# Schnyder woods and applications



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MPRI 2-38-1. Algorithms and combinatorics for geometric graphs Course not given in 2022

slides available at: http://www.lix.polytechnique.fr/~pilaud/enseignement/MPRI/MPRI-2-38-1-VP-2.pdf
Course notes available at: https://www.lix.polytechnique.fr/~pilaud/enseignement/MPRI/notesCoursMPRI20.pdf

## SCHNYDER LABELINGS AND WOODS

#### PLANAR MAP



M = planar map with three distinguished vertices  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ ,  $v_3$  clockwise on the outer face where a half edge is pending in the outer face.

#### SCHNYDER LABELING



DEF. Schnyder labeling on M = labeling of the angles of M with labels  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  st: (L1) the angles at the half-edge of  $v_i$  are labeled i + 1 and i - 1 clockwise, (L2) clockwise around each vertex, the labels form intervals of 1's, 2's and 3's, (L3) clockwise around each face, the labels form intervals of 1's, 2's and 3's.



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LEM. The three labels  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  appear among the four angles surrounding any edge.

proof: Count the number of adjacent angles (same vertex and adjacent faces, or adjacent vertices and same face) with distinct labels. There are:

- 3 around each vertex,
- 3 around each face,
- 2 at each half-edge.

Since 3|V| + 3|F| = 3|E| + 6 by Euler relation, there are also 3 for each edge.

### SCHNYDER WOOD



#### SCHNYDER LABELINGS VS SCHNYDER WOODS



THM. The transformation given by



is a bijection from Schnyder labelings to Schnyder woods.

## SCHNYDER LABELINGS VS SCHNYDER WOODS



#### remarks:

- Only two possible situations by the local rules around vertices, edges and faces.
- If *M* is triangulated, the second situation cannot occur except on the external face, so that there is no internal bioriented edge.

DEF. <u>stacked triangulation</u> = triangulation obtained from an initial triangle abc by iteratively refining a triangle pqr into three triangles sqr, psr, and pqs.

construction tree = ternary tree where pqr is the parent of sqr, psr, and pqs.









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QU. Numbers of vertices, edges and faces of a stacked triangulation?

- in terms of the number of stacking operations,
- in terms of the construction tree.

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**REM.** In a stacked triangulation obtained after n stacking operations, and with construction tree C,

- number of vertices = 3 + n = 3 + n number interior nodes in C,
- number of edges = 3(n+1) = 3 + number edges in C,
- number of faces = 2n + 1 = number of leaves of C.

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PROP. A stacked triangulation admits a unique Schnyder labeling and Schnyder wood.

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**PROP.** A stacked triangulation admits a unique Schnyder labeling and Schnyder wood.

proof idea: induction.



## SCHNYDER EMBEDDING

#### TREES



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**PROP.**  $T_i$  is a directed tree rooted at  $v_i$ .

proof ideas:

- All vertices except  $v_i$  have outdegree 1, so enough to prove acyclicity.
- In fact, D<sub>i</sub> = T<sub>i</sub> ∪ T<sup>rev</sup><sub>i-1</sub> ∪ T<sup>rev</sup><sub>i+1</sub> is already acyclic if we ignore bidirected edges or paths.
   If Z is an area minimal cycle in D<sub>i</sub>, then:
  - -Z bounds a single face F (otherwise, it has a chord or contains a vertex...),
  - if Z is clockwise, no angle of F has label i + 1.

DEF. For a vertex v of M, denote:

- $P_i(v) =$ directed path in  $T_i$  to the root  $v_i$ ,
- $R_i(v)$  = region bounded by the two paths  $P_{i-1}(v)$  and  $P_{i+1}(v)$ ,
- $r_i(v)$  = number of faces in region  $R_i(v)$ .



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 $R_i(v) =$  region bounded by the two paths  $P_{i-1}(v)$  and  $P_{i+1}(v)$ .

