

A Study of an Event Oriented Data Management Method for Displaying Genealogy: Widespread Hands to InTERconnect BASic Elements (WHiteBasE)

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Abstract: In this paper, we propose a new data management method for handling relations on genealogy display software easily. It is named “Widespread Hands to InTERconnect BASic Elements (WHiteBasE)”. The WHiteBasE is a hidden node for integrating the relations due to an event including a married couple and their children. That is, individual’s data does not refer to others directly, and only refers to WHiteBasEs. As a result, the number of references is less than the existing data structure. Therefore, the volume of database is smaller, the complex multiple marriages can be set easily, and the positions of the segment intersections can also be searched easily. Then, displaying genealogy like a traditional handwriting style can be achieved on computers. Our new prototype software and the effectiveness of our method are shown.

Keywords: Genealogy, Hidden Node, Segment Intersections, Search Algorithm, Free Layout, Intuitive Graphical Editor

I. Introduction

A. Required genealogy display style

Genealogy has been written on paper media from ancient times. An example of the genealogy is shown in Fig. 1 [1]. This style (including Japanese traditional handwriting style*) has four features as follows:

*In Japan, a double segment is used for connecting to a married couple, and a horizontal segment is used for connecting to brothers and/or sisters.

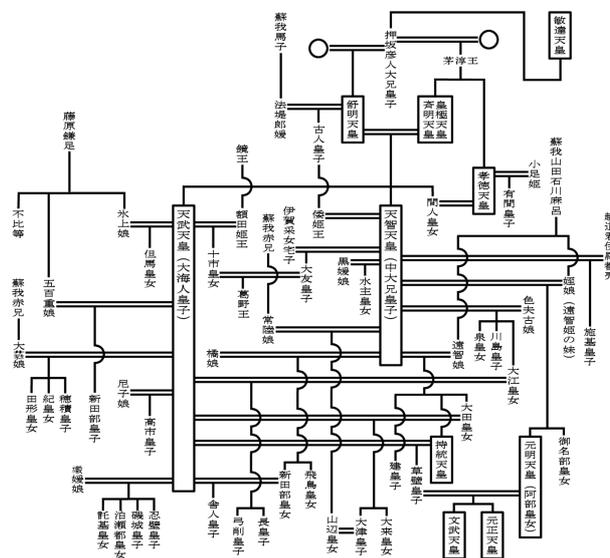


Figure 1: An example of genealogy with segment intersections on paper media showing a family of old Japanese emperors by using KANJI and HIRAGANA that are Japanese language (Modified from [1])

- One individual is generally written only once.
- Many individuals are placed in the free positions as the users’ requirement.
- Horizontal and/or vertical segments are mainly used.
- Segment intersections are used if necessary.

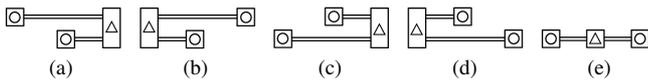


Figure 2: Marriage with two wives

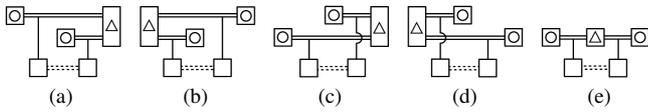


Figure 3: Marriage with two wives who have a child

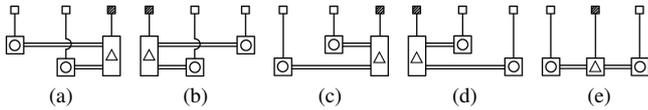


Figure 4: Marriage with two wives and their parents

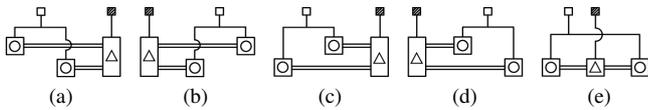


Figure 5: Marriage with two wives who are sisters and their parents

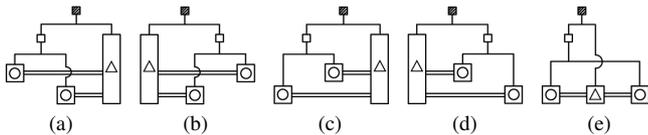


Figure 6: Marriage with two wives who are niece sisters

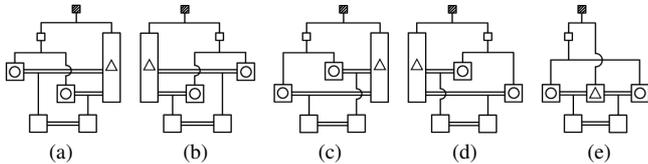


Figure 7: Marriage with two wives who are niece sisters and have a child

That is, many arcs are found on the cross points between the vertical segments and the horizontal segments. These arcs give the users the impression that the users can find the intersecting points of two segments on the 2D figure. Some rectangles of individuals are written in large so that they can connect many individuals by using many segments.

