

Drawing complete outer-1-planar graphs in linear area

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Abstract

A *complete outer-1-planar graph* is a graph that can be drawn such that every edge has at most one crossing, all vertices are on the infinite face, and the so-called dual tree is a complete ternary tree. We show that every complete outer-1-planar graph has a straight-line grid-drawing that has area $O(n)$.

1 Introduction

In this paper we consider the question of how to create a *straight-line grid-drawing* of a graph, i.e., we want to map the vertices to grid points, and draw edges as straight-line segments between their endpoints such that vertex-points are distinct and no edge-segment contains a vertex-point except at its endpoints. If the input graph is *planar* (it has a *planar drawing* without crossing), then we further require that the drawing is likewise planar. Generally, whenever the given graph comes with a drawing (not necessarily using straight lines), then we expect the created straight-line grid-drawing to reflect the given drawing of the graph.

The objective is usually to achieve small *area of the drawing* (i.e., the area of the minimum enclosing axis-aligned bounding box of the drawing). Let n be the number of vertices. Any graph can be drawn with area $O(n^3)$ by placing the vertices on the moment-curve. For planar graphs, it has long been known that $O(n^2)$ is always sufficient [15, 16], and for some planar graphs $\Omega(n^2)$ area is required in a planar drawing [14]. For some subclasses of planar graphs, sub-quadratic area can be achieved. Of particular relevance to this paper are the results for *outer-planar graphs*, i.e., graphs that have a planar drawing where all vertices are incident with the unbounded region (the *outer-face*). Such graphs have straight-line grid-drawings in sub-quadratic area [9], and very recently the area has been reduced to $O(n^{1+\epsilon})$ [13].

We are interested here in drawing *1-planar graphs*, i.e., graphs that have a drawing that is not necessarily planar but every edge is crossed at most once. Such graphs do not always have a straight-line grid-drawing [10] but if they are 3-connected then there is a straight-line drawing after deleting at most one edge [2] and the

area is quadratic. Clearly some 1-planar graphs require $\Omega(n^2)$ area since all planar graphs are also 1-planar.

The natural question is now whether there are subclasses of 1-planar graphs that have straight-line grid-drawings in sub-quadratic area? The most obvious class to consider are *outer-1-planar graphs*, which are 1-planar graphs with a 1-planar drawing where all vertices are on the outer-face. It is known that outer-1-planar graphs can be drawn in sub-quadratic area in the drawing style of “visibility representations” (not reviewed here) [4]. Straight-line drawings of outer-1-planar graphs appear to have studied only a little bit. Dekhordi and Eades showed that they have so-called RAC-drawings [8] but they did not analyze the area. Auer et al. [3] showed that they have a straight-line grid-drawings in quadratic area. Bulatovic [5] achieved sub-quadratic area in some special situations.

In the pursuit of sub-quadratic-area drawings for outer-planar graphs [9, 13], one helpful ingredient was to first study a *complete outer-planar graph*, i.e., an outer-planar graph for which the dual graph (minus the outer-face vertex) is a complete binary tree when rooting it suitably. By exploiting its recursive structure, Di Battista and Frati showed that a complete outer-planar graph has a straight-line grid-drawing in $O(n)$ area [9].

In the same spirit, we ask here whether we can create small straight-line grid-drawings of *complete outer-1-planar graphs* (defined formally below). Bulatovic [5] showed that these have a grid-drawing of area $O(n^{2 \cdot \log_3 2}) = O(n^{1.26})$. In this paper, we improve on this result and show that all complete outer-1-planar graphs have a straight-line grid-drawing of area $O(n)$. This fits into a long line of research of achieved optimal $O(n)$ area for straight-line grid-drawings of special graphs, see e.g. [1, 6, 7, 9].

2 Preliminaries

We assume familiarity with graph theory and planar graphs, see for example [11]. Assume throughout that G is an outer-1-planar graph with n vertices that is maximal in the sense that no edges can be added while maintaining simplicity and outer-1-planarity. Then G consists of an n -cycle as the outer-face and chords of the n -cycle. The *skeleton* G^s of G is the subgraph of G formed by the *uncrossed* edges, i.e., edges without crossing. The *inner faces* of G^s are the maximal bounded regions that contain no edges of G^s ; it is known that