**PROP.** u, v =two adjacent vertices in the map M. Then:

(R1) if there is a unidirected edge colored i from u to v, then

$$R_i(u) \subsetneq R_i(v), \qquad R_{i-1}(u) \supsetneq R_{i-1}(v), \qquad \text{and} \qquad R_{i+1}(u) \supsetneq R_{i+1}(v),$$

(R2) if there is a bidirected edge colored i + 1 from u to v and i - 1 from v to u, then  $R_i(u) = R_i(v), \qquad R_{i-1}(u) \supseteq R_{i-1}(v), \qquad \text{and} \qquad R_{i+1}(u) \subsetneq R_{i+1}(v).$ 



 $R_{i}(u) = C \subsetneq B \cup C \cup D = R_{i}(v)$  $R_{i-1}(u) = D \cup E \supsetneq E = R_{i-1}(v)$  $R_{i+1}(u) = A \cup B \supsetneq A = R_{i+1}(v)$ 



 $R_{i}(u) = H = R_{i}(v)$   $R_{i-1}(u) = G \cup I \supseteq I = R_{i-1}(v)$   $R_{i+1}(u) = F \subseteq F \cup G = R_{i+1}(v)$ 

## SCHNYDER EMBEDDING

M =planar map with f faces (including the unbounded one), endowed with a Schnyder wood.

 $p_1, p_2, p_3 =$  three arbitrary non-colinear points in the plane.

THM. The map

$$\mu: v \longmapsto \frac{1}{f-1} \left( r_1(v) \cdot \boldsymbol{p}_1 + r_2(v) \cdot \boldsymbol{p}_2 + r_3(v) \cdot \boldsymbol{p}_3 \right)$$

defines a straightline embedding of M in the plane where all faces are convex.





QU. Describe on the construction tree C of a stacked triangulation:

- the trees  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$  and  $T_3$ ,
- the sizes  $r_1(v)$ ,  $r_2(v)$  and  $r_3(v)$  of the regions of a vertex v.

Draw the Schnyder embedding for  $p_1, p_2, p_3$  being the vertices of an equilateral triangle.



**PROP.** The tree  $T_i$  is obtained by contracting all edges colored i - 1 and i + 1 in C

PROP. Assume v is inserted in triangle t, and let  $\gamma$  be the path from t to the root in C. The size  $r_i(v)$  is obtained by summing the number of leaves of the subtrees of the blue children of the nodes of  $\gamma$  that are not in  $\gamma$ .

proof idea: induction.







## GEODESIC MAPS ON ORTHOGONAL SURFACES

#### DOMINANCE ORDER

DEF. dominance order in  $\mathbb{R}^3 = u \leq v \iff u_i \leq v_i$  for all  $i \in [3]$  (componentwise).



### **ORTHOGONAL SURFACE**

DEF. dominance order in  $\mathbb{R}^3 = u \leq v \iff u_i \leq v_i$  for all  $i \in [3]$  (componentwise).

DEF.cone dominating 
$$y \in \mathbb{R}^3$$
cone dominated by  $y \in \mathbb{R}^3$  $\Delta_y = \{ z \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid y \leq z \}$  $\nabla_y = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x \leq y \}$ 



## ELBOW GEODESICS AND COORDINATE ARCS

DEF. On an orthogonal surface  $\mathcal{S}_V$ , define

- <u>elbow geodesic</u> = union of the segments from  $\boldsymbol{u}, \boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{V}$  to  $\boldsymbol{u} \lor \boldsymbol{v} = [\max(u_i, v_i)]_{i \in [n]}$ ,
- coordinate arcs = (not always bounded) segments from  $v \in V$  in an axis direction.



## **GEODESIC EMBEDDING**

DEF. geodesic embedding of a map M on a surface S<sub>V</sub> = drawing of M on S<sub>V</sub> st:
(G1) there is a bijection between the points of V and the vertices of M,
(G2) every edge of M is an elbow geodesic in S<sub>V</sub> and every bounded coordinate arc is part of an edge of M,
(G3) the drawing is crossing-free.





