

Efficient Planarity Testing

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Motivation

- Planarity testing has many applications
- Planar graphs have interesting properties
- Planarity testing should be fast

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 - Circuit design
 - Chemistry: most molecules are representable as planar graphs
 - Highway design
 - ...
- Planar graphs have interesting properties
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Motivation

- Planarity testing has many applications
 - Circuit design
 - Chemistry: most molecules are representable as planar graphs
 - Highway design
 - ...
- Planar graphs have interesting properties
 - Can be stored efficiently
 - Can be 4-colored
 - Many problems become easier (e.g. graph isomorphism in P)
 - ...
- Planarity testing should be fast

An Algorithm To Test Planarity

- Developed in 1974 by John Hopcroft and Robert Tarjan
- Extensive use of depth-first search
- Works by embedding paths in the graph into the plane one-by-one

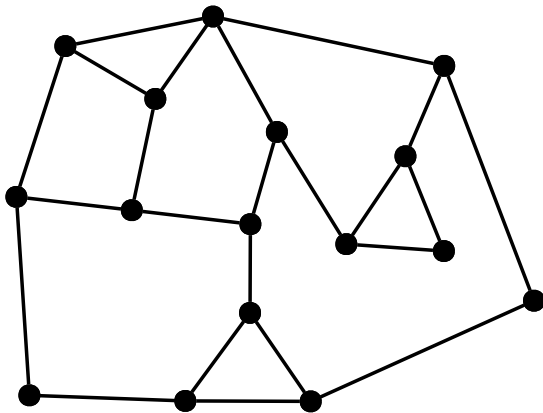
An Algorithm To Test Planarity

- Developed in 1974 by John Hopcroft and Robert Tarjan
- Extensive use of depth-first search
- Works by embedding paths in the graph into the plane one-by-one
 - Dismiss graphs with $|E| > 3|V| - 3$
 - Divide graph into biconnected components
 - Convert component into palm tree and find paths
 - Find cycle, delete it and check planarity of disconnected segments by embedding them in the plane.

Structuring

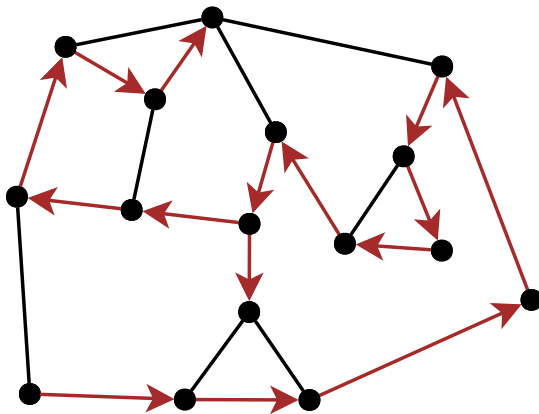
- Graph must be structured to allow embedding algorithm to work
- Depth-first search
 - Numbers vertices
 - Imposes direction on edges

Structuring



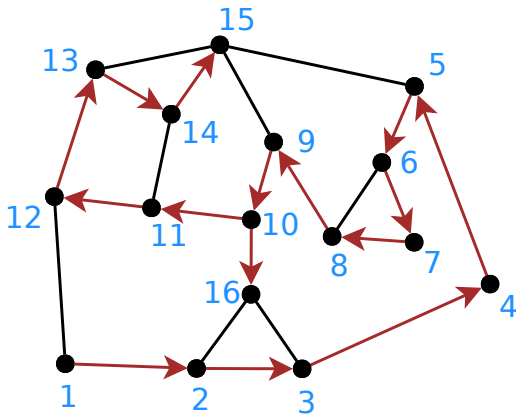
To determine the planarity of this graph we must first structure it.

