



**Universitat Oberta
de Catalunya**

An open source browser-based software tool for graph drawing and visualisation

Master Thesis

submitet to the Department of IT, Multimedia
and Telecommunications of the
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the academic degree of
Master in Free Software

by

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2014

Declaration

Hereby I certify that I have conducted this Master Thesis independently and used no other than the specified resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Veit-Dieter Vogt". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Veit-Dieter Vogt

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Abstract

One objective of this master thesis was to find and evaluate open source tools or libraries for graph visualisation which are qualified for educational purposes. This tool should be capable for a prospective graph theory course.

The open source libraries have to support graph drawing and visualisation and can run in a browser. First there was a comprehensive search where a lot of libraries were found. Not all of them are under an open source licence, these were filtered off. Secondly these libraries which are written in a computer language which can not run in a browser were separated. These, written in Javascript, which remain subsequently were evaluated to find out which one is the best for this task. The result was that d3.js is that library which has the greatest functional range, best flexibility and could be easily customised.

The second intension was to develop an open source software tool where d3.js was included as graph drawing and visualisation library. The software was written in Javascript so that it can run browser-based. With this tool the students ought to do their exercises and homework. In order not to begin from scratch and develop the entire software, tools and work which are already had been developed and which can be found in the internet was used and integrated. But there was one essential condition to acquit: These tools or software snippets must be under an open source licence and all the licences must be compatible! Finally the graph drawing and visualisation editor was presented.

1 Introduction

Graph visualisation is an interesting field of mathematics. With graph visualisation one can show the relationships among the elements of interest. These relationships can be unidirectional or bidirectional, which means that these relations can have one way from one element to another only, or the elements have interrelations. It is not only of academic interest, but also refers to many aspects of our real-life briefly. With graph visualisation scientists can show the manifold links among users of social networks, clarify the connections of PCs, servers and other network devices among a computer network, or even the internet, illustrate the biological structures of a united cell structure, point up the neural structure of a brain or biological formation. Software dependencies of a complex software meshwork could be elucidated. Graph visualisation can also show the organisational hierarchies in human and animalistic societies, as there are enterprises, residents of a city or an entire nation and of a flock or a swarm. There are many other fields of application in industry and science.

Since Big Data is a buzzword in IT, data visualisation is more necessary than before. Today it is no problem to acquire such an amount of data that humans can not interpret these data without visualisation. Graph visualisation plays a major role in this context.

One intention of this master thesis was to find and evaluate open source tools or libraries for graph visualisation which are qualified for educational purposes, i.e. for teaching a graph theory course. After a comprehensive search these libraries which do not fit the requirements are filtered off. Adjacent the remaining

1 Introduction

libraries were evaluated which one is the best for a graph drawing and visualization tool.

The second goal was to develop a software tool for the intended graph theory course which can run in a browser. The students ought to download this tool from the UOC's virtual campus. With this software tool they will then do their exercises and homework.

In order not to begin from scratch and develop the entire software, tools and work which have already been developed and which can be found in the internet was used and integrated. But there was one essential condition to acquire: These tools or software snippets must be under an open source licence and all the licences must be compatible!

2 Graph Drawing and Visualisation

A Review of the current research

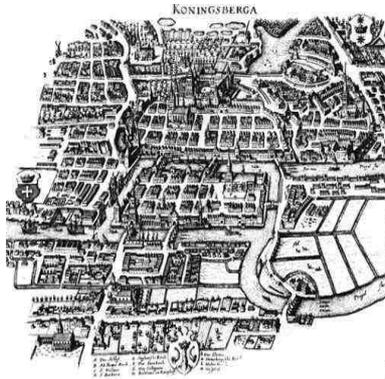
Around 1736 some citizen of Königsberg (today Kaliningrad) asked whether it was possible to make a city tour by using every bridge exactly one time only. Königsberg at that time had 7 bridges. The mathematician Leonard Euler (1707 – 1783) attended to this question. Euler gave some thoughts to this problem and established hereby the mathematical section of graph theory. He took a city map of Königsberg, marked the bridges and then he drew an abstracted map of the city and at the end he drew points and lines to finish the abstraction.

He figured out, that for a solution every point must have an equal number of incoming and outgoing ways. Which means that the number of connections of a point must be even. But some of the points have odd connections so that his definite answer was that it is not possible to take this city tour.

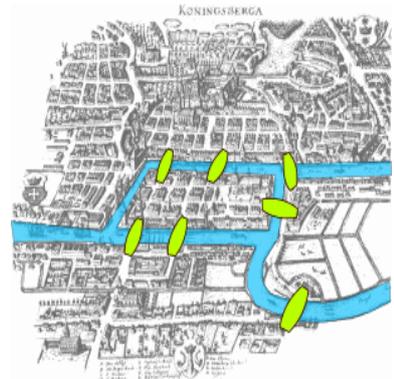


Picture 1: Portrait of Leonard Euler by Emmanuel Handmann 1753

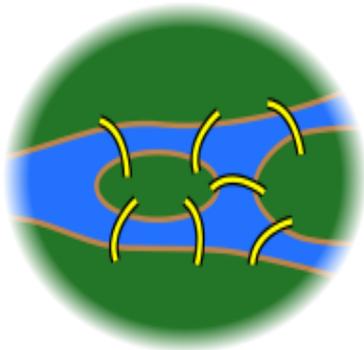
2 Graph Drawing and Visualisation



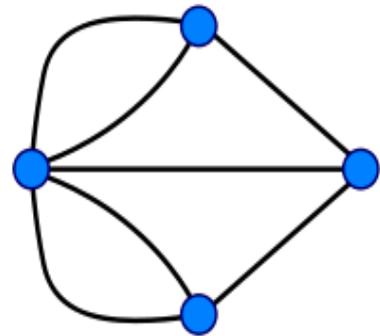
Picture 2: City Map of Königsberg



Picture 3: Marked Bridges



Picture 4: First Step of Abstraction



Picture 5: Second Step of Abstraction

The pictures 2 to 5 illustrates Euler's way of abstraction of the Königsberg bridges problem. (All pictures taken from en.wikipedia.org)

Today these points and lines are called nodes and edges. Graph theory developed in the last centuries to a veritable research field in mathematics. With the increasing number of nodes and edges in a graph it was more and more unreal to understand a graph without visualising them, because humans do understand things better if they can see them. By graph visualisation it is pos-

sible to show the different relationships among the elements of interest. These relationships can be unidirectional or bidirectional, which means that the relations can be one-way or see-saw.

Graph visualisation today is not only of academic interest. With graph visualisation you can show the manifold links among people using social networks, or it could clarify the connections of computers, servers and other devices in a computer network, or the internet in total. Graph visualisation illustrates the biological structures of a united cell structure, points up the neural structure of a brain, or a biological formation. Graph visualisation elucidates software dependencies of a complex software meshwork, or the line drawings of electronic circuits. Graph visualisation can also show the organisational hierarchies in human and animalistic societies, enterprises, residents of a city or an entire nation and of a flock or a swarm.

The research field of graph drawing and visualisation is separated into several section problems:

- planarity testing and embedding
- crossings and planarisation
- symmetric graph drawing
- proximity drawing
- tree drawing algorithms
- planar straight-line drawing algorithms
- planar orthogonal and polyline drawing algorithms
- spine and radial drawing

2 Graph Drawing and Visualisation

- circular drawing algorithms
- rectangular drawing algorithms
- simultaneous embedding of planar graphs
- force-directed drawing algorithms
- hierarchical drawing algorithms
- three-dimensional drawing algorithms and
- labeling algorithms.

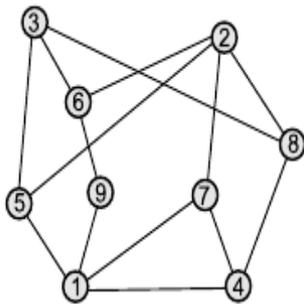
The following review will report the current research of graph drawing and visualisation and will reveal open questions in the sections.

Planarity testing and embedding

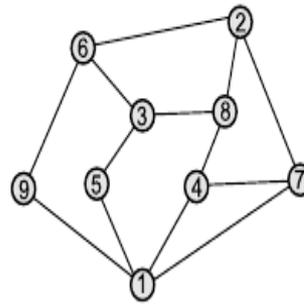
The characterisation of a planar graph was written in the 1930s [Kur30], but it took a long time since 1970 [HT74] to find a linear-time solution. Why are planar graphs so interesting? They have several interesting properties. Planar graphs are sparse and 4-colorable [AH77]. Their inner structure can be described very easy and the less crossings a graph has the better is its readability for humans. Therefore the testing of planarity of a graph is an interesting research field.

There are some algorithms for testing the planarity. All linear-time algorithms fall into two categories. One category is called cycle based and the other one vertex addition algorithm. The cycle based technique is that a cycle splits the graph into two sections, an inner and an outer section. The technique of the vertex addition algorithms is to begin with smaller planar graphs and then adding vertices to build the final graph [HT08]. Depth First Search (DFS) is a technique which is common to all planarity testing methods. It is a special method to visit

all vertices of a graph in specified order. Recognising a planar graph is a main problem. Is a graph certified as non-planar it is called a Kuratowski subgraph isolation [CMS08]. Scientists have developed dynamic algorithms to determine the planarity of a graph (Lempel-Even-Cederbaum [LEC67], Shih-Hsu [SH99] and Boyer-Myrvold [BM04]). Computing planar embeddings means that vertices and edges are added or deleted to construct the final graph [DBTV01].



Picture 6: Non-planar Graph



Picture 7: Planar Graph

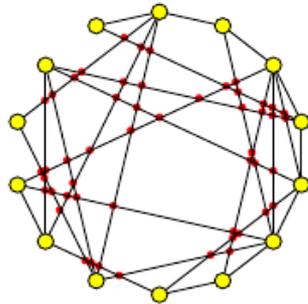
In planarity testing there are some constraints in simultaneous planarity testing, clustered planarity testing and decomposition-based planarity testing.

Crossings and planarisation

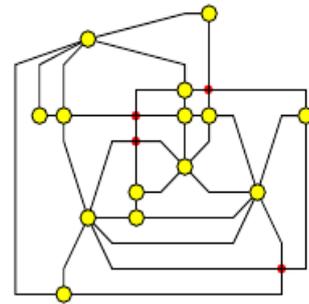
Another problem is that the bigger the graph and the more crossings it has the lesser is the readability. Crossing minimisation is an optimisation problem in graph drawing. This problem was first examined by Turan during World War II. There are some algorithms which try to solve the problem, but it is still an open problem. Crossing minimisation is as well of commercial interest. In VLSI (very large scale integration) design it is necessary to have as less crossings as possible. More wire crossings imply more costs of the chip. The planarisation method [BTT84] is the current approach to the crossing minimisation problem.

2 Graph Drawing and Visualisation

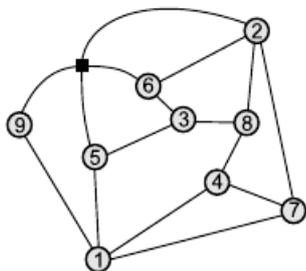
This method consists of two steps. The first step is to draw a planar subgraph which has as many edges as possible. All edges which are not contained in this drawing will then be inserted in the next step. Whenever a crossing is produced, a dummy vertex will be inserted to eliminate the crossing. After all edges have been inserted a planar drawing algorithm will then compute the layout. At the end the dummy vertices will be deleted.



Picture 8: Graph with many crossings



Picture 9: Graph with less crossings



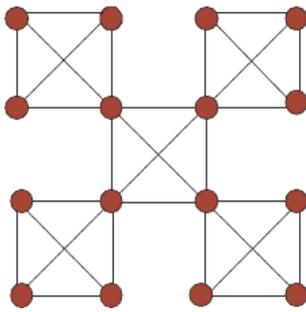
Picture 10: Planarised Graph

One of the open problems in crossing minimisation is the determination of the crossing numbers of the final graph [PT00]. Another problem is the approximability of crossing minimisation.

Symmetric graph drawing

Drawing a graph symmetrically is in most cases preferred by humans over a planar graph drawing [KK89]. Therefore symmetry graph drawing is another

important section in graph drawing and is based on fundamental aesthetic criteria. The goal is to find besides the trivial symmetry a non-trivial symmetry of a graph [CLY01]. Symmetries are related to the automorphisms of a graph. A symmetry can be rotational or reflective or a combination of both. An automorphism group of a graph defines these combinatorial symmetries. But not every automorphism can be drawn as a symmetric graph. A goal of symmetric graph drawing is to determine the automorphisms of a graph which can be drawn symmetrically.



Picture 11: Symmetric Graph

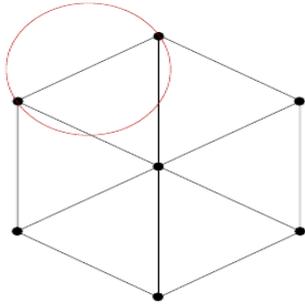
Drawing a graph „very very symmetric“ is one of the open problems. If there are two drawings of a graph with the same symmetry that one is preferred which has the more elaborated symmetry but the scientists are far away from designing an algorithm to draw a graph „very very symmetric“.

Proximity drawing

Proximity graph drawing is another question in graph visualisation. A geometric graph which is drawn straight-line and build by a group of nodes where pairs of nodes are connected is called a proximity graph when they have a defined proximity. Depending on the definition of closeness, the same set of nodes could lead to a variety of proximity graphs. Motivated by numerous scientific applications [GO04] [Tou05] [CPZ04] scientists try to efficiently compute different types of proximity graphs of a given set of nodes. The goal is to design an efficient algorithm for computing a proximity graph drawing which is called the proximity

2 Graph Drawing and Visualisation

drawability problem.



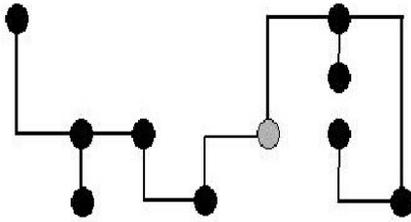
Picture 12: Proximity Drawing

Research area of proximity graph drawing is far from solving the problems. There are many questions which are unanswered. For example: minimum weight drawings [MS92], Delaunay and Voronoi drawings [SIII00], β -drawings [Rad88], sphere of influence drawings [HJLM93], rectangle of influence drawings

[LLMW98] and other proximity rules. Today this section of proximity graph drawing follows two research directions: One is the question of proximity drawings and ad-hoc networks, and the other question is that of proximity drawings and geometric checkers.

Tree drawing algorithms

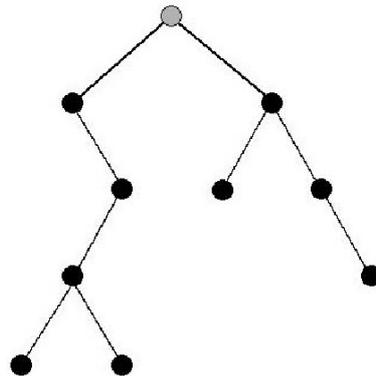
For the purposes of representation of relational informations a tree drawing of a graph is suited. In such a tree a node represents an entity and an edge that of the association between the entities. These hierarchical informations could be a program nesting tree, an organisation chart, an activity tree, a knowledge-representation isa hierarchy, a structure of a website, an evolutionary tree, a molecular drawing, or indexes of databases. Typically an algorithm for tree



Picture 13: Graph drawn as Tree

drawing is based on the understanding of the structure of the tree. Also aesthetic aspects are important for tree drawing because the readability and understandability depends on an aesthetic

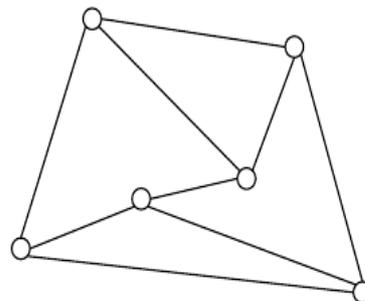
drawing. Several types of approaches are used to describe the different hierarchical informations. They are the level-based approach [BJL02], the path-based approach [GR03a], the ring circular layout approach [GADM04] and the separation-based approach [RS07]. There are special algorithms to draw binary trees too. A binary tree is a tree where every node has one or two children only [Mac03].



Picture 14: The same graph drawn in an other manner

Planar straight-line drawing algorithms

Already in the 1930s investigations had been undertaken to do planar straight-line drawings [SR34]. The results had shown, that every planar graph allows a planar straight-line drawing. Today there are two major algorithms to draw graphs straight-line: The shift method [dFPP90] and the realizer method [Sch90], an improved method of realizer was introduced later [BFM07].



