

LEVEL RESOLUTIONS OF MAXIMAL PLANAR GRAPHS

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ABSTRACT. We propose a structural reformulation of the four color theorem in terms of *level resolutions* of maximal planar graphs. A level structure on a plane graph G is defined by BFS from a chosen level source (either a face or a degree-3 vertex), partitioning vertices into levels. A triangulation G' on the same vertex set is a *level resolution* of G from this source if the subgraphs of G' induced by even- and odd-level vertices are both bipartite. By construction, any level resolution admits an explicit 4-coloring obtained by 2-coloring each parity subgraph independently. The structural foundation of this approach is that each level subgraph L_k of G is outerplanar, and outerplanar graphs are 3-chromatic; the level-resolution problem is precisely to flip edges of G to reduce each L_k from chromatic number 3 to 2. We present computational results characterizing which isomorphism classes of maximal planar graphs on $n = 6, \dots, 11$ vertices arise as level resolutions, and verify that every iso-class is reachable at every tested size.

1. INTRODUCTION

The four color theorem (4CT) asserts that every planar graph is 4-colorable. Equivalently, every maximal planar graph (triangulation) is 4-colorable. The Appel–Haken proof [1] and subsequent Robertson–Sanders–Seymour–Thomas refinement [2] rely on discharging arguments and computer-verified reducible configurations. Human-readable proofs remain elusive.

We propose a different structural approach. Given a plane triangulation G and a choice of *level source*, BFS from the source partitions the vertices into levels. A triangulation G' on the same vertex set is a *level resolution* of G if, when its vertices are labelled by the parity of their G -levels, the subgraph of G' induced by even-parity vertices and the subgraph induced by odd-parity vertices are both bipartite. The 4-coloring of G' then follows by definition: 2-color each parity subgraph and identify the four resulting classes with four distinct colors.

The remaining question is when level resolutions exist. We conjecture:

- (i) every plane triangulation G' is a level resolution of some plane triangulation G via some level source; or, in a restricted form,
- (ii) every plane triangulation of minimum degree at least 4 is a level resolution of some plane triangulation.

This paper formalizes the definitions and presents computational evidence bearing on (i)–(ii) for small vertex counts.

2. DEFINITIONS

Throughout, $G = (V, E)$ is a plane maximal planar graph (a triangulation) with a fixed planar embedding Π_G . We write $|V| = n$, so $|E| = 3n - 6$ and G has $2n - 4$ triangular faces.

Definition 2.1 (Level source). A *level source* of G is either:

- a face F of G (all vertices of F are level-0 sources), or
- a vertex v of degree 3 (the singleton $\{v\}$ is a level-0 source).

Definition 2.2 (Levels). Given a level source $S \subseteq V$, the *level* of $v \in V$ is $\ell_G(v) = \text{dist}_G(v, S)$, the graph distance from v to the nearest source vertex.

Definition 2.3 (Parity subgraph). Let G be a triangulation with level source S , and let G' be a triangulation on the same vertex set as G . The *even parity subgraph* $E_{G,S}(G')$ is the subgraph of G' induced by $\{v \in V : \ell_G(v) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}\}$. The *odd parity subgraph* is defined analogously for odd ℓ_G .

Definition 2.4 (Level resolution). A triangulation G' on the same vertex set as G is a *level resolution* of G from level source S if both the even and odd parity subgraphs $E_{G,S}(G')$ and $O_{G,S}(G')$ are bipartite.

By construction, when G' is a level resolution of G via S , an explicit proper 4-coloring of G' is obtained by 2-coloring each parity subgraph independently (e.g., via BFS) and assigning the four resulting classes to distinct colors: even vertices receive red/blue, odd vertices receive yellow/green. The edges of G' partition into (i) edges within a parity subgraph, properly colored by the bipartition of that subgraph; and (ii) edges between an even-parity and odd-parity vertex, which connect disjoint color sets and so are properly colored.

3. STRUCTURAL FOUNDATION: OUTERPLANARITY OF LEVEL SUBGRAPHS

For each integer $k \geq 0$ and each (G, S) , write L_k for the subgraph of G induced by the level- k vertices.

