

# Enumerating Diamond Cuts

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## Abstract

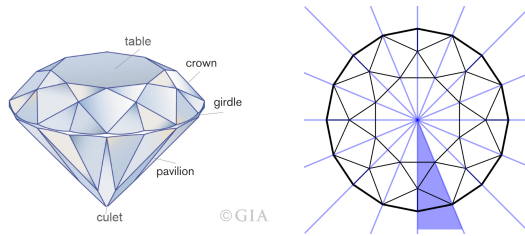
We present an algorithm for enumerating all possible faceting arrangements of dihedrally symmetric diamond cuts. We first separate the question into enumerating crowns and pavilions. In each case, the method involves enumerating all plausible graphs within a fundamental domain, and then checking for planarity and triconnectivity using the Tutte spring embedding. Such graphs can be lifted to three dimensional convex crowns or pavilions via the Maxwell-Cremona correspondence.

## 1 Introduction

In this paper we explore the set of all possible dihedrally symmetric diamond cuts. The most common diamond cut is called the *standard round brilliant* (see Figure 1), and like most modern diamond cuts, has a *crown*, a *girdle*, and a *pavilion*. The crown has a horizontal central facet called the *table*, while the pavilion has a central vertex called the *culet*. The girdle of a standard round brilliant is faceted to be approximately circular. It can be modeled mathematically with a minimum of 16 facets, though it is often represented with 32 or 64. Note that as soon as additional facets beyond the minimum of 16 are added, the girdle develops a scalloped appearance.

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**Figure 1.** A standard round brilliant diamond and its symmetries. Left image courtesy of GIA.

In this paper, we will not be interested in the specific geometry of a cut, but in the abstract faceting arrangement. That is, we won't care about specific measurements like table size, facet angles, and diameter. Rather, we restrict attention to the abstract *graph isomorphism class* of a cut. Once we have an enumeration of all isomorphism classes, the next task facing a diamond designer is to optimize proportions within each class. Optimizing proportions is a significant area of research in diamond cut, though it is not the subject of this paper. The interested reader will find an extensive literature for the standard round brilliant [7, 11, 12, 18]. The paper [15] analyzes diamond beauty from the perspective of human perception, and is not round brilliant specific.

The modern cutter avails himself of commercial products for evaluating cut quality and optimizing the weight within a piece of rough. The companies Sarine, Octonus, and Lexus SoftMac offer both instrumental and software support for diamond cutting. At time of publication, the Gemological Institute of America offers a cut evaluation for standard rounds and offers light performance analysis for a select group of other cuts.

We also note that the potential cut of a diamond is somewhat constrained by lattice orientation. In particular, the  $\{1, 1, 1\}$  direction (using standard lattice coordinates) is very difficult to cut and polish. However expert diamond cutters have techniques to mitigate this issue and lattice orientation is not normally considered when planning a rough.

A diamond is an example of a convex polyhedron – a convex three dimensional body with flat faces. (Non-convex diamonds, such as hearts,

exist, but will not be considered here.) One naive hope in exploring possible diamond shapes would be to simply list all polyhedra in order of increasing complexity. However, the number of such polyhedra grows absurdly quickly, and most of them are not plausible gemstone shapes.

The search space can be reduced by considering the symmetry of a diamond.

## 1.1 Symmetry

The symmetry group of an arbitrary polyhedron is a finite subgroup of  $O(3)$ . However, for diamonds as considered in this paper, the symmetry group is more restricted. Such diamonds have a preferred “up” direction, having been designed to be viewed perpendicularly to the table. In particular, we define the symmetry group to preserve the table setwise. Note that a symmetry of a polyhedron that fixes a face pointwise is trivial, so the set of symmetries of a polyhedron that preserves a face setwise is a subgroup of the symmetry group of the face, implying it is planar.

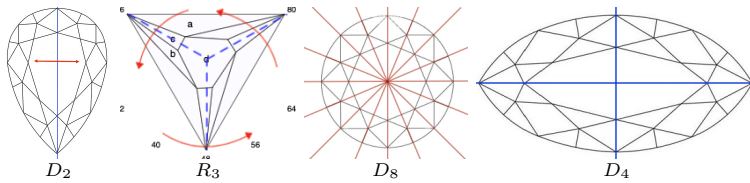
The finite planar symmetry groups are well known to be one of the following types: rotational  $R_n \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  for  $n \geq 2$ , or dihedral  $D_{2n}$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

Groups of the first kind have no reflectional symmetries and consist of rotations by multiples of  $2\pi/n$  around a center point. For example, Figure 2 depicts a diamond crown with  $R_3$  symmetry. Diamonds such as this with no reflectional symmetry are uncommon, but certainly exist. Indeed, there are diamond designs which have no symmetry at all.

Dihedral groups,  $D_{2n}$ , have  $n$  lines of reflectional symmetry with angles of  $\pi/n$  between them. The composition of two reflections is a rotation, implying that diagrams with this symmetry group also have the set of rotations  $R_n$  as a subgroup. In all, there are  $2n$  symmetries, which explains the subscript of the notation  $D_{2n}$ . Figure 2 gives examples of  $D_2$ ,  $D_4$  and  $D_8$  symmetry. Note that  $D_{2n}$  is the symmetry group of a regular polygon for  $n \geq 3$ , with  $D_2$  and  $D_4$  being somewhat exceptional.

In this paper we will study the crowns and pavilions separately. Each will inherit the symmetry group of the parent diamond. Note that we can pair any crown and pavilion that have the same shape outline to create

a diamond model, with the  $z$ -offset between crown and pavilion being an additional parameter.



**Figure 2.** Symmetries of diamonds

## 1.2 Generating patterns from symmetry groups

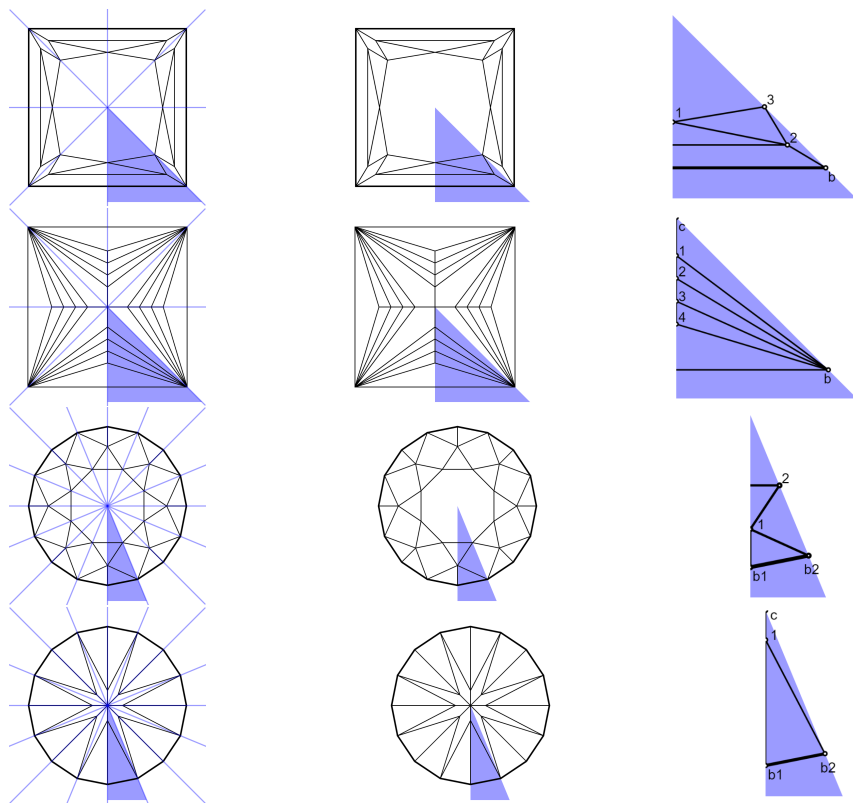
Consider the pictures on the left of Figure 3. The first two examples have  $D_8$  symmetry while the second two have  $D_{16}$  symmetry. The lines of reflection cut the plane into 8 or 16 sectors, and the diagrams are completely determined by the intersection with a chosen sector. We call the choice of such a sector a *fundamental domain*. More generally for planar reflection groups, a fundamental domain is defined as the closure of a choice of connected component of the complement of the reflection lines. Fundamental domains can also be defined for more general group actions, but we will not need that in this paper.

The diamond's crown or pavilion is drawn as a graph in the plane. We call the intersection of the graph with a fundamental domain a *generating graph*, since rotated and reflected images of this will fill out (i.e. generate) the whole graph.

