

# Graph Theory: Search

Anton Gerdelan <[gerdela@scss.tcd.ie](mailto:gerdela@scss.tcd.ie)>

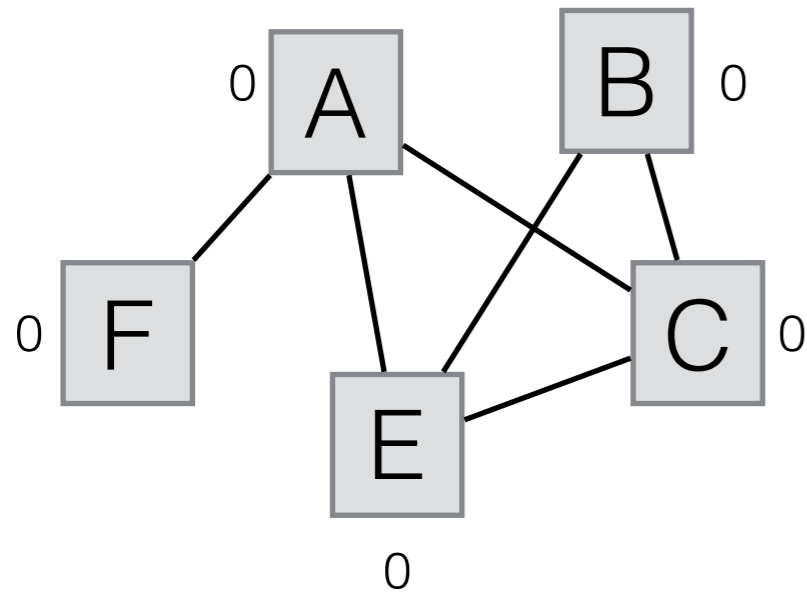
# Graph Traversal

- Visiting nodes in a graph (graph traversal)
  - trickier than tree because cycles -> infinite loop
- Traversing a graph similar to finding a spanning tree
  - add flag to each vertex to show if it has been visited yet

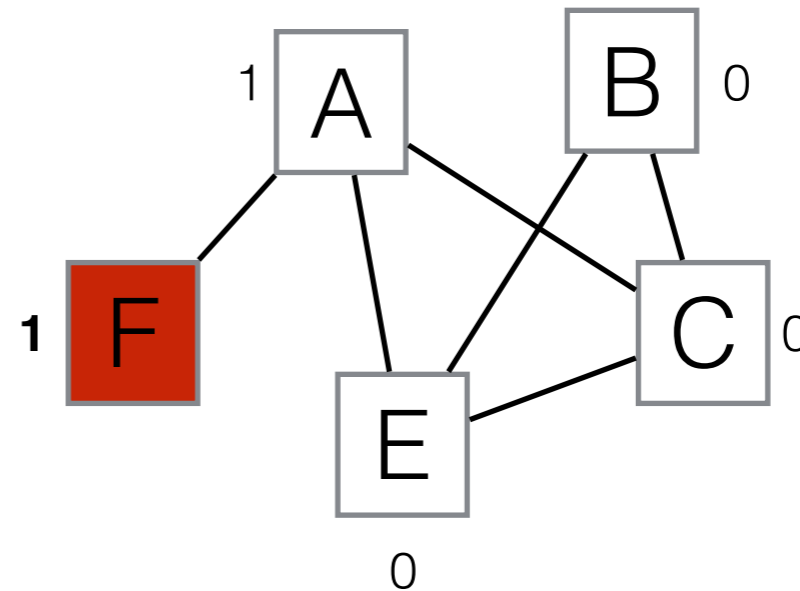
# Depth First Search (DFS)

- mark all vertices as **not visited**
- for all vertices in graph, if vertex **v** has not been visited then use **recursive** function `DFS ( v )`
- `DFS ( v )`
  - Mark vertex **v** as **visited**
  - for all vertices connected to **v**
    - if **v** has not been visited
      - `DFS ( x )`

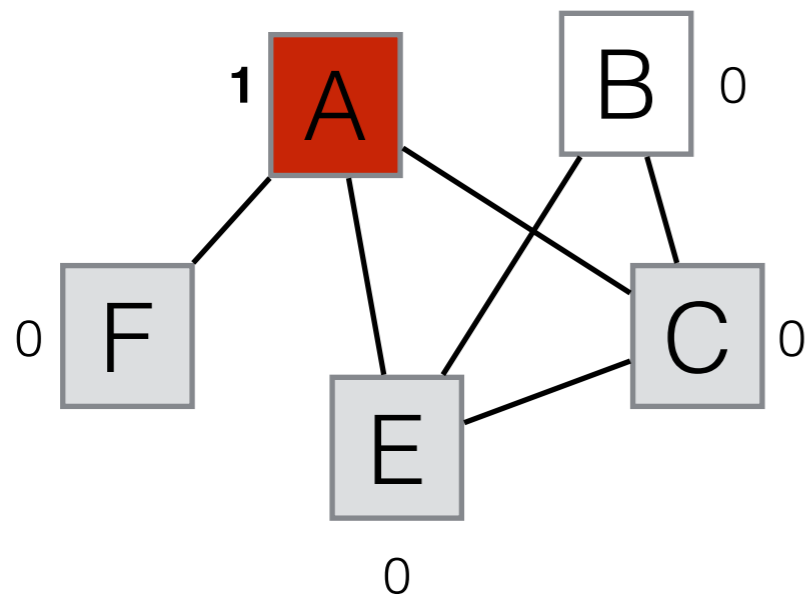
1) mark all vertices as 0,  
i choose vertex A



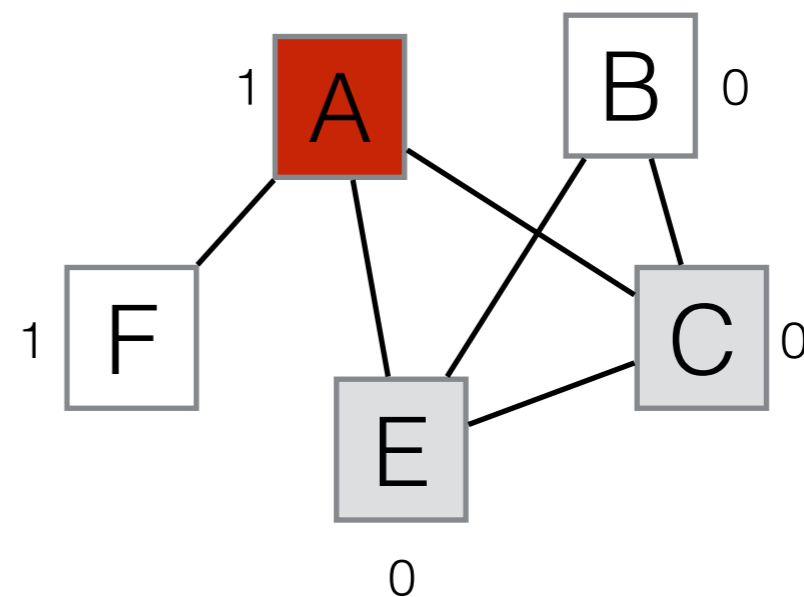
3) F not visited - DFS ( F ) - mark as 1  
no unvisited connections - **return**



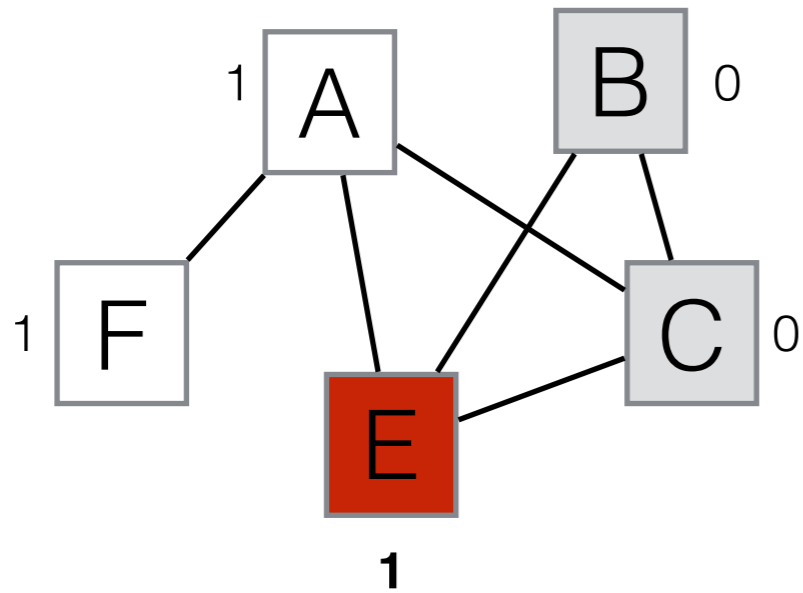
2) DFS ( A ) - mark as 1,  
choose from {F, E, C}



