

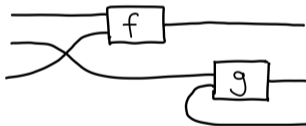
A DATA TYPE OF INTRINSICALLY PLANE GRAPHS

Malin Altenmüller

BCTCS 2025

String diagrams (1)

- Interested in monoidal categories with
 - sequential composition: $f \circ g$
 - parallel composition: $f \otimes g$.
- Nice graphical syntax of string diagrams:

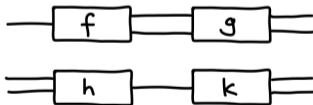


String diagrams (2)

- Properties of the category translate to its diagrams,
e.g. symmetric vs. braided monoidal categories:



- Some equations hold automatically,
e.g. interchange law $(f \otimes h) \circ (g \otimes k) = (f \circ g) \otimes (h \circ k)$:



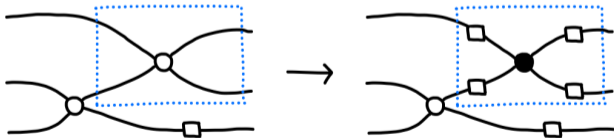
Why graphs?

- Formalise string diagrams and their rewriting theory.

Definition

A graph G is a tuple (V, E, s, t) with a set of vertices V , a set of edges E , source and target functions $s, t : E \rightarrow V$.

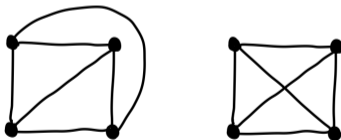
- Rewriting theory for string diagrams becomes graph rewriting:



Why plane graphs?

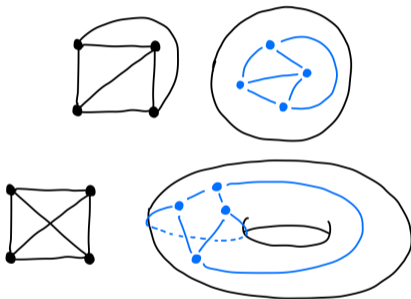
- Monoidal categories with specific *topological* properties: no crossing wires allowed!
- Generalisation of symmetric and braided monoidal categories.
- Certain theories do not come with a builtin SWAP operation.

Graphs are not suitable, we need plane graphs!



Surface-embeddings of graphs

- Drawing of a graph onto a surface (without edges crossing):



- A surface-embedding is characterised by its *faces*.

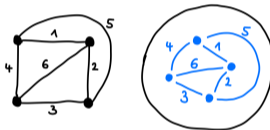
Rotation systems

= order of edges around each vertex.

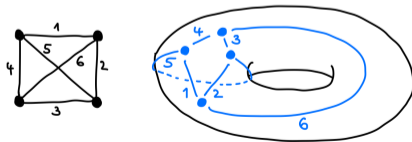
Theorem

A rotation systems determines a graph's surface-embedding.

Plane graph:



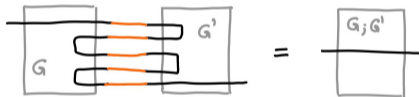
Toroidal graph:



Plane graphs as a data type?

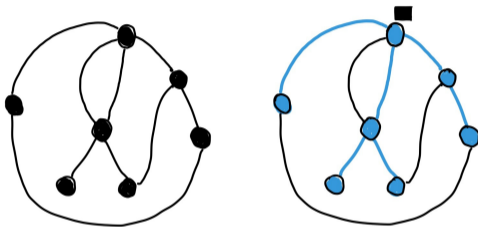
Goal: implementation of plane graphs and their rewriting theory in Agda

- Composition is really nice on paper, but not in a term based tool:



- Graphs are cyclic, but we would like an inductive type.
- How to enforce the planarity?

