

# Lecture 12

Planar graphs.

Graph colorings. Chromatic polynomials

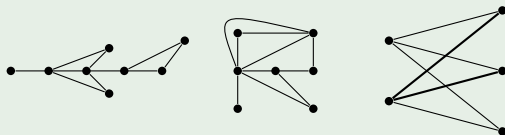
January 11, 2016

# Planar graphs

## Definition and examples

A graph  $G$  is **planar** if it can be drawn in the plane such that pairs of edges intersect only at vertices, if at all. Such a drawing is called **planar representation** of  $G$ .

### Example (Planar graphs)

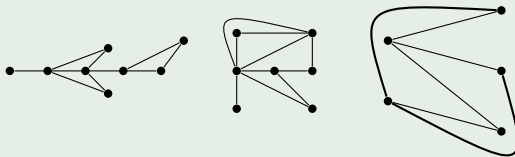


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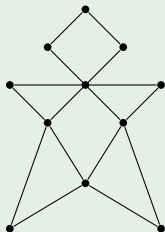
### Example (Planar graphs)



# Auxiliary notions

**Region** of a planar representation of a graph  $G$ : maximal section of the plane in which any two points can be joined by a curve that does not intersect any part of  $G$ .

## Example

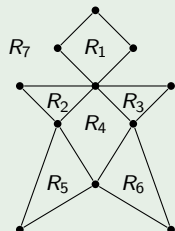


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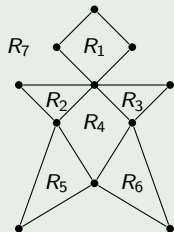


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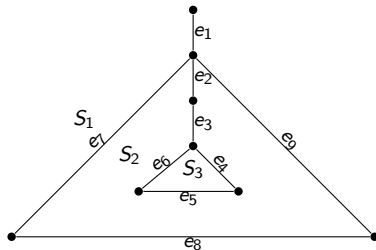
## Example



determines 7 regions  
 $R_7$  is the outer region

- Every region is delimited by edges.
- An edge is in contact with one or two regions.
- An edge **borders a region**  $R$  if it is in contact with  $R$  and with another region.

# Regions and bound degrees



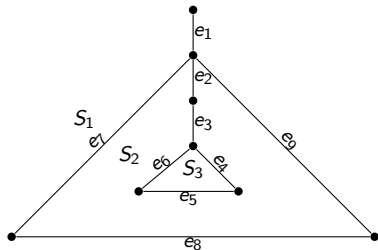
$e_1$  is in contact only with  $S_1$   
 $e_2$  and  $e_3$  are in contact only with  $S_2$

$S_1$  is bordered by  $e_7, e_8, e_9$

$S_3$  is bordered by  $e_4, e_5, e_6$

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The **bound degree**  $b(S)$  of a region  $S$  is the number of edges that border  $S$ .

$$b(S_1) = 3, \quad b(S_2) = 6, \quad b(S_3) = 3$$



# Properties

Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $n$  nodes,  $q$  edges, and a planar representation of  $G$  with  $r$  regions.



$$\begin{aligned} n &= 4 \\ q &= 4 \\ r &= 2 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} n &= 7 \\ q &= 9 \\ r &= 4 \end{aligned}$$



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$n - q + r = 2$  in all cases.

# Properties of connected planar graphs

## Theorem (Euler's Formula)

If  $G$  is a connected planar graph with  $n$  nodes,  $q$  edges and  $r$  regions then  $n - q + r = 2$ .

PROOF: Induction on  $q$ .

**CASE 1:**  $q = 0 \Rightarrow G = K_1$  and  $n = 1$ ,  $q = 0$ ,  $r = 1$ , thus  $n - q + r = 2$ .

**CASE 2:**  $G$  is a tree  $\Rightarrow q = n - 1$  and  $r = 1$ , thus  $n - q + r = n - (n - 1) + 1 = 2$ .

**CASE 3:**  $G$  is a connected graph with at least one cycle. Let  $e$  be an edge of that cycle, and  $G' = G - e$ .

$G'$  is connected with  $n$  nodes,  $q - 1$  edges, and  $r - 1$  regions  $\Rightarrow$  by Induction Hypothesis:  $n - (q - 1) + (r - 1) = 2$ .