Picture 15: Straight-line graph drawing

2 Graph Drawing and Visualisation

Planar orthogonal and polyline drawing algorithms

Drawing a planar orthogonal graph has the advantage that the graph has no crossings and the angles between the edges are 90° or 180° . But on the other side it also has the disadvantage that the graph can have a degree of a maximum of 4 only. Drawing a graph planar orthogonal is of industrial interest because VLSI design uses planar orthogonal graph drawing for the routing of the wires on a chip. More general are the polyline drawings of a graph. In this kind of drawing the edges can have angles of 45° and the multiple. These graphs than can have degrees of more than 4. There are different algorithms to draw an planar orthogonal graph: The network flow technique [GT02] and the mixed-model algorithm [GM98].

Spine and radial drawing

Directed graphs which edges are parallel straight lines are called spine drawings of graphs. Drawings of directed graphs where the edges are concentric circles are called radial drawings. These two kinds of graph drawings belong to the family of layered graph drawing. One of the problems is the point-set embeddability which is investigated in computational geometry [Bos02]. Also not solved are some theoretical connetions between spine and radial drawings. Problems in graph theory and compu-tational geometry are unanswered too [DDLW05] [Sug02].

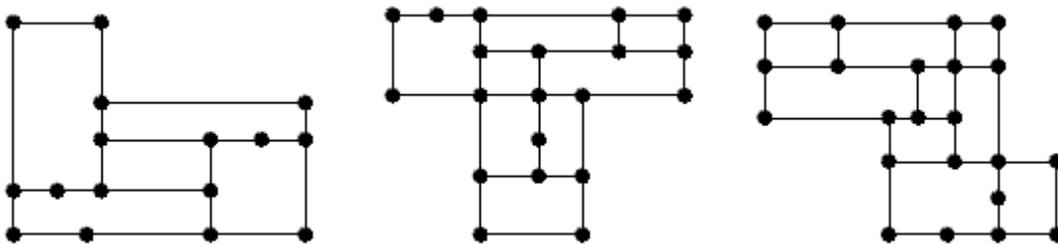
Circular drawing algorithms

If the following three conditions are fulfilled, a graph drawing is called a circular graph drawing: a. the graph is partitioned into clusters, b. the nodes of each

cluster are placed onto the circumference of an embedding circle and c. each edge is drawn as a straight line. For the calculation of circular graph drawings there are two efficient algorithms [Bra97] [DMM97]. The scientists could show that these algorithms work very well in applied practices and produce drawings with a low number of edge crossings [ST06].

Rectangular drawing algorithms

A graph where the vertices are drawn as points and the edges are drawn as horizontal or vertical lines only and the graph is a planar graph, than this graph drawing is called a rectangular graph drawing. This drawing has practical applications in VLSI floorplannings like chip design or architecture [NR04].



Picture 16: L-, T- and Z-shape rectangular graph drawings

On a chip with sections which produces heat these sections should not be adjacent so that the heat dissipation can work sufficiently [She95]. Another practical application is the floorplanning of buildings. For example should the cafeteria not be adjacent to laboratories where it is dealt with poisonous chemicals [FW74]. There are several drawing algorithms in practice which deliver good results [KH97] [LL90].

Simultaneous embedding of planar graphs

In cases where not only one graph could explain the relations between the ver-

2 Graph Drawing and Visualisation

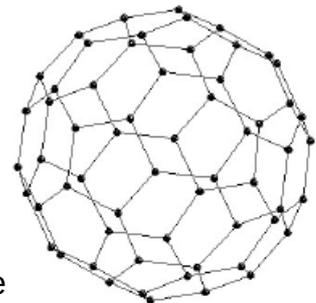
tices there are two or more graphs which share some or even all vertices needed to describe the situation. This is called a simultaneous embedding of planar graphs. The question then is how could these graphs be best displayed. Because there are various scenarios which need different layouts not only one algorithm could satisfy all particular layouts. For a proper layout the scientists have to take into account the readability and the mental map preservation. These two criteria are often contradictory. The readability is an aspect of aesthetic, e. g. the minimal number of crossings. The mental map preservation could be achieved by keeping the vertices of consecutive graphs at the same position. Optimising the one is to downgrade the other. It is essential to keep a balance. Simultaneous embeddings of graphs have much applications in sciences: software engineering, databases, or social networks. Also in industry the simultaneous graph embeddings are of interest. VLSI design uses such algorithms to solve the optimisation problem of chip placement [MOS98]. In this section there are many open problems.

Force-directed drawing algorithms

If there are forces between the vertices of a graph it is to be spoken of force-directed graphs. These forces could be repulsive or attractive between vertices which are adjacent.

Force-directed algorithms have a long history in this research field. Already in the 1960s algorithms to calculate force-directed graph drawings were introduced [Tut63].

In the last years there had been good progress and many



Picture 17: Force-directed graph drawing

improved algorithms had been implemented [Ead84] [FR91]. But these algorithms work good for graphs with only a few vertices but not if the graphs have hundreds or even thousands of vertices. One of the obstacle is that the physical models have more than one minimum and even with sophisticated mechanisms it is not possible to get good layouts for bigger graphs. Since the late 1990s there had been introduced better algorithms which now can handle graphs with thousands of vertices. These layouts consist of a series of simple graphs so that the readability of the whole composition is acceptable [Wal03] [GGK04]. Also some algorithms do not use Euclidean geometry, but the surface of a sphere or a torus [KW05]. The newer scalable algorithms which can handle large dynamic graphs with thousands of vertices are used in many applications [Mun97].

Hierarchical drawing algorithms

A special case of a directed graph is a hierarchical graph drawing. Examples for hierarchical graphs are the organisation of an enterprise, function calls of a software, object-oriented class diagrams or a PERT chart of a project management. The major algorithm for drawing hierarchical graphs is the Sugiyama method [STT81]. In the last years there had been many modifications and enhancements of this framework [dNE02] [SM95a] [UBSE98]. But all these alternatives have their special applications and limitations. There are attempts to draw hierarchical graphs in 3D [GT97] [HN05a]. One of several approaches to overcome these limitations is the UPL system [CGMW11]. So-called radial level drawings are another alternative method for visualisation of a social network [BKW03]. The cycle style of drawing was also introduced to avoid the top-

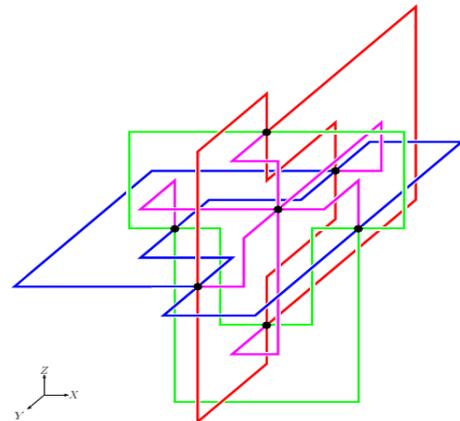
2 Graph Drawing and Visualisation

to-bottom leveling [BBBL08].

Three-dimensional drawing algorithms

In most cases it is sufficient to draw a graph in two dimensions. But for special applications a drawing in three dimensions is better. These applications could be VLSI design [LR86], software engineering [WHF93] or information visualisation [WM08].

3D drawings have made great advantages in the last years by better hard-



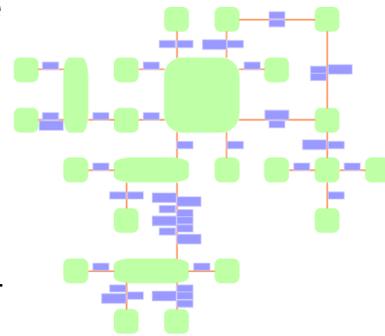
Picture 18: 3D graph drawing

ware and increasing computer power. So-called grid-drawings, that are graph drawings where the vertices have integer co-ordinates only, ensure a minimum of grid spacing and the readability is better if the nodes would be too adjacent. Another aspect of 3D drawing is straight-line crossing-free graph drawing. Orthogonal drawings have edges which are parallel to one of the axis and they guarantee a good angular resolution. In VLSI design it is important to minimise the space for the chip to avoid dissipation of space. There are still many open problems in 3D graph drawing but with increasing computer power the scientists had made good progress in the last decades.

Labeling algorithms

Automated labeling edges and nodes is a major problem in graph drawing. Labeling has for example applications in cartography [RMM+95] and geographic information systems (GIS) [Fre91].

In cartography the labeling is elevated into an art over the decades and automatic labeling never will reach a sufficient placement. But in some cases like real-time placement in on-line GIS, oil exploration [Zor90] or internet-based mapping it has acceptable quality. At present time the semi-automated labeling systems are the best approach. They produce an initial labeling and adjacent it will be improved manually. By increasing computer capabilities the automated labeling will make further advances.



Picture 19: Labeled Graph

Conclusion

In graph drawing and visualisation the scientists have made good progress in the last decades. The theoretical basics in information technology has been augmented in the last sixty years. Some new languages in artificial intelligence have been developed to better support the implementation of algorithms for graph drawings. The efficiency of the algorithms has been improved over the time and the computational capabilities progressed with seven-league boots. But still there are several questions without an answer. The research field of graph drawing and visualisation is still an interesting field of research and will show some appealing and instructive changes over the next years.

Note: All pictures in this chapter are taken from [Tam13]

3 Methodology

In this Master Thesis we searched for documents about the libraries, evaluate them and decided which of them is the best for developing our tool. This first part is a document approach.

The second part of the research work is a design and creation approach. Here we develop a tool for the intended graph theory course of the UOC.

Stol and Babar [SB10] listed 20 Open Source Software evaluation methods.

Some of them are industry driven and do not cover the intentions for the special purpose here. Others are very comprehensive and sophisticated; these are not suited to be taken into account in this research work because it would take too long to get familiar with these methods. Among the remaining there are the papers of Cruz, Wieland and Ziegler [CWZ06], the paper QSOS initiated by Atos Origin [Atos13] and the online paper of David Wheeler [Whe11] which describe methods for evaluations of free software / open source software. A first glance at these three papers showed that many points of the different methods are similar to the method described by D. Wheeler. All three methods look very much alike and only differ in some special points. The QSOS method (see www.qsos.org) is under an open source licence and provides a plug-in for Firefox. This tool could ease and facilitate the evaluation process.

[ADDENDUM: End of May the European Commission announced the open source project OSSmeter (<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/elibrary/case/ossmeter-platform-automatically-assess-monitor-and-compare-oss-packages>). From the description: "Evaluating whether an open source software package meets the requirements for a specific application, or determining the best match from a list

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of packages, requires information on both the quality and the maturity of the software, as well as understanding whether the software is continuing to evolve and if there is a substantial and active community of users and developers.....” For this research work it is too late to take this project into account and include more information, but further research should not disregard it.]

Our decision therefore was to evaluate the software according D. Wheeler's IRCA method. For a detailed description see below. Regrettably we have not found any papers where researchers report that they had used Wheeler's method and we only found two papers where researchers describe their evaluation process of open source software. These are the papers of Graf and List: An Evaluation of Open Source E-Learning Platforms Stressing Adaptation Issues [GL05] and of Fleischfresser: Evaluation von Open Source Projekten: Ein GQM-basierter Ansatz [Flei07]. Due to this low number of references it is not possible to speak of a state-of-the-art in this research field.

David A. Wheeler elaboratedly described in his paper “How to Evaluate Open Source Software / Free Software Programs.” a general 4-step process for evaluating programs. He calls this method “**IRCA**”. IRCA is a short form of: **I**dentify the candidates, **R**ead existing Reviews, **C**ompare the leading programs and **A**nalyse the top candidates in more depth. This method will be used to evaluate the open source candidates for graph visualisation. In this paper Wheeler described 14 criteria of evaluation. Not all of them may be relevant for UOC to use the open source software / libraries in a graph theory course. In this paper he gives specific informations on how to evaluate open source software / free software (OSS/FS). Wheeler developed this process so that anyone can compare OSS/FS side-by-side with proprietary software and determine which of the can-

didates best meets one's needs. After an introduction about open source software, other approaches for evaluation and a short overview over the IRCA process, he goes into depth in the following four chapters. In chapter two he declares the process step of identifying the candidates and gives some tips. In chapter three he recommends to read reviews about the candidates. Briefly compare the leading program's attributes to your needs is the title of chapter four. This chapter is very detailed. In 14 subchapters he describes important attributes to be considered including functionality, cost, market share, support, maintenance, reliability, performance, scalability, useability, security, flexibility / customisability, interoperability, and legal / licence issues. The last step in his method is to perform an in-depth analysis of the top candidates which the author discusses in chapter 5. Chapter 6 terminates Wheeler's paper. Therein he recommends some hints how to present the results of the evaluation.

3.1 In-detail description of the data analysis

David Wheeler called his method the IRCA method. IRCA is short for the four steps of which the method consists:

1. Identify the candidates
2. Read existing Reviews
3. Compare the programs' basic attributes and
4. Analyse the top candidates in depth.

But before the researcher begins with step one, it has to be clear what requirements the candidates must comply with. Wheeler strongly recommends that the researcher who evaluates free software / open source software according his

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method must have a basic idea of what his needs are, i.e. the researcher should have a list where all the requirements of the candidates are listed and according to which the search and evaluation will be geared to.

3.1.1 Identifying the candidates

In this first step the researcher has to do a comprehensive search, preferably in the internet, to find as many candidates as possible which roughly fulfill the requirements. Wheeler had listed some recommendations which can be an assistance for this search, e.g. a paper of the U.S. government and lists of so-called GRAM and GRAS (GRAM = generally recognised as mature) (GRAS = generally recognised as safe) software. At the end the researcher has to deselect the software which is not adequate, so that only these candidates remain, which absolutely accomplish with the researcher's needs.

3.1.2 Reading existing reviews

Wheeler's references are to visit the programs website, to read software comparisons to find the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates and he gives some examples. In our case where we search for software tools and libraries which can run in a browser and which have to be under an open source licence there are no such reviews to find. The only comments about the candidates which we had found are these in the forums. But these comments do not have any scientific explanatory power.

3.1.3 Comparing the leading programs

After the candidates that do not fulfill the requirements have been eliminated the next step is a comparison. For this comparison, step three of the IRCA method, Wheeler recommends to visit the projects web page. Most open source software projects have such a web page where most of the informations about the project can be found. There you will find the documentation of the software, FAQs, mailing lists on which the researcher could subscribe to receive an impression on “what is going on” in the software project and much more.

Wheeler lists here 13 facts to take into account for this comparison: functionality, cost, market share, support, maintenance, reliability, performance, scalability, usability, security, exhibility/customisability, interoperability and legal / licence issues. Not all of them are relevant for my research work. Costs, market share, support, maintenance and scalability are of less or even no importance for this special comparison. The attribute legal / licence issues were a prerequisite to fulfill, a candidate which does not fit this KO criterion does not remain on the list at this stadium. The other attributes: functionality, reliability, performance, usability, security, exhibility / customisability, interoperability will now be examined in more depth. Therefore all necessary informations about the candidates will be accumulated wherever it can be found resulting in a matrix which shows the most important functionalities and features. The result of this matrix is that some of the candidates will be cancelled, e.g. because of less features, or other weaknesses.

3.1.4 In-depth analysis of the top candidates

This fourth and last step of Wheeler's IRCA method is the most important step because eventually a decision has to be made on which of the candidates fulfill the requirements best for the intended graph theory course. For this step Wheeler recommends to have a second but more in-depth comparison as in the previous step. He also recommends a try-out of the software. For our research work the functionality and the customisability are very important attributes. To get these informations is fundamental. In this step we had a look for special features which are important for the graph theory course: Labels, graph manipulation and graph drawing algorithms. At the end of this ultimate decision we chose the d3.js library, because this library is the most evolved one among the candidates, it has the greatest functionality and its customisability is best.

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In this research work we had to find and compare libraries which can run with a web-based framework in a browser.

These libraries have to be under an open source licence.

For this comparison we will operate like D. Wheeler suggested in his paper:

„How to evaluate Open Source Software / Free Software (OSS/FS) Programs.“
[Whe11].

4.1 Identify

Our first search quarried numerous libraries from which we firstly sorted out those which are under proprietary licences.

Ten libraries which are under open source licences are left then.

The first six are written in Javascript and they can run in a browser.

Igraph is written in C, neo4j in Java and OGDF and PIGALE in C++, they can not run in a browser, so that we did not investigate them any further.

The remaining libraries we subjected to a comprehensive comparison.

In Table 1 there are listed the libraries and some informations about them.

