Spanning bipartite quadrangulations of even triangulations

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Abstract

A triangulation (resp., a quadrangulation) on a surface \( F \) is a map of a loopless graph on \( F \) with each face bounded by a closed walk of length three (resp., four). It is easy to see that every triangulation on any surface has a spanning quadrangulation. Kündgen and Thomassen [16] proved that every even triangulation \( G \) (i.e., each vertex has even degree) on the torus has a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation, and if \( G \) has sufficiently large edge width, then \( G \) also has a bipartite one. In this paper, we prove that an even triangulation \( G \) on the torus admits a spanning bipartite quadrangulation if and only if \( G \) does not have \( K_7 \) as a subgraph, and moreover, we give some other results for the problem.

Keywords. triangulation, quadrangulation, bipartite subgraph, locally planar graph

1 Introduction

A surface \( F \) is a connected compact 2-dimensional manifold without boundary. By the classification of surfaces, \( F \) is either an orientable surface of genus \( g \geq 0 \), denoted by \( S_g \), or a nonorientable surface of genus \( k > 0 \), denoted by \( N_k \). Note that \( S_0 \) is the sphere, \( N_1 \) is the projective plane and \( S_1 \) is the torus. A closed curve \( \gamma \) on \( F \) is essential if \( \gamma \) does not bound a 2-cell region on \( F \). Otherwise, \( \gamma \) is contractible.

Let \( G \) be a graph, and let \( V(G) \) and \( E(G) \) denote the vertex set and the edge set of \( G \), respectively. A \( k \)-cycle is a cycle of length \( k \), and a \( k \)-vertex is a vertex of degree \( k \). A vertex \( k \)-coloring is a map \( c: V(G) \to \{1, \ldots, k\} \), and \( c \) is proper if \( c(x) \neq c(y) \) for any \( xy \in E(G) \). The chromatic number of \( G \), denoted by \( \chi(G) \), is the minimum integer \( k \) such that \( G \) is \( k \)-colorable. An edge \( k \)-coloring \( c: E(G) \to \{1, \ldots, k\} \) is defined similarly to a vertex \( k \)-coloring. A graph is \( k \)-colorable if it admits a proper vertex \( k \)-coloring.

Let \( G \) be a map on a surface \( F \), that is, a 2-cell embedding of a loopless graph on \( F \). A cycle \( C \) (or a closed walk) of \( G \) is essential (resp., contractible) if \( C \) can be regarded as an essential (resp., contractible) closed curve on \( F \). The link of a vertex \( v \) of \( G \) is the boundary walk of the 2-cell region formed by all faces incident to \( v \). We define a triangulation as a map with each face bounded by a closed walk of length 3, and a quadrangulation as a map with each face bounded by a closed walk of length 4. The edge width of \( G \), denoted by \( \text{ew}(G) \), is the length of a shortest essential cycle in \( G \). A graph in which all vertices have even degree is even.

Let us begin with the following assertion:

**Proposition 1.** Every triangulation on any surface admits a spanning quadrangulation.
Since the dual map $G^*$ of a triangulation $G$ is easily verified to be a 2-edge-connected cubic graph, $G^*$ has a perfect matching $M^*$, by Petersen’s Theorem [26]. Translating this to $G$, we see that $G$ has a spanning quadrangulation $Q - M$, where $M \subset E(G)$ is the edge set corresponding to $M^*$.

Kündgen and Thomassen [16] asked whether the bipartiteness of $Q$ can be controlled in Proposition 1, that is, for a given triangulation $G$ on a surface $F$,

(i) does $G$ admit a spanning bipartite quadrangulation?

(ii) does $G$ admit a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation?

(iii) does $G$ admit both of them?

They proved the following result for even triangulations on the torus:

**Theorem 2** (Kündgen and Thomassen [16]). Let $G$ be an even triangulation on the torus. Then $G$ has a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation. Moreover, there exists an integer $N$ such that if the edge width of $G$ is at least $N$, then $G$ has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation.

In this paper, we characterize even triangulations on the torus having a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, as follows:

**Theorem 3.** An even triangulation $G$ on the torus has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation if and only if $G$ does not have $K_7$ as a subgraph.

Since any triangulation of the torus with $K_7$ as a subgraph has edge width exactly 3, Theorem 3 shows that $N = 4$ suffices in Theorem 2, and it is best possible.

We also give a proof to the following two theorems, by using some known results on colorings of graphs on surfaces. The former has been already proved by Kündgen and Thomassen [16], but our proof strategy is different (and shorter).

**Theorem 4** (Kündgen and Thomassen [16]). Let $G$ be an even triangulation on the projective plane. If $G$ is 3-chromatic, then every spanning quadrangulation of $G$ is bipartite. On the other hand, if $G$ is not 3-colorable, then $G$ has both a spanning bipartite quadrangulation and a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation.

