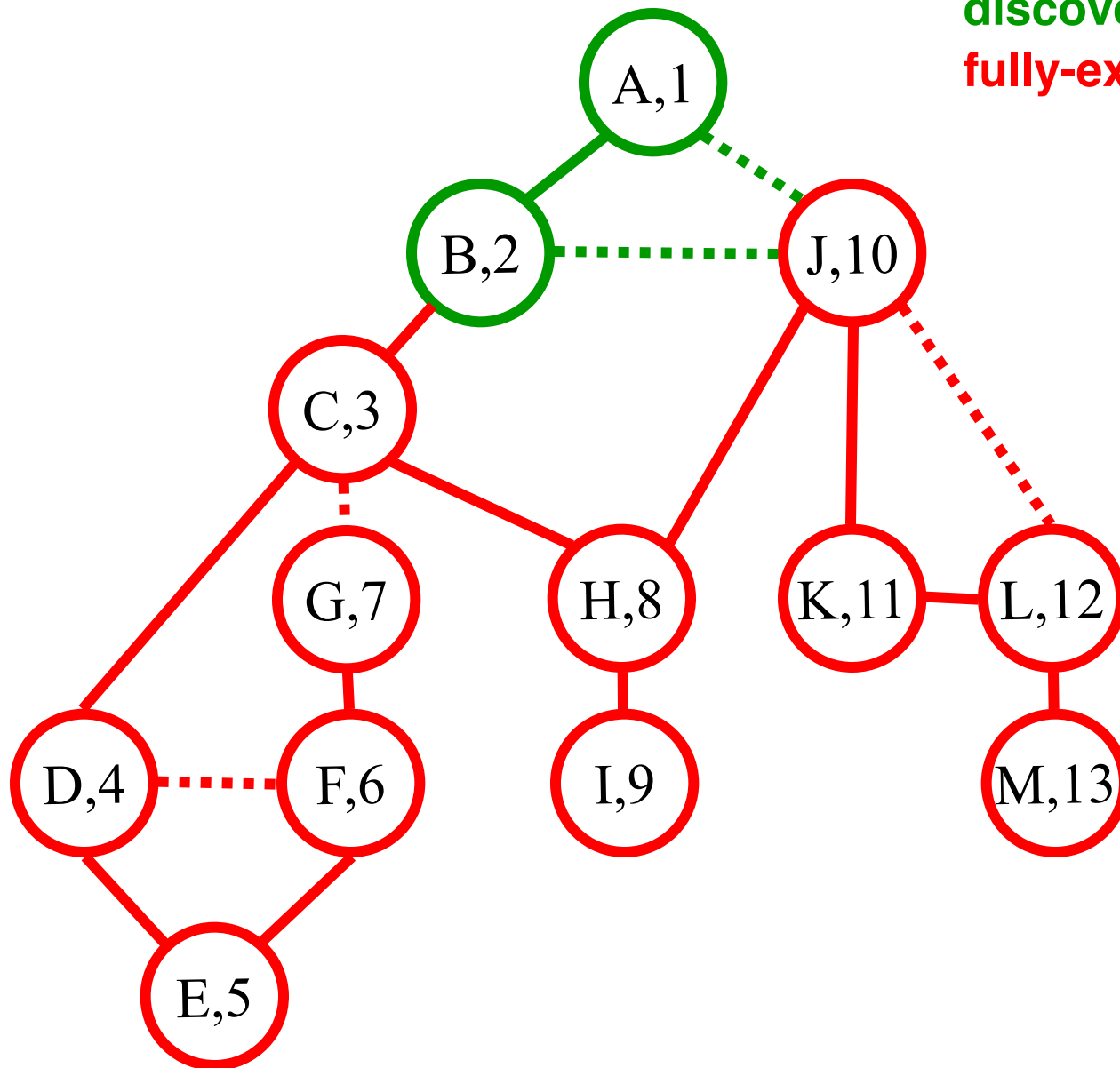
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)

