

# On Contact Graphs with Cubes and Proportional Boxes

Jawaherul Alam <sup>1</sup>   Michael Kaufmann <sup>2</sup>  
**Stephen Kobourov** <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of California - Irvine

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<sup>3</sup>**University of Arizona**  
**(also Charles University)**

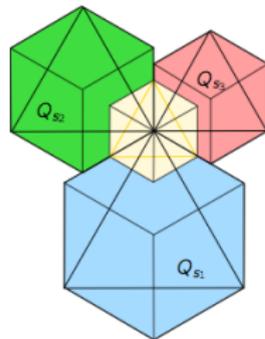
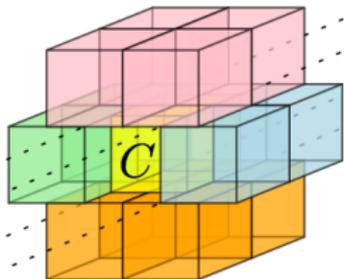
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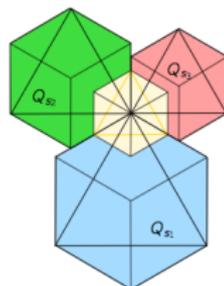
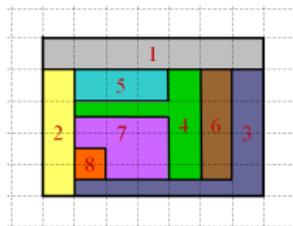
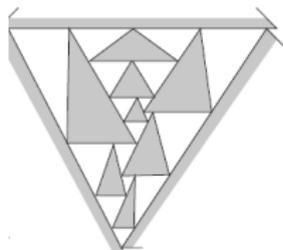
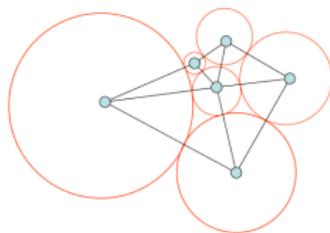
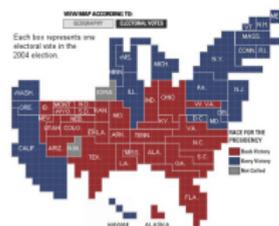
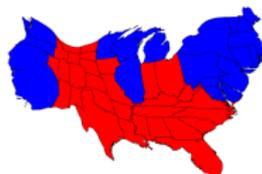
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# Contact Representation of Graphs

Many different types of contact

- circles, triangles, rectangles, boxes, ...
- point contact vs. side (proper) contact
- unweighted vs. weighted (proportional)
- 2D, 3D
- ...



# Contact Representations



- vertices: polygons
- edges: non-trivial borders

# Proportional Contact Representations

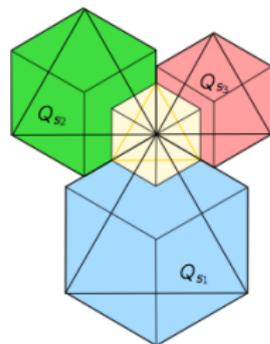
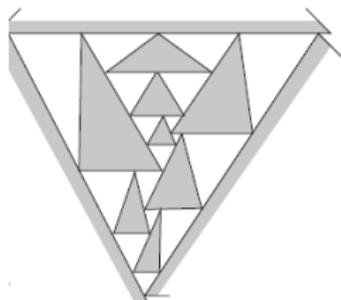
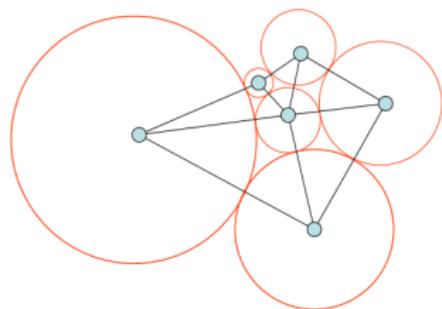


- vertices: polygons
- edges: non-trivial borders
- *vertex weight*  $\Rightarrow$  *area of polygon, or volume of polytope*