## **GEODESIC EMBEDDINGS VS SCHNYDER WOODS**

THM. If V is an axial antichain, then a geodesic embedding of a map M on  $S_V$  induces a Schnyder wood on M.



proof idea:

- label the angles according to the color of the flat region containing it,
- orient and color the edges according to the three axis. An elbow geodesic can get one or two colors depending on whether it contains one or two bounded coordinate arcs.
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THM. Given a Schnyder wood W on a planar map M, the region vectors of the vertices of M with respect to W form an axial antichain V inducing a geodesic embedding of M on  $S_V$ .

# FROM GEODESIC EMBEDDINGS TO SCHNYDER EMBEDDINGS

THM. The projection of the geodesic embedding onto the plane  $v_1 + v_2 + v_3 = f - 1$  gives a planar drawing of M whose edges are bended segments. Replacing them by straight segments preserves the non-crossing-freeness.



proof idea: when straightening the geodesic embedding, the elbow geodesic joining u and v is controled by  $abla_{u \lor v}$ .

# SCHNYDER EMBEDDING

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 $p_1, p_2, p_3 =$  three arbitrary non-colinear points in the plane.

THM. The map

$$\mu: v \longmapsto \frac{1}{f-1} \left( \mathbf{r}_1(v) \cdot \mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{r}_2(v) \cdot \mathbf{p}_2 + \mathbf{r}_3(v) \cdot \mathbf{p}_3 \right)$$

defines a straightline embedding of M in the plane where all faces are convex.



#### **PRIMAL-DUAL MAP**



DEF. dual map of M = exchange vertices  $\longleftrightarrow$  faces. <u>suspended dual map</u>  $M^*$  = dual map of M where the vertex corresponding to the external face is split into three vertices. <u>primal-dual map</u>  $\widetilde{M}$  = superimposition of the map M and its suspended dual map  $M^*$ with additional vertices at the edge intersections.

# PRIMAL-DUAL GEODESIC EMBEDDING



THM. Reversing the orientation, the same orthogonal surface admits a geodesic embedding of the map M, of its suspended dual map  $M^{\star}$ , and of its primal-dual map  $\widetilde{M}$ .













# **ALPHA-ORIENTATIONS**

# $\alpha\text{-}\mathsf{ORIENTATION}$

DEF. G = (V, E) a graph,  $\alpha : V \to \mathbb{N}$ .

 $\underline{\alpha}$ -orientation = edge orientation of G such that any vertex v has  $\alpha(v)$  outgoing edges.

remark:  $\alpha$ -orientation do not always exists,

even when 
$$\sum_{v \in V} \alpha(v) = |E|$$
 and  $\alpha(v) \le \deg(v)$  for all  $v \in V$ .

**PROP**. Reversing an oriented cycle in an  $\alpha$ -orientation yields another  $\alpha$ -orientation.





# **3-ORIENTATIONS IN TRIANGULATIONS**

DEF.  $M = \text{triangulated planar map with external vertices } v_1, v_2, v_3, \text{ and edges } e_1, e_2, e_3$   $\underline{3\text{-orientation}} = \alpha \text{-orientation of } M \smallsetminus \{e_1, e_2, e_3\},$ where  $\alpha(v) = 3 \text{ except } \alpha(v_1) = \alpha(v_2) = \alpha(v_3) = 0.$ 

THM. For a triangulated triangulated map M, there is a bijection 3-orientations of  $M \leftrightarrow$  Schnyder woods of M.



# **3-ORIENTATIONS IN TRIANGULATIONS**

THM. For a triangulated triangulated map M, there is a bijection 3-orientations of  $M \leftrightarrow Schnyder$  woods of M.

- A Schnyder woods clearly gives a 3-orientation.
- Conversely, consider the central paths in a 3-orientation and prove that they never self-intersect, nor intersect twice.





remark: for an arbitrary planar map, there are more Schnyder woods than 3-orientations...



