

Layout Problems of Tree Structured Diagrams

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1 Introduction

Visualizing information has been one of the main subjects in computer field. Representing objects by diagrams is one approach of visualizing information and its effectiveness is widely recognized. Recently many graph drawing algorithms have been proposed. Several authors have studied the problem of producing tidy drawings of binary trees - drawings that are aesthetically pleasing and of minimum width. A number of aesthetics have been proposed.

In this paper, we extend this problem to that of general tree structured diagrams. We formalize tree structured diagrams and modify the aesthetics to apply the problem to the layout problems of that. Moreover we investigate the complexity of producing drawings of minimum width under certain constraints which we introduce.

In Section 2 we give preliminary definitions and introduce constraints. In Section 3 we show the problem is NP-hard under certain constraints.

2 Preliminary Definitions

Throughout this paper, we deal with a treelike diagram which we called a *tree structured diagram*. The *tree structured diagram* is a general form of various flow diagrams such as data-flow diagrams, hierarchical program diagrams and entity-relationship diagrams. In a *tree structured diagram* each rectangular box(cell) is placed tree-like on the integral lattice.

Definition 1 The *tree structure* T is defined as follows.

$$T = (V, E, r, W, D)$$

Where V is a set of cells, E is a set of edges, (V, E) is a ordered tree, r is a rooted cell in V , W is a width function of $\text{cell}:V \rightarrow Z$ and D is a depth function of $\text{cell}:V \rightarrow Z$.

Terms width and depth mean lengths in x-direction and y-direction in this paper.

Definition 2 The *placement* of the *tree structure* T is expressed as a function $L:V \rightarrow Z^2$ (the integral lattice).

Where if $L(p) = (x, y)$ then $L_x(p)$ and $L_y(p)$ are x and y coordinates of $L(p)$. The pair (T, L) is called the *tree structured diagram*.

The tree structure T can be viewed as a rooted tree in which each node(cell) p is assigned to two attributes $W(p)$ and $D(p)$. The tree structured diagram (T, L) can be viewed as a rooted tree in which each node(cell) p is assigned to four attribute $W(p)$, $D(p)$, $L_x(p)$ and $L_y(p)$.

Definition 3 The width of the *tree structured diagram* $Wt(T, L)$ is defined as follows.

$$Wt(T, L) = \max\{L_y(p) + W(p) - L_y(q)\},$$

where p and q are cells of T .

Definition 4 The *level* of the cell p is defined as the number of edges between p and the rooted cell.

Definition 5 The function $Index(\text{cells} \rightarrow \text{integers})$ is defined as follows. If the cell p is a rooted cell then $Index(p) = 0$. Else if p is the i -th son of p 's father then $Index(p) = i$.

Definition 6 The box area of the cell p is defined by the set $\text{Area}(p, L)$.

$$\text{Area}(p, L) = \{(x, y) \mid L_x(p) \leq x \leq L_x(p) + \text{depth}(p), \\ L_y(p) \leq y \leq L_y(p) + \text{width}(p)\}$$

Definition 7 Drawing a tree structured diagram (T,L) is the drawing of a straight line segment joining a point $(L_x(p) + W(p), L_y(p) + \frac{1}{2}D(p))$ to a point $(L_x(q), L_y(q) + \frac{1}{2}D(q))$ each edge (p,q) (from p to q) in T .

Now we introduce several constraints for drawings of tree structured diagrams. For a tree structure T , we consider the placement L such that the tree structure diagram (T,L) has the minimum width under certain constraints. A constraint is a condition for drawing tree structured diagrams nicely. The following constraints are modifications of binary trees or added new.

B1 If the level of cell p is equal to that of the cell q and $L_y(p) < L_y(q)$ then $L_y(p)$ (the eldest son of q) $>$ L_y (the youngest son of q)

B1 and B4(b) imply that no two edges cross each other.

B2 If p and q are different cells then there is no common part of $Area(p,L)$ and $Area(q,L)$.

B2 implies that no cell is placed on the top of the other.

B3 If T_1 and T_2 are isomorphic subtrees (each corresponding cells have the same attributes(sizes)) then L must place T_1 and T_2 identically up to a translation.

