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Steve Butler* (butler@iastate.edu). *Forest building process*. Preliminary report.

Consider the following process for a simple graph without isolated vertices: Order the edges randomly and keep an edge if and only if it contains a vertex which is not contained in some preceding edge. The resulting set of edges forms a spanning forest of the graph.

The probability of obtaining k components in this process for complete bipartite graphs is determined as well as a formula for the expected number of components in any graph. A generic recurrence and some additional basic properties are discussed.

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