

H2PACE - Solving the One-Sided Crossing Minimization Problem Parameterized by Cutwidth

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Abstract

We describe ‘H2PACE’, a solver for the one-sided crossing minimization problem, when a low-cutwidth linear arrangement is given with the graph. This solver was developed as part of the PACE challenge 2024 - parameterized track. The solver is based on a dynamic programming scheme over the given linear arrangement, and admits FPT running time with single-exponential dependence on the cutwidth of the given linear arrangement. The solver is implemented in C++ and meets the requirements presented by PACE challenge. The solver was submitted on optil.io under the username ‘narekb95’ and is available on github at <https://github.com/narekb95/ocr-ctw>

2012 ACM Subject Classification Theory of computation → Fixed parameter tractability

Keywords and phrases PACE Challenge, Cutwidth

Digital Object Identifier 10.4230/LIPIcs.CVIT.2016.23

Acknowledgements I would like to thank Sophia Heck for a very helpful discussion about this problem.

1 Preliminaries

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we denote by $[n]$ the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$. A *Permutation* π of a set S is a bijective mapping from S to $[|S|]$. For $i \in [S]$ we denote by π_i the element $\pi^{-1}(i)$ of S . Each permutation π of a set corresponds (bijectively) to a linear ordering \leq_π , where for $u, v \in S$ it holds that $u \leq_\pi v$ if $\pi(u) \leq \pi(v)$. We will use these two terms interchangeably. In particular, we will call π an ordering, when we mean the ordering \leq_π underlying the permutation π .

Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and a vertex v of G , we denote by $N_G(v)$ the neighborhood of v in G . We define $N_G[v] = N_G(v) \cup \{v\}$ as the closed neighborhood of v in G . We omit the subscript G when the graph is clear from the context.

A two-layered drawing of a bipartite graph $G = (A, B, E)$ is a drawing that maps its vertices into two different horizontal lines, such that the vertices of U are mapped to one line, and the vertices of W are mapped to the other. Edges are drawn as straight-line segments between the points corresponding to their endpoints. A two-layered drawing is given as a mapping $\mu: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$. Implicitly, μ maps each edge $\{u, v\} \in E$ to the line segment between $\mu(u)$ and $\mu(v)$.

Let $X \in \{U, W\}$. Given an ordering π over X , a two-layered drawing μ of G respects π , if the order of the images of the vertices of X on the underlying horizontal line matches the order of the vertices of X themselves given by π , i.e. for $u, v \in X$, and for $\mu(u) = (x_u, y_0)$, and $\mu(v) = (x_v, y_0)$, it holds that $x_u \leq x_v$ if and only if $u \leq_\pi v$.

In a two-layered drawing μ , and for two edges $e_1, e_2 \in E$, we say that e_1 and e_2 cross in μ , if $\mu(e_1)$ and $\mu(e_2)$ intersect in a point that is not an endpoint of either line segment. The *number of crossings* of μ is the number of unordered pairs of edges $\{e_1, e_2\} \in \binom{E}{2}$ such that e_1 and e_2 cross in μ . The following observations are Folklore. We refer to [2] for further details.

► **Lemma 1.** *Given a bipartite graph $G = (U, W, E)$, together with two orderings π_1, π_2 over U and W respectively, the number of crossings of any two-layered drawing of G that respects*



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Editors: John Q. Open and Joan R. Access; Article No. 23; pp. 23:1–23:4

Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics



LIPICs Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, Dagstuhl Publishing, Germany

π_1 and π_2 is invariant of the drawing itself, and is determined solely by π_1 and π_2 . We call the number of crossings of any such drawing as the crossing number of (π_1, π_2) .

► **Definition 2.** The one-sided crossing minimization problem is defined as follows: Given a bipartite graph $G = (U, W, E)$ together with a fixed ordering π_1 over U , asked is a permutation π_2 over W that minimizes the crossing number of (π_1, π_2) .

A linear arrangement of a graph $G = (V, E)$ is linear ordering $\ell = v_1, \dots, v_n$ over V . Let $V_i = \{v_1, \dots, v_i\}$. For $v_i \in V$, we define the cut of ℓ at v_i as the set of edges having one endpoint in V_i and the other in $V \setminus V_i$, and call it the i th cut of ℓ . The cutwidth of a linear arrangement ℓ is the largest size of a cut of ℓ . For δ the largest degree of a graph, it holds that the cutwidth of any linear arrangement of this graph is at least $\lceil \delta/2 \rceil$. The cut-graph $H_i = (L_i, R_i, E_i)$ is given by the edges of the i th cut together with their endpoints, where $L_i \subseteq V_i$ are the endpoints in V_i , and $R_i \subseteq V \setminus V_i$ are the other endpoints.

2 The algorithm

We introduce some notation for our algorithm. Along this work, we assume $G = (U, W, E)$ is the input graph, and ℓ a linear arrangement of G . Let k be the largest size of a cut of ℓ . Let $n = |V|$ and $m = |E|$. Let π_1 be the given fixed ordering over U , and π_2 be the asked ordering. Finally, for two different vertices $v_1, v_2 \in W$, we define $c(v_1, v_2)$ as

$$c(v_1, v_2) = |\{(w_2, w_1) \in N(v_2) \times N(v_1) : w_2 <_{\pi_1} w_1\}|.$$

Intuitively, $c(v_1, v_2)$ is the number of pairs of edges e_1, e_2 having endpoints in v_1 and v_2 , that cross when we fix $\pi_2(v_1) < \pi_2(v_2)$. The following observation follows by a counting argument.

