In-Class Exercise: Extra Credit

Given vertex v in a cell complex of a 2-manifold, the *link* of v is defined to be the edges that bound the faces that are incident to v, excluding the edges that are incident to v itself. Present a procedure (in pseudocode) that, given a vertex v of a DCEL, returns a list L consisting of the half edges of v's link ordered counterclockwise about v. For example, in the figure below, a possible output would be $\langle e_1, \ldots, e_{11} \rangle$. (Any cyclic permutation would be correct.)



Solution:

The solution provided below is very short, but a bit tricky. We start with any edge e that is directed out of v. We start following edges around the face lying to e's left side, adding each to the link. (In the above figure, this will add e_1 through e_4 to the list, and the next edge visited will be directed into v.) When we return to v (that is, when the destination of the edge is v) we make a U-turn by setting e to its twin, and resume from there. (In the figure above, the next edge to be visited will be e_5 .)

```
link(Vertex v) {
  L = new empty-list
  e = e0 = v.incident; // any edge coming out of v
  do {
    e = e.next; // next edge about e's left face
    if (e.dest == v) // returning to v?
        e = e.twin;
    else
        add e to L; // e is an edge of the link
  } while (e != e0);
}
```

