The planar cubic Cayley graphs

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 $\langle \alpha, \beta |, \beta^2, \alpha^4, (\alpha\beta)^2 \rangle$

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Theorem (Sabidussi's Theorem)

A properly edge-coloured digraph is a Cayley graph iff for every $x, y \in V(G)$ there is a colour-preserving automorphism mapping x to y.

properly edge-coloured := no vertex has two incoming or two outgoing edges with the same colour

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Charactisation of the finite planar groups

Theorem (Maschke 1886)

Every finite planar group is a group of isometries of S^2 .



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Let $\Gamma = \langle a, b, c, \dots | R_1, R_2 \dots \rangle$ be a group presentation. Define the corresponding Cayley complex *CC* $\langle a, b, c, \dots | R_1, R_2 \dots \rangle$ by:

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- $V(G) = \Gamma$,
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Given a planar Cayley graph, can you find a presentation in which the relators induce precisely the face boundaries?

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Given a planar Cayley graph, can you find a presentation in which the relators induce precisely the face boundaries?

Yes! :

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Theorem (Whitney '32)
Let G be a 3-connected plane graph. Then
every automorphism of G extends to a
homeomorphism of the sphere.
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Proving Maschke's Theorem

Given a finite plane Cayley graph *G*, consider the following group presentation:

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Then X is homeomorphic to S^2 .

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Then X is homeomorphic to S^2 . Thus:

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Theorem ((classic) Macbeath, Wilkie, ...)

Every 1-ended planar Cayley graph corresponds to a group of isometries of \mathbb{R}^2 or \mathbb{H}^2 .



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Planar groups < - > fundamental groups of surfaces

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... general classical theory, but only for groups with a planar Cayley complex

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Theorem (G '10)

A group has a planar Cayley complex if and only if it has a VAP-free Cayley graph.

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Open Problems:

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Problem (Mohar)

How can you split a planar Cayley graph with > 1 ends into simpler Cayley graphs?

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Every planar 3-connected locally finite transitive graph has at least one face bounded by a cycle.

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Classification of the cubic planar Cayley graphs

Theorem (G '10)

Let G be a planar cubic Cayley graph. Then G is colour-isomorphic to precisely one element of **the list**.

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Theorem (G '10)

Let G be a planar cubic Cayley graph. Then G is colour-isomorphic to precisely one element of **the list**.

Conversely, for every element of the list and any choice of parameters, the corresponding Cayley graph is planar.

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Corollary (G'10)

Every planar cubic Cayley graph has an almost planar Cayley complex.

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Conjecture (Bonnington & Watkins)

Every planar 3-connected locally finite transitive graph has at least one face bounded by a cycle.

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Spot the societies!



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Theorem (Stallings '71)

Every group with >1 ends can be written as an HNN-extension or an amalgamation product over a finite subgroup.



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Theorem (Stallings '71)

Every group with >1 ends can be written as an HNN-extension or an amalgamation product over a finite subgroup.







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Conjecture

Let $G = Cay(\Gamma, S)$ be a Cayley graph with > 1 ends. Then there is a non-trivial splitting of G as a union of subdivisions of Cayley graphs.

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Corollary (G'10)

True for planar cubic Cayley graphs.