**Theorem 5.** For any non-spherical surface $F$ other than the projective plane, there exists an integer $N(F)$ such that every even triangulation on $F$ with edge width at least $N(F)$ has both a spanning bipartite quadrangulation and a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation.

In Section 2, we introduce motivations to deal with the problem. In Section 3, we give a proof of Theorem 3. Finally, in Section 4, we give a proof of Theorems 4 and 5.

## 2 Motivation

In this section, we describe motivation of our research from several points of view.

1. **Spanning bipartite subgraphs.** For a given graph $G$, finding a subgraph $T$ of $G$ with certain properties seems to be interesting. One of the typical properties is the bipartiteness with the maximum number of edges. This problem was first considered by Erdős [6] and gave the result that every graph $G$ has a spanning bipartite subgraph $H$ with $|E(H)| \geq \frac{1}{2}|E(G)|$. So, if a triangulation $G$ on a surface $F$ has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation $Q$, then we have $|E(Q)| = \frac{3}{2}|E(G)|$, by Euler’s formula, which is much better than the general bound.
2. Perfect matchings of 3-regular maps. A spanning quadrangulation $Q$ in a triangulation $G$ corresponds to a perfect matching $M^*$ in the dual $G^*$ of $G$. More precisely, for a triangulation $G$, there is a bijection between the spanning quadrangulations in $G$ and the perfect matchings in $G^*$. It is known that the number of perfect matchings of a 2-edge-connected cubic graph $H$ is exponential in the order of $H$ [7]. Then because of the existence of such a huge number of perfect matchings, we expect that there exists a perfect matching of $G^*$ that corresponds to a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, and respectively a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation. Actually, this thought is true for many cases (see Theorems 2–5), but surprisingly false for a few cases, namely even triangulations on the torus containing $K_7$ as a subgraph (Theorem 3) and 3-chromatic even triangulations on the projective plane (Theorem 4).

3. Grünbaum colorings of triangulations. It is known that if a triangulation $G$ has a proper vertex 4-coloring $c: V(G) \to \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, then the decomposition

$$\{E_{1,2} \cup E_{3,4}, E_{1,3} \cup E_{2,4}, E_{1,4} \cup E_{2,3}\}$$

of $E(G)$ gives an edge 3-coloring $c_E$ of $G$ such that every face receives three distinct colors on their boundary edges, where $E_{i,j}$ denotes the set of $(i, j)$-edges for any distinct $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, i.e., ones whose ends are colored by colors $i$ and $j$. Such an edge 3-coloring of $G$ is a Grünbaum coloring [9]. (See related results [1, 15]). Note that a Grünbaum coloring of a triangulation $G$ can naturally be interpreted into a proper edge 3-coloring $c^*$ of the dual $G^*$ of $G$.

Hence, taking each color class of $c^*$ as a perfect matching of $G^*$, we have the following result:

**Proposition 6** (Kündgen and Thomassen [16]). Let $G$ be a triangulation on a surface $F$. Then $G$ has a proper vertex 4-coloring if and only if $G$ has a Grünbaum coloring such that any two colors induce a spanning bipartite quadrangulation of $G$.

Hence it seems to be an interesting problem to find a spanning “bipartite” quadrangulation in a non-4-colorable triangulation $G$.

4. Polychromatic colorings of graphs on surfaces. A polychromatic $k$-coloring of a map $G$ on a surface [2] is a vertex $k$-coloring $c$ (which is not necessarily proper) such that all $k$ colors appear in the boundary vertices of each face of $G$. The polychromatic number of a map $G$ is the maximum integer $k$ such that $G$ admits a polychromatic $k$-coloring. For several classes of maps, the polychromatic number are studied [10, 11, 14]. In particular, the authors of the present paper characterized quadrangulations on surfaces with polychromatic number 3 and 4, respectively [23, 24]. However, if we consider the problem for triangulations, then a triangulation with polychromatic number 3 is nothing but a 3-colorable triangulation, and hence an interesting problem for triangulations is to consider a polychromatic 2-coloring. For this problem, we see that the following holds:

**Proposition 7.** A triangulation $G$ on a surface $F$ has a polychromatic 2-coloring if and only if $G$ has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation.

The “if” part is obvious (since a bipartition can be a polychromatic 2-coloring), and the “only if” part is explained as follows: If $G$ has a polychromatic 2-coloring, then removing all edges whose ends have the same color, we get a spanning bipartite quadrangulation. On the other hand, Kündgen and Ramamurthi [17] presented the following conjecture: For every non-spherical surface $F$, there exists a constant $N = N(F)$ such that every triangulation on $F$ with edge width at least $N$ has a polychromatic 2-coloring. Theorem 5 will give the affirmative solution for even triangulations.

5. Quadrangulations extended to an even triangulation. Hoffmann and Kriegel [13] proved that every plane quadrangulation $G$ can be extended to an even triangulation by adding
a single edge to each face of $G$. After that, Zhang and He [29] enumerated the plane even triangulations obtained from a given plane quadrangulation, and gave a lower bound for the number of even triangulations obtained from a quadrangulation on orientable surfaces. For this problem, the authors of the present paper [22] completely gave the exact number for such even triangulations on all surfaces, orientable or nonorientable.

