

Edge Choosability of Planar Graphs with no Two Adjacent Triangles

Daniel Cranston
dcransto@uiuc.edu
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

April 29, 2006

edge-assignment L : function on $E(G)$ that assigns each edge e a list $L(e)$ of colors available to use on e

edge-assignment L : function on $E(G)$ that assigns each edge e a list $L(e)$ of colors available to use on e

L -edge-coloring: proper edge-coloring where each edge gets a color from its assigned list

edge-assignment L : function on $E(G)$ that assigns each edge e a list $L(e)$ of colors available to use on e

L -edge-coloring: proper edge-coloring where each edge gets a color from its assigned list

$\chi'_l(G)$: minimum k such that G has an L -edge-coloring whenever $|L(e)| \geq k$ for all $e \in E(G)$

List Coloring Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) = \chi'(G)$$

List Coloring Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) = \chi'(G)$$

Partial Results (List Coloring Conjecture)

- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 12$ [Borodin, Kostochka, Woodall 1997]

List Coloring Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) = \chi'(G)$$

Partial Results (List Coloring Conjecture)

- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 12$ [Borodin, Kostochka, Woodall 1997]

Theorem [Cranston 2006]

If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 9$, then $\chi'_l(G) = \chi'(G) = \Delta(G)$.

Vizing's Theorem [1964]

$$\chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Theorem [1964]

$$\chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Theorem [1964]

$$\chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Partial Results (Vizing's Conjecture)

- ▶ $\Delta(G) \leq 4$ [Juvan, Mohar, Skrekovski 1999]

Vizing's Theorem [1964]

$$\chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Partial Results (Vizing's Conjecture)

- ▶ $\Delta(G) \leq 4$ [Juvan, Mohar, Skrekovski 1999]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 9$ [Borodin 1990]

Vizing's Theorem [1964]

$$\chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Partial Results (Vizing's Conjecture)

- ▶ $\Delta(G) \leq 4$ [Juvan, Mohar, Skrekovski 1999]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 9$ [Borodin 1990]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, no intersecting triangles [Wang, Lih 2002]

Vizing's Theorem [1964]

$$\chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Partial Results (Vizing's Conjecture)

- ▶ $\Delta(G) \leq 4$ [Juvan, Mohar, Skrekovski 1999]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 9$ [Borodin 1990]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, no intersecting triangles [Wang, Lih 2002]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, no 4-cycles [Zhang, Wu 2004]

Vizing's Theorem [1964]

$$\chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Partial Results (Vizing's Conjecture)

- ▶ $\Delta(G) \leq 4$ [Juvan, Mohar, Skrekovski 1999]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 9$ [Borodin 1990]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, no intersecting triangles [Wang, Lih 2002]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, no 4-cycles [Zhang, Wu 2004]

Theorem [Cranston 2005]

If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, then $\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$.

Vizing's Theorem [1964]

$$\chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Vizing's Conjecture

$$\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$$

Partial Results (Vizing's Conjecture)

- ▶ $\Delta(G) \leq 4$ [Juvan, Mohar, Skrekovski 1999]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 9$ [Borodin 1990]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, no intersecting triangles [Wang, Lih 2002]
- ▶ Planar, $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, no 4-cycles [Zhang, Wu 2004]

Theorem [Cranston 2005]

If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 6$, then $\chi'_l(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$.

Lemma:

If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$.

Lemma:

If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$.

Observation:

If we can order the edges of G such that for each edge e at most k edges adjacent to edge e precede it in the ordering, then $\chi'_l(G) \leq k + 1$.

Lemma:

If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$.

Observation:

If we can order the edges of G such that for each edge e at most k edges adjacent to edge e precede it in the ordering, then $\chi'_l(G) \leq k + 1$.

Observation:

This lemma implies our theorem.

Assume a counterexample G :

Assume a counterexample G :

$$|F(G)| - |E(G)| + |V(G)| = 2$$

Assume a counterexample G :

$$|F(G)| - |E(G)| + |V(G)| = 2$$

$$2|E(G)| - 4|V(G)| + 2|E(G)| - 4|F(G)| = -8$$

Assume a counterexample G :

$$|F(G)| - |E(G)| + |V(G)| = 2$$

$$2|E(G)| - 4|V(G)| + 2|E(G)| - 4|F(G)| = -8$$

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} (d(v) - 4) + \sum_{f \in F(G)} (d(f) - 4) = -8$$