► **Observation 3.** It holds that $c(v_1, v_2) + c(v_2, v_1) + |N(v_1) \cap N(v_2)| = |N(v_1)| \cdot |N(v_2)|$.

For two disjoint sets of vertices $X, X' \subseteq W$, we define $c(X, X') = \sum_{(v_1, v_2) \in X \times X'} c(v_1, v_2)$. Moreover, for a set $X \subseteq W$ we define $c(X)$ as the minimum crossing number of (π_1, π') in $G[V_1, X]$ over all orderings π' of X .

► **Algorithm 1.** We provide a subroutine to compute $c(X)$ for a small set X in time $2^{|X|} \text{poly}(|X| + k)$. The algorithm follows a similar approach to the well-known dynamic programming algorithm for the HAMILTONIAN CYCLE problem given by Held and Karp [3] and independently by Bellman [1]. The subroutine iterates over all subsets of X in an increasing order (given by the subset relation), and computes an optimal ordering induced by each subset using the recursive formula

$$c(X) = \min\{c(X \setminus \{v\}) + c(X \setminus \{v\}, v) : v \in X\}.$$

We call a pair of vertices $v_1, v_2 \in W$ suited, if $c(v_1, v_2) \cdot c(v_2, v_1) = 0$. Our algorithm is based on the following lemma:

► **Lemma 4** ([2, Fact 5]). Let $u, v \in W$ be two suited vertices. In any optimal solution π_2 , it holds that if $u \leq_{\pi_2} v$ then $c(u, v) = 0$.

Our algorithm follows a dynamic programming approach over the cuts of the linear arrangement ℓ . For $i \in [n]$, we define $W_i = V_i \cap W$, $A_i = W_i \setminus L_i$. Let $S_i = W \cap V(H_i)$ be the set of vertices of W that are incident to edges of the i th cut. The dynamic programming tables are

indexed by subsets of S_i . Formally, for $i \in [n]$ let $\mathcal{S}_i = \mathcal{P}(S_i)$ the power-set of S_i . we define the dynamic programming tables as vectors $T_i \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathcal{S}_i}$, where for $X \subseteq S_i$ it holds that:

$$T_i[X] = c(A_i \cup X) + c(A_i, V \setminus (A_i \cup X)). \quad (1)$$

Intuitively, for each subset $X \subseteq S_i$ we fix $A_i \cup X$ as a prefix of the final ordering and count the optimal number of crossings in an optimal ordering of $A_i \cup X$ plus the number of crossings between A_i and the rest of S_i . It follows by Lemma 4 that the vertices of A_i precede any vertex of $W \setminus (A_i \cup S_i)$ in an optimal ordering.

At each cut i our algorithm proceeds as follows: Let $S'_i = S_{i-1} \cup S_i$, and $F_i = S_{i-1} \setminus S_i$. We call F_i the set of forget vertices at the i th cut. The algorithm first computes both S' and F . Then for each set X with $F_i \subseteq X \subseteq S'_i$, i.e. X is a subset of S'_i and a super set of F_i , let $X' = X \setminus F_i$. The algorithm computes $T_i[X']$ as follows:

$$T_i[X'] = \min_{Y \subseteq X} T_{i-1}(Y) + c(X \setminus Y) + c(Y, X \setminus Y) + c(F, S_i \setminus X'). \quad (2)$$

Intuitively, the algorithm fixes an ordering with $A_{i-1} \cup Y$ as a prefix, and append $X \setminus Y$ to this prefix (using the best ordering for $X \setminus Y$ given by Algorithm 1). The summands count the following crossings:

1. The number of crossings induced by $A_{i-1} \cup Y$ and the crossings between A_{i-1} and $V \setminus A_i$.
2. The number of crossings induced by $X \setminus Y$.
3. The number of crossings introduced by appending Y to the prefix ordering.
4. The number of edges between F and $V \setminus (A_{i-1} \cup X)$, since $F = A_i \setminus A_{i-1}$.

3 Implementation details

Our solver starts by removing isolated vertices from the graph, building a new graph G' . This ensures that each vertex has at least one neighbor. The solver sorts the adjacencies of each vertex by their order on the linear arrangement ℓ and assigns a range to each vertex, given by the first and the last index (in the linear arrangement) of a neighbor of this vertex. This allows to compute crossing numbers between two vertices in polynomial time in k . After computing an optimal solution, the solver assigns to each vertex its original id, and appends isolated vertices in an arbitrary order.

We use bit-masks to represent sets. To enumerate all supersets of F that are subsets of S' with constant preprocessing and constant delay, we compute $S'_i \setminus F_i$, iterate over all its subsets X' and compute $X = X' \cup F$ as the sets we are looking for.

In order to output the ordering, for each subset $X \subset S_i$ we keep track of the optimal suffix $X \setminus Y$ appended to $A_i \cup Y$. We use backtracking to generate each suffix in reverse order, and call Algorithm 1 to output an optimal ordering for this suffix.

4 Sketch of Correctness

The correctness follows from Lemma 4. By induction over the linear arrangement, one can show that the recursive formula for T_i (Equation (2)) computes the right value given in Equation (1).

Since each edge has at most one endpoint in W , it holds that $|S_i| \leq k$. The running time of the algorithm can be bounded by

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{S \subseteq S_i} \sum_{X \subseteq S} \text{poly}(k) = n3^k \text{poly}(k).$$

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