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Illuminating Disjoint Line Segments in the Plane*

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Abstract. It is shown that a set of *n* disjoint line segments in the plane can always be illuminated by $\lfloor (n + 1)/2 \rfloor$ light sources, improving an earlier bound of $\lfloor 2n/3 \rfloor$ due to Czyzowicz et al. It is also shown that $\lfloor 4(n + 1)/5 \rfloor$ light sources are always sufficient and sometimes necessary to illuminate the free space and both sides of *n* disjoint line segments for every $n \ge 2$.

1. Introduction

Illumination of convex sets was first studied by L. Fejes Tóth [8] who proved that 4n - 7 light sources are always sufficient and sometimes necessary to illuminate the boundaries of *n* disjoint compact sets in the plane for every $n \ge 3$. He also proved that 2n - 2 light sources are always sufficient and sometimes necessary to illuminate the boundaries of *n* disjoint disks for every $n \ge 3$. Ever since, this illumination problem has been studied for several subclasses of compact sets. Tight bounds are not known for any other cases. For *n* disjoint homothetic triangles, there are almost matching upper and lower bounds of n + 1 and n [6]. For *n* disjoint axis-parallel rectangles, the maximum number of necessary light sources is between n - 1 and n + 1 in the worst case [11], [20]. Urrutia conjectures [20] that n + c light sources always suffice to monitor *n* disjoint convex quadrilaterals or *n* disjoint triangles in the plane, *c* is a constant.

Given a set *D* of objects in the plane, a set *S* of points (*light sources*) collectively *illuminate* a point set *P* if for every point $p \in P$ there is a light source $s \in S$ such that the open line segment *sp* is disjoint from all objects in *D*. They *illuminate* the object set *D* if they illuminate the boundary of every object in *D*. This reflects Valentine's notion of

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illumination [21]. (We note that Hadwiger [9] defined a different notion of illumination for convex sets with non-empty interiors. See [16] for a survey on Hadwidger's problem.)

Illumination in the presence of disjoint objects can refer to two problems which differ in their target sets: (1) illumination of the set of objects and (2) illuminating the *free space* of objects (that is, the complement of the union of the objects, $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \bigcup D$). Interestingly enough, all known bounds for objects with non-empty interiors equally apply to both problems. Our two main theorems show that this is not the case for disjoint line segments in general position. The line segments are in *general position* if there are no three collinear segment endpoints and no two parallel segments.

Theorem 1 (Illuminating Segments). For any set *L* of *n* disjoint line segments in the plane in general position, there are $\lfloor (n+1)/2 \rfloor$ light sources in $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \bigcup L$ that collectively illuminate $\bigcup L$.

For the illumination of *n* line segments, the best known construction, due to Zaks [22], requires 4n/9 - 2 light sources. Theorem 1 improves upon the best previously known upper bound, $\lceil 2n/3 \rceil$, which is due to Czyzowicz et al. [7]. An asymptotics of n/2 + O(1) was conjectured by Czyzowicz et al. [5].

Theorem 2 (Strong Illumination of the Free Space). For any set L of $n, n \ge 2$, disjoint line segments in the plane in general position, there are $\lfloor 4(n+1)/5 \rfloor$ light sources in $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \bigcup L$ that collectively illuminate $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \bigcup L$. This bound is tight.

If every object is a curve, then each point on the boundary of an object can be illuminated from either side of the curve: this leads to a problem of illuminating line segments from both sides, suggested by Welzl. Here every point of every given line segment needs to be illuminated by at least two light sources, one on each side of the supporting line of the segment.

Theorem 3 (Illuminating Segments from Both Sides). For any set L of $n, n \ge 2$, disjoint line segments in the plane in general position, there are $\lfloor 4(n+1)/5 \rfloor$ light sources in $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \bigcup L$ that collectively illuminate every point $p \in \ell, \ell \in L$, from both sides of ℓ . This bound is tight.

Our theorems give combinatorial bounds on the worst case number of necessary light sources. Determining the minimal number of light sources for given sets of segments is NP-hard [18], like many other art gallery type optimization problems.

Other Variants of Illumination in the Presence of Line Segments. O'Rourke [17] considered the model of weak illumination: The open segment sp between a light source s and a target point p can contain a segment of L, but it cannot properly cross any segment of L. He proved that $\lfloor 2n/3 \rfloor$ light sources are always sufficient and sometimes necessary to illuminate the free space of n disjoint segments weakly, if the light sources can be anywhere in \mathbb{E}^2 and n > 5. Tóth [19] showed that $\lfloor 2(n+1)/3 \rfloor$ light sources in $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \bigcup L$ are always sufficient and sometimes necessary to illuminate the free space weakly.

Czyzowicz et al. [7] required that every line segment be entirely illuminated by one light source. They have shown that for that problem $\lceil 2n/3 \rceil$ light sources in $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \bigcup L$ are always sufficient and sometimes necessary.

Jennings and Lenhart [12] allowed one to place an arbitrary number of light sources on selected line segments. They proved that there are always at most $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ segments from *L* such that light sources placed at those segments can illuminate all the other segments, and this bound is tight.

