

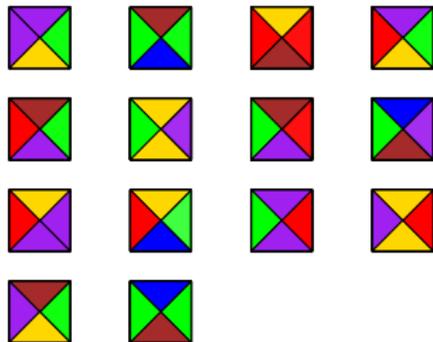
# The structure of quasi-transitive graphs avoiding a minor with applications to the Domino Conjecture.

Louis Esperet, Ugo Giocanti, Clément Legrand-Duchesne

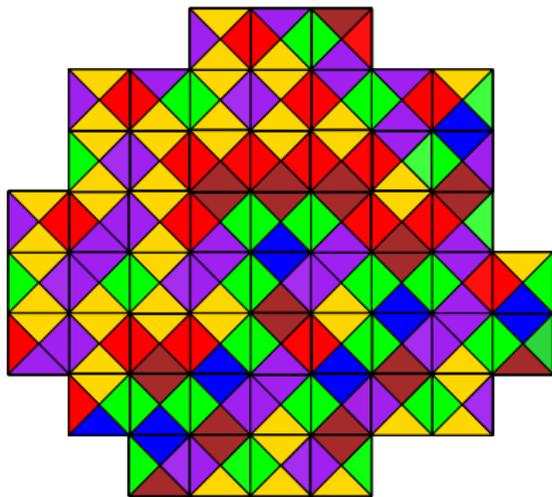
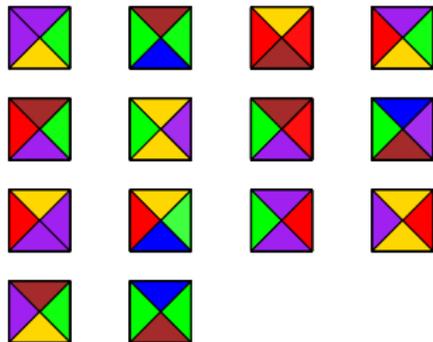
Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków

Séminaire ESCAPE, 2026

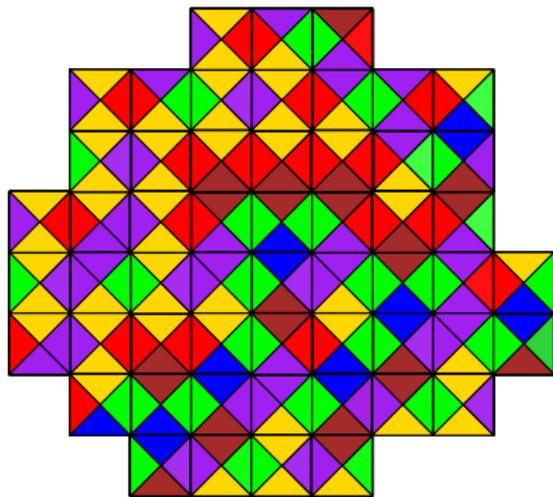
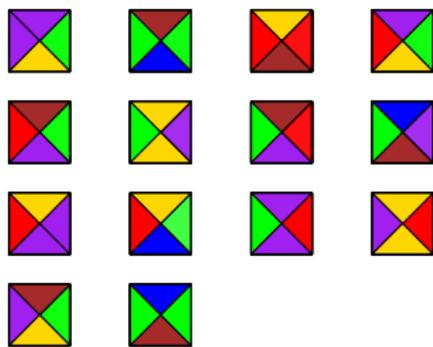
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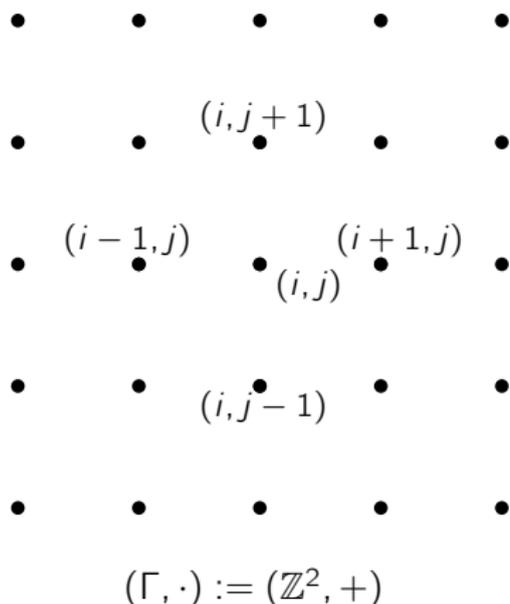


Theorem (Berger, '66)

*The Wang tiling problem is undecidable.*

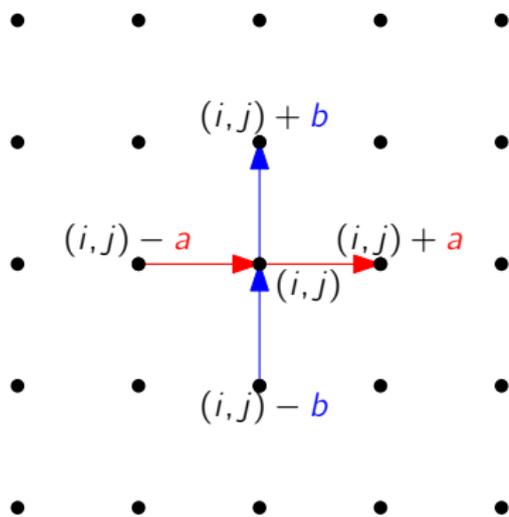
# Cayley graphs

$(\Gamma, \cdot)$ : group,  $S$ : finite set of generators.  $\text{Cay}(\Gamma, S)$  : graph with vertex set  $\Gamma$  and adjacencies  $\{x, x \cdot a\}$  for every  $x \in \Gamma, a \in S$ .



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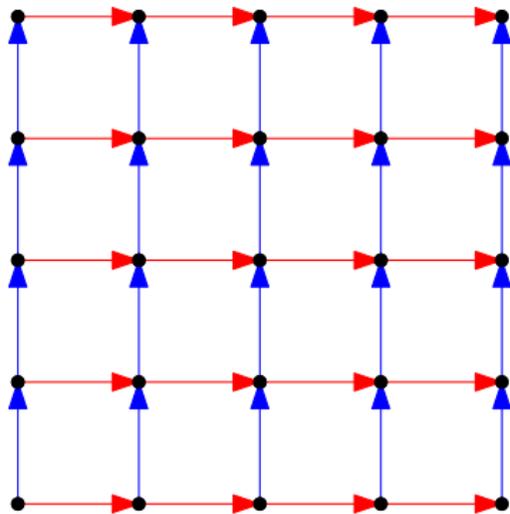
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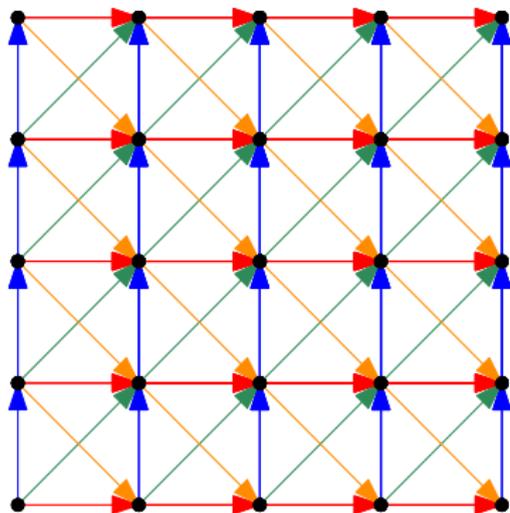
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$$\begin{aligned}(\Gamma, \cdot) &:= (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \\ a &:= (1, 0), b := (0, 1) \\ c &:= (1, 1), d := (1, -1)\end{aligned}$$

## Domino Problem on groups

Fix  $(\Gamma, \mathcal{S})$ .

**Pattern** of  $\text{Cay}(\Gamma, \mathcal{S})$ : coloring  $p$  of  $\{1_\Gamma, s\}$  for some  $s \in \mathcal{S}$ .

