## Hanani-Tutte for approximating maps of graphs

Radoslav Fulek a Jan Kynčl

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Testing whether a polygon is wekly simple is solvable in $O(n \log n)$ time (Cortese et al. 2009, Chang et al. 2015, Akitaya et al. 2016).

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Minc (1997) Let $G$ be a path, for $(G, H, h, \sigma)$ the polygonal path $\sigma \circ h$ is weakly simple if and only if for $\left(G^{\prime}, H^{\prime}, h^{\prime}, \sigma^{\prime}\right)$ the composition $\sigma^{\prime} \circ h^{\prime}$ is weakly simple. Furthermore, by applying the derivative iteratively finitely many times we either obtain $\left((\emptyset, \emptyset),(\emptyset, \emptyset), h^{(i)}, \sigma^{(i)}\right)$ or a crossing in $\sigma^{(i)}$ for some $i \in[n]$, where $n=|V(G)|$.

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Corollary We can test in a polynomial time if $\sigma \circ h$ is weakly simple.

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We would like to do it in a polynomial time.

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A drawing $\psi: G \rightarrow M$ is a $\mathbb{Z}_{2}$-embedding if $\left|\psi\left(e_{1}\right) \cap \psi\left(e_{2}\right)\right| \bmod 2=0$ whenever $e_{1} \cap e_{2}=\emptyset$.

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For $(G, H, h, \sigma)$, the composition $\sigma \circ h$ is $\mathbb{Z}_{2}$-approximable if for every $\varepsilon>0$ there exists $\psi: G \hookrightarrow_{\mathbb{Z}_{2}} M$ such that $\|\sigma \circ h-\psi\| \leq \varepsilon$.
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Conjecture: M. Skopenkov (2003) If for $(G, H, h, \sigma)$ the composition $\sigma \circ h$ is $\mathbb{Z}_{2}$-approximable then either it is also approximable by an embedding or $G$ contains a cycle $C$ as a subgraph such that for some $i \in \mathbb{N}$ the $i$-th derivative $\left(C^{(i)}, H^{(i)}, h^{(i)}, \sigma^{(i)}\right)$ is swe.

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We confirm the conjecture of M . Skopenkov.
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F. a Kynčl (2017+) If $G$ is a forest, for $(G, H, h, \sigma)$ the composition $\sigma \circ h$ is $\mathbb{Z}_{2}$-approximable if and only if it is approximable.

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Only an FPT algorithm by Angelini a Da Lozzo (2016) was known prior to our work.
Resolves also the strip planarity problem by Angelini et al. (2013).

## The Proof

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Since $a$ crosses $c$ evenly, and $b$ crosses $d$ evenly, the parity of the number of crossings between $a$ and $b$ is the same as between $c$ and $d$ if and only if the blue and black crosses do not alternate along the circle.

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A variant, where $\sigma$ is unknown (challenging already for cycles). A variant, where the handle-body is atomium-like.

