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Universality for D-degenerate graphs

What is the smallest number of edges that a graph G can have if it contains all D-degenerate graphs on n vertices as subgraphs? A counting argument shows that this number is at least of order $n^{2-1/D}$, assuming n is large enough. We show that this is tight up to a polylogarithmic factor.

Joint with Peter Allen and Julia Böttcher.