B4(a) In the tree structured diagram (T,L) if cells p and q are brothers then $L_x(p) = L_x(q)$.

B4(b) If levels of cells p and q are the same then $L_x(p) = L_x(q)$.

B4(c) If the cell p is the father of the cell q then $L_x(q) = L_x(p) + W(p) + 1$

Note that satisfying B4(c) implies satisfying B4(a), and B4(b) implies B4(a).

B5 If the cell p has k sons q_1, \dots, q_k ($Index(q_i) = i$) then

$$L_y(p) = L_y(q_{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor})$$

B6 If the cell p has k (≥ 3) sons q_1, \dots, q_k ($Index(q_i) = i$) then

$$L_y(q_{j+2}) - L_y(q_{j+1}) = L_y(q_{j+1}) - L_y(q_j)$$

$$(1 \leq j \leq k - 2)$$

Here we define constraints C_1, \dots, C_6 by composing these above constraints.

$$C_1 = B1 \wedge B2 \wedge B3 \wedge B4(a) \wedge B5 \wedge B6$$

$$C_2 = B1 \wedge B2 \wedge B3 \wedge B4(b) \wedge B5 \wedge B6$$

$$C_3 = B1 \wedge B2 \wedge B3 \wedge B4(c) \wedge B5 \wedge B6$$

$$C_4 = B1 \wedge B2 \wedge B3 \wedge B4(a) \wedge B5$$

$$C_5 = B1 \wedge B2 \wedge B3 \wedge B4(b) \wedge B5$$

$$C_6 = B1 \wedge B2 \wedge B3 \wedge B4(c) \wedge B5$$

3 NP-Hardness

In this section, we prove that the complexity of determining the minimum width under constraint C_1 is NP-hard. Next we can also show that if we omit B6 the problem is still NP-hard. We can show this analogously to Supowit-Reingold's method. Our decision problem is: For a given *tree structure* T and a positive integer M, is there a placement (T,L) satisfying C_1 such that $Wt(T,L) \leq M$?

To show NP-hardness of this decision problem, we will a reduction from 3-SAT to the specific decision problem with $M = 81$. Let

$$E = F_1 \wedge F_2 \wedge \dots \wedge F_r$$

be a Boolean expression over the variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n with clauses

$$F_i = (y_{i,1} + y_{i,2} + y_{i,3})$$

for each i where $1 \leq i \leq r$ and $y_{i,j}$ are literals.

3.1 Construction of a Tree Structure

Let E be a Boolean expression as above. We construct a *tree structure* T(E) for which there exists a placement L satisfying C_1 such that $Wt(T(E), L) \leq 81$ iff E is satisfiable. T(E) is the form shown in Fig.1. We denote the clause *tree structure* for F_i by $CT(F_i)$, where $F_1 = (y_{i,1} + y_{i,2} + y_{i,3})$. $CT(F_i)$ contains subtree structures $LT(y_{i,1})$, $LT(y_{i,2})$ and $LT(y_{i,3})$ which corresponding to each literal of F_i , as shown Fig.2. Notice that all distances of v_1 and v_2 , p_3 and p_4 and p_1 and p_2 can be expanded without violating C_1 . $LT(y)$ contains *variable tree structure* $VT(x_k)$ for x_k . $VT(x_k)$ is shown in Fig.3. In Fig.3 if k is even $VT(x_k)$ is (a.1) or (b.1) otherwise (a.2) or (b.2). If $y = x_k$, $LT(y)$ is as shown in Fig.4. If $y = \bar{x}_k$,

$LT(y)$ is as shown in Fig.5. $CT(F_i)$ is connected to $CT(F_{i+1})$ as follows. Consider the cell of $LT(y_{i,3})$ labelled w in Fig.4 and Fig.5. We make a straight tail of $(4n + 10)$ cells coming down from w and link them so that the $(4n + 10)$ 'th cell in the tail is the root of $CT(F_{i+1})$.

3.2 Proof of Satisfiability

We can prove that E is satisfiable iff $T(E)$ can be placed in $Wt(T(E),L) \leq 81$ by the similar argument of Supowit-Reingold' proof [1]. Here we omit the detail of the proof.