Thus  $n - q + r = 2$  holds in this case too.

# Consequences of Euler's Formula

## Corollary 1

$K_{3,3}$  is not planar.

PROOF:  $K_{3,3}$  has  $n = 6$  and  $q = 9 \Rightarrow$  if it were planar, it would have  $r = q - n + 2 = 5$  regions  $R_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq 5$ ). Let  $C = \sum_{i=1}^5 b(R_i)$ .

- Every edge is in contact with at most 2 regions  
 $\Rightarrow C \leq 2q = 18$ .
- $K_{3,3}$  is bipartite  $\Rightarrow C_3$  is no subgraph of  $K_{3,3}$ , thus  $b(S_i) \geq 4$  for all  $i$ , therefore  $C \geq 4 \cdot 5 = 20$

$\Rightarrow$  contradiction, thus  $K_{3,3}$  can not be planar.

# Consequences of Euler's Formula

## Corollary 2

If  $G$  is a planar graph with  $n \geq 3$  nodes and  $q$  edges then  $q \leq 3n - 6$ .  
Moreover, if  $q = 3n - 6$  then  $b(S) = 3$  for every region  $S$  of  $G$ .

PROOF. Let  $R_1, \dots, R_r$  be the regions of  $G$  and  $C = \sum_{i=1}^r b(R_i)$ . We know that  $C \leq 2q$  and  $C \geq 3r$  (because  $b(R_i) \geq 3$  for all  $i$ ). Therefore  $3r \leq 2q \Rightarrow 3(2 + q - n) \leq 2q \Rightarrow q \leq 3n - 6$ .  
If the equality holds, then  $3r = 2q \Rightarrow C = \sum_{i=1}^r b(R_i) = 3r \Rightarrow b(R_i) = 3$  for all regions  $R_i$ .

# Consequences of Euler's Formula

## Corollary 2

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If the equality holds, then

$$3r = 2q \Rightarrow C = \sum_{i=1}^r b(R_i) = 3r \Rightarrow b(R_i) = 3 \text{ for all regions } R_i.$$

## Corollary 3

$K_5$  is not planar.

PROOF:  $K_5$  has  $n = 5$  nodes and  $q = 10$  edges  $\Rightarrow 3n - 6 = 9 < 10 = q \Rightarrow K_5$  cannot be planar (Cf. Corollary 2).

# Consequences of Euler's Formula

## Corollary 4

$\delta(G) \leq 5$  for every planar graph  $G$ .

PROOF: Suppose  $G$  has  $n$  nodes and  $q$  edges.

CASE 1:  $n \leq 6 \Rightarrow$  every node has degree  $\leq 5 \Rightarrow \delta(G) \leq 5$ .

CASE 2:  $n > 6$ . Let  $D = \sum_{v \in V} \deg(v)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} D &= 2q && \text{(obvious)} \\ &\leq 2(3n - 6) && \text{(by Corollary 2)} \\ &= 6n - 12. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\delta(G) \geq 6$  then  $D = \sum_{v \in V} \deg(v) \geq \sum_{v \in V} 6 = 6n$ , contradiction.

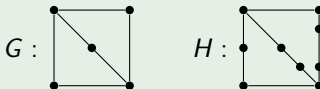
Thus  $\delta(G) \leq 5$  holds.

# Subdivisions

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be an undirected graph, and  $(x, y)$  an edge.

- A **subdivision** of  $(x, y)$  in  $G$  is a replacement of the edge  $(x, y)$  in  $G$  with a path from  $x$  to  $y$  through some new intermediate points.
- A graph  $H$  is a **subdivision** of a graph  $G$  if  $H$  can be produced from  $G$  through a finite sequence of edge divisions.