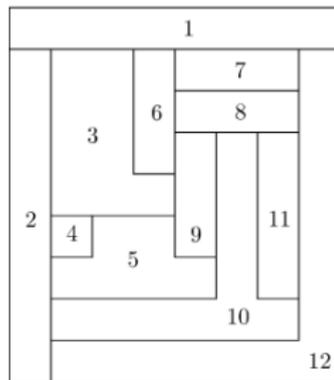
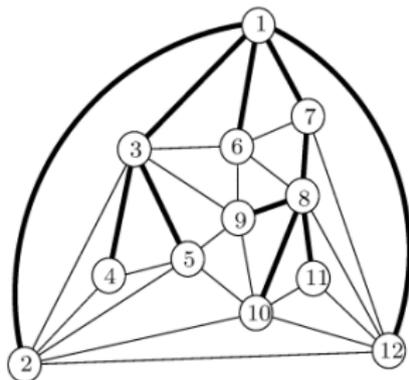


# Related Work

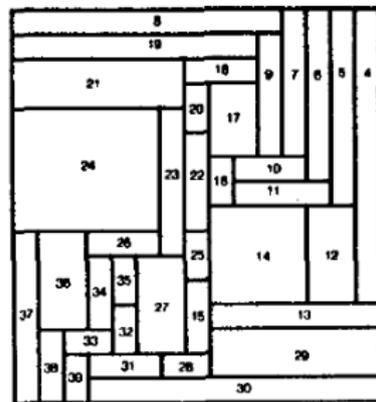
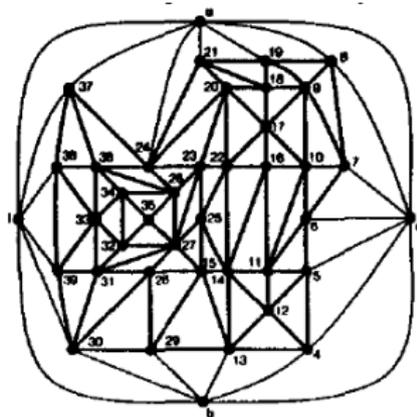
- contact with circles [Koebe, 1936]
- contact with triangles [de Fraysseix *et al.*, 1994]
- contact with 3D cubes [Felsner and Francis, 2011].



**Rectilinear Duals:** Eight-sided rectilinear polygons are always sufficient and sometimes necessary for maximal planar graphs [Yeap and Sarrafzadeh 1993, He 1999, Liao *et al.*, 2003].



**Rectilinear Duals:** Rectangles are sufficient for 4-connected maximal planar graphs [Ungar 1953, Kozminski and Kinnen 1985, Kant and He, 1997]



### Connections...

- The edges of any maximal planar graph can be partitioned into **3 edge-disjoint spanning trees** [Nash 1961, Tutte 1961]

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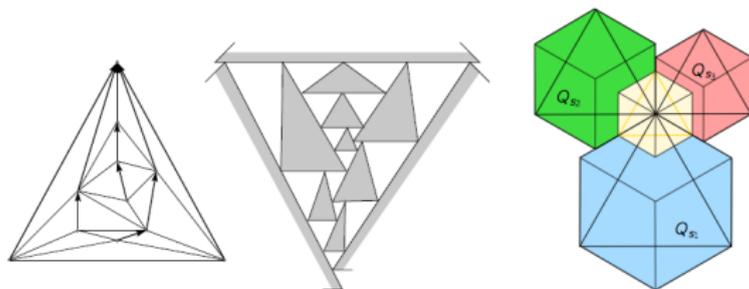
- The edges of any maximal planar graph can be partitioned into **3 edge-disjoint spanning trees** [Nash 1961, Tutte 1961]
- **Schnyder realizer** was defined and used for straight-line drawing [Schnyder 1990]

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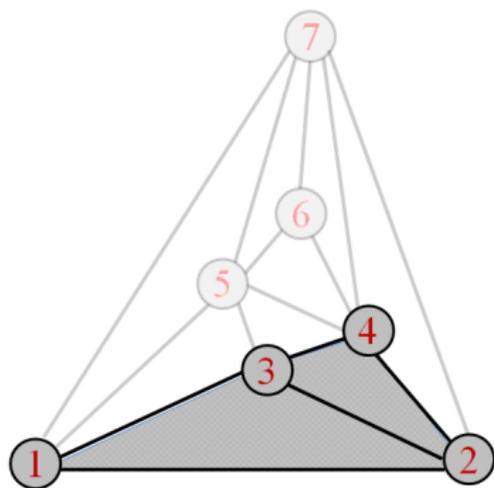
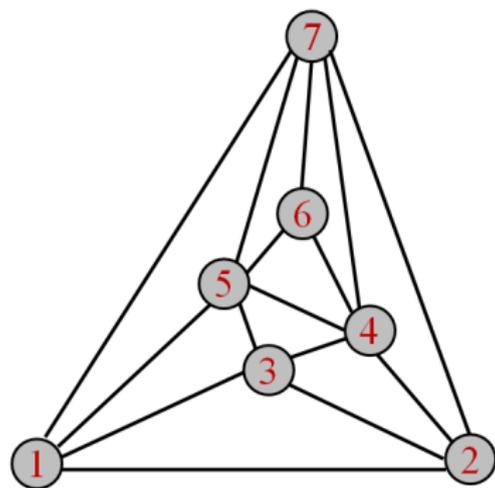
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- **Canonical order** defined and used for straight-line drawing [de Fraysseix, Pach and Pollack 1990]

