How to Draw a Graph, Revisited

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This talk

- 1. Review
 - a) Graphs
 - b) Planar graphs
- 2. How to draw a planar graph?
 - a) Before Tutte: 1920s 1950s
 - b) Tutte: 1960s
 - c) After Tutte: 1970s 1990s
 - d) Recent work: since 2000

1. Review (b) graphs

A graph consists of

- Nodes, and
- Binary relationships called "edges" between the nodes

Example: a "Linked-In" style social network

Nodes:

• Alice, Andrea, Annie, Amelia, Bob, Brian, Bernard, Boyle

Edges

- Bob is connected to Alice
- Bob is connected to Andrea
- Bob is connected to Amelia
- Brian is connected to Alice
- Brian is connected to Andrea
- Brian is connected to Amelia

- Boyle is connected to Alice
- Boyle is connected to Andrea
- Boyle is connected to Annie
- Bernard is connected to Alice
- Bernard is connected to Andrea
- Bernard is connected to Annie

Drawings of graphs

A graph consists of

- Nodes, and
- Binary relationships called "edges" between the nodes

A graph drawing is a picture of a graph

- That is, a graph drawing a mapping that assigns a location for each node, and a curve to each edge.
- That is, if G=(V,E) is a graph with node set V and edge set E, then a drawing p(G) consists of two mappings:

 $p_V: V \rightarrow R^2$

 $p_E: E \rightarrow C^2$

where R^2 is the plane and C^2 is the set of open Jordan curves in R^2





A drawing of the



A graph

A graph drawing is a <u>straight-line drawing</u> if every edge is a straight line segment.





Connectivity of graphs

Connectivity notions are fundamental in any study of graphs or networks

- A graph is <u>connected</u> if for every pair u, v of vertices, there is a path between u and v.
- A graph is <u>k-connected</u> if there is no set of (k-1) vertices whose deletion disconnects the graph.
 - \succ k = 1: "1-connected" \equiv "connected"
 - k = 2: "2-connected" ≡ "*biconnected*"
 - k = 3: "3-connected" ≡ "<u>triconnected</u>"



Connectivity notions are fundamental in any study of networks

- A graph is *connected* if for every pair u, v of vertices, there is a path between u and v.
- A graph is <u>*k-connected*</u> if there is no set of (k-1) vertices whose deletion disconnects the graph.
 - \succ k = 1: "1-connected" \equiv "connected"
 - k = 2: "2-connected" ≡ "*biconnected*"
 - k = 3: "3-connected" ≡ "<u>triconnected</u>"

"2-connected" ≡ "*biconnected*"

- A <u>cutvertex</u> is a vertex whose removal would disconnect the graph.
- A graph without cutvertices is *biconnected*.





This graph is <u>not</u> biconnected

"3-connected" ≡ "*triconnected*"

- A <u>separation pair</u> is a pair of vertices whose removal would disconnect the graph.
- A graph without separation pairs is *triconnected*.



This graph is triconnected



1. (b) Review of Planar graphs

A graph is *planar* if it can be drawn without edge crossings.



A graph is *planar* if it can be drawn without edge crossings.





A graph is *planar* if it can be drawn without edge crossings.





A graph is <u>non-planar</u> if <u>every</u> drawing has at least one edge crossing.





There is a lot of theory about planar graphs

A planar drawing divides the plane into *faces*.

 F_0 shares a boundary with F_1 F_0 shares a boundary with F_2 F_0 shares a boundary with F_3 F_0 shares a boundary with F_4 F_1 shares a boundary with F_2 F_1 shares a boundary with F_4 F_2 shares a boundary with F_1 F_2 shares a boundary with F_3 F_2 shares a boundary with F_4 F_3 shares a boundary with F_4

The boundary-sharing relationships of the faces defines a *topological embedding* of the graph drawing





<u>Corollary</u> *m* ≤ 3*n*-6



<u>Corollary</u> If m = 3n-6 then every face is a triangle

 $\frac{Kuratowski's \ Theorem \ (1930)}{A \ graph \ is \ planar \ if \ and \ only \ if \ it \ does \ not \ contain \ a \ subgraph \ that \ is \ a \ subdivision \ of \ K_5 \ or \ K_{3,3} \ .$

Forbidden subgraphs



Maximal planar graph

 Given a graph G, we can add edges one by one until the graph becomes a <u>maximal planar</u> graph G*.