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**Domino problem** on  $(\Gamma, \mathcal{S})$ :

Input: a finite alphabet  $\Sigma$  and a finite set  $\mathcal{F} = \{p_1, \dots, p_t\}$  of forbidden patterns.

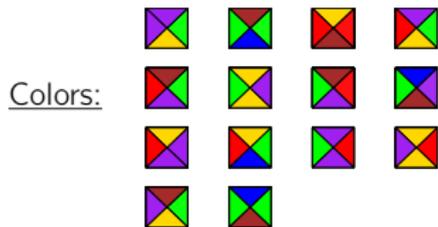
Question: Is there a coloring  $c : V(G) \rightarrow \Sigma$  avoiding  $\mathcal{F}$ ?

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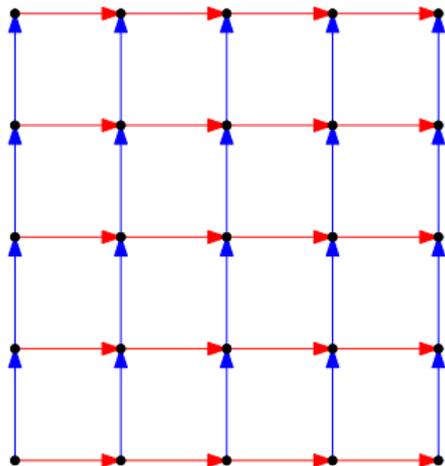
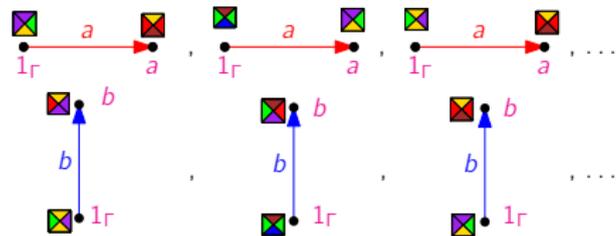
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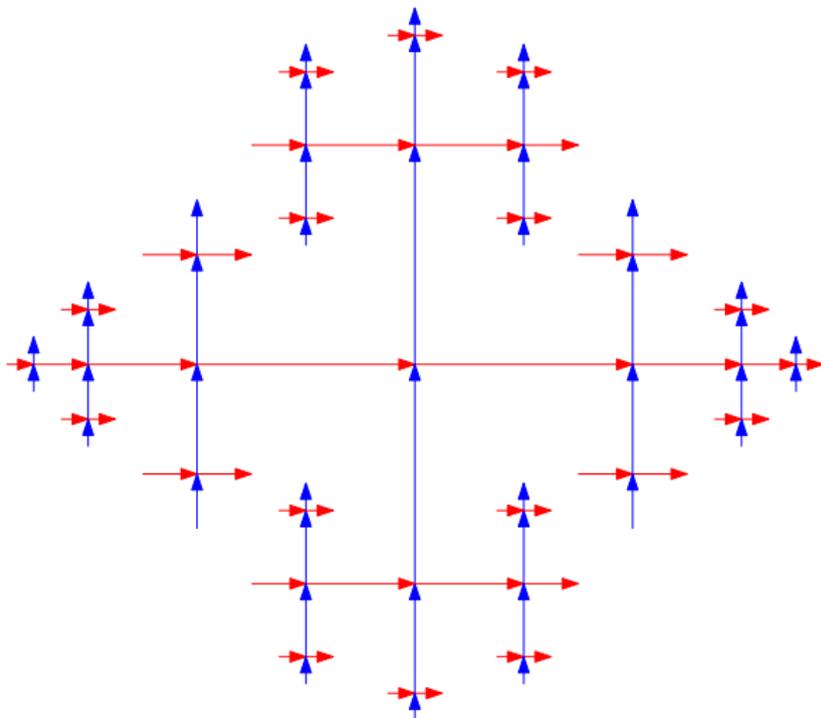


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# (Virtually-)Free groups

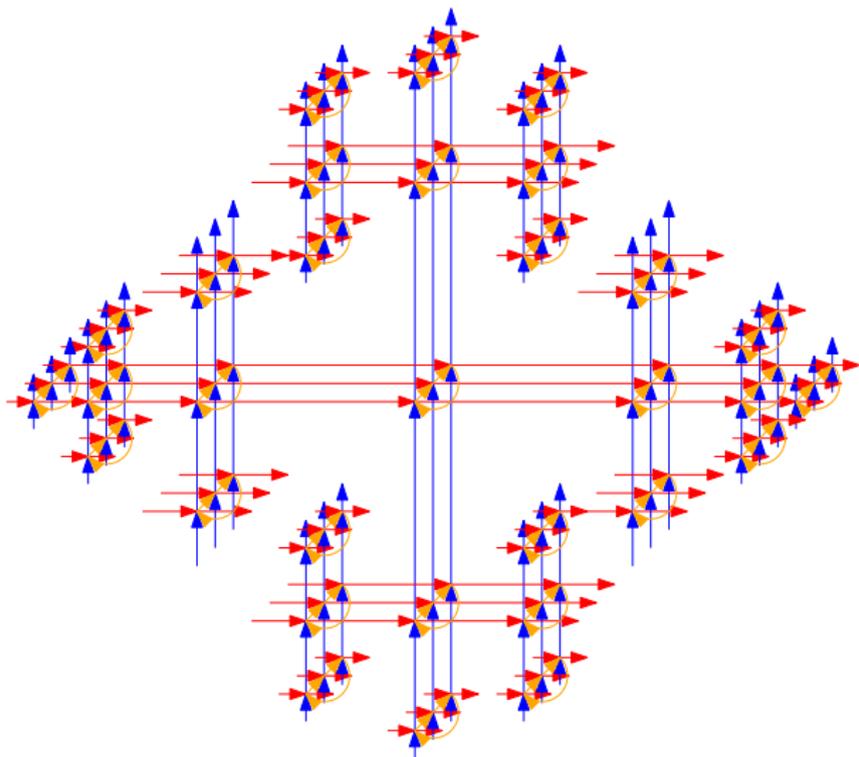
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**Theorem (Karass, Pietrowski, Solitar '73)**

*$\Gamma$  is virtually-free if and only if one/all its Cayley graphs have bounded treewidth.*

Claim: If  $G$  has bounded degree, then  $G$  has bounded treewidth if and only if  $G$  is a subgraph of a  $k$ -blow up of a tree for some  $k \geq 0$ .

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Our results: true when  $\Gamma$  is **planar**, and more generally **minor-excluded**.