Assume a counterexample G :

$$|F(G)| - |E(G)| + |V(G)| = 2$$

$$2|E(G)| - 4|V(G)| + 2|E(G)| - 4|F(G)| = -8$$

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} (d(v) - 4) + \sum_{f \in F(G)} (d(f) - 4) = -8$$

Charge $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$

Assume a counterexample G :

$$|F(G)| - |E(G)| + |V(G)| = 2$$

$$2|E(G)| - 4|V(G)| + 2|E(G)| - 4|F(G)| = -8$$

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} (d(v) - 4) + \sum_{f \in F(G)} (d(f) - 4) = -8$$

Charge $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$

Redistribute charge, so that sum is unchanged but new charge $\mu^*(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

Assume a counterexample G :

$$|F(G)| - |E(G)| + |V(G)| = 2$$

$$2|E(G)| - 4|V(G)| + 2|E(G)| - 4|F(G)| = -8$$

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} (d(v) - 4) + \sum_{f \in F(G)} (d(f) - 4) = -8$$

Charge $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$

Redistribute charge, so that sum is unchanged but new charge $\mu^*(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

$$0 \leq \sum_{x \in V \cup F} \mu^*(x) = \sum_{x \in V \cup F} \mu(x) = -8$$

Assume a counterexample G :

$$|F(G)| - |E(G)| + |V(G)| = 2$$

$$2|E(G)| - 4|V(G)| + 2|E(G)| - 4|F(G)| = -8$$

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} (d(v) - 4) + \sum_{f \in F(G)} (d(f) - 4) = -8$$

Charge $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$

Redistribute charge, so that sum is unchanged but new charge $\mu^*(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

$$0 \leq \sum_{x \in V \cup F} \mu^*(x) = \sum_{x \in V \cup F} \mu(x) = -8$$

Contradiction! So no counterexample exists.

Assume a counterexample G :

$$|F(G)| - |E(G)| + |V(G)| = 2$$

$$2|E(G)| - 4|V(G)| + 2|E(G)| - 4|F(G)| = -8$$

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} (d(v) - 4) + \sum_{f \in F(G)} (d(f) - 4) = -8$$

Charge $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$

Redistribute charge, so that sum is unchanged but new charge $\mu^*(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

$$0 \leq \sum_{x \in V \cup F} \mu^*(x) = \sum_{x \in V \cup F} \mu(x) = -8$$

Contradiction! So no counterexample exists.

This is called the **Discharging Method**

Lemma: If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$

Lemma: If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$

Proof: Consider a counterexample G . For each edge $uv \in E(G)$, $d(u) + d(v) \geq \Delta(G) + 3 \geq 10$. Note that $\delta(G) \geq 3$.

Lemma: If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$

Proof: Consider a counterexample G . For each edge $uv \in E(G)$, $d(u) + d(v) \geq \Delta(G) + 3 \geq 10$. Note that $\delta(G) \geq 3$.

Discharging with $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

Lemma: If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$

Proof: Consider a counterexample G . For each edge $uv \in E(G)$, $d(u) + d(v) \geq \Delta(G) + 3 \geq 10$. Note that $\delta(G) \geq 3$.

Discharging with $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

Lemma: If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$

Proof: Consider a counterexample G . For each edge $uv \in E(G)$, $d(u) + d(v) \geq \Delta(G) + 3 \geq 10$. Note that $\delta(G) \geq 3$.

Discharging with $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each adjacent 3-vertex

Lemma: If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$

Proof: Consider a counterexample G . For each edge $uv \in E(G)$, $d(u) + d(v) \geq \Delta(G) + 3 \geq 10$. Note that $\delta(G) \geq 3$.

Discharging with $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each adjacent 3-vertex

Fix a face f . Show that $\mu^*(f) \geq 0$.

$$d(f) = 3$$

$$d(f) \geq 4$$

Lemma: If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$

Proof: Consider a counterexample G . For each edge $uv \in E(G)$, $d(u) + d(v) \geq \Delta(G) + 3 \geq 10$. Note that $\delta(G) \geq 3$.

Discharging with $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each adjacent 3-vertex

Fix a face f . Show that $\mu^*(f) \geq 0$.

$$d(f) = 3 \quad \mu^*(f) \geq -1 + 2(1/2) = 0$$

$$d(f) \geq 4$$

Lemma: If G is planar, G does not contain a kite as a subgraph, and $\Delta(G) \geq 7$, then G contains an edge uv with $d(u) + d(v) \leq \Delta(G) + 2$

Proof: Consider a counterexample G . For each edge $uv \in E(G)$, $d(u) + d(v) \geq \Delta(G) + 3 \geq 10$. Note that $\delta(G) \geq 3$.