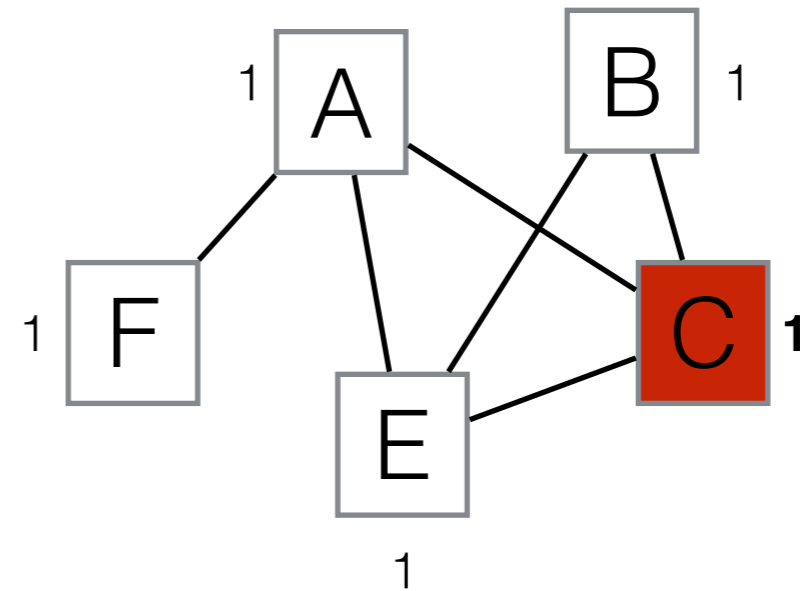
4) back at A  
choose from {E, C}



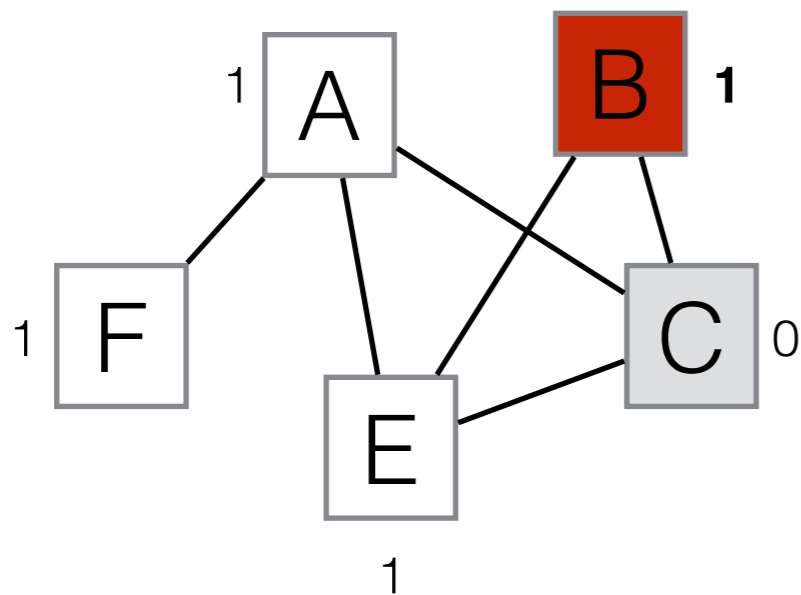
5) DFS ( E ) - mark as 1,  
choose from {B, C}



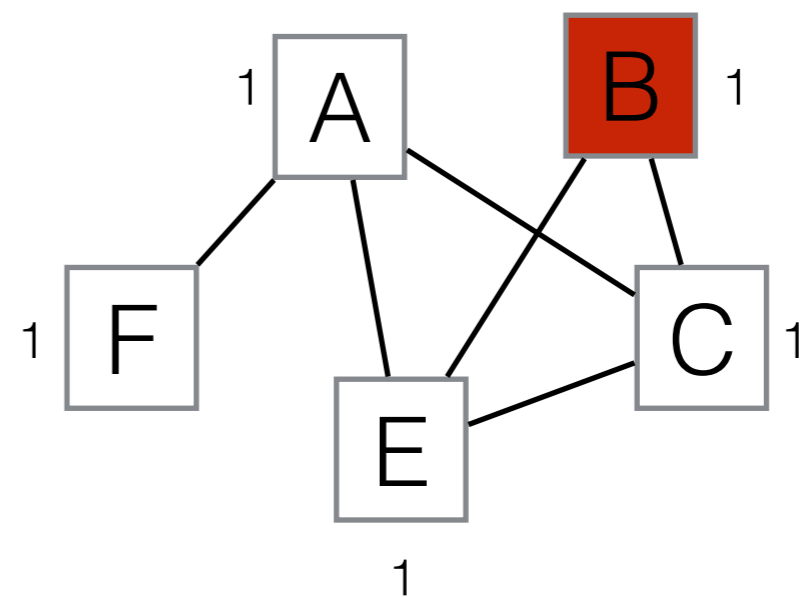
7) DFS ( C ) - mark as 1  
**return**



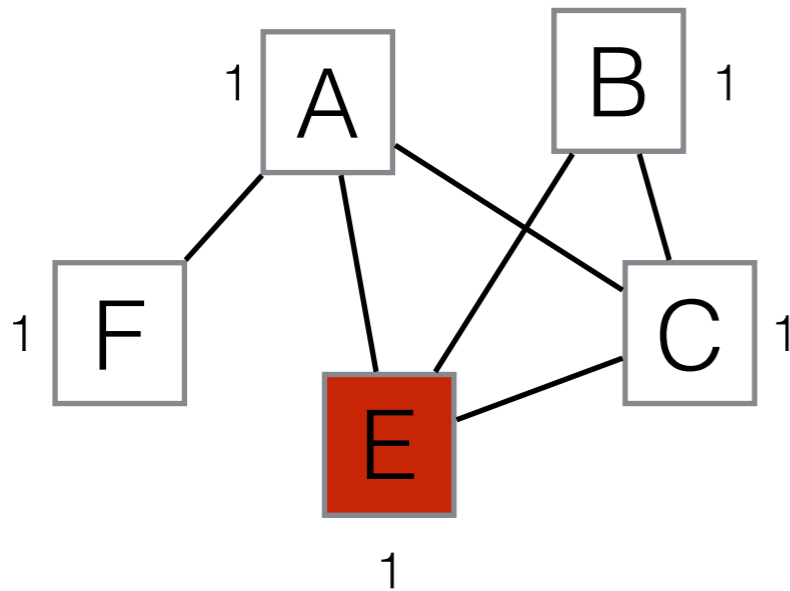
6) DFS ( B ) - mark as 1,  
choose C



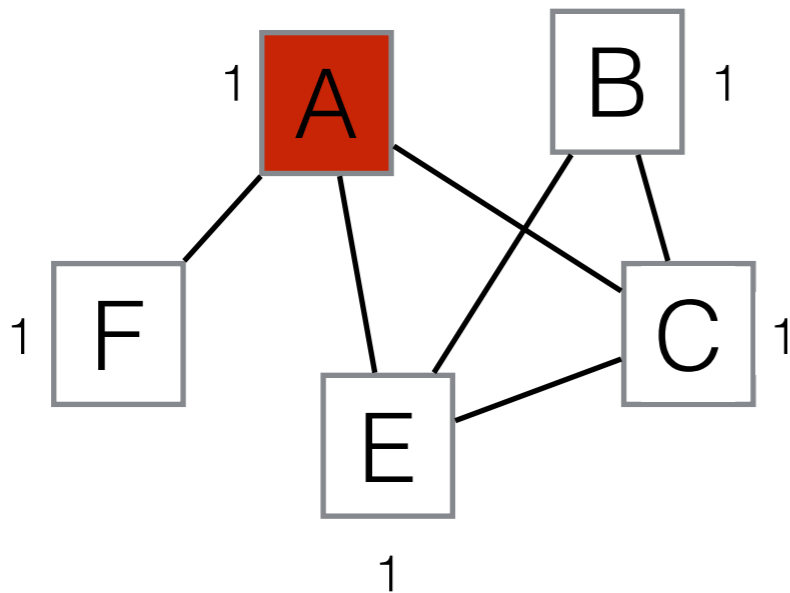
8) back at B  
- all visited - **return**