st[] =  
{1,2}

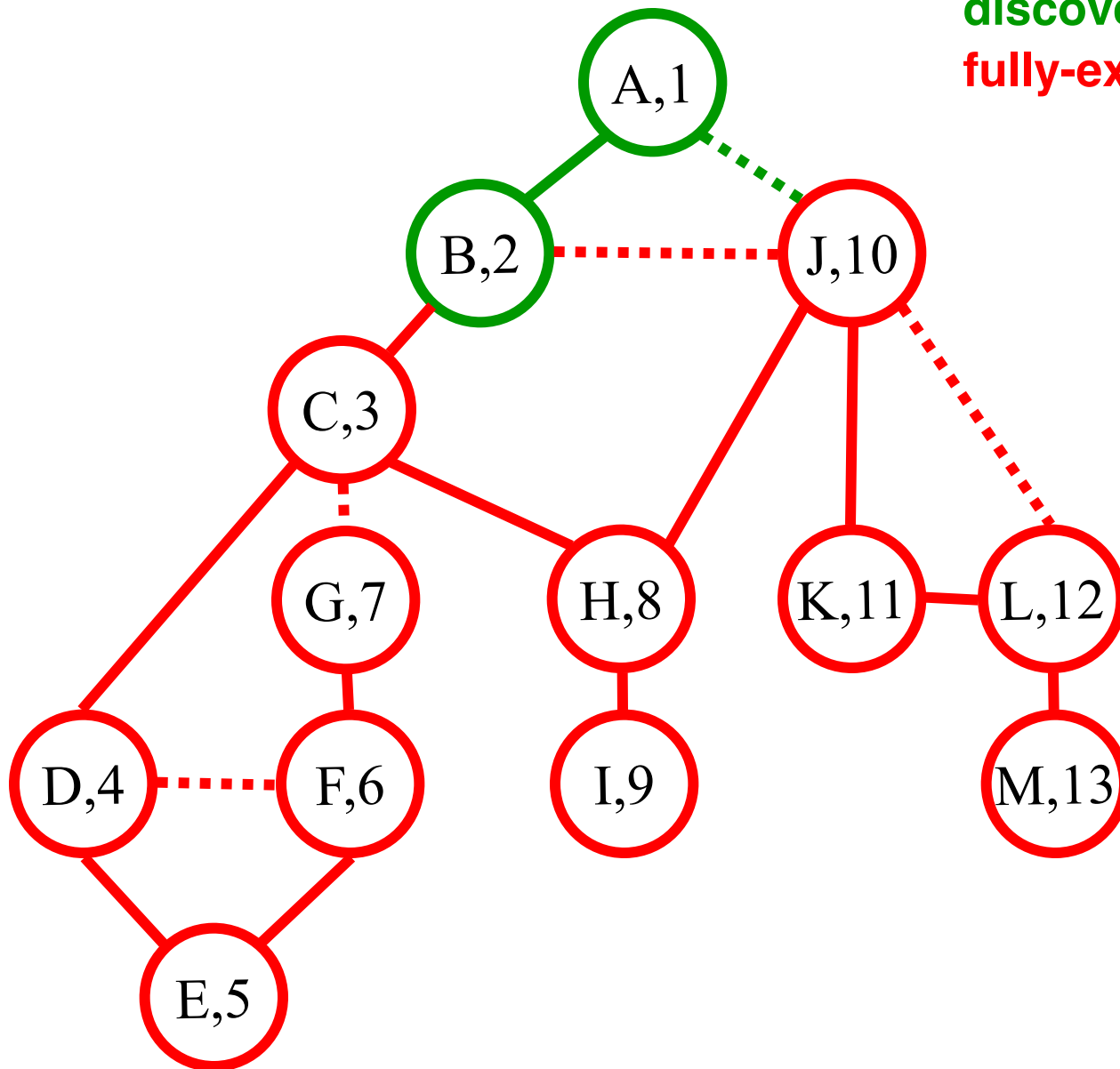
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)  
B (~~A~~,~~C~~,J)

st[] =  
{1,2}

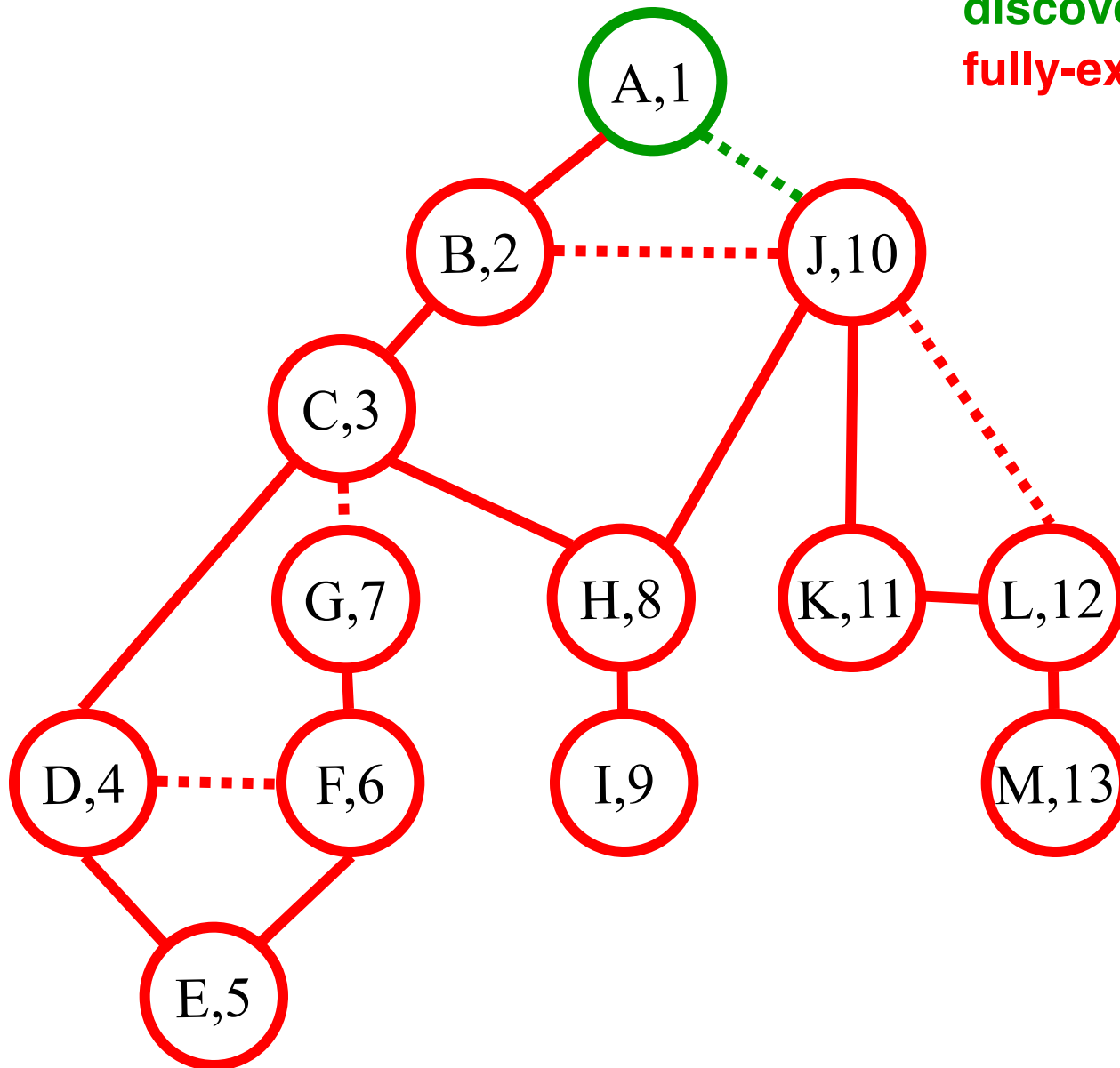
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~,J)