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THM. For a 3-connected planar map M, there is a bijection  $\alpha$ -orientations of the primal-dual  $\widetilde{M} \longleftrightarrow$  Schnyder woods of Mwhere  $\alpha(\circ) = \alpha(\bullet) = 3$  while  $\alpha(\Box) = 1$ .



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# **TD-DELAUNAY TRIANGULATIONS**

#### **VORONOI DIAGRAM**

DEF.  $P = \text{set of } \underline{\text{sites}} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n$ . <u>Voronoi region</u>  $\operatorname{Vor}(p, P) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid ||x - p|| \le ||x - q|| \text{ for all } q \in P \}$ . <u>Voronoi diagram</u>  $\operatorname{Vor}(P) = \text{partition of } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ formed by } \operatorname{Vor}(p, P) \text{ for } p \in P$ .



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# DELAUNAY COMPLEX

DEF.  $P = \text{set of } \underline{\text{sites}} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n$ . <u>Voronoi region</u>  $\operatorname{Vor}(p, P) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid ||x - p|| \le ||x - q|| \text{ for all } q \in P \}$ . <u>Voronoi diagram</u>  $\operatorname{Vor}(P) = \text{partition of } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ formed by } \operatorname{Vor}(p, P) \text{ for } p \in P$ .



DEF. Delaunay complex  $Del(\mathbf{P}) = intersection complex of Vor(\mathbf{P})$ 

$$\mathrm{Del}(\boldsymbol{P}) = \big\{ \mathrm{conv}(\boldsymbol{X}) \mid \boldsymbol{X} \subseteq \boldsymbol{P} \text{ and } \bigcap_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{X}} \mathrm{Vor}(\boldsymbol{p}, \boldsymbol{P}) \neq \boldsymbol{\varnothing} \big\}.$$

# **EMPTY CIRCLES**

PROP. For any three points p, q, r of P,

- pq is an edge of  $Del(P) \iff$  there is an empty circle passing through p and q,
- pqr is a triangle of  $Del(P) \iff$  the circumcircle of p, q, r is empty.



proof idea: consider the circle centered at the intersection of the Voronoi regions and passing through the Voronoi sites.

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CORO. In two adjacent triangles of a Delaunay triangulation, the sum of the two opposite angles is at most  $\pi$ .

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proof: In a Delaunay realization of this stacked triangulation, we would have

$$a + \overline{a} < \pi, \qquad b + \overline{b} < \pi, \qquad c + \overline{c} < \pi,$$

and  $a + \overline{c} + d = \overline{a} + b + \overline{d} = \overline{b} + c + \underline{d} = 2\pi$ .

Thus  $d + \overline{d} + \underline{d} > 3\pi$  and at least one of d,  $\overline{d}$  and  $\underline{d}$  is larger than  $\pi$ , a contradiction.



THM. A stacked triangulation admits a Delaunay realization if and only if its construction tree has no ternary node after deletion of all its leaves.

- one direction follows from the example above,
- for the opposite direction, find an explicit construction (see Exercise 113 course notes).

### **DEF.** <u>quasi-metric</u> on Q = function $\delta : Q^2 \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ st:

- separability:  $\delta(p,q) = 0 \iff p = q$ ,
- triangular inequality:  $\delta(p,q) + \delta(q,r) \ge \delta(p,r)$ .

DEF.  $P \subseteq Q$  a set of sites of Q.  $\delta$ -Voronoi region  $\operatorname{Vor}_{\delta}(p, P) = \{r \in Q \mid \delta(p, r) \leq \delta(q, r) \text{ for all } q \in P\}.$  $\delta$ -Voronoi diagram  $\operatorname{Vor}_{\delta}(P) =$ partition of Q formed by  $\operatorname{Vor}_{\delta}(p, P)$  for  $p \in P$ .