## Connections...

- The edges of any maximal planar graph can be partitioned into **3 edge-disjoint spanning trees** [Nash 1961, Tutte 1961]
- **Schnyder realizer** was defined and used for straight-line drawing [Schnyder 1990]
- **Canonical order** defined and used for straight-line drawing [de Fraysseix, Pach and Pollack 1990]
- Relations between canonical order, Schnyder realizer used to prove various results [de Fraysseix, Kant, He, Felsner, Fusy, Ueckerdt,...]

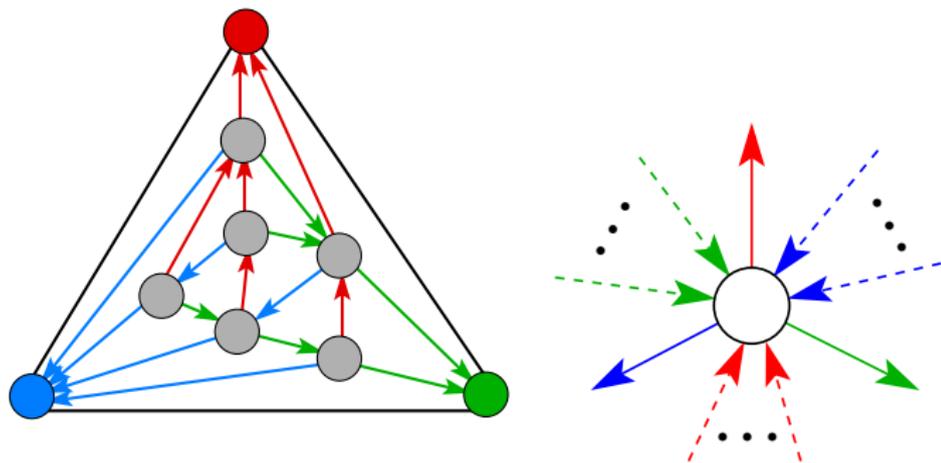


# Canonical Order



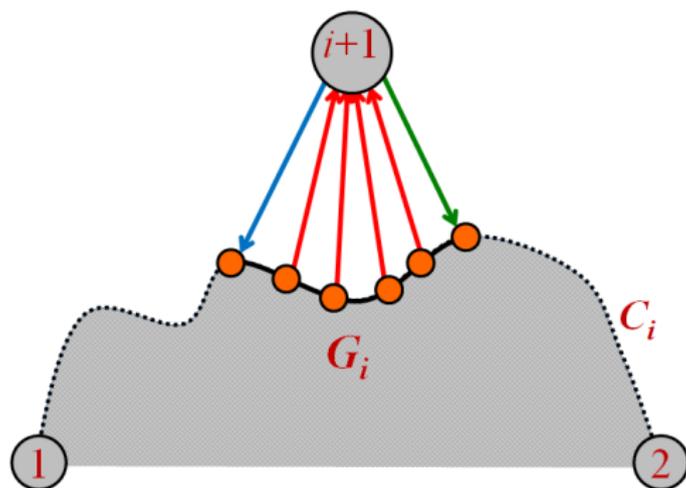
- Ordering of the vertices
- $G_i$  (induced on vertices  $1, \dots, i$ ) is biconnected
- $i + 1$  is on outerface of  $G_{i+1}$
- $i + 1$  has 2 or more consecutive neighbors on  $G_i$

# Schnyder Realizer



- partition of the internal edges into three spanning trees
- every vertex has out-degree exactly one in  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$  and  $T_3$
- **vertex rule**: ccw order of edges: entering  $T_1$ , leaving  $T_2$ , entering  $T_3$ , leaving  $T_1$ , entering  $T_2$ , leaving  $T_3$