9) back at E  
- all visited - **return**



10) back at A  
- all visited - **return**  
recursion done

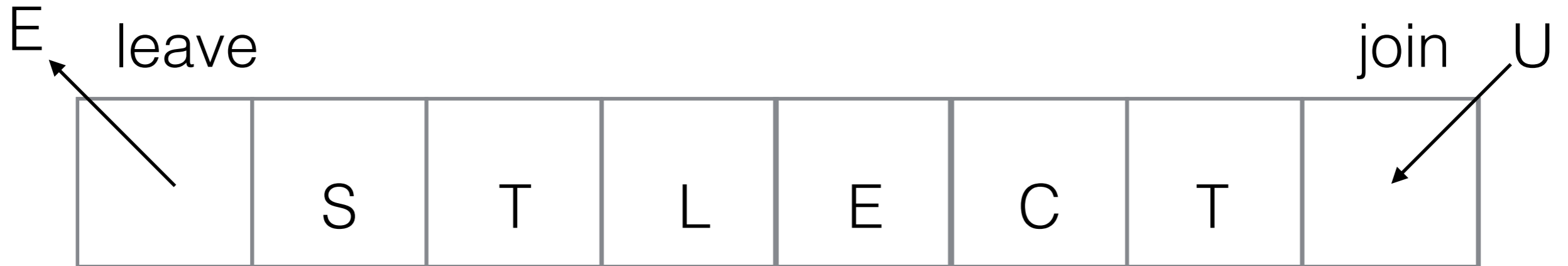


traversal sequence:  
A,F,E,B,C

# Breadth First Search (BFS)

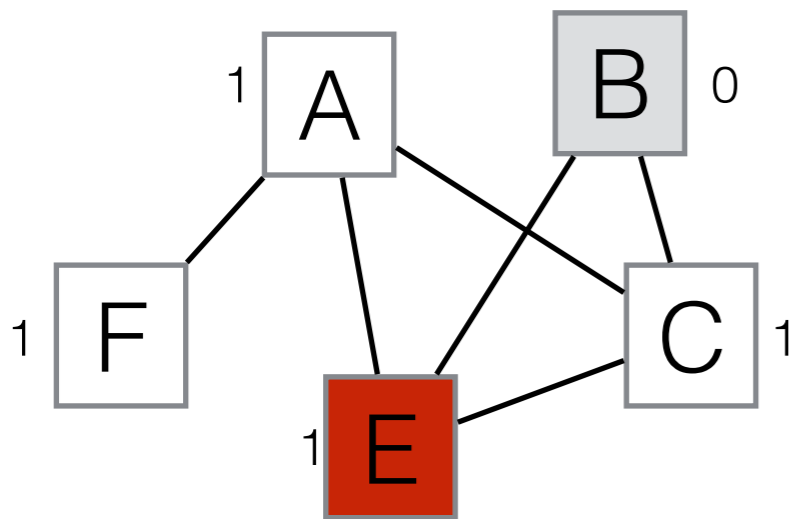
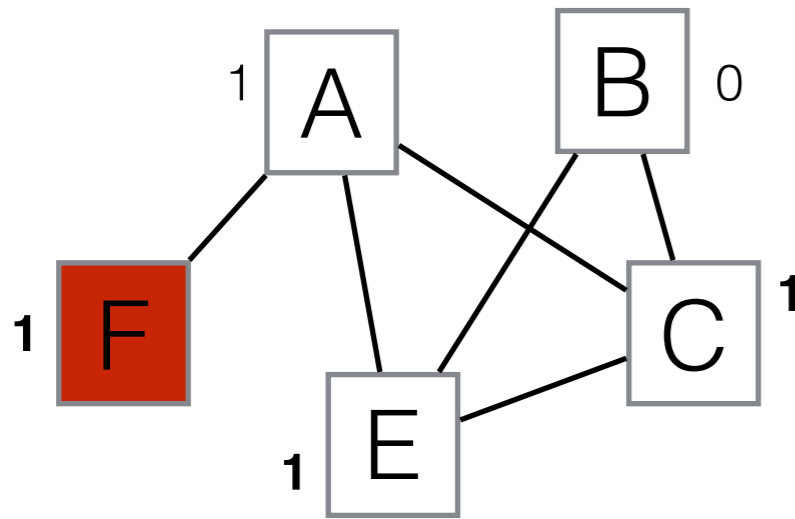
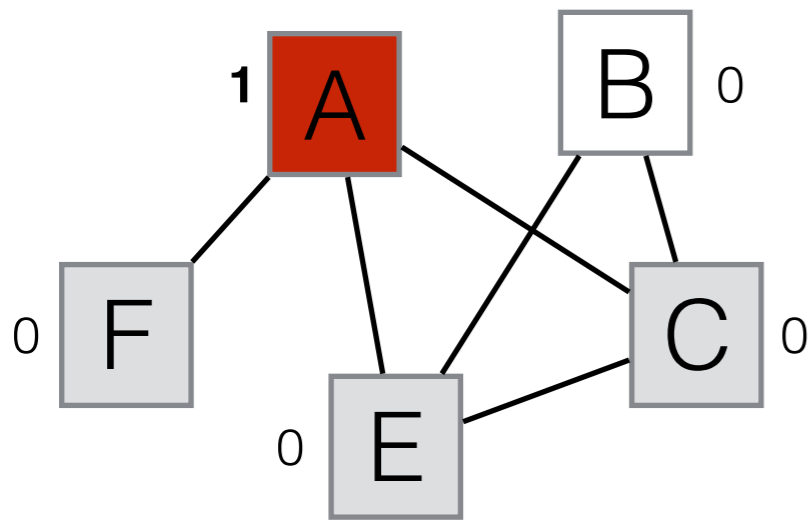
- mark all vertices as **not visited**
- create an empty **queue**  $Q$  of vertices
- for all vertices in graph, if vertex  $v$  has not been visited then use **iterative** function `BFS( v ) // "hello! i am not recursive"`
- `BFS( v )`
  - Mark vertex  $v$  as **visited**
  - add  $v$  to  $Q$
  - **while**  $Q$  is not empty
    - remove front vertex,  $x$ , from  $Q$
    - for all vertices,  $i$ , adjacent to  $x$ ,
      - if vertex  $i$  has not been visited then **mark as visited** and add it to  $Q$

# Queue (ADT)



- `join()` `leave()` `front()` `is_empty()`
- queue is first-in first-out (**FIFO**) data type
  - (stack is **LIFO**)
  - *NB* queue analogy is people joining a line. stack is a mechanical dish stacker (like in a buffet) `push()` `pop()` etc.
- using 'circular' array would be okay - keep wrap-around start and end indices - tricky
- a linked list might be easier to manage





X

A  
A  
F  
F  
E  
E  
C

Q

-  
A  
-  
F,E,C  
E,C  
E, C  
C  
C,B  
B

starts empty

**visit** A, add to Q

leave Q

**visit** adjacents, add to Q

leave Q

no unvisited adjacent

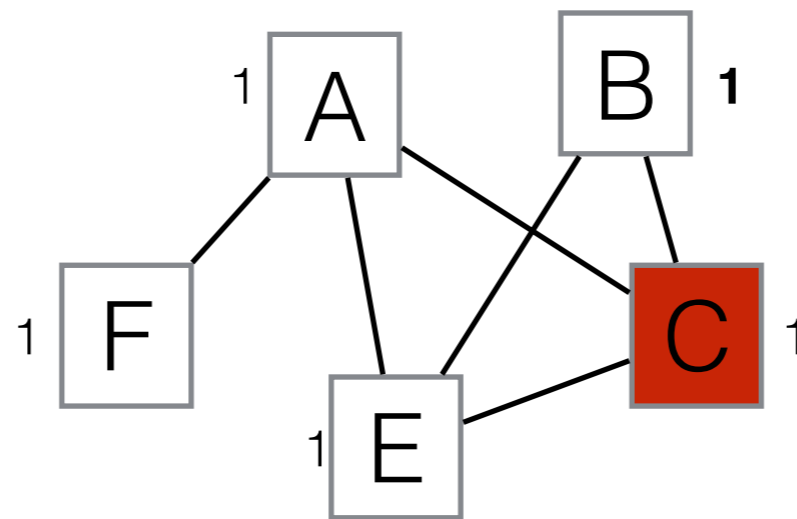
leave Q

**visit** adjacent, add to Q

leave Q

all nodes visited - **halt**

(if vertices in graph still unvisited - repeat for each)



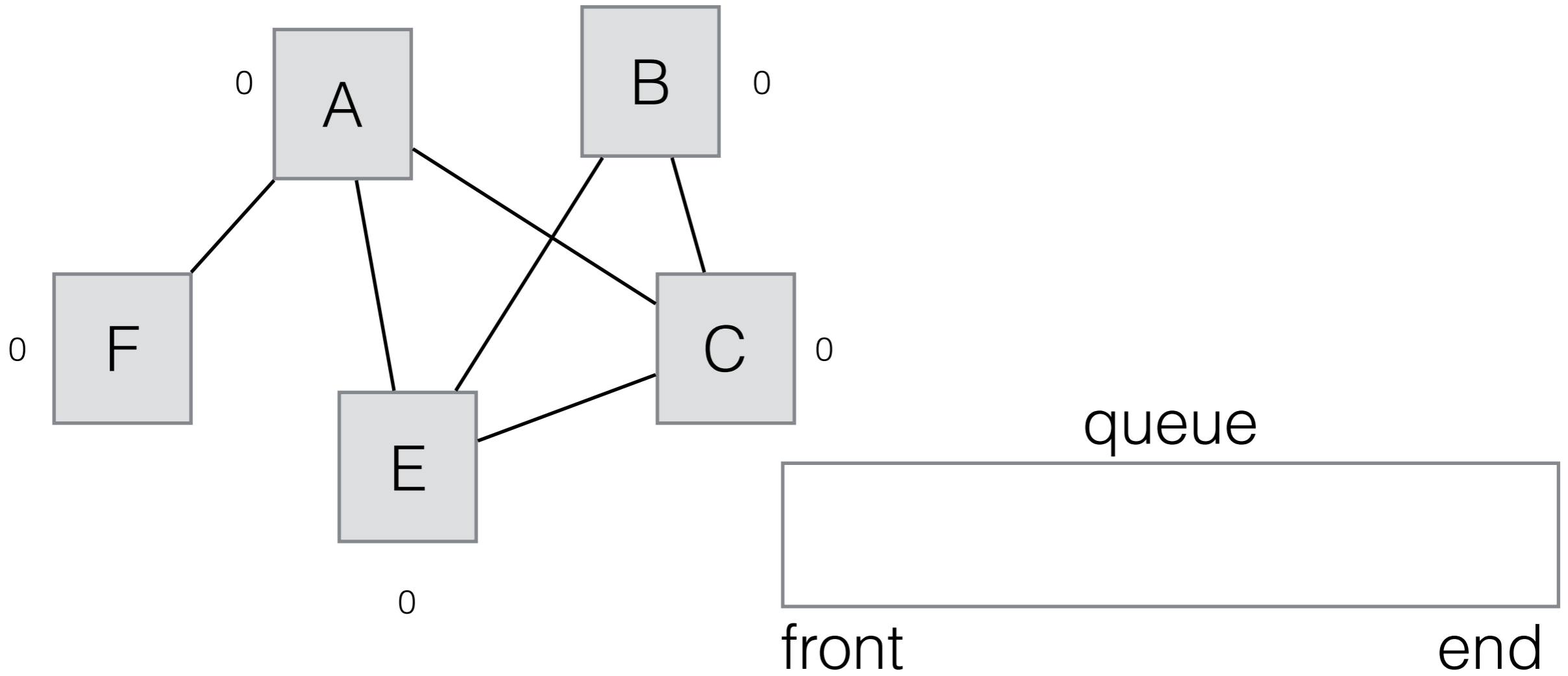
traversal

sequence:

A, F, E, C, B

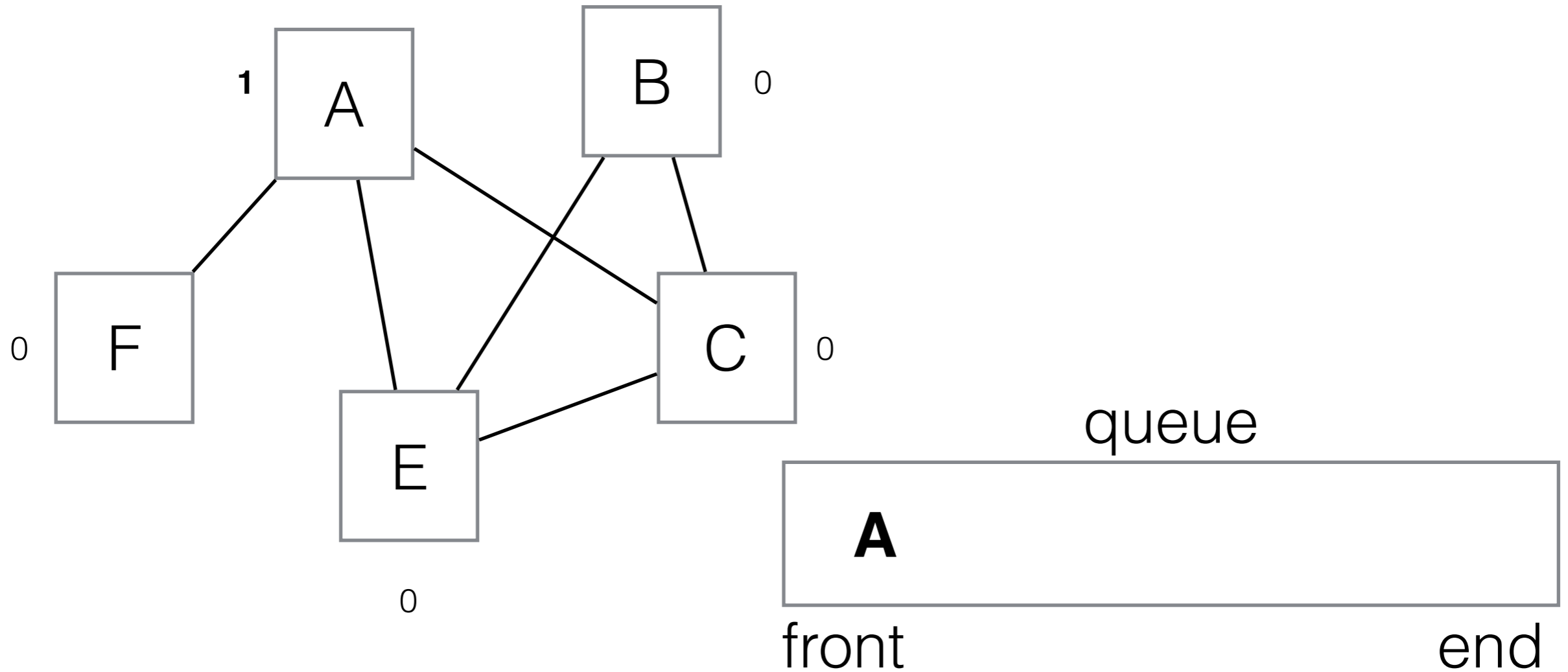
# BFS Recap

- BFS is very commonly used to solve lots of problems
  - web-crawling / Internet / Wikipedia
  - social network - contacts: “people you may know”
- BFS works on directed and undirected graphs
- Requires a queue
- Is not recursive



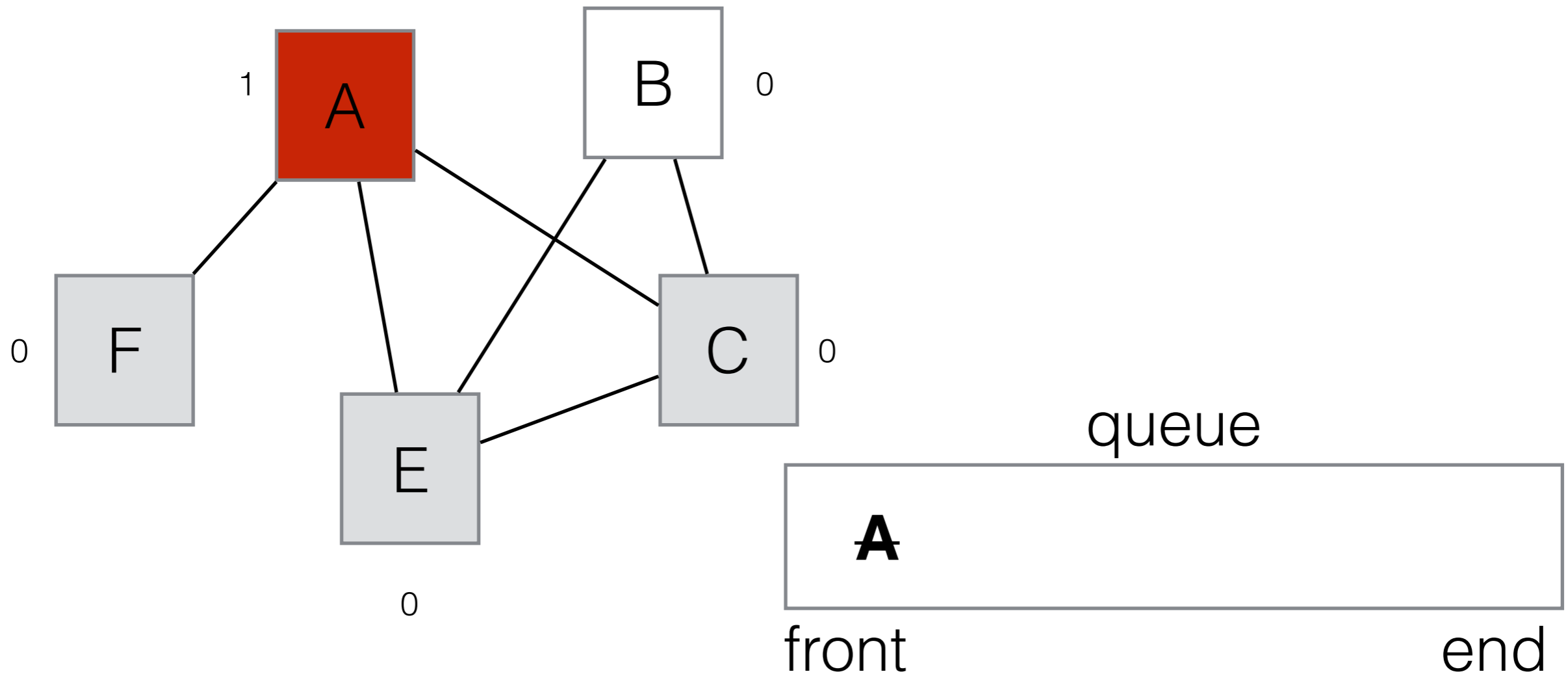
let's start at A

sequence visited



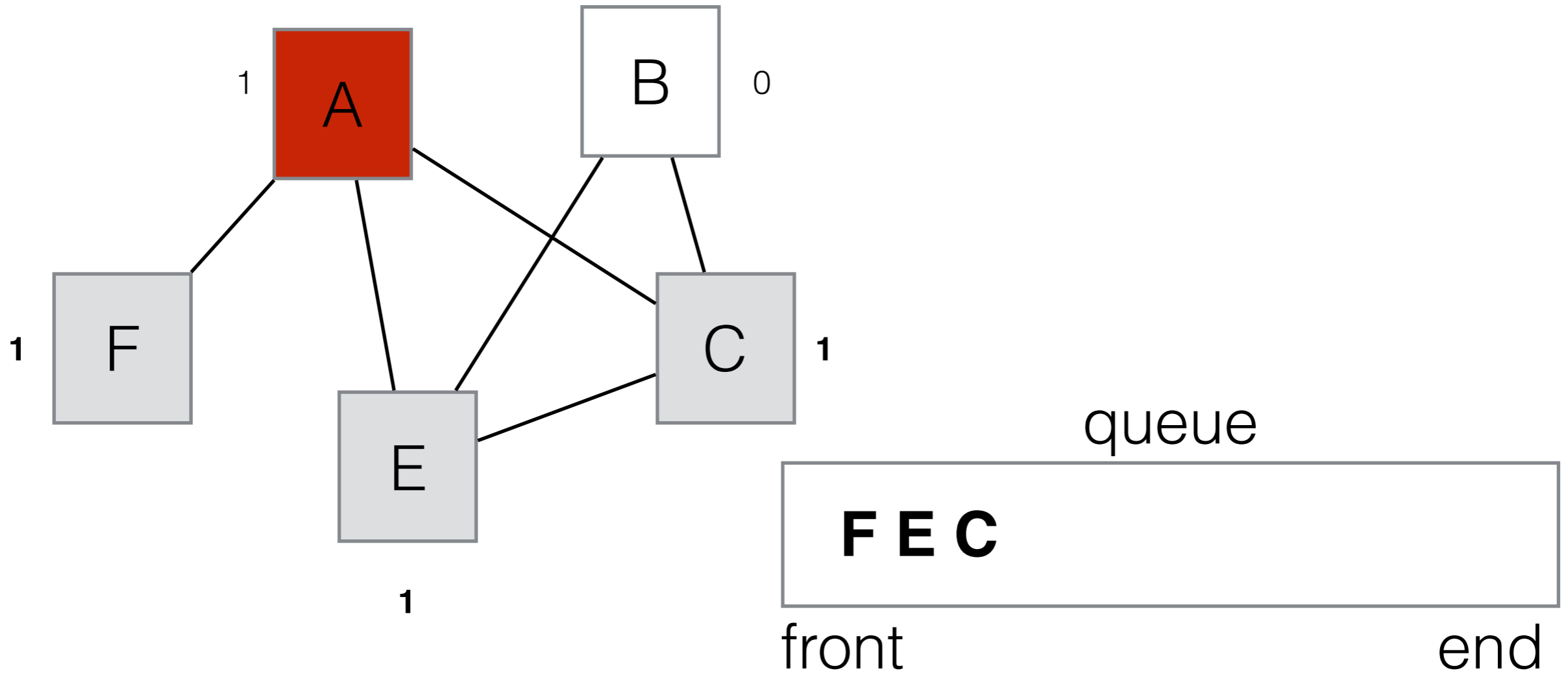
- mark 'A' visited
- enqueue 'A'