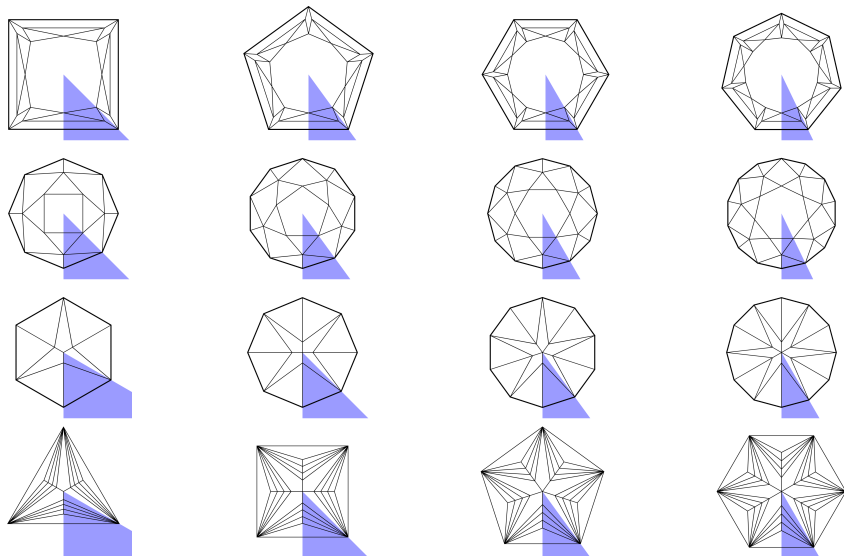
It will follow from Theorem 3 that a generating graph for a diagram with  $D_{2n}$  symmetry ( $n \geq 3$ ), can be used to generate a dihedrally symmetric diamond of any order  $\geq 3$ . This phenomenon is illustrated with the generalized standard round brilliants and princesses in Figure 4.

Theorem 3 leads to the somewhat surprising conclusion that there is a 1-1 correspondence between the set of facet arrangements of diamonds with dihedral symmetry group  $D_{2n}$  and  $D_{2m}$  for any  $n, m \geq 3$ .





**Figure 3.** Generating graphs for princess cut and standard round brilliant diamond crowns and pavilions.



**Figure 4.** Fundamental domains will generate dihedrally symmetric diamond crowns and pavilions of any symmetry order.

## 2 From two to three dimensions

A classical theorem of Steinitz [16, 17] states that convex 3D polyhedra are in 1 – 1 correspondence with triconnected planar graphs (also called *Schlegel diagrams* or *c-nets*.) A connected graph is said to be *triconnected* if deleting any set of  $\leq 2$  vertices leaves the graph connected. Ziegler [23] collects many proofs of Steinitz’s theorem, including one, the Maxwell-Cremona correspondence, which we make use of in Theorem 2. See the notes to Chapter 4 of Ziegler [23] as well as videos by Sheehy [13, 14].

Thus one approach to enumerating diamond cuts is to enumerate triconnected planar graphs, and it is even the case that one could enumerate dihedrally symmetric Schlegel diagrams to recover dihedrally symmetric polyhedra [9]. However this would not take advantage of the special geometry of diamonds, that they decompose into crown, girdle, and pavilion, and would include many implausible diamond cuts.

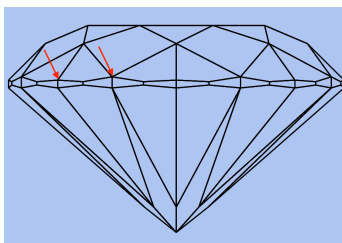
Instead, we will consider diagrams of crowns and pavilions separately and determine when they can be embedded in the plane so that some

assignment of  $z$  coordinates to each vertex gives a valid 3D geometry.

## 2.1 Trusses and lifting diagrams

Let us consider a two dimensional picture of a diamond crown or pavilion wireframe (the 1-skeleton of the polytope). In order to convert this to a three dimensional wireframe, we need to assign a height ( $z$ -coordinate) to each vertex. The assignment of heights needs to create coplanar facets, while coplanarity of the vertices around the boundary is not necessary in order to form a diamond crown or pavilion.

In fact, as an illustration of this last point, in the 16 girdle facet model of the standard round brilliant, there are two types of vertices on the boundary of both crown and pavilion, which can be at different heights (Figure 5). The boundary vertices of a princess diamond, on the other hand, must all have the same height by symmetry.



**Figure 5.** An illustration of the fact that standard round crowns can have variable vertex heights on the girdle, even when restricted to vertices of degree greater than or equal to 3. The two indicated vertices are at the same height in well cut diamonds, but can differ in height both mathematically and in practice. Diamond cutters refer to the uneven positioning as either painting or digging, depending on the exact geometry.

**Definition 1.** We say a planar graph is *liftable*, if there is an assignment of heights to the vertices such that the lifted vertices in each bounded face are coplanar. Such an assignment will be called a *lift*.

We define a *truss* to be a lift of a  $2D$  graph, and say it is *convex* if

1. the outer boundary of the  $2D$  graph is convex,
2. the lifted facets meet in mountain rather than valley folds.

Let  $z = k$  be a plane such that  $k$  is less than the height of every lifted vertex. Form a polytope as the set of all points underneath the truss and above this plane. The above conditions ensure that this polytope is convex.

When enumerating diagrams, it will be most convenient if we only have to consider abstract graph types rather than particular embeddings, though we will need to keep track of the cycle of edges that forms the outer boundary. Note that every truss gives rise to an abstract planar graph with a specified cycle representing the outer edges.

**Definition 2.**

1. A pair  $(G, C)$  consisting of a connected graph  $G$  and a specified cycle  $C \subset G$  will be called a *circuited graph*.
2. All maps of circuited graphs to  $\mathbb{R}^2$  will be assumed to embed the specified cycle as a convex polygon, while the remaining vertices and edges will be mapped to the interior of this polygon.
3. We say a circuited graph is *liftable* if it has a planar embedding which is liftable to a convex truss.

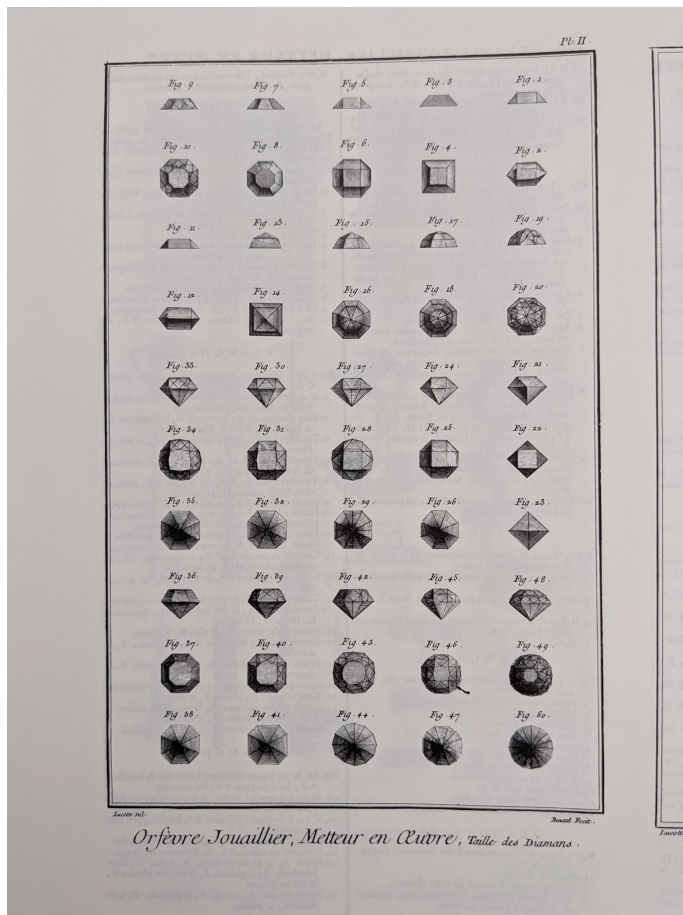
There is an analogue of Steinitz's Theorem for trusses, but we need another definition to state it.

**Definition 3.** We say a circuited graph  $(G, C)$  is *boundary triconnected* if deleting any set of  $\leq 2$  vertices from  $G$  has the property that all connected components contain vertices from  $C$ .

*Remark.* The necessity of this formulation can be seen by considering the 8 vertex graph consisting of a square with each side bisected and 4 edges added to create a new square, rotated by 45 degrees, inside the first one. This is not triconnected and so does not correspond to a polytope, but it is liftable and could conceivably form the crown of a diamond.

Indeed, a top down view of such a graph appears in Figure 6 (Fig 22), a list of different diamond cuts in Diderot's encyclopedia published in the late 1700s [6].

