# Ordering Metro Lines by Block Crossings 

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## Metro Maps - Vienna



## Metro Maps - Paris



## Metro Maps - Metro Lines



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- Previous work, e.g. [Nöllenburg and Wolff, 2011]


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- Focus on drawing underlying graph


## Metro Line Crossing Minimization

Insert all lines $L$ into embedded graph $G=(V, E)$ such that $\ldots$

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NP-hard [Bekos et al., 2007] \& [Fink, Pupyrev, 2013]

## Path Terminal Property

- Line terminals are leaves of the graph.


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- Follow two lines:

- Crossing Minimization: Solvable in linear time [Pupyrev et al., 2012]

O additional restriction: two lines intersect in a path

## New Model: Block Crossings



4 single crossings

## New Model: Block Crossings



4 single crossings


1 block crossing

## New Model: Block Crossings



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1 block crossing

## New Model: Block Crossings



4 single crossings

12 single crossings



1 block crossing

## New Model: Block Crossings



4 single crossings

12 single crossings



1 block crossing


3 block crossings

## Block Crossing Minimization

New problem variants:

- BCM: Minimize the number of block crossings


## Block Crossing Minimization

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- BCM: Minimize the number of block crossings
- MBCM: Minimize the number of monotone block crossings


## Block Crossing Minimization

New problem variants:

- BCM: Minimize the number of block crossings
- MBCM: Minimize the number of monotone block crossings
no double crossings!



## Single Edge

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Single Edge


Single Edge


Single Edge


- Equivalent to Sorting by Transpositions for permutations

Single Edge


- Equivalent to Sorting by Transpositions for permutations
- NP-hard
[Bulteau et al., 2012]

Single Edge


- Equivalent to Sorting by Transpositions for permutations
- NP-hard
- simple 3-approximation
[Bulteau et al., 2012]
[Bafna, Pevzner, 1998]

Single Edge - 3-approximation


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Single Edge - 3-approximation

$|L|+1$ good pairs

## Single Edge - 3-approximation


no good pair
$|L|+1$ good pairs
for simple permutation

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## Single Edge - 3-approximation


no good pair for simple permutation $\leq|L|-1$ crossings
$|L|+1$ good pairs

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## Single Edge - 3-approximation


no good pair
for simple permutation

$\leq|L|-1$ crossings
$|L|+1$ good pairs

$\leq 3$ good pairs can be created per crossing

## Single Edge - 3-approximation


no good pair for simple permutation $\leq|L|-1$ crossings

solution uses monotone block crossings!
$\leq 3$ good pairs can be created per crossing

Path


Path


Path


Path


Path


Path


Path


- Redefine good pairs:

Path


- Redefine good pairs:
- lines end together


Path


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- lines end together
- inheritance


Path


- Redefine good pairs:
- lines end together
- inheritance

$a_{1}$
$b$ $\leq 3$ good pairs
created per crossing

Path - 3-approximation


- treat edges from left to right


## Path - 3-approximation



- treat edges from left to right


## Path - 3-approximation



- treat edges from left to right
- identify good pairs


## Path - 3-approximation



- treat edges from left to right


## Path - 3-approximation



- treat edges from left to right


## Path - 3-approximation



- treat edges from left to right


## Path - 3-approximation



- treat edges from left to right
- bring ending lines to top/bottom keeping good pairs together


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- treat edges from left to right
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- create 1 good pair per block crossing crossing


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- optimum creates up to 3
$\rightarrow$ 3-approximation




## Path - 3-approximation



- treat edges from left to right
- bring ending lines to top/bottom keeping good pairs together
- create 1 good pair per block crossing crossing
- optimum creates up to 3

3-approximation

- algorithm can be adjusted for monotone block crossings

Path - 3-approximation

- adjust inheritance of good pairs:

- algorithm can be adjusted for monotone block crossings


## Path - 3-approximation

O adjust inheritance of good pairs:


O algorithm can be adjusted for monotone block crossings

## Trees - an upper bound

- root at some leave


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- after treating edge recursively order subtrees


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$0 \leq 2$ crossings per line



## Trees - an upper bound

- root at some leave
- after treating edge recursively order subtrees
- insert lines between subtrees
$0 \leq 2$ crossings per line
- right insertion order needed for:
- avoiding vertex crossings - avoiding double crossings


## Trees - an upper bound

- root at some leave
- after treating edge recursively order subtrees

| - in $\begin{array}{l}\text { worst-case instance } \\ 2\|L\|-3 \text { crossings } \\ \text { su } \\ \text { necessary }\end{array}$ |
| :--- |

$0 \leq 2$ crossings per line

- right insertion order needed for:
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Upward Trees


## Upward Trees

- simplification
- use tree algorithm
- 6-approximation for monotone block crossings



## General Graphs

- Process edges in arbitrary order


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- Completely sort lines on an edge


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$\longrightarrow$ will never cross (again)


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- Process edges in arbitrary order
- Completely sort lines on an edge

- lines $I, I^{\prime}$ seen together on edge
$\longrightarrow$ will never cross (again)
- lines $I, I^{\prime}$ seen together for the first time
$\longrightarrow$ information gain


## General Graphs - Sorting an Edge



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- follow lines


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## General Graphs - Sorting an Edge



- follow lines
- find cut edges
- identify groups of lines


## General Graphs - Sorting an Edge



- follow lines
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O group stays parallel

## General Graphs - Sorting an Edge



- follow lines
- find cut edges
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O group stays parallel

- consider pairs of groups


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- consider pairs of groups
- merge lines if possible


## General Graphs - Sorting an Edge



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- find cut edges
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O merge lines if possible

- sort by insertion into largest group


## General Graphs - Sorting an Edge



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O merge lines if possible

- sort by insertion into largest group
- undo merging


## General Graphs - Analysis



- finally: all edges ordered


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- pairs of lines cross at most once
$\downarrow$
monotone block crossings


## General Graphs - Analysis



- finally: all edges ordered
- pairs of lines cross at most once

- $(\mathrm{bc}(e))^{2} \leq I(e)$
$<$ information gain
block crossings on edge
monotone block crossings


## General Graphs - Analysis



- finally: all edges ordered
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,
monotone block crossings
- $(\mathrm{bc}(e))^{2} \leq I(e)$
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- $\sum_{e \in E}(\mathrm{bc}(e))^{2} \leq|L|^{2}$


## General Graphs - Analysis



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- $(\mathrm{bc}(e))^{2} \leq I(e)$
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- $\sum_{e \in E}(\mathrm{bc}(e))^{2} \leq|L|^{2}$
- Using Cauchy-Schwarz:
$\sum_{e \in E} \mathrm{bc}(e) \leq|L| \sqrt{\left|E^{\prime}\right|}$


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## Conclusion

- new model for counting crossings

O approximations for paths and upward trees

- tight upper bound for trees
- algorithm for general graphs
- upper bound asymptotically tight


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Open Questions:

- Complexity of monotone block crossings on a single edge?
- Approximations for trees / general graphs?


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- tight upper bound for trees
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