st[] =  
{1}

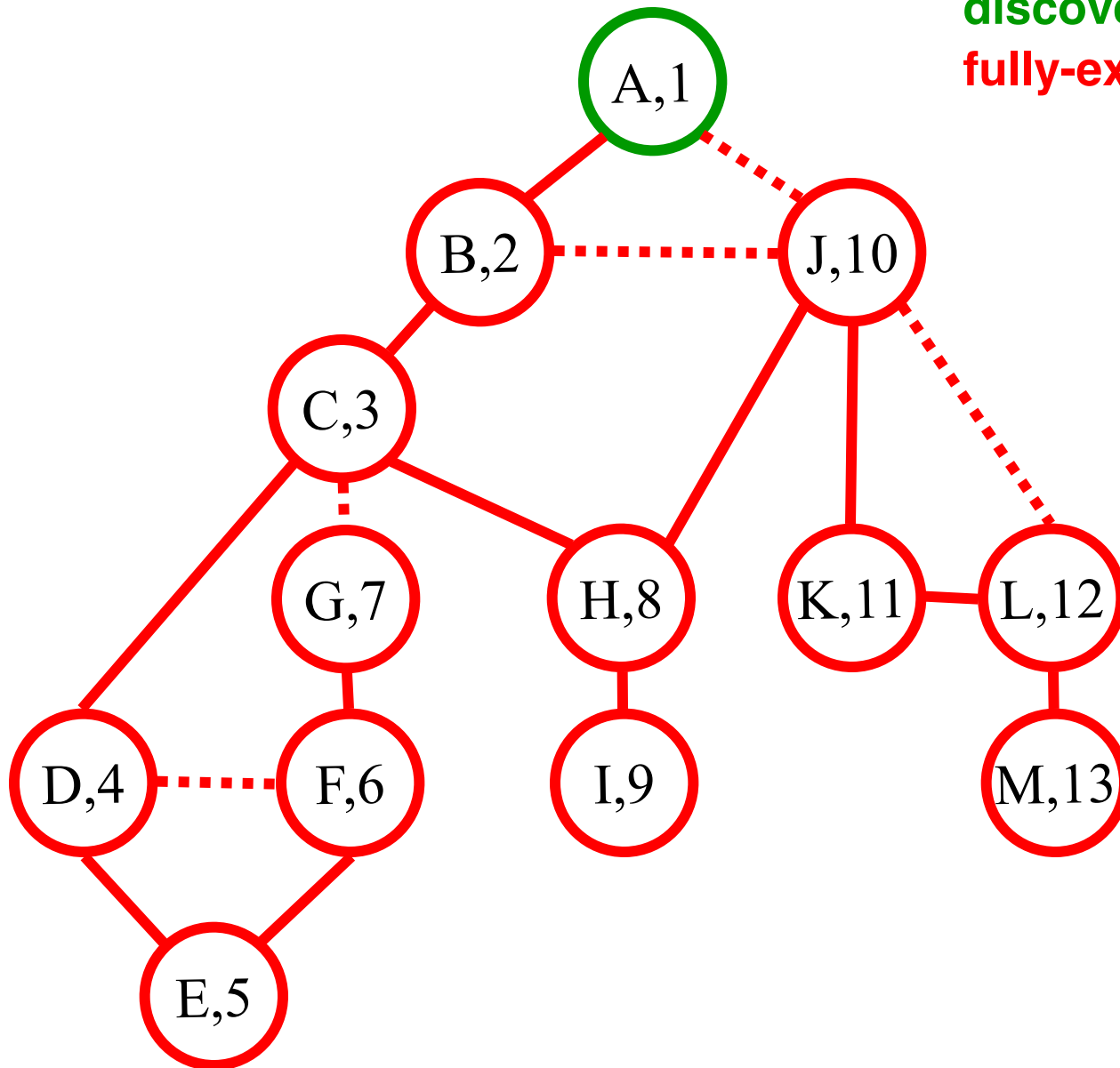
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

A (~~B~~, ~~J~~)