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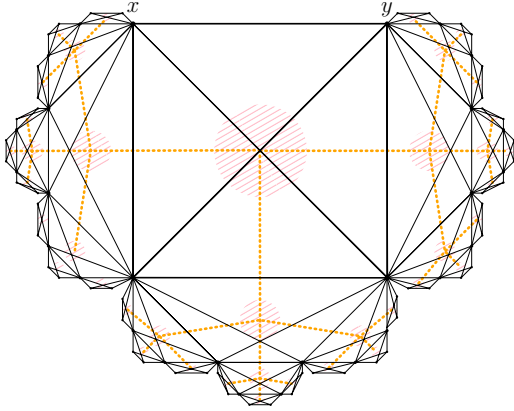


Figure 1: The complete outer-1-planar graph of depth 4. The dual tree is orange (striped/dotted).

all inner faces of G^s are triangles or quadrangles if G is maximal outer-1-planar [8]. The *dual tree* of G is obtained by creating a vertex for every inner face of G^s and making them adjacent if the corresponding faces share an edge. The dual tree of an outer-1-planar graph is (as the name suggests) a tree and all vertices have degree at most 4.

We call G a *complete outer-1-planar graph* if the dual tree \mathcal{T} is a complete ternary tree after rooting it suitably. See Figure 1. The *depth* D of G is the number of vertices on the path in \mathcal{T} from the root to the leaves. If $D \geq 2$, then G consists of K_4 (drawn with one crossing and corresponding to the root of the dual tree) with three copies of a complete outer-1-planar graph of depth $D-1$ attached at three of the four uncrossed edges of K_4 . The *poles* of G are the endpoints of the uncrossed edge (x, y) of K_4 that is on the outer-face of G .

For an uncrossed edge (a, b) not on the outer-face, the *hanging subgraph* H_{ab} at (a, b) is the maximal subgraph that has (a, b) on the outer-face and does not contain both poles of G . The poles of H_{ab} are a and b .

The complete outer-1-planar graph of G depth D has $\Theta(3^D)$ vertices, hence $D \in \Theta(\log n)$. It is very easy to draw G in a grid of width $O(n)$ and height $O(D)$ [5], so with area $O(n \log n)$. But achieving linear area with this approach seems hopeless since even the skeleton of G requires $\Omega(\log n)$ width and height in any drawing. (This follows from [12] since its so-called pathwidth is logarithmic.) Instead for a linear-area drawing we construct a drawing of width and height $O(\sqrt{n})$.

Triangular grids. One ingredient for drawing complete outer-1-planar graph in linear area will be to use the grid points of a *triangular grid* (with grid-lines of slope $\sqrt{3}, 0, -\sqrt{3}$), rather than the standard (orthogonal) grid. This makes no difference overall, since the triangular grid can be mapped to an orthogonal grid with a shear, but allows us to treat hanging subgraphs

symmetrically.

The following shortcuts will be useful. We use arrows such as \nearrow and \nwarrow for grid-lines of slope $\sqrt{3}$ and $-\sqrt{3}$, and so for example speak of a \nearrow -ray or the distance in \nwarrow -direction. An *axis-aligned equilateral triangle* is a triangle with three equal sides that all lie along grid-lines. An *axis-aligned isosceles triangle* is a triangle where two equal-length sides lie along grid-lines while the third side connects two grid points and has angle 30° on both ends. We will usually drop “axis-aligned” as we study no other equilateral or isosceles triangles. A triangle is called *upward* if it has a unique *top corner*, i.e., point with maximum y -coordinate. We use terms such as top/bottom/left/right side/corner only when this uniquely identifies the feature.

3 Drawing types

Let G be the complete outer-1-planar graph of depth D , and let x, y be its poles. We will need three kinds of drawings of G that will be combined recursively:

A *type-A* drawing \mathcal{A} of G is contained within an equilateral upward triangle T . Vertices x and y are placed on the left and right side of T , respectively, with distance exactly D from the top corner. Drawing \mathcal{A} occupies no points on the right side of T except for y . See Figure 2.

Furthermore, \mathcal{A} must have the flexibility to move x as follows. Let the *wedge* of \mathcal{A} be the smaller wedge between the \nearrow -ray and the \nwarrow -ray emanating from x . We require that for any position x' within the wedge, moving x to x' gives a drawing of G for which all edges are either within T or within the triangle spanned by x', y and the left corner of T .

A *type-B* drawing \mathcal{B} of G is contained within an equilateral upward triangle T . Vertices x and y are placed at the top and right corner of T , respectively, and the left corner is empty. See Figure 2.

Furthermore, \mathcal{B} must have the flexibility to move y as follows. Let z be the point on the bottom side of T that has distance exactly D to y (we call this the *attachment point* of \mathcal{B}). Let the *wedge* of \mathcal{B} be the smaller wedge between the \swarrow -ray and the \rightarrow -ray emanating from y . We require that for any position y' within the wedge, moving y to y' gives a drawing of G . Furthermore, the drawing is contained within T and the triangle spanned by x, y', z .

