Project II

Graph Layout Optimization



581339 Three Concepts: Utility (6 cr, 3 cu)

The problem

- Graph visualization.
- Automatic layout of a graph on a 2-dimensional plane.
- Goal
 - Clear and understandable format that facilitates interpretation.



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Task

- 1. Design a utility function that measures goodness of a graph layout.
- 2. Write a program that finds good layouts using the utility function.
- 3. Participate in an (informal) experiment
 - Judge the quality of layouts optimized by other teams.
 - Rank-based scoring



Technicalities

- Visualization program will be provided.
- Drawing area is 640 x 640 pixels.
- Nodes are circles with radius of 8 pixels, and the node number drawn inside.
- Edges are straight lines with width 1.
- Input: the number of nodes and the list of edges as pairs of nodes.
- Output: list of node coordinates.
- Your program should work with 100 nodes and take no more than 2 minutes to complete.

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Submission

- Write a short document that
 - Describes and explains the utility function,
 - Describes the search algorithm, and
 - Reports the results of your experiments.
- Turn in the source and binary codes of the search algorithm.
- <u>Prepare</u> a short oral presentation on your utility function and the experiments.