Proof Technique. Our allocation of light sources extends the so-called *matching technique*, which yields tight bounds for some illumination problems [17], [19]. Usually, the *free space* $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \bigcup D$ of the set D of disjoint objects is partitioned into convex cells. A *dual graph* is associated to the partition where the nodes represent convex cells, and two nodes are connected by an edge if a common light source can illuminate both cells. A small covering set (or, many times, simply a matching) of convex cells with common boundary points then provides a small set of light sources.

The key observation for our proofs is that the *dual graph* of a convex partitioning of disjoint segments (defined below) can be decomposed into paths of three or more nodes (such a decomposition is called a $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factor). Theorem 1 is based on a weaker property, namely, the dual graph has a partition into paths of two or three nodes (a $\{P_1, P_2\}$ -factor).

We apply Kaneko's characterization of graphs with $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factors [13]. Recently, Kano et al. [14] gave a simple proof to Kaneko's theorem, and Hartvigsen and Hell [10] presented a polynomial algorithm which finds an actual $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factor or states that none exists. $\{P_2, P_3\}$ -factors were characterized by Akiyama et al. [1]. We remark that finding a maximum P_3 packing (i.e., a set of disjoint induced paths of three nodes) in a given graph is known to be NP-hard [15] even for planar graphs [4].

Organization. We define a simple (dual) graph on a convex partitioning of the free space in Section 2. Then, in Section 3, we show that the dual graph has a $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factor applying Kaneko's theorem. Finally, we use a $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factor of the dual graph to allocate light sources and prove our Theorems 1–3 in Sections 4 and 5.

2. Convex Partitioning and Dual Graphs

In this section we describe a simple method to partition the free space of disjoint segments into convex pieces. Then we define two graphs on the convex partition such that the interiors of two cells represented by adjacent nodes in the graph can be illuminated by one light source.

Let *L* be a set of *n* disjoint line segments in the plane. Consecutively, extend every line segment $e_1e_2 \in L$ beyond its endpoint e_1 (and e_2) until it hits the relative interior of another line segment or a previously drawn extension at point $\tau(e_1)$ (and $\tau(e_2)$). If the extension does not hit anything then $\tau(e_i)$ is a ray pointing to infinity. Starting with *n* pairwise disjoint and non-collinear line segments, we obtain a partition of the plane into n + 1 convex open regions [17].

The convex partitioning induced by L is not unique. It depends on the order in which the segments are extended. For our purposes, any partition is just fine. (It was shown in

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Fig. 1. A convex partitioning and the corresponding planar graph *H*.

[19] that the line segments can be extended while keeping them disjoint such that the partitioning algorithm run on the extended segments returns a unique partition.) If the partitioning algorithm extends a segment $\ell = e_1e_2$ beyond e_1 to a (possibly previously extended) segment, then we call the point $\tau(e_1)$ a *T*-junction. If it extends e_1e_2 beyond e_1 to infinity, then we call the ray $\tau(e_1)$ an *I*-junction.

We define the graph H of the convex partition as follows: The node set V(H) corresponds to the set of convex cells. To either endpoint of every segment $e_1e_2 \in L$, we associate an edge in H: the edge associated to e_i , i = 1, 2, connects the two nodes corresponding to the two cells which lie along $e_i \tau(e_i)$ on opposite sides and which are incident to $\tau(e_i)$. (See Fig. 1.) Since every segment gives rise to exactly two edges, the graph H has exactly 2n edges. Notice that H may have double edges if the extension $\tau(e_1e_2)$ of a line segment $e_1e_2 \in L$ lies completely in the common boundary of two cells. Observe that H is a planar graph without loops.

We obtain a simple graph K from H by replacing every double edge by a single edge. For a node $v \in V(H) = V(K)$, we denote by R_v the closure of the cell corresponding to v. Similarly, for a set of nodes $S \subseteq V(K)$, let $R_S = \bigcup \{R_v : v \in S\}$.

3. The Graph *K* Has a $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -Factor

We write P_i as a shorthand for a *path* consisting of $i, i \in \mathbb{N}$, nodes. A partition of a simple graph *G* into P_3 's, P_4 's, and P_5 's is a $\{P_3, P_4, P_5\}$ -factor of *G*. Every path of more than five nodes has a $\{P_3, P_4, P_5\}$ -factor, this justifies the shorthand notation $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factor for $\{P_3, P_4, P_5\}$ -factors. We can now formulate the main lemma of this paper.

Lemma 4. The graph K has a $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factor if $|V(K)| \geq 3$.

In our illumination problems, it will suffice to apply the following two immediate corollaries.

Corollary 5. *K* has a P_3 -packing which covers at least $3\lceil |V(K)|/5\rceil$ nodes if $|V(K)| \ge 3$.

Corollary 6. *K* has a $\{P_2, P_3\}$ -factor if $|V(K)| \ge 1$.

3.1. Kaneko's Theorem

The main tool for the proof of Lemma 4 is Kaneko's theorem [13] which characterizes $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factors.

Theorem 7 (Kaneko's Theorem). A simple graph G has a $\{P_{>3}\}$ -factor if and only if

 $sun(G-S) \le 2|S|, \quad for \, every \quad S \subseteq V(G).$ (1)

The term sun(G - S) requires further explanation.

Definition 8. A graph *F* is *factor-critical* if for every $v \in V(F)$, $F - \{v\}$ has a perfect matching (1-factor).