DEF.  $\delta$ -Delaunay complex  $Del_{\delta}(P)$  = intersection complex of  $Vor_{\delta}(P)$ 

$$\operatorname{Del}_{\delta}(P) = \left\{ X \subseteq P \mid \bigcap_{p \in X} \operatorname{Vor}_{\delta}(p, P) \neq \emptyset \right\} \subseteq 2^{P}.$$
# TRIANGULAR DISTANCE

Fix  $c \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , and consider the hyperplane  $H = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = c \}$ . and its standard equilateral triangle  $\Delta = \operatorname{conv}(ce_1, ce_2, ce_3)$ 

DEF. triangular distance between  $m{x}, m{y} \in m{H} =$ 

$$TD(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y}) = \min \left\{ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \mid \boldsymbol{x} \in \boldsymbol{y} + \lambda(\Delta - c\mathbb{1}/3) \right\}.$$

 $\frac{\text{remark:}}{\text{centered at } y \text{ until it reaches } x.$ 



remark: TD is a quasi-distance, but is not symmetric.

# GEODESIC EMBEDDINGS VS TD-DELAUNAY REALIZATIONS

PROP. Given a Schnyder wood W on a planar map M, the region vectors of the vertices of M with respect to W define a point-set whose TD-Delaunay triangulation is isomorphic to M.



CORO. Any 3-connected planar graph admits a TD-Delaunay realization.

#### EMPTY REVERSED EQUILATERAL TRIANGLES

anti-standard equilateral triangle  $\nabla = - \triangle$ 

PROP. For any points  $oldsymbol{p}$ ,  $oldsymbol{q}$  of  $oldsymbol{P}$  and any  $oldsymbol{Q}\subseteq oldsymbol{P}$ ,

- pq is an edge of  $\mathrm{Del}_{\mathrm{TD}}(P) \iff$  there is an empty  $\triangledown$  passing through p and q,
- Q belongs to a face of  $Del_{TD}(P) \iff$  the circumscribed  $\triangledown$  of Q is empty.



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PROP. In a TD-triangulation, the edges around a vertex look geometrically like



In particular, the paths  $P_1(v)$ ,  $P_1(v)$  and  $P_1(v)$  stay in the red, blue and green angles.

# EXISTENCE OF SCHNYDER WOODS

#### EXISTENCE

THM. Any 3-connected planar map admits a Schnyder wood.

CORO. Any 3-connected planar map with f faces admits a straight line embedding with vertices located on a  $(f-1) \times (f-1)$  grid.



<u>remark</u>: Original proofs of Schnyder (for triangulations) and Felsner (for maps) based on edge contractions (difficult since contractions do not preserve 3-connectedness). Here, proof for triangulations based on canonical orderings (a similar proof for arbitrary 3-connected planar maps is possible but more difficult).

# CANONICAL ORDERING

M = triangulated planar map (except the external face)

DEF. canonical ordering of M = order on the vertices  $v_1, \ldots, v_n$  such that for all  $k \ge 3$ , the submap  $M_k$  of M induced by  $\{v_1, \ldots, v_k\}$  satisfies:

- $M_k$  is connected and its boundary is a simple cycle,
- $M_k$  is triangulated,
- $v_{k+1}$  is in the outer face of  $M_k$ .

PROP. Any triangulated map admits a canonical ordering.

<u>proof idea</u>: start from M and delete a vertex on the outer face incident to only two other vertices of the outer face.

Such a vertex exists since:

- either all vertices are valid,
- or there is a minimal length chord, separating at least a valid vertex.



#### EXISTENCE FROM A CANONICAL ORDERING

PROP. Any triangulated map admits a canonical ordering.

PROP. A canonical ordering defines a Schnyder woods, using the local rule





# THREE APPLICATIONS OF SCHNYDER WOODS

# CONTACT REPRESENTATIONS

DEF. X = set of compact bodies whose interiors are pairwise disjoint.

contact graph of X = graph with

- ullet vertices = bodies of  $oldsymbol{X}$
- edges = contacts between the bodies of X.

contact representation of G = set X whose contact graph is isomorphic to G.





