# Oriented trees in digraphs of high chromatic number 

Amadeus Reinald
LIRMM, Université de Montpellier, CNRS
joint work with
Stéphane Bessy, Daniel Gonçalves

Journées Graphes et Algorithmes
21 Novembre 2023, Lyon

## Preliminaries

## Question

What structures necessarily appear in (di)graphs of "high" chromatic number?

## Preliminaries

## Question

What structures necessarily appear in (di)graphs of "high" chromatic number?

- minors, Hadwiger's conjecture: $\chi \geq t \rightarrow K_{t}$


## Preliminaries

## Question

What structures necessarily appear in (di)graphs of "high" chromatic number?

- minors, Hadwiger's conjecture: $\chi \geq t \rightarrow K_{t}$
- induced subgraphs, Gyárfás-Sumner conjecture: $\chi \geq f(t, T) \rightarrow$ $K_{t}$ or $T$


## Preliminaries

## Question

What structures necessarily appear in (di)graphs of "high" chromatic number?

- minors, Hadwiger's conjecture: $\chi \geq t \rightarrow K_{t}$
- induced subgraphs, Gyárfás-Sumner conjecture: $\chi \geq f(t, T) \rightarrow$ $K_{t}$ or $T$
- subgraphs: solved, trivial (next slide)


## Preliminaries

## Question

What structures necessarily appear in (di)graphs of "high" chromatic number?

- minors, Hadwiger's conjecture: $\chi \geq t \rightarrow K_{t}$
- induced subgraphs, Gyárfás-Sumner conjecture: $\chi \geq f(t, T) \rightarrow$ $K_{t}$ or $T$
- subgraphs: solved, trivial (next slide)
- subdigraphs: this talk!


## Subtrees in graphs of large chromatic number

## Question

Given $H$, is there some $k$ s.t. $\chi(G) \geq k \Longrightarrow G$ contains $H$ as a subgraph?

## Subtrees in graphs of large chromatic number

Question
Given $H$, is there some $k$ s.t. $\chi(G) \geq k \Rightarrow G$ contains $H$ as a subgraph?

Theorem (Erdős, Hajnal '1966)
There exist graphs of arbitrarily large girth and $\chi$.

## Subtrees in graphs of large chromatic number

## Question

Given $H$, is there some $k$ s.t. $\chi(G) \geq k \Rightarrow G$ contains $H$ as a subgraph?

## Theorem (Erdős, Hajnal '1966)

There exist graphs of arbitrarily large girth and $\chi$.
$\hookrightarrow$ if $H$ is not a tree, no.

## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

$\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs
Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring



## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left,

$\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs
Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.
- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

$\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs
Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.
- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$

$\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs
Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.
- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$

$\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs
Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.
- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$

$\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs
Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.
- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$

$\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs
Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.
- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$



## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$



## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$



## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$



## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$

$\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs
Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.
- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$



## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$



## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$

- What if we orient $G$ ?


## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$

- What if we orient $G$ ? No guarantees on directions of arcs...


## $\chi$-vertex trees in simple graphs

Graph $G$ : find trees on $\chi(G)$ vertices as subgraphs, tight.

- start with any colouring
- stack left, still $\geq \chi$ classes (independent sets)

- class $i$ : at least one neighbour in $j<i$ build $T$

- What if we orient $G$ ? No guarantees on directions of arcs...
- This talk: find $k$-vertex oriented subtrees when $\chi \geq f(k)$.


## Burr's conjecture

## Conjecture (Burr '80)

If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 2 k-2$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices as a subgraph.

## Burr's conjecture

> Conjecture (Burr '80)
> If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 2 k-2$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices as a subgraph.

- Tight : diregular $K_{2 k-3}$ has no $S_{k}^{+}(e x: k=4)$,


## Burr's conjecture

## Conjecture (Burr '80) <br> If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 2 k-2$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices as a subgraph.

- Tight : diregular $K_{2 k-3}$ has no $S_{k}^{+}(e x: k=4)$,
- $(k-1)^{2}$ suffices for $k$-vertex trees [Burr '80].



## Burr's conjecture

Conjecture (Burr '80)
If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 2 k-2$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices as a subgraph.

- Tight : diregular $K_{2 k-3}$ has no $S_{k}^{+}(e x: k=4)$,
- $(k-1)^{2}$ suffices for $k$-vertex trees [Burr '80].


Theorem (Addario-Berry, Havet, Linhares Sales, Reed, Thomassé '13) If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq \frac{k^{2}}{2}-\frac{k}{2}+1$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

## Burr's conjecture

Conjecture (Burr '80)
If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 2 k-2$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices as a subgraph.

- Tight : diregular $K_{2 k-3}$ has no $S_{k}^{+}(e x: k=4)$,
- $(k-1)^{2}$ suffices for $k$-vertex trees [Burr '80].