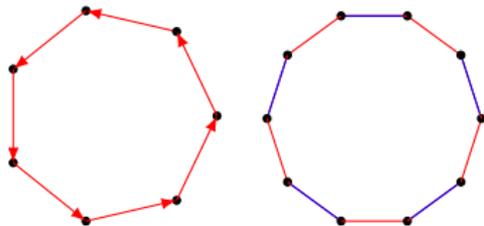
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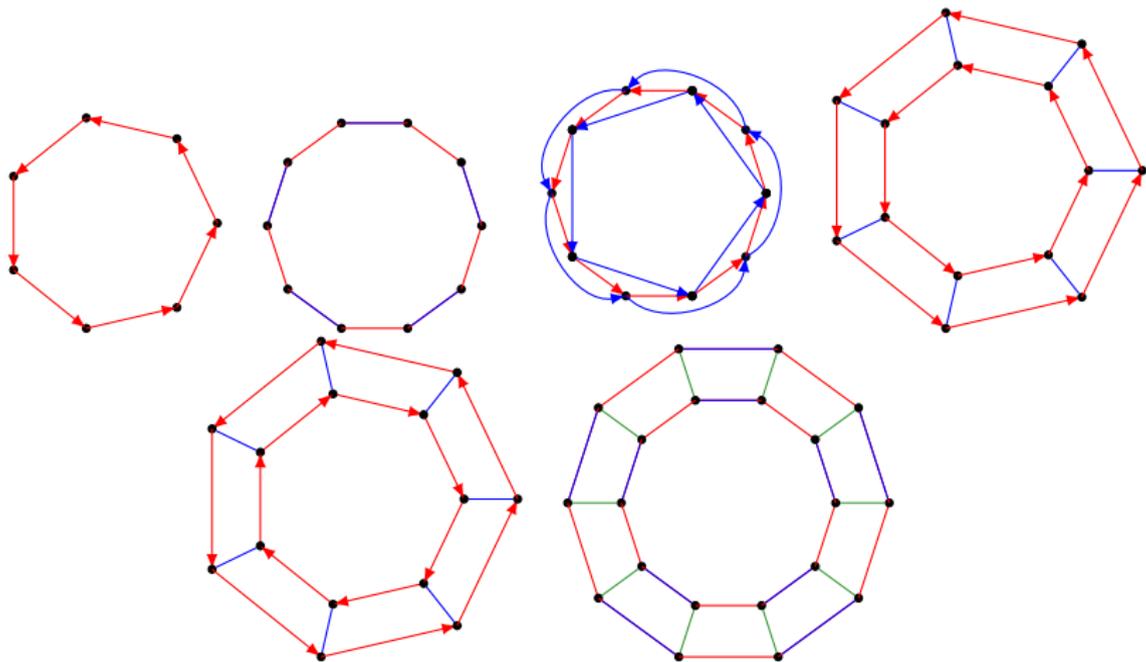
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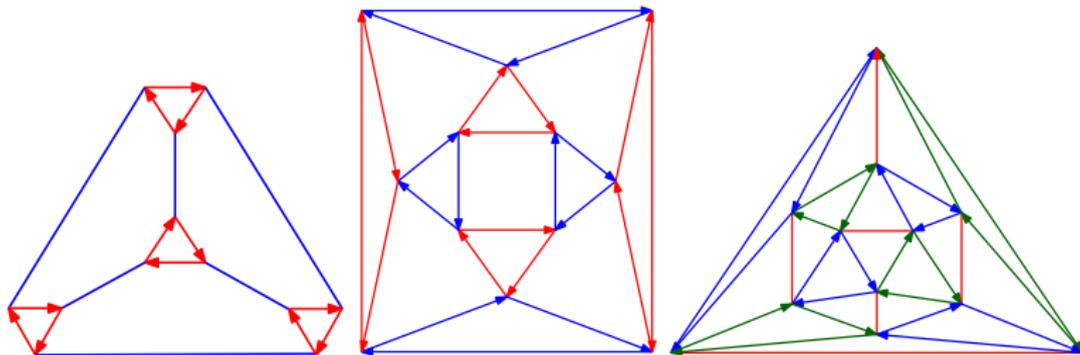
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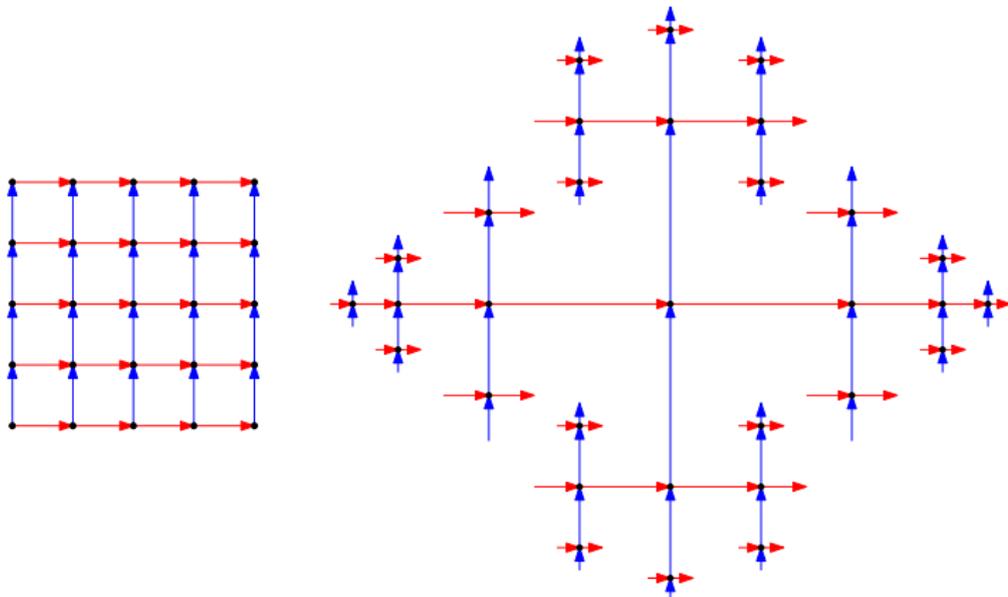


+ 15 others

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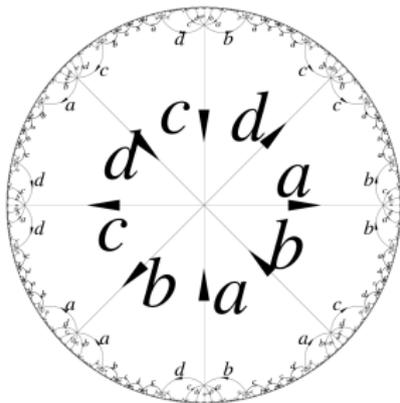


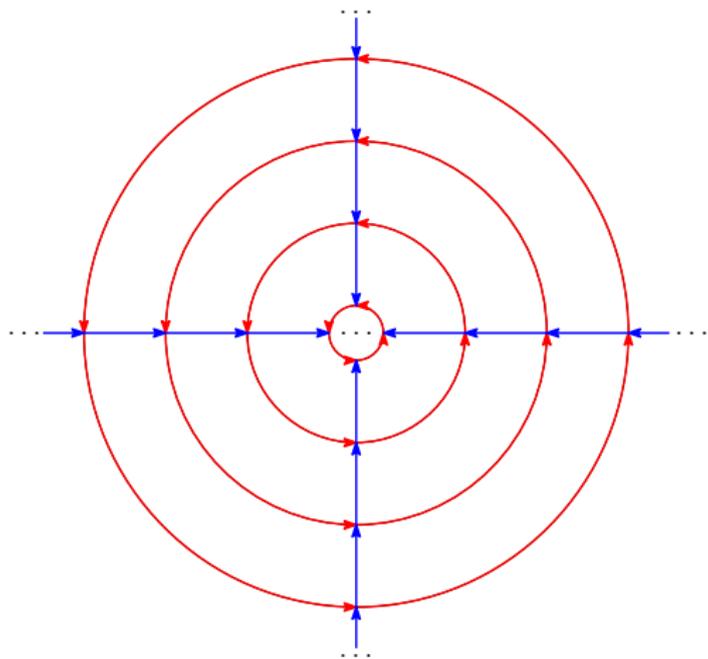
Image source: Yann Ollivier. A primer to geometric group theory.  
<http://www.yann-ollivier.org/maths/primer.php>