## Example





# Criteria to detect planar graphs

We say that a graph  $G$  contains a graph  $H$  if  $H$  can be produced by removing edges and nodes from  $G$ .

## Remark

If  $H$  is a subgraph of  $G$  then  $G$  contains  $H$ . The converse is false: “ $G$  contains  $H$ ” does not imply “ $H$  is a subgraph of  $G$ ”.

- $H$  is a subgraph of  $G$  iff it can be produced from  $G$  by node removals.

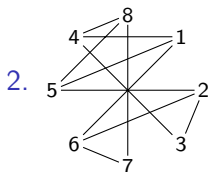
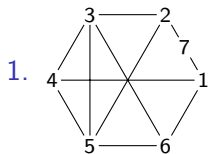
## Theorem (Kuratowski's Theorem)

$G$  is planar if and only if it contains no subdivisions of  $K_{3,3}$  and of  $K_5$ .

# Kuratowski's Theorem

## Illustrated examples

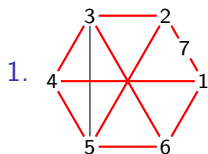
Apply Kuratowski's Theorem to decide which of the following graphs are planar or not:



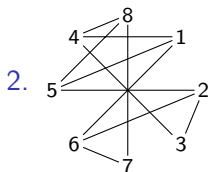
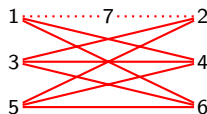
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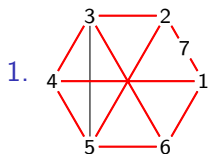
No, because it contains a subdivision of  $K_{3,3}$ :



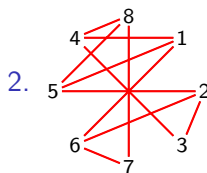
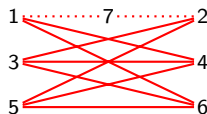
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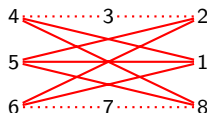
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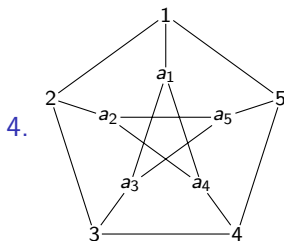
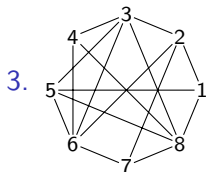
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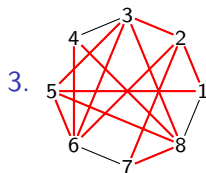
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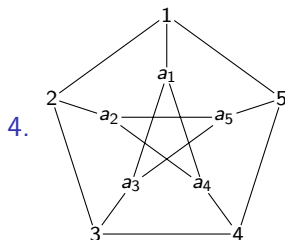
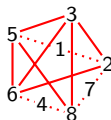
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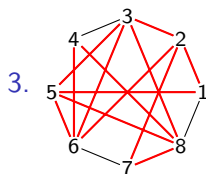
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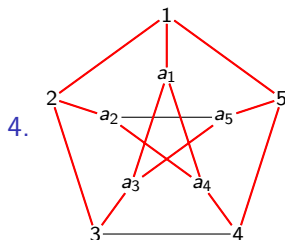
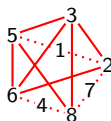
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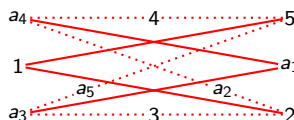
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No, because it contains a subdivision of  $K_5$ :



No, because it contains a subdivision of  $K_{3,3}$ :



# Motivating problem

Alan, Bob, Carl, Dan, Elvis, Ford, Greg and John are senators which comprise 7 committees:

$$\begin{aligned}C_1 &= \{\text{Alan, Bob, Carl}\}, C_2 = \{\text{Carl, Dan, Elvis}\}, \\C_3 &= \{\text{Dan, Ford}\}, C_4 = \{\text{Adam, Greg}\}, C_5 = \{\text{Elvis, John}\}, \\C_6 &= \{\text{Elvis, Bob, Greg}\}, C_7 = \{\text{John, Carl, Ford}\}.\end{aligned}$$

Every committee must fix a meeting time. Since each senator must be present at each of his or her committee meetings, the meeting times need to be scheduled carefully.