Easy Theorems:

- In a maximal planar graph, no edge can be added without making a crossing
- A maximal planar graph is a <u>triangulation</u> (every face is a triangle)
- In a maximal planar graph, m=3n-6.
- A maximal planar graph is triiconnected

Steinitz Theorem (1922)

Every triconnected planar graph is the skeleton of a convex polyhedron



Whitney's Theorem (1933)

There is only one topological embedding of a triconnected planar graph (on the sphere).



2. How to draw a planar graph

The classical graph drawing problem:

- How to draw a graph?



The output is a drawing of the graph; the drawing should be <u>easy to understand</u>, <u>easy to remember</u>, <u>beautiful</u>.



Question: What makes a *good* drawing of a graph?

Answer. Many things, including

Iack of edge crossings (planar drawings are good!)

straightness of edges (straight-line drawings are good)



~1979 Intuition (Sugiyama et al.):

Planar straight-line drawings make good pictures

<u>1997+: Science confirms the intuition</u>

Human experiments by Purchase and others



- H.C.Purchase, R.F.Cohen and M.I.James
- (1) How long is the shortest path between two given nodes?
- (2) What is the minimum number of nodes that must be removed in order to disconnect two given nodes such that there is no path between them?
- (3) What is the minimum number of arcs that must be removed in order to disconnect two given nodes such that there is no path between them?






Fig. 3. Results for the dense graph

Purchase et al., 1997:

Significant correlation between <u>edge crossings</u> and human understanding

> More edge crossings means more human errors in understanding







Aesthetic Variation Fig. 3. Results for the dense graph Purchase et al., 1997: Significant correlation between <u>straightness of edges</u> and human understanding

More bends mean more human errors in understanding How to make a planar drawing of a planar graph?

How to make a planar drawing of a planar graph:

- 1. Get the topology right
- 2. Place the nodes and route the edges



Straight-line drawings

Each edge is a straight line segment

This talk is about planar straightline drawings

Important note: a straight-line drawing of a graph G=(V,E) can be specified with a mapping p: V → R² that gives a position p(u) in R² for each vertex u in V.





2. How to draw a planar graph?a) Before Tutte: 1920s – 1950s

Fáry's Theorem Every topological embedding of a planar graph has a straight-line planar drawing.

Proved independently by Wagner (1936), Fary (1948) and Stein (1951)

Wikipedia proof of Fáry's Theorem

First note that it is enough to prove it for triangulations.



- We prove Fáry's theorem by induction on the number of vertices.
- If G has only three vertices, then it is easy to create a planar straight-line drawing.
- Suppose G has n>3 vertices and 3n-6 edges, and that the outer face of G is the triangle <abc>.
- Since every vertex has degree at least 3, one can show that there is a vertex *u* not on the outside face with degree at most 5.
- Delete *u* from G to form G'; this gives a face F of G of size at most 5.
 Since G' has n-1 vertices, by induction it has a planar straight-line drawing p'.
 Since F has at most 5 vertices, it is starshaped, and we can place the vertex u in the kernel of F to give a planar straight-line drawing p of G



2. How to draw a planar graph?
a) Before Tutte: 1920s – 1950s
b) Tutte
W. Tutte, How to Draw a Graph, Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society 13, pp743 – 767, 1960

Input:

• A graph G = (V,E)

Output

• A straight-line drawing p

Step 1. Choose a subset A of V Step 2. Choose p location $p(a) = (x_a, y_a)$ for each vertex $a \in A$ Step 3. For all $u \in V-A$, $p(u) = (\sum p(v)) / deg(u)$, where the sum is over c neighbors v of u

> This is two sets of equations, one for x coordinates and one for y coordinates

- 1. Choose a set A of vertices.
- 2. Choose a location p(a) for each $a \in A$
- 3. For each vertex $u \in V-A$, place u at the barycentre of its graph- theoretic neighbors.



