# Geometric representations of planar graphs and maps 

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## Overview of the course

- Planar graphs and planar maps
- structural aspects
- combinatorial aspects

- Geometric representations

straight-line drawings

contact representations
+ applications \& links to physical models


# Structural aspects of planar graphs and maps 

## Graphs

A graph $G=(V, E)$ is given by two sets $V, E$ such that each $e \in E$ is an (unordered) pair of elements from $V$
$V$ is the set of vertices, $E$ is the set of edges (links, relations)

## Example:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& V=\{1,2,3,4,5,6\} \\
& E=\{\{1,5\},\{3,6\},\{1,5\},\{4,5\},\{2,3\},\{1,4\}\}
\end{aligned}
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$$



Can also allow for loops and multiple edges

## Example:

$$
\begin{aligned}
V & =\{a, b, c, d, e\} \\
E & =\{\{a, b\},\{b, b\},\{b, c\},\{c, e\},\{b, c\},\{a, d\},\{d, c\}\}
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$E=\{\{a, b\},\{b, b\},\{b, c\},\{c, e\},\{b, c\},\{a, d\},\{d, c\}\}$


Def: A graph is called simple if it has no loop nor multiple edges a graph is called connected if it is "in one piece"

## The natural abstraction for networks


social network


airline connections network

## Planar graphs

A graph is called planar if it can be drawn crossing-free in the plane
$K_{4}$ is planar

non-planar drawing

planar drawing
$K_{5}$ is not planar

(whatever drawing, there is always a crossing)

## Planar graphs

A graph is called planar if it can be drawn crossing-free in the plane
$K_{4}$ is planar

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on the sphere
$K_{5}$ is not planar

(whatever drawing, there is always a crossing)

Rk: planar $\leftrightarrow$ can be drawn crossing-free on the sphere

Planar maps
Def. Planar map = connected graph embedded on the sphere (up to continuous deformation)


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5 faces (including outer one)

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5 faces (including outer one)
degree of a face
$=$ length of walk around $f$

## Motivations for studying planar maps

- Planar networks usually come with an explicit planar embedding

- A natural model of discrete surface (formed from glued polygons)

abstraction of geographic maps

meshes

random discrete surfaces
(2D quantum gravity)
- Nice combinatorial properties!


## Duality for planar maps

6 vertices, 9 edges, 5 faces

a planar map

the dual map


5 vertices, 9 edges, 6 faces preserves \#(edges), exchanges \#(vertices) and \#(faces)

## The Euler relation

Let $M=(V, E, F)$ be a planar map. Then

$$
|E|=|V|+|F|-2
$$



$$
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Proof using spanning trees

$$
|E|=(|V|-1)+(|F|-1)
$$



Kuratowski's theorem for planar graphs
The Euler relation implies (exercise!) that $K_{5}$ and $K_{3,3}$ are not planar


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## $k$-connectivity in graphs

For $k \geq 2$ a graph $G$ is called $k$-connected if $G$ is connected and remains connected when deleting any $(k-1)$-subset of vertices

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Exercise: for triangulations (faces have degree 3) 2-connected $\Leftrightarrow$ loopless 3-connected $\Leftrightarrow$ simple


For $G$ a connected planar graph, operations to change the embedding are:
mirror

flip at separating vertex


flip at separating pair

$\uparrow$


The structure of the set of embeddings
For $G$ a connected planar graph, operations to change the embedding are:
mirror

flip at separating vertex


flip at separating pair

$\downarrow$


Theorem (Tutte, Whitney): any two embeddings of $G$ are related by a sequence of such operations Hence 3-connected planar graphs have a unique embedding (up to mirror)

A $d$-dimensional polytope is a bounded region $P \subset \mathbb{R}^{d}$ that can be obtained as $P=H_{1} \cap H_{2} \cap \cdots \cap H_{k}$ for some half-spaces $H_{1}, \ldots, H_{k}$