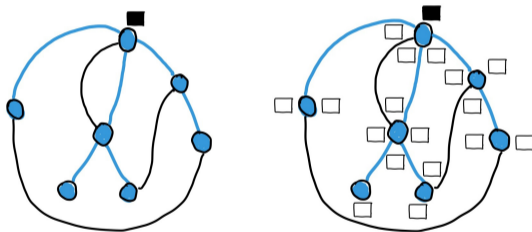
Spanning trees to the rescue



graph = spanning tree (incl. root) + non-tree edges

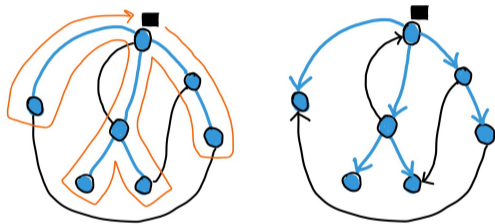
An inductive data type

graph = spanning tree (incl. root) + non-tree edges + corners



An ordered data type

- A graph is the clockwise traversal of its spanning tree:



- Edge set E is split into tree edges and non-tree edges.

Indexing type

Lemma

In a clockwise traversal, corners and edges always alternate.

- Store this information in a simple data type:

data **Next** : **Set** where

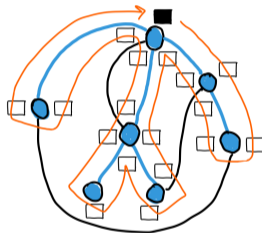
edge : **Next**

corner : **Next**

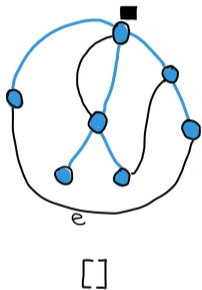
- Traversal of the tree is guided by an indexing type:

TravTy : **Set**

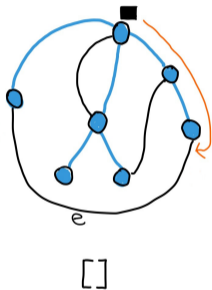
TravTy = **List** $E \times \mathbf{Next}$



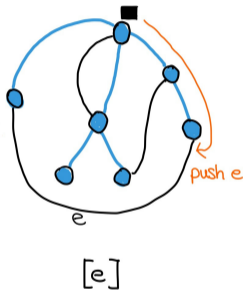
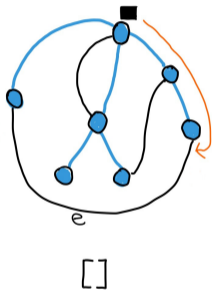
A stack of non-tree edges



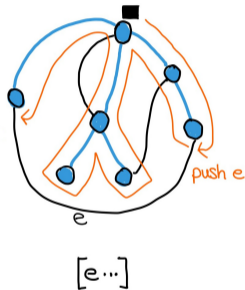
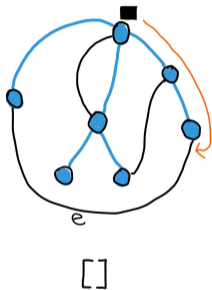
A stack of non-tree edges



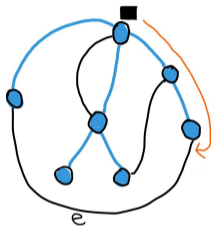
A stack of non-tree edges



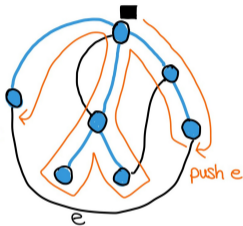
A stack of non-tree edges



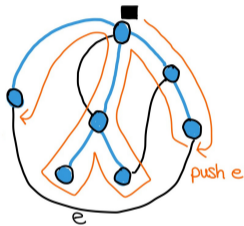
A stack of non-tree edges



$[]$

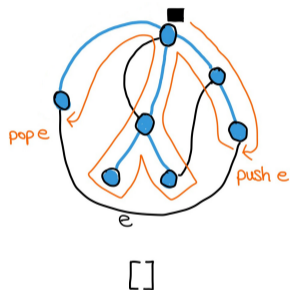
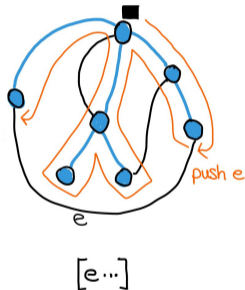
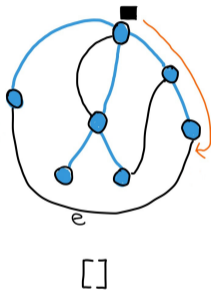