Example

Step 1. A = $\{4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$ Step 2. For all i = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, choose x_i and y_i in some way. Step 3. Find x₁, y₁, x₂, y₂, x₃, and y₃ such that:

$$x_{1} = \frac{1}{4} \left(x_{2} + x_{3} + x_{4}^{*} + x_{8}^{*} \right)$$
$$x_{2} = \frac{1}{4} \left(x_{1} + x_{3} + x_{5}^{*} + x_{6}^{*} \right)$$
$$x_{3} = \frac{1}{3} \left(x_{1} + x_{2} + x_{7}^{*} \right)$$

and

$$y_{1} = \frac{1}{4} (y_{2} + y_{3} + y_{4}^{*} + x_{8}^{*})$$
$$y_{2} = \frac{1}{4} (y_{1} + y_{3} + y_{5}^{*} + y_{6}^{*})$$
$$y_{3} = \frac{1}{3} (y_{1} + y_{2} + y_{7}^{*})$$



Step 1. A = $\{4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$ Step 2. For all i = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, choose x_i and y_i in some way. Step 3. Find x_1 , y_1 , x_2 , y_2 , x_3 , and y_3 such that:

$$x_{1} = \frac{1}{4} \left(x_{2} + x_{3} + x_{4}^{*} + x_{8}^{*} \right)$$
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and

$$y_{1} = \frac{1}{4} \left(y_{2} + y_{3} + y_{4}^{*} + x_{8}^{*} \right)$$
$$y_{2} = \frac{1}{4} \left(y_{1} + y_{3} + y_{5}^{*} + y_{6}^{*} \right)$$
$$y_{3} = \frac{1}{3} \left(y_{1} + y_{2} + y_{7}^{*} \right)$$

$$4y_{1} - y_{2} - y_{3} = y_{4}^{*} + x_{8}^{*} = d_{1}$$

- $y_{1} + 4y_{2} - y_{3} = y_{5}^{*} + y_{6}^{*} = d_{2}$
 $y_{1} + y_{2} + 3y_{3} = y_{5}^{*} = d_{3}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 4 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ d_3 \end{pmatrix}$$



- The essence of the algorithm is in inverting the matrix M
 - Can be done in time O(n³)
 - This is a special matrix: Laplacian submatrix.
 - Many software packages can solve such equations efficiently,



$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 4 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ d_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 4 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example output on a non-planar graph



 Example output on a <u>planar</u> graph



Tutte's barycenter algorithm for triconnected planar graphs

Tutte's barycenter algorithm <u>for</u> <u>triconnected planar graphs</u>

- 1. Choose A to be the outside face of the graph.
- 2. Choose the location p(a) for each $a \in A$ to be at the vertices of a convex polygon.
- 3. For each vertex $u \in V-A$, place u at the barycentre of its graph-theoretic neighbors.



Note: For planar graphs, the Laplacian matrix is sparse, and can be inverted fast.

Tutte's **amazing** theorems (1960)

If the input graph is planar and triconnected, then the drawing output by the barycentre algorithm is planar, and every face is convex. The *energy* view of Tutte's barycentre algorithm

Tutte's barycenter algorithm: <u>The energy view</u>

- 1. Choose a set A of vertices.
- 2. Choose a location p(a) for each $a \in A$
- 3. Place all the other vertices to minimize *energy*.



What is the *energy* of a drawing p?