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# Domino Problem

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## Theorem

*The conjecture is true for planar groups.*

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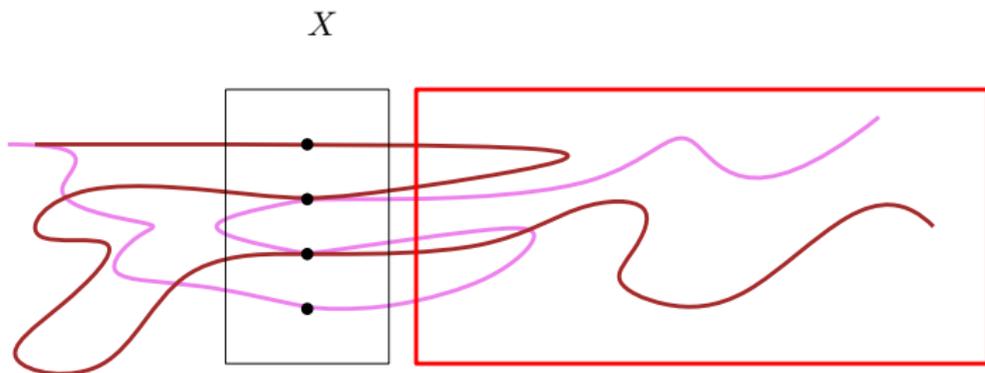
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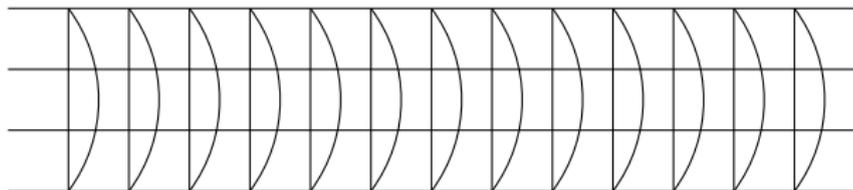
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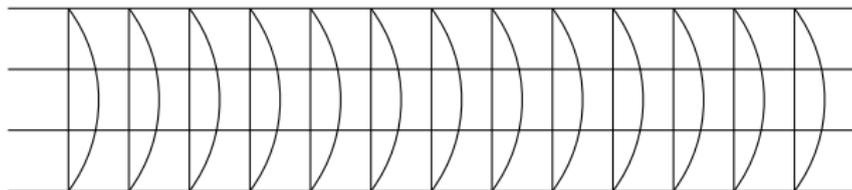
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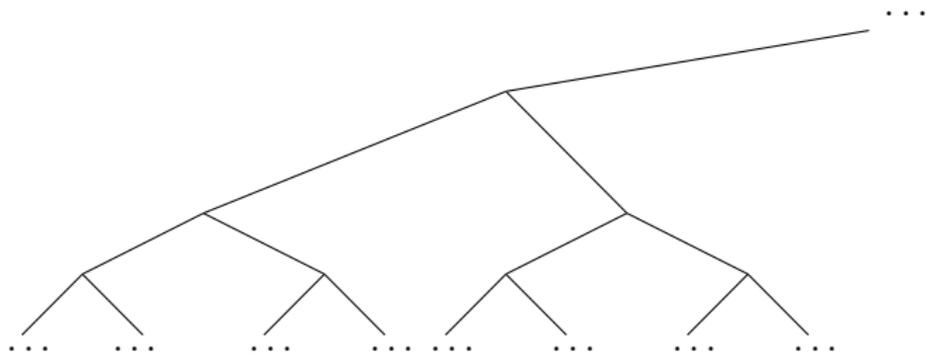
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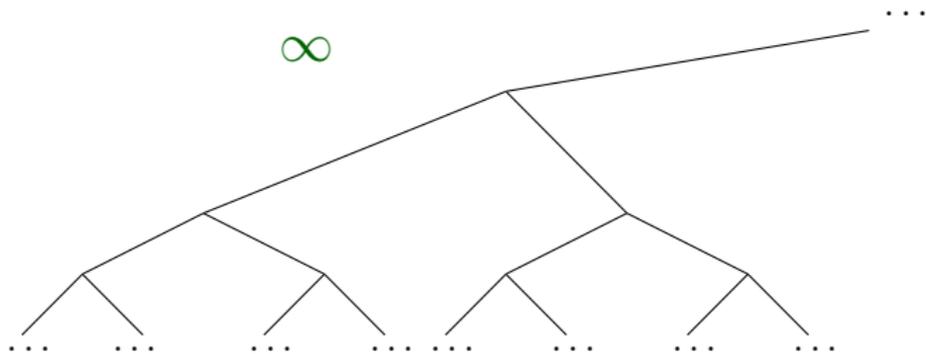
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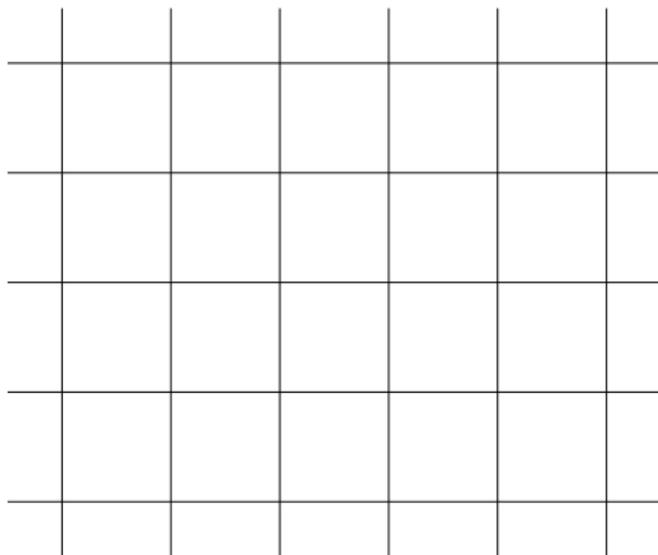
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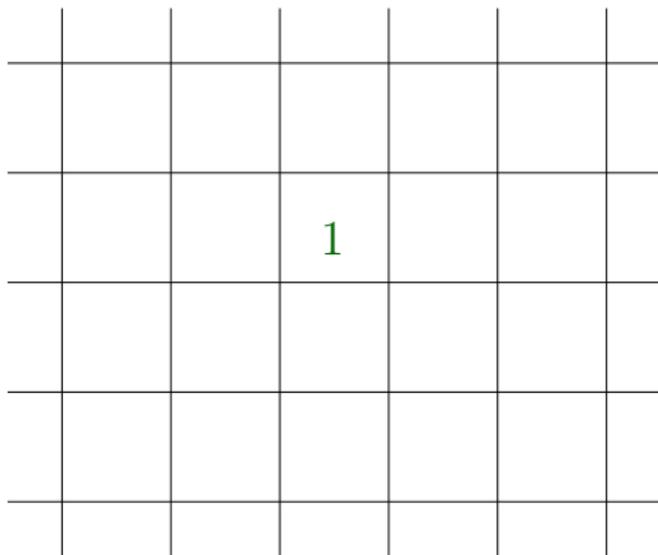
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Theorem (Hopf '43, Freudenthal, '44)

*A Cayley graph has either 0, 1, 2 or infinitely many ends.*

## One-ended planar groups

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*If a group  $\Gamma$  is planar with one end, then it contains the fundamental group of a surface as a subgroup of finite index.*

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*If a group  $\Gamma$  is planar with one end, then it contains the fundamental group of a surface as a subgroup of finite index.*

In particular, in such groups the Domino problem is undecidable.

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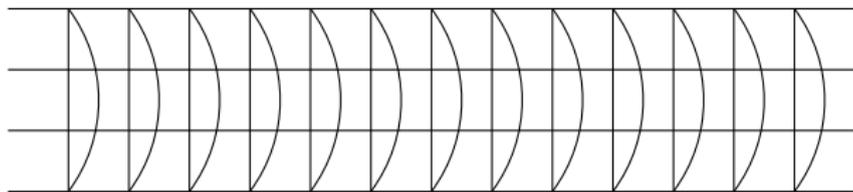
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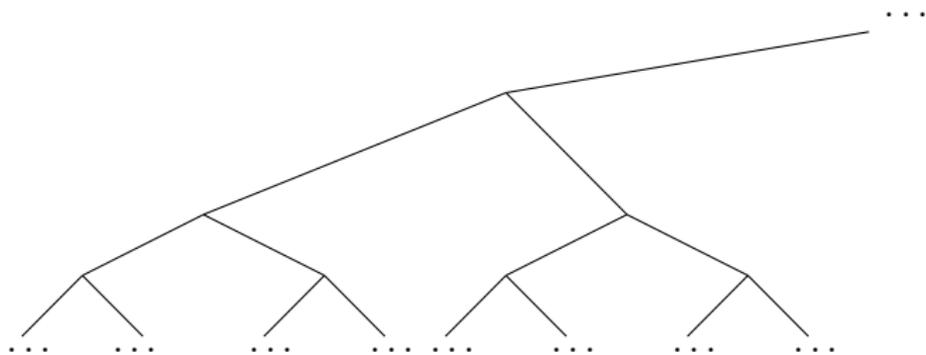


