

# Book embedding of toroidal bipartite graphs

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## Abstract

Endo [5] proved that every toroidal graph has a book embedding with at most seven pages. In this paper, we prove that every toroidal bipartite graph has a book embedding with at most five pages. In order to do so, we prove that every bipartite torus quadrangulation  $Q$  with  $n$  vertices admits two disjoint essential simple closed curves cutting the torus into two annuli so that each of the two annuli contains a spanning connected subgraph of  $Q$  with exactly  $n$  edges.

**Keywords:** torus, bipartite graph, book embedding, quadrangulation

## 1 Introduction

A *book embedding* of a graph  $G$  is to put the vertices along the *spine* (a segment) and each edge of  $G$  on a single *page* (a half-plane with the spine as its boundary) so that no two edges intersect transversely in the same page. We say that a graph  $G$  is *k-page embeddable* if  $G$  has a book embedding with at most  $k$  pages. The *pagenumber* (or sometimes called *stack number* or *book thickness*) of a graph  $G$  is the minimum of  $k$  such that  $G$  is  $k$ -page embeddable. This notion was first introduced by Bernhart and Kainen [1]. Since a book embedding is much concerned with theoretical computer science including VLSI design [3, 15], we are interested in bounding the pagenumber. Actually, we can find a number of researches giving upper bounds of the pagenumber for some graph classes, for example, complete bipartite graphs [6, 13] and  $k$ -trees [4, 8, 17]. Several algorithms to find an embedding of a given graph into a book with a few pages were also presented [11, 16].

On the other hand, the pagenumber has widely been studied from the aspect of graphs on surfaces. In fact, a graph  $G$  is 1-page embeddable if and only if  $G$  is outerplanar, and a graph  $G$  is 2-page embeddable if and only if  $G$  is a subgraph of a hamiltonian planar graph [1]. For a graph of genus  $g$ , Heath and Istrail [10] proved that its pagenumber is  $O(g)$ , and later, Melitz [12] improved this result to  $O(\sqrt{g})$ . Note that there exists a graph of genus  $g$  with the pagenumber  $\Theta(\sqrt{g})$ , see [10].

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Now we focus on graphs on a fixed surface. Bernhart and Kainen [1] first conjectured that the pagenumber of planar graphs could be large enough. However, this conjecture was disproved by Buss and Shor [2], who proved that every planar graph is 9-page embeddable. Later this upper bound was improved to seven by Heath [9], and finally, Yannakakis [18] obtained the sharp upper bound: every planar graph has the pagenumber at most four. He also gave a planar graph which cannot be embedded into the book with 3-pages [18].

As next to the spherical case, we are interested in *toroidal* graphs, i.e., graphs embeddable in the torus. Although the algorithm given in [10] only guaranteed 13-page embedding of a toroidal graph, Heath and Istrail conjectured that any toroidal graph has the pagenumber at most seven. Endo gave the positive answer to this conjecture [5].

In this paper, focusing bipartite graphs on surfaces, we consider their pagenumbers. Since bipartite graphs on surfaces can have fewer edges than general graphs, we can expect that a less pagenumber suffices. Actually, every bipartite planar graph is known to be 2-page embeddable [7], although there exists a general planar graph whose pagenumber is four. Extending this, we shall prove the following.

**THEOREM 1** *Every toroidal bipartite graph has a book embedding with at most five pages.*

A *surface* means a connected compact 2-dimensional manifold possibly with boundary. A simple closed curve  $l$  on a surface  $F^2$  is said to be *essential* if  $l$  does not bound a 2-cell on  $F^2$ , and otherwise, it is *trivial*. Let  $G$  be a *map* on a surface, that is, a fixed embedding of a graph on the surface. Let  $V(G)$  and  $E(G)$  denote the sets of the vertices and the edges of  $G$ , respectively. We say that a cycle  $C$  of a graph  $G$  on a surface is *essential* if  $C$  can be regarded as an essential simple closed curve topologically.

An *even embedding* on a surface is a map on the surface with each face bounded by a cycle of even length. In particular, a *quadrangulation* is an even embedding with each face quadrilateral. It is easy to see that every even embedding on the sphere is bipartite, but this does not hold on any other non-spherical surface.

In order to prove Theorem 1, we shall prove that every bipartite torus quadrangulation  $Q$  with  $n$  vertices admits two disjoint essential simple closed curves  $\gamma$  and  $\gamma'$  cutting the torus into two annuli so that every vertex of  $Q$  is visited by either of  $\gamma$  and  $\gamma'$ , and each of the two annuli contains a connected spanning subgraph with exactly  $n$  vertices. The proof is put in Section 2. Using the decomposition of the edges of  $Q$ , we can easily construct a 5-page embedding of  $Q$ . The algorithm to embed  $Q$  into a book is put in Section 3.