Before we state the main theorem, that boundary triconnected trusses are liftable, we take a slight detour to discuss the Tutte embedding.



**Figure 6.** Diamond cuts from Diderot's *L'Encyclopédie ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*, late 1700s.

## 2.2 Tutte on how to draw a graph

Let  $(G, C)$  be a circuted graph. Assign each internal edge  $e$  a positive weight  $s_e$  called its *spring tension*. Embed the outer cycle in the plane in any convex way and consider the vertices in this cycle to be immovable. Now think of the graph as being a network of nodes connected by springs and let it settle into equilibrium. In the equilibrium state, the sum of forces acting on each internal vertex will be zero. That is, if we scale each edge, thought of as a vector connecting its endpoints, by its spring tension, and then add all the edges outgoing from a single internal vertex, they should sum to zero as a vector. The positions of the internal vertices are easily calculated by solving the resulting system of equations.

If  $(G, C)$  is an abstract circuted graph,  $S$  is a set of spring tensions on the edges not in  $C$ , and  $\varphi: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is a convex embedding of the boundary cycle, we denote the resulting image of the graph in the plane by  $\text{Tutte}_{(S, \varphi)}(G, C)$ , or just  $\text{Tutte}_S(G, C)$  if the boundary embedding is clear from context.

**Theorem 1** (Tutte [19, 20]). *A circuted graph,  $(G, C)$ , has a planar embedding and is boundary triconnected if and only if  $G$  has no interior bivalent vertices and  $\text{Tutte}_{(S, \varphi)}(G, C)$  is an embedded graph in the plane, for any choice of positive spring tensions and convex boundary embedding.*

We note that Tutte uses the term “3-linked with  $C$ ” for what we call “boundary triconnectivity.”

One way that a graph can fail to be (boundary) triconnected is if it has a univalent vertex. When one puts a spring tension on the incident edge, the edge will shrink to zero, so  $\text{Tutte}_{(S, \varphi)}(G, C)$ , will fail to be embedded. Indeed the same reasoning applies if there is a cut vertex. The side of the cut vertex that fails to intersect  $C$  will contract to a point. Suppose you have two vertices whose deletion disconnects the graph into two components and one of the components does not intersect  $C$  at all. That means this entire component will shrink toward a line segment connecting the two points when positive spring tensions are applied. Therefore,  $\text{Tutte}_{(S, \varphi)}(G, C)$  will again fail to be connected as long as the component was not itself linear (i.e. formed from a chain of bivalent vertices). So we

conclude that the Tutte map will detect the failure of boundary triconnectivity except for the presence of interior bivalent vertices.

**Theorem 2.** *A circuted graph is liftable iff it has a planar embedding and is boundary triconnected.*

*Moreover, if the circuted graph has symmetry group  $\mathcal{G}$ , the truss can be constructed to have the same symmetry group.*

*Proof:* First suppose that a circuted graph is liftable. Projecting a truss to the  $xy$  plane yields an embedding, so we need only show that a convex truss is boundary triconnected. Form the polytope as described after Definition 1. This polyhedron is triconnected. Now choose a pair of vertices in the truss, and suppose they disconnect it into two pieces. Since the whole polytope is triconnected, each piece must be connected to the edge of the truss for otherwise the polytope minus the two vertices would be disconnected. Hence the truss is boundary triconnected.

Next suppose that we have a boundary triconnected circuted graph with a planar embedding. Then by Theorem 1, the Tutte map yields an embedding where all the spring tensions are in equilibrium. Once the diagram is embedded, the standard proof of the Maxwell-Cremona correspondence goes through to lift to a truss. See Crapo&Whiteley [4, 5].

Now suppose that a group  $\mathcal{G}$  acts on a boundary triconnected circuted graph  $(G, C)$  by automorphisms. Embed  $C$  as a regular polygon in the plane, and set all internal edge tensions equal to 1. Then the Tutte embedding will also have  $\mathcal{G}$  symmetry. We can choose a symmetric lift as follows. According to the Maxwell-Cremona correspondence (see [13, 14]), lifts of a diagram are controlled by the spring tensions and a chosen facet normal. The spring tensions are used to construct a “reciprocal diagram,” while different choices of facet normal translate the reciprocal diagram around the plane. In order to get a symmetric lift, we center the reciprocal diagram on the origin. ■

The last paragraph of the proof implies that for symmetric graphs, the space of symmetric 3D realizations (with fixed  $(x, y)$  coordinates of the outer boundary and discounting vertical shifts) has the same number of dimensions as independent spring tensions plus the degrees of freedom in

repositioning the reciprocal diagram while respecting the symmetry group. For  $D_4$  and higher, the reciprocal diagram must be centered on the origin, corresponding to the intersection of the reflection lines. For  $D_2$ , the reciprocal diagram can be centered anywhere along a line through the origin parallel to the unique line of symmetry, adding one dimension to the parameter space. For the trivial group, there are two extra degrees of freedom. For any nontrivial rotational group  $R_n$ , there are no extra degrees of freedom. So parameter space has the same number of dimensions as interior edge orbits under the group action, possibly with the addition of 1 or 2 parameters for the groups  $D_2$  and  $D_0 = R_0$  respectively. We have collected the dimensions of parameter spaces for three diamond faceting arrangements in Figure 7.

It is worth pointing out that Tutte's method of drawing planar graphs is not the only one. A particularly powerful circle packing method is due to Mohar [10].

### 2.3 Truss recognition algorithm

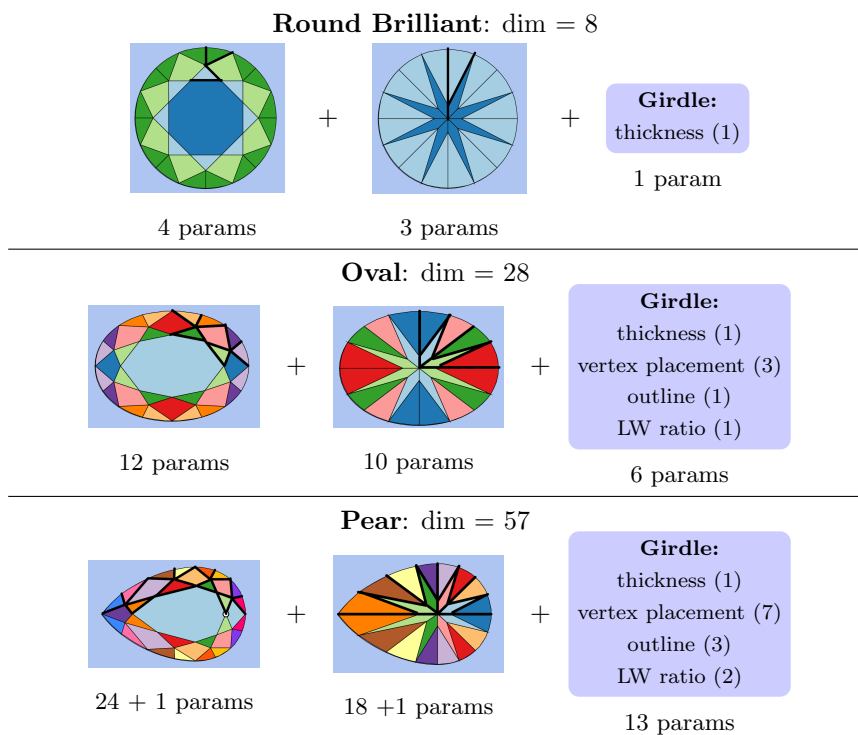
If we have a method to detect when the Tutte map is an embedding, then we can use the preceding section to create an algorithm for detecting trusses. One could simply check all pairs of edges of the Tutte map of a circuited graph for intersections, but we prefer to use a more combinatorial approach using ribbon graphs. It has the added benefit of detecting the faces of a planar graph, which is necessary information to implement the Maxwell-Cremona lifting algorithm for creating a 3D model.

A *ribbon graph* is defined to be an abstract graph with a cyclic order of incident edges at each vertex. A ribbon graph has a *thickening* to an oriented surface with boundary components, which is defined by putting an oriented disk at each vertex and gluing long thin rectangles along the edges using the cyclic order to indicate where they should be glued. (In fact, some authors only consider the thickened object to be a ribbon graph.)

One can read off the boundary components of the ribbon thickening by doing walks along the graph where, at each vertex, one leaves on the edge that comes next in the cyclic ordering after the edge one entered on.