Hence we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 1 For a given *tree structure* T and a positive integer M , the problem of determining the existence of a *placement* L such tha $Wt(T(E),L)$ is at most M while satisfying C_1 is NP-hard. In fact, the specific sub-problem with $M = 81$ is NP-hard.

We can also show that the compexity of determining the minimum width under constraint C_4 is NP-hard. To show this, we have only to modify the proof of the case of C_1 so that if $y = \bar{x}_k$, $LT(y)$ is as shown in Fig.6 instead of Fig.5. Similarly we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 2 For a given *tree structure* T and a positive integer M , the problem of determining the existence of a *placement* L such tha $Wt(T(E),L)$ is at most M while satisfying C_4 is NP-hard. In fact, the specific sub-problem with $M = 81$ is NP-hard.

Furthermore we can obtain following corollaries by definitions of other constraints.

Corollary 1 For a given *tree structure* T and a positive integer M , the problem of determining the existence of a *placement* L such tha $Wt(T(E),L)$ is at most M while satisfying C_2 is NP-hard. In fact, the specific sub-problem with $M = 81$ is NP-hard.

Corollary 2 For a given *tree structure* T and a positive integer M , the problem of determining the existence of a *placement* L such tha $Wt(T(E),L)$ is at most M while satisfying C_3 is NP-hard. In fact, the specific sub-problem with $M = 81$ is NP-hard.

Corollary 3 For a given *tree structure* T and a positive integer M , the problem of determining the existence of a *placement* L such tha $Wt(T(E),L)$ is at most M while satisfying C_5 is NP-hard. In fact, the specific sub-problem with $M = 81$ is NP-hard.

Corollary 4 For a given *tree structure* T and a positive integer M , the problem of determining the existence of a *placement* L such tha $Wt(T(E),L)$ is at most M while satisfying C_6 is NP-hard. In fact, the specific sub-problem with $M = 81$ is NP-hard.

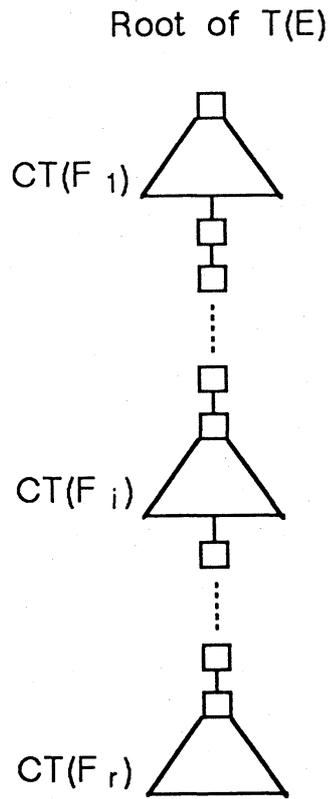


Fig.1 Schematic view of $T(E)$,
 where $E = F_1 \wedge F_2 \wedge \dots \wedge F_r$.

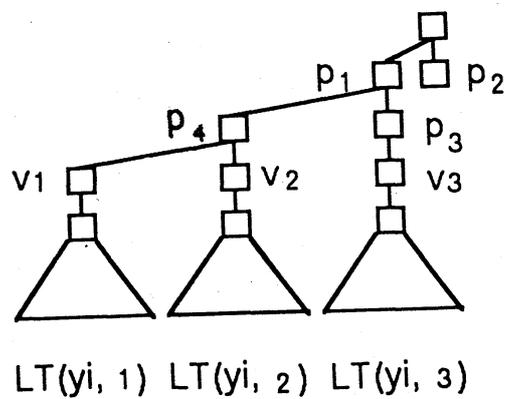


Fig.2 Schematic view of a clause tree structure $CT(F_i)$,
 where $F_i = (y_{i,1} + y_{i,2} + y_{i,3})$.

