Orienting triangulations: on a conjecture of Barát and Thomassen

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Every triangulation of a closed surface *different from sphere and projective plane* admits an orientation with all vertices of *non-zero* outdegree *divisible by three*.



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Thm[Radó '25] Every S admits a T**Obs** All T on S have the same eg(T)

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 $m \geq 3n$

Euler genus requirement necessary and Conjecture best-possible.

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Every triangulation of a closed surface admits an orientation with all vertices of outdegree *divisible by three*. On torus and Klein-bottle outdegrees non-zero.

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additional motivation: generalizations of Schnyder Woods

Orientation and red-green-blue-coloring of

inner edges such that:

at *inner* vertices:



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How about generalizations to higher genus?

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very rough and slightly wrong idea:

- peel off vertices of the triangulation
- reversing this process gives a construction sequence
- build the desired orientation from some starting configuration on the fly

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partition T into:

- initial graph I: starting configuration ... later
- correction graph **B**: acyclic orientation $T \setminus \mathbf{I}$ outdegree 2
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what is this good for?

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- maximal outerplanar graph $D + e^* = uv$
- $\circ \ u, v$ are deg 2 in D
- $\circ \, u, v$ are ends of ${f G}$
- some more stuff later







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- find Schnyder Wood
- \circ interior vertices outdeg 3
- $\circ\,$ outer vertices outdeg 0
- boundary not oriented

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Explore T by stacking vertices to edges mantaining $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Invariants}}$

- interior vertices happy wrt partition
- boundary angles
 - happy wrt ${\bf B}$
 - have either ${\bf R}$ or ${\bf G}$ request or none
 - G requests consecutive on boundary
- $\circ\,$ unexplored disks have at least 3 free angles

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Explore T by stacking vertices to edges mantaining **Invariants**

- interior vertices happy wrt partition
- boundary angles
 - happy wrt B
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 \implies there is only one u_i



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minimality \implies in $D - (vu_i)_i$ everybody neighbor on other side \implies there is only one u_i

no separating 3 and 4-disks \implies no vertices inside D

D induced, D + vinduced, no cycle through v and D is contractible

Take an inclusion minimal such D + v

minimality \implies no chords at u_i

 \mathcal{U}

 e^*

There is:

 u_1

 $\begin{array}{rcl} \text{minimality} \implies \text{ in } D - (vu_i)_i \text{ everybody neighbor on other side} \\ \implies \text{ there is only one } u_i \end{array}$

no separating 3 and 4-disks \implies no vertices inside D

initial graph I:

• maximal outerplanar graph

 $D + e^* = u_1 v$

- induced
- non-contractible

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start with I distinguish different situations of stacking

- interior vertices happy wrt partition
- boundary angles
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always stack some \boldsymbol{x} to some \boldsymbol{e} such that

- $\circ\,$ not both ends of e have ${\bf G}$ request
- $\circ\,$ if x is in unexplored disk, then either adjacent to all boundary or has exactly one neighboring path not covering all free angles
- create new unexplored disks as late as possible

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- $\circ~$ interior vertices happy wrt partition
- boundary angles
 - happy wrt \mathbf{B}
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case B: *x* not in unexplored disk

- interior vertices happy wrt partition
- boundary angles
 - happy wrt \mathbf{B}
 - have either ${\bf R}$ or ${\bf G}$ request or none
 - G requests consecutive on boundary
- $\circ\,$ unexplored disks have at least 3 free angles

case B: *x* not in unexplored disk



- several neighboring paths
- wlog no free angles
- satisfy all requests on inner angles

- interior vertices happy wrt partition
- boundary angles
 - happy wrt \mathbf{B}
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case B: *x* not in unexplored disk



if x closes unexplored disk it appears several times on boundary, otherwise there would have been x' closing no unexplored disk

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- boundary angles
 - happy wrt ${\bf B}$
 - have either ${\bf R}$ or ${\bf G}$ request or none
 - G requests consecutive on boundary
- $\circ\,$ unexplored disks have at least 3 free angles

case C:

 \boldsymbol{x} in unexplored disk and has neighboring path

- interior vertices happy wrt partition
- boundary angles
 - happy wrt ${\bf B}$
 - have either ${\bf R}$ or ${\bf G}$ request or none
 - G requests consecutive on boundary
- $\circ\,$ unexplored disks have at least 3 free angles

case C:

 \boldsymbol{x} in unexplored disk and has neighboring path

- interior vertices happy wrt partition
- boundary angles
 - happy wrt \mathbf{B}
 - have either ${\bf R}$ or ${\bf G}$ request or none
 - G requests consecutive on boundary
- $\circ\,$ unexplored disks have at least 3 free angles

case C:

 \boldsymbol{x} in unexplored disk and has neighboring path



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 - happy wrt \mathbf{B}
 - have either ${\bf R}$ or ${\bf G}$ request or none
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- $\circ\,$ unexplored disks have at least 3 free angles

case C:

 \boldsymbol{x} in unexplored disk and has neighboring path



- only one neighboring path
- $\circ~$ neighboring path contains ≤ 2 free angles
- $\circ\,$ satisfy x 's requests using free and outer
- satisfy all requests on inner angles

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case C:

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- $\circ\,$ unexplored disks have at least 3 free angles

case C:

 \boldsymbol{x} in unexplored disk and has neighboring path

two G requests





- only one neighboring path
- $\circ~$ neighboring path contains ≤ 2 free angles
- $\circ~$ satisfy $x{\rm 's}$ requests using free and outer
- satisfy all requests on inner angles

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Questions:

Schnyder Woods on orientable sufaces:

Lattice structure on orientations: Orientation and red-green-blue-coloring of inner edges such that:

at all vertices: -

Outdegree 3 orientations of planar graph carry distributive lattice structure. How about higher genus surfaces?

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Questions:

- Schnyder Woods on orientable sufaces:
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- Orientation and red-green-blue-coloring of inner edges such that:
 - at all vertices: -
- Outdegree 3 orientations of planar graph carry distributive lattice structure. How about higher genus surfaces?

Conjecture [Barát&Thomassen '06]:

Every planar 4-edge-connected graph with number of edges divisible by 3 has an orientation with oudegrees divisble by 3.