

# Connected components for planar graphs

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## 1 Definition of the Tutte polynomial

- Connexion with random cluster partition function
- On derivatives of the Tutte polynomial
- Particular cases of the Tutte polynomial
- For planar graphs

## 2 Some results on connected components

- Applications : finite planar graphs
- Applications : infinite planar graphs
- Perspectives

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# Definition of the Tutte polynomial

$G = (V, E)$  a connected planar graph,  $V$  ( $|V| = n$ ) the set of vertices,  $E$  ( $|E| = m$ ) the set of edges.

## Definition

The **Tutte polynomial** of  $G$  denoted by  $T(G, x, y)$  can be obtained by computing the four following rules :

- (1) If  $G$  has no edges, then  $T(G, x, y) = 1$ .
- (2) If  $e$  is an edge of  $G$  that is neither a loop nor an isthmus, then

$$T(G, x, y) = T(G'_e, x, y) + T(G''_e, x, y)$$

where  $G'_e$  is the graph  $G$  with the edge  $e$  deleted and  $G''_e$  is the graph  $G$  with the edge  $e$  contracted.

- (3) If  $e$  is an **isthmus**, then  $T(G, x, y) = xT(G'_e, x, y)$
- (4) If  $e$  is a **loop**, then  $T(G, x, y) = yT(G'_e, x, y)$ .

# Example

Construction of the tutte polynomial for a cycle  $C_n$  of length  $n$ ;

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$$T(G, x, y) = \frac{1}{(x-1)(y-1)^n} \sum_{ACE} (y-1)^{|A|} [(x-1)(y-1)]^{k(G,A)}$$

## Two important values of the Tutte polynomial

(1) On the curve  $(x-1)(y-1) = 1$ , ( $x = 1/p$  and  $y = 1/(1-p)$ ),

$$T(G, 1/p, 1/(1-p)) = (1-p)^{n-m-1} p^{1-n}.$$

(2) On the curve  $(x-1)(y-1) = q$ , ( $x = 1 + q(1-p)/p$  and  $y = 1/(1-p)$ ),

$$\begin{aligned} T(G, x, y) &= \frac{(1-p)^{n-m-1} p^{1-n}}{q} \sum_{ACE} p^{|A|} (1-p)^{m-|A|} q^{k(G,A)} \\ &= \frac{T(G, 1/p, 1/(1-p))}{q} E(q^{k(G,p)}) \end{aligned}$$

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# On derivatives of the Tutte polynomial

Taking  $q = 1$ , the factorial moments are

$$E[(k-1)(k-2)\dots(k-i)] = \left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right)^i \frac{\frac{\partial^i}{\partial x^i} T(G, \frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{1-p})}{T(G, \frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{1-p})}$$

$$E(k(G, p)) = 1 + \left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right) \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial x} T(G, \frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{1-p})}{T(G, \frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{1-p})}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n E(|C_i|^{-1}) = E(k(G, p))$$

The expected value of length of the MST of  $G$

$$E(L_{MST}(G)) = \int_0^1 E(k(G, p)) dp - 1$$

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# Particular cases of the Tutte polynomial

The chromatic polynomial

$$P(G, q) = q^{k(G)} (-1)^{k(G)+n(G)} T(G, x = 1 - q, y = 0)$$

$T(G, 1, 1)$  number of spanning trees

$T(G, 2, 1)$  number of spanning forests, (or independent sets)

$T(G, 2, 2)$  number of spanning subgraphs

$T(G, 1, 2)$  number of spanning connected subgraphs

$T(G, 2, 0)$  number of acyclic orientations

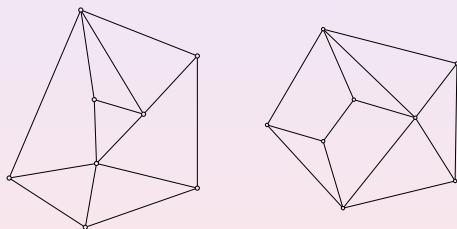
$T(G, 0, 2)$  number of totally cyclic orientations

# Be careful

(1)  $G^*$  dual of  $G \Rightarrow T(G^*, x, y) = T(G, y, x)$ .

$G = G^* \Rightarrow T(G, x, y) = T(G, y, x)$  Wrong converse.

(2)  $T(G, x, y) = T(H, x, y) \not\Rightarrow G = H$ .



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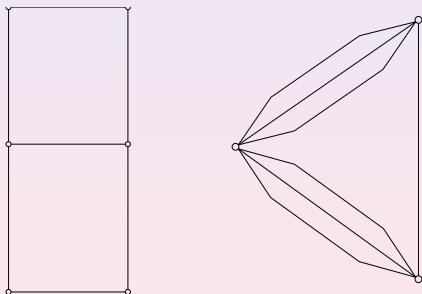
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# Definition of the dual graph $G^*$ of a planar graph $G$

Euler relation :  $f = m - n + \alpha$ .  
 $n^* = f + 1$ ,  $m^* = m$  and  $f^* = n - 1$ .