 For each edge e = (u,v), denote the distance between u and v in the drawing p by d(u,v), ie,

 $d(u,v) = ((x_u - x_v)^2 + (y_u - y_v)^2)^{0.5}$

- The <u>energy in the edge e is $d(u,v)^2 = (x_u x_v)^2 + (y_u y_v)^2$ </u>
- The <u>energy in the drawing p</u> is the sum of the energy in its edges, ie, $\Sigma d(u,v)^2 = \Sigma (x_u - x_v)^2 + (y_u - y_v)^2$ where the sum is over all edges (u,v).

Tutte's barycenter algorithm: <u>The energy view</u>

- 1. Represent each vertex by a steel ring, and represent each edge by a spring of natural length zero connecting the rings at its endpoints.
- 2. Choose a set A of vertices.
- 3. For each $a \in A$, nail the ring representing a to the floor at some position.
- 4. The vertices in V-A will move around a bit,When the movement stops, take a photo of the layout; this is the drawing.





How to minimize energy:

- We need to choose a location (x(u),y(u)) for each u in V-A to minimize Σ (x_u x_v)² + (y_u-y_v)²
- Note that the minimum is unique, and occurs when the partial derivative wrt x_u and y_u is zero for each u in V-A.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_{u}} \left(\sum_{(u,v)} (x_{u} - x_{v})^{2} + (y_{u} - y_{v})^{2} \right) = \sum_{(u,v)} 2(x_{u} - x_{v}) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$x_{u} = \left(\sum_{(u,v)} x_{v} \right) / \deg(u)$$
Barycentre equations

How good is Tutte's barycentre algorithm?

Efficiency:

> In theory it is not bad: $O(n^{1.5})$ for planar graphs

> In practice it is fast, using numerical methods for Laplacians

Elegance:

- Very simple algorithm
- Easy to implement
- > Numerical software available for the hard parts

Effectiveness:

- Planar graphs drawn planar
- Straight-line edges

But unfortunately →

But unfortunately:

Tutte's algorithm gives <u>poor vertex resolution</u> in many cases

Example:

Vertex 0 is at (0.5, 0), a is at (0,0), b is at (1,0). For j>0, vertex j is at (x_j,y_j) .

From the barycentre equations: $y_j = (y_{j-1} + y_{j+1}) / 4.$

Also:

$$y_j > y_{j-1} > y_{j-2} > \dots$$

Thus $y_j < y_j - 1 / 2$

Thus $0 < y_j < 2^{-j}$



Aside: Commercial graph drawing software needs good resolution. How good is Tutte's barycentre algorithm?

Efficiency: ≻OK

Elegance: ≻ Excellent

Effectiveness:

➢ So-so

2. How to draw a planar graph?
a) Before Tutte: 1920s – 1950s
b) Tutte: 1960s
c) After Tutte: 1970s – 1990s

<u>After Tutte: 1970s – 1990s</u>

Sometime in the 1980s, the motivation for graph drawing changed from <u>Mathematical curiosity</u> to <u>visual data mining</u>.

Software

















Biology



Risk Exposure




From the 1980s, industrial demand for graph drawing algorithms has grown

- Software engineering: CASE systems, reverse engineering
- Biology: PPI networks, gene regulatory networks
- Physical networks: network management tools
- Security: risk management, money movements, social network analysis
- Customer relationship management: value identification

Many companies buy graph drawing algorithms, many code them.

Currently the international market for graph drawing algorithms is in the hundreds of millions of dollars per year.



R.C. Read (1979, 1980)

- 1. Efficient?
 - Yes, linear time algorithm
- 2. Elegant?
 - > Yes, follows proof of Fáry's theorem
- 3. Effective?
 - Maybe ...
 - Straight-line planar drawings of planar graphs
 - But, unfortunately, output has poor vertex resolution

<u> Chiba-Nishizeki-Yamanouchi (1984)</u>

- 1. Efficienct?
 - Yes, linear time algorithm
- 2. Elegant?
 - Yes, a simple divide&conquer approach
- 3. Effective?
 - Maybe ...
 - Straight-line planar drawings of planar graphs
 - Convex faces for well connected input
 - But, unfortunately, output has poor vertex resolution

Breakthrough in 1989:

<u>de Fraysseix-Pach-Pollack Theorem (1989)</u> Every planar graph has a planar straight-line <u>grid</u> (that is, vertices are at integer grid points) drawing on a 2n X 4n grid.

