

Let  $G$  be a graph such that  $d(x) \geq n/2$  for each  $x \in V(G)$ , where  $n = |V(G)|$ . Then  $G$  has a Hamiltonian cycle.

We prove this by finding a Hamiltonian path. This is sufficient: suppose  $x_1 \dots x_n$  is a Hamiltonian path in  $G$  and consider the two sets  $S = \{i : x_1x_i \in E(G)\}$  and  $T = \{i : x_{i-1}x_n\}$ . We can assume  $n \notin S$  and  $2 \notin T$ . Then there is an  $i \in S \cap T$ , which gives us a Hamiltonian cycle  $x_1x_i \rightarrow x_nx_{i-1} \leftarrow x_1$ .

Now we find a Hamiltonian path. Clearly, there is a path of length  $\geq n/2$ , since all degrees are  $\geq n/2$ . Let  $P = x_1 \dots x_r$  be a longest path, where  $r \geq n/2$ . Let  $S$  be the set of  $i$  such that  $x_i$  is connected to some vertex outside  $P$ . We may assume that  $1, r \notin S$ . It is now sufficient to consider the following picture: A vertex in  $S$  adjacent to a vertex outside  $S$  on  $P$ , together with their edges to vertices in  $P$ , with special attention to  $x_1$  and  $x_r$ .