Theorem 3.1. *For every plane triangulation G and every level source S of G , each level subgraph L_k is outerplanar.*

Proof. For $k = 0$, L_0 is either a single vertex (when S is a degree-3 vertex) or the triangle bounding the source face (when S is a face), both outerplanar. Fix $k \geq 1$ and suppose, for contradiction, that L_k is not outerplanar.

Let D_k denote the planar drawing of L_k inherited from Π_G : that is, the set of points and curves in the plane representing the vertices and edges of L_k exactly as they appear in the embedding Π_G . Since L_k is not outerplanar, no face of D_k has every vertex of L_k on its boundary.

Let F^* be the face of D_k containing the source: when $S = \{v\}$, the face containing the point v ; when S is a face F of G , the face containing the open region of F together with its three bounding vertices. The latter is well defined because each vertex of F lies at level 0 (hence is not a vertex of L_k) and each edge of F joins two level-0 vertices (hence is not an edge of L_k), so F and its boundary lie in a single component of $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus D_k$. By assumption there exists $u \in L_k$ with $u \notin \partial F^*$.

Choose a BFS path $P : v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k = u$ with $v_0 \in S$ and $v_i \in L_i$. For $0 \leq i \leq k - 1$, v_i lies in L_i and so is not a vertex of L_k ; for $1 \leq i \leq k$, the edge

$v_{i-1}v_i$ joins L_{i-1} to L_i and so is not an edge of L_k . Hence, viewed as a curve in the plane, P meets the drawing D_k only at its endpoint u .

The complement $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus D_k$ is open, and $P \setminus \{u\}$ is its continuous image of a connected set, hence lies in a single face of D_k . Since $v_0 \in F^*$, in fact $P \setminus \{u\} \subseteq F^*$, so $u \in \overline{F^*}$ and therefore $u \in \partial F^*$, contradicting the choice of u . \square

The combinatorial significance of Theorem 3.1 is that outerplanar graphs are 3-chromatic [4]: their chromatic number is at most 3. Hence each L_k admits an independent 3-coloring, giving an immediate (but suboptimal) coloring of G using at most $3 \cdot \text{depth}(G, S)$ colors when levels are colored independently. To recover a 4-coloring of G' via the parity-2-coloring strategy, what is required is to reduce each L_k 's chromatic number from 3 to 2, equivalently to remove every odd cycle from each L_k :

Proposition 3.2. *If G' is a triangulation on the same vertex set as G such that for every k , the subgraph of G' induced by the level- k vertices of (G, S) is bipartite, and G' contains no edge between vertices at G -levels of equal parity and differing by exactly 2, then G' is a level resolution of G via S .*

Proof. The even parity subgraph $E_{G,S}(G')$ is the disjoint union of the even-level subgraphs of G' (since by hypothesis no edge of G' joins two even levels), each of which is bipartite. A disjoint union of bipartite graphs is bipartite. The same argument applies to the odd parity subgraph. \square

This is the form of level resolution we seek to realize constructively: flips applied to G that break every odd cycle in every L_k without introducing cross-parity edges of distance 2.

4. THE FOUR-COLOR CONJECTURE VIA LEVEL RESOLUTIONS

Conjecture 4.1 (Resolution preimage). Every plane triangulation G' on n vertices is a level resolution of some plane triangulation G on n vertices.

If Conjecture 4.1 holds, the 4-coloring of any triangulation G' follows from the definition: exhibit a level-resolution preimage G , compute the BFS levels in G from the witness source, and 4-color G' via the parity 2-coloring.

5. COMPUTATIONAL EVIDENCE

We enumerated all non-isomorphic triangulations on $n \in \{6, \dots, 11\}$ via vertex insertion followed by edge-flip closure (see `triangulation_gen.py` and the faster `triangulation_gen_fast.py` for $n \geq 11$). For each isomorphism class, we computed the full set of iso-classes reachable as level resolutions across all valid level sources.

5.1. Coverage at $n = 6, \dots, 11$. Table 1 lists the resolution behavior for each iso-class. A class T_i is *covered* if it appears as the resolution iso-class of some triangulation.

Observation 5.1. For every $n \in \{6, \dots, 11\}$, every plane-triangulation iso-class on n vertices is a level resolution of some plane triangulation on the same vertex set.

n	Iso-classes	Reachable as level resolutions
6	2	all 2
7	5	all 5
8	14	all 14
9	50	all 50
10	233	all 233
11	1249	all 1249

TABLE 1. Iso-class coverage under the level-resolution definition.

