

# Recoloring sparse graphs

Nicolas Bousquet

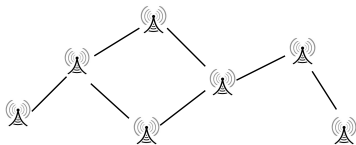
Graphes @ Lyon



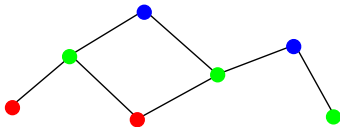
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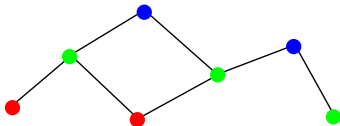
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*free*

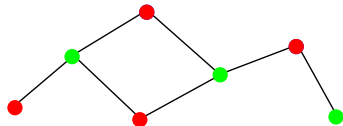
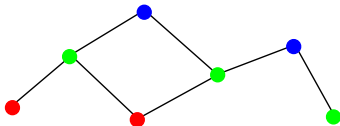


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*free*

- Reallocate the frequencies of the antennas.
- Condition : no interference at any time.
- Only one antenna reallocation at a time.

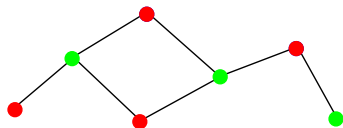
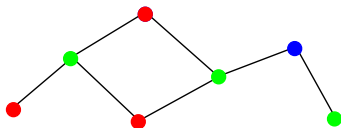


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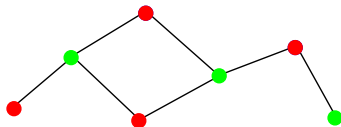
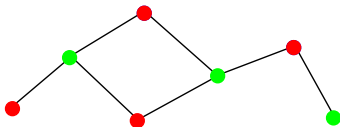


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## Formally

### **Definition** ( $k$ -Reconfiguration graph $\mathcal{C}_k(G)$ of $G$ )

- Vertices : Proper  $k$ -colorings of  $G$ .
- Create an edge between any two  $k$ -colorings which differ on exactly one vertex.

All along the talk  $k$  denotes the **number of colors**.

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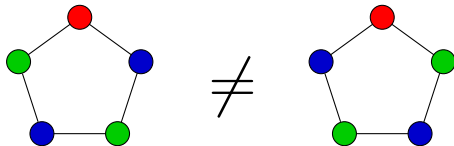
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### Remark

Two colorings equivalent up to color permutation are distinct.



## Main questions

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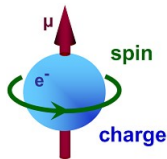
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- If the answer is positive, how many steps do we need?  
*What is the diameter of the reconfiguration graph?*
- Can we efficiently find a short transformation (from an algorithmic point of view)?  
*Can we find a path between two vertices of the reconfiguration graph in polynomial time?*

## Anti-ferromagnetic Potts Model

A **spin configuration** of  $G = (V, E)$  is a function  $\sigma : V \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$ . (a graph coloring)

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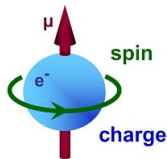
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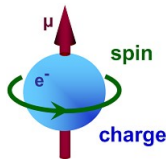
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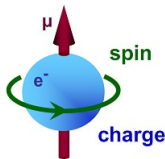
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### Definition (Glauber dynamics)

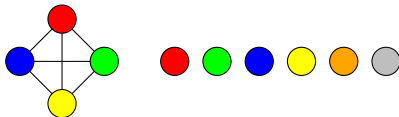
Limit of a  $k$ -state Potts model when  $T \rightarrow 0$ .

In **Glauber dynamics** : only proper coloring have positive measure.