The problem in this paper on a quadrangulation $Q$ obtained from an even triangulation $G$ seems to be an inverse problem of the above-mentioned problem, and it will be meaningful to consider which property of $Q$ can be obtained from $G$. So we consider the bipartiteness of $Q$ in this paper.

3 The toroidal case

In this section, we prove Theorem 3. We first prove that Theorem 3 holds for all 6-regular maps on the torus in the following subsection, and then all even triangulations by using a generating theorem of them.

3.1 6-regular maps on the torus

In this subsection, we deal with 6-regular maps on the torus. A characterization of those maps was given by Altshuler [3], as follows:

Prepare a grid of $m$ rows and $n$ columns. We label the vertex on the $i$th row and the $j$th column by $(i, j)$. The 6-regular right-diagonal grid $G[m \times n]$ is the graph with vertex set $V = \{(i, j) | 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$, where the neighbors of $(i, j)$ are $(i - 1, j - 1), (i, j - 1), (i - 1, j), (i + 1, j), (i, j + 1), (i + 1, j + 1)$ with $(0, j) = (m, j), (m + 1, j) = (1, j), (i, 0) = (i, n)$ and $(i, n + 1) = (i, 1)$. It is obvious that $G[m \times n]$ is 6-regular and can be embedded on the torus. Let $1 \leq k \leq m$ be an integer. The 6-regular right-diagonal shifted grid $G[m \times n, k]$ is the twisted $G[m \times n]$, that is, the vertex $(i, n)$ is adjacent to $(i - k + 1, 1)$ and $(i - k + 2, 1)$ instead of $(i, 1)$ and $(i + 1, 1)$ for $i \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$. (See Figure 1. The top and the bottom, the left and the right are, respectively, identified.) Note that $G[m \times n]$ is the same as $G[m \times n, 1]$. It is obvious that for any positive integers $m, n$ and $1 \leq k \leq m$, $G[m \times n, k]$ is 6-regular and can be embedded on the torus.

Theorem 8. (Altshuler [3]) Every 6-regular map on the torus is isomorphic to a 6-regular right-diagonal shifted grid $G[m \times n, k]$ for some positive integers $m, n$ and $k$.

Figure 1: A 6-regular right-diagonal shifted grid $G[m \times n, k]$.

In addition, all 4-colorable 6-regular maps on the torus have been completely determined, as in the following theorem:
Theorem 9. ([5, 27]) Every 6-regular toroidal map is 4-colorable, with the following exceptions;

- \( G \in \{ G[3 \times 3, 2], G[3 \times 3, 3], G[5 \times 3, 2], G[5 \times 3, 3], G[5 \times 5, 3], G[5 \times 5, 4] \} \).
- \( G = G[p \times 2, 1] \) with \( p \) odd.
- \( G = G[p \times 1, r + 2] \) such that \( p = 2r + 2, 2r + 3, 3r + 1 \) or \( 3r + 2 \) and \( p \) is not divisible by 4.
- \( G = G[p \times 1, 4] \) such that \( p \) is not divisible by 4.
- \( G = G[p \times 1, r + 2] \) with \((r, p) \in \{ (3, 13), (3, 17), (3, 18), (3, 25), (4, 17), (6, 17), (6, 25), (6, 33), (7, 19), (7, 25), (7, 26), (9, 25), (10, 25), (10, 26), (10, 37), (14, 33) \} \).

Using Theorems 8 and 9, we prove the following:

Lemma 10. Every 6-regular triangulation on the torus has a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation. Every 6-regular triangulation on the torus, except for \( K_7 \), has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation.

Proof. Let \( G \) be a 6-regular triangulation. By Theorem 8, it is represented by \( G[m \times n, k] \).

Non-bipartite quadrangulations: If \( m \) is odd or \( n + k \) is even, we get a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation by deleting all diagonal edges of \( G \). Otherwise, we get a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation by deleting all but the first column diagonal edges and horizontal edges in the first column of \( G \).

Bipartite quadrangulations: Suppose that \( G \) is not isomorphic to \( K_7 \). If \( G \) is 4-colorable, then \( G \) has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, by Proposition 6. Otherwise, we only have to consider the exceptions in Theorem 9. We first consider the following three cases.

- \( n \) is even.
  We get a spanning bipartite quadrangulation by deleting all vertical edges of \( G \).

- \( n \) is odd, \( m \) is even, and \( k \) is odd.
  We get a spanning bipartite quadrangulation by deleting all horizontal edges of \( G \).

- \( n \) is odd, \( m \) is even, and \( k \) is even.
  We get a spanning bipartite quadrangulation by deleting all diagonal edges of \( G \).