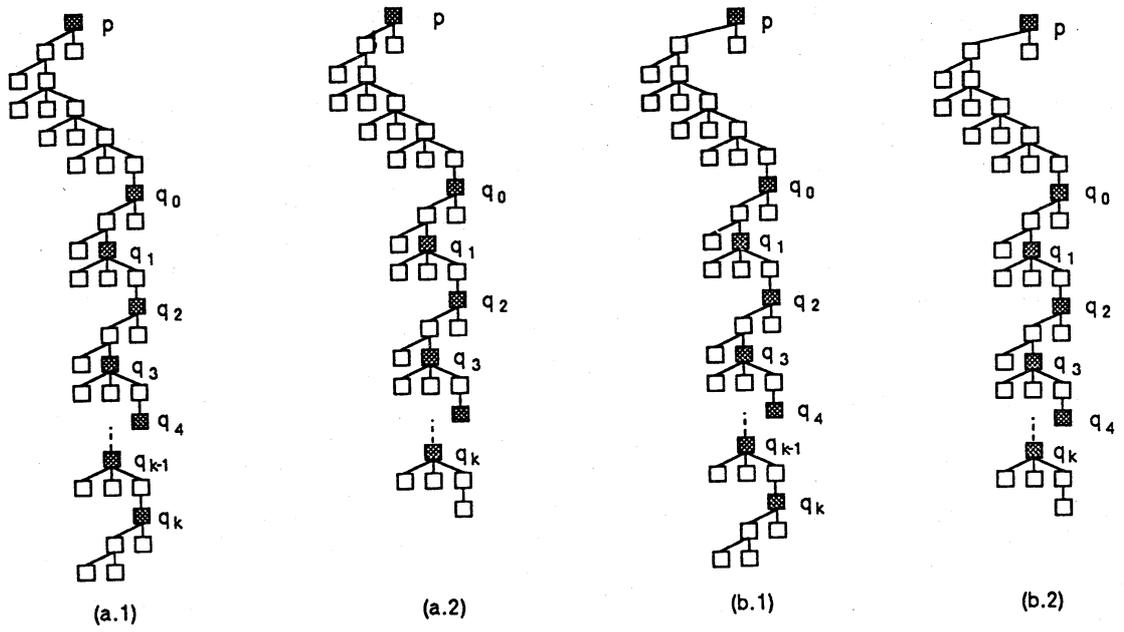


Fig.3 The variable tree structure $VT(x_k)$, where if k is even it is (a.1) or (b.1) otherwise (a.2) or (b.2).

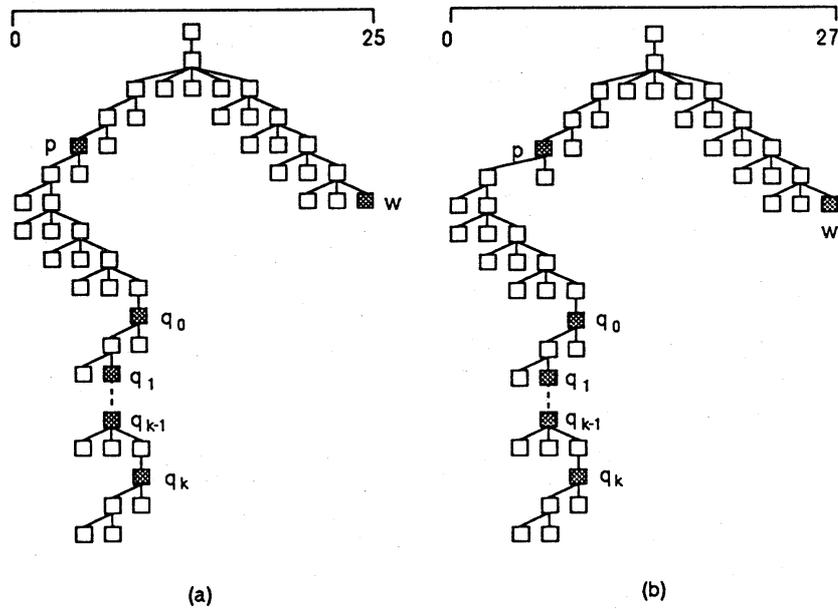


Fig.4 The literal tree structure $LT(y)$, where $y = x_k$.