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Rk: a polytope $P$ induces a graph $G_{P}$ (vertices \& edges)
Balinsky'61: if $P$ has dimension $d$, then $G_{P}$ is $d$-connected
Steinitz'16: a planar graph is 3-connected iff it can be obtained as the graph of a 3D polytope


## Combinatorial aspects of planar maps

## Rooted maps

A map is rooted by marking and orienting an edge

the face on the right of the root is taken as the outer face

Rooted maps are combinatorially easier than maps (no symmetry issue, root gives starting point for recursive decomposition)

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Rooted maps are combinatorially easier than maps (no symmetry issue, root gives starting point for recursive decomposition)

The 2 rooted maps with one edge


The 9 rooted maps



 with two edges



$0-0-0$


## Duality for rooted maps

same as for maps (root the dual at the dual of the root-edge)

vertices and faces play a symmetric role in rooted maps

Counting rooted maps
Let $a_{n}$ be the number of rooted maps with $n$ edges

| $n$ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $a_{n}$ | 2 | 9 | 54 | 378 | 2916 | 24057 | 208494 |

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Not an isolated case:

- Triangulations ( $2 n$ faces)


Simple: $\frac{1}{n(2 n-1)}\binom{4 n-2}{n-1}$

- Quadrangulations ( $n$ faces)

General: $\frac{2 \cdot 3^{n}}{(n+1)(n+2)}\binom{2 n}{n}$
Simple: $\frac{2}{n(n+1)}\binom{3 n}{n-1}$

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## Bijection maps $\leftrightarrow$ quadrangulations


$n$ edges
$i$ vertices
$j$ faces


$n$ faces
$i$ white vertices
$j$ black vertices

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## Consequence:

\#(rooted maps with $n$ edges) $=$ \#(rooted quadrangulations with $n$ faces)

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$i$ vertices
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$n$ faces
$i$ white vertices
$j$ black vertices

## Consequence:

\#(rooted maps with $n$ edges) = \#(rooted quadrangulations with $n$ faces)
It remains to see why this common number is

$$
\frac{2 \cdot 3^{n}}{(n+1)(n+2)}\binom{2 n}{n}
$$

## Counting rooted maps with_one face <br> A rooted map with one face is called a rooted plane tree <br> 

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Let $c_{n}$ be the number of rooted plane trees with $n$ edges Let $C(z)=\sum_{n \geq 0} c_{n} z^{n}$ be the associated generating function $C(z)=1+z+2 z^{2}+5 z^{3}+14 z^{4}+\cdots$

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Decomposition at the root: no edge at least one edge


$$
=
$$


recurrence: $\quad c_{0}=1 \quad$ and $\quad c_{n}=\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} c_{k} c_{n-1-k}$ for $n \geq 1$
GF equation: $C(z)=1+z \cdot C(z)^{2}$

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Taylor expansion: $C(z)=\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(2 n)!}{n!(n+1)!} \Rightarrow c_{n}=\frac{(2 n)!}{n!(n+1)!} \quad \begin{aligned} & \text { Catalan } \\ & \text { numbers }\end{aligned}$

Adaptation to rooted maps
Let $m_{n}$ be the number of rooted maps with $n$ edges
Let $M(z)=\sum_{n \geq 0} m_{n} z^{n}$ be the associated generating function

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=1+2 z+9 z^{2}+54 z^{3}+378 z^{4}+2916 z^{5}+\cdots
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Decomposition by deleting the root:
at least one edge
 non-disconnecting

?