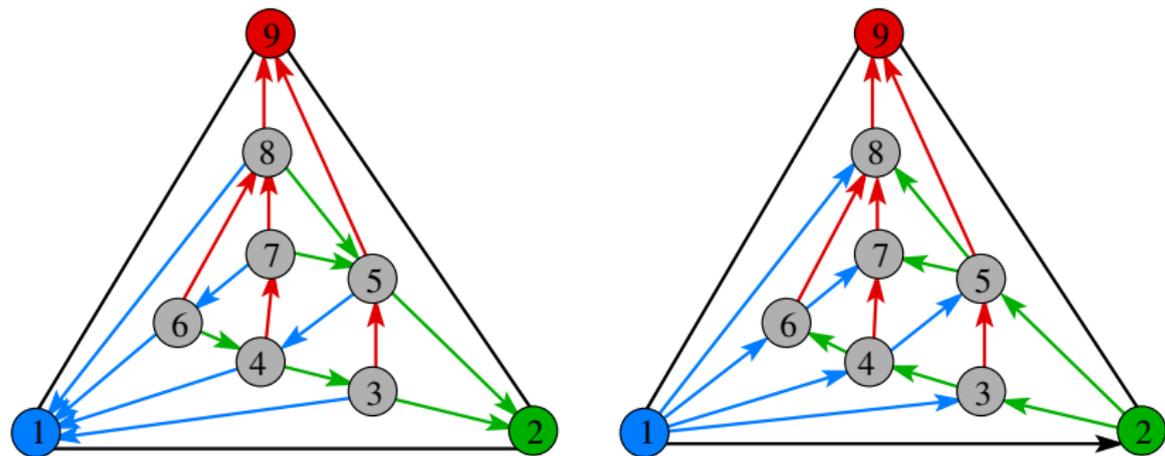
# From Canonical Order to Schnyder Realizer



When a new vertex is inserted in the canonical order:

- leftmost edge is **outgoing blue**
- rightmost edge is **outgoing green**
- remaining (0 or more edges) incoming red
- (it gets its **outgoing red** when it is “closed off”)

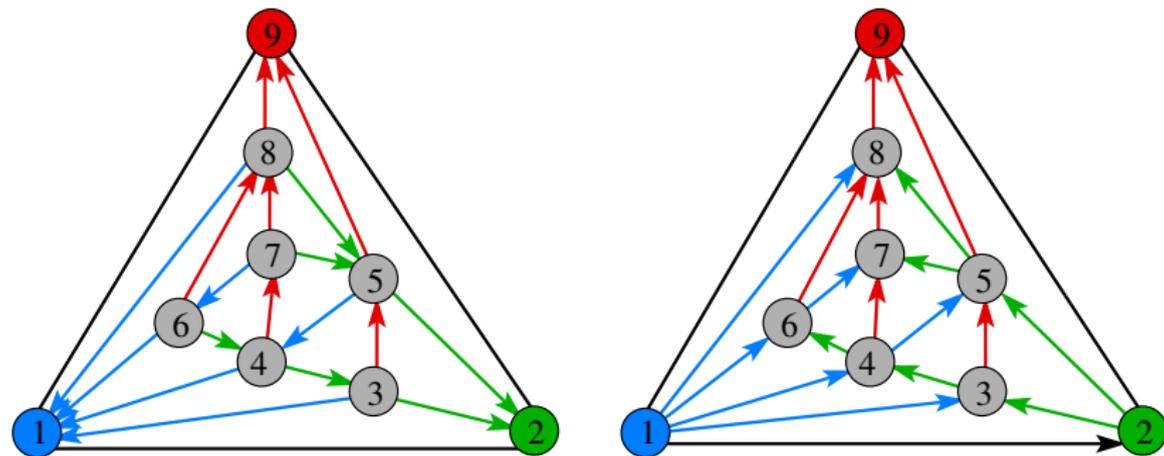
# From Schnyder Realizer to Canonical Order



Two easy ways:

- counterclockwise preorder traversal of the **blue tree**

# From Schnyder Realizer to Canonical Order

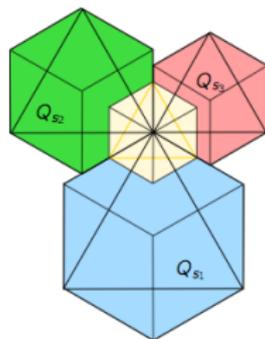
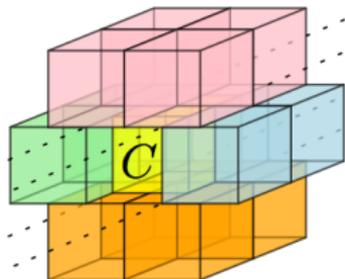