Depth-first search



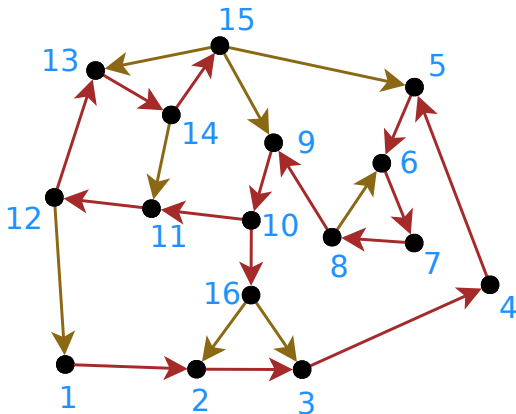
A Depth-first search imposes a first structure on the graph.

Depth-first search



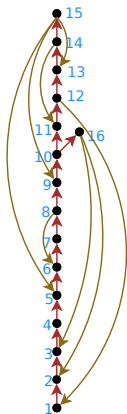
We number the vertices in search order of the DFS.

Depth-first search



The DFS partitions edges into **tree arcs** and **fronds**.

Depth-first search

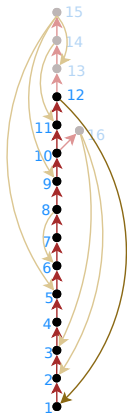


This gives the graph a palm tree structure.

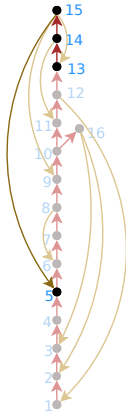
Pathfinding

- Later embedding steps must be ordered in a specific way
- We determine paths in the graph with special properties
- Each Path consists of a **frond** and zero or more **tree arcs**
- Paths can be found in $O(V + E)$ with another DFS.

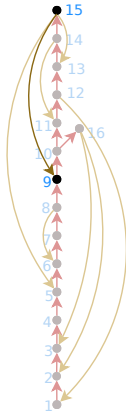
Pathfinding



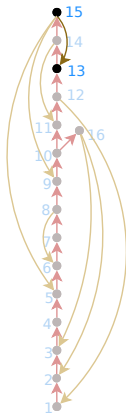
Pathfinding



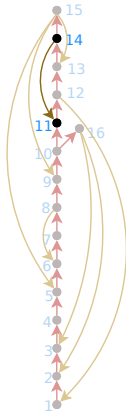
Pathfinding



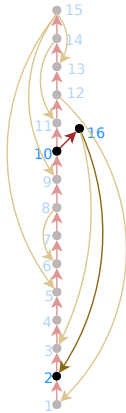
Pathfinding



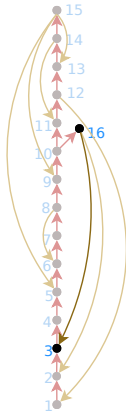
Pathfinding



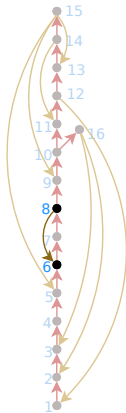
Pathfinding



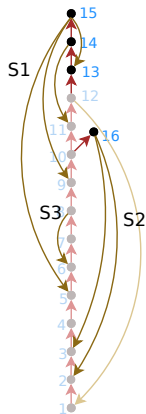
Pathfinding



Pathfinding



Pathfinding

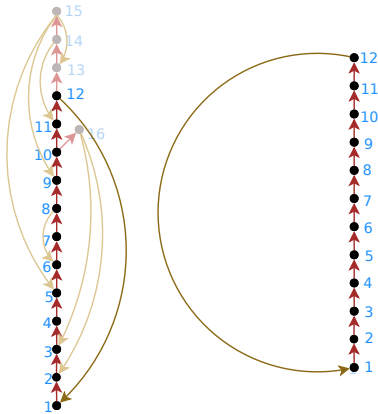


The graph falls into segments by removing the first generated path.