**A** sequence visited



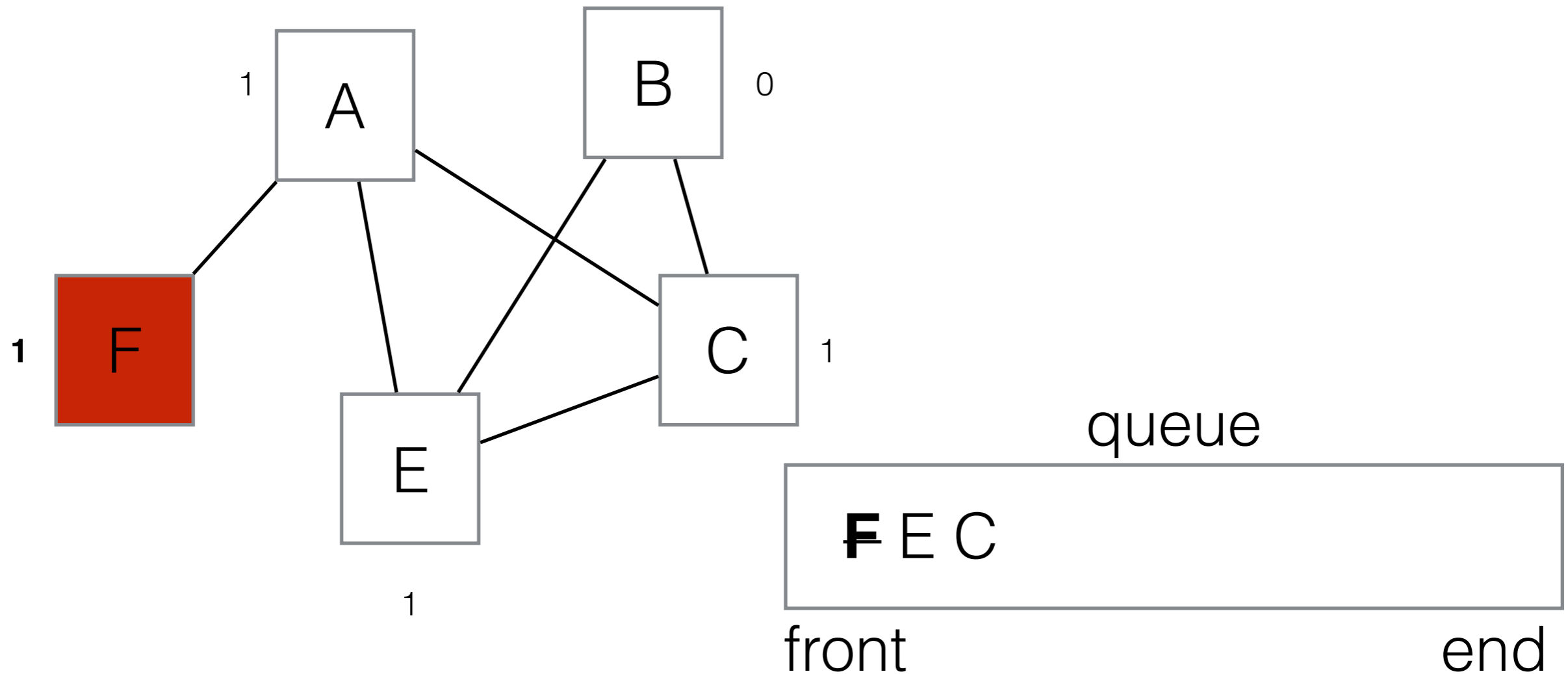
- queue is not empty so:
  - dequeue 'A'
  - 'A' is current vertex
  - unvisited neighbours (the **frontier**) is in grey

sequence visited  
A



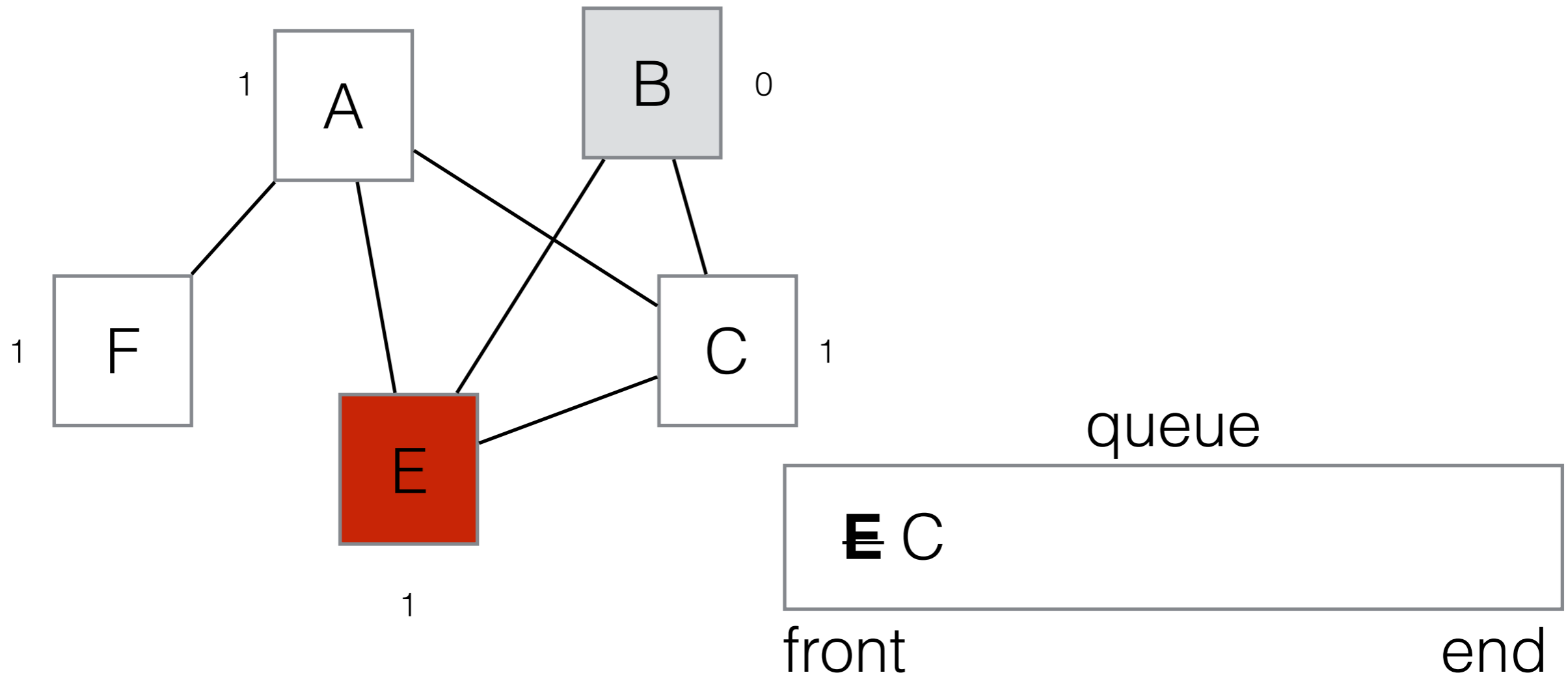
- mark each of these visited
- and add each to queue

sequence visited  
**A F E C**



- queue is not empty so:
  - dequeue 'F'
  - 'F' is current vertex
  - no unvisited neighbours

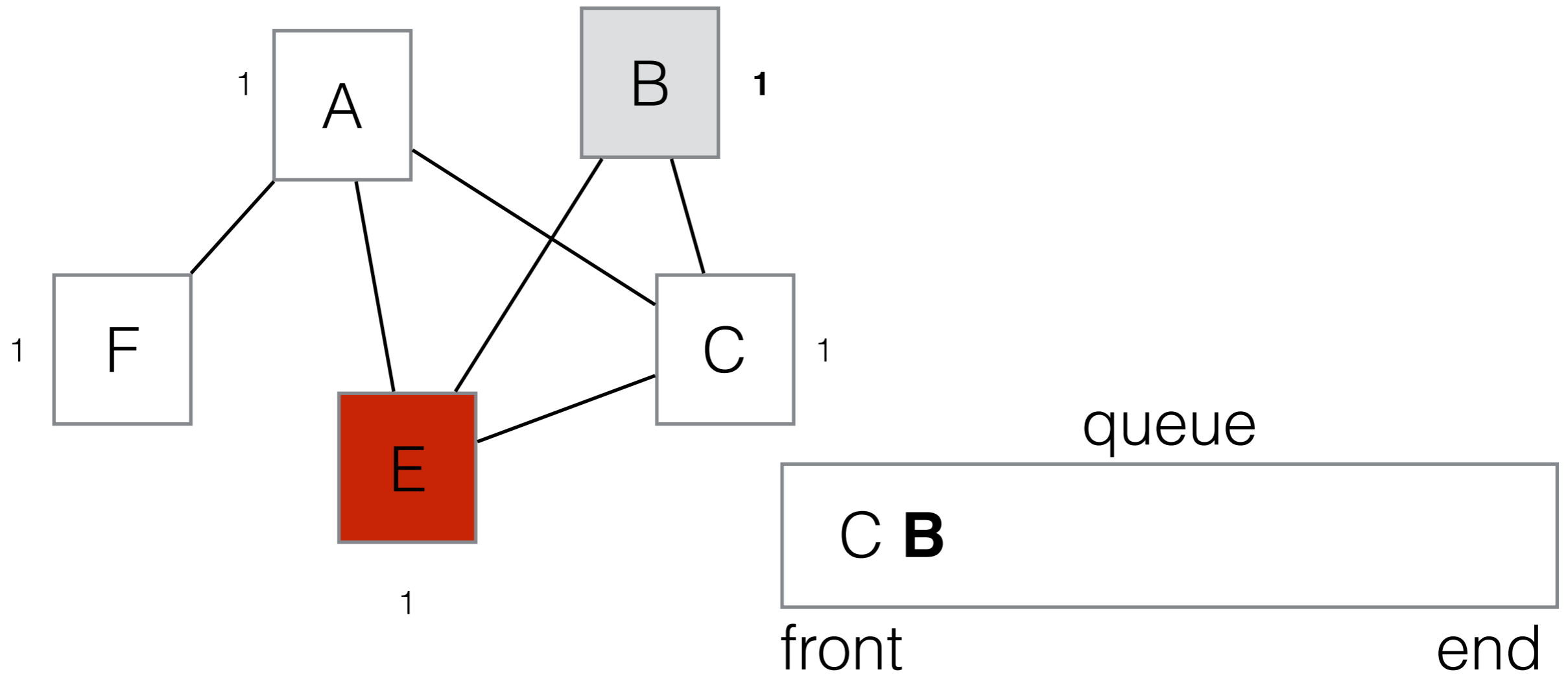
sequence visited  
A F E C



- queue is not empty so:
  - dequeue 'E'
  - 'E' is current vertex
  - unvisited neighbour in grey

