

# Rosenfeld Counting: Proper Conflict-free Coloring of Graphs with Large Maximum Degree

Daniel W. Cranston

Virginia Commonwealth University

[dcranston@vcu.edu](mailto:dcranston@vcu.edu)

Joint with Chun-Hung Liu

CanaDAM

20 May 20205

# Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths

**Ex:** A 3-coloring of  $P_8$  with a **square** and a **square-free** 3-coloring.



# Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths

**Ex:** A 3-coloring of  $P_8$  with a **square** and a **square-free** 3-coloring.



**Fact:** Thue found a square-free 3-coloring of the infinite path.

# Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths

**Ex:** A 3-coloring of  $P_8$  with a **square** and a **square-free** 3-coloring.



**Fact:** Thue found a square-free 3-coloring of the infinite path.

**Defn:** A coloring is **nonrepetitive** if each path is square-free.

# Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths

**Ex:** A 3-coloring of  $P_8$  with a **square** and a **square-free** 3-coloring.



**Fact:** Thue found a square-free 3-coloring of the infinite path.

**Defn:** A coloring is **nonrepetitive** if each path is square-free.

**Conj:** For each 3-assignment  $L$  to the verts of  $P_n$ , there is a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi$  (with  $\varphi(v) \in L(v)$  for all  $v$ ).

# Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths

**Ex:** A 3-coloring of  $P_8$  with a **square** and a **square-free** 3-coloring.



**Fact:** Thue found a square-free 3-coloring of the infinite path.

**Defn:** A coloring is **nonrepetitive** if each path is square-free.

**Conj:** For each 3-assignment  $L$  to the verts of  $P_n$ , there is a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi$  (with  $\varphi(v) \in L(v)$  for all  $v$ ).

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

# Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths

**Ex:** A 3-coloring of  $P_8$  with a **square** and a **square-free** 3-coloring.



**Fact:** Thue found a square-free 3-coloring of the infinite path.

**Defn:** A coloring is **nonrepetitive** if each path is square-free.

**Conj:** For each 3-assignment  $L$  to the verts of  $P_n$ , there is a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi$  (with  $\varphi(v) \in L(v)$  for all  $v$ ).

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

Since  $|\mathcal{C}_1| = 4$ , path  $P_n$  has more than  $2^n$  nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings.

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$



## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ .

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ .

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ . And  $\varphi'$  uniquely determines  $\varphi$ .

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ . And  $\varphi'$  uniquely determines  $\varphi$ . So  $|\mathcal{F}_j| \leq |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}|$ .

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ . And  $\varphi'$  uniquely determines  $\varphi$ . So  $|\mathcal{F}_j| \leq |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}|$ . By induction,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \leq 2^{-j+1}|\mathcal{C}_i|$ , for each  $j \geq 1$ .

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ . And  $\varphi'$  uniquely determines  $\varphi$ . So  $|\mathcal{F}_j| \leq |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}|$ . By induction,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \leq 2^{-j+1}|\mathcal{C}_i|$ , for each  $j \geq 1$ . Thus,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$$

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ . And  $\varphi'$  uniquely determines  $\varphi$ . So  $|\mathcal{F}_j| \leq |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}|$ . By induction,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \leq 2^{-j+1}|\mathcal{C}_i|$ , for each  $j \geq 1$ . Thus,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}| \geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum |\mathcal{F}_j|$$



## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ . And  $\varphi'$  uniquely determines  $\varphi$ . So  $|\mathcal{F}_j| \leq |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}|$ . By induction,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \leq 2^{-j+1}|\mathcal{C}_i|$ , for each  $j \geq 1$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| &= 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}| \geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum |\mathcal{F}_j| \\ &\geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \end{aligned}$$

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ . And  $\varphi'$  uniquely determines  $\varphi$ . So  $|\mathcal{F}_j| \leq |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}|$ . By induction,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \leq 2^{-j+1}|\mathcal{C}_i|$ , for each  $j \geq 1$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| &= 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}| \geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum |\mathcal{F}_j| \\ &\geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \\ &\geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum 2^{-j+1}|\mathcal{C}_i| \end{aligned}$$

