

Planar Graphs

Consider a planar embedding of a planar graph.

The degree of a region R , denoted $\deg(R)$, is the number of edges traversed in a shortest closed walk about the edges in the boundary of R .

is true in general for a planar embedding of a planar graph since each edge contributes 2 to the sum of the degrees of all the regions.

ary (Edge-Vertex Inequality)

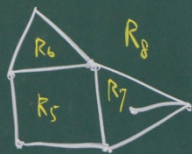
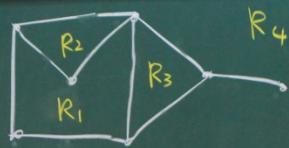
any connected planar simple graph

with g is at least 3,

$$e \leq \frac{g}{g-2} (v-2).$$



Example



$$\deg(R_1) = 5$$

$$\deg(R_2) = 3$$

$$\deg(R_3) = 3$$

$$\deg(R_4) = 7$$

$$\deg(R_5) = 4$$

$$\deg(R_6) = 3$$

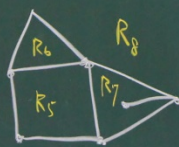
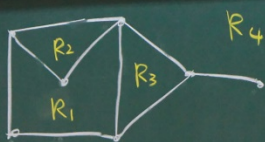
$$\deg(R_7) = 5$$

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We see that $\sum_{i=1}^4 \deg(R_i) = 18 = 2 \cdot |E|$

and $\sum_{i=5}^8 \deg(R_i) = 18 = 2 \cdot |E|$

This is true in general for a planar embedding of a planar graph since each edge contributes exactly 2 to the sum of the degrees of all the regions.

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Corollary (Edge-Vertex Inequality)

In any connected planar simple graph whose girth g is at least 3,

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Proof

The boundary of each region contains at least g edges, i.e., each region has degree $\geq g$.

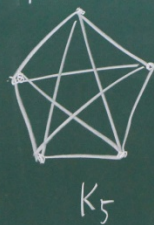
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hence } 2e &= \text{sum of degrees of all regions} \\ &\geq gr = g(2-v+e) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{since } v-e+r=2.$$

Therefore, $(g-2)e \leq g(v-2)$

which yields $e \leq \frac{g}{g-2}(v-2)$

Example



$$\begin{aligned} v &= 5 \\ e &= 10 \\ g &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g}{g-2}(v-2) &= \frac{3}{3-2}(5-2) \\ &= \frac{3}{1} \cdot 3 = 9 < 10 = e. \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore K_5$ is nonplanar.

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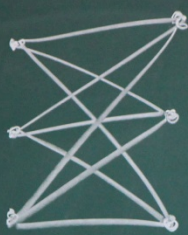


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$K_{3,3}$

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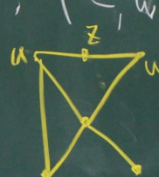
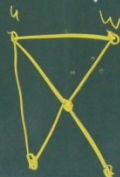
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Def Let $G = (V, E)$ be an undirected simple graph, with $E \neq \emptyset$. An elementary subdivision of G results when an edge $\{u, w\}$ is removed from G and then the edges $\{u, z\}$, $\{z, w\}$ are added, where $z \notin V$.



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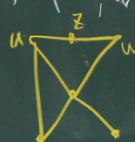
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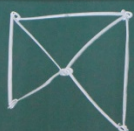
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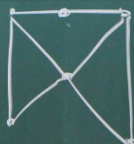
Def The undirected simple graphs $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$ and $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$ are called homeomorphic if they are isomorphic or they can both be obtained from the same undirected simple graph H by a sequence of elementary subdivisions.

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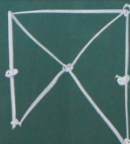
Example



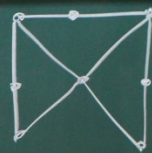
G_1



G_2



G_3

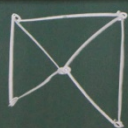


G_4

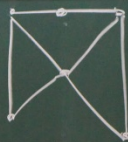
G_1, G_2, G_3 , and G_4 are homeomorphic.

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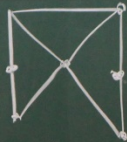
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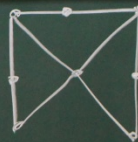
G_1



G_2



G_3



G_4

G_1, G_2, G_3 , and G_4 are homeomorphic.

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Theorem (Kuratowski's Theorem)

A graph is nonplanar iff it contains a subgraph that is homeomorphic to either K_5 or $K_{3,3}$.

Proof If a graph G has a subgraph homeomorphic to either K_5 or $K_{3,3}$, it is clear that G is nonplanar. The converse of this theorem, however, is much more complicated to prove, and the proof will not be given here. $\square$

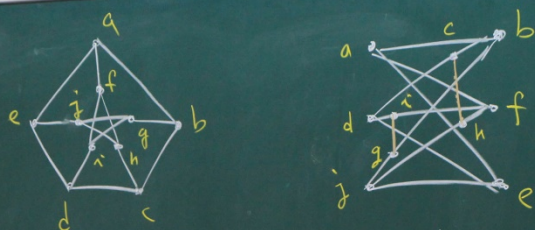
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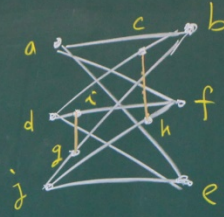
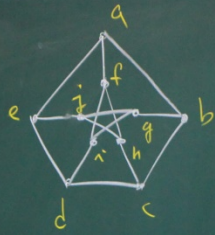
$\therefore$ Petersen graph is nonplanar
(since it contains a subgraph homeomorphic to $K_{3,3}$).

Also note

$$\frac{g}{g-2} (v-2) = \frac{5}{5-2} (10-2)$$

$$= \frac{5}{3} \cdot 8 = \frac{40}{3} < e = 15.$$

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