

## Biconnectivity

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## Outline and Reading

- ◆ Definitions (§6.3.2)
  - Separation vertices and edges
  - Biconnected graph
  - Biconnected components
  - Equivalence classes
  - Linked edges and link components
- ◆ Algorithms (§6.3.2)
  - Auxiliary graph
  - Proxy graph

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## Separation Edges and Vertices

- ◆ Definitions
  - Let  $G$  be a connected graph
  - A separation edge of  $G$  is an edge whose removal disconnects  $G$
  - A separation vertex of  $G$  is a vertex whose removal disconnects  $G$
- ◆ Applications
  - Separation edges and vertices represent single points of failure in a network and are critical to the operation of the network
- ◆ Example
  - DFW, LGA and LAX are separation vertices
  - (DFW,LAX) is a separation edge

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## Biconnected Graph

- ◆ Equivalent definitions of a biconnected graph  $G$ 
  - Graph  $G$  has no separation edges and no separation vertices
  - For any two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of  $G$ , there are two disjoint simple paths between  $u$  and  $v$  (i.e., two simple paths between  $u$  and  $v$  that share no other vertices or edges)
  - For any two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of  $G$ , there is a simple cycle containing  $u$  and  $v$
- ◆ Example

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## Biconnected Components

- ◆ Biconnected component of a graph  $G$ 
  - A maximal biconnected subgraph of  $G$ , or
  - A subgraph consisting of a separation edge of  $G$  and its end vertices
- ◆ Interaction of biconnected components
  - An edge belongs to exactly one biconnected component
  - A nonseparation vertex belongs to exactly one biconnected component
  - A separation vertex belongs to two or more biconnected components
- ◆ Example of a graph with four biconnected components

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## Equivalence Classes

- ◆ Given a set  $S$ , a relation  $R$  on  $S$  is a set of ordered pairs of elements of  $S$ , i.e.,  $R$  is a subset of  $S \times S$
- ◆ An equivalence relation  $R$  on  $S$  satisfies the following properties
  - Reflexive:  $(x,x) \in R$
  - Symmetric:  $(x,y) \in R \Rightarrow (y,x) \in R$
  - Transitive:  $(x,y) \in R \wedge (y,z) \in R \Rightarrow (x,z) \in R$
- ◆ An equivalence relation  $R$  on  $S$  induces a partition of the elements of  $S$  into equivalence classes
- ◆ Example (connectivity relation among the vertices of a graph):
  - Let  $V$  be the set of vertices of a graph  $G$
  - Define the relation  $C = \{(v,w) \in V \times V \text{ such that } G \text{ has a path from } v \text{ to } w\}$
  - Relation  $C$  is an equivalence relation
  - The equivalence classes of relation  $C$  are the vertices in each connected component of graph  $G$

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### Link Relation

- Edges  $e$  and  $f$  of connected graph  $G$  are linked if
  - $e = f$ , or
  - $G$  has a simple cycle containing  $e$  and  $f$

**Theorem:**  
The link relation on the edges of a graph is an equivalence relation

**Proof Sketch:**

- The reflexive and symmetric properties follow from the definition
- For the transitive property, consider two simple cycles sharing an edge

Equivalence classes of linked edges:  
{a} {b, c, d, e, f} {g, i, j}

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### Link Components

- The link components of a connected graph  $G$  are the equivalence classes of edges with respect to the link relation
- A biconnected component of  $G$  is the subgraph of  $G$  induced by an equivalence class of linked edges
- A separation edge is a single-element equivalence class of linked edges
- A separation vertex has incident edges in at least two distinct equivalence classes of linked edges

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### Auxiliary Graph

- Auxiliary graph  $B$  for a connected graph  $G$ 
  - Associated with a DFS traversal of  $G$
  - The vertices of  $B$  are the edges of  $G$
  - For each back edge  $e$  of  $G$ ,  $B$  has edges  $(e, f_1), (e, f_2), \dots, (e, f_k)$ , where  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k$  are the discovery edges of  $G$  that form a simple cycle with  $e$
  - Its connected components correspond to the link components of  $G$

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### Auxiliary Graph (cont.)

- In the worst case, the number of edges of the auxiliary graph is proportional to  $nm$

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### Proxy Graph

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Algorithm proxyGraph(G)
Input connected graph  $G$ 
Output proxy graph  $F$  for  $G$ 
 $F \leftarrow$  empty graph
 $DFS(G, s)$  {  $s$  is any vertex of  $G$  }
for all discovery edges  $e$  of  $G$ 
     $F.insertVertex(e)$ 
     $setLabel(e, UNLINKED)$ 
for all vertices  $v$  of  $G$  in DFS visit order
    for all back edges  $e = (u, v)$ 
         $F.insertVertex(e)$ 
        repeat
             $f \leftarrow$  discovery edge with dest.  $u$ 
             $F.insertEdge(e, f, \emptyset)$ 
            if  $f.getLabel() = UNLINKED$ 
                 $setLabel(f, LINKED)$ 
                 $u \leftarrow$  origin of edge  $f$ 
            else
                 $u \leftarrow v$  { ends the loop }
            until  $u = v$ 
        return  $F$ 
    
```

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### Proxy Graph (cont.)

- Proxy graph  $F$  for a connected graph  $G$ 
  - Spanning forest of the auxiliary graph  $B$
  - Has  $m$  vertices and  $O(m)$  edges
  - Can be constructed in  $O(n + m)$  time
  - Its connected components (trees) correspond to the link components of  $G$
- Given a graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges, we can compute the following in  $O(n + m)$  time
  - The biconnected components of  $G$
  - The separation vertices of  $G$
  - The separation edges of  $G$

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