Using this style, the users can, at a glance, understand the information of an individual, and also the complex relations with others. However, it is difficult to write the relations by traditional handwriting (without software), and it takes a lot of time for the data input even if using software. Therefore, many users in Japan expect the use of the genealogy display software with the style as shown in Fig. 1.

B. Minimum units of segment intersections

To achieve the requirements, we investigated where the segment intersections are generated [2], [3]. If a tree structure is only used, segment intersections do not occur. Otherwise, if a man with two wives is displayed, or two brothers with their wives are displayed, segment intersections will occur. We call them the minimum units of segment intersections. The numbers of segment intersections will be shown in each case.

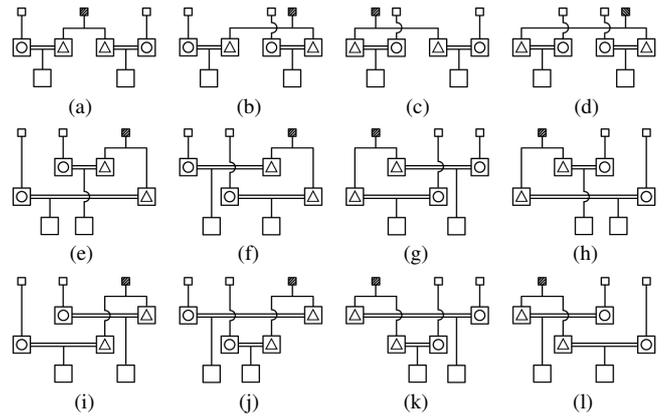


Figure 8: Two brothers take their wives in marriage

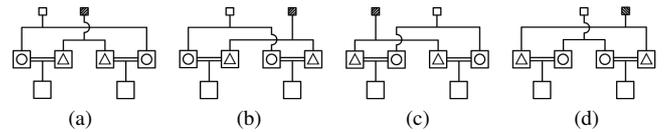


Figure 9: Two brothers take their wives who are sisters in marriage (Kariera-type)

1) Marriage with Two Wives

There are six connecting types as the following:

- The cases of marriage with two wives are shown in Figs. 2(a)–(e) that have the differences of arrangement.
- The cases of marriage with two wives and their children are shown in Figs. 3(a)–(e). No intersection occurs in the cases of (a), (b), (e). However, an intersection occurs in the cases of (c), (d). The cases of marriage between a half-brother and a half-sister displayed with double-dotted segment is included in these figures.
- The cases of marriage with two wives and their parents are shown in Figs. 4(a)–(e). No intersection occurs in the cases of (c)–(e). However, an intersection occurs in the cases of (a), (b). “ \square ” is man’s parent (ascendant), “ \square ” is woman’s parent (ascendant) of partner marriage.
- The cases of marriage with two wives who are sisters are shown in Figs. 5(a)–(e). No intersection occurs in the cases of (c), (d). However, an intersection occurs in the cases of (a), (b), (e).
- The cases of marriage with two wives who are niece sisters are shown in Figs. 6(a)–(e). These numbers of segment intersections are the same as Figs. 5(a)–(e).
- The cases both of marriage with two wives who are niece sisters and marriage between a half-brother and a half-sister who are children of two wives are shown in Figs. 7(a)–(e). An intersection occurs in all cases.

2) Marriages of Two Brothers and Their Wives

There are two connecting types as the following:

- The cases of marriage of two brothers and their wives are shown in Figs. 8(a)–(l). No intersection occurs in the case of (a). However, an intersection occurs in the cases of (b), (c), (e)–(i), (l) and two intersections occur in the cases of (d), (j), (k).
- The cases of Kariera-type, that is the marriage between two brothers and their wives who are sisters, are shown in Figs. 9(a)–(d). An intersection occurs in all cases.

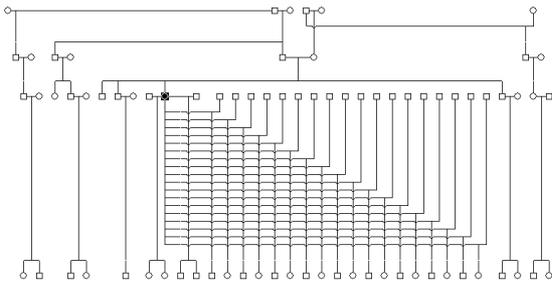


Figure 17: PED Pedigree Software [15]

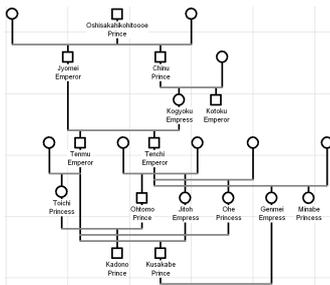


Figure 18: GenoPro [16]