Theorem (Addario-Berry, Havet, Linhares Sales, Reed, Thomassé '13) If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq \frac{k^{2}}{2}-\frac{k}{2}+1$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

- $\geq 2 k-2 \Longrightarrow$ paths, two-blocks paths*, diameter 3 trees


## Burr's conjecture

Conjecture (Burr '80)
If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 2 k-2$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices as a subgraph.

- Tight : diregular $K_{2 k-3}$ has no $S_{k}^{+}$(ex: $k=4$ ),
- $(k-1)^{2}$ suffices for $k$-vertex trees [Burr '80].


Theorem (Addario-Berry, Havet, Linhares Sales, Reed, Thomassé '13) If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq \frac{k^{2}}{2}-\frac{k}{2}+1$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

- $\geq 2 k-2 \Longrightarrow$ paths, two-blocks paths*, diameter 3 trees
- $\geq 10 k \Longrightarrow$ antidirected trees, $\leq 4$ blocks paths


## Our results

Theorem (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)
If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 5 k \sqrt{k}$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

## Our results

Theorem (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+) If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 5 k \sqrt{k}$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

In particular,

- $\chi(D) \geq(b-1) k \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-paths with $b$ blocks $(b \geq 2)$.


## Our results

Theorem (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+) If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 5 k \sqrt{k}$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

In particular,

- $\chi(D) \geq(b-1) k \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-paths with $b$ blocks $(b \geq 2)$.
- $\chi(D) \geq 3 k \sqrt{k} \Rightarrow D$ contains $k$-arborescences.


## Our results

Theorem (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+) If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 5 k \sqrt{k}$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

In particular,

- $\chi(D) \geq(b-1) k \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-paths with $b$ blocks $(b \geq 2)$.
- $\chi(D) \geq 3 k \sqrt{k} \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-arborescences. This talk!


## Our results

Theorem (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)
If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 5 k \sqrt{k}$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

In particular,

- $\chi(D) \geq(b-1) k \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-paths with $b$ blocks $(b \geq 2)$.
- $\chi(D) \geq 3 k \sqrt{k} \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-arborescences. This talk!

Definition An out-arborescence is an oriented tree with:

- unique source $u$, root
- $\forall v \neq u$, one path from $u$ to $v$.


## Our results

Theorem (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)
If a digraph $D$ satisfies $\chi(D) \geq 5 k \sqrt{k}$, then $D$ contains every oriented tree on $k$ vertices.

In particular,

- $\chi(D) \geq(b-1) k \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-paths with $b$ blocks $(b \geq 2)$.
- $\chi(D) \geq 3 k \sqrt{k} \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-arborescences. This talk!

Definition An out-arborescence is an oriented tree with:

- unique source $u$, root
- $\forall v \neq u$, one path from $u$ to $v$.



## Gluing leaves

## Lemma (B '80; A-B,H,L-S,R,T '13)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow$ k-vertex $T$,



## Gluing leaves

## Lemma (B '80; A-B,H,L-S,R,T '13)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow$ k-vertex $T$,
- then $\chi(D) \geq c+2(k+\ell) \Longrightarrow T$ with $\ell$ out (/in) leaves glued to $T$.



## Gluing leaves

## Lemma (B '80; A-B,H,L-S,R,T '13)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow$ k-vertex $T$,
- then $\chi(D) \geq c+2(k+\ell) \Longrightarrow T$ with $\ell$ out (/in) leaves glued to $T$.



## Gluing leaves

## Lemma (B '80; A-B,H,L-S,R,T '13)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow k$-vertex $T$,
- then $\chi(D) \geq c+2(k+\ell) \Longrightarrow T$ with $\ell$ out (/in) leaves glued to $T$.



## Gluing leaves

## Lemma (B '80; A-B,H,L-S,R,T '13)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow k$-vertex $T$,
- then $\chi(D) \geq c+2(k+\ell) \Longrightarrow T$ with $\ell$ out (/in) leaves glued to $T$.



## Gluing leaves

## Lemma (B '80; A-B,H,L-S,R,T '13)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow k$-vertex $T$,
- then $\chi(D) \geq c+2(k+\ell) \Longrightarrow T$ with $\ell$ out (/in) leaves glued to $T$.



## Gluing leaves

## Lemma (B '80; A-B,H,L-S,R,T '13)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow$ k-vertex $T$,
- then $\chi(D) \geq c+2(k+\ell) \Longrightarrow T$ with $\ell$ out (/in) leaves glued to $T$.



## Gluing leaves

## Lemma (B '80; A-B,H,L-S,R,T '13)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow$ k-vertex $T$,
- then $\chi(D) \geq c+2(k+\ell) \Longrightarrow T$ with $\ell$ out (/in) leaves glued to $T$.



## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,


## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$


## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$

Lemma (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow k$-vertex tree $T$.


## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$

Lemma (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Longrightarrow$ k-vertex tree $T$.
- Then $\chi(D) \geq c+k+2 \ell \Longrightarrow T$ glued with a $\vec{P}_{\ell}$.


## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$

Lemma (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Rightarrow k$-vertex tree $T$.
- Then $\chi(D) \geq c+k+2 \ell \Longrightarrow T$ glued with a $\vec{P}_{\ell}$.

