# Better Tradeoffs for Exact Distance Oracles in Planar Graphs 

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## Goal



Preprocess an $n$-vertex planar graph $G=(V, E)$ with nonnegative arc lengths, so that given any $u, v \in V$ we can compute $d(u, v)$ efficiently.

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## Previous work

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Djidjev [5] and Arikati et al. [1] achieved $Q=O\left(n^{2} / S^{2}\right)$.

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Fakcharoenphol and Rao [6] show that $S=\tilde{O}(n)$ and $Q=\tilde{O}(\sqrt{n})$ is possible.

## Previous work

The trade-off between the query time Q and the size S of the structure:


This has been extended to $Q=\tilde{O}(n / \sqrt{S})$ for essentially the whole range of $S$ in a series of papers.

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Last year, Cohen-Addad, Dahlgaard, and Wulff-Nilsen [4] showed that this is not optimal, and $S=O\left(n^{5 / 3}\right)$ with $Q=O(\log n)$ is possible.

## Previous work

The trade-off between the query time $Q$ and the size $S$ of the structure:


We improve this to $S=O\left(n^{1.5}\right)$ and $Q=O(\log n)$.

## Main result

For any $S \in\left[n, n^{2}\right]$, we construct an oracle of size $S$ that answers an exact distance query in $Q=\tilde{O}\left(\max \left\{1, n^{1.5} / S\right\}\right)$ time.

At the heart of the above construction is a structure with $S=O\left(n^{1.5}\right)$ and $Q=O(\log n)$ that, similarly to the result of Cohen-Addad et al., uses the Voronoi diagram technique introduced by Cabello.

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## Basic recursion

## Miller

There always exists a Jordan curve separator of size $O(\sqrt{n})$ such that there are at most $\frac{2}{3} n$ nodes on its inside/outside.


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Shortest path can cross the separator multiple times!

## Basic recursion



Find $w \in \operatorname{Sep}$ minimising $d_{G}(u, w)+d_{i n}(w, v)$.

## Single step

Consider the inside of graph and a fixed node $u$.

(1) For technical reasons, triangulate.
(2 For every $w \in$ Sen define $\omega(w)-d_{G}(u, w)$.Construct the Voronoi diagram.
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(4) ... finding $w$ reduces to point location!

## Voronoi diagram



## Voronoi diagram



Look at the dual and create many copies of the node corresponding to the external face.

## Voronoi diagram



Because all sites are adjacent to the external face, the diagram can be described by a tree on $O(|S e p|)$ nodes.

## Point location

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$p_{j}$ plus the extra edge is a path in the shortest paths tree rooted at $s_{i_{j}}$ that doesn't depend on $\omega$.

## Point location

- By storing preorder numbers for the shortest paths tree rooted at $s_{i j}$ we can check if $v$ is on the left/right of $p_{i_{j}}$ in constant time. - This allows us to detect in constant time the relevant smaller component of the tree representing the Voronoi diagram that needs to be recursively searched for the cell of $v$ (if it is not the cell of any $s_{i_{j}}$ ).

Time: $O(\log n)$
Space: - $|\operatorname{Sep}| \cdot O(n)$ to store the shortest path tree for every site,

- $n \cdot O(\sqrt{n})$ to store the Voronoi diagram and its centroid decomposition for every $u$,
- $O\left(n^{1.5}\right)$ in total.


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& \text { The overall space is roughly } S(n)=O\left(n^{1.5}\right)+2 S(n / 2) \text {, so } O\left(n^{1.5}\right) \\
& \text { overall. But the query would take } O\left(\log ^{2} n\right) \ldots \\
& \text { Can we decrease the number of subproblems where we use the point } \\
& \text { location structure? } \\
& \text { It is enough to query only the structure corresponding to the topmost } \\
& \text { subproblem where } u \text { and } v \text { lie on different sides of the separator if we } \\
& \text { choose the separators more carefully. The query time becomes } \\
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Can we decrease the number of subproblems where we use the point location structure?

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- Use $r$-divisions to decrease the number of stored Voronoi diagrams by a factor of $\sqrt{r}$. Then, we need to guess the boundary node $u^{\prime}$ in the region of $u$, there are $\sqrt{r}$ possibilities.


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- Replace the explicitly stored shortest paths trees with the MSSP structure of Klein, except that we need to slightly extend the interface of the link-cut trees used to maintain the current tree.

Time can be decreased to $O(\sqrt{r} \log n \log r)$ with an additional trick.

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## Questions?