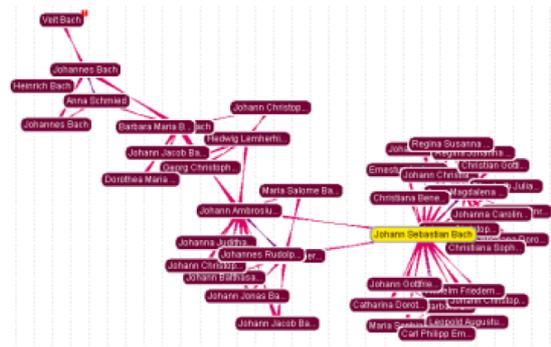
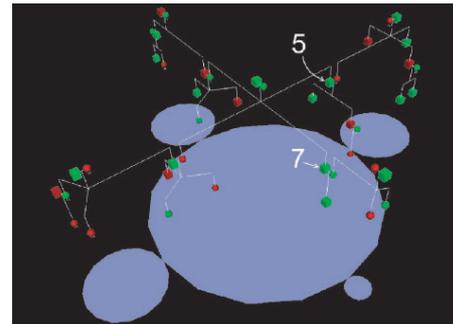
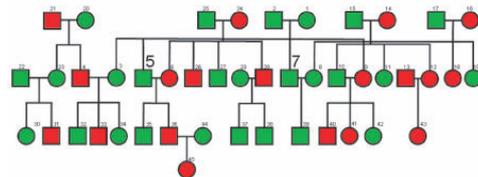


Figure 19: Topic Map [17]



(a) 3D display



(b) 2D display

Figure 20: Celestial3D [18]

PED Pedigree Software (Fig. 17 [15]) can display segment intersections, however, these are only polygamy or polyandry for one generation. In addition, using the Edit Window that is another drawing mode, segment intersections have to be set in manual operations. So, this software cannot display all of the minimum unit of segment intersections automatically.

GenoPro (Fig. 18 [16]) can display the genealogy with free positions. However, complex relations cannot be connected freely. In addition, this software has the problem that the vertical segments and the horizontal segments are classified by using the different colors instead of using many arcs. And the different colors are similar like black and gray. Therefore, the display fails if it is printed only by monochrome binary.

It is often said that using 3D graphics is easy to construct the segment intersections than 2D. Fig. 19 shows a sample of 3D genealogy by Topic Map [17]. However, many names not only overlap but also their representation conceals the segments. The users cannot understand the relations because all segments cannot be seen at the same time. That is, 3D is rather more difficult to understand them than 2D. In addition, Celestial3D (Figs. 20(a),(b) [18]) can display 2D genealogy by transforming from 3D. However, segment intersections cannot be displayed in 2D. So, though using 3D, the method for displaying segment intersections in 2D is necessary.

M. Aida[19] researches the database for classical Japanese genealogy. However, the information of historical persons is mainly stored by the functions of the database, and it does not focus on displaying style of genealogy.

There is a standard both of symbols for denoting many types of individuals and segments for connecting them in genealogy according to each culture and/or each special field[20]. However, it is not trivial in many cases.

Thus, the existing genealogy display software does not meet the requirements. These kinds of differences make the users confused or felt uncomfortable to use them. Though a lot of researchers know the necessity of constructing segment intersections, why cannot they meet? We believe that there is a problem in the existing data structure.

GEDCOM [21] is a de facto standard for making data of genealogy. So, it is used in a lot of existing genealogy display software. However, the information of individuals and references to other individuals' IDs are only written in this format. An event of a family, including a relation between marriage of a couple and their children birth, is not written. Therefore, the complex relations cannot be displayed if software does not consider them. This is a reason why existing software is uncomfortable. The event should be managed directly in data structure.

D. Purpose of our research

In this research, we propose a new data management method for handling relations so that genealogy display software can satisfy the requirements. It is named "Widespread Hands to INterconnect BASic Elements (WHItEBasE)" [3]. A WHItEBasE is a hidden node for integrating a relation between a married couple and their children as an event. That is, individual's data does not refer to other IDs directly, and only refers to the WHItEBasE IDs. As a result, the number of references is less than the existing data structure. Therefore, the volume of database is smaller, the complex multiple marriages can be set easily, and the positions of the segment intersections can also be searched easily. Then, the requirements can be satisfied and WHItEBasE is benefit of cultural science.

