

# Reachability in $K_{3,3}$ -free Graphs and $K_5$ -free Graphs is in Unambiguous Log-Space

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## Abstract

We show that the reachability problem for directed graphs that are either  $K_{3,3}$ -free or  $K_5$ -free is in unambiguous log-space,  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ . This significantly extends the result of Bourke, Tewari, and Vinodchandran that the reachability problem for directed planar graphs is in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .

Our algorithm decomposes the graphs into biconnected and triconnected components. This gives a tree structure on these components. The non-planar components are replaced by planar components that maintain the reachability properties. For  $K_5$ -free graphs we also need a decomposition into fourconnected components. A careful analysis finally gives a polynomial size planar graph which can be computed in log-space.

We show the same upper bound for computing distances in  $K_{3,3}$ -free and  $K_5$ -free directed graphs and for computing longest paths in  $K_{3,3}$ -free and  $K_5$ -free directed acyclic graphs.

## 1 Introduction

For undirected graphs, the reachability problem is L-complete [Rei05]. For general graphs, reachability is NL-complete. Bourke, Tewari and Vinodchandran [BTV07] proved that reachability on planar graphs is in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$  and is hard for L. They built on work of Reinhard and Allender [RA00] and Allender, Datta, and Roy [ADR05]. A more direct proof is given by Kulkarni [Kul09]. Jacoby and Tantau [JT07] showed for series-parallel graphs that reachability is complete for L. They also showed that the problem to compute distances between vertices or longest paths are complete for L. Thierauf and Wagner [TW08] proved that the distance problem for planar graphs is in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ . For general graphs and even undirected planar graphs, the longest path problem is complete for NP. It is NL-complete for directed acyclic graphs (DAG). Limaye, Mahajan and Nimbhorkar [LMN09] prove that longest paths in planar DAGs can be computed in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .

We study reachability on extensions of planar graphs. Our main result is that reachability for directed  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs and directed  $K_5$ -free graphs logspace-reduces to planar

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reachability. Thus, the current upper bound for planar reachability,  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ , carries over to reachability for directed  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs and directed  $K_5$ -free graphs. One motivation for our results clearly is to improve the complexity upper bounds of certain reachability problems, from NL to UL in this case. Another aspect is that thereby we also consider the relationship of complexity classes, namely of UL vs. NL. The major open question is whether one can extend our results further such that we finally get a collapse of NL to UL.

In the case of a  $K_{3,3}$ -free graph  $G$ , our technique is to decompose  $G$  into biconnected components. Then these biconnected components are decomposed further into planar components, triconnected components and  $K_5$ -components. We construct a tree where the nodes are associated with these components (cf. [Vaz89]), the *PlaK<sub>5</sub>-component tree*.

For the reachability problem from vertex  $s$  to  $t$  in graph  $G$  we consider the simple path  $P$  in the PlaK<sub>5</sub>-component tree from component nodes  $S$  to  $T$ , where  $s$  and  $t$  are contained, respectively. We split the graph into components along the separating pairs we have on path  $P$ . A path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G$  must contain vertices of all these separating pairs. Thus, we make the reachability test for all these components. The difficulty is to handle the non-planar components. The crucial step is to replace all the  $K_5$ -components in the tree by planar components such that the reachability is not changed. Then we recombine the planar components into a planar graph  $H$  such that there is a path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G$  if and only if this holds too in  $H$ . The construction can be carried out in log-space.

There also exists a decomposition of  $K_5$ -free graphs (cf. Khuller [Khu88]). This is obtained by decomposing the graph into triconnected components. Each triconnected component is either planar, the four-rung Mobius ladder, also called  $V_8$ , or it is constructed by taking 3-clique sums of planar 4-connected components [Wag37]. We replace the  $V_8$ -components by planar components such that the reachability is not changed. Then we recombine the planar components into a planar graph. A difficulty that arises here is that we cannot use the 3-clique sum to recombine the components, because this would result again in a nonplanar graph. Instead, we carefully add copies of the components that can be arranged in a planar way such that the reachability is not altered. All the steps can be accomplished in log-space.

It is easy to see that our transformations from  $K_{3,3}$ -free or  $K_5$ -free graphs to planar graphs maintain not just reachability, but also the distances of the vertices. Therefore it follows from our results that distances in  $K_{3,3}$ -free or  $K_5$ -free graphs can be computed  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .

The same is true with respect to longest paths when considering DAGs instead. This is easy to see in the case of  $K_{3,3}$ -free DAGs and requires some extra arguments in the case of  $K_5$ -free DAGs. Hence, longest paths in  $K_{3,3}$ -free or  $K_5$ -free DAGs can be computed  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides definitions and notations. In Section 3 we prove that Reachability on  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs reduces to planar Reachability. In Section 4 we prove that Reachability on  $K_5$ -free graphs reduces to planar Reachability.

## 2 Definitions and Notations

A graph  $G = (V, E)$  contains a set of vertices  $V$  and edges  $E$ . For  $U \subseteq V$  let  $G - U$  be the *induced subgraph* of  $G$  on  $V - U$ .

An undirected graph  $G$  is *connected* if there exists a path between any two vertices. A vertex  $v$  is an *articulation point* if  $G - \{v\}$  is not connected. The connected components of  $G - \{v\}$  are called the *split components* of  $v$ .  $G$  is *biconnected* if it contains no articulation points.

Let  $G$  be a biconnected graph. A pair of vertices  $u, v$  is a *separating pair* if  $G - \{u, v\}$  is not connected. The connected components of  $G - \{u, v\}$  are called the *split components of  $u, v$* .  $G$  is *3-connected* if it contains no separating pairs, i.e. there are three vertex-disjoint paths between any pair in  $G$ . A graph is *triconnected* if it is either 3-connected, a cycle or a 3-bond. A  $k$ -bond is a pair of vertices connected by  $k$  edges.

Let  $G$  be a 3-connected graph. A triple of vertices  $u, v, w$  is a *separating triple* if  $G - \{u, v, w\}$  is not connected. The connected components of  $G - \{u, v, w\}$  are called the *split components of  $u, v, w$* .  $G$  is *4-connected* if it contains no separating triples.

A  $K_{3,3}$ -free graph is an undirected graph which does not contain a  $K_{3,3}$  as a minor. A  $K_5$ -free graph is an undirected graph which does not contain a  $K_5$  as a minor.

**Tree decomposition of connected planar graphs.** The decomposition of graphs into their biconnected components is used in many applications. For example, for computing the number of perfect matchings of  $K_{3,3}$ -free [Vaz89] or for the canonization of planar graphs [KHC04, DLN<sup>+</sup>08a]. We use the decomposition in the context of reachability testing. The first step is to decompose the connected graph  $G$  into biconnected components.

The tree decomposition of a connected planar graph from Hopcroft and Tarjan [HT73] is defined as follows. A connected planar graph  $G$  can be decomposed into biconnected components. For this find the set of articulation points. Start with an arbitrary articulation point  $a$  of  $G$  and consider the split components in  $G - \{a\}$ . In all the split components, a copy of  $a$  is contained. Recursively decompose the split components this way. The resulting connected components contain no articulation points and are biconnected. We define nodes for these components and the articulation points and a new graph as follows. An *articulation point node* is connected to a *biconnected component node* if this articulation point is contained as vertex in the corresponding component. The resulting graph is a tree, the *biconnected component tree*.

**Lemma 2.1** *The biconnected component tree of an undirected graph can be computed in log-space.*

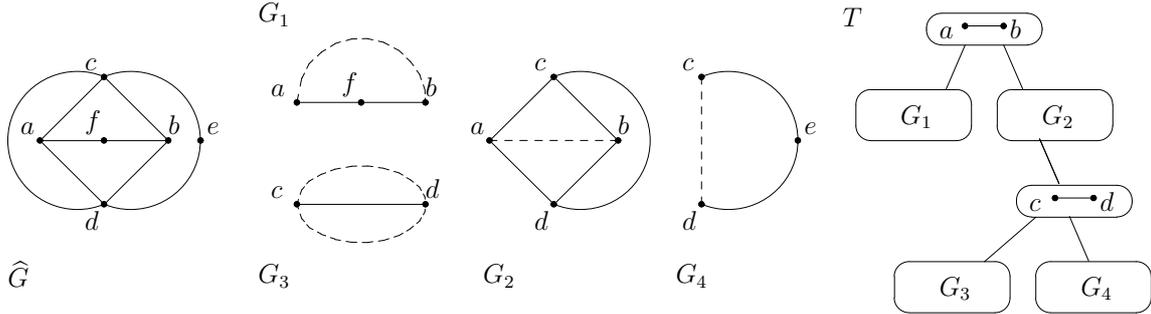
**Proof:** We can find all the articulation points of  $G$  in log-space: a vertex  $a$  is an articulation point if we can find two further vertices  $u$  and  $v$  such that there is no path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $G - \{a\}$ .

Similarly, we can compute all biconnected components of  $G$ : two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  are in the same biconnected component, if there is a path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $G - \{a\}$ , for every articulation point  $a \notin \{u, v\}$  of  $G$ .