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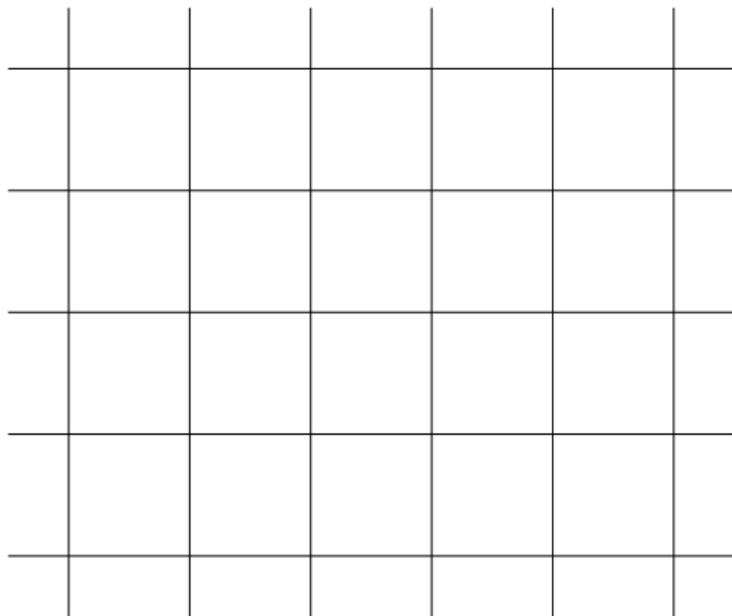


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Theorem (Bass-Serre theory)

*If  $\Gamma$  is accessible, then*

- either  $\Gamma$  is virtually free*
- or  $\Gamma$  contains a finitely generated subgroup with one end.*

# Minors

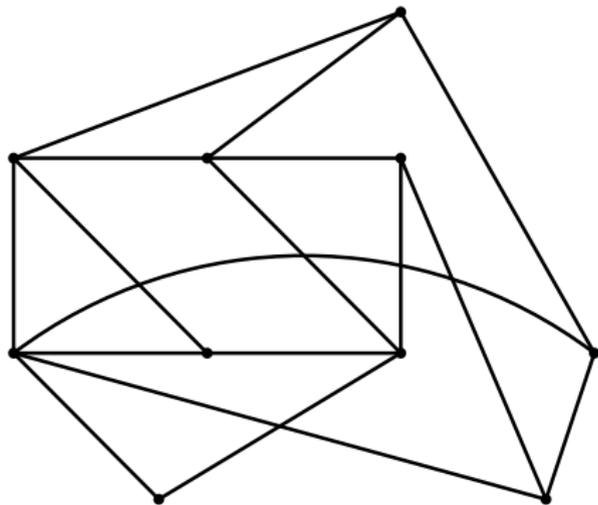
A graph  $H$  is a **minor** of  $G$  if  $H$  can be obtained from  $G$  after performing the following operations:

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- edge deletions;
- edge contractions.

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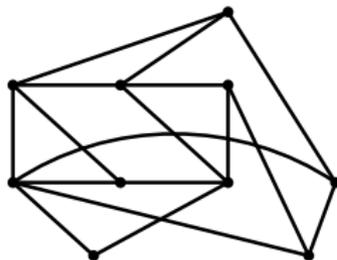
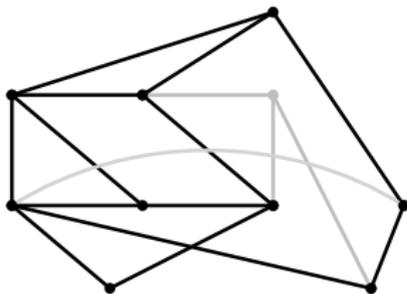
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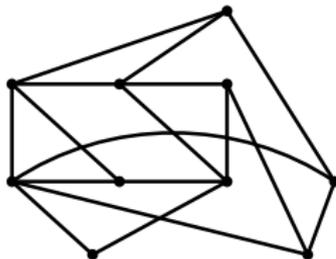
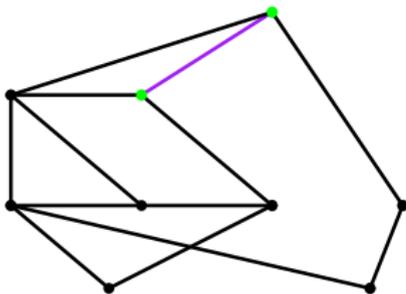
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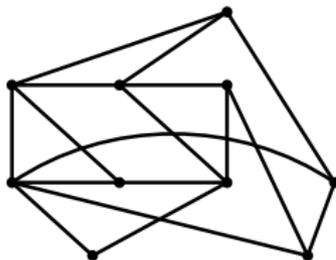
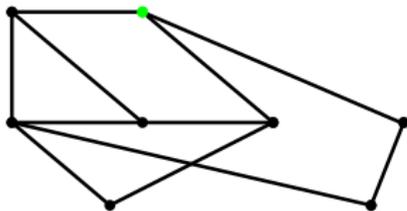
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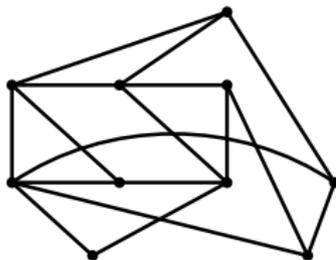
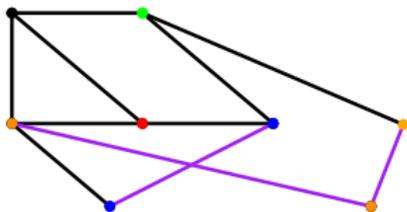
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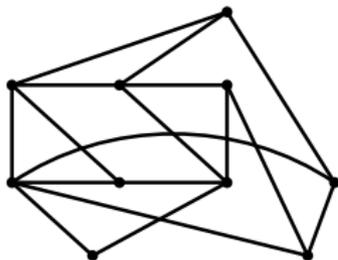
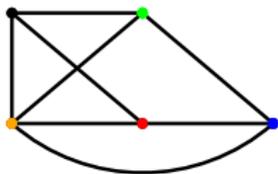
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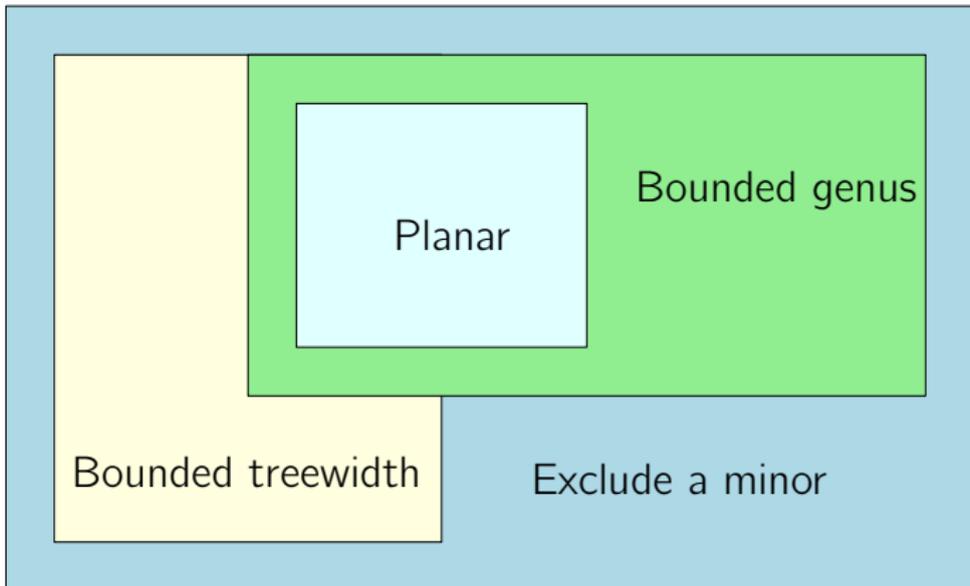
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Theorem (Esperet, G., Legrand-Duchesne, 2024)

*The Domino conjecture is true for planar groups and more generally for minor-excluding groups.*

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$G$ : (connected) graph, countable vertex set, locally finite.

