## Point Location

- Preprocess a planar, polygonal subdivision for point location queries.

$$
\mathrm{p}=(18,11)
$$



- Input is a subdivision $S$ of complexity $n$, say, number of edges.
- Build a data structure on $S$ so that for a query point $p=(x, y)$, we can find the face containing $p$ fast.
- Important metrics: space and query complexity.


## The Slab Method

- Draw a vertical line through each vertex. This decomposes the plane into slabs.
- In each slab, the vertical order of line segments remains constant.


Partition into slabs


Slab 1

- If we know which slab $p=(x, y)$ lies, we can perform a binary search, using the sorted order of segments.


## The Slab Method

- To find which slab contains $p$, we perform a binary search on $x$, among slab boundaries.
- A second binary search in the slab determines the face containing $p$.


Partition into slabs


Slab 1

- Thus, the search complexity is $O(\log n)$.
- But the space complexity is $\Theta\left(n^{2}\right)$.


## Optimal Schemes

- There are other schemes ( $k d$-tree, quad-trees) that can perform point location reasonably well, they lack theoretical guarantees. Most have very bad worst-case performance.
- Finding an optimal scheme was challenging. Several schemes were developed in 70's that did either $O(\log n)$ query, but with $O(n \log n)$ space, or $O\left(\log ^{2} n\right)$ query with $O(n)$ space.
- Today, we will discuss an elegant and simple method that achieved optimality, $O(\log n)$ time and $O(n)$ space [D. Kirkpatrick '83].
- Kirkpatrick's scheme however involves large constant factors, which make it less attractive in practice.
- Later we will discuss a more practical, randomized optimal scheme.


## Kirkpatrick's Algorithm

- Start with the assumption that planar subdivision is a triangulation.
- If not, triangulate each face, and label each triangular face with the same label as the original containing face.
- If the outer face is not a triangle, compute the convex hull, and triangulate the pockets between the subdivision and CH .
- Now put a large triangle $a b c$ around the subdivision, and triangulate the space between the two.



## Modifying Subdivision

- By Euler'e formula, the final size of this triangulated subdivision is still $O(n)$.
- This transformation from $S$ to triangulation can be performed in $O(n \log n)$ time.

- If we can find the triangle containing $p$, we will know the original subdivision face containing $p$.


## Hierarchical Method

- Kirkpatrick's method is hierarchical: produce a sequence of increasingly coarser triangulations, so that the last one has $O(1)$ size.
- Sequence of triangulations $T_{0}, T_{1}, \ldots, T_{k}$, with following properties:

1. $T_{0}$ is the initial triangulation, and $T_{k}$ is just the outer triangle $a b c$.
2. $k$ is $O(\log n)$.
3. Each triangle in $T_{i+1}$ overlaps $O(1)$ triangles of $T_{i}$.

- Let us first discuss how to construct this sequence of triangulations.


## Building the Sequence

- Main idea is to delete some vertices of $T_{i}$.
- Their deletion creates holes, which we re-triangulate.


Vertex deletion and re-triangulation

- We want to go from $O(n)$ size subdivision $T_{0}$ to $O(1)$ size subdivision $T_{k}$ in $O(\log n)$ steps.
- Thus, we need to delete a constant fraction of vertices from $T_{i}$.
- A critical condition is to ensure each new triangle in $T_{i+1}$ overlaps with $O(1)$ triangles of $T_{i}$.


## Independent Sets

- Suppose we want to go from $T_{i}$ to $T_{i+1}$, by deleting some points.
- Kirkpatrick's choice of points to be deleted had the following two properties:
[Constant Degree] Each deletion candidate has $O(1)$ degree in graph $T_{i}$.
- If $p$ has degree $d$, then deleting $p$ leaves a hole that can be filled with $d-2$ triangles.
- When we re-triangulate the hole, each new triangle can overlap at most $d$ original triangles in $T_{i}$.


Vertex deletion and re-triangulation

## Independent Sets

[Independent Sets] No two deletion candidates are adjacent.

- This makes re-triangulation easier; each hole handled independently.


Vertex deletion and re-triangulation

## I.S. Lemma

Lemma: Every planar graph on $n$ vertices contains an independent vertex set of size $n / 18$ in which each vertex has degree at most 8. The set can be found in $O(n)$ time.

