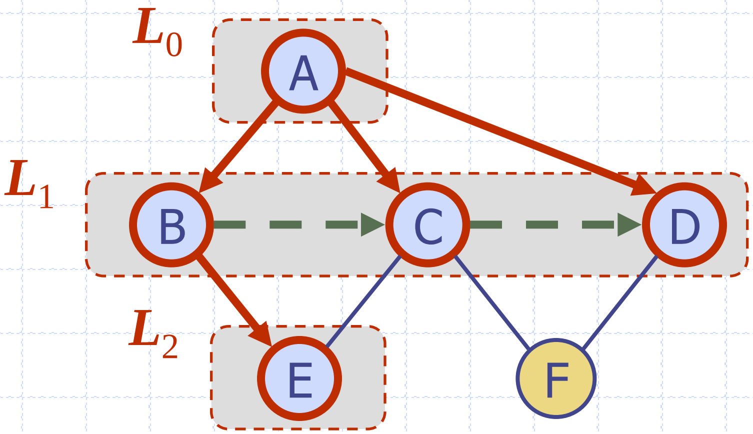
Breadth-First Search



Breadth-First Search

- Breadth-first search (BFS) is a general technique for traversing a graph
- A BFS traversal of a graph G
  - Visits all the vertices and edges of G
  - Determines whether G is connected
  - Computes the connected components of G
  - Computes a spanning forest of G
- BFS on a graph with n vertices and m edges takes $O(n + m)$ time
- BFS can be further extended to solve other graph problems
  - Find and report a path with the minimum number of edges between two given vertices
  - Find a simple cycle, if there is one

BFS Algorithm

- The algorithm uses a mechanism for setting and getting "labels" of vertices and edges

```
Algorithm BFS(G)
    Input graph G
    Output labeling of the edges
        and partition of the
        vertices of G
  for all u ∈ G.vertices()
    setLabel(u, UNEXPLORED)
  for all e ∈ G.edges()
    setLabel(e, UNEXPLORED)
  for all v ∈ G.vertices()
    if getLabel(v) = UNEXPLORED
        BFS(G, v)
```

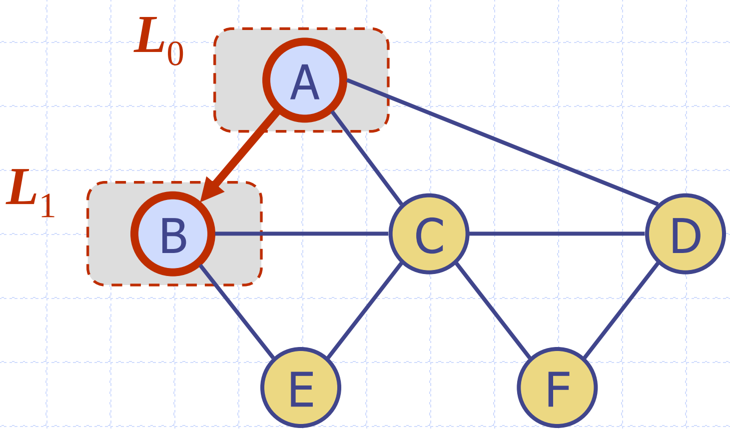
```
Algorithm BFS(G, s)
  L_0 ← new empty sequence
  L_0.addLast(s)
  setLabel(s, VISITED)
  i ← 0
  while ¬L_i.isEmpty()
    L_{i+1} ← new empty sequence
    for all v ∈ L_i.elements()
      for all e ∈ G.incidentEdges(v)
        if getLabel(e) = UNEXPLORED
          w ← opposite(v,e)
          if getLabel(w) = UNEXPLORED
            setLabel(e, DISCOVERY)
            setLabel(w, VISITED)
            L_{i+1}.addLast(w)
          else
            setLabel(e, CROSS)
    i ← i +1
```