Notes:

- This gives a minimum distance of screensize/4n between vertices, that is, good resolution.
- Chrobak gave a linear-time algorithm to implement this theorem.

The deFraysseix-Pach-Pollack Theorem gave much hope for planarity-based methods, and many refinements appeared 1990 – 2000.

de Fraysseix-Pach-Pollack-Chrobak Algorithm

- 1. Add dummy edges to make the graph into a triangulation
- 2. Construct an ordering $u_1, u_2, ..., u_n$ of the vertices , called the *canonical ordering*.
- 3. Draw the graph, adding one vertex at a time, in order u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_n

Wikipedia proof of Fáry's Theorem

Step 1: Add dummy edges to make the graph into a triangulation



Step 2: Construct an ordering $u_1, u_2, ..., u_n$ of the vertices , called the *canonical ordering*.

- A canonical ordering is an ordering $u_1, u_2, ..., u_n$ of the vertices of a triangulation having the property that, for each k, 3 <= k < n, the graph G_k induced by $u_1, u_2, ..., u_k$ has the following properties
 - G_k is biconnected
 - G_k contains the edge (u_1, u_2) on its outer face,
 - Any vertices in G_k adjacent to u_{k+1} are on the outer face of G_k
 - The vertices in G_k adjacent to u_{k+1} form a path along the outer face of G_k



Step 3: Draw the graph, adding one vertex at a time in order $u_1, u_2, ..., u_n$

- a) Start with the edge (u_1, u_2) at y=0
- b) For each k>1:
 - add u_{k+1} on y=k
 - Choose x coordinate of u_{k+1} so that there are no edge crossings.



Some details of deFraysseix-Pach-Pollack-Chrobak algorithm are needed to show

- It runs in linear time
- It is possible to avoid edge crossings
- Each vertex lies on an integer grid of size at most 4nX2n

The deFraysseix-Pach-Pollack-Chrobak algorithm

Efficiency: ≻ Yes, linear time

Elegance:

> Not bad; can be coded by a student in a week or so.

Effectiveness:

Looks good

- Straight-line edges
- No edge crossings
- Good vertex resolution

The deFraysseix-Pach-Pollack-Crobak algorithm gave much hope for planarity-based methods, and many refinements appeared 1990 – 2000.

But, unfortunately, we found that the first step (increasing connectivity by triangulation) gives some problems.





1. Add dummy edges to triangulate



Planarity based methods



3. Delete the dummy edges



Note: the resulting drawing is ugly.



A better drawing



Current state-of-the-art for planarity based methods:

- There are many small improvements to the deFraysseix-Pach-Pollack-Chrobak algorithm.
- But none have overcome all the connectivity augmentation problem.
- <u>Almost no planarity based methods</u> have been adopted in commercial software ...
- Despite the fact that planarity is the single most important aesthetic criterion.



Energy/force methods after Tutte

To improve Tutte's barycentre algorithm, we need to prevent vertices from becoming very close together.

This can be done with forces:-

- 1. Use springs of nonzero natural length
- 2. Use an inverse square law repulsive force between nonadjacent vertices.













Force exerted by a vertex v on a vertex u:

If u and v are adjacent: $f_{spring}(u,v) = k_{uv} |d(u,v) - q_{uv}|$ where

- k_{uv} is constant, it is the *strength* of the spring between u and v
- d(u,v) is the Euclidean distance between u and v
- q_{uv} is constant, it is the *natural length* of the u-v spring

If u and v are not adjacent:

 $f_{nonajac}(u,v) = r_{uv} / d(u,v)^2$ where

• r_{uv} is constant, it is the *strength* of the repulsive force

Total force on a vertex u:

$$F(u) = \Sigma f_{spring}(u,v) + \Sigma f_{nonajac}(u,w)$$

where

- The first sum is over all vertices v adjacent to u
- The second sum is over all vertices w not adjacent to u

A minimum energy configuration satisfies

 $\mathsf{F}(\mathsf{u})=0$

for each vertex u.