**Question:** What is the minimum number of meeting times?

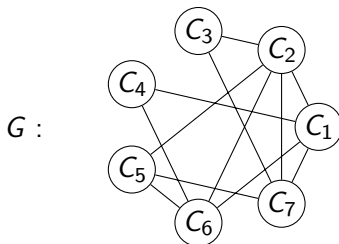


# Answer to the motivating problem

Remarks:

- Two committees  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  cannot meet simultaneously if and only if they have a common member (i.e.,  $C_i \cap C_j \neq \emptyset$ ).
- ⇒ we can consider the undirected graph  $G$  with
  - nodes = the committees  $C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, C_6, C_7$
  - edges  $(C_i, C_j)$  if  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  share a member (i.e.,  $C_i \cap C_j \neq \emptyset$ )
- We color every node  $C_i$  with a color representing its meeting time  $C_i$ 
  - ⇒ the problem is reduced to: what is the minimum number of colors that can be assigned to the nodes of  $G$ , such that no edge has endpoints with the same colors?

# Answer to the motivating problem

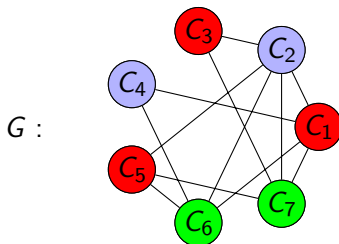


## Definition (node coloring, chromatic number)

A  **$k$ -coloring** of the nodes of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a map  $K : V \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$  such that  $K(u) \neq K(v)$  if  $(u, v) \in E$ .

The **chromatic number**  $\chi(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is the minimum value of  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  for which there exists a  $k$ -coloring of  $G$ .

# Answer to the motivating problem



$$K(C_1) = K(C_3) = K(C_5) = 1$$

$$K(C_2) = K(C_4) = 2$$

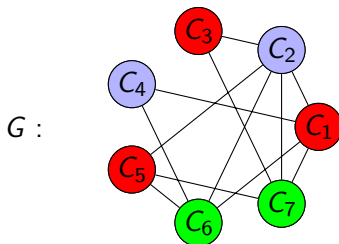
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$\Rightarrow$  the minimum number is 3.  
(we need 3 colors)

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# Chromatic polynomials

The computation of  $\chi(G)$  is a hard problem (NP-complete).

- Birkhoff ( $\approx 1900$ ) found a method to compute a polynomial  $c_G(z)$  for any graph  $G$ , called the **chromatic polynomial** of  $G$ , such that

- $c_G(k)$  = the number of  $k$ -colorings of the nodes of  $G$

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We will present

- 1 simple formulas of  $c_G(z)$  for some special graphs  $G$ .
- 2 two recursive algorithms for the computation of  $c_G(z)$  for any graph  $G$ .

# Chromatic polynomials for special graphs

- ① The empty graph  $E_n$ :  $(v_1) \quad (v_2) \quad \dots \quad (v_n)$   
every node can be colored with any of the  $z$  available colors:  
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- ② Tree  $T_n$  with  $n$  nodes:
- $z$  alternatives to color the root node
  - any other node can be colored with any color different from the color of the parent node  $\Rightarrow z - 1$  alternatives to color it
- $$\Rightarrow c_{T_n}(z) = z \cdot (z - 1)^{n-1} \text{ and } \chi(T_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 2 & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$