We call a type-B drawing a *type-B⁺-drawing* if additionally no point other than x is on the left side of triangle T . With the exception of $D = 1$ all type-B drawings that we construct are actually type-B⁺-drawings.

A *type-C* drawing \mathcal{C} of G is contained within an isosceles upward triangle T where the left and bottom side have the same length. Vertices x and y are placed at the top and right corner of T , respectively. Drawing

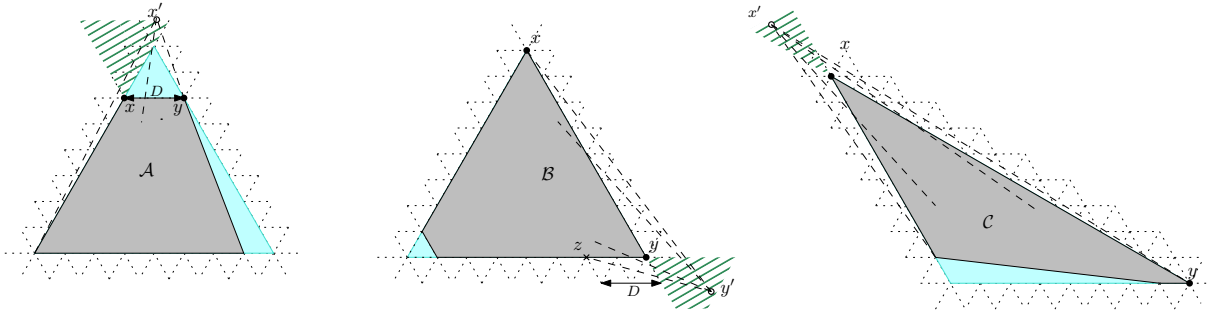


Figure 2: Drawings of type A, B and C. The wedge is green (striped).

C occupies no points on bottom side of T except for y and (possibly) points within unit distance from y . See Figure 2.

Furthermore, C must have the flexibility to move x as follows. Let the *wedge* of C be the smaller wedge between the \searrow -ray and a ray with slope $-\sqrt{3}/2$ (i.e., extending \overline{xy}) emanating from x . For any position x' within the wedge, moving x to x' gives a drawing of G .

Define the following function $w(\cdot)$ on positive integers:

$$w(D) := \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } D = 1 \\ 6 & \text{if } D = 2 \\ 3w(D-2) + 4(D-2) + 6 & \text{if } D \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

A simple proof by induction shows that

$$w(D) \leq 16 \cdot 3^{D/2-1} - 2D - 5 \in O(3^{D/2}).$$

We will show the following by induction on D :

Lemma 1 *The complete outer-1-plane graph of depth D has drawings of type A, B and C where the shortest side of the bounding triangle T has length exactly $w(D)$. It also has a type-B⁺ drawing where the side-length of T is at most $w(D) + 1$.*

In the base case (where $D = 1$ or 2) these drawings are easily created, see Figure 3 for some cases and Figure 10 in the appendix for all remaining ones.

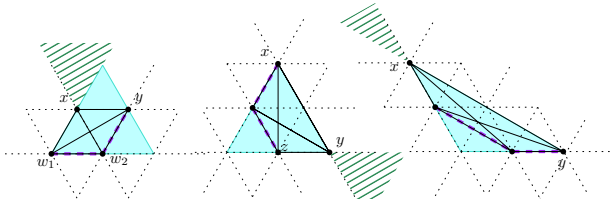


Figure 3: The drawings for $D = 1$ for type A, B, C.

4 The inductive step

Assume that the dual tree \mathcal{T} of G has depth $D + 2$ where $D \geq 1$. We can hence split the graph into

the subgraph Q corresponding to the root of \mathcal{T} and its three children, and the hanging subgraphs that are attached at the uncrossed edges that bound Q . (Each hanging subgraph is a complete outer-1-plane graph of depth D .) Enumerate the outer-face of Q as $\langle x, a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, y \rangle$ in ccw order where x, y are the poles of G . See Figure 4.

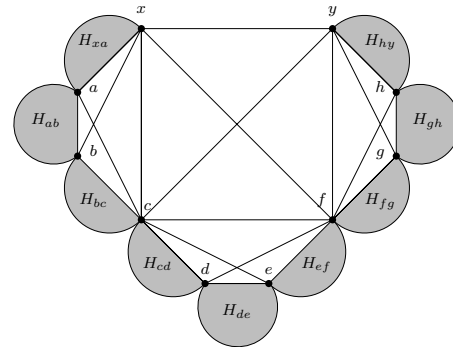


Figure 4: Splitting the graph into Q and nine hanging subgraphs.