Equivalence to 4-colorability. A 2-partition $V = V_0 \sqcup V_1$ for which both $G'[V_0]$ and $G'[V_1]$ are bipartite induces a proper 4-coloring of G' (combine the bipartition of V_0 into colors $\{R, B\}$ and that of V_1 into $\{Y, G\}$), and conversely, any proper 4-coloring grouped pairwise produces such a partition. Hence by Definition 2.4, G' is a level resolution of some (G, S) if and only if G' admits a bipartite 2-partition of cardinality realizable as $(|V_e|, |V_o|)$ for some level source. Surjectivity at a given n is therefore equivalent to 4-colorability of every triangulation on n vertices together with realizability of the partition cardinality by some BFS. Our computational verification of Observation 5.1 does not invoke 4CT: we enumerate vertex partitions directly and check bipartiteness of the induced subgraphs.

5.2. Surjectivity at $n = 12$: the icosahedron. The icosahedron is the unique 5-regular triangulation on 12 vertices and a natural test case at $n = 12$ since it has no degree-3 vertex (so the md_4 restriction is irrelevant) and high symmetry constrains the achievable parity-cardinality splits to $(6, 6)$ from any source. We verify directly that the icosahedron admits a bipartite 2-partition of cardinality $(6, 6)$: with vertices labelled as in the standard icosahedral graph, the partition $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7\} \mid \{5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11\}$ has both classes inducing bipartite subgraphs (each is a 6-cycle). By Definition 2.4, the icosahedron is therefore a level resolution of some plane triangulation on 12 vertices.

Observation 5.2. The icosahedron is a level resolution of some plane triangulation on 12 vertices.

5.3. Restatement of the resolution-preimage conjecture. In light of Observations 5.1 and 5.2, we restate Conjecture 4.1 more confidently:

Conjecture 5.3 (md_4 surjectivity). For every $n \geq 6$, every minimum-degree-4 plane triangulation on n vertices is a level resolution of some plane triangulation on n vertices.

By the equivalence noted in Section 3, this is equivalent to a 4-coloring statement: every minimum-degree-4 plane triangulation admits a proper 4-coloring whose color-class cardinalities, grouped pairwise, match some BFS-level parity cardinality on the same vertex set. Since the unrestricted preimage conjecture also appears to hold at every tested n , the md_4 restriction may be unnecessary; we retain it here as the form most amenable to the constructive techniques explored in Section 6.

6. AN EDGE-FLIP RESOLUTION ALGORITHM

We describe an iterative edge-flip procedure aimed at producing, for a given (G, S) , a triangulation G' on the same vertex set whose simple level cycles (with respect to the G -levels from S) are all even.

6.1. Apex classification of L_k -edges. Let $k \geq 1$. For each $uv \in E(L_k)$, the two triangles of G bounding uv have third vertices w, x , called the *apexes* of uv , with $\ell_G(w), \ell_G(x) \in \{k-1, k, k+1\}$ by BFS. We call uv *intra-level* when $\ell_G(w) = \ell_G(x) = k$, and *cross-level* otherwise.

Lemma 6.1. *If both apexes of $uv \in E(L_k)$ are at level $k-1$, then uv is a bridge of L_k .*

Proof sketch. In a plane triangulation, the neighbors of u in G at level $\leq k-1$ form a contiguous arc in the cyclic order around u . If both apexes w, x of uv lie at level $k-1$ on opposite sides of uv , then v lies in the complementary cyclic arc, which contains no other level- k neighbor of u . The symmetric statement around v gives that u is v 's only level- k neighbor in the corresponding arc, so uv is a bridge of L_k . \square

In particular every edge on a cycle of L_k has at least one apex at level k or $k+1$.

Proposition 6.2. *Flipping $uv \in E(L_k)$ with apexes w, x replaces uv with wx in G . The new edge wx belongs to L_k iff $\ell_G(w) = \ell_G(x) = k$, and to L_{k+1} iff $\ell_G(w) = \ell_G(x) = k+1$; otherwise wx is cross-parity and lies in no level subgraph. In all cases uv is removed from L_k .*

6.2. Facial depth and isolated faces.

Definition 6.3 (Facial depth). Let L_k be drawn with the outerplanar embedding inherited from Π_G , let D be the dual graph of this drawing with the outer face removed, and let \mathcal{B} be the set of inner faces incident to at least two edges of the outer face of L_k . The *facial depth* of an inner face F of L_k is

$$\text{depth}(F) = \min_{F' \in \mathcal{B}} \text{dist}_D(F, F'),$$

with the convention $\text{depth}(F) = \infty$ if no such F' exists. An inner face is *isolated* if $\text{depth}(F) \geq 1$.