Two easy ways:

- counterclockwise preorder traversal of the **blue tree**
- topological order of  $T_1 \cup T_2^{-1} \cup T_3^{-1}$

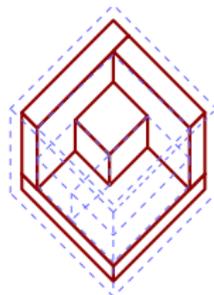
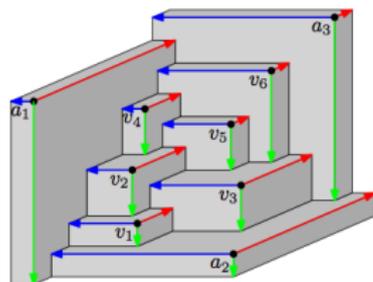
# Contacts in 3D

- A planar graph has a representation using **axis-parallel boxes in 3D**, where two boxes have a non-empty intersection iff their corresponding vertices are adjacent. It holds with **contacts rather than intersections**.  
[Thomassen 1986]
- A planar graph has a contact representation (improper) with **axis-parallel cubes in 3D**, where two boxes touch iff their corresponding vertices are adjacent.  
[Felsner and Francis 2011]



# Contacts in 3D

We study **proper contact** representations: in 3D touching objects have non-trivial-area face overlap



[Bremner, Kobourov et al., GD'12]

- Deciding unit cube proper contact is NP-Complete
- Two new proofs of Thomassen's proper box contact

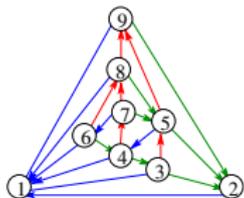
[Alam, Evans, Kobourov et al., WADS'15]

- 3-connected planar: proper primal-dual box-contact repr.
- 1-planar prime graphs: proper box-contact repr.

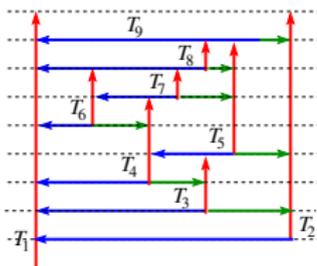
# Box Representation via FPP

## Theorem

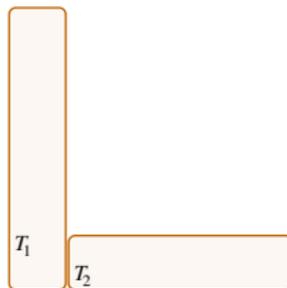
(Thomassen) Planar graphs have touching boxes contact representation.



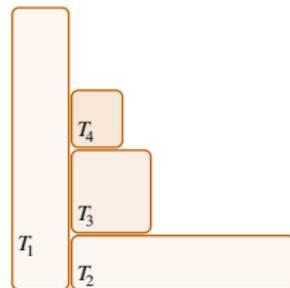
(a)



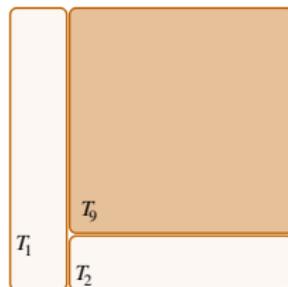
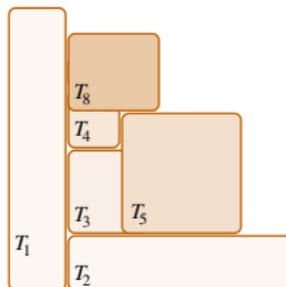
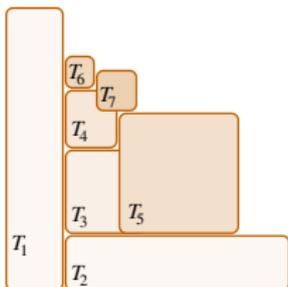
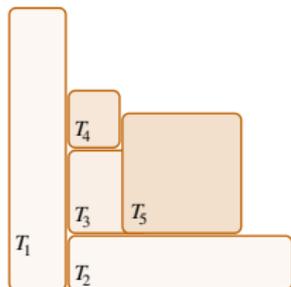
(b)



(c)



(d)