This is a system of *nonlinear* equations.

Note

- 1. In general, the solution to this system of equations is not unique, that is, there are local minima that may not be global.
- 2. Many methods to solve this system of equations are available. Some methods are fast, some are slow, depending on the equations.

Force-based techniques can be constrained in various ways. The constants in the force definitions $f_{spring}(u,v) = k_{uv} |d(u,v) - q_{uv}|$ $f_{nonajac}(u,v) = r_{uv} / d(u,v)^2$

can be chosen to reflect the relationships in the domain.

For example

 If the edge between u and v is important, then we can choose k_{uv} to be large and q_{uv} to be small. *Nails* can be used to hold a node in place.



Force-based techniques can be constrained in various ways.

Magnetic fields and magnetized springs can be used to align nodes in various ways.



Attractive forces can be used to keep clusters together.



These constraints are very useful in customizing the general spring method to a specific domain.









Example:

Metro Maps

- Damian Merrick
- SeokHee Hong
- Hugo do Nascimento

The Metro Map Problem

- Existing metro maps, produced by professional graphic artists, are excellent examples of network visualization
- Can we produce good metro maps *automatically*?



H. Beck, 1931



© London Regional Transport














J. Hallinan



Keith Nesbitt

Scientific Question: Is there an **E**³ computer algorithm that can produce a layout of a metro map graph?

(E³ = Effective, Efficient, Elegant)

Force directed method

- 1. Define forces that map good layout to low energy
- 2. Use continuous optimization methods to find a minimal energy state

Force directed method

Optimisation goals

- Routes straight
- Routes horizontal/ vertical/ 45°.

Set of forces:

- Stations→steel rings
- Interconnections → springs
- Vertical/horizontal/45° magnetic field
- Futher forces to preserve input topology ____

Find a layout with minimum energy















O'REILLY°

2003 OPEN SOURCE ROUTE MAP

















The force directed method is a little bit <u>effective</u>, but not very effective.

It needs manual post-processing:

- This uses the time of a professional graphic artist
- Increases cost
- Increases time-to-market





The force directed method for metro maps is <u>not</u> computationally <u>efficient</u>.

We need better ways to solve the equations.

The performance of force directed methods on metro maps is typical .

For some data sets, force directed methods give reasonable drawings.



For some data sets, force directed methods do not give reasonable drawings.



How good are current force directed methods?

Efficiency:

- ➢ OK for small graphs
- Sometimes OK for larger graphs

Elegance:

- > Many simple methods, easy to implement
- Numerical software often available

Effectiveness:

- ➤ Very flexible
- \succ Straight-line edges \checkmark
- \succ Planar graphs are <u>not</u> drawn planar 🔀
- \succ Very poor untangling for large graphs 🔀

The state-of-the-art for force directed methods in practice:

- Many commercial force-directed tools graph drawing methods are available
 - IBM (ILOG)
 - TomSawyer Software
 - yWorks
- Much free software available
 - GEOMI
 - GraphVis
- Force-directed methods account for 60 80% of commercial and free graph drawing software

2. How to draw a planar graph?
a) Before Tutte: 1920s – 1950s
b) Tutte: 1960s
c) After Tutte: 1970s – 1990s
d) Recent work: since 2000

Recent work: since 2000

- Faster force-directed algorithms
- New metaphors in 2.5D
- New edge-crossing criteria: slightly non-planar graphs
New metaphors in 2.5D



New edge-crossing criteria:

Slightly non-planar graphs

Motivation

Tony Huang 2003⁺: Series of human experiments

- Eye tracking experiments to <u>suggest</u> and <u>refine</u> theories
- Controlled lab experiments to prove theories.