## Adding a secondary variable

Let $m_{n, k}$ be the number of rooted maps with $n$ edges and outer degree $k$
Let $M(z, u)=\sum_{n, k>0} m_{n, k} z^{n} u^{k}$ be the associated generating function

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=1+z\left(u+u^{2}\right)+z^{2}\left(2 u+2 u^{2}+3 u^{3}+2 u^{4}\right)+\cdots
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$n=1$
$0-\infty$
$n=2$
$k=1$
$k=2$

$0-0-0$
$0-0$
$k=4$

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Decomposition by deleting the root:
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no edge
disconnecting


$$
M(z, u)=1+z u^{2} \cdot M(z, u)^{2}+A(z, u)
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$z^{7} u^{3}$

$z^{8} u^{3}$

$z^{8} u^{2}$


More generally $z^{n} u^{k} \rightarrow z^{n+1} \cdot\left(u+u^{2}+\cdots+u^{k+1}\right)$

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$\Rightarrow A(z, u)=\sum_{n, k} m_{n, k} z^{n+1} \cdot \underbrace{\left(u+\cdots+u^{k+1}\right)}$

$$
u \cdot \frac{u^{k+1}-1}{u-1}
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$\Rightarrow A(z, u)=\sum_{n, k} m_{n, k} z^{n+1} \cdot \underbrace{\left(u+\cdots+u^{k+1}\right)}=z u \frac{u M(z, u)-M(z, 1)}{u-1}$

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Functional equation obtained:

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of the form $P(M(z, u), M(z, 1), z, u)=0$

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of the form $P(M(z, u), M(z, 1), z, u)=0$
One equation, two unknown: $M(z, u)$ and $M(z, 1)$
But a unique solution (2 unknown are correlated)
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Equation $\Rightarrow M(z, u)=1+z\left(u+u^{2}\right)+z^{2}\left(2 u+2 u^{2}+3 u^{3}+2 u^{4}\right)+\cdots$
Guess/and/check or explicit solution methods:
[Brown, Tutte'65, Bousquet-Mélou-Jehanne'06, Eynard'10]
$\Rightarrow M(z, 1)=\frac{1}{54 z^{2}}\left(-1+18 z+(1-12 z)^{3 / 2}\right)=\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{2 \cdot 3^{n}}{(n+2)(n+1)}\binom{2 n}{n} z^{n}$

## Bijective proof: which formula to prove

Let $q_{n}=\#$ (rooted quadrangulations with $n$ faces)
We want to show (bijectively) that $q_{n}=\frac{2 \cdot 3^{n}}{(n+2)(n+1)}\binom{2 n}{n} z^{n}$

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Consider $b_{n}=\#$ (quad. with $n$ faces, a marked vertex and a marked edge)


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Simple relation between $b_{n}$ and $q_{n}: \underbrace{(n+2)}_{\#(\text { vertices })} \cdot q_{n}=2 \cdot b_{n}$

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We want to show (bijectively) that $q_{n}=\frac{2 \cdot 3^{n}}{(n+2)(n+1)}\binom{2 n}{n} z^{n}$
Consider $b_{n}=\#$ (quad. with $n$ faces, a marked vertex and a marked edge)


Simple relation between $b_{n}$ and $q_{n}: \underbrace{(n+2)}_{\#(\text { vertices })} \cdot q_{n}=2 \cdot b_{n}$
Hence showing $\quad q_{n}=\frac{2 \cdot 3^{n}}{(n+2)(n+1)}\binom{2 n}{n} z^{n}$
amounts to showing

$$
b_{n}=3^{n} \frac{(2 n)!}{n!(n+1)!}=3^{n} \operatorname{Cat}_{n}
$$

Pointed quadrangulations, geodesic labelling Pointed quadrangulation $=$ quadrangulation with a marked vertex $v_{0}$ Geodesic labelling with respect to $v_{0}: \ell(v)=\operatorname{dist}\left(v_{0}, v\right)$


Rk: two types of faces


confluent

Well-labelled trees
Well-labelled tree $=$ plane tree where

- each vertex $v$ has a label $\ell(v) \in \mathbb{Z}$
- each edge $e=\{u, v\}$ satisfies $|\ell(u)-\ell(v)| \leq 1$
- the minimum label over all vertices is 1