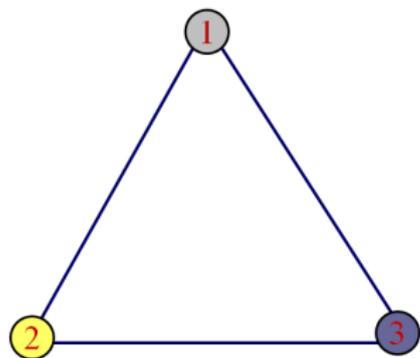


# Cube Representation for Planar 3-Trees

## Theorem

*Every planar 3-tree has a proper contact representation by cubes.*

Recall planar 3-trees: either a 3-cycle or a planar graph  $G$  with vertex  $v$ , s.t.,  $\deg(v) = 3$  and  $G - v$  is a planar 3-tree

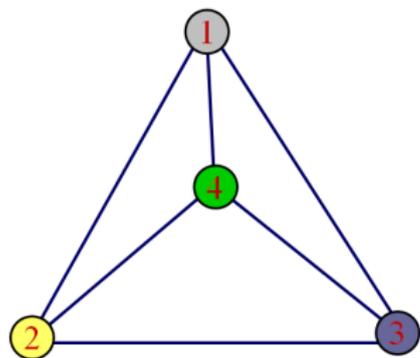


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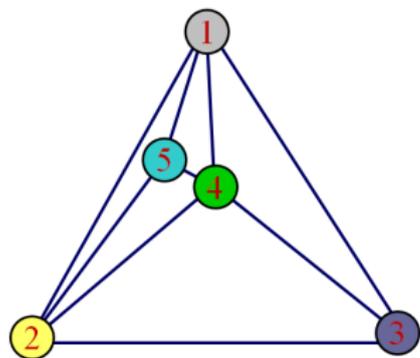


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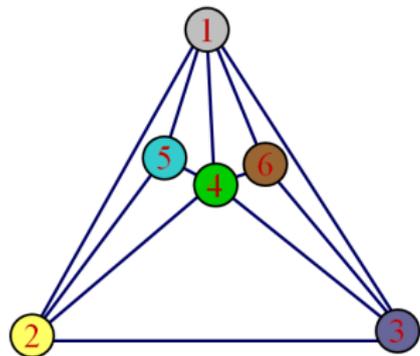


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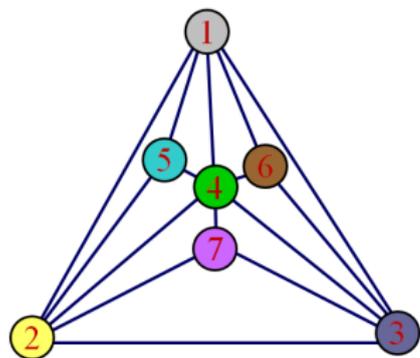


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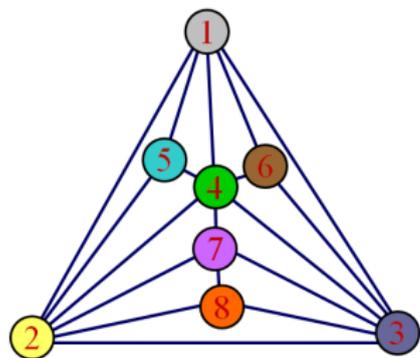


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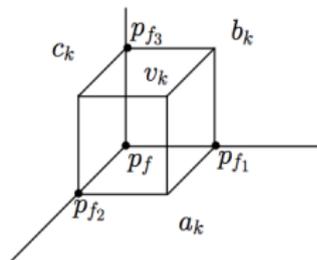
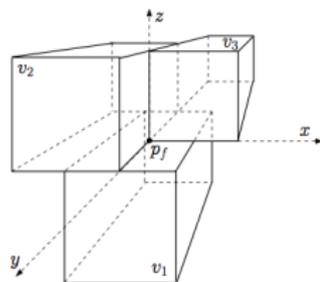
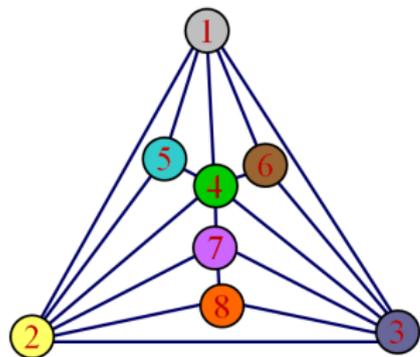


