

Computing Mondschein Sequence in Linear Time

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April 3, 2014

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CS762 - Write Project

1 Background

We have seen before in lecture notes that canonical ordering is a useful tool for graph drawing, we used it to prove some planar graph properties e.g. Splitting to three trees, Visibility representation. A quick recall about the canonical ordering: *Its a vertex order v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n of a triangulated planar graph where, $v_1 v_2 v_n$ is an outer face and all other vertices have at least two predecessors and at least one successor.* Canonical order exist for any 3-connected planar graph [4], in these notes we extend the canonical ordering for non-planar graphs and make them applicable for an arbitrary 3-connected graphs.

The idea of canonical orderings was given much before, in 1971 by Lee F. Mondschein at M.I.T. in his PhD-thesis [5]. Mondschein proposed a sequence that generalizes canonical orderings to non-planar graphs. Mondschein's sequence was later, in 1988 were independently found by Cheriyan and Maheshwari [2] under the concept of *non-separating ear decompositions*. Complexity of calculating Mondschein sequences, is an intriguing question. Mondschein himself gave an algorithm with running time of $O(m^2)$. Cheriyan in his work achieved a running time of $O(nm)$ by using Tutte's theorem that proves the existence of non-separating cycles in 3-connected graphs [8]. The challenge of achieving a sub-quadratic time for calculating Mondschein sequences was still open. The work by Jens M. Schmidt [7] presents the first algorithm that computes a Mondschein sequence in $O(m)$ time and space, and this will be the major focus of these notes. The motivation for computing Mondschein sequence in sub-quadratic time stems around three main applications of it, that can now be solved in linear-time. First, computing three independent spanning trees in a 3-connected graph in linear time. Second, linear time processing of the output-sensitive data structure by Di Battista et. al. [3] that reports three internally disjoint paths between any given vertex pair. Third, a simple linear-time planarity testing.

2 Ear Decomposition and Mondschein sequence

This section will give an overview of ear-decomposition and Mondschein-sequences.

2.1 Ear Decomposition

Definition 1. An *ear decomposition* of a 2-connected graph $G = (V, E)$ is a decomposition $G = (P_0, P_1, \dots, P_K)$ that partitions E , where P_0 is a cycle and $P_i, 1 \leq i \leq K$ is a path with only its two distinct end vertices in common with $(P_0 \cup P_1 \cup \dots \cup P_{i-1})$. Each P_i is called an *ear*.

Now we will define some terms associated with an ear decomposition. An *ear* is called *short* if it is an edge and *long* otherwise. For any i , let $G_i = (P_0 \cup P_1 \cup \dots \cup P_i)$ and $\bar{V}_i := V - V(G_i)$, and \bar{G}_i is a graph induced by \bar{V}_i . Note that, \bar{G}_i does not necessarily contain all edges in $E - E(G_i)$, there can be short ears which have both the end points in G_i . For a path P and two of its vertices x and y , $P[x, y]$ be the sub-path in P from x to y . A path with endpoints v and w is called a *vw -path*. A vertex x in a *vw -path* is called an *inner*

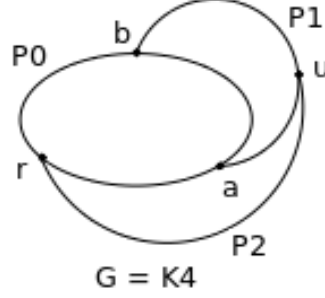


Figure 1: An example of ear decomposition of a K_4 containing 3 ears.

vertex if $x \notin \{v, w\}$. For simplicity we assume that every vertex in P_0 is an inner vertex. $inner(P)$ denotes a set of inner vertices of an ear P . For an edge $e \in G$, $birth(e)$ is the index i where e is born, i.e. i such that P_i contains e . Similarly, for a vertex $v \in G$, $birth(v)$ is the index i of the first path P_i that contains v , in other words, $P_{birth(v)}$ is the ear containing v as an inner vertex.

Definition 2. Let $D = (P_0, P_1, \dots, P_K)$ be an ear decomposition of G . D is defined as a *non-separating* ear decomposition if, for all $i, 0 \leq i \leq k$, $\overline{G_i}$ is connected and each internal vertex of ear P_i has a neighbor in $\overline{G_i}$.

