

# Accepted Manuscript

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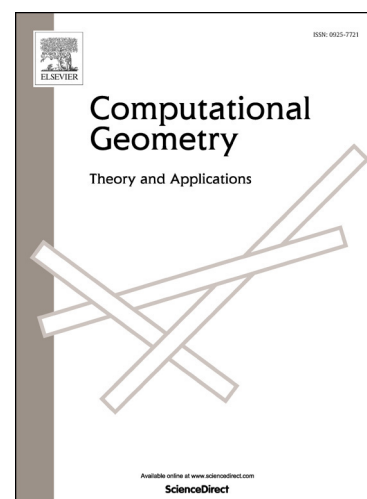
PII: S0925-7721(17)30015-9  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.comgeo.2017.02.005>  
Reference: COMGEO 1465

To appear in: *Computational Geometry: Theory and Applications*

Received date: 6 August 2016  
Revised date: 28 January 2017  
Accepted date: 17 February 2017

Please cite this article in press as: Md. Jawaherul Alam et al., Orthogonal layout with optimal face complexity, *Comput. Geom.* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.comgeo.2017.02.005>

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# Orthogonal Layout with Optimal Face Complexity<sup>☆</sup>

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## Abstract

We study a problem motivated by rectilinear schematization of geographic maps. Given a biconnected plane graph  $G$  and an integer  $k \geq 0$ , does  $G$  have a strict-orthogonal drawing (i.e., an orthogonal drawing without edge bends) with at most  $k$  reflex angles per face? For  $k = 0$ , the problem is equivalent to realizing each face as a rectangle. We prove that the strict-orthogonal drawability problem for arbitrary reflex complexity  $k$  can be reduced to a graph matching or a network flow problem. Consequently, we obtain an  $\tilde{O}(n^{10/7}k^{1/7})$ -time algorithm to decide strict-orthogonal drawability, where  $\tilde{O}(r)$  denotes  $O(r \log^c r)$ , for some constant  $c$ . In contrast, if the embedding is not fixed, we prove that it is NP-complete to decide whether a planar graph admits a strict-orthogonal drawing with reflex face complexity 4.

*Keywords:* Graph Drawing, Orthogonal Drawing, Face Complexity.

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## 1. Introduction

Map schematization is a problem of interest in geography, cartography, information visualization and computational geometry. Rectangular and rectilinear schematizations have been studied for over 80 years; see the comprehensive survey of Tobler [2], and by Nusrat and Kobourov [3]. While rectangular schematizations sometimes must distort the topology of the map (e.g., no four mutually

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<sup>☆</sup>A preliminary version of the paper appeared in the Forty-First International Conference on Current Trends in Theory and Practice of Computer Science (SOFSEM 2016) [1].

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<sup>1</sup>Work of the author is supported in part by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

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