

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

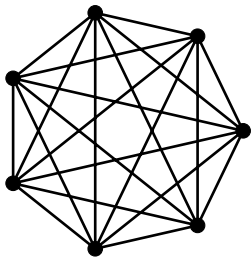
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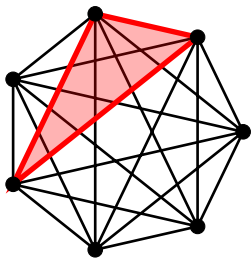
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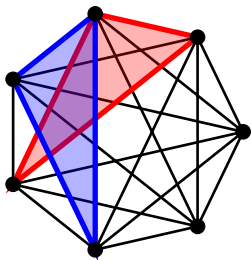
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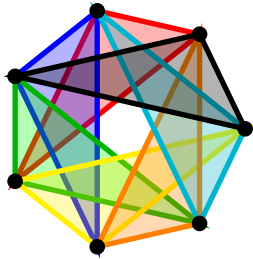
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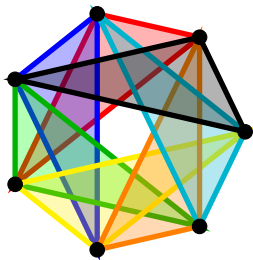
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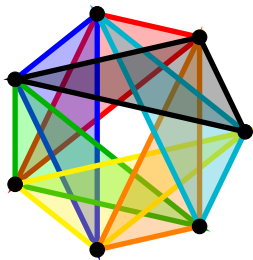


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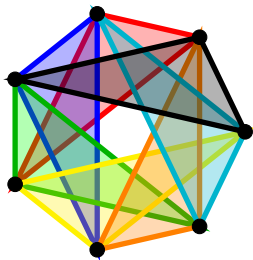


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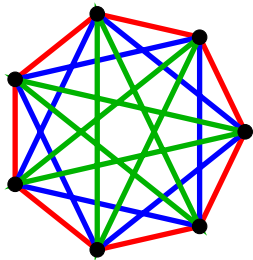
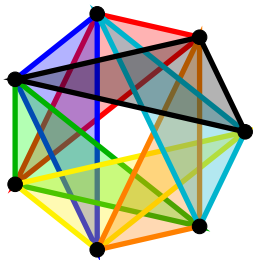


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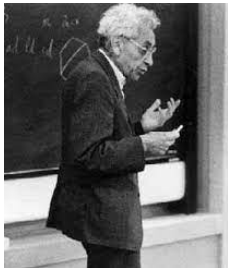


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Conjecture (Erdős-Gallai 1960s)

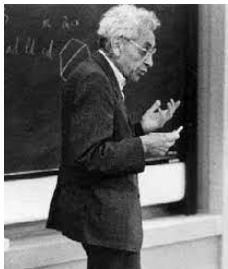
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Conjecture

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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Path decompositions with well-spread endvertices

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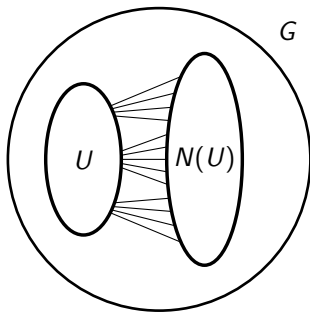
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- ▶ each original vertex is an endpoint of exactly one path.
- ▶ Removing v gives the desired decomposition.

Robust sublinear expansion

Definition (Expansion)

An n -vertex graph G is an expander if for all $U \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $|U| \leq \frac{n}{2F}$ we have:

$$|N(U)| > F|U|.$$

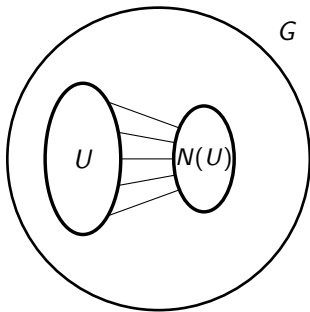


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Definition (Sublinear expansion)