We will now see how canonical ordering for a plane graph can be expressed using a non-separating ear decomposition.

Definition 3. Canonical ordering (another definition). Let G be a 3-connected plane graph having edges v_1v_2 and v_2v_n on its outer face. A *canonical ordering* with respect to v_1v_2 and v_2v_n is an ear decomposition D of G such that:

1. $v_1v_2 \in P_0$,
2. $P_{birth(v_n)}$ is the last long ear, that contains v_n as its only inner vertex and does not contain v_2v_n , and
3. D is non-separating.

How is the above definition similar to old definition (Def. 8.1 in lecture notes) of canonical ordering? Recall, old definition (Def 8.1 in lecture notes) also had v_1, v_2, v_n fixed on the outer triangular face. Edge v_1v_2 was first fixed on the outer face and we incrementally formed G by adding v_{k+1} to G_k at each step. Vertex v_{k+1} was adjacent to two or more outer-face vertices of G_k , in other words G_k was connected to $\overline{G_k}$, hence property 3 makes sense. Vertex v_n was added at last, one can imagine arc $v_1v_nv_i$, $i \notin \{1, 2, n\}$ as a last long ear where v_n is an inner vertex. The difference (between Def 3 and Def 8.1 in lecture notes) lies in property 2, remember that in lecture we saw canonical ordering for a triangulated graphs, but Def. 3 is for any 3-connected graph, therefore vertex v_n should have degree at least three. Hence, long ear $P_{birth(v_n)}$ cannot contain v_2v_n ; v_2v_n should be a short ear. It is also evident that adding vertex v_3 forms a cycle $v_1v_2v_3$, think of it as P_0 in the above definition.

2.2 Mondshein sequence

Now we will see how can Definition 3 be extended for non-planar graphs. Notice that Definition 3 uses planarity only at one place: we assumed edges v_1v_2 and v_2v_n are on the outer face. By dropping this assumption we can generalize Definition 3 for non-planar graphs, all we need is that v_1v_2 and v_2v_n should be edges in graph G .

In 1971, Mondshein used a similar definition to define a $(2, 1)$ – *sequence* [[5] Def. 2.2.1], but it was in the notation of a special vertex ordering. For conciseness, we will stick to the ear-decomposition based definition in these notes, which is similar to the one given by Cheriyan [2].

Definition 4. ([5], [2]). Let G be a graph with an edge v_2v_n . A *Mondshein sequence avoiding v_2v_n* is an ear decomposition D of G such that:

1. $v_2 \in P_0$
2. $P_{birth(v_n)}$ is the last long ear, that contains v_n as its only inner vertex and does not contain v_2v_n , and
3. D is non-separating.

In other words the edge v_2v_n is added last in D as a short ear, right after the last long ear $P_{birth(v_n)}$ has been added, and as a direct consequence of property (2) and (3), G must have a minimum degree 3 to have a Mondshein sequence. This has also been explained after Def. 3. Moreover, Mondshein in his thesis [5] proved that every 3-connected graph has a Mondshein sequence. *If D satisfies property (1) and (2) it is said to avoid v_2v_n .*

3 Computing a Mondshein Sequence

As mentioned in Section 1, Mondshein himself gave an $O(m^2)$ algorithm to compute his sequence [5], later Cheriyan gave an $O(mn)$ time algorithm [2]. The main focus of these notes is the linear time algorithm proposed by Schmidt [7] to compute a Mondshein sequence. At the core of Schmidt's algorithm lies a classical construction of 3-connected graphs proposed by Barnette and Grünbaum [1] and Tutte [[9], Thms. 12.64 and 12.65]. Before describing the Schmidt's algorithm, we will first see what are *BG-Operations*.

3.1 BG-Operations

Definition 5. The following operations on simple graphs are BG-operations (See Fig 2):

1. *vertex-vertex-addition*: Add an edge between two distinct non-adjacent vertices.
2. *edge-vertex-addition*: Subdivide an edge ab , $a \neq b$, by a vertex v and add an edge vw where $w \notin \{a, b\}$.