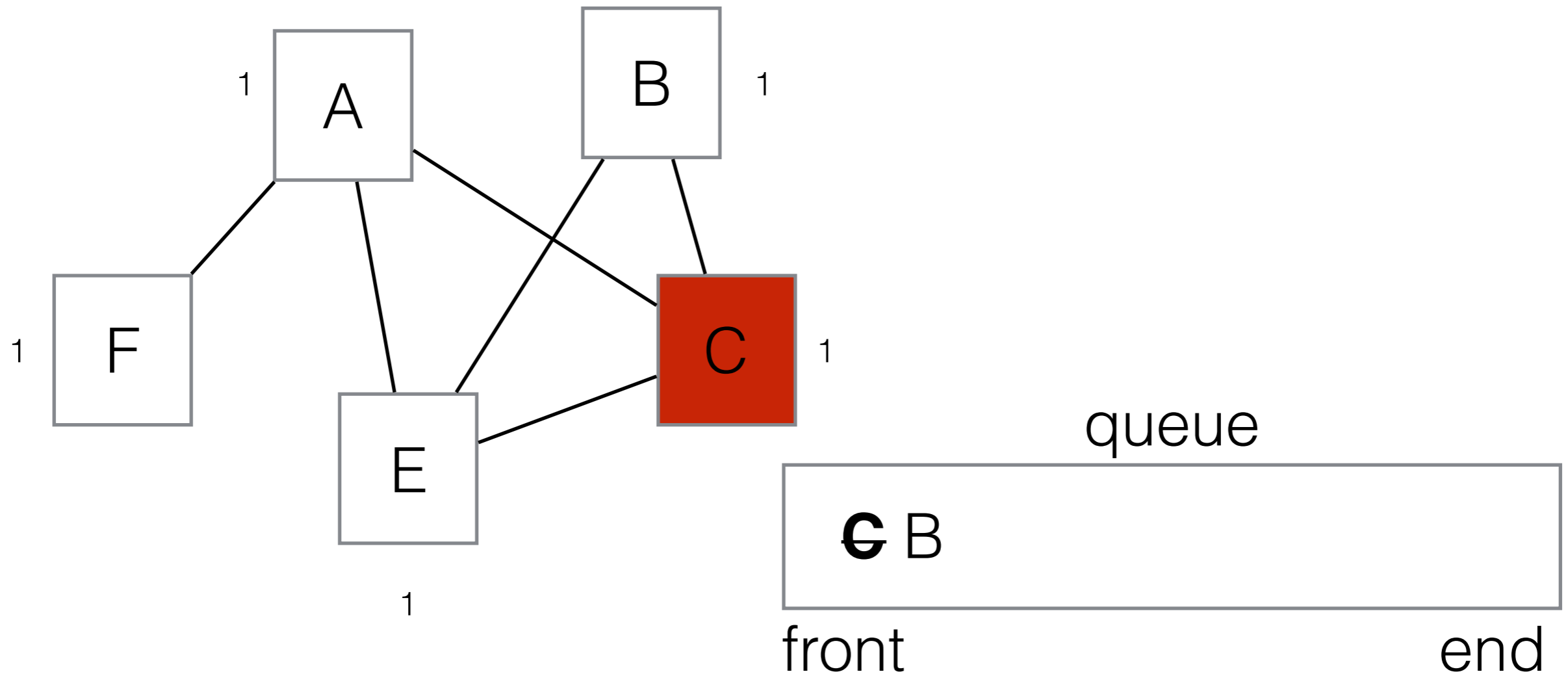
sequence visited  
A F E C





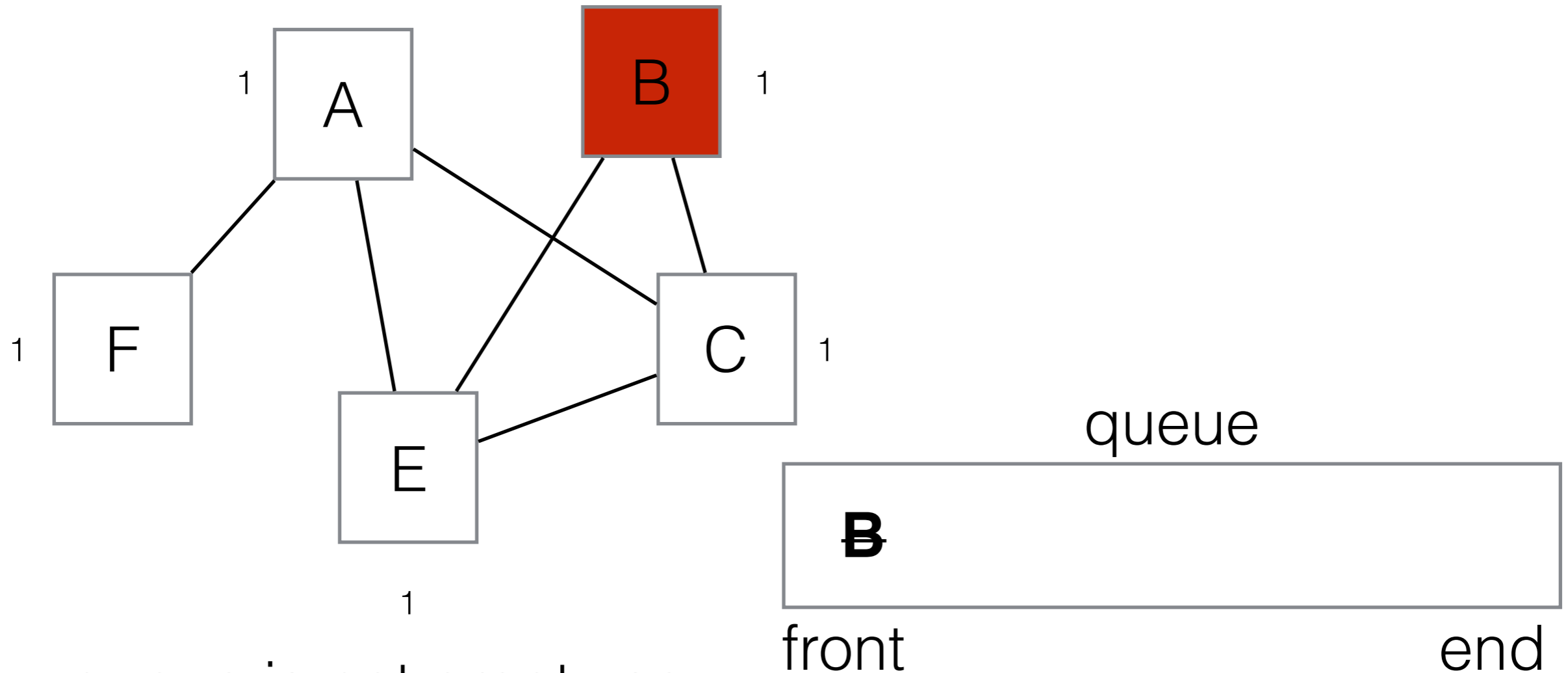
- mark 'B' visited
- enqueue B

sequence visited  
A F E C B



- queue is not empty so:
  - dequeue 'C'
  - 'C' is current vertex
  - no unvisited vertices

sequence visited  
A F E C B



- queue is not empty so:
  - dequeue 'B'
  - 'B' is current vertex
  - no unvisited vertices
- queue is empty
  - halt

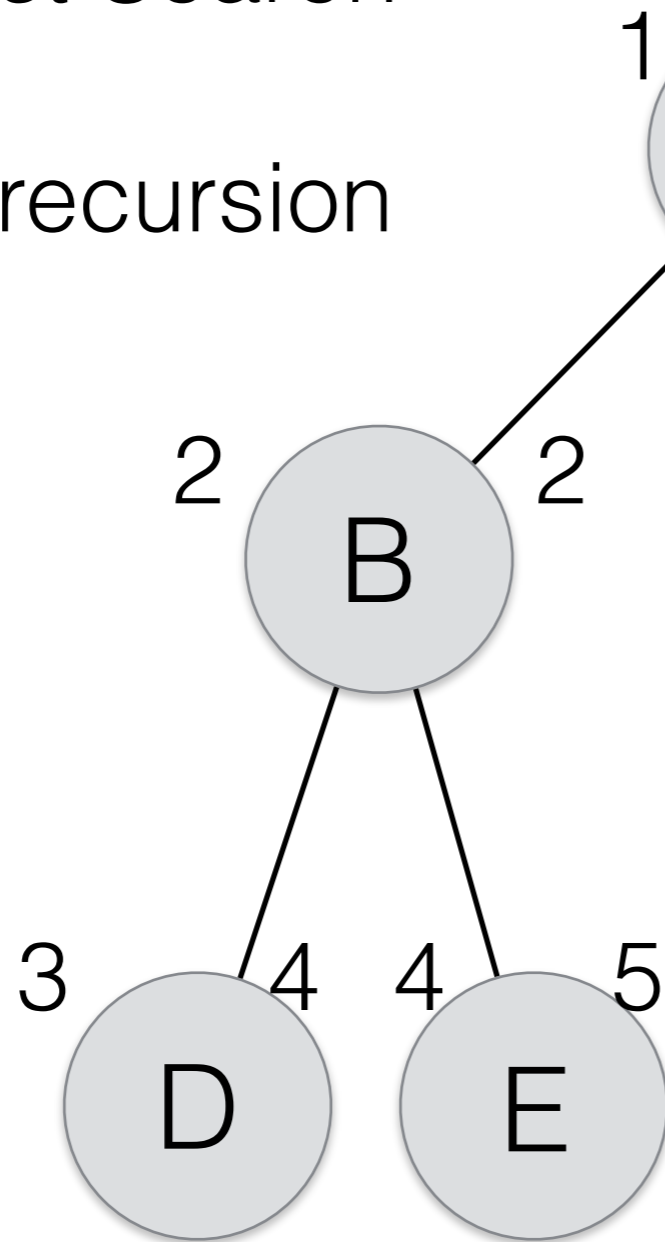
sequence visited  
A F E C B

# BFS vs DFS

- easiest to compare difference on a tree
  - Anton: draw helpful diagram here to compare them
- visit sequence differs
- are you more likely to find your results earlier in a BFS or DFS sequence?
- implementation may affect sequence - e.g. order that all adjacent nodes are visited in BFS
- recursive function might need rewrite for large graphs
  - **Q. why?**