If you have a graph mapped (not necessarily embedded) to the plane





**Figure 7.** The dimensions of parameter space for three common diamond faceting arrangements. The girdle parameters are explained as follows: the thickness measures the vertical offset of crown and pavilion. “Vertex placement” indicates the position of girdle vertices along the boundary curve. Outline parameters are a chosen set of parameters to control the shape of the boundary curve. LW ratio is length/width ratio, and can be varied independently for both “halves” of the pear. The high dimension counts for oval and pear help to explain why the analysis of fancy cuts is so much harder than that of standard rounds.

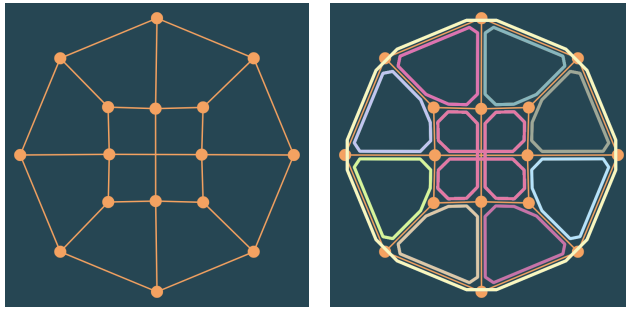
such that no edges emanate from a vertex in exactly the same direction, then there is an induced ribbon graph structure on the graph. One defines the cyclic order at each vertex to be induced by the plane's orientation. Figure 8 shows the ribbon graph boundary components in a particular example. Many readers fail to notice that the two edges in the middle intersect, so be aware!

If a circuted graph is planar, then there is a bijection between boundary components and planar faces, so Euler's formula  $v - e + f = 2$  must hold. ( $v, e, f$  being the number of vertices, edges, and faces, including the outer unbounded face, respectively.) Conversely, if  $v - e + f = 2$ , the ribbon thickening is a sphere with holes, and gluing in disks to those holes gives an embedding of the graph in the sphere, where the specified cycle bounds a face. Designating that face as the unbounded face gives a planar embedding of the circuted graph. Hence the Tutte map must also be planar.

Summarizing, we get a truss recognition algorithm as follows. First check if the circuted graph is connected and that it has no bivalent vertices. If it passes these checks, consider a Tutte map of the graph. Check that it has no coincident vertices (within some tolerance), and that no edges emanate from a single vertex in the same direction (within some tolerance). If it passes these checks, thicken the graph, count the number of boundary components, and check if  $v - e + f = 2$ . If so, then it is a truss. Otherwise it is not.

### 3 Enumeration

Recall that any dihedrally symmetric diagram in the plane has a fundamental domain which is a sector of the plane bounded by a vertex at the diamond's center, and two infinite rays, which we call *walls* and recall that the intersection of the planar graph with a fundamental domain is called the generating graph of the diagram. Note that the generating graph can have "half edges" which intersect either of the two boundary walls of a fundamental domain in right angles. This is illustrated in Figure 12. An edge emanating from vertex 1 meets the right wall, and in order to form a



**Figure 8.** The ribbon graph thickening of a graph immersed in the plane. In order to check whether a graph in equilibrium is planar, it suffices to check that Euler's equation  $v - e + f = 2$  is satisfied, where  $f$  is the number of boundary components of the thickening. In this example,  $(v, e, f) = (16, 26, 10)$ , so that  $v - e + f = 0 \neq 2$ , indicating that the graph is not planar.

valid edge upon reflection through the wall, must meet it at a right angle.

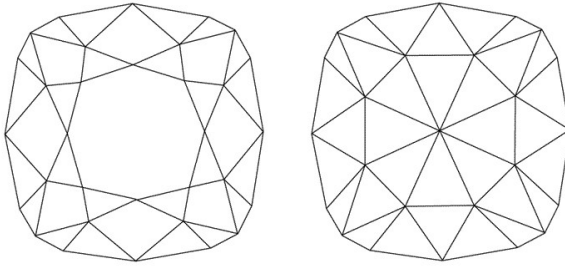
Every diamond will have two generating graphs, one for the crown and one for the pavilion. Pavilion generating graphs will have a vertex at the top corner of a fundamental domain, corresponding to the culet, while crown generating graphs will not have a top corner vertex.

In order to systematically enumerate diamond crowns and pavilions with  $D_{2n}$ -symmetry ( $n \geq 3$ ), we enumerate generating graphs. We distinguish types of graphs based on the combinatorics of the outer boundary of the generating graph.

The simplest situation is where there is a single exterior vertex in a fundamental domain, lying along one of the walls (see the princess crown and pavilion in Figure 3). We call diamonds with this property *simple*.

The next simplest situation is when there are two exterior vertices in a fundamental domain, one per wall. This occurs in the round brilliant crown and pavilion. We call diamonds with this property *standard*.

There could also be additional vertices along the bottom boundary of the generating graph, representing the outer edge of the diamond. This is evident in Figure 2 for the marquise diamond with symmetry group  $D_4$ . Cushion diamond cuts can have  $D_8$  symmetry with such extra boundary



**Figure 9.** A diamond with  $D_8$  symmetry and an extra vertex along the bottom boundary of a fundamental domain. Image courtesy of GIA.

vertices (Figure 9).

We make the following additional assumption:

The  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  vertices are not bivalent.

Note that Diderot's Fig 22 in our Figure 6 does give an example of a bivalent  $b_1$ . So this is a nontrivial restriction.

It follows from the just stated assumption that in the simple and standard cases, the diagram must be triconnected, not merely boundary triconnected. Indeed the only way a simple or standard graph can be boundary triconnected but not triconnected is if  $b_1$  (or  $b_2$ ) connects to itself across a line of reflection. This will have the effect of cutting off a little triangular flap, as in the Diderot example, and will thus have a bivalent vertex.

For simplicity, we will restrict attention to simple and standard diamond cuts for the remainder of this paper. The techniques we present generalize fairly easily to the case of any number of vertices along the outer boundary of a fundamental domain. We suggest this to an interested researcher as a nice topic for further exploration.

For simple crowns and pavilions, we assume the outer vertex is on the right-hand wall, and label it  $b_2$ . For standard crowns and pavilions, we label the outer vertices  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  for the left and right wall respectively. For a pavilion of either variety, the top corner of the chosen fundamental domain will have a vertex, which we label  $c$ .

Before we continue, we pause to prove that generating graphs are agnostic to symmetry order for  $n \geq 3$ .

### 3.1 Symmetry order

A generating graph can be used to generate graphs of any  $D_{2n}$ -symmetry,  $n \geq 3$ , by interpreting it in a sector of the correct angular width.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $G$  be a connected generating graph, and let  $G_n$  be the abstract circuted graph formed with  $D_{2n}$  symmetry. Then  $G_n$  is planar and boundary triconnected for all  $n \geq 3$  iff  $G_3$  is planar and boundary triconnected.*

*Proof:* Regarding planarity, note that  $G_n$  is planar iff the restriction to the sector is planar, a condition which does not depend on the sector's angular width.

Next we show that a graph  $G_3$  is biconnected iff  $G_n$  is biconnected for any  $n \geq 3$ . More specifically, we show that the existence of a cut vertex for any  $n$  is equivalent to the existence of one for  $n = 3$ .

Let us fix the following conventions for a connected graph  $G$ . Let  $c$  be a vertex of the graph. If  $G \setminus \{c\}$ , considered as a topological space, is not connected, we say  $c$  is a cut vertex. The connected components of  $G \setminus C$  where  $C$  is the set of cut vertices, are called the biconnected components. Note that according to this convention, the cut vertices themselves do not belong to biconnected components, and the biconnected components have open edges.

Because the biconnected components of  $G$  are disjoint, if  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(G)$ ,  $g$  is a biconnected component, and  $(\sigma \cdot g) \cap g \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\sigma \cdot g = g$  setwise. (\*)

Now consider the circuted graph  $G_n$ . There must exist at least one biconnected component,  $g$ , which is adjacent to only one cut vertex,  $c$ , and which does not meet the graph's exterior circuit. If  $g$  meets a wall away from  $c$ , then  $g$  overlaps with its reflection, so by (\*),  $g$  is symmetric with respect to that wall. Hence  $c$  must also lie on the wall. If  $g$  meets any more walls, since it is symmetric in those walls, the vertex  $c$  will have a reflection that also meets  $g$ , contradicting that  $g$  meets at most one cut

vertex. Thus  $g$  is contained in at most two adjacent fundamental domains. This implies that  $c$  will correspond to a cut vertex in any of the generated graphs  $G_k$ ,  $k \geq 3$ .