The biconnected component tree has an arbitrary articulation point as root, say  $a_0$ . To walk along the tree, we have to identify the *parent articulation point* and the *child articulation points* of a biconnected component with respect to the root  $a_0$ . Let  $B$  be a biconnected component with articulation points  $a_1, \dots, a_k$ . Then  $a_i$  is the parent articulation point of  $B$ , if there is a path from  $a_i$  to  $a_0$  in  $G - a_j$ , for all  $j \neq i$ . Hence, we can traverse the biconnected component tree in log-space.  $\square$

**Tree decomposition of biconnected planar graphs.** For biconnected graphs, Hopcroft and Tarjan [HT73] introduced the decomposition into separating pairs and *triconnected components*. The latter are cycles, 3-bonds and 3-connected components. Separating pairs will

be connected by a *virtual edge*. The 3-bonds come from separating pairs that are connected by an edge in the given graph. Cycles are a special case. Although cycles are not 3-connected, they are not further decomposed for technical reasons. Hopcroft and Tarjan [HT73] defined the *triconnected component tree* that has these components as nodes and showed that it can be computed in linear time. There is an edge between the separating pair node for  $(a, b)$  and a triconnected component node for  $G_0$ , if  $(a, b)$  is contained in  $G_0$  (connected by a virtual edge). The resulting graph on these nodes is a tree  $\mathcal{T}$ . We consider an arbitrary separating pair as the root node of  $\mathcal{T}$ . For an example see Figure 1. Datta et. al. [DLN<sup>+</sup>08a] showed that when the graph is in addition *planar*, then the triconnected component tree can be computed even in log-space.



**Figure 1:** ([DLN<sup>+</sup>08a]) The decomposition of a biconnected planar graph  $G$ . Its triconnected components are  $G_1, \dots, G_4$  and the corresponding decomposition into the tree  $\mathcal{T}$  of triconnected components. The split pairs are  $(a, b)$  and  $(c, d)$ . Since the 3-connected separating pair  $(c, d)$  is connected by an edge in  $G$ , we also get  $\{c, d\}$  as triple-bond  $G_3$ . The virtual edges corresponding to the 3-connected separating pairs are drawn with dashed lines.

**The size of a component tree.** Let  $T$  be a biconnected or a triconnected component tree. We define the size of such a tree. The *size of an individual component node* of  $T$  is the number of nodes in the component. The *size of the tree  $T$* , denoted by  $|T|$ , is the sum of the sizes of its component nodes.

Let  $\mathcal{T}_C$  be a component tree rooted at some component node  $C$  and let  $\mathcal{T}_{C'}$  be a subtree of  $\mathcal{T}$  rooted at a child  $C'$  of  $C$ . We call  $C'$  a *large child* of  $C$ , if  $|\mathcal{T}_{C'}| > |\mathcal{T}_C|/2$ .

**Reachability.** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a class of directed graphs. We consider the following problems restricted to  $\mathcal{G}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}\text{-Reachability} &= \{(G, s, t) \mid G \in \mathcal{G} \text{ contains a path from } s \text{ to } t\} \\ \mathcal{G}\text{-Distance} &= \{(G, s, t, k) \mid G \in \mathcal{G} \text{ contains a path from } s \text{ to } t \text{ of length } \leq k\} \\ \mathcal{G}\text{-Long-Path} &= \{(G, s, t, k) \mid G \in \mathcal{G} \text{ contains a simple path from } s \text{ to } t \text{ of length } \geq k\} \end{aligned}$$

$L$  is the class of languages accepted by deterministic log-space Turing-machines and  $NL$  by nondeterministic log-space Turing-machines.  $UL$  is the class of languages accepted by unambiguous nondeterministic log-space machines, i.e. there exists at most one accepting computation path.  $coUL$  is the class of complements of languages in  $UL$ . We also use the fact that  $L^{UL \cap coUL} = UL \cap coUL$  (c.f. Thierauf and Wagner [TW08]).

### 3 Reachability in $K_{3,3}$ -free Graphs

We give a logspace reduction from the reachability problem for directed  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs to the reachability problem for directed planar graphs. The latter problem is known to be in  $UL \cap coUL$  [BTV07].

For the reduction, we decompose the given graph  $G$  into triconnected components. For the decomposition, we consider  $G$  as *undirected*. That is, each directed edge of  $G$  is considered as an undirected edge. After the decomposition we consider the components again as directed graphs.

We will see that every non-planar component is precisely the  $K_5$ . We define a tree based on planar and  $K_5$ -components. There are *component nodes* for the planar components and the  $K_5$ -components which are connected via nodes for separating pairs of the components. We call this tree the *PlaK<sub>5</sub>-component tree*.

The key step in the reduction is to replace the  $K_5$ -components by planar components while maintaining the reachability properties. Then we recombine the components to a directed planar graph  $H$ . The construction is such that vertex  $t$  is reachable from vertex  $s$  in  $G$  if and only if this holds in  $H$ , too.

#### 3.1 Tree decomposition

We consider the decomposition of biconnected  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs into triconnected components. Tutte [Tut66] proved that the decomposition is unique. Moreover, Asano [Asa85] proved that it has the following form.

**Lemma 3.1** [Asa85] *Each triconnected component of a  $K_{3,3}$ -free graph is either planar or exactly the graph  $K_5$ .*

The triconnected components are the nodes of the triconnected component tree. Two nodes are connected by an edge, if they share a separating pair. For our purpose it suffices to distinguish between planar and non-planar components. Vazirani [Vaz89] recombines the *planar* triconnected components that are neighbors in the tree into one planar component. This defines a new tree with alternating planar and  $K_5$ -component nodes which we call the *PlaK<sub>5</sub>-component tree*. Vazirani [Vaz89] showed that the PlaK<sub>5</sub>-component tree is unique and can be computed in  $NC_2$ . Here we give a simpler and more direct construction that works in log-space. We use Lemma 3.1 and the following lemmas which are implicitly in [Asa85].

**Lemma 3.2** *Let  $K = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  be a  $K_5$ -minor in graph  $G$ . Let  $p_{i,j}$  be a simple path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ , for all  $i \neq j$ , such that these paths are pairwise vertex disjoint (except for their endpoints), and let  $P = \bigcup_{v_i, v_j \in K} p_{i,j}$ .*

*If there are two vertices  $a, b$  and a path  $p_{a,b}$  from  $a$  to  $b$  that is vertex disjoint from all paths in  $P$  (except for their endpoints) such that*

(i)  *$a$  is an intermediate point on some path in  $P$ , w.l.o.g. say  $p_{1,2}$  and*

(ii) *either  $b \in \{v_3, v_4, v_5\}$  or  $b$  is an intermediate point on some path  $p_{i,j} \neq p_{1,2}$ ,*

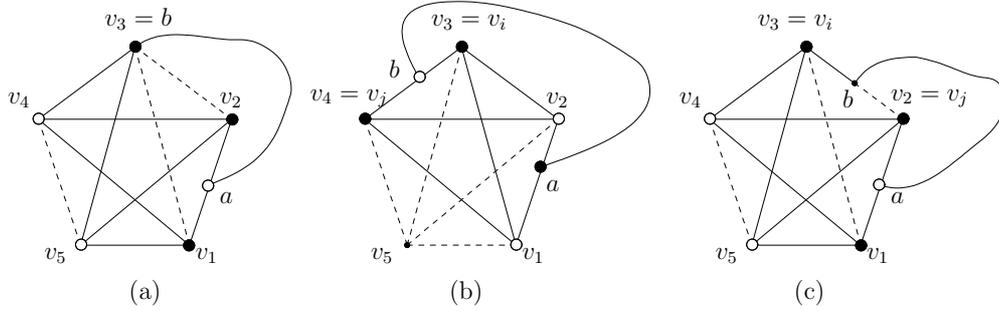
*then  $G$  has a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor.*

**Proof:** We consider the two cases for vertex  $b$  separately. First, let  $b \in \{v_3, v_4, v_5\}$ , w.l.o.g. say  $b = v_3$ . Then we have a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor in  $G$  with  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  on the left side and  $\{v_4, v_5, a\}$  on the right side. See Figure 2 (a).

For the second case, let  $b$  be an intermediate point on some path  $p_{i,j} \neq p_{1,2}$ . At least one of  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  is different from  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ , say  $v_i$ . We distinguish two cases. The cases are shown in Figure 2 (b) and (c).

- $v_j \notin \{v_1, v_2\}$ . Then there is a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor in  $G$  with  $\{v_1, v_2, b\}$  on the left side and  $\{v_i, v_j, a\}$  on the right side
- $v_j \in \{v_1, v_2\}$ . Then there is a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor in  $G$  that consists of the vertices  $\{a, v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  with  $\{v_1, v_2, v_i\}$  on the left side and the remaining vertices on the right side. Note that we have a path from  $a$  to  $v_i$  by following path  $p_{a,b}$  to  $b$  and then going along path  $p_{i,j}$  to  $v_i$ . By construction this path is vertex disjoint from all paths in  $P - \{p_{1,2}, p_{i,j}\}$  (except for their endpoints). Note also that we do not need path  $p_{i,j}$  otherwise, because  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  are on the same side of the  $K_{3,3}$ -minor.

□



**Figure 2:**  $K = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  is a  $K_5$ -minor. (a) There is a path from  $a$  to  $b = v_3$  that is disjoint from all paths in  $P$ . Then the black and white vertices are the two sides of a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor. The paths that are drawn dashed do not contribute to the  $K_{3,3}$ -minor.