The idea. Building a drawing of G uses the obvious recursive approach: create drawings of the nine hanging subgraphs of Q , combine them, and add the edges of Q . However, there are some intricate details with regards to placement of poles and spacing of subgraphs. We therefore first give a rough idea.

Observe that both an equilateral and an isosceles triangle T can be split into 9 equal-area triangles that are either equilateral or isosceles, see Figure 5. We assign the hanging subgraphs to these triangles as indicated in the figure, and plan to draw Q within the thick black lines (after expanding a bit).

Note that in our plan to place the vertices, some poles (e.g. vertex c for subgraph H_{bc}) are far away from the corresponding triangle; here the flexibility to move one pole within the wedge of the drawing will be crucial. However, this comes with the price that we must keep line segment \overline{cz} free of other drawings, where z is the

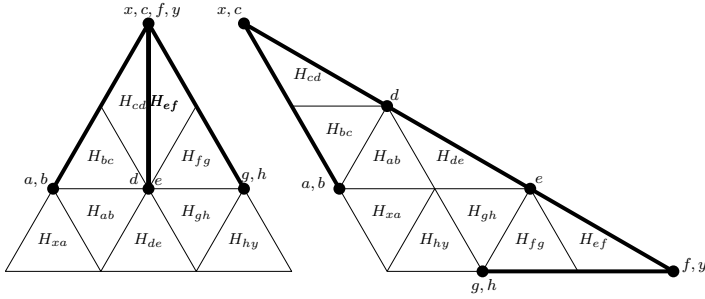


Figure 5: The idea of combining subgraphs. Locations for the vertices of Q are approximate.

attachment point of the drawing of H_{bc} . Therefore subgraphs cannot be placed exactly edge-to-edge as Figure 5 suggests and we must be more careful in spacing them.

Placing four subgraphs. We first explain how to place drawings of $H_{xa}, H_{ab}, H_{bc}, H_{cd}$; this will be the same for all three constructions below. Consult Figure 6. For any hanging subgraph H_{uv} , let Γ_{uv} be a (recursively obtained) drawing of H_{uv} —the text below will specify its type. Sometimes we will rotate Γ_{uv} ; we use T_{uv} (drawn in cyan/light gray) for the bounding triangle of Γ_{uv} after such a rotation has been applied.

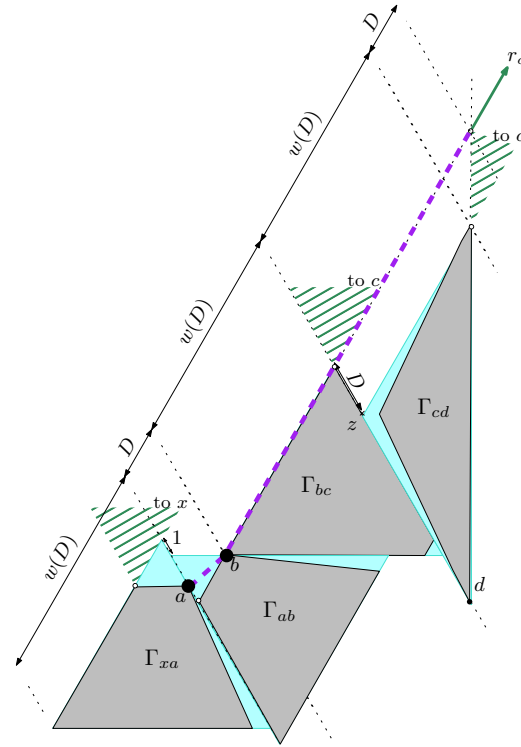


Figure 6: Placing H_{xa}, \dots, H_{cd} .

- Let Γ_{xa} be a type-A drawing for H_{xa} . The white circle in Figure 6 shows where pole x would be within Γ_{xa} , but it will actually be placed later somewhere within the wedge of Γ_{xa} .
- Let Γ_{ab} be a type-A drawing for H_{ab} , rotated by $+60^\circ$. Place the left corner of T_{ab} one unit in \swarrow -direction from the top corner of T_{xa} . This puts pole a within the wedge of Γ_{ab} as required.
- Let Γ_{bc} be a type-B drawing for H_{bc} , rotated by $+120^\circ$ and placed such that the two locations of b coincide. Pole c will be placed somewhere within the wedge of Γ_{bc} .
- Let Γ_{cd} be a type-C drawing for H_{cd} , rotated by -60° and placed such that the left corner of T_{cd} coincides with the attachment point z of T_{bc} . Pole c will be placed somewhere within the wedge of Γ_{cd} .
- Consider the point where the \nearrow -ray from b intersects the \uparrow -ray from d , and let r_c be the \nearrow -ray emanating from here. We will later place c somewhere on ray r_c , which keeps it within both wedges of Γ_{bc} and Γ_{cd} , and keeps line segment $\overline{c\bar{z}}$ outside all other drawings.

