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**THE CONVEX HULLS OF THE VERTICES OF A POLYGON OF  
ORDER  $n$**

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*Dedicated to Richard Rado on his sixty-fifth birthday.*

**Let  $\pi_n : A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$  be a polygon of real order  $n$  in real projective  $n$ -space  $L_n$ ,  $r \geq n + 3$ , with the vertices  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r$ . If  $H_{n-1}$  be a hyperplane for which  $A_i \notin H_{n-1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , let  $H(\pi_n)$  be the convex hull of the set  $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r\}$  defined in the affine space  $L_n \setminus H_{n-1}$ . This paper gives a classification of the combinatorial types of the sets  $H(\pi_n)$  for a fixed  $\pi_n$ .**

The restriction  $r \geq n + 3$  is necessary because the classification is obtained from the properties of the polygon  $\pi_n$  associated with  $H(\pi_n)$ . Such a polygon is determined uniquely by its vertices if and only if  $r \geq n + 3$  [2]. If  $r = n + 3$  and the points  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n+3}$  are in general position there is exactly one polygon  $\pi_n$  with these vertices [1]. Thus the set of all  $H(\pi_n)$ ,  $r = n + 3$ , for which no vertex of  $\pi_n$  an interior point of  $H(\pi_n)$  is also the set of convex polytopes with  $n + 3$  vertices in general position. Consequently the invariants which characterize the sets  $H(\pi_n)$  can be used to characterize the convex polytopes with  $n + 3$  vertices in general position. The method used here is different from that used by M. A. Perles in his solution [3] of this problem.

The work is divided into three sections. The first contains definitions and known or easily proved results dealing with the polygons  $\pi_n$ . The second section develops theorems involving the convex hulls of the polygon vertices which are used to obtain the characterizing invariants in the final section. Except for the case in which  $H_{n-1}$  intersects  $\pi_n$  in  $n$  points the sets are characterized by a cycle of the type used in combinatorial analysis [4].

## 1. Preliminaries.

1.1. The subspace of the real projective  $n$ -space  $L_n$  spanned by the points or point sets  $A, B, \dots$  is denoted by  $[A, B, \dots]$ .

1.2. If  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r$ ,  $r \geq n + 3$ , are distinct points of  $L_n$ ,  $\pi : A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$  denotes a closed polygon with the sides  $A_i A_{i+1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , ( $A_{r+s} = A_s$ ) and vertices  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r$ .

An (open) segment  $\alpha : A_i A_{i+1} \cdots A_{i+h}$ ,  $0 \leq h \leq r - 1$ , is called an arc of  $\pi$  of length  $h$ .

1.3. If any one hyperplane  $L_{n-1}$ ,  $A_i \notin L_{n-1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , contains an even (odd) number of points of  $\pi$  then any hyperplane which does not contain any vertex of  $\pi$  also contains an even (odd) number of points of  $\pi$ . This property is known as the *parity* of  $\pi$ .

1.4. An *intersection point* of a hyperplane  $L_{n-1}$  and a polygon  $\pi$  is a point of  $L_{n-1} \cap \pi$  which is either a vertex of  $\pi$  or the only point of a side of  $\pi$  within  $L_{n-1}$ .

A closed polygon in  $L_n$  for which no hyperplane contains more than  $n$  intersection points is said to have order  $n$ .

Such polygons will be denoted by the symbols  $\pi_n$ ,  $\sigma_n$ .

A consequence of the order condition is that the vertices of a polygon  $\pi_n$  are in general position.

If  $P_i$  be an interior point of a side  $A_i A_{i+1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , of a polygon  $\pi_n$  then a hyperplane  $L_{n-1}$  exists for which  $[P_i, P_2, \dots, P_n] \subseteq L_{n-1}$ . It follows from the order of  $\pi_n$  that  $L_{n-1} \cap \pi_n$  is exactly the point set  $\{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n\}$  and  $L_{n-1} = [P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n]$ . Hence, by the parity of  $\pi_n$ , every hyperplane which does not contain any vertex of  $\pi_n$  intersects it in an even (odd) number of points if  $n$  is even (odd).

1.5. If, for  $n > 1$ ,  $A_{i-1} A_{i+1}$  is the line segment in  $L_n$  which together with the arc  $A_{i-1} A_i A_{i+1}$  of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \dots A_r$  forms an even triangle then the lines in the plane  $[A_{i-1}, A_i, A_{i+1}]$  which contain  $A_i$  but do not contain an interior point of  $A_{i-1} A_{i+1}$  are defined to be the *tangents* of  $\pi_n$  at  $A_i$ . A tangent at  $A_i$  is denoted by the symbol  $L(A_i)$ . The following result is a simple consequence of the order of  $\pi_n$ .

1.6. If, for  $n > 1$ ,  $L_{n-1}$  is the projection of  $L_n$  from a vertex  $A_k$  of the polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \dots A_r$ ,  $A'_i A'_{i+1}$ ,  $i \neq k$ ,  $i + 1 \neq k$ , that of the side  $A_i A_{i+1}$  and  $A'_{k+1} A'_{k-1}$  that of the set of all the tangents  $L(A_k)$ , then the polygon  $A'_1 A'_2 \dots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \dots A'_r$  has order  $n - 1$  in  $L_{n-1}$ .

We shall call the polygon  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \dots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \dots A'_r$  the projection of  $\pi_n$  from  $A_k$ .

1.7. If  $A$  is a point of hyperplane  $T_{n-1}$  of a projective (affine) space  $L_n(R_n)$ ,  $n > 1$ , then if  $L_{n-1}$ ,  $T_{n-2}$ , are the projections of  $L_n(R_n)$ ,  $T_{n-1}$  respectively, from  $A$  the affine space  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  is said to be an *affine projection* of  $L_n(R_n)$  from  $A$ .

1.8. Throughout this paper a fixed hyperplane  $H_{n-1}$ ,  $A_i \notin H_{n-1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , will be associated with each polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \dots A_r$ . The

convex hull of the vertices of  $\pi_n$  defined in the affine space  $L_n \setminus H_{n-1}$  is denoted by the symbol  $H(\pi_n)$ .

A segment  $A_p A_q$  is said to be finite if  $H_{n-1} \cap A_p A_q = \emptyset$  and otherwise infinite.

1.9. *Hypothesis:*  $A_k$  is a vertex of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r, n > 1$ , on the boundary of the convex hull  $H(\pi_n)$  defined in  $L_n \setminus H_{n-1}$ .

$T_{n-1}$  is a hyperplane which contains exactly the one vertex  $A_k$  of  $\pi_n$  and supports  $H(\pi_n)$ .

If  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \cdots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \cdots A'_r$  is the projection of  $\pi_n$  and  $T_{n-2}$  that of  $T_{n-1}$  from  $A_k$   $H(\pi_{n-1})$  is defined in the affine projection  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  of  $L_n$  from  $A_k$ .