(b) There is a path from  $a$  to  $b$  that is disjoint from all paths in  $P$  such that  $b$  is on some path  $p_{i,j}$  where  $v_i, v_j \notin \{v_1, v_2\}$ . Then there is a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor as indicated.

(c) The same situation as in (b), but with  $v_j \in \{v_1, v_2\}$ .

The next lemma is similar to Lemma 3.2 but takes a slightly different point of view.

**Lemma 3.3** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a biconnected undirected graph. Let  $K \subseteq V$  be a  $K_5$ -minor in  $G$ . If there is a vertex  $u \notin K$  such that there are pairwise vertex disjoint paths from  $u$  to three vertices in  $K$  then  $G$  has a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor.*

**Proof:** Let  $K = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$ . Because  $K$  is a  $K_5$ -minor, there is a simple path  $p_{i,j}$  between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  for all  $i \neq j$ , such that these paths are vertex disjoint (except for their endpoints). Let  $P = \bigcup_{v_i, v_j \in K} p_{i,j}$ . Let furthermore  $p_{u,1}, p_{u,2}, p_{u,3}$  be pairwise vertex disjoint paths from  $u$  to three vertices in  $K$ , say w.l.o.g. to  $v_1, v_2, v_3$ . We assume that these paths do not pass through any of the other two vertices of  $K$ , i.e.  $v_4$  or  $v_5$ . Otherwise shorten such a path and rename the vertices. We distinguish three cases.

*Case 1:*  $p_{u,1}, p_{u,2}, p_{u,3}$  reach w.l.o.g.  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  respectively, without intersecting any of the paths  $p_{i,j}$  in beforehand. Then we have a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor with  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  on the left side and  $\{v_4, v_5, u\}$  on the right side, see Figure 3 (a).

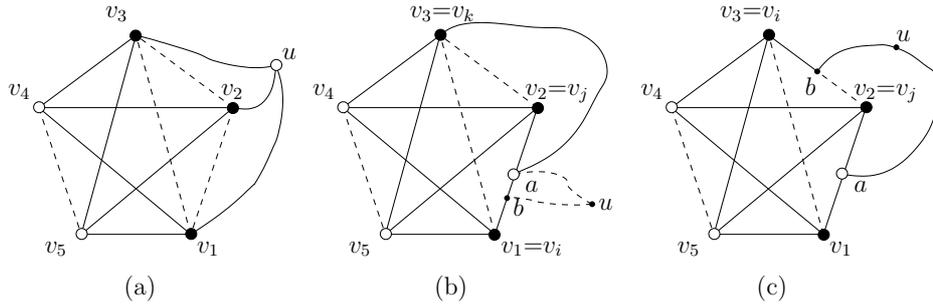
*Case 2:* One of the paths  $p_{u,1}, p_{u,2}, p_{u,3}$  intersects  $\geq 2$  paths in  $P$  before reaching the end vertex. Let  $a$  and  $b$  be two such consecutive intersection points on two different paths of  $P$ . Then we have a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor by Lemma 3.2.

*Case 3:* In the remaining case, all paths  $p_{u,1}, p_{u,2}, p_{u,3}$  intersect at most one path in  $P$  and at least one of the paths, say  $p_{u,1}$ , intersects some path of  $P$ , say path  $p_{i,j}$  at an intermediate point. Let  $b$  be this point of intersection.

At least one of the paths  $p_{u,1}, p_{u,2}, p_{u,3}$  does not have  $v_i$  or  $v_j$  as an endpoint. Let  $p_{u,k}$  be such a path, for some  $k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ , and let  $a$  be the first intersection of  $p_{u,k}$  with some path in  $P$ . Note, that  $a$  might be in  $K$ . We distinguish the following subcases.

- $a \in p_{i,j}$ . In this case we have a path from  $a$  to  $v_k$  that is vertex disjoint from the paths in  $P$ , see Figure 3 (b). Then there is a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor by Lemma 3.2.
- $a \notin p_{i,j}$ . This also includes the case that  $a \in K$ . Then we have a path from  $a$  to  $b$  via  $u$  that is vertex disjoint from the paths in  $P$ , see Figure 3 (c). Again there is a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor by Lemma 3.2.

□



**Figure 3:**  $K = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  is a  $K_5$ -minor. (a) There are paths from  $u$  to  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  that are disjoint from all paths in  $P$ . Then the black and white vertices are the two sides of a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor. The paths that are drawn dashed do not contribute to the  $K_{3,3}$ -minor. (b) There is a path from  $a \in p_{1,2}$  to  $v_k \notin \{v_1, v_2\}$  (here  $v_k = v_3$ ) which is disjoint from all paths in  $P$ . Then there is a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor as indicated. (c) The paths from  $u$  intersect two different paths of the  $K_5$ -minor at  $a$  and  $b$ , respectively. Then there is again a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor as indicated, where the path from  $a$  to  $v_k = v_3$  passes through  $u$  and  $b$ .

There are some easy consequences of Lemma 3.3. We consider how many vertices the components of a  $\text{Pla}K_5$ -component tree can have in common.

**Corollary 3.4** [Asa85] *A non-planar 3-connected graph  $G$  with  $\geq 6$  vertices has a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor.*

**Proof:** Assume that  $G$  is non-planar because it contains a  $K_5$ -minor. Let  $K = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  be a  $K_5$ -minor in  $G$ . Let  $w$  be a vertex in  $G$  that is not in  $K$ . There must be paths  $p_1, p_2, p_3$  from  $w$  to  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  in  $C$ , respectively, such that path  $p_1$  goes from  $w$  to  $v_1$  without passing through  $v_2$  or  $v_3$ , and similarly from  $w$  to  $p_2$  and  $p_3$ . Note that if all paths from  $w$  to, say  $v_3$  would pass through  $v_1$  or  $v_2$ , then  $v_1, v_2$  would be a separating pair for  $G$  and  $G$  would not be 3-connected.

Next, go along  $p_i$ , starting from  $v_i$  for all  $i$ . Let  $u_1$  be the first vertex on  $p_1$  that intersects  $p_2$  or  $p_3$ . Let  $u_2$  be the first vertex on  $p_2$  that intersects  $p_1$  or  $p_3$ . There are two cases.

- $u_1 = u_2$ . In this case we define  $u = u_1$ .
- $u_1 \neq u_2$ . Then both vertices also belong to  $p_3$ . Let  $u$  be the one which comes first on  $p_3$  starting from  $v_3$ .

Then we can use  $p_1, p_2, p_3$  to construct three vertex disjoint paths from  $u$  to  $v_1, v_2, v_3$ , respectively. By Lemma 3.3, there is a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor in  $G$ . □

**Corollary 3.5** *Two (different)  $K_5$ -minors of a  $K_{3,3}$ -free graph  $G$  have  $\leq 2$  vertices in common.*

**Proof:** Let  $K_1, K_2$  be two  $K_5$ -minors that have  $\geq 3$  vertices in common. Then  $G$  has a 3-connected component that contains  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ . This component has  $\geq 6$  vertices and therefore contains a  $K_{3,3}$  by Corollary 3.4. □

**Corollary 3.6** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a  $K_{3,3}$ -free biconnected undirected graph. Let  $K$  be a  $K_5$ -minor and  $B$  be a biconnected planar component in  $G$ . Then  $K$  and  $B$  have  $\leq 2$  vertices in common.*

**Proof:** A biconnected planar component  $B$  consists of triconnected components that are connected by separating pairs. Note that by Corollary 3.4, each 3-connected planar component has  $\leq 2$  vertices in common with  $K$ . Hence, if  $B$  contains three or more vertices of  $K$ , then these vertices must be distributed in more than one 3-connected component of  $B$ . By a similar argument as in Corollary 3.4 we can find a vertex  $u$  such that there are vertex disjoint paths in  $B$  to three vertices of  $K$ . The point is that at least one of the paths must leave a 3-connected component via a separating pair and can therefore be made disjoint from the other two paths. □

The next lemma is the crucial lemma for identifying the  $K_5$ -minors in a  $K_{3,3}$ -free biconnected graph.

**Lemma 3.7** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a  $K_{3,3}$ -free biconnected undirected graph. A set  $K \subseteq V$  of 5 vertices is a  $K_5$ -minor in  $G$ , and hence a  $K_5$ -component in the  $\text{Pl}aK_5$ -component tree, if and only if for every pair  $u, v \in K$  either  $(u, v) \in E$  or  $\{u, v\}$  is a separating pair in  $G$  such that the three remaining vertices of  $K$  are all in one split component of  $G - \{u, v\}$ .*

**Proof:** For the direction from right to left let  $u, v \in K$  be a separating pair. By definition a separating pair has at least two split components. Then there is a path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $G$  that passes purely through a split component of  $G - \{u, v\}$  that does *not* contain the other three

vertices of  $K$  (except for the endpoints). We have analogous paths for all separating pairs with both vertices in  $K$ . By construction, these paths are pairwise vertex disjoint (except for the endpoints). Hence  $K$  is a  $K_5$ -minor in  $G$ .

For the direction from left to right let  $K = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  be a  $K_5$ -minor in  $G$  and let  $(v_1, v_2) \notin E$ . Assume, that  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  is not a separating pair in  $G$ . We show that in this case  $G$  has a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor which contradicts the assumption that  $G$  is  $K_{3,3}$ -free.