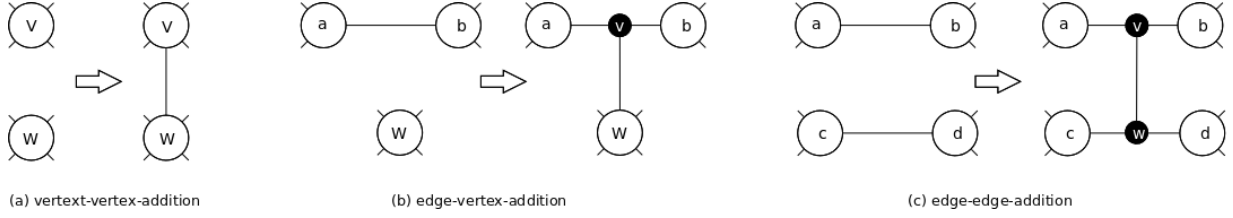


Figure 2: BG Operations as described in Def. 5.

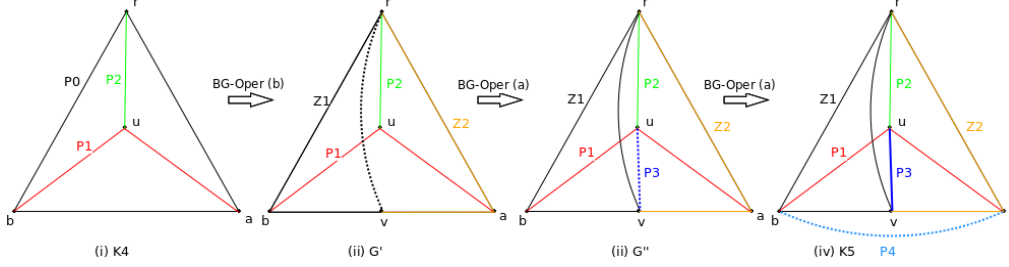


Figure 3: Obtaining K_5 from K_4 using BG-operations. P_i and Z_i shows the ear decomposition. Dotted line denotes the newly added edge.

3. *edge-edge-addition*: Subdivide two distinct edges by vertices v and w , respectively, and add the edge vw .

Barnette and Grunbaum, and Tutte also gave the following Theorem:

Theorem 1. ([1], [9]). *A graph is 3-connected if and only if it can be constructed from K_4 using the BG-operations.*

It can be seen from Theorem 1 that applying BG-operation on 3-connected graphs keeps them simple and 3-connected. Figure 3 gives an example of obtaining K_5 from K_4 using BG-operations. A sequence of BG-operations that construct G from K_4 is known as *BG-sequence*. Theorem 6 and 52 in [6] shows that BG-sequence of a 3-connected graph can be computed in time $O(m)$.

3.2 Algorithm

We will first give an overview of the algorithm and later go into the detailed cases. The algorithm starts with computing a Mondschein sequence of K_4 , which is easy. Then using Theorem 1 we construct our G in a step by step manner from K_4 , this can be done in linear time, as BG-sequence can be computed in linear time. Our claim is that, each BG-operation in the BG-sequence of G' to G , modifies the Mondschein sequence in a well defined way given by Lemma 2. In other words there are finite number of cases to which each BG-operation can be mapped while transforming G' to G , and each of those cases have finite number of additions to the Mondschein sequence of G' . This gives us a Mondschein sequence of G from the Mondschein sequence of G' .

Example 1. For example, Figure 3 explains the changes in Mondschein sequence when obtaining K_5 from K_4 . Mondschein sequence of K_4 is $[P0, P1, P2]$ (follow the color coding). After applying $BG - Oper(b)$ on K_4 , which maps to case 2aiii of Lemma 2 (defined later), we get G' and mondschein sequence is $[Z1, Z2, P1, P2]$. After $BG - Oper(a)$ on G' , which maps to case 1 of Lemma 2, we get G'' and Mondschein sequence is $[Z1, Z2, P1, P2, P3]$. In the final operation $BG - Oper(a)$ which again maps to case 1 of Lemma 2, we get K_5 and final Mondschein sequence is $[Z1, Z2, P1, P2, P3, P4]$.