st[] =  
{1}



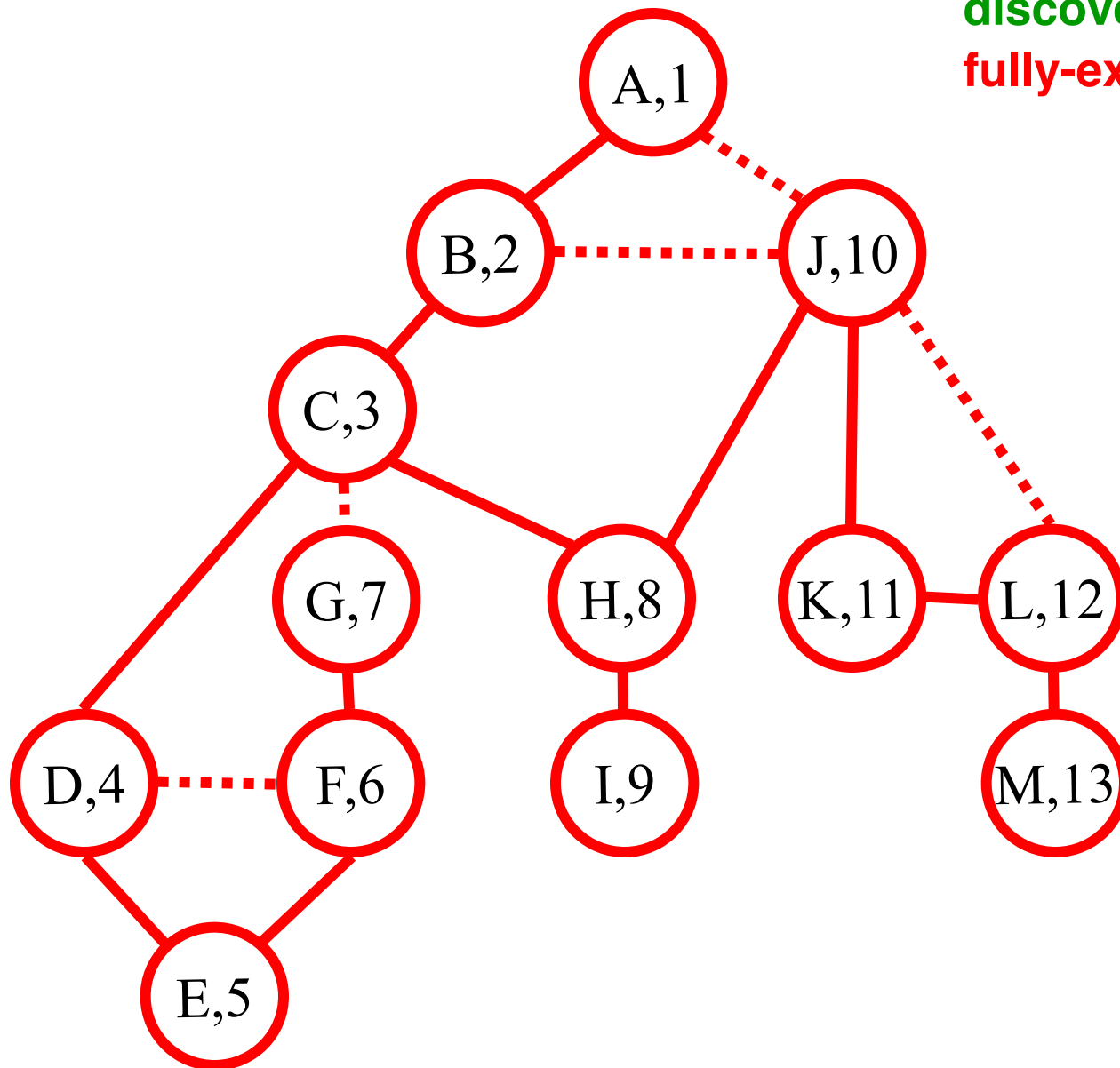
# DFS(A)

Color code:

**undiscovered**

**discovered**

**fully-explored**



Call Stack:  
(Edge list)

TA-DA!!

st[] = {}

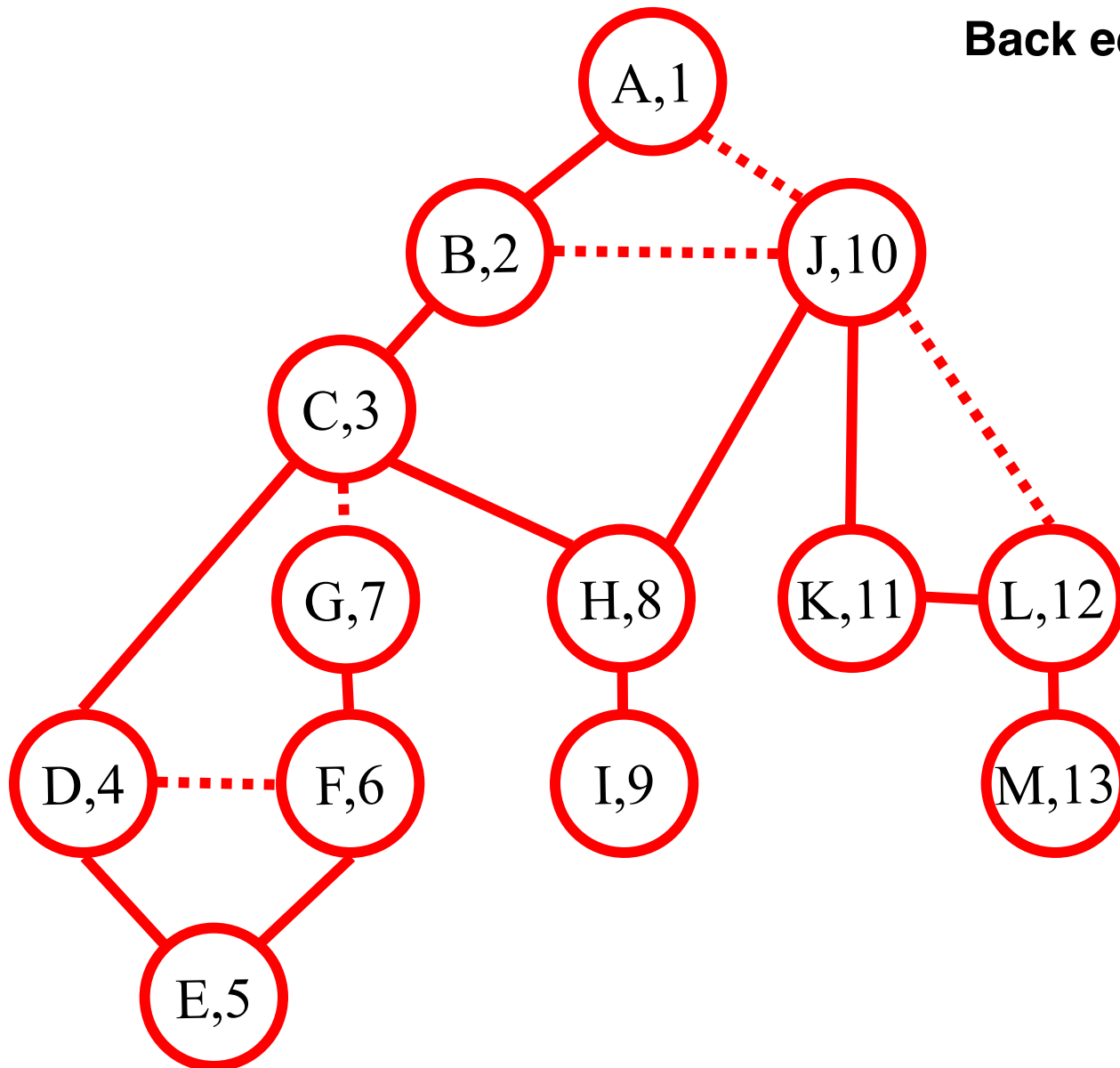
# DFS(A)