For triconnectivity we argue as follows. Suppose  $G$  is a biconnected graph. Then it can be decomposed into triconnected components [8], where a triconnected component is defined to be a subgraph which is triconnected and is not contained in a larger triconnected subgraph. Every edge belongs to a unique triconnected component, but vertices may belong to multiple components. We call the vertices of a component that belong to multiple components *boundary vertices*, and the rest of the component its *interior*.

Then  $\text{Aut}(G)$  acts on the sets of interiors of triconnected components. If  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(G)$  and  $g$  is the interior of a triconnected component, then  $(\sigma \cdot g) \cap g \neq \emptyset$  implies that  $\sigma \cdot g = g$  setwise as before.

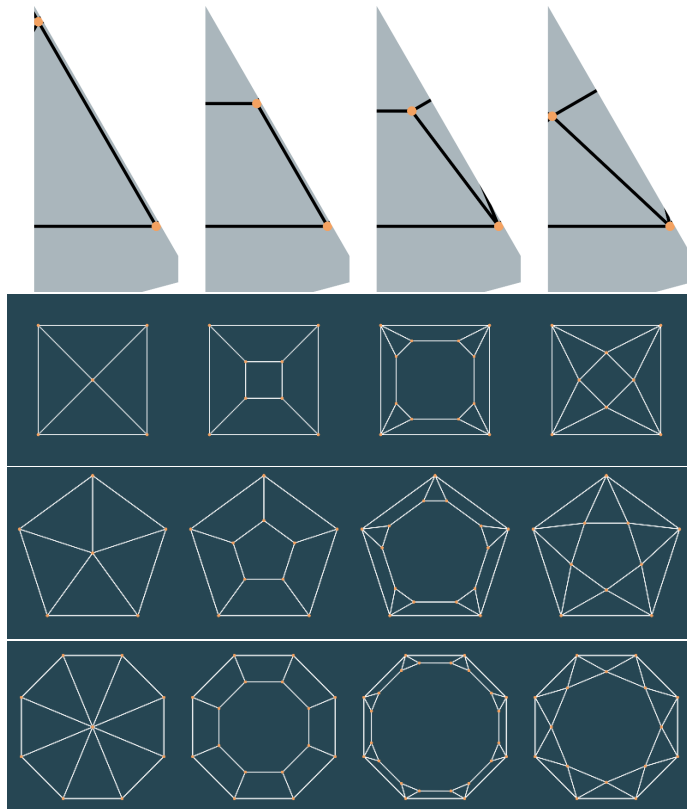
Suppose one of the graphs  $G_n$  is not boundary triconnected. We can always find a triconnected component,  $g$ , with 2 boundary vertices whose interior does not meet the exterior circuit. We claim  $g$  is in at most two adjacent fundamental domains. Otherwise, suppose that  $g$  lies in three adjacent fundamental domains. Let  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  be reflections corresponding to the two interior walls separating these domains. Then I claim  $g$  is fixed setwise by both  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ . If  $g$  doesn't actually hit one of the two interior walls, then it is not connected, a contradiction. If it does hit a wall, there are two cases. It does so in the interior of  $g$ , then the point where it does is fixed by the associated reflection  $r$ , meaning that  $r$  fixes the entire component setwise. If  $g$  meets the wall in one of its two boundary vertices and nowhere else, then this vertex locally separates  $g$ , a contradiction.

But now notice that no matter how the boundary vertices are positioned, they can't be invariant setwise under both  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ .

Thus a nontrivial triconnected component will be present in  $G_3$  as well, and we conclude that the boundary triconnectivity of  $G_n$  is equivalent to that of  $G_3$ . ■

### 3.2 First steps

To illustrate how the enumeration algorithm works, let's look at how to generate simple crowns and pavilions with small numbers of vertices.



**Figure 10.** Pavilion and crown generating graphs with 2 vertices, and symmetric lifts of orders 4, 5 and 8.

Suppose there is one vertex in our fundamental domain aside from the boundary vertex  $b_2$ . If that vertex lies at the top corner  $c$ , then it must connect to the boundary vertex by a single line. The generated graph represents a pyramid when lifted to 3D, which is the simplest possible pavilion. The generating graph is given at the top of the leftmost column of Figure 10, and three lifts of different symmetry order are depicted below it.

If the vertex lies along the right wall, it must connect to  $b_2$ , but it must also connect to (a reflected copy of) itself, meaning it has an edge emanating to the left and meeting the left wall at a right angle. This

leads to the second column of Figure 10, representing the simplest possible crown. Similarly, if the vertex is on the left wall, it must connect to itself and to  $b_2$ , which yields the crowns in the fourth column. Finally, if the vertex lies in the middle, it needs to connect to itself both to the left and to the right, leading to the crowns in the third column. Switching to standard graphs leads to the diagrams in Figure 11.

In order to mechanize this process, we implement the Tutte embedding and truss recognition algorithm.

### 3.3 The algorithm

As we saw earlier, we are considering generating graphs that may or may not have a vertex at the top corner of the chosen fundamental domain (labeled  $c$  if it exists), and it may or may not have boundary vertices on either of the two walls of the fundamental domain, labeled  $b_1$  and  $b_2$ .

The example in Figure 12 details how we encode generating graphs. The generating graph is pictured on the right. This is a simple crown, with only a  $b_2$  vertex. There are three types of vertices other than this boundary one. The two vertices labeled 1 and 2 lie on the left wall. We therefore call these “L” vertices. The vertex 3 is in the interior (or middle) of the fundamental domain, so we call it an “M” vertex. Finally, vertex 4 lies on the right-hand wall, so is called an “R” vertex.

Let  $n_L$ ,  $n_M$ , and  $n_R$  denote the number of vertices of each kind.

In Figure 12, the graph is encoded by the following data:

1. The ordered triple  $(n_L, n_M, n_R) = (2, 1, 1)$ .
2. The edge connections of the vertices  $1, \dots, 4$ :

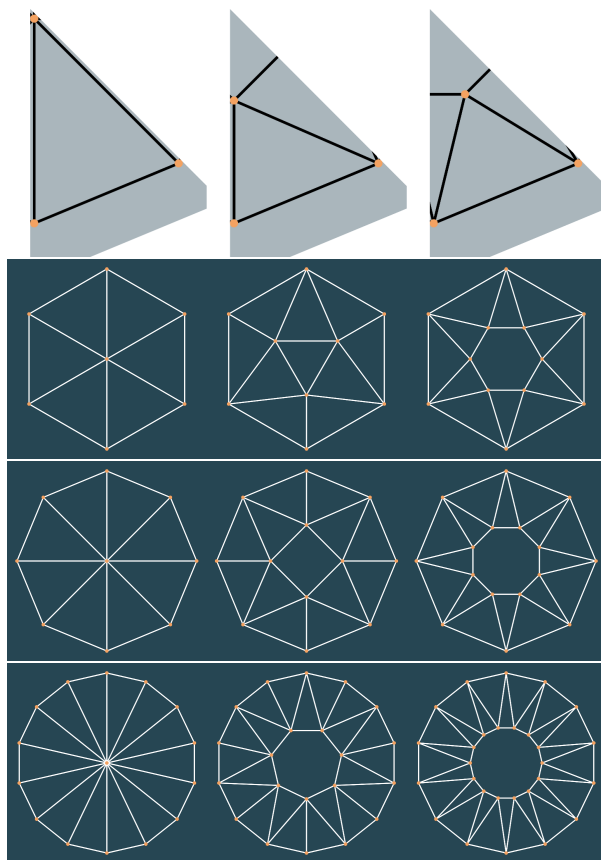
$$\{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{3, 4\}$$

3. The edges that connect vertices with their reflections:

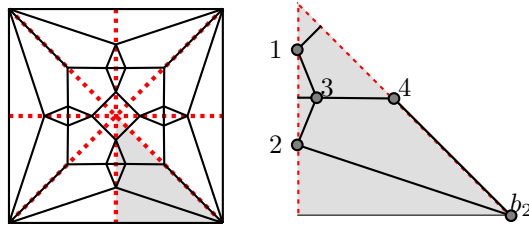
$$\{1, 1\}, \{3, 3, -1\}$$

Here the  $-1$  indicates that the edge is reflected through the left wall.





**Figure 11.** The top row depicts the three standard generating graphs with three vertices. Below are the graphs with  $D_6$ ,  $D_8$  and  $D_{14}$  symmetry that the top graphs generate.



**Figure 12.** Generating graph example.

If the edge went through the right wall, we would use the notation  $\{3, 3, +1\}$ .

