

Efficient Spanner Construction for Directed Transmission Graphs*

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Abstract

Let $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a set of n points, each with an associated radius $r_p > 0$. The *transmission graph* G for P has vertex set P and a directed edge from p to q if and only if q lies in the ball with radius r_p around p . Let $t > 1$. A t -*spanner* H for G is a sparse subgraph such that for any two vertices p and q connected by a path of length l in G , there is a path of length at most $t \cdot l$ from p to q in H . Given G implicitly as points with radii, we show how to compute a t -spanner for G in time $O(n(\log n + \log \Psi))$, where Ψ is the ratio of the largest and smallest radius in P .

1 Introduction

A common model for wireless sensor networks is the *unit-disk graph*: each sensor is modeled by a unit disk, and there is an edge between two sensors iff their disks intersect. Intersection graphs of disks with arbitrary radii have been used to model different transmission radii. These graphs are undirected, while for some networks a directed model would be more appropriate. This motivated Peleg and Roditty [5] to define *transmission graphs*. The vertex set of a transmission graph G is a point set $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, where each $p \in P$ has a radius $r_p > 0$. There is a directed edge \overrightarrow{pq} from p to q iff q lies in the disk $D(p)$ of radius r_p around p .

Although transmission graphs are represented succinctly, they may have $\Theta(n^2)$ edges. Thus we would like to approximate them by sparse *spanners*. For $t > 1$, a subgraph $H \subseteq G$ is a t -*spanner* for G if the distance between any two vertices p and q in H is at most t times the distance between p and q in G (cf, e.g., [4]). Fürer and Kasiviswanathan showed how to compute spanners for unit and general disk graphs by adapting the Yao graph [3, 6]. Peleg and Roditty [5] gave a spanner-construction for transmission graphs in any metric of bounded doubling dimension. Except for the unit-disk case, the running times depend on the number of edges. We avoid this dependency and give an efficient algorithm to construct t -spanners for transmission graphs for the planar Euclidean case.

Preliminaries and Results. Let $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a point set with radii, and let G be its transmission graph. Let

$\Phi = \max_{p,q \in P} |pq| / \min_{p \neq q \in P} |pq|$ be the *spread* of P . In §2, we give a construction depending on Φ :

Theorem 1 *Let G be the transmission graph for an n -point set $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ with spread Φ . For any $t > 1$, we can find a t -spanner for G in time $O(n(\log n + \log \Phi))$.*

The *radius ratio* $\Psi = \max_{p,q \in P} r_p / r_q$ of P is the ratio of the largest and the smallest radius in P . In §3 we extend our construction to depend on Ψ instead of Φ .

Theorem 2 *Let G be the transmission graph for an n -point set $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ with radius ratio Ψ . For $t > 1$, we can find a t -spanner for G in time $O(n(\log n + \log \Psi))$.*

We may assume that $\Psi \leq \Phi$: a radius less than the smallest distance c in P can be set to $c/2$, and a radius larger than the diameter d of P can be set to d .

Our construction uses planar grids. For $i = 0, 1, \dots$, the *grid at level i* , \mathcal{Q}_i , consists of axis-parallel squares of diameter 2^i that partition the plane in grid-like fashion (the *cells*). \mathcal{Q}_i is aligned so that the origin is a grid vertex. The *distance* between two cells is the smallest distance of any two points contained in them. We assume that our computational model can find the grid cell containing a given point in $O(1)$ time.

2 Efficient Spanner Construction

Let $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a point set with radii, and let Φ be the spread of P . Let G be the transmission graph of P . Our spanner construction is a modification of the Yao graph [6] that takes the disks into account. Ideally, our spanner H should look as follows: we pick a suitable $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and we let \mathcal{C} be a set of k cones with opening angle $2\pi/k$ and the origin as apex that partition the plane. For $q \in P$ and $C \in \mathcal{C}$, let C_q be the translated copy of C with apex q . We pick the closest vertex $p \in P$ in C_q with $q \in D(p)$, and we add the edge \overrightarrow{pq} to H . This gives $O(kn)$ edges, and one can show that H is a t -spanner for $t = 1 + \Theta(1/k)$. This is folklore in the spanners community [2, 5].