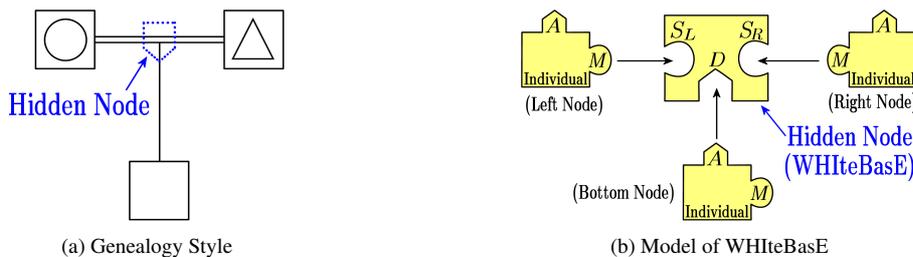


Figure. 21: A normal connection with a married couple and their child by using a Hidden Node (WHItEBasE)

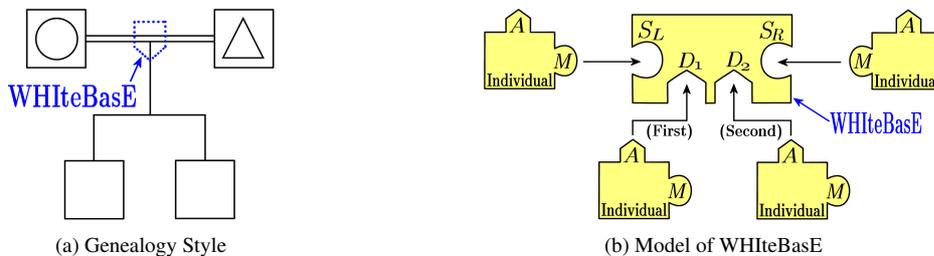


Figure. 22: A normal connection with a married couple and their children by using a Hidden Node (WHItEBasE)

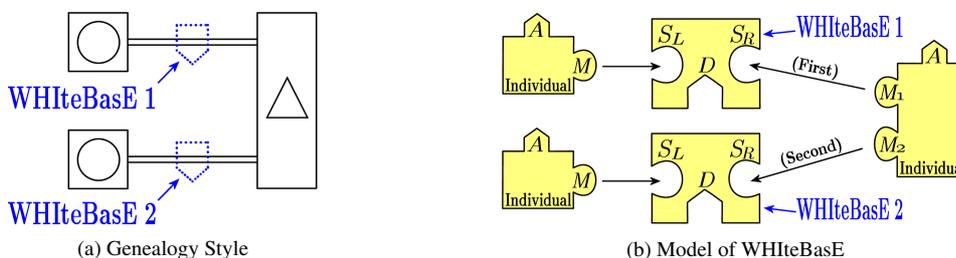


Figure. 23: A normal connection with Multiple Marriages by using plural Hidden Nodes (WHItEBasEs)

II. WHItEBasE

A. A model of WHItEBasE

1) Hidden Node

This is a new data management method. A relation between a married couple and their child is managed as an event by a Hidden Node (Fig. 21(a)). The Hidden Node can be displayed on the genealogy display area while the users input the data. Otherwise, it can be not-displayed when the genealogy is shown. The dotted pentagon is shown at the position of the Hidden Node for convenience in understanding the meaning of this management style.

2) WHItEBasE

A model of connections using the Hidden Node that manages the nodes of three individuals is shown in Fig. 21(b). It has three keyholes S_L, S_R and D . S_L, S_R (S means Substance) denote the keyholes for connecting two nodes of a married couple facing left and right, D (meaning Descendant) denotes the keyhole for connecting a node of a child facing down. The suffixes L and R are only denoted to connect to the Individual Nodes facing left and right of the Hidden Node respectively. The left and right, as an actual display position and the difference between a male parent and a female parent, are in any order.

The individual's Node (named the "Individual Node") has two keys A and M . A (meaning Ascendant) denotes the key of a parent facing up, and M (meaning Married) denotes the key of a marriage facing left or right. Note that the key

M facing right and the key M facing left have the same meaning. These keyholes and keys only show the connection model. So, it is not necessary to imagine these pieces close together like a puzzle. The arrows can show the relations of connections between keyholes and keys. They can be connected to Individual Nodes on both sides very well. So, it is named "Widespread Hands to InTERconnect BASic Elements (WHItEBasE)". After this, the Hidden Node is called "WHItEBasE".

3) Brothers and Sisters

If children occur as shown in Fig. 22(a), the keyhole D of a WHItEBasE is extended in multiple keyholes D_j as shown in Fig. 22(b). The suffix j denotes the array counter for brothers and/or sisters. In this case, D_1 denotes the keyhole for connecting the first child and D_2 denotes the keyhole for connecting the second child. So, Individual Nodes of children can be connected to a WHItEBasE by using each key A . This WHItEBasE is located at the same junction as shown in Fig. 21(a).

4) Multiple Marriages

If multiple marriages occur as shown in Fig. 23(a), the key M of the Individual Node is extended in multiple keys M_k (Fig. 23(b)). After that, plural WHItEBasEs are used because it has only two keyholes for connecting marriage.

Note that many keyholes D_j and keys M_k are increasable according to additional children and additional multiple marriages respectively.