- We prove this later. Let's use this now to build the triangle hierarchy, and show how to perform point location.
- Start with $T_{0}$. Select an ind set $S_{0}$ of size $n / 18$, with max degree 8 . Never pick $a, b, c$, the outer triangle's vertices.
- Remove the vertices of $S_{0}$, and re-triangulate the holes.
- Label the new triangulation $T_{1}$. It has at most $\frac{17}{18} n$ vertices. Recursively build the hierarchy, until $T_{k}$ is reduced to abc.
- The number of vertices drops by $17 / 18$ each time, so the depth of hierarchy is $k=\log _{18 / 17} n \approx 12 \log n$


## Illustration



## The Data Structure

- Modeled as a DAG: the root corresponds to single triangle $T_{k}$.
- The nodes at next level are triangles of $T_{k-1}$.
- Each node for a triangle in $T_{i+1}$ has pointers to all triangles of $T_{i}$ that it overlaps.
- To locate a point $p$, start at the root. If $p$ outside $T_{k}$, we are done (exterior face). Otherwise, set $t=T_{k}$, as the triangle at current level containing $p$.



## The Search



- Check each triangle of $T_{k-1}$ that overlaps with $t$-at most 6 such triangles. Update $t$, and descend the structure until we reach $T_{0}$.
- Output $t$.


## Analysis



- Search time is $O(\log n)$-there are $O(\log n)$ levels, and it takes $O(1)$ time to move from level $i$ to level $i-1$.
- Space complexity requires summing up the sizes of all the triangulations.
- Since each triangulation is a planar graph, it is sufficient to count the number of vertices.
- The total number of vertices in all triangulations is
$n\left(1+(17 / 18)+(17 / 18)^{2}+(17 / 18)^{3}+\cdots\right) \leq 18 n$.
- Kirkpatrick structure has $O(n)$ space and $O(\log n)$ query time.


## Finding I.S.

- We describe an algorithm for finding the independent set with desired properties.
- Mark all nodes of degree $\geq 9$.
- While there is an unmarked node, do

1. Choose an unmarked node $v$.
2. Add $v$ to IS.
3. Mark $v$ and all its neighbors.

- Algorithm can be implemented in $O(n)$ time-keep unmarked vertices in list, and representing $T$ so that neighbors can be found in $O(1)$ time.



## I.S. Analysis

- Existence of large size, low degree IS follows from Euler's formula for planar graphs.
- A triangulated planar graph on $n$ vertices has $e=3 n-6$ edges.
- Summing over the vertex degrees, we get

$$
\sum_{v} \operatorname{deg}(v)=2 e=6 n-12<6 n .
$$

- We now claim that at least $n / 2$ vertices have degree $\leq 8$.
- Suppose otherwise. Then $n / 2$ vertices all have degree $\geq 9$. The remaining have degree at least 3. (Why?)
- Thus, the sum of degrees will be at least $9 \frac{n}{2}+3 \frac{n}{2}=6 n$, which contradicts the degree bound above.
- So, in the beginning, at least $n / 2$ nodes are unmarked. Each chosen $v$ marks at most 8 other nodes (total 9 counting itself.)
- Thus, the node selection step can be repeated at least $n / 18$ times.
- So, there is a I.S. of size $\geq n / 18$, where each node has degree $\leq 8$.


## Trapezoidal Maps

- A randomized point location scheme, with (expected) query $O(\log n)$, space $O(n)$, and construction time $O(n \log n)$.
- The expectation does not depend on the polygonal subdivision. The bounds holds for any subdivision.
- It appears simpler to implement, and its constant factors are better than Kirkpatrick's.
- The algorithm is based on trapezoidal maps, or decompositions, also encountered earlier in triangulation.



## Trapezoidal Maps

- Input a set of non-intersecting line segments $S=\left\{s_{1}, s_{2}, \ldots, s_{n}\right\}$.
- Query: given point $p$, report the segment directly above $p$.
- The region label can be easily encoded into the line segments.
- Map is created by shooting a ray vertically from each vertex, up and down, until a segment is hit.
- In order to avoid degeneracies, assume that no segment is vertical.
- The resulting rays plus the segments define the trapezoidal map.



## Trapezoidal Maps

- Enclose $S$ into a bounding box to avoid infinite rays.
- All faces of the subdivision are trapezoids, with vertical sides.
- Size Claim: If $S$ has $n$ segments, the map has at most $6 n+4$ vertices and $3 n+1$ traps.