*Conclusion:* (1)  $A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1}$  is finite in  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  if and only if exactly one of the two sides of the arc  $A_{k-1} A_k A_{k+1}$  of  $\pi_n$  is finite in  $L_n \setminus H_{n-1}$ ; each other side  $A'_i A'_{i+1}$  of  $\pi_{n-1}$  is finite if and only if the corresponding side  $A_i A_{i+1}$  of  $\pi_n$  is finite.

(2) A hyperplane  $[A'_{i_2}, A'_{i_3}, \cdots, A'_{i_n}]$  of  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  supports  $H(\pi_{n-1})$  if and only if the hyperplane  $[A_k, A_{i_2}, \cdots, A_{i_n}]$  supports  $H(\pi_n)$ .

*Proof.* If  $Q_{n-1}$  be a hyperplane which supports  $H(\pi_n)$  let  $A_p, A_q$  be distinct vertices of  $\pi_n$  for which  $A_p, A_q \notin Q_{n-1}$ . Then a segment  $A_p A_q$  is finite if and only if  $Q_{n-1} \cap A_p A_q = \emptyset$ . But, by the definition 1.8,  $A_p A_q$  is finite if and only if  $H_{n-1} \cap A_p A_q = \emptyset$ . Hence  $Q_{n-1} \cap A_p A_q = \emptyset$  if and only if  $H_{n-1} \cap A_p A_q = \emptyset$ .

If  $Q_{n-1}$  is specialized to be  $T_{n-1}$  it follows that a side  $A_i A_{i+1}, i \neq k, i + 1 \neq k$ , of  $\pi_n$  is finite if and only if  $T_{n-1} \cap A_i A_{i+1} = \emptyset$ . Let  $A'_i A'_{i+1}, T_{n-2}$  be the projections of  $A_i A_{i+1}, T_{n-1}$ , respectively, from  $A_k$ . Hence, as  $T_{n-2} \cap A'_i A'_{i+1} = \emptyset$  if and only if  $T_{n-1} \cap A_i A_{i+1} = \emptyset$ ,  $A'_i A'_{i+1}$  is finite in  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  if and only if  $A_i A_{i+1}$  is finite in  $L_n \setminus H_{n-1}$ . This means that the arcs  $A_{k+1} A_{k+2} \cdots A_{k+r-1}, A'_{k+1} A'_{k+2} \cdots A'_{k+r-1}$  of  $\pi_n, \pi_{n-1}$ , respectively, both contain the same number of finite sides.  $\pi_{n-1}$ , because of its parity, must then contain either one infinite side more or one infinite side less than  $\pi_n$ . This implies that  $A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1}$  is finite if and only if exactly one of the two sides of the arc  $A_{k-1} A_k A_{k+1}$  of  $\pi_n$  is finite. (1) is now clear. (2) follows if  $Q_{n-1}$  is the hyperplane  $[A_k, A_{i_2}, \cdots, A_{i_n}]$  and thus completes the proof.

1.10. A polygon  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \cdots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \cdots A'_r$ , constructed by projecting a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$  and a hyperplane  $T_{n-1}, A_k \in T_{n-1}$ , which supports  $H(\pi_n)$ , from  $A_k$ , as in 1.9, is called a *normal projection* of  $\pi_n$ . The existence of the space  $T_{n-1}$  and the space  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  in which  $H(\pi_{n-1})$  is defined is tacitly assumed.

## 2. Maximal arcs.

2.1. An arc  $A_i A_{i+1} \cdots A_{i+h}$ ,  $h \geq 0$ , of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$  is defined to be a maximal arc of length  $h$  if  $A_{i-1} A_i$ ,  $A_{i+h} A_{i+h+1}$  are both finite and are the only finite sides of the arc  $A_{i-1} A_i \cdots A_{i+h+1}$  of  $\pi_n$ .

A vertex of  $\pi_n$  within a maximal arc of positive length is called a  $j$ -point.

2.2. If one vertex of an infinite side  $A_i A_{i+1}$  of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$  is not within a hyperplane  $Q_{n-1}: [A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_n}]$  which supports  $H(\pi_n)$  then  $Q_{n-1}$  contains the other vertex of  $A_i A_{i+1}$ .

*Proof.* If  $n = 1$   $H(\pi_1)$  is the finite segment which is the complement of  $A_i A_{i+1}$  in the projective line. Hence  $Q_0 = A_i$  or  $Q_0 = A_{i+1}$ . Thus the result is proved for  $n = 1$ . If, for  $n > 1$ ,  $A_i, A_{i+1} \notin Q_{n-1}$  then as  $Q_{n-1}$  supports  $H(\pi_n)$  it cannot separate  $A_i$  and  $A_{i+1}$ . It must therefore intersect the infinite side  $A_i A_{i+1}$ . As this is impossible because of the order of  $\pi_n$  the result is established.

2.3. If  $A_i$  is an interior point of the convex hull  $H(\pi_n)$  of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$  then both sides  $A_{i-1} A_i$ ,  $A_i A_{i+1}$  of  $\pi_n$  are finite.

*Proof.* By 1.2  $r \geq n + 3$ . As the vertices of  $\pi_n$  are in general position a hyperplane  $Q_{n-1}: [A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_n}]$  exists which supports  $H(\pi_n)$  and does not contain  $A_{i-1}(A_{i+1})$ . As  $A_i$  is in the interior of  $H(\pi_n)$   $A_i \notin Q_{n-1}$ . If  $A_{i-1} A_i(A_i A_{i+1})$  were infinite then, by 2.2,  $A_{i-1}(A_{i+1})$  would be in  $Q_{n-1}$ . This contradiction proves the result. An immediate consequence is

2.4. A  $j$ -point of a polygon  $\pi_n$  is on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$ ,

2.5. If, for the side  $A_i A_{i+1}$  of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$ ,  $A_i$  is on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$  but  $A_{i+1}$  is in its interior then  $A_i$  is a  $j$ -point.

*Proof.* The result is clear for  $n = 1$  as the two boundary points of  $H(\pi_1)$  are the endpoints of the single infinite side of  $\pi_1$ . If, for  $n > 1$ ,  $A_i$  is not a  $j$ -point then both sides  $A_{i-1} A_i$ ,  $A_i A_{i+1}$  are finite. Then, as  $A_i$  is on the boundary  $H(\pi_n)$ , it follows from 1.9 that a projection  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \cdots A'_{i-1} A'_{i+1} \cdots A'_r$  of  $\pi_n$  from  $A_i$  exists in an affine space  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  for which  $A'_{i-1} A'_{i+1}$  is infinite. The  $j$ -point  $A'_{i+1}$  of  $\pi_{n-1}$  is, by 2.4, on the boundary of  $H(\pi_{n-1})$ . It follows, then, from 1.9 (2) that  $A_{i+1}$  is on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$  contrary to the hypothesis. Hence  $A_i$  is a  $j$ -point and the result is established.

