

# Hamilton Cycles

## Definition 8.1

- ▶ A spanning subgraph that is a cycle or a path is called a **Hamilton cycle** or a **Hamilton path**.

# Hamilton Cycles

## Definition 8.1

- ▶ A spanning subgraph that is a cycle or a path is called a **Hamilton cycle** or a **Hamilton path**.
- ▶ A graph is **Hamiltonian** if it has a Hamilton cycle.

## Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

### Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

# Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

## Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described.



## Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

### Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected;



# Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

## Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .



## Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

### Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ .



# Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

## Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ . By the maximality of  $P$ , all neighbors of  $x_0$  and all neighbors of  $x_k$  lie on  $P$ .





## Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

### Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

#### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ . By the maximality of  $P$ , all neighbors of  $x_0$  and all neighbors of  $x_k$  lie on  $P$ . Hence at least  $n/2$  of the vertices  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}$  are adjacent to  $x_k$ ,



## Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

### Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

#### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ . By the maximality of  $P$ , all neighbors of  $x_0$  and all neighbors of  $x_k$  lie on  $P$ . Hence at least  $n/2$  of the vertices  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}$  are adjacent to  $x_k$ , and at least  $n/2$  of the same  $k < n$  vertices  $x_i$  are such that  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$ .



## Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

### Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

#### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ . By the maximality of  $P$ , all neighbors of  $x_0$  and all neighbors of  $x_k$  lie on  $P$ . Hence at least  $n/2$  of the vertices  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}$  are adjacent to  $x_k$ , and at least  $n/2$  of the same  $k < n$  vertices  $x_i$  are such that  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$ . By the Pigeon-Hole Principle, there is a vertex  $x_i$  that has both properties,



## Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

### Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

#### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ . By the maximality of  $P$ , all neighbors of  $x_0$  and all neighbors of  $x_k$  lie on  $P$ . Hence at least  $n/2$  of the vertices  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}$  are adjacent to  $x_k$ , and at least  $n/2$  of the same  $k < n$  vertices  $x_i$  are such that  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$ . By the Pigeon-Hole Principle, there is a vertex  $x_i$  that has both properties, that is,  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$  and  $x_ix_k \in E(G)$ .



# Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

## Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ . By the maximality of  $P$ , all neighbors of  $x_0$  and all neighbors of  $x_k$  lie on  $P$ . Hence at least  $n/2$  of the vertices  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}$  are adjacent to  $x_k$ , and at least  $n/2$  of the same  $k < n$  vertices  $x_i$  are such that  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$ . By the Pigeon-Hole Principle, there is a vertex  $x_i$  that has both properties, that is,  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$  and  $x_ix_k \in E(G)$ . Let  $C$  be the cycle obtained from  $P$  by deleting the edge  $x_ix_{i+1}$  and adding edges  $x_0x_{i+1}$  and  $x_ix_k$ .



## Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

### Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

#### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ . By the maximality of  $P$ , all neighbors of  $x_0$  and all neighbors of  $x_k$  lie on  $P$ . Hence at least  $n/2$  of the vertices  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}$  are adjacent to  $x_k$ , and at least  $n/2$  of the same  $k < n$  vertices  $x_i$  are such that  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$ . By the Pigeon-Hole Principle, there is a vertex  $x_i$  that has both properties, that is,  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$  and  $x_ix_k \in E(G)$ . Let  $C$  be the cycle obtained from  $P$  by deleting the edge  $x_ix_{i+1}$  and adding edges  $x_0x_{i+1}$  and  $x_ix_k$ . If  $C$  is not Hamiltonian, then, since  $G$  is connected,  $C$  would have a neighbor in  $G - C$ ,



# Sufficient Condition for Hamiltonicity

## Theorem 8.2 (Dirac 1952)

*Every graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta \geq n/2$  is Hamiltonian.*

### Proof.

Let  $G$  be a graph as described. Note that  $G$  is connected; otherwise a vertex in a smallest component would have degree less than  $n/2$ .

