

Towards the Erdős-Gallai Cycle Decomposition Conjecture

Matija Bucić

Institute for Advanced Study and Princeton University

joint work with Richard Montgomery

Graph decomposition problems

- General graph decomposition question:

Graph decomposition problems

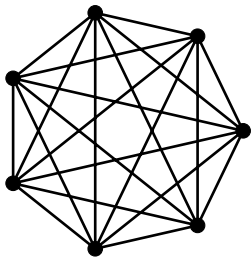
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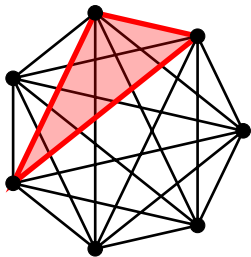
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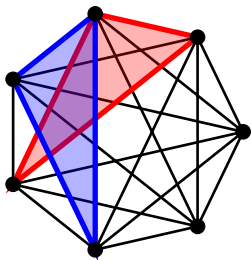
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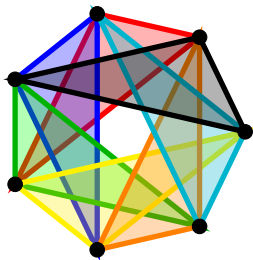
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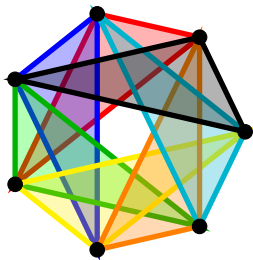
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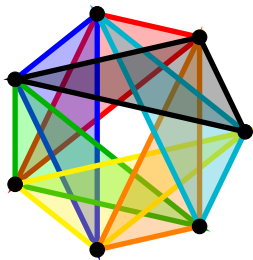


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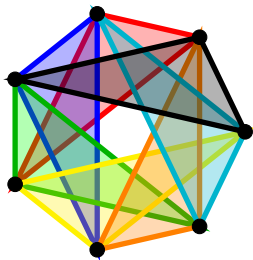


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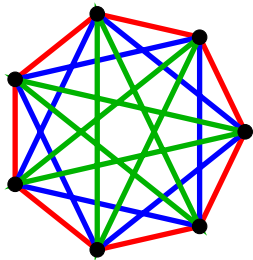
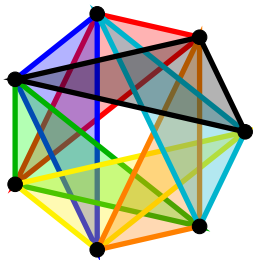


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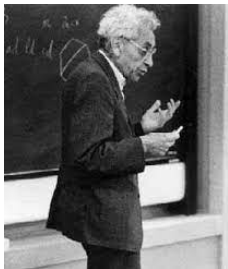


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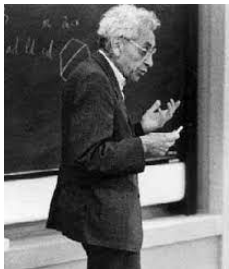
Conjecture

Every Eulerian n -vertex graph can be decomposed into at most $O(n)$ cycles.

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Conjecture (Hajós 1960s)

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- Pyber 1985: Precise solution for the covering version.

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Theorem (B., Montgomery 2022+)

Any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $O(n \log^ n)$ cycles and edges.*

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An n -vertex graph G is an expander if for all $U \subseteq V(G)$ we have:

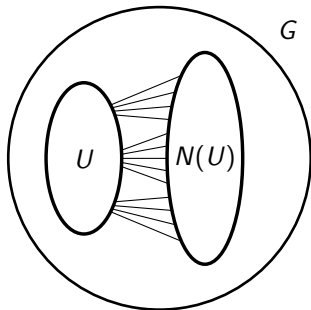
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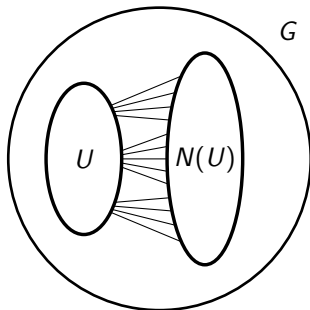
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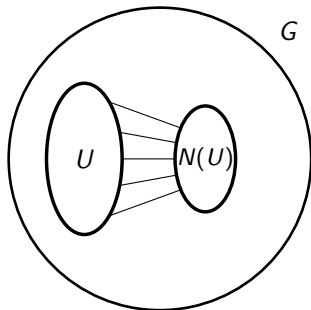
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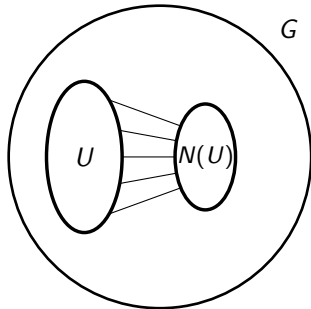
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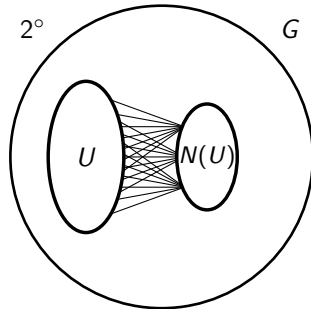
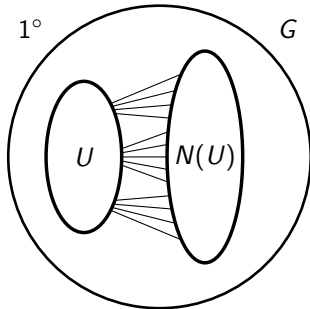
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 - ▶ Existence of an expanding “skeleton”.