2.6. If  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \cdots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \cdots A'_r$  is a normal projection of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$ ,  $n > 1$ , from a  $j$ -point  $A_k$  then every maximal arc  $\alpha$  of  $\pi_n$  of length  $h$  is projected into a maximal arc  $\alpha'$  of  $\pi_{n-1}$  of length  $h-1$  or  $h$  according as  $A_k \in \alpha$  or  $A_k \notin \alpha$ .

Conversely every maximal arc  $\alpha'$  of  $\pi_{n-1}$  is the projection of a uniquely determined maximal arc of  $\pi_n$ .

*Proof.* If  $\alpha: A_i A_{i+1} \cdots A_{i+h}$  be a maximal arc of  $\pi_n$  then, by the definition 2.1, all the sides of the arc  $\bar{\alpha}: A_{i-1} A_i \cdots A_{i+h} A_{i+h+1}$  are infinite except  $A_{i-1} A_i, A_{i+h} A_{i+h+1}$  both of which are finite. If  $A_k \notin \bar{\alpha}$  then, by 1.9, every side of the projection  $A'_{i-1} A'_i \cdots A'_{i+h+1}$  is infinite except  $A'_{i-1} A'_i, A'_{i+h} A'_{i+h+1}$  both of which are finite. Thus the projection  $\alpha': A'_i A'_{i+1} \cdots A'_{i+h}$  is a maximal arc of  $\pi_{n-1}$ . If  $A_k = A_{i-1}(A_{i+h+1})$  then  $A_{i-2} A_{i-1}(A_{i+h+1} A_{i+h+2})$  is infinite as  $A_k$  is a  $j$ -point. In this case, again by 1.9, only the sides  $A'_{i-2} A'_i, A'_{i+h} A'_{i+h+1}(A'_{i-1} A'_i, A'_{i+h} A'_{i+h+2})$  of the arc  $A'_{i-2} A'_i \cdots A'_{i+h+1}(A'_{i-1} A'_i \cdots A'_{i+h} A'_{i+h+2})$  are finite. Thus, as before, the projection  $A'_i A'_{i+1} \cdots A'_{i+h}$  is maximal. If  $A_k \in \alpha$  then the length of  $\alpha$  is positive as it contains at least one infinite side. The projection  $A'_{i-1} \cdots A'_{i+h+1}$  of  $A_{i-1} A_i \cdots A_{i+h+1}$  is an arc of length  $h+1$  of which only the first and last sides are finite. Hence the projection of  $\alpha$  in this case is a maximal arc of length  $h-1$ . The proof of the result is now complete.

To prove the converse let  $\alpha': A'_u \cdots A'_v$  be a maximal arc of  $\pi_{n-1}$  and  $A_u A_{u+1} \cdots A_v$  the corresponding arc of  $\pi_n$ . As  $A_k$  is a  $j$ -point it follows from 1.9 that every side of this latter arc is infinite. Consequently it is included in a maximal arc  $\alpha: A_j A_{j+1} \cdots A_{j+m}$  of  $\pi_n$  which is unique as a maximal arc is determined by any one of its vertices. As proved in the previous paragraph the projection of  $\alpha$  is a maximal arc of  $\pi_{n-1}$ . As this projection includes  $\alpha'$  which is itself maximal it must coincide with  $\alpha'$ . The converse is thus established and the proof is complete.

2.7. A hyperplane  $Q_{n-1}: [A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_n}]$  which supports the convex hull  $H(\pi_n)$  of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \cdots A_r$  must contain at least  $h$  vertices of every maximal arc of  $\pi_n$  of length  $h$ .

*Proof.* If a maximal arc has length 1 the theorem coincides with 2.2 and so is already proved. We assume, then, that it is true for all maximal arcs of length  $h-1$ ,  $h > 1$ , and proceed by induction. We can assume  $n > 1$  as  $\pi_1$  contains only 1 infinite side. As the side  $A_i A_{i+1}$  of a maximal arc  $\alpha: A_i A_{i+1} \cdots A_{i+h}$ ,  $h > 1$ , is infinite, at least one of the two  $j$ -points  $A_i, A_{i+1}$  is within  $Q_{n-1}$  by 2.2. If  $A_k$  is such a  $j$ -point the subscripts can be adjusted so that  $Q_{n-1}$  is

$[A_k, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_k}]$ . As  $n > 1$  a normal projection  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \dots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \dots A'_r$  of  $\pi_n$  from  $A_k$  exists, by 1.9, so that if  $H(\pi_{n-1})$  is defined in an affine space  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$ , the projection  $Q_{n-2}: [A'_{i_2}, \dots, A'_{i_n}]$  of  $Q_{n-1}$  supports  $H(\pi_{n-1})$ . By 2.6  $\alpha$  is projected into a maximal arc  $\alpha'$  of  $\pi_{n-1}$  of length  $h - 1$ . By applying the induction assumption to  $\pi_{n-1}$ ,  $\alpha'$  and  $Q_{n-2}$  it follows that  $Q_{n-2}$  contains at least  $h - 1$  vertices of  $\alpha'$ . As these are projections of vertices of  $\alpha$  within  $Q_{n-1}$  it follows that  $Q_{n-1}$  contains at least  $h$  vertices of  $\alpha$  as  $A_k \in Q_{n-1}$ . The result now follows by induction.

2.8. A hyperplane  $Q_{n-1}$ , spanned by  $n$  vertices of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \dots A_r$ , supports  $H(\pi_n)$  if and only if

(1) for every arc  $\alpha: A_i A_{i+1} \dots A_{i+h}$ ,  $h > 0$ , within  $Q_{n-1}$  with  $A_{i-1}, A_{i+h+1} \notin Q_{n-1}$ ,  $p + h$  is odd where  $p$  is the number of infinite sides of the arc  $A_{i-1} A_i \dots A_{i+h+1}$ , and

(2)  $Q_{n-1}$  contains at least  $h$  vertices of every maximal arc of  $\pi_n$  of length  $h$ .

*Proof.* To check the result for  $n = 1$  let  $A_i A_{i+1}$  be the infinite side of  $\pi_1$ . This side is the only maximal arc of  $\pi_1$  of positive length and  $H(\pi_1)$  is the finite complement of  $A_i A_{i+1}$  in the projective line.  $Q_0$  supports  $H(\pi_1)$  if and only if  $Q_0 = A_i$  or  $Q_0 = A_{i+1}$ . This is true if and only if  $Q_0$  satisfies (2). If  $Q_0$  satisfies (2) it also satisfies (1). Thus the result is true for  $n = 1$ . We assume it true for polygons  $\pi_{n-1}$ ,  $n > 1$ , and proceed by induction.

We first assume that  $Q_{n-1}$  satisfies (1) and (2) and show that it supports  $H(\pi_n)$ . Let  $A_k$  be a vertex of  $\pi_n$  within  $Q_{n-1}$  which is a  $j$ -point if  $Q_{n-1}$  contains such a point and otherwise arbitrary. It follows from (2) that if  $A_k$  is not a  $j$ -point that  $\pi_n$  has only finite sides. By 2.4 and 2.5  $A_k$  is on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$ . The subscripts may be adjusted so that  $Q_{n-1}$  may be written as  $[A_k, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_n}]$ . Let  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \dots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \dots A'_r$  be a normal projection of  $\pi_n$  from  $A_k$  where, following 1.10,  $H(\pi_{n-1})$  is defined in an affine space  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$ . Let  $Q_{n-2}$  be the projection  $[A'_{i_2}, A'_{i_3}, \dots, A'_{i_n}]$  of  $Q_{n-1}$  from  $A_k$ .

