

Problem Breakdown

Let's understand the problem First

We have a tree of n nodes (connected and acyclic).
Each node is colored either:

- 0 - white
- 1 - black

We can perform an operation `paint(x)` which:

Flips the color of the entire nonrecursive connected component that contains x .
We want the minimum number of such operations to make all nodes the same color (all 0 or all 1).

- Finds all vertices reachable from v without crossing an edge that connects two differently-colored vertices,
- and flips all of them (0-1, 1-0).

So it flips an entire connected region of the same color.

→ Every "color boundary" (edge connecting two nodes of different colors) acts as a wall — $\text{paint}(v)$ doesn't cross it.

Let's build a new graph where:

- each node represents a monochromatic component (connected region of same color),
- and edges exist between components that were connected by a color boundary in the original tree.

This new graph is:

- also a tree (because merging nodes of same color doesn't create cycles),
- and it's bipartite (because edges always connect 0 .. 1 components).

This is the main trick:

- Every paint() operation can "push" color propagation one step through this component-tree.
- To unify all components, you need roughly half the length of the longest alternating path — because each operation flips one side at a time.