Since we do not know how to find these edges quickly, we present an approximate construction with similar properties. We partition each cone C_q into “intervals” obtained by intersecting C_q with annuli centered at q whose inner and outer radii grow exponentially; see Fig. 1. Then we cover each interval with $O(1)$ grid cells whose diameter is “small” compared to the distance between the interval and q .

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This gives two properties that help us find an approximately shortest incoming edge for q in C_q : once we have an incoming edge, we need not consider larger intervals, and if there are multiple edges from the same cell, it suffices to pick one of them. Below, we define a

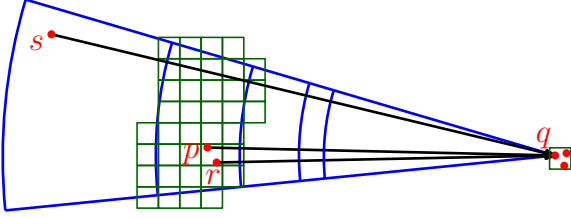


Figure 1: A cone C_q covered by discretized intervals. We only need one of the edges, \vec{pq} or \vec{rq} , for H .

decomposition of P that represents the discretized intervals by a neighborhood relation between grid cells.

We first give the properties of this decomposition and use it to find the edges for H . Then we prove that H is a t -spanner for an appropriate choice of parameters. Finally, we show how to use a quadtree to find this decomposition and how to implement the main steps in the desired running time.

Let $c > 2$ be a large constant. For a grid cell σ , let m_σ be the point in $P \cap \sigma$ with the largest radius.

Definition 1 Let G be a transmission graph with vertex set $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$. A c -separated annulus decomposition for G consists of a finite set $\mathcal{Q} \subset \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{Q}_i$ of grid cells, a symmetric neighborhood relation $N \subseteq \mathcal{Q} \times \mathcal{Q}$, and assigned sets R_σ for each $\sigma \in \mathcal{Q}$ so that (i) for all $(\sigma, \sigma') \in N$, $\text{diam}(\sigma) = \text{diam}(\sigma')$ and $d(\sigma, \sigma') \in [(c-2)\text{diam}(\sigma), 2c\text{diam}(\sigma)]$; and (ii) for every edge \vec{pq} of G , there is $(\sigma, \sigma') \in N$ with $p \in \sigma$, $q \in \sigma'$, and with either $p \in R_\sigma$ or $q \in D(m_{\sigma'})$.

For $\sigma \in \mathcal{Q}$, we define $N(\sigma) = \{\sigma' \mid (\sigma, \sigma') \in N\}$. Property (i) in Def. 1 implies $|N(\sigma)| = O(1)$.

Getting a Spanner. Let $t > 1$ be the desired stretch factor. Depending on t , we choose constants c (separation) and k (number of cones) in a way to be described later. Let \mathcal{Q} be a c -separated annulus decomposition for G . To get a t -spanner $H \subseteq G$, we go through all cones $C \in \mathcal{C}$ and pick all incoming edges for C as in Alg. 1. Instead of searching incoming edges for each point $q \in P$ separately, we group points using the cells of \mathcal{Q} . This gives the speed-up required for the desired running time, as shown later. We consider the cells $\sigma \in \mathcal{Q}$ by increasing diameter, and we search incoming edges for points in $\sigma \cap P$ without incoming edges so far. These are the *active* points. Initially all points are active. Fix a pair $(\sigma, \sigma') \in N$ and let Q and R as in Alg. 1. We find for each point in Q one incoming edge whose other endpoint is in R , if such an edge exists (edge selection). Having Q sorted (line 5) allows us to find these edges efficiently (see Lemma 8).