To show that  $Q_{n-2}$  satisfies (1) for  $\pi_{n-1}$  let  $\alpha': A'_u \dots A'_v$  be an arc of  $\pi_{n-1}$  within  $Q_{n-2}$  chosen so that, for the arc  $\bar{\alpha}': A'_t A'_u \dots A'_v A'_w$  of  $\pi_{n-1}$ ,  $A'_t, A'_w \notin Q_{n-2}$ .  $\bar{\alpha}', \alpha'$  are the projections from  $A_k$  of the arcs  $\bar{\alpha}: A_t A_{t+1} \dots A_w$ ,  $\alpha: A_{t+1} A_{t+2} \dots A_{w-1}$  of  $\pi_n$ , respectively.  $\alpha \subseteq Q_{n-1}$  as  $\alpha' \subseteq Q_{n-2}$  while  $A_t, A_w \notin Q_{n-1}$  as  $A'_t, A'_w \notin Q_{n-2}$ . If  $p$  be the number of infinite sides of  $\bar{\alpha}$  and  $h$  the length of  $\alpha$  then, as  $Q_{n-1}$  satisfies (1),  $p + h$  is odd. If  $A_k \in \bar{\alpha}$ , then, by 1.9,  $\alpha'$  has length  $h$  while a side of  $\bar{\alpha}'$  is finite if and only if it is a projection of a finite side of  $\bar{\alpha}$ . As  $\bar{\alpha}'$  has, then,  $p$  infinite sides  $Q_{n-2}$  satisfies (1) for  $\pi_{n-1}$ . If  $A_k \in \bar{\alpha}$ , then  $A_k \neq A_t, A_k \neq A_w$  as  $A_t, A_w \notin Q_{n-1}$ . By 1.9  $\bar{\alpha}'$  has  $p - 1$  or  $p + 1$

infinite sides according as  $A_k$  is or is not a  $j$ -point, while  $\alpha'$  has length  $h - 1$ . As  $(p \pm 1) + h - 1$  is odd,  $Q_{n-2}$  satisfies (1) in this case also.

To check that  $Q_{n-2}$  satisfies (2) let  $\beta'$  be a maximal arc of length  $m$ ,  $m > 0$  of  $\pi_{n-1}$ . If  $A_k$  is not a  $j$ -point  $\beta'$  must, by 1.9, be the single infinite side  $A'_{k-1}A'_{k+1}$  for, by the choice of  $A_k$ ,  $\pi_n$  has only finite sides. As  $Q_{n-1}$  satisfies (1) at least one of  $A_{k-1}$ ,  $A_{k+1}$  is within  $Q_{n-1}$  and so at least one of  $A'_{k-1}$ ,  $A'_{k+1}$  is within  $Q_{n-2}$ . Hence  $Q_{n-2}$  satisfies (2). If  $A_k$  is a  $j$ -point then, by 2.6,  $\beta'$  is the projection of a maximal arc  $\beta$  of  $\pi_n$  of length  $m + 1$  or  $m$  according as  $A_k \in \beta$  or  $A_k \notin \beta$ . As  $Q_{n-1}$  satisfies (2) this implies that  $Q_{n-2}$  contains at least  $m$  vertices of  $\beta'$ . Hence  $Q_{n-2}$  satisfies (2) for  $\pi_{n-1}$  in all cases.

If we now apply the induction assumption to  $Q_{n-2}$  and  $\pi_{n-1}$  it follows that  $Q_{n-2}$  supports  $H(\pi_{n-1})$ . Consequently  $Q_{n-1}$  supports  $H(\pi_n)$  by 1.9.

If, conversely,  $Q_{n-1}$  supports  $H(\pi_n)$  then, by 2.7,  $Q_{n-1}$  must satisfy (2). This implies that  $Q_{n-1}$  contains a  $j$ -point  $A_k$  unless  $\pi_n$  has no infinite sides in which case  $A_k$  is chosen to be an arbitrary vertex of  $\pi_n$  in  $Q_{n-1}$ . As above let  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1A'_2 \cdots A'_{k-1}A'_{k+1} \cdots A'_r$  be a normal projection of  $\pi_n$  from  $A_k$  and  $Q_{n-2}: [A'_{i_2}, A'_{i_3}, \dots, A'_{i_n}]$  that of  $Q_{n-1}$ . By 1.9  $Q_{n-2}$  supports  $H(\pi_{n-1})$  and so by the induction assumption  $Q_{n-2}$  satisfies (1) for  $\pi_{n-1}$ . We retain the previous notation and let  $\bar{\alpha}: A_tA_{t+1} \cdots A_w$  be an arc of  $\pi_n$  for which the subarc  $\alpha: A_{t+1}A_{t+2} \cdots A_{w-1}$  is included in  $Q_{n-1}$  but for which  $A_t, A_w \notin Q_{n-1}$ .

It remains to show that  $\alpha$  satisfies (1). Suppose first that  $\alpha$  has exactly one vertex  $A_{t+1}$  which is also the point  $A_k$ . If  $A_tA_{t+1}$ ,  $A_{t+1}A_{t+2}$  were either both finite or both infinite then  $Q_{n-1}$  would contain a tangent  $L(A_k)$ . It would then follow from 1.6 that  $Q_{n-2}$  would contain a point of the side  $A'_{k-1}A'_{k+1}$  as well as  $n-1$  vertices of  $\pi_{n-1}$ . As this is impossible because of the order of  $\pi_{n-1}$ , exactly one of  $A_tA_{t+1}$ ,  $A_{t+1}A_{t+2}$  is finite. Hence (1) is satisfied if  $\alpha$  is the single vertex  $A_k$ . If  $\alpha$  is not the single vertex  $A_k$  then let  $\alpha': A'_u \cdots A'_v$ ,  $\bar{\alpha}': A'_tA'_u \cdots A'_vA'_w$  be the projections of  $\alpha$  and  $\bar{\alpha}$  from  $A_k$ . By reversing the previous argument it follows that if (1) is valid for  $\alpha'$  and  $\bar{\alpha}'$  it is also valid for  $\alpha$  and  $\bar{\alpha}$ . This implies that  $\alpha$  satisfies (1) and so that  $Q_{n-1}$  satisfies (1) for all arcs  $\alpha$  which it contains.

The proof can now be completed by induction.