## Nonrepetitive List-coloring of Paths (the proof)

**Lem:** Let  $L$  be a 4-assignment to  $V(P_n)$ . For each  $i \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be set of nonrepetitive  $L$ -colorings of first  $i$  verts of  $P_n$ . For all  $i < n$ ,

$$|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|.$$

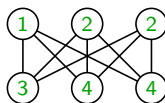
**Pf:** Induction on  $i$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of  $L$ -colorings of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}$  that are nonrepetitive on  $v_1, \dots, v_i$  but have a square with  $v_{i+1}$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| = 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}|$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_j$  be subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  with a square of length  $2j$ . So  $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_j$ .

Each  $\varphi \in \mathcal{F}_j$  restricts to a nonrepetitive  $L$ -coloring  $\varphi'$  of  $v_1, \dots, v_{i+1-j}$ . And  $\varphi'$  uniquely determines  $\varphi$ . So  $|\mathcal{F}_j| \leq |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}|$ . By induction,  $|\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \leq 2^{-j+1}|\mathcal{C}_i|$ , for each  $j \geq 1$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{C}_{i+1}| &= 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - |\mathcal{F}| \geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum |\mathcal{F}_j| \\ &\geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum |\mathcal{C}_{i+1-j}| \\ &\geq 4|\mathcal{C}_i| - \sum 2^{-j+1}|\mathcal{C}_i| \geq 2|\mathcal{C}_i|. \end{aligned}$$

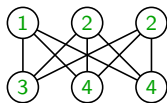
# Proper Conflict-free Coloring

**Defn:** A proper coloring of  $G$  is **conflict-free** if every non-isolated vertex of  $G$  has some color appearing exactly once on its open neighborhood.



# Proper Conflict-free Coloring

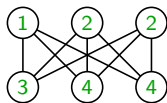
**Defn:** A proper coloring of  $G$  is **conflict-free** if every non-isolated vertex of  $G$  has some color appearing exactly once on its open neighborhood.



**Conj:** [CPS]  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$  for all connected  $G$  with  $\Delta \geq 3$ .

# Proper Conflict-free Coloring

**Defn:** A proper coloring of  $G$  is **conflict-free** if every non-isolated vertex of  $G$  has some color appearing exactly once on its open neighborhood.

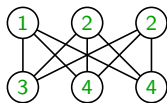


**Conj:** [CPS]  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$  for all connected  $G$  with  $\Delta \geq 3$ .

**Thm:** Fix a positive integer  $\Delta \geq 6.5 \cdot 10^7$ , fix a real number  $\beta$  with  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6550826\Delta$ , and let  $a := \left\lceil \Delta + \beta + \sqrt{\Delta} \right\rceil$ .

# Proper Conflict-free Coloring

**Defn:** A proper coloring of  $G$  is **conflict-free** if every non-isolated vertex of  $G$  has some color appearing exactly once on its open neighborhood.

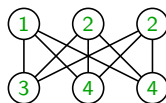


**Conj:** [CPS]  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$  for all connected  $G$  with  $\Delta \geq 3$ .

**Thm:** Fix a positive integer  $\Delta \geq 6.5 \cdot 10^7$ , fix a real number  $\beta$  with  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6550826\Delta$ , and let  $a := \lceil \Delta + \beta + \sqrt{\Delta} \rceil$ . If  $G$  has max degree at most  $\Delta$  and  $L$  is an  $a$ -assignment for  $G$ , then there are at least  $\beta^{|V(G)|}$  proper conflict-free  $L$ -colorings of  $G$ .

# Proper Conflict-free Coloring

**Defn:** A proper coloring of  $G$  is **conflict-free** if every non-isolated vertex of  $G$  has some color appearing exactly once on its open neighborhood.



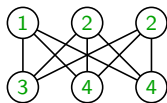
**Conj:** [CPS]  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$  for all connected  $G$  with  $\Delta \geq 3$ .