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1 Set all points in  $P$  to active
2 foreach  $\sigma \in \mathcal{Q}$  by increasing diameter do
3   foreach  $\sigma' \in N(\sigma)$  do
4      $Q \leftarrow$  all active  $q \in \sigma \cap P$  with  $C_q \cap \sigma' \neq \emptyset$ 
5     Sort  $Q$  in  $x/y$ -direction // preprocess
6      $R \leftarrow R_{\sigma'} \cup \{m_{\sigma'}\}$ 
7     // edge selection
8     For all  $q \in Q$  find  $r \in R$  with  $q \in D(r)$ , if
       it exists, and add  $\vec{rq}$  to  $H$ 
9   Make all  $q \in Q$  with incoming edges inactive

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Algorithm 1: Finding edges for P in a cone $C \in \mathcal{C}$.

For each $C \in \mathcal{C}$ and $q \in P$, at most one cell $\sigma \in \mathcal{Q}$ with $q \in \sigma$ gives incoming edges for q : q becomes inactive after processing σ . Since $|\mathcal{C}| = k$ and $|N(\sigma)| = O(1)$, q has $O(k)$ incoming edges, and H has $O(n)$ edges. Next, we show that H is a t -spanner. For this, we need three technical lemmas: Lemma 3 deals with the imprecision due to the grid. Let \vec{pq} be an edge of G contained in the cone C_q . We prove that if we slightly increase the opening angle of C_q , Alg. 1 picks at least one edge \vec{rq} contained in the larger cone. Lemmas 4 and 5 let us bound the distance between the endpoints r and p . Lemma 5 is due to Bose et al [1]. For space reasons, we omit the proofs of Lemmas 3 and 4.

Lemma 3 Let $k \geq 8$ and $c > 3 + 2/(\sin \pi/k)$. Given $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and cells $\sigma, \sigma' \in \mathcal{Q}_i$ with $d(\sigma, \sigma') \geq (c-2)2^i$, let C_q be a cone with opening angle $2\pi/k$ and apex $q \in \sigma$ that intersects σ' . Then the cone obtained from C_q by doubling its opening angle contains σ' .

Lemma 4 Let C_q be a cone with apex q and opening angle $4\pi/k$. Suppose there are two points p and r in C_q with $(c+1)2^i \geq |rq| \geq |pq| \geq (c-2)2^i$. Then $|pr| \leq ((4\pi/k)(c+1) + 3)2^i$.

Lemma 5 Let $k \geq 14$ and let

$$t = (1 + \sqrt{2 - 2\cos(4\pi/k)}) / (2\cos(4\pi/k) - 1).$$

For any distinct points $p, q, r \in \mathbb{R}^2$ with $|rq| \leq |pq|$ and $\alpha = \angle pqr \in [0, 4\pi/k]$, we have $|pr| \leq |pq| - |rq|/t$.

We are now ready to prove that H is a t -spanner. This is done in a similar manner as for Yao graphs.

Lemma 6 For any $t > 1$, there are constants c and k such that H is a t -spanner for G .

Proof. We show by induction on the rank of the length of the edges in G that for each edge \vec{pq} in G there is a p - q -path of length at most $t|pq|$ in H .

Consider the shortest edge \vec{pq} of G . Let C_q be the cone at q that contains p . There is at least one pair in N that fulfills Def. 1(ii) for \vec{pq} . Among those, we pick the pair $(\sigma, \sigma') \in N$ with minimum diameter. Suppose that $q \in \sigma$, $p \in \sigma'$, and $\text{diam}(\sigma) = \text{diam}(\sigma') = 2^i$.

Since \vec{pq} is the shortest edge, σ' contains only p (taking $c > 3$) and $m_{\sigma'} = p$, so $R = \{p\}$. Furthermore, since $p \in \sigma'$, we have $C_q \cap \sigma' \neq \emptyset$. Thus, if q is active in σ , then $q \in Q$, and we pick the edge \vec{pq} for H (Alg. 1, line 8). Suppose not. Then we have picked an incoming edge $\vec{r\bar{q}}$ for a smaller pair $(\bar{\sigma}, \bar{\sigma}') \in N$ with $\text{diam}(\bar{\sigma}) \leq 2^{i-1}$. By Def. 1(i), $|rq| \leq (c+1)2^i$. Also by Def. 1(i) we have $|pq| \geq (c-2)2^i$ and since $|rq| \geq |pq|$, we have $(c+1)2^i \geq |rq| \geq |pq| \geq (c-2)2^i$. By Lemma 3, $\bar{\sigma}'$ (and thus r) is contained in the cone C_q^2 obtained from C_q by doubling its angle to $4\pi/k$. Using Lemma 4 with C_q^2 , we see that $|pr| \leq ((4\pi/k)(c+1) + 3)2^i$. Since for $c, k \geq 14$ we have $(4\pi/k)(c+1) + 3 < c-2$, this would mean that $|pr| < |pq| \leq r_p$. Thus, \vec{pr} would be an edge of G that is strictly shorter than \vec{pq} , despite our choice of \vec{pq} . Hence, when processing σ , we will discover \vec{pq} .

