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*Bounding The Tripartite-Circle Crossing Number of Complete Tripartite Graphs*. Preliminary report.

A  $k$ -circle drawing of a graph  $G$  is a drawing of  $G$  in the plane where the vertices are placed on the boundary of  $k$  disjoint circles with the requirement that the edges of  $G$  do not cross the boundary of any circle. The  $k$ -circle crossing number of a graph  $G$  is the minimum number of edge-crossings in any  $k$ -circle drawing of  $G$ . For the special case when  $G$  is a  $k$ -partite graph, it is additionally required that the  $k$  sets of disjoint vertices each be placed on separate circles and thus there are no edges in the interior of any circle. The corresponding crossing number is called the  $k$ -partite-circle crossing number. We extend recent work on the bipartite-circle crossing number of complete bipartite graphs to introduce and explore the tripartite-circle crossing number of complete tripartite graphs. (Received September 20, 2017)