- Each vertex shoots one ray, each resulting in two new vertices, so at most $6 n$ vertices, plus 4 for the outer box.
- The left boundary of each trapezoid is defined by a segment endpoint, or lower left corner of enclosing box.
- The corner of box acts as leftpoint for one trap; the right endpoint of any segment also for one trap; and left endpoint of any segment for at most 2 trapezoids. So total of $3 n+1$.


## Construction

- Plane sweep possible, but not helpful for point location.
- Instead we use randomized incremental construction.
- Historically, invented for randomized segment intersection. Point location an intermediate problem.
- Start with outer box, one trapezoid. Then, add one segment at a time, in an arbitrary, not sorted, order.


Before


After inserting s

## Construction

- Let $S_{i}=\left\{s_{1}, s_{2}, \ldots, s_{i}\right\}$ be first $i$ segments, and $\mathcal{T}_{i}$ be their trapezoidal map.
- Suppose $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}$ built, and we add $s_{i}$.
- Find the trapezoid containing the left endpoint of $s_{i}$. Defer for now: this is point location.
- Walk through $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}$, identifying trapezoids that are cut. Then, "fix them up".
- Fixing up means, shoot rays from left and right endpoints of $s_{i}$, and trim the earlier rays that are cut by $s_{i}$.


Before


After inserting s

## Analysis

- Observation: Final structure of trap map does not depend on the order of segments. (Why?)
- Claim: Ignoring point location, segment $i$ 's insertion takes $O\left(k_{i}\right)$ time if $k_{i}$ new trapezoids created.
- Proof:
- Each endpoint of $s_{i}$ shoots two rays.
- Additionally, suppose $s_{i}$ interrupts $K$ existing ray shots, so total of $K+4$ rays need processing.
- If $K=0$, we get exactly 4 new trapezoids.
- For each interrupted ray shot, a new trapezoid created.
- With DCEL, update takes $O(1)$ per ray.


Before


After

## Worst Case

- In a worst-case, $k_{i}$ can be $\Theta(i)$. This can happen for all $i$, making the worst-case run time $\sum_{i=1}^{n} i=\Theta\left(n^{2}\right)$.
- Using randomization, we prove that if segments are inserted in random order, then expected value of $k_{i}$ is $O(1)$ !
- So, for each segment $s_{i}$, the expected number of new trapezoids created is a constant.
- Figure below shows a worst-case example. How will randomization help?



## Randomization

- Theorem: Assume $s_{1}, s_{2}, \ldots, s_{n}$ is a random permutation. Then, $E\left[k_{i}\right]=O(1)$, where $k_{i}$ trapezoids created upon $s_{i}$ 's insertion, and the expectation is over all permutations.


## - Proof.

1. Consider $\mathcal{T}_{i}$, the map after $s_{i}$ 's insertion.
2. $\mathcal{I}_{i}$ does not depend on the order in which segments $s_{1}, \ldots, s_{i}$ were added.
3. Reshuffle $s_{1}, \ldots, s_{i}$. What's the probability that a particular $s$ was the last segment added?
4. The probability is $1 / i$.
5. We want to compute the number of trapezoids that would have been created if $s$ were the last segment.


The trapezoids that depend on s


The segments that the trapezoid depends on.

## Proof

- Say trapezoid $\Delta$ depends on $s$ if $\Delta$ would be created by $s$ if $s$ were added last.
- Want to count trapezoids that depend on each segment, and then find the average over all segments.
- Define $\delta(\Delta, s)=1$ if $\Delta$ depends on $s$; otherwise, $\delta(\Delta, s)=0$.


The trapezoids that depend on $s$


The segments that the trapezoid depends on.

- The expected complexity is

$$
E\left[k_{i}\right]=\frac{1}{i} \sum_{s \in S_{i}} \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}_{i}} \delta(\Delta, s)
$$

- Some segments create a lot of trapezoids; others very few.
- Switch the order of summation:

$$
E\left[k_{i}\right]=\frac{1}{i} \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}_{i}} \sum_{s \in S_{i}} \delta(\Delta, s)
$$

## Proof



The trapezoids that depend on $s$


The segments that the trapezoid depends on.