## 2 Edge-disjoint outer-annulus subgraphs

In this section, we will use various facts on torus quadrangulations  $Q$ , which were progressed in [14] in order to find a Hamiltonian cycle in the *radial graph* of  $Q$ , where the *radial graph*  $R(G)$  of a map  $G$  is obtained from  $G$  by putting a new vertex into each face of  $G$  and joining it to all vertices lying on the corresponding boundary cycle, and deleting all edges in  $G$ .

An *orientation* of a graph  $G$  is an assignment of a direction to each edge of  $G$ . Let  $\vec{G}$  denote the graph with an orientation and distinguish it from the undirected graph  $G$ . For a vertex  $v$  of  $\vec{G}$ , the *outdegree* of  $v$  is the number of directed edges outgoing from  $v$

and denoted by  $\text{od}(v)$ , and the *indegree* of  $v$  is that of incoming edges to  $v$  and denoted by  $\text{id}(v)$ . We say that  $\vec{G}$  is a *k-orientation* or *k-oriented* if each vertex of  $\vec{G}$  has outdegree exactly  $k$ . For a directed edge  $e = xy$  from  $x$  to  $y$ , the vertex  $x$  is called the *origin* of  $e$  and  $y$  the *terminus*.

The following was proved in [14].

**PROPOSITION 2 (Nakamoto and Ozeki [14])** *Every torus quadrangulation admits a 2-orientation. ■*

Moreover, by the 2-orientation of a bipartite quadrangulation  $Q$ , the following was proved in [14]. Let  $G$  be a map on a surface  $F^2$ . A *vertex-face curve* for  $G$  is a simple closed curve on  $F^2$  passing through each vertex of  $G$  exactly once and each face of  $G$  exactly once, but crossing no edges. Clearly, a vertex-face curve for a quadrangulation  $Q$  corresponds to a Hamiltonian cycle of the radial graph of  $Q$ .

**THEOREM 3 (Nakamoto and Ozeki [14])** *Every bipartite quadrangulation admits an essential vertex-face curve. ■*

Let  $Q$  be a bipartite torus quadrangulation, and then by Theorem 3,  $Q$  has an essential vertex-face curve  $l$ . Cut  $Q$  along  $l$  to obtain a map on the annulus, denoted  $Q'$ , each of whose vertices lies on the both boundary components. Such a map is called an *outer-annulus* map. Note that each vertex of  $Q$  is doubled in  $Q'$  to be a pair of vertices lying on the two distinct boundary components, but no edge of  $Q$  is doubled in  $Q'$  since  $l$  intersects only the endpoints of each edge in  $Q$ . An edge  $e$  of  $Q'$  is said to be *essential* if the two endpoints of  $e$  lie on distinct boundary components, and  $e$  is *trivial* otherwise.

Considering a 2-orientation  $\vec{Q}$  of  $Q$  and an essential vertex-face curve  $l$  for  $Q$ , we can naturally obtain an outer-annulus map  $\vec{A}$  with the orientation. Suppose that  $\vec{A}$  has a vertex  $v$  of outdegree exactly 1. Let  $e_1$  be an incoming edge to  $v$  and let  $e_2$  be the outgoing edge from  $v$ . Since  $v$  lies on the boundary of the annulus, we can define the *right-turn* and the *left-turn* of the directed path  $e_1 \cup e_2$  at a middle vertex  $v$ . (See Figure 1.) We say that  $v$  is *right-turned* (resp., *left-turned*) if the directed path  $e_1 \cup e_2$  turns right (resp., left) at  $v$  for all edges  $e_1$  incoming to  $v$ .

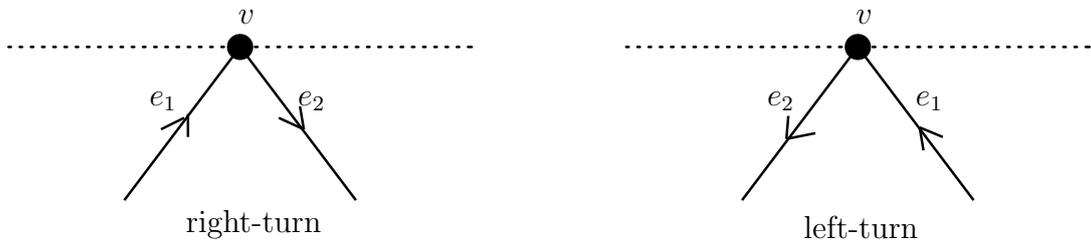


Figure 1: Right-turn and left-turn

Combining Lemmas 10 and 11 in [14], we can get the following. Since we always consider a bipartite graph  $Q$ , we let  $V(Q) = B \cup W$  be the bipartition, where  $B$  and  $W$  are referred as *black* and *white* vertices, respectively.