Library	URL	Language	Licence	Latest version
D3.js	d3js.org	Javascript	BSD-3clauses	3.4.1
graphdracula	graphdracula.net	Javascript	MIT	0.0.3alpha5
jointjs	jointjs.com	Javascript	MPLv2	0.8.0
jsdot	code.google.com/p/jsdot	Javascript	MIT	0.9
jsplumb	jsplumbtoolkit.com	Javascript	MIT/GPLv2	1.5.5
Sigma.js	sigmaj.s.org	Javascript	MIT	1.0.0
igraph	igraph.sourceforge.net	C	GPLv2	0.6.5
neo4j	neo4j.org	Java	GPL, but community edition only	2.0.0
OGDF	ogdf.net	C++	GPL	2012.7
PIGALE	pigale.sourceforge.net	C++	GPL	1.3.15

Table 1: Identification of the Libraries

4.2 Read Reviews

D3.js

Searching the internet for „d3.js review“ lead to more than 4.400.000 hits. This first impression shows the high profile of d3. There are comments to find like: „D3.js is way more than just another visualization framework.“ Many other comments which praise d3 could be found.

Graphdracular

To find reviews about graphdracula is in contrast a difficult task because most

hits concern „Graf Dracula“ and not the graph visualisation library. Beside the graphdracula webpage there are almost a dozen pages where the library is the theme.

Jointjs

For jointjs google delivers after all 92.900 hits. It is a relatively unknown library.

Jsdot

Jsdot, which was a small project at google summer of code in 2009, has just 805 hits. It will not longer be developed further so that we leave it out of deeper investigations.

Jsplumb

Jsplumb has 163.000 hits. The project started in November 2011 and has less than 10 contributors. So we can say that it is a small project and the development seems to be slow.

Sigma.js

Sigma.js is much more known. Google delivers approximately 16.200.000 hits. Sigma.js is a new and lightweight library to draw graphs. The most reviews are warm to sigma.js which had just reached version 1.0.0.

The only comments about the candidates which we found are these in the forums. But these comments do not have any scientific explanatory power. The only conclusion which can be drawn is an qualitative one: Are the voices major-

itarian pro, which means the commentator does praise the software due to its manifold features, or the commentator is contra, which means he/she criticises the program due to some bad bugs, lack of features etc. But on the basis of the number of comments it is possible to figure out the popularity of the software: The more positive comments, the greater the popularity. And from the popularity of a software it is legal to conclude to its market share.

4.3 Comparison

4.3.1 Functionality

On <https://github.com/mbostock/d3/wiki/API-Reference> you can find a very long list of API-References. This list with allmost 620 entries in 39 sections shows all the functions which are included in d3. We did not find an API-Reference for graphdracula. The API-Reference for jointjs is just 77 entries long. This is not that much. At the scantily project webpage of jsdot there is no information about an API-Reference to find. The API list of jsplumb counts almost 300 entries. At sigmas webpage there is no information about an API-Reference.

The functionality of the candidates is very diverse. While jsdot has only basic functions, jsplumb is more developed. Independant of the negative information about the APIs sigma is in the midfield, graphdracula has sophisticated graph drawing functions, but the best functionality by far has d3.js.

4.3.2 Market share

It is hard to evaluate the market share of open source software because there is no vendor which publishes sales volumes. But the numbers of releases and

contributors could give a first impression about the popularity and the mightiness of a forum and its activity are indices for the market share of an open source program. In the following list we have summarised some information which we found to indicate the market share.

	d3.js	graph dracula	jointjs	jsdot	jsplumb	sigma.js
Source	github	github	github	project webpage	github	github
developers / contributors	67	6	10	5	7	2
releases						
first	2011 Feb17	n. a.	2011 Feb27	n.a.	2010 Mar15	n.a.
numbers	164	1	7	2	22	1
latest	2014 Jan14	2011 Jun30	2014 Jan20	2009 Dec18	2013 Dec06	2014 Jan30
github downloads	22065	332	641	392	1333	1793

Table 2: Data which indicate the market share of the libraries

D3.js is the project with the most developers / contributors, releases and downloads. This entitles to the assumption that d3.js is that library with the greatest market share.

4.3.3 Support / Maintenance / Longevity / Reliability

An index for the support, maintenance, longevity and reliability can be the ver-

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sion number of the program and the activeness of its community. Also whether there are demos / examples and tutorials.

D3.js has reached version 3.4.1 which is an indication for an long development and the maintainer M. Bostock and the large community of contributors show that the development of d3 will go on. There is a great community where questions of users are answered and the further development is discussed. On the webpage there are numerous demos and examles and a lot of tutorials.

Graphdracula is still in the first steps of its development, it has just reached 0.0.3alpha5 and this release is two years old. There is no indication when it will come up to version 1.0 and it is unclear how many contributors carry the development on. There are two demos only and the documentation is in the source code only.

Jointjs also has a low version number: 0.8.0. But there is an active community so that there is a justifiable hope that its development will go on. On their webpage there are 10 demos but the documentation is less.

Jsdot was a litte code project in 2009 and has reached version 0.9 but it will not be developed any further. No demos are to be found on the homepage and the documentation is rather small.

Jsplumb has overcome version number 1 and is now at 1.5.5. The webpage gives the impression of professionalism and there is an active community in its forum. Some demos and a substancial documentation is on the webpage.

Sigma.js has just reached version 1.0.0. It is a relatively new library but its popularity is increasing. Sigma is one of several projects of the medialab at Sciences Po in Paris. This leads the hope towards an ongoing development. On sigmas webpage there are only 2 demos and the documentation is not so

much.

In the table below these results are summed up:

	d3.js	graph dracula	jointjs	jsdot	jsplumb	sigma.js
demos / examples	very much	2	10	no	some	2
tutorials / documen- tation	very much	in code only	yes	less	detailed	less

Table 3: Support information about the libraries

All attempts to get in contact with the project maintainers via eMail asking for commercial support failed. There had been no replies. We gather from that that the projects do not offer commercial support for the libraries. The only support available is that from the forums and from the community.

The quality of support can be inferred from the activity of the community.

But to set up a rank order is rarely possible, because it depends on many unpredictable factors.

4.3.4 Flexibility / Customisability

D3.js

On <https://github.com/mbostock/d3/wiki/Tutorials> there are a lot of tutorials for d3.js on general and special themes, blogs, talks and videos, meetups and publications. If there is a function the user needs, which is not implemented, it is easy to write a plug-in for d3.js. The flexibility and customisability of d3.js is very

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extensive.

Graphdracula

On <http://www.graphdracula.net/documentation/> you may read about the documentation: „Don't hesitate to dive into the source code! It is well described with comments and the library archive also includes some example files worth checking out.“ This means in other words: There is no documentation as that which is included in the source code. For graphdracula there are no plugins as it is to read here: „Dracula is a set of tools to display and layout interactive graphs, along with various related algorithms.

No Flash, no Java, no plug-ins. Just plain JavaScript and SVG.“ [see <http://www.graphdracula.net>] Flexibility and customisability of graphdracula is therefore non-existent.

Jointjs

The documentation and available tutorials keep within a low limit: <http://jointjs.com/tutorial>. There are just 8 plug-ins listed on the webpage. Flexibility and customisability of jointjs is small.

Jsdot

On the scantily project's webpage there are neither informations about an API-Reference, documentation nor plugins to find. Due to the fact that the project will not be developed further the flexibility and customisability of jsdot is non-existent.

Jsplumb

The documentation on <http://jsplumbtoolkit.com/doc/home> is very comprehensive. But there is no information about plug-ins. Flexibility and customisability of jsplumb is better than of jointjs but much less than of d3.js.

Sigma.js

On sigmas webpage there are neither informations about an API-Reference nor plugins to find. But github lists 6 plugins. The tutorial is lean. Documentation is one page only: <https://github.com/jacomyal/sigma.js/wiki>. The flexibility and customisability of sigma is at the time out of recognition.

4.3.5 Licence

All libraries are under an open source licence as was the strict requirement.

The following table shows the licences.

	d3.js	graph dracula	jointjs	jsdot	jsplumb	sigma.js
licence	BSD 3 clauses	MIT	MPLv2	MIT	MIT / GPLv2	MIT

Table 4: Licences of the libraries

All licences are compatible with GNU GPLv2 and v3. See table below:

	BSD 3 clauses	MIT *	MPL v2	GPL v2	GPL v3
GPL v2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GPL v3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 5: Licence compatibility

The reader may read more information about all licences and the licence texts in Appendices A to F at the end of this document.

4.3.6 Other criteria

D. Wheeler listed some more criteria in his paper. There are costs, performance, scalability, useability, security and interoperability. The most of them are not relevant for this research. For instance costs: All libraries are under an open source licence and therefore no licence fee is to pay. Of course there are costs of installation and maintenance of the software but these costs are the same for other (proprietary) software. Other criteria are the performance, the useability and the security of the libraries which are dependent mainly on the program which includes the libraries. In the end there is the interoperability. The program which calls the library will run in a browser. Because it is an open source program only these browsers which are under an open source licence as well will be supported.

*The MIT licence is also known as X licence or as X11 licence.

4.4 Analysis in-depth

All the above listed information about the candidates is of general interest. We will now analyse the candidates for special features which are necessary for graph drawing and visualisation.

First of all there is the question of labels for nodes and edges: Which labeling does the library support? Elliptic, rectangle, polygon drawing of a node and weight for an edge, color and caption for both?

Graph manipulation functionality is the next question: Do the candidates support interactive zooming and interactive node moving? A very important question is the question for the integrated graph algorithms or whether it is possible to integrate graph drawing algorithms by plugins or any other mechanism.

The table below indicates these features.

Only graphdracula has implemented 4 graph drawing algorithms in its code.

These algorithms are: Path finding (Dijkstra), shortest path (Bellman-Ford), max-flow-min-cut (Ford-Fulkerson) and string matching (Knuth-Morrison-Pratt).

This list shows the functionality of the candidates. It is clear to see that d3.js has the most functions integrated and graph drawing algorithms can easily be inserted by plug-ins. Here is the web-link for a first step to write plug-ins for d3.js:

<http://bost.ocks.org/mike/chart>.

Graphdracula and jsdot have no flexibility and / or customisability. Jsplumb has a mean flexibility and customisability and that of jointjs and sigma is small.

	d3.js	graph dracula	jointjs	jsdot	jsplumb	sigma.js
Labels						
elliptic	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
rectangle	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
polygon	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
weight	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes
color	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
caption	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Graph manipulation						
interactive zooming	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
interactive node moving	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Graph drawing						
number of supported algorithms	support by plug-ins	4 (see text)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
force directed drawing	yes	yes	yes	no	no	by plug-in
hierarchical drawing	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
tree drawing	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
rectangle drawing	yes	n.s.	n.s.	no	no	no
Flexibility / customisa- bility	very great	non- existent	small	non- existent	mean	small

Table 6: Feature list of libraries

4.5 Conclusion

Jsdot's development is discontinued.

Graphdracula is still at the beginning and it is not clear whether it will develop.

There is one developer only and it seems that he has discontinued the development.

Jointjs is a small project with just 10 developers and its flexibility is small.

Sigma.js is a new graph drawing project which may have a good future but its current flexibility is small. Probably it will improve.

Jsplumb has also got only 7 developers but it seems the development will improve its features.

Far away from the other candidates is d3.js. Its functionality and flexibility is much better than all the other libraries which we investigated. It is easy to write plug-ins for d3.js so any needed function can be integrated.

D3.js is our favorite to implement as library into the web-based framework.

5 Software Development

To develop software it is necessary to choose a methodical approach.

There are different requirements for this approach:

- structure the development of a model to partial tasks and steps
- use special means of representation
- give a guidance for the realisation of the modeling
- support the quality assurance of the models or includes criteria for „good“ models
- as a general rule no algorithm (in mathematical meaning)
- support the relevant partial models and their integration
- efficiency

In the development of a model the following numerous steps including repetitions and returns are generally used:

- definition of the object to model
- determination of the modeling purpose
- determination of the modeling environment / instruments of characterisation
- appointment of the rules for the abstraction
- determination of the reproduction of the reality to the modeling environment
- testing of the model

5 Software Development

There are different views for modeling of information systems:

Function view (also known as process view): Describes the functions and partial functions prescindend from time and sequence.

Sequence view (also known as dynamic view): Describes what activities and processes coincidental or consecutively execute prescindend from the semantic of the data.

Data view: Describes the data which is treated or stored during a process or information system prescindend from time and independent of the sequence view.

Object view: Describes a process or an information system as an amount of interacting objects prescindend from sequence, integration of data and function view.

Organisation view: Describes the sequence of an organisational unit which is part of a process or information system. The communication and managerial authority correlations between the units are part of the organisational structure.

Performance view: Describes the results of the process execution by product models.

The purpose of such a model is:

1. To understand the reality (actual condition)
 - to describe the benefit of the assumption
 - to explore the forecast about the behaviour
 - to evaluate / analyse the assignment of faults
2. To construct the reality (target state)

- describing the requirements for the construction
- analysing / simulating the examination of the construction before realisation
- analysing potential / alternative representations of the reality
- co-ordinating the involved persons (customer, constructor, co-ordination between different employees / organisations, which execute the realisation co-operative)

One of these modeling languages for specification, visualisation, construction and documentation of (information) systems is the Unified Modeling Language (UML)

5.1 Unified Modeling Language (UML)

UML is a standard of the OMG (<http://www.omg.org/uml>) . It is not a method , but a notation and semantics for specification, visualisation, construction and documentation of models for business processes, object orientated software development and other general systems.

Like in all other languages there is a language range that kind what terms are part of the language and what denotation these terms have. This is the same what we know from other languages. But there is an important difference: While in other programming languages key words are real words, UML is a language that consists of simple geometric symbols. In UML there are defined numerous geometric forms like rectangle, arrows and ellipses and there are definitions of

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the denotation of these forms. UML knows rules how to combine these forms so that they will result in something meaningful. With these models the software developers can inspect a cut of an entire system, which important aspects will be highlighted and which unimportant aspects will be disregarded. This model is not a rebuild of the original, but a simplified description of the original with the goal to better understand the original.

13 types of diagrams are defined in UML. These diagram types are either structure diagrams or behaviour diagrams.

The following six diagram types are structure diagrams:

- classes diagram
- object diagram
- component diagram
- composition structure diagram
- distribution diagram
- packages diagram

Behaviour diagrams are the following seven diagrams:

- use case diagram
- activity diagram
- finite automation
- sequence diagram
- communication diagram
- timing diagram

- interaction diagram

The modeling of software should aid to keep an overview. This diagram types should describe the software from different views. All together they show an overall picture of the software. Models are compiled with requirements and are based of elements of the UML. The language range is independent of programming languages and platforms. The built models of software are hence independent of this technologies too.

UML is also suited as co-ordinating instrument. Every developer will understand the UML models. Since UML is a graphical modeling language it is suited to communicate to non-technical persons (management) too.

In the following we will restrict to show the use cases diagram and the sequence diagram of the software tool we are developing.

Because JavaScript does not know the classes concept a classes diagram is not possible.

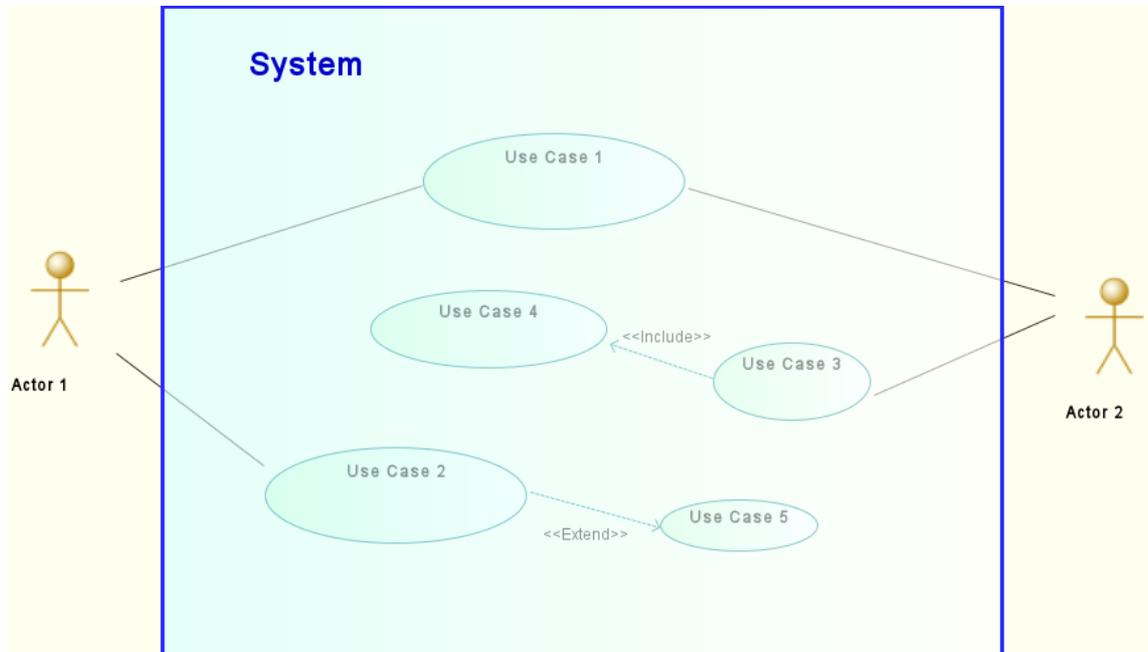
5.1.1 Use Cases Diagram

A use cases diagram consists of a lot of use cases and describes the relations between actors and use cases. A use cases diagram shows the externally visible behaviour of the system from the view of the users.