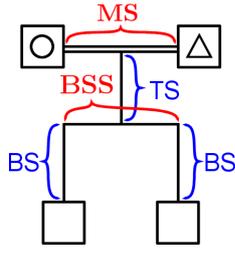


Figure 24: Definition of segment names

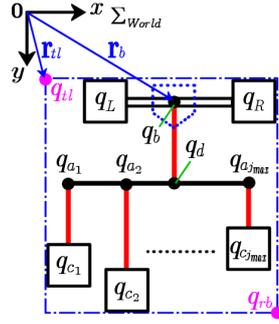


Figure 25: Definition of coordinate system

5) Names of Segments

We define the names of four kinds of segments as shown in Fig. 24. The double horizontal segment MS is denoted a ‘‘Marriage Segment’’ for connecting a married couple, the vertical segment TS is denoted a ‘‘Trunk Segment’’ for connecting to the descendant segments, the horizontal segment BSS is denoted a ‘‘Brothers and Sisters Segment’’ for connecting children’s segments, and the vertical segments BSs are denoted ‘‘Branch Segments’’ for branching each child. In addition, the WHIteBasE is installed at the junction between the MS and the TS.

B. Definition of WHIteBasE model

We define a model of WHIteBasE for generalizing in this paragraph. WHIteBasEs are defined by using a set W_i and Individual Nodes are defined by using a set I_j as shown in

$$\begin{aligned} W_i &= \{S_L, S_R, D_j, \mathbf{Q}\} \\ I_j &= \{A, M_k\} \end{aligned} \quad \begin{cases} i = 0, 1, \dots, i_{max} \\ j = 0, 1, \dots, j_{max} \\ k = 0, 1, \dots, k_{max} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where i, j, k denote the IDs on the data table respectively, $i_{max}, j_{max}, k_{max}$ are the maximum values. S_L, S_R denote the IDs of two Individual Nodes (a couple) connected with the left and right sides of a WHIteBasE. D_j denotes the IDs of Individual Nodes (Children) connected with down side of a WHIteBasE. A denotes the ID of a WHIteBasE for handling of ascendant (Parent). M_k denotes the IDs of a WHIteBasE for handling of marriage.

The IDs of Individual Nodes are written on the data table for holding a name of an Individual, and its supplementary information. The IDs of WHIteBasEs are managed by a separated data table from the Individuals. And \mathbf{Q} denotes the set of coordinate values of each position managed by a WHIteBasE (Fig. 25) and is denoted in

$$\mathbf{Q} = \{q_b, q_L, q_R, q_d, q_{a_j}, q_{c_j}, q_{tl}, q_{rb}\} \quad (2)$$

where q_b denotes the WHIteBasE’s position, q_L, q_R denote the parents’ positions, q_d denotes the junction’s position between the MS and the TS, q_{c_j} denotes the children’s positions, q_{a_j} denotes the junctions’ positions between the BSS and the BS, q_{tl}, q_{rb} denote the positions of top-left and bottom-right of all area managed by a WHIteBasE.

\mathbf{Q} are written on the coordinate system \sum_{world} measured from the origin of the displaying area. For example, \mathbf{r}_{tl} denotes the position vector to q_{tl} , \mathbf{r}_b denotes the position vector to q_b , and so on. $(x_{i,tl}, y_{i,tl})$ denote the position of q_{tl} ,

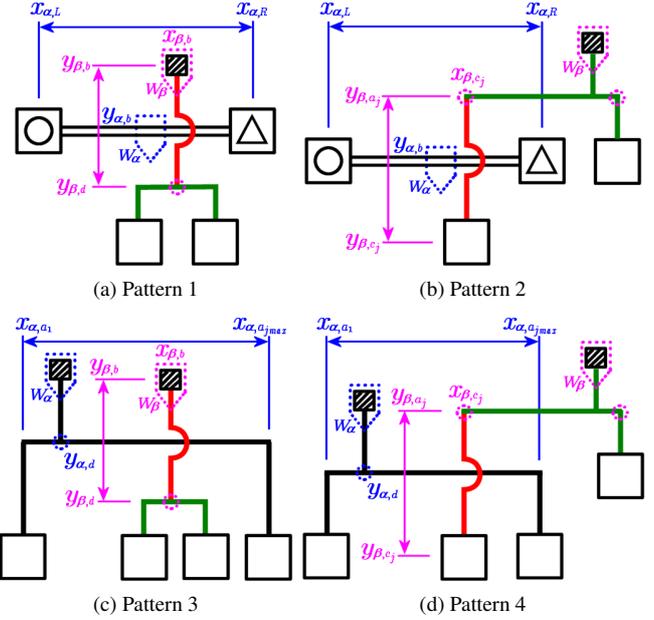


Figure 26: Search pattern of segment intersections

$(x_{i,b}, y_{i,b})$ denote the position of q_b and so on for showing the position of each W_i , and they are used for comparing the positions of different WHIteBasEs.

