

Topology (Graph Connectivity) via Vertex Orderings

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A Poset (partially ordered set) is a set S with a binary relation, denoted $<$, or \leq , that is:

Transitive: $[a < b \text{ and } b < c \text{ implies } a < c]$;
 Antisymmetric: $[a < b \text{ implies } b \text{ is not } < a]$;
 and Irreflexive: $[a \text{ is not } < a]$.

Sometimes \leq replaces $<$ with the necessary changes in the properties. The relation \leq is:

Transitive: $[a \leq b \text{ and } b \leq c \text{ implies } a \leq c]$;
 Antisymmetric: $[a \leq b \text{ \& } b \leq a \text{ implies } a=b]$;
 and Reflexive: $[a \leq a]$.

Set inclusion " \subset " or " \subseteq " provides the prototypical example of a poset. Every partial order $<$ is isomorphic to some set containment order \subset .

We use the convention of arrow pointing to larger elements and when possible the arrows point up.

A subset I of a poset P that is closed under taking of lesser elements is called an **ideal**: $a \in I$ and $b \leq a$ implies $b \in I$.

A principal ideal $I(p)$ of a poset element p is the set: $\{x \text{ in } P \mid x \leq p\}$.

Every partial order \leq is isomorphic to some set containment order \subseteq under $p \mapsto I(p)$.

A subset F of a poset is a set S that is closed under taking of larger elements is called a **filter**: $a \in F$ and $b > a$ implies $b \in F$.

A principal filter $F(p)$ of a poset element p is the set: $\{x \text{ in } P \mid p \leq x\}$.

A poset can be regarded as the transitive closure of a directed acyclic graph.

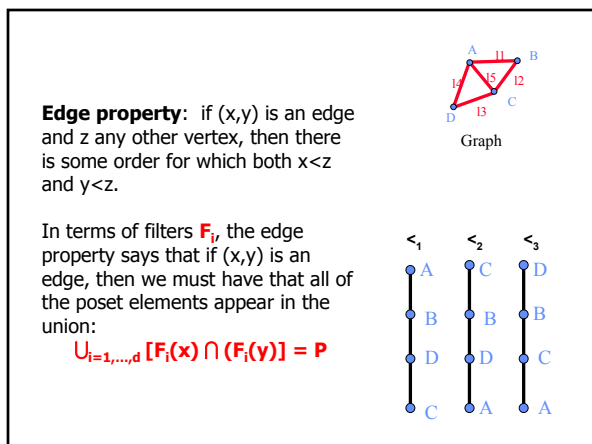
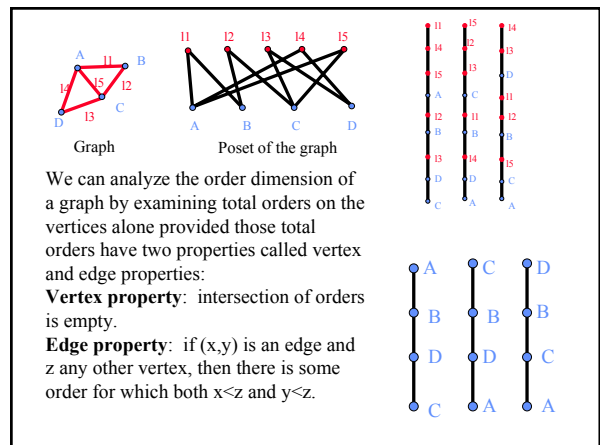
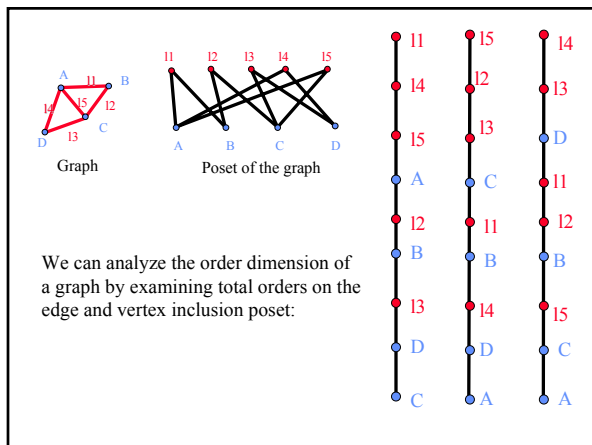
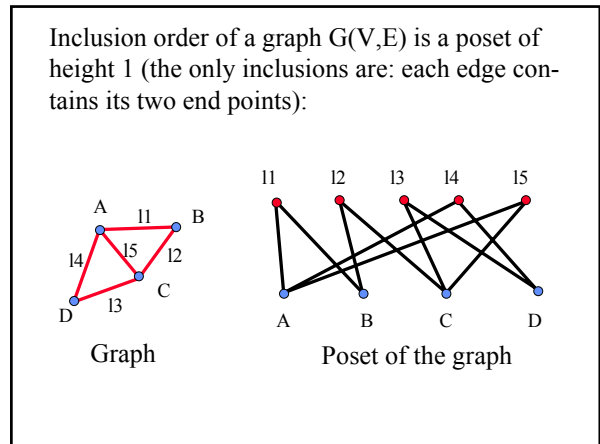
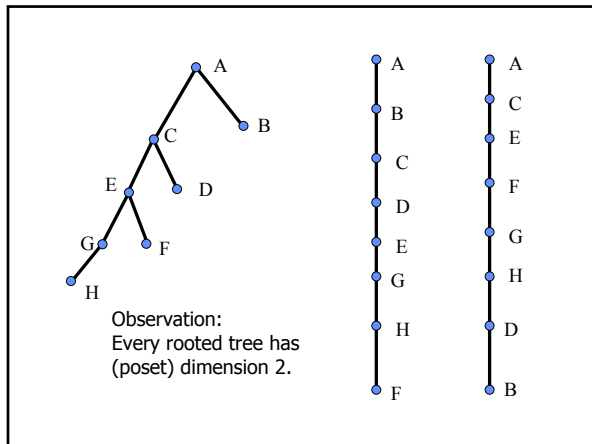
\geq	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
B	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
D	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
E	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
F	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Covering relations or **poset relations** can always be represented by an upper triangular matrix of 0's and 1's showing \geq . The transitive closure of the covering relations matrix M is obtained by raising $(M+I)$ to some power $(M+I)^k$ (where I is the identity matrix, and addition and multiplication of entries are carried out in Boolean arithmetic).

