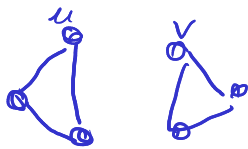


Prove or disprove: If every vertex of a simple graph  $G$  has degree 2, then  $G$  is a cycle.



This is not true, because here is a counter-example. There is no path between vertices  $u$  and  $v$ .

However, if the graph is connected, and each vertex has degree 2, then  $G$  is a cycle.

This is true, whenever the graph has a vertex  $v$  and the whole graph is a path from  $v$  to itself that goes through all the edges, and that touches every vertex only once.

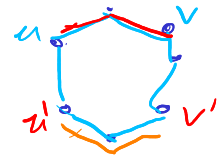
Since the graph is connected, there is, for every pair of vertices  $(u, v)$ , a path from  $u$  to  $v$ .

Call this path  $P$ , and make a copy of  $G$  without the edges of  $P$ .

In that copy, take the vertex that is next to  $u$  and call it  $u'$ . Do the same with the vertex next to  $v$  and call it  $v'$ . We know they exist, since  $u$  and  $v$  have degree 2.

Since the graph  $G$  is connected, there exists a path between  $u'$  and  $v'$ .

The path that goes from  $u$  to  $v$  + the edge  $vv'$  + the path from  $v'$  to  $u'$  + the edge  $u'u$  is a cycle.



The proof that if  $G$  is connected and every vertex has degree 2, it is a cycle can also be done very easily by induction, with base case the complete graph with three vertices.