



# Storylines with a Protagonist

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# Motivation



[Munroe. 2009 (clipping)]

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scientific publication history

Let's Talk About Style



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#### **Unavoidable Crossings**

























#### From Crossings to Block Crossings



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Bundled Crossings for Storylines is efficiently solvable...



...but only if we ignore meetings.













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[Soltan, Gorpinevich '93]

































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#### Theorem.

Given a storyline with a sequence X of pairwise crossings, Bundling Without Meetings can be solved in  $O(|X|^2)$  time.

#### III. Meetings


1 2





meeting trapped inside a block crossing





meeting trapped inside a block crossing





meeting trapped inside a block crossing

disturbed meeting order





#### meeting trapped inside a block crossing

disturbed meeting order





meeting trapped inside a block crossing

disturbed meeting order

distorted meeting





meeting trapped inside a block crossing

disturbed meeting order











Evaluation



Dataset: 81 protagonists with their 5, 10, 15, and 20 most frequent coauthors (n = 324). "excess bundles" means #bundles with meetings – #bundles without meetings.

# Build Storylines for Your Protagonist at publines.github.io

#### **Open Questions:**

- Can we efficiently solve bundling in the presence of meetings?
- Does the one-sided drawing style help with other esthetic criteria (e.g. wiggles)?



#### Comparison

crossings

block crossings



1-Sided  $\blacktriangle$ , 2-Sided  $\diamondsuit$ , and Median  $\bigcirc$  relative to GreedyBlocks. 81 large instances each with 21 characters.

## **Running Times**



1-Sided ▲, 2-Sided ◆, Median ●, and GreedyBlocks ●. 81 large instances each with 21 characters.