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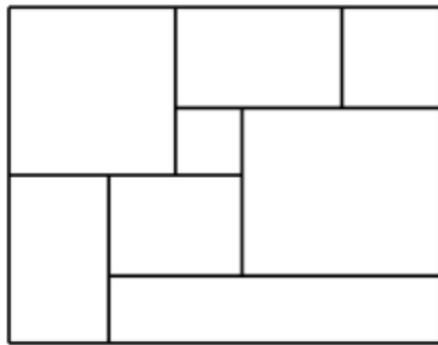
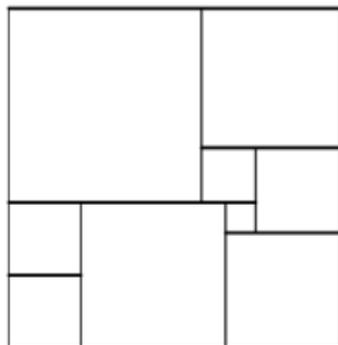
# Proportional Box Representation

## Theorem

*Every internally triangulated 4-connected planar graph has a proper proportional contact representation with boxes.*

## Proof.

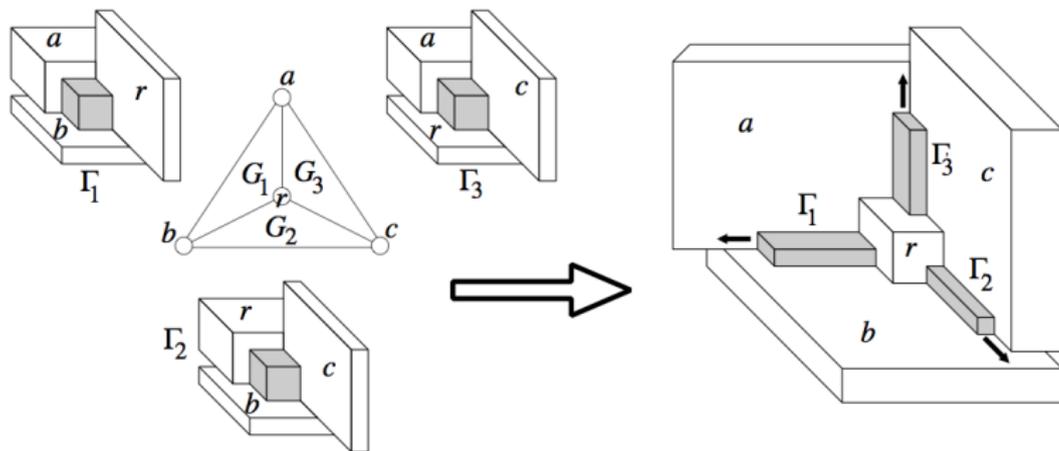
- 4-connected plane graph  $\rightarrow$  rectangulation
- “grow” boxes up to get desired volumes



# Proportional Box Representation for Planar 3-Trees

## Theorem

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a plane 3-tree with a weight function  $w$ .  
Then a **proportional box-contact representation** of  $G$  can be computed in linear time.



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Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a plane 3-tree with a weight function  $w$ .  
Then a **proportional box-contact representation** of  $G$  can be computed in linear time.

## Proof.

- compute representative tree  $T$  for  $G$  (aka 4-block tree)
- $U_v$ : the set of the descendants of  $v$  in  $T_G$  including  $v$ .
- *predecessors* of  $v$  are  $N_G(v)$  that are not in  $U_v$
- scale weights so that  $w(v) \geq 1 \forall v \in G$
- let  $v_1, v_2$  and  $v_3$  be the three children of  $v$  in  $T_G$
- define  $W(v) = \prod_{i=1}^3 [W(v_i) + \sqrt[3]{w(v)}]$
- compute bottom up



# What other graphs have such representations?

## Theorem

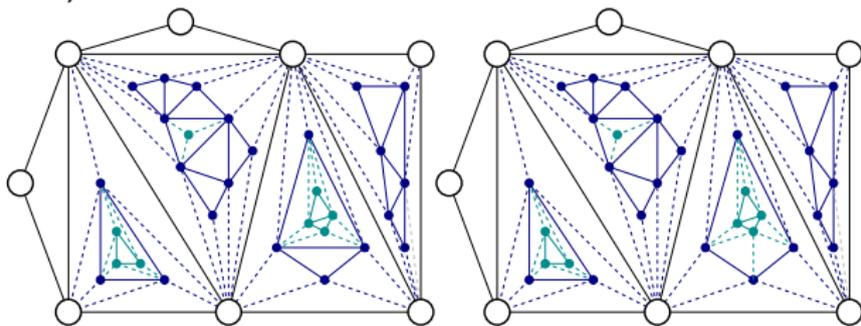
*Any nested maximal outerplanar graph has a proper contact representation with cubes.*