A single node is a *sun* graph. All other *sun* graphs can be obtained from a factorcritical graph F with $V(F) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$, by adding new vertices u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k and new edges $v_1u_1, v_2u_2, \dots, v_ku_k$. (Figure 2 depicts four suns.)

Let sun(G) denote the number of connected *sun* components of a simple graph *G*.

A factor-critical graph with k nodes has at least k edges if k > 1. To see this, observe that every factor-critical graph is connected, and it has no leaves. Note that a single node is also factor-critical and the corresponding sun graph is a path P_2 . Consequently, a sun with 2k nodes, k > 1, has at least 2k edges.

3.2. Proof of Lemma 4

Before we proceed with the proof of Lemma 4, we need some definitions. The *wheel* subgraphs (defined below) will have special role if they form the factor-critical core of a sun subgraph of K.

Definition 9. For a graph *G* and $S \subseteq V(G)$, denote the degree of *S* in *G* by deg_{*G*}(*S*) (i.e., deg_{*G*}(*S*) is the number of edges connecting nodes of *S* to nodes of $V(G) \setminus S$).



Fig. 2. Four sun graphs.



Fig. 3. Three wheels with all their outgoing edges.

Let G(S) be the subgraph of G induced by S, and let G - S be the subgraph induced by $V(G) \setminus S$. Denote by $E_G(S) = E(G(S))$ the set of edges induced by S in G.

Definition 10. A vertex set $S \subset V(G)$ of a graph G is a *wheel* in G, if S induces a connected graph, $|E_G(S)| = |S|$, $\deg_G(S) = |S|$, and $\deg_G(v) > 2$ for every $v \in S$ (Fig. 3).

The key step to the application of Kaneko's theorem is the following lemma. The rather technical proof is postponed to the next subsection.

Lemma 11. Let W be a proper subset of V(K). Then

$$|E_K(W)| \le 2|W| - p(W) - r(W), \tag{2}$$

where p(W) is the number of nodes in W whose degree is 2 in both K and K(W), and r(W) is the maximum number of disjoint subsets of W which are wheels in both K and K(W).

Now we are ready to establish our main lemma and show that K admits a $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factor.

Proof of Lemma 4. Suppose that inequality (1) does not hold for the graph K of the convex partitioning. Choose a subset of nodes $S \subset V(K)$, where sun(K - S) - 2|S| is maximal.

If $S = \emptyset$, then K - S = K. *K* has only one connected component, and does not have any leaves if |V(K)| > 2. Therefore, sun(K) > 0 implies $|V(K)| \le 2$.

Now assume that *S* is non-empty. Delete from *K* all components of K - S which are not sun and denote the resulting graph by K' (Fig. 4). We wish to apply Lemma 11 and, in particular, inequality (2) with W = V(K'). For this reason, we introduce parameters for the number of certain types of sun components of K - S. The P_1 's, P_2 's, and all other suns are considered separately.

Let c_2 and c_3 be the number of single node components $v \in V(K) \setminus S$ with $\deg_K(v) = 2$ and $\deg_K(v) \ge 3$, respectively. (Note that here $\deg_{K'}(v) = \deg_K(v)$.)

Let d_2, d_3 , and d_4 be the number of P_2 components $P \subset V(K) \setminus S$ such that $\deg_K(P) = 2$, $\deg_K(P) = 3$, and $\deg_K(P) \ge 4$, respectively. Observe that $\deg_K(P) = 2$ (resp., $\deg_K(P) = 3$) means that P contains two (resp., one) nodes with $\deg_K(v) = 2$.

Consider the sun components of K - S with more than two nodes. Let the total number of their nodes be 2k. They have k leaves. Let f_2 and f_3 be the total number of their leaves v with deg_K(v) = 2 and deg_K(v) > 2, respectively. Let r_1 and r_2 be the number sun components of K - S with more than two nodes, whose factor-critical subgraph is wheel



Fig. 4. Illustration for the proof of Lemma 4.

and non-wheel, respectively. These components have at least $2k + r_2$ interior edges and at least $2k - f_2$ edges connect them to S.

Using these parameters, we can give a lower bound to the number of edges in K' by $|E(K')| \ge \deg_{K'}(S) + (d_2 + d_3 + d_4) + (2k + r_2)$ where $\deg_{K'}(S) \ge 2c_2 + 3c_3 + 2d_2 + 3d_3 + 4d_4 + (2k - f_2)$. The number of nodes having degree 2 in both K' and K is at least $c_2 + 2d_2 + d_3 + f_2$.

Inequality (2) with W = V(K') is written as

$$2c_2 + 3c_3 + 3d_2 + 4d_3 + 5d_4 + 4k + r_2 - f_2$$

$$\leq 2(|S| + c_2 + c_3 + 2d_2 + 2d_3 + 2d_4 + 2k) - (c_2 + 2d_2 + d_3 + f_2) - r_1,$$

$$c_2 + c_3 + d_2 + d_3 + d_4 + r_1 + r_2 \leq 2|S|.$$

The number of sun components is at most 2|S|. According to Kaneko's theorem, *K* has a $\{P_{\geq 3}\}$ -factor.

3.3. The Structure of Graphs H and K

Recall that *K* is the graph obtained from *H* by replacing double edges by simple edges, furthermore, |V(K)| = n + 1 and $|E(K)| \le |E(H)| = 2n$. If *H* has *d* double edges, then $|E(K)| \le 2n - d = 2|V(K)| - 2 - d$.