For the inductive step, consider an edge \vec{pq} and the cone C_q containing p . Again, let $(\sigma, \sigma') \in N$ be the smallest pair of cells with $q \in \sigma$ and $p \in \sigma'$ that fulfill Def. 1(ii) and suppose $\text{diam}(\sigma) = 2^i$. We have $C_q \cap \sigma' \neq \emptyset$, and we distinguish two cases.

Case 1: q is active. Then $q \in Q$ and Def. 1(i) guarantees that Alg. 1 obtains an incoming edge $\vec{r\bar{q}}$ for q with $r \in \sigma'$. If $r = p$, we are done, so suppose $r \neq p$. Since $|pr| \leq 2^i$, by induction there is a path from p to r in H of length at most $t2^i$. Using the triangle inequality, we estimate the distance $d(p, q)$ in H by

$$d(p, q) \leq t2^i + |rq| \leq t2^i + |pq| + 2^i = |pq| + (1+t)2^i.$$

For c large enough the bound $|pq| > (c-2)2^i$ gives

$$|pq| + (1+t)2^i \leq (1 + (1+t)/(c-2))|pq| \leq t|pq|.$$

Case 2: q is inactive. There is an edge $\vec{r\bar{q}}$ that was selected due to a pair $(\bar{\sigma}, \bar{\sigma}') \in N$ with $q \in \bar{\sigma}$, $r \in \bar{\sigma}'$ and $\text{diam}(\bar{\sigma}) \leq 2^{i-1}$. By Lemma 3, p and r are contained in the cone C_q^2 with opening angle $4\pi/k$. We distinguish two subcases.

First, suppose that $|rq| \geq |pq|$. Then, since $(c+1)2^i \geq |rq| \geq |pq| \geq (c-2)2^i$, Lemma 4 implies that $r \in D(p)$, so \vec{pr} is an edge of G of length at most $((4\pi/k)(c+1) + 3)2^i$. Thus, we can bound $d(p, q)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} t|pr| + |rq| &\leq t(4\pi(c+1)/k + 3)2^i + (c+1)2^i \\ &= (t(4\pi(c+1)/k + 3) + c+1)|pq|/(c-2) \leq |pq|t, \end{aligned}$$

for $c, k = \Theta(t/(t-1))$. Here we used the fact that $|rq| \leq (c+1)2^i$ and that $2^i \leq |pq|/(c-2)$.

Second, suppose $|rq| < |pq|$. By Lemma 5, we get $|pr| \leq |pq| - |rq|/t$. Thus, \vec{pr} is an edge of G , and

$$d(p, q) \leq t|pr| + |rq| \leq t(|pq| - |rq|/t) + |rq| = t|pq|,$$

where the first inequality is by induction. \square

Finding the Decomposition. We show how to find the decomposition for G as in Def. 1. Let $c > 3$ and

scale P so that the closest pair in P has distance c . A *quadtrees* for P is a rooted tree T where each internal node has degree four. Each node v of T has an associated cell σ_v from a grid \mathcal{Q}_i , $i \geq 0$, and we say that v has *level* i . If v is internal, the cells of its four children partition σ_v into four congruent squares with half the diameter of σ_v . We compute a quadtree T for P and use it to find a c -separated annulus decomposition.