Because  $K$  is a  $K_5$ -minor, there is a simple path  $p_{i,j}$  between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  for all  $i \neq j$  such that these paths are vertex disjoint (except for their endpoints). Let  $a \neq v_1, v_2$  be a vertex on path  $p_{1,2}$ . Since  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  is not a separating pair, there is a simple path  $p_{a,3}$  from  $a$  to  $v_3$  which does not pass through  $v_1$  or  $v_2$ . By Lemma 3.3, there is a  $K_{3,3}$ -minor in  $G$ .  $\square$

As a consequence, we can compute all the  $K_5$ -components of a biconnected undirected graph in log-space: cycle through all the  $\binom{n}{5}$  sets of 5 vertices and check the condition of Lemma 3.7 for each set. With the  $K_5$ -components in hand, we show that we can compute the  $\text{Pla}K_5$ -component tree in log-space. We start with a technical lemma.

**Lemma 3.8** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a  $K_{3,3}$ -free biconnected undirected graph. The  $\text{Pla}K_5$ -component tree of  $G$  can be computed in log-space.*

**Proof:** We have already seen how to compute the  $K_5$  components. We show how to compute the planar components. Two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  are in the same planar component, if there is a path  $p$  from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $G$  such that  $p$  contains  $\leq 2$  vertices from any  $K_5$ -component. Note that by Corollary 3.6, path  $p$  can go through at most two vertices of a  $K_5$ -component. Intuitively, this allows  $p$  to touch a  $K_5$ -component, but not to go through the other components connected to the  $K_5$ -component.

The  $\text{Pla}K_5$ -component tree of  $G$  consists of

- $K_5$ -component nodes,
- planar component nodes, and
- $K_5$ -separating pair nodes. These are pairs of vertices that are separating pairs and belong to a  $K_5$ .

The tree has alternating  $K_5$ -component nodes and planar component nodes and a  $K_5$ -separating pair node between these two. That is, there is an edge between a  $K_5$ - or planar component node and a  $K_5$ -separating pair node if the corresponding component contains both vertices of the separating pair. Figure 4 shows an example.

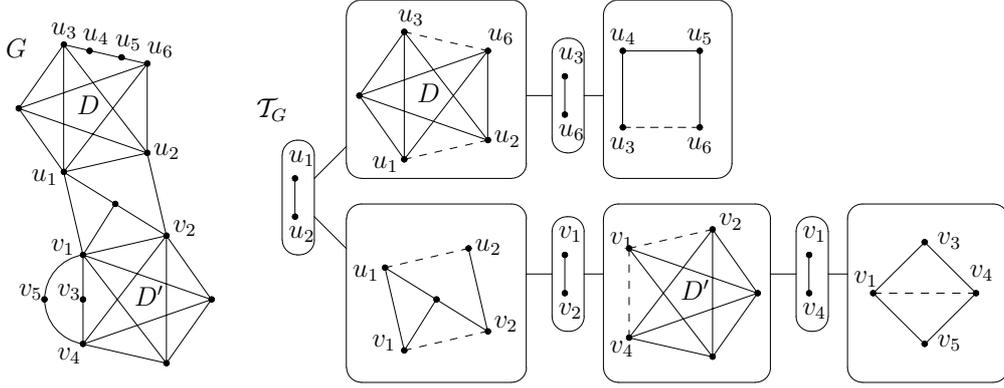
Let the tree be rooted at node  $N$  and let  $N'$  be a component node in the tree. The parent node of  $N'$  is the  $K_5$ -separating pair  $u, v$  incident to  $N'$  in the tree such that there is no path from vertices in  $N'$  to vertices to the root  $N$  in  $G - \{u, v\}$ . All the other  $K_5$ -separating pairs are children of  $N'$ . Hence, we can navigate in log-space through the tree.  $\square$

We summarize.

**Theorem 3.9** [DLN<sup>+</sup>08b]<sup>1</sup> *The decomposition of a  $K_{3,3}$ -free biconnected graph into a planar component tree can be computed in log-space.*

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<sup>1</sup>The result came up in discussion with Samir Datta, Nutan Limaye, and Prajakta Nimbhorkar. The proof presented here was developed in this paper.



**Figure 4:** Two  $K_5$ -component nodes  $D$  and  $D'$  with planar components.

### 3.2 Reduction to the planar case

In this section, we construct a reduction from the reachability problem for directed  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs to the reachability problem for directed planar graphs. We prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.10**  $K_{3,3}$ -free Reachability  $\leq_T^L$  Planar Reachability.

We start by showing that it suffices to consider *biconnected* directed  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs.

**Lemma 3.11** Reachability  $\leq_T^L$  *biconnected* Reachability.

**Proof:** Let  $G$  be a graph and  $s$  and  $t$  be two given nodes in  $G$ . Compute the biconnected components of  $G$  in log-space by Lemma 2.1. Let  $S$  be the biconnected component that contains  $s$ , and  $T$  the one that contains  $t$ . Let  $S = V_1, \dots, V_k = T$  with  $k$  odd be a simple path from  $S$  to  $T$  of nodes of the biconnected component tree of  $G$ . Let  $a_2, a_4, \dots, a_{k-1}$  be the articulation points shared by these components, i.e.  $a_i$  is shared by  $V_{i-1}$  and  $V_{i+1}$ . Recall, this path is an alternating path on articulation point nodes and separating pair nodes. Then a path from  $s$  to  $t$  has to go through all these articulation points. Hence, there is a path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G$  if and only if there is a path from  $a_{i-1}$  to  $a_{i+1}$  in the biconnected component of  $V_i$ , for all odd  $i$ .  $\square$

Note that the reduction in the proof considers subgraphs of  $G$ . Hence the reduction maintains the property that  $G$  is  $K_{3,3}$ -free or  $K_5$ -free, respectively.

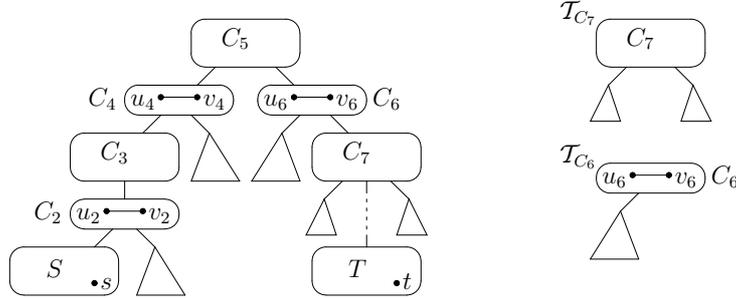
Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a biconnected directed  $K_{3,3}$ -free graph and  $s, t$  be two vertices in  $G$ . The problem is to find a path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}_G$  be the  $\text{Pla}K_5$ -component tree of  $G$ . Let  $S$  be the biconnected component that contains  $s$  and  $T$  the one that contains  $t$ .

We partition the tree into subtrees and consider the reachability problem for these subtrees. Then we replace *non-planar* components of the  $\text{Pla}K_5$ -component tree  $\mathcal{T}_G$  by *planar* components such that the reachability condition remains unchanged.

**Partitioning of  $G$  into subgraphs.** Consider the simple path from  $S$  to  $T$  in  $\mathcal{T}_G$ , say  $S = C_1, C_2, \dots, C_l = T$ . A path from  $s$  to  $t$  always contains vertices of separating pairs, which

are shared by the component nodes  $C_{i-1}$  and  $C_{i+1}$ . Let  $(u_i, v_i)$  be the separating pair which separates  $C_{i-1}$  from  $C_{i+1}$ . For an example see Figure 5.

Observe, that a path  $p$  from  $s$  to  $t$  must visit at least one vertex of each of these separating pairs. Once we have reached  $C_i$ , then  $p$  will not go back to  $C_{i-1}$ , because otherwise  $p$  would not be simple. Note,  $p$  goes through the siblings of  $C_{i-1}$  before it goes to the parent  $C_{i+1}$ .



**Figure 5:** Partitioning of the PlaK<sub>5</sub>-component tree  $\mathcal{T}_G$  into pieces  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ . The boxes indicate component nodes and the triangles indicate subtrees.

We partition the reachability problem into subproblems. For a component node  $C_i$  define the tree  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$  as the subtree of  $\mathcal{T}_G$  rooted at  $C_i$ , where the branches to  $C_{i-1}$  and  $C_{i+1}$  are cut off. Let  $G_i$  be the graph corresponding to  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ . If  $C_i$  is a component node then  $\{u_{i-1}, v_{i-1}\}$  and  $\{u_{i+1}, v_{i+1}\}$  are separating pairs of  $C_i$ . In the case, when  $C_i$  is a separating pair node then we define  $u_{i-1} = u_{i+1}$  and  $v_{i-1} = v_{i+1}$  such that we have only one separating pair in  $C_i$ .

The following lemma states that the reachability problem in  $G$  can be partitioned into reachability problems in  $G_i$ .

**Lemma 3.12** *Any simple path  $p$  from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G$  can be written as a concatenation of paths,  $p = p_1, \dots, p_l$ , such that*

- path  $p_1$  goes from  $s$  to  $u_2$  or  $v_2$  in  $G_1$ ,
- path  $p_i$  is a path from  $u_{i-1}$  or  $v_{i-1}$  to  $u_{i+1}$  or  $v_{i+1}$  in  $G_i$ , for all  $2 \leq i \leq l-1$ ,
- path  $p_l$  is a path from  $u_{l-1}$  or  $v_{l-1}$  to  $t$  in  $G_l$ .