Observe that all drawings are disjoint except where they share a vertex. This holds because in a type-A

drawing the right side only contains the pole, and in Γ_{cd} the shorter side at d contains points only within distance 1 from d , but these points are not used by Γ_{bc} . Also observe that for any placement of x within the wedge of Γ_{xa} , line segment \overline{ax} will be outside all other drawings. Finally observe that the path $a-b-c$ (shown thick dashed) is drawn with slopes alternating between $[0, \sqrt{3})$ and $\sqrt{3}$; this will be crucial below.

Completing a type-A drawing. To complete the drawing to a type-A drawing, we copy and flip the existing drawing along a vertical line. See also Figure 7(a). More precisely, let ℓ_v be a vertical line that has \rightarrow -distance $D/2$ from d . Mirror $\Gamma_{xa}, \dots, \Gamma_{cd}$ along this line to get $\Gamma_{ef}, \dots, \Gamma_{hy}$. The only subgraph missing is H_{de} , for which we use a type-A drawing that fits exactly with the existing points for d and e . One verifies that all drawings are disjoint except at common poles.

We define the bounding triangle T of the drawing to be the upward equilateral triangle that touches the left side of T_{xa} , has \nearrow -distance one to the bottom side of T_{de} , and has \nearrow -distance three from the right side of T_{hy} . (This is slightly asymmetric; the line ℓ_v does *not* go through the top corner of T .) Elementary computation shows that T has side-length $3w(D)+4D+6 = w(D+2)$ as desired. Place x and y (as required for a type-A drawing) at distance $D+2$ from the top corner of T ; this puts x within the wedge of Γ_{xa} .

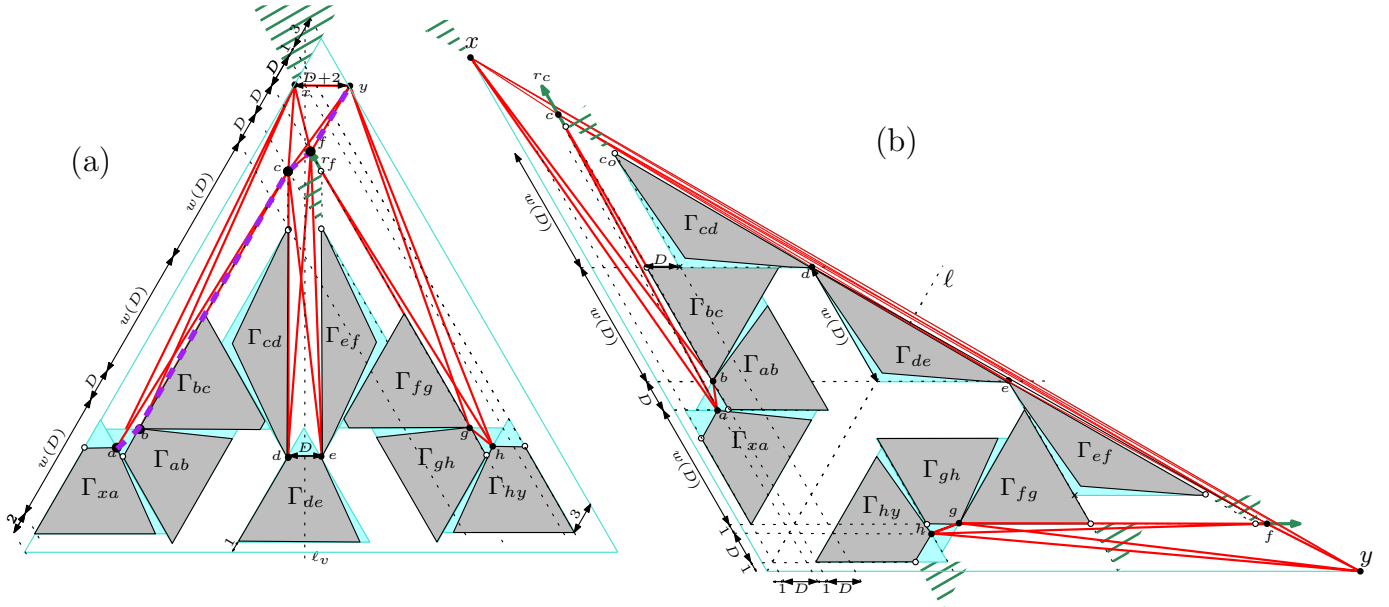


Figure 7: Creating (a) a type-A drawing and (b) a type-C drawing.