Eye-tracking: <u>suggestions:</u> Large angle crossings are OK: no effect on eye movements



Lab experiments: proof

 Suggestion was confirmed with traditional controlled human lab experiments Huang's thesis

If the crossing angles are large, then non-planar drawings are OK.

How can we draw graphs with large crossing angles?

Right Angle Crossing (RAC) Graphs

Right-Angle Crossing (RAC) graphs:

- Straight-line edges
- If two edges cross, then the crossing makes a right angle



Questions for slightly non-planar graphs:

➢ How dense can a RAC graph be?

Theorem (Liotta, Didimo, Eades, 2009)

Suppose that *G* is a RAC graph with *n* vertices and *m* edges. Then $m \leq 4n-10$. Questions for slightly non-planar graphs:

How dense can a RAC graph be?

> How can you compute a drawing of a RAC graph?

Theorem (Liotta, Eades)*

The following problem is NP-hard: Input: A graph **G** Question: Is there a straight-line RAC drawing of **G**?

*Independently proved by Argyriou, Bekos and Symvonis



Theorem (Liotta, Eades)*

The following problem is NP-hard: Input: A graph **G** Question: Is there a straight-line RAC drawing of **G**?

<u>Proof</u>

- Reduction from planar-3-sat.
- Draw the instance *H* of planar-3-sat as a template.
- Fill in details of the template *H* to form a graph *G* that has a RAC drawing if and only if *H* is satisfiable.

<u>Proof</u>

- Reduction from planar-3-sat
- Draw the instance *H* of planar-3-sat as a template
- Fill in details of the template *H* to form a graph *G* that has a RAC drawing if and only if *H* is satisfiable.
- Fairly generic proof strategy for NP-hardness for layout problems.



Instance *H* of planar 3-sat graph 1. Draw *H* as a visibility drawing



2. Enhance the drawing:

- "node boxes" for
 - clauses c1, c2, …
 - variables u1, u2, …



3. Transform to a 2-bend drawing

"pipes" to communicate between variables and clauses



4. Transform to a no-bend drawing
➤ extra nodes at bend points



5. Triangulate every face to make it impassable



External appearance of "node boxes", with "pipes" attached



External appearance of "node box", with pipes attached, showing some of the external triangulation



Variable gadget with pipes attached



Clause gadget with pipes attached







Each pipe goes to a clause in which *u* occurs



Literals are attached to the clauses in which they occur, using chains threaded through the pipes



Chains attached to the rear literal spend an extra link before getting into the pipe.

Suppose that *ū* occurs in *c*

- There is a pipe from the variable gadget for *u* to the clause gadget for *c*
- There is a chain through the pipe from *ū* to *c*



Logical view of clause gadget



The barrier allows

>Any number of brown links to pass through

>At most two red links to pass through

Thus at least one chain needs to be long enough to reach past the barrier

Suppose that *ū* occurs in *c*

If \bar{u} is true, then the chain is long enough so that it does not need a red link to pass through the barrier



Suppose that *ū* occurs in *c*

ū

Π

If \bar{u} is false, then the chain shorter, so that it needs a red link to pass through the barrier







ū

U

<u>Notes</u>

- This is a fairly generic proof strategy for NP-hardness for layout problems.
- Details of clause and variable gadgets are straightforward but tedious
- The same proof works for 1-planar graphs: just choose different gadgets for clauses and variables.

Questions for slightly non-planar graphs:

How can you compute a drawing of a RAC graph?

More generally,

How can we draw a graph with large crossing angles?

Answers

- There are some force directed heuristics that use forces to enlarge angles
- There are some special algorithms for some special classes of graphs

However, other than the NP-hardness result, the problem remains mostly open from both practical and theoretical points of view.



Given a graph drawing, what is the smallest crossing angle?