Let  $P = x_0x_1 \dots x_k$  be a longest path in  $G$ . By the maximality of  $P$ , all neighbors of  $x_0$  and all neighbors of  $x_k$  lie on  $P$ . Hence at least  $n/2$  of the vertices  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}$  are adjacent to  $x_k$ , and at least  $n/2$  of the same  $k < n$  vertices  $x_i$  are such that  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$ . By the Pigeon-Hole Principle, there is a vertex  $x_i$  that has both properties, that is,  $x_0x_{i+1} \in E(G)$  and  $x_ix_k \in E(G)$ . Let  $C$  be the cycle obtained from  $P$  by deleting the edge  $x_ix_{i+1}$  and adding edges  $x_0x_{i+1}$  and  $x_ix_k$ . If  $C$  is not Hamiltonian, then, since  $G$  is connected,  $C$  would have a neighbor in  $G - C$ , which would yield a path longer than  $P$ ; a contradiction. □

# Note on Dirac's Theorem

## Note 8.3

*Note that  $n/2$  in Dirac's Theorem 8.2 is the best possible.*



# Note on Dirac's Theorem

## Note 8.3

*Note that  $n/2$  in Dirac's Theorem 8.2 is the best possible. We cannot replace it with  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  if  $n$  is odd, since then  $G$  which is a 1-sum of two copies of  $K^{\lceil n/2 \rceil}$*

# Note on Dirac's Theorem

## Note 8.3

*Note that  $n/2$  in Dirac's Theorem 8.2 is the best possible. We cannot replace it with  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  if  $n$  is odd, since then  $G$  which is a 1-sum of two copies of  $K^{\lceil n/2 \rceil}$  would have  $\delta = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ , but no Hamilton cycle.*

## Another Sufficient Condition

### Theorem 8.4

*Every graph  $G$  with  $|G| \geq 3$  and  $\kappa(G) \geq \alpha(G)$  is Hamiltonian.*

## A Necessary Condition

### Theorem 8.5

*If  $G$  is a Hamiltonian graph, then for every set  $\emptyset \neq S \subseteq V(G)$ , the graph  $G - S$  has at most  $|S|$  components.*

## A Necessary Condition

### Theorem 8.5

*If  $G$  is a Hamiltonian graph, then for every set  $\emptyset \neq S \subseteq V(G)$ , the graph  $G - S$  has at most  $|S|$  components.*

### Proof.

When leaving a component of  $G - S$ , a Hamilton cycle can go only to  $S$  and the arrivals in  $S$  must occur at different vertices of  $S$ .



## A Necessary Condition

### Theorem 8.5

*If  $G$  is a Hamiltonian graph, then for every set  $\emptyset \neq S \subseteq V(G)$ , the graph  $G - S$  has at most  $|S|$  components.*

### Proof.

When leaving a component of  $G - S$ , a Hamilton cycle can go only to  $S$  and the arrivals in  $S$  must occur at different vertices of  $S$ . Hence  $S$  must have at least as many vertices as  $G - S$  has components.  $\square$

# Grinberg's Theorem

## Theorem 8.6 (Grinberg 1968)

*If  $G$  is a loopless plane graph with a Hamilton cycle  $C$ , and  $G$  has  $f'_i$  faces of length  $i$  inside  $C$  and  $f''_i$  faces of length  $i$  outside  $C$ , then*

$$\sum_i (i - 2)(f'_i - f''_i) = 0.$$

# Grinberg's Theorem

## Theorem 8.6 (Grinberg 1968)

*If  $G$  is a loopless plane graph with a Hamilton cycle  $C$ , and  $G$  has  $f'_i$  faces of length  $i$  inside  $C$  and  $f''_i$  faces of length  $i$  outside  $C$ , then*  
$$\sum_i (i - 2)(f'_i - f''_i) = 0.$$

## Proof.

Want to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = \sum_i (i - 2)f''_i$ .





# Grinberg's Theorem

## Theorem 8.6 (Grinberg 1968)

*If  $G$  is a loopless plane graph with a Hamilton cycle  $C$ , and  $G$  has  $f'_i$  faces of length  $i$  inside  $C$  and  $f''_i$  faces of length  $i$  outside  $C$ , then*

$$\sum_i (i - 2)(f'_i - f''_i) = 0.$$

## Proof.

Want to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = \sum_i (i - 2)f''_i$ . It suffices to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i$  remains invariant as we add edges inside a cycle  $C$  of length  $n$ .



# Grinberg's Theorem

## Theorem 8.6 (Grinberg 1968)

*If  $G$  is a loopless plane graph with a Hamilton cycle  $C$ , and  $G$  has  $f'_i$  faces of length  $i$  inside  $C$  and  $f''_i$  faces of length  $i$  outside  $C$ , then*  
$$\sum_i (i - 2)(f'_i - f''_i) = 0.$$

## Proof.

Want to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = \sum_i (i - 2)f''_i$ . It suffices to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i$  remains invariant as we add edges inside a cycle  $C$  of length  $n$ . If there are no edges inside  $C$ , then the sum is  $n - 2$ .