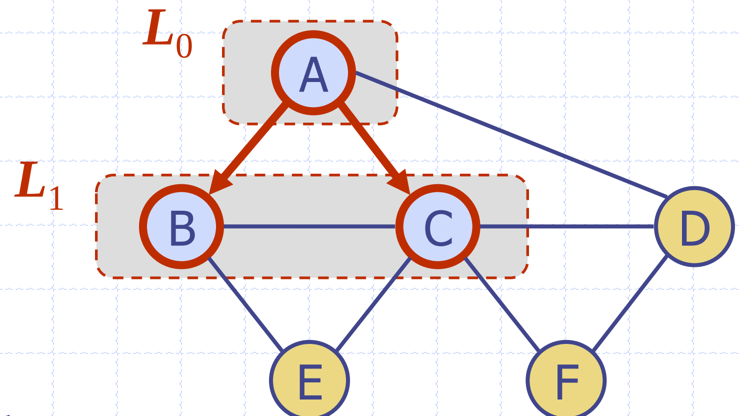
Python Implementation

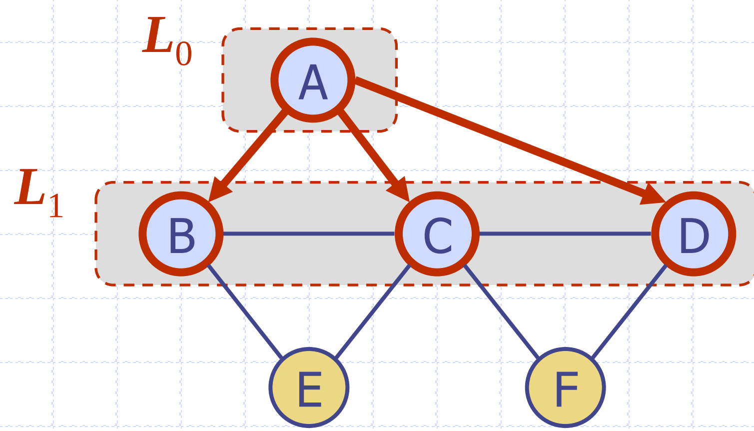
```
def BFS(g, s, discovered):
  """Perform BFS of the undiscovered portion of Graph g starting at Vertex s.

  discovered is a dictionary mapping each vertex to the edge that was used to
  discover it during the BFS (s should be mapped to None prior to the call).
  Newly discovered vertices will be added to the dictionary as a result.
  """
  level = [s]                       # first level includes only s
  while len(level) > 0:
    next_level = [ ]                # prepare to gather newly found vertices
    for u in level:
      for e in g.incident_edges(u): # for every outgoing edge from u
        v = e.opposite(u)
        if v not in discovered:     # v is an unvisited vertex
          discovered[v] = e         # e is the tree edge that discovered v
          next_level.append(v)      # v will be further considered in next pass
    level = next_level              # relabel 'next' level to become current
```

Example

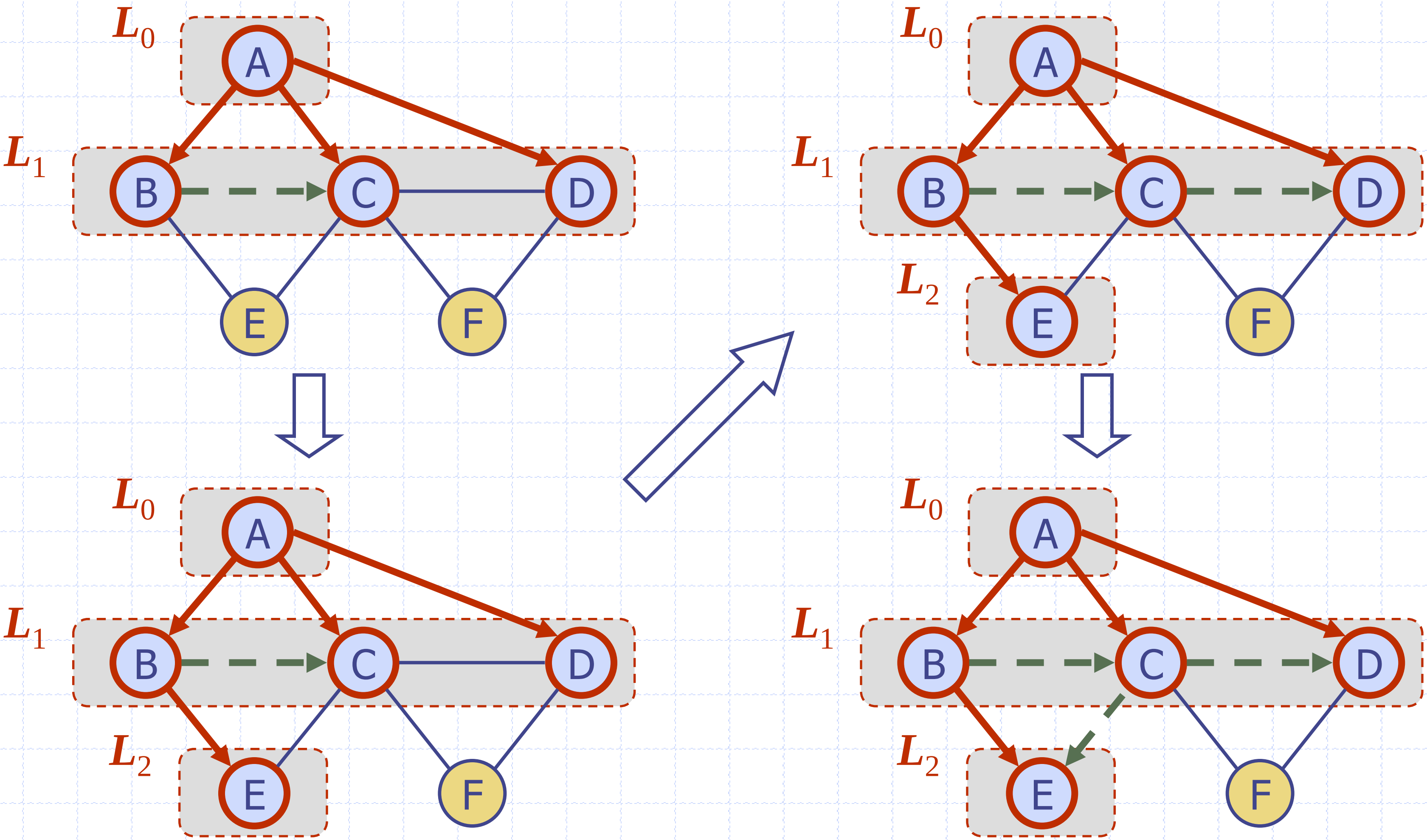
unexplored vertex
visited vertex
unexplored edge
discovery edge
cross edge