Use cases will be represented by ellipses which hold the name of the use case and an amount of joint objects (actors). Any use case will be characterised in text form, more or less detailed. The correspondent use cases and actors will

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be connected by lines. The system limits are symbolised by a frame.
Some use cases include further use cases, or will be extended by others.
Example of an use cases diagram:



Picture 20: Example of an Use Cases Diagram

In the software tool which we developed the students are the actors (and the system administrator). The user and graph databases are used for user login and logout and for up- and downloading graphs. Additionally there may be a system administration tool via which the system administrator administrates the system, e.g. the user and the graph databases (this is not part of our software). The use cases of this software are:

- user login (includes the user database)
- editing a graph
- upload a graph (includes the graph database)

- download a graph (includes the graph database)
- system administration
- user logout (includes the user database)

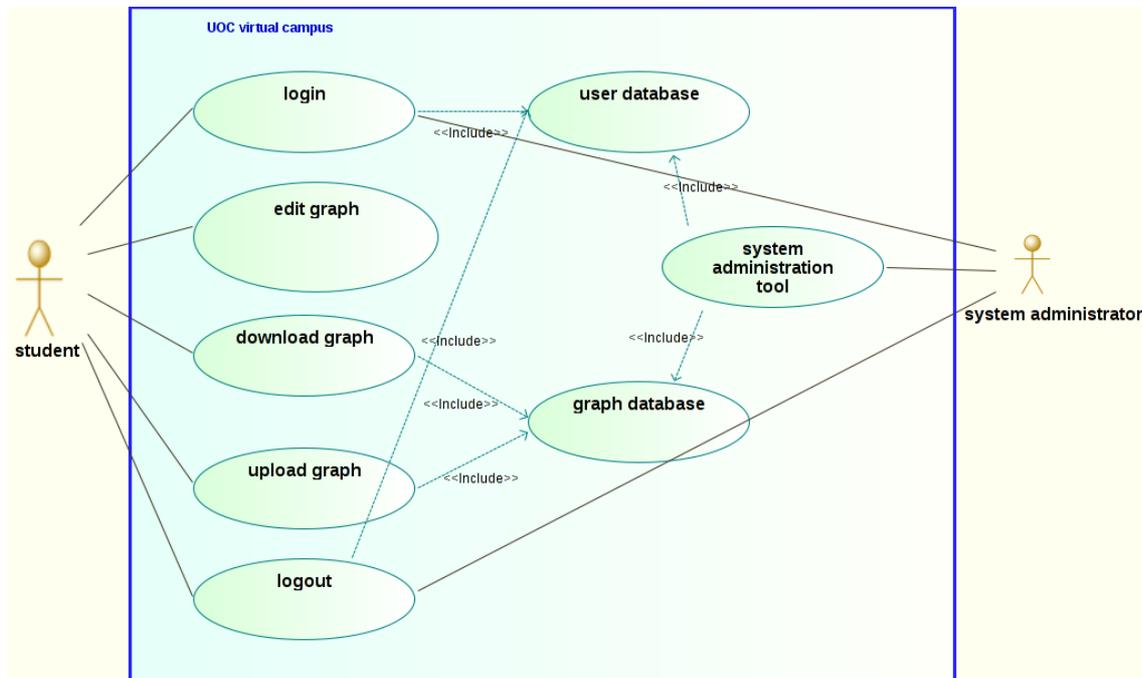
Editing a graph imbeds the following tasks:

Changing the features of nodes and edges like shape, line, text, style, colour and weight.

Nodes can be arranged in force-directed or fixed graph layout.

Documenting a graph includes editing of text describing a graph and embedding of images.

The use cases diagram is shown here.



Picture 21: Use Cases Diagram of the software tool

5.1.2 Sequence Diagram

A sequence diagram describes the chronology of interactions between a lot of objects within a temporal limited context.

The objects will be visualised by rectangles from which the vertical life lines originate, depicted by dashed lines. The messages will be described by horizontal arrows between the life lines of the objects. At this arrows the messages will be noted in the form: message(arguments). Messages which are answers have the form: answer:=message(). Messages can also be allocated conditions by the form: [condition] message(). Iterations of messages will be depicted by a „*“ before the name of the message. Objects which are just active in interactions will be marked by a bar in the life line.

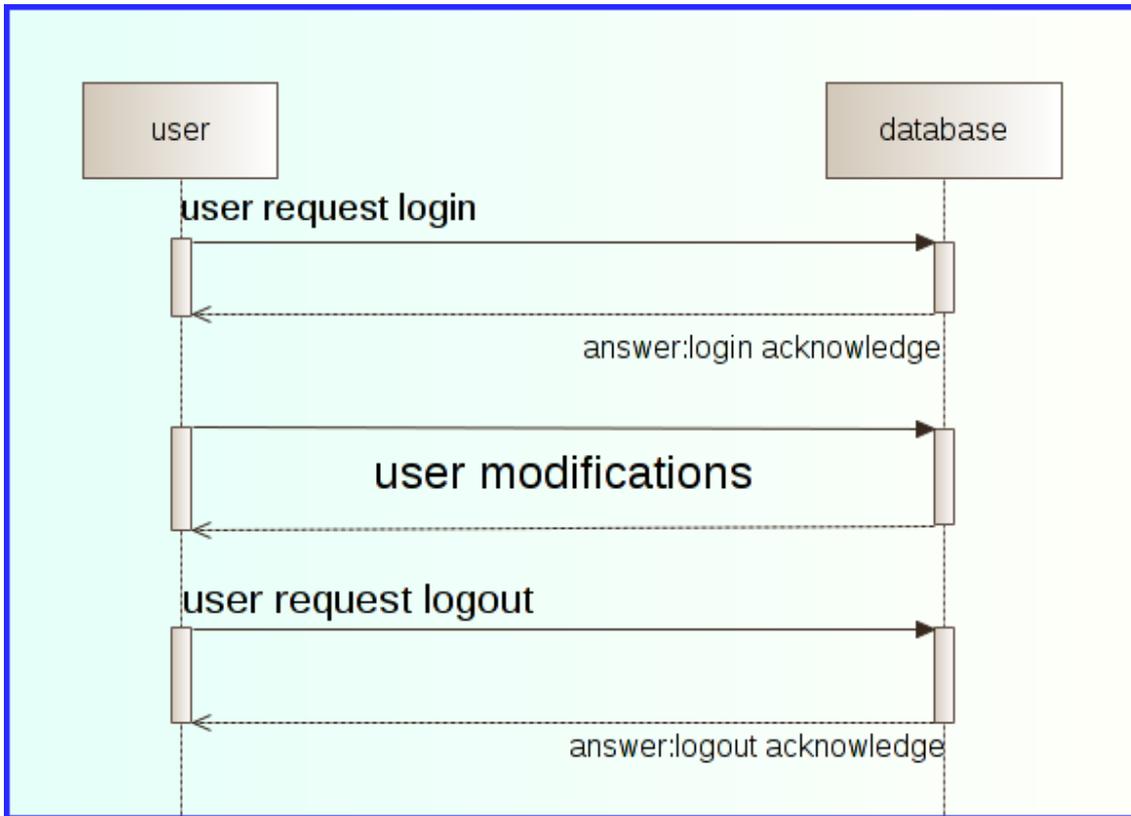
An example is shown on the next page.

In this software there are the students as actors, the user database which stores the allowed users and their passwords, the graph database where is stored an amount of example graphs and the students graphs.

The intercatations are:

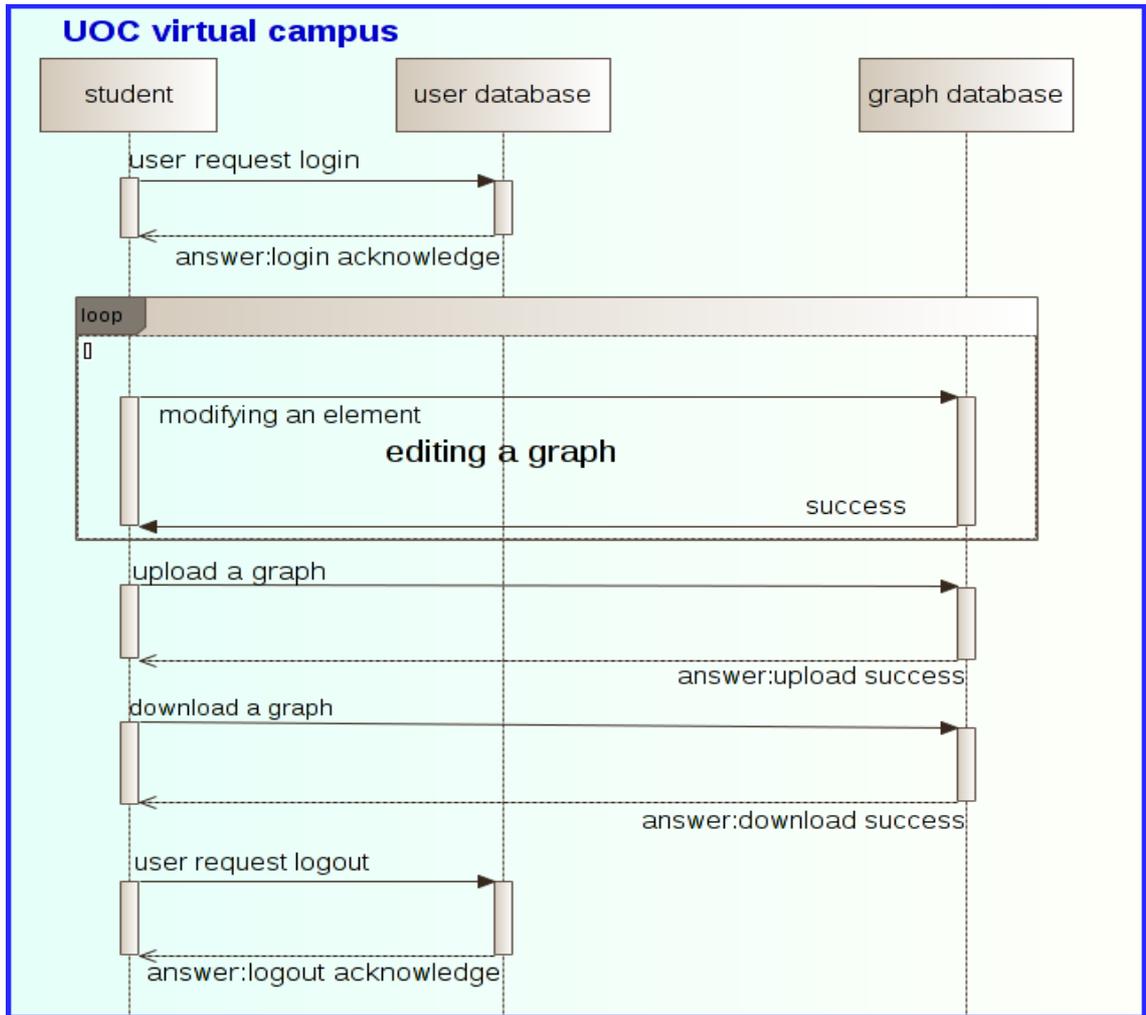
- user login
- graph editing as loop of numerous minor tasks
- uploading a graph
- downloading a graph
- user logout

The sequence diagram is shown on the nextbut one page.



Picture 22: Example of a Sequence Diagram

5 Software Development



Picture 23: Sequence Diagram of the software tool

6 Documentation of the software tool

The purpose of the graph tool is:

- Drawing and editing graphs
- Representation of graph theoretical structures
- Visual representation of graph algorithms

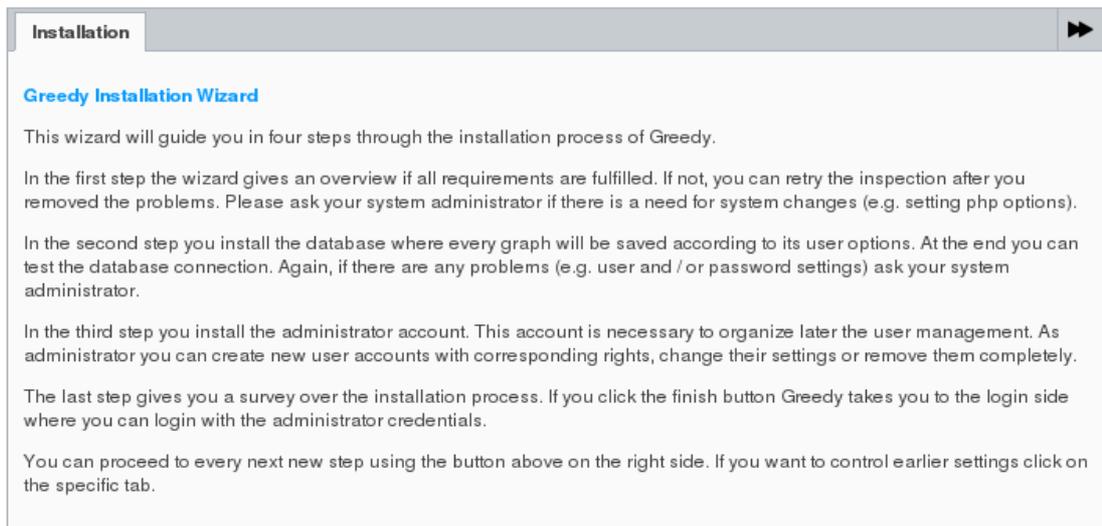
6.1 Installation in 4 steps

Prerequisites before installation:

- LAMP (XAMP) has to be installed. Instead of MySQL the user can also install SQLite or PostgreSQL.
- Apache2 must be running.
- Extraction of greedy.tar.gz to /var/www/
- Directory /var/www/greedy, all subdirectories and files has to be owned by www-data or current apache user respectively.
(command: `chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/greedy`)
- The rights of /var/www/greedy/core/db have to be 777. If the users security policies do not allow 777, 755 would be good too.
(command: `chmod -R 777 /var/www/greedy/core/db`)

After the user has extracted the files to /var/www/ he has to insert "localhost/greedy" in a browser. The installation process will then start with an initial picture.

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Picture 24: Greedy installation initial picture

He than just has to click on the arrow to proceed. In step 1 all requirements will be scanned. As long as not all requirements are fulfilled the user will see red lights as is presented in the next picture.

Requirement	Status	Requested	Present	Help
PHP Version		5.3	5.4.4-14+deb7u8	
PHP Directive: Register Globals		off	off	
PHP Directive: Magic Quotes		off	off	
PHP Directive: Short Open Tags		on	on	
PHP Directive: Allow Url Fopen		on	on	
PHP Extension: MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite3		installed	not installed	
PHP Extension: PCRE		installed	installed	
Directory permissions: CHMOD 0777 > /db		writable	not writable	
Directory permissions: CHMOD 0777 > /db/diagrams		writable	not writable	

Requirement fulfilled -
 You can continue. Some features are missing -
 Solve this problem first -

Picture 25: Not all requirements are fulfilled

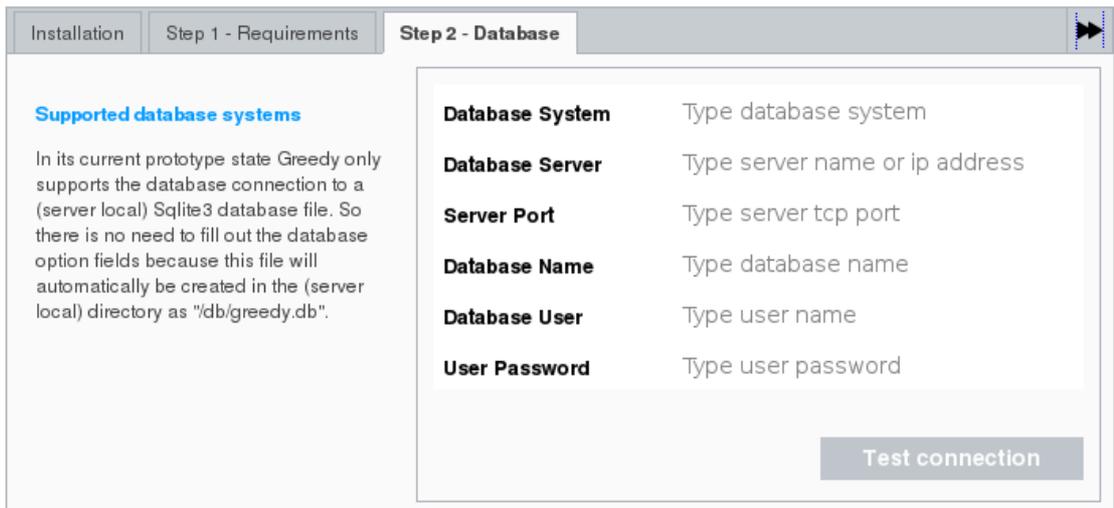
When there are green lights only as seen in the following picture the user may click to continue. Otherwise the displayed problems must be resolved. This steps have to be repeated as often as necessary by clicking on the arrow in top right corner.