$[e \dots]$

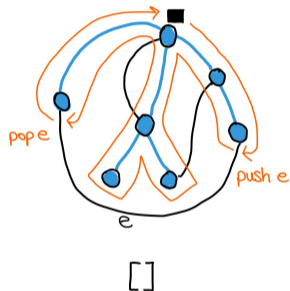
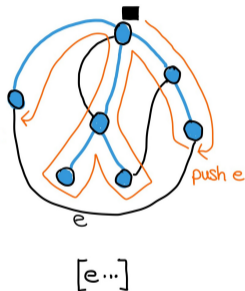
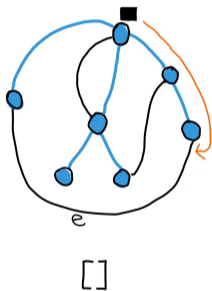


$[e]$

A stack of non-tree edges

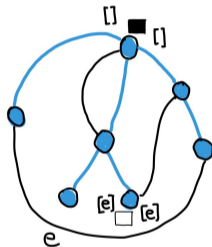


A stack of non-tree edges



Indexing type – example

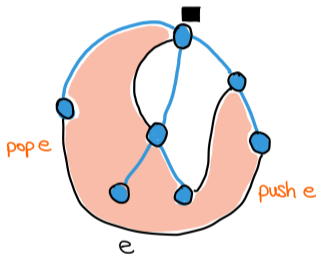
- Every corner is indexed by a stack of edges characterising its face:



- A plane graph has index $([], \text{corner}) ([], \text{corner})$.

Stack structure determines faces

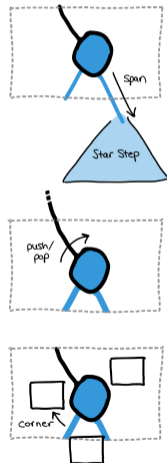
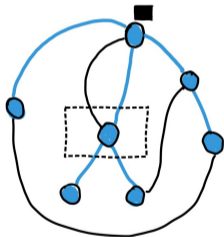
- Every non-tree edge closes a face of the graph embedding:



- We can calculate the faces of the embedding by observing the changes of the edge stack.

Possible steps in the traversal

One step in the clockwise traversal of the spanning tree:



The type of steps

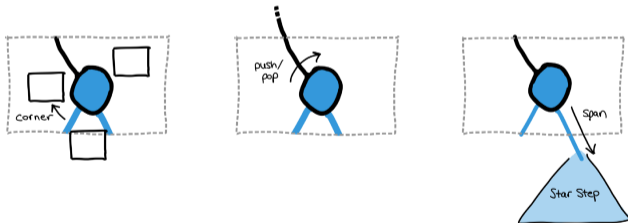
data **Step** : **TravTy** \rightarrow **TravTy** \rightarrow **Set** where

corner : $(c : C) \rightarrow$ **Step** (*es* , **corner**) (*es* , *edge*)

push : $(e : E) \rightarrow$ **Step** (*es* , *edge*) (*e* , - *es* , **corner**)

pop : $(e : E) \rightarrow$ **Step** (*e* , - *es* , *edge*) (*es* , **corner**)

span : $(e : E) (v : V) \rightarrow$ **Star Step** (*es* , **corner**) (*es'* , *edge*) \rightarrow **Step** (*es* , *edge*) (*es'* , **corner**)



A **Graph** is a sequence of steps: **Star Step** ($[]$, **corner**) ($[]$, **corner**).