Denote by q the number of line segments which are extended to a complete line by the convex partitioning algorithm. Assuming general position, $q \in \{0, 1\}$. Denote this line by $\ell_0 \in L$ if it exists. Observe that there is no cutting edge in H or in K if n > 1.

Lemma 12. The number of 2-edge cuts in H is q.

Proof. Consider a proper subset $S \subset V(H)$. The region R_S is connected if S induces a connected subgraph. The boundary of R_S is composed of pieces of the extended line

segments of L. We distinguish two cases:

Case 1: R_S or $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ is a bounded region. Every bounded polygonal domain has at least three vertices. Every vertex corresponds to a T-junction. Every T-junction on the boundary of R_S , in turn, corresponds to an edge of H in deg_H(S), hence deg_H(S) ≥ 3 .

Case 2: Both R_S and $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ are unbounded regions. There are at least two I-junctions on the boundary of R_S . If there are at least two line segments on the boundary of R_S , then there is also at least one T-junction on the boundary (there are no collinear line segments) and therefore, deg_H(S) ≥ 3 .

A set $S \subset V(H)$ for which both R_S and $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ are unbounded can have $\deg_H(S) = 2$ if and only if there is exactly one line segment on the boundary of R_S . In this case the line segment ℓ on the boundary of R_S is extended to infinity in both directions, and $\ell = \ell_0$.

Corollary 13. For every node v with $\deg_H(v) = 2$, R_v is a half-plane of ℓ_0 .

Corollary 14. If $S \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\deg_H(S) = 2$, then R_S is a half-plane of ℓ_0 .

Lemma 15. Let S be a proper subset of V(H) such that S induces a connected subgraph. Then

$$2|S| \le |E_H(S)| + \deg_H(S). \tag{3}$$

Proof. Let *x* be the number of the line segments $e_1e_2 \in L$ such that relint $(\tau(e_1)\tau(e_2)) \subset$ int (R_S) . Note that either endpoint of a segment $e_1e_2 \subset$ int (R_S) corresponds to an edge in $E_H(S)$. Let *y* be the number of segment endpoints which corresponds to an edge in $E_H(S)$ but whose segment relint $(\tau(e_1)\tau(e_2))$ is not fully in int (R_S) . Finally, let *z* be the number of segments on the boundary of R_S completely disjoint from int (R_S) . Using these parameters, we estimate |S|, $|E_H(S)|$, and $\deg_H(S)$.

For estimating |S|, we keep track of how R_S is partitioned by our convex partitioning algorithm when the segment extensions $e_1\tau(e_1)$, $e_2\tau(e_2)$, ..., $e_{2n}\tau(e_{2n})$ are added oneby-one. Let $R(0) = R_S \setminus \bigcup L$. Denote by *h* the number of holes of R(0). In particular, every segment of *L* fully in $\operatorname{int}(R_S)$ forms a hole, hence $h \ge x$. Moreover if $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ is bounded, then $h \ge x + 1$. Put $R_S(j) := R_S \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{j} e_i\tau(e_i)$, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, 2n$. By deleting one more segment $e_i\tau(e_i)$ intersecting $\operatorname{int}(R_S)$, either the number of connected components of $R_S(j + 1)$ increases by one, or the the total number of holes in all components of $R_S(j + 1)$ drops by one. As $R_S(2n)$ has no holes and at least 2x + yextensions intersect the interior of R_S , there must be 2x + y - h steps increasing the number of connected components by one each.

 $|E_H(S)| = 2x + y$ follows from the definition of parameters *x* and *y*. For estimating deg_H(*S*), consider the consecutive line segments along every connected component of the boundary of R_S . Every pair of consecutive line segments on the boundary forms a T-junction and corresponds to an edge in deg_H(*S*). The extensions of the first and the last segment endpoints on the boundary of an unbounded component correspond to two I-junctions. This implies that deg_H(*S*) $\geq z + y$ if R_S or $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ is bounded, and deg_H(*S*) $\geq z + y + 1$ if both are unbounded.

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We can summarize the cases as follows. If the complement $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ is bounded, then $|S| \leq x + y$ and $|E_H(S)| + \deg_H(S) \geq 2x + 2y + z$, so our proof is complete. Otherwise we have $|S| \leq x + y + 1$. If R_S is bounded, then the convex hull $\operatorname{conv}(R_S)$ has at least three sides. On every curve on the boundary of R_S between two endpoints of a side of $\operatorname{conv}(R_S)$, there is a segment on the boundary of R_S disjoint from $\operatorname{int}(R_S)$, hence $z \geq 3$. This implies that $|E_H(S)| + \deg_H(S) \geq 2x + 2y + 3$. If both R_S and $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ are unbounded, then $|E_H(S)| + \deg_H(S) \geq 2x + 2y + z + 1$ and $z \geq 1$ since $\operatorname{conv}(R_S)$ has at least one side.

Corollary 16. If $S \subset V(K)$ is a wheel in K and $|E_H(S)| = |S|$, then either $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ is bounded or R_S is a half-plane of ℓ_0 .

