

# 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)  $\geq 5$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

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

## Rules

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

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

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

## Rules

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

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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)  $\geq 5$ -vertex gives  $1/2$  to each incident triangle

R2)  $\Delta$ -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.

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