**Thm:** Fix a positive integer  $\Delta \geq 6.5 \cdot 10^7$ , fix a real number  $\beta$  with  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6550826\Delta$ , and let  $a := \left\lceil \Delta + \beta + \sqrt{\Delta} \right\rceil$ . If  $G$  has max degree at most  $\Delta$  and  $L$  is an  $a$ -assignment for  $G$ , then there are at least  $\beta^{|V(G)|}$  proper conflict-free  $L$ -colorings of  $G$ . Analogous statements hold when  $\Delta \geq 4000$  and  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6\Delta$  and when  $\Delta \geq 750$  and  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.8\Delta$ .



# Proper Conflict-free Coloring

**Defn:** A proper coloring of  $G$  is **conflict-free** if every non-isolated vertex of  $G$  has some color appearing exactly once on its open neighborhood.



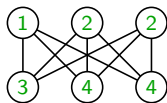
**Conj:** [CPS]  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$  for all connected  $G$  with  $\Delta \geq 3$ .

**Thm:** Fix a positive integer  $\Delta \geq 6.5 \cdot 10^7$ , fix a real number  $\beta$  with  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6550826\Delta$ , and let  $a := \left\lceil \Delta + \beta + \sqrt{\Delta} \right\rceil$ . If  $G$  has max degree at most  $\Delta$  and  $L$  is an  $a$ -assignment for  $G$ , then there are at least  $\beta^{|V(G)|}$  proper conflict-free  $L$ -colorings of  $G$ . Analogous statements hold when  $\Delta \geq 4000$  and  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6\Delta$  and when  $\Delta \geq 750$  and  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.8\Delta$ .

**Cor:** So  $\chi_{pcf}^\ell(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$ .

# Proper Conflict-free Coloring

**Defn:** A proper coloring of  $G$  is **conflict-free** if every non-isolated vertex of  $G$  has some color appearing exactly once on its open neighborhood.



**Conj:** [CPS]  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$  for all connected  $G$  with  $\Delta \geq 3$ .

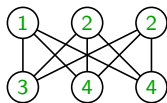
**Thm:** Fix a positive integer  $\Delta \geq 6.5 \cdot 10^7$ , fix a real number  $\beta$  with  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6550826\Delta$ , and let  $a := \left\lceil \Delta + \beta + \sqrt{\Delta} \right\rceil$ . If  $G$  has max degree at most  $\Delta$  and  $L$  is an  $a$ -assignment for  $G$ , then there are at least  $\beta^{|V(G)|}$  proper conflict-free  $L$ -colorings of  $G$ . Analogous statements hold when  $\Delta \geq 4000$  and  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6\Delta$  and when  $\Delta \geq 750$  and  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.8\Delta$ .

**Cor:** So  $\chi_{pcf}^\ell(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$ .

**Rem:** Liu and Reed showed that  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta(1 + o(1))$ .

# Proper Conflict-free Coloring

**Defn:** A proper coloring of  $G$  is **conflict-free** if every non-isolated vertex of  $G$  has some color appearing exactly once on its open neighborhood.



**Conj:** [CPS]  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$  for all connected  $G$  with  $\Delta \geq 3$ .

**Thm:** Fix a positive integer  $\Delta \geq 6.5 \cdot 10^7$ , fix a real number  $\beta$  with  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6550826\Delta$ , and let  $a := \left\lceil \Delta + \beta + \sqrt{\Delta} \right\rceil$ . If  $G$  has max degree at most  $\Delta$  and  $L$  is an  $a$ -assignment for  $G$ , then there are at least  $\beta^{|V(G)|}$  proper conflict-free  $L$ -colorings of  $G$ . Analogous statements hold when  $\Delta \geq 4000$  and  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.6\Delta$  and when  $\Delta \geq 750$  and  $\Delta \geq \beta \geq 0.8\Delta$ .

**Cor:** So  $\chi_{pcf}^\ell(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$ .

**Rem:** Liu and Reed showed that  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta(1 + o(1))$ . This bound is stronger than ours, but much less general.

