

We run BFS starting from node s . Let d be the layer in which node t is encountered; by assumption, we have $d > n/2$. We claim first that one of the layers L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{d-1} consists of a single node. Indeed, if each of these layers had size at least two, then this would account for at least $2(n/2) = n$ nodes; but G has only n nodes, and neither s nor t appears in these layers.

Thus, there is some layer L_i consisting of just the node v . We claim next that deleting v destroys all s - t paths. To see this, consider the set of nodes $X = \{s\} \cup L_1 \cup L_2 \cup \dots \cup L_{i-1}$. Node s belongs to X but node t does not; and any edge out of X must lie in layer L_i , by the properties of BFS. Since any path from s to t must leave X at some point, it must contain a node in L_i ; but v is the only node in L_i .

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