2.9. *If a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1A_2 \cdots A_r$  has  $n$  infinite sides then,*

(1) *each vertex on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$  is a  $j$ -point and*

(2) *the necessary and sufficient condition that a hyperplane  $Q_{n-1}$  spanned by  $n$  vertices of  $\pi_n$  support  $H(\pi_n)$  is that it contain exactly  $h$  vertices of each maximal arc of  $\pi_n$  of length  $h$ .*



*Proof.* Let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_p$  be the maximal arcs of  $\pi_n$  of positive length and  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_p$  their respective lengths. As  $\pi_n$  has  $n$  infinite sides  $h_1 + h_2 + \dots + h_p = n$ . By 2.7  $Q_{n-1}$  contains at least  $h_i$  vertices of each arc  $\alpha_i, 1 \leq i \leq p$ . Hence as  $\pi_n$  has order  $n$   $Q_{n-1}$  contains exactly  $h_i$  vertices of each of these arcs and each vertex of  $\pi_n$  within it is a  $j$ -point.

Therefore, to complete the proof of (2) it remains to show that any hyperplane  $Q_{n-1}$  which contains  $h_i$  vertices of each  $\alpha_i, 1 \leq i \leq p$ , supports  $H(\pi_n)$ .  $Q_{n-1}$  satisfies 2.8 (2). To show that it also satisfies 2.8 (1) let  $\alpha: A_i A_{i+1} \dots A_{i+h}$  be an arc of  $\pi_n$  within  $Q_{n-1}$  for which  $A_{i-1}, A_{i+h+1} \notin Q_{n-1}$ . If  $\alpha \subseteq \alpha_i$  then  $h = h_i - 1$  and exactly one of  $A_{i-1} A_i, A_{i+h} A_{i+h+1}$  is within  $\alpha_i$ . The side not within  $\alpha_i$  is finite. Hence  $A_{i-1} A_i \dots A_{i+h+1}$  contains exactly  $h + 1$  infinite sides. As the number  $(h + 1) + h$  is odd  $\alpha$  satisfies 2.8 (1). If  $\alpha$  is not a subarc of a maximal arc then the vertices of  $\alpha$  are included in two consecutive maximal arcs as  $\alpha$  cannot contain all the vertices of any maximal arc. Moreover the two maximal arcs which contain  $\alpha$  must be separated by a single finite side because all the vertices of  $\alpha$  are  $j$ -points. Hence both the sides  $A_{i-1} A_i, A_{i+h} A_{i+h+1}$  are infinite. As before  $A_{i-1} A_i \dots A_{i+h+1}$  contains exactly  $h + 1$  infinite sides. Thus  $\alpha$  satisfies 2.8 (1) in all cases and so by 2.8  $Q_{n-1}$  supports  $H(\pi_n)$ . The proof is now complete.

2.10 *If a vertex of a polygon  $\pi_n$  is an interior point of  $H(\pi_n)$  then  $\pi_n$  has  $n$  infinite sides.*

*Proof.* If  $n = 1$  there is nothing to prove. To prove the result it is sufficient to show that, if a polygon  $\pi_n$  has less than  $n$  infinite sides, each of its vertices is on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$ . This follows from 2.5 if every side of  $\pi_n$  is finite. In particular this establishes the result for  $n=2$ . We assume it true for polygons  $\pi_{n-1}, n > 2$ , and proceed by induction. As we may assume that  $\pi_n$  has at least one infinite side, it has at least one  $j$ -point  $A_k$ .  $A_k$  is, by 2.4, on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$ . Therefore a normal projection  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \dots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \dots A'_r$  of  $\pi_n$  from  $A_k$  exists following 1.10. By 1.9  $\pi_{n-1}$  has at most  $n - 3$  infinite sides. Consequently, by the induction assumption, every vertex of  $\pi_{n-1}$  is on the boundary of  $H(\pi_{n-1})$ . Hence, by 1.9, every vertex of  $\pi_n$  is within a supporting hyperplane of  $H(\pi_n)$  which contains  $A_k$  and so is on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$ . The result now follows by induction.

### 3. Equivalence.

3.1. Two sets  $U: \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r\}, V: \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_r\}$  of  $r$  points,

$r \geq n + 1$ , in general position in the affine subspaces  $R_n, \bar{R}_n$  of  $L_n$ , respectively, are defined to be *equivalent* if a 1-1 mapping  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i), 1 \leq i \leq r$ , of the points of  $U$  onto those of  $V$  exists with the property that each hyperplane  $[A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_n}]$  supports the convex hull  $H(U)$  in  $R_n$  if and only if  $[f(A_{i_1}), f(A_{i_2}), \dots, f(A_{i_n})]$  supports the convex hull  $H(V)$  in  $\bar{R}_n$ .

3.2. *Hypothesis:*  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i), 1 \leq i \leq r$ , is an equivalence mapping for the sets  $U: \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_r\}, V: \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_r\}$  in the affine spaces  $R_n, \bar{R}_n$ , respectively,  $n > 1$ .

$T_{n-1}(\bar{T}_{n-1})$  is a hyperplane of  $R_n(\bar{R}_n)$  which supports  $H(U)(H(V))$  for which  $T_{n-1} \cap U = A_k(\bar{T}_{n-1} \cap V = f(A_k))$ .

$L_{n-1}, T_{n-2}, U', A'_i, i \neq k, (\bar{L}_{n-1}, \bar{T}_{n-2}, V', f'(A_i), i \neq k)$  are the projections of  $L_n, T_{n-1}, U, A_i(L_n, \bar{T}_{n-1}, V, f(A_i))$  from  $A_k(f(A_k))$ .

*Conclusion.*  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i), i \neq k$ , is an equivalence mapping of  $U'$  onto  $V'$  where the convex hulls  $H(U'), H(V')$  are defined in the affine spaces  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}, \bar{L}_{n-1} \setminus \bar{T}_{n-2}$ , respectively.

*Proof.* The points of  $U'(V')$  are in general position in  $L_{n-1}(\bar{L}_{n-1})$  as those of  $U(V)$  are in general position in  $L_n(L_n)$ .