## Key Rosenfeld Counting Lemma

**Defn:** For an integer  $t$ , a graph  $G$ , and a hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $V(\mathcal{H}) = V(G)$ , a coloring  $\varphi$  is a **proper  $t$ -conflict-free coloring** of  $(G, \mathcal{H})$  if  $\varphi$  is a proper coloring of  $G$  such that for every  $f \in E(\mathcal{H})$ , some color is used  $k$  times by  $\varphi$  on  $f$  for some  $k \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ .

# Key Rosenfeld Counting Lemma

**Defn:** For an integer  $t$ , a graph  $G$ , and a hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $V(\mathcal{H}) = V(G)$ , a coloring  $\varphi$  is a **proper  $t$ -conflict-free coloring** of  $(G, \mathcal{H})$  if  $\varphi$  is a proper coloring of  $G$  such that for every  $f \in E(\mathcal{H})$ , some color is used  $k$  times by  $\varphi$  on  $f$  for some  $k \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ .

**Defn:** Fix  $t, i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

## Key Rosenfeld Counting Lemma

**Defn:** For an integer  $t$ , a graph  $G$ , and a hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $V(\mathcal{H}) = V(G)$ , a coloring  $\varphi$  is a **proper  $t$ -conflict-free coloring** of  $(G, \mathcal{H})$  if  $\varphi$  is a proper coloring of  $G$  such that for every  $f \in E(\mathcal{H})$ , some color is used  $k$  times by  $\varphi$  on  $f$  for some  $k \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ .

**Defn:** Fix  $t, i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . The  **$t$ -associated Stirling number of second kind**,  $S_t(d, i)$ , is the number of partitions of the set  $\{1, \dots, d\}$  into  $i$  parts, each of size at least  $t$ .

## Key Rosenfeld Counting Lemma

**Defn:** For an integer  $t$ , a graph  $G$ , and a hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $V(\mathcal{H}) = V(G)$ , a coloring  $\varphi$  is a **proper  $t$ -conflict-free coloring** of  $(G, \mathcal{H})$  if  $\varphi$  is a proper coloring of  $G$  such that for every  $f \in E(\mathcal{H})$ , some color is used  $k$  times by  $\varphi$  on  $f$  for some  $k \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ .

**Defn:** Fix  $t, i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . The  **$t$ -associated Stirling number of second kind**,  $S_t(d, i)$ , is the number of partitions of the set  $\{1, \dots, d\}$  into  $i$  parts, each of size at least  $t$ . E.g.  $S_2(2i, i) = (2i)!/(i!2^i)$ .

# Key Rosenfeld Counting Lemma

**Defn:** For an integer  $t$ , a graph  $G$ , and a hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $V(\mathcal{H}) = V(G)$ , a coloring  $\varphi$  is a **proper  $t$ -conflict-free coloring** of  $(G, \mathcal{H})$  if  $\varphi$  is a proper coloring of  $G$  such that for every  $f \in E(\mathcal{H})$ , some color is used  $k$  times by  $\varphi$  on  $f$  for some  $k \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ .

**Defn:** Fix  $t, i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . The  **$t$ -associated Stirling number of second kind**,  $S_t(d, i)$ , is the number of partitions of the set  $\{1, \dots, d\}$  into  $i$  parts, each of size at least  $t$ . E.g.  $S_2(2i, i) = (2i)!/(i!2^i)$ .

**Key Lem:** Fix  $G, \mathcal{H}, t$  as above. Let  $\beta$  be a real number. If  $a$  is a real number such that

$$a \geq \Delta(G) + \beta + \sum_{f \in E(\mathcal{H}), f \ni v} \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor |f|/(t+1) \rfloor} S_{t+1}(|f|, i) \cdot \beta^{i-|f|+1}$$

for every  $v \in V(G)$ , then for every  $a$ -assignment  $L$  of  $G$ , there are at least  $\beta^{|V(G)|}$  proper  $t$ -conflict-free  $L$ -colorings of  $(G, \mathcal{H})$ .