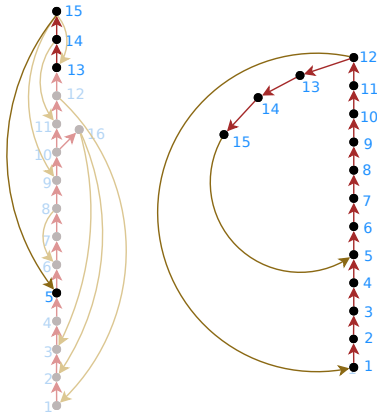
Embedding

- Paths are embedded in the order they are found.
- Segments are embedded in order with recursive application for 'sub-segments'
- Segments might need to be moved around in order to embed newer paths
- If reordering is impossible the graph is non-planar

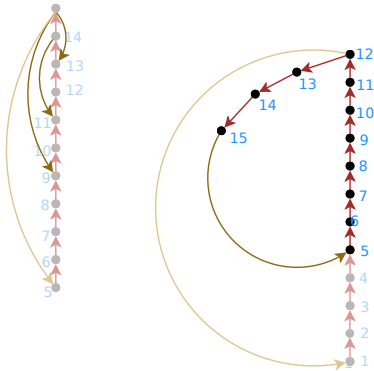
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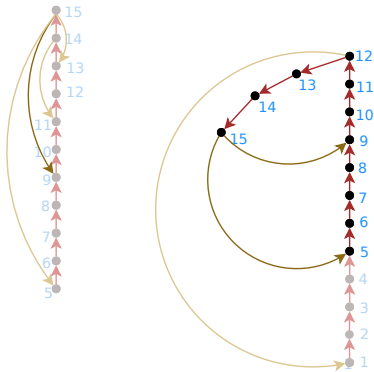
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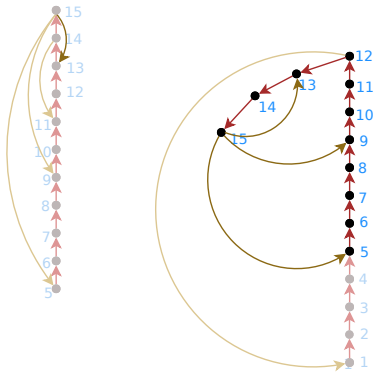
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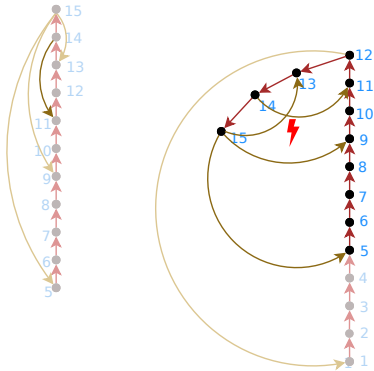
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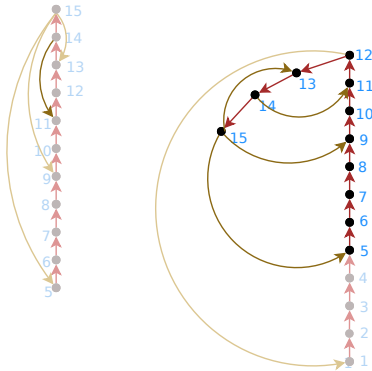
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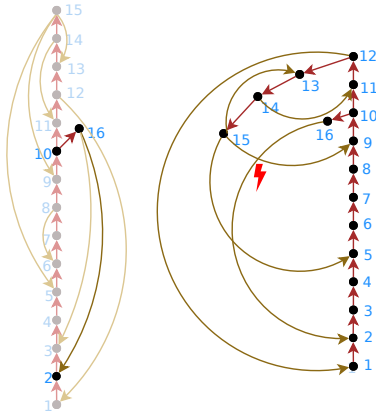