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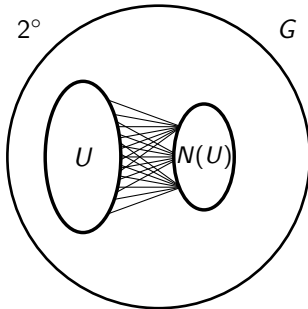
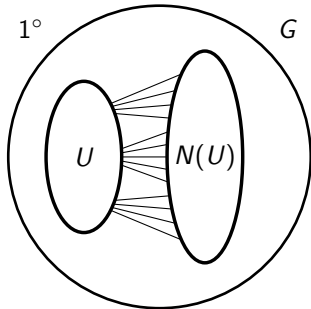
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 - such that $|H_1| + \dots + |H_t| \leq 2n$

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 - Can be used to “parallelize” some of our arguments.

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 - ▶ A very strong connectivity property even under vertex subsampling
 - ▶ Existence of an expanding “skeleton”.

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Any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $6n$ cycles and $O(n \log^C n)$ edges.

Proof sketch.

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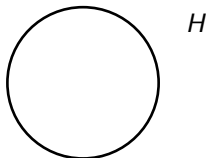
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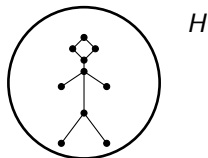
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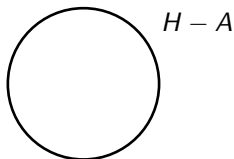
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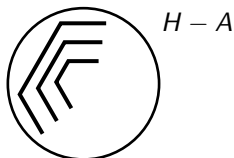


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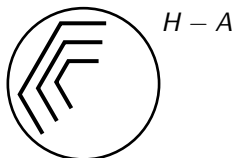


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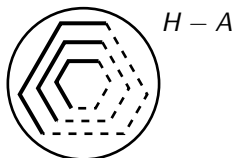
Proof sketch.

Theorem (B., Montgomery 2022+)

Any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $6n$ cycles and $O(n \log^C n)$ edges.

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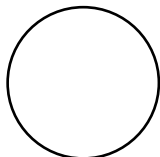
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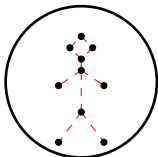
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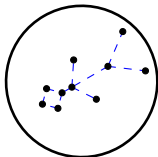
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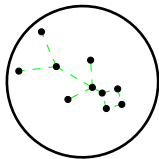
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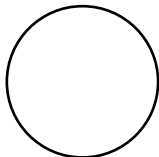
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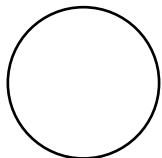
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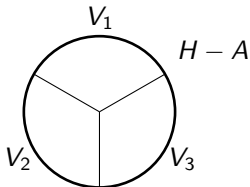
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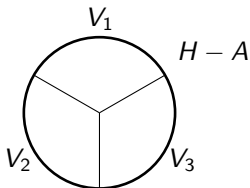
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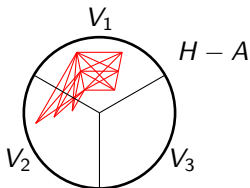
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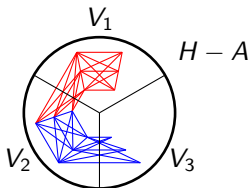
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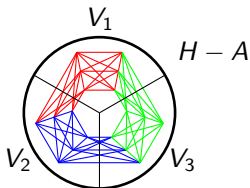
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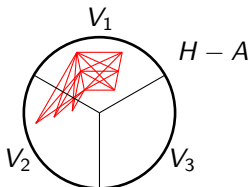
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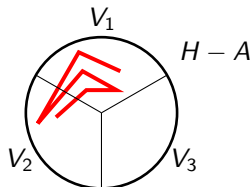
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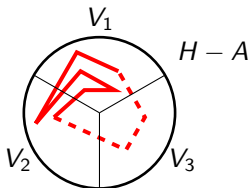
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Theorem (B., Montgomery 2022+)

Any n -vertex graph can be decomposed into $6n$ cycles and $O(n \log^C n)$ edges.

- Step 1: Remove the $6n$ cycles to get a leftover graph with $O(n \log^C n)$ edges

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Conjecture (Erdős-Gallai, 1960s)

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