Note, if  $s$  and  $t$  are in the same component  $C_1$  then  $S = C_1 = T$  and  $\mathcal{T}_G = \mathcal{T}_{C_1}$ .

In the reachability problems for  $G_i$ , we search for a path from  $u_{i-1}$  (or  $v_{i-1}$ ) to  $u_{i+1}$  (or  $v_{i+1}$ ). Each separating pair is connected by a virtual edge. If we have the virtual edge  $\{a, b\}$  in  $C_i$  on our path, then we have to check whether there is a path from  $a$  to  $b$  in a child of  $C_i$  in  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ . Note, in the child component the same situation can occur, recursively. If e.g.  $(a, b)$  is also a directed edge in  $G$  then there is a child component, a leaf node in the tree which corresponds to a 3-bond. This node indicates the directed edge  $(a, b)$ .

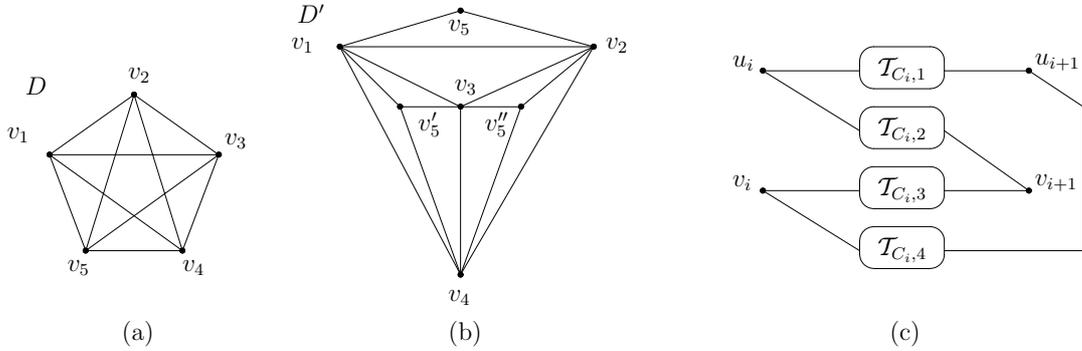
**Lemma 3.13** *There is a path from  $u_{i-1}$  or  $v_{i-1}$  to  $u_{i+1}$  or  $v_{i+1}$  in  $G_i$  if and only if there exists a path in  $C_i$  such that for virtual edges  $\{a, b\}$  on this path there exists a path from  $a$  to  $b$  in the child component of  $C_i$ , recursively.*

Because we have  $K_5$ -component nodes, it is not clear yet, how we can test reachability in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ . We transform the  $K_{3,3}$ -free graph into a planar graph.

**Transforming a  $K_5$ -component into a planar component.** Let  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$  be a  $\text{PlaK}_5$ -component tree rooted at  $C_i$  as described above. We start with the root  $C_i$  and traverse the tree in depth first manner. When we reach a  $K_5$ -component node  $D$ , then we replace it by a planar component  $D'$  as described next such that the reachability problem does not change. This results in a new  $\text{PlaK}_5$ -component tree of a planar graph  $G'$ .

**Lemma 3.14** *There is a log-space algorithm that transforms  $G$  into a planar graph  $G'$  such that there is a path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G$  if and only if there is such a path in  $G'$ .*

Let  $D$  be a  $K_5$ -component node with vertices  $v_1, \dots, v_5$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$  be the subtree that contains  $D$ . Let  $N$  be the size of the subtree rooted at  $D$  in  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ . Since our algorithm works recursively and in order to have a log-space bound, we would like to have recursive calls only on subtrees of small size, i.e. a fraction of  $N$ . Recall that there can be at most one large child of node  $D$  in  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ . In the following, we consider the situation that we search a path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in  $D$  and we have a large child at  $v_3, v_4$ . The same construction works if there is no large child, and it can be easily adapted to the case that the large child is at another pair (e.g.  $v_2, v_4$ ). The graph  $D'$  is defined as shown in Figure 6.



**Figure 6:** (a) A  $K_5$ -component node  $D$  and (b) the planar component node  $D'$ . The two vertices  $v'_5$  and  $v''_5$  are copies of  $v_5$ . For example, an edge  $(v_1, v_5)$  in  $D$  occurs twice in  $D'$ , as  $(v_1, v_5)$  and  $(v_1, v'_5)$ . The edges of  $D$  and  $D'$  are drawn undirected to not overload the picture. But note that only the virtual edges are undirected. The edges that come from graph  $G$  have the same direction as in  $G$ . (c) The construction if  $D$  is the root of  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ . Because there are four reachability problems, we have four versions of  $D$ , say  $D_1, \dots, D_4$  that replace the root in  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ . This leads to four trees  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i,1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_i,4}$ . As we can see, the resulting graph is planar.

The new component  $D'$  has the following properties:

1.  $D'$  is planar.
2. Every path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in  $D$  exists as well in  $D'$ , possibly going through one of the copies  $v'_5$  or  $v''_5$  instead of  $v_5$ .
3.  $D'$  contains the edge  $\{v_3, v_4\}$  only once. This edge corresponds to a large child if there is one.
4. Vertices  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are on the outer face of  $D'$ .

The last property is important for the special case when  $D$  is the root of the subtree, i.e.  $D = C_i$ . Then we have two vertices  $u_i, v_i$  and ask whether we can reach two other vertices  $u_{i+1}$  and  $v_{i+1}$  and all these vertices belong to  $D$ . For a planar arrangement, we make the construction as shown in Figure 6 (c). For example,  $D_1$  is a copy of  $D$  where  $v_1$  is identified with  $u_i$  and  $v_2$  with  $u_{i+1}$ . In total, this gives four combinations of reachability questions. Hence, we make four copies of the whole planar graph corresponding to  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ , one for each path from a vertex of the incoming separating pair to a vertex of the outgoing separating pair. Note, that this case can occur only at the root, and not in the recursion in the tree  $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ . Therefore, we can afford to make the four copies.

The replacement of the  $K_5$ -components is done recursively in depth-first manner with all the copies of children (i.e. the subtrees rooted at separating pairs) which we have in the new components  $D'$ . Consequently, we give new names to vertices in the copies of the subtrees.

We do this for all edges on all paths in  $D'$ . The order of the edges is given by the order they appear on the input tape. We can always recompute the new planar component  $D'$ , because we can recompute the sizes of the subtrees of  $D$ . We can always refer to which copy of a separating pair we went into recursion by storing  $O(1)$  bits on the work-tape when we go into recursion. Hence, whenever we have to change vertex names, we can recompute the new vertex names of the copy of a separating pair. We need such bits at each level of recursion. Since the sizes of the copied subtrees are at most  $1/2$  the size of the tree, there are at most  $O(\log n)$  levels of recursion. Hence, the algorithm runs in log-space.

**Lemma 3.15** *The resulting graph  $G'$  after the transformation of  $K_5$  components has the following properties for all  $i$ .*

- $G'_i$  is a planar graph.
- There are simple paths from  $u_i$  or  $v_i$  to  $u_{i+1}$  or  $v_{i+1}$  in  $G_i$  if and only if there are such simple paths in  $G'$ .
- The size of the resulting graph  $G'_i$  remains polynomial.

**Proof:** The planarity and the reachability test on  $G'_i$  can be proven by induction on the number of  $K_5$ -components, when replaced one by one. The same way as in a  $K_5$ -component node  $D$ ,  $G'$  contains the same copies of vertices we have in  $D'$  and for each copied edge in  $D'$  we have a copy of the according split component in  $G'$ .

The resulting graph is of polynomial size  $\mathcal{S}(N)$ , because we recursively copy subgraphs of size smaller than  $N/2$ . The recursion equation is the following for some constant  $k$ :

$$\mathcal{S}(N) = k\mathcal{S}(N/2) + O(N)$$

□

This finishes the proof of Theorem 3.10 and we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.16**  *$K_{3,3}$ -free graph Reachability is in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .*

**Distance and longest paths in  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs.** For the distance problem and the longest path problem it suffices again to consider biconnected graphs, because we can pass only once through every articulation point on a simple path from  $s$  to  $t$ . Hence we can

consider longest paths or distances in the biconnected components, and then sum up these lengths appropriately.

For biconnected graphs we use the transformation from Lemma 3.14. It suffices to observe that simple paths in a  $K_5$ -component  $D$  of graph  $G$  have the same length as the corresponding paths in the planar component  $D'$  in graph  $G'$ . Hence, the following lemma holds.

**Lemma 3.17** 1.  $K_{3,3}$ -free Distance  $\leq_m^L$  planar Distance.

2.  $K_{3,3}$ -free Long-Path  $\leq_m^L$  planar Long-Path.

Thierauf and Wagner [TW08] proved that computing the distance in planar directed graphs is in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ . Limaye, Mahajan and Nimbhorkar [LMN09] proved that computing a longest path in planar DAGs is in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ . As a consequence we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.18** 1.  $K_{3,3}$ -free Distance  $\in \text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .

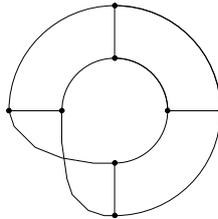
2.  $K_{3,3}$ -free Long-Path  $\in \text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .

## 4 Reachability in $K_5$ -free graphs

We give a logspace reduction from the reachability problem for directed  $K_5$ -free graphs to the reachability problem for directed planar graphs.

For the reduction, we decompose the given graph  $G$  into 3-connected and 4-connected components. For the decomposition we consider  $G$  as undirected. It follows from a theorem of Wagner [Wag37] that besides planar components we obtain the following non-planar components that way:

- the four-rung Mobius ladder, also called  $V_8$  (see Figure 7), a 3-connected graph on 8 vertices, which is non-planar because it contains a  $K_{3,3}$ .
- The remaining 3-connected non-planar components are further decomposed into 4-connected components which are all planar.



**Figure 7:** The four-rung Mobius ladder, also called  $V_8$ .

We define trees based on these components. There are nodes for the tri-connected components and the  $V_8$ -components which are connected via separating pair nodes. This is the triconnected component tree of a  $K_5$ -free graph. The non-planar 3-connected components are further decomposed into 4-connected components for which we define a 4-connected component tree. We will show, that this can be done in logspace.

The key step in the reduction is to replace the  $V_8$ -components by planar components such that the reachability properties are not altered.

## 4.1 The Tree Decomposition

Khuller [Khu88] described a decomposition of  $K_5$ -free graphs with a clique-sum operation. If two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  each contain cliques of equal size, the *clique-sum* of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is a graph  $G$  formed from their disjoint union by identifying pairs of vertices in these two cliques to form a single shared clique, and then possibly deleting some of the clique edges. A *k-clique-sum* is a clique-sum in which both cliques have at most  $k$  vertices.

If  $G$  can be constructed by repeatedly taking  $k$ -clique-sums starting from graphs isomorphic to members of some graph class  $\mathcal{G}$ , then we say  $G \in \langle \mathcal{G} \rangle_k$ . The class of  $K_5$ -free graphs can be decomposed as follows.

**Theorem 4.1** [Wag37] *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the class of all planar graphs together with the four-rung Mobius ladder  $V_8$ . Then  $\langle \mathcal{C} \rangle_3$  is the class of all graphs with no  $K_5$ -minor.*

We make two easy observations with respect to the above clique-sum operation.

- If we build the 3-clique-sum of two planar graphs, then the three vertices of the joint clique are a separating triple in the resulting graph. Hence the 4-connected components of a graph which is build as the 3-clique-sum of planar graphs must all be planar.
- The  $V_8$  is non-planar and 3-connected, but not 4-connected. Furthermore, the  $V_8$  cannot be part of a 3-clique sum, because it does not contain a triangle as subgraph.

By Theorem 4.1 and the two observations we have the following situation.

**Corollary 4.2** (cf. [Khu88]) *A non-planar 3-connected component of a  $K_5$ -free undirected graph is either the  $V_8$  or its 4-connected components are all planar.*

In the following we argue that the 3-connected and 4-connected components can be computed in log-space. Similar to the decomposition algorithm of Vazirani [Vaz89], we decompose the  $K_5$ -free graph into triconnected components. That is, we first decompose it into biconnected components and then the biconnected components further into triconnected components. By Lemma 2.1, the biconnected component tree of an undirected  $K_5$ -free graph can be computed in log-space. The same holds for the triconnected component tree of a  $K_5$ -free biconnected graph.

### The triconnected component tree for biconnected $K_5$ -free graphs.

Datta et.al. [DLN<sup>+</sup>08a] show how to construct the triconnected component tree for a planar biconnected graph in log-space. We give a different construction which is suitable for  $K_5$ -free biconnected graphs. The difference is, that the 3-connected components must not be planar.

We define a graph whose nodes are associated to the triconnected components and separating pairs of  $G$ . A *separating pair node* is connected to a *triconnected component node* if the separating pair is contained in the corresponding component. The resulting graph is a tree, the *triconnected component tree*  $\mathcal{T}$  for a  $K_5$ -free biconnected graph  $G$  where edges are considered as undirected. We describe how to compute these nodes.

Let  $\{a_0, b_0\}$  be an arbitrary separating pair in  $G$ . Let  $S$  be a split component of  $G - \{a_0, b_0\}$ . We define a triconnected component  $C$  with respect to  $S$  which has the following properties. For  $C$  there is a node in  $\mathcal{T}$ . The node for  $C$  is incident to the separating pair node for  $\{a_0, b_0\}$ .

Intuitively,  $C$  is obtained from  $S$  by collapsing split components at separating pairs in  $S$  to virtual edges. More precisely, we distinguish whether  $C$  is a cycle or a 3-connected component as follows (cf. Battista and Tamassia [BT89], [BT96]).

- If  $S - \{a_0, b_0\}$  contains articulation points then  $C$  is a *cycle*. Let  $c_1, \dots, c_l$  be this set of articulation points. Then,  $a_0, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_l, b_0$  is the cycle  $C$ . Two consecutive vertices  $c_i, c_{i+1}$  are connected by an edge as in  $C$  or form a separating pair. In the latter case we connect the consecutive separating pair in  $C$  by a virtual edge which replaces the original edge, in case there is one in  $S$ .
- If  $S - \{a_0, b_0\}$  does not contain articulation points, then  $C$  is a *3-connected component* which is defined as follows. Two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of  $S$  are in  $C$  if for all separating pairs  $\{a, b\}$  different from  $\{a_0, b_0\}$  in  $G$  there are simple paths from  $u$  and  $v$  to  $a_0$  (or  $b_0$ ) and from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $S - \{a, b\}$ . Note that  $\{a_0, b_0\}$  also belongs to  $C$ . Connect each separating pair of  $S$  in  $C$  by a virtual edge which replaces the original edge if it is present in  $S$ . Then  $C$  is a 3-connected component, because it does not contain separating pairs by construction.
- If there is an edge between  $a_0$  and  $b_0$  in  $G$  then this edge is maintained in an extra component called a *3-bond*, i.e. the directed edge and two virtual edges. This also is defined to be a triconnected component.

We further argue that this decomposition can be computed in log-space.

**Lemma 4.3** *The triconnected component tree for a  $K_5$ -free biconnected graph can be computed in log-space.*

**Proof:** All the tasks, in particular the detection of separating pairs and articulation points or finding paths in undirected graphs, where some vertices are deleted can be done in log-space via queries to reachability testing [Rei05]. The construction of the triconnected component tree can be done in log-space, since we operate on a tree structure.

Note that the navigation on the triconnected component tree is in logspace because there are logspace computable functions to compute the parent, first child and next sibling for each node in the tree. To see this, it suffices to locally store information of the active separating pair  $a_0, b_0$  the active child (i.e. one vertex of a split component) and for finding the unique parent we store the root node of the tree if it is a separating pair and if the root is a triconnected component node then we store a vertex of the corresponding component.  $\square$

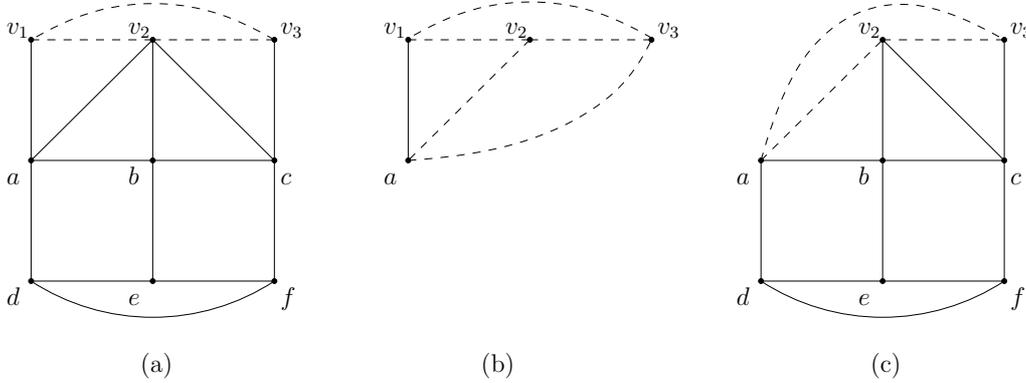
**Decomposition into 4-connected components.** It remains to further decompose the 3-connected components which are non-planar and not the  $V_8$ . To define the decomposition, we need the notion of maximum separating triples.

**Definition 4.4** *Let  $\tau$  be a separating triple and  $G$  a split component of  $\tau$ . A separating triple  $\tau_{\max} \neq \tau$  is a candidate separating triple in  $G$  with respect to  $\tau$  if for any separating triple  $\tau' \notin \{\tau, \tau_{\max}\}$  there is a path from a vertex of  $\tau_{\max}$  to a vertex of  $\tau$  in  $G - \tau'$ .*

*Two candidate separating triples  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  are crossing if  $\tau_1 \cap \tau_2 \neq \emptyset$  and  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  have a split component in common (i.e. if there is a vertex  $v$  in  $G - (\tau \cup \tau_1 \cup \tau_2)$  which belongs to*

a split component  $G_1$  of  $\tau_1$  and a split component  $G_2$  of  $\tau_2$ ). Note, if  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  are crossing then there is no  $\tau_3$  which is also crossing  $\tau_1$  or  $\tau_2$ . See Figure 8 for an example.