**LEMMA 4 (Nakamoto and Ozeki [14])** *Let  $Q$  be a bipartite torus quadrangulation. Then  $Q$  has a 2-orientation  $\vec{Q}$  and an essential vertex-face curve  $l$  satisfying the following: Cutting  $\vec{Q}$  along  $l$ , we obtain a connected outer-annulus map  $\vec{A}$  such that*

(4-1) *each vertex of  $\vec{A}$  has outdegree exactly 1,*

(4-2)  *$\vec{A}$  has exactly one essential directed cycle  $\vec{C}$  each of whose edges is essential,*

(4-3) *each black (resp., white) vertex of  $\vec{A}$  with incoming edges is right-turned (resp., left-turned).*

Let  $\vec{C} = b_1w_1 \dots b_kw_k$  be the directed cycle in (4-2), called a *zigzag cycle*, where  $k \geq 2$ , and each  $b_i$  is a black vertex and each  $w_i$  is white. See Figure 2 (1), where the rectangle shows an annulus by identifying the top and the bottom. Then, since each edge of  $\vec{C}$  is essential, the edges of  $\vec{C}$  cut the annulus into  $2k$  regions, called *V-regions*. So a V-region is bounded by two edges  $b_iw_i, b_{i+1}w_i$  or  $b_iw_{i-1}, b_iw_i$  for some  $i$  (the indices are taken modulo  $k$ ). In the former,  $w_i$  is called the *top* of the V-region, and a segment between  $b_i$  and  $b_{i+1}$  is called the *bottom*. For two vertices  $a, b$  on the bottom, let  $[a, b]$  be the *interval* of the bottom between  $a$  and  $b$ . Let  $(a, b) = [a, b] - \{a, b\}$ , and we define  $[a, b)$  and  $(a, b]$  by the same manner. See Figure 2 (2).

The following is a main result in this section, which modifies Lemma 4 to decompose a given bipartite torus quadrangulation  $Q$  into two spanning outer-annulus maps.

**LEMMA 5** *Let  $Q$  be a bipartite torus quadrangulation. Then  $Q$  admits a 2-orientation  $\vec{Q}$  satisfying the following:  $\vec{Q}$  can be separated into two connected spanning outer-annulus maps  $\vec{Q}_1$  and  $\vec{Q}_2$  by cutting  $\vec{Q}$  along two disjoint essential simple closed curves  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  so that for  $i = 1, 2$ ,*

(5-1) *each vertex of  $\vec{Q}_i$  has outdegree exactly 1,*

(5-2)  *$\vec{Q}_i$  has exactly one essential directed cycle  $\vec{C}_i$  each of whose edges is essential,*

(5-3) *each black (resp., white) vertex of  $\vec{Q}_i$  with incoming edges is right-turned (resp., left-turned).*

*Proof.* Let  $\vec{Q}$  be a 2-orientation satisfying Lemma 4. Modifying it, we shall construct another 2-orientation of  $Q$  satisfying the lemma.

Let  $\gamma$  be an essential vertex-face curve for  $\vec{Q}$  cutting open  $\vec{Q}$  into an outer-annulus map  $\vec{A}$ . By Lemma 4, let  $\vec{C} = b_1w_1 \dots b_kw_k$  be the zigzag cycle of  $\vec{A}$  for some integer  $k \geq 2$ , where each  $b_i$  is a black vertex and each  $w_i$  is a white vertex. Note that each vertex of  $\vec{Q}$  is double in  $\vec{A}$ . Then all  $b_i$ 's lie on the same boundary component of the annulus, denoted  $\gamma_b$ , and all  $w_i$ 's lie on the other boundary component, denoted  $\gamma_w$ . Note that  $b_1, w_1, b_2, w_2, \dots, b_k, w_k$  correspond to distinct vertices of  $\vec{Q}$  lying on  $\gamma$ , but they are not necessarily consecutive on  $\gamma$ . We give a direction to  $\gamma$  along  $\vec{C}$ , and let  $\vec{\gamma}$  denote  $\gamma$  with the direction.