Now we will define some notations for describing the modifications. Let Γ be a single BG-operation, that adds edge vw , if applicable, as described in Def. 5. Whenever we consider edges ab and cd , without loss of generality (w.l.o.g) we assume that $birth(a) \leq birth(b), birth(c) \leq birth(d)$ and $birth(d) \leq birth(b)$. Let set $S \subseteq \{av, vb, vw, cw, wd\}$ be the set of new edges added after operation Γ , see figure 2.

The following Lemma describes a detailed scheme of modifying Mondschein sequence for each possible scenario of applying Γ on G .

Lemma 2. *There is a Mondschein sequence $D' = (P'_0, P'_1, \dots, P'_{k+1})$ of G' avoiding ru (respectively, rv or rw if applicable) that can be obtained from $D = (P_0, P_1, \dots, P_k)$ of G by performing the following four modifications:*

- M1) replacing the long ear $P_{birth(b)}$ with $P'_{b1}, P'_{b2}, P'_{b3}$ in order and if applicable. Each P'_{bi} consists of edges in $P_{birth(b)} \cup S$.*
- M2) if $P_{birth(cd)}$ is a long ear and $birth(d) < birth(b)$, subdivide cd with w and replace $P_{birth(cd)}$ with the long ear $P'_{birth(cwd)}$.*
- M3) if $P_{birth(ab)}$ is short, delete or replace $P_{birth(ab)}$ with an edge in $\{av, vb, vw\}$; if $P_{birth(cd)}$ is short, delete or replace $P_{birth(cd)}$ with an edge in $\{cw, wd\}$.*
- M4) adding vw as new last ear, if applicable.*

In particular, each Γ lies in one of the following cases and defines the construction of D' from D , also shown in Fig. 4 :

- 1. Γ is a vertex-vertex-addition: use M4.*
- 2. Γ is an edge-vertex-addition: This case will depend whether b is an inner vertex or not*
 - (a) w.l.o.g. $birth(b) = birth(ab)$, i.e. b is an inner-vertex. Let a' and b' be the endpoints of $P_{birth(b)}$ such that a' is closer to a than to b . Let P'_{avb} be the path obtained by subdividing ab in $P_{birth(b)}$ with v . This will have three cases depending upon w 's position:*
 - i. $w \notin G_{birth(b)}$ i.e. $birth(w) > birth(b)$
Obtain P'_{avb} from $P_{birth(b)}$ and add ear vw at the end.*