Theorem

A stack of non-tree edges ensures planarity of a graph.

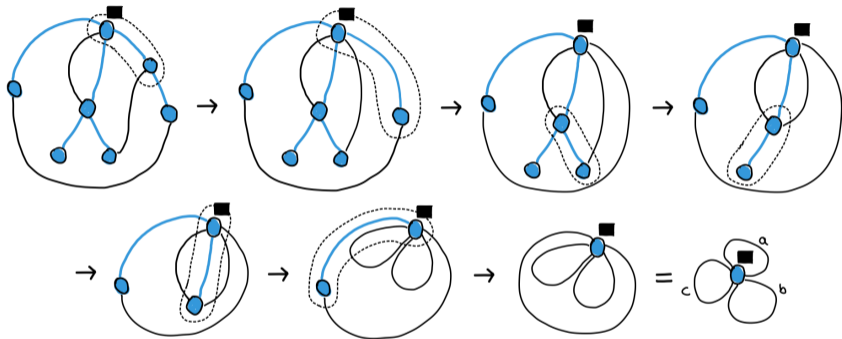
To prove this, we use the following fact:

Lemma

Contracting a plane subgraph does not change the genus of a graph's embedding.

- Plan: contract the entire spanning tree of a graph.
- All the surface information is stored in the non-tree edges of a graph.

Contracting the spanning tree



Non-tree edges form a well bracketed word **abbcca**.
(cf. context-free grammars, Dyck language,...)

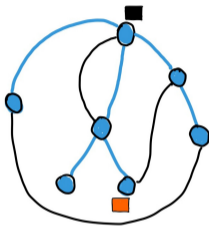
Zippers¹ for graphs

- Structure to focus on a sector in the graph.
- Useful to highlight a certain subgraph (and rewrite it).
- Zipper = path to the focus + sibling structures alongside it.
- Store the path bottom-up: fast access to nearby elements.
- Mimic a cursor structure: forwards/backwards lists everywhere.

¹Huet, “The Zipper”.

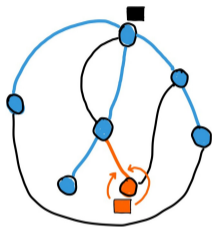
Zipper example

- Start at the focus:



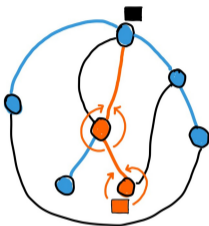
Zipper example

- Move up along the path one step at a time:



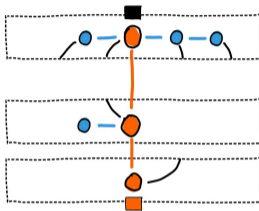
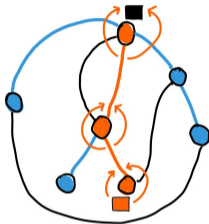
Zipper example

- Move up along the path one step at a time:



Zipper example

- Full path defines a *layer* structure:

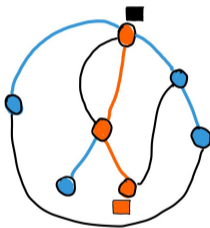


- Continue using the stack structure to ensure planarity:

```
record ZipTy : Set where
  field ahead : List E
       here : Next
       behind : List E
```

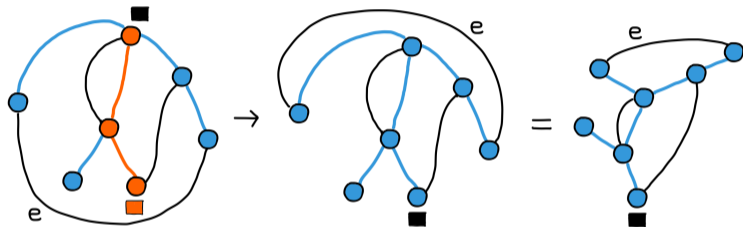
Re-rooting the tree

- Start from a zipper of a graph.
- Idea: move the spanning tree's root to the sector in focus:



- This changes the order of traversal of the spanning tree.