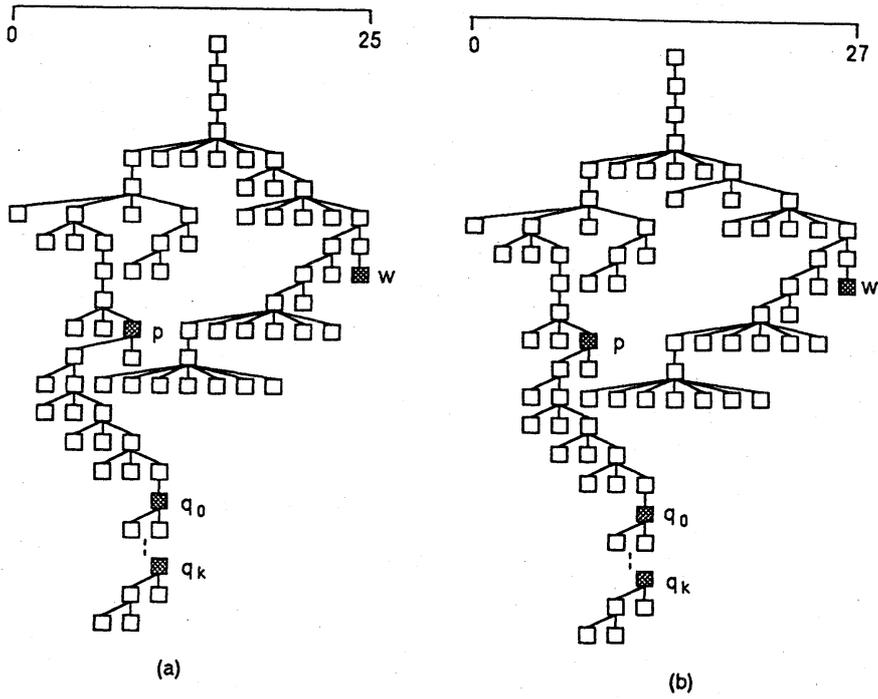


Fig.5 The lital tree structure $LT(y)$, where $y = \bar{x}_k$.

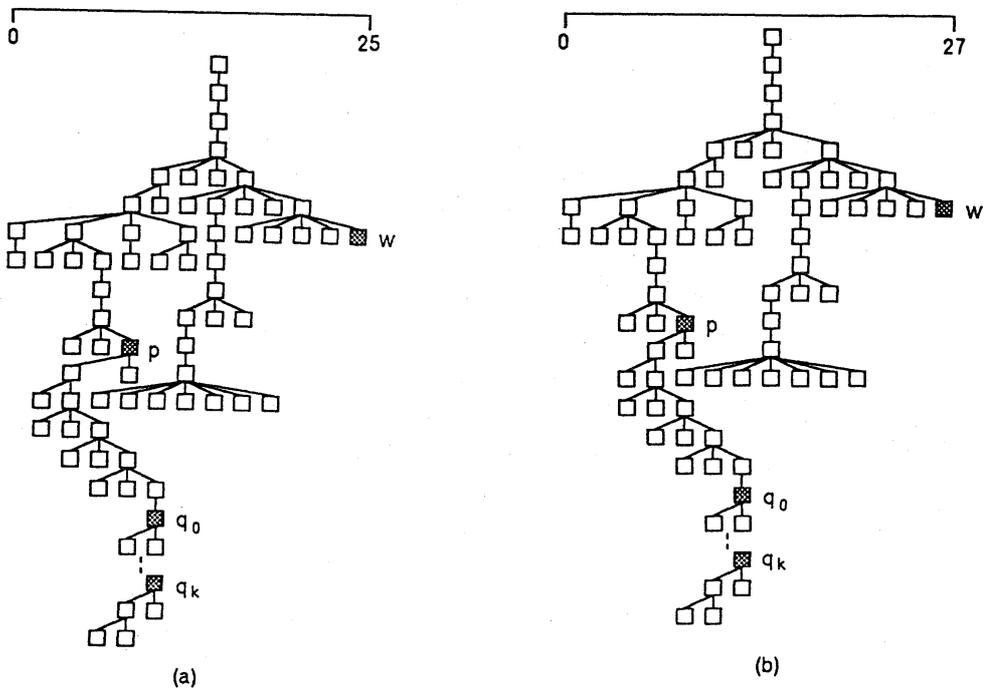


Fig.6 The lital tree structure $LT(y)$, where $y = \bar{x}_k$.

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