Let  $Q_{n-2}$  be a hyperplane  $[A'_{i_2}, A'_{i_3}, \dots, A'_{i_n}]$  of  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  which does not support  $H(U')$ . We show that the corresponding hyperplane  $\bar{Q}_{n-2}: [f'(A_{i_2}), f'(A_{i_3}), \dots, f'(A_{i_n})]$  does not support  $H(V')$ . A segment  $A'_p A'_q$  exists in  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$  for which  $A'_p, A'_q \notin Q_{n-2}$  and  $Q_{n-2} \cap A'_p A'_q \neq \emptyset$ . If  $A_p A_q$  be the segment of  $L_n$  the projection of which from  $A_k$  is  $A'_p A'_q$  then  $T_{n-1} \cap A_p A_q = \emptyset$  as  $A'_p A'_q \subseteq L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$ . Hence  $A_p A_q \subseteq R_n$  as  $T_{n-1}$  supports  $H(U)$ . As  $Q_{n-2}$  is the projection of the hyperplane  $Q_{n-1}: [A_k, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_n}]$  from  $A_k, Q_{n-1} \cap A_p A_q \neq \emptyset$ . Thus  $Q_{n-1}$  does not support  $H(U)$  and so, by the definition 3.1, the corresponding hyperplane  $\bar{Q}_{n-1}: [f(A_k), f(A_{i_2}), \dots, f(A_{i_n})]$  does not support  $H(V)$ . This implies that  $B_h, B_k$  exist in  $V, B_h, B_k \notin \bar{Q}_{n-1}$ , so that  $\bar{Q}_{n-1} \cap B_h B_k \neq \emptyset$ . As  $\bar{T}_{n-1}$  supports  $H(V), \bar{T}_{n-1} \cap B_h B_k = \emptyset$ . Consequently  $\bar{T}_{n-2} \cap B'_h B'_k = \emptyset$  and  $B'_h B'_k \subseteq \bar{L}_{n-1} \setminus \bar{T}_{n-2}$ . As  $\bar{Q}_{n-2}$  is the projection of  $\bar{Q}_{n-1}$  from  $f(A_k), \bar{Q}_{n-2} \cap B'_h B'_k \neq \emptyset$  and so  $\bar{Q}_{n-2}$  does not support  $H(V')$ .

It follows from the symmetry of the equivalence relation that if  $\bar{Q}_{n-2}$  does not support  $H(V')$  that  $Q_{n-2}$  does not support  $H(U')$ . Hence  $A'_i \rightarrow f'(A_i), i \neq k$ , is an equivalence mapping for the sets  $U', V'$  and the proof is complete.

3.3. If  $U$  and  $V$  are the vertex sets of two polygons  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \dots A_r, \sigma_n: B_1 B_2 \dots B_r$ , defined in spaces  $L_n \setminus H_{n-1}, L_n \setminus \bar{H}_{n-1}$ , respectively, we say the polygons are equivalent if  $U$  and  $V$  are equivalent and write  $\pi_n \sim \sigma_n$ .

A vertex  $A_k$  of the polygon  $\pi_n$  on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$  is in a hyperplane  $[A_k, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_n}]$  which supports  $H(\pi_n)$ . Hence if  $\pi_n \sim$

$\sigma_n [f(A_k), f(A_{i_2}), \dots, f(A_{i_n})]$  supports  $H(\sigma_n)$  and  $f(A_k)$  is on the boundary of  $H(\sigma_n)$ . Therefore if  $A_k$  is a boundary point of  $H(\pi_n)$  and  $n > 1$  the hypothesis of 3.2 is satisfied as the vertices of  $\pi_n, \sigma_n$  are in general position. Let  $f(A_k) = B_e$ . If  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \dots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \dots A'_r$ ,  $\sigma_{n-1}: B'_1 B'_2 \dots B'_{e-1} B'_{e+1} \dots B'_r$  are the normal projections of  $\pi_n, \sigma_n$  from  $A_k, B_e$ , respectively for which  $H(\pi_{n-1}), H(\sigma_{n-1})$  are defined in  $L_{n-1} \setminus T_{n-2}$ ,  $\bar{L}_{n-1} \setminus \bar{T}_{n-2}$  then, by 3.2,  $A'_i \rightarrow f'(A_i), i \neq k$ , is an equivalence mapping for the vertex sets of  $\pi_{n-1}$  and  $\sigma_{n-1}$ . In short, if  $\pi_n \sim \sigma_n$ , then projections  $\pi_{n-1}, \sigma_{n-1}$  exist for which  $\pi_{n-1} \sim \sigma_{n-1}$ .

3.4. *If  $\pi_n, \sigma_n$  are two polygons each with  $r$  sides,  $r \geq n+3$ , for which  $\pi_n \sim \sigma_n$ , then (1) both polygons have the same number of infinite sides and (2) an equivalence mapping maps a  $j$ -point of one onto a  $j$ -point of the other.*

*Proof.* If  $n=1$  (1) is trivial as  $\pi_1$  and  $\sigma_1$  both have one infinite side. An equivalence mapping maps the endpoints of the segment  $H(\pi_1)$  into the endpoints of the segment  $H(\sigma_1)$  following the Definition 3.1. But these endpoints are the  $j$ -points as the convex hull is the complement of the infinite side in the projective line. Thus (2) is satisfied by an equivalence mapping if  $n=1$ . We now assume the result to be true for equivalent polygons  $\pi_{n-1}, \sigma_{n-1}, n > 1$ , and proceed by induction.

One of the two polygons  $\pi_n, \sigma_n$  say  $\sigma_n$ , has at least as many infinite sides as the other. If  $\pi_n$  has at least one infinite side let  $A_k$  be a  $j$ -point of  $\pi_n$  and otherwise an arbitrary vertex. By 2.4 and 2.5  $A_k$  is on the boundary of  $H(\pi_n)$ . If  $B_e = f(A_k)$  let  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \dots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \dots A'_r$ ,  $\sigma_{n-1}: B'_1 B'_2 \dots B'_{e-1} B'_{e+1} \dots B'_r$  be normal projections of  $\pi_n, \sigma_n$  from  $A_k, B_e$ , respectively. Then, following 3.3,  $A'_i \rightarrow f'(A_i), i \neq k$ , is an equivalence mapping for  $\pi_{n-1}$  and  $\sigma_{n-1}$ . The induction assumption may be applied to these two polygons as they both have  $r-1$  vertices and  $r-1 \geq (n-1)+3$ . Consequently they have the same number of infinite sides. Let  $q$  be this number. Suppose first that  $A_k$  is a  $j$ -point. It follows, then, from 1.9 that  $\pi_n$  has  $q+1$  infinite sides and that  $\sigma_n$  has  $q+1$  or  $q-1$  infinite sides according as  $B_e$  is or is not a  $j$ -point. As  $\sigma_n$  is assumed to have at least as many infinite sides as  $\pi_n$  it follows that  $B_e$  is a  $j$ -point and that  $\pi_n, \sigma_n$  have the same number of infinite sides. Because of the last assertion it follows, by interchanging  $\pi_n$  and  $\sigma_n$  in the above argument, that every  $j$ -point of  $\sigma_n$  is the map of a  $j$ -point of  $\pi_n$ . Thus the result is true if  $\pi_n$  has at least one  $j$ -point. In the remaining case  $\pi_n$  has no infinite sides. It follows from 1.9 that  $\pi_{n-1}$  has exactly one infinite side and then that  $\sigma_n$  has either 0 or 2 infinite sides. As  $r \geq n+3$  and  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\sigma_n$  has at least 5 vertices.

Consequently a vertex  $A_k$  exists so that  $f(A_k)$  is not a  $j$ -point of  $\sigma_n$ . It now follows that  $\sigma_{n-1}$  has one infinite side more than  $\sigma_n$ . This means that  $\sigma_n$  has no infinite sides and consequently no  $j$ -points. Thus (1) and (2) hold for  $\pi_n$  and  $\sigma_n$ .

The result now follows by induction.