Depth-First Search

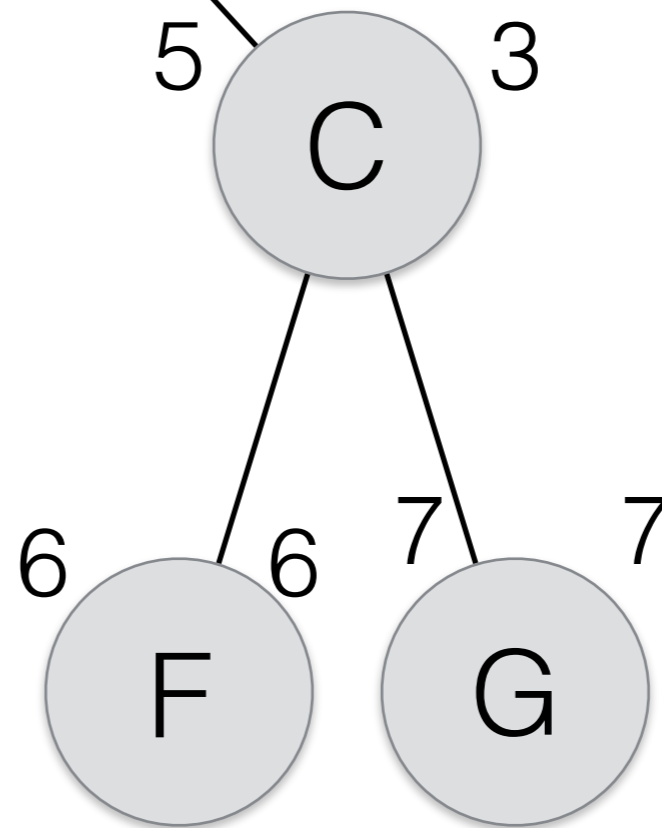
[branch] recursion



A B D E C F G

Breadth-First Search

frontiers first  
requires queue



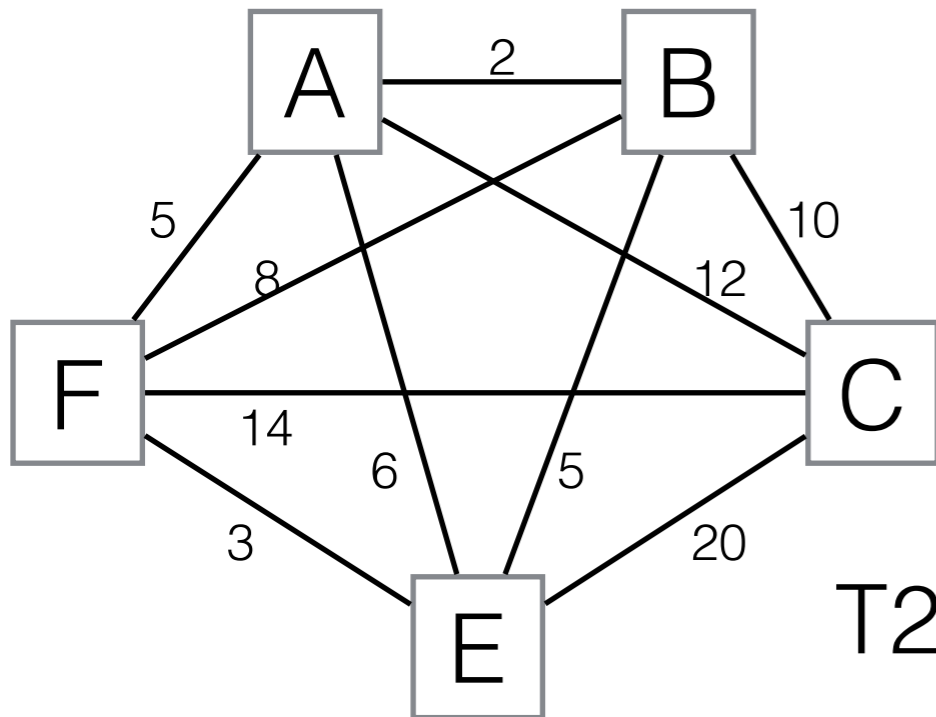
A B C D E F G

# Spanning Trees

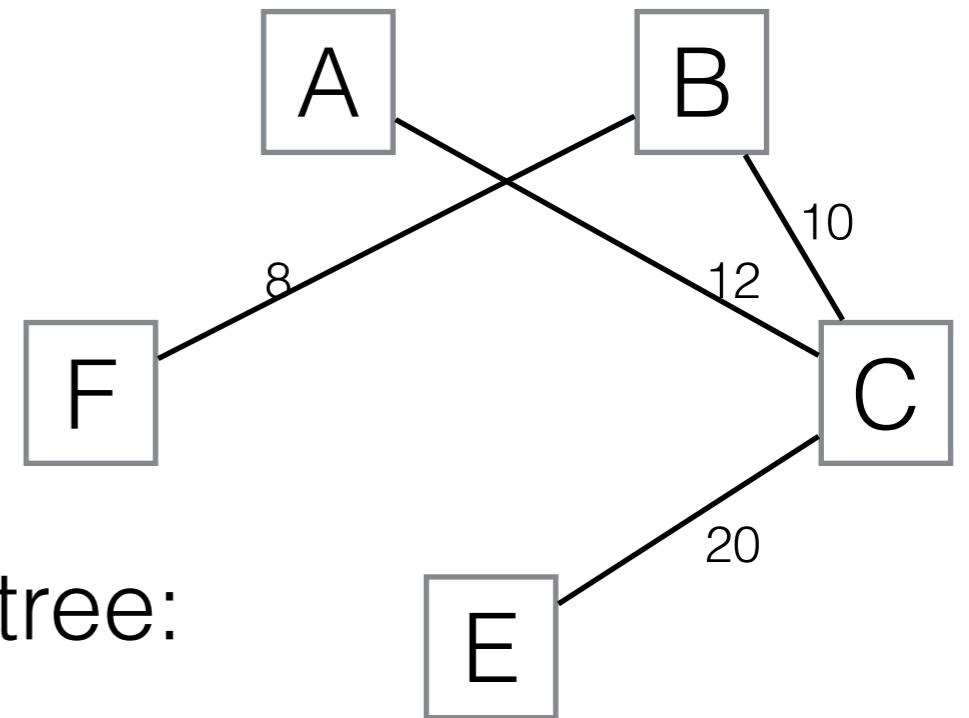
- A spanning tree of graph **G** consists of
  - is a sub-graph - **simplifies** the graph for traversal
  - all vertices in **G**
  - only some of the edges
  - should be representable as a tree
- Edges are chosen so that new graph is still **connected** but is **acyclic**
- A graph can contain many spanning trees
- *Q. can a graph that is not connected contain a ST?*

# Spanning Trees

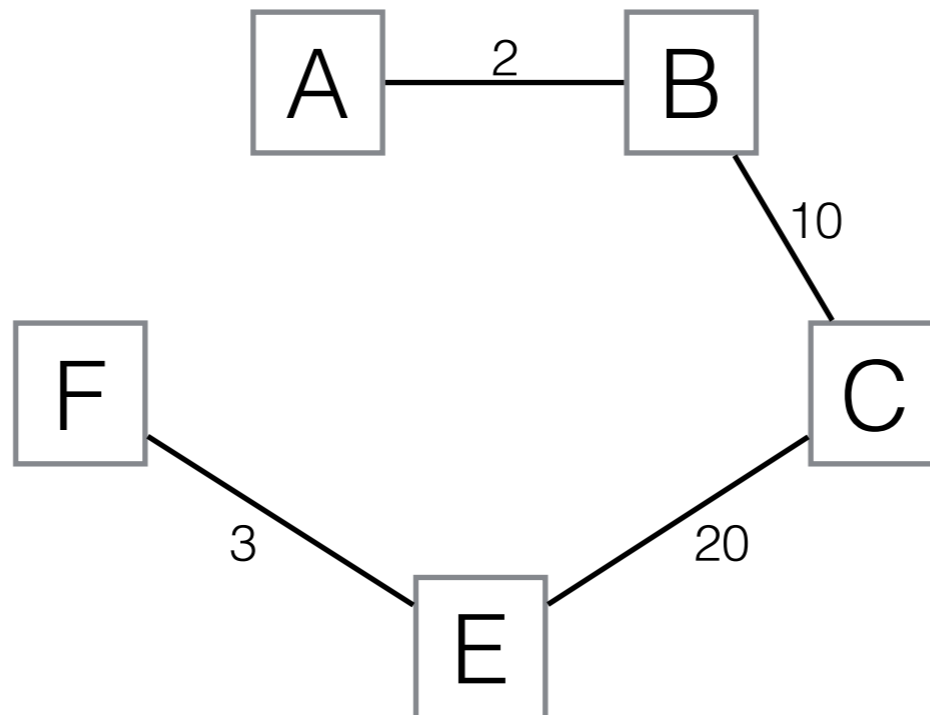
If graph G is



T1 is a spanning tree:



T2 is a spanning tree:



$$\begin{aligned} \text{total cost of T1} \\ &= 8 + 12 + 10 + 20 \\ &= 50 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cost of T2} \\ &= 35 \end{aligned}$$

# Minimum Cost Spanning Tree (MCST)

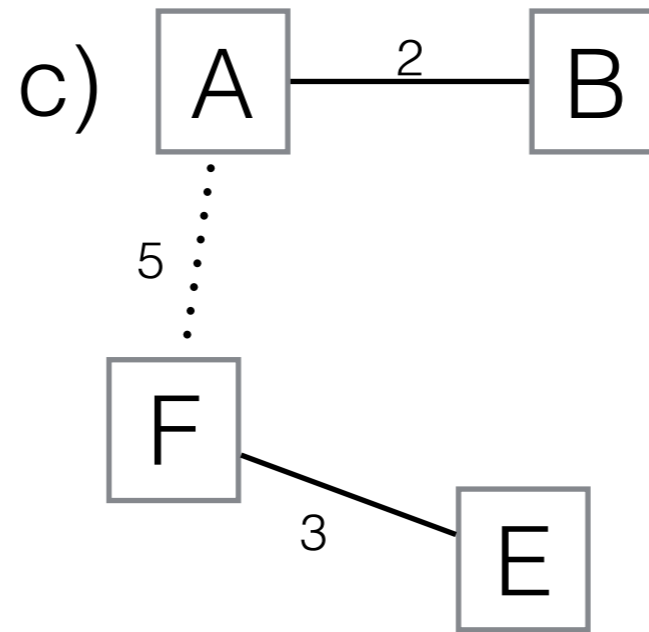
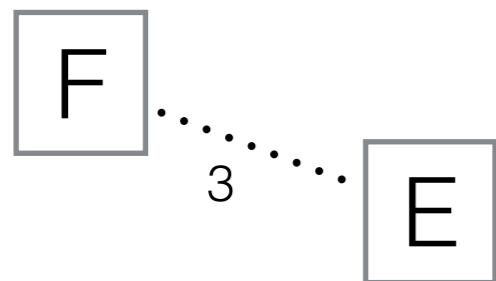
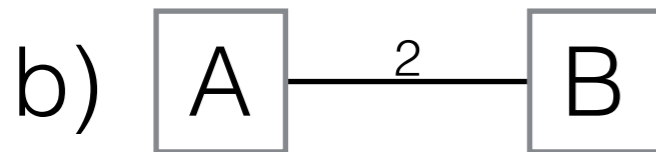
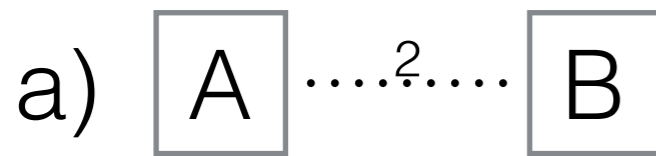
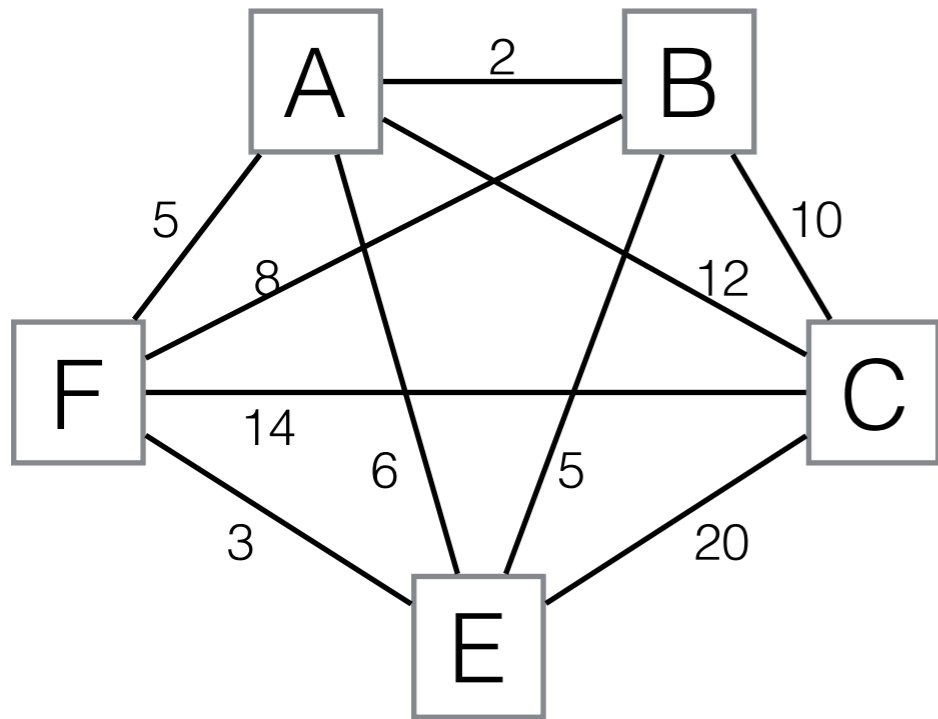
- A spanning tree with the lowest **length** is a MCST
- Different algorithms for finding a MCST
  - Kruskal's Algorithm
  - Prim's Algorithm
  - Boruvka's Algorithm
  - mixtures



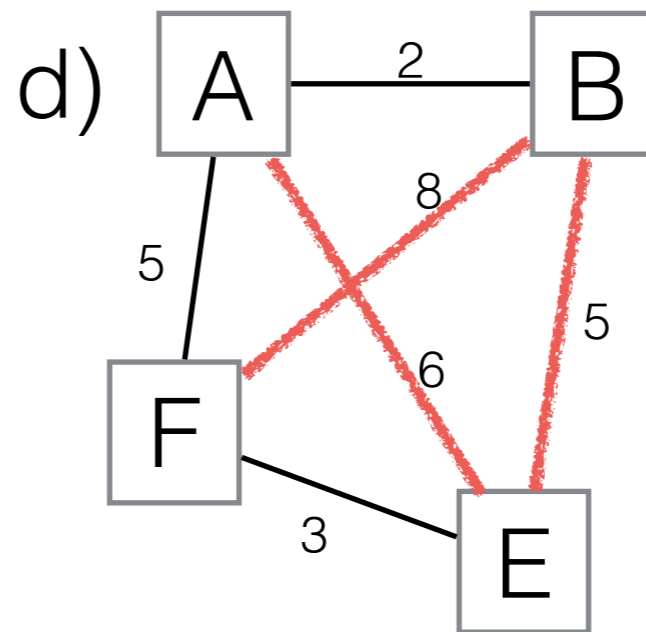
# Kruskal's Algorithm

- Joseph Kruskal, 1956
- This is one method for finding the MCST
- **Greedy** algorithm paradigm (short-sighted best choices)
  - solve in stages - make **optimal local choice** for each stage
  - hope this results close to a global optimum
- Start with empty spanning tree
- Add next lowest weighted edge to spanning tree, as long as no cycles are formed
- Repeat previous step until all edges have been considered

If graph G is



could also have  
chosen (B,E)

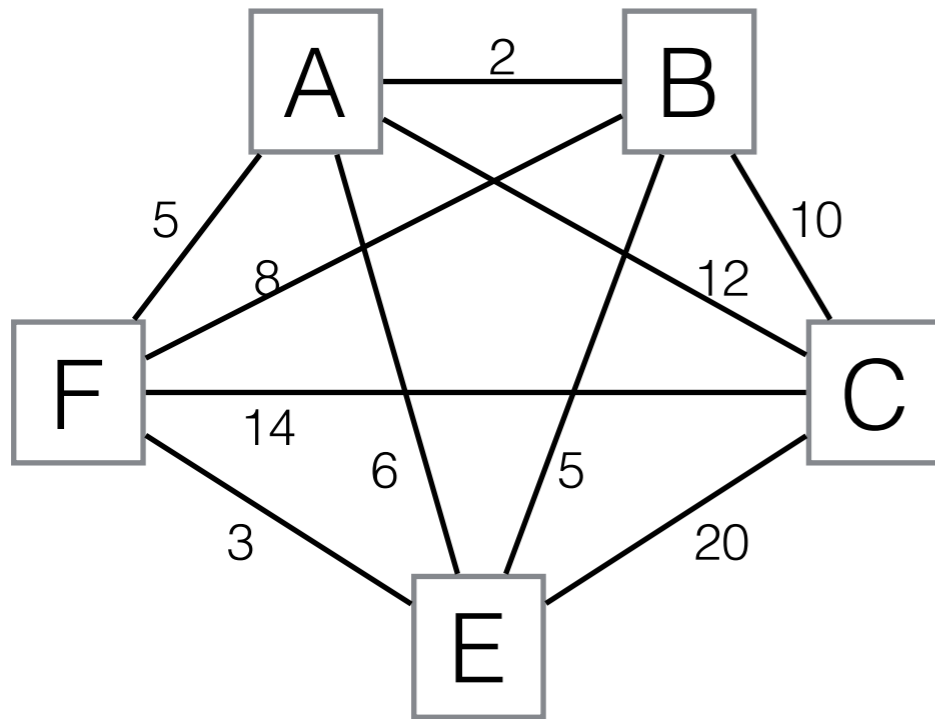


choose next  
lowest weight

**cycle detected!**  
can not add (B,E)

nor (A,E)!  
nor (F,B)!

If graph G is



$$\begin{aligned} \text{MCST} &= 2 + 3 + 5 + 10 \\ &= 20 \end{aligned}$$

MCSTs are not unique

easiest way to check for cycles in tree:

don't add an edge if both of its end points are already in the tree