$\chi(D) \geq c+k+2 \ell$


## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$

Lemma (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Rightarrow k$-vertex tree $T$.
- Then $\chi(D) \geq c+k+2 \ell \Longrightarrow T$ glued with a $\vec{P}_{\ell}$.



## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$

Lemma (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Rightarrow k$-vertex tree $T$.
- Then $\chi(D) \geq c+k+2 \ell \Longrightarrow T$ glued with a $\vec{P}_{\ell}$.



## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$

Lemma (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Rightarrow k$-vertex tree $T$.
- Then $\chi(D) \geq c+k+2 \ell \Rightarrow T$ glued with a $\vec{P}_{\ell}$.



## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$

Lemma (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Rightarrow k$-vertex tree $T$.
- Then $\chi(D) \geq c+k+2 \ell \Rightarrow T$ glued with a $\vec{P}_{\ell}$.



## Gluing a path

- Last technique: good for lots of leaves,
- but adding a directed path $\overrightarrow{P_{\ell}}$ costs $O(k \ell) \ldots$

Lemma (Bessy, Gonçalves, R. '23+)

- Assume $\chi(D) \geq c \Rightarrow k$-vertex tree $T$.
- Then $\chi(D) \geq c+k+2 \ell \Rightarrow T$ glued with a $\vec{P}_{\ell}$.



## Arborescences in digraphs

Tools for induction

- We can glue leaves or a path to $T$ by paying $O(k)$ colours

Arborescences in digraphs

## Tools for induction

- We can glue leaves or a path to $T$ by paying $O(k)$ colours
- Do this a minimal number of times...


## Arborescences in digraphs

## Tools for induction

- We can glue leaves or a path to $T$ by paying $O(k)$ colours
- Do this a minimal number of times...

Observation: an out-arborescence contains either $\geq \sqrt{k}$ out-leaves, or can be partitionned into $\leq \sqrt{k}$ paths.

## Arborescences in digraphs

## Tools for induction

- We can glue leaves or a path to $T$ by paying $O(k)$ colours
- Do this a minimal number of times...

Observation: an out-arborescence contains either $\geq \sqrt{k}$ out-leaves, or can be partitionned into $\leq \sqrt{k}$ paths.

## Induction

- If $\leq \sqrt{k}$ leaves, done: pay $3 k$ for each of the $\sqrt{k}$ paths


## Arborescences in digraphs

## Tools for induction

- We can glue leaves or a path to $T$ by paying $O(k)$ colours
- Do this a minimal number of times...

Observation: an out-arborescence contains either $\geq \sqrt{k}$ out-leaves, or can be partitionned into $\leq \sqrt{k}$ paths.

## Induction

- If $\leq \sqrt{k}$ leaves, done: pay $3 k$ for each of the $\sqrt{k}$ paths
- If $\geq \sqrt{k}$ out-leaves, pay $2 k$ to add them,


## Arborescences in digraphs

## Tools for induction

- We can glue leaves or a path to $T$ by paying $O(k)$ colours
- Do this a minimal number of times...

Observation: an out-arborescence contains either $\geq \sqrt{k}$ out-leaves, or can be partitionned into $\leq \sqrt{k}$ paths.

## Induction

- If $\leq \sqrt{k}$ leaves, done: pay $3 k$ for each of the $\sqrt{k}$ paths
- If $\geq \sqrt{k}$ out-leaves, pay $2 k$ to add them, induct...


## Arborescences in digraphs

## Tools for induction

- We can glue leaves or a path to $T$ by paying $O(k)$ colours
- Do this a minimal number of times...

Observation: an out-arborescence contains either $\geq \sqrt{k}$ out-leaves, or can be partitionned into $\leq \sqrt{k}$ paths.

## Induction

- If $\leq \sqrt{k}$ leaves, done: pay $3 k$ for each of the $\sqrt{k}$ paths
- If $\geq \sqrt{k}$ out-leaves, pay $2 k$ to add them, induct...
$\chi(D) \geq 3 k \sqrt{k} \Longrightarrow D$ contains $k$-arborescences


## Conclusion

- same gluing: $\chi \geq(b-1) k \Longrightarrow b$-blocks paths,


## Conclusion

- same gluing: $\chi \geq(b-1) k \Longrightarrow b$-blocks paths,
- General oriented trees: same approach, harder gluing...


## Conclusion

- same gluing: $\chi \geq(b-1) k \Longrightarrow b$-blocks paths,
- General oriented trees: same approach, harder gluing...

Merci!


## References

- S. A. Burr, Subtrees of directed graphs and hypergraphs, Proceedings of the Eleventh Southeastern Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing, Boca Raton, Congr. Numer., 28 (1980), 227-239.
- Louigi Addario-Berry, Frédéric Havet, Cláudia Linhares Sales, Bruce Reed, Stéphan Thomassé, Oriented trees in digraphs, Discrete Mathematics, Volume 313, Issue 8, 2013, 967-974.