A maximum separating triple with respect to  $\tau$  is either a candidate separating triple which is not crossing with any other candidate separating triple or the lexicographical smaller one of two crossing candidate separating triples.



**Figure 8:** (a) The parent separating triple  $\tau = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  and two pairwise crossing candidate separating triples  $\{a, v_2, v_3\}$  and  $\{v_1, v_2, c\}$ .  
(b) The 4-connected component split by  $\tau$  and  $\{a, v_2, v_3\}$ .  
(c) The split component split by  $\{a, v_2, v_3\}$  which has to be further decomposed recursively.

Let  $C$  be a 3-connected component in a  $K_5$ -free graph and let  $\tau$  be a separating triple in  $C$ . We define a 4-connected component  $D$  with respect to  $\tau$  as follows. Two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  are in  $D$  if there are simple paths from  $u$  and  $v$  to some vertices of  $\tau$  and from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $C - \tau'$ , for all maximum separating triples  $\tau'$  with respect to  $\tau$ .

Connect each pair of vertices of  $\tau$  or of a maximum separating triple in  $D$  by a virtual edge. If for such a pair there is an edge in  $G$  then this is not contained in  $D$  and we define a 3-bond instead.

The resulting component  $D$  is 4-connected, because it does not contain separating triples by construction.

We define a tree  $T$  as follows. There is a node for each separating triple and each 4-connected component. A separating triple node is connected to a 4-connected component node if the separating triple is contained in the 4-connected component. Choose one separating triple  $\tau_{root}$  in  $C$  as the root node of  $T$ . The resulting graph is a tree, the 4-connected component tree of  $C$ . This tree can be computed in log-space, since the tasks are similar to those of the  $\text{PlaK}_5$ -component tree in the previous section.

**Lemma 4.5** *The 4-connected component tree of a 3-connected  $K_5$ -free graph can be computed in log-space.*

## 4.2 Reachability on $K_5$ -free Graphs

In this section, we prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.6**  *$K_5$ -free Reachability  $\leq_m^L$  planar Reachability.*

Let  $G$  be a connected graph and  $s$  and  $t$  be two vertices in  $G$ . By Lemma 3.11 and Lemma 3.13, we can partition the reachability problem for  $G$  into reachability problems on the triconnected components of  $G$ . If a triconnected component is planar, then we are done with it. If it is non-planar, then we distinguish the two cases whether the triconnected component is the  $V_8$  or not.

In a triconnected component tree, a triconnected component has an incoming separating pair  $\{u_i, v_i\}$  and an outgoing separating pair  $\{u_{i+1}, v_{i+1}\}$ . We consider four reachability tests, from  $u_i$  to  $u_{i+1}$ , from  $u_i$  to  $v_{i+1}$ , from  $v_i$  to  $u_{i+1}$  and from  $v_i$  to  $v_{i+1}$ . For each of these reachability tests, we construct a planar copy of the triconnected non-planar component and connect them as shown in Figure 6 (c) on page 12.

**Transforming a  $V_8$ -component into a planar component.** Let  $\mathcal{T}_C$  be a triconnected component tree rooted at some node  $C$ . Let  $D$  be a  $V_8$ -component node in  $\mathcal{T}_C$  and  $v_1, \dots, v_8$  the vertices in  $D$ . We transform  $D$  into a planar component  $D'$  such that the reachability question remains unchanged. The transformation is shown in Figure 9. For this, let  $v_1, \dots, v_4$  be four vertices in  $D$  such that  $v_1, v_2$  are pairwise different. Assume, we search for a path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in  $D$  and that  $(v_3, v_4)$  is an edge in  $D$  and corresponds to a large child of  $C$ .

By construction,  $D'$  has the following properties.

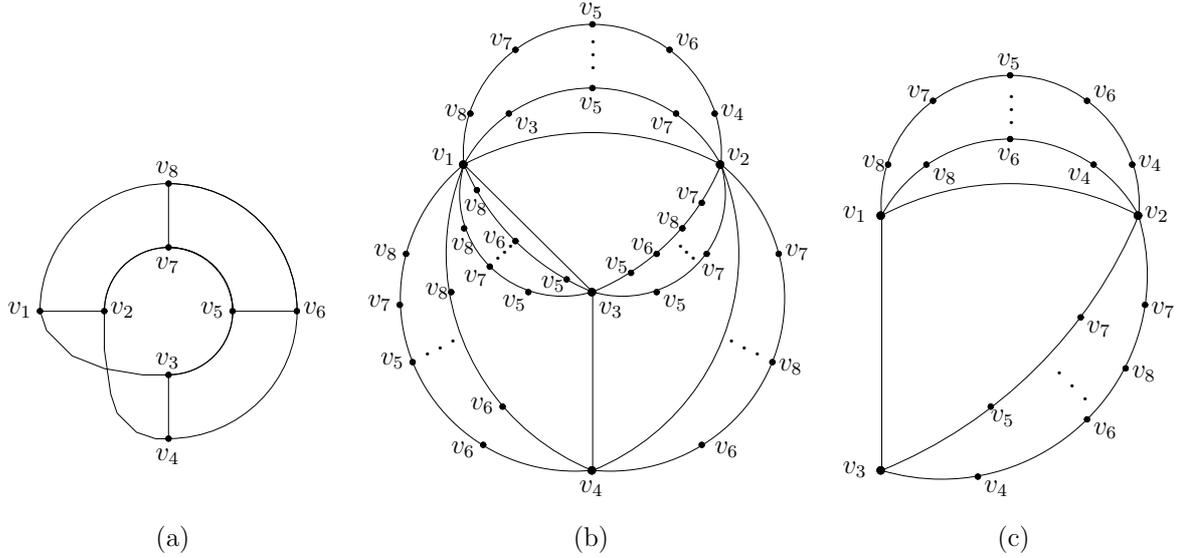
- For each path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  that does *not* contain  $(v_3, v_4)$ ,  $D'$  contains a copy of this path, i.e. a copy of all vertices and edges on this path.
- For all the paths from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  which contain  $(v_3, v_4)$ ,  $D'$  contains a copy of the sub-path from  $v_1$  to  $v_3$  and  $v_4$  to  $v_2$  or vice versa from  $v_1$  to  $v_4$  and  $v_3$  to  $v_2$ .
- $D'$  contains the edge  $(v_3, v_4)$  exactly once.
- $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are both on the outer-face of  $D'$ . This property is important in the case, that  $D$  is the root of  $\mathcal{T}_C$  (i.e.  $D = C$ ).
- $D'$  with all the copies of paths is planar and contains  $O(1)$  copies of each edge.

The replacement of the  $V_8$ -components is done recursively in depth-first manner with all the copies of children (i.e. the subtrees rooted at separating pairs) which we have in the new components  $D'$ . Consequently, we give new names to vertices in the copies of the subtrees.

We do this for all edges on all paths in  $D'$ . The order of the edges is given by the order in which they appear on the input tape. We can always recompute the new planar component  $D'$ , because we can recompute the sizes of subtrees of  $D$ . We can always recompute from which copy of a separating pair we went into recursion by storing  $O(1)$  bits on the work-tape when we go into recursion. So, when we have to change vertex names, then we can recompute the new vertex names of the copied separating pair. We need such bits at each level of recursion. Since the sizes of the copied subtrees are at most  $1/2$  the size of the tree, there are at most  $O(\log n)$  levels of recursion. Hence, the algorithm runs in log-space.

**Lemma 4.7** *Let  $G_i$  be a  $K_5$ -free biconnected graph with incoming separating pair  $u_i, v_i$  and outgoing separating pair  $u_{i+1}, v_{i+1}$ . Let  $G'_i$  be the resulting graph when all the  $V_8$ -components  $D$  in  $G_i$  are replaced by the new gadgets  $D'$ .  $G'_i$  has the following properties.*

- $G'_i$  is a planar biconnected graph.



**Figure 9:** To simplify matters, all the copies of a vertex have the same label in the picture. We do not identify copies of vertex names.

(a) The  $V_8$  component  $D$  with edges drawn undirected.

(b) The planar component  $D'$  is shown schematically.  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  can be any two vertices in  $D$  and  $v_3, v_4$  correspond to a large child of  $D$  such that  $\{v_1, v_2\} \cap \{v_3, v_4\} = \emptyset$ . For every path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  that does not contain  $(v_3, v_4)$ ,  $D'$  contains a copy of the path, i.e. a copy of all vertices and edges on this path. This is indicated above the the vertices  $v_1, v_2$ .

The remaining paths go along  $(v_3, v_4)$  or  $(v_4, v_3)$  in  $D$ . This edge should occur only once in  $D'$ . Therefore these paths in  $D$  are subdivided into paths from  $v_1$  to  $v_3$  or to  $v_4$ , and from these vertices to  $v_2$ . This is indicated in the part below  $v_1, v_2$ .

(c)  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  and  $\{v_3, v_4\}$  must not be disjoint. The construction is essentially the same as in (b). Here, we see  $D'$  in the case that  $(v_1, v_3)$  is the large child.

- There are simple paths from  $u_i$  or  $v_i$  to  $u_{i+1}$  or  $v_{i+1}$  in  $G_i$  if and only if there are such simple paths in  $G'_i$ .
- The size of  $G'_i$  is polynomial in the size of  $G_i$ .

