#### On the Petersen Coloring Conjecture

Jelena Sedlar University of Split, Croatia

(joint work with Riste Škrekovski)

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3

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A **snark** is a bridgeless cubic graph *G* with  $\chi'(G) = 4$ .

The **Petersen graph**  $P_{10}$  is the smallest snark.













**Observation.** In a proper edge-coloring of a cubic graph G, the number of colors of e and its incident edges is 3, 4 or 5.



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**Petersen Coloring Conjecture (restatement).** If G is a bridgeless cubic graph, then G has a normal 5-edge-coloring.

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A superposition  $G(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$  is obtained from a snark G by replacing:

- each vertex v with a supervertex  $\mathcal{V}(v)$ ;
- each edge e with a superedge  $\mathcal{E}(e)$ ;

so that e and v are incident if and only if  $\mathcal{V}(v)$  and  $\mathcal{E}(e)$  are incident.

6/16

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We will consider superpositions by proper superedges  $H_{x,y}$  where H is:

- a hypohamiltonian snark;
- a Flower snark.

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8/16

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We use superedges  $H_{x,y}$ , where H is any snark and  $d(x, y) \ge 3$ .

Our aim is to **extend** a normal 5-edge-coloring of G to  $G(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ .



19-20 September 2024

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10 / 16

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10 / 16







**Theorem.** A superposition  $G(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$  has a normal 5-edge-coloring if  $H_{x,y}$  is **fully right**, i.e. it has a normal 5-edge-coloring compatible with all three color schemes below.

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A snark *H* is **hypohamiltonian** if  $H \setminus \{y\}$  contains Hamiltonian cycle for every  $y \in V(H)$ .



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**Proposition.** Flower snarks are hypohamiltonian.

**Observation.** There exists a superedge  $H_{x,y}$ , where H is a Flower snark, which is **<u>not</u>** fully right.

We approach superedges which are  $\underline{not}$  fully right by considering  $\underline{a \text{ pair}}$  of consecutive superedges as a whole.



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14 / 16

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**Proposition.** A superedge  $H_{x,y}$ , where H is a Flower snark and  $d(x, y) \ge 3$ , is both doubly right and doubly left.

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## Concluding remarks

Jelena Sedlar (University of Split) On the Petersen Coloring Conjecture 19-20 September 2024

2

16 / 16

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Thank you for the attention.