Therefore we may assume that both \( n \) and \( m \) are odd. The remaining cases are listed below.

- \( (m, n, k) = (3, 3, 2), (3, 3, 3), (5, 3, 2), (5, 3, 3), (5, 5, 3) \) or \((5, 5, 4)\).
  See Figure 7 in Appendix.

- \( n = 1 \) and \( k \) is odd.
  See the left side of Figure 8 in Appendix.

- \( (m, n, k) = (2r + 3, 1, r + 2) \) or \((3r + 1, 1, r + 2)\) for some even integer \( r \).
  If \( r = 2 \), both are \( K_7 \). Otherwise, see the middle and the right side of Figure 8 in Appendix.

- \( (m, n, k) = (m, 1, 4) \) for some odd integer \( m \).
  Let \( m \geq 5 \) be an odd integer represented by \( 4l + c \), where \( c \) is 1 or 3.
  - If \( c = 1 \), then let \( X = \{ 4i + 2, 4i + 3 | 0 \leq i \leq l - 1 \} \cup \{ 1 \} \) and \( Y = \{ 4i, 4i + 1 | 1 \leq i \leq l \} \).
    We can take a spanning quadrangulation so that its bipartition is \( X \) and \( Y \).
  - If \( m = 7 \) (so \( c = 3 \) and \( l = 1 \)), then \( G \) is isomorphic to \( K_7 \).
If \( c = 3 \) and \( l \geq 2 \), then let \( X = \{ 4i, 4i + 1 | 2 \leq i \leq l \} \cup \{ 1, 2, 3, 7 \} \) and \( Y = \{ 4i + 2, 4i + 3 | 2 \leq i \leq l \} \cup \{ 4, 5, 6 \} \). We can take a spanning quadrangulation so that its bipartition is \( X \) and \( Y \).

- \((m, n, k) = (17, 1, 6), (17, 1, 8), (25, 1, 8), (33, 1, 8), (25, 1, 12), (37, 1, 12) \) or \((33, 1, 16)\).

It is easy to see that \( G[25 \times 1, 12] \) is isomorphic to \( G[5 \times 5, 3] \) and that \( G[33 \times 1, 16] \) is isomorphic to \( G[11 \times 3, 10] \). Then see Figure 9 in Appendix, and see Figure 10 for other cases.

Hence the proof is completed. \( \square \)

### 3.2 A generating theorem for even triangulations on the torus

Let \( G \) be an even triangulation on a surface \( \mathbb{F} \) and let \( v \) be a 4-vertex in \( G \) with link \( v_1v_2v_3v_4 \). A 4-contraction of \( v \) at \( \{ v_1, v_3 \} \) is to remove \( v \), identify \( v_1 \) and \( v_3 \), and replace two pairs of double edges by two single edges, respectively. The inverse operation of a 4-contraction is a 4-splitting. (See the left side of Figure 2.) Let \( w \) be a 2-vertex in \( G \) and let \( w_1 \) and \( w_2 \) be the neighbors of \( w \). A 2-vertex removal of \( w \) is to remove \( w \) and identify the two edges \( w_1w_2 \) which bound the two faces incident to \( w \). The inverse operation of a 2-vertex removal is a 2-vertex addition. (See the right side of Figure 2.)

The following theorem is a generating theorem for even triangulations on the torus, which describes how to generate them.

**Theorem 11.** (Matsumoto et al. [18]) Every even triangulation on the torus can be obtained from one of the 27 maps in Figure 3 or a 6-regular triangulation by a sequence of 4-splittings and 2-vertex additions.

![Figure 2: A 4-splitting and a 2-vertex addition.](image)

The existence of spanning bipartite quadrangulations in even triangulations can be preserved by the two operations, as described in the following lemma.

**Lemma 12.** Let \( G \) be an even triangulation on a surface \( \mathbb{F} \), and let \( G' \) be an even triangulation on \( \mathbb{F} \) obtained from \( G \) by either a 4-splitting or a 2-vertex addition. If \( G \) has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, then so does \( G' \). If \( G \) has a non-bipartite one, then so does \( G' \).

**Proof.** Let \( Q \) be a spanning quadrangulation of \( G \) and let \( M = E(G) \setminus E(Q) \). We define the edge set \( M' \subset E(G') \) such that \( Q' = G' - M' \) is a spanning quadrangulation, as follows.

Suppose first that \( G' \) is obtained from \( G \) by a 4-splitting of a vertex \( v \) in \( G \). Let \( v_1v_2v_3v_4 \) be the link of the new vertex \( v' \) in \( G' \) such that the 4-contraction of \( v' \) at \( \{ v_2, v_3 \} \) yields \( G \). By symmetry, we may assume that one of the following holds, and in each case, define the edge set \( M' \) as follows:

- \( vv_1, vv_3 \notin M \). Then let \( M' = M \cup \{ v'v_1, v'v_3 \} \).
Figure 3: The 27 even triangulations on the torus, where in each map, the top and the bottom, the left and the right are, respectively, identified.