The seed set \mathcal{B} consists of the inner faces that already have two outer-face edges available as flip targets; Phase 2 below handles these directly. Phase 1 uses facial depth as a potential to push isolated odd faces toward \mathcal{B} .

A cycle that is *tricky-everywhere*, meaning every edge is intra-level, is necessarily isolated: an outer-face edge of L_k has a level- $(k-1)$ apex on its outer side and is therefore cross-level, so a tricky-everywhere cycle shares no edge with the outer face. Hence the tricky-everywhere cycles are a subset of the isolated odd cycles.

6.3. Phase 1: interior faces. Procedure. While some L_k contains an odd simple cycle whose corresponding inner face has facial depth ≥ 1 and shares no edge with the outer face, repeat:

- (1) compute facial depths for all simple level cycles of L_k ;
- (2) among interior odd faces (depth ≥ 1 , no outer-face edges) of maximum facial depth, pick one C ; even-parity interior faces of depth ≥ 1 may also be selected as C ;

- (3) find the inner face F' incident to C of minimum facial depth, and flip the edge shared between C and F' .

The restriction to faces with no outer-face edge in step (2) means that every edge of C borders another inner face, so a unique shared-edge flip target exists for each neighbor F' . The depth-guided choice of F' in step (3) progressively pushes the residual odd-face structure toward the seed set \mathcal{B} (depth 0). Even-face flips are optional restructuring moves that expand the reachable configuration space; the loop's termination is gated only by interior odd faces.

6.4. Phase 2: outer-incident faces. After Phase 1, every remaining odd simple cycle of L_k shares at least one edge with the outer face, whose apex pair includes a level- $(k - 1)$ vertex and is therefore cross-level.

Procedure. For each L_k :

- every odd simple cycle $C \subseteq L_k$ incident to the outer face *must* have exactly one of its outer-face edges flipped;
- every even simple cycle of L_k incident to the outer face *may* have at most one of its outer-face edges flipped (an optional restructuring move).

For the source-face level ($k = 0$ with face source S), the L_0 source triangle is itself an odd cycle whose three edges all bound the outer face; we treat L_0 uniformly with higher levels, with the option of leaving the triangle intact when the resulting parity-subgraph configuration on G' permits.

Each flip is permitted even if the apex edge wx already exists in G , in which case G' is a multigraph; this does not affect bipartiteness of the parity subgraphs of G' , since a duplicated edge is bipartite-equivalent to a single edge.

6.5. Simple level resolutions.

Definition 6.4 (Simple level resolution). A plane triangulation G' is a *simple level resolution* of a plane triangulation G if there exists a level source S of G such that the algorithm of Sections 6–Phase 1 and Phase 2 applied to (G, S) , under some sequence of optional-move choices, produces G' as a simple-graph triangulation whose parity subgraphs are bipartite.

6.6. Empirical status.

Observation 6.5. For every plane triangulation G on $n \in \{9, 10, 11\}$ vertices, every level source S , and every k such that L_k contains an odd simple cycle, the algorithm produces a G' whose corresponding L_k is bipartite (in the underlying simple-graph view). Across the 29640 such (G, S, k) triples — 4645 at $n \leq 10$ and 24995 at $n = 11$ — Phase 1 always terminates and Phase 2 always succeeds.

Coverage test for Conjecture 6.7. For each $n \in \{6, \dots, 11\}$ we enumerate all plane-triangulation iso-classes on n vertices. For each iso-class G , each level source S of G , and each branching choice within the algorithm — Phase 1 ties on which deepest interior face and which lowest-depth neighbor to flip, Phase 2 choices of which outer-face edge to flip for each odd or even outer-incident cycle (including the option to leave even cycles untouched), and the option to skip the source-triangle break when S is a face — we run Phase 1 to termination and then Phase 2, recording the algorithm's output G' as a labelled simple graph. We check three properties: (a) G' is a triangulation (no multi-edge survived the Phase 2 flips), (b) the parity subgraphs $E_{G,S}(G')$ and $O_{G,S}(G')$ are both bipartite, and (c) the

iso-class of G' . Aggregating over all $(G, S, \text{branch-choices})$ triples yields the set of iso-classes attainable as algorithm outputs satisfying (a)+(b); we compare this set against the minimum-degree-4 iso-classes at each n .