3.5. *An equivalence mapping for two polygons  $\pi_n: A_1A_2 \dots A_r$ ,  $\sigma_n: B_1B_2 \dots B_r$ ,  $r \geq n + 3$ , maps the set of the vertices of a maximal arc of one polygon onto the set of the vertices of a maximal arc of the other polygon.*

*Proof.* It follows from the definition 2.1 that the maximal arcs of a polygon of length 0 are those vertices of the polygon which are not  $j$ -points. The result for the maximal arcs of length 0 is now clear as, by 3.4, the vertices of  $\pi_n$  which are not  $j$ -points are mapped into the vertices of  $\sigma_n$  which are not  $j$ -points. If one of the polygons, and consequently the other, has no infinite sides the proof is complete.

If  $\pi_n$  has exactly one maximal arc  $\alpha: A_iA_{i+1} \dots A_{i+h}$  of positive length  $h$  then  $\pi_n$  has  $h$  infinite sides and  $h + 1$   $j$ -points. By 3.4 the equivalent polygon  $\sigma_n$  also has  $h$  infinite sides and  $h + 1$   $j$ -points. As the number of  $j$ -points of any polygon is the number of maximal arcs of positive length plus the number of infinite sides it follows that  $\sigma_n$  has exactly one maximal arc of length  $h$ . As  $j$ -points are mapped into  $j$ -points the result follows. In particular this proves the result for  $n = 1$ . We assume it true for polygons of order  $n - 1$ ,  $n > 1$ , and proceed by induction.

We may assume that  $\pi_n$  contains at least two maximal arcs of positive length. If  $\alpha: A_iA_{i+1} \dots A_{i+h}$  be one of these let  $A_k, A_{k+1}$  be two vertices from a second maximal arc. Let  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i)$  be an equivalence mapping for the polygons  $\pi_n$  and  $\sigma_n$ . If  $B_e = f(A_k)$  then, following 3.3, normal projections  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1A'_2 \dots A'_{k-1}A'_{k+1} \dots A'_r$ ,  $\sigma_{n-1}: B'_1B'_2 \dots B'_{e-1}B'_{e+1} \dots B'_r$  of  $\pi_n, \sigma_n$  from  $A_k, B_e$ , respectively, exist for which  $A'_i \rightarrow f'(A_i)$ ,  $i \neq k$ , is a equivalence mapping for  $\pi_{n-1}$  and  $\sigma_{n-1}$ . By 2.6 the projection  $\alpha': A'_iA'_{i+1} \dots A'_{i+h}$  of  $\alpha$  from  $A_k$  is a maximal arc of  $\pi_{n-1}$  as  $A_k$  is a  $j$ -point and  $A_k \notin \alpha$ . As  $\pi_{n-1}$  has  $r - 1$  vertices and  $r - 1 \geq (n - 1) + 3$ , the equivalent polygons  $\pi_{n-1}, \sigma_{n-1}$  satisfy the hypothesis. It follows, then, from the induction assumption that  $f'(A_i), f'(A_{i+1}), \dots, f'(A_{i+h})$  are the vertices of a maximal arc of  $\sigma_{n-1}$ . By 2.6 either  $f(A_i), f(A_{i+1}), \dots, f(A_{i+h})$  are the vertices of a maximal arc of  $\sigma_n$ , in which case the result is proved or  $f(A_k), f(A_i), \dots, f(A_{i+h})$  are the vertices of a maximal arc of  $\sigma_n$ . If the latter case occurs the procedure may be repeated with the use of  $A_{k+1}$  instead of  $A_k$ .

In this case  $\{f(A_{k+1}), f(A_i), \dots, (A_{i+h})\}$  would be the vertex set of a maximal arc of  $\sigma_n$ . As  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i)$  is a 1-1 mapping the two sets  $\{f(A_k), f(A_i), \dots, f(A_{i+h})\}$ ,  $\{f(A_{k+1}), f(A_i), \dots, f(A_{i+h})\}$  are distinct. This is impossible as any single vertex within a maximal arc determines it uniquely. Hence  $\{f(A_i), f(A_{i+1}), \dots, f(A_{i+h})\}$  is the set of the vertices of a maximal arc of  $\sigma_n$  and the result is clear.

The proof now follows by induction.

3.6. *If a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1A_2 \dots A_r$ ,  $r \geq n + 3$ , has  $n$  infinite sides then a polygon  $\sigma_n: B_1B_2 \dots B_r$  is equivalent to  $\pi_n$  if and only if, for each  $h$ ,  $0 \leq h \leq n$ ,  $\pi_n$  and  $\sigma_n$  both have the same number of maximal arcs of length  $h$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\pi_n \sim \sigma_n$  then, by 3.5, each of the polygons have the same number of maximal arcs of length  $h$ ,  $0 \leq h \leq n$ .

If, conversely,  $\pi_n$  and  $\sigma_n$  satisfy this condition we construct a mapping of the vertices of  $\pi_n$  onto those of  $\sigma_n$  as follows. As  $\pi_n$  and  $\sigma_n$  have the same number of maximal arcs of length  $h$ ,  $0 \leq h \leq n$ , an arbitrary 1-1 correspondence can be defined between the maximal arcs of  $\pi_n$  of length  $h$  and those of  $\sigma_n$  of length  $h$  for each  $h$ ,  $0 \leq h \leq n$ . After this has been done we define a 1-1 correspondence  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i)$  which maps the vertices of each maximal arc of length  $h$  onto the set of vertices of the corresponding maximal arc of  $\sigma_n$  of length  $h$ .

To check that the mapping  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i)$  is an equivalence mapping let  $Q_{n-1}: [A_{i_1}, A_{i_2} \dots A_{i_n}]$  be a hyperplane which supports  $H(\pi_n)$ . By 2.9 (2)  $Q_{n-1}$  contains  $h$  vertices of each maximal arc of  $\pi_n$  of length  $h$ . By the construction of the mapping  $\bar{Q}_{n-1}: [f(A_{i_1}), f(A_{i_2}), \dots, f(A_{i_n})]$  contains  $h$  vertices of every maximal arc of  $\sigma_n$  of length  $h$ . Hence, by 2.9 (2),  $\bar{Q}_{n-1}$  supports  $H(\sigma_n)$ . Hence  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i)$  is an equivalence mapping and the proof is complete.

3.7. *Hypothesis:  $A_i \rightarrow f(A_i)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , is an equivalence mapping for the polygons  $\pi_n: A_1A_2 \dots A_r$ ,  $\sigma_n: B_1B_2 \dots B_r$ ,  $r \geq n + 3$ , both of which have less than  $n$  infinite sides.*

$\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_s$  are the maximal arcs of  $\pi_n$  arranged in the order in which they occur on  $\pi_n$ .

$\{f(\alpha_j)\}$  is the set of vertices  $f(A_i)$  of  $\sigma_n$  for which  $A_i$  is a vertex of  $\alpha_j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq s$ .

*Conclusion: The sets  $\{f(\alpha_j)\}$  occur in the order*

$$\{f(\alpha_1)\}, \{f(\alpha_2)\}, \dots, \{f(\alpha_s)\}$$

on  $\sigma_n$ .