(img src: Wikipedia)

THM. (Circle packing) Any planar simple graph has a circle contact representation.

<u>remark</u>: in fact, the Koebe–Andreev–Thurston theorem says that this circle contact representation is unique up to  $M\tilde{A}$ ¶bius transformations and reflections in lines.

#### TRIANGLE-CONTACT REPRESENTATIONS





### TRIANGLE-CONTACT REPRESENTATIONS



#### **INTERVAL GRAPHS**



**PROP.** A graph G = (V, E) is an interval graph if and only if

- all induced cycles are triangles,
- there is a partial order on V whose comparability graph is the complement of G.

### BOXICITY

DEF. <u>boxicity</u> of G = smallest d such that there exists axis-parallel boxes in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  whose intersection graph is isomorphic to G.



QU. What is the boxicity of

- a complete graph?
- a cycle of length at least 4?

#### BOXICITY

DEF. <u>boxicity</u> of G = smallest d such that there exists axis-parallel boxes in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  whose intersection graph is isomorphic to G.



PROP. The boxicity of G = (V, E) is the smallest d such that there exists d interval graphs  $G_1 = (V, E_1), \ldots, G_d = (V, E_d)$  such that  $E = E_1 \cap \cdots \cap E_d$ .

**PROP.** The boxicity of G = (V, E) is at most |V|/2.

# BOXICITY

DEF. <u>boxicity</u> of G = smallest d such that there exists axis-parallel boxes in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  whose intersection graph is isomorphic to G.

THM. Any planar graph has boxicity 3.

remark: initially proved by Thomassen with a different method.

proof idea:

- enough to consider triangulations,
- use Schnyder woods and geodesic embeddings.



G = (V, E) graph weighted by  $\omega : E \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ . weight of a path  $e_1, \ldots, e_k = \sum_{i \in [k]} \omega(e_i)$ .  $d_G(u, v) =$  minimum weight of a path between u and v in G.

exm: G = (V, E) geometric graph and  $\omega(u, v) = ||u - v||$ .



DEF. <u>t-spanner</u> of G = subgraph H of G such that  $d_H(u, v) \le t \cdot d_G(u, v)$  for all  $u, v \in V$ . <u>stretch factor</u> of H = smallest factor t such that H is a t-spanner of G. geometric spanner = spanner of the complete geometric graph.

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#### THM.

- The complete geometric graph is a 1-spanner.
- The Delaunay triangulation is a *t*-spanner for  $(\pi/2 <) 1.5846 < t < 1.998 (< 2)$ .
- The TD-Delaunay is a 2-spanner.

proof idea: for the TD-triangulation



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DEF. For  $i \in [3]$  and  $\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{P}$ , denote by

- parent<sub>i</sub>(p) = target of the unique outgoing edge of  $Del_{TD}(P)$  colored by *i*.
- children<sub>i</sub>(p) = all points  $q \in P$  such that p = parent<sub>i</sub>(q).
- $closest_i(p) = point of children_i(p)$  closest to p for the triangular distance.
- first<sub>i</sub>(p) and last<sub>i</sub>(p) = first and last points of children<sub>i</sub>(p) clockwise around p.

THM. (Bonichon, Gavoille, Hanusse, and Perkovic) The subgraph of the TD-Delaunay triangulation  $\text{Del}_{\text{TD}}(\boldsymbol{P})$  obtained by erasing at each vertex  $\boldsymbol{p}$  all incoming arcs except the arcs  $\text{first}_i(\boldsymbol{p})$ ,  $\text{last}_i(\boldsymbol{p})$  and  $\text{closest}_i(\boldsymbol{p})$  for  $i \in [3]$  (if they exist) is a planar 6-spanner with degree at most 12.

# SOME REFERENCES

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