Proof. Suppose that S is a wheel with k nodes and S induces at most k edges in H. Clearly, $S \neq V(H)$. We have

$$2k = |E_H(S)| + \deg_K(S) \le |E_H(S)| + \deg_H(S) \le k + |S| = 2k.$$

That is, inequality (3) holds with equality. It follows from the argument of the previous proof that either $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ is bounded or both R_S and $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ are unbounded and z = 1.

Proof of Lemma 11. We know that |E(H)| = 2|V(H)| - 2. Applying Lemma 15 to every component of H - W, we have $|E_H(W)| \le 2|W| - 2$.

It suffices to show that W induces at least p(W) + r(W) - 2 double edges in H. Note that the nodes of the wheels do not have degree 2 in K. According to Corollary 16, every wheel $S \subset W$ induces a double edge of H unless R_S is a half-plane of ℓ_0 or $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus R_S$ is bounded. According to Corollary 13, every node $v \in W$ with $\deg_K(v) = 2$ is incident to a double edge of H unless R_v is a half-plane of ℓ_0 . It is possible, however, that two nodes $v \in W$ and $w \in W$ with $\deg(v) = \deg(w) = 2$ are incident to the same double edge of H. Consider a path $P \subseteq W$ with $\deg_K(v) = 2$ and $\deg_H(v) > 2$ for every $v \in P$, and note that $\deg_K(P') = 2$ for every subpath $P' \subseteq P$. Therefore, the nodes of P are incident to |P| double edges of H unless R_P contains a half-plane of ℓ_0 . Since ℓ_0 have only two half-planes, and neither is disjoint from a region R_S whose complement is bounded, we concluded that H(W) must have at least p(W) + r(W) - 2 double edges.

4. Illumination of the Free Space and Illuminating Both Sides of Segments

4.1. P₃-Packings of the Graph K

First we introduce the notion of *bad* P_3 to highlight a few exceptional cases. Then we proceed with Lemma 17 which states that two light sources can basically illuminate R_a , R_b , and R_c whenever (a, b, c) forms a P_3 in K.

Fix a convex partition of a set *L* of disjoint line segments. Let e = ab be an edge of *H* between the nodes *a* and *b*. Assume that *e* corresponds to a T-junction $\tau(e)$. We associate a small region $r_{\varepsilon}(a, e)$ to the directed edge e(a, b), where ε is a small positive constant. Let $r_{\varepsilon}(a, e)$ be the intersection of the closed cell R_a and the closed disk centered at $\tau(e)$ of radius ε .

Consider a $P_3(a, b, c)$ of K. Assume that the lines through the line segments $e_1e_3 \in L$ and $e_2e_4 \in L$ form the common boundary of R_a , R_b and R_b , R_c , respectively, such that the segment endpoints e_1 and e_2 correspond to edges ab and bc, respectively. We say that (a, b, c) is a bad P_3 if $\tau(e_3) \in \tau(e_2)\tau(e_4)$ or symmetrically if $\tau(e_4) \in \tau(e_1)\tau(e_3)$. The region $r_{\varepsilon}(b, e_3)$ or $r_{\varepsilon}(b, e_4)$, respectively, is called the bad ε -corner of the bad P_3 (see Fig. 6).

Lemma 17. There is a positive constant $\varepsilon_0 = \varepsilon_0(L)$ such that for all ε , $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0$, and every $P_3(a, b, c)$ of K, we can place two light sources in $int(R_a) \cup int(R_b) \cup int(R_c)$ with the following properties:

- (i) They illuminate all portions of $\bigcup L$ on the boundaries of R_a , R_b , and R_c .
- (ii) If (a, b, c) is not bad, then they illuminate all portions of $\bigcup L$ on the boundaries of R_a , R_b , and R_c from the side of R_a , R_b , and R_c (from two sides on the common boundaries); and they illuminate $R_{abc} \setminus \bigcup L$.
- (iii) If (a, b, c) is bad, then they illuminate all portions of $\bigcup L$ on the boundaries of R_a , R_b , and R_c from the side of R_a , R_b , and R_c (from two sides on the common boundaries), except for the portions in the bad ε -corner from the side of R_b ; and they illuminate $R_{abc} \setminus \bigcup L$ except for the bad ε -corner.
- (iv) They illuminate every $r_{2\varepsilon}(d, e)$ where $d \in V(H) \setminus \{a, b, c\}$ and e corresponds to an edge of H between d and (a, b, c).

Proof. Let e_1 and e_2 denote the segment endpoints which correspond to edges ab and bc, respectively. If $\tau(e_1)$ (resp., $\tau(e_2)$) is a T-junction, then let $w_1 = \tau(e_1)$ ($w_2 = \tau(e_2)$). If $\tau(e_1)$ (resp., $\tau(e_2)$) is an I-junction, then let w_1 (w_2) be the intersection point of the common boundary of R_a and R_b (R_b and R_c) and a bounding box of $\bigcup L$.

We place two light sources s_1 and s_2 into $\operatorname{int}(R_a) \cup \operatorname{int}(R_b) \cup \operatorname{int}(R_c)$ in the δ neighborhood of w_1 and w_2 , where $\delta > 0$ is a sufficiently small positive constant depending on L and ε . If e_1e_2 is not a segment of L, then we place the two light sources in the interior of R_a and R_b (Fig. 5, left). If $e_1e_2 \in L$, then we place them on opposite sides of the line through e_1e_2 , say, into the interior of R_a and R_b (Fig. 5, right).