Bounding  $S_2(d, i)$

## Bounding $S_2(d, i)$

**Helper Lem:** Fix  $i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $d \geq 110$ . If  $0.3d \leq i \leq d/2$ , then

$$S_2(d, i) \leq 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i}.$$

## Bounding $S_2(d, i)$

**Helper Lem:** Fix  $i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $d \geq 110$ . If  $0.3d \leq i \leq d/2$ , then

$$S_2(d, i) \leq 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i}.$$

**Lem:** Fix  $d, R \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $110 \leq d \leq R$ . If  $\epsilon, c, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^+$  s.t.  
 $0.6251 \leq \epsilon < 1$ ,  $0.3 \leq c < \epsilon/2$ ,  $\epsilon R \leq \beta \leq R$ , and  $d \geq f(c, \epsilon, R)$ ,  
then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{d/2} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} \leq R^{-1/2}.$$

## Bounding $S_2(d, i)$

**Helper Lem:** Fix  $i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $d \geq 110$ . If  $0.3d \leq i \leq d/2$ , then

$$S_2(d, i) \leq 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i}.$$

**Lem:** Fix  $d, R \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $110 \leq d \leq R$ . If  $\epsilon, c, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^+$  s.t.  
 $0.6251 \leq \epsilon < 1$ ,  $0.3 \leq c < \epsilon/2$ ,  $\epsilon R \leq \beta \leq R$ , and  $d \geq f(c, \epsilon, R)$ ,  
then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{d/2} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} \leq R^{-1/2}.$$

**Pf Sketch:**

## Bounding $S_2(d, i)$

**Helper Lem:** Fix  $i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $d \geq 110$ . If  $0.3d \leq i \leq d/2$ , then

$$S_2(d, i) \leq 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i}.$$

**Lem:** Fix  $d, R \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $110 \leq d \leq R$ . If  $\epsilon, c, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^+$  s.t.  
 $0.6251 \leq \epsilon < 1$ ,  $0.3 \leq c < \epsilon/2$ ,  $\epsilon R \leq \beta \leq R$ , and  $d \geq f(c, \epsilon, R)$ ,  
then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{d/2} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} \leq R^{-1/2}.$$

**Pf Sketch:**

$$\sum_{i=1}^{cd} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} \leq \sum_{i=1}^{cd} \binom{d}{i} i^{d-i} 2^{-i} \beta^{i-d+1}$$

## Bounding $S_2(d, i)$

**Helper Lem:** Fix  $i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $d \geq 110$ . If  $0.3d \leq i \leq d/2$ , then

$$S_2(d, i) \leq 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i}.$$

**Lem:** Fix  $d, R \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $110 \leq d \leq R$ . If  $\epsilon, c, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^+$  s.t.  
 $0.6251 \leq \epsilon < 1$ ,  $0.3 \leq c < \epsilon/2$ ,  $\epsilon R \leq \beta \leq R$ , and  $d \geq f(c, \epsilon, R)$ ,  
then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{d/2} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} \leq R^{-1/2}.$$

**Pf Sketch:**

$$\sum_{i=1}^{cd} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} \leq \sum_{i=1}^{cd} \binom{d}{i} i^{d-i} 2^{-i} \beta^{i-d+1} \leq \dots \leq \frac{1}{2} R^{-1/2}$$

## Bounding $S_2(d, i)$

**Helper Lem:** Fix  $i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $d \geq 110$ . If  $0.3d \leq i \leq d/2$ , then

$$S_2(d, i) \leq 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i}.$$

**Lem:** Fix  $d, R \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $110 \leq d \leq R$ . If  $\epsilon, c, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^+$  s.t.  
 $0.6251 \leq \epsilon < 1$ ,  $0.3 \leq c < \epsilon/2$ ,  $\epsilon R \leq \beta \leq R$ , and  $d \geq f(c, \epsilon, R)$ ,  
then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{d/2} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} \leq R^{-1/2}.$$

**Pf Sketch:**

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{cd} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{cd} \binom{d}{i} i^{d-i} 2^{-i} \beta^{i-d+1} \leq \dots \leq \frac{1}{2} R^{-1/2} \\ \sum_{i=cd}^{d/2} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} &\leq \sum_{i=cd}^{d/2} 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i} \beta^{i-d+1} \end{aligned}$$