## The Schaeffer bijection [Schaeffer'99], also [Cori-Vauquelin'81]

Pointed quadrangulation $\Rightarrow$ well-labelled tree with min-label $=1$ $n$ faces $n$ edges


Local rule in each face:


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3) create a new vertex $v_{0}$ outside and connect legs of label 1 to it
4) erase the tree-edges
recover the original pointed quadrangulation


The effect of marking an edge


Local rule in each face:


## Bijective proof of counting formula

Schaeffer's bijection $\Rightarrow b_{n}=\#$ (rooted well-labelled trees with $n$ edges)


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## Application to study distances in random maps

- Typical distance between (random) vertices in random maps the order of magnitude is $n^{1 / 4}\left(\neq n^{1 / 2}\right.$ in random trees)
random $\{-$ [Chassaing-Schaeffer'04] probabilistic
quadrang. $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text { - [Bouttier Di Francesco Guitter'03] exact GF expressions }\end{array}\right.$
- How does a random map (rescaled by $n^{1 / 4}$ ) "look like" ?
as a (rescaled) discrete metric space convergence to the "Brownian map"
[Le Gall'13, Miermont'13]


Extension to pointed bipartite maps
[Bouttier, Di Francesco, Guitter'04]


# Geometric representations of planar maps: I. Straight-line drawings 

## Existence question

planar map (with outer face) = equivalence class of planar drawings of graphs up to continuous deformation


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Question: Does there always exist an equivalent planar drawing such that all edges are drawn as segments ?
(such as drawing is called a (planar) straight-line drawing)
Remark: For such a drawing to exist, the map needs to be simple


## Existence proof (reduction to triangulations)

- Any simple planar map $M$ can be completed to a simple triangulation $T$
(Exercise: can be done without creating new vertices, only edges)



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- Any simple planar map $M$ can be completed to a simple triangulation $T$
(Exercise: can be done without creating new vertices, only edges)
- A straight-line drawing of $T$ yields a straight-line drawing of $M$



## Existence proof (for triangulations)

First proof: induction on the number of vertices
Let $T$ be a triangulation with $n$ vertices


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$T \backslash v$ has a straight-line drawing

## Straight-line drawing algorithms

We present two famous algorithms (each with its advantages)

- Tutte's barycentric method


- Schnyder's face-counting algorithm


Planarity criterion for straight-line drawings


## Planarity criterion for straight-line drawings



Theorem: a straight-line drawing is planar iff every inner vertex is inside the convex hull of its neighbours
(works for triangulations and more generally for 3-connected planar graphs)

## Proof idea

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and since $\sum_{v} \Theta(v)=2 \pi|V|$, must have $\Theta(v)=2 \pi$ for each $v$
Hence locally planar at each vertex (no "folding" of triangles at a vertex)
$\Rightarrow$ the drawing is planar



## Tutte's barycentric method

- Outer vertices $v_{1}, v_{2}, v_{3}$ are fixed at fixed positions (nailed)
- Each inner vertex is at the barycenter of its neighbours

$$
x_{i}=\frac{1}{\Delta_{i}} \sum_{j \sim i} x_{j} \quad y_{i}=\frac{1}{\Delta_{i}} \sum_{j \sim i} y_{j} \quad \text { for } i \geq 4
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- This drawing exists and is unique. It minimizes the energy

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\mathcal{P}=\sum_{e} \ell(e)^{2}=\sum_{\{i, j\} \in T}\left(x_{i}-x_{j}\right)^{2}+\left(y_{i}-y_{j}\right)^{2}
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under the constraint of fixed $x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}, y_{1}, y_{2}, y_{3}$

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## Advantages/disadvantages

The good!