Observation 6.6. For every $n \in \{6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11\}$, every plane triangulation iso-class on n vertices with minimum degree at least 4 is a simple level resolution of some plane triangulation on n vertices. Concretely, the counts of minimum-degree-4 iso-classes — 1, 1, 2, 5, 12, 34 at $n = 6, \dots, 11$ — are all reached by the algorithm with bipartite parity subgraphs (Definition 6.4).

Conjecture 6.7 (Simple-resolution md_4 surjectivity). For every $n \geq 6$, every minimum-degree-4 plane triangulation on n vertices is a simple level resolution of some plane triangulation on n vertices.

The minimum-degree-4 restriction in Conjecture 6.7 is necessary: at $n = 8$, the unique iso-class with three degree-3 vertices is not reachable by the algorithm; at $n = 10$, two further iso-classes with four degree-3 vertices and high-degree hubs fail to appear among algorithm outputs.

6.7. Towards a proof: a contraction–lift strategy. We sketch an inductive strategy for Conjecture 6.7 that we have verified empirically at small n and offer here as a roadmap for further work.

Let T be a plane triangulation with minimum degree at least 4, and let $v \in V(T)$ be a degree-4 vertex with cyclic neighbors a, b, c, d (in the cyclic order inherited from T 's planar embedding). Removing v from T exposes the 4-cycle $abcd$, which we retriangulate by adding one of the two diagonals (a, c) or (b, d) . We call this operation *contraction at v along diagonal (a, c)* , denoted $T_{v,(a,c)}$. The contraction is *valid* when the chosen diagonal is not already an edge of T .

Lemma 6.8 (Good contraction). *Let T be a plane triangulation on $n \geq 7$ vertices with minimum degree at least 4. Then there exist a degree-4 vertex $v \in V(T)$, with cyclic neighbors a, b, c, d , and an unordered pair $\{a, c\}$ such that:*

- (1) $(a, c) \notin E(T)$;
- (2) $\deg_T(b) \geq 5$ and $\deg_T(d) \geq 5$.

Under these conditions $T_{v,(a,c)}$ is a plane triangulation on $n - 1$ vertices with minimum degree at least 4.

The conditions of Lemma 6.8 ensure that the contraction is valid (1) and md_4 -preserving (2): the only vertices whose degree changes under $T \rightarrow T_{v,(a,c)}$ are a, b, c, d , with $\deg(a)$ and $\deg(c)$ unchanged (each loses the edge to v but gains the edge from the diagonal), while $\deg(b)$ and $\deg(d)$ each decrease by 1.

The lemma is empirically true at $n = 7, \dots, 11$ for every md_4 iso-class; we conjecture it holds for all $n \geq 7$. The $n = 6$ case is excluded: the unique md_4 iso-class is the octahedron, in which every vertex has all four cyclic neighbors at degree 4 and so no contraction preserves md_4 . The octahedron is therefore the base case of the proposed induction.

Lemma 6.9 (Lift). *Let T be a plane triangulation with minimum degree at least 4, and suppose Lemma 6.8 applies via vertex v and diagonal (a, c) with $T_{v,(a,c)}$ the resulting contraction. Let H be a plane triangulation on $V(T_{v,(a,c)}) = V(T) \setminus \{v\}$ and S a level source of H such that the algorithm of Section 6 applied to (H, S) produces $T_{v,(a,c)}$ as a labelled simple graph. Define the lift $G := H[a, b, c, d, v]$ by:*

- adding vertex v to $V(H)$;
- removing the edge (a, c) from $E(H)$;
- adding the four edges $(v, a), (v, b), (v, c), (v, d)$.

Then G is a plane triangulation on $|V(T)|$ vertices, and the algorithm of Section 6 applied to (G, S) produces T .