We shall prove that  $\vec{Q}$  has a directed essential cycle  $\vec{D}$  such that  $D$  is homotopic to  $\gamma$  and consists only of trivial edges of  $A$ , where  $D$  is the undirected cycle corresponding

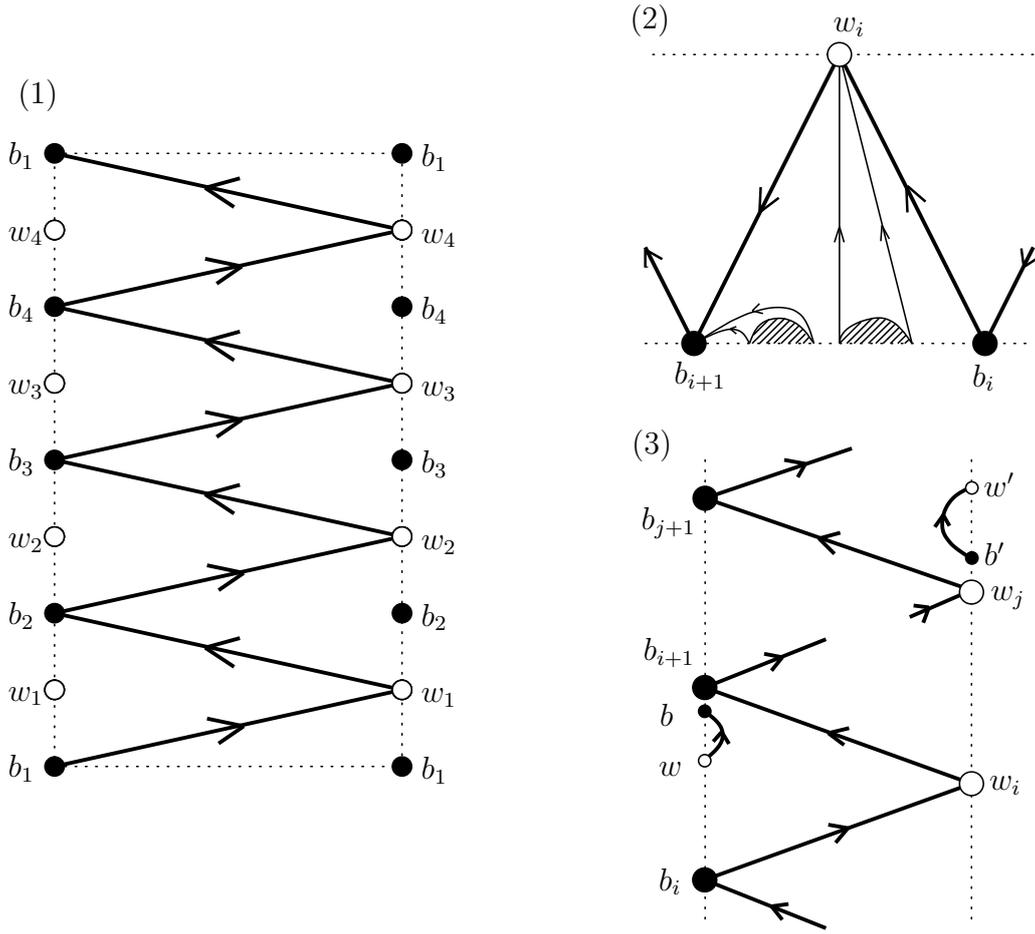


Figure 2: Zigzag cycle  $\vec{C}$ , V-region and directed cycle  $\vec{D}$

to  $\vec{D}$ . Observe that  $\gamma_b$  contains at least one white vertex, say  $w$ , since  $\gamma$  contains white vertices in  $Q$ . Let  $\Delta_i$  be the V-region of  $\vec{A}$  bounded by two edges  $b_i w_i, w_i b_{i+1}$ , and we may suppose that  $w$  is contained in the interval  $(b_i, b_{i+1})$ . By (4-1),  $w$  has an outgoing edge  $e_w$  in  $\vec{A}$ , and let  $b$  be the terminus of  $e_w$ . Observe that  $b$  must be contained in  $[b_i, b_{i+1}]$ . However we have  $b \neq b_i$ , for otherwise (i.e.,  $b = b_i$ ), then  $b_i$  were not right-turned, a contradiction. Moreover,  $b$  must be contained in  $(w, b_{i+1}]$ . (For otherwise, i.e., if  $b$  is contained in  $(b_i, w)$ , then the right-turn at  $b$  proceeds to the interior of the 2-cell region of  $\vec{A}$  bounded by the trivial edge  $wb$ , and the left-turn at the next vertex, say  $\tilde{w}$ , proceeds to the interior of the smaller region bounded the trivial edge  $b\tilde{w}$ . Since every vertex in  $\vec{A}$  has outdegree 1, we can choose an outgoing edge at every vertex. However, this argument does not continue since  $\vec{A}$  is finite, a contradiction.) Hence we can find a trivial edge  $w\tilde{b}$  such that  $b_i, w, b$  and  $b_{i+1}$  appear in  $\vec{\gamma}$  in this order. See Figure 2(3).