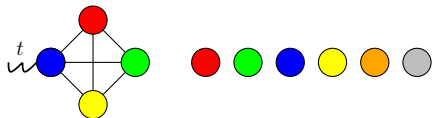
## Evolution of Glauber dynamics

- At any time  $t$ , the state of any spin is modified under some probability rule (e.g. exponential rule).
- The probability that a spin state becomes  $j$  is 
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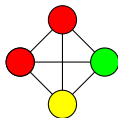
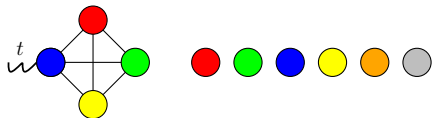
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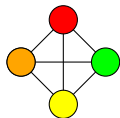


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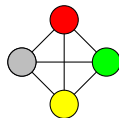
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Proba = 0



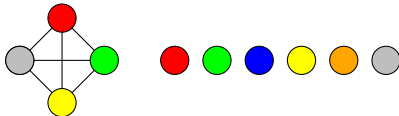
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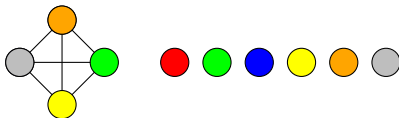
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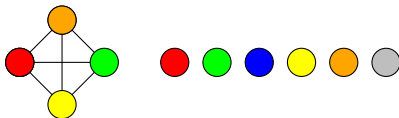
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- Do we converge to the stationary distribution? i.e. are we **ergodic**?
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## Theorem

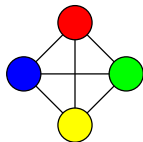
If the diameter of the reconfiguration graph is  $D$  then the mixing time is at least  $2 \cdot D$ .

## Main question in Theoretical Physics

When is  $G$   $c(\Delta)$ -mixing in polynomial time?

### Partial results :

- The chain is not ergodic if  $c = \Delta + 1$  (e.g. cliques).

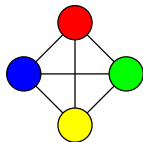


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- Best upper bound :  $c = \frac{11}{6}\Delta$  (Vigoda).

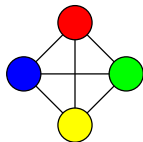


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### Conjecture

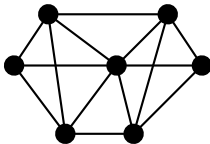
If  $c \geq \Delta + 2$ , the graph is  $c$ -mixing in polynomial time.

## Main question in CS

### Conjecture (Cereceda)

The  $(k + 2)$ -recoloring diameter of any  $k$ -degenerate graph is  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .

A graph is  *$k$ -degenerate* if there exists an order  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  such that for every  $i$ ,  $v_i$  has at most  $k$  neighbors after it in the order.

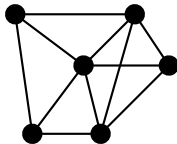


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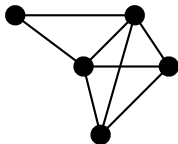


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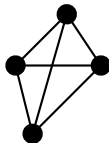


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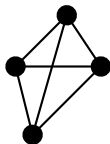


