

1107-05-502

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Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a hypergraph on vertex set  $V$  and the edge set  $E$ . Define the *congestion* of  $H$ , denoted by  $\mu(H)$ , to be the maximum minimum cardinality of any edge, where the maximum is taken overall subhypergraphs of  $H$ . The congestion can be shown to be the dual parameter to the *degeneracy* of a hypergraph. Now let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph and let  $T$  be a tree decomposition of  $G$ . Clearly,  $T$  is a hypergraph on the vertex set  $V$  whose edges are *bags* of  $T$ . We establish a connection between the crossing number of  $G$  and the congestion of  $T$ , or  $\mu(T)$ , that generalizes and strengthens some of the existing results for the crossing numbers. (Received January 20, 2015)