Edge code:

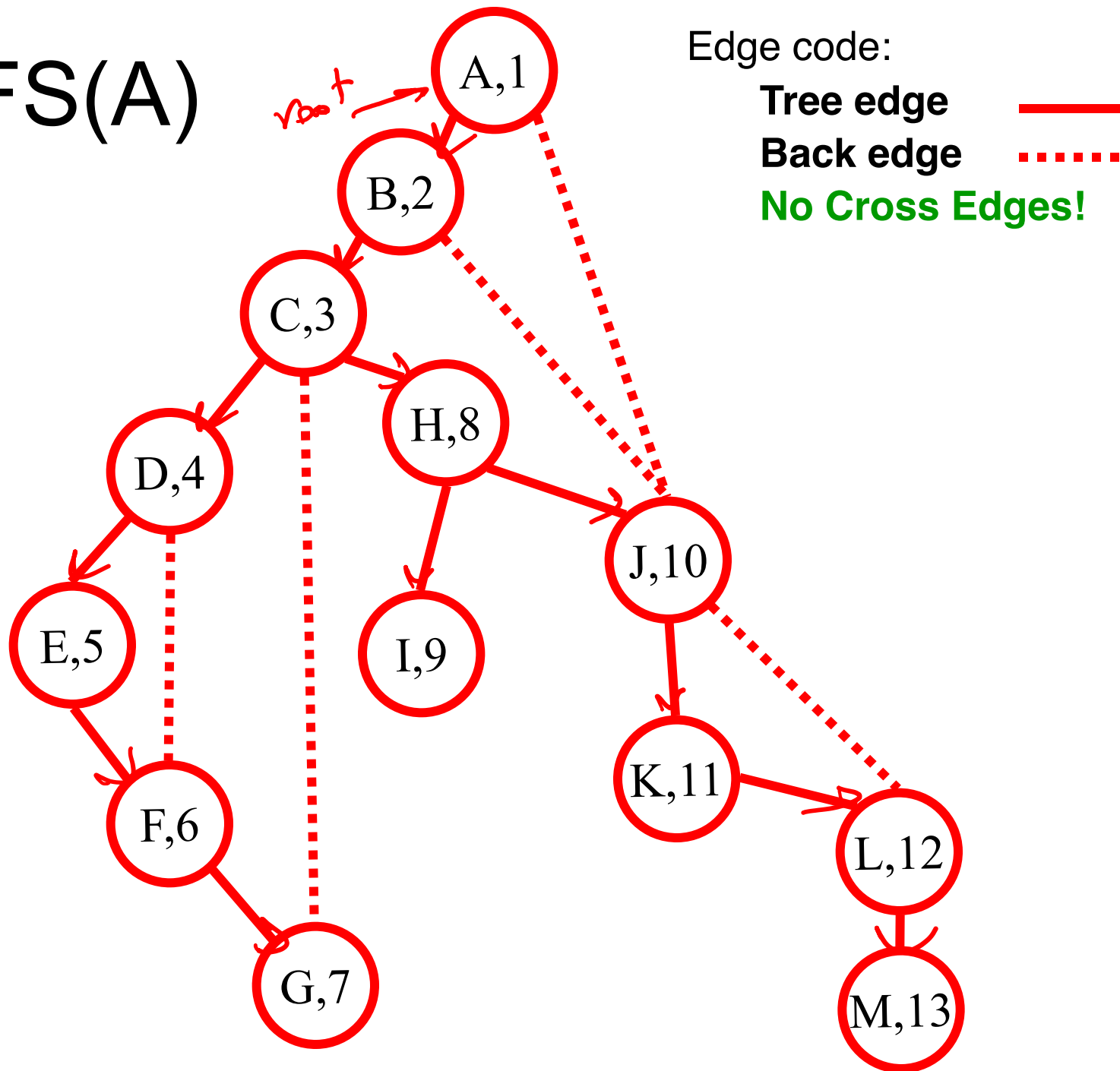
**Tree edge**



**Back edge**



# DFS(A)



# Properties of (undirected) DFS

## Like BFS(s):

- DFS(s) visits  $x$  iff there is a path in  $G$  from  $s$  to  $x$   
So, we can use DFS to find connected components
- Edges into then-undiscovered vertices define a *tree* – the "depth first spanning tree" of  $G$

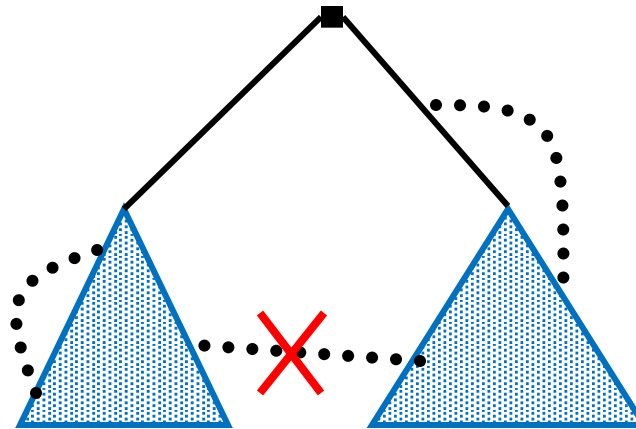
## Unlike the BFS tree:

- The DF spanning tree isn't minimum depth
- Its levels don't reflect min distance from the root
- Non-tree edges never join vertices on the same or adjacent levels

# Non-Tree Edges in DFS

All non-tree edges join a vertex and one of its descendants/ancestors in the DFS tree

BFS tree  $\neq$  DFS tree, but, as with BFS, DFS has found a tree in the graph s.t. non-tree edges are "simple" – only descendant/ancestor



# Non-Tree Edges in DFS

**Obs:** During DFS( $x$ ) every vertex marked visited is a descendant of  $x$  in the DFS tree

**Lemma:** For every edge  $\{x, y\}$ , if  $\{x, y\}$  is not in DFS tree, then one of  $x$  or  $y$  is an ancestor of the other in the tree.

**Proof:**

One of  $x$  or  $y$  is visited first, suppose WLOG that  $x$  is visited first and therefore DFS( $x$ ) was called before DFS( $y$ )

Since  $\{x, y\}$  is not in DFS tree,  $y$  was visited when the edge  $\{x, y\}$  was examined during DFS( $x$ )

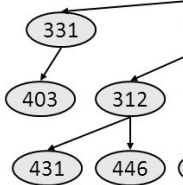
Therefore  $y$  was visited during the call to DFS( $x$ ) so  $y$  is a descendant of  $x$ .

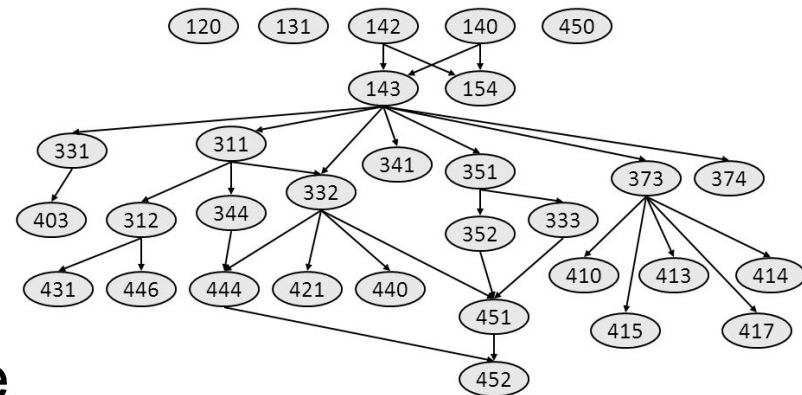
# DAGs and Topological Ordering

# Precedence Constraints

In a directed graph, an edge  $(i, j)$  means task  $i$  must occur before task  $j$ .

# Applications

- Course prerequisite:  
course  $i$  must be taken before  $j$
  - Compilation:  
must compile module  $i$  before  $j$
  - Computing overflow:  
output of job  $i$  is part of input to job  $j$
  - Manufacturing or assembly:  
sand it before paint it
- 
- ```
graph TD; 331((331)) --> 403((403)); 312((312)) --> 403; 312 --> 446((446)); 431((431)) --> 446;
```

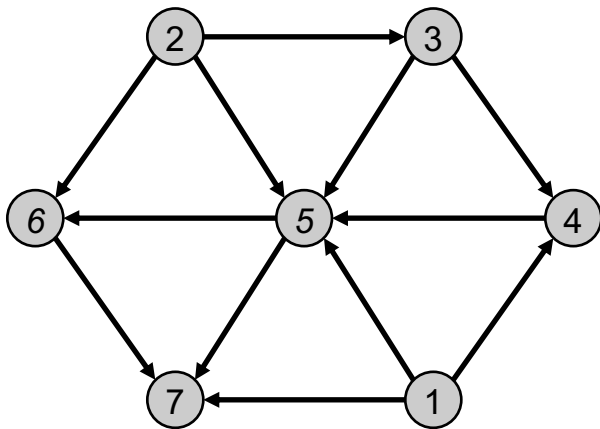




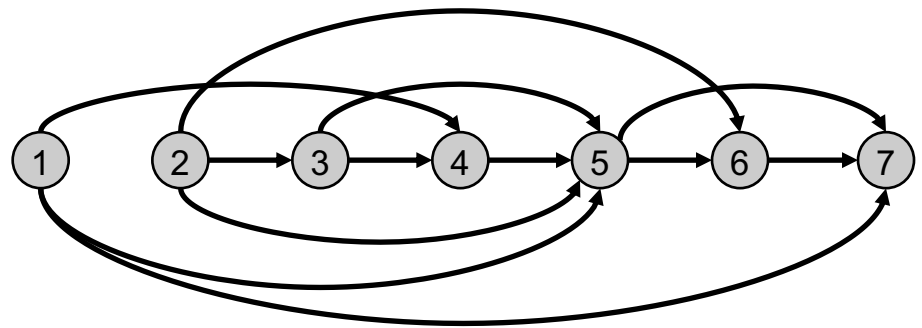
# Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAG)

A **DAG** is a directed acyclic graph, i.e., one that contains no directed cycles.

**Def:** A **topological order** of a directed graph  $G = (V, E)$  is an ordering of its nodes as  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  so that for every edge  $(v_i, v_j)$  we have  $i < j$ .