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- ③ Special case: the graph  $P_n$  (path with  $n$  nodes) is a special tree with  $n$  nodes:  $(v_1) \text{---} (v_2) \text{---} \dots \text{---} (v_n)$
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  - any other node can be colored with any color different from the color of the parent node  $\Rightarrow z - 1$  alternatives to color it $\Rightarrow c_{T_n}(z) = z \cdot (z - 1)^{n-1}$  and  $\chi(T_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 2 & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$
- ③ Special case: the graph  $P_n$  (path with  $n$  nodes) is a special tree with  $n$  nodes:  $(v_1) \text{---} (v_2) \text{---} \dots \text{---} (v_n)$   
 $\Rightarrow c_{P_n}(z) = z \cdot (z - 1)^{n-1}$  and  $\chi(P_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 2 & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$
- ④ Complete graph  $K_n$ :  
 $c_{K_n}(z) = z \cdot (z - 1) \cdot \dots \cdot (z - n + 1)$  and  $\chi(K_n) = n.$

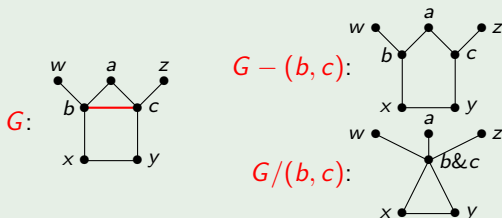
# The computation of chromatic polynomials

## Special operations on graphs

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be an undirected graph, and  $e = (x, y)$  an edge from  $E$

- ▶  $G - e$  is the graph produced from  $G$  by removing  $e$
- ▶  $G/e$  is the graph produced from  $G$  as follows:
  - Collapse  $x$  and  $y$  into one node, whose neighbors are the previous neighbors of  $x$  and  $y$ .

### Example



# The computation of chromatic polynomials

## Recursive formulas

Note that for every  $e \in E$ :  $c_G(z) = c_{G-e}(z) - c_{G/e}(z)$

$\Rightarrow$  two algorithms for the recursive computation of the chromatic polynomial:

- 1 Reduce  $G$  by eliminating edges  $e \in E$  one by one:

$$c_G(z) = c_{G-e}(z) - c_{G/e}(z)$$

until we reach special polynomials  $E_n$  or  $T_n$ :

- Base cases:  $c_{E_n}(z) = z^n$  and  $c_{T_n}(z) = z \cdot (z-1)^{n-1}$

- 2 Extend  $G$  by adding edges that are missing from  $G$ :

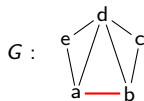
$$c_G(z) = c_{\bar{G}}(z) - c_{\bar{G}/e}(z)$$

where  $e$  is an edge missing from  $G$ , and  $\bar{G} = G + e$

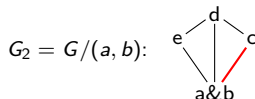
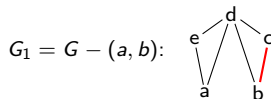
- Base case:  $c_{K_n}(z) = z \cdot (z-1) \cdot \dots \cdot (z-n+1)$

# The computation of the chromatic polynomial by reduction

## Illustrated example

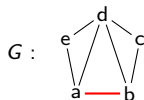


$$c_G(z) = c_{G_1}(z) - c_{G_2}(z), \text{ where}$$

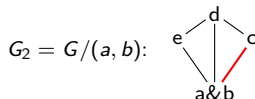
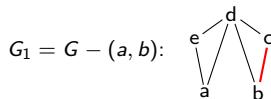


# The computation of the chromatic polynomial by reduction

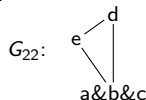
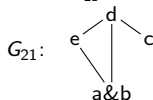
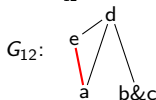
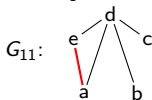
## Illustrated example



$$c_G(z) = c_{G_1}(z) - c_{G_2}(z), \text{ where}$$



$$c_{G_1}(z) = c_{G_{11}}(z) - c_{G_{12}}(z) \text{ and } c_{G_2}(z) = c_{G_{21}}(z) - c_{G_{22}}(z), \text{ where}$$