- $v_1 v \notin M$ and $v v_3 \in M$. Then let $M' = (M \setminus \{v v_3\}) \cup \{v' v_1, v_2 v_3, v_3 v_4\}$.
- $v v_1, v v_3 \in M$. Then let $M' = (M \setminus \{v v_1, v v_3\}) \cup \{v_1 v_2, v_2 v_3, v_3 v_4, v_4 v_1\}$.

Next suppose that $G'$ is obtained from $G$ by a 2-vertex addition in $G$. Let $v_1 v_2$ be the neighbors of the new vertex $v'$ in $G'$, and let $e_1, e_2$ be the two multiple edges forming the link of $v'$. Then one of the following holds, and in each case, define $M'$ as follows:

- $v_1 v_2 \notin M$. Then let $M' = M \cup \{v' v_1\}$.
- $v_1 v_2 \in M$. Then let $M' = (M \setminus \{v_1 v_2\}) \cup \{e_1, e_2\}$.

In this way, we can construct a spanning quadrangulation $Q' = G' - M'$ in $G'$ from $Q$ in $G$. It is easy to see that the bipartiteness is preserved in the process to obtain $Q'$ from $Q$.

**Lemma 13.** All even triangulations shown in Figure 3 have both a spanning bipartite quadrangulation and a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation.

**Proof.** See Figures 5 and 6 in Appendix.

By using the reductions (4-contractions and 2-vertex removals), we obtain another proof of the first assertion in Theorem 2, that is, every even triangulation on the torus has a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation; First, all “minimal” even triangulations (the 27 ones in Figure 3 and 6-regular ones) have it, as shown in Lemmas 10 and 13. Then by Theorem 11, all other even triangulations can be constructed from them by a sequence of 4-splittings and 2-vertex additions, through which the existence of a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation is preserved by Lemma 12.

### 3.3 Lemmas for the proof of Theorem 3

Before proceeding to a proof of Theorem 3, we put two more lemmas and their proofs in this subsection.
**Lemma 14.** Let $G$ be an even triangulation on a surface $\mathcal{F}$. Then for any vertex 2-coloring $c : V(G) \to \{1, 2\}$, $G$ has an even number of monochromatic faces (i.e., a face receiving only one color on their boundary vertices).

*Proof.* We first consider the case when all vertices are colored by 1. Since $|F(G)| = \frac{2}{3}|E(G)|$, we have that $|F(G)|$ is even, and the number of monochromatic faces is also even. Secondly, we switch the color of a vertex $x$ with link $v_1 \cdots v_k$, where $k = \deg_G(x)$. Since $k$ is even, the number of monochromatic edges in the link is even. Then the parity of the number of monochromatic faces does not change after switching the color of $x$. So the lemma follows.

**Lemma 15.** Let $G$ be an even triangulation on a surface $\mathcal{F}$ and let $C = uvw$ be a contractible 3-cycle in $G$ which does not bound a face. Then the plane triangulation $H$ consisting of $C$ and the vertices and edges in the interior of $C$ is even.

*Proof.* If $H$ has an odd degree vertex, then it coincides with one of $u, v$ or $w$, since each inner vertex of $H$ must have an even degree. Since the number of odd vertices is even, they must be consecutive two vertices on $C$. However, it is known [8] that there is no plane triangulation with two adjacent vertices of odd degree and all other vertices of even degree, a contradiction. Therefore, $H$ must be even. □

### 3.4 Proof of Theorem 3

*Proof of Theorem 3.* We show the “only if” part. First, suppose $G = K_7$. Since the number of faces of $K_7$ is 14, we can delete exactly seven edges to obtain a spanning quadrangulation $Q$, and hence $|E(Q)| = 21 - 7 = 14$. If $Q$ is bipartite, then $Q$ is a spanning subgraph of one of the complete bipartite graphs $K_{3,4}, K_{2,5}$ and $K_{1,6}$ with seven vertices. However, they have at most 12 edges and hence this case does not happen. Therefore $Q$ is non-bipartite.

Secondly suppose that $G$ contains $K_7$ as a subgraph. If $G$ has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, then $G$ admits a polychromatic 2-coloring $c$, by Proposition 7. By Lemmas 14 and 15, every contractible 3-cycle receives both two colors. (For otherwise, i.e., if a 3-cycle $C$ bounding a 2-cell region $R$ receives only one color in its boundary vertices, then the plane even triangulation induced by $V(C)$ and all inner vertices in $R$ has at least one monochromatic face, except the outer face. Hence $c$ is not a polychromatic 2-coloring, a contradiction.) Hence $c$ gives a polychromatic 2-coloring of $K_7$, but this contradicts the first case.

Then we next show the “if” part. Suppose that $G$ does not contain $K_7$ as a subgraph. If $G$ has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, then we are done. So let $G$ be a counterexample of the assertion, that is, $G$ is an even triangulation on the torus which does not contain $K_7$ as a subgraph, but has no spanning bipartite quadrangulation. Moreover, we suppose that $G$ has the smallest number of vertices among all such counterexamples.