Observation: Every poset can be embedded in many different total or linear orders, each of which is sometimes called a topological sort. Every poset equals the intersection of all total orders that contain it. The dimension of a poset is the smallest number of total orders, the intersection of which is exactly the poset.

A few observations about dimension of posets:

- A total order has dimension 1.
- A totally unordered set has dimension 2.
- A 4-colorable graph has dimension ≤ 4 .
- A rooted tree has dimension 2.
- Determining if a poset has dimension 3 or more is NP-complete (Yannakakis--1982).
- Even posets of height 1 are complex.



Walter Schnyder's main result:

A graph is planar if and only if its edge-vertex inclusion poset has dimension ≤ 3 .

The value that I envision for future research is not in the result itself, but in the tools that Schnyder developed to prove his result.

(\Leftarrow) How to draw a graph that realizes the 3 total orders (then do it compactly)

(\Rightarrow) How to convert a plane graph into 3 total orders on the vertices

(\Leftarrow) How to draw a graph in the plane that realizes the 3 total orders (later do it compactly)

Three total orders in "standardized" format have 3 maxima that are the two smallest values of the other two orders:

\langle_1 : B C K J L F G V I E H D A
 \langle_2 : A C H D J I E K V F G L B
 \langle_3 : A B G L E D V F I H K J C

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Three total orders
 \langle_1 : B C K J L F G V I E H D
 \langle_2 : A C H D J I E K V F G L B
 \langle_3 : A B G L E D V F I H K J C

A = (1, 13, 13)
 B = (13, 1, 12)
 C = (12, 12, 1)
 D = (2, 10, 8)
 E = (4, 7, 9)
 F = (8, 4, 6)
 G = (7, 3, 11)
 H = (3, 11, 4)
 I = (5, 8, 5)
 J = (10, 9, 2)
 K = (11, 6, 3)
 L = (9, 2, 10)
 V = (6, 5, 7)

and their rank-order coordinates:

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Three total orders
 \langle_1 : B C K J L F G V I E H D
 \langle_2 : A C H D J I E K V F G L B
 \langle_3 : A B G L E D V F I H K J C

and their 2^{rank-order}
 \langle_1 - and \langle_2 -coordinates:

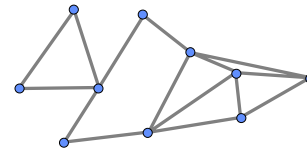
A = (2¹, 1³)
 B = (2¹³, 2¹)
 C = (2¹², 2¹²)
 D = (2², 2¹⁰)
 E = (2⁴, 2⁷)
 F = (2⁸, 2⁴)
 G = (2⁷, 2³)
 H = (2³, 2¹¹)
 I = (2⁵, 2⁸)
 J = (2¹⁰, 2⁹)
 K = (2¹¹, 2⁶)
 L = (2⁹, 2²)
 V = (2⁶, 2⁵)

Lemma (Schnyder): If a line segment is drawn with these coordinates for every pair of vertices that satisfies the edge property, then no line segments will intersect except at a vertex of both.