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Picture 26: All requirements fulfilled

In step 2 in the current state, the user has nothing to do just click the arrow.



Picture 27: Nothing to do

In further releases, the installation can support MySQL and/or PostgreSQL as

database systems too.

The data for administration has to be inserted in step 3.

The screenshot shows the 'Step 3 - Administrator' installation screen. The form is titled 'Creating administrator account' and contains the following fields:

- Admin name:** Type users full name (with a warning icon)
- Email as Login:** Type valid email address (with a warning icon and a yellow tooltip that says 'This field is required.')
- Password:** Type user password (with a warning icon)
- Confirm Password:** Confirm user password (with a warning icon)

At the bottom of the form are 'Submit' and 'Clear' buttons. The left sidebar contains the text: 'The first user installing Greedy is the administrator. Please fill out carefully the form and keep attention to valid email address and minimum password length.'

Picture 28: Data for administration not completed

As long as not all required data is inserted the user will get an error message and cannot proceed to the next step.

The screenshot shows the 'Step 3 - Administrator' installation screen with the form completed. The fields are filled with the following data:

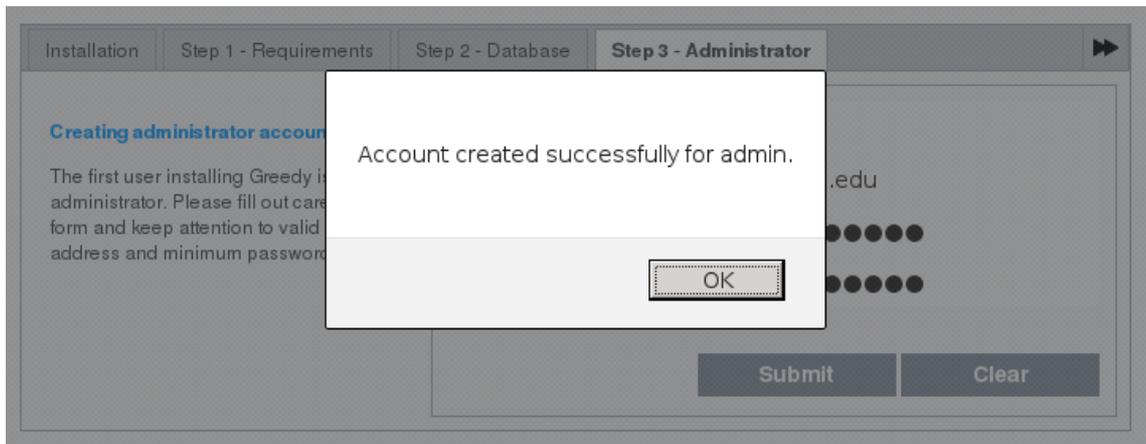
- Admin name:** A. D. Ministrator
- Email as Login:** ad@ministrator.org
- Password:** (represented by 12 black dots)
- Confirm Password:** (represented by 12 black dots)

The 'Submit' and 'Clear' buttons are visible at the bottom. The left sidebar contains the same text as in Picture 28.

Picture 29: Data input completed

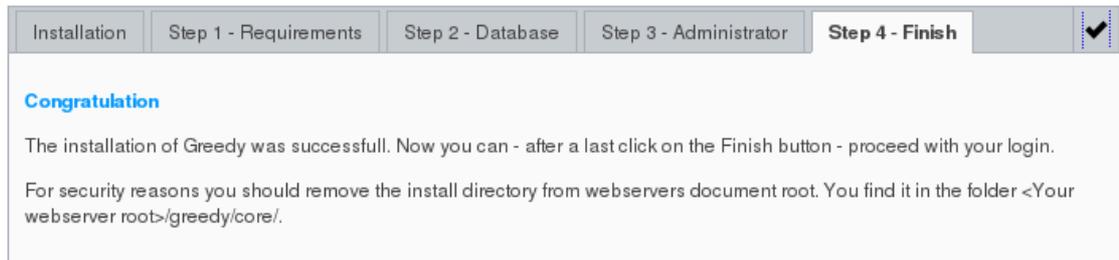
After a click on "Submit" the user will see the next picture.

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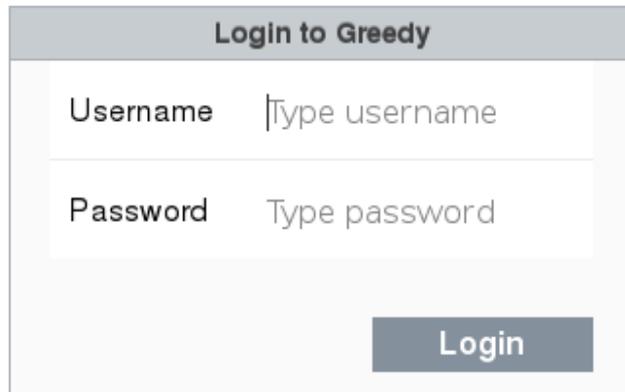
Picture 30: Admin account created successfully

A click on OK will terminate the installation and the user can proceed after confirmation to the last step with the login to greedy.



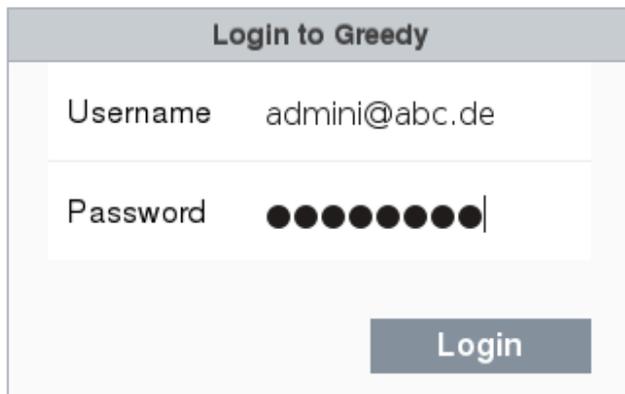
Picture 31: Installation is finished

Here the user has to insert his username and password.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Login to Greedy". It contains two input fields: "Username" with the placeholder text "Type username" and "Password" with the placeholder text "Type password". A "Login" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Picture 32: Greedy login window

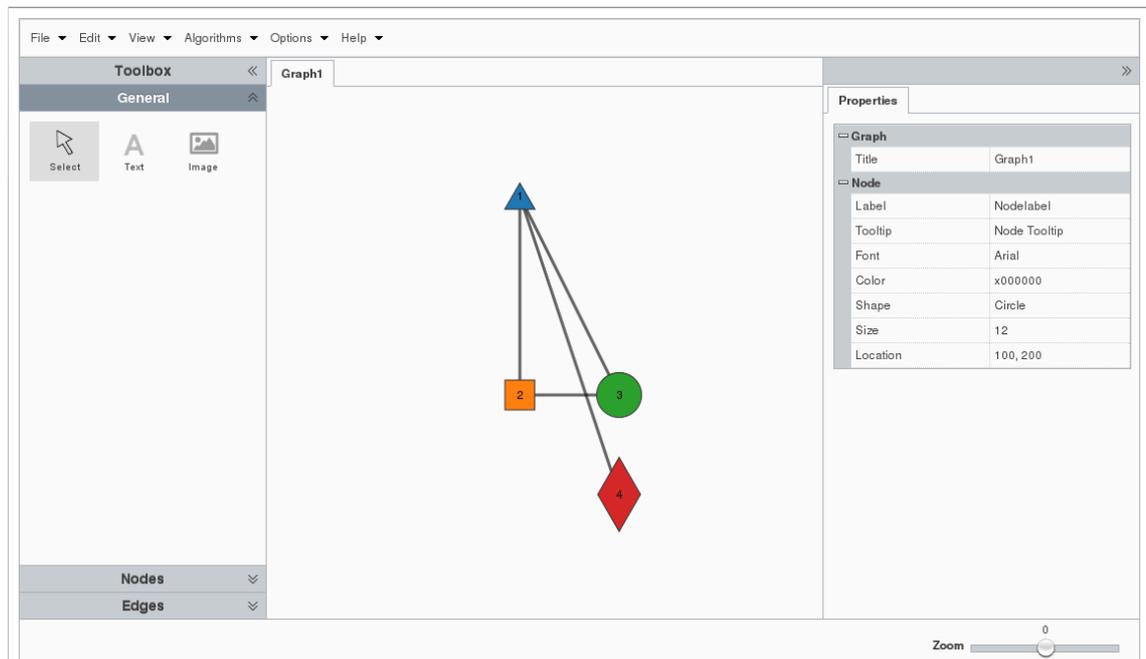


The screenshot shows the same "Login to Greedy" window. The "Username" field now contains the text "admini@abc.de". The "Password" field is masked with ten black dots. The "Login" button remains at the bottom right.

Picture 33: User data inserted

With the last click on "Login" the user will see the initial screen of greedy.

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Picture 34: The initial screen of greedy

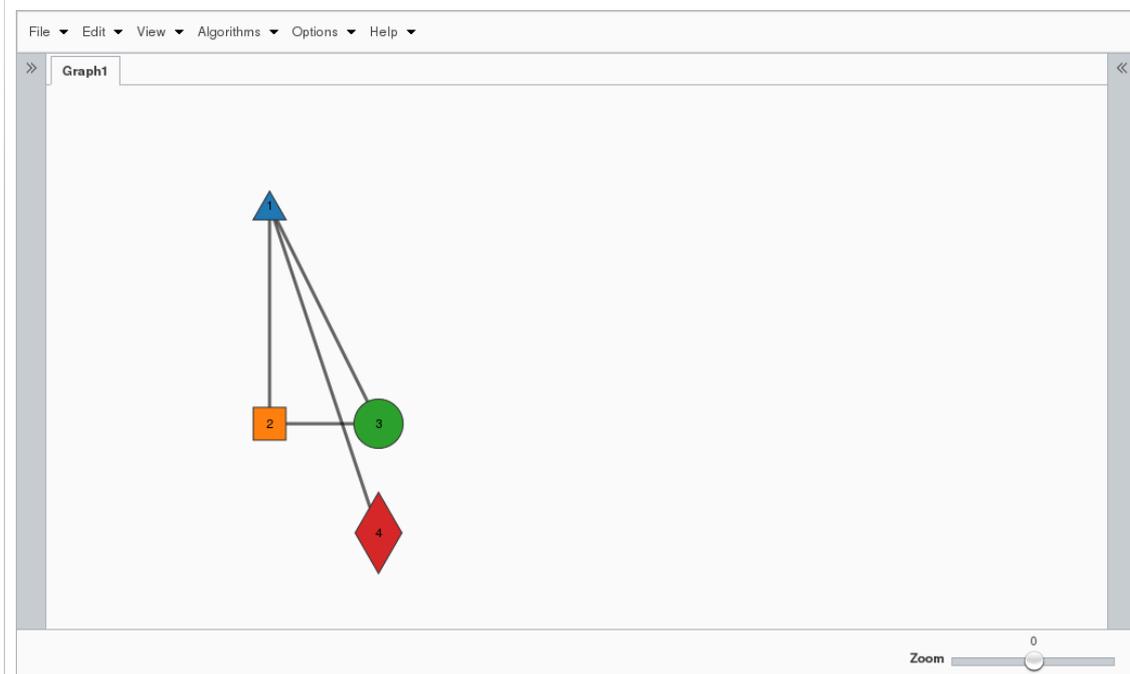
(The displayed graph is for testing purposes only, in the final version the workspace will be blank.)

Now the user may begin to work with greedy.

6.2 Workspace, Toolbar and Properties

In the centre there is the workspace. Right and left of it you find the toolbar and the area where the properties can be displayed and edited for the selected node. Both can be turned off and on. See picture 35. (The property "Location" cannot be edited, it is for information only.)

In the toolbar, which is an accordion mechanism, there are the items "General" for selection of a graph element and to insert text or an image. Under the item



Picture 35: Toolbar and Properties turned off

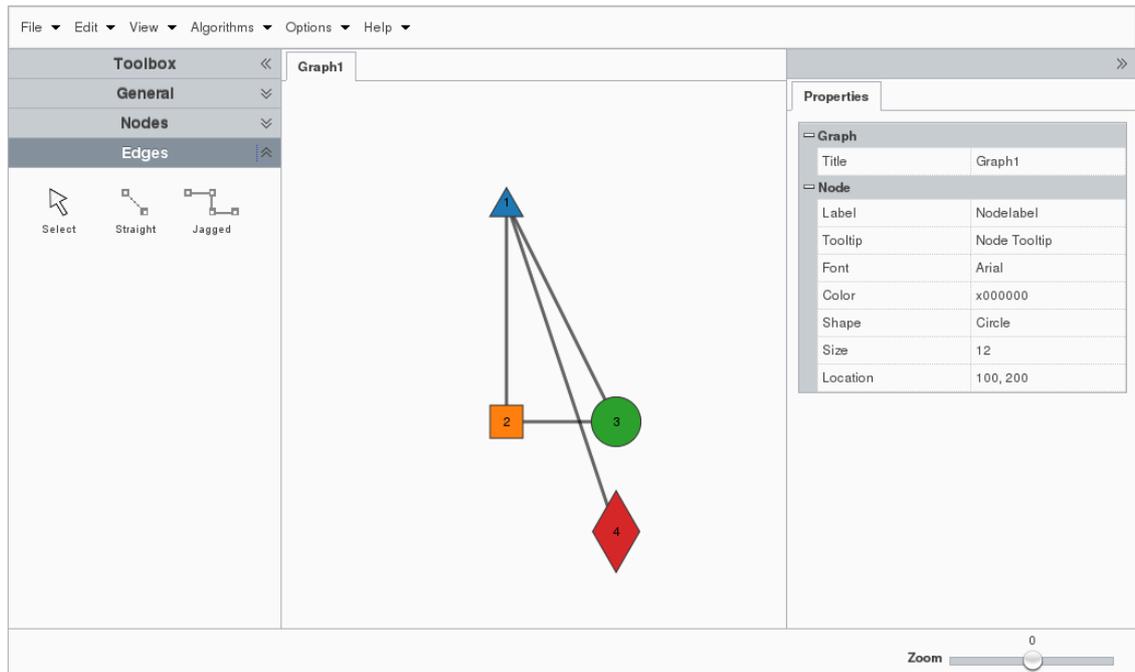
“Nodes” the user can select a node, or choose one of the four node shapes: circle, square, diamond or triangle, to create an new node. Under the item “Edges” it is possible to select an edge, or to create a new edge as straight line or jagged line. See picture 36.

On the right side of the workspace there is the properties area, where the name of the graph can be altered and the node properties lable, tooltip, font, colour, shape and size can be changed. Below the properties area there is a slider with which the graph can be zoomed in and out (currently this feature is not enabled, it is on the To-do-list, but instead the user can zoom in and out with the mouse wheel).

6.3 The Menu Bar

In the menu bar above the workspace there are the items: File, Edit, View, Algorithms, Options and Help.

The item “File” contains: “New” to create a new graph, “Open” and “Save” to



Picture 36: Toolbar with item "Edges" chosen

down- and up-load a graph from the graph database which can be located at UOC, “Save as...” to save a graph with a different name, “Import” and “Export” to load and save a graph on the local computer and “Logout” to quit greedy. See picture 37.

Next is the item “Edit” where nodes, edges or “all” can be selected for demonstration purposes. See picture 38.

The third item in the menu bar is “View”. Here the toolbar and properties can be

selected to be displayed or not. See picture 39.