*a DAG*



*a topological ordering of that DAG—  
all edges left-to-right*

# DAGs: A Sufficient Condition

**Lemma:** If  $G$  has a topological order, then  $G$  is a DAG.

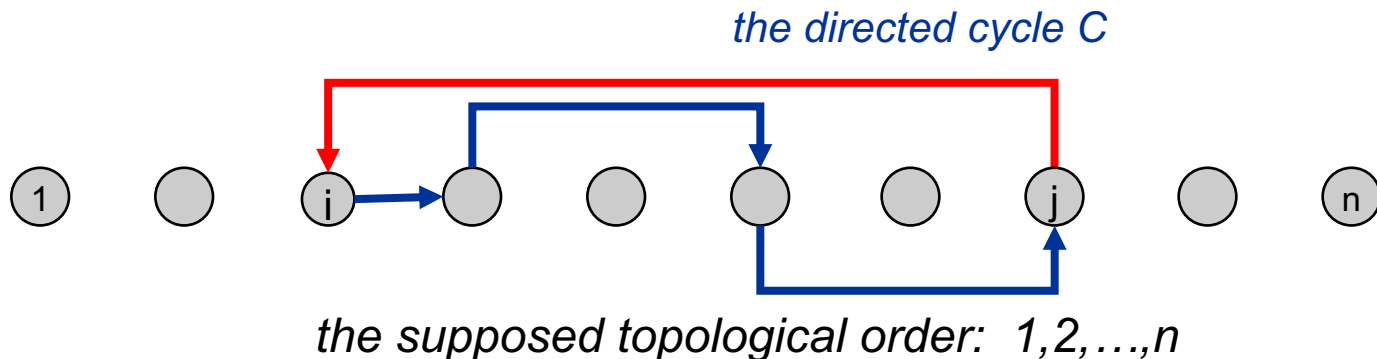
**Pf.** (by contradiction)

Suppose that  $G$  has a topological order  $1, 2, \dots, n$  and that  $G$  also has a directed cycle  $C$ .

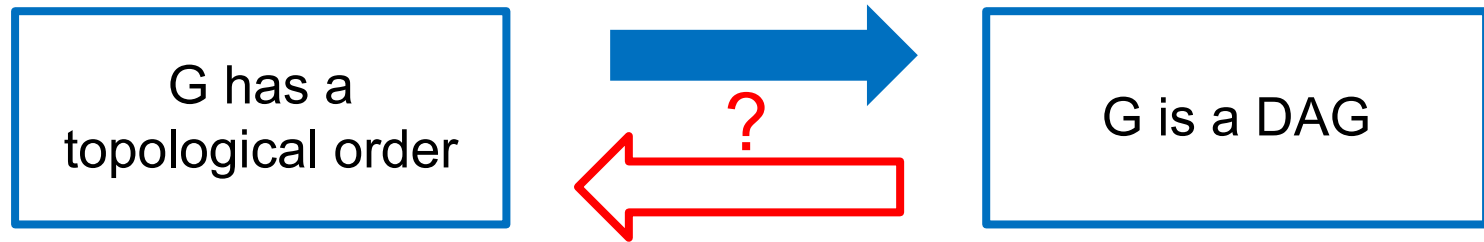
Let  $i$  be the lowest-indexed node in  $C$ , and let  $j$  be the node just before  $i$ ; thus  $(j, i)$  is an (directed) edge.

By our choice of  $i$ , we have  $i < j$ .

On the other hand, since  $(j, i)$  is an edge and  $1, \dots, n$  is a topological order, we must have  $j < i$ , a contradiction



# DAGs: A Sufficient Condition



# Every DAG has a source node

**Lemma:** If  $G$  is a DAG, then  $G$  has a node with no incoming edges (i.e., a source).

**Pf.** (by contradiction)

Suppose that  $G$  is a DAG and it has no source

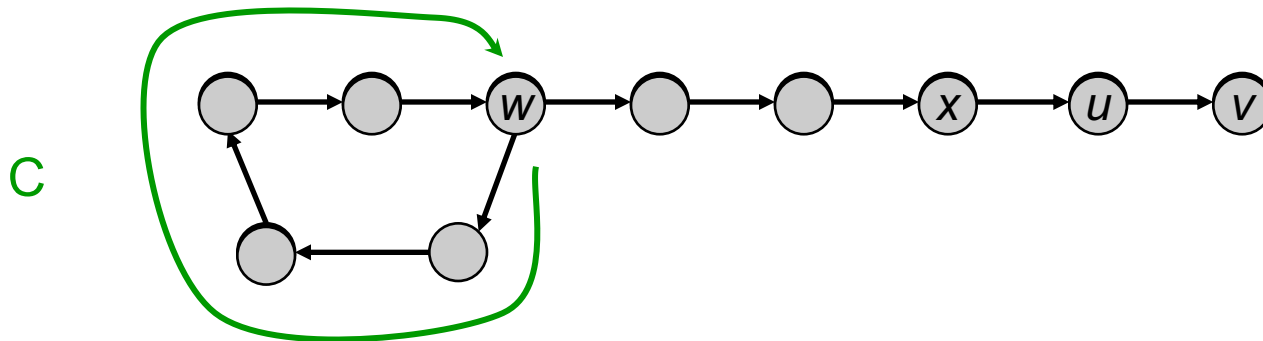
Pick any node  $v$ , and begin following edges **backward** from  $v$ . Since  $v$  has at least one incoming edge  $(u, v)$  we can walk backward to  $u$ .

Then, since  $u$  has at least one incoming edge  $(x, u)$ , we can walk backward to  $x$ .

Repeat until we visit a node, say  $w$ , twice.

Let  $C$  be the sequence of nodes encountered between successive visits to  $w$ .  $C$  is a cycle.

Is this similar to a previous proof?