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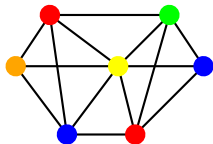
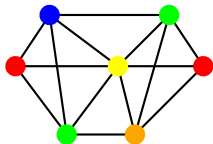
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- Delete a vertex of degree at most  $k$ .
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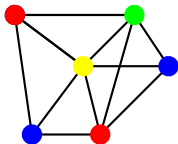
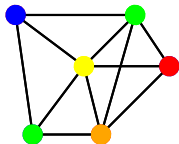
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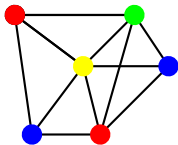
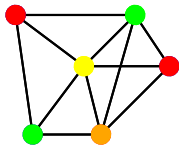
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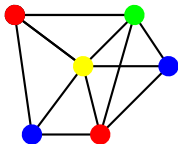
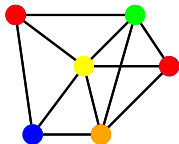
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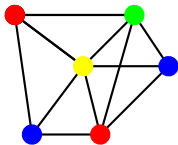
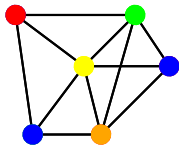
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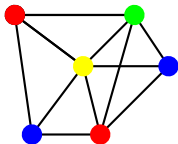
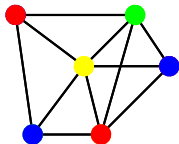
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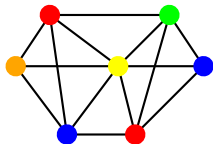
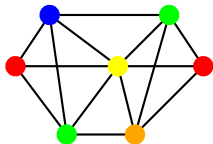
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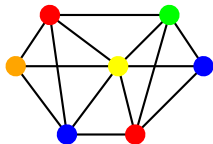
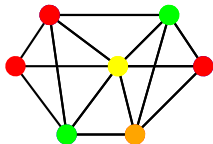
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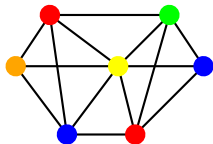
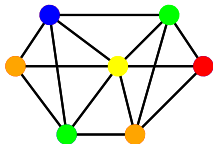
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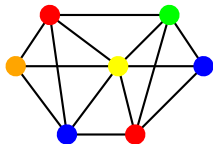
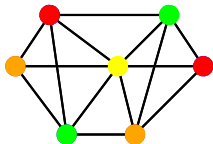
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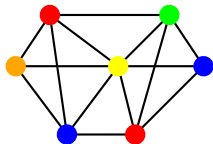
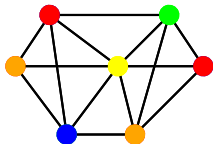
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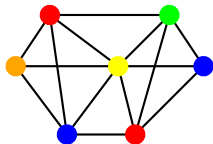
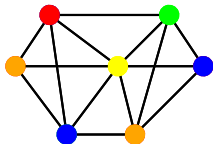
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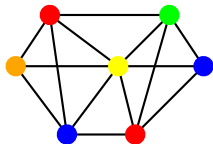
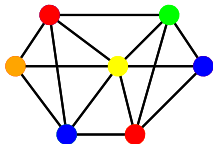
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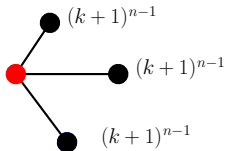
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When do we need to recolor the leftmost vertex ?

- Each time a neighbor is recolored.

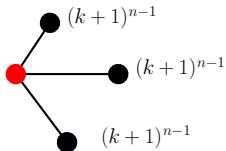


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- In the last round : +1 recoloring.

The total number of recolorings is at most  $(k+1)^n$ .

## On specific classes of graphs

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### Theorem (Bonamy, Johnson, Lignos, Patel, Paulusma '11)

The quadratic lower bound is tight, e.g. on paths.

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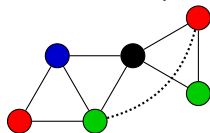
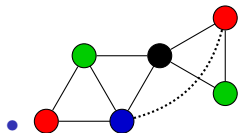
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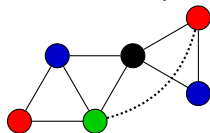
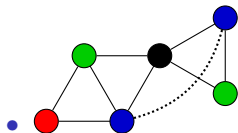
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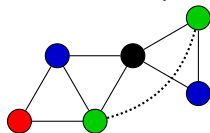
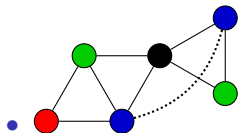
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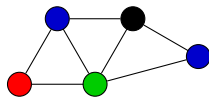
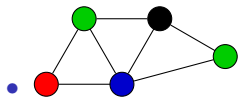
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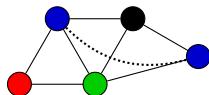
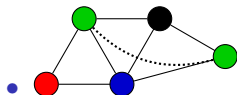
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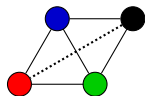
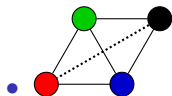
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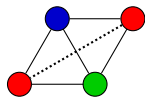
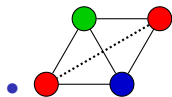
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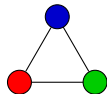
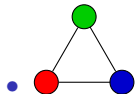
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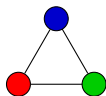
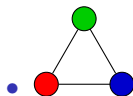
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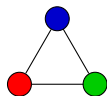
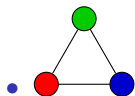
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### Key argument :