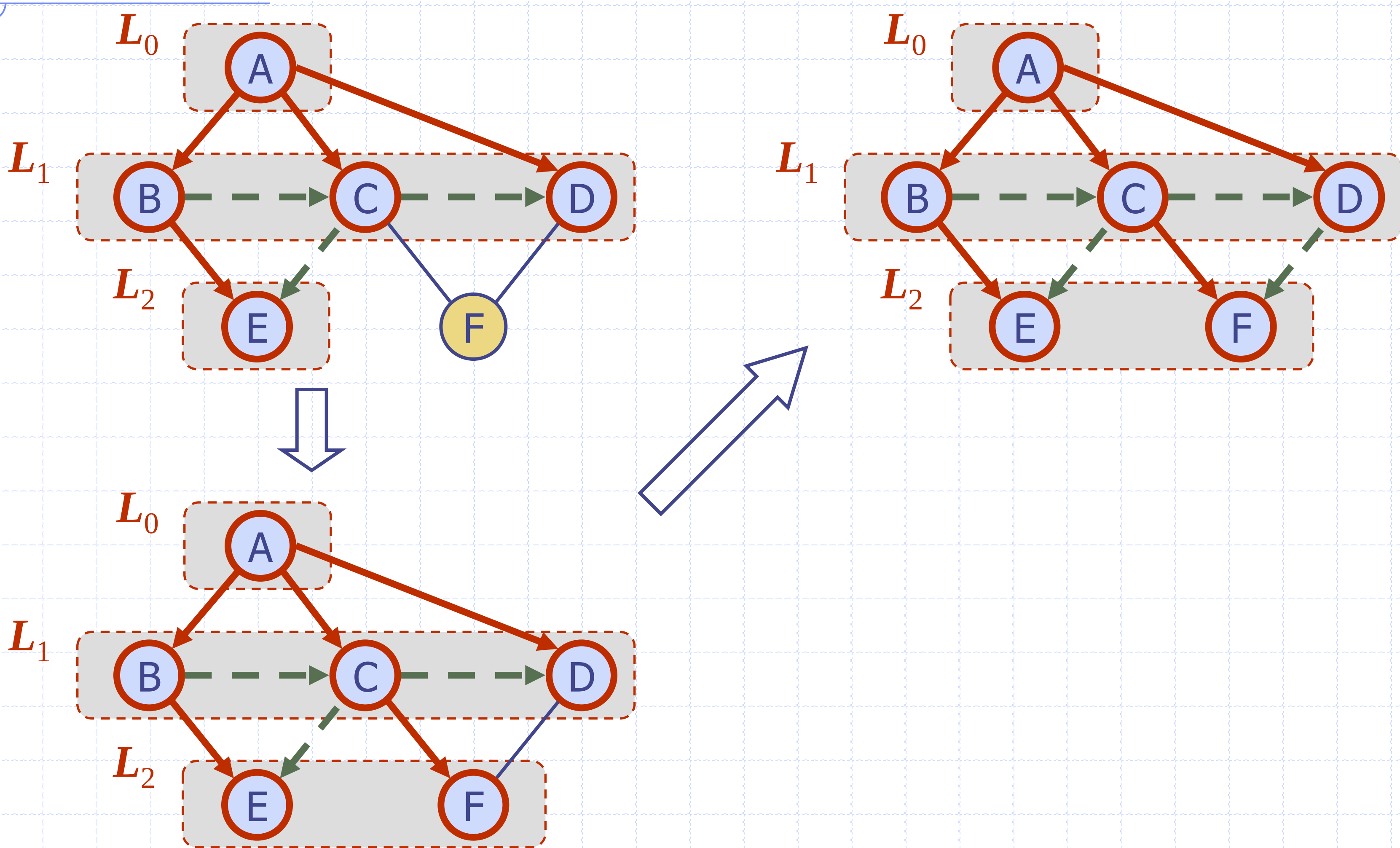




Example (cont.)



Example (cont.)



Properties

Notation

G_s: connected component of s

Property 1

$BFS(G, s)$ visits all the vertices and edges of G_s

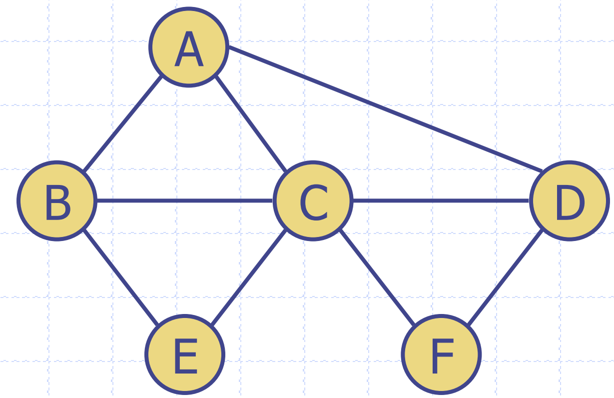
Property 2

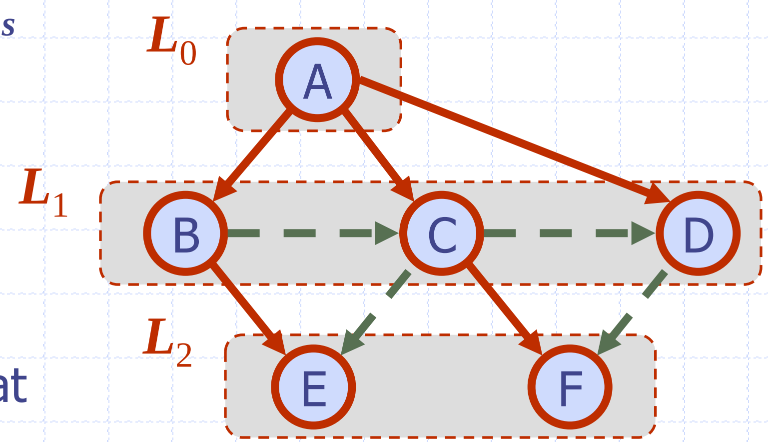
The discovery edges labeled by $BFS(G, s)$ form a spanning tree T_s of G_s

Property 3

For each vertex v in L_i

- The path of T_s from s to v has i edges
- Every path from s to v in G_s has at least i edges