Discharging with $\mu(x) = d(x) - 4$ for all $x \in V(G) \cup F(G)$.

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each adjacent 3-vertex

Fix a face f . Show that $\mu^*(f) \geq 0$.

$$d(f) = 3 \quad \mu^*(f) \geq -1 + 2(1/2) = 0$$

$$d(f) \geq 4 \quad \mu^*(f) = \mu(f) \geq 0$$

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3$$

$$d(v) = 4$$

$$d(v) = 5$$

$$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$$

$$d(v) = \Delta(G)$$

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3 \quad \mu^*(v) = -1 + 3(1/3) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 4$$

$$d(v) = 5$$

$$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$$

$$d(v) = \Delta(G)$$

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3 \quad \mu^*(v) = -1 + 3(1/3) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 4 \quad \mu^*(v) = \mu(v) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 5$$

$$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$$

$$d(v) = \Delta(G)$$

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3 \quad \mu^*(v) = -1 + 3(1/3) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 4 \quad \mu^*(v) = \mu(v) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 5 \quad \mu^*(v) \geq 1 - 2(1/2) = 0$$

$$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$$

$$d(v) = \Delta(G)$$

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3 \quad \mu^*(v) = -1 + 3(1/3) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 4 \quad \mu^*(v) = \mu(v) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 5 \quad \mu^*(v) \geq 1 - 2(1/2) = 0$$

$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$ v is incident to at most $d(v)/2$ triangles,
so $\mu^*(v) \geq d(v) - 4 - d(v)/2(1/2) = 3d(v)/4 - 4 > 0$

$$d(v) = \Delta(G)$$

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3 \quad \mu^*(v) = -1 + 3(1/3) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 4 \quad \mu^*(v) = \mu(v) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 5 \quad \mu^*(v) \geq 1 - 2(1/2) = 0$$

$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$ v is incident to at most $d(v)/2$ triangles,
so $\mu^*(v) \geq d(v) - 4 - d(v)/2(1/2) = 3d(v)/4 - 4 > 0$

$d(v) = \Delta(G)$ Say v is incident to t triangles.

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3 \quad \mu^*(v) = -1 + 3(1/3) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 4 \quad \mu^*(v) = \mu(v) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 5 \quad \mu^*(v) \geq 1 - 2(1/2) = 0$$

$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$ v is incident to at most $d(v)/2$ triangles,
so $\mu^*(v) \geq d(v) - 4 - d(v)/2(1/2) = 3d(v)/4 - 4 > 0$

$d(v) = \Delta(G)$ Say v is incident to t triangles.

$$\mu^*(v) \geq d(v) - 4 - t/2 - (d(v) - t)/3$$

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3 \quad \mu^*(v) = -1 + 3(1/3) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 4 \quad \mu^*(v) = \mu(v) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 5 \quad \mu^*(v) \geq 1 - 2(1/2) = 0$$

$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$ v is incident to at most $d(v)/2$ triangles,
so $\mu^*(v) \geq d(v) - 4 - d(v)/2(1/2) = 3d(v)/4 - 4 > 0$

$d(v) = \Delta(G)$ Say v is incident to t triangles.

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^*(v) &\geq d(v) - 4 - t/2 - (d(v) - t)/3 \\ &\geq 7d(v)/12 - 4 \end{aligned}$$

Rules

R1) ≥ 5 -vertex gives $1/2$ to each incident triangle

R2) Δ -vertex gives $1/3$ to each incident 3-vertex

Fix a vertex v . Show that $\mu^*(v) \geq 0$.

$$d(v) = 3 \quad \mu^*(v) = -1 + 3(1/3) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 4 \quad \mu^*(v) = \mu(v) = 0$$

$$d(v) = 5 \quad \mu^*(v) \geq 1 - 2(1/2) = 0$$

$6 \leq d(v) \leq \Delta(G) - 1$ v is incident to at most $d(v)/2$ triangles,
so $\mu^*(v) \geq d(v) - 4 - d(v)/2(1/2) = 3d(v)/4 - 4 > 0$

$d(v) = \Delta(G)$ Say v is incident to t triangles.

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^*(v) &\geq d(v) - 4 - t/2 - (d(v) - t)/3 \\ &\geq 7d(v)/12 - 4 \\ &> 0 \quad \text{when } d(v) \geq 7. \end{aligned}$$