## Theorem

*Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a nested outerplanar graph with a weight function  $w$ . Then a **proportional box-contact representation** of  $G$  can be computed in linear time.*

# Nested Outerplanar Graphs

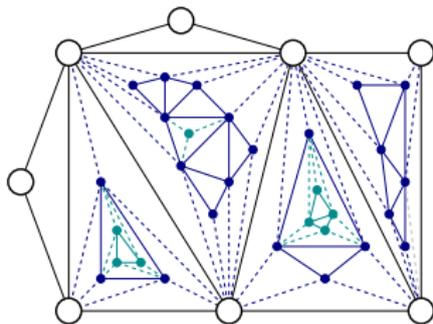
A nested outerplanar graph, is kind of like a  $k$ -outerplanar graph (where, a 1-outerplanar graph is the standard outerplanar).



## Definition

A **nested outerplanar graph** is either an outerplanar graph or a planar graph  $G$ , where each component induced by the internal vertices is another nested outerplanar graph, with exactly three neighbors in the outerface of  $G$ .

# Nested Maximal Outerplanar Graphs



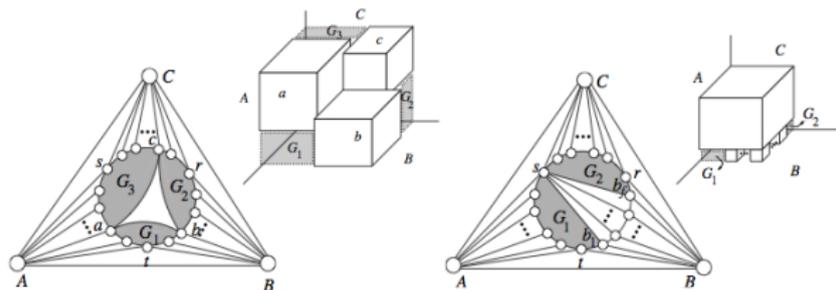
## Definition

A **nested maximal outerplanar graph** is a subclass of nested outerplanar graphs, that is either a maximal outerplanar graph, or a maximal planar graph in which the vertices on the outerface induce a maximal outerplanar graph and each component induced by internal vertices is another nested maximal outerplanar graph.

# 3D Representations

## Theorem

*Any nested maximal outerplanar graph has a proper contact representation with cubes.*

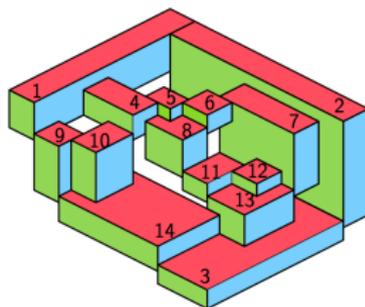
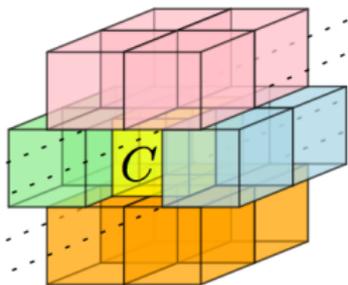


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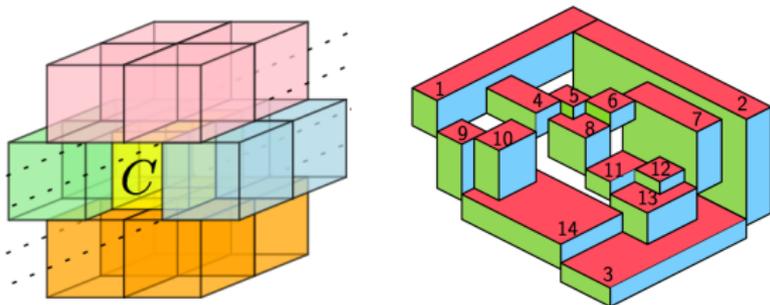
# Open Problems

- Contact Representation in 3D: **do all planar graphs** have proper cube contact representation?
- Proportional Contact Representation in 3D: **do all planar graphs** have proper proportional box contact representation?



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- Proportional Contact Representation in 3D: **do all planar graphs** have proper proportional box contact representation?



**GOING BACK TO PRAGUE/OLOMOUC ON WEDNESDAY?**

I need to be in Prague by 13:00, or in Olomouc by 17:30.

Help! email: [kobourov@cs.arizona.edu](mailto:kobourov@cs.arizona.edu)