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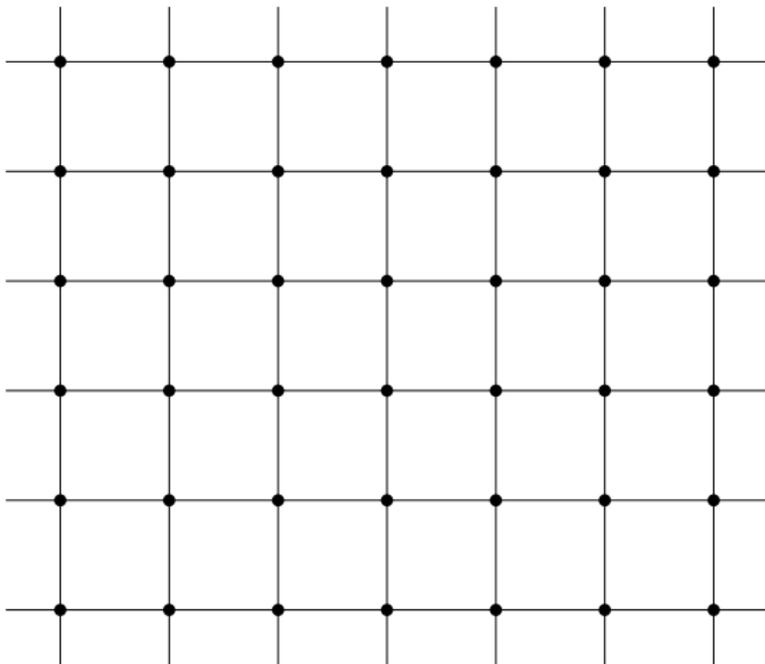
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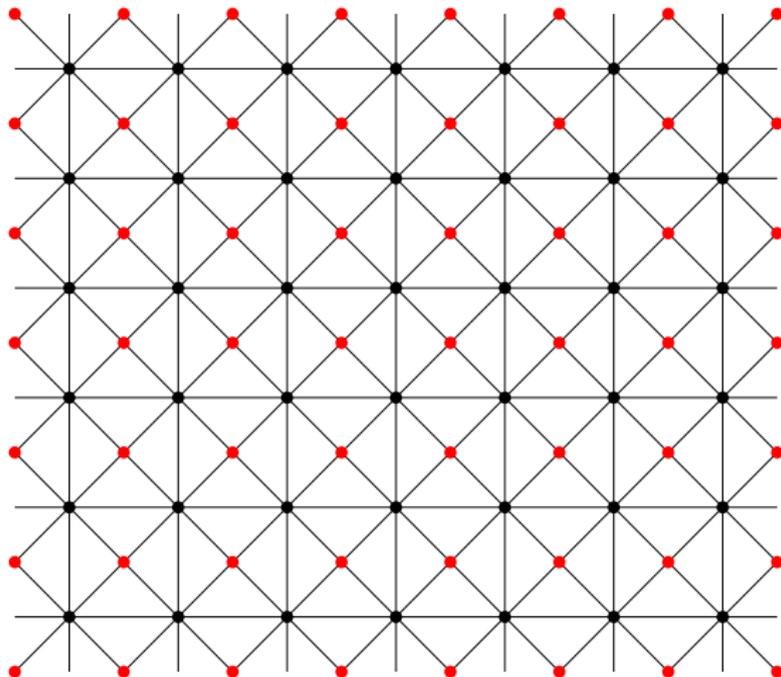
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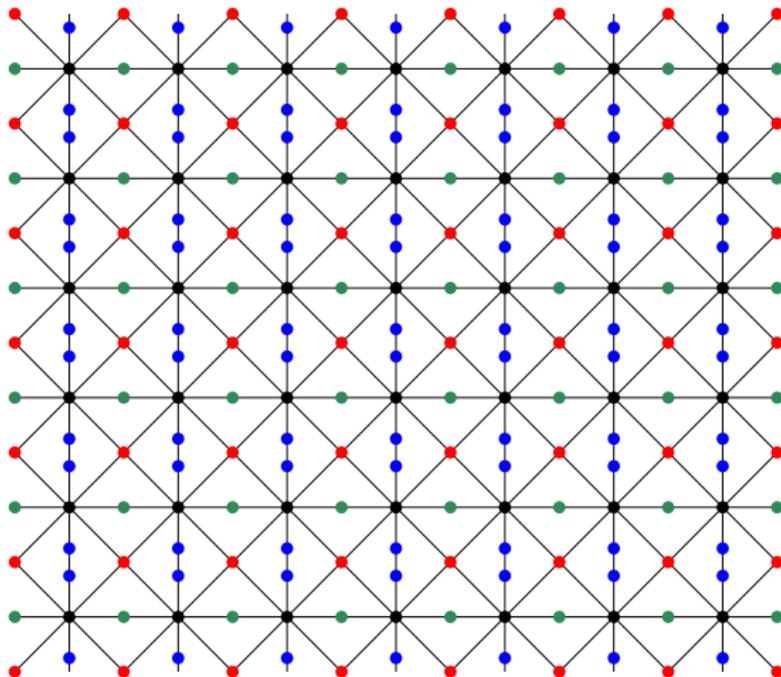
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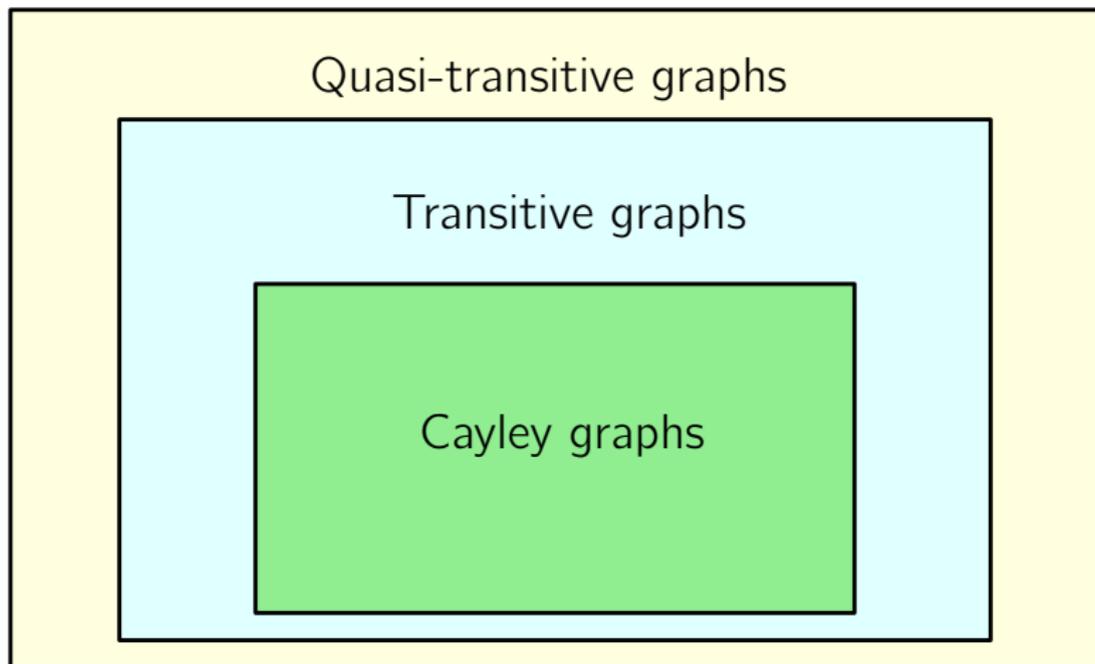
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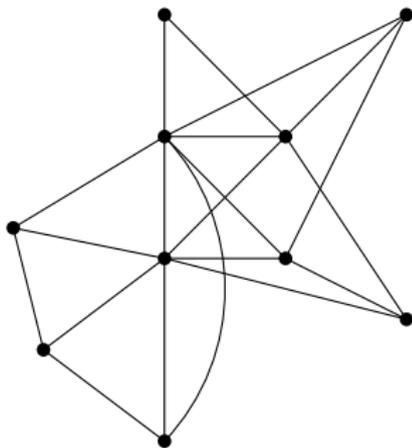
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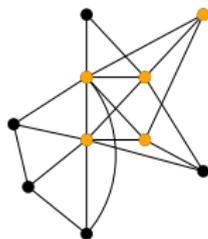
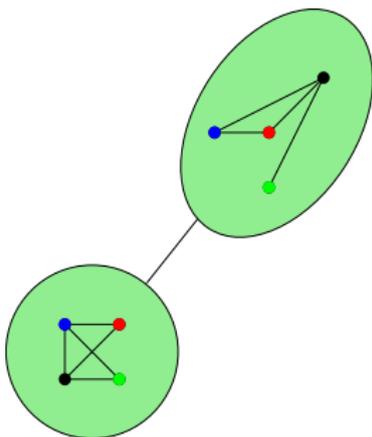
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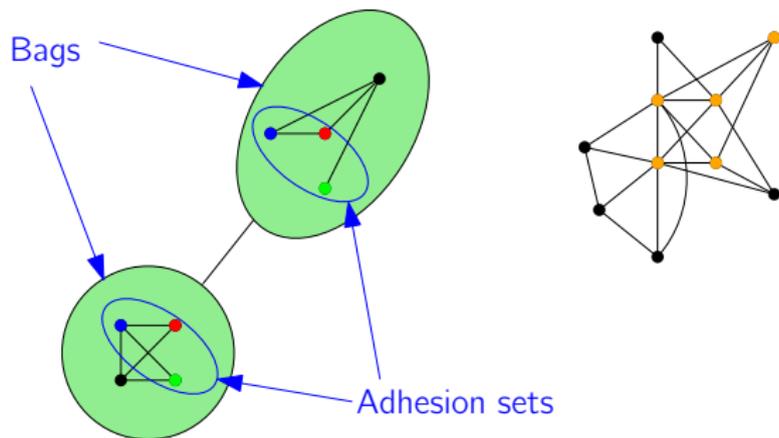
# Tree-decompositions