III. Search Method of Segment Intersections

A. Search algorithm

Genealogy can be displayed by using two types both of horizontal segments and vertical segments, if following the rule of displaying genealogy described in paragraph I-A. The horizontal segments are only two types of the MS and the BSS. The vertical segments are only two types of the TS and the BS. These horizontal segments and vertical segments do not intersect at all on a WHIteBasE (Refer Figs. 24). That is, if using two or more than three WHIteBasEs, it is necessary to search the segment intersections.

For this reason, the search algorithm for comparing two WHIteBasEs α and β uses two horizontal segments and two vertical segments. In short, they have four patterns and they can be classified as follows:

- (a) The MS of W_α and the TS of W_β are crossing as shown in Fig. 26(a).

If $x_{\alpha,L} < x_{\beta,b} < x_{\alpha,R}$ and $y_{\beta,b} < y_{\alpha,b} < y_{\beta,d}$, then, the coordinate of intersection is $(x_{\beta,b}, y_{\alpha,b})$.

- (b) The MS of W_α and the BS of W_β are crossing as shown in Fig. 26(b).

If $x_{\alpha,L} < x_{\beta,c_j} < x_{\alpha,R}$ and $y_{\beta,a_j} < y_{\alpha,b} < y_{\beta,c_j}$, then, the coordinate of intersection is $(x_{\beta,c_j}, y_{\alpha,b})$.

- (c) The BSS of W_α and the TS of W_β are crossing as shown in Fig. 26(c).

If $x_{\alpha,a_1} < x_{\beta,b} < x_{\alpha,a_{j_{max}}}$ and $y_{\beta,b} < y_{\alpha,d} < y_{\beta,d}$, then, the coordinate of intersection is $(x_{\beta,b}, y_{\alpha,d})$.

- (d) The BSS of W_α and the BS of W_β are crossing as shown in Fig. 26(d).

If $x_{\alpha,a_1} < x_{\beta,c_j} < x_{\alpha,a_{j_{max}}}$ and $y_{\beta,a_j} < y_{\alpha,d} < y_{\beta,c_j}$, then, the coordinate of intersection is $(x_{\beta,c_j}, y_{\alpha,d})$.

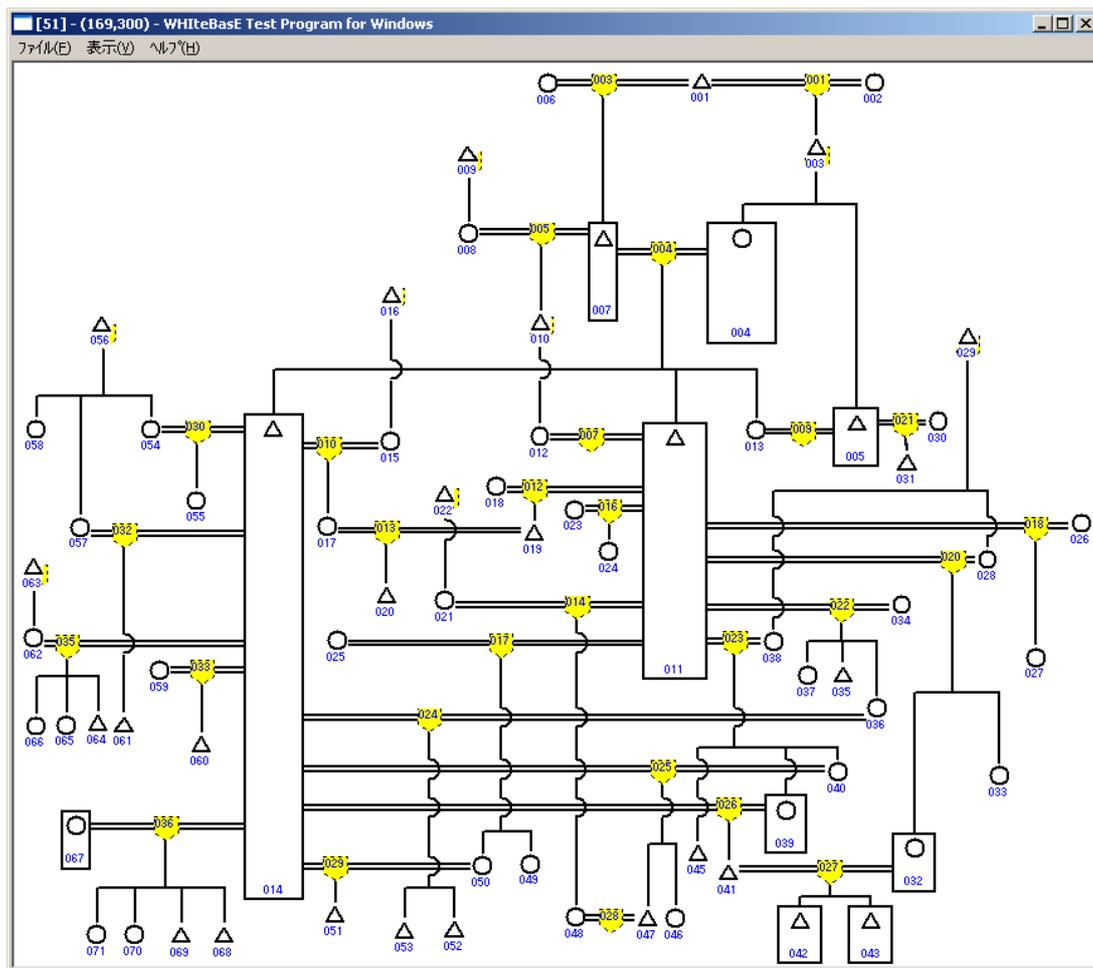


Figure. 27: Our new prototype software for displaying genealogy with segment intersections by using the WHItEBasE