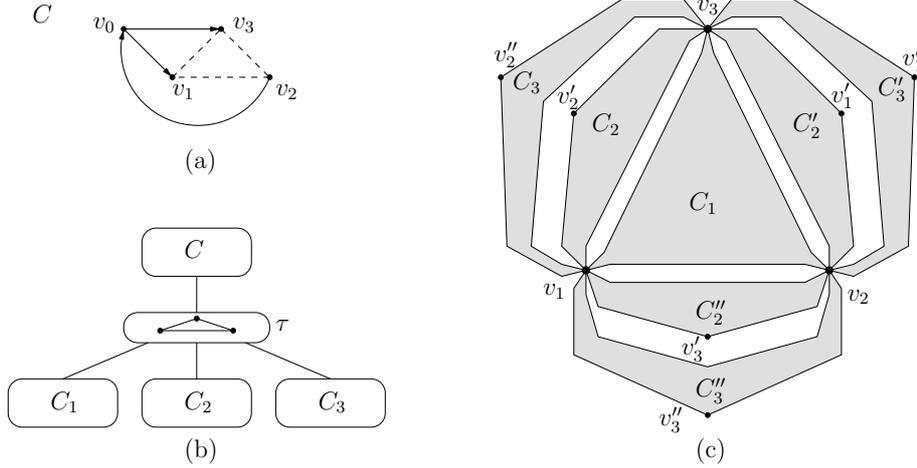
**Planar arrangement of split components in a 4-connected component tree.** After the replacement of  $V_8$ -components by planar components, we have to consider the other non-planar 3-connected components. We have decomposed them into planar 4-connected components. We have to recombine all the components into one planar graph. However, we cannot simply reverse the decomposition process because the 3-clique sum of the 4-connected (planar) components could result in a non-planar 3-connected component.

To get around this problem we make copies of some of the components and arrange the copies in a planar way. This has to be done carefully such that the size of the graph constructed that way stays polynomial in the size of the input graph.

Consider a 4-connected component tree  $\mathcal{T}$ . Let  $S$  and  $T$  be the component nodes in  $\mathcal{T}$  where vertex  $s$  and  $t$  are contained in, respectively. Consider  $S$  as the root of  $\mathcal{T}$  i.e., let

$\mathcal{T}_S = \mathcal{T}$  and let  $P$  be a simple path from  $S$  to  $T$  in  $\mathcal{T}_S$ . We describe how to find a planar arrangement of the components of  $\mathcal{T}_S$ .

We start by putting the component  $S$  in the new planar arrangement. Inductively assume that we have put some component  $C$  and let  $\tau$  be some child separating triple node of  $C$  in  $\mathcal{T}_S$ . Let furthermore the children of  $\tau$  be the 4-connected component nodes  $C_1, \dots, C_k$ . Precisely one of the children is put once in the planar arrangement, the other children are put three times, i.e. there are two additional copies which are connected to copies of the vertices of  $\tau$ . Figure 10 shows the construction. By  $G'$  we denote the resulting planar arranged graph we obtain for  $G$ .



**Figure 10:** (a) A planar 4-connected component  $C$  with separating triple  $\tau = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ . The pairwise edges among these vertices are virtual edges, indicated by dashed undirected lines. (b) The 4-connected component tree with  $C$ , separating triple  $\tau$  and its children, the 4-connected component nodes  $C_1, C_2$  and  $C_3$ . (c) The planar arrangement of  $C_1, C_2$  and  $C_3$  at separating triple  $\tau$  is obtained by making copies of  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  (i.e.  $C'_2, C''_2$  and  $C'_3, C''_3$ ) and vertices  $v_i$  (i.e.  $v'_i, v''_i$ ) for  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ . The planar arrangement of  $C$  is obtained by connecting the vertices of  $\tau$  to  $v_0$ .

Note, the construction does not change the reachability properties. For example, if there is a path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in  $G$  which goes through the component  $C_2$  and also passes vertex  $v_3$ , then there will be a path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in  $G'$  which goes through the copy  $C''_2$  of  $C_2$  and passes the copy  $v''_3$  instead of  $v_3$ . If there is no path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in  $G$  then there will be no path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in the constructed planar graph as well. The children which is put only once is selected as follows:

1. If a child  $C_i$  of  $\tau$  is a node on path  $P$ , then we select  $C_i$ .
2. If no child of  $\tau$  is a node on path  $P$  but there is a large child  $C_j$ , then we select  $C_j$ .
3. If none of the first two cases occurs then we select an arbitrary component, say  $C_1$ .

Let  $N$  be the size of the triconnected component tree rooted at node  $C$ . We emphasize that in case 1, if a large child is copied three times because another child of  $\tau$  is on path  $P$

then this situation does not occur recursively. That is, because the ancestors of the copied large child do not belong to path  $P$ . Hence, the planar arranged graph  $G'$  is of polynomial size, because we just copy recursively subgraphs of size smaller than  $N/2$  even if we consider the exception of case 1. The recursion equation for the size  $\mathcal{S}(N)$  of  $G'$  with some constant  $k$  is

$$\mathcal{S}(N) = k\mathcal{S}(N/2) + O(N)$$

This finishes the proof of Theorem 4.6. Since reachability in planar DAGs is in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$  [BTV07], we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 4.8**  *$K_5$ -free graph reachability is in  $\text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .*

**Distance and longest paths in  $K_5$ -free graphs.** To compute distances, we search for shortest simple paths. Again it is easy to see that the graph transformations do not change the distances between the vertices. Also for the longest path problem we can guarantee the same length of a simple path in the resulting graph, but here we have to argue more carefully. Namely, we have to make sure that we do not get longer paths by the copies of the components introduced in the planar arrangement of the 4-connected components. We use the fact that subpaths of longest paths are again longest paths in a DAG.

**Lemma 4.9** *Let  $p_{u,v}$  be a longest simple path from  $u$  to  $v$  in a DAG  $G$ . Let  $a, b$  be two vertices on path  $p_{u,v}$  and let  $p_{a,b}$  be the subpath of  $p_{u,v}$  from  $a$  to  $b$ . Then  $p_{a,b}$  is a longest simple path from  $a$  to  $b$  in  $G$ .*

Since we make up to three copies of a component in our construction of a planar graph, we have to make sure that we do not get longer paths by using the copies. We show that it is not possible for a path to pass through a vertex and its copy.

**Lemma 4.10** *Let  $v$  be vertex of DAG  $G$  and let  $v'$  be a copy of  $v$  in the planar graph  $G'$  constructed from  $G$ . Then there is no path from  $v$  to  $v'$  in  $G'$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $C$  be the 4-connected component that contains  $v$  and let  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  be the separating triple that separates  $C$  from  $G$ . In  $G'$ , assume that there is a path  $p$  from  $v$  in  $C$  to  $v'$  in  $C'$ . The components  $C$  and  $C'$  are connected by one vertex of  $v_1, v_2, v_3$ , say  $v_1$ . Hence  $p$  can have the form  $p = (v, u_1, \dots, u_l, v_1, u'_{l+1}, \dots, u'_k, v')$ , where  $u_1, \dots, u_l \in C$  and  $u'_{l+1}, \dots, u'_k \in C'$ . But then we have the cycle  $(v, u_1, \dots, u_l, v_1, u_{l+1}, \dots, u_k, v)$  in  $C$  which is a contradiction.

Path  $p$  might also go through  $v_2$  and  $v_3$ . Then the argument is similar.  $\square$

We argue that the length of longest paths are not changed by the transformations. Consider Figure 10. Let  $p$  be a longest path from  $v_1$  to some vertex  $v$  in  $G$ . Assume that  $p$  goes through component  $C_2$  and that  $v \in C_1$ . The interesting case is when  $p$  passes through  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  (in this order), because then we have two ways to go in the planar graph:

1. we can go through component  $C_2$  and pass through  $v'_2$  and then switch to  $C_1$  via  $v_3$ .
2. we can go to  $v_2$  through component  $C'_2$  and then to  $v_3$  through component  $C'_2$ .

The first case corresponds exactly to path  $p$  in  $G$  because after passing through  $v'_2$ , the path cannot go through  $v_2$  anymore by Lemma 4.10. In the second case the longest simple path from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in  $C''_2$  has the same length as the first part of  $p$  from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  in  $C_2$  by Lemma 4.9. Also, the longest simple path from  $v_2$  to  $v_3$  in  $C'_2$  has the same length as the second part of  $p$  from  $v_2$  to  $v_3$  in  $C_2$ . Hence, the second possibility does not lead to longer paths. We conclude that the lengths of longest paths are not changed by the reduction.

**Theorem 4.11**    1.  $K_5$ -free Distance  $\leq_m^L$  planar Distance.

2.  $K_5$ -free Long-Path  $\leq_m^L$  planar Long-Path.

As a consequence, we have

**Corollary 4.12**    1.  $K_5$ -free Distance  $\in \text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .

2.  $K_5$ -free Long-Path  $\in \text{UL} \cap \text{coUL}$ .

## 5 Conclusion

We showed a reduction from the reachability, the distance and the longest path problem on  $K_{3,3}$ -free graphs and on  $K_5$ -free graphs (DAGs) to the corresponding problem on planar graphs (DAGs), respectively. It would be interesting to extend the result to  $K_{3,4}$ -free graphs or to  $K_6$ -free graphs, for example or even to minor-closed graph classes.

## 6 Acknowledgement

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