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Every n -vertex graph can be decomposed into at most $\frac{n}{2}$ paths and cycles.

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- ▶ Apply Lovász' Theorem.

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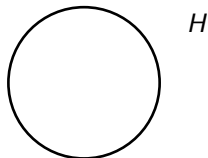
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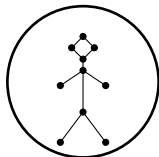


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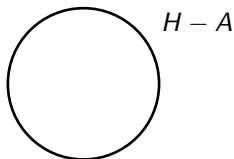
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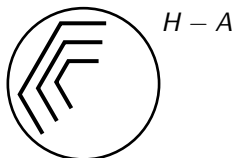


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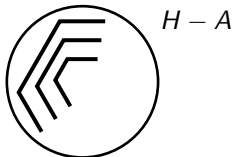


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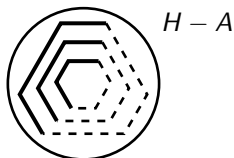
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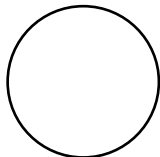
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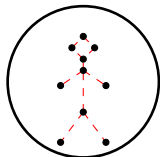
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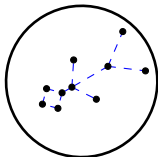
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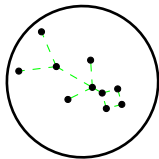
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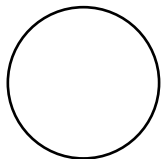
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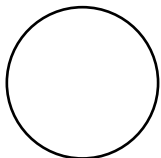
Proof sketch.

Theorem (B., Montgomery 2022+)

Any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $O(n)$ cycles and $O(n \log^C n)$ edges.

Proof:

- Step 1: Decompose all but $O(n \log^C n)$ edges into expanders. Let H be one.
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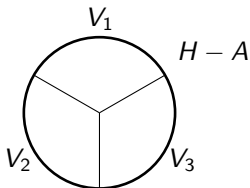
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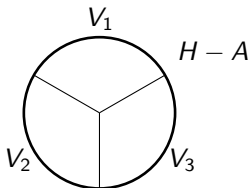
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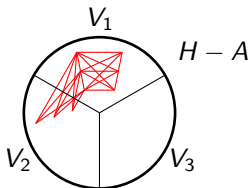
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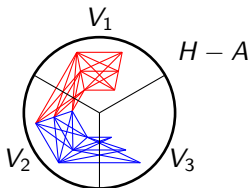
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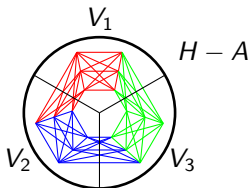
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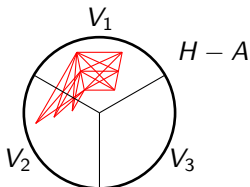
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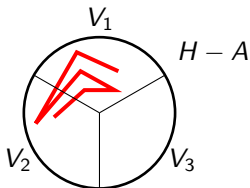
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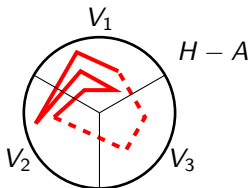
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Theorem (B., Montgomery 2022+)

Any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $O(n)$ cycles and $O(n \log^C n)$ edges.

Theorem (B., Montgomery 2022+)

For any constant k any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $O(n)$ cycles and $O(n \underbrace{\log \log \dots \log n}_k)$ edges.

Concluding remarks

Theorem (B., Montgomery 2022+)

For any constant k any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $O(n)$ cycles and $O(n \underbrace{\log \log \dots \log n}_k)$ edges.

Theorem (B., Montgomery 2022+)

Any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $O(n \log^ n)$ cycles and edges.*

Concluding remarks

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Any Eulerian n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $O(n \log^ n)$ cycles.*

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Conjecture (Erdős-Gallai, 1960s)

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