4. The list of vertices the corner attaches to, in this case  $\{2, 4\}$ .

Similarly, if there are other boundary vertices we list the vertices those connect to as well. For example, referring to Figure 3, we have

Princess Crown	
$(n_L, n_M, n_R)$	$(1, 1, 1)$
$(b_1, b_2, c)$	$(F, T, F)$
edges	$\{\{1, 3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 2, -1\}\}$
$b_2$ connections	$\{2\}$

Princess Pavilion	
$(n_L, n_M, n_R)$	$(4, 0, 1)$
$(b_1, b_2, c)$	$(F, T, T)$
edges	$\{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{3, 4\}\}$
$b_1$ connections	$\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
$c$ connections	$\{1\}$

Round Brilliant Crown	
$(n_L, n_M, n_R)$	$(1, 0, 1)$
$(b_1, b_2, c)$	$(T, T, F)$
edges	$\{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 2\}\}$
$b_1$ connections	$\{1\}$
$b_2$ connections	$\{1\}$

Round Brilliant Pavilion	
$(n_L, n_M, n_R)$	$(1, 0, 0)$
$(b_1, b_2, c)$	$(T, T, T)$
edges	$\{\}$
$b_1$ connections	$\{1\}$
$b_2$ connections	$\{1\}$
$c$ connections	$\{1\}$

Given such combinatorial data we can reconstruct the embedded generating graph as follows. First choose some  $n \geq 3$  and generate an abstract graph from the generating graph with symmetry group  $D_{2n}$ . We have a specified outer cycle, so we can apply the Tutte embedding. Finally, we restrict to a fundamental domain to get an embedded generating graph.

Fix  $n_L, n_M, n_R$  as well as the boundary vertex booleans  $b_1, b_2, c$  which indicate whether the corresponding vertex exists or not. In order to find all generating graphs with these data, we list all possible feasible ways of abstractly connecting all the relevant vertices, then checking them all for planarity, triconnectivity and duplicates.

We reduce the number of graphs that need to be searched by imposing some constraints that embedded graphs must satisfy:

- The subgraph spanned by each of the  $L$  or  $R$  vertices has to be a subgraph of a linear chain.
- The  $b_2$  vertex connects to at most one  $R$  vertex, while a  $b_1$  vertex will connect to at most one  $L$  vertex. A  $c$  vertex will connect to at most one vertex each of the  $L$  and  $R$  vertex sets.

So consider a graph  $\text{TGraph}(n_L, n_M, n_R)$  on vertices of type  $L, M, R$  with edges in the following classes:

- A linear chain on the  $L$  vertices. (edge count:  $\max(n_L - 1, 0)$ .)
- all edges connecting  $L$  vertices to  $M$  and  $R$  vertices. (edge count:  $n_L(n_M + n_R)$ .)
- all edges connecting  $M$  vertices to other  $M$  vertices and  $R$  vertices. (edge count:  $\binom{n_M}{2} + n_M n_R$ .)
- A linear chain on the  $R$  vertices. (edge count:  $\max(n_R - 1, 0)$ .)
- All self edges on the  $L$  and  $R$  vertices. (edge count:  $n_L + n_R$ .)
- Two types of self edges  $(k, k, 1)$  and  $(k, k, -1)$  on the  $M$  vertices. (edge count:  $2n_M$ .)

Next we consider graphs formed by all subsets of these edges, forming a list called `abcBoolSets`. We store each member of `abcBoolSets` as an array of booleans indicating whether a given edge is included or excluded from the graph.

We also define

1. `b1BoolSets` encodes all possible sets of edges connecting  $b_1$  to the graph's interior vertices. Its members are arrays of  $n_L + n_M + n_R$  booleans, limited to at most one T in the first  $n_L$  slots.
2. `b2BoolSets` encodes all possible sets of edges connecting  $b_2$  to the graph's interior vertices. Its members are arrays of  $n_L + n_M + n_R$  booleans, limited to at most one T in the last  $n_R$  slots.
3. `centerBoolSets` encodes all possible sets of edges connecting  $c$  to the graph's interior vertices. Its members are arrays of  $n_L + n_M + n_R$  booleans, limited to at most one T in the first  $n_L$  slots and one T in the last  $c$ .
4. Booleans `cb1` and `cb2` indicate whether there are edges connecting  $c$  to  $b_i$ .

Next we fix the size of elements of `abcBoolSets`, `b1BoolSets`, `b2BoolSets` and `centerBoolSets` to be  $j, k, l, m$  respectively (iterating over all possibilities). For each element of these, we form a concatenated string of booleans. This gives us a list `boolGraphSet`.

The next stage in the process is to remove duplicates caused by different labelings of the same graph. We consider the list of permutations  $X_{n_L n_M n_R} = S_{n_L} \times S_{n_M} \times S_{n_R} \setminus \{id\}$ , i.e. the nontrivial permutations that respect the vertex types. Each permutation  $\sigma$  acts on a boolean array in  $g \in \text{boolGraphSet}$  by computing the action on  $T(n_L, n_M, n_R)$  and the edges coming from  $b_1, b_2$  and  $c$ . In some cases, an edge in  $g$  when acted on by  $\sigma$  will not lie in  $T(n_L, n_M, n_R)$ , which means this is not a valid relabeling. If the relabeled graph is valid, we call the result  $g.\sigma$ .

The algorithm for removing duplicates consists of going through every element of `boolGraphSet`, applying the permutations  $g \in X_{n_L n_M n_R}$  and removing valid results  $g.\sigma$ . In addition to removing duplicate graphs this algorithm will also remove graphs with nontrivial automorphisms. This is okay and actually desirable because any such generating graph will fail to either be connected or triconnected.

After applying the duplicate removing algorithm, we check each generating graph for connectivity using depth first search.

Next, relying on Theorem 3, each generating graph is generated into a graph with 3-fold symmetry. The Tutte map is then applied and the truss recognition algorithm is used to check if it is a truss. If not, it is discarded.

The remaining graphs are written to a file.

### 3.4 Algorithmic complexity

This is clearly an algorithm of exponential complexity in that it requires us to look at all subsets of edges of a certain master graph and iterate through all of these. We argue that, in fact, the number of  $D_{2n}$ -symmetric simple and standard graphs is expected to be exponential in the number of vertices, implying that exponential complexity is unavoidable.

One reason to expect exponential complexity is Tutte's beautiful result [21] that the set of rooted planar maps (which allow multi and self edges) with  $n$  edges is given by the unexpectedly simple formula

$$\frac{2(2n)!3^n}{n!(n+2)!},$$

where a map is said to be *rooted* if one face is specified as the root. This at least hints at exponential complexity for our simple and standard graphs. More to the point, Tutte also considered rooted  $c$ -nets, which have the additional condition of triconnectivity. He proves that the number of rooted  $c$ -nets with  $n$  edges is asymptotically equal to

$$\frac{2n^{-5/2}4^n}{243\sqrt{\pi}}.$$

Although both of these numbers are in terms of edge count rather than vertex count, and refer to general graphs, rather than the special dihedrally symmetric ones we've been considering, the point of complexity still stands.

Even though exponential complexity is unavoidable, there exist algorithms and software tools that work extremely well in practice. For example, Tutte's methods actually give a generating function and an effective method of enumeration. See [1] for more analysis with generating func-

tions. On the software side, Brinkman and McKay's program plantri [3] efficiently enumerates some classes of planar graphs. See also the virtual environment CaGe [2]. The particular dihedrally symmetric case we restrict to in this paper does not seem to have been previously considered in the literature.

## 4 Results and tables

In this section we tabulate the results of the algorithm for simple or standard crowns and pavilions. We begin by listing the simplest examples as measured by the number of vertices in a fundamental domain. A generating graph needs to have at least one vertex on the boundary, and if the truss is not going to simply be a flat plane with no 3D geometry, there needs to be at least one other vertex. Hence we start with a fundamental domain containing 2 vertices.

### 4.1 Two vertices

There are four generating graphs with two vertices, each listed at the top of Figure 10. There is one simple pavilion and three simple crowns of the form  $(0, 0, 1)$ ,  $(0, 1, 0)$  and  $(1, 0, 0)$  respectively. The remaining rows of the diagram give diagrams with 4-, 5- and 8-fold symmetry cf. Theorem 3.

### 4.2 Three vertices

Next we list generating graphs with 3 vertices, organized by which of the three corner vertices  $b_1, b_2, c$  are present.

**Case 1:** All three of  $b_1, b_2, c$  are filled. Then there is no other vertex in a fundamental domain, yielding a standard pavilion which is just a pyramid on a  $2n$ -gon.

**Case 2:** Only  $b_1, b_2$  are filled. This yields standard crowns with one non-corner vertex in a fundamental domain, so they must be of type  $(1, 0, 0)$ ,  $(0, 1, 0)$ , or  $(0, 0, 1)$ . There is one of each of these types, though the last one is a rotation of the first one.