Each light source illuminates the cell in which it is lying and the boundary of this cell. If $e_1e_2 \in L$, then the light source s_2 illuminates the cell R_c , except for the cone



Fig. 5. Two examples where the two light sources are located in $R_a \cup R_b \cup R_c$ if (a, b, c) is not a bad P_3 .



Fig. 6. Two light source do not illuminate a bad ε -corner of a bad P_3 .

between the rays $\overrightarrow{e_1e_2}$ and $\overrightarrow{s_2e_2}$ and the portion of e_1e_2 on the boundary of R_c . Both are illuminated by s_1 if δ is sufficiently small.

If $e_1e_2 \notin L$, then let $e_1e_3 \in L$ and $e_2e_4 \in L$. The light source $s_1 \in int(R_a)$ also illuminates cell R_b ; except for the cone between the rays e_1e_3 and s_1e_1 and the portion of e_1e_3 on the boundary of R_b from side R_b . The light source $s_2 \in int(R_c)$ also illuminates cell R_b ; except for the cone between the rays e_2e_4 and s_2e_2 , and the portion of e_2e_4 on the boundary of R_b from side R_b . They together illuminate R_b and its boundary except if (a, b, c) is bad. In that case the intersection of the non-illuminated pieces are all in the bad corner if δ is sufficiently small with respect to ε .

Finally s_1 and s_2 illuminate the regions $r_{2\varepsilon}(D, V)$ in adjacent cells if ε is sufficiently small. We note only one particular case: if (a, b, c) is a bad P_3 , then the corner $r_{2\varepsilon}(d, e_3)$ (resp., $r_{2\varepsilon}(d, e_4)$) of the neighboring cell opposite to the bad ε -corner of (a, b, c) is also illuminated by the light source s_1 (resp., s_2) (Fig. 6). Note that the upper bound on ε depends only on L and not on δ .

For the sake of completeness, we make the following observation about the bad corners.

Proposition 18. There is a positive constant $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_0(L)$ such that for all ε , $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_1$, and every $a \in V(K)$, we can place a light source in int (R_a) with the following properties:

- (i) It illuminates R_a ; and it illuminates all portions of $\bigcup L$ on the boundary of R_a .
- (ii) It illuminate every $r_{2\varepsilon}(d, e(a, d))$ where $v \in V(H) \setminus \{a\}$ and $e(a, d) \in E(H)$.

4.2. Proof of Theorems 2 and 3

(*Sufficiency*) According to Corollary 5, *K* contains a P_3 -packing which covers at least $3\lceil (n + 1)/5 \rceil$ nodes. Place two light sources for every P_3 as described in the proof of Lemma 17 and one light source in the interior of every cell not covered by a P_3 as described in Proposition 18. The two light sources in a P_3 illuminate the interior and the boundaries of the three cells except for a bad corner in the case of bad P_3 's. The bad corners are illuminated from the opposite side: On the other side there is either another



Fig. 7. A construction of n = 26 line segments requiring 21 light sources.

 P_3 of our P_3 -packing and the bad corner is illuminated by Lemma 17(iv), or there is a single cell in our P_3 -packing and the bad corner is illuminated by Proposition 18(ii). The total number of light sources is

$$2\left\lceil \frac{n+1}{5} \right\rceil + \left((n+1) - 3\left\lceil \frac{n+1}{5} \right\rceil \right) = \left\lfloor 4 \cdot \frac{n+1}{5} \right\rfloor.$$

(*Necessity*) Figure 7 depicts a construction of 5k + 1 line segments requiring $4k + 1 = \lfloor 4(n + 1)/5 \rfloor$ light sources. Observe that each line segment in the interior of a shaded region requires two distinct light sources. (The maximum P_3 -packing of the corresponding unique graph *K* (Fig. 8) covers 3(k+1) nodes out of the total of |V(K)| = 5k + 2.)

We obtain a construction on n = 5k + 2, 5k + 3, or 5k + 4 line segments by adding one, two, or three segments shown as dashed lines in Fig. 7.

Theorem 3 says that the light source placement based on a maximum P_3 -packing of K is best possible in the worst case. Note, however, that there is no one-to-one correspondence between maximum P_3 -packings of K and optimal solutions to this illumination problem.

5. Illuminating Segments

5.1. First Approach

We wish to find a set of light sources in the free space that collectively illuminate every point of the line segments (from one side at least). We show first how an upper bound of $\lfloor 2(n+1)/3 \rfloor$ can be deduced from Corollary 6 (i.e., a maximum matching of *G* covers at least $2 \lceil (n+1)/3 \rceil$ nodes).



Fig. 8. The corresponding graph *K*.

Let *ab* be a P_2 in *K*. We say that *ab* is a *bad* P_2 if two edges of *H* connects *a* and *b* (i.e., *ab* is a double edge in *H*). Let e_1e_2 be the segment whose two endpoints correspond to the two edges of *H* between *a* and *b*. We call *bad points* of the bad P_2 the two points $\tau(e_1)$ and $\tau(e_2)$.