Let's consider the black vertex  $b'$  on  $\gamma_w$  such that  $b' = b$  in  $Q$ , which may be supposed to be contained in the bottom  $(w_j, w_{j+1})$  of a V-region with top  $b_{j+1}$  for some  $j$ . By (4-1),  $b'$  has an outgoing edge  $e_{b'}$  in  $\vec{A}$ , and let  $w'$  is the terminus of  $e_{b'}$ . By completely the same argument, we can conclude that  $b'w'$  is a trivial edge as shown in Figure 2(3). In this way,

we can successively take trivial directed edges, and so this sequence of edges corresponds to a directed walk in  $\vec{Q}$  starting at the vertex  $w$ . Since  $\vec{Q}$  is finite, we can take a repeated vertex, say  $x$ , which appears in the walk at first time. Then the directed cycle starting and ending at  $x$  is a required one, and we let  $\vec{D} = p_1q_1 \cdots p_kq_k$  be the directed cycle with  $x = p_1$ , where for each  $i$ ,  $p_i$  and  $q_i$  are black and white vertices.

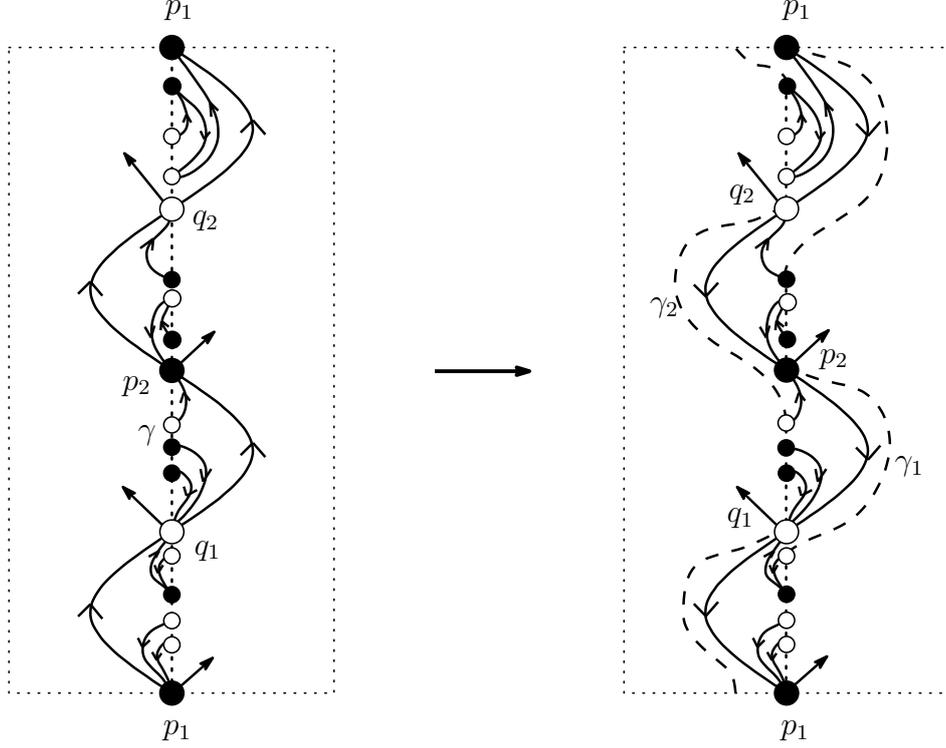


Figure 3: Reversal of the direction of  $\vec{C}$  splits  $\gamma$  into  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$

Now we reverse the direction of  $\vec{D}$  in  $\vec{Q}$  to obtain another 2-orientation of  $Q$  denoted  $\overleftarrow{Q}$ , where  $\overleftarrow{D} = q_kp_k \cdots q_1p_1$  is the inverse orientation of  $\vec{D}$ . Modify  $\gamma$  in the resulting 2-orientation  $\overleftarrow{Q}$  so that (5-1) and (5-3) are satisfied. Then  $\gamma$  splits into two essential simple closed curves, say  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ , so that  $\gamma_1$  passes through all black vertices  $p_1, \dots, p_k$ , and  $\gamma_2$  through all white vertices  $q_1, \dots, q_k$ , as shown in Figure 3. Since  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are disjoint on the torus and every vertex of  $Q$  lies on either  $\gamma_1$  or  $\gamma_2$ , each of the annuli bounded by  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  has a spanning subgraph of  $\overleftarrow{Q}$ . If we let  $A$  be the annulus containing  $\vec{C}$ , then  $\vec{C}$  is still a zigzag cycle in the map in  $A$ . Moreover,  $\overleftarrow{D} = p_1q_1 \cdots p_kq_k$  is a zigzag cycle of the map in the other annulus. Then both of the maps on  $A$  and  $A'$  satisfies (5-2), since an annulus contains at most one zigzag cycle. ■