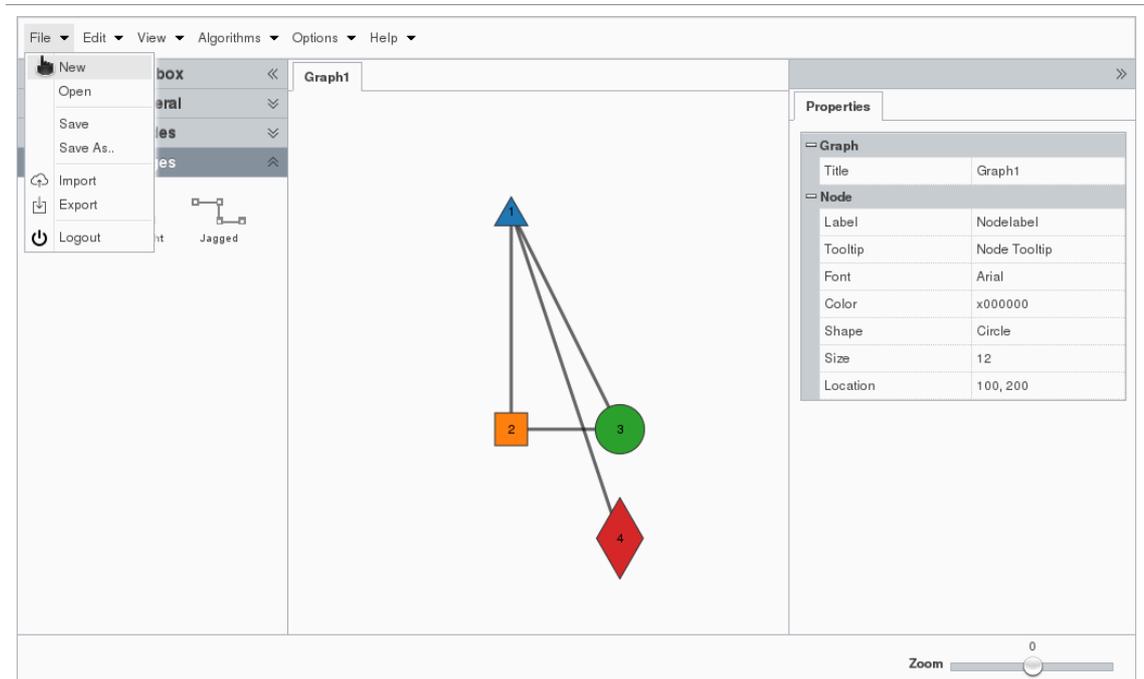
“Algorithms” is the next item in the menu bar. Here the user can choose an algorithm to apply to a graph. Currently only the Dijkstra algorithm (shortest path) is implemented (description see below). More algorithms can be integrated easily. See picture 40.

The last but one item in the menu bar is the “Options” item. Here it is possible to change a graph's drawing from fixed to force-directed. If the hook at “Fix selected node” is set and a force-directed graph is drawn and the user had moved a node to another position than this node will be fixed at this position.

The third item in Options is “Generate graphs”. Here the user can choose template graphs from a list. See pictures 41 and 42. As an example the graph K5 is selected in picture 43.

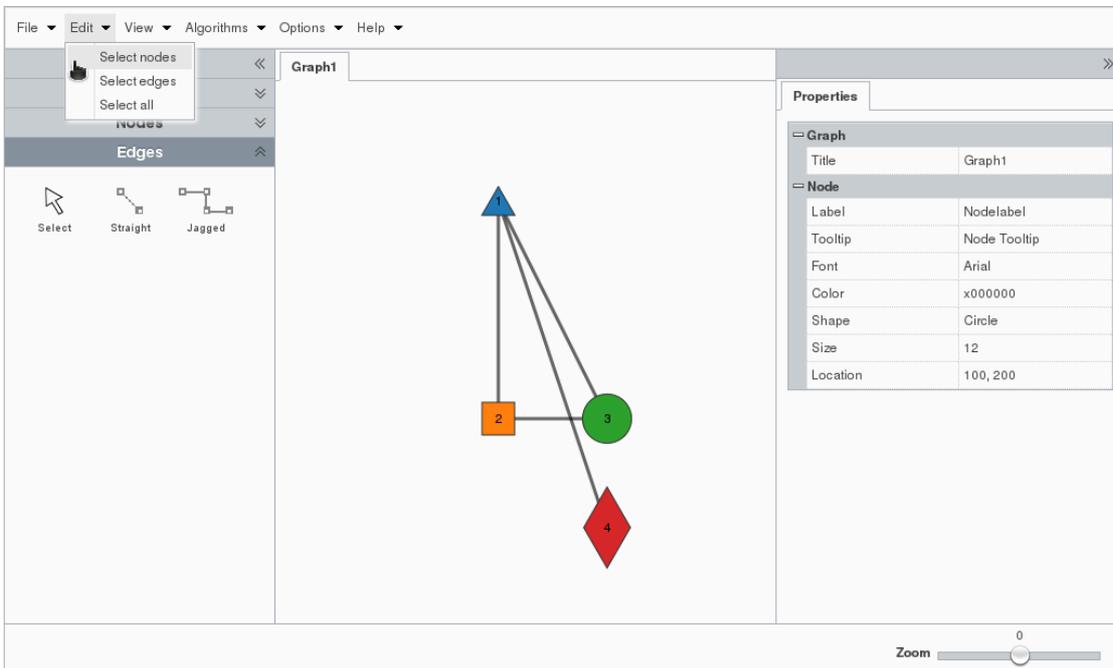
The most right item in the menu bar is “Help”. Here the user will find the help system (not yet fully integrated) and the information about the licence and a link to it. See picture 44.

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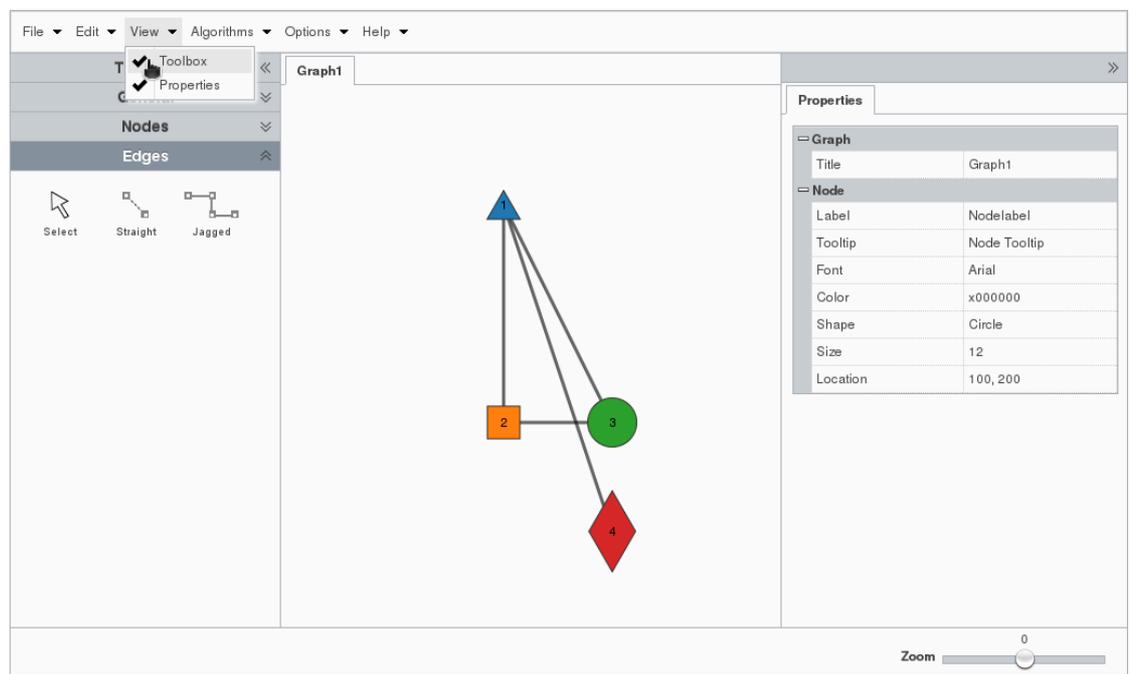
Picture 37: Menu bar with item Files selected

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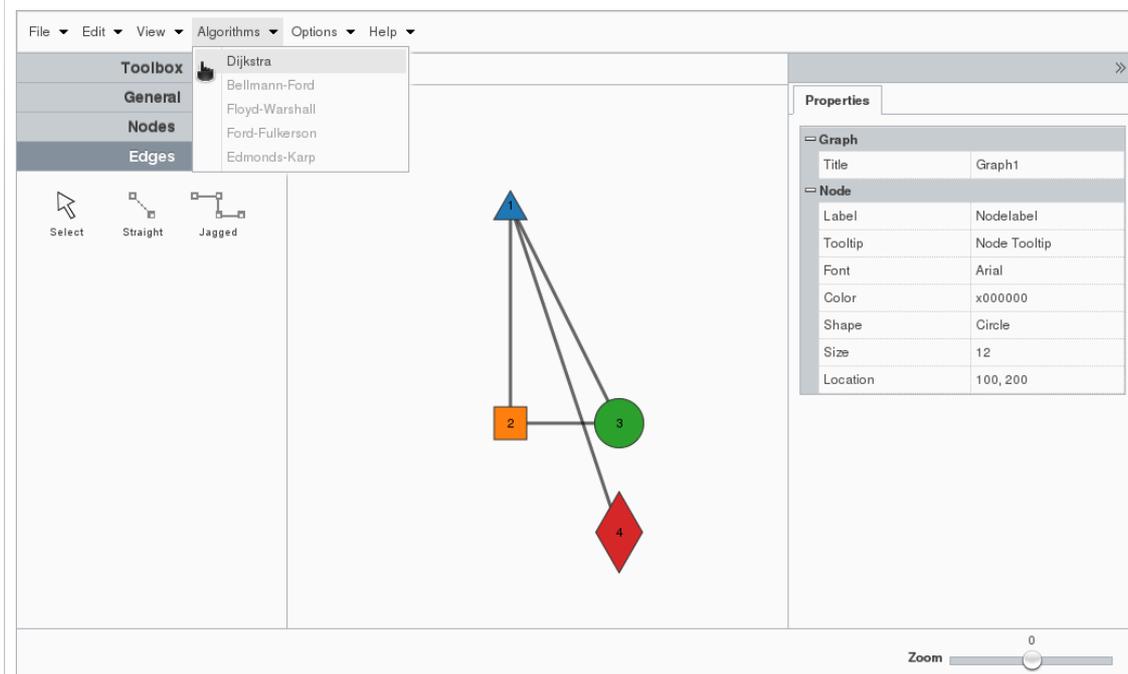
Picture 38: Menu bar with item Edit chosen

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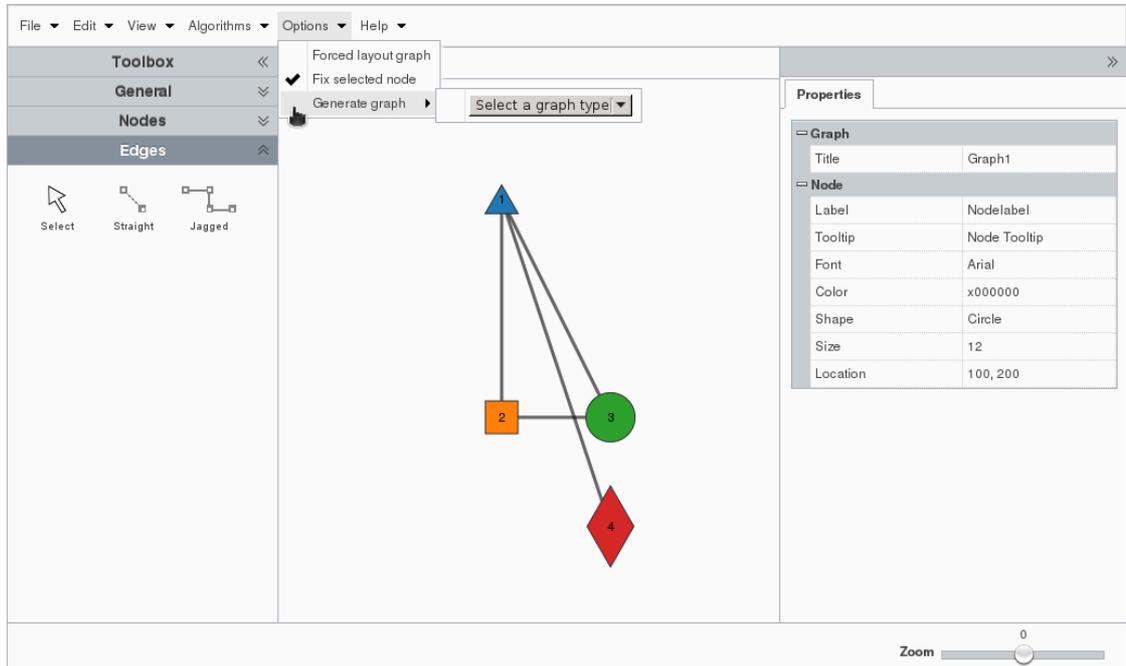
Picture 39: View item of the menu bar

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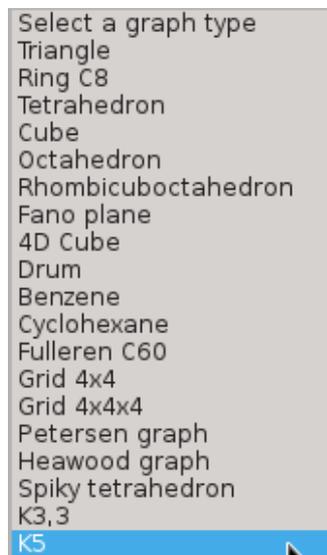


Picture 40: Menu item Algorithms selected

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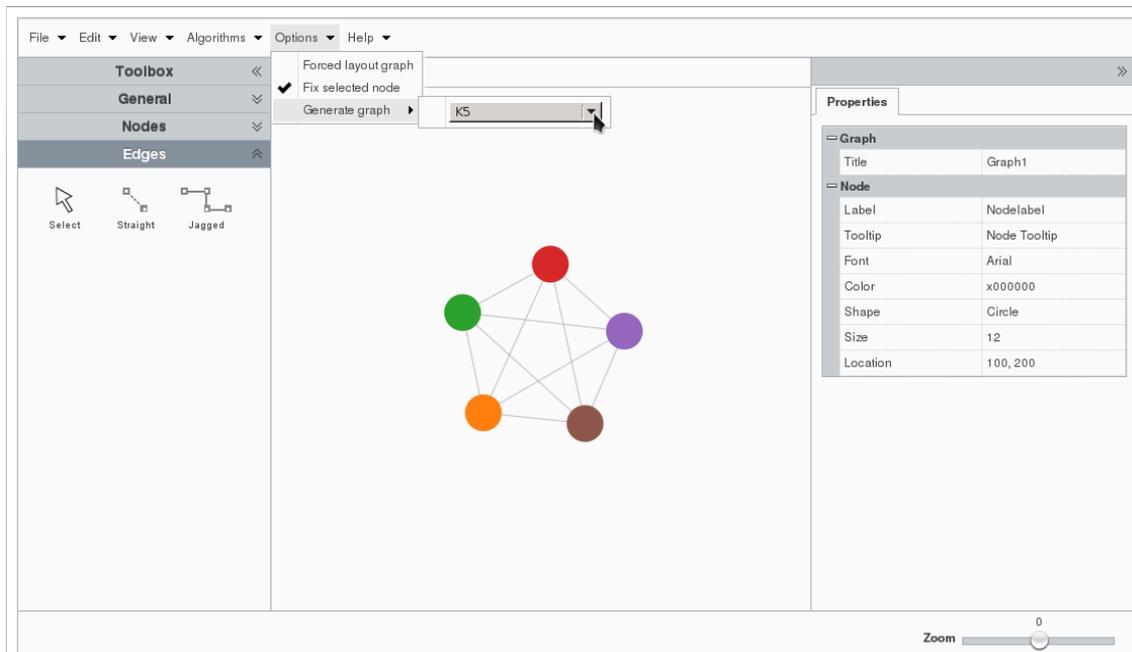