Lemma 19. There is a positive constant $\varepsilon_0 = \varepsilon_0(L)$ such that for all ε , $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0$, and every P_2 of K, we can place a light source in $int(R_a) \cup int(R_b)$ with the following properties.

- (i) If *ab* is not bad, then it illuminates all portions of $\bigcup L$ on the boundaries of R_a and R_b .
- (ii) If ab is bad, then it illuminates all portions of ∪ L on the boundaries of R_a and R_b; except for parts of one of the following four disjoint intervals on the boundary of R_{ab}: each interval has length ε and they lie in an ε-neighborhood of the two bad points of ab but do not include the bad points.

Proof. Assume that the lines through $e_1e_2 \in L$ form the common boundary of R_a and R_b such that the segment endpoint e_1 corresponds to an edge $ab \in E(H)$. If e_1 is a T-junction, then let $w_1 = \tau(e_1)$; if e_1 is an I-junction, then let w_1 be the intersection of $e_1\tau(e_1)$ and a bounding box of $\bigcup L$.

If *ab* is not bad, then we place a light source *s* into $int(R_a) \cup int(R_b)$ in the δ -neighborhood of w_1 , where $\delta > 0$ is a sufficiently small positive constant. If $s \in int(R_a)$ $(s \in int(R_b))$, then *s* illuminates $R_a(R_b)$ and it also illuminates the boundary of the other cell, except for the interior of the cone $C_b(C_a)$ between the rays $\overline{e_1e_2}$ and $\overline{se_1}$. The interior of either C_a or C_b contains no line segments on the boundary ∂R_{ab} (Fig. 9, left).

If ab is a bad P_2 , then the segment endpoint e_2 , too, corresponds to an edge of H between a and b. We place a light source in the interior of R_a or R_b , in the δ -neighborhood of w_1 or w_2 . Thus we have four disjoint regions for locating a light source s. In all four cases, the only portion of the boundaries $\partial R_a \cup \partial R_b$ non-illuminated by s is the projection of e_1e_2 to the boundary ∂R_{ab} from center s. The non-illuminated portion of the boundary can be in four disjoint intervals around the two bad points $\tau(e_1)$ or $\tau(e_2)$ depending on the four possible location of s. This portion can be smaller than ε , if δ is sufficiently small with respect to ε (Fig. 9, right).



Fig. 9. A light source next to v_1 or v_2 cannot always illuminate the entire boundary of R_{ab} .

Theorem 20. For any set *L* of *n* disjoint line segments in the plane in general position, there are $\lfloor 2(n+1)/3 \rfloor$ light sources in $\mathbb{E}^2 \setminus \lfloor \rfloor L$ that collectively illuminate $\lfloor \rfloor L$.

Proof. Let *M* be a maximum matching of *K*. Place one light source into every pair of *M* as described in Lemma 19, and one light source in the interior of every cell not covered by *M*. By Corollary 6, we used no more than $\lceil (n + 1)/3 \rceil + (n + 1 - 2\lceil (n + 1)/3 \rceil) = \lfloor 2(n + 1)/3 \rfloor$ light sources. For every bad pair $ab \in M$, there is a short interval which is not illuminated by the light source assigned to *ab*. All non-illuminated small intervals can be illuminated from the other side by choosing ε sufficiently small in Lemma 19.

5.2. Proof of Theorem 1

Let *F* be a { P_2 , P_3 }-factor of *K* granted by Corollary 6. Consider a $P_3(a, b, c)$ of *F*. Let $\gamma(a) = \partial R_{(a,b,c)} \cap \partial R_a$ and $\gamma(c) = \partial R_{(a,b,c)} \cap \partial R_c$ (i.e., two connected polygonal curves). Denote the two endpoints of $\gamma(a)$ and $\gamma(c)$ by p_1 , p_2 and q_1 , q_2 , respectively, in clockwise order along $\partial R_{(a,b,c)}$. Let $\kappa(a)$ be the polygonal path along $\partial R_{(a,b,c)}$ from p_1 to q_1 , and let $\kappa(c)$ be the polygonal path along $\partial R_{(a,b,c)}$ from q_1 to p_1 in clockwise order. As a result, $\partial R_{(a,b,c)} = \kappa(a) \cup \kappa(c)$, $\partial R_a \cap \partial R_{(a,b,c)} \subset \kappa(a)$, and $\partial R_c \cap \partial R_{(a,b,c)} \subset \kappa(c)$ (Fig. 10).

We define a graph J_F . Let the node set $V(J_F)$ be the set of all two extremal nodes from every $P_3 \in F$. Two nodes $u, v \in V(J_F)$ are connected by an edge if and only if at least one of the following conditions is satisfied (see Fig. 11):

- u and v are in the same P_3 of F,
- $-\kappa(u) \cap \kappa(v)$ contains infinitely many points (this includes the case where the cells R_u and R_v have common boundary points),
- R_u and R_v lie at the opposite side of two bad points of a bad P_2 in F.

Observe that J_F is planar: We can draw J_F as follows. Place a point p(a) in int(R_a) for every $a \in V(J_F)$, and connect the points corresponding to adjacent nodes of J_F by curves without crossings: For a $P_3(a, b, c)$ of F, the two points, p(a) and p(c), can be connected by a curve within $R_{(a,b,c)}$. If $\kappa(u_1) \cap \kappa(v_1)$ contains a segment, then $p(u_1)$



Fig. 10. Denote the two endpoints of $\alpha = \partial R_{(a,b,c)} \cap \partial R_a$ and $\gamma = \partial R_{(a,b,c)} \cap \partial R_c$ by p_1, p_2 and q_1, q_2 , respectively.