## Bounding $S_2(d, i)$

**Helper Lem:** Fix  $i, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $d \geq 110$ . If  $0.3d \leq i \leq d/2$ , then

$$S_2(d, i) \leq 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i}.$$

**Lem:** Fix  $d, R \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $110 \leq d \leq R$ . If  $\epsilon, c, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^+$  s.t.  $0.6251 \leq \epsilon < 1$ ,  $0.3 \leq c < \epsilon/2$ ,  $\epsilon R \leq \beta \leq R$ , and  $d \geq f(c, \epsilon, R)$ , then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{d/2} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} \leq R^{-1/2}.$$

**Pf Sketch:**

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{cd} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{cd} \binom{d}{i} i^{d-i} 2^{-i} \beta^{i-d+1} \leq \dots \leq \frac{1}{2} R^{-1/2} \\ \sum_{i=cd}^{d/2} S_2(d, i) \beta^{i-d+1} &\leq \sum_{i=cd}^{d/2} 8i(0.6251d)^{d-i} \beta^{i-d+1} \leq \dots \leq \frac{1}{2} R^{-1/2} \end{aligned}$$

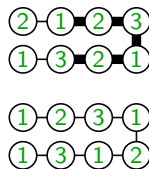


## Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting

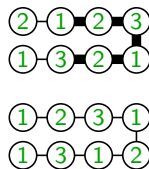
# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths



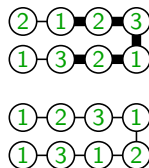
# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively



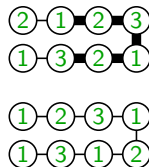
# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in  $|\text{subgraph}|$



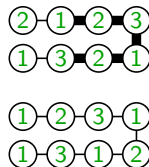
# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in  $|\text{subgraph}|$ 
    - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph



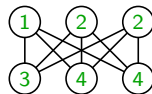
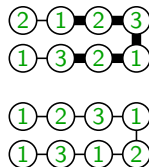
# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in  $|\text{subgraph}|$ 
    - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
    - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



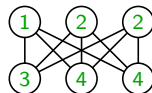
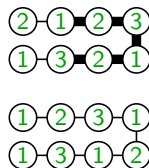
# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in  $|\text{subgraph}|$ 
    - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
    - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain
- ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring



# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
    - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
    - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain
- ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring
  - ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$

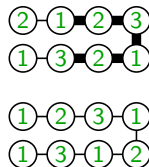




# Recap

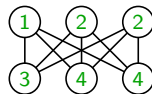
## ▶ Rosenfeld Counting

- ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
- ▶ Color iteratively
- ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
  - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
  - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



## ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring

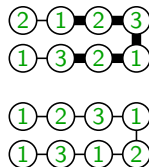
- ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$
- ▶ We proved  $\chi_{pcf}^\ell(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$



# Recap

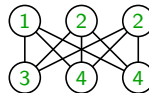
## ▶ Rosenfeld Counting

- ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
- ▶ Color iteratively
- ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
  - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
  - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



## ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring

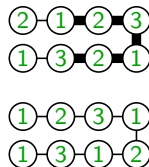
- ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$
- ▶ We proved  $\chi_{pcf}^\ell(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$
- ▶ Corollary of general hypergraph framework



# Recap

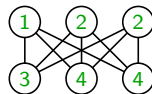
## ▶ Rosenfeld Counting

- ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
- ▶ Color iteratively
- ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
  - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
  - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



## ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring

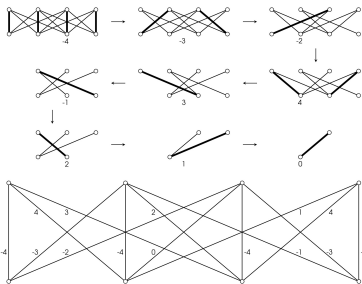
- ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$
- ▶ We proved  $\chi_{pcf}^\ell(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$
- ▶ Corollary of general hypergraph framework
- ▶ Key step is bounding  $S_2(d, i)$