Observe that $G \neq K_7$ by the assumption, and that $G$ is not isomorphic to any one of the 27 triangulations shown in Figure 3 nor $G$ is not 6-regular, by Lemmas 10 and 13, since $G$ is a counterexample of the assertion. Hence, by Theorem 11, we can apply either a 4-contraction or a 2-vertex removal to obtain a smaller even triangulation $G'$. If $G'$ does not have $K_7$ as a subgraph, then $G'$ has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, by the minimality of $G$. Hence, by Lemma 12, $G$ also has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, a contradiction. Therefore we may suppose that $G'$ has $K_7$ as a subgraph. Observe that $G$ is obtained from $G'$ by a 4-splitting, since a 2-vertex addition preserves the existence of $K_7$ as a subgraph.

If $G' = K_7$, then $G$ is isomorphic to the triangulation $X$, which is shown in Figure 4. However, the figure shows a polychromatic 2-coloring of $G$, and hence has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, by Proposition 7. This contradicts that $G$ is a counterexample.
Now suppose that $G'$ has $K_7$ as a subgraph but has at least eight vertices. Let $v'$ be a 4-vertex of $G$ where we applied a 4-contraction, and let $e_1 = uv$ and $e_2 = vw$ be the edges of $G'$ obtained by a 4-contraction. If both $e_1$ and $e_2$ are contained in $K_7 \subset G'$, then $G$ has the map $X$ as a subgraph. Hence we may suppose that at least one of $e_1$ and $e_2$, say $e_1$, does not belong to $K_7$. In this case, since $u$ is not contained in $K_7$, the identification of $u$ and $w$ by a 4-contraction of $v'$ makes no loop. Hence we can apply a 4-contraction of $v'$ at $\{u, w\}$ to get another even triangulation, say $G''$. Note that the embedding of $K_7$ on the torus is uniquely represented by $G[7 \times 1, 4]$. (For example, see [25].) Then it is not difficult to see that $G''$ does not contain $K_7$ as a subgraph. Since $|V(G'')| < |V(G)|$, $G''$ satisfies the assertion, by the minimality of $G$. Hence $G$ has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation, by Lemma 12, a contradiction.

Therefore, such a counterexample does not exist, and we are done. \[\square\]

4 Proofs of Theorems 4 and 5

In this section, we prove Theorems 4 and 5. For proving them, the notions “face subdivision” and “color factor” play important roles.

An even embedding on a surface $F$ is a map such that each face is bounded by a closed walk of even length. Put a new vertex in each face of an even embedding $H$ and join it to all vertices on the corresponding facial walk. Then we see that the resulting map $G$ on $F$ is an even triangulation on $F$, which is the face subdivision of $H$ and denoted by $G = FS(H)$. The vertex set $U = V(G) \setminus V(H)$ is the color factor of $G$.

**Theorem 16.** The following results hold:

(i) Every non-bipartite quadrangulation on the projective plane is 4-chromatic [28].

(ii) Every even triangulation $G$ on the projective plane is the face subdivision of some even embedding $H$. Moreover, $\chi(G) \geq 4$ if and only if $H$ is non-bipartite. Such an even embedding $H$ is uniquely taken in $G$. [19]

(iii) For any non-spherical surface $F$, there exists an integer $N(F)$ such that

- if $F$ is orientable, then every even triangulation $G$ on $F$ with $ew(G) \geq N(F)$ is 4-colorable. [12]
if \( \mathcal{F} \) is nonorientable, then every even triangulation \( G \) on \( \mathcal{F} \) with \( \text{ew}(G) \geq N(\mathcal{F}) \) is 5-colorable. In particular, \( G \) is 5-chromatic if and only if \( G \) is the face subdivision of some even embedding \( H \) including a 4-chromatic quadrangulation \( H' \) as a subgraph. \([4, 20]\]

Proof of Theorem 4. Let \( G \) be an even triangulation on the projective plane. Suppose that a spanning quadrangulation \( Q \) is non-bipartite. By Theorem 16(i), \( Q \) is not 3-colorable. Then \( G \) is not 3-colorable either. This shows the first assertion of Theorem 4.

Suppose that \( G \) is not 3-colorable. By Theorem 16(ii), \( G \) is the face subdivision of some non-bipartite even embedding \( H \) with color factor \( U \). Then we see that \( G - E(H) \) is a spanning bipartite quadrangulation with bipartition \( U \) and \( V(H) \). Furthermore, we obtain a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation of \( G \) by deleting every other edge of \( G \) incident to each vertex \( v \) in \( U \), since \( H \) is non-bipartite.