The positions of segment intersections can be calculated by using these four search patterns with a round-robin searching of all WHItEBasEs. Naturally, this calculation is fast because this technique does not have to search for all segments.

B. Verification

We will discuss the correctness of the search algorithm.

1) The Minimum Unit of Segment Intersections

First, we will verify that this method can search the minimum units of segment intersections described in paragraph I-B. The coordinate values of the segment intersections as shown in Figs. 3(c),(d), Figs. 4(a),(b), Figs. 7(c),(d) and Figs. 8(e)–(h) can be calculated by using pattern 1. The coordinate values of the segment intersections as shown in Figs. 5(a),(b), Figs. 6(a),(b) and Figs. 7(a),(b) can be calculated by using pattern 2. The coordinate values of the segment intersections as shown in Figs. 5(e), Figs. 8(b)–(d) and Figs. 9(a),(d) can be calculated by using pattern 3. The coordinate values of the segment intersections as shown in Figs. 6(e), Figs. 7(e), Figs. 8(i),(l) and Figs. 9(b),(c) can be calculated by using pattern 4. Moreover, the coordinate values of the segment intersections as shown in Figs. 8(j),(k) can be calculated by using both pattern 1 and pattern 4. For this reason, it was shown that this algorithm is able to search for the minimum unit of segment intersections.

2) More Than Three Relations

Second, we will verify the cases of more than three relations. A WHItEBasE can manage the process for occurring the new descendants. A WHItEBasE can have plural keyholes for connecting brothers and sisters, and multiple marriages can be written by using plural WHItEBasEs. So, each individual that has many relations can be managed by a WHItEBasE or more than two WHItEBasEs. In addition, all WHItEBasEs are searched by using these four patterns with necessary and sufficient conditions. Therefore, the coordinate values of segment intersections with complex relations can be found by using these four patterns with a round-robin searching of all WHItEBasEs. For this reason, it was shown that this algorithm is able to search for them if relations are more than three.

For this discussion, it was shown that this method is able to search for the positions of all segment intersections.

IV. Simulation Software

A. How to input individuals and WHItEBasEs

We developed our new prototype software for displaying genealogy with segment intersections by using WHItEBasE as shown in Fig. 27. How this genealogy was constructed is as follows: No individual and No WHItEBasE show in the display area when starting the software. The menu with