## Learn More about Rosenfeld Counting

# Graph Coloring Methods

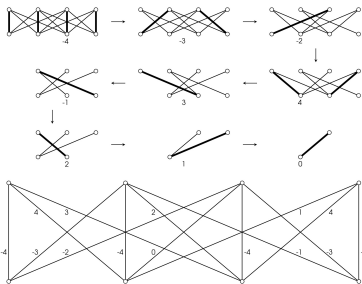
Daniel W. Cranston



## Learn More about Rosenfeld Counting

# Graph Coloring Methods

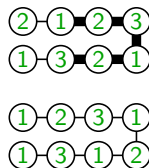
Daniel W. Cranston



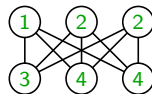
<https://graphcoloringmethods.com>

# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
    - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
    - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



- ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring
  - ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$
  - ▶ We proved  $\chi_{pcf}^\ell(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$
  - ▶ Corollary of General hypergraph framework
  - ▶ Key step is bounding  $S_2(d, i)$

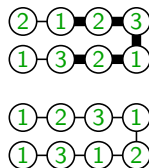


- ▶ Graph Coloring Methods

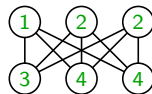


# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
    - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
    - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



- ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring
  - ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$
  - ▶ We proved  $\chi_{pcf}^{\ell}(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$
  - ▶ Corollary of General hypergraph framework
  - ▶ Key step is bounding  $S_2(d, i)$



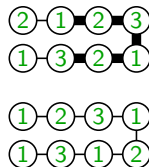
- ▶ Graph Coloring Methods
  - ▶ Graduate Textbook (450 pages)



# Recap

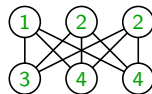
## ▶ Rosenfeld Counting

- ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
- ▶ Color iteratively
- ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
  - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
  - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



## ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring

- ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$
- ▶ We proved  $\chi_{pcf}^{\ell}(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$
- ▶ Corollary of General hypergraph framework
- ▶ Key step is bounding  $S_2(d, i)$



## ▶ Graph Coloring Methods

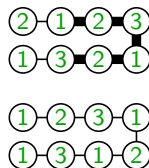
- ▶ Graduate Textbook (450 pages)
- ▶ Chapter on Rosenfeld Counting



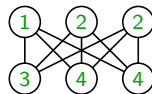


# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
    - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
    - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



- ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring
  - ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$
  - ▶ We proved  $\chi_{pcf}^{\ell}(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$
  - ▶ Corollary of General hypergraph framework
  - ▶ Key step is bounding  $S_2(d, i)$

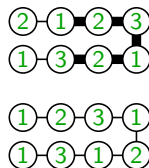


- ▶ Graph Coloring Methods
  - ▶ Graduate Textbook (450 pages)
  - ▶ Chapter on Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ 11 other chapters (each on 1 method)

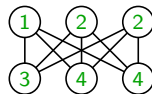


# Recap

- ▶ Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ Nonrepetitive 4-list-coloring of paths
  - ▶ Color iteratively
  - ▶ # partial colorings exponential in |subgraph|
    - ▶ Bad colorings  $\rightarrow$  good colorings of subgraph
    - ▶ Exponentially many good colorings remain



- ▶ Proper Conflict-free Coloring
  - ▶ CPS conjectured  $\chi_{pcf}(G) \leq \Delta + 1$
  - ▶ We proved  $\chi_{pcf}^{\ell}(G) \leq 1.6551\Delta(1 + o(1))$
  - ▶ Corollary of General hypergraph framework
  - ▶ Key step is bounding  $S_2(d, i)$



- ▶ Graph Coloring Methods
  - ▶ Graduate Textbook (450 pages)
  - ▶ Chapter on Rosenfeld Counting
  - ▶ 11 other chapters (each on 1 method)
  - ▶ Free at [graphcoloringmethods.com](http://graphcoloringmethods.com)