Before proceeding to the proof of Theorem 5, we note that the assumption for the edge width in the theorem cannot be omitted in general for a spanning bipartite quadrangulation. Let \( G \) be an even triangulation on a surface \( \mathcal{F} \) containing \( K_m \) as a triangular embedding for some odd integer \( m \geq 5 \), where the Euler characteristic \( \chi(\mathcal{F}) \) of \( \mathcal{F} \) and the integer \( m \) must satisfy the equation \( m^2 - 7m + 6\chi(\mathcal{F}) = 0 \). Similarly to \( K_7 \) in Theorem 3, we see that \( G \) has edge width exactly 3 and admits no spanning bipartite quadrangulation, as in the following. Therefore we must have \( N(\mathcal{F}) \geq 4 \) in Theorem 5.

If \( G = K_m \), then \( |E(G)| = \frac{1}{2}m(m - 1) \). If \( G \) has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation \( B \), then we have

\[
|E(B)| = \frac{2}{3}|E(G)| = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{m(m - 1)}{2} = \frac{1}{3}m(m - 1).
\]

Since \( B \) is bipartite, \( B \) is a spanning subgraph of some complete bipartite graph of \( m \) vertices, which is isomorphic to \( K_{m_1,m_2} \) with \( m_1 + m_2 = m \) and satisfies \( |E(K_{m_1,m_2})| = m_1m_2 \). Hence

\[
|E(B)| \leq \max\{m_1m_2 : m_1 + m_2 = m\} \leq \frac{1}{4}m^2,
\]

and consequently we have

\[
\frac{1}{3}m(m - 1) \leq \frac{1}{4}m^2,
\]

which is however impossible when \( m \geq 5 \). Also in the case when \( G \) contains a triangular embedding of \( K_m \) as a proper subgraph, we can do similarly as in the proof of Theorem 3.

Now we prove Theorem 5.

Proof of Theorem 5. Let \( \mathcal{F} \) be a non-spherical surface other than the projective plane, let \( N(\mathcal{F}) \) be the integer as in Theorem 16(iii), and let \( G \) be an even triangulation on \( \mathcal{F} \). We prove the existence of a spanning bipartite quadrangulation and that of a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation in \( G \) separately.

**Bipartite quadrangulations:** If \( \chi(G) \leq 4 \), then Proposition 6 implies that \( G \) has a spanning bipartite quadrangulation. Otherwise, by Theorems 16(iii), the surface is nonorientable, and \( G \) is the face subdivision of some non-bipartite even embedding \( H \) with color factor \( U \). Then \( G - E(H) \) is a spanning bipartite quadrangulation with bipartition \( U \) and \( V(H) \).

**Non-bipartite quadrangulations:** Suppose first that \( G \) is 5-chromatic. By Theorem 16(iii), \( G = F\mathcal{S}(H) \) for some non-bipartite even embedding \( H \). Then \( H \) can be extended to a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation of \( G \) by adding every other edge incident to each vertex in the color factor \( U \).
Suppose next that \( G \) is 4-colorable. We first consider the case when \( F \) is an orientable surface. It was implicitly proved in [12] that if the edge width of \( G \) is large enough, then \( G \) has four disjoint homotopic non-separating cycles \( D_1, \ldots, D_4 \) lying in this order on the surface satisfying the following:

(i) The annulus triangulation \( A = A[D_1, D_4] \) of \( G \) bounded by \( D_1 \) and \( D_4 \) is 3-colorable, where an annulus triangulation bounded by \( D \) and \( D' \) is a plane graph in which all but the two faces \( D \) and \( D' \) are triangular.

(ii) Any proper vertex 3-coloring of \( A \) can be extended to a proper vertex 4-coloring of \( G \).

Hence \( G \) has a proper vertex 4-coloring \( c : V(G) \to \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \) such that the vertices of \( A \) are 3-colored by \( c \) with the colors 1, 2 and 3. An \((i, j)\)-edge in \( G \) is an edge whose ends are colored by \( i \) and \( j \) by \( c \), and an \((i, j)\)-cycle (or an \((i, j)\)-closed walk) is one consisting only of \((i, j)\)-edges.

Let \( A[D_i, D_j] \) be the annulus triangulation of \( G \) bounded by \( D_i \) and \( D_j \) for \( 1 \leq i < j \leq 4 \). A face path \( W = f_0f_1 \cdots f_k \) is a sequence of faces \( f_0, \ldots, f_k \) of \( G \) such that for each \( i \), the faces \( f_i \) and \( f_{i+1} \) share a single edge. When \( f_0 = f_k \), \( W \) is a face cycle. In \( W \), an edge shared by two adjacent faces is an inner edge of \( W \), and others outer edges.