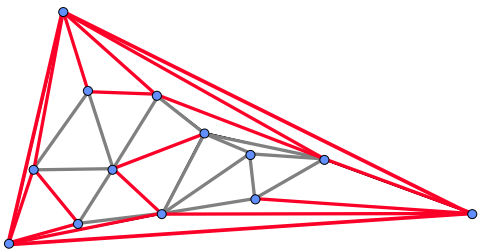
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(\Rightarrow) How to convert a plane graph into 3 total orders on the vertices

Start with a Plane Graph

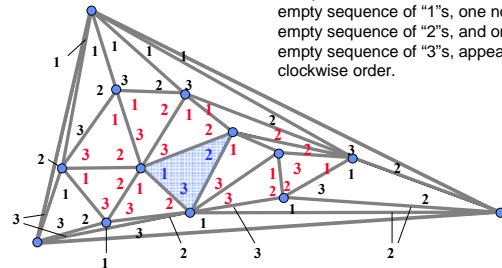


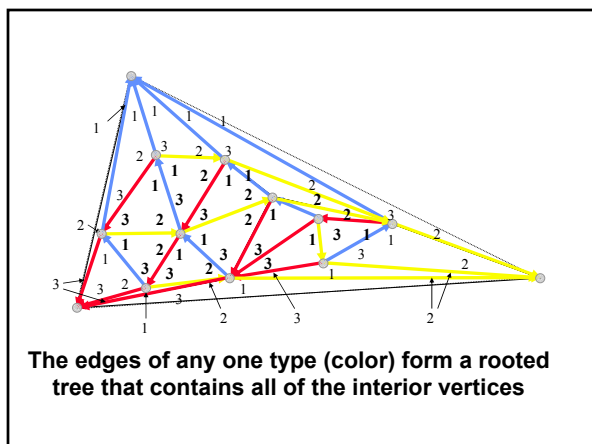
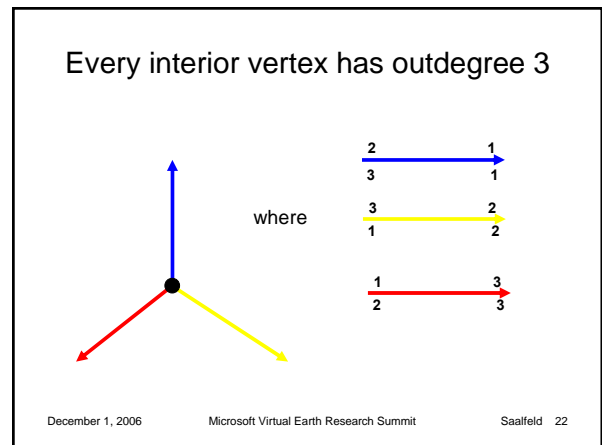
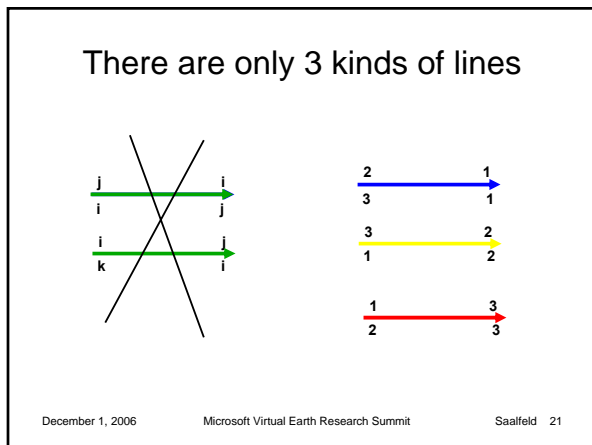
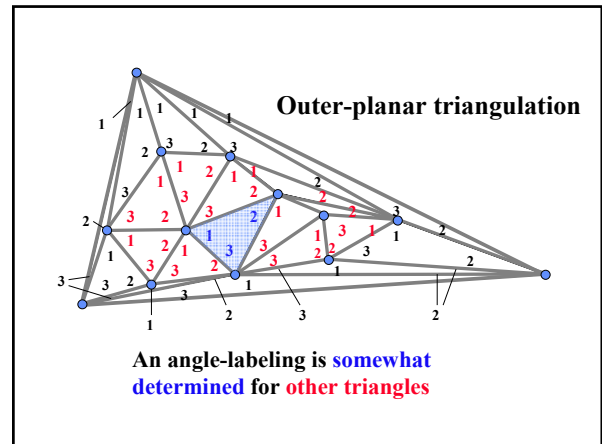
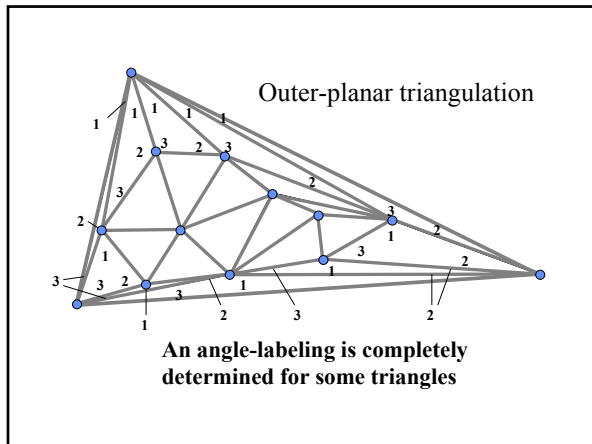
Embed the plane graph into a Triangular graph (Outer-planar triangulation)