**LEMMA 6** *Let  $Q_j$  be the map in Lemma 5 for  $j = 1, 2$ , and let  $\Delta$  be the graph contained in a  $V$ -region of  $\vec{Q}_j$  bounded by two directed edges  $b_iw_i, w_ib_{i+1}$ . Then  $\Delta$  is a directed tree such that*

- (i)  $b_i$  has no incoming edge, and
- (ii) there is a directed path to  $b_{i+1}$  from any vertex.

We say that the subtree of  $\Delta$  toward  $w_i$  is *essential*, and that toward  $b_{i+1}$  but not  $w_i$  is *trivial*. See Figure 2(2).

*Proof.* By (5-3), the statement (i) clearly holds. Hence, by (5-1), from any vertex  $v$  other than  $b_i$ , we can extend a directed path toward  $w_i$  or  $b_{i+1}$ . Therefore, if (ii) does not hold, then we may suppose that  $\Delta$  has a cycle in  $Q_1$ . Then, since  $Q_1$  is connected and has a cycle  $\vec{C}_1$ ,  $Q_1$  has at least two cycles, and hence  $|E(Q_1)| \geq |V(Q_1)| + 1$ . On the other hand,  $Q_2$  is a connected graph with at least one cycle, and hence  $|E(Q_2)| \geq |V(Q_2)|$ . Since  $|V(Q_1)| = |V(Q_2)| = |V(Q)|$  and each edge of  $Q$  is contained in either  $Q_1$  or  $Q_2$ , we have  $|E(Q)| \geq 2|V(Q)| + 1$ , contrary to Euler's formula for torus quadrangulations. ■

### 3 Constructing book embeddings

In this section, we shall construct a book embedding of a toroidal bipartite graph  $Q$  on the torus with at most five pages. Observe that every bipartite graph  $G$  on a surface can be extended to a quadrangulation  $Q$  on the surface by adding vertices and edges suitably. Moreover, if  $Q$  has a 5-page embedding, then we can get a 5-page embedding of  $G$ , which is obtained from the embedding of  $Q$  by removing the vertices and edges added. Hence we shall prove the following, which immediately gives a proof of Theorem 1.

