Optimal Linear Arrangement of Interval Graphs

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Definition

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A *linear layout* (or simply *layout*) of a given graph G = (V, E) is a linear ordering of its vertices.



Optimal linear arrangements

Definition

The weight of L on G is $\mathcal{W}(G, L) = \sum_{(u,v)\in E} |L(u) - L(v)|$.



Definition

An optimal linear arrangement (OLA) of G is a layout with the minimum weight, i.e., $\operatorname{argmin}_{L} \mathcal{W}(G, L)$. We denote $\mathcal{W}(G) = \min_{L} \mathcal{W}(G, L)$ and call it the *minimum weight* on G.

Previous work

- Computing an OLA is NP-hard (for general graphs [Garey, Johnson 1979], for bipartite graphs [Even, Shiloach 1975]).
- But the problem is polynomial for trees [Goldberg, Klipker 1976], for grids, for hypercubes [Diaz and al 2002].
- There exists an approximation algorithm with performance ratio $O(\log(n))$ [Rao, Richa 1998].

Interval graphs

Definition

A graph G = (V, E) is an *interval graph* if there is an one-to-one correspondence between V and a set of intervals of the real line such that, for all $u, v \in V$, $(u, v) \in E$ if and only if the intervals corresponding to u and v have a nonempty intersection.



FIG.: An interval graph G

FIG.: Its interval representation

Linear arrangements and interval graphs

- The bandwidth (b(G, L) = max_{(u,v)∈E} |L(u) L(v)|) minimization problem is polynomial for interval graphs [Kleitman, Vohra1990].
- Interval graphs are used in bioinformatic (reconstruction of relative positions of DNA fragments, gene structure prediction, model of temporal relations in protein-protein interactions).
- An optimal linear arrangement of an interval graph models an "optimal" molecular pathway [Farach-Colton and al 2004].

Our results

- a proof of NP-hardness of the optimal linear arrangement (OLA) problem on interval graphs.
- a 2-approximation algorithm for interval graphs.
- a 8-approximation algorithm for cocomparability graphs.

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OLA problem on complete graphs.

Lemma Let K_n be the complete graph on n vertices. Then

$$\mathcal{W}(\mathcal{K}_n) = \frac{(n-1)n(n+1)}{6}.$$



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OLA problem on star graphs.

Lemma

Let S_{α} be the star with a center vertex c and α leaves. Then,

1. a permutation L is an optimal linear arrangement if and only if L places c at the middle position.

$$\mathcal{W}(S_{\alpha}) = \left\lceil \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\rceil \left(\left\lfloor \frac{\alpha}{2} \right\rfloor + 1 \right)$$

2. $W(S_{\alpha}) \leq W(S_{\alpha}, L) \leq 2W(S_{\alpha})$ for any layout L



Proof of Lemma

Let S_{α} be a star with a center vertex *c* and α leaves (α even).



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Case where L(c) = 1:

•
$$\mathcal{W}(S_{\alpha}, L) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (i+1-1) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} i = \frac{\alpha(n+1)}{2}$$

Proof of Lemma

Let S_{α} be a star with a center vertex *c* and α leaves (α even).



Case where L(c) = 1: the worst case $(\mathcal{W}(S_{\alpha}, L) = \frac{\alpha(\alpha+1)}{2})$. Case where L(c) = k:

•
$$\mathcal{W}(S_{\alpha}, L) = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} i + \sum_{i=1}^{\alpha+1-k} i.$$

Case where $L(c) = \alpha/2 + 1$: the better case $(\mathcal{W}(S_{\alpha}, L) = \frac{\alpha}{2}(\frac{\alpha}{2} + 1)).$

Simple graphs

Remark

The stars and the complete graphs are interval graphs.











Some results :

Lemma

Let G = (V, E) be a graph, $E = E_1 \cup E_2$ and $E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$. Then $\mathcal{W}(G) \geq \mathcal{W}(G_1) + \mathcal{W}(G_2)$, where $G_1 = (V, E_1)$ and $G_2 = (V, E_2)$.