Let \( D_2 = u_1 \cdots u_t \). We modify \( D_2 \) into a \((1, 2)\)-cycle, as follows: If \( c(u_i) = 3 \) for some \( i \), then we replace the two edges \( u_{i-1}u_i \) and \( u_{i+1}u_i \) with the path \( P_i \) between \( u_{i-1} \) and \( u_{i+1} \) through the neighbors of \( u_i \) contained in \( A[D_2, D_3] \). Since \( A \) is 3-colored, the vertices of \( P_i \) are colored 1 and 2 alternately. Repeating these procedures for each \( u_i \) with \( c(u_i) = 3 \), we get a \((1, 2)\)-closed walk \( C' \) contained in \( A[D_2, D_3] \). Let \( C \) be the shortest essential \((1, 2)\)-cycle such that \( E(C) \subset E(C') \). Since \( C \) is 2-colored, the length of \( C \) is even, and hence we let \( C = v_1 \cdots v_2m \). Observe that the right-hand side and the left-hand side of \( C \) can be defined, since \( C \) is 2-sided. For each odd integer \( i \), let \( R_1^i \cdots R_q^i \) be the face path consisting of the faces incident to \( v_i \) in the right-hand side of \( C \), and for each even integer \( i \), let \( L_1^i \cdots L_{q_i}^i \) be the face path consisting of the faces incident to \( v_i \) in the left-hand side of \( C \). Then let

\[
X = R_1^1 \cdots R_{p_1}^1 L_1^1 \cdots L_{q_1}^1 R_2^3 \cdots R_{q_3}^1 L_1^1 \cdots L_{q_1}^1 \cdots R_{2m-1}^1 \cdots R_{2p_{2m-1}}^1 L_1^{2m} \cdots L_{q_{2m}}^{2m}
\]

be the face cycle contained in \( A[D_1, D_4] \). Note that \((1, 2)\)-edges appear in \( X \) as inner edges alternately, and that all outer edges of \( W' \) are \((2, 3)\)-edges and \((1, 3)\)-edges.

Removing all \((1, 2)\)-edges and \((3, 4)\)-edges from \( G \), we get a spanning bipartite quadrangulation \( Q \) on \( S_g \) (see Proposition 6). Let \( Q' \) be the quadrangulation on \( S_g \) obtained from \( Q \) by adding all inner \((1, 2)\)-edges in \( X \), and removing all inner \((1, 3)\)-edges and inner \((2, 3)\)-edges in \( X \). Since the vertices in \( Q \) colored by 1 and 2 are contained in the same partite set of the bipartition of \( Q \), the new quadrangulation \( Q' \) must be non-bipartite. Hence we are done.

Finally, we consider the case when \( F \) is a nonorientable surface other than the projective plane. (Note that the assertion does not hold for the projective plane.) Suppose that \( F \) is the Klein bottle. By a similar method as in [21], if the edge width of \( G \) is large enough, then every even triangulation \( G \) on the Klein bottle satisfies one of the following:

(I) \( G \) is the face subdivision of some non-bipartite even embedding \( H \).

(II) \( G \) has four disjoint homotopic non-separating cycles \( D_1, \ldots, D_4 \) lying in this order on a handle such that the annulus triangulation \( A = A[D_1, D_4] \) is 3-colorable, and any proper vertex 3-coloring of \( A \) can be extended to a proper vertex 4-coloring of \( G \).

(III) \( G \) has an essential separating cycle \( C \) such that

- \( G \) is separated by cutting along \( C \) into two triangulations \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) on Möbius bands with boundary cycle \( C \), and
for $i = 1, 2$, the map $G_i$ on the projective plane obtained from $M_i$ by pasting a 2-cell $D$ to the boundary $C$ and adding a single vertex $v_i$ on $D$ and joining $v_i$ to all vertices on $C$ is a non-3-colorable even triangulation.

In the case (I) and (II), we can do as in the previous cases. In the case (III), applying Theorem 16(ii) to each $G_i$, we can take a non-bipartite even embedding $H_i$ with $FS(H_i) = G_i$, for $i = 1, 2$. Combining $H_1$ and $H_2$ suitably in $G$, we can construct a spanning non-bipartite quadrangulation of $G$, but we omit a detailed argument.

For nonorientable surface other than the projective plane nor the Klein bottle, we can do similarly to the above arguments. We leave this case for the readers, see [21].

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**References**


Appendix

Figure 5: Spanning bipartite quadrangulations.

Figure 6: Spanning non-bipartite quadrangulations.
Figure 7: Spanning bipartite quadrangulations of $G[3 \times 3, 2], G[3 \times 3, 3], G[5 \times 3, 2], G[5 \times 3, 3], G[5 \times 5, 3], G[5 \times 5, 4]$.

Figure 8: Spanning bipartite quadrangulations of $G[m \times 1, k], G[(2r + 3) \times 1, r + 2], G[(3r + 1) \times 1, r + 2]$.
Figure 9: Spanning bipartite quadrangulations of $G[25 \times 1, 12], G[33 \times 1, 16]$. 

Figure 10: Spanning bipartite quadrangulations of $G[17 \times 1, 6], G[17 \times 1, 8], G[25 \times 1, 8], G[33 \times 1, 8], G[37 \times 1, 12]$. 

16