# Some results on connected components

Distribution on edges of  $G$  : edge **white** with probability  $p$ .  
edge **black** with probability  $1 - p$

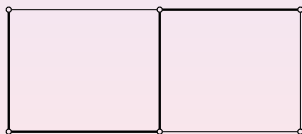
$A$  : set of **white** edges in  $G$ .

$k(G, A, p)$  : number of **white** connected components in  $(V, A)$ .

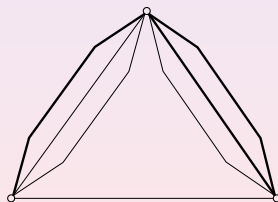
Distribution on edges of  $G^*$  : edge **white** with probability  $1 - p$ .  
edge **black** with probability  $p$

$A^*$  : set of **white** edges in  $G^*$ .

$k(G^*, A^*, 1 - p)$  : number of **white** connected components in  $(V^*, A^*)$ .



$A \subset E$



$A^* \subset E^*$

# Some results on connected components

## Proposition

Let be  $G$  a connected planar graph and denote by  $G^*$  the dual graph of  $G$ . For all subset  $A$  of  $E$  and corresponding subset  $A^*$  of  $E^*$ ,

$$k(G^*, A^*, 1 - p) - k(G, A, p) = |A| - n + 1$$

where  $|A|$  represents number of elements of  $A$ .

## Proposition

$$E(k(G^*, 1 - p)) - E(k(G, p)) = mp - n + 1 \rightarrow p = \frac{n - 1}{m} ?$$



## Proposition

$$E(k(G^*, 1 - p)) - E(k(G, p)) = p(1 - p) \frac{d}{dp} \log T(G, \frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{1-p}).$$

For self dual graphs ( $G = G^*$ ) : choose  $p = 1/2$ .

$\Rightarrow$  On the curve  $(x - 1)(y - 1) = q = 1$ , ( $x = 1/p$ ,  $y = 1/(1 - p)$ ),  
 $T(G, 2, 2) = \min[T(G, x, y)]$ .

On the curve  $(x - 1)(y - 1) = q$ , ( $x = 1 + q(1 - p)/p$ ,  $y = 1/(1 - p)$ ),  
 $T(G, 1 + \sqrt{q}, 1 + \sqrt{q}) = \min[T(G, x, y)]$  obtained with  $p = \frac{\sqrt{q}}{1 + \sqrt{q}}$  the  
critical probability for q-Potts model ?

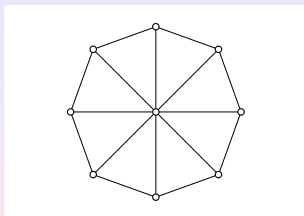
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**Example** : the wheel, a self dual graph.



$n$  vertices,  $m = 2(n - 1)$  edges.

$$E[k(G^*, 1 - p)] - E[k(G, p)] = 2(n - 1)\left(p - \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$\Rightarrow p = 1/2$ . The natural choice of  $p$  is  $1/2$  and so that for all graphs with  $m = 2(n - 1)$ .

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# Applications : infinite planar graphs

$$E(k(G^*, 1 - p_e)) - E(k(G, p_e)) = mp_e - n + 1.$$

$$p_e = \frac{n-1}{m} \Rightarrow E(k(G^*, 1 - \frac{n-1}{m})) = E(k(G, \frac{n-1}{m})).$$

When  $n$  tends to infinity with  $m$ ,  $m$  function of  $n$ ,

$$\Rightarrow E(k(G^*, 1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p_e)) = E(k(G, \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p_e)).$$

Name	Graph	$\rho_e = (n - 1)/m$	$\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \rho_e$
s squares		$(2s + 1)/(3s + 1)$	$2/3$
s triangles		$(s + 1)/(2s + 1)$	$1/2$
Square Lattice		$(2s + 1)/(4s)$	$1/2$
Bow-tie Lattice	$C_2 =$ 	$(4s)/(10s - 3)$	$2/5$
Crossed Matching	$C_3 =$ 	$s/(3s - 1)$	$1/3$
Octagonal		$s/(3s - 1)$	$1/3$
Honeycomb Lattice		$\frac{8s^2 - 3}{12s^2 - 4s - 2}$	$2/3$
kagome lattice		$\frac{(6s + 1)}{2(6s - 1)}$	$1/2$

For honeycomb lattice,  $E(k(G, 2/3)) = E(k(G^*, 1/3))$ .

How to understand for example this  $2/3$  associated with honeycomb lattice ?

We have

$$p_e = \frac{n-1}{m} = \frac{2(n-1)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n_{int}} q_i + \sum_{i=1}^{n_{ext}} q_i} = \frac{2}{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{int}} q_i + \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{ext}} q_i}.$$

For all regular lattice with bounded degree,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{n_{ext}}{n} = 0 \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p_e = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} 2(n-1) / \sum_{i=1}^{n_{int}} q_i = 2/\bar{q}.$$

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- The special case of self-dual graphs : the location of complex zeros of their Tutte polynomial.
- Trace and determinant for symmetric Tutte polynomial.
- Relation between coefficients of the Tutte polynomial.
- The  $q$  complex case.
- Symmetry and conformal transformations.