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More generally,

Corollary

Let G = (V, E), $V = V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_n$, and $E = E_1 \cup \cdots \cup E_n$, where E_1, \cdots, E_n are pairwise disjoint. Then $\mathcal{W}(G) \geq \mathcal{W}(G_1) + \ldots + \mathcal{W}(G_n)$, where $G_i = (V_i, E_i)$, $1 \leq i \leq n$.

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The NP-completeness result

Theorem

The problem of deciding, for an interval graph G = (E, V) and a constant K, whether $\mathcal{W}(G) \leq K$ is NP-complete.

- This problem belongs to NP.
- The proof is by reduction from the 3-PARTITION problem : Instance : A finite set A of 3m integers {a₁,..., a_{3m}}, a bound B ∈ Z⁺ such that ∑_{i=1}^{3m} a_i = mB. Question : Can A be partitioned into m disjoint sets A₁, A₂,..., A_m such that, for all 1 ≤ i ≤ m, ∑_{a∈Ai} a = B?

Let f be the following reduction from *PARTITION* problem to *OLA* problem

$$f(A,B) = (G,k) \text{ with } \begin{cases} G \leftarrow \cup_{i=1}^{|A|} K_{a_i} \cup S_{2B} \text{ with a center } v \\ k \leftarrow \mathcal{W}(S_{2B}) + \sum_{i=1}^{|A|} \mathcal{W}(K_{a_i}) \end{cases}$$



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G is an interval graph.



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A can be partitioned into 2 \Leftrightarrow there exists a linear layout Ldisjoint sets A_1, A_2 such thatwith $\mathcal{W}(G, L) \leq k$ $\sum_{a \in A_1} a = \sum_{a \in A_2} a = B$

A polynomial-time reduction from 3 - PARTITION problem to OLA problem is based on the same idea.

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Right endpoint orderings

Definition

The layout of G consisting of vertices ordered by the right endpoints of their corresponding intervals is called the *right endpoint ordering* (*reo*) of G with respect to \mathcal{I} .



an interval graph G

its interval representation

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2-Approximation algorithm

Remark

In a right endpoint ordering *reo*, for every pair of adjacent vertices reo(u) < reo(w), each vertex between u and w is adjacent to w.



2-Approximation algorithm

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Theorem

Let G = (V, E) be an interval graph, and let \mathcal{I} be an interval model of G. Then, $\mathcal{W}(G, reo) \leq 2\mathcal{W}(G)$.

• *E* is split : $E_i = \{(u, v) \mid reo(u) = i \land reo(v) < i\} \cap E(G)$



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• For $G_i = (V, E_i)$: $W(G_i, reo) = \sum_{v \in V(G_i)} |reo(u) - reo(v)|$

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• For $G_i = (V, E_i)$: $W(G_i, reo) = \sum_{v \in V(G_i)} |reo(u) - reo(v)|$ can be the worst case for the star of n_i leaves. $2 \times W(S_{n_i}) \ge W(G_i, reo) \ge W(S_{n_i})$

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- For $G_i = (V, E_i) : W(G_i, reo) = \sum_{v \in V(G_i)} |reo(u) reo(v)|$ can be the worst case for the star of n_i leaves. $2 \times W(S_{n_i}) \ge W(G_i, reo) \ge W(S_{n_i})$
- For $G : W(G) \ge \sum_{i=1}^{n} W(G_i) \ge \sum_{i=1}^{n} W(S_{n_i})$ • So $W(G, reo) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} W(G_i, reo)$ and $2W(G) \ge W(G, reo)$

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Conclusion

- Optimal linear arrangement of interval graphs is NP-hard.
- There exists a fast 2-approximation algorithm based on any interval model of the input graph.
- In the paper, we extend this result to cocomparability graphs (NP-completeness, 8-approximation polynomial-time algorithm)
- The complexity of several other linear layout problems, like CUTWIDTH is not resolved for the class of interval graphs.