- ii. $w \in G_{\text{birth}(b)} - P_{\text{birth}(b)}$ i.e. $\text{birth}(w) < \text{birth}(b)$ and $w \notin \{a', b'\}$
Obtain P'_{avb} from $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$ and replace $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$ with $Z_1 = a'w - \text{path}$ and $Z_2 = vb' - \text{path}$ in this order to obtain D' .
 - iii. $w \in P_{\text{birth}(b)}$ i.e. $\text{birth}(w) = \text{birth}(b)$ or $w \in \{a', b'\}$
Obtain $Z = P'_{avb}$ from $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$. Let $Z_2 = vw - \text{path}$, $Z_1 = Z - Z_2 + vw$. (If $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$ is P_0 then there will be two vw -path, choose the one not containing r as an inner vertex.) Get D' by replacing $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$ with Z_1 and Z_2 in this order, (from now on we will call this process as applying $M1(Z_1, Z_2, \emptyset)$, with $P'_{b1} = Z_1, P'_{b2} = Z_2, P'_{b3} = \emptyset$.)
- (b) w.l.o.g. $\text{birth}(b) < \text{birth}(ab)$ and $P_{\text{birth}(ab)} = ab$, i.e. b is not an inner vertex. Note that ear $P_{\text{birth}(ab)}$ cannot be long as a and b have to be born before ab . Again three cases depending upon w 's position:
- i. $\text{birth}(w) > \text{birth}(b)$
Replace $P_{\text{birth}(ab)} = ab$ with ear $av \cup vb$ and add ear vw at the end.
 - ii. $\text{birth}(w) < \text{birth}(b)$: cases depending upon a 's relation with b .
 - A. $\text{birth}(a) < \text{birth}(b)$
If $ab = ru$, add new ear $wv \cup vu$ directly after $P_{\text{birth}(u)}$ and replace $P_{\text{birth}(ru)} = ru$ with rv . If $ab \neq ru$, add new ear $av \cup vw$ directly after $P_{\text{birth}(b)-1}$ and replace $P_{\text{birth}(ab)} = ab$ with vb .
 - B. $\text{birth}(a) = \text{birth}(b)$
Let $Z_1 = av \cup vw \cup P_{\text{birth}(b)}[a', a]$ and $Z_2 = P_{\text{birth}(b)}[a, b']$. Apply $M1(Z_1, Z_2, \emptyset)$ and replace $P_{\text{birth}(ab)} = ab$ with vb .
 - iii. $\text{birth}(w) = \text{birth}(b)$
If $\text{birth}(a) = \text{birth}(b) > 0$, let a' and b' be the endpoints of $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$ such that a' is closer to a than to b . Cases depending upon a 's relation with b :
 - A. $\text{birth}(a) = \text{birth}(b) > 0$ and w lies strictly between either a and a' or b and b' in $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$, (say w.l.o.g. between b and b')
Let $Z_1 = av \cup vw \cup P_{\text{birth}(b)}[a', a] \cup P_{\text{birth}(b)}[w, b']$ and $Z_2 = P_{\text{birth}(b)}[a, w]$. Apply $M1(Z_1, Z_2, \emptyset)$ and replace $P_{\text{birth}(ab)} = ab$ with vb .
 - B. $\text{birth}(a) = \text{birth}(b) > 0$ and w lies strictly between a and b in $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$.
Let $Z_1 = av \cup vb \cup P_{\text{birth}(b)}[a', a] \cup P_{\text{birth}(b)}[b, b']$ and $Z_2 = P_{\text{birth}(b)}[a, b]$. Apply $M1(Z_1, Z_2, \emptyset)$ and replace $P_{\text{birth}(ab)} = ab$ with vw .
 - C. $\text{birth}(a) = \text{birth}(b) = 0$
In this case we are at P_0 , consider $P_0 = P_{ab} \cup P_{bw} \cup P_{wa}$, one of these path must contain r , say P_{ab} . Let Z be the union of remaining two paths, $Z = P_{bw} \cup P_{wa}$. Let P'_0 be the cycle 'arbva', and $Z_2 = Z$ added directly after P'_0 , and replacing $P_{\text{birth}(ab)} = ab$ with vw , i.e. connect v to vertex $j \in \{a, b, w\}$ that is not an endpoint of Z .
 - D. $\text{birth}(a) < \text{birth}(b)$
Let b' and b'' be the two endpoints of $P_{\text{birth}(b)}$ such that b' is closer to w than to b . If $b' \neq a$, $Z_1 = av \cup vw \cup P_{\text{birth}(b)}[w, b']$ and $Z_2 = P_{\text{birth}(b)}[w, b'']$.

