

# Decomposing sparse graphs into pseudoforests

## Definition

A *pseudoforest* is a graph where every connected component contains at most one cycle.

## Definition

For integers  $k$  and  $d$ , a graph  $G$  is  $(k, d)$ -*decomposable* if we can partition the edge set into  $k$  pseudoforests where one of the pseudoforests has maximum degree  $d$ . Similarly, a graph is  $(k, d)^*$ -*decomposable* if we can partition the edge set into  $k$  pseudoforests where one of the pseudoforests has every connected component containing at most  $d$  edges.

# A Nine Dragon Tree type problem on pseudoforests

## Theorem (Genghua Fan, Yan Li, Ning Song, and Daqing Yang 2015)

*Let  $k$  and  $d$  be integers. Every graph with maximum average degree at most  $2k + \frac{2d}{k+d+1}$  is  $(k+1, d)$ -decomposable. Further, for every  $k, d$  and every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a graph with maximum average degree at most  $2k + \frac{2d}{k+d+1} + \varepsilon$  which is not  $(k+1, d)$ -decomposable.*

## Conjecture

*Let  $k$  and  $d$  be integers. There exists a  $\varepsilon > 0$  and an integer  $g \geq 5$  such that every graph with girth  $g$  and maximum average degree at most  $2k + \frac{2d}{k+d+1} + \varepsilon$  is  $(k+1, d)$ -decomposable. (Bonus points if you get a  $(k+1, d)^*$ -decomposition).*