Picture 41: Item Options in the menu bar selected



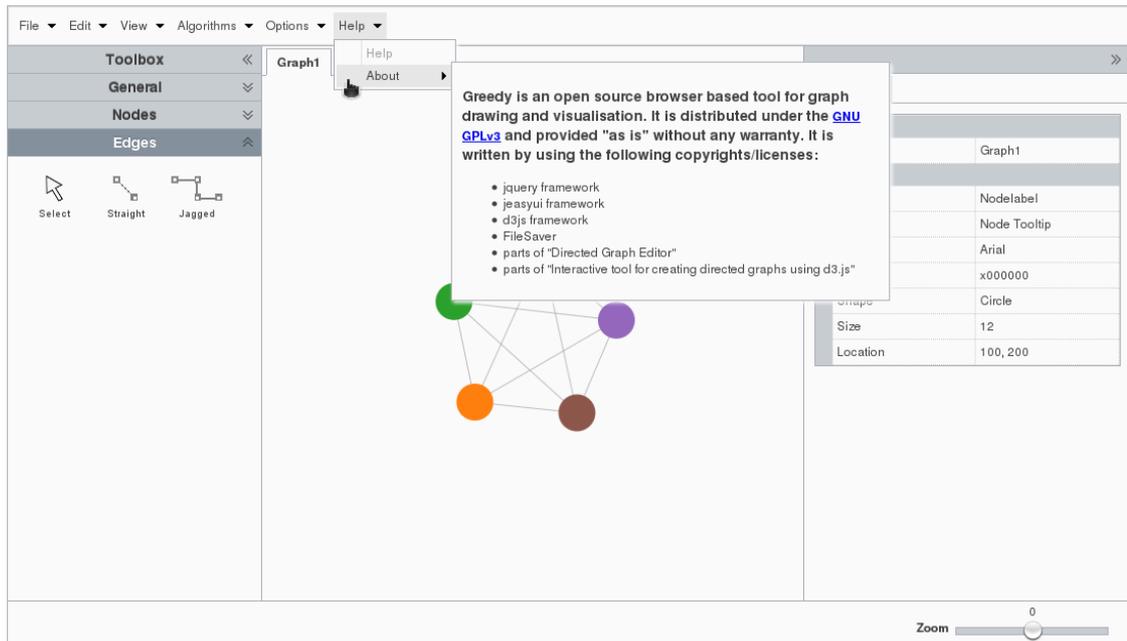
Picture 42: List of template graphs

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Picture 43: Graph K5 selected from list

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Picture 44: Item Help in menu bar selected with information about the licence

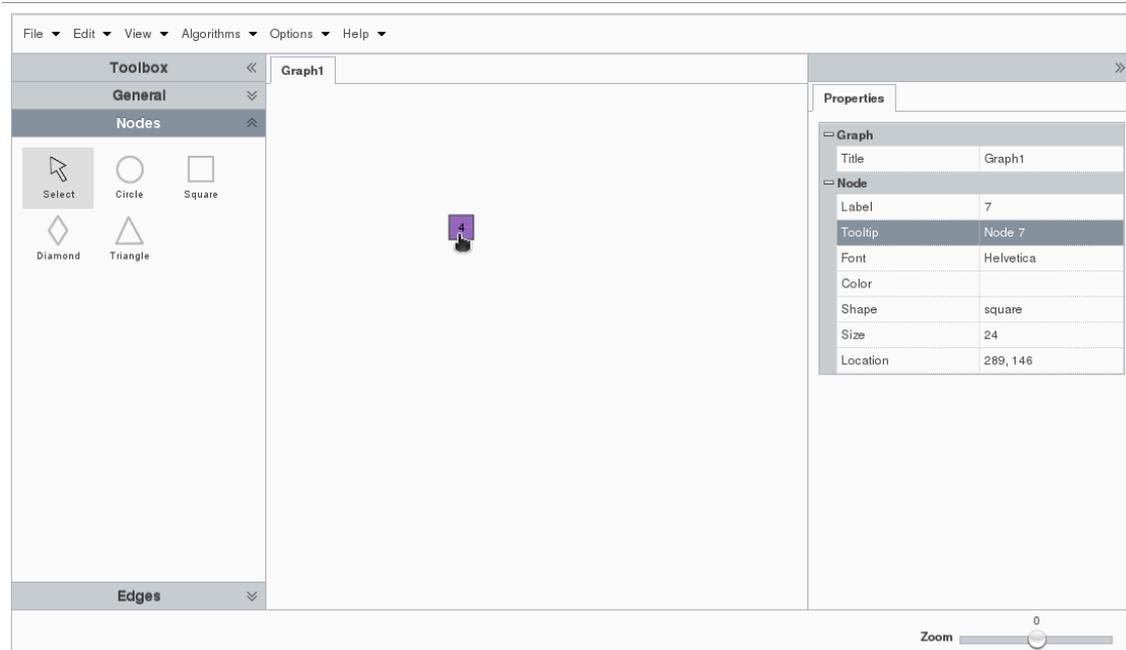
6.4 Graph edit options

The following features are implemented in the graph editor:

The user can draw graphs interactively and

- load graphs
- a. from server site database (central)
 - b. import / export (JSON format, jpeg format)

To create a new graph the user has to choose "Nodes" from the toolbar, select one of the shapes and subsequently to click anywhere on the workspace. To create more nodes these steps have to be repeated until all nodes are created. See picture 45.



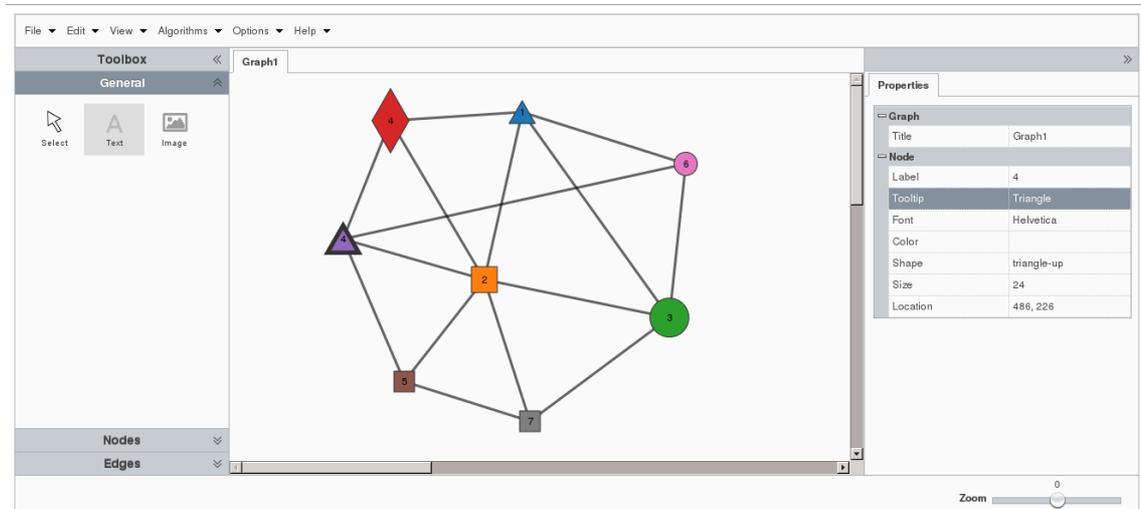
Picture 45: New node created

Now the edges have to be created. The user has to choose “Edges” from the toolbar, select “straight” and subsequently to click on the first node and by holding down the mouse button move to the second node to which the connection shall go. Alternatively the user can select the straight icon to draw edges between nodes. This steps have to be repeated until all edges are created. See picture 46. By clicking anywhere in the workspace, holding down the mouse button and moving, the graph can be moved interactively on the workspace.

The Dijkstra algorithm

This is a simple implementation of the Dijkstra algorithm in JavaScript by Neal Bohlings. For further information see: <http://www.nealbohling.com/2014/05/dijkstra-javascript-d3-js>, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edsger_W._Dijkstra and

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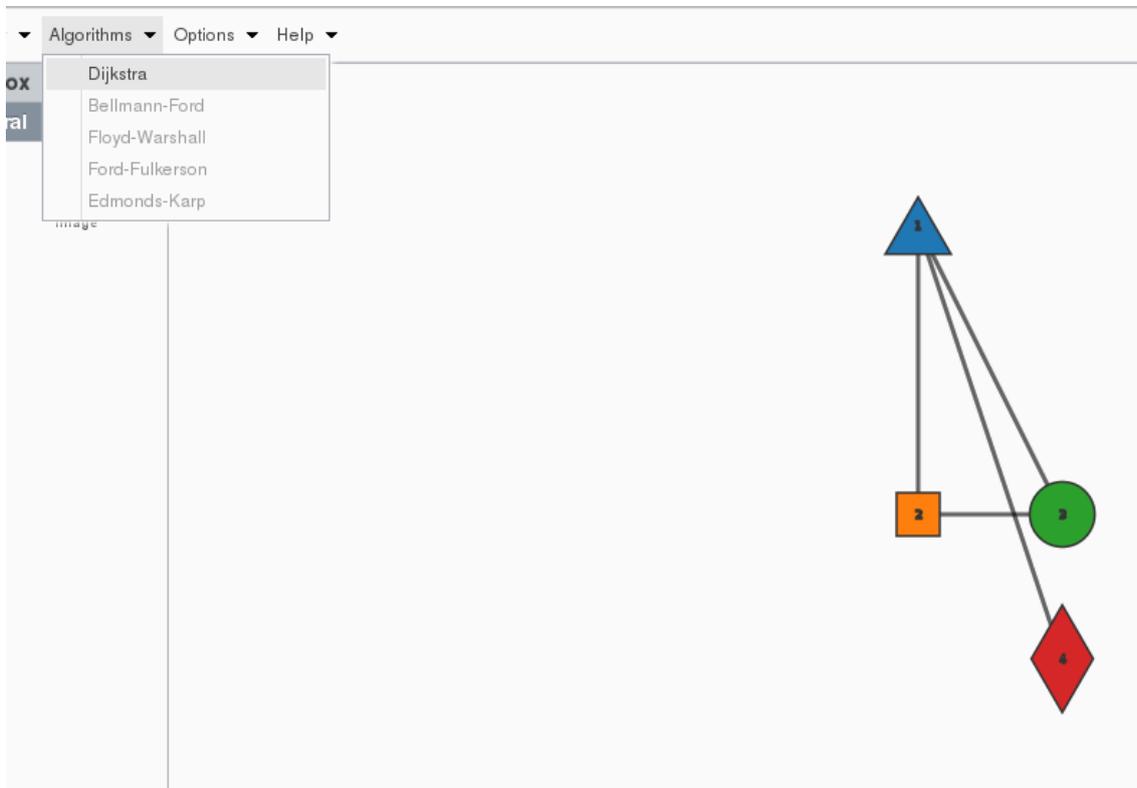


Picture 46: A new graph was created

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dijkstra's_algorithm

This algorithm finds the minimum distance between two nodes.

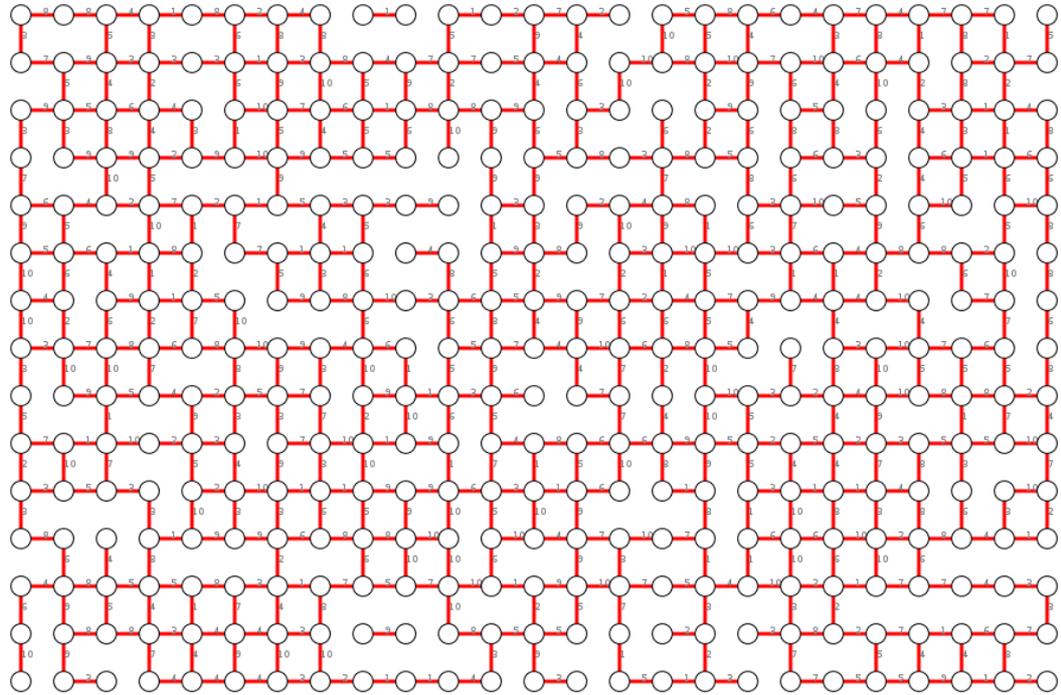
Initially it generates a grid of nodes where the edges are weighted randomly. Not all possible edges are created but only 75%, so that some connections do not exist. After the user has selected the start and the end nodes, the algorithm begins, "visited" nodes will turn gray, the node under current consideration yellow and when the calculation is completed, the path will be coloured red. A status messages will be shown below, as well as information for any individual node. See pictures 47 to 51.



Picture 47: Dijkstra algorithm selected in the Algorithms item

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Select any two vertexes to begin the calculations.

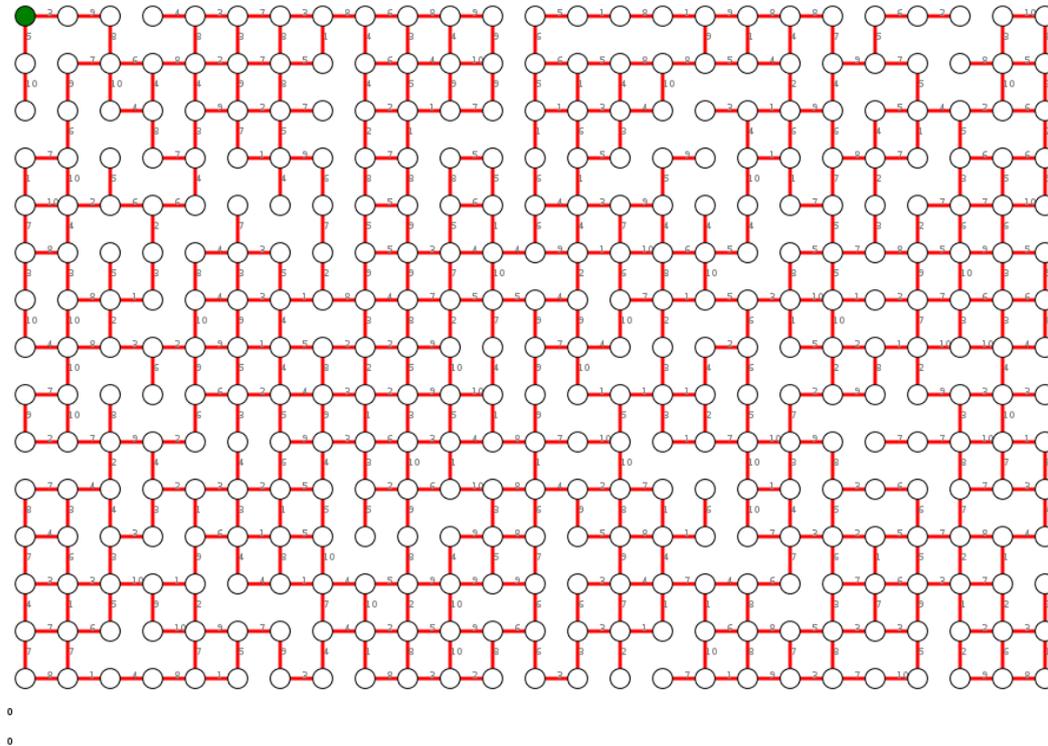


0
0

Reset	Vertex 28. Current Distance: 0
Loaded! Select any two vertices to begin.	

Picture 48: A new Dijkstra grid was generated

Select any two vertices to begin the calculations.