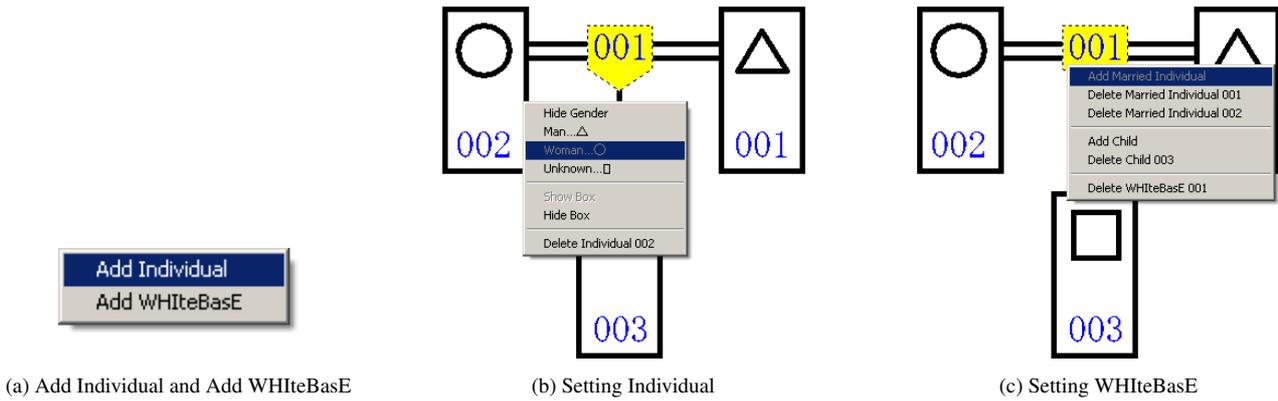


Figure 28: Menu by clicking the right mouse button

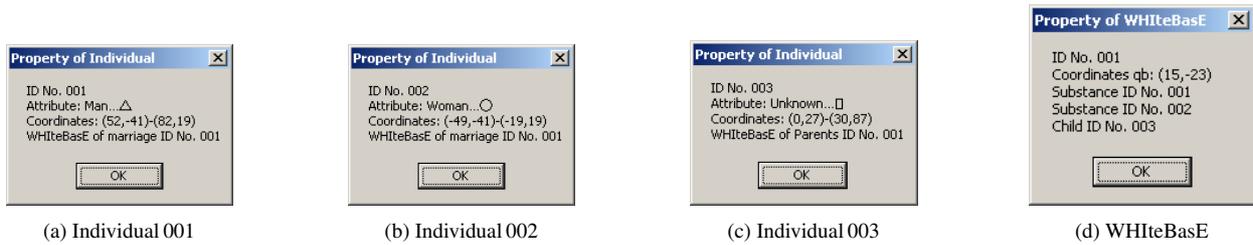


Figure 29: Dialogs of properties by double-clicking the left mouse button

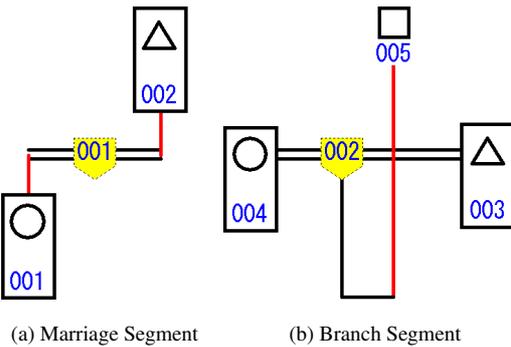


Figure 30: The wrong arrangements are displayed by using red segments

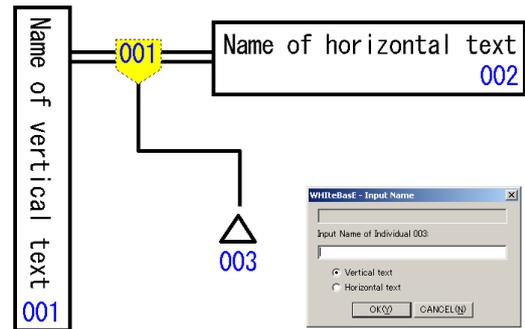


Figure 31: The dialog for inputting name with vertical or horizontal text

“Add Individual” and “Add WHiteBasE”, by clicking the right mouse button as shown in Fig. 28(a), can be used if the users want to input new data.

B. Changing attributes and connecting data

An Individual is shown by the rectangle and a WHiteBasE is shown by the pentagon with the ID respectively. The mark of the pentagon is used for displaying the management area of an event. Using the menu of Setting Individual as shown in Fig. 28(b) can change the attributes of individual; Hide Gender, Man...△, Woman...○ and Unknown...□. Moreover, it can toggle between showing and hiding the individual’s box and can delete it. Using the menu of Setting WHiteBasE as shown in Fig. 28(c) can connect a WHiteBasE with a married couple and their children by drawing segments and can also delete these connections.

If seeing the dialogs of properties by double-clicking the left mouse button on their rectangles or pentagons, it can be verified that a WHiteBasE and individuals can be connected. If seeing the properties of individuals No. 1–3, as shown in Figs. 29(a)–(c), and seeing the attribute of a WHiteBasE, as

shown in Fig. 29(d), it can be understand their connections. Of course, their connections can be understood by watching the connections of their segments.

C. Other mouse operations

The individuals and the WHiteBasEs can be put on anywhere according to the users’ requirements by using mouse operations. The segment intersections can automatically be displayed on the cross points between the vertical segments and the horizontal segments by using half arcs.

Permitting the free position, the users might put them on wrong arrangements. Therefore, the wrong arrangements can be displayed by using red segments in this system as shown in Figs. 30(a)(b). The users should change these arrangements until the red segments are lost, however, it becomes possible to arrange correctly and freely if there is no red segment.

The names of Individuals are written on the dialog for inputting name as shown in Fig. 31. This dialog has two radio buttons for selecting the vertical text or the horizontal text. If selecting the vertical text, it is shown like ID:001. If selecting

VI. Conclusion

In this research, we proposed a new data management method for handling relations on genealogy display software easily. The volume of database became smaller, the complex relations like multiple marriages can be set easily, and the positions of segment intersections can be searched easily by using the hidden node “WHItEBasE”. Our new prototype software was able to display the genealogy with segment intersections automatically, and the users could quickly input a lot of individuals’ data with the relations easier than using the normal drawing tools or existing genealogy software. Therefore, displaying genealogy like a traditional handwriting style could be achieved on computers.

We will improve our genealogy display software and many solutions will be discussed in the future. For example, the large volume data will be treated, and the method for converting other data format into the WHItEBasE method will be considered.

Acknowledgement

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