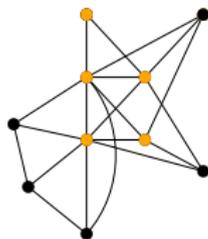
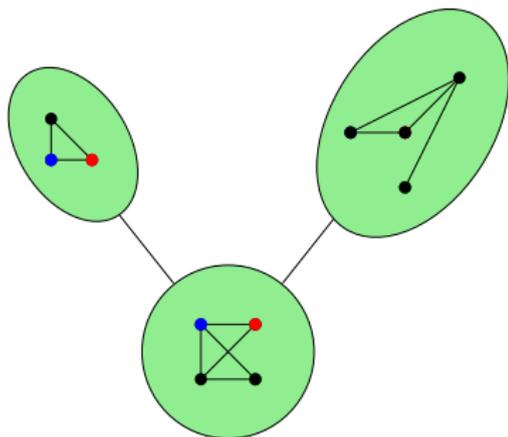
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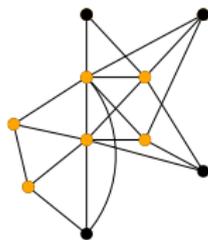
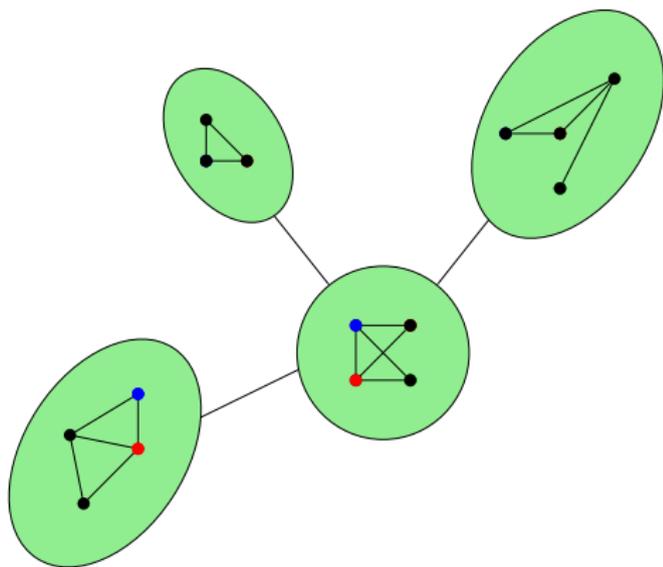
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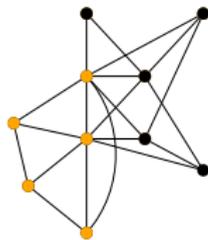
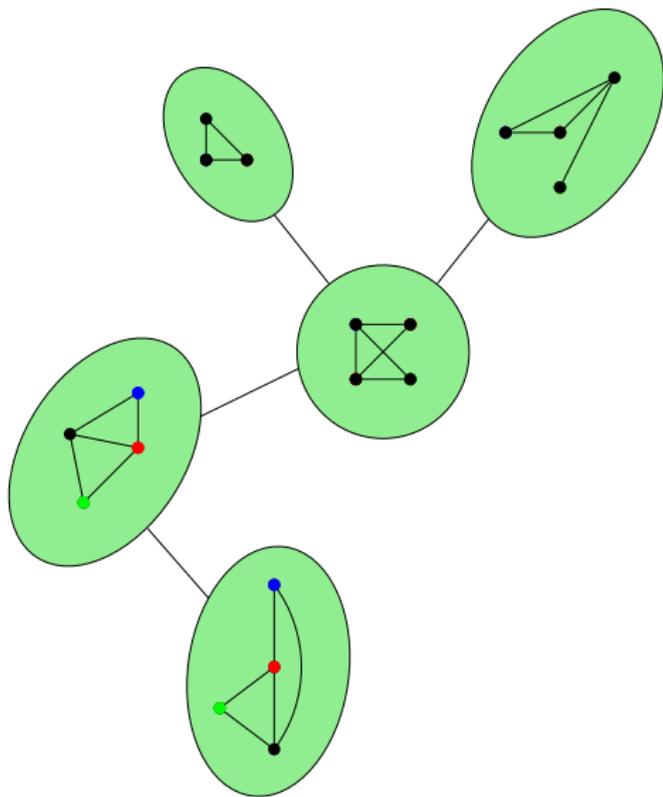
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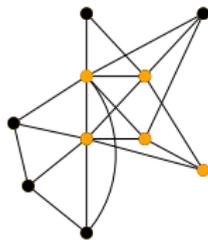
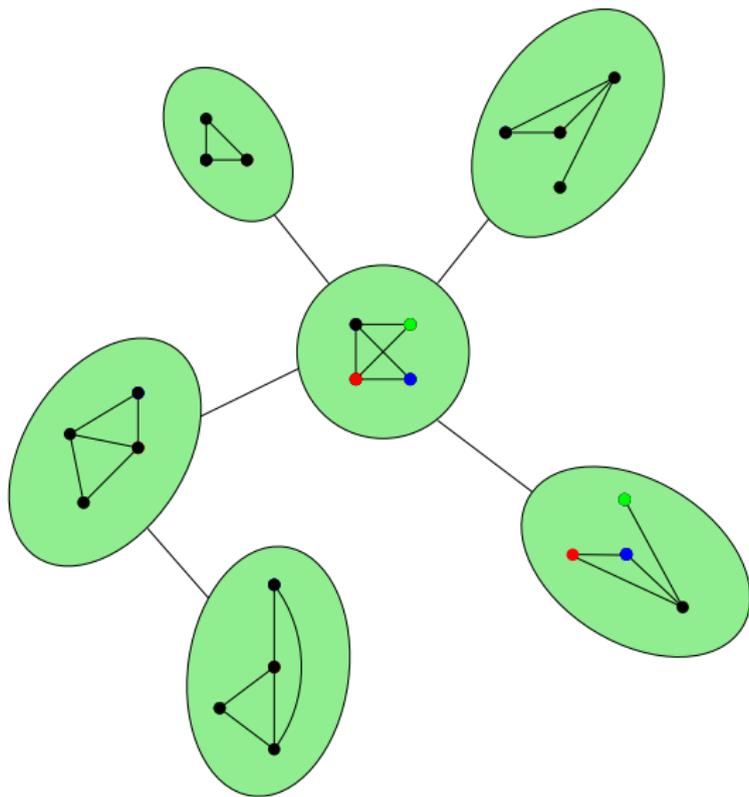
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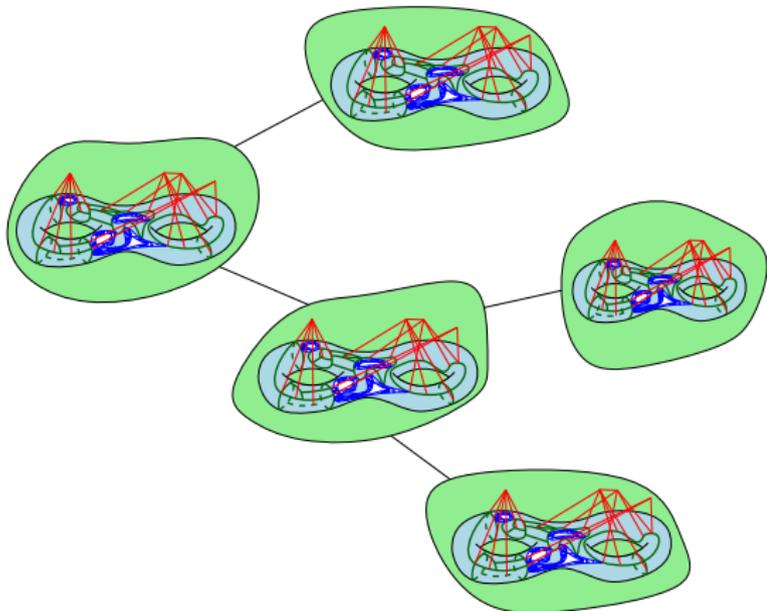