We place c at the start-point of ray r_c , which has \nwarrow -distance $D+1$ from the left side of T . Let r_f be the copy of ray r_c on the right side; we place vertex f on this ray with \nwarrow -distance $D+2$ from the left side of T . With this, \overline{fy} has slope $\sqrt{3}$ while \overline{cf} has slightly smaller slope.

We must argue that we have the flexibility to move x within the wedge \mathcal{W} of the drawing. Consider the path $\pi = \langle w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{2D+1} \rangle$ of neighbours of x . [The last five vertices on π are a, b, c, f, y , and this part is shown purple/dotted in Figures 3, 7, 10.] Path π connects the left side of T with the right side, and hence separates vertex x from all other vertices of the drawing. Also (as argued directly above or known by induction for the part of π in Γ_{xa}) the slopes along π alternate between a value in $[0, \sqrt{3})$ and exactly $\sqrt{3}$. For $1 \leq i \leq D$, let \mathcal{W}_i be the smaller wedge between the two rays emanating from w_{2i} through w_{2i-1} and w_{2i+1} . By the slopes of the edges, \mathcal{W} is strictly inside \mathcal{W}_i . Therefore $\{w_{2i-1}, w_{2i}, w_{2i+1}, x'\}$ forms a strictly convex quadrangle for any location of $x' \in \mathcal{W}$, and the K_4 formed by these four vertices is drawn with a crossing as required. Also, the quadrangles for different values of i are disjoint. So moving x' within \mathcal{W} gives a drawing of G .

Creating a type-B drawing. To create a type-B drawing, we place all hanging subgraphs except H_{hy} exactly as in construction for the type-A drawing. Vertex h is placed as dictated by Γ_{gh} . For H_{hy} we use a type-B⁺ drawing Γ_{hy} that we place such that the two drawings of h coincide. See Figure 8. One verifies that all drawings are disjoint except where they have common poles (this holds for Γ_{hy} since we use a type-B⁺ drawing).

We define the bounding triangle T of the drawing to be the upward equilateral triangle that has \nwarrow -distance one from the left side of T_{xa} , \nearrow -distance two from the line through \overline{gh} and has side-length $3w(D) + 4D + 6 = w(D+2)$. Elementary computation shows that this triangle then includes Γ_{hy} since T_{hy} has side-length at most $w(D) + 1$. The left side of T is empty, so the created type-B drawing is automatically a type-B⁺ drawing. We place x and y as required at the top and the right corner of T .

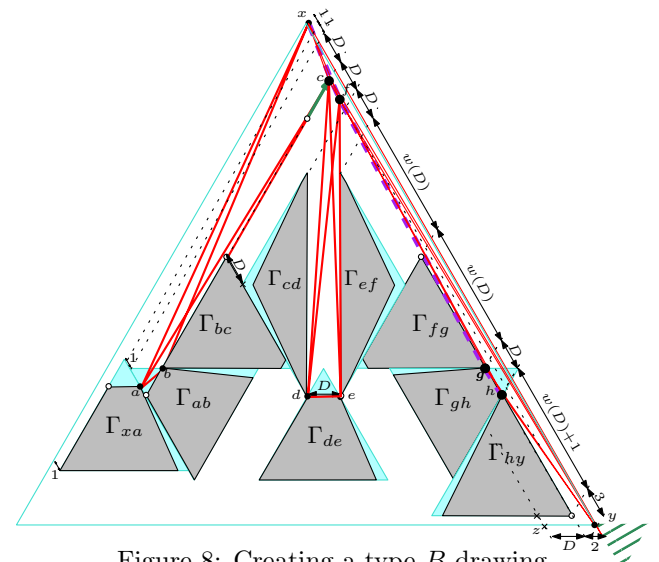


Figure 8: Creating a type-B drawing.

Let R be the right side of T . Place vertex c on r_c and vertex f on the \uparrow -ray from e , both with \nearrow -distance one to R . In particular \overline{xy} is on R , \overline{cf} has slope $-\sqrt{3}$ and \nearrow -distance one to R , and \overline{gh} has slope $-\sqrt{3}$ and

\nearrow -distance two to R ; with this the complete graphs $\{x, y, c, f\}$ and $\{f, y, g, h\}$ of Q are drawn correctly (albeit with very small angles). All other edges of Q are also drawn correctly, see Figure 8. Also f is above e and to the right of the \nwarrow -ray from g , hence within the wedges of Γ_{ef} and Γ_{fg} as required.