Lemma 6.9 requires that $(a, c) \in E(H)$ and that the two triangles of H bordering (a, c) have boundary $\{a, b, c, d\}$. When these conditions hold, the lift restores a degree-4 vertex v inserted into the quadrilateral $abcd$; when they fail, the lift is undefined and a different labelled preimage H must be chosen.

Inductive scheme. Conjecture 6.7 would follow from Lemmas 6.8 and 6.9 together with the existence at each step of a labelled preimage H satisfying the lift's side conditions. The base case is the octahedron at $n = 6$, which is empirically a simple level resolution (Observation 6.6). The inductive step takes an md_4 target T on n vertices, applies Lemma 6.8 to obtain an md_4 contraction $T_{v,(a,c)}$ on $n - 1$ vertices, invokes the inductive hypothesis to produce a labelled preimage H , and applies Lemma 6.9 to lift H to G with $\text{alg}(G, S) = T$.

We have verified the entire scheme by hand for the unique md_4 iso-class at $n = 7$: contraction at $v = 2$ along diagonal $(4, 3)$ yields the octahedron on six vertices labelled $\{0, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$; a labelled preimage H exists with source $S = \{0, 1, 6\}$; lifting along $(4, 3, v = 2)$ produces a triangulation G on seven vertices on which the algorithm with source S recovers T exactly. The principal remaining work is a proof of Lemma 6.8 for all $n \geq 7$, a proof of Lemma 6.9 (which involves analysing how the algorithm's depth-guided flips interact with the added vertex v), and a guarantee that a label-faithful preimage H always exists.

Question 6.10. Does Phase 1 terminate for all (G, S) ? Equivalently, is there an explicit monovariant on L_k 's face structure that strictly decreases on every Phase 1 flip?

7. DISCUSSION AND OPEN QUESTIONS

The computational results suggest the following:

- (1) Conjecture 4.1 (resolution preimage) holds at every tested size: all iso-classes on $n \in \{6, \dots, 11\}$ vertices arise as level resolutions, and the icosahedron does at $n = 12$ (Observations 5.1 and 5.2).
- (2) Each level subgraph L_k of G is outerplanar (Theorem 3.1), so each L_k is 3-chromatic classically and independently of 4CT. The level-resolution problem reduces to flipping edges of G so that each L_k 's chromatic number drops from 3 to 2, while avoiding creation of G -level-2 same-parity edges (Proposition 3.2).
- (3) Under Definition 2.4, being a level resolution is equivalent to admitting a proper 4-coloring whose color cardinalities group pairwise to a BFS-realizable parity split. The structural framing through outerplanarity refines this: a constructive 4-coloring of G' is obtained via independent 2-colorings of each L_k in G' , and the proof obligation is purely about removing odd cycles within outerplanar graphs by local edge flips, an operation that does not invoke 4CT.

The algorithm of Section 6 is the candidate constructive answer. Phase 1 iteratively flips the shared edge between the deepest interior odd face and its lowest-depth neighbor, pushing the residual odd-face structure toward the seed set \mathcal{B} at depth 0, with optional even-face restructuring moves along the way; Phase 2 disposes of the remaining outer-incident odd cycles by flipping an outer-face edge each (and optionally an even outer-incident face), accepting a multigraph if the apex edge already exists. Observation 6.5 records that the algorithm terminates and succeeds at the level-bipartiteness layer on all 29640 tested (G, S, k) triples at $n \in \{9, 10, 11\}$. Observation 6.6 records that every minimum-degree-4 iso-class on $n \leq 11$ vertices is reached as a simple level resolution; Conjecture 6.7 extends this to all n . Question 6.10 asks whether Phase 1 terminates in general.

8. IMPLEMENTATION

The code accompanying this paper consists of the following modules:

- `level_cycles.py`: core library for levels, level cycles, flip candidates, and resolution enumeration.
- `triangulation_gen.py`: enumeration of all non-isomorphic triangulations on n vertices via vertex-insertion plus flip closure.
- `coverage.py`: iso-class coverage reports with optional source and target filters.
- `balanced_layout.py`: a planar drawing routine that starts from a Tutte embedding and uses random-search optimization to equalize interior face areas while maintaining planarity.
- `four_color.py`: 4-coloring of G' via independent BFS 2-colorings of parity subgraphs.
- Visualization scripts: `plot_oct.py`, `n7_examples.py`, `four_color_viz.py`.

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