- Peel the graph according to a tree decomposition.
- “Interactions” between remaining vertices and deleted vertices are reduced to the vertices of a leaf of a tree decomposition.  
⇒ Recoloring a vertex has a limited impact on the graph.

## Beyond tree decompositions

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**Theorem** (B., Perarnau '14)

If the maximum average degree of  $G$  is at most  $d - \epsilon$  then the diameter of the  $(d + 1)$ -reconfiguration graph is polynomial.

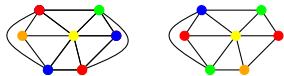
Maximum average degree = maximum density of a subgraph of  $G$ .

$$mad(G) = \max_{S \subseteq V} \left( \frac{\text{number of edges induced by } S}{|S|} \right)$$

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We want to recolor the graph from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$ .

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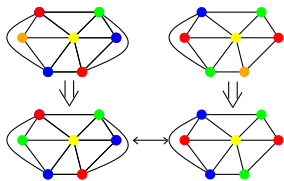


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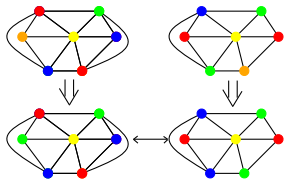


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- Eliminate one color from the current coloring.
- Use this additional color to color a well-chosen stable set.
- Apply induction with  $\chi(G) - 1$ .

## Low degree partition

### Lemma

If  $G$  has maximum average degree at most  $d - \epsilon$  then a linear fraction of the vertices has degree at most  $d - 1$ .



## Low degree partition

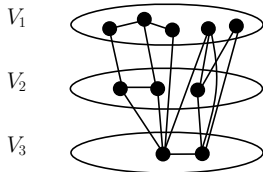
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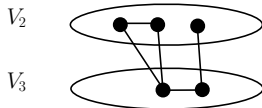
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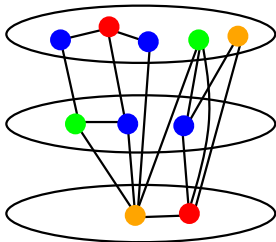


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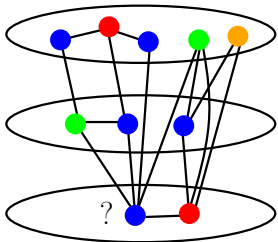
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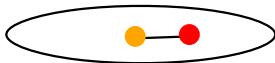
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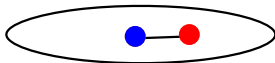
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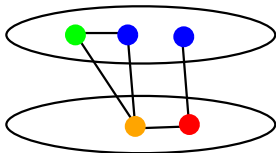
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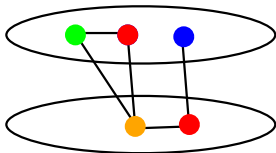
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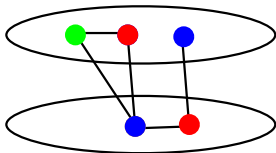
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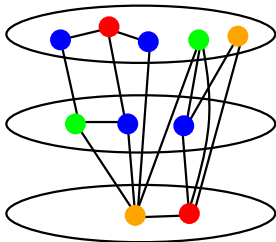
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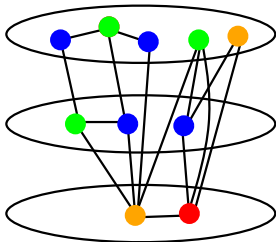
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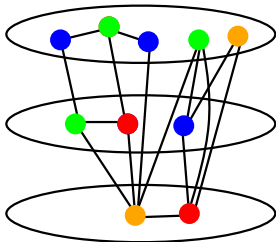
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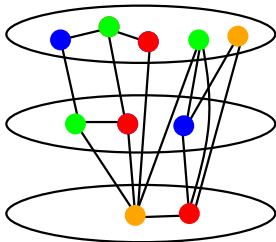
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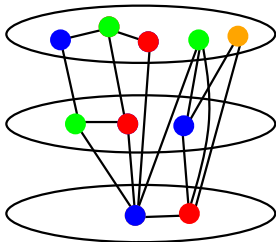
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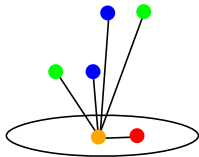