Also note that the attachment point of Γ_{hy} is the lowest point of the drawing, and its \searrow -projection onto the bottom side of T has distance $D+2$ from y . Finally path $x-c-f-g-h$ is drawn alternating between slopes in $[-\infty, -\sqrt{3})$ and $-\sqrt{3}$. Therefore as for type-A drawings one argues that y has the flexibility to move within its wedge, as long as nothing is placed between the attachment point z of T and the new location of y .

Creating a type-C drawing. Start with $\Gamma_{xa}, \dots, \Gamma_{cd}$, placed as described above, but rotate everything by 60° . Let ℓ be the \nearrow -line that has \searrow -distance $w(D)$ from d . Copy and mirror $\Gamma_{xa}, \dots, \Gamma_{cd}$ along line ℓ to get $\Gamma_{ef}, \dots, \Gamma_{hy}$. The only subgraph missing is then H_{de} , for which we use a type-C drawing that fits exactly with the existing points for d and e . See Figure 7(b). One verifies that all drawings are disjoint except where they have common poles.

We define the bounding triangle T to be the upward isosceles triangle where the left side is parallel to the left side of T_{xa} and at \nearrow -distance 1, the bottom side is parallel to the bottom side of T_{hy} and at \nearrow -distance 1, and the right side is parallel to the top side of T_{de} and at \rightarrow -distance 2. (Line ℓ is the axis of symmetry for T .) Place x and y (as required for a type-C drawing) at the top and right corner of T . We place c and f on the rays r_c and r_f , with distance one from the start-point of the ray. This places the line through \overline{cf} halfway between the line through \overline{de} and the line through \overline{xy} . With this the complete graphs $\{x, y, c, f\}$ and $\{c, d, e, f\}$ of Q are drawn correctly (albeit with very small angles). All other edges of Q can clearly be added.

As for the flexibility of moving x , the same argument as for the type-A drawing applies with respect to the complete graph formed by $\{x, a, b, c\}$. For the complete graph formed by $\{x, c, f, y\}$, observe that \overline{xy} and \overline{cf} are parallel and therefore moving x to some point x' in the wedge (hence strictly above the line through \overline{cf} keeps $\{x', c, f, y\}$ as a strictly convex quadrilateral.

To analyze the length of the shorter sides of T , let c_0 be the top corner of T_{cd} . Observe first (see also Figure 7(b)) that c_0 has \leftarrow -distance $2D+2$ to the left side of T and \searrow -distance $3w(D)+2D+2$ to the bottom side of T . Now consider the close-up in Figure 9, let c_1 be the \leftarrow -projection of c_0 onto the left side of T , and let c_2 be the place where the line through \overline{de} intersects the left side of T . Since \overline{de} has slope $-\sqrt{3}/2$ while $\overline{c_0c_1}$ has slope 0 and $\overline{c_1c_2}$ has slope $-\sqrt{3}$, the triangle $\{c_0, c_1, c_2\}$ is isosceles, and therefore $d(c_1, c_2) = 2D+2$. The \nwarrow -

distance from c_2 to x is 2 by definition of T . Therefore the left side of T has length $3w(D)+4D+6 = w(D+2)$.

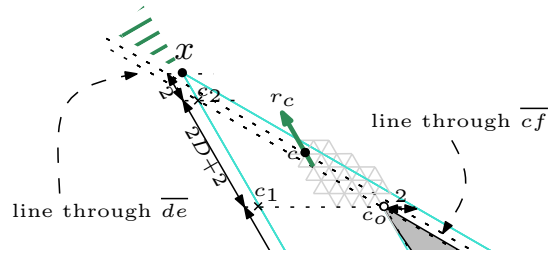


Figure 9: Close-up of the type-C construction.

This ends the proof of Lemma 1. Since a complete outer-1-planar graph has $n = 3^D + 1$ vertices, we have $w(D) \in \Theta(3^{D/2}) = \Theta(\sqrt{n})$ and the drawings reside (after a skew) in an orthogonal grid of area $O(n)$.

Theorem 2 *Every complete outer-1-plane graph has a straight-line drawing in a grid of $O(n)$ area.*

Following the steps of our construction, it is easy to construct the drawing in linear time.