We construct T level-wise. To begin, we take the smallest integer L such that there is a cell $\sigma \in \mathcal{Q}_L$ that contains P . Since c is constant and since P has spread Φ , the scaled point set has diameter $c\Phi$, and $L = O(\log \Phi)$ (possibly after shifting P). We create the root v and set $\sigma_v = \sigma$. This gives level L . To construct level $i-1$ from level i , we do the following for each level- i -node v whose cell σ_v is non-empty: we take the four cells of \mathcal{Q}_{i-1} that partition σ_v and create four children w_1, \dots, w_4 of v . To each of w_1, \dots, w_4 we assign one of the four cells. We stop at level 0. The scaling of P ensures that a cell of level 0 contains at most one point and has diameter 1.

We now set $\mathcal{Q} = \{\sigma_v \mid v \in T\}$. We let $(\sigma_v, \sigma_w) \in N$ if v and w have the same level and $d(\sigma_v, \sigma_w) \in [(c-2)\text{diam}(\sigma_v), 2c\text{diam}(\sigma_v))$. As R_{σ_v} , we take all $p \in \sigma_v \cap P$ with $r_p \in [(c-2)\text{diam}(\sigma_v), 2(c+1)\text{diam}(\sigma_v)]$.

Lemma 7 *The set \mathcal{Q} with N and R_σ as above is a c -separated annulus decomposition with $|\mathcal{Q}| = O(n)$.*

Proof. Since T has $O(n)$ nodes, we have $|\mathcal{Q}| = O(n)$. Property (i) of Def. 1 follows by construction. For Property (ii), let \vec{pq} be an edge of G and let $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that $|pq| \in [c2^i, c2^{i+1})$. Let $\sigma, \sigma' \in \mathcal{Q}_i$ with $p \in \sigma$ and $q \in \sigma'$. By construction, these cells are assigned to nodes of T and thus $\sigma, \sigma' \in \mathcal{Q}$. Since $\text{diam}(\sigma) = \text{diam}(\sigma') = 2^i$, we have $(c-2)2^i \leq d(\sigma, \sigma') \leq |pq| < c2^{i+1}$, so $(\sigma, \sigma') \in N$. Since \vec{pq} is an edge of G , we have $r_p \geq |pq| \geq c2^i$. If $r_p \leq (c+1)2^{i+1}$, then $p \in R_\sigma$. Otherwise, $r_{m_\sigma} \geq r_p > (c+1)2^{i+1}$, and $D(m_\sigma)$ contains σ' and also q . \square

Running Time. Considering the cells of \mathcal{Q} in increasing order in Alg. 1 constitutes a level-order traversal of T starting from level 0. Fix a cell σ_v of a node v of T . We can sort $\sigma_v \cap P$ in the preprocess step (line 5) by merging the sorted lists of v 's children. This takes $O(n)$ time per level and $O(n \log \Phi)$ time in total. Now we bound the time for edge selection.

Lemma 8 *Let Q, R as in Alg.1, line 8 with $|\mathcal{Q}| = n$ and $|R| = m$. For each $q \in Q$ we can find an $r \in R$ with $q \in D(r)$, if such r exists, in time $O(m \log m + n)$.*

Proof. Q and R are separated by one the supporting lines ℓ of the cell σ that contains Q . Since σ is axis-aligned, Q is sorted along ℓ in the preprocess step. Consider a coordinate system with x -axis ℓ . The lower envelope E of the disks of R and ℓ has $O(m)$ arcs, can

be computed in $O(m \log m)$ time and is monotone in ℓ direction: since ℓ separates R and Q , each arc and ℓ can be seen as a function of x , and E is the pointwise minimum of these functions (cf. Fig. 2). Let S be the points on E where the arcs change. We merge Q and S in time $O(m+n)$, and we sweep over $Q \cup S$ in x -direction to compute the point-disk incidences for Q and R . We initialize D as the disk of the first arc and q as the first point of Q . Whenever we reach a point $p \in S \cup Q$, we update D or q , depending on whether $p \in S$ or $p \in Q$. In the former case, we set D to the disk of the new arc. In the latter case, we first set $q = p$, and then we check if $q \in D$. If so, we assign D to q . This sweep takes $O(m+n)$ time. Since the lower envelope is monotone, it is enough to check for each $q \in Q$ only the arc intersected by the line through q orthogonal to ℓ . \square

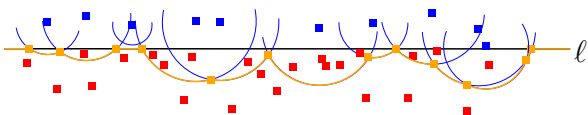


Figure 2: The lower envelope and S (orange), the points Q (red), and R (blue).