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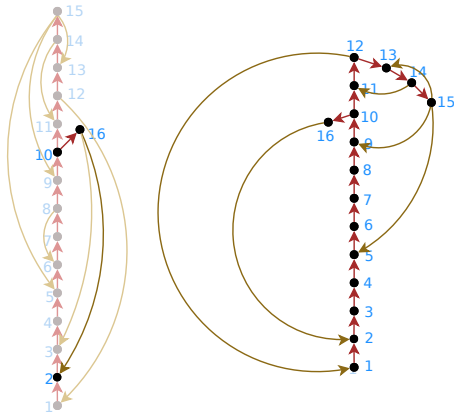
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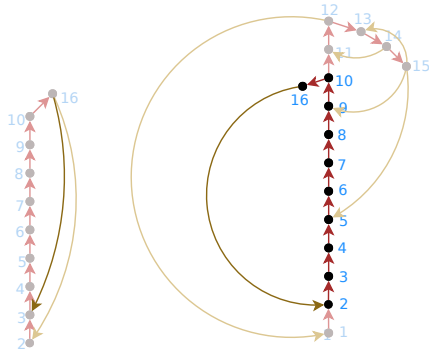
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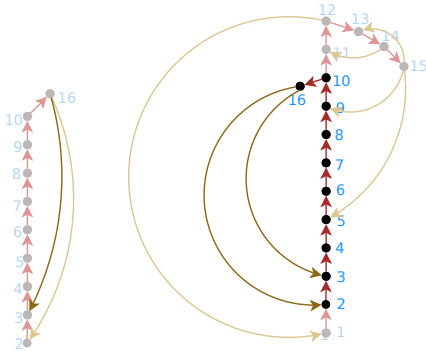
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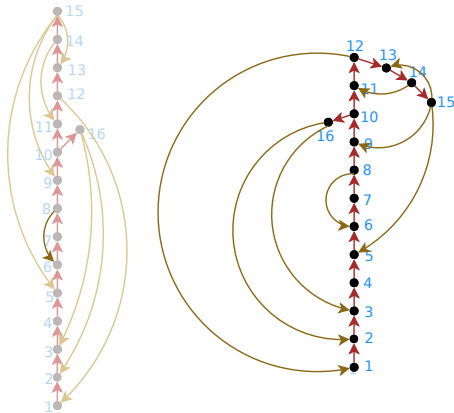
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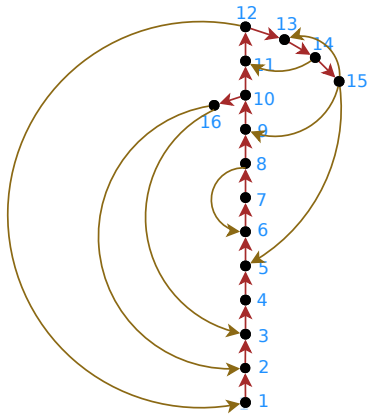
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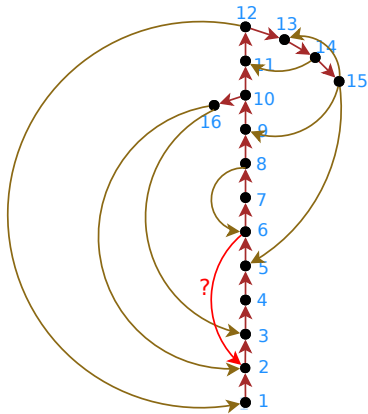
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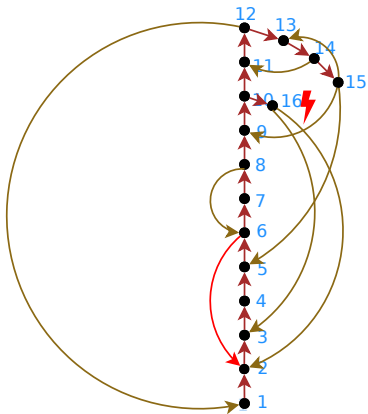
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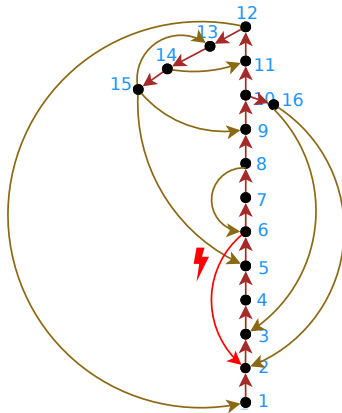
Non-Planar