Analysis

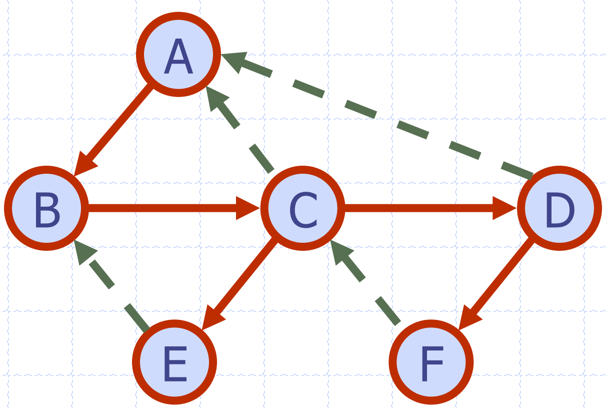
- Setting/getting a vertex/edge label takes $O(1)$ time
- Each vertex is labeled twice
  - once as UNEXPLORED
  - once as VISITED
- Each edge is labeled twice
  - once as UNEXPLORED
  - once as DISCOVERY or CROSS
- Each vertex is inserted once into a sequence L_i
- Method incidentEdges is called once for each vertex
- BFS runs in $O(n + m)$ time provided the graph is represented by the adjacency list structure
  - Recall that $\Sigma_v \deg(v) = 2m$