The next lemma states the running time of Alg. 1. Due to space reasons, we omit the proof. The main idea is that the running time is dominated by the edge selection step. By the choice of R_σ , each point in P participates in $O(1)$ edge selections as a disk center, at a cost of $O(\log n)$ per disk center (by Lemma 8), and in $O(\log \Phi)$ edge selections as a point in Q , at $O(1)$ cost per point (by Lemma 8). Thm. 1 follows by Lemmas 6 and 9.

Lemma 9 *The construction of the spanner H of G takes $O(n(\log \Phi + \log n))$ time.*

3 From Bounded Spread to Bounded Radii

To get Theorem 2, we extend Alg. 1 from §2. We show that the spread is irrelevant: points that are close together form cliques in G and can be handled through classic spanners; points that are far away from each other form pairwise independent components.

Given t , we pick the separation parameter c large enough. We scale P such that the smallest radius is c . Let $M = O(\Psi)$ be the largest radius. We partition P into independent components. For this, we put around each $p \in P$ an axis-parallel square of side length $2M$. The connected components of the intersection graph of the squares give the sets. We state this in the next lemma, whose proof we omit.

Lemma 10 *In $O(n \log n)$ time, we can partition P into sets P_1, \dots, P_ℓ of diameter $O(n\Psi)$ so that for $i \neq j$, no point in P_i can reach a point in P_j in G .*

By Lemma 10, we may assume that P has diameter $O(n\Psi)$. As in §2, we compute a quadtree T for P with L levels and $L = O(\log(n\Psi))$. Unlike in §2, T does not directly yield a c -separated annulus decomposition for G . Def. 1(ii) does not hold, since there may be edges in G that do not go between neighboring cells. These are the *short edges*.

First, we handle very short edges: let v be a level 0 node of T with associated cell $\sigma_v \in \mathcal{Q}_0$. Let $Q \subseteq P$ be the points in cells of \mathcal{Q}_0 with distance at most $c/2 - 3$ from σ_v . Since any two points in Q have distance at most c , Q is a clique in G . We compute a (classic) t -spanner for Q in $O(|Q| \log |Q|)$ time [4]. Since any $p \in P$ is in $O(c^2)$ such spanners, we generate $O(n)$ edges in total and require $O(n \log n)$ running time.

Second, we handle not quite so short edges: for each $q \in P$, let v be the level 0 node of T whose cell σ_v contains q . For any non-empty $\sigma' \in \mathcal{Q}_0$ with $d(\sigma_v, \sigma') \in (c/2 - 3, c - 2)$, we take an arbitrary point $r \in \sigma' \cap P$ and add the edge $\overrightarrow{r\vec{q}}$ to our spanner. All these edges have length at most c and thus are edges in G . This takes $O(n)$ time and creates $O(n)$ edges.

Finally, we handle the remaining edges: we mark all points in P as active, and we run Alg. 1 from §2 for the cells of T . Call the resulting graph H .

As in Lemma 6, we can show inductively that each edge of G is approximated in H . The differences are in the base case: if the shortest edge in G is very short, the classic spanner does the job. If it is a not quite so short, a calculation as in Lemma 6 shows that we pick it. Otherwise, the base case is as in Lemma 6.

Lemma 11 *For any $t > 1$, there are constants c, k such that the graph H as above is a t -spanner for G .*

Thm. 2 follows as in §2. The running time analysis goes as in Lemma 9, but the quadtree has $O(\log n + \log \Psi)$ levels.

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