## Counting trick

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This recoloring process eliminates color  $\bullet$  in a polynomial number of steps.

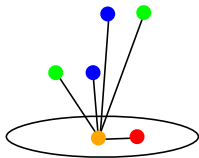


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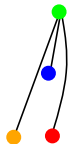
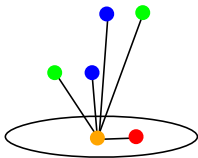
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- The degree of a vertex can be arbitrarily large  $\Rightarrow$  we cannot extract any bound *a priori*.
- But each vertex has degree at most  $(d - 1)$  in larger layers. So its recoloring is asked a bounded number of times.

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Since this equation holds for every vertex, the total number of recoloring needed to modify the color of  $\circ$  is polynomial.

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### Treewidth proof :

- Select a small degree vertex  $v$  and delete it.

### Max. Average degree proof :

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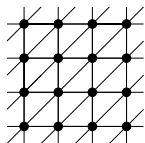
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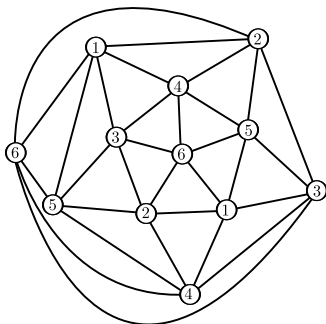
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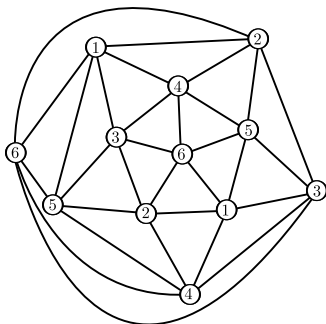


- There exist planar graphs such that  $mad(G) \rightarrow 6$ .
- We need  $mad(G) < 6 - \epsilon$  to obtain this layer partition.

## Lower bound



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Similarly, we can show

**Corollary** (B., Perarnau '14)

The  $k$ -recoloring diameter of any triangle-free planar graph is polynomial if  $k \geq 6$ .

## Maximum degree

We know that :

- If  $k = \Delta + 2$ , recoloring is always possible (degen.  $\leq \Delta$ ).
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### **Definition** (frozen coloring)

A coloring is frozen if none of the vertices of the graph can be recolored.

### **Theorem** (Feghali, Johnson, Paulusma '14)

One can recolor any non-frozen  $(\Delta + 1)$ -coloring of  $G$  into any other (in  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  steps).

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### Corollary

If two  $(\Delta + 1)$  colorings are chosen at random, then one can recolor the first into the second with probability  $\rightarrow 1$  if  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ .

## Conclusion

- Solve the Cereceda conjecture.
- Extend / improve recoloring results to other graph classes.
- Existence of a  $k$ -reconfiguration graph with bounded but exponential diameter.
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**Thanks for your attention !**