The following graphs are isomorphic:  $G_{12} \equiv G_{21}$  and  $G_{22} = K_3$ , thus:

$$c_G(z) = c_{G_{11}}(z) - 2 \cdot c_{G_{12}}(z) + \underbrace{z(z-1)(z-2)}_{c_{K_3}(z)}$$

# The computation of the chromatic polynomial by reduction

## Illustrated example (continued)

$$c_G(z) = c_{G_{11}}(z) - 2 \cdot c_{G_{12}}(z) + z(z-1)(z-2)$$



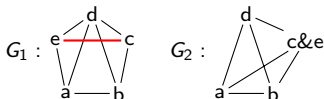
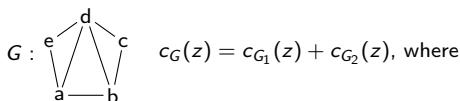
Note that

- $c_{G_{11}}(z) = c_{T_5}(z) - c_{T_4}(z) = z(z-1)^4 - z(z-1)^3$
- $c_{G_{12}}(z) = c_{T_4}(z) - c_{T_3}(z) = z(z-1)^3 - z(z-1)^2$

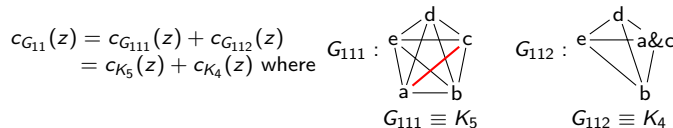
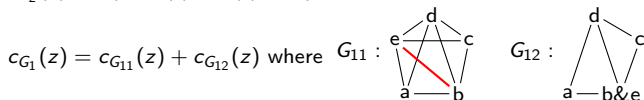
$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow c_G(z) &= z(z-1)^4 - z(z-1)^3 - 2(z(z-1)^3 - z(z-1)^2) \\ &\quad + z(z-1)(z-2) \\ &= z^5 - 7z^4 + 18z^3 - 20z^2 + 8z \end{aligned}$$

# The computation of the chromatic polynomial by extension

## Illustrated example



$c_{G_2}(z) = z(z-1)(z-2)(z-3)$  because  $G_2 \equiv K_4$ , and

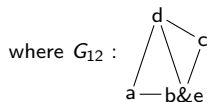




# The computation of the chromatic polynomial by extension

## Illustrated example (continued)

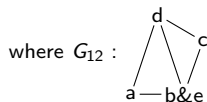
$$\begin{aligned}c_G(z) &= c_{G_1}(z) + c_{G_2}(z) = (c_{G_{11}}(z) + c_{G_{12}}(z)) + c_{K_4}(z) \\ &= c_{K_5}(z) + c_{K_4}(z) + c_{G_{12}}(z) + c_{K_4}(z)\end{aligned}$$



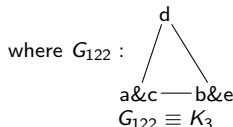
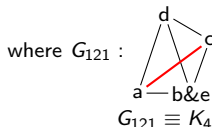
# The computation of the chromatic polynomial by extension

## Illustrated example (continued)

$$\begin{aligned} c_G(z) &= c_{G_1}(z) + c_{G_2}(z) = (c_{G_{11}}(z) + c_{G_{12}}(z)) + c_{K_4}(z) \\ &= c_{K_5}(z) + c_{K_4}(z) + c_{G_{12}}(z) + c_{K_4}(z) \end{aligned}$$



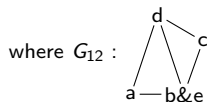
$$c_{G_{12}}(z) = c_{G_{121}}(z) + c_{G_{122}}(z) = c_{K_4}(z) + c_{K_3}(z) \text{ where}$$