Non-Planar



Non-Planar



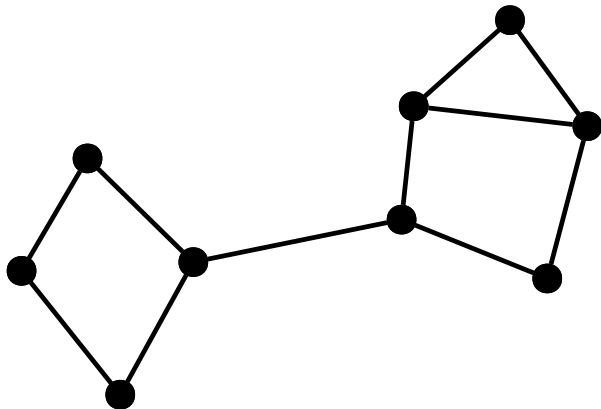
Complexity

- Division into biconnected components: $O(V + E)$
- Structuring the graph with DFS: $O(V + E)$
- Pathfinding with DFS: $O(V + E)$
- Embedding the paths: $O(V + E)$
- All graphs with $|E| > 3|V| - 3$ are none-planar
- Therefore planarity testing is $O(V)$

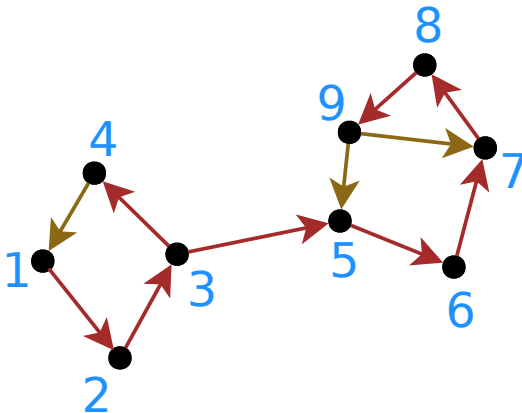
Biconnected Components

- A graph is biconnected if the graph is still connected after removing any vertex
- Every graph can be divided into a set of biconnected components
- Components can be found with a DFS

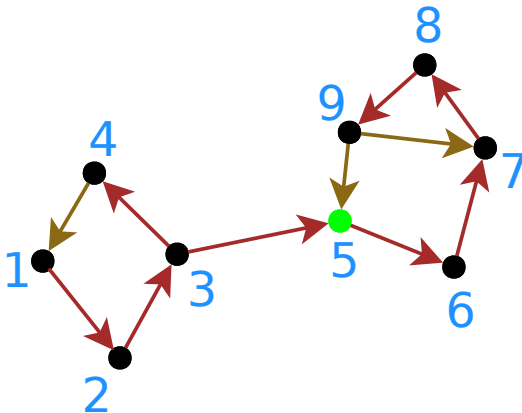
Finding Biconnected Components



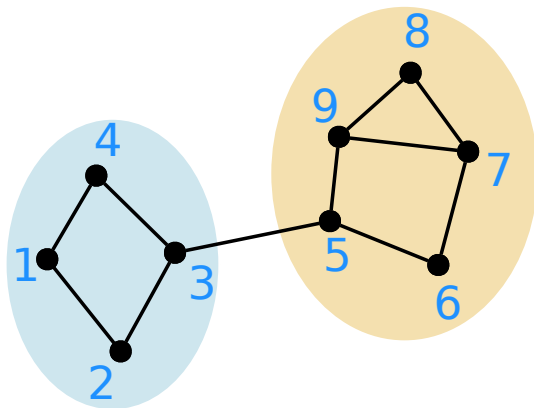
Finding Biconnected Components



Finding Biconnected Components



Finding Biconnected Components



References

- Hopcroft, John, and Tarjan, Robert. "Efficient planarity testing." *Journal of the ACM (JACM)* 21.4 (1974): 549-568.
- Hopcroft, John, and Tarja, Robert. "A V^2 algorithm for determining isomorphism of planar graphs." *Inform. Processing Letters*, 1, 1 (1971) 32-34
- Mehlhorn, Kurt, and Petra Mutzel. "On the embedding phase of the Hopcroft and Tarjan planarity testing algorithm." *Algorithmica* 16.2 (1996): 233-242.