**Case 3:** Only  $b_2$  and  $c$  are filled, we get a simple pavilion with one extra non-corner vertex. There are 7 of these, three each of types  $(1, 0, 0)$ ,  $(0, 1, 0)$  and one of type  $(0, 0, 1)$ .

**Case 4:** Only  $b_2$  is filled, we get a simple crown, with two extra non-corner vertices. There are 33 of these as summarized in this table:

Simple Crowns							
200	020	002	110	101	011		total
3	6	1	9	7	7		33

In Figures 13 and 14, the 4- and 5-fold lifts of the generating graphs of this section are listed.

### 4.3 Four vertices

The crown and pavilion graphs with 4 vertices are of the following forms:

- Simple crowns with three extra vertices:

Simple Crowns											
300	030	003	120	210	102	201	012	021	111		total
5	56	1	102	51	25	35	25	80	115		415

(Figure 15)

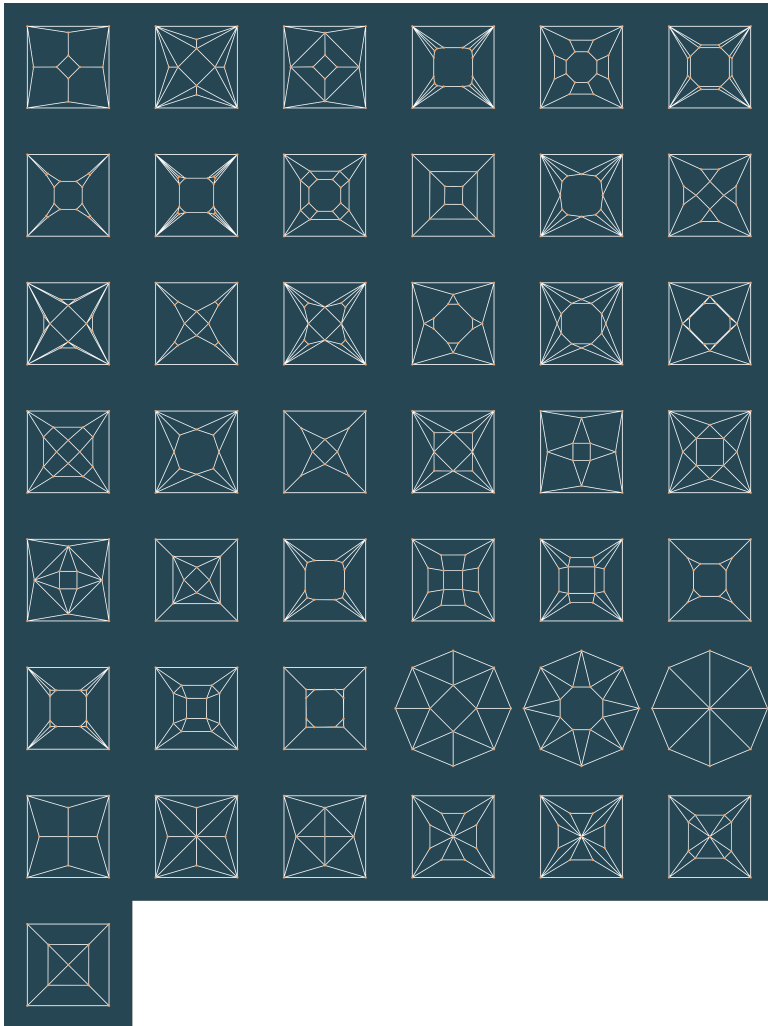
- Simple pavilions with two extra vertices:

Simple Pavilions							
200	020	002	110	101	011		total
5	28	1	33	17	17		101

(Figure 16)

- Standard crowns with two extra vertices:

Standard Crowns							
200	020	002	110	101	011		total
3	16	3	19	13	19		73



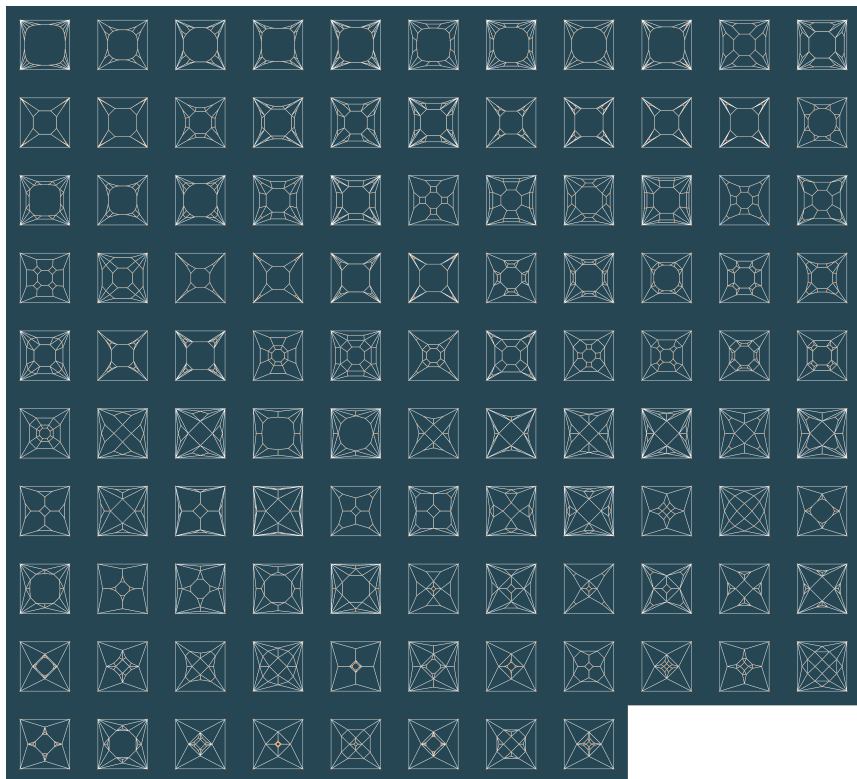
**Figure 13.** All 4-fold lifts generated by 3-vertex fundamental domains: 33 simple crowns, 2 standard crowns, 1 standard pavilion, and 7 simple pavilions.





**Figure 14.** All 5-fold lifts generated by 3 vertex fundamental domains.

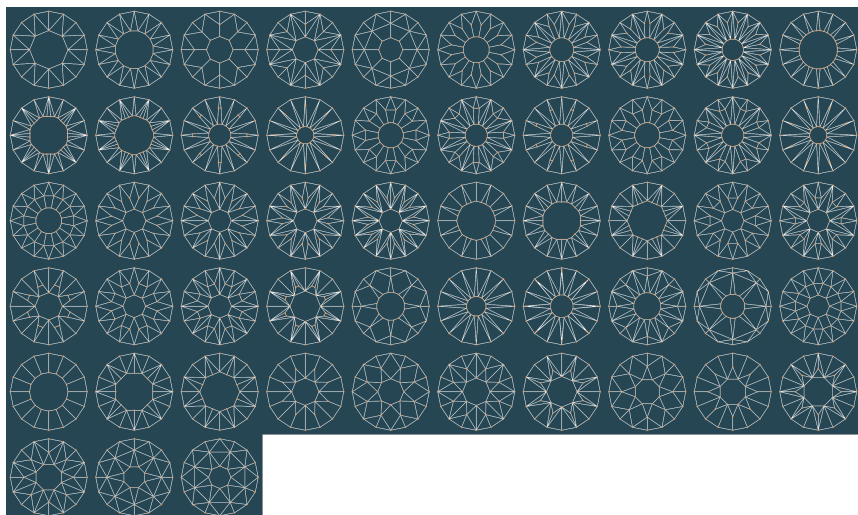




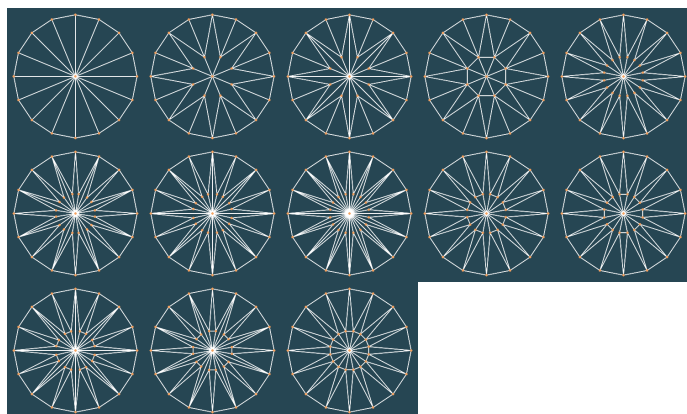
**Figure 15.** A subset of the 415 simple crowns with 4 vertices in their fundamental domain, pictured with 4-fold symmetry. We encourage the digital reader to zoom in to see greater detail in this and subsequent figures.