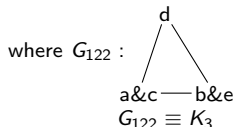
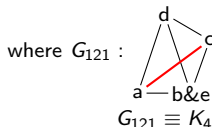
# The computation of the chromatic polynomial by extension

## Illustrated example (continued)

$$\begin{aligned} c_G(z) &= c_{G_1}(z) + c_{G_2}(z) = (c_{G_{11}}(z) + c_{G_{12}}(z)) + c_{K_4}(z) \\ &= c_{K_5}(z) + c_{K_4}(z) + c_{G_{12}}(z) + c_{K_4}(z) \end{aligned}$$



$$c_{G_{12}}(z) = c_{G_{121}}(z) + c_{G_{122}}(z) = c_{K_4}(z) + c_{K_3}(z) \text{ where}$$



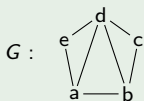
$$\Rightarrow c_G(z) = c_{K_5}(z) + 3c_{K_4}(z) + c_{K_3}(z) = z^5 - 7z^4 + 18z^3 - 20z^2 + 8z$$

# Properties of the chromatic polynomial

If  $G = (V, E)$  is an undirected graph with  $n$  nodes and  $q$  edges then the chromatic polynomial  $c_G(z)$  satisfies the following conditions:

- ▶ It has degree  $n$ .
- ▶ The coefficient of  $z^n$  is 1.
- ▶ Its coefficients have alternating signs.
- ▶ The constant term is 0.
- ▶ The coefficient of  $z^{n-1}$  is  $-q$ .

## Example



$$n = 5, q = 7$$

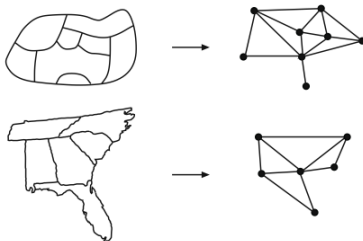
$$c_G(z) = z^5 - 7z^4 + 18z^3 - 20z^2 + 8z$$

# Remarkable results

## Maps and planar graphs

- Every country from a planar map is represented by a node (a point inside it)
- Two nodes get connected if and only if their respective countries share a nontrivial border (more than just a dot).

⇒ undirected graph  $G_H$  corresponding to a map  $H$ . For example:



**REMARK:**  $H$  is a planar map if and only if  $G_H$  is a planar graph.

# Remarkable results

## 4-colorings of a map

**The countries of a planar map  $H$  can be colored with 4 colors, such that no two neighboring countries have the same color.**

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### Remarks

- ① This is one of the most famous problems from Graph Theory
  - Extremely long, tedious, and complex proof
  - The problem was proposed in 1858; first proof was given in 1976 (Appel & Haken)
  - The problem is equivalent with the statement that the planar graph  $G_H$  is 4-colorable.



# Remarkable results

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- ① This is one of the most famous problems from Graph Theory
  - Extremely long, tedious, and complex proof
  - The problem was proposed in 1858; first proof was given in 1976 (Appel & Haken)
  - The problem is equivalent with the statement that the planar graph  $G_H$  is 4-colorable.
- ② This theorem is equivalent with the statement:

$$\chi(G) \leq 4 \text{ for every planar graph } G.$$

## 5-colorings of planar maps

**The countries of a planar map  $H$  can be colored with 5 colors, such that no two neighboring countries have the same color.** or, equivalently:  $\chi(G) \leq 5$  for every planar graph  $G$ .

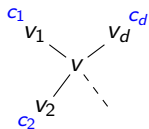
PROOF: Induction on  $n =$  the number of nodes of  $G$ .

The statement is obvious for  $n \geq 5$ , thus we assume  $n \geq 6$ .

$\delta(G) \leq 5$  by Corollary 4, thus  $G$  has a node  $v$  with  $\deg(v) \leq 5$ .