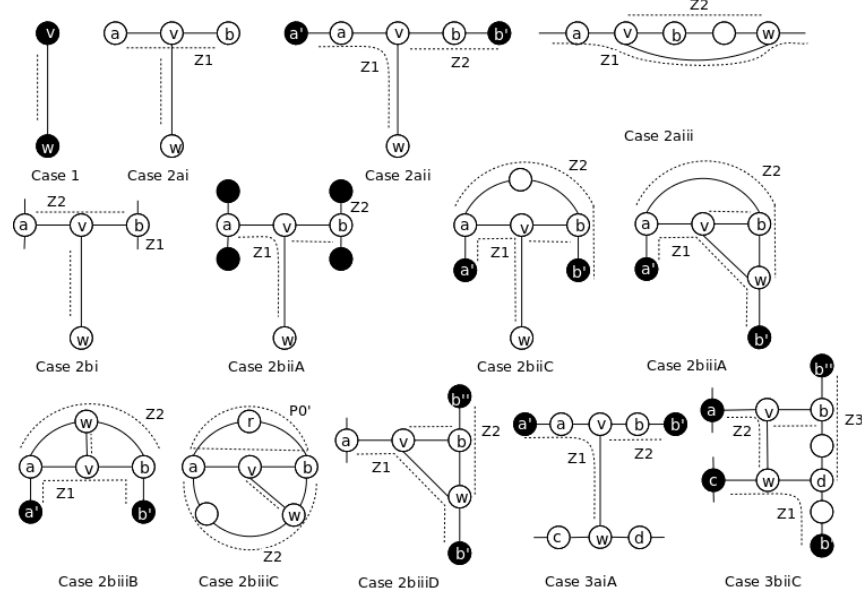


Figure 4: Case 1, 2 and 3 of the Lemma 2. Black vertices are the endpoints of the ears that are contained in $G_{birth(b)}$. Dashed paths are part of the ears in D' .

If $b' = a$, $Z_1 = av \cup vb \cup P_{birth(b)}[b', b'']$ and $Z_2 = P_{birth(b)}[b, b']$. Apply $M1(Z_1, Z_2, \emptyset)$ and replace $P_{birth(ab)} = ab$ with vw .

3. Γ is an edge-edge-addition: It will again depend whether b is an inner vertex or not. (Due to space constraints we will only see 2 of the 13 cases described in [7].)

3aiA) $birth(b) = birth(ab)$ (inner vertex), $birth(d) < birth(b)$ and $birth(cd) < birth(b)$. Let a' and b' be the endpoints of $P_{birth(b)}$ such that a' is closer to a than to b . Subdivide ab with v . Then $Z_1 = P_{birth(b)}[a', v] \cup vw$ and $Z_2 = P_{birth(b)}[v, b']$. $P_{birth(cd)}$ can be short or long. If $P_{birth(cd)} = cd$ (i.e. short), delete $P_{birth(cd)}$ and apply $M1(cw \cup wd, Z_1, Z_2)$. If $P_{birth(cd)}$ is long, apply $M2$ and $M1(Z_1, Z_2, \emptyset)$.

3biiC) $birth(b) < birth(ab)$ and $P_{birth(ab)} = ab$, $birth(d) = birth(b)$, $birth(a) < birth(b)$ and $C \notin P_{birth(b)}$.

Then $P_{birth(cd)} = cd$, have to be a short ear, because $C \notin P_{birth(b)}$, $birth(d) = birth(b)$ and $birth(c) < birth(d)$. Let b' and b'' be the two endpoints of $P_{birth(b)}$ such that b' is closer to d than to b on $P_{birth(b)}$ (a may be in $\{b', b'', c\}$). There can be cases where $b=d$, and $b=d$ and $ru \in \{ab, cd\}$, but due to space constraint we will not go into their details. Consider $b \neq d$, $Z_1 = P_{birth(b)}[d, b'] \cup cw \cup wd$, $Z_2 = av \cup vw$ and $Z_3 = P_{birth(b)}[d, b'']$. Apply $M1(Z_1, Z_2, Z_3)$, delete $P_{birth(cd)} = cd$ and replace $P_{birth(ab)} = ab$ with vb .

4 Proof of Lemma 2

Completeness - We will first prove that Lemma 2 covers all the possible cases of BG-operations. Case (1) is simple and cannot have further subdivisions in the main case. Case (2), is an edge-vertex-operation. W.l.o.g we can choose either vertex a or b to look all possible relations with $birth(ab)$, say b . Observe, only two possibilities, either b will be an inner vertex of $P_{birth(ab)}$ or not, hence $birth(b) < birth(ab)$ or $birth(b) = birth(ab)$. Third vertex in Case (2) is w , it can either be in $P_{birth(b)}$ or in $G_{birth(b)} - P_{birth(b)}$ or in $\overline{G_{birth(b)}}$, and hence three cases under (2a) and (2b). See [7] for completeness of case (3).