Applications

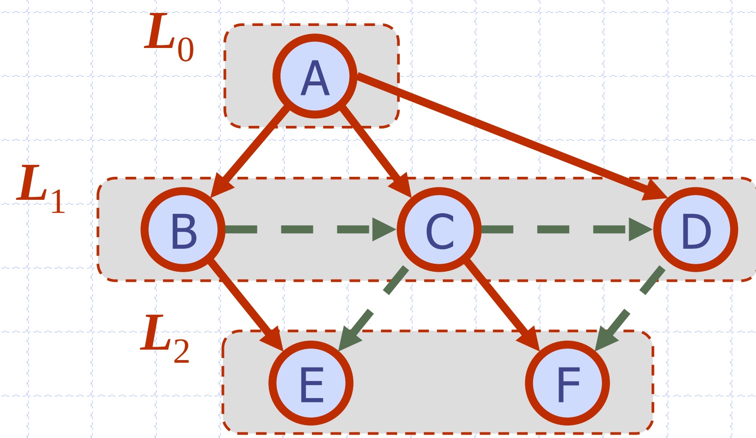
- Using the template method pattern, we can specialize the BFS traversal of a graph G to solve the following problems in $O(n+m)$ time
  - Compute the connected components of G
  - Compute a spanning forest of G
  - Find a simple cycle in G, or report that G is a forest
  - Given two vertices of G, find a path in G between them with the minimum number of edges, or report that no such path exists

DFS vs. BFS

Applications	DFS	BFS
Spanning forest, connected components, paths, cycles	√	√
Shortest paths		√
Biconnected components	√	



DFS



BFS

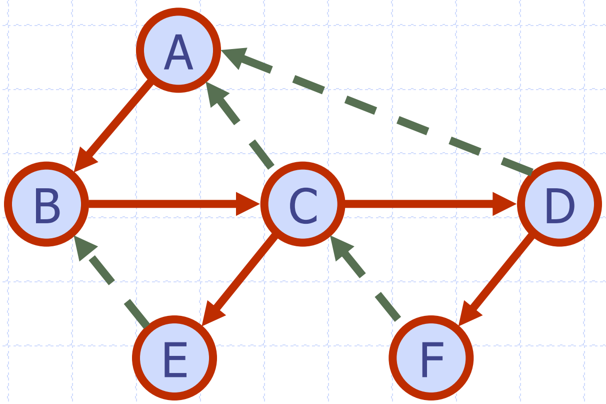
DFS vs. BFS (cont.)

Back edge (v,w)

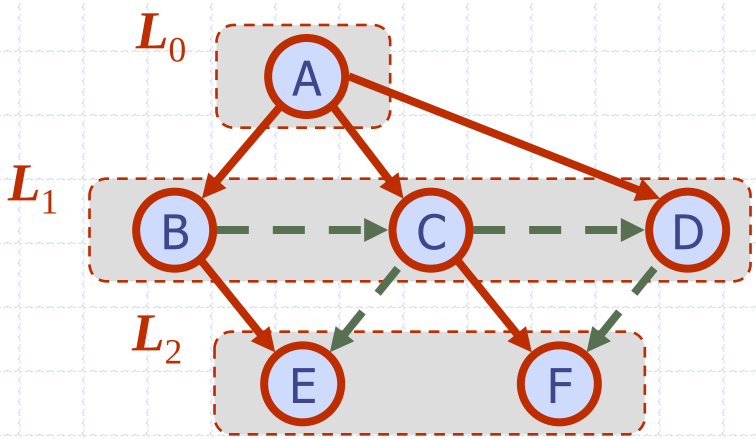
- w is an ancestor of v in the tree of discovery edges

Cross edge (v,w)

- w is in the same level as v or in the next level



DFS



BFS