Let  $G'$  be the graph produced by removing  $v$  from  $G \Rightarrow G'$  has  $n - 1$  nodes, thus  $\chi(G') \leq 5$  by Inductive Hypothesis. Therefore, we can assume  $G'$  has a 5-coloring with colors 1,2,3,4,5.

**CASE 1:**  $\deg(G) = d \leq 4$ . Let  $v_1, \dots, v_d$  be the neighbors of  $v$ , with colors  $c_1, \dots, c_d$ .



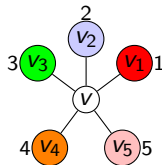
for  $v$  we can choose any colour  
 $c \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} - \{c_1, \dots, c_d\}$   
 $\Rightarrow G$  is 5-colorable.

# 5-colorings of planar maps

## Proof (continued)

**CASE 2:**  $\deg(v) = 5$ , thus  $v$  has 5 neighbors  $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5$ , which we assume to be colored with  $c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, c_5$ , respectively.

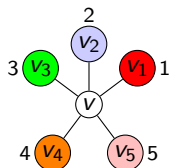
- 1 If  $\{c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, c_5\} \neq \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ , we can color  $v$  with any color  $c \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} - \{c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, c_5\} \Rightarrow G$  is 5-colorable.
- 2 If  $\{c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, c_5\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ , we can assume w.l.o.g.  $c_1 = 1, c_2 = 2, c_3 = 3, c_4 = 4, c_5 = 5$ .



**Main idea:** We will rearrange the colors of  $G'$  in order to make possible a coloring of  $v$ .

# 5-colorings of planar maps

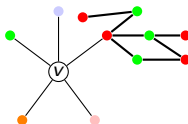
Proof (continued)



We consider all nodes of  $G'$  which are colored with 1 (red) and 3 (green).

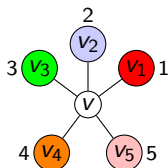
**CASE 2.1.**  $G'$  has no path from  $v_1$  to  $v_3$  colored only with 1 and 3.

Let  $H$  be the subgraph of  $G'$  made of all paths starting from  $v_1$  which are colored only with 1 (red) and 3 (green).



## 5-colorings of planar maps

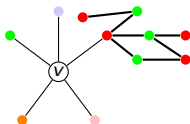
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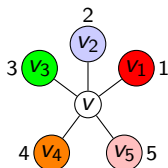
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- $V[v_3] \cap V(H) = \emptyset$ , that is, neither  $v_3$  nor any of its neighbors is a node of  $H$ .

## 5-colorings of planar maps

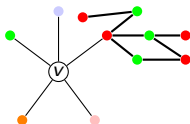
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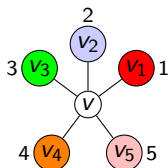
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- We can interchange colors 1 and 3 in  $H$ , and afterwards assign color 1 (red) to  $v \Rightarrow G$  is 5-colorable.

## 5-colorings of planar maps

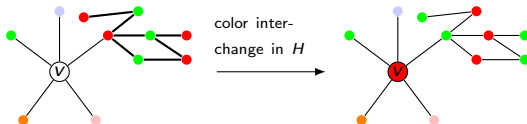
Proof (continued)



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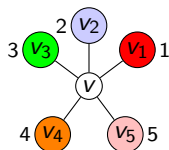
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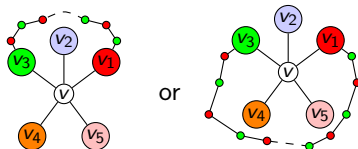
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## 5-colorings of planar maps

Proof (continued)



**CASE 2.2.**  $G'$  has a path from  $v_1$  to  $v_3$  colored only with colors 1 and 3  $\Rightarrow$  we are in one of the following two situations:



In both cases, there can be no path from  $v_2$  to  $v_4$  colored only with 2 and 4  $\Rightarrow$  case 2.1 is applicable to nodes  $v_2$  and  $v_4$   $\Rightarrow G$  is 5-colorable in this case too.