

# Packing degenerate graphs

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## Tree packing conjectures

Two graphs  $G_1, G_2$  **pack** into a graph  $H$  if there exist injective homomorphisms  $\phi_1 : G_1 \rightarrow H$ ,  $\phi_2 : G_2 \rightarrow H$  such that  $E(\phi_1) \cap E(\phi_2) = \emptyset$ .

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### Conjecture (Ringel, 1963)

*Any  $2n + 1$  identical copies of any tree of order  $n + 1$  pack into  $K_{2n+1}$ .*

### Conjecture (Gyarfás–Lehel “The Tree packing conj.”, 1978)

*Let  $T_1, \dots, T_n$  be a family of trees,  $v(T_i) = i$ . Then  $T_1, \dots, T_n$  pack into  $K_n$ .*

**Best possible:** total number of the edges in the trees equals the number of edges of the host graph

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### Theorem (Böttcher, H., Piguet, Taraz 2014)

$\forall \epsilon > 0, \Delta \in \mathbb{N} \exists n_0 \forall n > n_0$

*Let  $T_1, \dots, T_k$  be a family of trees,  $\Delta(T_i) \leq \Delta, v(T_i) \leq (1 - \epsilon)n, \sum e(T_i) \leq (1 - \epsilon)\binom{n}{2}$ . Then  $T_1, \dots, T_k$  pack into  $K_n$ .*

# Packing large graphs into $K_n$

**Böttcher, H., Piguet, Taraz 2014:**

1. trees
2. bounded degree
3.  $v \leq (1 - \epsilon)n$
4.  $\sum e \leq (1 - \epsilon) \binom{n}{2}$

**Messuti, Rödl, Schacht 2015**

1. non-expanding
- 2.-4. ———

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**A.-B.-H.-P.**

1.  $D$ -degenerate
2.  $\Delta = O(n/\log n)$
3.  $v \leq n$
4. ———

## Theorem

For each  $\epsilon > 0$  and each  $D \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $c > 0$  and a number  $n_0$  such that the following holds for each integer  $n > n_0$ . Suppose that  $(G_t)_{t \in [t^*]}$  is a family of  $D$ -degenerate graphs, each of which has at most  $n$  vertices and maximum degree at most  $\frac{cn}{\log n}$ . Suppose further that the total number of edges of  $(G_t)_{t \in [t^*]}$  is at most  $(1 - \epsilon) \binom{n}{2}$ . Then  $(G_t)_{t \in [t^*]}$  packs into  $K_n$ .

### Proof

$$H_0 := K_n$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, t^*$ , take a  $D$ -degenerate ordering of  $G_i$

embed  $G_i$  into  $H_{i-1}$  vertex-by-vertex randomly:

for  $v = 1, \dots, v(G_i)$ ,

$$\phi_i(v) := \text{random} \left( N_{G_{i-1}}^{\text{common}}(\phi_i(N_{H_i}^{\text{left}}(v))) \setminus \phi_i([v-1]) \right)$$

set  $H_i := H_{i-1} - \phi_i(G_i)$

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Cannot work at the end. So, run the previous for  $G_i^* := G_i - U_i$ , where  $U_i$  is a small independent set. Pack  $U_i$ 's at the end using a matching argument