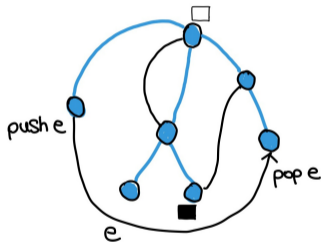
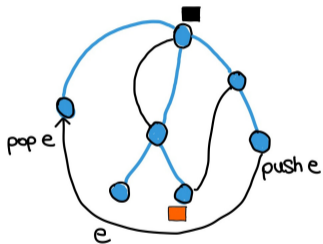
Goal: turn the tree upside down



- Compute the new traversal order: edge stack structure has to change.

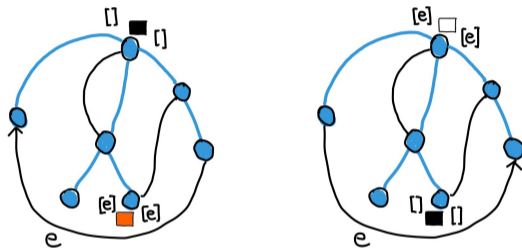
Turn non-tree edges

Edge e has to be turned around in the re-rooting operation,...



Turn non-tree edges

... therefore the indices at the root and focus are exchanged:



Theorem

Re-rooting preserves planarity.

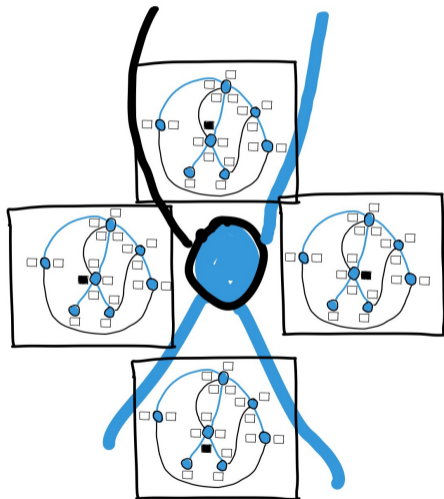
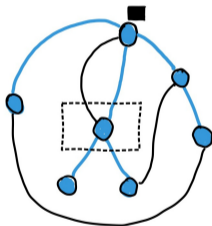
Proof: by very careful turning of non-tree edges during the operation.

Making planarity intrinsic

- Planarity is part of the data type of graphs.
- Any element of this type is by definition plane.
- Any operation defined on this type preserves planarity by definition.
- Use it to implement rewriting of subgraphs (planarity preserving).

More ideas (1)

Equip corners with data: the graph re-rooted to here.
This gives a context comonad².



²Uustalu and Vene, "Comonadic Notions of Computation".

More ideas (2)

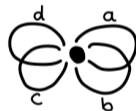
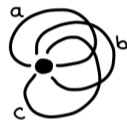
What about different surfaces from the plane?

Higher genus surfaces?

Non-orientable surfaces?

What to use instead of a stack?

(valid and non-valid embedding on the torus \rightarrow)





Thank you for your attention!

A DATA TYPE OF INTRINSICALLY PLANE GRAPHS

Malin Altenmüller

`malin.altenmuller@ed.ac.uk`

-  Huet, Gérard P. “The Zipper”. In: *J. Funct. Program.* 7.5 (1997), pp. 549–554. URL: <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?aid=44121>.
-  Uustalu, Tarmo and Varmo Vene. “Comonadic Notions of Computation”. In: *Proceedings of the Ninth Workshop on Coalgebraic Methods in Computer Science, CMCS 2008, Budapest, Hungary, April 4-6, 2008*. Ed. by Jirí Adámek and Clemens Kupke. Vol. 203. Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science 5. Elsevier, 2008, pp. 263–284. DOI: [10.1016/j.entcs.2008.05.029](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.entcs.2008.05.029). URL: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.entcs.2008.05.029>.