- Now we are counting number of segments each trapezoid depents on.

$$
E\left[k_{i}\right]=\frac{1}{i} \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}_{i}} \sum_{s \in S_{i}} \delta(\Delta, s)
$$

- This is much easier-each $\Delta$ depends on at most 4 segments.
- Top and bottom of $\Delta$ defined by two segments; if either of them added last, then $\Delta$ comes into existence.
- Left and right sides defined by two segments endpoints, and if either one added last, $\Delta$ is created.
- Thus, $\sum_{s \in S_{i}} \delta(\Delta, s) \leq 4$.
- $\mathcal{T}_{i}$ has $O(i)$ trapezoids, so

$$
E\left[k_{i}\right]=\frac{1}{i} \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}_{i}} 4=\frac{1}{i} 4\left|\mathcal{T}_{i}\right|=\frac{1}{i} O(i)=O(1)
$$

- End of proof.


## Point Location

- Like Kirkpatrick's, point location structure is a rooted directed acyclic graph.
- To query processor, it looks like a binary tree, but subtree may be shared.
- Tree has two types of nodes:
- $x$-node: contains the $x$-coordinate of a segment endpoint. (Circle)
- $y$-node: pointer to a segment. (Hexagon)
- A leaf for each trapzedoid.



## Point Location

- Children of $x$-node correspond to points lying to the left and right of $x$ coord.
- Children of $y$-node correspond to space below and above the segment.
- $y$-node searched only when query's $x$-coordinate is within segment's span.
- Example: query in region $D$.

- Encodes the trap decomposition, and enables point location during the construction as well.


## Building the Structure

- Incremental construction, mirroring the trapezoidal map.
- When a segment $s$ added, modify the tree to account for changes in trapezoids.
- Essentially, some leaves will be replaced by new subtrees.
- Like Kirkpatrick's, each old trapezoid will overlap $O(1)$ new trapezoids.

- Each trapezoid appears exactly once as a leaf. For instance, $F$.


## Adding a Segment

- Consider adding segment $s_{3}$.



## Adding a Segment

- Changes are highly local.
- If segment $s$ passes entirely through an old trapezoid $t$, then $t$ is replaced by two traps $t^{\prime}, t^{\prime \prime}$.
- During search, we need to compare query point to $s$ to decide above/below.
- So, a new $y$-node added which is the parent of $t^{\prime}$ and $t^{\prime \prime}$.
- If an endpoint of $s$ lies in $t$, then we add a $x$-node to decide left/right and a $y$-node for the segment.



## Analysis

- Space is $O(n)$, and query time is $O(\log n)$, both in expectation.
- Expected bound depends on the random permutation, and not on the choice of input segments or the query point.
- The data structure size $\propto$ number of trapezpoids, which is $O(n)$, since $O(1)$ expected number of traps created when a new segment inserted.
- In order to analyze query bound, fix a query $q$.
- We consider how $q$ moves incrementally through the trapezoidal map as new segments are inserted.
- Search complexity $\propto$ number of trapezoids encountered by $q$.


## Search Analysis

- Let $\Delta_{i}$ be trapezoid containing $q$ after insertion of $i$ th segment.
- If $\Delta_{i}=\Delta_{i-1}$ then new insertion does not affect $q$ 's trapezoid. (E.g. $q \in B$ and $s_{3}$ 's insertion.)
- If $\Delta_{i} \neq \Delta_{i-1}$, then new segment deleted $q$ 's trapezoid, and $q$ needs to locate itself among the (at most 4) new traps.
- $q$ could fall 3 levels in the tree. E.g. $q \in C$ falling to $J$ after $s_{3}$ 's insertion.



## Search Analysis

- Let $P_{i}$ be probability that $\Delta_{i} \neq \Delta_{i-1}$, over all random permutation.
- Since $q$ can drop $\leq 3$ levels, expected search path length is $\sum_{i=1}^{n} 3 P_{i}$.
- We will show that $P_{i} \leq 4 / i$. That will imply that expected search path length is

$$
3 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{4}{i}=12 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{i}=12 \ln n
$$

- Why is $P_{i} \leq 4 / i$ ? Use backward analysis.
- The trapezoid $\Delta_{i}$ depends on at most 4 segments. The probability that $i$ th segment is one of these 4 is at most $4 / i$.



## Final Remarks

- Expectation only says that average search path is small. It can still have large variance.
- The trapezoidal map data structure has bounds on variance too. See the textbook for complete analysis.

Theorem: For any $\lambda>0$, the probability that depth of the randomized seach structure exceeds $3 \lambda \ln (n+1)$ is at most

$$
\frac{2}{(n+1)^{\lambda \ln 1.25-3}}
$$

- More careful analysis can provide better constants for the data structure.