Normal Angle Labeling (Existence proof by Schnyder)

- I. Every triangle has all 3 labels appearing in clockwise order.
- II. Every interior vertex has one non-empty sequence of "1"s, one non-empty sequence of "2"s, and one non-empty sequence of "3"s, appearing in clockwise order.





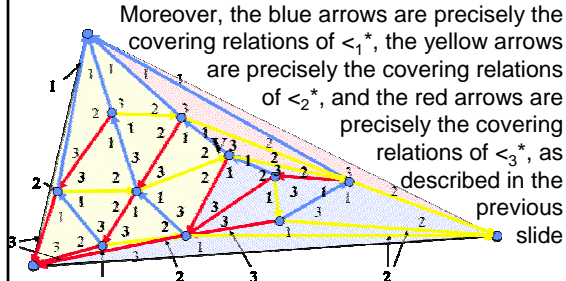
(\Rightarrow) How to convert a plane graph into 3 total orders on the vertices

Three total orders, $<_1, <_2, <_3$, with empty intersection (i.e., satisfying the vertex property) give rise to three partial orders, $<_1^+, <_2^+, <_3^+$, such that any two vertices are related to each other in exactly one of those partial orders.

$$x <_i^+ y \Leftrightarrow x <_i y \ \& \ y <_j x \ \& \ y <_k x \quad \text{for } \{i, j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

If three such partial orders each have outdegree 1, then we can recover the three total orders (see Schnyder for proof).

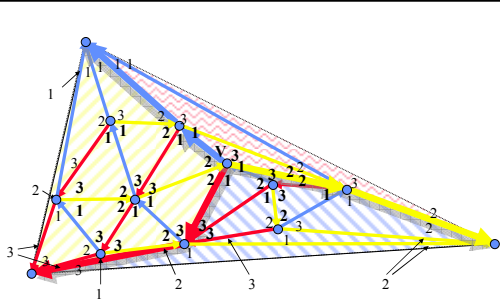
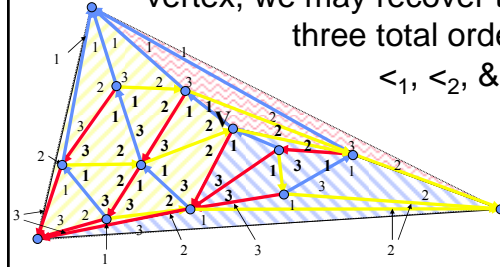
Three-tree decomposition of interior edges (Schnyder)



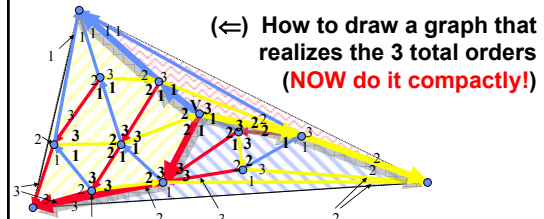
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Since each of the colored arrows has out-degree 1 at each interior vertex, we may recover the three total orders

$<_1, <_2, \& <_3.$



The three different colored paths from V to the three extreme triangle vertices partition the triangle set into three disjoint subsets of the $[2n-5]$ interior triangles

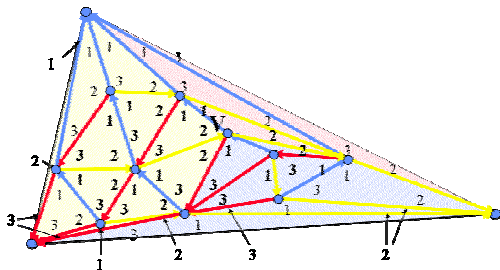


(\Leftarrow) How to draw a graph that realizes the 3 total orders
(NOW do it compactly!)

Count triangles in each partition of the 3-partition of the triangulation, then divide the count by the total number of internal triangles, and interpret the value as barycentric coordinates on three affinely independent points.

Triangle-count barycentric coordinates:

$$V = \left(\frac{7}{21}, \frac{11}{21}, \frac{3}{21} \right)$$



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For more math (proofs), see:

Walter Schnyder, Planar Graphs and Poset Dimension, **Order** (5), 1989, 323-343.

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