AN INTRODUCTION TO ORIENTATIONS ON MAPS

2nd lecture — May, 16th 2017

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Mini-school on Random Maps and the Gaussian Free Field — ProbabLyon

Plan

Yesterday : Construction of orientations, existence, uniqueness

- 1 Some definitions : maps, orientations.
- 2 Existence of orientations
- 3 Flip and flop : the lattice of orientations

Today : Applications : graph drawings, couplings, bijections

- 1 Couplings and spanning trees.
- 2 Schnyder woods and graph drawings.
- 3 Orientations and blossoming trees

Thursday : Why should you care?

- 1 Higher genus
- 2 Scaling limits for simple triangulations.
- 3 Scaling limits for maps with an orientation?

A rooted plane map M



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- A rooted plane map ${\cal M}$
- A spanning tree ${\cal T}$
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- $\tilde{M} =$ completion of M
 - = superimposition of M and M^{\star}



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- $\tilde{M} =$ **completion** of M= superimposition of M and M^{\star}



Convention :

For a spanning tree T of M, we define the $\alpha_T\text{-orientation of }\tilde{M}$ by :

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_T(\bigcirc) = \alpha_T(\bigcirc) = 0\\ \alpha_T(\bigcirc) = \alpha_T(\bigcirc) = 1\\ \alpha_T(\square) = 3 \end{cases}$$

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 $|\{\text{blue edges}\}| = |V(M)| - 1$ To prove that it is a tree, enough to prove that there is no cycles (exercise !).

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Which cycles are essential?





Which cycles are essential? Which edges are rigid? To make our life easier, assume that M is bridgeless.

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The rigid edges are the edges incident to the root vertex.

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Example of a lattice M**Applications :** Coupling from the past for distributive lattices. "easy" to sample a spanning tree (Wilson's algorithm), gives a way to sample some perfect matchings (a.k.a. dimer models) [Kenyon, Propp, Wilson]



























Schnyder woods



Simple triangulation endowed with a 3-orientation.




Property :

The middle-paths are self-avoiding + the 3 middle paths starting at a given vertex do not intersect one another.

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Property :

The middle-paths are self-avoiding + the 3 middle paths starting at a given vertex do not intersect one another.

Property :

The subset of edges of a given color is a spanning tree of the inner vertices (+ one outer vertex) of the triangulation.

Simple triangulation endowed with a 3-orientation.

Consider the ''middle''-paths

Around each inner vertex :



This coloring is a Schnyder wood. [Schnyder '89]



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• Put each inner vertex v at position $(|F(R_3(v))|, |F(R_2(v))|)$.



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Theorem ([Schnyder '89]) :

This algorithm produces a straightline drawing of the triangulation where all the vertices belong to a grid of size $|F(M)| \times |F(M)|$.















4-regular maps



Simple triangulations (neither loops nor multiple edges)



4-regular maps

Number of rooted 4-regular planar maps with n vertices :

$$R_n = \frac{2}{n+2} \frac{3^n}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$$
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Recursive decomposition [Tutte '60s + ...], matrix integrals [t'Hooft '74 + ...]

Bijective proofs [Cori-Vauquelin-Schaeffer, Bouttier-diFrancesco-Guitter, Bernardi, Fusy, Poulalhon, ...]

= bijections btw maps and labeled trees or btw maps and blossoming trees.



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opening stems = # closing stems



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What is a blossoming tree?



A plane map can be canonically associated to any blossoming tree by making all closures clockwise.

If the edges of the tree are oriented **towards its root** + closure edges oriented naturally \Rightarrow accessible orientation of the map without ccw cycles.

Theorem [Bernardi '07], [A., Poulalhon '14+] :

Let M be a rooted plane map endowed with an **accessible** and **minimal** (= without ccw cycles) orientation. Then, there exists a **unique** rooted blossoming tree whose closure is M endowed with the same orientation.

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A map is 4-regular iff it admits an orientation such that each vertex has outdegree 2 and indegree 2.

Apply the general bijection to recover the result of [Schaeffer '97]

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3 outgoing edges / inner vertex 1 outgoing edge / outer vertex

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3 outgoing edges / inner vertex 1 outgoing edge / outer vertex

A triangulation is simple iff it admits an orientation such that : each inner vertex has outdegree 3 each outer vertex has outdegree 1.

General bijection gives the result of [Poulalhon, Schaeffer '05]

• Select a family of maps



Maps with even degree = Eulerian maps

- Select a family of maps
- Find a characterization by orientations



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- Consider the unique orientation without ccw cycles.



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- Apply the bijection.



Same in/outdegree

- Select a family of maps
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- Consider the unique orientation without ccw cycles.
- Apply the bijection.
- Study the family of blossoming trees.



References

Reference on the theory of α -orientations [Felsner '04] (and also [Propp '93]).

Application to straight-line drawing :

[Schnyder '89]

[Bonichon, Felsner, Mosbah '04] : refinement on Schnyder initial idea.

[Fusy's PhD '07]

Spanning trees and couplings :

[Propp '93] [Kenyon, Propp, Wilson '00]



Bijections and orientations :

[Bernardi '07] + [A.,Poulalhon '15]
[Bernardi, Fusy '12] : unification of existing bijections relying on orientations.
[Addario-Berry, A. +14] + [Bernardi, Collet, Fusy '14] : tracking of distances.

Exercise

1) Prove (using bijections with blossoming trees) that the number of rooted 4-regular maps with n vertices is :



$$R_n = \frac{2}{n+2} \frac{3^n}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$$

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