- displays the symmetries nicely
- easy to implement (solve a linear system)
- optimal for a certain energy criterion


The less good:

- a bit expensive computationally (solve linear system of size $|V|$ )
- some very dense clusters (edges of length exponentially small in $|V|$ )



## Schnyder woods

Schnyder wood $=$ each inner edge is given a direction and a color (red, green, blue) so as to satisfy local rules at each vertex:

[Schnyder'89]: each (simple) triangulation admits a Schnyder wood

Fundamental property of Schnyder woods
In each color the edges form a spanning tree (rooted at the 3 outer vertex)


Shelling procedure to compute Schnyder woods

at each step:


Shelling procedure to compute Schnyder woods

at each step:

$\downarrow$


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Face-counting drawing procedure [Schnyder'90]


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## [Schnyder'90]



9 inner faces


## Face-counting drawing procedure

## [Schnyder'90]



9 inner faces
for $v$ : red area: 2 faces
green area: 5 faces
blue area: 2 faces

$9 \times 9 \times 9$ grid

## Face-counting drawing procedure

## [Schnyder'90]


for $v$ : red area: 2 faces green area: 5 faces blue area: 2 faces

draw $v$ at the barycenter of $\{a, b, c\}$ with weights $\frac{2}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{2}{9}$

## Face-counting drawing procedure

## [Schnyder'90]


for $v$ : red area: 2 faces green area: 5 faces blue area: 2 faces

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## Face-counting drawing procedure

## [Schnyder'00]


draw the other vertices according to the same rule

## Face-counting drawing procedure

## [Schnyder'90]


draw the edges as segments

Face-counting drawing procedure

## [Schnyder'00]



For any triangulation $T$ with $n$ vertices, this procedure gives a planar straight-line drawing on the regular $(2 n-5) \times(2 n-5)$ grid

at each inner vertex:

(hence inside the convex hull of neighbours)

Contact representations of planar graphs

General formulation
Contact configuration $=$ set of "shapes" that can not overlap but can have contacts


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yields a planar map (when no


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yields a planar map (when no


Problem: given a set of allowed shapes, which planar maps can be realized as a contact configuration? Is such a representation unique?

## Circle packing

[Koebe'36, Andreev'70, Thurston'85]: every planar triangulation admits a contact representation by disks
The representation is unique if the 3 outer disks have prescribed radius


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Hence one can lift to a circle packing on the sphere
There is a unique representation where the centre of the sphere is the barycenter of the contact points


Axis-aligned rectangles in a box


## Axis-aligned rectangles in a box



- The rectangles form a tiling. The contact-map is the dual map
- This map is a triangulation of the 4-gon, where every 3-cycle is facial


## Axis-aligned rectangles in a box



- The rectangles form a tiling. The contact-map is the dual map
- This map is a triangulation of the 4-gon, where every 3-cycle is facial Is it possible to obtain a representation for any such triangulation?


## Two partial dual Hasse diagrams

dual for vertical edges

dual for horizontal edges



## Transversal structures

For $T$ a triangulation of the 4-gon, a transversal structure is a partition of the inner edges into 2 transversal Hasse diagrams

characterized by local conditions:

$T$ admits a transversal structure iff every 3-cycle is facial

## Face-labelling of the two Hasse diagrams

dual for vertical edges

a horizontal segment in each face
dual for horizontal edges

a vertical segment in each face

Face-labelling of the two Hasse diagrams
dual for vertical edges

a horizontal segment in each face label the face by the $y$-coordinate of segment


$$
j>i
$$

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$\left.\begin{array}{|c|}\hline \text { label the face by the } \\ x \text {-coordinate of segment }\end{array}\right\} \ell$

## Face-labelling of the two Hesse diagrams

dual for vertical edges

a horizontal segment in each face label the face by the $y$-coordinate of segment

vertex $v \leftrightarrow$ rectangle $R(v)$
dual for horizontal edges

a vertical segment in each face

bounding $x, y$-coordinates given by labels

Algorithm by reverse-engineering
[Kant, He'92]
For $T$ a triangulation of the 4 -gon without separating 3-cycle

each vertex $\rightarrow$ box


## Square tilings

[Schramm'93]
There is a unique tiling where every box is a square (needs no separating 4-cycle to be sure there is no degeneracy)