**THEOREM 7** *Every bipartite torus quadrangulation is 5-page embeddable.*

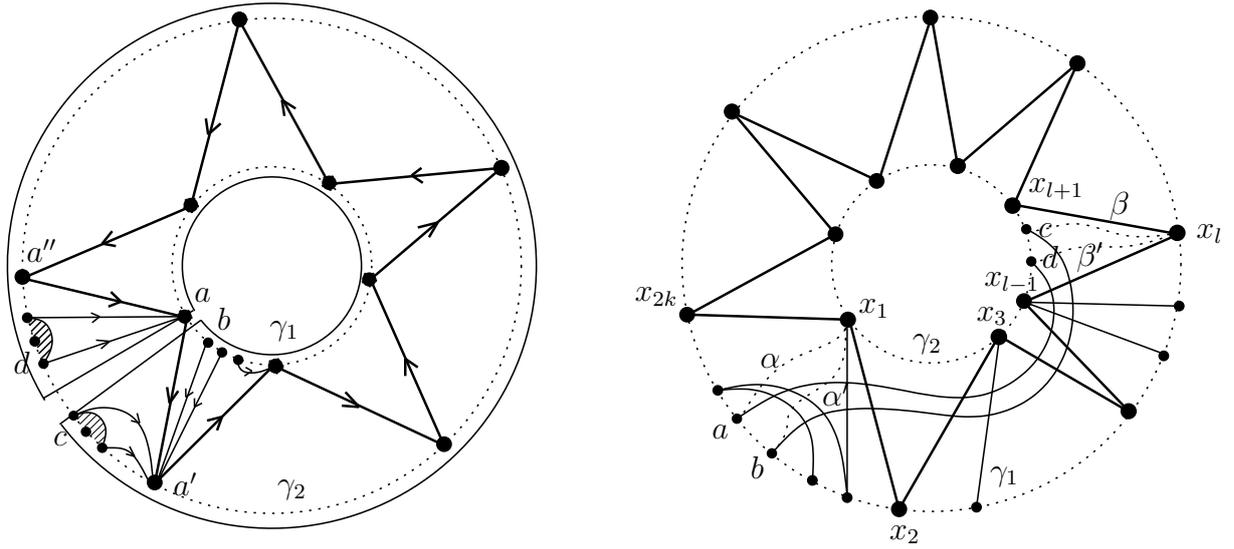


Figure 4: Structures of  $\vec{Q}_1$  and  $\vec{Q}_2$

*Proof.* Let  $Q$  be a bipartite torus quadrangulation. By Lemma 5,  $Q$  has a 2-orientation  $\vec{Q}$  which can be decomposed into two spanning connected outer-annulus maps  $\vec{Q}_1$  and  $\vec{Q}_2$  with zigzag cycles  $\vec{C}_1$  and  $\vec{C}_2$ , respectively. Let  $\vec{\gamma}_1$  and  $\vec{\gamma}_2$  be the disjoint essential simple closed curves cutting  $\vec{Q}$  into  $\vec{Q}_1$  and  $\vec{Q}_2$ , which are oriented along  $\vec{C}_1$ . (For the symbols used here, those without the arrows stand for the corresponding undirected ones.)

Consider a V-region of  $\vec{Q}_1$  bounded by directed edges  $a''a$  and  $aa'$ , where  $a''a$  and  $aa'$  are contained in  $\vec{C}_1$ , and  $a$  lies on  $\vec{\gamma}_1$  and  $a', a''$  on  $\vec{\gamma}_2$ . By Lemma 6, we can choose a vertex, say  $d$ , in the bottom on  $\vec{Q}_1$  contained in an essential subtree which is the last vertex with respect to the linear ordering of vertices in the bottom on  $\vec{\gamma}_2$  from  $a''$  to  $a'$  (if the component does not exist, then we let  $d = a''$ ), and the first vertex, say  $c$ , in the bottom contained in a trivial subtree (if the component does not exist, then we let  $c = a'$ ). Let  $b$  be the vertex of V-region with top  $a'$  which is next to  $a$  in the bottom. See the left of Figure 4.

Now we shall construct a 5-page embedding of  $Q$ .

**For the spine.** Fix the vertices of  $Q$  in the spine of the book in the following order: First arrange all vertices on  $\gamma_1$  in the order from  $a$  to  $b$ . Following them, we arrange all vertices on  $\gamma_2$  in the order from  $c$  to  $d$ .

**Page 1 and 2.** We first embed the edges of  $Q_1 - aa'$  in one page. This can naturally be done since the plane embedding of  $Q_1 - aa'$  can be regarded as that in a rectangle with corners  $a, b, c, d$ , as shown in the left of Figure 4, and the vertices of  $Q_1 - aa'$  on the boundary of the rectangle lie in the order of the vertices in the spine.

Next we embed a single edge  $aa'$  in the second page, as shown in Figure 5.

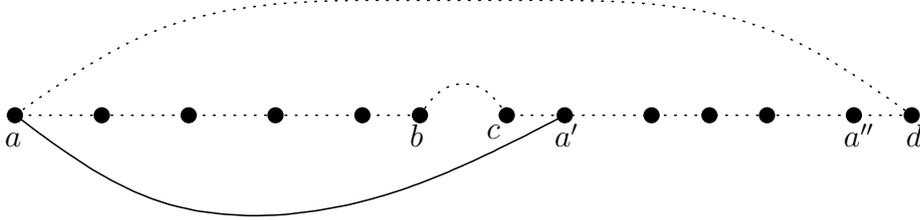


Figure 5: Embedding of  $Q_1$  in page 1 and 2.

**Page 3, 4 and 5.** We embed the edges of  $Q_2$  using at most three pages, as follows. Let  $C_2 = x_1x_2 \cdots x_{2k}$  be the zigzag cycle of  $Q_2$ . Let  $\Delta_i$  be the V-region with top  $x_i$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 2k$ . We may suppose that  $a, b$  are contained in the bottom of  $\Delta_1$ , and that  $c, d$  are contained in the bottom of  $\Delta_l$  for some even integer  $l$ , since  $a$  and  $b$  are consecutive on  $\gamma_1$ , and so are  $c$  and  $d$  on  $\gamma_2$ . So take disjoint simple curves  $\gamma_{a,d}$  and  $\gamma_{b,c}$  joining  $a$  and  $d$ , and  $b$  and  $c$  in  $Q_2$ , respectively, so that they cross  $x_1x_2, x_2x_3, \dots, x_{l-1}x_l$ , and some essential edges contained in  $\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_l$ . We may suppose that  $\gamma_{a,d}$  and  $\gamma_{b,c}$  are taken to have a minimum number of crossing points with the edges of  $Q_2$ .