**Figure 16.** The 101 simple pavilions with 4 vertices in a fundamental domain, pictured with 4-fold symmetry.



**Figure 17.** 8-fold standard crowns generated by  $\leq 4$ -vertex generating graphs. Graphs of the form 100, 010, 200, 020, 110, and 101 are drawn, omitting 002 and 011, which duplicate 200 and 110 up to rotation.



**Figure 18.** 8-fold standard pavilions generated by  $\leq 4$ -vertex generating graphs. Standard pavilions of the form 000, 001 and 010 are drawn, omitting 100.

1.  $C(a, b, c) = C(c, b, a)$  and  $P(a, b, c) = P(c, b, a)$ .
2.  $C_0(0, 0, n) = P_0(0, 0, n) = 1$ ,  $C(0, 0, n) = 2n - 1$ , and  $P(0, 0, n) = 2n + 1$
3.  $C_0(n, 0, 0) = C(n, 0, 0) = 2n - 1$ .  $P_0(n, 0, 0) = 2n + 1$ .  $C(n, 0, 0) = 2n + 1$
4.  $P_0(1, 0, n) = P_0(0, 1, n)$  and  $C_0(1, 0, n) = C_0(0, 1, n)$ .

*Proof:* The first point follows because the vertices  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  can be interchanged. Here is a good point to note that the involution given by reflection of the diagram through the perpendicular bisector of  $b_1, b_2$  acts on the sets counted by  $C(c, b, c)$  and  $P(c, b, c)$ . Graphs fixed by this involution have a higher order  $D_{2n+2}$  symmetry, while the other graphs are counted twice up to isomorphisms that allow boundary vertex permutation.

The fact that  $C_0(0, 0, n) = P_0(0, 0, n) = 1$  can be seen as follows. There are  $n$  vertices lined up on the right hand wall. Each vertex can connect to the one above and below it as well as to itself across the left wall. All of the edges between consecutive vertices on the wall need to be filled in order for the graph to be connected. Moreover, since the vertex degrees need to be at least 3, the self-edges also need to be in place. Hence there is a unique such graph.

To see that  $C_0(n, 0, 0) = 2n - 1$ , let  $v_0, \dots, v_n$  be the list of vertices on the left wall, where the indices are in increasing order as you move down the wall. Given a generating graph on these, let  $v_k$  be the maximal vertex that has a self-edge (which must cross the right hand wall). At least one such self edge is necessary or else the boundary vertex  $b_2$  would meet the diamond's table, so the graph would not be triconnected. Once some  $v_k$  has a self edge, all vertices with  $i < k$  must also have self edges for degree reasons. If  $k = n$ , then the graph is determined, each  $v_k$  has a self-edge, each  $v_i$  is connected to  $v_{i+1}$ , and finally  $v_n$  is connected to  $b_2$ . Otherwise, consider the vertices with  $i > k$ . They must all connect to  $b_2$  for degree reasons and moreover the entire set of  $n$  vertices must be connected in a linear chain. Finally, the edge connecting  $b_2$  with  $v_k$  may or may not be present, giving two options. In total we have  $2(n - 1) + 1 = 2n - 1$  possible graphs.

The other equalities in point 3 are proved similarly.

The equalities in the last point come from expanding the  $L$ -vertex to an edge that crosses the left wall. ■

**Proposition 5.** *The sequence  $C_0(0, n, 0)$  is equal to the number of  $c$ -nets with 3 outer vertices and  $n - 3$  inner vertices, which is OEIS sequence A285165. Our results match those of [1] within the calculated range.†*

*Sketch of proof:* Given a  $C_0(0, n, 0)$  type generating graph, discard the bottom edge and introduce two new vertices that connect to all of the edges meeting the left and right walls, respectively. This gives us a planar graph with three outer vertices when we count the lower right boundary point of the fundamental domain. ■

We leave the reader with the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 1.** *The number of simple crowns of type  $(1, 0, n)$  is given by*

$$C_0(1, 0, n - 1) = \frac{1}{3}(4n^3 + 6n^2 + 8n + 3),$$

*which is sequence A001845 in the OEIS.*

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†The calculated value  $C_0(0, 6, 0) = 115456$  from the generating function of [1] is included in Figure 20.

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$n_L$	$n_M$	$n_R$	spl crowns	std crowns	spl pavs	std pavs
0	0	0	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	1	1	3
0	1	0	1	1	3	9
1	0	0	1	1	3	3
0	0	2	1	3	1	5
0	1	1	7	19	17	67
0	2	0	6	16	28	118
1	0	1	7	13	17	27
1	1	0	9	19	33	67
2	0	0	3	3	5	5
0	0	3	1	5	1	7
0	1	2	25	89	51	241
0	2	1	80	292	258	1210
0	3	0	56	208	320	1616
1	0	2	25	49	51	99
1	1	1	115	285	331	737
1	2	0	102	292	452	1210
2	0	1	35	49	73	99
2	1	0	51	89	139	241
3	0	0	5	5	7	7
0	0	4	1	7	1	9
0	1	3	63	283	113	635
0	2	2	486	1964	1284	6538
0	3	1	1064	4536	4020	21048
0	4	0	640	2848	4128	23392
1	0	3	63	141	113	267
1	1	2	685	1707	1701	4059
1	2	1	1830	5462	6012	16160
1	3	0	1320	4536	6664	21048
2	0	2	199	315	417	661
2	1	1	877	1707	2209	4059
2	2	0	850	1964	2936	6538
3	0	1	111	141	217	267
3	1	0	177	283	409	635
4	0	0	7	7	9	9

**Figure 19.** Number of simple/standard crowns and pavilions of the form  $(n_L, n_M, n_R)$  with  $n_L + n_M + n_R \leq 4$ .

$n_L$	$n_M$	$n_R$	spl crowns	std crowns	spl pavs	std pavs
0	0	5	1	9	1	11
0	1	4	129	705	211	1385
0	2	3	1976	9056	4594	25662
0	3	2	8920	39432	27672	☀
0	4	1	15328	☀	☀	☀☀
0	5	0	8256	☀	☀	☀☀☀
1	0	4	129	337	211	595
1	1	3	2759	7317	6175	16201
1	2	2	14870	☀☀	☀☀	☀
1	3	1	29544	☀☀	☀☀	☀
1	4	0	18584	☀	☀	☀☀
2	0	3	783	1401	1581	2867
2	1	2	6927	☀☀	16519	☀
2	2	1	18208	☀☀	☀☀	☀
2	3	0	14304	39432	☀☀	☀
3	0	2	977	1401	2019	2867
3	1	1	4275	7317	9931	16201
3	2	0	4442	9056	13008	25662
4	0	1	283	337	513	595
4	1	0	475	705	963	1385
5	0	0	9	9	11	11
0	0	6	1	11	1	13
0	1	5	231	1491	353	2659
0	2	4	6262	☀	☀	☀☀☀
0	3	3	☀☀	☀☀	☀☀	☀☀☀☀
0	4	2	☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀☀
0	5	1	☀	☀☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀☀☀
0	6	0	115456*	☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀☀☀
1	0	5	231	70	353	1163
1	1	4	8705	☀	17945	☀☀☀
1	2	3	☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀
1	3	2	☀	☀☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀☀
1	4	1	☀	☀☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀☀☀
1	5	0	☀	☀☀☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀☀☀☀
2	0	4	2443	☀☀	☀☀	☀☀☀
2	1	3	37241	☀☀	☀	☀☀☀
2	2	2	☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀
2	3	1	☀	☀☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀☀
2	4	0	☀	☀☀☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀☀☀☀☀
3	0	3	5547	☀	☀☀	☀☀☀
3	1	2	☀☀	☀☀	☀	☀☀☀☀
3	2	1	☀☀	☀☀☀	☀☀	☀☀☀☀
3	3	0	☀	☀☀☀	☀☀	☀☀☀☀
4	0	2	3647	☀☀	☀☀	☀☀☀
4	1	1	☀☀	☀	☀	☀☀☀
4	2	0	☀☀	☀	☀	☀☀☀
5	0	1	615	701	1041	1163
5	1	0	1065	1491	1953	2659
6	0	0	11	11	13	13

**Figure 20.** Number of simple/standard crowns and pavilions of the form  $(n_L, n_M, n_R)$  with  $n_L + n_M + n_R = 5, 6$ . The starred entry is explained in Proposition 5. The weather symbols are explained in the first paragraph of section 4.4.