# Grinberg's Theorem

## Theorem 8.6 (Grinberg 1968)

*If  $G$  is a loopless plane graph with a Hamilton cycle  $C$ , and  $G$  has  $f'_i$  faces of length  $i$  inside  $C$  and  $f''_i$  faces of length  $i$  outside  $C$ , then*  
$$\sum_i (i - 2)(f'_i - f''_i) = 0.$$

## Proof.

Want to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = \sum_i (i - 2)f''_i$ . It suffices to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i$  remains invariant as we add edges inside a cycle  $C$  of length  $n$ . If there are no edges inside  $C$ , then the sum is  $n - 2$ . Suppose  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = n - 2$  for any graph with  $k$  edges inside  $C$ .



# Grinberg's Theorem

## Theorem 8.6 (Grinberg 1968)

*If  $G$  is a loopless plane graph with a Hamilton cycle  $C$ , and  $G$  has  $f'_i$  faces of length  $i$  inside  $C$  and  $f''_i$  faces of length  $i$  outside  $C$ , then*  
$$\sum_i (i - 2)(f'_i - f''_i) = 0.$$

## Proof.

Want to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = \sum_i (i - 2)f''_i$ . It suffices to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i$  remains invariant as we add edges inside a cycle  $C$  of length  $n$ . If there are no edges inside  $C$ , then the sum is  $n - 2$ . Suppose  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = n - 2$  for any graph with  $k$  edges inside  $C$ . We can obtain any graph with  $k + 1$  edges inside  $C$  by adding an edge to such graph.



# Grinberg's Theorem

## Theorem 8.6 (Grinberg 1968)

*If  $G$  is a loopless plane graph with a Hamilton cycle  $C$ , and  $G$  has  $f'_i$  faces of length  $i$  inside  $C$  and  $f''_i$  faces of length  $i$  outside  $C$ , then*  
$$\sum_i (i - 2)(f'_i - f''_i) = 0.$$

## Proof.

Want to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = \sum_i (i - 2)f''_i$ . It suffices to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i$  remains invariant as we add edges inside a cycle  $C$  of length  $n$ . If there are no edges inside  $C$ , then the sum is  $n - 2$ . Suppose  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = n - 2$  for any graph with  $k$  edges inside  $C$ . We can obtain any graph with  $k + 1$  edges inside  $C$  by adding an edge to such graph. The edge addition cuts a face of length  $r$  into faces of lengths  $s$  and  $t$ .



# Grinberg's Theorem

## Theorem 8.6 (Grinberg 1968)

*If  $G$  is a loopless plane graph with a Hamilton cycle  $C$ , and  $G$  has  $f'_i$  faces of length  $i$  inside  $C$  and  $f''_i$  faces of length  $i$  outside  $C$ , then*  
$$\sum_i (i - 2)(f'_i - f''_i) = 0.$$

## Proof.

Want to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = \sum_i (i - 2)f''_i$ . It suffices to show that  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i$  remains invariant as we add edges inside a cycle  $C$  of length  $n$ . If there are no edges inside  $C$ , then the sum is  $n - 2$ . Suppose  $\sum_i (i - 2)f'_i = n - 2$  for any graph with  $k$  edges inside  $C$ . We can obtain any graph with  $k + 1$  edges inside  $C$  by adding an edge to such graph. The edge addition cuts a face of length  $r$  into faces of lengths  $s$  and  $t$ . We have  $s + t = r + 2$ , and so  $(s - 2) + (t - 2) = r - 2$  and so the total contribution remains the same. □

## Corollary 8.7

*The Tutte graph is not Hamiltonian.*

### Corollary 8.7

*The Tutte graph is not Hamiltonian.*

### Theorem 8.8 (Tutte 1956)

*Every 4-connected planar graph is Hamiltonian.*



### Corollary 8.7

*The Tutte graph is not Hamiltonian.*

### Theorem 8.8 (Tutte 1956)

*Every 4-connected planar graph is Hamiltonian.*

### Theorem 8.9 (Thomas, Yu 1994)

*Every 4-connected projective graph is Hamiltonian.*

### Theorem 8.10 (Thomas, Yu 1997)

*Every 5-connected toroidal graph is Hamiltonian.*