# Tree-decompositions



# Graph Minor Structure Theorem

- [Robertson, Seymour 2003] “If a finite graph  $G$  excludes some fixed minor  $H$ , then  $G$  has a tree-decomposition where each torso almost embeds in a surface of bounded genus.”



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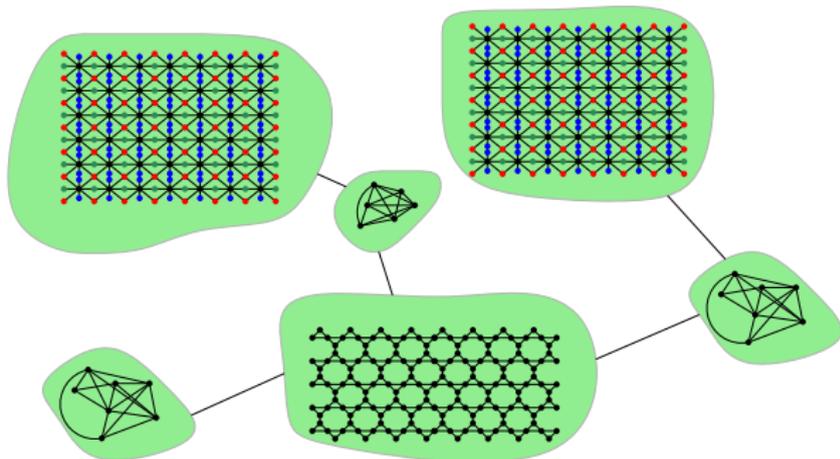
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→ None of these results are canonical.

# Minor excluded quasi-transitive graphs

Theorem (Esperet, G., Legrand-Duchesne 2023 (finite/planar))

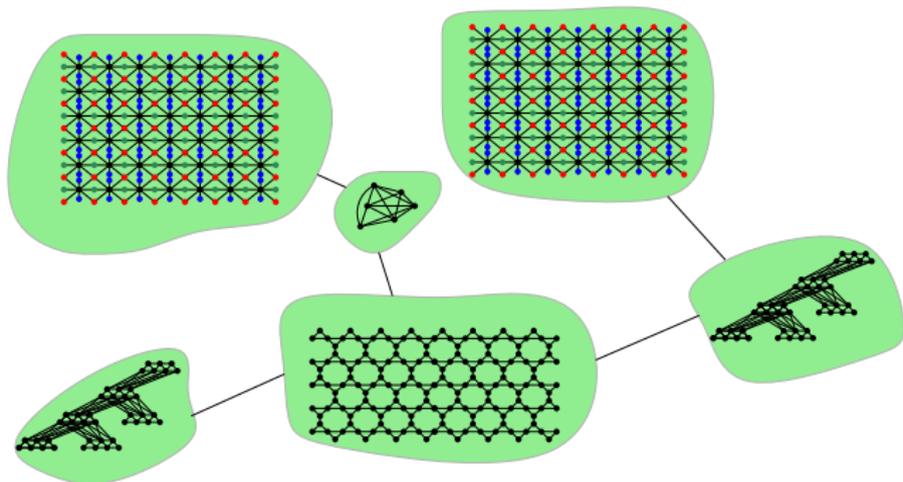
Let  $G$  be a quasi-transitive locally finite graph *excluding  $K_\infty$  as a minor*. Then there is an integer  $k$  such that  $G$  admits a *canonical tree-decomposition*  $(T, \mathcal{V})$ , of adhesion at most  $k$  whose torsos are either finite or quasi-transitive 3-connected planar minors of  $G$ .



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Theorem (Esperet, G., Legrand-Duchesne 2023 (finite treewidth/planar))

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### Corollary

If  $G$  is locally finite, quasi-transitive and has every finite graph as a minor, then it also has  $K_\infty$  as a minor.

Answers a question of Thomassen (1992), who proved it for *quasi-4-connected* graphs.

## Application: Finite presentability, Accessibility.

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*Every minor-excluding finitely generated group  $\Gamma$  is **accessible**.*

Combined with a result of Babai (1977), and Bass-Serre theory, it implies:

### Corollary

*If  $\Gamma$  is finitely generated, minor excluded, then*

- either  $\Gamma$  is virtually-free,*
- or  $\Gamma$  has a planar one-ended subgroup.*

- Prove results on groups by working in the more general world of quasi-transitive graphs.
- Key tool: canonicity (allows to do induction in the context of tree-decompositions).

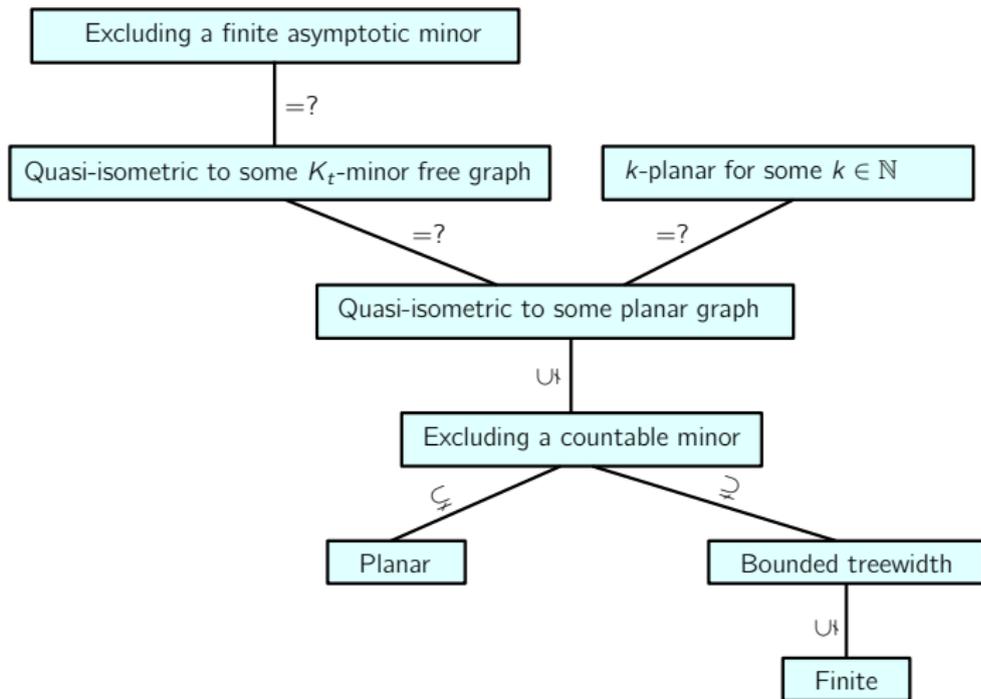
## Conclusion

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- Key tool: canonicity (allows to do induction in the context of tree-decompositions).

Questions:

- Analogous conjecture of Carroll and Penland (2015) on aperiodicity of tilings.
- Larger classes? Could **Coarse Graph Theory** help?

# Conclusion



Dziękuję bardzo!