Fig. 11. Edges of graph J_F defined on the extremal nodes of P_3 's of F.

and $p(v_1)$ can be connected to this segment within $R_{(u_1,u_2,u_3)}$ and $R_{(v_1,v_2,v_3)}$, respectively, where $(u_1, u_2, u_3) \in F$ and $(v_1, v_2, v_3) \in F$. Finally, if R_u and R_v lie at the opposite sides of the bad points $\tau(e_1)$ and $\tau(e_2)$ of a bad $P_2 ab$ of F, then p(u) and p(v) can be connected to $\tau(e_1)$ and $\tau(e_2)$ within R_u and R_v , respectively; and $\tau(e_1)$ and $\tau(e_2)$ can be connected in R_{ab} .

According to the four color theorem [2], [3], J_F has an independent set $I_F \subset V(J_F)$ of size $|I_F| \ge \lceil |V(J_F)|/4 \rceil$. Putting $T_F = V(J_F) \setminus I_F$, we have $|T_F| \le \lfloor 3|V(J_F)|/4 \rfloor$.

 T_F has one or two nodes in every P_3 of F. Indeed, I_F cannot contain both nodes from a P_3 of F, because they are connected by an edge in J_F . Hence, at least half of the P_3 's of F contain only one node of T_F , and at most half of them contain two.

We create a new decomposition \hat{F} of V(K) by splitting some of the P_3 's of F into a P_2 and a single node: If (a, b, c) is a P_3 of F and $c \in I_F$ (therefore $a \in T_F$), then we split (a, b, c) into (a, b) and c. All other P_3 's and all P_2 's of F are put into \hat{F} intact. Let q_1, q_2 , and q_3 be the number of single nodes, P_2 's, and P_3 's in \hat{F} , respectively. Clearly, $q_1 + 2q_2 + 3q_3 = n + 1$. Every single node is obtained from a P_3 of F with one node in I_F , hence $q_3 \leq q_1$.

Now we define a set of light sources $S(\hat{F})$. Place two light sources into each P_3 of \hat{F} as described in Lemma 17. Place one light source into each P_2 of \hat{F} as described in Lemma 19. (The proof of Lemma 19 suggests four possibilities for the location of a light source in a bad pair. We use the freedom of choice in the proof of Lemma 21.) There are no light sources in the single nodes of \hat{F} . All in all, we used at most $\lfloor (n + 1)/2 \rfloor$ light sources.

Lemma 21. The light sources of $S(\hat{F})$ can be arranged so that they collectively illuminate every point of $\bigcup L$.

Proof. We prove that every portion of $\bigcup L$ on the boundary of every convex cell of the convex partition is illuminated by some light source of $S(\hat{F})$.

The portions of $\bigcup L$ in and on the boundaries of $R_{(a,b,c)}$, where (a, b, c) is a P_3 of \hat{F} , are illuminated according to Lemma 17(i). Likewise the portions in and on the boundary of R_{ab} , where ab is a good P_2 of \hat{F} . If ab is a bad pair of \hat{F} , then one of four arbitrarily short segments in the neighborhood of one of its bad points is not illuminated from the side of R_{ab} . The boundary of R_a where $a \in I_F$ is not illuminated from the side of R_a .



Fig. 12. A bad P_2 , (c, d), is part of the P_3 (c, d, e).

We need to show that the boundaries of cells corresponding to single nodes of \hat{F} and the short segments at bad points of bad pairs of \hat{F} are illuminated from the opposite side. There are three cases to consider:

(1) If a and b are single nodes of \hat{F} , then a and b are vertices of the graph J_F , and $a, b \in I_F$. The cells R_a and R_b cannot have more than one common boundary points, because then J_F has an edge between a and b.

(2) If *ab* and *bc* are two bad pairs of \hat{F} and R_{ab} and R_{cd} have a common boundary, then the light sources $s_{ab} \in S(\hat{F})$ and $s_{cd} \in S(\hat{F})$ can always be arranged so that every point in $\partial R_{ab} \cap \partial R_{cd}$ is illuminated by at least one of them.

(3) Suppose that *a* and *b* are single nodes (so $a, b \in I_F$) and *cd* is a bad P_2 of \hat{F} , furthermore, R_a and R_b are located at the other side of the bad points of *cd*. (See Fig. 12.)

cd cannot be a bad P_2 of F, because then the nodes a and b are connected by an edge in the graph J_F , therefore a and b cannot be in I_F . Therefore, *cd* was obtained by splitting a P_3 (*c*, *d*, *e*) of F into a pair *cd* and a singleton *e*. This implies that *e* is also a node of the graph J_F and $e \in I_F$.

Now observe that the two bad points of *cd* are also the two endpoints of the curve $\gamma(c)$ defined for (c, d, e). Since R_a and R_b are at the other side of the two bad points of *cd*, either ∂R_a or ∂R_b contains a common segment with $\kappa(e)$. Therefore, J_F has an edge between *e* and, say, *b*, so they cannot be in an independent set of J_F , a contradiction.

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