Structure in Visibility Graphs

David Rappaport School of Computing Queen's University CANADA

February 2, 2004

Consider a set S of objects in the plane. We say that two objects a and b from S see each other if there exists a straight line segment l with one point in a and one point in b such that l does not intersect any other object in S. The visibility graph of S, denoted by Vis(S), associates a vertex to each object of S and an edge between two vertices if the associated objects see each other. There are many natural questions that one may ask about the structure of such graphs. Some examples are:

- What is the size of the largest matching?
- What is the length of the longest path?
- Is the graph Hamiltonian?

I will review some results on these and other structural questions for visibility graphs (and special types of visibility) of a variety of different objects.