For a plane near-triangulation $G$ with the outer face bounded by a cycle $C$, let $n^G_{\varphi}$ denote the function that to each 4-coloring $\varphi$ of $C$ assigns the number of ways $\varphi$ extends to a 4-coloring of $G$. The block-count reducibility argument is equivalent to the statement that $n^G_{\varphi}$ belongs to a certain cone (depending only on the length of $C$). We investigate the properties of this cone for $|C| = 5$, formulate a conjecture strengthening the Four Color Theorem, and present evidence supporting this conjecture. This is a joint work with Zdeněk Dvořák.