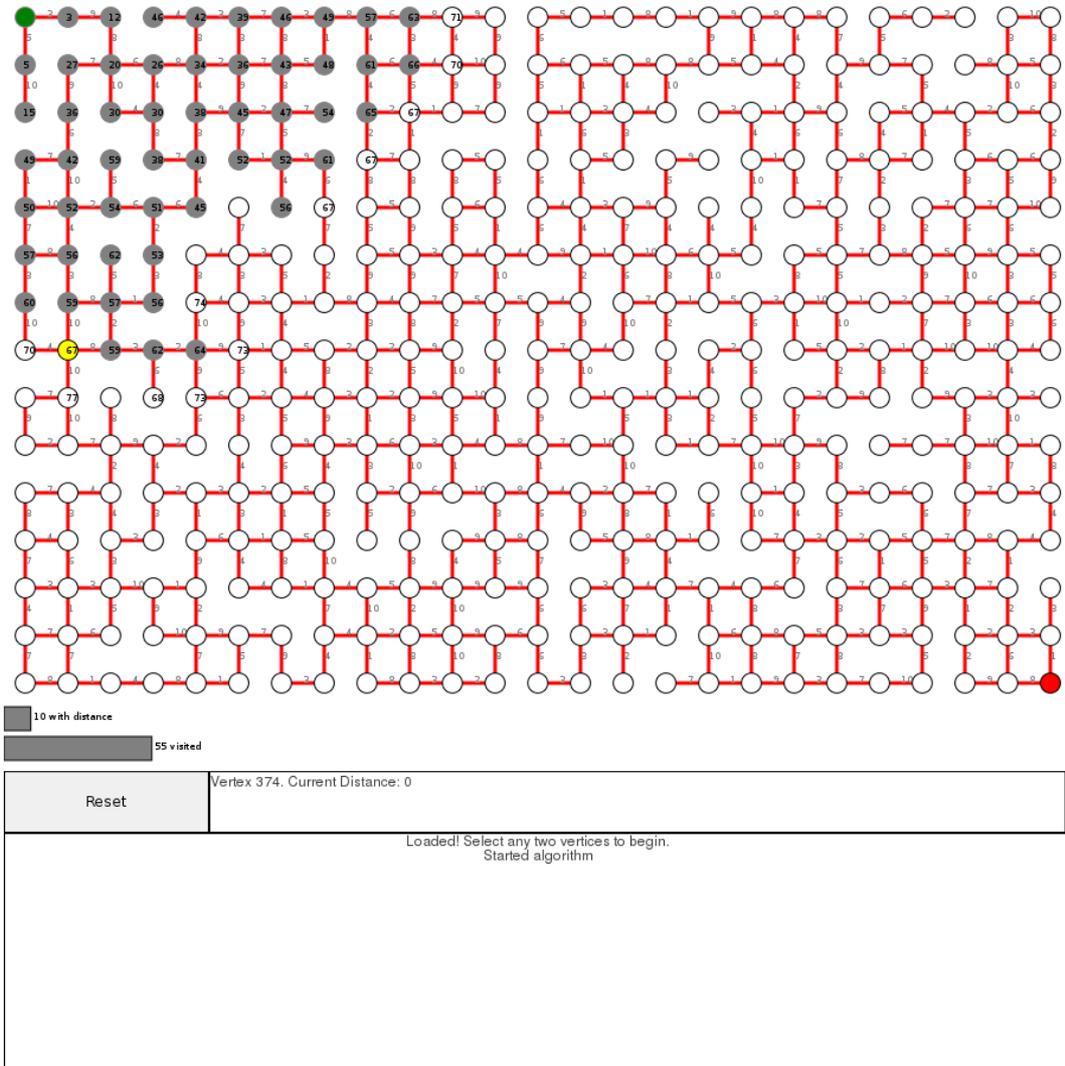


Reset	Vertex 222. Current Distance: 0
Loaded! Select any two vertices to begin.	

Picture 49: The start node is marked (green node in upper left corner)

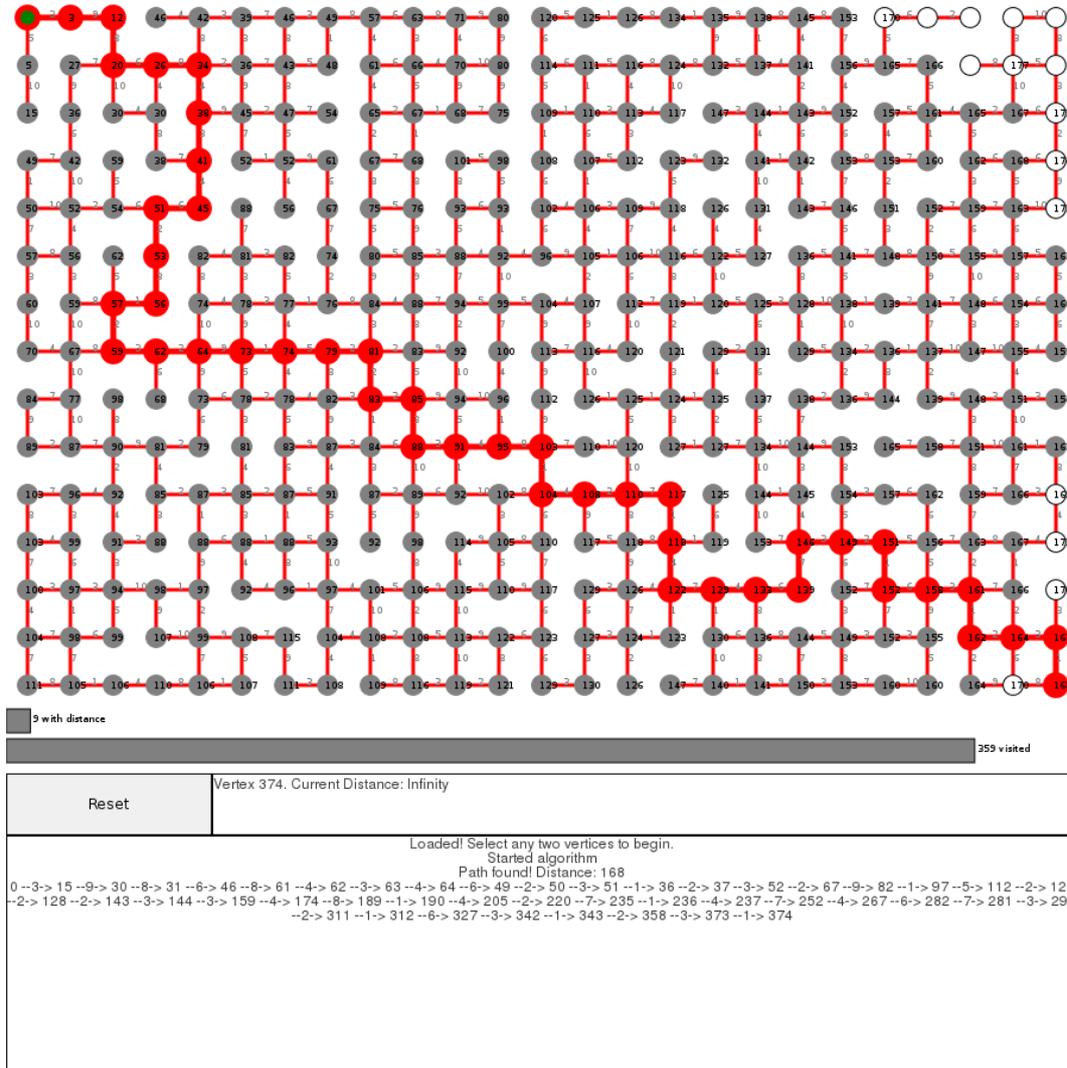
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Select any two vertices to begin the calculations.



Picture 50: After the end node (red node in lower right corner) was marked the calculation starts (gray and yellow nodes)

Select any two vertices to begin the calculations.



Picture 51: Calculation of the shortest path is finished (red nodes)

6.5 To Do List

Software one time will reach a stable version, which will be called as a general rule version 1, but this does not mean that the development is finished. Software development will never terminate, there are new features to implement, bugs have to be fixed and much more is to do.

This software is not an exception.

Things to do:

- integrate more graph drawing algorithms
- improve labeling
- implement interactive zooming
- integrate gravity slider for force-directed graphs
- make template graphs editable
- make edges directed (right-, left- and bi-directed)
- predefine custom created graphs
- establish multiple graph tabs simultaneously
- add user administration
- add custom settings
- complete the help support

6.6 General Features

An user authentication with login / password / course number and access rights is integrated in the software tool.

Used libraries and their respective licences:

Library	Licence
D3.js	BSD 3-clauses
jQuery.js	MIT
jQuery.easyui.js	GPLv3
easyloader.js	GPLv3
filesaver.js	MIT / X11
jason2.js	Public Domain *

Table 7: Used libraries and their licences

All licences are compatible with the GNU GPL.

* Being in the public domain is not a license; rather, it means the material is not copyrighted and no license is needed. Practically speaking, though, if a work is in the public domain, it might as well have an all-permissive non-copyleft free software license. Public domain material is compatible with the GNU GPL. See <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/license-list.en.html#GPLCompatibleLicenses>

Short descriptions of the libraries (taken from en.wikipedia.org or the respective web pages)

D3.js

D3.js (or just D3 for Data-Driven Documents) is a JavaScript library that uses digital data to drive the creation and control of dynamic and interactive graphical forms which run in web browsers. It is a tool for data visualization in W3C-compliant computing, making use of the widely implemented Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG), JavaScript, HTML5, and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS3) standards. In contrast to many other libraries, D3 allows great control over the final visual result. Its development was noted in 2011,[3] as version 2.0.0 was released in August 2011. As of February 2014, the library is at version 3.4.3. Developers

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are Michael Bostock (maintainer), Jeffrey Heer, Vadim Ogievetsky, and community.

jQuery.js

jQuery is a cross-platform JavaScript library designed to simplify the client-side scripting of HTML. It was released in January 2006 at BarCamp NYC by John Resig. It is currently developed by a team of developers led by Dave Methvin. Used by over 80% of the 10,000 most visited websites, jQuery is the most popular JavaScript library in use today. jQuery is free, open source software, licensed under the MIT License. jQuery's syntax is designed to make it easier to navigate a document, select DOM elements, create animations, handle events, and develop Ajax applications. jQuery also provides capabilities for developers to create plug-ins on top of the JavaScript library. This enables developers to create abstractions for low-level interaction and animation, advanced effects and high-level, theme-able widgets. The modular approach to the jQuery library allows the creation of powerful dynamic web pages and web applications. The set of jQuery core features — DOM element selections, traversal and manipulation — enabled by its *selector engine* (named "Sizzle" from v1.3), created a new "programming style", fusing algorithms and DOM-data-structures; and influenced the architecture of other JavaScript frameworks like YUI v3 and Dojo.

jQuery.easyui.js

jQuery EasyUI framework helps you build your web pages easily.

- easyui is a collection of user-interface plugin based on jQuery.
- easyui provides essential functionality for building modern, interactive, javascript applications.
- using easyui you don't need to write many javascript code, you usually

defines user-interface by writing some HTML markup.

- complete framework for HTML5 web page.
- easyui save your time and scales while developing your products.
- easyui is very easy but powerful.

(taken from <http://www.jeasyui.com>)

easyloader.js

easyloader.js is a part of jQuery.js

filesaver.js

filesaver.js implements the HTML5 W3C saveAs () FileSaver interface in browsers that do not natively support it. FileSaver.js is the solution to saving files on the client-side, and is perfect for webapps that need to generate files, or for saving sensitive information that shouldn't be sent to an external server.

taken from <https://github.com/eligrey/FileSaver.js>

json2.js

JSON is a light-weight, language independent, data interchange format. See <http://www.JSON.org>. The files in this collection implement JSON encoders / decoders in JavaScript. JSON became a built-in feature of JavaScript when the ECMAScript Programming Language Standard - Fifth Edition was adopted by the ECMA General Assembly in December 2009. Most of the files in this collection are for applications that are expected to run in obsolete web browsers. For most purposes, json2.js is the best choice. json2.js: This file creates a JSON property in the global object, if there isn't already one, setting its value to an object containing a stringify method and a parse method. The parse method uses the eval method to do the parsing, guarding it with several regular expres-

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sions to defend against accidental code execution hazards. On current browsers, this file does nothing, preferring the built-in JSON object.

Taken from <https://github.com/douglascrockford/JSON-js>

Structure of the file system:

Document root consists of these folders:

- ↳ core
 - ↳ diagrams additional info about server saved diagrams
 - ↳ install quick installation routine for php
 - ↳ js Javascript files
 - ↳ lib external libraries
 - ↳ plug-ins js script for installable algorithms
 - ↳ sys php files
 - ↳ test internal test routines

- ↳ res
 - ↳ css cascading style sheets
 - ↳ icons open source icon libs
 - ↳ themes files for layout of the UI

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Appendix F

Public Domain

Works in the public domain are those whose intellectual property rights have expired, have been forfeited, or are inapplicable. The term is not normally applied to situations where the creator of a work retains residual rights, in which case use of the work is referred to as "under license" or "with permission".

In informal usage, the public domain consists of works that are publicly available; while according to the formal definition, it consists of works that are unavailable for private ownership or are available for public use. As rights are country-based and vary, a work may be subject to rights in one country and not in another. Some rights depend on registrations with a country-by-country basis, and the absence of registration in a particular country, if required, implies public domain status in that country.

Public Domain is one of the traditional safety valves in copyright law.

The term public domain did not come into use until the mid-17th century, although as a concept "it can be traced back to the ancient Roman Law, as a preset system included in the property right system." The Romans had a large proprietary rights system where they defined "many things that cannot be privately owned" as *res communes*, *res publicae* and *res universitatis*. The term *res commune* was defined as "things that could be commonly enjoyed by mankind, such as air, sunlight and ocean." The term *res publicae* referred to things that were shared by all citizens, and the term *res universitatis* meant things that were owned by the municipalities of Rome. When looking at the public domain

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from a historical perspective, one could say the construction of the idea of "public domain" sprouted from the concepts of *res commune*, *res publicae*, and *res universitatis* in early Roman Law.

When the first early copyright law was first established in Britain with the Statute of Anne in 1710, public domain did not appear. However, similar concepts were developed by British and French jurists in the eighteenth century. Instead of "public domain" they used terms such as *publici juris* or *propriété publique* to describe works that were not covered by copyright law. The phrase "fall in the public domain" can be traced to mid-nineteenth century France to describe the end of copyright term. The French poet Alfred de Vigny equated the expiration of copyright with a work falling "into the sink hole of the public domain" and if the public domain receives any attention from intellectual property lawyers it is still treated as little more than that which is left when intellectual property rights, such as copyright, patents, and trademarks, expire or are abandoned. In this historical context Paul Torremans describes copyright as a "little coral reef of private right jutting up from the ocean of the public domain." Because copyright law is different from country to country, Pamela Samuelson has described the public domain as being "different sizes at different times in different countries".

Definition

Definitions of the boundaries of the public domain in relation to copyright, or intellectual property more generally, regard the public domain as a negative space, that is, it consists of works that are no longer in copyright term or were never protected by copyright law. According to James Boyle this definition underlines common usage of the term public domain and equates the public domain to public property and works in copyright to private property. However,

the usage of the term public domain can be more granular, including for example uses of works in copyright permitted by copyright exceptions. Such a definition regards work in copyright as private property subject to fair use rights and limitation on ownership. A conceptual definition comes from Lange, who focused on what the public domain should be: "it should be a place of sanctuary for individual creative expression, a sanctuary conferring affirmative protection against the forces of private appropriation that threatened such expression". Patterson and Lindberg described the public domain not as a "territory", but rather as a concept: "[T]here are certain materials – the air we breathe, sunlight, rain, space, life, creations, thoughts, feelings, ideas, words, numbers – not subject to private ownership. The materials that compose our cultural heritage must be free for all living to use no less than matter necessary for biological survival." The term public domain may also be interchangeably used with other imprecise and/or undefined terms such as the "public sphere" or "commons", including concepts such as "commons of the mind", the "intellectual commons", and the "information commons".

Value

Pamela Samuelson has identified eight "values" that can arise from information and works in the public domain.

Possible values include:

1. Building blocks for the creation of new knowledge, examples include data, facts, ideas, theories, and scientific principle.
2. Access to cultural heritage through information resources such as ancient Greek texts and Mozart's symphonies.
3. Promoting education, through the spread of information, ideas, and sci-

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entific principles.

4. Enabling follow-on innovation, through for example expired patents and copyright.
5. Enabling low cost access to information without the need to locate the owner or negotiate rights clearance and pay royalties, through for example expired copyrighted works or patents, and non-original data compilation.
6. Promoting public health and safety, through information and scientific principles.
7. Promoting the democratic process and values, through news, laws, regulation, and judicial opinion.
8. Enabling competitive imitation, through for example expired patents and copyright, or publicly disclosed technologies that do not qualify for patent protection.

Dedicating works to the public domain

Few if any legal systems have a process for reliably donating works to the public domain. They may even prohibit any attempt by copyright owners to surrender rights automatically conferred by law, particularly moral rights. An alternative is for copyright holders to issue a licence which irrevocably grants as many rights as possible to the general public, e.g., the CC0 licence from Creative Commons.

Continental-european law

Public Domain is a legal term of the anglo-american law. It is similar, but not identical to the continental-european "Gemeinfreiheit"

For further informations about “Gemeinfreiheit” the reader may refer to:

<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemeinfreiheit>

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