5 Remarks

Our result is easily stated, but its proof is annoyingly complicated. The corresponding result for complete outer-planar graphs by Di Battista and Frati [9] has a very elegant proof: Draw a complete binary tree with a special property called “star-shaped”, and one can derive a drawing of the balanced outer-planar graph from it. This does not translate to outer-1-planar graphs for multiple reasons. First, any complete outer-planar graph contains a complete binary tree (of roughly the same depth) as a subtree, so after drawing the complete binary tree one “only” has to add some edges. Attempts to generalize this for drawing a complete outer-1-planar graph G led to super-linear area [5]. The dual tree T of G is a complete ternary tree, but it does not map naturally to a subtree of G , and it would not be clear how to expand a drawing of T to one of G . Is there a simpler way to prove Theorem 2?

Also, in the paper by Di Battista and Frati [9] drawing the complete outer-planar graph was really just a warm-up to get results for all outer-planar graphs via star-shaped drawings of trees, useful also for [13]. We studied drawings of complete outer-1-planar graphs in the hopes that it would lead to sub-quadratic area-bounds for drawing *all* outer-1-planar graphs. But this seems significantly harder and obtaining area-bounds that are sub-quadratic (and ideally $O(n^{1+\epsilon})$) remains open.

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Appendix

In Figure 10 we show the drawings for the base case in the other situations.

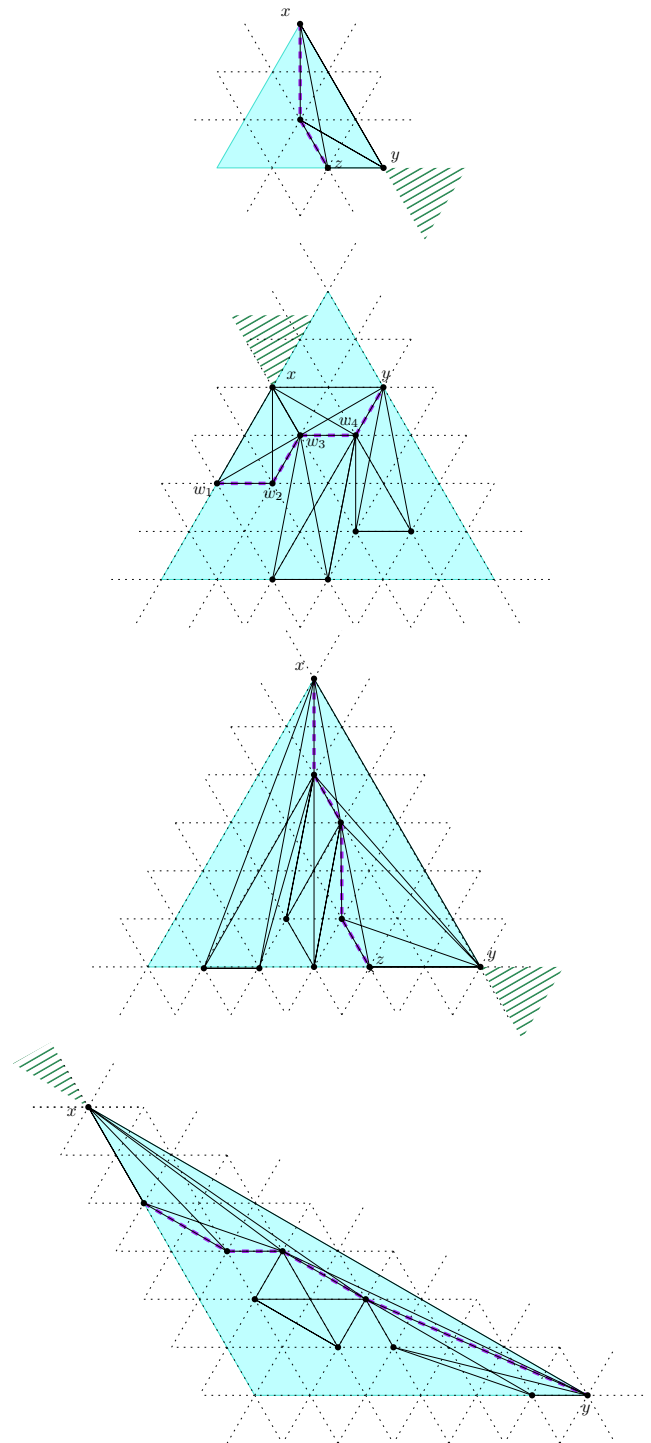


Figure 10: The type- B^+ drawing for $D = 1$ and the drawings (of type A , $B = B^+$ and C) for $D = 2$.