Making Triangulations 4-connected using Flips

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• Replace one diagonal of a quadrilateral with the other



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- Vertex for each triangulation
- Edge if two triangulations differ by one flip

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- Edge if two triangulations differ by one flip
- Flip Distance: shortest path in flip graph

• Connected?

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- Connected?
 - Yes Wagner (1936)

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- Diameter?
 - $O(n^2)$ Wagner (1936)

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 - Yes Wagner (1936)
- Diameter?
 - $O(n^2)$ Wagner (1936)
 - 8*n* 54 Komuro (1997)
 - 6*n* 30 Mori *et al.* (2003)



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Sander Verdonschot (Carleton University) Making Triangulations 4-connected



 $\text{4-connected} \Rightarrow \text{Hamiltonian}$



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Total: 6n - 30



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Total: $6n - 30 \quad 5.2n - 24.4$

• Separating triangle: 3-cycle whose removal disconnects the graph



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- No separating triangles \iff 4-connected



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- No separating triangles \iff 4-connected
- Flipping an edge of a separating triangle removes it



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- No separating triangles \iff 4-connected
- Flipping an edge of a separating triangle removes it
- Prefer shared edges



• To prove: $\# flips \le (3n - 6)/5$

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- To prove: #flips $\leq (3n 6)/5$
- Charging scheme:
 - Coin on every edge
 - Pay 5 coins per flip

- Invariant: Every edge of a separating triangle has a coin
- Charge the flipped edge
- Charge all edges that aren't shared



• Free edge: edge that is not part of any separating triangle



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- Every vertex of a separating triangle is incident to a free edge inside the triangle



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- Free edge: edge that is not part of any separating triangle
- *Invariant:* Every vertex of a separating triangle is incident to a free edge inside the triangle *that has a coin*
- Charge all free edges that aren't needed by other separating triangles



• A *deepest* separating triangle is contained in the maximum number of separating triangles

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- Flip:
 - An arbitrary edge
 - Shared with other separating triangles
 - Not shared with a containing triangle

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• Case 1: No shared edges

- The flipped edge
- \Box An unshared triangle edge
- O An unshared free edge
- A superfluous free edge



• Case 2: Shares edges with non-containing triangles

- The flipped edge
- \Box An unshared triangle edge
- O An unshared free edge
- A superfluous free edge



Which edges to flip?

• Case 3: Shares one edge with containing triangle

- The flipped edge
- \Box An unshared triangle edge
- O An unshared free edge
- A superfluous free edge



• Any triangulation can be made 4-connected by $\lfloor \frac{3n-7}{5} \rfloor$ flips

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Image: A matrix and a matrix

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• (3n - 10)/5 edge-disjoint separating triangles



- Any triangulation can be made 4-connected by $\lfloor \frac{3n-7}{5} \rfloor$ flips
- There are triangulations where this requires $\left\lceil \frac{3n-10}{5} \right\rceil$ flips



Total: 6n - 30

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Total: $6n - 30 \quad 5.2n - 24.8$

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Total: $6n - 30 \quad 5.2n - 24.8$

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4 connected

Total: 6n - 30 5.2n - 24.8

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Total: $6n - 30 = 5 \cdot 2n - 24.8 = 5 \cdot 2n - 32.8$

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$$\frac{11.000-50}{24.8} = 24.8 \quad 5.2n = 52.8 \\ \ge 2n - 15$$

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Which edges to flip?

• Case 4: Shares an edge with containing triangle and one with non-containing triangle

- The flipped edge
- \Box An unshared triangle edge
- O An unshared free edge
- A superfluous free edge



Which edges to flip?

• Case 5: Shares an edge with containing triangle and two with non-containing triangles

- The flipped edge
- \Box An unshared triangle edge
- O An unshared free edge
- A superfluous free edge