D' is an ear decomposition - As the newly added ears in all the cases are paths, it is sufficient to show that only the first ear, P'_0 in D' is a cycle. The only cases which can modify P_0 are (2ai), (2aiii), (2bi), (2biic), and some cases in (3) (see [7]). All of these cases can subdivide an edge in P_0 by a new vertex and replace a path in P_0 with a shorter one having the same endpoints. This will still maintain a cycle in D' . Hence D' is an ear decomposition.

D' avoids ru (rv or rw if applicable) - Recall Def 4, to prove this we need show that D' satisfy conditions (1) and (2) of Def. 4. To prove condition (1), it is sufficient to consider cases where P_0 is different from P'_0 , i.e. cases (2aiii), (2biic) and some in case (3). In all the cases, a path of P_0 that does not contain r has been modified, therefore $r \in P'_0$ also. This shows condition (1) is satisfied.

To prove condition (2), first consider the vertex-vertex-addition: only a short ear is added at the end, hence satisfied. Now consider a edge-vertex-addition, first consider the case where v does not subdivide ru . $P_{birth(u)}$ is the last long ear in D , therefore $birth(u) \geq birth(b)$. If $birth(u) > birth(b)$, that means change is in $P_{birth(b)}$ and $P_{birth(u)}$ is unchanged and is still a last long ear in D' . Thus, condition (2) satisfied for this case.

If $birth(u) = birth(b)$, and as $P_{birth(b)}$ has b as inner vertex, it is long; this implies $b = u$ as u is the only inner vertex of $P_{birth(u)}$. Now it will depend if $a \in P_{birth(b)}$, a must be a neighbor of the inner vertex $b = u$ and $birth(ab) = birth(b)$ follows and also $w \in G_{birth(b)}$, because we are at the last ear. This means we are in case (2aii) or (2aiii). In both these cases Z_2 (the last long ear) contains exactly $b = u$ as the inner vertex and does not contain ru , hence condition (2) satisfied. If $a \notin P_{birth(b)}$, $birth(a) < birth(b) < birth(ab)$ and again $w \in G_{birth(b)}$, therefore we are in case (2biiA) with $a \neq r$. See that in this case $P_{birth(b)}$ remains unchanged and no long ear is added after $P_{birth(b)}$, hence condition (2) satisfied.

Now lets assume that v subdivides ru . This mean $a = r$ and $b = u$ with $birth(a) < birth(b)$, as $r \in P_0$ and $u \notin P_0$. Also, as D satisfies condition (2), it cannot have $ab = ru$ in its last long hear, hence, is itself a short ear. Also $w \in G_{birth(b)}$, hence we are in case (2biiA) with $ab = ru$. In this ear $wv \cup vb$ is added as last long ear and av is the new avoided edge of D' , hence condition (2) satisfied.

See [7] for edge-edge-addition correctness.

D' is non-separating - Consider $D' = (P'_0, P'_1, \dots, P'_{k+1})$ and let z be any inner vertex of P'_i . It suffices to prove that z has a neighbor in $\overline{G'_i} \neq \emptyset$. First consider the vertex-vertex-addition: it only adds a short ear at the end, hence the configuration of all long ears remains identical in D and D' . Given that D is non-separating, D' is also non-separating.

	(2ai)	(2aii)	(2aiii)	(2bi)	(2biiA)	(2biiB)	(2biiiA)	(2biiiB)	(2biiiC)	(2biiiD)
Neighbor of v	w	b	a or b	w	b	b	a or b	w	$inner(Z) \cap \{a, b, w\}$	b or w

Table 1: Neighbors of $v \in inner(P'_i)$ in $\overline{G'_i}$

Now consider a edge-vertex-addition. We will see an overview of the proof, due to space constraints. Observe that $z = v$ is the only new inner vertex possible in D' , compared to D . It is sufficient to show that $z = v$ has a neighbor in $\overline{G'_i}$. Table 4 shows the neighbors of $z = v$ in $\overline{G'_i}$ for all the sub-cases in case (2).

This ends the proof of Lemma 2. The paper [7] presents the Case (3) and its proof in more detail, and also presents 3 applications which can now be solved in linear time, because Mondschein sequence can be calculated in linear time. Due to space constraints we conclude these notes here.

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