*Proof.* As  $\pi_n$  has less than  $n$  infinite sides  $n > 1$ . Let  $A_k$  be a  $j$ -point of  $\pi_n$  if  $\pi_n$  has at least one infinite side but otherwise an arbitrary vertex of  $\pi_n$ . It follows from 3.4 that  $B_e = f(A_k)$  is a  $j$ -point of  $\sigma_n$  if and only if  $\sigma_n$  has at least one infinite side. Let  $\pi_{n-1}: A'_1 A'_2 \cdots A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} \cdots A'_r$ ,  $\sigma_{n-1}: B'_1 B'_2 \cdots B'_{e-1} B'_{e+1} \cdots B'_r$  be normal projections of  $\pi_n, \sigma_n$  from  $A_k, B_e$ , respectively. Following 3.3  $A'_i \rightarrow f'(A_i), i \neq k$ , is an equivalence mapping for  $\pi_{n-1}$  and  $\sigma_{n-1}$ .

We consider the case for which  $\pi_n$  has no infinite sides. By 3.4  $\sigma_n$  also has no infinite sides. By 1.9  $A'_{k-1} A'_{k+1} (B'_{e-1} B'_{e+1})$  is the only infinite side of  $\pi_{n-1}(\sigma_{n-1})$ . By 3.4  $f'(A_{k-1}), f'(A_{k+1})$  are the only  $j$ -points of  $\sigma_{n-1}$  and so these must be the vertices  $B'_{e-1}, B'_{e+1}$ . This implies that  $f'(A_k), f'(A_{k+1})$  must be consecutive vertices of  $\sigma_{n-1}$ . As an equivalence mapping is a 1-1 mapping this implies that as  $A_k$  runs monotonously through consecutive vertices of  $\pi_n$  that  $f(A_k)$  runs monotonously through consecutive vertices of  $\sigma_n$ . By the definition 2.1 each maximal arc of a polygon with no infinite sides consists of a single vertex. Thus  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_s$  are consecutive vertices  $A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_{r-1}}$ . Hence  $\{f(\alpha_1)\}, \{f(\alpha_2)\}, \dots, \{f(\alpha_s)\}$  either is a sequence  $\{B_j\}, \{B_{j+1}\}, \dots, \{B_{j+r-1}\}$  or a sequence  $\{B_j\}, \{B_{j-1}\}, \dots, \{B_{j-r+1}\}$ . This proves the result if  $\pi_n$  has no infinite sides. In particular the proof is complete if  $n = 2$ . We assume it to be true for polygons  $\pi_{n-1}, \sigma_{n-1}, n > 2$ , and proceed by induction.

In the case which remains  $\pi_n$  has at least one infinite side. Consequently  $A_k$  is a  $j$ -point. Therefore the maximal arc which contains  $A_k$  has at least two vertices. Hence we may choose vertices  $A_{i_j}, A_{i_j} \in \alpha_j, 1 \leq j \leq s, A_{i_j} \neq A_k$ . By 3.5 each set  $\{f(\alpha_j)\}$  consists of the vertices of a maximal arc of  $\sigma_n$ . To show that these sets are ordered on  $\sigma_n$  it is therefore sufficient to show that  $f(A_{i_1}), f(A_{i_2}), \dots, f(A_{i_s})$  are ordered on  $\sigma_n$ . As  $f(A_{i_j}) \neq f(A_k) = B_e, 1 \leq j \leq s$ , to prove this result it is sufficient to show that the projections  $f'(A_{i_1}), f'(A_{i_2}), \dots, f'(A_{i_s})$  are ordered on  $\sigma_{n-1}$  as the order of the vertices of  $\sigma_{n-1}$  is that of the order of the corresponding vertices of  $\sigma_n$ .

To do this we consider the polygons  $\pi_{n-1}, \sigma_{n-1}$ . As  $A_k$  is a  $j$ -point it follows from 2.6 that the maximal arcs of  $\pi_{n-1}$  are the projections  $\alpha'_j$  of  $\alpha_j$  from  $A_k, 1 \leq j \leq s$ . Again, as  $A_k$  is a  $j$ -point, it follows from 1.9 that  $\pi_{n-1}$  has exactly one infinite side less than  $\pi_n$  and so has less than  $n - 1$  infinite sides. Hence we may apply the induction assumption to the equivalent polygons  $\pi_{n-1}, \sigma_{n-1}$ . If  $\{f'(\alpha'_j)\}$  denotes the map of set of vertices of  $\alpha'_j$  defined by the mapping  $A'_i \rightarrow f'(A_i), 1 \leq j \leq s$ , then the sets  $\{f'(\alpha'_1)\}, \{f'(\alpha'_2)\}, \dots, \{f'(\alpha'_s)\}$  occur in this order on  $\sigma_{n-1}$  as  $\alpha'_1, \alpha'_2, \dots, \alpha'_s$  are ordered on  $\pi_{n-1}$ . Consequently

$f'(A_{i_1}), f'(A_{i_2}), \dots, f'(A_{i_s})$  follow in order on  $\sigma_{n-1}$  as no two of these points are in the same set  $\{f'(\alpha'_j)\}$ .

The result now follows by induction.

3.8.  $C(\pi_n)$  is the cycle of the cyclically ordered sequence of 0's and 1's obtained by replacing each side  $A_i A_{i+1}$  of the set of sides  $A_1 A_2, A_2 A_3, \dots, A_r A_1$  of a polygon  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \dots A_r$  by 0 or 1 according as  $A_i A_{i+1}$  is finite or infinite. If the vertices of a polygon  $\pi_n$  are written in reverse order the numbers of the corresponding cycle are written in reverse order. For this reason if a cycle is obtained by writing the numbers of another cycle in the reverse order the cycles are considered to be the same.

3.9. Two polygons  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \dots A_r, B_1 B_2 \dots B_r, r \geq n + 3$ , both of which have less than  $n$  infinite sides are equivalent if and only if  $C(\pi_n) = C(\sigma_n)$ .

*Proof.* If  $\pi_n \sim \sigma_n$  then, by 3.7,  $C(\pi_n) = C(\sigma_n)$ .

If  $C(\pi_n) = C(\sigma_n)$  then the subscripts of  $\pi_n: A_1 A_2 \dots A_r, \sigma_n: B_1 B_2 \dots B_r$  can be adjusted so that  $A_i A_{i+1}$  is finite if and only if  $B_i B_{i+1}$  is finite,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . It follows, then, from 2.8 that a hyperplane  $[A_{i_1}, A_{i_2}, \dots, A_{i_n}]$  supports  $H(\pi_n)$  if and only if  $[B_{i_1}, B_{i_2}, \dots, B_{i_n}]$  supports  $H(\sigma_n)$ . Therefore  $A_i \rightarrow B_i$  is an equivalence mapping for  $\pi_n$  and  $\sigma_n$ . Thus the result is proved.

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