# DAG $\Rightarrow$ Topological Order

**Lemma:** If  $G$  is a DAG, then  $G$  has a topological order

**Pf.** (by induction on  $n$ )

**Base case:** true if  $n = 1$ .

**IH:** Every DAG with  $n-1$  vertices has a topological ordering.

**IS:** Given DAG with  $n > 1$  nodes, find a source node  $v$ .

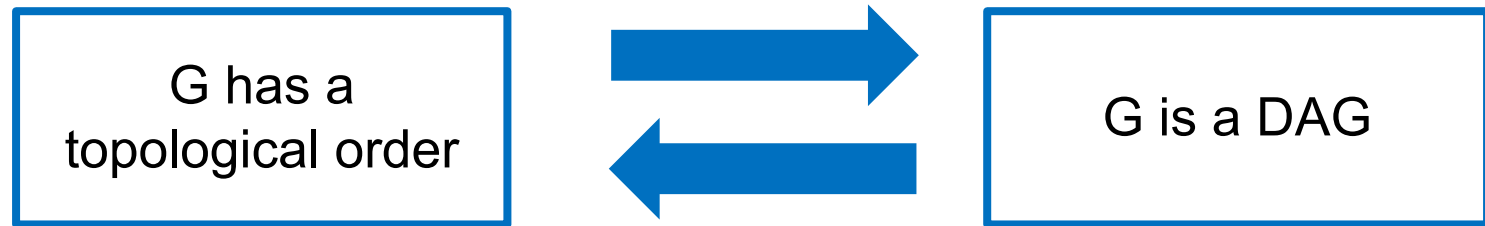
$G - \{v\}$  is a DAG, since deleting  $v$  cannot create cycles.

Reminder: Always remove  
vertices/edges to use IH

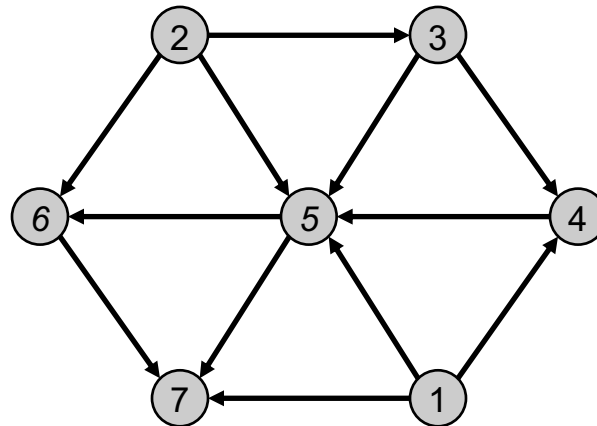
By IH,  $G - \{v\}$  has a topological ordering.

Place  $v$  first in topological ordering; then append nodes of  $G - \{v\}$   
in topological order. This is valid since  $v$  has no incoming edges.

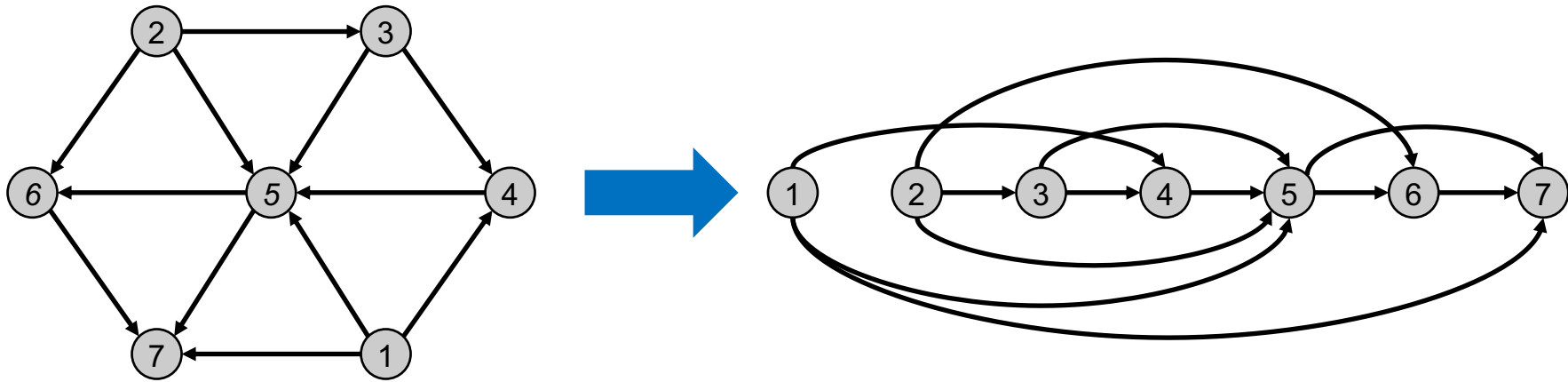
# A Characterization of DAGs



# Topological Order Algorithm: Example



# Topological Order Algorithm: Example



*Topological order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7*



# Topological Sorting Algorithm

Maintain the following:

$\text{count}[w]$  = (remaining) number of incoming edges to node  $w$

$S$  = set of (remaining) nodes with no incoming edges

Initialization:

$\text{count}[w] = 0$  for all  $w$

$\text{count}[w]++$  for all edges  $(v, w)$   $O(m + n)$

$S = S \cup \{w\}$  for all  $w$  with  $\text{count}[w]=0$

Main loop:

while  $S$  not empty

- remove some  $v$  from  $S$
- make  $v$  next in topo order  $O(1)$  per node
- for all edges from  $v$  to some  $w$   $O(1)$  per edge
  - decrement  $\text{count}[w]$
  - add  $w$  to  $S$  if  $\text{count}[w]$  hits 0

Correctness: clear, I hope

Time:  $O(m + n)$  (assuming edge-list representation of graph)

# Summary

- Graphs: abstract relationships among pairs of objects
- Terminology: node/vertex/vertices, edges, paths, multi-edges, self-loops, connected
- Representation: Adjacency list, adjacency matrix
- Nodes vs Edges:  $m = O(n^2)$ , often less
- BFS: Layers, queue, shortest paths, all edges go to same or adjacent layer
- DFS: recursion/stack; all edges ancestor/descendant
- Algorithms: Connected Comp, bipartiteness, topological sort