Take a segment  $\alpha$  in  $\Delta_1$  joining  $x_1$  and  $a$ , and a segment  $\beta$  in  $\Delta_l$  joining  $x_l$  and  $c$ . Let  $R$  be the rectangle obtained from  $Q_2$  by cutting along  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , which does not contain  $b$ . Then all edges of  $Q_2$  contained in  $R$  can be embedded in the third page, similarly to the first page. See the top of Figure 6.

Take a segment  $\alpha'$  in  $\Delta_1$  joining  $x_1$  and  $b$ , and a segment  $\beta'$  in  $\Delta_l$  joining  $x_l$  and  $d$ . Let  $R'$  be the rectangle obtained from  $Q_2$  by cutting along  $\alpha'$  and  $\beta'$ , which does not contain  $a$ . Then all edges in  $R'$  can be embedded in the fourth page. See the top of Figure 6.

If the four segments  $\alpha, \alpha', \beta$  and  $\beta'$  can be taken without crossing edges, then  $Q$  is 4-page embeddable. Hence, assuming some edges cross these segments, we embed all of

them in the fifth page. If an edge  $e_1$  must cross  $\alpha$  or  $\alpha'$ , then the two endpoints of  $e_1$  are contained in the intervals  $[a, x_{2k}]$  and  $[b, x_2]$ , respectively, in the bottom of  $\Delta_1$ . All of such edges can be embedded in a rectangle  $R_1$  bounded by  $[a, x_{2k}]$ ,  $\overline{x_{2k}x_2}$ ,  $[b, x_2]$ ,  $\overline{ab}$ , where  $\overline{pq}$  denotes a simple curve in  $\Delta_1$  joining two points  $p$  and  $q$ . Do the same for edges crossing  $\beta, \beta'$ , and then those edges can be embedded in a rectangle  $R_2$  bounded by  $[c, x_{l+1}]$ ,  $\overline{x_{l+1}x_{l-1}}$ ,  $[d, x_{l-1}]$ ,  $\overline{cd}$ . Clearly, the edges of  $Q_2$  contained in  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  can be embedded in the fifth page simultaneously, as shown in the bottom of Figure 6. Hence we are done. ■

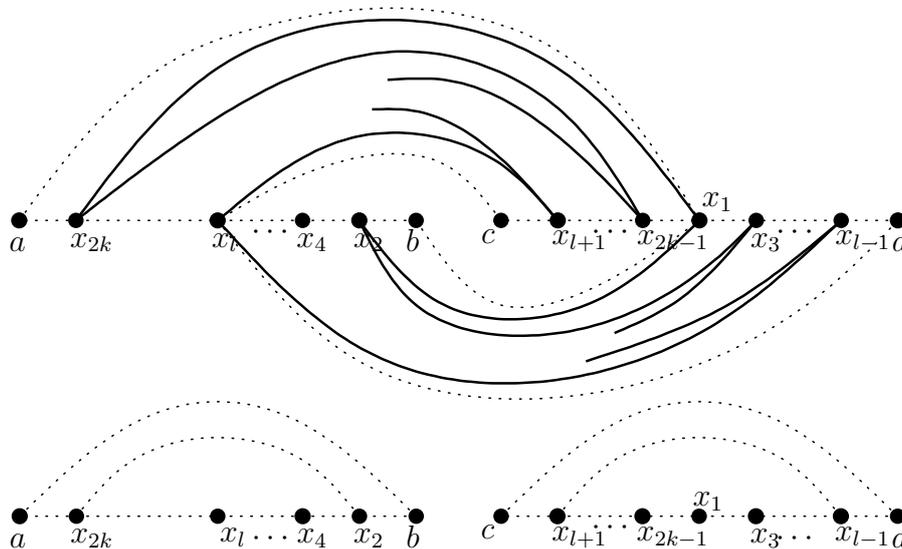


Figure 6: Embedding of  $Q_2$  in page 3, 4 and 5.

In the proof of Theorem 7, we embed only a single edge of  $Q$  in the second page, and hence we will get the following.

**THEOREM 8** *Let  $Q$  be a bipartite graph embeddable in the torus. Then  $Q$  has an edge  $e$  such that  $Q - e$  is 4-page embeddable. ■*

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